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'Article 370 revocation a watershed moment'
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INSIDE



Bengal Assembly united against division of State

BOLNAYA
In a rare show of unanimity, both members of the Treasury benches and the Opposition came together to pass a resolution in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly on Monday to oppose any division of the State. > PAGE 2

Opposition slams 'plans' to amend Waqf Act

NEW DELHI
Reacting to the leak over the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Union government's plan to table a bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1986, the Opposition leaders on Monday claimed the bill aims at creating a divide in the society and they will oppose it if introduced in Parliament. > PAGE 6

Justify inclusions in OBC list, SC tells Bengal govt.

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday gave the West Bengal government an "opportunity" to justify the reasons for including 77 castes, largely Muslim communities, in the State's Other Backward Classes (OBC) list. > PAGE 6

UN seeks urgent de-escalation in West Asia

GENEVA
The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk on Monday called for an urgent de-escalation in West Asia over fears that the Gaza war could spread. Meanwhile, he said it had the "legal right to punish" Israel. > PAGE 14

Hasina quits, flees Bangladesh, lands in India

The country's longest-serving PM airlifted out of Dhaka to Hindon Air Force station near Delhi | She requests asylum in U.K. as protesters storm the PM's residence after defying a curfew order | Army chief addresses the nation, confirms her resignation; says an interim govt. will be formed

Rahat Khan
DHAKA
Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who had been in power for the past 15 years, resigned and fled the country on Monday noon by a helicopter after weeks of deadly unrest in which more than 200 people have been killed.
The country is now set to have an interim government.
"Later in the day, Ms. Hasina landed at the Hindon Air Force station near Delhi. Ms. Hasina has requested asylum from the U.K. Her sister Ruhana, who holds U.K. citizenship, is accompanying her, sources told The Hindu.
Dr Dhaka, Army Chief Gen. Waker-Uz-Zaman confirmed her resignation in an address to the nation. He urged protesters to stop the unrest and pledged to meet their demands and bring justice for those who were killed.
He said he would talk to



Bdga saba: Protesters storm Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina's palace in Dhaka and display the national flag on Monday.

the President to form the interim government and had held talks with the main Opposition parties and civil society members, but not the Awami League, Ms. Hasina's party. The Army chief will also hold a meeting with protesting student leaders. "I am taking full responsibility. If the situation gets better, there is no need for an emergency. We hope to go towards a better situation together. The country has suffered a lot, the economy has been hit, and many people have been killed. It is time to stop the violence," said the General.
"March to Dhaka"
On Monday, as a part of the "March to Dhaka" campaign demanding Ms. Hasina's resignation, called by the Students Against the Corruption, thousands started gathering at the main points of Dhaka, defying a curfew order.
Police stopped them in some parts but could not hold them for long as thou-

sands mobilised on the streets. Around 3 p.m. local time, protesters breached the police barrier and opened the gates of the Government Secretariat, the Prime Minister's official residence, and entered its premises.
A source close to Ms. Hasina confirmed that before leaving the residence, she

part at Old Telegan. She and her sister were brought to the airstrip and were airlifted in a Mi-17 helicopter. The helicopter arrived at Agartala from where they boarded the C-130, sources in the know confirmed. The RAF C-130 first hovered over Kolkata and then made a dash towards the Hindon Air Force station, a source stated.
National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chief of the Indian Air Force Western Air Command Air Marshal P.M. Sinha met Ms. Hasina at Hindon.
Ms. Hasina is expected to stay in India for a night or two as she awaits approval for asylum in the U.K., an official source said. The Indian High Commission staff continue to remain in Dhaka, sources confirmed. (With inputs from The Hindu Bureau in Delhi, Rahat Khan is a freelance journalist based in Dhaka)

already gathered nearby and that they must not waste time.
Immediately, the security team took her to the second World War-era air-

Crestfallen



Treble failed: India's batsmen were looking crestfallen in their quarterfinal loss against North Korea's Park Sol Gum before a dispirited cheerleader shattered the Indian cricketer's hopes.

HC upholds Kejriwal's arrest by CBI in excise case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Monday ruled that there was no malice on the part of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in arresting Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a case linked to the excise policy scam.
The court rejected Mr. Kejriwal's plea seeking reversal of his arrest by the CBI and all subsequent remedies as illegal.
The case was reserved for judgment by a Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Justices P.S. Sankar and J.B. Pardiwala on May 17, 2023. Justice Narasimha authored the judgment for the Bench.
The Bench held that the power of the L-G is drawn from Section 343B(1) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1997. The Act, a parliamentary law, was amended in 1997 to vest the power to nominate 10 members to the Council of Municipalities.
The Bench referred to a Constitution Bench judgment which had laid down that the executive power of the Delhi government would continue to a post-constitutional law dealing with subjects in the State and Concurrent Lists of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
Justice Narasimha did not agree with senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for Delhi, that the power of the L-G was both semantic and a "trick of the past".
Mr. Singhvi had argued that the national capital had a democratic electoral government, which should be allowed to run

L-G can nominate 10 aldermen to Delhi corporation, rules SC

Krishnakumar Rajagopal
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday held that the authority of the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) of Delhi to nominate 10 persons with special knowledge of municipal administration to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi is a statutory duty attached to his office and he is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.
The case was reserved for judgment by a Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Justices P.S. Sankar and J.B. Pardiwala on May 17, 2023. Justice Narasimha authored the judgment for the Bench.
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Shape-shifting 'baba' who stole ₹50 lakh caught after 22 years

Chalapathi Rao, who allegedly defrauded an SHI branch in Hyderabad, lived across five States as a loan recovery agent, a school staffer and a godman, evading the CBI on his trail; he was arrested from Trinavelveli in Tamil Nadu on Sunday while plotting to escape to Sri Lanka via a sea route

Devasah R. Dasgupta
NEW DELHI

For 22 years, V. Chalapathi Rao had been living many lives. A former computer operator who allegedly defrauded the State Bank of India (SBI) of ₹50 lakh, Mr. Rao had lived across five States as a loan recovery agent, a school staffer and as a 'baba' (godman).
He would change his appearance, identity and location at will, throwing sleuths of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), in his hot pursuit, off the scent. He also got his wife, an accomplice in the case, to file a missing person report in an

attempt to have him declared dead. But his luck ran out on Sunday when the CBI arrested him from Narasimhanthi village in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli just when he was plotting to escape to Sri Lanka by sea.
On May 2, 2002, the CBI registered the case against Mr. Rao, a computer operator with the SHI's Chanchudai Bhadani branch in Hyderabad, on the charges that he had cheated the bank by using fake quaterly and salary statements in the names of his family members and close associates.
Based on the findings, the agency filed two

chargesheets on December 31, 2004, however, by then, Mr. Rao had given the agency the slip.
The CBI found that his wife had lodged a missing person report on July 10, 2004. "She filed a petition in a civil court to get him

another woman in 2007. He got an Aadhaar card and before the agency got a whiff of his whereabouts, he vanished.
Mr. Rao was declared a proclaimed offender on April 10, 2013. In the case, in 2014, he shifted to Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, and worked as a loan recovery agent. He then travelled to Kadirappur in Uttarakhand, where he worked in a school. Following his trail, the sleuths reached Rudrapur only to find that Mr. Rao had fled in 2016.
The CBI said from Uttarakhand Mr. Rao travelled to Aurangabad in Maharashtra where he used a new avatar as that of Swami Vidhantmanand



ILLUSTRATION: SATHISH VELLAMKUN

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She requests asylum in U.K. as protesters storm the PM's residence after defying a curfew order

Army chief addresses the nation, confirms her resignation; says an interim govt. will be formed

Rabiul Alam
DHAKA

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who had been in power for the past 15 years, resigned and fled the country on Monday noon by a helicopter after weeks of deadly unrest in which more than 300 people have been killed.

The country is now set to have an interim government.

Later in the day, Ms. Hasina landed at the Hindon Air Force station near Delhi. Ms. Hasina has requested asylum from the U.K. Her sister Rehana, who holds U.K. citizenship, is accompanying her, sources told *The Hindu*.

In Dhaka, Army Chief Gen. Waker-Uz-Zaman confirmed her resignation in an address to the nation. He urged protesters to stop the unrest and pledged to meet their demands and bring justice for those who were killed.

He said he would talk to

the President to form the interim government and had held talks with the main Opposition parties and civil society members, but not the Awami League, Ms. Hasina's party. The Army chief will also hold a meeting with protesting student leaders. "I am taking full responsibility. If the situation gets better, there is no need for an emergency. We hope to go towards a better situation together. The country has suffered a lot, the economy has been hit, and many people have been killed. It is time to stop the violence," said the General.

'March to Dhaka'

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Police stopped them in some parts but could not hold them for long as thou-



Reign ends: Protesters storm Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina's palace in Dhaka and display the national flag on Monday. AFP

sands mobilised on the streets.

Around 3 p.m. local time, protesters breached the police barricades and opened the gates of the Go-

nobhaban, the Prime Minister's official residence, and entered its premises.

A source close to Ms. Hasina confirmed that before leaving the residence, she

wanted to record a speech. But she could not get an opportunity to do that. She and her sister were taken to a motorcade and was told that a huge crowd had

already gathered nearby and that they must not waste time.

Immediately, the security team took her to the Second World War-era air-

port at Old Tejgaon. She and her sister were brought to the airstrip and were airlifted in a Mi-17 helicopter. The helicopter arrived at Agartala from where they boarded the C-130, sources in the know confirmed. The BAF C130J first hovered over Kolkata and then made a dash towards the Hindon Air Force station, a source stated.

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chief of the Indian Air Force Western Air Command Air Marshal P.M. Sinha met Ms. Hasina at Hindon.

Ms. Hasina is expected to stay in India for a night or two as she awaits approval for asylum in the U.K., an official source said. The Indian High Commission staff continue to remain in Dhaka, sources confirmed. (With inputs from *The Hindu Bureau in Delhi*; Rabiul Alam is a freelance journalist based in Dhaka)

MORE REPORTS

» PAGES 5, 9 & 14

Sheikh Hasina

শেখ হাসিনা



Hasina in 2022

10th Prime Minister of Bangladesh

In office

6 January 2009 – 5 August 2024

President Iajuddin Ahmed
Zillur Rahman
Mohammad Abdul Hamid
Mohammed Shahabuddin

Preceded by Fakhruddin Ahmed (acting)

Succeeded by *Vacant*

In office

23 June 1996 – 15 July 2001

President Abdur Rahman Biswas
Shahabuddin Ahmed

Preceded by Muhammad Habibur
Rahman (acting)

Succeeded by Latifur Rahman (acting)

8th Leader of the House

In office

6 January 2009 – 5 August 2024

Preceded by Khaleda Zia

Succeeded by TBD

In office

23 June 1996 – 15 July 2001

Preceded by Khaleda Zia

Succeeded by Khaleda Zia

8th President of Awami League

Incumbent

Assumed office

16 February 1981

General Secretary Abdur Razzaq
Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury
Zillur Rahman
Abdul Jalil
Sayed Ashraful Islam
Obaidul Quader

Preceded by Abdul Malek Ukil

Member of Parliament

Incumbent

Assumed office

12 June 1996

Preceded by Mujibur Rahman Howlader

Constituency Gopalganj-3

In office

27 February 1991 – 15 February 1996

Preceded by Kazi Firoz Rashid

Succeeded by Mujibur Rahman Howlader

Constituency Gopalganj-3

2nd Leader of the Opposition

2nd Leader of the Opposition

In office

10 October 2001 – 29 October 2006

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia

Preceded by Khaleda Zia

Succeeded by Khaleda Zia

In office

20 March 1991 – 30 March 1996

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia

Preceded by Abdur Rab

Succeeded by Khaleda Zia

In office

7 May 1986 – 3 March 1988

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad

Preceded by Asaduzzaman Khan

Succeeded by Abdur Rab

Personal details

Born Hasina Sheikh^[1]
28 September 1947 (age 76)
Tungipara, East Bengal,
Dominion of Pakistan

Political party Bangladesh Awami League

Other political affiliations Grand Alliance (since 2008)

Spouse M. A. Wazed Miah
(m. 1968; died 2009)

Children Sajeeb · Saima

Parents Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
(father)
Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib
(mother)

Relatives Sheikh–Wazed family

Resignation and Escape: Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who served for 15 years, resigned and fled the country due to deadly unrest resulting in over 300 deaths.

Interim Government: The country is now set to have an interim government as confirmed by the Army chief, General Waker-Uz-Zaman, in a national address.

Flight to India: Hasina, along with her sister Rehana, who holds UK citizenship, was airlifted to India. They landed at Hindon Air Force station near Delhi.

Request for Asylum: Hasina has requested asylum in the UK and is expected to stay in India for a short period while awaiting approval.

March to Dhaka Campaign: Protests demanding Hasina's resignation intensified, leading to violent clashes with police as protesters stormed her residence.

Army Chief's Statement: The Army chief promised justice for the victims and encouraged dialogue with the protesters.

- **Evacuation Process:** Hasina and her sister were taken to safety in a C-130 aircraft after escaping their residence under siege.
- **Future Implications:**
- **Awaiting Asylum:** Hasina's political future remains uncertain as she seeks asylum, with India playing a key role in her temporary refuge.

Protests began in Bangladesh as student-led demonstrations against the government's hiring policies in July.

The protests culminated with the Prime Minister fleeing and the military declaring the formation of an interim government.



- **Deaths and Injuries:**Over a month of deadly protests led to at least 300 deaths.
- Clashes resulted in at least 32 more deaths and hundreds of injuries despite a curfew and soldier deployment.

Demands and Government Response:

Students' Demands:

- University students demanded reforms in the quota system for public sector jobs, claiming it favored loyalists of the ruling party.
- Students rejected Prime Minister Hasina's proposal on July 18, escalating the protests.



• **Government's Action:**

- The government ordered the closure of schools and universities and imposed an Internet blackout.
- Violence included attacks on state broadcaster Bangladesh Television and government buildings.

Supreme Court Ruling:

Verdict:

- On July 21, Bangladesh's Supreme Court ruled the job quota system illegal but did not abolish reserved jobs for children of 'freedom fighters.'

Prime Minister's Resignation:

Departure:

- On Monday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina fled Dhaka by helicopter following intense protests.
- Her departure followed the deadliest day of protests with 94 casualties.

'Decision on Kasturirangan report after consulting with Cabinet'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Forest and Environment Minister B. Eshwar Khandre on Monday said the decision on whether to implement the Centre's fresh draft notification on the Kasturirangan Committee report on conservation of the Western Ghats would be taken only after discussing the issue in the State Cabinet and with leaders of all political parties of the State.

Recently, the Union government reissued the draft notification classifying parts of the Western Ghats in six States, including Karnataka, as ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs).



"The Centre now issued another notification regarding the Kasturirangan report. An area of over 20,668 sq. km of the State has been declared as ESA. A total of 1,576 villages in the districts of Chamarajanager, Kodagu, Mysuru, Hassan, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Uttara Kannada, Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, and Belagavi have

vernment reissued the draft notification classifying parts of the Western Ghats in six States, including Karnataka, as ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs).

"The Centre now issued another notification regarding the Kasturirangan report. An area of over 20,668 sq. km of the State has been declared as ESA. A total of 1,576 villages in the districts of Chamarajanager, Kodagu, Mysuru, Hassan, Shivamogga, Chikkamagaluru, Uttara Kannada, Udupi, Dakshina Kannada, and Belagavi have been identified," Mr. Khandre said.

He said that the State government has already taken the decision to reject the report.

The Minister also clarified that the State government issued an order saying that encroachment of forest land for livelihood will not be vacated if the combined land area and encroachment land does not exceed three acres.

- 
- **Minister's Statement:** Karnataka Forest and Environment Minister B. Eshwar Khandre announced that the decision on implementing the Kasturirangan Committee report on the conservation of the Western Ghats will be made after consulting with the State Cabinet and political leaders.
- 

Reissue of Notification: The Union government reissued a draft notification classifying certain areas of the Western Ghats in six states, including Karnataka, as Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs).

Area Declared as ESA: Over 20,668 sq. km in Karnataka has been designated as ESA, affecting 1,576 villages in districts like Chamarajanagar, Kodagu, Mysuru, and others.



- **State Government's Position:**
- **Rejection of Report:** The Karnataka State Government has decided to reject the report.
- **Land Encroachment Policy:** The state clarified that forest land used for livelihood will not be vacated if the total land, including encroachment, does not exceed three acres.

Which of the following statements is true regarding the Karnataka government's decision on the Kasturirangan report?

A) The Karnataka government has accepted the report and plans to implement it immediately.

B) The Karnataka government has decided to consult with the Union government before making any decisions.

C) The Karnataka government has decided to reject the Kasturirangan report after consultation with the State Cabinet and political leaders.

D) The Karnataka government has declared the entire state as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).

IN BRIEF

9 Kamruhyas electrocuted, 6 injured in Bihar's Vaishali

Nine Kamruhyas were electrocuted and six injured after the vehicle they were travelling in came in contact with a high-tension wire in Bihar's Vaishali district...

SC takes suo motu cognisance of Delhi UPSC centre deaths

The Supreme Court on Monday took suo motu cognisance of the drowning of three aspirants preparing for the Union Public Service Commission's Civil Services Examination as they were trapped in the flooded basement of their Old Rajinder Nagar coaching centre during a heavy rain in Delhi...

Opposition criticises 'plans' to amend Waqf Act, says it will oppose Bill in Parliament

Reacting to the news over the BJP-led Union government's plan to table a bill to amend the Waqf Act, 1956, the Opposition leaders on Monday claimed the Bill aims to create a safety mechanism in place to prevent such deaths and to ensure that coaching centres in the national capital do not expose young lives to danger...

Justify inclusion of 77 castes in OBC list: SC to Bengal govt.

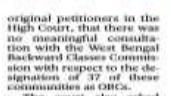
Top court issues notice on State's appeal against a Calcutta HC judgment, which has had an impact on 5 lakh OBC certificates issued since 2010; advocate for Bengal says administration is at risk

The Bench issued notice to the private respondents on a plea made by the State to stay the operation of the High Court judgment...



I have no list in my mind... I have no list in my mind, the Chief Justice said...

Chief Justice Chandrachud said that there was no meaningful consultation with the West Bengal Backward Classes Commission with respect to the designation of 77 of these communities as OBCs...



Pradyumn Chandra, advocate for Bengal, says administration is at risk...

The Bench had struck down portions of the West Bengal Backward Classes Commission other than Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Observation of Vacancies in Services and Posts) Act, 2012...

The High Court judgment has impacted five lakh OBC certificates issued in the State since 2010...

The Bench had struck down portions of the West Bengal Backward Classes Commission other than Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Observation of Vacancies in Services and Posts) Act, 2012...

Among the sections nullified were Section 36, the second part of Section 20B, and Section 51A of the Act...

Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi, Ranjit Kumar, Gururaj Krishnakumar, Advocate Ranjot Sengal and others appeared for the respondents...

HC upholds Kejriwal arrest, says no malice on the part of CBI

The Delhi High Court on Monday ruled that there was no malice on the part of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in arresting Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a corruption case connected with the sector policy case...



Arvind Kejriwal

Justice Neeraj Kumar rejected Mr. Kejriwal's plea seeking declaration of his arrest by the CBI and all subsequent demands and his incarceration in jail as illegal...

The judge also rejected a separate plea by the Chief Minister seeking bail in the CBI corruption case...

Senior advocates for the petitioner argued that the arrest was without any justifiable reasons or was arbitrary...

Mr. Kejriwal had argued that his arrest by the CBI was an "insurance arrest" and that he should be released from prison...

where he was lodged in judicial custody in a connected money laundering case filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED)...

"There were links of this crime even in Punjab but the material witnesses were not forthcoming for the trial court...

Mr. Kejriwal had argued that his arrest by the CBI was an "insurance arrest" and that he should be released from prison...

Preamble dropped from several NCERT Class 3, 6 textbooks

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has dropped the Preamble to the Constitution from several Class 3 and Class 6 textbooks issued this year...

The new English textbook, *Parrot*, has the National Anthem, while the Sanskrit textbook, *Chhaya*, has both the National Anthem and the national song...

The earlier Sanskrit book, *Bhaskar*, also did not have the Preamble. The new Class 3 textbook for Hindi, English, mathematics and World Around Us (which replaces EVS) do not have the Preamble...

In the old textbooks, the Preamble was printed in the English book, *Happy Sankranti*, the science book, *Curiosity*, and the Hindi textbook, *Mahar*...

Ayodhya Development Authority quietly denotifies land used for Army training

A controversy has erupted after the Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) denotified land used for Army training, allegedly after it was purchased by several private groups...

The matter pertains to reports of denotification of land in the village of Panchs, which is being used for firing and artillery practice by the Army...

Divisional Commissioner, Ayodhya, Gaurav Dayal and all three social science books - *Our Past*, *Social* and *Political Life I and the Earth Our Habitat*...

The ADA denotified land used for Army training, allegedly after it was purchased by several private groups...

Due to safety and security concerns, construction and commercial activities were prohibited

longed to the Army and the government is set to construct a temple museum in the village...

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Advocate Praveen Dabey, who took the matter of denotification of land and national interest to the U.P. and Union governments, Congress leader Pawan Khera wrote on X...

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

Sudoku puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

FAITH section with text and a small puzzle.

Preamble dropped from several NCERT Class 3, 6 textbooks

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has dropped the Preamble to the Constitution from several Class 3 and Class 6 textbooks issued this year.

In the newly published textbooks for Class 6, the NCERT has dropped the Preamble from the social science textbook, *Exploring Society: India and Beyond*. The book mentions the fundamental rights and fundamental duties. The Preamble is present in the science textbook, *Curiosity*, and the Hindi textbook, *Malhar*.

In the old textbooks, the Preamble was printed in the English book, *Honey Suckle*, the science book, the Hindi textbook, *Durva*, and all three social science books – *Our Pasts-I*, *Social*

and Political Life-I and *The Earth Our Habitat*.

The new English textbook, *Poorvi*, has the National Anthem, while the Sanskrit textbook, *Deepakam*, has both the National Anthem and the National Song, but not the Preamble. The earlier Sanskrit book, *Ruchira*, also did not have the Preamble.

The new Class 3 textbooks for Hindi, English, mathematics and World Around Us (which replaces EVS) do not have the Preamble. The old EVS book, *Looking Around*, and the Hindi book, *Rimjhim 3*, carried the Preamble. “The allegations regarding removal of the Preamble from textbooks do not have a sound basis,” Professor Ranjana Arora, Head of the Department of Curriculum Studies and Development at NCERT, said.

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has removed the Preamble to the Constitution from several Class 3 and Class 6 textbooks issued this year.

In the new Class 6 textbooks, the Preamble has been omitted from the social science textbook *Exploring Society: India and Beyond*, which still mentions fundamental rights and duties.

Current Status in Textbooks:

The Preamble is still present in the science textbook *Curiosity* and the Hindi textbook *Malhar*.

The new Class 3 textbooks for Hindi, English, mathematics, and *World Around Us* (which replaces EVS) do not include the Preamble.

In older textbooks, the Preamble was printed in:
The English book *Honey Suckle*.

The science book.

The Hindi textbook *Durva*.

Three social science books – *Our Pasts-I*, *Social and Political Life-I*, and *The Earth Our Habitat*.

The old EVS book *Looking Around* and the Hindi book *Rimjhim 3* also included the Preamble.

The new English textbook *Poorvi* includes the National Anthem but not the Preamble.

The Sanskrit textbook *Deepakam* includes both the National Anthem and the National Song but not the Preamble.

The earlier Sanskrit book *Ruchira* also did not have the Preamble.

- **Official Statement:**

- Professor Ranjana Arora, Head of the Department of Curriculum Studies and Development at NCERT, stated that allegations regarding the removal of the Preamble from textbooks do not have a sound basis.

Powering India's future

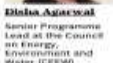
In her seventh consecutive Budget speech, the Finance Minister announced measures indicating India's commitment to its clean energy transition. These measures include developing policies on pumped hydro storage, and energy transition pathways to support nuclear energy and energy efficiency. Yet, the amenities of this summer's record-breaking heatwaves, which drove up power demand, are still fresh. They reflect both a growing economy during a warming climate. What will it take to keep India's economy powered?

For the NDA government, energy security and the clean energy transition have been the priorities. This is evident from three key milestones India has achieved in the last decade. First, near-universal electrification through the Saubhagya scheme, with independent surveys by the Central on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEWE) suggesting that approximately 97% of households were electrified in 2023. Second, the country saw a five-fold increase in installed renewable energy (RE) capacity, making India the fourth-largest country globally by RE capacity. Third, there was a 40% drop in aggregate losses of power distribution companies (discoms) to an all-time low of about 15% in 2022-23. These indicate that the base of the Indian power sector is strengthening.

However, India confronts challenges in decarbonising its power system at speed and scale while supplying quality and affordable power to consumers. Moreover, India's power sector must prepare for stronger headwinds. Our annual electricity demand has been growing by 7.9% every year since the COVID-19 pandemic, but our peak demand is rising even faster. Climate change-induced weather extremes further exacerbate these challenges. For discoms, meeting unplanned surges through affordable options and existing network capacity is challenging.



Shashi Agrawal
Director of Programme at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEWE)



Nikita Agrawal
Senior Programme Lead at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEWE)

resulting in power outages.

To address the concerns
First, the government must raise the targets for renewable energy and storage systems to go beyond 500 GW in 2030. Despite past efforts to add RE capacity, its share in India's power generation mix is still low. Frequent power supply shortages and expectations of rising energy demand have driven policymakers to bet on new coal capacity. Instead, we must strive to raise the share of renewables in India's power generation mix and scale up storage solutions. Renewable and storage can support peak demand, are cost-competitive, and are faster to build.

Second, speed faster deployment of diverse clean energy resources. In 2023 alone, China added 300 GW of solar and wind capacity, while the European Union added 73 GW. As of March, India's cumulative renewable capacity stood at 184 GW, with another 120 GW in the pipeline. This comparison indicates the urgency of deploying clean resources at speed and scale. This requires tapping the RE potential in more States as well as faster grid connectivity and access to suitable, conflict-free land for the timely commissioning of projects. Innovating from solar energy to other clean technologies would also help India meet its evolving demand.

Third, implement measures to improve the availability of energy. During FY23, only 6.3% of India's power generation was procured through power exchanges, with the rest coming through bilateral agreements. The low liquidity volume being traded in the power exchange presents price volatility risks. This restricts both buyers and sellers from relying on the exchange for power procurement and value recovery. And in turn, constraints our ability to integrate renewables at scale. India needs innovation in bid designs to attract RE developers to sell power in the exchange, besides

setting up capacities for long-term contracts. For instance, under the RE Implementation Agency-led bidding process, RE developers may be required to build part of the project capacities for merchant sale, beyond the bid quantum for long-term contracts.

Fourth, ensure effective maintenance and utilisation of the coal fleet. Even as we add more renewables, coal plays an important role. Our analysis of BIRLFT data shows that, in FY24, more than 210 GW of coal capacity generated about 60% of the power during non-solar hours. However, more than 40 GW of coal capacity was unavailable for nearly 60% of the time that year, due to planned maintenance or technical faults. State regulators must revise the norms to enable timely upturn of the coal fleet and compensate for investments to make special coal plants flexible.

Finally, fast-track digitalisation to empower discoms and consumers to play an active role in India's energy transition. Smart meters would enable discoms to forecast power demand accurately, plan networks better, and integrate renewables cost-effectively. More than 11 million smart meters have already been installed in India, with half of these in Bihar and Assam. However, India's smart metering drive is far from the 250 million target. Discoms must overcome their hesitation and take inspiration from Bihar and Assam, which are already reaping benefits like reduced losses and timely bill delivery to consumers through smart metering. But keeping consumer privacy and system preparedness against cyberattacks at the heart of regulation and digitalisation efforts would be critical.

All eyes are on the Indian government to deliver in this critical decade. Investing in a cleaner, flexible, and resilient power grid will help our economy grow sustainably and create jobs in the clean energy sectors.

Views expressed are personal

Maharashtra Prisons Bill: a hit or miss?

The Bill addresses issues like overcrowding and poor conditions in prisons

STATE OF PLAY

Indu Prakash

Maharashtra

On July 12, the Maharashtra State government introduced the Maharashtra Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024 in the State Legislative Assembly's monsoon session. Although the Bill was not passed, the State Cabinet has now approved its passage as an Ordinance. It will be sent to the Centre for approval and will require the President's nod.

As 'Prisons' fall under the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, it is within the exclusive domain of State governments to legislate on and regulate prisons in their jurisdiction. Currently, prisons in most States (including Maharashtra, are governed by the colonial Prisons Act of 1894 and underlying rules passed at the State level.

To improve prison governance, the Union government amended the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023 (Model Bill) in May 2023, and urged States to adopt it. The Bill addresses aspects ranging from staffing to technology to mental health in prisons. According to data published by the State's Prison Department, Maharashtra has over 60 prisons including nine central, 26 district, and 19 open prisons.

As of May 31, 2024, these prisons house over 40,426 prisoners against the sanctioned strength of 37,110, indicating around 85% overcrowding. It has ranked amongst the top five States with the most prisoners and under trials.

The State-level prison rules were passed between 1962 and 1975. These rules have oc-

asionally been amended but they are neither sufficient nor easily available. Combined with the number of custodial deaths, petitions filed, and poor prison conditions, this makes a compelling case for why prison reforms are undeniably needed.

The new Bill

The new Maharashtra Bill has adopted several provisions from the Model Bill and has some additional provisions. One such provision is the role of the convict overseer. A convict overseer is a position selected by the authorities and given certain supervisory powers. In turn, they are entitled to benefits such as higher containment. While this is still practised in a few States, it has been severely criticised.

Moreover, the Bill states that all convict overseers will be 'public servants' under the Maharashtra Public Servants Act, 2023.

A public servant usually refers to a government official and will grant them certain privileges, duties, and powers. While there is a similar provision in the Prisons Act, 1984, the Model Bill is silent in this regard. Thus, the State government must update the rules in current times.

Another feature is the continuation of a 'Prisons and Correctional Services Force'. It will comprise the Director General of Prisons, the Special Inspector General of Prisons,

the Jailer, and other officers. Some powers specified in the Bill include the authority to use allotted weapons as required, make arrests without a warrant or Magistrate's order, and so on. As to such body has been envisaged under the Model Bill or by any other State, it is unclear how this would play out in reality. Given the shift towards a rehabilitative justice system, measures must be taken to curb unchecked power and provide for a more humane approach to incarceration.

While the Model Bill proposes the creation of a welfare fund for the prisoners, this Bill omits the creation of a welfare fund for prison staff and another for prisoners. As funds for both will come from the State government, implementation might be difficult. For staff, the Model Bill proposes a staff welfare wing for implementing welfare initiatives. It might be more effective if the State government made prisoners, in turn, beneficiaries of the welfare fund. Despite being practised 100 years ago, the Prisons Act of 1894 continues to be in force in multiple States.

The State government's attempt to transform the prison system, this could be a perfect step in the right direction. While there is scope for improvement, the Bill has provisions concerning transgender prisoners and an Under-Review Committee, amongst others.

With focused stakeholder consultations and a few changes, this could be a perfect opportunity for Maharashtra to begin the long overdue process of overhauling the prison system in the State.

Indu Prakash is a lawyer and Research Fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Law and Policy, Mumbai.

Hasina's paradoxical rule economic progress, democratic regression

Indicators measuring political rights and civil liberties declined drastically under her 15-time rule

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Her protests against corruption deposited Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina—who has been in power since 2009 in Bangladesh—seeking her resignation indicate the level of anger that has grown following a deterioration of civil liberties and rights in contrast to the notable progress made in various socio-economic parameters during her long tenure.

Ms. Hasina tendered her resignation and fled the country after renewed violence and clashes between government supporters and protesters. Last month, students led protests against quotas in government jobs besetting families of freedom fighters who took part in the Bangladesh War of Liberation. After 150 people were killed during the agitation, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh had done away with most of the quotas in question. However, protests were renewed with calls for Ms. Hasina's resignation owing to her regime's use of excessive use of violence, closure of educational institutions, and internet clampdown to suppress the student-led agitation.

Ms. Hasina's resignation marks a steep fall for a leader whose regime's use of measures to curb civil liberties and the opposition is in sharp contrast to its economic policies. Her government has a credit for various economic measures such as strengthening infrastructure in the country by providing electricity to remote villages and building highways, railway lines, and ports.

The country's GDP per capita (current U.S.\$) surpassed India's in 2023, as shown in Chart 1. The rapid increase in the measure post-2010 is stable. The economic growth also translated to better outcomes in education and health. The country's Human Development Index also surpassed India's

in 2020 and stood just behind Sri Lanka in the region (Chart 2). The country's Infant Mortality rate also drastically reduced from 151.4 in 1973 (global India) to 24.1 in 2022 (ahead of India), as shown in Chart 3.

In contrast to the rapid progress in socio-economic measures, the nation's indicators which measure political rights, political pluralism, civil liberties, organisational rights, rule of law, and personal autonomy have all declined in recent years.

Chart 4 shows Bangladesh's score in such parameters over the last decade, based on ratings by Freedom House. In such category, the maximum score is four and the minimum score is one, or zero if no rights exist at all.

The 76-year-old leader became the world's longest-serving female head of government, when Ms. Hasina won a fourth consecutive term in January this year, in an election boycotted by the main Opposition who claimed the polls were not free and fair.

As Chart 5 shows, all indicators measuring political rights and political pluralism, such as "Was the head of government elected free and fairly?", "Are electoral laws implemented impartially?", "Is there the right to organise political parties?", and "Is there an opportunity for the opposition to gain power through polls?", have recorded a drastic decline in the past decade.

The Freedom of Press Index, already poor, suffered a further drop in the second half of 2023. That reporters were met with excessive violence recently was not surprising, given that the nation's score in Freedom of assembly declined.

Analysts also showed that people were afraid to air opinions on sensitive issues, with the independence of the judiciary taking a beating. Indeed the rule by Ms. Hasina in Bangladesh can only be termed a paradox.

With inputs from AP, Reuters

Boon and bane

The data for the charts are sourced from the World Bank, the Human Development Reports, and Freedom House

Chart 1: Various countries' GDP per capita (current U.S.\$) over the years

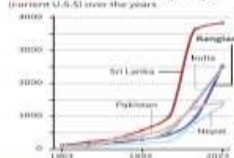


Chart 2: Various countries' Human Development Index over the years



Chart 3: Various countries' Infant Mortality Rate over the years



Chart 4: Various countries' Freedom of Assembly

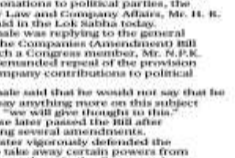
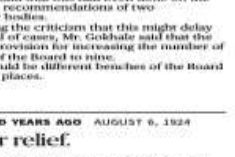


Chart 5: Various countries' Freedom of Expression



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 6, 1974

Govt. to study plea to end ban on donation to parties

New Delhi, August 5: The Government will give "thought" to the demand for lifting the ban on company donations to political parties, the Minister for Law and Company Affairs, Mr. H. R. Gokhale, said in the Lok Sabha today.

Mr. Gokhale was replying to the general debate on the Companies (Amendment) Bill during which a Congress member, Mr. M. S. Swamy had demanded repeal of the provision banning company contributions to political parties.

Mr. Gokhale said that he would not say that he would not say anything more on this subject except that "we will give thought to this."

The Minister vigorously defended the proposal to take away certain powers from courts and vest them in the Company Law Board and said that this had been done on the basis of the recommendations of two high power bodies.

Regarding the criticism that this might delay the disposal of cases, Mr. Gokhale said that the Bill made provision for increasing the number of members of the Board to nine.

There would be different benches of the Board at different places.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 6, 1924

Call for relief.

Kumbhakorn, Aug. 6: It is understood that His Excellency Lord Cochrane will visit the flooded areas in the district on or about the 15th instant and that the District Collector has issued orders for the roads to be put in a state of repair in view of His Excellency's visit. The advisability of this is questioned and it has been suggested that the roads ought to be left as they are and His Excellency started across in a palanquin so that he may have some idea of the havoc wrought by the floodwaters.

The resentment in the public mind at delay in the apathy of local officials is happily not seen here. Everybody whom I have seen has expressed his very great admiration for the prompt and good work done in government breaches in several places and in rescue work in the affected villages.

Boon and bane

The data for the charts are sourced from the World Bank, the Human Development Reports, and Freedom House

Chart 1: Various countries' GDP per capita (current U.S.\$) over the years

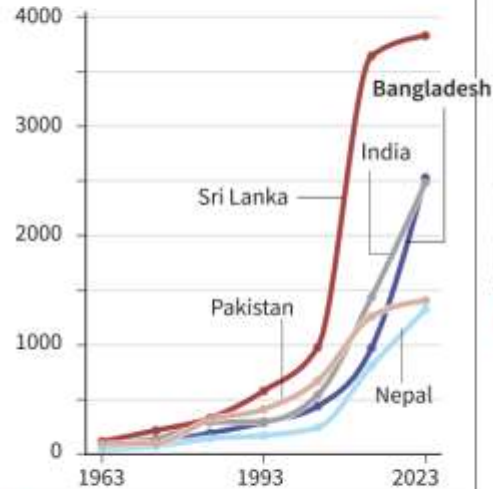


Chart 2: Various countries' Human Development Index over the years

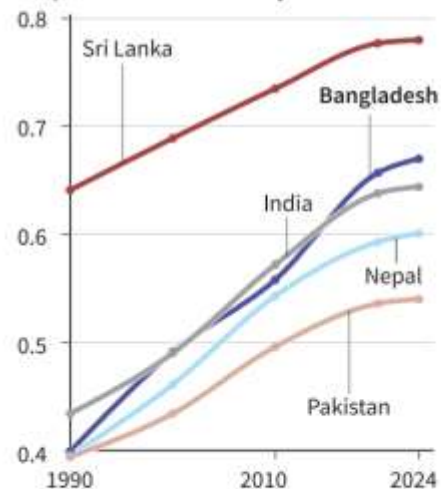
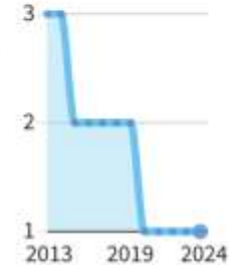


Chart 3: Various countries' Infant Mortality Rates over the years

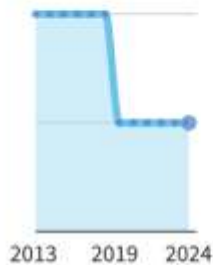


Chart 4: The chart shows Bangladesh's scores over the years in various indicators which measure political rights, civil liberties, and more

Was the head of government elected free and fairly?



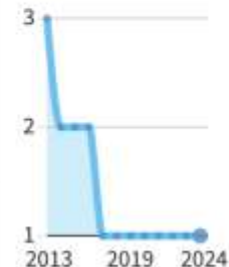
Are electoral laws implemented impartially?



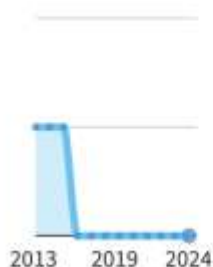
Is there the right to organise in political parties?



Is there opportunity for Opposition to gain power through polls?



Are there free and independent media?



Are people free to express views without fear?



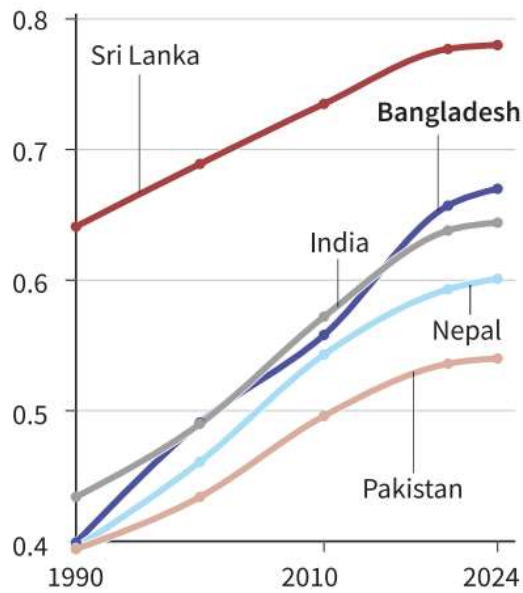
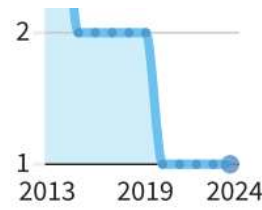
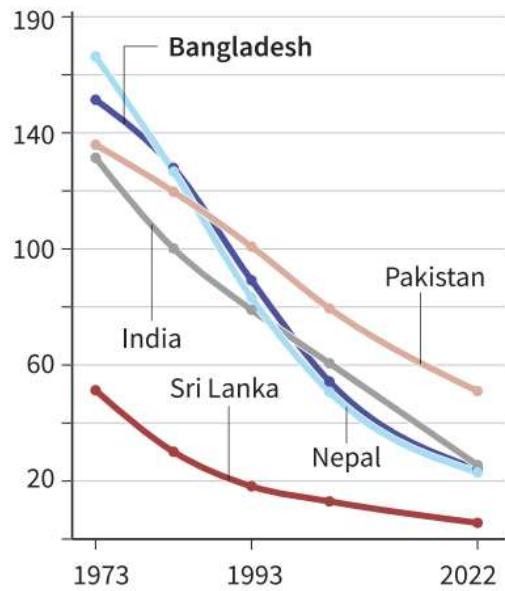
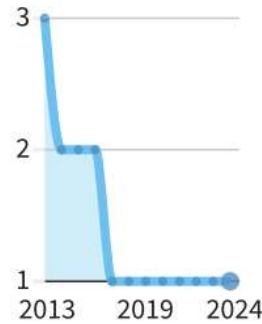


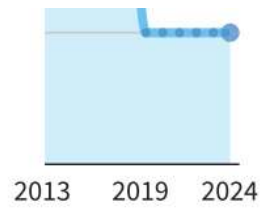
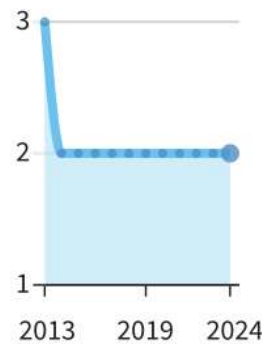
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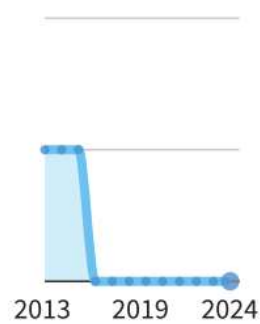
Is there opportunity for Opposition to gain power through polls?



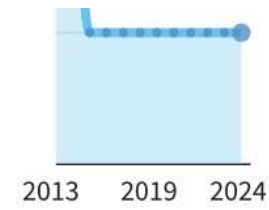
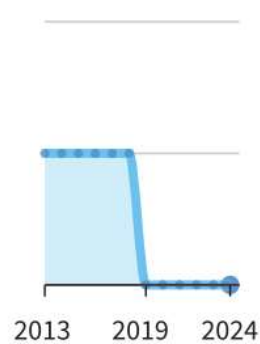
Is there freedom of assembly?



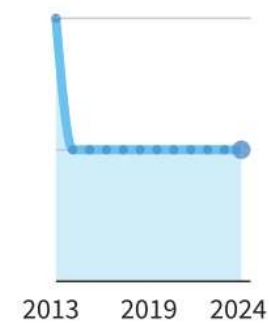
Are there free and independent media?



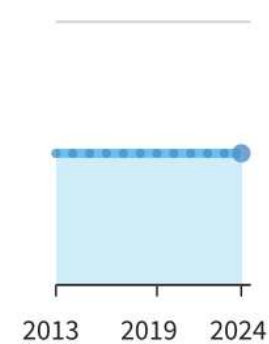
Is there an independent judiciary?



Are people free to express views without fear ?



Do individuals enjoy personal social freedoms?



Sensex falls 2.7% amid global sell-off, rupee hits a new low

Japan's Nikkei index plunges 12.4%, its worst fall since October 1987, as fears of the U.S. economy tipping into a recession precipitates a wider equities slump; rupee weakens to 84.09 versus dollar

Lalatendu Mishra

MUMBAI

The benchmark S&P BSE Sensex slumped almost 3% on Monday amid a deepening global sell-off, precipitated by fears that the U.S. economy may tip into a recession. Japan's Nikkei index plunged 12.4%, its biggest one day drop since October 1987, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq Composite fell 2.2%, 2.5% and 3.1%, respectively, as of 1404 GMT.



Sea of red: All major sectoral indices closed in the red, with metals and realty indices correcting sharply. PTI

The Sensex slid 2.74%, to close at 78,759.40. Losses were led by Tata Motors, which fell 7.3%, Adani

Ports (5.9%), Tata Steel (5.3%), State Bank (4.3%), Power Grid (4.25%) and Maruti (4.17%).

“In the backdrop of weak global sentiment, the benchmark indices corrected sharply,” said Shrikant Chouhan, Head - Equity Research, Kotak Securities. “All the major sectoral indices traded in the red, with metals and realty indices correcting sharply,” he added.

The Indian rupee fell to its all-time low of 84.09 against the U.S. dollar, weakening by 37 paise in the session as the equity sell-off and foreign fund outflows weighed on sentiment in the currency.

Market Decline:

The S&P BSE Sensex dropped by nearly 3% amid global market turmoil.

Concerns about a potential recession in the U.S. led to a broader equity slump.

Japan's Nikkei index faced a steep fall of 12.4%, marking its worst decline since October 1987.

Major U.S. indices like the Dow Jones, S&P 500, and Nasdaq Composite fell 2.2%, 2.5%, and 3.1%, respectively.

- **Specific Stock Performances:**
- Sensex closed at 78,759.40, a fall of 2.74%.
- Significant losses were noted in Tata Motors (-7.3%), Adani Ports (-5.9%), Tata Steel (-5.3%), State Bank (-4.3%), Power Grid (-4.25%), and Maruti (-4.17%).



Currency Impact:

The Indian rupee hit a record low of 84.09 against the U.S. dollar.

The rupee weakened by 37 paise due to the equity sell-off and foreign fund outflows affecting market sentiment.

- **Expert Insight:**
 - Shrikant Chouhan from Kotak Securities highlighted the impact of weak global sentiment on market indices.
 - Metals and realty sectors experienced sharp corrections.



Which of the following statements regarding the market impact mentioned in the article is true?

A) The Indian rupee strengthened against the U.S. dollar due to positive market sentiment.


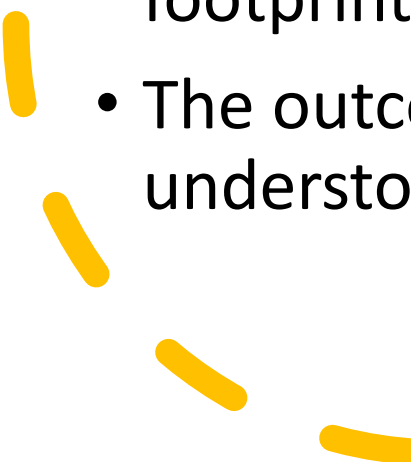
B) The Sensex experienced a rise of 2.7% amid a global sell-off.


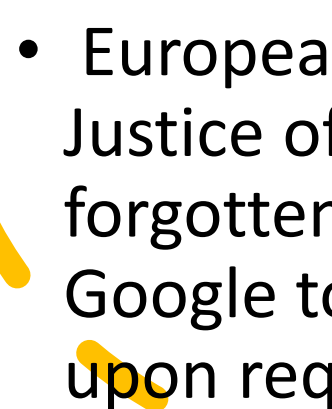
C) Japan's Nikkei index faced its worst single-day drop since 1987, falling 12.4%.


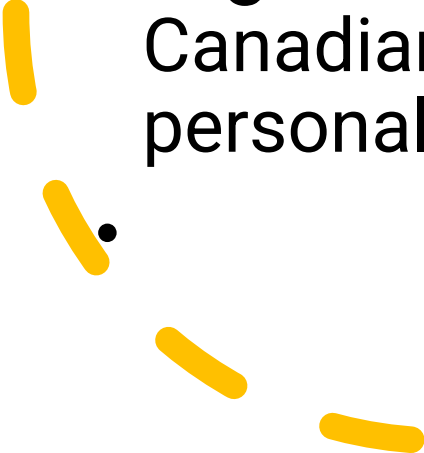
D) The article reports that the U.S. economy showed strong growth, leading to market stability.


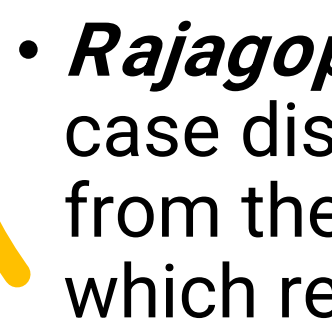
Right to Be Forgotten



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- Recently, the Supreme Court of India has agreed to hear a case that could redefine the "right to be forgotten" in India, where no statutory framework currently exists.
 - This right, also known in European privacy law as the "right to erasure," pertains to an individual's ability to remove their digital footprint from public view when it violates their privacy.
 - The outcome is expected to significantly influence how this right is understood and implemented in the country.
- 

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- What is the Right to Be Forgotten?
 - Definition:
 - The right to be forgotten allows individuals to request the removal of their personal data from digital platforms when it is outdated, irrelevant, or harmful to their privacy.
 - European Context: Established by the Luxembourg-based Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in 2014, the right to be forgotten was highlighted in the "Google Spain case" that required Google to remove 'inadequate, irrelevant, or no longer relevant' data upon request.
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- 
- In the EU, the right to be forgotten is enshrined in **Article 17 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**, which emphasises informational self-determination and the right to control personal data.
 - **Other Nations:** Countries like **Canada, the United Kingdom, Argentina, and Japan** have adopted similar laws. In 2023, a Canadian court upheld the right to demand search blocks on personal data.

- 
- Judicial Recognition:
 - The 2017 ruling in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India recognised the right to privacy as a fundamental right under the Constitution, which implicitly includes the right to be forgotten.
 - ***Rajagopal vs. State of Tamil Nadu Case, 1994:*** This landmark case discussed the "**right to be let alone**" but distinguished it from the publication of public records, such as court decisions, which remain a legitimate subject for **public comment**.
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- **'Right to Privacy' is protected under which Article of the Constitution of India? (2021)**
- (a) Article 15
- (b) Article 19
- (c) Article 21
- (d) Article 29



India to Import Tur Dal from Mozambique

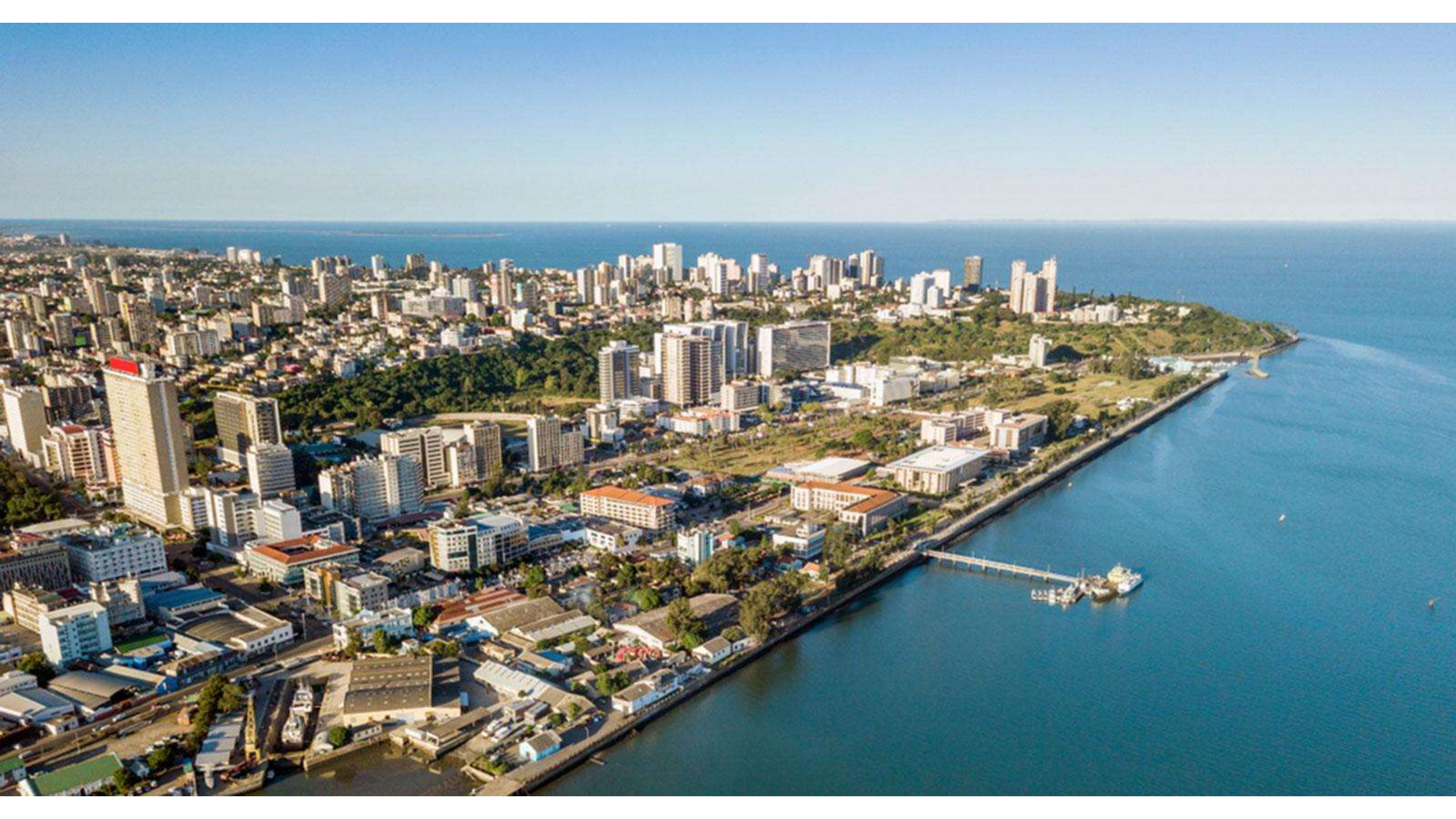




MOZAMBIQUE





MAPUTO





- Recently, India has restarted the import of Tur dal (Pigeon pea) from Mozambique after it was disrupted by an “anti-India” group.
- What is the Current State of Pulses Import in India?
- India imported 4.65 million metric tons of pulses in the fiscal year 2023-24 (up from 2.53 million tons in 2022-23), the highest since 2018-19.



- 
- In value terms, imports of pulses **jumped 93%** to USD 3.75 billion.
 - In 2023-24, India imported 7.71 lakh tons of Tur/Pigeon pea, with 2.64 lakh tons (one-third) from **Mozambique**. **Malawi** is also a major supplier of tur to India.
- 

- **Red lentil** imports, particularly from **Canada**, doubled to 1.2 million tons.
- **Yellow peas** are imported from **Russia and Turkey**.
- The South Asian nations including India, usually import pulses from **Canada, Myanmar, Australia, Mozambique, and Tanzania**.





- 
- What is the Status of Pulse Production in India?
 - India is the **largest producer** (25% of global production), **consumer** (27% of world consumption) and **importer (14%)** of pulses in the world.
 - Pulses account for around **20% of the area under food grains** and contribute around **7-10% of the total food grain production** in the country.
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- The top 5 pulses-producing states are **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.**
 -
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- What are Key Facts About Tur dal (Pigeon Pea)?
- It is a vital **legume crop** and **protein source** in India.
- It thrives in **tropical and semi-arid regions**.
- **Climatic Requirements:**
-



- 
- **Rainfall:** Needs **600-650 mm annually**, with moist conditions early on and dry conditions during flowering and pod development.
 - **Temperature:** Grows best at **26°C to 30°C** in the rainy season and 17°C to 22°C post-rainy season.
 - **Soil:** Prefers **sandy loam or loam**, though it can adapt to various soil types.
- 

- 
- **With reference to pulse production in India, consider the following statements: (2020)**

1. Black gram can be cultivated as both kharif and rabi crop.
2. Green-gram alone accounts for nearly half of pulse production.
3. In the last three decades, while the production of kharif pulses has increased, the production of rabi pulses has decreased.

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

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

“VIRAASAT”, an exhibition to celebrate
10th National Handloom Day begins at
Handloom Haat, New Delhi



- “VIRAASAT”, a fortnight long exhibition dedicated to celebrating on Saturday, Corporate aegis of the conclude c



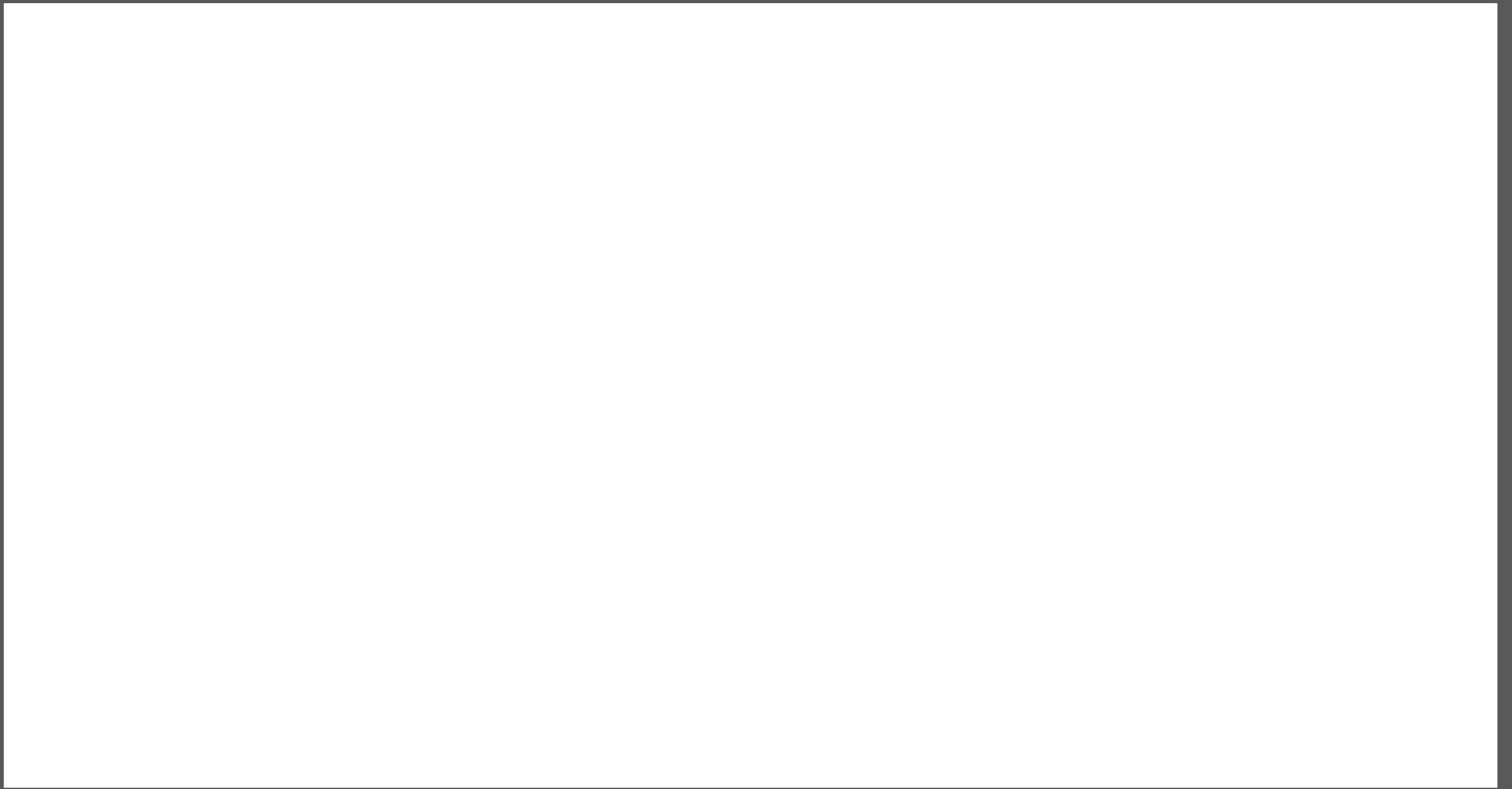




Newly launched apps

- 
- *Recently, the union government launched e-Sakshya, Nyaya Setu, Nyaya Shruti, and e-Summon App for three new criminal laws.*
 - **Launched by-** Ministry of Home Affairs.
 - **Aim-** The apps aim to **strengthen the technical competency** of the entire system
- 

e-Sakshya	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Under e-Sakshya, all <u>videography, photography, and testimonies</u> will be stored on the e-evidence server, accessible to courts immediately.
e-Summon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Under e-Summon, <u>court summons</u> will be sent <u>electronically</u> to the police station and the recipient.
...	...





Fun fact

Fun fact



The First Modern Olympics Had No Gold Medals: In the first modern Olympic Games held in Athens in 1896, winners were awarded a silver medal and an olive branch, while runners-up received a bronze medal and a laurel branch.



The tradition of awarding gold, silver, and bronze medals for first, second, and third place was not introduced until the 1904 Olympics in St. Louis, USA.

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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and arms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, with a dark background and some highlights on the hands and clothing. There are some red dots and an orange bar in the top left corner, which appear to be part of a graphic design.

Thank you
guys.
