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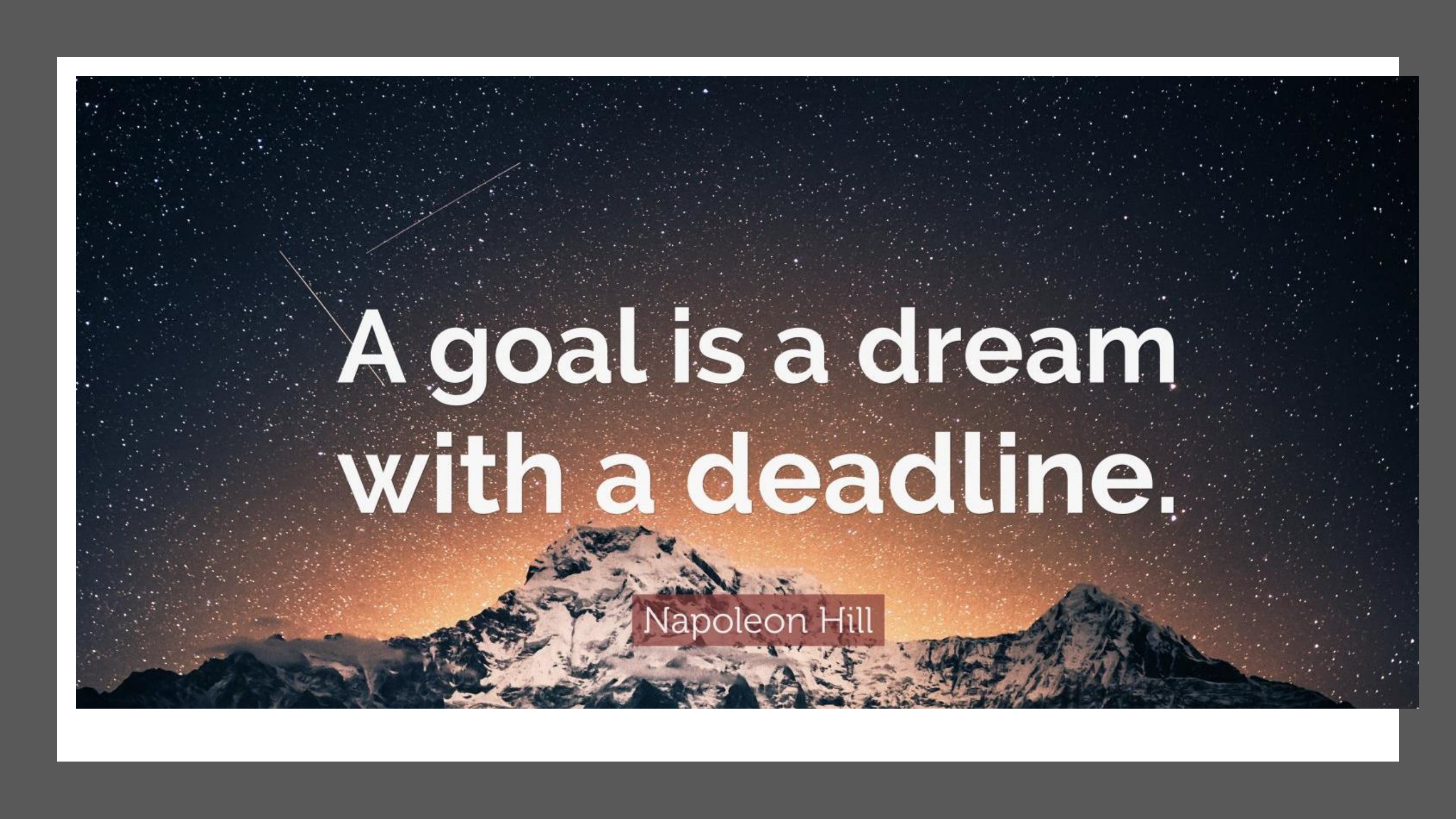
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The image features a motivational quote centered over a background of a starry night sky and a snow-capped mountain range. The quote is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. The background is a composite image with a dark, star-filled sky above a range of rugged, snow-covered mountains. A warm, orange glow emanates from behind the mountains, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The entire scene is framed by a white border.

**A goal is a dream
with a deadline.**

Napoleon Hill

Delhi > Coimbatore > Bangalore > Hyderabad > Madurai > Mysore > Vijayanagara > Thiruvananthapuram > Lucknow > Varanasi > Ranchi > Guwahati > Dispur > Kolkata > Bhubaneswar > Bhopal > Jaipur > Chandigarh > Lucknow > Cuttack

MAHARASHTRA POLLS
'No decision yet on Mahayuti's CM face'
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1985 BOMBING
India to remember Kanishka victims
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BREAKTHROUGH SOON
New treatment likely for sickle cell disease
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WORLD REFUGEE DAY
A story of displacement to empowerment
India's refugee-care model stands out
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SUPER 8 CAMPAIGN
Rohit's India takes Rashid's Afghanistan
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INSIDE

Manipur conflict a law and order problem: Oram

NEW DELHI
Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jitendra Kumar Singh said last week, said in an exclusive interaction with *The Hindu* that the ethnic conflict raging in Manipur for more than a year now was a "law and order situation" that is being dealt with by the Union Home Ministry. > PAGE 4

Russia, N. Korea vow to assist each other if attacked

SEOUL
South President Yoon Suk-yeol and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Wednesday signed a partnership that includes a vow of mutual aid if either country faces "aggression," in a pact that came as both face stand-offs with the West. > PAGE 14

U.S. lawmakers call on Beijing to hold dialogue with Dalai Lama

China's claim of having 'ancient' ties with Tibet is 'ridiculous,' they say; U.S. will not let China interfere in the 'succession' of the Dalai Lama, says U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee chair; will take 'resolute' steps to defend sovereignty, says China

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Days after the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Resolve Tibet Act that called upon the Chinese government to engage with the Dalai Lama, an influential group of U.S. lawmakers said on Tuesday that they would like to see the United States take steps to safeguard its sovereignty, "China will take resolute measures to firmly defend its sovereignty, security and development interests," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Lin Jian said on Tuesday.

It is time for Beijing to engage in unconditional dialogue with His Holiness," Representative Gregory Meeks said, addressing the public gathering in McLeodganj, the seat of the Central Tibetan Administration. An Indian official source said the U.S. lawmakers are on a "private visit" and declined to address the remarks made by them.



Former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama greet each other in Kangra on Wednesday. ANI

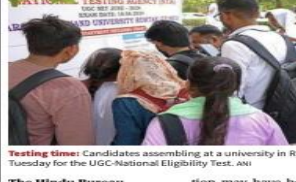
The visit by the U.S. delegation comes days before the 89th birthday of the 14th Dalai Lama, at a time of speculation about the future of the institution of the Dalai Lama, which has held the Tibetan diaspora together since the late 1950s.

Mr. McCaul, directly addressing the issue of the future of the Tibetan people, and his support for Tibet. The presence of the U.S. lawmakers in Dharamshala was also a "sign" to Beijing that the U.S. leadership will ensure the "basic rights of the Tibetan people under international law," he said.

Mr. McGovern insisted that he supported peace with China, but argued that the "human rights of every person on this planet have to be protected." Former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi also sent a strong message to the Chinese leaders and that the Dalai Lama's contribution will endure for a long time.

UGC-NET cancelled after 'irregularity' claims; CBI to probe

Testing time: Candidates assembling at a university in Rajasthan for the UGC-National Eligibility Test. ANI



Testing time: Candidates assembling at a university in Rajasthan for the UGC-National Eligibility Test. ANI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI
The Education Ministry late on Wednesday announced the cancellation of the UGC-NET held on Tuesday, after inputs from the Ministry of Home Affairs suggested that the "integrity of the exam had been compromised".

Over the past students across the country have been protesting the alleged irregularities in the medical entrance exams. Soon after the announcement, candidates for the positions of Assistant Professor, Junior Research Fellowship-Assistant Professor and for Ph.D. admissions.

He stated that, "The Ministry of Education has decided that the UGC-NET June 2024 Examination be cancelled on the basis of inputs from Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, which placed WhatsApp messages on the exam face indicating that integrity of the examina-

Oilseeds, pulses get the highest absolute increase, except the previous year

The upcoming elections in key States. Kharif sowing typically begins in June with the onset of the southwest monsoon, while the crop marketing season will run from October 2024 to September 2025.

'Boost to farmers'
This year's MSP hike is likely to result in a total financial implication of ₹2 lakh crore, about ₹38,000 crore higher than the previous season, Mr. Vaishnav said, adding that this would boost farmers' incomes. The highest absolute increase over the previous year has been recommended for oilseeds and pulses, with the MSP for nigerseed rising 5983 per quintal, followed by sesamum, which saw an increase of 6632 per quintal.

To reduce the country's dependence on import of pulses, the government has increased the MSP of arhar dal to ₹7,550 per quintal and ₹12,120 for green gram beans to ₹8,682. There is an increase of ₹501 each in the MSPs of cotton (medium staple) to ₹7,121 and ₹7,521 per quintal for cotton (long staple).

Walk in the park
NEW DELHI
A one-hour rhinoceros and its calf wading through flood waters in the Pobitora wildlife sanctuary in Morigaon district of Assam on Wednesday. The monsoon has brought a measure of relief to animals dealing with extreme heat. RTU SAU KONWAR

Official data: more frequent surveys, quicker results on the car
Vikas Dhot
NEW DELHI
The Centre is eyeing an increase in the frequency of some critical official surveys, including the periodic survey to measure employment, and releasing their results faster to facilitate timely and informed policy decisions, a top Statistics Ministry official said on Wednesday.

For any decision-maker, the availability of data at the right time is critical for making more informed decisions
SAURABH GARG
Secretary, Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry

Global standards

Separately, the country's official statistics machinery is also striving to ensure compliance with global data standards, such as the United Nations (UN) system of national accounts or the special data dissemination standards of

the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "Traditionally, these standards led by the statistics of India. But to ensure that India is in line with the world, it is being put in a manner which is understandable to everyone, and standards... is the Mr. Garg said, as India is now part of the Statistical Commission.

"We look forward to playing our part in ensuring that the standards, while ensuring we adhere to the standards," he said.

continue to focus on as we move ahead, and the purpose is to ensure that we can reduce the time period between surveys. For example, we have the HCES and the PLFS (Periodic Labour Force Survey)... many of these surveys that are annual, we are looking at

which of them can be moved quarterly, and some of them could be made monthly," Mr. Garg said.

"The availability of data at the right time for any decision maker is critical for making more informed decisions," he underlined. "The Ministry is also seeking to foster collaboration and interaction with other ministries and departments, with a view to ensure that statistics generated across government can be shared and be tapped easily by departments based on their requirements."

U.S. lawmakers call on Beijing to hold dialogue with Dalai Lama

China's claim of having 'ancient' ties with Tibet is 'ridiculous,' they say; U.S. will not let China interfere in the 'succession' of the Dalai Lama, says U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee chair; will take 'resolute' steps to defend sovereignty, says China

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Days after the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Resolve Tibet Act that called upon the Chinese government to engage with the Dalai Lama, an influential group of U.S. lawmakers met the Tibetan spiritual leader at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday.

Addressing a rare public meeting, they stated that the United States will not allow Beijing to interfere in the "succession" of the Dalai Lama.

The delegation, led by the Republican chair of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee Michael McCaul, expressed a firm U.S. position on Tibet and described China's claim of having ancient links with Tibet as 'ridiculous'.

"Our support for the Tibetan people is unwavering. Your dreams for better days remain alive. Beijing is relocating entire communities under the guise of development activities. We know they are trying to control Tibetan Buddhism.

It is time for Beijing to engage in unconditional dialogue with His Holiness," Representative Gregory Meeks said, addressing the public gathering in McLeodganj, the seat of the Central Tibetan Administration.

An Indian official source said the U.S. lawmakers are on a "private visit" and declined to address the remarks made by them.

China on Tuesday had said it will take steps to safeguard its sovereignty. "China will take resolute measures to firmly defend its sovereignty, security and development interests," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Lin Jian said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the beginning of the event, Mr. McCaul recollected the circumstances that surrounded the exile of the Dalai Lama in 1959 and how he led 80,000 followers across the Himalayas into India to safeguard the unique Tibetan culture and way of life.

"Decades later, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) continues to threaten the freedom of the Tibetan people. They have



Former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama greet each other in Kangra on Wednesday. ANI

even attempted to insert themselves into the succession of the Dalai Lama. We will not let that happen," said Mr. McCaul, directly addressing the issue of the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama.

The visit by the U.S. delegation comes days before the 89th birthday of the 14th Dalai Lama, at a time of speculation about the future of the institution of the Dalai Lama, which has held the Tibetan diaspora together since the late 1950s.

Mr. McCaul also had an hour-long interaction with the Dalai Lama, and gener-

ously praised the elderly spiritual figure, lauding his commitment to non-violent methods to advance the cause of Tibetans.

'Chinese propaganda'

The text of the Resolve Tibet Act, which has been passed by both Houses of the U.S. Congress, has several references to 'self-determination' in the context of the future of the Tibetan people, and this was reflected in the statements of the visiting delegates. "This Bill makes it clear that the U.S. believes that Tibet has its own unique language, religion, and cul-

ture. It has a right to self-determination," said Mr. McCaul.

Mr. Meeks also criticised the Chinese position on Tibet and described China's claims to the region as "propaganda".

U.S. Representative Jim McGovern, a Democrat and one of the major supporters of the Tibetan cause in the U.S. Congress, made a forceful speech on the future of Tibet, saying that the U.S. government would never "waiver" in its support to Tibet.

The presence of the U.S. lawmakers in Dharamshala was also a "sign" to Beijing that the U.S. leadership will ensure the "basic rights of the Tibetan people under international law", he said.

Mr. McGovern insisted that he supported peace with China, but argued that the "human rights of every person on this planet have to be respected".

Former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi also sent a strong message to the Chinese leaders and said the Dalai Lama's contribution will endure for a long time.



Buddhist Schools



Schools of Buddhism

The Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism and, historically, the political leader of Tibet.

The title "Dalai Lama" means "Ocean of Wisdom" and is given to the foremost spiritual leader of the Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism.

The current and 14th Dalai Lama is Tenzin Gyatso, born on July 6, 1935.


He has been a significant figure in advocating for the autonomy and rights of Tibetan

Selection Process of the Dalai Lama

The process of selecting a new Dalai Lama is a unique and complex spiritual tradition within Tibetan Buddhism.


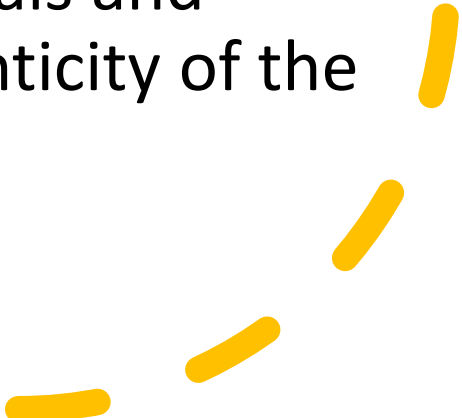
Death of the Dalai Lama: The selection process begins upon the death of the current Dalai Lama.

Search for Reincarnation: High lamas and Tibetan monks embark on a search for the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama. This search is based on signs, visions, and spiritual indications that lead them to identify a young boy believed to be the reincarnation of the previous Dalai Lama.




Consulting Oracles and Visions: The high lamas may consult oracles, have dreams, or meditate to receive spiritual guidance about the location and identity of the reincarnated Dalai Lama. The most important oracle consulted is the Nechung Oracle.

Identification: Signs such as the direction of smoke from the cremation of the previous Dalai Lama, visions seen in sacred lakes, and other mystical signs guide the search. Once the search area is determined, the lamas look for boys born around the time of the Dalai Lama's death who exhibit certain spiritual qualities.

- 
- **Testing the Child:** Potential candidates are subjected to various tests. These might include recognizing personal items belonging to the previous Dalai Lama, demonstrating knowledge and wisdom beyond their years, and showing an affinity for spiritual practices.
 - **Confirmation:** Once a child is identified and tested, the high lamas confirm the choice. This process involves further rituals and ceremonies to ensure the authenticity of the reincarnation.
- 

Enthronement: After confirmation, the child is taken to Lhasa (or in exile, to Dharamshala, India) and formally recognized and enthroned as the new Dalai Lama. He then undergoes extensive training and education in Buddhist scriptures, philosophy, and practices.

Public Announcement: The identification of the new Dalai Lama is publicly announced, and he is introduced to the Tibetan Buddhist community and the world.





The current Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, was identified through this traditional process and enthroned in 1940.



The selection process is deeply rooted in Tibetan Buddhism's spiritual and cultural traditions, emphasizing the continuity of the Dalai Lama's spiritual lineage.

How China Occupied Tibet

The occupation of Tibet by China is a complex historical event that unfolded primarily during the 20th century. Here's a detailed account of the key events that led to China's control over Tibet:

Historical Context:

- Tibet has had a unique cultural, religious, and political identity distinct from China for centuries. It was a theocratic state under the leadership of the Dalai Lama.
- Historically, Tibet had periods of independence and periods when it was under varying degrees of influence from Chinese, Mongol, and British powers.

Early 20th Century:

In the early 1900s, Tibet declared its independence after the fall of the Qing Dynasty in China.

Despite its declaration, Tibet was not widely recognized as an independent state, and China still considered it part of its territory.

People's Republic of China (PRC) Formation:



In 1949, the Chinese Communist Party, led by Mao Zedong, established the People's Republic of China (PRC).

One of the PRC's objectives was to consolidate its territories, including Tibet, which it viewed as part of its sovereign territory.

Invasion of Tibet (1950):

In October 1950, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China invaded eastern Tibet, in what they called a "peaceful liberation" of the region.

The Tibetan army, ill-equipped and vastly outnumbered, was quickly defeated.

- 
- **Seventeen Point Agreement (1951):**
 - In 1951, Chinese representatives pressured Tibetan officials into signing the Seventeen Point Agreement. This agreement ostensibly guaranteed autonomy and religious freedom for Tibetans while acknowledging Chinese sovereignty over Tibet.
 - The agreement was signed under duress and is widely regarded by Tibetans as illegitimate.
- 

Consolidation of Control:

Over the next decade, China consolidated its control over Tibet, integrating it into the Chinese administrative framework.

The Chinese government implemented various reforms, including land redistribution and attempts to diminish the power of the Tibetan nobility and monastic system.

1959 Uprising:

In March 1959, a large-scale uprising erupted in Lhasa, the capital of Tibet, against Chinese rule.

The uprising was brutally suppressed by the PLA, resulting in significant casualties and destruction.

The Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, fled to India with thousands of followers, establishing a government-in-exile in Dharamshala.

Cultural Revolution:



During the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), religious and cultural practices in Tibet were severely repressed.



Monasteries were destroyed, religious artifacts were looted, and Tibetans faced widespread persecution

Current issue

U.S. lawmakers have urged China to engage in unconditional dialogue with the Dalai Lama.

The call follows the passage of the Resolve Tibet Act by the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Act emphasizes that the U.S. will not allow China to interfere in the succession of the Dalai Lama.

U.S. lawmakers, including Gregory Meeks, met the Dalai Lama in Dharamshala, India.

They stressed the importance of Tibet's sovereignty and self-determination.


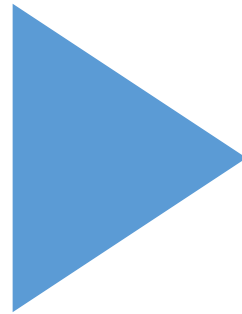
China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian stated China would take measures to defend its sovereignty.

The visit coincided with the 89th birthday of the 14th Dalai Lama.

U.S. lawmakers described China's claims on Tibet as 'propaganda'.



The presence of
U.S. lawmakers
was seen as a sign
of support for
Tibetan rights
under
international law.



The Resolve Tibet
Act references the
self-determination
of the Tibetan
people and their
basic human
rights.

- Consider the following statements regarding the recent visit of U.S. lawmakers to Dharamshala:
 - 1.The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Resolve Tibet Act, urging China to engage in dialogue with the Dalai Lama.
 - 2.The visit of the U.S. lawmakers coincided with the 89th birthday of the 24th Dalai Lama.
 - 3.U.S. lawmakers criticized China's position on Tibet, describing China's claims as 'propaganda'.
 - 4.China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson stated that China would take measures to defend its sovereignty.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- A. 1 and 3 only
B. 2 and 4 only
C. 1, 2, 3, and 4
D. 1, 3, and 4 only

Paddy MSP up 5.35% as Centre clears hikes for 14 kharif crops

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet gave its nod to raise the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy by 5.35% to ₹2,300 per quintal for the upcoming 2024-25 kharif marketing season, a decision that comes ahead of the Assembly elections in Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi.

In the first major decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third term in office, the Cabinet approved MSP hike for all 14 kharif season crops, in alignment with the government's "clear policy" of keeping MSPs at least 1.5 times above the cost of production as calculated by the government, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. However, only four of these crops have MSPs that will provide farmers with a margin of more than 50% above production costs.

They are bajra (77%), followed by arhar dal (59%), maize (54%), and black gram (52%).

Paddy, the season's key crop, will see an MSP increase of ₹117 per quintal, which will allow farmers a margin of exactly 50%. The hike comes despite the fact that the government already holds a record stockpile of rice, more than four times the required buffer, but is significant ahead of

Oilseeds, pulses get the highest absolute increase over the previous year

the upcoming elections in key States. Kharif sowing usually begins in June with the onset of the southwest monsoon, while the crop marketing season will run from October 2024 to September 2025.

'Boost to farmers'

This year's MSP hike is likely to result in a total financial implication of ₹2 lakh crore, about ₹35,000 crore higher than the previous season, Mr. Vaishnaw said, adding that this would boost farmers' incomes. The highest absolute increase over the previous year has been recommended for oilseeds and pulses, with the MSP for nigerseed rising ₹983 per quintal, followed by sesamum, which saw an increase of ₹632 per quintal.

To reduce the country's dependence on import of pulses, the government has increased the MSP of arhar dal to ₹7,550 per quintal and by ₹124 for green gram beans to ₹8,682. There is an increase of ₹501 each in the MSPs of cotton (medium staple) to ₹7,121 and ₹7,521 per quintal for cotton (long staple).

(with PTI inputs)

The Union Cabinet approved a 5.35% increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy to ₹2,300 per quintal for the 2024-25 kharif marketing season.

The decision precedes assembly elections in Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Delhi.

The Cabinet approved MSP hikes for all 14 kharif crops, aligning with the government's policy of keeping MSPs at least 1.5 times above the cost of production.

Only four crops have MSPs that offer farmers more than a 50% margin over production costs: bajra (77%), arhar dal (59%), maize (54%), and black gram (52%).

Paddy will see an MSP increase of ₹117 per quintal, providing a margin of 50%.

The hike aims to boost farmers' incomes, with a total financial implication of ₹2 lakh crore, ₹35,000 crore higher than the previous season.

The highest absolute increase in MSPs is for oilseeds and pulses, with arhar dal seeing an increase to ₹7,550 per quintal and green gram beans to ₹8,682 per quintal.

-
- Cotton MSPs have been increased by ₹501 per quintal, with medium staple cotton at ₹7,121 and long staple at ₹7,521 per quintal.



- Consider the following statements regarding the recent MSP hikes approved by the Union Cabinet:
 1. The MSP for paddy has been increased by 5.35% to ₹2,300 per quintal for the 2024-25 kharif marketing season.
 2. The decision on MSP hikes precedes the general elections in India.
 3. The government's policy is to keep MSPs at least 1.5 times above the cost of production.
 4. The highest absolute increase in MSPs is for oilseeds and pulses.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
 - A. 1 and 3 only
 - B. 1, 3, and 4 only
 - C. 2 and 4 only
 - D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

India and U.S. work out strategies to scale up collaboration on critical minerals under iCET

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

India and the U.S. are looking to “quickly” conclude a bilateral agreement on furthering cooperation on critical minerals between the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Mines, and to drive a partnership in supply chains for graphite, gallium, and germanium.

One of the aims will be to promote “India’s vital role in the mineral security partnership, including through co-investing in a lithium resource project in South America and a rare earths deposit in Africa, to responsibly and sustainably diversify critical mineral supply chains,” said a



Key resources: In July 2023, India released a list of 30 minerals critical for the country. PTI

fact sheet issued on June 17 on the India-U.S. Initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) dialogue, chaired by the National Security Advisers of the countries.

In July 2023, India released a list of 30 minerals critical for the country and

has been looking to acquire mines abroad in addition to expanding exploration within the country. To enable this, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 was amended through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2023.

India has incorporated a joint venture company Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) with equity contribution from three Central Public Sector Enterprises – National Aluminium Company Ltd, Hindustan Copper Ltd and Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd – with the objective of acquiring critical mineral assets abroad to ensure consistent supply of critical minerals to the Indian domestic market.

KABIL is presently exploring opportunities for acquisition of critical minerals assets like lithium and cobalt in Australia, Argentina and Chile.

The Mines Ministry has joined the mineral security partnership led by the U.S. which aims to enhance cooperation in securing

the supply chain of critical minerals for the member countries by facilitating investment in identified blocks of these minerals in resource-rich countries.

The fact sheet also spoke of the establishment of an India-U.S. advanced materials research and development forum to expand collaboration between American and Indian universities, national laboratories, and private sector researchers.

Exploring opportunities for collaboration in the critical minerals sector like bilateral collaboration in technologies for neodymium-iron-boron metal, alloy and magnet making, and collaboration with Department of Energy entities, are also listed among the objectives.

CRITICAL MINERALS

OUR GROWING DEPENDENCE ON CRITICAL MINERALS

WHAT ARE CRITICAL MINERALS?

Minerals deemed critical vary by country. The United States classifies **35 minerals** as critical because they are:

- essential to economic and national security,
- from vulnerable supply chains, or
- a key part of the manufacturing of a product. ¹

TOP INDUSTRIES THAT RELY ON CRITICAL MINERALS

- 1 Telecommunications and electronics
- 2 Energy
- 3 Defence
- 4 Aerospace
- 5 Transportation

2

CRITICAL MINERALS ARE EVERYWHERE



Lithium is used to create batteries.



Potash is used in fertilizer.



Helium is used in MRIs.



Indium is used to make LCD screens.



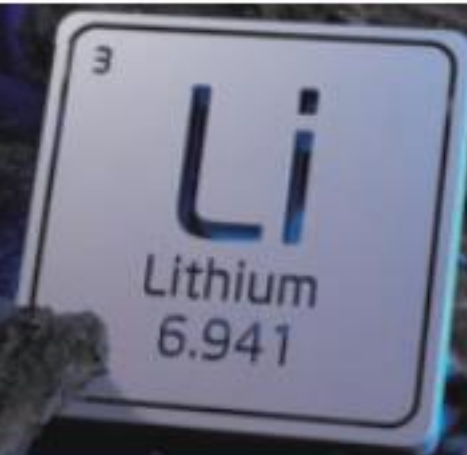
Uranium is used in radiation therapy.



Strontium is used in fireworks.

3

HEAVY METAL



Critical minerals for which India is 100% import-dependent

Mineral	Major application
Lithium	Rechargeable batteries, ceramics
Cobalt	Rechargeable batteries and superalloy
Nickel	Stainless steel, superalloys, rechargeable batteries
Vanadium	Alloying agent for iron and steel, batteries
Niobium	Steel and superalloys, construction, transportation
Germanium	Fiber optics and night vision applications
Rhenium	Superalloys, aerospace and machinery use
Beryllium	Alloying agent in aerospace and defense industries
Tantalum	Electronic components, mostly capacitors and in superalloys
Strontium	Aluminium pigments and fillers, glass, magnets

Source: A report on *Unlocking Australia-India Critical Minerals Partnership Potential* by Australian Trade and Investment Commission, July 2021/ *Critical Minerals of India* report

CRITICAL MINERALS: INDIA'S NET IMPORT RELIANCE (2020)

Critical Mineral	%age	Major import sources
Lithium	100%	Chile, Russia, China, Ireland, Belgium
Cobalt	100%	China, Belgium, Netherlands, US, Japan
Nickel	100%	Sweden, China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines
Vanadium	100%	Kuwait, Germany, South Africa, Brazil, Thailand
Niobium	100%	Brazil, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Indonesia
Germanium	100%	China, South Africa, Australia, France, US
Rhenium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
Beryllium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
Tantalum	100%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
Strontium	100%	China, US, Russia, Estonia, Slovenia
Zirconium (zircon)	80%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
Graphite (natural)	60%	China, Madagascar, Mozambique, Vietnam, Tanzania
Manganese	50%	South Africa, Gabon, Australia, Brazil, China
Chromium	2.5%	South Africa, Mozambique, Oman, Switzerland, Turkey
Silicon	<1%	China, Malaysia, Norway, Bhutan, Netherlands

Source: 'Unlocking Australia-India Critical Minerals Partnership Potential', Australian Trade and Investment Commission, July 2021

India and the U.S. are working towards a bilateral agreement to enhance cooperation on critical minerals.

The collaboration involves the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Ministry of Mines.


The partnership aims to ensure supply chains for critical minerals like graphite, gallium, and germanium.



The initiative falls under the India-U.S. Initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) dialogue, chaired by the National Security Advisers of both countries.



India released a list of 30 critical minerals in July 2023, vital for the country's supply chain.




India has formed a joint venture company, Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL), with contributions from three Central Public Sector Enterprises to acquire critical mineral assets abroad

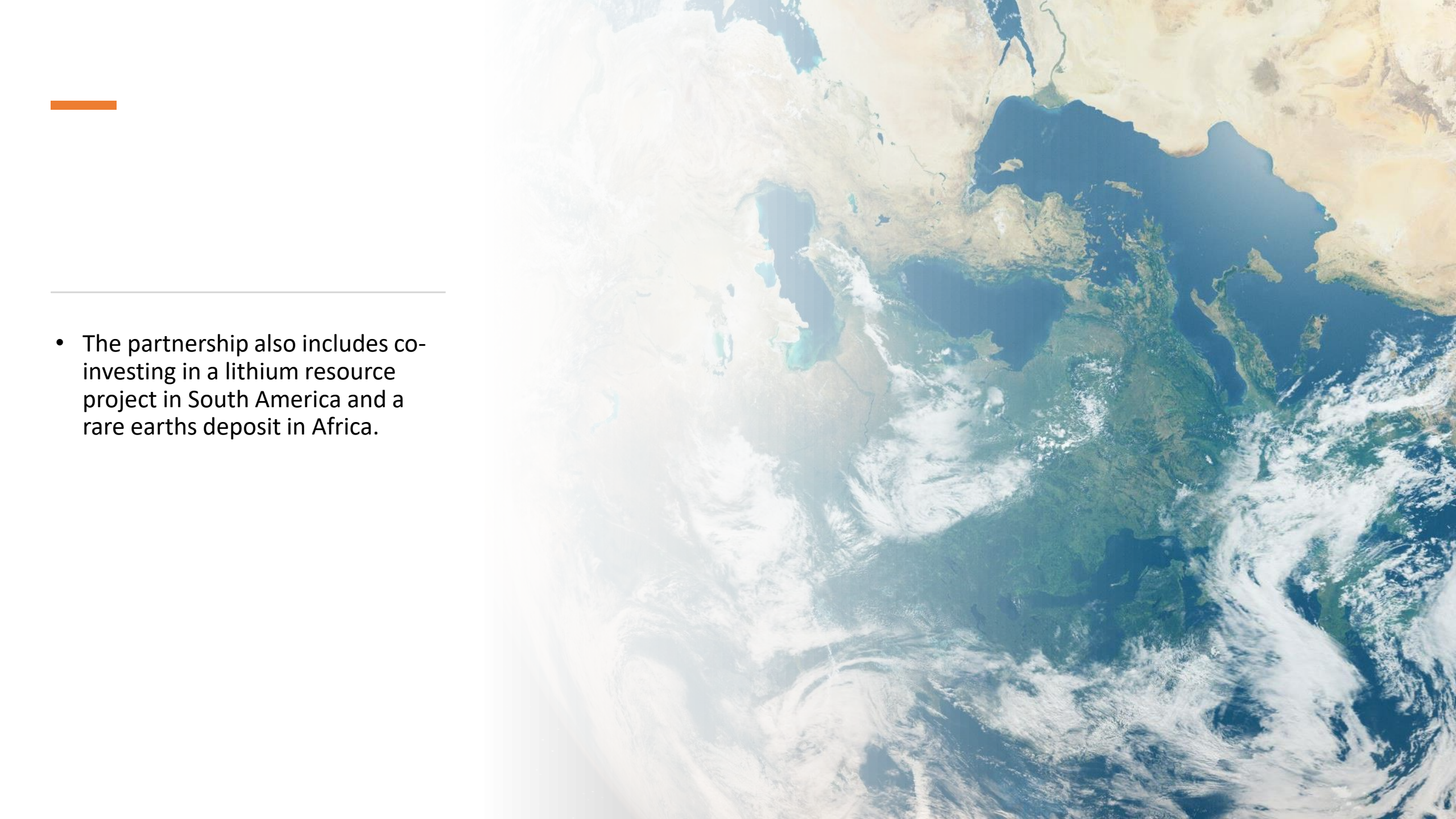
KABIL is exploring opportunities to acquire mines in countries like Australia, Argentina, and Chile.



The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, was amended through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2023, to facilitate the acquisition of mines abroad.



The fact sheet from June 17, 2023, outlines the establishment of an India-U.S. advanced materials research and development forum to foster collaboration.

- 
-
- The partnership also includes co-investing in a lithium resource project in South America and a rare earths deposit in Africa.

- Consider the following statements regarding the India-U.S. collaboration on critical minerals:
 1. India and the U.S. are working towards a bilateral agreement to enhance cooperation on critical minerals under the India-U.S. Initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) dialogue.
 2. India has listed 50 critical minerals vital for the country's supply chain in July 2023.
 3. Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) is a joint venture company formed to acquire critical mineral assets in India, with contributions from three Central Public Sector Enterprises.
 4. The collaboration includes co-investing in a lithium resource project in Africa and a rare earths deposit in South Africa.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
 - A. 1, 2, and 3 only
 - B. 1 and 3 only
 - C. 2 and 4 only
 - D. 1 only

INBRIEF

Fire guts iconic tourist lodge in West Bengal, no injuries

A massive blaze broke out at the iconic Holong Bunglow inside Jaldapara National Park in West Bengal's Allpurdur district on Tuesday that gutted the entire building. The State's head of Forest department Niraj Singh said no one was injured in the fire since the national park was closed to tourists. Initial reports suggest that a short circuit could have sparked off the blaze.

ED arrests man linked to hawala syndicate

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested a person on charges of money-laundering in connection with a hawala syndicate through which funds collected from exporters and importers were being remitted overseas using bogus invoices. The accused, Manideep Mago, was produced before a special court that sent him to ED custody till June 23.

DGCA issues advisory on gender equality

**The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI**

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued an advisory to airlines and airports to adopt measures to promote gender equality, and recommended measures such as return-to-work policies for women on a career break, training programmes for cabin crew to help them diversify their skills, and leadership and mentorship programmes for women. The safety regulator said its advisory aims to increase the representation of women in various positions in the aviation sector by 2025, which is also the call given by the International Air Transport Association under its 25By2025 global best practices.

Organisations have also been urged to implement government laws on the provision of maternity leave and day facilities, and develop measures to hire women back after a break in services due to parenting needs.

The regulator has also asked them to develop a zero tolerance policy towards sexual harassment, and train employees to dispel biases against women.

Two militants killed in J&K gunfight; man held over Reasi attack

**Peerzada Ashiq
SOPUR**

Two unidentified militants were killed and two security personnel injured in a gunfight at Sopore in north Kashmir on Wednesday.

In a related development, the Jammu and Kashmir Police said a major breakthrough was made in the case of attack in Reasi, which left nine pilgrims dead on June 9, with the arrest of a local man who allegedly "provided logistic support to militants".

An Army spokesperson said the security forces, including the J&K Police and the Army, launched an over-militancy operation in Sopore following "specific intelligence input regarding the presence of terrorists".

The militants were encircled and engaged in a gunfight in the Hadipora area. "Two terrorists have been killed in the encounter. Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition were recovered," the police said.

Security agencies said they were in the process of identifying the militants and their affiliation. Two security personnel, an Army jawan and a poli-

India eyes breakthrough against sickle cell

Researchers working to develop gene therapy using CRISPR-Cas9, a gene-editing tool, to fight the genetic blood disorder that has a high prevalence rate among the Scheduled Tribes; Tribal Affairs Ministry wants ground-level healthcare workers such as ASHAs trained to screen for the disease

**Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI**

India is getting closer to developing a gene therapy for sickle cell disease, a genetic blood disorder with a high prevalence rate among the Scheduled Tribes, officials of the Union Tribal Affairs Ministry said on Wednesday. Vibhu Nayyar, Secretary, Tribal Affairs Ministry, said the government was expecting to hear "good news" by January 2025 on the laboratory tests that are being run.

M. Srinivas, Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), said researchers were working to develop a gene therapy using CRISPR-Cas9, a gene-editing tool. "We want that in the next six months to one year, we will be able to get forward with using this method for treating sickle

cell disease — making India one of the first countries to do so," Mr. Srinivas said.

He was speaking at the National Conclave on Generating Awareness on Sickle Cell Disease, organised by the Tribal Affairs Ministry in collaboration with the Birsu Munda Centre at the AIMSS. The Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jai Oram, addressing the opening of the conclave, lauded the efforts but said it was important to involve and coordinate with ground-level healthcare workers such as ASHAs and anganwadi workers for these plans to be implemented properly. "They will be the ones doing the heavy lifting on the ground," Mr. Oram said.

Officials of the Tribal Affairs Ministry told *The Hindu* that the "good news" Mr. Nayyar was referring to was related to the tests that



Tribal Affairs Ministry official says the government was expecting to hear "good news" by January 2025 on laboratory tests being run. AP

are currently being run by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB).

Following this, the tests will proceed to the next phase and eventually move on to being tested on patients, a senior official said.

This comes months after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the CRISPR-Cas9 technology for a cell-based gene therapy to treat sickle cell disease in December 2023.

Making it cost-effective. Ministry officials said one of the main challenges for India was to find a way to make this therapy cost-effective. Developing a gene therapy using CRISPR has been part of India's mission to eradicate sickle cell disease by 2047. A government dossier on the mission, which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July 2023, said the technology had "the potential to be a single dose cure for blood disorders like sickle cell anemia".

Part of this mission is to also conduct over seven crore screenings among vulnerable tribal populations across 17 States and Union Territories, of which three crore screenings have been achieved so far. Following the addresses by senior officials and the Minister, a series of technical panel discussions were also held on recognising and screening for sickle cell disease, managing the disease, and other issues.

PM inaugurates Nalanda University campus in Bihar

**The Hindu Bureau
PATNA**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University, an international university, close to the site of the ancient ruins of Nalanda in Raigir in Bihar.

Asserting that Nalanda is a symbol of India's academic heritage and vibrant cultural exchange, Mr. Modi said, "Nalanda is the birthplace of this truth that books may burn in the flames of fire but the truth, the knowledge, the spirit of inquiry, respect, and pride."

It started functioning in 2014 from a makeshift location with 14 students and the construction work started in 2017. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and 17 Ambassadors from participating countries attended the event. Bihar Governor Rajendra Arlekar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy CMs Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Sinha were present.

Before inaugurating the campus, the PM visited the ancient ruins of Nalanda and planted a sapling of the Bodhi tree brought from Bodhi Gaya, Nalanda University



Serious expense: The campus of Nalanda University has an amphitheatre that can seat 2,000 people. @vishvasvishwas

and interim Vice-Chancellor Abhay Kumar Singh were present in Thaland in 2009.

The ancient Nalanda University near its ancient ruins will introduce India's potential to the world. Nalanda is not just a renaissance of India's past, the heritage of many countries and Asia is linked to it. In days to come, Nalanda University will once again become a major centre for our cultural exchange."

The ancient Nalanda University was established in the 5th century and attracted students from all over the world. The ancient university flourished for 800 years before it was burnt down by invaders in the 12th century.

Hamare Baarah gets nod for release after deleting some scenes

**The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI**

After the makers of the Hindi movie *Hamare Baarah* agreed to delete certain scenes from the film and include disclaimers at certain portions, the Bombay High Court on Wednesday gave the go-ahead to release the film. The makers plan to release the movie on June 21.

The petitioner in the case has also come to a settlement against raising objections to the film's release, provided the changes suggested by the court are made in the film.

Passing the order, a Division Bench of Justices B.R. Colabawalla and Firdosh Poonwalla listed out certain changes and disclaimers to be added in the film, and said the court will record the changes in the order.

"As per suggestions of the court, and which is agreeable to all the parties, the following changes will be made. The changes mentioned below shall be done before the film is released," the order said.

The makers of the movie have been asked to record a certain dialogue including a verse from a religious text and add two



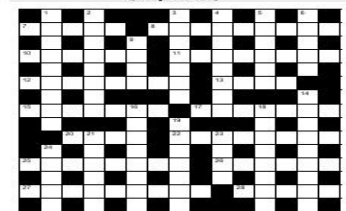
A poster of Hamare Baarah. X

disclaimers of 12 seconds each in the film. The court has also imposed a cost of ₹ 1 lakh on the makers for releasing the trailer before receiving Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) approval. The CBFC has agreed to re-certify the film based on the changes by June 20.

On Tuesday, the Bench said it watched the film starring actor Anna Kapoor and there was neither anything objectionable against the Koran nor against the Muslim community. The film instead aims at uplifting women in society, the judges said.

The court said the film-makers have removed certain objectionable scenes in the first trailer. However, the court would impose a cost on them for releasing the trailer before receiving CBFC certification.

THE CROSSWORD 14206



Across

- 7 Say, figures that can be seen in eyes (5)
- 8 Stoking rural ire about government is unconventional (9)
- 10 To beat it funny, so to say! (6)
- 11 Stokes has tea and fresh idly regularly (8)
- 12 Composure seen in a card game (8)

SUDOKU

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

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

1 Settled laptop due somehow (9)
 2 Drug within iodine stops spread of endemic (8)
 3 Assumed Edward will stem the rot (7)
 4 Mysore's emblem maintained in duplicate (8)
 5 Charge included designated driver's negligence primarily is unexpected (6)
 6 Female faces troubles and collapses (5)
 7 Avoid socializing primarily with crude person (4)
 8 One less than majority (9)
 9 Epics rewritten with people's illustration (8)
 10 Hot and relevant reading covered (8)
 11 Basically tourists visit spaces built for viewpoints (7)
 12 Shocked that a network's down (6)
 13 Ready husband for a walk (4)
 14 Medico's liquid could be tea perhaps (5)

FAITH

Mental stability vital

If there are a hundred reasons to be happy, a man can find a thousand to be unhappy, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse. But a man never loses his peace of mind.

Sage Saunaka says Yudhishtira is a jnan. The reason for this, according to the sage, is that Yudhishtira's intellect is stronger than his mind.

A person must have certain qualities to have a sharp intellect, says Saunaka. He must want to listen to words of wisdom, and he must actually listen to them. He must analyse what he hears.

Whatever he grasps from this analysis must be retained and not forgotten. He must try to understand the meaning of things he did not know till then. He must comprehend the inner meaning and the import of any advice given by wise men.

He must keep undesirable things and qualities away. If a man has these qualities, then he will be saved from the dangers that come from riches.

Saunaka then recounts what Janaka had said. One can find a cure for diseases of the body. Mental unrest is more difficult to tackle.

A person who is mentally disturbed can try yoga, that is uninterrupted meditation, for relief.

A lot of unhappiness comes from self-pity. We think we are the only ones suffering in this world and that everyone else is happy. Our thoughts can affect our health too, and self-pity will ruin our health. Envy can affect mental health and bodily health.

PM inaugurates Nalanda University campus in Bihar

The Hindu Bureau

PATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University, an international university, close to the site of the ancient ruins of Nalanda at Rajgir in Bihar.

Asserting that Nalanda is a symbol of India's academic heritage and vibrant cultural exchange, Mr. Modi said, "Nalanda is the proclamation of this truth that books may burn in the flames of fire, but the flames of fire cannot destroy knowledge. Nalanda is an identity, respect, and pride."

Wide representation

He expressed his happiness over the presence of representatives of many countries for the inauguration. He said the new campus proved that Bihar was on the path of development.

Parliament established Nalanda University through the Nalanda University Act, 2010.

The Act formed the basis for implementing the decisions arrived at the second East Asia Summit in the Philippines in 2007 for the establishment of the university as an "international institution for pur-



Glorious expanse: The campus of Nalanda University has an amphitheatre that can seat 2,000 people. @ICHIRAGPASWAN/X

suit of intellectual, philosophical, historical, and spiritual studies" and at the fourth summit in Thailand in 2009.

It started functioning in 2014 from a makeshift location with 14 students and the construction work started in 2017.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and 17 Ambassadors from participating countries attended the event. Bihar Governor Rajendra Arlekar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy CMs Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Sinha were present.

Before inaugurating the campus, the PM visited the ancient ruins of Nalanda and planted a sapling of the Bodhi tree brought from Bodhi Gaya.

Nalanda University

Chancellor Arvind Panagariya and Interim Vice-Chancellor Abhay Kumar Singh were present.


In his address, Mr. Modi said, "The renaissance of Nalanda University near its ancient ruins will introduce India's potential to the world. Nalanda is not just a renaissance of India's past, the heritage of many countries and Asia is linked to it. In days to come, Nalanda University will once again become a major centre for our cultural exchange."

The ancient Nalanda University was established in the 5th century and attracted students from all over the world. The ancient university flourished for 800 years before it was burnt down by invaders in the 12th century.

Foundation and Early Years:



Nalanda University was founded in the 5th century CE by Kumaragupta I of the Gupta dynasty.



It was located in present-day Bihar, India, and became a renowned center of learning.

Academic Excellence:

Nalanda was one of the world's first residential universities, with dormitories for students.

It attracted scholars from across Asia, including China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Mongolia, Turkey, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia.



The curriculum included a wide range of subjects like theology, grammar, logic, astronomy, metaphysics, medicine, and philosophy.

Structure and Facilities:

The university was spread over an area of about 14 hectares.

It comprised multiple temples, monasteries, meditation halls, classrooms, lakes, and parks.

The library, known as Dharmaganja, was a nine-story building that housed thousands of manuscripts.

- 
- **Famous Scholars and Teachers:**
 - Nalanda was home to many eminent scholars, including Aryabhata, the great mathematician and astronomer.
 - The Chinese pilgrim Xuanzang (Hsuan Tsang) visited Nalanda in the 7th century and studied there for several years. He documented his experiences, providing valuable insights into the university.
- 

Patronage and Support:


The university received patronage from various Indian dynasties such as the Guptas, Harsha, and Pala kings.

Foreign rulers and scholars also contributed to its growth and development.

Decline and Destruction:



Nalanda University began to decline in the 12th century due to political instability and invasions.



It was destroyed by Bakhtiyar Khilji, a Turkish Muslim invader, around 1193 CE. The libraries were burned, and many monks were killed or fled.

Rediscovery and Archaeological Excavations:



The ruins of Nalanda were rediscovered in the 19th century by the British archaeologist Alexander Cunningham.



Extensive archaeological excavations have been conducted since then, revealing the remains of the ancient university.

Modern Revival:

In the early 2000s, efforts to revive Nalanda University gained momentum.

The Government of India, along with several East Asian countries, initiated the revival project.

In 2010, the Nalanda University Act was passed, and the new Nalanda University was established near the ancient site.

The new university aims to revive the ancient tradition of Nalanda by promoting higher education and research in various fields.

Inauguration of New Campus:

The new campus of Nalanda University was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

It includes various schools and departments, such as the School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religion, and the School of Historical Studies.

The new campus is designed to blend modern amenities with the historical and cultural heritage of ancient Nalanda.



- **In news**

- The project to revive Nalanda was officially proposed by President APJ Abdul Kalam in 2006.
- In 2007, the Bihar Assembly passed the University of Nalanda Bill to facilitate the creation of a new international university near the site of the ancient Nalanda.
- In 2010, the Indian Parliament replaced this with the Nalanda University Bill, declaring it a "national importance" university.




The university received support from 17 countries including Australia, Bangladesh, and China.



The campus design, selected through an international competition, was proposed by architect B V Doshi's Vastu Shilpa Consultants.



The new campus attempts to match the architectural and geographical setting of ancient Nalanda.



By 2022, 90% of the campus's construction was complete, accommodating up to 7,500 students and staff.

The university offers two-year Master's courses, PhD programs, and various diploma and certificate courses.

Nalanda University has five schools: School of Buddhist Studies, School of Historical Studies, School of Ecology and Environmental Studies, School of Languages and Literature, and School of Management Studies.

Ancient Nalanda, active from the 5th to 13th century CE, was a prominent center of learning with over 10,000 students and 2,000 teachers.

- Consider the following statements regarding the newly inaugurated Nalanda University:
 1. The new campus of Nalanda University is located in Rajgir, approximately 100 km from Patna.
 2. The initiative to revive Nalanda University was officially proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2006.
 3. Nalanda University received international support from 17 countries, including Australia and China.
 4. By 2022, 90% of the construction of Nalanda University's new campus was completed, accommodating up to 7,500 students and staff.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- A. 1, 3, and 4 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

Invisible suffering of Rohingya refugees

A t a recent group psychosocial support session for Rohingya refugees in Delhi, women burst into laughter when the therapist asked about feeling anxious at night. "I was kept up paralysed on many nights. My hands and legs numb. Sometimes there is a fire in our camp again," Rozina laughed, acting out her paralysis. Another added, "everytime there is a loud sound we run out half naked, without our burpas, fearing another fire. There is no time to cover." All 20 women in the room were laughing with tears in their eyes.

Psychotherapists say that laughter can be a defense mechanism that protects trauma survivors from feeling the depth of their actual pain. According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) data from December 2023, more than 22,000 Rohingya refugees live in India. Most of them fled Myanmar between 2012 and 2017 when the Myanmar military started the "clearance operation," killing Rohingya people, raping women, and destroying their villages in Rakhine state. "I fled from Myanmar when I was 16 years old. I remember everything along the route; murders and beheaded bodies lying," says Moinna, a 24-year-old mother of two. Living in shanty-like huts in Delhi, she and others here have witnessed fires burning down their huts. These fires are accidental sometimes, but at other times, they are started by members of nationalist extremist groups, who have claimed responsibility for them on social media.

The repeated fires in the shanty towns are a trigger and re-traumatise Moinna. "I get so scared when a fire starts or even when there are loud noises, that I pass out."

She has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, a mental health condition where the patient can have two or more separate



Privala Sur
Founder and executive director of The Azadi Project

identities. Moinna manifests at least three to four different identities, all connected to her extremely traumatic past. Sometimes she becomes a four-year-old child whose mother was killed by the junta army in Myanmar, a child Moinna then took under her wing. At other times she takes on the identity of a teenage Rohingya boy who is angry and violent.

Moinna isn't alone in reporting acute mental health illness. At a women's center run by my organisation, The Azadi Project and supported by Mariwala Health Initiative, many women have reported fainting incidents after bouts of anxiety, dissociative episodes, and self-harm. The organisation works only with women, but many men are also dealing with acute mental health illnesses.

While their trauma dates back to the genocide in Myanmar, the discriminatory conditions they face in India, where they are officially labeled as "illegal immigrants," and denied full access to education, basic health, legal services and formal employment opportunities, make matters worse. The growing anti-Muslim, anti-refugee xenophobia pushed them further into live in shadows and absolute

There needs to be international attention to the escalating mental health epidemic of Rohingya refugees in India

considerable time in detention. Moinna's own sister-in-law, Amira, was also in detention for nearly three years after being randomly locked up during the pandemic. She was released only after she became paralysed and very sick. Amira, like most other Rohingya refugees, didn't have a place to process her trauma and heal. An introvert who barely stepped outside, limiting herself to housework, Amira became further withdrawn after her year in detention.

Both Amira and Moinna are now receiving mental health support but this support is just a drop given the pressing need for this population. Civil society organisations in India that work for Rohingya refugees are starved for funding as most FCRA licenses that permit receiving foreign funding have been cancelled. In the last few years, many programs that support Rohingya refugees have either shut down or been reduced to a bare minimum. Only a few UNHCR-supported organisations continue to work in this space but they do so cautiously and not at full capacity.

While there has been considerable attention to the plight of close to a million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, there needs to be international attention to the escalating mental health epidemic of Rohingya refugees in India. We need an urgent multi-pronged approach.

First, we must address and mitigate the core causes of re-traumatisation, providing the Rohingya people a life with more dignity, agency and official identity in India. Second, we must enable access to primary and tertiary healthcare facilities for everyone who holds a UNHCR card, and third, we must support grassroots organisations to build safe spaces where the Rohingya refugees can access support without fear and start their healing journeys.

Decades of uncertainty for Tibetans

There are several concerns among young Tibetans about their future

Milaina Singh
m.singh@thehindu.co.in

Neither foreigners nor refugees, more than 60 years after Tibetans arrived in India in the wake of Chinese occupation, their status is in a quandary.

In 1959, thousands of Tibetans arrived in India in the wake of the flight of the Dalai Lama. The government provided asylum and assistance towards a temporary settlement. While they are third-generation settlers now, the future of the Tibetan movement, India's citizenship laws and India not being part of the 1951 United Nations Convention on Refugees complicate the issue.

To live in India, they must obtain registration certificates (RCs) applicable to other foreigners under the Foreigners Registration Act, 1946 and the Registration of Foreigners Rule. For travelling abroad and entering from Nepal, another set of documents - Identity Certificate (IC) and Special Entry Permits (SEPs) - are required.

While the United Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) changed the norms, making the RC renewal process online and relaxing the period of renewal to five years.

Officials and Tibetan activists point out that in the past two decades, there has been a record migration of Tibetans to foreign countries. According to "The Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy" formulated by the MHA, the Tibetan population in India stood at 1.10 lakh in 2009.

According to MHA's 2023-24 Annual Report, "per the latest Census 2019 conducted by Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC), the population of Tibetans currently in India was 73,404." The Indian go-

vernment formulated the policy nearly three years after the Dalai Lama's CTCRC. There was a need to revise the policy in the wake of problems faced by the community.

"India in the face of Chinese occupation, their status is in a quandary. In 1959, thousands of Tibetans arrived in India in the wake of the flight of the Dalai Lama. The government provided asylum and assistance towards a temporary settlement. While they are third-generation settlers now, the future of the Tibetan movement, India's citizenship laws and India not being part of the 1951 United Nations Convention on Refugees complicate the issue."

"There is a creeping sense of uncertainty about their future among young Tibetans. Inevitably concerns are about what will happen to them when HHDL is no more as all hopes are centered around him. As a result of migration of Tibetans for a variety of reasons, especially young Tibetans from India, the community has shrunk in numbers. Since the last general election, the Tibetan Parliament (in-exile), could have shown greater sense of unity, and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in 2018 issued comprehensive guidelines to issue passports to Tibetan refugees, subject to police verifications.



years to be processed. Such delays of between one and three years in being granted ICs, inevitably cause severe difficulties for Tibetans trying to plan international trips for school or other purposes and opportunities," TLA said.

"We are recognised as foreigners living in India. Everything is temporary. We cannot buy properties. We have lost half of our population to foreign countries where they acquire citizenship," Tibetan activist and poet Tenzin Tsundue said. "Indian citizenship comes with a caveat, the government says we will have to give up the benefits and our rights to visit the settlements in camps without permits issued by the government agencies," he said.

While the Citizenship Act, 1955 states that those born in India between January 26, 1950 and on or before July 1, 1987, are citizens by birth, there are few Tibetan citizens who have acquired Indian citizenship after moving court. After a series of court judgments, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in 2018 issued comprehensive guidelines to issue passports to Tibetan refugees, subject to police verifications.

Mr. Tsundue added that no textbooks teach about the Tibetan movement. "Who owe gratitude to the government, there is no buzz about the cause after the 2020 Galwan border clash but that is not enough, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has not even met the Dalai Lama," the Tibetan activist said.

Diseases with higher burden in Asia and Africa lack research funding

These neglected tropical diseases typically affect populations in the poorest parts of the world

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Loss to 677 million people in India required treatment against tropical diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, and snakebite envenoming in 2021, yet global research about these ailments continues to be heavily underfunded compared to illnesses such as HIV/AIDS. These diseases are termed as Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) by the World Health Organization (WHO).

NTDs primarily affect populations in tropical and subtropical regions, and they have historically received less attention and fewer resources. The affected populations are typically among the poorest in the world. These diseases contribute to a cycle of poverty, as they cause long-term disability, social stigma, and economic burden, which in turn hinders economic development and attracts less commercial investment in treatments and research. They also lead to other health problems such as anaemia, blindness, chronic pain, infertility and disfigurement.

Research and development for NTDs have been historically underfunded compared to diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria as shown in Chart 1. It shows the annual research and development funding for NTDs in 2022 (\$, adjusted for inflation). The COVID-19 pandemic received a total research funding of \$4.22 billion in 2022. HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria received funding in the range of \$600 million to \$1.35 billion that year. Whereas, diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, leprosy and snakebite envenoming received funding in the range of \$10 million to \$80 million.

Map 2 shows the estimated number of people requiring treatment against NTDs in 2021. With 677 million people requiring treatment, India tops the charts followed by Nigeria with 139 million,

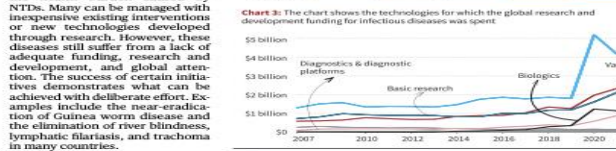
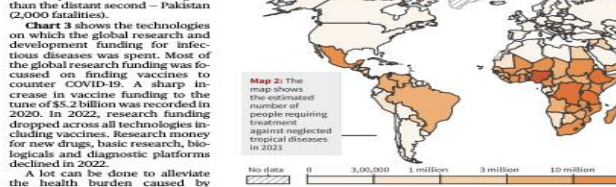
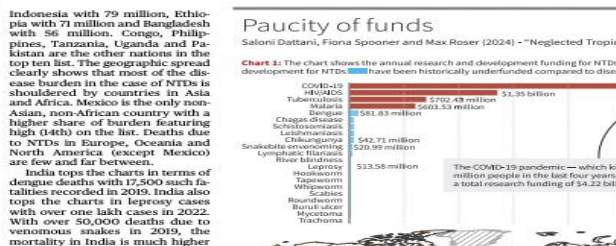


Chart 1: The chart shows the annual research and development funding for NTDs in 2022 (\$, adjusted for inflation). Research and development for NTDs have been historically underfunded compared to diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. Chart 2: The chart shows the technologies for which the global research and development funding for infectious diseases was spent. Map 1: The world map shows the global distribution of NTDs. The map is color-coded to show the number of people requiring treatment for NTDs in 2021.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 20, 1974

Cess on tickets 'will help film industry'

Madras, June 19: The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. I. K. Gujral, has today said that the Centre expected to raise of five paise in cinema tickets and the amount would be ploughed back to help the film industry get "healthy finance". Mr. Gujral hoped that at the next meeting of Information Ministers, a decision would be reached on evoking a uniform pattern of entertainment tax.

Mr. Gujral said that the Government was formulating a policy to make more colour film available for regional production. He hoped that with the formation of the National Film Corporation in a couple of months, the funds of the Film Finance Corporation would be augmented. When the Film Council was formed, the industry could have a say on how best to utilise the cess fund.

Mr. Gujral regretted that Kodak was not cooperating with Government both in the matter of Indianisation and supply of Jumbo colour rolls to HPF. He hoped that the film world "listen even at this stage". But if it felt that the Indian market was of no consequence to it, the country's national policy and pride could not wait for its decision. Imports from that company might have to be stopped and the film industry would have to make do with what was available. The Minister said that a Bill to regulate the working conditions of employees of the film industry would be introduced soon in Parliament.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 20, 1924

Indian Municipalities.

London, June 18: In the Commons, Sir Charles Tate asked what steps the Government of India was taking to improve the efficiency of Indian municipalities, especially those of Bengal and the United Provinces.

Mr. Richards replied that local self-government being a transferred provincial subject, it was not open to the Government of India to interfere in its administration. The efficiency of municipalities in any particular province was the responsibility of the Minister in charge of Local self-government in that province and through him of the Provincial Legislative Council.

Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

More than 1 billion people, one-sixth of the world's population, are affected by NTDs, which cause malnutrition, disfigurement, and social discrimination.

1 billion people
children and adults



INTESTINAL WORMS

infections are caused by exposure to contaminated soil through ingestion or contact with the skin.



+ 270 million preschool-age children
+ 600 million school-age children
are at risk of infection



ONCHOCERCIASIS, the world's second leading infectious cause of blindness, is caused by frequent bites by infected black flies.



Onchocerciasis is currently present in 36 countries and **99%** of the **37 million** people infected live in Africa.

Approximately **770,000** people are blinded or severely visually impaired by onchocerciasis.



LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS (LF)

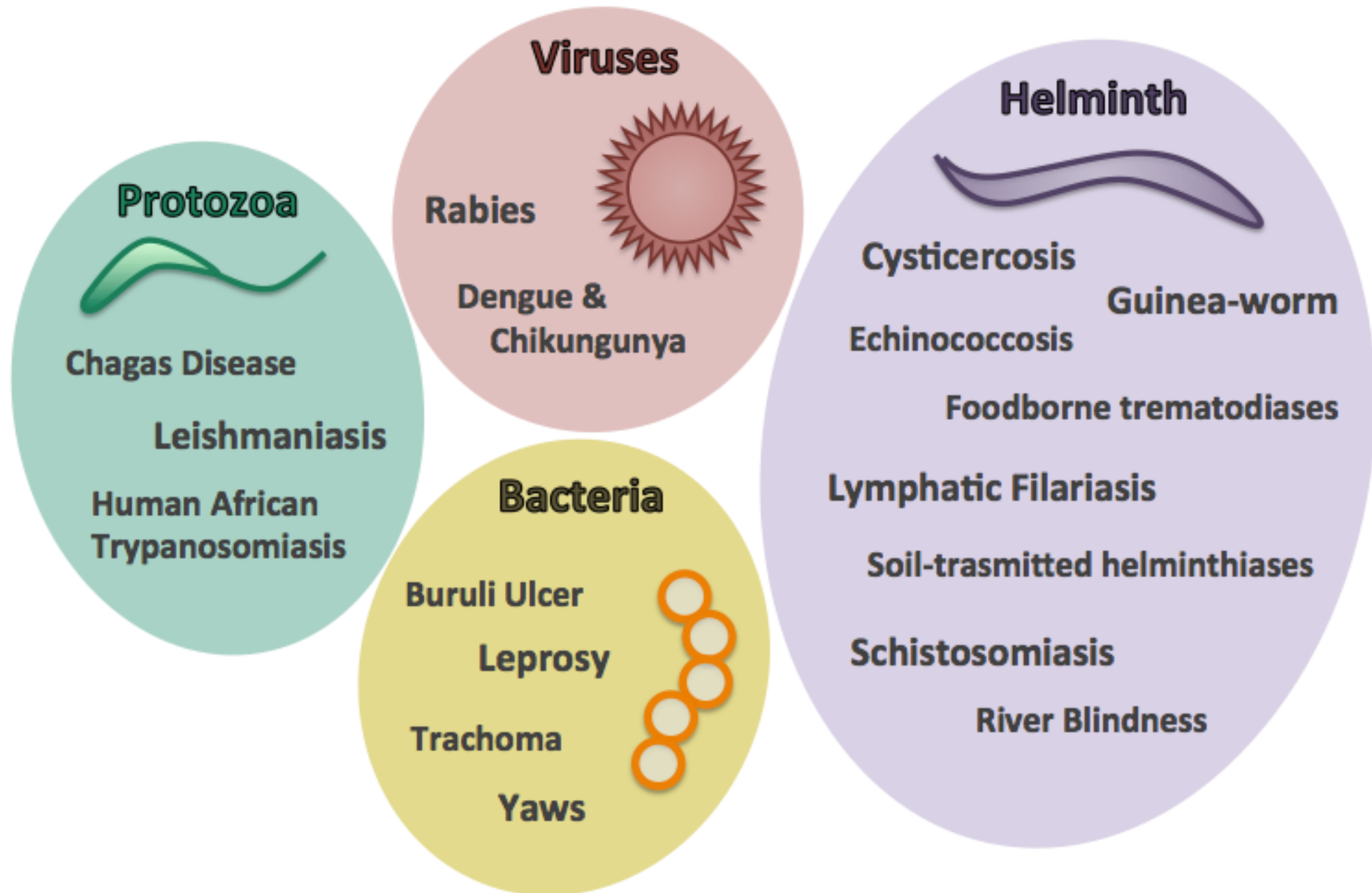
is a mosquito-borne worm disease that leads to elephantiasis, which can cause body parts to painfully swell.

Approximately **120 million** people have lymphatic filariasis, with about **40 million** disfigured and incapacitated by the disease.

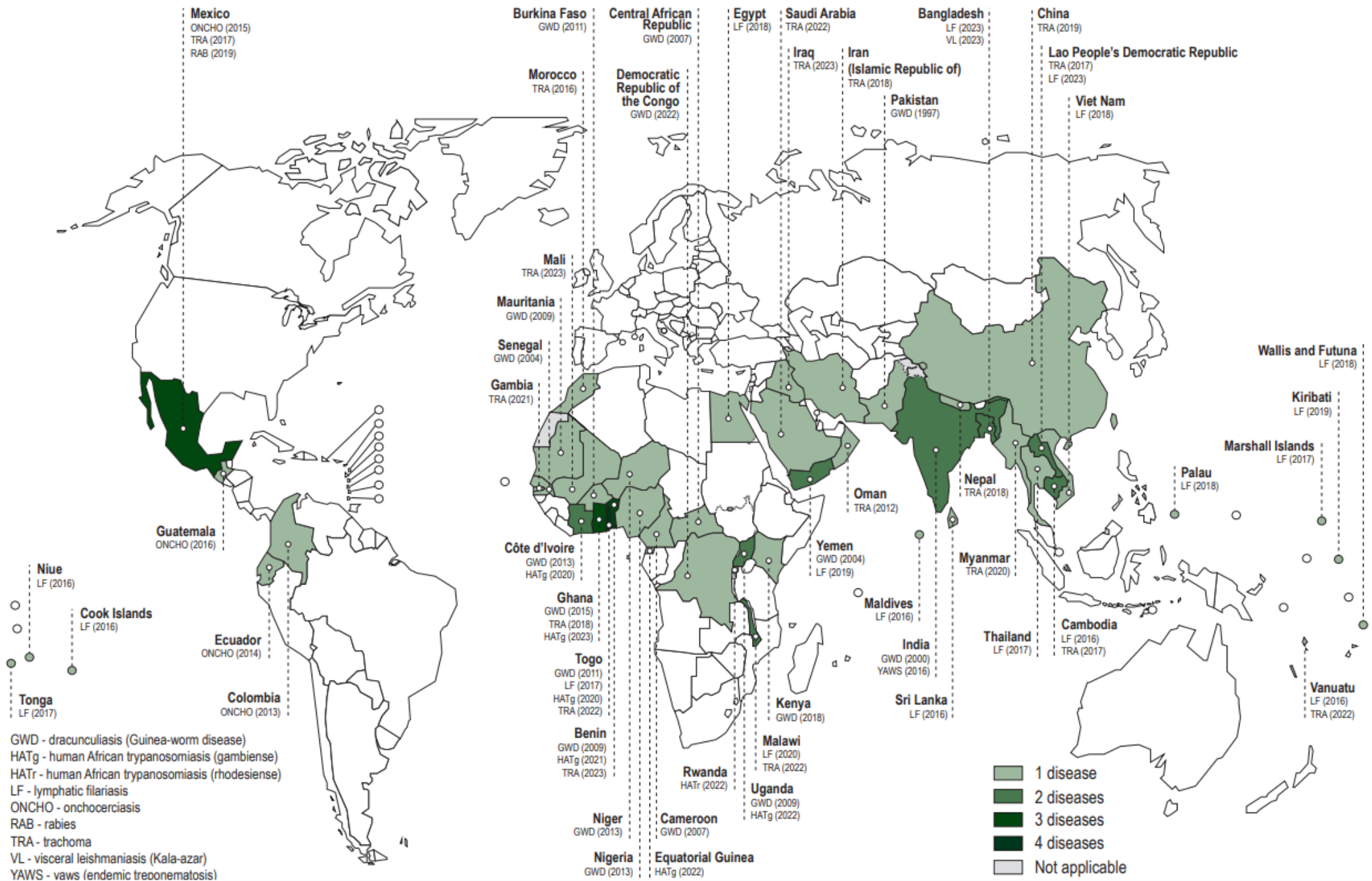


120 million
people with LF

Neglected Tropical Diseases



Countries that have eliminated at least one NTD as of December 2023



World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day

30 JAN

World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (NTDs) is a global healthcare event celebrated on 30th January every year since 2021 with the goal of celebrating achievements made toward control of the World Neglected Tropical Diseases and encouraging everyone to join the growing movement in eradicating and eliminating Neglected Tropical Diseases.





Close to 677 million people in India required treatment for tropical diseases like dengue, chikungunya, and snakebite envenoming in 2021.




These diseases are termed as Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) by the World Health Organization (WHO).

India had the highest number of people requiring treatment for NTDs in 2021, followed by Nigeria, Indonesia, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh.



India had high mortality rates from dengue (17,500 deaths in 2019) and venomous snakebites (50,000 deaths in 2019).



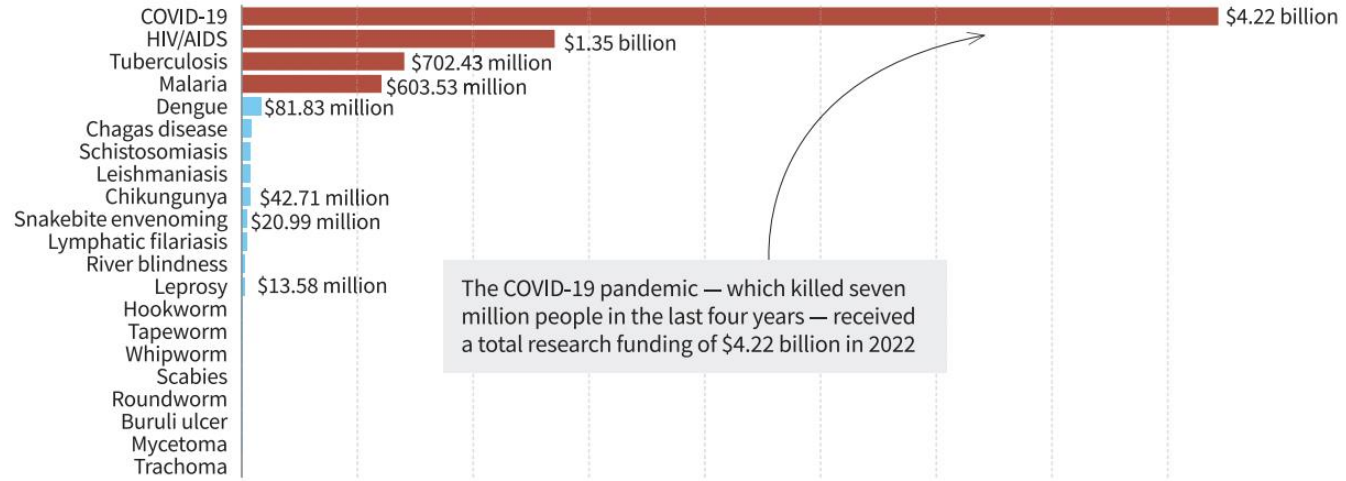
Research funding in 2022 saw a decline in new drugs, basic research, and diagnostic platforms due to a focus on COVID-19.

- Consider the following statements regarding Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs):
 1. Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) primarily affect populations in tropical and subtropical regions and have historically received less attention compared to diseases like HIV/AIDS.
 2. In 2021, India had the highest number of people requiring treatment for NTDs, followed by Nigeria and Indonesia.
 3. Global research funding in 2022 prioritized new drugs and diagnostic platforms for NTDs over COVID-19 research.
 4. Successful initiatives have nearly eradicated Guinea worm disease and eliminated river blindness in many countries.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
 - A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 1, 2, and 4 only
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 3, and 4 only

Paucity of funds

Saloni Dattani, Fiona Spooner and Max Roser (2024) - "Neglected Tropical Diseases", published in Our World in Data

Chart 1: The chart shows the annual research and development funding for NTDs in 2022 (\$, adjusted for inflation). Research and development for NTDs have been historically underfunded compared to diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria



The COVID-19 pandemic — which killed seven million people in the last four years — received a total research funding of \$4.22 billion in 2022

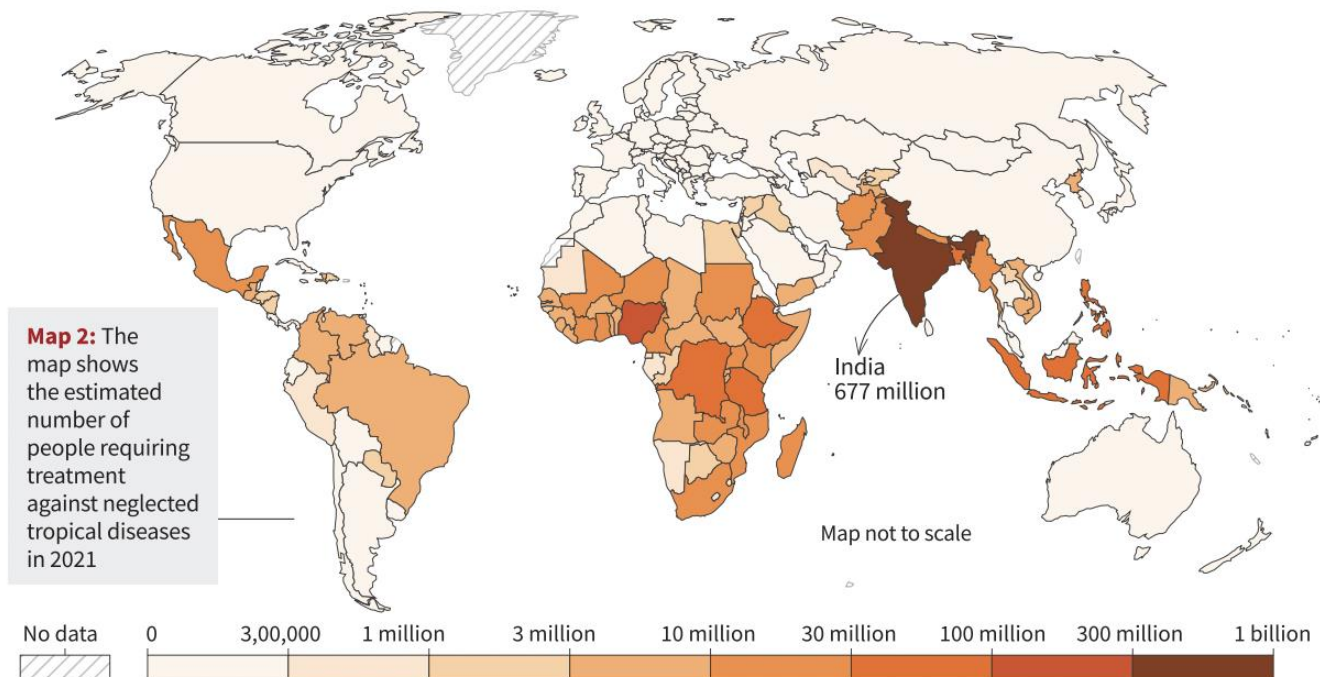
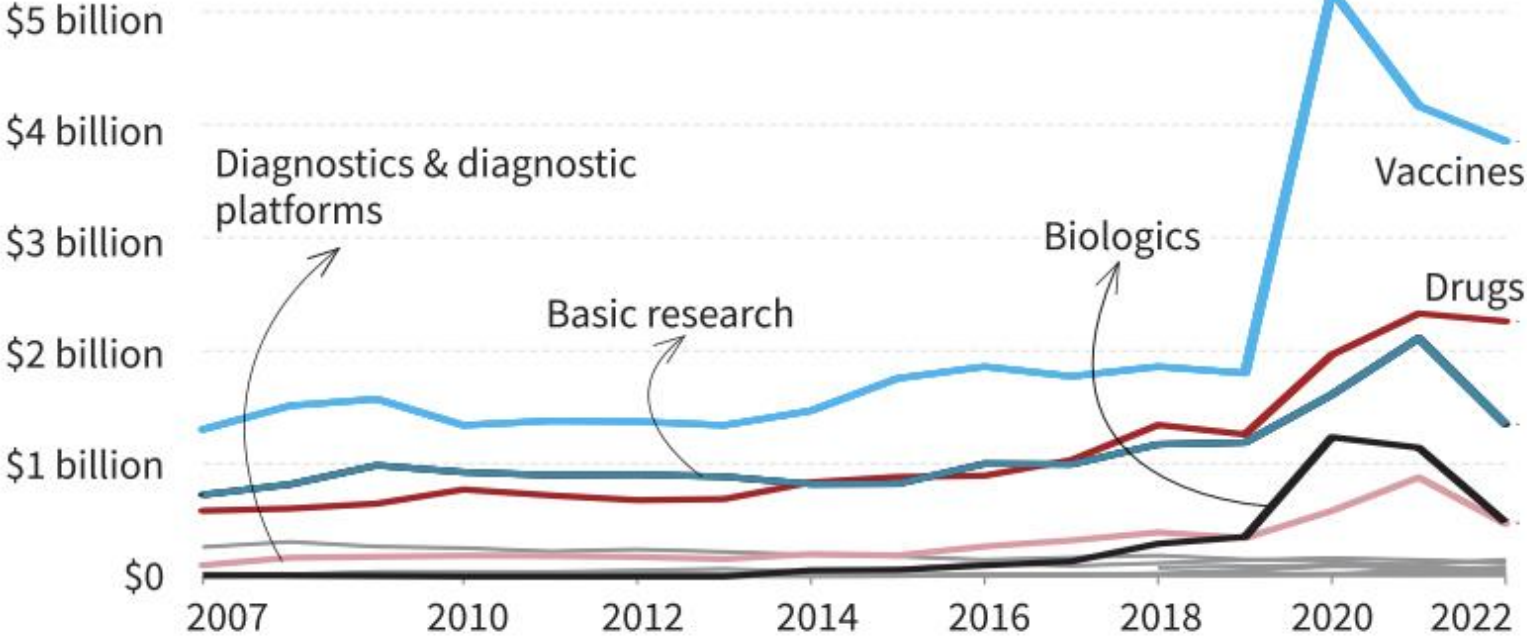


Chart 3: The chart shows the technologies for which the global research and development funding for infectious diseases was spent



PRETORIA

South Africa's Ramaphosa sworn in for second full term as President



South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa was sworn in for a second full term as President after his weakened African National Congress (ANC) struck a hard-won government coalition deal to remain in power. The 71-year-old Ramaphosa is expected to announce his cabinet in the coming days, as talks with coalition members continue. AFP

YANGON

Myanmar authorities arrest 22 for marking Suu Kyi's birthday



Myanmar authorities arrested 22 people for marking the birthday of imprisoned democracy figurehead Aung San Suu Kyi on Wednesday. The police in Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city, arrested 22 people who had posted pictures of themselves wearing flowers in their hair — long a signature Suu Kyi look. AFP

TAIPEI

Taiwan President says island 'will not bow' to pressure from China



Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said that China was attempting to force the self-ruled island into submission but that it would not bow to pressure. Speaking at a Wednesday press conference marking his first month in office, Mr. Lai said: "The annexation of Taiwan is a national policy of the People's Republic of China." AFP

MANILA

Philippine V-P Sara Duterte quits Cabinet ahead of midterm election



Philippine Vice-President Sara Duterte said on Wednesday she has resigned from the Cabinet of President Ferdinand Marcos, with some relations between the two families turning into a public rift in recent months. Ms. Duterte gave no clear reason for her move but she leaves her post as Education Minister too. AFP

Russia, N. Korea sign defence pact, vow to assist each other if attacked

Kim says the two countries have a 'fiery friendship' and that the deal is the 'strongest ever treaty' between them. Putin's visit to Pyongyang comes amid U.S. criticism that the North is supporting Moscow in its war on Ukraine with arms supplies

Associated Press SEUL

Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Wednesday signed a new partnership that includes a vow of mutual aid if either country faces "aggression." In a pact that came as both face escalating stand-offs with the West. Details of the deal were not immediately clear, but it could mark the strongest connection between Moscow and Pyongyang since the end of the Cold War. Both leaders describe it as a major upgrade of their relations, covering security, trade, investment and



Mutual beneficiaries: Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong-un exchange documents at a signing ceremony in Pyongyang on Wednesday. AP

for its war in Ukraine in exchange for economic assistance and technology transfers that could enhance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear weapons and missile program. Mr. Kim said the two countries had a "fiery friendship" and that the deal was the "strongest ever treaty" between them, putting the relationship at the level of an alliance. He vowed full support for Russia's war in Ukraine. Mr. Putin said that it was a "breakthrough document," reflecting shared desire to move relations to a higher level. North Korea and the former Soviet Union signed a treaty in 1961,

which experts say necessitated Moscow's military intervention if the North came under an attack. The deal was discarded after the collapse of the USSR, replaced by a pact in 2000 that offered weaker security assurances. Putin's foreign affairs adviser said the leaders exchanged gifts after the talks. In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Mr. Putin's visit to North Korea illustrates how Russia tries, "in desperation, to strengthen relations with countries that can provide it with what it needs to continue the war of aggression that it started against Ukraine."

Nine killed in blasts at an ammunition depot in Chad

Associated Press NDJAMENA

Nine persons were killed and more than 40 injured when a fire set off explosions at a military ammunition depot in Chad's capital, an official said on Wednesday. Government spokesman Abderraman Koullamallah said 46 people were being treated for various injuries after the explosions from their sleep late on Tuesday in the Goudji district of the capital, N'Djamena. The situation has been brought under control, Mr. Koullamallah said.

Busy bay



An array of boats on the Sydney Harbour, with the Sydney Harbour Bridge and buildings in the central business district (CBD). AFP

The explosions lit up the sky as thick smoke covered the clouds in the West African nation, setting off frantic efforts to extinguish the fire as residents fled their homes for safety. The cause of the fire was not immediately clear, and President Mahamat Debby Itno said an investigation would be conducted. "Peace to the souls of the victims, sincere condolences to the bereaved families and quick recovery to the injured," Debby said. He later visited the scene of the accident.

People living in the area panicked, thinking the explosion was an armed attack, resident Omar Mahamat said. Local media reported the blasts started just before midnight as nearby buildings shook and ammunition was thrown from the depot with explosive force. Authorities called on residents to stay out of the area, which was taken over by security forces gathered in the scattered artillery shells.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards declared a terrorist entity by the Canadian government

Agence France-Presse OTTAWA

Ottawa on Wednesday listed Iran's Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist entity while calling on Canadians in the country to leave. "Our government has made the decision to list the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps as a terrorist entity under the Criminal Code," Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc said. Foreign Minister Melanie Joly, noting that Ottawa broke off diplomatic ties with Tehran several years ago, urged Canadians against travel to Iran. "For those who are in Iran right now, it's time to come back home," she added.

Ottawa asks citizens in the West Asian country to return, advises others against travel

The terrorism listing bars members of the Guards from entering Canada and Canadians from having any dealings with individual members or the group. Any assets of the Guards or its members held in Canada may also be seized. Iranian expats and families of the victims of Flight PS752, which was downed by Iran shortly after take-off from Tehran in January 2020, killing all 176 passen-

gers and crew, including 85 Canadian citizens and permanent residents, have long pressed Ottawa to designate the militia as a terrorist entity. MPs last month unanimously voted to do so. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's administration had, until now, expressed a reluctance, explaining that a terror listing could be too broad and inadvertently impact Iranians in Canada opposed to the regime. The Canadian blacklist includes nearly 80 entities including al-Qaeda, Hezbollah, the Taliban, the Islamic State group and the Proud Boys, a North American neo-fascist militant group.

Climate activists of 'Just Stop Oil' vandalise Stonehenge monument

Sriram Lakshman LONDON

Climate activists of the 'Just Stop Oil' group sprayed orange powder on the stones of Stonehenge, the prehistoric rock monument in Wiltshire, England, on Wednesday. The attack happened a day before the summer solstice (June 20) when crowds gather at the site. The monument, thought to have been built in several stages between 3000 BC and 1500 BC, was likely significant, historically, as a gathering place for rituals during the summer and winter solstices. The Canadian blacklist was likely significant, historically, as a gathering place for rituals during the summer and winter solstices. The Canadian blacklist was likely significant, historically, as a gathering place for rituals during the summer and winter solstices.

Israel's use of heavy bombs in Gaza Strip violates laws of war



Little mercy: The UN report cites the suspected use of up to 2,000-pound bombs on residential buildings and schools. AFP

Agence France-Presse GENEVA

Israel's repeated use of heavy bombs in the densely-populated Gaza Strip indicates repeated violations of the laws of war, the UN said on Wednesday, highlighting six attacks that killed at least 218 people. In a fresh report, immediately slammed by Israel as deeply biased, the United Nations rights office provided details on the six attacks, which it said were emblematic of a concerning pattern. They involved the suspected use of up to 2,000-pound bombs on residential buildings, a school, refugee camps and a market. The rights office, known by the acronym OHCHR, said it had verified 218 deaths in those attacks, which were carried out in the early months of the war on October 7, but said it had information indicating the number of fatalities could be much higher.

The requirement to select means and methods of warfare that avoid or at the very least minimise to every extent civilian harm appears to have been consistently violated in Israel's bombing campaign, UN rights chief Volker Turk said. The incidents detailed in the report did not include a key and controversial blast early in the war on Gaza's Al-Ahli hospital compound, where Hamas talked about hundreds killed in what they said was an Israeli strike. Asked why this incident did not figure on the list, Mr. Sungah suggested the team had not had enough information to include it. Israel harshly criticised the report, suggesting it aimed to "lambast and single-out Israel, while further shielding Hamas terrorists in Gaza."

The report comes after the series of Israeli strikes, exemplified by the six attacks carried out between October 9 and December 2, suggested that Israel's military had repeatedly violated fundamental principles of the laws of war. Focus on Israel Ajith Sungah, head of OHCHR's office in the Palestinian territories, said that the report focused heavily on Israeli actions, since the weapons used by Israel's military were far more destructive. The missiles fired by Hamas while "absolutely unacceptable," he said, "have not caused significant killing during the war" by comparison.

Ship attacked by Yemen's Houthis sinks in Red Sea

Associated Press DUBAI, UAE

A bulk carrier sank days after an attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels believed to have killed one mariner on board, authorities said early on Wednesday, the second ship sunk in the rebels' campaign.

The sinking of the Tutor in the Red Sea marks what appears to be a new escalation by the Iranian-backed Houthis in their campaign targeting shipping through the vital maritime corridor over the Israeli-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. The attack comes despite a months-long U.S.-led campaign in the region that has seen the Navy face its most-intense maritime fighting since World War II, with near-daily attacks targeting commercial vessels and warships. The Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned-and-operated Tutor sank in the Red Sea, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said in a warning to sailors in the region. The Houthis acknowledged the sinking. The U.S. military did not acknowledge the sinking, nor did it respond to requests for comment.

The Tutor came under attack about a week ago by a bomb-carrying Houthi drone boat in the Red Sea. John Kirby, a White House national security spokesman, said on Monday that the attack killed "a crew member who hailed from the Philippines." The Philippines has yet to acknowledge the death, but the man who had been aboard the Tutor has been missing for over a week in the Red Sea, which faces intense ongoing summer-time heat.

away, found common ground over the attack. United voice 'Just Stop Oil' is a disgrace, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said on social media site X. "The damage done to Stonehenge is outrageous. Just Stop Oil are pathetic," said leader of the Labour Party Keir Starmer, who is the frontrunner for the Prime Minister's post. Just Stop Oil members have attacked a number of culturally significant objects. Two activists in their 80s — a priest and a retired teacher — had smashed the case around the Magna Carta in the British Museum in May. In January, two other activists threw soup on the Mona Lisa at the Louvre in Paris.

Heritage damage: Climate activists spraying an orange substance

in connection with the incident, the police said. In a statement, the group said two of its members had "decorated" Stonehenge to demand an end to oil and gas burning and extraction by 2030.

Russia, N. Korea sign defence pact, vow to assist each other if attacked

Kim says the two countries have a 'fiery friendship,' and that the deal is the 'strongest ever treaty' between them; Putin's visit to Pyongyang comes amid U.S. criticism that the North is supporting Moscow in its war on Ukraine with arms supplies

Associated Press

SEOUL

Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Wednesday signed a new partnership that includes a vow of mutual aid if either country faces "aggression," in a pact that came as both face escalating stand-offs with the West.

Details of the deal were not immediately clear, but it could mark the strongest connection between Moscow and Pyongyang since the end of the Cold War. Both leaders described it as a major upgrade of their relations, covering security, trade, investment and



Mutual beneficiaries: Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong-un exchange documents at a signing ceremony in Pyongyang on Wednesday. AP

cultural and humanitarian ties.

The two met as Mr. Putin visited North Korea for the first time in 24 years. The summit came as the

U.S. and its allies express growing concerns over a possible arms arrangement in which the country provides Moscow with badly needed munitions

for its war in Ukraine in exchange for economic assistance and technology transfers that could enhance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear weapons and missile program.

Mr. Kim said the two countries had a "fiery friendship," and that the deal was the "strongest ever treaty" between them, putting the relationship at the level of an alliance. He vowed full support for Russia's war in Ukraine.

Mr. Putin said that it was a "breakthrough document" reflecting shared desire to move relations to a higher level.

North Korea and the former Soviet Union signed a treaty in 1961,

which experts say necessitated Moscow's military intervention if the North came under an attack. The deal was discarded after the collapse of the USSR, replaced by a pact in 2000 that offered weaker security assurances.

Putin's foreign affairs adviser said the leaders exchanged gifts after the talks.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Mr. Putin's visit to North Korea illustrates how Russia tries, "in desperation, to strengthen relations with countries that can provide it with what it needs to continue the war of aggression that it started against Ukraine."





Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un signed a new defense partnership.


The pact includes a vow of mutual aid if either country faces aggression.

The agreement marks the strongest connection between Moscow and Pyongyang since the end of the Cold War.

The deal aims to enhance security, trade, investment, and cultural relations. Putin's visit to North Korea was his first in 24 years.



The agreement was described as the "strongest ever treaty" between the two countries.



Concerns have been raised about a potential arms arrangement where North Korea supplies munitions to Russia for its war in Ukraine.

The deal includes economic assistance and technology transfers to North Korea.



The U.S. and its allies criticized the pact, viewing it as a way for Russia to bolster its war efforts in Ukraine.



The previous defense pact between North Korea and the Soviet Union, signed in 1961, was replaced in 2000 with weaker security assurances.

- Consider the following statements regarding the recent defense pact between Russia and North Korea:
 1. The new defense partnership between Russia and North Korea includes a vow of mutual aid if either country faces aggression.
 2. This agreement is considered the strongest connection between Moscow and Pyongyang since the end of World War II.
 3. The pact includes provisions for economic assistance and technology transfers to North Korea.
 4. The U.S. and its allies have welcomed the pact as a positive step towards global security.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, and 3 only
- D. 1, 3, and 4 only

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'Sheltered militants, acted as guide': First arrest in Reasi attack

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, JUNE 19

THE JAMMU and Kashmir police have arrested a "prime militant associate" in connection with the June 9 Reasi terror attack, in which a bus carrying pilgrims was targeted, killing nine people. This is the first arrest in the case.

A major breakthrough has been achieved in the case... pertaining to the terrorist attack on a pilgrim bus which was coming from Shiv Khori in Jammu. One terror associate, narasay Hakam Din, 45, of Rajouri district has been arrested by J&K Police at Reasi. This person was involved in harbouring the terrorists multiple times, along with providing food and shelter. The said person also acted as a guide and helped them reach the spot of the incident. The arrested person is a prime militant associate who helped the terrorists in execution of the attack. Further interrogation and investigation of the case is going on," said Senior Superintendent of Police Mohit Sharma.



NEW NALANDA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the ruins of the ancient university at Nalanda in Bihar Wednesday, inaugurating the new Nalanda University campus, he said it should be the centre of India's identity with 'perennial flow of knowledge'.

EXPRESS NETWORK

PELOSI MEETS THE DALAI LAMA, TAKES SWIPE AT CHINA
CAR RUNS OVER MAN IN CHENNAI, MP'S DAUGHTER HELD

Sonia-Nehru effect: PM museum won't accept pvt papers with secrecy terms

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

WITH CONGRESS leader Sonia Gandhi reclaiming boxes of papers from Jawaharlal Nehru's private collection in 2008 (donated by the Gandhi family, and also barring access to several sets of these papers, the Prime Minister's Museum & Library (PMML) has now decided that it will not permit future donors of private papers of eminent personalities to impose indefinite conditions on the declassification of such material.



Sonia took away boxes of Nehru papers in 2008

Going forward, the PMML will permit a five-year embargo before accepting any new set of papers from donors from the

13 ARRESTS IN BIHAR, 5 IN GUJARAT OVER NEET

As NEET reaches Shah table, NET cancelled, hitting 9 lakh students

Government suspects malpractice in test for PhD, teaching job aspirants

Congress calls for nationwide protests over irregularities in NEET tomorrow

ABHINAYA HARI GOVIND & RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

THE MINISTRY of Education (MoE) announced late Wednesday night the cancellation of the University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET), just a day after over 9 lakh candidates appeared for it across 317 cities, following inputs from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs that "the integrity of the examination may have been compromised".

With this decision, UGC-NET — key to finding an entry-level teaching job in Indian universities and also for admissions to PhD programmes — becomes the first centrally-conducted public examination to be

EXPRESS NETWORK
BIHAR DY CM CLAIMS NEET ACCUSED IS LINKED TO TEJASWINI AIDE, RJD HITS BACK

scrapped after the Centre introduced a new anti-paper leak law. The MoE also announced that the investigation into the integrity of the exam being compromised is being handed over to the CBI, and information about the re-exam will be shared separately. Passed in Parliament in February 2024, the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, which provides for three to five years in

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

AS THE Opposition and the Centre face off over NEET-UG with the Congress calling for nationwide protests on June 21, the issue reached the highest levels of the government with Union Home Minister Amit Shah calling a meeting with Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Health Minister JPN Naidu on Thursday. In the meeting, attended also by a representative from the Prime Minister's Office, Shah heard out the positions of

WHO-MANAGED GLOBAL DIGITAL INITIATIVE

Finance says no to Health request for \$10-million fund to meet G20 pledge

Promising 'unwavering support', India pledged seed fund for digital health

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

THE GLOBAL Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) was launched as a "key deliverable" of India's G20 Presidency during the Health Ministers' meeting in Singapore on August 19 last year in the run-up to the September 9-10 summit in New Delhi. It became part of the New Delhi declaration and

WHO What is GDIH
IT'S A WHO-managed network of agencies and its objectives include: assess and prioritise needs for sustainable digital health transformation; match digital health resources and unfunded priorities.

IIIT Bombay fines students up to Rs 1.2 lakh for 'derogatory' play on Ram, Sita

PALLAVI SMART
MUMBAI, JUNE 19

THE INDIAN Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has levied a fine of Rs 1.2 lakh — almost equal to a semester's fee — on a student who participated in a play titled "Rahovan" during the institute's Performing Arts Festival held in March this year. The play, loosely based on the Ramayana, sparked protests from a section of students who alleged it was disrespectful to Hinduism and derogatory towards Ram and Sita.

At least seven other students were penalised, but the nature of disciplinary action and quantum of fine, could not be ascertained. When asked by The Indian Express about the action taken by the institute, the IIT Bombay spokesperson refused to comment.

Ranked highest among Indian institutions in the global QS rankings in 2023, IIT Bombay

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Air pollution killed 8.1 million globally, 2.1mn in India in 2021: Report

ANONNA DUTT

NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

AIR POLLUTION has caused 8.1 million deaths around the world in 2021 with China and India accounting for more than half of the global burden at 2.3 and 2.1 million deaths respectively, according to the recently released State of Global Air Report.

As per the report, air pollution is considered to be one of the biggest killers globally, second only to high blood pressure. In fact, it outranks tobacco consumption as a leading cause of death and disability, said the report. Of the total deaths, 700,000 were children under the age of 5 years. "Air pollution poses an enormous — and growing — public health challenge," the report states.

India bears the brunt

Even though the situation is bleak globally, India is among the countries which bears the highest brunt of air pollution. India with 2.1 million deaths and China with 2.3 million deaths due to air pollution, account for 55% of the global burden. Not only the particulate matter, Indians are also exposed to high levels of ozone. Short-term exposure to ozone has been linked to exacerbation of asthma and other respiratory symptoms

while long term exposure is linked to Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease — a condition where the lungs remain inflamed obstructing the airflow. The report states that 489,000 deaths globally were attributable to ozone exposure in 2021 — of these deaths nearly 50% or 237,000 deaths took place in the country. India also reported the highest number of pollution-linked deaths in children under the age of five in 2021 with at least 169,400 deaths attributed to air pollution.

As per data, there has been a steady increase in the number of deaths attributable to air pollution in India, barring a small dip seen during the pandemic.

Health challenge

Air pollution poses a big public health challenge — becoming the second leading risk factor for early deaths after high blood pressure and ahead of tobacco consumption. Unlike high blood pressure and tobacco consumption — which mainly affects adults — air pollution kills children. With over 169,400 children deaths under the age of five attributable to air pollution, India recorded the highest total number of deaths in children worldwide in 2021. The report states that there is a need to not only improve the air quality but also correct disparities in health.

Air pollution caused 8.1 million deaths globally in 2021.



China and India accounted for more than half of the global burden, with 2.3 million and 2.1 million deaths respectively.



Air pollution is considered the second biggest killer globally, following high blood pressure and surpassing tobacco consumption.

Of the total deaths due to air pollution, 700,000 were children under the age of five.

489,000 global deaths were attributed to ozone exposure in 2021, with nearly 50% (237,000) occurring in India.

India reported the highest number of pollution-linked deaths in children under five, with at least 169,400 deaths in 2021.

There has been a steady increase in air pollution-related deaths in India, except for a small dip during the pandemic.

Air pollution poses a significant public health challenge, being the second leading risk factor for early deaths.

The report highlights the need to improve air quality and address health disparities caused by air pollution.

- Consider the following statements regarding the impact of air pollution as reported in 2021:
 1. Air pollution caused 8.1 million deaths globally in 2021, with China and India accounting for more than half of these deaths.
 2. Air pollution is considered the biggest killer globally, surpassing high blood pressure and tobacco consumption.
 3. India reported the highest number of pollution-linked deaths in children under the age of five in 2021.
 4. Ozone exposure contributed to nearly 237,000 deaths in India in 2021.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
 - A. 1 and 3 only
 - B. 1, 3, and 4 only
 - C. 2 and 4 only
 - D. 1, 2, 3, and 4

₹76,200-cr Maha port gets Cabinet nod, to be among top-10 globally

MSP for kharif rice hiked by 5.4%, sharper increases for pulses & oilseeds

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, June 19

THE CABINET ON Wednesday approved the development of mega ₹76,200 crore all-weather greenfield deep-draft port at VadHAVAN in Maharashtra, signalling the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government's intent to give continued thrust to public investment in infrastructure.

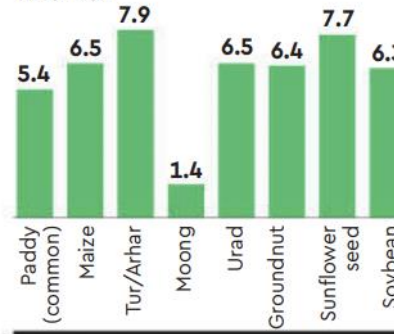
The Cabinet also gave its nod to viability gap funding for ₹7,453 crore offshore wind energy projects, including one in Gujarat and a ₹2,870-crore project for the expansion of Varanasi airport.

On completion, the new port on west coast will have a cumulative capacity of 298 million metric tonne/annum and will be among the top 10 in the world. It will be constructed by VadHAVAN Port Project, an SPV formed by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) in a 74:26 joint venture and will involve substantial private investments. The project cost includes the cost of land development of core infrastructure, terminals and other commercial infrastructure in public-private partnerships (PPP) mode. "Today, in the country we have 20 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalents) capacity in all ports put together. Compared to this, VadHAVAN Port alone will have 23 million TEUs. This port will alone have more capacity than all ports

FARMERS TO BENEFIT



MSP hikes for Kharif crop, 2024-25 (% , y-o-y)



INSIDE

VGF support for ₹7K-cr wind projects


PAGE 3

together in the country now," information and broadcasting minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. Road connectivity between the port and national highways and linkage to the existing rail network and the upcoming Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor have also been approved.


The Cabinet also approved increases in the range of 1.4-12.7% in the minimum support prices (MSP) of 14 crops for the 2024-25 kharif season (July-June), but raised the support price for paddy, the key summer crop, by a relatively modest 5.35% to ₹2,300/quintal.

The Cabinet approved the development of a ₹76,200 crore all-weather greenfield deep-draft port at Vadhavan in Maharashtra.

The port project aims to position itself among the top 10 ports globally with a cumulative capacity of 298 million metric tonnes per annum.



The project will be constructed by Vadhavan Port Project, a special purpose vehicle (SPV) formed by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB).

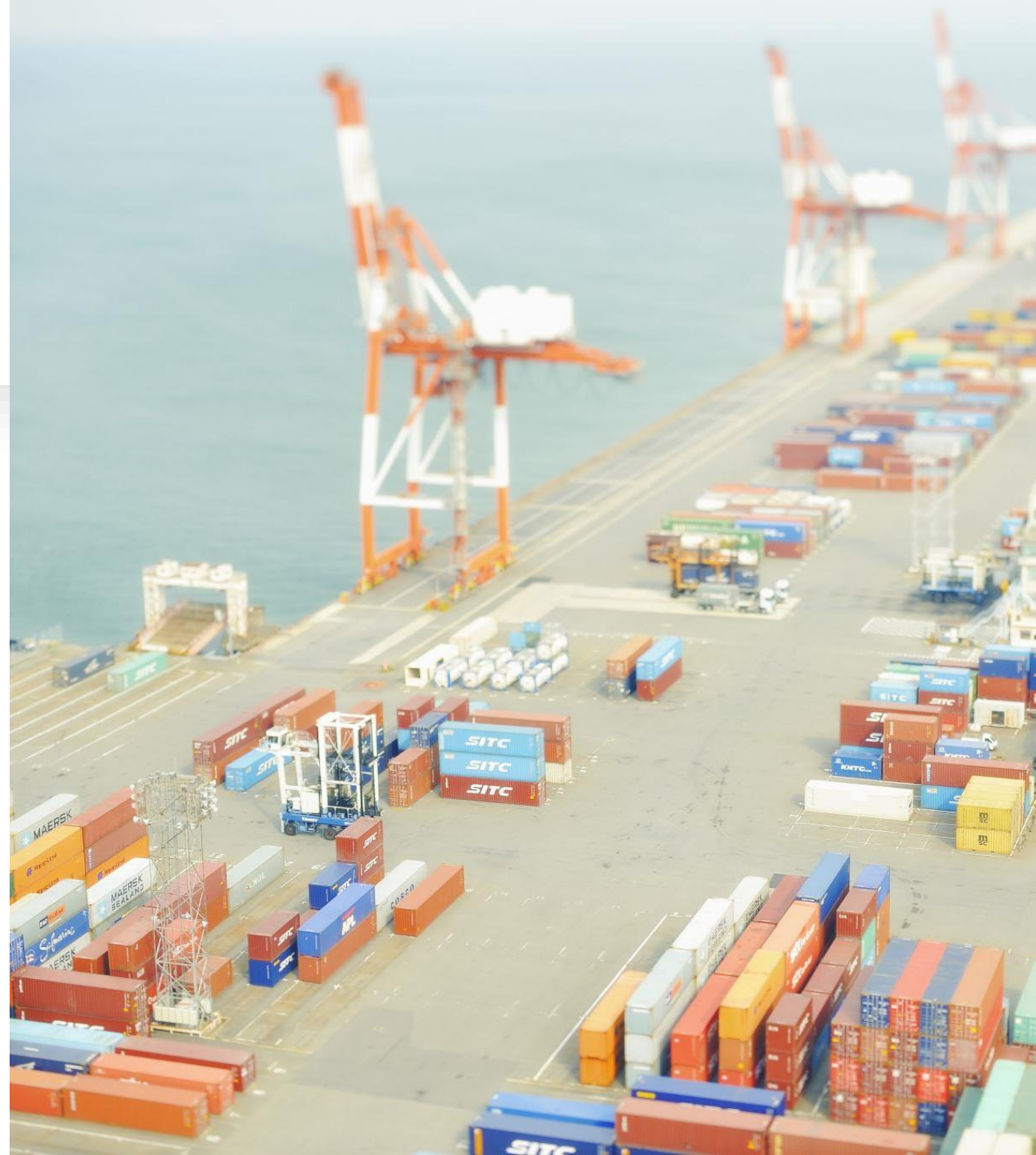


The project includes substantial private investments and will involve public-private partnerships (PPP) mode.



Currently, India has a total port capacity of 20 million TEUs, while Vadhavan Port alone will have 23 million TEUs.

- Consider the following statements regarding the recent Cabinet approvals:
1. The Cabinet approved the development of a ₹76,200 crore all-weather greenfield deep-draft port at VadHAVAN in Maharashtra.
 2. The VadHAVAN Port Project will have a cumulative capacity of 298 million metric tonnes per annum, surpassing the total current port capacity of India.
 - 3 The Cabinet also approved viability gap funding for offshore wind energy projects and the expansion of Varanasi airport.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
 - A. 1 only
 - B. 1, 2, only
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2, 3,



Exodus of super-rich falls

India will lose fewer millionaires to migration in 2024, compared with the previous two years, according to The Henley Private Wealth Migration Report 2024. Around 4,300 millionaires are likely to leave India in 2024 compared with 5,100 in 2023. China tops the list with an estimated loss of 15,200 HNIs.

— Compiled by
Biswajiban Sharma

TOP FIVE COUNTRIES BY NET OUTFLOWS AND INFLOWS OF MILLIONAIRE MIGRANTS

Top losers

Projected net outflows



Top gainers

Projected net inflows



UAE remains world's leading millionaire magnet:

With zero income tax, golden visas, luxury lifestyle & strategic location, the UAE has become the top destination for migrating millionaires, expecting a record net inflow of 6,700 this year

The other big millionaire losers in 2024

Besides China, the UK, India, South Korea and Russia, the Top 10 countries for millionaire outflow include Brazil (-800), South Africa (-600)

Reasons for migration:

High-net-worth families relocate for various reasons, including safety, financial considerations, tax benefits, retirement prospects, business opportunities

INDIA RANKS 63RD ON WEF'S ENERGY TRANSITION INDEX

INDIA HAS BEEN ranked 63rd on a global Energy Transition Index released on Wednesday by the World Economic Forum, which said the country has shown significant improvement across energy equity, security and sustainability. European nations dominated the top ranks with Sweden topping the index, followed by Denmark, Finland, Switzerland and France in the top five. China was ranked 20th.

World Crocodile Day 2024

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World Crocodile Day is celebrated on 17th June. The day is a global awareness campaign to highlight the plight of endangered crocodiles and alligators around the world.

विश्व मगरमच्छ दिवस 17 जून को मनाया जाता है। यह दिन दुनिया भर में लुप्तप्राय मगरमच्छों और घड़ियालों की दुर्दशा को उजागर करने के लिए एक वैश्विक जागरूकता अभियान है।

- The Crocodile Conservation Project was initiated by the United Nations and the Government of India, shortly after the passage of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The primary objectives were to protect natural habitats, boost crocodile populations through captive breeding, and address the low survival rates of hatchlings in the wild.
- वन्य जीवन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1972 के पारित होने के तुरंत बाद संयुक्त राष्ट्र और भारत सरकार द्वारा मगरमच्छ संरक्षण परियोजना शुरू की गई थी।
- प्राथमिक उद्देश्य प्राकृतिक आवासों की रक्षा करना, बंदी प्रजनन के माध्यम से मगरमच्छों की आबादी को बढ़ावा देना और जंगल में बच्चों की कम जीवित रहने की दर को संबोधित करना था।

- The project set up breeding and rearing centers at 34 sites in India, including Bhitarkanika, to protect and revive the country's endangered crocodylian population, particularly focusing on estuarine or saltwater crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*).
- इस परियोजना ने देश की लुप्तप्राय मगरमच्छ आबादी की रक्षा और पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए, विशेष रूप से महाना या खारे पानी के मगरमच्छ (क्रोकोडायलस पोरसस) पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने के लिए, भितरकनिका सहित भारत में 34 स्थानों पर प्रजनन और पालन केंद्र स्थापित किए।

-
- Current Crocodile Population and Distribution:
 - The saltwater crocodile population in Bhitarkanika has significantly increased from 95 individuals in 1975 to 1,811 as of the latest reptile census report (2023).
 - The saltwater crocodile is now found in three primary locations in India: Bhitarkanika, the Sundarbans, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- वर्तमान मगरमच्छ जनसंख्या और वितरण:
- नवीनतम सरीसृप जनगणना रिपोर्ट (2023) के अनुसार भितरकनिका में खारे पानी के मगरमच्छों की आबादी 1975 में 95 व्यक्तियों से बढ़कर 1,811 हो गई है।
- खारे पानी का मगरमच्छ अब भारत में तीन प्राथमिक स्थानों पर पाया जाता है: भितरकनिका, सुंदरबन और अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह।

CROCODILE SPECIES IN INDIA

India harbours three diverse  crocodile species—Mugger, Saltwater, and Gharial—found in distinct habitats nationwide.

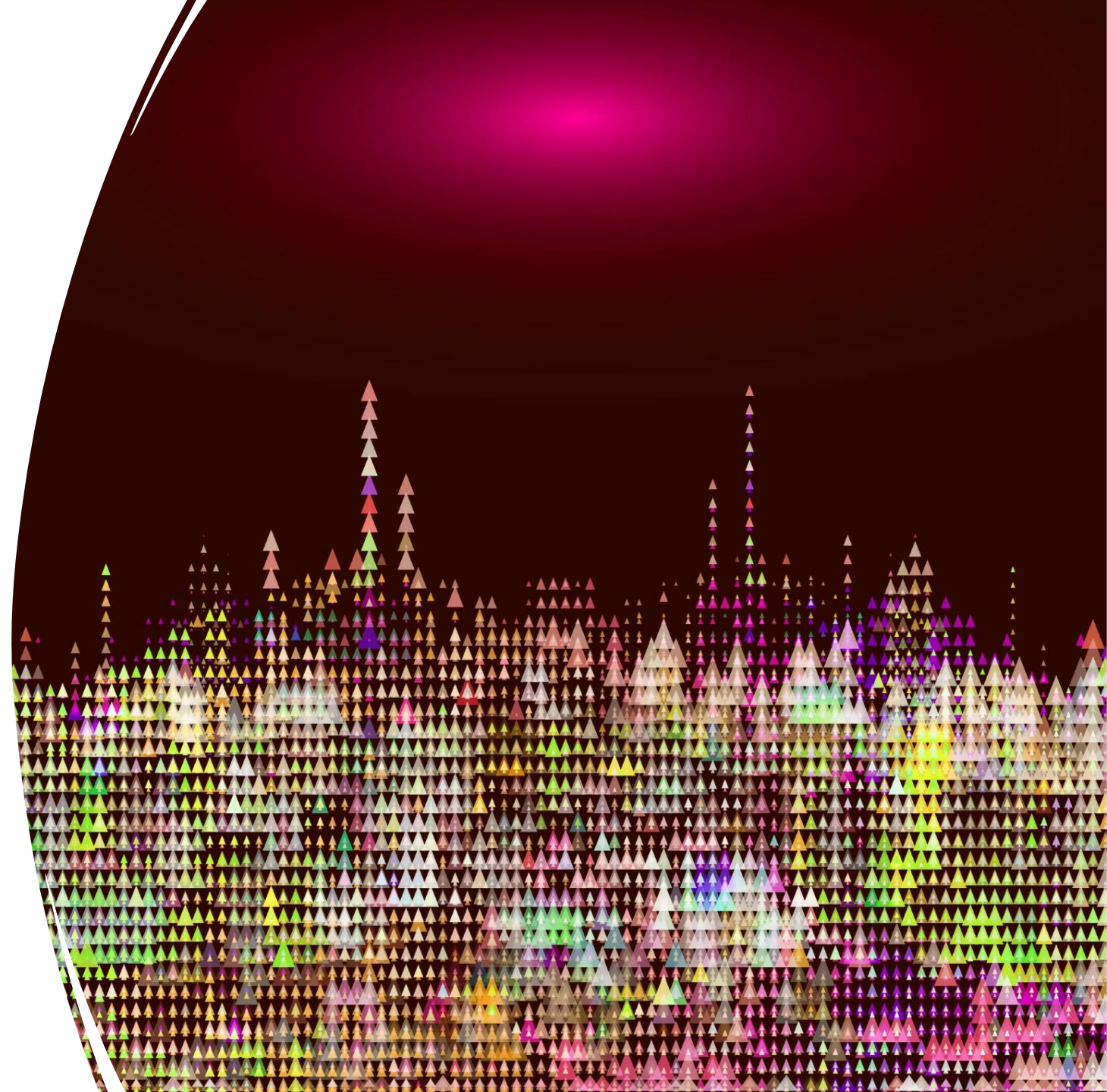
Aspects	Gharial	Mugger/Indian Crocodile	Saltwater Crocodile
Scientific Name	<i>Gavialis Gangeticus</i> 	<i>Crocodylus Palustris</i> 	<i>Crocodylus Porosus</i> 
Distribution: India	Viable Population: National Chambal Sanctuary (U.P, Raj, M.P) Small Non-Breeding Population: Son, Gandak, Hooghly, Ghagra & Satkosia WLS (Odisha)	Throughout India	East Coast (Odisha's Bhitarkarnika WLS, Andaman & Nicobar Islands coast & Sundarbans)
Distribution: Neighbourhood	Brahmaputra of Bhutan & Bangladesh & Irrawaddy River	Extinct in Bhutan and Myanmar	Across Southeast Asia
Special Feature	Longest of all Crocodile, Long and thin Snout	Egg-laying, Hole-nesting, Wide & U-shaped Snout	Largest living reptile, Pointed & V-shaped Snout
Habitat	Freshwater	Freshwater	Saltwater, Brackish & Wetlands
IUCN Status	CR	VU	LC
CITES Status	Appendix I	Appendix I	Appendix I
CMS Status	Appendix I	-	Appendix II
WPA,1972 Status	Schedule I	Schedule I	Schedule I
Threats	Dams, Pollution, Sand mining	Habitat Destruction	Hunted for its skin and Habitat loss
Government Initiatives	■ Odisha: Rs. 1000 award to conserve Gharial in Mahanadi River Basin ■ Indian Crocodile Conservation Project,1975	■ Indian Crocodile Conservation Project,1975 ■ Mugger Conservation Programme ■ Madras Crocodile Bank Trust	Indian Crocodile Conservation Project,1975

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS

- 🕒 17th June: World Crocodile Day
- 📊 **Annual Reptile Census, 2023:** Marginal Increases in number of saltwater crocodiles (**Bhitarkanika National Park and its nearby areas**)
- 📍 **Odisha's Kendrapara District:** Only district in India where all three species of crocodiles found



Bitumen



-
- India is looking to start large-scale production of bio-bitumen from biomass or agricultural waste.
 - **About Bitumen**
 - Bitumen is the **heaviest material obtained** from the **fractional distillation process of crude oil**.
 - It is **Black or Brown** in colour and possesses waterproofing & adhesive properties.

- भारत बायोमास या कृषि अपशिष्ट से बायो-बिटुमेन का बड़े पैमाने पर उत्पादन शुरू करना चाहता है।
- बिटुमेन के बारे में
- बिटुमेन कच्चे तेल की आंशिक आसवन प्रक्रिया से प्राप्त सबसे भारी सामग्री है।
- यह काले या भूरे रंग का होता है और इसमें वॉटरप्रूफिंग और चिपकने वाले गुण होते हैं।

Facts & Figures

What is Bitumen?

Bitumen is a black substance produced through distillation of crude oil and is

widely used to bind surfaces of paved road



3.21 MT

India's import
of Bitumen in
2022-2023

5.24 MT

India's indigenous
bitumen production
in the last FY

-
- It is widely used to bind the surfaces of paved roads.
 - **Status in India:** Bitumen consumption has gone up significantly in recent years in line with increasing road construction in India
 - India currently imports about half of its annual requirement of bitumen and the target is to replace imports with bio-bitumen over the next 10 years.

- इसका उपयोग व्यापक रूप से पक्की सड़कों की सतहों को बांधने के लिए किया जाता है।
- भारत में स्थिति: भारत में बढ़ते सड़क निर्माण के अनुरूप हाल के वर्षों में बिटुमेन की खपत में काफी वृद्धि हुई है
- भारत वर्तमान में बिटुमेन की अपनी वार्षिक आवश्यकता का लगभग आधा आयात करता है और अगले 10 वर्षों में आयात को जैव-बिटुमैन से बदलने का लक्ष्य है।

Burp Tax



- New Zealand has decided to scrap the “burp tax” aimed at reducing their greenhouse gas emissions from the livestock.

- **Reasons for introduction of the ‘Burp Tax’**

- It was introduced by New Zealand to lower carbon footprint through **curtailing methane emissions** from ruminant species.

- न्यूज़ीलैंड ने पशुधन से मीथेन उत्सर्जन को कम करने के उद्देश्य से "बर्प टैक्स" को खत्म करने का फैसला किया है।

- 'बर्प टैक्स' की शुरुआत के कारण

- इसे न्यूज़ीलैंड द्वारा लागू करने वाली प्रजातियों से मीथेन उत्सर्जन को कम करके कार्बन पदचिह्न को कम करने के लिए पेश किया गया था।

-
- Nearly half of New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions come from their livestock rearing.
 - Methane is a **potent greenhouse gas** responsible for 30% of warming since preindustrial times, second **only to carbon dioxide**.
 -
-
- न्यूज़ीलैंड का लगभग आधा ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन उनके पशुओं के पालन-पोषण से होता है।
 - मीथेन एक शक्तिशाली ग्रीनहाउस गैस है जो पूर्व-औद्योगिक काल से कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड के बाद 30% वार्मिंग के लिए जिम्मेदार है।

- **Methane Emissions from Ruminants**

- Ruminants have a specialized digestive system that has four compartments, one of which, the rumen.
- Rumen is involved in microbial fermentation and releases methane through belching.

- जुगाली करने वालों से मीथेन उत्सर्जन

- जुगाली करने वालों में एक विशेष पाचन तंत्र होता है जिसमें चार डिब्बे होते हैं, जिनमें से एक, रूमेन होता है।

- रुमेन माइक्रोबियल किण्वन में शामिल होता है और डकार के माध्यम से मीथेन छोड़ता है।

- **Tacking Methane Emissions**

- Initiatives like Global Methane Pledge aims to cut methane emissions by at least 30% by 2030 from the 2020 levels.
- Indian initiatives like Harit Dhara, NICRA Project & BS VI norms are in the process of methane reduction.

- मीथेन उत्सर्जन पर काबू पाना

- ग्लोबल मीथेन प्रतिज्ञा जैसी पहल का लक्ष्य 2020 के स्तर से 2030 तक मीथेन उत्सर्जन में कम से कम 30% की कटौती करना है।

- हरित धारा, एनआईसीआरए परियोजना और बीएस VI मानदंड जैसी भारतीय पहल मीथेन कटौती की प्रक्रिया में हैं।



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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 in the foreground and others blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, creating a sense of appreciation and celebration. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner of the image.

Thank you
guys.
