

# Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता

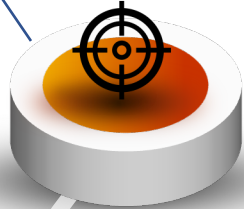


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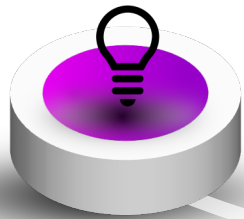


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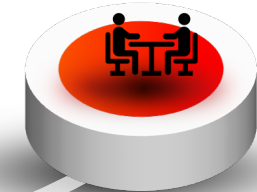


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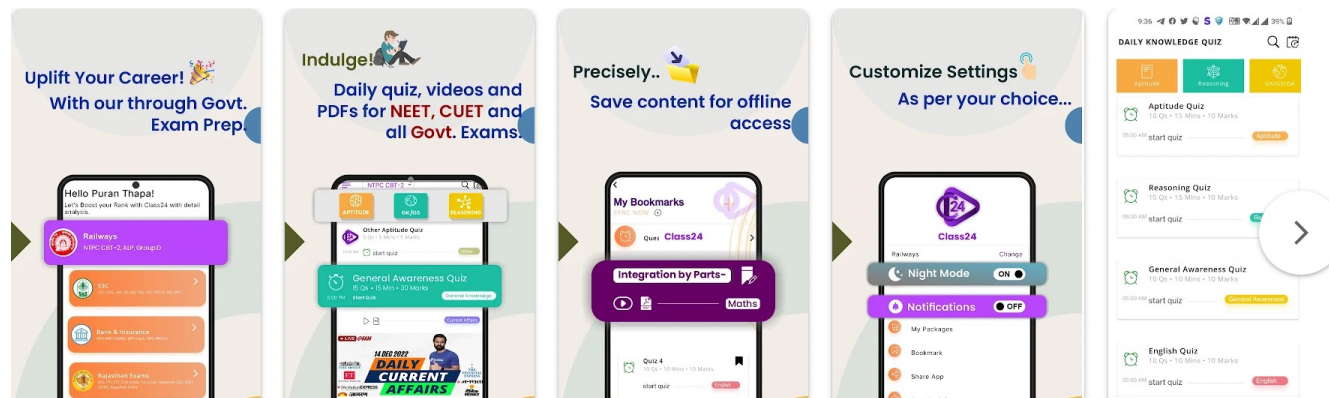
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**Motivation gets you  
going, but discipline  
keeps you growing.**

John C. Maxwell





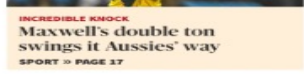
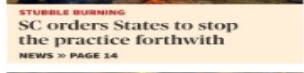
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## Mizoram, Chhattisgarh record over 70% polling

Mizoram registers 76% polling, Chhattisgarh brings in 71% in 20 seats; 3 security personnel injured in bomb blast and gun battle as all 12 Assembly seats in Maoist-affected Bastar vote in first phase

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

**K**ick-starting crucial State polls perceived to be semi-finals before the 2024 Lok Sabha election, voting took place in all 40 Assembly seats in Mizoram and in the first phase of polling in Chhattisgarh, which was marred by sporadic violence, on Tuesday. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said that some Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel had threatened voters against exercising their franchise.

While Mizoram recorded more than 70% polling by 4 p.m., about 7% of voters had exercised their franchise by 5 p.m. in the 20 Assembly seats of Chhattisgarh which went

### Voter turnout

All 40 seats in Mizoram and 20 constituencies in Chhattisgarh went to polls on Tuesday



Exercising her rights: A Mizo woman with her baby comes out from a polling booth in Aizawl, after the increase

- Mizoram recorded approximately 76% voter turnout by 4 p.m., while Chhattisgarh's turnout was nearly 71%.
- The polling in Chhattisgarh was marred by sporadic violence, including an IED blast triggered by Naxalites in Sukma district, which injured a CRPF commando. Incidents of violence were also reported in other districts, and four other security personnel were injured.
- Mizoram is expected to witness a three-way contest among the BJP, ZPM and the Congress. In contrast, the main contenders for power in Chhattisgarh are the ruling Congress and the Opposition BJP.

to the polls in the first phase. "The voting percentage is likely to go upwards when reports from all polling stations, including interior and inaccessible polling stations, come in," the Election Commission said. For all five States going to the polls this month —

Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Telangana — the counting of votes will be held on December 3. At least three security personnel were injured in violence in the Maoist-affected Bastar region of Chhattisgarh, where all 12

Assembly seats voted in the first phase. An inspector from the elite Cobra unit of the CRPF was injured in an IED blast triggered by Naxalites in Sukma district.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## Bihar seeks to raise quota to 65% after tabling caste survey

Amarnath Tewari  
PATNA

The Bihar Cabinet has approved a proposal to increase reservations in the State for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) to 65%, from the current 50% quota, crossing the ceiling set by the Supreme Court. A Bill to implement the increase will be introduced on November 9, during the ongoing Winter Session of the Assembly.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar proposed the increase hours after the caste survey report was tabled in the Assembly. He proposed that SCs, who make up 19.7% of the population, should get a quota of 20%, higher than the current 16%. STs, who have



Nitish Kumar

a 1.7% share in the population, should see their reservation doubled from 1% to 2%, he said.

OBCs make up 27% of the population and get a quota of 12%, while EBCs make up 36% of the population and get a quota of 15%. Mr. Kumar proposed that both communities together should get a quota of 43%.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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# Bihar seeks to raise quota to 65% after tabling caste survey

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He proposed that SCs, who make up 19.7% of the population, according to the survey, should get a quota of 20%, higher than the current 16%. STs, who have



Nitish Kumar

a 1.7% share in the population, should see their reservation doubled from 1% to 2%, he said.

OBCs make up 27% of the population and get a quota of 12%, while EBCs make up 36% of the population and get a quota of 18%; Mr. Kumar proposed that both communities together should get a quota of 43%.

**CONTINUED ON**  
» PAGE 12

## The percentage of families in Bihar living in poverty

**34.13** As per a report of the caste survey tabled in the State Assembly, of the 2.97 crore families in the State, more than 94 lakh survive on a monthly income of ₹6,000 or less. PTI

# Mind the gap

Data from survey in Bihar discloses severe caste-based economic and educational gaps

- The Bhumihars, considered a dominant caste in Bihar, have the highest poverty rate among the upper caste at 27.58%, with 2,31,211 classified as poor out of 8,38,447.

- Brahmins and Rajputs follow with 25.32% and 24.89% poverty rates, respectively.

- The Kayasth caste showed the lowest poverty rate at 13.38% among upper castes.

- Poverty rates in other classes are 33.16% for OBCs, 33.58% for EBCs, 42.93% for SCs, and 42.7% for STs.

- Only 7% of Bihar's population are graduates, while less than 1% hold postgraduate degrees

- More than one-third of families in Bihar have a monthly income of less than ₹6,000, with 34.13% earning ₹6,000 or less.

- Only 4.47% of families in Bihar earn more than ₹50,000 per month.

- 95.5% of Bihar's population do not own a vehicle, and only 0.44% own four-wheelers.

- Brahmins lead in laptop or computer ownership with 3.73% having Internet access



**Data point:** An enumerator collects information for a caste-based survey in Bihar.



## WHAT HAPPENED TO 2011 CASTE CENSUS?

- Following all-party consensus, UPA govt in 2011 decided to conduct a Caste Census, the first since 1931
- Nearly ₹4,900 crore was spent on the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC)
- In 2015, expert group was set up under then Niti Aayog vice-chairman to decide on classification and categorisation of SECC data
- In 2016, all data from SECC barring caste numbers was put in public domain. The caste data still remains unreleased
- In July 2017, the govt told

Parliament that raw caste data from SECC had been given to the social justice ministry, “who is to form the expert group for classification and categorisation of data”

- One problem with the SECC data cited by experts is that it has thrown up 46 lakh castes, sub-castes, clan names and so on. Categorising these is a mammoth task

- To avoid this pitfall, enumerators in 2021 will be given a pre-decided list of castes so that they can ask households which of them they fall under

Socio economic census	Caste census
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted across all the household without any special focus.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted at a particular community.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SECC is a tool to identify beneficiaries of state support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caste census provides a portrait of certain caste population.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The data collected is not confidential and available the website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The data collected is confidential</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted for the first time since 1931.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted for the first time since 1931.</li> </ul>



IN BRIEF

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue unveiled in Kupwara

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha and Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday unveiled a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Kupwara district. The statue has been installed at the Army's 141 Rashtriya Rifles Maratha Light Infantry Regiment in the north Kashmir district which shares its border with Pakistan. Special prayers were held by a priest on the occasion. Mr. Shinde said the statue will always inspire the security forces.

Noida Police sends notice to Elviah, asks him to join probe

The Noida Police on Tuesday sent a notice to YouTuber Elviah Yadav asking him to join the investigation into suspected use of snake venom for rave parties. Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Minister Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Forest and Environment Arun Saxena said no celebrity is bigger than the law. The police have also applied for remand of the five people who were arrested in the case and sent to judicial custody, an official said.

49 booked for assault, passing casteist remarks at BHU

An FIR has been lodged against 49 persons after ABVP activists accused them of assault, insulting Hindu religion, spreading religious enmity and using casteist remarks during a scuffle in the Banaras Hindu University two days ago, police said on Tuesday. Student members of ABVP, All India Students' Association and the Bhagat Singh Chakra Morcha clashed here, forcing police to use light force, officials said. ABVP members were demanding justice for the female student of IIT-BHU who was reportedly molested earlier.

India has always been a Hindu Rashtra, says Hosabale

Rashtriya Swyamsevaks Sangh (RSS) general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Tuesday said there is no need to turn India into a "Hindu Rashtra" as the country has always been one. "Dr. Hedgewar [RSS founder] once said that as long as there is a Hindu in this country, it is a Hindu nation. The Constitution talks about a state system, which is different. As a nation, India was, is, and will remain a Hindu Rashtra," Mr. Hosabale said in an interaction with journalists in Gujarat's Kutch district.

Aligarh civic body clears proposal to change name to 'Harigarh'

The Aligarh municipality has passed a resolution to rename the city 'Harigarh'. Announcing the development on Tuesday, Mayor Prashant Singh said the proposal, which was approved by the municipal corporation a day earlier, will be forwarded to the State government for approval. "The proposal [for the name change] was passed unanimously by the councillors at a meeting held on Monday. I hope that [the State] administration will now fulfil our long-standing demand," Mr. Singhal said.

Governance vanished in thin air thanks to Gelllor's magic: Shah

On a whirlwind tour in which he addressed four rallies in Nagaur district, Home Minister accuses the Rajasthan CM of undoing all that the previous BJP regime had accomplished in the State

Mohammed Iqbal JAIPUR

Taking a swipe at Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlor, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the governance, law and order, healthcare, electricity, in villages, employment and the previous BJP regime's welfare schemes had vanished into thin air with his magic. "Only a magician can achieve this feat," Mr. Shah said, in an apparent reference to Mr. Gehlor's family lineage of professional magicians.



Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah during a public meeting in Pabatsar in Rajasthan on Tuesday. @anil777

Mr. Shah was addressing public rallies at Kuchaman, Makrana, Bidyas and Pabatsar in Nagaur district of the poll-bound State. He said the Congress government had not only completely failed in Rajasthan but its "appeasement policy" had also led to riots, while corruption and crimes had made the lives of people difficult. Mr. Shah cited the recruitment exam paper leak, illegal mining, communal incidents, murder of tailor Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur, ban on Hindu religious processions and the increasing crimes against women as instances of the Congress government's failure. The November 25 As-

sembly election would give an opportunity to the people to uproot such a government, he said. "Colour red" The Home Minister said since communists had met at the airport told him they would not go for campaigning in Rajasthan because of their red party flag. "They told me Gehlor gets angry on seeing the colour red," he said, obliquely referring to the "red diary" which Minister Rajendra Gadhia claimed contained details of questionable financial transactions. The Chief Minister should have resigned instead of taking action against his Minister," he said of Mr. Gehlor's subsequent dismissal. Mr. Shah said Mr. Gehlor, like Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, wanted to promote his son but he had so far been unable to launch him properly. Unlike them, he said, the nation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched "Chandrayaan" to the moon. Mr. Shah accused the Congress of stalling the construction of Kashi temple in Ayodhya for 70 years, while affirming that the temple's construction on January 22 would restore the glory of faith. The Congress leaders who used to question the BJP about the date of the temple's construction had gone silent, he added. The Home Minister said he was willing to give a guarantee to the people of the State that all households would get piped water supply through taps in two and a half years after the formation of the BJP government. The Modi government had implemented projects worth ₹6 lakh crore in Rajasthan during the last nine years, he said. BJP candidates Sumita Bhinchar, Man Singh Kinshariya and Vijay Choudhary were present at the rallies.

Congress failed to uplift Dalits during its decades-long rule: KCR

The Hindu Bureau MANCHERIAL/PEDDAPALLI

Mounting a scathing attack on the Congress party, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president and Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao alleged that the Congress had defeated Dr. B.K. Ambedkar, the visionary leader and the champion of the cause of Dalits, in Parliamentary elections in 2020s.



BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao at a podium during a meeting in Peddapalli in Kacirimager district on Tuesday. PTI

Despite ruling the country for decades, the Congress had failed to implement any concrete programmes to uplift Dalits and adhere to Dr. Ambedkar's ideology. Mr. Rao said at an election meeting in Mandamari town of Chennuru Assembly constituency on Tuesday.

He added that the SCCL's profits increased from ₹459 crore in 2014 to ₹2,184 crore during 2022-2023. The Dasara bonus of ₹700 crore was already paid from the share of profits to the SCCL workers and Deepavali bonus will be paid soon.

He slammed the Narendra Modi-led BJP dispensation at the Centre for "unleashing" a privatisation drive to hand over the national assets to private players. He was addressing a meeting in Manthani of Peddapalli district later in the day, Mr. Rao said, urging the people to elect the party candidate Putta Madhu in the November 17 assembly elections to promote "empowerment of BCs".

Mr. Rao alleged that the then Congress government was responsible for giving 49% stakes in the Nizams' Singareni Collieries

OBC leaders warn Shinde of stir; conspiracy to deny quota, says Jarange Patil

Shomjoit Banerjee. PUNE

The demand to change the name of Aligarh, which houses the famous Aligarh Muslim University, was raised by Vishwa Hindu Parishad in the 1980s. Announcing the development on Tuesday alleged a conspiracy to deny them reservation. Other Backward Castes (OBC) leaders took an aggressive stance against the demand for a Maratha reservation, threatening to take to the streets. OBC certificates by December 24. Mr. Jarange Patil, who is recuperating in Sambhajnagar, said, "A few leaders have decided that the Marathas should not get benefits. There seems to be a

conspiracy... false cases have been lodged. I urge Maratha leaders to look to this." If the long-standing friction between the Marathas and the OBC community has been rekindled by Mr. Jarange Patil's hunger strikes. The Eknath Shinde government has accepted the activist's demand that the government be given OBC certificates by December 24. Mr. Jarange Patil, who is recuperating in Sambhajnagar, said, "A few leaders have decided that the Marathas should not get benefits from their 19% reservation. Particularly strong criticism came from Chhatrapati Bhujbal, a member of the Ajit Pawar-led National Congress Party. A powerful OBC leader, Mr. Bhujbal urged his community to fight against the demand. Mr. Shinde, speaking in Kupwara, said: "No one should sow seeds of doubt which have been considered invalid on the grounds that one of her answers in interview was irrelevant. The candidate, M. Kalpana, had written 'Jai Hind' in her answer to a question on the importance of conservation of natural resources. "For the development and the prosperity of the country, the conservation of natural resources is essential and important..." observed the court, adding that 'Jai Hind' is a common motto and important... and in this specific case, it appeared to be a natural, spontaneous and 'wise' culmination to the petitioner's plea. The petitioner moved court in 2017 upon finding that she had missed the cut-off by six marks, having not been evaluated for Part B of the main examination, in which she had written the phrase.

Court steps in for candidate who wrote 'Jai Hind' in answer

The Hindu Bureau MADURAI

Granting relief to a candidate who took the 2014 Tamil Nadu public Service Commission (TNPSC) Combined Civil Services Examination in 2014, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has directed authorities to validate her answer paper, which has been considered invalid on the grounds that one of her answers in interview was irrelevant. The candidate, M. Kalpana, had written 'Jai Hind' in her answer to a question on the importance of conservation of natural resources. "For the development and the prosperity of the country, the conservation of natural resources is essential and important..." observed the court, adding that 'Jai Hind' is a common motto and important... and in this specific case, it appeared to be a natural, spontaneous and 'wise' culmination to the petitioner's plea. The petitioner moved court in 2017 upon finding that she had missed the cut-off by six marks, having not been evaluated for Part B of the main examination, in which she had written the phrase.

In Bihar Assembly, EBCs under-represented while several communities punch above their weight

Amit Bhelari Abhinav Lakshman PATNA/NEW DELHI

In the current Bihar Assembly, people from the Other Backward Classes (OBC) and General Category are over-represented by about 5 percentage points and 10 percentage points respectively whereas people from the Extremely Backward Classes (EBC) and Muslims are among the most under-represented - by more than 13 percentage points and 10 percentage points respectively, according to an analysis by The Hindu of the socio-economic backgrounds of all 243 MLAs. After having released preliminary data on the caste population in the State last month, the Bihar government on Tuesday tabled the entire report of its recently-concluded caste-based survey in the Assembly - the first such exercise - which recorded socio-economic data of over 13 crore people. According to the survey, EBCs comprised over 36% of the population, OBCs comprised over 27%, and Muslims a little over 20%. Tribes were found to comprise 19.6% and Scheduled Caste population respectively. It also found that Muslims constituted 17% of the population. OBCs and 24.58% from the General Category. Only 13% are from the Extremely Backward Classes, 7% Muslims, and 15% from the Scheduled Castes. The Hindu also found that less than 1% of the MLAs were from the Scheduled Tribes. Even among the dominant OBC communities, it was found that Yadavs were the most over-represented with 22.6% MLAs coming from this community, compared to its 14.26% share in the population. This is followed by the Kurmis and Yadavs communities, which are also slightly over-represented by about one to two percentage points. Among the General Category, it was found that the representation of Brahmins was at 5.76% compared to 4.8% share in the population. But the most over-represented community here was incidentally found to be the Rajputs. The Assembly has 26 Rajput MLAs - accounting for over 10% of the members, compared to its 3.49% share in the population. Apart from these, the Kayasthas were also found to be over-represented in the Assembly. The Bhumihar community's representation in the Assembly stands at 5.8% compared to its 2.86% share in the population. Significantly, even as the report was being tabled,

there has been only one from the EBC community - Karpooori Thakur - and one from the Muslim Benches. - Abdul Ghafoor. Neither of them ever completed a full term in the Assembly. Last year, the Bihar government's State Commission for the Enforcement of the Extremely Backward Classes had found that EBCs were under-represented in urban local bodies as well. Vying for credit The Bihar government's reservation for them in the ULB elections, which was brought to note through the Bihar government despite multiple court challenges. At that time, as the Bihar government was to take credit for making this happen.

Skewed representation

A quick comparison of the caste of MLAs and the caste of the population shows how some have fared better than others whereas some are under-representing their people in the Assembly

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Bihar Assembly on Tuesday. PTI

Table with 3 columns: Caste, % in population, % in Assembly. Rows include OBCs, Yadav (55), Kurmi (11), Khatwanda (14), Baniya (17), EBCs (28), SCs (38), STs (12), Muslim (19), General, Brahmin (14), Rajput (26), Bhumihar (16), Kayastha (3).

1% of the MLAs were from the Scheduled Tribes. Even among the dominant OBC communities, it was found that Yadavs were the most over-represented with 22.6% MLAs coming from this community, compared to its 14.26% share in the population. This is followed by the Kurmis and Yadavs communities, which are also slightly over-represented by about one to two percentage points.

# Aligarh civic body clears proposal to change name to 'Harigarh'

**The Hindu Bureau**

LUCKNOW

The Aligarh municipality has passed a resolution to rename the city 'Harigarh'. Announcing the development on Tuesday, Mayor Prashant Singhal said the proposal, which was approved by the municipal corporation a day earlier, will be forwarded to the State government for approval. "The proposal [for the name change] was passed unanimously by the councillors at a meeting held on Monday. I hope that the [State] administration will now fulfil our long-standing demand," Mr. Singhal said.

The demand to change the name of Aligarh, which houses the famous Aligarh Muslim University, was raised by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad in the 1980s.

If the proposal for the name change is approved, Aligarh will join the list of cities in Uttar Pradesh whose names have been changed over the past four years by the Yogi Adityanath government. This includes changing the name of Allahabad to Prayagraj, Mughalsarai to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Nagar, and Faizabad to Ayodhya, among others.

Many other similar proposals have also been floated in the recent past.



IN BRIEF



Visva-Bharati V-C ends tenure with a caustic letter to Mamata

Visva-Bharati Vice-Chancellor Bhubut Chakrabarty's tenure, marked by a prolonged confrontation with his detractors at Santiniketan, comes to an end on November 8 on the same confrontational note, even though Prof. Chakrabarty claimed that he enjoyed his term at the institution founded by poet Rabindranath Tagore. "I enjoyed every bit of my tenure as Visva-Bharati's Vice-Chancellor," Prof. Chakrabarty told The Hindu on November 7, within an hour of sending a long, caustic letter to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who had been critical of many of his actions as the V-C.

One killed as Prahlad Patel's convoy meets with accident

Union Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly polls Prahlad Patel's convoy met with an accident on Tuesday in Amarwar of Chhindwara district. The crash between his car and a motorcycle resulted in the death of a two-wheeler rider. The accident took place when Mr. Patel was travelling to Narsinghpur, from where he is contesting. After campaigning in Chhindwara for BJP candidate Buntty Sahu, Mr. Patel also sustained minor injuries in his leg and received first aid treatment at a hospital.

Aditya-L1 captures first glimpse of solar flares

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

The High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HELIOS) payload, on-board the Aditya-L1 spacecraft, has captured the first glimpse of solar flares. Aditya-L1, the first space-based Indian mission to study the sun is currently on its journey to the destination of sun-sun L1 point (L1).

The Indian Space Research Organisation on Tuesday said the HELIOS payload has captured the first high-energy X-ray glimpse of solar flares. "During its first observation on October 29, HELIOS recorded the impulsive phase of solar flares. The recorded data is consistent with the X-ray light curves provided by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites."

After viral video, IT Ministry issues warning to social media sites on deepfakes

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

After a deepfake video clip of actor Rashmika Mandanna went viral on social media platforms such as Instagram, the Information Technology Ministry on Tuesday sent notices to "all social media intermediaries", reminding them that online impersonation is illegal under Section 66D of the Information Technology Act, 2008.

The Ministry warned platforms to take down such content within 36 hours, a requirement outlined in the IT Rules, 2021. It also told them that "due diligence is exercised and reasonable efforts are made to identify misinformation and deepfakes". The IT Rules, 2021, also prohibit "host[ing] any content that impersonates another person", and re-

Curbs on fireworks binding on all States: Supreme Court

The restrictions are not limited to Delhi, the Bench says; adults tend to behave worse than children, bursting crackers galore, with no thought of pollution, says Justice Bopanna

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

Days before the Deepavali celebration, the Supreme Court clarified on Tuesday that its orders to minimise air and noise pollution caused by firecrackers bind States across the country and not just the Delhi National Capital Region. Celebrations can take place, but with some moderation. One can bring happiness to others with celebrations, but not at the cost of the environment," Justice M.M. Sundresh, on the Bench, said.

Awareness at schools Justice A.S. Bopanna said adults tended to behave worse than children, bursting crackers galore, with no thought of the pollution and discomfort caused by them. "Due to awareness spread in school, children do not burst crackers much. It is the adults who do it," Justice Bopanna remarked. He said people easily dodge time restrictions im-



Hazardous conditions: The Supreme Court said the State governments should take steps to minimise air and noise pollution not only during festive seasons but even otherwise. FILE PHOTO

posed for bursting crackers. "If we give a 10.30 p.m. limit, they will burst the entire stock of crackers by 10 p.m. All they think of is finishing their stock of crackers," Justice Bopanna said. Justice Sundresh said the impetus should be on sensitising people. "We live on hope," he remarked. The court was hearing an application highlighting a spike in pollution in Rajasthan despite restrictive

orders passed by the Supreme Court. Fewer crackers The Rajasthan counsel said the desire to protect the environment had to be a part of the "collective consciousness of society". "Every citizen should agree to celebrate with fewer crackers," counsel said. The applicants said governments could not leave the responsibility of protecting the environment to individual citizens.

Authorities, who hold the environment in public trust, were obliged to take action and remain on their toes to ensure clean air. The court said that the State governments should take steps to minimise air and noise pollution not only during festive seasons but even otherwise. The orders of the Supreme Court bind all States, including Rajasthan, the Bench reiterated.

7.5 million new cases of TB in 2022, shows WHO Global report

Ramya Kannan CHENNAI

There was a major global recovery in the number of people diagnosed with TB and treated in 2022, after two years of COVID-related disruptions, says the just-released WHO Global TB Report. While this has started to reverse or moderate, TB remains the world's leading cause of death from a single infectious agent, and global TB targets have either been missed or remain off track. The net reduction from 2015 to 2022 was 8.7%, far from the WHO End TB Strategy milestone of a 50% reduction by 2025.

The reported global number of people newly diagnosed with TB was 7.5 million in 2022. This is the highest number since WHO began global TB monitoring in 1995, above the pre-COVID baseline

(and previous historical peak) of 7.1 million in 2019, and up from 5.8 million in 2020 and 6.4 million in 2021. The number in 2022 probably includes a sizeable backlog of people who developed TB in previous years, but whose diagnosis and treatment was delayed by COVID-related disruptions that affected access to and provision of health services, according to the report. India, Indonesia and the Philippines, which collectively accounted for nearly 60% of the reduction in the number of people newly diagnosed with TB in 2022 and 2021, recovered to above 2019 levels in 2022. TB caused an estimated 1.30 million deaths in 2022, again almost back to the level of 2019. COVID-related disruptions are estimated to have caused an almost half a million extra deaths from TB in the three years 2020-2022.

SC directs Punjab and neighbouring States to stop stubble burning

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the State governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to ensure that stubble burning is "forthwith" stopped as an immediate measure to protect the lives and health of people. "This [pollution] is a murder of the health of the people. You see children in Delhi suffering from health issues... Time has come to do something yesterday, rather than postponing it. The problem requires immediate attention and monitoring irrespective of whether the weather is proven or not," Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said.

The court said that the State governments should take steps to minimise air and noise pollution not only during festive seasons but even otherwise. The orders of the Supreme Court bind all States, including Rajasthan, the Bench reiterated. The court sought information from the neighbouring States of Delhi on the implementation of the colour-coded sticker scheme to identify polluting vehicles based on their fuel type. It noted that the scheme was put to action only in Delhi. The other States had not even bothered to file compliance reports in the apex court. The court agreed to take up on Friday (November 10) senior advocate Vikas Singh's application that the implementation of the construction ban imposed in Delhi was a "mere eye-wash". The court directed the Delhi government to come clean on the environmental compensation charges it had collected and utilised so far. The court also made the local Station House Officers and Chief Secretaries of the States concerned for ensuring that no further instances of crop burning occurred.

Punjab admitted in SC that it was one of the biggest contributors of stubble burning

that the 'odd-even' scheme was an "unscientific method" to control vehicular pollution. The court asked the Delhi government's response to its suggestion to stop stubble burning registered outside Delhi from entering the capital, as a measure to control pollution. "There are 'n' number of taxis seen on the roads. Each invariably carries one passenger... Are you monitoring or controlling vehicles coming into Delhi," asked Justice Kaul.

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T.N. pollution control body urges people to burst green crackers

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) has advised the public to avoid bursting firecrackers that burst an area of pollution. In an attempt to curb pollution and prevent accidents on Deepavali, the TNPCB has asked people to burst green crackers and celebrate the festival in community areas with permission from the district administration.

The Board urged residents to avoid bursting joined (series) firecrackers or sarra seedi and stay away from hospitals, schools, courts, places of worship, bus and areas prone to fire. "Though bursting crackers had become a customary act of celebration, the TNPCB said it could not celebrate deleterious effects on public health and the environment."

TH CROSSWORD 14015

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for clues. The grid is 15x15.

- Across: 7 Current units used in Hampshire (4); 8 Lucky having strength, after consuming fish (9); 10 Spreading oils on ends of damaged hippocampal results in strokes (6); 11 Welsh leader organising parties conducts some sort of audit surveillance (8)

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

- 12 Perhaps, knight's revolutionary and elite guard member (8); 14 Enter: Crooked protagonist throwing away strap (2,4); 16 Fossil parts of school time... (7); 18 Leading man consumes scrambled egg in reel (7); 21 Wager about donkey turning into a dog (6); 23 Opening and brewing purer tea (8); 24 Fire non-commissioned officer performer from Spain (8); 27 Husband leaves - perhaps confused - to get documents (6); 29 Taking lanky thing at first, we start to romp around beginning of afternoon in pyjamas, for example (9); 30 Convey without speaking, I am hugged by setter\* (4) Down: 1 Sergeant major loves having a bit of ice in the purified fruit drink (6); 2 Drink in Hastingnapur (4); 4 Attest "a company" over (6); 5 Noisy quarrel during GIGM operation is increasing (7); 6 Undisputed grith (8); 9 Road missing in preliminary version I say! (4); 9 Once taking small quantity for person living outside own country (5); 13 Ship carrying food for secret agents (5); 15 Indian obtained metal block (5); 16 "Violently bayoneted, after removing tips of body" (8); 19 Horrible murders included initially attacking membranes in the head (8); 20 Graduate singer rejected title (7); 22 Including everything in signaling (3,2); 24 Specialist... earlier saucy (6); 26 Sorcerers having some imagination (4); 28 Father goes around maiden in state... display (4)

SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in. The grid is: Row 1: 6, 2, 3, 8, 7, 4, 9, 1, 5; Row 2: 8, 2, 8, 6, 7, 4, 9, 1, 5; Row 3: 3, 8, 2, 8, 6, 7, 4, 9, 1; Row 4: 4, 9, 3, 7, 5, 6, 1, 5, 4; Row 5: 1, 5, 4, 2, 6, 7, 5, 7, 1; Row 6: 4, 9, 3, 7, 5, 6, 1, 5, 4; Row 7: 1, 5, 4, 2, 6, 7, 5, 7, 1; Row 8: 8, 2, 3, 8, 7, 4, 9, 1, 5; Row 9: 3, 8, 2, 8, 6, 7, 4, 9, 1.

Additional content for the Sudoku section, including a difficulty rating of 3 stars and a reference to a solution for yesterday's puzzle.

Advertisement for 'DHYANDEEP' incense, featuring a small image of the product and the text 'Long lasting fragrances of devotion'.

FAITH Essence of the Vedas

Srimad Bhagavatham, which came from Sage Vyasa himself, tells us how to reach the feet of the Supreme One, Vasudeva Karmacharya said in a discourse. The third verse in the Srimad Bhagavatham is also a mangala sloka, as are the first two slokas. Here, a call goes out to rasikas to come and reap the benefits of listening to the Srimad Bhagavatham. Why is this call specific to rasikas? One must know the value of associating to enjoy it and benefit from it. The verse talks of the Vedas as "nigama kalpa taru". Nigama means the Vedas and taru is a tree. The Vedas are no ordinary tree. They are equivalent to the kalpaka tree, which gives abundantly. In Varadaraja Pancharatna, Vedanta Desika refers to Lord Varadaraja as a kalpaka tree. Desika visualises Perundevi Thayar, the Goddess of the Varadaraja shrine, as a creeper entwined around Him. One must listen to the Srimad Bhagavatham not occasionally but always. The Bhagavatham should be heard until one's last breath. The sloka talks of phalam (fruit), and then uses the verb pibah (drink). Should the sloka not have said 'eat' instead of 'drink'? One eats a fruit. One does not drink a fruit. A fruit has a skin and seeds, all of which must be discarded. But there is nothing irrelevant in the Bhagavatham. Every part of it is valuable. It gives us the essence of the Vedas. Hence the word 'pibah'.

# Curbs on fireworks binding on all States: Supreme Court

The restrictions are not limited to Delhi, the Bench says; adults tend to behave worse than children, bursting crackers galore, with no thought of pollution, says Justice Bopanna

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**

NEW DELHI

**D**ays before the Deepavali celebration, the Supreme Court clarified on Tuesday that its orders to minimise air and noise pollution caused by firecrackers bind States across the country and not just the Delhi National Capital Region.

“Celebrations can take place, but with some moderation. One can bring happiness to others with celebrations, but not at the cost of the environment,” Justice M.M. Sundresh, on the Bench, said.

## **Awareness at schools**

Justice A.S. Bopanna said adults tended to behave worse than children, bursting crackers galore, with no thought of the pollution and discomfort caused by them.

“Due to awareness spread in school, children do not burst crackers much. It is the adults who do it,” Justice Bopanna remarked.

He said people easily dodge time restrictions im-



**Hazardous condition:** The Supreme Court said the State governments should take steps to minimise air and noise pollution not only during festive seasons but even otherwise. FILE PHOTO

posed for bursting crackers. “If we give a 10.30 p.m. limit, they will burst their entire stock of crackers by 10 p.m. All they think of is finishing their stock of crackers,” Justice Bopanna said.

Justice Sundresh said the impetus should be on sensitising people. “We live on hope,” he remarked.

The court was hearing an application highlighting a spike in pollution in Rajasthan despite restrictive

orders passed by the Supreme Court.

## **Fewer crackers**

The Rajasthan counsel said the desire to protect the environment had to be a part of the “collective consciousness of society”. “Every citizen should agree to celebrate with fewer crackers,” counsel said.

The applicants said governments could not leave the responsibility of protecting the environment to

individual citizens.

Authorities, who hold the environment in public trust, were obliged to take action and remain on their toes to ensure clean air.

The court said that the State governments should take steps to minimise air and noise pollution not only during festive seasons but even otherwise. The orders of the Supreme Court bind all States, including Rajasthan, the Bench reiterated.



## Toxic nature

Conventional firecrackers contain chemicals which produce effects like bright lighting and colours. However, these chemicals can have adverse effects on human health and the environment



Initial ingredient	Use in crackers	Health hazards
Charcoal, potassium nitrate and sulphur	Black powder which is the primary fuel in the cracker	The dust released is hazardous when inhaled; different compounds formed can be carcinogenic
Strontium and lithium	Colouring agent (Red)	Strontium can replace calcium in the body which can be toxic; Lithium releases harmful fumes
Barium	Colouring agent (Orange)	Fumes can cause respiratory and other health issues
Nitrates, chlorates/ perchlorates	Oxidising agents	The compounds can hamper the growth of small children; they remain airborne for days and can be poisonous

# WHAT ARE 'GREEN CRACKERS'?

Firecrackers that have "less dangerous" and "less harmful" chemicals than conventional ones

## Being Developed by

CSIR's National Environmental Engineering Research Institute

Production after they are approved by Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)

## Green Because

- ▶ They have a chemical formulation that produces water molecules
- ▶ This substantially reduces emission level and absorbs dust
- ▶ Is basically a light and sound show that produces lower emissions
- ▶ Promise **30-35% reduction** in particulate matter, nitrous oxide and sulphur oxide

Expected to hit the market in 4-5 years\*

## Also In The Works

E-CRACKERS BEING DEVELOPED BY CSIR'S CENTRAL ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING RESEARCH INSTITUTE

## OTHER INITIATIVES

Crackers with lower aluminium to reduce emissions substantially

'Anar' or flower pot made using eco-friendly material that can reduce particulate matter by 40%

Bijli crackers that eliminate use of ash as desiccants

Firecrackers without antimony, lithium, mercury, arsenic and lead as directed by PESO last year



# Aditya-L1 captures first glimpse of solar flares

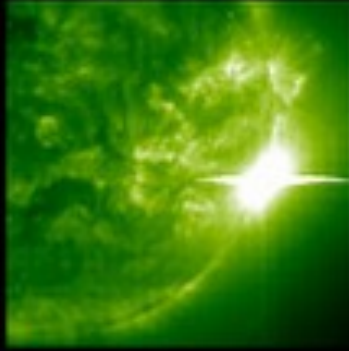
**The Hindu Bureau**

BENGALURU

† The High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HELIOS) payload, on-board the Aditya-L1 spacecraft, has captured the first glimpse of solar flares.

Aditya-L1, the first space-based Indian mission to study the sun is currently on its journey to the destination of sun-earth L1 point (L1).

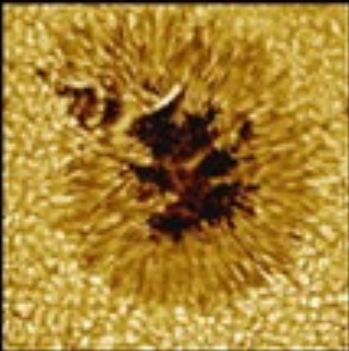
The Indian Space Research Organisation on Tuesday said the HELIOS payload has captured the first high-energy X-ray glimpse of solar flares. “During its first observation on October 29, HELIOS recorded the impulsive phase of solar flares. The recorded data is consistent with the X-ray light curves provided by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites.”



**SOLAR FLARE:** an enormous explosion on the surface of the sun that occurs when a buildup of magnetic energy in the sun's atmosphere is suddenly released. Flares occur near sunspots, on the dividing line between areas of opposite magnetic polarity.



**CORONAL MASS EJECTION (CME):** a huge bubble of gas erupting from the sun over the course of several hours. At the maximum point of the solar cycle there can be two or three CMEs per day.



**SUNSPOT:** an area on the sun's surface that appears dark because it is cooler than the surrounding areas. Sunspots are regions where the local magnetic field is very strong. The spots usually appear in pairs.

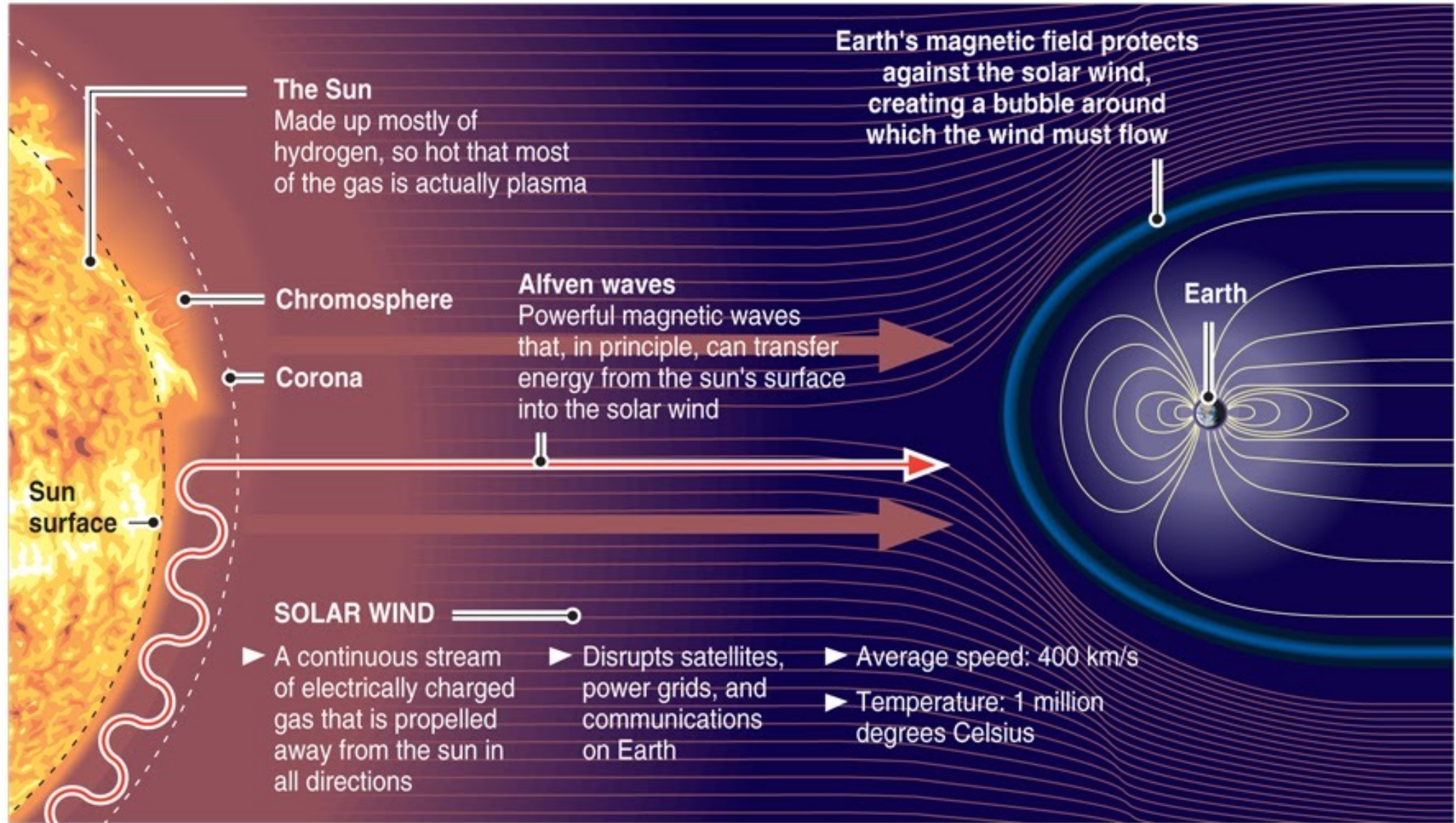
## Giant by comparison

At 865,000 miles across (1,391,400 km), the sun is nearly 110 times the diameter of Earth.





# SOLAR FLARES



## HOW A SOLAR FLARE IS FORMED

Direction

Magnetic

Critical

Corona

Coronal mass ejection



# 7.5 million new cases of TB in 2022, shows WHO Global report

**Ramya Kannan**

CHENNAI

There was a major global recovery in the number of people diagnosed with TB and treated in 2022, after two years of COVID-related disruptions, says the just-released WHO Global TB Report. While this has started to reverse or moderate, TB remains the world's second leading cause of death from a single infectious agent, and global TB targets have either been missed or remain off track. The net reduction from 2015 to 2022 was 8.7%, far from the WHO End TB Strategy milestone of a 50% reduction by 2025.

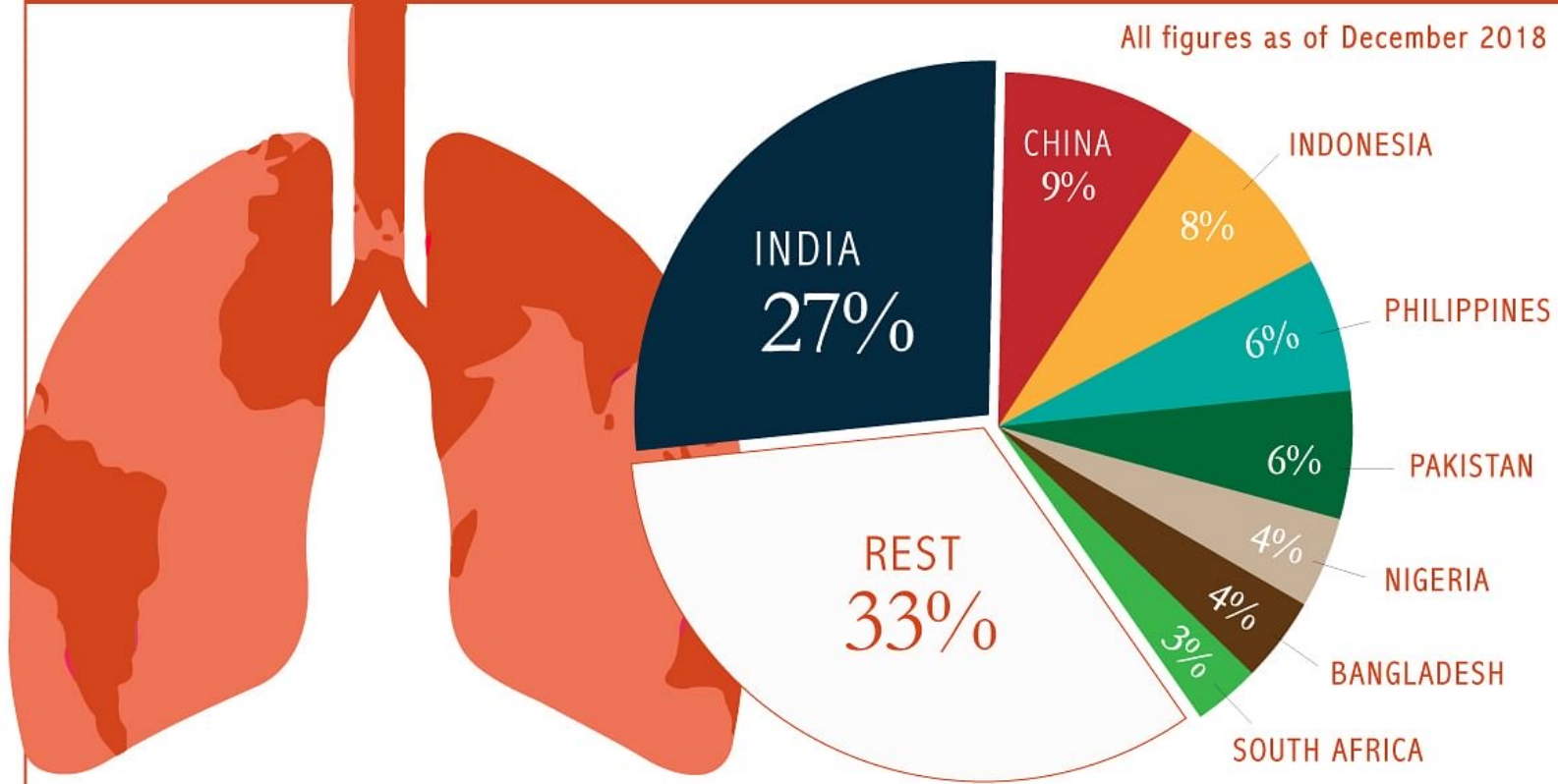
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India, Indonesia and the Philippines, which collectively accounted for nearly 60% of the reduction in the number of people newly diagnosed with TB in 2020 and 2021, recovered to above 2019 levels in 2022. TB caused an estimated 1.30 million deaths in 2022, again almost back to the level of 2019. COVID-related disruptions are estimated to have resulted in almost half a million excess deaths from TB in the three years 2020-2022.



# INDIA HAS LARGEST NUMBER OF TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS IN THE WORLD



TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE  
IN THE WORLD SUFFERING  
FROM TUBERCULOSIS: **1 crore**

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE  
IN INDIA SUFFERING FROM  
TUBERCULOSIS: **26.9 lakh**

DEATHS DUE TO TUBERCULOSIS  
FELL FROM **1.6 million** IN 2017  
TO **1.5 million** IN 2018

1994–2005

### The DOTS Strategy

1. Government commitment
2. Case detection through passive case finding
3. Standardised chemotherapy to all sputum smear positive TB cases under proper case management conditions
4. Establishment of a system of regular supply of anti-TB drugs
5. Establishment of a monitoring system, for programme supervision and evaluation

2006–2015

### The Stop TB Strategy

1. Pursue high-quality DOTS expansion and enhancement
2. Address TB/HIV, MDR-TB and other challenges
3. Contribute to health system strengthening
4. Engage all care providers
5. Empower people with TB and communities
6. Enable and promote research

2016–2035

### The End TB Strategy

1. Integrated, patient-centred TB care and prevention
2. Bold policies and supportive systems
3. Intensified research and innovation





The Klyuchevskoy volcano, one of the highest active volcanoes in the world, erupts in Russia's northern Kamchatka Peninsula on October 28, 2023. Huge ash columns erupted from Eurasia's tallest active volcano on November 1, forcing authorities to close schools in two towns in the region. AP



## BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



## Seizure of journalist's devices serious, need better guidelines: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

UNDERLINING THAT privacy has been held to be a fundamental right, the Supreme Court today the Centre Tuesday to come up with "better guidelines" regarding seizure of devices of journalists.

It said in finding it "very difficult to accept" the "all-within power" that investigation agencies have, and called it "very, very dangerous".

On the seizure of devices, Justice S K Kaul, presiding over a bench that also included Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, told Additional Solicitor General S V Raju: "It's a serious matter. These are media professionals who will have their own sources and other things. There must be some guidelines. If you take everything away, there's a problem. You must ensure that there are some guidelines."

The bench was hearing a plea by the Foundation for Media Professionals seeking safeguards against what it called unnecessary interference by investigation agencies, and laying down comprehensive guidelines for search and seizure of digital devices.

Addressing the bench for the Foundation, Senior Advocate Siddharth Agarwal said that as of now, there are no guidelines regarding when and how may be seized, what can be accessed, what kind of protection is ensured for personal data.

He said that once an investigation agency gets involved, it is...  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## QUESTIONS ODD-EVEN SUCCESS, SAYS IT'S ALL OPTICS

# Stop crop burning now, long-term plan will follow: SC to States around Delhi

Make SHOs responsible under Chief Secy, says Bench; points to a specific Punjab paddy at the root of problem

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

REMINING THE Punjab government that the fight against stubble burning cannot be political, the Supreme Court Tuesday asked the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to take urgent steps to stop farm fires which it said are a "substantial" contributor to air pollution in Delhi.

Two-judge bench of Justices S K Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia put the onus of stopping the fires on the respective State High Courts under the overall supervision of the Chief Secretary. "We direct the state government of Punjab and for that matter, all states adjacent to Delhi...  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## DEATH BY BREATH

on the respective State High Courts under the overall supervision of the Chief Secretary. "We direct the state government of Punjab and for that matter, all states adjacent to Delhi...  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Long queues, stretched staff: Inside clinic in Delhi's most polluted area

ANKITA UPADHYAY  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

THE CLINIC is filled with a distressing symphony of sounds — raspy and violent coughing bouts, and toddlers crying in pain. By noon, the lone bench in the waiting area of the clinic is taken and patients are now seated on the cartons of medicines lying around.

This is the Bakkarwala Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinic in what has been the Capital's most...  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



At the mohalla clinic in Mundka, Ankita Upadhyay

## YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

# Give details on hiring of consultants, their salaries: MoF to depts

SHYAMLAL YADAV  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

AHEAD OF Union Budget 2024-25, the Union Ministry of Finance has asked all ministries and departments to furnish details of consultants appointed by them, including their strength, selection process, normal tenure and average remuneration.

In an October 4 letter to ministries, Special Secretary in the Department of Expenditure in the Ministry of Finance, Anne George Mathew, told ministries and departments that the "information is required for meaningful discussion for allocation of...  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Budget under the Professional/Office expenses/Salary head".

Requesting ministries to accord the issue "Top Priority", the letter asks them to provide the information by October 9. Responses from some departments are still awaited, sources in the Ministry of Finance said.

The consultants being appointed by the ministries and departments, and in organisations and offices under them, could be young professionals, domain experts, professionals hired from consulting firms, personnel taken through outsourcing agencies, and executives from PSUs, state-owned banks...  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## In 5 years, 16 ministries gave Rs 500 cr work to Big Five consultants

SHYAMLAL YADAV  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

FROM PETROLEUM to power and from NITI Aayog to India's own Aadhaar project, 16 ministries/departments in the Central Government outsourced several key assignments covering many facets of governance to multinational consultancy firms, mainly the Big Five plus McKinsey & Co, an investigation by The Indian Express of records made available under the Right to Information (RTI) Act has found.

The records show that between April 2017 and June 2022, the Big Four — PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited, Ernst & Young Global Limited and KPMG International Limited — and US-based McKinsey & Company, bagged at least 308 assignments worth nearly Rs 500 crore from ministries, government ministries, departments and organisations.

These projects involved a sweeping range of activities...  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## BIG FIVE: WHO GOT WHAT

- PWC:** 92 assignments, over ₹156 cr  
TOP CLIENTS: HPCIL, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, RIEO, NIC, Ordnance Factory Board and FICCI.
  - DELOITTE:** 59 contracts, over ₹130.13 cr  
TOP CLIENTS: BPCL, HPCL, NTPC, Nurmalgah Refinery, Oil India
  - ERNST & YOUNG:** 67 assignments, over ₹88.05 cr  
TOP CLIENTS: Engineers India, IEC, HPCIL, TPCO, Power Grid
  - KPMG:** 65 contracts, ₹68.46 cr  
TOP CLIENTS: Oil India, NITI Aayog, Nurmalgah Refinery, UPL, IEC
  - McKINSEY:** 3 contracts, over ₹50.09 cr  
TOP CLIENTS: Oil India, Nurmalgah Refinery and Power Grid
- Source: RTI records; data for April 2017 to June 2022.

## Cong skipped CIC selection meeting as they hate Dalits: Modi Unmitigated falsehood, outrageous lie, everything on record: Adhir hits back

ANAND MOHAN J  
BHOPAL, NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Tuesday said the Congress boycotted a meeting on the appointment of the Chief Information Commissioner because they "hate Dalits". On Monday, Heeralal Santhiya became India's first Dalit CIC, and was administered the oath of office by President Droupadi Murmu.

As reported by The Indian Express, Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, the Opposition member in the Prime Minister-headed high-powered selection committee...  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## DECISION 2023

Voter turnout 70.87% by districts of violence in some districts

MIZORAM 76.53% All 40 seats MORE REPORTS, PAGE 8



Australia's Glenn Maxwell celebrates his double century at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium on Tuesday. With a 3-wicket win over Afghanistan, Australia entered the semi-finals. PT

## Depression low to double-ton high, Maxwell powers Australia victory

SRIRAM VEERA  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 7

GLENN MAXWELL looked brooding. He was crawling on his knees between overs, gasping in pain, but his spirit remained intact. The Aussie kept switching...  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

his bat around to score an unbeaten 201 to script possibly the greatest ODI knock of all time. It was certainly the greatest innings in a World Cup chase, the one that dealt a heart-breaking blow to Afghanistan. The tournament's giant-killers had reduced Australia to...  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## CASTE SURVEY REPORT TABLED IN HOUSE

# A third of families in Bihar live on Rs 6,000 or less per month

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, NOVEMBER 7

MORE THAN a third of Bihar's families live on around Rs 200 a day, among the Scheduled Castes that number stands as high as 43.93%; only 7% of its population are graduates; and about 96% have no vehicles.

These are some of the highlights of the Bihar caste survey report, tabled in both Houses of the state on Tuesday. The caste...  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## EXPLAINED

The poverty pointers

AMONG THE SC families, more than half of the Mushahars (54.56%) and Doms (53.88%) are poor. Only 5% of the SC families earn between Rs 20,000 and Rs 50,000, and 1% above Rs 50,000 per month.

## After Prag, his sister moves to challenge world chess champion

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

AMIT KAMATH  
MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 7

WHEN RAMESH BHABI starts talking about how chess became an inescapable part of his family, he starts with the story of his daughter's love for cartoon shows when she was a pre-teen. To watch her off television, he sent her to a chess school. And he followed the same plan for his younger son, who was also an animation fan.

A decade later, what started as a distraction for his children and turned into a hobby has now become an obsession. The two have become the world's most-...  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Valshali R with her mother Nagalakshmi on Sunday. Anand Bhambhani

celebrated chess siblings. Months after Praggnanandhaa, 18, secured a spot at the Candidates Tournament — an event to decide the challenger to the world champion — his sister, Valshali R, 22, has followed the same path. ...  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

It is with considerable sorrow that we announce the passing of

**Shri. D. N. Ghosh**  
Former Chairman  
(from 13.05.1985 - 12.05.1989)

A visionary, a leader, a pioneer  
As chairman, he was our guiding light and a source of inspiration  
His presence shall be missed dearly

Our Courses

**IAS/Civil Services Exam**  
2024-25  
**COMMERCE**  
by CA R. S. Agrawal & Team  
Congrats! Garima for securing AIR 2 with Commerce  
Total 18 selections with Commerce Optional from Rankers Classes incl. AIR 2, Garima Lohia

**Foundation Course** 7:30am to 10am, 5 Days/Week  
**Advanced Course** 3pm to 5pm, Mon., Wed., Fri.  
**Mentorship Course** 3pm to 5pm, Every Saturday  
**Intensive Test Series** 50+10+4 = 64 tests  
**Perfection in Numericals** Total 60 Tests, 4 Tests/Week  
**Enriched Test Series**  
All courses starting 20 Dec. '23  
All Courses starting with paper II  
Face-to-Face/Live-Online/Recorded

Admissions to open 1st Dec. Details at [www.rankersclasses.in](http://www.rankersclasses.in)  
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# India's hypertension map

A new study finds significant variations in the occurrence and treatment of hypertension among Indian states, and also in districts within the states. How are different regions faring? Why is this significant?

**ANONNA DUTT**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

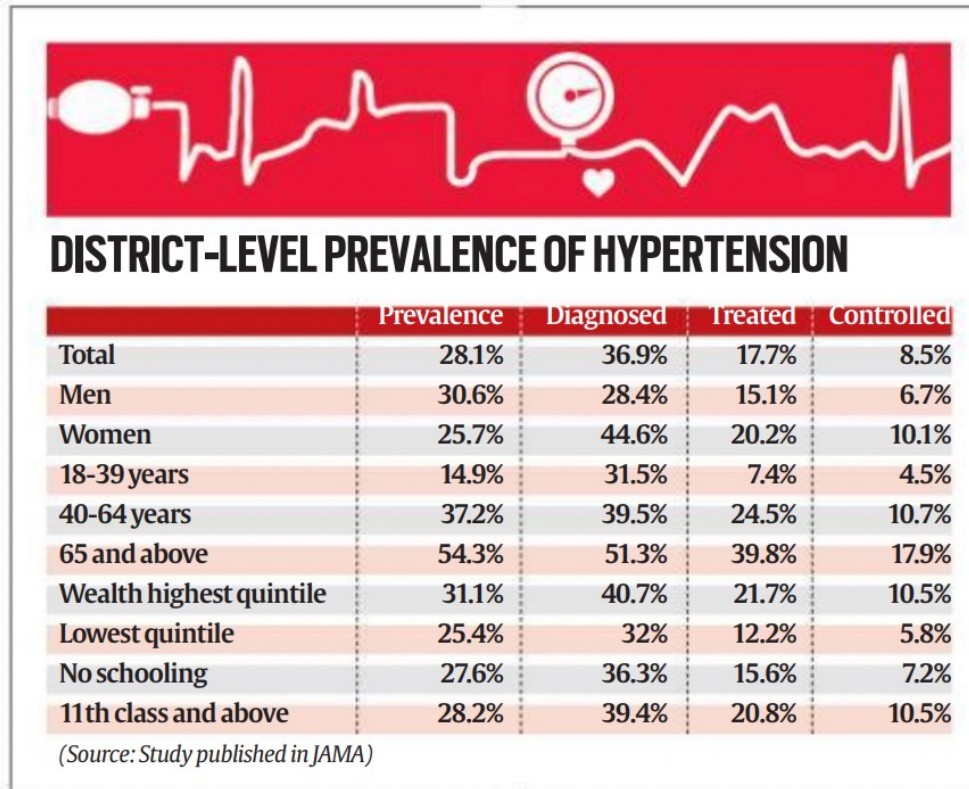
THERE IS a significant variation in the level of prevalence, diagnosis, treatment, and control of hypertension within Indian states, and even within districts in states, an analysis of the recent National Family Health Survey data published in the journal JAMA said.

The researchers said that the national mean values of hypertension “hide considerable” variation at the district level, and recommended “targeted, decentralised solutions.”

## What does the study tell us about hypertension care in India?

The national-level data shows what doctors across the country already know — a larger number of those with hypertension do not get diagnosed; among those who get diagnosed, many do not initiate treatment; and among those who do initiate treatment, few are able to control their blood pressure. Only one in three receives a diagnosis, one in five gets treated, and one in twelve achieves blood pressure control.

The interesting find is the inter-state and inter-district variability of the levels of continuum of care.



In Meghalaya, the prevalence of hypertension was similar in the districts of Garo Hills (21.8%), Jaintia Hills (19.8%), and Khasi Hills (23.1%). However, the proportion of

women, surprisingly, the data show that women are much more likely to be diagnosed, be on treatment, and have their blood pressure under control.

said Dr Nikhil Tandon, one of the authors of the paper and professor of endocrinology and metabolism at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi.

He said: “It is essential that healthcare systems are planned differently for the management of chronic conditions like hypertension than for acute diseases. For an acute disease, the patient is likely to seek out care, and the treatment is also finite. Once they seek care and are prescribed medicines, they are likely to take it for the recommended duration because they want to feel better. But we know this does not happen with hypertension.”

Take, for example, a district where medicines are not available at regular intervals. The local government then has to ensure that the medicines are available regularly and at centres close to people’s homes. Or, a push towards digitisation of records is needed, which can help health workers ensure regular follow-ups and stock-taking of medicines.

For hypertension, Dr Tandon said, continuum of care, and not just screening and diagnosis, is crucial. “This data will help local governments understand where the problem lies — whether there is high prevalence in a certain district, whether a particular district needs more screening or diagnostic facilities, whether medicines are accessible and avail-

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# WHY PALESTINE SUPPORTERS USE THE SYMBOL OF A WATERMELON

**YASHEE**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 7

IN THE many posts showing support for Palestine on social media, a popular symbol is the watermelon.

## Why a watermelon

A watermelon when sliced shows the colours of the Palestinian flag — red, green, black, and white. As carrying and displaying the Palestinian flag has often been barred by Israeli authorities, a watermelon is used to symbolise it instead. On social media, many allege that posts with overt Palestinian symbols are restricted by the US-headquartered bigger platforms, and hence, the sliced watermelon comes in useful here too. The watermelon is also widely cultivated in Palestine, from the West Bank to Gaza, and features prominently in Palestinian cuisine.

## Its use in protests

Palestine has been on the boil the whole of this year, much before the Hamas attack that triggered the blood-bath in Gaza by Israel. In January, Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir claimed he had instructed the police to tear down Palestinian flags flown publicly, after a terror convict waved the flag after his release from prison, *The Times of Israel* reported. Displaying the Palestinian flag is not legally banned in Israel, but the police often crack down, claiming the flag could “disturb peace”. As the arrests con-



A taxi with the image of a watermelon in Tel Aviv, as part of a protest in June. [X/zazim\\_org\\_il](#)

tinued, in June, an organisation called Zazim began adding images of sliced watermelons on taxis plying in Tel Aviv, with the accompanying text reading “This is not a Palestinian flag”.

Another prominent example is the work of Palestinian artist Khaled Hourani, who in 2007 painted a slice of watermelon for the *Subjective Atlas of Palestine* project. His work received wide viewership, and served to associate the watermelon with the Palestinian cause strongly.

It is not clear how the watermelon first came to be used in protests. While some Western media organisations have reported it was a prominent symbol of resistance during the First Intifada, Arab news websites and blogs have contradicted this.



Direct Listing on  
Foreign Exchanges

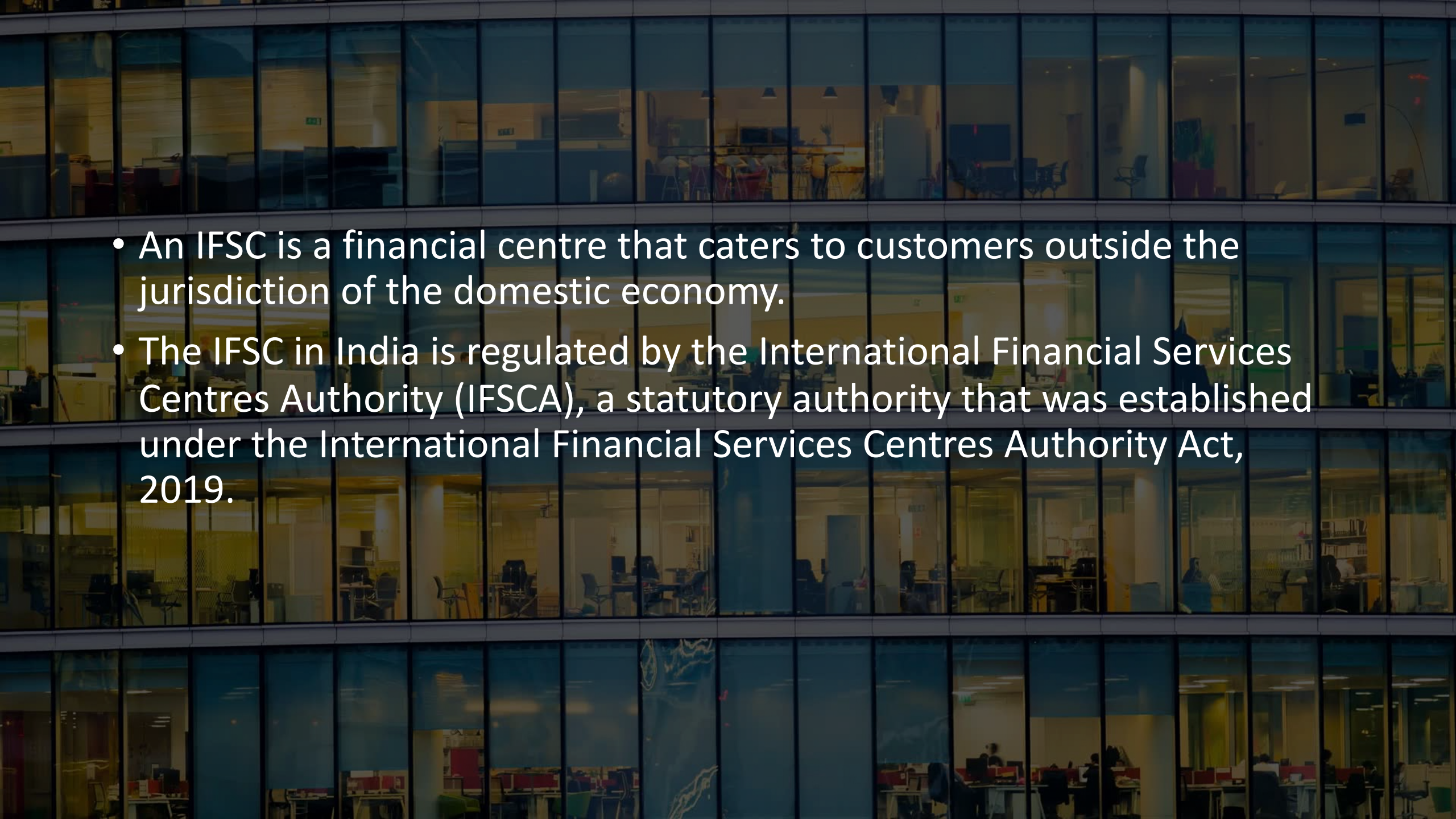


- 
- The background of the slide features a dark teal color with a complex pattern of glowing blue and orange lines, resembling a financial chart or data visualization. The lines are thin and vary in opacity, creating a sense of depth and movement. There are also some faint, larger-scale patterns that suggest a network or data flow.
- The Indian government has permitted certain Indian companies to directly list on foreign stock exchanges to access global capital.
  - This provision, effective since 30th October 2023, was introduced through the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2020.



- It allows certain classes of domestic public companies to list their securities on foreign stock exchanges, including the GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Ahmedabad, Gujrat, with exemptions from certain procedural requirements (such as prospectus, share capital, beneficial ownership requirements, and failure to distribute dividends).




- 
- An IFSC is a financial centre that caters to customers outside the jurisdiction of the domestic economy.
  - The IFSC in India is regulated by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), a statutory authority that was established under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.

It is headquartered at GIFT City, Gandhinagar in Gujarat.


At present, the GIFT IFSC is the maiden IFSC in India.

In IFSC, all transactions must be in **foreign currency (except INR)**. However, administrative and statutory expenses can be conducted in INR.



- 
- How do Indian Companies Currently List on Foreign Exchanges?
  - Currently, Indian companies list on foreign bourses using depository receipts, including **American Depository Receipts (ADRs)** and **Global Depository Receipts (GDRs)**.
    - To list on foreign stock exchanges, Indian companies entrust their shares to an **Indian custodian**, who then issues **depository receipts (DRs)** to foreign investors.



- 
- **Between 2008 and 2018, 109 companies raised over Rs 51,000 crore through ADRs/GDRs.**
  - **However, after 2018, no Indian companies pursued overseas listings through this route.**



- 
- A blue pen is positioned diagonally across the center of the image, pointing towards the bottom right. The background is a dark blue gradient with a faint, light blue bar chart pattern. The text is overlaid on this background in a white, sans-serif font.
- What are the Benefits of Direct Foreign Listing?
  - Access to a **larger and more liquid market**, which can increase the demand and valuation of their shares.
  - Ability to reach out to a wider and more sophisticated **investor base**, which can enhance their reputation and credibility.
  -

**Which of the following is issued by registered foreign portfolio investors to overseas investors who want to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly? (2019)**

- (a) Certificate of Deposit**
- (b) Commercial Paper**
- (c) Promissory Note**
- (d) Participatory Note**



• **With reference to the Indian economy, consider the following statements: (2020)**

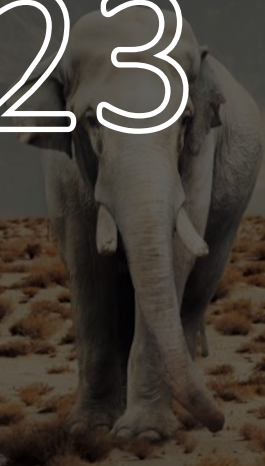
1. 'Commercial Paper' is a short-term unsecured promissory note.
2. 'Certificate of Deposit' is a long-term instrument issued by the Reserve Bank of India to a corporation.
3. 'Call Money' is a short-term finance used for interbank transactions.
4. 'Zero-Coupon Bonds' are the interest bearing short-term bonds issued by the Scheduled Commercial Banks to corporations.

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


- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 4 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 2, 3 and 4 only




# Critical Evaluation of Elephant Corridor Report 2023



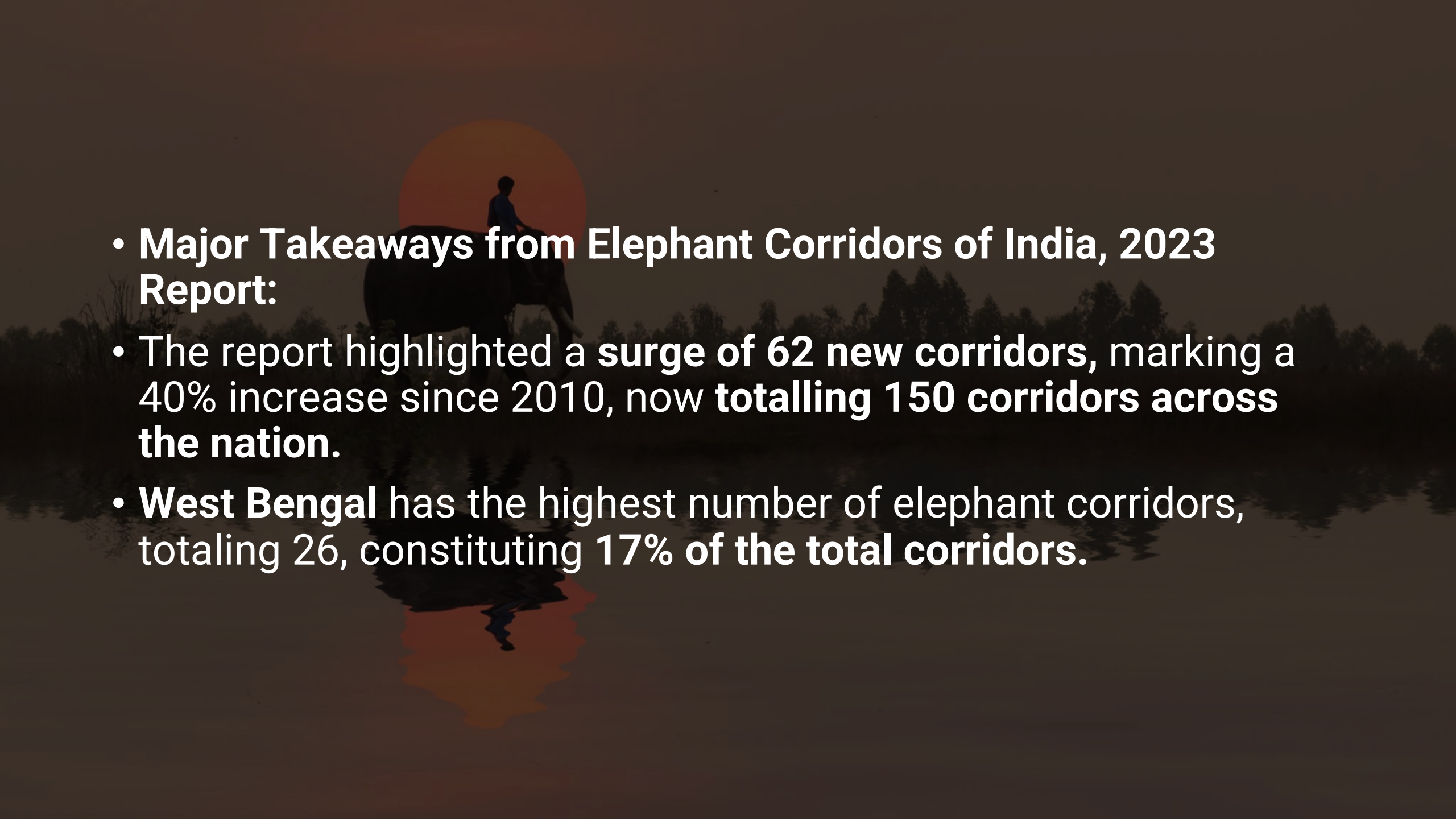


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- What are the Major Discrepancies Observed in the Elephant Corridors of India 2023 Report?
  - **Corridor Definition Inconsistencies**
  - **North and Northeast Corridor Discrepancies**
  - **Dangers to Elephants**



- 
- What are the Project Elephant Directives on Elephant Corridors?
  - In 2005-06, Project Elephant issued directives to states regarding elephant corridors.
  - It stated that corridors in forest areas should adhere to the rules outlined in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
  - Meanwhile, areas with revenue and private lands were instructed to comply with the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as eco-sensitive areas, potentially prohibiting red-category industries.





- **Major Takeaways from Elephant Corridors of India, 2023 Report:**

- The report highlighted a **surge of 62 new corridors**, marking a 40% increase since 2010, now **totalling 150 corridors across the nation.**
- **West Bengal** has the highest number of elephant corridors, totaling 26, constituting **17% of the total corridors.**

- 
- A silhouette of a person riding an elephant is visible against a large, glowing orange sun. The scene is reflected in a body of water in the foreground. The background shows a line of trees.
- **The East central region contributes 35% (52 corridors), and the North East region follows as the second-largest with 32% (48 corridors).**
  - **Southern India registered 32 elephant corridors, representing 21% of the total, while northern India has the lowest count of 18 corridors, amounting to 12%.**





- **4 Main Species of Elephant:**

- Indian (Found in Asia; IUCN Red List Status: Endangered (EN), CITES - Appendix I, WPA - Schedule I; Habitat: Subtropical and tropical broadleaf forests, dry forests, grasslands)
- Sumatran (Found in Asia; IUCN Red List Status: Critically Endangered (CR); Habitat: Broadleaf moist tropical forests)
- Savanna (Bush) (Found in Africa; IUCN Red List Status: Endangered (EN); Habitat: All sub-Saharan Africa except for Central Africa's dense tropical forest)
- Forest (Found in Africa; IUCN Red List Status: Critically Endangered (CR); Habitat: Dense Tropical Forests)



## Indian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*):

- Largest Land Mammal on the Asian Continent
- National Heritage Animal of India

## Indian Elephant Population:

- Top 5 Indian States by Maximum Elephant Population (As per elephant census 2017):
  - Karnataka
  - Assam
  - Kerala
  - Tamil Nadu



- 
- **Conservation Efforts:**
  - Gaj Soochna App (2022)
  - Gaj Yatra (2017)
  - Hathi Mere Sathi campaign (2011)
  - National Elephant Corridor Project (2005)
  - Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme (2003)
  - Project Elephant (1992)






• **With reference to Indian elephants, consider the following statements: (2020)**

1. The leader of an elephant group is a female.
2. The maximum gestation period can be 22 months.
3. An elephant can normally go on calving till the age of 40 years only.
4. Among the States in India, the highest elephant population is in Kerala.

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

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only





# Devas- ISRO's Antrix Corporation Deal



The district court of The Hague, Netherlands, rejected India's request to cancel a USD 111 million compensation award to foreign investors in Devas Multimedia.

The payment was awarded by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) tribunal because a satellite deal from 2005 with India's ISRO's Antrix Corporation and Devas Multimedia was cancelled in 2011.




- The Court of Netherlands refused to overturn the award, finding the Indian government liable for improperly terminating the deal.

- 





- 
- The 2005 Devas-ISRO Satellite Deal: In 2005, Antrix Corporation, the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), entered a satellite deal with Devas Multimedia, a Bengaluru start-up.
  - The deal involved leasing the S-band on ISRO satellites, GSAT-6 and GSAT-6A, for 12 years to provide digital multimedia services.





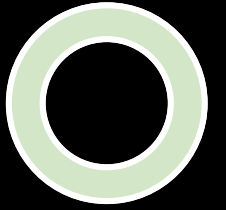
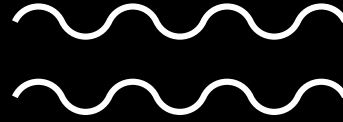
- **Cancellation of the Satellite Deal:**

- In 2011, the Indian government abruptly cancelled the deal, citing **national security reasons**.
  - The decision was taken in the midst of the **2G scam** and allegations that the Devas deal involved the handing over of a communication spectrum valued at nearly Rs 2 lakh crore for a pittance.

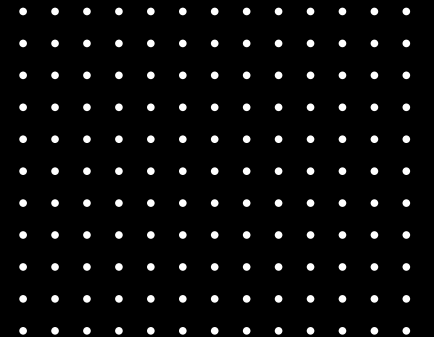


- 
- In 2015, the **International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)** arbitration tribunal, awarded Devas Multimedia USD 1.2 billion in compensation.
    - Deutsche Telekom received USD 101 million from the **Permanent Court of Arbitration in Geneva.**
    - In 2020, three Mauritius-based investors were granted USD 111 million by **UNCITRAL.**





- Due to the Indian Government not paying the compensation, Devas filed an appeal in the US and EU to liquidate assets of Indian **Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs)** for **recovery of penalty.**



## International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

ICC is the world's largest business organization working to promote international trade and responsible business conduct.

It has been helping to resolve difficulties in international commercial and business disputes to support trade and investment since 1923.

ICC headquarters is in Paris, France.



The background of the image is a light gray color, overlaid with a dense pattern of overlapping circles. The circles vary in size and are colored in shades of blue, purple, and teal. Some circles are solid, while others are semi-transparent, creating a layered, bokeh-like effect. The text 'Zika Virus' is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

# Zika Virus

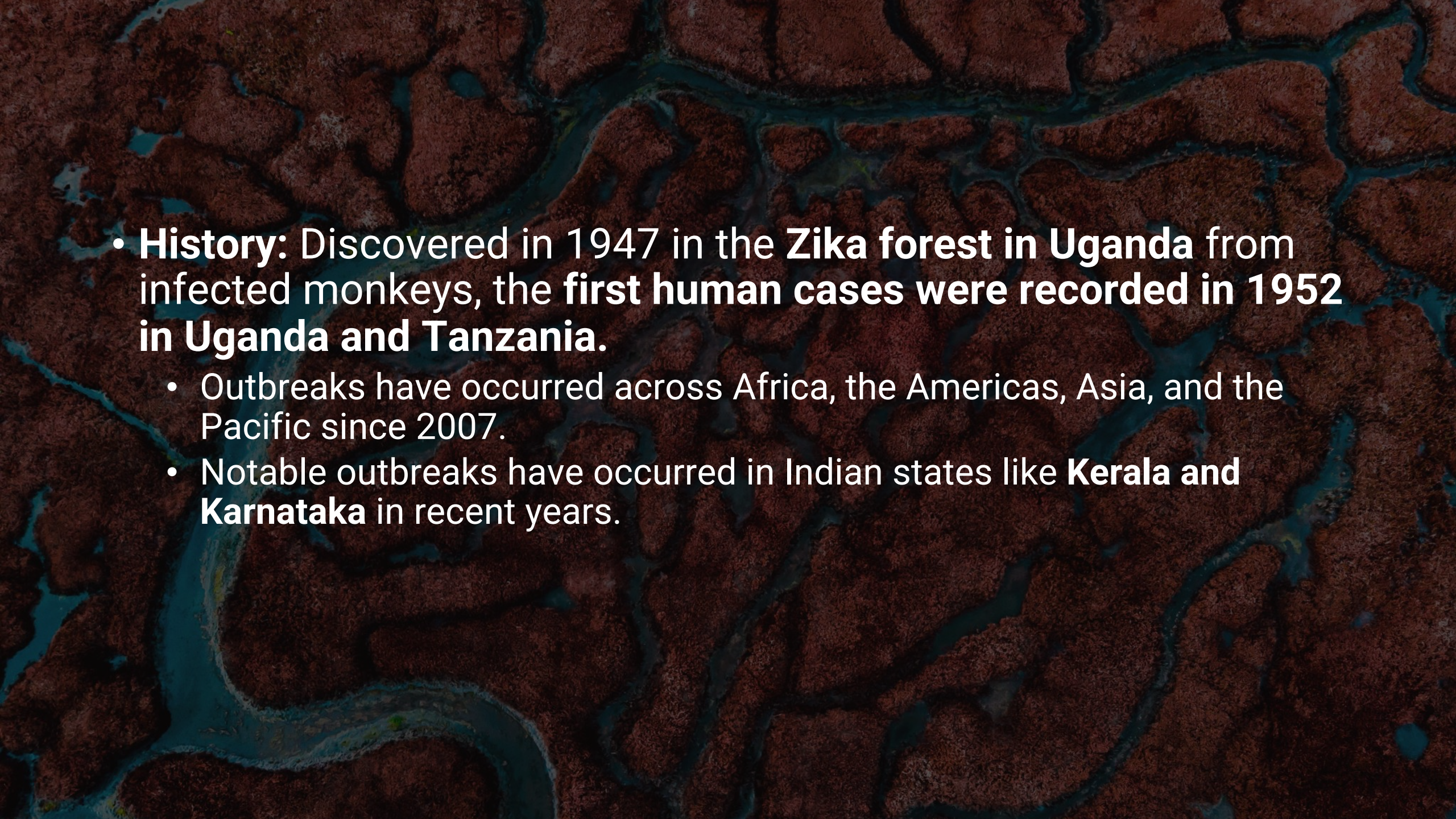
Recently, the Karnataka State Health Department issued an alert following Zika virus detection in mosquito samples from Talakayalabetta, Chikkaballapura village.

The Zika virus, a mosquito-borne flavivirus, and its impacts on public health have been a matter of significant concern.



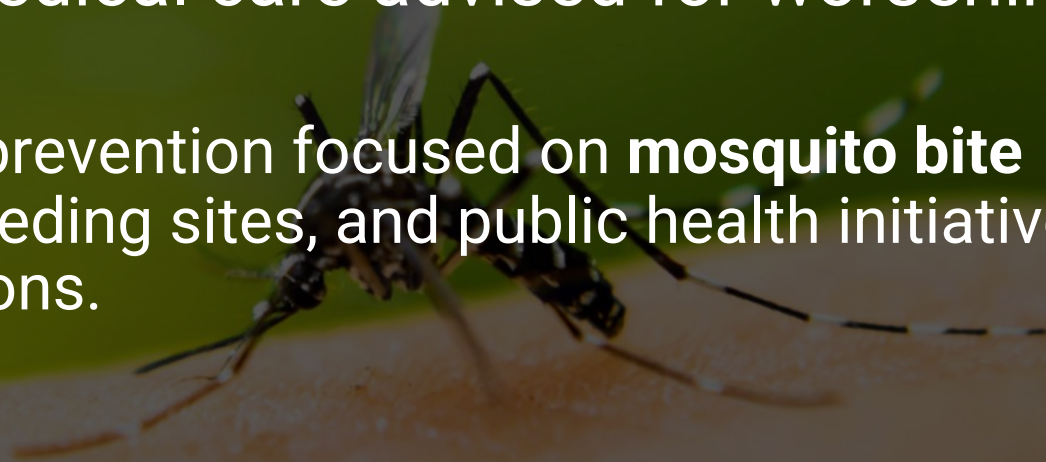
- 
- What is Zika Virus?
  - About:
  - The Zika virus, a mosquito-borne flavivirus, that is primarily spread by *Aedes* mosquitoes, particularly *Aedes aegypti*.
  - Also, it can also be transmitted from mother to fetus during pregnancy, as well as through sexual contact, transfusion of blood and blood products.



- 
- **History:** Discovered in 1947 in the **Zika forest in Uganda** from infected monkeys, the **first human cases were recorded in 1952 in Uganda and Tanzania.**
    - Outbreaks have occurred across Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the Pacific since 2007.
    - Notable outbreaks have occurred in Indian states like **Kerala and Karnataka** in recent years.



- **Treatment and Prevention: No specific treatment available.** Symptomatic relief and medical care advised for worsening conditions.
  - **No vaccine available yet;** prevention focused on **mosquito bite protection**, eliminating breeding sites, and public health initiatives to control mosquito populations.



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

1. In tropical regions, Zika virus disease is transmitted by the same mosquito that transmits dengue.

2. Sexual transmission of Zika virus disease is possible.

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

- (a) 1 only

- (b) 2 only

- (c) Both 1 and 2

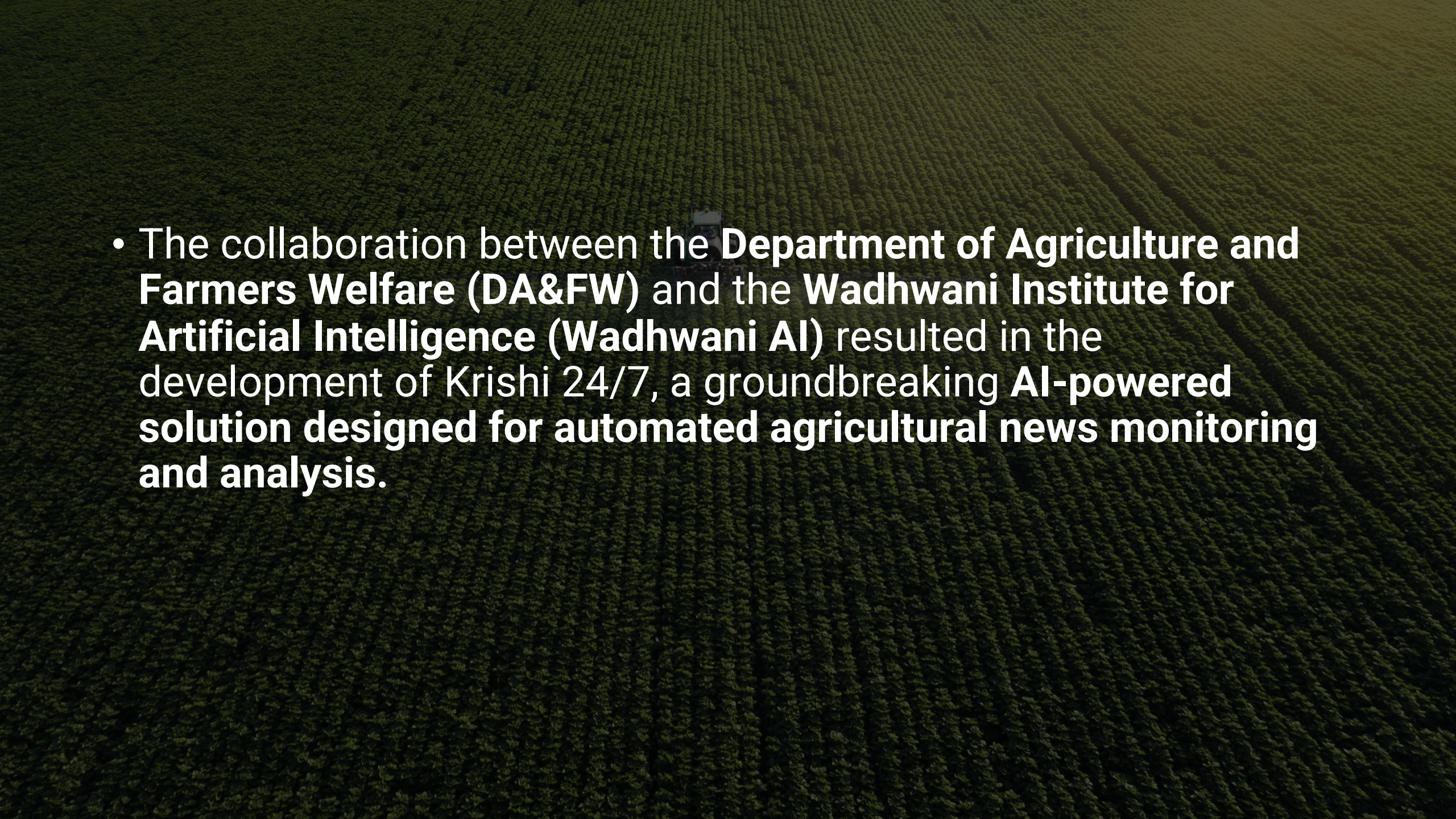
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2




The background features a complex network of thin, light-colored lines connecting various sized circles. The circles are primarily green, with a gradient from light to dark, and some are red or orange, especially towards the bottom. The overall effect is a dynamic, interconnected digital space.

# Krishi 24/7: AI Revolutionizing Agricultural News Monitoring



- 
- The collaboration between the **Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW)** and the **Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence (Wadhvani AI)** resulted in the development of **Krishi 24/7**, a groundbreaking **AI-powered solution designed for automated agricultural news monitoring and analysis.**



- 
- With support from **Google**, this innovation aims to transform the process of identifying and managing agricultural news articles, **ensuring timely alerts and actions to safeguard farmers' interests and foster sustainable agricultural growth.**



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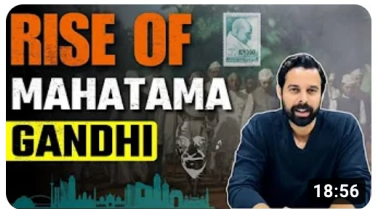
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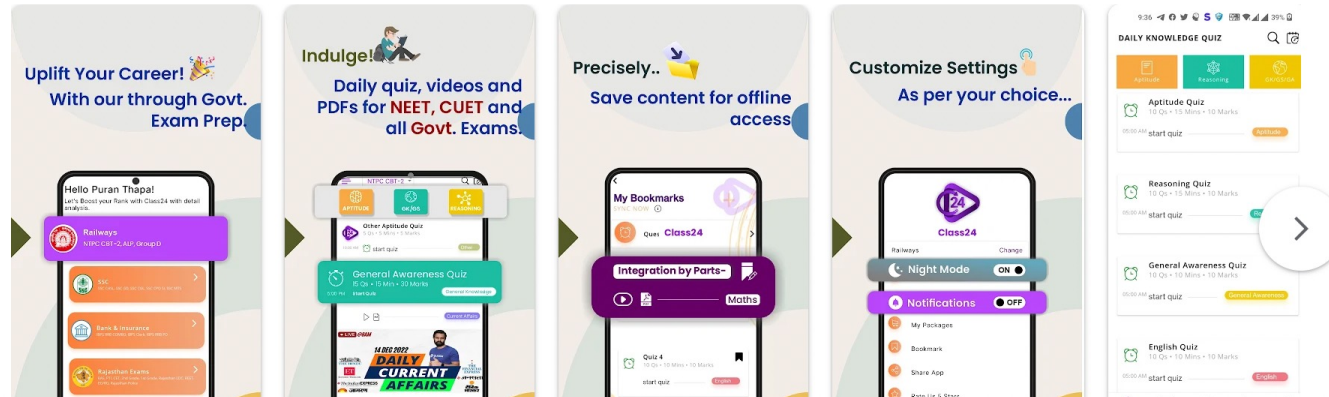
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