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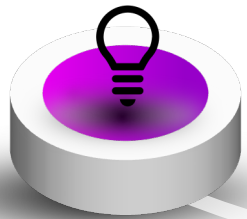
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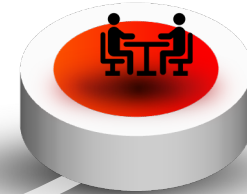
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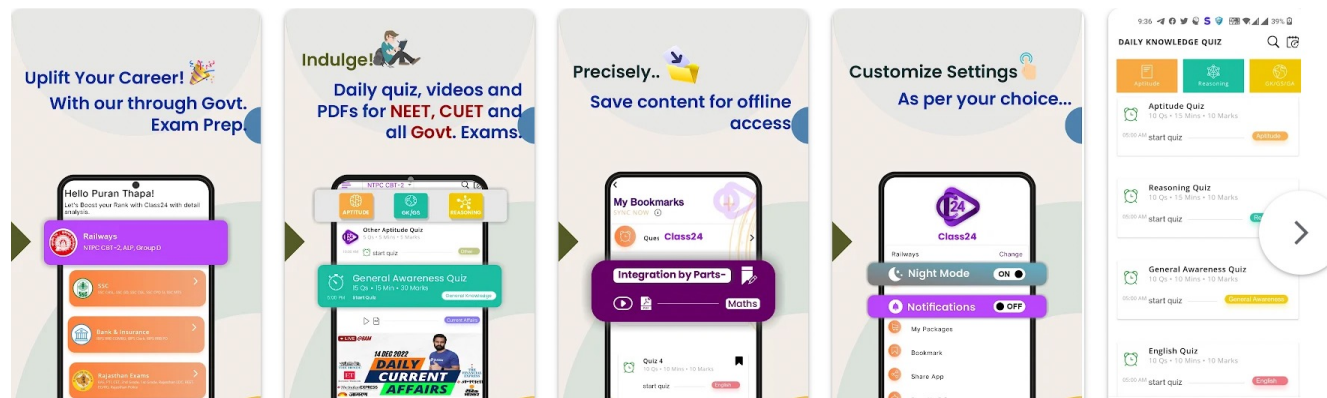
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IN BRIEF



'Ethics panel asked which hotels I stayed in'

NEW DELHI
Tirunelveli Congress MP Mahua Moitra on Thursday said she was asked questions about her travels, which hotels she had stayed in, and with whom, during a deposition to the Lok Sabha's Ethics Committee. » **PAGE 10**

YouTuber Elvish Yadav booked for supplying venom

NEW DELHI
Noida Police on Friday booked reality show Bigg Boss OTT Season 2 winner and YouTuber Elvish Yadav and arrested five persons for supplying snake venom at a rave party in Noida. The accused were booked under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, and sent to judicial custody. » **PAGE 5**

Difficult to press for women's quota before LS poll: SC

Forcing quick implementation will amount to virtually legislating, says Justice Sanjiv Khanna; case listed on Nov. 22 along with a similar petition

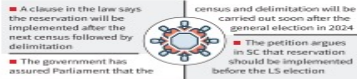
Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday described the constitutional amendment reserving one-third of the seats in Parliament, State legislatures, and the Delhi Legislative Assembly for women as a "very good step" towards attaining gender parity in politics, but voiced doubts about stepping in to ensure the implementation of the quota law before the general election in 2024.

"It will be very difficult for us to do that. It will amount to virtually legislating," Justice Sanjiv Khanna, heading a Division Bench, observed.

Not there yet

The Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, popularly called the women's reservation Bill, stipulates 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. However it won't take effect immediately.



However, the court listed the case on November 22 along with a similar petition.

The petition filed by Jaya Thakur, represented by senior advocate Vikas Singh and advocate Varinder Kumar Sharma, ques-

tioned a clause in the law which said the reservation should be implemented only after the next census followed by a delimitation exercise.

CONTINUED ON
» **PAGE 10**

ED probing payment of ₹508 crore to Baghel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday said it was probing an alleged payment of about ₹508 crore by the Mahadev betting app promoters — who are facing serious criminal charges — to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister and Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel over a period of time.

The ED statement came a day after the agency conducted searches in the poll-bound State and intercepted ₹5.39 crore, following a tip-off that a large amount of cash was being moved at the instance of the app promoters in connection with the Assembly election to be held on November 7 and 17.

CONTINUED ON
» **PAGE 10**
'BID TO TARNISH IMAGE'
» **PAGE 10**

Changemakers all



Winning moment: Nirmala Lakshman, Chairperson, THG Publishing Private Limited, with winners of the Businessine Changemaker of the Year awards. (From left) Neha Bagaria (HerKey); Shrinidhi R.S. (CherriLearn); Saeena Hussain (Educate Girls); RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das; Power Minister R.K. Singh; Jayen Mehta, MD, GCMF; Raghuvir Srinivasan, Editor, Businessine; Parshant Kumar Goyal, Ministry of Finance; and Ranjith Mukundan (Stellapps Technologies). » **COVER STORY (PAGE 10)**

Delhi's air quality plummets

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality slipped into the worst — 'severe plus' — category for the first time this season on Friday. The development prompted Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena to call an emergency meeting

with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Environment Minister Gopal Rai. Mr. Kejriwal, who is leading the Aam Aadmi Party's poll campaign in Chhattisgarh, did not attend the meeting.

The city's air quality index (AQI) rose from 351 at 10 a.m. on Thursday to 471 at 9 a.m. on Friday and

came down to 468 by 4 p.m. The L-G appealed to people to remain indoors as much as possible, avoid unnecessary travel, and, if necessary, use public transport.

DETAILS
» **PAGE 4**



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Difficult to press for women's quota before LS poll: SC

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Krishnadas Rajagopal

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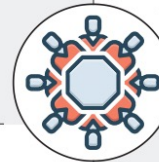
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Not there yet

The Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, popularly called the women's reservation Bill, stipulates 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. However it won't take effect immediately

■ A clause in the law says the reservation will be implemented after the next census followed by delimitation

■ The government has assured Parliament that the



census and delimitation will be carried out soon after the general election in 2024

■ The petition argues in SC that reservation should be implemented before the LS election

However, the court listed the case on November 22 along with a similar petition.

The petition filed by Jaya Thakur, represented by senior advocate Vikas Singh and advocate Varinder Kumar Sharma, ques-

tioned a clause in the law which said the reservation should be implemented only after the next census followed by a delimitation exercise.

CONTINUED ON

» PAGE 10

Mr. Singh urged the court to declare the “offending” clause in the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act of 2023 “*void ab-initio*”.

He argued that a constitutional amendment passed by the Parliament unanimously during a Special Session should not be made to wait indefinitely. Mr. Singh argued that it was settled law that a constitutional amendment cannot be held back unless it was found to be *ultra-vires* the Constitution. “A Special Session was called for implementing the reservation in the Parliament, State legislatures and the Delhi Legislative Assembly. Both Houses passed the Bill unanimously. The Act was notified on September 28, 2023. But still, the object of the Act is yet to be realised,” the petition said. The senior lawyer contended that deferring the implementation of the Act till after the Census and delimitation amounted to a virtual stay on its effect and operation for ambiguous reasons.

The petition referred to the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments of 1993 which gave women one-third representation in local body elections. Dr. Thakur drew the court’s attention to the 77th Constitutional Amendment extending reservations for promotions in jobs for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Finally, the petition highlighted the recent implementation of the 10% EWS reservation for poor Forward Caste sections of the society in educational institutions and public employment.

It said all these amendments were given effect without calling for Census data.

102nd	Addition of articles 338B, 342A, and Added Clause 26C. Modification of articles 338, 366. ^[114]	11 August 2018	Constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes	Narendra Modi	Ram Nath Kovind
103rd	Amendment to Article 15, added Clause [6], Amendment to Article 16, added Clause [6]. ^[115]	12 January 2019	A maximum of 10% Reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) of citizens of classes other than the classes mentioned in clauses (4) and (5) of Article 15, i.e. Classes other than socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Inserted Clause [6] under Article 15 as well as Inserted Clause [6] under Article 16.		
104th	Amend article 334. ^[116]	25 January 2020	To extend the reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha and states assemblies from Seventy years to Eighty years. Removed the reserved seats for the Anglo-Indian community in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies by not extending it further. ^[117]		
105th	Amended Article 338B, 342A and 366 ^[118]	10 August 2021	To restore the power of the state governments to identify Other Backward Classes (OBCs) that are socially and educationally backward. This amendment annulled the Supreme Court judgement of 11 May 2021, which had empowered only the Central government for such identification. ^[119]		
106th	Amended article 239AA. Insertion of articles 330A, 332A, 334A.	28 September 2023 ^[120]	To reserve one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha (330A), state legislative assemblies (332A) and Delhi Legislative Assembly (239AA) for women for a period for 15 years after coming effect.(334A)		Droupadi Murmu

From Page One

Women's quotas prior to LS polls is difficult: SC

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ED probing payment of ₹508 crore to Baghel

The agency said it carried out searches at Hotel Triton as well as at another location in Bhalai and intercepted a cash courier. The ED also sent a person from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), especially to deliver the cash for election expenses of the ruling Congress party.

The ED seized the cash purportedly from Mr. Das's vehicle and his residence. "Das has admitted that the seized funds were arranged by the Mahadev app promoters to be delivered to one politician 'Baghel' for the upcoming election expenses in Chhattisgarh, it said. The agency alleged that it also detected some "benami" bank accounts of the app, in which the total balance of about ₹15.59 crore was frozen. The ED arrested Mr. Das.

"From the questioning of Das, and from the forensic examination of the phone recovered from him, and examination of an email sent by Shubham Soni [one of the high-ranking accused of Mahadev network], many startling allegations have come forth," said the ED release. "namely, that regular payments have been made in the past and so far around ₹508 crore have been paid by Mahadev app promoters to Bhubaneswar Baghel, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh," it added.

The ED had earlier arrested one police constable, Bheem Yadav. As alleged, in the past three years, he had made unauthorised visits to Dubai; met main accused Ravil Uppal and another Chandra drakar; and had participated in the gala functions of Mahadev app, it said. The constable's travel expenses were borne by Rapid Travels of Ahuja Brothers, allegedly a money laundering and ticketing company of the app. "He was the conduit to receive bribe money from Mahadev app promoters for the benefit of senior officers and politicians of Chhattisgarh," the ED alleged. The two arrested accused were produced before a Rajpur court that sent them to seven-day ED custody.

The agency has so far arrested four persons in the case, seized assets worth ₹450 crore, and filed a prosecution complaint against 14 accused.

Ethics Committee asked which hotels I stayed in with whom

The Trinamool MP says she was asked insinuating questions about her friendships; insists no prohibition on sharing Parliament system login details; says probe is a distraction from questions about Modi-Adani nexus, adding that out of 61 questions, nine were on Adani; she says login id and password are with three or four people in the MP's team

INTERVIEW

Mahua Moitra

Sobhana K. Nair
Sandeeep Phukan

A day after Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra walked out of her Lok Sabha Ethics Committee deposition, alleging an "inappropriate" line of questioning by chairman and BJP MP Vinod Kumar Sonkar, she spoke to *The Hindu* on what transpired at the meeting. She had been called to present her defence against allegations that she took cash to ask questions in Parliament.

What exactly transpired in the Ethics Committee meeting held on Thursday that made you and the Opposition members walk out?

At about 12 o'clock, they called me in. The chairman had come in with a pre-written script and he wasn't letting me record my statement. I was allowed to speak only when the Opposition members pointed out that, since complaints have given their statement, I should be allowed to give my version of the events too. Post-lunch, the questioning continued. I am a member of two committees... every member is supposed to ask a question.

Here, the chairman didn't allow anyone to speak. He had this big bunch of questions and he was reading out from it. Now, there are two issues of the committee: one is the Lok Sabha login and second, the alleged gifts that I received. The chairman asked me, "You call no one so a dear friend. How dear is he?"

Claim by ED attempt to tarnish my image, says Chhattisgarh CM

The Central agency had claimed that it was probing an alleged payment of about ₹508 crore by Mahadev betting app promoters to Baghel

Shubhamoy Sikdar
KAPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhubaneswar Baghel on Friday said the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) claim that it was probing an alleged payment of about ₹508 crore by Mahadev betting app promoters to him was a joke and a malicious attempt to tarnish his image.

In a press statement issued earlier, the ED said it intercepted a cash courier, Adani, Das, who was sent from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) especially to deliver the cash for "electioneering expenses of the Congress party".

Mr. Baghel posted a long rebuttal on X (formerly Twitter), calling the ED statement a political attempt to defame the popular Congress government which was being done through the agency. He also questioned the very basis of the claim made by the Central agency.

"Look at the shrewdness of the ED who is revealing the statement of a person [Das], it has written in a short sentence that the statement is a mat-

ter of investigation. If investigation has not been done then issuing a press release on the statement of one person not only reveals the intentions of the ED but also reveals the bad intentions of the Central government behind it," the Chief Minister wrote.

Questions money inflow He added that because election was going on in the State, everything was in the hands of the Election Commission even as he questioned the inflow of the money [₹5.39 crore] purportedly seized from Mr. Das. "The CRPF personnel are investigating. The question arises that

Strong quake jolts Nepal; tremors felt in North India

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A strong earthquake of magnitude 6.4 jolted Nepal on Friday night sending waves of tremors across parts of North India. The tremor struck at 11.32 pm, forcing people to rush out of their homes just as they were preparing for the weekend.

The National Centre for Seismology said the epicentre of the earthquake was in Nepal. "The tremors were felt for quite some time as we saw many tremors, and enjoying the weekend," said Inderjit Singh, a resident of Gurukulam.

Mentioning his wife's name, he said, "And does his wife know?" He says, "You can't help me. No." Then, he says, "Who do you talk to late at night?" He says, "I don't know." He says, "You give us a log of your late night calls in the next 24 hours? And if you want you can say no." So I turned around and asked him.

I said, "Do you mean to tell me if you ask me, are you a prostitute?" And I said no, that there's nothing wrong with that. Then he asked me for the details of the trip. I said, "I travelled to the last five years. He even asked which hotels I stayed in, and with whom. At that point, all the five Opposition MPs walked out.

Since the complaint was made by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, have you spoken to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee?



State Chief Minister Bhubaneswar Baghel during a public meeting in Raipur on October 29. PTI

how are people able to reach Chhattisgarh with such huge amount? Is there any nexus between Central agencies going on in this case? The amount being brought in these boxes which have not reached by special plane with ED officers and attempt to defame the popular Congress leader.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh also took to X and wrote that faced with the prospects of a certain plane with ED officers and attempt to defame the popular Congress leader.

Cauvery Authority ratifies CWRC's decision on release of water to Tamil Nadu

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on Friday approved the decision of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) to ask Karnataka to release 2,600 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water to Tamil Nadu till November 23.

The ratification meant that the upper riparian State would have to release 5.17 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) in the next three weeks. When the CWRC took the decision earlier this week, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister

buy all infrastructure assets, his the contract. He is one man, whose companies are owned by foreign FPI [Foreign Portfolio Investment] whose origin source is security and Exchange Board of India does not know. Isn't that a security issue? The coal sector, ₹13,000 crore of over-invoicing has been done.

The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] and the ED [Enforcement Directorate] can't open an investigation with that. Instead, to deflect attention they are standing up to the BJP to Mahua Moitra and whose car she travelled in!

But why should an industrialist have your login?

He is my friend. I asked him to give me a secretary who I can speak to. West would send the questions, and it would be typed in.

RBI crowned businessline Changemaker of the Year for role during pandemic

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a glittering ceremony that featured humour-packed moments, a virtuoso violin recital, an electrifying hula hoop dance performance, Power Minister R.K. Singh presented *businessline's* Changemaker of the Year award to the Reserve Bank of India for steering the country through the turbulent period of the pandemic. Annu was crowned Iconic Changemaker of the Year.

Jayen Mehta, Managing Director, GCMF (Annu), light-heartedly quipped, "Early in the morning, at 10 AM, you will see only two changemakers — new papers [Annu] especially [milkmen]."

RBI Governor Shakti Kant Das also dedicated the award to all officers, Department of Financial Services (DFS) officials, bank officials, and employees of the central bank, praising their commitment and dedication.

The fifth edition of the event saw awards being given to individuals and institutions ready to make a difference, you can say you have justified your existence... when you have made a difference to a few people or to a large number of people. When the



Union Power Minister R.K. Singh presenting *businessline's* Changemaker of the Year award to RBI Governor Shakti Kant Das in the presence of Nirmla Lakshman, Chairperson, and Raghuvar Srinivasan, Editor, *businessline*, in New Delhi on Friday. KAMAL NARAYAN

Stellapps Technologies, a start-up that works on digitising the dairy sector. In social transformation there were two winners — Her Key, which aims to reverse the gender brain drain, and Educate Girls, an NGO that aims to improve access and retention of education for girls. The award for financial transformation went to Pradshan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.

The Young Changemaker Award went to Shrinidhi K.S., creator of Cherrif, an education app. In his address, Mr. Singh said, "I was reflecting on change. Only when you make a difference, you can say you have justified your existence... when you have made a difference to a few people or to a large number of people. When the

ED continues action in Rajasthan, holds searches at 25 places

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Continuing its action in Jharkhand, Rajasthan, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted fresh searches at 25 locations, including the premises of an Additional Chief Secretary, in connection with the money laundering probe into the implementation of the

The ED officials carried out searches at the suspected places in Jaipur and Dausa districts. After the last week's searches at residences of Congress leaders in some other parts of the state, Ashok

The entire thing is a non-issue. The login is operated by MPs' assistants and staff of the MP.

The login and password on an average is with at least four people in the MP's team. So around 3,000 to 4,000 people have access to this portal.

Will we see you contest again from Krishna Nagar?

Not only will I contest from that seat, I will win with double the margin.

Gehlot had alleged that the BJP government at the Centre was misusing the investigating agencies to target the Opposition parties.

The searches were conducted under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at the residence of the Public Health Engineering Department's (PHED) Additional Chief Secretary, Shrinivasan, as well as on the premises of some engineers, contractors and government officials.

The ED has carried out similar searches in the JIM case in September this year as well.

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DAYS AHEAD OF CHHATTISGARH POLLS

ED claims Baghel took Rs 508 cr from betting app group, he hits back

BJP taking help of Central agencies for polls, Cong will fight and win: CM

MHAHEENDR SINGH MANIAR & JAYPRAKASH SNAIDU NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 3

AFTER having earlier questioned the advice and two Officers on Special Duty to Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, the Enforcement Directorate Friday alleged that the CM has



Cash courier sent from Utkal party Baghel: ED

Rs 508 crore so far, were made by Mahadv App promoter to CM Baghel. This was subject matter of investigation," the ED spokesman said Friday. The ED's allegations come three days ahead of the first phase of elections to the Legislative Assembly in Chhattisgarh on November 7. Responding to the ED's press release, Baghel said "the BJP agencies like ESI, ITR and CID, look how they threw ED in after accusing me of taking Rs 508 crore based on the statement of an unknown person, they had not even completed their investigation."

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 475 'VERY SEVERE'

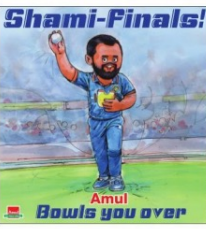
The Capital gasps



Delhi pollution levels registered a steep climb Friday, forces Shome

Spike in Punjab fire count in last 8 days, average Delhi AQI worse than last year

INDIA'S capital Delhi choked with 'severe' air quality for the second consecutive day on Friday with the 24-hour average AQI (Air Quality Index) hitting a high of 475 at 11 am before falling marginally to 468 at 4 pm and further to 454 at 5 pm. The forecast indicates air quality is likely to remain 'severe' at least till Monday, with the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) declaring 'severe' air quality a day or more, before invoking more stringent dust-uptake actions under Stage IV of CAQM (Graded Response Action Plan).



Work starts on shaping first national security strategy, long wait ends

Being stitched by NSC Secretariat in consultation with ministries, depts

INDIA HAS set the ball rolling to bring out a National Security Strategy after years of discussion and deliberations within the military and the strategic community on the need to have one. The Indian Express has learnt that the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) is putting in place a comprehensive National Security Strategy in consultation with several Central ministries and departments. A final Cabinet approval will then be sought for it.

Why it's needed

A National Security Strategy document outlines the country's security objectives, the ways to be adopted to achieve these. Updated periodically, it defines traditional, non-traditional threats and opportunities while introducing accountability of agencies tasked with implementation of responsibilities.

Caste census: Shah says BJP never opposed it, needs careful thought

Appropriate decision after consulting everyone and listening about it. But caste census is not correct. The BJP has never opposed this (caste census), but decisions have to be taken after careful thought. We will let you know about the Chhattisgarh elections in our next report.

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah said Friday that the BJP was never opposed to the idea of caste census but it does not do "politics of votes" on the issue. He said such "elections have to be taken after careful thought" and an "appropriate time". Speaking to the press at the launch of the BJP manifesto for



'Appropriate decision after consulting everyone'

BJP leader's call to 'uproot' gurdwaras angers Sikhs, gets EC rap



Near the incident spot on the IIT-BHU campus, Hoshiarpur

BJP TSARA candidate and sitting AICC MP Balraj Nath has said that a "paap" has been committed. BJP leader Sandeep Daryna has issued a video apology. And the Election Commission has sent a notice to the latter contesting the Tjara constituency in Amritsar district, which has taken overgrip actions with the felling of Hindu pine trees.

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2 days before IIT-BHU molestation: Another student, similar ordeal

TWO DAYS before a woman student was forcibly disrobed and molested by three men on the IIT-BHU campus in Varanasi, another student faced a similar ordeal. The Indian Express has learnt while the most recent incident happened late Wednesday night, the previous incident took place on Monday night, and the Proctor's office was informed about it. The institute's Dean confirmed to the Indian Express that a complaint regarding the earlier incident was received by the

Proctor's office and that action was being taken. Several members of the IIT-BHU Students' Parliament said "there was delay in taking action in the earlier incident". Both the incidents happened in the area, were set spot on the campus. In connection with the incident on Wednesday that triggered widespread protests from the student community, the woman student had said that "three unidentified men stood near her, took her clothes off and recorded photos and videos". She had also said that she was in a male friend at the time, before she was forcibly

Home away from home: Slowly but surely, Manipur refugees find a place in Mizoram

As the polling date for the Mizoram state legislative assembly elections draws close, these refugees and the situation there is a dominant talking point among political leaders, workers and the media. Through the course of the conflict in neighbouring Manipur, more than 12,000 people from the state moved into the Thangtalai shelter with family on May 28, says

The relief camp at the Thangtalai shelter in Mizoram, which shares a border with Assam's Cachar district and has sheltered the highest number of displaced people - it included 4,415 on June. Though central to the pep discourse, these people will not be using. Instead, their focus is on building their own unknown place. Sirimangla Singam, who shared the Mizam with

Patanjali Chyawanprash & Patanjali Honey are the Best in the World to increase strength, agility and immunity.

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THE FAB FOUR'S ONLY RECORDING OF 21ST CENTURY COMES 40 YRS AFTER LENNON'S MURDER, 20 YRS AFTER HARRISON'S DEATH

The Beatles release their final record — with a little help from AI

MARIA SHERMAN

LOS ANGELES, NOVEMBER 3

THE FINAL Beatles recording is here.

Titled "Now and Then," the almost impossible-to-believe track is four minutes and eight seconds of the first and only original Beatles recording of the 21st century. There's a countdown, then acoustic guitar strumming and piano bleed into the unmistakable vocal tone of John Lennon in the song's introduction: "I know it's true / It's all because of you / And if I make it through / It's all because of you."

More than four decades since Lennon's murder and two since

George Harrison's death, the very last Beatles song has been released as a double A-side single with "Love Me Do," the band's 1962 debut single.

"Now and Then" comes from the same batch of unreleased demos written by Lennon in the 1970s, which were given to his former bandmates by Yoko Ono. They used the tape to construct the songs "Free As a Bird" and "Real Love," released in the mid-1990s. But there were technical limitations to finishing "Now and Then."

On Wednesday, a short film titled "The Beatles — Now And Then — The Last Beatles Song" was released, detailing the creation of the track.

“We’re actually messing around with state-of-the-art technology, which is something the Beatles would’ve been very interested in.”

— PAUL McCARTNEY

On the original tape, Lennon's voice was hidden; the piano was "hard to hear," as Paul McCartney describes it. "And in those days, of course, we didn't have the technology to do the separation."

That changed in 2022, when the band — now a duo — was



A new Beatles single titled 'Now and Then' on sale at a record store in London, Friday. AP

able to utilise the same technical restoration methods that separated the Beatles' voices from background sounds during the making of director Peter Jackson's 2021 documentary series, "The Beatles: Get Back." And so, they were able to isolate Lennon's voice from the original cassette and complete "Now and Then" using machine learning.

When the song was first announced in June, McCartney described artificial intelligence (AI) technology as "kind of scary but exciting," adding: "We will just have to see where that leads."

McCartney and Starr built the track from Lennon's demo, adding guitar parts George Harrison wrote in the 1995 ses-

sions and a slide guitar solo in his signature style. McCartney and Starr tracked their bass and drum contributions. A string arrangement was written with the help of Giles Martin, son of the late Beatles producer George Martin — a clever recall to the classic ambitiousness of "Strawberry Fields," or "Yesterday," or "I Am the Walrus." Those musicians couldn't be told they were contributing to the last ever Beatles track, so McCartney played it off like a solo endeavor.

"This is the last track, ever, that you'll get the four Beatles on the track. John, Paul, George, and Ringo," Ringo Starr said of Lennon's contributions to the track in September. **AP**

The Beatles



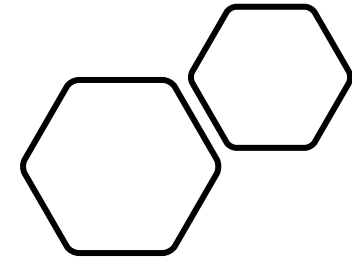
The Beatles in 1964; clockwise from top left:
[John Lennon](#), [Paul McCartney](#), [Ringo Starr](#)
and [George Harrison](#)

Background information

Origin	Liverpool, England
Genres	Rock · pop · beat · psychedelia
Years active	1960–1970
Labels	Parlophone · Capitol · Apple
Spinoffs	Plastic Ono Band
Spinoff of	The Quarrymen
Past members	John Lennon Paul McCartney George Harrison Ringo Starr (see Personnel section for others)

Joyalukkas chairman to unveil autobiography

New Delhi: Joyalukkas Group chairman Joy Alukkas will release autobiography titled, 'Spreading Joy – How Joyalukkas Became the World's Favorite Jeweller' on November 5 at the Sharjah International Book Fair. The book is published by HarperCollins and offers insights into leadership and brand-building. **ENS**



Joyalukkas



Chain

Founder: [Joy Alukkas](#)

Founded: 1987

Headquarters: [Thrissur, Kerala, India](#)

Number of locations: 85 showrooms in [India](#) and 45 showrooms internationally

Disclaimer

Saudi pads up for IPL stake

ANTO ANTONY, DINESH NAIR &
GILES TURNER
November 3

SAUDI ARABIA HAS expressed interest in buying a multibillion-dollar stake in the Indian Premier League, international cricket's most lucrative event, following a string of investments that have upended professional sports, including football and golf.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's advisers have sounded out Indian government officials about moving the IPL into a holding company valued at as much as \$30 billion, in which Saudi Arabia would then take a significant stake, people familiar with the matter said. The talks were held when the kingdom's defacto ruler visited India in September, the people said, asking not to be named as the information is not public.

Under plans discussed at the time, the kingdom proposed investing as much as \$5 billion into the league and help lead an

MONEY-MAKER

■ Proposal is to move IPL into a holding company valued at as much as **\$30 bn,** in which Saudi Arabia eyes a significant stake

■ Bidders last year paid **\$6.2 bn** for the right to broadcast IPL games through 2027

expansion into other countries, similar to the English Premier League or the European Champions League, the people said.

Continued on Page 9



■ In Sept, it proposed investing as much as \$5 billion and help IPL expand into other countries

■ Bidding amount works out to **\$15.1 million** per match, more than the EPL and just behind **\$17 million** in the NFL in the US

INSIDE

Shami jerseys sold out around Eden Gardens stadium **PAGE 24**

India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)





Saudi Arabia

Jordan
Iraq
Iran
Kuwait
Qatar
UAE
Oman
Egypt
Sudan
Eritrea
Yemen
Red Sea
Arabian Sea

Jiddah
Mecca
Riyadh





Intel to boost laptop production in India

Ties up with eight manufacturers

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, November 3

INTEL ON FRIDAY announced a collaboration with eight electronics manufacturing services (EMS) companies and original design manufacturers (ODMs) to boost laptop manufacturing in India.

Intel will share its expertise and help facilitate production of entry-level laptops in the country, it said in a release.

Intel has entered into an agreement with Dixon Technologies, Bhagwati Products, Kaynes Technology, Optiemus Electronics, Panache

SHOT IN THE ARM

■ Intel has announced collaboration with eight EMS companies and ODMs

■ It will leverage surface mount technology lines and help set up quality control process for components and benchmark finished goods

Digilife, Smile Electronics, Syrma SGS Technology and VVDN Technologies.

The company will also leverage its state-of-the-art surface mount technology (SMT) lines, as well as help the

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR,
MOS, Electronics & IT

I AM VERY PLEASED THAT GLOBAL ORGANISATIONS LIKE INTEL ARE PARTNERING WITH INDIA, HELPING TO BUILD AND CATALYSE THE ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING ECOSYSTEM



manufacturers set up a quality control process for components and benchmark finished goods.

“I am very pleased that global organisations like Intel are partnering with India,

helping to build and catalyse the electronics manufacturing ecosystem for laptops and compute,” said Rajeev Chandrasekhar, minister of state for electronics and IT.

According to Chandrasekhar, such collaborations will help Indian electronic manufacturers expand their footprint as trusted players in the global value chains.

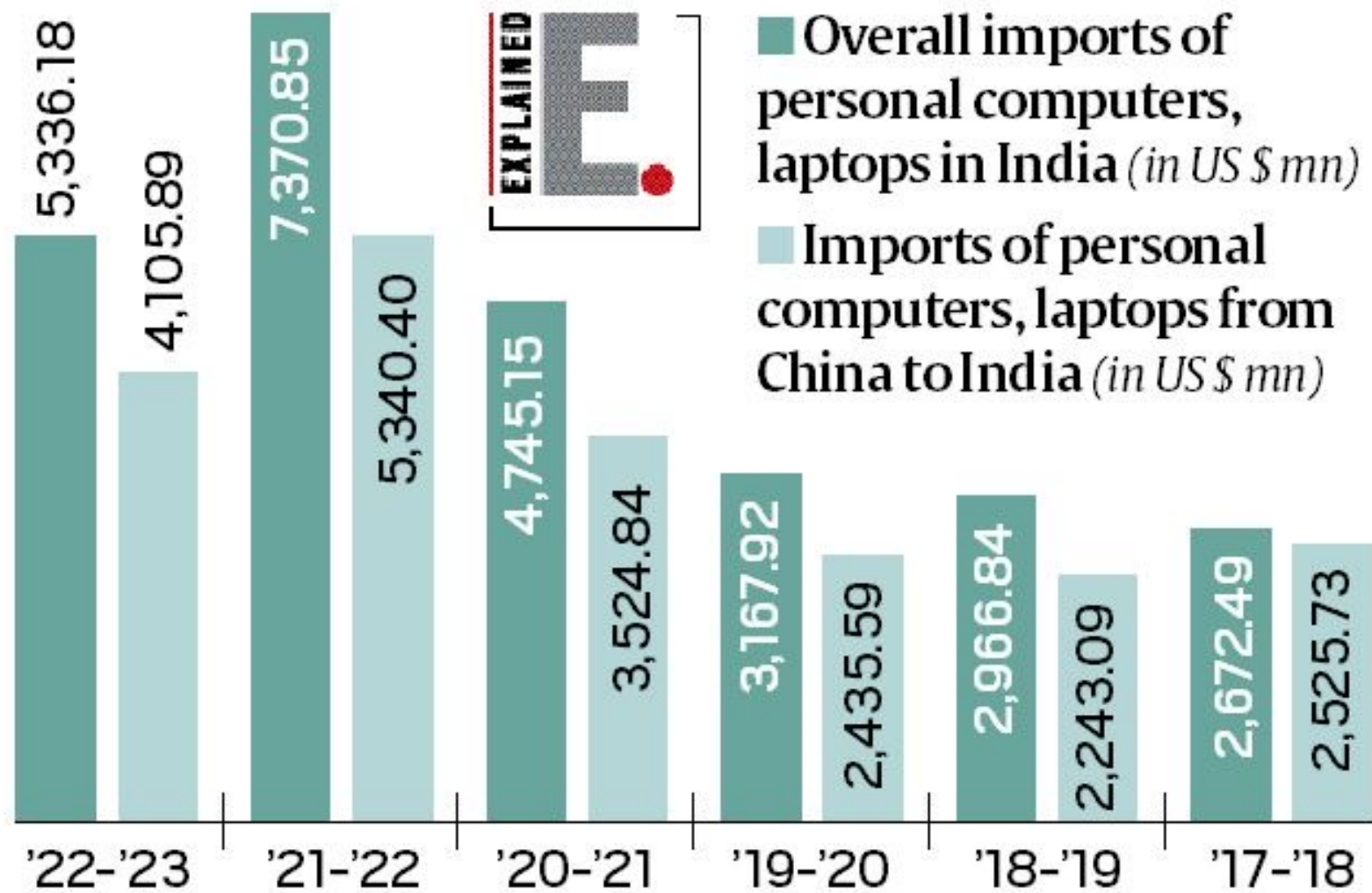
For certain Indian contract manufacturing companies who are entering the business of laptop manufacturing, partnership with Intel is crucial to understand the space better. Further, a lot of these players have also submitted their applications for the IT hardware PLI scheme.

“By enabling the laptop

manufacturing process — from surface mount technology assembly to finished product — we are not only meeting the demands of the Make in India initiative but also contributing to the technological progress of the nation,” said Santhosh Viswanathan, VP & MD of Intel India.

In May, the government announced the revised IT hardware PLI 2.0, with an outlay of ₹17,000 crore, to boost local manufacturing in India. This scheme is expected to create ₹4.7 trillion incremental production over a period of six years. A total of 40 companies have applied for the scheme. The government is yet to announce the list of approved applicants.

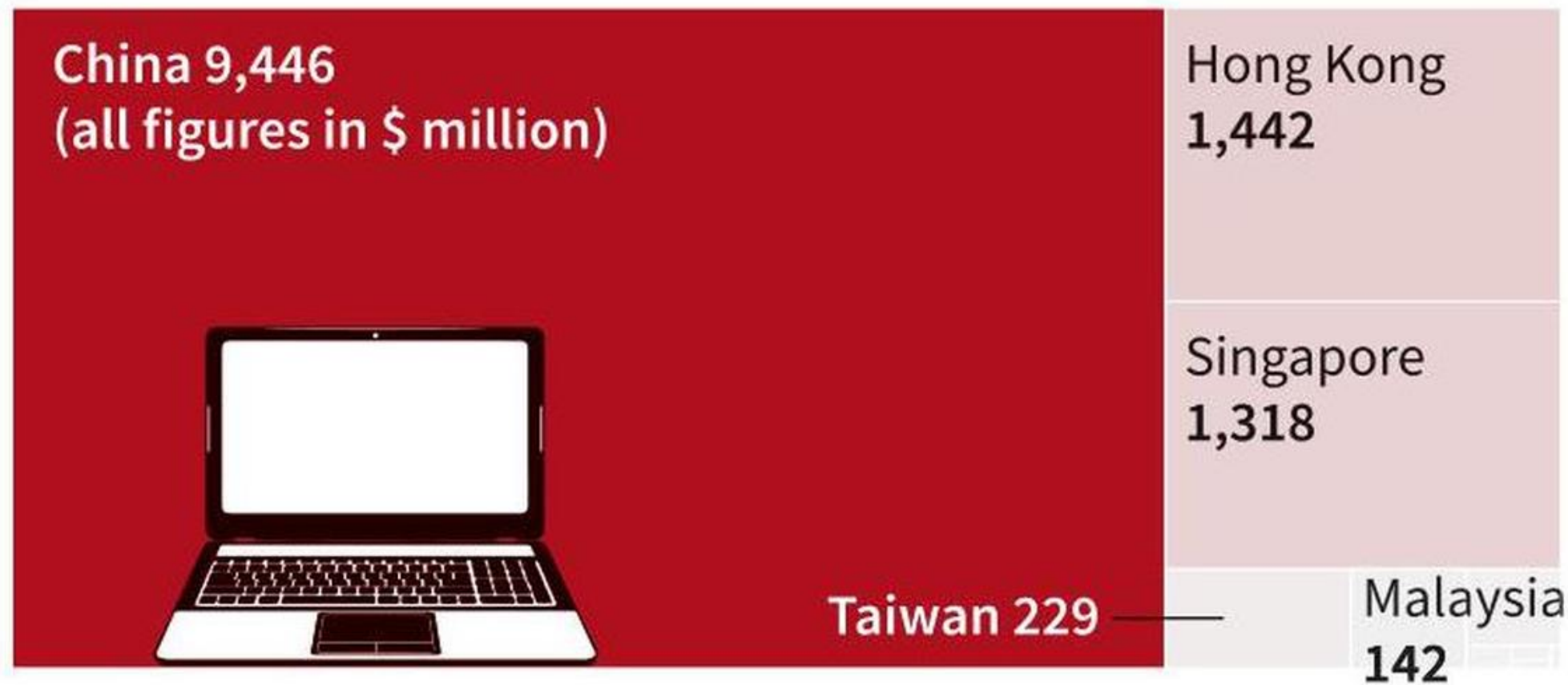
WHY THIS CAN AFFECT CHINA



Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

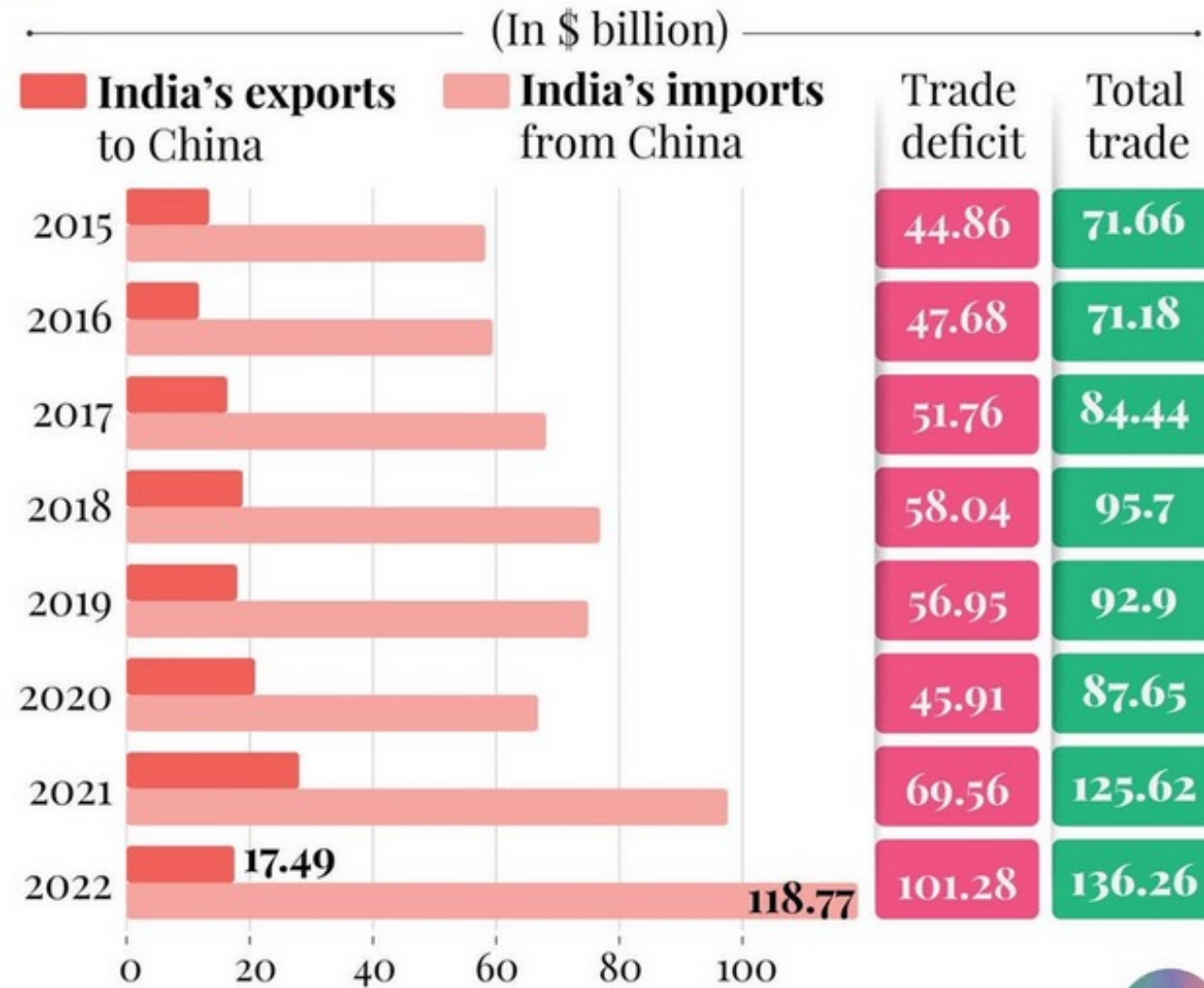
Dragon's iron grip

In FY22 and FY23, India imported \$9,446 million worth of laptops from China. Hong Kong was a distant second



Trade imbalance

India's trade with China has risen sharply in recent years, but the growth has been rather one-sided



Source: Indian embassy to China





State Food Safety Index 2022- 2023



The State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2022- 2023 released by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) sheds light on the performance of Indian states in ensuring food safety.



The 2022- 2023 index introduced a new parameter, 'Improvement in SFSI Rank', which assessed a state's progress from the previous year. To accommodate this change, weights of other parameters were adjusted.

What is the State Food Safety Index (SFSI)?

It is an annual evaluation that measures the performance of states and union territories on food safety.

The Index is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative benchmarking model that provides an objective framework for evaluating food safety across all States/UTs.

SFSI was started in 2018-19 to create a competitive and positive change in the food safety ecosystem in the country.

- **General Decline in State Food Safety Scores:**
 - Over the past five years, **19 out of 20 large Indian states**, including Maharashtra, Bihar, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh, have **experienced a decline** in their 2022 - 2023 SFSI scores compared to 2019.



STATES WITH STEEPEST INDEX FALL

State	2019	2023
Maharashtra	74	45
Bihar	46	20.5
Gujarat	73	48.5
Andhra Pradesh	47	24
Chhattisgarh	46	27

Source: SFSI reports; all scores out of 100

SAFETY MEASURE

Parameter	Weight
Compliance	28
Consumer Empowerment	19
Human Resources and Institutional Data	18
Food Testing Infrastructure	17
Improvement in SFSI Rank (<i>added in 2023</i>)	10
Training and Capacity Building	8
TOTAL	100

-
- **Impact of the 2023 Index Parameter Adjustment:**
 - After adjusting for a new parameter introduced in the 2022- 2023 index, 15 out of 20 states recorded lower SFSI scores in 2022 - 2023 compared to 2019.

- **States' Overall Rankings in their Respective Categories:**

Category- Union Territories	
Name	Rank
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Delhi	2
Chandigarh	3

Category- Small States	
Small State	Rank
Goa	1
Manipur	2
Sikkim	3

Category- Large States	
Large State	Rank
Kerala	1
Punjab	2
Tamil Nadu	3

- **Decline in 'Food Testing Infrastructure':**

- The 'Food Testing Infrastructure' parameter measures the availability of adequate testing infrastructure with trained personnel in each state for testing food samples.

-
- This parameter **experienced the steepest fall**, with the average score for all large states dropping from 13 out of 20 in 2019 to 7 out of 17 in 2022 - 2023.
 - **Gujarat and Kerala were the best performers** in this parameter in 2022 - 2023 while **Andhra Pradesh performed the worst**.

- **Compliance Scores Decreased:**

- This parameter measures licensing and registration of food businesses, inspections conducted, special drives and camps organized, and other such compliance-related tasks carried out by each state's food safety authority.

Scores for the 'Compliance' parameter also declined.

The 2022 - 2023 average compliance score for all large states stood at **11 out of 28** compared to **16 out of 30** in 2019.

- **Punjab and Himachal Pradesh received the highest scores** in this parameter and Jharkhand received the lowest score.



Decline in Human Resources and Institutional Data Scores



Varied Consumer Empowerment:



Improvement in 'Training and Capacity Building':

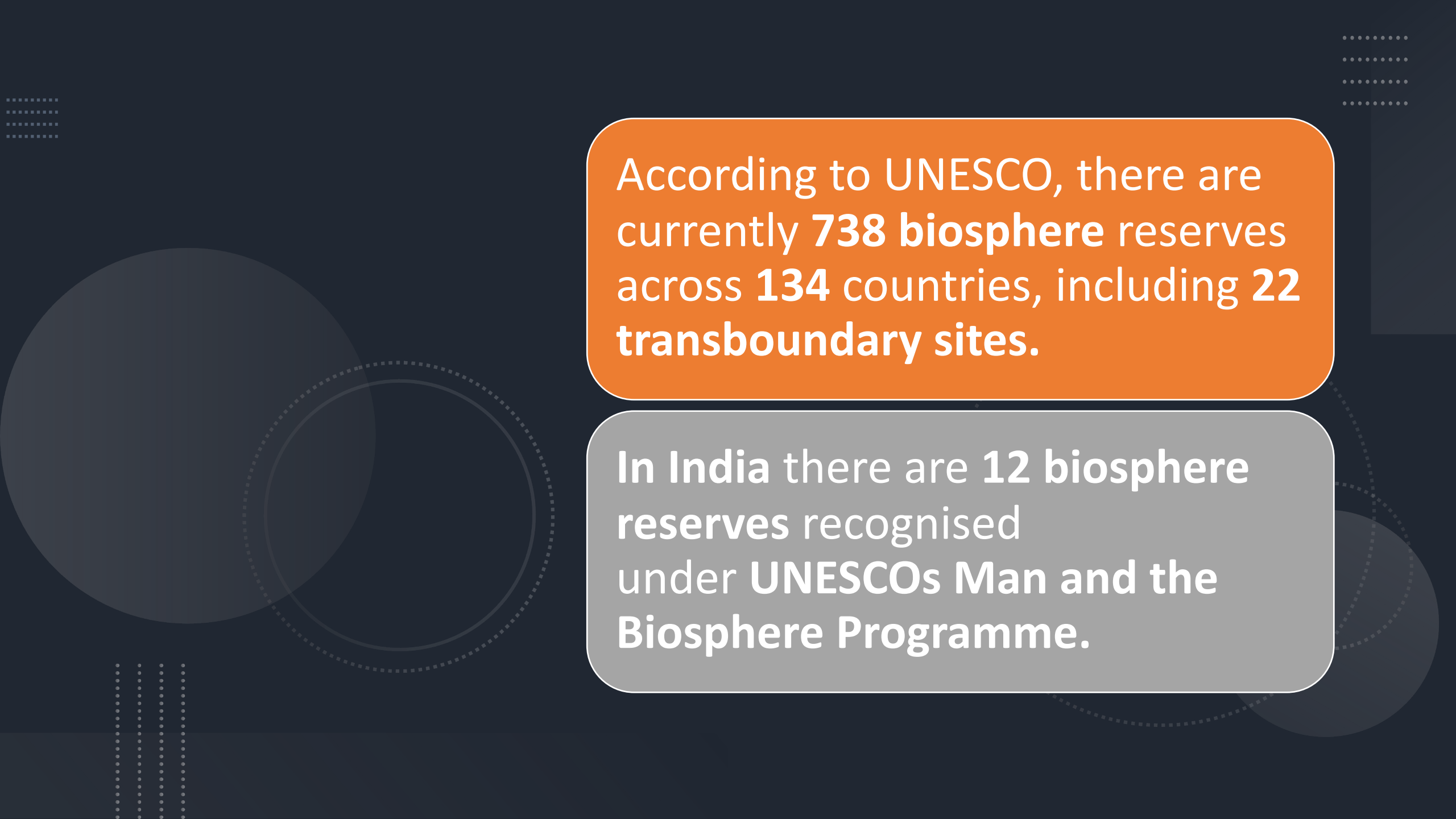
-
- **Improvement in SFSI Rank:**
 - In the new parameter 'Improvement in SFSI Rank,' only **Punjab showed significant improvement.**
 - Improvement in the SFSI Rank parameter, which carried a weightage of 10% in 2022 - 2023, 14 out of 20 large states received 0 points.



World Biosphere Reserve Day



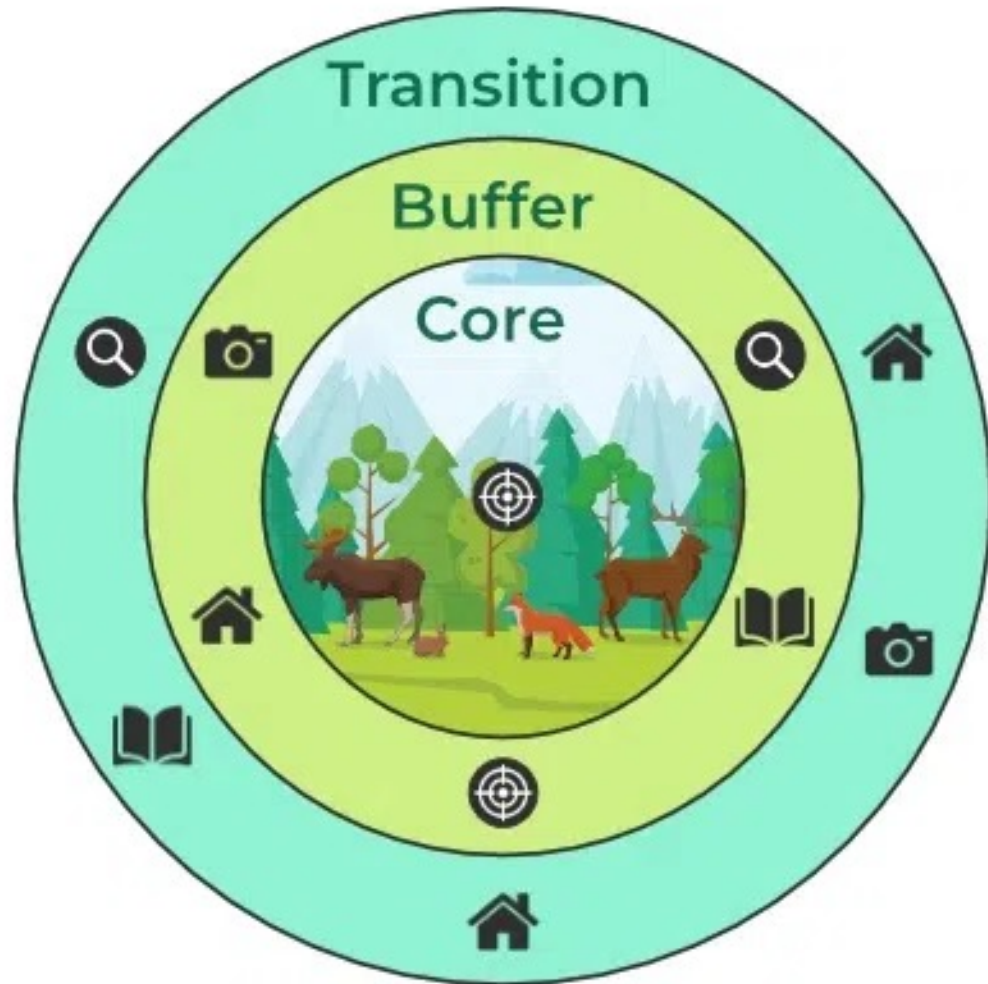
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- On the second anniversary of World Biosphere Reserve Day, November 3, it is important to reflect on the progress made in conserving and sustainably using these vital ecosystems



According to UNESCO, there are currently **738 biosphere** reserves across **134** countries, including **22 transboundary sites**.

In India there are **12 biosphere reserves** recognised under UNESCO's **Man and the Biosphere Programme**.

Zones of Biosphere Reserves



Biodiversity



Tourism



Human Settlement



Research



Education



Monitoring



Threats

They are vulnerable to climate change, be it through invasive species or extreme weather events.

Surface water pollution.

inadequate financial resources

uncontrolled development



Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways



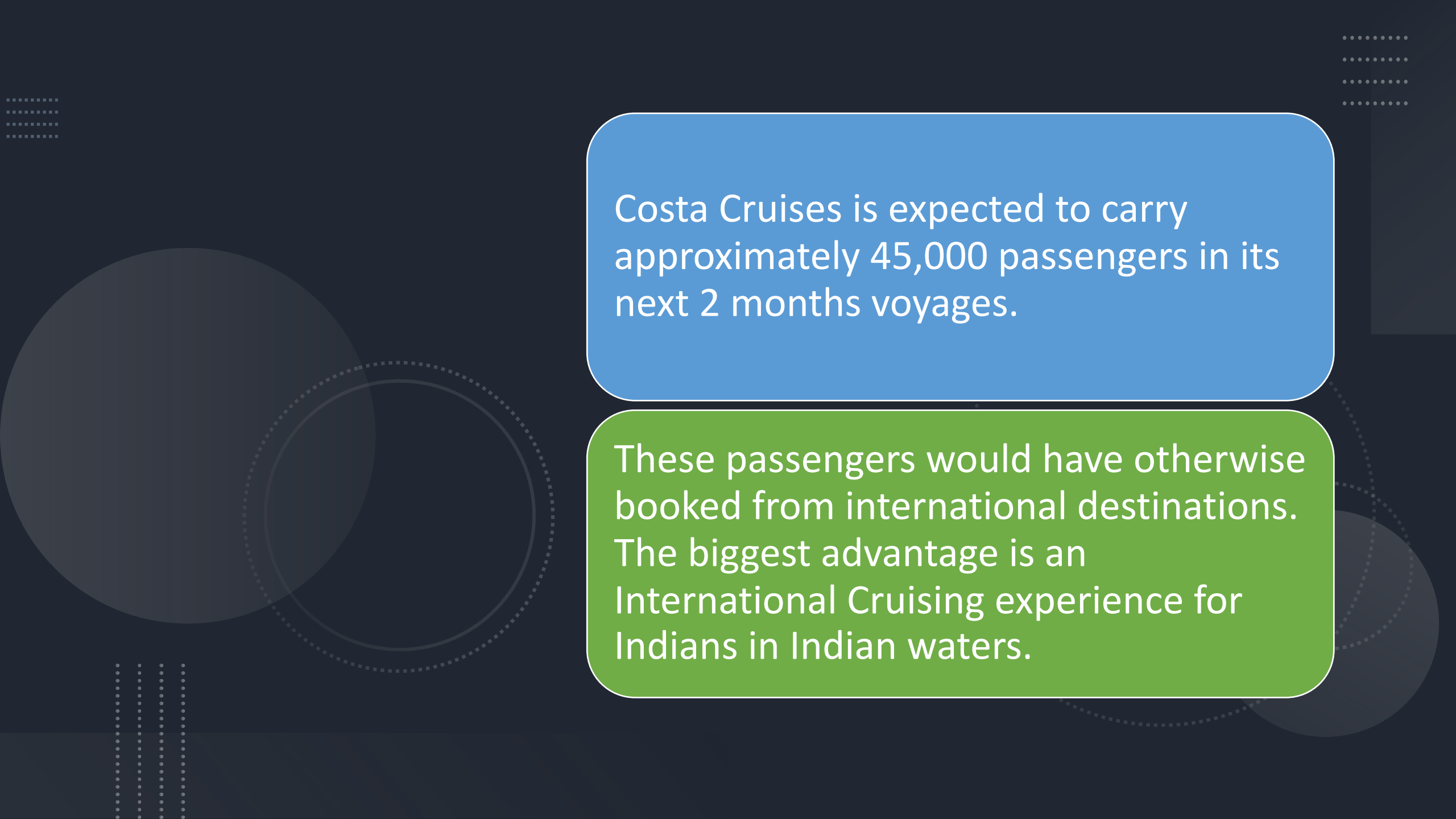
Shri Sarbananda Sonowal to flag off domestic sailing of the first International Cruise Liner 'COSTA SERENA' tomorrow

India aims to have 50 million cruise passengers by 2047

Posted On: 02 NOV 2023 5:45PM by PIB Delhi






-
- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal will launch the domestic sailing of the first International Cruise Liner 'COSTA SERENA' in India at Mumbai tomorrow.
 - The 'Dekho Apna Desh', an initiative launched as an appeal by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to the middle class to prefer the domestic tourism over the international tourism, drives such cruise initiatives.

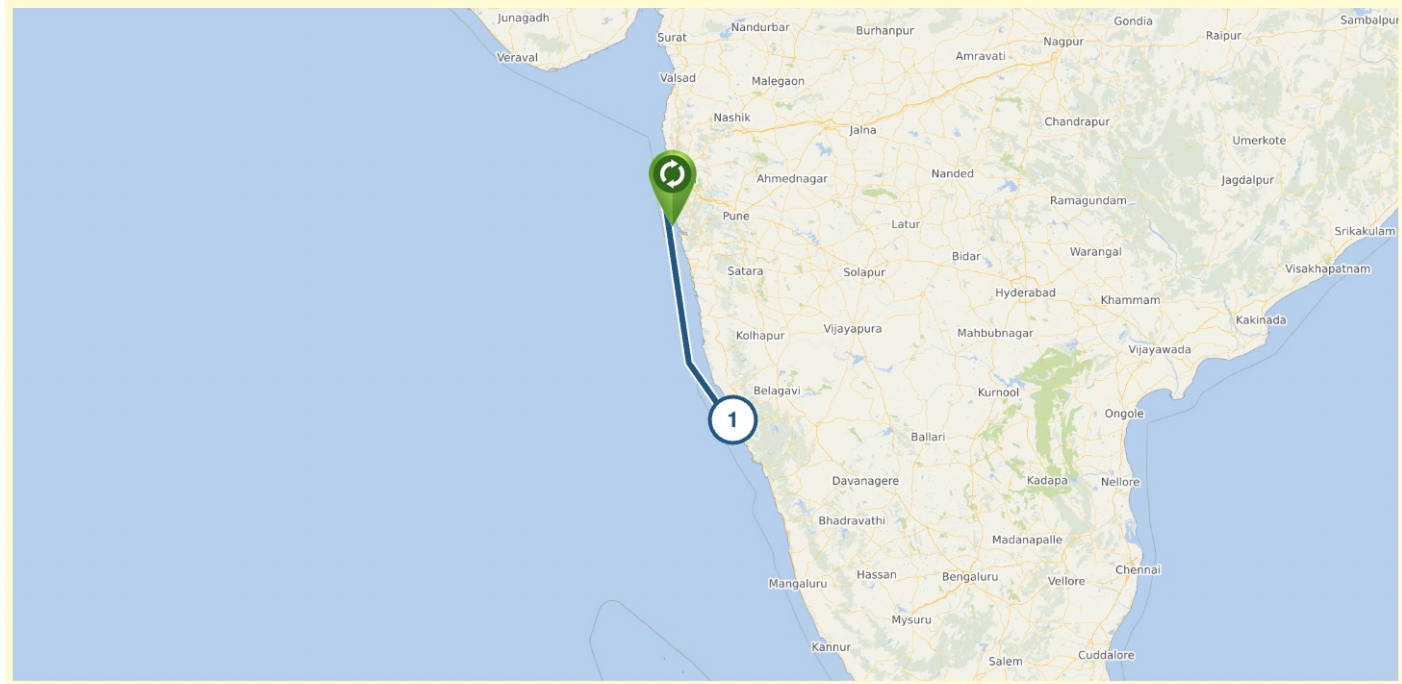
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Costa Cruises is expected to carry approximately 45,000 passengers in its next 2 months voyages.

These passengers would have otherwise booked from international destinations. The biggest advantage is an International Cruising experience for Indians in Indian waters.

Date / Time	Port	
04 Nov 19:00	 Departing from Mumbai, Bombay, India	 hotels
06 Nov 08:00 - 17:00	 Mormugao, Goa, India	
07 Nov 09:00	 Arriving in Mumbai, Bombay, India	 hotels

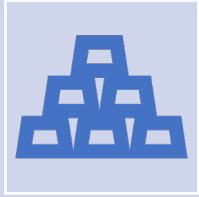


2023 Nov 07	3 days, round-trip India from Mumbai	 Mumbai	
2023 Nov 10	3 days, round-trip India from Mumbai	 Mumbai	\$429
2023 Nov 13	3 days, round-trip India from Mumbai	 Mumbai	
2023 Nov 16	3 days, round-trip India from Mumbai	 Mumbai	
2023 Nov 19	5 days, round-trip India from Mumbai	 Mumbai	
2023 Nov 26	5 days, round-trip India from Mumbai	 Mumbai	\$649
2023 Nov 26	7 days, round-trip India from Mumbai	 Mumbai	\$899
2023 Dec 01	2 days, round-trip India from Mumbai	 Mumbai	\$319

Mercury contamination
Source: TH

Tropical birds in Central and South America are exhibiting signs of mercury contamination due to artisanal and small-scale gold mining operations, according to a new study.

Birds living within 7 km of gold mining activity were found to have mercury concentrations over four times higher than those in other areas.



Why mercury is used in Gold mining?

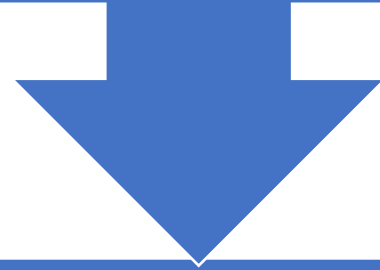


Mercury is used in gold mining because **it forms an amalgam with gold**, allowing for the extraction of gold from ore.



This **amalgamation process is a simple and effective way** to capture fine gold particles, but it also leads to significant environmental and health concerns due to mercury pollution.

Key Findings:



The research suggests that **mercury** may be playing a role in the declining biodiversity of tropical birds, which has been observed in recent decades.



Mercury contamination has been linked to **neurological illness, immune diseases, and reproductive failure in both humans and birds.**



Birds are considered sensitive indicators of ecosystem health and are often referred to as the “**canary in the gold mine**” for their **ability to signal environmental issues.**

Daily 5 vocab from The Hindu

Buzzword (noun) : a word or phrase, often an item of jargon, that is fashionable at a particular time or in a particular context.

Sentence : The latest buzzword in international travel is “ecotourism”.

Revanchism (noun) :a policy of seeking to retaliate, especially to recover lost territory.

Synonyms : revenge, vengeance, reprisal

-Voluminous (adjective) : of a size greater than average of its kind

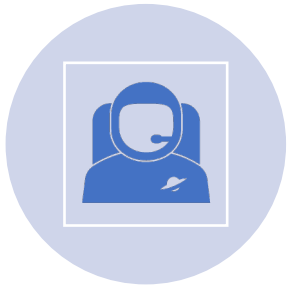
Synonyms : big, large, bulky

Antonyms : dinky, dwarf, little

Veritable (adjective) : formal true or real —used to emphasize a description

Synonyms : authentic, genuine, real

Antonyms: doubtful, dubious, equivocal



Vibrancy (noun) : the state of being full of energy and life.



Synonyms: active, vibrant, exuberance

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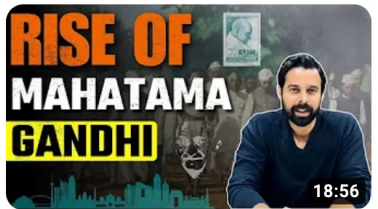
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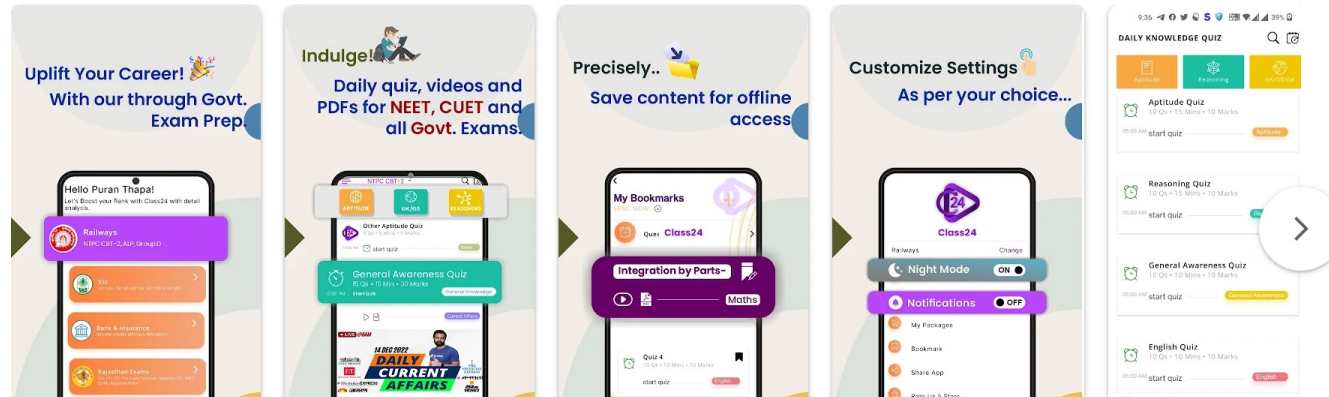
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