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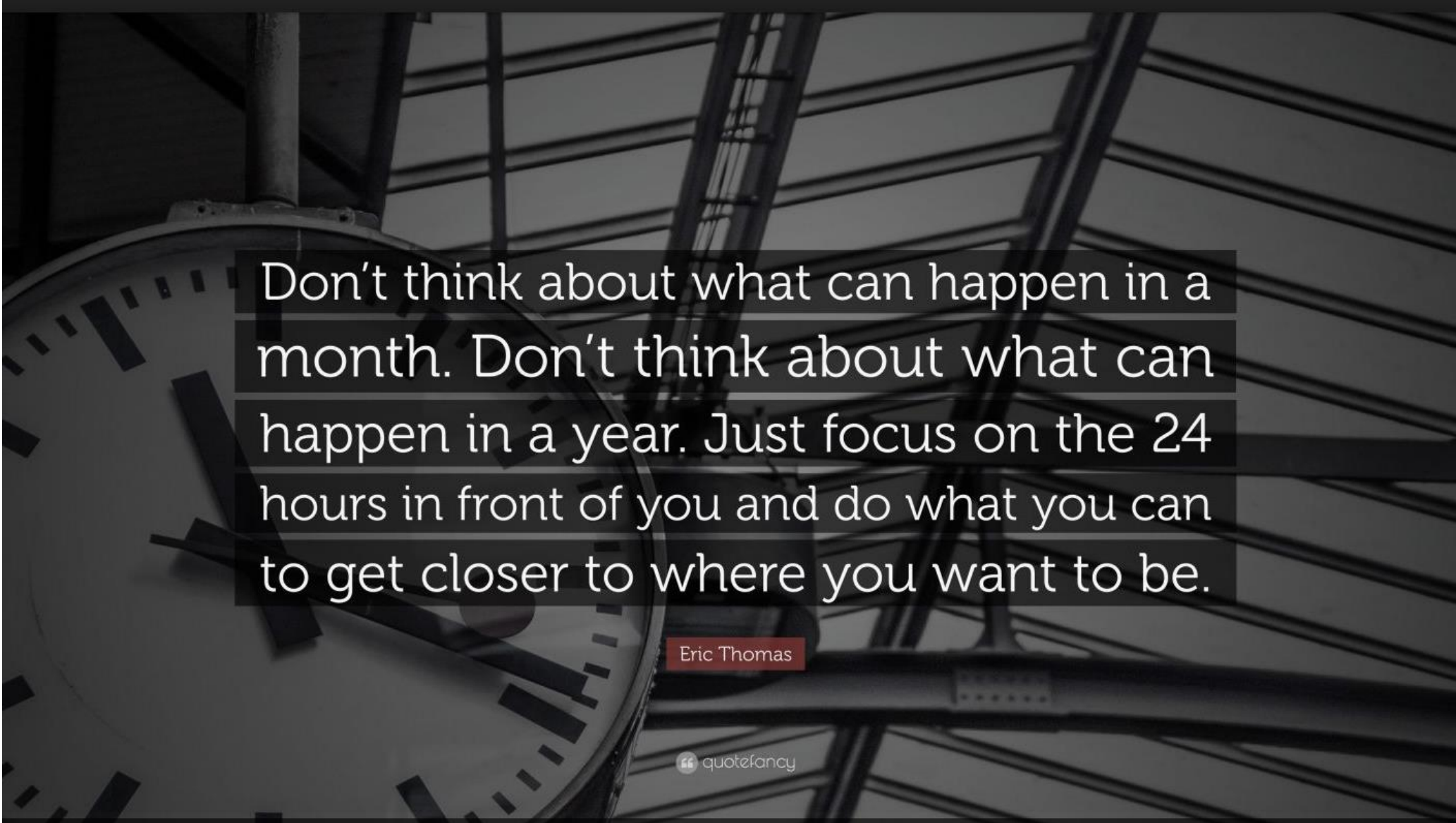
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STINT ENDS
AIFF terminates coach Igor Stimac's contract
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NEARBY



CID records Vedyurappa's statement
BENGALURU
BJP veteran and former Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yedyurappa appeared before the Criminal Investigation Department on Monday, in connection with a case filed against him under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. » PAGE 3

Congress accuses NCEERT of being an RSS 'affiliate'
NEW DELHI
The Congress on Monday accused the National Council for Educational Research and Training of working as an 'affiliate' of the RSS, amid changes in textbooks including removal of certain events such as the Gujarat riots and Babri masjid demolition. » PAGE 5

Five Maoists gunned down in Jharkhand
PATNA
Five Maoists, two of them women, were killed in an encounter with security forces at Chabasa in West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand on Monday, officials said. The exchange of fire took place near Lipinga under Gopa police station limits. » PAGE 6

Tory candidate in U.K. cites gift action in Kashmir
LONDON
Ahead of U.K.'s election, Conservative politician Marco Longhi has raised contentious issues in India. A letter purportedly written by him claimed the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's election would mean "tougher times" for Kashmiris. » PAGE 14

Nine killed in rail accident in West Bengal

Goods train carrying containers rams stationary Kanchanjunga Express in Darjeeling district | Accident took place 10 km from the New Jalpaiguri station of North-east Frontier Railway at 8.55 a.m. | Rescue personnel struggle for hours to extricate the dead and the injured from the wreckage

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA
Nine persons, two of them railway crew members, were killed on Monday when a goods train collided with train no. 13174 Agartala-Seedah Kanchanjunga Express between the Rangapani and Chaitar Hat stations in Darjeeling district of West Bengal. Nine persons were grievously injured and 32 sustained minor injuries.
The accident took place about 10 km from the New Jalpaiguri station, in the Karihar division of North-east Frontier Railway, at 8.55 a.m.



OFF THE RAILS: The site of the train accident in Darjeeling district of West Bengal on Monday. AFP

The goods train hit a stationary Kanchanjunga Express from behind on the same track at about 8.55 a.m. The goods train was carrying 10 coaches and five wagons of the goods train derailed. A few coaches of the express train, including the guard's cabin and two parcel vans, climbed onto the coaches of the goods train.

The unaffected coaches of the express train left for Seedah around 40 minutes past noon. The train had left Agartala in Tripura at 8.15 a.m. on Sunday and was expected in Seedah at 7.20 p.m. on Monday. We have to control human error and (installation of) Kavach is the most important thing on which work is going on in mission mode. So far, we have introduced Kavach for 1,500 km and another 3,000 km will be completed this year. She said the railway network in West Bengal was safe and under Kavach protection (a made-in-India technology to prevent collisions of trains travelling on the same track) this year.

Loco pilot had permit to cross all signals in red

CHENNAI
The loco pilot of the goods train that rammed the Kanchanjunga Express on Monday had the authority to cross all signals in danger, according to documents made available to The Hindu. They revealed that the stationmaster of the Rangapani railway station had authorised the loco pilot to cross all automatic signals between the Rangapani and Chaitar Hat stations. » PAGE 5

In India are still not under this system. Passenger safety is negligible in the current state of Indian Railways, she said.
Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the railway accident in West Bengal as "saddening" and offered condolences to those who lost their loved ones.
"I pray that the injured recover at the earliest. Spoke to officials and took stock of the situation. Rescue operations are underway to assist the affected, the Prime Minister posted on social media.

Ex gratia announced
Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reached the accident site and took stock of the relief work. The Minister met the injured at the medical college hospital. He declared an ex gratia of ₹10 lakh for the family of each of the dead, ₹2.5 lakh for the seriously injured, and ₹50,000 for those who sustained minor injuries. Mr. Vaishnaw said the accident would be investigated by the Commissioner of Railway Safety.

Id prayers



In harmony: People offer namaz on the occasion of Id-ul-Azha at an Idgah in Bhopal on Monday. A.A.FARUQI

Shah chairs meet to review status of Manipur conflict, 'bridge ethnic divide'; Biren not invited

Vijalta Singh
NEW DELHI
Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level meeting on Monday, in the absence of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, to review the "current status" of the ethnic conflict in the State and the way forward.
Underlining the importance of a coordinated approach to resolve the conflict, Mr. Shah led the Home Ministry would talk to both the groups, Meiteis and Kuki-Zo, "to bridge the ethnic divide at the earliest."
A government source told The Hindu that Mr. Singh was not invited to the meeting as it was restricted to "security officials".
A Manipur government source, explaining Mr. Singh's absence, said that since May 30, 2023, Kuldip Singh, Security Adviser of the Manipur government, had been designated as the Chairperson of the Unified Command responsible for security-related decisions in the State.
Mr. Shah said the Union government had been actively supporting the State government in strengthening the security situation.
The meeting comes in the wake of fresh violence in Jiribam district that had remained unaffected by ethnic strife so far. Even as the meeting was under way, hundreds of vehicles carrying essential commodities to the Imphal valley were stuck along National Highway 37, which connects Assam to Manipur, due to a blockade imposed by Kuki-Zo Village Volunteers in Jiribam. They said they were doing this in response to people from the Meitei community "deliberately preventing Kuki-Zo people from using NH-37", also a lifeline for Jiribam.

The meeting lasted an hour and was attended by Security Adviser Kuldip Singh, Director-General of Police, Manipur, Rajiv Singh; Chief Secretary Vineet Joshi; Army chief Manoj Pandey; Army chief-designate Lt. Gen. Upendra Dwivedi, among other senior officials.
"Holistic review" The Home Ministry said Mr. Shah conducted a "holistic review" of the security situation, and directed officials to ensure that further violence took place in Manipur. He said the de-

Gupta extradited to U.S. for murder plot, pleads not guilty

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

Indian national Nikhil Gupta, accused of being involved in a murder-for-hire plot against a Sikh separatist on American soil, pleaded not guilty in the federal court here on Monday.

Mr. Gupta, 52, was extradited to the U.S. from the Czech Republic on Friday. He was arrested in the Czech Republic last year at the request of the U.S. government on charges of being involved in a plot to assassinate Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Panjan in New York. The Czech Constitutional Court last month rejected a petition by Mr. Gupta against his extradition to the U.S. to face the charges.



Doval, Sullivan review ICET cooperation

NEW DELHI
National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and his U.S. counterpart Jake Sullivan on Monday chaired the second meeting of the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (ICET). » PAGE 4

Rahul keeps Rae Bareilly; Priyanka for Wayanad

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will make her electoral debut from the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency in Kerala in a bye-election, after her brother and former Congress chief, Rahul Gandhi, decided to retain the Rae Bareilly seat in Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Gandhi won both the seats in the recently concluded Lok Sabha election but as rules allow only one seat to be retained, he had to choose within 14 days of being elected as an MP. The deadline to do so is on Tuesday.
The decision was announced by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at his official residence on Monday, after a meeting that went on for over two hours. Mr. Gandhi said it was a difficult decision for him as he has an emotional connection with both Rae Bareilly and the people of Wayanad.

"I have an old relation with Rae Bareilly and I am very happy that I will be representing it. But this was not an easy decision," he told presspersons after Mr. Kharge announced the decision.
"I am very happy to be able to represent Wayanad, and all I will say is that I won't let them feel his (Mr. Gandhi's) absence," Ms. Vadra said. She also asserted that her ties with Rae Bareilly and Amethi could not break, and she would continue to assist her brother in Rae Bareilly.

Yogendra Yadav, Suhas Palshikar want their names removed from textbooks

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Political scientists Yogendra Yadav and Suhas Palshikar on Monday have written to the NCERT objecting to the new textbooks carrying their names even after they disassociated themselves from the revisions. They said that they would be forced to take legal recourse if the books with their names were not withdrawn immediately.

Mr. Palshikar and Mr. Yadav said they do not want the NCERT to “hide” behind their names to pass on to students such textbooks of political science that are “politically biased, academically indefensible

The revised version of the textbooks, which recently hit the market, still identify them as chief advisers

and pedagogically dysfunctional.”

Mr. Palshikar and Mr. Yadav, who were chief advisers for political science textbooks last year, said that the rationalisation exercise has “mutilated” the books beyond recognition and rendered them “academically dysfunctional”.

They had stated that the textbooks which were a source of pride for them earlier have now become a source of embarrassment.

The revised version of the textbooks, which recently hit the market, still identify them as chief advisers.

‘Selective deletions’

“Besides the earlier practice of selective deletions, the NCERT has resorted to significant additions and rewriting that are out of sync with the spirit of the original textbooks... the NCERT has no moral or legal right to distort these textbooks without consulting any of us and yet publish these under our names despite our explicit refusal,” the letter said.

“There can be arguments and debates about someone’s claims to authorship of any given work.

But it is bizarre that authors and editors are forced to associate their names with a work they no longer identify as their own,” it added.

“The new editions of these books that have been published with our names should be withdrawn... If the NCERT fails to take immediate corrective action, we may be forced to take legal recourse,” they said.

Rejecting accusations of saffronisation of the curriculum, the NCERT’s director has said that references to the Gujarat riots and Babri Masjid demolition were modified in school textbooks because teaching about riots “can create violent and depressed citizens.”

Issues 1

In April 2024, the NCERT revised its Political Science curriculum for grades 11 and 12.

The revisions resulted in the omission of references to several contentious events in Indian history, including the Babri Masjid demolition, the Gujarat riots, and the role of Hindutva in Indian politics.

The NCERT justified these changes as routine updates to reflect the government's current stance.

Critics, however, argued that the revisions were politically motivated and aimed at downplaying the role of these events in shaping modern India

-
- Issues 2
 - According to Apoorvanand, a University of Delhi professor, Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government "seeks to portray India as a historically Hindu-only land".
 - He adds, "marginalisation of Mughals and Muslims in textbooks mirrors what Muslims in Modi's India are facing in real life.

-
- Issues 3
 - Around 1800 scientists, educators, science teachers, science popularizers, and citizens from various reputable institutions criticized the removal of Darwin's theory of evolution from NCERT textbooks, saying that the purging of foundational science chapters will seriously handicap students' thought process.
 - They wrote an open letter to the government urging it to continue teaching theory of evolution

- **ON MAHATMA GANDHI**
- **ON MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD**
- **ON JAMMU AND KASHMIR**
- **ON CLIMATE AND ECOSYSTEM**
- Other sections removed from NCERT textbooks across various classes include information on the Emergency, the Cold War, and the Naxalite movement, among others.
- The industrial revolution was scrapped from the Class 11 textbook.
- References to Dalit writer Omprakash Valmiki have been removed from the social science textbooks of Classes 7 and 8.
-

In the Class 6 history textbook 'Our Pasts – I', sentences on the hereditary nature of varnas, and classification of people as untouchables and rejection of the varna system have been removed from the chapter 'Kingdom, Kings and Early Republic'.

In Class 10, full chapters of 'Democracy and Diversity', 'Popular Struggles and Movements' and 'Challenges to Democracy' have been done away with.

Sections of Class 12 topics that have been removed include 'The Story of Indian Democracy', 'Social Movements', and 'Patterns of Social Inequality'.

विद्यया ऽ मृतमश्नुते



एन सी ई आर टी
NCERT

Motto	Sanskrit: विद्यया अमृतमश्नुते <i>Life eternal through learning</i>
Type	Autonomous body
Established	1 September 1961
Founder	Government of India (Ministry of Education)
Budget	₹510 crore (US\$61 million) (FY2022–23 est.) ^[1]
President	Dharmendra Pradhan (Minister of Education)
Director	Dr. Dinesh Prasad Saklani ^[2]
Location	Sri Aurobindo Marg, Delhi, India
Campus	Urban
Acronym	NCERT

- Consider the following statements about the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT):
 1. NCERT was established in 1961 and is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Education, Government of India.
 2. The headquarters of NCERT is located in Mumbai.
 3. NCERT is responsible for the development and publication of textbooks used by schools following the CBSE curriculum.
 4. NCERT organizes the National Talent Search Examination (NTSE) for students of class 10.
- **Which of the above statements is/are correct?**
 - a) 1 and 3 only
 - b) 1, 3, and 4 only
 - c) 2 and 4 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 4 only

Next & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Surge in gold, silver imports from the UAE in 2023-24

210% in percentage. India's gold and silver imports from its free trade agreement partner UAE have skyrocketed to \$10.7 billion in 2023-24 and there is a need to potentially revise the concessional customs duty rates under the pact to mitigate the arbitrage driving this surge, according to Global Trade Research Initiative. PTI

Amount spent to advise Trump's conviction by Biden

50% in \$ million. U.S. President Joe Biden's re-election campaign is spending \$50 million through the end of June, a blitz that includes its first television ad trumpeting Donald Trump's felony conviction and saying the Democratic incumbent is seeking to make his Republican opponent's legal woes a bigger issue heading into November. AP

Expected credit growth for SBI in current fiscal

14% in percentage. Given the current economic growth rate, the State Bank of India is expecting loan growth during the fiscal year 2024-25, the bank's chairman Dinesh Kumar Khosla said. "Normally the way we look at it is that the GDP growth rate plus inflation and 2-3% over that. That gives us the number around 14% or so," the bank's chairman said. PTI

Countries that modernised nuclear arsenals in 2023

9 Nuclear-armed nations including the U.S., the U.K., Russia, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel continued to modernise their nuclear arsenals and several of them deployed new nuclear-capable weapon systems in 2023, according to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The nine nations spent a combined total of \$91.4 billion on their arsenals in 2023. PTI

Germany's biggest industrial union seeks raise for workers

7% in percentage. IG Metall union, Germany's biggest industrial union will seek an increase in pay for 3.9 million workers in negotiations starting later this year. The organisation argues that companies including automakers and machinery manufacturers are in a position to afford it. AP

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Laws on mercenaries in war zones

Indian nationals tricked by the promise of lucrative jobs in Russia have died fighting on the frontlines. As states are increasingly hiring private military companies to operate in conflict zones — can they qualify as mercenaries under international law? How can India secure the interests of its overseas migrant workers?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

In June 11, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) acknowledged the tragic loss of two Indian nationals who were recruited by the Russian Army amidst the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The MEA in a press statement said that the Indian Embassy in Moscow has strongly raised this issue with the Russian Ambassador in New Delhi and authorities in Moscow, seeking the swift release and return of all Indian nationals currently serving in the Russian Army. In February, *The Hindu* reported for the first time that Indians were getting killed while fighting on behalf of Russia in the Ukraine war. Over the past year, nearly 100 Indians have been recruited by the Russian Army after being reportedly duped by agents with the lure of money and a Russian passport. Contracts signed by these recruits stipulate a "no leave or exit policy" before six months of service, with salaries amounting to ₹1.5 lakh to ₹2 lakh per month. In January, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree simplifying the process of obtaining Russian citizenship for foreigners who sign a minimum of one-year contract with the Army.

At least 30 Indians have so far contacted the MEA and the Indian Embassy in Moscow, seeking help to return. The deaths of the two Indian nationals highlight a disturbing reality — Indians are increasingly falling prey to labour trafficking rackets after being unable to secure jobs domestically, leading to their recruitment as mercenaries in international armed conflicts.

What has been the MEA's response? The MEA has issued a press note advising Indians to exercise caution while seeking employment opportunities in Russia. In March, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said that it had filed a first information report (FIR) booking 15 individuals and four companies for their alleged role in the "trafficking of gullible Indian nationals to Russia and duping them for better employment and high-paying jobs". In May, the central agency divulged that it had made four arrests in the case.

Who are mercenaries? The distinction between conventional combatants and mercenaries is a fundamental cornerstone of international humanitarian law (IHL). A combatant is typically a member of the armed forces of a party to the conflict, whereas a mercenary is recruited from a third-party state unrelated to the conflict.

Mercenaries usually engage in hostilities motivated primarily by personal gain as opposed to virtues of patriotism associated with regular combatants. Article 47 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions (AP1) lists six cumulative conditions for a person to qualify as a mercenary. The person (i) should be specially recruited locally or abroad in order to fight in an armed conflict, (ii) has taken a direct part in the hostilities, (iii) is motivated to take part in the hostilities essentially by the desire for private gain and, in fact, is promised, by or on behalf of a party to the conflict, material compensation substantially in excess of that promised or paid to combatants of similar ranks and functions



Mercenaries qualify for humane treatment in accordance with the fundamental guarantees of humanitarian law as outlined under Article 75 Article 47 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions AP

in the armed forces of that party, (iv) is neither a national of a party to the conflict nor a resident of territory controlled by a party to the conflict, (v) is not a member of the armed forces of a party to the conflict, (vi) has not been sent by a state which is not a party to the conflict on official duty as a member of its armed forces. Under customary IHL, being a mercenary itself does not constitute a specific crime. However, if captured, they are not entitled to prisoner-of-war status or any protected categories under the Geneva Conventions.

This allows for their prosecution for war crimes or other grave breaches of international law. They may also face charges under the domestic laws of the detaining nation. Nevertheless, mercenaries qualify for humane treatment in accordance with the fundamental guarantees of humanitarian law, as outlined under Article 75 of the AP1.

However, over time, African states began expressing reservations about this definition, as it only addressed international armed conflicts and overlooked civil wars, where mercenary activities were most prevalent. This led to the adoption of the Organization of African Unity Convention for the Elimination of Mercenarism in Africa in 1977 which included a more expansive definition of mercenaries.

Similarly, in 1989, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries. This convention covers recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries and also promoted inter-State cooperation in this regard.

The charter also widened the definition of mercenaries as provided under the Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions to include "persons recruited for the purpose of participating in a concerted act of violence aimed at overthrowing a government or otherwise undermining the constitutional order of a State, or at

undermining the territorial integrity of a State."

What are the limitations of the existing regime?

One of the major challenges of the existing regulatory regime is the lack of a clear, unequivocal, and comprehensive legal definition of what constitutes a mercenary. This is compounded by the fact that the domestic laws of most states do not criminalise mercenary activity. Additionally, the definition outlined under Article 47 of the AP1 does not include within its ambit foreign military personnel integrated into the armed forces of another state — such as the Gurkhas (soldiers from Nepal who have served in the British Army since the 1800s). It also fails to establish mechanisms for holding accountable foreigners employed as advisers and trainers.

Dr. Shubha Prasad, Assistant Professor of International Relations at the Hertie School, Berlin highlighted the emerging trend of private military and security companies (PMSCs) gradually taking over roles previously associated with mercenaries. "These for-profit companies provide a range of services from combat to food supplies for troops. The legal framework surrounding the operations of PMSCs is more loosely defined and relies heavily on a country's domestic legal capacity", she said.

For instance, the operations of the controversial Wagner Group in Russia have been increasingly subjected to international scrutiny. Despite being registered as a private entity, it reportedly includes Russian Army veterans among its ranks. While the direct participation of the Wagner Group has been evident in the Ukraine-Russia conflict, the Kremlin had never formally acknowledged its connections with it. This has posed challenges in calling for accountability and assessing whether the group qualifies as a mercenary organisation. However, following the military corporation's aborted attempt at a coup last year,

President Vladimir Putin acknowledged that it had received tens of billions of rubles in public money from the government.

Signatories to the Montreux Doctrine have committed to stronger state oversight of private military and security actors. States are obliged to check whether PMSCs comply with international humanitarian and human rights laws. However, neither India nor Russia is a signatory to this document. That does not preclude India from imposing tighter restrictions on the recruitment of Indian nationals for such enterprises. Furthermore, we need stronger international legal frameworks to safeguard individuals who are coerced or misled into contracting with PMSCs", Dr. Prasad added.

What is the way forward? According to Dr. Prasad, the Indian government should develop a robust policy framework to address distress migration and implement strict measures against human trafficking. "India should adopt a two-pronged approach," she suggested. "Long-term preventive measures should target the underlying economic factors that are driving people to leave the country, while immediate measures should prioritise educating the public and ensuring strong pre-travel vetting for Indians going to Russia or other conflict zones".

For instance, she pointed out that pre-travel approval from the MEA for travel to Russia could be another measure to strengthen international scrutiny. Despite being registered as a private entity, it reportedly includes Russian Army veterans among its ranks. While the direct participation of the Wagner Group has been evident in the Ukraine-Russia conflict, the Kremlin had never formally acknowledged its connections with it. This has posed challenges in calling for accountability and assessing whether the group qualifies as a mercenary organisation. However, following the military corporation's aborted attempt at a coup last year,

THE GIST

Over the past year, nearly 100 Indians have been recruited by the Russian Army after being reportedly duped by agents with the lure of money and a Russian passport.

The distinction between conventional combatants and mercenaries is a fundamental cornerstone of international humanitarian law (IHL). A combatant is typically a member of the armed forces of a party to the conflict, whereas a mercenary is recruited from a third-party state unrelated to the conflict. Mercenaries usually engage in hostilities motivated primarily by personal gain as opposed to virtues of patriotism associated with regular combatants.

One of the major challenges of the existing regulatory regime is the lack of a clear, unequivocal, and comprehensive legal definition of what constitutes a mercenary. This is compounded by the fact that the domestic laws of most states do not criminalise mercenary activity. The Indian government should develop a robust policy framework to address distress migration and implement strict measures against human trafficking.

Surge in gold, silver imports from the UAE in 2023-24

210 in percentage. India's gold and silver imports from its free trade agreement partner UAE have skyrocketed to \$10.7 billion in 2023-24 and there is a need to potentially revise the concessional customs duty rates under the pact to mitigate the arbitrage driving this surge, according to Global Trade Research Initiative. PTI

India is the world's second-largest consumer of gold and a major importer, mainly to meet the demands of the jewelry industry.

In 2023-24, India's gold imports increased by 30% to \$45.54 billion, but there was a 53.56% decline in March 2024.

In April 2024, gold imports increased by 208.99% to \$3.11 billion compared to April 2023, which contributed to a 5-month high goods trade deficit of \$19.1 billion

Gold Production:

On the supply side, the gold prices depend on its production and mining cost.

Since most of the available gold has already been mined, new production will involve digging deeper into the earth, which is expensive.

So when the prices of crude oil and natural gas rise, it contributes to the rise in the price of gold.

Top 5 gold producing countries are: China, Australia, Russia, Canada and the US.

- **Demand by Central Banks:**
- **Institutional demand, particularly from central banks, drives gold prices to record levels.**
 - **They purchase gold to strengthen reserve assets, given its value retention.**
 - **With rising crude oil prices and geopolitical tensions, central banks globally are increasing their gold reserves to mitigate risks associated with foreign currency reserves.**
 - **As of March 2024, the Reserve Bank of India held a total of 822 metric tonnes of gold, with 408 metric tonnes held within the country.**

Investor Demand:

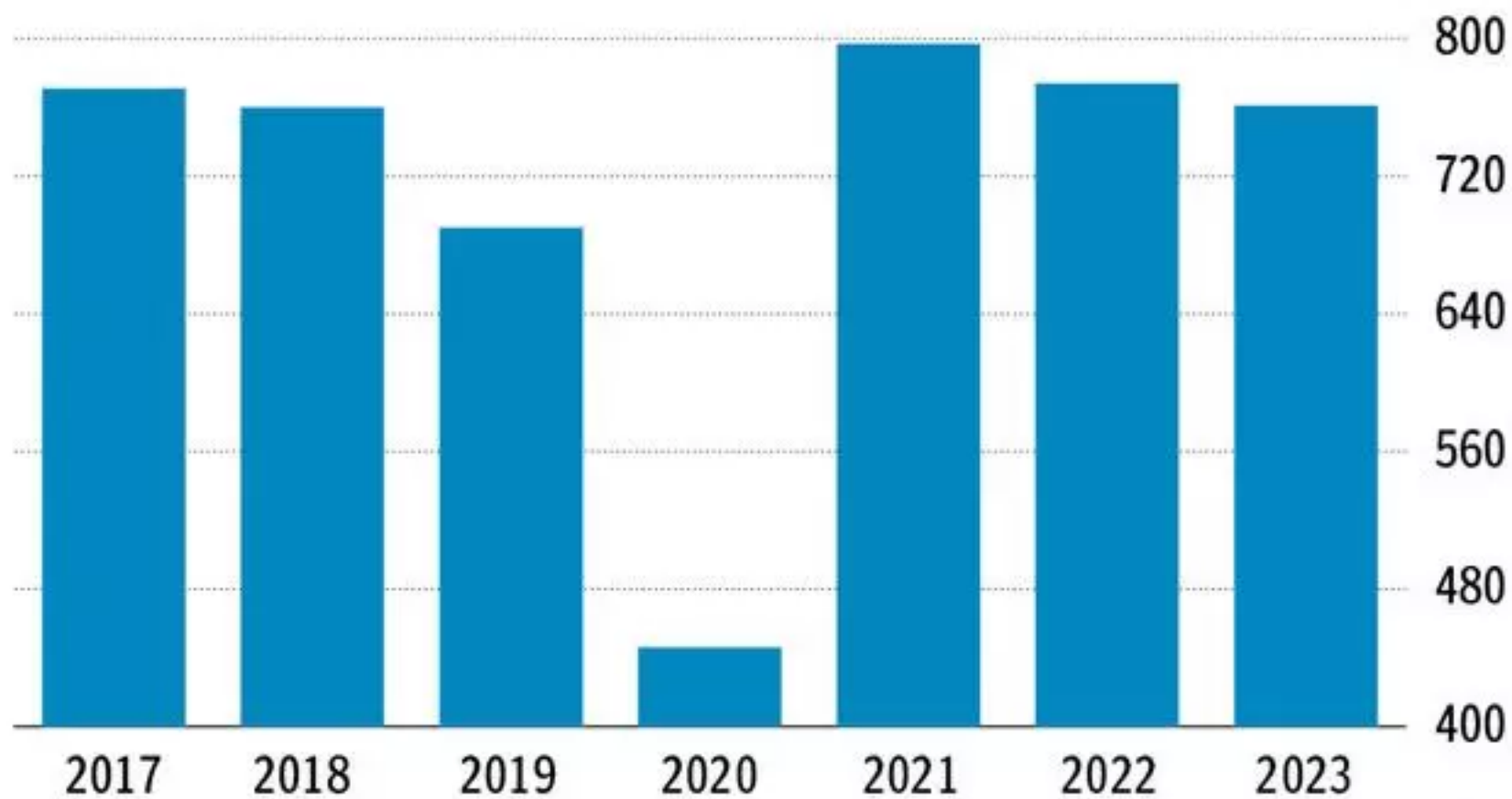
Whenever stock markets, real estate and bonds fall across the world, investors turn to gold to park their funds.

It is considered as a safe haven for investors during periods of uncertainties because gold is highly liquid and carries no default risk.

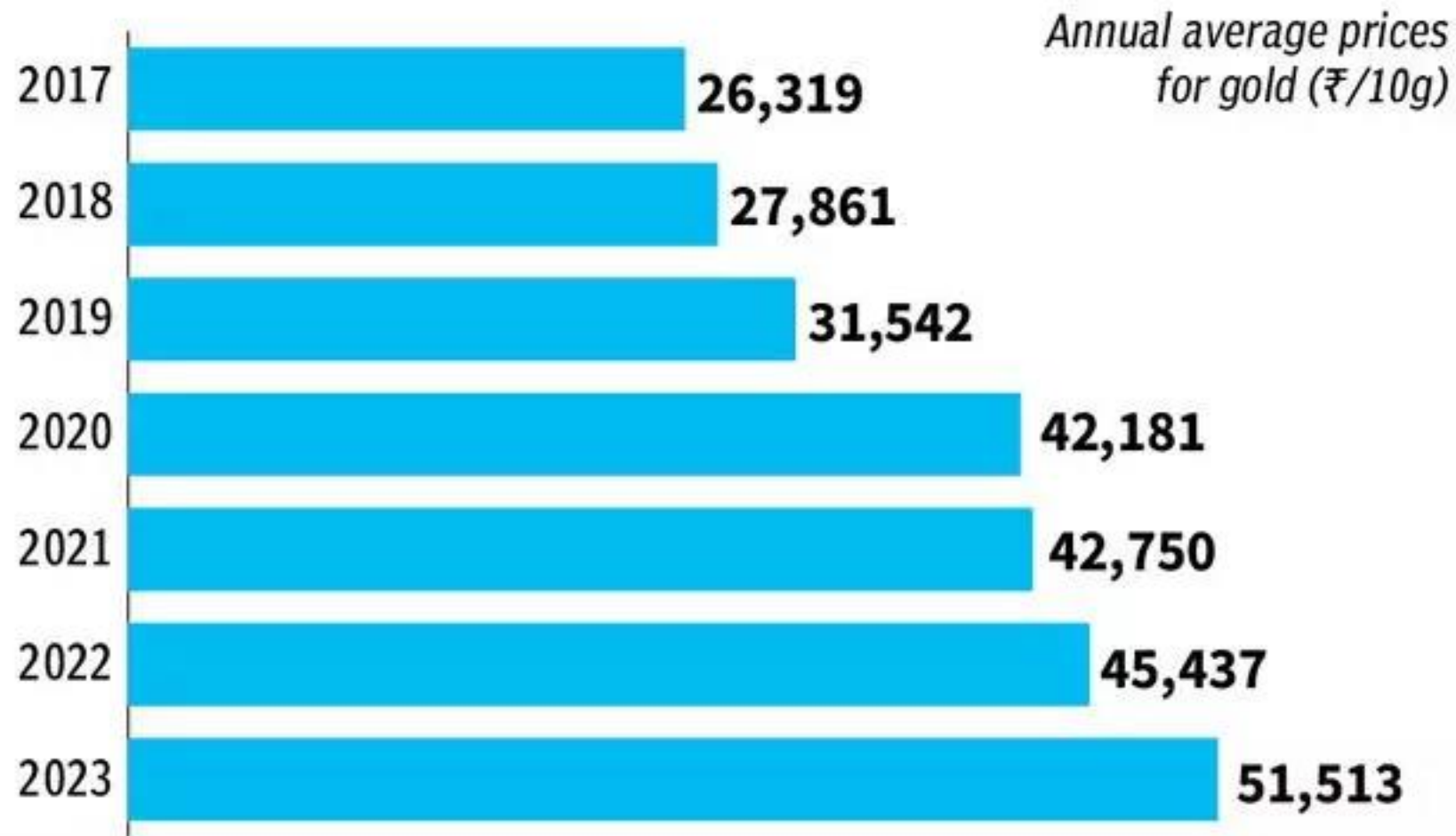
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Consumer demand for gold in India has remained relatively stable

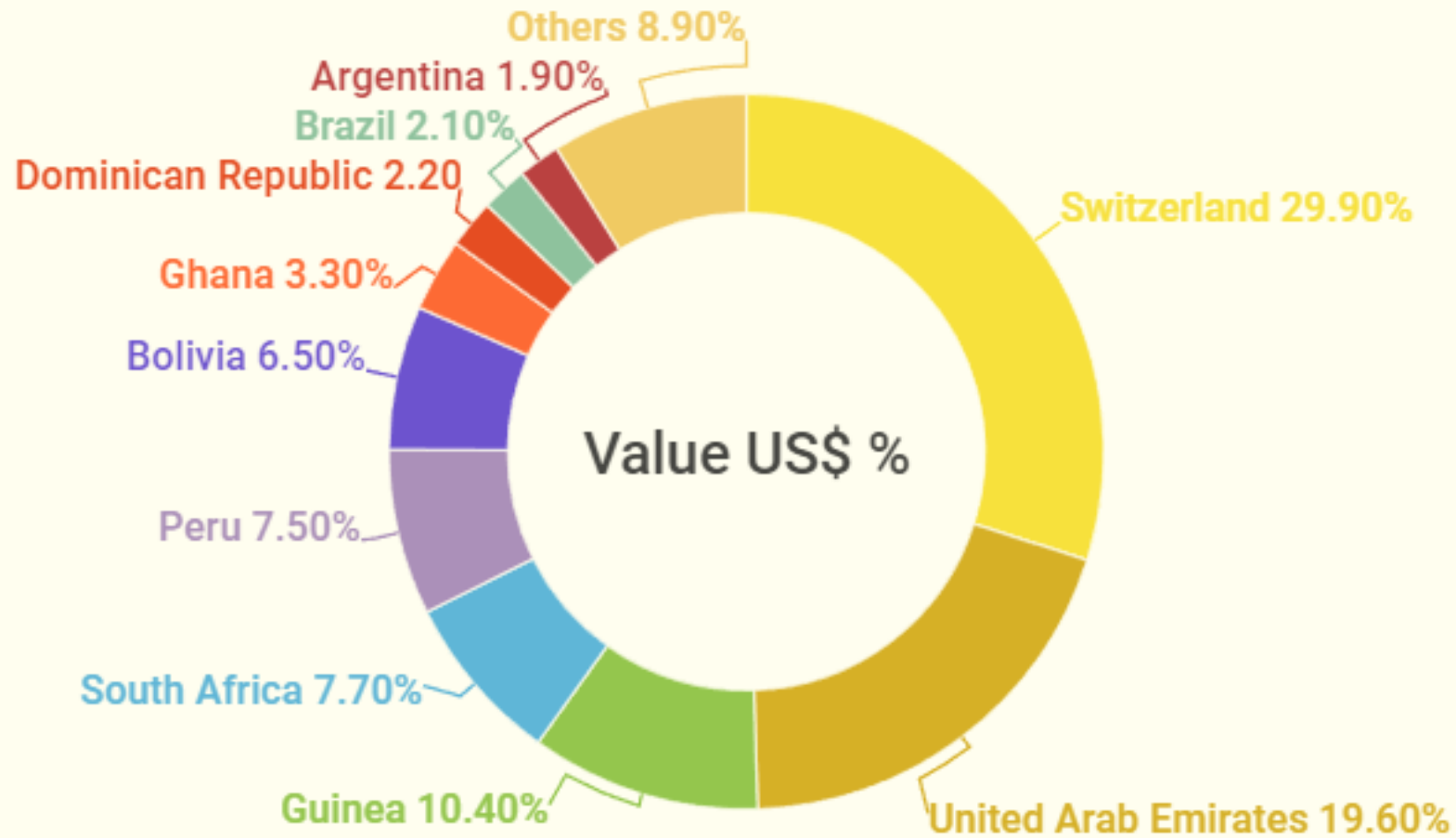
Consumer demand for gold in India (in tonnes)



Gold prices in India have steadily increased

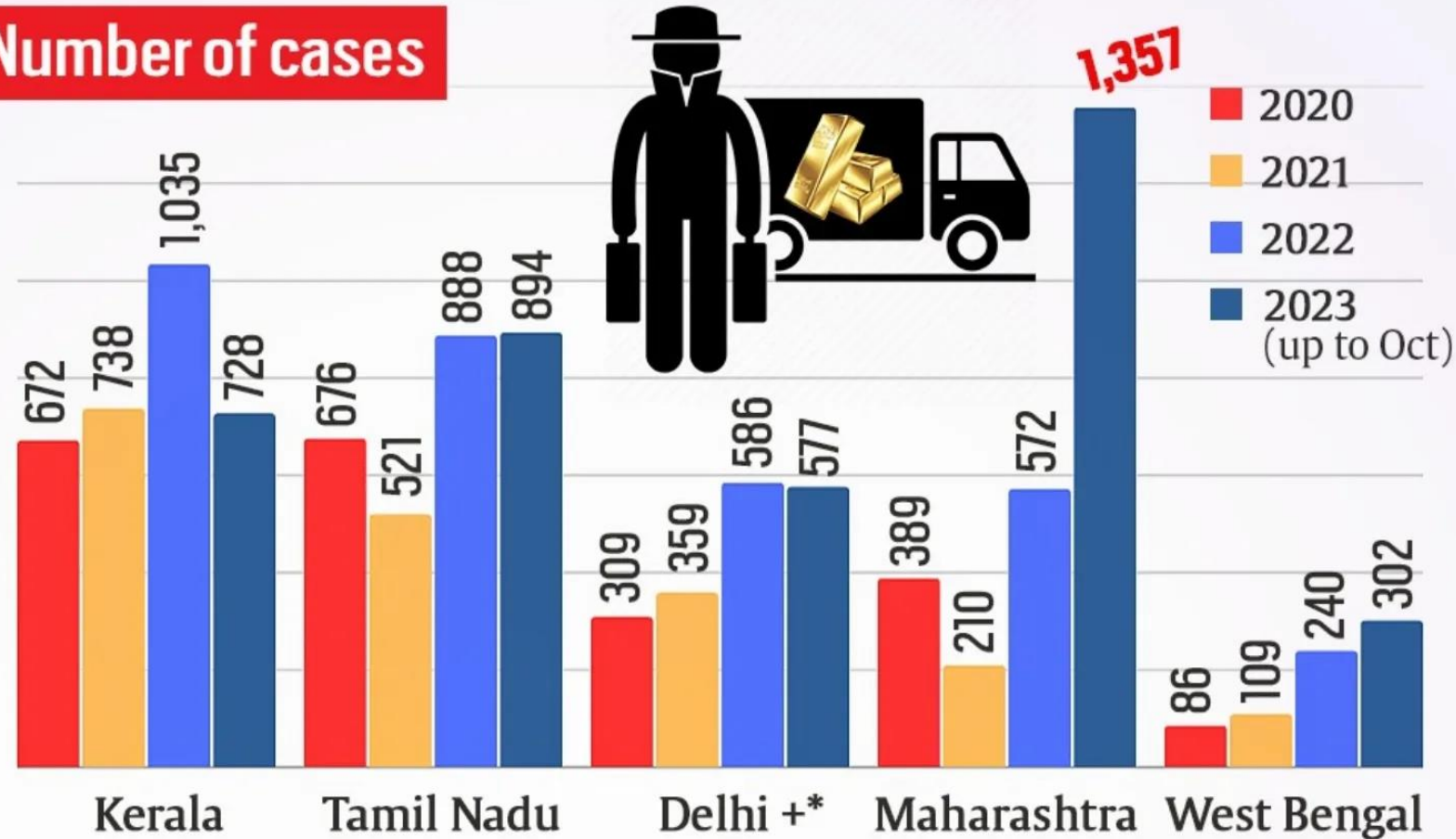


INDIA GOLD IMPORTS BY ORIGIN COUNTRY



SMUGGLING CASES by top five regions

Number of cases



*Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, J&K, Leh & Ladakh

Gold Reserves in India:

As per **National Mineral Inventory**, total reserves/resources of gold ore in India estimated at 501.83 million tonnes as of 2015.

- Largest resources of gold ore located in Bihar (44%), followed by Rajasthan (25%), Karnataka (21%), West Bengal (3%), Andhra Pradesh (3%), Jharkhand (2%)
- **Karnataka** commands around 80% of the nation's total gold output. The **Kolar Gold Fields (KGF)** in the Kolar district is **one of the world's oldest and deepest** gold mines.

- **Which one of the following groups of items is included in India's foreign-exchange reserves? (2013)**
- **(a) Foreign-currency assets, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and loans from foreign countries**
- **(b) Foreign-currency assets, gold holdings of the RBI and SDRs**
- **(c) Foreign-currency assets, loans from the World Bank and SDRs**
- **(d) Foreign-currency assets, gold holdings of the RBI and loans from the World Bank**
- **|**

UAE DOES NOT PRODUCE SILVER

'Nearly 60 times jump in silver imports from UAE unusual'

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

A NEAR 60 times jump in silver imports during the last financial year from United Arab Emirates (UAE) is unusual since the West Asian country does not produce silver and the import jump may be indicative of a breach in rule of origin finalised by India and UAE under the free trade agreement that came into force in May 2022, a report by think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said.

The think tank headed by former trade officer Ajay Srivastava said that Silver imports from the UAE increased by 5,853 per cent, from \$29.2 million in FY23 to \$1.74 billion in FY24, due to India charging an 8 per cent duty under UAE trade deal versus a 15 per cent Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) tariff on imports from other countries.

"However, this trade is unusual because the UAE does not produce silver; it imports large silver bars, melts & converts these into silver grains. A check with global refiners will show that value addition in such a process is much less than 1 per cent as opposed to 3 per cent required under the FTA. Despite this, traders claim and the UAE

5,853% RISE TO \$1.74 BN IN FY24



Getty

SILVER IMPORTS from the United Arab Emirates increased by 5,853 per cent, from \$29.2 million in FY23 to \$1.74 billion in FY24, due to India charging an 8 per cent duty under UAE trade deal versus a 15 per cent Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) tariff on imports from other countries

authorities certify a 3 per cent value addition to meet CEPA rules of origin," Srivastava said.

GTRI said a robust monitoring mechanism should be established to track import volumes and values, ensuring quick policy responses to unusual spikes and rigorous verification of the claimed value addition by Dubai based refiners in gold and silver imports to ensure compliance with rules of origin under the trade deal.

"High import duties in India on gold, silver and jewellery at 15 per cent are at the root of the problem. The government should consider lowering tariffs to 5 per cent which will arrest large-scale smuggling and other

misuse," the think tank said.

Srivastava also pointed out that the large 7 per cent tariff arbitrage has resulted in a loss of revenue for India of Rs 1,010 crore in FY24 and that the revenue loss could increase as India has committed to make tariff zero on unlimited quantities of silver from UAE within next eight years.

In FY24, India imported \$5.4 billion worth of silver globally. As tariffs drop to zero over the next eight years, most silver imports will likely come from the UAE, causing a revenue loss of Rs 6,700 crore due to the tariff advantage. This trade is mainly driven by the lower tariffs offered by India, GTRI said.

I&B to regulate social media content?



Under lens: The I&B Ministry has invited internet and streaming firms to inform them of its new proposal.

Ayushi Kar
MUMBAI

After the success of news platforms and social media news content creators during the elections, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting proposes to regulate them directly under the new Broadcasting Service (regulation) Bill, which is currently in drafting stage.

According to sources close to the development, the I&B Ministry has invited internet companies such as Google, Meta, and X (formerly, Twitter) as well as streaming companies like Netflix and Amazon to inform them of its new proposal to include user-generated content on the Internet put out by "professionals" under the new Broadcasting Bill.

Widening the ambit
This is doubling down on the earliest draft of the Broadcasting Bill, which also proposed censorship and regulation of news content creators.

In the previous draft of the Bill, released for public comment in November 2023, this was less explicit; in effect, it had stated that any entity that broadcasts news and current affairs online would be liable to attract the same obligations as OTT streaming services under the Bill. However, according to sources, the Ministry now explicitly wants to bring "professional" content creators directly under the I&B Ministry regulation. As of now, the Ministry has not set a definition of "professional" content creators, giving no threshold like hits or monetisation.

(The writer is with The Hindu Businessline)

Global central banks recalibrate as the big policy easing of 2024 fizzles

The joint easing of monetary policy that appeared imminent at the end of 2023 has largely fizzled as major central banks such as the U.S. Federal Reserve confronted inflation that proved more persistent than expected, and economic and wage growth that proved more resilient

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters
WASHINGTON

Six months ago the world's major central banks were primed for a move that anyone with a credit card or hoping to buy a home or run a business would cheer: A global shift to lower interest rates that would make borrowing cheaper and loans more available across the board.

Rate cuts are "a topic of discussion out in the world and also a discussion for us," Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said in a press conference last December, when the mood among investors was giddy over the prospect of looser financial conditions, and organizations like the International Monetary Fund worried that Mr. Powell and company would jump the gun, cut rates too fast and undermine efforts to tame inflation.

Those fears were misplaced, it turns out. The joint easing of monetary policy that appeared imminent at the end of 2023 has largely fizzled as major central banks confront inflation that proved more persistent than expected, and economic and wage growth that proved more resilient.

Some modest steps have been made, including in-



Forecast battle: Economists have been more right than markets in predicting rate cuts. REUTERS

Central banks are aware that overly restrictive policy could undermine a fragile recovery in the euro zone economy - MARIO CENTENO

Central banks are aware that overly restrictive policy could undermine a fragile recovery in the euro zone economy - MARIO CENTENO

three projected in December and March. "When we do start to loosen policy, that will show up in significant loosening and financial market conditions," Mr. Powell said. "You want to get it right."

Bumps on the way
Most economists polled by Reuters now expect only one or two Fed rate cuts

Central banks are aware that overly restrictive policy could undermine a fragile recovery in the euro zone economy - MARIO CENTENO

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three projected in December and March. "When we do start to loosen policy, that will show up in significant loosening and financial market conditions," Mr. Powell said. "You want to get it right."

Bumps on the way
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this year instead of the four seen in a survey last December, before Mr. Powell surprised markets by suggesting a pivot to lower rates would come relatively soon. But economists have been more consistent in their views than market pricing.

Economists polled by Reuters six months ago expected the Bank of England to wait until the third quarter to cut borrowing costs, in line with current nearly-unanimous expectations for a move in August. Market pricing back in December, meanwhile, implied a first cut in May followed by three more over the year.

While headline inflation has tumbled to close to the BoE's 2% target, it was much higher than expect-

ed in the key services sector in April, and 6% annual wage growth in May remained roughly double the level consistent with the target. Accordingly, the BoE is expected to keep rates on hold in its last policy meeting of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's term - meaning that the move towards lower borrowing costs will await Britain's next government instead.

Economists' predictions for the ECB's first move have also held up, correctly forecasting a cut in June. But again, market pricing has shifted, dramatically, back in December it implied 140 basis points of cuts in the year ahead, starting in March. Now market prices barely correspond to one further rate cut this year.

ECB policymakers, however, have long warned of "bumps in the road" as they bring inflation back to target and by indicating early on that the first cut would not come until June - a small consolation that might have been getting ahead of themselves.

But for now, ECB President Christine Lagarde and her team remain broadly confident that inflation will still tick down to the 2% target by the end of 2025.

"Central banks are managing the trade-off between inflation and economic growth," aware that overly restrictive policy could undermine a fragile

recovery in the euro zone economy, ECB policymaker Mario Centeno told Reuters in an interview.

"In the end, the difference between now and a few months ago is not so big. The disinflation story is still intact," the Portuguese central bank governor said.

No victory yet
As always, managing expectations is part of the story. Back in December when the three-cuts-for-2024 outlook first appeared in Fed policymaker projections, Mr. Powell in his post-meeting press conference cautioned that "no one is declaring victory" over inflation.

But the general tenor of his remarks appear to have cemented views that rate cuts were about to commence. From one perspective, while the first cut may as Mr. Powell said last week be "consequential," the symbolic opening of an expected steady decline in borrowing costs, the exact timing may be less so in terms of its macroeconomic effect.

The current strict language about cuts, from Mr. Powell at least, may even imply about managing expectations than they are about the actual outlook of keeping the door open for rates to stay where they are longer - again still than anticipated.

Status quo



Bank's eye: A worker loads a steel cable at a construction site in Beijing, China's central bank kept a key lending rate unchanged on Monday, choosing to loosen credit as data for May showed signs of persisting weakness in manufacturing and the real-estate sector.

'Over 800 coal plants worldwide can be profitably decommissioned'

Reuters
SINGAPORE

More than 800 coal-fired power plants in emerging countries could be decommissioned and profitably replaced by cleaner solar energy, starting from the end of the decade, research on Monday showed.

Though only a tenth of existing coal plants are scheduled to shut down by 2030, more could close if efforts are made to identify opportunities, according to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).

"The key problem here is lack of a pipeline of well defined, contracted, bankable coal-to-clean transactions," said Paul Ja-



Major pollutants: About 15.5 billion metric tonne of carbon dioxide are generated yearly by 2,000 gigawatts of coal power. REUTERS

cobson, lead author of the report.

Around 15.5 billion metric tonne of carbon dioxide are generated every year by 2,000 gigawatts of coal power. The International Energy Agency says

emissions need to reach zero by 2040 if temperature rises are to remain within the threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

But decommissioning is costly, especially if plants are still paying off debt or

tied to power purchase agreements (PPAs) that commit them to supplying electricity over decades.

The 800 viable transition targets identified by IEEFA include around 600 built 30 years or more ago, many of which have repaid debts and are no longer tied down by lengthy PPAs.

With profit margins for renewables now sufficient to cover the cost of replacing coal plants, decommissioning the remaining 200 plants built between 15 and 30 years ago could also be affordable, though obstacles remain, including fossil fuel subsidies that inflate an asset's value.

Decommissioning newer plants will be a bigger financial paying off debt or

'EU carbon border tax will penalise British green energy'

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters
LONDON/BRUSSELS

British wind and solar farms exporting power to continental Europe could face CO2 fees from 2026, even though they don't produce any emissions, unless the United Kingdom (UK) and European Union (EU) can agree to change around the EU's carbon border tax.

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will impose a CO2 emissions fee on imports to the EU of steel, cement, aluminium, fertiliser, electricity and hydrogen, unless the exporting nation has equal CO2 pricing policies.

Under its current design, the CO2 fee for power would be calculated using a default value based on average and historic power generation emissions. The British energy industry says it will unfairly penalise renewables.

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Green penalty: EU charges can make it uneconomical to export excess clean power to Europe. REUTERS

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The extra cost could make it uneconomical to export excess clean power from Britain to Europe at certain times when demand is weaker, renewable generation is high, and power prices are low, analysts said.

Analysis from Aurora Energy Research, shared with Reuters, shows as much as 3 gigawatt hours (GWh) of renewable power generation in Britain will power up to 2,000 homes a year, could be curtailed by 2030 if the power disincentive to exporters, so this essentially reduces the profit margin every time you want to export," said Pranav Menon, CEO of Aurora Renewables Lead at Aurora.

der fee could knock 5% off the price British renewable projects can earn for the CO2 fee if they can comply with certain criteria and prove their origin.

But industry figures say that could be tough. "Most of the electricity (across interconnectors) is traded anonymously ... so it's almost impossible to demonstrate what that carbon content is," said Pieter-Jan Van Aurore, analyst and services manager at UK-Belgian power interconnector company Link.

British and EU diplomats have been quickly discussing the issue, but the highly political nature of the issue is expected between the two means no final decision is expected before the UK general election on July 4.

'EU carbon border tax will penalise British green energy'

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters

LONDON/BRUSSELS

British wind and solar farms exporting power to continental Europe could face CO2 fees from 2026—even though they don't produce any emissions—unless the United Kingdom (UK) and European Union (EU) can agree to changes around the EU's carbon border tax.

The charges, set out in a little-noticed clause of the CO2 levy law, could hit revenues of renewable energy projects in the UK, add to already-high EU power prices and even lead to higher emissions, industry sources and analysts told *Reuters*.

"It's a problem on both sides," said Adam Berman, deputy director of industry group Energy UK.

"(It) disincentivises clean power in the UK at the moment in which we're trying to ramp up provision of clean power, and it's going to increase (power) prices in northern Europe."

The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) will impose a CO2 emissions fee on imports to the EU of steel, cement, aluminium, fertilisers, electricity and hydrogen, unless the exporting nation has equal CO2 pricing policies.

Under its current design, the CO2 fee for power would be calculated using a default value based on average and historic power



Green penalty: EU charges can make it uneconomical to export excess clean power to Europe. REUTERS

generation emissions. The British energy industry says that will unfairly penalise renewables.

"It is an issue that we are conscious of and one that we have raised, that the UK

has raised, with the EU," Catherine Stewart, the UK Treasury's deputy director for trade policy, told an event in Brussels last month.

A European Commis-

sion spokesperson said it would continue talks with all countries, including the UK, on the design of the carbon levy before finalising its application from 2026.

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Analysis from Aurora Energy Research, shared with *Reuters*, showed as much as 3 gigawatt hours (GWh) of renewable power generation, enough to power up to 2,000 homes a year, could be curtailed by 2030 if the fee proves a disincentive to exporters.

"You are adding a tax on exporting, so this essentially reduces the profit margin every time you want to export," said Pranav Menon, GB Power & Renewables Lead at Aurora.

In 2030, the carbon bor-

der fee could knock 5% off the price British renewable projects can earn for their power, Aurora said.

Higher prices

Reduced access to cheap British electricity could increase wholesale power prices by up to 4% in markets like Ireland and Northern Ireland's Integrated Electricity Market which import a lot of power from the UK, the Aurora analysis showed.

If European countries boost coal and gas power generation to make up the shortfall, CO2 emissions could even rise—by as much as 13 million tonnes a year, equivalent to emissions of 8 million cars, an earlier analysis by AFRY suggested.

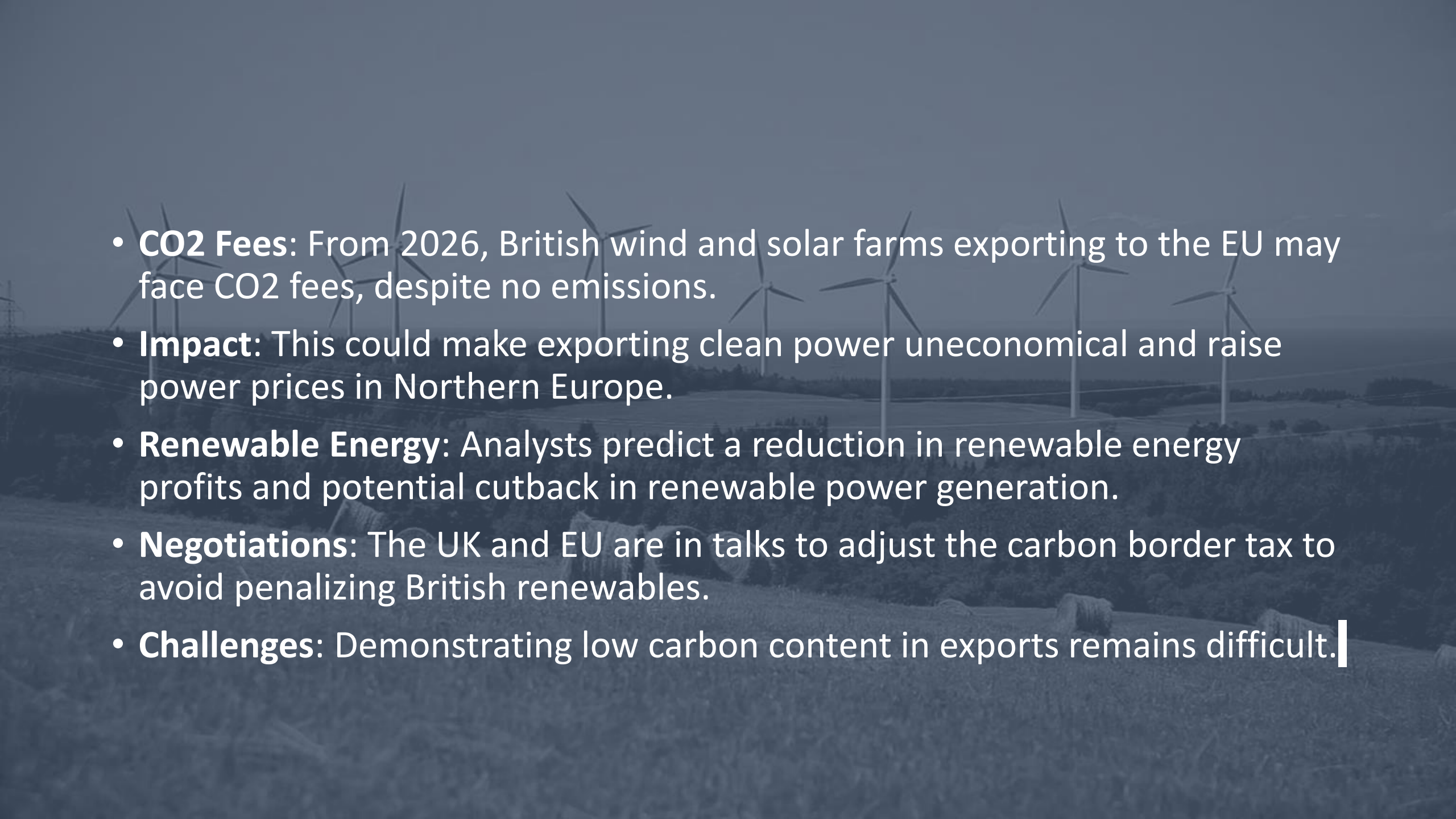
A European Commis-

sion spokesperson said renewable power exports will be able to avoid the CO2 fee if they can comply with certain criteria and prove their origin.

But industry figures say that could be tough.

"Most of the electricity (across interconnectors) is traded anonymously ... so it's almost impossible to demonstrate what that carbon content is," said Pieter-Jan Marsboom, products and services manager at UK-Belgian power interconnector Nemo Link.

British and EU diplomats have quietly begun discussing the issue, but the highly political nature of any post-Brexit deals between the two means no progress is expected before the UK general election on July 4.

- 
- **CO2 Fees:** From 2026, British wind and solar farms exporting to the EU may face CO2 fees, despite no emissions.
 - **Impact:** This could make exporting clean power uneconomical and raise power prices in Northern Europe.
 - **Renewable Energy:** Analysts predict a reduction in renewable energy profits and potential cutback in renewable power generation.
 - **Negotiations:** The UK and EU are in talks to adjust the carbon border tax to avoid penalizing British renewables.
 - **Challenges:** Demonstrating low carbon content in exports remains difficult. |

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

Production in EU



The CBAM applies to products in these sectors:

- Steel
- Aluminium
- Electricity
- Fertilizer
- Cement

Production abroad



Fit for 55

Fit for 55 is a new EU law that aims to reduce GHG emissions by 55 % by 2030 and to net-zero by 2050.



Why CBAM is a cause for concern for India?

- India will lose \$1-1.7 billion in energy-intensive exports such as steel and aluminum.
- A carbon tax would raise the cost of Indian-made goods in the EU.

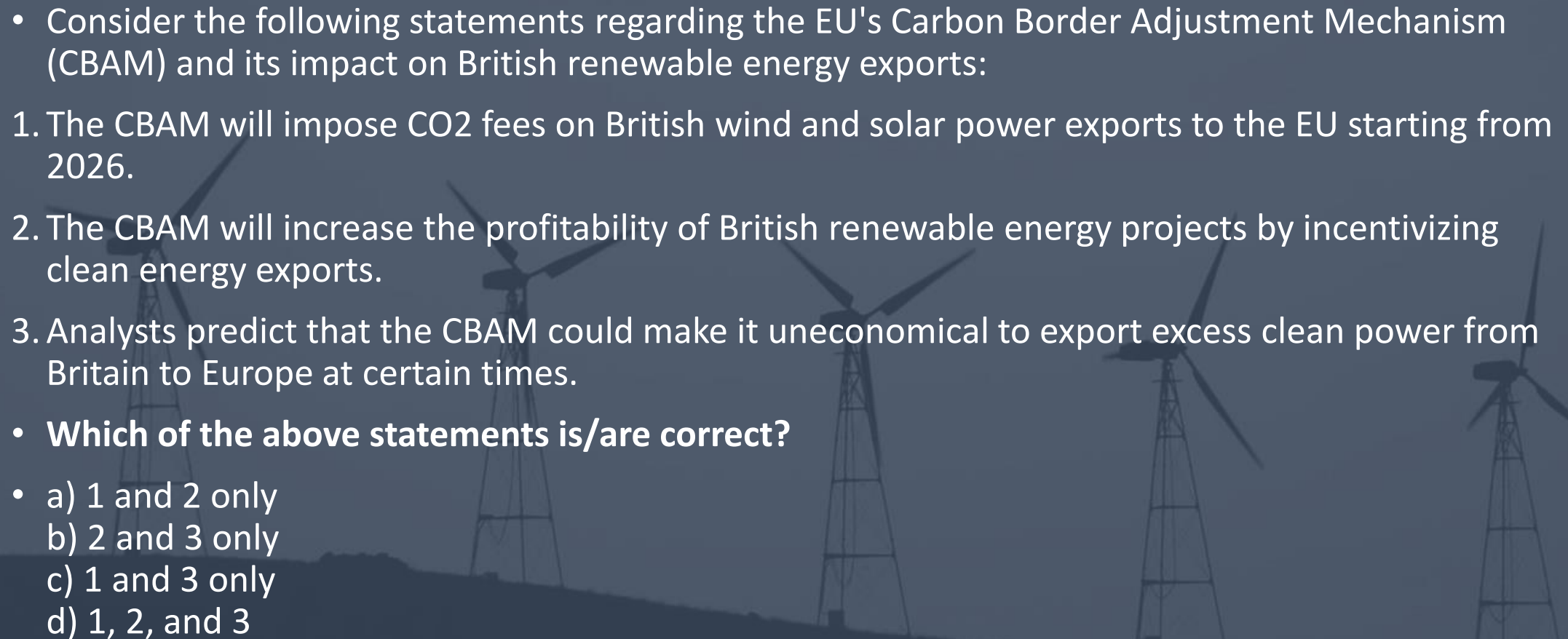
Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

- Products entering the EU would be charged at the border.
- A tax like this would promote low-carbon, resource-efficient manufacturing.
- Encourage producers to invest in more environmentally friendly technologies.

Way forward for Indian Industry

- Indian companies should spend more on renewable electricity.
- India might implement science-based emission reduction objectives.



- 
- Consider the following statements regarding the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and its impact on British renewable energy exports:
 1. The CBAM will impose CO2 fees on British wind and solar power exports to the EU starting from 2026.
 2. The CBAM will increase the profitability of British renewable energy projects by incentivizing clean energy exports.
 3. Analysts predict that the CBAM could make it uneconomical to export excess clean power from Britain to Europe at certain times.
 - **Which of the above statements is/are correct?**
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3

BLITZKRIEG Estonia's Sahil Chauhan smashes quickest T20I century



Estonia's Sahil Chauhan (144 n.o., 41b, 6v4, 186v) on Monday hit a century off just 27 deliveries against Cyprus to break the record for the fastest ton in T20Is. He followed Namibia's Jan Nicolai Lofie-Eaton 33-ball effort against Nepal earlier this year. Sahil also broke the record for the most maximums in a T20I innings.

HEAVY CRITICISM Coach Kirsten slams Pakistan team's lack of unity: reports



Pakistan head coach Gary Kirsten said there was "no unity" in the side. "They call it a team, but it isn't a team. They aren't supporting each other; everyone is separated. I've worked with many teams, but I've never seen such a situation," Kirsten said according to reports.

INCONSISTENT We were good only in patches: Netherlands skipper Edwards



Netherlands captain Scott Edwards said his team delivered only patches of good cricket in its T20 World Cup campaign. "We had good patches throughout the tournament. I've just seen a team that against good-quality sides. You are out here to win the game," Edwards said after his side's loss to Sri Lanka.

4-4-0-3 Ferguson's all-maiden spell highlight of NZ's win over PNG



New Zealand's Lockie Ferguson delivered four maidens and claimed three wickets in his side's thumping win over Papua New Guinea. The scores: PNG 78 in 18.4 overs (Basil 2/14, Southey 2/11, Ferguson 3/0, Sodhi 2/29) lost to NZ 79/3 in 12.2 overs (Conway 35, Morea 2/4); Toss: NZ; PoM: Ferguson.

Pant — a breath of fresh air for India

For the left-hander, there are only reactions to each delivery and no predetermined classical triggers while batting; the smooth sideways movement and the athletic pouncing with the big gloves is the reward for the strenuous rehabilitation he had to undertake after the horrific accident

T20 WORLD CUP

Aashwin Achal

Even at nets, there is a marked difference between how Rishabh Pant goes about his business when compared to other batters in the Indian team.

The slow, low pitches in New York — both at the match and practice venues — makes timing difficult. Virat Kohli does all the right things with technique, backlift, and feet movement, but in following traditional methods, is unable to adapt to this new challenge.

Pant, often batting next to Kohli in the adjacent net, is doing the opposite. There are only reactions to each delivery; there are no predetermined classical triggers.

Pant uses the wrist to send a length ball to fine-leg. A short ball outside off is crunched flat-batted through cover. All by standing still with minimal feet movement. When it is time to get adventurous, there is full commitment. A full walk outside off, crunched low, body twisted to paddle a leg-stump inwinger over the wicketkeeper. Watch the ball, repeat.

It is this simplistic approach that has made Pant the top run-scorer among



Masterstroke: India has maximised Pant's attacking abilities by promoting him to No. 3. K.R. DEEPAK

India's batters in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup group stage which concluded in the USA. If Pant had gotten the chance to go up against Canada here on Saturday, his preparedness for the Super 8 stage would have been complete.

The team management's decision to move him up to three and maximise his attacking abilities has paid rich rewards. The southpaw was at his best in the game against Pakistan, making a match-winning

31-ball 42. After a shaky start, Pant came into his own in the 10th over bowled by pacer Haris Rauf. The crowd went berserk when Pant tumbled over as he lapped Rauf to the fine-leg fence. The next ball needed only a slight turn of the wrists get another four to fine-leg. Pant's comeback to international cricket from a serious road accident is a remarkable feat. His batting abilities have remained at a high level, and his wicketkeeping has im-

proved. The smooth sideways movement and athletic pouncing with the big gloves is the reward for the strenuous rehabilitation he had to undertake. Former India coach Ravi Shastri summed up Pant's inspirational return in a moving dressing room speech. "I had tears in my eyes when I read about his accident, and when I saw him in hospital, it was even worse. Batting — every body of us knew what you were capable of. The 26-year-old is

The standings

Table with columns: GROUP, W, L, NR, PTS, NetR. Includes Group A (India, USA, Pakistan, Canada, Ireland) and Group B (Australia, England, Scotland, Namibia, Oman).

keeping — the range of movement that you have got so quickly after the operation is a tribute to your hard work. It's an inspiration to millions that from adversity, from jaws of death, you can snatch a win." Shastri said in the locker room. India now needs Pant to carry his form into the Super 8 stage in the West Indies. The 26-year-old is

Today's match

St. Lucia, 6 a.m. HEAD-TO-HEAD T20s: West Indies 2, Afghanistan 3. The X factor who carries the team's hopes in this tournament.

Fiery Tanzim helps Bangladesh progress

Agency: France-Press ARNOS VALE

Bangladesh qualified for the Super 8 of the T20 World Cup after a 21-run victory over Nepal on Sunday.

Bangladesh was dismissed for 106 in 19.3 overs, but a devastating spell of four for seven from pacer Tanzim Hasan Sakib helped the side bowl out Nepal for 85.



Tanzim. GETTY IMAGES At St. Lucia: Sri Lanka 203/6 in 20 overs (Kusal Mendis 46, Asalanka 46, de Silva 36, Mathews 30; van der Merwe 2/45) vs Netherlands 148 in 16.4 overs (Lavretz 31, Edwards 31; Theunissen 3/24, Haslam 2/25, Mubfiruz 3/7); Toss: Nepal; PoM: Tanzim.

Super Eight GROUP 1 and GROUP 2 fixtures table. Includes dates, opponents, and times for matches from June 19 to June 25.

Slovakia stuns Belgium as VAR denies Lukaku twice



Hit men: Schranz beats Casteel for Slovakia's winner. Right: Bellingham celebrates his strike. REUTERS, AFP

It was Belgium's first loss in 16 games under coach Domenico Tedesco and a flashback to a disastrous 2022 World Cup campaign, although it did have two goals ruled out by VAR.

Both were from the boot of Romelu Lukaku, the first for offside and the second a handball in the build-up on a hugely frustrating day for the burly striker in which he also missed several clear-cut chances. Tedesco's side dominated the 90 minutes, but lacked a clinical touch and



shocked Serhij Rebrov's Ukraine, which had dominated the opening 20 minutes. The result was all but confirmed shortly before the hour mark when influential forward Dennis Man drove into the box from a corner and put the ball across goal for Dennis Dragus to tap in. It was Romania's second win across 17 matches at the European Championships, the first being a 3-2 victory over England in 2000. Meanwhile on Sunday, an early header by Jude



and ended the first half with no goal attempts at the Arena AufSchalke. Serbia looked livelier in the second half albeit with few clear-cut chances and goalkeeper Predrag Rajkovic had to make a stunning reflex save that bounced off the crossbar to keep out a Harry Kane close-range header in the 77th minute. The results: Group E: Belgium 0 lost to Slovakia 3 (Edwards 7); Romania 3 (Stancu 29, Marin 53, Dragus 77) vs Ukraine 0. Group G: Serbia 0 lost to England 1 (Bellingham 13).

Ronaldo's Portugal set to play Czechia in Group F opener

Associated Press LEIPZIG Cristiano Ronaldo can become the first player to feature at six European Championships when Portugal opens its Euro 2024 campaign against the Czech Republic. Portugal has won the last four meetings between the teams, without conceding in the last three. Portugal coach Roberto Martinez and his men eased through qualifying for Euro 2024 as the only team to win every game. Martinez's side scored 36 goals and conceded only two as it qualified with two wins and three draws. Even without Ronaldo, Portugal boasts a formidable attack with Barcelona's Jodo Felix, Paris Saint-Germain's Goncalo Ramos and Milan's Rafael Leao all providing options for Bruno Fernandes in midfield. The 39-year-old forward, however, showed he's not finished yet by scoring two goals as Portugal warmed up with a 3-0 win over Ireland. Ronaldo has five goals at Euro 2020, the same as Czech striker Patrik Schick to share the top-scorer award. Schick arrives at the tournament full of confidence after helping Bayer Leverkusen win the Bundesliga.

UEFA Euro 2024 group fixtures and statistics for Group F. Includes match details for Turkey v Georgia and Portugal v Czechia, with goalscorers and assisters listed.

BLITZKRIEG

Estonia's Sahil Chauhan smashes quickest T20I century



INSTAGRAM@ECACRICKET

▲ Estonia's Sahil Chauhan (144 n.o., 41b, 6x4, 18x6) on Monday hit a century off just 27 deliveries against Cyprus to break the record for the fastest ton in T20Is. It bettered Namibia's Jan-Nicole Loftie-Eaton 33-ball effort against Nepal earlier this year. Sahil also broke the record for the most maximums in a T20I innings.

AIFF sacks head coach Stimac

FOOTBALL

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Monday sacked Igor Stimac as the head coach of the country's senior's men's team following a disappointing campaign in the 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers. Stimac, who was appointed as the head coach in 2019, was given an extension last year.

India could not make the third round of the World Cup qualifier following a 1-2 defeat against Qatar in its final second round match.

"Noting the disappointing outcome of the senior men's National team's FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifica-



Influential: Stimac guided India to four major trophies. AFP

tion campaign, the members unanimously agreed that a new Head Coach would be best placed to take the team forward," the AIFF said in a statement. "A notice of termination has been issued to Mr. Stimac by the AIFF Secretariat, and he stands relieved of his obligations with immediate effect."

The 56-year-old Stimac,

who was part of the Croatia team that made the semifinals of the 1998 World Cup, had taken charge of the Blue Tigers in 2019, after the departure of Stephen Constantine.

Under Stimac, India won four major trophies, including two SAFF Championships, one Intercontinental Cup and a Tri-Nations Series.

Nickname(s)	The Blue Tigers
Association	All India Football Federation (AIFF)
Confederation	AFC (Asia)
Sub-confederation	SAFF (South Asia)
Head coach	TBA
Captain	Gurpreet Singh Sandhu
Most caps	Sunil Chhetri (151) ^[1]
Top scorer	Sunil Chhetri (94) ^[1]
Home stadium	Various
FIFA code	IND



First colours



Second colours

FIFA ranking


Current	121 ▼ 4 (4 April 2024) ^[2]
Highest	94 (February 1996 ^[2])
Lowest	173 (March 2015 ^[2])

First international



Pre-independence:

 **Australia** 5–3 **India** 
(**Sydney**, Australia; 3 September 1938)



Post-independence:

 **India** 1–2 **France** 
(**London**, England; 31 July 1948)

Biggest win

 **India** 7–0 **Sri Lanka** 
(**Bangalore**, India; 7 December 1963)

Biggest defeat

 **Soviet Union** 11–1 **India** 
(**Moscow**, Soviet Union; 16 September 1955)

Summer Olympics

Appearances 4 (*first in 1948*)
Best result Semi-finals (1956)

Asian Cup

Appearances 5 (*first in 1964*)
Best result Runners-up (1964)

Asian Games

Appearances 11 (*first in 1951*)
Best result **Champions** (1951, 1962)

SAFF Championship

Appearances 13 (*first in 1993*)
Best result **Champions** (1993, 1997, 1999, 2005, 2011, 2015, 2021, 2023)

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY

Some days, the NCRB statistics don't tell the whole story.

Priyanka to debut from Wayanad as Rahul opts for Rae Bareilly



Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in New Delhi, Monday. Anil Sharma

ASAD REHMAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

THE CONGRESS Monday announced that party MP Rahul Gandhi will retain Rae Bareilly seat in Uttar Pradesh and vacate Wayanad in Kerala, from where party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will make her electoral debut.

Rahul had won both seats in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections and is required to vacate one of them. While he defeated BJP's Dinesh Pratap Singh to win Rae Bareilly by 3,50,030 votes, he won Wayanad by 3,64,422 votes, defeating CYS's Anis Raja.

The announcement came after the Congress's top leadership held discussions at party president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence on Monday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DEMOCRACY FOR CONG ONLY FOR GANDHIS: BJP

CASE NOW WITH NIA
Reasi attack: Passing car drivers saw waiting militants, finds probe

A driver told police one of the militants was in black, sporting a red bandana

MAHENDRA SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

A PRELIMINARY investigation by the J&K Police into the June 9 terror attack in Reasi has revealed that two three militants were "specifically waiting for a bus full of pilgrims" and were spotted by several car drivers before the attack.

With the help of one of the drivers, police have made a sketch of one of the suspects as security forces continue to hunt for the other two.

The attack on a bus full of pilgrims on their way to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine on June 9 left nine persons dead and 41 injured. The case has been trans-

ferred from the local police to the National Investigation Agency and the direction of the minister of Home Affairs.

"Hours after the incident, a team of senior officers of NIA, headed by an IR rank officer,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, JUNE 17

NIERAJ CHOPRA had to spend most nights at the Olympic village missing any training in bed before his gold medal winning performance at the Tokyo Games. Jet lag, a late evening visit by anti-doping sleuths and anxiety were reasons he couldn't even catch forty winks. The javelin thrower was

GRID MANAGERS STRUGGLE TO AVERT OUTAGES

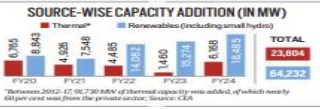
Alarm bells as heatwave pushes up peak demand, Power Ministry asks utilities to be on high alert

AGGAM WALIA & ANIL SASHI
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

AMIDST A sweltering heatwave and an expected surge in agricultural load by end-June, a key body of power engineers employed across state and central utilities, on Monday flagged the possibility of a grid outage in Punjab that

could have a cascading impact on the country's grid, and also warned that an imminent surge in demand "may lead to an unmanageable power situation".

Over the last one month, the northern region has been witnessing a record demand due to the prevailing heat conditions. On Monday, it touched the highest-ever peak demand of 89 gigawatt (1 GW is 1,000 mega watts),



which was successfully met. But such high demand has led to power supply cuts in Lucknow and Meerut, and also impacted passenger services in Delhi international airport Monday afternoon after a "significant voltage spike in the grid, reportedly due to the tripping of a 765kV line".

A surge in domestic consumption led in the country's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IMPACT DERAILS 3 COACHES: VAISHNAW, MAMATA VISIT SITE

9 killed, over 40 injured as goods train rams Kanchanjunga Express in Bengal

Loco pilot of goods train among dead; Minister says probe underway to detect lapses

SWEETY KUMARI
NEW JALPAIGURI, JUNE 17

NINE PERSONS were killed and at least 40 injured after the Scaldah-bound Kanchanjunga Express from Agartala was hit by a goods train from the rear in West Bengal's Darjeeling district, 11 km from New Jalpaiguri station. The incident took place at 8:55 am Monday. The dead include seven passengers, the loco pilot of the Amringgan (Assam)-Bharsuguda (Odisha) goods train, and another Railway staffer.

Such was the impact of the collision that three coaches at the rear of Kanchanjunga Express derailed between Rangpani and Chhatratat stations, under the North Bengal Frontier Railway zone. Rescue efforts began swiftly but it took a while to get the trapped passengers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

HUMAN ERROR, DISREGARD FOR SIGNAL BY LOCO PILOT OF GOODS TRAIN: INITIAL PROBE

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK, RAJIB BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA
NEW DELHI, KOLKATA, JUNE 17

THE RAIL accident near New Jalpaiguri station on Monday claimed nine lives could be because of negligence on part of the goods train's loco pilot, a prima facie assessment of the incident has found. Documents accessed by The Indian Express also show that the automatic signalling system on the line was faulty and the trains were given "paper line clearance" by the Rangpani station manager to proceed.

The goods train had rammed the Kanchanjunga Express from the rear, derailling three of its coaches.

"Prima facie, it appears to be human error but we will know more after the inquiry," Railway Board chairperson Jaya Varma Singh told reporters.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



MORE REPORTS
PAGE 7

RESCUE UNDERWAY AT THE SITE OF THE COLLISION BETWEEN THE KANCHANJUNGA EXPRESS AND A GOODS TRAIN NEAR RANGPANI RAILWAY STATION IN WEST BENGAL ON MONDAY. (2)

Rescue work underway at the site of the collision between the Kanchanjunga Express and a goods train near Rangpani railway station in West Bengal on Monday. (2)

WHEN THE UPAs were in power, BJP MPs Charanjit Singh Anand and Karttya Munda became Deputy Speakers in 2004, 2009 respectively — a post that goes to the Opposition as per convention. In NDA's first term from 2014, the post went to AAP's M Thambiraj. It remained vacant in last Lok Sabha.

NDA, INDIA try to reach consensus on Speaker, Opp wants Dy Speaker post

Cong's K Suresh, most senior member, likely pro-tem Speaker

LIZ MATHEW & NIKHILA HENRY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

WITH THE new Lok Sabha set to choose a Speaker on June 26, the ruling and Opposition coalitions are trying to reach a consensus on the post of the presiding officer.

According to sources, the NDA is pitching for a consensus

Kodikunnil Suresh, eight-time MP, is most senior in LS

candidate and the Opposition parties agree but are pointing out that the consensus on the Opposition should be offered

SHAH ON MANIPUR: ENSURE NO MORE VIOLENCE, STEP UP SECURITY PRESENCE



SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, JUNE 17

CLAIMING THAT Muslims and Yadavs did not vote for him in the Lok Sabha elections, Devesh Chandra Thakur, newly elected JD(U) MP from Sitamarhi in Bihar, said Monday that he would "not do any work for them".

Devesh Chandra Thakur, his own party MP seeks apology

The remarks by Thakur, who just stepped down as chairperson of the Bihar Legislative Council, drew sharp criticism

Sleep advisor, sleeping pods & kits: India's Plan Zzzz for its Paris dreams

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

MIHIR VASAVDA

It's not alone in dealing with this ordeal. Invariably, at the heart of every success or failure story at the world's grand sporting spectacle is a sleepless Olympian.

And so, at the July 26 to August 11 Paris Olympics, the Indian contingent will be accompanied by an expert who will ensure that the athletes aren't sleep-deprived. Karjane's long daylight hours in July-August, the Olympics months, too can play tricks with the minds of those not used to the sun rising as early as 4 am and setting as late as 11 pm.

For the first time, the Indian contingent will have a "sleep advisor" as part of a sports science team at the Olympics. In addition, the Indian Olympic team will also be given a travel sleep kit to help them doze off.

Dr Monika Sharma, an expert in optimising sleep for performance and recovery in sportspeople, says that athletes who will be travelling to Paris as the sleep advisor, called



Athletes are often sleep-deprived during the Olympics due to anxiety, pressure of competition and adrenaline rush

Dr Monika Sharma, sleep advisor for contingent

the decision "groundbreaking and forward-thinking".

"The aim essentially is to develop an environment which is sleep conducive. The Olympic Village is a stressful environment, not ideal sleeping conditions. We will soon equip the athletes in coping with the

challenges and mitigate their consequences," Dr Sharma said.

A fellowship from the University of Pennsylvania, she said, anxiety in the build-up to the Olympics, the pressure of competition, the adrenaline rush and the energy and excitement of the Games are some of the "disruptions to sleep".

Dr Sharma has already begun consultations with India's athletes, travelling across the world to meet them in person and "help them identify their challenges and improve some of the barriers to good sleep".

In her initial conversations, Dr Sharma said she observed that "ignorance about sleep is quite profound" among athletes. Her first step has been to educate them and their support staff on "sleep strategies" where the quality of sleep will be prioritised over the number of hours.

Keeping their identities confidential, Dr Sharma said she classified the athletes into three categories: the ones who are alien to this concept, a bunch who have experienced sleep deprivation at previous Olympics

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PANNUN PLOT: PLEADS NOT GUILTY

Gupta extradited from Prague to US, family in dark until detention in NY

His family has reached out to Govt officials but there's 'no response' yet

DIVYAA & RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

INDIAN NATIONAL Nihilist Gupta, accused of being involved in a murder-for-hire plot against Sikh separatist Gurbaj Singh Panesar, was extradited from the Czech Republic to the United States on June 14, a development his family's source said, only disclosed Sunday evening through their US lawyer after Gupta was sent to a detention centre in Brooklyn, New York.

Produced before a federal court in New York, Gupta pleaded not guilty, his attorney Jeffrey Chabrowski was quoted saying by news agency PTI.

The family had no intimation from either the Czech government or their lawyers in Prague about the government's final decision, not even before his actual extradition on Friday. "The (Gupta) is likely to be produced in the court on Monday," said a source close to the family. Gupta

is believed to have last spoken to his family members on the phone "five to six days ago".

Asked what the family's next steps were, the source added: "Let's see what happens next. For now, they are hoping to speak to him. They have exhausted their financial resources trying to fight his case legally in Prague. It's not looking good for them (financially)."

Marika Androska, spokesperson for the Czech Ministry of Justice, told The Indian Express that the Czech government decided in favour of Gupta's extradition on June 7 and it "was carried out on Friday, June 14, 2024, at Prague-Ruzyně Airport".

This comes at a time when US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan is visiting New Delhi for the annual initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (ICET) dialogue with his Indian counterpart Ajit Doval.

Androska said that the Czech Ministry of Justice's decision

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DEFENCE, SPACE TO AI & MINERALS

NSAs meet: India, US pledge to deepen partnership in critical and new technologies



US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan meets Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Monday. Anil Sharma

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

IN THE first official visit from the visiting Prime Minister Narendra Modi was re-elected for a third term, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met with Indian Security Advisor Ajit Doval and agreed to strengthen cooperation in a range of areas — defence, technology, space, Artificial Intelligence, High-Performance Computing, critical minerals among others.

Sullivan, who is in India on a two-day official visit beginning Monday, also met External Affairs minister S Jaishankar.

"According to a joint fact-sheet, Doval and Sullivan chaired the second meeting of the India-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (ICET) in New Delhi in which they "set the vision for the next chapter of our strategic technology partnership".

Sullivan also met Prime

Minister Narendra Modi who tweeted: "India is committed to further strengthen the India-US comprehensive global strategic partnership for global good."

Both sides underscored their commitment to "ensure we stay at the leading edge of innovation and enhancing coordination with like-minded nations to foster secure, reliable, and cost-competitive technology solutions for the Indian and American people and our partners around the world", it said.

They underscored the vital importance of "adapting our technology protection toolkits and resolved to prevent the leakage of sensitive and dual-use technologies to countries of concern".

Both also committed to take concrete action in the coming months to address long-standing barriers in bilateral strategic trade, technology, and industrial cooperation, including in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

9 nations kept updating N-arsenals in 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 17

NINE NUCLEAR-ARMED nations including the US, Russia, France, China, India and Pakistan, continued to modernise their nuclear arsenals and several of them deployed new nuclear-capable weapon systems in 2023, a Swedish think-tank said on Monday.

In its analysis, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said China's

nuclear arsenal increased from 410 warheads in January 2023 to 500 in January 2024, and it is expected to keep growing.

The report said some 2,100 of the deployed warheads were kept in a state of high operational alert on ballistic missiles, and nearly all of them belonged to Russia or the US. However, for the first time China is believed to have some warheads on high operational alert, it said.

The SIPRI said nine nuclear-armed states-- the US, Russia,

the UK, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel --continued to modernise their nuclear arsenals and several deployed new nuclear-armed or nuclear-capable weapon systems in 2023.

Of the total global inventory of an estimated 12,121 warheads in January 2024, about 9,585 were in military stockpiles for potential use, it said.

An estimated 3,904 of those warheads were deployed with missiles and aircraft -- 60 more

than in January 2023 -- and rest were in central storage, it said.

"Around 2,100 of the deployed warheads were kept in a state of high operational alert on ballistic missiles. Nearly all of these warheads belonged to Russia or the US, but for first time China is believed to have some warheads on high operational alert," the report said.

The SIPRI said Russia and the US together possess almost 90% of all nuclear weapons.

Modernization: Nine nuclear-armed nations (US, Russia, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Israel) modernized their arsenals in 2023.

Deployments: Several countries deployed new nuclear-capable weapon systems.

China's Arsenal: Increased from 410 to 500 warheads from January 2023 to January 2024.

- 
- **Operational Alert:** 2,100 deployed warheads on high alert, mainly from Russia and the US; China has some on high alert for the first time.
 - **Global Inventory:** 12,121 warheads globally; 9,585 in military stockpiles, 3,904 deployed.
 - **Major Holders:** Russia and the US possess nearly 90% of all nuclear weapons.

- Consider the following statements regarding the modernization of nuclear arsenals in 2023 as reported by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI):
 1. Nine nuclear-armed nations continued to modernize their nuclear arsenals and deployed new nuclear-capable weapon systems in 2023.
 2. China's nuclear arsenal increased from 410 to 500 warheads between January 2023 and January 2024.
 3. Around 2,100 deployed warheads are kept in a state of high operational alert, with nearly all belonging to China and the US.
 4. Russia and the US together possess almost 90% of all nuclear weapons globally.
- **Which of the above statements is/are correct?**
- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 2, and 4 only
- c) 3 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Rise in market valuation: India tops the charts

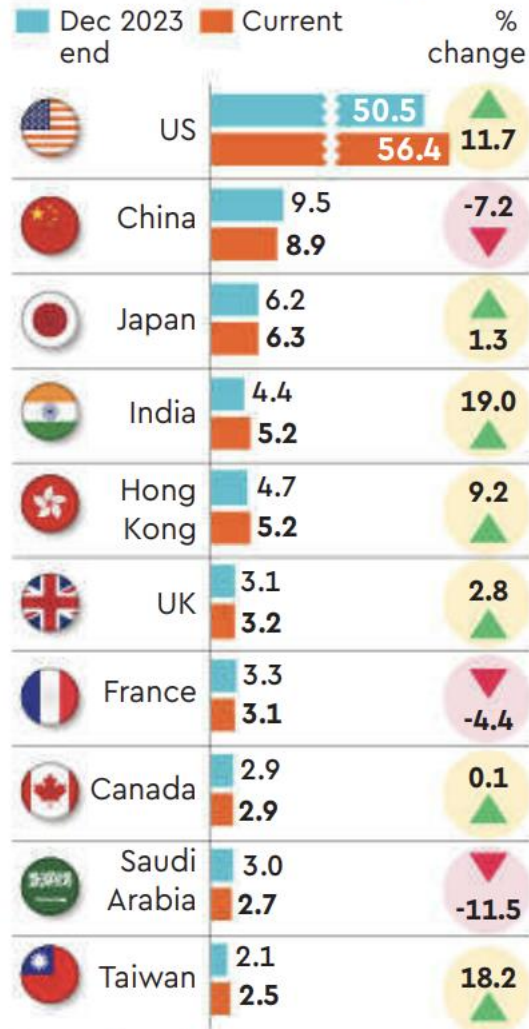


INDIA EMERGED AS the top wealth creator in CY24 so far among the top 10 nations by market cap. India's market cap soared by 19% from \$4.4 trillion as of December end to \$5.2 trillion as of June 14. It recently reclaimed the fourth spot in m-cap rankings by displacing Hong Kong.

Taiwan stood at the second position with an 18.2% rise in m-cap, while the US ranked 3rd with an 11.7% gain. Saudi Arabia, China and France witnessed decline in their market cap during the period.

—Kishor Kadam

Top 10 countries by m-cap (\$ trn)



Source: Bloomberg

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Mumbai most costly Indian city for expats: Survey

BISWAJIBAN SHARMA
New Delhi, June 17

MOVING TO A different city or country for work and opportunities is essential but can be daunting. A major factor influencing such decisions is undeniably the cost of living in the new location. However, varying economic conditions make some cities more expensive for expatriates.

India's financial capital, Mumbai, has emerged as the most expensive city in the country for expatriates in terms of cost of living.

In a survey published by Mercer, Mumbai has risen 11 spots to rank 136th globally as the most expensive city for expatriates. Delhi also made it into the top 200, climbing to 164th place. Chennai's ranking

fell by five positions to 189th. Similarly, Bengaluru declined by six spots to 195th. Hyderabad's position remained unchanged at 202. On the other hand, Pune has moved up eight places to reach 205th, while Kolkata has also advanced, gaining four spots to secure the 207th position.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong has once again claimed the top spot as the most expensive city for expatriates, according to Mercer's '2024 Cost of Living' report. The Asian city, which also topped the annual list in 2022 and 2023, was closely followed by Singapore, in second place. Following closely behind are Zurich, Geneva, and Basel, all located in Switzerland.

The survey, which evaluates the cost of living in 227 cities across the globe, takes into

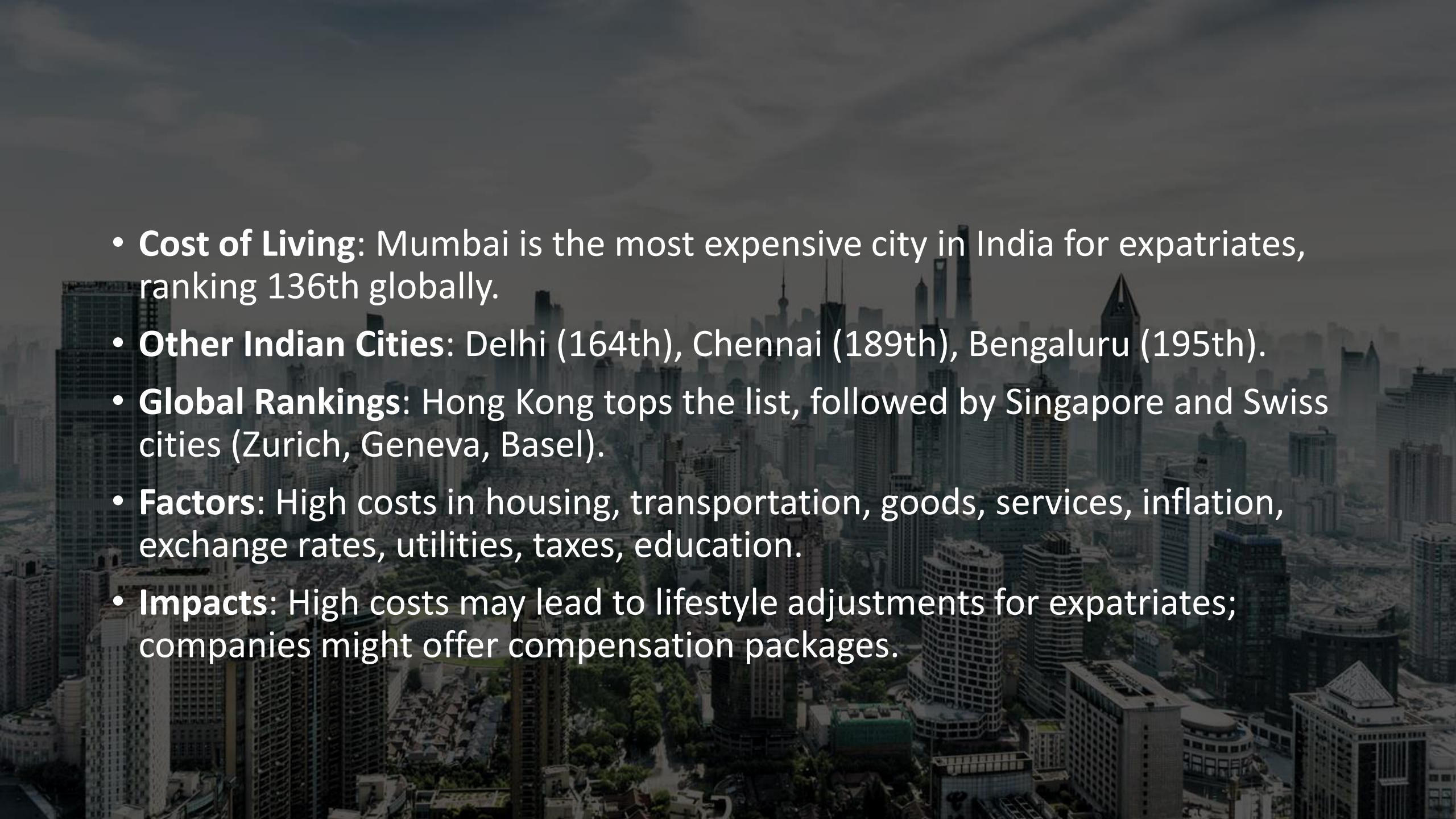
account factors such as housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods, and entertainment. Factors that contributed to high living costs in 2024 include expensive housing markets, high transportation costs, higher cost of goods and services, inflation, exchange rate fluctuations, utilities, local taxes and education.

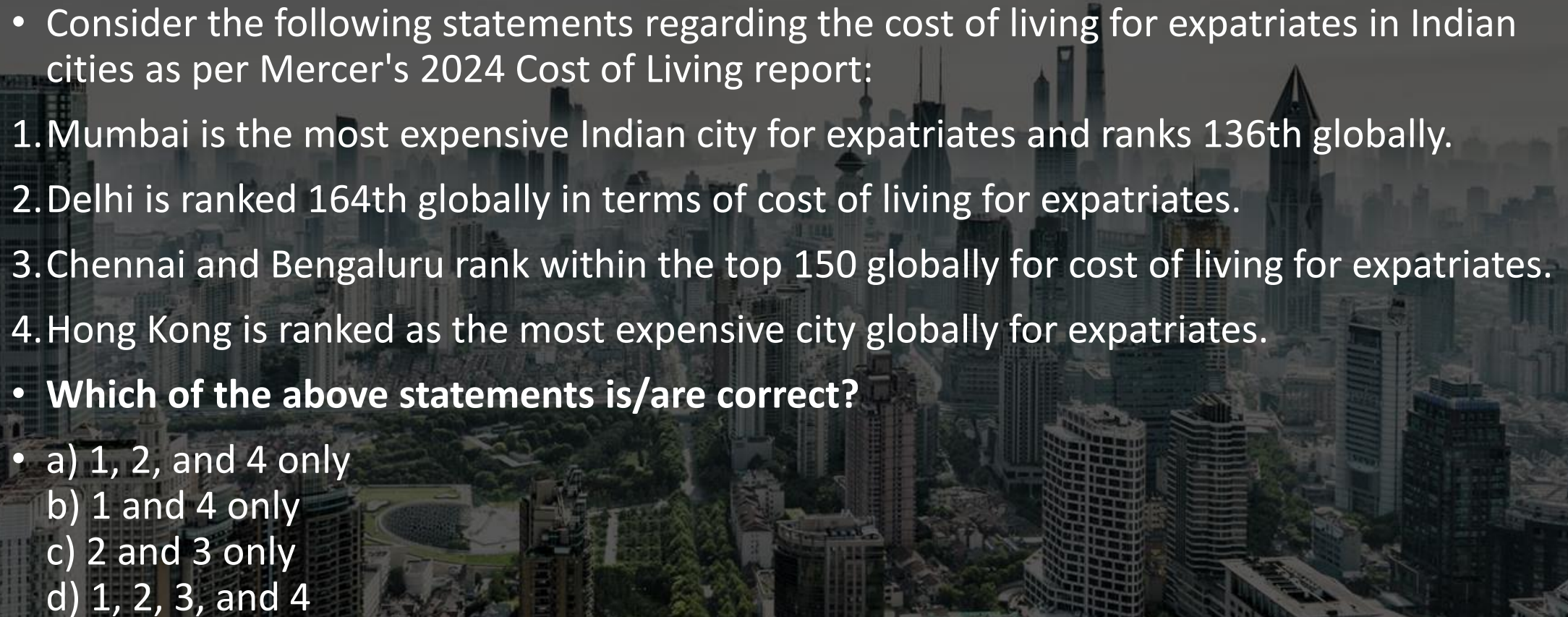
"High living costs may cause assignees to adjust their lifestyle, cut back on discretionary spending or even struggle to meet their basic needs. To offset these challenges, employers can offer compensation packages that include housing allowances or subsidies or provide other support services. They can also explore alternative talent sourcing strategies," said Yvonne Traber, Mercer's Global Mobility Leader.

2024 COST OF LIVING CITY RANKING

1	Hong Kong
2	Singapore
3	Zurich, Switzerland
4	Geneva, Switzerland
5	Basel, Switzerland
6	Bern, Switzerland
7	New York
8	London, UK
9	Nassau, The Bahamas
10	Los Angeles
136	Mumbai
164	Delhi
189	Chennai
195	Bengaluru



- 
- **Cost of Living:** Mumbai is the most expensive city in India for expatriates, ranking 136th globally.
 - **Other Indian Cities:** Delhi (164th), Chennai (189th), Bengaluru (195th).
 - **Global Rankings:** Hong Kong tops the list, followed by Singapore and Swiss cities (Zurich, Geneva, Basel).
 - **Factors:** High costs in housing, transportation, goods, services, inflation, exchange rates, utilities, taxes, education.
 - **Impacts:** High costs may lead to lifestyle adjustments for expatriates; companies might offer compensation packages.

- 
- Consider the following statements regarding the cost of living for expatriates in Indian cities as per Mercer's 2024 Cost of Living report:
 1. Mumbai is the most expensive Indian city for expatriates and ranks 136th globally.
 2. Delhi is ranked 164th globally in terms of cost of living for expatriates.
 3. Chennai and Bengaluru rank within the top 150 globally for cost of living for expatriates.
 4. Hong Kong is ranked as the most expensive city globally for expatriates.
 - **Which of the above statements is/are correct?**
 - a) 1, 2, and 4 only
 - b) 1 and 4 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, 3, and 4



India's TB Diagnostics Tech Wins Acclaim at WHA

-
- **Recently, the Truenat, a rapid molecular diagnostic test for pulmonary and extrapulmonary TB and rifampicin-resistant TB, was hailed at the 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva.**
 - **Truenat:**
 - **This portable, battery-operated machine can deliver results in less than an hour and can test for over 40 diseases.**

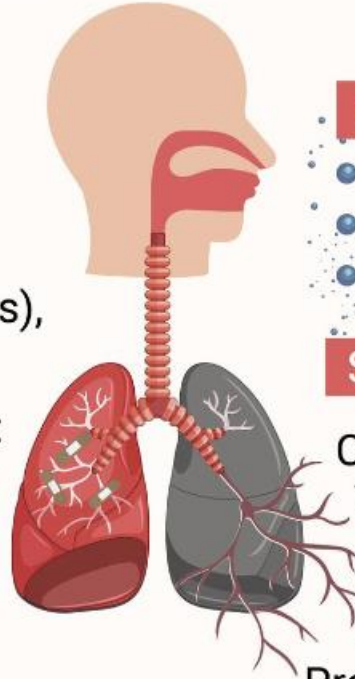
-
- In India, it is used at over 7,000 primary and community health centres under the National TB Elimination Programme, and in around 1,500 private labs.
 - The World Health Assembly (the decision-making body of the WHO) appreciated India's effort to eliminate TB and recognized India's innovative initiatives including the use of Truenat machines and handheld X-ray devices as potential global models.

- 
- **Handheld X-ray devices** are used in India's TB programme to diagnose TB in challenging operational environments.
 - The **WHO** reports over **10 million** new cases of TB every year.
 - India accounts for **27%** of the global TB burden. Over **1,400** patients die from TB every day in India
- 

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease that affects the lungs.
Tuberculosis is preventable and curable.

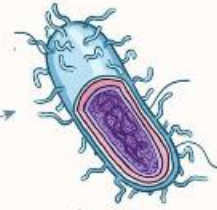
Prevention

- 📱 Seek medical intervention if symptoms persist
- 📱 If at a higher risk (HIV patients), get tested for TB.
- 📱 Practice good cough hygiene: Wear a mask and avoid contact



Causes:

- *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
- Coughing droplets
- Prolonged exposure from a patient



Symptoms of TB:

Chest pain
Weakness
Weight loss
Fever
Night sweats
Prolonged cough

Facts

- 1.6 million deaths in 2021 Worldwide
- 13th leading cause of death
- India aims to achieve the UN's TB-related SDGs by 2025, five years ahead of the global target to end the TB epidemic by 2030.

Ni-kshay Programme

- Nikshay Mitra are individuals or groups who adopt one TB patient for their treatment for a period of 6 months
- Provision of free drugs and diagnostics
- Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana for nutritional support to TB patients

#Tuberculosis



- **Consider the following statements regarding the Truenat diagnostic test:**
 - 1. Truenat is a portable, battery-operated machine that can diagnose both pulmonary and extrapulmonary TB.**
 - 2. It is used in India under the National TB Elimination Programme and in private labs.**
 - 3. The World Health Assembly recognized Truenat as a global model for TB diagnostics.**
 - 4. Truenat can deliver test results in less than an hour.**
- **Which of the above statements are correct?**
 - a) 1 and 2 only**
 - b) 2 and 3 only**
 - c) 1, 2, and 3 only**
 - d) 1, 2, 3, and 4**

Digital Agri Mission



- The Union government will announce a Rs 2,800 crore **Digital Agriculture Mission**.
- – The agricultural sector, which is estimated to constitute **18 percent of India's GVA in FY24**, is the bedrock of the nation's economy.
 - a. India ranks **second-largest producer of fruits**, vegetables, tea, farmed fish, sugarcane, wheat, rice, cotton, and sugar. The horticulture production was 355.25 million tonnes which is the highest ever for Indian Horticulture (as per third advance estimates).

About the Mission

Digital Agriculture Mission will pave the way for creation of a nationwide farmers registry, crop sown registry, and georeferencing of village maps.

A budgetary allocation of Rs 28,00 crore has been made for the mission and it will be rolled out over the next two years (till 2025-26).

The launch of the mission was initially planned in 2021-22 but due to Covid-19 outbreak, it could not be rolled out nationally.

- **Components**

- One of the components of the mission is to create a farmers' registry, in which every farmer will be given a unique ID
- The mission also envisages a crop sown registry.
 - This will have a record of crops sown by a farmer on his land.
 - It will help better planning and estimation of crop production.
-

- **Progress**

- A pilot project has been undertaken across 6 districts — Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh, Beed in Maharashtra, Gandhinagar in Gujarat, Fatehgarh Sahib in Punjab, and Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu.
 - Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra have already started generation of farmers' ID.
 - The unique farmer ID will allow launch of new value-added services and farmers will be able to avail various government schemes including PM-Kisan and Fasal Bima Yojana through this ID.
 - It will also enable them to avail financial services like farm loans and insurance.

-
1. The Digital Agriculture Mission has a budgetary allocation of Rs 2,800 crore.
 2. It aims to create a nationwide farmers registry and crop sown registry.
 3. The mission was initially planned to be launched in 2021-22 but was delayed due to the Covid-19 outbreak.
 4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 17th instalment under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi as part of the mission.
- Which of the above statements are correct?
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1, 2, and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

30 years of UN Land Convention





17 June 2024 will mark the 30th anniversary of the **Bonn-based United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**.

About United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

It was adopted in 1994 and It is the first and only internationally legally binding framework set up to address the **problem of desertification**.

It is based on the principles of participation, partnership and decentralization – the backbone of Good Governance.

Members : There are 197 Parties to the Convention, including 196 country Parties and the European Union.

- 
- **Status of India** : India became a signatory to UNCCD on 14th October 1994 and ratified it on 17th December 1996.
 - The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal Ministry in the Government of India for the UNCCD, and Desertification Cell is the nodal point within the Ministry to co-ordinate all issues pertaining to the Convention.
- 

- **Status of India** : India became a signatory to UNCCD on 14th October 1994 and ratified it on 17th December 1996.
 - The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal Ministry in the Government of India for the UNCCD, and Desertification Cell is the nodal point within the Ministry to co-ordinate all issues pertaining to the Convention.

- **Consider the following statements regarding global land degradation trends and efforts:**
 - 1. From 2015 to 2019, the world lost over 100 million hectares of productive land annually.**
 - 2. Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced land degradation rates slower than the global average.**
 - 3. Botswana reduced land degradation from 36% to 17% of its territory and committed 45.3 million hectares to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) measures.**
 - 4. The Dominican Republic decreased its proportion of degraded land from 49% to 31% between 2015 and 2019.**
- **Which of the above statements are correct?**
- **a) 1 and 3 only**
- **b) 2 and 4 only**
- **c) 1, 3, and 4 only**
- **d) 1, 2, 3, and 4**

Armenia

-
- Armenia becomes the **43rd signatory of the Artemis Accords**, a set of principles for global space exploration cooperation led by NASA.

-

-
- What are Artemis Accords?
 - The Artemis Accords, established in 2020 by NASA and seven founding member nations, including the US, are a set of non-binding principles aimed at guiding civil space exploration.
 - With 43 signatories, including India (signed in 2023), the accords promote peaceful, sustainable, and transparent cooperation in space, grounded in the Outer Space Treaty of 1967.

-
- Armenia is a landlocked country in the mountainous Caucasus region between Asia and Europe.
 - Yerevan is the capital. Armenia was the first state to adopt Christianity as its official religion.
 - It underwent the Armenian genocide during World War I. After periods of independence and Soviet rule, it became independent in 1991.



RUSSIA

UKRAINE

KAZAKHSTAN

BLACK SEA

GEORGIA

ARMENIA

CASPIAN SEA

YEREVAN

TURKEY

AZERBAIJAN

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

SYRIA

IRAQ

IRAN

SAUDI ARABIA



Fun fact



**MOHAMMAD
SAMI**

**LONGEST
OVER**

17

BALLS

WD-4-2-NB-WD-NB
0-WD-WD-0-WD-NB
WD-WD-NB-0-4



Let's learn English

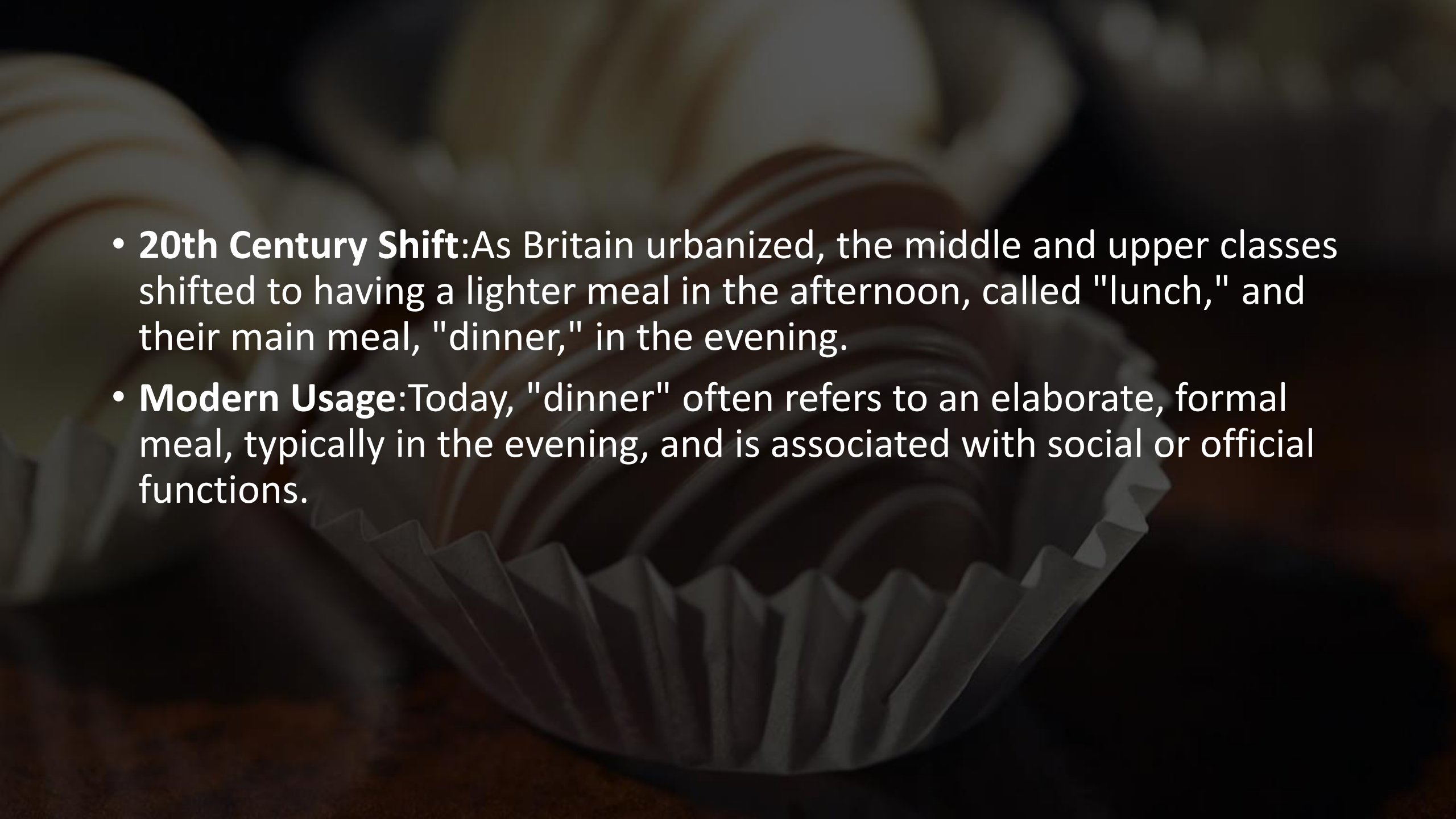
- **Dinner:**

- **Definition and Timing:**

- "Dinner" can refer to a meal taken at mid-day or in the evening, typically the main meal of the day.

- **Historical Context:**

- In Britain, working-class people traditionally had their dinner in the afternoon, while the middle and upper classes had it in the evening.
- Until the late 19th century, most people followed the working-class example, having dinner at mid-day and a light evening meal called "supper."

- 
- **20th Century Shift:**As Britain urbanized, the middle and upper classes shifted to having a lighter meal in the afternoon, called "lunch," and their main meal, "dinner," in the evening.
 - **Modern Usage:**Today, "dinner" often refers to an elaborate, formal meal, typically in the evening, and is associated with social or official functions.

Conserve vs. Preserve:

Conserve:

- Means "use less, use sparingly, not waste."
- Examples: Conserve water during summer, conserve energy.

Preserve:

- Means "keep safe" and "keep unchanged."
- Originates from the Latin word "praeservare," meaning to keep something in safety for future use.
- Examples: Preserve water by not using it at all, preserving items in their original state without change.



SSC FOUNDATION BATCH



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

Thank you
guys.
