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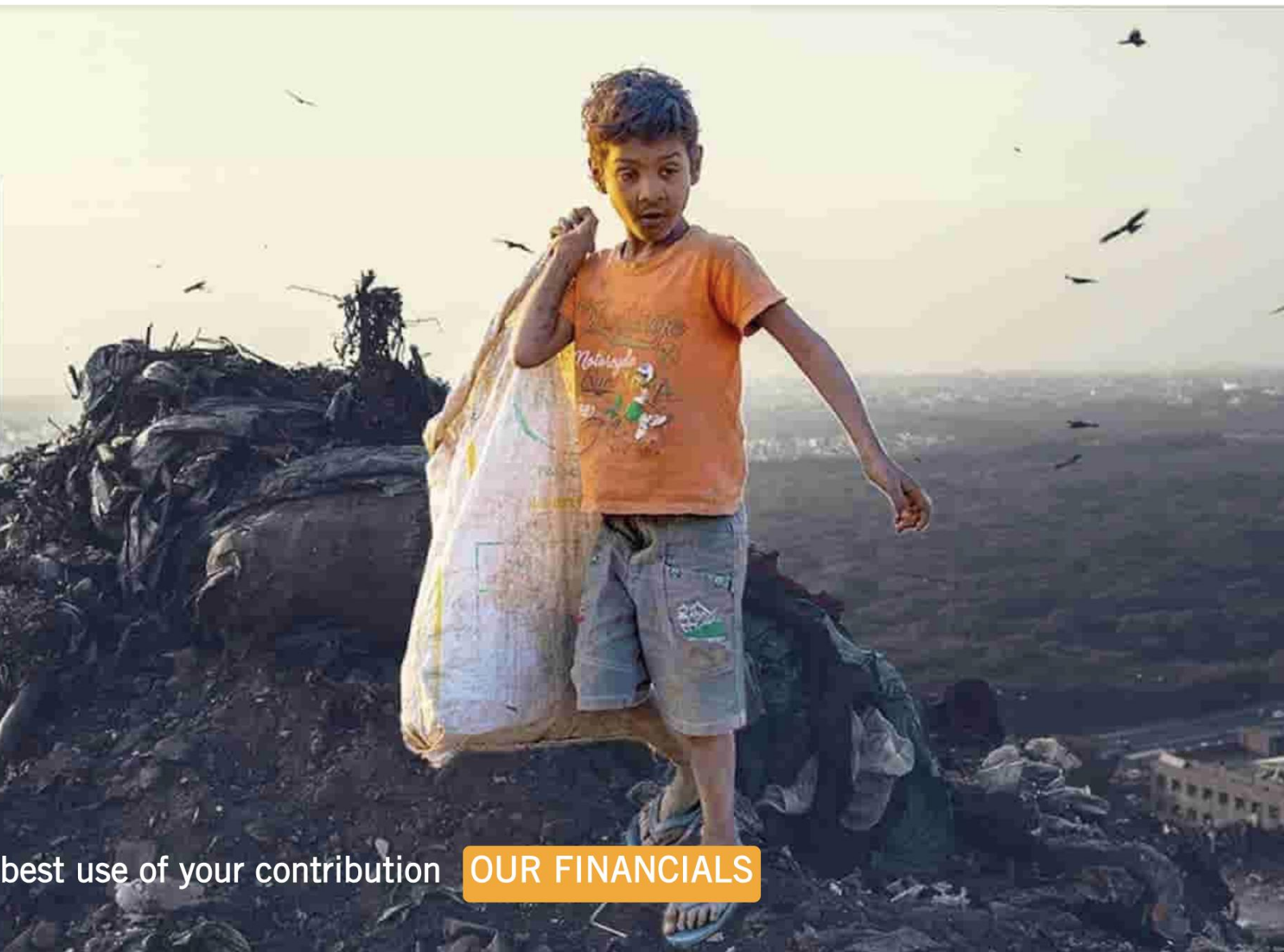
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A background image showing a silhouette of a mountain range against a sky with a warm, orange and yellow sunset or sunrise glow. The quote is centered in white text.

**A quitter never wins and
a winner never quits.**

Napoleon Hill

DEVASTATING DELUGE

Floods wreak havoc in Assam

Death toll since May climbs to 58; six rhinos among 114 animals killed in Kaziranga

NEWS3 PAGE 5



Political connections of stampede accused under probe

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How do we treat 'brain-eating amoeba'?

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Spirited Zimbabwe stuns India in first T20I

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Iranians elect reformist Pezeshkian as President

The former Health Minister, who has called for 'constructive relations' with West to get Iran out of isolation, wins run-off against conservative Saeed Jalili. Khamenei congratulates him on victory

Agence France-Press

TEHRAN

Iran's reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian on Saturday won a run-off presidential election against conservative Saeed Jalili, the Interior Ministry said.

The election came against a backdrop of heightened regional tensions due to the Gaza war, a dispute with the West over Iran's nuclear programme, and domestic discontent over the state of Iran's economy.

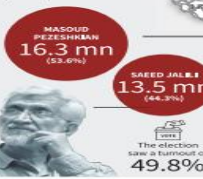
Mr. Pezeshkian received more than 16 million votes, around 54%, and Jalili more than 13 million, roughly 44%, out of about 30 million votes cast, electoral authority spokesman Moshen Eslami said.

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Margin of victory

A look at the number of votes polled by the two candidates



Dear people of Iran, the elections are over and this is just the beginning of our cooperation... I extend my hand to you and I swear on my honour that I will not leave you alone on this path. Do not leave me alone.

MASOUD PEZESHKIAN
Iran President-elect



Task cut out: Masoud Pezeshkian will take over the reins of Iran amid discontent over the state of its sanctions-hit economy. GETTY IMAGES

Mr. Pezeshkian is a 69-year-old heart surgeon whose only previous government experience came as Health Minister about two decades ago. He has called for "constructive relations" with Western countries to "get Iran out of its isolation". He favours the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and global powers.

The U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the accord in 2018, reimposing sanctions and leading Iran to gradually reduce its commitment to its terms.

No difference: U.S. The U.S. on Monday said it would make no difference whether Mr. Pezeshkian or Mr. Jalili won. State Department spokesperson Vedant Patel said there was no expectation the vote would "lead to a fundamental change in Iran's direction" or improvement in human rights.

There were no obvious celebrations in Iran on Saturday after the final results were announced, but some Iranians voiced approval of the outcome.

"We are very happy that Mr. Pezeshkian won," said Abolfazl, a 40-year-old architect who gave only his first name.

"I expected him to become the president because we really needed a literate president to solve the economic problems of the people."

The death of conservative President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash necessitated the election, which was not due until 2025. Under Raisi, Iran sought improved relations with China and Russia while mending ties with Arab neighbours, chiefly Saudi Arabia, to avert deeper isolation.

KEEPER OF REFORM HOPES
PAGE 9

Union Budget to be presented on July 23, session till Aug. 12

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The first Union Budget (2024-25) of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third term will be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha on July 23, with the Parliament session commencing a day earlier.

The session will conclude on August 12. The Interim Budget for 2024-25 was presented in February. In her address to a joint sitting of Parliament during the special session, President Droupadi Murmu said that the coming Budget would be an impactful document of the government's far-reaching policies and futuristic vision, and that several historic steps and major economic/social decisions would be taken.

The pace of reforms would be accelerated to fulfil the aspirations of people, she said.



The Interim Budget for 2024-25 was presented in February.

She also said that the government would continue to work for the welfare of the people and the growth of the economy.

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Birthday bash



Sweet moment: Tibetan schoolgirls in traditional costumes eat cakes and sweets as they wait to perform at an event to celebrate the 85th birthday of Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama at the Tsuglakhang temple in Dharamshala on Saturday. AP

President-elect asks Iranians to stick with him

TEHRAN/DUBAI Masoud Pezeshkian urged the people of Iran to stick with him after the presidential run-off on Friday. "I extend my hand to you and swear on my honour that I will not abandon you on this path. Do not abandon me," he said. PAGE 12

Odds are against Pezeshkian's vows for change

TEHRAN Masoud Pezeshkian, who rode on support from the country's main reformist coalition and many who feared a continued hardline grip on power, will face serious challenges because conservatives still dominate state institutions, say analysts. PAGE 12

Committed to deepening ties, Modi tests U.K.'s Starmer

Suhashini Haider

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to newly elected U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Saturday. In a post on X, Mr. Modi said he had congratulated Mr. Starmer and remained committed to "deepening comprehensive strategic partnership and robust economic ties".

Meanwhile, sources said New Delhi was preparing for a high-level visit from the new U.K. government in the next few weeks.

FULL REPORT
PAGE 4

A.P., Telangana form panels to resolve differences amicably

M. Rajeev

HYDERABAD

In what could be called the first concrete step for resolution of the pending issues arising out of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the Chief Ministers of the two States — A. Revanth Reddy and N. Chandrababu Naidu — are expected to constitute two committees, one of Ministers and other of officials, for evolving a road map for their resolution.

The nearly two-hour meeting of the two Chief Ministers on Saturday took a decision to this effect for expeditiously resolving the nagging differences between the two States amica-

bly. Accordingly, the committees of Ministers and officials will have representation from the two States for identifying issues which needed immediate focus and those that could be settled through negotiations between the two States.

The composition of the committees will be finalised after the States exchange information about the contentious issues they propose to depute for taking up the issues.



A. Revanth Reddy and N. Chandrababu Naidu greeting each other during a meeting in Hyderabad on Saturday. ANS/ANUSWAMY

Mr. Naidu to find solution to the long pending disputes between the two States went off in a cordial atmosphere. Mr. Reddy, accompanied by his Cabinet colleagues Manu Bharti Vikramarka, D. Srihar Babu and Ponnanna Prabhakar, Chief Secretary A. Santhi Kumari and others

the two Chief Ministers are understood to have confirmed their discussions to bifurcation issues without giving scope for any deviation.

They reportedly sought information about the status of the pending issues and resolved to constitute the two panels. The discussion primarily focused on the appointment of assets and liabilities of different institutions listed under Schedule IX and X as also those that did not find mention in the Reorganisation Act.

The Telangana government is learnt to have sought re-merger of the seven mandals, including the five villages abutting the temple town of Bhadrachalam, that were merged with Andhra Pradesh post

formation of Telangana State on June 2, 2014. But it had been decided to represent the matter to the Union government together as the merger of the mandals with A.P. was carried out through amendment made to the Reorganisation Act in Parliament.

Centre's intervention Some issues pertaining to the two States which were out of the purview of the Reorganisation Act like apportionment of 12 institutions which did not find mention in the Act were said to have figured in the discussion. But the two sides decided to represent the matter to the Union Home Ministry, which was supposed to be the Central level for resolution of such issues.

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INSIDE



DRDO unveils indigenous light tank Zorawar

NEW DELHI The prototype of the DRDO-built indigenous light tank Zorawar is ready and will be subjected to extensive trials, defence officials said. PAGE 8

Sri Lanka to permit calls from research vessels

COLOMBO Sri Lanka will resume permitting calls from foreign research vessels at its ports from next year, as the government "cannot only block China". PAGE 12

Counselling for NEET-UG likely after July third week

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Counselling for candidates who cleared the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test will be held after the National Medical Commission announces the number of available UG medical seats in the third week of July, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday, the day the counselling was supposed to begin.

The Supreme Court is slated to hear a bunch of pleas on the paper leak case on the paper leak case on Monday.

FULL REPORT
PAGE 5

Iranians elect reformist Pezeshkian as President

The former Health Minister, who has called for 'constructive relations' with West to 'get Iran out of isolation', wins run-off against conservative Saeed Jalili; Khamenei congratulates him on victory

Agence France-Presse
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The election came against a backdrop of heightened regional tensions due to the Gaza war, a dispute with the West over Iran's nuclear programme, and domestic discontent over the state of Iran's sanctions-hit economy.

Mr. Pezeshkian received more than 16 million votes, around 54%, and Jalili more than 13 million, roughly 44%, out of about 30 million votes cast, electoral authority spokesperson Mohsen Eslami said.

Voter turnout was 49.8%, Mr. Eslami added, up from a record low of about 40% during the first round.

In his first comments after winning, Mr. Pezeshkian said the vote was the start of a "partnership" with Iran's people.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say on all major policy issues, congratulated Mr. Pezeshkian.

Mr. Khamenei urged him to "continue the path of martyr Raisi and use the country's many capacities, especially the revolutionary and faithful youth, for the comfort of the people and the progress of the country. He accused "enemies of the Iranian nation" of being behind a "scheme of boycotting the elections."



Mr. Pezeshkian is a 69-year-old heart surgeon whose only previous government experience came as Health Minister about two decades ago. He has called for "constructive relations" with Western countries to "get Iran out of its isolation". He favours the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and global powers.

The U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the accord in 2018, reimposing sanctions and leading Iran to gradually reduce its commitment to its terms.

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KEEPER OF REFORM HOPES
» PAGE 9

President-elect asks Iranians to stick with him

TEHRAN/DUBAI

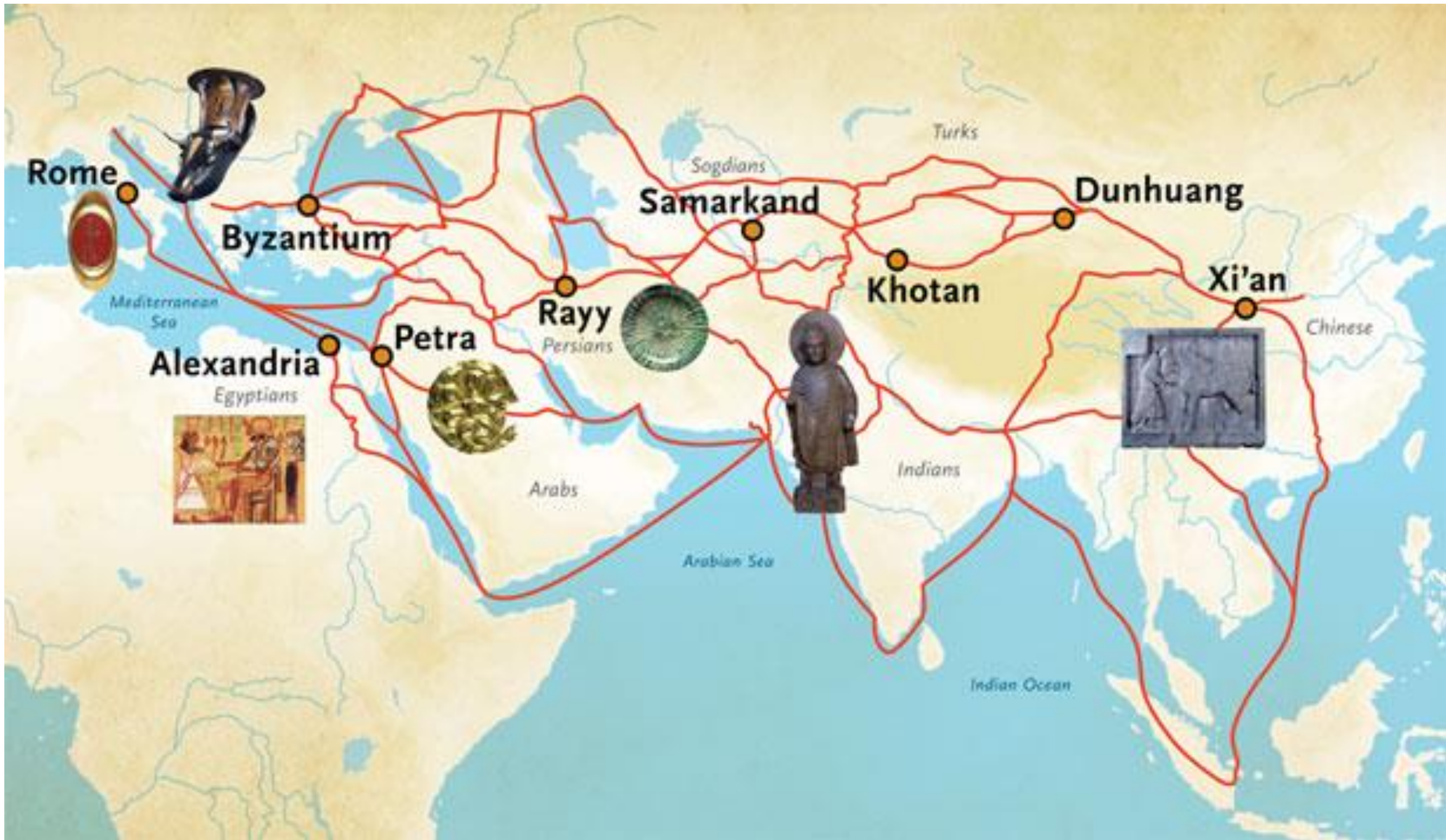
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Odds are against Pezeshkian's vows for change

TEHRAN

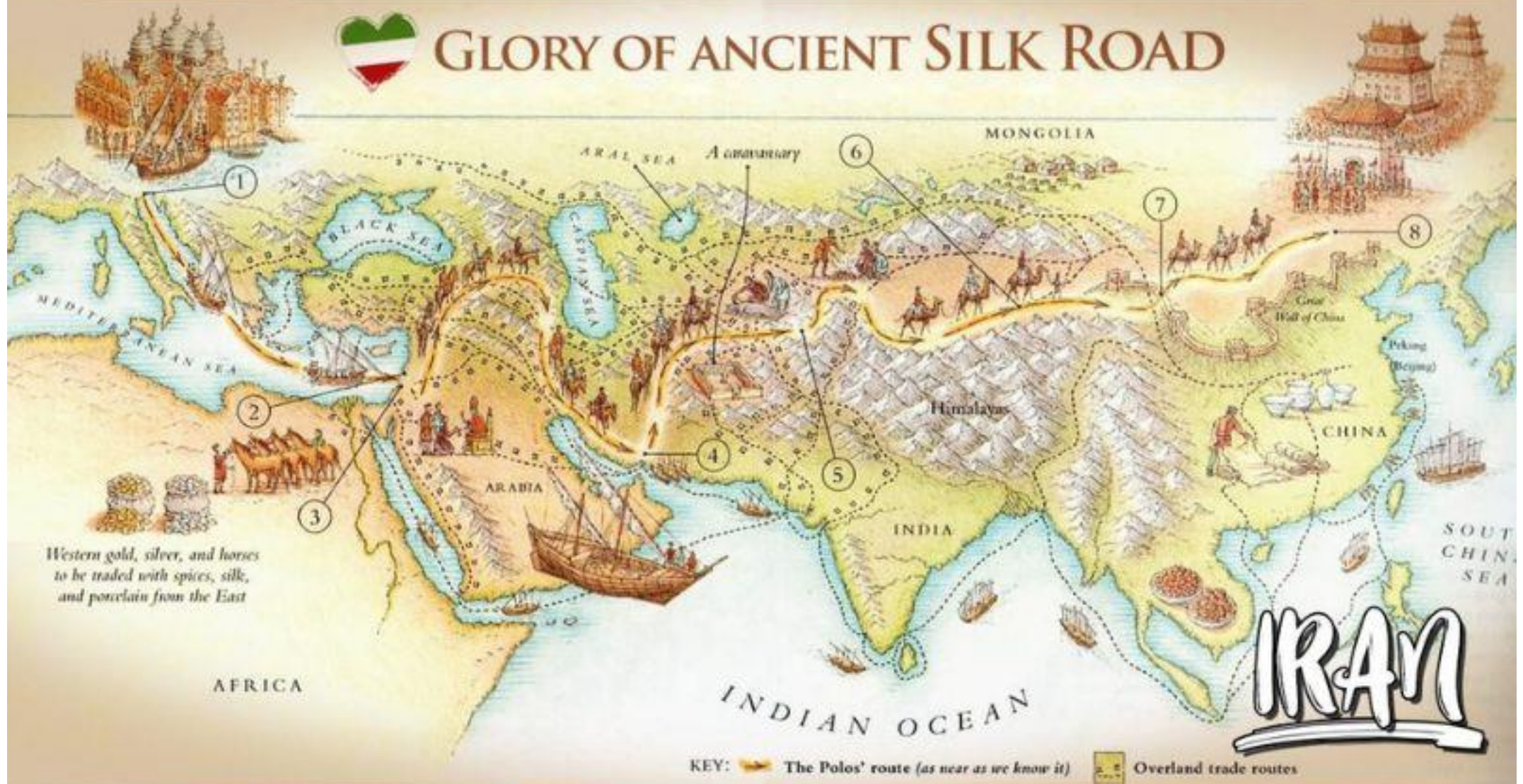
Masoud Pezeshkian, who rode on support from the country's main reformist coalition and many who feared a continued hardline grip on power, will face serious challenges because conservatives still dominate state institutions, say analysts. » PAGE 12







GLORY OF ANCIENT SILK ROAD



IRAN

Capital and largest city	Tehran 35°41′N 51°25′E﻿ / ﻿35°41′N 51°25′E﻿ / 35.683°N 51.417°E
Official languages	Persian
Recognised regional languages	List of languages: ^[4] [show]
National language	Persian
Ethnic groups (2003 estimate) ^[5]	All [show]
Demonym(s)	Iranian
Government	Unitary presidential theocratic Islamic republic
 • Supreme Leader	Ali Khamenei
 • President	Mohammad Mokhber (acting)
 • Vice President	TBD
 • Speaker of the Parliament	Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf
 • Chief Justice	Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Eje'i
 • Secretary of the Guardian Council	Ahmad Jannati
Legislature	Islamic Consultative Assembly
Formation	
 • Unified as a state	c. 678 BC
 • Achaemenid Empire	550 BC
 • Parthian Empire	247 BC
 • Sasanian Empire	224 AD
 • Safavid Iran	1501
 • Afsharid Iran	1736
 • Zand dynasty	1751
 • Qajar Iran	1789
 • Constitutional Revolution	12 December 1905
 • Pahlavi Iran	15 December 1925
 • Iranian Revolution	11 February 1979
 • Current Constitution	3 December 1979

Area	
 • Total	1,648,195 km ² (636,372 sq mi) (17th)
 • Water (%)	1.63 (as of 2015) ^[6]
Population	
 • 2024 estimate	▲ 89,819,750 ^[7] (17th)
 • Density	55/km ² (142.4/sq mi) (132nd)
GDP (PPP)	2024 estimate
 • Total	▲ \$1.855 trillion ^[8] (19th)
 • Per capita	▲ \$21,220 ^[8] (78th)
GDP (nominal)	2024 estimate
 • Total	▲ \$464.181 billion ^[8] (34th)
 • Per capita	▲ \$5,310 ^[8] (113th)
Gini (2019)	40.9 ^[9] medium
HDI (2022)	▲ 0.780 ^[10] high (78th)
Currency	Iranian rial (ریال) (IRR)

- **Election Outcome:**

- Reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian won the run-off presidential election against conservative Saeed Jalili.
- Pezeshkian received 16.3 million votes (53.6%), while Jalili got 13.5 million votes (44.3%)
- .

- **चुनाव परिणाम:**

- सुधारवादी उम्मीदवार मसूद पेज़ेश्कियन ने रूढ़िवादी सईद जलिली के खिलाफ राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के दूसरे दौर में जीत हासिल की।
- पेज़ेश्कियन को 16.3 मिलियन (53.6%) वोट मिले, जबकि जलिली को 13.5 मिलियन (44.3%) वोट मिले।

- **Election Context:**

- The election occurred amid regional tensions, particularly related to Gaza and a dispute with the West over Iran's nuclear program.
- Voter turnout was 49.8%, an increase from about 40% in the first round.

- **चुनाव संदर्भ:**

- चुनाव क्षेत्रीय तनावों के बीच हुआ, विशेष रूप से गाजा और ईरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम पर पश्चिम के साथ विवाद से संबंधित।
- मतदान प्रतिशत 49.8% था, जो पहले दौर के लगभग 40% से बढ़ गया था।

- **Background of Pezeshkian:**
- Masoud Pezeshkian is a 69-year-old heart surgeon and former Health Minister.
- He advocates for "constructive relations" with Western countries and aims to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.
- **पेज़ेशिकियन की पृष्ठभूमि:**
- मसूद पेज़ेशिकियन 69 वर्षीय हृदय सर्जन और पूर्व स्वास्थ्य मंत्री हैं।
- वह पश्चिमी देशों के साथ "संरचनात्मक संबंधों" की वकालत करते हैं और 2015 के परमाणु समझौते को पुनर्जीवित करने का लक्ष्य रखते हैं।

- **Reactions:**

- Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei congratulated Pezeshkian and urged him to use his authority for the benefit of the people.
- Some Iranians, like architect Abolfazl, expressed approval of the outcome, emphasizing the need for a president to address economic problems.

- **प्रतिक्रियाएं:**

- ईरान के सर्वोच्च नेता अयातुल्ला अली खामेनेई ने पेज़ेशिकियन को बधाई दी और उन्हें जनता के लाभ के लिए अपनी सत्ता का उपयोग करने का आग्रह किया।
- कुछ ईरानी, जैसे आर्किटेक्ट अबोलफजल, ने परिणाम की स्वीकृति व्यक्त की, आर्थिक समस्याओं को हल करने के लिए राष्ट्रपति की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।

- **International Relations:**

- The U.S. stated that Pezeshkian's victory would not fundamentally change its stance on Iran's direction or human rights.

- **अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंध:**

- अमेरिका ने कहा कि पेज़ेशिकियन की जीत से ईरान की दिशा या मानवाधिकारों पर उसका रुख मौलिक रूप से नहीं बदलेगा।

- **Challenges Ahead:**

- Pezeshkian faces significant challenges in implementing changes due to the conservative dominance in state institutions.

- **आगे की चुनौतियां:**

- पेज़ेशिकियन को राज्य संस्थानों में रूढ़िवादियों के वर्चस्व के कारण परिवर्तन लागू करने में महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ेगा।

- Over the years, India's trade with Iran has seen significant fluctuations. In 2019-20, India's imports from Iran, primarily crude oil, fell by about 90% to USD 1.4 billion compared to USD 13.53 billion in 2018-19.
- Also, Iran has seen a depletion of its rupee reserves in the vostro account, affecting its ability to import key Indian commodities like basmati rice and tea.

BRIDGING THE GAP

Indian presence in Chabahar is expected to offset Chinese presence in Pakistani port of Gwadar

🕒 **COST CUTTER** The port will be used to ship crude oil and urea, greatly reducing India's transportation costs

🕒 **AFGHAN CONNECT** A railway line, to be built by Iacon International, will connect Chabahar port to Zahedan on Afghan border

🕒 **BIGGER LINK** The port will link to International North-South Transport Corridor that will connect India with Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and other Central Asian trading partners



- Consider the following statements regarding the recent presidential election in Iran:
 1. Masoud Pezeshkian, a reformist candidate, won the run-off presidential election against conservative Saeed Jalili.
 2. The voter turnout in the election was around 60%, significantly higher than in the first round.
 3. Pezeshkian has called for the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal and aims to establish constructive relations with Western countries.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 1 and 3 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3

INSIDE



DRDO unveils indigenous light tank Zorawar

NEW DELHI

The prototype of the DRDO-built indigenous light tank Zorawar is ready and will be subjected to extensive trials, defence officials said. » **PAGE 5**

DRDO unveils country's indigenous light tank Zorawar

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

The prototype of the country's indigenous light tank Zorawar is ready and will soon be subjected to extensive trials, Defence officials has said.

The tank, unveiled on Saturday, was jointly developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) along with Larsen & Toubro as the lead integrator. The tank is currently powered by a Cummins engine, and the DRDO has taken up a project to develop a new engine domestically, officials said.

"It has been developed from the drawing board within the shortest possible time and capable of operation in the most challenging environment on earth: extreme weather and extreme height with minimal logistic support in high-altitude area along the northern border," a Defence official said.

The first prototype is ready after factory acceptance. Shortly, it will be subjected to internal trials in the field area and thereafter handed over to the users for trials, the source stated.

As part of developmental trials, over the next six



On test: The Zorawar light tanks will be inducted into the Army by 2027. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

months, the tank will be tested in various conditions including summer, winter and high altitude, another source said. "The tank is planned to be hand-

ed over to the Army for user trials by August 2025."

Initially, a German engine was identified as the best suitable to power the light tank. However, its

procurement got delayed due to export clearances from Germany. While the German government did approve it, officials said it was too late and was delaying the project. So, the tank was developed with an engine powered by Cummins and the company has agreed to assemble it in India, one of the sources cited above said.

The DRDO has taken up a project to develop a power pack for the light tank as a new 1,400-HP engine is also under development for the Arjun Mk1A main battle tank, sources added.

In April 2021, the Army had issued a Request For

Information for the procurement of 350 light tanks weighing less than 25 tonnes in a phased manner, along with performance-based logistics, niche technologies, engineering support package, and other maintenance and training requirements.

Following this, the DRDO and the L&T teamed up to develop a light tank indigenously along with many Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises who have been roped in for various sub-system development to encourage indigenous development of Defence weapon platform through industry.



- **Introduction of Light Tank Zorawar:**

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) unveiled the prototype of the indigenous light tank named Zorawar.
- The tank was developed in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
- **हल्के टैंक ज़ोरावर का परिचय:**
- रक्षा अनुसंधान और विकास संगठन (DRDO) ने स्वदेशी हल्के टैंक ज़ोरावर का प्रोटोटाइप पेश किया।
- टैंक को लार्सन एंड टुब्रो (L&T) के साथ सहयोग में विकसित किया गया था।

- **Development and Features:**

- Zorawar is powered by a Cummins engine, and DRDO is working on developing a new domestic engine.

- It has been designed to operate in challenging environments, including extreme weather and high-altitude areas along the northern border.

- **विकास और विशेषताएँ:**

- ज़ोरावर एक कम्पिंस इंजन द्वारा संचालित है, और DRDO एक नया घरेलू इंजन विकसित करने पर काम कर रहा है।




- इसे कठिन परिस्थितियों में संचालन के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है, जिसमें चरम मौसम और उत्तरी सीमा के साथ उच्च ऊंचाई वाले क्षेत्र शामिल हैं।



- **Trials and Induction:**

- The first prototype is ready for factory acceptance and will undergo extensive internal trials.
- Over the next six months, it will be tested in various conditions, such as summer, winter, and high altitude.
- The tank is expected to be handed over to the Army for user trials by August 2025 and inducted into the Army by 2027.

- **परीक्षण और प्रवेश:**

- पहला प्रोटोटाइप फैक्टरी स्वीकृति के लिए तैयार है और व्यापक आंतरिक परीक्षण से गुजरेगा।
 - अगले छह महीनों में इसे विभिन्न परिस्थितियों जैसे गर्मी, सर्दी और उच्च ऊंचाई में परीक्षण किया जाएगा।
 - टैंक को अगस्त 2025 तक उपयोगकर्ता परीक्षण के लिए सेना को सौंपे जाने और 2027 तक सेना में शामिल किए जाने की उम्मीद है।
- 
- 
- 

- **Challenges and Solutions:**

- Initially, a German engine was planned, but delays in export clearances led to the development of an alternative engine powered by Cummins and assembled in India.
- The Army had issued a Request for Information (RFI) in April 2021 for the procurement of 350 light tanks weighing less than 25 tonnes in a phased manner.

- **चुनौतियाँ और समाधान:**

- प्रारंभ में, एक जर्मन इंजन की योजना बनाई गई थी, लेकिन निर्यात मंजूरी में देरी के कारण भारत में कमिंस द्वारा संचालित एक वैकल्पिक इंजन विकसित किया गया।
- सेना ने अप्रैल 2021 में 25 टन से कम वजन वाले 350 हल्के टैंकों की खरीद के लिए एक सूचना अनुरोध (RFI) जारी किया था।

- **Collaboration and Future Plans:**

- DRDO and L&T collaborated with several Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for the development of various subsystems.
- Efforts are being made to encourage indigenous development of defense weapon platforms through industry collaboration.
- **सहयोग और भविष्य की योजनाएँ:**
- DRDO और L&T ने विभिन्न उपप्रणालियों के विकास के लिए कई सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यमों (MSMEs) के साथ सहयोग किया।
- उद्योग सहयोग के माध्यम से रक्षा हथियार प्लेटफार्मों के स्वदेशी विकास को प्रोत्साहित करने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं।

रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन
Raksā Anūsandhān Evam Vikās Sangathan



Logo of DRDO

Agency overview

Formed	1958; 66 years ago
Headquarters	DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi , India
Motto	"Strength's Origin is in Science" ^[1] Sanskrit: बलस्य मूलं विज्ञानम्
Employees	30,000 (5,000 scientists) ^[2]
Annual budget	▲ ₹23,264 crore (US\$2.8 billion)(2022–23) ^[3]
Minister responsible	Rajnath Singh , Minister of Defence
Agency executive	Sameer V. Kamat, Chairman, DRDO ^[4]
Parent agency	Ministry of Defence

-
- Consider the following statements regarding the recently unveiled indigenous light tank Zorawar:
 1. The light tank Zorawar was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
 2. The tank is powered by a domestically developed engine right from its first prototype.
 3. The tank is designed to operate in challenging environments, including extreme weather and high-altitude areas.
 - Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 1 and 3 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3

INSIDE

JUST LIKE AYODHYA, CONG WILL DEFEAT BJP IN GUJARAT IN 2027: RAHUL
GANGSTER'S KILLING, BROTHER'S REVENGE: POLICE CRACK TN BSP CHIEF'S MURDER
PAGES 7, 9

THE CITY

ACROSS CAPITAL, POLICE PINK BOOTHS IN SORRY STATE
PAGE 6

PM Modi speaks to Starmer, invites him to work on sealing FTA

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, JULY 6

A DAY after Keir Starmer led the Labour landslide to end 14 years of Conservative rule in the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to the new British Prime Minister Saturday and the two leaders agreed to work towards an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial India-UK free trade agreement.

Modi congratulated Starmer on assuming charge and on the remarkable victory of his Labour Party in the election. He also invited Starmer to India.

According to TO, Downing Street, the British Prime Minister, while discussing the FTA, said he stood ready to conclude a deal "that worked for both sides."

Starmer also looked forward to further deepening the "strong and respectful relationship" between both countries, and welcomed Prime Minister Modi's leadership on key global challenges such as climate change and economic growth, the British

BUDGET SESSION STARTS JULY 22, CONCLUDES AUGUST 12

Budget on July 23: Boosting demand key goal, GST rate cut being explored

Cut in indirect tax rates will benefit all; requires states to be on board

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JULY 6

AS FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman prepares to present the first Budget in the third term of the BJP-led NDA government on July 23, policymakers are pushing for a revision in indirect tax rates to give a fillip to flagging consumption.

Sources in the government said there is broad consensus

over the need for rate rationalisation in a phased manner under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime.

The Indian Express had on June 17 reported that rationalising the income tax structure, especially at lower income levels, was also an option under consideration. Policymakers acknowledge that while cutting income tax rates was easier and can happen in the Budget itself, the move to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das calls on Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi. P7

E. Indirect vs direct tax cuts
A BOOST to consumption is seen as crucial for reviving demand, which in turn is central to restarting the investment cycle, especially rekindling private capex in consumer-focused sectors. Rationalising GST rates will have a larger impact on demand than cutting direct tax rates.

THE WORLD

REFORMIST MASOOD PEZESHKIAN WINS IRAN'S PRESIDENTIAL RUN-OFF ELECTION
ONLY THE LORD ALMIGHTY CAN DRIVE ME FROM RACE, SAYS BIDEN ON DAY 1, STARMER DECLARES RWANDA DEPORTATION PLAN 'DEAD AND BURIED'
PAGE 12



New UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

PM CONGRATULATES IRAN PRESIDENT

government's statement said. Downing Street said the leaders agreed there was a wide range of areas across "defence and security, critical and emerging technology, and climate change" for the two countries to deepen co-operation on — this reflects the Six power government's priorities.

Their conversation took place two days before Modi travels to Russia and Austria on bilateral visits, his first bilateral visit in the third term. His visit to Russia on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



A man rows through a flooded village in Assam's Morigaon district on Saturday. Six people died in flood-related incidents in the state Saturday as the toll from this year's deluge went up to 58. As of Saturday evening, 23.9 lakh people were affected across 3,335 villages and 53,429 were in shelter camps across the state. ANI

ASSAM FLOOD TOLL CLIMBS TO 58

A man rows through a flooded village in Assam's Morigaon district on Saturday. Six people died in flood-related incidents in the state Saturday as the toll from this year's deluge went up to 58. As of Saturday evening, 23.9 lakh people were affected across 3,335 villages and 53,429 were in shelter camps across the state. ANI

Two encounters break out in Valley, 1 soldier and 4 militants killed

ENS & PTI
SOKRAGAR, NEW DELHI, JULY 6

TWO ENCOUNTERS were underway in South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Saturday night, with officials saying four militants have been killed and one soldier has lost his life.

As per the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the first encounter took place in Madergan village on Saturday afternoon, while in the evening, firing began at Frisal village. A soldier sustained injuries in the first encounter, officials said. Security forces had contact with the militants was established during a cordon-and-



Security forces in Kulgam on Saturday. Shashank Mishra

search operation in Frisal, leading to an exchange of fire. Sources said that in both locations, the militants were holed up in a house. In one of the encounters, security forces had

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

OBJECTS TO REMARK ON NEW CRIMINAL LAWS Dhankhar to Chidambaram: Are we part-timers... insult to House

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 6

OBJECTING TO a remark by former Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram in an interview to The Indian Express on the new criminal laws, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, without naming him, said Saturday that the Rajya Sabha MP's comment that "non-professional people have drafted the new laws" and that "they were part-time members of a committee" was an "inexcusable insult to the wisdom of Parliament."

Addressing the 12th convocation of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology in



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and his wife Sudesh Dhankhar with Kerala Governor AHF Mohammed Khan and CM Pinarayi Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. P7

Thiruvananthapuram, Dhankhar said the MP must hold himself accountable. "I appeal to him

from this platform, please withdraw this derogatory,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

High up in Uttarakhand's mountains, a first: 9 villages get polling booths

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, JULY 6

ON JULY 9, 45-year-old Uday Singh Rawat and his wife Anju will make a 100-km car journey, followed by an uphill trek of 10 km, to the village of Dronagiri, to conduct an assembly election in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district. Rawat is one of 3,338 migrants from nine hamlets in the district who can vote in their

home villages — for the first time since the formation of the state in 2000 — in the July 10 Badrinath Assembly bypoll.

The lack of polling booths in these villages for all these years is tackled by a simple but radical consideration: the cold.

Every year, residents of these nine high-altitude villages vacate their houses in the middle of October — when snowfall starts — and move to locations at a lower altitude: Gopeshwar, Karnaprayag, and Nandaprayag. They return after April, when summer begins and the weather improves. A number

of residents have moved out, too. So, in previous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, these migrant voters cast their ballot at polling stations that were closest to the locations they stayed in at that time, said Chamoli District Magistrate Himanshu Khurana.

Rawat, who is a health communication officer in Nandaprayag, said, "This will be the first time I cast my vote in my parental village for any election. Polling for Lok Sabha or Assembly elections has never been held in my village after Uttarakhand was carved out as a



Uttarakhand's Dronagiri village in Chamoli district is located at an altitude of 12,000 feet. Express



separate state, I am excited to vote in my parental village where my parents reside to this day." All nine villages — Dronagiri, Malari, Kailashpur, Gamsah, Jelum, Kosha, Jurnma, Niri, and



Large industrial units are coming up in Kathua district's Bhagthali industrial estate adjoining Punjab. Express

Muralitharan to Emaar, big players queue for land to set up shop in J&K

ARUN SHARMA
KATHUA, JULY 6

FROM LEGENDARY Sri Lankan spinner Muralitharan to Dubai-based Emaar Group to India's Kandhari Beverages Pvt Ltd and Vohpan Group, Jammu and Kashmir has received requests from a wide spectrum of players for allotment of land to set up their ventures, which include many investments worth over ₹1.23 lakh crore into the Jammu Territory, officials have told The Indian Express.

As on July 3, as many as 6,000 applications had been received on the single-window system established by the J&K government to process such proposals. While proposals worth ₹81,594.87 crore have been received in the Jammu division, proposals worth ₹41,633.09 crore have come in for the

Kashmir division, officials said. While Jammu has received fewer applications at 1,902, it appears to be attracting larger industrial units, with a total land requirement of 39,484.94 kanals (equivalent to 4,935.61 acres). A lot of the land in demand is in Kathua district, given its proximity to neighbouring Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. The Kashmir Valley, with 5,007 applications, has seen proposals for medium and small ventures, with a total land requirement of 29,375.89 kanals (3,671.98 acres).

These ventures, officials said, could generate employment for 4,69,343 people — 2,17,760 in Jammu and 2,51,785 in Kashmir.

Green shoots

In the past one year, investments over ₹2,100 crore have already percolated to the ground in Jammu division, including 15

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

I am a Bahujan, not a sheep that follows... not with ruling side or Opp in House: Aazad

DEEPTIM TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JULY 6

AZAD SAMAJ Party (Kanshi Ram) leader and Nagina MP Chandrashekhar Aazad, the Jammu and Kashmir legislator, has said he will remain an independent voice in the House and not join ranks with either the Treasury benches or the Opposition.

"We are not sheep that must follow. We are the hope of millions of our people," Aazad said at the Indian Express Idea Exchange programme Friday. A detailed transcript will be published July 8.

"When I went to Parliament for the first time, I sat alone on a vacant bench. I was new. I didn't know. I thought my friends in the Opposition would ask me to come and sit with them. I thought they would say, 'We are both fighting against the BJP and we must work together.' But after sitting there for three days, I realised no one was bothered with Chandrashekhar was sitting there," he said.



Chandrashekhar Aazad, chief of Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram). Anshum Shaha

elections came around, a senior Congress leader called him to say he must help them. "I told him, 'Okay. But they didn't press for a division of votes there. The leader went his way and I mine. Then I decided that I would neither be Right nor Left. I am Bahujan and will stand alone with my agenda. That is why I did not stage a walkout with the Opposition. We are sheep that must follow. We are

IDEA EXCHANGE

Rawat said the journey to his village will take at least 12 hours. "As it is raining and the threat of landslides is ever present, I may have to make a few hours extra that will increase the travel time. Hats will also be required because the oxygen level dips at high altitudes," he said.

Each of these nine villages will have polling stations. Khurana said the polling staff deployed for them will have to follow the same travel pattern. The road journey followed by a trek to the polling station. They leave on July 8 so that they can be independent.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Bandhan Bank appoints Ratan Kumar Kesh as interim MD & CEO

PIYUSH SHUKLA
MUMBAI, JULY 6

THE BOARD of private sector lender Bandhan Bank on Saturday approved the appointment of Ratan Kumar Kesh as interim Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the bank with effect from July 10. The present MD and CEO, Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, is set to retire on July 9.

"Pursuant to the approval of the Reserve Bank of India and on the basis of the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee, the Board of Directors of the Bank, at its meeting held today, has approved the appointment of Mr Ratan Kumar Kesh, executive director and chief operating officer, as interim MD & CEO of the bank with effect from July 10 for a period of three months or till a new MD & CEO takes charge, whichever is earlier," the bank said in an exchange filing.

On July 4, *FE* was the first to report that the bank's board was likely to meet this week to appoint a new interim CEO,

NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR

■ Kesh joined Bandhan Bank as ED in March 2023 and is also serving as the chief operating officer of the bank

■ He has previously worked with ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Yes Bank and Axis Bank

with executive directors Kesh and Rajinder Kumar Babbar in the running. Kesh, being senior-most ED at the bank, had an edge.

Kesh joined Bandhan Bank as ED in March 2023 and is also serving as the chief operating officer of the bank. He has previously worked with ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Yes Bank and Axis Bank.

In April, Bandhan Bank founder Ghosh declared that he will retire at the end of his third tenure on July 9, 2024. He would, however, continue to have a 'larger strategic' role at the group level. **FE**

Founded	2015 (9 years ago)
Founders	Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
Headquarters	Kolkata, West Bengal, India
Number of locations	6,297 Banking outlets ^[1] (2023)
Area served	India
Key people	Dr. Anup Kumar Sinha (Chairman) Chandra Shekhar Ghosh (MD & CEO)
Products	Retail banking Corporate banking Investment banking Mortgage loans Private banking Wealth management Asset management Investment management Mutual funds Exchange-traded funds Index funds Credit cards Risk management
Revenue	▲ ₹18,373 crore (US\$2.2 billion) (2023)
Operating income	▼ ₹7,091 crore (US\$850 million) (2023)
Net income	▲ ₹2,195 crore (US\$260 million) (2023)
Total assets	▲ ₹155,770 crore (US\$19 billion) (2023)
Number of employees	75,500+ (2024) ^[2]

● ASKS FOR DETAILS IN BOLD, BIGGER FONT SIZE

FSSAI red-flags salt, sugar & fat

Regulator approves changes in nutritional information labelling

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 6

FOOD REGULATOR FSSAI on Saturday approved changes in nutritional information labelling on packaged food items, proposing that total salt, sugar and saturated fat should be displayed in bold letters as well as bigger font size.

The FSSAI will issue a draft notification on this and seek comments from stakeholders.

In an official statement, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said it has approved "a proposal to display nutritional information regard-

THE AMENDMENT

■ Empowers consumers to understand the nutritional value of products



■ Combat the rise of non-communicable diseases

■ The per serve percentage contribution to recommended dietary allowances will be in bold letters

■ FSSAI to issue a draft notification, seek comments from stakeholders

ing total sugar, salt and saturated fat in bold letters and relatively increased font size on labels of packaged food items".

The decision to approve the amendment in the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and

Display) Regulations, 2020 regarding nutritional information labelling was taken in the 44th meeting of the Food Authority, held under the chairmanship of Apurva Chandra, chairperson, FSSAI.

"The amendment aims to empower consumers to better understand the nutritional value of the product they are consuming and make healthier decisions," the regulator said.

The draft notification for the said amendment would now be put in the public domain for inviting suggestions and objections.

The information regarding per serve percentage (%) contribution to recommended dietary allowances (RDAs) would be given in bold letters for total sugar, total saturated fat and sodium content, the FSSAI said.

The regulator said that regulation 2 (v) and 5(3) of FSS (Labelling and Display) Regulation, 2020 specifies requirements to mention serving size and nutritional

information on the food product label, respectively.

"Along with empowering consumers make healthier choices, the amendment would also contribute towards efforts to combat the rise of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and promote public health and well-being," the statement said.

The prioritisation of the development of clear and distinguish labelling requirements would help in the global effort to combat NCDs. FSSAI said it has been issuing advisories from time to time to prevent false and misleading claims.

These include advisories sent to e-commerce websites for removal of the term 'Health Drink' as it is not defined or standardised anywhere under the FSS Act 2006 or rules/regulations made thereunder.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India



Regulatory authority overview

Formed	5 September 2008 ^[1]
Jurisdiction	India
Headquarters	New Delhi
Regulatory authority executives	Sudhansh Pant, Chairperson ^[2] Ganji Kamala V. Rao, Chief Executive Officer ^[3]
Parent Regulatory authority	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India

- **FSSAI Approves Changes in Nutritional Information Labelling:**


- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has approved changes in the nutritional information labelling on packaged food items.
- The new proposal requires that total salt, sugar, and saturated fat be displayed in bold letters and in a larger font size.
- **FSSAI ने पोषण सूचना लेबलिंग में बदलाव को मंजूरी दी:**
- भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा और मानक प्राधिकरण (FSSAI) ने पैकेज्ड खाद्य पदार्थों पर पोषण सूचना लेबलिंग में बदलाव को मंजूरी दी है।
- नए प्रस्ताव में कल नमक, चीनी और संतृप्त वसा को बोल्ड अक्षरों और बड़े फॉन्ट आकार में प्रदर्शित करने की आवश्यकता है।



- **Amendment Goals:**

- The amendment aims to empower consumers to better understand the nutritional value of the products they consume.
- It seeks to combat the rise of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by promoting healthier dietary choices.

- **संशोधन के लक्ष्य:**

- संशोधन का उद्देश्य उपभोक्ताओं को उनके द्वारा उपभोग किए जाने वाले उत्पादों के पोषण मूल्य को बेहतर ढंग से समझने में सक्षम बनाना है।
 - इसका उद्देश्य स्वस्थ आहार विकल्पों को बढ़ावा देकर गैर-संचारी रोगों (NCDs) की वृद्धि को रोकना है।
- 

- **Draft Notification and Public Comments:**

- FSSAI will issue a draft notification for the said amendment and invite suggestions and objections from the public.

- The information regarding the per serve percentage contribution to recommended dietary allowances (RDAs) will also be provided in bold letters.

- **मसौदा अधिसूचना और सार्वजनिक टिप्पणियाँ:**

- FSSAI उक्त संशोधन के लिए एक मसौदा अधिसूचना जारी करेगा और जनता से सुझाव और आपत्तियाँ आमंत्रित करेगा।


- अनशंसित आहार भत्तों (RDAs) में प्रति सेवारत प्रतिशत योगदान की जानकारी भी बोल्ड अक्षरों में प्रदान की जाएगी।




- **Regulation Details:**

- The decision was taken during the 44th meeting of the Food Authority chaired by Apurva Chandra.
- The amendments are part of the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020.

- **विनियमन विवरण:**


- यह निर्णय अपूर्व चंद्र की अध्यक्षता में खाद्य प्राधिकरण की 44वीं बैठक के दौरान लिया गया था।
 - संशोधन खाद्य सुरक्षा और मानक (लेबलिंग और प्रदर्शन) विनियम, 2020 का हिस्सा हैं।
- 

- FSSAI has been issuing advisories to prevent false and misleading claims on food products.
- It has also directed e-commerce websites to remove the term "Health Drink" from products unless the term is defined or standardized under the FSS Act 2006 or related regulations.
- **अतिरिक्त प्रयास:**
- FSSAI खाद्य उत्पादों पर झूठे और भ्रामक दावों को रोकने के लिए सलाह जारी कर रहा है।
- इसने ई-कॉमर्स वेबसाइटों को उत्पादों से "स्वास्थ्य पेय" शब्द को हटाने का भी निर्देश दिया है जब तक कि यह शब्द FSS अधिनियम 2006 या संबंधित विनियमों के तहत परिभाषित या मानकीकृत न हो।

- 
- Consider the following statements regarding the recent changes approved by FSSAI in nutritional information labelling:

1. The FSSAI has mandated that total salt, sugar, and saturated fat must be displayed in bold letters and in a larger font size on packaged food items.
2. The changes aim to help consumers understand the nutritional value of products and combat non-communicable diseases (NCDs).
3. The term "Health Drink" has been standardized under the FSS Act 2006 and related regulations, according to the new guidelines.

- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



BORDER SITUATION
Kharage attacks Centre over Chinese incursions
NEWS > PAGE 4



SHIMLA UP-TIE
Modi begins two-day Russia visit today
NEWS > PAGE 5



NEW WORRY
A answer key for CUET inaccurate: students
NEWS > PAGE 6



MOVING AHEAD FROM JUDGMENT
A climate change law in India
It must ensure development, but in a low-carbon direction
EDITORIAL > PAGE 8



DRAWING LEVEL
India routs Zimbabwe in second T20I
SPORT > PAGE 16

INSIDE

'Will quiz anyone required for U.P. stampede probe'
Noida: The judicial commission set up by Uttar Pradesh government will speak to anyone required for its inquiry into the Hathras stampede, a probe panel member said on Sunday when asked if self-styled godman Bhile Baba, who will be questioned, is Panchayat.

Naidu, Revanth agree on transfer of 5 panchayats
HYDERABAD: The meeting of Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and his Andhra Pradesh counterpart, N. Chandrababu Naidu, on Saturday saw the leaders reportedly reaching a consensus on the transfer of five gram panchayats with Telangana. > PAGE 2

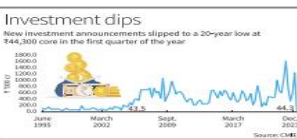
Four killed as Israel attacks Gaza school
GAZA STRIP: A day after a UN-run school in the central Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza was hit killing 16 persons, the Hamas-run enclave's civil defence committee said a strike on Sunday on a school sheltering displaced Palestinians killed at least four people. > PAGE 14

Pezeszkian to be sworn in as Iran President in Aug.
TEHRAN: Iran's reformist Masoud Pezeszkian will be sworn in before parliament in early August as the Islamic Republic's ninth President. Iranian President-elect Ebrahim Raisi is required to take an oath before parliament before officially taking office. > PAGE 14

New private investment plans slumped to 20-year low in Q1

Just ₹44,300 crore of fresh outlays announced by corporates the corresponding period in the past financial year recorded new investment announcements of nearly ₹79 lakh crore, investors adopting a wait-and-watch approach, says economist

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI: In an exceptionally slow start to private capital expenditure in this financial year, new investment plans in the country slumped to a 20-year low in the April-to-June quarter, with just ₹44,300 crore of fresh outlays announced by corporates. The first quarter of 2023-24 recorded new investment announcements of nearly ₹7.9 lakh crore, while outlays worth ₹12.35 lakh crore were announced in the January-to-March quarter. In all, last year had seen investment announcements worth ₹27.1 lakh crore, the second highest in 10 years. "Since the economy has been growing steadily, the only reason to explain the sluggish investment plans in the last quarter could be that the industry has been



in a wait-and-watch mode," said Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis, who hoped that investments should pick up in the coming quarters. "Exceptionally low" While the April-June quarter tends to have lower investment announcements, it has been exceptionally low this year, the bank's economic research department said in a note based on data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). While a part of the tepid investment levels in Q1 could be explained by investors adopting a wait-and-watch approach amid the Lok Sabha elections, this tally is far lower than the corresponding quarter during the Lok Sabha elections in 2014 and 2019. New investment plans in Q1 of 2014-15 were ₹29 lakh crore and ₹2.1 lakh crore in Q1 of 2019-20.

Another factor for the slowdown could be that the last two years have seen high investment announcements that are yet to run their course. "It would need to be seen whether there is any major pick-up in the second quarter, considering that the Budget will be announced only towards the end of July. A good monsoon and steady demand during the festival season would be the time when investment could increase at

a faster pace," the Bank of Baroda report concluded. Data on corporate bond issuances as well as bank credit flows for Q1 seem to corroborate the trend of slowing investment plans, the report noted. Corporate bond issues fell sharply from ₹2,86 lakh crore in the first quarter of 2023-24 to ₹1.73 lakh crore in Q1 this year, with over three-quarters raised by financial services players. Between April 1 and June 14, incremental bank

With two more killed, six militants dead in operation at J&K's Kulgam

Two soldiers were killed in the gunfight with militants. One soldier was injured in a militant attack at Rajouri. There were two encounters at separate places. The bodies of six terrorists have been recovered so far. Jammu & Kashmir Director-General of Police R.R. Swain said. The police and the Army continue to carry out

conclusion soon, even though the enemy won't stop from its activities". Officials said one soldier was killed in the Chinigam encounter, and another in the Motergam gunfight. They were identified as Naik Pardeep Kumar and Sepoy Pravin Jangal Prabhakar. The Chinair Corps Commander, the J&K Chief Secretary, and the J&K DGP paid homage to the deceased jawans. Separately, one soldier was injured in a militant attack at Rajouri. There were two encounters at separate places. The bodies of six terrorists have been recovered so far. Jammu & Kashmir Director-General of Police R.R. Swain said. The police and the Army continue to carry out

combating operations at the encounter sites at Chinigam and Motergam, where security forces circled two locations and engaged hiding militants in firefights on Saturday. "Once the operation is fully over, we will be able to find out the identity and affiliation of the slain militants. One soldier was injured in the exchange of fire that continued for half-an-hour.

Rajouri attack One soldier was injured as militants mounted an attack on an Army installation in Rajouri on Sunday. Officials said militants fired at an Army camp in the Manjokot area at Guhthi in Rajouri around 4 a.m. The security personnel manning the camp retreated, and a search operation was launched after the attack to trace the militants. One soldier was injured in the exchange of fire that continued for half-an-hour.

Clearing the way



Road to repairs: An earthmover removes boulders from the Chamoli-Badrinath National Highway following a landslide on Sunday, Aug 4

India is facing highest rate of joblessness in 45 years: Cong.

The Congress on Sunday pointed out reasons for the decimation of MSMEs in the country that provided employment to a huge number of people. "With his economic policies that favour only large conglomerates, the Prime Minister has created India's highest unemployment rate in 45 years," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said. FULL REPORT > PAGE 4

Exit polls put French left bloc on course to defeat far-right RN

Agence France-Press
PARIS: A loose alliance of French left-wing parties thrown together for snap elections was on course on Sunday to become the biggest parliamentary bloc and beat the far right, according to shock projected results. The New Popular Front (NPF) was formed last month after President Emmanuel Macron called snap elections, bringing together socialists, greens, communists and the hard-left into one camp. Veteran presidential candidate Marine Le Pen's National Rally (RN) led the race after the June 30 first

Red flags raised over silver imports from UAE through GIFT City

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI: In a major disruption for the bullion market, almost all of India's silver imports are now being handled by a few private players bringing the white metal from Dubai through the GIFT City exchange, which could cause significant revenue losses for the exchequer over time. A trade research body has sought a probe into the relationships between export and import firms to identify and address any potential conflicts of interest, while warning that this silver market trend could extend to gold, platinum, and diamonds, further disrupting traditional import practices and market dynamics. India's imports of gold and silver from the UAE had jumped 200% in 2023-24 to \$10.7 billion. Total silver imports stood at \$5.4 billion. In May, 87% of India's global silver imports came from Dubai at a reduced 8% duty and were cleared through the GIFT City exchange in Gandhinagar, which has been clearing all silver imports from UAE since December 2023. Imports from other countries and ports are virtually abandoned. Earlier attempts by some banks to import silver from the UAE through other ports were questioned for not meeting rules of origin of the India-UAE free trade deal, think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) flagged in a report. "The key concern is

found no rules of origin issues as flagged by customs elsewhere. Zero tariff Under the CEPA signed in 2022, India has agreed to reduce the duty on silver imports to 0% over 10 years, subject to Dubai exports meeting the rules of origin conditions. "As the tariff becomes zero over the next eight years, all silver imports will likely come from the UAE, resulting in a revenue loss of ₹6,700 crore. This trade is driven solely by the tariff and arbitrage offered by India," GTRI warned. "The key concern is how imports cleared through GIFT City meet the rules of origin requirements specified in the India-UAE CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) with importers from other ports fail to meet these," it noted. India levies a 15% import duty on silver and only allows institutions nominated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Ministry of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to import the precious metal. However, the GIFT City exchange does not limit importers from other ports, and, as a result, it is flagged in a report. "The key concern is



India's imports of gold and silver from the UAE had jumped 200% in 2023-24 to \$10.7 billion. GTRI warns

New private investment plans slumped to 20-year low in Q1

Just ₹44,300 crore of fresh outlays announced by corporates; the corresponding period in the past financial year recorded new investment announcements of nearly ₹7.9 lakh crore; investors adopting a wait-and-watch approach, says economist

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

In an exceptionally slow start to private capital expenditure in this financial year, new investment plans in the country slumped to a 20-year low in the April-to-June quarter, with just ₹44,300 crore of fresh outlays announced by corporates.

The first quarter of 2023-24 recorded new investment announcements of nearly ₹7.9 lakh crore, while outlays worth ₹12.35 lakh crore were announced in the January-to-March quarter. In all, last year had seen investment announcements worth ₹27.1 lakh crore, the second highest in 10 years.

“Since the economy has been growing steadily, the only reason to explain the sluggish investment plans in the last quarter could be that the industry has been

in a wait-and-watch mode,” said Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis, who hoped that investments should pick up in the coming quarters.

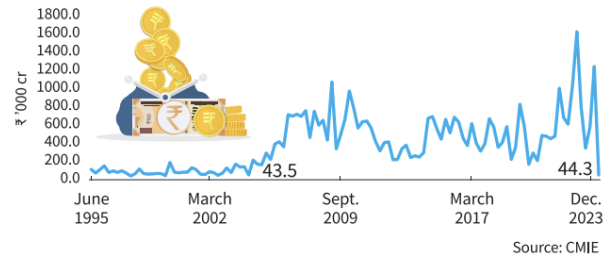
‘Exceptionally low’

While the April-June quarter tends to have lower investment announcements, it has been exceptionally low this year, the bank’s economic research department said in a note based on data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

While a part of the tepid investment levels in Q1 could be explained by investors adopting a wait-and-watch approach amid the Lok Sabha election, this tally is far lower than the corresponding quarters during the Lok Sabha elections in 2014 and 2019. New investment plans in Q1 of 2014-15 were at ₹2.9 lakh crore and ₹2.1 lakh crore in Q1 of 2019-20.

Investment dips

New investment announcements slipped to a 20-year low at ₹44,300 crore in the first quarter of the year



Another factor for the slowdown could be that the last two years have seen high investment announcements that are yet to run their course.

“It would need to be seen whether there is any major pick-up in the second quarter considering that the Budget will be announced only towards the end of July.... A good monsoon and steady demand during the festival season would be the time when investment could increase at

a faster pace,” the Bank of Baroda report concluded.

Data on corporate bond issuances as well as bank credit flows for Q1 seem to corroborate the trend of slowing investment plans, the report noted. Corporate bond issues fell sharply from ₹2.86 lakh crore in the first quarter of 2023-24 to ₹1.73 lakh crore in Q1 this year, with over three-quarters raised by financial services players.

Between April 1 and June 14, incremental bank

credit was ₹2.78 lakh crore as against ₹3.78 lakh crore last year, with growth slipping to 1.7% from 2.5% last year.

Within the ₹44,000-odd crore investments announced over Q1, manufacturing outlays dominated with a 46.4% share followed almost evenly by electricity and services.

“Interestingly, over the period between June 2023 and June 2024, the fall in value of investment announcements was ₹7.4 lakh crore. Of this, the major dip was accounted for by the transport services sector at 61%,” the report said, linking this to the airline industry’s plans to buy new aircraft announced last year.

This pattern would be observed in the coming quarters too as these plans are unlikely to be restored until the earlier orders are executed fully, the bank’s economists noted.

New Private Investment Plans Slumped to 20-Year Low in Q1:

In an exceptionally slow start to private capital expenditure in this financial year, new investment plans in the country slumped to a 20-year low in the April-June quarter, with just ₹44,300 crore of fresh outlays announced by corporates.

वित्तीय वर्ष में निजी पूंजी व्यय की असाधारण धीमी शुरुआत में, देश में नए निवेश योजनाएँ अप्रैल-जून तिमाही में 20 साल के निचले स्तर पर गिर गईं, जिसमें कॉर्पोरेट्स द्वारा केवल ₹44,300 करोड़ के नए खर्चों की घोषणा की गई।

Investment Announcements:

The first quarter of 2023-24 recorded new investment announcements of nearly ₹7.9 lakh crore, while outlays worth ₹12.35 lakh crore were announced in the January to March quarter.

2023-24 की पहली तिमाही में लगभग ₹7.9 लाख करोड़ के नए निवेश घोषणाएँ दर्ज की गईं, जबकि जनवरी से मार्च तिमाही में ₹12.35 लाख करोड़ के खर्चों की घोषणा की गई।


Reasons for Slump:

The slow investment can be attributed to a wait-and-watch approach by investors due to economic uncertainty and past high investment levels during election years (2014 and 2019).

धीमे निवेश को आर्थिक अनिश्चितता और चुनावी वर्षों (2014 और 2019) के दौरान उच्च निवेश स्तरों के कारण निवेशकों द्वारा प्रतीक्षा और दृष्टिकोण अपनाने के लिए जिम्मेदार ठहराया जा सकता है।




- **Sectors Affected:**

- Manufacturing dominated the new investment outlays in Q1 with 46.4%, followed by electricity and services.
 - Q1 में नई निवेश योजनाओं में निर्माण क्षेत्र का प्रभुत्व 46.4% के साथ था, इसके बाद बिजली और सेवाओं का स्थान था।
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- **Future Projections:**

- The Bank of Baroda report suggests that investments might pick up in the coming quarters as the Budget and festive seasons approach.
 - बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा की रिपोर्ट बताती है कि बजट और त्योहारी सीजन के नजदीक आने के साथ आने वाली तिमाहियों में निवेश में तेजी आ सकती है।
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• **Question:** Consider the following statements regarding the new private investment plans in India:

1. New investment plans in the April-June quarter of 2023-24 slumped to a 20-year low with just ₹44,300 crore of fresh outlays.
 2. Manufacturing dominated the new investment outlays in Q1 with 46.4%.
 3. The slowdown in investment plans is due to the high investment announcements in the previous election years and economic uncertainty.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3

Red flags raised over silver imports from UAE through GIFT City

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

In a major disruption for the bullion market, almost all of India's silver imports are now being handled by a few private players bringing the white metal from Dubai through the GIFT City exchange, which could cause significant revenue losses for the exchequer over time.

A trade research body has sought a probe into the relationships between export and import firms to identify and address any potential conflicts of interest, while warning that this silver market trend could extend to gold, platinum, and diamonds, further disrupting traditional import practices and market dynamics.

India's imports of gold

and silver from the UAE had jumped 210% in 2023-24 to \$10.7 billion. Total silver imports stood at \$5.4 billion.

In May, 87% of India's global silver imports came from Dubai at a reduced 8% duty and were cleared through the GIFT City exchange in Gandhinagar, which has been clearing all silver imports from UAE since December 2023. Imports from other countries and ports are virtually abandoned.

Earlier attempts by some banks to import silver from the UAE through other ports were questioned for not meeting rules of origin of the India-UAE free trade deal, think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) flagged in a report.

"The key concern is



India's imports of gold and silver from the UAE had jumped 210% in 2023-24 to \$10.7 billion. GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCKPHOTO

how the imports cleared through GIFT City meet the rules of origin requirements specified in the India-UAE CEPA [Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement] when importers from other ports fail to meet these," it noted. India levies a 15% import duty on silver and

only allows institutions nominated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to import the precious metal. However, the GIFT City exchange does not limit imports to RBI/DGFT-nominated agencies, registers private traders, and has

found no rules of origin issues as flagged by customs elsewhere.

Zero tariff

Under the CEPA signed in 2022, India has agreed to reduce the duty on silver imports to 0% over 10 years, subject to Dubai exporters meeting the rules of origin conditions.

"As the tariff becomes zero over the next eight years, all silver imports will likely come from the UAE, resulting in a revenue loss of ₹6,700 crore. This trade is driven solely by the tariff arbitrage offered by India," GTRI warned.

"The key concern is how imports cleared through GIFT City meet the rules of origin requirements specified in the India-UAE FTA when importers from other port fail to

meet these. This is strange as the Dubai-based suppliers may be the same in both cases. There is apprehension that imports from GIFT City might violate rules of origin conditions," GTRI chief Ajay Srivastava said. GTRI has mooted a renegotiation of the CEPA terms to nullify the duty arbitrage, and more rigorous check on Dubai exporters' value addition claims by the GIFT City exchange and a "thorough investigation into the relationships between export and import firms to identify and address any potential conflicts of interest or familial ties".

It had also suggested restricting silver imports to nominated agencies authorised by the RBI and DGFT to minimise the risk of misdeclared imports.

- **Issue with Silver Imports:**

- India's silver imports are majorly handled by private players bringing silver from Dubai through the GIFT City exchange.

- This could lead to significant revenue losses for the Indian government over time.

- **चांदी के आयात में समस्या:**

- भारत का चांदी आयात मुख्य रूप से निजी खिलाड़ियों द्वारा GIFT सिटी एक्सचेंज के माध्यम से दुबई से लाया जा रहा है।

- इससे समय के साथ भारतीय सरकार को महत्वपूर्ण राजस्व नुकसान हो सकता है।



- **Investigation and Concerns:**

- A trade research body has called for a probe into the relationship between export and import firms to identify and address potential conflicts of interest.
- There are concerns that this trend could extend to other precious metals like gold, platinum, and diamonds, disrupting traditional import practices and market dynamics.

- **जांच और चिंताएं:**

- एक व्यापार अनसंधान संस्था ने निर्यात और आयात फर्मों के बीच संबंधों की जांच का आह्वान किया है ताकि संभावित हितों के टकराव की पहचान की जा सके और उन्हें संबोधित किया जा सके।
- यह चिंता है कि यह प्रवृत्ति सोना, प्लैटिनम और हीरे जैसे अन्य कीमती धातुओं तक भी बढ़ सकती है, पारंपरिक आयात प्रथाओं और बाजार की गतिशीलता को बाधित कर सकती है।

- **Import Statistics:**

- India's imports of gold and silver from the UAE jumped 210% in 2023-24 to \$10.7 billion.
- In May, 87% of India's global silver imports came from Dubai at a reduced 8% duty through the GIFT City exchange.

- **आयात आंकड़े:**

- 2023-24 में यूएई से भारत के सोने और चांदी के आयात में 210% की वृद्धि होकर \$10.7 बिलियन हो गई।
- मई में, भारत के वैश्विक चांदी के 87% आयात दुबई से 8% की रियायती शुल्क पर GIFT सिटी एक्सचेंज के माध्यम से आए।

- **Zero Tariff Agreement:**

- Under the CEPA signed in 2022, India agreed to reduce the duty on silver imports to 0% over 10 years, subject to Dubai exporters meeting the rules of origin conditions.
- The reduction in tariffs could lead to revenue losses of ₹6,700 crore as the trade is driven by the tariff arbitrage offered by India.

- **शून्य शुल्क समझौता:**





- 2022 में हस्ताक्षरित CEPA के तहत, भारत ने 10 वर्षों में चांदी के आयात पर शुल्क को 0% तक कम करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की, बशर्ते कि दुबई के निर्यातक उत्पत्ति की शर्तों का पालन करें।
- शुल्क में कमी से ₹6,700 करोड़ के राजस्व नुकसान हो सकते हैं क्योंकि व्यापार भारत द्वारा प्रदान किए गए शुल्क मध्यस्थता द्वारा संचालित है।



- **Compliance and Regulations:**

- Earlier attempts to import silver from the UAE through other ports were questioned for not meeting the rules of origin of the India-UAE CEPA.
- The GIFT City exchange does not limit imports to RBI/DGFT-nominated agencies and registers private traders, which raises concerns about compliance with rules of origin.

- **अनुपालन और विनियम:**


- अन्य बंदरगाहों के माध्यम से यूएई से चांदी आयात करने के पहले के प्रयासों पर भारत-यूएई CEPA की उत्पत्ति के नियमों को पूरा नहीं करने के कारण सवाल उठाया गया था।
 - GIFT सिटी एक्सचेंज आयात को RBI/DGFT-नामित एजेंसियों तक सीमित नहीं करता है और निजी व्यापारियों को पंजीकृत करता है, जिससे उत्पत्ति के नियमों के अनुपालन के बारे में चिंताएं बढ़ जाती हैं।
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- **Recommendations:**

- The GTRI has recommended renegotiating the CEPA terms to nullify the duty arbitrage and ensure rigorous checks on Dubai exporters' value addition claims.
- It has also suggested restricting silver imports to nominated agencies authorized by the RBI and DGFT to minimize the risk of misdeclared imports.

- **सिफारिशें:**

- GTRI ने शुल्क मध्यस्थता को शून्य करने और दुबई के निर्यातकों के मूल्य संवर्द्धन दावों पर कड़े जांच सुनिश्चित करने के लिए CEPA शर्तों पर पुनर्विचार करने की सिफारिश की है।
- इसने गलत घोषित आयात के जोखिम को कम करने के लिए चांदी के आयात को RBI और DGFT द्वारा अधिकृत नामित एजेंसियों तक सीमित करने का भी सुझाव दिया है।


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- Consider the following statements regarding the recent issues raised over silver imports from the UAE through GIFT City:

1. The majority of India's silver imports are now being handled by private players bringing the metal from Dubai through the GIFT City exchange.

2. The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and UAE allows for a zero tariff on silver imports over ten years, subject to rules of origin conditions.

3. The GIFT City exchange limits imports to agencies nominated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Minister backs CM on land allocation allegations

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Karnataka Minister for Social Welfare H.C. Mahadevappa on Sunday denied allegations of any wrongdoing on the part of either Chief Minister Siddaramaiah or his wife Parvathi in the contentious issue of compensatory site allocation for their land acquired by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

Mr. Mahadevappa said that the MUDA was at fault for illegally acquiring 3.16 acres of land belonging to Ms. Parvathi and converting it into sites. The MUDA itself has accepted its mistake, apologised, and sought to compensate and everything was done legally, he said.

He reiterated what Mr. Siddaramaiah had stated recently that neither he nor his wife had asked for sites at a specific location and accepted what was sanctioned by the MUDA.

"But the larger issue is that vested interest groups have used it as an example to claim compensatory sites under the 50:50 scheme and this will be investigated and the guilty will be punished," he said.

In the 2018 Assembly election, Mr. Siddaramaiah declared 3.16 acres of land under immovable properties. He had disclosed that the total value of the land declared was ₹2.5 crore.

In 2023, he declared 14 sites in Vijayanagara with a cumulative area of 37,190.99 sq.ft. and value pegged at ₹8.33 crore.

Naidu, Revanth agree on transfer of 5 panchayats from A.P. to Telangana

The process of re-merger is likely to take some time as the two States need to follow the procedures to get Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, amended with the help of the Union government as Parliament had passed the legislation

M. Rajeev
CHENNAI

The meeting of Telangana Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, and his Andhra Pradesh counterpart, N. Chandrababu Naidu, on Saturday, the first such after four-and-a-half years, saw some crucial decisions being taken.

The transfer of five gram panchayats around the temple towns of Bhadrachalam from Andhra Pradesh to Telangana was one of the issues in focus ahead of the much-awaited meeting. The two Chief Ministers reportedly reached a consensus on the re-merger of the gram panchayats with Telangana to remove the difficulties faced by re-



Chief Ministers N. Chandrababu Naidu and N. Chandrababu Naidu during their meeting on Saturday.

sidents in accessing medical and other services. The two governments are planning to expeditiously initiate steps in this regard. The process, however, is likely to take some time as the two States need to follow procedures for seeking an

amendment to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, by the Union government as the Act was passed by Parliament. The gram panchayats of Etapaka, Gundala, Purahottapattam, Kannagudem and Pichalakapalem, along with seven mandals of

Khammam district, were merged with Andhra Pradesh by the Modi government in its first term within days of the formation of Telangana. As a result, the endowment temple of Bhadrachalam temple located in these villages of the Andhra Pradesh, while the temple town remained in Telangana. Several representations were subsequently made for the re-merger of these villages with Telangana owing to the legal issues involved in the management of those temple lands.

This apart, people also face issues in accessing vital services like electricity, as they have to cross the Andhra Pradesh boundary and re-enter Telangana to reach them.

With consent obtained at the highest levels, officials of the two States have agreed to amend the legal formalities required to be completed. Since this will need an amendment to the legislation passed by Parliament, the Telangana government will need to pass a resolution in the Assembly seeking the neighbouring State's cooperation in transferring these five panchayats to Telangana.

Once Andhra Pradesh gives its consent, the issue would reach the Centre for amending the Act. Officials say that the two States have no objection to the process and are hopeful that the amendment will be introduced in Parliament.

'Hema panel report release will ensure justice'

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Women in Cinema Collection (WCC) has welcomed the Kerala State Information Commission's order to release the Hema Committee report, which has been under wraps for over four years after it was submitted to the government.

The committee, headed by Justice K. Hema, was constituted on the basis of the WCC's request to the Chief Minister in the after-

math of a case of sexual assault on an actor in 2017. Hence, we strongly believe that this move to reveal the findings with accuracy can be an authentic basis for real solutions, change, and progress," it said.

"For real solutions" "The order that breaks the silence indeed gives hope to all of us who have been re-

State Information Commission ordered the release of report under wraps for over four years

lentlessly striving to break through. We would like to revisit many questions that we have continued asking over the years as the committee report once again surfaces and has potential to ensure that it can effectively address the gender imbalances and unjust prac-

tices prevailing in the industry. It must be in the light of the day, while the identity of the survivors are protected. "In addition to facilitating the mentioned report, WCC has also in the past, effectively acted as a catalyst to bring forth best practices and recommendations to the government. Let this be a starting point to rewrite existing injustice in the industry and bring about more gender-inclusive and balanced workspaces," the WCC said.

The WCC further said the study and the report, created by leveraging taxpayers' money, can be beneficial to future generations, and has potential to ensure that it can effectively address the gender imbalances and unjust prac-

tices prevailing in the industry. It must be in the light of the day, while the identity of the survivors are protected. "In addition to facilitating the mentioned report, WCC has also in the past, effectively acted as a catalyst to bring forth best practices and recommendations to the government. Let this be a starting point to rewrite existing injustice in the industry and bring about more gender-inclusive and balanced workspaces," the WCC said.

The WCC further said the study and the report, created by leveraging taxpayers' money, can be beneficial to future generations, and has potential to ensure that it can effectively address the gender imbalances and unjust prac-

T.N. govt. should hand over Armstrong case to CBI: Mayawati

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

BSP leader and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati on Sunday said that the Tamil Nadu government must hand over the probe into the murder of the party's state president, K. Armstrong, to the CBI "if it does not have a hand in his murder".

Speaking at an event held to pay tributes to Armstrong, in which thousands of party members and well-wishers took part, Ms. Mayawati said that the manner in which he was killed showed that there was "no law and order in Tamil Nadu".

"It also came to know that those who actually committed the murder had not been caught yet," she said, adding, "This issue should be taken very seriously because it is not only about our State president, but is also about the weaker sections... Dalits... they are scared and worried that if this could happen to our State president, it could happen to any of them."

Ms. Mayawati said that Chief Minister M.K. Stalin must focus on maintaining law and order and ensure security for the weaker sections of society.

"We would like to tell the State government if you do not want to provide justice, then we want this matter to be referred to the CBI so that the truth comes out, the real culprits are caught, and we could find out whose hand is behind this crime. We don't trust



Mayawati

the State government to give us justice. If the State government had no hand in this crime, then refer the case to the CBI. If you (State government) don't, then it is clear that you had some role in this," she said.

"If someone had any intention regarding the crime, they should come forward but no one should take the law into their hands, she said.

"Our party members will not take the law into their hands to get justice. We will peacefully place our point of view to the State government. We want the State government to ensure that the family of Armstrong remains safe and is provided all possible help," she said.

While Mr. Armstrong may have had his share of run-ins with the law, many of his supporters remember him as someone who was serious about Buddhism and drawing more Dalits to it. Many say he was instrumental in building a Buddhist Vihar near his home in Perambur which, according to them, has been growing in popularity over the years.

+ Festive spirit



In strength Devotees visiting the Golconda Fort in Hyderabad for the 'Aahada Bonalu' festival on Sunday, to offer prayers to Goddess Mahakali. The festival is celebrated in Hyderabad and other parts of Telangana. (P)

Ex-TTD chief allotted shops to his aides, alleges BJP

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUPATI

The BJP has accused former legislator and TTD Trust Board's former chairman Bhurman Karunakar Reddy of resorting to irregularities in the allotment of shops to his close followers.

The party's State spokesperson Samanichi Srinivas accused the leader of having summoned senior TTD officials to Ocean Studios (Kufoni) residence to get some allotted the shops. He alleged after the change of guard in the State.

Kerala varsity to launch genome editing mission to boost pearl spot production

K.A. Martin
KOCHI

Pearl spot farmers in Kerala have been agitating the drugdery of finding brood stocks in the wild, breeding them in various controlled environments and releasing fingerlings into aquaculture ponds only to see the fish barely achieving body weight of 300 to 400 grams in a year.

That may soon be a thing of the past as the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) prepares to launch a genome editing mission to boost the fish that inhibits a faster rate of growth. It will



Doubts raised over community-wise list of government staff in Kerala

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

The community-wise list of government employees, drawn up by the Kerala State Commission for Backward Classes (KSCBC), has been under wraps for some of the majority community leaders, especially Ezhava and Nair communities, which challenged the validity of the data.

The report, which was prepared for a reply to be given to the Assembly, indicated that Ezhava and Nair community members had the highest representation in government services, which included departments and quasi-government and public sector enterprises.

It was revealed that there were 1,15,075 Ezhavas, 1,08,012 Nairs, 73,774

Muslims, 73,713 forward community Christians, 22,542 Latin Catholics and 19,227 Kerala community members in Kerala government service.

G. Sakuntharan Nair, general secretary of the Nair Service Society, refused to comment on the data as he dismissed it as an unreliable source. There is no request to accept or comment on the report as there is such data, he said.

'Incomplete data' Constitutional expert G. Mohan opined that the data incomplete and misleading as it created a "false equivalence of the representation" of Nair and Ezhava communities in the service. It did not disclose that Ezhava community members were

mostly employed in lowest-level jobs and often appointed on a contract basis and the Nair community members had a stranglehold on key positions, he said.

The government should release data on representation of various communities by providing details of the type of institutions (government and government-aided or controlled); grades and classes of posts; and types and modes of appointment namely temporary or permanent; and whether the appointment was by way of reservation or from the open category.

A social census should be conducted to ensure representative public employment, Mr. Gopalan suggested.

The community-wise list, according to KSCBC of

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODI

Amid severe criticism and demands to form a State Electricity Board (SEEB) officials initiated steps on Sunday to cut power supply to the house of a youth congress worker, who was earlier arrested, along with his brother, for allegedly assaulting an assistant engineer after trespassing on his office at Thiruvambady in the district.

The instruction to restrict power supply to the house was disconnected from the office, while the attack, was issued by Electricity Minister K. Krish-

nankutty. The Minister's office on Sunday took no legal advice that the SEEB was not empowered to cut power supply to a family over a crime committed by one of its members.

Meanwhile, the State Human Rights Commission has registered a case against the SEEB for disconnecting power supply, based on media reports and a direct verification of the complaint filed by U.C. Ajmal, the suspect in the incident.

Byjujanath, chairperson of the rights panel, has asked the SEEB to submit its report on the complaint within a week.

There were strong protests from the family and local people against the SEEB's action. Legal experts had already pointed out that the SEEB did not have any special power to cut power supply to the house citing a criminal case against its inhabitant.

The SEEB said the power connection to Mr. Ajmal's house was disconnected because the alleged attack by him on July 5 had caused a loss of ₹3 lakh to the office. Mr. Ajmal's parents, Razak and Marthanda had staged a protest in front of the office, where Mr. Razak collapsed and had to be hospitalised.

Kerala varsity to launch genome editing mission to boost pearl spot production

K.A. Martin

KOCHI

Pearl spot farmers in Kerala have for ages endured the drudgery of finding brood stocks in the wild, breeding them in vastly uncontrolled environments and releasing fingerlings into aquaculture ponds only to see the fish barely achieving body weight of 300 to 400 grams in a year.

That may soon be a thing of the past as the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (Kufos) prepares to launch a genome editing mission to see if the State fish can revolutionise aquaculture as



Genome editing will help enhance breeding and seed production of pearl spots, says Kerala University of Fisheries. H. VIBHU

genetically improved farmed tilapia (GIFT) did decades ago.

Genome editing will target the genetic make-up of the fish that inhibits a faster rate of growth. It will al-

so help enhance breeding and seed production of pearl spots, said Kufos Vice-Chancellor Pradeep Kumar T.

Achieving higher body weight at an enhanced rate

will be a great blessing for aqua farmers in the State because pearl spots fetch a premium in the market whereas tilapia does not. Pearl spots are sold in the retail market for about ₹650 to ₹700 a kg, while tilapia fetches between ₹250 and ₹300 a kg.

But, tilapia achieves a body weight of 600 to 700 grams in six months compared with 12 months needed for pearl spots to achieve 300 to 400 grams. According to data available for 2020, Kerala produces 2,000 tonnes of pearl spots annually against the market demand of 10,000 tonnes.


- **Launch of Genome Editing Mission:**

- The Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (Kufos) is preparing to launch a genome editing mission to boost the production of pearl spots, a fish species important to the region.

- केरल विश्वविद्यालय मत्स्य पालन और समुद्री अध्ययन (Kufos) मोती मछली उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए जीनोम संपादन मिशन शुरू करने की तैयारी कर रहा है, जो क्षेत्र के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।



- **Current Challenges:**

- Pearl spot farmers in Kerala have struggled with finding brood stocks in the wild, breeding them in uncontrolled environments, and achieving minimal growth in body weight.
 - केरल में मोती मछली किसानों को जंगली में ब्रूड स्टॉक खोजने, अनियंत्रित वातावरण में उन्हें पालने और शरीर के वजन में न्यूनतम वृद्धि प्राप्त करने में संघर्ष करना पड़ा है।
- 

- **Goals of the Mission:**

- The genome editing mission aims to genetically enhance the growth rate of pearl spots, similar to the success achieved with genetically improved farmed tilapia (GIFT).
- जीनोम संपादन मिशन का उद्देश्य मोती मछली के विकास दर को आनुवंशिक रूप से बढ़ाना है, जैसा कि आनुवंशिक रूप से सुधारित खेत की गई तिलापिया (GIFT) के साथ हासिल किया गया था।

- **Economic Impact:**

- Pearl spots fetch a higher price in the market compared to tilapia, making them economically significant for farmers.

- मोती मछली बाजार में तिलापिया की तुलना में अधिक मूल्य प्राप्त करती है, जिससे वे किसानों के लिए आर्थिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण हो जाती हैं।

Production and Demand:

Kerala produces 2,000 tonnes of pearl spots annually against a market demand of 10,000 tonnes.

केरल सालाना 2,000 टन मोती मछली का उत्पादन करता है, जबकि बाजार की मांग 10,000 टन की है।

- Consider the following statements regarding the genome editing mission by the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (Kufos):
 1. The mission aims to boost the production of pearl spots by genetically enhancing their growth rate.
 2. Pearl spots fetch a higher price in the market compared to tilapia, making them more economically significant for farmers.
 3. Kerala produces 10,000 tonnes of pearl spots annually, meeting the market demand.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3

COMMODOR

Swachata Badhao, Tandrusti Badhe

Slimhide

5 YEARS

Slim Hide Flush Tank Kahan...?

Space Saving

Bad Todfod + Deewar Ko Leakage Se Bachayen

BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNY

MUMBAI HIT & RUN

Shinde Sena leader held as his BMW kills woman; son at wheel, say cops



The BMW car at a Mumbai police station on Sunday.

VIJAY KUMAR YADAV

MUMBAI, JULY 7

A WOMAN was killed when a speeding BMW car owned by a Shinde Sena leader rammed into a two-wheeler on which she was travelling and dragged her on the bonnet for nearly two kilometres before flinging her on the road, in Mumbai on Sunday morning, police said.

The victim has been identified as Kavani Nakhwa (45), a resident of Worli Koliwada, who was heading back with her husband, Pradeep Nakhwa (50), to sell fish brought from Crawford market. Pradeep Nakhwa was injured in the incident.

The vehicle is owned by Rajesh Shah, a Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde) leader from Palghar district. His son, Mihir, 24, was driving the vehicle, while the driver, Rajrishi Bidawat, was with him, police said. A case of...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE WORLD

FRANCE EXIT POLLS: SHOCK WIN FOR LEFT, FAR RIGHT FALLS TO 3RD, HUNG HOUSE

ISRAELI STRIKE KILLS 16 AT CENTRAL GAZA SCHOOL

PAGE 10

Temporary house in Germany, special horse feed: How Olympic cell paved road to Paris

MIHIR VASAVDA

MUMBAI, JULY 7

IN LESS than three weeks, when India's athletes touch down in Paris for the Olympic Games, they will be travelling from different corners of the world — Japan to Germany, US to Turkey.

For the Indian sports ecosystem, these journeys may well be on a scale never seen before, documents accessed by The Indian Express under the RTI Act show.

They range from living quarters in Germany for badminton entourage to special feed for horses in the equestrian event, according to the minutes of meetings held almost every

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

Thursday afternoon over the past three years by India's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC).

Consider this: A team of 12 specialists helping badminton ace P V Sindhu in her quest for a third Olympic medal at a boot camp in the German industrial town of Saarbrücken.

A table of the same make that will be used at the Olympics imported from China for table tennis star Manika Batra to get used to its pace, spin and bounce.



P V Sindhu with the members of her entourage in Germany's Saarbrücken town, Instagram.

Special horse feed for equestrian prospect Anshu Agarwalla's dark chestnut gelding, along with equipment including saddle pads, boots and blankets.

Bad and high-speed carriers for weightlifter Mirabai Chanu.

COUNTING MEDALS

Medal projections by 5 key sports federations for the Paris Olympics

Badminton	3
Badminton	2-3
Athletics	2
Archery	1
Weightlifting	1

Source: Mission Olympic Cell. Assessments of other major sports like hockey, wrestling and shooting were not provided.

ISSUED BY CONTROLLER GENERAL OF PATENTS

Commerce scraps 259 show cause notices to patent officers: 'Not in line with procedure'

ANANTHAKRISHNAN

NEW DELHI, JULY 7

THE MINISTRY of Commerce and Industry has withdrawn 259 show cause notices issued by the office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks (CGPDTM) to patent officers, saying the notices were "not in line with established procedure".

In an office memorandum issued on June 26, the ministry withdrew the show cause notices, it said. It had earlier issued the notices, it said it was of the opinion that they were not in line with established procedure.

"Therefore, it has been decided by the competent authority to withdraw the 259 show cause notices issued by the office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks to the 259 officials," it said.

The officials had contended that the notices, issued without the authority of law, had made it

not take any decision on the show cause notices.

The Association then approached the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). On May 27, the CAT panel bench asked the ministry to consider the Association's complaint alleging "illegitimate show cause notices and intimidation of officers."

In an office memorandum issued on June 26, the ministry withdrew the show cause notices, it said. It had earlier issued the notices, it said it was of the opinion that they were not in line with established procedure.

"Therefore, it has been decided by the competent authority to withdraw the 259 show cause notices issued by the office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks to the 259 officials," it said.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



PRESIDENT AT PURI RATH YATRA

President Droupadi Murmu and Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi at the Rath Yatra in Puri on Sunday. A devotee died of suffocation while pulling a chariot at the yatra. **ANI REPORT, PAGE 7**

How T20 prize will be split: ₹5 cr each for players, Dravid; selectors, staff to get share

DEVENDRA PANDEY

MUMBAI, JULY 7

OF THE ₹125 crore announced by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for the T20 World Cup-winning team, ₹5 crore each will go to the 15 players, including three who didn't get to play a game, and head coach Rahul Dravid, ₹2.5 crore each to the rest of the core coaching group — bat-

ting coach Vikram Rathour, fielding coach T Dilip, bowling coach Paras Mhambrey, and ₹1 crore each to the five members of the senior selection committee, including chairman Ajit Agarkar, and the BCCI staff.

The rest of the backroom staff will also be rewarded. The three physiotherapists, three throw-down specialists, two massagers and the strength and conditioning

Video analyst, logistics manager, BCCI staff members at WC will also receive share of prize money

IDEA XCHANGE

Case certains must happen... This time, Opposition said the same thing that Kanishi Ram used to say 40 years ago!

CHANDRASHEKHAR AZAD

PRESIDENT AZAD SARKAR PARTY (KARNATAKA)

PAGE 13

Day after J&K encounters, toll up: 2 soldiers and 6 militants

BASHARAT MASOOD

SRINAGAR, JULY 7

WHILE TWO soldiers, including a Para commando, were confirmed killed in separate encounters which broke out in Chinargam and Madergam villages, both in Kulgam district of South Kashmir, on Saturday evening, the militant toll rose to six on Sunday.

The soldiers who were killed have been identified as Para commando Pradeep Nain, 27, from Jind district of Haryana, and Prabhakar Janjal, 26, from Alaska district in Maharashtra.

From the confirmation of bodies, we have reports that six terrorists have been killed."

R R Swain told reporters. "This is a big milestone, a substantial progress. These successes have a lot of meaning in the security environment."

"This is an indication that the involvement of people is leading to the flow of human intelligence and the fight (against terror) will be taken to its logical conclusion," he said.

On Saturday, a joint team of Jammu and Kashmir Police Army and paramilitary force had cordoned off Madergam village following intelligence inputs on the presence of militants in the area. As the teams zeroed in on them, the militants hiding there opened indiscriminate fire prompting the forces to retaliate

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Were expecting him home for child's birth, say kin of dead soldier

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, JULY 7

PRADEEP NAIN, 27, was supposed to go back home for the birth of his first child. On Saturday, the Para commando from Haryana's Jind district was killed in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district.

His pregnant wife Manisha was admitted to a hospital on Sunday, her condition deteriorating after receiving the news, family members said. Pradeep's body was expected to reach the village on Monday morning.

Hailing from Jind's Jajarwal

Para commando Pradeep Nain was 27

village, Pradeep joined the Army in 2015 and was inducted in the regiment. He subsequently came a Para commando.

Balwan Singh, Pradeep's father, recalled how his son made multiple attempts to get into the Army. "He tried twice earlier but could not make it. He did not give up and eventually got selected"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Central Asia, Vietnam new buzzing destinations on Indian tourist map

PRICE ANCHOR

SUKALP SHARMA

NEW DELHI, JULY 7

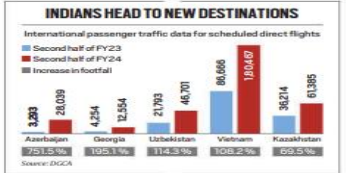
SOCIAL MEDIA platforms like Instagram and YouTube are brimming with posts from Indians travelling to Silk Road countries such as Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Georgia, and South Asia's latest tourism hotspot, Vietnam.

Before the pandemic, these destinations largely attracted more discerning travellers from

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The jump was around 115 per cent in the case of Uzbekistan, 108 per cent for Vietnam, and 70 per cent for Kazakhstan.

Meanwhile, India's total outbound passenger traffic on international flights in H2 of FY24 grew 16.5 per cent y-o-y, the DGCA data shows.

In the case of countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus, of which were part of the erstwhile Soviet Union, the jump in traffic came on a low base and was largely due to the introduction of direct flights from India to the country's largest airline



EXPLAINED Price point

BESIDES SIMPLE visa rules and easy connectivity, these countries have an added allure: they cost nearly as much or only moderately higher than a holiday at a popular domestic destination.

And Indian airlines are taking notice of the demand, increasing routes as well as frequency.

IndiGo in 2023. The airline felt that these markets were under-served and also saw an opportunity to stimulate demand further.

Before IndiGo's flights to Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Georgia, most of these markets were served from India by their respective state-carriers, essentially making them monopoly routes.

The other option was to travel via a hub airport in a third country. While that would have served existing demand, it was unlikely to have significantly stimulated demand and grown the market. There is no publicly available official data on the

number of travellers from India who flew to overseas destinations via a third country. All these countries have a sizable number of Indian students, mainly those pursuing medicine. This provides a base demand, which is now being augmented by rapidly growing leisure travel.

IndiGo's entry, industry watchers say, has brought competition on these routes made fares competitive, and provided more options to passengers, which, along with other factors, have led to demand creation. IndiGo's announcement last month that it will run daily

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NTA to hold retest for CUET-UG if grievances received found correct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JULY 7

THE NATIONAL Testing Agency will conduct a retest for CUET-UG candidates from July 15 to 19 if grievances raised by them about the conduct of the exam are found correct, officials said on Sunday.

The NTA also announced the answer key for the undergraduate entrance exam, paving the way for the announcement of the results, albeit delayed.

“The candidates can submit their challenges for the answer key by 6 pm on July 9,” a senior NTA official said.

“The NTA is also addressing public grievances regarding the exam conducted for CUET-UG that were received up to June 30. If a grievance is found genuine, the NTA is committed to redoing the exam for these candidates at selected centres any day between July 15 and 19,” the official added.

While the NTA officials did not comment on the grievances

received by the agency, candidates claimed there was loss of time at certain exam centres and technical issues.

“Challenges made by the candidates will be verified by a panel of subject experts. Based on the revised final answer key, the result will be declared,” the official said. The delay in CUET-UG results comes amid a row over alleged irregularities in competitive exams, including NEET and NET.

The CUET-UG exam conducted in a hybrid mode for the first time across the country was cancelled in Delhi a night before the exam, citing logistical reasons. The exam was conducted in the national capital later.

The NTA had earlier announced that the third edition of CUET-UG will be completed in seven days and there will be no normalisation of scores as all exams will be conducted in a single shift.

For 15 subjects, the tests were in pen-paper mode and for the other 48 subjects, the exam was held in computer-based mode.

UP, West Bengal, Maharashtra had highest share of informal sector enterprises in 2022-23

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, JULY 7

UTTAR PRADESH, West Bengal and Maharashtra had the highest share of informal sector enterprises in both rural and urban areas in 2022-23, the latest Annual Survey of Unincorporated Enterprises for 2022-23 released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) showed. While the share of informal sector enterprises decreased in the post-pandemic year 2022-23 for some states such as Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, the state of Uttar Pradesh topped among major states with an increase in the number of unincorporated non-agricultural enterprises.

Among the major states, Uttar Pradesh recorded a 13.83 per cent share of informal sector enterprises in 2022-23, that is, October 2022 – September 2023, up from 12.99 per cent in the previous year. West Bengal, which followed at second position in 2022-23, saw a marginal dip in its share of informal sector enterprises to 12.04 per cent from 12.31 per cent in 2021-22, while Maharashtra's share rose to 9.37 per cent from 8.81 per cent during the same period.

While comparison with the previous data of National Sample Survey's 73rd round on Unincorporated Enterprises for 2015-16 showed a decline in workers employed in states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal in 2022-23, the share of informal sector workers increased in most states in the immediate

STATES WITH HIGHEST SHARE OF INFORMAL SECTOR ENTERPRISES

	2022-23	2021-22
Uttar Pradesh	13.83%	12.99%
West Bengal	12.04%	12.31%
Maharashtra	9.37%	8.81%
Tamil Nadu	6.50%	6.80%
Bihar	5.69%	5.25%
Gujarat	5.37%	6.17%
Karnataka	5.34%	5.72%
MP	5.03%	5.35%
AP	4.93%	4.87%
Odisha	4.53%	4.08%



*Total includes data for 13 other regions; Source: Annual Survey of Unincorporated Enterprises 2022-23 & 2021-22

aftermath of the pandemic compared with 2021-22.

In 2022-23, informal sector workers declined to 1.57 crore in Uttar Pradesh from 1.65 crore in 2015-16 but rose from 1.30 crore in 2021-22. West Bengal also saw a decline in informal sector workers to 1.05 crore in 2022-23 from 1.35 crore in 2015-16, but the number increased marginally from 1.02 crore in 2021-22. Maharashtra, however, recorded an increase in informal sector workers throughout this period rising to 1.15 crore in 2022-23 from 91.23 lakh in 2015-16 and 98.81 lakh in 2021-22.

State-wise data for unincorporated enterprises revealed that the lowest share of informal sector enterprises was recorded in Uttarakhand, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir. However, Delhi's share of informal sector enterprises saw a sharp jump from the previous year, rising to 1.43 per cent in 2022-23 from 0.64 per

cent in 2021-22.

The surveys for the unincorporated sector enterprises have been released after a long gap after the data collection. The data for these non-agricultural sector enterprises is seen as a crucial indicator as the informal sector is closely watched for its employment generation capacity and absorption of labour force, especially in case of a slowdown in the formal sector.

In 2022-23, over 10.96 crore workers were employed in the unincorporated non-agricultural sector including working owners, hired workers, unpaid family members involved in the establishments and others. Out of the total workers, 5.72 crore were from urban areas, whereas rural workers stood at 5.24 crore. In comparison, about 9.79 crore workers were employed in the unincorporated non-agricultural sector during 2021-22. Out of these workers, 5.03 crore workers were from urban areas and 4.76 crore workers were from rural areas.

Highest Share of Informal Sector Enterprises:

Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Maharashtra had the highest share of informal sector enterprises in both rural and urban areas in 2022-23.

उत्तर प्रदेश, पश्चिम बंगाल और महाराष्ट्र में 2022-23 में ग्रामीण और शहरी दोनों क्षेत्रों में अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र के उद्यमों का सबसे बड़ा हिस्सा था।

Annual Survey Findings:

The latest Annual Survey of Unincorporated Enterprises for 2022-23 released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) showed these results.

सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI) द्वारा जारी 2022-23 के लिए नवीनतम वार्षिक सर्वेक्षण में ये परिणाम दिखाए गए।


- **State-wise Shares:**

- Uttar Pradesh had the highest share at 13.83%, followed by West Bengal at 12.04%, and Maharashtra at 9.37%.

- उत्तर प्रदेश का हिस्सा 13.83% के साथ सबसे अधिक था, इसके बाद पश्चिम बंगाल का 12.04% और महाराष्ट्र का 9.37% था।



- **Decline in Workers:**

- In 2022-23, informal sector workers declined to 1.57 crore in Uttar Pradesh, down from 1.65 crore in 2015-16.
 - 2022-23 में उत्तर प्रदेश में अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र के श्रमिकों की संख्या घटकर 1.57 करोड़ हो गई, जो 2015-16 में 1.65 करोड़ थी।
- 

- **Increase in Maharashtra:**
- Maharashtra recorded an increase in informal sector workers to 1.15 crore in 2022-23, up from 91.23 lakh in 2015-16.
- महाराष्ट्र ने 2022-23 में अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र के श्रमिकों की संख्या 1.15 करोड़ दर्ज की, जो 2015-16 में 91.23 लाख थी।

- **Impact of Pandemic:**

- The share of informal sector enterprises increased post-pandemic in most states except for a few where it declined.
- अधिकांश राज्यों में महामारी के बाद अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र के उदयों का हिस्सा बढ़ा, कुछ राज्यों को छोड़कर जहां इसमें गिरावट आई।

-
- Consider the following statements regarding the highest share of informal sector enterprises in India for 2022-23:
 1. Uttar Pradesh had the highest share of informal sector enterprises in both rural and urban areas in 2022-23.
 2. Maharashtra recorded a decrease in informal sector workers throughout the period from 2015-16 to 2022-23.
 3. The share of informal sector enterprises increased in most states post-pandemic.
 - Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3

AMID GOOGLE PLAY STORE'S NEAR MONOPOLY

PhonePe fights hard to make way for Indus Appstore

JATINGROVER
NEW DELHI, JULY 7

SIX MONTHS down the line, PhonePe's Indus Appstore, which was launched as an alternative to Google's Play Store, continues its fight for finding large-scale adoption by smartphone manufacturers as well as consumers.

There have been 2 million downloads since the launch, which is just 0.3 per cent of the smartphone users in the country. According to analysts, the pace needs to quicken if it has to dent Google's near monopoly.

The biggest challenge, the



File

Appstore faces is convincing smartphone manufacturers to pre-install it in the phones. Currently, users have to download the Appstore from the company's website, wherein users also see a warning from Google's Android that the file may be unsecured.

This is the biggest limitation it

finds in its large-scale adoption by users. Google's Play Store comes pre-installed in all Android phones. Most smartphone manufacturers are currently evaluating PhonePe's proposal regarding pre-installing the Indus Appstore, executives at smartphone companies said. Demand by end-

users, privacy and security concerns, are likely to shape up their final decision.

An industry executive said that they do not want to affect user experience by pre-installing apps, which may not be required. "The conversations are progressing very well. We are in advanced discussions with several other major smartphone manufacturers, which will further help amplify our reach," PhonePe said in response to a query. "Indus Appstore is a part of the PhonePe group and it will always prioritise user privacy, with the highest standards of security and clearly defined policies," PhonePe said.

The company did not share any timelines on pre-installation in smartphones. According to smartphone manufacturer, Lava, while deciding on pre-installation or adopting any feature or app, which has a consumer demand, the company goes through a complete testing cycle related to performance and security norms.

"Unless you unbundle Google, which is nearly impossible to do, you cannot create an alternative app store," said an industry executive. Unbundling would mean preventing or restricting its apps from being pre-loaded in Android smartphones, with users having a choice to uninstall them. **FE**

The slide features a solid orange background. A large white circle is centered on the page. The text "Axiom-4 Mission" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font within the white circle. On the left side of the white circle, there is a dashed yellow arc. At the bottom right edge of the white circle, there is a small, solid blue circle.

Axiom-4 Mission

- 
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has shortlisted two of its four trained Gaganyaan astronauts for a mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in collaboration with United States' NASA later this year.

-





- **About the Axiom-4 Mission**


- The selected astronauts will be part of the Axiom-4 mission, which represents the fourth private astronaut mission conducted by NASA in partnership with Axiom Space, a private US company.
- The mission is scheduled to take place '**no earlier than October 2024**', and is **expected to spend up to 14 days** docked to the space station during the mission.

-





- **Training and Preparation**

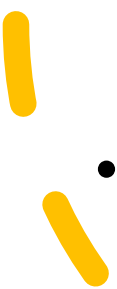
- While the Gaganyaan astronauts have received general space training in India, their focus has primarily been on Gaganyaan-specific modules.
 - However, to participate in the ISS mission, they will need to undergo specialised training to familiarise themselves with ISS modules, protocols, and operational procedures.
 - This training will take place in the United States, where they will collaborate with NASA and other international partners.
- 





SEHER Program

- 
- Recently, Women Entrepreneurship Platform and TransUnion CIBIL Partner launched the SEHER Program to empower women entrepreneurs.


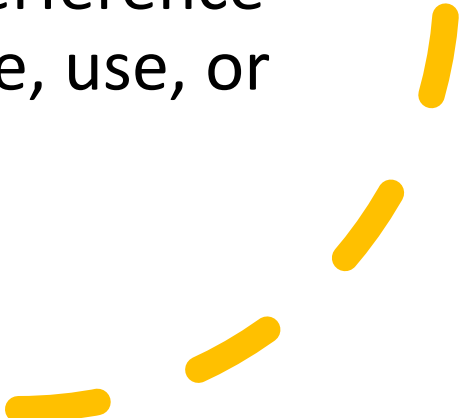
- **About the SEHER Program**



- It is a **credit education initiative** aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs in India by providing **essential financial literacy content and business skills** to women business owners.
 - It facilitates better access to credit and financial resources for women-led businesses.
 - It provides women entrepreneurs with knowledge about credit scores, loan eligibility, and financial planning.
- 



- 
- **Importance**
 - **Reducing gender disparities** (currently, only 7% of overall outstanding loans to MSMEs are granted to women-led businesses), and **employment opportunities** (around 20% MSMEs being women-owned).
- 

India Grants Record Patents



- 
- Recently, the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry highlighted that India issued around one lakh patents in 2024, reflecting the significant increase in patent approval.
 - What is a Patent?
 - About:
 - A patent is a legal right to an invention given to a person or entity without interference from others who wish to replicate, use, or sell it.
- 

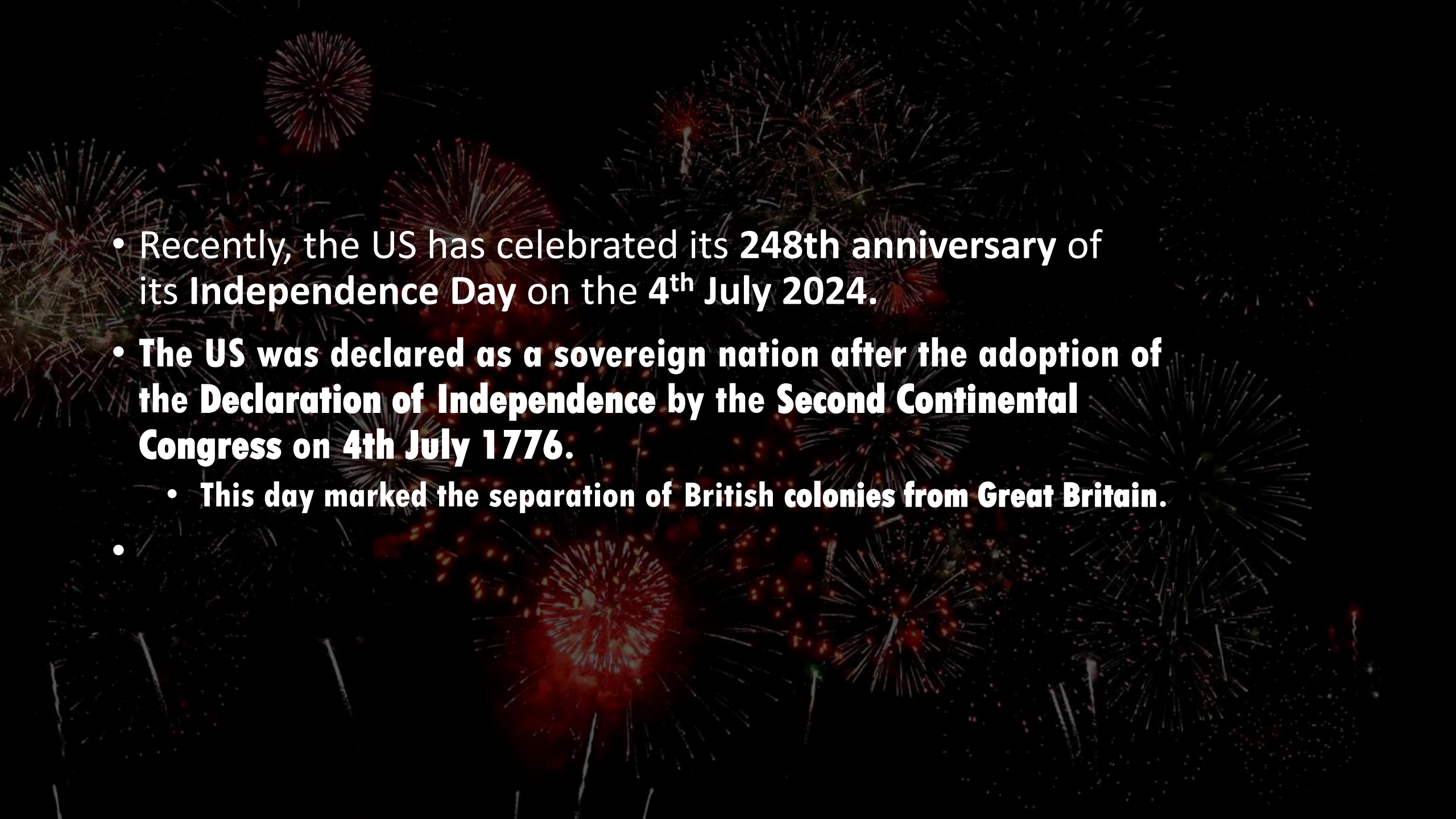
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- **Patent protection is a territorial right and therefore it is effective only within the territory of India. There is no concept of global patent.**
 - **The patent system in India is governed by the Patents Act, 1970 with patent rules being regularly amended in consonance with the changing environment, the most recent being Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2024.**
- 

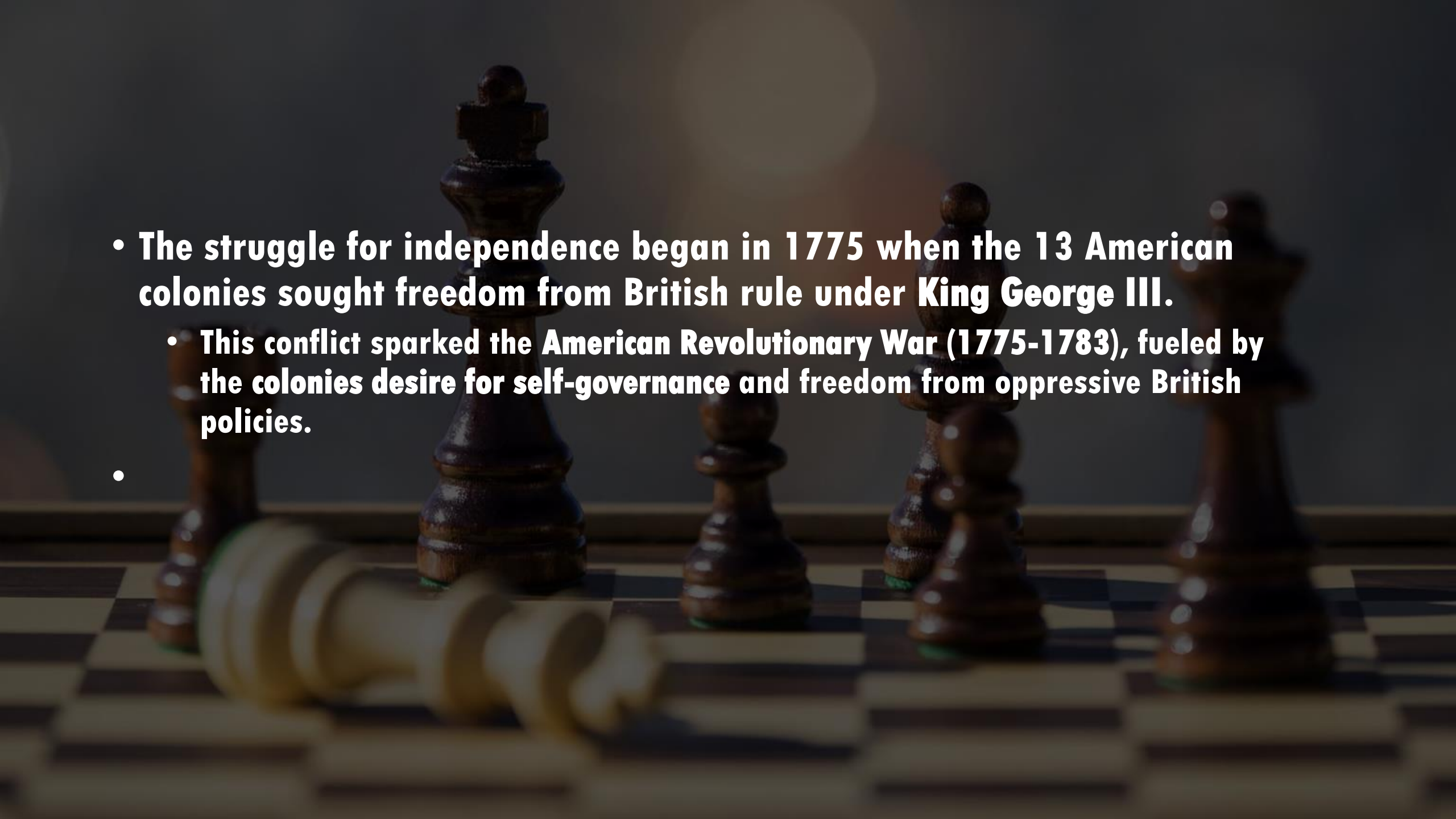
- 
- **Criteria of Patentability:** An invention is patentable subject matter if it is novel, non-obvious, and capable of Industrial application.
 - **In the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2023 rankings by WIPO, India secured the 40th position out of 132 countries. This marks an improvement from the 46th position in 2021 and the 81st rank in 2015.**
 - **According to the study released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation, India sees record 31.6% rise in patent applications in 2022; ahead of China, U.K.**
- 

Intellectual Property	Protection	Law in India	Duration
Copyright	Expression of Ideas	Copyright Act 1957	Variable
Patent	Inventions- New Processes, Machines, etc.	Indian Patent Act 1970	20 years Generally
Trademarks	Sign to distinguish business goods or services	Trade Marks Act 1999	Can last Indefinitely
Trade Secrets	Confidential Business Information	Protected without Registration	Unlimited time
Geographical Indication (GI)	Sign used on specific geographical origin and possess qualities due to site of origin	Geographical Indications of Goods(R & P) Act, 1999	10 years (Renewable)
Industrial Design	Ornamental or aesthetic aspect of an article	Design Act, 2000	10 years

248th Independence Day of US



- 
- Recently, the US has celebrated its **248th anniversary** of its **Independence Day** on the **4th July 2024**.
 - **The US was declared as a sovereign nation after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress on 4th July 1776.**
 - **This day marked the separation of British colonies from Great Britain.**

- 
- **The struggle for independence began in 1775 when the 13 American colonies sought freedom from British rule under King George III.**
 - **This conflict sparked the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), fueled by the colonies desire for self-governance and freedom from oppressive British policies.**

-

- 
- The background of the slide is a dense, repeating pattern of small, five-pointed stars in red, white, and blue, reminiscent of the American flag. The stars are scattered across the entire frame, creating a textured, patriotic backdrop.
- **The American colonies voted to declare independence on 2nd July 1776, two days before the Declaration was approved and 12 of the 13 colonies officially decided to sever political ties with Great Britain.**

- **Causes of the American Revolutionary War included British trade restrictions hindering economic development, the ban on westward expansion, influence of Enlightenment thinkers, British attempts to tax the colonies, lack of representation in British Parliament, and harsh measures like the Coercive Acts intensifying colonial discontent.**



NOMADIC ELEPHANT


- The 16th edition of the India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT began in Meghalaya.
- The exercise aims to enhance joint military capabilities for counterinsurgency operations under the United Nations Mandate Chapter VII, focusing on semi-urban and mountainous terrain






INDIA-THAILAND JOINT
MILITARY EXERCISE MAITREE

Exercise MAITREE, conducted annually since 2006, alternates between India and Thailand.



This exercise is crucial for both nations facing terrorism threats, especially in southern Thailand regions like Satun, Patthalung, and Bangkok, which are prone to attacks.



The exercise includes company-level joint training on insurgency and counter-terrorism in jungle and urban scenarios, enhancing defence cooperation and bilateral relations between the Indian Army and the Royal Thailand Army.

Fun fact



- **Myth: We Only Use 10% of Our Brain**
- **Debunked:** This myth suggests that 90% of our brain's potential is untapped, but neuroscience research has shown that virtually every part of the brain has a known function. Brain imaging techniques reveal that even simple tasks like speaking or walking involve multiple areas of the brain working together. No part of the brain is completely inactive.



Facilitate



Definition: To make an action or process easier or more likely to happen.



Example Sentence: The new software is designed to facilitate the workflow in the office.



Synonyms: Aid, assist, promote, simplify.



Antonyms: Hinder, impede, obstruct, complicate.

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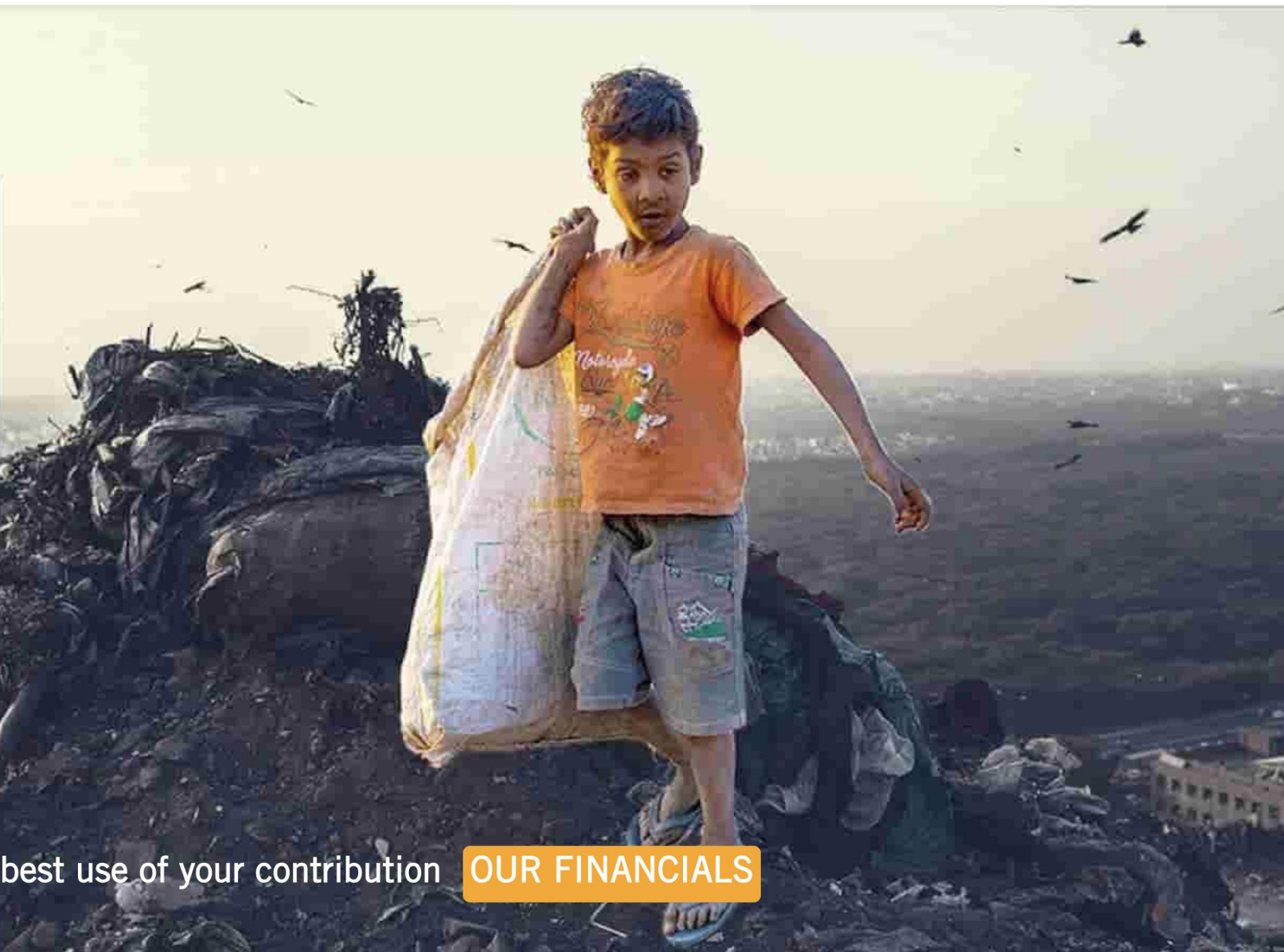





Smile for All

GIVE A CHILD THE GIFT OF EDUCATION TODAY

Join Hands



We make the best use of your contribution **OUR FINANCIALS**

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.
