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- Travel is never a
matter of money,
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ALERT MODE
Mpx detected in UAE
returnee in Kerala
STATES » PAGE 3

IMPASSE CONTINUES
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ALL PRAISE
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LANGUAGE POLITICS
Refocus on the relevance of English
NEP ignores English's role as global connector
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READY TO ROLL
India's long season of Test cricket begins
SPORT » PAGE 16

INSIDE

Nitish sets July deadline for land survey in Bihar
Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has initiated a comprehensive land survey with a July deadline for the Revenue and Land Reforms Departments to complete the exercise. » PAGE 2

Southern Bengal floods man-made, says Mamata
Termed the floods in southern Bengal "man-made", Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the release of water from the dams of the Damodar Valley Corporation was "pre-meditated". » PAGE 5

Ukrainian drones hit military depot deep in Russia
KIV Ukrainian drones struck a military depot deep inside Russia overnight, causing a huge fire and forcing residents to evacuate, Russian news reports and a Ukrainian official said on Wednesday. » PAGE 14

N. Korea test-fired ballistic missiles, say neighbours
SEOUL North Korea on Wednesday test-fired multiple ballistic missiles towards its eastern seas, the South Korean and Japanese militaries said, as its tensions with neighbours and the U.S. escalate. » PAGE 15

'Militants' open fire in Manipur village, villagers retaliate
Imphal Suspected militants launched a fresh attack at Mongsung Meitei village in Manipur's Jiribam district, the police said on Wednesday. The attackers fired several rounds from sophisticated weapons around 7 p.m. on Tuesday evening prompting retaliation from village volunteers in the area, the police said. "No one was injured in the exchange of fire," they said. "Security forces were rushed to the spot to bring the situation under control and the firing stopped around 8 p.m.," an officer said. Authorities are monitoring the situation and have urged villagers to cooperate with security forces

Simultaneous polls plan gets Union Cabinet nod

Govt. to form implementation group to take forward recommendations of Kovind panel

PM calls proposal an 'important step' towards making democracy 'vibrant and participative'

Congress terms the idea impractical, against the Constitution, and contrary to democracy

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI
The Union Cabinet on Wednesday accepted the recommendations of the high-level committee, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, that had proposed simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies as the first step, and municipal and panchayat polls within 60 days of the general election in the next phase. "This is an important step towards making our democracy even more vibrant and participative," Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a strong votary of simultaneous polls, said in a post on X. Calling it a giant stride towards electoral reforms,

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in a post on X, said, "This reflects Modi ji's iron will to bolster our democracy through clean and financially efficient elections and accelerate economic growth through more productive allocation of resources". Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, however, dismissed the idea as "impractical". "This is against the Constitution, this is contrary to democracy, this is against federalism. The country will never accept this," he said. Announcing the Union Cabinet's approval to the proposal of simultaneous elections at a media briefing, Union Information and Public Relations Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said an



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw addresses a press conference after the Cabinet meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday. Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan is also present. Ash

It will destroy federalism, says Opposition
NEW DELHI
Opposition parties criticised the proposal for simultaneous elections, claiming that it will destroy federalism and is "impractical". They asked how the government would deal with situations when a ruling party loses majority in a State or at the Centre. » PAGE 4

completing the legal process. The report of the Kovind panel, which ran into more than 18,000 pages, was submitted to President Droupadi Murmu in March. To synchronise the elections, the committee would take place after

dent, through a notification issued on the first sitting of the Lok Sabha post general elections, set an 'Appointed Date'. This date would mark the beginning of the new electoral cycle. State Assemblies, that are formed after the date and before the completion of the Lok Sabha's term, would conclude before the subsequent general elections. After this, election to the Lok Sabha and all State assemblies would be held simultaneously. The Committee had factored scenarios such as a hung House, or a no-confidence motion, and recommended amendments to Article 83 (duration of Houses of Parliament) and Article 172 (duration of State Legislatures) of the Constitution. It recom-

Stripes of all colours



Philandri Tigers: Artists perform pulkali (tiger dance) on the streets of Thiruvai in Kerala on Wednesday, marking the end of Onam celebrations. Thousands of people, including foreigners, thronged the streets to witness the annual show. K.K. NARAYAN



Lebanese soldiers gather outside a damaged mobile shop in Sidon, Lebanon, on Wednesday, after a walkie-talkie exploded there. AP

Indus waters: India to freeze negotiations with Pakistan

Jacob Koshy, Subhashini Haidar
NEW DELHI
There will be no more meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission till the governments of India and Pakistan meet and discuss the renegotiation of the 64-year-old Indus Water Treaty, a highly placed official told *The Hindu*. The last meeting was in Delhi in May 2022. Since January 2023, India has written four times to Pakistan to initiate talks on revisiting the treaty but not received a "satisfactory response", according to sources.



Walt endis: Women queue up at a polling station in Shopian, south of Srinagar, on Wednesday. IRAN NISSAR

First phase of polls in J&K peaceful; 61.13% turnout recorded

Peerzada Ashiq, SRINAGAR
Voters turned out in good numbers in the 24 Jammu and Kashmir constituencies that went to the polls in the first phase of the Assembly election on Wednesday, registering a polling percentage of 61.13%. There was a clear increase in turnout in all 16 seats in the militancy-affected areas of the Kashmir Valley, in comparison with the last Assembly election held a decade ago, with many voters and candidates expressing hope that the democratic exercise will bring change to the region. Kishitwar recorded the highest turnout of 80.14% and Pulwama the lowest at 46.65%, as per provisional data at 11.50 p.m. "Peaceful polling was observed in J&K. There are no instances where we have to go for independent municipalities also contributed to the growth in voting percentage in these areas otherwise known as the 'boycott capitals' of Kashmir. This phase of polling in south Kashmir is likely to determine the fate of the Peoples Democratic Party, which had won 11 out of the 16 assembly segments in this region in 2014.

Walkie-talkies, solar equipment explode a day after Lebanon pager blasts, kill 14

Associated Press, BEIRUT
Explosions were reported in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon in an apparent second wave of detonations of electronic devices, Hezbollah officials and state media said on Wednesday. At least 14 persons were killed and 450 people wounded on Wednesday when walkie-talkies and ovens solar equipment blew up, a day after hundreds of pagers exploded, in an attack blamed on Israel. Several blasts were heard on Wednesday at a funeral in Beirut for three Hezbollah members and a child killed by exploding pagers on Tuesday. A Hezbollah official said walkie-talkies used by the group exploded. Lebanon's official news agency reported that solar energy systems exploded in homes in several areas of Beirut and in southern Lebanon, wounding at least one girl. **New phase: Israel** Speaking to Israeli troops on Wednesday, Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant declared the start of a "new phase" of the war. He made no mention of the explosions of electronic devices in Lebanon but



Lebanese soldiers gather outside a damaged mobile shop in Sidon, Lebanon, on Wednesday, after a walkie-talkie exploded there. AP

soms were killed, two children among them, and some 2,800 people injured in the pager explosions. The second wave of attacks also deepens concern over the potentially indiscriminate casualties caused in the attacks, in which hundreds of people were off-watchers the holder of the pager happened to be - often women and children. Palestinian militant group Hamas blamed Israel for the new wave of attacks on Lebanon, strongly condemn the renewed and ongoing Zionist aggression against the brotherly Lebanese people." Hamas said in a statement, adding that the attack, "now threatens the security and stability of the region".

Simultaneous polls plan gets Union Cabinet nod

Govt. to form implementation group to take forward recommendations of Kovind panel

PM calls proposal an 'important step' towards making democracy 'vibrant and participative'

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The Union Cabinet on Wednesday accepted the recommendations of the high-level committee, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, that had proposed simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies as the first step, and municipal and panchayat polls within 100 days of the general election in the next phase.

"This is an important step towards making our democracy even more vibrant and participative," Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a strong votary of simultaneous polls, said in a post on X.

Calling it a giant stride towards electoral reforms,

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in a post on X, said, "This reflects Modi Ji's iron will to bolster our democracy through clean and financially efficient elections and accelerate economic growth through more productive allocation of resources".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, however, dismissed the idea as "impractical".

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Announcing the Union Cabinet's approval to the proposal of simultaneous elections at a media briefing, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said an



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw addresses a press conference after the Cabinet meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday. Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan is also present. ANI

implementation group would be formed to take forward the recommendations of the Kovind panel.

"Our government believes in creating a consensus on items that affect our democracy, the nation in the long run. And this is a subject that will strengthen

our democracy, Centre-State relations...," Mr. Vaishnaw said.

Asked if the government had a specific timeline such as the 2029 Lok Sabha election for its implementation, Mr. Vaishnaw said the implementation would take place after

It will destroy federalism, says Opposition

NEW DELHI

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dent, through a notification issued on the first sitting of the Lok Sabha post general elections, set an 'Appointed Date'. This date would mark the beginning of the new electoral cycle. State Assemblies, that are formed after the date and before the completion of the Lok Sabha's term, would conclude before the subsequent general elections. After this, election to the Lok Sabha and all State Assemblies would be held simultaneously.

The Committee had factored scenarios such as a hung House, or a no-confidence motion, and recommended amendments to Article 83 (duration of Houses of Parliament) and Article 172 (duration of State legislatures) of the Constitution. It recom-

mended a common electoral roll, which would need coordination between the Election Commission of India (ECI) and State Election Commissions (SECs). The ECI is responsible for the Lok Sabha and Assembly polls, while the local body elections for municipalities and panchayats are managed by the SECs. The proposed changes regarding the single electoral roll and single voter ID card would need ratification by at least half of the States.

In all, the Kovind panel has recommended 18 constitutional amendments, most of which will not need ratification by State Assemblies. However, any Constitutional amendment Bill needs to be passed by a two-third majority in each house of Parliament.

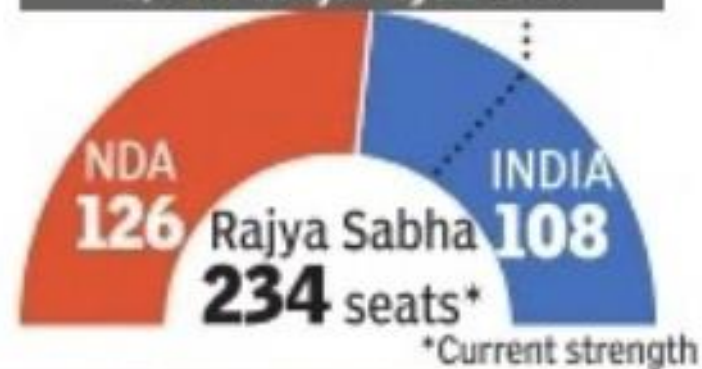
HOW THE NUMBERS STACK UP

Constitutional amendment for simultaneous LS, assembly polls will need ratification by both Houses by **2/3rd majority**

2/3rd Majority: **362**



2/3rd Majority: **156**



Local body polls, to be held within 100 days of general elections, requires a 2nd Constitutional amendment that will have to be ratified by **at least half the states**

State Legislatures: 28

NDA: **19**

INDIA: **8**

Others: **1**

The concept of simultaneous elections is **not new to the country.**

01

Post adoption of the Constitution of India, the **First General Elections** to the **Lok Sabha** and all State Legislative Assemblies were held **simultaneously in 1951-52**. This practice continued in three subsequent General Elections held in **1957, 1962 and 1967**.

02

However, due to **premature dissolution of State Legislative Assemblies** in 1968 and 1969, the cycle of synchronized elections got disrupted. In 1970, the Lok Sabha itself was dissolved prematurely and fresh elections were held in 1971.

03

Thus, since 1967 elections, the practice of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies could not be maintained and the elections have still **not been realigned.**

Benefits of Simultaneous Elections

- * Ruling parties can focus on legislation and Governance
- * Reduced expenditure of money and Administration
- * Continuity in policies and Programmes
- * Efficiency in Governance as focus on populist measures will reduce
- * Use of black money in elections will reduce

Logistical challenges for Election Commission

Higher No of
VVPAT s & EVM's

+

Additional
Polling staff

+

EVM
storage

+

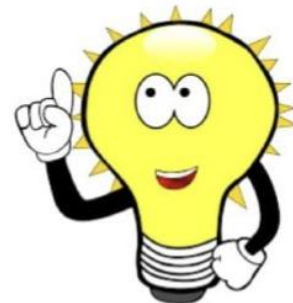
Tremendous
One-time Expenditure



HOW TO IMPLEMENT

TLP - Connect

SIMULTANEOUS
ELECTIONS



Need
to
Amend



Duration of
Houses of Parliament



Dissolution of
Lok Sabha by the
President







Duration of
state legislatures

+
RPA,
1951




- **Simultaneous Polls Proposal:**

- The Union Cabinet has accepted the recommendations of a high-level committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind to hold simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
 - The initial step would include Assembly elections with Lok Sabha elections, followed by municipal and panchayat elections within 100 days of the general election.
 - The government emphasizes that this plan will enhance democracy by making it vibrant and participative, improving the financial and administrative efficiency of the election process.
- 
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- 



- **Government's Position:**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed this decision as an important step for improving democracy.
 - Union Home Minister Amit Shah supported it as a method to boost clean, efficient elections and accelerate economic growth.
 - An implementation group will be formed to take forward the recommendations of the committee.
- 

Opposition's Criticism:

The opposition parties criticized the proposal, calling it impractical, unconstitutional, and a threat to federalism.

They raised concerns about handling scenarios where ruling parties lose their majority during the simultaneous elections.

Key Provisions:

Amendments to Articles 83 and 172 of the Constitution are recommended to change the duration of Parliament and State legislatures, respectively.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) and State Election Commissions (SECs) would coordinate on a common electoral roll.

1.Challenges:

1. The proposed changes would require the ratification of at least half the States.
2. Several Constitutional amendments would need to be passed by a two-thirds majority in Parliament.









- **Consider the following statements regarding the proposal for simultaneous elections in India:**

1. The high-level committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind recommended holding simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, and local bodies.
2. The proposal requires Constitutional amendments, including changes to Articles 83 and 172.
3. Simultaneous elections will reduce financial and administrative inefficiencies in the election process.

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

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

Indus waters: India to freeze negotiations with Pakistan

Jacob Koshy
Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

There will be no more meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission till the governments of India and Pakistan meet and discuss the renegotiation of the 64-year-old Indus Water Treaty, a highly placed official told *The Hindu*.

The last meeting was in Delhi in May 2022. Since January 2023, India has written four times to Pakistan to initiate talks on revising the treaty but not received a “satisfactory response”, according to sources.

India to freeze talks with Pakistan on Indus waters

Jacob Koshy
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NEW DELHI

There will be no more meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) till the governments of India and Pakistan meet and discuss the renegotiation of the 64-year-old Indus Water Treaty, a highly placed official told *The Hindu*.

The last meeting was in Delhi in May 2022. Since January 2023, India has written four times to Pakistan to initiate talks on revising the treaty but not received a “satisfactory response”, according to sources.

The PIC is the most consequential product of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), signed in 1960 to manage the sharing of six Himalayan rivers between India and Pakistan. Commissioners of both countries are mandated to meet every year, and sometimes have met multiple times in a year, to discuss and resolve differences on the sharing of river water and construction of hydel projects.

Risking oblivion

Despite wars and disputes between India and Pakistan, and the occasional stalling of the meetings, the PIC has been a perma-



On August 30 this year, India had sent a letter to Pakistan, the fourth since 2023, asking to renegotiate the treaty. FILE PHOTO

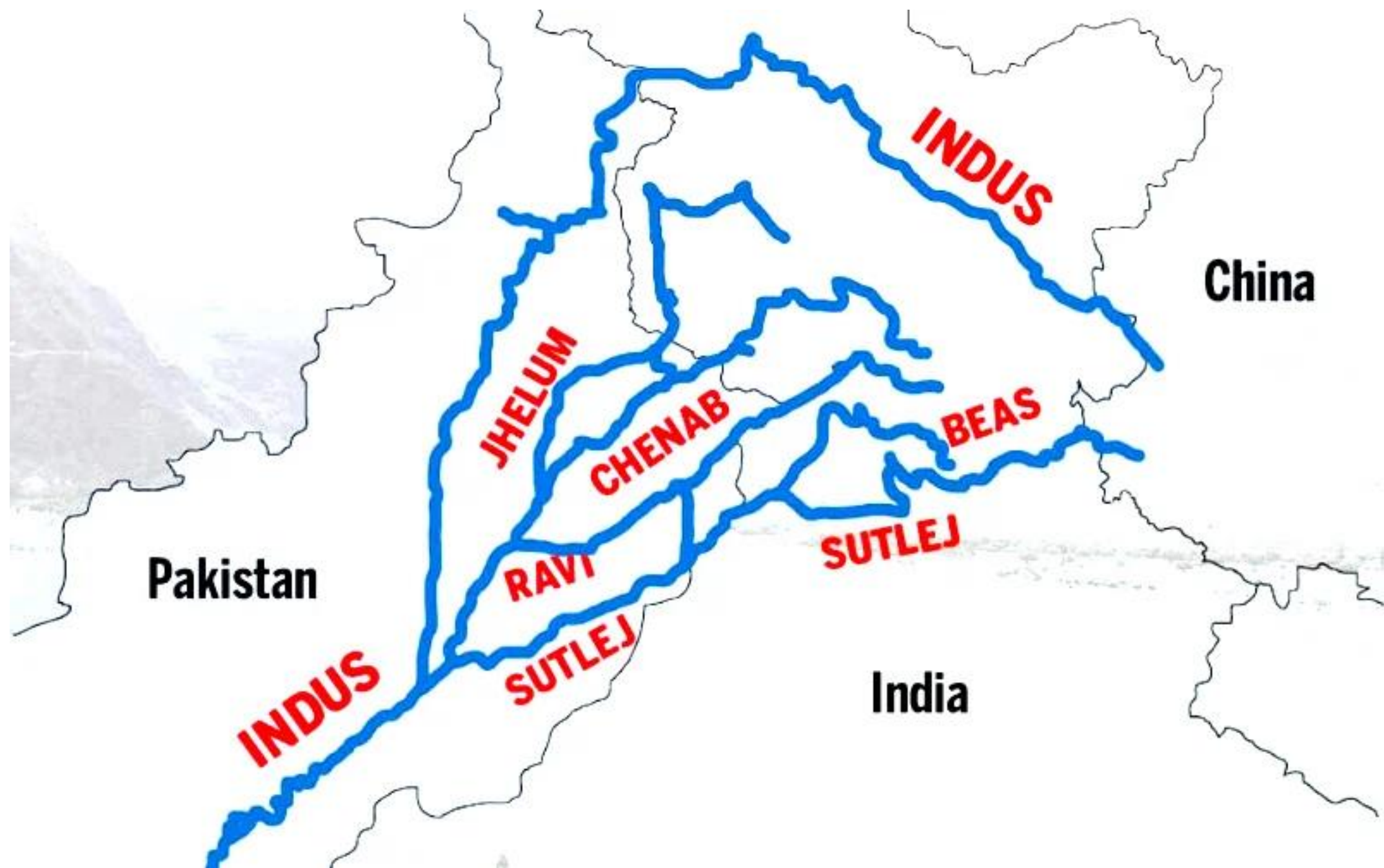
nent fixture. However, with India’s call to renegotiate the IWT in January 2023, the PIC risks oblivion.

“Pakistan’s first response [following India’s call] was to discuss issues at the level of commissioners. But India denied this on the grounds that the commissioners are meant to execute the treaty and so this can be done only by governments. If the governmental negotiations were to begin to renegotiate the treaty, India could consider reviving the commission as a goodwill measure,” the official told *The Hindu*.

On August 30 this year, India sent a letter to Pakistan, the fourth since 2023, asking to renegotiate the

treaty. “India’s notification highlights fundamental and unforeseen changes in circumstances that require a reassessment of obligations under various Articles of the Treaty. Among various concerns, important ones include change in population demographics; environmental issues – need to accelerate development of clean energy to meet India’s emission targets; impact of persistent cross-border terrorism, etc,” said a government note summarising aspects of the notification sent in August.

However, India’s “prime” focus, the official cited earlier said, was solving the dispute resolution mechanism set out in the treaty.



Pakistan

China

India

INDUS

INDUS

JHELUM

CHENAB

BEAS

RAVI

SUTLEJ

SUTLEJ

The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

■ The distribution of waters of the Indus and its tributaries between India and Pakistan is governed by the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

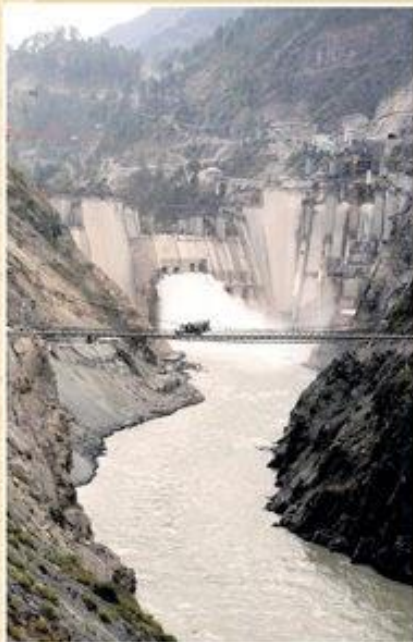
■ Was signed on Sept 19, 1960, between India, Pakistan and a representative of World Bank after nine years of negotiations.

■ Partition of India cut across the Indus river basin, which has the Indus river, plus five of its main tributaries.

Western rivers

Chenab, Jhelum, Indus

India's rights over these rivers: Limited — can set up certain irrigation, run-of-the-river power plants, very limited storage, domestic and non-consumptive use, all subject to conditions

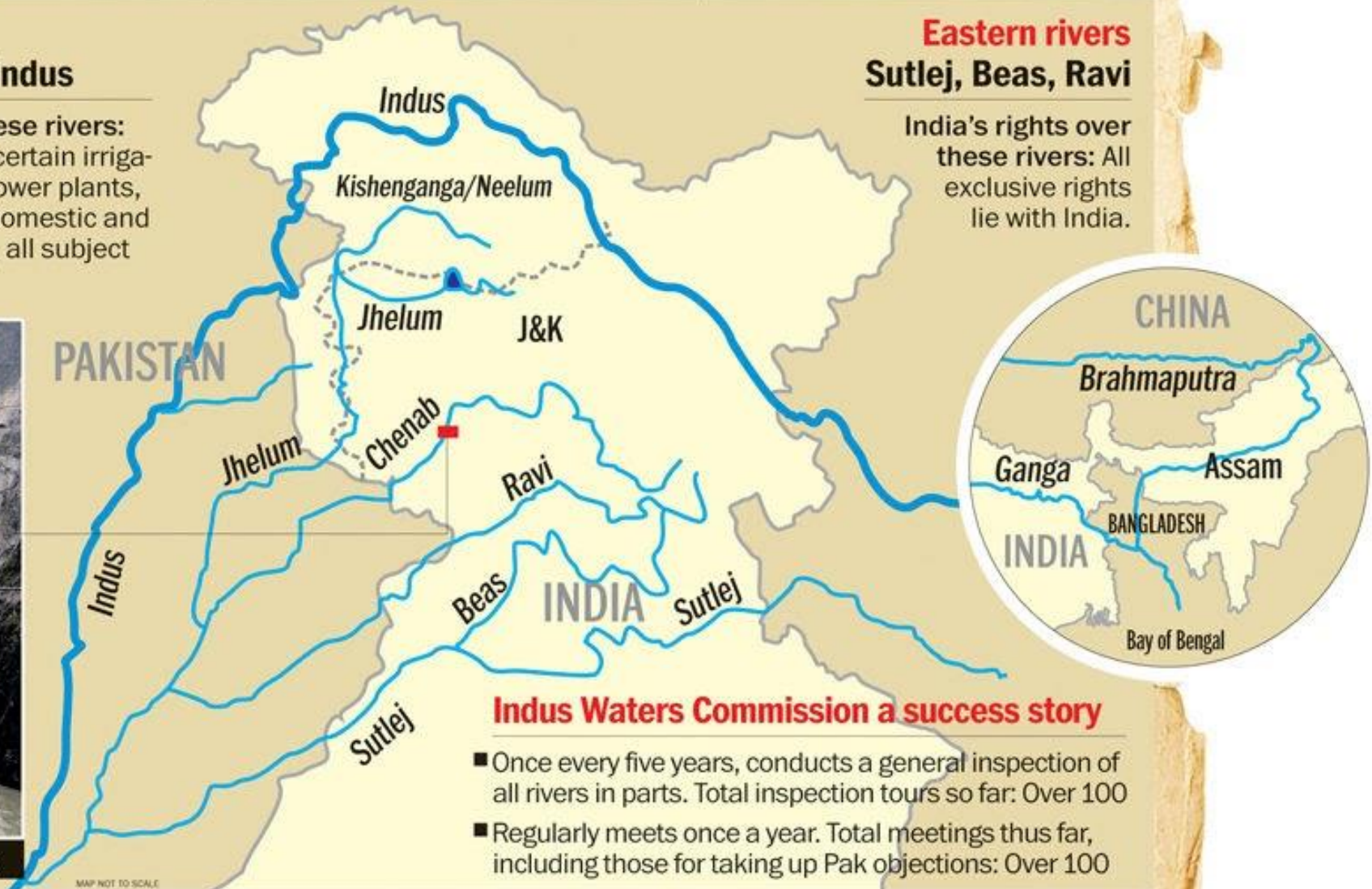


Baglihar dam on Chenab

Eastern rivers

Sutlej, Beas, Ravi

India's rights over these rivers: All exclusive rights lie with India.



Indus Waters Commission a success story

- Once every five years, conducts a general inspection of all rivers in parts. Total inspection tours so far: Over 100
- Regularly meets once a year. Total meetings thus far, including those for taking up Pak objections: Over 100

MAP NOT TO SCALE

INDUS RIVERS TREATY

EASTERN RIVERS

Sutlej, Beas, Ravi

11 cubic km annual flow before entering Pakistan. India has full rights on all waters; Pak can use whatever flows into its territory

WESTERN RIVERS

Indus, Jhelum, Chenab

232.5 cubic km annual flow before entering Pak; India can use only about 62.2 cubic km, 170.3 cubic km reserved for Pak



Kishanganga Hydropower Project on a tributary of the Jhelum in Bandipora district of J&K. *Archive*



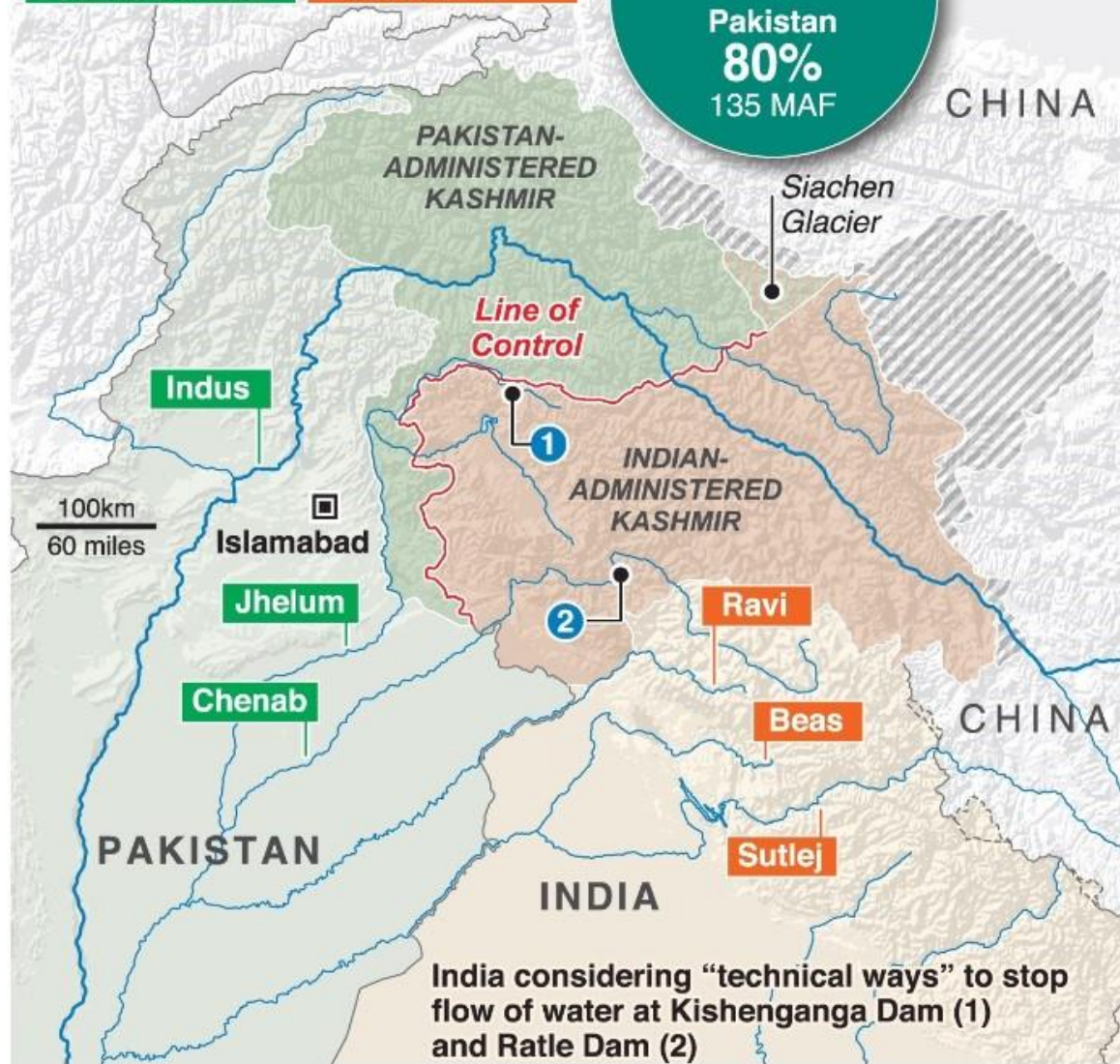
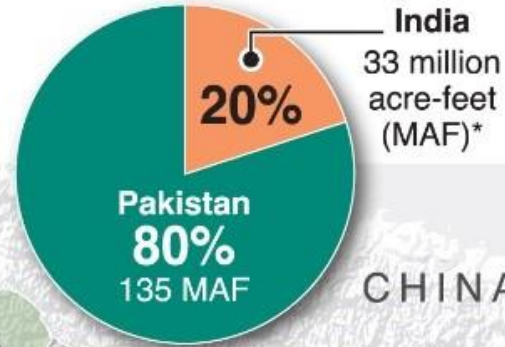
1960 Indus Water Treaty (IWT)

India has full use of all water from three eastern rivers, but must allow unrestricted flow of water from western rivers to Pakistan

Western rivers
Pakistan control

Eastern rivers
India control


Water allocation from six-rivers of Indus basin under IWT



India considering “technical ways” to stop flow of water at Kishenganga Dam (1) and Ratle Dam (2)

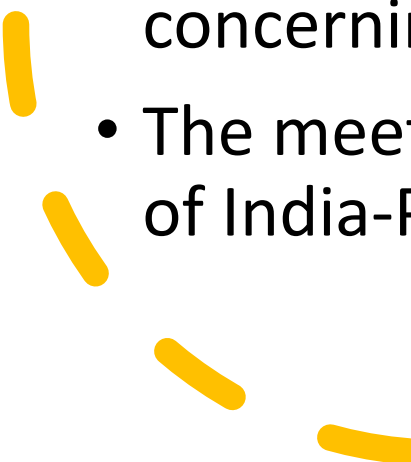


- **India's Stand on Indus Water Treaty:**

- India has decided to freeze further meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) until there is a renegotiation of the 64-year-old Indus Water Treaty (IWT).
 - India had sent multiple letters to Pakistan since January 2023 asking for renegotiation but received unsatisfactory responses.
- 




- **Permanent Indus Commission (PIC):**

- The PIC is a key body under the IWT, signed in 1960, for the management of six Himalayan rivers shared between India and Pakistan.
 - Commissioners from both nations meet regularly to resolve issues concerning water sharing and hydel projects.
 - The meetings, though sometimes stalled, have been a consistent part of India-Pakistan water relations.
- 



- **India's Reasons for Renegotiation:**

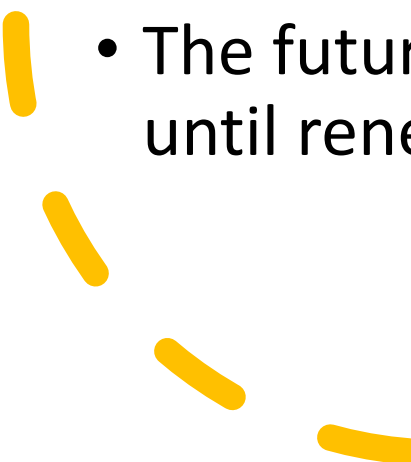
- India highlights changes in population demographics, environmental issues (such as clean energy development), and the impact of cross-border terrorism as reasons to reassess obligations under the treaty.
 - India also seeks to address the dispute resolution mechanism within the treaty.
- 



- **Pakistan's Response:**

- Pakistan suggested discussing issues at the level of the commissioners, but India rejected this, arguing that only government-level talks could revise the treaty.

- **Current Situation:**

- 
- The future of the PIC is uncertain, with India holding off on meetings until renegotiation occurs.

- **Consider the following statements about the Indus Water Treaty (IWT):**

1. The IWT was signed in 1960 to manage the sharing of six Himalayan rivers between India and Pakistan.
2. The Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) under the IWT is responsible for resolving disputes concerning water sharing.
3. India has called for renegotiation of the IWT citing demographic and environmental changes, along with cross-border terrorism.

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

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

IN BRIEF

Navy ditches unmanned UAV at sea off Chennai coast

One MQ-9A High Altitude Long Endurance Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) of the Indian Navy, on lease from General Atomics of the U.S., carried out a controlled ditching at sea off Chennai after it encountered a technical failure at 2 p.m. on Wednesday while on a routine surveillance mission which could not be reset in flight, according to the Navy. "The aircraft was navigated to a safe area over sea and a controlled ditching was carried out at sea off Chennai. A detailed report has been sought from the original aircraft manufacturer," the Navy said. The UAV was operating from INS Rajali, Arakkonam.

5.6 lakh FIRs registered under new criminal law till Sept. 3

Around 5.6 lakh First Information Reports (FIRs) have been registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) from July 1 to September 3, a senior Home Ministry official said on Tuesday. The three new criminal laws — BNS, the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) — came into effect on July 1, after being passed by the Parliament in 2023. The Ministry official also said a technical support call centre with the helpline number — 14415 — had been set up by the National Crime Records Bureau to assist States in the implementation of the new criminal laws.

Govt. to frame social security norms for gig workers

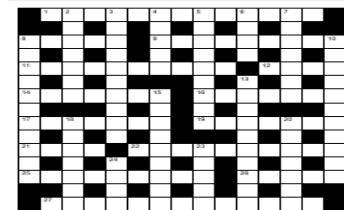
The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Centre will soon create an inclusive framework covering social security for gig and platform workers and the Labour Ministry will form a dedicated committee to take views of all stakeholders on this. Addressing a meeting of platform aggregators here on Wednesday, Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said the proposed committee will take up key issues and work towards establishing a robust social security framework for these workers.

Mr. Mandaviya also set a target of three months for registering all gig and platform workers on the e-Shram portal. He said the registration is crucial for extending benefits under various government initiatives to these workers.

THE CROSSWORD



Across

- Do a headstand perhaps and relax (3,4,2)
- Talk wife on vacation (4)
- Treat rash, possibly a fungus (9)
- Gaining power again with no erectile dysfunction (2-8)
- Gamble on boat (4)
- Extremely shocked about American writer's arrest (7)

Govt. to fence Myanmar border at ₹31,000 crore

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Union government has approved ₹31,000 crore to fence the Myanmar border, a senior Home Ministry official said on Wednesday.

The 1,643-km Myanmar border runs along the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. On Tuesday, Home Minister Amit Shah said fencing had been completed on 30 km of the border, which he termed the root cause of the ethnic violence in Manipur.

The Cabinet Committee on Security had, in principle, approved the construction of border fencing and roads along the 1,643-km International Border between India and Myanmar at an approximate cost of ₹31,000 crore, the official said.

About 10 km of fencing has already been completed near Moreh and work is under way to fence another 25 km in other areas of Manipur.

The Home Ministry earlier this year scrapped the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the Myanmar border which allows a permit residing close to the border to venture 16 km into each other's territory without any documents.

Chandrayaan-4, Venus orbiter get approval from Union Cabinet

Gaganyaan expansion project also gets nod; next lunar project plans to bring moon rocks to earth; space docking experiment later this year

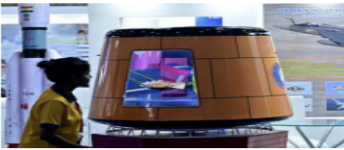
Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

In a boost to the space programme, the Union government on Wednesday approved the Chandrayaan-4 mission to bring moon rocks to earth using a spacecraft to orbit Venus and expand the Gaganyaan project to build an Indian space station.

The Cabinet, at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, also approved a proposal of the Department of Space to build a next-generation launch vehicle capable of placing heavier payload in orbit, which could also be key to achieving the targets of setting up a space station near Moreh and launching an Indian astronaut on the moon.

"Great news for the space sector! The Union Cabinet has approved the first step towards the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), expanding the Gaganyaan programme," Mr. Modi said in a post on X. "This landmark decision brings us closer to a self-sustained space station by



Cutting edge: A model of the Gaganyaan crew module at the Bengaluru Space Expo 2024 on Wednesday. K. VISHNU KAVASU

2035 and a crewed lunar mission by 2040," he said. Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the government had allocated ₹2,104 crore for the Chandrayaan-4 mission.

"A natural successor to Chandrayaan-3 is the demonstration of the ability to collect lunar samples and return them safely back to earth," ISRO Chairman S. Somanath said. Chandrayaan-4 will involve multiple launches, and the premier space agency is set to perform a space docking

experiment later this year to develop its capabilities for the challenging endeavour.

The Cabinet approved ₹1,236 crore for the Venus Orbiter Mission, which is expected to be launched in March 2028. This will be India's second interplanetary mission after the Mars Orbiter Mission, launched on November 5, 2013. The Cabinet also gave its nod to an additional funding of ₹1,170 crore to the Gaganyaan programme, which already has a sanctioned budget of ₹9,025 crore.

PM-AASHA schemes to continue with additions: Centre

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the continuation of schemes of the Pradhan Mantri Anna-dan Aay Samakshian Abhiyan (PM-AASHA).

The Centre said the schemes under PM-AASHA will ensure remunerative prices to farmers and control price volatility of essential commodities to benefit farmers.

The Cabinet also fixed the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for the upcoming rabi season on phosphorus and potassic (P and K) fertilisers. The tentative budgetary requirement for this will be ₹24,475.53 crore.

The total financial outgo for PM-AASHA will be ₹35,000 crore during the 15th Finance Commission cycle up to 2025-26. The Centre has converged the Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) schemes in PM-AASHA.

"PM-AASHA will now have the components of PSS, PSF and the Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS)," the Centre said.

It said the extension of the PSF scheme will help in

protecting consumers from extreme volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities by maintaining strategic buffer stock of pulses and onion for regulated release. It will also discourage hoarding and unscrupulous speculation, and ensure supplies to consumers at affordable prices.

Subsidy for fertilizers
On the fertilizer subsidy, the Centre said it will ensure availability of fertilizers to farmers at subsidised, affordable and reasonable prices. It added that the rationalisation of subsidy on P and K fertilizers is taken in view of the recent trends in the international prices of fertilizers and inputs.

Centre may argue on law if it doesn't respond to pleas on marital rape: SC

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Wednesday said if the Union government did not want to file a response to petitions before the Supreme Court seeking the criminalisation of marital rape, it would have to present oral arguments on the tenets of the law when the case comes up for hearing.

The observation followed an oral mentioning made by senior advocate Indra Jaisingh requesting a Bench headed by Chief Justice Chandrachud to fix a specific date for hearing the case. The case is listed on the board of the Chief Justice Bench, waiting for its day in court.

On Wednesday, the Chief Justice asked Ms. Jaisingh and other lawyers appearing for the various petitioners to wait and see

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

as well as societal viewpoints. The petitions were triggered by mutually exclusive decisions by the Karnataka and Delhi High Courts, calling for an authoritative pronouncement from the top court.

The Karnataka High Court had held that a husband was liable to be charged for rape if he had forcible sex with his wife.

The Karnataka government had supported the High Court judgment in an affidavit in the top court subsequently.

Exception 2 to Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) decriminalised marital rape. It had provided that non-consensual sexual intercourse between a man with his wife, if she was over 15 years, did not amount to rape. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which replaced the IPC, retained the same exception (Section 63), but raised the

age of the woman from 15 to 18.

"Rape is rape" "A man is a man; an act is an act; rape is a rape, be it performed by a man the husband" and "villages" "wife," the Karnataka High Court had observed.

But a Division Bench of the Delhi High Court delivered a split verdict in a separate case on the identical issue in May 2022. Justice Rajiv Shakdher, the lead judge on the Bench, struck down the exception to Section 375 as unconstitutional. However, Justice C. Hari Shankar, the associate judge on the High Court Bench, took the reverse view. He adopted a traditional stance that changes in the law were the sole terrain of the legislature. The Justice JS Verma Committee of 2013 had recommended the removal of the exception.

Abhinav Lakshman

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a package that will provide up to ₹5 lakh each to tribal homesteads and villages across the country, to turn their homes into tourist homestays or to build new ones under the Tourism Ministry's Swadesh Darshan scheme. This is meant to "tap the tourist potential of tribal areas" and "provide alternative livelihoods", an official statement said.

This is one of the 25 interventions planned under the Pradhan Mantri-Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA), an umbrella package to implement existing schemes in 63,000 Scheduled Tribe majority villages. For instance, the Swadesh Darshan scheme was launched a decade ago, in 2014-15, though the

Abhinav Lakshman

NEW DELHI

polls later this year, account for over 18% of the country's tribal population.

The PMJUGA intends to bring sustainable agricultural practices to all Forest Rights Act (FRA) patta holders to "enable them for maintenance and conservation of forest," the official statement said.

As of June 2024, more than 24 lakh FRA titles have been granted to people and communities in Scheduled Tribes (ST) and other traditional forest-dwelling groups, covering over 1.9 crore acres of forest land across the country.

However, of the 50.5 lakh claims filed under the FRA, 34.8% have been rejected and 15.9% remain pending.

The government hopes to "catalyse" pending claims and expedite the recognition and securing of forest rights.

PMJUGA also intends

to bring sustainable

agricultural practices

to all Forest Rights

Act patta holders

tribal homestay proposal may be a new element.

Action plan

The PMJUGA package is aimed at ensuring the saturation of basic schemes in tribal villages, with interventions to be implemented by 17 Ministries, and the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes. Together, this will involve an outlay of ₹79,156 crore to be spent over five years, with a Central share of ₹26,333 crore, and a States' share of ₹22,823 crore.

Significantly, Maharashtra and Jharkhand, which are both headed to the

SUDOKU

				8		1		
	7	6	1		9			
8					5	4		
4		9	3			6		
		2	7		4			
					7	3		8
1		5						6
		8	8	7	4	9	2	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

6	4	1	9	7	2	8	3	6
6	9	3	8	5	6	4	1	2
9	1	8	2	4	5	7	6	3
2	7	6	1	9	3	8	5	4
8	6	5	7	2	9	3	1	4
4	3	2	5	1	8	6	7	9
1	9	7	3	6	4	2	5	8

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	4	1	9	7	2	8	3	6
6	9	3	8	5	6	4	1	2
9	1	8	2	4	5	7	6	3
2	7	6	1	9	3	8	5	4
8	6	5	7	2	9	3	1	4
4	3	2	5	1	8	6	7	9
1	9	7	3	6	4	2	5	8

FAITH

Lessons from Ramayana

Sri Ramayana contains all essential concepts such as the principles of the life of an ascetic or householder, the governance of a state and morality. Trichy Sri Kalyanaraman is a discourse that only when it is beneficial or yielding good to them will others lend their ears to what we say. A person cannot thrust his views or compel others, and if he insists, he will end up in failure and incur their wrath and displeasure. Before making any vital decision, a person should consult the people concerned and elicit their views. King Dasaratha did not consult his wives before making the important decision regarding Sri Rama's incarnation.

Patience is essential
Patience is one of the essential qualities a man should possess. Had Dasaratha waited till the arrival of Bharatha who had been at his maternal grandfather's house, things would have been different, and Bharatha would not have allowed his mother to prevail over her husband, Manthara, a cunning hunchback devil with a brain full of evil ideas, spoiled Kaikeyi and changed her mind about sending the two boys promised by Dasaratha earlier. Post Kambhar says serpent-like Kaikeyi emitted poisonous demands, and the elephant-like King Dasaratha fell down and swooned.

A person who dives deep into the sea searching for pearls will only aim for the same and not care about other filthy items. Similarly, People should listen only to saner advice and ignore all other unwanted matters.

Chandrayaan-4, Venus orbiter get approval from Union Cabinet

Gaganyaan expansion project also gets nod; next lunar project plans to bring moon rocks to earth; space docking experiment later this year

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

In a boost to the space programme, the Union government on Wednesday approved the Chandrayaan-4 mission to bring moon rocks to earth, send a spacecraft to orbit Venus and expand the Gaganyaan project to build an Indian space station.

The Cabinet, at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, also approved a proposal of the Department of Space to build a next-generation launch vehicle capable of placing heavier payload in orbits, which could also be key to achieving the targets of setting up a space station and landing an Indian astronaut on the moon.

“Great news for the space sector! The Union Cabinet has approved the first step towards the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), expanding the Gaganyaan programme,” Mr. Modi said in a post on X. “This landmark decision brings us closer to a self-sustained space station by



Cutting edge: A model of the Gaganyaan crew module at the Bengaluru Space Expo 2024 on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

2035 and a crewed lunar mission by 2040,” he said.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the government had allocated ₹2,104 crore for the Chandrayaan-4 mission.

“A natural successor to Chandrayaan-3 is the demonstration of the ability to collect lunar samples and return them safely back to earth,” ISRO Chairman S. Somanath said. Chandrayaan-4 will involve multiple launches, and the premier space agency is set to perform a space docking


experiment later this year to develop its capabilities for the challenging endeavour.

The Cabinet approved ₹1,236 crore for the Venus Orbiter Mission, which is expected to be launched in March 2028. This will be India’s second interplanetary mission after the Mars Orbiter Mission, launched on November 5, 2013. The Cabinet also gave its nod to an additional funding of ₹11,170 crore to the Gaganyaan programme, which already has a sanctioned budget of ₹9,023 crore.

Aspect	Chandrayaan-1	Chandrayaan-2	Chandrayaan-3
Launch Year	2008	2019	2023
Objectives	Study lunar surface	Study lunar surface and land rover on lunar South Pole	Demonstrate landing capabilities for Lunar Polar Exploration Mission
Components	Orbiter, Moon Impact Probe	Orbiter, Lander (Vikram), Rover (Pragyan)	Propulsion module, Lander, Rover
Findings	Confirmed lunar water, caves, activity	Built upon Chandrayaan-1's water evidence	–
Communication	Communication issues after 312 days	Lander crash-landed, rover unable to operate	Successfully landed on moon and will operate for 1 lunar day (14 Earth days)
Launch Vehicle	PSLV	GSLV-Mk 3	LVM3
Landing Site	–	Lunar South Pole	Lunar South Pole
Major Partners	–	–	Japan (for Lunar Polar Exploration Mission); support from NASA and




- **Approval of Chandrayaan-4 Mission:**

- The Union Cabinet approved Chandrayaan-4, which will involve the collection and return of moon rocks to Earth.
 - Chandrayaan-4 will be a natural successor to Chandrayaan-3 and will involve multiple launches.
 - The government has allocated ₹2,104 crore for this mission.
- 




- **Venus Orbiter Mission:**

- The Cabinet also approved the Venus Orbiter Mission, India's second interplanetary mission after Mars Orbiter.
 - The mission is scheduled for launch in March 2028 with a budget of ₹1,236 crore.
- 



- **Expansion of Gaganyaan Programme:**

- The Gaganyaan programme, India's human spaceflight mission, has received additional funding of ₹11,170 crore, bringing the total to ₹9,023 crore.
 - Gaganyaan will focus on building capabilities for an Indian astronaut mission by 2035 and a crewed lunar mission by 2040.
- 



- **Space Docking Experiment:**

- A space docking experiment is planned for later this year, enhancing India's capability in space missions.

- **Development of New Space Capabilities:**

- The Cabinet also approved a proposal for developing a next-generation launch vehicle, critical for heavier payloads and supporting long-term goals like building an Indian space station.
- 



- **Consider the following statements regarding India's recent space missions:**

1. Chandrayaan-4 will focus on collecting moon samples and returning them to Earth.

2. The Venus Orbiter Mission will be India's third interplanetary mission.

3. The Gaganyaan programme aims to launch India's first astronaut by 2028.

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

- (a) 1 only

- (b) 1 and 2 only

- (c) 2 and 3 only

- (d) 1 and 3 only



PM-AASHA schemes to continue with additions: Centre

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the continuation of schemes of the Pradhan Mantri Anna-data Aay SanraksHan Abhi-yan (PM-AASHA).

The Centre said the schemes under PM-AASHA will ensure remunerative prices to farmers and control price volatility of essential commodities to benefit consumers.

The Cabinet also fixed the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for the upcoming rabi season on phosphatic and potassic (P and K) fertilisers. The tentative budgetary requirement for this will be ₹24,475.53 crore.

The total financial outgo for PM-AASHA will be ₹35,000 crore during the 15th Finance Commission cycle up to 2025-26. The Centre has converged the Price Support Scheme (PSS) and Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) schemes in PM-AASHA.

“PM-AASHA will now have the components of PSS, PSF and the Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS) and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS),” the Centre said.

It said the extension of the PSF scheme will help in



The schemes under PM-AASHA will ensure remunerative prices to farmers, the Centre said.


protecting consumers from extreme volatility in prices of agri-horticultural commodities by maintaining strategic buffer stock of pulses and onion for calibrated release. It will also discourage hoarding and unscrupulous speculation, and ensure supplies to consumers at affordable prices.

Subsidy for fertilizers

On the fertilizer subsidy, the Centre said it will ensure availability of fertilizers to farmers at subsidised, affordable and reasonable prices. It added that the rationalisation of subsidy on P and K fertilisers is taken in view of the recent trends in the international prices of fertilizers and inputs.



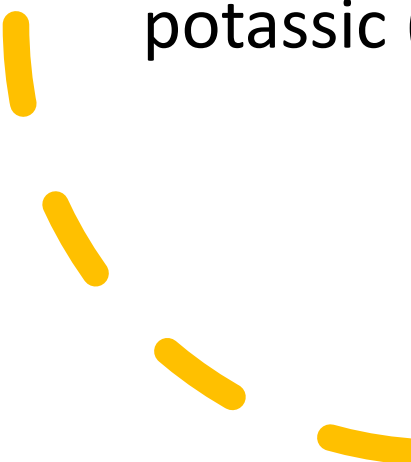
- **PM-AASHA Continuation:**

- The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) scheme.
 - The scheme ensures remunerative prices for farmers and controls the price volatility of essential commodities to benefit consumers.
- 

- **Inclusion of Schemes:**
- PM-AASHA now includes the Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF), Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS), and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).
- This convergence is intended to provide a comprehensive safety net for farmers.



- **Financial Allocation:**

- The total financial outlay for PM-AASHA is ₹35,000 crore during the 15th Finance Commission cycle up to 2025-26.
 - ₹24,475.53 crore has been allocated for the upcoming rabi season under the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for phosphatic and potassic (P and K) fertilisers.
- 

Price Stabilisation:

The extension of the PSF scheme is expected to help control price volatility in agri-horticultural commodities like pulses and onions by maintaining strategic buffer stocks.

It aims to protect consumers from high prices and discourage speculative hoarding

Fertilizer Subsidy:

The Cabinet ensured that fertilisers will be available to farmers at affordable and subsidised prices, following trends in global fertiliser prices.

- **Consider the following statements regarding the PM-AASHA scheme:**
 1. The PM-AASHA scheme aims to stabilise the prices of agricultural commodities and ensure remunerative prices to farmers.
 2. The scheme includes the Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF), and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS).
 3. The total financial outlay for PM-AASHA is ₹25,000 crore during the 15th Finance Commission cycle.
- **Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**
 - (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2, and 3

₹5 lakh to transform tribal house into homestay unit

Abhinay Lakshman

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a package that will provide up to ₹5 lakh each to tribal households and villages across the country, to turn their homes into tourist homestays or to build new ones under the Tourism Ministry's Swadesh Darshan scheme. This is meant to "tap the tourist potential of tribal areas" and to "provide alternative livelihood", an official statement said.

This is one of the 25 interventions planned under the Pradhan Mantri-Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA), an umbrella package to implement existing schemes in 63,000 Scheduled Tribe-majority villages. For instance, the Swadesh Darshan scheme was launched a decade ago, in 2014-15, though the

PMJUGA also intends to bring sustainable agricultural practices to all Forest Rights Act patta holders

tribal homestay proposal may be a new element.

Action plan

The PMJUGA package is aimed at ensuring the saturation of basic schemes in tribal villages, with interventions to be implemented by 17 Ministries, and funding coming from each Ministry's allocated share in the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes. Together, this will involve an outlay of ₹79,156 crore, to be spent over five years, with a Central share of ₹56,333 crore, and a States' share of ₹22,823 crore.

Significantly, Maharashtra and Jharkhand, which are both headed to the

polls later this year, account for over 18% of the country's tribal population.

The PMJUGA intends to bring sustainable agricultural practices to all Forest Rights Act (FRA) patta holders "to enable them for maintenance and conservation of forest", the official statement said.


As of June 2024, more than 24 lakh FRA titles have been granted to people and communities from Scheduled Tribes (ST) and other traditional forest-dwelling groups, covering over 1.9 crore acres of forest land across the country.

However, of the 50.5 lakh claims filed under the FRA, 34.83% have been rejected and 15.9% remain pending.

The government hopes to "catalyse" pending claims and expedite the recognition and securing of forest rights.

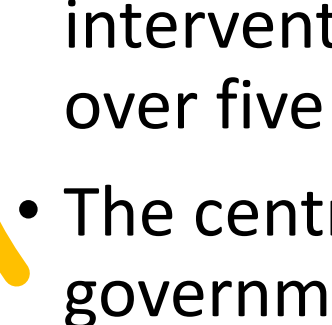


- **Tribal Homestay Initiative:**

- The Union Cabinet approved a package to provide ₹5 lakh to tribal households for transforming their homes into tourist homestays or building new ones.
 - This initiative is under the Tourism Ministry's Swadesh Darshan scheme to promote tourism in tribal areas and offer alternative livelihood opportunities.
- 




- **PMJUGA Scheme:**

- The package is part of the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA), an umbrella initiative targeting 63,000 tribal-majority villages.
 - It aims to saturate basic development schemes in these villages, with interventions from 17 ministries and a total outlay of ₹79,156 crore over five years.
 - The central government will contribute ₹56,333 crore, while state governments will share ₹22,823 crore.
- 



- **Sustainable Agricultural Practices:**

- PMJUGA also focuses on promoting sustainable agricultural practices among Forest Rights Act (FRA) patta holders, aiming to maintain forest conservation.
 - The scheme aims to support over 24 lakh FRA titles granted across 1.9 crore acres of forest land.
- 

1. Pending FRA Claims:

1. Out of 50.5 lakh claims under the FRA, 34.83% have been rejected, and 15.9% remain pending.
2. The government is working to expedite pending claims and secure recognition for forest rights.



- **Consider the following statements about the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA):**

1. The scheme provides ₹5 lakh to each tribal household for transforming homes into homestays under the Swadesh Darshan scheme.
2. PMJUGA is implemented with the assistance of 17 Ministries and has a total outlay of ₹79,156 crore.
3. The scheme aims to bring sustainable agricultural practices to all patta holders under the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

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

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

The & Comment

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Funds allocated by the Cabinet for Venus Orbiter Mission

1,236 In ₹ crore, The Venus Orbiter Mission by the Department of Space will involve a spacecraft in the orbit of Venus for better understanding of its surface.

The increase in Bihar's GST collection from last year

8.4 In per cent, The Bihar Commercial Taxes Department has recorded a GST collection of ₹15,463 crore between April 1 and August 31. An increase is due to registration of more small traders.

The number of Palestinians killed in Gaza since October 7

41,272 The toll includes 20 deaths in the last 24 hours, according to the health ministry in Gaza. At least 35,251 people have been wounded in the Gaza Strip.

The death toll from the floods caused by storm Boris in Europe

23 Since last week the storm has brought widespread flooding and torrential rain, with victims being from Austria, Poland and Romania. The flooding — which tore down houses — has since receded.

FIRs registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita since July 1

5.56 In lakh, Since July 1 till September 3, a total of 5.56 lakh FIRs have been registered in the country under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Can Sheikh Hasina be extradited?

Why is Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal asking for the extradition of Ms. Hasina? Does the treaty signed in 2013 by India and Bangladesh allow for an extradition request to be turned down? What could be the potential implications of such a request?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The chief prosecutor of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has announced plans to seek the extradition of ousted leader Sheikh Hasina from neighbouring India. "As the main perpetrator has fled the country, we will start the legal procedure to bring her back," Mohammad Tajul Islam said on September 8. Ms. Hasina had sought refuge in India in August after a mass uprising compelled her to step down. Since her departure, numerous criminal cases have been lodged against her and her aides, encompassing charges of murder, torture, abduction, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Additionally, India and Bangladesh have a bilateral extradition treaty in place that could allow for her return to face trial.

What does the extradition treaty say? The ICT was established in 2010 by Ms. Hasina to investigate crimes committed during the 1971 independence war from Pakistan. Under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act of 1973, Bangladesh courts can proceed with criminal trials even in Ms. Hasina's absence. However, this is bound to raise concerns about the fairness of the proceedings, and adherence to due process, while also complicating the enforcement of judicial orders. Therefore, the extradition of the former Prime Minister is crucial.

In 2013, India and Bangladesh signed an extradition treaty as a strategic measure to address insurgency and terrorism along their shared borders. It was amended in 2016 to ease the process of exchange of fugitives wanted by both nations. The treaty has facilitated the transfer of several notable political prisoners. For instance, in 2020, two convicts involved in the 1975 assassination of Ms. Hasina's father, Sheikh Mujibur



Forced departure: Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka on January 8. AFP

Rahman, were extradited to Bangladesh for execution. Similarly, India successfully secured the extradition of Anup Chetia, the general secretary of the banned United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), who had spent 18 years imprisoned in Dhaka. The treaty mandates the extradition of individuals charged with or convicted of crimes that warrant a minimum sentence of one year imprisonment. A key requirement for extradition is the principle of dual criminality, meaning that the offence must be punishable in both countries. Since the charges against Ms. Hasina are prosecutable in India, and the penalties for her alleged crimes are also substantial, she qualifies for extradition on these grounds. Additionally, the treaty encompasses within its ambit attempts to commit, as well as aid, abet, incite, or act

as an accomplice in such crimes. Notably, the 2016 amendment to the treaty substantially lowered the threshold for extradition by removing the requirement to furnish concrete evidence against the offender. Under Article 10 of the treaty, only an arrest warrant issued by a competent court in the requesting country is sufficient to initiate the extradition process.

Can extradition be refused? Article 6 of the treaty stipulates that extradition may be refused if the offence is of a "political nature". However, there are stringent limitations on this particular exemption. A host of offences such as murder, terrorism-related crimes, and kidnapping, are explicitly excluded from being classified as political. Given that several of the charges against Ms. Hasina

— such as murder and enforced disappearance — fall outside the scope of this exemption, it is unlikely that India will be able to justify them as political transgressions to deny extradition.

Another basis for refusal is outlined in Article 8, which permits denial of a request if the accusation is not "made in good faith in the interests of justice" or if it involves military offences not considered "an offence under general criminal law." India could potentially refuse extradition on the ground that the charges against Ms. Hasina have not been levelled in good faith and there is a possibility of her being subjected to political persecution or an unfair trial upon her return to Bangladesh. Such concerns are further exacerbated by recent reports that ministers from Ms. Hasina's cabinet were physically arrested by bystanders while being transported to court for remand hearings.

What are the potential implications? Sreeradhia Datta, professor of international relations at O.P. Jindal Global University told *The Hindu* that the treaty does not guarantee Ms. Hasina's extradition, as the final decision will hinge more on diplomatic negotiations and political considerations. "Even if India were to decline the extradition request, it would likely serve as a minor political irritant rather and is unlikely to dent bilateral relations, especially in critical areas of cooperation between the two nations," she said.

Bangladesh is India's largest trade partner in South Asia, with bilateral trade estimated at \$15.9 billion in the fiscal year 2022-23. Before Ms. Hasina's ouster, both nations were poised to commence dialogue on a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) to foster economic ties. Following the regime change in Dhaka, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken with the Chief Adviser of the new interim government, Muhammad Yunus, and pledged government support for ongoing development projects.

Interview to *The Hindu*, pointed out that Kenyans are concerned that the deal would give the Adanis a tax break for 10 years. He also claimed that the deal would allow the Adanis to fire all the employees currently on the rolls of the KAA — around 5,000 — and rehire them on terms that could violate their rights. "Why didn't the Adani team want to follow due diligence as laid out under the PPP Act, whereby there would have been three-four competitive bids, and Kenyans would have had a chance to interrogate the deal for value-for-money option?" he asked. "It indicates that this is a corrupt deal and we believe money has been siphoned off, he alleged, echoing a growing sentiment among the Kenyan public.

What next? The Law Society of Kenya and the Kenya Human Rights Commission have filed a joint application against the deal in the high court. The court has issued an order suspending further movement on the Adani proposal pending a judicial review. The Adani hold that it is in Kenya's best interest to go for a PPP rather than open tendering a public-private partnership (PPP). This is also the preferred method under Kenya's PPP Act. Kenyans are asking why the KAA and the government ignored the experts' recommendation as well as the country's PPP law to go ahead with the Adanis' PPP. Senator Richard Oryonka, an opposition politician, in an

THE GIST

The chief prosecutor of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has announced plans to seek the extradition of ousted leader Sheikh Hasina from neighbouring India.

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Article 6 of the treaty stipulates that extradition may be refused if the offence is of a "political nature".

On Adani's proposal to lease Kenya's Nairobi airport

Why are there protests against a proposed takeover of the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport?

G. Sampath

The story so far: Kenyans are protesting a proposed takeover of Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) by India's Adani Group on a 30-year lease. Last week, airport workers went on a day-long strike, leading to flight cancellations that left hundreds of passengers stranded. The workers called it off when the government agreed to give them veto power on the final agreement.

What is the background? The refurbishment and expansion of the Nairobi international airport has been in the works since 2013. The plans included building a new passenger terminal, another runway, and expanding the capacity to 20 million passengers a year. But for various reasons, the contract was cancelled in 2016, and the project was dormant until 2022. In June 2023, the

government announced it would publicly invite bids to revive the project. However, in July this year, a Kenyan whistle-blower posted on social media that the government had secretly signed a deal with the Adani group to manage the airport for 30 years. The news generated nationwide outrage, with local commentators criticising the move to "give away" control of a "strategic national asset" to a foreign company.

What are the terms of the deal? According to media reports based on leaked documents, in March 2024, Adani Airport Holdings Ltd had submitted a Privately Initiated Proposal (PIP) to the Kenya Airport Authority (KAA) to refurbish the JKIA under a build-operate-transfer model with an investment of \$1.85 billion. Under the proposed deal, the Adanis would refurbish the airport, add a new runway, and possibly a terminal. They would fund this with their own investment and from

revenues generated from the airport, invite bids to revive the project. However, in July this year, a Kenyan whistle-blower posted on social media that the government had secretly signed a deal with the Adani group to manage the airport for 30 years. The news generated nationwide outrage, with local commentators criticising the move to "give away" control of a "strategic national asset" to a foreign company.

What are the Kenyans objecting to? It has emerged that in February 2024, a consultancy firm hired by the KAA to advise on expanding the JKIA had recommended an open tender process for securing a public-private partnership (PPP). This is also the preferred method under Kenya's PPP Act. Kenyans are asking why the KAA and the government ignored the experts' recommendation as well as the country's PPP law to go ahead with the Adanis' PPP. Senator Richard Oryonka, an opposition politician, in an

THE GIST

The refurbishment and expansion of the Nairobi international airport has been in the works since 2013.

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On Adani's proposal to lease Kenya's Nairobi airport

Why are there protests against a proposed takeover of the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport?

G. Sampath

The story so far:

Kenyans are protesting a proposed takeover of Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) by India's Adani Group on a 30-year lease. Last week, airport workers went on a day-long strike, leading to flight cancellations that left hundreds of passengers stranded. The workers called it off when the government agreed to give them veto power on the final agreement.

What is the background?

The refurbishment and expansion of the Nairobi international airport has been in the works since 2013. The plans included building a new passenger terminal, another runway, and expanding the capacity to 20 million passengers a year. But for various reasons, the contract was cancelled in 2016, and the project was dormant until 2022. In June 2023, the

government announced it would publicly invite bids to revive the project. However, in July this year, a Kenyan whistle-blower posted on social media that the government had secretly signed a deal with the Adani group to manage the airport for 30 years. The news generated nationwide outrage, with local commentators criticising the move to "give away" control of a "strategic national asset" to a foreign company.

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revenues generated from the airport, which they will control for 30 years. At the end of this period, the Adanis would get 18% equity in the airport. To protect their commercial interests from unforeseen competition, the Adani proposal included a stipulation that no airport shall be built within a 100km radius of the JKIA. It also projected a sharp hike in annual fees that would be transferred to airport users.

What are the Kenyans objecting to?

It has emerged that in February 2024, a consultancy firm hired by the KAA to advise on expanding the JKIA had recommended an open tender process for securing a public-private partnership (PPP). This is also the preferred method under Kenya's PPP Act. Kenyans are asking why the KAA and the government ignored the experts' recommendation as well as the country's PPP law to go ahead with the Adanis' PIP. Senator Richard Onyionka, an opposition politician, in an

interview to *The Hindu*, pointed out that Kenyans are concerned that the deal would give the Adanis a tax break for 10 years. He also claimed that the deal would allow the Adanis to fire all the employees currently on the rolls of the KAA – around 5,000 – and rehire them on terms that could violate their rights. "Why didn't the Adani team want to follow due diligence as laid out under the PPP Act, whereby there would have been three-four competitive bids, and Kenyans would have had a chance to interrogate the various offers and pick the best value-for-money option?" he asked. "It indicates that this is a corrupt deal and we believe money has exchanged hands" he alleged, echoing a growing sentiment among the Kenyan public.

What next?

The Law Society of Kenya and the Kenya Human Rights Commission have filed a joint application against the deal in the high court. The court has issued an order suspending further movement on the Adani proposal pending a judicial review. The Adanis hold that it is in Kenya's best interest to go for a PIP rather than open tendering, noting, "PIP allows the government to secure terms beyond purely financial considerations, ensuring the welfare of citizens," and that "competitive bidding" besides being time-consuming, "risks making the deal purely transactional, without room for mutual considerations."

THE GIST

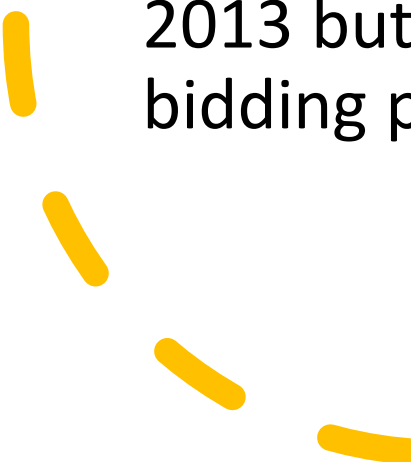
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- **Background of the Proposal:**

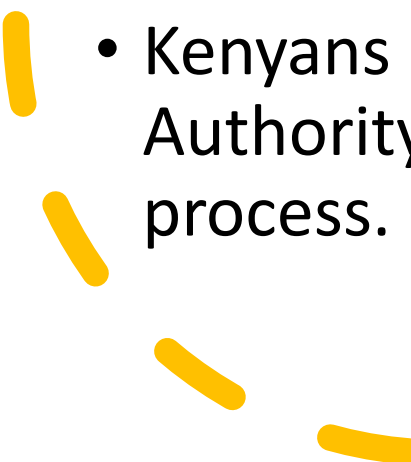
- Kenyans are protesting the proposed takeover of Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) by India's Adani Group on a 30-year lease.
 - The airport's refurbishment and expansion had been in progress since 2013 but faced delays. In 2023, the government announced a public bidding process for the project.
- 

- **Proposed Deal Terms:**
- The Adani Group submitted a Privately Initiated Proposal (PIP) to refurbish and operate the airport under a build-operate-transfer model with a \$1.85 billion investment.
- The proposal included adding a new runway and terminal, and projected a sharp rise in annual fees to be transferred to airport users.





- **Concerns and Objections:**

- There are concerns about transparency, the absence of competitive bidding, and the potential firing of 5,000 airport employees.
 - Critics claim the deal could involve corruption, tax breaks, and giving away a national asset to a foreign entity.
 - Kenyans also question why the government and Kenya Airport Authority (KAA) ignored expert recommendations for an open tender process.
- 

- **Legal Action:**

- The Law Society of Kenya and the Kenya Human Rights Commission filed a joint application in court to halt the deal.
- The court has issued an order suspending further movement on the proposal pending judicial review.



- **Consider the following statements regarding the proposed Adani Group takeover of the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Kenya:**

1. The proposed deal includes a build-operate-transfer model with a \$1.85 billion investment by the Adani Group.
2. Kenyan airport workers went on strike protesting the lack of transparency and competitive bidding in the deal.
3. The Law Society of Kenya and the Kenya Human Rights Commission filed a joint application supporting the deal.

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

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









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CLASS APART
Pant one of the best keeper-batters in Tests, says coach Gambhir



India head coach Gautam Gambhir feels Rishabh Pant is one of the best keeper-batters in the world in Tests. "We all know how destructive he can be. He's got runs everywhere around the world, and not many keepers in this era have got to keep someone who's done phenomenally well behind the stumps as well," said Gambhir.

LONG SEASON
Youngsters may have to wait for their opportunity: Gambhir



With the return of star players like Virat Kohli, K.L. Rahul and Rishabh Pant to the Test fold, Gambhir said youngsters like Dhruv Jurel and Sarfaraz Khan must wait for their chance. "Sometimes you just have to wait for the opportunity and keep working hard. India has got a long season ahead. So there will be opportunities."

CONFIDENT
Shantoo expects Shakib to hit the ground running despite late arrival



Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan joined the squad on Tuesday night and hit the nets on the eve of the first Test. Shakib batted for nearly an hour on Wednesday afternoon. Skipper Shantoo backed Shakib to do well despite practising for just one day, citing Shantoo's stellar form for Surrey, where he scalped nine wickets in a match.

HIGH PRAISE
Kohli one of the torch-bearers of Test cricket, says Gambhir



India head coach Gautam Gambhir said Virat Kohli was one of the torch-bearers of Test cricket. "You guys are the torchbearers of Test cricket. In today's day and age the challenge will always remain, how we can motivate the next generation of cricketers," Gambhir said in a conversation with Kohli for bcci.tv.



In a league of his own: The India head coach says Bumrah is the best fast bowler in the world in all three formats. R. RAGU

An honour to have someone like Bumrah playing for us: Gambhir

S. Dipak Ranjan
CHENNAI

India head coach Gautam Gambhir hailed Jasprit Bumrah as the best pacer in international cricket across formats and was happy that bowlers are getting the spotlight they deserve.

"Bumrah is the best fast bowler in the world in all three formats. And it's (not) just his performance, it's his hunger as well. The best part is that he wants to play as much Test cricket as he can, and there is no doubt about that," said Gambhir when asked if the speedster is the most valuable player in the team.

"That is what international cricket is in the T20 format in the West Indies is comparable to what he can do in red-ball cricket (Tests) against England. I think it's an honour to have someone like Bumrah playing for us and give sitting in that dressing room. He can make a difference at any stage of the game. So yes, hopefully, we can do the same in this series and going forward as well," he added.

"It has not happened of-

India gets ready to embrace Test cricket's slow-burn intensity

The first challenge comes from a plucky Bangladesh, which arrives on the back of a terrific 2-0 victory over Pakistan, in a two-match series: Gambhir — in his first red-ball assignment as coach — will want nothing less than a polished show

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

The Indian Premier League's adrenaline surge and the historic ICC T20 World Cup triumph infused energy into the nation's leading cricketers over the last few months and now it is time to embrace Test cricket's slow-burn intensity.

A searing heat has descended upon this southern metropolis but for once Chennaiites would prefer excess warmth over afternoon showers as India takes on Bangladesh in the opening Test of the two-match series at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here from Thursday.

Rohit Sharma's men last played a Test against England at Dharamshala in October 2023, and then tumbled into limited-overs cricket.

A playing style reset is essential as Tests featuring Bangladesh, New Zealand and Australia await.

These games, all part of the World Test Championship which India currently leads, are critical encounters.

The former India cricketer also batted away the notion that his side could take any opposition lightly on the eve of the first Test against Bangladesh.

"I have been a huge believer that we fear no one but respect everyone. And we don't take any opposition lightly," remarked Gambhir.

"That is what international cricket is all about. We respect Bangladesh, and we will always respect any opposition. But we have to go out there and play the brand of cricket that we want to play. We have got to try and give everything possible on the cricket field because that is what championship sides do. They don't look at the opposition. They try to control the game. They try to play the way they want to play the game."

Lot to play, lot to play for

With 10 Tests scheduled over the next four months, India will look to book its third consecutive World Test Championship (WTC) final berth



INDIA'S REMAINING FIXTURES

Sept. 28-29 : Bangladesh, Chennai
Sept. 27-Oct. 1 : Bangladesh, Kolkata
Oct. 16-20 : New Zealand, Bengaluru
Oct. 26-28 : New Zealand, Madurai
Nov. 3-5 : New Zealand, Mumbai

Nov. 22-26 : Australia, Perth
Dec. 6-10 : Australia, Adelaide
Dec. 14-18 : Australia, Brisbane
Dec. 26-30 : Australia, Melbourne
Jan. 3-7 : Australia, Sydney

INDIA-BANGLADESH H2H IN TESTS									
	M	W	L	D	Drawn				
Overall	13	11	0	2					
India	3	3	0	0					
Bangladesh	10	8	0	2					

WTC POINTS TABLE									
Rank	Team	M	W	L	D	DEP*	PTS	PCT	
1	India	9	6	2	1	2	74	68.52	
2	Australia	12	8	3	1	10	100	62.50	
3	New Zealand	9	3	5	1	0	36	50.00	
4	Bangladesh	6	3	3	0	3	33	48.33	
5	Sri Lanka	3	3	0	0	0	36	42.86	
6	England	16	8	7	1	19	81	42.50	
7	South Africa	6	2	3	1	0	26	38.89	
8	Pakistan	7	2	3	0	8	16	19.05	
9	West Indies	1	1	0	0	0	20	18.52	

Points system:
12 for a win, 6 for a tie, 4 for a draw.

The teams are ranked according to the percentage of points they have secured prior to the final at Lord's on Sept. 28.

*Deductions: Points are deducted for slow over rates.

While India is mostly about the return of the nation's star batsman, Virat Kohli, and his partner, Rishabh Pant's remarkable comeback from a life-threatening accident, the same theme is obvious through Virat Kohli too, who took a paternity break and missed the series against England. K.C. Rahul is back in the mix as well and Rohit now has an experienced core to build upon.

Appropriate resources
Be it Jasprit Bumrah as the spearhead or home boy R. Ashwin helming the spin department, the Indian skipper has appropriate resources on a surface expected to keep both the test and day-night bowlers in play.

For Bangladesh, a glimpse of the Bay of Bengal while touching down, and the recent 2-0 victory away from the venue is Greens Road with its distinctive Bengal wiles, could duplicate a sense of home.

Rawalpindi was part of that bouquet but Chennai now and Kanpur next may not be easy.

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Virat Kohli: Bangladesh — with players like Litton, left, in its ranks — will be a formidable opponent. K. ISSA

Still the urge to prove that it is in no way inferior to its larger neighbour, will lend impetus to the visitor. While Dhaka recovers from a political churn, Najmul Hossain Shantoo's men continue to be invested with the role of being dispensers of hope.

Rawalpindi was part of that bouquet but Chennai now and Kanpur next may not be easy.



Gukesh was superb. FICKR/WIDE

Gukesh sizzles as India marches on

CHESSE OLYMPIAD

Sports Bureau

Not even the strong Chinese wild could stop the Indian men at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest on Thursday. And it took a remarkable endgame from D. Gukesh for the second-seeded India to keep the sole lead.

It had almost seemed India would have to be content with a draw against its third-seeded rival. The second, third and fourth boards had all ended in draws, and that meant Arjun Erigaisi's stunning six-game winning streak came to an end, as he was held by Yu Yangyi and Wang Yue, respectively.

And a draw looked the likeliest result on the top board between Gukesh and Wei Yi, too.

China's decision to rest Ding Liren meant that there would be no tussle for his World title match against Gukesh. The teenager showed his class against Wei, as he converted the virtually equal-looking ending, with his double-knight against Black's rook, to a well-deserved victory in 80 moves. India won 2.5-1.5.

The top-seeded Indian women also maintained their sole lead, with a 3-1 win against second seed Georgia. Vanika Agrawal's victory on the fourth board against her higher-rated rival Bella Khochnasvili had more or less ensured India's win in the match, but, later on, Vaishali converted her slightly better position into a full point over Lela Javakhishvili.

On the top board, Dronavalli Harika drew with Nana Dzagnidze. On the third board too, it was a draw, between Divya Deśhmukh and Nino Batsiasvili.

The teams (from):
India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Vishvasi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, K.L. Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (wk), Dhruv Jurel (wk), R. Ashwin, R. Jadeja, Aash Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Akshay Deep and Yash Duple.

Bangladesh: Najmul Hossain Shantoo (Capt.), Litton Das, Jaker Ali, Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Mominul Haque, Mustafizur Rahman (wk), Shadman Islam, and Shantoo's vice-captain, Mehedy Hasan Miraz, Hasan Mahmud, Waheed Ahmed, Naved Rana, Nayeem Hasan, Tajul Karim and Tasnim Ahmed.

Ungrouped: India's Rod Taylor and Richard Kertészborough, Trinidad's Christopher Brown.

Match referee: Jeff Crowe.
Play starts at 9.30 a.m.

The Stockholm reverse and the new storm that has hit Indian tennis

DAVIS CUP

Kamlesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

The only surprise in the 0-4 defeat against Sweden in the World Group I Davis Cup tie in Stockholm last week was the Indian team not winning even a set. However, the noise surrounding this tie is unusually heavy and quite jarring, with accusations and counter-accusations.

What has not gone

down well is the fact that the 29-year-old Sumit Nagal, ranked No. 82, lamented the lack of depth in Indian tennis in a podcast with his mentor, Devvarman.

India's chances would have been better if Nagal played in Stockholm. But there was the Indian team not winning even a set. However, the noise surrounding this tie is unusually heavy and quite jarring, with accusations and counter-accusations.

What has not gone

Ramkumar Ramanathan, India No. 2, showed up and competed as well as he could; as former captain Mahesh Bhupathi put it succinctly, Ramkumar turns up for National duty irrespective of his form or how he feels. This is not the first time Nagal has opted out of Davis Cup. He did that in India's previous assignment, against the United States. The fact remains that Nagal has won only four more rubbers, two against the lesser-known Pakistan players in 2019 when Ai-

sam Qureshi and Aqeel Khan refused to play on neutral ground in Kazakhstan. One other victory came in a dead rubber against Norway. His only notable win was against August Holmgren in three sets in the World Group I playoff last year against Denmark.

Nagal may have had genuine grouse, especially after not being nominated by the AITA for the Australian Open wild card this year. However, as Nandan Bal, the chairman of selectors,

put it succinctly, Nagal should have understood that he was playing for India, not the AITA.

With mounting criticism, the AITA chose to defend itself, and suggested that Nagal may have misused his wild card position despite all the persuasion from the Indian system — however genuine ahead of a matter in which he was seemingly injured was the unfortunate outcome of the match, the country's No. 1 player.

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Slippery slope: By not turning up for the country, Nagal has opened a debate. FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SANKAR

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R. RAGU

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INDIA-BANGLADESH H2H IN TESTS

	M	India	Bangladesh	Drawn
Overall	13	11	0	2
In India	3	3	0	0



WTC POINTS TABLE

No.	Team	P	W	L	D	DED*	PTS	PCT
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3	New Zealand	6	3	3	0	0	36	50.00
4	Bangladesh	6	3	3	0	3	33	45.83
5	Sri Lanka	7	3	4	0	0	36	42.86
6	England	16	8	7	1	19	81	42.19
7	South Africa	6	2	3	1	0	28	38.89
8	Pakistan	7	2	5	0	8	16	19.05
9	West Indies	9	1	6	2	0	20	18.52

Points system:

12 for a win, 6 for a tie, 4 for a draw

The teams are ranked according to the percentage of points won and the top two progress to the final at Lord's in 2025

*Deductions: Points are deducted for slow over rates



Taking aim: Rohit Sharma will look to hit the bull's eye when the team takes on Bangladesh in the first Test. R. RAGU

Setty says MFs should boost corporate lending



Dec promotion cycle at Accenture for select staff



Russia targeting Harris' campaign, says Microsoft



NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

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IN THE NEWS

DUES RECAST FOR 2 ANILAMBANI FIRMS; ONE ARM DEBT-FREE

ANILAMBANI GROUP companies Reliance Infrastructure and its subsidiary Reliance Power have undertaken major debt restructuring exercises, according to filings with the stock exchanges, reports Raghavendra Kamath. Reliance Power has become debt free on a stand-alone basis after exiting its arm Vidarbha Industries Power by setting its dues. ■ PAGE 4

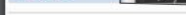
BIJU'S ARM AAKASH LAYS OFF 100 FROM MID, SENIOR LEVEL

BIJU'S-OWNED TEST PREP firm, Aakash Educational Services has laid off 80 to 100 employees over the past couple of months, Entracker reported quoting sources familiar with the matter. Several long-time employees, some with over four years of service, were also laid off in the past few weeks. ■ PAGE 4

INSIDE

100 DAYS OF GOVT

Tax compliance among focus areas. Renewed push to Make in India. ■ PAGE 2



KOVIND PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS CLEARED

One nation, one poll gets Cabinet's vote

Implementation in current gov't's tenure but date not yet set

DAMINI NATH & DIVYAA New Delhi, September 18

MOVING A STEP closer towards holding all elections simultaneously in the country — in keeping with the BJP's long-standing 'One Nation, One Election' manifesto promise — the Union Cabinet on Wednesday accepted the recommendations of the high-level committee chaired by former President Kam Nath Kovind. The eight-member panel, in its report submitted in March, suggested that Lok Sabha and state Assembly elections be held together, followed by local body polls within 100 days.

OTHER SCHEMES ANNOUNCED

₹79,156-cr assorted aids to tribal-dominated villages over 5 years in 7.5 (Centre, state) ratio

100% MSP purchases of 3 pulses to reduce import reliance, price support to cost **₹35,000 cr**



Subsidies on non-urea fertilisers for next rabi season fixed at **₹24,500 cr**, up 10% on year

Space programmes of **₹2,104 cr** for 'Chandrayaan-4'; **₹1,256 cr** for Venus mission

INSIDE Explainer ■ PAGE 9 EDIT: Not the last word ■ PAGE 8

However, while the government has signalled its intention to implement simultaneous polls, it will have to build consensus as the transition requires Constitutional amendments — first to align the Lok Sabha and

Continued on Page 7

Zee refutes Star's \$940-mn claim

VIVEAT SUSAN PINTO Mumbai, September 18

STAR INDIA HAS sought \$940 million (\$8,000 crore) in damages from Zee Entertainment over termination of a media deal involving the vision rights for the 2024-27 ICC tournaments. Star had sub-licensed the media rights to Zee in August 2022 for \$1.5 billion. Since the deal had failed to close, Star, which is merging with Viacom18, had initiated arbitration proceedings in March 2024.

DECISION PENDING

The deal was for TV rights for the 2024-27 ICC tournaments

133.05 Sept 17 (close)

Star had sub-licensed the media rights to Zee for \$1.5 bn

131.25 Sept 18 (close)

Continued on Page 7

Advance taxes up 20% in Q2, PIT growth stronger

PRASATA SAHU New Delhi, September 18

ADVANCE TAXES PAID by corporates, other firms and individuals rose 20% on year in the second quarter of the current fiscal year to ₹2,877 lakh crore as per latest data, indicating that an earnings slowdown in the first quarter hasn't dented India Inc's confidence in likely profitability levels through the current fiscal year.

The year-on-year growth in advance taxes collected by the government was marginally higher in Q1 at 27.4%.

By September 17, corporates paid advance taxes to the tune of ₹2.18 lakh crore for Q2FY25, up 16% on year.

Advance tax paid by personal income taxpayers rose at a higher rate of 37% to ₹69,886 crore in the quarter. This is in line with a trend seen in recent years, with shift of tax burden away from corporates to individuals. The Budget decisions on capital gains tax, too, have seemingly reinforced this.

Typically, 15% of the advance taxes are paid in Q1, 30% each in Q2 and Q3, and 25% in the final quarter of a fiscal year.

The Centre's direct tax collection collections, net of refunds, rose 16% on year to ₹9.96 lakh crore till September 17 of the current financial year, according to official data. This amounted to 45% of the FY25 target of ₹22.07 lakh crore. The required rate of growth for meeting the annual

UPS to reduce burden on future generations: FM

THE UNIFIED Pension Scheme (UPS), which guarantees 50% of pay as a pension, will take care of the government employees' interest as well as the taxpayers' interest by not overburdening the future generations with a heavy pension bill, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday. ■ PAGE 3

ICICI Bank's market cap tops ₹9-lakh-cr mark

THE MARKET capitalisation of ICICI Bank crossed the ₹9 lakh-crore mark on Wednesday after its shares jumped 2% intraday to touch a new high of ₹1,295 on the BSE. The stock closed with a gain of 1.55% at ₹1,288.05. With a market cap of ₹9.1 lakh crore, the private lender becomes the fifth-largest company by market value. ■ PAGE 6



₹2,877 LCR COLLECTED

Advance tax collections



Trading volumes in G-sec market surge 63%

THE AVERAGE trading volumes in the government securities have surged by 63%, as traders expect the US Fed to cut interest rate on Wednesday, reports Anupreksha Jain. The average trade volumes rose to ₹61,377 crore in last week compared to ₹37,623 crore in the previous week. On Monday and Tuesday, the trading volumes were ₹66,551 crore and ₹58,444 crore respectively. ■ PAGE 6

90th FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATIONS

Bank of Maharashtra

Chief Guest
Smt Nirmala Sitharaman
 Hon'ble Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs






in the august presence of
Shri M Nagaraju
 Secretary, Department of Financial Services


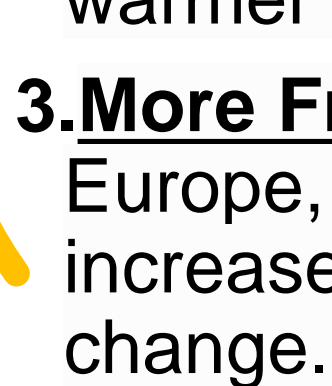
On the occasion of our 90th Foundation Day, we take the opportunity to thank all our customers, partners and well-wishers for trusting, supporting and believing in our vision. As we celebrate this landmark, with great joy and fervour, we renew our commitment to bring you a world of top-class banking with a seamless and a delightful experience


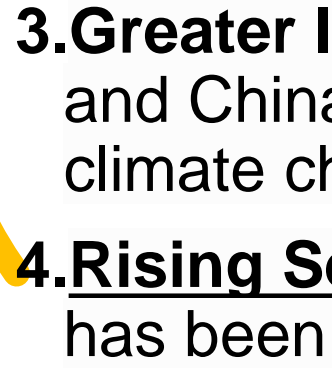
Bank of Maharashtra

Climate change is
exacerbating Global
Flooding




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- Climate change is **exacerbating global flooding** by increasing the frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall.
 -
 - **How does Climate change affect Global flooding?**
 - Rising temperatures enhance the atmosphere's capacity to hold moisture, leading to more intense downpours.
 - For instance, a **1.5°C** increase in global temperatures could make heavy rainfall events **1.5 times** more frequent and 10% wetter.
 - Recent floods in Europe, the UAE, and Brazil highlight this trend.
 - If global temperatures rise by 2°C, such floods could **occur 1.7 times per decade**, with 14% more rainfall.
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- 1. Increased Rainfall Intensity: Example:** Heavy rainfall in Germany in 2021 was intensified by climate change, leading to severe floods in western regions.
 - 2. Higher Atmospheric Moisture: Example:** The UAE and Oman experienced record-breaking rainfall in 2023 due to warmer air holding more moisture.
 - 3. More Frequent Extreme Rainfall Events: Example:** In Europe, floods this summer were more intense due to the increased frequency of extreme rainfall events linked to climate change.
- 

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- 1. Transition from Snow to Rain: Example:** Increased rainfall in high-altitude regions, such as the Alps, has led to more frequent flooding and landslides as snow transitions to rain.
 - 2. Increased Flood Risk in Urban Areas: Example:** Rapid urbanization in cities like Dhaka, Bangladesh, has led to higher flood risk as cities expand into flood-prone areas.
 - 3. Greater Impact on Low-Income Countries: Example:** Floods in India and China have displaced millions due to increased flooding risk from climate change, affecting mostly low-income populations.
 - 4. Rising Sea Levels: Example:** Coastal flooding in cities like Miami, USA, has been exacerbated by rising sea levels linked to global warming.
- 

Other factors leading to flooding:



Deforestation and Land Use Changes: Unsustainable deforestation in the upper catchments increases soil erosion and sediment load in rivers, reducing their carrying capacity and causing overflows.

- **Eg**: Sundarbans flooding attributed to these.



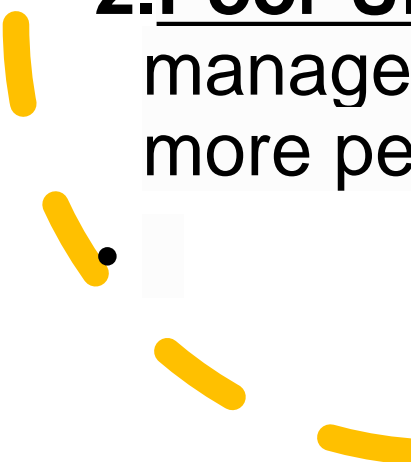
Encroachment on Floodplains: Building settlements and infrastructure on floodplains obstructs natural drainage and reduces buffer zones, amplifying flood impacts.

- **Eg**: Bihar floods are particularly severe due to the encroachment of floodplains.




1. Inadequate Drainage and Infrastructure: Insufficient drainage systems, choked rivers, and dilapidated embankments cannot handle excessive water, leading to widespread inundation.

1. **Eg**: Inadequate and weak embankments are annually breached in Bihar-West Bengal floods.




2. Poor Urban Planning: Urbanization without proper water management and flood zoning increases runoff and exposes more people to risks.

Strategies can be implemented to mitigate the risks associated with these floods:



Early Warning Systems: Implement advanced early warning systems to provide timely alerts to communities, enabling them to evacuate and take preventive measures.

- **E.g.**: Flood Early Warning System (**FLEWS**) in Assam by its state disaster management authority.



Eco-Restoration: Undertake comprehensive eco-restoration initiatives, including reforestation and wetland conservation, to enhance natural drainage systems and reduce vulnerability.

- **Eg**: the Red River Delta Rehabilitation Project restored over 100,000 hectares of mangroves and wetlands which can be replicated here.

Infrastructure Development:

Invest in resilient infrastructure, such as embankments, flood shelters, and drainage systems, to protect communities and vital assets.

- **Eg:** Coastal Embankment Improvement Project (**CEIP**) in Bangladesh part of the delta.

Community Engagement:

Foster community-based initiatives for flood preparedness, including training in disaster response, and involve local communities in planning and decision-making processes.

- **E.g.:** Community Preparedness and Adaptation of “Living with Floods” under Flood Risk Mitigation and Management.

- **Climate-Resilient Agriculture:** Promote climate-resilient agricultural practices and crop varieties to minimize the impact of floods on the agrarian economy. **E.g.**: Integrated Rice-Fish Farming System (**IRFFS**) promoted by the World Food Programme





- **Which of the following is/are tributary/tributaries of Brahmaputra?**

1. Dibang

2. Kameng

3. Lohit

- **Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

-





Karam Festival



- The **Karma or Karam festival is a significant tribal harvest celebration**, centered around the **worship of the Karam tree, symbolizing Karam Devta, the god of strength, youth, and vitality.**
- Celebrated by tribes such as **the Munda, Oraon, Ho, and Santhal across states like Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar, and Odisha**, the festival marks the agricultural season.



- 
- **Rituals include planting a Karam tree branch in the courtyard, dancing, singing, and offerings to ensure a good harvest.**
 - Myths around the festival often feature **stories of seven brothers who suffer hardships after neglecting the Karam tree**, underscoring the deep connection between the festival, mythology, and agricultural practices.
- 



Gopalpur port



- **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ)** has received approval from the **Odisha government** to acquire a **95% stake in Gopalpur Port.**



Adani Ports

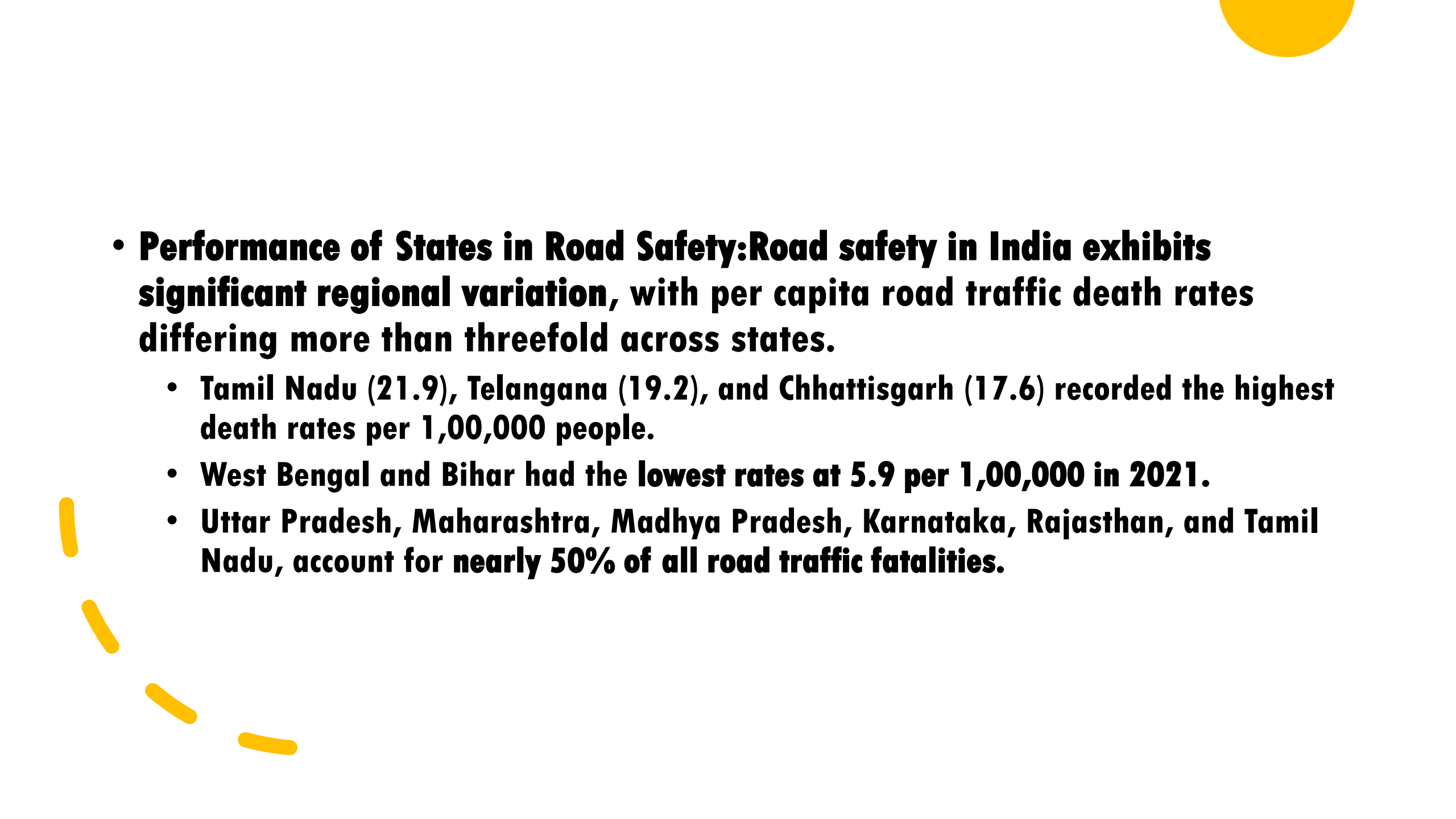





India Status Report on Road Safety 2024

- Findings of the Report:
- In 2021, road traffic injuries were the 13th leading cause of mortality in India and the 12th leading cause of health loss, as measured by Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs).
- In the states road traffic injuries ranked among the top 10 contributors to health loss.




- 
- **Performance of States in Road Safety: Road safety in India exhibits significant regional variation, with per capita road traffic death rates differing more than threefold across states.**
 - **Tamil Nadu (21.9), Telangana (19.2), and Chhattisgarh (17.6) recorded the highest death rates per 1,00,000 people.**
 - **West Bengal and Bihar had the lowest rates at 5.9 per 1,00,000 in 2021.**
 - **Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu, account for nearly 50% of all road traffic fatalities.**

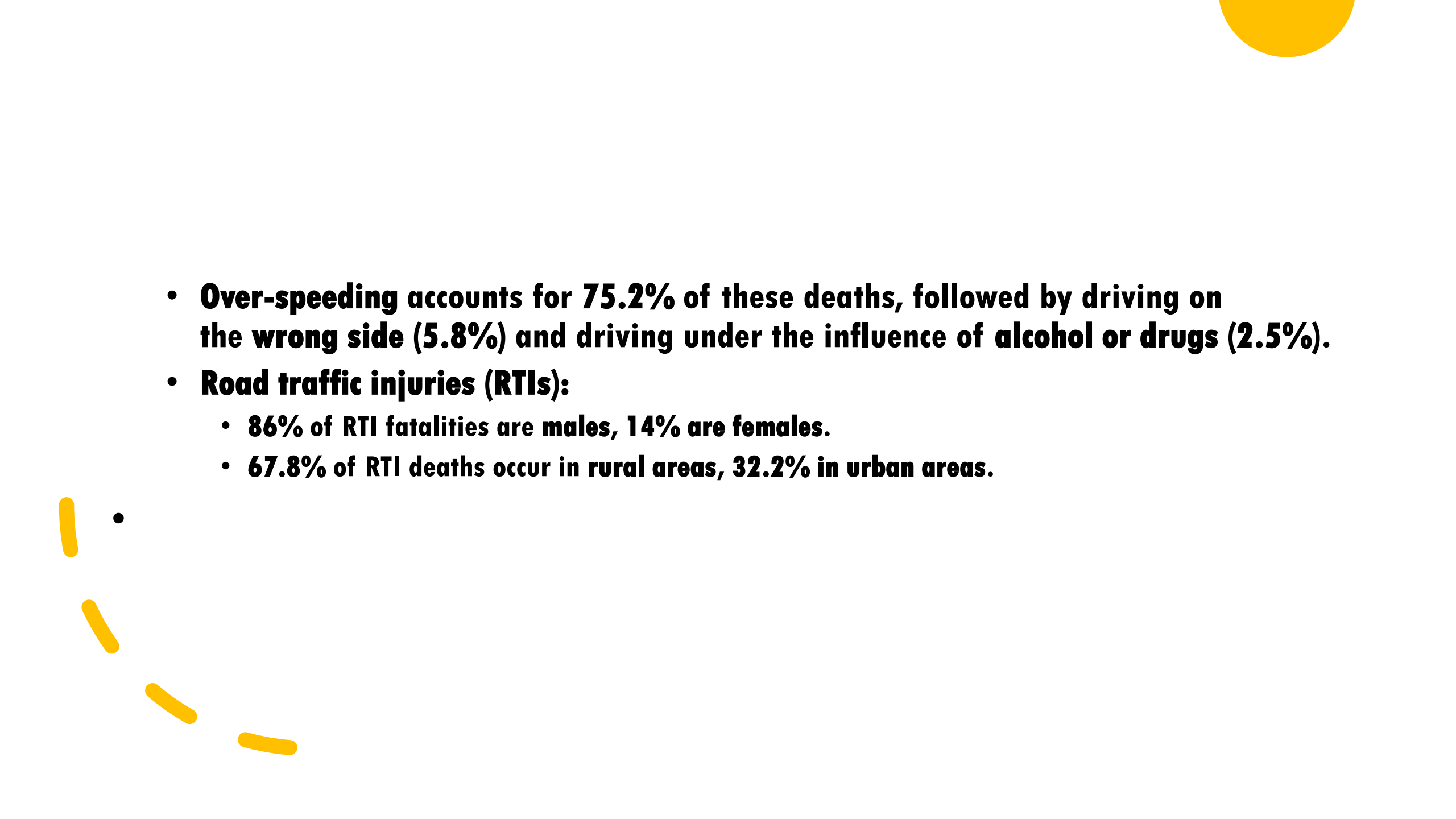
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- **The report identifies pedestrians, cyclists, and motorised two-wheeler riders as the most vulnerable road users, while trucks are responsible for the highest proportion of impacting vehicles.**
 - **Despite the life-saving potential of helmet usage, more than 50% of motorised two-wheeler riders wear helmets in only seven states.**



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- **Basic road safety measures such as traffic calming, road markings, and signage remain insufficient in most states, while helmet usage in rural areas is particularly low, and trauma care facilities are inadequate.**
 - **The report underscores the need for tailored, state-specific strategies to address the diverse road safety challenges across India.**
- 

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- **The report presents a comparison between India and developed countries such as Sweden and other Scandinavian nations, which have demonstrated exemplary road safety governance.**
 - **In 1990, the likelihood of an Indian dying in a road accident was 40% higher than in these nations; by 2021, this disparity had escalated to 600%, reflecting a significant surge in road fatalities in India.**
- 

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- **Over-speeding accounts for 75.2% of these deaths, followed by driving on the wrong side (5.8%) and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (2.5%).**
 - **Road traffic injuries (RTIs):**
 - **86% of RTI fatalities are males, 14% are females.**
 - **67.8% of RTI deaths occur in rural areas, 32.2% in urban areas.**

- 
- **The Supreme Court of India had set up the three-member Justice K.S. Radhakrishnan panel on road safety in April 2014 which recommended the ban on the sale of alcohol on highways to restrain drunk driving.**
 - **It also directed states to implement laws on wearing helmets.**
 - **The committee stressed the importance of creating awareness among people on road safety rules.**
- 



Telangana unveils AI City project

- **The AI City will serve as a hub for research, development, and application, driving pioneering advancements in the field of Artificial Intelligence.**
 - **Additionally, an AI School will be established within the city to cultivate expertise and foster education in AI.**



- The government will partner with the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), a global research center, to establish an AI Research Lab, which will leverage AI to enhance governance services and processes.



Artificial Intelligence(AI)

AI is the simulation of human intelligence in machines programmed to think and learn like humans, capable of problem-solving, reasoning, and adapting to new information.

AI Timeline - Major Milestones

- 1950s** Turing Test Proposed; First AI Programs Developed
- 1956** Dartmouth Conference Coins "Artificial Intelligence"
- 1960s** Eliza Chatbot Created; Early Neural Networks Emerge
- 1996** Deep Blue - a Chess-Playing Program
- 2012** Deep Learning Breakthrough in Image Recognition
- 2014** Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) Introduced
- 2020** GPT-3 Demonstrates Advanced Language Generation
- 2022** Chatgpt Launches, Bringing Conversational AI to Masses
- 2023** Generative AI Boom; Major Tech Companies Release AI Models



Applications of AI

- ↳ **Healthcare:** Personalised medicine
- ↳ **Finance:** Algorithmic trading
- ↳ **Transportation:** Autonomous vehicles
- ↳ **Marketing & Customer Service:** Targeted advertising, chatbots
- ↳ **Education:** Adaptive learning systems, personalised tutoring
- ↳ **Agriculture:** Crop monitoring
- ↳ **Cybersecurity:** Threat detection
- ↳ **Energy:** Smart grid management, consumption forecasting

Concerns

- ↳ Deepfakes & misinformation
- ↳ Algorithmic bias
- ↳ Automation & job displacement
- ↳ Privacy issues
- ↳ Data ownership & liability issue
- ↳ Ethical decision-making complexes

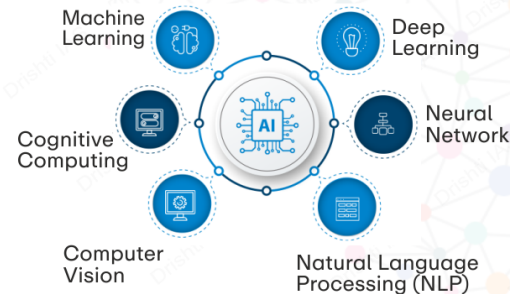
Regulating AI

- ↳ **Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)** launched in 2020
- ↳ **Bletchley Declaration (2023):** Enhance Global Collaboration on AI
- ↳ **G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (2023):** Harnessing AI responsibly for good and for all
- ↳ **Hiroshima AI Process (2023)** by G7

India and AI

- ↳ **National Strategy For AI 2018**
- ↳ **AI For All:** Self-learning online program
- ↳ **GPAI Summit 2023** hosted by India
- ↳ **IndiaAI Mission 2024**
- ↳ **US India Artificial Intelligence (USIAI) Initiative:** AI cooperation in critical areas
- ↳ **AIRAWAT** (AI Research, Analytics and Knowledge Assimilation Platform): Supercomputer

KEY COMPONENTS OF AI



Word of the day

Prescient:

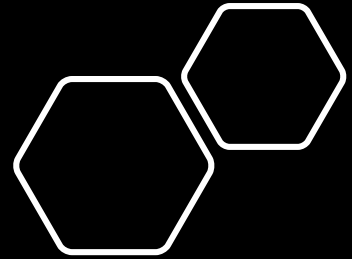
perceiving the significance of events before they occur

Usage: *His prediction looks even more prescient since the surge in oil prices.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/prescientpro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ˈpɹɛsɪənt/



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• LIVE DOUBT SESSION



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

Thank you
guys.
