

# Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता

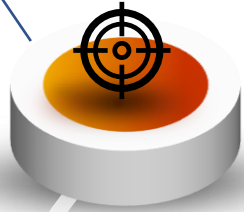


The Indian EXPRESS

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS



3  
**The Hindu**



4  
**PIB, PR4 & Other newspaper**



2  
**The Indian Express**



0  
**Jansatta**



1  
**Financial Express**



# Class24 App download

**Class pdf**

**10 Questions  
test related to  
this class**



# CURRENT AFFAIRS COURSE

- ✓ UPDATED CURRENT AFFAIRS (2023+2024)|
- ✓ COMPLETE NOTES(PDF)

# COMPLETE GK/GS COURSE

- ✓ STATIC GK
- ✓ HISTORY
- ✓ POLITY
- ✓ GEOGRAPHY
- ✓ ECONOMICS

USE CODE

**B60**

CALL FOR SUPPORT: +91-7414862047



• **LIVE**  
**DOUBT SESSION**







GIVE A CHILD THE GIFT OF EDUCATION TODAY

Join Hands



We make the best use of your contribution OUR FINANCIALS





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

Elizabeth Kenny



“BE A GOOD  
PERSON BUT  
DON'T WASTE  
TIME TO  
PROVE IT.”

[THISISLOVELIFEQUOTES.NET](http://THISISLOVELIFEQUOTES.NET)

Home > International > Business > India > World > Sports > Health > Education > Environment > Technology > Entertainment > Opinion > Columns > Cartoons > Photo Gallery > Special Reports > Archives > Contact Us



DEFAMATION CASE Delhi court suspends Patkar's sentence NEWS > PAGE 4



NEZBOLLAH ATTACK Will hit back but no all-out war, says Israel WORLD > PAGE 14



EMPLOYMENT SCENE India may lodge plaint against ILO report NEWS > PAGE 6



BRIDGING THE SKILL GAP The problem with the blocking of the Chinese India's growth depends on foreign expertise EDITORIAL > PAGE 8

IN THE NICK OF TIME Harmanpreet saves India with late goal SPORT > PAGE 16

INSIDE



SC issues notice to Ajit on plea over 'real NCP' NEWS DELHI

Discrepancy in votes cast and counted in polls NEWS DELHI

Increase in freight costs to hurt exporters NEWS DELHI

New LK. govt. to restart trade talks with India LONDON

# 5 held, demolitions on after students' drowning

Seven persons arrested so far; basements of coaching centres sealed and encroachments on drains razed; Home Ministry forms committee to inquire into the cause of the disaster; students protest demanding transparency in investigation, accuse police. Corporation of compliance; L-G announces compensation for families of the deceased

**Samridhi Tewari, Alisha Dutta** NEW DELHI  
The Delhi Police on Monday arrested seven more persons in connection with the drowning of three IAS aspirants in the basement of a civil services examination coaching centre in the Old Rajinder Nagar area here during heavy rain on Saturday.  
Parvinder Singh, Sarvjit Singh, Harvinder Singh and Tejinder Singh, owners of various floors of the building, were arrested, along with Manoj Katariya, who drove an SUV through the flooded road outside the coaching centre, causing the water to hit the gate of the basement. Water then breached the gate and flooded the basement, authorities said. The police have seized the vehicle.  
A court remanded the accused in judicial custody



Bulldozer action: Earthmovers raze encroachments near the coaching centre. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

for 14 days. On Sunday, the coordinator and the owner of the coaching centre were arrested.  
Basements or portions of five more coaching centres, allegedly in violation of the law, were sealed on Monday by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. So far, the civic body has acted against 19 centres, including Rau's IAS Study Circle, where the deaths were reported.  
Mayor Shelly Oberoi said the Corporation conducted a drive to remove encroachments on drains in Rajinder Nagar and nearby areas.  
The Union Home Ministry constituted a committee to inquire into the reasons for the incident, its responsibility and suggest policy changes. The committee, comprising the Additional Secretary, Urban and Urban Poverty Alleviation Ministry, Principal Secretary (Home), Delhi

Corporation of compliance. "We wanted to speak to the L-G and put forward our demands and ask about the investigation. But he did not hear us out," said a 25-year-old aspirant from Maharashtra.  
On Monday evening, Mr. Sarena announced a compensation of ₹10 lakh for each of the families of the deceased. Political blame game over the deaths continued with the BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party taking to the streets in protest.  
The BJP protested near the AAP headquarters in Delhi against the alleged "criminal negligence" of the Delhi government that led to the deaths. The AAP protested outside the Lieutenant-Governor's office demanding the removal of the Corporation Commissioner and punitive action against officials who did not desist the drains. The AAP has been alleging that the Lieutenant-Governor is

not taking action against officials despite multiple complaints against them. The police have written to the Corporation seeking a status report on the desilting of drains near the coaching centre. They wanted to know if any complaint had been made against the institute to the civic agency earlier and any action taken. "We will seek response from MCD officials regarding desilting of drains and the clearance certificate issued by them to Rau's IAS Study Circle," an officer said.  
The Corporation has been asked to furnish the occupancy certificate as the basement owner allegedly said that it was supposed to be used for parking and storage, the police said.  
HUMAN FAILURE  
PAGE 8  
CENTRE BLAMES AAP GOVT.  
PAGE 5

## Cool cat



In awe: Schoolchildren watch a tiger swim in a pond inside the Mumbai Zoo on International Tiger Day on Monday. EMANUJAL VOGGIN

## The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI  
The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday named Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, along with five others, in its final chargesheet in the Delhi excise policy case.  
The CBI, in its fifth supplementary chargesheet, filed in the court of Special Judge (PC Act) Kaveri Bawa, also named Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Durgesh Pathak, P. Sarath Reddy, former director of Aurobindo Pharmacy who has turned approver in the Enforcement Directorate's money laundering case; Vinod Chaudhan, who was allegedly involved with the "South lobby" in the transfer of

## CBI names Kejriwal in excise policy case final chargesheet

were used in the party's election campaign. The kickbacks were returned to them out of the profit margins of wholesalers holding L-1 licences through different modes. This included the issuance of excess credit notes and outstanding amounts left in accounts of the companies controlled by some conspirators from "South lobby".  
The CBI also alleged that a cartel was formed between liquor manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers by violating provisions in the excise policy, which was later scrapped by the State government and that all the accused actively participated in the conspiracy that caused substantial losses to the government exchequer.  
The CBI has charged 16 people, including Mr. Kejriwal, former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and Telangana MLC K. Kavitha in the case. The agency said kickbacks of around ₹90-100 crore were paid to the AAP by liquor manufacturers, which

## SC refuses to stay HC ruling quashing 65% quota in Bihar

**The Hindu Bureau** NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Monday refused to order interim stay of a Patna High Court decision quashing reservation up to 65% for the Backward Classes, the Extremely Backward Classes, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes in public employment and institutions.  
However, while refusing the interim relief, a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud agreed to hear the appeal filed by the State of Bihar against the High Court judgment in September.  
Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta and senior advo-

## Maduro declared winner of disputed Venezuela polls

**Agence France Presse** CARACAS  
Nicolas Maduro was declared the winner of Venezuela's presidential election on Sunday but the Opposition and key regional neighbours immediately rejected the official results.  
The Opposition coalition itself claimed victory, after an election campaign that was unlikely to concede after more than a decade in power.  
He won re-election with 58.2% of votes, while Opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, "Opposition leader" Maria Corina Machado told journalists, calling the official result "another fraud." Mr. Gonzalez, a 74-year-old former diplomat,



Victory bantani: Nicolas Maduro delivers a speech following the presidential election results in Caracas on Monday. AFP

loyal to the President.  
"I can say, before the people of Venezuela and the world, I am Nicolas Maduro Moros, the re-elected President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela," Mr. Maduro said. "There will be peace, stability and justice. Peace and respect for the law."  
But the Opposition coalition insisted it had garnered 70% of the vote, rejecting the CNE figures.  
"Another fraud!"  
"We want to say to all of Venezuela and the world that Venezuela has a new president-elect and it is (candidate) Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia," Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado told journalists, calling the official result "another fraud." Mr. Gonzalez, a 74-year-old former diplomat,

## SC had said that stretching the quota from 50% to 65% was violative of the right to equal opportunity

cate Shyam Divan, for Bihar, urged the court to stay the High Court decision which had set aside the amendments in the State reservation law. "Lots of interviews going on the basis of the impugned Act," Mehta urged. "We are not inclined to stay at this stage," Chief Justice Chandrachud replied.  
"Violation of rights"  
The High Court ruling had concluded that stretching quota from 50%

Costa Rican President Rodrigo Chaves denounced the CNE result as "fraudulent," while Chile's President called it "hard to believe." Peru announced it recalled its Ambassador over the results.  
U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken expressed "serious concerns" that the result did not reflect the will of Venezuelans.  
Venezuela's allies, including China, Russia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Honduras and Bolivia, however, congratulated Mr. Maduro. Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel said he spoke with "brother" Mr. Maduro to convey congratulations "for the historic electoral triumph achieved."

"We want to say to all of Venezuela and the world that Venezuela has a new president-elect and it is (candidate) Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia," Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado told journalists, calling the official result "another fraud." Mr. Gonzalez, a 74-year-old former diplomat,



# Maduro declared winner of disputed Venezuela polls

**Agence France-Presse**  
CARACAS

Nicolas Maduro was declared the winner of Venezuela's presidential election on Sunday but the Opposition and key regional neighbours immediately rejected the official results.

The Opposition coalition itself claimed victory, after an election campaign tainted by accusations of political intimidation and fears of fraud, and following predictions by pollsters that Mr. Maduro would lose but was unlikely to concede after more than a decade in power.

He won re-election with 51.2% of votes, while Opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia received 44.2%, according to the electoral council (CNE), which in its majority is

loyal to the President.

"I can say, before the people of Venezuela and the world, I am Nicolas Maduro Moros, the re-elected President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela," Mr. Maduro said. "There will be peace, stability and justice. Peace and respect for the law."

But the Opposition coalition insisted it had garnered 70% of the vote, rejecting the CNE figures.

## 'Another fraud'

"We want to say to all of Venezuela and the world that Venezuela has a new president-elect and it is (candidate) Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia," Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado told journalists, calling the official result "another fraud." Mr. Gonzalez, a 74-year-old former diplomat,



**Victory ballad:** Nicolas Maduro delivers a speech following the presidential election results in Caracas on Monday. AFP

said "our fight continues, and we will not rest until the will of the Venezuelan people is reflected," while underlining there was no call for protests.

Meanwhile the regime upped the ante on Monday as it defended itself against claims of election rigging, alleging it was the target of

an attempted "coup".

Mr. Maduro charged at a press conference that "they are trying to impose in Venezuela a coup d'etat" of a "fascist and counter-revolutionary" nature.

Attorney General Tarek William Saab linked Ms. Machado to an alleged hacking "attack" to "adul-

terate" the results.

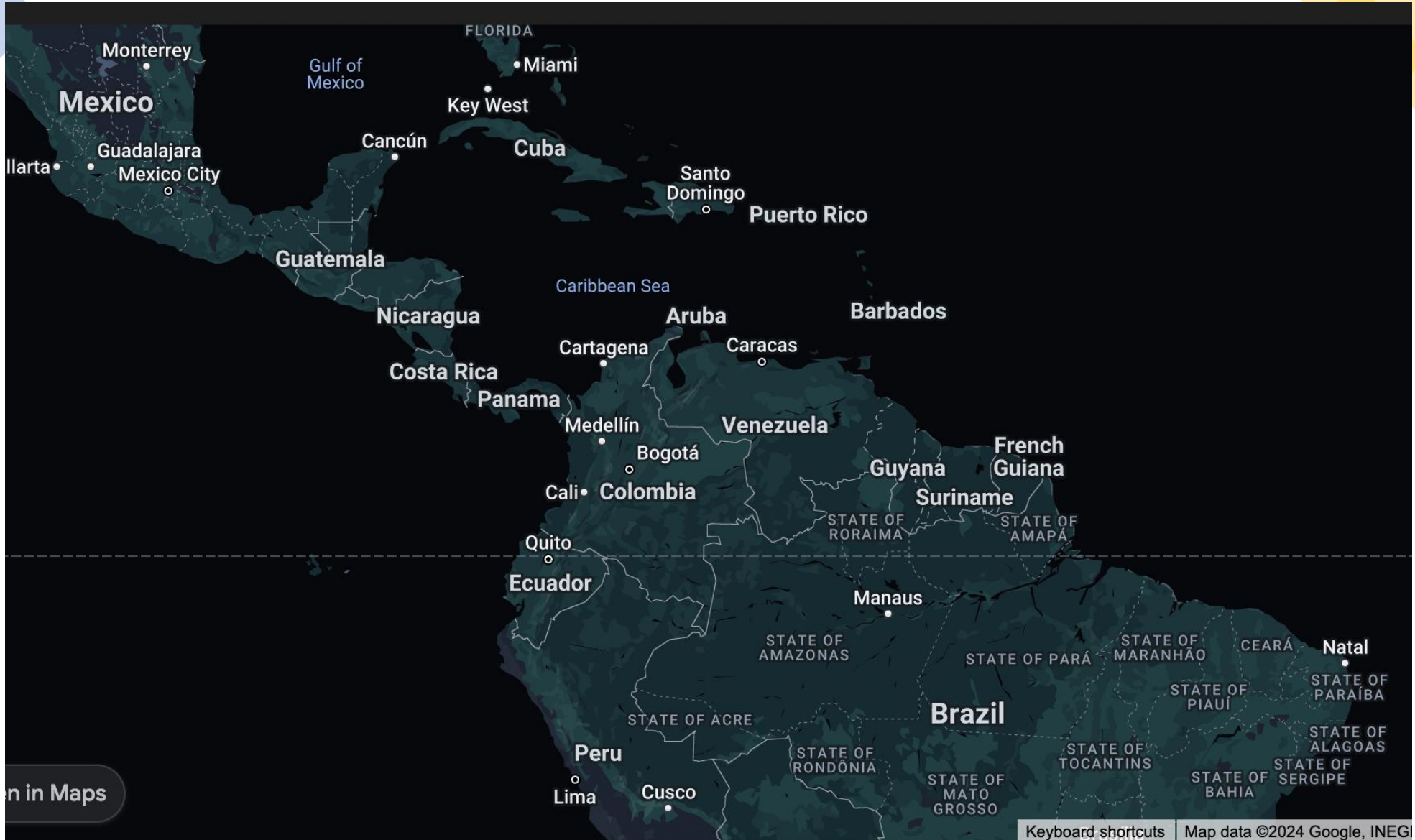
Costa Rican President Rodrigo Chaves denounced the CNE result as "fraudulent," while Chile's President called it "hard to believe." Peru announced it recalled its Ambassador over the results.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken expressed "serious concerns" that the result did not reflect the will of Venezuelans.

Venezuela's allies, including China, Russia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Honduras and Bolivia, however, congratulated Mr. Maduro. Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel said he spoke with "brother" Mr. Maduro to convey congratulations "for the historic electoral triumph achieved."

**CALM OVER CARACAS**

» PAGE 14





<b>Capital</b> and largest city	Caracas  <span><span><span><span><span>10°28′50″N</span> <span>66°54′13″W</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span></span></span></span></span>
<b>Official languages</b> Recognized regional languages	Spanish <sup>[b]</sup> 26 <span>[show]</span> languages
<b>Ethnic groups</b> (2011) <sup>[1]</sup>	51.6% <b>Multiracial</b> 43.6% <b>White</b> 3.6% <b>Afro-Venezuelan</b> 1.2% others
<b>Religion</b> (2020) <sup>[2]</sup>	92.6% <b>Christianity</b> —80.5% <b>Roman Catholic</b> —11.2% <b>Protestant</b> —0.9% other <b>Christian</b> 5.5% <b>no religion</b> 1.1% <b>Spiritism</b> 0.8% others
<b>Demonym(s)</b>	Venezuelan
<b>Government</b>	Federal <b>presidential republic</b> under a centralized <b>authoritarian state</b> <sup>[3][4][5][6]</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>President</b></li> <li>• <b>Vice President</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nicolás Maduro</li> <li>Delcy Rodríguez</li> </ul>
<b>Legislature</b>	National Assembly
<b>Independence from Spain</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Declared</b></li> <li>• from <b>Gran Colombia</b></li> <li>• <b>Recognized</b></li> <li>• <b>Current constitution</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 July 1811</li> <li>13 January 1830</li> <li>29 March 1845</li> <li>20 December 1999<sup>[7]</sup></li> </ul>

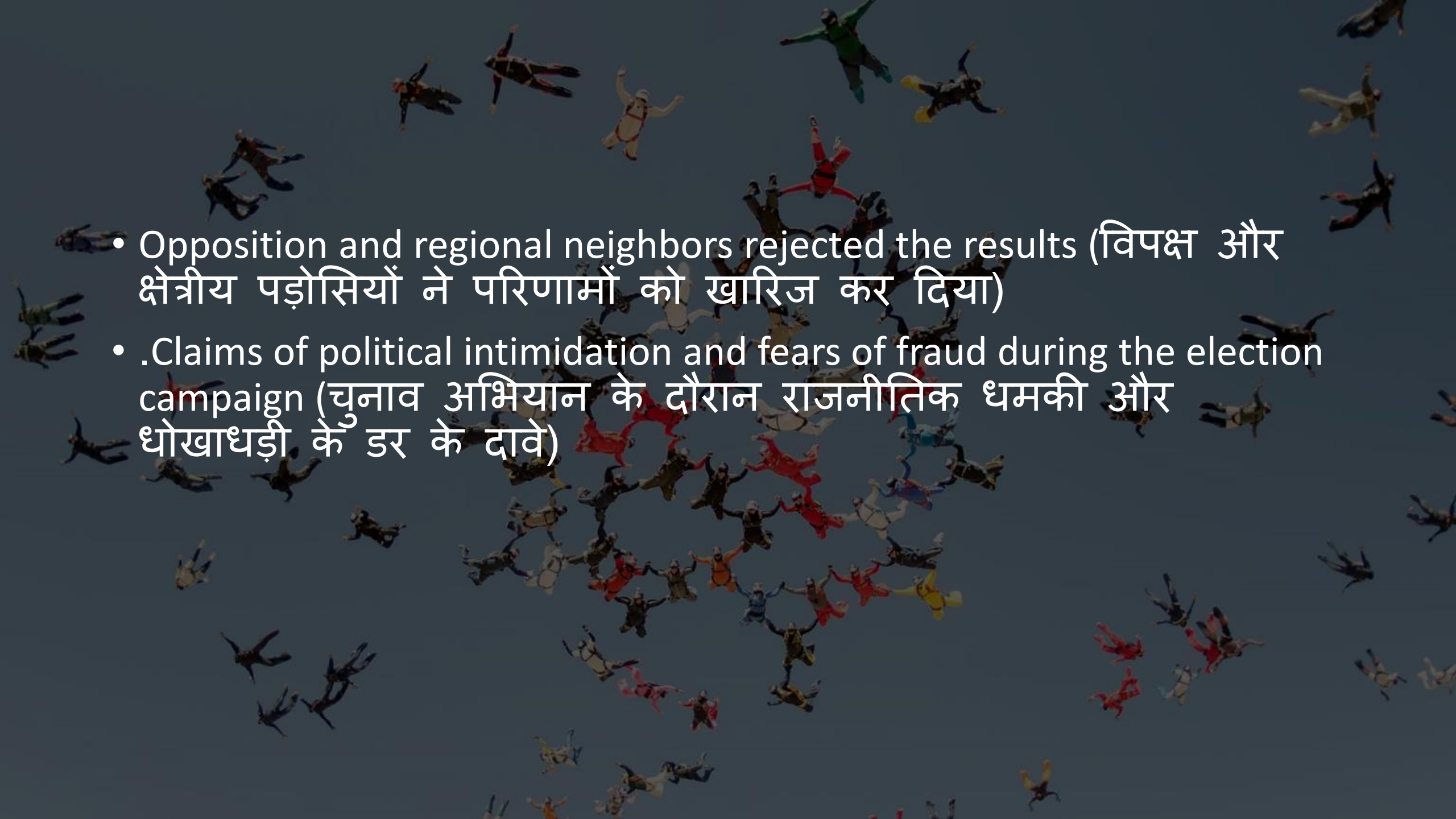
<b>Area</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Total</b></li> <li>• <b>Water (%)</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>916,445<sup>[8]</sup> km<sup>2</sup> (353,841 sq mi) (32nd)</li> <li>3.2%<sup>[d]</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Population</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2023 estimate</b></li> <li>• <b>Density</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30,518,260<sup>[9]</sup> (50th)</li> <li>33.74/km<sup>2</sup> (87.4/sq mi) (144st)</li> </ul>
<b>GDP (PPP)</b>	2023 estimate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Total</b></li> <li>• <b>Per capita</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ \$211.926 billion<sup>[10]</sup> (81st)</li> <li>▲ \$7,985<sup>[10]</sup> (159th)</li> </ul>
<b>GDP (nominal)</b>	2023 estimate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Total</b></li> <li>• <b>Per capita</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▲ \$92.210 billion<sup>[10]</sup> (94th)</li> <li>▲ \$3,474<sup>[10]</sup> (145th)</li> </ul>
<b>Gini</b> (2013)	▲ 44.8 <sup>[11]</sup> medium
<b>HDI</b> (2022)	▲ 0.699 <sup>[12]</sup> medium (119th)
<b>Currency</b>	Venezuelan bolívar (official) United States dollar (de facto recognised, unofficial)

Nicolas Maduro declared winner of Venezuela's presidential election with 51.2% of votes (निकोलस मादुरो 51.2% वोटों के साथ वेनेजुएला के राष्ट्रपति चुनाव के विजेता घोषित).



Opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia received 44.2% of votes (विपक्षी उम्मीदवार एडमंडो गॉजालेज उरुटिया ने 44.2% वोट प्राप्त किए).





- Opposition and regional neighbors rejected the results (विपक्ष और क्षेत्रीय पड़ोसियों ने परिणामों को खारिज कर दिया)
- .Claims of political intimidation and fears of fraud during the election campaign (चुनाव अभियान के दौरान राजनीतिक धमकी और धोखाधड़ी के डर के दावे)

- Declared himself as the re-elected President, promising peace, stability, and justice (स्वयं को फिर से निर्वाचित राष्ट्रपति घोषित किया, शांति, स्थिरता और न्याय का वादा किया).



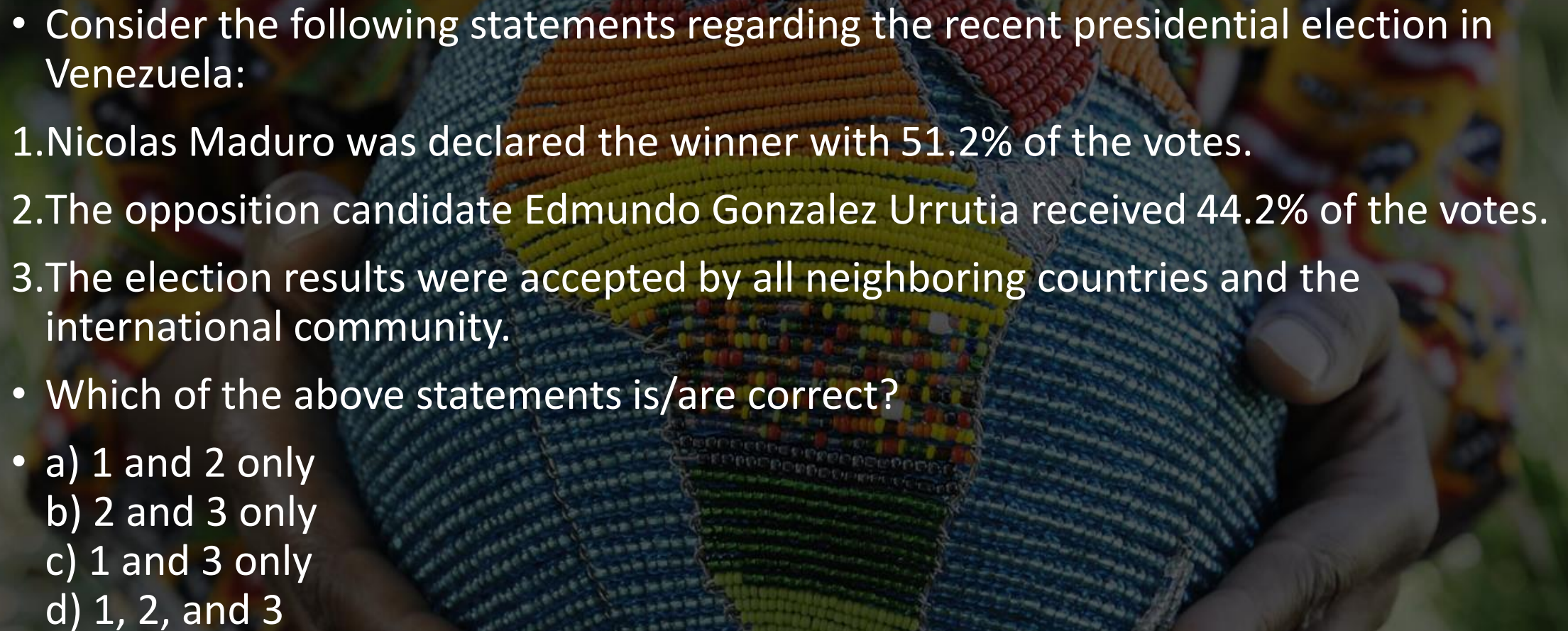
## International Reactions (अंतर्राष्ट्रीय प्रतिक्रियाएँ)

### Criticism (आलोचना)

- Costa Rica, Chile, Peru, and the U.S. expressed concerns and called the results fraudulent (कोस्टा रिका, चिली, पेरू और अमेरिका ने चिंता व्यक्त की और परिणामों को धोखाधड़ी कहा).

### Support (समर्थन)

- Venezuela's allies, including China, Russia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Bolivia, congratulated Maduro (चीन, रूस, क्यूबा, निकारागुआ, होंडुरास और बोलिविया सहित वेनेजुएला के सहयोगियों ने मादुरो को बधाई दी).

- 
- Consider the following statements regarding the recent presidential election in Venezuela:
    1. Nicolas Maduro was declared the winner with 51.2% of the votes.
    2. The opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia received 44.2% of the votes.
    3. The election results were accepted by all neighboring countries and the international community.
  - Which of the above statements is/are correct?
  - a) 1 and 2 only
  - b) 2 and 3 only
  - c) 1 and 3 only
  - d) 1, 2, and 3





Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar during a Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) meeting in Mumbai. FILE PHOTO

## SC issues notice to Ajit Pawar on plea regarding 'real NCP'

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and his 40 MLAs to respond to a petition filed by the Sharad Pawar faction of the NCP challenging Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar's decision confirming the younger Pawar's camp as the real NCP.

Bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra took note of the submissions made by senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, who appeared on behalf of the Sharad Pawar faction, that the plea needed an urgent hearing despite disqualification of each other's MLAs. Anti-defection law provisions in the Constitution's 10th Schedule cannot be used to stifle internal dissent, the Speaker had noted, while holding that the Ajit Pawar group had "overwhelming legislative majority" of 41 of the 53 party MLAs.

The term of the Maharashtra Assembly expires in November. The Bench said it would hear the plea filed by Jayant Patil and Jitendra Awad, immediately after it heard a similar petition of the Uddhav Thackeray camp.

the Shiv Sena. The Thackeray group has filed a similar petition contesting the Speaker's decision in favour of Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his MLAs' claim that they were the real Shiv Sena.

"We will issue notice. All objections, including on grounds of maintainability, will be decided at final disposal," the CJ said.

Mr. Narwekar had on February 15 held that the faction led by Mr. Ajit Pawar, who rebelled against his decision, was the real NCP.

The speaker had rejected the disqualification petitions filed by the rival NCP faction seeking disqualification of each other's MLAs. Anti-defection law provisions in the Constitution's 10th Schedule cannot be used to stifle internal dissent, the Speaker had noted, while holding that the Ajit Pawar group had "overwhelming legislative majority" of 41 of the 53 party MLAs.

## Quad calls for end to violence in Ukraine, Gaza, and Myanmar

Foreign Ministers of India, U.S., Australia, and Japan announce plans to expand IPMDA to Indian Ocean Region; emphasise the importance of maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight, and unimpeded commerce consistent with law

Kalid Bhattacharjee  
NEW DELHI

The Quadrilateral group of Australia, India, Japan, and the U.S. intends to expand the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) into the Indian Ocean Region, the Foreign Ministers of the four member countries announced in Tokyo on Monday.

Addressing a meeting, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said the four Quad countries are democracies that are working as a "powerful stabilising factor". The Ministers also called for immediate cessation of violence in Ukraine, Gaza, and Myanmar.

"We continue to work with the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency to enhance regional maritime domain awareness in the Pacific through satellite data, maintaining and upholding freedom of navigation and overflight, other lawful uses of sea, and unimpeded commerce consistent with international law."

Indicating growing concern about China's maritime activities in the South China Sea, the meeting emphasised "the importance of maintaining and upholding freedom of navigation and overflight, other lawful uses of sea, and unimpeded commerce consistent with international law."

Apart from Mr. Jaishankar, the meeting was attended by Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and Japanese Foreign Minister Kamikawa Yoko, who was the host of the event.



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and Japan's Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa in Tokyo on Monday. AFP

described the IPMDA as a "comprehensive system for monitoring and securing maritime activities in the Indo-Pacific."

Indicating growing concern about China's maritime activities in the South China Sea, the meeting emphasised "the importance of maintaining and upholding freedom of navigation and overflight, other lawful uses of sea, and unimpeded commerce consistent with international law."

Apart from Mr. Jaishankar, the meeting was attended by Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and Japanese Foreign Minister Kamikawa Yoko, who was the host of the event.

Mr. Jaishankar described the Quad as an action-oriented platform that is aimed at "practical outcomes" saying, "...Our HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief) conversations are reflected in understandings and SOPs between our Navies."

He referred to the IPMDA initiative as a system that will link the information fusion centres and enable real-time coordination to deal with maritime challenges.

Indicating a global agenda of the Quad club, the Foreign Ministers said they have "great interest" in "ensuring peace and stability in the Middle East".

The joint statement condemned the October 7, 2023 attacks on Israeli targets by Hamas but also said that "large-scale loss of civilian lives and the human-

itarian crisis in Gaza is unacceptable."

Aid to Gaza The Foreign Ministers said there is an "urgent need" to "significantly increase deliveries of life-saving humanitarian assistance throughout the region," and highlighted "the crucial need to prevent regional escalation."

"We urge all parties to comply with international law, including international humanitarian law, as applicable. We welcome UNSC Resolution S/RES/2775 (2024), and strongly urge all parties concerned to work immediately and steadily toward the release of all hostages and an immediate ceasefire," they said.

They also expressed "deep concern" for the ongoing war in Ukraine. The joint statement underscored the importance of "sovereignty and territorial integrity" for Ukraine and sought "a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in line with international law, consistent with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter."

The consensus on the territorial integrity of Ukraine indicates the larger discussion over the matter as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Ukraine next month. Answering a question at a press conference after the meeting, Mr. Jaishankar hinted at possibilities of "more contacts" between India and Ukraine but did not confirm Mr. Modi's visit. "Things (should) move from the battlefield into the conference table, that is our endeavour," he said.

The meeting also took up the violence in Myanmar, which has pitted dozens of ethnic armed organisations against the forces of the military junta.

"We remain deeply concerned by the worsening political, security and humanitarian situation in Myanmar, including in Rakhine... We again call for the immediate cessation of violence; the release of all those unjustly detained; and the provision of safe and unhindered humanitarian assistance," the joint statement said.

The High Court had concluded that there was no likelihood of Mr. Soren committing an offence while out on bail.

## SC refuses to intervene in bail to Hemant Soren

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Sunday declined an appeal filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) against the bail granted to Bihar Chief Minister Hemant Soren in money laundering charges linked to a land scam.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavi and K.V. Viswanath said the High Court judgment was "well-reasoned". However, the Bench said the observations in the High Court judgment would not influence the trial judge during proceedings.

Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, for the ED, argued that the High Court did not consider crucial statements arraigned against Hemant Soren by prime witnesses.

The chargesheet filed against him in the case had listed cogent evidence against him and his close associates, the agency had claimed. It said Mr. Soren had resorted to filing cases against the officials under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act to thwart the investigation.

"We remain deeply concerned by the worsening political, security and humanitarian situation in Myanmar, including in Rakhine... We again call for the immediate cessation of violence; the release of all those unjustly detained; and the provision of safe and unhindered humanitarian assistance," the joint statement said.

## Engine, two coaches of train derailed in Bihar

The Hindu Bureau  
PATNA

The passengers of Bihar Sampark Kranti Express had a narrow escape on Monday when the engine and two coaches of the train got derailed from other coaches near Repura railway crossing in Samastipur district.

The incident occurred between Karpoori Gram and Pusa railway stations on the morning under Sonepur division of Eastern Central Railway. No one was injured in the incident, said Kaushan Kumar, senior District Commercial Manager of Sonepur division.

The train runs between Darbhanga and Patil Sibal, and Supreme Court Advocate-on-Record Association president, advocate Vipin Nair.

## Flying high



Record breakers: Daredevils of the Indian Army's Corps of Signals achieved a world record by making a 'human pyramid' of 31 personnel, tracing a distance of 5 km on seven motorcycles at 10,800 feet above sea level, to pay tributes to the bravehearts of Jangli War, PT

## Supreme Court begins weeklong Lok Adalat drive

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday commenced its weeklong special Lok Adalat drive to amicably settle long-pending disputes as part of its 75th anniversary celebrations.

The first seven Benches of the court transformed into Lok Adalats at 2 p.m. with Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud heading a five-member Bench comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Supreme Court Bar Association president, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, and Supreme Court Advocate-on-Record Association president, advocate Vipin Nair.

The Lok Adalats began hearing cases from 2 p.m. after the judges finished their day's list cases on the regular Benches. The Lok Adalat drive would continue till August 3.

From today till Friday, we will have the Supreme Court Lok Adalat and the first seven Benches will sit for it. If lawyers have cases which can go before the Lok Adalat, please bring them," the CJ said at the outset of the day's proceedings.

Justice Chandrachud had earlier requested citizens, who have pending cases before the Supreme Court, to take part in the special Lok Adalat, get their disputes resolved amicably and speedily.

## Defence Acquisition Council approves amendment to MQ-9B UAV deal with U.S.

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Monday reviewed and approved amendments to the deal for procuring 31 MQ-9B High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) from General Atomics of the U.S., defence sources said.

The DAC also gave approval to a proposal regarding the scheduled reft of air assets, that will be signed by the deal for 31 MQ-9B UAVs from General Atomics, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



The DAC, chaired by Rajnath Singh, approved amendments to the deal for 31 MQ-9B UAVs from General Atomics, SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

deal. They are related to the indigenous content and related aspects," a defence source said.

Official sources said the U.S. has completed the process from its end with the letter of offer and acceptance to India delivered early on March and it's now for India to complete the procedure before the deal can be signed. At the final step, the deal has to be approved by the Cabinet. Once completed the procurement process, for procurement of Advanced Long Endurance Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALEUV) for Armed Forces.

ber, the MQ-9B deal and the GE-414 jet engine deal are expected to be concluded during the visit of the U.S. President to India. The deal is expected to procure 31 MQ-9B UAVs - 15 Sea Guardians for the Indian Navy and 16 for the Indian Air Force - for an estimated cost of \$3.99 billion. As part of the deal, General Atomics is scheduled to establish a Global Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (GMO) facility in India which would cater towards offset obligations.

The DAC also accorded AON. The first step of the procurement process, for procurement of Advanced Long Endurance Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (ALEUV) for Armed Forces.

## Medha Patkar's sentence in defamation case suspended

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday suspended the sentence awarded to social activist Medha Patkar for defaming the Narmada Bachao Andolan, in a criminal defamation case filed by the Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena.

Additional sessions judge Vishal Singh of the Saket court suspended her bail in the case on furnishing a bail bond of ₹25,000.

The court issued notice to the Lieutenant-Governor to reply on the appeal filed by Ms. Patkar in the 23-year-old defamation case. The matter has been listed for September 10.

The court's decision

The court also rejected Ms. Patkar's prayer to release her on the condition of probation and noted that it is not imposing punishment of one to two years, considering her age and health conditions.

The case against Ms. Patkar was lodged in court when Mr. Saxena headed the National Council of Civil Liberties, an NGO organisation had opposed the movement led by Ms. Patkar through an advertisement published in newspapers, to which she had responded by calling him a "coward" and "not a patriot".

came as Ms. Patkar, earlier this month, challenged the trial court order of July 1 which had sentenced her to imprisonment for five months and a penalty of ₹10 lakh for the "harm she has done to his [Mr. Saxena] reputation". Metropolitan magistrate Raghav Sharma of the Saket court, who had convicted

ed Ms. Patkar of criminal defamation on May 24 had said the conviction order would remain suspended for 30 days.

The court also rejected Ms. Patkar's prayer to release her on the condition of probation and noted that it is not imposing punishment of one to two years, considering her age and health conditions.

The case against Ms. Patkar was lodged in court when Mr. Saxena headed the National Council of Civil Liberties, an NGO organisation had opposed the movement led by Ms. Patkar through an advertisement published in newspapers, to which she had responded by calling him a "coward" and "not a patriot".

## Court allows MP's appeal challenging his conviction

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court on Monday allowed the appeal of Samajwadi Party Member of Parliament Hemant Soren in money laundering charges linked to a land scam.

The second AON is for procurement of 22 Interceptor Boats for the Coast Guard with latest state-of-the-art system capable of quick interception and shallow water operation in territorial waters, the Ministry said. "These boats will be used for coastal surveillance and patrolling, search & rescue operations, including medical evacuation," it added.

+

A B K



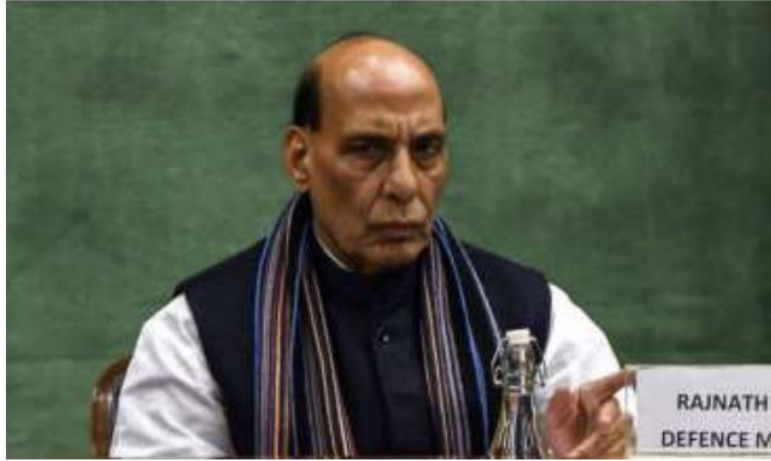
# Defence Acquisition Council approves amendment to MQ-9B UAV deal with U.S.

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Monday reviewed and approved amendments to the deal for procuring 31 MQ-9B High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) from General Atomics of the U.S., defence sources said. The DAC also gave approval to a proposal regarding the scheduled refit of aircraft carrier *INS Vikramaditya* later this year, sources said.

“The amendments approved are within the scope of the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) that was granted for the MQ-9B



The DAC, chaired by Rajnath Singh, approved amendments to the deal for 31 MQ-9B UAVs from General Atomics. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

deal. They are related to the indigenous content and related aspects,” a defence source said.

Official sources said the U.S. has completed the process from its end with the letter of offer and acceptance to India delivered early on March and it’s

now for India to complete the procedure before the deal can be signed. In the final step, the deal has to be approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security, before it can be inked. With the Quad leaders summit scheduled to be hosted by India in Decem-

ber, the MQ-9B deal and the GE-414 jet engine deal are expected to be concluded during the visit of the U.S. President to India.

India is looking to procure 31 MQ-9B UAVs –15 Sea Guardians for the Indian Navy and 16 Sky Guardians (eight each for the Indian Army and Air Force) – at an estimated cost of \$3.99 billion. As part of the deal, General Atomics is scheduled to establish a Global Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility in India which would count towards offset obligations.

The DAC also accorded AoN, the first step of the procurement process, for procurement of Advanced Land Navigation System (ALNS) for Armoured

Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) of the Army and 22 Interceptor Boats for the Coast Guard.

The ALNS Mk-II offers compatibility with defence series maps resulting in very high accuracy in navigational applications for AFVs. This equipment will be procured from Bharat Electronics Limited.

The second AoN is for procurement of 22 Interceptor Boats for the Coast Guard with latest state-of-art system capable of quick interception and shallow water operation in territorial waters, the Ministry said. “These boats will be used for coastal surveillance and patrolling, search & rescue operations, including medical evacuation,” it added.



# MQ-9B

Predator Drones



Max Gross Takeoff Weight: **5,670 kg**

Fuel Capacity: **2,721 kg**

Payload Capacity: **2,177 kg across 9 hardpoints (8 wing, 1 centerline)**



## Crew:

**Two pilots in ground control stations**



## Weapons

**Laser guided missiles**

**Anti-tank missiles**

**Anti-ship missiles**



## Missions

- **Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief**
- **Search and Rescue**
- **Law Enforcement**
- **Border Enforcement**
- **Defensive Counter Air**
- **Airborne Early Warning**

## Missions

- **Electronic Warfare**
- **Anti-Surface Warfare**
- **Anti-Submarine Warfare**
- **Airborne Mine Counter Measures**
- **Long-Range Strategic ISR**
- **Over-the-Horizon Targeting**



## About

MQ-9B drones are the most advanced military drones in the world; these drones are manufactured by General Atomics Aeronautical System.

There are two variations of the MQ-9B Drones:  
SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian.



## Specifications

- These drones can stay up to 35 hours in the air and are adept at medium altitude intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance or ISR.
- The high endurance and advanced technology enable it to sustain for a more extended period.

## Reason for India looking to purchase MQ-9B Drones

- India is looking to acquire MQ-9B drones to enhance its surveillance capabilities over the valley and the LAC.



Chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the DAC reviewed and approved amendments to the deal for procuring 31 MQ-9B UAVs (रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह की अध्यक्षता में, DAC ने 31 MQ-9B UAVs की खरीद के लिए सौदे के संशोधनों की समीक्षा की और मंजूरी दी).



Amendments also included the scheduled refit of aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya (संशोधनों में विमानवाहक पोत INS विक्रमादित्य की अनुसूचित पुनः फिटिंग भी शामिल है).

Amendments are within the scope of the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) granted for the MQ-9B deal (MQ-9B सौदे के लिए प्रदान की गई आवश्यकता की स्वीकृति (AoN) के दायरे में संशोधन हैं).



Focus on indigenous content and related aspects (स्वदेशी सामग्री और संबंधित पहलुओं पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया).



U.S. has completed its end of the process with the letter of offer and acceptance to India delivered in March (अमेरिका ने मार्च में भारत को पेशकश पत्र और स्वीकृति के साथ अपनी प्रक्रिया पूरी कर ली है).

Final step requires approval by the Cabinet Committee on Security before signing the deal (अंतिम चरण में सौदे पर हस्ताक्षर करने से पहले सुरक्षा पर मंत्रिमंडलीय समिति द्वारा अनुमोदन की आवश्यकता है).

## 1. Additional Procurements (अतिरिक्त खरीदारी)

### 1. Advanced Land Navigation System (ALNS) (उन्नत भूमि नेविगेशन प्रणाली (ALNS))

1. Procurement of ALNS for Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) of the Army and 22 Interceptor Boats for the Coast Guard (सेना के बख्तरबंद लड़ाकू वाहनों (AFVs) और तटरक्षक के लिए 22 इंटरसेप्टर बोट्स के लिए ALNS की खरीदारी).
2. Equipment to be procured from Bharat Electronics Limited (यह उपकरण भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड से खरीदा जाएगा).



IN BRIEF



HC imposes ₹4 crore costs on Patanjali for breach of order

The Bombay High Court on Monday imposed ₹4 crore costs on Patanjali Ayurved Ltd. for alleged violation of its 2023 anti-displacement order that restrained the company from selling camphor products.

SC notice to Bihar on plea for probe into collapsing bridges

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the Bihar government on a writ petition highlighting the frequent incidents of bridge collapses in the State.

Bihar shopkeeper shot dead for refusing to give cigarette

A 45-year-old shopkeeper was shot dead at Fatuha near Patna on Sunday night after he allegedly refused to give a cigarette to three persons as he had already shut his shop.

Maiji gov. a name changer not a game changer: Naveen

Former Odisha Chief Minister and BJP Janata Dal (BJD) supremo Naveen Patnaik criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government, terming it as 'name changer' rather than a 'game changer' by accusing the BJP of renaming 45 schemes originally implemented by the BJD.

Project Tiger will displace 5.5 lakh tribals: reports

The Hindu Bureau GUWAHATI

Project Tiger will displace at least 5.5 lakh Scheduled Tribes and other forest dwellers, a report released by a New Delhi-based rights group on Global Tiger Day on Monday.

The number of people displaced from 10 tiger reserves before 2021 was 2,54,794, which worked out to about 5,000 per protected area.

Weeks before the Lok Sabha election, the report by the Institute of Human Development (IHD) — said India's youth account for almost 83% of the unemployed workforce and the share of youngsters with secondary or higher education among total unemployed youth has almost doubled from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022.

The senior government official said data used by the ILO are difficult to verify through massive human rights violations.

Centre likely to move ILO against its India employment report

The ILO model does not apply to Indian situation, says official; country's youth account for almost 83% of the unemployed workforce, says report

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

India, a founding member of the International Labour Organization (ILO), is likely to raise a complaint against the UN agency over its India Employment Report, 2024, released in March.

The Union Labour Ministry official said the "model" the ILO had used to assess the employment scene in India was not suitable as India had its own assessment of the situation.

The Union Labour Ministry had earlier expressed doubts over the data provided by private agencies such as the Centre for Monitoring In-



Opportunities ahead: Job seekers participating at a job melā organised in Hyderabad. FILE PHOTO

dian Economy (CMIE). The government has been preparing the Periodic Labour Force Surveys have better data on the situation in India.

NCERT proposes 10 'bagless days' a year for students from Classes 6 to 8

Maitri Porecha NEW DELHI

To provide respite to students from Classes 6 to 8, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has proposed 10 'bagless days' to be implemented by schools across States.

"World of work" — On an average, teachers and children spend around six hours a day and over 1,000 hours a year in schools, minutes being 60 or 60 hours of the school time should be allocated to the activities for this programme," the guidelines,



During these days, teachers will have to plan activities for students to learn from local vocational experts. FILE PHOTO

which are in line with the requirements of the National Education Policy 2020, stated. "The child's need to be prepared for the 'world of work', and a work-centred pedagogy can be pursued with increasing complexity while students, being enriched with the required flexibility and contextual-ity," the guidelines said.

'Centre's internship scheme a win-win for industry, academia'

A.N. Jigeesha SOVANA

Industry and academia are waiting for the details of the internship programme announced in the Union Budget by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently.

Hailing the thought process behind the scheme, Debjani Ghosh, President, National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom), and B.V.R. Mohan Reddy, Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIT-Roorkee and IIT-Hyderabad, said it will be a win-win situation for both industry and academia.

He, however, added that there is some confusion on the nature of the announcement on whether it is an apprenticeship scheme or an internship scheme.

He said, "If the government says there will be one crore interns in five years in 500 companies, an average 4,000 interns should join a company every year. We have to find some ways on how this can be managed or the number of companies have to be expanded," he said.

makes sense for companies and for students. Both industry and academia will embrace it," she said.

The Budget announcement says that the government will bear a large part of the cost and companies will have to fund 10% from their CSR fund. "I think this is going to work. Internships and apprenticeships are strategic tools of up-leveling skills and building the right talent for the company," she said.

Ms. Ghosh said the Budget focuses on sustainable development and growth and on jobs, skills, and employment. "The details of the internship programme is not yet out. But the thought process of more internships with companies makes tremendous sense," she said.

She added that companies usually have to invest in training for at least six months to a year to get a person who can contribute to a business. "Internship is a way to address it and it

classrooms, with theoretical as well as practical application and promote the dignity of labour through hands-on activity and exciting local vocations, the guidelines said.

Three themes — Ropai-based P.S.S. Central Institute of Vocational Education ran a pilot project in schools across several States to refine the guidelines for bagless days.

Officials said the pilot project also revealed the positive impact of bagless days on the students' interest in learning vocational skills.

In the guidelines, the 'bagless days' curriculum has been divided into three themes — exposure to aspects of sciences, environment and tech; exposure to public office, local industry and business; and art, culture, and history.

While paddy is harvested, the same will not grow again but weeds may shoot up again and again though they are removed. We have to reach God so as not to return to this world. Our desires are like weeds that spring up one after another. The only attachment that helps to sever all other bonds is the attachment to God (Pattiruga Pattatru — Kural 350).

FAITH Surrender, the best medium

The deliverance from the cycle of birth and deaths is the summit of all human attachments and it can be achieved only by those who renounce desires (Vendukal Vendum — Kural 362).

In Sri Ramayana, the most important of all is the surrender by Vibhishana. Getting released from the clutches of the crocodile-like Ravana, and crossing the ocean (sea of samsara), Vibhishana, the Gajendra-like elephant surrendered at the feet of Lord Rama.

The mercy of God is infinite and His munificence is limitless. In the war when Sri Rama told Ravana to come the next day, one of the monkeys asked Sri Rama what would happen if Ravana changed his mind and came to surrender as Sri Rama had already assured Vibhishana, the kingdom of Lanka. The Lord replied that he was ready to forego Ayodhya to Ravana if he had come.

Multi-agency security meets held in Jammu to keep militants at bay

Deerajada Ashish SRINGAPUR/JAMMU

Multiple security agencies held meetings in Jammu on Monday to draft a counter-strategy to militants' attempts to step up attacks in the region.

A high-level meeting attended by Additional Director-General of Police (ADGP) Anand Jain focused on upcoming security arrangements for Independence Day. "The meeting's emphasis was on maintaining high alertness for peaceful celebration of Independence Day and on-going Amarnath Yatra," an official said.

Officials at the meeting gathered inputs from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), intelligence agencies, police, and the

civil administration, the official said.

Sources said the security officials also stressed "inter-agency cooperation, border security, and counter-drone threats."

The Army also reviewed the security situation in Jammu, Samba, and Kathua districts on Monday.

"A multi-agency security tabletop exercise was conducted at the Samba Military Station. It was attended by all stakeholders from security forces and intelligence agencies. The agencies brainstormed and deliberated on various probable security scenarios and instituted measures to employ the full spectrum of counter-terror capabilities in a co-ordinated manner," said Lt. Col. Sunil Bartwal, Jammu-based spokesperson of the Ministry of Defence.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and a QR code for online access.

- 12 Contracts 007s (5)
14 Friend returned to party without a plot, rejecting support for dishonest journalists (6,5)
20 Asking to support love before lust, for romance? Good! (9)
23 Faithful avoids English breakfast at mass (6)
24 Attacks caves and fights (8)
25 Time and energy plus mass in an arrangement of mutual dependence (6)
Down
1 Sister-in-law given flower in senseless manner (7)
2 Victory drink and new agents for Spanish Football Club (8)
3 One of the Beatles had right commercials for alternate urban approaches (4,5)
4 Theatre intended for monks and bachelors essentially (5)
5 Flier runs into fellow immortal, tallish (6)
6 Reprimand about ordinary work leather (7)
7 Green has exact working for busy engineers (8,5)
13 The US dope synthesised in Mississippi or Louisiana, say (4,5)
15 Popular, very fast and bold (8)
16 51 pounds for solutions (7)
17 Arranged, had nothing initially, inhaled drugs (7)
19 Lines laid in the middle of high road for money (6)
21 Flavour of heroin (5)

Sudoku puzzle grid with solution and difficulty ratings.

# Centre likely to move ILO against its India employment report

The ILO model does not apply to Indian situation, says official; country's youth account for almost 83% of the unemployed workforce, says report

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

India, a founding member of the International Labour Organization (ILO), is likely to raise a complaint against the UN agency over its India Employment Report, 2024, released in March. A Union Labour Ministry official said the "model" the ILO had used to assess the employment scene in India was not suitable and India had its own assessment of the situation.

Weeks before the Lok Sabha election, the report – prepared by the ILO and the Institute of Human Development (IHD) – said India's youth account for almost 83% of the unemployed workforce and the share of youngsters with secondary or higher education among total unemployed youth has almost doubled from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022.

The senior government official said data used by the ILO are different from the data used in the country. "We will take up the



**Opportunities ahead:** Job seekers participating at a job mela organised in Hyderabad. FILE PHOTO

matter with the ILO," the official said, adding that the concept of employment has been changing drastically in the country with more people turning entrepreneurs and formal employment gaining momentum with increasing subscriptions in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and the Employees' State Insurance Corporation.

The Union Labour Ministry had earlier expressed doubts over the data provided by private agencies such as the Centre for Monitoring In-

dian Economy (CMIE). The government has been insisting that the Periodic Labour Force Surveys have better data on the situation in India. Minister of State for Labour Shobha Karandlaje said in the Lok Sabha on Monday that the unemployment rate for youth in the country has a declining trend. "Employment generation coupled with improving employability is the priority of the government. Accordingly, the Government of India has taken various steps for generating employment in the country," she said.

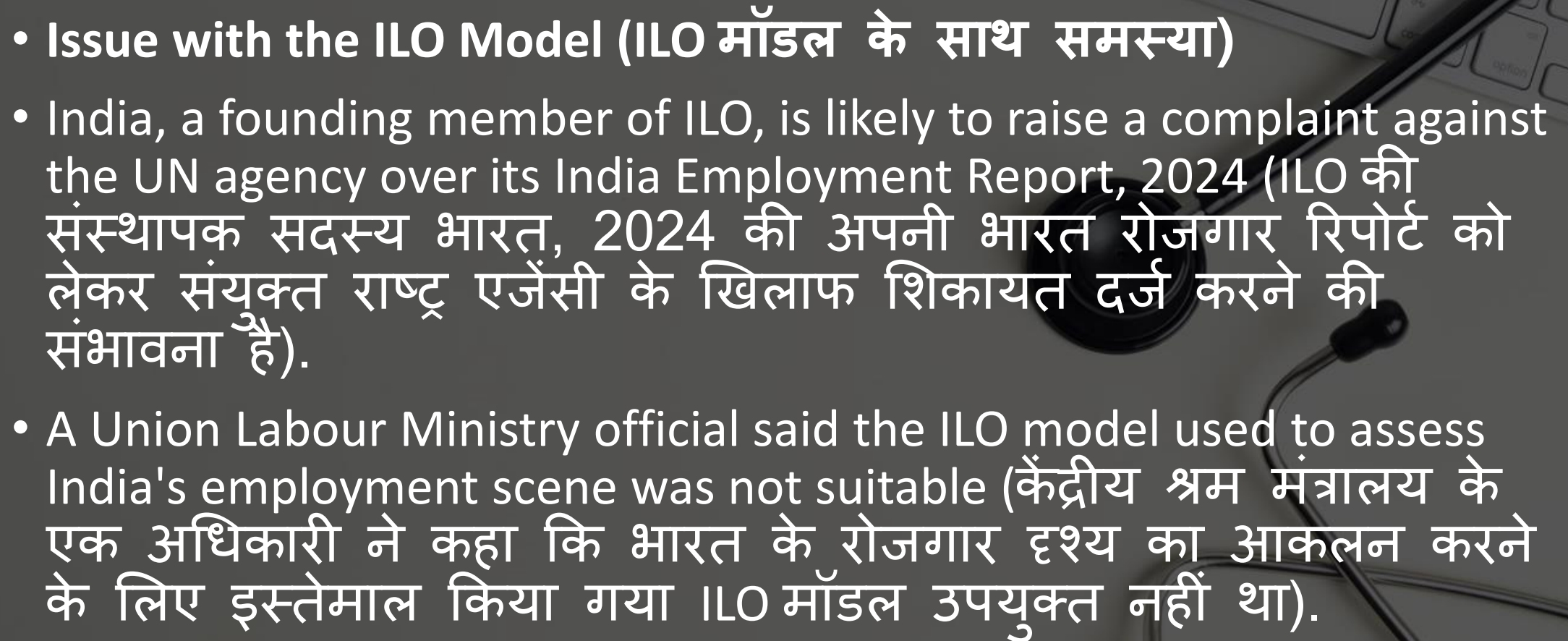


<b>Abbreviation</b>	ILO
<b>Formation</b>	11 April 1919; 105 years ago
<b>Type</b>	<a href="#">United Nations specialized agency</a>
<b>Legal status</b>	Active
<b>Headquarters</b>	<a href="#">Geneva</a> , Switzerland
<b>Official languages</b>	<a href="#">English</a> · <a href="#">Spanish</a> · <a href="#">French</a>
<b>Director-general</b>	<a href="#">Gilbert Houngbo</a>
<b>Parent organization</b>	<a href="#">United Nations General Assembly</a> <a href="#">United Nations Economic and Social Council</a>
<b>Award(s)</b>	<a href="#">Nobel Peace Prize (1969)</a>

- **The eight-core conventions of the ILO are:**

- Forced Labour Convention (No. 29)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (No.105)
- Equal Remuneration Convention (No.100)
- Discrimination (Employment Occupation) Convention (No.111)
- Minimum Age Convention (No.138)
- Worst forms of Child Labour Convention (No.182)
- Freedom of Association and Protection of Right to Organised Convention (No.87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention (No.98)



- 
- **Issue with the ILO Model (ILO मॉडल के साथ समस्या)**
  - India, a founding member of ILO, is likely to raise a complaint against the UN agency over its India Employment Report, 2024 (ILO की संस्थापक सदस्य भारत, 2024 की अपनी भारत रोजगार रिपोर्ट को लेकर संयुक्त राष्ट्र एजेंसी के खिलाफ शिकायत दर्ज करने की संभावना है).
  - A Union Labour Ministry official said the ILO model used to assess India's employment scene was not suitable (केंद्रीय श्रम मंत्रालय के एक अधिकारी ने कहा कि भारत के रोजगार दृश्य का आकलन करने के लिए इस्तेमाल किया गया ILO मॉडल उपयुक्त नहीं था).

- Report stated that India's youth account for almost 83% of the unemployed workforce (रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि भारत के युवा लगभग 83% बेरोजगार कार्यबल का हिस्सा हैं).
- Share of youngsters with secondary or higher education among total unemployed youth has almost doubled from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022 (कल बेरोजगार युवाओं में माध्यमिक या उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त युवाओं का हिस्सा 2000 में 35.2% से बढ़कर 2022 में 65.7% हो गया है).

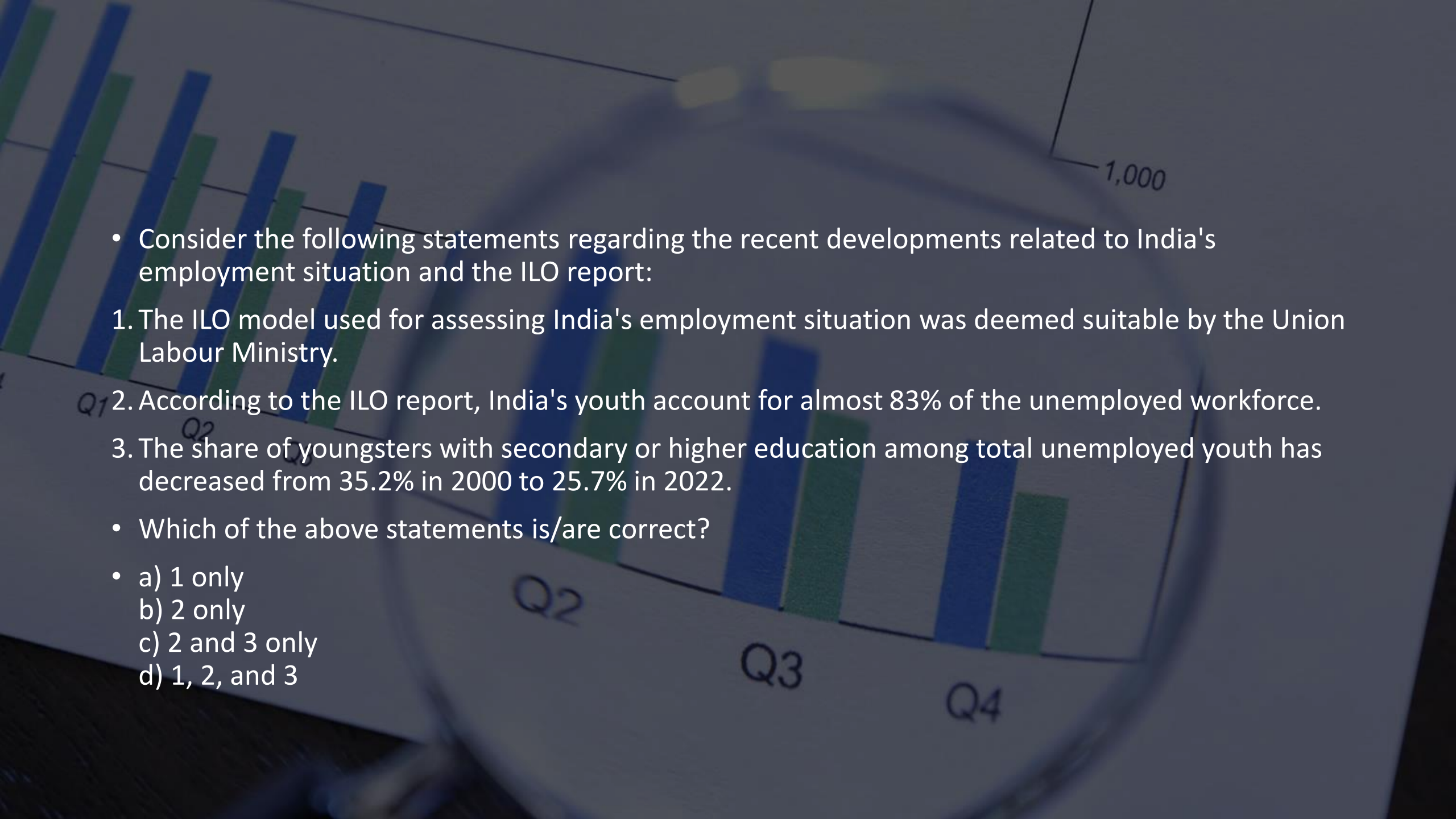




- **Government's Stand (सरकार का रुख)**

- **Data Discrepancies (डेटा विसंगतियां)**

- Union Labour Ministry expressed doubts over data provided by private agencies like CMIE (केंद्रीय श्रम मंत्रालय ने CMIE जैसी निजी एजेंसियों द्वारा प्रदान किए गए डेटा पर संदेह व्यक्त किया).
- Ministry insists that Periodic Labour Force Surveys have better data on the situation in India (मंत्रालय का कहना है कि भारत की स्थिति पर आवधिक श्रम बल सर्वेक्षणों के पास बेहतर डेटा है).

- 
- Consider the following statements regarding the recent developments related to India's employment situation and the ILO report:

1. The ILO model used for assessing India's employment situation was deemed suitable by the Union Labour Ministry.

2. According to the ILO report, India's youth account for almost 83% of the unemployed workforce.

3. The share of youngsters with secondary or higher education among total unemployed youth has decreased from 35.2% in 2000 to 25.7% in 2022.

- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



## CONSULTATION PAPER EXPANDS SCOPE OF 'CONNECTED PERSON'

# Sebi to widen the net to curb insider trading

AKSHATA GORDE  
Mumbai, July 29

**THE SECURITIES AND Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Monday proposed changes to insider trading rules by including relatives, related firms or partners, people living in the same household, and Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) where the *karta* is related to the 'connected person', among others, as part of 'deemed connected persons'.**

The changes have been proposed in a consultation paper. The regulator has invited public comments by August 18. To close any regulatory loopholes and prevent potential violations, Sebi has suggested revising the definitions of 'connected persons' and 'relative' under its Prohibition of Insider Trading (PIT) Regulations.

Sebi said that such individuals, not currently covered by the regulations, might still have access to unpublished price-sensitive information (UPSI) due to their connections with company officials or key employees holding such information.

If accused of insider trading, these deemed connected persons would need to prove they did not possess UPSI.

Further, Sebi has proposed changing 'immediate relative' to 'relative' to cover a wider group of family members like parents, siblings, spouses, and in-laws, among others. However, it has suggested keeping the definition of 'immediate relative' for trade disclosures by promoters, directors, and designated persons under the PIT Regu-



**FAIR TRADE**  
Sebi has proposed changing 'immediate relative' to 'relative' to include a wider group of family members under insider trading regulations

It has sought public comments on its consultation paper by August 18

lations unchanged. The regulator aims to broaden the scope of regulations prohibiting insider trading to include more individuals connected to those with access to price-sensitive information.

"Such deemed connected persons, owing to their proximity and close relationship with the connected persons, are considered to be in such a position where they can potentially indulge in insider trading," Sebi said.

Continued on Page 7

## Ola IPO: Jackpot for Tiger & Z47

KISHOR KADAM & VIVEK KUMAR M  
Mumbai, July 29

**TIGER GLOBALAND Z47** (formerly Matrix Partners India), which bet on Ola Electric Mobility at a very early stage, are set to make multibagger returns, with the company pricing its initial public offering (IPO) at a price band of ₹72-76 per share.

At the upper end of the band, founder and promoter Bhavish Aggarwal's 36.94% stake in the company is worth ₹10,350 crore. Aggarwal will offload 37.9 million of his total holding of 1,261.9 million shares.

The ₹6,100-crore IPO, through which fresh capital worth ₹5,500 crore will be raised, will open for subscription on August 2 and close on August 6. At ₹76, Ola will be valued at ₹33,500 crore (approximately \$4 billion).

Continued on Page 7

## Rapido turns 4th unicorn of 2024

ANEEZ HUSSAIN  
Bengaluru, July 29

**RIDE-HAILING PLATFORM RAPIDO** has become the latest unicorn by raising \$120 million (around ₹1,000 crore) in primary capital from its existing investor, WestBridge Capital, at a post-money valuation of \$1 billion. The company was last valued at \$825 million after its \$180 million funding in April 2022.

The startup is the fourth unicorn this calendar year after Perfos, Ola's Gen AI platform Krutim, and Porter. In 2023, there were only two unicorns, Zepto and InCred Finance. According to sources, Rapido is likely to raise another \$20 million from global investors.

Continued on Page 7



## SBI INNOVATIVE OPPORTUNITIES FUND

# MEET THE INNOVATORS WHO WILL POWER NEXT-GEN INDIA



- Proactive Government Initiatives providing a boost to innovation and economic growth
- Booming Startup Ecosystem with a growing number of Unicorns
- Strong Digital Infrastructure harnessing the power of tech across sectors

**NFO Period**  
29<sup>th</sup> July 2024 - 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024

AN OPEN-ENDED EQUITY SCHEME FOLLOWING THE INNOVATION THEME.

Insuring Export Credit Risks since 1957

# ECGC

is Celebrating its

# 68<sup>th</sup>

## FOUNDATION DAY

30<sup>th</sup> July, 2024

We acknowledge the unwavering support of our stakeholders and customers

This product is suitable for investors who are seeking:-

- Long term capital appreciation
- Investment in equity and equity related instruments of companies engaged in and/or expected to

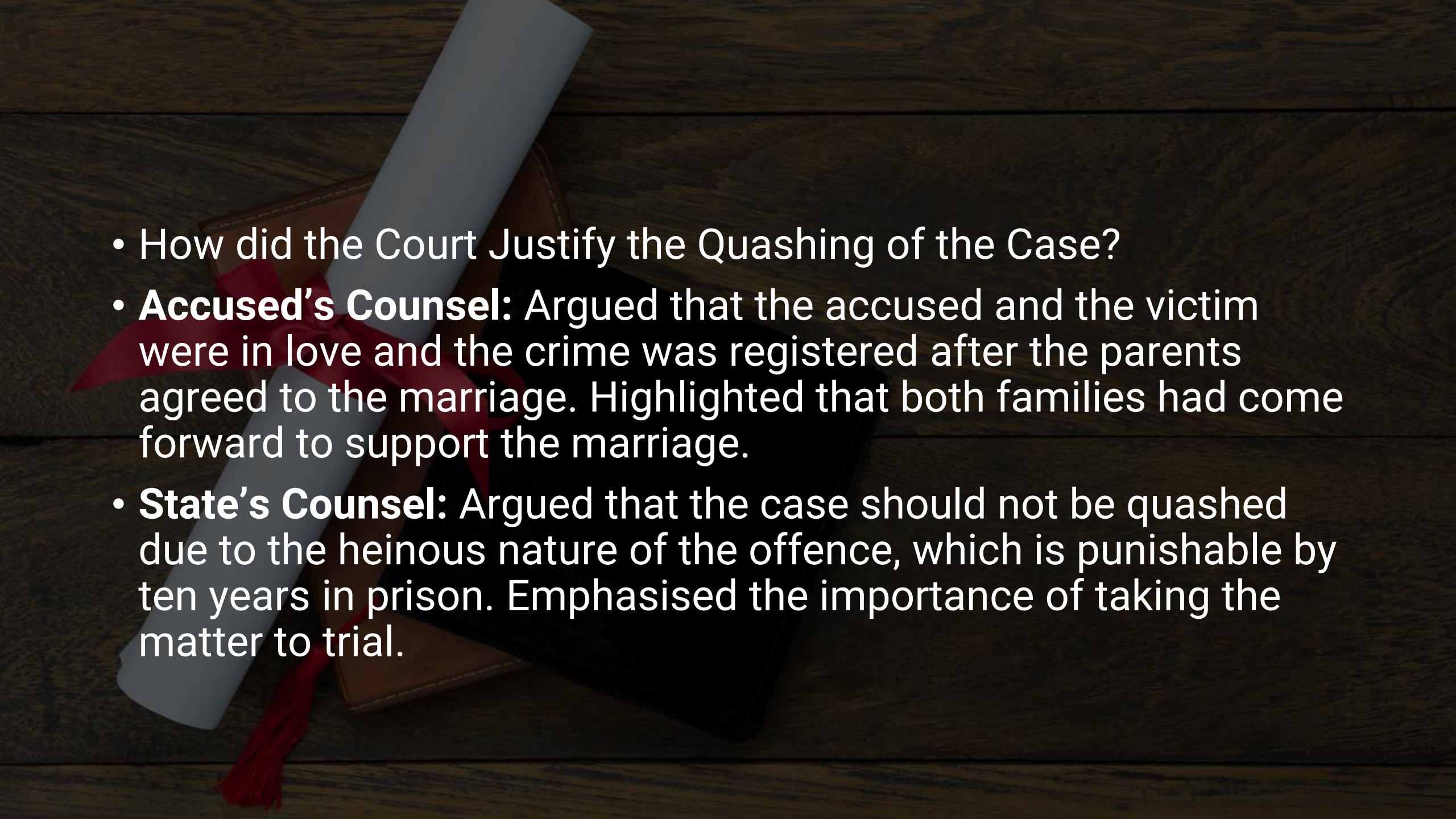


The background features a complex, abstract design with organic, flowing shapes in shades of green, blue, and grey. These shapes are filled with various patterns, including small white dots, larger white dashes, and vertical white lines. The overall effect is a vibrant, textured backdrop.

# Karnataka High Court Quashes POCSO Case



- The Karnataka High Court has recently quashed proceedings under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 against a 23-year-old man accused of raping a minor, who he subsequently married.
- This decision includes a caveat allowing the criminal proceedings to be revived if the man abandons his wife and child in the future.
- This condition is aimed at ensuring the welfare and protection of the mother and child.

- 
- How did the Court Justify the Quashing of the Case?
  - **Accused's Counsel:** Argued that the accused and the victim were in love and the crime was registered after the parents agreed to the marriage. Highlighted that both families had come forward to support the marriage.
  - **State's Counsel:** Argued that the case should not be quashed due to the heinous nature of the offence, which is punishable by ten years in prison. Emphasised the importance of taking the matter to trial.



**Court's Decision: Protection of the Victim and Child:** The court emphasised that releasing the petitioner without resolving the issue would leave the mother and child vulnerable, facing societal ignominy and potential jeopardy.

**Victim's Potential Hostility:** The court noted that the victim would likely turn hostile, making the conviction of the petitioner highly unlikely.

## What is the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012? About:

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO Act, 2012) was enacted to protect children from sexual abuse, filling a significant legislative gap in India despite the United Nations' adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.

- This Act imposes severe penalties, including **up to 20 years of imprisonment** and the death penalty for aggravated penetrative sexual assault.



- **Shortcomings of the POCSO Act: Application of Last Seen Theory:**
- The Supreme Court in *Anjan Kumar Sarma v. State of Assam, 2017* ruled that this theory is weak without corroborative evidence, risking wrongful convictions.
  - This theory states that if someone is the **last person seen with the victim before a crime** and cannot provide a credible explanation, there is a strong **presumption that they are responsible for the crime.**

**Consensual Sexual Activities:** The Act prosecutes a **non-minor partner in consensual sex with a minor**, as minors' consent is deemed irrelevant.

**False Complaints by Children:** Section 22 exempts children from punishment for false complaints, leading to potential misuse.

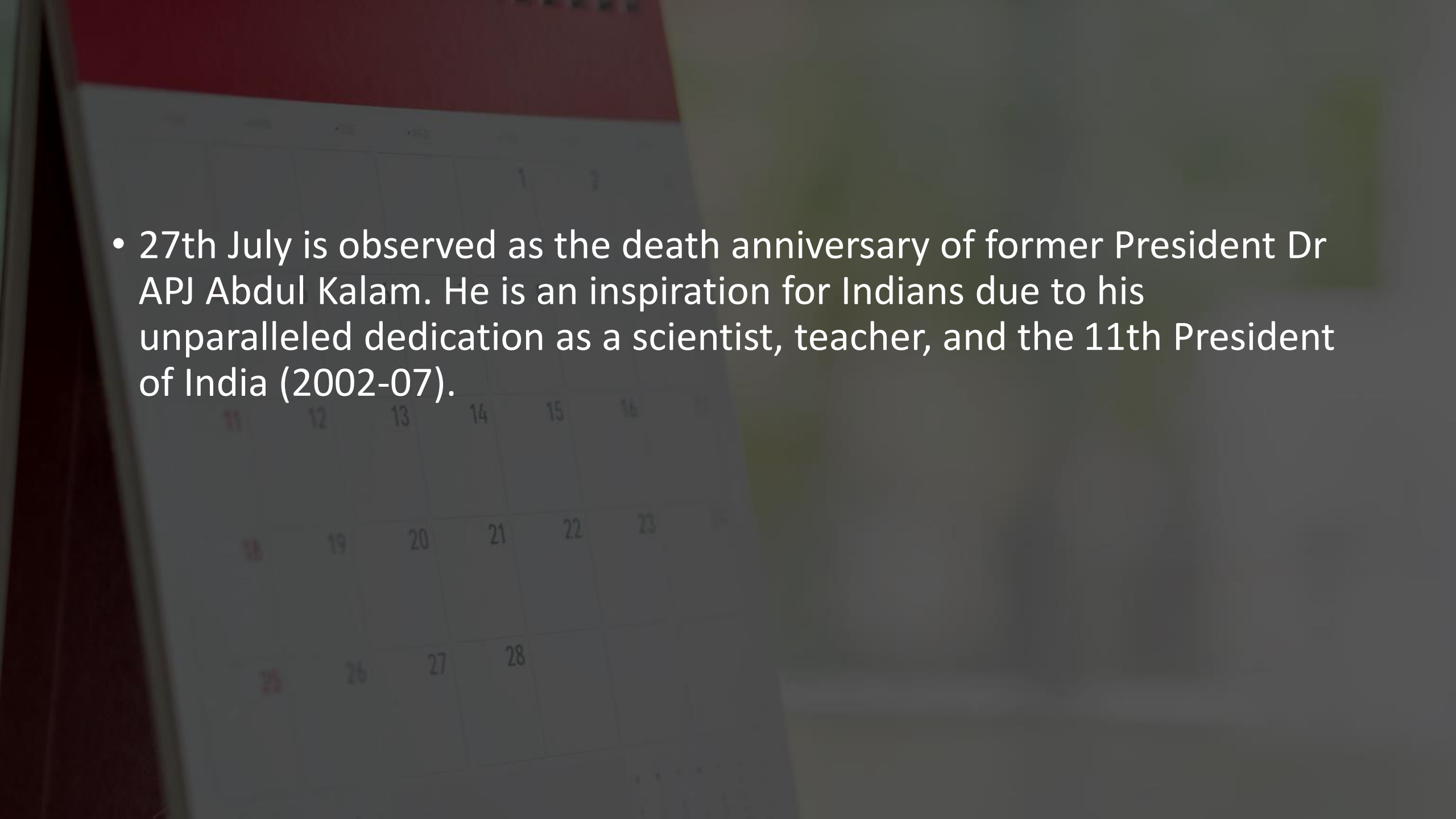
**Two-Finger Test:** Despite being banned in 2012, this test is still conducted, violating the victim's privacy and dignity, as noted in *Lillu @ Rajesh v. State of Haryana, 2013*.





Kalam's 9th Death Anniversary



- 
- A calendar page for the month of July is visible in the background. The date 27th is highlighted in red. The text is overlaid on the calendar.
- 27th July is observed as the death anniversary of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. He is an inspiration for Indians due to his unparalleled dedication as a scientist, teacher, and the 11th President of India (2002-07).



- **About:**

- **Born on 15th October 1931 at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu.**
- **He graduated in Science from St Joseph's College, Trichy in 1954 and specialised in Aeronautical Engineering from Madras Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1957.**

-

---

He is one of the most distinguished scientists in India with the unique honour of receiving **honorary doctorates from 48 Universities and institutions in India and abroad.**

---

He planned programmes to produce a number of successful missiles, which helped earn him the nickname **“Missile Man of India”.**



# Major Contribution

- Pioneer in **Fiberglass Technology**
- Chief Executive of **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)**
- Led **Pokhran-II** nuclear testing
- Responsible for the evolution of ISRO's launch vehicle programme, particularly the **PSLV configuration**

- Put forward a countrywide plan called **Technology Vision 2020**
- Involved in the country's **Light Combat Aircraft** project.
- Sought to bring rural prosperity through **PURA (Providing Urban Amenities to Rural Areas)** Scheme

## Awards Received

Padma Vibhushan (1990)

King Charles II Medal (2007)

Veer Savarkar Award (1998)

Padma Bhushan (1981)

Bharat Ratna (1997)

Hoover Medal (2008)

## Literary Works

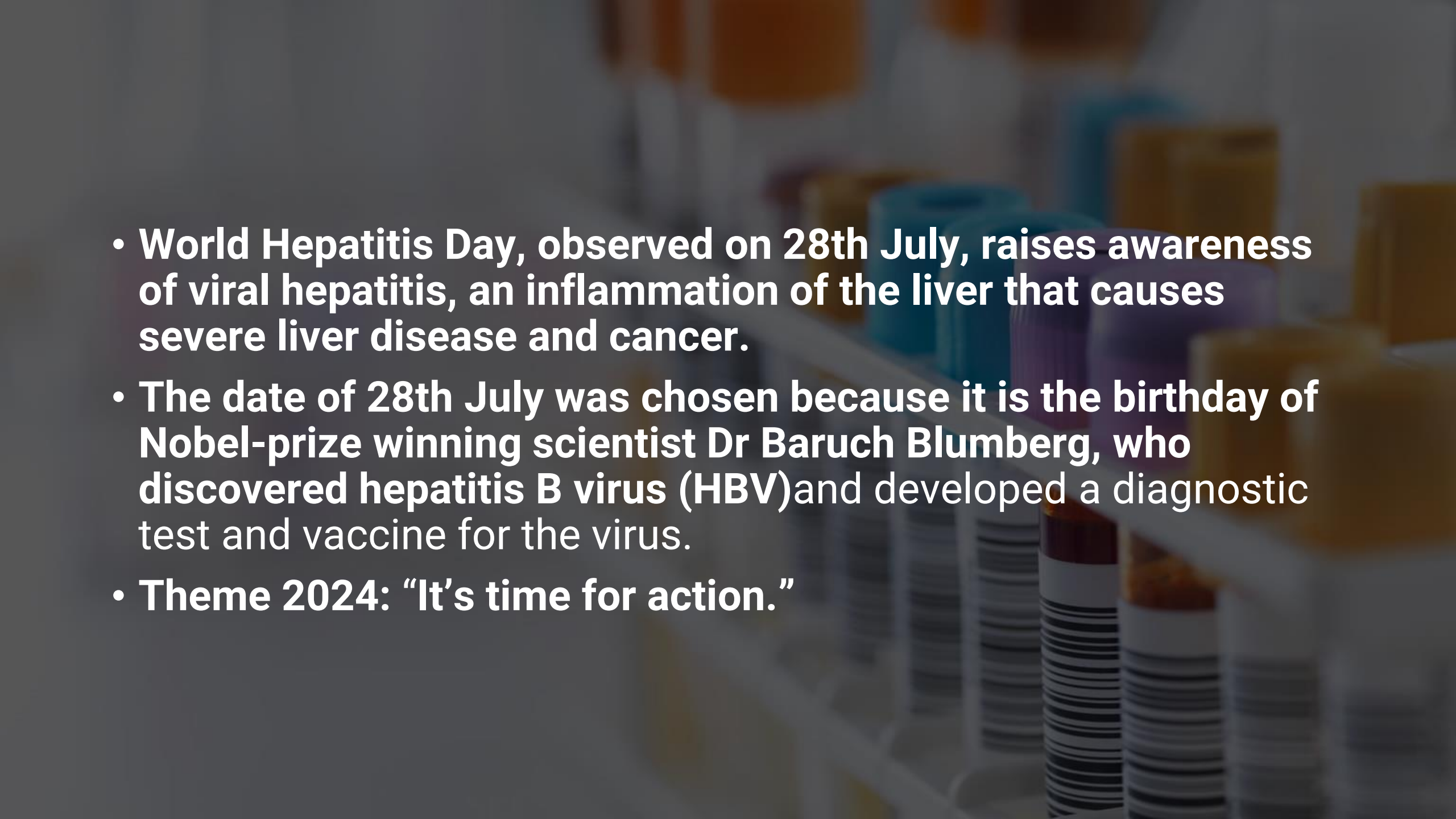
➤ "Wings of Fire", "India 2020 - A Vision for the New Millennium", "My journey"

➤ "Ignited Minds - Unleashing the power within India", "Indomitable Spirit", "Guiding Souls", "Envisioning an Empowered Nation", "Inspiring Thoughts" etc.

The background of the image is a light gray gradient. It is decorated with a large, horizontal splash of colorful paint. The splash is composed of numerous overlapping circles and dots of various sizes. The colors transition from left to right: starting with shades of orange and red on the far left, moving through purple and blue in the center, and ending with shades of green and yellow on the far right. The text "World Hepatitis Day" is centered horizontally and vertically over this colorful splash.

World Hepatitis Day



- 
- **World Hepatitis Day, observed on 28th July, raises awareness of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes severe liver disease and cancer.**
  - **The date of 28th July was chosen because it is the birthday of Nobel-prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for the virus.**
  - **Theme 2024: “It’s time for action.”**

- Hepatitis has 5 main strains - **A, B, C, D, and E**, each with distinct transmission methods and health effects. **Hepatitis B and C are the most common**, causing 1.3 million deaths and 2.2 million new infections annually. With a person dying every 30 seconds from a hepatitis-related illness.
  - Additional causes **include drug and alcohol misuse**, fatty liver hepatitis, and autoimmune response targeting the liver.






# Types of Hepatitis

	TRANSMISSION	PREVENTION	TREATMENT
Hepatitis A	Eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practicing good hygiene</li><li>• Vaccine</li></ul>	No treatment
Hepatitis B	Through contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practicing good hygiene</li><li>• Vaccine</li><li>• Blood screening</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alpha interferon</li><li>• Peginterferon</li></ul>
Hepatitis C	Blood-to-blood contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practicing good hygiene</li><li>• Avoid sharing needles, toothbrushes, razors or nail scissors</li></ul>	Direct-acting antiviral drugs
Hepatitis D	Contact with infected blood (only occurs in people already infected with hepatitis B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hepatitis B vaccine</li><li>• Avoid sharing needles, toothbrushes, razors or nail scissors</li></ul>	Interferon
Hepatitis E	Eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practicing good hygiene</li><li>• Avoid drinking water that has come from a potentially unsafe source</li></ul>	No treatment

**Australia Banned  
Uranium Mining at  
Jabiluka site**



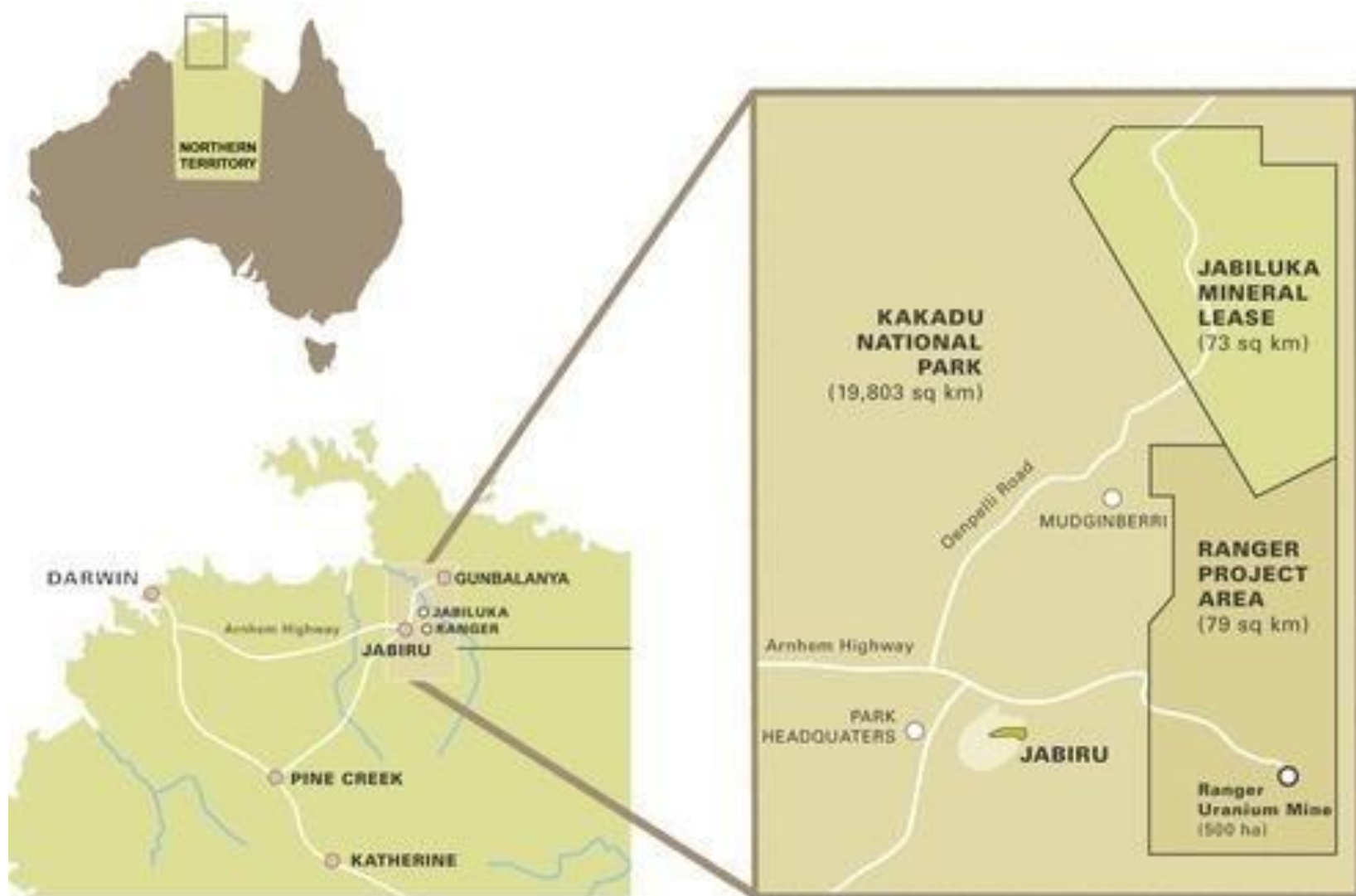
- 
- Australia Banned Uranium Mining at **Jabiluka site**, which is home to one of the **world's largest deposits of high-grade uranium**.
  - **About**
  - The Jabiluka site is surrounded by **Kakadu National Park**.
  - Archaeologists discovered a **buried trove of stone axes and tools** near the Jabiluka site in 2017, which they dated at tens of thousands of years old.
- 

- 
- The Jabiluka site became the focus of intense legal wrangling between the **Mirarr people** and mining companies after the uranium deposit was discovered there in the early 1970s.

- 









The image shows a well-preserved mosaic floor from the Saint Hilarion Monastery. The floor is composed of small, light-colored mosaic tiles. A large, central medallion is visible, surrounded by a decorative border. In the lower right corner, there is a diamond-shaped (rhombus) mosaic containing Greek text. The text is arranged in two lines and reads "ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΜΟΝΑΧΟΥ ΗΛΙΑΡΙΟΥ" (Bishop and Monk Hilarion). The background of the floor is a light, neutral color, and the overall scene is dimly lit, highlighting the intricate details of the mosaic work.

# Saint Hilarion Monastery

- 
- Recently, the UNESCO tag for **Tell Umm Amer heritage site in Gaza** was announced during the ongoing 46th session of the World Heritage Committee at New Delhi.
  - **About Tell Umm Amer (aka Saint Hilarion Monastery)**
  - It stands and nestled amidst the **coastal dunes in Nuseirat Municipality, Palestine**, this remarkable site dates back to the 4th century as a testament to centuries of devotion and cultural exchange.
- 







The monastery owes its existence to **Saint Hilarion**, a **visionary ascetic** who sought solitude in the wilderness.





Initially, it served as a haven for solitary hermits, but over time, it evolved into a vibrant coenobitic community—a place where monks lived together, sharing their spiritual journeys.

# Proposal by PARAKH on student assessment

- 
- The Performance Assessment Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development (PARAKH) suggested to Include Class 9-11 performance for Class 12 results
  - **About PARAKH**
  - National Assessment Centre- PARAKH was set up in NCERT as an independent constituent unit in 2023, to fulfil the basic objectives of setting norms, standards, guidelines and implement activities related to student assessment along with other tasks as mandated by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- 



- 
- There are four major areas of focus for PARAKH:
  - Capacity Development in Competency Based Assessment
  - Large-Scale Achievement Survey
  - Equivalence of School Boards
  - Holistic Progress Cards for the Foundational, Preparational, Middle and Secondary Stages.
- 



- **Recent Recommendations**

- **Integration of Performance:** Performance from Classes 9, 10, and 11 should be included in the final Class 12 report card, with weighted contributions of 15% from Class 9, 20% from Class 10, 25% from Class 11, and 40% from Class 12.



- **Assessment Types:** Class 9: 70% formative assessments, 30% summative assessments.

- Class 10: 50% formative assessments, 50% summative assessments.

- Class 11: 40% formative assessments, 60% summative assessments.

- Class 12: 30% formative assessments, 70% summative assessments.



- 
- **Holistic Progress Card:** Includes self-evaluation, teacher assessments of group work, and peer feedback.
  - **Credit System:** Classes 9 and 10: 40 credits each.
    - Classes 11 and 12: 44 credits each.
    - Subject-specific credits include 32 for Classes 9 and 10 (e.g., 12 for languages, 4 each for mathematics, science, social science).
  - **National Credit Framework:** Boards are recommended to develop a credit transfer system aligned with the National Credit Framework.
- 



## COMBINED EVALUATION

Weight	Class 9	Class 10	Class 11	Class 12
Formative	70%	50%	40%	30%
Summative	30%	50%	60%	70%

■ Formative are classroom assessments through holistic progress cards, projects, group discussions, etc; summative are end-term examinations

■ Each class will have two terms for assessment

### Weighted marks at the end of higher secondary stage

Class 9	Class 10	Class 11	Class 12
15%	20%	25%	40%



# World Mangrove Day: Conservation Success in India Amidst Challenges

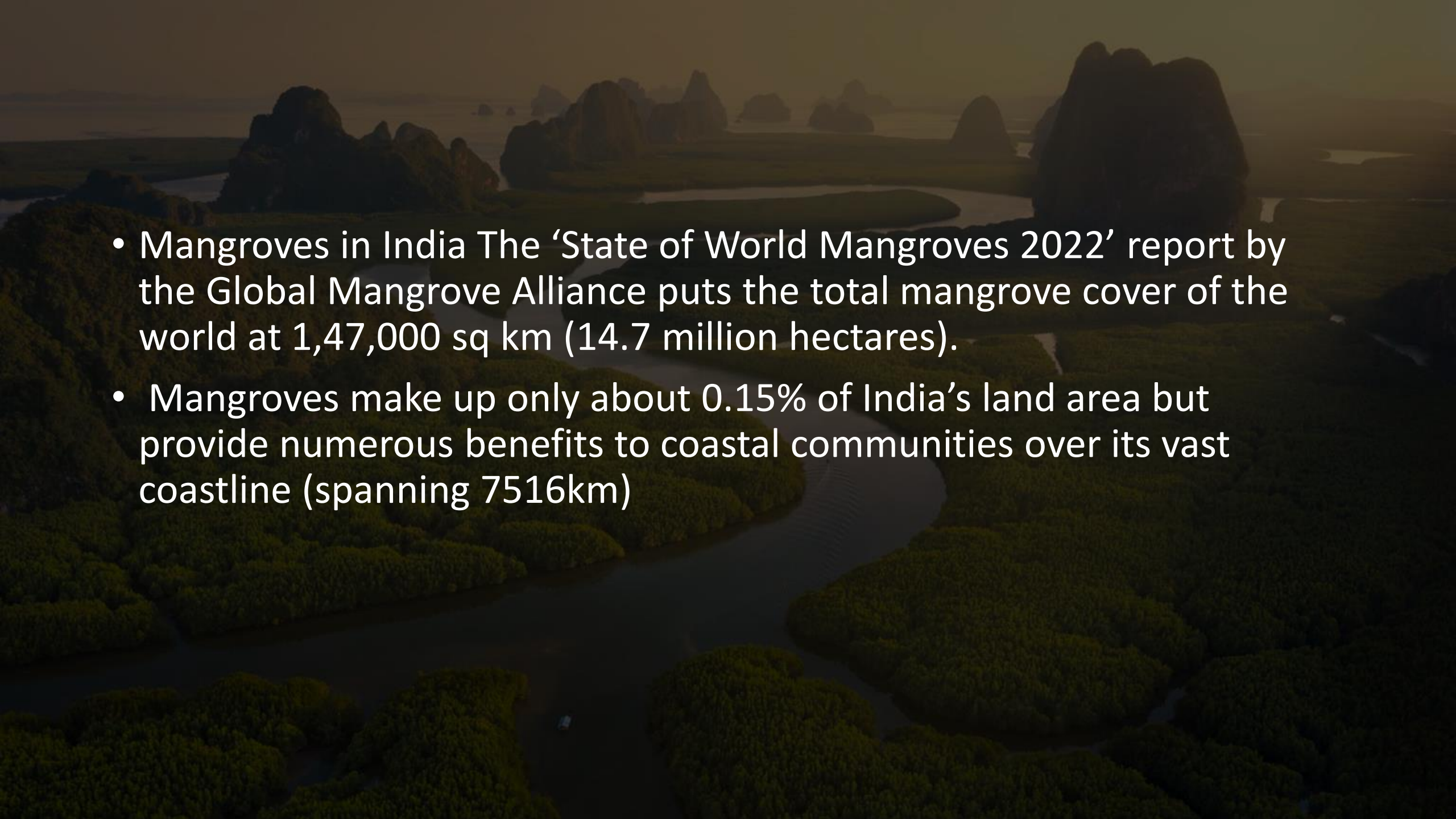


**July 26 is International Day for Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems**, declared by UNESCO **to raise awareness and promote sustainable management of mangroves**, vital for coastal protection, storm mitigation, and carbon sequestration.



**Celebrated annually on July 26**, this day aims to raise awareness about the importance of mangrove ecosystems and promote sustainable management and conservation solutions. It was established by **UNESCO** **in 2015**.



- 
- An aerial photograph of a mangrove forest. A winding waterway or canal cuts through the dense, dark green vegetation. In the background, several large, dark, rocky islands or peninsulas rise from the water, silhouetted against a hazy, light-colored sky. The overall scene is a natural, coastal landscape.
- Mangroves in India The 'State of World Mangroves 2022' report by the Global Mangrove Alliance puts the total mangrove cover of the world at 1,47,000 sq km (14.7 million hectares).
  - Mangroves make up only about 0.15% of India's land area but provide numerous benefits to coastal communities over its vast coastline (spanning 7516km)

Mangroves in India are distributed across nine States and three Union Territories with West Bengal having the highest mangrove cover of 2,114 sq km.

The IFSR report also points out that there has been an increase in the mangrove cover from 4,046 sq km in 1987 to 4,992 sq km in 2021.

However, the National Decadal Wetland Change Atlas (2022) indicates a decline in natural coastal wetlands, with intertidal mudflats and salt marshes reducing significantly.





## Mangrove Ecosystem Benefits



**Water Filtration** | 2 to 5 Hectares of Mangroves may treat the effluents of 1 hectare of aquaculture



**Fisheries** | More than 3000 fish species are found in mangrove ecosystems



**Climate Regulation** | Carbon storage potential of mangroves is 3-5X higher than that of tropical upland forest



**Livelihoods** | 120 million people live near mangroves



**Wood** | Its density makes mangrove wood a valued source of timber and fuel



**Coastal Protection** | Mangroves are 5 times more cost effective than grey infrastructure.

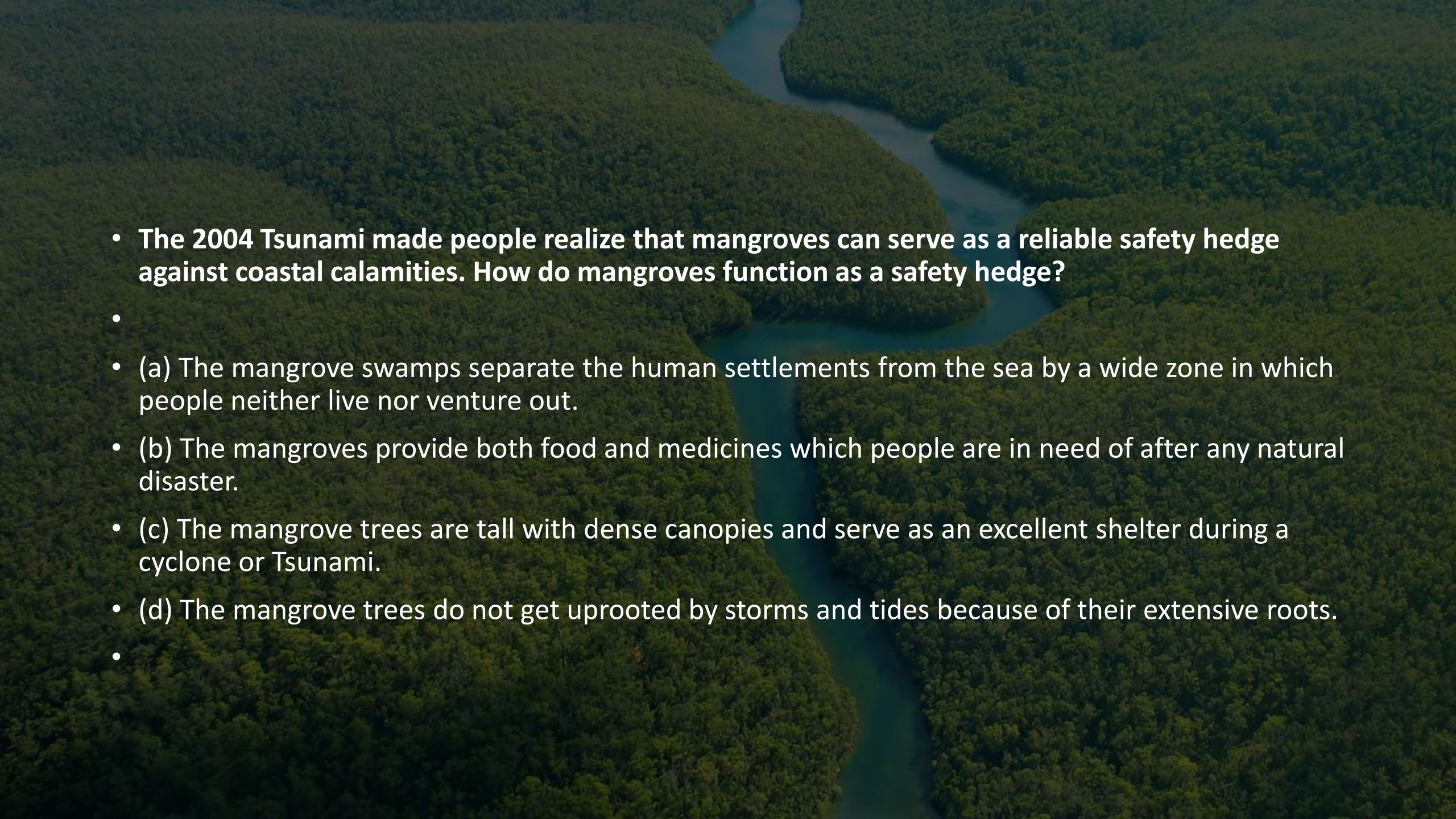


**Mangrove Ecosystem Services** | Worth US\$ 33,000 to 57,000 per hectare per year x 14 million hectares i.e. 800\$ / year



**Tourism** | There are over 2000 mangrove related attractions globally, such as boat tours, boardwalks, kayaking & fishing.



- 
- An aerial photograph of a lush green mangrove forest. A narrow, winding waterway or canal cuts through the dense canopy of trees, creating a complex network of channels. The water appears dark and still, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The overall scene is a dense, healthy ecosystem.
- **The 2004 Tsunami made people realize that mangroves can serve as a reliable safety hedge against coastal calamities. How do mangroves function as a safety hedge?**
  - 
  - (a) The mangrove swamps separate the human settlements from the sea by a wide zone in which people neither live nor venture out.
  - (b) The mangroves provide both food and medicines which people are in need of after any natural disaster.
  - (c) The mangrove trees are tall with dense canopies and serve as an excellent shelter during a cyclone or Tsunami.
  - (d) The mangrove trees do not get uprooted by storms and tides because of their extensive roots.
  -



---

# Word of the day

## **Hoary:**

showing characteristics of age, especially having grey or white hair; ancient

---

**Synonyms:** grey, grey-haired, grizzly, white-haired, rusty

---

**Usage:** *His hair was a hoary white.*

---

**Pronunciation:** [bit.ly/hoarypro](https://bit.ly/hoarypro)

---

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /hɔː.i/

---



# CURRENT AFFAIRS COURSE

- ✓ UPDATED CURRENT AFFAIRS (2023+2024)|
- ✓ COMPLETE NOTES(PDF)

# COMPLETE GK/GS COURSE

- ✓ STATIC GK
- ✓ HISTORY
- ✓ POLITY
- ✓ GEOGRAPHY
- ✓ ECONOMICS

USE CODE

**B60**

CALL FOR SUPPORT: +91-7414862047



• **LIVE**  
**DOUBT SESSION**








GIVE A CHILD THE GIFT OF EDUCATION TODAY

Join Hands



We make the best use of your contribution OUR FINANCIALS

A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is low, creating a warm and intimate atmosphere. There are some red dots and an orange bar in the top left corner, likely part of a graphic design.

Thank you  
guys.

---