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“

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best, and
God did the
rest.

HETTIE MCDANIEL

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No time to waste on Gaza ceasefire, says U.S. envoy
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CAS dismisses Vinesh Phogat's appeal
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INSIDE

Kerala to pay ₹6 lakh to kin of landslide victims
TRIVANANTHAPURAM
The Kerala Cabinet announced an ex gratia payment of ₹6 lakh to the next of kin of victims of Wayanad landslides. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said parents, husbands, wives, and children of the victims could claim compensation without having to submit a legal heir certificate. **• PAGE 8**

UG: launches new system for open admissions
NEW DELHI
The UGC has introduced a new procedure for students seeking admission to open and distance learning and online programmes. The UGC said the change aimed at ensuring that students enrol only in recognised higher education institutions to join these programmes. **• PAGE 6**

Kishida will not seek another term as Japan PM
TOYOYO
Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said that he will not run in the coming party leadership vote, paving the way for Japan to have a new Prime Minister. He was elected President of his Liberal Democratic Party in 2021 and his three-year term expires in September. **• PAGE 14**

Thailand PM's dismissal may hit BIMSTEC summit
NEW DELHI
The decision of Thailand's Supreme Court to dismiss Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin on Wednesday cast a shadow over coming BIMSTEC Summit to be held in Bangkok. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is due to attend the summit as seven regional countries to be held on September 4. **• PAGE 14**

Captain killed in gunfight during anti-terrorist operation in Doda

One militant shot down in the fourth encounter in J&K since August 10. Capt. Deepak Singh died of bullet injuries sustained when he engaged a group of militants. Former CMs express concern over growing casualties among the security forces

Deerada, Ashta (J&M)

A J Army Captain was killed in an anti-terrorist operation in the dense forests of the Shigwari-Akhar ranges of Doda in Jammu on Wednesday. A group of militants were snatched and engaged in a gunfight on Tuesday evening, triggering a fierce encounter. One of them was killed in the operation. Officials said Captain Deepak Singh sustained bullet injuries when he was leading a patrol to wards the hiding militants on Tuesday night and "engaged militants in a fire-fight twice in the night". The militants were hiding in a cavernous area, making it difficult for the security forces to advance. The security forces reportedly engaged between four to five militants in this gunfight.



General area Army vehicles near an encounter site in Doda on Wednesday. (PTI)

Officials said Captain Deepak Singh sustained bullet injuries when he was leading a patrol to wards the hiding militants on Tuesday night and "engaged militants in a fire-fight twice in the night". The militants were hiding in a cavernous area, making it difficult for the security forces to advance. The security forces reportedly engaged between four to five militants in this gunfight. An Army spokesperson said one terrorist was neutralised. "An AK-47 and an

M-1 rifle were recovered at the encounter site. Intense combat and exchange of fire continued," the spokesperson said. The bodies of the militants were recovered during the operation. Two soldiers and a civilian were earlier killed in the Shigwari-Akhar range of Doda, the Akar range. The militant Anant Singh was also killed in an encounter with militants, who managed to flee.

The security forces spotted the hiding militants around 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday. The Doda encounter started in the early hours of the day. The militants were close to the town of Doda. The security forces were engaged in a fierce gunfight with the militants. The militants were snatched and engaged in a fire-fight twice in the night. The militants were hiding in a cavernous area, making it difficult for the security forces to advance. The security forces reportedly engaged between four to five militants in this gunfight.

Two soldiers and a civilian were earlier killed in the Shigwari-Akhar range of Doda, the Akar range. The militant Anant Singh was also killed in an encounter with militants, who managed to flee. In a separate incident, a soldier and two porters were injured in a mine blast along the line of control in Mandi area of Poonch. Official sources said the blast took place close to the Tarki Post in Mandi around 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday. Havildar Indrajit Singh and porters Shakshi Hussain and Narsing Choudhary were injured. Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, in separate

statements, expressed concern over growing casualties among the security forces.

"Highly unfortunate" "Another young Army officer has been killed in the line of duty, this time in an encounter in Doda. It is highly unfortunate that the situation in some parts of Jammu region has been deteriorating like this. May Captain Deepak Singh's soul rest in peace. I send my heartfelt condolences to his family and colleagues," Mr. Abdullah, National Conference vice-president, said.

Mr. Mufti, president of the Peoples Democratic Party, said, "No words will suffice to express the tragedy at Doda today where Captain Deepak Singh was killed during an encounter. The endless cycle of violence and mayhem in Jammu and Kashmir continues to devour the lives of innocents despite tall claims of normalcy by the administration. My deepest condolences to his family."

Freedom parade



Strong bands: Students dressed as freedom fighters take part in a rally in Chennai on the eve of Independence Day. (PTI/ANAND/CHIEF)

Murder of doctor: Rahul criticises bid to 'shield' accused

Shri Sahasr Singh (Kerala)

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said that the entire country has been shocked by the gruesome murder of a second-year postgraduate trainee doctor in Kollam. He added that attempts to save the accused, instead of protecting justice to the victim, raised serious questions on the conduct of the national and the local administration.

FULL REPORT • PAGE 5

Murmu urges people to reject tendencies that stoke discord

The Hindu Bureau (New Delhi)

Social justice is the top priority of the government and affirmative action should be strengthened as an instrument of inclusion, President Droupadi Murmu said on Wednesday, while urging people to reject tendencies that "stoke discord" based on perceived social hierarchies. The President's assurances come at a time when the Congress and other opposition bloc partners have been exerting pressure on the Narendra Modi government to conduct a caste census and had made social justice as their main election plank in the Lok Sabha election.

Addressing the nation on the eve of the 76th Independence Day, Mr. Murmu asserted that the successful conduct of the Lok Sabha election strengthens "democratic forces around the world and the idea of democracy". She said that from 2021 to 2024, India has been growing the fastest growing major economies, with an average growth rate of 8% annually, and is poised to become one of the top three economies.

She lauded the Prime Minister's package of five schemes for employment and skilling that will benefit 4.3 crore youth over five years.

"Social democracy" "We must make our political democracy a social democracy as well. Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy," Mr. Murmu said quoting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, while addressing the Narendra Modi government had taken unprecedented initiatives to ensure social justice.

"The steady progress of political democracy testifies to the progress made towards the consolidation of social democracy. The spirit of inclusion permeating every aspect of our social life. We have together as a cohesive nation with our diversity and plurality," the

FULL REPORT • PAGE 5



President Droupadi Murmu

President stated. "Affirmative action must be strengthened as an instrument of inclusion. I firmly believe that in a vast country like ours, tendencies that stoke discord based upon perceived social hierarchies have to be rejected," she added.

FULL REPORT • PAGE 5

Cong. reiterates JPC call citing cases of govt. 'helping' Adani Group

The Hindu Bureau (New Delhi)

Stepping up its attack on the Centre, the Congress on Wednesday reiterated its demand for a Parliamentary Committee (JPC) investigation into the allegations against the Adani group by citing two examples to argue how the government is helping the firm.

Taking to X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh cited a Power Ministry memorandum of August 12, amending the

SC refuses to restrict States' power to tax mines only prospectively

Krishnakumar, Balasubramanian (New Delhi)

The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined pleas by assessors, including public sector undertakings, to restrict its July 28 majority judgment which upheld the States' power to tax mines and minerals rights, to have only prospective effect.

The majority on the nine-judge bench, by the exception of Justice B.V. Nagarathna, who had originally given a dissenting opinion, held that the prospective application of the July 25 judgment would run the risk of violating many State laws.

"The power to levy tax is an incidence of sovereignty. If we are to give a prospective application to the judgment, it would result in a situation where the legislation enacted by these primary powers may conceivably be invalidated. This would not be constitutionally just outcome," the Supreme Court reasoned.

"However, the bench introduced constitutionalities for the retrospective levy imposed by the States. The court declared that States could levy tax on mines and mineral rights from April 1, 2005. Demands of tax would not operate for transactions prior to this cut-off date.

The Bench clarified that there would be no interest or penalty imposed on the assessee for tax due from the cut-off date of April 1, 2005 and the date of the judgment, July 25, 2024. "The total amount, that

application of the July 28 judgment will lead to revival of cumulative demands to the tune of approximately ₹3,000 crore from different States," the court observed.

Again, the payment of retrospective tax for the period between April 2008-July 2024 needs to be paid only in instalments staggered across 12 years, commencing from April 1, 2025.

The court noted that a new State have decided against collecting tax dues accrued before the July 25 judgment. "It is the prerogative of the State legislatures to determine whether or to forego the dues for the period before July 28, 2024," it observed.

"The authoritative pronouncement of the nine-judge Bench on July 25 had cleared the confusion caused by two conflicting judgments about the States' power to tax. In 1980, *India Cement versus State of Tamil Nadu* saw a Constitution Bench hold that "royalty is tax" and State legislatures had no legislative competence to impose cess on royalty. But, in January 2004, another Constitution Bench, in *State of West Bengal versus Union of India*, held that "royalty is not a tax" and "the power to levy tax on mineral rights vests with the State legislatures".

GALLERY AWARDS • PAGE 4

UGC launches new system for open admissions

NEW DELHI

The UGC has introduced a new procedure for students seeking admission to open and distance learning and online programmes. The UGC said the change aimed at ensuring that students enrol only in approved higher education institutions to join these programmes. » **PAGE 6**



The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission has introduced a new enrolment procedure for students seeking admission to open and distance learning (ODL) and online programmes from the academic year 2024-25.

The UGC on Wednesday said the change, effective from September, aimed to ensure that students enrol only in approved higher education institutions to join these programmes. UGC Chairman M. Jagadeh Kumar said the new system would be applicable to all UGC-approved online courses and would enhance transparency of admissions.

By the new guidelines, any student who intends to enrol in these programmes shall register on the UGC's Distance Education Bureau (DEB) website with the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) ID to generate a unique DEB ID. The unique ID is for standardising the admission procedure for students enrolling in ODL



The new system, effective from September, will be applicable to all UGC-approved online courses. NAGARA GOPAL

and online mode and safeguarding their academic and career prospects.

The UGC has informed all accredited institutions and other stakeholders that the creation of the DEB-ID shall be required for every student (except foreign learners) willing to enrol in ODL and online programmes in recognised and entitled institutions from the academic session beginning in September. "The DEB ID once generated on the UGC-DEB web portal will remain valid for lifelong ODL and online learning," a UGC official said.

"The UGC (ODL Pro-

grammes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 set the minimum standards for such programmes, and a list of recognised institutions is available on the UGC Distance Education Bureau website. Recent issues with unrecognised institutions admitting students highlighted the need for this standardised procedure. To safeguard student interests, the UGC has developed a mechanism requiring students to register on the UGC-DEB web portal and create a unique DEB-ID using their Academic Bank of Credit ID," Professor Kumar said.

- **New Enrolment Procedure Introduced by UGC**

- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has introduced a new enrolment procedure for students seeking admission to open and distance learning (ODL) and online programs starting from the academic year 2024-25.
- The new system is effective from September and applies to all UGC-approved online courses.

- **Objective of the New System**

- The aim is to ensure that students enroll only in approved higher education institutions, thereby safeguarding their academic and career prospects.
- The system is designed to enhance transparency in admissions and ensure adherence to UGC regulations.

- **Requirement of DEB ID**

- Students intending to enroll in these programs must register on the UGC's Distance Education Bureau (DEB) website with the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) ID to generate a unique DEB ID.
- This unique ID will standardize the admission process and be valid for lifelong ODL and online learning.

- **Compliance and Regulations**

- The new guidelines are mandatory for all recognized and entitled institutions.
- The UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020, set the minimum standards for such programs, and the list of recognized institutions is available on the UGC DEB website.
- The creation of a DEB ID is not required for foreign learners.



- **Protection Against Unrecognized Institutions**

- The move comes after recent issues with unrecognized institutions admitting students, highlighting the need for a standardized procedure.
- The UGC aims to protect student interests by requiring them to register and obtain a DEB ID before enrolling.

University Grants Commission

Viśvavidyālaya Anudāna Āyōga



ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये

Crest of the University Grants Commission

Abbreviation	UGC
Formation	28 December 1956; 67 years ago
Founder	Maulana Azad
Headquarters	New Delhi
Location	 India
Official language	English, Hindi
Owner	Government of India
Chairman	Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar
Parent organization	Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India
Budget (2021–22)	₹4,693 crore (US\$560 million) ^[1]

- Consider the following statements regarding the new enrolment procedure introduced by the University Grants Commission (UGC):
 1. The new system applies to all UGC-approved open and distance learning (ODL) and online programs starting from the academic year 2024-25.
 2. The DEB ID, generated on the UGC-DEB website, will be valid for a limited period of five years.
 3. The creation of a DEB ID is mandatory for all students, including foreign learners, who wish to enroll in ODL and online programs.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- **a) 1 only**
- **b) 1 and 2 only**
- **c) 2 and 3 only**
- **d) 1, 2, and 3**

18 CBI officials selected for President's Police medals

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

As many as 18 officials of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have bagged service medals on the occasion of Independence Day, 2024.

The President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service have been conferred on six officials, while Police Medals for Meritorious Service have been awarded to 12.

Superintendent of Police (SP) E. Pradeep Kumar, Additional SP, Naresah Kumar Sharma, Prasad Kumar, and Mahesh Kumar, and head constables Ranga Lalji and Raj Kumar have got the President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service.

Among those awarded the Police Medals for Meritorious Service are Joint Director and Deputy Inspector-General (DIG) Vijayendra Bhat; DIG Mohammad Saives Haqui, Additional SP, Tariguntur, Vijay Kumar; and Inspector Karan Singh. Among the sub-inspector Satyaji Had, head constables Latha Prasad, Subhash Chandra, Chakravarthy, and Sachin Raju, head constables Shikumar Subramanyam and stenographer Sampada Sanjeev Ravankar.

President approves four Kirti Chakras, 18 Shaurya Chakras

Kirti Chakra was granted to Major Malla Rama Gopal Naidu, and posthumously to Colonel Mangrreet Singh, Rifleman Ravi Kumar and DSP Humayun Muzammil Bhat; two Shaurya Chakras were given to Air Force personnel

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Four Kirti Chakra, three of them posthumous, and 18 Shaurya Chakras, four posthumous, are among the 102 gallantry awards approved by President Droupadi Murmu to armed forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel on the eve of Independence Day.

Kirti Chakra was granted to Major Malla Rama Gopal Naidu from the Maharashtra Light Infantry and with 19 CR in January and Colonel Rishman Ravi Kumar with Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry and with 19 CR. Shaurya Chakra was granted to Colonel Mangrreet Singh from the Sikh Light Infantry and with 19 CR in January and Colonel Rishman Ravi Kumar with Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry and with 19 CR.

The awards include six Shaurya Chakras and two to Air Force personnel. One of the Shaurya Chakra was for CAPF personnel under the Home Ministry, two of which are posthumous.



DSP Humayun Muzammil Bhat and, right, Colonel Mangrreet Singh

Major Bhat was awarded the Kirti Chakra for his gallantry and exceptional bravery by leading from the front. His outstanding courage and quick decision making led to the elimination of terrorists and preventing escape of other terrorists. The citation reads: "Colonel Singh displayed great courage and exceptional bravery by leading from the front. His outstanding courage and quick decision making led to the elimination of terrorists and preventing escape of other terrorists. The citation reads: "Colonel Singh displayed great courage and exceptional bravery by leading from the front. His outstanding courage and quick decision making led to the elimination of terrorists and preventing escape of other terrorists."

Major Bhat was the leader of an ambush party deployed along the Line of Control in Kashmir on October 26, 2023 for a specific search and destroy operation to deny terrorists a safe haven in a village in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir. "As the terrorist hideout was identified, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire in a bid to escape. Col. Singh, unmindful of his own safety, returned fire towards the escaping ter-

rorists, resulting in killing of one terrorist. The award citation reads: "Displaying gallantry and exceptional bravery, the officer quickly reorganised the party to plug the gaps in the line of fire. He courageously decided to direct fire on the terrorists. However, in the ensuing gunfire, Col. Singh sustained severe gunshot wounds on the forehead."

For planning and executing clinical operation, displaying nerves of steel and utter disregard to own safety while saving lives of over 200 people, resolve, leadership and eliminating two terrorists. The citation reads: "Rifleman Ravi Kumar was awarded for his actions in an operation on September 12, 2023. He volunteered to be the leading scout of Commanding Officer's Quick Reaction Team in search of terrorists in Rajouri district. The team was fired upon as they were trailing terrorists and he pushed aside his fate towards safety, drove, took cover and retaliated fire.

"The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) has not yet formed an opinion on the Supreme Court's judgment allowing the States to sub-categorise Scheduled Castes (SC) for quota. NCSC Chairperson Kishor Mahwara told The Hindu on Tuesday. The commission is yet to arrive at any conclusion. The NCSC Chairperson said he had not yet contacted the NCSC for its opinion on the judgment or on the issue of sub-categorisation specifically.

Nithari case: SC to hear CBI plea against Koli's acquittal

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to hear a fresh plea filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) challenging the acquittal of Nithari case convict Koli. The court will hear the plea on Wednesday.

The plea, filed by the CBI, seeks to set aside the acquittal of Koli. The court will hear the plea on Wednesday. The plea, filed by the CBI, seeks to set aside the acquittal of Koli. The court will hear the plea on Wednesday.

Haven't yet formed opinion on sub-categorisation of SC for quota: NCSC chairperson

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

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The commission is yet to arrive at any conclusion. The NCSC Chairperson said he had not yet contacted the NCSC for its opinion on the judgment or on the issue of sub-categorisation specifically.

Akhilesh Yadav flees 'shunting' of Muslim, Yadav officials, says no drama' can stop BJP loss

The Hindu Bureau LUCKNOW

Reacting sharply to the alleged removal of officials from the Muslim and Yadav communities in bypoll-bound districts, Opposition parties on Wednesday asked the Election Commission to take suo motu cognizance of the matter.

When the public has come out in the field to elect the BJP even in the byelections, there is no matter how much administrative and governmental drama the BJP does to remove some officers, no one can stop them from losing,"



Akhilesh Yadav

wrote Mr. Yadav to a post on his social media. He said the Congress also targeted the Yogi Adityanath government over the alleged administrative changes.

Indian textile firms reboot operations in Bangladesh

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Textile factories in Bangladesh owned by Indian firms have resumed operations, following the recent unrest in the country, even as the movement of goods between the neighbouring countries has revived across the Porcupine border, a senior Commerce Ministry official said.

Thousands of lights 'missing' from Ram and Bhakti Paths in Ayodhya

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

A controversy has erupted over lights allegedly stolen from prominent places in Ayodhya after the contractor responsible for installing them alleged that 600 lights and 36 'gobo' projector lights placed at Ram Path and Bhakti Path were missing. While returning reports that 600 lights worth 600 lakh had been stolen, the Commissioner of Ayodhya, Gaurav Dutt, said the matter was being investigated.



Bamboo lights are seen along the Ram Path in Ayodhya. PHOTOS COURTESY

via the Uttar Pradesh Police app. The complaint was filed in a police station in May. Mr. Sharma said that his firm installed 6,400 bamboo lights and 96 gobo projector lights on both sides of Ram Path and Bhakti Path, but he had found over half of them missing during an inspection.

Sanatana Dharma remarks: SC wants to transfer cases against Udhayanidhi from T.N.

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the transfer of cases registered against Tamil Nadu Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin over his remarks on Sanatana Dharma. The court also ordered the transfer of cases to be heard outside the State.



Udhayanidhi Stalin

Sanatana Dharma, Bharat, Ram, and Krishna. Mr. Stalin was accused by senior advocates Mr. Singhvi, Wilson, and Anil Dhoke. The court also ordered the transfer of cases to be heard outside the State.

PM made anti-Muslim remarks in 110 of his 173 election speeches

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi "made Islamophobic remarks" in 110 out of the 173 speeches he delivered during the recent Lok Sabha election campaign, according to an analysis on social media by Human Rights Watch.

Violence against religious minorities has also continued since the election, said the HRW report released on Wednesday, pointing to the deaths of 12 Muslims men and a Christian woman in 28 reported attacks across the country.

"The leadership of Modi's Hindu majoritarian Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) repeatedly made statements inciting discrimination, hostility, and violence against marginalised groups during his campaign to win his third consecutive term of office, which began on June 9."

The Islamabad-based remarks in Mr. Modi's speeches were "apparently intended to undermine the political opposition, which he said only promoted Muslim rights, and to foster fear among the majority Hindu community through disinformation," the HRW said.

Violent actions It added that several BJP-led governments have established Madrasa, mosques, businesses, and places of worship "without the provision" and "carried out or unlawful practices", all of which have continued since the election.

"Indian Prime Minister Modi and BJP leaders made blatantly false claims in their campaign speeches against Muslims and other minority groups," said Elaine Pearson, the Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

"These inflammatory speeches, amid a decade of attacks and discrimination against minorities under the Modi administration, have further normalised abuse against Muslims, Christians, and others," she added.

Govind Mohan to be Union Home Secretary

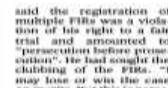
The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Wednesday approved the appointment of Culture Ministry Secretary Govind Mohan as the next Union Home Secretary.

The 1998 batch Indian Administrative Service official of Sikkim cadre has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of Home Affairs.



Govind Mohan



Udhayanidhi Stalin

Sanatana Dharma, Bharat, Ram, and Krishna. Mr. Stalin was accused by senior advocates Mr. Singhvi, Wilson, and Anil Dhoke. The court also ordered the transfer of cases to be heard outside the State.

President approves four Kirti Chakras, 18 Shaurya Chakras

Kirti Chakra was granted to Major Malla Rama Gopal Naidu, and posthumously to Colonel Manpreet Singh, Rifleman Ravi Kumar and DSP Humayun Muzammil Bhat; two Shaurya Chakras went to Navy personnel and two to Air Force personnel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Four Kirti Chakras, three of them posthumous, and 18 Shaurya Chakras, four posthumous, are among the 103 gallantry awards approved by President Droupadi Murmu to armed forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel on the eve of Independence Day.

Kirti Chakra was granted to Major Malla Rama Gopal Naidu from the Maratha Light Infantry and with 56 Rashtriya Rifles (RR), and posthumously to Colonel Manpreet Singh from the Sikh Light Infantry and with 19 RR in Jammu and Kashmir, Rifleman Ravi Kumar with Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry and with 63 RR and Humayun Muzammil Bhat, Deputy Superintendent, Jammu and Kashmir Police and with 19 RR.

Two Shaurya Chakras went to Navy personnel and two to Air Force personnel. Five of the 18 Shaurya Chakras were for CAPF personnel under the Home Ministry, two of which are posthumous.

The awards include 64



DSP Humayun Muzammil Bhat and, right, Colonel Manpreet Singh died in an encounter in Anantnag last year. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sena Medals (Gallantry), including two posthumous; 11 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry); and six Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), a Defence Ministry statement said.

"The President has also approved 39 Mention-in-Despatches, including to Army dog Kent (posthumous) for their significant contributions in different military operations. The operations include Operation Rakshak, Operation Snow Leopard, Operation Sahayata, Operation Hifazat, Operation Orchid and Operation Katchal."

In addition, the President approved one President's Tatrakshak Medal (Distinguished Service); one Tatrakshak Medal (Gal-

lanty) and two Tatrakshak Medals (Meritorious Service) to the Indian Coast Guard personnel for exceptional bravery, devotion to duty and meritorious service demonstrated by the recipients.

'Raw courage'

On September 13, 2023, Col. Singh was heading a specific search and destroy operation in densely forested hills of a village in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir.

"As the terrorist hideout was identified, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire in a bid to escape. Col. Singh, unmindful of his own safety, returned fire towards the escaping ter-

rorists, resulting in killing of one terrorist," the award citation reads. "Displaying extraordinary leadership, the officer quickly reorganised the party to plug the escape routes. He continued to direct fire on the terrorists. However, in the ensuing gunfight, Col. Singh sustained severe gunshot wound on the forehead."

"Col. Singh displayed raw courage and unparalleled leadership by leading from the front. His undaunting valour and quick decision making led to the elimination of one terrorist and preventing escape of other terrorists," the citation states, recommending him for the Kirti Chakra.

Major Naidu was the leader of an ambush party deployed along the Line of Control in Kupwara district on October 26, 2023 for intelligence-based counter infiltration operation when his scout spotted five terrorists. He immediately set up an ambush to trap the terrorists and during the ensuing exchange of fire, the officer rolled over under a volley of fire, pinned down the terrorist with fire, facilitating elimination of three terrorists, accord-

ing to his citation.

For planning and executing clinical operation, displaying nerves of steel and utter disregard to own safety while saving lives of own troops, resolute leadership and eliminating two terrorists, Maj. Naidu has been recommended for Kirti Chakra, his citation reads.

Rifleman Ravi Kumar was awarded for his actions in an operation on September 12, 2023. He volunteered to be the leading Scout of Commanding Officer's Quick Reaction Team in hot pursuit of terrorists in Rajouri district. Their team was fired upon as they were trailing terrorists and he pushed aside his buddy towards safety, dived, took cover and retaliated fire.

"Despite sustaining a hit in the initial fire exchange, he continued to engage the two terrorists and grievously injured one... He was bleeding profusely, nevertheless, he refused to be evacuated and continued to pin down the terrorists to prevent their escape till he eventually lost consciousness. While being evacuated, he breathed his last," the citation read.

Wartime Gallantry Awards



Param Vir Chakra



Maha Vir Chakra



Vir Chakra

Peacetime Gallantry Award



Ashoka Chakra



Kirti Chakra



Shaurya Chakra

Gallantry (Military) Awards of India

Wartime Awards

(Awarded for most conspicuous bravery in the presence of enemy)

(Eligibility - Army, Navy and Airforce officers, Nursing Members in Armed Force, Civilian Citizens)

Param Vir Chakra

Highest Military Award

Established - 1950

Maha Vir Chakra

Second Highest Military Award

Established - 1950

Vir Chakra

Third Highest Military Award

Established - 1950



Peacetime Awards

(Awarded for most conspicuous bravery other than in the presence of enemy)

(Eligibility - Army, Navy and Airforce officers, Nursing Members in Armed Force, Civilian Citizens)



Ashoka Chakra

Highest Peacetime Military Award

Established - 1952

Kirti Chakra

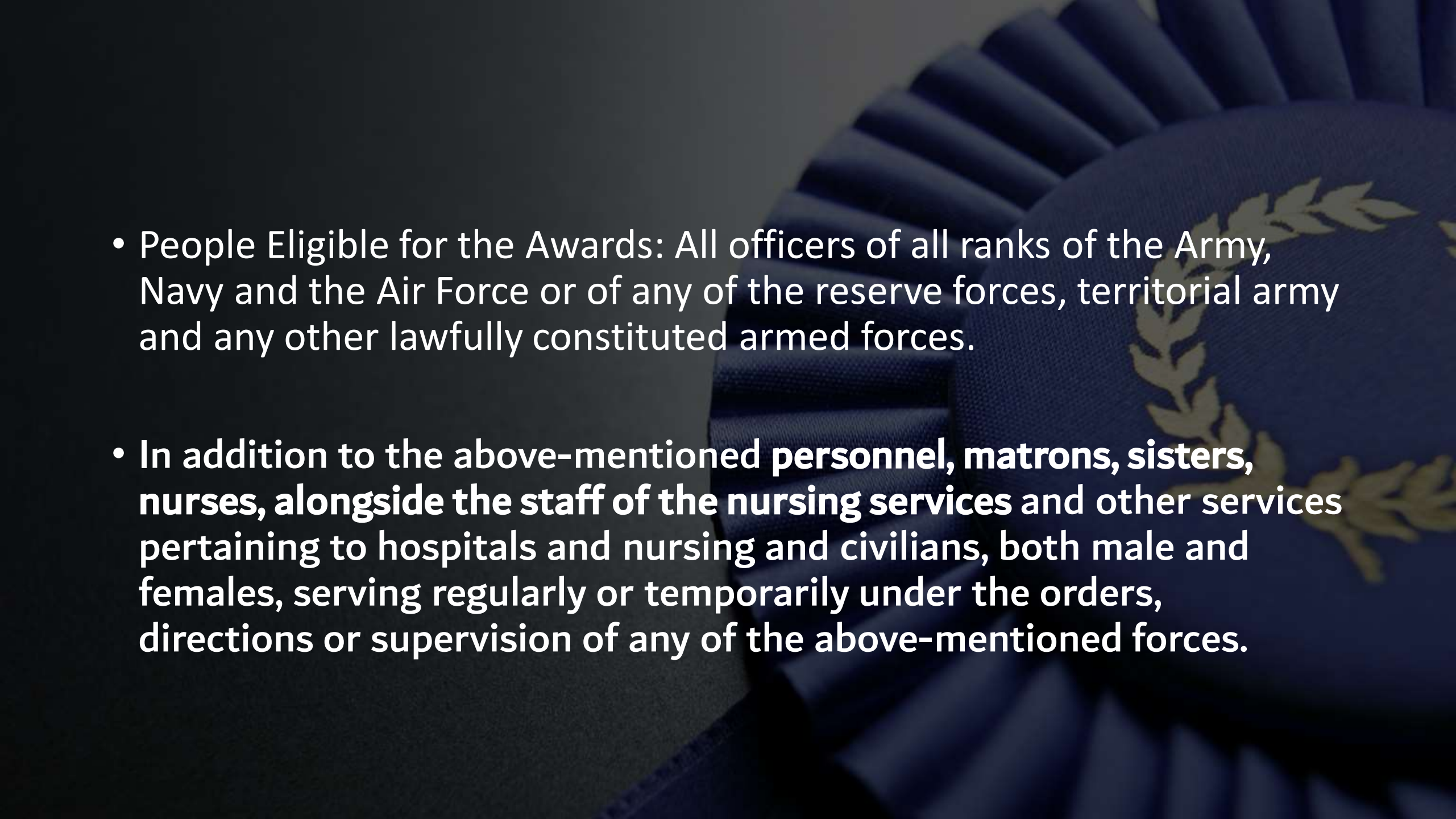
Second Highest Peacetime Military Award

Established - 1952

Shaurya Chakra

Third Highest Peacetime Military Award

Established - 1952

- 
- People Eligible for the Awards: All officers of all ranks of the Army, Navy and the Air Force or of any of the reserve forces, territorial army and any other lawfully constituted armed forces.
 - In addition to the above-mentioned **personnel, matrons, sisters, nurses, alongside the staff of the nursing services** and other services pertaining to hospitals and nursing and civilians, both male and females, serving regularly or temporarily under the orders, directions or supervision of any of the above-mentioned forces.

- **Other Awards:**

- **Sena Medal:**

- It is awarded for acts of exceptional devotion to duty or courage in the Army.

- **Nao Sena Medal:**

- It is awarded for individual acts of exceptional devotion to duty or courage in the Navy.

- **Vayu Sena Medal:**

- It is awarded for individual acts of exceptional devotion to duty or courage in the Air Force.



- **President Approves Gallantry Awards**

- President Droupadi Murmu approved four Kirti Chakras and 18 Shaurya Chakras among the 103 gallantry awards for armed forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel on the eve of Independence Day.
- Kirti Chakra is the second-highest peacetime gallantry award, followed by Shaurya Chakra.

- **Details of Kirti Chakra Awardees**
- **Major Malla Rama Gopal Naidu** from the Mahratta Light Infantry was awarded the Kirti Chakra.
- Posthumous awards were given to:
 - **Colonel Manpreet Singh** from the Sikh Light Infantry.
 - **Rifleman Ravi Kumar** from the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry.
 - **DSP Humayun Muzammil Bhat** from Jammu and Kashmir Police.



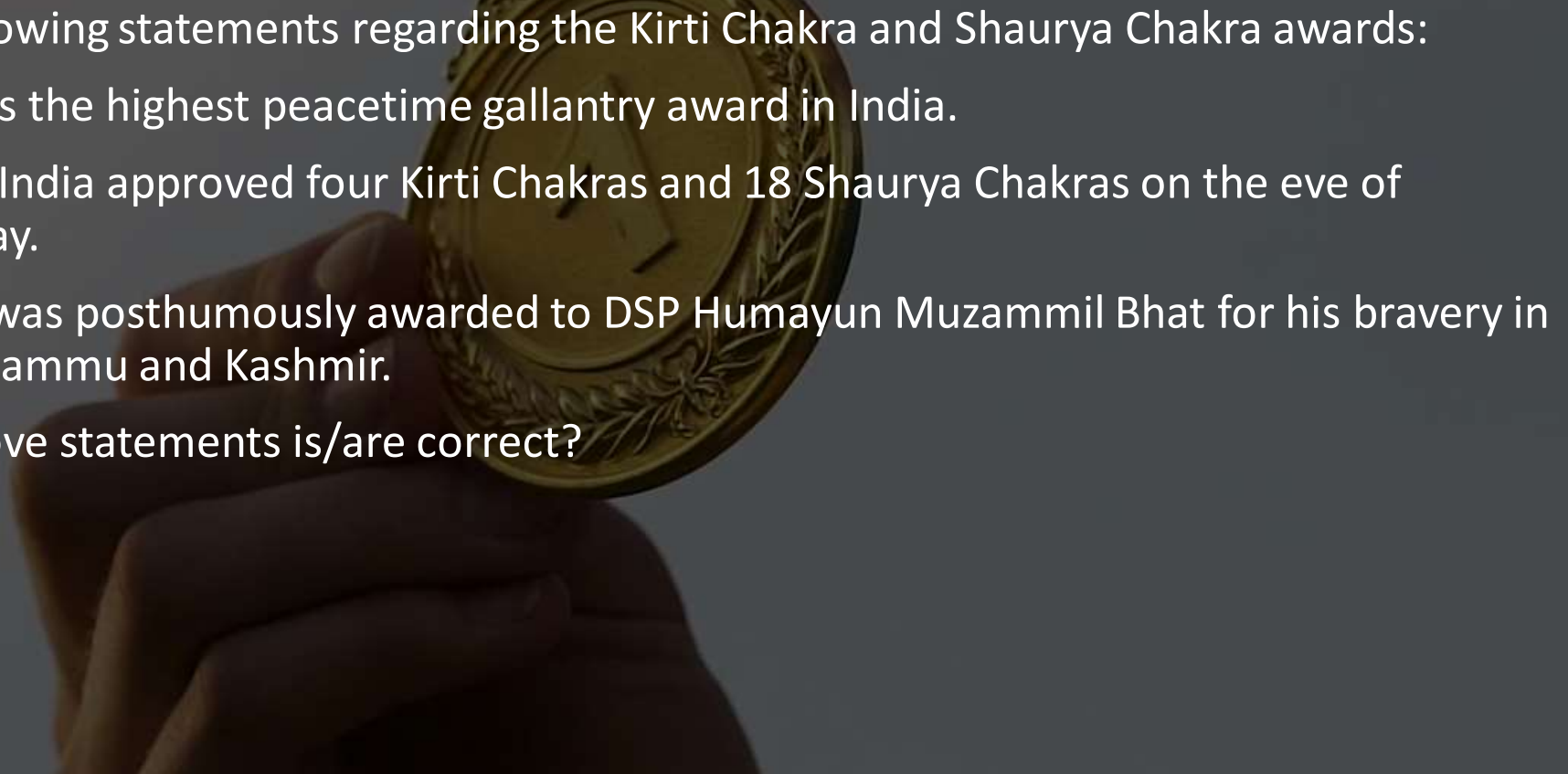
- **Shaurya Chakra Awardees**

- Two Shaurya Chakras were awarded to Navy personnel, two to Air Force personnel, and five to CAPF personnel.
- Six Shaurya Chakras were awarded to Army personnel, including two posthumous awards.
- Operations leading to these awards include Operation Rakshak, Operation Snow Leopard, Operation Hifazat, and Operation Katchal.



- **Heroic Acts Highlighted**

- **Colonel Manpreet Singh** was awarded the Kirti Chakra for his "extraordinary leadership" during an encounter where he was injured but continued to lead his troops and eliminated terrorists.
- **Rifleman Ravi Kumar** displayed "raw courage" by pursuing terrorists even after sustaining injuries during an operation in Rajouri district.
- **Major Naidu** led his team in an ambush and displayed exceptional bravery by firing and retaliating even after being fired upon.

- 
- A hand is shown holding a gold Kirti Chakra award medal. The medal is circular with a decorative border and a central emblem. A red ribbon is attached to the top of the medal. The background is a dark, textured surface.
- Consider the following statements regarding the Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra awards:
 1. The Kirti Chakra is the highest peacetime gallantry award in India.
 2. The President of India approved four Kirti Chakras and 18 Shaurya Chakras on the eve of Independence Day.
 3. The Kirti Chakra was posthumously awarded to DSP Humayun Muzammil Bhat for his bravery in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - 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

'Congress is competent to fight polls on its own in Haryana'

While the party has a national alliance, it does not have any alliances at the State level, says former Chief Minister ahead of the upcoming Assembly election; he says he is satisfied with the party's performance during the Lok Sabha election as the INDIA bloc vote share in Haryana was highest among all States; boosting employment will be top priority if Congress comes to power, he promises

INTERVIEW Mhupinder Singh Hooda

Shikha Hebbar
Sandeep Chakravarti

After winning half of the 10 Lok Sabha seats in Haryana in the Lok Sabha election, the Congress is hopeful of returning in power in the State in the upcoming Assembly election, expected later this year. Senior Congress leader and former State Chief Minister Mhupinder Singh Hooda says tackling unemployment and promoting the welfare of farmers would be his priorities if his party forms the government in the State. Edited excerpts:

The Congress has done well in the 2024 Lok Sabha election compared with the previous two elections. Could you have done better. Are there any lessons to be learnt?

I am satisfied with our performance in the Lok Sabha election because the INDIA bloc vote share was the highest in Haryana among all other States — 47.62%. The jump in the vote share was also the highest in the State, from around 28% to 47.62%, that is, a jump of 19%, and in each of the 90 Assembly constituencies in the State, the Congress's vote share has gone up, and that of the BJP has declined.

In case the Congress

comes to power in Haryana, what would be your top priority?

Tackling unemployment is to be our first priority as Haryana is at the top of the table of the larger States with respect to unemployment rates. In the last 10 years, the BJP government in the State has ended two lakh permanent jobs, and through the Haryana Kambhal Kozgar Nigam Limited, newly created contractual employment. We will restore the two lakh permanent jobs. Secondly, we are also looking at increasing employment opportunities. When we left government, Haryana was number one in per capita income, per capita investment, law and order, and sports. Now we are

number one in crime, price rise, low investment, and in lack of jobs. In 2024, too, when we came to power, we faced similar challenges, but our government was strict on law and order, and attracted investment, which is why 70% of Japan's investment in India was in Haryana, a feat we will match if elected again.

Do you think the Congress should declare



a chief ministerial face?

Everyone knows that there is a procedure in the State where MLAs are elected, they are asked for their choice, and the party decides. Factionalism has been a big problem for the Haryana Congress. Senior leaders, including Kiran Chaudhary and her

slaughter and former BJP leader, quit to join the BJP.

Do you know how many have joined the Congress party? 42 ex-MLAs and MPs.

The BJP government in the State recently talked the creamy layer ceiling for Other Backward Classes (OBC) from an annual income of ₹5 lakh to ₹8 lakh, but the BJP introduced a 5% quota for the OBC-C category in Panchayati Raj institutions and municipalities. It's a very obvious move to make the election in June versus now. How will you counter this move?

There is no such binary.

The creamy layer limit was ₹8 lakh during our time; the BJP reduced it to ₹5 lakh and now claim that they have done something new in raising it again to ₹8 lakh after six-seven years.

The legal guarantee for minimum support price can be given only by the Centre. But will Congress consider some measure to make procurement price a legal right in Haryana?

Yes, only the Centre can declare MSP. But this time, the Opposition and leader of the Opposition in the Lok

Sabha) Rahul Gandhi are quite strong, and we will exert pressure on the Centre to make MSP a legal right. In the State, we will find ways to ensure that a farmer's costs are reduced and the income increases. We will compensate by offering bonus to the farmers.

Will you extend your alliance with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the Lok Sabha election to the Assembly election as well?

So far, there has been no talk in this regard. We have a national alliance but at the State level, we don't have an alliance with any party. The Congress itself is very competent to fight the elections. (Full interview at hinduhooda)

Congress demands JPC probe against Adani Group

Jitram Ramesh alleges that the company is now permitted to sell power in India itself; he also says that the Gujarat government was helping Adani Ports to 'secure a monopoly' on the port sector

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Stepping up its attack on the Narendra Modi government, the Congress on Wednesday reiterated its demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) investigation into the allegations against the Adani Group by citing two examples to argue how the government is helping the firm.



Now the company has been permitted to sell the electricity in India itself," Mr. Ramesh said. In another post, Mr. Ramesh alleged that the Gujarat government was helping Adani Ports "secure a monopoly" on the State's port sector. He said the government grants private ports a 30-year concession period on a build-own-operate-transfer basis, after which the port gets transferred to the government.

Modi Hai toh Adani ke huye sab kuch mamkin Hai! This is why a Joint Parliamentary Committee investigation is essential. Jitram Ramesh, Congressational secretary

Adani Ports currently has control over Mundra, Hazira, and Dahej ports based on this model, the Congress leader added. Before the 2024 Lok

Sabha election, he said, Adani Ports requested the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) to extend this concession period by another 10 years to 70 years in total. "This was much beyond the maximum permissible period of 50 years, but the GMB hastened to request the Gujarat government to do as 'always'," he alleged. He said the GMB recommended that the Gujarat government protect its revenue interests after the passage of the 30-year concession by inviting bids. "It appears that the firm has no doubt, but on the possibility of competition, forced a change in the GMB member's decision — which

Painful memories



True hero: Freedom fighter A. Sundaram looks at photographs displayed at an exhibition, organised in connection with Partition horrors Remembrance Day, at the Tughlak railway junction on Wednesday. (Congressional Railway Manager M. A. Anbarajee is also seen, second from right)

BJP sweeps panchayat elections in Tripura

Prasa Tripathi of India
AGARTALA

The ruling BJP swept the three-tier panchayat polls in Tripura, winning 57% of the seats, an official said on Wednesday.

SC refuses interim bail for Kejriwal in case filed by CBI

Krishnakant Balaraman
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday pleaded in the Supreme Court that his arrest by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the sodic policy case while he was on the "cusp of release" on his way to laundering charges was an "insurance arrest" designed to keep him behind bars.

Delhi CM describes CBI action as an insurance arrest. He says CBI, not SC, is on the cusp of release

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) arrests me in March 2023. I get money laundering in the orders of release in the ED case. I am on the cusp of release when the CBI arrests me. The CBI could not find any cause of action between April 2023 and March 2022. My legal advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for Mr. Kejriwal, argued.

HC quashes ED chargesheet against Farooq Abdullah

Parvaz Ashiq
SRINAGAR

In a relief to former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and National Farooq Abdullah, the J&K High Court on Wednesday quashed the chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate in a case of alleged money laundering in the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) case.

ED carries out 3-day search operations in bank loan fraud case

Enayyath Sah
MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Nagpur sub-office carried out three days of search operations at 18 official and residential premises in Nagpur, Kolkata, and Visakhapatnam as part of a money laundering investigation.

Searches conducted on 18 official and residential premises in Mumbai, Nagpur and Kolkata

The ED initiated investigations on the basis of an I.C.R. First information report registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against M/s Corporate Power Limited (CPL) and its promoters and directors for criminal conspiracy, cheating and forgery. As per the complainant, Union Bank of India, the accused persons submitted manipulated project cost statements in availed loans, causing wrongful loss to the tune of ₹4,037 crore. An ED official said, investigations revealed that the promoters of the accused company colluded and engaged in fictitious transactions and fabrication of the books of accounts of the company and its related entities.

India to host third Voice of Global South virtual meet

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

India will host the third Voice of Global South Summit in the virtual format on August 17 with a view to pitch for a sustainable future for developing countries.

The summit is expected to act as a platform to expand discussions held in the previous meets on a range of complex challenges such as conflicts, food and energy security crises, and climate change – all of which affect the Global South.


The previous editions of the summit saw the participation of over 100 countries from the Global South.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that the theme of the summit will be “An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future”.

“At the summit, the countries would continue deliberations on challenges, priorities, and solutions for the Global South, particularly in the developmental domain,” it said.

The Brandt Line



- 
- **Brandt Line:** The line was proposed by former German Chancellor Willy Brandt in the 1980s as a visual depiction of the north-south divide based upon per-capita GDP.
 - This line symbolizes the **global economic divide**, zigzagging across continents, encompassing parts of **Africa, the Middle East, India, and China**, excluding Australia and New Zealand.

IN BRIEF



U.S. Consul-General meets Maharashtra Governor

The Consul-General of the U.S. in Mumbai, Mike Hankey, met with Maharashtra Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan at the Raj Bhavan on Tuesday to discuss various aspects of the India-U.S. relationship.

BJP leader shot dead in Patna search on for two assailants

Ajay Kumar, former general secretary of the Patna district unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), was shot dead by two motorcycle-borne unidentified assailants in Patna on Tuesday night.

Three more Ramsar wetland sites now in India, taking total to 85

Jacob Kurian, New Delhi

The Environment Ministry on Wednesday said three more wetlands in India have been designated Ramsar sites. This brings the total number of such sites in India to 85.



Swan lake (left); Budyly Shikolaka at the Mangarpan Bird Sanctuary in Tripura, Tamil Nadu. (right); Anantapur

1971. It became a signatory in 1982. From 1982 to 2014, a total of 26 sites were added to the list of Ramsar sites in the country. From 2014 to 2024, the country has added 59 wetlands to the list. Currently, Tamil Nadu has the highest number of Ramsar sites (16), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10).

India's Ramsar wetlands make up around 10% of the country across 18 States. The other South Asian country has as many sites or more is Bangladesh, with India's geographical breadth and tropical diversity.

The United Kingdom (17) and Mexico (12) are smaller countries than India - have the most Ramsar sites, whereas Bolivia spans the largest area, with

Acting ED Director appointed full-time chief

The Hindu Bureau, New Delhi

Nabul Navin, the Acting Educationist, Director (ED), was on Wednesday appointed the agency's new Director for a period of two years.

The 1994-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer had been given the additional charge as ED Director in September last year on completion of his tenure of his predecessor Ganpat Kumar Mishra. He joined the agency as a Special Director in November 2019.

Under Mr. Navin, the agency has been investigating a large number of sensitive cases of financial fraud and corruption under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and the Foreign Exchange Management Act violations.

Two of the prominent ones are the caste policy case allegedly involving Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and others, and the alleged land scam case against Bharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren. Mr. Soren was arrested by the ED on January 31. He resigned from the post immediately after that. The Bharkhand High Court granted him bail June 18. The ED arrested Mr. Soren in March and he is currently in judicial custody.

UGC launches new system for online, open admissions

The Hindu Bureau, New Delhi

The University Grants Commission has introduced a new, streamlined procedure for students seeking admission to open and distance learning (ODL) and online programmes from the academic year 2024-25.

The UGC on Wednesday said the change, effective from September, aimed to ensure that students enrol only in approved higher education institutions to join these programmes. UGC Chairman Anand Kumar said the new system would be applicable to all UGC-approved online courses and would enhance transparency of admissions.

By the new guidelines, any student who intends to enrol in these programmes must register on the UGC's Distance Education Bureau (DEB) website with the Academic Bank Credit (ABC) ID to generate a unique DEB ID. The unique ID is for standardising the admission procedure for students enrolling in ODL



The new system, effective from September, will be applicable to all UGC-approved online courses, including ODL.

and online mode and safeguard their academic and career prospects. Regulations, 2020 set the minimum standards for such programmes, and a list of recognised institutions is available on the UGC Distance Education Bureau website. Recent institutions with unrecognised institutions admitting students highlighted the need for this standardised procedure. To safeguard student interests, the UGC has developed a two-phase enrolment process for students to register on the UGC-DEB web portal will remain valid for lifelong ODL and online learning," a UGC official said. "The UGC (ODL Pro-

Phase 3 clinical trial opens for indigenous dengue vaccine

The Hindu Bureau, New Delhi

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Panacea Biotech Ltd. on Wednesday announced the initiation of the first Phase 3 clinical trial for a dengue vaccine in India.

The trial will evaluate the efficacy of India's indigenous tetravalent dengue vaccine, Dengvax, developed by Panacea Biotech. The first participant in this trial was vaccinated on Wednesday at the Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Rohtak.

The tetravalent dengue vaccine, named TV003 (TV003), originally developed by the National Institute of Health, U.S., has shown promising results in pre-clinical and clinical trials worldwide. Panacea Biotech, one of three Indian companies to receive the strain, is in the advanced stages of developing the vaccine. The company has worked extensively on these strains to develop a full-fledged vaccine, identify and hold a process patent for this work. Phases 1 and 2 in clinical trials of the Indian vaccine formulation were completed in 2019-20 and yielded promising results, a release issued by the Health Ministry said.

The first participant was vaccinated on Wednesday at the Pandit Bhagwat Dayal Sharma Postgraduate Institute in Rohtak.

In collaboration with the ICMR, Panacea Biotech will conduct the Phase 3 clinical trial across 10 sites in 10 states and Union Territories, involving more than 10,000 healthy adult participants.

The trial, primarily funded by the ICMR with partial support from Panacea Biotech, is set to follow up with the participants for two years.

"The initiation of this phase 3 clinical trial for India's first indigenous dengue vaccine marks a critical advancement in our fight against dengue. It reflects our commitment to protecting citizens from this pervasive disease and the understanding of the challenges in vaccine research and development. Through this collaboration between ICMR and Panacea Biotech, we are not only taking a step towards ensuring the health and well-being of our people but also reinforcing our vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat in the pharmaceutical sector," Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said.

Corner office still eluding a large number of women: Ministry report

Deepanshu Chakrabarty, New Delhi

The representation of women in corporate decision-making roles remains inadequate with only 34,979 women holding senior management positions in 2023 as against 1,46,546 men, the data sourced from the Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry. A total of 262,712 women were on the Boards of Directors as against 19,75,487 men, it adds.

In other managerial positions in corporate firms, there were 7,38,940 women as against 19,60,548 men, the data sourced from the Corporate Affairs Ministry for the report show.

Though the number of women in senior management positions has in-

creased from 23,685 in 2017 to 34,979 in 2023, the corresponding increase for men from 1,50,387 to 1,46,546 has been higher.

While senior management positions include CEO, CFO, Company Secretary, Managing Director, Manager and Whole-time Director, the middle management positions include Additional Director, Associate Director, Director, Non-executive Director, and Director.

There was better news in the case of women in senior management positions as against an increase from 1,828 in

2017 to 17,001 in 2023. The total number of women-led firms (those having at least one woman director) recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) since inception till December 2023 is 85,681, which constitutes 8% of the total start-ups.

"Women-owned business enterprises are playing a prominent role in society by generating employment opportunities in the country, bringing in demographic shifts and inspiring the next generation of women founders. With a focus on education, and social welfare, which have a direct impact on the lives of women, their families, and communities. Thus, increasing women's representation in politics can lead to more equitable and responsive governance."

"The impact of having more women in leadership positions cannot be overstated. Women leaders often champion issues such as healthcare, education, and social welfare, which have a direct impact on the lives of women, their families, and communities. Thus, increasing women's representation in politics can lead to more equitable and responsive governance."

FAITH: Murugan, the merciful One

Kannurapurapuram in his Kanaka Kali Veda gives the basic tenets of Saiva Siddhanta, said T. Rajaratnam in a discourse. Jivatmas are classified as saktakar, pratyakakar and vibramokar. Saiva Siddhanta describes three muktis (impurities). They are anantam (ego), kamman (karma) and mayam (illusion). Saktakar are those who have all these qualities. Pratyakakar have kamman and mayam. Vibramokar have only one muktam. Kannurapurapuram says only one who has conquered the ideas of "me" and "mine" reaches the feet of Lord Siva. He says the Saivas (philosophical studies) are for jiva, but the stotras (poems) are for Murugan.

Lord Murugan has six faces. Lord Siva, in ancient times manifested six faces too, although only five of his faces are usually described. The five faces generally spoken about are Isvara, Rudrapati, Vamadesa, Aghora and Tairavartana. The sixth face that is turned upwards, Sadyojata represents the western direction, Vamadesa the north, Aghora the south and Tairavartana the east. The sixth face is Adho mukha, which faces downward, and is evident to jivatis. Murugan has all six faces of Lord Siva. This six-faced, 12-armed Murugan went to war against Surogradman. But he is also merciful. Saiva Siddhanta talks about puza (jivanta), pati (Lord Siva) and preman (devally language).

Word search puzzle titled 'CROSSWORD' with a grid and clues. Clues include: 1. Empty old well (6), 2. Hero's ally, 'The Four 10s' (4), 3. Odd door in the front? (Seven) (3), 4. Funny, that urge hits regularly to one who is spontaneous (8), 5. Cool material without cream (tenacity) (6), 6. Acronym of a new jet aircraft type of April (4), 7. Cabinet without a responsible (hemocrit, (hemocrit or better) induced leaders) (6), 8. Busy letters from diligent ombudsmen (6), 9. Down: 1. Country engulfed by tourists biennially (7), 2. In this place, rough terrain is getting hammered! Not good (6), 3. For the time being, kernel or produce has turned around (3, 1), 4. Moral police is destroying group, save! (8), 5. British wife left one week (6), 6. Representative of an Islamic history (7), 7. Puts a treasure in a maze, to increase concentration (1, 3), 8. Look at rectangular shaped area, right over military seat (8), 9. Cook sea tuna with appearance - last bit (on turn one's) stomach (8), 10. "Heh, settle grievances!" instructs Speaker (3, 4), 11. Eat yours truly for sound of speech? (7), 12. An unorthodox sentence in Arabic to friend, use letters from the right (8), 13. Overhead, there are pairs (8).

Sudoku puzzle grid with some numbers filled in. The grid is a 9x9 square with some cells containing numbers from 1 to 9. The puzzle is titled 'SUDOKU' and 'DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★'. Below the grid is a 'solution to previous puzzle' showing a completed 9x9 grid.

Three more Ramsar wetland sites now in India, taking total to 85

✦ **Jacob Koshy**
NEW DELHI

The Environment Ministry on Wednesday said three more wetlands in India had been designated Ramsar sites. This brings the total number of such sites in India to 85. The new sites are the Nanjarayan and Kazhaveli bird sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu and the Tawa reservoir in Madhya Pradesh.

“As the nation gears up to celebrate its Independence Day, thrilled to share that we have added three Ramsar sites to our network. This takes our tally to 85 Ramsar sites, covering an area of 13,58,068 hectares in India,” Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav posted on the social media platform X.

India is one of the “contracting parties” to the Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in



On safe territory: Ruddy Shelducks at the Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

1971. It became a signatory in 1982. From 1982 to 2013, a total of 26 sites were added to the list of Ramsar sites in the country. From 2014 to 2024, the country has added 59 wetlands to the list. Currently, Tamil Nadu has the highest number of Ramsar sites (18), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10).

India’s Ramsar wetlands make up around 10% of the

total wetland area in the country across 18 States. No other South Asian country has as many sites though this has much to do with India’s geographical breadth and tropical diversity.

The United Kingdom (175) and Mexico (142) – smaller countries than India – have the most Ramsar sites, whereas Bolivia spans the largest area, with

1,48,000 sq. km under the convention’s protection.

Being designated a Ramsar site does not necessarily invite extra international funds, but the Centre and States must ensure these tracts of land are conserved and saved from man-made encroachment. Acquiring this label also helps with a locale’s tourism potential and its international visibility.

To be a Ramsar site, a wetland must meet at least one of the nine criteria defined by the Ramsar Convention such as supporting vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities; regularly supporting 20,000 or more waterbirds; or is an important source of food for fish, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks are dependent upon.



- **New Ramsar Wetland Sites in India**

- Three new wetlands in India have been designated as Ramsar sites, bringing the total number to 85.

- The new sites are:

- Nanjaraayan and Kazhuvveli bird sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu.
- Tawa reservoir in Madhya Pradesh.


An aerial photograph of a wetland area. A large, winding river flows through the center, with a small boat visible on its surface. The surrounding land is divided into numerous rectangular and irregular plots of varying shades of green, indicating different types of vegetation or agricultural fields. Some areas appear to be waterlogged or have a different texture, characteristic of wetlands. The overall scene is a mix of natural and human-modified landscapes.

- **Significance of Ramsar Sites**

- Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance, designated under the Ramsar Convention, which India signed in 1971.
- Being designated a Ramsar site does not necessarily bring extra international funds, but it requires the Centre and States to ensure these areas are conserved and protected from encroachment.
- The designation enhances the tourism potential and international visibility of the sites.

- **India's Ramsar Sites**

- India is one of the "contracting parties" to the Ramsar Convention and became a signatory in 1982.
- From 1982 to 2013, India added 26 Ramsar sites. From 2014 to 2024, India has added 59 sites.
- Tamil Nadu has the highest number of Ramsar sites in India (18), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10).
- India's Ramsar wetlands cover an area of 13,58,068 hectares, accounting for around 10% of the country's total wetland area across 18 States




- **Global Ramsar Site Statistics**

- The United Kingdom (175) and Mexico (142) have the most Ramsar sites globally.

- Bolivia spans the largest area of wetlands under Ramsar protection, with 1,48,000 sq. km.

- **Criteria for Ramsar Designation**

- To qualify as a Ramsar site, a wetland must meet at least one of nine criteria defined by the Ramsar Convention, such as supporting vulnerable species, large populations of waterbirds, or serving as critical fish spawning grounds.

- 
- An aerial photograph of a vast wetland landscape. A narrow, winding waterway or stream flows through the center of the frame, surrounded by dense, low-lying vegetation in shades of brown and green. The terrain appears flat and expansive, with the waterway creating a path through the marshy land.
- **World Wetlands Day (WWD):**It is celebrated across the globe to commemorate the adoption of this international agreement on wetlands on **2nd February 1971**.
 - The theme of **World Wetland Day, 2024** is **‘Wetlands and Human Wellbeing’** which underscores the critical role wetlands play in enhancing our lives.

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- An aerial photograph of a vast wetland landscape. A narrow, winding waterway, possibly a stream or canal, meanders through the terrain, which is covered in dense, low-lying vegetation. The water appears calm and reflects the surrounding environment. The overall scene is a natural, undisturbed wetland ecosystem.
- What are the Other Initiative Taken for Conservation of Wetland?
 - Global Level: Montreux Record
 - World Wetlands Day

RAMSAR CONVENTION

About

- Also known as the Convention on Wetlands.
- An intergovernmental treaty, adopted in 1971, in Ramsar, Iran.
 - Entered into force in 1975.
- Wetlands that are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.
- **Largest Ramsar Site in World: Pantanal: South America**

Montreux Record

- Adopted in Montreux (Switzerland) in 1990.
- Identifies Ramsar sites that need priority conservation attention at national or international level.

Wetlands

- A place in which the land is covered by water – salt, fresh, or somewhere in between – either seasonally or permanently.
- Take many forms including rivers, marshes, bogs, mangroves, mudflats, ponds, swamps, billabongs, lagoons, lakes, and floodplains.
- **World Wetlands Day: 2nd February**

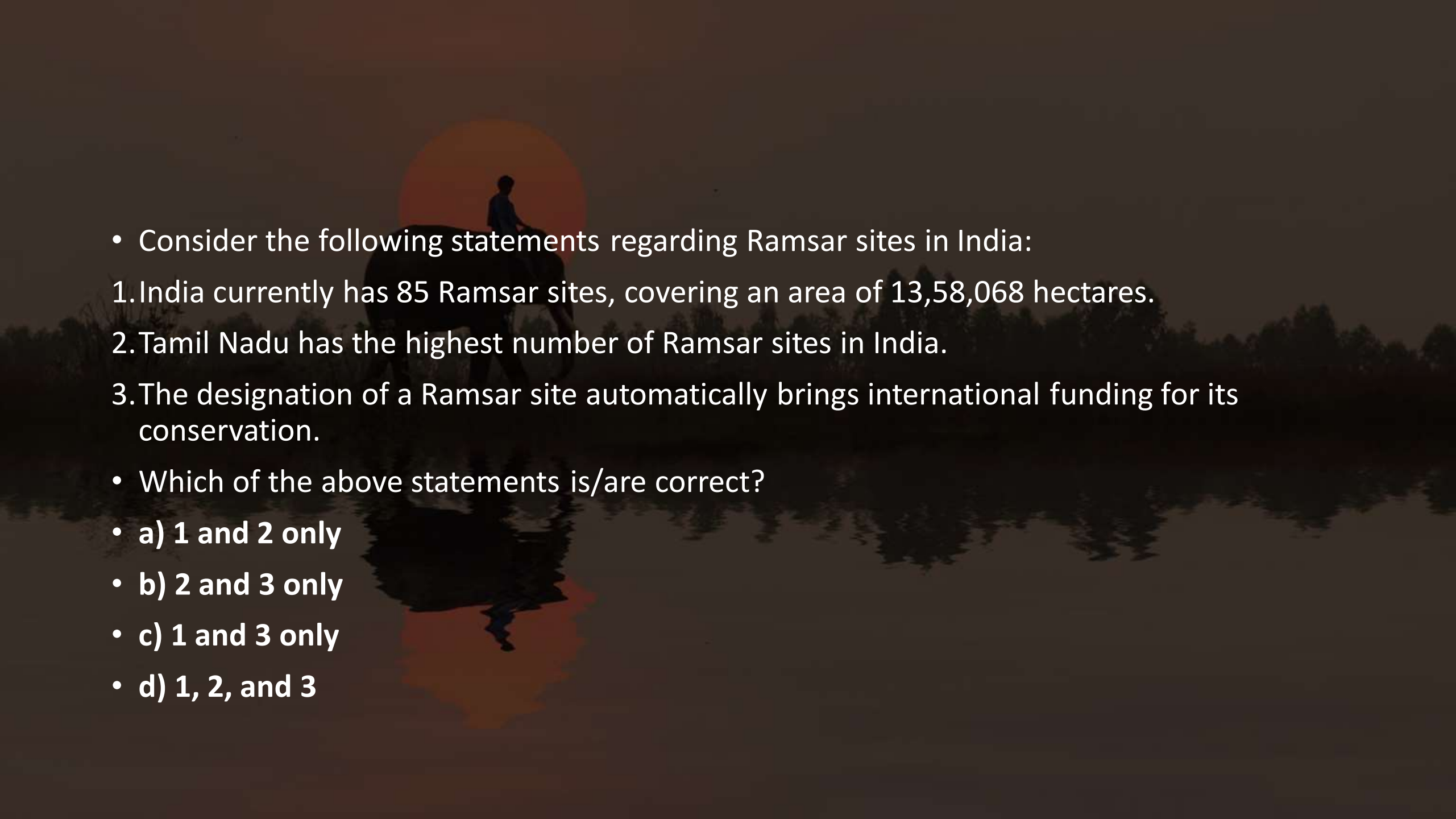


India & Ramsar Convention

- Came into force in India: **1982**
- **Total Number of Ramsar Sites: 75**
 - Chilika Lake (Odisha), Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan), Harike Lake (Punjab), Loktak Lake (Manipur), Wular Lake (Jammu and Kashmir), etc.
- **Related Framework in India**
 - The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 as regulatory framework for conservation and management of wetlands.
 - The 2017 Rules decentralise wetlands management and provide for the constitution of the State Wetlands Authority or Union Territory Wetlands Authority.

Key Facts

- **Largest Ramsar Site: Sunderbans, West Bengal**
- **Smallest Ramsar Site: Vembannur Wetland Complex, Tamil Nadu**
- **State with the maximum number of Ramsar Sites: Tamil Nadu (14)**
- **Wetlands in Montreux Record:**
 - Keoladeo National Park: Rajasthan
 - Loktak Lake: Manipur

- 
- Consider the following statements regarding Ramsar sites in India:
 1. India currently has 85 Ramsar sites, covering an area of 13,58,068 hectares.
 2. Tamil Nadu has the highest number of Ramsar sites in India.
 3. The designation of a Ramsar site automatically brings international funding for its conservation.
 - 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**

Corner office still eluding a large number of women: Ministry report

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The representation of women in corporate decision-making roles remains inadequate with only 34,879 women holding senior management positions in 2023 as against 1,86,946 men, says the report "Women and men in India, 2023" by the Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry. A total of 7,62,712 women were on the Boards of Directors as against 19,75,487 men, it adds.

In other managerial positions in corporate firms, there were 7,38,949 women as against 18,60,348 men, the data sourced from the Corporate Affairs Ministry for the report show.

Though the number of women in senior management positions has in-

The number of women-led start-ups, however, rose from 1,528 in 2017 to 17,001 in 2023

creased from 23,685 in 2017 to 34,879 in 2023, the corresponding increase for men from 1,50,387 to 18,69,46 has been higher.

While senior management positions include CEO, CFO, Company Secretary, Managing Director, Manager and Whole-time Director, the middle management positions include Additional Director, Alternative Director, Director, Nominee Director, and Director.

There was better news as far as women entrepreneurs were concerned, with the number of women-led start-ups seeing an increase from 1,528 in

2017 to 17,001 in 2023. The total number of women-led start-ups (those having at least one woman director) recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) since inception till December 2023 is 55,816 which constitutes 47.6% of the total start-ups.

"Women-owned business enterprises are playing a prominent role in society by generating employment opportunities in the country, bringing in demographic shifts and inspiring the next generation of women founders. With a vision to promote the sustainable," the report says.

However, in the judiciary, the proportion of women in the High Courts was only 14% and in the Supreme Court just around 9%.

"Such a small representation of women in judicial

decision-making process of the country forces us to think about the need to bring about institutional, social and behavioural change by sensitising India's population on inclusion of women in every sector," it says.

The report flagged the need for having more women in leadership positions to address the shortfall in decision-making positions.

"The impact of having more women in leadership positions cannot be overstated. Women leaders often champion issues such as healthcare, education, and social welfare, which have a direct impact on the lives of women, their families, and communities. Thus, increasing women's representation in politics can lead to more equitable and responsive governance."



- **Underrepresentation of Women in Corporate Decision-Making**

- The report titled "Women and Men in India, 2023" by the Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry highlights the low representation of women in senior management roles.
- In 2023, only 34,879 women held senior management positions compared to 1,86,946 men.
- Women make up 7,62,712 of the total 19,75,487 members on Boards of Directors.



- **Women in Other Managerial Roles**

- The report also reveals that 7,38,949 women occupy other managerial roles, compared to 18,60,348 men.
- Senior management positions include roles such as CEO, CFO, Company Secretary, Managing Director, and Whole-time Director.
- Middle management positions include roles like Additional Director, Director, and Nominee Director.

- **Increase in Women-Led Startups**

- There has been a positive trend in women entrepreneurship, with the number of women-led startups rising from 1,528 in 2017 to 17,001 in 2023.
- Since the inception of the Startup India initiative until December 2023, a total of 55,816 women-led startups have been recognized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), constituting 47.6% of the total startups.

Women in the Judiciary



The representation of women in the judiciary remains low, with only 14% of High Court judges being women and around 9% in the Supreme Court.

Call for Institutional Change

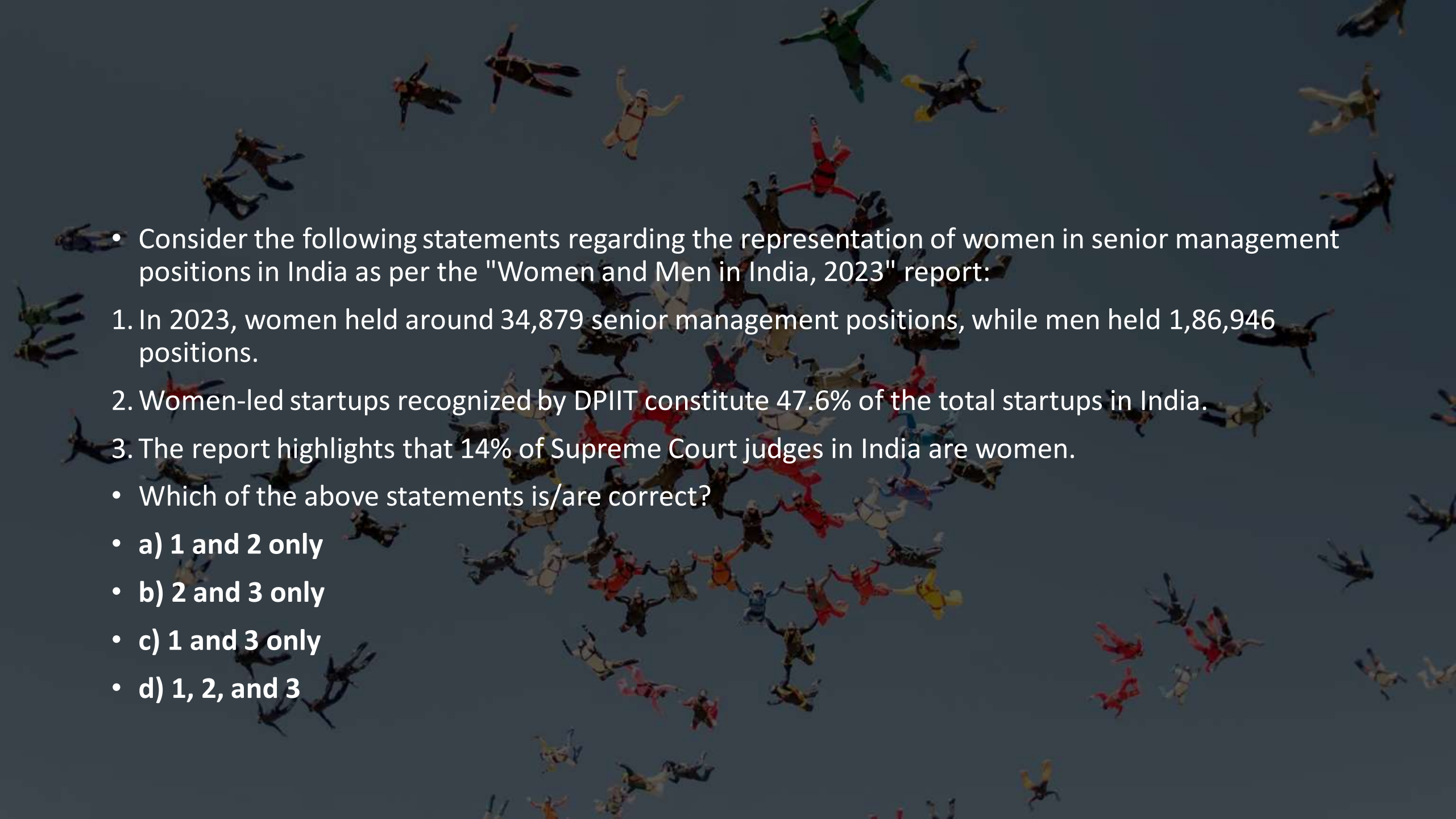
The report stresses the need for more women in leadership positions to address the shortfall in decision-making roles.

Women leaders are recognized for championing issues such as healthcare, education, and social welfare, which impact families and communities.

The report calls for institutional, social, and behavioral changes to increase women's inclusion in leadership across various sectors.

1. Impact on Governance

1. Increasing women's representation in politics is emphasized as crucial for more equitable and responsive governance.



- Consider the following statements regarding the representation of women in senior management positions in India as per the "Women and Men in India, 2023" report:

1. In 2023, women held around 34,879 senior management positions, while men held 1,86,946 positions.

2. Women-led startups recognized by DPIIT constitute 47.6% of the total startups in India.

3. The report highlights that 14% of Supreme Court judges in India are women.

- 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**

INSPIRING President Murmu congratulates Indian Olympics contingent



President Droupadi Murmu, who met the Olympians contingent on Wednesday, congratulated the players for their excellent efforts and great performance and said that they were a source of inspiration for all the youth of the country, especially the young players, according to a Hindustan Bhaskar post on X.

NOVEL FACE-OFF Duplantis to take on Warholm in a 100m sprint race at Zurich



Pate Youffer Armand Duplantis, who broke his own world record at the Paris Olympics, will take on Karsten Warholm, the 40-year-old world record holder, in a 100m sprint race at Zurich on Sept. 4, organisers said Wednesday. Both athletes have run the 100m before with Warholm clocking 10.46 in 2017, and Duplantis 10.27 in 2023.

FIREPOWER India can do a hat-trick over Australia, says Shastri



India is capable of a hat-trick of Test series triumphs in Australia, says former head coach Shastri. "It is going to be one heck of a series and India has every chance of making it a hat-trick because it has got its bowlers fit and if it can bat well, the side can tickle (beat) Australia once again," said Shastri.

GREAT START Leggie Chahal grabs five wickets on Northamptonshire debut



India leg spinner Yuzvendra Chahal made a sensational debut for Northamptonshire, sweeping five for 14 in 16 overs to set up a nine-wicket win over Kent Spitfires in the One Day Cup in Canterbury on Wednesday. The 34-year-old's signing was announced just an hour before his debut.

Vinesh's appeal for joint silver medal dismissed

IOA president expresses disappointment at the Court of Arbitration for Sports decision and says the body continues to stand in full support of the grappler and is exploring further legal options

WRESTLING

Sports Bureau

Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat will not be awarded a silver medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics, after the ad hoc division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) dismissed her appeal for a joint silver medal on Wednesday.

"The application filed by Vinesh Phogat on 7 August 2024 is dismissed," said a CAS statement signed by the Sole Arbitrator Annabelle Burgett. After reaching the women's 80kg final of her competition on August 7, Vinesh was disqualified for being a little over 100 grams overweight during the weigh-in.



Appeal it was heartbreak for Vinesh and Indian sports fans on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president P.T. Usha expressed her shock and disappointment at the decision of the Sole Arbitrator. "The marginal discrepancy of a 100 grams and the resultant consequences has professed impact, not only in terms of Vinesh's career but also raises serious questions about the physiological and psychological stress and psychological stress athletes, particularly female athletes, undergo," hating at the need for more equita-

ble and reasonable standards that promote athletes' well-being. "In light of the order of the CAS, the IOA continues to stand in full support of Ms. Phogat and is exploring further legal options. "The IOA is committed to ensuring that Vinesh's case is heard. "It will continue to advocate justice and fairness in sports, ensuring that the rights and dignity of athletes and everyone in the sports fold are upheld at all times," the IOA added.

HI retires Sreejesh's jersey, appoints him as junior men's team coach



Remembering a legend: Paris Olympics bronze medalist Sreejesh celebrates with teammates and staff, wearing his jersey number in tribute, during a felicitation function on Wednesday. hindustanbhaskar.com

HOCKEY

Usha Ganesan NEW DELHI

Indian sports has never been big on gestures but P.R. Sreejesh's retirement function here was marked by several of them, all grand and unprecedented. For the first time, a hockey player had formally called time on his career and was officially celebrated by the federation. Hockey India permanently retired his jersey number - 16 - from the senior men's team. "We will retain it in the juniors so that he can create many more Sreejeshs," 41 secretary general Bhoja Nath Singh quipped.

He was officially named as coach of the junior men's team - the camp will start on October 1 with the first outing likely to be Indian of Jharkhand from October 19 to 25 - and mentor for goalkeepers in the senior side. "The entire Indian team and support staff turned up in specially-created Sreejesh jerseys to honour him, in the presence of his entire family. Teammates, coaches and former players shared their memories from the time together in the dressing room, all against a giant screen. But had anyone from his two-decade long career flanked the words 'God of Modern Indian Hockey'.

Having announced his decision before the Paris Olympics, the 36-year-old goalkeeper had already set the tone for his departure as a player. On Wednesday, he was never seen three take rest when he is on the ground. He has motivated more than one generation of players. But it is his hard work and focus that stands out. When we started, we were 1.68 in the world but even then, his target was for India to be No. 1. It is that focus which has brought him this far," former captain Sachin Singh revealed.

Captain Harmanpreet Singh shared his message before the bronze medal match against Spain. "He said, 'Macrao, the game Indian team has shown is the true representation and the love we have received from everyone, that is a huge thing. This will be our last chance to lift Indian hockey again and go back a winner. I remember telling him ye aapka last match hai and he replied, 'Atheer, go hi usse hi. And we all burst when he did on the field'," an emotional Harmanpreet said. Harmanpreet Singh, the other four-time Olympian in the side, expressed the team's confidence in Sreejesh during matches. "Like an elder brother, he would always motivate and keep yelling from behind, every mistake was instantly noticed but his amazingly sweet words," he declared, inviting laughter from everyone.

Pragg almost out of the race in rapid

Chess

Press Trust of India SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhao continued to reel under pressure and could only manage two draws out of three games, on the second day of the rapid section of Saint Louis Rapid and Blitz chess tournament here. He draws came against So and Abhimatsewre while Caruana handed him his third defeat of the tournament. Maximilian Wachter-Lagrave and Alireza Firouzja along with Russia's fan favourite Daniil Dubov also possible 1/2 under a rule that gives two points for a win in rapid and one for each draw.

Morne Morkel named India's bowling coach

Cricket

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Former South Africa pacer Morne Morkel has been roped in as the Indian cricket team's new bowling coach, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Wednesday, completing the appointment of new head coach Gautam Gambhir's preferred support staff. The other members of Gambhir's staff are assistant coach Abhishek Nayyar, and batting coach Ryan Ten Dencorhane. It is understood that the 39-year-old Morkel, who replaces former Indian bowler coach Anil Kumble, will start his stint from the Bangladesh series that starts with the Test in Chennai from September 19. He has been appointed till the end of the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa. Morkel was also Gambhir's preferred choice, having worked with him at Lucknow Super Giants during the Indian T20 BL.



Morne Morkel. GETTY IMAGES

No Rohit, Kohli in Duleep Trophy squads; Pant makes red-ball return

Sports Bureau CHENNAI

Shubman Gill, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Ruvindu Ganga and Shreyas Iyer will lead the four teams that will compete in the Duleep Trophy, which will be played from September 5 to 22 in Bengaluru and Anantapur. The BCCI's senior selection committee announced the squads on Wednesday, and the tournament will kickstart the Indian domestic season 2024-25. India captain Rohit Sharma and western Viret Kohli - amid speculations about a rare domestic First Class appearance - have preferred to skip the game and will join the Test series' preparatory camp in Chennai ahead of the first Test against Bangladesh, starting September 10. The BCCI statement clarified that the ones who will be picked in the Test



Another chance: Shreyas and Kohli are back in the mix after missing out on a central contract six months in a row.

squad will be replaced at the first round of games. Rishabh Pant will return to First Class cricket for the first time in nearly two years since his life-threatening car crash. The wicketkeeper-batter's last red-ball game was in the second Test against Bangladesh in Mirpur in December 2022. Apart from the Test regulars and performers in last year's Ranji Trophy, Ishan Kishan - who has a central contract for red-ball cricket in domestic cricket, including the T20s - has also been selected.

Australia-A women win opening one-dayer against India-A

Cricket

Press Trust of India MCGRAH, AUSTRALIA

Five half-centuries by middle-order batsmen Rachel Haynes and Tejal Hazarens were in vain as India-A women lost their opening one-day match against Australia-A by four wickets, with Katie Mack scoring a century for the winner on Wednesday. India, after setting a modest victory target of 200, thanks mainly to Tejal's 83 (67s, 74s) and Haynes's 82 (52, 5, 64s), was thwarted by Aussie opener Katie's 129 (126s, 11cs).

Morne Morkel named India's bowling coach

CRICKET

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Former South Africa pacer Morne Morkel has been roped in as the Indian cricket team's new bowling coach, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said on Wednesday, completing the appointment of new head coach Gautam Gambhir's preferred support staff.

The other members of Gambhir's staff are assistant coach Abhishek Nayar, and fielding coach Ryan Ten Doeschate.

It is understood that the 39-year-old Morkel, who replaces Paras Mhambrey, will start his stint from the Bangladesh series that starts with the Test in Chennai from September 19. He has been appointed till the end of the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa.

Morkel was also Gambhir's preferred choice, having worked with him at Lucknow Super Giants during the Indian's two IPL



Morne Morkel. GETTY IMAGES

seasons as mentor of the franchise.

Morkel has played 86 Tests, 117 ODIs and 44 T20Is for South Africa with a total of 544 international wickets.

He will be reporting at the National Cricket Academy at the start of next month and is expected to watch the Duleep Trophy games. Once there, he will also touch base with V.V.S. Laxman and head of bowling in NCA, Troy Cooley.

Morkel had last year worked with the Pakistan team till the end of the ODI World Cup and quit before his contract expired.

Captain killed, civilian injured in Doda forest gunbattle, Army says 'war like stores' found

ARJUN SHARMA
JAMMU, AUGUST 14

AN ARMY Captain was killed and a civilian injured Wednesday in a fierce gunbattle between security forces and terrorists in Doda district's Alar forests near the Harroop hill station in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Nagrota-based White Knight Corps identified the officer who succumbed to injuries as Captain Deepak Singh. In a post on X, it also said, "Due to forest ban, heavy mobilisation in the ongoing operations" and "intermittent exchange of fire" was continuing. An AEC-47, an M4 rifle and "war like stores" have been recovered. The incident is the latest in a series of firefights and terror strikes in J&K, especially in the areas south of Pir Panjal, ahead of the Assembly polls, expected next month in the Union territory. The Chief Election Officer said: "We are aware of the situation and are taking necessary steps to ensure a free and fair election process." **CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**



Captain Deepak Singh

E Terror surge before polls
TERROR HAS been a spillover in terror attacks in J&K given that preparations are underway to hold Assembly polls next month. The surge is more in the Jammu division areas. Security agencies are moving to strengthen the counter-terror grid in these areas.

DOCTOR'S RAPE-MURDER; HANG CULPRITS BY SUNDAY, SAYS CM



Women at the 'Reclaim the High' protest in Kolkata on Wednesday. *nirban/india*

Wife of accused filed complaints of assault twice, no action taken

RAVIV BHATTACHARYA & AYRI MITRA
KOLKATA, AUGUST 14

IT WAS on May 13, 2023 that a complaint was lodged at Kalighat police station against Sanjay Roy, the man accused of raping and killing a junior doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College. It was from his wife, who was three months pregnant

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

GUILTY IN BENGAL: HC transferring case to CBI, orders police — and points to larger fault in TMC-ruled state

at the time, and had alleged that Roy had assaulted her. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 27**

Opp trying to make another Bangladesh here: Mamata

ATRI MITRA
KOLKATA, AUGUST 14
UNDER ATTACK from Opposition parties, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday alleged a "coordinated" effort by the BJP and UPDM to politicise the rape-murder of the junior doctor. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 27**

INDIAN ENVOY MEETS FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISOR

Dhaka to Delhi: Want to work closely, Hasina's statements don't help

Second liberation, Touhid Hossain tells Indian envoy, Dhaka committed to 'free, fair and participatory elections'



SHUBHAJIT ROY
DHAKA, AUGUST 14

THE INTERIM government of Bangladesh wants to work closely with India to promote bilateral relations, Foreign Affairs Advisor Touhid Hossain said Wednesday, but added that deposed premier Sheikh Hasina's public statements from India are

"not conducive" towards that. Hasina's statement came after his meeting with Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pranay Verma. This was the first since the regime change in Bangladesh — after Sheikh Hasina fled to India on August 8 — that the Indian envoy met with the interim government. Underlining more "pragmatic engagement," after what he called the "second liberation," Hossain flagged Sheikh Hasina's statement issued Tuesday and said "such statements emanating from India are not conducive to

Some return PM house loot: Jewellery, cat, classified papers

SHUBHAJIT ROY
DHAKA, AUGUST 14

LAST WEEK, after Sheikh Hasina resigned as Bangladesh Prime Minister and fled to India, photos and videos were circulated of people looting various items — laptops, furniture, designer bags, saris, even a duck and fish — from her official residence. Protesters, many students who had demanded her ouster have been arrested a campaign is **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY

A RED initiative appears in today's edition of The Indian Express. These pages are an initiative of the marketing solutions team of The Indian Express Group and contain content paid for by advertisers. These pages should be read as an advertisement.

Strengthen affirmative action as instrument of inclusion: President

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

QUOTING DR B R Ambedkar to underline that "political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy," President Droupadi Murmu Wednesday called for **CONTINUED ON PAGE 27**



President Murmu during her address, Wednesday. *in*

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By DNNY



No medal for Vinesh as CAS dismisses plea; IOA looking at 'further options'



MIHIR VASAVDA
PARIS, AUGUST 14

IN ONE sentence, Vinesh Phogat's fate was sealed. In its single-line order on Wednesday,



Wrestler Vinesh Phogat at the Paris Olympics. *in*

the ad hoc Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ended the wrestler's hopes of getting an Olympic silver medal, dismissing her appeal against the United World Wrestling (UWW) and International Olympic Committee (IOC). "The application filed by Vinesh Phogat on 7 August 2024 is dismissed," said the order signed by sole arbitrator **CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**



The Indian Express Wins the Red Cross Happy Independence Day

RAHUL NAVIN IS ED DIRECTOR, GOVIND MDHAN HOME SECY *in*

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BOEING

Rahul Navin appointed ED Director almost yr after post fell vacant

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 14

ACTING DIRECTOR of Enforcement Directorate (ED) Rahul Navin was Wednesday appointed as full-time Director of the central agency. Navin will remain in service till August 13, 2026. His superannuation from service is due in September 2027.

The move comes almost a year after the post of regular director of ED fell vacant after Sanjay Mishra's tenure ended.

A 1993-batch IRS officer, Navin, has supervised some of the most politically sensitive cases including the Delhi liquor policy case and Jharkhand land deals case. He is the only ED director to execute the arrest of two sitting CMs — Arvind Kejriwal and Hemant Soren.

Before becoming the Acting



Navin was acting director of the agency

Director, Navin had already spent four years in the ED as Special Director. He joined the agency from the Income Tax Department in November 2019.

Before coming to ED, Navin worked with the Income Tax department dealing with international taxation, transfer pricing and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. He has also worked in the vigilance department of the CBDT.

An IIT Kanpur graduate, Navin is considered an expert in international taxation. He is said to have played a crucial role in improving India's standing in FATF.

Agency overview

Formed 1 May 1956
(68 years ago)

Legal personality [Government agency](#)

Jurisdictional structure

Federal agency [India](#)

Operations jurisdiction [India](#)

Governing body [Government of India](#)

Constituting instruments [Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999](#)
[Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002](#)
[Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018](#)

General nature [Federal law enforcement](#)

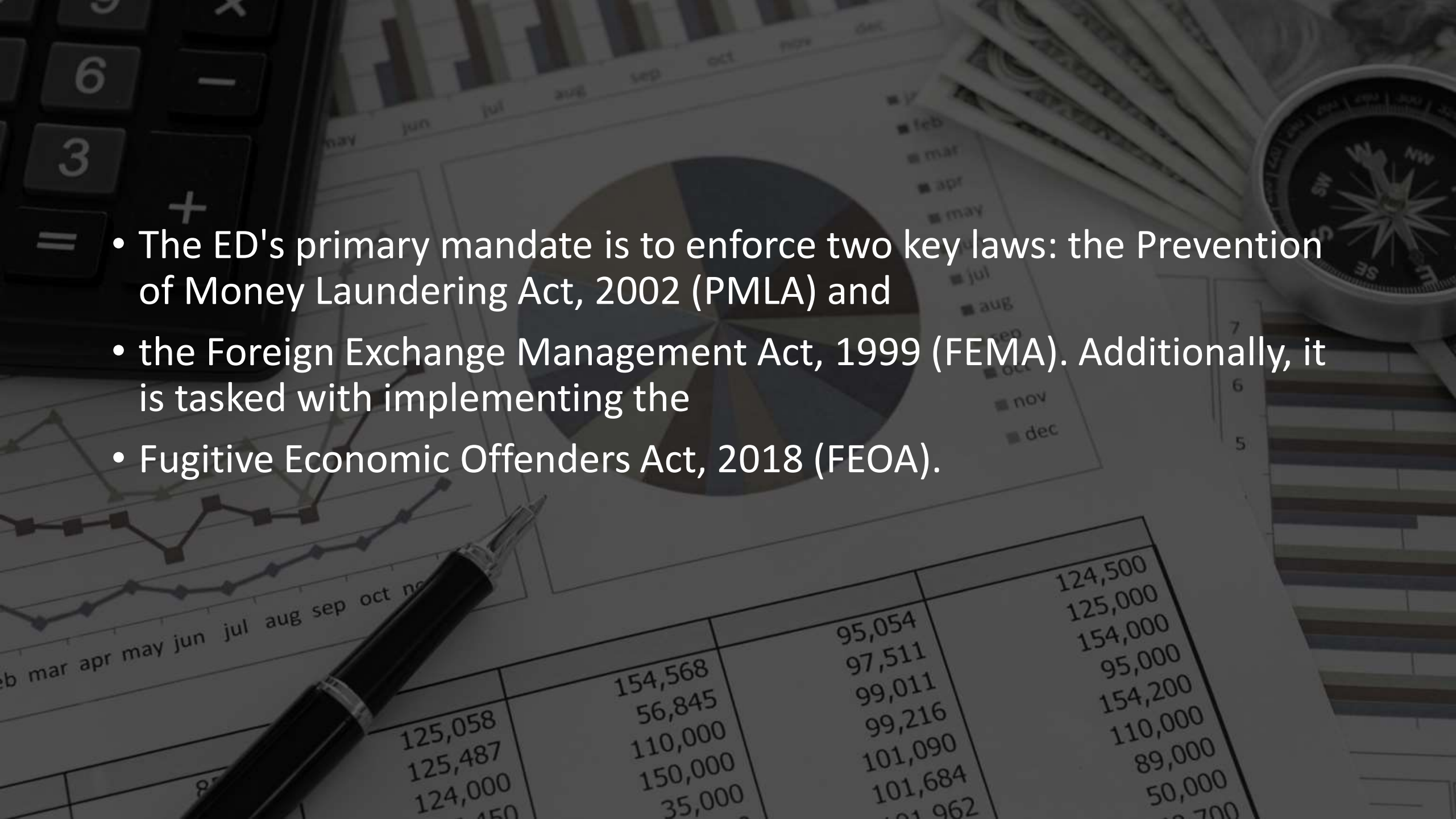
Operational structure

Headquarters [New Delhi, India](#)

Minister responsible [Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance](#)

Agency executive [Rahul Navin, IRS, Director](#)

Parent agency [Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance](#)

- 
- The ED's primary mandate is to enforce two key laws: the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) and
 - the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA). Additionally, it is tasked with implementing the
 - Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018 (FEOA).

125,058	154,568	95,054	124,500
125,487	56,845	97,511	125,000
124,000	110,000	99,011	154,000
150	150,000	99,216	95,000
	35,000	101,090	154,200
		101,684	110,000
		101,962	89,000
			50,000
			10,700

A GLANCE AT DIASPORA

5.1 million

Indian-Americans in the U.S. (2020), with 2.8 million as first-generation immigrants

30% migrated before 2000;
45% after 2010

16 Indian-origin CEOs led Fortune 500 companies in 2023, generating \$978B in revenue and employing 2.5M globally

35 of the top 50 U.S. colleges have Indian-American academic leaders



Median age:

36 years (younger than U.S. national average)

■ 78% hold a bachelor's degree or higher (U.S. average: 36%)

■ 73% of 2022-23 work visas went to Indian diaspora members



Median income:

\$136,000 (nearly double U.S. average)

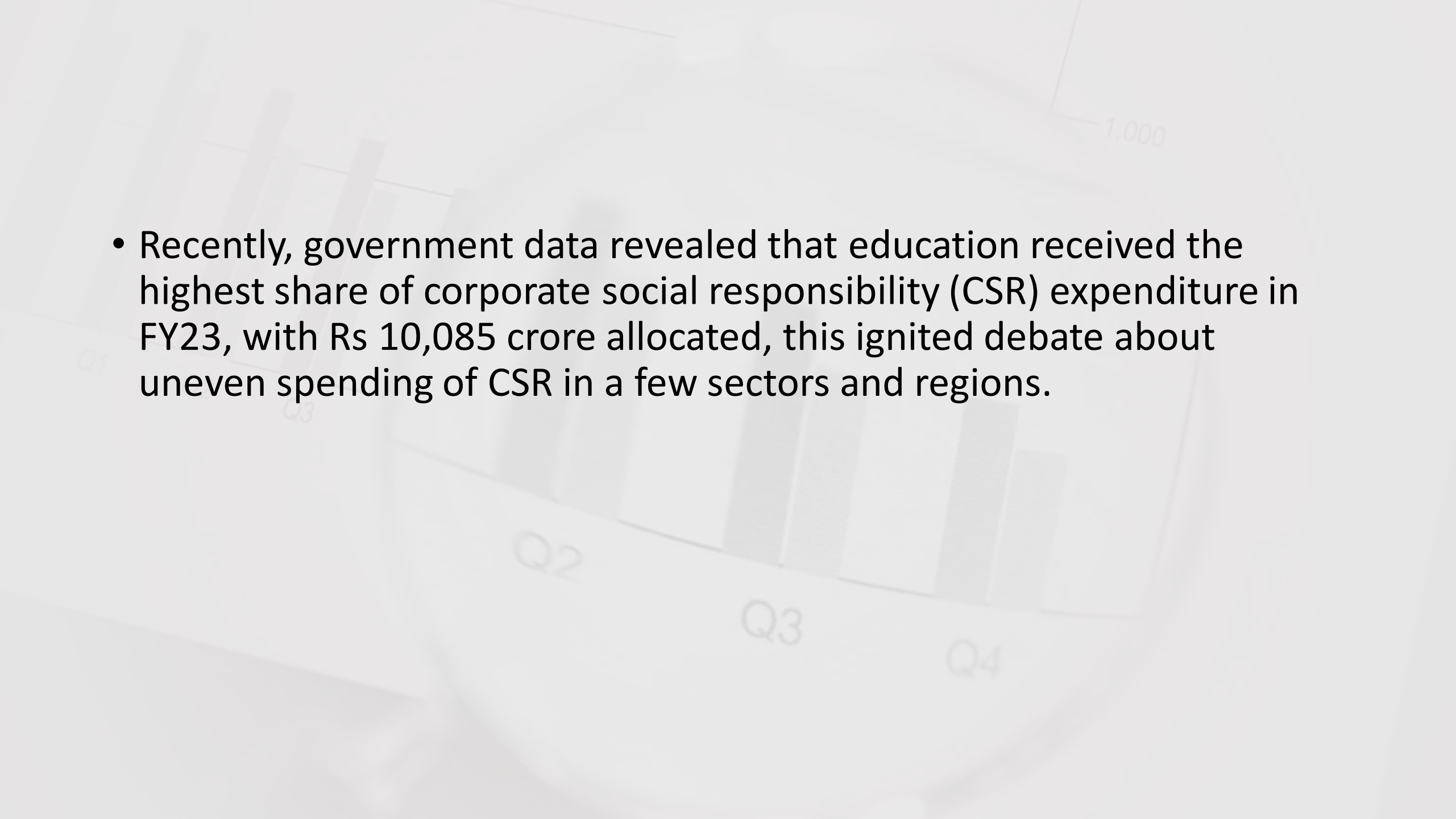
■ Indian diaspora contributes 5-6% of U.S. taxes; population share: 1.5%



Indian Americans in senior public service roles:

60+ (1.7% of all such roles) in 2013
to 150+ (4.4%) in 2023

CSR Expenditure 2023

- 
- Recently, government data revealed that education received the highest share of corporate social responsibility (CSR) expenditure in FY23, with Rs 10,085 crore allocated, this ignited debate about uneven spending of CSR in a few sectors and regions.

- **What are the Recent Developments in CSR Expenditure?**

- **Overview:**

- Total CSR expenditure increased from **Rs 26,579.78 crore in FY22 to Rs 29,986.92 crore in FY23**. The number of CSR projects rose from 44,425 to 51,966.
- Companies outside the public sector contributed **84%** of the total CSR spend.

Sector Wise Expenditure:

Education accounted for one-third of the CSR spend in FY23.

CSR spending on vocational skills rose slightly to Rs1,164 crore in FY23 from Rs 1,033 crore the previous year.

Technology incubators got the lowest amount, with only Rs 1 crore in FY23 compared to Rs 8.6 crore in the previous year

- Health, rural development, environmental sustainability, and livelihood enhancement also received significant CSR funds.
- CSR spending on animal welfare surged from Rs 17 crore in FY15 to over Rs 315 crore in FY23.
- CSR expenditure under the Prime Minister Relief Fund dropped to Rs 815.85 crore in FY23, down from Rs 1,698 crore in FY21 and Rs 1,215 crore in FY22.

- **Contribution to disaster management fell the most (77%), followed by that on slum development (75%).**

STATE OF BENEFITS



TOP SPENDERS (FY23)

Amount (₹ cr)

HDFC Bank

803.15

TCS

774.44

RIL

743.40

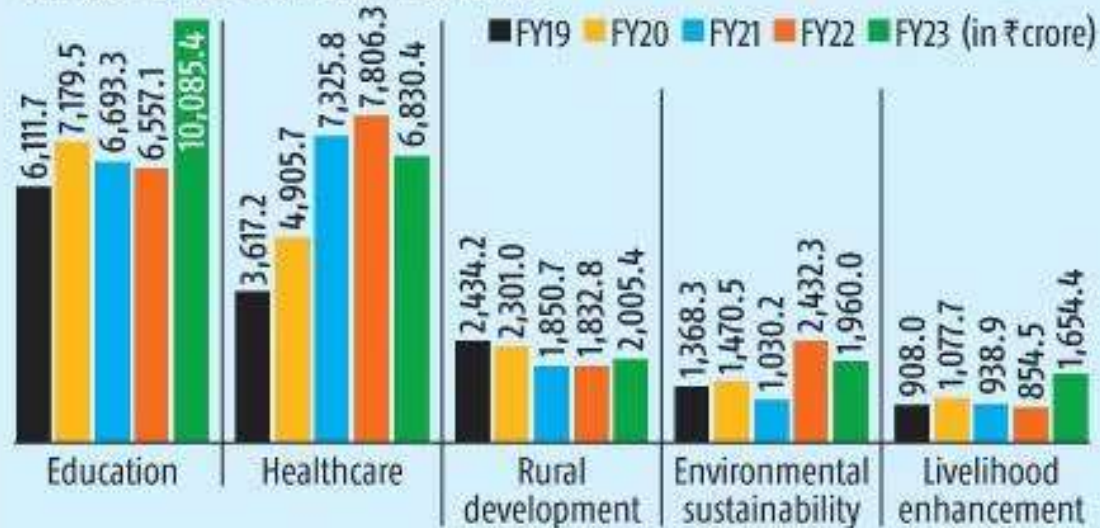
ICICI Bank

476.55

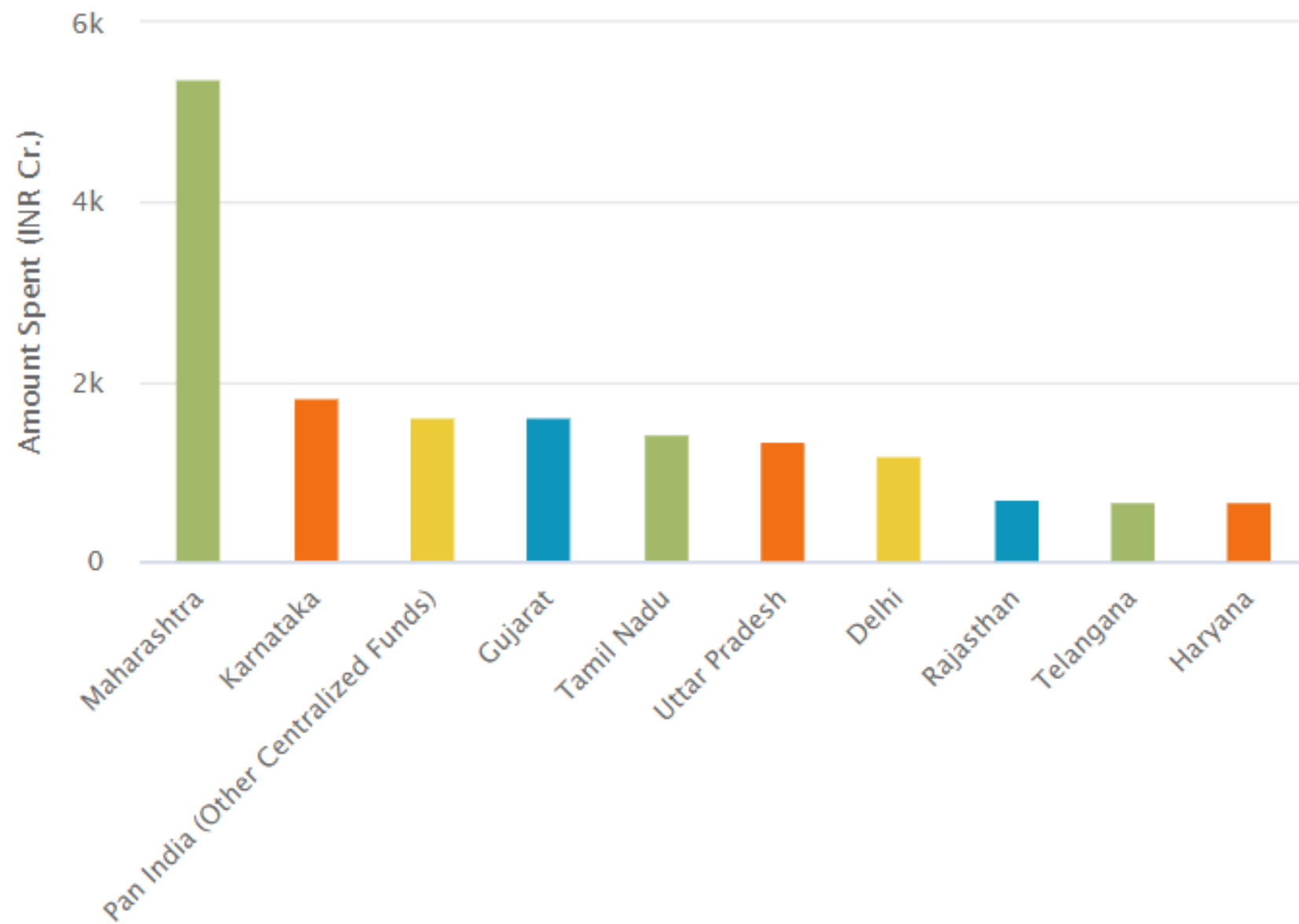
Tata Steel

475.10

CSR SPENDING BY SECTORS



CSR Spent: Top 10 States



- **CSR provisions apply to companies meeting any of the following criteria in the preceding financial year.**
 - **Net worth over Rs. 500 crore**
 - **Turnover over Rs. 1000 crore**
 - **Net profit over Rs. 5 crore.**
- **Such companies must spend at least 2% of their average net profits from the last three financial years on CSR activities, or if newly incorporated, based on the average net profits from preceding financial years.**



MP HC Rules Garlic as a Vegetable

Garlic, a staple in kitchens across India, recently became the centre of a legal battle in the Madhya Pradesh High Court. The court was asked to resolve a contentious issue: whether garlic should be classified as a vegetable or a spice.

This classification has significant implications for where and how garlic can be sold in the state's markets, directly affecting the livelihoods of farmers and commission agents.

- 
- What is the HC's Ruling Regarding Garlic's Classification?
 - **Case Background:** The case began in 2015 when the Madhya Pradesh Market Board, responding to farmer requests, **classified garlic as a vegetable**. This decision was **contested by the Agriculture Department**, which reclassified **garlic as a spice under the Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act of 1972**.
 -

The Potato Onion Garlic Commission Agent Association challenged the Agriculture Department's decision in 2016. The single-judge eventually ruled in their favour in February 2017.

2016

July 2017


This ruling was opposed by business people, who argued it would benefit commission agents rather than farmers. In July 2017, a review petition was filed, which led to the current two-judge bench.



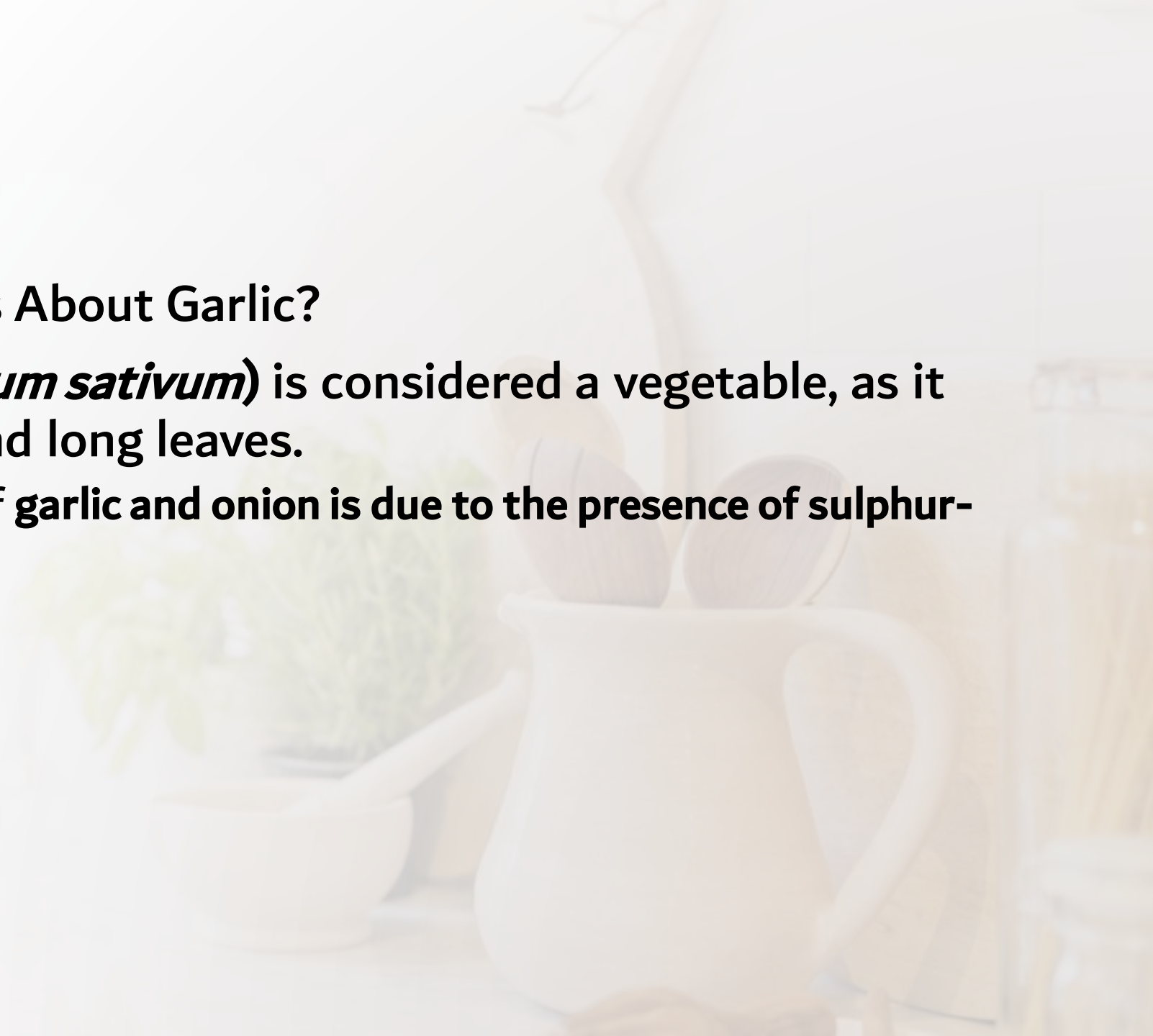
- **Madhya Pradesh High Court Ruling:**

- **The court upheld the 2017 order, ruling that garlic is perishable and should be classified as a vegetable.**
 - **The court's decision allows garlic to be sold in both vegetable and spice markets, providing flexibility in trade and potentially better prices for farmers.**

-

- 
- **Implications:** Farmers can now sell garlic in both vegetable and spice markets, increasing their price opportunities.
 - Commission agents can bid for garlic in vegetable markets, enhancing competition and benefiting farmers and traders.
 - Garlic is currently at an all-time high price, and this ruling is expected to further boost its market value

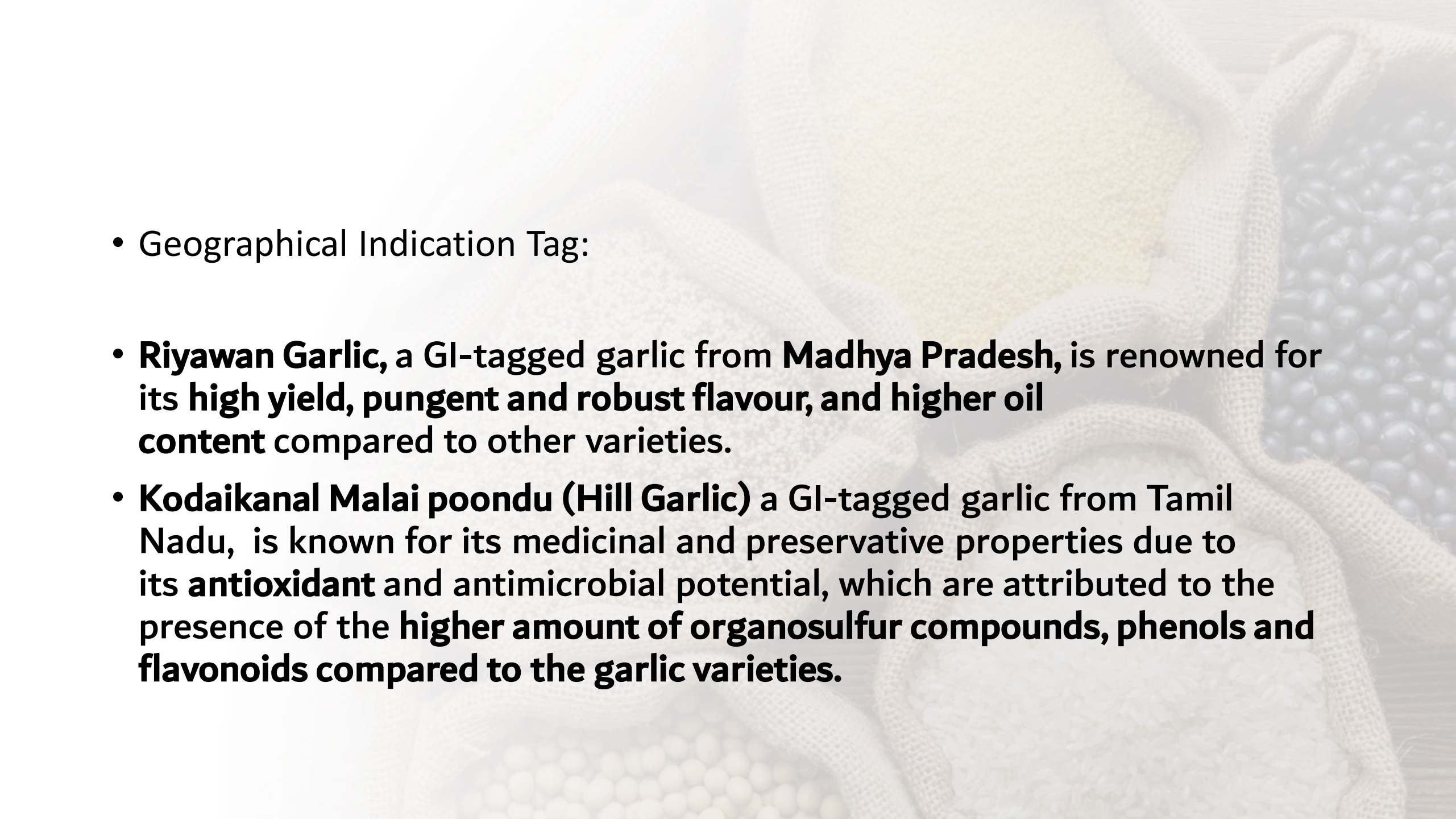
- **What are the Key Facts About Garlic?**
- **Botanically, garlic (*Allium sativum*) is considered a vegetable, as it has a bulb, tall stem, and long leaves.**
 - **The distinctive smell of garlic and onion is due to the presence of sulphur-containing chemicals.**



- Garlic grows best in well-drained, fertile loamy soil with a pH range of 6-8. **Soils rich in organic matter are preferred** for their moisture and nutrient retention and reduced risk of crusting and compaction. **Heavy soils may cause deformed bulbs**, while poorly drained soils can lead to discoloured bulbs.
- Garlic thrives at **1200–2000 meters above sea level**. Requires cool, moist climate during growth and warm, dry weather during maturity.
- **Production:** India is the **world's second-largest garlic exporter**, with record-high exports in 2023 due to supply chain issues in China.


-

- Indian garlic flakes have become more popular in **West Asian countries**, with the United States, Malaysia, Brazil, Germany, and the United Kingdom being India's main garlic export markets.

- 
- Geographical Indication Tag:
 - **Riyawan Garlic**, a GI-tagged garlic from **Madhya Pradesh**, is renowned for its **high yield, pungent and robust flavour, and higher oil content** compared to other varieties.
 - **Kodaikanal Malai poondu (Hill Garlic)** a GI-tagged garlic from Tamil Nadu, is known for its medicinal and preservative properties due to its **antioxidant** and antimicrobial potential, which are attributed to the presence of the **higher amount of organosulfur compounds, phenols and flavonoids** compared to the garlic varieties.

Kanthalloor Vattavada Veluthuli, a GI-tagged garlic from Kerala, is renowned for its strong aroma and flavour.

Grown in the high-altitude areas of Kanthalloor and Vattavada, this **small-sized garlic is prized for its medicinal properties and culinary use.**

- 
- **Among the agricultural commodities imported by India, which one of the following accounts for the highest imports in terms of value in the last five years? (2019)**
 - **(a) Spices**
 - **(b) Fresh fruits**
 - **(c) Pulses**
 - **(d) Vegetable oils**

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day

Recently, marking the **Partition Horrors Remembrance Day (Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas)** Prime Minister paid tributes to those impacted during the Partition of the country.

Government declared 14th August as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day (**Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas**) in 2021.

- 14th August is a day to honor those who lost their lives or were displaced during the partition.

The day ensures that future generations remember the pain and suffering endured by the people, as the birth of independent India was marked by the violent partition, which left lasting scars on millions.

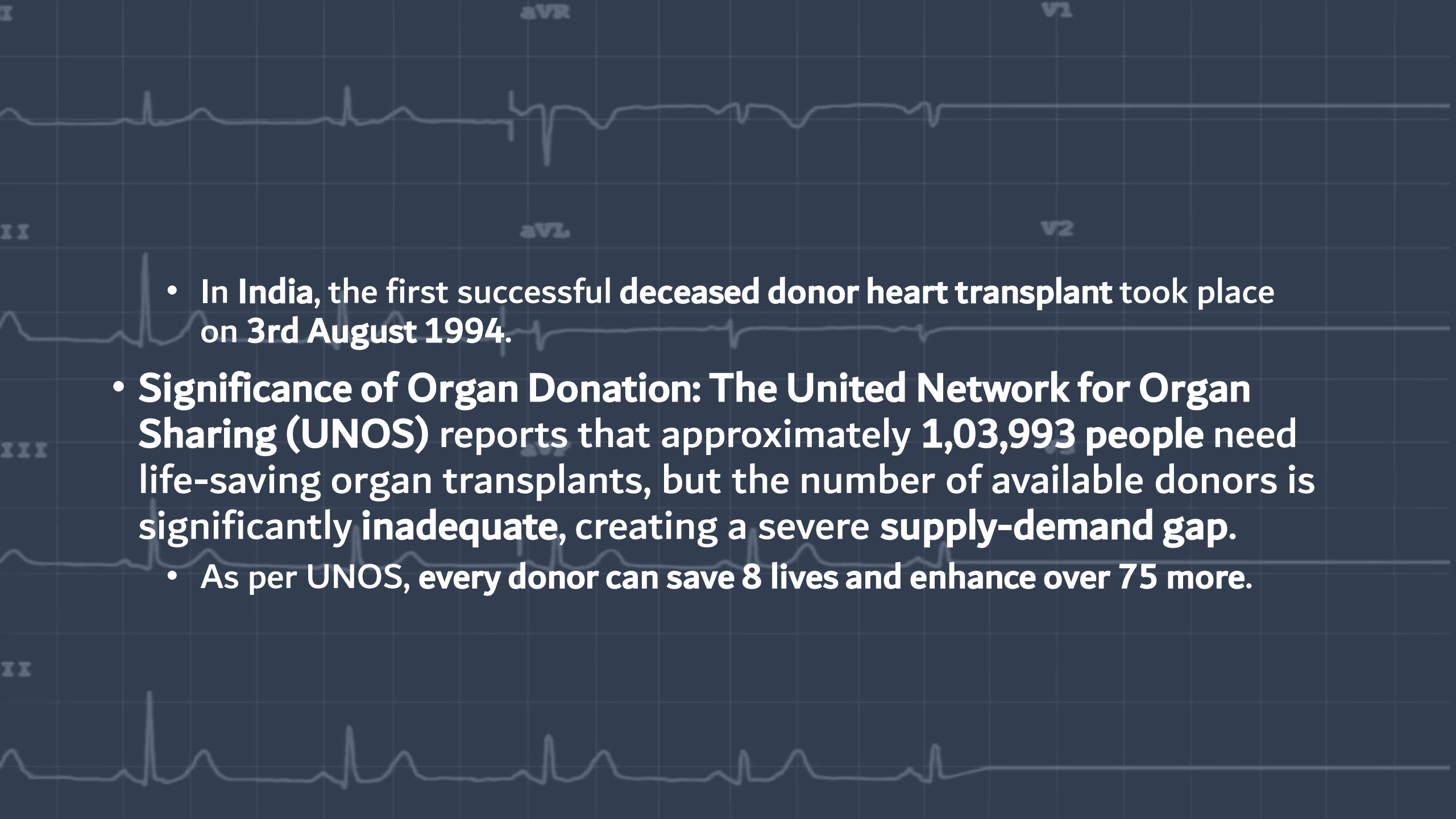
The partition triggered one of the largest and most tragic human migrations in history, accompanied by communal riots and interreligious conflict.

An abstract graphic featuring a network of nodes and connecting lines. The nodes are small circles, some with a central dot, and are connected by thin lines. The lines are primarily green and purple, creating a complex web-like structure. The background is black, and the overall composition is dynamic and interconnected.

World Organ Donation Day

Recently, World Organ Donation Day was observed on 13th August 2024 to raise awareness about the critical need for organ donors and promote donor registration.

Theme for 2024: “Be the Reason for Someone’s Smile Today!”
History of Organ Transplantation: The first successful kidney transplant was performed in 1954 in the United States.

- 
- The background of the slide is a faint, light blue ECG (heart rate) tracing on a dark blue grid. The tracing shows several cardiac cycles with distinct P waves, QRS complexes, and T waves. Labels for leads I, II, III, aVR, aVL, V1, and V2 are visible at the top and bottom of the grid.
- In India, the first successful deceased donor heart transplant took place on 3rd August 1994.
 - **Significance of Organ Donation: The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) reports that approximately 1,03,993 people need life-saving organ transplants, but the number of available donors is significantly inadequate, creating a severe supply-demand gap.**
 - As per UNOS, every donor can save 8 lives and enhance over 75 more.



Delhi HC Questions Missing Provisions for Unnatural Sex in BNS 2023

The Delhi High Court has raised concerns over the exclusion of penal provisions for unnatural sex and sodomy from the newly enacted Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023, replacing the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860.

The court questioned the absence of provisions equivalent to Section 377 of the IPC in the BNS, which previously criminalized non-consensual unnatural sex.

In India, "unnatural sex" refers to **sexual activities considered against the order of nature.**

Section 377 of the IPC defines "**unnatural offenses**" as voluntary carnal intercourse against the order of nature with any man, woman, or animal.

The exclusion has raised concerns about the protection of the LGBTQ community, male victims of sexual assault and other vulnerable groups.

The Central government acknowledged the issue but emphasised that courts cannot direct the legislature to enact specific provisions in law.

- In 2018, the Supreme Court decriminalised homosexuality by striking off parts of Section 377 of the IPC which were held violative of Fundamental Rights of LGBTQ Community.
- BNS came into effect on 1st July 2024, replacing the IPC but has been criticized for leaving a critical void in legal protection against non-consensual sexual acts.

BNS 2023 replaced Indian Penal Code 1860, incorporating 358 sections (511 in IPC), maintaining most of the IPC provisions, introducing new offences, eliminating court- struck-down offences, and enhancing penalties for various offences.

New Offences

- ↘ **Promise to Marry:** Criminalising “deceitful” promises to marry
- ↘ **Mob Lynching:** Codify offences linked to mob lynching and hate-crime murders
- ↘ Ordinary criminal law now covers **Organized Crime** and **Terrorism**, including a broader scope for terror financing in BNS compared to UAPA
- ↘ **Attempt to Suicide:** Criminalises attempts to commit suicide with intent to compel or restrain any public servant from discharging official duty
- ↘ **Community Service:** Added as possible form of punishment

Other Modifications

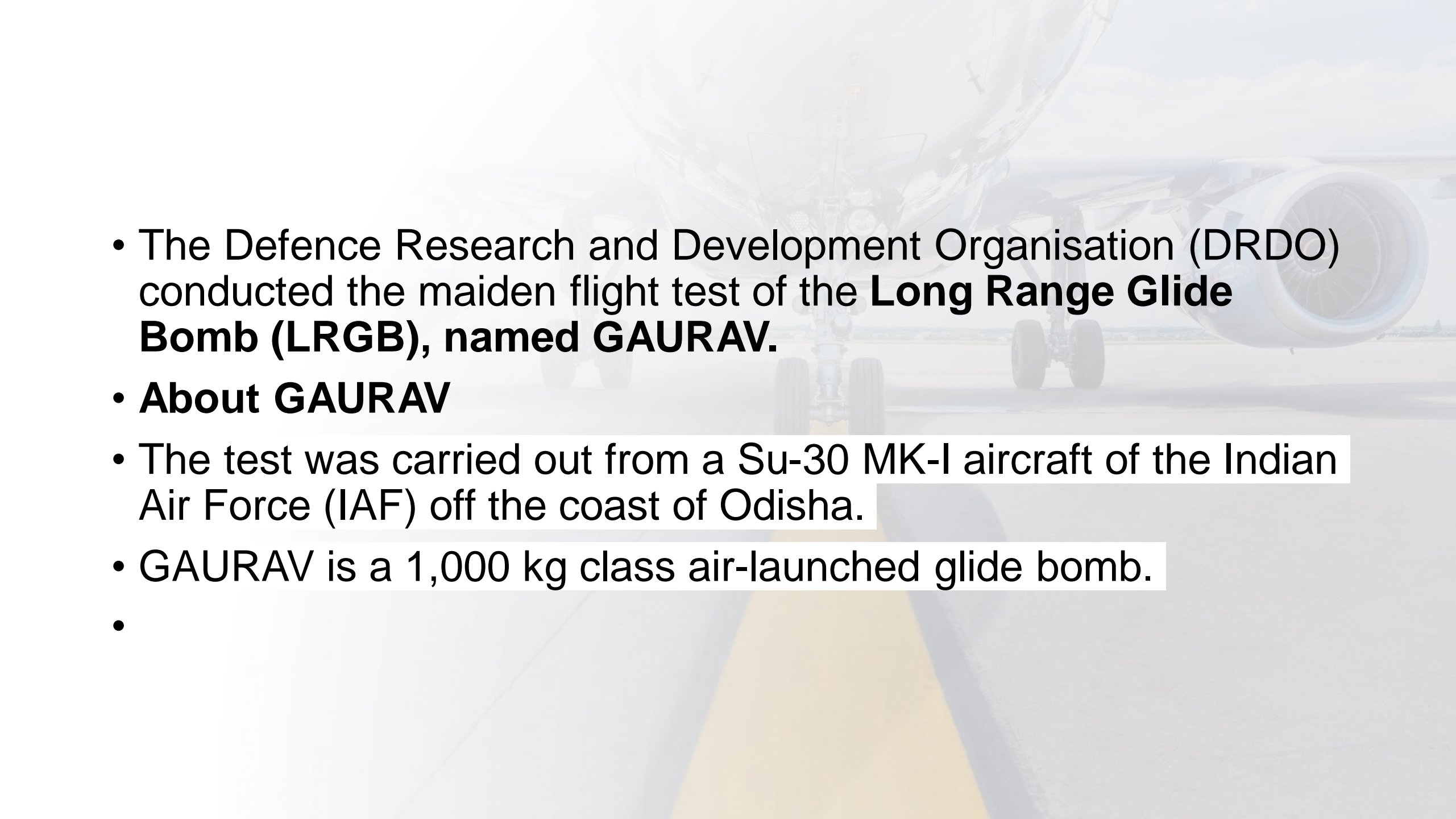
- ↘ **Fake News:** Criminalisation of publishing false and misleading information
- ↘ **Sedition:** Introduced under a new name ‘deshdroh’ with wider definition
- ↘ **Mandatory Minimum Sentence:** In several provisions, mandatory minimum sentences prescribed which may limit scope for judicial discretion
- ↘ **Damage to Public Property:** Carry a graded fine (i.e. fine corresponding to the amount of damage caused)
- ↘ **Death by Negligence:** Elevates punishment for causing death by negligence from two to five years (for doctors - 2 yrs imprisonment)

Deletions

- ↳ **Unnatural Sexual Offences:** Section 377 of the IPC, which criminalised homosexuality among other “unnatural” sexual activities repealed completely
- ↳ **Adultery:** Offence of adultery omitted in consonance of apex court judgement
- ↳ **Thugs:** Section 310 of IPC fully omitted
- ↳ **Gender Neutrality:** Some laws dealing with children modified to bring gender neutrality

Long Range Glide Bomb (LRGB), GAURAV



- 
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the maiden flight test of the **Long Range Glide Bomb (LRGB), named GAURAV.**
 - **About GAURAV**
 - The test was carried out from a Su-30 MK-I aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) off the coast of Odisha.
 - GAURAV is a 1,000 kg class air-launched glide bomb.
 -

- It is designed for long-distance targeting.
- It uses a hybrid navigation system combining Inertial Navigation System (INS) and GPS for accurate targeting.
- It is a significant milestone in developing indigenous defence technologies.
-

Exercise MITRA SHAKTI



- The **10th edition** of India-Sri Lanka joint military exercise MITRA SHAKTI commenced, at Army Training School, Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka.
- **About**
- Exercise MITRA SHAKTI is an **annual** training event conducted alternatively in India and Sri Lanka. Last edition was conducted in Pune (India) in November 2023.

Word of the day

Spendthrift:

someone who spends money prodigally;
recklessly wasteful

Synonyms: prodigal, profligate,
extravagant

Usage: *He hasn't mended his spendthrift ways.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/spendthriftpro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /'spɛn(d)θɹɪft/

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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some wearing suits. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a large gathering or event. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner.

Thank you
guys.
