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DEPUTY SPEAKERS SINCE THE FIRST LOK SABHA

Deputy Speaker	Tenure	DY Speaker's party	Status in LS
M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar	1952-1956	Congress	Ruling
Hukam Singh	1956-1957	Congress	Ruling
Hukam Singh	1957-1962	Congress	Ruling
S V Krishnamoorthy Rao	1962-1967	Congress	Ruling
R K Khadilkar	1967-1969	Congress	Ruling
G G Swell	1969-1970	APHLC*	Opposition
G G Swell	1971-1977	APHLC*	Opposition
Godey Murahari	1977-1979	Congress	Opposition
G Lakshmanan	1980-1984	DMK	Ruling
M Thambi Durai	1985-1989	AIADMK	Ruling
Shivraj V Patil	1990-1991	Congress	Opposition
S Mallikarjunaiah	1991-1996	BJP	Opposition
Suraj Bhan	1996-1997	BJP	Opposition
P M Sayeed	1998-1999	Congress	Opposition
P M Sayeed	1999-2004	Congress	Opposition
Charanjit Singh Atwal	2004-2009	SAD	Opposition
Kariya Munda	2009-2014	BJP	Opposition
M Thambi Durai	2014-2019	AIADMK	Ruling

*APHLC: All Party Hill Leaders Conference

Source: Lok Sabha and Election Commission of India

Current Context:

With increased opposition strength in Lok Sabha, members aim to secure the Deputy Speaker position.

The last Deputy Speaker for the 17th Lok Sabha (2019-24) was M. Thambidurai from AIADMK.

Government and Opposition Stance:

The government has not nominated a Deputy Speaker since 2019, and the opposition supports electing one.

The NDA considers K. Suresh of Congress as a candidate but is non-committal, while TMC shows support.



- **Constitutional Provisions:**

- Article 95(1) states that the Deputy Speaker performs the duties of the Speaker in their absence and has similar powers.
- Both Speaker and Deputy Speaker must be appointed "as soon as may be."
- Article 178 requires state legislatures to have similar positions.

Election Process:

The Deputy Speaker is generally elected in the first session of a new Lok Sabha or Assembly.

Election is usually on a motion proposed by the Prime Minister or Chief Minister.



- **Historical Context:**

- Deputy Speakers have alternated between ruling party and opposition nominees over the years.
- The role has historically been given to opposition members during Congress-led UPA governments and BJP-led NDA governments.
- Notable Deputy Speakers include Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Hukum Singh, Suraj Bhan, and P. M. Sayeed.

A group of people, likely in a legislative or corporate setting, with their hands raised in a gesture of agreement or voting. The image is dimly lit and has a dark overlay.

- **Roles and Responsibilities:**

- The Deputy Speaker's role includes presiding over the House in the Speaker's absence and performing all Speaker duties.
- The position is crucial for parliamentary function and balance.

- Consider the following statements regarding the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha:

1. The Deputy Speaker performs the duties of the Speaker in their absence and has similar powers as the Speaker.
2. Both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker must be appointed "as soon as may be" according to the Constitution of India.
3. The election of the Deputy Speaker is always delayed beyond the first session of the newly constituted Lok Sabha.

- Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

BSF raises issue of attack on personnel during talks with BGB

Shih Sahay Singh NEW DELHI

The South Bengal Frontier of Border Security Force (BSF) raised the issue of attacks on its personnel by smugglers during the 20th JG BSF-Area Commander (JG) talks...

Deep concern was expressed over the increasing attacks by Bangladeshi miscreants/muggers, on BSF jawans and Indian citizens. On this issue, both sides decided to work together and carry out joint patrolling...

Two attacks At least two incidents of attack on BSF personnel were reported in the month. A BSF constable suffered serious injuries at border outpost in Nadia district on June 10 and BSF personnel were attacked in Murshidabad district on June 23.

that attacks have increased because of attempts of cattle smuggling and smuggling of narcotics, particularly Phensedyl. In cases where BSF personnel are attacked in the fringe luxury...

Strict steps Incidents of illegal border crossing by Bangladeshi citizens were also discussed. Both sides decided to deal with it strictly and take effective steps to prevent illegal activities...

The issue was also raised by the border guarding forces of both the countries during Director General level talks in March this year.

The Hindu had reported that between 2018 and February 2024, as many as 204 BSF personnel deployed along the Bangladesh border have been injured by miscreants. The BSF-Area Commander BGB talks, both sides decided to carry out joint patrolling to identify sensitive areas which need to be fortified along the border and keep an eye on the activities of criminal...

Atishi's hunger strike over water crisis ends in hospital

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Delhi Water Minister Atishi was rushed to hospital in the early hours of Tuesday after she fell ill while fasting on a hunger strike for the past four days to demand water for Delhi in view of a severe shortage.

Ms. Atishi was admitted to the emergency ICM at Lok Nayak Hospital, and her condition is stable now. She began her hunger strike on June 21.

Aam Aadmi Party Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh said the Minister ended her fast after she was hospitalised. The AAP leader was admitted to LNJP Hospital around 3.45 a.m. Mr. Singh said...



Relentless strikes AAP members and supporters take part in a candle march in support of Delhi Water Minister Atishi for her hunger strike in New Delhi on Monday.

health, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva said that she should stop misreading the public mood.

A post on X from Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's office said because of the people of the city "will definitely give a reply to the injustice that the BJP government is doing". The BJP leader further said, "The essence of Satyagrah is to fight for the truth. The issue will also be raised by the AAP and its political allies in Parliament, he added.

to reveal the truth, not to hide their administrative failures, as Ms. Atishi is doing. She has been admitted to the hospital after her health deteriorated last night.

"Today, every Delhiite is worried about her health. The people of Delhi will definitely give a reply to the injustice that the BJP government is doing to the national capital. The post has been made by his team. "Delhi's Water Minister Atishi ji was on an indefinite hunger strike so that...

Cost of future war is enormous, resources should be optimised: Chief of Defence Staff

Dinakar Peri NEW DELHI

Saying that the cost of future wars would be "enormous", Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Tuesday stressed the need to optimise resources and manpower and bring in efficiencies to afford weapons and systems of the future.

Before talks of fusion between civil and military resources, there should be fusion within the three Services, the Air Force, General Chauhan said.

However, several Srinagar-based news outlets quoted SIA officials and suggested "Mr. Qayoom was formally arrested by a team of the SIA in Srinagar".

Unknown gunmen shot dead advocate Babar Qadir at his residence in Srinagar's Zaidpur area on September 2, 2020. The gunman posed as clients and opened fire from close range at the lawyer, who would take part in debates on television and on social media platforms.

work together in an integrated manner. In these processes, we will be able to optimise time, resources, processes, infrastructure and manpower," General Anil Chauhan said at the Air Force capstone seminar which marked the culmination of the three Warfare & Aerospace Strategy Program (WASP) course.

WASP is a strategic education programme of 15 weeks. The course from 2022 to provide participants with a deep understanding of geopolitics, grand strategy and comprehensive national power, and is conducted by the IAF along with the College

pair and overhaul together. "We can also involve the Central Armed Police Force into various logistics and infrastructure (need to be created)," he said.

Alternate ways He added that there are hundreds of things where we can actually help the government to reduce its costs. "Because the cost of future wars is enormous, weapons systems and platforms are going to be very costly," he said.

Noting that civil aviation is expanding, General Chauhan asked if it could have a military payoff. "We need to think on alternative ways of doing things. It has to be very practical

and time bound," he said. addressing the seminar, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhary said "We have refined the definition of scholar warriors."

A scholar warrior is a military professional who combines intellectual acumen with combat prowess in today's increasingly complex and dynamic security environment," he said. "Talking of India's strategic culture, the Air Force chief said it is shaped by historical experiences and the ever-evolving geopolitical environment. He emphasises strategic autonomy, caution and a strong focus on territorial integrity," he said.

Two more arrested in Arang 'lynching' case

The Hindu Bureau RAIPUR

Two more people were arrested on Tuesday in connection with the death of three cattle transporters from Chhattisgarh in Arang earlier this month.

With this, the total number of arrests in the case — the victims' families have alleged an act of mob lynching — is now four. The police are yet to shed light on the events that led to the killings on June 7.

The police arrested two others identified as Harsh Mishra and Raja Agarwal on June 22 and 23, respectively.

VHP leader's murder: NIA offers ₹10 lakh for leads

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday declared a ₹10-lakh reward each for the arrest of two persons accused of being involved in the murder of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Vinay Prabhakar in Punjab's Nagal on April 13.

The agency has identified the accused as Harjit Singh, aka Harjit, and Kuldeep Singh and resident of Garpadhana in Nawanshahr, Punjab, and Kulbir Singh, aka Sidhu, son of Subhvir Singh and resident of Yamuna Nagar in Jagadhari, Haryana.

Additional Superintendent (Raipur Rural) Kiran Rathore said that all the accused have been booked for culpable homicide amounting to murder under section 304 of the IPC.

Ex-J&K Bar president Mian Qayoom 'questioned'

The Hindu Bureau SRINAGAR

Mian Qayoom, former president of Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association, was questioned by J&K police on Tuesday in relation to the assassination of lawyer Babar Qadir in 2020 in Srinagar.

The J&K Police's Special Investigation Agency (SIA) has not officially confirmed the arrest of Mr. Qayoom or divulged any details till late Tuesday evening.

However, several Srinagar-based news outlets quoted SIA officials and suggested "Mr. Qayoom was formally arrested by a team of the SIA in Srinagar".

T.N. to allow regulated culling of wild boars in fields close to forest

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has decided to allow culling of wild boars that cause damage to farmland close to forest areas.

Minister for Forests M. Mathiventhan said in the Assembly on Friday that the decision was taken based on a report by the Farmers' and Horticulturists' Committee, which was constituted to study the impact of raids by elephants and wild pigs on agricultural crops. The committee comprises representatives from the Departments of Forest, Revenue, Agriculture, and Horticulture, scientific experts, and wildlife enthusiasts.

During the debate on the demand for grants for the department, the Minister said that the areas adjacent to reserve forests would be divided into three zones — Zone A (within one kilometre from forest limits); Zone B (one to five kilometres); and



Shooting of wild boars will not be allowed within 5 km from the reserve forest, says Minister. Zone C (beyond five kilometres). Shooting of wild pigs will not be allowed within five kilometres from the reserve forest, he added. While farmers have been requesting the State government to allow culling of wild boars, experts have expressed concerns about indiscriminate killing. Mathiventhan said the shooting must adhere to a scientific approach and take into account the intensity of conflict and the frequency of incidents on farmland, located outside Zone C.

Ahead of roll-out of the new criminal laws, Union Home Ministry tests eSakhsya App

Vijaita Singh NEW DELHI

Days ahead of the implementation of the three criminal laws, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is testing eSakhsya (e-evidence), a mobile phone application to help police in the crime scene.

The mobile application will be available to all police stations to download and register. The app is all set to come into force from July 1. Conviction rate The BNSS mandates compulsory audiovisual recording of search and seizure of evidence and mandatory forensic examination in all cases where an offence attracts a punishment of seven years or more. Procuring hard-ware and cloud space is an expensive affair and many government to allocate resources, said an official, adding that it will also help the police in investigations, thereby increasing the conviction rate. The mobile application developed by the National Forensics Centre (NFC) will be available to all police stations which register the chain of command," a senior government of-

Urban Affairs Ministry to revamp affordable housing scheme

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), a scheme to enable affordable housing for urban poor, would be revamped with new features based on learning from the past nine years since when it has been operational. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs said on Tuesday.

The PMAY (Urban), launched in 2015, has been an existence till December 2024. The mission aims to address urban housing shortage among the poor and middle income groups, including slum dwellers, by ensuring a pucca house to all eligible urban households.

No delay The Minister official of the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said that the revamp would focus on ensuring that there are no de-facto beneficiaries who have slipped up the queue. The Ministry had also announced a scheme for

Pune car accident: HC orders release of juvenile accused

The Bench observed that the custody order passed by the Juvenile Justice Board was illegal and issued without jurisdiction, and a habeas corpus writ petition filed by the paternal aunt of the accused who filed the plea seeking his release from the observation home. The court has directed that the JJB-ordered counselling sessions with a psychologist should continue after the minor's release.

The Bench said, "We allow the petition and order the release of the minor in Conflict with Law/minor (CCL) shall be in the care and custody of the petitioner (paternal aunt). The court is under 18 years old. His age needs to be considered." The court also observed that though the accident was unfortunate, the boy could not be kept in an observation home.

In the last week's hearing, the JJB was pulled up by the court for remanding the minor to an observation home when he was already released on bail. The court said the remand and extension had "completely nullified the effect of bail".

Representing the Pune Police, Chief Public Prosecutor Hitesh Venegonkar objected to the maintainability of a habeas corpus plea, and argued that a writ of habeas corpus could not be filed until and unless the order was illegal. He also stressed that sending the minor to the observation home was necessary for his safety and well-being under section 204 of the JJ Act.

Ahead of roll-out of the new criminal laws, Union Home Ministry tests eSakhsya App

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Days ahead of the implementation of the three criminal laws, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is testing eSakhsya (e-evidence), a mobile-phone application to help police record scene of crime, search and seizure in a criminal case and upload the file on the cloud-based platform. The police official will have to upload a selfie after the procedure is complete. Each recording could be maximum four minutes long and several such files could be uploaded for each First Information Report (FIR), according to the details shared with State police departments.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) that replaces the Indian Penal Code, 1860; the Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) which replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872; and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) that replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898

The mobile application will be available to all police stations to download and register

are all set to come into force from July 1.

Conviction rate

The BNSS mandates compulsory audiovisual recording of search and seizure in each criminal case and mandatory forensic examination in all cases where an offence attracts punishment of seven years or more. Procuring hardware and cloud space is an expensive affair and many States do not have enough resources, said an official, adding that it will also help uniformity in investigations, thereby increasing the conviction rate.

The mobile application developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) will be available to all police stations which register and download the app.

A senior government of-

ficial said the app was under final stages of trial and the police were given two options. "If there is connectivity issue, the police can record the crime scene on their own device such as personal mobile phones and generate a hash value, come back to the police station and upload the file. The other method is they can directly upload through eSakhsya for which good Internet speed is required," explained the official.

Another police officer cautioned that the sanctity of the chain of evidence submission will have to be adhered to, else, it could benefit an accused.

"Many accused escape the clutches of law due to procedural infirmities. The new laws make everything digital; if there is slightest of issue in procuring digital evidence, it could lead to criminals walking free. Forensic evidence is not always challenged on the grounds of quality but on the chain of command," said the officer.

eSakshya App Testing:

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is testing the eSakshya (e-evidence) app.

The app helps police record crime scenes, searches, and seizures, and upload the data to a cloud-based platform.

Police officers must upload a selfie after completing the procedure.

Each recording can be up to four minutes long, and multiple recordings can be uploaded for each FIR.

Implementation with New Criminal Laws:

The app is being tested ahead of the implementation of three new criminal laws: Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Sakshya (BS), and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

These laws are set to replace the Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, and Code of Criminal Procedure.

Features and Requirements:

The app mandates audiovisual recording of searches and seizures and mandatory forensic examinations in cases with punishments of seven years or more.

Developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), the app will be available to all police stations that register and download it.



- **Connectivity and Data Upload:**

- If there is a connectivity issue, police can record on personal devices, generate a hash value, and upload the data later.
- The app helps ensure uniformity in investigations and aims to increase the conviction rate.

1. Concerns and Challenges:

1. There are concerns about procuring hardware, cloud space, and maintaining the chain of evidence.
2. Officials emphasized the need for maintaining the integrity of the evidence submission process to prevent procedural infirmities that could benefit the accused.



- Consider the following statements regarding the eSakshya (e-evidence) mobile application:

1. The eSakshya app is designed to help police record crime scenes, searches, and seizures, and upload the data to a cloud-based platform.

2. The app mandates compulsory audiovisual recording of searches and seizures and mandatory forensic examination in cases where the offence attracts punishment of seven years or more.

3. The eSakshya app was developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and will be available to all police stations that register and download it.

- Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

IN BRIEF



Jaishankar meets Chinese Ambassador Xu Feihong

Chinese Ambassador Xu Feihong called on External Affairs Minister Jaishankar on Tuesday. The meeting came days after a high-powered U.S. Congressional delegation visited Dharamshala and met Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama. "We exchanged views on China-India relations. Look forward to working with the Indian side to push forward the development of China-India relations towards the right direction," Mr. Xu Feihong said.

Government officer driving in inebriated state kills three

A woman and two of her nieces were killed and her daughter was injured after an Additional Block Development Officer ran them over with his car in Tehri Garhwal of Uttarakhand on Tuesday. The accused was in an inebriated state when caught by the public, after the accident. The video of the accident, making rounds on social media, shows Reena Negi, 34, walking on the roadside along with the children when a speeding car, on the wrong side, hits them. One of the children was flung into the air in the collision, while the other children hit the ground. The sound of the collision and cries for help by the woman prompted the local people to rush to the spot and rescue the injured.

Jal Shakti Ministry conceives 'new project' to fix water deficit in Jal Jeevan Mission

Jacob Koshy, NEW DELHI

Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil said at a public event on Monday that the government was conceiving a "new project" to ensure that rural households which were provided taps under the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission but had not yet been able to get water would soon be provided potable water. "In some places, we have not been able to fully accomplish the Prime Minister's target," Mr. Patil said at a workshop organised for officers in the Ministry. "Some people say in just that we have taps but no water. We are in the process of setting up a new project, where in a time-bound manner, we shall ensure that households



with taps and no water, and those without taps are all covered," he added. The ₹2.6-lakh-crore Jal Jeevan Mission was implemented after Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised from the rampsarts of the Red Fort in 2019 to provide potable tap water to every rural household in India. As of June 25, the scheme had encompassed

NEET-UG case: Maharashtra police detain 2 'sub-agents'

Shoumoit Banerjee, PUNE

The Maharashtra Police have detained two "sub-agents" who were allegedly working under the "direction" of one of the arrested zilla parishad teachers involved in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) question paper leak case, informed sources said on Tuesday.

The two persons have been detained from Beed district, and they were reportedly in touch with Jaiji Patban, who was arrested on Sunday and will be in police custody till July 2. The other zilla parishad teacher involved in the case, Sanjay Jadhav, was on Tuesday produced before a local court where he was sent to police custody till July 2.

The accused teachers were said to have taken advance payment of ₹50,000, while the remaining amount - said to be in trunks - was given by the candidate after they "passed" the test. After candidates paid the advance, their admit cards were given to the trainees from Nanded. A truck was registered against the car at the Shivajinagar police station in Latur on Sunday night.

NTA reform paper to elicit views of parents, students

Revised NEET-PG date will be announced next week, says President of the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences; CBI seals NTA office in New Delhi and curtails outsider entry

Maitri Porocha, NEW DELHI

A day after convening the first meeting of the National Test Agency reform committee, K. Radhakrishnan, head of the panel and former ISRO Chairman, said on Tuesday that its first priority was to elicit from students and parents across the country their concerns and suggestions regarding the recent instances of exam paper leak that had compromised the NTA's integrity.

"We are going to engage with them as far as possible in person or through electronic media, and in the next fortnight, we will like to consolidate this," he said in a statement. "The next priority for us is to build quickly a robust system for starting the tests. We are also looking at the future - to develop by this country a robust tamper-proof system, a system with zero error, and a system which will lessen difficulty for the students with adequate flexibility built in."

A day after taking over all police cases pertaining to the National Eligibility-



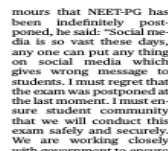
In strength: Youth Congress workers staging a protest in Gurgaon on Tuesday against the alleged irregularities in NEET-UG. PTI

Cum-Entrance Test (NEET) undergraduate paper leak case across States, the Central Bureau of Investigation sealed off the first floor of the NTA office in NSIC-MIDP building here, and covered the premises with white cloth to prevent any public view of the reformation, what has happened is, there are a lot of concerns about the test in student community," he said.

He said the government had decided to make sure that sanctity, safety and security of the tests must be maintained so they had decided to review the standard operating procedures and protocols.

nately delayed, Board president Abhijit Sheth said the revised date would be announced next week. Dr. Sheth said the integrity of the test had never been in doubt. "For the past seven years, we have conducted it successfully in view of the reformation events, what has happened is, there are a lot of concerns about the test in student community," he said.

Commenting on ru-



In strength: Youth Congress workers staging a protest in Gurgaon on Tuesday against the alleged irregularities in NEET-UG. PTI

nately delayed, Board president Abhijit Sheth said the revised date would be announced next week. Dr. Sheth said the integrity of the test had never been in doubt. "For the past seven years, we have conducted it successfully in view of the reformation events, what has happened is, there are a lot of concerns about the test in student community," he said.

Commenting on ru-

CBI to seek remand of accused in NEET case

Amit Bhalerao, PATNA

The Central Bureau of Investigation will soon seek remand of the 18 accused in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test paper leak case for interrogation.

Thirteen of the accused from Patna and five from Jharkhand are now in judicial custody. They have been named by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Bihar Police which was investigating the case before the CBI took over on Monday.

"The hearing of the bail plea of the 13 accused and the anticipatory bail plea of the main accused Sanjeev Mukhya will be held in the Special CBI Court on July 15. We will submit the case transfer order letter in the CBI court today (Tuesday)," Uday Shankar Singh, public prosecutor, said.

Earlier, hearing the bail plea under the Prevention of Corruption Act, of the main accused Sanjeev Mukhya, District Judge Rajendra Kumar Singh asked the accused to approach the Special CBI Court as the case was now being investigated by the Central agency.

The CBI team had discussions with additional Director-General of Police, EOW, Mayur Hasmid Khan and Senior Superintendent of Police, Patna, Rajiv Mishra.

Pak. delegation inspect Ratle power project on Chenab river in J&K

Poornima Ashiq, SRINAGAR

A five-member Pakistan delegation and neutral experts of the World Bank toured the Ratle power project, a run-of-the-river hydroelectric power project in the Chenab Valley, on Tuesday.

The delegation, which is on the second day of its visit to Kashmir, visited the 850-MW Ratle project on the Chenab river at Drabshala village and inspected several units of the project. The inspection by the 40-member team, including delegates from India, was kept away from the media gaze.

Pakistan has been raising technical objections in different forums, including the Permanent Indus Commission, since 2006 regarding power projects in

J&K and even demanded an arbitration by different international forums, which was rejected by India.

Official sources said the Pakistani delegation is also likely to inspect the 1,000-megawatt Pakal Dul hydroelectric project being built on the Marusudar river, which emerges from the Marwah Valley before joining the Chenab river.

Pakistan also raised its objection over the Kishanganga project in Kashmir valley in 2006. Officials are tight-lipped on whether the delegates will be given access to the power project set up over the Kishanganga river in north Kashmir's Baniptora district.

The delegation will be in Jammu and Kashmir till June 28.

Defence Ministry signs 350th contract under iDEX for 'miniaturised satellite'

The Hindu Bureau, NEW DELHI

The 350th contract under the Innovation in Defence Excellence (iDEX), the flagship initiative of the Defence Ministry, was signed with SpacePixxel Technologies for the design and development of a "miniaturised satellite capable of carrying optical, infrared, synthetic aperture radar, and hyperspectral payloads up to 150 kg", the Defence Ministry announced on Tuesday.

This challenge is being led by the Indian Air Force.

Pros of the satellite

"This 350th iDEX contract enables the development of space electronics, wherein the satellites will be in place on dedicated large satellites are now being mi-

naturised," the Ministry said. The modular small satellite will integrate multiple miniaturised payloads as per requirement, providing advantages such as faster and economical deployment, ease of manufacturing, scalability, adaptability, and less environmental impact, it stated.

The contract was exchanged between Anurag Bajpai, Additional Secretary (Defence Production) & CEO, Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), and Awais Ahmed Nadeem Aldurr, founder and CEO of the SpacePixxel Technologies.

SpacePixxel has been actively working to build and launch high-resolution earth observation data, the statement said. Established by the DIO under the Department of Defence Production, iDEX has launched 11 editions of the Defence India Start-up Challenge and recently unveiled the Acting Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADIT) scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies.

THE CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Clues include: 1. Wrong claims about university being harmonious (7), 2. Against etichage among in tier (7), 3. Sanskrit text, originally from Srinagar, contains Pervan art (7), 4. Jumping over every other tree of jungle, he's one seeking a safe place (7), 5. Needs ten Chiklets to mask bad smell (6).

14211

- 21 Man, nearly fired stealing founder's capital (8)
14 Auditor's extremely lively and ahead of time (5)
15 Loved touring city's stadium (9)
18 Classic tales of french siroiside romance novel (3)
19 Conservative vet's maiden drops in tubs (5)
20 Expecting UN leader to follow behind China (8)
22 Start from word Carl's playing in Scrabble (6)
26 Soldiers at Ground Zero in American city (7)
27 Brewing brewed in gossip groups (7)
28 Heading to Republic Day parade finally kept on account of time in iconic location (3,4)
Down
1. Old man sometimes careless, forgetting lost item (5)
2. Film degree (5)
3. Doctor acts calm tackling emergency, ultimately a disaster (9)
4. Lounge for cake (6)
5. Competitive exam held in favourite city (10)
6. Seekers ultimately following Islamic spiritual principles (5)
7. Smart and trendy, she, raising new loans (9)
8. They draw viewers - clearly (9)
9. Turned veto around - in a novel (4,2,3)
14. Try and finish each volume belonging to us (9)
15. How to make idols firm? (4-5)
17. Spooner said, "accutinine risk: one could lie here" (4,5)
21. Delicious fruit among bananas (5)
23. Put up American offer at the start of elections (5)
24. Switch to the other side to fix match (5)
25. Trim growth (4)

SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid with some numbers filled in. The grid is 9x9 with numbers 1-9 in some cells.

FAITH

Janardana kills Janardana
It was no wonder Gandena - the king of elephants, went down deep into the pond; no excitement from the elephant plucking lotus from the pond, no perturbation from the crocodile holding the leg of the elephant with its jaws, but what was peculiar was Janardana killing Janardana. Quoting from "Kunjara Ranjanam", composed by Girdhar Charya Vilhar Srinidhi Swamy, Thiruvalluvaral Dr. Venkatesh said in a discourse that as a paronomasia, those who give trouble to others are called Janardana. The crocodile troubled the elephant and hence called Janardana. Lord Vishnu is called Janardana because He destroys those who give trouble to others. So Lord Janardana killed the crocodile Janardana (Janardanam Janardanas Tata-wali Anam Pradhnam).

Another Sudoku puzzle grid with some numbers filled in. The grid is 9x9 with numbers 1-9 in some cells.

Defence Ministry signs 350th contract under iDEX for ‘miniaturised satellite’

The Hindu Bureau

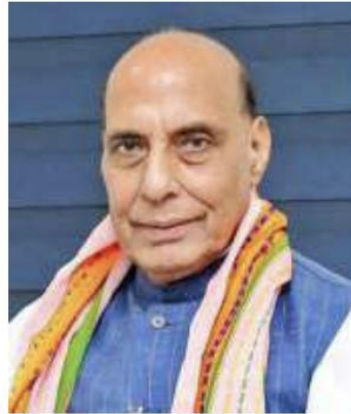
NEW DELHI

The 350th contract under the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), the flagship initiative of the Defence Ministry, was signed with SpacePixxel Technologies for the design and development of a “miniaturised satellite capable of carrying electro-optical, infrared, synthetic aperture radar, and hyperspectral payloads up to 150 kg”, the Defence Ministry announced on Tuesday.

This challenge is being led by the Indian Air Force.

Pros of the satellite

“This 350th iDEX contract enables innovation in space electronics, wherein many payloads earlier deployed on dedicated large satellites are now being mi-



Rajnath Singh

niaturised,” the Ministry said.

The modular small satellite will integrate multiple miniaturised payloads as per requirement, providing advantages such as faster and economical deployment, ease of manufacturing, scalability, adaptability, and less environmental impact, it stated.

The contract was ex-

changed between Anurag Bajpai, Additional Secretary (Defence Production) & CEO, Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), and Awais Ahmed Nadeem Alduri, founder and CEO of the SpacePixxel Technologies.

SpacePixxel has been actively working to build and launch high-resolution hyperspectral imaging satellites to provide detailed earth observation data, the statement said.

Established by the DIO under the Department of Defence Production, iDEX has launched 11 editions of the Defence India Start-up Challenge and recently unveiled the Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies.

Contract Signing:

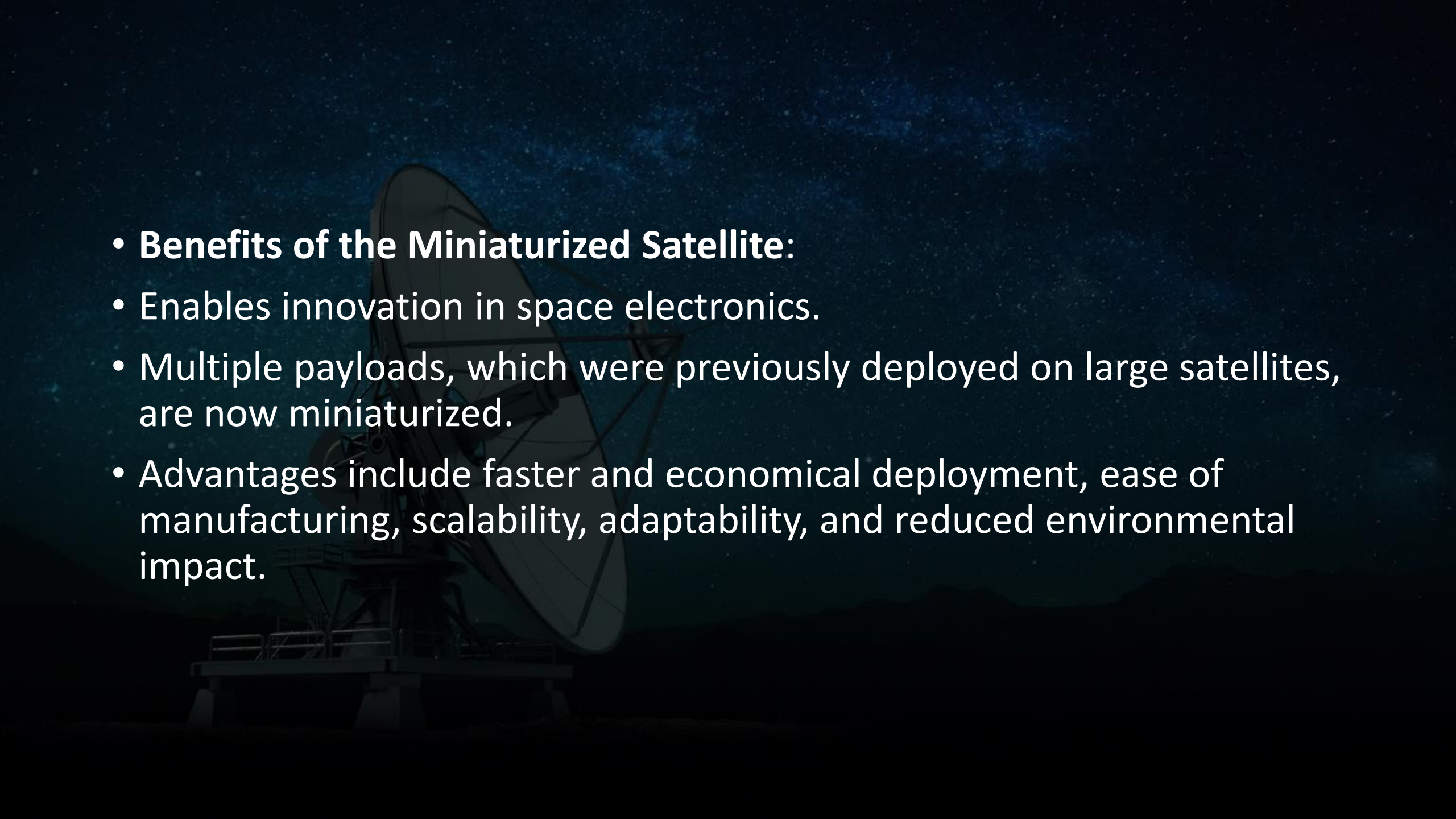
The Defence Ministry signed its 350th contract under the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative.

The contract was signed with SpacePixxel Technologies for the design and development of a miniaturized satellite.

A large satellite dish antenna is positioned on a ground station, set against a starry night sky. The dish is a prominent feature, with its complex structure and support system visible. The background is a deep blue and black space filled with numerous stars, creating a sense of vastness and technological reach.

- **Satellite Specifications:**

- The miniaturized satellite is capable of carrying electro-optical, infrared, synthetic aperture radar, and hyperspectral payloads up to 150 kg.
- The project is led by the Indian Air Force.

- 
- **Benefits of the Miniaturized Satellite:**
 - Enables innovation in space electronics.
 - Multiple payloads, which were previously deployed on large satellites, are now miniaturized.
 - Advantages include faster and economical deployment, ease of manufacturing, scalability, adaptability, and reduced environmental impact.

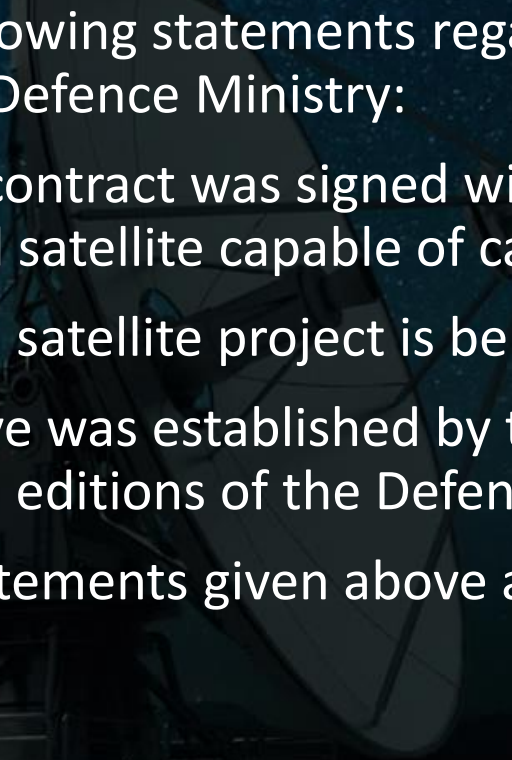


- **Role of SpacePixxel Technologies:**

- Actively working to build and launch high-resolution hyperspectral imaging satellites for detailed earth observation data.

1. iDEX Initiative:

1. Established by the Department of Defence Production.
2. Launched 11 editions of the Defence India Start-up Challenge.
3. Recently introduced the Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with iDEX (ADITI) scheme to promote innovations in critical and strategic defence technologies.

- 
- Consider the following statements regarding the 350th contract signed under the iDEX initiative by the Defence Ministry:
 1. The 350th iDEX contract was signed with SpacePixxel Technologies for the development of a miniaturized satellite capable of carrying multiple payloads up to 150 kg.
 2. The miniaturized satellite project is being led by the Indian Navy.
 3. The iDEX initiative was established by the Department of Defence Production and has launched several editions of the Defence India Start-up Challenge.
 - Which of the statements given above are correct?
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 1 and 3 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3

Preventing another NEET fiasco

During the National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET), this year, scores and ranks were inflated. As a consequence, many candidates may not get admission to their desired college as predicted based on previous years' scores. Coaching and admission counselling centres, typically run by business tycoons, have realised that clients, the NEET aspirants, have failed to secure preferred seats despite their advice. However, despite this fiasco, the industry has found a way to enhance their brand value through media and social media coverage. The owners of this trillion-ruppee industry, along with the 25 lakh NEET aspirants this year, are up in arms. Their hypothesis is that mapping scores to ranks cannot vary very widely from previous years. In this conundrum, various allegations of cheating and paper leakage, amongst others, have been raised. Despite numerous crackdowns and investigations, paper leakage in medical admission exams remains a persistent issue.

No room for weak links
Since its inception, NEET has emerged as the largest exam in the One Exam, One Nation model because of the number of candidates taking the exam, the number of languages the exam is conducted in, and the diversity of various other factors. The quality of education and the college fees payable are critical factors that vary widely. A seat in a top government college with good quality education could cost a few lakhs, whereas a seat in a private college could cost a few crores. Moreover, parents are willing to go beyond their means to secure higher ranks for their children in these competitive exams, as the family's reputation is considered to hinge on this. Thus, the stakes in NEET are high, making it a vulnerable to irregularities, accidental or intentional. Therefore, we need strong

governance in the form of foolproof and complete Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and their compliance. There cannot be any weak link in the chain of operations from setting question papers to conducting the exam to admissions. However, there are many weak links, as seen from the distribution of the wrong question paper at some centres, for example. Reportedly, some centres distributed the back-up question paper instead of the primary paper. How were both sets – the primary and the secondary/back-up question papers – accessed almost simultaneously? Were they accessed from banks' strongrooms or another reserve? How was the back-up question paper set taken from the banks' strongrooms without any emergency circumstances or protocols? There are several unanswered questions about the authorisation and attitude of the officials concerned. This seemingly inconsequential error is actually of enormous consequence and could give us an idea of how the exam was conducted this year.

This one error led to a cascade of errors. A wrong question paper was distributed, subsequently taken back along with the Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) sheets, thus creating panic among the candidates. The correct question paper was then distributed, and no additional time was given for the time lost. Then, exceptionally huge grace marks were awarded to those who had their papers scrapped due to a public outcry. Each of the above demonstrates the need for critical SOPs for complete governance of the exam, which includes defining roles and responsibilities for the printing press, officials at examination centres, banks' strongrooms, and invigilators. Any loose links in this chain have the potential for major practices. Only a proper investigation may reveal any substantial wrongdoing. Despite all the above pitfalls, it

is commendable that the National Testing Agency (NTA) voluntarily disclosed most of the information, as per Section 4 of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. Since the declaration of NEET 2024, the NTA has disclosed the most relevant information through its press releases. In addition, the NTA has followed SOPs for disclosure of answer keys, collecting feedback about wrong questions and answer keys, disclosure of the individual OMR sheets, and self-evaluation of one's score, which seem to have worked with no issues at all. This is the second such tragedy in the last two years in the State. Just last year, 22 people died and 45 were hospitalised in Villupuram and Chengalpattu districts after consuming toxic alcohol. This time, the death toll is much higher. So is the number of people who have been hospitalised (more than 150). Ironically, the government had informed the Assembly in 2023, before the deaths occurred, that there had been "no hoosh tragedies in the state" in the last 14 years due to its "zero tolerance" policy towards blending units. Significant during 10 of those 14 years in question, the All India Medical Entrance Examination (AIEMEE), now the principal Opposition party in the Assembly, was in power. As was the case in 2023, attempts to get established police and other officials this time too. More than half a dozen people have been arrested so far. The victims predominantly belonged to scheduled castes and other vulnerable groups in society. Apart from announcing a solatium of ₹10 lakh each to the families of the deceased and ₹50,000 for those undergoing treatment, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has ordered the constitution of a one-man commission headed by Justice B. Gokuldas, a former High Court judge, to conduct an inquiry into the incident. The government has also offered to support the education of children in the villages affected by the tragedy. This is a change in approach by the DMK in 1996, when people died after drinking contaminated liquor in Pudukkottai. Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, Mr. Stalin's father, ruled out compensation to the victims and their families arguing that it could be construed as encouragement for people following the wrong path. Methanol has been cited as the cause of many such incidents, at least since 1990. When it was found to be the main reason for hoosh tragedies in 2002, the liquid chemical was brought within the ambit of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act, 1937. Yet, it was once again cited as the cause of the 2023 incident too. The residents of Kallakurichi knew well that spurious liquor was being sold and consumed. It is hard to believe that the government was completely unaware of the prevalence and spread of the problem. It is said that products sold through the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (STASMAC) are priced higher than illicit liquor, which is why people prefer the latter. It is not yet known whether the Intelligence Wing of the police will continue to operate in silos to highlight the government's failure on the Kallakurichi incident.

The persistent problem of toxic liquor

The State government does not seem to have learned lessons from the past

STATE OF PLAY

T. Ramakrishnan
ramakrishnan@rediffmail.com

The hoosh tragedy on June 18 at Kallakurichi in Tamil Nadu, which has claimed 59 lives so far, has caused major embarrassment to the individual DMK-led front, which has been celebrating its superlative performance in the Lok Sabha elections.

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Tamil Nadu

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Lack of focus, not finance, behind sluggish Kavach deployment

Under 2% of the Indian Railways' yearly capital expenditure is enough to implement Kavach across all engines and tracks in 10 years

DATA POINT

Mahima Rao,
Sambavi Parthasarathy,
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The railway accident on June 17 involving the South-dah-bound Kanchenjunga Express and a goods train in Darjeeling, West Bengal, has once again brought focus to the absence of "Kavach", India's Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system. Ten people died in the incident. On average, 80 people are killed annually in train collisions in India (Chart 1).

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaini reviewed the progress of an advanced version of ATP, Kavach 4.0 a week after the accident. He directed the installation to be taken up in "mission mode". Data show that availability of funds is not the worry for implementing Kavach; the issue lies with the pace at which it is being deployed. Kavach can warn loco pilots if the train is at risk of overshooting the signal at red. It also has the capability of automatically applying the brakes if the loco pilot fails to reduce the speed below a certain limit. The three systems needed to implement Kavach are Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags placed in the tracks; the engine setup with RFID readers, a computer, and brake interface equipment; and radio towers installed at railway stations. The cost of installing Kavach in the tracks, including station equipment, is ₹50 lakh per kilometre. It costs ₹70 lakh to fit the equipment in one engine.

The route length of the Indian Railways is approximately 68,000 km. The cost of equipping Kavach on this route is about ₹34,000 crore (68,000 km x ₹50 lakh). There are about 15,200 diesel and electric locos in the Railways network. The cost of equipping the total fleet is ₹10,640 crore

(15,200 engines x ₹70 lakh). In total, it costs about ₹45,000 crore to implement the system across all the tracks and in all the engines. Given that the job will require skilled labour, specially designed equipment, and traffic diversion during implementation, assuming the cost of the printing press, would mean that the yearly cost would be ₹4,500 crore.

The capital expenditure budget of the Railways increased substantially in the past few years to peak at ₹2,52,000 crore in FY25 (Chart 2). Even assuming that there is no increase in this amount in the next 10 years, the yearly cost of deploying Kavach is still less than 2% of the capital expenditure every year (₹4,500 crore/₹2,52,000 crore). This shows that covering the entire Railways network with Kavach would require only a small fraction of the Railways budget.

The current rate of progress of installation of Kavach is sluggish. Field trials on passenger trains started in February 2016. Three arms were approved to supply the equipment in 2018-19. Kavach was adopted as the national ATP system in July 2020. As Chart 3 shows, until February this year, of the 18,000 km route length, Kavach has only been installed on 1,465 km (close to 2% of the total). Of a total of 15,200 diesel and electric locos, only 139 are equipped with Kavach (less than 1% of the total).

Even if we were to assume that the government did this in one year instead of four years (2020 to 2024), it would take another 46 years to deploy this system across all route km (68,000/1,465) and at least a hundred years to install Kavach in all engines (15,200/139) at the current pace. To be able to complete the installation of Kavach in 10 years, the pace will have to be increased to ₹6,800 km/year for the tracks and 1,500 locos/year. Table 4 lists the calculations.

Mahima Rao is on loans with The Hindu

On a slow track

The data for the charts were sourced from the NCRB, the Press Information Bureau, and India Budget



Chart 1: Number of people killed annually in train collisions in India

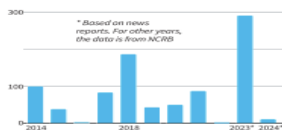


Chart 2: The Indian Railways' capital expenditure budget in INR crore



Chart 3: The deployment of Kavach annually in route kilometers (Rkm)



Safety first: 'Kavach' deployed in a train driver's cabin. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Table 4: The table shows key numbers involved in estimating the pace and cost of implementing the Kavach system

* Assuming that the government implemented Kavach along the 1,465 Rkm and in 139 engines in one year instead of four years (2020 to 2024)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 26, 1974

Sikkim ruler in Delhi for talks on new Constitution

New Delhi, June 25: The Chogyal of Sikkim arrived here to-night for discussion with the government of India on the new Constitution for the Himalayan Kingdom. The Chogyal left Gangtok early this morning with some senior officials in the wake of the State-wide protest, launched by the supporters of the Sikkim Congress against his reluctance to give assent to the new Constitution Bill.

The draft Constitution sought to usher in a democratic set-up which implied considerable curtailment of the Chogyal's powers and position. The Sikkim ruler is reported to have felt that some of the provisions went against the Indo-Sikkimese Treaty of 1950. The Chogyal is expected to put forward his case in detail when he meets the Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister here tomorrow. From the observations he made to pressmen soon after his arrival here it was clear that he had strong reservations on the draft Constitution. He contended that the Assembly had not yet passed the resolution containing its recommendations on the Bill, he added. He also denied that during his last visit to Delhi he had indicated his consent to the clauses in the draft Constitution. According to him, he had told the Indian authorities that he would study the draft and convey his comments to the Prime Minister.

The Sikkim Ruler denied that he was holding back from signing the draft Constitution Bill. Asked about the delay in giving his assent to it, he replied that the Bill went before the Assembly on June 20 for consideration and its recommendations had now come to him in the form of a resolution. "It has not been discussed as a Bill yet. These recommendations are receiving my consideration. It will take a little time as it will appreciate that it is a constitutional matter," he added.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 26, 1924

The "Advocate of India"

Bombay, June 25: The "Advocate of India", an oldest English evening daily paper of Bombay, the property of Messrs. F.F. Gordon Ltd. in liquidation, was sold by auction this evening. Bidding opened at Rs. 70,000 and closed at a lakh and a quarter at which price the property was secured jointly by Messrs. D.R. Vaidya, Architect and R.F. Munshi, Barrister.

On a slow track

The data for the charts were sourced from the NCRB, the Press Information Bureau, and India Budget



Safety first: 'Kavach' deployed in a train driver's cabin. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

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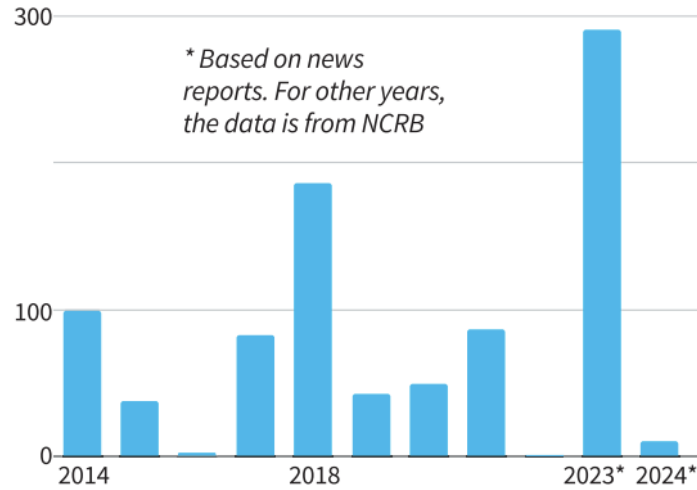


Chart 3: The deployment of Kavach annually in route kilometres (Rkm)

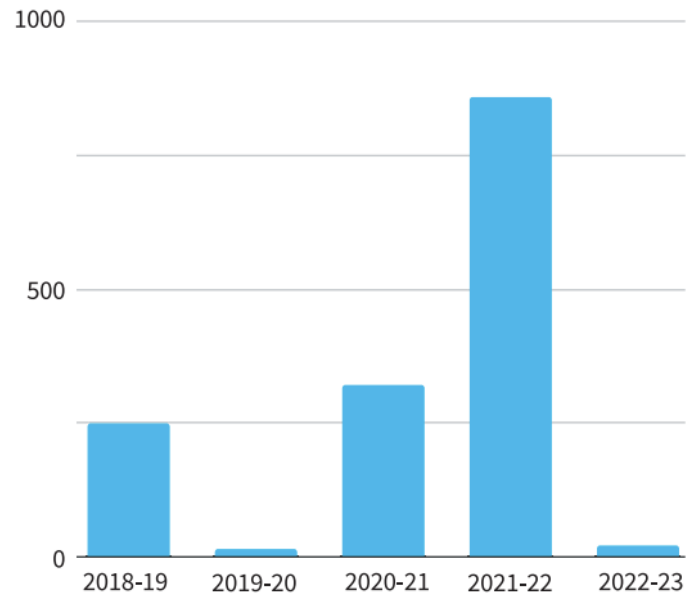


Chart 2: The Indian Railways' capital expenditure budget increased substantially in the past few years to peak at ₹2,52,000 crore in FY25

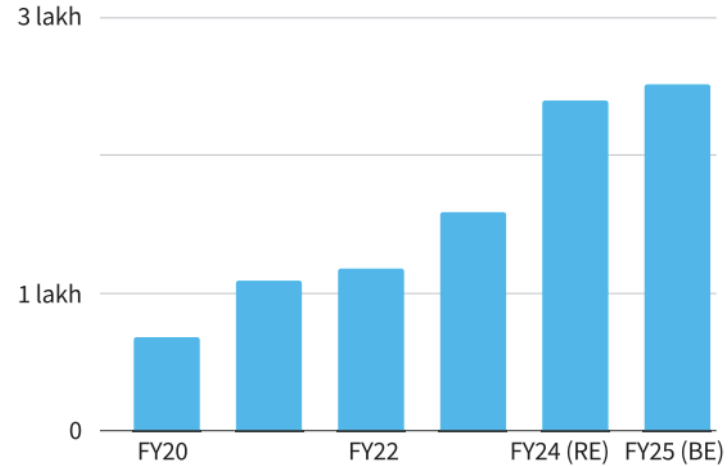


Table 4: The table shows key numbers involved to estimate the pace and cost of implementing the Kavach system

Parameter	Track	Loco
Cost per unit	50 lakh per Rkm	70 lakh per engine
Final goal	68,000 Rkm	15,200 engines
Total cost	₹34,000 crore	₹10,640 crore
Combined cost	~ ₹45,000 crore	
Coverage achieved till Feb. 2024	1,465 Rkm	139 engines
Years it will take at current pace*	46 years	100 years
Required pace to achieve goal in 10 years	6,800 Rkm/year	1,500 locos/year

* Assuming that the government implemented Kavach along the 1,465 Rkm and in 139 engines in one year instead of four years (2020 to 2024)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

WikiLeaks: the enemy of the deep state

WikiLeaks' fortunes have been inextricably tied with the travails of its co-founder Julian Assange, who after a decade-long legal battle with the U.S. has finally been let free

Srinivasan Ramani

“Julian Assange is free,” WikiLeaks announced in a statement on X. “The left Belmarsh maximum security prison [in the U.K.] on the morning of 24 June, after having spent 1001 days there”, it further read. The co-founder of the whistleblowing website, WikiLeaks, has agreed to plead guilty to one count of conspiracy to obtain and disclose classified U.S. national defence documents, thus ending his long battle against extradition to the U.S. He was flown out of the U.K. to attend the court hearing at Salpan, a U.S. Pacific territory, after which he will return to Australia.

Mr. Assange is wanted in the U.S. for criminal charges, including breaking the Espionage Act for WikiLeaks' actions of leaking thousands of secret U.S. files in 2010. He was looking at a punishment ranging up to 175 years in prison for violations of the Espionage Act.

Mr. Assange's journey to freedom wasn't easy, and he had come dangerously close to extradition. On June 17, 2022, then U.K. Home Secretary Prit Patel had signed an extradition order for Mr. Assange to the U.S. (which he was able to later appeal). On the same day, the Assange Defense Committee, a U.S.-based coalition of media rights and human rights groups, released a statement through its co-chairs, which include the renowned linguist and public intellectual Noam Chomsky and former U.S. military analyst and whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, that said the decision “was a sad day for western democracy”. It added: “U.S. government argues that its venerated Constitution does not protect journalism in the government dislikes and that publishing truthful information in public interest is a subversive, criminal act. This argument is a threat not only to journalism, but to democracy itself.”

These were words in favour of a man who has been held in the U.K.'s Belmarsh prison ever since the Ecuador Embassy refused his asylum and citizenship after he stayed for seven years on its premises in London. Mr. Assange initially underwent imprisonment for bail violations during his stay in the Ecuador Embassy and got a reprieve from a U.K. district judge, Vanessa Baraitser, in January 2021, when she ruled that he could not be extradited to the U.S. because of concerns about his mental health and the possibility of suicide in a U.S. prison with strict incarceration conditions.

U.S. prosecutors later filed an appeal, and the British High Court, this time in December 2023, ruled in favour of the U.S. following the Joe Biden administration's assurances on the terms of Mr. Assange's possible incarceration — that it would not hold him at the highest security prison facility (ADX Florence in Colorado, which houses terrorists, and high-profile criminals) and that if he were convicted, he would be housed in his native Australia if he requested it. Mr. Assange moved the British Supreme Court against the verdict, but on March 14, the Court refused permission to appeal.

Mr. Assange's travails have mirrored those of the WikiLeaks organisation itself.



Freedom at last: Julian Assange at Bangkok Don Mueang International Airport, on June 25. REUTERS

In February 2022, on WikiLeaks' website, the submission system for files (by whistleblowers, ‘hacktivists’, etc.) and its email server completely offline. Months after the organisation's secure chat services had stopped working in October 2021. This was no surprise.

The organisation has been inevitably linked to its co-founder, who still remains a director. Ever since his incarceration, the release of whistleblower documents has only been few and far between and much less in consequence compared to what the organisation managed to achieve between 2010 and 2019.

Origins and impact began in 2006 when the website was first established and its domain name registered by Mr. Assange. While initially the website began as a disclosure portal on the lines of the Wikipedia model, with anonymous submissions being put up and edited by volunteers, it soon became a repository of anonymously sourced material. News and classified information could be uploaded on it using the anonymity software Tor, which protects the uploader's identity from being eavesdropped on any network and even by WikiLeaks itself.

Internal dissension and wrangling between WikiLeaks employees had resulted in problems with the submission system which resulted in its suspension in 2010, but WikiLeaks relaunched the site in 2015.

One of the earliest revelations by WikiLeaks was on how the U.S. government had been deploying practices at the Guantanamo Bay facility holding terror suspects, that were in violation of the Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners.

anonimised submission system still remained active included the millions of classified files from the U.S. Defence Department on the Iraq and the Afghan invasions, besides lakhs of State Department communiqués — both were released by former U.S. soldier Chelsea (then Bradley) Manning. These leaks began with a 39-minute video released on April 5, 2010 that showed gun-sight footage of two U.S. AH-64 Apache helicopters in action during the Iraqi insurgency against the U.S. occupation in 2007. The video showed the helicopter crew firing indiscriminately and killing civilians and two Reuters war correspondents. For nearly three years, Reuters had sought access to this video via the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, but had failed.

WikiLeaks promptly released the war logs, which were published by a host of media organisations and exposed human rights abuses by occupation forces, besides the increased fatality counts in Iraq. The war logs' release was followed by the publication of several news stories, including by *The Hindu*, based on thousands of leaked diplomatic cables that were also released by Mr. Manning, leading to significant public exposure of the ways, lifestyles and attitudes of the elite in various countries.

The WikiLeaks model — using cryptographic keys to protect sources and allowing for anonymous ‘leaks’ of sensitive information (that could also be of public interest) to be published — suddenly found for a new model of extensive investigative journalism into areas that were relatively shielded from the public eye, such as the functioning of the deep state in democratic societies and the operation of power agencies in autocracies.

While initially the cables were released to five newspapers that undertook the exercise of redacting sensitive information before reporting on them and published them over a year from late 2010 to 2011, the leak of the encryption key of the full cache of files (of what was then termed ‘Cablegate’), resulted in the release of unredacted material, an action that was condemned by many media outlets.

The lack of an anonymised submission system between 2010 and 2011 did not deter it from publishing other files that were obtained from other hackers such as the Stratfor email leaks. Later, WikiLeaks also published then presidential candidate (and former Secretary of State) Hillary Clinton's aide John Podesta's emails before the 2016 presidential elections. This action invited severe critique of WikiLeaks from activists and media personnel, who likened these leaks to an effort to interfere in the 2016 elections with Mr. Assange having been quoted as saying he wanted to “thwart” Hillary Clinton's chances of winning the presidency and accusing WikiLeaks of obtaining this information from Russian intelligence agency hackers, something WikiLeaks denied.

Later, it emerged that someone from WikiLeaks had conversed with Clinton's presidential opponent, Donald Trump's son, Donald Trump Jr., seeking to promote the leaks and providing for favours for Mr. Assange in Twitter DM conversations.

Probe in the U.S. WikiLeaks' releases, meanwhile, resulted in reprisals from the U.S. government. The Barack Obama administration began investigation of the Manning leaks, and Ms. Manning was convicted by court martial in July 2013 for violating the Espionage Act and underwent rigorous imprisonment before her sentence was commuted in January 2017 by then President. However, the administration concluded that it would not pursue criminal charges against Manning and WikiLeaks. The U.S. Justice Department issued a formal indictment against Mr. Assange, charged Mr. Assange with collaborating in a conspiracy with Ms. Manning to release classified documents from the U.S. Defense Department network to publish classified documents and communications.

WikiLeaks in a sealed indictment in April 2017. These charges were unsealed in August 2018. Later, the Trump administration further charged Mr. Assange with violating the Espionage Act — he was indicted on 17 new charges related to the Act in the Eastern District of Virginia. In June 2020, the charges were further expanded for conspiracy with hacker groups. The Biden administration had made no attempt to reverse these charges. Until now.

In April, Mr. Biden said that he was considering a request from Australia to drop all other charges except one, against the whistleblower.

Mr. Assange also serves as a precedent for the future of investigative journalism of the kind that WikiLeaks espoused and also serves as a test for free expression laws that allow for unbridled journalism in countries like the U.S. While the organisation is now a shell of what it was a decade ago, its impact on the public interest is being suddenly found for a new model of extensive investigative journalism into areas that were relatively shielded from the public eye, such as the functioning of the deep state in democratic societies and the operation of power agencies in autocracies.

The copy, published on June 15, 2022, has been updated.

Please send in your answers to balquize@thehindu.co.in

THE DAILY QUIZ

J.K. Rowling's 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' was first published on this day in 1997. Quiz yourself on the book, and the subsequent film of the same name

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

Let's start with a simple and fun question. After the letters failed to reach Harry, which character travels to Harry's house to personally deliver the Hogwarts acceptance letter?

QUESTION 2

Which filmmaker had become a fan of the book series after his daughter persuaded him to read the first three books, leading him to call his agent to arrange a meeting at Warner Bros. to direct the film?

QUESTION 3

Another from the book's plot: what is the platform number to board the Hogwarts Express at King's Cross railway station?

board the Hogwarts Express at King's Cross railway station?

QUESTION 4

The director of the film (answer to question 2) wanted Daniel Radcliffe to be cast for the role of Harry. Which previous work of Radcliffe had impressed the director to cast him for the role?

QUESTION 5

This character is a portrigger who causes trouble in Hogwarts. Rik Mayall was cast for this character in the first film, but his scenes were cut from the final film, which eventually led to the character being omitted from all following. Another from the film: what is the name of the character?



Visual question: This actor essayed the role of one of the most famous characters in the whole series. However, after portraying the role for two films, he passed away, after which another actor played the role. Name both actors. Which is the character? AP



- Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:**
1. The place where India's first Test match was held and its result. **Ans:** At the iconic Lord's and India went down by 188 runs
 2. The two 'royals' who stepped down to lead. **Ans:** Maharaja of Porbandar Natwarisinhji Bhavsinhji Sahib Bahadur and his brother-in-law Ghanashyamsinhji Dadasinhji Gaware nay for Cottari Kanakalya Nayudu to helm the side
 3. The England captain who became 'infamously' famous later that year. **Ans:** Douglas Jardine of 'Bodyline' fame
 4. The siblings who donned the India whites in the historic first Test. **Ans:** Syed Nazir Ali and Syed Wazir Ali
 5. The distinction Bill Bower set with the 11 Indians who played in that match. **Ans:** He was the lone English debutant
 6. Lall Singh born in this country. **Ans:** Malaysia
- Visual:** Name this tearaway fast bowler. **Ans:** Mohamud Nisrar
Early Birds: Prashant Naini|Vamsi Mamidala| M. Suresh Kumar| Tama| Sitawa| Ashvini Satwat



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

“What is the meaning of ‘save’ in the following sentence? ‘In our country, save for some big cities, boys and girls cannot mingle freely.’ (N. Ulaganathan, Madras)”

It means “with the exception of.” What the writer means is that in our country boys and girls cannot mix freely except in some big cities. Here are some examples: *I know nothing about Sallaja save that she's Hari's wife.*

No one saw the gruesome accident, save Balagopus.

In these two sentences, the word “save” is used as a synonym for “except.” The use of “save” is normally found in formal writing. You hardly ever use the word in the sense of “except” in conversation. If you do, you are likely to be thought of as a snob. What would your friend think if you told him, “Listen Vasu, I'd like to help you save I have no money. I'm broke!” In fact, some grammarians disapprove the use of “save” even in writing. They feel that “save” is old-fashioned.

“Can we say ‘thank you ever so much’? (V. R. Moorthi, Thiruvananthapuram)”

Yes, we can. But this expression is not used very often. “Thank you ever so much” cannot be used with everybody. One has to be careful with the use of this expression. It should be used only with the people you are very, very intimate with — relatives, and close friends.

Thank you ever so much for the wonderful pair of earrings.

That was a wonderful meal, Usha. Thank you ever so much.

This expression is normally used when someone has done or given something for which you are very, very grateful. The more common ways of thanking people are: “thanks”, “thank you”, “many thanks”, “thank you very much”, “thanks a lot”, “thanks a million”, and “thanks awfully”. “Thanks awfully” should not be used in formal situations; they are colloquial expressions. But don't say “thanks you a lot” and “thank you a million.”

“Go down with O. Kulkarni, Nagpur.”

“You go down with dysentery.”

Her son has gone down with dysentery.

For a couple of days, she was feeling awfully tired and finally went down with a flu.

“Drop round” in “She dropped round last evening.” (S. S. Ithanagar, New Delhi)

“Drop round” means to visit someone without giving notice, without any appointment.

She dropped round on her way back from office.

Drop in and ‘drop by’ also mean the same as ‘drop round’. ‘Drop in’ and ‘drop by’ are more frequently used.

Published in The Hindu on June 30, 1992.

Word of the day

Obsequence
bending the head or body or knee as a sign of reverence or submission or shame or greeting; the act of obeying; dutiful or submissive behavior with respect to another person

Synonyms: obedience, bow

Usage: They paid obsequence to the monarch.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/obsequencepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌɒbsɪkwəns/; /ˌɒbsɪkəns/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

WikiLeaks: the enemy of the deep state

WikiLeaks' fortunes have been inextricably tied with the travails of its co-founder Julian Assange, who after a decade-long legal battle with the U.S. has finally been let free

Srinivasan Ramani

Julian Assange is free," WikiLeaks announced in a statement on X. "He left Belmarsh maximum security prison [in the U.K.] on the morning of 24 June, after having spent 1901 days there", it further read. The co-founder of the whistleblowing website, WikiLeaks, has agreed to plead guilty to one count of conspiracy to obtain and disclose classified U.S. national defence documents, thus ending his long battle against extradition to the U.S. He was flown out of the U.K. to attend the court hearing at Saipan, a U.S. Pacific territory, after which he will return to Australia.

Mr. Assange is wanted in the U.S. for criminal charges, including breaking the Espionage Act for WikiLeaks' actions of leaking thousands of secret U.S. files in 2010. He was looking at a punishment ranging up to 175 years in prison for violations of the Espionage Act.

Mr. Assange's journey to freedom wasn't easy, and he had come dangerously close to extradition. On June 17, 2022, then U.K. Home Secretary Priti Patel had signed an extradition order for Mr. Assange to the U.S. (which he was able to later appeal). On the same day, the Assange Defense Committee, a U.S.-based coalition of media rights and human rights groups, released a statement through its co-chairs, which include the renowned linguist and public intellectual Noam Chomsky and former U.S. military analyst and whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, that said the decision "was a sad day for western democracy". It added: "U.S. government argues that its venerated Constitution does not protect journalism the government dislikes and that publishing truthful information in public interest is a subversive, criminal act. This argument is a threat not only to journalism, but to democracy itself."

These were strong words in favour of a man who has been held in the U.K.'s Belmarsh prison ever since the Ecuador Embassy revoked his asylum and citizenship after he stayed for seven years on its premises in London. Mr. Assange initially underwent imprisonment for bail violations during his stay in the Ecuador Embassy and got a reprieve from a U.K. district judge, Vanessa Baraitser, in January 2021, when she ruled that he could not be extradited to the U.S. because of concerns about his mental health and the possibility of suicide in a U.S. prison with strict incarceration conditions.

U.S. prosecutors later filed an appeal, and the British High Court, this time in December 2021, ruled in favour of the U.S. following the Joe Biden administration's assurances on the terms of Mr. Assange's possible incarceration – that it would not hold him at the highest security prison facility (ADX Florence in Colorado, which houses terrorists, drug traffickers, and high-profile criminals) and that if he were convicted, he could serve his sentence in his native Australia if he requested it. Mr. Assange moved the British Supreme Court against the verdict, but on March 14, the Court refused permission to appeal.

Mr. Assange's travails have mirrored those of the WikiLeaks organisation itself.



Freedom at last: Julian Assange at Bangkok Don Mueang International Airport, on June 25. REUTERS

In February 2022, on WikiLeaks' website, the submission system for files (by whistleblowers, 'hacktivists', etc.) and its email server went completely offline, months after the organisation's secure chat services had stopped working in October 2021. This was no surprise.

The organisation was being inevitably linked to its co-founder, who still remains a director. Ever since his incarceration, the release of whistleblower documents have only been few and far between and much less in consequence compared to what the organisation managed to achieve between 2010 and 2019.

Origins and impact

WikiLeaks' journey began in 2006 when the website was first established and its domain name registered by Mr. Assange. While initially the website began as a disclosure portal on the lines of the Wikipedia model, with anonymous submissions being put up and edited by volunteers, it soon became a repository of anonymously sourced material. News and classified information could be uploaded on it using the anonymity software Tor, which protects the uploader's identity from being eavesdropped on any network and even by WikiLeaks itself.

Internal dissension and wrangling between WikiLeaks employees had resulted in problems with the submission system, which resulted in its suspension in 2010, but WikiLeaks relaunched the site in 2015.

One of the earliest revelations by WikiLeaks was on how the U.S. government had been deploying practices at the Guantanamo Bay facility holding terror suspects, that were in violation of the Geneva Convention protocols.

Some of the most consequential leaks during the period when the site's

anonymised submission system still remained active included the millions of classified files from the U.S. Defence Department on the Iraq and the Afghan invasions, besides lakhs of State Department communiques – both were released by former U.S. soldier Chelsea (then Bradley) Manning. These leaks began with a 39-minute video released on April 5, 2010 that showed gun-sight footage of two U.S. AH-64 Apache helicopters in action during the Iraqi insurgency against the U.S. occupation in 2007. The video showed the helicopter crew firing indiscriminately and killing civilians and two Reuters correspondents. For nearly three years, Reuters had sought access to this video via the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, but had failed.

WikiLeaks promptly released the war logs, which were published by a host of media organisations and exposed human rights abuses by occupation forces, besides the increased fatality counts in Iraq. The war logs' release was followed by the publication of several news stories, including by *The Hindu*, based on thousands of leaked diplomatic cables that were also released by Ms. Manning, leading to significant public exposure of the ways, lifestyles and attitudes of the elite in various countries.

The WikiLeaks model – using cryptographic tools to protect sources and allowing for anonymous "leaks" of sensitive information (that could also be in public interest) to be published – suddenly brought forth a new model of extensive investigative journalism into areas that were relatively shielded from the public eye, such as the functioning of the deep state in democratic societies and the operation of power agencies in autocracies.

While initially the cables were released to five newspapers that undertook the exercise of redacting sensitive information before reporting on them and published them over a year from late 2010 to 2011, the leak of the encryption key of the full cache of files (of what was then termed "Cablegate"), resulted in the release of unredacted material, an action that was condemned by many media outlets.

The lack of an anonymised submission system between 2010 and 2015 did not deter it from publishing other files that were obtained from other hackers such as the Stratfor email leaks. Later, WikiLeaks also published then presidential candidate (and former Secretary of State) Hillary Clinton's aide John Podesta's emails before the 2016 presidential elections. This action invited severe critique of WikiLeaks from activists and media personnel, who likened these leaks to an effort to intervene in the 2016 elections with Mr. Assange having been quoted as saying he wanted to "harm" Hillary Clinton's chances of winning the presidency and accusing WikiLeaks of obtaining this information from Russian intelligence agency hackers, something WikiLeaks denied.

Later, it emerged that someone from WikiLeaks had conversed with Clinton's presidential opponent, Donald Trump's son, Donald Trump Jr., seeking to promote the leaks and even asking for favours for Mr. Assange in Twitter DM conversations.

Probe in the U.S.

WikiLeaks' releases, meanwhile, resulted in reprisals from the U.S. government. The Barack Obama administration began investigation of the Manning leaks, and Ms. Manning was convicted by court martial in July 2013 for violating the Espionage Act and underwent rigorous imprisonment before her sentence was commuted in January 2017 by the President. However, the administration concluded that it would not pursue criminal charges against Mr. Assange and WikiLeaks. The U.S. Justice Department under former President Donald Trump, however, charged Mr. Assange with collaborating in a conspiracy with Ms. Manning to crack a password on a Defense Department network to publish classified documents and communications on WikiLeaks in a sealed indictment in April 2017. These charges were unsealed in 2019.

Later, the Trump administration further charged Mr. Assange with violating the Espionage Act of 1917 – he was indicted on 7 new charges related to the Act at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. In June 2020, the charges were further expanded for conspiracy with hacker groups. The Biden administration had made no attempt to reverse these charges. Until now.

In April, Mr. Biden said that he was considering a request from Australia to drop its prosecution of Mr. Assange, indicating a change in policy. And now the U.S. with the plea deal has agreed to drop all other charges, except one, against the whistleblower.

Mr. Assange's legal case sets a precedent for the future of investigative journalism of the kind that WikiLeaks represents and also serves as a litmus test for free expression laws that allow for unhindered journalism in countries like the U.S. While the organisation is now a shell of what it was a decade ago, its ability to harness the act of whistleblowing to shine a light on the inner workings of those in power transformed investigative journalism, even as its decisions to intervene in the U.S. polity complicated its legacy.

The copy, published on June 19, 2022, has been updated.

- **Julian Assange's Release:**

- Julian Assange was released from Belmarsh maximum security prison after serving 1901 days.
- He agreed to plead guilty to one count of conspiracy to obtain and disclose classified U.S. documents.
- Assange's long battle against extradition to the U.S. concluded with his transfer to Australia.

A chessboard with several pieces, including a king and a queen, set against a dark background. The pieces are dark wood, and the board is black and white checkered. The king is in the center, and the queen is to the right. There are other pieces like a rook and a knight visible. The background is dark and out of focus.

- **Charges and Legal Battle:**

- Assange faced charges under the U.S. Espionage Act for leaking classified documents via WikiLeaks.
- He faced up to 175 years in prison for these actions.
- A coalition of media rights and human rights groups opposed his extradition, emphasizing the importance of press freedom

- **WikiLeaks' Operations:**

- WikiLeaks began in 2006, focusing on exposing classified information and promoting transparency.
- Major releases included U.S. military and diplomatic documents, the "Iraq War Logs," and the "Afghan War Diary."
- The leaks involved sensitive military footage and diplomatic cables, leading to significant political and legal repercussions.

- **Impact and Controversies:**

- WikiLeaks' activities have sparked global debates on press freedom, government transparency, and the ethics of whistleblowing.
- The organization has been accused of being a tool for political manipulation, especially during the 2016 U.S. presidential election.
- The leaks included controversial materials like Hillary Clinton's emails and John Podesta's emails, impacting U.S. politics.

- **U.S. Government's Response:**

- The U.S. government has pursued legal action against Assange, citing national security concerns.
- Assange's case set a precedent for the treatment of journalists and whistleblowers, with significant implications for press freedom.

-
- Consider the following statements regarding WikiLeaks and Julian Assange:
 1. Julian Assange was released from Belmarsh maximum security prison after serving over five years.
 2. WikiLeaks' major releases included U.S. military footage and diplomatic cables, which had significant political and legal repercussions.
 3. The U.S. government has accused Julian Assange of collaborating with Russian intelligence agencies to influence the 2016 U.S. presidential election.
 - Which of the statements given above are correct?
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3

WHY IS JULIAN ASSANGE FLYING TO THE PACIFIC ISLAND OF SAIPAN?

BETTER KNOWN for its sandy beaches and World War II wrecks, the tropical Pacific island of Saipan will soon host the final act of Julian Assange's 14-year legal odyssey.

Assange is en route to a courtroom on the island, where he is expected to plead guilty on Wednesday to a single criminal charge in a plea deal that will see him walk free and return home to Australia.

Where is Saipan?

Saipan is the capital of the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), a US commonwealth in the western Pacific, which begins roughly 70 km north of Guam and stretches across 14 islands.

Like territories such as Guam or Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands are part of the US without the full status of a state.

The roughly 51,000 residents are US citizens but cannot vote in presidential elections. Crucially, some, like Saipan, also host US district courts.

The US took control of Saipan during World War II. After decades under US control, residents in 1975 voted to join the US as a territory. The territory has a permanent delegate in the US House of Representative.

Tourism is the mainstay of Saipan's economy – the island and its surroundings are dotted with World War II memorials and wrecks popular with divers.



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange on Tuesday. *Reuters*

GENEVA IO children per day are losing one or two legs in Gaza, says UNRWA



Ten children per day are losing one or both of their legs in the war in Gaza, the head of the UN agency supporting Palestinian refugees said on Tuesday...

Start enrolling ultra-Orthodox into Army, says Israeli court

Associated Press JERUSALEM

Israel's Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled unanimously that the military must begin drafting ultra-Orthodox men for compulsory service...

"selective enforcement" In its ruling, the court found that the state was carrying out "invalid selective enforcement, which represents a serious violation of the rule of law..."

ICC issues warrants for Russia Army chief, ex-Minister

Agence-France-Presse THE HAGUE

The International Criminal Court on Tuesday said it had issued arrest warrants for Russia's Army chief and former Defence Minister over strikes on Ukrainian infrastructure...

Five shot dead as protesters breach Kenya's parliament

As demonstrators enter parliament complex, fire erupts and police begin shooting, injuring 31; lawmakers were debating a contentious Bill featuring tax hike proposals that citizens opposed

Agence-France-Presse NAIROBI

Five persons were shot dead and 31 wounded on Tuesday during protests in Kenya over proposed tax hikes, as crowds opposed to the move breached barricades to enter the parliamentary complex...

WASHINGTON U.S. surgeon general declares gun violence public health emergency



The U.S. surgeon general on Tuesday declared gun violence a public health crisis, driven by the number of injuries and deaths involving firearms in the country...

LATINA Indians in Italy protest to end 'slavery' following worker's death



Thousands of Indian labourers called for an end to "slavery" in Italy on Tuesday after the gruesome death of a worker...

MOSCOW Russia set to block dozens of EU media outlets in 'retaliatory' move



Russia said it was blocking access to dozens of European media outlets, including AFP websites, in response to the EU slapping broadcasting bans on Russian outlets last month...

Julian Assange set to plead guilty to an Espionage Act charge and then walk free

Associated Press BANGKOK

A plane with WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange departed Bangkok after refuelling on Tuesday and he is on the way to Saipan to enter a plea deal with the U.S. government...



Julian Assange Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. commonwealth in the Pacific, where he's scheduled to appear in court on Wednesday...

Regions east of Mahakali river are ours, says Nepal PM

Press Trust of India KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Tuesday said that his government is clear and determined that all territories east of Mahakali River, including Limpiyadhura, Kalapani and Lipulekh, belong to Nepal...

Chinese lunar probe returns to Earth with first samples from far side of the moon



New landmark: The landing module of the Chang'e-6 moon probe after it landed in inner Mongolia in northern China on Tuesday...

Associated Press BANGKOK

China's Chang'e 6 probe returned to Earth with rock and soil samples from the little-explored far side of the moon in a global first. The probe landed in the inner Mongolian region in northern China on Tuesday afternoon...

ken Basin, an impact crater created more than 4 billion years ago. The samples scientists are expecting will likely come from different layers of the basin, which will bear traces of the different geological events across its long chronology...

'Love sans boundaries'



Ten LGBTQ couples celebrate "getting married in a mass wedding" ceremony in Hong Kong on Tuesday, performed by a pastor online from the State of Utah in the U.S., as same-sex marriages or civil unions are not recognised in Hong Kong...



Centrist figures Valery Gerasimov and Sergei Shoigu are accused of directing attacks at civilian targets...

lensky saying Kyiv hoped to see the main "shining bars". "This decision is a clear indication that justice for Russian crimes against Ukrainians is inevitable..."

member state for fear of Mr. Putin himself has travelled abroad, notably to Kyrgyzstan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates...

Chinese lunar probe returns to Earth with first samples from far side of the moon



New landmark: The landing module of the Chang'e-6 moon probe after it landed in Inner Mongolia in northern China on Tuesday. AFP

Associated Press
BANGKOK

China's Chang'e 6 probe returned on Earth with rock and soil samples from the little-explored far side of the moon in a global first.

The probe landed in the Inner Mongolian region in northern China on Tuesday afternoon.

"I now declare that the Chang'e 6 Lunar Exploration Mission achieved complete success," Zhang Kejian, Director of the China National Space Administration, said in a news conference after the landing.

Chinese scientists anticipate the returned samples will include 2.5 million-year-old volcanic rock and other material that scientists hope will answer questions about geographic differences on the moon's two sides.

The near side is what is seen from Earth, and the far side faces outer space. The far side is also known to have mountains and impact craters, contrasting with the relatively flat expanses visible on the near side of the moon.

The probe had landed in the moon's South Pole-Ait-

ken Basin, an impact crater created more than 4 billion years ago.

The samples scientists are expecting will likely come from different layers of the basin, which will bear traces of the different geological events across its long chronology, such as when the moon was younger and had an active inside that could produce volcanic rock.

First of its kind

While past U.S. and Soviet missions have collected samples from the moon's near side, the Chinese mission was the first that has collected samples from the far side.

The moon program is part of a growing rivalry with the U.S. – still the leader in space exploration – and others, including Japan and India. China has put its own space station in orbit and regularly sends crews there.

China's leader Xi Jinping sent a message of congratulations to the Chang'e team, saying that it was a "landmark achievement in our country's efforts at becoming a space and technological power."

IN BRIEF

Frank Duckworth, one of the inventors of DLS, passes away

English statistician and one of the inventors of the Duckworth-Lewis-Short (DLS) method, Frank Duckworth died at the age of 84, according to a report. Duckworth passed away on June 21, according to a report in ESPNcricinfo.com. The Duckworth-Lewis method, devised by Duckworth and fellow statistician Tony Lewis, was introduced to determine results in rain-affected cricket matches.

Kush Maini finishes second in F2 Spanish GP sprint race

Indian racer driver Kush Maini enjoyed a good weekend at the F2 Spanish Grand Prix, as he grabbed the second spot in the sprint race in Barcelona. Maini, who drives for Invicta Racing, finished behind Victor Martins of BWT Alpine with DAMS Lucas Oil Juan Manuel Correa completing the podium. The Indian driver finished sixth in the main race.



Equestrian Agarwalla to represent India in Olympics

Asian Games medalist Anush Agarwalla will represent the country in the dressage event of the Paris Olympics after pipping close contender Shirui Vora on better average, the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) said on Tuesday. Agarwalla, who bugged gold in team dressage and bronze in individual dressage events at the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games, was picked ahead of Vora after a careful evaluation of the recent performances of the two contenders.

Indian archery teams' qualification confirmed

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has accepted the men and women team quotas allotted to the country by World Archery. Following the conclusion of the World Cup Stage-3 in Antalya, Turkey, Indian men and women qualified through World rankings as they topped among nations which had not booked their tickets through qualifying events. The men's team gathered 238 points from the World Cup Stage-1 in Shanghai, 2024 (80 points), World Cup Stage-3 in Medellin, 2023 (56), World Cup Stage-1 in Antalya, 2023 (51) and Asian Games in Hangzhou, 2023 (51). The women collected points from the World Cup Stage-4 in Paris, 2023 (56), World Cup Stage-3 in Antalya, 2024 (48), Berlin World Championships, 2023 (45) and Asian Games in Hangzhou, 2023 (42) to total 191. B. Dhraj (who had secured an individual quota), Tarunpreet Rai and Pravin Jadhav will be part of the world's while Deepika Kumari, Anikta Bhakat and Bhajan Kaur will form the women's squad.

Belgium plays Ukraine in a Group E too close to call

All four teams are on three points each with only goal difference separating them in the table; in Group F Turkey, Czechia and Georgia will fight to finish second behind leader Portugal



Associated Press
STUTTGART

Belgium plays Ukraine on Wednesday with all to play for in Group E at the European Championship. With all teams in the group - Romania and Slovakia are the other two - three points after two games, only goal difference separates top to bottom.

Belgium and Ukraine know a win will be enough to guarantee their place in the pre-quarterfinals.

Any team in Group E can still finish in any position from first to last in the standings. It is the only group where each team has won a game and lost a game in the first two rounds. One of Romania and Slovakia will be in the top two because of a superior goal difference to Slovakia, which would be third, and among the four



Associated Press
STUTTGART

Portugal is already qualified for the knockout and can sign off from Group F in style with a third win when it plays newcomer Georgia on Wednesday.

Georgia will know before kickoff if a draw will potentially be enough to qualify as one of the four best third-place teams, or if only a win will do.

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On Tuesday, a few Indian players took part in an optional practice session at the MAC-B nets.

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SA IN INDIA

S. Dipak Bagat
CHENNAI

As Chennai gears up to host the one-off Test featuring India and South Africa from Friday (June 28-July 1), both teams arrived in the city on Monday.

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Associated Press
STUTTGART

France is already qualified for the knockout and can sign off from Group G in style with a third win when it plays newcomer Georgia on Wednesday.

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Associated Press
STUTTGART

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Brazil frustrated; Colombia cruises



Gung Ho: Lerma celebrates after scoring Colombia's second against Paraguay. REUTERS

COPA AMERICA

A lacklustre Brazil launched its Copa America campaign with a dour 0-0 draw against Costa Rica on Monday as James Rodriguez inspired Colombia to a 2-1 win over Paraguay at Houston.

Brazil, chasing a 10th Copa America crown, dominated possession and territory in the Group D game at the Sofi Stadium in Los Angeles but struggled to break down a resolute Costa Rica.

The Brazilians thought they had taken the lead in the 30th minute after Marquinhos tapped in at the back post after a flick on by Rodrigo following a free-kick by Raphinha.

But after an agonising VAR delay, the goal was chalked off for a fractional offside decision, as Costa Rica escaped.

That was as good as it got for Brazil, which laboured to break down Costa Rica's defence for the remainder of the game, registering just three shots on target despite enjoying 73.5 per cent possession.

Colombia finished the day top of Group D after collecting all three points in its deserved win over Paraguay at Houston.

Rodriguez shines Rodriguez, whose club career has languished in the decade since he rose to prominence with a dazzling performance at the 2014 World Cup, created both of Colombia's goals.

The 22-year-old midfielder has played just a handful of minutes for Brazilian club Sao Paulo in the two months leading into the Copa America.

The results: Brazil 0 drew with Costa Rica 0; Colombia 2 Myanmar 2; Lerma 0-1 Paraguay. (Enric 69).

Indians hit the nets ahead of the one-off Test



FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

As Chennai gears up to host the one-off Test featuring India and South Africa from Friday (June 28-July 1), both teams arrived in the city on Monday.

On Tuesday, a few Indian players took part in an optional practice session at the MAC-B nets.

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I feel I am on the right path to the Paris Olympics, says Sreeja



V.V. Subrahmanyam

India's premier women's table tennis player Akula Sreeja said that she was getting prepared to take on any opponent in next month's Paris Olympics.

Speaking to *The Hindu* after becoming the first Indian win a WTT Continental Tour in Lagos (Nigeria) on Sunday (she completed a double winning the Lagos 'double' was her huge morale booster for her ahead of the Olympics).

"It is a very special performance for me coming so close to the Olympics. I am really glad the way I have been training and playing in the recent past," Sreeja said.

"I feel that I am on the right path to the Olympics given the way I have coped with the hot and humid conditions in Lagos and also the hectic schedule," she said.

"I am ready for the kind of challenge one expects in the Olympics. The biggest challenge is to stay fit mentally and physically," she said.

On the plans in the run-up to the Olympics, the champion paddler said she would be competing in two more tournaments in Tunisia and Bangkok before going to Germany for a 10-day training before heading straight to Paris, she said.

"We have been accompanied by the chief coach Massimo Costantini. But, at the same time, we are trying our best to have my coach and mentor Somnath Sir (Ghosh) and get the accreditation," Sreeja said. "But, definitely, Somnath will be there in Germany for the camp," she added.

"The focus will be on doubles also as we are trying to make a big in the team events in the Olympics," she said.

Yuki-Albano duo makes the last eight

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Yuki Bhambri and Albano Olivetti eased past Sriram Balaji and Luke Johnson 6-3, 6-3 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the BNP Paribas ATP tennis tournament in Calvia, Spain.

Other results: \$25,000 ITF mixed, South Africa: Singles (first round): Devin Simonsen (RSA) 6-1, 6-3; Aggarwal 7-5, 7-5; Ishaque Ebal 6-3, 6-3; Ayman Shah 6-1, 6-3; Longee-Smit (RSA) 6-3, 6-3.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Ishaque Ebal & Xin Yan Wuyi 6-3, 6-3; Aggarwal & Max Bernam (GBR) 6-7(3), 6-1, (10-3).

\$15,000 ITF men, Tianjin, China: Singles (first round): S. Mukund 6-2, 6-2; Wang Shuo Yin (Tpe).

No matter what happens now, this is Afghanistan's World Cup



BETWEEN THE CRICKETS

In the recent past, Afghanistan has become the second favourite team of cricket fans assuming that respective countries are the first in international tournaments. If you asked them before the start of the T20 World Cup, "If not your own country, which team would you like to see win?", most would have answered, "Afghanistan" (at other times, and for different reasons, New Zealand or Sri Lanka have been second favourites).

And this is not just because of Afghanistan's recent history of war and terror and human disasters -

which are reason enough - but for the brand of joyful cricket and unexpected narratives they bring to the field of play too. And for the sheer spirit and togetherness in the team which now has some world class performers.

Thrill of participation This support is in no way patronising, nor does it come from a position of superiority. There has always been, in this team, the palpable thrill of participation and the augury of great possibilities, all communicated to the viewers unsolicitedly. Now they have two bowlers in the world's Top 10 and a batter in the Top 15 as they prepare to take on South Africa in the semifinal of a World Cup. It is the most romantic cricket story of our times.

The three other semifinalists are the only teams in the top 10 that Afghanistan have not beaten yet. But that hardly matters. The World Cup is already theirs in a bigger sense. "Cricket is the only source of happiness back home," says Rashid Khan has said. Afghanistan's cricket is a source of happiness to the world over. But there's more. Cricket spells hope for a country that has suffered for decades, giving the players a sense of participation and satisfaction of achievement.

On the other hand, the growth of cricket among Afghans has been a significant reminder of why some people play a sport, other people write about it, and how one hour of crowded glory is worth an age without a name.

Months short of his 40th birthday, was less demonstrative than the bowler. He had seen it all while taking Afghanistan from the World Cricket League division 5 to the semifinal to 20 a World Cup. It was his story, against all odds, that suggested Afghanistan might be a future Test candidate. Like C.K. Yeh, Yeh's century against the MCC provided the magic. Two wickets of successive deliveries. Then he took off, arms outstretched, and in danger of achieving lift-off. It was magical, a stirring reminder of why some people play a sport, other people write about it, and how one hour of crowded glory is worth an age without a name.

When Naveen-ul Haq provided the magic. Two wickets of successive deliveries. Then he took off, arms outstretched, and in danger of achieving lift-off. It was magical, a stirring reminder of why some people play a sport, other people write about it, and how one hour of crowded glory is worth an age without a name.

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Frank Duckworth, one of the inventors of DLS, passes away

English statistician and one of the inventors of the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method, Frank Duckworth died at the age of 84, according to a report. Duckworth passed away on June 21, according to a report in ESPNcricinfo.com. The Duckworth-Lewis method, devised by Duckworth and fellow statistician Tony Lewis, was introduced to determine results in rain-affected cricket matches.

-
- **Purpose:**
 - The DLS method adjusts the target score for the team batting second in cases where a match is shortened due to interruptions, such as rain delays.
 - **Resource Calculation:**
 - **Resources Available:** The method calculates the resources available to both teams, considering two main factors: the number of overs left and the number of wickets remaining.
 - **Percentage of Resources:** Each situation (specific overs left and wickets in hand) is assigned a percentage value representing the available resources.

- **Initial Resource Calculation:**

- At the start of the match, both teams are considered to have 100% of their resources available.
- For each interruption, the available resources are recalculated based on the number of overs left and the wickets in hand at the time of the interruption.

-
- **Interrupted Match:**
 - **First Innings Interruption:** If the first innings is interrupted, the DLS method adjusts the target score for the team batting second based on the revised total that the first team could have scored with the resources they had left.
 - **Second Innings Interruption:** If the second innings is interrupted, the method recalculates the target score based on the resources available to the second team.

-
- **Calculation Process:**
 - **Total Resource Percentage:** Calculate the total percentage of resources available to the team batting second at the start of their innings.
 - **Lost Resources:** Calculate the percentage of resources lost due to the interruption.
 - **Adjusted Target:** The adjusted target score is calculated using the formula: Revised Target = (Team 1's Score * Team 2's Resources) / Team 1's Resources.

SETBACK FOR DELHI CM

As HC stays Kejriwal bail in ED case, CBI knocks on his door

Trial court granted bail without going through entire material on record: HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

FOUR HOURS AFTER the Delhi High Court allowed the application of the Enforcement Directorate and stayed the June 20 trial court order granting bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in an alleged money laundering case, the CBI prepared the grounds to arrest him in the Delhi excise policy case it is investigating separately.

Sources said the CBI questioned Kejriwal in Tihar jail Tuesday — arrested by the ED on March 21, he is currently lodged there — and will approach a

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Delhi court Wednesday to seek his custody.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'WILL FOSTER ADVERSE SENTIMENTS'

Citing faith, Mizoram & Nagaland write to Centre: Don't rename health centre as mandir

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

THE CENTRE'S decision to rename the flagship Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre as Ayushman Aarogya Mandir (AAM) has faced a pushback from the North-eastern states of Mizoram and Nagaland. Citing the "sentiments" of so-

ciety and the church, these two states expressed concerns and requested exemption from this renaming exercise, show records. These states continue to use the previous nomenclature of a "health and wellness centre" as they await a word from the Centre on their objection.

Last year, the Union Health Ministry decided to rebrand its
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

A CONTEST AFTER 26 YEARS, BOTH SIDES MOBILISE THEIR MPs

Birla vs Suresh for Speaker's post after NDA and Opp fail to reach consensus

For no contest, Opp sought Govt commitment on Dy Speaker post

LIZ MATHEW & MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

PARLIAMENT APPEARED headed for a rare contest for the Lok Sabha Speaker's post Wednesday after the government and Opposition failed to build a consensus Tuesday.

The INDIA bloc, which demanded commitment from the government on choosing a Deputy Speaker from the Opposition ranks — as per convention — went ahead and announced its candidate for Speaker after the government pushed back on the issue.



Amit Shah with NDA partners during the filing of nomination in support of Om Birla. Rajnath Singh is seated behind.

While the NDA renominated BJP MP Om Birla, who was Speaker in the 17th Lok Sabha, for the post, the INDIA bloc fielded eight-time Congress MP Kodikunni Suresh.

With the numbers on the NDA's side, Birla is expected to win. Even the YSRC, which has four MPs and is the TDP's rival in Andhra Pradesh, has indicated that it is likely to support Birla's candidature.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Rahul to be Leader of Opp in LS, says Cong

ASAD REHMAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

THE CONGRESS announced on Tuesday evening that senior party leader and MP Rahul Gandhi will be the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha.

Announcing the decision after a meeting of the INDIA bloc floor leaders at Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's residence, party general secretary in-charge of organisation K C Venugopal said CPP chairperson Sonia Gandhi had written to protem Speaker Bharatruhari Mahab, informing him about the decision. "Other office-bearers will be decided later," he said.



KODIKUNNI SURESH
CONGRESS MP, SPEAKER CANDIDATE

This will be the first time in 10 years that the Lok Sabha will have a Leader of Opposition. The Congress failed to get the required 10 per cent seats (54) to
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NETWORK



PORSCHE CRASH: BOMBAY HC ORDERS RELEASE OF MINOR

MUMBAI HOARDING COLLAPSE: IPS OFFICER SUSPENDED

IN FIVE days, in a move that will overhaul the country's criminal laws, the Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita, 2023 (the new IPC); the Bharatiya Nagarik Suaksha (Second) Sanhita, 2023 (the new CrPC); and the Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Act, 2023 (the new Evidence Act), —
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Days to go for new codes but official translations still pending, states wait

DAMINI NATH,
KIRAN PARASHAR & SHAJU PHILIP
NEW DELHI, BENGALURU, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
JUNE 25

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NEW CRIMINAL CODE
THE COUNTDOWN
Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Act, 2023 (the new Evidence Act), —
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Moscow, Delhi work on PM visit to Russia, his first since Ukraine war

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 25

NEW DELHI and Moscow are exploring a visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 8-9. Sources said preparations are underway for the possible visit, but there has been no official confirmation from either side about the visit.

The Tribune Tuesday reported that Modi will undertake a "quick day-long trip" to Moscow on July 8.

This will be Modi's first visit to Russia after it attacked Ukraine in February 2022, and is significant given India's tactful diplomacy on ties with Moscow and the West in the backdrop of their hostility.

Modi had last visited Russia in 2019, when he had gone to Vladivostok for the 20th India-Russia Annual Summit. News agency PTI quoted a Kremlin official in Moscow who said active preparations are underway for the trip. "I can confirm that we are preparing a visit by the Prime Minister of India."
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SPORT



AFGHANISTAN ENTER T20 SEMI-FINAL

EXPRESS NETWORK

U.P. CLEARS TATA TEMPLE MUSEUM IN AYODHYA
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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'HOW TO MAKE MILLIONS BEFORE GRANDMA DIES' HAS BECOME A SURPRISE HIT; ITS THEME IS UNIVERSAL: BONDING WITH FAMILY

Why this Thailand movie is making people cry and think of their family

SUI-LEE WEE

BANGKOK, JUNE 25

DANIEL NICO Laudit says he does not cry easily. He decided to test his mettle this month in a movie theater in Manila, Philippines, and documented the experience for his 4.5 million followers on TikTok.

Before the screening, he filmed himself dancing and reaming and said to the camera: "Me before watching *How to Make Millions Before Grandma Dies*." About two hours later, he uploaded a very different version of himself: wiping tears from his eyes in a bathroom.

"I went straight to the rest-

room after the movie because I wanted to cry out loud," Laudit, 24, a content creator, said in an interview. He said he cried some more when he got back home.

Reactions like Laudit's have made the movie, which was filmed in Bangkok mostly in the Thai language, a runaway hit across Southeast Asia. In the Philippines, tickets were sold out on its opening day, theaters had to add more screenings to meet demand, and one chain started handing out tissues to viewers. In Singapore, it topped the box office from June 6-9. In Indonesia, it has drawn millions of viewers. In Thailand, it is the highest-grossing title of the year so far.

The plot revolves around an aimless and unemployed young man, M, whose sole ambition is to livestream his online games. He volunteers to take care of his maternal grandmother after he finds out she has Stage 4 cancer. His motivation is not filial piety; he hopes that he can inherit her house.

After M moves in with his grandmother, he develops a closer understanding of the complicated characters that make up his Thai-Chinese family: Chew, his long-suffering mother who feels that only she can step up to take care of her mother; Soei, the good-for-nothing youngest uncle who borrows and steals from the grandmother; and Kiang, the eldest



Pat Boonnitipat, 33, the director of the film *How to Make Millions Before Grandma Dies*, in Bangkok. *NYT*

uncle who is preoccupied with his daughter and materialistic wife.

"It talks about the thing that we all have in common, which is family," said Pat Boonnitipat, the director of the film.

This part of the world is "familiar with many generations living in the same house. I think that kind of upbringing creates a unique feeling in your memory," said Pat, 33.

The movie explores the tensions that arise in a family before the impending death of one head of the household, and the gender biases that persist. In one memorable line, Chew says, "Sons inherit the house, daughters inherit cancer." The grandmother, or "Ah

Ma," played by first-time actress Usha Seamkhum, is brusque and bristly, although viewers soon get to see that underneath that tough exterior, she loves her family members, and that she is lonely. Many viewers said they loved the chemistry between Usha and her co-star Putthipong Assaratanakul (the grandson). Putthipong, known by his nickname Billkin, is famous in Thailand as a TV actor and pop star.

"The strength of this movie lies in the storytelling," said Angeline Kartika, 24, a content creator in Jakarta. Like many viewers, Joy Ni Ni Win, a digital marketing executive in Mandalay, Myanmar's second-biggest city, said she heard

about the movie on TikTok.

"It roused my interest to see—'OK, why are people crying so hard?'" said Win, 28. She quickly understood. A friend filmed her in the theater with tears streaming down her cheeks. Diana Setiawati of Indonesia said it made her think about how she spends too little time with her mother. After the movie was over, she immediately called her.

Ian Jeevan, 27, a financial consultant in Singapore, said the movie reminded him of his relationship with his grandmother. He uploaded a TikTok video of himself choking up, with the caption: "Running over to hug my grandma now!!" *NYT*

Nearly 50% Indians less active than recommended: WHO

More Indian women (57%) than men (42%) fail to meet WHO norms, as per findings published in Lancet

**ANURADHA
MASCARENHAS**
PUNE, JUNE 25

ALMOST HALF of the adult Indian population does not meet the World Health Organization's (WHO) guidelines on sufficient physical activity, according to new data published in the Lancet Global Health.

More women (57%) than men (42%) are physically inactive in India, says the study. Most alarmingly, the prevalence of insufficient physical activity among Indian adults has risen sharply from 22.3% in 2000 to 49.4% in 2022. If this remains unchecked, 60% of our population would be unfit by 2030 and at risk of diseases linked to inadequate physical activities, according to the study. Estimates indicate that India has the 12th highest prevalence of

insufficient physical activity among 195 countries. Worldwide, nearly one-third (31%) of adults – approximately 1.8 billion people – did not meet the recommended levels of physical activity in 2022.

The WHO recommends at least 150 to 300 minutes of moderate aerobic activity per week (or equivalent vigorous activity) for all adults. Insufficient physical activity is defined as not doing 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity, 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity activity, or an equivalent combination per week. According to the WHO, lack of physical activity puts adults at greater risk of cardiovascular diseases such as heart attacks and strokes, Type 2 diabetes, dementia and cancers of the breast and colon.

Dr Rüdiger Krech, director of health promotion at WHO, said, "The findings point to a worrying trend of physical inactivity among



Estimates indicate that India has 12th highest prevalence of insufficient physical activity among 195 countries.

adults, which has increased by about five percentage points between 2010 and 2022." The highest rates of physical inactivity were observed in the high-income Asia-Pacific region (48%) and South Asia (45%). In other regions, it ranged from 28% in high-income Western countries to 14% in Oceania. The status sheet is of

particular concern in India, as people here are genetically more prone to developing non-communicable diseases such as heart problems and diabetes at least a decade earlier than others. "Lack of physical activity means that you are just aggravating your risk factors," said Dr K Srinath Reddy, public health expert and top cardiologist. "The goal to increase levels of physical activity in populations across the world was set with the expectation of many health benefits: reduced risk of heart disease, diabetes, obesity and some types of cancer; improved mental health and a stronger immune system," he said. Dr Reddy said he fears that increasing levels of global warming, manifesting as extreme weather, would pose greater challenges to outdoor physical activities of people. "Though the estimates of physical activity in 2022 may have

been affected by Covid in many parts of the world, the trend of reduced physical activity is likely to persist, unless effective interventions are made by urban planners to create space for physical activity and people are willing to make behavioural changes," he said. He said that several studies in India had shown low levels of physical activity at the population level, particularly women, who wrongly believe that household chores are a good form of physical exercise.

Insufficient physical activity among women in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan is a worry as they lag behind men by over 14-20 percentage points. However, women in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal are more active and on track for achieving the global target – 15% between 2010 and 2030 – of prevalence of women with insufficient physical activity.

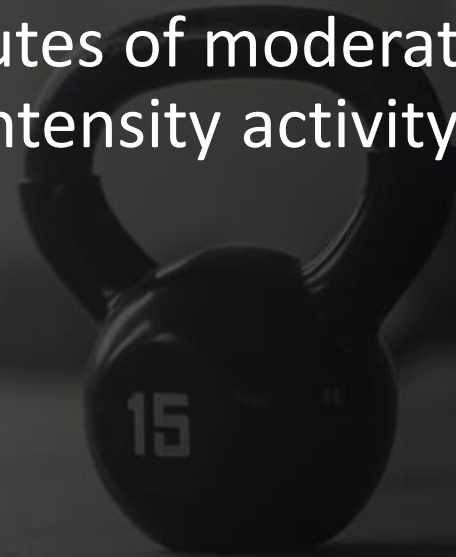
- **Prevalence of Inactivity:**

- Nearly 50% of adult Indians do not meet WHO's guidelines for sufficient physical activity.
- 57% of Indian women and 42% of Indian men are physically inactive.

-
- **Global Context:**
 - India has the 12th highest prevalence of insufficient physical activity among 195 countries.
 - Worldwide, 31% of adults, approximately 1.8 billion people, did not meet recommended levels of physical activity in 2022.

- **WHO Recommendations:**

- WHO recommends at least 150 to 300 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity activity per week for all adults.



- **Health Risks:**

- Insufficient physical activity increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, obesity, some types of cancer, and other health issues.
- Physical inactivity puts adults at greater risk of Type 2 diabetes, dementia, and cancers of the breast and colon.

- **Trends and Predictions:**

- The prevalence of insufficient physical activity among Indian adults rose from 22.3% in 2000 to 49.4% in 2022.
- If unchecked, 60% of the Indian population could be unfit by 2030.

- **Impact of COVID-19:**

- The trend of reduced physical activity is expected to persist post-pandemic unless effective interventions are made.

- **Regional Differences:**

- The highest rates of physical inactivity were observed in the high-income Asia-Pacific region (48%) and South Asia (45%).
- Other regions showed lower rates, from 28% in high-income Western countries to 14% in Oceania.

- **Gender Disparities:**

- Insufficient physical activity is more prevalent among women in India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan compared to men by 14-20 percentage points.
- Women in Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal are more active and closer to meeting the global target.

-
- Consider the following statements regarding physical activity levels in India as per WHO guidelines:
 1. According to WHO, nearly 50% of adult Indians do not meet the recommended levels of physical activity.
 2. More Indian men (57%) than women (42%) are physically inactive.
 3. India has the 12th highest prevalence of insufficient physical activity among 195 countries.
 - Which of the statements given above are correct?
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 1 and 3 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3

● PLACED FOURTH IN THE LIST

ICICI Bank sixth firm to hit \$100 bn in m-cap

SACHIN KUMAR
Mumbai, June 25

ICICI BANK'S MARKET capitalisation on Tuesday crossed the \$100-billion mark for the first time, making it the sixth company ever to achieve the milestone as its shares hit an all-time high. After hitting a record high of ₹1,207, shares of ICICI Bank closed at ₹1,199, up 2.5 %, valuing the firm at ₹8.44 trillion (\$101 billion).

The sharp spike in ICICI's share price has helped the private lender to join the likes of Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank, and Bharti Airtel. Previously, Infosys too had achieved this milestone but has since exited the club. ICICI Bank is placed fourth in the list.

RIL is country's largest company by market value at \$236 billion followed by TCS (\$166 billion). Among the banks, ICICI bank is the second after HDFC Bank to have \$100 billion market cap. HDFC Bank's market cap now stands at over \$156 billion.

Over the last one year, ICICI Bank shares have risen nearly 29%, beating the 27 % gains made by Nifty50 and 20% gain in Bank Nifty. Year-to-date,



M-CAP MILESTONE

■ After hitting ₹1,207, shares of ICICI closed at ₹1,199, up 2.5 %, valuing the firm at ₹8.44 trillion

■ The spike in share price has helped it to join the likes of RIL, TCS, HDFC Bank and Bharti Airtel

■ RIL is country's largest company by market value at \$236 billion followed by TCS (\$166 billion)

the stock has risen around 20%.

Experts expect ICICI Bank to maintain robust loan growth, focusing on quality underwriting.

“ICICI Bank is well positioned to deliver a superior performance characterised by healthy loan growth, strong asset quality and industry-leading return ratios,” said Motilal Oswal Financial Services in a latest report. “While we estimate margins to remain range-bound in the near term, the operating leverage is emerging as

a lever to support earnings growth”.

The bank is witnessing healthy deposit inflow, while a benign CD ratio, which is lowest among large private banks, places it well to focus on profitable growth, added the report.

ICICI Bank, on Tuesday, announced that it will release first quarter financial results on July 27. In the previous quarter that ended March 31, it reported standalone net profit of ₹10,707.5 crore, up 17.4% y-o-y.

- **Market Capitalization Milestone:**

- ICICI Bank's market capitalization crossed the \$100-billion mark for the first time, making it the sixth company to achieve this milestone in India.
- The bank's shares hit an all-time high of ₹1,207 before closing at ₹1,199, up 2.5%, valuing the firm at ₹8.44 trillion (\$101 billion).

- **Comparison with Other Companies:**

- ICICI Bank joins the likes of Reliance Industries (RIL), Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, and Bharti Airtel in the \$100-billion market cap club.
- RIL is the largest company by market value in India at \$236 billion, followed by TCS at \$166 billion.



• Stock Performance:

- IICI Bank's share price has risen around 200% over the last year.
- The bank's performance has beaten the 27% gain by Nifty50 and the 20% gain by Bank Nifty.



• **Future Prospects and Analysis:**

- Experts expect ICICI Bank to maintain robust loan growth with a focus on quality underwriting.
- Motilal Oswal Financial Services predicts a superior performance for the bank, characterized by healthy loan growth, strong asset quality, and industry-leading return ratios.

125,058	154,568	95,054	124,500
125,487	56,845	97,511	125,000
124,000	110,000	99,011	154,000
150	150,000	99,216	95,000
	35,000	101,090	154,200
		101,684	110,000
		101,962	89,000
			50,000
			10,700

The background features a dark blue color scheme with various financial data visualizations. On the left, there are vertical price columns with green and red bars, and a line chart showing price fluctuations. In the center and right, there are larger line charts with white lines on a grid, and a table of numerical data. The data table includes columns for stock symbols (e.g., 500747, 500748), prices (e.g., 187775, 187771), and percentage changes (e.g., 1.56, -4.33).


- **Financial Results:**

- ICICI Bank will release its first-quarter financial results on July 27.
- In the previous quarter ending March 31, it reported a standalone net profit of ₹10,747.5 crore, up 17.4% year-on-year.

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- Consider the following statements regarding ICICI Bank's recent market performance:
 1. ICICI Bank is the sixth company in India to achieve a market capitalization of \$100 billion.
 2. The bank's shares reached an all-time high of ₹1,207 and closed at ₹1,199, valuing the firm at ₹8.44 trillion.
 3. Reliance Industries is the largest company by market value in India, with a market capitalization of \$236 billion.
 - Which of the statements given above are correct?
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3



Post Office Act 2023

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- Recently, the Post Office Act of 2023 came into force repealing the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.
 - What are the Key Highlights of the Post Office Act 2023?
 - Interception and Detention of Items:
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 - हाल ही में, भारतीय डाकघर अधिनियम, 1898 को निरस्त करते हुए डाकघर अधिनियम 2023 लागू हुआ।
 - डाकघर अधिनियम 2023 की मुख्य विशेषताएं क्या हैं?
 - वस्तुओं का अवरोधन और हिरासत:

- Section 9:

- This provision allows the centre to authorise any officer to intercept or detain any postal item for reasons related to state security, foreign relations, etc.
- Items suspected of containing prohibited goods or items liable for customs duty can be handed over to customs authorities.

- धारा 9:

- यह प्रावधान केंद्र को किसी भी अधिकारी को राज्य सुरक्षा, विदेशी संबंधों आदि से संबंधित कारणों से किसी भी डाक वस्तु को रोकने या हिरासत में लेने के लिए अधिकृत करने की अनुमति देता है।
- जिन वस्तुओं पर प्रतिबंधित सामान होने का संदेह हो या जिन वस्तुओं पर सीमा शुल्क लगता हो, उन्हें सीमा शुल्क अधिकारियों को सौंपा जा सकता है।

- **Exemption from Liability:**

- **Section 10: The Post Office and its officers are exempt from liability for loss, misdelivery, delay, or damage during the course of providing services, except as prescribed.**

- दायित्व से छूट:

- धारा 10: डाकघर और उसके अधिकारियों को निर्धारित सेवाओं को छोड़कर, सेवाएं प्रदान करने के दौरान हानि, गलत वितरण, देरी या क्षति के लिए दायित्व से छूट दी गई है।

- **Removal of Penalties and Offences:**

- **The new Act eliminates all penalties and offences outlined in the 1898 Act, including those related to misconduct, fraud, and theft by postal officials.**

- **It includes provisions to recover unpaid service charges as arrears of land revenue.**

- **दंड और अपराध हटाना:**

- **नया अधिनियम 1898 अधिनियम में उल्लिखित सभी दंडों और अपराधों को समाप्त कर देता है, जिसमें डाक अधिकारियों द्वारा कदाचार, धोखाधड़ी और चोरी से संबंधित अपराध भी शामिल हैं।**

- **इसमें भू-राजस्व के बकाया के रूप में अवैतनिक सेवा शुल्क वसूलने के प्रावधान शामिल हैं।**

- **Penalty under Section 7:**

- **Every person who avails of a service provided by the Post Office shall be liable to pay the charges in respect of such service.**
- **Removal of Centre's Exclusivity: The new Act removes the exclusive privilege of the Centre to convey letters, a privilege which was effectively obsolete by the rise of private courier services in the 1980s.**
 - **The Act now explicitly brings private courier services under its regulatory ambit, recognizing the government's loss of exclusivity while expanding the scope to intercept and detain any postal article, not just letters.**

- धारा 7 के तहत जुर्माना:
- प्रत्येक व्यक्ति जो डाकघर द्वारा प्रदान की गई सेवा का लाभ उठाता है, ऐसी सेवा के संबंध में शुल्क को भुगतान करने के लिए उत्तरदायी होगा।
- केंद्र की विशिष्टता को हटाना: नया अधिनियम पत्र भेजने के केंद्र के विशेष विशेषाधिकार को हटा देता है, एक विशेषाधिकार जो 1980 के दशक में निजी करियर सेवाओं के उदय से प्रभावी रूप से अप्रचलित हो गया था।
- यह अधिनियम अब स्पष्ट रूप से निजी करियर सेवाओं को अपने नियामक दायरे में लाता है, न केवल पत्रों को बल्कि किसी भी डाक लेख को रोकने और हिरासत में लेने के दायरे का विस्तार करते हुए सरकार की विशिष्टता के नुकसान को पहचानता है।

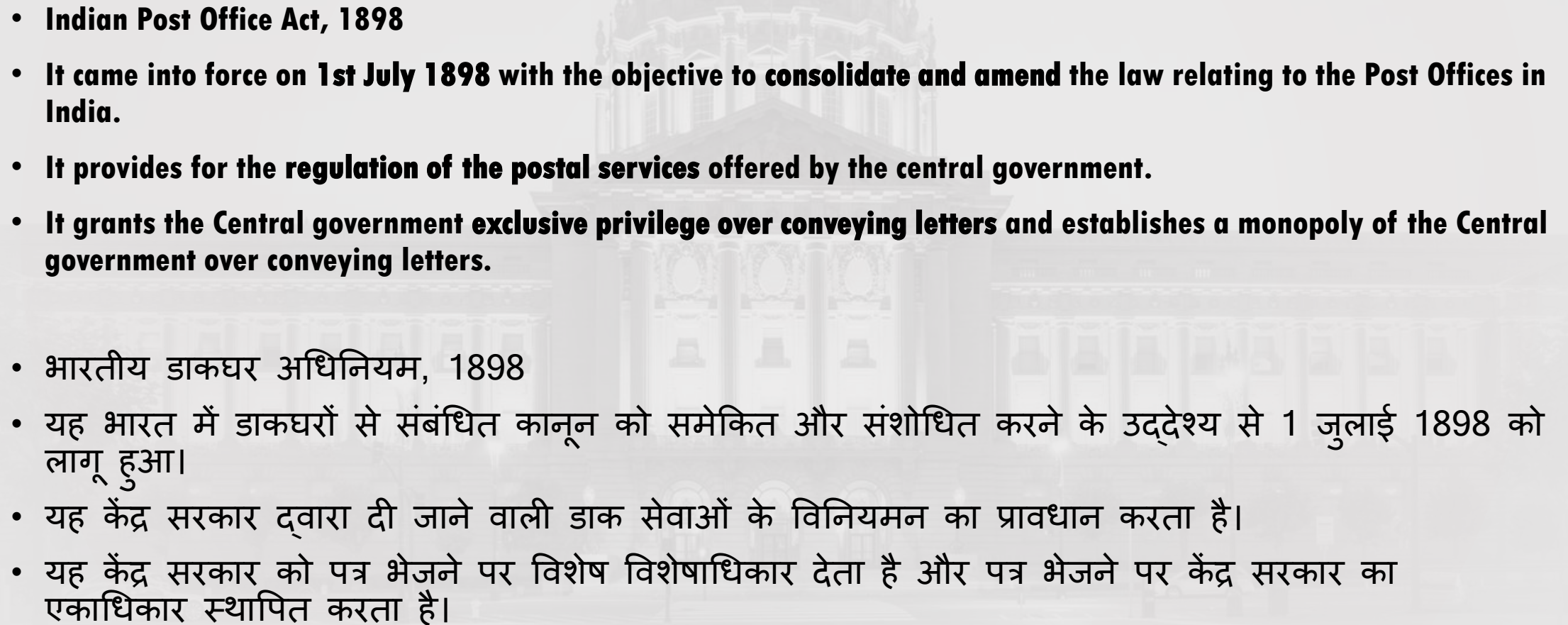
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- **Director General of Postal Services:**
 - **The new Act authorises the Director General of Postal Services to make regulations pertaining to activities essential for offering various additional services as may be prescribed by the central government, as well as for fixing charges for these services.**
 - **It eliminates the need for parliamentary approval while revising the set charges for any services provided by post offices.**
 - डाक सेवा महानिदेशक:
 - नया अधिनियम डाक सेवाओं के महानिदेशक को केंद्र सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित विभिन्न अतिरिक्त सेवाओं की पेशकश के लिए आवश्यक गतिविधियों से संबंधित नियम बनाने के साथ-साथ इन सेवाओं के लिए शुल्क तय करने के लिए अधिकृत करता है।
 - यह डाकघरों द्वारा प्रदान की जाने वाली किसी भी सेवा के लिए निर्धारित शुल्क को संशोधित करते समय संसदीय अनुमोदन की आवश्यकता को समाप्त कर देता है।

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- **Identifiers and Post Codes:**
 - **Section 5(1) of the Act states that “The Central Government may prescribe standards for addressing on the items, address identifiers and usage of postcodes”.**
 - **This provision is a forward-looking concept and will replace physical addresses with digital codes based on geographical coordinates for precise identification of a premise.**

पहचानकर्ता और पोस्ट कोड:

अधिनियम की धारा 5(1) में कहा गया है कि "केंद्र सरकार वस्तुओं पर पते, पता पहचानकर्ताओं और पोस्टकोड के उपयोग के लिए मानक निर्धारित कर सकती है"।

यह प्रावधान एक तरह की अवधारणा है और किमी परिमर की सटीक पहचान के लिए भौगोलिक निर्देशांक के आधार पर भौतिक पते को डिजिटल कोड से बदल देगा।

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- **Indian Post Office Act, 1898**
 - **It came into force on 1st July 1898 with the objective to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Post Offices in India.**
 - **It provides for the regulation of the postal services offered by the central government.**
 - **It grants the Central government exclusive privilege over conveying letters and establishes a monopoly of the Central government over conveying letters.**
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- भारतीय डाकघर अधिनियम, 1898
 - यह भारत में डाकघरों से संबंधित कानून को समेकित और संशोधित करने के उद्देश्य से 1 जुलाई 1898 को लागू हुआ।
 - यह केंद्र सरकार द्वारा दी जाने वाली डाक सेवाओं के विनियमन का प्रावधान करता है।
 - यह केंद्र सरकार को पत्र भेजने पर विशेष विशेषाधिकार देता है और पत्र भेजने पर केंद्र सरकार का एकाधिकार स्थापित करता है।

World Medical and Health Games



Recently, four **Armed Forces Medical Service (AFMS)** Officers have made India proud by winning a record **32 Medals** in the **43rd World Medical and Health Games** held in Saint-Tropez, France.

The World Medical and Health Games also called the **Olympic Games for Health Professionals**.

हाल ही में, चार सशस्त्र बल चिकित्सा सेवा (एएफएमएस) अधिकारियों ने फ्रांस के सेंट-ट्रोपेज़ में आयोजित 43वें विश्व चिकित्सा और स्वास्थ्य खेलों में रिकॉर्ड 32 पदक जीतकर भारत को गौरवान्वित किया है।

विश्व चिकित्सा और स्वास्थ्य खेल को स्वास्थ्य पेशेवरों के लिए ओलंपिक खेल भी कहा जाता है।

- **It is the most prestigious global sporting event within the medical community. The legacy of the World Medical and Health Games dates back to 1978.**
- **Over 2500 participants from more than 50 different nations participate in this event annually.**
- **Lt Col Sanjeev Malik, Maj Anish George, Capt Stephen Sebastian, and Capt Dania James, made history by winning 19 Gold Medals, 09 Silver Medals and 04 Bronze Med**
- यह चिकित्सा समुदाय के भीतर सबसे प्रतिष्ठित वैश्विक खेल आयोजन है। विश्व चिकित्सा और स्वास्थ्य खेलों की विरासत 1978 से चली आ रही है।
- इस आयोजन में हर साल 50 से अधिक विभिन्न देशों के 2500 से अधिक प्रतिभागी भाग लेते हैं।
- लेफ्टिनेंट कर्नल संजीव मलिक, मेजर अनीश जॉर्ज, कैप्टन स्टीफन सेबेस्टियन और कैप्टन डेनिया जेम्स ने 19 स्वर्ण पदक, 09 रजत पदक और 04 कांस्य पदक जीतकर इतिहास रच दिया।

The image features a vast field of paper boats floating on a dark, rippling body of water. The boats are mostly dark grey or black, creating a somber and repetitive pattern. In the center of the frame, a single paper boat stands out, colored a bright, glowing yellow. The text 'Kanishka Tragedy' is overlaid in white, sans-serif font, centered horizontally and partially overlapping the yellow boat. The overall mood is one of collective grief and a search for a specific memory or event.

Kanishka Tragedy

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- **Recently, Canada has said that the investigation into the 1985 bombing of Air India Flight 182 is still "active and ongoing".**
 - **On 23rd June 1985, Montreal-New Delhi Air India 'Kanishka' Flight 182 travelling from Canada to India via London, exploded off the Irish coast killing all 329 people on board, mostly Indians.**
 - **Another explosion at Tokyo's Narita airport killed two Japanese baggage handlers while the flight was still in the air.**
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- हाल ही में, कनाडा ने कहा है कि 1985 में एयर इंडिया फ्लाइट 182 पर हुए बम विस्फोट की जांच अभी भी "सक्रिय और जारी" है।
 - 23 जून 1985 को, मॉन्ट्रियल-नई दिल्ली एयर इंडिया 'कनिष्क' फ्लाइट 182 कनाडा से लंदन होते हुए भारत जा रही थी, जिसमें आयरिश तट के पास विस्फोट हो गया, जिसमें सवार सभी 329 लोग मारे गए, जिनमें ज्यादातर भारतीय थे।
 - टोक्यो के नरीता हवाई अड्डे पर एक और विस्फोट में दो जापानी सामान संभालने वालों की मौत हो गई, जबकि उड़ान अभी भी हवा में थी।

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- Investigators later revealed that this bomb was connected to the attack on Flight 182 and was meant for another Air India flight to Bangkok, but it detonated prematurely.
 - The bombing was attributed to Sikh militants (Khalistanis) in retaliation for 'Operation Bluestar' by the Indian Army in 1984.
 - जांचकर्ताओं ने बाद में खुलासा किया कि यह बम फ्लाइट 182 पर हुए हमले से जुड़ा था और बैंकॉक जाने वाली एयर इंडिया की एक अन्य उड़ान के लिए था, लेकिन इसमें समय से पहले विस्फोट हो गया।
 - 1984 में भारतीय सेना द्वारा 'ऑपरेशन ब्लूस्टार' के प्रतिशोध में बमबारी का श्रेय सिख आतंकवादियों (खालिस्तानियों) को दिया गया था।


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- **'Operation Bluestar' was a military operation ordered by the Indian government to remove Sikh militants from the Golden Temple in Amritsar.**
 - **The Khalistan movement is a separatist movement seeking to create a homeland for Sikhs by establishing an ethno-religious sovereign state called Khalistan in the Punjab region.**



- 'ऑपरेशन ब्लूस्टार' अमृतसर के स्वर्ण मंदिर से सिख आतंकवादियों को हटाने के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा आदेशित एक सैन्य अभियान था।
- खालिस्तान आंदोलन एक अलगाववादी आंदोलन है जो पंजाब क्षेत्र में खालिस्तान नामक एक जातीय-धार्मिक संप्रभु राज्य की स्थापना करके सिखों के लिए एक मातृभूमि बनाना चाहता है।

DEADLIEST AVIATION INCIDENT IN THE HISTORY OF AIR INDIA
AIR INDIA FLIGHT 182 KANISHKA



647th Birth Anniversary of
Sant Kabir Das

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- On 22nd June 2024, the Prime Minister commemorated the 647th birth anniversary of Sant Kabir Das. Sant Kabir Das, a 15th-century Indian mystic poet and saint, was born in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to a Muslim family but was raised by a Hindu weaver couple.

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- 22 जून 2024 को प्रधानमंत्री ने संत कबीर दास की 647वीं जयंती मनाई। 15वीं सदी के भारतीय रहस्यवादी कवि और संत, संत कबीर दास का जन्म उत्तर प्रदेश के वाराणसी में एक मुस्लिम परिवार में हुआ था, लेकिन उनका पालन-पोषण एक हिंदू बुनकर जोड़े ने किया था।
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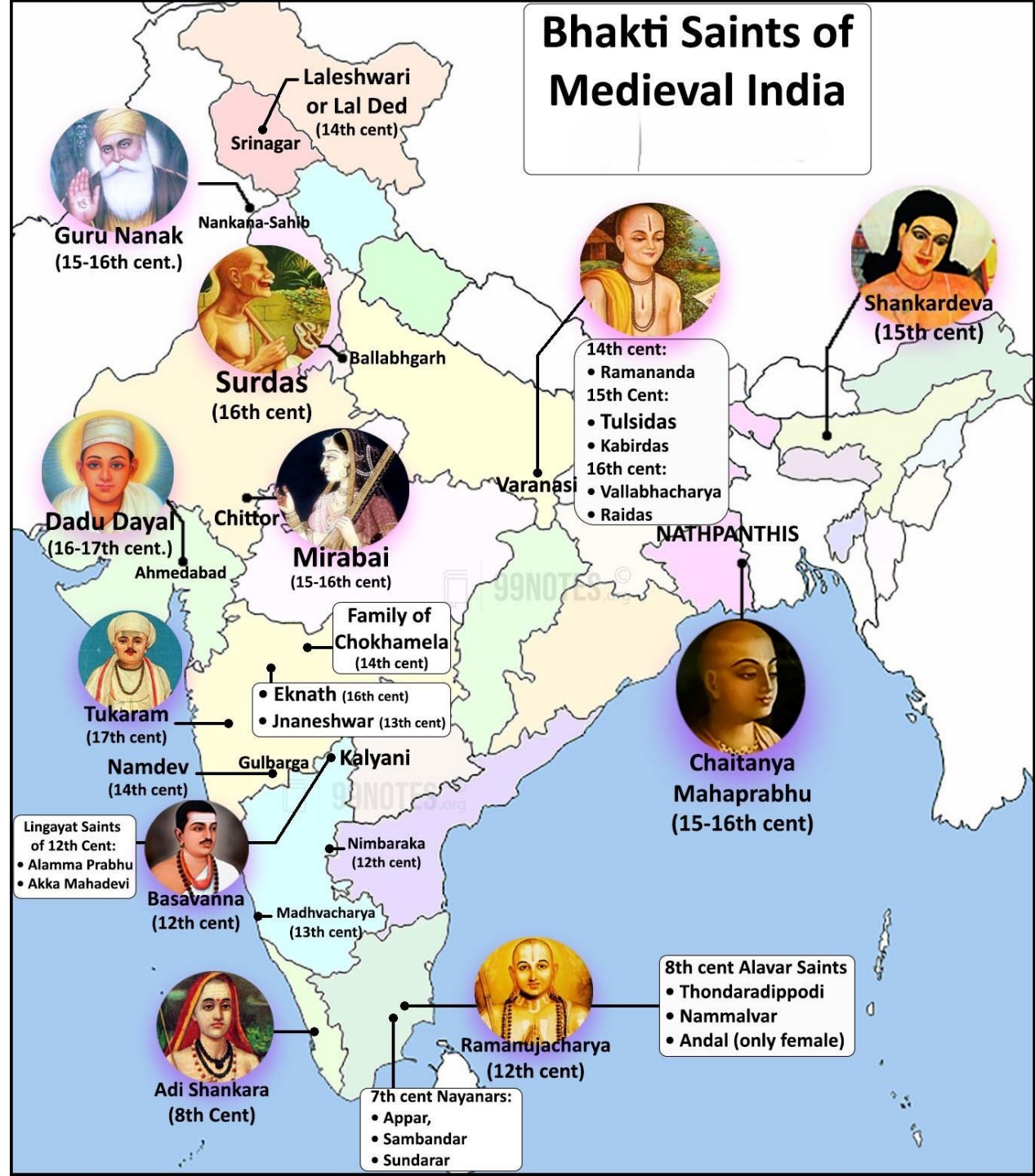
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- He was a notable figure in the Bhakti movement, which emphasised devotion and love for the divine.
 - The Bhakti movement started in the 7th century in South India and spread to North India during the 14th and 15th centuries.
 - Popular poet-saints of the Bhakti movement, like Ramananda and Kabir Das, sang devotional songs in vernacular languages.
 - वह भक्ति आंदोलन में एक उल्लेखनीय व्यक्ति थे, जिसने ईश्वर के प्रति भक्ति और प्रेम पर जोर दिया।
 - भक्ति आंदोलन 7वीं शताब्दी में दक्षिण भारत में शुरू हुआ और 14वीं और 15वीं शताब्दी के दौरान उत्तर भारत में फैल गया।
 - भक्ति आंदोलन के लोकप्रिय कवि-संत, जैसे रामानंद और कबीर दास, ने स्थानीय भाषाओं में भक्ति गीत गाए।

- **Kabir sought spiritual guidance from teachers such as Ramananda and Sheikh Taqi, shaping his unique philosophy.**
- **Kabir is revered by both Hindus and Muslims, and his followers are known as "Kabir Panthis."**
- **His popular literary works include Kabir Bijak (poems and verses), Kabir Parachai, Sakhi Granth, Adi Granth (Sikh), and Kabir Granthawali (Rajasthan).**

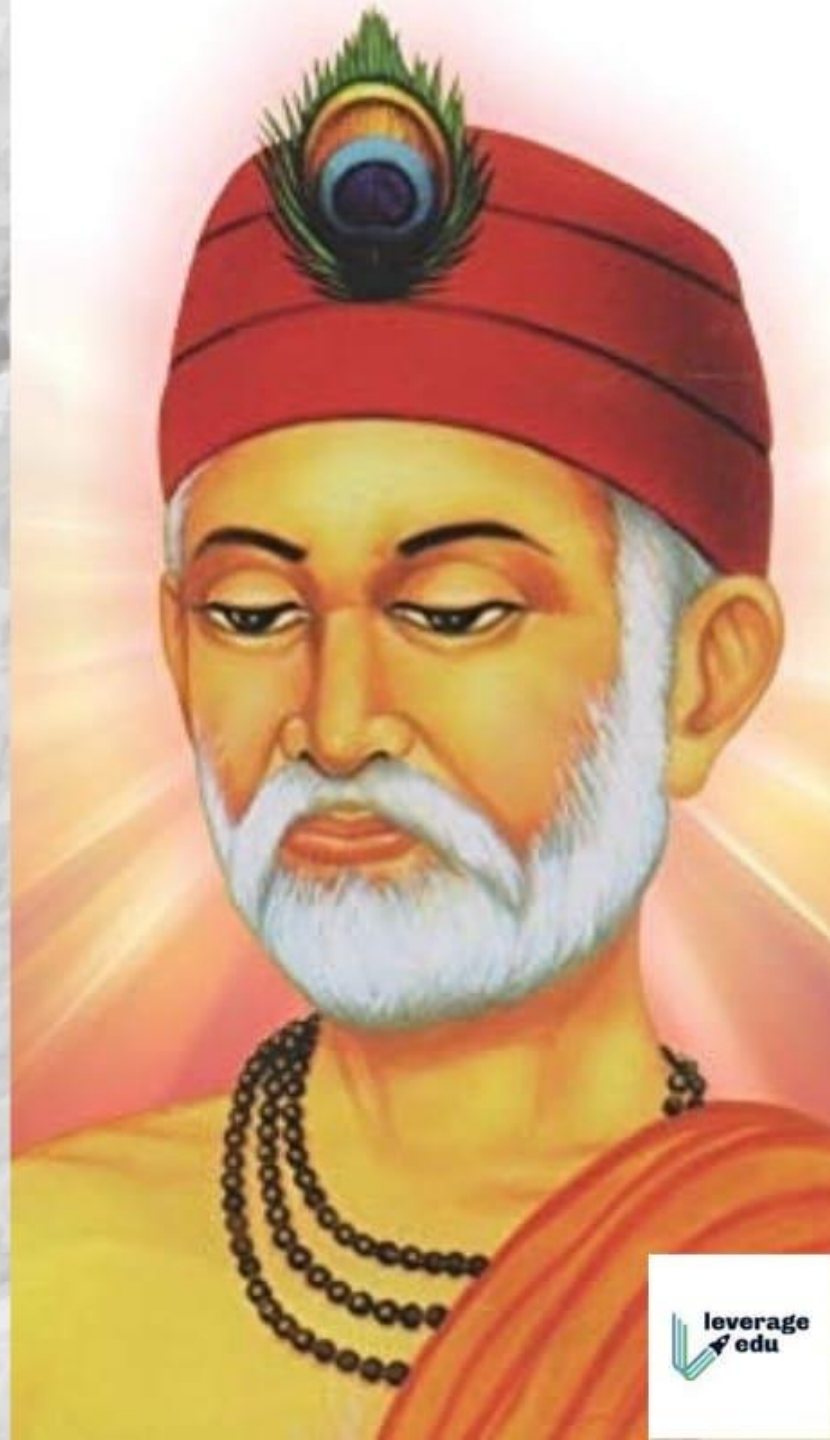
- कबीर ने अपने अद्वितीय दर्शन को आकार देने के लिए रामानंद और शेख तकी जैसे शिक्षकों से आध्यात्मिक मार्गदर्शन मांगा।
- कबीर को हिंदू और मुस्लिम दोनों पूजते हैं और उनके अनुयायियों को "कबीर पंथी" के नाम से जाना जाता है।
- उनकी लोकप्रिय साहित्यिक कृतियों में कबीर बीजक (कविताएं और छंद), कबीर परचाई, सखी ग्रंथ, आदि ग्रंथ (सिख), और कबीर ग्रंथावली (राजस्थान) शामिल हैं।

- **His works, written in the Brajhasha and Awadhi dialects, significantly influenced Indian literature and the development of the Hindi language.**
- ब्रजभाषा और अवधी बोलियों में लिखी गई उनकी रचनाओं ने भारतीय साहित्य और हिंदी भाषा के विकास को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से प्रभावित किया।

Bhakti Saints of Medieval India



ऐसी वाणी
बोलिए
मन का आप
खोये ।
और न को शीतल
करे,
आपहुं शीतल
होए ।



National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024



- **Campaign Launch:** Union Health Minister, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, launched the National STOP Diarrhoea Campaign 2024.
- **Campaign Objectives:** The campaign aims to achieve zero child deaths due to childhood diarrhoea.
- It involves a 2-month campaign distributing two packets of ORS and zinc co-packaging to children under five.
- अभियान का शुरुआत: केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री श्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा ने राष्ट्रीय स्टॉप डायरिया अभियान 2024 का शुभारंभ किया।
- अभियान के उद्देश्य: अभियान का लक्ष्य बचपन में दस्त के कारण शून्य बाल मृत्यु का लक्ष्य हासिल करना है।
- इसमें पांच साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों को ओआरएस और जिंक सह-पैकेजिंग के दो पैकेट वितरित करने वाला 2 महीने का अभियान शामिल है।


- **Campaign Phases:** The campaign has a preparatory phase from June 14th to 30th and a campaign phase from July 1st to August 31st, during which ORS and Zinc will be distributed and advocacy efforts intensified.
 - **Focus Areas:** The campaign focuses on strengthening health infrastructure, improving access to clean water and sanitation, enhancing nutritional programs, and promoting hygiene education.
-
- अभियान चरण: अभियान में 14 से 30 जून तक प्रारंभिक चरण और 1 जुलाई से 31 अगस्त तक अभियान चरण है, जिसके दौरान ओआरएस और जिंक वितरित किया जाएगा और वकालत के प्रयास तेज किए जाएंगे।
 - फोकस क्षेत्र: अभियान स्वास्थ्य बुनियादी ढांचे को मजबूत करने, स्वच्छ पानी और स्वच्छता तक पहुंच में सुधार, पोषण कार्यक्रमों को बढ़ाने और स्वच्छता शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने पर केंद्रित है।

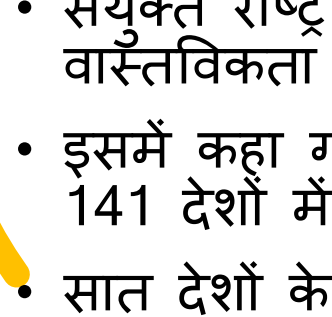
113 Countries Have Never Had Female Heads Of State Or Govt: UN Women Global Data



-
- A staggering 113 countries worldwide have never had a woman serve as head of state or government, and only 26 countries are led by women.

- दुनिया भर में आश्चर्यजनक रूप से 113 देशों में कभी भी कोई महिला राज्य या सरकार को प्रमुख के रूप में कार्यरत नहीं रही है, और केवल 26 देशों का नेतृत्व महिलाओं द्वारा किया जाता है।

- 
- The UN said, globally, women's underrepresentation in decision-making remains a stark reality.
 - It said, only 23 per cent of ministerial positions are held by women and in 141 countries women make up less than a third of cabinet ministers as of January 1, 2024.
 - Seven countries have no women represented in their cabinets at all.

- 
- संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने कहा, विश्व स्तर पर, निर्णय लेने में महिलाओं का कम प्रतिनिधित्व एक कठोर वास्तविकता बनी हुई है।
 - इसमें कहा गया है, केवल 23 प्रतिशत मंत्री पद महिलाओं के पास हैं और 1 जनवरी, 2024 तक 141 देशों में महिलाएं कैबिनेट मंत्रियों में एक तिहाई से भी कम हैं।
 - सात देशों के मंत्रिमंडलों में किसी भी महिला का प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं है।

CRY launches
“Poori Padhai
Desh Ki Bhalai”
campaign



-
- CRY's seven-week campaign aims to **raise awareness and increase girls' school participation.**
 - **Only 60% of girls are enrolled in higher secondary** education, per the Union Education Ministry. Only **three out of every five girls** in India reach 11th and 12th standards.
 -
 - CRY के सात सप्ताह के अभियान का उद्देश्य जागरूकता बढ़ाना और लड़कियों की स्कूल भागीदारी को बढ़ाना है।
 - केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्रालय के अनुसार, केवल 60% लड़कियाँ उच्च माध्यमिक शिक्षा में नामांकित हैं। भारत में हर पाँच में से केवल तीन लड़कियाँ 11वीं और 12वीं कक्षा तक पहुंच पाती हैं।

- **About CRY:**

- **Child Rights and You is an Indian non-governmental organization** that works towards ensuring children's rights. The organization was started in 1979 by **Rippan Kapur**, an Air India purser. CRY works with 99 grassroots projects across 19 states in India and has impacted the lives of over three million children.

- रोने के बारे में:

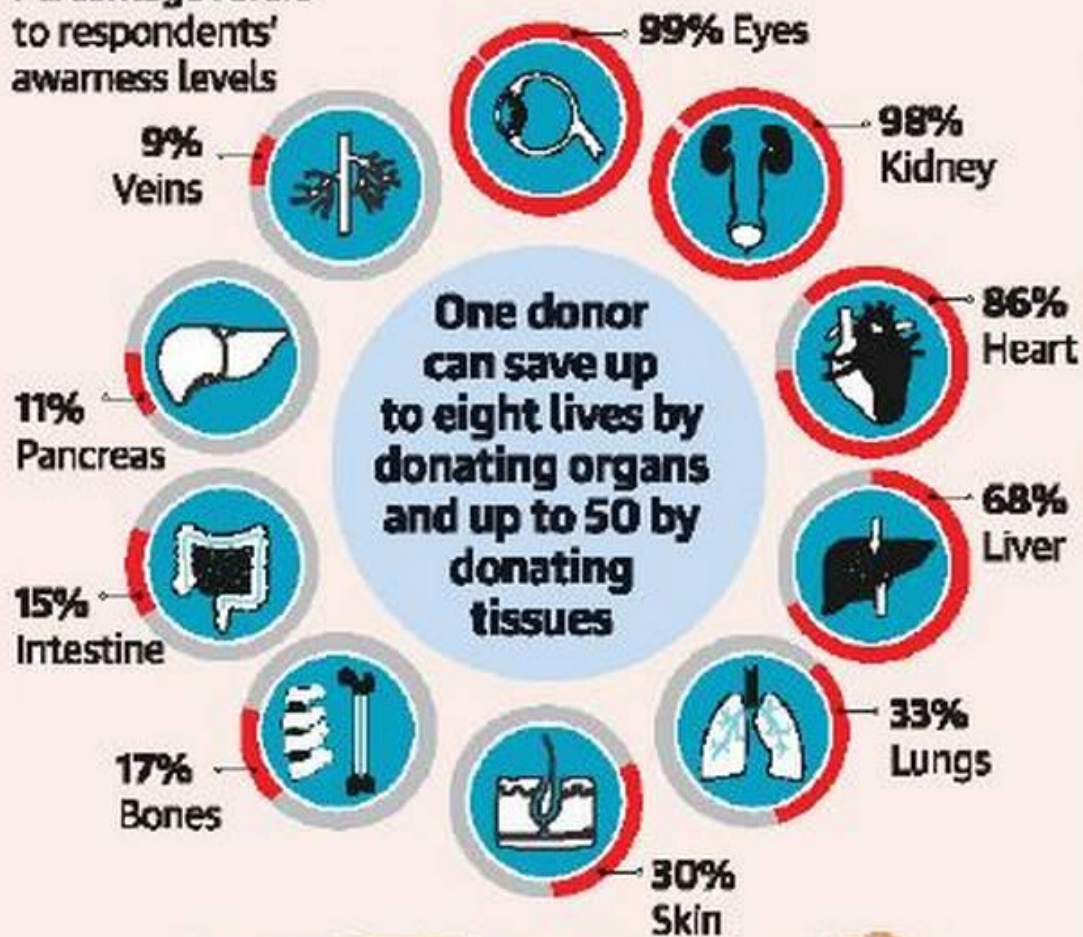
- चाइल्ड राइट्स एंड यू एक भारतीय गैर-सरकारी संगठन है जो बच्चों के अधिकारों को सुनिश्चित करने की दिशा में काम करता है। संगठन की शुरुआत 1979 में एयर इंडिया के पर्सर रिप्पन कपूर द्वारा की गई थी। CRY भारत के 19 राज्यों में 99 जमीनी स्तर की परियोजनाओं के साथ काम करता है और इसने तीन मिलियन से अधिक बच्चों के जीवन को प्रभावित किया है।

Skin Bank

-
- The Army's Research and Referral Hospital in New Delhi has opened a state-of-the-art skin bank, **the first within the Armed Forces Medical Services**.
 - The skin bank's main functions include **harvesting, processing, preserving, and supplying human skin allografts** for burn treatment and polytrauma centres.
 - This initiative aims to **revolutionize treatment for severe burn injuries and other skin conditions** among service members and their families.
-
- नई दिल्ली में सेना के अनुसंधान और रेफरल अस्पताल ने एक अत्याधुनिक त्वचा बैंक खोला है, जो सशस्त्र बल चिकित्सा सेवाओं के भीतर पहला है।
 - त्वचा बैंक के मुख्य कार्यों में जलने के उपचार और पॉलीट्रॉमा केंद्रों के लिए मानव त्वचा एलोग्राफ्ट की कटाई, प्रसंस्करण, संरक्षण और आपूर्ति शामिल है।
 - इस पहल का उद्देश्य सेवा सदस्यों और उनके परिवारों के बीच गंभीर रूप से जलने की चोटों और अन्य त्वचा स्थितियों के उपचार में क्रांतिकारी बदलाव लाना है।

Which organs can be donated?

Percentage refers to respondents' awareness levels



Follow this process to pledge your organs

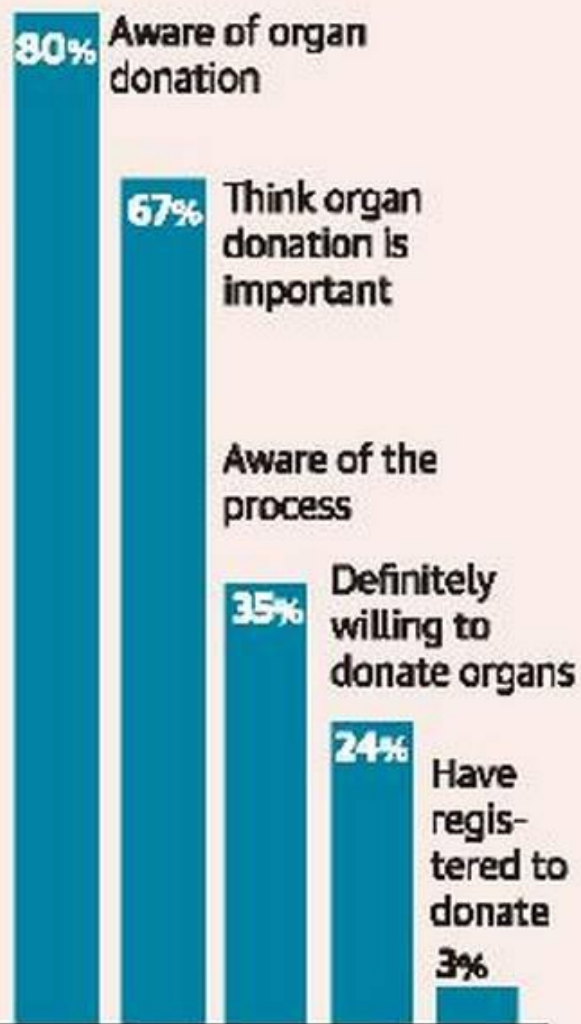
Visit NOTTO website and create an ID

Fill out the digital form and submit

On acceptance, you will receive an email notice

Create your donor card

Landscape of organ donation in India



Tissue donation | When someone dies after diagnosis of cardiac death, they can only donate tissues for transplantation as most tissues do not require a constant blood supply to be successfully transplanted. More people will die as a result of cardiac death than brain death



Tissues that can be donated | **Skin, Bone, Corneas, Heart valves, Veins**

- One set of corneas are given to two people needing sight
- Heart valves are used in valve replacement surgery, common in children
- Skin grafts are used for burn victims

TRANSPLANTATION | TIME PROCESS TAKES



Kozhikode: India's first UNESCO
'City of Literature' Source: TH

-
- It is located on the Malabar coast of Kerala, and was designated India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature' in October 2023, under the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).
 - Renowned travellers like Ibn Battuta and Vasco da Gama visited its shores.
 - यह केरल के मालाबार तट पर स्थित है, और अक्टूबर 2023 में यूनेस्को क्रिएटिव सिटीज़ नेटवर्क (यूसीसीएन) के तहत इसे भारत का पहला यूनेस्को 'साहित्य का शहर' नामित किया गया था।
 - इब्न बतूता और वास्को डी गामा जैसे प्रसिद्ध यात्रियों ने इसके तटों का दौरा किया।

-
- **Kozhikode boasts over 500 libraries, 70 publishers**, and a strong literary education base, earning it the tag of '**City of Sculptures**' in 2012. June 23 has been declared '**City of Literature**' Day in Kozhikode, celebrating its literary achievements and cultural significance.
 - **Significance**: The city's designation opens up new avenues for exploration, cultural tourism and preservation.
 - कोझिकोड में 500 से अधिक पुस्तकालय, 70 प्रकाशक और एक मजबूत साहित्यिक शिक्षा आधार है, जिससे इसे 2012 में 'मूर्तियों का शहर' का टैग मिला। 23 जून को कोझिकोड में 'साहित्य का शहर' दिवस घोषित किया गया है, जो इसकी साहित्यिक उपलब्धियों और सांस्कृतिक महत्व का जश्न मनाता है। .
 - महत्व: शहर का नामकरण अन्वेषण, सांस्कृतिक पर्यटन और संरक्षण के लिए नए रास्ते खोलता है।



- **Other Indian cities in the UCCN include**

1. **Jaipur**: Crafts and Folk Arts (2015)

2. **Varanasi**: Creative City of Music (2015)

3. **Chennai**: Creative City of Music (2017)

4. **Mumbai**: Film (2019)

5. **Hyderabad**: Gastronomy (2019)

6. **Srinagar**: Crafts and Folk Art (2021)



-
- The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), established in 2004, fosters cooperation among cities that prioritize creativity for urban development.
 - Aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, the network encompasses seven creative fields: crafts and folk arts, media arts, film, design, gastronomy, literature, and music.
 - 2004 में स्थापित यूनेस्को क्रिएटिव सिटीज़ नेटवर्क (यूसीसीएन) उन शहरों के बीच सहयोग को बढ़ावा देता है जो शहरी विकास के लिए रचनात्मकता को प्राथमिकता देते हैं।
 - सतत शहरों और समुदायों पर सतत विकास लक्ष्य 11 के अनुरूप, नेटवर्क में सात रचनात्मक क्षेत्र शामिल हैं: शिल्प और लोक कला, मीडिया कला, फिल्म, डिजाइन, गैस्ट्रोनॉमी, साहित्य और संगीत।

Word of the day

Obeisance:

bending the head or body or knee as a sign of reverence or submission or shame or greeting; the act of obeying; dutiful or submissive behavior with respect to another person

Synonyms: obedience, bow

Usage: *They paid obeisance to the monarch.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/obeisancepro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /əʊ'beɪ.səns/, /ə'beɪ.səns/

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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, some wearing suits. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. The overall mood is celebratory and professional.

Thank you
guys.
