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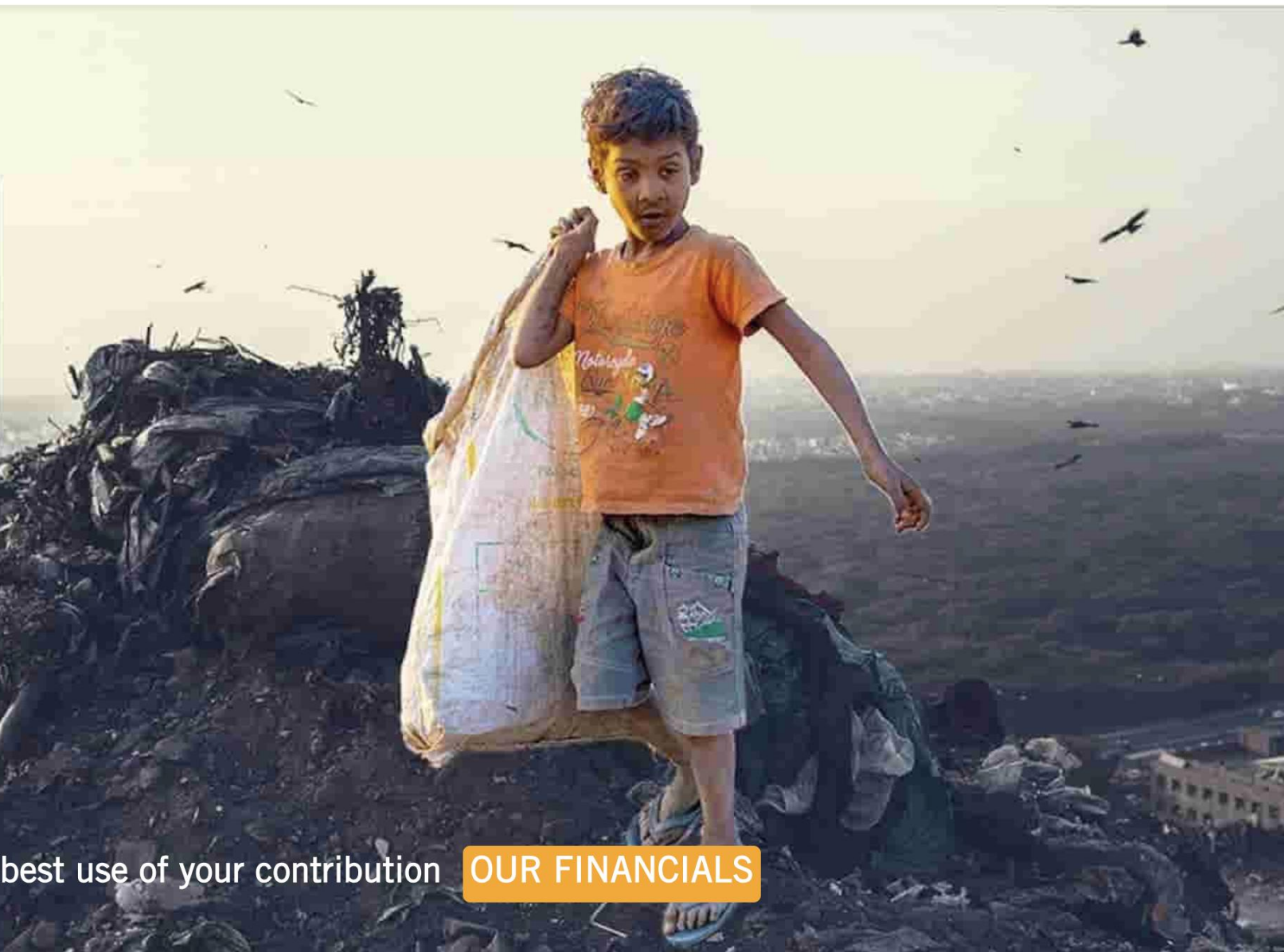




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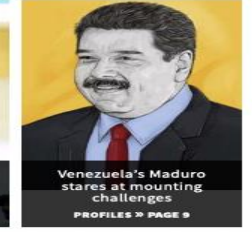
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**It's better to be a lion for a day than a sheep all your life.**

Elizabeth Kenny

**PARIS OLYMPICS**  
**Dressed to represent India**  
With National Handloom Day approaching, and in light of Team India's Olympic outfits attracting flak, designers weigh in on the challenges of creating ceremonial uniforms  
MAGAZINE » PAGE 3



**INSIDE**  
**At least 30 killed in Israeli airstrike on Gaza school**  
DEER AL-BALAH  
Israeli airstrikes hit a school being used by displaced Palestinians in central Gaza on Saturday, killing at least 30 people, several children among them, as the country's negotiators prepared to meet international mediators to discuss a proposed ceasefire. » PAGE 12

**Meghalaya group turns vehicles from Assam away**  
GUWAHATI  
Tourism in Meghalaya took a hit on Friday after members of Meghalaya's Hynniewtrep National Youth Federation, a pressure group, turned away Assam-registered private and commercial vehicles from strategic locations leading to popular tourist spots, following a drive against 'illegal immigrants'. » PAGE 3

**GNLF issues BJP ultimatum to form Gorkhaland**  
KOLKATA  
The Gorkha National Liberation Front on Saturday gave an ultimatum to the BJP to settle issues of Gorkhas, including the creation of a separate State, by April 5, 2025. The call comes after the Union Minister of State for Development of Northeastern Region suggested that north Bengal be included in the region. » PAGE 5

## At NITI meet, PM calls for States' participation

Narendra Modi, chairing the Governing Council meeting of the NITI Aayog, says 'Viksit Bharat 2047, or developed India, is the ambition of all Indians and that States can play an active role in achieving this; West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the only Opposition leader to attend the meeting, walks out saying she was 'not allowed' to speak

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**  
NEW DELHI  
Political fault lines that emerged after the Lok Sabha election deepened in the first NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting on Saturday with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the lone leader of the Opposition bloc to attend the meeting, storming out saying she was "not allowed" to speak.  
Ms. Banerjee left the meeting even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his speech that the dream of a 'Viksit Bharat 2047' (developed India) can be achieved only through the combined ef-

orts of all States. "Viksit Bharat 2047 is the ambition of every Indian. States can play an active role in achieving this aim, as they are directly connected with the people," the Prime Minister, who chaired the ninth Governing Council meeting of the body, said.  
Ms. Banerjee said she came out "boycotting the meeting."  
"Chandrababu Naidu (Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister) was given 20 minutes to speak. The Chief Ministers of Assam, Goa, Chhattisgarh spoke for 10 to 12 minutes. I was stopped from speaking after just five minutes. This is unfair. From the Opposi-



Way forward: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs the 9th NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

tion side, I was the only one here. I attended the meeting because cooperative federalism should be strengthened," the Trinamool chief told the media. "They have stopped all

**Congress seeks more domestic investments**  
NEW DELHI  
Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his NITI Aayog speech that focussed on getting more international investments, the Congress on Saturday said the country first needs domestic investments. » PAGE 4

welfare projects for Bengal and deprived the State of its rightful Awas Yojana and rural roads scheme. They also stopped the food subsidy. We are deprived of funds worth ₹1.71 lakh

PIB Fact check unit posted on X that the claim was "misleading". "The clock only showed that her speaking time was over. Even the bell was not rung to mark it," it said.  
Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said every Chief Minister was given the allotted time and that was displayed on the screen which was kept before every table.

**'Unfortunate claim'**  
"She said in the media that her mic was turned off. That is completely false. It's unfortunate that the Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee has claimed that her mic was switched off, which is not true. She should speak the truth behind this rather than again build a narrative based on falsehood," Ms. Sitharaman said.  
The meeting was attended by representatives of 26 States and Union Territories and those from 10 were absent. E.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog, told the media. All Opposition-ruled States except West Bengal were absent.

He said the agenda for the meeting was 'Viksit Bharat' and Prime Minister Modi observed that the vision of developed India can be realised through developed States and that the aspiration should reach the grassroots level.

## Shoring up



An upgrade: Work on the installation of a vertical cantilever span is in progress on the new Pamban bridge in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. The new bridge with single railway line will replace the old Pamban rail bridge built in 1914. L. BALACHANDAR

## Environmentalists alarmed as Himachal witnesses gradual snowfall pattern shift

**Vikas Vasudevan**  
CHANDIGARH  
Himachal Pradesh has not only witnessed a reducing snow cover over the years, but also a gradual shift in snowfall occurrence pattern from winter months towards early summer months, raising concern surrounding climate variability in the ecologically fragile Himalayas.  
The decrease in the snow cover during the peak winter months of December and January is especially worrisome and alarming as it could affect the water availability during summer as the snow that occurs during these peak winters sustains for a long time and enhances the discharge dependability of the major river basins

ing 2023-24, the early winter months of October-November were characterised by a decrease in snow cover area except the Ravi basin, which showed a marginal increase in the area under snow in October.  
**Negative trend**  
Similarly, the peak winter months of December-January saw a negative trend in the area under snow. Notably, during the late winter months of February and March, the trend was positive with an increase in the area under snow in all basins against last year.  
In fact, during April the snow cover area increased due to fresh snowfall in the early summer on higher mountain reaches in all the basins.

## Soldier, Pak. infiltrator killed near LoC in J&K's Kupwara

**The Hindu Bureau**  
SRINAGAR  
An Army soldier and a Pakistani infiltrator were killed in a gunfight that followed an attack on an Army post close to the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Saturday morning.  
An Army spokesperson said a group of two to three infiltrators took advantage of bad weather and poor visibility along the LoC in Machil Sector and "fired into a forward Army post from close proximity".  
The alert troops responded vigorously and in the ensuing exchange of fire, one Pakistani intruder was killed. Weapons, am-



Exchange of fire: Security personnel during an operation in Kupwara in north Kashmir on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

munition and war-like stores were recovered. The identity and affiliation of the Pakistani national is being ascertained. "The Army said.  
The deceased soldier was identified as Rifleman

## Modi likely to visit Ukraine on August 23, modalities being worked out, say officials

**Subhasini Halder**  
NEW DELHI  
Planning is under way for a visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Ukraine, likely on August 23, for what would be his first trip to the war-torn country, official and diplomatic sources confirmed. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had reacted sharply to Mr. Modi's visit to Moscow earlier this month, even as India asserted its "freedom of choice" and "strategic autonomy" on foreign relations.  
"It is quite possible that (the visit) could be on August 23," one official in the know said, while another said that the modalities are being worked out.

queries on the matter. Reports about the impending visit come after weeks of bitter criticism of Mr. Modi's visit to Russia on July 8 and 9 that coincided with a major Russian missile attack against Ukrainian targets, including a children's hospital in Kyiv.  
**Damage control**  
Senior U.S. officials, including National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, called Mr. Modi's visit a "disappointment" in terms of "symbolism and timing". Since then, it is understood that South Block has taken several steps to limit the damage from the visit, engaging diplomats on the issue, and even indicating a visit by Mr. Modi to Kyiv could be on the cards.

# At NITI meet, PM calls for States' participation

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welfare projects for Bengal and deprived the State of its rightful Awas Yojana and rural roads scheme. They also stopped the food subsidy. We are deprived of funds worth ₹1.71 lakh

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NEW DELHI

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his NITI Aayog speech that focussed on getting more international investments, the Congress on Saturday said the country first needs domestic investments. » PAGE 4

crore. This Budget has nothing but zero. Immediately after I said this, the mic was switched off," she said.

The government hit back quickly. The official

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He said the agenda for the meeting was 'Viksit Bharat' and Prime Minister Modi observed that the vision of developed India can be realised through developed States and that the aspiration should reach the grassroots level.









सत्यमेव जयते



# NITI Aayog

## Government Agency overview

<b>Formed</b>	1 January 2015; 9 years ago
<b>Preceding Government Agency</b>	<a href="#">Planning Commission</a>
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<a href="#">Government of India</a>
<b>Headquarters</b>	<a href="#">New Delhi</a>
<b>Annual budget</b>	₹400.65 crores (US\$48+ million) (2020–21) <sup>[1]</sup> including <a href="#">Ministry of Planning</a>
<b>Government Agency executives</b>	<a href="#">Narendra Modi</a> , Chairperson <a href="#">Suman Bery</a> , Vice Chairperson <a href="#">B. V. R. Subrahmanyam</a> , CEO
<b>Parent Government Agency</b>	<a href="#">Ministry of Planning</a>

- 
- 
- The NITI Aayog (lit. 'Policy Commission'; abbreviation for National Institution for Transforming India) serves as the apex public policy think tank of the Government of India, and the nodal agency tasked with catalyzing economic development, and fostering cooperative federalism and moving away from bargaining federalism through the involvement of State Governments of India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach.

- 
- Its initiatives include "15-year road map", "7-year vision, strategy, and action plan", AMRUT, Digital India, Atal Innovation Mission, Medical Education Reform, agriculture reforms (Model Land Leasing Law, Reforms of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act, Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index for ranking states), Indices Measuring States'
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- Performance in Health, Education and Water Management, Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Rationalization of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Skill Development, Task Forces on Agriculture and up of Poverty, and Transforming India Lecture Series.
- 

- A Governing Council composed of Chief Ministers of all the States and Union territories with Legislatures and lieutenant governors of Union Territories (except Delhi and Puducherry)



- **Vice Chairperson:** [Suman Bery](#).
- **Ex-Officio Members:** [Amit Shah](#), [Rajnath Singh](#), [Nirmala Sitaraman](#) and [Arjun Munda](#).<sup>[21]</sup>
- **Special Invitees:** [Nitin Gadkari](#), [Piyush Goyal](#), [Virendra Kumar](#), [Ashwini Vaishnaw](#) and [Rao Inderjit Singh](#).<sup>[21]</sup>
- **Full-time Members:** [V. K. Saraswat](#) (former [DRDO](#) Chief), [Ramesh Chand](#) (Agriculture Expert)<sup>[22]</sup> and [V. K. Paul](#) (Public Health expert),<sup>[23]</sup> [Arvind Virmani](#) (Economist).
- **Chief Executive Officer (CEO):** [B. V. R. Subrahmanyam](#)<sup>[24]</sup>
- **Governing Council:** All [Chief Ministers](#) of States (including Delhi and Puducherry), [Lieutenant Governors](#) of all other UTs<sup>[25]</sup>

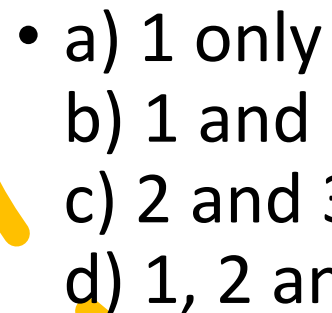


1.NITI Aayog is the premier policy think tank of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs.

2.It replaced the Planning Commission of India in 2015.

3.The Prime Minister of India is the Chairperson of NITI Aayog.

- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

# Environmentalists alarmed as Himachal witnesses gradual snowfall pattern shift

**Vikas Vasudeva**

CHANDIGARH

Himachal Pradesh has not only witnessed a reducing snow cover over the years, but also a gradual shift in snowfall occurrence pattern from winter months towards early summer months, raising concern surrounding climate variability in the ecologically fragile Himalayas.

The decrease in the snow cover during the peak winter months of December and January is especially worrisome and alarming as it could affect the water availability during summer as the snow that occurs during these peak winters sustains for a long time and enhances the discharge dependability of the major river basins



**Alarming signs:** The decrease in the snow cover during December and January could affect the water availability during summer. PTI

during summer.

A study conducted by the Centre on Climate Change of Himachal Pradesh Council for Science Technology-Environment (HIMCOSTE) has revealed that all the major river basins including the Satluj, the Ravi, the Chenab and

the Beas in Himachal Pradesh have witnessed an overall decrease of 12.72% in area under snow in 2023-24 winters in comparison to 2022-23.

The study conducted using Advanced Wide Field Sensor (AWiFS) satellite data, also points out that dur-

ing 2023-24, the early winter months of October-November were characterised by a decrease in snow cover area except the Ravi basin, which showed a marginal increase in the area under snow in October.

## **Negative trend**

Similarly, the peak winter months of December-January saw a negative trend in the area under snow. Notably, during the late winter months of February and March, the trend was positive with an increase in the area under snow in all basins against last year.

In fact, during April the snow cover area increased due to fresh snowfall in the early summer on higher mountain reaches in all the basins.



Himachal Pradesh has witnessed a reducing snow cover over the years (हिमाचल प्रदेश में बर्फ की परत कम हो रही है).

There is a gradual shift in snowfall occurrence from winter months to early summer months (बर्फबारी का समय सर्दियों से प्रारंभिक गर्मियों की ओर बढ़ रहा है).

## Impact on Environment (पर्यावरण पर प्रभाव)

### Ecological Concerns (पारिस्थितिक चिंता)

- Climate variability in the fragile Himalayas is raising concern (नाजुक हिमालय में जलवायु परिवर्तन चिंता बढ़ा रहा है).
- Decrease in snow cover during peak winter months (सर्दियों के चरम महीनों में बर्फ की परत में कमी).

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**HIMCOSTE Study (HIMCOSTE अध्ययन)** Conducted by Centre on Climate Change of Himachal Pradesh Council for Science Technology-Environment (हिमाचल प्रदेश विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी परिषद के जलवायु परिवर्तन केंद्र द्वारा किया गया).

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Major river basins like Satluj, Ravi, Chenab, and Beas have seen a decrease in snow cover by 12.72% in 2023-24 winters compared to 2022-23 (मुख्य नदी घाटियों जैसे सतलुज, रावी, चेनाब और ब्यास में 2023-24 की सर्दियों में बर्फ की परत में 12.72% की कमी).

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**Early Winter Months (प्रारंभिक सर्दियों के महीने)** October-November saw a decrease in snow cover area except Ravi basin (अक्टूबर-नवंबर में बर्फ की परत में कमी देखी गई, सिवाय रावी बेसिन के).

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**Peak Winter Months (चरम सर्दियों के महीने)** December-January showed a negative trend in snow cover area (दिसंबर-जनवरी में बर्फ की परत में नकारात्मक रुझान दिखा).

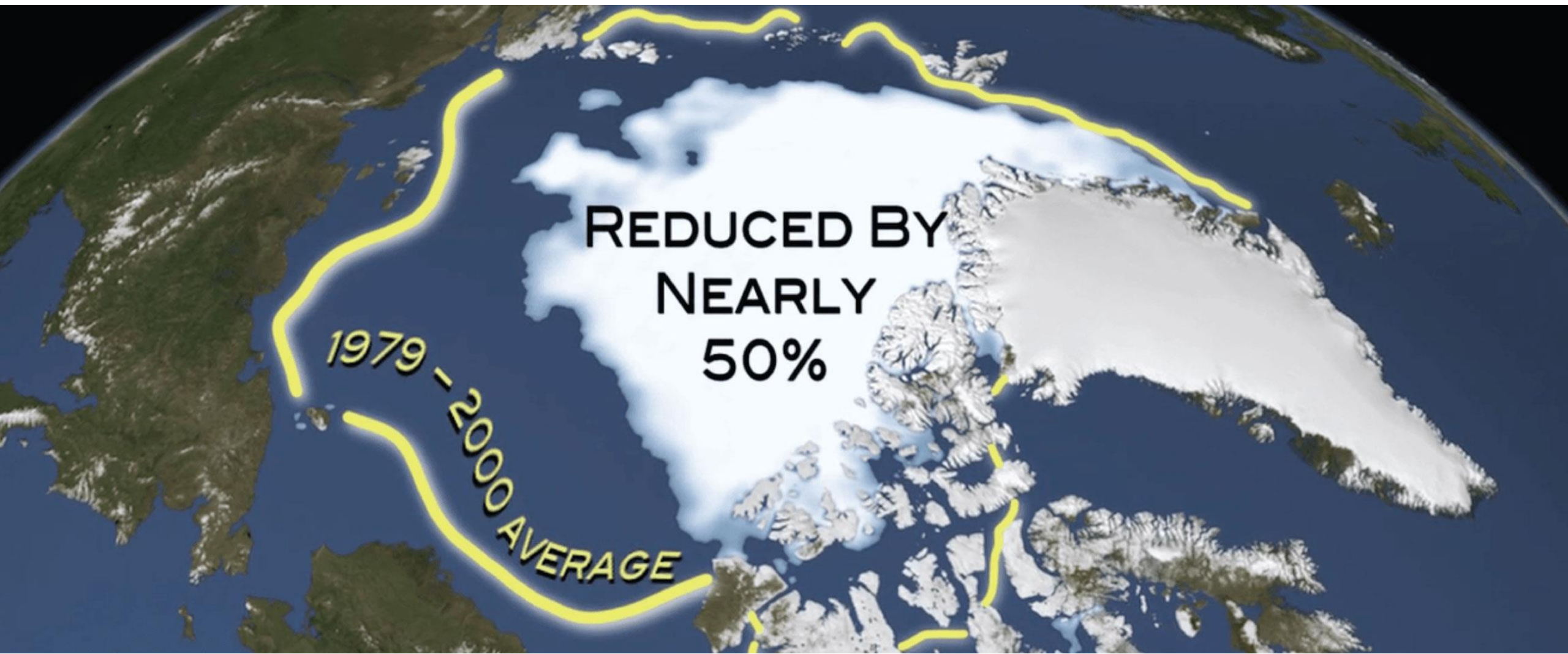
## Late Winter Months (देर सर्दियों के महीने)

- February-March showed an increase in snow cover area (फरवरी-मार्च में बर्फ की परत में वृद्धि देखी गई).

## Early Summer Months (प्रारंभिक गर्मियों के महीने)



- April saw an increase in snow cover due to fresh snowfall in higher mountain reaches (अप्रैल में ऊंचे पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में नई बर्फबारी के कारण बर्फ की परत में वृद्धि देखी गई).




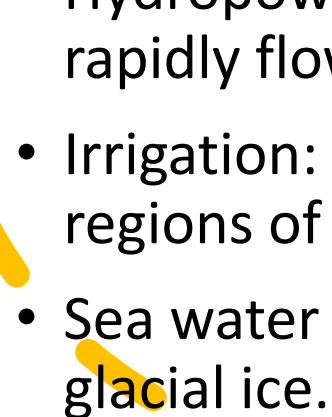



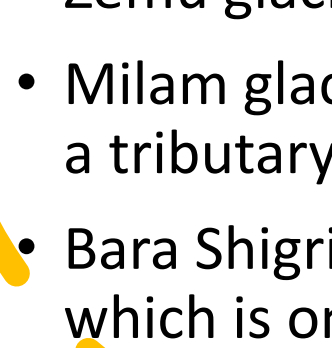
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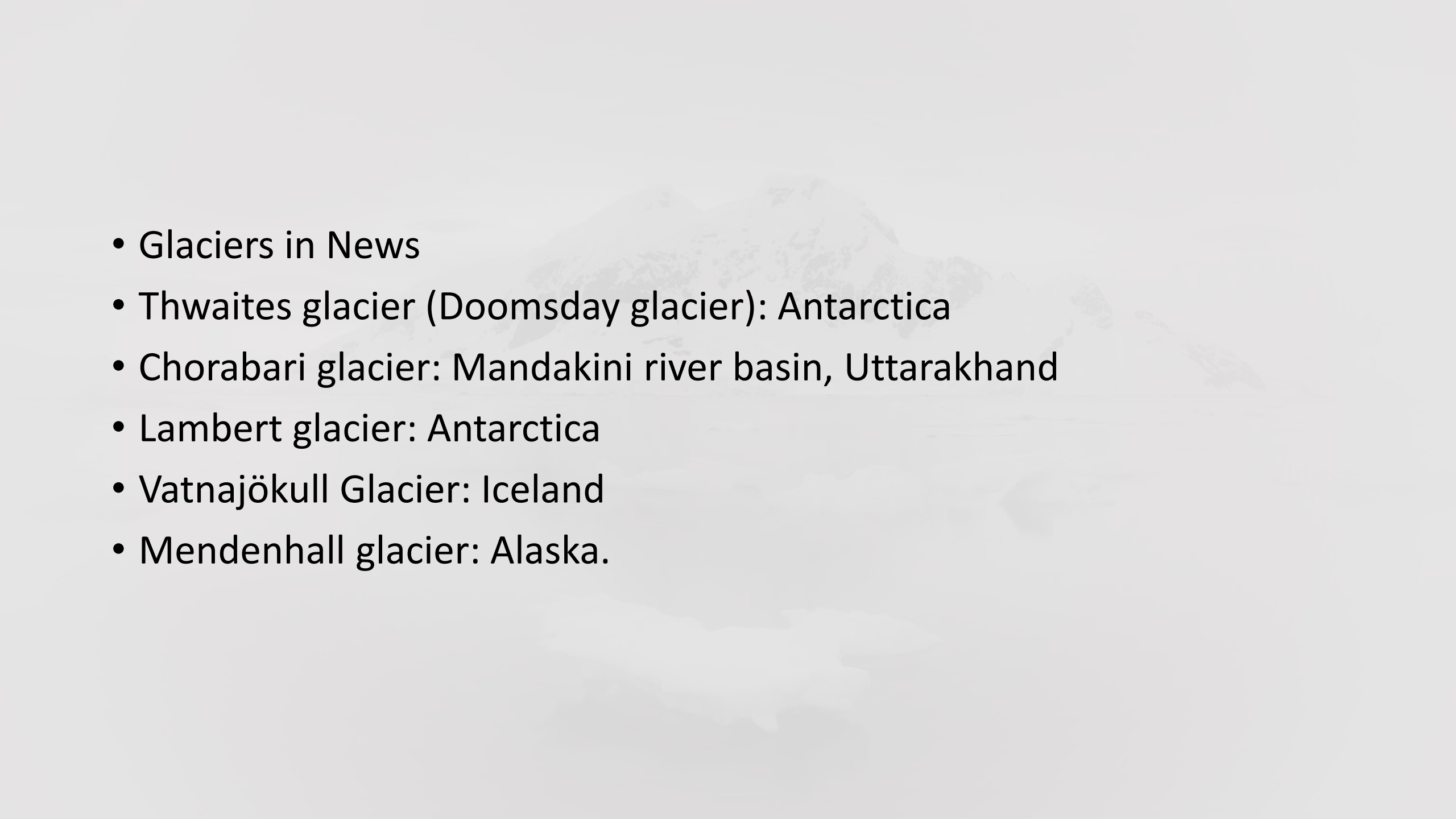
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- Cryosphere is an all-encompassing term that refers to that part of the Earth's surface where water is in solid form, including sea ice, frozen lake, frozen river, snow cover, glaciers, polar ice caps, ice sheets, and permafrost.
- 



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- Importance of Glaciers
  - Source of freshwater: Glaciers hold three fourth of the world's freshwater supply. Water from glaciers sustains large population across the globe.
  - Increase albedo: Glacial regions reflect sunrays, thereby reducing temperatures of cryosphere. This prevents ice from melting.
  - Hydropower generation: Freshwater from glaciers is responsible for giving rise to rapidly flowing rivers that can be harnessed to generate hydropower.
  - Irrigation: Water from glaciers has been used to irrigate crops in high elevation regions of the world, especially in Ladakh.
  - Sea water rise: The key to keep sea levels constant is by preventing melting of glacial ice.
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- Important Glaciers in India
  - Siachen glacier: Located near Karakoram range. It feeds the Nubra River, which ultimately joins Indus.
  - Gangotri glacier: Located in Garhwal Himalayas, the glacier is the source of Bhagirathi River, which is the mother stream of the Ganges.
  - Zemu glacier: Located near Kanchenjunga Mountain. It feeds the Teesta River.
  - Milam glacier: It is located in Kumaon Himalayas. It feeds the Goriganga, which is a tributary of Kali River.
  - Bara Shigri glacier: It is located in Pir Panjal Range. It feeds the Chandra River, which is one part of Chandrabhaga River (Chenab).
- 

- Bara Shigri glacier: It is located in Pir Panjal Range. It feeds the Chandra River, which is one part of Chandrabhaga River (Chenab).
- Biafo Gyang glacier: Located in Karakoram Range of Gilgit-Baltistan, this glacier gives rise to Shigar River, which is a tributary of Indus.
- Pindari glacier: It is south of Nanda Devi Peak. It feeds the Pindar River, which ultimately joins the Ganges.
- Machoi glacier: Located in Ladakh, it is a source for rivers such as Sind and Dras, which flow into the Indus.

- 
- Glaciers in News
  - Thwaites glacier (Doomsday glacier): Antarctica
  - Chorabari glacier: Mandakini river basin, Uttarakhand
  - Lambert glacier: Antarctica
  - Vatnajökull Glacier: Iceland
  - Mendenhall glacier: Alaska.

- 
- Consider the following statements regarding the snowfall pattern shift in Himachal Pradesh:

1. Himachal Pradesh has witnessed a reducing snow cover over the years.

2. The peak winter months of December-January have shown an increase in the snow cover area.

3. The study by HIMCOSTE revealed that all major river basins in Himachal Pradesh have witnessed a decrease in snow cover by 12.72% in 2023-24 winters compared to 2022-23.

- 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

### Myanmar PM, Doval discuss stability of border region

Press Trust of India  
NAFYIDAW

Myanmar Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing has met National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and discussed measures for forging peace and stability in the border region. Mr. Doval was in Myanmar to lead the Indian delegations at the 4th annual meeting of the security chiefs of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), Aung Hlaing, the Chairman of the State Administration Council, received Mr. Doval at his office on Friday. At the meeting, they actively exchanged views on friendly ties and cooperation between the two nations, the political progress of Myanmar, preparations to hold a free and fair multiparty democratic general election and measures for forging peace and stability in the border region. The Global New Light of Myanmar, a government-owned newspaper reported.

Myanmar strives to forge peace and stability in the border region of India, the paper said. The two nations share a 1,643-km-long border which passes through Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.

### Meghalaya groups turn away vehicles from outside State

Tourism industry hit; hoteliers claim 30% cancellation of bookings as the pressure groups target Assam-registered private, commercial vehicles; the police put an end to the activities and arrest 10

Rahul Karmakar  
GUWAHATI

Tourism in Meghalaya has taken a hit after a pressure group turned away Assam-registered private and commercial vehicles from strategic locations leading to popular tourist spots on Friday. Members of Meghalaya's Hymnoleep National Youth Federation (HNYF), a pressure group, began stopping vehicles and checking the credentials of the passengers after a call was issued not to let transporters from outside regions enter the state. The checking of passports and documents followed by the two other such organisations — the Khasi Students' Union and the Federation of Khasi Jaintia Garo Pochami and Jaintia Goro Pochami — against migrants or "illegal immigrants" employed in the region. The "inner line permit". Over the past few days, the incident led to a 30% drop in hotel accommodation bookings on Friday and about 25% today [Saturday], although we expect an increase by 50%. Thankfully, the checking of vehicles was



Members of the Khasi Students' Union had earlier this month set up their own 'inner line permit' check gate to deny entry to outsiders. FACEBOOK/SU

withdrawn," Paramvir Sedhawe, the Federation of Students' president said. He also said members of the Federation and all other stakeholders in the tourism industry apologised to the tourists for the ordeal they had to undergo, and assured them that the incidents would not happen again. Organisations such as the Tour Operators' Association of Meghalaya, however, are not registered against them for unlawful activities. "Police personnel will be posted in strategic areas. We want tourists and visitors to feel safe while travelling in the State," he said.

Prestone Tynsong, Meghalaya's Deputy Chief Minister, also in charge of the Home Ministry, condemned the HNYF and asked it not to cross the line. "We will not allow such things to happen again," he said, admitting that members of the organisation caught the government by surprise by going berserk. The actions of the pressure groups are related to the demand to implement the Meghalaya Residents' Safety and Security Act and the British-era inner line permit, which are deemed protective shields for indigenous communities against outsiders.

### Gaganyaan astronaut to travel to ISS in mission with NASA

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

One of the four astronauts undergoing training for the Gaganyaan mission will travel to the International Space Station as part of a collaborative effort with NASA, Union Minister Jitendra Singh has informed the Lok Sabha. In a written reply, Mr. Singh said NASA has identified Axiom Space, a private entity, while the ISRO had signed a space flight agreement with the U.S. firm for the joint mission to the International Space Station (ISS). During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. last year, President Joe Biden announced that India and the U.S. were collaborating to send an Indian astronaut to the ISS in 2024. India's Astronaut Selection Board had picked four astronauts from the group of test pilots from the Institute of Space and Astronautics and Aeronautics (IIIT) in Bengaluru for the Gaganyaan mission, India's first space mission. The mission is planned to take place next year. "All four astronauts are currently undergoing training at the ISRO's Astronaut Training Facility (ATF) in Bengaluru for the Gaganyaan Mission," Mr.

**ISRO has signed agreement with the U.S. firm for the joint mission**

Singh said. The Minister said two out of three semesters of the Gaganyaan training programme have been completed. However, independent training simulators and static mock-up simulators have been realised.

**Mission update**  
Sharing an update on the Gaganyaan mission, Mr. Singh said ground testing of propulsion systems stages, including solid, liquid and cryogenic, towards human-rated, is in progress. A launch vehicle has been completed. Design and realisation of five types of crew escape system solid motors has been completed, he said.

The Union Minister said static testing of all five types of solid motors too has been completed. Also, the space-based mission (TV-D) for performance validation of crew escape system and parachute deployment has been successfully accomplished, he added. He said characterisation testing of the Thermal Protection System was also complete.

### 14% of Indians signed up on DigLocker; most in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Delhi has the highest proportion of Aadhaar-linked DigLocker sign-ups in India, with an estimated 29.38% of the population signed up on the service, according to an analysis of data released by the government, read with an estimate based on 2022 population projections by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which pegged India's current population at 142.59 crore.

Overall, 14.06% of Indians — 20.05 crore individuals — have registered on DigLocker and linked their Aadhaar with the service. DigLocker allows Indians to display ID proofs digitally and store and retrieve other personal documents, such as school certificates, college degrees, vehicle registrations etc. The State and Union Territory-wise break-up was provided by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on Friday in response to a Rajya Sabha query. Ladakh has the lowest penetration among all States and Union Territories, with only 5,403 of an estimated 3.05 lakh population registered on DigLocker — amounting to 1.77% of the population.

### CBI arrests scientist, three others for corruption in purchase of equipment

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested a principal scientist and a controller of stores and purchase of CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST) in Assam, for that, and two others for their involvement in corruption in the procurement of spectrophotometer and its software. The agency has arrested principal scientist Prasenjit Mantha, controller of stores and purchase Praveer Mohan Verma, Kamkan Kashyap, director of Delhi-based KSK Technology Private Limited, and his brother Angkan Borpujari, a resident of Jorhat. The allegations pertain to the award of a contract and passing of a bill for supply of equipment.

**Allegations pertain to award of a contract for supply of spectrophotometer and its software**

mined. Abhay Sakhare, CSIR-NEIST finance and accounts officer, Rama Shankar Sharma, posted as controller of stores and accounts at the institute, and Jatin Kalita, senior principal scientist, Centre for Infectious Disease in CSIR-NEIST, are under the lens. "Undue favours" According to the CBI, the accused public servants were involved in corrupt and illegal activities of obtaining undue advantages from different private parties in lieu of extending undue favours in the matter of purchase and award of contracts. The former controller of finance and ac-

counts had contacted CSIR headquarters and pursued a matter related to the allocation of about ₹7 crore for the expenditure incurred by NEIST towards purchase of the equipment to be supplied by the company in question. "Thereafter, the accused controller of stores & purchase (Dr)Be received ₹7 lakh and ₹2 lakh," NEIST, towards purchase of the agency, adding that the senior principal scientist had allegedly expressed willingness to facilitate the company in all its future work. The accused controller of stores & purchase of CSIR-NEIST in exchange for a bribe. Following a tip-off, the CBI laid a trap and arrested the two public servants while they were receiving ₹7 lakh on Friday. The director was arrested in Guwahati on Saturday.

### Pawar responds to Shah's 'godfather of corruption' remark

The Hindu Bureau  
MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (NP) chief Sharad Pawar on Friday responded to BJP leader Amit Shah's "godfather of corruption" remark by recalling the Union Home Minister's days of extermination from Gujarat. "It's strange that a person who missed the law and was exterminated from Gujarat by the Supreme Court is India's Home Minister now," said the Rajya Sabha member, while addressing a gathering at Cihatrapi Sambhajnagar. Mr. Shah, during a campaign speech on July 21, had accused Mr. Pawar of "nationalising greed" and branded the *Maha Vikas Mishan* (MVM), the "Aurangzeb Fan Club". Mr. Pawar was referring to when Mr. Shah was investigated for his role in the 2005 Sachinbhai Sheikha fake encounter

The Hindu Bureau  
SRINAGAR

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday said she would continue towards constituting a cross-Line of Control (LoC) advisory committee between J&K and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). "Home Minister Amit Shah keeps talking about bringing back that part of Kashmir (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir) and restoring dialogue and regional connectivity," Mr. Shah should put his ego aside and facilitate a meeting of representatives of the people from both sides. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee did the same in his tenure," she recalled. She asked the Union Home Minister to spell out the achievements made by adopting an iron-hand policy in J&K. "What has been achieved by imprisoning and suppressing people in Kashmir? Even (PDP leader) Waheed Para, who was jailed on terrorism charges, received LoC-LoC votes. The government thinks it has eliminated the PDP but look at the turnout for this PDP foundation day. PDP is not finished," she said.

Asia, Ms. Mufti said had failed to achieve anything in Kashmir and there was a need for dialogue and regional connectivity. "Mr. Shah should put his ego aside and facilitate a meeting of representatives of the people from both sides. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee did the same in his tenure," she recalled. She asked the Union Home Minister to spell out the achievements made by adopting an iron-hand policy in J&K. "What has been achieved by imprisoning and suppressing people in Kashmir? Even (PDP leader) Waheed Para, who was jailed on terrorism charges, received LoC-LoC votes. The government thinks it has eliminated the PDP but look at the turnout for this PDP foundation day. PDP is not finished," she said.

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### SC to hear tomorrow ED's plea challenging bail to Hemant Soren

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday an Enforcement Directorate (ED) plea challenging the Bihar High Court's order granting bail to Chief Minister Hemant Soren in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam. A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and J.C. Viswakhansa is scheduled to hear the plea against the June 28 order. Mr. Soren, the executive president of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), had resigned as Chief Minister

shortly before the ED arrested him on January 31. After coming out of jail on bail, he took oath as the Chief Minister on July 4. The Central agency, opposing Mr. Soren's bail plea, had alleged that he misused his position as the Chief Minister to "fully" acquire 8.86 acres of land in the Bargain area in Ranchi. Earlier, during the hearing in the High Court, the ED's counsel had argued that if Mr. Soren was released on bail, he might commit a similar offence and referred to cases against ED officers in the SC/ST police station.

### India-Australia trade pact yielding great results, says envoy

Anjali Reddem  
VIJAYAWADA

Trade between India and Australia is on a great trajectory owing to the recently floated free trade agreement — Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) and exports from India to Australia have gone up substantially. Australian High Commissioner Philip Green said on Saturday. He also said that Australia was actively exploring opportunities in India. "Businesses in Amravati are celebrating the visit to congratulate Mr. Naidu on his landmark victory. The visit was also aimed at exploring development opportunities in Amravati," Mr. Green said. "We can talk about a number of sectors where Australia has interest in the world," he said.

have gone up by about 37% but in the same period, India's exports to Australia were up by 66%, nearly twice as much. The signing of the ECTA has resulted in a 77% increase in trade and key sectors in the last four months of this year: Indian exports of apparel reportedly went up more than 20%, iron and steel by 25%, and agriculture exports by 30%.

gating — education, agriculture, water management, green energy supply chain etc. You may know, Canberra, the capital of Australia, was developed through sheep farms. And it's now one of the most beautiful capitals in the world. I'll be listening very carefully to what

Chief Minister Mr. Naidu Mr. Green was visiting Amravati to say the placid for Amravati," he said. The three sheep farms focused on export of clean coal, critical minerals for battery manufacturing, green steel, iron ore and solar panels needed for rooftop.

over ten million roofs with solar panels across the country, which is a huge opportunity for Australia," Mr. Green said. He lauded the contribution of the Indian diaspora in Australia in the fields of IT, business and other service sectors. The Indian community constituted over one million of the 26 million population of Australia. "It's the fastest-growing community in our country. Last year, over 1,00,000 visas were issued to people from India," he said. He also wished for the Australia to play a positive role in bilateral ties.

clear breach of international law by a country in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). "Russia has signed multiple treaties with Ukraine to protect its territorial integrity. Rules based world is worried about larger countries invading smaller countries. So, what Russia has done in Ukraine is for us unconscionable and we will continue our strong support to Ukraine," he stressed. When asked about India accessing cheaper oil from Russia, he said it was a bilateral arrangement between the two countries and part of traditional relations between them. Mr. Green said Australia backed India's ambition to be a permanent member of the UNSC.

# Gaganyaan astronaut to travel to ISS in mission with NASA

## **Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI

One of the four astronauts undergoing training for the Gaganyaan mission will travel to the International Space Station as part of a collaborative effort with NASA, Union Minister Jitendra Singh has informed the Lok Sabha.

In a written reply, Mr. Singh said NASA has identified Axiom Space, a private entity, while the ISRO had signed a space flight agreement with the U.S. firm for the joint mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. last year, President Joe Biden announced that India and the U.S. were collaborating to send an Indian astronaut to the ISS in 2024.

India's Astronaut Selection Board had picked four astronauts from the group of test pilots from the Indian Air Force for the Gaganyaan mission, India's first manned space mission planned to take place next year. "All four astronauts have undergone training on a spaceflight basic module in Russia. Currently, astronauts are undergoing training at the ISRO's Astronauts Training Facility (ATF) in Bengaluru for the Gaganyaan Mission," Mr.

## **ISRO has signed a space flight agreement with the U.S. firm for the joint mission**

Singh said.

The Minister said two out of three semesters of the Gaganyatri training programme have been completed while independent training simulators and static mock-up simulators have been realised.

## **Mission update**

Sharing an update on the Gaganyaan mission, Mr. Singh said ground testing of propulsion systems stages, including solid, liquid and cryogenic, towards human rating of the launch vehicle has been completed. Design and realisation of five types of crew escape system solid motors has been completed, he said.

The Union Minister said static testing of all five types of solid motors too has been completed. Also, the first Test Vehicle mission (TV-D1) for performance validation of crew escape system and parachute deployment has been successfully accomplished, he added.

He said characterisation of the Thermal Protection System was also complete.

# GAGANYAAN MISSION

INDIA'S FIRST MANNED FLIGHT TO SPACE

The project was first approved by PM Narendra Modi on August 15, 2018.

It will send the three member crew to space for at least seven days by 2024-25.

ISRO hopes to deploy its biggest rocket, GSLV MK III, for this project.



The space agency hopes to launch the first mission within 40 months from the date of approval.



It would be one of the cheapest manned spaceflights in the world, with the estimated cost of not more than Rs 10000 crore.

India plans to call its astronauts "Vyomnauts" since 'Vyom' in Sanskrit means 'Space'.

India will become fourth country after Russia, US and China to send humans to space.





# Gaganyaan Mission



**Crew Module: Habitat of Astronaut**

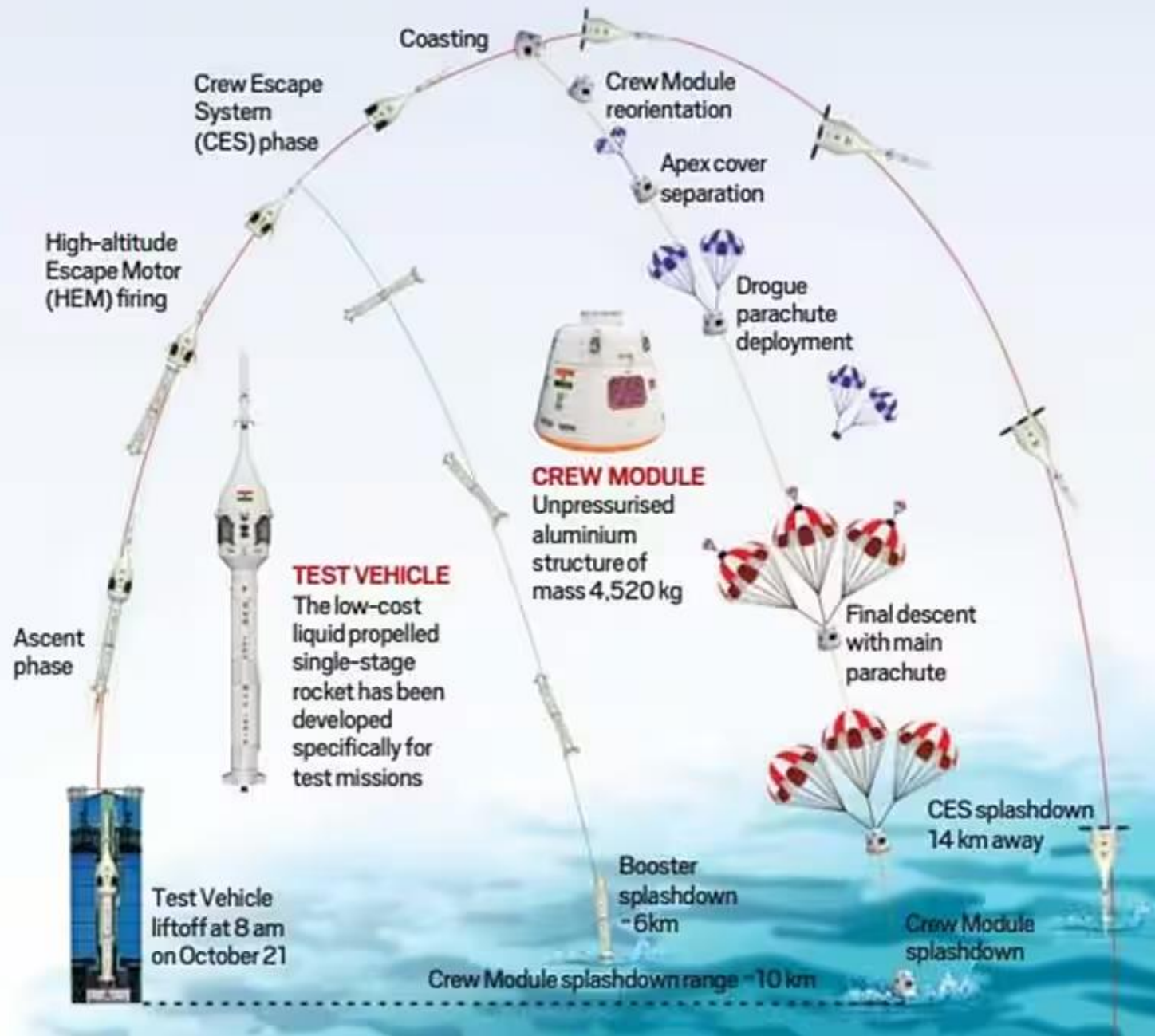
**Service Module: Does on-orbit servicing**


**Orbital Module**

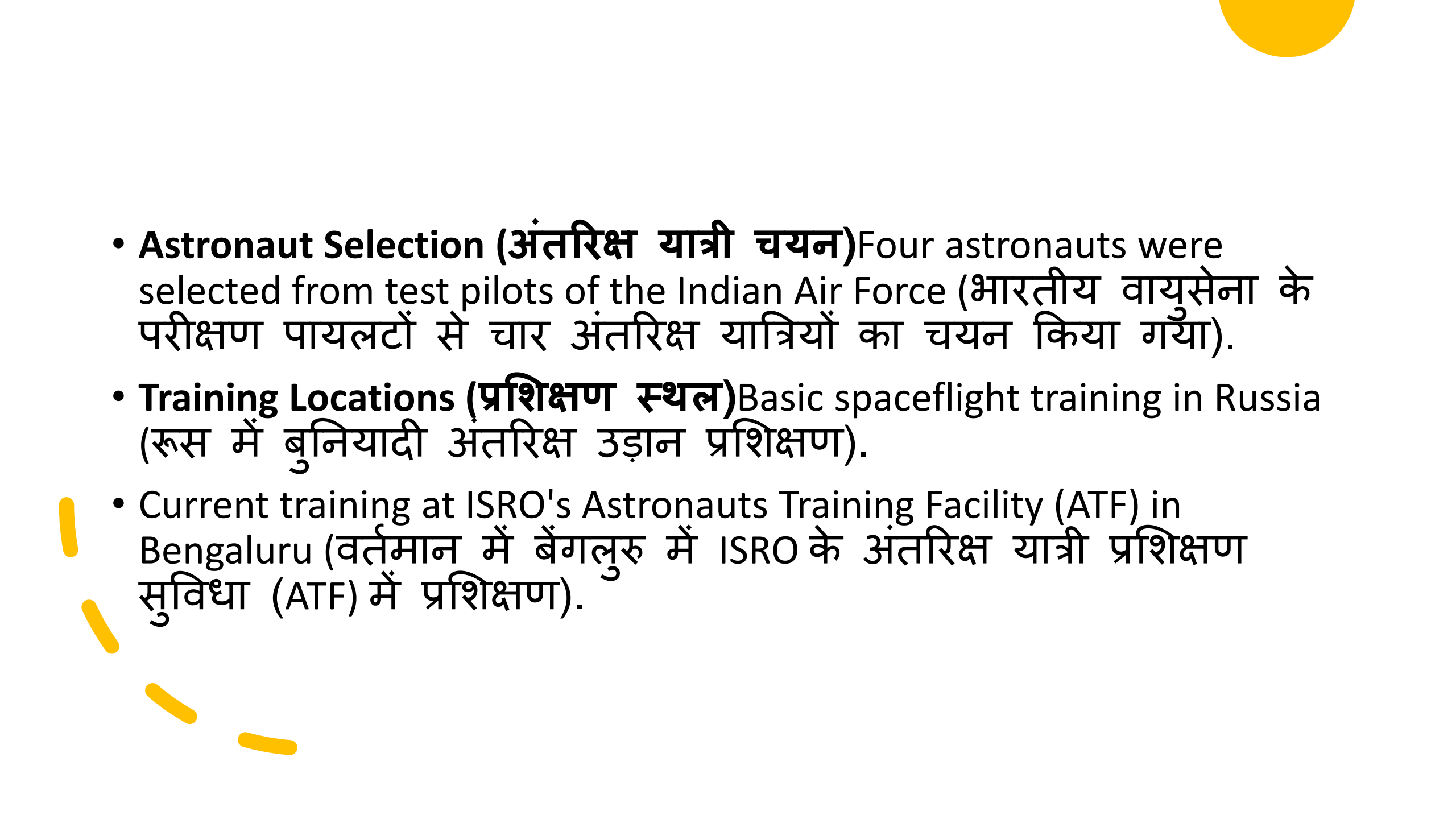


**Human Rated Launch Vehicle**  
(GSLV MKIII derived)

# TEST VEHICLE ABORT DEMONSTRATION MISSION PROFILE



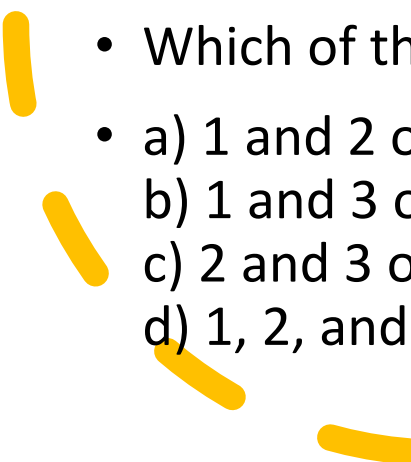
- 
- **International Space Station (अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन)** One of the four astronauts undergoing training for the Gaganyaan mission will travel to the ISS as part of a collaborative effort with NASA (गगनयान मिशन के चार अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों में से एक NASA के साथ सहयोगात्मक प्रयास के हिस्से के रूप में ISS की यात्रा करेगा).
  - ISRO has signed a space flight agreement with Axiom Space for the joint mission to the ISS (ISRO ने Axiom Space के साथ ISS के संयुक्त मिशन के लिए अंतरिक्ष उड़ान समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं).

- 
- **Astronaut Selection (अंतरिक्ष यात्री चयन)** Four astronauts were selected from test pilots of the Indian Air Force (भारतीय वायुसेना के परीक्षण पायलटों से चार अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों का चयन किया गया).
  - **Training Locations (प्रशिक्षण स्थल)** Basic spaceflight training in Russia (रूस में बुनियादी अंतरिक्ष उड़ान प्रशिक्षण).
  - Current training at ISRO's Astronauts Training Facility (ATF) in Bengaluru (वर्तमान में बेंगलुरु में ISRO के अंतरिक्ष यात्री प्रशिक्षण सुविधा (ATF) में प्रशिक्षण).

- 
- Consider the following statements regarding the Gaganyaan mission:

1. One of the four astronauts undergoing training for the Gaganyaan mission will travel to the International Space Station as part of a collaborative effort with NASA.
2. ISRO has signed a space flight agreement with NASA for the joint mission to the ISS.
3. The ground testing of propulsion systems stages towards human rating of the launch vehicle has been completed.

- 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
- 



**FRESH PAGES**  
**President appoints Governors in 9 States**  
NEWS » PAGE 5



**RELIEF FOR FARMERS**  
**CITES eases export of agarwood from India**  
NEWS » PAGE 6



**EXPANDING FOOTPRINT**  
**UltraTech Cement to acquire India Cements**  
NEWS » PAGE 4



**MULTIFACETED APPROACH**  
**Care models for mental illness, homelessness**  
Support measures require a radical shift  
EDITORIAL » PAGE 8



**TOUGH OPENER**  
**Nikhil overcomes Klotzner's challenge**  
SPORT » PAGE 17

### INSIDE

**HC summons MP over pleas on his 'unopposed' win**

**AHMEDABAD**  
The Gujarat High Court issued summons to the Bharatiya Janata Party MP from the Surat Lok Sabha constituency, Mukesh Dalal, over two petitions challenging his uncontested victory. » PAGE 5

**CUET-UG results announced after a month's delay**

**NEW DELHI**  
The National Testing Agency on Sunday declared the results of the Common University Entrance Test for undergraduate courses, which were expected to be declared on June 30. » PAGE 6

**Venezuela polls amid warning of 'bloodbath'**

**CARACAS**  
Venezuelans voted on Sunday between continuity in President Nicolas Maduro or a change amid high tension following the incumbent's threat of a "bloodbath" if he loses. » PAGE 14

**Israel vows to 'hit back hard' after 12 killed in attack**

**MAJDAL SHAMS**  
Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant on Sunday vowed to "hit the enemy hard" after rockets fired from Lebanon killed 12 in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, raising fears the war will spread. » PAGE 16

## Manu's historic bronze opens India's medal hunt

The 22-year-old is the first Indian woman shooter to be on the Olympic podium as she wins medal in the 10m air pistol event; she will now compete in 10m pistol mixed team and 25m pistol events

Jonathan Selvaraj  
PAGES

Three years ago, Manu Bhaker broke down in tears at the conclusion of a dismal campaign at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics where she finished medalless across three events.

On Sunday at Chateauroux, the 22-year-old, who is competing at her second Olympics, wiped away tears from her eyes once again. This time though they were of joy following the conclusion of the women's 10m air pistol event where she won a bronze medal, opening India's medal count at the Paris 2024 Games.

The medal was also the first won by an Indian woman shooter.

After qualifying for the



The trailblazer: Manu Bhaker celebrates with her bronze medal in women's 10 metre air pistol at the Paris Olympics, in the Chateauroux shooting range, on Sunday. BYJU RAJ KUMAR

final in third place, Manu hit the ground running. Off the 22 shots she took, just 7 were in the "9" ring.

She was neck-and-neck out of medal contention and was in silver medal place until her final shot of the competition where she was pipped by the narrowest of margins - 0.1 - by South Korea's Kim Yui.

Another Korean Ye Jin Oh took gold.

Manu isn't done just yet.

She will also be competing

## Two arrested day after three IAS aspirants drown in Delhi coaching centre basement

Samriddhi Tewari  
NEW DELHI

A day after three Civil Services aspirants drowned in the basement of a private coaching centre, the Delhi Police on Sunday arrested its coordinator and the building owner, and booked them for culpable homicide.

The accused have been sent to judicial custody for 14 days.

The deceased have been identified as Shreya Yadav, 25, from Uttar Pradesh; Tanya Soni, 25, a resident of Telangana; and Nevin Dalvin, 28, from Kerala, the police said.



Security personnel stand guard near the UPSC exam coaching centre in New Delhi, where three people drowned on Saturday. PTI

Senior police officers said the basement was around eight feet below ground level and more than 20 students were present inside it on Saturday evening. While the basement gate was closed, it got damaged after water rushed in at high pressure, an officer said.

Mayor Shilpi Oberoi said Rau's IAS Study Circle had been running a library in the basement in violation of the law.

"It was told that a drain passing in the front of the building burst, and like a flash flood, water entered the basement and the students got trapped," Ms. Oberoi told presspersons.

She and an official of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, however, said none of the other buildings next to the centre had faced flooding.

Later, the Corporation said in a statement, "The so-called bursting of drainage inside the coaching centre is not conclusive and the matter is under investigation."

Since morning, students from coaching institutes

and residential complexes have been protesting against the negligence that caused the deaths.

The Mayor ordered "immediate" action against all coaching centres running commercial activities in basements against the rules.

The Corporation sealed three basements operating illegally in the Rajinder Nagar area on Sunday evening, an official statement said.

Holding placards saying "Old Rajinder Nagar is not safe", students said such a disaster was waiting to happen. Many flagged the issues of poor drainage systems and frequent water logging inside basements.

The police have formed multiple teams to investigate the incident and have asked the Delhi Fire Services to provide a report on the building and the basement which was being used as a library, but was mentioned as a "store room", a senior police officer said.

An FIR was registered based on the statement of a

sub inspector (SI), who said that the owner of the coaching centre, who was present at the time of the incident, had failed to produce the documents required to run a library in the basement. ITI The FIR was registered under Sections 105 (culpable homicide), 106(0) (death of any person by doing any rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide), 152D (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 290 (negligent conduct with respect to pulling down, repairing or constructing building) and 38 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Delhi Fire Services Chief Atul Garg said that it had taken eight hours to completely pump the water out of the basement.

The coaching centre said in a statement that it was "fully committed to supporting ongoing investigation into the tragic incident."

**MORE REPORTS**  
» PAGE 4

### Spiritual sojourn



Seeking blessings: Kanwaris gather to collect holy water from the Ganga river as part of their pilgrimage in the holy month of Shrawan at Har Ki Pauri ghat in Haridwar on Sunday. PTI (COURTESY: VISHU) PAGE 2

## Not all require tax clearance certificate to go abroad: govt.

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

After outrage over a Union Budget proposal making it mandatory to get tax clearance certificates for going abroad, the government on Sunday said only those accused of financial irregularities or having huge tax arrears need them.

"The proposed amendment does not require all the residents to obtain the clearance certificate," said the Finance Ministry in a statement. The Ministry, in the Finance Ministry said, proposed to add the reference of the Black Money Act, 2015, to the list of acts under which any person should clear his liabilities to obtain the certificate.

Under Section 230 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, not all are required to obtain a tax clearance certificate. The Ministry said the Income Tax Department,

**The IT Department has specified that the certificate may be required only in case of serious irregularities**

through a 2004 notification, had specified that the certificate may be required only in case of serious financial irregularities and investigation of cases under the Income Tax and Wealth Tax Act requiring a person's presence and leading to the likely raising of a tax demand, or if a person has direct-tax arrears exceeding 10 lakh, which have not been stayed.

"The action was annulled as the required number of bids have been received", said a Mines Ministry notice.

Referring to the recent auction of 14 blocks in the second tranche and 13 blocks in the first tranche were cancelled earlier due to lukewarm response.

## Centre scraps auction of three critical mineral blocks

Press Trust of India  
NEW DELHI

The Centre has scrapped the auction of three critical mineral blocks notified under a third round of sales as there were fewer bidders than expected.

The auction is part of the Centre's push towards self-reliance in critical mineral supplies.

The blocks are the Salal-Hatnara lithium, titanium and bauxite block in Jammu and Kashmir, Muskaniya-Gareriola-Barwari poash block in Jharkhand and Kurunjakulam graphite block in Tamil Nadu.

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Referring to the recent auction of 14 blocks in the second tranche and 13 blocks in the first tranche were cancelled earlier due to lukewarm response.

## New job schemes to kick off soon: Somanathan

Vikas Dhoot  
NEW DELHI

The government is confident of launching the schemes in the Prime Minister's package for employment and skilling, which were announced in last week's Budget, within this financial year. That includes the internship programme for one crore youth in 500 top companies, whose design details will be worked out in consultation with the industry, Finance Secretary TV. Somanathan said.

"We expect all of these schemes to start off within this financial year. We have tried to make sure the coverage of the employment-linked incentive schemes is, as far as possible, widespread, and not tried to make technological, or AI-related, choices. While Scheme A and C are for all industries, Scheme B is for manufacturing jobs," he said, adding that the schemes could spur new jobs in areas with sophisticated skills, or knowledge of AI (Artificial Intelligence), he said.

Referring to the recent tendency of large tech companies to defer joining dates for fresh recruits, the Secretary said that it was

**'Centre will deliver on promises to A.P., Bihar'**

**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI

The Centre is confident of delivering on its promise to help develop Andhra Pradesh's capital by

external financing, and arrange funds for capex in Bihar, Finance Secretary, TV. Somanathan says.

**FULL INTERVIEW**  
» PAGE 5

precisely for this reason that the government did not want to exclude such people.

"I don't want to leave out the services or any sector from possible incentives," he said, adding that the outgo is limited to the ₹25,000 level, but even 12% of a ₹50,000 salary, or a substantial part of the subsidy," he emphasised.

"We don't know where

these salary figures stop. In some of these industries, even fresh hires get more than ₹50,000 to ₹60,000. But we have capped out the outgo so the incentive is strongest for those earning ₹25,000," the official noted.

"Nothing to lose"

The new scheme to facilitate internships for youth in the age bracket of 21 to 24 years has no connection with the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 announced in the Union Budget for 2023-24, and will be administered by the

Ministry of Corporate Affairs, not the Ministry of Skill Development, Mr. Somanathan underlined.

"We stress that the scheme is voluntary and will not require firms to invest funds from their own pockets, but rather through their mandated corporate social responsibility (CSR) spends, corporate internships for youth in the age bracket of 21 to 24 years has no connection with the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 announced in the Union Budget for 2023-24, and will be administered by the

# Manu's historic bronze opens India's medal hunt

The 22-year-old is the first Indian woman shooter to be on the Olympic podium as she wins medal in the 10m air pistol event; she will now compete in 10m pistol mixed team and 25m pistol events

**Jonathan Selvaraj**

PARIS

**T**hree years ago, Manu Bhaker broke down in tears at the conclusion of a dismal campaign at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics where she finished medalless across three events.

On Sunday at Chateauroux, the 22-year-old, who is competing at her second Olympics, wiped away tears from her eyes once again. This time though they were of joy following the conclusion of the women's 10m air pistol event where she won a bronze medal, opening India's medal count at the Paris 2024 Games.

The medal was also the first won by an Indian woman shooter.

After qualifying for the



**The trailblazer:** Manu Bhaker celebrates with her bronze medal in women's 10 metre air pistol at the Paris Olympics, in the Chateauroux shooting range, on Sunday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

final in third place, Manu hit the ground running. Of the 22 shots she took, just 7 were in the '9' ring.

She was never out of medal contention and was in silver medal place until her final shot of the com-

petition where she was pipped by the narrowest of margins – 0.1 – by South Korea's Kim Yeji.

Another Korean Ye Jin Oh took gold.

Manu isn't done just yet. She will also be competing

in the women's 10m pistol mixed team event on Monday and the women's 25m pistol events later in the competition.

**MORE REPORTS**  
» PAGE 16

# Redemption arc

From the disappointment of Tokyo to the delight of Paris, life has come a full circle for Manu Bhaker.

MEDALS	G	B	S	TOTAL
Youth Olympic Games	1	0	0	0
World Championships	4	1	1	6
World Cup Final	4	0	0	4
World Cup	8	2	4	14
Junior World Cup	3	1	0	4
Asian Championships	3	1	0	4
Asian Games	1	0	0	1
Commonwealth Games	1	0	0	1

**Born:**  
February 18,  
2002,  
Jhajjar,  
Haryana

**World Rank:**  
10m air  
pistol: No. 26;  
25m pistol:  
No. 69

**Junior world  
record: 244.7  
in 2019 in  
Putian,  
China (still  
stands)**

■ **Junior  
world  
champion in  
air pistol in  
2021, Lima,  
Peru**

■ **Youth  
Olympics  
champion in  
air pistol in  
Buenos  
Aires in  
2018**

*At the Tokyo Olympics, Manu finished 12th in 10m air pistol & seventh in mixed air pistol (with Saurabh Chaudhary) & 15th in 25m pistol.*



**MANU BHAKER**





# UltraTech to acquire India Cements; buy 32.72% stake

**Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI

Aditya Birla Group flagship company UltraTech Cement will acquire a 32.72% stake in India Cements from promoters and their associates for ₹3,954 crore to expand its footprint in the highly competitive and fast-growing southern cement market, particularly Tamil Nadu.

Besides, UltraTech has also announced a ₹3,142.35-crore open offer to acquire another 26% share of India Cements Ltd. from its shareholders.

This announcement comes a month after Adani Group, the second largest cement maker announced the acquisition of Hyderabad-based Penna Cement for ₹10,422 crore, which will add 14 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), taking its capacity to 93 MTPA.

With an installed capacity of 154.86 MTPA of grey cement, UltraTech Cement leads the Indian cement industry. The company has



UltraTech Cement aims to be one of the largest cement companies in the world.

an ambition to become one of the largest cement companies in the world and has set a target for 200 MTPA.

The Board of the Aditya Birla firm approved the acquisition of 32.72% stake from promoters and their associates at ₹390 per share, according to a regulatory filing from UltraTech on Sunday.

It has entered into share purchase agreements for a 28.42% stake from promoters – N. Srinivasan, Chitra Srinivasan, Rupa Gurunath, and S.K. Asokh Bahlaje – and a 4.3% share

from Sri Saradha Logistics.

After the completion of the ₹3,954-crore deal, UltraTech's stake in India Cements will increase to over 55%, mandating it to go for the open offer as per the SEBI regulations.

The Board of UltraTech has also approved an "open offer for up to 8.05 crore equity shares representing 26% of the equity share capital of the Target, at a price of ₹390 per equity share from the public shareholders of Target", the filing said.

The price offered by UltraTech is 4.1% higher than the India Cements share closing price of ₹374.60 on Friday. If fully subscribed, the open offer would cost UltraTech ₹3,142.35 crore.

In June, UltraTech acquired 23% of India Cements. It acquired Damani group's stake in India Cements through two block deals estimated at around ₹1,900 crore.

**MARKET LEAD**

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# Army contingent in Mongolia for 21st Khaan Quest exercise

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

An Indian contingent is part of the 21st edition of Khaan Quest, a multinational peacekeeping exercise, which commenced in Mongolia on Saturday. The Indian Army contingent includes 40 personnel from a battalion of the Madras Regiment.

The exercise has around 430 participants from 23 countries, including Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Türkiye, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

“On 27 July, Ambassador Atul Malhari Gotsurve participated in the inaugural ceremony of the 21st multinational military Exercise Khaan Quest-2024. He welcomed Indian troops from Madras Regiment to Mongolia and conveyed his best wishes for the exercise,” the Indian Embassy in Mongolia said in a post on X.



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The exercise is scheduled to run from July 27 to August 9. One woman officer and two women soldiers are also part of the Indian contingent.

“Aim of Exercise Khaan Quest is to prepare Indian armed forces for peacekeeping missions while operating in a multinational environment,” the Army said in a statement issued as the contingent departed.

Desert Cyclone	India – UAE	Rajasthan, India	2nd Jan – 15th Jan 2024
Ex Cyclone-I	India – Egypt	Anshas, Egypt	22nd Jan – 1st Feb 2024
Ex Khanjar	India – Kyrgyzstan	Himachal Pradesh, India	22nd Jan – 3rd Feb 2024
‘SADA TANSEEQ’	India – Saudi Arabia	Rajasthan, India	29th Jan – 10th Feb 2024
Dharma Guardian	India – Japan	Rajasthan, India	25th Feb – 9th Mar 2024
Samudra Laksmana	India – Malaysia	Visakhapatnam, India	28th Feb – 2nd Mar 2024
Tiger Triumph	India – USA	Kakinada, India	18th Mar – 31st Mar 2024
Ex LAMITIYE – 2024	India – Seychelles	Seychelles	18th Mar – 27th Mar 2024
Ex DUSTLIK – 2024	India – Uzbekistan	Termez, Uzbekistan	15th Apr – 28th Apr 2024
Exercise Cyber Suraksha	India	–	20th May – 24th May 2024
Military Exercise SHAKTI	India – France	Umroi, Meghalaya, India	13th May – 26th May 2024

# Culture Ministry to host 3-day museum conclave in Delhi

**Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI

Curators, administrators of museums, and domain experts will gather next week in Delhi for a three-day conclave to foster collaboration between the Centre and the States for the proposed 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum' project.

The State Museum Conclave, to be hosted by the Ministry of Culture, will be held from August 1 to 3 at the Bharat Mandapam, where the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee is currently under way.



The upcoming Yuge Yugeen Bharat National museum will have eight thematic segments telling the story of India spanning ov-


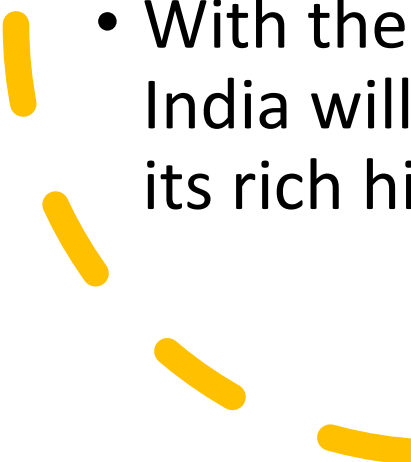
er 5,000 years. The museum – to be housed in the North Block and South Block in the capital – will be spread over 1,54,000 sq. m., making it the largest museum in the world.

“This three-day gathering aims to foster collaboration among State museums and the Central government in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision for the ‘Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum’ that aims to exemplify global best practices,” the Ministry said in a statement.

Master classes will also be held with experts from India and abroad on various topics such as global best practices in conservation, fine arts handling, curation and museum management, officials said.



- 
- It will be constructed in Delhi's North and South Blocks. It would contain 950 rooms distributed over a basement and three stories, covering a 1.17 lakh square metre space.
  - The eight sections will cover ancient Indian knowledge, the mediaeval era, the transitional period between the mediaeval and modern eras, modern India, colonial control, the freedom movement, and the 100 years starting in 1947.
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- The foundation stone of the existing Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum building was laid by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, on May 12, 1955.
  - The Kartavya Path, formerly known as Rajpath, is a ceremonial axis stretching from India Gate to Raisina Hill.
  - With the completion of the Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum, India will boast an extraordinary cultural heritage showcase befitting its rich history and traditions.
- 



The current national museum, which is located on Janpath, will be replaced with the Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum.

As part of the project, the rich collections from the present National Museum building will be transferred to the North and South Block buildings, becoming.



# In midnight reshuffle, President appoints six new Governors

BJP veteran Om Mathur has been appointed Governor of Sikkim, and former IAS officer K. Kailashnathan Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry

## **The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

**P**resident Droupadi Murmu appointed six new Governors and reshuffled three others, a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique has said.

The communique was issued past Saturday midnight.

BJP veteran Om Mathur has been appointed Governor of Sikkim, and Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikhey has been replaced by Lakshman Prasad Acharya, who has been moved from Sikkim to Assam and given additional charge of Manipur.

Mr. Mathur's appointment comes amid speculation that he is a contender for the post of BJP president.

Another significant appointment is that of former IAS officer K. Kailashnathan – a close aide of PM Narendra Modi when he was



Om Mathur

the Chief Minister of Gujarat – as the Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry. On June 30, Mr. Kailashnathan stepped down as the Chief Principal Secretary to the Gujarat Chief Minister.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan communique said the incumbent Governor of Assam, Gulab Chand Kataria, will now be the new Governor of Punjab as Banwarilal Purohit's resignation has been accepted. He has also been appointed Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Jharkhand Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan, who

was also holding additional charge of Telangana, has been appointed Governor of Maharashtra.

Former Union Minister for Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar will be the new Jharkhand Governor, while former Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura Jishnu Dev Varma will be the new Telangana Governor.

A former Lok Sabha member from Assam, Ramen Deka, has been appointed Governor of Chhattisgarh, while a former Lok Sabha member from Mysore in Karnataka, C.H. Vijayashankar, will be the Meghalaya Governor. In Rajasthan, a BJP leader from Maharashtra, Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde, has been appointed Governor to succeed Kalraj Mishra.

"The above appointments will take effect from the dates they will assume charge of their respective offices," a statement said.

# Next & Comment

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

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## On reservations and the OBC creamy layer

What were the recommendations of the Mandal Commission? What is the criteria for exclusion of the 'creamy layer' of the Other Backward Class? Is the concentration of reservation benefits a concern? What can be done for a more equitable distribution?

### EXPLAINER

#### Rangarajan, R

#### The story so far:

The allotment of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) to Pujya Khedkar as an Other Backward Class (OBC) Non-Creamy Layer (NCL) candidate coupled with multiple disabilities has raised issues surrounding the creamy layer in OBC reservation.

#### What is the history of reservation?

Articles 15 and 16 guarantee equality to all citizens in any policy of the government and public employment respectively. In order to achieve social justice, they also enable special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes or OBC, Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST). Reservations for SC and ST are fixed at 15% and 7.5% respectively, in jobs, educational institutions and public sector undertakings (PSU) at the central level. It was in 1993, when V. P. Singh was Prime Minister, that 27% reservation for OBC was implemented in central government employment based on Mandal Commission (1980) recommendations. Subsequently in 2005, reservation was enabled for OBC, SC and ST in educational institutions including private institutions. In 2019, 10% reservation was enabled for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among the unreserved category.

#### What is the creamy layer?

The 27% reservation for OBC was upheld by the Supreme Court in the *Indra Sawhney* case (1992). It opined that caste is a determinant of class in the Indian context. However, in order to uphold the basic structure of equality, it fixed a cap of 50% for reservation unless there are exceptional circumstances. The court also provided for exclusion of creamy layer from OBC.



High stakes: Aspirants look for their roll numbers before the UPSC civil services exam, on June 16. **PH**

The criteria for identifying a person as part of the creamy layer is based on the recommendations of the Justice Ram Nandan Prasad Committee (1993). It is determined by the position/income of an applicant's parents alone. The criteria for belonging to creamy layer is parental income, including income from salary and agricultural income, being more than ₹8 lakh in each year in the last three consecutive financial years. Further, the following categories of applicants are also considered as belonging to creamy layer: (a) parents, either of whom entered government service (Centre or State) as Group A/Class I officer or parents, both of whom entered as Group B/Class II officers or father, who was recruited in Group B/Class II post and promoted to Group A/Class I before 40 years of age; (b) either of the parents employed in a managerial position in PSUs; (c) either of the parents

holding constitutional posts.

#### What are the issues?

The recent controversy has raised issues surrounding the inadequacies in the process. There are allegations that some applicants manage to obtain NCL or EWS certificate through dubious means. The same may also be true with respect to disability certificates in order to take benefit of the 4% of seats reserved for persons with disabilities in central government jobs. There are also allegations of applicants and their parents adopting strategies to get around the creamy layer exclusion like gifting of assets, taking premature retirement etc., since the applicant's or his/her spouse's income is not considered for such exclusion. Another contentious issue relates to concentration of reservation benefits. The Rohini Commission, that

was set up for providing recommendation on sub-categorisation among OBC castes, has estimated that 97% of reserved jobs and seats in educational institutions have been garnered by just around 25% of the OBC castes/sub-castes at the central level. Close to 1,000 of around 2,600 communities under the OBC category had zero representation in jobs and educational institutes. Similar issue of concentration of reservation benefits persists in the SC and ST category as well. There is neither any exclusion based on 'creamy layer' for these communities.

The reservation at present stands at 60%, including the reservation for EWS. Considering societal realities, this higher percentage of reservation is required. It is pertinent to note that as per government replies in Parliament, 40-50% of seats reserved for OBC, SC and ST in the central government remain unfilled.

#### What can be the way forward?

The foremost requirement is to plug the loopholes in the issue of NCL, EWS and disability certificates. There must be thorough scrutiny to ensure that only eligible applicants obtain these benefits.

The vacancies for reserved communities should be filled without backlog. Sub-of the creamy layer is reservation may be essential to address the under-representation or non-representation of various communities. Similarly, creamy layer exclusion in SC and ST category, at least for children of Group I/Class A government officials may be considered. These are sensitive matters in which for every argument in favour of such a proposal, there are counter arguments that can be advanced. Nevertheless, a discussion should begin on these aspects with all stakeholders to implement them. This would ensure that benefits of reservation reach the more marginalised among underprivileged in successive generations.

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What are the features of the law? Does India have an omnibus legislation on climate change?

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South Africa's President, Cyril Ramaphosa, signed into law a piece of legislation that will impose mandatory curbs on the emissions from large, fossil-fuel heavy industries and, require climate-adaptation plans from towns and villages. The President said this was won for South Africa to meet its emissions reduction commitments under the Paris agreement.

#### What is the significance of this law?

The Climate Change Bill was approved by South Africa's National Assembly last November. South Africa relies on coal as its primary fuel source for electricity generation and is one of the world's top 15 greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters. According to an official estimate, net emissions in 2017 were estimated at 512 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e), an increase of 14% from 2000. In 2022, this fell to 405 Mt

CO<sub>2</sub>e, a 3% fall from 2021, according to Statista. It is unclear if these numbers are strictly comparable and if the fall was linked to the worldwide, temporary dip in emissions following COVID-19. The energy sector represents roughly 80% of gross emissions, with energy industries (-60%) and transport (-12%). Being an economy which is dependent on agriculture and tourism, South Africa has faced increasing Western pressure to accelerate its transition away from fossil fuel.

#### What steps has South Africa taken?

Every country submits Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), which are time-bound commitments to lower emissions. South Africa submitted its first NDC in 2016 and its updated NDC in 2021. The updated NDC commits to 31% reduction and a fixed target for GHG emissions level of 398-510 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2025, and 350-420 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030. The NDC outlines an approach for 'just transition', - or the sustainable movement to jobs away from fossil-fuel

dependent industries - to achieve targets, focusing on agriculture, forestry and other land use, energy, industrial processes and product use, and waste sectors. South Africa has estimated that it requires \$8 billion per year by 2030. It has set an internal goal of reaching 'net zero emissions' by 2050 in its Low-Emission Development Strategy submitted in 2020. In addition, the President's Climate Commission released its Just Transition Framework in 2022, which aims to inform policy making at the nexus of climate and development to enable deep, just transformational shifts. These were the actions that preceded the signing of the Climate Change Bill.

#### What about India?

India does not have a comprehensive legislation on climate change. Priyanka Chaturvedi, the Rajya Sabha parliamentarian, had moved a Private Member's Bill, called the Council on Climate Change Bill, most recently in 2022. This proposed setting up a Council,

chaired by the Prime Minister, for advising the Union government on all matters related to climate change but there has been no significant movement on this so far. However, climate change features in multiple Acts and subordinate legislation. These include the Environmental Protection Act, Forest Conservation Act, Energy Conservation Act, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act among others.

#### Are these enough?

In April this year, the Supreme Court issued the law and equity "right against the adverse effects of climate change," and referred to the fact that India did not have an omnibus legislation on climate change. "Despite Constitutional guarantees that give the citizens equality before the law and the right to life and personal liberty, it was now necessary, in the Court's view, to explicitly link the impact of climate change as something which impedes these rights of liberty, life and equality." Prior to the UN Conference of Parties in Dubai last year, India communitated the intensity of its energy emissions had reduced by 33% from 2005-2019, 11 years ahead of target. It also committed to reduce emissions intensity to 45% by 2030 in the updated set of NDC. Emission intensity refers to the total amount of GHG emitted for every unit increase of GDP. It is different from absolute emissions, India has also committed to source 50% of its electricity in 2030 from non-fossil fuel resources.

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COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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**S**outh Africa's President, Cyril Ramaphosa, signed into law a piece of legislation that will impose mandatory curbs on the emissions from large, fossil-fuel heavy industries and, require climate-adaptation plans from towns and villages. The President said this would enable South Africa to meet its emissions reduction commitments under the Paris agreement.

### **What is the significance of this law?**

The Climate Change Bill was approved by South Africa's National Assembly last November. South Africa relies on coal as its primary fuel source for electricity generation and is one of the world's top 15 greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters. According to an official estimate, net emissions in 2017 were estimated at 512 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e), an increase of 14% from 2000. In 2022, this fell to 405 Mt

CO<sub>2</sub>e, a 3% fall from 2021, according to Statista. It is unclear if these numbers are strictly comparable and if the fall was linked to the worldwide, temporary dip in emissions following COVID-19. The energy sector represents roughly 80% of gross emissions, with energy industries (-60%) and transport (-12%). Being an economy which is dependent on agriculture and tourism, South Africa has faced increasing Western pressure to accelerate its transition away from fossil fuel.

### **What steps has South Africa taken?**

Every country submits Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), which are time-bound commitments to lower emissions. South Africa submitted its first NDC in 2016 and its updated NDC in 2021. The updated NDC commits to 31% reduction and a fixed target for GHG emissions levels of 398-510 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2025, and 350-420 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030.

The NDC outlines an approach for a 'just transition,' – or the sustainable movement to jobs away from fossil-fuel

dependent industries – to achieve targets, focusing on agriculture, forestry and other land use, energy, industrial processes and product use, and waste sectors. South Africa has estimated that it requires \$8 billion per year by 2030. It has set an internal goal of reaching 'net zero emissions' by 2050 in its Low-Emission Development Strategy submitted in 2020. In addition, the Presidential Climate Commission released its Just Transition Framework in 2022, which aims to inform policy making at the nexus of climate and development to enable deep, just transformational shifts. These were the actions that preceded the signing of the Climate Change Bill.

### **What about India?**

India does not have a comprehensive legislation on climate change. Priyanka Chaturvedi, the Rajya Sabha parliamentarian, had moved a Private Member's Bill, called the Council on Climate Change Bill, most recently in 2022. This proposed setting up a Council,

chaired by the Prime Minister, for advising the Union government on all matters related to climate change but there has been no significant movement on this so far. However, climate change features in multiple Acts and subordinate legislation. These include the Environmental Protection Act, Forest Conservation Act, Energy Conservation Act, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act among others.

### **Are these enough?**

In April this year, the Supreme Court ruled that citizens have a "right against the adverse effects of climate change," and referred to the fact that India did not have an omnibus legislation on climate change. "Despite Constitutional guarantees that give the citizens equality before the law and right to life and personal liberty, it was now necessary, in the Court's view, to explicitly link the impact of climate change as something which impedes these rights of liberty, life and equality." Prior to the UN Conference of Parties in Dubai last year, India communicated that the intensity of its energy emissions had reduced by 33% from 2005-2019, 11 years ahead of target. It also committed to revising its emissions intensity to 45% by 2030 in the updated set of NDC. Emission intensity refers to the total amount of GHG emitted for every unit increase of GDP. It is different from absolute emissions. India has also committed to source 50% of its electricity in 2030 from non-fossil fuel resources.

## **THE GIST**

South Africa's President, Cyril Ramaphosa, signed into law a piece of legislation that will impose mandatory curbs on the emissions from large, fossil-fuel heavy industries.

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Climate change features in multiple Acts and subordinate legislation of India. These include the Environmental Protection Act, Forest Conservation Act, Energy Conservation Act, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act among others.

- **South Africa's New Climate Change Law (दक्षिण अफ्रीका का नया जलवायु परिवर्तन कानून)**
- **Key Features (मुख्य विशेषताएँ)**
  - Imposes mandatory curbs on emissions from large, fossil-fuel heavy industries (बड़े, जीवाश्म-ईंधन आधारित उद्योगों से उत्सर्जन पर अनिवार्य प्रतिबंध लगाता है).
  - Requires climate-adaptation plans from towns and villages (शहरों और गांवों से जलवायु-अनुकूलन योजनाएँ आवश्यक हैं).



- **Significance (महत्व)** Aims to meet emissions reduction commitments under the Paris agreement (पेरिस समझौते के तहत उत्सर्जन में कमी की प्रतिबद्धताओं को पूरा करने का लक्ष्य).
- South Africa is one of the world's top 15 GHG emitters, heavily relying on coal for electricity generation (दक्षिण अफ्रीका दुनिया के शीर्ष 15 GHG उत्सर्जकों में से एक है, जो बिजली उत्पादन के लिए कोयले पर अत्यधिक निर्भर है).

Nationally Determined Contributions (राष्ट्रीय रूप से निर्धारित योगदान) Submitted first NDC in 2016 and updated in 2021 (पहला NDC 2016 में और अपडेट 2021 में प्रस्तुत किया).

2021

2025

Targets 31% reduction and aims for 398-510 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2025, and 350-420 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e by 2030 (31% कमी का लक्ष्य और 2025 तक 398-510 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e और 2030 तक 350-420 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e का लक्ष्य).



- **Financial Requirements (वित्तीय आवश्यकताएँ)**

- Requires \$8 billion per year by 2030 to meet targets (लक्ष्यों को पूरा करने के लिए 2030 तक प्रति वर्ष \$8 बिलियन की आवश्यकता).

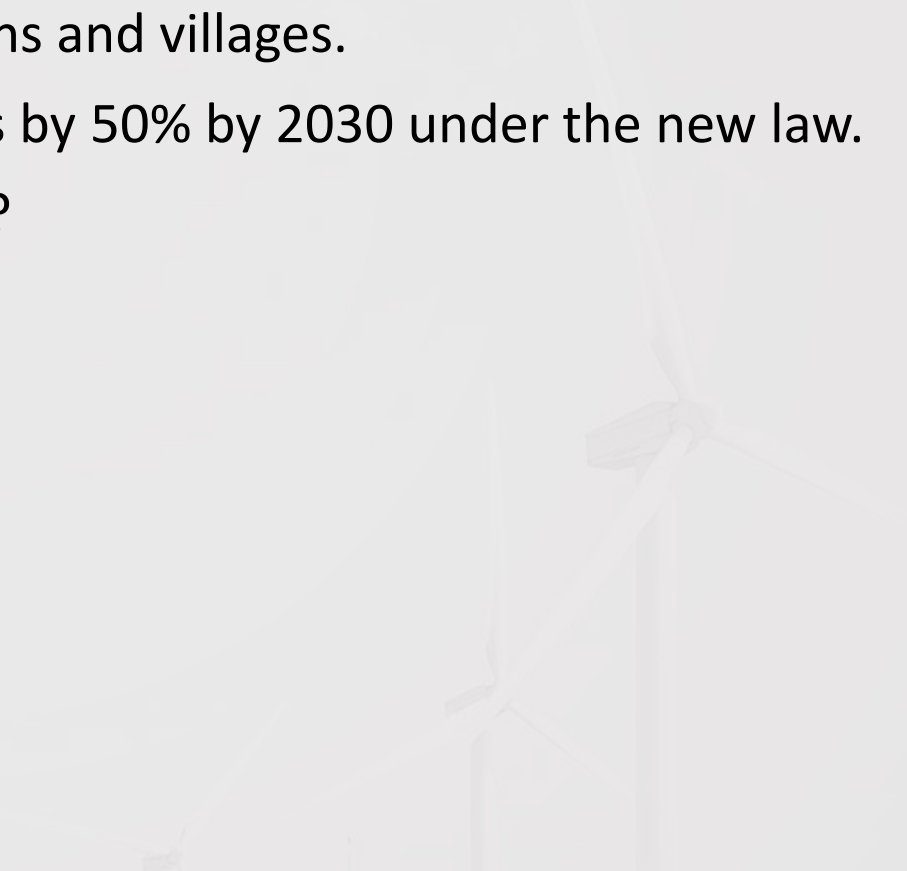


- **Current Legislation (वर्तमान कानून)** India does not have a comprehensive climate change law (भारत के पास एक व्यापक जलवायु परिवर्तन कानून नहीं है).
- Various acts like Environmental Protection Act, Forest Conservation Act, etc., address climate change issues (पर्यावरण संरक्षण अधिनियम, वन संरक्षण अधिनियम, आदि जैसे विभिन्न अधिनियम जलवायु परिवर्तन मुद्दों को संबोधित करते हैं).

## 1. Recent Developments (हाल के विकास)



1. Supreme Court ruling on right against adverse effects of climate change (जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रतिकूल प्रभावों के खिलाफ अधिकार पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट का फैसला).

- Consider the following statements regarding South Africa's new climate change law:
  1. The law imposes mandatory curbs on emissions from large, fossil-fuel heavy industries.
  2. It requires climate-adaptation plans from towns and villages.
  3. South Africa aims to reduce its GHG emissions by 50% by 2030 under the new law.
- 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



# Jharkhand MLAs Disqualified under Anti- defection Law





- 
- The Jharkhand Assembly Speaker's Tribunal disqualified two legislators under the anti-defection law .
  - **About Anti-Defection Law**
  - **Background and Need:** The defections of legislators during the 1960s and 70s from their parent parties created political instability in many States, bringing down elected governments.
- 



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- Therefore, to ensure the stability of elected governments, The **52nd constitutional amendment** introduced the **'anti-defection' law through the Tenth Schedule in 1985.**
- 



- **Provisions:** It disqualifies a legislator if they voluntarily give up their party membership or violate the party whip on voting.
  - The law applies to both Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) and state legislatures.
  - The Speaker or Chairman of the House decides on disqualification based on petitions filed by other members.



- 
- **Exceptions:** Defections are allowed if one-third of the members of a party decide to split and form a new party.
  - Legislators can switch parties without disqualification if their original party merges with another party.
- 


- **Objectives**
- **Preventing Political Instability:** By reducing the frequency of defections, the law has helped in creating more stable governments, allowing for smoother governance.




- 
- **Ensuring Accountability:** It holds legislators accountable for their commitment to the party that elected them, thereby reinforcing their responsibility towards the electorate.
  - **Promoting Party Discipline:** By discouraging defections, the law helps maintain internal discipline within political parties, ensuring cohesive functioning.
- 



- **Supreme Court Observations**

- The Supreme Court clarified that the anti-defection law applies even if a faction splits from a political party and manages to cobble up a majority within the party itself.
    - This means that a group of legislators, whether in the majority or minority, cannot escape the provisions of the Tenth Schedule by claiming to belong to the same party.
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- The Speaker or Chairperson's decision is final, it is subject to judicial review by the courts, ensuring that the process remains fair and just.

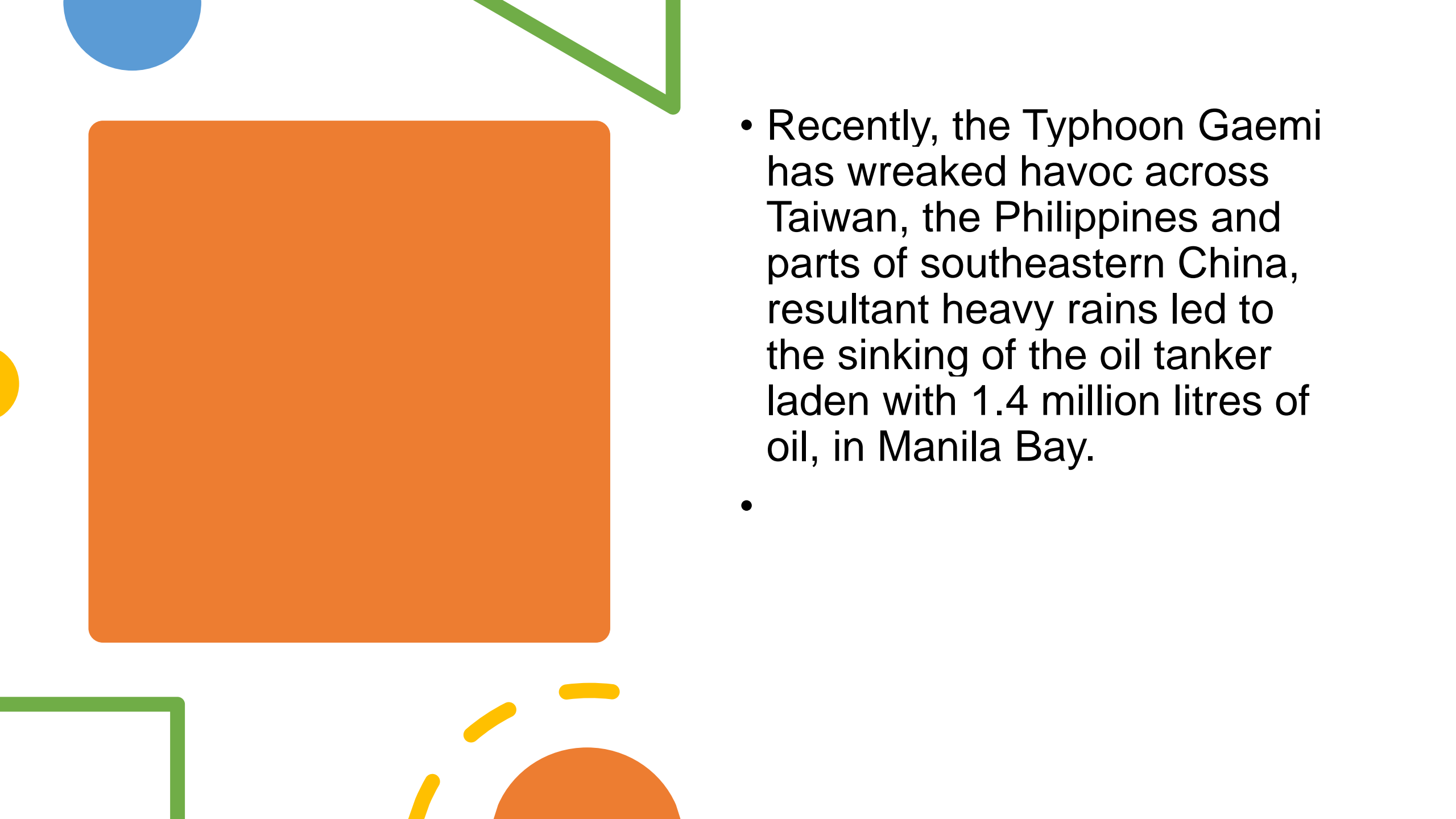
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# Impact of Oil Spills on Environment




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- Recently, the Typhoon Gaemi has wreaked havoc across Taiwan, the Philippines and parts of southeastern China, resultant heavy rains led to the sinking of the oil tanker laden with 1.4 million litres of oil, in Manila Bay.
  -



- **Understanding Oil Spills**

- Oil spills occur when **crude oil or refined petroleum** products are **released into the environment**, typically due to accidents during **transportation, offshore drilling, or tanker mishaps**.
  - These spills can have both immediate and long-term consequences for ecosystems and human communities.
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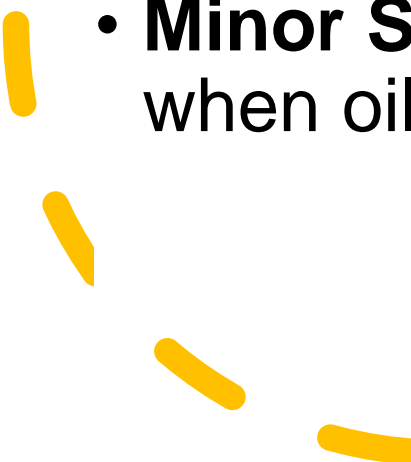
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- as their by-products — heavier fuels used by large ships such as bunker fuel or oily refuse of any kind.
    - Gasoline, for instance, is worse than crude oil because it's lighter and more toxic.

- 





- **Types of Oil Spills**

- **Major Incidents:** These are more severe and often result from pipeline breaks, tanker accidents (sinking or running aground), or drilling mishaps. The consequences of major spills can be felt for decades.
  - **Minor Spills:** These occur during routine operations, such as when oil spills from a ship during refuelling.
- 

International Incidence	Indian incidents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="78 325 1090 461">– <b>Venezuela:</b> In 2020 oil leakage from the El Palito refinery in Venezuela.</li><li data-bbox="78 501 1156 722">– Japanese ship MV Wakashio carrying fuel oil split into two parts near Blue Bay Marine Park in south-east Mauritius.</li><li data-bbox="78 762 1187 812">– <b>Russia:</b> Arctic (Norilsk diesel fuel spill) Oil Spill.</li><li data-bbox="78 852 1072 1068">– <b>Santa Barbara spill off California (1969),</b> where over four million gallons of oil were released.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="1243 282 2262 504">– <b>Chennai 2017:</b> Two ships collided off Kamarajar Port Limited's (KPL) harbour and resulted in a major oil spill disaster.</li><li data-bbox="1243 544 2333 765">– <b>Sundarban 2014:</b> Oil spill in Sela River, Bangladesh created an environmental concern for India too.</li><li data-bbox="1243 805 2277 941">– <b>ONGC Uran Plant</b> leaked oil in the Arabian Sea in 2013.</li><li data-bbox="1243 981 2249 1116">– <b>Mumbai coast:</b> In 2010 two ships collided causing the 800 tonnes of the oil spill.</li></ul>

## Related Environmental Impacts

### Marine Life and Habitats:


- **Physical Effects:** Oil coats the surface of the water, reducing sunlight penetration. This disrupts photosynthesis and affects marine plants like algae and seagrass.

**Chemical Effects:** Toxic components in oil harm fish, shellfish, and other aquatic organisms. These toxins can accumulate in the food chain.

**Birds and Mammals:** Oil can kill surface-dwelling animals and birds by poisoning or suffocation. It also affects buoyancy and natural waterproofing, making animals vulnerable.



- **Coastal and Marine Environments:**

- **Recovery Time:** Coastal and marine ecosystems can take several decades to recover from oil pollution. Even after visible signs disappear, lingering effects persist.
  - **Mangroves and Wetlands:** These sensitive habitats suffer from oil contamination, affecting their ability to support biodiversity.
- 





- **Economic Impact:**

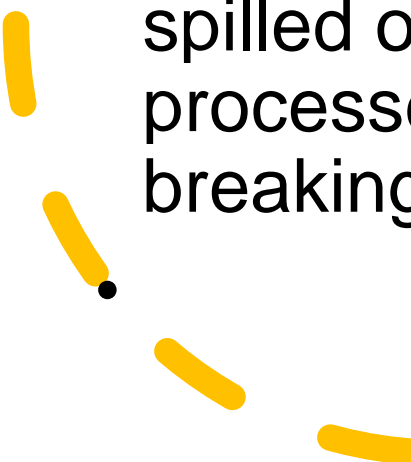
- **Fisheries:** Oil spills disrupt fishing activities, leading to economic losses for coastal communities.
- **Tourism:** Contaminated beaches and water discourage tourism, impacting local economies.



- **Measures to Address Oil Spills**

- **Prevention:** Strict regulations for oil tankers, pipelines, and offshore platforms; Improved safety protocols during oil transport and extraction.

- **Response and Cleanup:** Rapid containment and recovery of spilled oil; Use of booms, skimmers, and dispersants; Natural processes (such as microbial degradation) play a role in breaking down oil.



- **Control Measures for Oil Spills**
- **Bioremediation:** It refers to the use of specific microorganisms to remove any toxic or harmful substances
- **The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI)** has developed **Oil Zapper Bacteria** which can degrade the oil quickly.
- 





**Oil Booms:** They are temporary floating barriers used to contain marine spills, protect the environment, and assist in recovery.



**Using Dispersants:** Dispersal agents are chemicals that are sprayed upon the spill with the help of aircraft and boats, which aid the natural breakdown of oil components

# First Ever 'Cultural Property Agreement' Between India and US

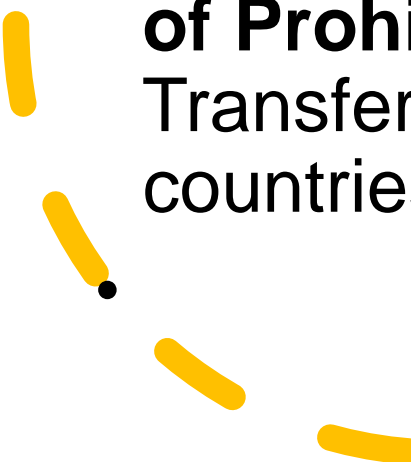


- India and the United States of America signed the first ever 'Cultural Property Agreement' to prevent and curb the illicit trafficking of antiquities from India to the USA.





- **About Cultural Property Agreement (CPA)**

- It was Initiated in 2022 and formalized through diplomatic notes and discussions, with support from the NGO 'Antiquity Coalition.'
  - It is aligned with the **1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing** the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, to which both countries are States party.
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# Gender Equality in Sports





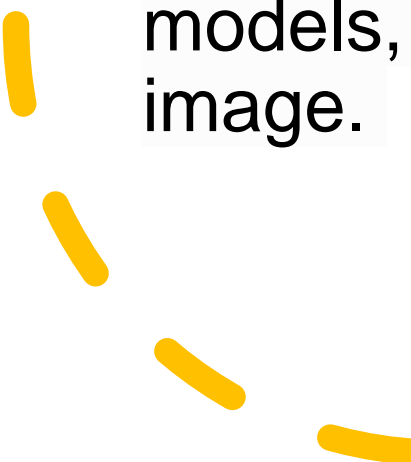
- With the **Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games**, history will be made as an **equal number of men and women compete**, marking the largest gender-equal sporting event.
- 
- **As per recently released, UNESCO's Sport and Gender Equality Game Plan**
-



- **Key Observations:**

1. **Sexual Abuse:** 21% of women athletes and 11% of men reported childhood sexual abuse in sports.

2. **High Dropout:** 49% of girls drop out of sports during adolescence, 6 times higher than boys, due to lack of role models, safety concerns, lack of confidence, and negative body image.



1. **Inequality**: No women in the top **50 highest-paid athletes**.

2. **Leadership**: Only **30%** of **major sports federations** were chaired by women in 2023.





- **Suggested Actions:**

1. **Use sports media to change attitudes** and address gender inequalities.

2. **Promote gender equality** in sports leadership and decision-making.

3. **Develop gender-responsive infrastructure** and budgeting.

4. **End all forms of gender-based violence** in sports.



-

# Omnibus (समग्र):

- **Meaning:** Comprising several items.
- **Sentence:** India does not have an omnibus legislation on climate change.

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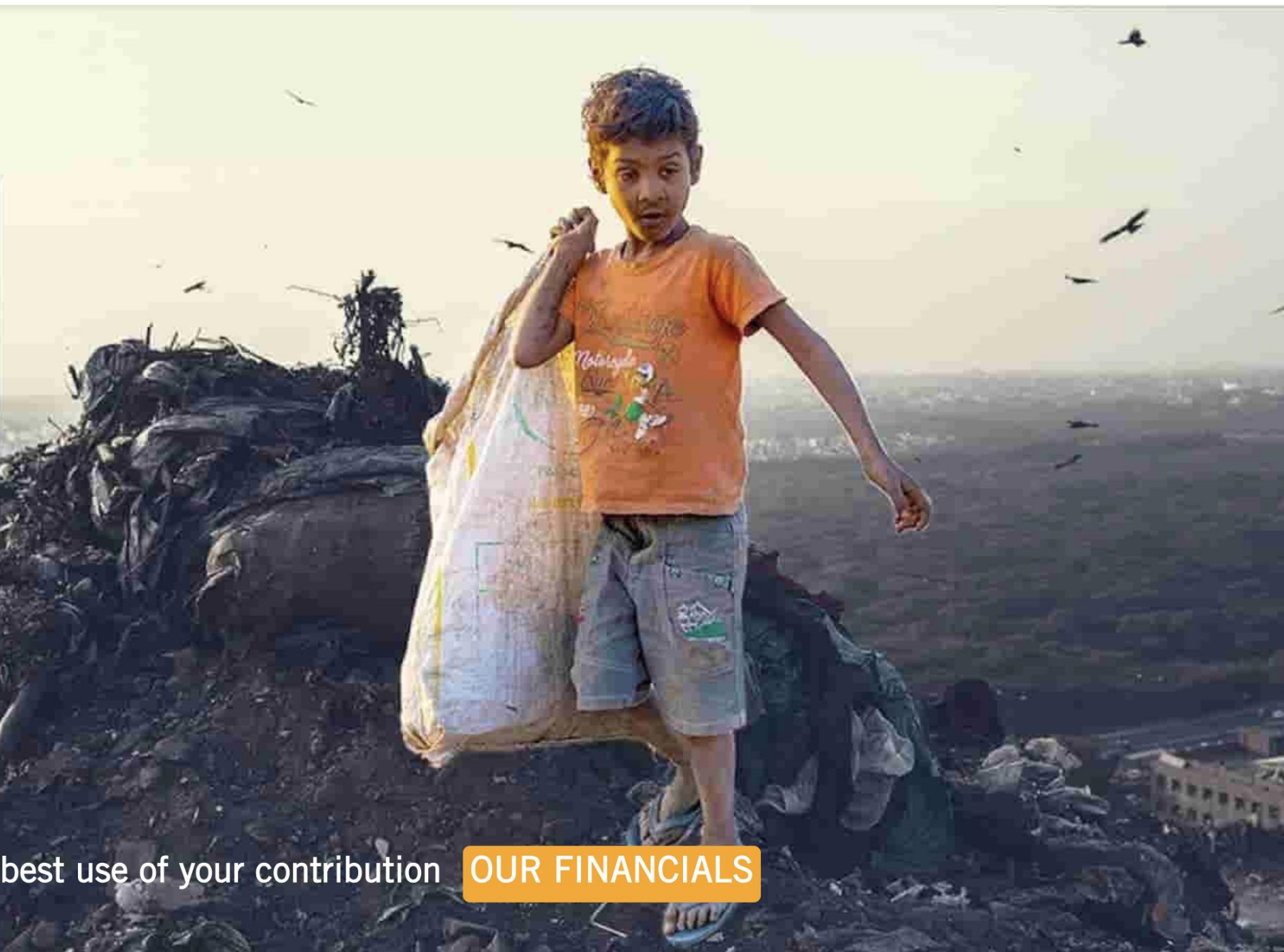





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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, with some wearing watches. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner.

Thank you  
guys.

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