

# Daily Current Affairs



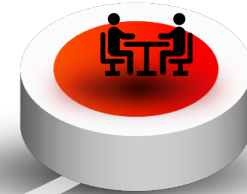
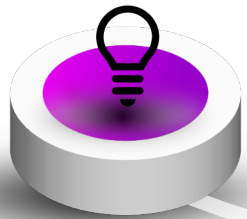


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# Drishti

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## Will make INDIA bloc an electoral success: CWC

**Congress Working Committee resolution says the formation of the INDIA bloc has rattled the PM and the ruling BJP; the alliance's success will free the country from divisive and polarising politics**

**Sandeep Phukan**  
HYDERABAD

The newly constituted Congress Working Committee (CWC), at its first meeting in Hyderabad on Saturday, welcomed the "continuing consolidation" of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) and resolved to make it "an ideological and electoral success". Claiming that the Opposition bloc has rattled Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP, the resolution said, "The CWC reiterates the Congress party's resolve to make the INDIA initiative an ideological and electoral success so that our country is freed from divisive and polarising politics; the forces of social equity and justice are strengthened; and the people get a Union govern-



LOUD AND CLEAR: The party also made it clear that it would refuse to get drawn into the *Samantana Dharma* debate. NAGARA GOPAL

ment that is responsible, responsive, sensitive, transparent and accountable". The Congress also made it clear that it would refuse to get drawn into the *Samantana Dharma* debate. Sources reiterated its stance of respecting all religions. While former party chief Rahul

tone and tenor for the meeting was set by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's opening remarks. He said that the country is facing "serious internal challenges" and accused the Modi government of spreading the fire of violence from Manipur to Nuh in Haryana. Mounting a scathing attack on the government for "falling on all fronts", Mr. Kharge demanded that the process of the 2021 census be immediately started along with a caste-based census. He said the delay in holding the census had resulted in 14 crore people being deprived of the right to food law and nearly 18% people being left out of the MGNREGS.

**CONTINUED ON**  
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▶ 'RAISE QUOTA LIMIT'  
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### IN BRIEF



#### 'Oversight panel never exonerated former WFI chief'

**NEW DELHI**  
The Delhi police on Saturday submitted in court that the oversight panel constituted by the Sports Ministry to probe sexual harassment allegations against former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh had not exonerated him. ▶ PAGE 4

#### Writer Gita Mehta passes away in Delhi

**BHUBANESHWAR**  
Gita Mehta, writer, journalist and elder sister of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Pattnaik, passed away in New Delhi on Saturday. Mehta, 80, had been ailing for some time. ▶ PAGE 12

**MAGAZINE** ▶ PAGES CLASSIFIEDS ▶ PAGE 8

## AI cameras gun for poachers



Poachers caught on an AI camera. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Jaacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

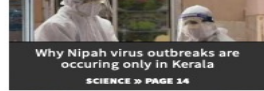
Wildlife officials at one of the most populous tiger zones in India are experimenting with a new set of camera traps — or cameras with infrared sensors deployed in forests to count wild animals or monitor the movement of potential poachers — that harness the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI). In experiments under way at the Kanha-Pench corridor in Madhya Pradesh, the system has, for the first time, caught poachers on camera that — a year down — helped forest authorities secure a conviction, according to a person

involved in the experiment. Cameras set up in remote regions are a key tool in surveys and census counts of tigers and elephants but have limitations such as requiring personnel physically access the machine to prise photos. They are also bulky and are not always optimised to conserve charge to keep the instruments running. The new kind of camera set-up, called the TrailGuard AI camera-alert system, being tested comprises slim devices that can be inconspicuously set up within the foliage of trees. ▶ PAGE 10



HIGH DEMAND, LOW YIELD  
**Saffron the new silver in Kashmir**

**MAGAZINE** ▶ PAGE 4



Why Nipah virus outbreaks are occurring only in Kerala

**SCIENCE** ▶ PAGE 14



India locks horns with Sri Lanka in Asia Cup final

**SPORT** ▶ PAGE 18

## Kamal Nath springs a surprise, says INDIA bloc's first joint rally in Bhopal cancelled

**Shubhomoy Sikdar**  
BHOPAL

The first proposed joint rally of the Opposition bloc, Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), in Bhopal in the first week of October on the issues of "rising prices, unemployment and corruption of the BJP government" may be a non-starter with Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath announcing on Saturday that it has been cancelled. It is not going to happen, Mr. Nath told journalists on the sidelines of a press conference called to announce the party's Jan Aakrosh Yatra in which he was projected by the party's State in-charge, Ran-deep Singh Surjewala, as its chief ministerial face.

Even as Chief Minister



Kamal Nath

Shivraj Singh Chouhan attributed the move to "public anger" over the ongoing *Samantana Dharma* row, they appeared to be ambiguous among Congress leaders on the cancellation itself and the possible reason.

**Ambiguity in Cong.**  
At the press conference, Mr. Surjewala had said a final call has not been taken on the rally and it was being discussed by Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge with other INDIA allies.

In Hyderabad, where the Congress Working Committee is meeting, party leader P. Chidambaram said he wasn't aware of the reasons behind the cancellation but rejected Mr. Chouhan's charge.

"There is anger and sorrow among the people of Madhya Pradesh (over the anti-*Samantana Dharma* remarks). They (the Opposition) were afraid the people might express their anger and hence cancelled the rally," the Madhya Pradesh CM said in Bhopal, referencing comments made earlier this month by Urvilendra Munnera Kaznagam leader Udhayanidhi Stalin that *Samantana Dharma* was sown divisions in society.

Sources said the INDIA bloc had shortlisted five venues — Delhi, Bhopal, Nagpur, Guwahati, and Chennai — during its Mumbai summit and agreed in on Bhopal during the coordination committee meeting on September 13 in Delhi.

**'Internal tussle'**  
Mr. Nath's statement took some alliance constituents by surprise. "It looks like Congress's internal tussle, they should settle it soon for the health of the alliance," an Opposition leader said. Sources in the Madhya Pradesh Congress, however, said given that Congress national general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra already has a rally planned in Dhar on October 5, preparing for another rally would have been logistically challenging.

**'KAMAL NATH WILL BE CM'**  
▶ PAGE 4



Close vigil: Army personnel seen near the encounter site in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. NISSAR AHMAD

## 3 infiltrators killed amid Pak. fire cover

**Enzezzada Ashih**  
SRINAGAR

The Indian Army on Saturday accused the Pakistan Army of providing fire cover to infiltrators in Uri Sector of Baramulla, where three infiltrators were killed close to the Line of Control (LoC).

"Three infiltrators were killed in twin gunfights in Hathlaga area between 6:40 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.

Two bodies were recovered as well as a severely injured infiltrator exfiltrated with the help of fire cover provided by Pakistan Army's quadcopters also came under fire from the Pakistan Army. However, the third militiaman too died (on the other side)," Brigadier P.M.S. Ithallan said.

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## To heaven and back at the roll of a dice

The Indian Knowledge Systems, under Education Ministry, has developed 6 indoor games that are rooted in indigenous knowledge; these will be introduced in schools from the next academic year

**Seecaparna Chakrabarty**  
NEW DELHI

At a glance, the board game of Sarp-Raju (snakes and ropes) looks like a regular set of snakes and ladders. A closer look reveals that there are ropes instead of ladders, with 72 (9x8) squares, and not 100, with nine being the number of sensory windows of the body and eight being its parts. Players start at cell 68, and named *vaijantha* (eter-nal bliss). The other cells too are named after elements



The board game of Sarp-Raju. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

from Hindu philosophy, like *moh* (delusion) and *Asurama* (desire). Each throw of the dice indicates the number of

cells the player must advance tracing their 'karmic path' back towards *vaijantha*. Sarp-Raju and five other indoor games have been developed by Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), an innovation cell founded at the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in 2020, under the Ministry of Education, to promote interdisciplinary research on aspects of indigenous knowledge. The games have been divided into three segments: dice-based,

strategic, and those based on engagement. This is in keeping with the Ministry's focus on the shift from rote-based to fun-filled learning that is one of the themes of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. The aim is to promote creativity and a multi-faceted growth. These indoor games will be introduced to schoolchildren in the next academic year, under the BharatGyan Games programme. ▶ PAGE 10

## NIA searches 31 locations in T.N., Telangana in IS recruitment case; documents, cash seized

**R.Krishnamoorthy**  
COIMBATORE

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday carried out searches at 31 locations in Tamil Nadu and Telangana as part of a crackdown on a radicalisation and recruitment campaign by the Islamic State (IS) terror group. No arrest has been made so far, sources said. The agency seized several digital documents, and incriminating books in vernacular and Arabic languages during the searches, in addition to 100 lakh in Indian currency and \$18,200. The NIA is in the process of exami-



NIA sleuths proceed to conduct searches in Coimbatore city on Saturday. S. SURESHKUMAR

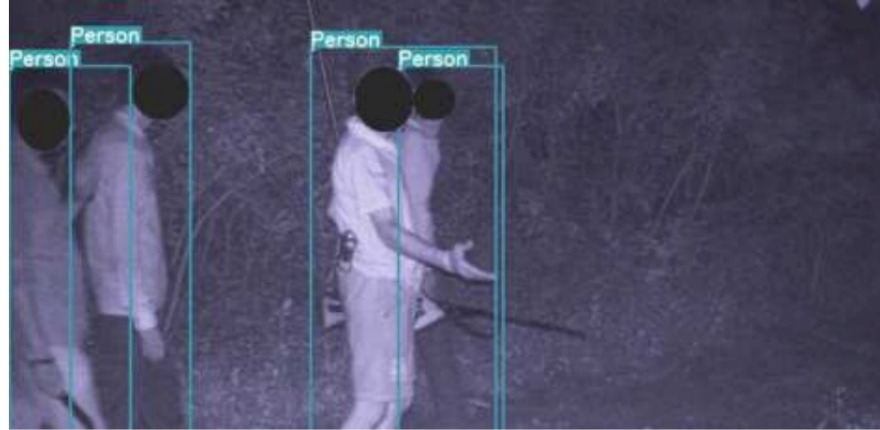
ing the data in the seized mobile phones, laptops and hard disks, it said in a news release. The NIA teams searched 22 locations in Coimbatore, three in Chennai, one in Tenkasi district, and five in Hyderabad. The case pertains to clandestine operations by

a group of individuals to radicalise gullible youth. This was being carried out in the garb of holding Arabic language classes conducted through their regional study centres. Such activities were being flagged online through social media platforms and mobile applications, the NIA said. "Plot to radicalise" The probe revealed that IS-inspired agent provocateurs were engaged in propagation of an ideology that is inimical to India's constitutionally established principles of secularism, the agency said. The group of persons in-

involved in the case had entered into a conspiracy to radicalise and recruit youth, who were later found involved in terrorist activities as well as unlawful acts and activities. One such terrorist attack related to the Coimbatore car bomb blast case of October 23, 2022, it said. The agency said that its investigations in the case were continuing, as part of the NIA's efforts to thwart the IS attempts to initiate vulnerable and susceptible youth into the terrorist network, which is working actively to spread terror in the country with the overblown principles of secularism and disrupting its peace and communal harmony. ▶ PAGE 10



# *AI cameras gun for poachers*



Poachers caught on an AI camera. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## **Jacob Koshy**

NEW DELHI

Wildlife officials at one of the most populous tiger zones in India are experimenting with a new set of camera traps – or cameras with infrared sensors deployed in forests to count wild animals or monitor the movement of potential poachers – that harness the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

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SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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# Kamal Nath will be CM if Congress wins in Madhya Pradesh, says party

State leaders to embark on fortnight-long Jan Aakrosh Yatras to cover all 230 Assembly seats, even as BJP continues with its Jan Ashirwad Yatras which will end with the PM's address on Sept. 25

The Hindu Bureau  
RAIPUR

The Congress party made it clear on Saturday that former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and the current State unit president Kamal Nath will be the CM if the party wins the Assembly election due later this year.

At a press conference in Raipur, announced the launch of the party's Jan Aakrosh Yatras (public anger tours), Congress national general secretary in-charge for the Madhya Pradesh, Randeep Singh Surjewala was asked who would be the Chief Minister if their party emerged victorious. He immediately pointed towards Mr. Nath, seated next to him, and said, "Can't you see, who?"

However, when asked about Kamal Nath's role in the elections, they said the decision would be taken by the party's Central Election Committee (CEC).  
Notably, in 2018, Mr.



AICC general secretary Randeep Surjewala (second from left) and Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath with party leaders at a press conference in Bhopal on Saturday.

Nath did not contest from any Assembly seat.

He was sworn in as the CM after the Congress returned to power, after a gap of 15 years, with the support of four Independent MLAs, two BSP MLAs and one Naga, in the second day of the MLA.

He later won a byelection from his pocket-bout Ghindwara Lok Sabha constituency's Chhindwara Assembly

segment.

'Yatras from Sept 19'

Meanwhile, on the yatras, Mr. Surjewala said the seven Jan Aakrosh Yatras, starting on Ganesh Chaturthi (September 19) will travel about 100 km, covering all 230 Assembly segments of the State in 15 days. Senior State party leaders — Govind Singh, Arun Yadav, Suresh Pachouri, Kantilal

# At Bastar poll rally, Kejriwal talks of jal, jungle, zameen rights

Shubhomoy Sikdar  
RAIPUR

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday promised to implement the Panchayat (Extension of the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 or PESA, within one month if voted to power in Chhattisgarh.

At a rally in the Jagdalpur, the headquarters of the southern tribal belt of Bastar, the Aam Aadmi Party national convener said the law was needed to ensure the ownership of jal, jungle, zameen (water, forest and land) remained with the tribals.

"The PESA law says that the Gram Sabha will take all decisions, and the Prime Minister cannot reverse the decision taken by the Gram Sabha," he said. "Rahul" — would lead the various yatras. Meanwhile, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's five Jan Ashirwad Yatras, already in progress and will culminate in Bhopal where it is organising a 'Karyakart' Mahakumbh' which will be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 25.



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal at a rally in Bastar on Saturday.

The Panchayat (Extension of the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 or PESA, came into existence 27 years ago as a measure to grant rights of self-governance to people living in scheduled areas by restoring more powers in the hands of gram sabhas, or village assemblies.

And while the Congress Government in the State notified PESA rules last year, activists such as Alok Shukla, the convener of the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan, says that the rules framed by the State Government had weakened many provisions of the Central law. Meanwhile, at the rally, Mr. Kejriwal reiterated his poll guarantees, including unemployment allowance, free power up to 300 units, besides improved healthcare and education.

# Oversight panel never exonerated ex-WFI chief, police tell court

Labiba Mishra  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi police on Saturday submitted in the Rouse Avenue Court that the oversight committee constituted by the Sports Ministry to probe sexual harassment allegations against former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh had never exonerated him.

The submissions were made in the court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Harjeet Singh Jaspal, who is currently hearing the arguments on framing of charges against Mr. Singh and one other co-accused in this case. "Mr. Singh was not exonerated by the oversight committee," the committee had given certain recommendations, public prosecutor Atul Srivastava said.

Earlier last month, counsel of the women wrestlers, who have accused Mr. Singh of sexual harassment, told the court that the oversight committee was not constituted as per the rules of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal)



Ex-WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh at the Rouse Avenue Court on Saturday.

Act and the report needed to be junked. Advocate Rebecca John also submitted that the panel was an "eye-wash" to assuage sentiments.

The oversight committee was headed by champion woman boxer M.C. Mary Kom. The government had never made the report public. The next date of hearing is on September 23, in which the prosecution is likely to advance its arguments.

The Delhi police, in June, had filed a 1,000-page chargesheet in the matter accusing Mr. Singh and another former WFI staffer, Virendra Tomar, of offences such as outraging modesty, making sexually coloured remarks, stalking and criminal intimidation. The court had given bail to the accused on July 20.

## IN BRIEF



### 'BrahMos manufacturing in Lucknow by early next year'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said the work on the BrahMos missile manufacturing site in Lucknow is likely to be completed by March next year. Mr. Singh was speaking in Maunabazar here on the second day of the tour of his parliamentary constituency. "The work on BrahMos missile project is also going on at a fast pace and after next February-March, the missile manufacturing will begin on the soil of Lucknow," the BJP leader said. Developed by an India-Russia joint venture, the cruise missile can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or from land platforms. The work on the Defence Research and Development Organisation lab will also be completed soon, Mr. Singh said.

### Noida lift crash: toll rises to 8, first arrest made in case

Four more workers who were hospitalised after a service lift crashed at an under-construction site in Noida Extension succumbed to their injuries on Saturday, raising the death toll in the accident to eight, officials said. A financial aid of ₹25 lakh each has been granted to families of those killed, a senior officer said. Police said they have made the first arrest in the case after nabbing a general manager of the contractual construction company involved in the project. The lift had nine workers in it when it fell from the 14th floor of the under-construction tower at an Annapurna Dream Valley project site in Greater Noida (West) on Friday. The long-stalled project is being completed by NBCC under monitoring of the Supreme Court.

### Visva-Bharati submits papers to justify eviction notice

The Visva-Bharati university on Saturday submitted several documents to a court in West Bengal's Barishamb district to justify the eviction notice it has served on Nobel laureate Amartya Sen asking him to vacate 0.12 acre (5,500 square feet) of land which the varsity claims he is illegally occupying. District Judge Sudeshina De (Chatterjee) on August 8 stayed the eviction notice and directed that the stay will be in force till the disposal of the main case related to the ownership of the plot in the Santiniketan campus of the central university. The court was hearing a case in which the economist challenged the eviction notice.

# Maharashtra Cabinet announces ₹45,000 cr. for development of drought-hit Marathwada

Abhinav Deshpande  
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Saturday announced a ₹45,000-crore package for the development of the drought-hit Marathwada region in the State.

"The decision to implement various projects was taken during the first cabinet meeting held in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, formerly known as Aurangabad, after a gap of seven years to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Marathwada freedom struggle.

The region, consisting of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Nanded, Latur, Jalgaon, Beed, Parbhani, Rahisravhi (formerly known as Osmanabad), and Hingoli districts, had been liberated from Nizam rule by Indian forces on September

## Hefty package

Allocation of projects in the comprehensive package for the development of Marathwada region, comprising eight districts

- ₹14,000 crore revised administrative sanctioned irrigation projects; 8 lakh hectares to be brought under irrigation
- ₹10 crore for a new IT incubation centre in Jalgaon district
- ₹485 crore fund sanctioned to set up agricultural colleges in Nanded, Solapur, and Parli
- Conservation project for "Bhadra" and "Kandhari" in Beed district
- Conservation project for "Siloli" in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar
- Civil court at Siloli in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar
- Shyba research centre at Parli in Beed district



17, 1948. The last such meeting was organised in the region in 2016.

Addressing mediapersons following the meeting, co-chaired by Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar, Mr. Shinde announced revised administrative sanctioned irrigation projects worth ₹14,000 crore. "A package of ₹45,000 crore will be given for the

development of Marathwada. Revised administrative sanctioned projects worth ₹14,000 crore will be given for irrigation projects. This paves the way for bringing eight lakh hectares under irrigation," the CM said.

Mr. Shinde rebuffed allegations levelled by some opposition leaders that participants of the meeting had been put up in five-star hotels. "All of us are staying

in the government guest house," he said.

Mr. Fadnis said out of the 31 development works announced for Marathwada in 2016 when he was the CM, 23 have been implemented. He hit out at Opposition parties, and asked what they had done for the welfare of the region in power for two and a half years.

Earlier, the Chief Minister reiterated his ambition to achieve a \$1-trillion State economy, with the country aiming to achieve a \$5-trillion economy.

### 'Juggery of numbers'

State Congress chief Nana Patole termed the package "juggery of numbers" and said not declaring drought in the region despite deficit rain was a "cruel joke on farmers". He said 168 farmers had died by suicide in Beed, the home district of State Agriculture Minister Bhagjanay Manoj.

"It is unfortunate that assurances given in 2016 by the then Fadnis government are announced again in 2023. Marathwada is under the shadow of drought. People had expected drought would be declared, but that did not happen," he said. Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly and Congress leader Vijay Wadwadkar

# RPCS member Babul Katara arrested by ED in paper leak case

The Hindu Bureau  
JAIPUR

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Rajasthan Public Service Commission (RPSC) member Babul Katara and an alleged broker, Anil Kumar Meena, in connection with a case involving the leak of a question paper of a teachers' recruitment examination in 2022. A special court in Jaipur has remanded the two accused in the ED's custody.

Both Mr. Katara and Mr. Meena were arrested on Friday under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The ED had launched an investigation into the case after taking it over from Rajasthan police. The case

pertains to the leak of the general knowledge paper of the exam for recruitment of grade II senior teachers, conducted by the RPSC between December 21 and 24, 2022.

The Special Operations Group of Rajasthan police had claimed that Mr. Katara had demanded and received a bribe of 600 lakh for leaking the paper to a mafia involved in supplying question papers to the two accused. He allegedly supplied the paper through his syndicate to the candidates for ₹8 to 10 lakh each.

Mr. Meena said in a statement that it had conducted a search at 15 premises of the accused on June 5, resulting in the recovery of incriminating documents.

# Congress high command is last word for me, says party veteran Chennithala

S. Anandan  
KOCCHI

Senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala has reiterated his faith in the party's central leadership and said he has remained loyal to the Nehru-Gandhi family all his life.

In an interview with The Hindu on Saturday, he said the party high command was the last word for him.

"The party has given me everything," says Mr. Chennithala's contentment invitee to the Congress Working Committee (CWC) and the Kerala PCC (Congress Party Committee) president, Rahul Gandhi made me the Leader of the Opposition as a permanent invitee to the CWC — a post he held 19 years ago, he would be the party's decision. "This is the time



The party has given me everything, says Mr. Chennithala's contentment

for every Congressman to stand together and fight the next Parliament election, which is important for the country. Because if [Narendra] Modi comes to power again, the country will be ruined. There is an LDF wave and the INDIA [Indian National Development, Inclusive Alliance] alliance can win," he said, adding that all five Kerala-based leaders selected to



The party has given me everything, says Mr. Chennithala's contentment

positions in the CWC merited being part of the apex body.

Congress in Kerala, he argued, was a house in order. "Compared to earlier, there is no problem in the Congress now. Earlier there were divisions, infighting and public utterances against one another. The Congress and the United Democratic Front are intact and ready to face any challenge thrown by the CPIM (Communist Party of India) of the country. Because if [Narendra] Modi comes to power again, the country will be ruined. There is an LDF wave and the INDIA [Indian National Development, Inclusive Alliance] alliance can win," he said, adding that all five Kerala-based leaders selected to





## 'BrahMos manufacturing in Lucknow by early next year'

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said the work on the BrahMos missile manufacturing site in Lucknow is likely to be completed by March next year. Mr. Singh was speaking in Gomti Nagar here on the second day of the tour of his parliamentary constituency. "The work on BrahMos missile project is also going on at a fast pace and after next February-March, the missile manufacturing will begin on the soil of Lucknow," the BJP leader said. Developed by an India-Russia joint venture, the cruise missile can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft or from land platforms. The work on the Defence Research and Development Organisation lab will also be completed soon, Mr. Singh said. PTI

The BrahMos missile, an Indo-Russian joint venture, has a range of **290 km** and is the **fastest cruise missile** in the world with a top speed of Mach 2.8 (nearly three times the speed of sound).

BrahMos is named for the **rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva.**



It is a **two-stage** (solid propellant engine in the first stage and liquid ramjet in second) missile.





**BRAHMOS**







- **What is “Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)”, sometimes seen in the news? (2018)**
- (a) An Israeli radar system
- (b) India’s indigenous anti-missile programme
- (c) An American anti-missile system
- (d) A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea.

-

## IN BRIEF



## 84 artists get Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit awards

Vice-President Jagdeep Thakkar on Saturday presented the one-time Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit awards to 84 artists from varied fields of performing arts. The award was instituted to honour Indian artists aged above 75 who have not been accorded any national honour in their career so far. Mr. Thakkar said this is the first time in the nation's history that these artists are being recognised for their work. "All these artists are those who have never been given their due in the past 75 years. By giving them respect, we give respect to the Indian culture; it increases India's glory in the world," he said. The Vice-President added it is important to help such artists in a "structured manner" through several schemes.

## Woman from Odisha sexually assaulted by gang in TN.

A woman from Odisha was sexually assaulted by a gang at Manamadurai in Sivaganga district on Friday. Two suspects have so far been arrested, Superintendent of Police B.K. Arvind said. The police said the woman and her husband had come from Manamadurai to Sivaganga and were working in a brick kiln. Even after her husband filed a road accident case some time ago, she continued to work in the kiln. On Saturday, she lodged a complaint with the All Women Police Station in Manamadurai that she was sexually assaulted by four persons. Mr. Arvind said the woman was friendly with a local young man, who had brought his friends to rape her. The police had booked a case of rape against five persons.

## All hospitals to get organ harvesting units: Minister

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Saturday that an arrangement for organ retrieval would be made in all hospitals and medical colleges of the country by the end of 2024. He said this while he was inaugurating a super-specialty block at the Sarguja Naidu Medical College, Agra. The government has also decided to give financial assistance of ₹10,000 per month to all the poor people undergoing organ transplant. "Arrangements will also be made for their regular checkups," the Health Minister added. Mr. Mandaviya said that there can be no greater service to mankind than donating organs to save another life.

## ICMR to expand its network of BSL-3, BSL-4 laboratories

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is collaborating with eight premier scientific organisations in India to establish the National Institute of One Health to roll out the National One Health Mission across the country to strengthen multidisciplinary approaches in health research. The ICMR is also working to expand its network of BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratories to strengthen diagnostic infrastructure and enhance access to laboratory services. Rajiv Bahl, Director-General, ICMR, said at a press conference earlier this week outlining the council's vision for health research in India.

## SUDOKU

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | 5 |   | 9 |   |   | 1 |
| 4 | 6 | 1 | 9 |   |   |   | 5 |
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|   |   | 5 |   |   |   |   | 4 |
| 5 |   |   |   | 3 | 8 | 9 | 4 |
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| 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   | 8 |

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
| 2 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 2 |
| 6 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 7 |

## Centre publishes disability database stripped of socio-economic figures

Ministry doubts 'quality' of socio-economic data collected; not many filled the socio-economic fields as they were not mandatory, say officials; earlier this year, a parliamentary panel had raised doubts about the department's ability to collect accurate population through UDID mechanism in time

Abhinav Lalshman  
NEW DELHI

The Union government is shelving whatever socio-economic data it had collected while registering about 94 lakh Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) across the country for the issue of Unique Disability ID (UDID) in the past six years. *The Hindu* has learnt. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is justifying the move by questioning the "quality" of the socio-economic data collected.

The data being shelved include information such as socio-economic category (caste), level of education, employment status, income (personal and family) and marital status of PwDs, with officials saying the focus of the form was always to collect disability data and hence all these fields were made optional. Consequently, many skipped them.

Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Social Justice Ministry, said, "The data are not being released because of quality issues." When asked if the department intends to pursue collecting socio-economic data for future UDID registrations, he said, "The basic purpose of the form is to get a disability certificate... and also, we cannot afford to make the form too lengthy by seeking information we cannot verify."

The department this week published aggregated data from the around 94 lakh UDID registrations, minus the socio-economic data, with a statement alongside spelling out the objective of the project to "create a national database for all Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) along with their socio-economic details" so that policy-making and interventions can be targeted.

The government has not officially disclosed the exact number of people who filled in the socio-economic fields for which data are being shelved. The first UDID card was issued in January 2021.

The Centre has said the aggregated UDID data were meant to influence e-commerce organisations to design their platforms in a way that increases usability and purchase cycles among PwDs. It has also added that the data were also to help identify the need of resources to address the specific needs of PwDs from various communities.

Further, the department said the data were supposed to influence the education sector to introduce special educators and special requirements for PwDs.



Unique Identity: The Union government is issuing unique disability ID cards. G.N. RAO

However, the fate of these objectives is now in limbo — with the government choosing not to publish whatever data were collected in the fields of personal and family income (spouse and father), whether they were below Poverty Line, employment status, occupation, socio-economic category (SC/ST/OBC/General), and level of education.

A senior government official told *The Hindu*, "For instance, marital status — only about 15% of those registered have filled it in. It is not enough data to be significant. Again, for income, just 40% have filled it in. The department has no way to verify the extent to which this information

is accurate." Another official aware of the programme's implementation said that "not enough" PwDs had responded to fields such as education and socio-economic category (SC/ST/OBC/General) either, adding this was among the primary reasons for discounting this data. "On the other hand, the medical data and disability-related data is high-quality because that is verified by doctors. And since the purpose was to register people for disability certificates to make them eligible for schemes, only those fields were made mandatory."

Even among the benefits offered by the DEPwD

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Even among the benefits offered by the DEPwD

## Canada, India trade talks paused over 'certain issues', says Goyal

Kallol Bhattacharjee  
NEW DELHI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said that the ongoing trade negotiations between India and Canada have frozen due to disagreements on certain issues. His remarks came soon after Canada cancelled a trade mission to India that was to arrive in Mumbai in October.

"We have not been able to have a trade dialogue with Canada at a pause. We need to make sure that geopolitically and economically we are on the same page...we

marks by Canadian officials who accompanied Mr. Trudeau to the G-20 summit here during which they said that India had strongly objected to certain policy developments within Canada.

Earlier this month, Indian High Commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma had indicated that the talks had stalled. "The Canadian side has requested that, let us take a pause and then we will restart. There is an honest request from the Canadian side," Mr. Verma told *The Canadian Press* on September 1.

This was followed by re-

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## Gita Mehta, writer and 1971 war correspondent, passes away

Satyansundar Barik  
BHUBANESWAR

Gita Mehta, writer, journalist and elder sister of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, passed away in New Delhi on Saturday.

Mehta (89) had been ailing for quite some time. Daughter of former Odisha Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, Mehta was a war correspondent for a foreign television channel during 1971. She had extensively covered the creation of Bangladesh. Her documentary film, *Verma told The Canadian Press* on September 1.

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Gita Mehta

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This was followed by re-

she had her education in India and University of Cambridge. In 2009, Mehta had been awarded the Padma Shri award bestowed on her by the Union government. She had then said her acceptance of the civilian award would be construed just ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

Political leaders across party lines expressed condolences. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "I am saddened by the passing away of noted writer Gita Mehta ji. She was a multifaceted personality whose intellect and passion towards writing as well as film-making."

Born in 1934 to Biju and Gyan Patnaik in New Del-

## Dolls from Manipur camps to spread smiles globally

Training is being imparted to displaced people living in five relief camps to make amigurumi dolls for export; those who fled their homes and lost everything in the ethnic violence are finding new hope in crocheting various characters

The Hindu Bureau  
GUWAHATI/IMPHAL

Dolls crocheted by displaced people living in relief camps in ethnic conflict-hit Manipur are set to go global.

1 Million Heroes, a multi-platform entertainment brand for children, has undertaken a project to train the State's internally displaced people in crocheting amigurumi dolls for export.

The ethnic violence, which broke out on May 3, has so far claimed 175 lives, injured 1,108 and displaced 60,000 people. More than 4,780 have been set on fire. The training is being imparted in five relief camps across Manipur, one of them in Khangabok of Thoubal district



1 Million Heroes is also engaging with corporate houses to market the amigurumi dolls produced by the inmates, etc.

housing 210 people. Lalshram Geeta Leima, a 36-year-old mother of three, is one of the trainees who hopes to sustain her family by producing the dolls on a larger scale. She had fled her home when armed miscreants attacked Suga Awang Leikha village in the Kachang district in May 27.

Showering her a way to overcome financial challenges.

Trainers assigned by 1 Million Heroes have been visiting the five relief camps since the first week of August, concentrating on five characters conceived as the first line of the global amigurumi doll brand — Buddy the bear and Bola the teddy bear.

"I have almost mastered the art, which is satisfying and productive as well. I hope the new skill would ensure a future for my children during and after such tough times," she said. Agom Sangeeta Leima, 48, who also fled her home in Suga, said the doll-making training had boosted her confidence by

needle, crochet and patterns, we would be providing them with the cotton yarn for the actual product," she said. Monish Karam, the founder of 1 Million Heroes, said the project had germinated in Singapore where he was living when the violence started in May.

"We wanted to do something to help them because our women are victims of the violence back home to help rebuild their lives sustainably. The dolls will be made in Guwahati and handloom," he said.

"What they are producing are not mere dolls. We believe they are the symbols of hope and strength of our women. We wanted to do something to help them because our women are victims of the violence back home to help rebuild their lives sustainably. The dolls will be made in Guwahati and handloom," he said.

## V-P to hoist Tricolour at new House building today

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

Vice-President Jagdeep Thakkar will hoist the National Flag at the new Parliament building on Sunday. The flag-hoisting ceremony will take place a day before the five-day Parliament session begins Monday which may see parliamentary proceedings shift from the old to the adjacent new building.

According to Lok Sabha Secretariat, Mr. Thakkar will hoist the flag atop the "Gaja Dwar" of the building. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will be present. Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, however, said he would not be attending the flag-hoisting function and expressed disappointment over getting the invite "quite late".



# Gita Mehta, writer and 1971 war correspondent, passes away

**Satyasundar Barik**

BHUBANESWAR

Gita Mehta, writer, journalist and elder sister of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, passed away in New Delhi on Saturday.

Mehta (80) had been ailing for quite some time. Daughter of former Odisha Chief Minister Biju Patnaik, Mehta was a war correspondent for a foreign television channel during 1971. She had extensively covered the creation of Bangladesh. Her documentary films on Bangladesh were then widely appreciated.

She has written five books – *Karma Cola*,



Gita Mehta

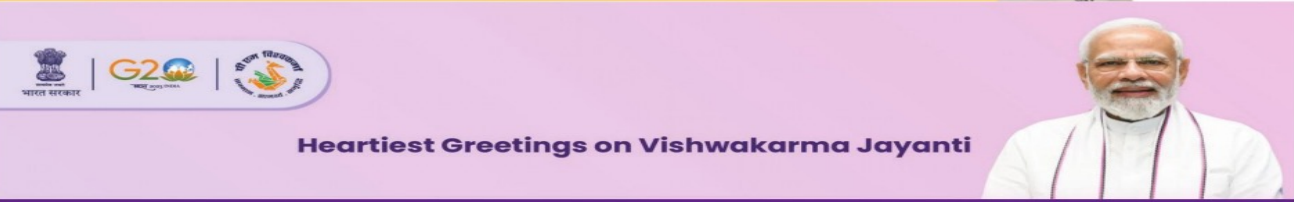
*Snakes and Ladders: Glimpses of Modern India, A River Sutra, Raj, and Eternal Ganesha: From Birth to Rebirth.* Mehta was married to Sonny Mehta, former head of the Alfred A. Knopf publishing house, who died in 2019.

Born in 1943 to Biju and Gyan Patnaik in New Delhi,

she had her education in India and University of Cambridge. In 2019, Mehta had declined the Padma Shri award bestowed on her by the Union government. She had then said her acceptance of the civilian award would be misconstrued just ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

Political leaders across party lines expressed condolences. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, “I am saddened by the passing away of noted writer Gita Mehta Ji. She was a multifaceted personality, known for her intellect and passion towards writing as well as film-making.”





Heartiest Greetings on Vishwakarma Jayanti

**Honouring Skills of Vishwakarmas in New India**

**PM Vishwakarma**

Launch by

**Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**

17<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, 11: 30AM, Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi

**Benefits of Scheme**

- Collateral free loan up to Rs. 3 lakh for Vishwakarma brothers and sisters
- Toolkit upto Rs. 15 thousand
- Training for Skill Upgradation and Stipend of Rs. 500 per day
- Marketing Assistance like Quality Certification, Branding, and Advertisement for finished products

**18 types of Traditional Artisans and Craftspeople will be benefitted**



Carpenter | Boat Maker | Armourer | Blacksmith | Basket/Mat/Broom Maker/Coir Weaver |  
 Doll & Toy Maker(Traditional) | Goldsmith | Potter | Cobbler/Shoemaker/Footwear Artisan | Hammer and Tool Kit Maker  
 | Sculptor (Stone Carver), Stone Breaker | Mason | Barber | Garland Maker | Washerman | Tailor  
 | Fishing Net Maker |

# *Indian Express* journalist wins *Statesman* rural reporting award

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**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 16

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THE ANNUAL Statesman Awards for Rural Reporting were distributed at a function in Kolkata on Saturday. Rupsa Chakraborty, special correspondent, *The Indian Express*, received the first prize in the rural reporting category for her series — 'Nandurbar: Lapses in health infrastructure' which was published in December, 2022.

The reports delved into why Nandurbar, a district in Maharashtra, ranked lowest in the Human Development Index despite the state's high Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), *The Statesman* said in a release.

Navamy Sudhish, principal correspondent, *The Hindu*, won the Cushrow Irani Prize for environment reporting, for exploring the challenges and uncertainties fishermen endure during the monsoon trawling ban, as they strive to balance their livelihoods with the imperative of safeguarding marine ecosystems.



# साझेदारी माध्यम से स्थापित किए जाएंगे 23 नए सैनिक स्कूल

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो  
नई दिल्ली, 16 सितंबर।

रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने सार्वजनिक निजी भागीदारी (पीपीपी) के तहत देश में 23 नए सैनिक स्कूलों की स्थापना को मंजूरी दे दी है। इसी के तहत अब पीपीपी के जरिए देश में स्थापित किए जा रहे सैनिक स्कूलों की कुल संख्या बढ़कर 42 हो गई है। रक्षा मंत्रालय ने शनिवार को एक बयान जारी कर यह जानकारी दी है।

मंत्रालय ने बताया कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के मार्गदर्शन में रक्षा मंत्रालय ने गैर सरकारी संगठनों (एनजीओ), निजी स्कूलों और राज्य सरकार के साथ साझेदारी में छठी कक्षा से लेकर ऊपर तक की कक्षाओं के लिए 100 नए सैनिक स्कूल क्रमबद्ध तरीके से स्थापित करने की पहल को मंजूरी दी थी। इसके बाद ही सैनिक स्कूल सोसाइटी ने 19 नए सैनिक स्कूलों के साथ समझौता ज्ञापन (एमओयू) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। गौरतलब है कि पहले से चल रहे 33 सैनिक स्कूल अपने

मौजूदा स्वरूप के साथ ही काम कर रहे हैं, लेकिन अब प्रधानमंत्री के मार्गदर्शन में पीपीपी भागीदारी के तहत स्थापित किए जा रहे सैनिक स्कूलों का उद्देश्य छात्रों को राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति के अनुरूप गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा, सशस्त्र बलों में भर्ती के अलावा कैरियर के बेहतर विकल्प प्रदान करना है। सरकार की यह पहल निजी क्षेत्र को युवाओं को भविष्य का जिम्मेदार नागरिक बनने के लिए प्रशिक्षित कर राष्ट्र निर्माण की दिशा में केंद्र के साथ काम करने का एक सुनहरा अवसर प्रदान करना है।

मंत्रालय ने बताया कि नए सैनिक स्कूल संबंधित शिक्षा बोर्डों से संबद्धता के अलावा सैनिक स्कूल सोसाइटी के तहत कार्य करेंगे। सोसाइटी द्वारा साझेदारी के तहत बनाए गए नियमों और विनियमों का पालन करेंगे। इसके अलावा यह स्कूल अपने नियमित बोर्ड पाठ्यक्रमों के अलावा सैनिक स्कूल पद्धति के जरिए छात्रों को शैक्षणिक प्लस पाठ्यक्रम की शिक्षा भी प्रदान करेंगे।

They were conceived in 1961 by V. K. Krishna Menon, the then Defence Minister of India, to rectify the regional and class imbalance amongst the officer cadre of the Indian Military.

The primary objective of the Sainik Schools is to prepare students academically, mentally and physically for entry into the National Defence Academy (NDA) and Indian Naval Academy (INA).

इनकी कल्पना 1961 में भारत के तत्कालीन रक्षा मंत्री वी. के. कृष्ण मेनन द्वारा भारतीय सेना के अधिकारी संवर्ग के बीच क्षेत्रीय और वर्ग असंतुलन को दूर करने के लिए की गई थी।

सैनिक स्कूलों का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य छात्रों को राष्ट्रीय रक्षा अकादमी (एनडीए) और भारतीय नौसेना अकादमी (आईएनए) में प्रवेश के लिए शैक्षणिक, मानसिक और शारीरिक रूप से तैयार करना है।



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**along with 1 RIMC and 5 RMS (Rashtriya Military Schools), contribute 25% to 30% officer cadets to NDA and INA.**

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**As of 2021, there were 33 Sainik Schools, and MoD will establish 100 more boarding Sainik Schools in public–private partnership (PPP) mode**

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**1 आरआईएमसी और 5 आरएमएस (राष्ट्रीय सैन्य स्कूल) के साथ, एनडीए और आईएनए में 25% से 30% अधिकारी कैडेटों का योगदान करते हैं।**

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**2021 तक, 33 सैनिक स्कूल थे, और MoD सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी (पीपीपी) मोड में 100 और बोर्डिंग सैनिक स्कूल स्थापित करेगा।**

## Proposed Sainik Schools [[edit](#)]



This section **does not cite any sources**. Please help [improve this section](#) by [adding citations to reliable sources](#). Unsourced material may be challenged and [removed](#). *(March 2023)* [\(Learn how and when to remove this template message\)](#)

1. Sainik School, [Jaipur, Rajasthan](#)
2. Sainik School, [Godda, Jharkhand](#)
3. Sainik School, [Alwar, Rajasthan](#)<sup>[39]</sup>
4. Sainik School, [Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh](#)
5. Sainik School, Matanhail at [Matanhail](#) in [Jhajjar district](#) was announced by the Haryana government in 2018. Foundation stone was laid in 2003 by the then Defence Minister [George Fernandes](#), but no progress was made. In 2018, with the efforts of Haryana Finance Minister, [Captain Abhimanyu](#), the [BJP](#) Government of Haryana agreed to provide funds and 100 acre land in Matanhail and Rudiyawas villages for the establishment of this school.<sup>[40]</sup> With this Haryana will be only state in India with 3 sainik schools.<sup>[41]</sup>
6. Sainik School, [Pali, Rajasthan](#)
7. Sainik School, [Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh](#)
8. Sainik School, [Mumbai, Maharashtra](#)
9. Sainik School, [Raipur, Chhattisgarh](#)
10. Sainik School [Dausa, Rajasthan](#)
11. Sainik School [Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh](#)
12. Sainik School [Udaipur, Rajasthan](#)
13. Sainik School, [Kashmir](#)
14. Sainik School, [Leh](#)
15. Sainik School, [Port Blair](#)
16. Sainik School, [Silvassa](#) Dadra and Nagar Haveli and daman & Diu
17. Sainik School, [Gurdaspur Punjab](#)



# दृष्टि The Vision Drishti IAS

8010-440-440

### सामान्य अध्ययन फाउंडेशन कोर्स (प्रिलिम्स + मेन्स) | ऑफलाइन बैच

### करोल बाग (हिंदी माध्यम) 27 सितंबर | शाम 6:00 बजे

#### Cauvery row: T.N. delegation to meet Union Minister today

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

In a show of political unity on obtaining Cauvery water for the delta region, a delegation of MPs from Tamil Nadu, including members of the AIADMK and other Opposition parties, will meet the Jal Shakti Minister in Delhi on Monday and submit a representation urging the Cauvery Water Management Authority to order the release of 12,500 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu.

#### Centre plans to recall RAF from Manipur

**Vijaita Singh**  
NEW DELHI

The Union government is considering a phased withdrawal of the Rapid Action Force (RAF), a specialised anti-riot, Central armed police force, from violence-hit Manipur. A senior government official told *The Hindu* that continuous exposure to the anti-insurgency theatre may not be suitable for a force trained for crowd control and law-and-order duties, including agitation and communal incidents.

#### New Parliament to host session from tomorrow

The first day of the Special Session will be held in the old building, with MPs moving to the new Parliament on the second day; many parties demand that the women's reservation Bill be cleared

**Nirula Hebbur**  
**Sobhana K. Nair**  
NEW DELHI

More than three months after the new Parliament building was inaugurated, MPs will move into it on Tuesday, the second day of a Special Session to be held between September 19 and 22. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi informed floor leaders of parties about the decision at an all-party meeting held by the government on the eve of the session.

#### PM launches Vishwakarma scheme

**NEW DELHI**  
PM Narendra Modi on Sunday unveiled the ₹13,000-crore Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana and said the Centre is committed to the uplift of artisans.

#### Fine pickings



**Popular delicacy:** Villagers collect tender bamboo shoots from their field for consumption at Umswai village in Assam's Karbi Anglong district on Sunday, the eve of World Bamboo Day. [IRU/SUBU KOWAL](#)

#### People want change, Cong. is ready: CWC

**Sandeep Phukan**  
HYDERABAD

The people of the country want change and the Congress will be ready for the battle, the extended Congress Working Committee (CWC) said in a resolution on Sunday after two days of extensive deliberations in Hyderabad. Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge laid stress on unity and organisational discipline.

#### Santiniketan is now a UNESCO World Heritage site

#### PARLIAMENTARY

### Parliamentary conduct in need of a new chapter

Looking to Westminster could offer some solutions

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#### EIGHT-TIME CHAMPION

### Siraj scalps six as India wins Asia Cup final

SPORT » PAGE 15

#### Operation to flush out militants from J&K enters fifth day

**Eszarada Ashiq**  
SRINAGAR

Security forces, led by the Army, continued to fire mortars and rockets in Anantnag on Sunday, hoping to force out a small group of suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants holed up in a hall in a densely forested area. As the anti-militancy operation entered the fifth day, what is being suggested is a possible strategy shift adopted by "highly-trained militants" in Kashmir this year, moving from urban militancy to jungle warfare.

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## ***Fine pickings***



**Popular delicacy:** Villagers collect tender bamboo shoots from their field for consumption at Umswai village in Assam's Karbi Anglong district on Sunday, the eve of World Bamboo Day. RITU RAJ KONWAR



# World Bamboo Day








**World Bamboo Day** : It was officially established by the **World Bamboo organization** at the **8<sup>th</sup> World Bamboo Congress** held in Bangkok in 2009.

**World Bamboo Organization** : It was set up at the **1992 International Bamboo Congress** in Japan.

- It is an international coordinating body for bamboo practitioners dedicated to promoting the use of bamboo and bamboo products for the sake of the environment and economy.



विश्व बांस दिवस: इसे आधिकारिक तौर पर विश्व बांस संगठन द्वारा 2009 में बैंकॉक में आयोजित 8वीं विश्व बांस कांग्रेस में स्थापित किया गया था।

विश्व बांस संगठन: इसकी स्थापना 1992 में जापान में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बांस कांग्रेस में की गई थी।

यह पर्यावरण और अर्थव्यवस्था की खातिर बांस और बांस उत्पादों के उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए समर्पित बांस चिकित्सकों के लिए एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय समन्वय निकाय है।




- **Properties of Bamboo**

**Versatile Uses:** Bamboo can be used in 1,500 different ways including as food, a substitute for wood, building and construction material, for handicrafts and paper. Due to its versatile nature and multiple uses, it is also called '**poor man's timber**'.

- बांस के बहुमुखी उपयोग के गुण: बांस का उपयोग 1,500 अलग-अलग तरीकों से किया जा सकता है, जिसमें भोजन, लकड़ी का विकल्प, भवन और निर्माण सामग्री, हस्तशिल्प और कागज शामिल हैं। इसकी बहुमुखी प्रकृति और कई उपयोगों के कारण इसे 'गरीबों की लकड़ी' भी कहा जाता है।

- **Environmental Benefits:** It can be planted to **reclaim severely degraded sites and wastelands**. It is a good **soil binder** owing to its peculiar clump formation and fibrous root system and hence also plays an important role in soil and water conservation.
  - It is the fastest growing canopy, **releasing 35% more oxygen than trees** and can sequester 12 tonnes of carbon dioxide from per hectare.





पर्यावरणीय लाभ: इसे गंभीर रूप से क्षतिग्रस्त स्थलों और बंजर भूमि को पुनः प्राप्त करने के लिए लगाया जा सकता है। यह अपने विशिष्ट गुच्छों के गठन और रेशेदार जड़ प्रणाली के कारण एक अच्छा मिट्टी बांधने वाला है और इसलिए मिट्टी और जल संरक्षण में भी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है।

यह सबसे तेजी से बढ़ने वाली छतरी है, जो पेड़ों की तुलना में 35% अधिक ऑक्सीजन छोड़ती है और प्रति हेक्टेयर से 12 टन कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड सोख सकती है।

**Use in Covid-19 : Bamboo has been a key ingredient in new antimicrobial soaps and hand mists developed by scientists from the Philippines to fight the novel coronavirus.**

कोविड-19 में उपयोग: नोवेल कोरोना वायरस से लड़ने के लिए फिलीपींस के वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा विकसित नए रोगाणुरोधी साबुन और हैंड मिस्ट में बांस एक प्रमुख घटक रहा है।

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Bamboo shoots are emerging as **high-value and safe edibles** and are also among the **cheapest immunity boosters** for increasing the human body's resistance to viral attacks.

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The **protein** content in fresh bamboo shoots can range between 1.49-4.04%. They also contain **17 amino acids**, eight of which are essential for the human body.

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बांस के अंकुर उच्च मूल्य और सुरक्षित खाद्य पदार्थ के रूप में उभर रहे हैं और वायरल हमलों के प्रति मानव शरीर की प्रतिरोधक क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए सबसे सस्ते प्रतिरक्षा बूस्टर में से एक हैं।

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ताज़े बांस के अंकुरों में प्रोटीन की मात्रा 1.49-4.04% के बीच हो सकती है। इनमें 17 अमीनो एसिड भी होते हैं, जिनमें से आठ मानव शरीर के लिए आवश्यक हैं।



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## **Global Market:**

The present global market of bamboo shoots is around **1,700 million USD**.

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More than **3 million tonnes** of bamboo shoots are consumed across the earth annually.

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According to the **International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)**, China exports 68% of the world's bamboo and rattan (a type of Palm Fibre) products valued at 1,112 million USD.

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- वैश्विक बाज़ार: बांस की कंपलों का वर्तमान वैश्विक बाज़ार लगभग 1,700 मिलियन अमरीकी डालर का है।
  - पृथ्वी भर में प्रतिवर्ष 3 मिलियन टन से अधिक बांस की टहनियों की खपत होती है।
  - इंटरनेशनल नेटवर्क फॉर बैम्बू एंड रतन (INBAR) के अनुसार, चीन दुनिया के 68% बांस और रतन (एक प्रकार का पामे फाइबर) उत्पादों का निर्यात करता है, जिनकी कीमत 1,112 मिलियन अमरीकी डालर है।

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- **Indian Scenario:**

- According to the **National Bamboo Mission**, India has the highest area (13.96 million hectares) under bamboo.
- It is the **second richest country after China** in terms of bamboo diversity with 136 species.
- The annual production of bamboo in India is **14.6 million tonnes** and the bamboo-rattan industry in the country was worth Rs. 28,005 crore in 2017.
- Bamboo shoot production and consumption in India are **confined mostly to the north-eastern States**.



- 
- भारतीय परिदृश्य:
  - राष्ट्रीय बांस मिशन के अनुसार, भारत में बांस के तहत सबसे अधिक क्षेत्र (13.96 मिलियन हेक्टेयर) है।
  - यह 136 प्रजातियों के साथ बांस विविधता के मामले में चीन के बाद दूसरा सबसे अमीर देश है।
  - भारत में बांस का वार्षिक उत्पादन 14.6 मिलियन टन है और देश में बांस-रतन उद्योग का मूल्य रु। 2017 में 28,005 करोड़।
  - भारत में बांस की कॉपलों का उत्पादन और खपत ज्यादातर उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्यों तक ही सीमित है।

## From Page One

## New Parliament to host session from tomorrow

Several Opposition leaders said it showed the government's lack of confidence in Parliament. "Still, no full agenda for the session. There is a sinister line in the Parliament bulletin (released September 13) that says that the statement not to be taken as exhaustive." This means the government can bring more bills, and even today, they didn't clarify what to expect," Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha floor leader Derek O'Brien said.

## Late invites

Many leaders also expressed disappointment at the "late invites" for the flag-hoisting function at the new Parliament. It is learnt that Triruchi Siva of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam tore up the invite at the meeting, protesting against the fact that the invites were only in Hindi. He also complained that most of the MPs received their invite for Sunday's function only late on Friday evening. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) member also complained that the government had made no arrangement for Opposition leaders' participation at the event since chairs were reserved only for the Ministers.

At the beginning of the meeting, National Conference leader Farooq Abdullah suggested that MPs pay tribute to the three officers who have been killed in the encounter, with militants in Anantnag in southern Kashmir. A minute of silence was observed at the end of the meeting for the slain officers.

The all-party meeting was briefly caught up in Andhra Pradesh's political maelstrom with a bitter exchange between Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MPs Ram Mohan Naidu and Jaiwalk Galla, and the YSR Congress Party leader Jayaprakash Reddy with Mr. Naidu's remarks that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had spoken in 2014 of "cracking down on criminal cases against legislators" but nothing had happened on that front. The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Mr. Naidu said, had "11 CBI cases, seven ED cases and 11 other cases", and still he continued in the chair. What finally provoked Mr. Reddy was Mr. Naidu's comment that "tomorrow, even Lalit Modi could aspire to be the Chief Minister". Pandemonium broke out, with the TDP and YSR Congress MPs trading allegations. Mr. Naidu also flagged the recent arrest of TDP president N. Chandrababu Naidu by the State police.

## Centre plans to recall RAF from Manipur

The RAF was raised in 1992 to deal with riots. At any point, only one-third of its personnel will be armed, and deployment in Manipur is "exposing them as a bigger target for firearms miscreants," the report said.

The deployment in districts covered by the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) presents a significant risk, and as the current trend in Manipur indicates, the "crowd composition consists mainly of women and villains, while the latter has been observed to resort to firing weapons," it said.

"This poses a threat to security forces, particularly the RAF whose primary responsibility is dealing with riots arising from agitations, bandhs and strikes of religious and communal nature and shall not be deployed in anti-terrorist counter-insurgency operations. It is not structured and equipped to counter any insurgency situation. Use of TMRs (tear gas smoke shells) by RAF in such situations may be met with firing from within the mob which may result in loss of precious lives," the report said.

## Thoubal incident

The Indian Army had said in a statement that "one rioter was killed while a few others were injured during the failed attempt" to loot weapons from the India Reserve Battalion (IRB) at Khangabok in Thoubal.

In the report by the RAF said that on July 4, two companies were rushed to the incident spot around 4 p.m., and the troops were met by a mob of women folk, Meira Paibis, who did not allow RAF troops and Assam Rifles combatants to move to the IRB camp at Khangabok despite repeated requests and announcements.

The troops used tear gas smoke shells to chase the mob. "On reaching the incident site, a mob of approximately 1,000-2,000 persons started throwing stones, glass balls and petrol bombs on RAF" and its vehicles. "Later, from the incident spot, one case of 7.62 bullet and one lever of hand grenade were recovered indicating that it may have been fired by the unruly mob, and implicates that the violent mob was using sophisticated weapons," the report said.

The RAF had encountered many incidents where senior police officers and local magistrates were not present at the scene, for instance in the Thoubal incident, it said.

"The Superintendent of Police of the district fails to visit the incident spot even once. Despite repeated requests, magistrates are often unavailable or not provided at critical incidents. This demonstrates a significant insensitivity and lack of coordination," it said.

The report said that the force should not be deployed during night hours in far-flung areas without regular troops, and that, "deploying RAF against its mandated role could lead to serious unoward situation considering the present scenario in Manipur".

Other than the police, 6,000 paramilitary force or Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) troops, including Indian Army personnel, are deployed in the State.

## Committed to helping artisans, says PM; unveils ₹13,000-crore scheme

It offers collateral-free enterprise development loans at a concessional interest rate in two tranches of ₹1 lakh and ₹2 lakh, respectively; PM inaugurates the first phase of India International Convention and Expo Centre, named Yashobhoomi

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said his government was committed to the uplift of artisans and craftspeople, and that the ₹13,000-crore Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana (PMVY), launched on Sunday, would equip craftspeople with the technology to augment their skills for the modern market.

Mr. Modi also inaugurated the first phase of the ₹5,400-crore state-of-the-art India International Convention and Expo Centre, named Yashobhoomi, at Dwarka in New Delhi.

"Today, I dedicate 'Yashobhoomi' to every labourer, every 'Vishwakarma' of the nation," Mr. Modi said. "We are living at a time when there is such a government in the country that provides recognition and help to marginalised people," he added.

Mr. Modi also unveiled his 2014-2015 stamp sheets showcasing the 18 traditional trades covered by the scheme, along with a toolkit e-booklet on the occasion.

The scheme offers collateral-free enterprise development loans (first tranche to be repaid in 18 months) and ₹2 lakh (second tranche to be repaid in 30 months). A concessional interest rate of 5% will be charged from the beneficiary, with interest subvention cap of 8% to be paid by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. The credit guarantee fees will be borne by the Union government.

Stressing the government's vision of "Vocals for local", Mr. Modi also asked officials to focus on local products for the forthcoming festivals, including Ganesh Chaturthi, Dhanteras, and Deepavali.

Speaking of Yashobhoomi, Mr. Modi said the con-



Quick trip: Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with Metro commuters on his way to inaugurate the first phase of the India International Convention and Expo Centre in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

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## Army jawan abducted, murdered in Manipur while being on leave

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

An Army jawan had been abducted and killed while on leave in Manipur.

A defence source said the body of Sero Thangthang Kom, 41, was found on Sunday morning at Khuningthek Village, east of Monglaim, in the area where police station limits in Manipul East.

The jawan, belonging to the Defence Service Corps, was posted at Leimakhong

in the hill district of Kangpokpi. He was abducted from his home at Tarung in Imphal West.

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## UN should be prepared for reform, says Jaishankar

The Hindu Bureau  
THEIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Presenting a strong case for a permanent seat for India in the UN Security Council, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Sunday that the UN reform is "in the reform".

"What would happen if they do not reform? We will find solutions outside. And this is a message the world has to understand," he said. "The UN is not structured and equipped to counter any insurgency situation. Use of TMRs (tear gas smoke shells) by RAF in such situations may be met with firing from within the mob which may result in loss of precious lives," the report said.

The jawan, belonging to the Defence Service Corps, was posted at Leimakhong

Latin American countries. "The most populous country in the world is not there."

Mr. Jaishankar said the real achievement of the New Delhi G-20 Summit was to get the top 20 countries of the world once again thinking about the world in the world is not there."

"Resistance to reform will eventually erode it's a bit like survival of the fittest — it's a natural process and therefore do not see the danger of heading towards, not extinction, but a little bit of irrelevance," he added. Mr. Jaishankar said that of 54 countries in Africa, none is a member. Similar is the case with the

Latin American countries. "The most populous country in the world is not there."

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## Activists raise concern over Bill for appointing CEC, ECs

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

On the eve of the Special Session of Parliament, activists and civil society members on Sunday raised concerns over the Bill for appointing the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the Election Commissioners (ECs).

The Bill, which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in the Monsoon Session, proposes that the selection panel for appointing the CEC and ECs will consist of the Prime Minister as the Chairperson, the Leader of the Opposition as a member, and the Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister as another member.

In March, the Supreme Court had ruled that the selection panel should comprise the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Op-

position, and the Chief Justice of India (CJI). However, the top court had said that this procedure would be followed only till Parliament enacts a law.

Questions have been raised over the inclusion of the CJI as a member, and the Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister as another member.

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ference tourism sector, estimated at ₹25 lakh crore, and the inauguration of a new metro station, the Yashobhoomi in Dwarka Sector 25.

Before the inauguration, Mr. Modi took a metro ride from the Dhaulia Kuan station to the newly built station. During the ride, many passengers interacted with the Prime Minister and snapped selfies with him.

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## Army likely to induct 114 Dhanush guns by 2026, say officials

Dinakar Perli  
NEW DELHI

The Army which has ordered 114 Dhanush artillery guns, and has one regiment operational already, will focus on long-range and augmented firepower.

The Army is keen on extending its range of the Pinaka Multi-Rocket Launch Systems (MRLS) and the Defence Research Organisation (DRDO) is working on it.

The Pralay surface-to-surface quasi-ballistic missile too is in advanced stages of induction, sources said.

"One regiment that was equipped with Dhanush was operationalised only last year. There has been slight delay due to some imported components, among others... All that has stabilised. By 2026, the Army should be getting balanced to get the 114 regiments," a defence source said.

Dhanush is a 155-mm, 45-calibre rocket artillery gun with a range of 36 km, and has demonstrated a range of 38 km with specialised ammunition. It is an upgrade of the existing 155-mm, 39-calibre Bofors gun. The Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Ltd., carved after corporatisation of the Ord-

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## Assam Jatiya Parishad to begin One Assam Yatra

The Hindu Bureau  
GUWAHATI

Taking a cue from the Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) has announced a similar mass movement across the State from September 21. The "One Assam Yatra" — from Shubra, a town close to the border with Bangladesh, to Sadiya in the east border region of Arunachal Pradesh — is aimed at generating support against the politics of polarisation and fascism in the State, it said.

It is high time for people to unite against communalism, large-scale corruption, and dictatorial rule. Our yatra is envisaged to generate awareness and ward the rejection of divisive politics," AJP president Lurinjyoti Gogoi said.

Jagadish Bhuyan, party general secretary, said the situation in Assam is such that people from one part of the State have begun to distrust those from another. The psychological divide between the residents of Brahmaputra Valley and Karakoram has widened with the BJP instigating the State to separate statehood, he said.

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# Activists raise concern over Bill for appointing CEC, ECs

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

On the eve of the Special Session of Parliament, activists and civil society members on Sunday raised questions over the autonomy of the poll panel, if the contentious Bill relating to the appointment of Election Commissioners (ECs) is passed.

The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023, which was intro-

duced in the Rajya Sabha in the Monsoon Session, proposes that the selection panel for appointing the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and the ECs will consist of the Prime Minister as the Chairperson, the Leader of the Opposition as a member, and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister as another member.

In March, the Supreme Court had ruled that the selection panel should comprise the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Op-

position, and the Chief Justice of India (CJI). However, the top court had said that this procedure would be followed only till Parliament enacted a law.

Questions have been raised over the fact that the inclusion of a Cabinet Minister instead of the CJI would lead to the selection committee being controlled by the government.

According to S.Y. Quaraishi, former CEC, a major downside of the Bill was that the committee was one-sided and a way to address this “was to make all

its decisions unanimous”.

“This would in no way mean giving veto powers to the Leader of the Opposition as there is a search committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary which would give a list of shortlisted names to the selection committee and those names would have been vetted by government,” he said, participating in a webinar organised by non-governmental organisations Satark Nagarik Sangathan and ANHAD.

Senior lawyer Prashant Bhushan maintained that

the law was unconstitutional, and in his view, could be struck down by the Supreme Court. “It can be challenged on the ground that it violates democracy.”

“It was expected that the law made by Parliament would be in tune with the Supreme Court judgment. The CJI has been removed and replaced by a Cabinet Minister appointed by the Prime Minister. So Leader of the Opposition is in a minority and the government can select the ECs,” he said.

Political analyst Sanjay Kumar said that though the Bill raised some anxieties about the independence of the commission, it was also a fact that before the Supreme Court ruling, the government could essentially decide who to appoint as the CEC and the ECs and Indian elections had till now been free and fair.

“I don’t think this change alone will lead to an end to free and fair elections. I don’t buy this argument that entire elections are managed,” Mr. Kumar said.



How are the CEC and ECs Currently Appointed?

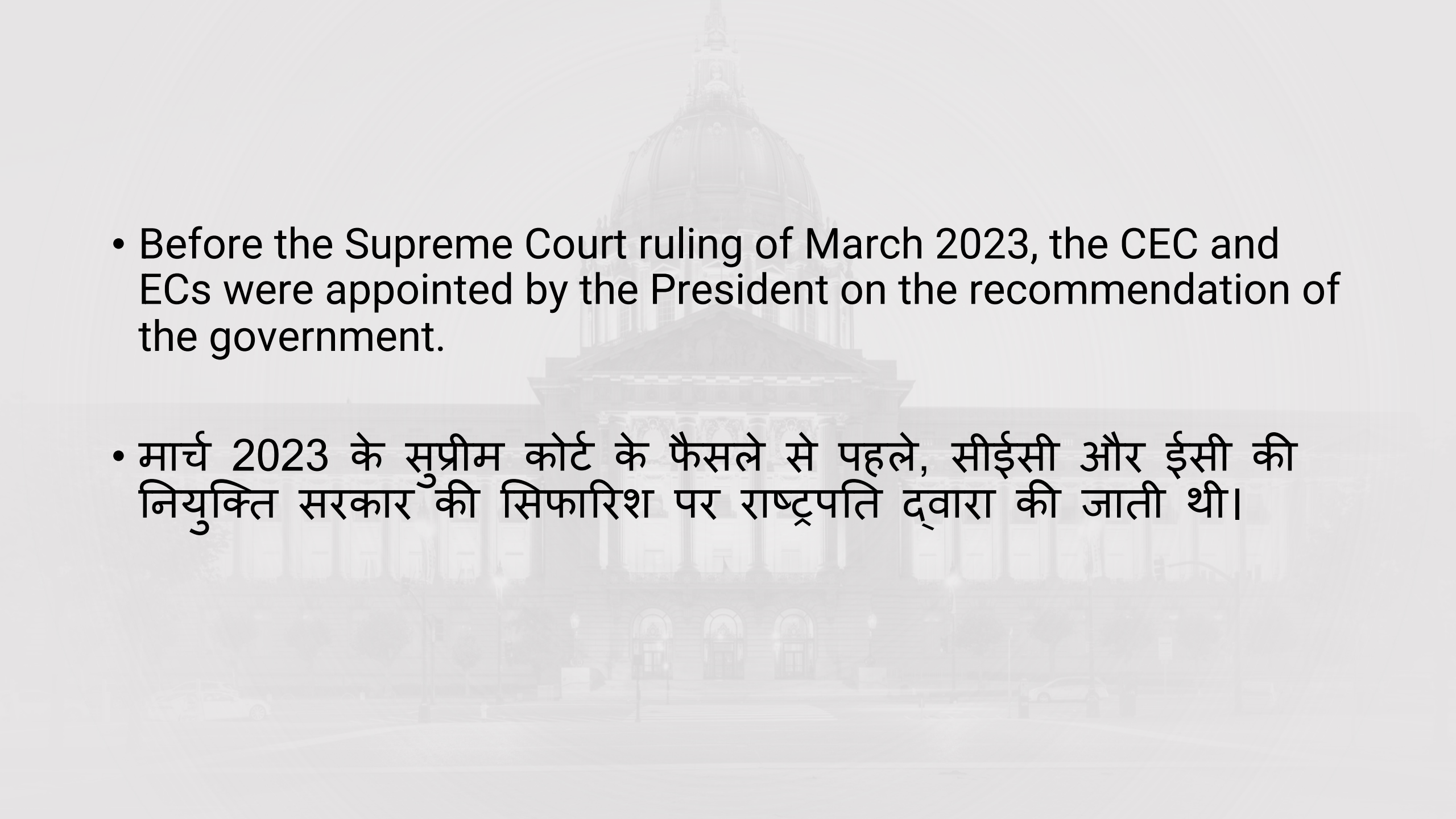
Currently, there is **no specific legislative process** defined in the Constitution for the appointment of the CEC and ECs. There are just five Articles (324-329) in Part XV (Elections) of the Constitution.

वर्तमान में सीईसी और ईसी की नियुक्ति कैसे की जाती है?

वर्तमान में, सीईसी और ईसी की नियुक्ति के लिए संविधान में कोई विशिष्ट विधायी प्रक्रिया परिभाषित नहीं है। संविधान के भाग XV (चुनाव) में केवल पाँच अनुच्छेद (324-329) हैं।

**Article 324** of the Constitution vests the "superintendence, direction, and control of elections" in an Election Commission consisting of the CEC and other ECs as determined by the President from time to time.

संविधान का अनुच्छेद 324 "चुनावों का अधीक्षण, निर्देशन और नियंत्रण" एक चुनाव आयोग को सौंपता है जिसमें समय-समय पर राष्ट्रपति द्वारा निर्धारित सीईसी और अन्य ईसी शामिल होते हैं।



- Before the Supreme Court ruling of March 2023, the CEC and ECs were appointed by the President on the recommendation of the government.

- मार्च 2023 के सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले से पहले, सीईसी और ईसी की नियुक्ति सरकार की सिफारिश पर राष्ट्रपति द्वारा की जाती थी।



# What are the Key Features of the Bill?

## Composition of the Selection Committee:

- The Selection **Committee will consist of**,
  - the Prime Minister as Chairperson,
  - **the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha** as member
    - If the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha has not been recognised, the leader of the single largest opposition party in Lok Sabha will assume the role.
  - a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister as member.

- विधेयक की मुख्य विशेषताएं क्या हैं?
- चयन समिति की संरचना:
- चयन समिति में शामिल होंगे,
- अध्यक्ष के रूप में प्रधान मंत्री,
- सदस्य के रूप में लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता
- यदि लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता को मान्यता नहीं दी गई है, तो लोकसभा में सबसे बड़े विपक्षी दल का नेता यह भूमिका निभाएगा।
- प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा सदस्य के रूप में नामित एक केंद्रीय कैबिनेट मंत्री।

- **Search Committee:**

- The Bill proposes the establishment of a **Search Committee** to prepare a panel of five persons for **consideration for the positions of CEC and ECs**.
- The Search Committee will be headed by the **Cabinet Secretary and will also include two members** not below the rank of Secretary who have knowledge and experience in matters related to elections.

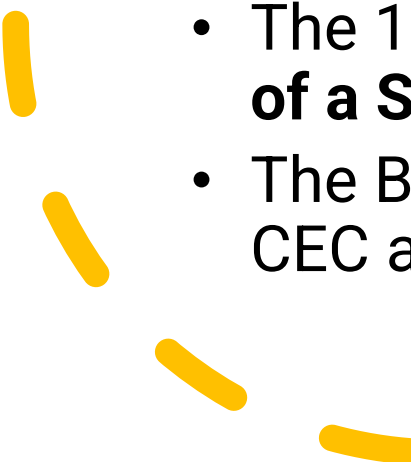
- खोज समिति:

- विधेयक में सीईसी और ईसी के पदों पर विचार के लिए पांच व्यक्तियों का एक पैनल तैयार करने के लिए एक खोज समिति की स्थापना का प्रस्ताव है।
- सर्च कमेटी की अध्यक्षता कैबिनेट सचिव करेंगे और इसमें सचिव के पद से नीचे के दो सदस्य भी शामिल होंगे जिनके पास चुनाव से संबंधित मामलों का ज्ञान और अनुभव होगा।





- **Repealing of Previous Act:**

- The proposed Bill repeals the **Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991.**
  - The business of the Election Commission will be governed by the **new Act once it is passed.**
  - The 1991 Act provides that the **salary of the ECs will be equal to that of a Supreme Court judge.**
  - The Bill provides that salary, allowance, and service conditions of the CEC and other ECs **will be the same as that of the Cabinet Secretary.**
- 

- पिछले अधिनियम को निरस्त करना:
- प्रस्तावित विधेयक चुनाव आयोग (चुनाव आयुक्तों की सेवा की शर्तें और व्यवसाय का संचालन) अधिनियम, 1991 को निरस्त करता है।
- नए अधिनियम के पारित होने के बाद चुनाव आयोग का कामकाज उसके द्वारा शासित होगा।
- 1991 अधिनियम में प्रावधान है कि इसी का वेतन सुप्रीम कोर्ट के न्यायाधीश के बराबर होगा।
- विधेयक में प्रावधान है कि सीईसी और अन्य इसी का वेतन, भत्ता और सेवा शर्तें कैबिनेट सचिव के समान होंगी।



- **Consider the following statements: (2017)**

1. The Election Commission of India is a five-member body.

2. Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.

3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties.



- **Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only

- (b) 2 only

- (c) 2 and 3 only

- (d) 3 only





**IN BRIEF**



**Assam government goes on a record-breaking green drive**

The Assam government mobilised public support to attempt nine world records during a drive to increase the State's green cover with the sapplings of mostly commercial trees. The drive, called Amrit Birishya Andolan, saw thousands of people across the State taking part in a drive to attain the target of planting one crore sapplings. "We should ensure that at least 80% of these sapplings survive to contribute to the attainment of net zero carbon emissions, a dream of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday. He said his government would improve its own record by planting eight crore sapplings in 2024 and another 10 crore sapplings in 2025.

**Defamation case: Delhi court to hear Gehlot plea on Oct. 14**

A Delhi court will on October 14 hear an application filed by Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot against a defamation complaint filed by Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. Special MP-MLA court judge M.K. Nagpal on Saturday posted the matter for arguments for October on a joint request of the advocates representing Mr. Gehlot and Mr. Shekhawat. Mr. Shekhawat, the Union 'Ja Shakti' Minister and MP from Jodhpur has alleged in his complaint before the metropolitan magistrate that Mr. Gehlot has been making defamatory remarks against him over the alleged scam and trying to tarnish his image and political career.

**Centre seeks applications for whole-time member at IRDAI**

The Finance Ministry has invited applications for the post of whole-time member (distribution) at the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI). The applicant should preferably have at least 25 years of experience in the relevant area with a minimum of three years' experience at a senior level, the Department of Financial Services said in an advertisement. The applicant should not be below the rank of a Chief General Manager of the RBI or equivalent place in other financial institutions or regulatory bodies, it said. The last date for submitting applications is October 30.

**Growth in TOEFL test takers in India post-pandemic: ETS**

TOEFL test takers in India have grown by 59% since international travel resumed following suspension during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Educational Testing Service (ETS). Indians accounted for 12.3% of the total test takers globally in 2022, up from 7.5% the previous year, showed data from the Princeton-based ETS which conducts the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and Graduate Record Examination. According to data exclusively accessed by TH, there was a 52% growth in Indian TOEFL test takers in 2021 from the previous year's figure. The number of test takers saw a 59% rise over 2021.

**Santiniketan finds its place on UNESCO's World Heritage List**

World body makes announcement on Sunday; Mamata says town, nurtured by Tagore, has been supported by Bengal; Culture Ministry says it exhibits important interchange in human values

Shiv Sahay Singh  
KOLKATA



Historic charm: Santiniketan Griha - the oldest house in Santiniketan, built by Rabindranath Tagore's father, Maharshi Debendranath Tagore around 1853-54. FILE PHOTO

Santiniketan, a town established by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, made it to the UNESCO's World Heritage List on Sunday. Located in West Bengal's Birbhum district, Santiniketan, which means "abode of peace", started taking shape in 1901 and is the place where Tagore laid the foundations of Visva-Bharati University. "New inscription on the @UNESCO #WHHeritage List: Santiniketan, India. Congratulations!" the world body said. Santiniketan becomes India's 41st World Heritage Site to join the UNESCO List.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, expressing happiness over the inclusion said, Santiniketan was "nurtured by the poet and has been supported by people of Bengal over the generations". "We from the Go-

vernment of West Bengal have significantly added to its infrastructure in the last 12 years and the world now recognises the glory of this heritage place. Kudos to all who love Bengal, Tagore, and his messages of fraternity, *Jai Bangla, Pranam to Gurudev*" Ms. Banerjee said on the social media platform X. Attempts to get Santiniketan inscribed on the World Heritage List have been going on since 2010.

"Work on the latest proposal for nomination of Santiniketan as UNESCO World Heritage Site began in the financial year 2020-21," said Subha Majumder, Superintendent, Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) who worked on the restoration of several structures of Santiniketan. Over the past few years, the ASI has been restoring several structures in the neighbourhood.

**Cheetah project on the right path of success: govt. report**

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI



Spot assessment: The government says the project has followed a favourable trajectory within the limitations. ANI

Four of the six criteria established for assessing the short-term success of India's cheetah reintroduction programme have already been met, a government report said on Sunday. Released on the completion of one year of the programme, the report said the initial progress had followed a favourable trajectory well within the envisioned limitations. The project is on the right path to becoming a successful large carnivore conservation, translocation, and population-establishment endeavour, it said.

The Cheetah Action Plan, published last year, lists six short-term success criteria: survival of 50% of the introduced cheetahs for the first year; establishment of home ranges in the Kuno National Park; successful cheetah reproduction in the wild; survival of wild-born cheetah cubs past one year; successful first-generation breeding; and cheetah-bred revenues contributing to community livelihoods. The report noted that the project achieved 50% survival; establishment of home ranges; birth of cubs; and direct revenue contributions to local communities through the engagement of cheetah trackers and indirect appreciation of land value in surrounding areas. India's ambitious initiative to reintroduce cheetahs after their extinction in the country marked its first anniversary on Sunday.

**Eight swept away in M.P. as pond embankment caves in; two bodies recovered**

Press Trust of India  
BILASWAR



A partially submerged temple in floodwater after authorities opened the gates of the Bargi Dam in Bilaspur district. ANI

Eight persons were swept away as the embankment of a pond collapsed in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh, an official said on Sunday.

The incident took place on Saturday night amid heavy rain at Bahadur Panna village in Thandla tehsil, some 45 kilometres from the district headquarters, Sub-divisional Magistrate Taran Jain said.

Two bodies were recovered this morning, while search for the others, comprising three women and as many children, is under way," he said.

The pond was constructed in 20-25 years ago by the State Rural Engineering Department, he added. He said the administration contacted higher authorities in Bhopal and the helicopter was sent from Nagpur. Mr Chouhan held a virtual meeting with officials

operations in the State. On Sunday, an Indian Air Force helicopter rescued a pregnant woman and two of her family members from the rooftop of their house in a flooded agricultural field at Semalia village in Bhopal district. Ujjain district, District Collector Kumar Parushottam said. He said the administration contacted higher authorities in Bhopal and the helicopter was sent from Nagpur. Mr Chouhan held a virtual meeting with officials

**Final meet of G-20 Framework Working Group from today**

Press Trust of India  
RAIPUR

The fourth and final meeting of the G-20 Framework Working Group (FWG) under India's G-20 Presidency will be held in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur from Monday, an official said on Sunday. More than 65 delegates from G-20 member and invitee countries, and various international and regional organisations will participate in the two-day meeting at Mayfair Resort in Nava Raipur, the official said.

Chandni Kaina, Adviser to the Union Finance Ministry, and Sam Beckett, Chief Economic Adviser, His Majesty's Treasury, the U.K., will chair the meeting to be hosted for *Ratni Rhoj Par Samwad* (conversation over dinner) and a cultural event, which will enable them to enjoy the unique cuisine and cultural richness of Chhattisgarh, the official added.

The FWG facilitates discussions on the latest global economic outlook and policy guidance on key macroeconomic issues, he said. The deliverables from the working group under the 2023 Indian Presidency have been successfully concluded, and are referred to in the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.

G-20 Report on Macroeconomic Impacts of Food and Energy Insecurity, and G-20 Report on Macroeconomic Risks Stemming from Climate Change and Transition Pathways, he said. The upcoming meeting will take stock of the discussions in the FWG in 2023, and explore future areas of work, the official said.

On the sidelines, the RBI will host a series of *Jan Bhagidari* events, including panel discussions on digital banking and financial inclusion, financial literacy programmes, a G-20 awareness programme, a painting contest and a slogan-writing contest, he said. The delegates will also be hosted for *Ratni Rhoj Par Samwad* (conversation over dinner) and a cultural event, which will enable them to enjoy the unique cuisine and cultural richness of Chhattisgarh, the official added.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said he would attend the G-20 FWG programme on Monday.

**Nearly 10,000 people shifted in rain-hit Gujarat**

The Hindu Bureau  
AHMEDABAD

More than 200 people were rescued and around 10,000 shifted to safer locations, as heavy rain lashed several parts of Gujarat on Sunday, forcing low-lying areas and cutting off several villages. The Narmada and other rivers are in full spate in the south and central regions of the State.

According to the government, 207 people stranded in floodwaters were rescued from different places while around 10,000 people from Narmada, Bhadrach, Vadodara, Dahod and Godhra districts were moved from low-lying areas. The heavy discharge of water from the Sardar Sarovar Dam, which touched its full reservoir level of 138.68 metres on Sunday morning, into the Narmada following rain in the catchment areas in neighbouring Madhya Pradesh, led to extensive flooding in low-lying areas of Narmada district.

At 1.30 a.m. and gave instructions to deal with the situation. He said he had reviewed the situation caused by heavy rain in Khargone, Barwani, Dhar, Khandwa, Burhanpur, Alirajpur and Indore. The situation is under control but the people are on alert, and the State Disaster Emergency Response Force and the National Disaster Response Force are working in these areas, he said. Meanwhile, the flow in waterbodies and rain has reduced, he added.

**TH CROSSWORD** (Set by Dr. X) 13973  
To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site at: <https://qpsa.page.link/3j97n>  
13 Most irascible cry of pain by one during examination (9)  
14 Dominate husband, utter lesser fighting over nothing (4,3,5)  
15 Bond in a helpport, leaping to catch head of Spectre (13,2)  
16 Panther roaming over Greek landmark (9)  
17 Drive around a country in Europe (5)  
18 Mistake by clerk in building (7)  
19 One helping to leak stuff at Centre rather craftily (7)  
20 Shelter outside cement plant (6)  
21 Isolate in cabin with first signs of another wave in state (4,4)  
Down:  
1 Complete now nicely introduces celebrity (6)  
2 See key in flat (6)  
3 Wife in house getting fit in exercise outfit (9)  
4 Visit rural area and call for general election (2,3,7)  
5 Sailing vessel in New York (5)  
6 Cheat around picking up smart liberal unmarried man (8)  
7 Pervert in art gallery following young lady (8)  
8 Retired individual crushed by huge housing crash! No more will be tolerated! (2,6)  
9 Vet again checks domestic animal having cold (9)  
10 Hot and popular, captivates girls at centre (8)  
11 Warning in beer inside arena (6)  
12 Nut in jacket filming hot woman (6)  
13 Confrontation in New York after unionist gets reckless (6)  
14 Utter nonsense and croon, drinking Old Monk in the end (5)

**SUDOKU**  
7 6 8  
9 5 4 7 8  
2 4 6 3  
8 9 3  
3 7 7 5  
1 7 6 4 3  
2 9 1  
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★  
Solution to yesterday's Sudoku:  
8 5 9 7 4 6 3 2 1  
1 7 3 5 8 2 2 4 9 6  
6 9 4 1 9 3 7 8 9  
6 9 4 3 1 7 8 5 2 7  
2 9 1 5 8 6 9 6 4 7  
9 3 1 6 5 4 2 7 8  
2 4 8 9 7 1 5 6 3

**FAITH**  
Overcoming hurdles  
Observing Vinayaka Chaturthi with full faith in divine help is the only solution, Tiruvudaimaradar Ibrahimshi Nidhishara Shrovarthi said in a discourse.  
Brahma recounts Parvati-Parameswaran's wedding, and when Parameswaran sets off to wage war on an asura. He sets guards to safeguard the Goddess and Her entourage. Finding the guards scary, the women request the Goddess to create someone better. Obliging them, Parvati fashions a child from the turmeric smeared on Her body, film a staff, and asks Him to protect Her from intruders.  
Upon returning, Parameswaran is shocked to find Himself stopped from entering Parvati's inner courtyard. Angered, Parameswaran unleashes His weapon on the child. He becomes angry with the universe. Unable to bear this, sages and seers pray to Parameswaran. He tasks His guards with bringing Him the head of the first living creature they encounter. The guards return with an elephant head. Parameswaran fixes the elephant head on the still child, who then comes alive.  
A pleased Parvati blesses the child along with Parameswaran. From that moment on, it is ordained that one should pray to Ganesha before embarking on any task. He will remove all hurdles and fructify one's goals.

**TH CROSSWORD** 13973  
Across:  
1 Flushed on ecstasy, go astray cuddling German model again (8)  
5 Read quickly about boy at university, devotee of a winter sport (3,3)  
10 It's easy Doctor Watson, elementary to begin with (2,5)  
11 Observes insect jumping over ball (7)  
12 Uprour about getting stumped in defeat (5)

# Santiniketan finds its place on UNESCO's World Heritage List

World body makes announcement on Sunday; Mamata says town, nurtured by Tagore, has been supported by Bengal; Culture Ministry says it exhibits important interchange in human values

**Shiv Sahay Singh**

KOLKATA

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West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, expressing happiness over the inclusion, said that Santiniketan was "nurtured by the poet and has been supported by people of Bengal over the generations". "We from the Go-



**Historic charm:** Santiniketan Griha - the oldest house in Santiniketan, built by Rabindranath Tagore's father, Maharshi Debendranath Tagore around 1853-54. FILE PHOTO

vernment of West Bengal have significantly added to its infrastructure in the last 12 years and the world now recognizes the glory of the heritage place. Kudos to all who love Bengal, Tagore, and his messages of fraternity. *Jai Bangla, Pranam to Gurudev,*" Ms. Banerjee said on the social media platform X.

The dossier by the Culture Ministry proposing Santiniketan's inclusion on

the UNESCO World Heritage List points out that the "place exhibits an important interchange in human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning or landscape design".

Attempts to get Santiniketan inscribed on the World Heritage List have been going on since 2010.

"Work on the latest proposal for nomination of Santiniketan as UNESCO World Heritage Site began in the financial year 2020-21," said Subha Majumder, Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) who worked on the restoration of several structures of Santiniketan. Over the past few years, the ASI has been restoring several structures in the neighbourhood.







Coordinates:  23.68°N 87.68°E

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Country</b>                 | India            |
| <b>State</b>                   | West Bengal      |
| <b>District</b>                | Birbhum          |
| <b>Elevation</b>               | 30 m (100 ft)    |
| <b>Languages</b><br>• Official | Bengali, English |
| <b>Time zone</b>               | UTC+5:30 (IST)   |



- 
- It was established by Maharshi Debendranath Tagore, and later expanded by his son, Rabindranath Tagore whose vision became what is now a university town with the creation of Visva-Bharati.

- 
- इसकी स्थापना महर्षि देवेन्द्रनाथ टैगोर ने की थी, और बाद में उनके बेटे रवीन्द्रनाथ टैगोर ने इसका विस्तार किया, जिनकी दृष्टि विश्व-भारती के निर्माण के साथ अब एक विश्वविद्यालय शहर बन गई है।

- 
- In 1863, Debendranath Tagore took on permanent lease 20 acres (81,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of land, with two chhatim (*Alstonia scholaris*) trees, at an annual payment of Rs. 5, from Bhuban Mohan Sinha, the talukdar of Raipur, Birbhum.
  - He built a guest house there and named it Shantiniketan (the abode of peace). Gradually, the whole area came to be known as Shantiniketan
  - 1863 में, देवेन्द्रनाथ टैगोर ने रुपये के वार्षिक भुगतान पर 20 एकड़ (81,000 वर्ग मीटर) भूमि, जिसमें दो छतिम (अल्स्टोनिया स्कॉलरिस) के पेड़ थे, स्थायी पट्टे पर ली। 5, रायपुर, बीरभूम के तालुकदार भुबन मोहन सिन्हा से।
  - उन्होंने वहां एक गेस्ट हाउस बनवाया और इसका नाम शांतिनिकेतन (शांति का निवास) रखा। धीरे-धीरे यह पूरा क्षेत्र शांतिनिकेतन के नाम से जाना जाने लगा

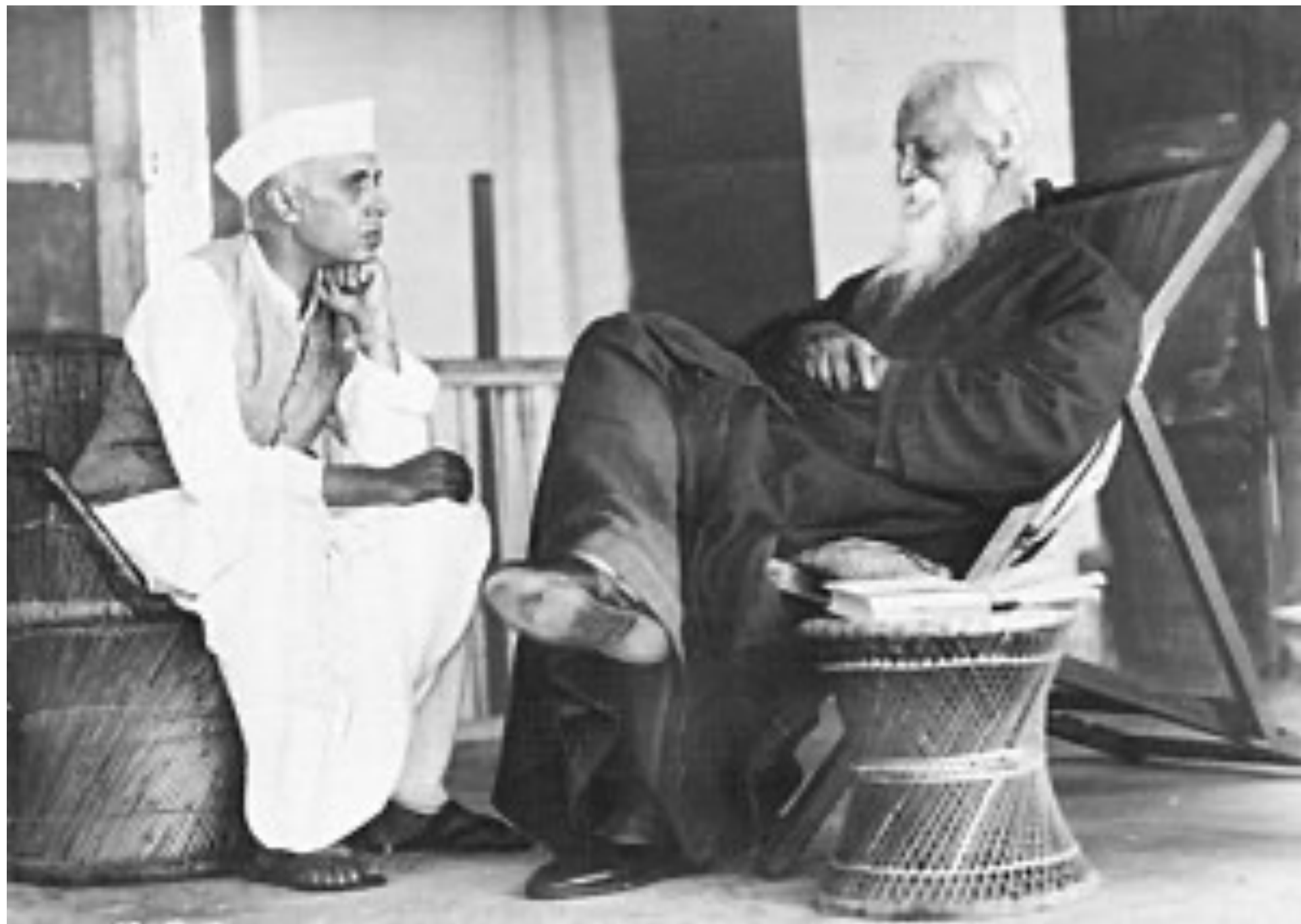
- 
- Inspired by The Crystal Palace built originally in Hyde Park, London, to house the Great Exhibition of 1851 and later relocated, Debendranath constructed a 60-foot × 30-foot hall for Brahma prayers.
  - The roof was tiled and the floor had white marble, but the rest of the structure was made of glass. From its earliest days, it was a great attraction for people from all around
  - मूल रूप से लंदन के हाइड पार्क में 1851 की महान प्रदर्शनी के लिए बनाए गए और बाद में स्थानांतरित किए गए क्रिस्टल पैलेस से प्रेरित होकर, देबेंद्रनाथ ने ब्रह्म प्रार्थनाओं के लिए 60-फुट × 30-फुट हॉल का निर्माण किया।
  - छत पर टाइल लगी थी और फर्श पर सफेद संगमरमर था, लेकिन बाकी संरचना कांच से बनी थी। अपने शुरुआती दिनों से ही, यह चारों ओर के लोगों के लिए एक बड़ा आकर्षण था



Founded in 1921 by Rabindranath Tagore, [Visva Bharati](#) was declared to be a [central university](#) and an institute of national importance, in 1951

1921 में रबींद्रनाथ टैगोर द्वारा स्थापित, विश्व भारती को 1951 में एक केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय और राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान घोषित किया गया था।



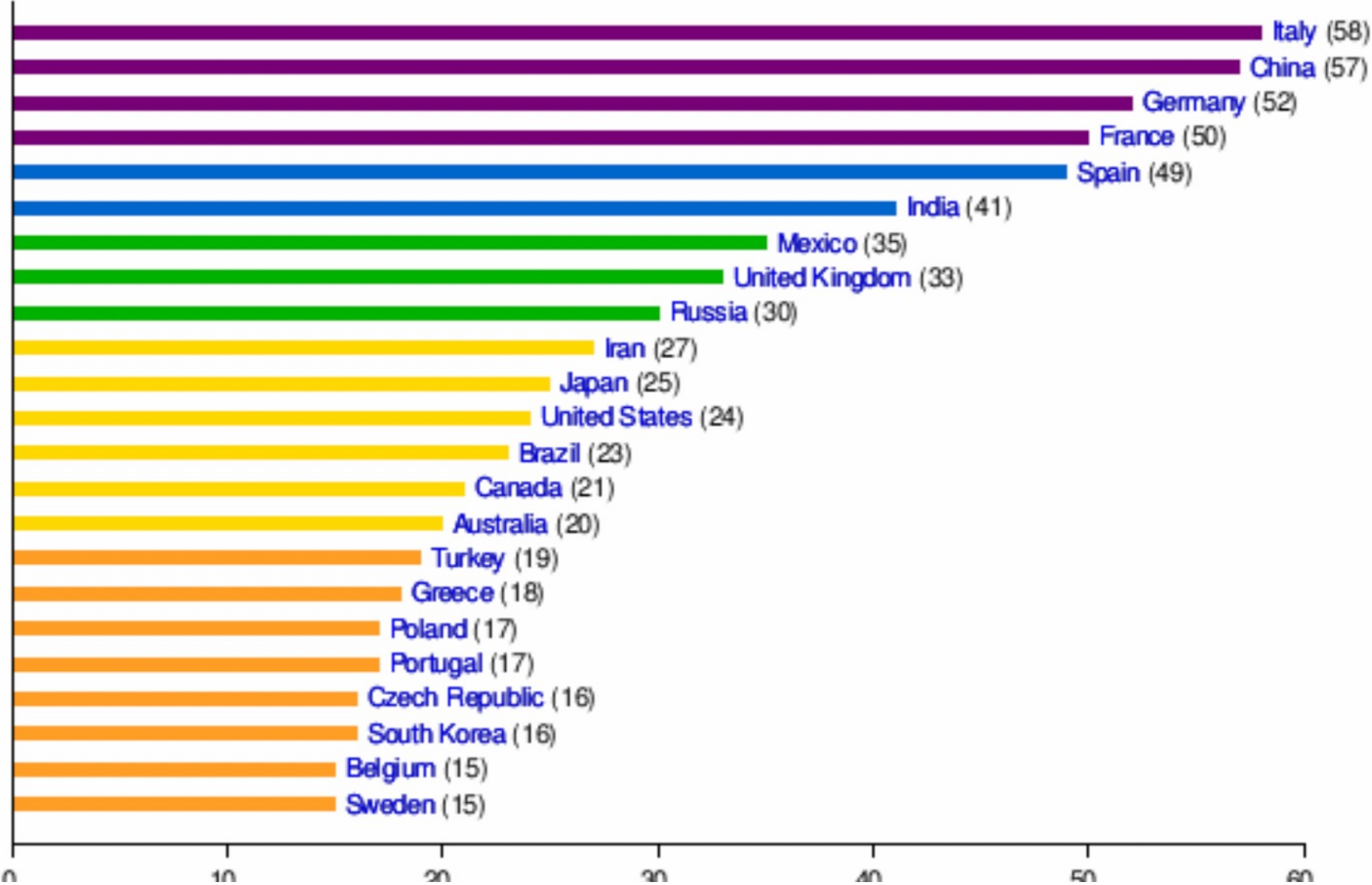




As of September 2023, a total of 1,172 World Heritage Sites (913 cultural, 220 natural, and 39 mixed properties) exist across 166 countries. With 58 selected areas, Italy is the country with the most sites on the list; China is the second with 57 sites, and Germany is the third with 52

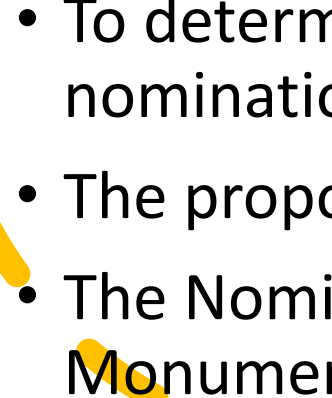
सितंबर 2023 तक, 166 देशों में कुल 1,172 विश्व धरोहर स्थल (913 सांस्कृतिक, 220 प्राकृतिक और 39 मिश्रित संपत्ति) मौजूद हैं। 58 चयनित क्षेत्रों के साथ, इटली सूची में सबसे अधिक साइटों वाला देश है; चीन 57 साइटों के साथ दूसरे स्थान पर है, और जर्मनी 52 के साथ तीसरे स्थान पर है

This overview lists the 23 countries with 15 or more World Heritage Sites:





- **How is a World Heritage Site selected?**

- The first step towards the listing is the nomination of a site by the respective government of a country.
  - The site should have an Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for World Heritage nomination.
  - To determine the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for World Heritage nomination, **there are ten enlisted criteria.**
  - The proposed nomination **must satisfy at least one of these ten criteria.**
  - The Nomination File is then evaluated by the International Council on Monuments and Sites and the World Conservation Union.
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विश्व धरोहर स्थल का चयन कैसे किया जाता है?

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लिस्टिंग की दिशा में पहला कदम किसी देश की संबंधित सरकार द्वारा किसी साइट का नामांकन है।

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विश्व धरोहर नामांकन के लिए साइट का उत्कृष्ट सार्वभौमिक मूल्य (ओयूवी) होना चाहिए।

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विश्व धरोहर नामांकन के लिए उत्कृष्ट सार्वभौमिक मूल्य (ओयूवी) निर्धारित करने के लिए, दस सूचीबद्ध मानदंड हैं।


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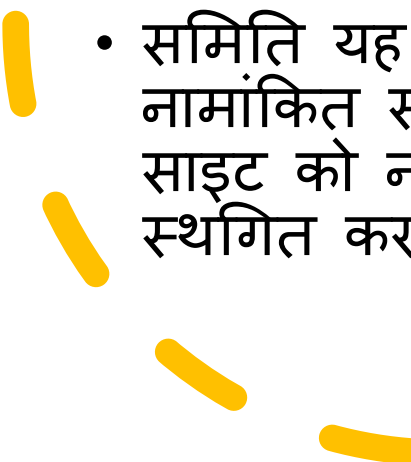
प्रस्तावित नामांकन को इन दस मानदंडों में से कम से कम एक को पूरा करना होगा।

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इसके बाद नामांकन फ़ाइल का मूल्यांकन अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्मारक और स्थल परिषद और विश्व संरक्षण संघ द्वारा किया जाता है।



- 
- These bodies then make their recommendations to the World Heritage Committee.
  - The Committee meets once per year to determine whether or not to inscribe each nominated property on the World Heritage List and sometimes defers the decision to request more information from the country which nominated the site.

- ये निकाय फिर विश्व धरोहर समिति को अपनी सिफारिशें देते हैं।
  - समिति यह निर्धारित करने के लिए प्रति वर्ष एक बार बैठक करती है कि प्रत्येक नामांकित संपत्ति को विश्व विरासत सूची में शामिल किया जाए या नहीं और कभी-कभी साइट को नामांकित करने वाले देश से अधिक जानकारी का अनुरोध करने के निर्णय को स्थगित कर देती है।
- 

# INDIA

## WORLD HERITAGE SITES





**BOGOTA**  
FARC dissident group kills four Colombian soldiers ahead of talks



Four Colombian Army soldiers were killed in fights with FARC dissidents a day before a meeting between the rebel group and the government. The Estado Mayor Central (EMC), a dissident group of the disbanded FARC guerrillas, had rejected a 2016 deal, but said April 11 was ready to begin negotiations with the government. AFP

**MOSCOW**  
North Korea's leader wraps up Russia trip with drones as gift



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un left Russia on Sunday after a rare six-day visit that appeared to solidify his country's ties with President Vladimir Putin — favouring Western fears that Pyongyang could provide Moscow with weapons for its assault on Ukraine. He was presented with drones and a bulletproof vest as gifts. AFP

**DUBAI**  
Iran security official killed, three injured on protest anniversary



Gunmen opened fire on a group of paramilitary forces in southern Iran, killing one of them and wounding another three. Local media did not give a motive for Saturday's attack, which occurred on the anniversary of the death while in police custody of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini and the outbreak of nationwide protests. AFP

**TAIPEI**  
Taiwan detects 28 Chinese warplanes around island



China flew 28 warplanes around Taiwan on Sunday, with most crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait for unspecified "long-range" missions. Taiwan's defence ministry said 20 of the aircraft detected since Sunday morning crossed the median line of the waterway separating Taiwan and mainland China. AFP

**EU chief promises a plan of action as migrants flock to Italian island**

Ursula von der Leyen, along with Italian PM Giorgia Meloni, visits Lampedusa where more than 7000 people have arrived this week. 1.26 lakh migrants have arrived in Italy this year, almost double the figure by the corresponding period in 2022

Reuters  
LAMPEDUSA

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Sunday visited the Italian island of Lampedusa, which is struggling with a surge in migrant arrivals, and promised a 10-point EU action plan to help Italy deal with the situation.



Talking guests: Ursula von der Leyen, left, and Giorgia Meloni greeting members of the UNHCR as they visit Lampedusa. AFP

Nearly 1,26,000 migrants have arrived in Italy so far this year, almost double the figure by the same date in 2022. The small island of Lampedusa has recently seen a sharp rise in the number of people arriving by boat, with more than 7,000 landing this week, most from the island's permanent population.

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and the centre-right government, which is struggling with a surge in migrant arrivals, and promised a 10-point EU action plan to help Italy deal with the situation. Nearly 1,26,000 migrants have arrived in Italy so far this year, almost double the figure by the same date in 2022. The small island of Lampedusa has recently seen a sharp rise in the number of people arriving by boat, with more than 7,000 landing this week, most from the island's permanent population.

grants arrive from North Africa's shores by boat. "Irregular migration is a European challenge and it needs a European response, we are in this together," she said at a joint news conference with Ms. Meloni. "You can count on the EU," she added in Italian.

The plan includes using the EU's external borders agency Frontex to identify migrants arriving in Italy and repatriate those not eligible for asylum.

The plan includes using the EU's external borders agency Frontex to identify migrants arriving in Italy and repatriate those not eligible for asylum. The surge in migrant crossings is a major political headache for Ms. Meloni, who took office in May last year and has vowed to make migration a cornerstone of her rise to power.

She promised to speed up the supply of equipment to the coastguard of Tunisia, currently the main departure point for sea migrants, and accelerate the transfer of funds to Tunisia under a deal struck in July aimed at curbing migration.

Ms. Von der Leyen also vowed to increase access to legal channels for the migrants. She reiterated that the EU will continue to support the right approach is to prevent people leaving for Europe to relieve pressure around the bloc.

**Military leaders of Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso sign mutual defence pact**

Agence France-Presse  
BAMAKO

The military leaders of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger on Saturday signed a mutual defence pact, ministerial delegations from the three Sahel countries announced in Mali's capital Bamako.

The Liptako-Gourma Charter established the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), Mali's junta leader Assimi Goita posted on X, the social network formerly known as Weibo.

Its aim is to "establish an architecture of collective defence and mutual assistance for the benefit of our people", he wrote.

The charter binds the nations to assist one another, including militarily, in the event of an attack on any one of the countries.

A jihadist insurgency that erupted in northern Mali in 2012 spread to Niger and Burkina Faso in 2020. All three countries have undergone coups since 2020.

The West African regional bloc ECOWAS has threatened to intervene militarily in Niger following

the coup of July 23. Mali and Burkina Faso quickly responded by saying that any such operation would be deemed a "declaration of war" against them.

The charter signed on Saturday binds the signatories to assist one another — including militarily — in the event of an attack on any one of them.

"Attack on sovereignty" "Any attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of one or more contracting parties shall be considered as an aggression against the other parties and shall give rise to a joint response, including the use of armed force to restore and ensure security," it states.

It also binds the three countries to work to prevent any "settled armed rebellions."

**U.S. NSA Sullivan meets China's Wang**

Reuters  
WASHINGTON

White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Malta this weekend, a U.S. official said on Sunday.

Mr. Sullivan's meeting with Mr. Wang was the latest in a series of high-level discussions between U.S. and Chinese officials that

could lay the groundwork for a meeting of President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping later this year.

Mr. Biden this month expressed disappointment that Mr. Xi skipped a summit of Group of 20 leaders in India, but said he would "go to see him."

The next likely opportunity for Mr. Biden to hold talks with Mr. Xi is an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in San Francisco in November.

**14 killed in plane crash in Brazil's Amazon**

Agence France-Presse  
RIO DE JANEIRO

Fourteen persons were killed on Saturday when a plane crashed in the Brazilian Amazon while trying to land in stormy weather in the tourist town of Barcelos, leaving no survivors, officials said.

The small plane's pilot was approaching the remote town in heavy rain, of low visibility, and appeared to land inadvertently striking the halfway down the runway, Amazon state security secretary Vinicius Almeida told a



Mangled remains: People gather around an aircraft that crashed in Barcelos in Brazil on Saturday. AFP

news conference. The plane ran out of landing strip and crashed, killing all 12 passengers and two crew, he said.

Officials said two aircraft approaching from around the same time had returned to Manaus because of the weather.

**Chinese police detain staff of Evergrande**

Associated Press  
TAIPEI

The police in a southern Chinese city said they have detained some staff at China's Evergrande Group's wealth management unit in the latest trouble for the heavily indebted developer.

The police said that authorities "took criminal preventive measures against suspects including Du and others in the financial management

(Shenzhen) company under Evergrande Group." It was unclear who Du was. Media reports about investors' protests at the Evergrande headquarters in Shenzhen in 2021 had listed a person called Du as the latest trouble for the company's wealth management unit. Evergrande is the world's most heavily indebted real estate developer. Assets pledged against property market crisis that is dragging on China's economic growth.

**Ashwa Morocco claims the Extro Minister's Cup**

RACING

**HYDERABAD:** Trainer G. Shashikiran's Ashwa Morocco won the Extro Minister's Cup, the main event of Sunday's Hyderabad Race Meeting. Owned by Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh Chaudhary, the 3-year-old, sired by Shamima, trained by Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh Chaudhary, won the Extro Minister's Cup (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m. The race was won by Ashwa Morocco (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m. The race was won by Ashwa Morocco (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m.

**3. MANCHERIAL PLACK (1000m):** 1. Ashwa Morocco (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m. The race was won by Ashwa Morocco (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m. The race was won by Ashwa Morocco (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m.

**4. CHERRY MERRICK'S CUP:** Ashwa Morocco (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m. The race was won by Ashwa Morocco (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m. The race was won by Ashwa Morocco (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m.

**Strauss should make amends**

HYDERABAD:

Trainer Magan Singh's ward Straus, who ran a close second to Sidharth in his last start, should make amends in the Hyderabad Derby. The race was won by Sidharth (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m. The race was won by Sidharth (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m.

**1. RED SURPRISE PLATE (1000m):** 1. Sidharth (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m. The race was won by Sidharth (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m. The race was won by Sidharth (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m.

**2. MEDAK PLATE (1000m):** 1. Sidharth (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m. The race was won by Sidharth (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m. The race was won by Sidharth (1000m) by a nose over the 1000m.

**Felix, Cancelo strike in big Barcelona win**

EURO LEAGUES

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE BARCELONA**  
New arrivals Joao Felix and Raphael striking their first goals for Barcelona in an impressive 5-0 rout of Real Betis on Saturday in LaLiga. Felix fired Barcelona ahead, with further goals from Robert Lewandowski, Ferran Torres and Raphinha striking the visitors, before Cancelo polished the score with a fine individual effort.

Napoli's Serie A title defence continued to stutter at Genoa where the champions came back from two goals down to snatch a point late.

# Military leaders of Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso sign mutual defence pact

**Agence France-Presse**

BAMAKO

The military leaders of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger on Saturday signed a mutual defence pact, ministerial delegations from the three Sahel countries announced in Mali's capital Bamako.

The Liptako-Gourma Charter establishes the Alliance of Sahel States (AES), Mali's junta leader Assimi Goita posted on X, the social network formerly known as Twitter.

Its aim is to "establish an architecture of collective defence and mutual assistance for the benefit of our populations", he wrote.

The Liptako-Gourma region – where the Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger borders meet – has been ravaged by jihadism in recent years.

"This alliance will be a

**The charter binds the nations to assist one another, including militarily, in the event of an attack on any one of the countries**

combination of military and economic efforts between the three countries", Mali's Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Diop told journalists.

"Our priority is the fight against terrorism in the three countries."

A jihadist insurgency that erupted in northern Mali in 2012 spread to Niger and Burkina Faso in 2015. All three countries have undergone coups since 2020.

The West African regional bloc ECOWAS has threatened to intervene militarily in Niger following

the coup of July 23.

Mali and Burkina Faso quickly responded by saying that any such operation would be deemed a "declaration of war" against them.

The charter signed on Saturday binds the signatories to assist one another – including militarily – in the event of an attack on any one of them.

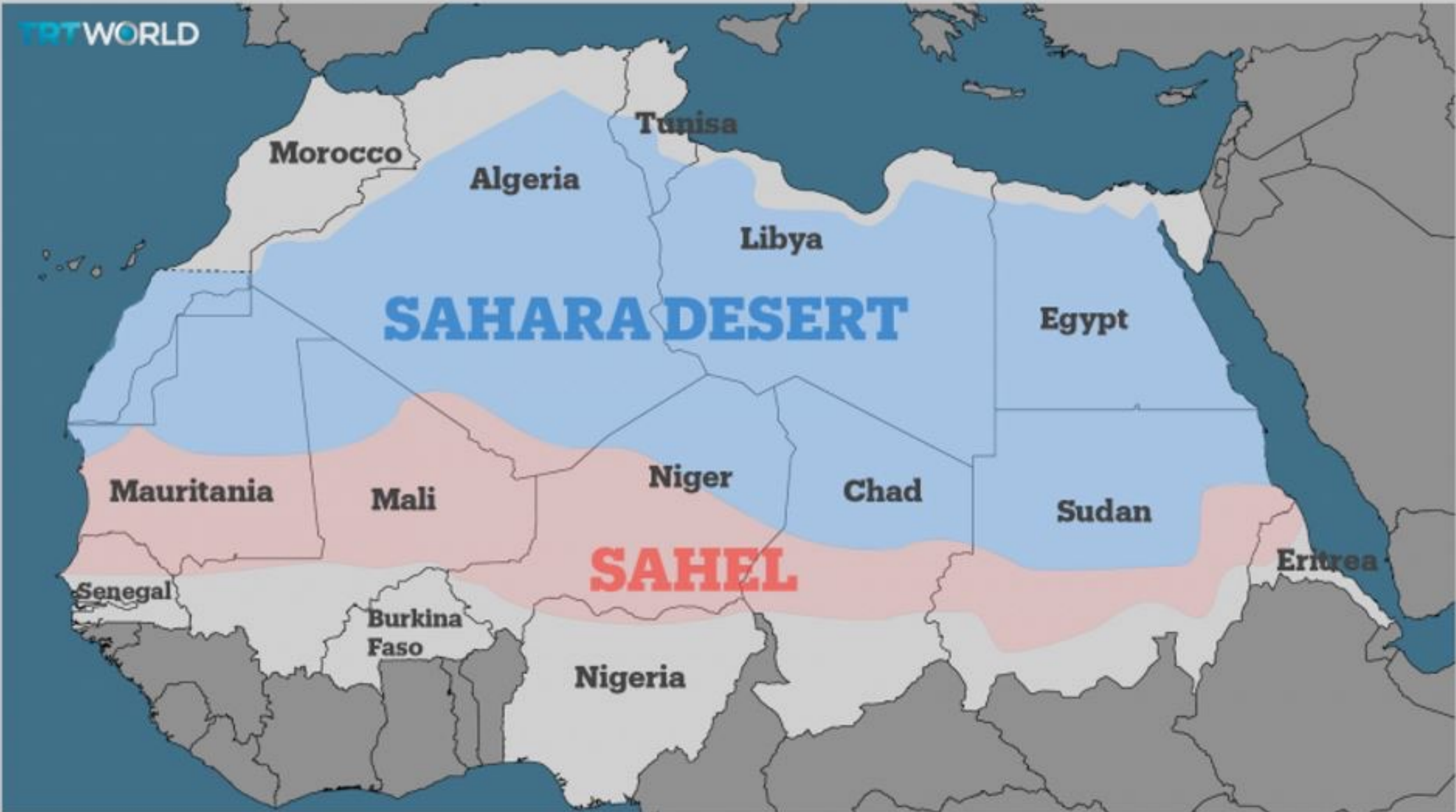
**'Attack on sovereignty'**

"Any attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of one or more contracting parties shall be considered as an aggression against the other parties and shall give rise to a duty of assistance... including the use of armed force to restore and ensure security", it states.

It also binds the three countries to work to prevent or settle armed rebellions.







Morocco

Algeria

Tunisia

Libya

**SAHARA DESERT**

Egypt

Mauritania

Mali

Niger

Chad

Sudan

Senegal

Burkina Faso

Nigeria

Eritrea

**SAHEL**



Safe haven for extremists; borders are unable to be regulated or patrolled due to enormous size

Terrorist organizations operate throughout the Sahel

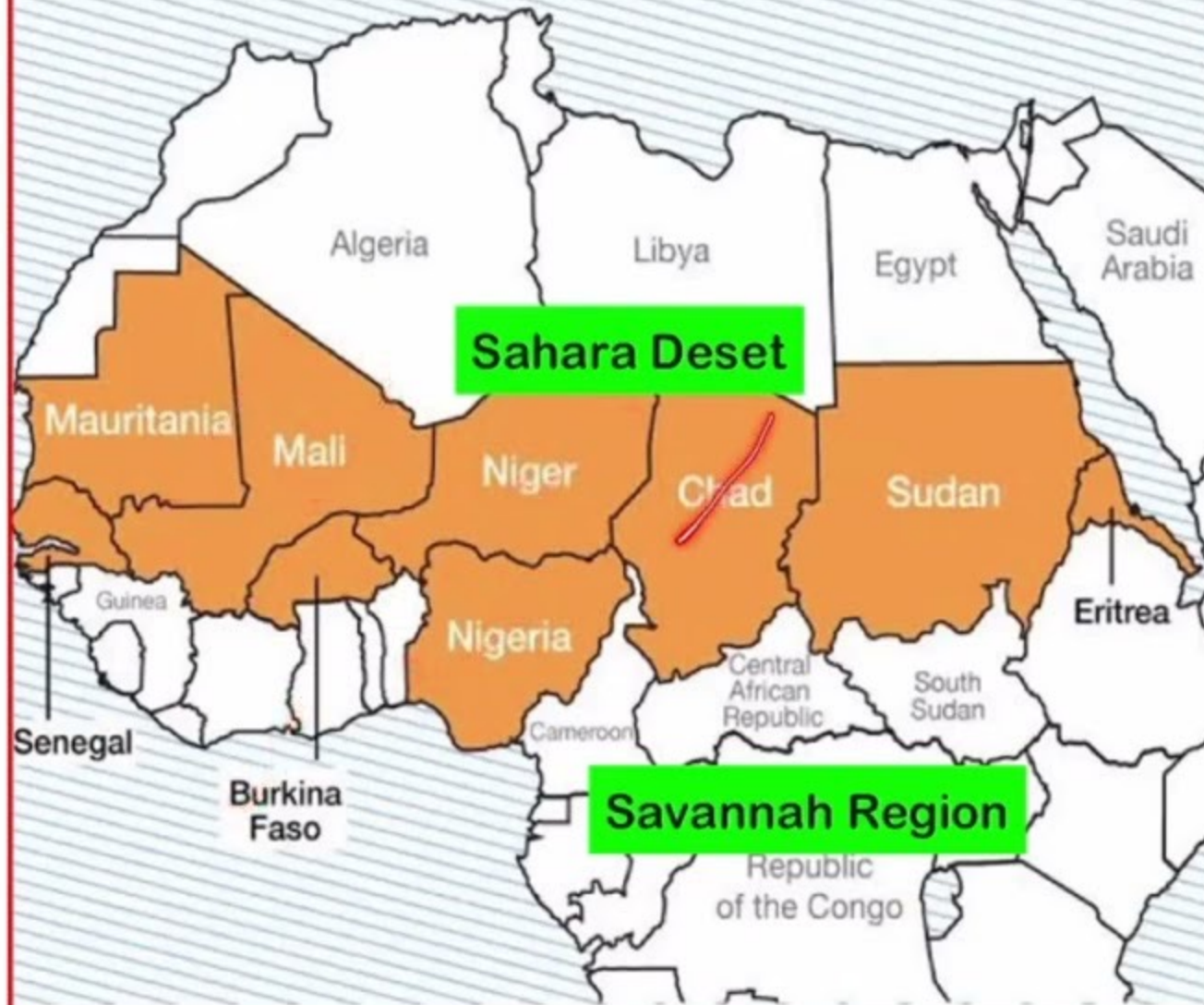
**TERRORIST AREA**

Interiors are too large to enforce laws





# Sahel region, Africa



## Sahel Region

Africa is the 2nd longest continent after ASIA. SAHEL act as a transition zone.

North: Desert

South: Savannah (Tropical semi arid climate)

Problems:

Security:

Al-Qaeda and ISIS/Daesh affiliated groups  
Operation Barkhane by France.

Environmental Concerns:

Desertification (Degradation of land)

NOTE- it is not the natural expansion of Desert.



INBRIEF Fit to width



Arfath outpaces Mustafa and Shaik for victory

Bengaluru riders dominated the second round of the MMSB FMSI Indian National Motorcycle Drag Racing Championship...

The results (all 4-stroke unless mentioned): 165cc Super Sport Indians: 1. Mohammed Fazil 16.327s; Arvind Ganesh 24.235; 3. Mohammed Arfath 34.482...

Abhay, Ishaan and Rivaan shine in National Karting

M. Abhay won the Senior Max category in the third round of the Meco-Fmsi Karting Max National Karting Championship 2023...

The results (winners): Senior Max (16 laps): M. Abhay (Bird Art India), 14:21.497s; Junior Max (24 laps): Ishaan Madhesh (Peregrine Racing), 13:04.584s...

Niki Poonacha loses Challenger doubles final

Niki Poonacha in partnership with Antoine Escotfier was beaten 6-3, 6-2 in the doubles final by second seeds Sander Arends and David Pel of the Netherlands...

Other results: \$15,000 ITF women, Menastir: Final: Francah Sagnolova (Kaz) 18; Vashvath Reddy 7, 4(6), 6-0.

LIVE TELECAST

AFC Cup: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7:30, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12:15 a.m. (Tuesday)...

Ferrari's Sainz claims a dramatic win



Horsepower: Sainz claimed his second win after his first GP title at British Grand Prix last year. AFP

SINGAPORE GP

Agence France-Presse

Carlos Sainz led from start to finish to win a dramatic Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday after a chaotic race in which George Russell crashed his Mercedes from third place on the final lap...

Bopanna shines on his farewell Davis Cup contest as India trumps Morocco

The 43-year-old's 50th and last match sees a heartwarming post-match scene involving his fellow players, friends and family

TENNIS N. Sudarshan LUCKNOW



Victorious: The Indian team made it to the 2024 Davis Cup World Group I playoffs with the win against Morocco. SANDEEP SAKENA

India completed a 4-1 victory over Morocco to secure a place in the 2024 Davis Cup World Group I playoffs...

old won his debut match against Walid Ahouada 6-1, 7-0 (6-4). While the win is sure to bring captain Rohit Rajpal a sense of relief...

ween India and the tennis elites, the result took an even more-slight backseat. It was 43-year-old Bopanna's 50th and last Davis Cup match...

Bopanna eyes captain's role in the future as he exits the Davis Cup scene

TENNIS N. Sudarshan LUCKNOW



Great journey: Bopanna celebrates after winning the doubles tie along with YUKI. SANDEEP SAKENA

In the last few years, Rohan Bopanna, by virtue of being the senior pro, has seemingly taken on a mentorship role within the Indian Davis Cup team...

Even as the 43-year-old looked ahead with optimism, his last Davis Cup tie was a bitter-sweet moment. "If there is an opportunity, I will certainly look at it," Bopanna said...

I want to thank the entire nation, the captains I have played under; it has been a great journey. BOPANNA

a rethink. "Absolutely not. These are two different things. Here, you play for your country. There [on the Tour] you represent your country, but are still playing for yourself..."

Khalsa School girls win under-14 and under-12 titles

JUNIOR NBA Sports Bureau NEW DELHI



On the podium: Muller, Elavenil and Jiale, the women's air rifle medalists. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Elavenil claims air rifle gold in Rio World Cup

SHOOTING Sports Bureau

Olympian Elavenil Valari-Varma pounced on her chance in the women's air rifle final to clinch the gold medal with a 0.3 margin victory over qualification topper Oceanne Muller of France in the World Cup in Rio...

Highly-rated Rudrankksh keen for a podium finish in Hangzhou

Uthra Gamesan NEW DELHI



Learning from the best: Rudrankksh, in pic, says Bindra is a great mentor and has been guiding him through his young career.

He won a gold and an Olympic quota in his maiden international senior-level outing and now, Rudrankksh Patil is keen to do it again at the upcoming Asian Games...

Ranked fifth in the world, Rudrankksh in 2002 became only the second Indian to win a World Championship gold in the men's Air Rifle after Bindra in 2006...

single ace to his name. But they stepped it up when they were playing with their fellow players, friends and family.

"Yuki has been playing very well of late and when he makes those returns, I can put my big frame forward," Bopanna said after the match.

The result: India 4 set Morocco 1 (On Sunday: Rohan Bopanna & Yuki Bhambhani beat Elliot Benchetrit & Younes Lalamé Laaroussi 6-2, 6-1; Sumit Nagal beat Younes Lalamé 6-3, 6-3; Digvijay Pratap Singh beat Walid Ahouada 6-1, 7-0 (6-4)).

Srishti powers U-12 girls to Asian title



Winning feeling: The Indian girls' and boys' teams with their Asian under-12 tennis championship trophies. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Srishti Kiran won both her singles and doubles matches to help India beat Chinese Taipei 2-1 in the girls' final of the Asian under-12 tennis championship in Shymkent, Kazakhstan...

The results: Boys (final): Hong Kong beat India 2-0 (Chun Ku Lok beat Smit Undre 6-2, 6-2; Fu Wang Chou beat Vasan Miranda 5-1, 6-2). Girls (final): India beat Chinese Taipei 2-1 (Srishti Kiran beat Pin Yen Chou 6-4 (7-1), 6-6; Kartika Padmakumar lost to Tsai Jung Chiang 3-6, 6-2, 6-6; Srishti Kiran beat Tsai Jung Chiang 6-3, 6-2 (6-0), 6-1).

teammate and competitor at the Asian level in fact that there is no rivalry.

"I have known him since 2019, he's a really good shooter, mentor and friend and has been to the Olympics also. I have seen him shoot in competitions a lot, and he's my senior. He's always good to learn from each other."



# Bopanna shines on his farewell Davis Cup contest as India trumps Morocco

The 43-year-old's 50th and last match sees a heartwarming post-match scene involving his fellow players, friends and family

## TENNIS

**N. Sudarshan**  
LUCKNOW

India completed a 4-1 victory over Morocco to secure a place in the 2024 Davis Cup World Group I playoffs, at the Vijayant Khand Mini Stadium here on Sunday.

Rohan Bopanna and Yuki Bhambri combined in the afternoon to beat Elliot Benchetrit and Younes Lalami Laaroussi 6-2, 6-1 to give India a 2-1 lead. Sumit Nagal, the India No.1, then earned a straightforward 6-3, 6-3 win over Yassine Dlimi to seal the tie.

The dead fifth rubber was used as an opportunity to blood Digvijay Pratap Singh in, and the 23-year-



**Victorious:** The Indian team made it to the 2024 Davis Cup World Group I playoffs with the win against Morocco. SANDEEP SAXENA

old won his debut match against Walid Ahouda 6-1, 5-7, (10-6).

While the win is sure to

bring captain Rohit Rajpal a sense of relief, for a loss would have widened the gulf that already exists bet-

ween India and the tennis elites, the result took an ever-so-slight backseat.

It was 43-year-old Bo-

panna's 50th and last Davis Cup match, and there were heartwarming post-match scenes involving his fellow players, friends and family. There was a victory lap; Rajpal and Digvijay Pratap carried him on his shoulders and Bopanna even symbolically left his shirt on court to signal his final goodbye.

That there was a joyous backdrop to the send-off came courtesy Bhambri and Bopanna's tennis.

The duo wasn't really tested. Benchetrit's timing was off all afternoon while Laaroussi didn't hold serve even once.

### Stepping it up

Bopanna and Bhambri seldom hit the high notes together. Big-serving Bopanna, in fact, didn't have a

single ace to his name. But they stepped it up when it mattered by complementing each other's play.

"Yuki has been playing very well of late and when he makes those returns, I can put my big frame forward," Bopanna said after the match.

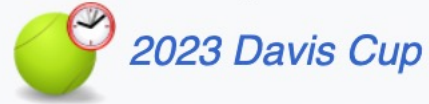
"When that happened, they (Moroccans) were trying to hit bigger and missed. That made the difference."

**The result:** India 4 bt Morocco 1  
**(On Sunday:** Rohan Bopanna & Yuki Bhambri bt Elliot Benchetrit & Younes Lalami Laaroussi 6-2, 6-1; Sumit Nagal bt Yassine Dlimi 6-3, 6-3; Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Walid Ahouda 6-1, 5-7, (10-6).

**On Saturday:** Sasikummar Mukund lost to Dlimi Yassine 7-6(4), 5-7, 1-4 (ret'd); Sumit Nagal bt Adam Moundir 6-3, 6-3.

# Davis Cup

Current season, competition or edition:



|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Sport</b>                   | <a href="#">Tennis</a>   |
| <b>Founded</b>                 | 1900; 123 years ago  |
| <b>Founder</b>                 | <a href="#">Dwight F. Davis</a>  |
| <b>No. of teams</b>            | 155 (2023)   |
| <b>Countries</b>               | <a href="#">ITF</a> member nations   |
| <b>Continent</b>               | <a href="#">Worldwide</a>  |
| <b>Most recent champion(s)</b> |  <a href="#">Canada</a><br>(1st title)        |
| <b>Most titles</b>             |  <a href="#">United States</a><br>(32 titles) |



| Level | Group(s)  |   |  |   |
|-------|---|---|--|---|
| 1     | <p align="center"><b>World Group</b></p> <p align="center"><i>18 countries</i></p>              |   |  |   |
| 2     | <p align="center"><b>Group One Americas Zone</b></p> <p align="center"><i>6 countries</i></p>   | <p align="center"><b>Group One Europe/Africa Zone</b></p> <p align="center"><i>11 countries</i></p> |  | <p align="center"><b>Group One Asia/Oceania Zone</b></p> <p align="center"><i>7 countries</i></p>   |
| 3     | <p align="center"><b>Group Two Americas Zone</b></p> <p align="center"><i>8 countries</i></p>   | <p align="center"><b>Group Two Europe/Africa Zone</b></p> <p align="center"><i>16 countries</i></p> |  | <p align="center"><b>Group Two Asia/Oceania Zone</b></p> <p align="center"><i>8 countries</i></p>   |
| 4     | <p align="center"><b>Group Three Americas Zone</b></p> <p align="center"><i>9 countries</i></p> | <p align="center"><b>Group Three Europe Zone</b></p> <p align="center"><i>15 countries</i></p>      | <p align="center"><b>Group Three Africa Zone</b></p> <p align="center"><i>10 countries</i></p> | <p align="center"><b>Group Three Asia/Oceania Zone</b></p> <p align="center"><i>9 countries</i></p> |
| 5     |   |   |  | <p align="center"><b>Group Four Asia/Oceania Zone</b></p> <p align="center"><i>11 countries</i></p> |

### CSAT

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## FIVE-DAY SESSION OF PARLIAMENT BEGINS TODAY

# Special session: Move to new Parliament building tomorrow, Govt lists eight Bills

### No call yet on EC Bill, says Govt; Opp pushes for women's quota

MANOJ G & LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

ON THE eve of the five-day special session of Parliament which begins on Monday, the government announced that House proceedings would move to the new Parliament building on Tuesday, and said eight bills have been listed for consideration and passage.

There was, however, no clarity on whether the government would take up the contentious Bill which seeks to change the method of appointments and conditions of service of the Chief



The new Parliament building on Sunday, a day before the special session begins. Vashi Nohngyal

Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners. The Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of

Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023, was among four Bills listed for the session by the Lok Sabha

Secretary on Wednesday, which said the two Houses would discuss the "Parliamentary (Salary of 75 years starting from Sanshodhan, Experiences, Achievements, Experiences, Memories and Learning". However, the EC Bill, which was introduced in Rajya Sabha on August 10, was missing from the list circulated by the government at the all-party meeting convened by the government on Sunday. With the Opposition parties objecting to the Bill, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi is in to have said at the meeting that the government was yet to decide on bringing it.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Joshi said: "On the first day, the session will be held in the old Parliament House. The next day, i.e. on September 19, there will be a break in the session."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Soldier who was on leave abducted from his Manipur home, killed



Was from Kom tribe, separate from Meiteis and Kukis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GUWAHATI, NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

A DAY after he was abducted from his home in Imphal while on leave, Sinto Thanglang Kom, an Indian Army soldier, was found shot dead by unidentified assailants about 14 kilometres away.

Kom, 41, who was with the Defence Service Corps (DSC), was attached with 302 Company, Army Service Corps (ASC), in Leimakhong, Manipur. He was reportedly abducted from his family's home in Tarung, in Imphal West's Happy Valley, at about 10 am on Saturday.

The soldier was from Manipur's Kom tribe, which is separate from both the Meiteis and Kuki-Zomi communities which are currently in conflict with each other in the state.

Kom's 10-year-old son was reportedly the only eyewitness to the abduction, and told police that three miscreants had entered their home while they were working on the phone. According to the boy's statement, his father was forced into a white-coloured vehicle at gunpoint, and driven away.

Kom's body was found on Sunday morning, at about 9:30 am, at Khunungtheke village, under the jurisdiction of Sagolmang Police Station in Imphal East.

His cousin, Pachung Kom, said the perpetrators may have been people known to the dead soldier, as they targeted him and abducted him from his home. "He had returned from Leimakhong just a few days back. They entered the residential gate and took him away at gunpoint, which seems like a personal attack," he said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Concerns over seats, Sanatan Dharma row in focus at CWC meet

MANOJ G & LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

THE TWO-DAY meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) in Hyderabad saw members, mostly from Delhi and Punjab, flagging concerns about the party's possible tie-up with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The leadership is keen to have them take a final call only after consultations with the state units.

The meeting also saw some leaders from the Hindi belt suggesting that the leaders were working on the possibility of Sanatan Dharma row, an issue the BJP has used to target the alliance. Senior leader Rahul Gandhi asked party leaders not to walk into "irrelevant traps of the BJP".

The concerns raised at the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## CONG ANNOUNCES 'SIX GUARANTEES' IN TLANGANA



Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge with Rahul Gandhi in Hyderabad, Sunday. An

GOVT & POLITICS

CONG ANNOUNCES 'SIX GUARANTEES' IN TLANGANA

PAGE 5

## EXPRESS NETWORK

SEARCH OPERATION FOR MILITANTS STILL ON IN J&K

FIRE DESTROYS BRITISH-ERA HOTEL IN MISSOURI

VENKATA KRISHNA B  
COLOMBO, SEPTEMBER 17

AFTER INDRA SHOT Sri Lanka down for just 50 runs in the Asia Cup final, wrecker-in-chief

for a 10-wicket win and the Asia Cup title.

There is a dreamy air running throughout Siraj's cricketing journey. The son of an auto-rickshaw driver from congested locale of old Hyderabad, battling odds to climb up the rungs, sweating hard to seize every opportunity that came his way, cementing himself as an indispensable member across formats for his

completed the chase in 61 overs

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Siraj demolishes Lanka with 6/21, India win Asia Cup: 'Like a dream'



Mohammed Siraj celebrates the wicket of Pathum Nissanka during the Asia Cup final at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Sunday. He bagged four wickets in the over. An

for a 10-wicket win and the Asia Cup title.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## IDEA EXCHANGE



Earlier, one did wear nimbu panai, chana... now... GPS trackers to check metabolism'

INDIAN JOURNALISMS

PAGE 12

## PM Narendra Modi takes the Delhi Metro to inaugurate the India International Convention and Expo Centre, 77



PM Narendra Modi takes the Delhi Metro to inaugurate the India International Convention and Expo Centre, 77

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## VISHWAKARMA SCHEME

INITIALLY, 18 trades will be covered — carpenters, boat makers, armourers, blacksmiths, locksmiths, goldsmiths, potters, sculptors and stone-setters, cobblers, masons, basket/mat/rosemakers' coil-barbers, goldsmiths, tailors, fishing net makers.

Beneficiaries to get collateral-free credit of up to Rs 3 lakh, to skill upgrade, including a 5-day workshop with a daily stipend of Rs 200.

Under the financial assistance component, beneficiaries will be eligible for an interest-free loan of Rs 1 lakh, which they would have to repay in 18 months. Upon repayment, they would be eligible for a second tranche of loan of Rs 2 lakh at an interest rate of 5 per cent.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNAY



## PAGE 1 ANCHOR

AIISWARYA RAJ  
SEPTEMBER 17

IN THE quiet lanes of Haryana's Surethi village, everyone knows Anjali Deswal and Vandana Singh. The two young women from the Jat community lived two lanes apart in the village and met similar tragic fates, in a gap of six months. One was killed for marrying a man outside her caste, and the other met her end for being in a relationship with a man from a nearby village.

Exactly a month ago, on

## Santiniketan on UNESCO's World Heritage List

DIVYAA & SANTANU CHOWDHURY  
NEW DELHI, KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 17

RABINDRANATH TAGORE'S Santiniketan, the university town in West Bengal's Birbhum district, has been inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List. This was announced by the international agency on Saturday in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee is being



Santiniketan, the university town in West Bengal. Express file

held till September 25. Santiniketan becomes the



41st UNESCO World Heritage Site in India and the third in West Bengal.

41st UNESCO World Heritage Site in India and the third in West Bengal.

## In 2 deaths, 6 yrs apart, in Jhajjar village, similar stories about love & caste

August 17, Anjali, 22, was killed allegedly by her parents and brother Kunal, 20, for marrying a man who belonged to a different caste from the same village, nearly six years before Anjali's murder. Vandana, 20, was strangled by her uncle and aunt after being in a relationship with a man from a nearby village, according to the FIR.

Vandana's mother Moni Devi, 45, was arrested for her murder. She was acquitted on September 26, 2019, after her older sister Tamanna, 27, turned hostile in court.

Dev, Vedpal, a retired army man who later worked with Delhi Police, and Jawant were acquitted after Tamanna claimed that her statement was



Surethi village in Haryana's Jhajjar. Aiswarya Raj

given "under police pressure". At Vandana's house, Dev, 54, said, "Vandana died after consuming a toxic substance. She was found dead on the road and taken home. We were from the village. Currently pursuing a teaching course, Tamanna said, "Her death was difficult on all of us. After our parents were arrested, my brother and I moved to our uncle's house. Vandana should not have been in a relationship against our parents' wishes."

Dev, Vedpal, a retired army man who later worked with Delhi Police, and Jawant were acquitted after Tamanna claimed that her statement was

not interact with men, especially from their own village or from those nearby. This is not a city. Marriages or relationships within the village or with people from nearby villages are frowned upon by the people of Surethi village. The belief is that they are from the same 'gotra' or clan. Stating that "gotra" should not be broken and its responsibility to family and society", Surethi sarpanch not have been in a relationship against our parents' wishes."

Dev, Vedpal, a retired army man who later worked with Delhi Police, and Jawant were acquitted after Tamanna claimed that her statement was

In Dhakka village, everyone has seemingly forgotten the name of Vandana's partner. The killings are very frequent in Haryana. The woman's name gets dragged to court, said Reha, an ASHA worker in the village.

Just a stone's throw away from Vandana's house, Anjali's aunt Daga told The Indian Express at their house. "Anjali left in Bahawalpur to get married. It is a dangerous trend — girls marrying boys from the same gotra. It's like outside the caste is one thing, but to marry someone from the same village is deest violence. While I am against violence, there are norms in a village."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



# New Parliament's gates, and their guardians

**DIVYAA**

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

DAYS AHEAD of the new Parliament building holding its first session, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar Sunday hoisted the national flag at the 'Gaja Dwar' of the complex.

## Gaja Dwar

The new Parliament has six entrances. According to a government note on the Parliament art project, the sculpture of an elephant, or *Gaja*, has been installed to guard the entrance to the north, since the animal represents intellect and memory, wealth and wisdom, and thereby embodies the aspirations of the elected representatives of a democracy.

According to *vastu shastra*, the north direction is associated with the planet Mercury, the source of higher intellect. The Lord

of the direction is Kubera, the god of wealth. Therefore, the *Gaja* is placed to the north.

## Guardians of the other doors

Red sandstone sculptures of auspicious animals have been installed as 'guardian statues' on all the six entrances of the new Parliament building, based on their importance in Indian culture, aesthetic appearance, positive qualities, and the study of *vaastu*, said officials.

**ASVA:** *Asva* or the horse, standing alert and ready at the southern entrance, is symbolic of endurance and strength, power, and speed, also describing the quality of governance.

**GARUDA:** The eagle-like *Garuda* stands at the eastern ceremonial entrance, signifying the aspirations of the people and the administrators of the country. In *vastu shastra*, officials said, the eastern direction is associ-



Dhankhar with Om Birla at the flag hoisting ceremony at the new Parliament building Sunday. PTI

ated with the rising sun representing hope, the glory of victory, and success.

**MAKARA:** A mythological aquatic creature, the *Makara* combines the bodily parts of different animals, representing unity in di-

versity among the people of the country.

**SHARDULA:** Another mythological creature, *Shardula* is said to be the most powerful, foremost of all living beings, symbolising the power of the people of the country.

**HAMSA:** The most important quality of the people of a democracy is the power of discernment and self-realisation born of wisdom. Reminding the people of this essential feature is the *Hamsa*, or swan, at the public entrance to the north east.

## Ceremonial entrances

Out of these six entrances, three are designed as ceremonial entrances, to welcome special guests and to mark special events. These ceremonial entrances display Indian art, culture, ethos, and patriotism. They have been named as *Gyan*, *Shakti* and *Karma*, representing the Indian knowledge system, patriotism and artistic traditions, respectively.







# NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING

WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE



## A four-storey structure

Total area: **64,500 sq m**

Seating capacity: **1,224 MPs**

Cost: **Rs 970cr**

Estimated completion: **2022**

Part of **Central Vista redevelopment project**

**Tata Projects limited** has won the bid for its construction

## ADDITIONS

- A grand Constitution Hall to showcase India's democratic heritage
- Lounge for MPs
- Library
- Multiple committee rooms
- Dining areas
- Ample parking space

Unlike the present Parliament, the new building will not have a Central Hall



The Parliament House has 3 entrances, named Gyan Dwar (knowledge gate), Shakti Dwar (power gate), and Karma Dwar (karma gate).

There are six guardian statues that man the three entrances, namely, Gaja, Ashwa, Garuda, Makar, Shardula, and Hams



|  |  |
|--|--|
| Total cost                                   | ₹925 crore plus  |
| Construction completed, dedicated to nation  | May 28, 2023   |
| Total entry gates                            | 06   |
| Name of entry gates                          | Makar & Hans (dedicated to water), Shardul & Garuda (dedicated to sky) and A |
| Wood   | Shagaun from Maharashtra   |
| Carpet in both chambers                      | Bhadohi (Uttar Pradesh)  |
| Stonework                                    | Rajasthan  |
| Floorwork                                    | Bamboo wood from Tripura   |
| Marble                                       | Gujarat  |
| Design of Lok Sabha Chamber based upon       | National bird peacock  |
| Design of Lok Rajya Sabha chamber based upon | National flower lotus  |
| In the centre of the building                | National tree the Banyan (Ficus bengalensis)                                 |
| Length of corridor                           | 3.5 km   |

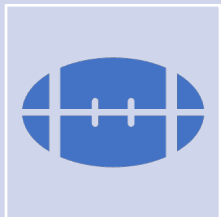


The background is a vibrant blue surface with a repeating pattern of tennis rackets and tennis balls. The rackets are yellow with blue frames and black handles, scattered across the scene. Interspersed among the rackets are numerous bright yellow-green tennis balls. The overall composition is dynamic and sport-themed.

# Hangzhou 2022 Asian Games



In a year that witnessed India's national football team achieving remarkable success in the SAFF Cup 2023, the sport finds itself caught in a contentious club versus country-debate.



The dispute between Indian Super League (ISL) clubs and the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has escalated regarding player availability, and a cloud of uncertainty looms over the composition of the upcoming Asian Games squad.



ऐसे साल में जब भारत की राष्ट्रीय फुटबॉल टीम ने SAFF कप 2023 में उल्लेखनीय सफलता हासिल की, यह खेल खुद को एक विवादास्पद क्लब बनाम देश-बहस में फंसा हुआ पाता है।

इंडियन सुपर लीग (आईएसएल) क्लबों और अखिल भारतीय फुटबॉल महासंघ (एआईएफएफ) के बीच खिलाड़ियों की उपलब्धता को लेकर विवाद बढ़ गया है और आगामी एशियाई खेलों की टीम की संरचना पर अनिश्चितता के बादल मंडरा रहे हैं।




The 19th Asian Games will take place in Hangzhou, China, from 23rd September 2023 to 8th October 2023, which was originally scheduled to be held in 2022 and was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

**2023**

**2022**

19वें एशियाई खेल 23 सितंबर 2023 से 8 अक्टूबर 2023 तक हांगझू, चीन में होंगे, जो मूल रूप से 2022 में आयोजित होने वाले थे और कोविड-19 महामारी के कारण स्थगित कर दिए गए थे।

- 
- The Asian Games is the biggest sports competition in Asia, held once every four years.
  - They are organized by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). The symbol for the Asian Games is the rising sun with interlocking rings.
  - It is recognised by the International Olympic Committee.
- 
- एशियाई खेल एशिया की सबसे बड़ी खेल प्रतियोगिता है, जो हर चार साल में एक बार आयोजित की जाती है।
  - इनका आयोजन एशिया ओलंपिक परिषद (ओसीए) द्वारा किया जाता है। एशियाई खेलों का प्रतीक उगते हुए छल्लों वाला सूर्य है।
  - इसे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ओलंपिक समिति द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त है।
- 





## 19th Asian Games Hangzhou, China:



A total of **40 sports and 61 disciplines** will take center stage across 54 competition venues in **Hangzhou and five co-host cities**.



Competitions in **archery, artistic swimming, boxing, breaking, hockey, modern pentathlon, sailing, tennis, and water polo** will also serve as Olympic qualifiers, with **Paris 2024** quota spots available in those nine sports.



The mascots of the 19<sup>th</sup> Asian Games are a group of robots named: **Chenchen, Congcong, Lianlaian**.

- 19वें एशियाई खेल हांगजो, चीन:
- हांगजो और पांच सह-मेजबान शहरों में 54 प्रतियोगिता स्थलों पर कुल 40 खेल और 61 विधाएं केंद्र स्तर पर होंगी।
- तीरंदाजी, कलात्मक तैराकी, मुक्केबाजी, ब्रेकिंग, हॉकी, आधुनिक पेंटाथलॉन, नौकायन, टेनिस और वाटर पोलो की प्रतियोगिताएं भी ओलंपिक क्वालीफायर के रूप में काम करेंगी, उन नौ खेलों में पेरिस 2024 कोटा स्थान उपलब्ध होंगे।
- 19वें एशियाई खेलों के शुभंकर रोबोटों का एक समूह है जिनके नाम हैं: चैनचेन, कांगकांग, लियानलायन।

The torch of the 19th Asian Games is named "**Eternal Flame**". The design was inspired by the Liangzhu Culture of ancient Chinese Civilisation

**Esports and Breaking (Breakdance)** are scheduled to make their inaugural appearances as recognized and official sporting events.

19वें एशियाई खेलों की मशाल को "अनन्त ज्वाला" नाम दिया गया है। यह डिज़ाइन प्राचीन चीनी सभ्यता की लियांगज़ू संस्कृति से प्रेरित था

ईसपोर्ट्स और ब्रेकिंग (ब्रेकडांस) को मान्यता प्राप्त और आधिकारिक खेल आयोजनों के रूप में अपनी उद्घाटन उपस्थिति देने के लिए निर्धारित किया गया है।






- **Consider the following statements in respect of the 32nd Summer Olympics: (2021)**

1. The official motto for this Olympics is 'A New World'.

2. Sport Climbing, Surfing, Skateboarding, Karate and Baseball are included in this Olympics.


- **Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- 


+ President of India Inaugurates +  
• NeVA •  
○

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Recently, the President of India inaugurated the 'National e-Vidhan Application' (NeVA) and addressed the Gujarat Legislative Assembly in Gandhinagar.



The President highlighted the significance of the E-Assembly, which transforms the legislative house into a digital entity, promoting speed and transparency.



हाल ही में, भारत के राष्ट्रपति ने 'राष्ट्रीय ई-विधान एप्लिकेशन' (NeVA) का उद्घाटन किया और गांधीनगर में गुजरात विधान सभा को संबोधित किया।



राष्ट्रपति ने ई-असंबली के महत्व पर प्रकाश डाला, जो विधायी सदन को एक डिजिटल इकाई में बदल देता है, जिससे गति और पारदर्शिता को बढ़ावा मिलता है।





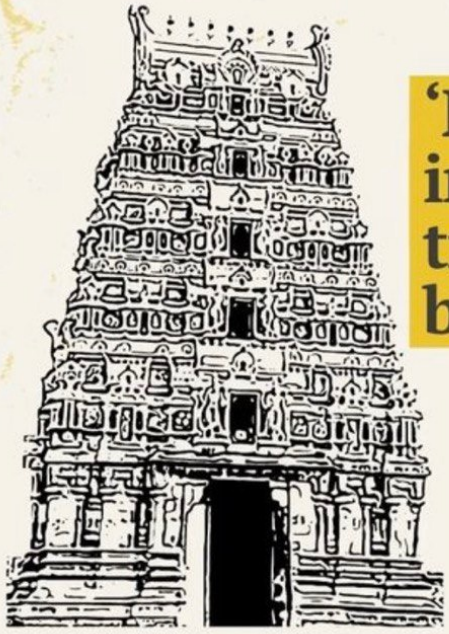
NeVA is one of the 44 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) under the “Digital India Programme” which aims to make the functioning of all the State Legislatures paperless by transforming them into ‘Digital House’

NeVA "डिजिटल इंडिया प्रोग्राम" के तहत 44 मिशन मोड प्रोजेक्ट्स (एमएमपी) में से एक है, जिसका उद्देश्य सभी राज्य विधानमंडलों को 'डिजिटल हाउस' में बदलकर उनके कामकाज को कागज रहित बनाना है।

+  
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# Tamil Nadu: Women Temple Priest





## 'New era of inclusivity': TN trains 3 women to be temple priests



Under the state's scheme allowing people of all castes to become priests, a total of 94 people have been trained, including 3 women. This breaks a historical precedent that barred women from becoming priests in many temples.





**Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thittam** is a women's rights grant scheme just rolled out in Tamil Nadu aimed at providing financial support to eligible women recognized as heads of families.

Under this scheme, **eligible women are entitled to receive a monthly rights grant or basic income of ₹1,000 each**. This amounts to an annual grant of **₹12,000 per beneficiary**. T

कलैग्नार मगलिर उरीमाई थित्तम एक महिला अधिकार अनुदान योजना है जिसे हाल ही में तमिलनाडु में शुरू किया गया है जिसका उद्देश्य परिवारों के मुखिया के रूप में मान्यता प्राप्त पात्र महिलाओं को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करना है।

इस योजना के तहत, पात्र महिलाएं प्रत्येक को ₹1,000 की मासिक अधिकार अनुदान या मूल आय प्राप्त करने की हकदार हैं। यह प्रति लाभार्थी ₹12,000 का वार्षिक अनुदान है। टी

- **Beneficiary families should meet the following economic criteria:**
- Annual income below ₹2.5 lakh.
- Ownership of less than five acres of wetland or less than ten acres of dryland.
- Consumption of less than 3,600 units of electricity per year for domestic use.
- 
- लाभार्थी परिवारों को निम्नलिखित आर्थिक मानदंडों को पूरा करना चाहिए:
- वार्षिक आय ₹2.5 लाख से कम।
- पांच एकड़ से कम आर्द्रभूमि या दस एकड़ से कम शुष्कभूमि का स्वामित्व।
- घरेलू उपयोग के लिए प्रति वर्ष 3,600 यूनिट से कम बिजली की खपत।

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# OIML (International Organization of Legal Metrology)

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India has achieved the distinction of becoming the 13th country in the world authorized to issue Internationally Accepted OIML (International Organization of Legal Metrology) Certificates.



This accomplishment allows domestic manufacturers in India to have their weighing and measuring instruments tested within the country and then sell them in the international market.



यह उपलब्धि भारत में घरेलू निर्माताओं को अपने वजन और माप उपकरणों का देश के भीतर परीक्षण करने और फिर उन्हें अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में बेचने की अनुमति देती है।



भारत ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर स्वीकृत ओआईएमएल (इंटरनेशनल ऑर्गनाइजेशन ऑफ लीगल मेट्रोलॉजी) प्रमाणपत्र जारी करने के लिए अधिकृत दुनिया का 13वां देश बनने का गौरव हासिल किया है।

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The OIML is an intergovernmental organization established in 1955, with India becoming a member in 1956. It has 63 Member States and 64 Corresponding Members.

**1955**

**1956**

ओआईएमएल 1955 में स्थापित एक अंतरसरकारी संगठन है, जिसका भारत 1956 में सदस्य बना। इसमें 63 सदस्य देश और 64 संबंधित सदस्य हैं।

India now joins an exclusive group of nations, including **Australia, Switzerland, China, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, France, United Kingdom, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, and Slovakia**, as the 13th country worldwide authorized to issue OIML approval certificates.



भारत अब ऑस्ट्रेलिया, स्विट्जरलैंड, चीन, चेक गणराज्य, जर्मनी, डेनमार्क, फ्रांस, यूनाइटेड किंगडम, जापान, नीदरलैंड, स्वीडन और स्लोवाकिया सहित देशों के एक विशेष समूह में शामिल हो गया है, जो ओआईएमएल अनुमोदन प्रमाणपत्र जारी करने के लिए अधिकृत दुनिया भर में 13वां देश है।



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# Critical Raw Materials Act

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- The **European Parliament** has approved the **Critical Raw Materials Act**.
- The legislation aims to **reduce the European Union's (EU) reliance on China for critical minerals**, essential for green technologies like solar panels, windmills, and electric car batteries.

- यूरोपीय संसद ने क्रिटिकल रॉ मटेरियल एक्ट को मंजूरी दे दी है।
- इस कानून का उद्देश्य सौर पैनलों, पवन चक्कियों और इलेक्ट्रिक कार बैटरी जैसी हरित प्रौद्योगिकियों के लिए आवश्यक महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों के लिए चीन पर यूरोपीय संघ (ईयू) की निर्भरता को कम करना है।

- 
- **The EU currently depends on China for 99% of rare earth metals. The regulation sets the framework for ensuring a secure and sustainable supply of these raw materials, diversifying imports, and increasing processing capacity along the value chain**

- 
- युरोपीय संघ वर्तमान में 99% दुर्लभ पृथ्वी धातुओं के लिए चीन पर निर्भर है। विनियमन इन कच्चे माल की सुरक्षित और टिकाऊ आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करने, आयात में विविधता लाने और मूल्य श्रृंखला के साथ प्रसंस्करण क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए रूपरेखा निर्धारित करता है।

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Critical raw materials are **natural resources** that are of **strategic importance to a country or region** due to their **economic, industrial, and geopolitical significance**.

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These materials are **essential for various industries**, including technology, manufacturing, energy, and defence, and their availability can impact **a nation's economic security and competitiveness**.

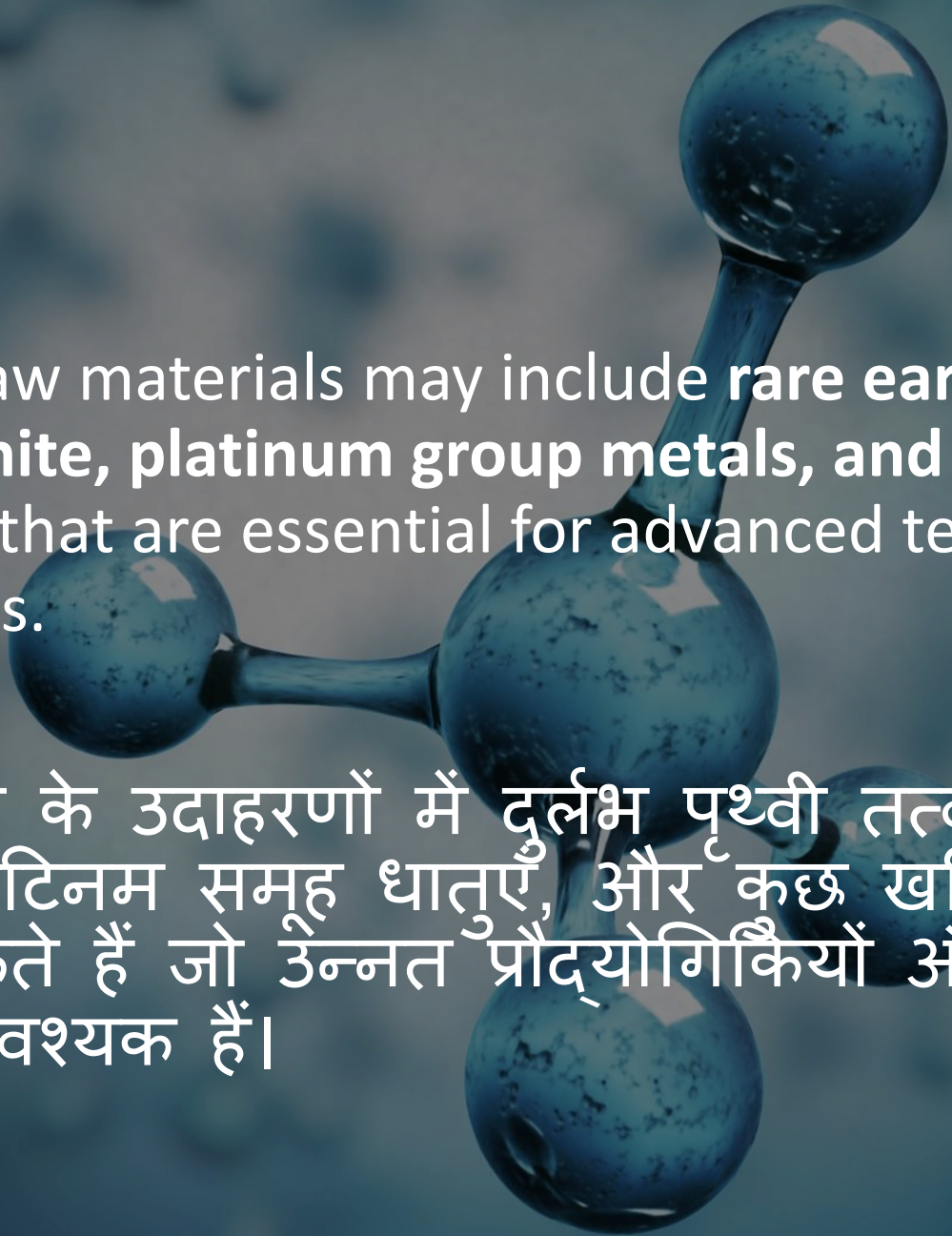
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महत्वपूर्ण कच्चे माल प्राकृतिक संसाधन हैं जो अपने आर्थिक, औद्योगिक और भू-राजनीतिक महत्व के कारण किसी देश या क्षेत्र के लिए रणनीतिक महत्व के हैं।

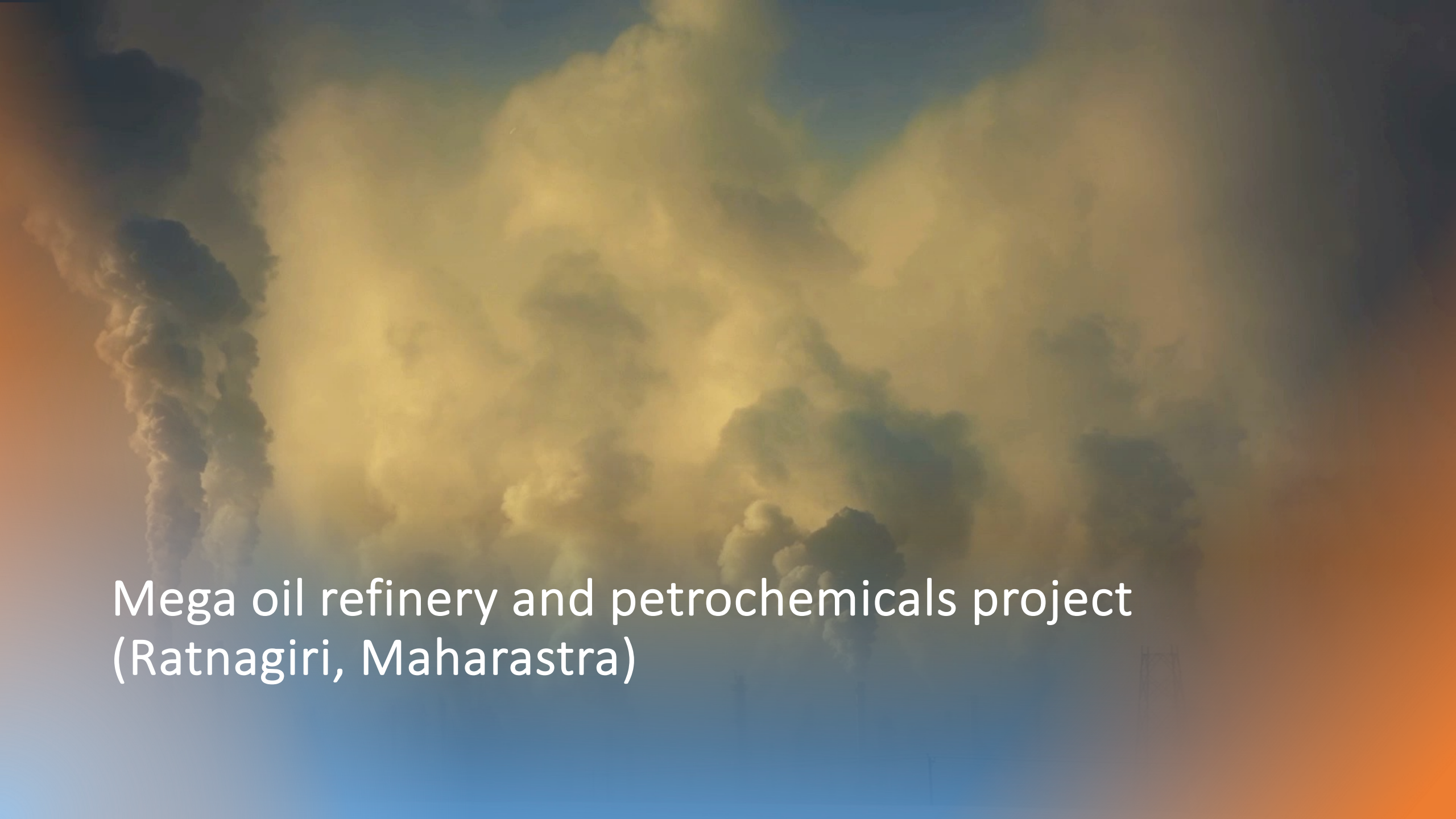
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ये सामग्रियां प्रौद्योगिकी, विनिर्माण, ऊर्जा और रक्षा सहित विभिन्न उद्योगों के लिए आवश्यक हैं, और उनकी उपलब्धता देश की आर्थिक सुरक्षा और प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता को प्रभावित कर सकती है।



- 
- Examples of critical raw materials may include **rare earth elements, lithium, cobalt, graphite, platinum group metals, and certain minerals and metals** that are essential for advanced technologies and clean energy solutions.

- 'महत्वपूर्ण कच्चे माल के उदाहरणों में दुर्लभ पृथ्वी तत्व, लिथियम, कोबाल्ट, ग्रेफाइट, प्लैटिनम समूह धातुएँ, और कुछ खनिज और धातुएं शामिल हो सकते हैं जो उन्नत प्रौद्योगिकियों और स्वच्छ ऊर्जा समाधानों के लिए आवश्यक हैं।

A large, billowing plume of white smoke or steam rises from the left side of the frame, extending towards the center. The background is a gradient of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The smoke is thick and textured, with some darker areas near the base. The overall scene is industrial and atmospheric.

Mega oil refinery and petrochemicals project  
(Ratnagiri, Maharashtra)



- 
- The project was initially **proposed in 2015 as a joint effort by India's public sector refiners**, including Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL), in partnership with Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Aramco) and later joined by Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).
  - The refinery project in **Maharashtra's Konkan belt (Ratnagiri district)** has faced challenges and delays but remains significant for India's long-term energy strategy.



- यह परियोजना शुरू में 2015 में सऊदी अरब ऑयल कंपनी (अरामको) के साथ साझेदारी में इंडियन ऑयल कॉरपोरेशन (आईओसी), भारत पेट्रोलियम कॉरपोरेशन (बीपीसीएल) और हिंदुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कॉरपोरेशन (एचपीसीएल) सहित भारत के सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के रिफाइनरों के संयुक्त प्रयास के रूप में प्रस्तावित की गई थी। और बाद में अबू धाबी नेशनल ऑयल कंपनी (एडीएनओसी) से जुड़ गई।
- महाराष्ट्र के कोंकण बेल्ट (रत्नागिरी जिला) में रिफाइनरी परियोजना को चुनौतियों और देरी का सामना करना पड़ा है, लेकिन भारत की दीर्घकालिक ऊर्जा रणनीति के लिए यह महत्वपूर्ण बनी हुई है।



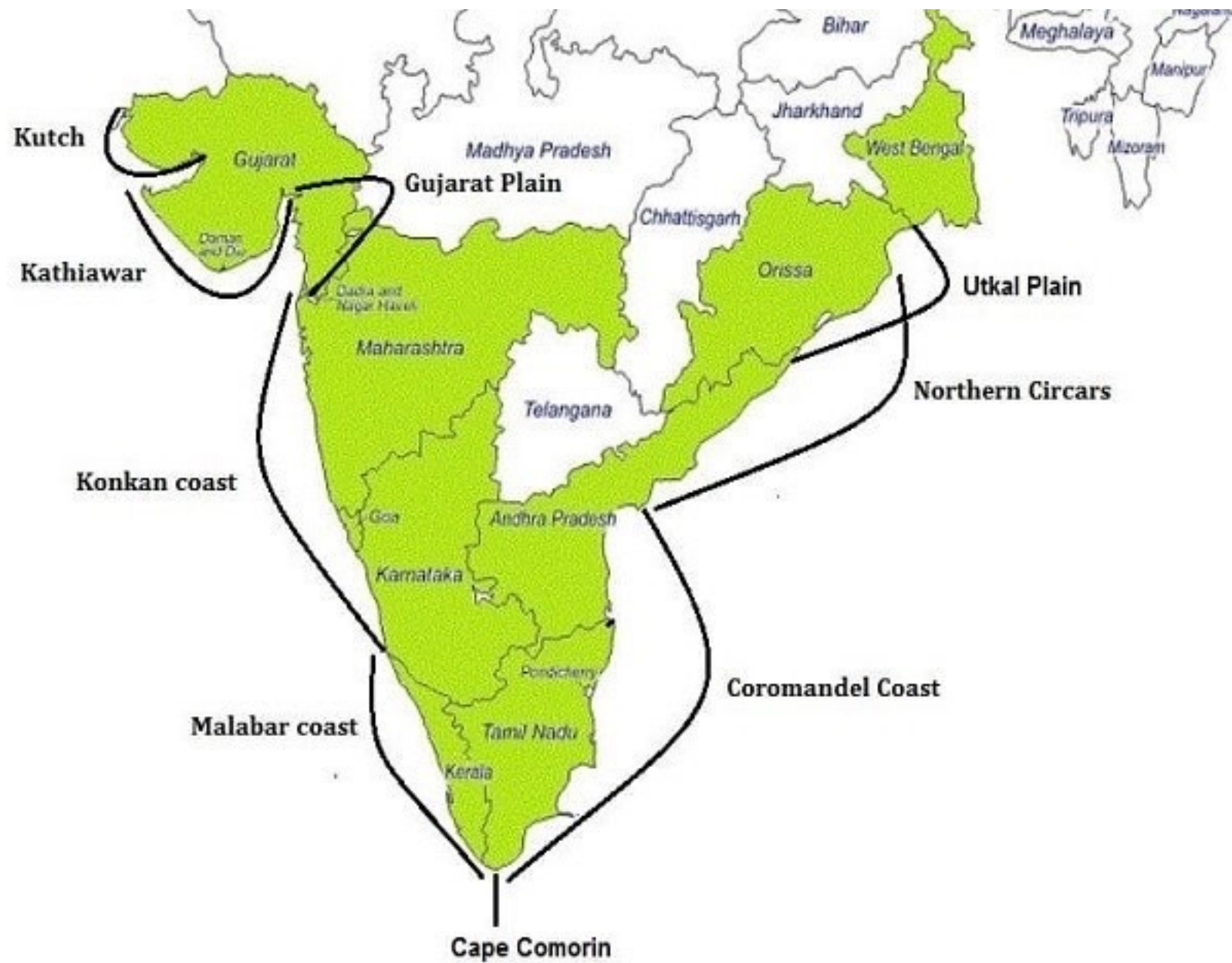
- **About the Konkan belt:**

- It is a coastal plain in western India that extends along the western coasts of **Maharashtra, Goa, and Karnataka**. The Konkan is a narrow lowland that's only **about 50 km wide**. It's bounded by the Western Ghats mountain range to the east, the Arabian Sea to the west, the **Daman Ganga River** to the north, and the **River Aghanashini** to the south.

- **कोंकण बेल्ट के बारे में:**

- यह पश्चिमी भारत का एक तटीय मैदान है जो महाराष्ट्र, गोवा और कर्नाटक के पश्चिमी तटों तक फैला हुआ है। कोंकण एक संकीर्ण तराई क्षेत्र है जो केवल 50 किमी चौड़ा है। यह पूर्व में पश्चिमी घाट पर्वत श्रृंखला, पश्चिम में अरब सागर, उत्तर में दमन गंगा नदी और दक्षिण में अघनाशिनी नदी से घिरा है।







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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, with some wearing suits. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. The overall mood is celebratory and professional.

Thank you  
guys.

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