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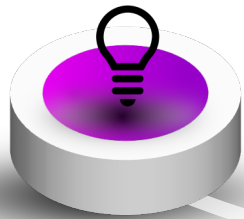
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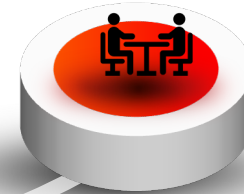
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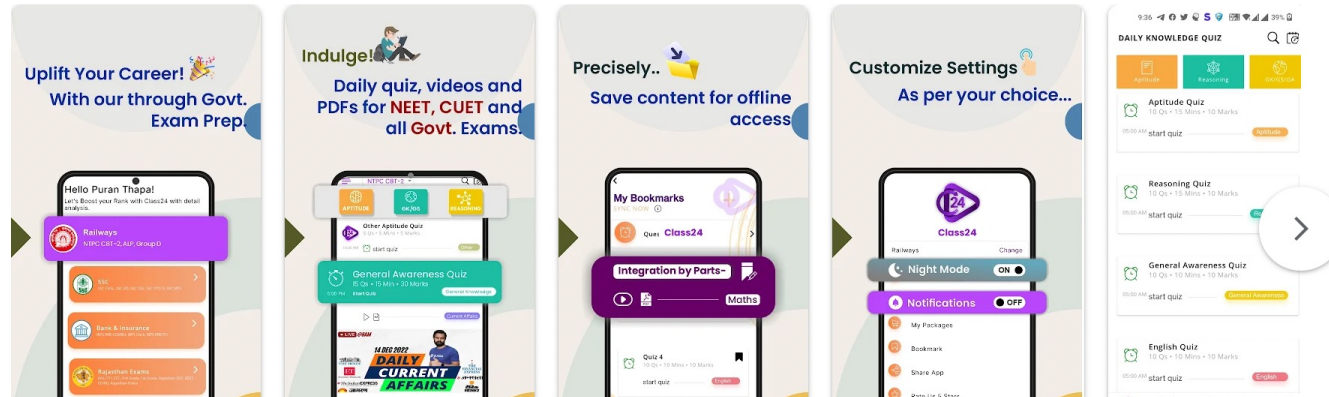
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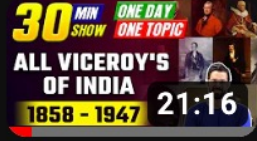

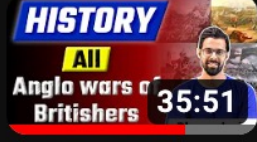



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**“You’re braver than
you believe, stronger
than you seem,
and smarter than
you think.”**

A.A. MILNE, AUTHOR & POET



SURROGACY ACT
SC rules in favour of using donor gametes
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Israeli troops launch ground raid into Gaza
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Sri Lanka crushes England, stays alive
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IN BRIEF



Complaint against Mahua: sparks fly at LS panel meet

NEW DELHI
The Ethics Committee of the Lok Sabha has summoned TMC MP Mahua Mohra on October 31 to defend herself against cash-for-query charges. On Thursday, Opposition MPs initially refused to allow BJP member Nishant Dubey, the complainant, to depose before the committee. » Page 14

Farm fires down, but Delhi air likely to worsen further

NEW DELHI
The Punjab government on Thursday said the number of farm fires in the State has dipped, but it is unlikely to be a breather for the national capital as its air quality is likely to slip into the "very poor" zone by Saturday. » Page 2

Eight former Navy officers get death penalty in Qatar

India says it is 'deeply shocked', exploring legal options; adds it will take up the matter with Qatari authorities; the Indian nationals employed in Doha were accused of breaching sensitive secrets

Subhasini Halder
Kallol Bhattacharjee

Eight former Indian Navy personnel, who had been employed by a company in Doha, were handed the death penalty by a local court in Doha on Thursday in an alleged case of espionage. The Indian government expressed shock at the verdict, and said all legal options were being explored.

The eight men — Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Saurabh Vashisht, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta, Commander Amit Nagpal and Sailor Ragesh — were in the custody of Qa-

On death row

The events that led to the Qatari court's verdict on Thursday

- August 30, 2022: Eight former Indian Navy personnel arrested by Qatari authorities, believed to be on charges of espionage
- March 2023: Trial begins in the case
- October 11: Indian Ambassador to Qatar meets the eight men in prison
- October 26: Qatari court pronounces death sentence to all of them

- What are India's options now?
 - Pursue legal appeals in the case
 - Resister case diplomatically
 - Political intercession at the Prime Minister's level to request a pardon
 - Build an international campaign to appeal for clemency

tari authorities since August 2022. The Court of First Instance of Qatar passed the judgment against them, according to a statement by India's Mi-

nistry of External Affairs. "We are deeply shocked by the verdict of death penalty and are awaiting the detailed judgment. We are in touch with the family

members and the legal team, and we are exploring all legal options. We attach high importance to this case, and have been following it closely. We will continue to extend all consular and legal assistance," the MEA statement said, adding that India would take up the matter with the Qatari authorities.

Breaching secrets
The Indian nationals were employed by Dabra Global Technologies and Consultant Services in Doha, and were allegedly accused of breaching sensitive secrets. They were reportedly involved in training various security-related service providers of the State of Qatar.

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ED searches against Rajasthan Congress leaders kick up row



Congress supporters stage a protest against the ED searches on the premises of party leaders, in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

The Enforcement Directorate's (ED) searches on the premises of two Rajasthan Congress leaders as part of a money laundering probe, and a summons issued to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot's son Vaibhav Gehlot, led to a political shufflet in the poll-bound State on Thursday. Mr. Gehlot accused the Union government of using the ED like "swarms of locusts".

The ED conducted searches at State Congress

president Govind Singh Dotasra's residences in Jaipur and Sikar, and MLA Om Prakash Hudia's hotel in Mahuwa of Dausa district, where he has been held as the party candidate for the upcoming poll. The raids were part of the ED's investigation into the case of question paper leak in the senior teacher grade II competitive examination of 2022.

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MORE REPORTS
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Hatred seeping into events like Ramlila, says Danish Ali

Satyika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

BSP MP Karwar Danish Ali on Thursday said the lack of action by the Prime Minister against BJP leader Ramesh Bidhuri for his derogatory remarks in Parliament against him has resulted in hatred trickling down to an event like a Ramlila, which otherwise reflects cultural diversity.

He said this referring to an alleged hate speech by former Delhi BJP councillor for Vinod Tandelkar, who was caught on tape praising the BJP MP's remarks against the BSP MP during the staging of a Ramlila in Delhi's Tughlaqabad.

Earlier, Mr. Ali had written to the Prime Minister seeking suitable punishment for the BJP MP. He for Vinod Tandelkar he is waiting for Delhi Police action over the Ramlila speech. "They are sleeping when such hatred is being spread at an event like a Ramlila."

Securing the seas



Deepening ties: A helicopter prepares to land during the first joint naval exercise by India and the European Union in the Gulf of Guinea this week. Indian Navy's INS Sumedha, an offshore patrol vessel, was joined by ships from three EU member states: FS Foscori (Italy), FS Ventose (France), and Tornado (Spain). ANI

For outreach events, civil servants will be called nodal officers, not Rath Prabharis, clarifies Centre

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Following a controversy over the deployment of civil servants as Rath Prabharis during the upcoming Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra across the country, the Union government on Thursday clarified that the use of such a term was not proper and that the officials would instead be addressed as nodal officers.

The Congress had raised objections, asking how officials could be ordered to do such a pre-poll "political propaganda" for the government. Through an October 17 letter, all the departments were earlier told that Joint Secretaries, Directors, and Deputy Secretaries would be de-

played as Rath Prabharis to coordinate for the preparations, planning, execution and monitoring of the programme.

Launch on November 15
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the yatra on November 15, on the occasion of Birsu Munda Jayanti. Janasiksha Divas by flagging off Information, Education and Communication (IEC) vans at Khunti in Jharkhand. The vans will be visiting the tribal districts initially and the remaining districts from November 22 to January 25.

On Thursday, Information and Broadcasting Secretary Apurva Chandra said the programme would not be launched in the poll-

bound States till the Election Commission's Model Code of Conduct was in place. He said the programme's objective was a nationwide outreach and awareness campaign to ensure that every eligible person was covered under 20 Central schemes.

Around 2.6 lakh gram panchayats (rural) and over 3,700 urban local bodies encompassing around 14,000 locations (urban) would be covered during the campaign, other than the election-bound States. "People would be apprised of the Central schemes covering benefits such as sanitation facilities, essential financial services, electricity connections, access to LPG cylinders, and housing for the poor."

CPI(M), Cong. oppose NCERT proposal to supplant 'India' with 'Bharat' in school textbooks

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The ruling CPI(M) has said Kerala will reject the National Council of Educational Research and Training's (NCERT) proposal to supplant 'India' with 'Bharat' in school textbooks. CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan told reporters in New Delhi that schools following the State syllabus would resist the NCERT's move to inject the "science, fact and history-denying Sangh Parivar rendition of India's past into younger generations".

Kerala school textbooks will cite the country's name as India as articulated in Article 1 of the Constitution. They will dwell on subjects dropped by the Sangh Parivar-led Central government, including Darwin's theory of evolution, the Mughal empire, and the life, times and assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, he said.

On the same page

The Congress also found itself on the same side of the India-Bharat debate in the State. Congress Working Committee member K.C. Vinayagopal objected to replacing 'India' with 'Bharat' in school textbooks. "For the Congress, both names carry equal weight. But one should not be at the cost of the other. The BJP is attempting to distort India's history to suit its political ends," he said.

The BJP in the State has, however, encouraged the use of 'Bharat' because it is an emphatic rejection of the country's colonial past. Governor Arif Mohammed Khan also supported the proposal.

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Eight former Navy officers get death penalty in Qatar

India says it is 'deeply shocked', exploring legal options; adds it will take up the matter with Qatari authorities; the Indian nationals employed in Doha were accused of breaching sensitive secrets

Suhasini Haidar
Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Eight former Indian Navy personnel, who had been employed by a company in Doha, were handed the death penalty by a local court in Doha on Thursday in an alleged case of espionage. The Indian government expressed shock at the verdict, and said all legal options were being explored.

The eight men – Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Saurabh Vashisht, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta, Commander Amit Nagpal and Sailor Ragesh – have been in the custody of Qa-

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March 2023: Trial begins in the case

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"We are deeply shocked by the verdict of death penalty and are awaiting the detailed judgment. We are in touch with the family

members and the legal team, and we are exploring all legal options. We attach high importance to this case, and have been following it closely. We will continue to extend all consular and legal assistance," the MEA statement said, adding that India would take up the matter with the Qatari authorities.

Breaching secrets

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The company was also involved in producing high-tech Italian-origin submarines that are known for stealth capabilities.

The first trial in the case was held in March this year, followed by another in June. The men were granted consular access on multiple occasions and the Indian ambassador to Qatar met them as recently as October 1. Both sides, however, have maintained a veil of secrecy over the case in view of the sensitivities involved.

High-stakes relationship

Former Indian ambassador to Qatar Deepa Gopalan highlighted the important role that a large number of Indian migrants play in fostering India-Qatar relations. “This verdict could very adversely affect relations between the two countries. There are over seven lakh Indians in Qatar and we have close economic ties. The Indian government has been following the case closely without doubt, but would need to take it up at the highest level to ensure their lives are saved,” she said.

The verdict is the first major crisis to hit the India-Qatar relationship, which has generally remained steady so far. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Doha in 2016, followed by his meeting with the Emir of Qatar on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York in 2019. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar also visited Qatar in February 2022. According to the MEA, Qatar is the largest supplier of LNG to India, which accounts for over 48% of India’s global LNG imports. India also imports ethylene, propylene, ammonia, urea, and polyethylene from Qatar.

The verdict drew strong reactions from opposition political parties as the Congress urged the government to use its diplomatic leverage with Qatar to get the officers released at the earliest.

+ ***Securing the seas***



Deepening ties: A helicopter prepares to land during the first joint naval exercise by India and the European Union in the Gulf of Guinea this week. Indian Navy's *INS Sumedha*, an offshore patrol vessel, was joined by ships from three EU member states: *ITS Foscari* (Italy), *FS Ventose* (France), and *Tornado* (Spain). ANI



IN BRIEF

Mehbooba re-elected PDP president for fourth time

Mehbooba Mufti, former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister, was re-elected president of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) at the party elections in Srinagar on Thursday. Ms. Mufti, 64, was elected through a voice vote in which senior party leaders participated at the party headquarters at Lal Chowk in Srinagar. She will serve the party as its president for a three-year term. Party official said Ms. Mufti's name was proposed by party vice-president Abdul Rehman Veer. It is for the fourth time Ms. Mufti has been re-elected president. "She embodies resilience, a powerful voice, and the epitome of struggle and determination," Firdous Tak said.

BJP celebrates 'Accession Day' in Jammu & Kashmir

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday celebrated October 26 as 'Accession Day' to commemorate the arrival of the Army in Jammu & Kashmir on this day in 1947, followed by the signing of the Instrument of Accession by then Dogra monarch Maharaja Hari Singh. "The Accession Day has existed since 1947. It was some local political parties that misguided youth, resulting in bloodshed and filling of graveyards, all these years. These parties are still yearning for violence in Kashmir. However, Narendra Modi on August 5, 2019, ended their propaganda," BJP leader Darakhshan Andrabi said.

Internet ban in Manipur extended till October 31

Press Trust of India
IMPHAL

The Manipur government has extended the mobile internet ban for another five days till October 31, officials said on Thursday. The ban was extended following "apprehensions that some anti-social elements might use social media extensively for transmission of images, hate speech and videos inciting the passions of the public which might have serious repercussions on the peace and order situation," a notification said. The notification by Commissioner (Home) T. Ranjit Singh said that the DGP's letter dated October 25 had "reported that there are still reports of incidents of violence like confrontation of the public with security forces, attempts to mob elected members' residences."

SC allows surrogacy, strikes down rule banning use of donor gametes

Two-judge Bench comes to the rescue of a woman suffering from the rare medical condition of Mayer Rokitansky Kuster Hauser syndrome by staying the operation of a law which threatened to wreck her hopes of becoming a mother

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has protected the right of parenthood of a woman, suffering from a rare medical condition, by staying the operation of a law which threatened to wreck her hopes to become a mother through surrogacy. The woman has the Mayer Rokitansky Kuster Hauser syndrome. Medical board records showed she has "absent ovaries and absent uterus, hence she cannot produce her own eggs/ova". The couple having begun the process of gestational surrogacy on December 7 last year. However, a government notification of March 14 this year amended the law, banning the use of donor gametes. It said "intending couples" must use their own gametes for surrogacy. The petition was filed in the Supreme Court challenging the amendment as a violation of a woman's right to parenthood. The amendment, which is now challenged, made it impossible for his

Easing the path

On March 14, 2023, government notified amendments to the law to ban the use of donor gametes, saying 'intending couples' must use their own gametes for surrogacy. The Supreme Court says the amendments cannot contradict Rule 1(a), which specifically recognises the absence of a medical indication condition as a medical indication necessitating gestational surrogacy. The amendments notified amendments to the law to ban the use of donor gametes, saying 'intending couples' must use their own gametes for surrogacy. The Supreme Court says the amendments cannot contradict Rule 1(a), which specifically recognises the absence of a medical indication condition as a medical indication necessitating gestational surrogacy.

Senior advocate Sanjay Jain, the petitioner's lawyer, argued that the amended Paragraph 1(d) of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022, by ruling out the use of donor gametes, had made it impossible for his client and her husband to continue with the process of surrogacy to achieve parenthood. He argued that the 2023 amendment contradicted the Surrogacy Act 2021 and the Surrogacy Act, 2021, which recognised the use of donor gametes when a medical condition would require a couple to get gestational surrogacy in order to become parents. Mr. Jain referred to Rule 1(a) of the Surrogacy Rules, which listed the medical or congenital conditions owing to which a woman could choose to

become a mother through gestational surrogacy. They included "having no uterus or missing uterus or abnormal uterus or intra-uterine adhesions or thin endometrium or small uterine cavity or surgically removed due to any medical condition such as gynaecological cancer".

'Woman's choice' The lawyer said the Rule made it clear that the choice was solely that of the woman. He said his client had begun the surrogacy process months before the amendment, which cannot be implemented retrospectively.

The government, through Additional Solicitor General K. Ramakrishnaiah, countered that the process of surrogacy cannot be undertaken by a woman unless the child was "genetically related" to the intending couple. This exempted the use of donor eggs. In an 11-page order, the court agreed with Mr. Jain's submission that the law permitting gestational

surrogacy was "woman-centric". The decision to have a surrogate child was entirely based on the woman's ability to become a mother owing to her medical or congenital condition. Such a condition included the "absence of a uterus or repeatedly failed pregnancies, multiple pregnancies or an illness which makes it impossible for her to carry a pregnancy to term or would make the pregnancy life-threatening".

The amendment cannot contradict Rule 1(a) which specifically recognises the absence of a uterus or any allied condition as a medical indication necessitating gestational surrogacy, the court held. Addressing the government's contention that the child would be related to the "genetically related" to the couple, the court said the child would be related to the husband. "In this regard, it may be noted that the expression 'genetically related' to the intending couple has to be read as being related to the husband (Rule 1(a)(a) applies," the court said.

Add Tagore's name on varsity plaque, says Mamata

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The controversy over the installation of plaques at Visva-Bharati University has turned into a blown political war with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee threatening protests if the name of Rabindranath Tagore is not included in the installation by Friday.

A controversy had erupted after Visva-Bharati had installed plaques commemorating UNESCO World Heritage Sites at Santiniketan, bearing the names of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is also the Chancellor of the university, and Vice-Chancellor Biju Patnaik.

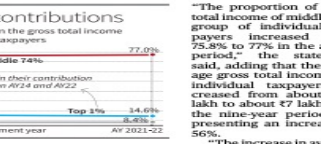
"It is only for Rabindranath Tagore that Santiniketan got the UNESCO tag. We were silent because of the plaques and celebrations. If you do not remove the plaques and put up new ones with the Nobel Laureate's name by 10 a.m. tomorrow, our people will launch a demonstration holding Rabindranath's photos to their chests," the Chief Minister told presspersons. The university authorities have called the plaques temporary and the crisis unwanted.

'Super rich' may be incomes' share ebbing amid middle-class mobility: CBDT

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's tax base has widened sharply since 2013-14, with individuals moving up the income ladder and the proportion of super-rich taxpayers declining, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said on Thursday, days after the Congress cited income tax data to show widening income inequality in the country.

The overall number of income tax (IT) returns filed by individuals has risen from 3.36 crore to 6.37 crore through assessment years 2013-14 to 2021-22, while there is also an increase in number of returns filed by individual taxpayers across various ranges of gross total income, the CBDT said in a statement. "In the range of gross total income up to ₹5 lakh, the number of returns filed



by individual taxpayers has increased from 2.62 crore in AY 2013-14 to 3.47 crore in AY 2021-22, registering an increase of 32%. This range of income includes individuals having income below taxable limit who may not be filing returns, the board pointed out. For higher income ranges of ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh, and ₹10 lakh to ₹25 lakh, the number of individual returns filed surged 295% and 294% over the period, respectively. "This indicates that individual taxpayers are showing a positive trend of migration to higher range of gross total income," the CBDT said. Digging deeper into the data, it reveals that the proportionate contribution of gross total income of top 1% individual taxpayers vis-a-vis all individual taxpayers has decreased from 15.9% to 4.6%, the board said, while the share of the bottom 25% taxpayers increased from 8.3% to 8.4% over the same period.

India's green hydrogen move may worsen pollution if steps are not in place, says study

Jacob Kishor
NEW DELHI

India's plans to produce so-called 'green hydrogen' where the gas is produced without resulting in fossil fuel emissions — may lead to about 87 tonnes of air pollution if proper checks and balances are not in place, according to a study by environmental and energy think tank, Climate Risk Horizons (CRH).

The National Green Hydrogen Mission, piloted by environment and energy think tank, Climate Risk Horizons (CRH). The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), expects to manufacture five million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030. This would require the installation of renewable energy capacity worth 125 GW and the use of 250,000 gigawatt-hour units of power, the board said, while the share of the bottom 25% taxpayers increased from 8.3% to 8.4% over the same period.

dia's total renewable energy (RE) capacity stood at 151 GW. The 2030 green hydrogen plan thus envisages adding an equivalent RE capacity by 2030. This is over and above the 500 GW of RE capacity that India has committed to install by 2030 as part of the Paris Agreement. To put this in perspective, India installed only 15 GW of new solar capacity in 2022, against the 45 GW per year needed to reach the target. The MNRE has defined green hydrogen as hydrogen produced in a way that emits no more than two kg of carbon dioxide per kg of such hydrogen. Currently, producing one kg of 'grey hydrogen' as it is known, ends up emitting nine kg of carbon dioxide. "While a detailed methodology is

awaited, the definition as it stands leaves a lot to interpretation," said CRH's chief executive officer. He said, "The main concern is that if electrolyzers were run at night, they would be expected to operate even at night when no solar power is available. India installed only 15 GW of new solar capacity in 2022, against the 45 GW per year needed to reach the target. The MNRE has defined green hydrogen as hydrogen produced in a way that emits no more than two kg of carbon dioxide per kg of such hydrogen. Currently, producing one kg of 'grey hydrogen' as it is known, ends up emitting nine kg of carbon dioxide. "While a detailed methodology is

CROSSWORD 14005
(Set by Avtar)

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. Clues include: 1 Across: Notice hundred thousand from India breaking into Pennsylvania Avenue (7); 1 Down: Ring inland in my filigree headgear (7); 2 Across: Regime's leading stray, withered fruit (7); 10 Down: Craven for 'drug' (7); 11 Across: Oriental wearing a cape wins fight, getting appreciation (9); 12 Down: Upper class elements of the literati (3).

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site. @ https://orgo.page.link/ByTu

- 13 Dope obtained from discharged airmen fleeing European city (5)
- 15 Singular, Byzantine beer mugs in swamps (9)
- 17 Not like a fight amidst evening out with partner (10)
- 19 After rejecting outsiders, certifies statistical assessment (1-4)
- 22 Implement vacuumic scheme to protect quarters (5)
- 23 Doctor induced to cut (9)
- 25 Model remains outside parking area (7)
- 26 Doctor linked to a charge involving model who has been recruited recently (7)
- 27 Case of rector getting involved in petition by don is bizarre (7)
- 28 Developing new source of aromatic perfume (7)
- Down
- 1 Airmen from India turned up to divide portion for dessert (7)
- 2 Article by Avtar and partner in Kindle (7)
- 3 Spice displayed on the counter by warehouses in Africa (5)
- 4 Torrid days - drinking cola leads to indigestion (9)
- 5 Snail's tort taking the wrong turn (5)
- 6 Picture is on now (8)
- 7 From Athens, a letter and phone about son's job in a hospital (7)
- 8 Quota from merchant, agent and accountant, perhaps (7)
- 14 This is offered after a handshake by top seed after work-out with lagunas in England (5-6)
- 16 Fancy bed linen with diamonds seamlessly integrated (7,2)
- 17 Leovy voices (7)
- 18 Sparta's principal caravan route (7)
- 20 First line: "Introduction to Effective Training and Communication" (7)
- 21 Touching line from explosive, overpowering novel "Agnis" son goes missing (7)
- 22 Puppet-stringing amateur odd job man (2-3)
- 24 Bears hiding egg under college mess (3)

SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid with some numbers filled in. The grid is 9x9. The top row contains 9, 1, 5. The second row contains 8, 7, 9, 6. The third row contains 3, 1, 7, 9, 6. The fourth row contains 6, 5, 9, 3, 1, 2, 7. The fifth row contains 6, 9, 3, 1, 2, 7. The sixth row contains 7, 1, 6, 7, 4, 2, 5.

Solutions for previous puzzles. Includes a 4x4 grid for a puzzle and a 9x9 grid for a Sudoku puzzle. The 4x4 grid has numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 in the first row and 2, 3, 4, 1 in the second row. The 9x9 grid has numbers 9, 2, 3, 7, 5, 1, 4, 8, 6 in the first row and 1, 5, 7, 6, 4, 8, 3, 9, 2 in the second row.

FAITH

Saranagati, the easiest way

Yama comes in the guise of a poor man to meet King Yudhishtira. Yama refuses the food offered by Yudhishtira, for the sake of a king's subjects come to the ruler, elaborated Velukkodi Krishnan in a discourse. Eating food served by a king will result in transference of some of those sins to the one who eats the food. Yudhishtira wonders what he is going to do about the sin which will come to him, if the visitor leaves without accepting his (Yudhishtira's) hospitality. Yama assures him that his sin will not touch a Vishnu bhakta like Yudhishtira. A person with such devotion never seeks the fruits of any daana, for he does not see anything as his property. Quotes from merchant, agent and accountant, perhaps (7). This is offered after a handshake by top seed after work-out with lagunas in England (5-6). Fancy bed linen with diamonds seamlessly integrated (7,2). Leovy voices (7). Sparta's principal caravan route (7). First line: "Introduction to Effective Training and Communication" (7). Touching line from explosive, overpowering novel "Agnis" son goes missing (7). Puppet-stringing amateur odd job man (2-3). Bears hiding egg under college mess (3).

SC allows surrogacy, strikes down rule banning use of donor gametes

Two-judge Bench comes to the rescue of a woman suffering from the rare medical condition of Mayer Rokitansky Kuster Hauser syndrome by staying the operation of a law which threatened to wreck her hopes of becoming a mother

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has protected the right of parenthood of a woman, suffering from a rare medical condition, by staying the operation of a law which threatened to wreck her hopes to become a mother through surrogacy.

The woman has the Mayer Rokitansky Kuster Hauser syndrome. Medical board records showed she has “absent ovaries and absent uterus, hence she cannot produce her own eggs/oocytes”. The couple had begun the process of gestational surrogacy on December 7 last year.

However, a government notification on March 14 this year amended the law, banning the use of donor gametes. It said “intending couples” must use their own gametes for surrogacy. The petition was filed in the Supreme Court challenging the amendment as a violation of a woman’s right to parenthood.

“The amendment which is now coming in the way of the intending cou-

Easing the path

On March 14, 2023, government notified amendments to the law to ban the use of donor gametes, saying ‘intending couples’ must use their own gametes for surrogacy

■ Supreme Court says the amendment cannot contradict Rule 14(a), which specifically recognises the absence of a uterus or any allied condition as a medical indication necessitating gestational surrogacy



ple and preventing them from achieving parenthood through surrogacy, we find, is, *prima facie* contrary to what is intended under the main provisions of the Surrogacy Act both in form as well as in substance,” a Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan held in a recent order.

Senior advocate Sanjay Jain, the petitioner’s lawyer, argued that the amended Paragraph 1(d) of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022, by ruling out the use of donor eggs, had made it impossible for his

client and her husband to continue with the process of surrogacy to achieve parenthood.

He argued that the 2023 amendment contradicted Sections 2(r) and 4 of the Surrogacy Act, 2021, which recognised the situation when a medical condition would require a couple to opt for gestational surrogacy in order to become parents.

Mr. Jain referred to Rule 14(a) of the Surrogacy Rules which listed the medical or congenital conditions owing to which a woman could choose to

become a mother through gestational surrogacy. They included “having no uterus or missing uterus or abnormal uterus (like hypoplastic uterus or intrauterine adhesions or thin endometrium or small unicornuate uterus, T-shaped uterus) or if the uterus is surgically removed due to any medical condition such as gynaecological cancer”.

‘Woman’s choice’

The lawyer said the Rule made it clear that the choice was solely that of the woman. He said his client had begun the surrogacy process months before the amendment, which cannot be implemented retrospectively.

The government, through Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, countered that the process of surrogacy cannot be availed under the law unless the child was “genetically related” to the intending couple. This exempted the use of donor eggs. In an 11-page order, the court agreed with Mr. Jain’s argument that the law permitting gestational

surrogacy was “woman-centric”. The decision to have a surrogate child was entirely based on the woman’s inability to become a mother owing to her medical or congenital condition. Such a condition included the “absence of a uterus or repeatedly failed pregnancies, multiple pregnancies or an illness which makes it impossible for her to carry a pregnancy to term or would make the pregnancy life-threatening”.

The amendment cannot contradict Rule 14(a) which specifically recognises the absence of a uterus or any allied condition as a medical indication necessitating gestational surrogacy, the court held.

Addressing the government’s contention that the surrogate child should be “genetically related” to the couple, the court said the child would be related to the husband. “In this regard, it may be noted that the expression ‘genetically’ related to the intending couple has to be read as being related to the husband when Rule 14(a) applies,” the court said.

BOOM TIME FOR RENT A WOMB



Commercial surrogacy
now a **\$2.3 billion**
industry in India



Nearly **25,000**
children born to surrogates
each year



50 per cent of
them are of clients
from the West



**What makes
India a
lucrative centre:**
cheap medical fa-
cilities, advanced
reproductive
technological
know-how, poor
socio-economic
conditions, lack
of regulatory
laws



Payment to
surrogate
mothers ranges
from
**Rs. 3 lakh to
Rs. 3.99 lakh**



However, some claim
that while couples pay
Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh,
**surrogate mothers get
paid only between Rs.
75,000 and Rs. 1 lakh**



Most of
these women
work as
domestic
help



Normally
earn just
about
Rs. 3,000
a month

BILL EXCLUDES MANY

- Women must either be divorced or widow to be able to opt for surrogacy

- Women only between 23-50 years can go in for IVF or surrogacy



- Overseas Citizens of India or foreigners cannot go in for this procedure

- Only married Indian couples and NRIs can opt for surrogacy

COST DISPARITY

- Surrogacy procedure in India costs **₹15-18 lakh**

- In other countries like US, South America, Russia **\$50,000- \$1,50,000**



It is very unfortunate that the bill is not inclusive. While we understand the need for regulation, it should have considered people from all sections of society. It is likely that many people will now travel abroad to have a child through surrogacy – **Nayana Patel** | RENOWNED IVF AND

SURROGACY SPECIALIST FROM ANAND, GUJARAT

Many barriers

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021 was introduced to curb unethical practices related to issues such as sex selection and exploitation of surrogate mothers, with provisions for jail term in case of violations

- Under the Act, a couple can opt for surrogacy only on medical grounds and should produce certificates of eligibility

- The couple should have been married for five years and not have a living child

- The surrogate mother



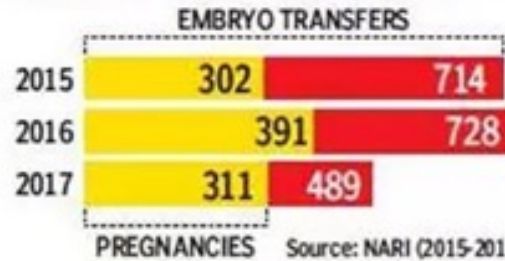
- has to be a close relative of the couple, a married woman with a child of her own and aged between 25 and 35

- Though the law allows a single woman to resort to surrogacy, she has to be a widow or a divorcee between the age of 35 and 45

- Single men are not eligible

SURROGACY IN INDIA

SURROGACY CASES ON THE DECLINE



Doctors say that recorded data is only partially accurate as it only reflects information voluntarily uploaded by clinics. Doctors estimate India sees about 2,000 surrogacy cases per year



Source: Families Through Surrogacy (2014 figures)

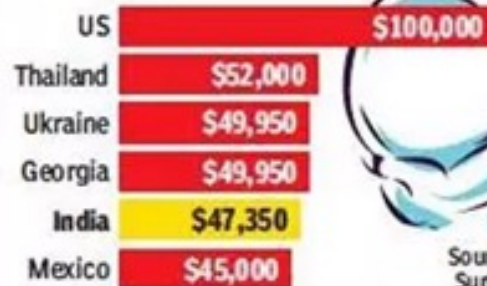
WOMBS ON RENT IN INDIA

\$445 million industry, according to govt estimates

Some reports say there are **7,000-8,000** clinics in India (mostly illegal)

Rs 1-4 lakh is what most surrogate mothers get

COST OF SURROGACY, BY COUNTRY



WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR COUPLES INTENDING TO COMMISSION SURROGACY?

- Must be a close relative of the surrogate mother. But the law does not define the term 'close relative'
- Should be Indian citizens married for at least 5 years
- The female partner should be between 23-50 years, the male 26-55 years
- A medical certificate stating that either or both partners are infertile

- They do not have any surviving child (whether biological, adopted or surrogate), except if the surviving child is mentally or physically challenged or suffers from a fatal illness
- A court order concerning the parentage of the child to be born through surrogacy
- Insurance coverage for the surrogate mother

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE A SURROGATE MOTHER?

- The surrogate mother was or is married and has a child of her own
- She is 25 to 35 years old and has not been a surrogate
- She must possess a medical certificate of her fitness for surrogacy

IN BRIEF



Mehbooba re-elected PDP president for fourth time

Mehbooba Mufti, former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister, was re-elected president of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the party elections in Srinagar on Thursday...

BJP celebrates 'Accession Day' in Jammu & Kashmir

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday celebrated October 26 as 'Accession Day' to commemorate the arrival of the Army in Jammu & Kashmir on this day in 1947...

Internet ban in Manipur extended till October 31

Press Trust of India

The Manipur government has extended the mobile internet ban for another five days till October 31, officials said on Thursday...

SC allows surrogacy, strikes down rule banning use of donor gametes

Two-judge Bench comes to the rescue of a woman suffering from the rare medical condition of Mayer Rokitansky Kuster Hauser syndrome by negating the operation of a law which threatened to wreck her hopes of becoming a mother

Krishna Das Rajagopal

The Supreme Court has protected the right of parenthood of a woman, suffering from a rare medical condition, by striking down the operation of a law which threatened to wreck her hopes to become a mother through surrogacy.

The woman has the Mayer Rokitansky Kuster Hauser syndrome. Medical board records showed she has "absent ovaries and absent uterus, hence she cannot produce her own eggs or oocytes".

However, a government notification on March 14 this year amended the law, banning the use of donor gametes. It said "intending couples" must use their own gametes for surrogacy.

The amendment which is now coming in the way of the intending cou-

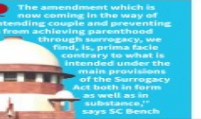
Easing the path

On March 14, 2023, government notified amendments to the law to ban the use of donor gametes, saying 'intending couples' must use their own gametes for surrogacy.

The amendment which is now coming in the way of the intending couples, as well as in the form as well as in substance, a Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan held in a recent order.

Senior advocate Sanjay Jain, the petitioner's lawyer, argued that the amended Paragraph 1(c) of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022, by ruling out the use of donor eggs, had made it impossible for his client and her husband to become parents.

Mr. Jain referred to Rule 14(a) of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022, by ruling out the use of donor eggs, had made it impossible for his client and her husband to become parents.



client and her husband to become parents. Mr. Jain referred to Rule 14(a) of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Rules, 2022, by ruling out the use of donor eggs, had made it impossible for his client and her husband to become parents.

He argued that the 2023 amendment contradicted sections 2(c) and 4 of the Surrogacy Act, 2021, which recognised the condition where medical conditions would require a couple to opt for gestational surrogacy in order to become parents.

become a mother through gestational surrogacy. They included "having no uterus or missing uterus or anatomical or functional uterine aplasia or intrauterine adhesions or thin endometrium or small un-informative uterus, T-shaped uterus or if the uterus is surgically removed due to any medical condition such as gynaecological cancer".

'Woman's choice' The lawyer said the Rule made it clear that the choice was solely that of the woman. He said his client had begun the surrogacy process months before the amendment, which cannot be implemented retrospectively.

The government, through Additional Solicitor General, Ashwath Kumar, countered that the process of surrogacy cannot be availed under the law unless the child was "genetically related" to the intending couple. This exempted the use of donor eggs. In an 11-page order, the court agreed with Mr. Jain's argument that the law permitting gestational

surrogacy was "woman-centric". The decision to have a surrogate child was entirely based on the woman's choice to become a mother owing to her medical or congenital condition. Such condition included the "absence of a uterus or repeatedly failed pregnancies, multiple miscarriages or an illness which makes it impossible for her to carry a pregnancy to term or would make the pregnancy life-threatening".

The amendment cannot contradict Rule 14(a) which specifically recognises the absence of a uterus or any allied condition as a medical condition necessitating gestational surrogacy.

Addressing the government's contention that the surrogate child should be "genetically related" to the couple, the court said the child would be related to the husband. "In this regard, it may be noted that the expression 'genetically related' to the intending couple has to be read as being related to the husband when Rule 14(a) applies," the court said.

Add Tagore's name on varsity plaque, says Mamata

The Hindu Bureau

The controversy over the installation of plaques at Visva-Bharati University has turned into a full-blown political war with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee threatening protests if the name of Rabindranath Tagore is not included in the installation by Friday.

A controversy had erupted after Visva-Bharati had installed plaques commemorating UNESCO "World Heritage Site" to Santiniketan, bearing the names of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is also the Chancellor of the university, and Vice-Chancellor Bidyut Chakrabarty.

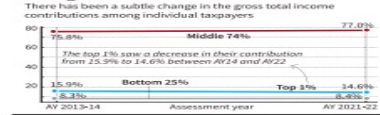
"It is only for Rabindranath Tagore that Santiniketan got the UNESCO tag. We were silent because of the mere presence of the names. If you do not remove the plaque and put up the name of the Nobel Laureate's name by 10 a.m. tomorrow, our people will launch a demonstration holding Kobigurur's photos and their union will call the Chief Minister told presspersons. The university authorities have called the plaques temporary and the crisis unwarranted."

'Super rich' incomes share ebbing amid middle-class mobility: CBDT

The Hindu Bureau

India's tax base has widened sharply since 2013-14, with individuals moving up the income ladder and the proportion of super-rich taxpayers' incomes declining, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said on Thursday, days after the Congress cited income tax data to show widening income inequality in the country.

Marginal shift in contributions



by individual taxpayers has increased from 2,452 crore in AY 2013-14 to 3.47 crore in AY 2021-22, registering an increase of 32%. This range of income includes individuals having income below taxable limit who may not be filing returns," the board pointed out.

For higher income ranges of ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh, the number of individual returns filed surged 295% and 201% over the period, respectively. "This indi-

India's green hydrogen move may worsen pollution if steps are not in place, says study

Jacob Koshy

India's plans to produce so-called green hydrogen — where the gas is produced without resulting in carbon emissions — may end up worsening pollution if proper checks and balances are not in place, according to a study by environmental and energy think-tank, Climate Risk Horizons (CRH).

India's total renewable energy (RE) capacity stood at 131 GW. The 2030 green hydrogen plan thus envisages an additional equivalent capacity by 2030. This is over and above the 500 GW of RE capacity that India has committed to install by 2030 as part of the Paris Agreement. To put that in perspective, India currently only 15 GW of solar and wind capacity in 2022, against the target of 100 GW per year needed to reach the 2030 target.

Using coal-based power The MNRE has defined green hydrogen as hydrogen produced in a way that emits no more than two kg of carbon dioxide per kg of such hydrogen. Currently, it takes one kg of 'grey hydrogen', as it is known, end up emitting nine kg of carbon dioxide. "While a detailed methodology is

awaited, the definition as it stands leaves a lot to interpret," said CRH's chief executive Ashish Fernando, in an email released on Thursday.

The main concern is that the capacity that India has committed to install by 2030 as part of the Paris Agreement. To put that in perspective, India currently only 15 GW of solar and wind capacity in 2022, against the target of 100 GW per year needed to reach the 2030 target.

THE CROSSWORD 14005

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions provided.

- 13 Dope obtained from discharged airmen fleeing European city (5)
14 Singular, Byzantine beer mugs in swamps (9)
15 Not like a fight amidst evening out with partner (9)
16 After rejecting outliers, certifies statistical assessment (1-4)
17 Implement vacuum outside parking to protect quarters (5)
18 Doctor induced to cut (9)
19 Model remains outside parking area (7)
20 Doctor linked to a charge involving model who has been recruited recently (7)
21 Case of rector getting involved in petition by don is bizarre (7)
22 Developing new source of aromatic perfume (7)
Down
1 Airmen from India turned up to divide portion for dessert (7)
2 Agreement (7)
3 Spice displayed on the counter by warehouses in Africa (5)
4 Tired days - drinking cola leads to indigestion (9)
5 Impromptu sort taking the wrong turn (5)
6 Picture is on now (9)
7 From Athens, a letter and phone about son's job in a hospital (7)
8 Quotes from merchant, agent and accountant, perhaps? (7)
9 This is offered after a handshake by top seed after work-out with beginner in England (5,4)
10 Fancy bed linen with diamonds seamlessly integrated (7,2)
11 Leaves voids (7)
12 Sparta's principal caravan race (7)
13 First line in "Introduction to Effective Training and Communication" (7)
14 Repeating line from explosive, overpowering novel "Agnes" son goes missing (7)
15 Puppet-stringing amateur odd job man (2-3)
16 Herx hiding egg under college mess (5)

Sudoku puzzle grid with solution provided.

FAITH Saranagati, the easiest way. Yama comes in the guise of a poor man to meet King Yudhishtira. Yama reduces the food offered by Yudhishtira for the sins of a king's subjects come to the ruler, elaborated Yudhishtira in a discourse.

'Super rich' incomes' share ebbing amid middle-class mobility: CBDT

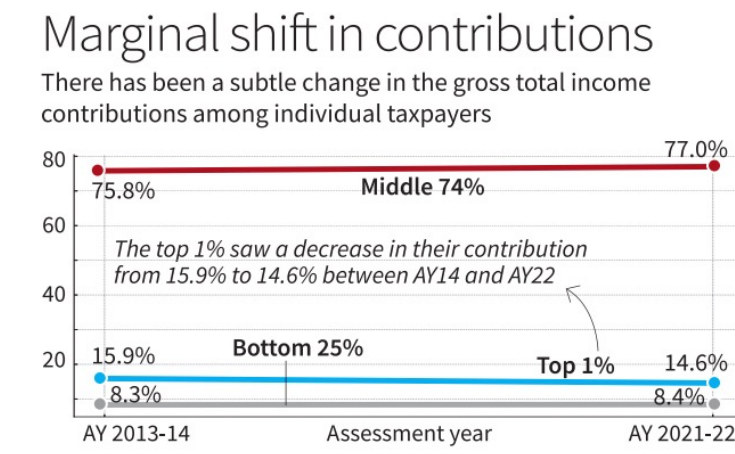
The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

India's tax base has widened sharply since 2013-14, with individuals moving up the income ladder and the proportion of super-rich taxpayers' incomes declining, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said on Thursday, days after the Congress cited income tax data to show widening income inequality in the country.

The overall number of income tax (I-T) returns filed by individuals has risen from 3.36 crore to 6.37 crore through assessment years 2013-14 to 2021-22, while there is also an increase in number of returns filed by individual taxpayers across various ranges of gross total income, the CBDT said in a statement.

"In the range of gross total income up to ₹5 lakh, the number of returns filed



by individual taxpayers has increased from 2.62 crore in AY 2013-14 to 3.47 crore in AY 2021-22, registering an increase of 32%. This range of income includes individuals having income below taxable limit who may not be filing returns," the board pointed out.

For higher income ranges of ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh, and ₹10 lakh to ₹25 lakh, the number of individual returns filed surged 295% and 291% over the period, respectively. "This indi-

cates that individual taxpayers are showing a positive trend of migration to higher range of gross total income," the CBDT said.

Digging deeper into the data reveals that the proportionate contribution of gross total income of top 1% individual taxpayers vis-à-vis all individual taxpayers has decreased from 15.9% to 14.6%, the board said, while the share of the bottom 25% taxpayers increased from 8.3% to 8.4% over the same period.

"The proportion of gross total income of middle 74% group of individual taxpayers increased from 75.8% to 77% in the above period," the statement said, adding that the average gross total income for individual taxpayers increased from about ₹4.5 lakh to about ₹7 lakh over the nine-year period, representing an increase of 56%.

"The increase in average gross total income for top 1% individual taxpayers is 42% while that for bottom 25% individual taxpayers is 58%," it added.

The data indicates "robust growth in the gross total income of individuals across different income groups subsequent to AY 2013-14", the board said, adding this was reflected in the increase in net direct tax collections from ₹6.38 lakh crore in 2013-14 to ₹16.61 lakh crore in 2022-23.

Biden links economic corridor to Hamas attack



JALIT K JHA WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 26

Progress on Israel regional integration one reason: Biden

US President Joe Biden has said that he is convinced that one of the reasons why Hamas launched a terrorist attack on Israel was because of the recent announcement during the G20 summit in New Delhi on the ambitious India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor that integrates the entire region with a network of railroad.

Israel has launched a massive counter-offensive against Hamas after unprecedented attacks by the militant group on October 7 killed more than 1,400 people.

Biden told reporters at a joint news conference with the visiting Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese that his analysis is based on his instinct and does not have any proof for this.

"I'm convinced one of the reasons Hamas attacked when they did, and I have no proof of this, just my instinct tells me, is because of the progress we were making towards regional integration for Israel, and regional integration overall. We can't leave that work behind," Biden said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



I seat in 2018, BJP eyes non-Mizo voters, fights anti-Christian image

SUKRITA BARUAH MAMIT (AZAM), OCTOBER 26

THE BJP's cabin-like office in the small town of Mamit, around 80 km from state capital Aizawl, is buzzing with activity on Wednesday morning. As the party faces an uphill battle in its bid for a footprint in Mizoram — where it was only won an MLA seat once, which was in 2018 — this office is the command centre.

BJP leader and Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister Y Patton has been stationed here for several weeks now, overseeing the campaign for the three constituencies in the district: Mamit, Dampa and Hachbek. The contenders here are the

CASE OF ALLEGED ESPIONAGE

Qatar hands death penalty to 8 former Navy men; deeply shocking, says Govt

Delhi explores legal options; charges not public; arrested men worked for firm overseeing submarine induction

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

IN A setback to India's efforts at securing their release, eight former personnel of the Indian Navy, arrested in an alleged case of espionage, were handed the death sentence by a court in Qatar Thursday.

Calling the ruling "deeply shocking," India said it is exploring all "legal options."

The Indian nationals, all em-

ployees of Doha-based Dahra Global, were taken into custody in August 2022.

The charges against the Indian nationals were not made public by Qatar authorities. But sources said the Indians had been working in their private capacity with Dahra Global to oversee the induction of Italian small stealth submarines LIZZ.

The arrested Indians were identified as Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Birendra

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Rajasthan Cong chief raided, Gehlot's son summoned by ED

ED like swarm of locusts, spreading terror: CM Gehlot

HAMZA KHAN JAIPUR, OCTOBER 26

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate Thursday conducted raids on locations linked to Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra and Independent MLA Gm Prakash Khadia.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, in a social media post, stated that the probe agency had also issued summons to his son Vaibhav. Gehlot pointed out that the ED's actions came just a day after his government had announced guarantees for women. Vaibhav has been summoned for questioning in a FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) case in Delhi.

The Congress put up a united



During the ED raid at Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra's residence in Jaipur on Thursday.

EXPRESS NETWORK

'RATION SCAM': ED SEARCHES HOMES OF BENGAL MINISTER PAGE 11

front, with Gehlot, state in-charge Sukhjinder Singh

EXPLAINED

The Doha test

THIS WILL be a test of India's ties with the Gulf nation. The Qatar Emir's visit to India in 2015 was followed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Doha in 2016. Qatar wields considerable clout in international diplomacy, often hosting the Taliban negotiators to securing the release of US citizens from Hamas captivity.

THE CASE SO FAR

OCT 1, 2022: India's Ambassador in Doha and Deputy Head of Mission meet the eight men arrested.

OCT 3, 2022: First consular access granted. The CEO of the company, an Omani Emir, also came down to Doha to get his officials out but he was kept in solitary confinement for two months after which he was released on bail.

MARCH 15, 2023: The last bail plea was rejected. Almost a month, bail applications were submitted, but were rejected.

DIS/AGREE

A fortnightly column which offers not this-versus-that, but the best of both sides to inform the debate.

MAINTAIN EQUALITY SC does not have the authority

By FALI S. NARIMAN

Court lets itself, and us, down

By SAURABH KAPUR

THE IDEAS PAGE

CASH-FOR-QUERY ALLEGATION

Ethics panel calls Moitra on Oct 31, seeks IT, Home help in probe

Examines complainant Dubey, lawyer Dehdrai on charges

LIZ MATHEW & VIKAS PATHAK NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

THE LOCKS Sabha Ethics Committee, which began examining Thursday the cash-for-query allegations against TMC MP Mahua Moitra, asked her to depose before the panel on October 31.

During its meeting which lasted more than two hours, the committee heard BJP MP

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THE IDEAS PAGE

Nishkant Dubey who had complained against Moitra and Lawyer Jal Anant Dehdrai.

Committee chairman and BJP MP Vinod Sonkar later told

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Gujarat HC removes clip of judge outburst, asks YouTube to take down apology too

Justice Biren Vaishnav upbraided Justice Mauna Bhatt, later said 'I was wrong'

APURVA VISHWANATH & SOHINI GHOSH NEW DELHI, AHMEDABAD, OCTOBER 26

A DW after a judge of the Gujarat High Court apologised for his outburst against his woman colleague on the bench, the High Court has asked YouTube to remove the videos of the apology claiming copyright violation. The Indian Express has learnt.

On October 23, Justice Biren Vaishnav, the fourth senior most judge of the High Court upbraided his colleague, Justice Mauna Bhatt, for voicing a differ-

Randhawa and others holding a press conference in Jaipur, while Sachin Pilot addressed one in Delhi. "The way agencies have been let loose in Rajasthan before polls to intimidate Congress leaders — the country and the state are watching," Pilot said.

In Sikar, Dotasra asked his supporters, who had gathered

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

ence of opinion in a batch of tax cases.

With the Gujarat HC live-streaming its proceedings, a video of the incident was widely shared on social media. The HC has now pulled down the clip of that exchange from its archives.

However, while Justice Vaishnav's apology on October 25 is still available on the HC website, the High Court has asked YouTube to take down videos of the judge's apology.

An official of the Gujarat HC registry confirmed to The Indian Express such notices were sent out. It is learnt that following

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

2 medals at Asian meet, 16-year-old from J&K is 'first female archer without arms'

WITIN SHARMA SHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 26

SHEETAL DEVI, a 16-year-old archer from Loidhar village in Gishwar, Jammu and Kashmir, is the "first female archer without arms to compete internationally", according to World Archery, the sport's governing body. This week, she won two medals at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou.

How she releases an arrow is a testament to Sheetal's spirit.



Sheetal Devi at the Asian Para Games; she won a women's team silver and mixed team gold. Asian Para Games Hangzhou

She holds and balances the 27.5 kilogram bow with her right leg, pulls the string back using a manual releaser attached to her right shoulder, and uses a device called the trigger, held in her mouth, to direct the arrow at a target 50 metres away. All the while, she holds herself upright on the seat with her left leg.

Sheetal was born with Phocomelia, a rare congenital disorder that causes under-developed limbs. "Initially, I could not even lift the bow properly. But, after practising for a couple of months, it became easier," Sheetal told The Indian Express on Thursday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



2 medals at Asian meet, 16-year-old from J&K is 'first female archer without arms'

**PAGE 1
ANCHOR**

NITIN SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 26

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She holds and balances the 27.5 kilogram bow with her right leg, pulls the string back using a manual releaser attached to her right shoulder, and uses a device called the trigger, held in her mouth, to direct the arrow at a target 50 metres away. All the while, she holds herself upright on the seat with her left leg.

Sheetal was born with Phocomelia, a rare congenital disorder that causes under-developed limbs. "Initially, I could not even lift the bow properly. But, after practising for a couple of months, it became easier," Sheetal told *The Indian Express* on Thursday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



29-YEAR-OLD WINS LAURELS AT HANGZHOU

Meet Ankur Dhama, athlete who clinched 2 gold medals at Asian Para Games

**VIDHEESHA
KUNTAMALLA**

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

DURING THE 2016 Rio Paralympic Games, Ankur Dhama injured himself and thought it was the end of his career as a sportsperson. Eight years later, he bagged two gold medals, winning the Men's 1,500 m T11 and the Men's 5,000 m T11 events, during the fourth edition of the Asian Para Games currently underway in Hangzhou.

Congratulating Dhama on his

win, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday took to X (formerly Twitter) and wrote: "An incredible triumph for @AnkurAthlete, as he clinches his second Gold Medal in Asian Para Games, this time in the Men's 1500 m-T11 Final. May he keep running towards greater heights in the coming times."

Being visually challenged has not stopped the 29-year-old from soaring ahead.

Born in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district, he is the youngest of three siblings. He grew up in Sonipat, where his fa-

ther was a farmer. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Dhama said, "I was around five to six years old when I lost my vision completely. Doctors told my family that I wouldn't be able to see again. I then moved to Delhi where I studied at a school for the visually impaired on Lodhi Road."

It was at this school that Dhama first realised he had a knack for athletics.

In 2017, while he was pursuing his Masters in History at St Stephen's College, tragedy struck with the death of his father from a cardiac arrest. He said, "I had to



(Left) Ankur Dhama and his guideperson Dharmender Gurjar

take care of my family. Financially, there was a crunch... But I always had help... from my coaches. My mother and siblings boosted my morale; I also received financial help from GoSports Foundation."

Satpal Singh, who has been training Dhama for 15 years now, discovered him at the school. "This is a huge achievement for Ankur and me. He had faced several challenges in life but never gave up. I am so proud of him that after his injury during the Rio event, he recovered, practiced relentlessly, and won two golds for our country," he said.

Singh, who has trained physically challenged sportspersons for more than a decade now, added, "For visually impaired persons, athletics is challenging as it takes more persistence and hard work than it would for a normal sportsperson to build his/her stamina and speed."

Dhama also credited his achievements to his guideperson: "When it comes to long-distance running, one requires a lot of stamina... Maintaining energy levels and synchronising with the guide are among the major challenges in the sport... For vi-

sually impaired sportspersons like me, guides are our beacon. They should also get the recognition they deserve as they spend so much time training with us."

The athlete also reflected on the times when he almost gave up. "My morale sometimes was low as I realised that I can't pursue what I love without being dependent on someone... But if this inspires even a small group of individuals who are differently able to push forward and pursue a sport in their life, I will consider myself a winner," Dhama said.

His guide, Dharmender Gurjar

(20) from Rajasthan's Karoli district, has been with Dhama for more than a year now. "I moved to Delhi so I could train at Nehru Stadium and become an athlete. That's where I met Ankur and his coach. Since then, I have been working as his guideperson. We practice together every day and run in races," said Gurjar.

A Class XII student pursuing Arts back in Rajasthan, Gurjar said he also has his own practice sessions to improve his speed and stamina. He too dreams of representing India internationally one day.

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Inauguration by

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

The PM will Award 100 5G Use Case Labs to Academic Institutions

27 October, 2023 | 09:45 AM | Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

APAAR ID

This is part of the 'One nation, One Student ID' initiative of the Union government, stemming from NEP 2020

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26

LAST WEEK, several state governments requested schools to seek parental consent for the creation of a new student identity card known as the Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR). This is part of the 'One nation, One Student ID' initiative of the Centre, stemming from the new National Education Policy of 2020.

How will it work?

Every individual will have a unique APAAR ID, which will be linked to the Academic Bank Credit (ABC), which is a digital storehouse that contains the information of the credits earned by students throughout their learning journey. If the student changes schools, all her data in the ABC will be transferred to her new school just by sharing the APAAR ID. She won't need to provide physical documents or transfer certificates.

What are its benefits?

“The vision is to create a positive change, allowing state governments to track literacy rates, dropout rates, and more, helping them make improvements,” Anil Sahasrabuddhe, Chairman of the National Educational Technology Forum, said.

APAAR also aims to reduce fraud and duplicate educational certificates by providing a single, trusted reference for educational institutions. Only first party sources that issue certificates will be allowed to deposit credits into the system, ensuring authenticity.

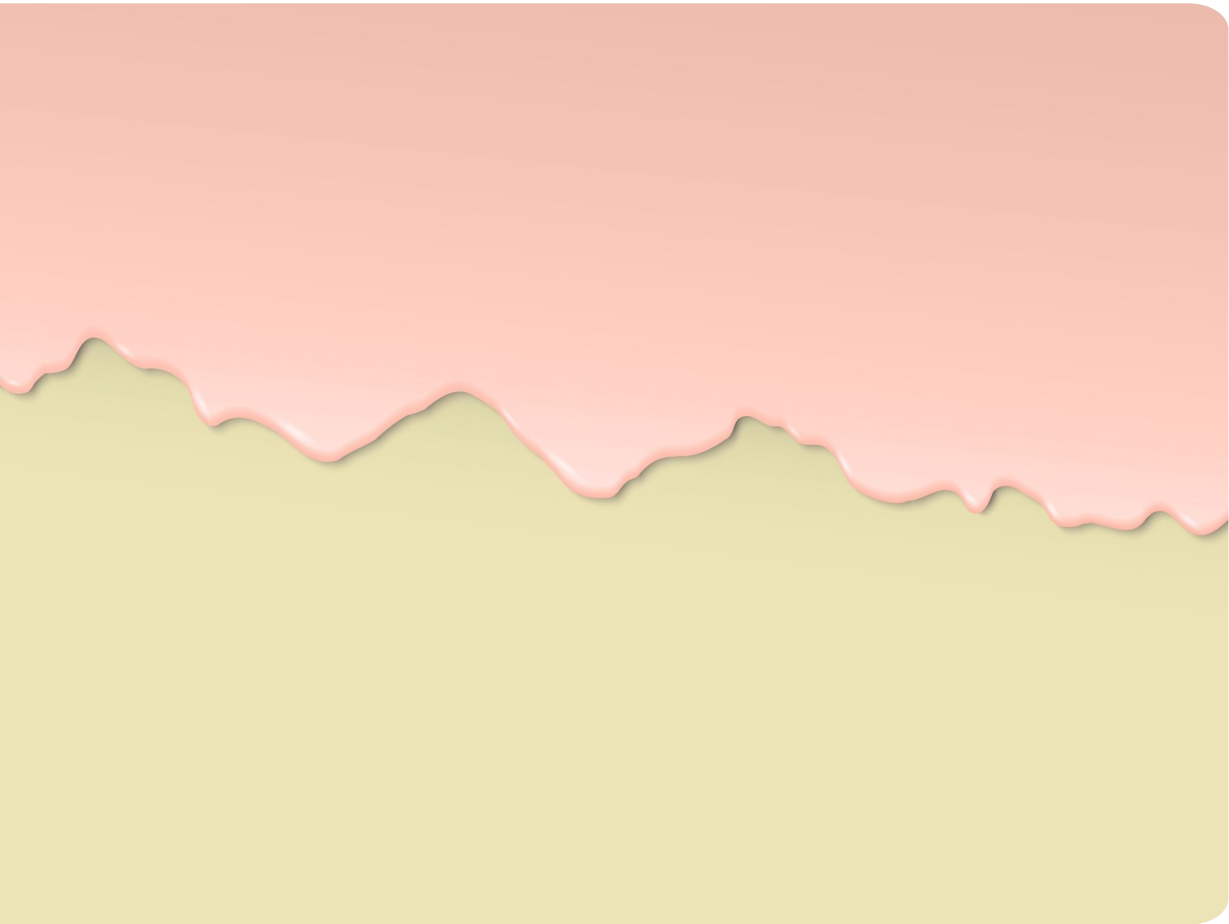
not mandatory.

What are the concerns?

Parents and students have concerns about sharing their Aadhaar details because they worry that their personal information could be leaked to outside parties.



“It’s important to know that the Aadhaar number is only used for verification to match the name and date of birth. APAAR won’t use or share these details with anyone else during registration,” said Sahasrabuddhe.

LONGER VERSION ON
indianexpress.com/explained




World Polio Day-
October 24,



- 
- Several countries have endured the devastating effects of polio, a highly contagious and lethal disease caused by a virus that negatively impacts the nervous system, for centuries
- 

World Polio Day History

World Polio Day was introduced in 1985 by Rotary International to honour the contributions of Jonas Salk, the head medical researcher in the research team that created the first vaccine for polio.

- 
- The theme for World Polio Day 2023 is “A healthier future for mothers and children.”

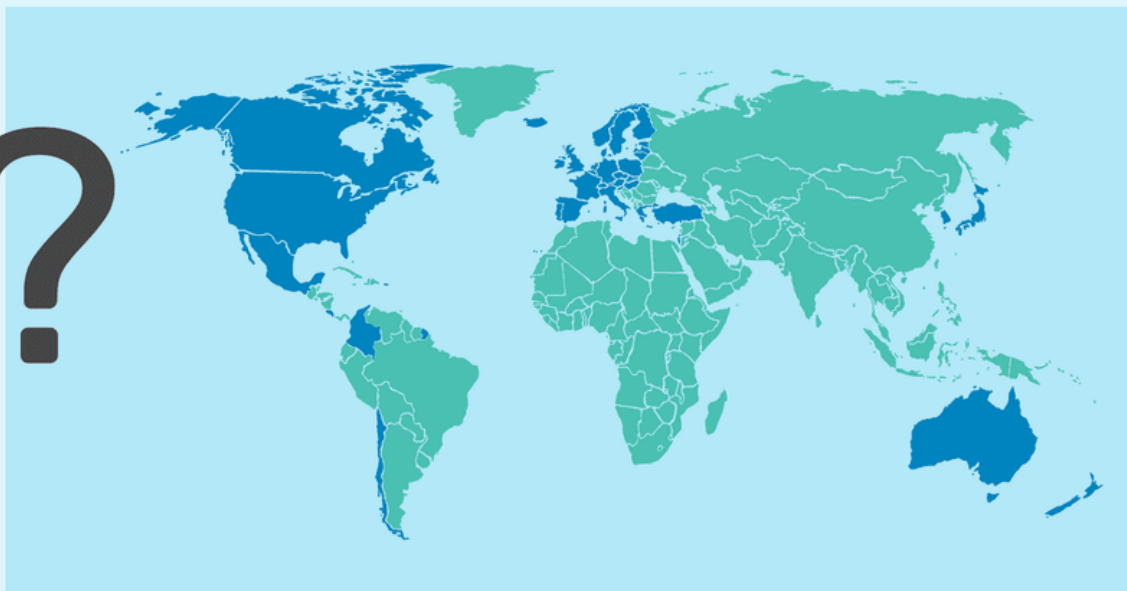


International Migration Outlook 2023

- 
- The background is a blurred image of a document. A pen is visible in the upper right corner, pointing towards a line graph. The graph shows a fluctuating line with some data points. There are some numbers visible on the graph, such as '2.5' and '2.47'. The overall tone is blue and professional.
- Recently, International Migration Outlook 2023, a report on international migration patterns was released by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to analyze the migration trends worldwide.

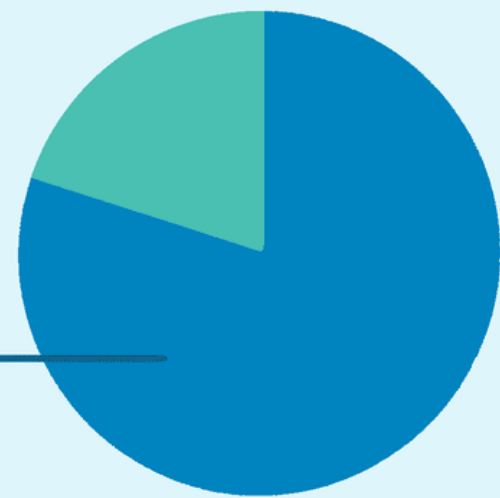
What Is the OECD?

(Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development)



- It aids developing countries outside membership and promotes reform

- It is an association of 38 nations in Europe, the Americas, and the Pacific
- It helps member countries formulate economic and social policies
- Members and key partners represent 80% of world trade





- **Foundation:**

- It was founded in 1961 with its **Headquarters at Paris, France** and total membership is **38 countries**.
- The most recent countries to join the OECD were Colombia, in April 2020, and Costa Rica, in May 2021.
- **India is not a member, but a key economic partner.**



-





- **Reports and Indices by OECD:**

- Government at a Glance
- OECD Better Life Index.

- 
- What are the Highlights of the Report?
 - **India Leads in Migration to OECD Countries:**
 - In 2021 and 2022, India became the primary source of migration to OECD countries, surpassing China. India consistently topped the list **with 0.41 million new migrants in both years, while China had 0.23 million new migrants**, followed by Romania with approximately 200,000 new migrants.
- 

- **Recent Trends in International Migration:**

- All top four destination countries (**The United States, Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain**) registered large year-on-year increases, between 21% and 35%. The increase was smaller in Canada (8%) the fifth destination country.

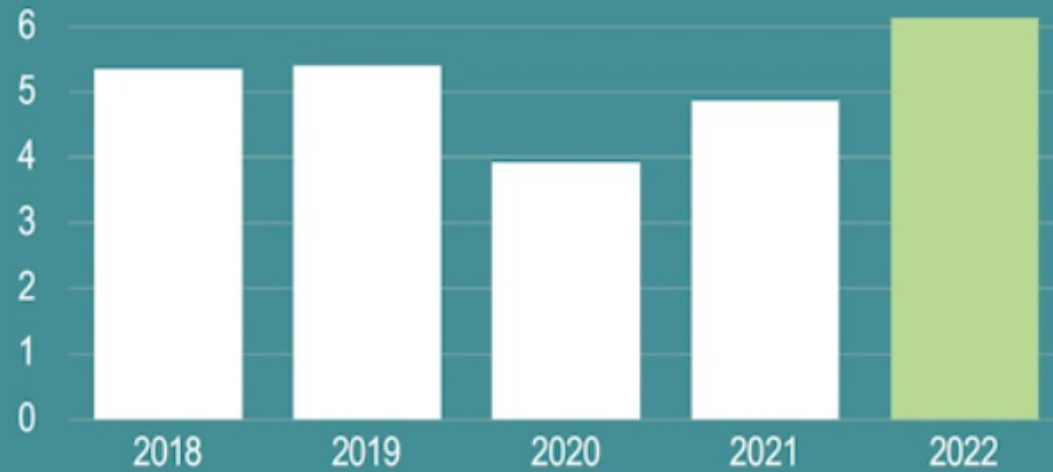
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- The United States **alone accounted for 1.05 million new permanent-type migrants**, and the other four countries for between 440 000 and 650 000 each.

Migration to OECD countries is at a record high

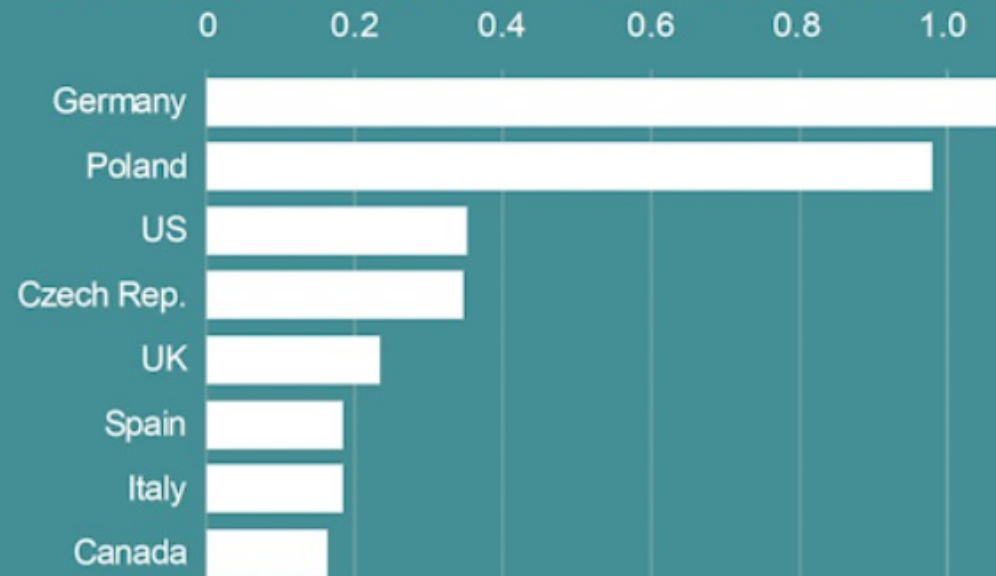
Permanent migration to the OECD, 2018-22, in millions



With more than 6 million new permanent immigrants (not including Ukrainian refugees), permanent-type migration to OECD countries reached a record level in 2022.

The Ukrainian refugee crisis is the largest displacement in Europe since WWII

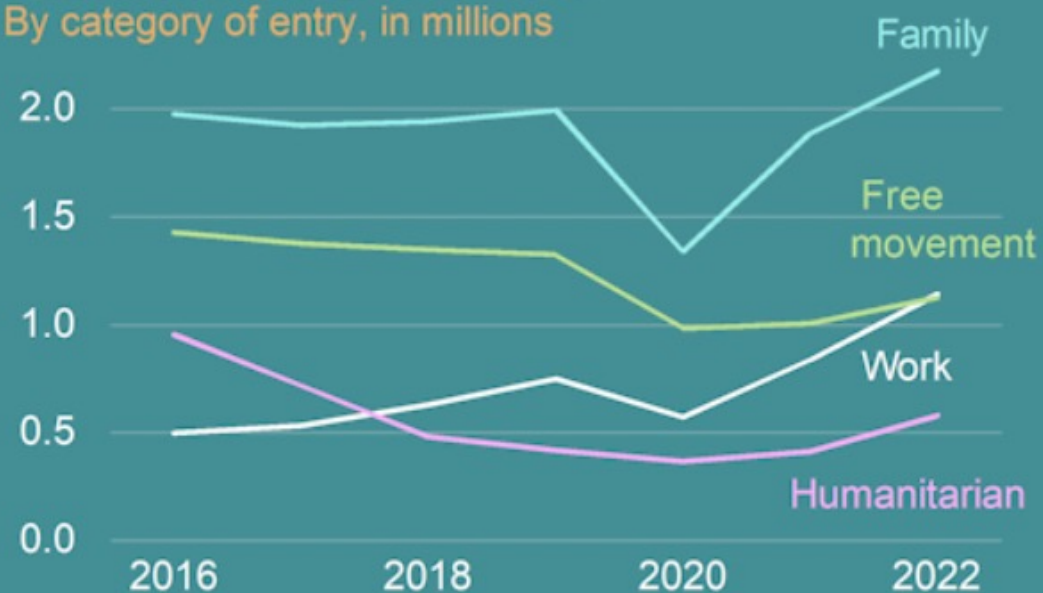
Total number of refugees from Ukraine, June 2023, millions



OECD countries have provided refuge to about 5 million people fleeing Ukraine.

Increase in labour migration in response to labour shortages in many countries

Permanent migration to the OECD
By category of entry, in millions



Labour migration comprised 21% of all migration in 2022, a rise of 36% since 2021. Family migration also increased by 15%.

Migrant employment rates are at the highest levels in over two decades

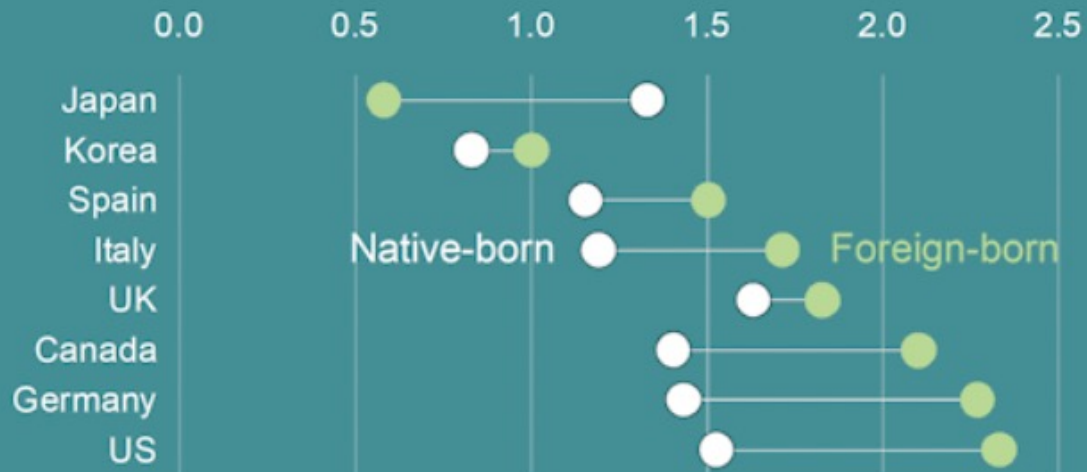
Migrant employment rates are at their highest ever levels in more than half of OECD countries and the gap with the native-born is also narrowing.

Employment rates, 2022

| | Foreign-born | Native-born |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| New Zealand | 82.7 | 78.3 |
| Australia | 77.2 | 77.6 |
| UK | 75.8 | 75.5 |
| Canada | 75.2 | 75.8 |
| US | 72.6 | 69.4 |
| Korea | 67.8 | 69.3 |
| EU 27 | 66.8 | 70.3 |

Migrant fertility has little effect on overall population levels in majority of countries

Total Fertility Rate (TFR), 2020 or latest year available



The fertility rate among migrant women is higher than among native-born women in most OECD countries, but below the replacement rate (2.1) in two-thirds of them.

Immigrant mothers face greater challenges compared to native-born mothers

Employment rates across OECD countries, 2021



Immigrant mothers




Native-born mothers

Across OECD countries, the gap in employment rates between immigrant and native-born mothers is 20 percentage points.



Medical College Seats and New Regulations in India

Recently, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has issued guidelines putting a hold on new medical colleges and expansion of existing colleges in states with more than 100 medical education seats per million population.



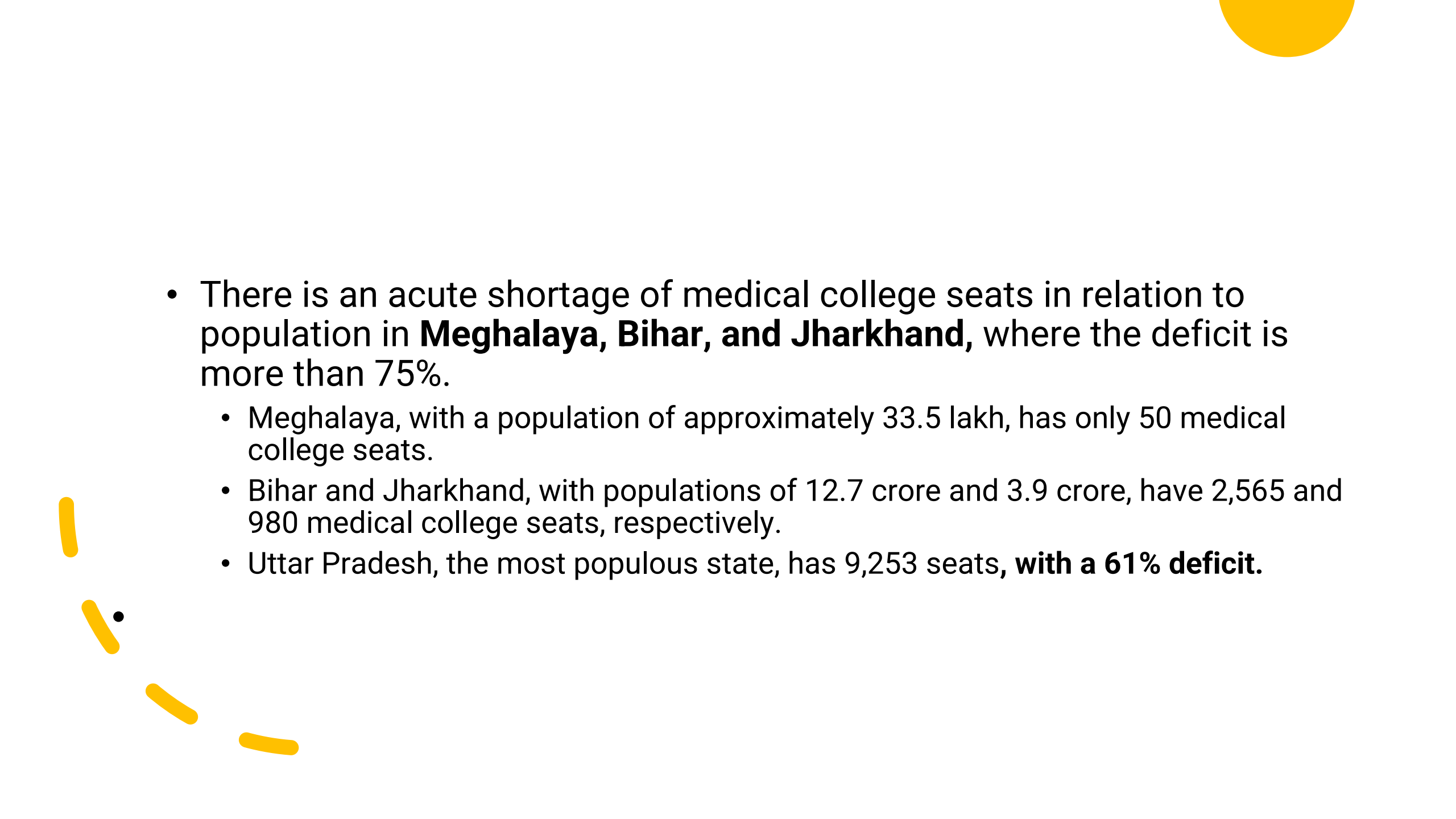
Earlier, NMC also issued new guidelines on professional conduct for doctors, which mandate them to prescribe only generic drugs instead of specific brands.





- **States with Excess Medical College Seats:**

- At least 13 states and Union Territories in India have more than **100 seats per million population**, rendering them ineligible for capacity expansion.
 - Tamil Nadu has the highest number of medical college seats (11,225), followed by Karnataka (11,020), and Maharashtra (10,295).



- 
- There is an acute shortage of medical college seats in relation to population in **Meghalaya, Bihar, and Jharkhand**, where the deficit is more than 75%.
 - Meghalaya, with a population of approximately 33.5 lakh, has only 50 medical college seats.
 - Bihar and Jharkhand, with populations of 12.7 crore and 3.9 crore, have 2,565 and 980 medical college seats, respectively.
 - Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state, has 9,253 seats, **with a 61% deficit.**

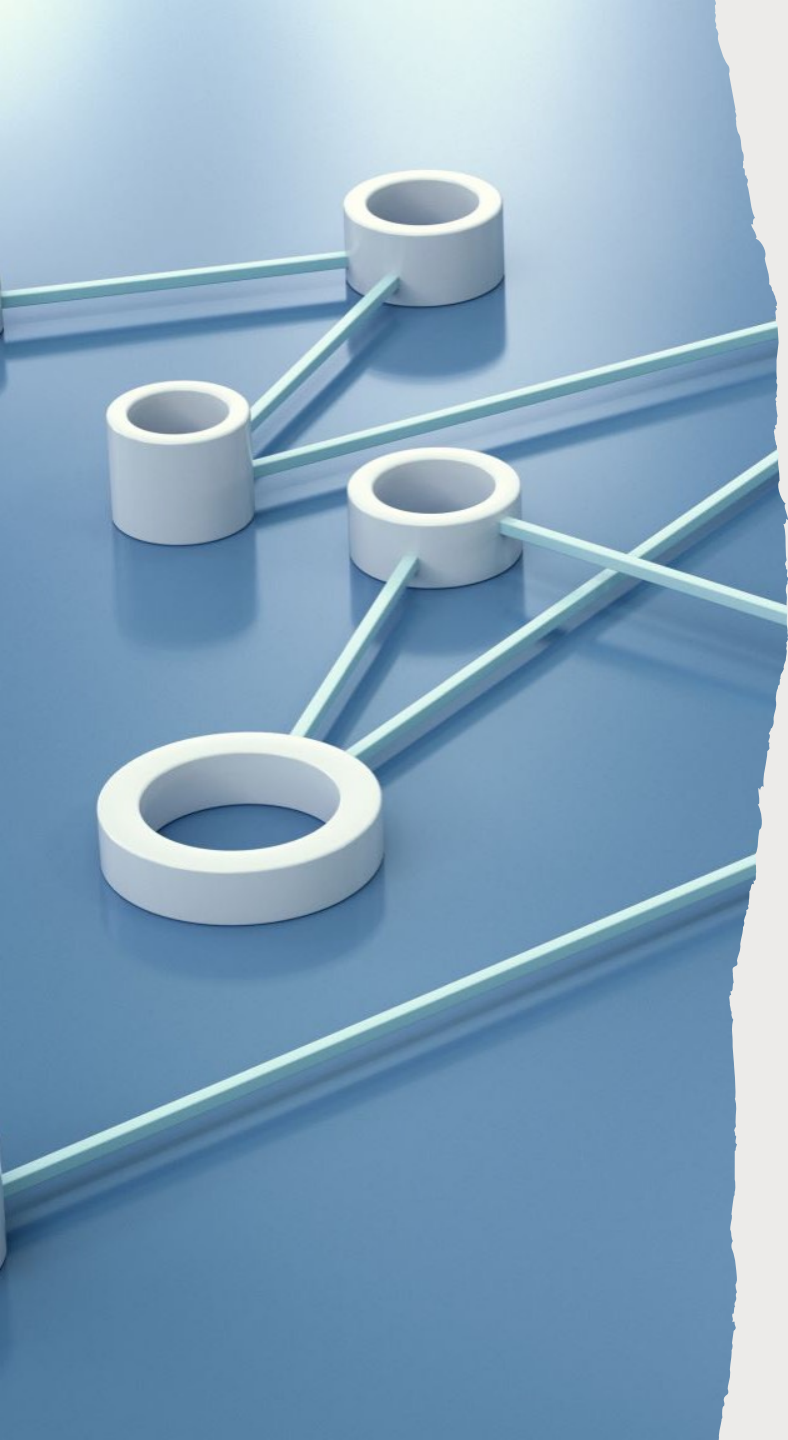
- 
- What is the National Medical Commission (NMC) ?
 - The NMC has been constituted by an act of Parliament known as **National Medical Commission Act, 2019**.
 - The NMC acts as India's top regulator of medical education and practice.
 - Committed to upholding the highest standards in healthcare education, NMC ensures the delivery of quality medical education and training across the nation.
- 

New Made-In-India EV Charging Standard



- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has recently approved a groundbreaking charging connector standard for Light Electric Vehicles (LEVs), including scooters, bikes, and rickshaws






- **About:**
 - Named **ISI7017 (Part 2/Sec 7): 2023**, this standard is a result of collaboration among **NITI Aayog, the Department of Science and Technology, Ather Energy (a private firm), and other stakeholders.**

-



- **Unique Features of India's New EV Charging Standard:**

- Remarkable feature of India's new EV charging standard is its **ability to combine alternating current (AC) and direct current (DC) charging for LEVs.**
 - This approach, akin to globally established standards for electric cars, **enhances interoperability and compatibility** among various EV models and charging infrastructure providers.
- 

-



China:

China uses a **national standard for EV charging connectors that is called GB/T**, effectively addressing range anxiety with a dense network of charging stations.



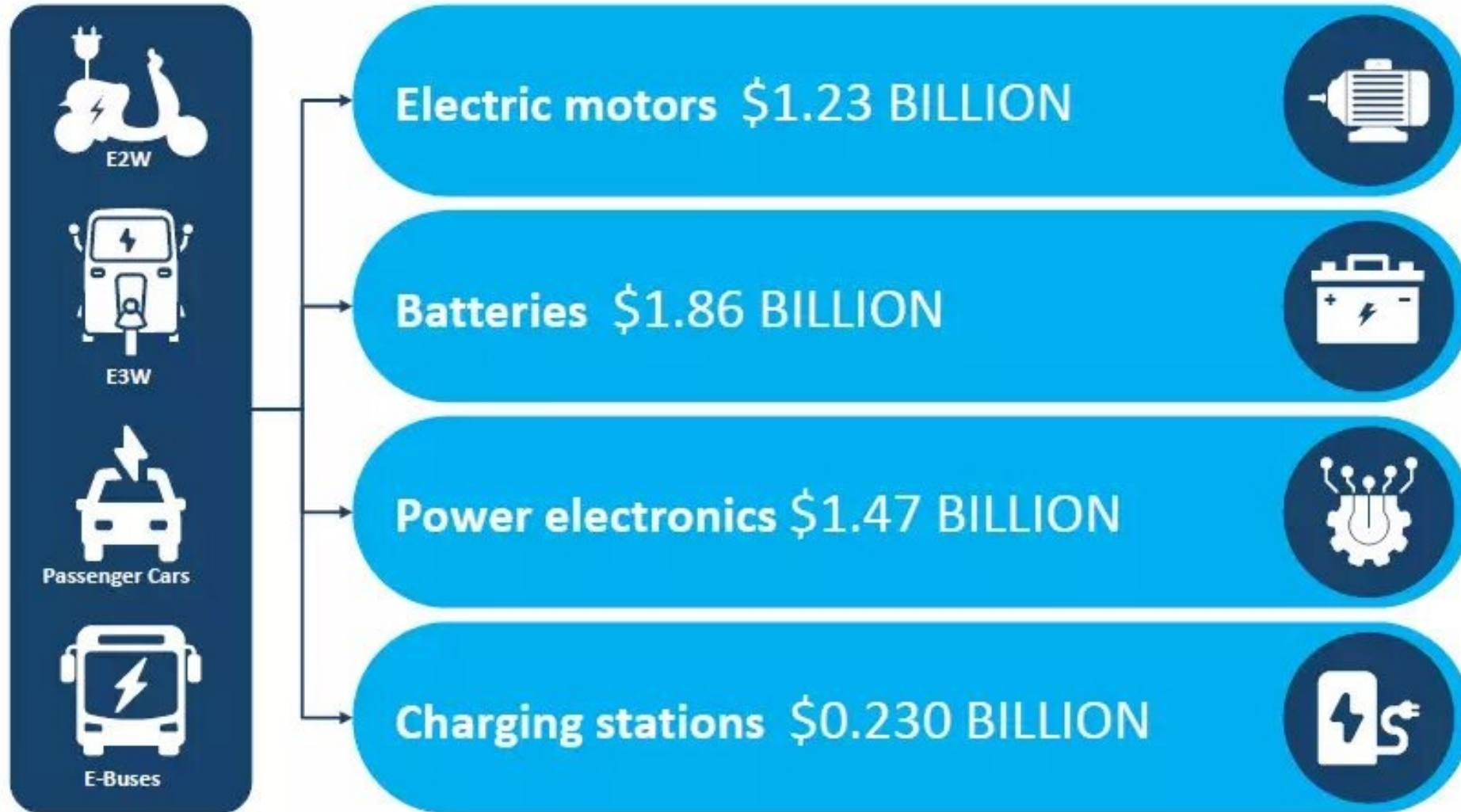
United States:

While **there isn't a national standard**, collaboration between EV manufacturers like Ford and General Motors aims to establish common standards.

- **Europe:**
 - The **Combined Charging System (CCS)** standard dominates in Europe, backed by the **European Union**, promoting uniformity.
- **Japan:**
 - Japan employs the **CHAdeMO** standard, though it's being phased out in **North America** in favor of more common standards.
-

PERSPECTIVE: MARKET SIZE OF EV COMPONENT INDUSTRY IN 2025

ELECTRIC VEHICLE VALUE CHAIN IN INDIA IS EXPECTED TO REACH \$4.8 BILLION IN 2025



KEY TRENDS

1/3rd

Of the EV motor market will emerge from demand in EV Buses in India in 2025

67%

Will be the Passenger Car segment's share in Battery Market in 2025



15.6 Million KWh

Will be the total demand for Li-Ion battery pack in 2025

61%

Will be the 2W vehicle segments' share in the Power electronics market in 2025

Vimarsh 2023

- 
- – A National Hackathon on 5G technology use for police conducted in New Delhi today
 - It would be pertinent to mention that Rs 2.5 Lakhs has been earmarked for productization of winning ideas/Proof of Concepts (POCs) leading to further incubation/incentivisation & funding to obtain workable tools/solutions for the usage of LEAs.
- 

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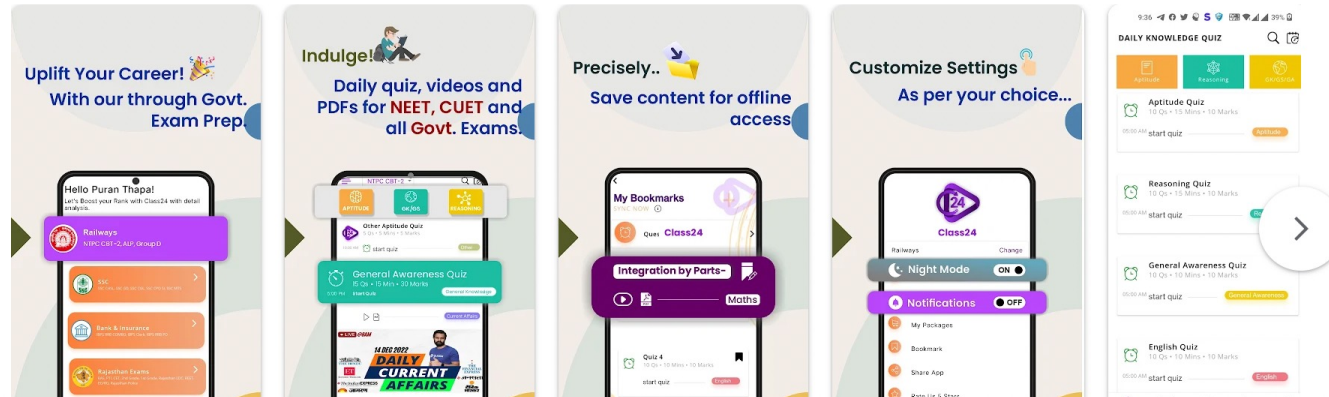
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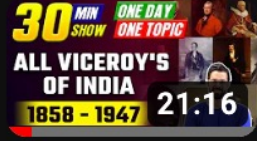


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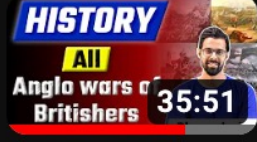
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