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—TINA FEY
BOSSYPANTS

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RAHUL'S TAKE
'Cong. will redesign GST if voted to power'
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INSIDE

Pakistan PM likens Kashmir to Palestine

UNITED NATIONS
Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif strongly criticised Indian government actions in Kashmir, drawing a parallel between Jammu and Kashmir and Palestine, at the UN meet. » PAGE 3

'Illegal to name peak after the sixth Dalai Lama'

NEW DELHI
Reacting to the naming of a peak in Arunachal Pradesh by a mountaineering team after the sixth Dalai Lama, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said it was "illegal, and null and void for India to set up the so-called 'Arunachal Pradesh' in 'Chinese' territory." » PAGE 3

Extended range rockets on Indian Army wish list

NEW DELHI
Building on the lessons from the Ukraine war and the offensive by Israel in Gaza, the Indian Army is exploring the acquisition of extended range rockets. It is also looking at futuristic armaments, a senior officer said. » PAGE 5

Netanyahu vows no let-up in war with Hezbollah

JERUSALEM
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to keep striking Hezbollah as long as it "until victory" against Hamas, in an address to world leaders on Friday that defied calls for ceasefires in Lebanon and Gaza. » PAGE 12

SC raps air quality panel over failure to curb Delhi's pollution

Court accuses Commission of non-compliance with the law, says its actions must translate into actual reduction of pollution; CAQM says it has taken steps to address stubble-burning; SC asks panel to file a status report by October 3

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday questioned the effectiveness of the Commission for Air Quality Management's (CAQM) interventions to curb pollution, saying that its directions only have a temporary impact on violators.

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Improving trend
At that time, the CAQM submitted a report in the court claiming that the "overall air quality in Delhi-NCR has shown an improving trend since the inception of the Commission."

"The key parameters for daily average air quality for Delhi for the period between January-September, 2023 have been the best in 2023 as compared to the corresponding periods from 2017 to 2022 (during the periods of very low anthropogenic, industrial and commercial activities during the COVID-affected year 2020, owing to complete lockdowns), the report had said.

STAYING THE COURSE
» PAGE 6

Brisk business



Mediterranean Shipping Company's Arma, one of the largest container ships in the world, berthed at the Vithinjiam International Seaport in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. The port has been a beehive of activity in the past month. SIPHUC/ANANDKISHORE

Lokayukta police register FIR against Karnataka CM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Following a Bengaluru court's directive, the Lokayukta police here on Friday registered an FIR against Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his wife, and two others over the alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

The FIR names Mr. Siddaramaiah and his wife as number 1 and his wife as accused number 2.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 3

Jagan cancels Tirumala visit amid tension over laddu row

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUMALA

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy cancelled his visit to Tirumala, the abode of Lord Venkateswara, scheduled for Friday.

Following the decision, the tension that had built up in the temple town over his proposed visit dissipated, helping the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) administration and the district police heave a sigh of relief.

'False narratives'
Mr. Reddy had planned the visit as part of his 'Papa Prakeshalana' to seek atonement for the alleged sins committed by Chief Minis-



Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy

was gripped in tension as several leaders and spiritual organisations vowed to oppose his visit and demanded that he sign the mandatory declaration form (meant for the pilgrims belonging to other faiths) that he had faith in Lord Venkateswara.

Prohibitory orders under Section 30 of the Police Act were promulgated in the town.

Addressing a press conference near Vijayawada later, Mr. Reddy said there were no buyers for Mr. Naidu's repeated allegations that adulterated ghee was used in the preparation of laddu prasadam at Tirumala. Hence he raked up the faith declaration issue, he said.

Prohibitory orders
The Tirupati town's threshold to the hill town,

One shot dead, five arrested as T.N. police nab gang involved in three ATM burglaries in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
NAMAKKAL/ROCHI

A 40-year-old driver of a five-member gang allegedly involved in three ATM burglaries in Kerala was gunned down by the Tamil Nadu Police in Namakkal district on Friday.

The gang members were arrested after a chase. All the accused fled into the ATM kiosks of a nationalised bank. In quick succession in Thrissur, Kerala, in the early hours of Friday, the gang, infamous for using gas cutters to break into ATMs, allegedly escaped with the looted cash in a car and headed



Crime trail: Forensic experts gather evidence from a truck used by the gang, in Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu. E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

towards Tamil Nadu in a container truck. The car used for the burglary was concealed in the truck. The Kerala Police then alerted the Tamil Nadu Police about the truck.

"From the very first look at the crime scene, we had a hunch that the 'gas cutter

nur as well. We issued alerts to police chiefs of bordering districts, especially Krishnagiri, Erode, and Namakkal (on Tamil Nadu), to look out for suspicious-looking cars and spectators sustained injuries. The police, in retaliation, opened fire, in which the truck driver, human was killed.

The police found the car in the truck and arrested the five gang members - S. Irfan, S. Sabir Khan, S. Shoukhan, B. Mubarak Addi, and A. Mohammed Iqbal. Bundles of cash were recovered from the car and the total amount could be discerned only after counting, which would take place once legal formalities were completed.

Stalin meets Modi, seeks more funds

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin greets Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the latter's office in New Delhi on Friday.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Friday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi and submitted a memorandum of three demands - approval for 50:50 equity partnership by the Union and Tamil Nadu governments in the implementation of Chennai Metro Rail Phase-II, release of funds under Samagra Shiksha, and securing the traditional fishing rights of Indian fishermen.

The Metro Rail project has slowed owing to constraints faced under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, Mr. Stalin said, adding that expenditure had been limited to ₹8,000 crore. Hence, the commissioning of various stages was being delayed by nearly a year and completion date was pushed from 2027 to 2028.

For Phase-II, Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) must secure a principal debt of ₹3,593 crore and a subordinate debt of ₹17,414 crore.

Without a corresponding equity contribution, an unfavourable debt-to-equity ratio would make CMRL unsustainable. If the project received funding as recommended by the Public Investment Board, CMRL would get ₹10,81.5 crore in equity. However, this being a state-sector project, this equity infusion by the State government alone is not possible as it will affect the company's ownership structure. Equal equity participation

by both governments is, therefore, necessary," Mr. Stalin said.

Funds not released
The Project Approval Board for Samagra Shiksha had approved an outlay of ₹4,305.66 crore for 2024-25, with a committed liability of ₹3,585.99 crore, for Tamil Nadu. Of this, the Centre's 60% share amounted to ₹2,151.59 crore, Mr. Stalin said. Despite the proposal for the release of the first instalment (25%) having been sent on April 30 by the State Project Directorate, no amount had been released so far, he added.

As for the Union government's position urging all States to establish schools under the PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) and formalise a Memorandum of Understanding, Mr. Stalin pointed out that one of the clauses said the States would implement all the provisions of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, in their entirety. Tamil Nadu's concern regarding NEP mainly related to the three-language formula put forth in clause 4.12 of the policy, he said. "Historically, Tamil Nadu has been following the two-language formula (Tamil and English) to protect the State's cultural identity and to ensure students' proficiency in global languages."

Mr. Stalin also called on the chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party, Sonia Gandhi, on Friday, DMK MPs T.R. Baalu and Karimnathi were present at the meeting.

SC raps air quality panel over failure to curb Delhi's pollution

Court accuses Commission of non-compliance with the law, says its actions must translate into actual reduction of pollution; CAQM says it has taken steps to address stubble-burning; SC asks panel to file a status report by October 3

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

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Pollution hearings are gathering steam in the top court, with sightings of stubble-burning reported in the areas neighbouring Delhi, along with the approaching winter season.

The court referred to specific provisions under the Commission for Air Quality Management in the



Burning issue: SC had last year directed governments to ensure stubble-burning was stopped immediately.

National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021, which provide teeth to the CAQM.

"There has been total non-compliance of the Act. Please show us a single direction issued to any stakeholder under the Act... We are of the view that though the Commission has taken

steps, it needs to be more active. The Commission must ensure that its efforts and directions issued actually translate into reducing the problem of pollution," the Bench observed.

'Marked difference'

The CAQM, represented by Additional Solicitor Gener-

al Aishwarya Bhati, responded that the interventions of the Commission have made a marked difference to pollution caused by stubble-burning. CAQM chairperson Rajesh Verma, who was present via video conference, said that the Commission has been holding meetings with stakeholders and States.

The court directed the CAQM to file a status report by the next hearing on October 3.

On September 24, the court had sought a report from CAQM on incidents of stubble-burning and action taken against the violators.

Last November, the Supreme Court had directed the State governments of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Delhi to ensure that stubble-burning was "forthwith" stopped as an immediate measure to protect

the lives and health of people.

Improving trend

At that time, the CAQM submitted a report in the court claiming that the "overall air quality in Delhi-NCR has witnessed an improving trend since the inception of the Commission".

"The key parameters for daily average air quality for Delhi for the period between January-September, 2023 have been the best in 2023 as compared to the corresponding periods from 2018 to 2022 (barring the periods of very low anthropogenic, industrial and commercial activities during the COVID-affected year 2020, owing to complete lockdowns)," the report had said.

STAYING THE COURSE


» PAGE 6

- **SC Raps Air Quality Panel**

- The Supreme Court criticized the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) for not effectively curbing Delhi's pollution, saying its measures have only a temporary effect.
- सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने दिल्ली की प्रदूषण समस्या पर प्रभावी रूप से रोक न लगाने के लिए वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग (CAQM) की आलोचना की और कहा कि इसके उपाय केवल अस्थायी प्रभाव डालते हैं।



- **Temporary Impact**



- The court remarked that CAQM's directions, like pollution, are "in the air," meaning they are not followed thoroughly.
 - अदालत ने टिप्पणी की कि CAQM के निर्देश भी "हवा में" हैं, जिसका अर्थ है कि उनका पूरी तरह पालन नहीं किया जा रहा है।
- 

- **Non-compliance of Law**
- Justice Oka mentioned the non-compliance of laws related to pollution control, particularly in the case of stubble-burning in neighboring states.
- न्यायमूर्ति ओका ने विशेष रूप से पड़ोसी राज्यों में पराली जलाने के मामले में प्रदूषण नियंत्रण से संबंधित कानूनों के अनुपालन न होने की बात कही।



- **Status Report Requested**
- The Supreme Court has asked CAQM to submit a status report on its actions to curb stubble-burning by October 3.
- सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने CAQM से 3 अक्टूबर तक पराली जलाने पर काबू पाने के लिए उठाए गए कदमों पर स्थिति रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने को कहा है।



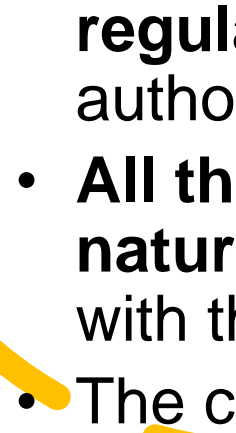
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- **About Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM):**
 - The CAQM is a **statutory body** established under the **Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas, Act 2021**.
 - **Mandate:** Better coordination, **research, identification, and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality index** and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- 

- It undertakes action for **the prevention and control of Air pollution in Delhi-NCR & Adjoining Areas** which impacts the air quality of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.
- The Commission is required to **coordinate its actions on monitoring of air quality with the government of Delhi and the adjoining states**, which includes Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.
-





- **Powers:**

- **Restricting activities** influencing air quality.
 - **Investigating and conducting research** related to environmental pollution impacting air quality, preparing codes and guidelines to prevent and control air pollution,
 - **Issuing directions** on matters including **inspections, or regulations**, which will be binding on the concerned person or authority.
 - **All the directions** and orders by the Commission **are of binding nature**, and any person, officer, or authority shall be bound to comply with the same.
 - The commission is **directly accountable to the parliament.**
- 

- **Composition:**

- **Chairperson:** To be chaired by a **government official of the rank of Secretary** or Chief Secretary. He will hold the post for three years or until s/he attains the age of 70 years.
- It will also have five **ex officio members** who are **either Chief Secretaries** or Secretaries in charge of the department dealing with environment protection in the **States of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.**
- Three full time technical members.
- Three **members from non-government organisations.**
- Technical members from **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**, Indian Space Research Organisation, and NITI Aayog

-

Naming Arunachal peak after the sixth Dalai Lama 'illegal, null and void': China

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Reacting to the naming of a mountain peak in Arunachal Pradesh by a mountaineering team after the sixth Dalai Lama, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said it was "illegal, and null and void for India to set up the so-called 'Arunachal Pradesh' in Chinese territory."

On Wednesday, the defence spokesperson in Guwahati announced the successful summit of a previously unnamed and unclimbed mountain peak located at 20,942 feet in Gorichen range of Arunachal Pradesh Himalayas on the Tawang-West Kameng region. "After overcoming immense challenges including sheer ice walls, treacherous crevasses, and a two-kilometre-long glacier, the team has immortalised the momentous feat by naming the peak Tsangyang Gyatso Peak in honour of His Holiness the 6th Dalai Lama Rigzen Tsangyang Gyatso," the spokesperson said.




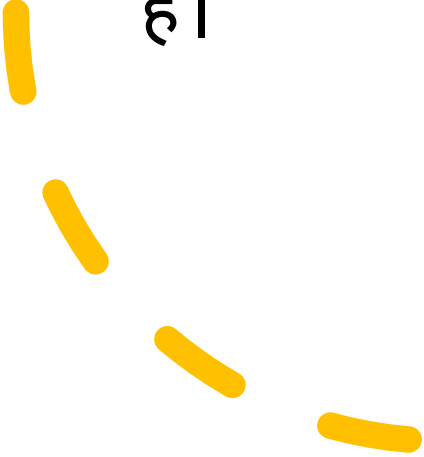
On a high: The NIMAS team on the 'Tsangyang Gyatso Peak' on September 21. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The accomplishment was achieved by a team from the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS). By naming this peak after him, NIMAS aims to pay tribute to his "timeless wisdom and his profound contributions to the Monpa community and beyond," the spokesperson said.

Responding to a question at a press conference, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said, "The area of Zangnan is Chinese territory, and it's

illegal, and null and void for India to set up the so-called 'Arunachal Pradesh' in Chinese territory. China's position on this issue is consistent and clear."

NIMAS has informed the Indian Mountaineering Foundation about the ascent and the decision to name the peak, the defence spokesperson said, "The necessary formalities for naming the peak are being completed to ensure that 'Tsangyang Gyatso Peak' is recognised on the official map."


- 
- **Naming of Arunachal Peak After Sixth Dalai Lama**
 - India named a mountain peak in Arunachal Pradesh after the 6th Dalai Lama, Tsangyang Gyatso, at an altitude of 20,942 feet.
 - भारत ने अरुणाचल प्रदेश में एक पर्वत चोटी का नाम छठे दलाई लामा त्संग्यांग ग्यात्सो के नाम पर रखा, जिसकी ऊंचाई 20,942 फीट है।
- 



- **NIMAS Team Achievement**

- The National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS) successfully scaled the previously unnamed peak in the Gorichen range.

- राष्ट्रीय पर्वतारोहण और साहसिक खेल संस्थान (NIMAS) ने पहले से बिना नाम वाली चोटी को गोरिचेन श्रृंखला में सफलतापूर्वक पार किया।



- **Tribute to Dalai Lama**

- The peak was named in tribute to the Dalai Lama's wisdom and contributions to the Monpa community.

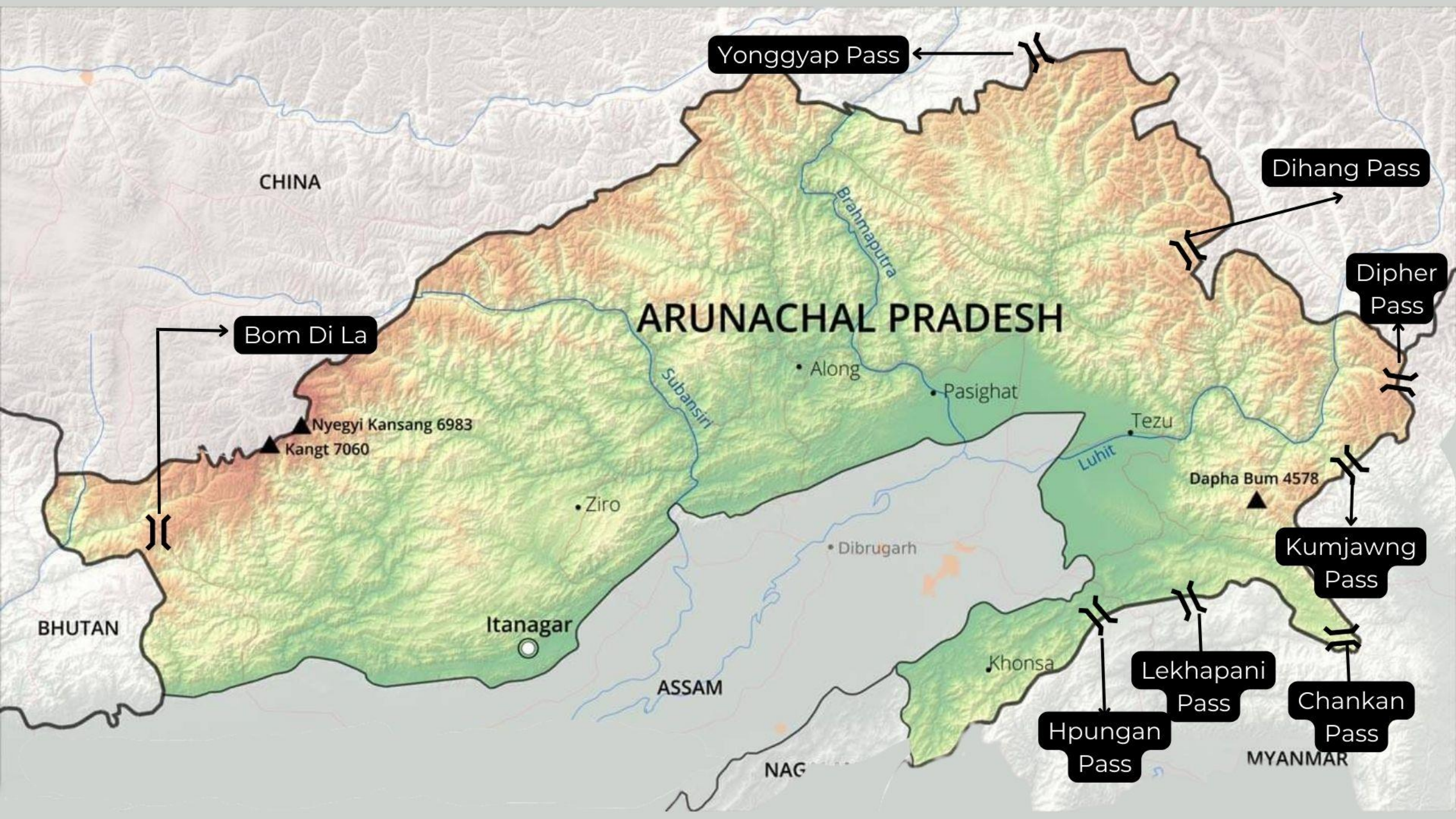
- इस चोटी का नाम दलाई लामा की बुद्धिमत्ता और मोनपा समुदाय में उनके योगदान के सम्मान में रखा गया है।

1. China's Reaction

1. The Chinese Foreign Ministry condemned the naming, calling it "illegal, null and void," stating that the area is part of China.
2. चीनी विदेश मंत्रालय ने इस नामकरण की निंदा की, इसे "अवैध, शून्य और निरर्थक" करार देते हुए कहा कि यह क्षेत्र चीन का हिस्सा है।

2. India's Stand

1. India continues to maintain its stance, and the Indian Mountaineering Foundation is completing formalities for the peak's recognition on official maps.
2. भारत अपनी स्थिति पर कायम है, और भारतीय पर्वतारोहण फाउंडेशन आधिकारिक मानचित्रों पर इस चोटी को मान्यता देने के लिए औपचारिकताएँ पूरी कर रहा है।



Yonggyap Pass

CHINA

Dihang Pass

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Dipher Pass

Bom Di La

• Along

• Pasighat

▲ Nyegyri Kansang 6983
▲ Kangt 7060

• Tezu

• Ziro

▲ Dapha Bum 4578

Kumjawng Pass

• Dibrugarh

BHUTAN

Itanagar

ASSAM

• Khonsa

Lekhapani Pass

Chankan Pass

Hpungan Pass

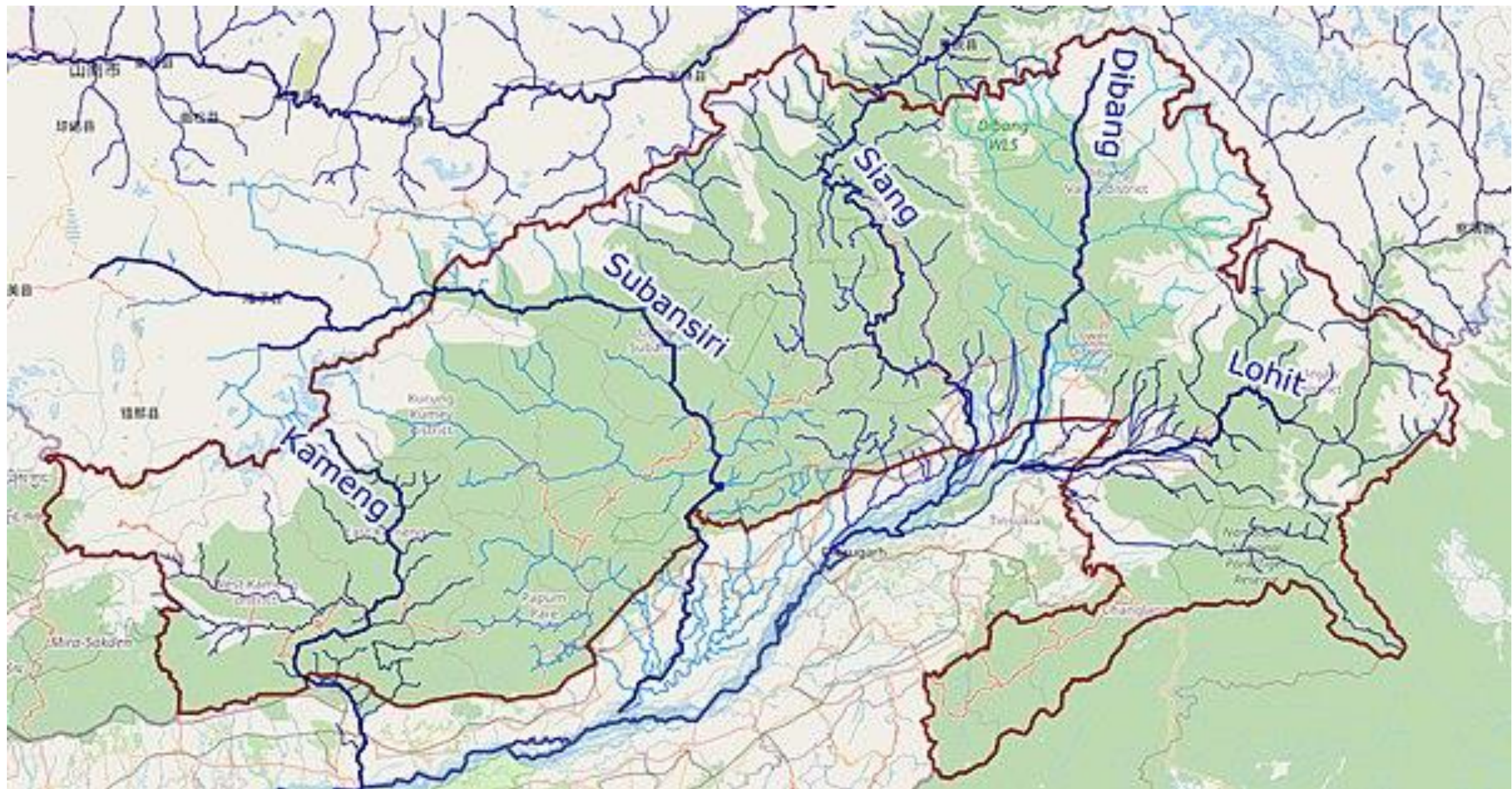
NAGALAND

MYANMAR

Major Mountains and the

<i>Mountain name</i>	Peak
Kangto #	7,089 metres (23,258 ft)
Nyegyí Kansang #	7,047 metres (23,120 ft)
Chumo #	6,890 metres (22,600 ft)
Tapka Shiri # **	6,565 metres (21,539 ft)
Gori Chen	6,530 metres (21,420 ft)
Shalundi	4,810 metres (15,780 ft)
Dapha Bum	4,578 metres (15,020 ft)
Komdi	4,185 metres (13,730 ft)
Vorjing	3,991 metres (13,094 ft)
Ladu	3,041 metres (9,977 ft)







IN BRIEF

Textile sector to create 6 cr jobs by 2030, says Minister

Union Minister of Textiles Girraj Singh said here on Friday that the industry will grow to \$350 billion by 2030, generating a total of 4.5 crore to 6 crore jobs across the world. Talking to exporters on 100 days' achievements of his Ministry, he said the push for silk production will provide employment to farmers. He also launched the Eri Sericulture Promotional Project launched in Gujarat will be expanded across the country. He said the Pradhan Mantri Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM-MITRA) parks, with an investment of ₹70,000 crore, is expected to create 21 lakh jobs.

Passengers suffer injuries as stones thrown at train in Bihar

A few passengers suffered minor injuries when stones were thrown at the Swatantra Senani Express in Saran district of Bihar on Thursday when the train was on its way from Jaipur to Delhi. The incident caused panic among passengers. The window panes of the pantry car and two coaches next to it were damaged. Around 9.30 p.m. when the train was passing the Samastipur station, stones were thrown at it. Following the incident, the train was delayed for 45 minutes. The State Railway Police took a person in custody, who was found to be "mentally disturbed", upon interrogation.

BrahMos Aerospace to have job quota for Agniveers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In what is among the few firm notifications by a company, BrahMos Aerospace Private Ltd. has announced reservation for Agniveers in the organisation. It announced reservation for recruitment of Agniveers for at least 15% of the vacancies in the organisation. The reservation is for multi-polarity and administration vacancies at its work centres. There is also reservation for administrative vacancies for security and administrative functions at work centres, where it has outsourced such tasks. The soldiers coming out of Agnipath scheme are well-trained, qualified, disciplined and motivated through rigorous selection and training process. If recruited in BrahMos, in their respective fields will be assigned to the organisation, the company said.

BRICS significant for multipolarity, global diversity: Jaishankar

Sriram Lakshman
NEW YORK

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with his BRICS counterparts to affirm his role in a multipolar world. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). "Underlined its significance for multi-polarity and global diversity," Mr. Jaishankar said on social media site. The group focused on reforming multilateralism

Long-range rockets, futuristic ammunition on Army wishlist

Taking lessons from Ukraine war, it is looking at extending the range of Pinaka rockets; it wants to diversify its vendor base, especially for 155 mm artillery shells, to build resilient supply chains

Dinakar Perli
NEW DELHI

Building on the lessons from the Ukraine war and the offensive by Israel in Gaza, the Indian Army is going for extended range rockets, which have proven to be decisive, and indigenous and diversifying its vendor base, especially for 155mm artillery shells, to build resilient supply chains. It is also going for futuristic ammunition, a senior officer said.

The indigenous Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launch system is being widely exploited and their ability is second to none. Lt. Gen. Adosh Kumar, Director-General of the Regiment of Artillery, said speaking to the media ahead of the Regiment's 158th raising day on Saturday. "A lot of work is going on, first to double and then to almost (make it) four times of the present range. The Defence Research and Development Organisation is confident of achieving it."

Last year, the Defence



The Pinaka rocket launch system during the Republic Day parade in New Delhi. (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE INDIAN ARMY)

Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of the Pralay tactical ballistic missile with a range of 400 km and Nirbhay subsonic cruise missiles with a range of 1,000 km, both of which will give a long-range strike option to the Indian military.

The development trials of the Pralay are almost over, the officer said. The trials for Nirbhay are on and in April it was tested with an indigenous engine. It is expected to be given to the Army for trials next year. "The other aspect is that the Pinaka can fire a variety of ammunition and that is where its efficacy is the

battlefield comes in, the officer noted.

Trials on guided extended range Pinaka rockets, High altitude are already done, trials in the plains are scheduled for next month. If the trials are successful, we hope to complete them by October, the officer said.

The trials of one of the types are over and the contract is expected to be signed this fiscal, while for other types, the work is on and the DRDO has identified contractors, the officer said. The rocket system was successfully flight-tested by the DRDO and the Army first in April 2022.

The war in Ukraine is in its third year and has shattered the perception that wars will be short and swift, Lt. Gen. Kumar said.

ly rocket system), which the U.S. has supplied to Ukraine, and similar systems are also guided rockets, officials observed.

For artillery guns, the Army has already drawn a road map to convert all its guns to self-propelled. Another ammunition is the high explosive pre-fragmented rockets for Pinaka which will increase the range by 15%-20%.

The trials are over, and the contract is expected to be signed this fiscal, Lt. Gen. Kumar noted.

The area denial munition (ADM) system which can be anti-tank and anti-aircraft is under development.

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EY affiliate released dues only after outrage: mother of deceased staffer

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit

The mother of Anna Sebastian, Perayal, the 36-year-old Pune-based employee of EY member firm, said according to her heart ache, she said the company did not place on the full and final settlement of her daughter for more than two months, and contest the information given by SRBC to the Maharashtra labour department.

The company had told the department that Anna was given compensatory offer. "Anna did not get any compensation, any comp off or weekend off. Unlike what the company has said, Anna worked till July 20 and not till July 19," she said.

Ms. Anita said her daughter's offer letter stated that "in case of an unfortunate demise, EY will pay three times of the last

remuneration for extra work. It said the employees are given comp off for extra work hours. As per preliminary information, Anna was given comp off."

Recently, Maharashtra's Labour Department had inspected the EY affiliate office in Pune.

drawn CTC (cost to company), but the family received the amount following the media glare and outrage.

Anna's CTC was ₹9.5 lakh. "Three times the amount is ₹28.5 lakh. We received this amount only after the media attention. We were given the money on September 18," she said.

The department told the *Hindu* that "SRBC had deposited ₹28.5 lakh to the court for the period from March 11, 2024, to July 19, 2024. The company said it provided double re-

muneration but a provision for the death of an employee."

The letter stated that if the employee had children, their education will be supported. Also, if the employee has spouse, the company will help in providing employment. These are the death condition benefits. The company conditions didn't apply to Anna. But we want to say that there was no overtime or compensation. We have her payslips. There was no stated that there was no overtime or compensation," she said.

Ms. Anita said that Anna worked every weekend, and that she logged into her laptop on weekends as well. "She had come to Kolkata twice. Both times, she flew in on Saturday morning and left on Sunday morning. She would open her laptop and sit and work. She always said that she worked 'no off', she said.

Giving details about the offer letter, Ms. Anita said the amount received "is

Class 2 boy killed in U.P. as sacrifice for 'school's prosperity'

Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

A Class 2 student was killed as part of an alleged "sacrificial ritual" performed by the owners of a school in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh to make it more "prosperous", the police said on Friday.

For artillery guns, the Army has already drawn a road map to convert all its guns to self-propelled. Another ammunition is the high explosive pre-fragmented rockets for Pinaka which will increase the range by 15%-20%.

The trials are over, and the contract is expected to be signed this fiscal, Lt. Gen. Kumar noted.

The area denial munition (ADM) system which can be anti-tank and anti-aircraft is under development.

The trials of one of the types are over and the contract is expected to be signed this fiscal, while for other types, the work is on and the DRDO has identified contractors, the officer said.

'Rust, weak structure led to collapse of Shivaji statue'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

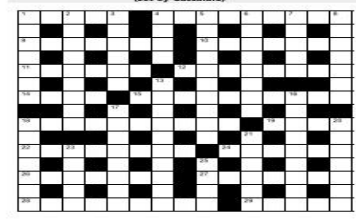
Internal corrosion, rusting, and weak structure of the Shivaji statue in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg, a public opinion of several officers, domain experts, and government officials said. The 16-page report was submitted to the State government at New Delhi.

The committee has submitted its report. It has stated that the statue is not done properly. There were issues with the maintenance," an official told *The Hindu*. The committee looked at several factors during its visit to the location.

A case has been registered by the Sindhudurg police against the sculptor and the structural consultant. The police have arrested Jaideep Deshpande, the sculptor, in the matter.

Even after slaying Prahlada's father, Hiranyakasipu, the Lord's God did not subside. Prahlada, the Godly devotee, asked the child devotee Prahlada to be alone could calm down the Lord. Prahlada pleaded and prayed for the welfare of people all around the world.

THI CROSSWORD+ 14292
(set by Gussulufz)



- Across**
- 1 Police raids? They're no good (5)
 - 4 My boss is upset! concealed relationship (9)
 - 5 Rock formations signal river rises regularly (7)
 - 6 Find concentration of energy after removing sex (7)
 - 11 Weary about commercial? Bam! (6)
 - 12 Even fancy tequila lacks it, somehow (5)
 - 13 Extremely soupy egg, soft-boiled without solidifying at the core (8)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Long-range rockets, futuristic ammunition on Army wish list

Taking lessons from Ukraine war, it is looking at extending the range of Pinaka rockets; it wants to diversify its vendor base, especially for 155 mm artillery shells, to build resilient supply chains

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Building on the lessons from the Ukraine war and the offensive by Israel in Gaza, the Indian Army is going for extended range rockets, which have proven to be decisive, and indigenising and diversifying the vendor base, especially for 155mm artillery shells, to build resilient supply chains. It is also going for futuristic ammunition, a senior officer said.

The indigenous Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launch system is being widely exploited and their ability is second to none, Lt. Gen. Adosh Kumar, Director-General of the Regiment of Artillery, said speaking to the media ahead of the Regiment's 198th raising day on Saturday.

"We are looking at extending range of the Pinaka rockets and lot of work is going on, first to double and then to almost [make it] four times the present range. The Defence Research and Development Organisation is confident of achieving it."

Last year, the Defence



The Pinaka rocket launch system during the Republic Day parade in New Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of the Pralay tactical ballistic missiles with a range of 400 km and Nirbhay subsonic cruise missiles with a range of 1,000 km, both of which will give a long-range strike option to the Indian military.

The development trials of Pralay are almost over, the officer said. The trials for Nirbhay are on and in April it was tested with an indigenous engine. It is expected to be given to the Army for trials next year.

The other aspect is that the Pinaka can fire a variety of ammunition and that is where its efficacy in the

battlefield comes in, the officer noted.

Trials on

"Trials are currently on for guided extended range Pinaka rockets. High altitude are already done, trials in the plains are scheduled next month. If the trials are successful, we hope to conclude the deal soon and that will double present range of Pinaka. And they are also guided which means their precision will automatically improve."

As reported earlier, the guided ER rockets will take the range of Pinaka to 75 km and beyond. The HIMARS (high-mobility artil-

lery rocket system), which the U.S. has supplied to Ukraine, and similar systems also use guided rockets, officials observed.

For artillery guns, the Army has already drawn a road map to convert all its guns to 155 mm standard. Another ammunition is the high explosive pre-fragmented rockets for Pinaka which will increase the range by 15%-20%.

The trials are over, and the contract is expected to be signed this fiscal, Lt. Gen. Kumar noted.

The area denial munition (ADM) system which can be anti-tank and anti-personnel is also under development.


The trials of one of the types are over and the contract is expected to be signed this fiscal, while for other types, the work is on and the DRDO has identified production partners, the officer said.

The ADM rocket system was successfully flight-tested by the DRDO and the Army first in April 2022.

The war in Ukraine is in its third year and has shattered perception that wars will be short and swift, Lt. Gen. Kumar said.



- **Indian Army's Expansion Plans**

- The Indian Army is looking to extend the range of its Pinaka rockets, learning lessons from the Ukraine war.
 - भारतीय सेना अपने पिनाका रॉकेटों की रेंज बढ़ाने पर विचार कर रही है, यूक्रेन युद्ध से सीख लेते हुए।
- 



- **Diversifying Supply Chains**

- The army is focusing on diversifying its vendor base, especially for 155 mm artillery shells, to build resilient supply chains.


- सेना विशेष रूप से 155 मिमी तोपों के गोले के लिए अपने आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं को मजबूत करने के लिए विक्रेताओं का आधार विविधतापूर्ण बना रही है।



- **Acquisition of Advanced Rockets and Ammunition**

- The Defense Acquisition Council approved procurement of Pralay tactical ballistic missiles and Nirbhay cruise missiles with long-range capabilities.

- रक्षा अधिग्रहण परिषद ने प्रलय सामरिक बैलिस्टिक मिसाइलों और निर्भय क्रूज मिसाइलों की खरीद को मंजूरी दी है, जो लंबी दूरी की क्षमताओं से लैस हैं।






- **Pinaka Rocket Development**

- The development trials for extending the Pinaka rocket range are ongoing, aiming to double and eventually quadruple the range.

- पिनाका रॉकेट रेंज को बढ़ाने के लिए विकास परीक्षण जारी हैं, जिसमें इसे पहले दोगुना और बाद में चार गुना करने की योजना है।



1. Futuristic Ammunition





1. The Army is focusing on futuristic ammunition like guided extended-range rockets and dual munition systems (ADM), which can target both tanks and aircraft.
2. सेना उन्नत आयुध जैसे कि मार्गदर्शित विस्तारित-रेंज रॉकेट और द्वैध गोला-बारूद प्रणाली (ADM) पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रही है, जो टैंकों और विमानों दोनों को निशाना बना सकती है।

2. Learning from Global Conflicts

1. The war in Ukraine has shown the importance of long-range, precise weapons, and the Indian Army aims to implement these lessons.
2. यूक्रेन युद्ध ने लंबी दूरी के, सटीक हथियारों के महत्व को प्रदर्शित किया है, और भारतीय सेना इन सीखों को लागू करने की योजना बना रही है।

- 
- **What is the Indian Army's key focus in its modernization plan, as mentioned in the article?**

लेख के अनुसार, भारतीय सेना की आधुनिकीकरण योजना में मुख्य ध्यान किस पर केंद्रित है?

1. Upgrading infantry weapons
 2. Extending the range of Pinaka rockets and acquiring futuristic ammunition
 3. Increasing the number of soldiers
 4. Developing naval capabilities
- 
- 
- 
- 

● SURPRISE OUTCOME PROMPTS A RALLY IN YEN

'Asian NATO' backer Ishiba to become new Japan PM

ALASTAIR GALE
& YUKI HAGIWARA
September 27

JAPAN'S RULING PARTY picked Shigeru Ishiba as its next leader, positioning an advocate of an "Asian NATO" to become prime minister in a surprise result that jolted the yen.

Ishiba, a 67-year-old party veteran who has served in several senior roles including defence minister, favours ramping up security arrangements in the region, an idea that risks further inflaming tensions with China.

"What do we mean by an Asian NATO? The essence of collective security becomes obligatory," he said during a post-victory press conference. "The right of collective self-defence is, as the word indicates, a right."

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) chose Ishiba over Sanae Takaichi, whose signature policies include opposing Bank of Japan (BoJ) rate hikes. Takaichi was favoured to win, and the surprise outcome prompted a rally in Japan's currency as traders foresaw the BoJ staying on course to normalise policy — a campaign that Ishiba has supported.

The yen strengthened more than 1% to as much as 142.8 against the dollar, unwinding several days of declines on speculation over a Takaichi victory. The currency has been closely watched by international investors after a rapid unwind

FIFTH TIME LUCKY



WHAT DO WE MEAN BY AN ASIAN NATO? THE ESSENCE OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY BECOMES OBLIGATORY

SHIGERU ISHIBA,
INCOMING PM, JAPAN

■ Ishiba, who also served as agriculture minister, promises to move some ministries and agencies out of Tokyo to help revive Japan's moribund regions

■ The 67-year-old's successful bid after four attempts puts him at the helm of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party

■ The former defence minister narrowly prevails over hardline nationalist Sanae Takaichi in an unpredictable race

■ He also criticised the US political backlash to Nippon Steel's bid for US Steel, saying it casts Japan as a national security risk

of yen carry trades roiled global markets in early August.

"Clearly, whatever doubts lawmakers had about Ishiba, they overcame them," said Tobias Harris, the founder of Japan Foresight LLC, a political risk advisory. "Maybe it's as simple as the fact that they know the broader public supports him."

Fraying ties with China emerged as a key theme late in the LDP election campaign period after the fatal stabbing earlier this month of a Japanese schoolboy in China. All of the

candidates called for a full investigation and demanded steps to protect Japanese citizens.

Tensions have also been inflamed after Chinese military aircraft made an unauthorised entry into Japanese airspace for the first time last month. And this week Japan reportedly sent a Maritime Self-Defence Force warship through the Taiwan Strait for the first time, a move all but certain to anger Beijing.

During the campaign, Ishiba emphasised the need to increase Japan's defence capa-

bilities and floated the idea of creating an Asian NATO-style collective security agreement to better deter aggression from countries like China and North Korea.


"Ishiba's main challenge is likely to be foreign policy, so we will have to wait and see how he does in that area," said Nobuyasu Atago, chief economist at Rakuten Securities Economic Research Institute. "I think that, for the time being, there will be no major shocks in terms of economic policy." —BLOOMBERG



- **Shigeru Ishiba Elected as Japan's Next Prime Minister**

- Japan's ruling party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), has selected Shigeru Ishiba as its new leader, and he is set to become the next Prime Minister.

- जापान की सत्तारूढ़ पार्टी, लिबरल डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी (LDP), ने शिगेरु इशिबा को अपना नया नेता चुना है, और वह जापान के अगले प्रधानमंत्री बनने वाले हैं।






- **Advocate of "Asian NATO"**


- Ishiba is a strong advocate for an "Asian NATO," emphasizing the importance of collective security arrangements in the region, which could strain relations with China.

- इशिबा "एशियाई नाटो" के समर्थक हैं और क्षेत्र में सामूहिक सुरक्षा व्यवस्था के महत्व पर जोर देते हैं, जिससे चीन के साथ तनाव बढ़ सकता है।






- **Political Background**

- Ishiba has served in several high-ranking roles, including defense and agriculture minister, and this is his fifth attempt to win leadership.
 - इशिबा ने रक्षा और कृषि मंत्री सहित कई उच्च पदों पर सेवा दी है, और यह उनका पांचवाँ प्रयास है नेतृत्व जीतने का।
- 




- **Economic Impact**

- The announcement of Ishiba's victory led to a rally in Japan's yen, strengthening it against the dollar as markets responded positively to his selection.
 - इशिबा की जीत की घोषणा के बाद जापानी येन में उछाल आया, और यह डॉलर के मुकाबले मजबूत हुआ क्योंकि बाजारों ने उनके चयन पर सकारात्मक प्रतिक्रिया दी।
- 



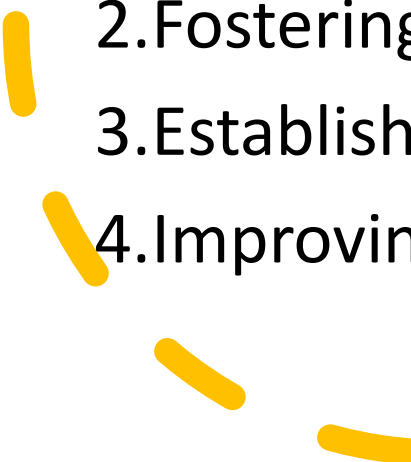
- **Foreign Policy and Relations**

- He also plans to increase Japan's defense capabilities and focus on creating collective security measures with regional allies to deter threats from China and North Korea.

- वह जापान की रक्षा क्षमताओं को बढ़ाने और क्षेत्रीय सहयोगियों के साथ सामूहिक सुरक्षा उपायों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने की योजना बना रहे हैं ताकि चीन और उत्तर कोरिया से खतरे को रोका जा सके।
- 

- 
- **What is Shigeru Ishiba's primary foreign policy focus as Japan's incoming Prime Minister?**

जापान के आने वाले प्रधानमंत्री शिगेरू इशिबा की प्राथमिक विदेशी नीति का मुख्य ध्यान क्या है?

1. Strengthening trade with the U.S.
 2. Fostering ties with Europe
 3. Establishing an "Asian NATO" and increasing defense capabilities
 4. Improving Japan's infrastructure
- 

India Water Week 2024

-
- Recently, the President of India inaugurated the 8th India Water Week (IWW) 2024 in New Delhi, under the aegis of the Ministry of Jal Shakti. This prestigious international forum has gained significance as a key platform for discussions and collaboration on water resource management.

-
- **Theme:**
 - **The theme of IWW 2024, 'Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management' highlighted the pivotal role of collaborative efforts across sectors and nations in tackling the escalating water challenges of the 21st century.**

-
- **Participants: Nations like Denmark, Israel, Australia, and Singapore presented their water-related innovations and experiences.**
 - **China and Bangladesh did not participate in the International Water Week events in India.**

-
- **What is the Current State of Water in India?**
 - **Water Scarcity: As of 2024, India has 18% of the world's population but only 4% of its freshwater resources, making it one of the most water-stressed countries globally .**
 - **Groundwater Depletion: Groundwater is crucial for 80% of drinking water and two-thirds of irrigation needs.**

- Water Pollution:

- Around 70% of India's water is contaminated, with nearly half of the country's rivers unsafe for drinking or irrigation. This makes India rank 120th out of 122 countries on a Global Water Quality Index 2024.


Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

-
- The second edition of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** seminar on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing was conducted at Naval War College, Goa.
 - **About Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**
 - **Formation:** Established in 1997, is a multilateral organization comprising 23 member countries from Africa, West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Australia.
 - IORA was inspired by a speech by Nelson Mandela in 1995, where he emphasized the need for cooperation among Indian Ocean states.

Aim: It focuses on fostering cooperation in the Indian Ocean region on issues like maritime safety, trade facilitation, fisheries management, disaster risk management, and climate change.



Membership: Comprises 23 member countries from Africa, West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Australia, all located around the Indian Ocean. These include countries like India, Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, UAE, and more.



Dialogue Partners: The IORA has 11 dialogue partners, including China, U.S., Japan, Germany, Russia, and Saudi Arabia.

**India is the World's
Third Largest
Producer and
Consumer of
Ethanol**

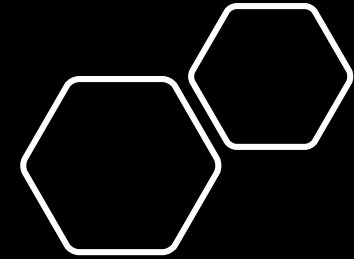
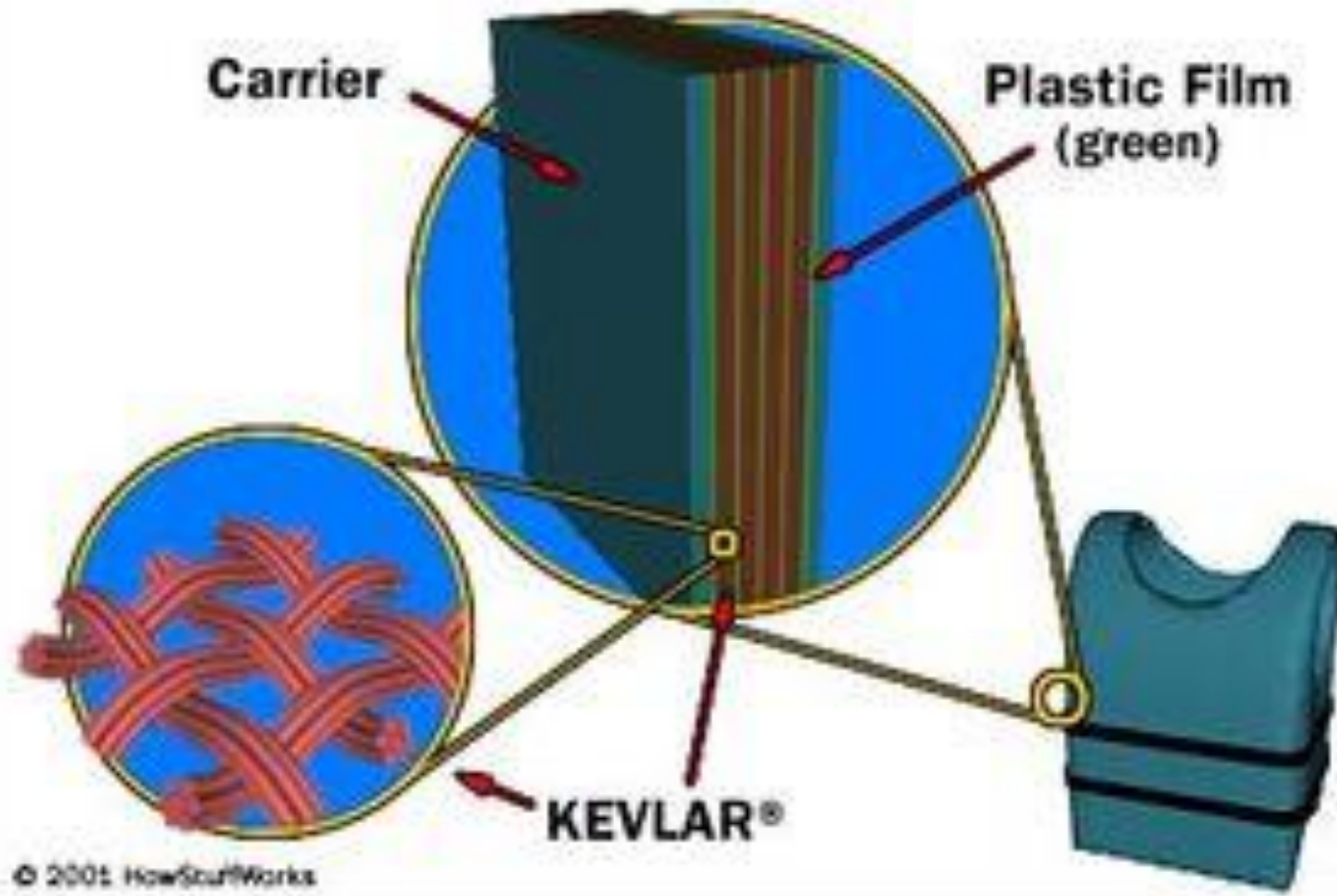
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- The Union Minister for Food and Public Distribution during the India Sugar & Bio Energy Conference said that India is now the world's third largest producer and consumer of Ethanol.
 - **About**
 - **During 2014-24, the area of sugarcane cultivation increased by about 18% while the sugarcane production has increased by 40%.**
 - Also India is the **second largest producer of sugarcane** after Brazil.

-
- **Steps taken to increase ethanol production**
 - **The Minimum Selling Price (MSP)** of sugar was introduced in **2018** to protect the interests of farmers and the sugar industry by the Centre.
 - **Bio-Refineries:** India is setting up multiple **second-generation ethanol biorefineries** to produce ethanol from agricultural waste.
 - For example, in **2022**, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) launched Asia's first 2G Ethanol Biorefinery in **Panipat, Haryana.**

-
- **Tax reduction:** The Government has **lowered the Goods and Services Tax** rate to **5% from 18%** on ethanol meant for blending under the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme.
 - **The National Policy on Biofuels-2018**, as amended in 2022, has identified various feedstocks for ethanol production, like C & B – Heavy Molasses, sugarcane juice, sugar containing materials, starch containing materials such as corn cassava, rotten potatoes etc.

ABHED

How Body Armor Works



- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with researchers from IIT Delhi, has developed the **ABHED bulletproof jacket**.
- **About ABHED**
- These are the **lightweight bulletproof jackets**.
- The jacket uses a combination of polymers and **boron carbide ceramic materials**, known for their high **strength-to-weight ratios**.
-

It is capable of withstanding high-velocity projectiles, enhancing soldier safety during combat.



ABHED's indigenous development strengthens India's defence capabilities and positions the country as a potential competitor in the global defence market.

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

Thank you
guys.
