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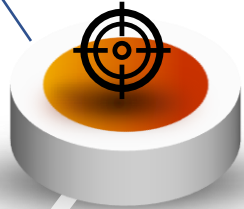
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DHAKA  
The International Crimes Tribunal, established by ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government, has issued arrest warrants against her, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, and 44 others in connection with alleged crimes against humanity. > PAGE 14

**Bomb hoax cases: offenders may be put on no-fly list**  
NEW DELHI  
Inter-ministerial consultations are under way to make amendments to the Aircraft Act, 1934 and subordinate legislation to ensure a five-year imprisonment and placing offenders on a no-fly list for bomb hoaxes, highly placed sources in the Ministry of Civil Aviation said. > PAGE 6

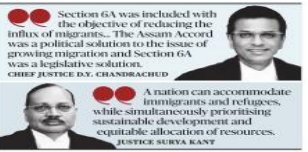
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# SC upholds Section 6A of Citizenship Act as valid

Constitution Bench gives the ruling in a 4:1 majority judgment, the Section says people from Bangladesh who arrived in Assam prior to January 1, 1966, would be deemed to be Indian citizens, however incessant migration from Bangladesh is indeed a burden on Assam and large part of the fault was the govt's failure to act timely, says Justice Kant

**Krishnadhas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, in a 4:1 majority judgment on Thursday, upheld the constitutionality of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, which permits immigrants from Bangladesh residing in Assam to secure Indian citizenship. The court held it as a valid piece of legislation aligned to the preambular value of fraternity. The principle of fraternity cannot be selectively applied to one section living in Assam while another lot are labelled "illegal immigrants", Justice Surya Kant, who authored the lead opinion for the five-judge Bench, observed. "Our reading of the Constitution and precedents is that fraternity requires people of different religious grounds and social circumstances to 'live and let live'". When faced with the dilemma of disenfranchising millions or safeguarding a community's endogenous way of life, this court would certainly be compelled by the principles of fraternity to prioritise the former," he observed. Section 6A, which traces its roots to the political solution of Assam Accord of 1985, mandates that immigrants who entered Assam from Bangladesh prior to January 1, 1966 would be deemed to be Indian citizens. Those who entered the State between January 1, 1966 and March 25, 1971 would be conferred citizenship based on the fulfilment of specific procedures and conditions. The Section, however barred citizenship to those who entered Assam after March 25, 1971. Justice Kant, in his opinion shared with Justices M.M. Sundresh and Manoj Misra, however said incessant migration from Bangladesh was indeed a burden on Assam. A large part of the fault lay with the government's failure to timely detect and deport the post-1971 immigrants from Bangladesh, he said. The court found the statutory machinery and Tribunals tasked with the identification and detection of illegal immigrants or foreigners in Assam inadequate and disproportionate to the requirement of giving time-bound effect to the legislative object of Section 6A read with the Immigrants (Expulsion from 185 Assam) Act, 1950, the Foreigners Act, 1946, the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Passport Act, 1967. "The implementation of immigration or citizenship legislation cannot be left to the mere wish and discretion of the authorities, necessitating constant monitoring by this court," Justice Kant highlighted. The Constitution Bench directed the govt to be placed before the Chief Justice of India for constitutional implementation of these laws in question in Assam. "A balancing act" Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, in a separate opinion backing Justice Kant, said Section 6A was Parliament's balancing act between its humanitarian view towards immigrants from Bangladesh and the impact of the huge influx on Assam's economic and cultural resources. The Chief Justice agreed that the cut-off date of entry into India Act, 1920 and the Passport Act, 1967, was reasonable. He reminded that the Pakistani Army had launched Operation Searchlight to curb the Bengali nationalist movement in East Pakistan on March 26, 1971. The immigrants from Bangladesh who entered India before the cut-off date were victims of the partition, whereas those who had a liberal policy, while those who came after the date were taken in as refugees of the war. The majority on the Bench held that Section 6A did not violate citizenship provisions of Articles 6A and 7 of the Constitution. The court was hearing petitions filed by NGOs like Assam Public Works and the Assam Sammilita Mahasangha, which condemned Section 6A for the huge inflow of illegal immigration. Justice I.B. Pardiwalla, in his lone dissenting opinion, declared Section 6A unconstitutional with prospective effect. Chief Justice Chandrachud dismissed the notion that the mere presence of different ethnic groups in a State would infringe the right to conserve the language and culture of one group. "Section 6A does not violate Article 29(1) of the Constitution, Article 29(2) guarantees the right to take steps to protect the culture, language and script of a section of citizens. The petitioners have been unable to prove that the ability of the Assamese people to take steps to protect their culture is violated by the provisions of Section 6A," the CJ noted. Justice Kant argued that sustainable development and population growth in a State could coexist harmoniously and need not be mutually exclusive. "A nation can accommodate immigrants and refugees, while simultaneously prioritising sustainable development and equitable allocation of resources," he observed.



CHIEF JUSTICE D.Y. CHANDRACHUD

A nation can accommodate immigrants and refugees, while simultaneously prioritising sustainable development and equitable allocation of resources, Justice Surya Kant

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## Holding the reins



Wheels and horns: A man from Rajasthan leads his herd of cattle to the outskirts of Delhi to graze on Thursday. SEV KUMAR PUSHPAKKAR

work as Punjab's first woman Chief Minister. "When asked if he believed the new PML-N government should roll back the cancellation of trade and travel ties by the President of Government Mr. Sharif said that he would like to see them reworked but that there may be others in the country that would be more responsible. "Why should Indian and Pakistani farmers and manufacturers go outside to sell their products. Goods should be sold in Lahore via Dubai. What are we doing? Who is benefiting from this? What should take two hours, should be done in 15 minutes," the former Prime Minister said, urging the countries to see each other as "potential markets". It is unclear whether Mr. Sharif would like to introduce, Ms. Sharif said "destroy good relations" guided" by him in her

**Toll in Bihar hooch tragedy touches 25**  
Amarnath Tewary  
PATNA  
The death toll in the Bihar hooch tragedy touched 25 on Thursday with several people hospitalised and some among them losing their eyesight. Director General of Police Alok Raj said 20 people died in Siwan and five in Saran in the incident that occurred on Thursday night. Minister Nitish Kumar directed officials to conduct a "comprehensive probe" and take "stern action" against those responsible. **FULL REPORT ON > PAGE 6**

# India, Pakistan should move on from past: Nawaz Sharif

**Subhasini Handar**  
LAHORE  
Calling for India and Pakistan to move on from the "past", former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif says the two sides must "pick up the threads" of the conversation that he had begun with former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The visit by External Affairs Minister Jaishankar to the Shanghaï Cooperation Organisation (SCO) this week was a "beginning" and hoped it would be followed by another trip, he adds. He was speaking to a group from the Indian media, including The Hindu, at the Government House in Lahore, flanked by his daughter and Chief Minister of Punjab in Pakistan, Maryam Sharif. "Pitching for bilateral trade and connectivity, Mr. Sharif, who stepped aside and made his brother Shehbaz Sharif Prime Minister after the PML-N came to power in March, repeatedly spoke about building a "different future" by tackling issues such as climate change and energy shortage. He said that both leaders attend the COP Summit in November, then they would meet. He also said that it was his desire that India and Pakistan critics' teams play matches with each other on their home turf, including during the upcoming Champions Trophy in India next year. **Laying blame** He blamed the poor state of ties on Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan for making personal statements about Mr. Modi, which he said could "destroy relations" between any two coun-

tries". "This [Mr. Jaishankar's visit] is how things should go ahead. We would have liked Mr. Modi to come but it was good that Mr. Jaishankar came," he said. "We have spent 75 years in this way and we should not let this go on for the next 75 years," he added using the oft-used phrase that India and Pakistan should change their neighbours" (using Article 370. He said this was "not the occasion" to discuss those issues. Mr. Sharif and Mr. Maryam Sharif met the Indian journalists who had travelled to Pakistan to cover the 10-nation SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting on October 15-16, a rare occasion in the past few years when Indian journalists have been granted visas and said that visas should now be "ceased" between both countries. While Mr. Sharif does not hold office, he is the President of the ruling PML-N, and is seen as the most influential figure in Pakistani politics at present. On Tuesday, he hosted a dinner to bring together Mr. Modi's visit to Lahore, and whether "burying the past" would mean moving beyond Pakistan's objections to the 2019 reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir and amending the Article 370. He said this

## Top Hamas leader Sinwar killed in Gaza, says Israeli military

**Associated Press**  
DEIR AL-BALAH  
Israeli forces in Gaza killed Hamas's top leader Yahya Sinwar, a chief architect of last year's attack on Israel that sparked the war, the military said on Thursday. Troops appeared to have run across him in a battle, only to discover afterwards that a body in the rubble of the office complex had been hunted for more than a year. Sinwar had topped Israel's most wanted list since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war just over a year ago, and his killing struck a powerful blow to the militant group. There was no immediate confirmation from Hamas of his death. The military confirmed Sinwar's death after conducting DNA tests on a Wednesday among three militants killed on Wednesday during operations in Gaza. Foreign Minister Israel Katz called Sinwar's killing a "military and moral achievement for the Israeli Army," saying it would "create the possibility to immediately release the Israel from the late 1980s until 2011, and during that time he underwent treatment for brain cancer - leaving Israeli authorities with extensive medical records. U.S. President Joe Biden has been briefed on Israel's investigation into whether he killed Sinwar, and U.S. officials have been in close contact with Israeli officials throughout Thursday morning, according to a senior administration official. **MORE REPORTS ON > PAGES 14 & 15**



Yahya Sinwar

work as Punjab's first woman Chief Minister. "When asked if he believed the new PML-N government should roll back the cancellation of trade and travel ties by the President of Government Mr. Sharif said that he would like to see them reworked but that there may be others in the country that would be more responsible. "Why should Indian and Pakistani farmers and manufacturers go outside to sell their products. Goods should be sold in Lahore via Dubai. What are we doing? Who is benefiting from this? What should take two hours, should be done in 15 minutes," the former Prime Minister said, urging the countries to see each other as "potential markets". It is unclear whether Mr. Sharif would like to introduce, Ms. Sharif said "destroy good relations" guided" by him in her

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Constitution Bench gives the ruling in a 4:1 majority judgment; the Section says people from Bangladesh who arrived in Assam prior to January 1, 1966, would be deemed to be Indian citizens; however incessant migration from Bangladesh is indeed a burden on Assam and large part of the fault was the govt.'s failure to act timely, says Justice Kant

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

**A** Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, in a 4:1 majority judgment on Thursday, upheld the constitutionality of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, which permits immigrants from Bangladesh residing in Assam to secure Indian citizenship. The court held it as a valid piece of legislation aligned to the preambular value of fraternity.

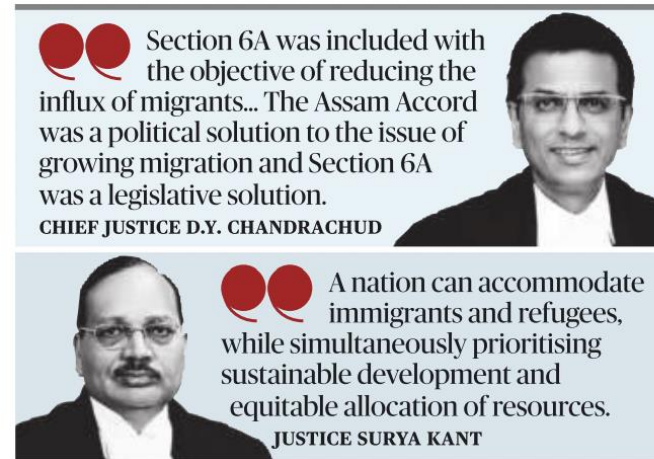
The principle of fraternity cannot be selectively applied to one section living in Assam while another lot are labelled "illegal immigrants", Justice Surya Kant, who authored the lead opinion for the five-judge Bench, observed.

"Our reading of the Constitution and precedents is that fraternity requires people of different backgrounds and social circumstances to 'live and let

live'... When faced with the dilemma of disenfranchising millions or safeguarding a community's endogenous way of life, this court would certainly be compelled by the principles of fraternity to prioritise the former," he observed.

Section 6A, which traces its roots to the political solution of Assam Accord of 1985, mandates that immigrants who entered Assam from Bangladesh prior to January 1, 1966 would be deemed to be Indian citizens. Those who entered the State between January 1, 1966 and March 25, 1971 would be conferred citizenship based on the fulfilment of specific procedures and conditions. The Section, however barred citizenship to those who entered Assam after March 25, 1971.

Justice Kant, in his opinion shared with Justices M.M. Sundresh and Manoj Misra, however said incessant



sant migration from Bangladesh was indeed a burden on Assam. A large part of the fault lay with the government's failure to timely detect and deport the post-1971 immigrants from Bangladesh, he said.

The court found the statutory machinery and Tribunals tasked with the identification and detection of illegal immigrants or foreigners in Assam inadequate and disproportionate

to the requirement of giving time-bound effect to the legislative object of Section 6A read with the Immigrants (Expulsion from 185 Assam) Act, 1950, the Foreigners Act, 1946, the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the Passport Act, 1967.

"The implementation of immigration and citizenship legislation cannot be left to the mere wish and

discretion of the authorities, necessitating constant monitoring by this court," Justice Kant highlighted.

The Constitution Bench directed the issue to be placed before the Chief Justice of India for constituting a Bench to monitor the implementation of these laws in question in Assam.

## 'A balancing act'

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, in a separate opinion backing Justice Kant, said Section 6A was Parliament's balancing act between its humanitarian view towards immigrants from Bangladesh and the impact of the huge influx on Assam's economic and cultural resources.

The Chief Justice agreed that the cut-off date of March 25, 1971 was reasonable. He reminded that the Pakistani Army had launched Operation Searchlight to curb the Bengali nationalist movement in

East Pakistan on March 26, 1971. The immigrants from Bangladesh who entered India before the cut-off date were victims of the partition towards whom India had a liberal policy, while those who came after the date were taken in as refugees of the war.

The majority on the Bench held that Section 6A did not violate citizenship provisions of Articles 6 and 7 of the Constitution.

The court was hearing petitions filed by NGOs like Assam Public Works and the Assam Sanmilita Mahasangha, which condemned Section 6A for the huge inflow of illegal immigration.

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Chief Justice Chandrachud dismissed the notion that the mere presence of different ethnic groups in a State would infringe the

right to conserve the language and culture of one group. "Section 6A does not violate Article 29(1) of the Constitution. Article 29 (1) guarantees the right to take steps to protect the culture, language and script of a section of citizens. The petitioners have been unable to prove that the ability of the Assamese people to take steps to protect their culture is violated by the provisions of Section 6A," the CJI noted.

Justice Kant argued that sustainable development and population growth in a State could coexist harmoniously and need not be mutually exclusive.

"A nation can accommodate immigrants and refugees, while simultaneously prioritising sustainable development and equitable allocation of resources," he observed.

**MORE REPORTS ON**

» PAGE 4

## DECODING 6A



➤ Section 6A is a special provision that was added to the Citizenship Act, 1955, after a six-year student-led movement against illegal infiltration culminated in the historic tripartite Assam Accord of August 15, 1985

➤ Under Section 6A, immigrants who entered Assam before Jan 1, 1966, will be deemed citizens from the day they have been “ordinarily” residing in the state

➤ Immigrants who entered Assam between Jan 1, 1966, and March 25, 1971, and have been categorised as “foreigners” can register for citizenship; they will be accorded all rights, subject to checks, but can’t vote for 10 years from the date of registration

➤ Legal interpretation of Section 6A is expected to significantly influence the unfinished exercise of finalising the National Register of Citizens



- **Supreme Court Judgment / सुप्रीम कोर्ट का निर्णय:**
- : A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, in a 4:1 majority judgment, upheld the constitutional validity of **Section 6A** of the Citizenship Act, 1955. This section allows immigrants from Bangladesh who arrived in Assam before **January 1, 1966**, to be granted Indian citizenship.
- सप्रीम कोर्ट की संविधान पीठ ने 4:1 बहुमत से नागरिकता अधिनियम, 1955 की धारा 6A को संवैधानिक रूप से वैध ठहराया। यह धारा उन बांग्लादेशी प्रवासियों को भारतीय नागरिकता प्रदान करती है जो 1 जनवरी, 1966 से पहले असम आए थे।

- 
- **Historical Context and Assam Accord / ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ और असम समझौता:**
  - : Section 6A has its roots in the **Assam Accord of 1985**, which was a political solution to manage migration from Bangladesh. Those who arrived between **January 1, 1966, and March 25, 1971**, were also granted citizenship under specific conditions.
  - **असम समझौता 1985** के आधार पर धारा 6A का निर्माण किया गया था, जो बांग्लादेश से होने वाले प्रवास को नियंत्रित करने के लिए एक राजनीतिक समाधान था। जो लोग **1 जनवरी, 1966 से 25 मार्च, 1971** के बीच आए, उन्हें भी विशिष्ट शर्तों के तहत नागरिकता दी गई।

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- **Constitutional Provisions / संवैधानिक प्रावधान:**

- The court held that Section 6A does not violate Articles 6 and 7 of the Constitution, nor does it infringe upon Article 29(1), which guarantees the protection of the culture and language of a community.
- अदालत ने माना कि धारा 6A संविधान के अनुच्छेद 6 और 7 का उल्लंघन नहीं करती है, और यह अनुच्छेद 29(1) का भी हनन नहीं करती है, जो किसी समुदाय की संस्कृति और भाषा की रक्षा की गारंटी देता है।

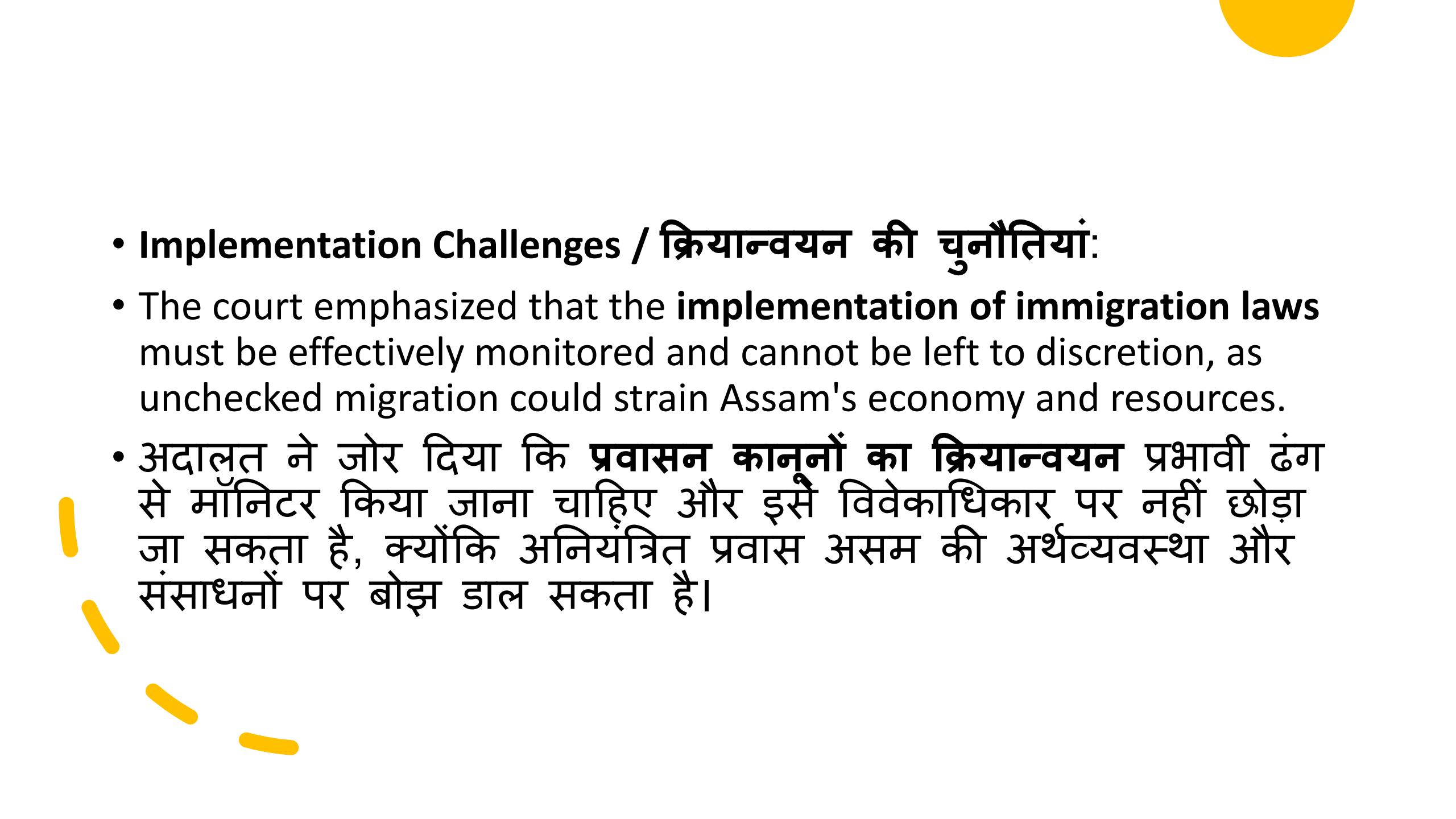
- **Majority Opinion / बहुमत का विचार:**

- : Justice **Surya Kant**, who authored the majority opinion, stated that a nation can accommodate both **immigrants and refugees** while ensuring sustainable development and equitable resource allocation.
- बहुमत का निर्णय लिखने वाले न्यायमूर्ति **सूर्यकांत** ने कहा कि एक राष्ट्र **प्रवासियों और शरणार्थियों** दोनों को समायोजित कर सकता है, जबकि सतत विकास और संसाधनों के समान वितरण को सुनिश्चित करता है।

- **Dissenting Opinion / असहमति का मत:**

- : Justice **B.V. Nagarathna** dissented, declaring that **Section 6A** was unconstitutional and violated the principles of equality and justice.

- : न्यायमूर्ति **बी.वी. नागरत्ना** ने असहमति व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि **धारा 6A** असंवैधानिक है और समानता और न्याय के सिद्धांतों का उल्लंघन करती है।

- 
- **Implementation Challenges / क्रियान्वयन की चुनौतियां:**
  - The court emphasized that the **implementation of immigration laws** must be effectively monitored and cannot be left to discretion, as unchecked migration could strain Assam's economy and resources.
  - अदालत ने जोर दिया कि प्रवासन कानूनों का क्रियान्वयन प्रभावी ढंग से मॉनिटर किया जाना चाहिए और इसे विवेकाधिकार पर नहीं छोड़ा जा सकता है, क्योंकि अनियंत्रित प्रवास असम की अर्थव्यवस्था और संसाधनों पर बोझ डाल सकता है।

## Seeking to allay fears, Centre says fortified rice safe to consume

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Amid concerns of safety over the consumption of fortified rice and the Centre's approval for its universal supply was to please certain multinational companies, the Centre on Thursday maintained that fortified rice was an ambitious initiative to combat micronutrient deficiencies in a statement, the Union Food Ministry said. Scientific evidence suggested that iron-fortified rice was safe for consumption for everyone.

The Centre said India was following World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines and fortification was a globally recognised practice. "Needless to say, scientific evidence supports the consumption of fortified rice is safe for all including for individuals suffering with



Centre said fortification was a globally recognised practice.

haemoglobinopathies such as Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Anaemia," it said.

"The iron intake from fortified rice is minimal compared to the iron absorbed during blood transfusions for Thalassemia patients and (fortified rice) is treated with chelation to manage iron levels. Furthermore, individuals with Sickle Cell Anaemia are unlikely to absorb iron from due to naturally elevated levels of hepcidin, a hormone that regulates iron absorption," the Ministry said.

## 26 extradition requests pending with Canada: MEA

Dinakar Peri  
NEW DELHI

India has shared 26 extradition requests with Canada and security information on gangs, including the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, with the Canadian government. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

... there are several provisional arrest requests which are also pending with the Canadian side of several criminals," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. On Wednesday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's remarks expressing support for the 'One India' policy, he said: "There is a gap between actions and words here."

On Thursday, Mr. Trudeau said that Canada had been "primarily intelligence" on the allegations made but "not hard evidentiary proof".

"Canada has presented us no evidence whatsoever in support of the serious allegations that it has chosen to level against India and Indian diplomats," the MEA spokesperson said. The responsibility for the damage that this cavalier behaviour has caused to India-Canada relations lies with PM Trudeau alone.

## Parties hail court verdict on Section 6A of Citizenship Act

Political parties and various organisations hold celebrations, the All Assam Students' Union, one of the signatories to the Assam Accord, described the judgment as a victory of Assam movement

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Political parties across the spectrum on Thursday welcomed the Supreme Court judgment on Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, inserted into the Act as a special provision to deal with the citizenship of people covered under the Assam Accord.

In a majority verdict, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of section 6A which grants Indian citizenship to immigrants who came to Assam between January 1966 and March 25, 1971. The Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, also upheld the cutoff date of March 25, 1971, for entry into Assam and granting citizenship as correct.



Members of the AASU celebrate the judgment of the Supreme Court on the Assam Accord in Guwahati on Thursday. PTI

One of the signatories of the Assam Accord, the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) described the judgment as a victory of the Assam movement.

"This verdict re-established the rationality of the Assam movement and the Assam Accord. We demand again that every clause of the Assam Accord be fully implemented," the



Members of the AASU celebrate the judgment of the Supreme Court on the Assam Accord in Guwahati on Thursday. PTI

AASU said in a statement. The Assam Accord was signed in 1985 after a six-year-long violent anti-forgiveness movement between Assam and India. The accord stated, among other clauses, that names of all foreigners coming to Assam on or after March 25, 1971, would be detached and deleted from electoral rolls with steps taken to deport them.

## Chief Justice Chandrachud recommends Justice Sanjiv Khanna as successor

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has recommended Justice Sanjiv Khanna as the next appointee as the 31st Chief Justice of India. Chief Justice Chandrachud will retire on November 10.

Under the Memorandum of Procedure for the appointment of the Chief Justice of India and Supreme Court judges, the Law Ministry seeks the commendation of the outgoing Chief Justice about the next appointment. The letter from the government to the outgoing Chief Justice is an additional step in the appointment process for the next Chief Justice of India.

Justice Khanna is the next in line in accordance with the seniority norm. He enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1983.

He initially practised in the district courts and later in the High Court of Delhi in various fields of law, including constitutional law, direct taxation, election law, commercial law, company law, and environmental law, and medical negligence.

Justice Khanna was a senior standing counsel for the Income Tax Department. He had functioned as an additional counsel for the National Capital Territory of Delhi and appeared as an amicus curiae in the High Court. He was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court in 2005 and made a Permanent Judge in 2006. He was appointed as a Judge of the Constitution Bench in 2019.

Justice Khanna was ranked 33 in the combined seniority of High Court judges on an all-India basis. However, the then Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had recommended him over others on grounds of merit and seniority. Justice Khanna had led the Supreme Court which gave interim bail to former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to campaign in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. He was also a member of the Constitution Bench which upheld the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in J&K. Justice Khanna is due to retire on May 13, 2025.



Judicial handover: Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud with Justice Sanjiv Khanna, 31st Chief Justice of India.

Justice Khanna is a senior standing counsel for the Income Tax Department. He had functioned as an additional counsel for the National Capital Territory of Delhi and appeared as an amicus curiae in the High Court. He was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court in 2005 and made a Permanent Judge in 2006. He was appointed as a Judge of the Constitution Bench in 2019.

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## Tejasvi Surya seeks action against MPs

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya on Thursday, in a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, accused the Opposition MPs of "anti-national behaviour" during a meeting on October 14 at the Parliament House. "Their behaviour reflected a disregard for people. The Election Commission also 'sanctioned' Mr. Surya said.

He countered allegations that MP Jagdambika Pal, Chairman of the Joint Committee examining the Antismartem Burns Bill, "gross violation of the parliamentary code of conduct." At the centre of the conflict is a dispute made by former Karnataka State Minorities Commission

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Justice J.B. Pardiwala, the lone dissenting judge on the Supreme Court's Constitution Bench, on Thursday, argued that Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, incentivises undocumented immigrants from Bangladesh to stay in Assam indefinitely until they are detected.

Justice Pardiwala referred to how Section 6A (3) mandated that for migrants to register as citizens, they must first be detected as foreigners.

However, the mechanism in Section 6A did not provide for self-declaration of voluntary detection as a foreigner. The process of detection could only be initiated by the State. The judge concluded that this was a departure from the scheme of the Citizenship Act and Articles 6 and 7 of the Constitution which

allows acquiring citizenship through registration.

"Thus, an immigrant whose name figures on the electoral roll, despite being a foreigner, continues to be eligible to vote in the elections till that person is detected as a foreigner and the name of that person is struck off the electoral roll. There being no temporal limit to the applicability of Section 6A, this situation would continue in the years to come till the detection exercise is completed," he wrote. Placing the onus on the State to detect a foreigner coupled with the absence of temporal limit allows immigrants to continue to be on the electoral rolls and enjoy being *de facto* citizens, he

reiterated. In his dissent, the judge ordered that Section 6A and its benefits should not apply to immigrants in Assam from the date of this judgment.

## Court seeks govt. reply on apps showing vehicle data

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has asked the Centre to respond to a public interest litigation (PIL) plea which highlighted that there are several mobile applications on Google Play Store that allow users to access sensitive information related to any vehicle by only entering registration number.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways told the court that it has taken the allegations in the present petition "very seriously and is enquiring into the matter". The Ministry sought for some time to a detailed counter affidavit. "Let a counter affidavit be filed within eight days while posting the case for further hearing on February 19, next year."

The plea filed by advocate Gopal Bansal stated that the mobile app available on Google Play Store can give "every sensitive information related to any vehicle merely by entering its registration number." He said that Apps are also providing the vehicles' chassis related information.

## Probe against NC MLA who did not rise for anthem

The Hindu Bureau  
SRINAGAR

The J&K Police took cognisance on Thursday of a National Anthem violation by an MP's deposition was "full of politically motivated allegations" against leaders of the Karnataka Congress, including Mallikarjun Kharge," Mr. Surya said.

Mr. Surya, in his letter, did not address the Opposition's allegation. Instead, he underlined that the report had been tabled in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly which he said recommended the setting up of a high-powered committee by a Superintendent of Police to look into the scam. He further said that in 2016, then Lokayukta in Karnataka also "authenticated" the report.

## Prime accused behind woman's death in Krishnanagar taken into seven-day custody

Mouvirie Som  
KOLKATA

The prime accused behind the alleged rape and murder of a young woman, whose half-burnt body was found in Krishnanagar in West Bengal's Nadia district on Wednesday, has been taken into seven days police custody, the Assistant Director General of Police, South Bengal, Suptar Sarkar, said on Thursday.

The accused, Rahul Basu, was arrested on Thursday based on a complaint filed by the victim's family. He was allegedly in a relationship with the victim. Mr. Sarkar said that the accused will undergo further questioning. He also said that a Special Investigation Team has been



Women march towards the CBI office in protest against the alleged rape and murder of a doctor at the R.C. Kar Medical College and Hospital, in Kolkata, on Thursday. PTI

formed to investigate the case and the police is also taking help from the Criminal Investigation Department. "The SIT is being headed by Krishnanagar Police District Superintendent Shri Amarnath K. We are



Women march towards the CBI office in protest against the alleged rape and murder of a doctor at the R.C. Kar Medical College and Hospital, in Kolkata, on Thursday. PTI

investigating all possible angles and causes behind the incident," the officer said, adding that a forensic examination of the site will be conducted. In accordance with the bereaved family's wishes, the post-mortem of the woman's body was conducted in the presence of a judicial magistrate at the College of Medicine and Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial (JNM) Hospital in Kalyani on Thursday. A doctor, who was part of the post-mortem, ad-



Women march towards the CBI office in protest against the alleged rape and murder of a doctor at the R.C. Kar Medical College and Hospital, in Kolkata, on Thursday. PTI

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# Chief Justice Chandrachud recommends Justice Sanjiv Khanna as successor

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has recommended Justice Sanjiv Khanna for appointment as the 51st Chief Justice of India. Chief Justice Chandrachud will retire on November 10.

Under the Memorandum of Procedure for the appointment of the Chief Justice of India and Supreme Court judges, the Law Ministry seeks the recommendation of the outgoing Chief Justice about the next appointment. The letter from the government kick-starts the appointment process for the next Chief Justice of India.

Justice Khanna is the next in line in accordance with the seniority norm. He enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1983.

He initially practised in the district courts and later in the High Court of Delhi in various fields of law, including constitutional law, direct taxation, arbitration, commercial law, company law, land law, environmental law, and medical negligence.

Justice Khanna was a se-



**Judicial handover:** Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud with Justice Sanjiv Khanna. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

nior standing counsel for the Income Tax Department. He had functioned as a standing counsel for the National Capital Territory of Delhi and appeared as an Additional Public Prosecutor and *amicus curiae* in the High Court.

He was elevated as an Additional judge of the Delhi High Court in 2005 and made a Permanent Judge in 2006. He was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court in 2019.

Justice Khanna was ranked 33 in the combined seniority of High Court judges on an all-India ba-

sis. However, the then Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had recommended him over others on grounds of merit and integrity.

Justice Khanna had led the Supreme Court which gave interim bail to former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to campaign in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. He was also a member of the Constitution Bench which upheld the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in J&K.

Justice Khanna is due to retire on May 13, 2025.



<b>Type</b>	<a href="#">Chief Justice</a>
<b>Status</b>	Presiding Judge of <a href="#">Supreme Court of India</a>
<b>Abbreviation</b>	CJI
<b>Residence</b>	5, Krishna Menon Marg, Sunehri Bagh, <a href="#">New Delhi, India</a> <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Seat</b>	<a href="#">Supreme Court of India, New Delhi, India</a>
<b>Nominator</b>	Outgoing Chief Justice of India, generally on the basis of Seniority
<b>Appointer</b>	<a href="#">President of India</a>
<b>Term length</b>	Until the age of 65 <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Constituting instrument</b>	<a href="#">Constitution of India</a> (under Article 124)
<b>Formation</b>	28 January 1950; 74 years ago
<b>First holder</b>	<a href="#">H. J. Kania</a> (1950–1951) <sup>[3]</sup>
<b>Succession</b>	6th (on the <a href="#">Indian order of precedence</a> )
<b>Salary</b>	₹280,000 (US\$3,400) (per month) <sup>[4]</sup>

- **Recommendation for Next CJI / अगले मुख्य न्यायाधीश के लिए अनुशंसा:**
- : Chief Justice **D.Y. Chandrachud** has recommended **Justice Sanjiv Khanna** for the position of the 51st Chief Justice of India. Justice Chandrachud is set to retire on **November 10, 2024**.
- मुख्य न्यायाधीश **डी.वाई. चंद्रचूड़** ने **जस्टिस संजीव खन्ना** को भारत के 51वें मुख्य न्यायाधीश के पद के लिए नामित किया है। न्यायमूर्ति चंद्रचूड़ **10 नवंबर, 2024** को सेवानिवृत्त होंगे।

- **Seniority and Appointment Process / वरिष्ठता और नियुक्ति प्रक्रिया:**
- : Justice Sanjiv Khanna's recommendation is based on the **seniority norm**. As per the **Memorandum of Procedure**, the outgoing Chief Justice recommends the next appointment, and the process is initiated by the **Law Ministry**.
- : जस्टिस संजीव खन्ना की अनशंसा **वरिष्ठता मानदंड** के आधार पर की गई है। **प्रक्रिया ज्ञापन** के अनुसार, निवर्तमान मुख्य न्यायाधीश अगले नियुक्ति की अनशंसा करते हैं और इस प्रक्रिया को **कानून मंत्रालय** द्वारा प्रारंभ किया जाता है।


## • Justice Khanna's Career / जस्टिस खन्ना का करियर:

- : Justice Khanna enrolled as an advocate in **1983** and has served as a standing counsel for various departments, including the **Income Tax Department**. He was appointed a judge of the **Delhi High Court** in 2005 and became a **permanent judge** in 2006. In **2019**, he was elevated to the **Supreme Court**.
- जस्टिस खन्ना ने **1983** में एक वकील के रूप में नामांकन किया और उन्होंने विभिन्न विभागों के लिए स्थायी वकील के रूप में काम किया, जिसमें **आयकर विभाग** भी शामिल है। उन्हें **2005** में **दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट** के अतिरिक्त न्यायाधीश के रूप में नियुक्त किया गया था और **2006** में स्थायी न्यायाधीश बने। **2019** में उन्हें **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** में पदोन्नत किया गया।

## • Notable Judgments and Contributions / उल्लेखनीय निर्णय और योगदान:

• : Justice Khanna played a significant role in important judgments, including the one that upheld the **abrogation of Article 370** in Jammu & Kashmir. He was also instrumental in granting interim bail to **Arvind Kejriwal** during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.


• जस्टिस खन्ना ने महत्वपूर्ण निर्णयों में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई, जिसमें जम्मू-कश्मीर में **अनुच्छेद 370** को निरस्त करने का निर्णय शामिल है। उन्होंने **2024 लोकसभा चुनाव** के दौरान **अरविंद केजरीवाल** को अंतरिम जमानत देने में भी अहम भूमिका निभाई थी।



- **Retirement and Tenure / सेवानिवृत्ति और कार्यकाल:**

- : Justice Khanna is due to retire on **May 13, 2025**, giving him a relatively short tenure as Chief Justice of India if appointed.

- : जस्टिस खन्ना **13 मई, 2025** को सेवानिवृत्त होने वाले हैं, जिसका अर्थ है कि यदि उन्हें नियुक्त किया जाता है तो उनका मुख्य न्यायाधीश के रूप में कार्यकाल अपेक्षाकृत छोटा होगा।



IN BRIEF



Agartala-Lokmanya Tilak Express derailed in Assam

Eight coaches of the Agartala-Lokmanya Tilak Terminus Express derailed at Dibalong station near Lumding in Assam's Dima Hasao district on Thursday afternoon. "The incident occurred at 3.55 p.m. and there has been no major casualty or injury," Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on X. The derailed coaches include the power car and the engine of the train. The cause of the derailment is yet to be ascertained. Officials said that running of trains on the Lumding-Badarpur single-line hilly section have been temporarily suspended. Helpline numbers at Lumding are 03674263120 and 03674263126, the officials added.

Lawrence Bishnoi gang member Sukha arrested

An alleged member of Lawrence Bishnoi's gang, Sukhbir Babbar Singh, alias Sukha, was arrested by the Navi Mumbai police in connection with an alleged plot to kill Bollywood actor Salman Khan. According to the investigators, Singh had allegedly contracted members of the Bishnoi gang to carry out the killing. He was apprehended from Panipat, Haryana, by a team from the Panvel town police on Wednesday, officials said. He is expected to be produced in court after being brought to Navi Mumbai. Singh is being investigated in connection with the murder of NCP leader and former Maharashtra Minister Baba Siddique.

Insurance benefits to stay for PF subscribers

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Centre has decided to extend providing benefits of the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI) scheme to all subscribers of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and their family members till further notice.

The EDLI scheme, launched in 1976, was to provide insurance benefits to EPFO members and to ensure that the family members get financial assistance in case of death of the member. Minimum and maximum benefits under the EDLI scheme were enhanced from ₹1.5 lakh and ₹6 lakh to ₹2.5 lakh and ₹7 lakh, respectively, in 2021 and the benefits were valid for a period of three years, which came to an end on April 27, this year.

A government source said Mr. Mandaviya approved the decision to make the benefits applicable to the members of the EDLI scheme retrospectively from April 28, 2024 till any further notification. The source said the benefits will be continued in indefinite period and there will be no requirement for issuing any further notification in this regard.

Bihar hooch tragedy: death toll touches 25, some lose eyesight

Two SITs set up to probe the incident and do a comprehensive study of similar events in the past, says Director-General of Police Alok Raj

Amarnath Tewary PATNA



Grief-stricken: Family members mourn the death of hooch tragedy victims in Saran district in Bihar on Thursday. (PTI)

The death toll in the Bihar hooch case touched 25 on Thursday, several people in hospital, some among them losing their eyesight. The tragedy occurred in Swan and Saran districts on Wednesday.

Director-General of Police Alok Raj said that 20 people died in Swan and five in Saran. He said 12 people had been arrested for allegedly selling spurious liquor and they were likely to be "tried under the most stringent laws and punished by the court."

"Two Special Investigating Teams (SIT) have also been set up in the aftermath of the incident. The Director-General of Police will be looking into the criminality involved in the latest episode. Another SIT has been set up by the District Police in Patna which will carry out a comprehensive study of all such incidents that have taken place in the recent past," he said.

"The name of a liquor 'mafioso' has cropped up. He happened to be involved in a similar case earlier and is currently out on bail," Mr. Raj said.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar directed officials to conduct a "comprehensive probe" and take "stern action" against those responsible. The Bihar Police said they have made several arrests and searched more than a hundred places in both the districts. (With inputs from PTI)

Advance railway reservation period reduced to 60 days

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI



The new rule will take effect on November 1.

The Railway Board has reduced the period for advance booking of train tickets from 120 days to 60 days.

The new rule will take effect from November 1 and all bookings done up to October 31 (under the 120-day period) will remain valid, said a circular issued by the Railway Board to the Principal Chief Commercial Managers of all zonal Railways.

A senior official of Southern Railway said that the new advance reservation period would not be applicable to a few express trains, including the Taj Express and the Gomt Ex-press, which have a shorter time limit for advance reservations.

By shortening the reservation period to 60 days, the Railways has reversed its nine-year policy allowing reservation of seats 120 days in advance.

Officials said 120 days was too long a period for planning, resulting in high cancellations and wastage of seats/berths because of passengers not turning up for journeys. "Currently there is

about 25% cancellation and 4% to 5% passengers don't turn up," a senior official said.

In many cases, officials said, it is seen that passengers do not cancel their tickets and do not turn up for journeys. "This leads to frauds - such as impersonation, officials taking money illegally etc. With a shorter reservation period, this can be prevented. Shorter periods will encourage more ticket booking by genuine passengers," the official said.

The Railway Ministry has also said that there is no impact on general class tickets as they are purchased just before the journey. (With inputs from the Delhi Bureau)

Supreme Court questions logic behind exception to marital rape in penal law

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday questioned the logic behind a penal law which considers wrongful confinement, criminal intimidation and assault of a wife by her husband as offences but not the act of forced sex which follows after the woman retents under pressure.

"The husband demands sexual intercourse," Justice J.B. Pardiwala asked. "The wife finally succumbs to pressure." So all the preliminary acts make offences under the law, but the act of forced sexual intercourse alone is not a crime?" Justice J.B. Pardiwala asked.

The question came on the first day of hearing of a batch of petitions seeking criminalisation of non-con-

sensual sexual acts in a marriage as 'rape'. The petitioners have argued that protection given to non-consensual sexual acts by a man with his wife violated the woman's right to bodily integrity, autonomy and dignity.

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, who heads the three-judge Bench including Justice Manoj Misra, drew attention to the fact that the definition of rape was not restricted to peno-vaginal sexual intercourse, and even included heinous acts such as inser-

sion of a foreign object into a woman's body. The Chief Justice asked senior advocate Karuna Nundy, who represented the All India Democratic Women's Association, about the government's argument that the removal of the marital rape exception would destroy the institution of marriage. "Protection of a married woman from rape would not destroy the institution of marriage. Marriage is personal and not institutional... Sexual choices and consent are essential attributes of autonomy," Ms.



Nundy responded.

The Bench wondered if the court would create a new offence and enter into the domain of Parliament by realising non-consensual sexual acts within a marriage as rape. To this, Ms. Nundy replied that the onus of striking down the exceptions was to bring the IPC and BNS in line with the Constitution.

"Sexual autonomy is at the core of the guaranteed freedom of expression in the Constitution. Taking it away through marriage is antithetical to Constitutional values... A woman's sexuality is not purely a physiological attribute. Even in the most private instances of marriage, the individual does not lose her dignity or individuality," she submitted.

Ms. Nundy argued that "a rapist remains a rapist, and marriage with his vic-

tim does not absolve him of the crime".

She referred to how the apex court had struck down the penal provision of adultery, which was an example of a patriarchal provision. "A married woman was treated as chattel," she submitted.

Justice Pardiwala asked how it could be perceived whether a wife had consented or not to sexual intercourse in a marriage. The senior lawyer noted that consent to a sexual act by a woman would be "unequivocal and voluntary agreement". This threshold applied to a married woman too.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the State of Maharashtra, urged the Court to refer the case to a Constitution Bench. The Gill said the three-judge Bench would consider the point.

Bomb hoax cases: offenders could be put on a no-fly list

Jayrith Chandra NEW DELHI

Inter-ministerial consultations are under way to make amendments to the Aircraft Act, 1934 and subordinate legislation to ensure a five-year imprisonment for offenders on a no-fly list for hoax bomb threats to flights, highly placed sources in the Ministry of Civil Aviation said on Thursday.

Over 30 bomb threats were posted for various Indian airlines in the past four days. The threats issued to six Air India Express flights, five Air India flights, two Vistara flights and two IndiGo flights on Thursday.

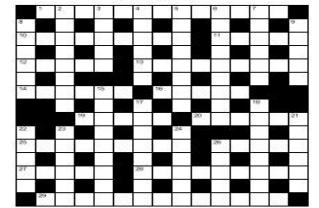
"Options are being sought from all quarters for changes to rules and regulations to ensure strict action in such cases," Civil Aviation Minister Ramamoji Naidu told pressers.

Operations hampered: Various Indian airlines received over 30 bomb threats in four days. (PTI/PHOTO)

1934 and the Aircraft Rules, 1937. A second proposal that has been mooted is placing offenders on a no-fly list in order to bar them from air travel.

The officials said that though the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982 provides for life imprisonment for threatening safety at airports or disrupting any service at airports, it was too stringent a punishment for hoax calls and would not stand legal scrutiny.

THE CROSSWORD 14308



- Across
1. Misplaced file in case, run to fetch policy, say (4,5)
10. After commencement, struggle with father in clearing out trucks to get artefacts (1,6)
11. Resistance going forward, Rao takes time to reach vessel (5)
12. Cool to be in, in Chennai outskirts to do business (5)
13. Settlement in silver against tree falling over people (9)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site. @ https://www.puzzlelink.in/ptf

- 14. This son taking some vitamin to gain energy and let loose (6)
15. A heir leads here in Victoria Terminus (5)
16. One, say is having support (5)
17. Dream like of soft-meat to attain euphoria primarily (6)
18. A boy worried facing people takes some tablet for relief (6)
19. One in flight playing shir (5)
20. The Spanish professor seen in a river in Australia (5)
21. Lean, tan, a temperature treatment existing before birth (9)
22. Contradiction found in revision of cynic's notes (13)
Down
1. Death with life almost harshly, got doomed (3-5)
2. Steer clear of fruit lady housing a delinquent primarily (5)
4. Fondant hollow at the middle modified to have solids removed (6)
5. Sail on high strait towards corner (8)
6. Ease, warns doctor with sensitivity (9)
7. Fish at first excited and added to some leaves and part of the plant (6)
8. Happy to see leading fertility expert giving an unborn child (6)
9. Why, lieutenant boarding express (5)
10. Compose other tune to the (9)
11. Coative appear on teams (8)
12. Performed dead? It primarily consider to be excessively moralising (8)
13. Werdly fish eats some raw (ml), unknown quantity (6)
14. A Pale in tea, having sherry essentially (5)
15. Park range designed to showcase degree (10)
16. At once reach America for getting degree (6)
26. Understand directions to move ahead in German city (5)

SUDOKU

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

Solution to previous puzzle
1 2 7 3 6 5 8 9 4
9 5 4 1 8 7 8 3 6 1
2 1 3 7 8 9 5 4 6
8 7 5 6 4 2 1 3 9
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
3 6 1 4 2 7 9 5 8
5 4 9 8 3 1 6 7 2
7 8 2 5 9 6 4 1 3

FAITH

Compassion leads to epic

Great epics have their moorings in sorrow. Valmiki's Ramayana too had such an origin, said Dama Per undev in a discourse. The great sage Valmiki, fresh from a discourse by Narada on an ideal human (who also identified Rama as that unparalleled one), was walking along the banks of the Tamasa when he came upon a pair of curlews, inseparable and singing sweetly. At that moment, a hunter killed the male bird and the female bird cried piteously. Moved to extreme pity and compassion, Valmiki cursed the hunter. "May you never know rest for endless years since you killed this curlew."

Wondering at his own words (and) following his distress over the grief of the bird, Valmiki nevertheless realised the metric value of his words and termed it a sloka. Valmiki was still in the throes of sorrow when Brahma visited him and informed him that it was his will that the sloka should emanate from Valmiki. "With this inspired utterance, now tell the world the entire story of Rama, and His deeds and how He was devoted to dharma and possessed of the highest qualities and accomplishments." Brahma blessed Valmiki saying he would be privy to whatever happened in the Ramayana. Taking the cue from his above sloka, Valmiki composed the Ramayana in 24,000 verses. (Gayatri, the most powerful mantra, has 24 aksharas and the Ramayana, the most powerful epic, has 24,000 verses.) After completing his epic, when Valmiki wondered how to reach it to the world, his eyes fell on Luv and Kush, Rama's sons, who were residing in the ashram and he knew they would fit the job perfectly.

# Advance railway reservation period reduced to 60 days

**The Hindu Bureau**

CHENNAI

The Railway Board has reduced the period for advance booking of train tickets from 120 days to 60 days.

The new rule will take effect from November 1 and all bookings done up to October 31 (under the 120-day period) will remain valid, said a circular issued by the Railway Board to the Principal Chief Commercial Managers of all zonal Railways.

## **Some trains exempted**

A senior official of Southern Railway said that the new advance reservation period would not be applicable to a few express trains, including the Taj Express and the Gomti Express, which have a shorter time limit for advance reservations.

By shortening the reservation period to 60 days, the Railways has reversed its nine-year policy allowing reservation of tickets 120 days in advance.

Officials said 120 days was too long a period for planning, resulting in high cancellations and wastage of seats/berths because of passengers not turning up for journeys.

“Currently there is



The new rule will take effect on November 1.

about 21% cancellation and 4% to 5% passengers don't turn up,” a senior official said.

In many cases, officials said, it is seen that passengers do not cancel their tickets and do not turn up for journeys. “This leads to frauds – such as impersonation, officials taking money illegally etc. With a shorter reservation period, this can be prevented. Shorter periods will encourage more ticket booking by genuine passengers,” the official said.

The Railway Ministry has also said that there is no impact on general class tickets as they are purchased just before the journey.

*(With inputs from the Delhi Bureau)*






- **New Reservation Rule / नया आरक्षण नियम:**

- : The **Railway Board** has reduced the advance booking period for train tickets from **120 days** to **60 days**. The new rule will come into effect from **November 1, 2024**.

- **रेलवे बोर्ड** ने ट्रेन टिकटों की अग्रिम बुकिंग की अवधि **120 दिन** से घटाकर **60 दिन** कर दी है। यह नया नियम **1 नवंबर, 2024** से प्रभावी होगा।






- Existing Bookings Remain Valid / मौजूदा बुकिंग वैध रहेंगी:

- : All bookings made up to **October 31, 2024**, under the previous 120-day rule, will remain valid. This change has been communicated to all zonal railways.

- **31 अक्टूबर, 2024** तक 120-दिन के नियम के तहत की गई सभी बुकिंग वैध रहेंगी। यह बदलाव सभी क्षेत्रीय रेलों को सूचित किया गया है।






- **Exemptions for Some Trains / कुछ ट्रेनों के लिए छूट:**

- **h:** A few express trains, such as the **Taj Express** and **Gomti Express**, which have a shorter advance reservation period, are exempt from this new rule.

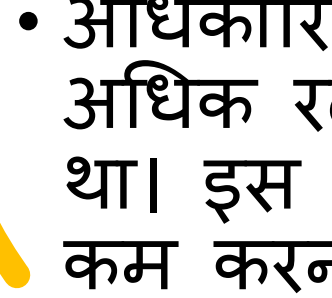
- : कुछ एक्सप्रेस ट्रेनें, जैसे **ताज एक्सप्रेस** और **गोमती एक्सप्रेस**, जिनकी ऑग्रिम आरक्षण अवधि पहले से ही कम है, को इस नए नियम से छूट दी गई है।





- **Reason for Change / बदलाव का कारण:**

- : Officials explained that the **120-day period** was too long, leading to high cancellations and **wastage of berths** due to passengers not showing up. Reducing the period to **60 days** aims to curb such issues and ensure that genuine passengers get tickets.




- अधिकारियों ने बताया कि **120-दिन** की अवधि बहुत लंबी थी, जिससे अधिक रद्दीकरण और यात्रियों के न आने से बर्थ का **दुरुपयोग** होता था। इस अवधि को **60 दिन** करने का उद्देश्य इन समस्याओं को कम करना और वास्तविक यात्रियों को टिकट उपलब्ध कराना है।



- **Impact on General Class / सामान्य श्रेणी पर प्रभाव:**

- The Railway Ministry confirmed that this change would not affect **general class tickets**, which are usually booked just before the journey.

- : रेलवे मंत्रालय ने पष्टि की है कि यह बदलाव सामान्य श्रेणी के टिकटों पर प्रभाव नहीं डालेगा, जो आमतौर पर यात्रा से ठीक पहले बुक किए जाते हैं।



# Supreme Court questions logic behind exception to marital rape in penal law

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday questioned the logic behind a penal law which considers wrongful confinement, criminal intimidation and assault of a wife by her husband as offences but not the act of forced sex which follows after the woman relents under pressure.

“The husband demands sexual intercourse. Wife resists. She is wrongfully confined. She is threatened and criminally intimidated. The wife finally succumbs [to pressure]. So all the preliminary acts make offences under the law, but the act of forced sexual intercourse alone is not a crime?” Justice J.B. Pardiwala asked.

The question came on the first day of hearing of a batch of petitions seeking criminalisation of non-con-

sensual sexual acts in a marriage as ‘rape’. The petitioners have argued that protection given to non-consensual sexual acts by a man with his wife violated the woman’s right to bodily integrity, autonomy and dignity.

## Centre’s take on matter

However, a recent affidavit filed by the Union government said punishment of non-consensual sexual acts in a wedlock and categorising it as rape would impact conjugal relationship and lead to “serious disturbances” in the institution of marriage.

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, who heads the three-judge Bench including Justice Manoj Misra, drew attention to the fact that the definition of rape was not restricted to peno-vaginal sexual intercourse, and even included heinous acts such as inser-



tion of a foreign object into a woman’s body.

The Chief Justice asked senior advocate Karuna Nundy, who represented the All India Democratic Women’s Association, about the government’s argument that the removal of the marital rape exception would destroy the institution of marriage.

“Protecting a married woman from rape would not destroy the institution of marriage. Marriage is personal and not institutional... Sexual choices and consent are essential attributes of autonomy,” Ms.

Nundy responded.

The Bench wondered if the court would create a new offence and enter into the domain of Parliament by reading non-consensual sexual acts within a marriage as rape. To this, Ms. Nundy replied that the only thing the court would do by striking down the exceptions was to bring the IPC and BNS in line with the Constitution.

“Sexual autonomy is at the core of the guaranteed freedoms in the Constitution. Taking it away through marriage is antithetical to Constitutional values... A woman’s sexuality is not purely a physiological attribute. Even in the most private instances of marriage, the individual does not lose her dignity or individuality,” she submitted.

Ms. Nundy argued that “a rapist remains a rapist, and marriage with his vic-

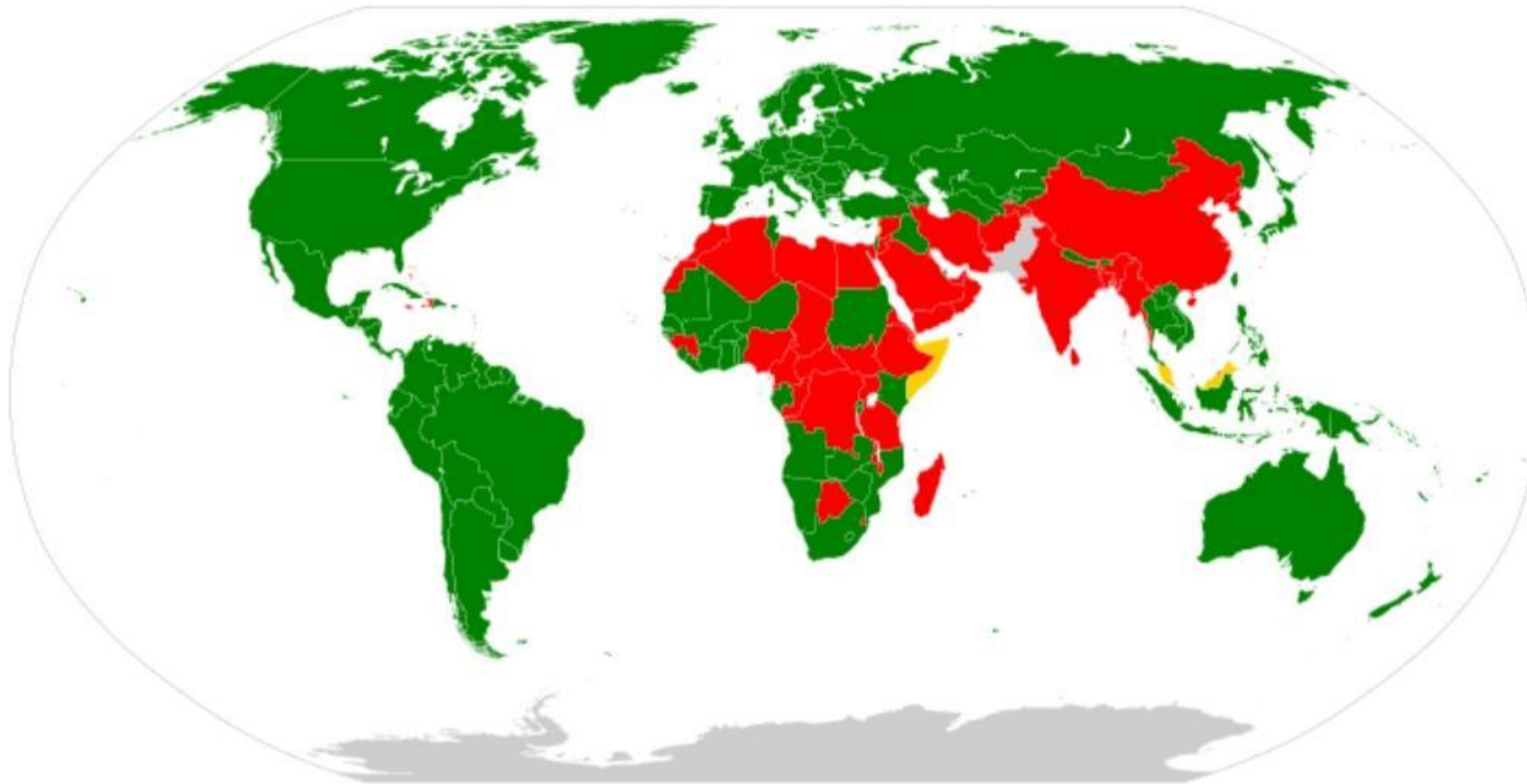
tim does not absolve him of the crime”.





She referred to how the apex court had struck down the penal provision of adultery, which was an example of a patriarchal provision. “A married woman was treated as chattel,” she submitted.

Justice Pardiwala asked how it could be perceived whether a wife had consented or not to sexual intercourse in a marriage. The senior lawyer noted that consent to a sexual act by a woman would be “unequivocal and voluntary agreement”. This threshold applied to a married woman too.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the State of Maharashtra, urged the Court to refer the case to a Constitution Bench.

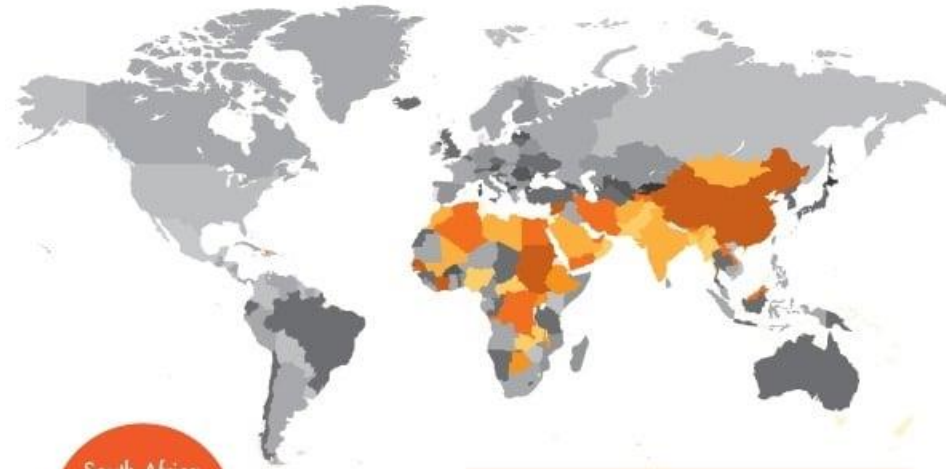
The CJI said the three-judge Bench would consider the point.



-  Marital rape criminalised
-  Marital rape not criminalised
-  'Marital rape' not criminalised, but forced marital sex still punishable.
-  Legal status unclear

# MARITAL RAPE IS STILL PERFECTLY LEGAL IN THESE 38 COUNTRIES

#16DAYSOFACTIVISM



South Africa only criminalised marital rape in 1993

Even though most countries have made marital rape illegal, in practice, this law is not always strictly enforced

I.e. due to a lack of support by law enforcement and communities who blame the victims of rape rather than the perpetrators.

- |                    |             |              |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------|
| AFGHANISTAN        | INDIA       | NIGERIA      |
| ALGERIA            | IRAN        | OMAN         |
| BAHRAIN            | IVORY COAST | PAKISTAN     |
| BANGLADESH         | KUWAIT      | SAUDI ARABIA |
| BOTSWANA           | LAOS        | SENEGAL      |
| BRUNEI DARUS-SALAM | LEBANON     | SINGAPORE    |
| CAR                | LIBYA       | SOUTH SUDAN  |
| CHINA              | MALAWI      | SUDAN        |
| DRC                | MALI        | SYRIA        |
| EGYPT              | MALAYSIA    | TAJIKISTAN   |
| ETHIOPIA           | MONGOLIA    | UGANDA       |
| HAITI              | MOROCCO     | YEMEN        |
|                    | MYANMAR     | ZAMBIA       |

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA



## IT'S WIDESPREAD



**1 in every 5 Indian men** admit to forcing their wives into sex, according to a 2011 study by the International Center for Research on Women



On an average, at least **one in three women** is beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused by an intimate partner in their lifetime

A study in two South Asian countries by the UN found that between **74% and 94% of the police force** said that a husband is allowed to rape his wife



## IT GOES UNNOTICED AND UNPUNISHED

**127** countries

do not criminalise rape within marriage



**2.6** billion

live in countries where marital rape is not a criminal offence

**603** million

women live in countries where domestic violence is not a crime

## HOW IT AFFECTS WOMEN



Victims of sexual violence by partners are **16% more likely** to have a low-birth-weight baby

They are more than twice as likely to have an abortion



Twice as likely to experience depression

1.5 times more likely to acquire HIV



## HOW IS MARITAL RAPE DIFFERENT?

It is an unwanted **sexual act by a spouse without the other person's consent**. It may or may not be done using force or intimidation.

In a society where **marriage is considered licence for sex**, marital rape is an alien concept to many.

## NO LEGAL PROTECTION IN INDIA.

According to Section 375 of the IPC: "**Sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife, the wife not under 15 years of age, is not rape.**"

## INDIA CAN LEARN FROM THESE COUNTRIES

**US** 

Marital rape became a crime in every state by 1993. **Punishment: Most states penalise marital rape like any other rape**—with fines (that could exceed \$50,000) and prison terms (varying between several years and life in prison without parole).

**BRITAIN** 

In 1991, rape within marriage became a crime. The 2003 Sexual Offences Act clarified the law, giving consent a legal definition in England and Wales. **Punishment: The accused will face five years prison.**

**BHUTAN** 

Marital rape is considered an offence and a petty misdemeanour. **Punishment: Marital rape is punishable by a minimum prison term of one year and a maximum term of three years.**

# LEGALITY OF MARITAL RAPE: SIX COUNTRIES AND A SNAPSHOT OF THEIR LAWS



SOURCE: Equality Now



## India

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**Indian Penal Code 1860, as amended by the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act No. 13 of 2013 Section 375, Exception 2**

- Sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under 15 years of age, is not rape.
- Under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act No. 43, passed in 2005, women in India have the right to claim civil remedies for domestic violence, but there are no criminal penalties for marital rape where the wife is over 15 years old.
- Although India's domestic violence law of 2005 gives women the option to bring a civil case for marital rape, India continues to exempt marital rape from its criminal law.

- **Supreme Court's Concerns / सुप्रीम कोर्ट की चिंताएं:**
- The **Supreme Court** questioned why the penal law considers wrongful confinement, intimidation, and assault by a husband as crimes but does not treat **non-consensual sexual intercourse** within a marriage as rape. The petitioners argue that such protection violates a woman's right to **bodily integrity, autonomy, and dignity**.
- **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने सवाल उठाया कि दंड कानून पति द्वारा किए गए गलत तरीके से कैद करने, डराने-धमकाने और हमले को अपराध क्यों मानता है, लेकिन विवाह के भीतर **असहमति के साथ यौन संबंध** को बलात्कार क्यों नहीं मानता। याचिकाकर्ताओं का तर्क है कि यह सुरक्षा एक महिला के **शारीरिक अखंडता, स्वायत्तता और गरिमा** के अधिकार को उल्लंघन करती है।

- **Centre's Stand / केंद्र का रुख:**

- : A recent affidavit by the **Union government** argued that criminalizing non-consensual sex in marriage as rape would affect the **institution of marriage** and lead to disturbances. The government's affidavit suggested that such a law could harm conjugal relationships.

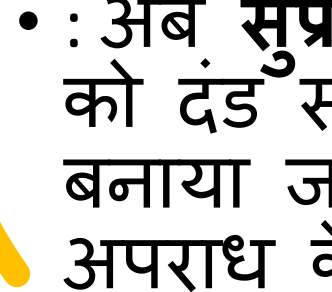
- : **केंद्र सरकार** ने हाल ही में दाखिल एक हलफनामे में तर्क दिया कि शादी में बिना सहमति के यौन संबंध को बलात्कार के रूप में अपराधीकरण करने से **वैवाहिक संस्था** पर असर पड़ेगा और वैवाहिक संबंधों में गड़बड़ी होगी। सरकार का हलफनामा बताता है कि ऐसा कानून वैवाहिक संबंधों को नुकसान पहुंचा सकता है।

- Arguments Against Marital Rape Exception / वैवाहिक बलात्कार अपवाद के खिलाफ तर्क:
- : Senior Advocate Karuna Nundy, representing the All India Democratic Women's Association, argued that removing the marital rape exception would not destroy the institution of marriage. She emphasized that **sexual autonomy** is essential to **constitutional freedoms**, and protecting a woman from rape within marriage aligns with these values.
- वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता करुणा नंदी, जिन्होंने ऑल इंडिया डेमोक्रेटिक वूमन एसोसिएशन का प्रतिनिधित्व किया, ने तर्क दिया कि वैवाहिक बलात्कार अपवाद को हटाने से विवाह संस्था नष्ट नहीं होगी। उन्होंने जोर देकर कहा कि **यौन स्वायत्तता** संवैधानिक स्वतंत्रता के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, और विवाह के भीतर एक महिला को बलात्कार से बचाना इन मूल्यों के अनुरूप है।

- **Constitutional Perspective / संवैधानिक दृष्टिकोण:**
- : **Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud** emphasized that protecting women from marital rape is about safeguarding **personal autonomy** and not harming the institution of marriage. He compared the issue to the **decriminalization of adultery**, stating that such patriarchal laws have no place in modern constitutional values.
- : **मुख्य न्यायाधीश डी.वाई. चंद्रचूड़** ने जोर दिया कि महिलाओं को वैवाहिक बलात्कार से बचाना **व्यक्तिगत स्वायत्तता** की रक्षा करने के बारे में है, न कि विवाह संस्था को नुकसान पहुंचाने के बारे में। उन्होंने इसे **व्यभिचार को अपराध से मुक्त करने** के मुद्दे से तुलना करते हुए कहा कि ऐसे पितृसत्तात्मक कानून आधुनिक संवैधानिक मूल्यों में स्थान नहीं रखते हैं।



- **Judicial Consideration / न्यायिक विचार:**

- : The **Supreme Court** will now decide whether the marital rape exception can be removed from the penal code to bring it in line with the **Constitution** and ensure that **non-consensual sexual acts** in marriage are treated as crimes.
  - : अब **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** यह निर्णय लेगा कि क्या वैवाहिक बलात्कार अपवाद को दंड संहिता से हटाया जा सकता है ताकि इसे संविधान के अनुरूप बनाया जा सके और विवाह में **असहमति के साथ यौन कृत्यों** को अपराध के रूप में माना जा सके।
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WASHINGTON U.S. B-2 bombers strike Houthi facilities in Yemen, says military

The United States on Wednesday conducted multiple B-2 bomber strikes on weapons storage facilities in areas of Yemen controlled by the Iran-backed Houthi rebels, according to the U.S. military. The Houthis vowed to retaliate after their Al Masirah television network reported some 15 strikes on Thursday.

TOKYO New Japan PM sends offering to Yasukuni, angering neighbours

Japan's new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba on Thursday sent a ritual offering to a shrine honouring the country's war dead that has long angered neighbouring countries, a spokesperson for the site said. Seoul expressed "deep disappointment" that responsible leaders in Japan have once again offered tribute to the Yasukuni Shrine.

LONDON U.K. police probe warehouse parcel fire after Russian sabotage fears

U.K. anti-terrorism police on Thursday said they were investigating how a parcel burnt into flames at a depot earlier this year, after a similar case in Germany blamed on Russia. The incident at a DHL warehouse near Birmingham, central England, happened on July 22. No one was injured in the fire, which was later put out.

ISLAMABAD Taliban 'investigating reports of Afghan casualties' on Iran border

The Taliban said on Thursday they are investigating reports of Afghan casualties on the Iran border. It is their first acknowledgment of the alleged killing and wounding of Afghan nationals by Iranian security forces in an attack on Sunday. They previously described the reports as rumours.

UN rights chief Turk warns Israel against possible Gaza war crime

Forcible transfer of a large part of the population of north Gaza would amount to a war crime, says UN human rights chief. The Israeli Army has intensified its operations over the past week in north Gaza where hundreds of thousands are trapped.

UN human rights chief Volker Turk on Thursday warned Israel that any "large-scale forcible transfer" of civilians out of conflict-ravaged north Gaza could constitute a war crime if not done under "imperative military grounds". "Israel's evacuation operation appears designed to cut off North Gaza completely from the rest of the territory," Mr. Turk told a press conference at UN headquarters in New York. "As bombing and other attacks continue, there are serious concerns about a

large-scale forcible transfer of civilians not meeting the requirements of international law for evacuation on imperative military grounds," he said. "Forcible transfer of a large part of the population of North Gaza would amount to a war crime." Israel is pursuing its offensive against Hamas in Gaza, in the wake of the October 7, 2023 attack by the Palestinian militant group, which resulted in the deaths of 1,206 people, mostly civilians, according to a tally of official Israeli figures. "The Israeli Army has intensified its operations ov-



Major hits: Destroyed buildings in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip after the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas. AFP

Rabbiul Alam DHAKA. The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), established by ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government in 2010, has issued arrest warrants against her, Awami League general secretary Obaidul Quader, and 44 others. These warrants are in connection with alleged crimes against humanity committed during the July-August 2024 protests, which led to the downfall of the Hasina government. The tribunal, chaired by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Majumdar, issued the orders following two petitions filed by the prosecution seeking the arrest of Ms. Hasina and other key political figures. The tribunal also directed the author-

important positions within the state, which is why the tribunal has not fully disclosed their identities. However, sources indicate that former Ministers Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, Hasan Mahmud, and Anisul Huq are among the 46 individuals. The ICT was reconstituted on October 14, with Justice Mortuza appointed as chairman. The restructuring aims to expedite trials related to "crimes against humanity committed" during the July-August protests. The protests saw at least 753 people killed and thousands injured. More than 60 complaints of crimes against humanity and genocide have been filed against Ms. Hasina and other senior Awami League leaders with the ICT's investigation agency.



Sheikh Hasina

Saudi Arabia launches new digital platform to ensure wage protection

Khalid Bhattacharjee NEW DELHI. With a series of digitally enforceable measures and platforms, Saudi Arabia is getting ready to ensure a more secure working condition for foreign workers, including those from India. A group of officials from the Human Resources and Social Development Ministry here on Thursday presented the Saudi plans for meeting the Vision 2030 of the Saudi government and said the Kingdom's plans regarding the expat workers would secure workers' rights and cut down on illegal immigration. "The new labour rules in

the Musaned platform can be linked with contract insurance and health benefits. The officials said the Musaned platform would protect human rights and provide a "stable working environment" for both the employee and employers. The digital platform can track financial transactions between employers and foreign workers, thereby ensuring employers will fulfil contractual obligations towards foreign workers. (The correspondent is in Saudi Arabia on the invitation of the Saudi government for the Riyadh Season 2024 festival of tolerance and culture.)

kistan, Vietnam, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Under the Musaned platform, foreign workers in the domestic household work sector can check the existing employment contracts and follow updates in a dedi-



The new labour rules in Saudi Arabia, under a digital platform called Musaned, will benefit at least 10 African countries. REUTERS

Off limits



Workers in protective suits conduct a clean-up operation to clear petroleum-based "tar balls" washed ashore on Gongee Beach in Sydney, Australia on Thursday. Chemical testing has identified the mysterious globules as hydrocarbon-based balls, local officials said. AFP

North Korea training 10,000 troops to help Russia, says Zelensky

Agence France-Presse BRUSSELS. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Thursday he had intelligence reports that North Korea was training 10,000 soldiers to support Russia in its fight against Kyiv. "They are preparing on their land, 10,000 soldiers, but they didn't move there already to Ukraine or to Russia," Mr. Zelensky said at a meeting of NATO defence ministers. He made the claim about the 10,000 North Korean soldiers earlier on Thursday after meeting EU leaders in Brussels - without initially making clear where they were being trained.

Harris woos Republicans in Pennsylvania campaign

Sriram Lakshman WASHINGTON DC. Vice President Kamala Harris campaigned with some 100 Republicans in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, on Wednesday. The Democratic candidate for the White House then sat for an interview with Bret Baier on conservative channel Fox News, which is deeply supportive of former U.S. President and Republican candidate Donald Trump. The Harris rally was held in Washington Crossing, where George Washington crossed the Delaware river prior to the Battle of Trenton, a crucial battle in America's War of Independence. Pennsylvania has become the biggest prize for both candidates with U.S. President (then candidate) Joe Biden winning Bucks County in



Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris speaks during a campaign event in Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania. REUTERS

2020. With the phrase "Country before party" on either side of the lectern, Ms. Harris repeated her pledge to join a Republican to her Cabinet. Republican lawmakers, including former House of Representatives Member Adam Kinzinger, a Trump critic, stood on the stage, clapping at various points during the speech. Ms. Harris was introduced by former Trump supporter Bob Christina Lange. "In a typical election year, you all being here with me might be a bit surprising, but not in this election," Ms. Harris said, explaining that Democratic ideals were at stake. She praised former Republican Vice President Mike Pence, for allowing the certification of the 2020 election to proceed, despite threats to his life

for last time, there is a place for you in this campaign," Ms. Harris said she would have a bipartisan council to provide her with solutions to the country's pressing issues. "I believe for America to be the world's strongest democracy, we must have a healthy two party system," she said. Shortly afterwards, in a combative interview with Fox News, where both participants spoke over each other multiple times, Ms. Harris was pressed on her record on the U.S.-Mexico border and her policies with regard to illegal migration and undocumented migrants. She declined to answer those questions directly, saying, for instance, that she would follow federal law when asked if she supported giving an interview that he would use the military if necessary against the "enemy from within". She suggested that if elected, she would go after journalists, judges and non-partisan election officials he did not like. "It is clear Donald Trump is increasingly unstable and unhinged." Bipartisan council Appealing to independents and Republicans, she said, "No matter your party, no matter who you voted

healthcare and free university tuition. While she felt sorry that people had murdered migrants who had been released in the U.S., she said Mr. Trump had scuttled a bipartisan Bill that would have increased security at the border. When asked why a majority of Americans felt the country was headed on the wrong track, she spoke about Mr. Trump's divisiveness. Once again, she brought up Mr. Trump's reference to "the enemy within". Ms. Harris was quizzed on comments she made last week about being aligned completely with President Joe Biden's policies. "Let me be very clear: My presidency will not be a continuation of Joe Biden's presidency," she said, arguing that she had not spent her career in Washington, D.C.



# Saudi Arabia launches new digital platform to ensure wage protection

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**

RIYADH

With a series of digitally enforceable measures and platforms, Saudi Arabia is getting ready to ensure a more secure working condition for foreign workers, including those from India.

A group of officials from the Human Resources and Social Development Ministry here on Thursday presented the Saudi plans for meeting the Vision 2030 of the Saudi government and said the Kingdom's plans regarding the expat workers would secure workers' rights and cut down on illegal immigration.

The new labour rules in



The new labour rules in Saudi Arabia, under a digital platform called *Musaned*, will benefit at least 10 African countries. REUTERS

Saudi Arabia – under a digital platform called *Musaned* – will benefit at least 10 African countries like Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Egypt and Kenya as well as nine Asian countries such as India, Bangladesh, Pa-

kistan, Vietnam, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Under the *Musaned* platform, foreign workers in the domestic (household) work sector can check the existing employment contracts and follow updates in a dedi-

cated *Musaned* labour app.

The *Musaned* platform can be linked with contract insurance and health benefits. The officials said the *Musaned* platform would protect human rights and provide a “stable working environment” for both the employee and employers. The digital platform can track financial transactions between employers and foreign workers, thereby ensuring employers will fulfil contractual obligations towards foreign workers.

*(The correspondent is in Saudi Arabia on the invitation of the Saudi government for the Riyadh Season 2024 festival of tolerance and culture.)*

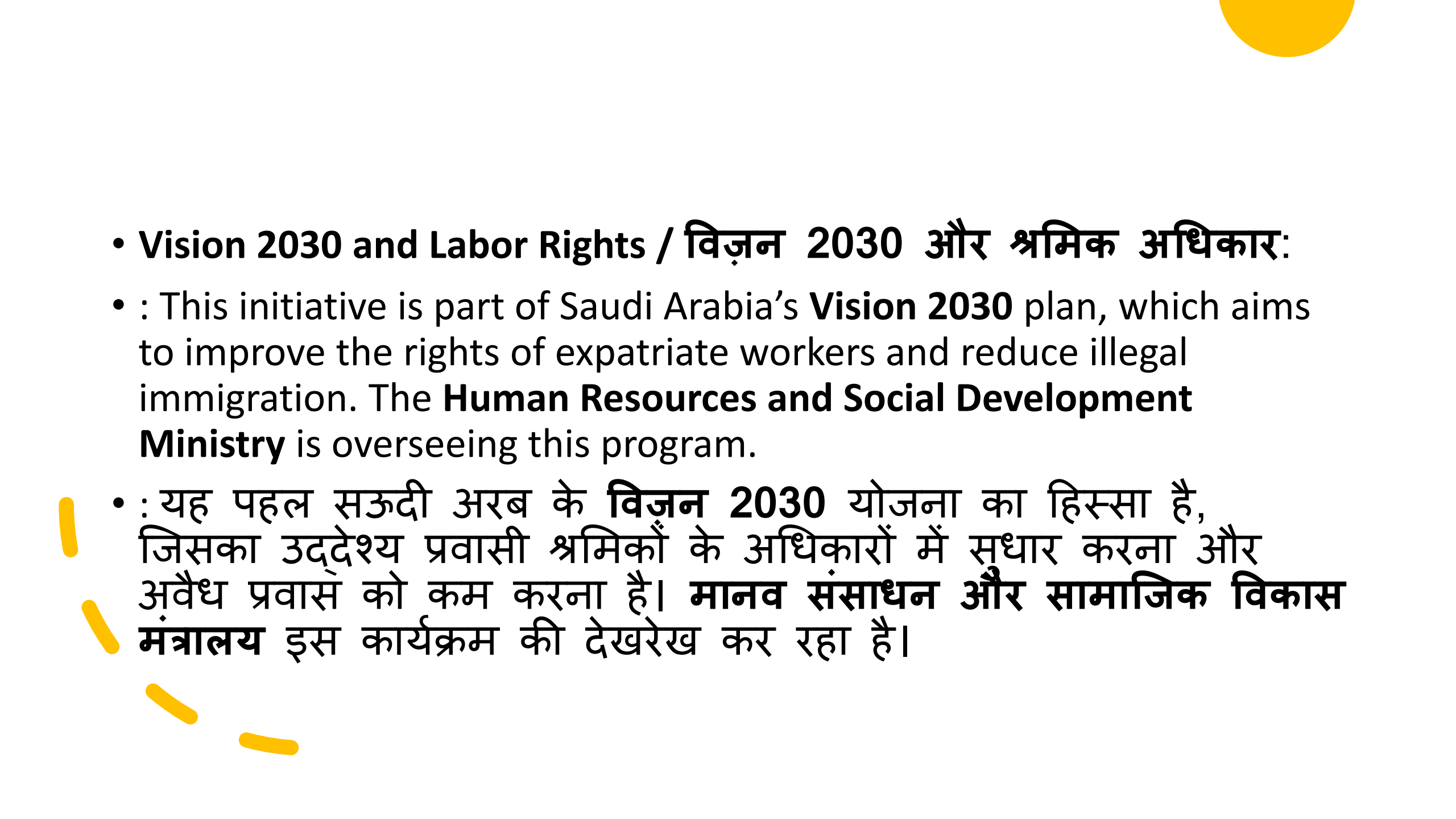
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- **Purpose of the Platform / प्लेटफॉर्म का उद्देश्य:**

- Saudi Arabia has launched a digital platform called **Musaned** to ensure **wage protection** and secure working conditions for foreign workers, particularly those working in the domestic sector. The platform aims to protect human rights and provide a stable working environment for both employees and employers.
- : सऊदी अरब ने विदेशी श्रमिकों के लिए मजदूरी संरक्षण और सुरक्षित कार्य स्थितियों को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए **Musaned** नामक एक डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म लॉन्च किया है, विशेष रूप से घरेलू कार्यक्षेत्र में काम करने वालों के लिए। यह प्लेटफॉर्म मानवाधिकारों की रक्षा करेगा और कर्मचारियों और नियोक्ताओं दोनों के लिए एक स्थिर कार्य वातावरण प्रदान करेगा।

- **Countries Benefiting from the Platform / प्लेटफॉर्म से लाभान्वित देश:**
- : The **Musaned** platform will benefit at least **10 African countries** including **Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Egypt, and Kenya**, as well as **9 Asian countries** such as **India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka**.
- **Musaned** प्लेटफॉर्म से कम से कम **10 अफ्रीकी देशों** को लाभ होगा, जिनमें **सुडान, इथियोपिया, युगांडा, मिस्र, और केन्या** शामिल हैं, साथ ही **9 एशियाई देशों** जैसे **भारत, बांग्लादेश, पाकिस्तान, वियतनाम, फिलीपींस और श्रीलंका** को भी लाभ मिलेगा।

- **Platform Features / प्लेटफार्म की विशेषताएँ:**
- Under the **Musaned** platform, foreign workers can check employment contracts and track financial transactions between employers and employees, ensuring compliance with contractual obligations. The platform will also be linked with **contract insurance** and **health benefits**.
- **Musaned** प्लेटफार्म के तहत, विदेशी श्रमिक अपने रोजगार अनुबंधों की जांच कर सकते हैं और नियोक्ता और कर्मचारियों के बीच वित्तीय लेनदेन को ट्रैक कर सकते हैं, जिससे अनुबंधीय दायित्वों का पालन सुनिश्चित किया जा सके। यह प्लेटफार्म **बीमा अनुबंध** और **स्वास्थ्य लाभ** से भी जुड़ा होगा।

- 
- **Vision 2030 and Labor Rights / विज़न 2030 और श्रमिक अधिकार:**
  - : This initiative is part of Saudi Arabia's **Vision 2030** plan, which aims to improve the rights of expatriate workers and reduce illegal immigration. The **Human Resources and Social Development Ministry** is overseeing this program.
  - : यह पहल सऊदी अरब के **विजन 2030** योजना का हिस्सा है, जिसका उद्देश्य प्रवासी श्रमिकों के अधिकारों में सुधार करना और अवैध प्रवास को कम करना है। **मानव संसाधन और सामाजिक विकास मंत्रालय** इस कार्यक्रम की देखरेख कर रहा है।

**IN THE NEWS**

**DIRECT TAX-GDP RATIO IN FY24 AT MILLENNIAL HIGH**

THE CENTRE'S DIRECT tax-to-GDP ratio reached the highest level in the millennial era, if not the highest ever, reports **Priyansh Verma**. The ratio and the progressive nature of taxation, came in at 6.44% in the last financial year, up from 5.97% in FY23. ■ **PAGE 2**

**ZEPTO IN TALKS TO RAISE \$100 MN IN NEW FUNDING**

ZEPTO IS IN advanced talks to raise \$100 million in new funding, marking the q-comm firm's third round of fundraising in just six months, reports **Anees Hussain**. It is looking to tap domestic sources, including family offices, and high-net-worth individuals. ■ **PAGE 4**

**ADANI ENTERPRISES RAISES ₹4,200 CR THROUGH QIP**

ADANI ENTERPRISES ON Thursday said it has raised ₹4,200 crore in share sale to large investors via a qualified institutional placement issue to fund its growth plans, reports **PTL**. It allotted 11.1 million equity shares at ₹2,962 per share. ■ **PAGE 10**

**EXPLAINER**

The noise over satellite spectrum ■ **PAGE 9**

**INDIA'S LARGEST IPO SUBSCRIBED 2.37X**

**QIBs help Hyundai cross the finish line**

**Subdued response from NIIIs, retail investors**

**FE BUREAU**  
 Mumbai, October 17

**STRONG BUYING INTEREST** from qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) helped Hyundai Motor India's ₹27,470-crore initial public offering (IPO) get fully subscribed on Thursday. The country's largest IPO, which was subscribed 2.37 times, saw weak participation from both non-institutional investors (NIIs) and retail investors. The IPO received bids for 2.3 million shares via a ₹9.8 million shares on offer. The QIB portion was subscribed 6.97 times with strong interest from foreign institutional investors. Bids from retail investors and NIIs stood at just 51% and 60%, respectively, while the portion set aside for employees was subscribed 1.74 times.



Industry experts said that the dip in the grey market premium (GMP) of the stock to nil on Thursday from ₹300 a month ago was one of the key reasons that dampened the spirits of retail investors and NIIs.

Brokerage firm ICICI Direct said, "We expect limited listing gains to this IPO; however, expect HMIL to deliver healthy double-digit portfolio returns over the medium to long term."

**Bajaj makes renewed push for EV leadership**

**BAJAJ AUTO'S** gunning for leadership in both the electric two- and three-wheeler segments riding on new products and an expanded dealership network, reports **Swaraj Bhagwan**. The company is launching new Chetak scooters in mid-November and new electric three-wheelers in the mid of the same month to boost market share. ■ **PAGE 5**

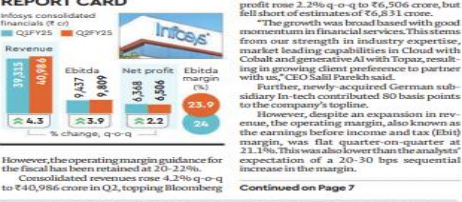
**Infy ups FY25 growth guidance**

**Revenue tops, profit misses Q2 estimates**

**PADHINI DHURVAJ**  
 Bengaluru, October 17

**INFOSYS, THE COUNTRY'S** second-largest IT firm, on Thursday reported a higher-than-expected revenue growth in the September quarter on the back of improved demand in the financial services vertical. However, it failed to meet Street expectations on the profit front. Infosys increased its sales forecast for FY25 — the sixth straight quarter of revising the growth guidance.

Infosys now sees its revenue to grow anywhere between 3.7% and 4.5% in constant currency terms in FY25, up from the earlier guidance of 3-4%. This, however, is lower than analysts' expectation of 4-5% in CC.



However, the operating margin guidance for the fiscal has been retained at 20-22%. Consolidated revenue rose 4.2% q-o-q to ₹40,986 crore in Q2, topping Bloomberg consensus estimate of ₹40,820 crore. Net profit rose 2.2% q-o-q to ₹6,506 crore, but fell short of estimates of ₹6,831 crore.

"The growth was broad based with good momentum in financial services. This stems from our strength in industry expertise, market leading capabilities in Cloud with Cobalt and generative AI with Topaz, resulting in growing client preference to partner with us," CEO Sallil Pareek said.

Further, newly-acquired German subsidiary In-tech contributed 80 basis points to the company's topline.

However, despite an expansion in revenue, the operating margin, also known as the earnings before income and tax (EBIT) margin, was flat quarter-on-quarter at 21.1%. This was also lower than the analyst's expectation of a 20-30 bps sequential increase in the margin.

**Continued on Page 7**

**Blackstone top bidder to buy LOGOS assets**

**RAGHAVENDRA KAMATH**  
 Mumbai, October 17

**GLOBAL INVESTOR** BLACKSTONE Group has emerged as the top bidder to buy the warehousing assets of LOGOS India with a bid amount of around ₹1,200 crore, said sources. The warehousing developer's properties are located in Chennai and Haryana's Ludhiana. "The final bid was selected a few days ago, but the deal is yet to be signed," sources added.

A Blackstone spokesperson declined to comment. An e-mail sent to LOGOS India did not elicit any response till the time of going to press.

Blackstone, Singaporean sovereign wealth fund GIC and Japanese shipping major Mitsui OSK Lines were in the race for the portfolio spanning across 5 million sq ft, Chennai logistics parks are strategically located in Irungattukottai-Poonamallee, Sempuram industrial and Oragadam-Maraimalai Nagar.

The acquisition fits well into the overall strategy of Blackstone, which owns Horizon Industrial Parks, a logistics parks developer



**RBI bars four NBFCs from loan sanctions**

**ANUPREKSHA JAIN**  
 Mumbai, October 17

**THE RESERVE BANK** OF India (RBI) on Thursday asked four non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) to cease and desist sanction and disbursement of loans, citing concerns related to high lending rates. Starting from October 21, Ashirvad Micro Finance, Aruban Financial Services, DMI Finance and Navi Finance will not be allowed to disburse or sanction any loans, said an RBI notification.

This action is based on material supervisory concerns observed in the pricing policy of these companies in terms of their weighted average lending rate (WALR) and the interest spread charged over their cost of funds, which are found to be excessive and not in adherence with the regulations," said RBI. These business restrictions do not preclude these companies from servicing their existing customers and carrying out collection and recovery processes in accordance with the extant regulatory guidelines.

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Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

**Shraddha Kapoor to be face of first digital cover of Screen**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
 Mumbai, October 17

**BOLLYWOOD ACTOR** SHRADDHA Kapoor will unveil *The Indian Express'* iconic film magazine *Screen* on Friday. The unveiling of *Screen*, which returns to the group after 11 years, will kick off with its first ever digital cover featuring the *Street 2* star.

The event, which will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel in World, will also feature celebrated names from the Hindi film industry, including filmmaker Raju Mani Hiran and actors Vikrant Massey and Vijay Varma.

*Screen* has been a leading voice in Indian entertainment since 1949. The magazine, which has covered the film industry closely over the decades, will now be back in a new avatar.

After the unveiling, the event will

**SCREEN**

Presenting Partner: **ixigo**

Entertainment Partner: **SWAAHI**

AI Partner: **HEXO**

Beauty Partner: **INFINITE**

Participating Partner: **THE**

Local Partner: **ST**

Host two panel discussions. "Screen Live" will see Shraddha take centre stage as the discuss her life, career and stardom, especially after the success of *Street 2*, the horror-comedy that made history at the box office.

**Continued on Page 7**

**A Monk Who Trades**

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**WORLD INVESTOR WEEK - OCTOBER 14 - 20, 2024**

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Based on public interest, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has initiated a public consultation process for the introduction of a Multi-Commodity Exchange (MCE) and a Multi-Commodity Investment Protection Fund (MCIPF).

**MCX**  
 MULTI-COMMODITY EXCHANGE

**INVESTOR PROTECTION FUND**

# No. of taxpayers rises 82% to 10.4cr in last 9 yrs: CBDT

## Direct Tax Collections Surge 182% Between FY15 & FY24

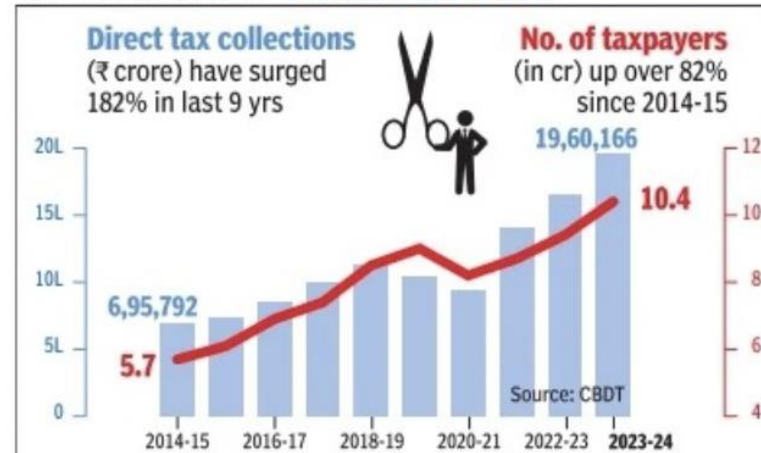
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The number of taxpayers rose 82% between 2014-15 and 2023-24, while direct tax receipts surged 182% in the past 9 years, largely driven by increasing compliance, data released by tax department on Thursday showed.

The time series data released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) showed the number of taxpayers in the assessment year 2023-24 was at 10.4 crore, up from 5.7 crore in 2014-15. The tax department defines a "taxpayer" as a person who either has filed a return of income for the relevant assessment year (AY) or in whose case tax has been deducted at source in the relevant financial year but the taxpayer has not filed the return of income.

Led by growth in personal income tax, total direct tax receipts in 2023-24 were at Rs 19.6 lakh crore, up 182% from near-

### INCREASING COMPLIANCE



**At 0.44%**, cost of tax collection is lowest since 2000-01

**10.7%** increase in the number of returns filed at over 8.6cr in FY24

**11%** increase in the number of tax payers at over 10.4cr in AY24 and nearly doubles since AY2013-14

ly Rs 7 lakh crore in 2014-15. Personal income tax during the 9-year period soared 293% to Rs 10,45,139 crore in 2023-24 from Rs 2,65,772 crore in 2014-15. For the second year in a row, personal income tax collections were higher than cor-

porate tax collections, which rose 112% to over Rs 9,11,055 crore in 2023-24 from Rs 4,28,925 crore in 2014-15, the data showed.

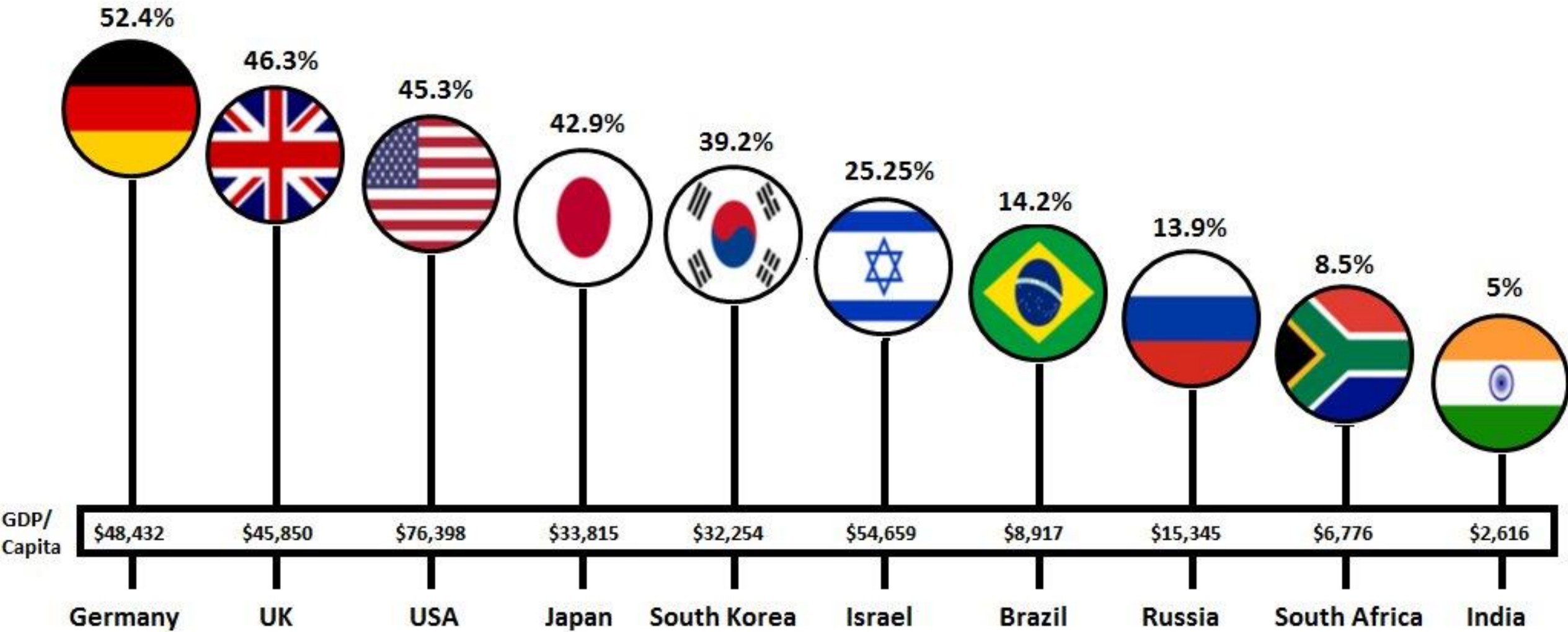
The contribution of direct tax to total tax revenue in 2023-24 reached a 14-year high

of 56.7%, up from 54.6% in 2022-23. Advance tax, paid every quarter, receipts rose 291% to Rs 12,77,868 crore in 2023-24 from Rs 3,26,525 crore in 2014-15, while tax deducted at source (TDS) rose nearly 152% during the 9-year period to Rs 6,51,922 crore in 2023-24, from Rs 2,59,106 crore. Advance tax is a tool meant to improve compliance.

The cost of collection was the lowest since 2000-01 at 0.44% in 2023-24 from 1.36% in 2000-01. It has reduced over the years due to better tax administration and efforts mounted by the department.

Tax receipts have surged over the years thanks to the robust economic growth and rising income levels apart from the measures rolled out by the department and the use of technology to plug loopholes and expand the net. The department is also using tools such as artificial intelligence, data analytics to boost receipts and increase compliance.

## Population who pays Personal Income Tax

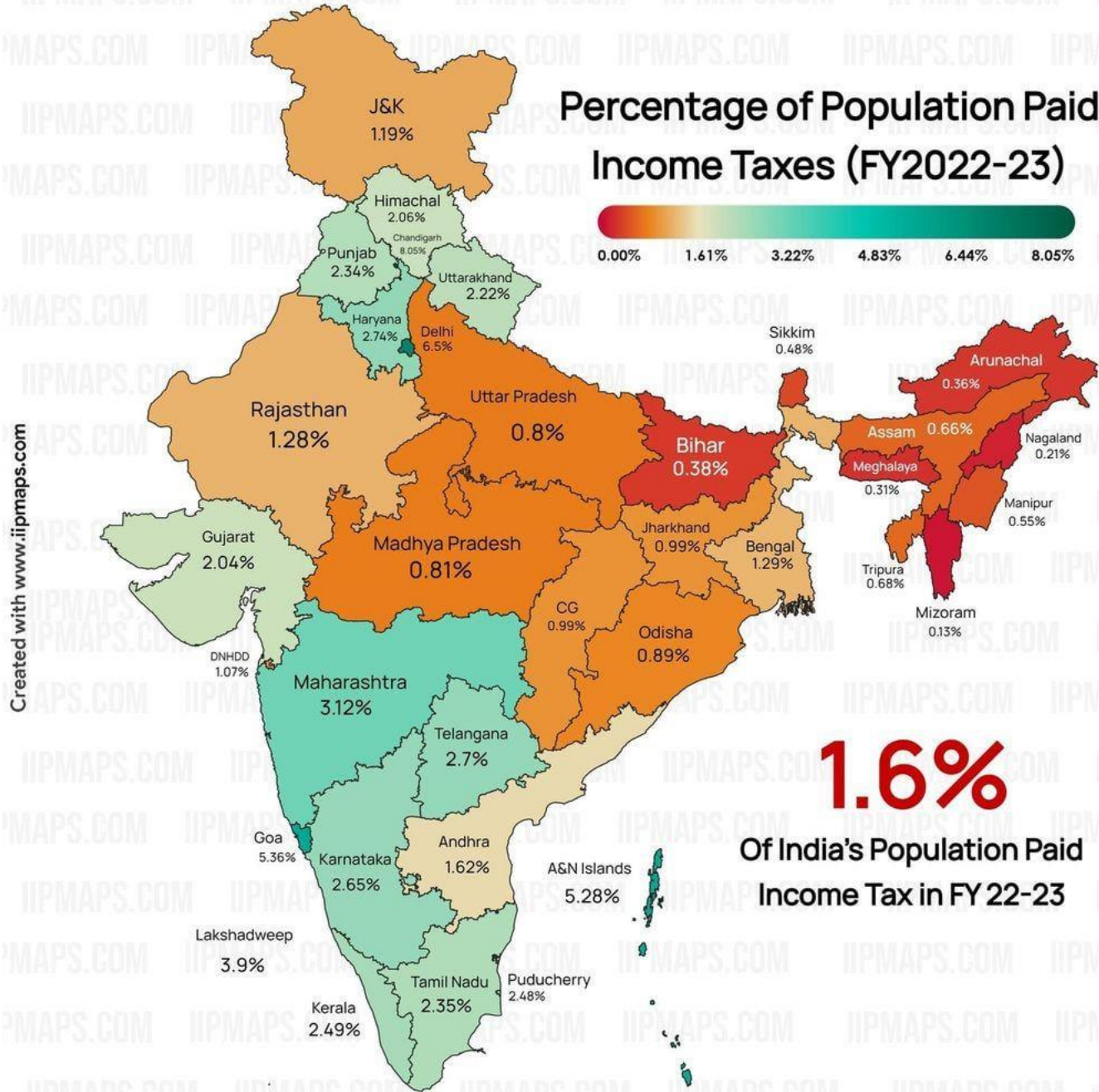


Source: OECD, WorldBank, media reports

@pratikbagadia



# Percentage of Population Paid Income Taxes (FY2022-23)



**1.6%**  
Of India's Population Paid  
Income Tax in FY 22-23

## MISREADING THE HOME PITCH

LOWEST FIRST-INNINGS TOTALS WHILE BATTING FIRST BY TEAMS AFTER WINNING THE TOSS AT HOME...

Score	Team	Opponent	Venue	Series
42	New Zealand	Australia	Wellington	1945-46
46	India	New Zealand	Bengaluru	2024-25
52	England	Australia	The Oval	1948
55	South Africa	India	Cape Town	2023-24

## INDIA'S LOWEST TOTALS IN TESTS



Score	Overs	RPO	Opponent	Venue	Series
36	21.2	1.68	Australia	Adelaide	2020-21
42	17.0	2.47	England	Lord's	1974
46	31.2	1.46	New Zealand	Bengaluru	2024-25


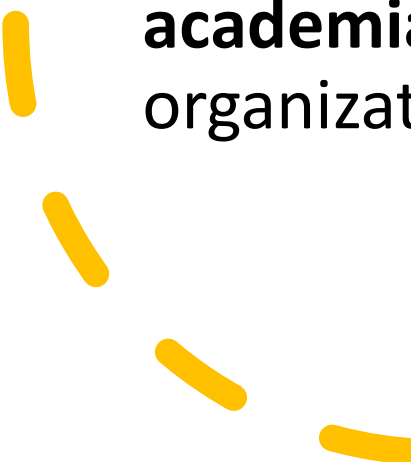
## LOWEST INNINGS TOTALS ON INDIAN SOIL

Score	Overs	RPO	For	Opp	Venue	Series
46	31.2	1.46	India	NZ	Bengaluru	2024-25
62	28.1	2.20	NZ	India	Mumbai(WS)	2021-22
75	30.5	2.43	India	WI	Delhi	1987-88




# International 6G Symposium

- 
- The Union Minister of Communications, inaugurated the International 6G Symposium during the **World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA-24)**.
  - **About**
  - **The symposium aims** to explore and understand local and global developments, cutting-edge research, key architectural principles, and emerging technologies that will shape the 6G landscape.
- 

- 
- The event is organized by the **Bharat 6G Alliance**, and marks a milestone in India's journey towards global leadership in **6G technology**.
  - **Bharat 6G Alliance**
  - The Bharat 6G Alliance is a **collaborative initiative of Indian industry, academia, national research institutions** and standards organizations.
- 

# 'Zero Defect, Zero Effect' Initiative



- 
- The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, during the Indian Foundation for Quality Management (IFQM) Symposium, emphasized the importance of the 'Zero Defect and Zero Effect' initiative.

- 



## 'Zero Defect and Zero Effect' initiative

It is an integrated and comprehensive certification system, launched in **2016** by the **Ministry of MSME**.


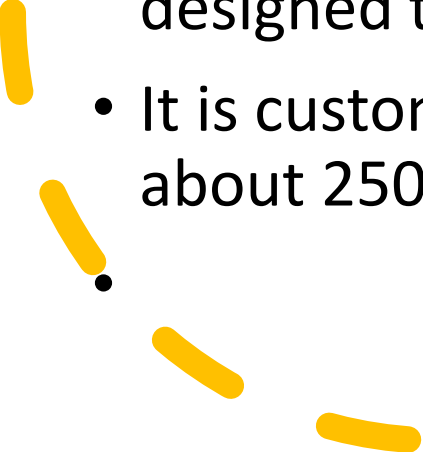
**The objective** of the Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) scheme is to;

- Encourage and enable MSMEs for manufacturing of quality products using latest technology
- Encourage MSMEs to achieve higher **ZED Certification** levels through graded incentives
- To support the "**Make in India**" campaign.






**Mechazilla**

- 
- SpaceX successfully landed its Starship rocket using a new structure called “Mechazilla.”
  - **About Mechazilla**
  - It is a 400-ft rocket-catching structure at SpaceX’s Starbase in South Texas.
  - It is equipped with two large mechanical arms, nicknamed “chopsticks,” designed to catch the Super Heavy booster midair.
  - It is custom-built to catch the heaviest flying object ever made, weighing about 250 tons.
- 




- **Importance of Mechazilla:**

- This innovative landing technique reduces wear and tear on the booster and minimizes the time required to prepare it for subsequent launches.
  - By enabling quick refurbishment and reuse, Mechazilla significantly lowers launch costs and enhances the sustainability of space missions.
- 

# National Security Guard (NSG)

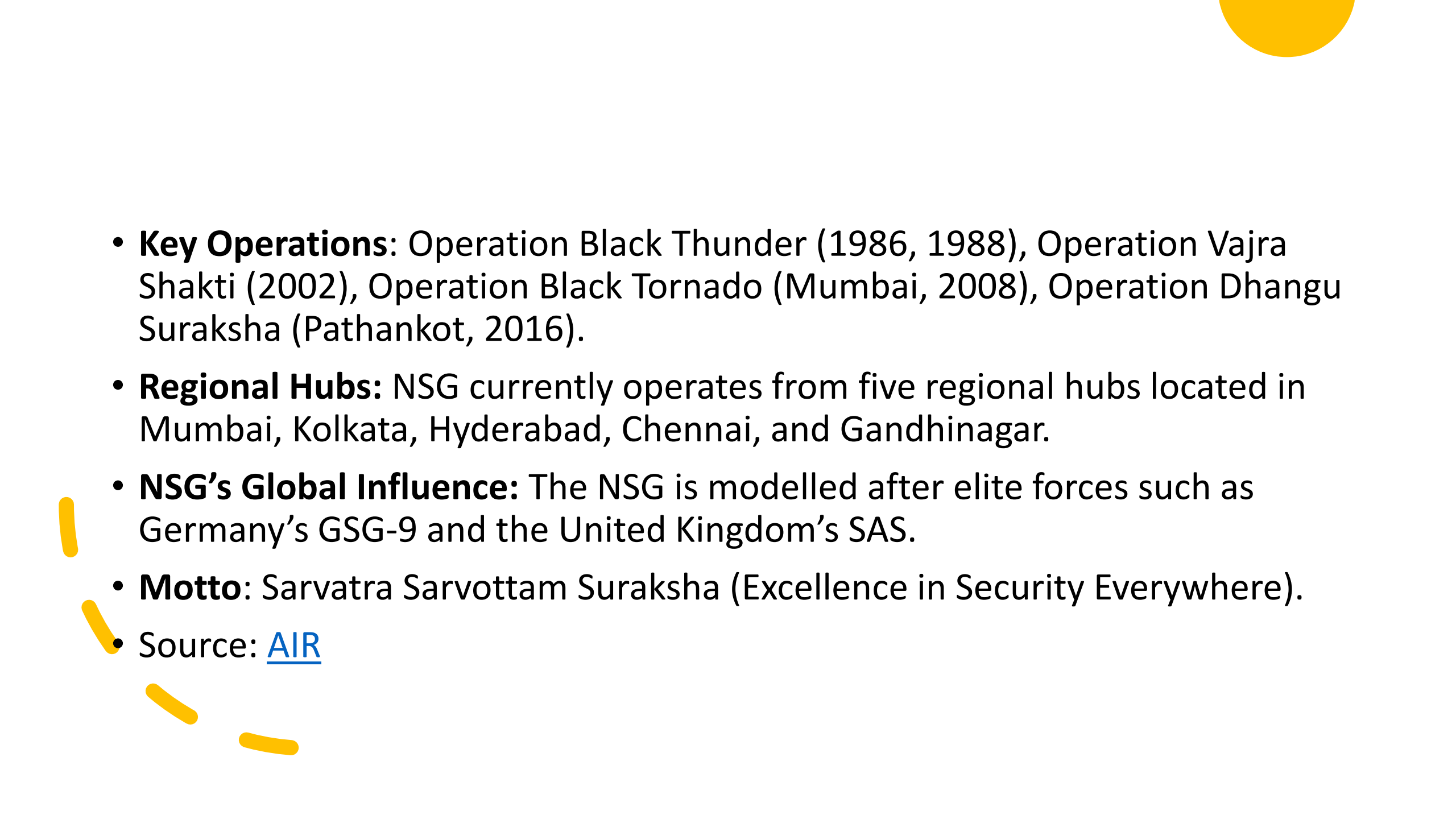


- 
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated the National Security Guard (NSG) on their 40th raising day (16 Oct 1984).
  - **About**
  - Commonly known as the **Black Cats**, NSG is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and works under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.



-



- 
- **Key Operations:** Operation Black Thunder (1986, 1988), Operation Vajra Shakti (2002), Operation Black Tornado (Mumbai, 2008), Operation Dhangu Suraksha (Pathankot, 2016).
  - **Regional Hubs:** NSG currently operates from five regional hubs located in Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Gandhinagar.
  - **NSG's Global Influence:** The NSG is modelled after elite forces such as Germany's GSG-9 and the United Kingdom's SAS.
  - **Motto:** Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha (Excellence in Security Everywhere).
  - Source: [AIR](#)

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# Word of the day

## **Coruscate:**

reflect brightly; be lively or brilliant or exhibit virtuosity

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**Synonyms:** scintillate, sparkle

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**Usage:** *His writing coruscates with poetic flourishes.*

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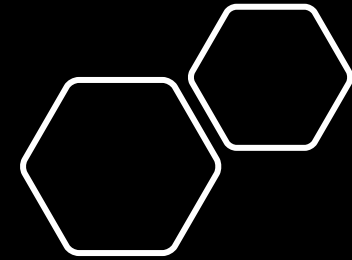
**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/coruscatepro](http://newsth.live/coruscatepro)

---

**International Phonetic**

**Alphabet:** /'kɒrəskeɪt/, /'kɔːrəskeɪt/

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Thank you  
guys.

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