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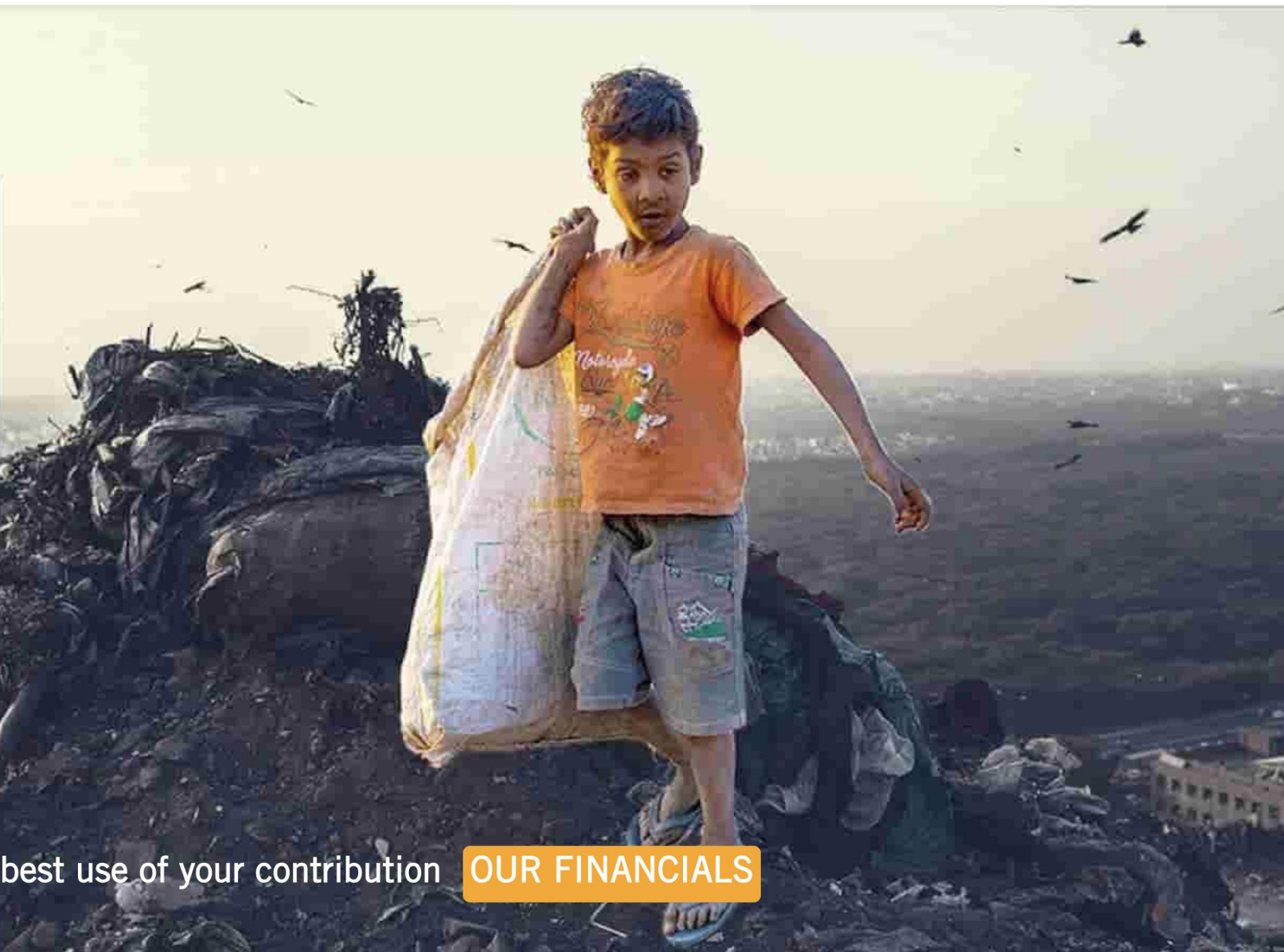




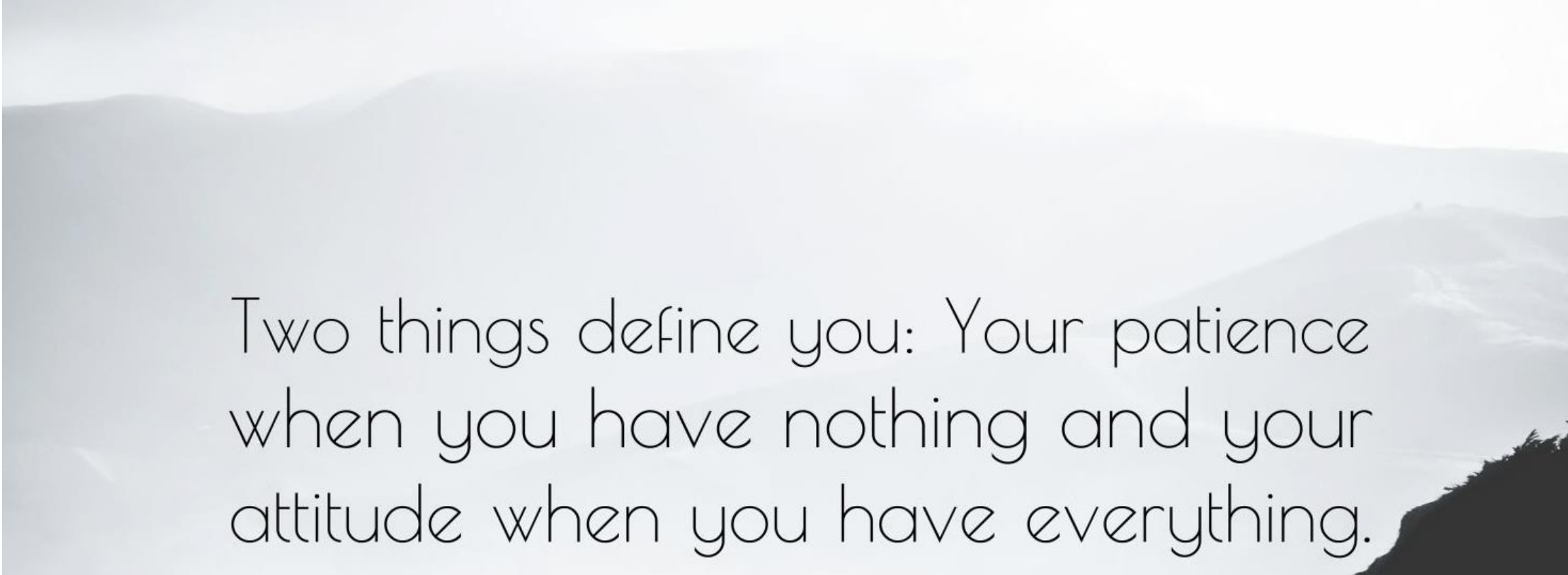
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A grayscale photograph of a mountain range with a quote overlaid. The mountains are layered, creating a sense of depth. The sky is bright and hazy. In the bottom right corner, there is a dark silhouette of a rocky outcrop or cliff edge.

Two things define you: Your patience
when you have nothing and your
attitude when you have everything.

FRESH RANKS
NEET-UG re-test result published
NEWS » PAGE 6

LOK SABHA SPEECH
Rahul Gandhi accuses BJP of 'spreading violence'
NEWS » PAGE 5

IMD FORECAST
Rainfall in July likely to be 'above normal'
NEWS » PAGE 6

BATTLE OF NARRATIVES
Israel is facing a strategic defeat in Gaza
Palestine question back in West Asia's discourse
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WOMEN'S TEST
India beats South Africa by 10 wickets
SPORT » PAGE 16

New criminal laws will prioritise justice: Shah

Home Minister says it will take up to three or four years for relevant 'technical aspects' of the legislation to become fully applicable, and the new laws will prioritise justice instead of punishment; he says the laws are available in all languages in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and court proceedings would also take place in those languages

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that it would take up to three or four years for the "entire process" and relevant "technical aspects" of the three new criminal laws to become fully applicable. After the entire process was implemented, a person would get justice even from the Supreme Court within three years of registration of the first information report (FIR).

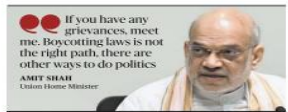
Mr. Shah said the new laws would prioritise justice instead of punishment.

The Home Minister said the three laws were available in all the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitu-

tion, which included Tamil, and the court proceedings would also take place in those languages.

"The laws have been translated to Tamil and the proceedings will also take place in Tamil. Neither the [Tamil Nadu] Chief Minister, nor the Members of Parliament have asked time for a discussion regarding their opposition to the names of laws. I want to appeal again. If you have any grievances, meet me. Boycotting laws is not the right path, there are other ways to do politics," Mr. Shah said on being asked about Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's objections to the laws.

On June 18, Mr. Stalin wrote to Mr. Shah to keep the laws in abeyance stating that the naming of the laws (in Sanskrit) is clearly



AMIT SHAH
Union Home Minister

'Confusion dispelled'
"The total remand will be 15 days but will have to be secured within 60 days (of arrest), and can be taken in parts. Earlier, if an accused was sent to police remand and he got himself admitted to a hospital for 15 days

against men and transgender persons, Mr. Shah said, "There is a Supreme Court judgment on this, it is a matter of interpretation. We will discuss with the Supreme Court."

The Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) mandated compulsory audio-visual recording of search and seizure in each criminal case and mandatory forensic examination in all cases where an offence attracted a punishment of seven years or more. The recordings would have to be submitted before the court electronically "without delay".

He said the crime on section, made by the British, had been abolished in the new laws. A new Section had been added for anti-social activities, under which there was a provision of severe punishment

aimed at creating confusion in the minds of public. Mr. Shah said, "There is a Supreme Court judgment on this, it is a matter of interpretation. We will discuss with the Supreme Court."

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for those who damage the unity and integrity of India, Mr. Shah said, "99,999 police stations across the country had been computerised and the process of generating e-record was already started in 2019. He said that zero-FIR, e-FIR and charge sheet would be in a digital format."

He said forensic investigation was mandatory in offences punishable by seven years or more, which would help speed up justice and take the conviction rate up to 90%. The Home Minister said the Union Cabinet recently decided to set up campuses of Forensic Science University and establish six Central Forensic Laboratories in nine more States.

INSIDE
Engineer Rashid permitted to take his oath as MP
NEW DELHI
The National Investigation Agency on Monday gave permission to jailed Kashmiri leader Sheikh Abdul Rashid, to take oath as a Member of Parliament. » PAGE 4

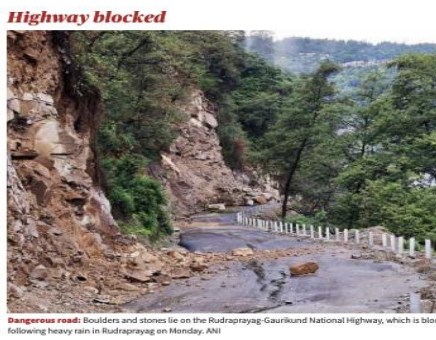
Macron aims to thwart far-right in run-off polls
PARIS
French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday began intense campaigning ahead of the second round of polls to prevent the far-right from coming to power. » PAGE 14

U.S. SC rules Trump has 'immunity for official acts'
WASHINGTON

The U.S. Supreme Court, in a 6-3 decision split along ideological lines, ruled on Monday that Donald Trump enjoys some immunity from prosecution as a former President, a ruling that will likely delay his trial for conspiring to overturn the 2020 presidential election.

Conservative Chief Justice John Roberts, in his majority opinion, said a President enjoys "absolute immunity" from criminal prosecution for official acts taken while in office.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 14



Dangerous road: Boulders and stones lie on the Rudrapuray-Gaurikund National Highway, which is blocked for almost a half day following heavy rain in Rudrapuray on Monday. ANI

Medha Patkar gets jail term for 'defaming' Delhi-LG
DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday sentenced Medha Patkar, activist and founding member of the Narmada Bachao Andolan, to five months simple imprisonment in a 23-year-old criminal defamation case lodged against her by Delhi Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena. The court also ordered her to pay ₹10 lakh compensation to Mr. Saxena.

Metroopolitan Magistrate Raghav Sharma of the Saket court, who had convicted Mr. Patkar under Section 500 of the Indian Penal Code on May 24, said the order would remain suspended for 30 days.

Highway blocked

In recent months, the Ministry had begun sharing details about net GST collections as well, after factoring in refunds.

In April, net GST collections had risen 15.5% to ₹1.92 lakh crore out of the record gross revenues of over ₹2.1 lakh crore. However, in May, net GST revenue growth eased to 6.9% with a tally of ₹1.44 lakh crore. In the absence of an official statement, net collections last month are not known.

Economists, speaking on condition of anonymity, expressed surprise at the absence of an official statement last month, and reckoned this would hamper analysis on activity trends in the economy.

While data for Central and State GST collections was not available, an official source said that about ₹39,600 crore had been settled to the central GST

Centre delays fixing boundaries to hold Census

The deadline to freeze administrative boundaries of districts, tehsils, towns, municipal bodies and others for the Census exercise ended on Sunday, but a reservation of one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies for women shall come into effect after an exercise of delimitation is undertaken based on the relevant figures of the first Census recorded after the Act has commenced.

Union Home Minister Annu Shah informed the Lok Sabha last year that the Census and delimitation of constituencies would be conducted after the Lok Sabha election, but did not specify the year.

"States would also require five to six months to prepare the apparatus," "census" and "delimitation" Mr. Saxena approached a court in Ahmedabad seeking freezing of administrative boundaries by State governments till June 30, 2024, effectively pushing the decennial Census exercise at least till October 1 as it usually takes three months to prepare the entire apparatus.

The order on December 30, 2023 which extended the boundaries by State governments till June 30, 2024, effectively pushed the decennial Census exercise at least till October 1 as it usually takes three months to prepare the entire apparatus.

Vijaita Singh
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Women's quota
The implementation of the women's reservation Act

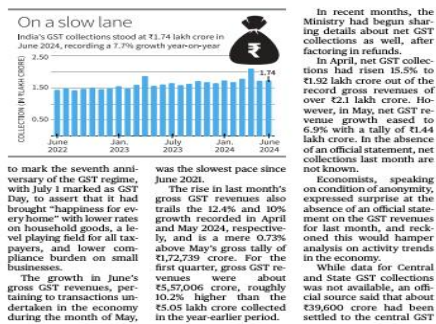
June's GST growth at three-year low; no official word

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Growth in India's gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections slowed to a three-year low in June, with revenues rising about 7.7% to about ₹1.74 lakh crore from ₹1.61,497 crore collected in the year-earlier period, according to numbers shared informally by officials.

The Finance Ministry, which generally releases monthly GST revenue collections on the first of every subsequent month, including details about trends on State-wise collections and revenues collected from domestic transactions and imports, had not officially issued any statement on June's indirect tax receipts till Monday morning.

The Ministry did put out a series of social media posts



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Will ensure complete synergy with Navy, Air Force, says Army chief

General Dwivedi says the Army faces unique operational challenges and to remain prepared for such threats, it is crucial that the soldiers are equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and technology and that new fighting strategies are evolved

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi on Monday said it would be his "endeavour to ensure that the Army is always ready to operate in the full spectrum of conflict, maintaining complete synergy with the Navy, Air Force, and other stakeholders".

General Dwivedi was speaking after inspecting a Guard of Honour on South Block lawns. "This will ensure that India's interests are secured, and we become a major pillar of national building, in the vision of Viksit Bharat-2047," he said.

'Evolving technology'

The geopolitical landscape is changing rapidly and technology is evolving at a very fast pace. General Dwivedi, who took over as the 30th Chief of the Army Staff on Sunday, said, "The Army faces unique operational challenges and to re-



General Upendra Dwivedi during a Guard of Honour, a day after taking charge as the 30th Chief of the Army Staff at South Block in New Delhi on Sunday.

main prepared for such threats, it is crucial that we continuously equip our soldiers with state-of-the-art weapons and technology and continue to evolve our war fighting strategies."

"It will be my priority to ensure that the interests and welfare of all ranks

Pande, who retired from service on superannuation. He will have a tenure of two years in the top post.

Vice-chief of Army

On Monday, Lieutenant-General S.K. Raju Subramani assumed charge as the Vice-Chief of the Army Staff. He was earlier serving as the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Command based in Lucknow. He was commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles in December 1985.

In another change, Lieutenant-General Devendra Sharma took over as the 25th General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Shimla-based Army Training Command (ARTC). A recipient of the coveted Sword of Honour, he was commissioned into the Scinde Horse in December 1987. He was Chief of Staff at the Chandernagore in May 2019. Mr. Sharma was charged by the NIA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

and defence civilians of the Army are looked after," he said. "My responsibility towards veterans, war naris and their families is a sacred commitment and I assure this extended family, my full support," the Army chief added.

General Dwivedi took over from General Manoj

TISS teachers demand regularisation of faculty

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after the Tata Institute of Social Sciences withdrew termination letters sent to over 100 teachers, the Teachers Association of TISS (TATISS) has called for regularisation of faculty funded by the Tata Education Trust (TET) and demanded the release of pending salaries.

TISSA reiterated that termination letters issued by the Advanced Centre for Women's Studies have not been withdrawn. "These letters must be retracted immediately. Colleague need to be reinstated, and pending salaries released from March 2024 to June 2024," TISSA stated.

TISSA has requested a meeting with the TISS Vice-Chancellor to seek clarification on developments and is awaiting a response.

Governor to meet victims of public flogging, seeks report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

The public flogging of a couple in West Bengal's North Dinajpur district has sparked outrage, with Governor C.V. Ananda Bose seeking a report from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the BJP accusing the ruling Trinamool Congress of "unleashing Taliban rule" in the State.

Mr. Bose will meet the victims of the attack on Tuesday.

The National Human Rights Commission said it has issued a notice to the West Bengal government and the State's police chief.

Tajmali Islam, a local Trinamool Congress leader, has been arrested in connection with the case. He was sent to police custody for five days.

A horrific video has come to light from West Bengal, reminding of the brutalities that exist only in theocracies. Be it

Akali Dal rebel leaders seek apology from Akal Takht for 'mistakes' during party rule

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The rebel faction of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Monday went to the Akal Takht — the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs — and tendered an apology for all the "mistakes committed" by the party when it was in power in Punjab.

Senior party leader and former MP Prem Singh Chandamajra, former Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) chief Bishaj Kaur and other leaders, who have been seeking the ouster of party president Sukhbir Singh Badal, appeared before Akal Takht jathedar Giani Ragbir Singh at the Golden Temple in Amritsar and submitted a letter seeking forgiveness for the "mistakes" during SAD rule between

Istri Akali Dal, SAD's women's wing, has however expressed faith in the leadership of Sukhbir Singh Badal

Poor electoral run

As the poor electoral run of the party continued in the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls, the challenge before Mr. Badal to keep his flock together has become acute as several senior leaders have now been gunning for his ouster.

However, SAD's women's wing Istri Akali Dal, expressed complete faith in the leadership of Mr. Badal.

In a statement on Monday, the party wing said Mr. Badal was "best suited to lead the party at this juncture".

Field evaluation trials of submarine bids under Project-75I complete

Dinakar Perli
NEW DELHI

The Navy's mega-submarine deal under Project-75I, estimated at over ₹41,000 crore, has crossed a major milestone in the process of field evaluation trials (FET) — to check the compliance of the bids received.

There are two contenders in the fray: Germany's Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) and Navantia of Spain.

While an Indian Navy team visiting the TKMS shipyard in March for FET, the evaluation of Navantia's bids was completed last week, officials confirmed.

The design offered by TKMS, which has partnered with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDSL), is based on its highly successful Class 214 submarine as well as Class 22CD Navantia, which has tied up with Larsen & Toubro, has offered a vessel based on its new S80 class

— and even though several leaders have been raising the issue surrounding "leadership change" within the party, nothing concrete has been done to revive the SAD in all these years.

Uphill struggle

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Uphill struggle



Each year, pilgrims wait to register for the annual Amarnath Yatra at the Saraswati Dham camp in Jammu on Monday.

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NIA gives consent to jailed Kashmiri leader Engineer Rashid to take oath as MP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday gave consent for jailed Kashmiri leader Sheikh Abdul Rashid alias Engineer Rashid, to take oath as a Member of Parliament.

The NIA's consent came a day prior to a Delhi court's hearing on Mr. Rashid's plea seeking bail to take oath as MP. Additional Sessions Judge Chandan Jit Singh is scheduled to pass an order on Tuesday regarding the interim bail plea filed by Mr. Rashid.

Advocate Vikhryat Oberoi told the media that the Central agency had agreed for Mr. Rashid to take oath on July 5. The agency had said he should be subject to certain restrictions such as not speaking to the media and that the entire process must get finished in a single day.

It is since 2019, Mr. Rashid was charged by the NIA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act



(UAPA) in the alleged terror funding case.

Several Jammu and Kashmir-based political parties on Monday welcomed the move to allow the oath ceremony of Engineer Rashid, who won from the Baramulla constituency and demanded his release from jail.

"It's a shame that Engineer Rashid has been behind bars since 2019 on baseless charges. Relieved to know he's been allowed to take oath as Member of Parliament but his imprisonment itself is an utter travesty of justice in the first place. Government of

India must release him immediately along with countless other Kashmiri men languishing in jails," former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti said.

J&K Apni Party president Alaf Bukhari also welcomed the decision. "This was long due which finally has seen its realisation, much to the joy and satisfaction of the electorate, spanning in lakhs, in north Kashmir. However, restricting the MP-elect from interacting with the media is worrisome and not a healthy sign for democracy," Mr. Bukhari said.

During the recent Lok Sabha elections, he contested the polls against National Conference leader Omar Abdullah and J&K Peoples Conference chairman Sajad Lone.

"While Mr. Rashid would take the oath, the people of Baramulla constituency would still lack representation," Mr. Abdullah said.

Two more lynchings in West Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

A 23-year-old man was allegedly beaten to death in Hooghly district of West Bengal in the fourth such instance of lynching in the State within a week.

Biswajit Mukherjee, a driver, was attacked by businessman Bikash Samanta and his son Debkanta Samanta who suspected him of stealing ₹50,000. Manana's mother said the accused dragged him out of the house around 11.30 p.m. on Sunday and beat him with bamboo and pipes. He was rushed to a hospital, where he was declared dead. The police have detained the accused.

On Sunday, a 23-year-old man died at the Jhargram District Hospital after he was beaten up by a mob on June 22, the police said.

Bengal Governor seeks action against top police officers

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose has written to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee demanding "appropriate punitive action in accordance with law" against Vireet Goyal, Commissioner of Police, Kolkata; Indira Mukherjee, Deputy Commissioner of Police; and the police contingent posted at the Raj Bhavan.

Referring to the allegations against him made by a Raj Bhavan employee, the Governor said that if the Contingent of Police laws are not followed in matters concerning the Contingent office of the Governor, it is dangerous to uphold the rule of law. The procedure that would be adopted by the officers and his subordinates in the cases involving the common man. The Kolkata Police had registered a case and constituted an eight-

member Special Investigation Team to look into the allegations against the Governor. Since Article 361 of the Constitution provides immunity to the Governor of any criminal proceedings there have been no further developments.

The communication from the Raj Bhavan said that Ms. Mukherjee informed the details of the allegations and the action taken by the police. "By such a brazen declaration, Smt. Indira Mukherjee has openly defied the Constitution and the law besides the judgments of the Hon'ble Supreme Court which has held against her that there is a complete bar on initiation or continuation of any kind of criminal proceedings against a Governor," the letter said. The Governor also accused the Commissioner of engaging in illegal and unconstitutional acts.

Field evaluation trials of submarine bids under Project-75I complete

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

The Navy's mega-submarine deal under Project-75I, estimated at over ₹43,000 crore, has crossed a major milestone in the process with the field evaluation trials (FET) – to check the compliance of the bids received – now complete. There are two contenders in the fray: Germany's Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) and Navantia of Spain.

While an Indian Navy team visited the TKMS shipyard in March for FET, the evaluation of Navantia's offer was conducted last week, officials confirmed.

The evaluation report will now be compiled and presented to the Defence Ministry, which will declare the technical complaint bids which is expected to take about two months, a defence official explained.

Diplomatic sources said that Navantia would be de-



Moving forward: Navantia of Spain has offered a vessel based on its new S80 class of submarines. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

monstrating the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system fitted in a submarine operating on the surface and not submerged and that the submerged performance would be demonstrated in due course.

The design offered by TKMS, which has partnered with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), is based on its highly successful Class 214 submarine as well as Class 212CD. Navantia, which has tied up with Larsen & Toubro, has offered a vessel based on its new S80 class

of submarines, the first of which was launched in 2021 and was commissioned into the Spanish Navy as S-81 'Isaac Peral' in November 2023.

The Request For Proposal (RFP) issued by the Navy, detailing the specifications required, states that the first submarine should have indigenous content (IC) of 45% which should go up to 60% for the sixth and last submarine.

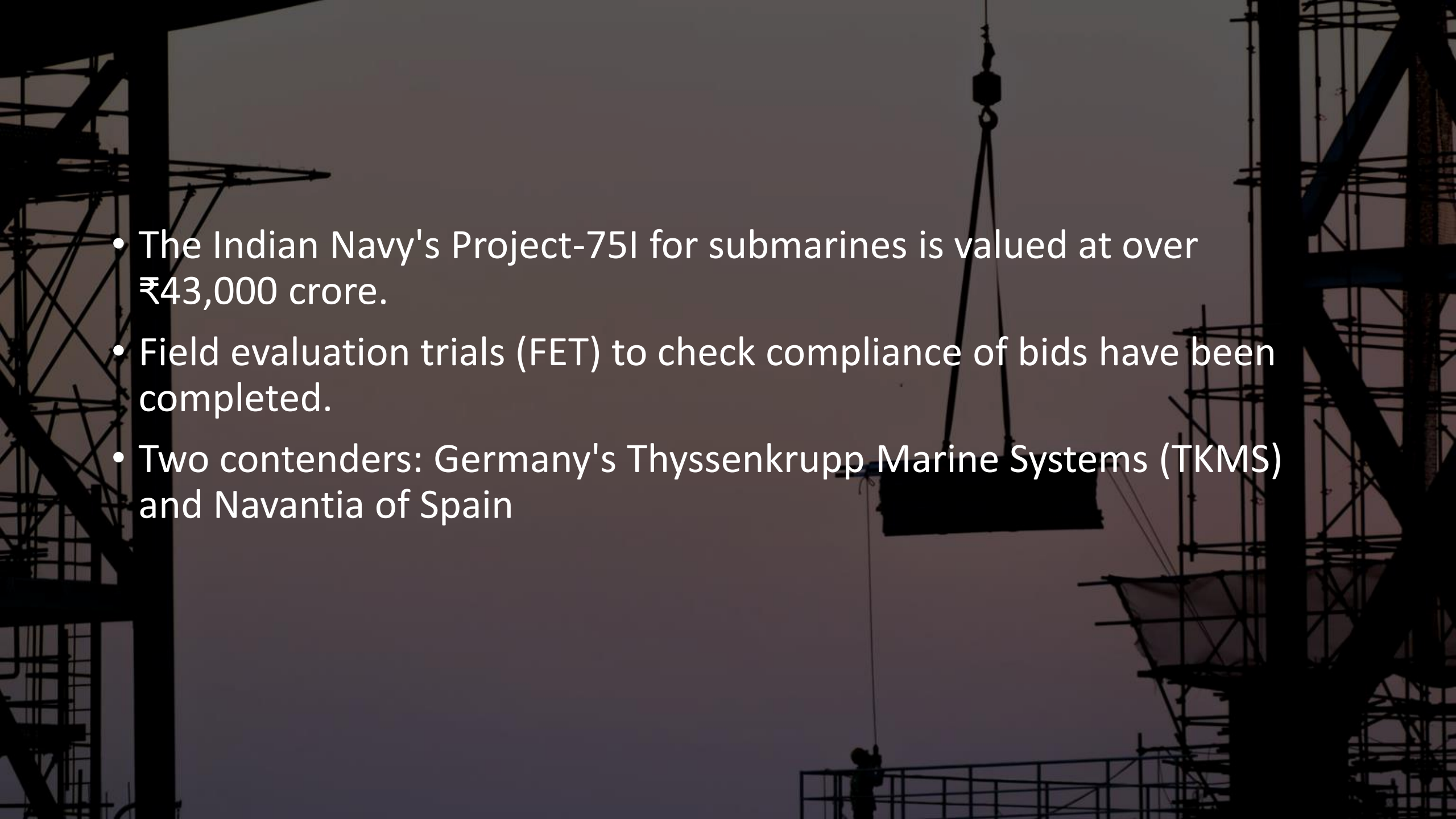
The key determinant, however, to qualify for P-75I is the AIP system which enhances the endu-

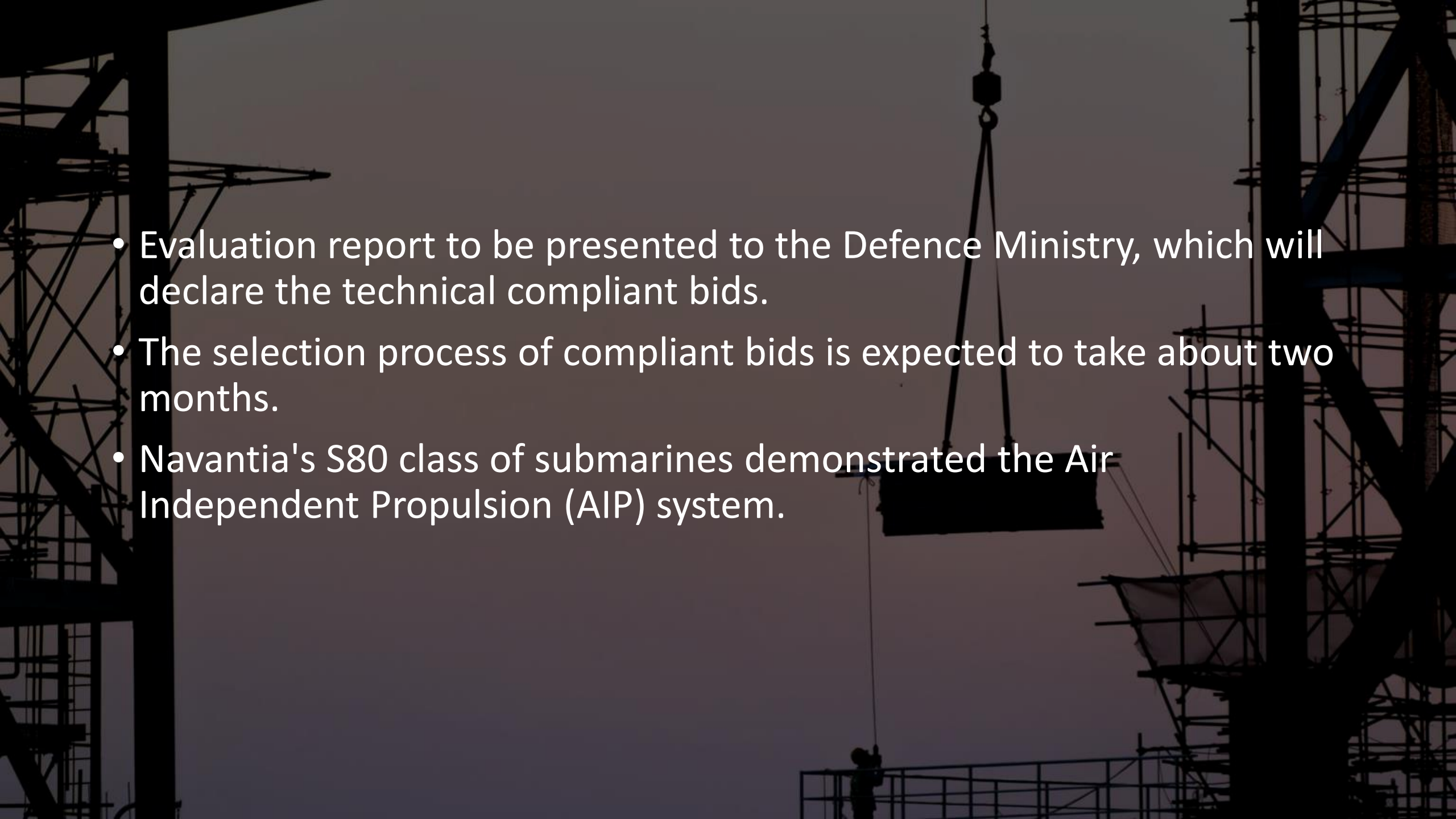
rance of a submarine.

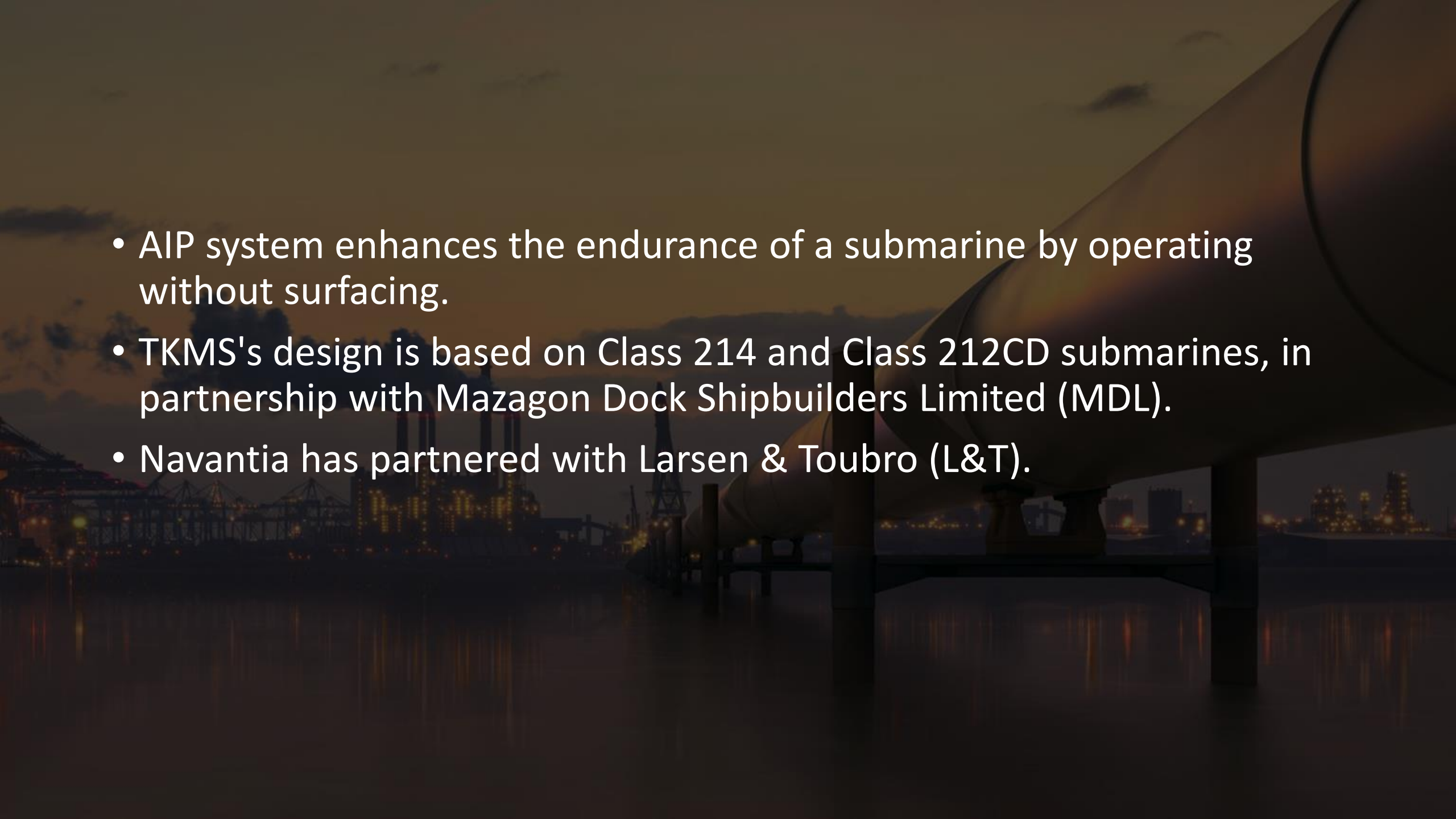
In the backdrop of a decision on the deal, the top leaders of Germany and Spain are scheduled to visit India in the next few months during which they are expected to make a pitch for an inter-governmental agreement.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is scheduled to visit India in the second half of October for inter-governmental consultations. Spain's President Pedro Sanchez is also expected to visit in the next few months.

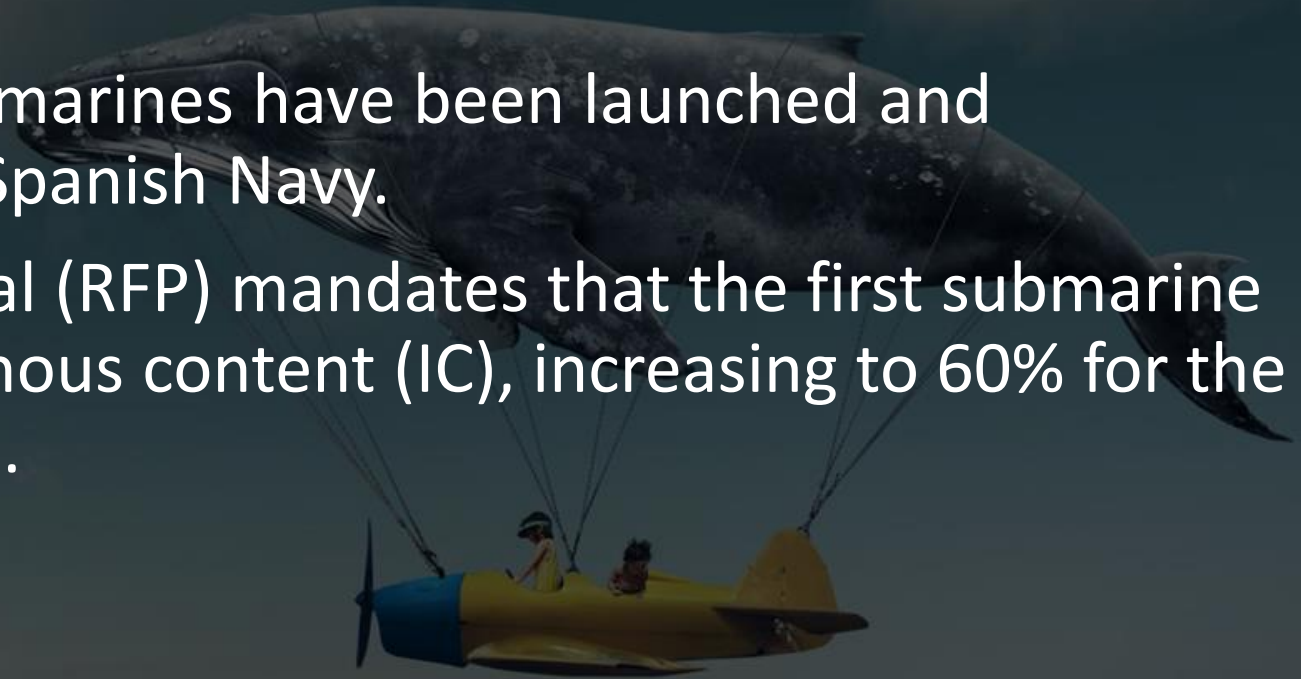
Only Germany and Spain submitted bids for the deal. The deal is being progressed under the Strategic Partnership model of the defence acquisition procedure and L&T and MDL are the two Indian shipyards shortlisted to partner with foreign submarine manufacturers to produce six advanced conventional submarines in India under technology transfer.

- 
- The Indian Navy's Project-75I for submarines is valued at over ₹43,000 crore.
 - Field evaluation trials (FET) to check compliance of bids have been completed.
 - Two contenders: Germany's Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) and Navantia of Spain

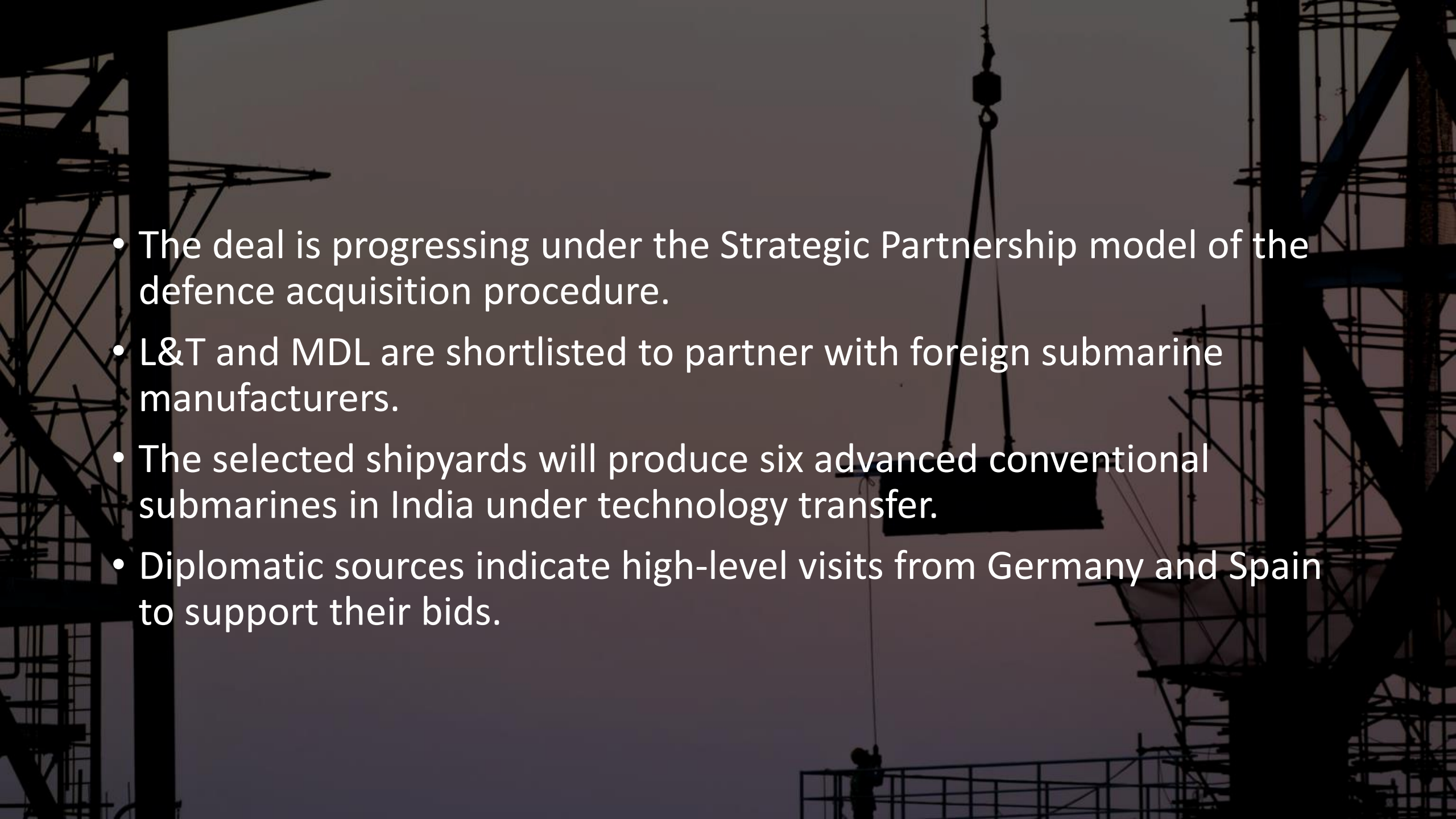
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- Evaluation report to be presented to the Defence Ministry, which will declare the technical compliant bids.
 - The selection process of compliant bids is expected to take about two months.
 - Navantia's S80 class of submarines demonstrated the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system.

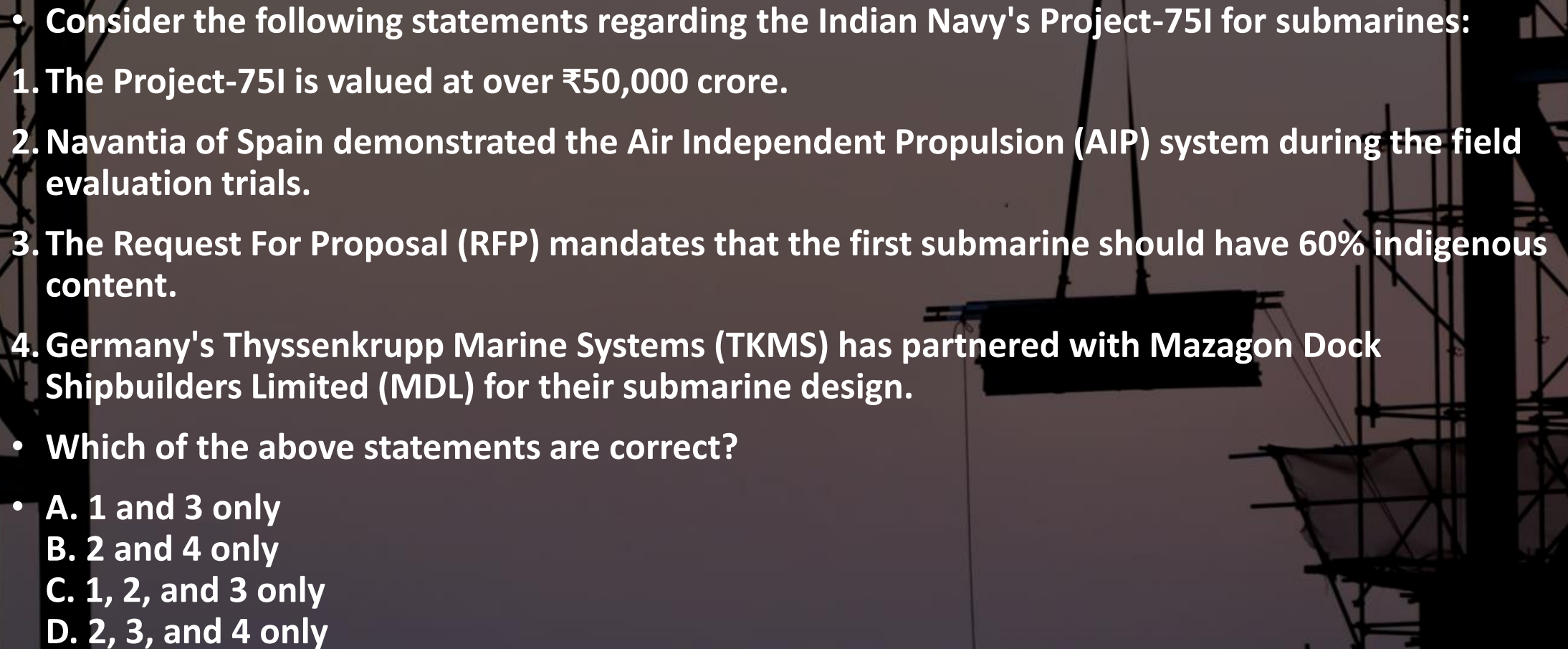
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- AIP system enhances the endurance of a submarine by operating without surfacing.
 - TKMS's design is based on Class 214 and Class 212CD submarines, in partnership with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
 - Navantia has partnered with Larsen & Toubro (L&T).

- Navantia's S80 class submarines have been launched and commissioned into the Spanish Navy.
- The Request For Proposal (RFP) mandates that the first submarine should have 45% indigenous content (IC), increasing to 60% for the sixth and last submarine.



- The key qualification for Project-75I is the AIP system.
- German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Spain's President Pedro Sanchez are scheduled to visit India for inter-governmental consultations.
- Germany and Spain are the only two countries that have submitted bids.

- 
- The deal is progressing under the Strategic Partnership model of the defence acquisition procedure.
 - L&T and MDL are shortlisted to partner with foreign submarine manufacturers.
 - The selected shipyards will produce six advanced conventional submarines in India under technology transfer.
 - Diplomatic sources indicate high-level visits from Germany and Spain to support their bids.

- 
- Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Navy's Project-75I for submarines:
 1. The Project-75I is valued at over ₹50,000 crore.
 2. Navantia of Spain demonstrated the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system during the field evaluation trials.
 3. The Request For Proposal (RFP) mandates that the first submarine should have 60% indigenous content.
 4. Germany's Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) has partnered with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) for their submarine design.
 - Which of the above statements are correct?
 - A. 1 and 3 only
 - B. 2 and 4 only
 - C. 1, 2, and 3 only
 - D. 2, 3, and 4 only

Next & Next

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The share of Kaziranga which is submerged in the Assam floods

43 in per cent. With worsening flood conditions in Assam, rising water levels have impacted 10% of the 233 forest camps at Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, according to a flood report. **PH**

Market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms hit lifetime high

443 in ₹ lakh crore. The market capitalisation (Mcap) of BSE-listed firms hit a lifetime high, driven by a rebound in equities, where the benchmark Sensex ended at a new all-time peak. **PH**

The increase in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price

1.2 in per cent. ATF price was hiked by ₹1,179 per kilolitre to ₹98,148 per kilolitre in Delhi in line with international oil price trends, according to a price notification of State-owned fuel retailers. **PH**

The rainfall deficit recorded in the month of June in India

11 in per cent. India received 147.2 mm of rainfall against a normal of 165.3 mm for the month. June rainfall accounts for 15% of the total precipitation of 87 cm recorded during the monsoon season in the country. **PH**

Number of deaths in violent attacks in Pakistan: CRSS

380 About 240 terror incidents and counter-terror operations were reported between April to June in Pakistan. **PH**

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Will the Hosur airport become a reality?

What are the challenges and obstacles to the Hosur airport project proposed by the Tamil Nadu government? Why is the project being proposed for Hosur? How can an airport gain clearance from the Civil Aviation Ministry? What is the process to be followed?

EXPLAINER

Sanjay Vilavakumar

The story so far:

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced in the legislative assembly plans for setting up an international airport on 2,000 acres of land, with the capacity to handle three crore passengers annually, in the industrial town of Hosur, which is 40 kms away from Bengaluru. While the airport has been a long standing demand of the industrialists in the area, one of the hurdles is that the concession agreement signed between the Centre and the Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL), the operator of Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru, does not allow for new or existing airports (except for Mysore and Hassan airports) within an aerial distance of 150 kms before 2033.

What is the significance of Hosur? Hosur in Krishnagiri district is located on the border of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Hosur is situated at 3,000 metres above sea level and according to a report by online publisher Visual Capitalist in 2021, it was ranked 13 in the world among the list of cities with the fastest population growth with an annual growth rate of 5.38%. Hosur has emerged as a flourishing industrial town with prominent companies such as Tata Electronics, TVS, Ashok Leyland, Titan, and Rolls-Royce (IAMPL) establishing significant operations in the area. It has emerged as a nucleus for auto and electric vehicle manufacturing, advanced manufacturing, logistics and electronics. The industrial town is also strong in traditional sectors like floriculture and horticulture. Estimates suggest that around 3,000 MSMEs are present in the region, engaged in engineering fabrication, tooling, and polishing, among others. The State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited



ISTOCKPHOTO

(SIPCOT), the State government's nodal agency to promote industrial infrastructure, has established industrial parks in Hosur in two phases spread over 2,093 acres. SIPCOT is currently in the process of acquiring land of 3,382.84 acres for expanding and setting up new industrial parks in the region. Private industrial parks have also come up in the region. To meet the water requirement of the industries located in the Hosur area, SIPCOT is establishing a 20 megalitres per day Tertiary Treatment Reverse Osmosis (TTRRO) plant at Kelavarpalli, which is expected to be completed by September. According to Tamil Nadu Industries Minister T.R.B Rajaa, the airport project in Hosur will enhance connectivity and stimulate economic growth, benefiting not only Hosur but also neighbouring districts such as Dharmapuri and Salem.

He has also pointed out that the new airport will foster a twin-city ecosystem with Bengaluru, propelling growth in both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

What about the previous plan?

Hosur airport is owned by Tameja Aerospace and Aviation Limited. In 2023, replying to a question by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Rajya Sabha MP P. Wilson, the then Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation General (retired) V.K. Singh said in the first round of bidding under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)- Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN), a bid was received for the route Chennai-Hosur-Chennai and due to the concession agreement with BIAL, the route was not awarded and Hosur airport was deleted from UDAN document for future round of bidding.

What does the Union Civil Aviation Ministry's guidelines state?

As per the present guidelines of the Civil Aviation Ministry, the regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) while granting licence to operate a greenfield airport should take into account that no greenfield airport would be allowed within an aerial distance of 150 kms of an existing civilian airport. In case a greenfield airport is proposed to be set up within 150 kms of an existing civilian airport, the impact on the existing airport would be examined and such cases would be decided by the government on a case to case basis. Such an application shall be first considered by the Steering Committee, headed by the Secretary of Civil Aviation. After considering the application, the Steering Committee shall make a suitable recommendation to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Ministry shall place the matter before the Union Cabinet for its consideration and the DGCA would grant a licence only after their approval.

In 2017, the Centre granted in-principle approval for a greenfield airport at Jewar in Greater Noida based on the recommendations of the Steering Committee on Greenfield Airports. The Noida International Airport is located 72 kms from the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi and 65 kms from the Hindon Air Force station Ghaziabad. The Centre said the airport in Delhi NCR region will help decongest the IGI Airport and will serve the people of Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Agra, and Faridabad.

What next?

Airport projects have a long gestation period to come on stream. Given that the DMK government is part of the Opposition alliance, it has to negotiate hard with the Centre to get the necessary relaxation in norms for setting up the airport, besides other regulatory and environmental clearances. Setting up the necessary supporting infrastructure for the airport is another challenge which needs to be overcome.

THE GIST

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced plans for setting up an international airport on 2,000 acres of land, with the capacity to handle three crore passengers annually, in the industrial town of Hosur, which is 40 kms away from Bengaluru.

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What is on the agenda for the 16th Finance Commission?

How do other countries devolve funds to their local governments? Why is the Census significant?

Tikender Singh Panwar

The story so far:

The 16th Finance Commission (FC) has begun its work, established under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution, primarily focusing on the devolution of the consolidated fund. Since the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments, local bodies have gained recognition within the federal system. These amendments introduced sub-clauses 280 (b) and (c), which mandate the FC to recommend measures to augment State consolidated funds for supporting panchayats and municipalities.

What about cities?

The National Commission on Urbanisation in the mid-80s described cities as "engines of growth." Although this view is somewhat narrow, the reality is that cities contribute around 66% of India's GDP and about 90% of total government revenues. Cities, thus, are an

important spatial zone for the overall development of the country. However, our economic scale is insufficient to meet rising needs. The World Bank estimates that \$840 billion is needed for basic urban infrastructure in the next decade.

Despite the efforts of five commissions since the 11th Finance Commission, financial devolution to cities remains inadequate. The fiscal health of municipalities is poor, affecting both city productivity and quality of life. Rapid urbanisation without appropriate fiscal action has adverse effects on development. Intergovernmental transfers (IGTs) to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in India are about 0.5% of GDP, much lower than the 2-5% typical of other developing nations. For instance, South Africa allocates 2.6%, Mexico 1.6%, the Philippines 2.5%, and Brazil 5.1% of their GDPs to their cities. Although IGTs make up about 40% of ULBs' total revenue, issues persist regarding their predictability, earmarking for vulnerable groups, and horizontal equity. IGTs are

crucial for ULBs, given their financial state and the need for stable support until their own revenues improve.

What about the taxation system?

The introduction of the Goods and Service Tax (GST) has reduced ULBs' tax revenue (excluding property tax) from about 23% in 2012-13 to around 9% in 2017-18. IGTs from States to ULBs are very low, with State Finance Commissions recommending only about 7% of States' own revenue in 2018-19. Increasing the quantum of IGTs as a percentage of GDP is necessary. Despite the 74th constitutional amendment's aim to financially strengthen ULBs, progress over three decades has fallen short.

The 13th Finance Commission observed that "parallel agencies and bodies are emasculating local governments both financially and operationally." Local governments require support from Union and State governments through funds, functionaries, and technical aid. However,

the growth of parallel agencies has distorted local governments' roles. Programs like the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme and the Member of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development Scheme exacerbate this issue, distorting the federal structure.

How important is the Census?

In the absence of the 2021 Census, reliance on 2011 data is inadequate for evidence-based fiscal devolution. India has approximately 4,000 statutory towns and an equal number of Census towns, with an estimated 23,000 villages, all of which are effectively urban. These figures must be captured by the 16th FC.

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The 13th Finance Commission observed that "parallel agencies and bodies are emasculating local governments both financially and operationally."

The 16th FC must consider India's urbanisation dynamism and ensure IGTs to urban areas are at least doubled.

What is on the agenda for the 16th Finance Commission?

How do other countries devolve funds to their local governments? Why is the Census significant?

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The 16th Finance Commission (FC) has begun its work, established under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution, primarily focusing on the devolution of the consolidated fund. Since the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments, local bodies have gained significant recognition within the federal system. These amendments introduced sub-clauses 280 (3) (bb) and (c), which mandate the FC to recommend measures to augment State consolidated funds for supporting panchayats and municipalities.

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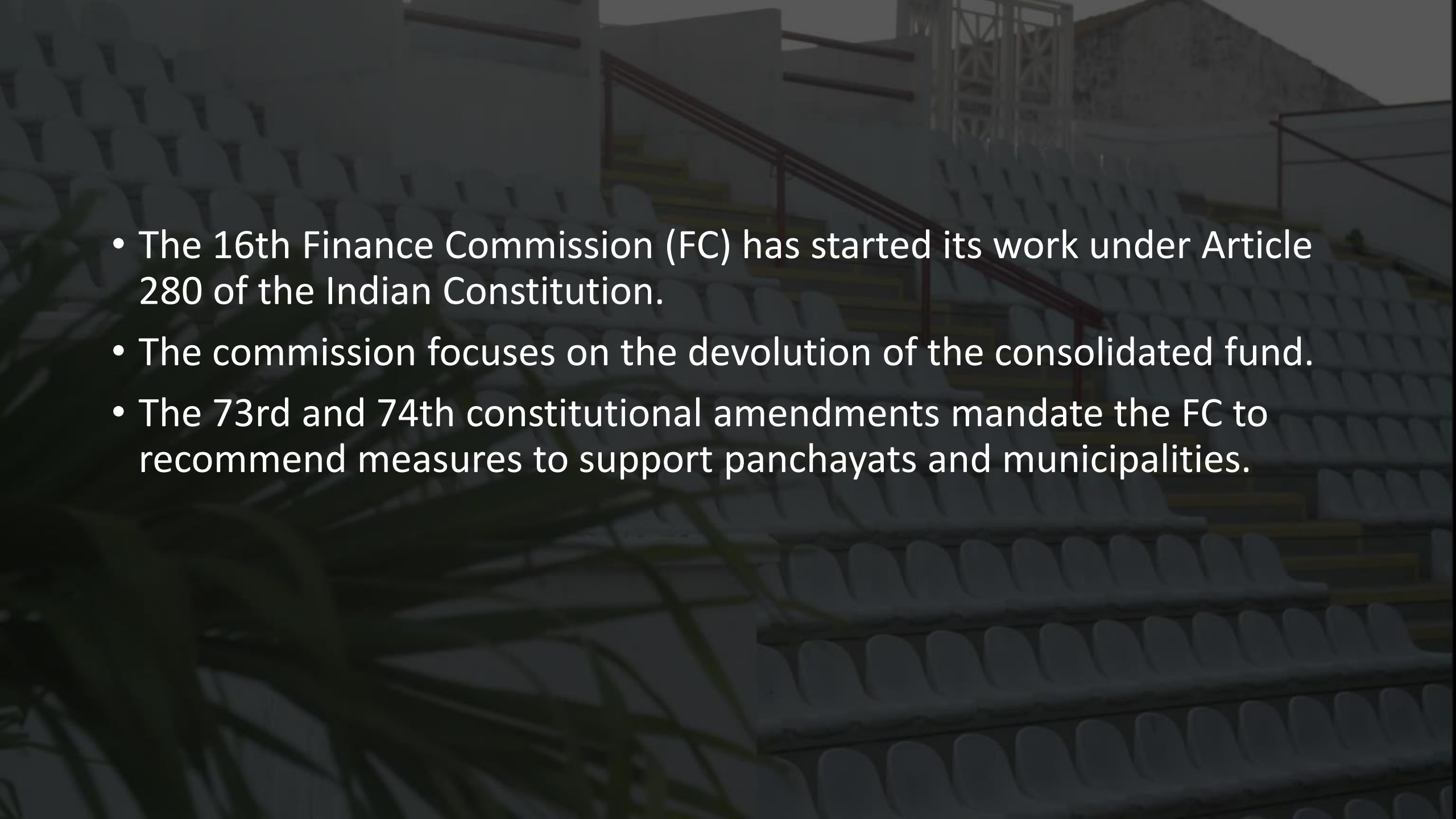
the growth of parallel agencies has distorted local governments’ roles. Programs like the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme and the Member of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development Scheme exacerbate this issue, distorting the federal structure.

How important is the Census?

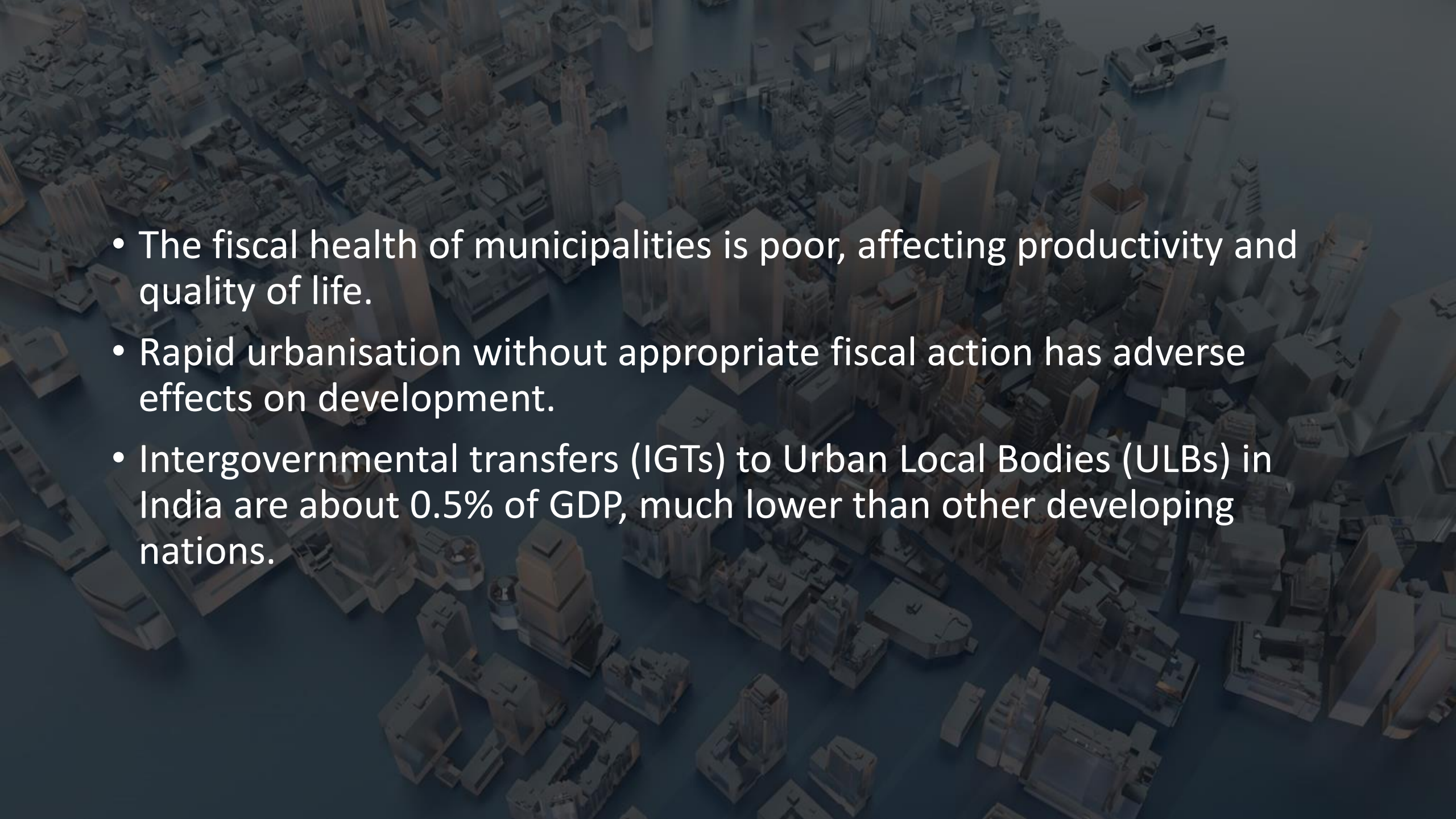
In the absence of the 2021 Census, reliance on 2011 data is inadequate for evidence-based fiscal devolution. India has approximately 4,000 statutory towns and an equal number of Census towns, with an estimated 23,000 villages, all of which are effectively urban. These figures must be captured by the 16th FC, including the significant migration to Tier-2 and 3 cities.

Thus, the 15th FC’s nine guiding principles require a revisit. Not all of them but reference to enhancement in property tax collection in tandem to the State’s GST; maintenance of accounts; resource allocation for mitigating pollution; focus on primary health care, solid waste management, drinking water, etc., deserve attention. The 16th FC must consider India’s urbanisation dynamism and ensure IGTs to urban areas are at least doubled. A McKinsey Global Institute report warns that if India continues investing in urban infrastructure at current rates, urban infrastructure will fall short, leading to water supply issues and untreated sewage.

Author is former Deputy Mayor, Shimla, and Member, Kerala Urban Commission.

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- The 16th Finance Commission (FC) has started its work under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.
 - The commission focuses on the devolution of the consolidated fund.
 - The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments mandate the FC to recommend measures to support panchayats and municipalities.

- 
- Cities are considered "engines of growth," contributing about 66% of India's GDP and 90% of total government revenues.
 - Despite efforts, financial devolution to cities remains inadequate.
 - The World Bank estimates \$840 billion is needed for basic urban infrastructure in the next decade.

- 
- An aerial, high-angle view of a city with a dark blue, semi-transparent overlay. The city's buildings and streets are visible in a muted, greyish-blue tone. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.
- The fiscal health of municipalities is poor, affecting productivity and quality of life.
 - Rapid urbanisation without appropriate fiscal action has adverse effects on development.
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- The introduction of Goods and Services Tax (GST) has reduced ULBs' tax revenue from 23% in 2012-13 to around 9% in 2017-18.
 - State Finance Commissions recommend only about 7% of states' own revenue to ULBs.
 - Increasing IGTs as a percentage of GDP is necessary.
 - The 16th FC must consider India's urbanisation and ensure IGTs to urban areas are at least doubled.

- 
- The background of the slide is a dark blue, semi-transparent image showing a large number of plastic water bottles. The bottles are arranged in rows, with some in the foreground being more in focus than others in the background, creating a sense of depth. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the plastic and the reflections on the caps.
- The FC should focus on primary health care, solid waste management, drinking water, etc

- Consider the following statements regarding the 16th Finance Commission (FC) of India:
 1. The 16th Finance Commission is established under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.
 2. The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments mandate the FC to recommend measures to support urban infrastructure exclusively.
 3. Intergovernmental transfers (IGTs) to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in India are significantly higher than in other developing nations.
 4. The absence of the 2021 Census data impacts the adequacy of evidence-based fiscal devolution.
- Which of the above statements are correct?
 - A. 1 and 4 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 1, 3, and 4 only
 - D. 1, 2, and 4 only

Air India to set up flight training school in Amaravati

Jagriti Chandra

NEW DELHI

Air India announced on Monday its decision to set up a flying training school at Amravati, Maharashtra. It would cost ₹200 crore and will target to graduate 180 pilots annually. The school will be opened by June 2025.

The flying school at Amravati's Belora airport, would be the first set up by an Indian airline. It will have 31 single-engine Piper Archer aircraft and three twin-engine Diamond DA42 aircraft.

The flying training organisation (FTO) is an initiative by the Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd. (MADCL), which awarded AI a tender to establish and operate



the school. Air India said the school would be state-of-the-art on more than 10 acres of land, with digitally enabled classrooms, a digitised operations centre, and a maintenance facility.

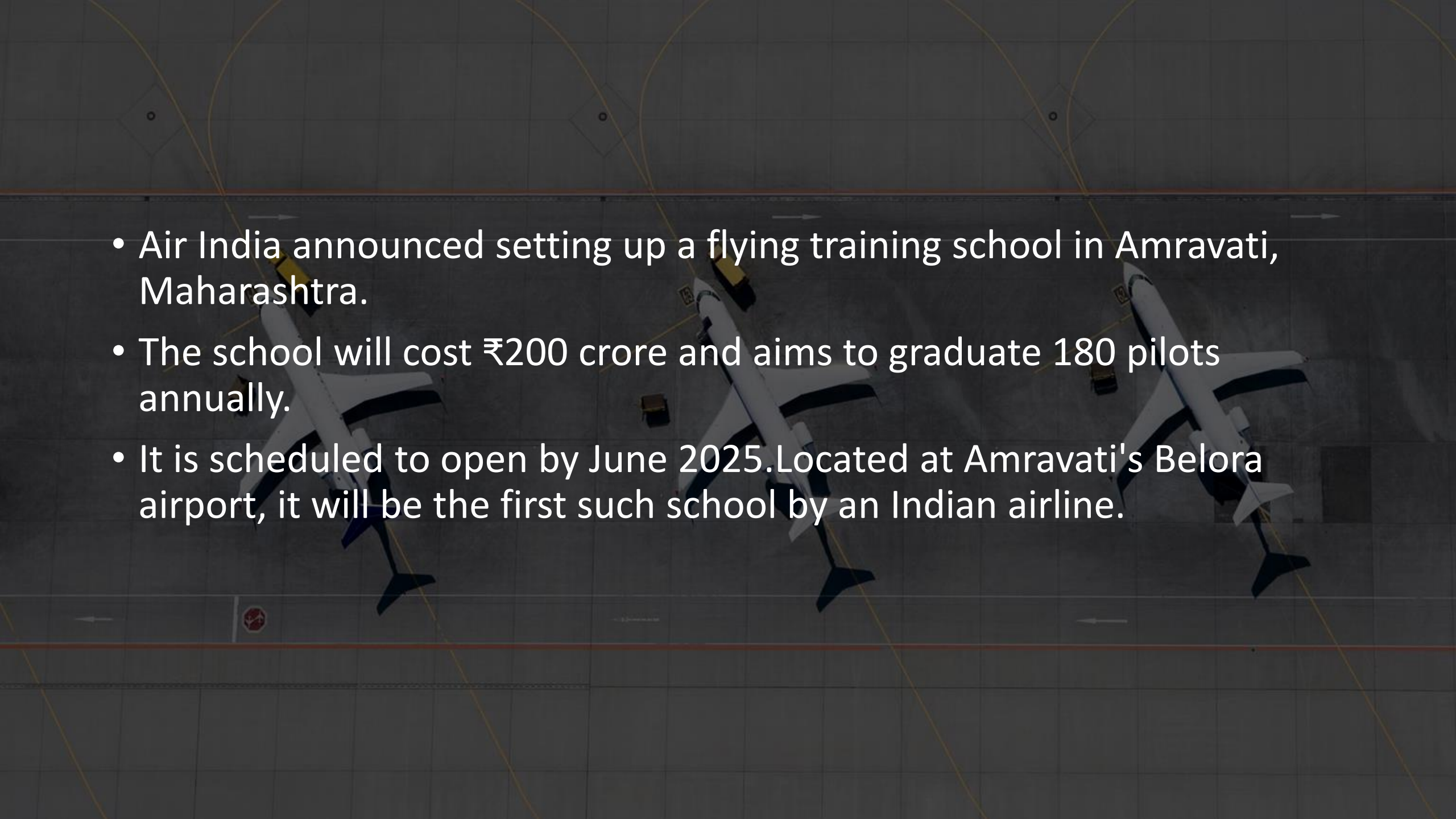
"The young pilots coming out of this FTO will fuel Air India's ambition of becoming a world-class airline, as it moves ahead in its transformation journey," CEO Campbell Wilson said in a statement.

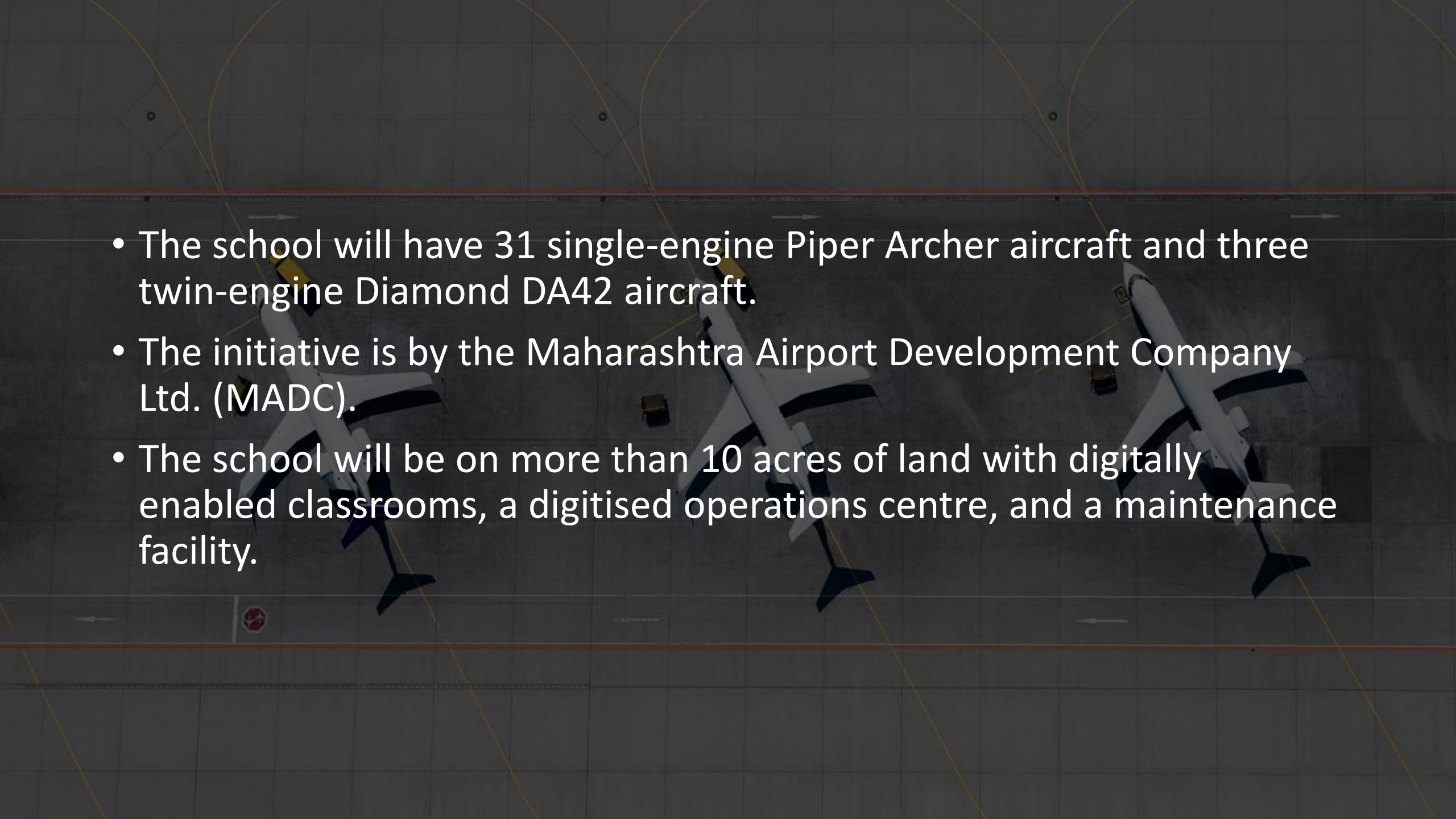
"The FTO will be operational by Q1 FY26 and offer

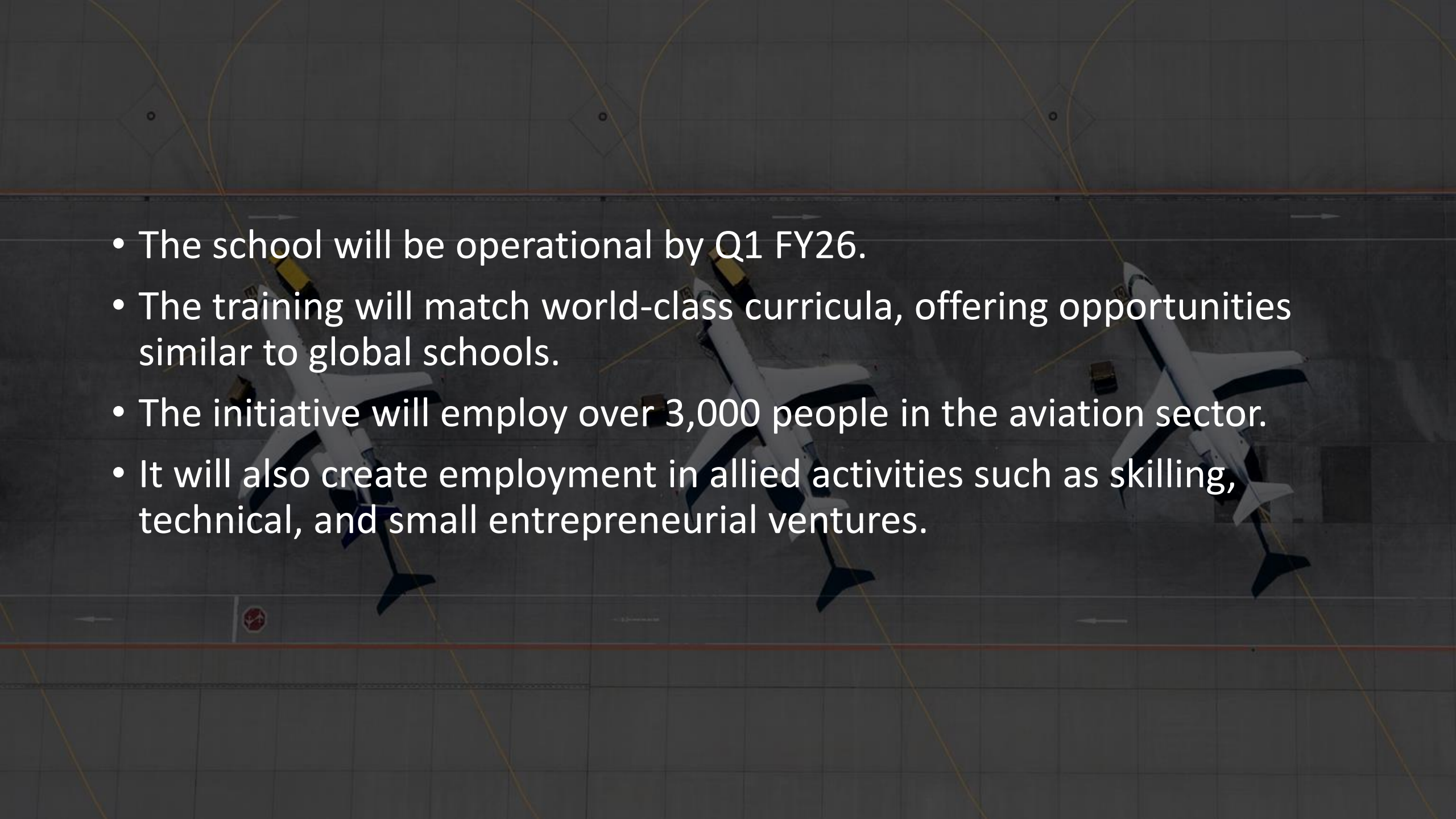
aspiring pilots an opportunity to undergo training with world-class curricula at par with best-in-class global schools," said Sunil Bhaskaran, director, Air India's aviation academy.

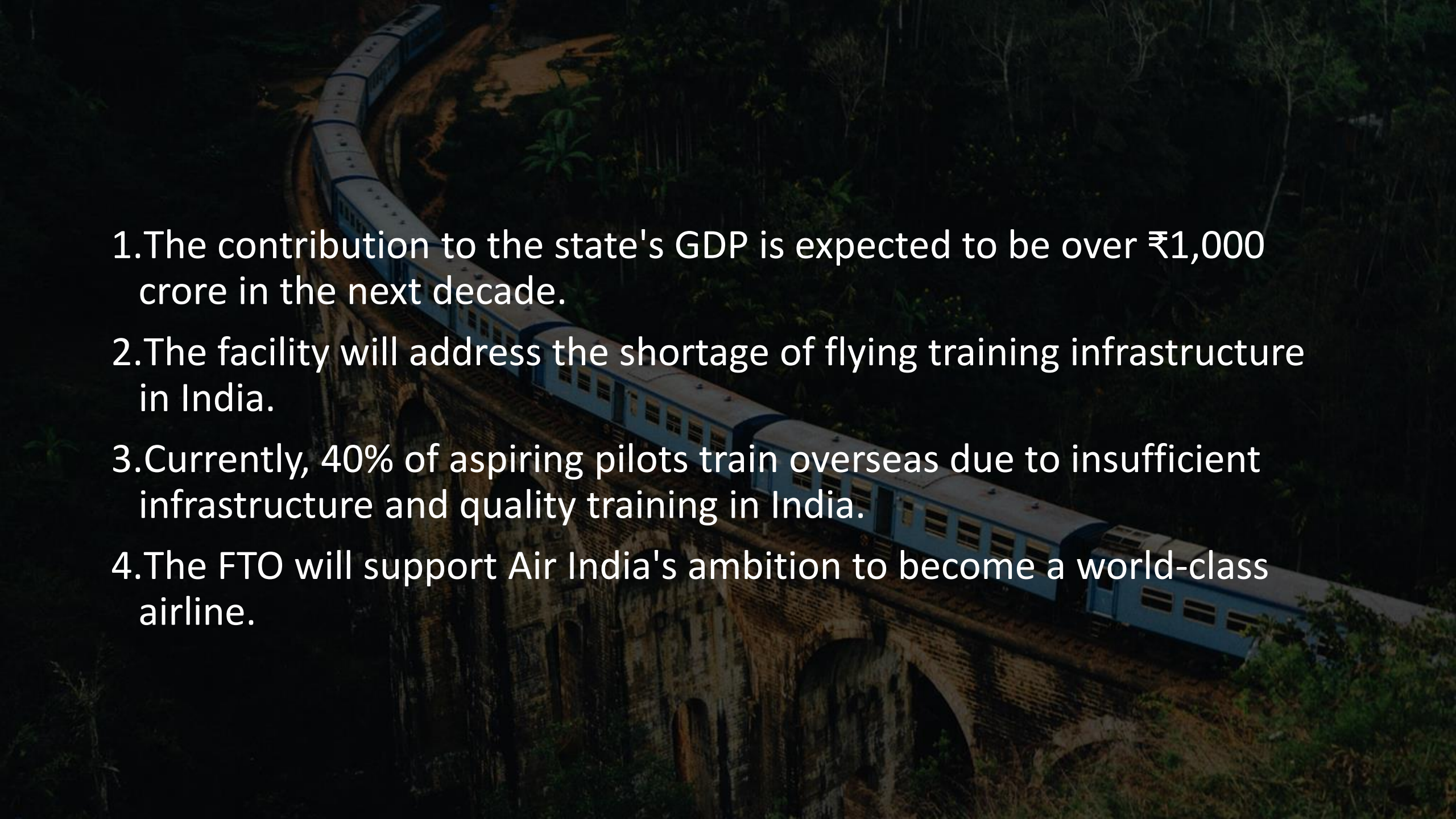
This initiative will employ more than 3,000 people in the aviation sector, "but also create employment in multifarious allied activities in skilling, technical, and small entrepreneurial ventures, culminating in an impressive contribution of over ₹1,000 crore to the State's GDP over the next decade," said Swati Pandey, MD, MADCL.

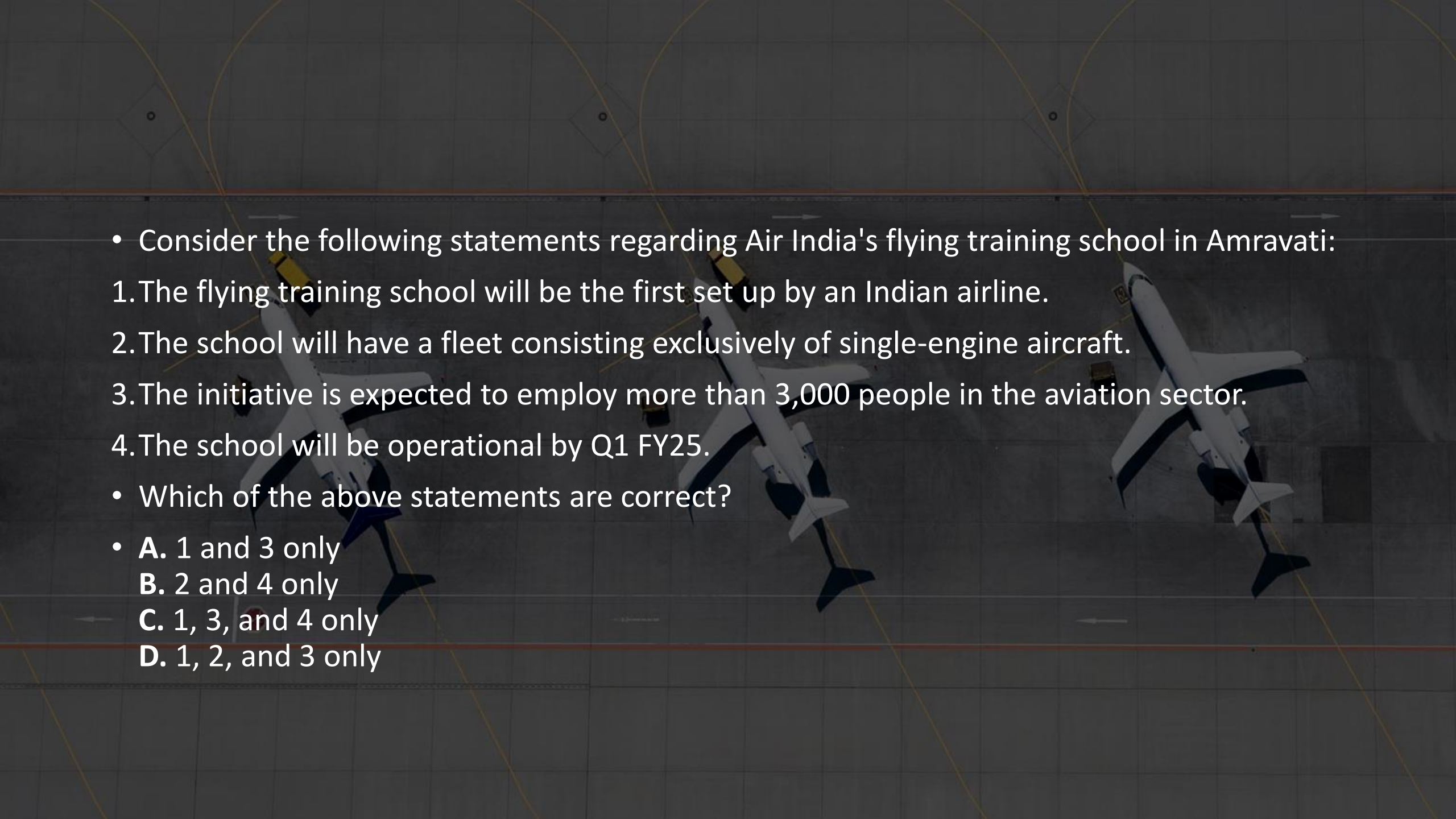
The new facility will boost India's flying training infrastructure, as 40% aspirants train overseas due to paucity of infrastructure and quality training.

- 
- An aerial view of an airport tarmac with three Air India aircraft parked at gates. The aircraft are white with blue and yellow accents. The tarmac is marked with yellow lines and has several ground service vehicles nearby. The background shows a grid pattern and some circular markings on the ground.
- Air India announced setting up a flying training school in Amravati, Maharashtra.
 - The school will cost ₹200 crore and aims to graduate 180 pilots annually.
 - It is scheduled to open by June 2025. Located at Amravati's Belora airport, it will be the first such school by an Indian airline.

- 
- An aerial view of an airport tarmac with several aircraft parked at gates. The aircraft are white with dark blue and yellow accents. The tarmac is marked with yellow lines and arrows. The background is a dark, grid-like pattern.
- The school will have 31 single-engine Piper Archer aircraft and three twin-engine Diamond DA42 aircraft.
 - The initiative is by the Maharashtra Airport Development Company Ltd. (MADC).
 - The school will be on more than 10 acres of land with digitally enabled classrooms, a digitised operations centre, and a maintenance facility.

- 
- An aerial view of an airport tarmac. Three white aircraft with blue and yellow accents are parked on the tarmac. Yellow taxi lines and arrows are visible on the ground. The background is a dark, grid-like pattern.
- The school will be operational by Q1 FY26.
 - The training will match world-class curricula, offering opportunities similar to global schools.
 - The initiative will employ over 3,000 people in the aviation sector.
 - It will also create employment in allied activities such as skilling, technical, and small entrepreneurial ventures.

- 
- A blue train is crossing a stone bridge over a forested valley. The bridge has several arches and is made of dark stone. The train consists of several blue passenger cars. The background is a dense forest of tall trees.
- 1.The contribution to the state's GDP is expected to be over ₹1,000 crore in the next decade.
 - 2.The facility will address the shortage of flying training infrastructure in India.
 - 3.Currently, 40% of aspiring pilots train overseas due to insufficient infrastructure and quality training in India.
 - 4.The FTO will support Air India's ambition to become a world-class airline.

- 
- Consider the following statements regarding Air India's flying training school in Amravati:
 1. The flying training school will be the first set up by an Indian airline.
 2. The school will have a fleet consisting exclusively of single-engine aircraft.
 3. The initiative is expected to employ more than 3,000 people in the aviation sector.
 4. The school will be operational by Q1 FY25.
 - Which of the above statements are correct?
 - A. 1 and 3 only
 - B. 2 and 4 only
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RBI, ASEAN to create platform for instant retail payments

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and ASEAN countries have decided to create a platform to facilitate instant cross-border retail payments.

The platform is expected to go live by 2026.

In a statement, RBI said it had joined the Project Nexus, a multilateral international initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic fast payments systems (FPSs).

Nexus, conceptualised by the Innovation Hub of

the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), aims to connect FPSs of four ASEAN countries (Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand); and India, who would be the founding members and first mover countries of this platform.

An agreement to this effect was signed by BIS and central banks of the founding countries – Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), Bank of Thailand (BOT), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) – and RBI on Sunday in Basel, Switzerland.

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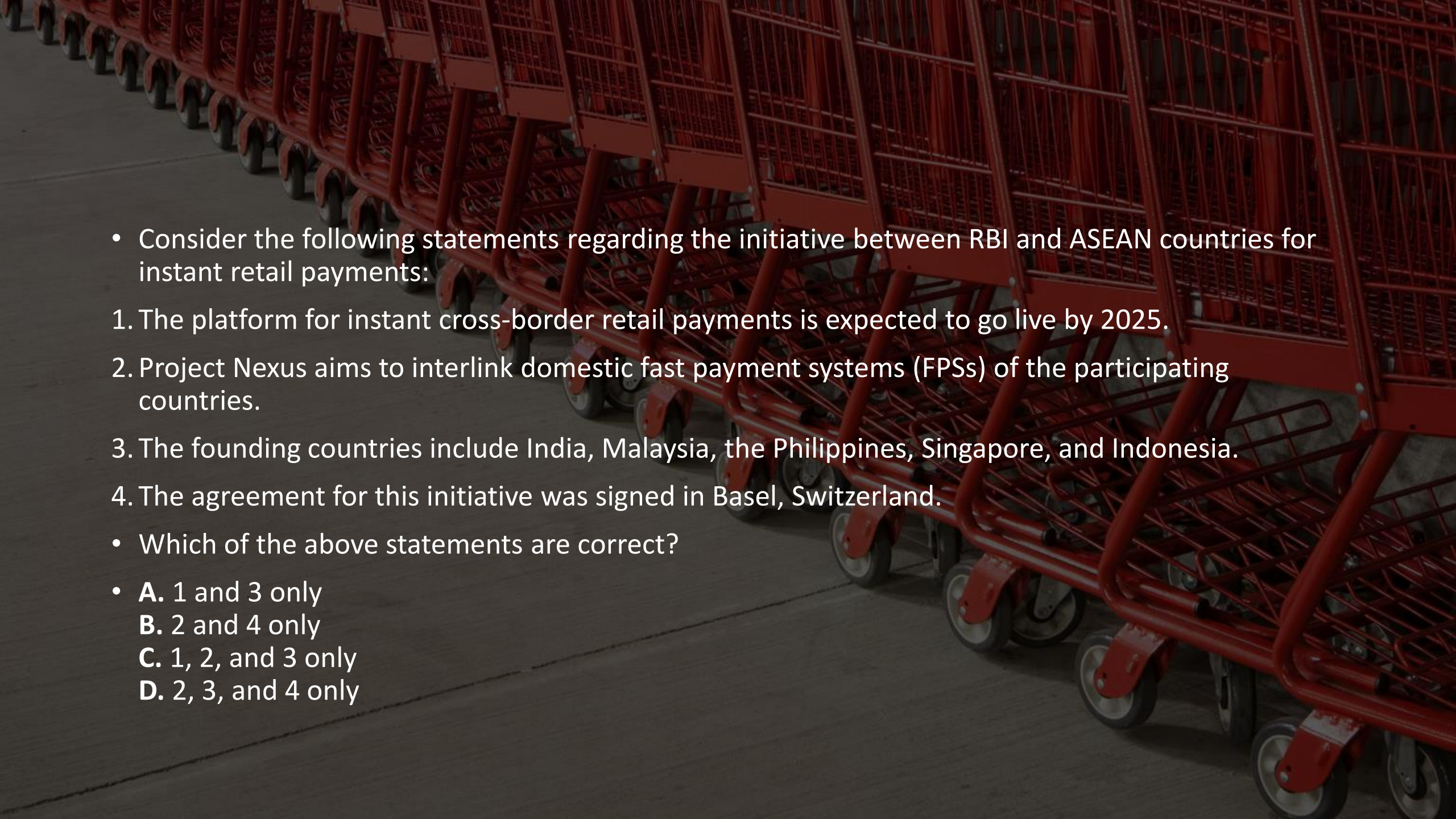
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- 
- Consider the following statements regarding the initiative between RBI and ASEAN countries for instant retail payments:
 1. The platform for instant cross-border retail payments is expected to go live by 2025.
 2. Project Nexus aims to interlink domestic fast payment systems (FPSs) of the participating countries.
 3. The founding countries include India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Indonesia.
 4. The agreement for this initiative was signed in Basel, Switzerland.
 - Which of the above statements are correct?
 - A. 1 and 3 only
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PM TO REPLY IN LOK SABHA TODAY ON MOTION OF THANKS TO PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Opposition gets an address



Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi; Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah in Lok Sabha on Monday. (PTI)

'SOREN OR KEJRIWAL IN JAIL... SHOULD DISTURB ME'

Rahul debuts as LoP: Hatred in name of Hinduism to fear to let's work together

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

REFLECTING An Opposition with its highest tally in 10 years and presenting a united front, in his first speech as Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi picked up the threads of his election campaign to counter the Government on several fronts.

fronts: from accusing it of having created an atmosphere of fear to alleging that it had spread violence and hatred in the name of Hinduism; from the crisis in Manipur to how monetarisation had wrecked employment.

At the same time, Gandhi wrapped up his nearly two-hour speech by dialing down to say that the Opposition was ready to work together with the Narendra Modi government in the national interest.



MINISTERS MAKE INTERVENTIONS TO COUNTER REMARKS

PM rebuts Rahul: Calling Hindu society violent a serious issue; Shah seeks apology

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

LEADER OF Opposition Rahul Gandhi's maiden speech in Lok Sabha that lasted almost 100 minutes Monday saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi and senior Cabinet ministers intervening to counter remarks.

tacking the BJP said "those who call themselves Hindus talk violence... hatred... untwist 24 hours". Modi rose from his seat and said "This is a very serious issue. Calling the entire Hindu society is a serious issue [because Hindu samaj ko hinsak kehna yeh gombhir vishay hai]."

protesting, Gandhi said "The BJP and the RSS are not the entire Hindu society... Ap Hindu ho hi nah (You are not Hindus)." And when he took him on directly, asking "why is the PM always serious?", Modi, who sat through the address, rose from his seat again and said, "Democracy and the Constitution have taught me that I need to take the Leader of Opposition seriously."

NEW CRIMINAL LAWS COME INTO FORCE

Maximum police custody still 15 days, can be spread over two months: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

AS THE new criminal laws—the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) to replace the Indian Penal Code, 1860, the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, respectively—came into effect Monday, Union Home Minister Anit Shah clarified that the maximum period of police custody under the BNS would remain 15 days, like the IPC.

also, the remand period is 15 days. Earlier, if an accused was sent to police remand and he got himself admitted in a hospital for 15 days, there was no interrogation as his remand period would expire. In BNS, there will be remand for a maximum 15 days, but it can be taken in parts within an upper limit of 90 days," he said.

Shah said the new laws would ensure "justice instead of punishment" and "speedy trial instead of delays". Justice would be delivered "up to the level of Supreme Court" within three years of an FIR being registered, he said.

Shah also said that the first case registered under the BNS was related to a motorcycle theft in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior at 10 minutes past midnight. "The case was for a value of Rs. 1,80,000. The case against a street vendor in Delhi was not registered under the BNS, but the IPC. I want to clarify that in BNS punishment is more than three years but less than seven years, a police officer is allowed 14 days to conduct a preliminary enquiry before registering an FIR and then proceed with investigation in the case.

Police, considering the nature and gravity of the offence, (i) proceed to conduct preliminary enquiry to ascertain whether there exists a prima facie case for proceeding under the BNS; or (ii) proceed with investigation when there exists a prima facie case; the law states.

This change goes against the landmark 2013 Supreme Court ruling in Lalit Kumar vs State of...

EXPRESS NETWORK

FACING UNIQUE OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES, SAYS ARMY CHIEF — 11

PM SET TO VISIT RUSSIA JULY 9-10, VIENNA JULY 8-9 — P 7

A fishing expedition, Lankan Navy officer's death, and 10 Indians who await their fate

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, JULY 1

THE EARLY hours of June 25 turned into a nightmare for ten Indian fishermen from Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu, when a routine fishing expedition spilled into chaos, ending in the death of a Sri Lankan Navy officer. The Sri Lankan authorities allege the officer died due to the aggressive manoeuvres of the trawler of Indian fishermen resisting seizure, but the fishermen, now in Sri Lankan custody and reportedly set to be charged with death, deny these allegations and insist they are innocent.

According to a top Sri Lankan government source involved in the case proceedings in Jaffna, the Indian trawler was allegedly speeding when the Sri Lankan Navy attempted to intercept it around 1.30 am on June 25. The postmortem report of the Navy officer suggests the officer possibly died due to an accidental fall during the tense moments leading up to the interception, sources said.

The boat driver, Madhi (40), provided a statement to Sri Lankan authorities, explaining that his trawler was heading back to Indian waters, turning from south to north when the incident took place. He claimed the Navy boat, with its lights off, rammed into the trawler. At that moment, the crew was working to avert the collision.

Madhi, who was awake at the steering wheel, reported seeing two Navy men with guns who announced their arrest. The fishermen were handcuffed and moved to the back of the boat, which was then taken to Kankesanthurai Harbour near 25 per cent since 2022 of Kuno's

Bengal flogging: Murder attempt charge invoked; notice to state

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
KOLKATA, JULY 1

POLICE HAVE invoked sections related to attempt to murder and molestation against a TMC functionary, who was arrested on Sunday for publicly flogging a man and a woman in Chopra block of Uttar Dinajpur district West Bengal, over an alleged extramarital affair.

The accused, Tajmool Hossain alias JCB, was produced before the court, which sent him to police custody for five days. Meanwhile, Governor C V Ananda Bose has sought a report on the incident from Chief

Chital stock dwindling in Kuno, plan to move out excess cheetahs

JAY MAZOOMDAR
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

THE PROJECT Cheetah authorities have reached an in-principle decision to shift surplus cheetahs from Kuno national park to Gandhi Sagar wildlife sanctuary after the monsoon. At present, Kuno has 26 cheetahs, including 13 cubs and sub-adults.

This follows a reassessment of Kuno's cheetah carrying capacity — pegged at 21 in the Project Action Plan — necessitated by a staggering loss of over 25 per cent since 2022 of Kuno's

Business as Usual

BY LUNNY

IT IS THE 17th Lok Sabha, and the business as usual could be anything.

Captain Rohit told us, he can't climb this mountain alone... he will need everyone's oxygen: Suryakumar

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, JULY 1

IT HAS NOT even been 24 hours since India's much-awaited T20 World Cup win and Suryakumar Yadav is already by the contrary in the curious-like view of the street below his team-hating Barbados and the videos of mass celebrations that he has been getting from back home.

from a post-win party, where the entire team danced till the wee hours, to find 1,014 Whatsapp congratulatory messages on his phone. But ask him about the game and his sleep-deprived mind comes along as he recalls the riveting speech captain Rohit Sharma gave at the team huddle, minutes before the final against the South Africans.

Talking to The Indian Express from Barbados, Surya, whose speech-busting catch on the eyes to dismiss David Miller turned the match on its head, says, "He told us to keep it simple but said, 'I can't climb this mountain

alone. If I have to reach the peak, I will need everyone's oxygen." He also said, "Johi bhi hai, pooro mein, dimag mein, dil mein (Whatever you have in your eyes, mind and heart), just bring everything to the game. If that happens, we will not regret the night: 'We all were moved.'"

If Rohit moved with his action and words, coach Rahul Dravid, Surya's mentor, set the mood with a simple slide presentation that he gave to realise that they would have to rise to the occasion.

He showed a graph of the

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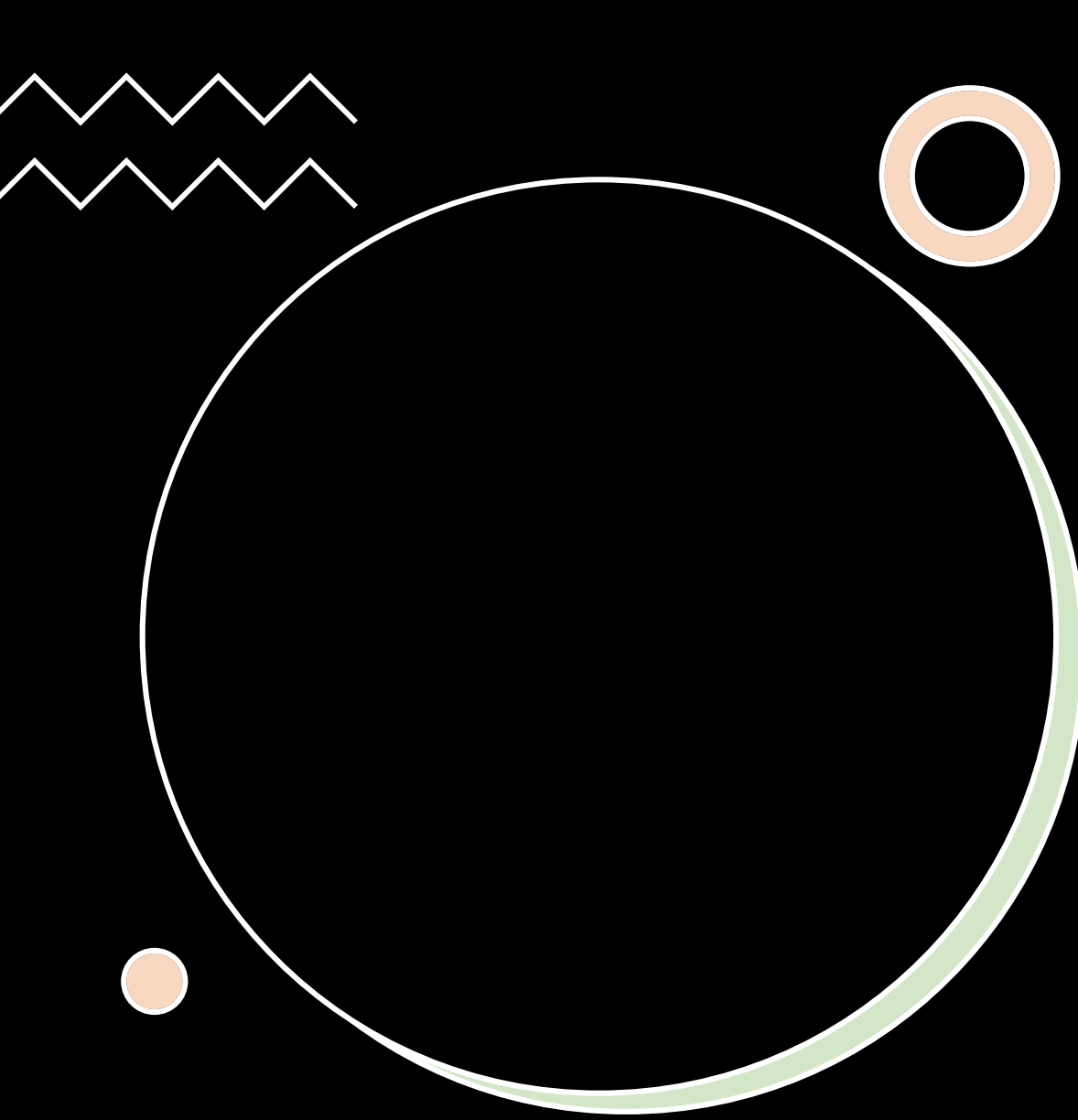

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Amendments Proposed in MSME Act

- Recently, on the occasion of International MSME Day (27th June), 2024, the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) organised the 'Udyami Bharat-MSME Day' event and proposed amendment to MSME Development Act, 2006 to improve dispute resolution for delayed payments and address the changing needs of the MSME sector.

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- **The event witnessed the launch of several initiatives by the Union Minister for MSME, including the proposed upgradation of the Samadhan Portal, proposed amendments in the MSME Development Act, 2006, the Team Initiative and the Yashasvini campaign.**
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- What are the Key Facts About MSME?

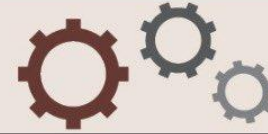
- **About:**

- **MSME stands for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. These are businesses that produce, process, and preserve goods and commodities.**

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Earlier and Revised Definition of MSMEs

Earlier MSME Classification



Criteria: Investment in Plant & Machinery or Equipment

Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Manufacturing Enterprises	Investment < ₹ 25 lac	Investment < ₹ 5 cr.	Investment < ₹ 10 cr.
Services Enterprise	Investment < ₹ 10 lac	Investment < ₹ 2 cr.	Investment < ₹ 5 cr.

Revised MSME Classification

Composite Criteria: Investment and Annual Turnover

Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Manufacturing & Services	Investment < ₹ 1 cr. & Turnover < ₹ 5 cr	Investment < ₹ 10 cr. & Turnover < ₹ 50 cr.	Investment < ₹ 20 cr. & Turnover < ₹ 100 cr.

Source: Ministry of Finance



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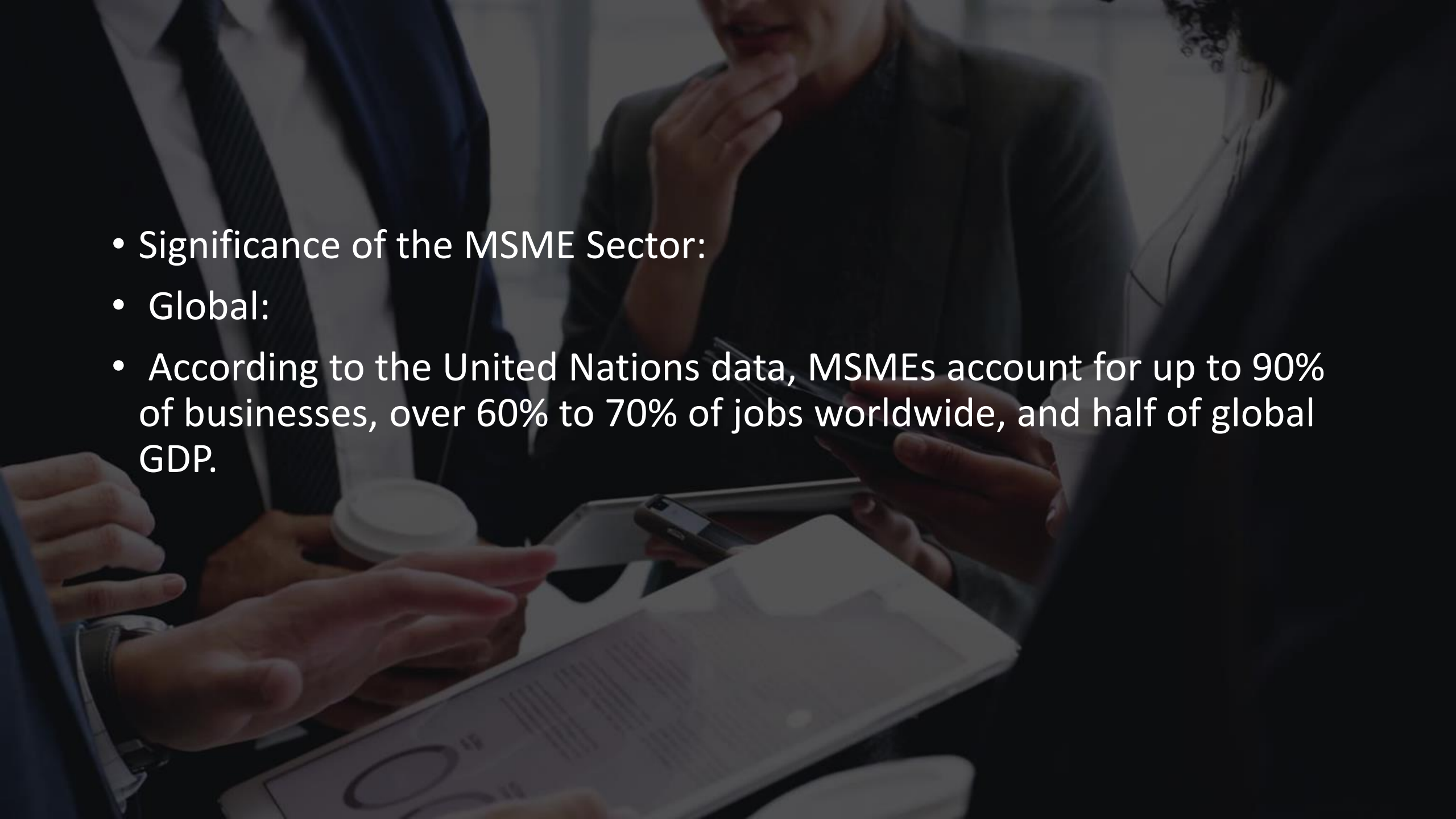


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- MSME Regulation in India:
 - **The Ministry of Small-Scale Industries and the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries were merged in 2007 to form the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises.**
 - **This ministry develops policies, facilitates programs, and monitors implementation to support MSMEs and aid in their growth.**

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- A dark, semi-transparent background image showing a group of business professionals in a meeting. They are gathered around a table, looking at documents and using mobile devices. The scene is dimly lit, emphasizing the professional and collaborative atmosphere.
- Significance of the MSME Sector:
 - Global:
 - According to the United Nations data, MSMEs account for up to 90% of businesses, over 60% to 70% of jobs worldwide, and half of global GDP.



India:



GDP Contribution and Employment Generation:



MSMEs currently contribute approximately 30% to India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), playing a crucial role in driving economic growth.



As per the data of Udyam registration portal, more than 46 million MSMEs (second only to China's 140 million) and over 200 million jobs are registered with the MSME Ministry.

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- A person's hands are shown holding a large, colorful, beaded Indian handicraft, possibly a basket or bag. The craft is made of woven fabric and features intricate patterns of beads in various colors, including red, orange, yellow, green, and blue. The background is a patterned fabric with a geometric design in yellow, red, and black. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the focus on the hands and the craft.
- Export Promotion:
 - Currently MSMEs contribute nearly 45% of India's total exports.
 - The Indian handicraft sector, which is dominated by small-scale artisans and enterprises, has a global market and generates significant export revenue for the country.

International MSME Day 2024

It is observed on **27th June** annually to recognise the significance of MSMEs and their contribution to the economy.

The theme of MSME Day 2024:

- The theme for MSME Day 2024 is **“Leveraging Power and Resilience of Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to Accelerate Sustainable Development and Eradicate Poverty in Times of Multiple Crises.”**



30th anniversary of ISA

Recently, the International Seabed Authority (ISA), an agency under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), celebrated its 30th anniversary.

It was established to oversee the exploration and utilization of non-living marine resources in international waters.

- What are the Key Facts About ISA?
- About ISA:
- It is an autonomous international organisation established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the UNCLOS.
- Headquarters: Kingston, Jamaica.
- Members: 168 Member States (including India) and the European Union.

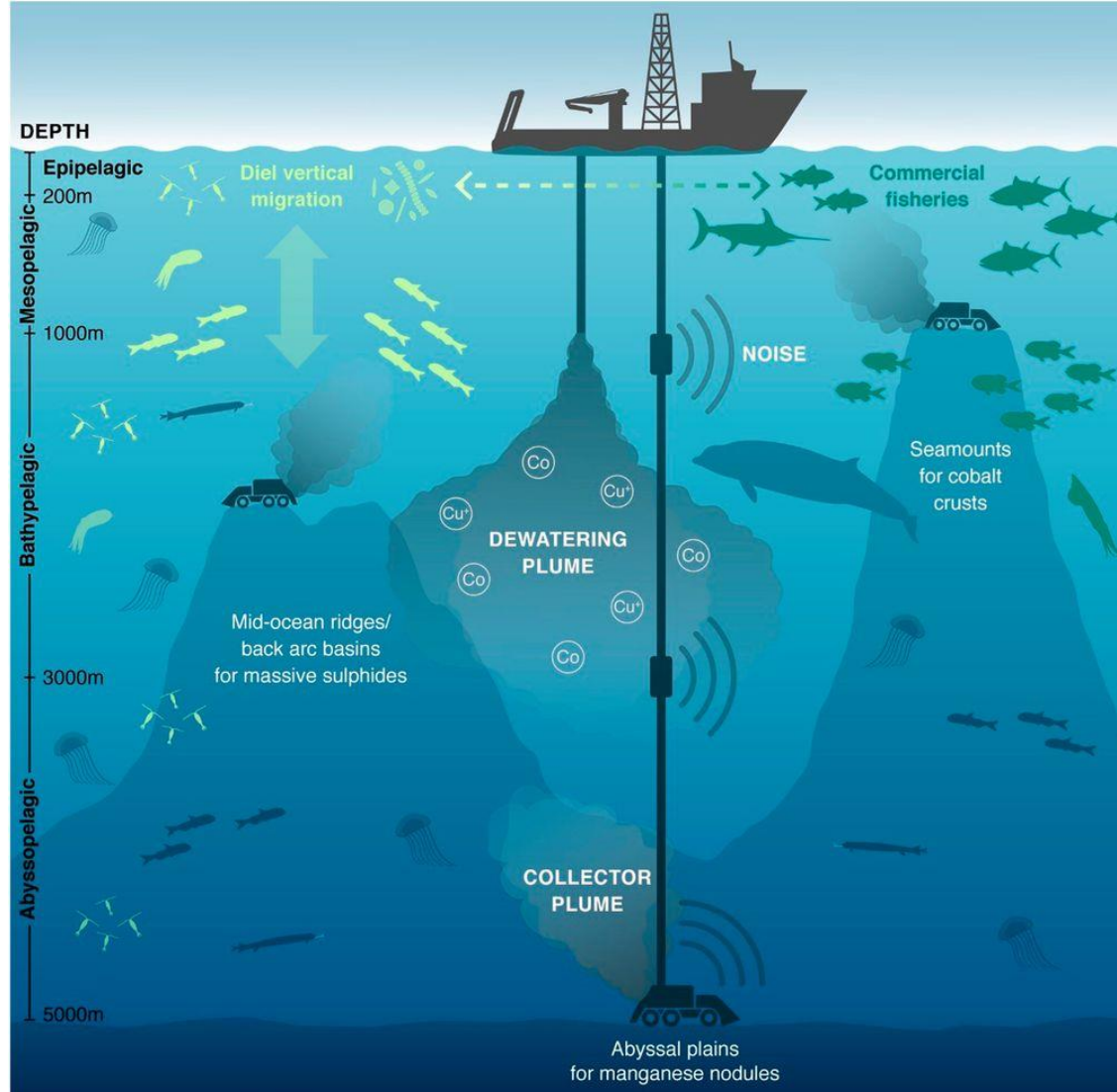
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- **The area under its jurisdiction covers around 54% of the total area of the world's oceans.**
 - **ISA ensures effective protection of the marine environment from the harmful effects of deep-seabed activities.**

An aerial photograph showing a large number of offshore supply vessels, likely used for deep-sea mining or exploration, scattered across a vast expanse of blue water. The vessels are mostly red and white, with some having yellow or green accents. They are distributed across the frame, with some appearing closer and larger, and others further away and smaller. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a lighter blue, suggesting a clear day.

- **Mandate:**

- **Regulating the conduct of all exploration activities and exploitation of deep-sea minerals.**
- **Protection of the marine environment from harmful effects of deep seabed-related activities.**
- **Encourage marine scientific research.**

-



POTENTIAL EFFECTS

Individuals	Populations	Ecosystem Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory distress • Auditory distress • Reduced feeding • Reduced visual communication • Buoyancy issues • Toxicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in community composition • Emigration • Mortality • Decreased fitness/reproduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries • Seafood contamination • Carbon transport • Biodiversity



Artificial Intelligence (AI) Washing

- There is a new and growing question – **whether companies are making over-inflated claims about their use of AI.**
 - Tech companies and startups marketing themselves as using AI, but not doing so forms the basis of ‘AI washing’.



-
- **About**
 - AI washing is a **term derived from greenwashing**, where companies exaggerate their environmental friendliness to appeal to customers.
 - Similarly, businesses that claim to have integrated AI into their products, when they're **actually using less sophisticated technology**, can be accused of AI washing.
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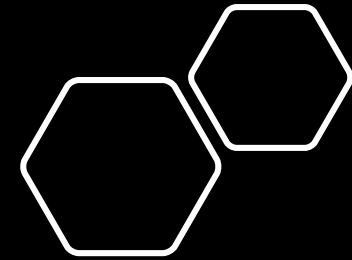
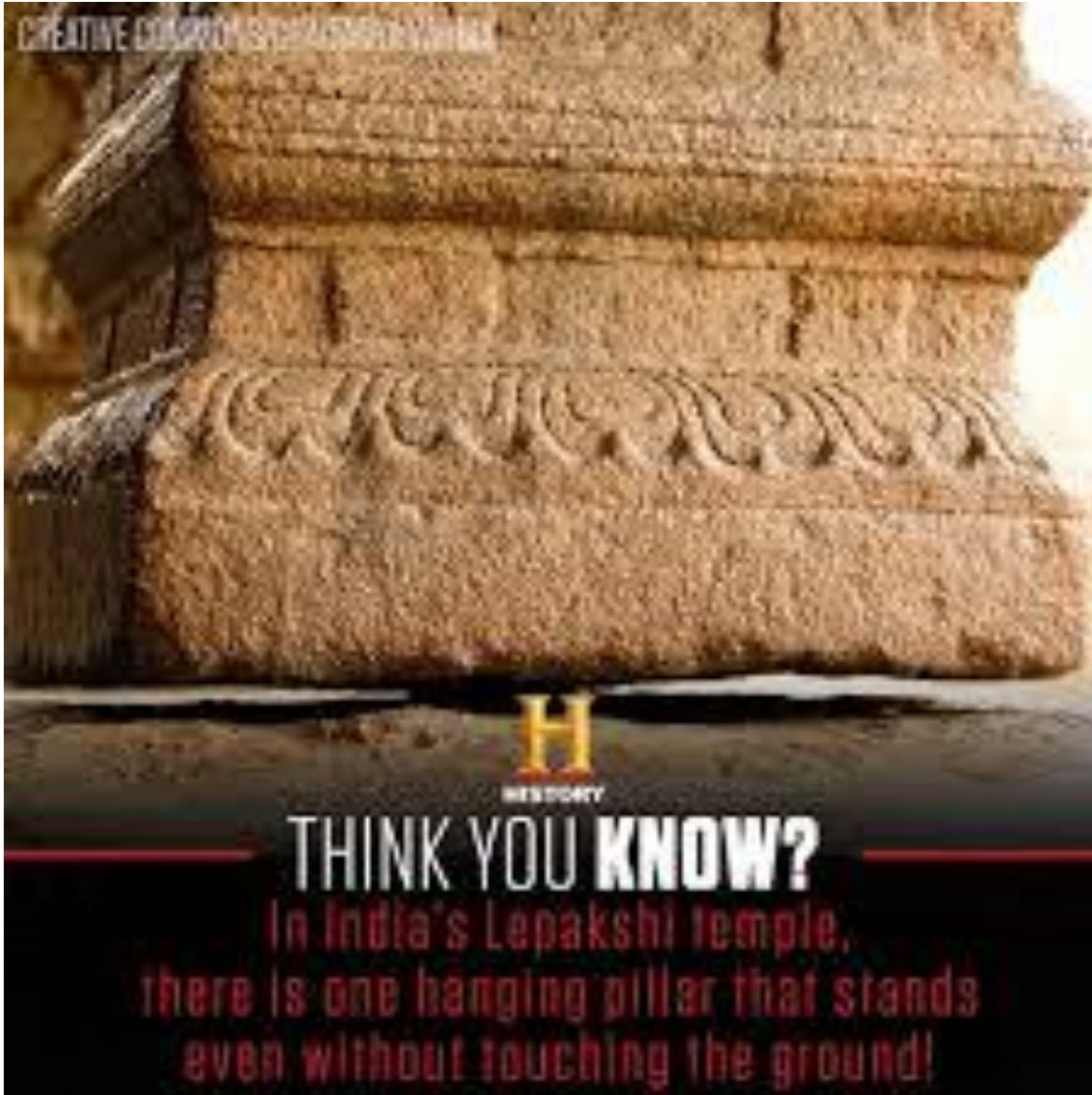
- When it comes to AI washing, there are several types.
 - Some companies claim to use AI when they're actually using less-sophisticated computing, while others overstate the efficacy of their AI over existing techniques, or suggest that their AI solutions are fully operational when they are not.
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- **Concerns:** AI washing can have concerning impacts for businesses, from overpaying for technology and services to failing to meet operational objectives the AI was expected to help them achieve.
 - For investors it can make it harder to identify genuinely innovative companies.



Fun fact





Word of the day

Febrile:

of or relating to or characterised by fever

Synonym: feverish

Usage: *It was a febrile reaction caused by an allergen.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/febrilepro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /'feɪrɪl/



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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, with some in the foreground and others blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, creating a sense of appreciation and collective effort. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner of the image.

Thank you
guys.
