

# Daily Current Affairs



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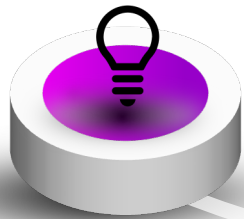


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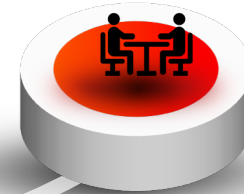


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pen, one child and  
one teacher can  
change the world.”**

**—MALALA YOUSAFZAI**

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**13 September | 8:00 AM**

### IN BRIEF

**BJP slams INDIA over Sanatana Dharma remarks**

NEW DELHI  
The BJP on Monday asked the Congress, if it agreed with DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin's remarks on Sanatana Dharma.

**Panel formed to explore quota for Marathas**

MUMBAI  
Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde on Monday said a panel will submit within a month its report on how Marathas can be included in the OBC category.

## Ready to assess capacity of 13 hill States, govt. tells SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

The Centre has proposed forming a 13-member technical committee to evaluate the "carrying capacity" of 13 Himalayan States. Frequent landslides leading to deaths and destruction of the load-carrying capacity of hill towns and cities.

The carrying capacity is the maximum population size that an ecosystem can sustain without getting degraded.

The Environment Ministry, represented by Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhatt, filed a short affidavit stating



**Crumbling hills:** Several buildings collapsing following massive landslides at Kullu in Himachal Pradesh in August.

that it was "imperative that factual aspects of each hill station are specifically identified and collected with the help of local authorities cutting across multiple disciplines".

The Union government noted that in January 2020,

## Chinese President will not attend Delhi G-20 summit

Foreign Ministry declines to give reasons for Xi's absence, says Premier Li Qiang will attend the meet; Beijing hopes the grouping will rise up to challenges facing global economy, development

Ananth Krishnan  
NEW DELHI

China's Foreign Ministry announced on Monday that President Xi Jinping will for the first time skip a G-20 summit, with the Chinese Premier and second-ranked leader Li Qiang instead deputed to attend the September 9-10 meet in New Delhi.

No reasons have been given for Mr. Xi skipping the summit, a key annual diplomatic event that China has usually placed special emphasis on, viewing it as an important platform to shape the global order and exert its rising clout.



**Decked up:** G-20 logos have been painted across New Delhi ahead of the summit on September 9 and 10. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Mr. Xi only recently attended the BRICS summit in South Africa on August 24, when he hailed the decision to expand the

grouping. Mr. Xi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not have a formal bilateral meeting in South Africa but had an informal conversation on the sidelines, when they discussed the as yet unresolved crisis along the Line of Actual Control.

"As the world economy experiences more down-

### Looking forward to my trip to India, says Biden

WASHINGTON  
U.S. President Joe Biden said he is looking forward to his trip to India but is "disappointed" that his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping will not attend the G-20 summit in New Delhi. The leaders met last in November 2022 on the sidelines of the Bali summit.

ward pressure and challenges grow for global sustainable development, it is important that the G-20, being the premier forum for international economic cooperation, strengthen partnership and rise up to the big challenges facing global economy and development so as to contribute to world economic recovery and growth and global sustainable development." Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said.

## Article 370 case: SC asks petitioner-MP to file affidavit pledging allegiance to Constitution

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said it wants National Conference party leader Mohammad Akbar Lone, a petitioner in the Article 370 abrogation challenge case, to file an affidavit stating that he "unconditionally accepts" that Jammu and Kashmir is an

integral part of India and he owes allegiance to the Constitution.

A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud asked Mr. Lone to file the affidavit by Tuesday.

On Monday, the Centre and other respondents accused Mr. Lone, an MP, of having raised slogans including "Pakistan Zinda

bad" in the J&K Assembly in 2018. They said he had till date expressed no remorse about his actions.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for Mr. Lone in the Article 370 case, said his client was a member of the Lok Sabha. "He has sworn an oath as a Member to the Constitution of India. He is a citizen of India... How can he say

otherwise," Mr. Sibal said. "But what you are saying is only a submission... We want it from him that he unconditionally accepts that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and he owes allegiance to the Constitution," the Chief Justice told Mr. Sibal.

### Controversial murals of Hanuman to be removed

The Hindu Bureau  
AHMEDABAD

Amid a controversy over the "distorted depiction" of Lord Hanuman at a temple at Salangpur in Gujarat's Botad district, the Vadval Gadi Sansthan, which manages the day-to-day affairs of the temple, on Monday decided to remove the murals in which Hanuman was portrayed as sitting at the feet of yogi and ascetic Swaminarayan or Sabhanand Swami.

Hindu religious leaders and several local outfits had raised objections against the murals made of cast metal. The Vadval Gadi Sansthan, a powerful Swaminarayan sect, and the various religious leaders met and decided to start removing the murals from Tuesday. The Gujarat government also swung into action with CM Bhupendra Patel holding a meeting of members of the Swaminarayan sect and religious leaders in which the government requested all stakeholders to resolve the dispute. The Hindu Dharmacharya Sabha, in a press release, said, "The meeting was held with the blessings of Dwarka Peeth Shankaracharya and Acharya Rakesh Prasad Maharaj of Vadval. All saints agreed to end the controversy."

"FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS, I COMMIT MY SPIRIT."  
(LUKE 23:46)

**JANAMMA MUTHOOT**  
W/O LATE PAPPAGEAN MUTHOOT  
09/09/1933 - 02/09/2023

Prayer services will start at 2:30 p.m. at the residence followed by funeral services at 3:30 p.m. at St. Matthew's Orthodox Valiyapalli in Kozhenchery.

**muthoot**  
Blue is Belief

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# Ready to assess capacity of 13 hill States, govt. tells SC

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**

NEW DELHI

The Centre has proposed forming a 13-member technical committee to evaluate the “carrying capacity” of 13 Himalayan States.

Frequent landslips leading to deaths and destruction had led the Supreme Court to moot a re-evaluation of the load-carrying capacity of hill towns and cities.

The carrying capacity is the maximum population size that an ecosystem can sustain without getting degraded.

The Environment Ministry, represented by Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, filed a short affidavit stressing



**Crumbling hills:** Several buildings collapsing following massive landslips at Kullu in Himachal Pradesh in August. AFP

that it was “imperative that factual aspects of each hill station are specifically identified and collected with the help of local authorities cutting across multiple disciplines”.

The Union government noted that in January 2020,

it circulated among the 13 Himalayan States guidelines for assessing the carrying capacity of their hill stations, including cities and eco-sensitive zones.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 12

# INDIAN RANGES AND IT'S HIGHEST PEAKS





**STATE****HILLS**

Jammu and Kashmir

Pir Panjal Range, Zaskar Range

Himachal Pradesh

Dhauladhar Range, Pir Panjal Range

Uttarakhand

Garhwal Himalayas, Kumaon Himalayas

Punjab

Shivalik Hills

Rajasthan

Aravalli Range

Uttar Pradesh

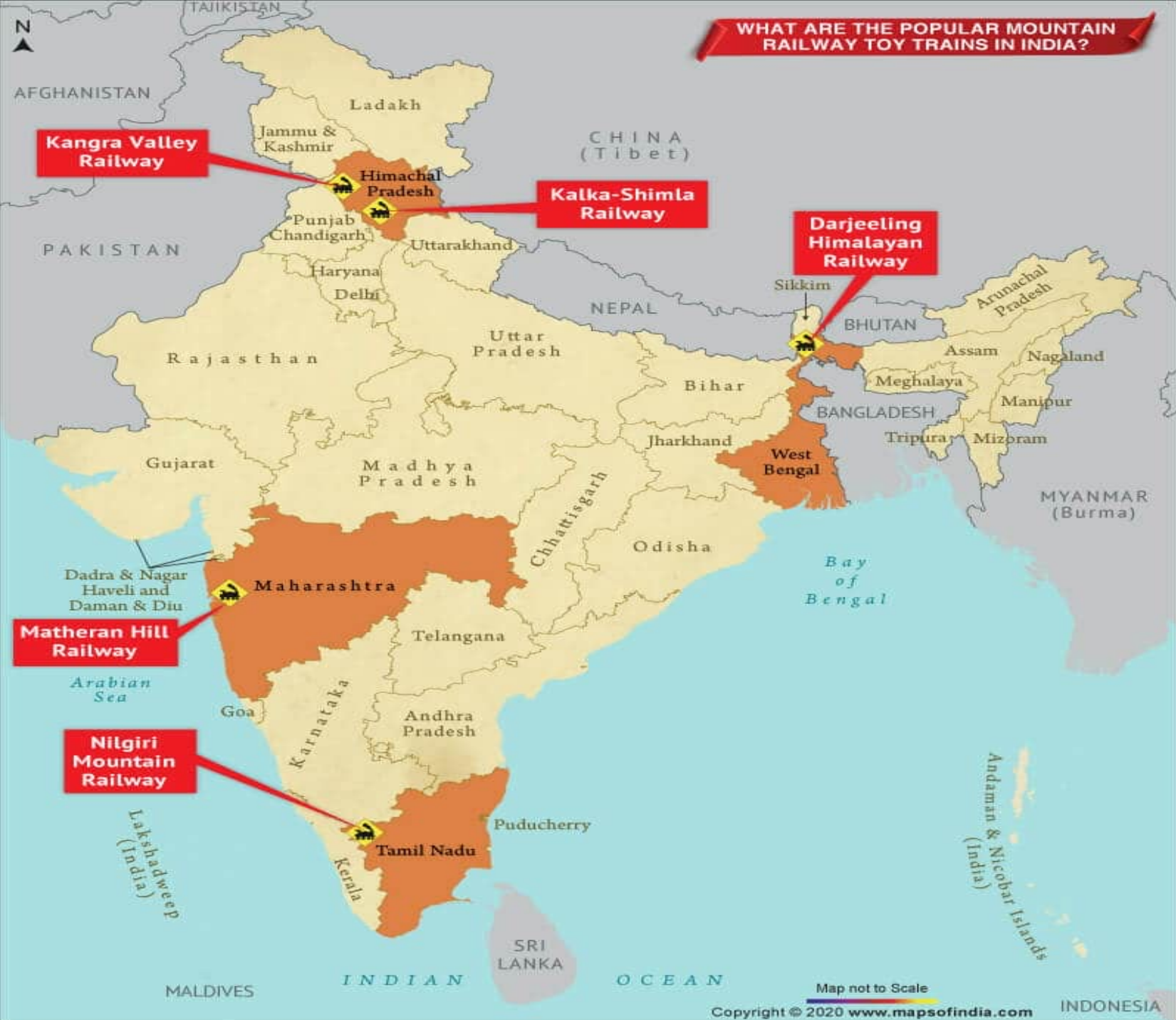
Shivalik Hills, Kumaon Himalayas, Garhwal Himalayas

<b>State</b>	<b>Hills</b>
Arunachal Pradesh	Eastern Himalayas, Mishmi Hills, Patkai Hills
Assam	Karbi Hills, North Cachar Hills
Manipur	Manipur Hills, Barak Valley Hills
Meghalaya	Khasi Hills, Garo Hills, Jaintia
Mizoram	Lushai Hills, Murlen National Park
Nagaland	Naga Hills, Dzükou Valley
Sikkim	Eastern Himalayas, Singalila Range
Tripura	Jampui Hills, Longtharai Hills

<b>State</b>	<b>Hills</b>
Madhya Pradesh	Satpura Range, Vindhya Range
Uttar Pradesh	Shivalik Hills, Kumaon Himalayas, Garhwal Himalayas
Chhattisgarh	Maikal Hills
Rajasthan	Aravalli Range

<b>State</b>	<b>Hill Ranges</b>
Karnataka	Western Ghats, Biligiriranga Hills
Kerala	Western Ghats, Anamudi Hills
Tamil Nadu	Nilgiri Hills, Palani Hills, Anamalai Hills
Andhra Pradesh	Eastern Ghats, Tirumala Hills
Telangana	Deccan Plateau

**WHAT ARE THE POPULAR MOUNTAIN RAILWAY TOY TRAINS IN INDIA?**



Map not to Scale

## Living in the age of moral dystopia

We are living in the age of moral dystopia, a nameless era where it is difficult for men and women to be human and convenient for the state to be less than neutral, just, and fair. Leaders not only fail to keep their pledges, but they are not even expected to keep them. The government wears its majoritarian colours with pride, unabashed and unmeddling. In a tragic case of downward filtration, it all percolates down to everyday lived experience of the faceless multitudes. Monuments, offices, and houses all seem to be judged by the faith or political predilections of their builders and occupants. If you question the actions of the government or the actions of non-state actors taking out hate marches, you become the most vulnerable. Conformism is the norm today. Humanism, justice, and freedom have all been consigned to the deep freeze, to be retrieved at some indefinite point in future.

**A changed value system**  
Take the case of activist-public speaker Yogita Bhayana, who helped rebuild the shop of an old Muslim man days after goons had set it on fire in Gurugram. The moment this news was shared on social media along with the video of the grateful man, many trolls, Ms. Bhayana. Some advised her, rather sarcastically, to go and help another 50-60 men down the road who had suffered too. Others reminded her of the plight of women in the neighbourhood. In a not-so-distant past, Ms. Bhayana would have been hailed for promoting communal harmony, but now she is being criticised for not being a freedom fighter.  
Now, the value system has changed, and shared living is no longer a cherished value for millions. It is to each their own, as Anis discovered in Nuh around the same time. He had given shelter to three Hindu men who faced a danger to their life from an approaching mob. The men were



Zoya Salame  
@thehindu.co.in

grateful to be alive. A day later, his house was damaged by a bulldozer, which went on an overdrive in the state. Finally, the Punjab and Haryana High Court stepped in, starting clearly. Apparently, without any demolition orders and notices, the law-and-order problem is being used as a ruse to bring down buildings without following the procedure established by law. The issue also arises whether the buildings belonging to a particular community are being brought down under the guise of law-and-order problem and an exercise of ethnic cleansing is being conducted by the State."

Moral fibre was long since damaged, but this tattered? How else does one explain the sordid and public humiliation of women in Manipur and the whataboutery that followed in the top echelons of power? How does one even attempt to rationalise women handing over women to a mob? Or people marching in favour of the most accused of gangsters, of an eight-year-old girl in Kathua?

Today, we wish to hold to account a kind of an invader for the ignominy he probably visited some 400 or 1,000 years ago. But we find our lips glued together when it comes to seeking justice for victims in Manipur or Haryana. We talk of invaders and how they broke many a place of worship, some real and some imagined, and set about righting historical wrongs. But how do we do that? By attacking the place of worship of the faith of the monarch who lived hundreds of years ago. So, we have had repeated attacks on the Gurudwaras in Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and now Haryana. We have stayed quiet. After all, what is a mosque but a ditching of structure, as senior BJP leader L.K. Advani once said with respect to the Babri Masjid? Now, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath says the same about Gyanvapi. There is no regret, no sense of shame. It is just history on a new watch. And we just watch. These are indeed times of

moral foibles. Every nation has its moments of neuroses. In our case, it is collective short-term amnesia. We watch and we forget. We read and we move on. Be it a man being lynched, a shop being demolished, or a woman being brutalised, our memory seems to be like a sieve. We retain very little. Are we weary of the daily sordid spectacle? Probably. Are we too occupied with the horse here or ash there, the rot or the mob would have been controllable. It is not, and there lies the problem.

**The lack of intervention**  
Today, the executors of injustice don't need a mob with its tridents, hammers and pickaxes. Today, bulldozers get down to work. Even as a man's life's savings in the form of a tiny shop or a small concrete dwelling is razed to the ground, yesterday's mob member is today's self-seeker. Some make a video to upload on social media. We saw a cow vigilante pounce upon a weak man and record himself harassing and abusing him. We saw how a policeman on a train killed his supervising officer and three Muslim passengers and then made a video hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Adityanath even as one of the bleeding men took his last breath near his boots. People often make videos, but few attempt to save the life of innocent people. As for bulldozer victims, they are spectators to their own destruction, brick by brick, slab by slab. Sections of the media, meanwhile, had the rising pile of debris as a proof of instant justice by unlicensed contractors at various places. This was being done to meet the burgeoning requirement of the construction sector. The Bears said this practice had caused irreparable damage to riverbeds and coastal ecosystems. Soon after coming to power in 2019, the CSR government imposed a temporary

## A sand storm is brewing in Andhra

Failure to act on illegal sand mining could spell trouble for the YSRCP's image

### STATE OF PLAY

Y. Raghavendra  
yraghendra@thehindu.co.in

Sand mining in Andhra Pradesh has once again become a political hot potato. Ever since it withdrew the free sand policy, the YSR Congress Party government has been fending off accusations that it is working hand in glove with the sand mafia and letting them go off the hook. The opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) has alleged that YSRCP leaders have looted sand worth \$40,000 crore in the last four years.

Political charges aside, the fact that the State Department of Mines and Geology, the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, and the State Expert Appraisal Committee of successive governments have been pulled up by courts and the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for not ensuring due diligence in giving clearances shows that rules have been flagrantly violated.

During the TDP regime, sand was available free of cost and buyers only had to pay for transportation. The TDP said this done to encourage the construction sector. However, corruption charges flew thick and fast. An investigation by the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board reportedly found that sand was being excavated beyond permitted limits with mechanical excavators by unlicensed contractors at various places. This was being done to meet the burgeoning requirement of the construction sector. The Bears said this practice had caused irreparable damage to riverbeds and coastal ecosystems.

Soon after coming to power in 2019, the CSR government imposed a temporary



ANDHRA PRADESH

ban on sand mining in order to streamline mining activities and check corruption. It later issued the New Sand Mining Policy to ensure that sand mining is carried out in a sustainable manner and complies with environmental regulations; make sand available at affordable prices; and raise valuable revenues to the State exchequer. The government appointed the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation as its 'agent' for achieving these objectives.

It was in line with the New Sand Mining Policy that the Delhi-based Jayaprakash Power Ventures of the Jaypee Group was awarded, through a tender process, the lease to take up sand mining, storage and sales for a period of two years.

The government has claimed that the situation has improved. However, courts have exposed the deficiencies in the manner in which the government has been tackling the plundering of the mineral. In a recent order against illegal sand mining in Chittoor district, the Chennai Bench of the NGT declared negotiations for semi-mechanised mining at sand reserves in the B-2 category clearances as adverse to the environment and ecological consequences. It also stated that they violated the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016. Prima facie, a direction by the NGT to the

Secretary of the Union Environment Ministry in the same order, inquiring about the amendments to environmental clearances that were granted, reveals the dark side of sand mining.

The NGT order also underlined the damage of this practice. It remarked that "it has become a common practice for the Irrigation Departments in different States to permit sand mining in rivers in stretches less than 25 hectares with impunity oblivious of the need to protect the riverine ecosystems which can be possible only if sand replenishment studies and detailed environmental impact assessments are undertaken for the entire river basin, prior to mining." It warned that "unscientific mining on riverine and wetland ecosystems including man-made water bodies can spell disaster and have long-term consequences for the riverine/lake ecosystems which in turn impact the well-being of the people." It also noted that "scientific studies are being avoided for short-term gains at the cost of environmental interests."

The TDP has argued that the NGT order is applicable to all sand reserves in the State which the government has said is deliberate misinterpretation.

It is imperative that the party in power and the government show zero tolerance for illegal sand mining, especially in Chittoor district, the Chennai Bench of the NGT declared negotiations for semi-mechanised mining at sand reserves in the B-2 category clearances as adverse to the environment and ecological consequences. It also stated that they violated the Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016. Prima facie, a direction by the NGT to the

## 25% PMUY customers took no cylinder refill or just one last year

Of 9.58 crore PMUY households, 1.18 crore bought no refills in 2022-23, another 1.51 crore bought one refill

### DATA POINT

Maitri Porchecha

One out of every four beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), a scheme that aims to make LPG gas cylinders available to rural and deprived households either did not take any cylinders during 2022-2023 or took just one refill.

The spike in LPG cylinder prices made them an expensive proposition even for subsidised households; rates have almost doubled since 2018, reaching ₹903 a cylinder in March 2023 even after a subsidy of ₹200 per cylinder was offered to PMUY beneficiaries in May 2022.

One in nine PMUY beneficiaries, or over 1.18 crore households, bought no refill cylinders all last year (Chart 1). Another 1.51 crore beneficiaries bought only one refill cylinder, according to data from three major gas companies — Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) — obtained via multiple Right to Information queries.

Between January 2019 and March 2023, there was an 82% spike in the rate of subsidised LPG cylinders. In January 2019, a PMUY household could purchase a subsidised cylinder for ₹405.64 by March 2023, the same cylinder cost ₹903 (Chart 2). Factoring in the additional subsidy of ₹200 for the 14.2 kg LPG cylinders for all consumers, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi this week, this cylinder will now cost ₹703.

refilled less than four LPG cylinders during 2022-23. According to the RTI replies, the per household consumption of PMUY beneficiaries for IOCL was 3.53 cylinder refills; for BPCL, it was 3.72 refills; and for HPCL, it was 4.02 refills. This is in sharp contrast to non-PMUY consumers, whose per household consumption of LPG cylinders was 6.07 refills. (Chart 3)

According to RTI replies by IOCL and BPCL, subsidies extended to select non-PMUY beneficiaries amounted to an additional ₹2,454.18 crore last year. "Subsidy is not the decision of the Oil Marketing Companies and the amount changes based on the difference between the Retail Selling Price (RSP) linked to international price of LPG and the subsidised cost to customer as decided by the government," the RTI reply states.

Over 70% of the LPG retail price in Delhi is determined by the international Free On Board (FOB) price of LPG. FOB is a weighted average of the Saudi Arabian contract price for Butane (60%) and Propane (40%). Apart from base price, factors such as transport charges, bottling charges, freight, delivery charges, GST and distributor commission determine the price of LPG.

Chart 4 shows the international FOB price of LPG in \$ per metric tonne. In March 2022, it was the highest in at least the last three years (\$952 per metric tonne). Due to the absence of subsidy back then, the hike in FOB price was borne by the consumer.

Notably, the FOB prices have been rapidly falling since April 2022, coinciding with the first subsidy announcement in May 2022. The FOB price of LPG in \$ per metric tonne saw a new low of \$385 per metric tonne by July 2023. Soon after, the latest subsidy announcement was made.

### Running out of gas

The data for the charts were sourced from RTI replies to Madhya Pradesh-based activist Chander Shekhar Gaur by Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum, and reports from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell



Chart 1 | The chart shows the number of beneficiaries who bought no refill and one refill (in crore)\*

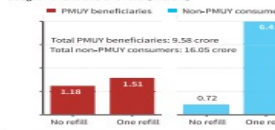


Chart 2 | The chart shows the average refills of LPG cylinders per household in 2022-23 by PMUY and non-PMUY consumers



\*BPCL did not provide data regarding refills for non-PMUY beneficiaries

Chart 3 | The chart shows the price of subsidised LPG cylinders for PMUY beneficiaries and non-subsidised cylinders (in ₹)

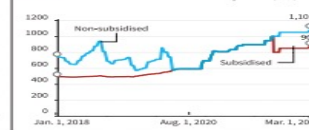
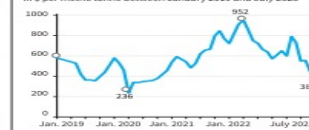


Chart 4 | The chart shows the international FOB price of LPG in \$ per metric tonne between January 2019 and July 2023



### FROM THE ARCHIVES

## The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 5, 1973

### UPSC re-assessing exam system for IAS

New Delhi, Sept. 4: The Union Public Service Commission is at present engaged in the task of re-assessing the examination system for various services, including the Indian Administrative Service and the engineering services. The main purpose is to rationalise the entire structure of the examination system "with a view to bringing it in line with the changed conditions."

It is learnt that a good deal of exercise has already been done, though it may take some more time before the new features are introduced. The idea is to lay greater emphasis on a candidate's capacity to grasp fundamentals and discourage cramming of subjects. The Department of Personnel also, it is learnt, is of the view that the general scheme of examination should not be a mere repetition of the present course examinations. The UPSC may announce the changes after all the necessary details are worked out. An important factor that will influence the scheme is the recent decision of the Commission to increase the upper age limit for the engineering services and the IAS as a result of which candidates with a greater understanding of the current happenings are expected to take the examinations.

A problem that has been worrying the UPSC is the poor performance of candidates sitting for the examination held for recruitment to the Indian Statistical Service. The required number of suitable candidates have not been forthcoming. In consultation with experts in the field, the Commission has already initiated action to examine the causes for the unsatisfactory performance of the candidates appearing for this examination and also to consider whether the existing scheme of the examination needs any modifications.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 5, 1923

### Tea trade

London, September 4: Dealing with the increased imports of China tea which for three months ending August 31st were double the same period for last year, the "Daily Telegraph" city correspondent warns the public to exercise the closest scrutiny before buying tea share for investment. He says that while abnormal prices will probably be maintained in the present season, there is an indication that the high retail prices will considerably check consumption.

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## *25% PMUY customers took no cylinder refill or just one last year*

Of 9.58 crore PMUY households, 1.18 crore bought no refills in 2022-23, another 1.51 crore bought one refill

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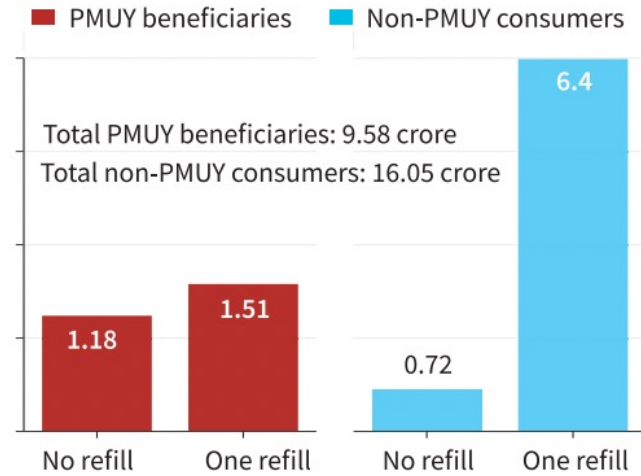
# Running out of gas

The data for the charts were sourced from RTI replies to Madhya Pradesh-based activist Chander Shekhar Gaur by Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum, and reports from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell

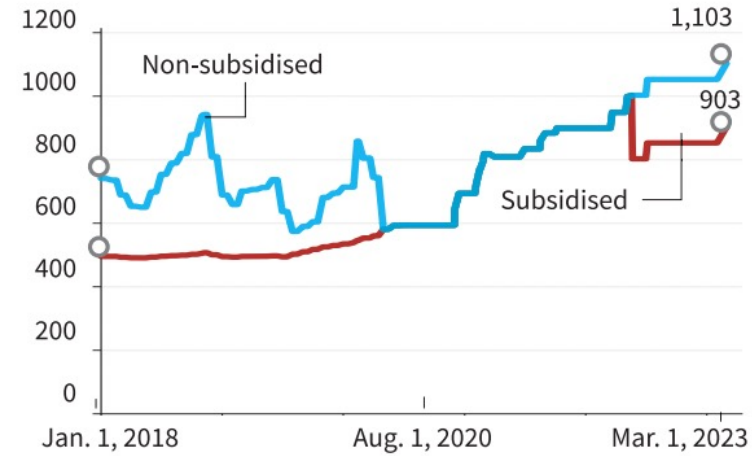




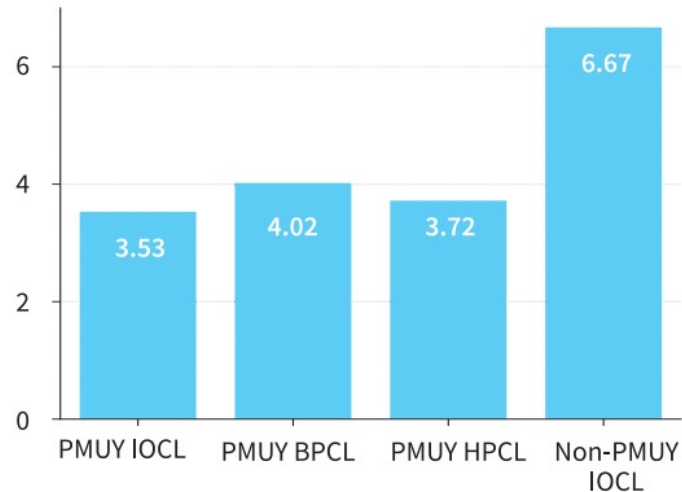
**Chart 1** | The chart shows the number of beneficiaries who bought no refill and one refill (in crore)\*



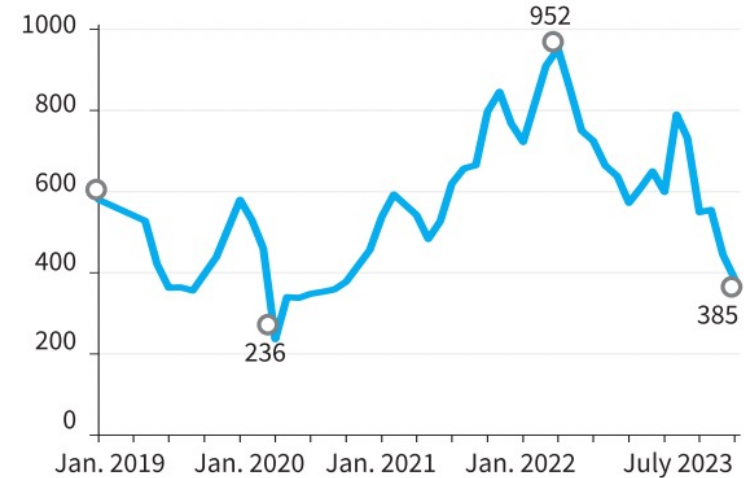
**Chart 2** | The chart shows the price of subsidised LPG cylinders for PMUY beneficiaries and non-subsidised cylinders (in ₹)



**Chart 3** | The chart shows the average refills of LPG cylinders per household in 2022-23 by PMUY and non-PMUY consumers



**Chart 4** | The chart shows the international FOB price of LPG in \$ per metric tonne between January 2019 and July 2023



\*BPCL did not provide data regarding refills for non-PMUY beneficiaries

**PORT VILA**

**Kalsakau, Vanuatu's pro-western PM, replaced in Parliament vote**



Vanuatu's pro-western Prime Minister Ismael Kalsakau was replaced by former Premier Sato Kilman on Monday. Kilman received 27 votes in Parliament to 23 for Kalsakau, who had been seen as friendly to the West, in a South Pacific region where the U.S. and its allies are wrestling with Beijing for influence. **AFP**

**VIENNA**

**UN nuclear agency 'regrets' lack of cooperation from Iran officials**



The UN nuclear watchdog said it regretted that "no progress" had been made by Iran on outstanding issues, including reinstalling cameras to monitor Tehran's nuclear programme and explaining uranium traces. Iran, however, has slowed the pace at which it produces uranium enriched up to 60% — close to bomb-grade. **AFP**

**YANGON**

**Bomb attack on Myanmar border hub kills 5 officials and injures 11**



A bomb attack on a government compound in the Myanmar border hub of Myawady killed five government and security officials and wounded 11 policemen. The town on the border with Thailand has seen sporadic clashes between the military and anti-junta fighters, since a coup in 2021 plunged the country into turmoil. **AFP**

**MANAMA**

**Israel, Bahrain Foreign Ministers agree to boost trade relationship**



Israel's Foreign Minister Eli Cohen agreed with his Bahraini counterpart Abdulatif Al Zayani to boost trade, during his visit to establish ties. "We agreed to work together to increase the number of direct flights, the tourism, the trade volume, the investment," Eli Cohen said while inaugurating Israel's new embassy. **AFP**

**Ukraine forces claim gains in the south and near Bakhmut**

Agence France-Presse  
KYIV

Ukraine said on Monday it had made gains against Russian forces in the south and clawed back territory near Bakhmut in the east, as it battles to break through Russian defences. Kyiv launched a counter-offensive against Moscow's forces in June after stockpiling Western weapons and building up assault battalions, but has struggled to make headway against heavily fortified Russian positions. "The enemy is on the defensive in the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson sectors," Deputy Defence Minister Ganna Malayar said. Malayar said Ukraine's forces had made success near the towns of Novodanilyvka and Novoprotokivka in the south, but also captured three square kilometres (around one square mile) near Bakhmut.

**No deal until West meets Moscow's demands: Putin**

Russian President met Turkey's Erdogan who wanted to revive the agreement on grain export that was cancelled in July; Putin says he will honour the deal 'within days' if his demands are met

Associated Press

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Monday that a landmark deal that allowed Ukraine to export grain safely through the Black Sea amid the war won't be restored until the West meets Moscow's demands on its own agricultural exports.

Mr. Putin's remarks dashed hopes that his talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan could revive the agreement, seen as vital for global food supplies, especially in Africa, West Asia and the rest of Asia.

Russia failed to extend the deal in July, complaining that a parallel agreement promising to remove obstacles to Russian exports of food and fertilizer hadn't been honored. It said restrictions on shipping



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during their meeting in Sochi on Monday. **AFP**

and insurance hampered its agricultural trade, though it has shipped record amounts of wheat since last year. Mr. Putin reiterated those complaints on Monday, while saying that if those commitments were honored, Russia could return to the deal "within days."

short time," Erdogan told a news conference in the Russian resort of Sochi, where the leaders met.

A lot is riding on the negotiation. Ukraine and Russia are major suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other goods that developing nations rely on.

Data from the Joint Coordination Center in Istanbul, which organised shipments under the deal, show that 57% of the grain from Ukraine went to developing nations, with the top destination being China.

Meanwhile, Mr. Putin said on Monday that Russia was close to finalizing an agreement to provide free grain to six African countries.

Mr. Biden on Sunday whether he was looking for a deal with Russia, India and Vietnam, he said: "Yes, I am."

**Looking forward to India trip, 'disappointed' Xi is not attending G-20 meet: Biden**

Press Trust of India  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden has said he is looking forward to his trip to India this week but is "disappointed" that his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping will not attend the G-20 Summit in New Delhi.

Mr. Biden will travel to India on September 7 to participate in the Summit and will have a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 8, the White House announced on Friday.

In its capacity as the current President of G-20, India is hosting the annual summit of the influential grouping in New Delhi on September 9-10.

When reporters asked Mr. Biden on Sunday whether he was looking for a deal with Russia, India and Vietnam, he said: "Yes, I am."



Joe Biden

Mr. Xi is not attending the summit, but I am going to get to see him," Mr. Biden said in response to another question.

Mr. Biden and Mr. Xi last spoke in person in November 2022 on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Bali, where they pledged to restore channels of communication in an effort to prevent a crisis of escalation spilling into open conflict. That meeting is the only time the two have met in person since Mr. Biden took office in January 2021.

In Beijing, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced on Monday that President Xi will not attend the Summit.

Mr. Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva are among the G-20 leaders who have already confirmed their participation in the summit.

Mr. Modi will hand over the baton of the G-20 Presidency to Brazilian President Lula on September 10. The G-20 member countries represent around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population.

**Gabon's coup leader moots amnesty for dissenters, 'free' polls**

Associated Press  
LIBREVILLE

Gabon's coup leader vowed after being sworn in as interim President on Monday to restore civilian rule through "free, transparent and credible elections" after a transition and amnesty prisoners of conscience.

In a speech after taking the oath of office, General Brice Oligui Nguema said the elections would be the stepping stone to "handing power back to the citizens," although he did not give a timeline.

Mr. Oligui said he was seeking the participation of all of Gabon's "core groups" to draft a new Constitution, which will be adopted by referendum.

He also said he would be instructing "the future government... to consider ways of amnestying prisoners of conscience" and "facilitating the return of all exiles abroad."

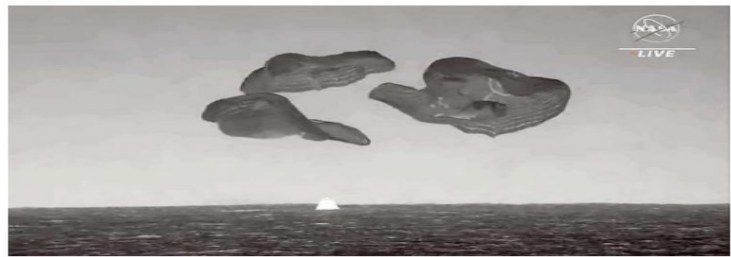
Mr. Oligui, 48, who is head of the elite Republican Guard, led a coup that brought the curtain down on 55 years of dynastic rule by President Ali Bongo Ondimba and his father Omar, who died in 2009.

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**Back to base**



The SpaceX capsule, slowed by parachutes, splashes down in the Atlantic Ocean off the U.S.'s Florida coast on Monday, as it returns to the Earth with four astronauts after a six-month stay at the International Space Station. **AP**

**Attacks on Christians in Pakistan set off by bid to falsely implicate them for blasphemy: police**

Associated Press  
ISLAMABAD

Last month's mob attacks on churches and homes of Christians in eastern Pakistan erupted after three Christians threw the pages of Islam's holy book outside the house of two others to falsely implicate them in a blasphemy case due to a personal dispute, the police said on Monday.



Faith matters: Christians protesting in Islamabad last month to condemn the attacks on churches in Pakistan. **AP**

crated the holy book, three police officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to media on the record. They said the three men now face charges of causing violence and falsely implicating Amir and his brother in a blasphemy case.

Severe damage At least 17 churches and nearly 100 homes were damaged in the August 16 mob attacks in Jaranwala, a city in Punjab province. There were no casualties but it was one of the most destructive attacks on Christians in the country.

**UAE creates federal authority to monitor 'commercial gaming'**

Associated Press  
DUBAI

The United Arab Emirates has created a federal authority to potentially run a national lottery and what it describes as "commercial gaming," likely a sign that it is on the verge of allowing casinos, parks, fairs and gymsnasiums.

Casinos long have been ransored to be considered as a way to raise money in the UAE and boost its tourism industry, particularly in Dubai, home to the long-haul airlines Emirates. Already, duty-free car raffles bombard those flying through Dubai International Airport.

**France evacuates five Afghan women who faced Taliban threats**

Agence France-Presse  
PARIS

France on Monday was due to receive five Afghan women "threatened by the Taliban" after repeated requests it create a humanitarian corridor for women shut out of public life, an official said.

Since returning to power in August 2021, Taliban authorities have imposed a strict interpretation of Islamic law on women bearing the brunt of laws the United Nations has labelled "gender apartheid."

Women and girls have been banned from attending high school and university as well as barred from visiting parks, fairs and gymsnasiums.

They have also mostly been blocked from working for UN agencies or NGOs, with thousands sacked from government jobs or paid to stay at home.

French immigration authority chief Didier Leschi told AFP that by presidential order, "special attention is being paid to women who are primarily threatened by the Taliban because they have held important positions in Afghan society, or have close contacts with Westerners."



Since returning to power in 2021, the Taliban have imposed a strict interpretation of Islam, with women bearing the brunt of laws. **AP**

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# UAE creates federal authority to monitor 'commercial gaming'

**Associated Press**

DUBAI

The United Arab Emirates has created a federal authority to potentially run a national lottery and what it describes as "commercial gaming," likely a sign that it is on the verge of allowing gambling as major casino operators flock to the Gulf Arab nation.

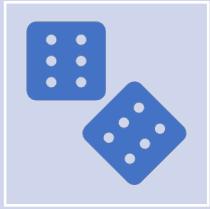
The state-run WAM news agency carried an announcement late on Sunday on the creation of the General Commercial Gaming Regulatory Authority, without offering many de-

tails about its structure or operations.

It named Kevin Mullally as its CEO. Mr. Mullally once served as the executive director of the Missouri Gaming Commission, which oversaw that U.S. State's riverboat casinos.

Casinos long have been rumored to be considered as a way to raise money in the UAE and boost its tourism industry, particularly in Dubai, home to the long-haul airline Emirates. Already, duty-free car raffles bombard those flying through Dubai International Airport.





The global online gambling market was valued at **USD 63.53 billion in 2022** and is expected to grow at a **CAGR of 11.7% from 2023 to 2030**, with the Asia-Pacific region being the largest market.



There are different types of online gambling, **including casino games like slots, blackjack, and roulette, sports betting, poker, and lottery.** It is regulated in most countries, including India, with varying degrees of restrictions and laws.

- 
- What Does Indian Law Say About Online Gambling?
  - **Public Gambling Act, 1867:**
    - At present, India has just one central law that governs gambling in all its forms. It's called the Public Gambling Act, 1867, which is an old law, ill-equipped to handle the challenges of digital casinos, online gambling and gaming.
  - **7<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Constitution:**
    - Gambling in India is largely a state subject. This means states **are expected to create their own laws to regulate gambling** in their jurisdictions.

- **Laws in Various States:**

- States like Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh have adopted the Public Gambling Act with some amendments.
- However, other regions like Goa, Sikkim, Daman, Meghalaya, and Nagaland, have drafted specific laws to regulate public gambling in their jurisdictions.



## Legalizing Betting Industry in India: Pros and Cons

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Betting is a source of <b>revenue generation</b> for the government, similar to alcohol and cigarettes.</li><li>• Legalizing betting would allow government to <b>regulate working</b> of the industry based on certain laws.</li><li>• Gambling industry has the potential of creating a <b>large number of jobs</b>, especially in online sector.</li><li>• The betting industry is run by illegal gangs, who use the money for <b>anti-social activities</b> such as terrorism. Regulation will prevent money from reaching <b>wrong hands</b>.</li></ul>	<p>Regulated industry would motivate more youths to participate, resulting in <b>addiction</b>.</p> <p>It will lead to <b>greater increase in crimes</b>, especially homicides. The number of suicides are also likely to witness rise.</p> <p>Due to legalized betting, <b>integrity and honesty</b> will be under great threat. Match-fixing and spot-fixing would drastically increase in sports.</p> <p><b>Middle class families</b> may lose their family savings as earning may get <b>spent on betting</b>.</p>

**IN BRIEF**

**Skoda unveils variants of SUV Kushaq, sedan Slavia**

Skoda Auto India has introduced two variants of SUV Kushaq and sedan Slavia, namely Kushaq Onyx Plus and the Slavia Ambition Plus at ₹11.59 lakh and ₹12.49 lakh respectively. "Both variants feature festive pricing, attractive new exchange benefits, and special corporate plans, all for a limited period," the company said in a statement. Based on the made-for-India, ready-for-the-world MQB-A0-IN platform, the Kushaq and Slavia are part of the company's India 2.0 project.

**Paytm unveils \$12 'soundbox' that takes card payments**

Paytm on Monday unveiled a 'soundbox' device that lets merchants accept both mobile and card payments across networks including Visa, Mastercard, American Express and homegrown RuPay, to attract more subscribers from its large network. Soundbox provides instant audio alerts on amounts paid to merchants through an inbuilt speaker. Merchants can accept card payments up to ₹5,000 through Paytm soundboxes' tap and pay' feature.

**Muthoot FinCorp to raise up to ₹400 crore via NCDs**

Muthoot FinCorp on Monday announced raising up to ₹400 crore through issuance of non-convertible debentures (NCDs). The issue is part of the ₹1,000 crore debt-raising plan approved by the board, the company said. The base size of the issue is ₹300 crore with a green shoe option of ₹100 crore. The issue will close on September 14. The issue has tenure options of 24, 36, 60, and 96 months with raise, annual, and cumulative payment options.

**India may add 7 lakh gig jobs by November: TeamLease**

**Mini Tejasvi**  
BENGALURU

India's e-commerce, retail, FMCG and logistics sectors are expected to hire seven lakh gig workers by November, according to a hiring-outlook report shared by TeamLease services, a staffing solutions provider. At least some four lakh of the gig jobs would be added in South India with most of the demand expected from Bengaluru (40%), Chennai (30%) and Hyderabad (30%), TeamLease forecast. Over the last quarter, several prominent e-commerce players have announced bullish plans for this festive season," said Balasubramanian A, VP and Business Head, TeamLease Services. "The positive growth synergy in the sector is influenced by the shift in the consumer demographic, government's push towards Make in India, FDI and other initiatives and increasing investments."

**Apollo Hospitals unveils 'enhanced connected care'**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

Apollo Hospitals has introduced an 'enhanced connected care' programme to improve its patient monitoring system. Through the programme, patients would experience better health outcomes and increased access to medical care technology, is said to have reduced time spent on monitoring by one hour per nurse per shift and reduced re-admission rate to ICU by 30%. "With over 1,000 beds already equipped with the real time, rapid-response patient monitoring system across Apollo units in Hyderabad and Bangalore, the company plans to add another 2,000 connected beds for all in-patients by the end of this year," Apollo said in a release. Through the programme, patients would experience better health outcomes and increased access to medical care technology, is said to have reduced time spent on monitoring by one hour per nurse per shift and reduced re-admission rate to ICU by 30%.

**CBDCs can make payments across borders efficient: Das**

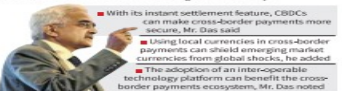
Faster and cheaper cross-border payment services would deliver widespread benefits to people, the RBI Governor noted. Insufficient transparency in such payments remains a challenge, he said

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said that high cost, low speed, limited access and insufficient transparency remained key challenges to existing cross-border payments, and that adoption of the Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) can make such payments efficient. "Faster, cheaper, more transparent, and more inclusive cross-border payment services would deliver widespread benefits to people," he said in his keynote address at the G20 TechPrint Finale 2023. "With its instant settle-

**Vouching for CBDCs**

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das elaborated on the various benefits that CBDCs can offer the global economy.



ment feature, I believe, CBDCs can play an important role in making cross-border payments faster and more secure."

Mr. Das emphasised. He added that the use of local currencies in cross-border payments could help to shield emerging markets from global shocks, protect against exchange rate fluctuations and encourage the development of local forex and capital markets. "As all of us are starting on a clean slate on the CBDC front, the adoption of the right technology platform, which is interoperable, would be a great benefit to the future of cross-border payments ecosystem," he said.

**SpiceJet gives lessors stock to clear \$28 mn**

**Reuters**  
BENGALURU

SpiceJet on Monday said it allotted more than 48 million shares to nine aircraft lessors to clear outstanding dues worth ₹2.31 billion (almost \$28 million), as the troubled airline loses to return to full operations. The carrier's shareholders had on Thursday passed several resolutions, including a ₹25 billion fund-raise and a preferential issue of shares to lessors to clear outstanding dues. SpiceJet has been scrambling to raise funds and restore operations for about a fourth of its fleet that has been grounded amid fierce competition. The funds crunch and grounded fleet has eroded SpiceJet's market share to 4.2% as of July - lower than that of new entrant Akasa, which began commercial operations in August 2022. SpiceJet, which in February converted about \$100 million in dues to lessor Carlyle Aviation into equity and debentures to still legally battling other lessors over \$12. A court recently ordered the airline to pay \$12 million by September 10 to former owner Kalanithi Maran.

**Federal Bank unveils 'WhatsApp lending'**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

Federal Bank has introduced a 'WhatsApp Lending Platform' through which customers can apply for pre-approved personal loan. "This platform would mark a significant advancement in providing seamless financial solutions to customers," the bank said. The platform was inaugurated recently by chairman A.P. Hota in the presence of MD & CEO Shyam Srinivasan and other bank officials.

**'New norms can raise CV prices by 10-12%'**

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW DELHI

Implementation of multi-lap proposed regulatory specifications can raise commercial vehicle (CV) prices by 10-12%, ratings agency ICRA said. In its report on the Indian CV industry, ICRA said the domestic automotive industry was undergoing rapid transformation, with increased focus by the government on implementing emission norms, safety systems and other standards that will bring September 10 to former owner Kalanithi Maran.

**State Bank of India allows CBDC users to link to UPI**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

The State Bank of India (SBI) said on Monday it had implemented Unified Payments Interface (UPI) interoperability in the Digital Rupee or Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). "This cutting-edge feature, accessible through the 'eRupee by SBI' application will empower SBI CBDC users to effortlessly scan any merchant UPI QR code for swift and secure transactions," the lender said in a statement. "This integration will be a game changer for the digital currency ecosystem," it further said.

**MARKETS**

**MARKET WATCH**

INDEX	NOTES	% CHANGED
Sensex	60,008	-0.37
Nifty 50	20,772	-0.27
Gold	60,476	+0.89
Power 40	6,936	-

**NIFTY 50**

SECTOR	PRICE	CHANGED
Adani Enterprises	2,474.80	+0.28
Adani Ports	801.00	+1.54
Axis Bank	862.80	+0.29
Axis Capital	1,024.80	+0.29
Axis Infra	782.25	+0.29
Axis Power	1,024.80	+0.29
Bank of India	1,114.30	+0.44
Bank of Maharashtra	1,072.20	+0.44
Bank of Baroda	895.30	+0.60
Bank of Commerce	895.30	+0.60
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Bank of Maharashtra	1,072.	



# Federal Bank unveils 'WhatsApp lending'

**The Hindu Bureau**

MUMBAI

Federal Bank has introduced a 'WhatsApp Lending Platform' through which customers can apply for pre-approved personal loan.

"This platform would mark a significant advancement in providing seamless financial solutions to customers," the bank said.

The platform was inaugurated by Chairman A.P. Hota in the presence of MD & CEO Shyam Srinivasan and other bank officials.

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<b>Founded</b>	23 April 1931; 92 years ago (as Travancore Federal Bank) at <a href="#">Nedumpuram, Thiruvalla</a> 2 December 1949; 73 years ago (as Federal Bank)
<b>Founder</b>	<a href="#">K. P. Hormis</a> <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Headquarters</b>	<a href="#">Aluva, Kochi, Kerala</a> , India
<b>Number of locations</b>	1,370 branches (2023)
<b>Key people</b>	<a href="#">Shyam Srinivasan</a> (MD & CEO)
<b>Products</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Retail Banking</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Wholesale Banking</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Finance and Insurance</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Mortgage loans</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Wealth management</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Investment banking</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Credit cards</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Debit cards</a></li> </ul>
<b>Revenue</b>	▲ ₹15,142.16 crore (US\$1.9 billion) (2020) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Operating income</b>	▲ ₹3,204.70 crore (US\$400 million) (2020) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Net income</b>	▲ ₹1,542.78 crore (US\$190 million) (2020) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Total assets</b>	▲ ₹201,367.39 crore (US\$25 billion) (2021) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Number of employees</b>	12,592 (2021) <sup>[2]</sup>

## DELHI CURBS, FOR G20 SUMMIT

OFFICES TO remain shut on Sept 8-10. ESSENTIAL SERVICES open; ID cards will be required. ENTRY AT Haryana, Uttar Pradesh borders to be regulated; office ID cards required.

TO CATCH flights and trains, proof of travel needed.

ALL METRO stations, except Supreme Court stations, will remain operational.

NEW DELHI police district will remain out of bounds; special passes for residents, govt staff. REPORT, PAGE 4

## CIVILISATIONAL POWER, ART OF INDIA ON DISPLAY AS LEADERS GATHER

BUSY TRIP FOR SPOUSES OF LEADERS PAGE 6

## IN RUN-UP TO G20

# On Modi-Biden table: Small n-reactors, jet deal, easing visa, joint aid for Ukraine

New consulates, drone deal part of agenda for bilateral talks



SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 4

AS US President Joe Biden comes to India for the G20 summit, New Delhi and Washington are working on an ambitious slew of deliverables for their bilateral engagement that includes a possible nuclear pact on small modular nuclear reactors, an academic programme tailored for Indian students, movement on the drone deal, progress on US Congress approval for a defence



Flags of participating countries put up near Rajghat ahead of the G20 Summit. Prem Nath Anandey

deal on jet engines, a joint humanitarian aid for Ukraine, a more liberal visa regime for Indians and new consulates in each other's countries.

Sources told The Indian Express that Indian and the US officials are in hectic negotiations for the last few weeks about

framing a "robust" and "outcome-oriented" joint communication for President Biden's first visit to India as US President. The last US President to visit India was Donald Trump in February 2020.

Biden, who has visited India multiple times in different

## Xi absence: China chill deepens, puts question mark on G20 consensus

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 4

CHINESE PRESIDENT Xi Jinping is not going to attend the G20 summit in New Delhi on September 9 and 10—in what is going to be the most conspicuous and telling absence from the summit.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry announced Monday that Chinese Premier Li Qiang will attend the summit.

Xi, who has been China's President for a decade now, is going to miss the G20 summit for the second time. But the last time he skipped this important forum was in 2021, when Covid-19 pandemic was still at its peak,

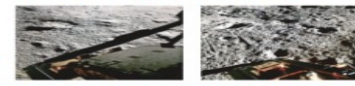
## DISAPPOINTED XI NOT ATTENDING G20 SUMMIT: BIDEN

Washington: US President Joe Biden said he was disappointed that his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping would not attend the G20 Summit. "I am disappointed, but I am going to get to see him," he said.

REPORT, PAGE 6

## Chandrayaan-3 lander hops on Moon, marks big leap for ISRO

Lander, rover in sleep mode, hoping for awakening Sept 22, says ISRO



Moon lander where it touched down on August 23; (right) a new location after the "hop" on Monday, (left) image.

AMITABH SINHA NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 4

THE INDIAN Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had reserved the best for the last. Just before it was put in liberation mode on Monday to survive the approaching lunar night, the lander module of Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft was made to perform a small jump on the Moon.

As ISRO said, it soft-landed on the Moon "again". "Vikram Lander exceeded its

## Explained Why hop test is important

THE "HOP" shows ISRO's capability to make a spacecraft lift off from the lunar surface, the possibility of getting it back on Earth. It shows ISRO's intention to follow up with sample return missions and, possibly, a human landing mission.

## Sanatan Dharma remarks: INDIA bloc speaks in different voices, Stalin's son stands his ground

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 4

WITH THE BJP intensifying its attack on the INDIA coalition over DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin's remarks against Sanatan Dharma and seeking an apology, the Opposition bloc on Monday appeared divided. While Congress general secretary KC Venugopal said the party believes in "Sarva Dharma Samabhava (equality of all religions)", Karnataka minister Priyank Kharge said any religion that does not promote equality is "as good as a disease". Amid murmurings of discontent

## Explained TWO VIEWS ON SANATAN DHARMA

IN the Opposition ranks, Udhayanidhi, the Tamil Nadu Minister of Youth Welfare and Sports, stood his ground on Monday and said his comments were about fighting an ideology. "When Modi says 'Congress-mukt Bharat', does it mean that all Congressmen will be killed? If what he meant was genocide, read my words also on the same

## EXTORTION CHARGE Assam businessman says police threatened to kill him, slap 'jihadi link'; IPS officer among 5 cops held

SUKRITA BARUAH GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 4

NINE PEOPLE, including senior police officers in Assam's Bajali district, were arrested by the state crime investigation department (CID) after a local businessman alleged that he was being extorted by police.

Rabul Islam, the business man, alleged, among other things, that he was wrongfully detained by police and told to pay Rs 2.5 crore, failing which he would be killed in an encounter and his killing would be justified by concocting "links with

Pakistan and Bangladesh jihadi elements". In his complaint, Islam said the threats were made by a man who claimed to be an "intelligence specialist". On Monday, the Assam Police arrested Siddhartha Baruah, a 2014 batch IPS officer who had been Bajali Superintendent of police before being transferred two days ago to Assam Police Headquarters. Deputy Superintendent of Police (HQ) Pishal Gogoi, Additional Superintendent of Police Cayati Sonowal, her husband Subhas Chandra, Sub-Inspector Debajit Gali, and constable Injamamul Hassan were

## GOVT & POLITICS



RITIKA CHOPRA NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 4

POLICE SHOULD NOT HAVE USED FORCE ON PROTESTERS, SAYS FADNAVIS PAGE 8

## IIM-Calcutta director resigns, second in 2 yrs: 'Differences with board chair'

THE DIRECTOR of the Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta (IIM-C), Uttam Kumar Sarkar, is learnt to have resigned over differences with the Board chairperson, making him the second institute head in two



years to leave before completing a five-year term. Sarkar is learnt to have re-

signed on August 23, and his resignation letter was circulated among all members of the Board of Governors (BoG) last week. Sources told The Indian Express that the resignation hasn't been accepted yet and is likely to be discussed at the next floor meeting scheduled for this week, on September 8.

### VISIONIAS INSPIRING INNOVATION

Heartiest Congratulations to all candidates selected in CSE 2022

39 IN TOP 50 SELECTIONS IN CSE 2022

1 AIR ISHITA KISHORE  
2 AIR GARIMA LOHIA  
3 AIR UMA HARATHI N  
66 AIR KRITIKA MISHRA  
YOU CAN BE NEXT

#### FOUNDATION COURSE GENERAL STUDIES PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2024 & 2025

DELHI: 1 SEPT 5 PM, 15 SEPT 9 AM, 30 SEPT 5 PM

AMMEDABAD: 10 July, 8:30 AM | SIKAR: 4 Sept, 7:30 AM & 5 PM  
CHANDIGARH: 4 Aug, 9 PM | HYDERABAD: 4 Sept, 8 PM | LUCKNOW: 7 Aug, 1 PM  
JAIPUR: 1 Sept, 7:30 AM & 9 PM | PUNE: 9 June, 8 AM | 3 July, 4 PM  
JODHPUR: 21 Aug & 11 Sept 7:30 AM & 5 PM | SHIMLA: 17 Aug, 9 AM

GS 2025 DELHI 22 SEPT 9 AM CHANDIGARH 21 NOV 5 PM LUCKNOW 20 OCT 5 PM BHOPAL 20 OCT 5 PM

#### फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2024

▶ प्राथमिक, मध्यम परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी दैनिक का विस्तृत कवरेज

DELHI: 25 जुलाई, 9 AM | सिकार, 1 PM | JAIPUR: 1 सितंबर 7:30 AM & 4 PM | SIKAR: 4 सितंबर 7:30 AM & 4 PM  
JODHPUR: 21 अगस्त & 11 सितंबर 7:30 AM & 4 PM | LUCKNOW: 22 नवंबर, 9 AM | BHOPAL: 8 अगस्त, 9 AM

#### DAKSHA'S MENTORING PROGRAM 2024

IA Strategic Revision, Practice, and Enrichment Mentoring Program for Mains Examination (2024)

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▶ GS Prelims 2024: 3 Sept  
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▶ PS & IR - Anthropology - Geography  
▶ GS Mains 2024: 3 Sept

DELHI: 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Apsara Arcade, Near Gate-7 Karol Bagh Metro Station | CONTACT: 8468022022, 9019066066  
AMMEDABAD | BHOPAL | CHANDIGARH | GUWAHATI | HYDERABAD | JAIPUR | JODHPUR | LUCKNOW | PRAGRAGA | PUNE | RANCHI | SIKAR

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



## 'PRO-PAK SLOGAN' Swear your allegiance to Constitution, file affidavit: SC to NC MP



Lone is among the petitioners in the Article 370 case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 4

HEARING A plea which alleged that National Conference (NC) leader Mohammad Akbar Lone had raised "Pakistan Zindabad" slogans in the Jammu and Kashmir (JK) Assembly in 2018, the Supreme Court on Monday asked Lone to file an affidavit stating that he "owes allegiance to the Constitution of India and that JK is an integral part of India". Lone, a Lok Sabha member, is one of the petitioners challenging the amendments made to Article 370 that accorded special status to JK. His counsel, Senior

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## BIODIVERSITY LOSS

# 37,000 ‘alien species’ introduced by human activities, says report

ESHA ROY

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 4

INVASIVE ALIEN species are one of the five major direct drivers of biodiversity loss globally — alongside land and sea use change, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, and pollution — according to the most extensive study on invasive species carried out till date.

In its new publication, “Assessment Report on Invasive Alien Species and their Control”, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has found that there are 37,000 alien species, including plants and animals, that have been introduced by many human activities to regions and

### INVASIVE SPECIES

■ Water hyacinth — world’s most widespread invasive alien species on land

■ Lantana, a flowering shrub, second-most widespread globally

■ Black rat is third-most widespread alien species

■ Brown rat and house mouse are also widespread invasive alien species

human activities to regions and biomes around the world. These include more than 3,500 invasive alien species, which have played a key role in 60% of global plant and animal extinctions recorded.

IPBES released its report on Monday following a week-long plenary from August 28, with representatives of 143 member-states approving the report.

IPBES is an independent inter-governmental agency set up to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The study, conducted over a four-year period, was done by 86 experts from 49 countries, drawing on over 13,000 references.

The report noted that the

number of alien species — or species introduced to new regions through human activities — has been rising for centuries in all regions but are now increasing at unprecedented rates, with increased human travel, trade and the expansion of global economy.

“Not all alien species establish and spread with negative impacts on biodiversity, local ecosystems and species, but a significant proportion do — then becoming known as invasive alien species,” the report noted. “About 6% of alien plants; 22% of alien invertebrates; 14% of alien vertebrates; and 11% of alien microbes are known to be invasive, posing major risks to nature and to people.”

# Britain: Pharma firm launches injection for weight loss

**MAGGIE FICK**

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 4

NOVO NORDISK launched its weight-loss injection Wegovy in Britain on Monday, its second debut in Europe in just over a month as the drugmaker seeks to expand in the region even as it struggles to keep up with soaring demand.

The Danish drugmaker said in a statement that the weekly injection would be available in the United Kingdom "through a controlled and limited launch".

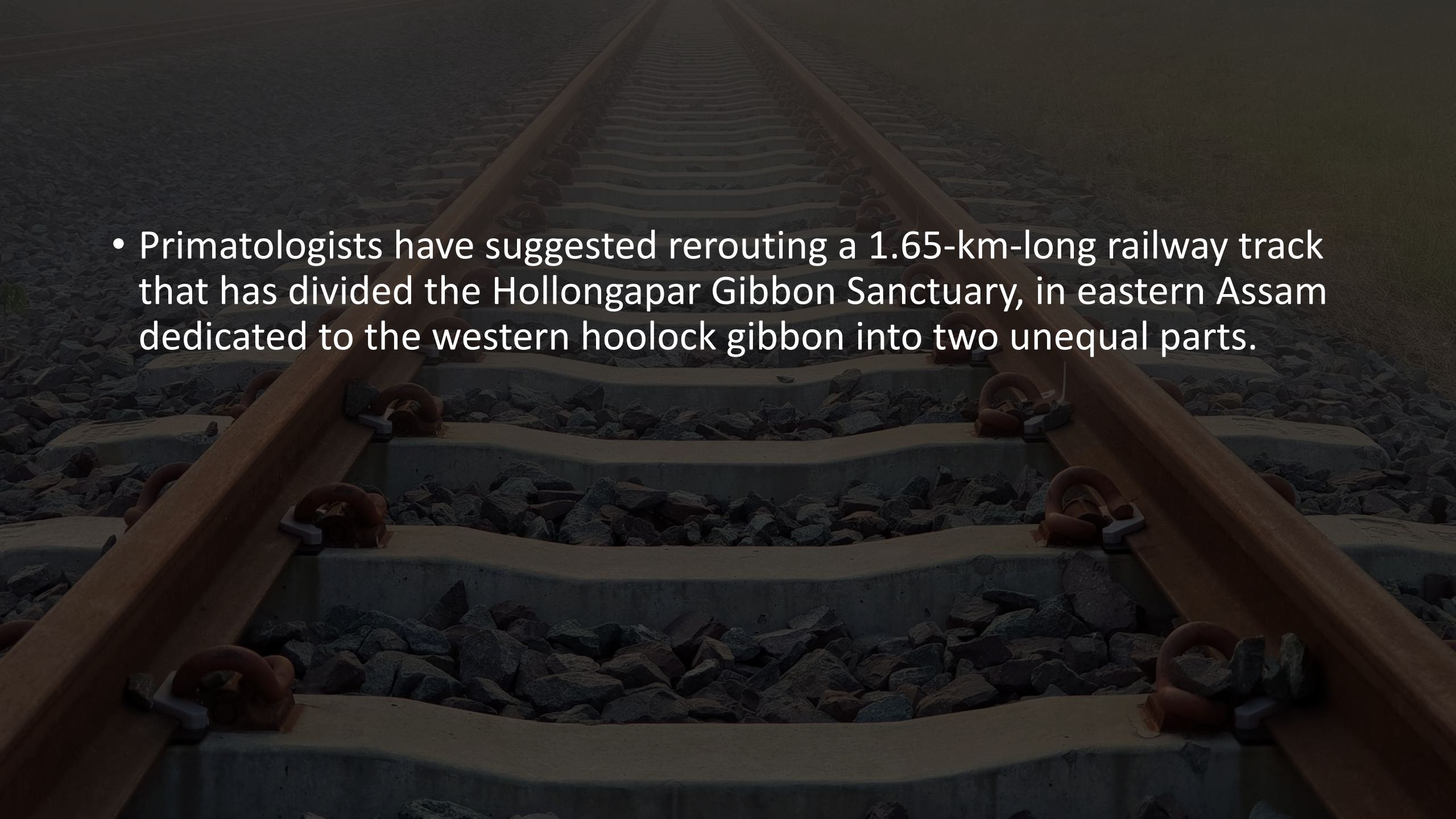
Wegovy, shown to help patients reduce body weight by around 15% when used along with exercise and lifestyle changes, is so far available in the United States, Norway, Denmark, and as of late July, Germany.

Novo's inability to keep up with US demand for Wegovy has effectively delayed the launch in most of Europe.

"We are closely monitoring Wegovy demand," the company said in its statement. **REUTERS**

The background features a complex, abstract pattern of organic, flowing shapes. The color palette includes teal, mustard yellow, and a muted grey. Various patterns are used: some shapes are filled with small white dots, others with white dashes, and some with vertical white lines. The overall effect is a textured, layered composition.

# Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary

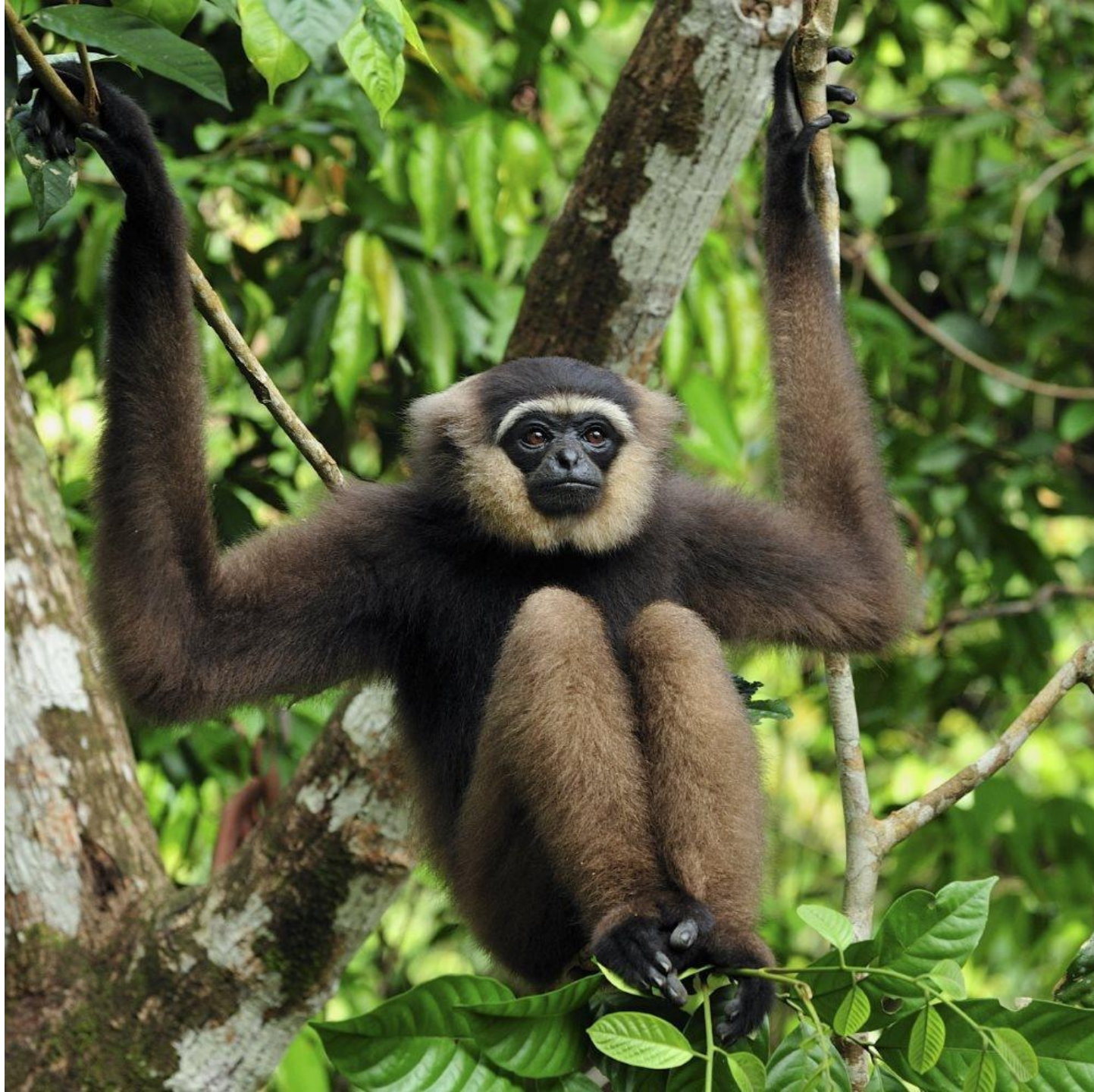
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- Primatologists have suggested rerouting a 1.65-km-long railway track that has divided the Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, in eastern Assam dedicated to the western hoolock gibbon into two unequal parts.

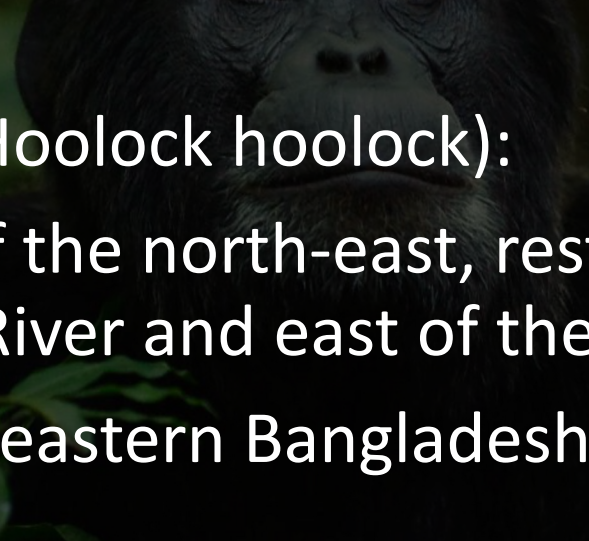
## What are the Key Facts About Hoolock Gibbons?

### About:

- Hoolock Gibbons, known as the **smallest and fastest of all apes**, **inhabit tropical and subtropical forests in Southeast Asia**.
- They have high intelligence, distinct personalities, and strong family bonds similar to other apes.
- They represent one of the 20 gibbon species found worldwide.
- **Hoolock Gibbons are India's only ape species.**





- 
- Gibbon Species in India:
  - Western Hoolock Gibbon (*Hoolock hoolock*):
  - It inhabits in all the states of the north-east, restricted between the south of the Brahmaputra River and east of the Dibang River.
  - Outside India, it is found in eastern Bangladesh and north-west Myanmar.
  - International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List (IUCN):  
Endangered

## **Eastern Hoolock Gibbon (*Hoolock leuconedys*):**

- It inhabits specific pockets of **Arunachal Pradesh and Assam in India, and in southern China and north-east Myanmar outside India.**
- **IUCN Red List: Vulnerable**

**In India, both species are listed on Schedule 1 of the Indian (Wildlife) Protection Act 1972.**

A lemur is hanging from a thick, braided rope. The lemur has a white body with a dark brown collar around its neck and a dark brown stripe through its eyes. It has large, bright orange eyes and a black nose. The background is a blurred green, suggesting a natural habitat. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

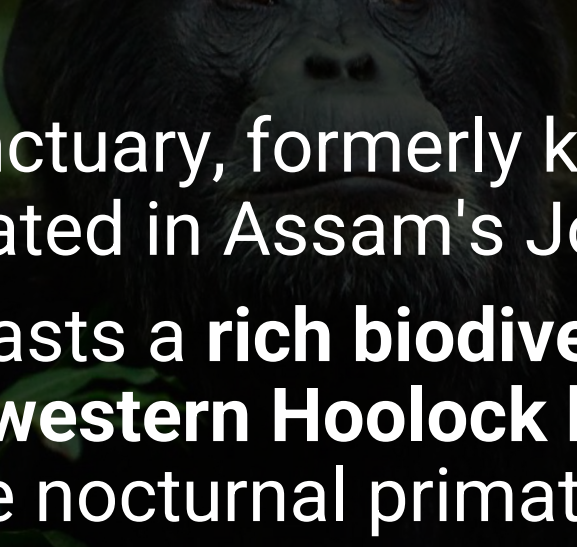
- **Challenges:**

- Hoolock gibbons are particularly sensitive to habitat disruptions, such as canopy gaps.
- **Fragmentation of their habitat can lead to genetic isolation and threaten their populations.**

A lemur is perched on a thick, braided rope bridge that spans across a forest. The lemur has white fur with a dark ring around its eye and is looking directly at the camera. The background is a soft-focus green forest.

- **Conservation Efforts:**

- Initiatives like **artificial canopy bridges** aim to **facilitate their movement and preserve genetic diversity**.
- Gibbons play a vital role in forest ecosystems by dispersing seeds as they travel through the canopy.
  - Their conservation is essential for maintaining the health and biodiversity of their habitats.

- 
- Gibbon Sanctuary:
  - Hoollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, formerly known as **Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary**, is located in Assam's Jorhat district, India.
  - Established in 1997, it boasts a **rich biodiversity, housing India's only gibbons, the western Hoolock hoolock**, and the Bengal slow loris, the sole nocturnal primate in Northeastern India.

- Consider the following pairs: (2010)
- Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Protected area	Well-known for
Bhiterkanika, Orissa	Salt Water Crocodile
Desert National Park, Rajasthan	Great Indian Bustard
Eravikulam, Kerala	Hoolock Gibbon

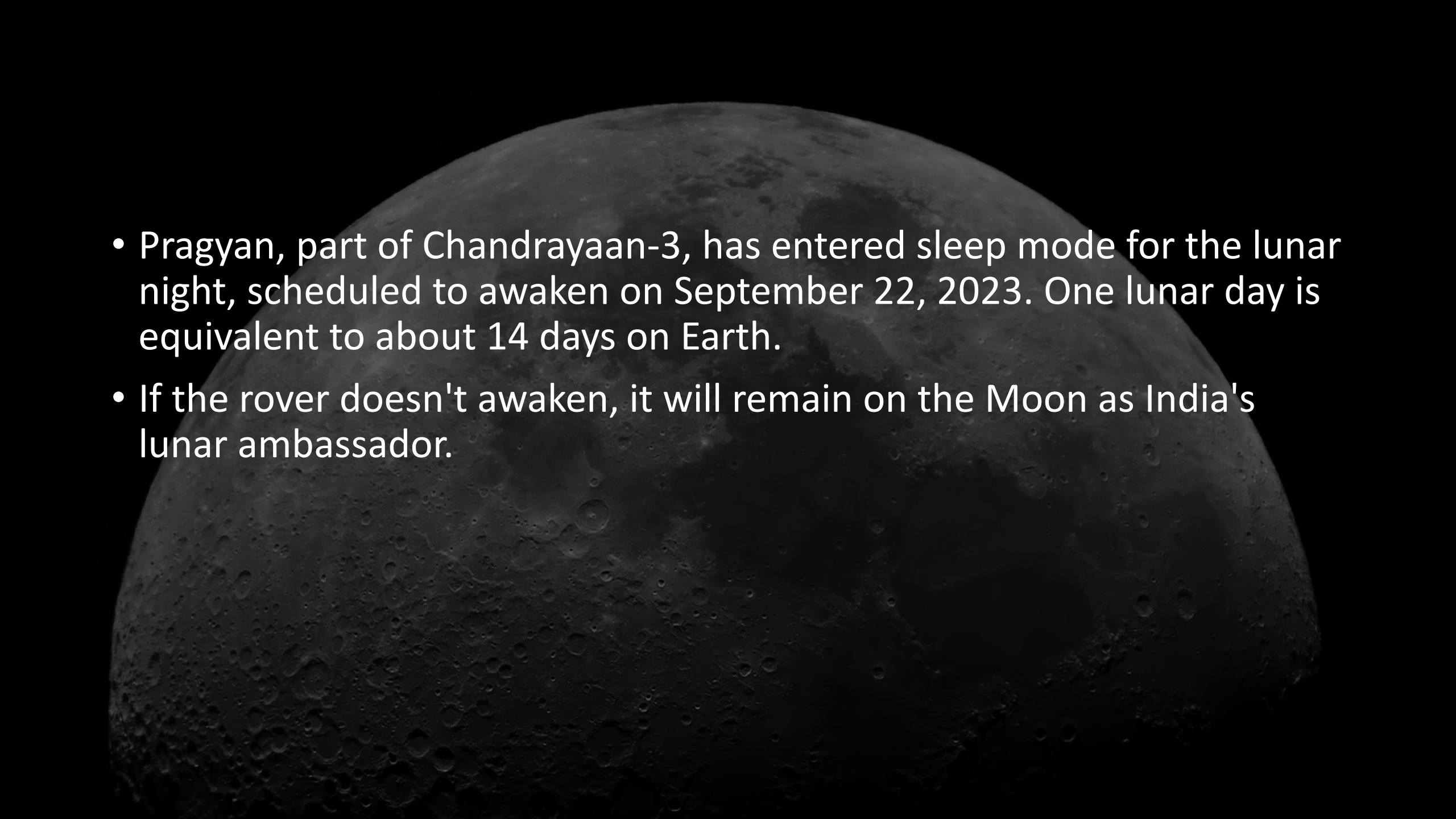
- **Among the following, which one is not an ape? (2008)**
- **(a) Gibbon**
- **(b) Gorilla**
- **(c) Langur**
- **(d) Orangutan**





# Prayan Rover Completes Tasks and Enters Sleep Mode



- 
- A large, dark, cratered moon is shown against a black background. The moon's surface is covered in numerous small and large craters, giving it a textured appearance. The lighting is soft, highlighting the contours of the moon's surface.
- Pragyan, part of Chandrayaan-3, has entered sleep mode for the lunar night, scheduled to awaken on September 22, 2023. One lunar day is equivalent to about 14 days on Earth.
  - If the rover doesn't awaken, it will remain on the Moon as India's lunar ambassador.

The ISRO indicated that the process of putting the rover to sleep is to ensure its survival during the lunar night when temperatures can plummet below  $-200^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

The lander and rover rely on a solar panel to generate power and charge the battery during the lunar day, while they must endure the harsh lunar night conditions.

Amrit Kalash Yatra

Source – PIB

- Union Home Minister launched the **Amrit Kalash Yatra** under the '**Meri Mati-Mera Desh**' campaign in New Delhi,

## About Amrit Kalash Yatra

Under this, 7500 pots with soil or grains collected from every household, ward and village will reach New Delhi between 28th and 30th of October.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will put soil from these Amrit Kalash in the Amrit Vatika created at Delhi in honour of great veers, which will keep on reminding every citizen that we must make India great during the period of Amritkal.



- **About Meri Maati Mera Desh**

- **"Meri Maati Mera Desh"**, with the tagline **`Mitti ko naman, veeron ka vandan`**, is a nationwide and people led **"Jan bhagidari"** initiative to commemorate 75 years of India's independence.
- It is the finale of Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav program.
- It is a tribute to the Veers and Veeranganas who have made the supreme sacrifice for the country.
- This campaign comprises many activities and ceremonies conducted across the country at Panchayat/Village, Block, Urban Local Body, State and National levels:



Literacy week



- The Ministry of Education has decided to organise a literacy week to celebrate International Literacy Day under **ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram**.
  - The International Literacy Day is celebrated on 8 September every year.





- It enables mass participation to inculcate a sense of **Kartavya Bodh** and **Janbhagidari** in each and every citizen of the nation.
- It will make **India fully literate** and to increase the number of registrations for learners and volunteers on the ULLAS mobile app.


- 
- **ULLAS- Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram on Education for All**
  - It is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** (jointly funded by the Centre and states) and was implemented during FYs 2022-27 in alignment with **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
  - The Scheme has **five components**, namely
    - Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
    - Critical Life Skills
    - Basic Education
    - Vocational Skills
    - Continuing Education
  - The slogan for the scheme is '**Jan Jan Sakshar**'.

- **DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) Portal**

- It is a national platform for school education, an initiative of National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- It enables people with visual impairments to access the portal using assistive technology.
- DIKSHA can be accessed by learners and teachers across the country and currently supports 36 Indian languages.



Role of the Indian diaspora as an  
ambassador of India



- **Other examples of leaders of Indian origin are:**

- Rishi Sunak (PM of UK)

- Tharman Shanmugaratnam (Recently, Singapore President)

- Christine Kangaloo President of Trinidad and Tobago

- Leo Varadkar (Head of Government, Ireland)

- Prithvirajsing Roopun (President of Mauritius)

- Wavel Ramkalawan (President of Seychelles)

# On display

The cultural corridor will be set up on the second floor of the Bharat Mandapam, the venue of G20 summit



Bronze casting,  
INDIA

Fahua  
lidded jar,  
CHINA



Coatlucue,  
MEXICO



Gutenberg  
Bible,  
GERMANY

PHOTOS: WIKIMEDIA  
COMMONS AND FLICKR

Kumbh  
Mela,  
INDIA




9 Dashed Line



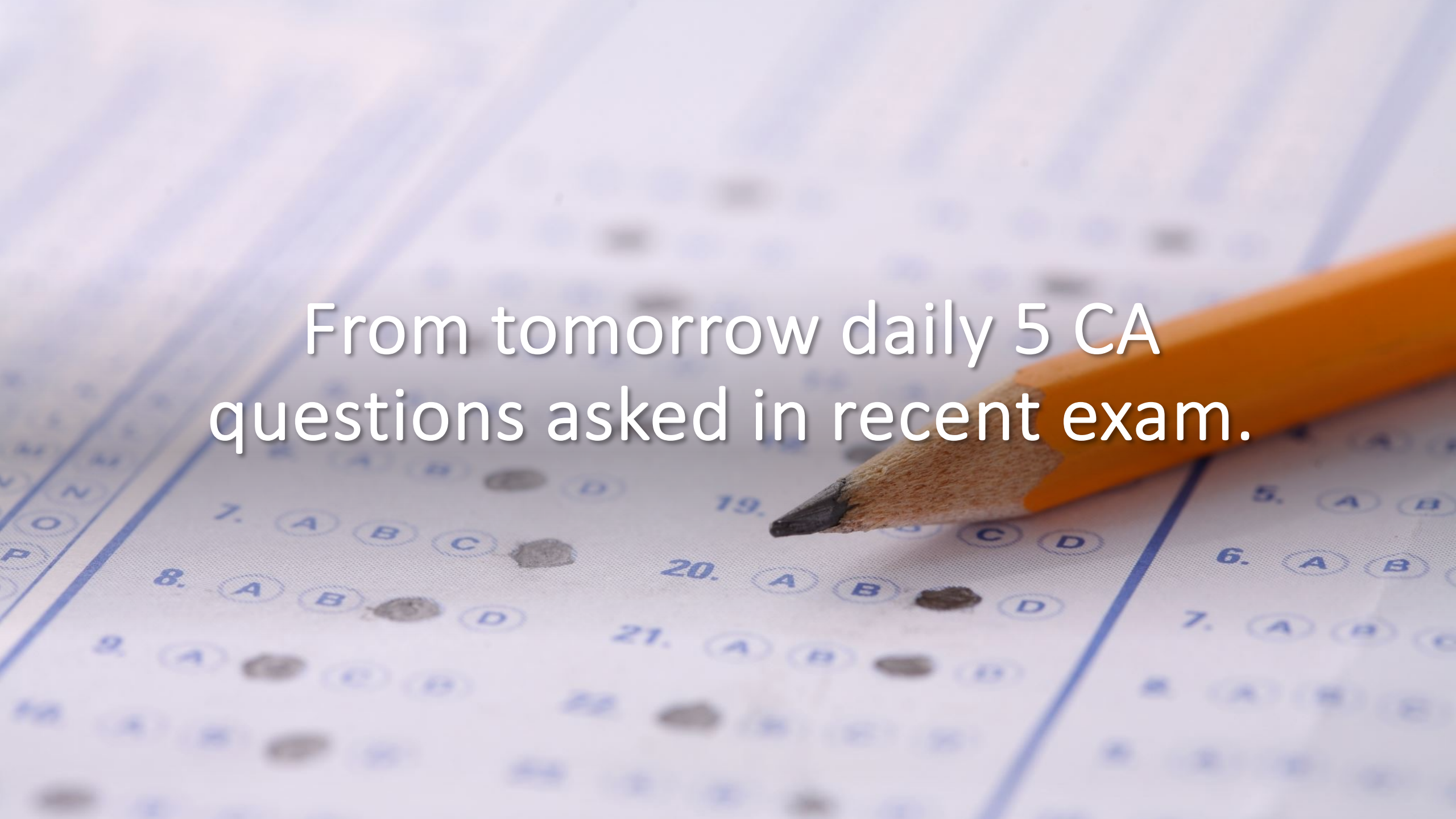
- Several Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Taiwan, have joined India in rejecting **China's new national map and 9 Dashed Line in the South China Sea.**

- 
- India specifically protested **China's claims over Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin**

- 
- The nine-dash line is a **historical demarcation line on a map used by China** to assert territorial claims in the **South China Sea**.
  - China asserts a claim to **90% of the South China Sea**, primarily based on the **historical U-shaped nine-dash line drawn on a map** in the 1940s and encompassing several islands, notably the **Paracels and Spratlys**.
  - However, the **Permanent Court of Arbitration under UNCLOS** (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) has determined that **China's claim in this region lacks a legal foundation**.



From tomorrow daily 5 CA questions asked in recent exam.



**In October 2021 , 19-year-old \_\_\_\_\_ won the silver medal at the World wrestling championship.**

Anshu Malik

Seema Bisla

Sanju Devi

Sonam Malik

**Anshu Malik**

emerged as the poorest state as per the first –ever Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) prepared by NITI Aayog and Launched in November 2021.

Bihar

Madhya Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh

Mizoram

**Bihar**

# Which of the following countries was the host of AFC Women's Asia cup Football-2022?

Japan

Bangladesh

India

China

**India**

**According to IBEF 2021 , the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry Ranks \_\_\_\_\_in the World on the basis of volume.**

9<sup>th</sup>

5<sup>th</sup>

11<sup>th</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>

**3<sup>rd</sup>**



**Daskathia of \_\_\_\_\_ is the tribal dance performed by two males depicting the historic and punaric events.**

Uttar Pradesh

Gujarat

Goa

Odisha

**Odisha**



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Thank you  
guys.

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