

Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता



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10 MCQ QUIZ

A blurred photograph of a modern office interior. In the background, several people are seated around a long wooden table, engaged in a meeting. The scene is brightly lit by large windows, creating a bokeh effect with soft, out-of-focus light spots. The overall atmosphere is professional and collaborative.

Top 10 MCQ from the session for
every exam

- Which city ranked first globally in the TomTom Traffic Index for shortest travel time for 10 km?
10 किमी की सबसे कम यात्रा समय के लिए टॉमटॉम ट्रैफिक इंडेक्स में कौन सा शहर वैश्विक स्तर पर पहले स्थान पर रहा?
- **A. London, UK / लंदन, यूके**
- B. Mumbai, India / मुंबई, भारत**
- C. Barranquilla, Colombia / बरनक्विला, कोलंबिया**
- D. Chennai, India / चेन्नई, भारत**

- Which Indian state records the lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)?
कौन सा भारतीय राज्य सबसे कम मातृ मृत्यु दर (MMR) दर्ज करता है?
- **A. Tamil Nadu / तमिलनाडु**
- B. Kerala / केरल**
- C. Gujarat / गुजरात**
- D. Punjab / पंजाब**

- What is the current Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in India according to 2021 VSR?

2021 VSR के अनुसार भारत में वर्तमान कुल प्रजनन दर (TFR) क्या है?

- **A. 2.1**
- B. 1.46**
- C. 1.8**
- D. 1.35**

- Under which project was the sixth Scorpene-class submarine, Vaghsheer, handed over to the Indian Navy?
छठी स्कॉर्पेन-क्लास पनडुब्बी, वाघशीर, भारतीय नौसेना को किस परियोजना के तहत सौंपी गई?
- **A. Project-75 / प्रोजेक्ट-75**
- **B. Project-76 / प्रोजेक्ट-76**
- **C. Project-78 / प्रोजेक्ट-78**
- **D. Project-80 / प्रोजेक्ट-80**

- What propulsion system does the Scorpene-class submarine use?
स्कोर्पेन-क्लास पनडुब्बी किस प्रणोदन प्रणाली का उपयोग करती है?
- **A. Diesel-electric propulsion / डीजल-इलेक्ट्रिक प्रणोदन**
- B. Nuclear-powered propulsion / परमाणु-संचालित प्रणोदन**
- C. Hybrid propulsion / हाइब्रिड प्रणोदन**
- D. Steam propulsion / स्टीम प्रणोदन**

- Which Kerala beaches were recently awarded Blue Flag certification?
केरल के किन समुद्र तटों को हाल ही में ब्लू फ्लैग प्रमाणन से सम्मानित किया गया?
- **A. Varkala and Kovalam / वर्कला और कोवलम**
- B. Kappad and Chal / काप्पड़ और चैल**
- C. Bekal and Payyambalam / बेकल और पय्यम्बलम**
- D. Alappuzha and Marari / अलाप्पुझा और मारारी**

- What organization provides the globally recognized Blue Flag certification?

वैश्विक स्तर पर मान्यता प्राप्त ब्लू फ्लैग प्रमाणन कौन सा संगठन प्रदान करता है?

- **A. UNESCO**

B. Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) / पर्यावरण शिक्षा के लिए फाउंडेशन (FEE)

C. World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

D. International Maritime Organization (IMO)

- What is the significance of Chandrabhaga Beach in Odisha?
ओडिशा में चंद्रभागा समुद्र तट का महत्व क्या है?
- **A. First in Asia to receive Blue Flag certification / एशिया में ब्लू फ्लैग प्रमाणन प्राप्त करने वाला पहला**
- B. Longest beach in India / भारत का सबसे लंबा समुद्र तट**
- C. Known for coral reefs / कोरल रीफ्स के लिए प्रसिद्ध**
- D. Popular for turtle conservation / कछुआ संरक्षण के लिए लोकप्रिय**

- Which natural disaster prompted India to send humanitarian assistance to Cuba?

किस प्राकृतिक आपदा ने भारत को क्यूबा को मानवीय सहायता भेजने के लिए प्रेरित किया?

- **A. Earthquake / भूकंप**
- B. Hurricane Rafael / तूफान राफेल**
- C. Tsunami / सुनामी**
- D. Floods / बाढ़**

- What is a key feature of the Blue Flag certification criteria?
ब्लू फ्लैग प्रमाणन मानदंड की एक प्रमुख विशेषता क्या है?
- **A. Focus on water quality and safety / जल गुणवत्ता और सुरक्षा पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना**
- **B. Promotion of tourism infrastructure / पर्यटन अवसंरचना को बढ़ावा देना**
- **C. Development of sustainable housing / टिकाऊ आवास का विकास**
- **D. Conservation of mangroves / मैंग्रोव संरक्षण**

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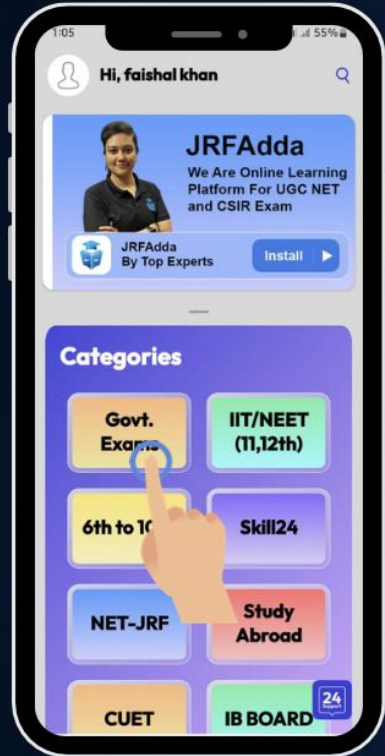
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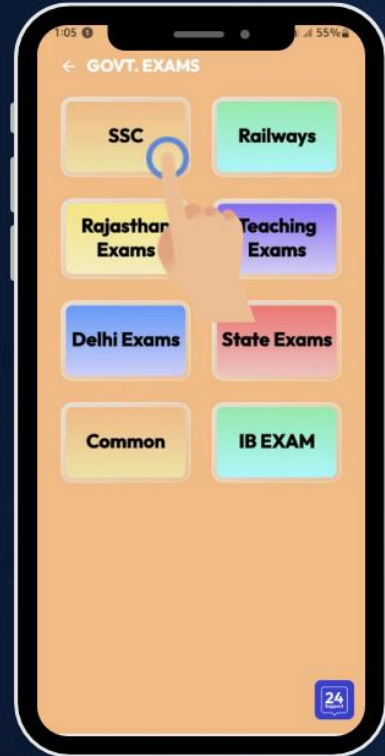
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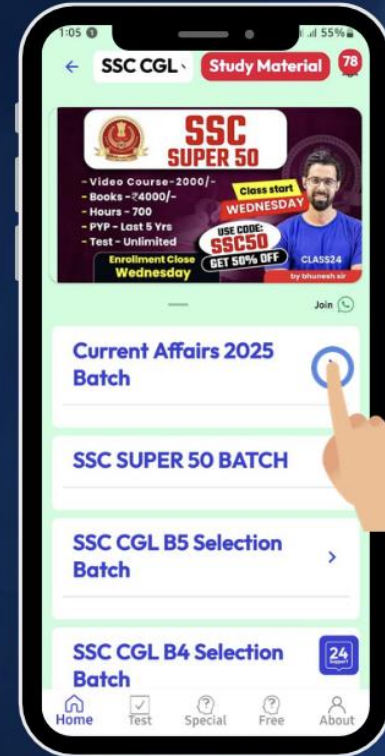
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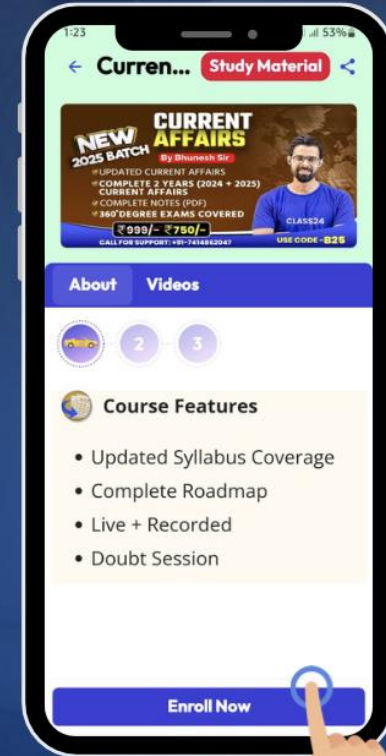
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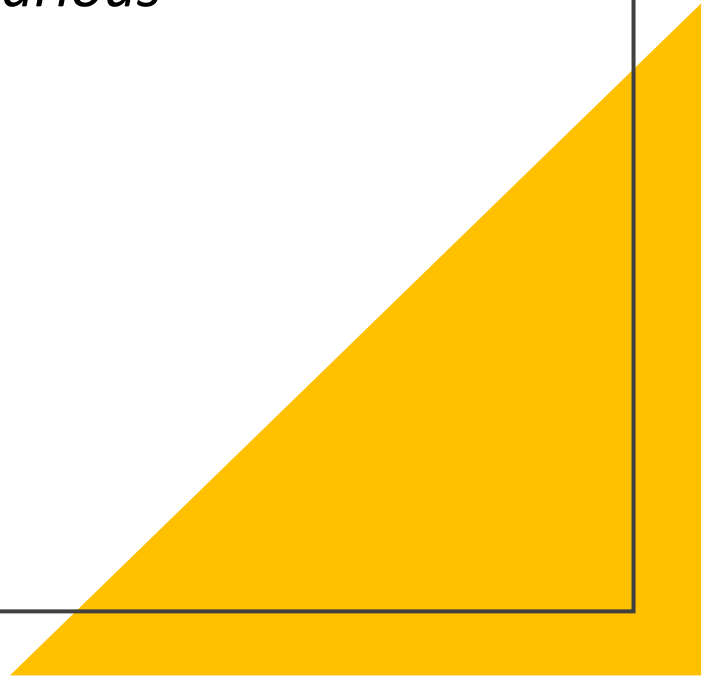


Step 4



*“If you’re
going
through
hell, keep
going*

- *.” – Winston Churchill, Various Speeches*



SENSITIVE STABILITY
'A degree of stand-off prevails along LAC'
NEWS » PAGE 4

DEADLY BLAZE
Los Angeles wildfire toll surges to 24
WORLD » PAGE 14

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR
Kerala man killed in shell attack
STATES » PAGE 3

WORLD RELATIONS
The Trump card and outcomes for world, India
'Interesting' times ahead for global politics
EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

MOVING AHEAD
Sinner, Alcaraz, and Djokovic advance
SPORT » PAGE 16

INSIDE

Navy team exits as search goes on for Assam miners
GUWAHATI
The Indian Navy team on Monday moved out of the site of the flooded coal mine in Assam where five miners have remained trapped since January 6. The bodies of four miners have been retrieved so far. » PAGE 6

Patna High Court CJ appointed to Supreme Court
NEW DELHI
President Droupadi Murmu on Monday appointed Justice Krishnan Vinod Chandran, Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, a judge of the Supreme Court. The appointment returns the top court to its full sanctioned strength. » PAGE 5

Israel and Hamas presented with final draft of deal
DOHA, QATAR
Mediator Qatar gave Israel and Hamas a final draft of a deal on Monday to end the war in Gaza, after a "breakthrough" in talks attended by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's envoy, an official briefed on the talks said. » PAGE 14

THE HINDU wishes its readers a Happy Pongal
There will be no issue of The Hindu on January 13, 2025 as Pongal is a holiday.
www.thehindu.com

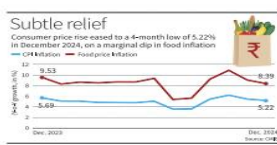
Delhi High Court pulls up AAP govt. for delaying tabling of CAG reports

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Monday questioned the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government for "dragging its feet" on the tabling of the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) over the city administration, before the Assembly, saying it "raises doubts about your bona fides".
Justice Sachin Dutta, who was hearing a petition by the Opposition MLAs from the BJP over the delayed tabling of the CAG reports in the Assembly, remarked, "The way you dragged your feet raises doubts about your bona fides... You should have promptly forwarded the reports to the Speaker for having a discussion on the floor of the Assembly."
"You have dragged your feet to avoid having a discussion... See the number of reports that you held on to the report and the time taken to send them to the L-G (Lieutenant-Governor), and then forwarding it to the Speaker... The timeline is stark," the judge said.
Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Vijender Gupta and BJP MLAs Mohan Singh Bisht, Om Prakash Sharma, Anurag Kumar Mahawar, Abhay Verma, Anil Kumar Bajpai and Jitendra Mahajan filed the petition last year, and

Inflation falls to 4-month low in December

Food inflation eases marginally to 8.4% from 9.0% in November, but some critical items report sharper price rise; inflation of edible oils and fats hit a 33-month high; latest figures put Consumer Price Index averaging at 5.63 in the third quarter of 2024-25, just a tad under RBI's projection of 5.7%

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI
India's retail inflation eased a bit to a four-month low of 5.22% in December from 5.5% in November, with food inflation cooling marginally from 9.04% in November to 8.4% last month, the National Statistics Office said on Monday.
Overall consumer prices were 4.6% higher in December for urban residents compared with 4.9% in November; some rural consumers faced a steeper price rise of 5.8%, just marginally below the 5.9% recorded in November.
With December's inflation print, India's Consumer Price Inflation has averaged 5.63% in the third quarter of 2024-25, just a tad under the Reserve Bank of India projection of 5.7%.
While the RBI expects inflation to cool to 4.5% in this quarter, the latest up-



Subtle relief
Consumer price index eased to a 4-month low of 5.22% in December 2024, on a marginal dip in food inflation.
CPI Inflation: 9.53, 9.52, 8.59, 5.22
Food Inflation: 10.52, 10.51, 10.50, 8.40
Dec 2023 Dec 2024

tick gives it little room to initiate interest rate cuts in its early February monetary policy review, even as the slowdown in growth has spurred sharp calls from government and industry to track-track reductions.
Faster upticks
While food inflation had also cooled to a four-month low, marking the second month of deceleration from October's 15-month high of 10.9%, some critical food items reported faster upticks in prices, including edible oils and fats whose prices rose at a 33-month high pace of 14.0%, up from November's 13.5% rise.
Vegetables inflation moderated mildly from 29.3% in November to 26.6%, but some items like peas and potatoes saw prices shoot up sharply, while fruit prices accelerated again by 8.5% after easing to a 7.7% pace in November. Cereals inflation stood at 6.5% in December, from 6.9% in the previous month.
Pulses prices rose 3.8%, relative to 5.4% in November, marking the slowest inflation in over two years.
Among non-food items, personal care and effects' inflation eased a tad to 9.7% from 10.4% in November, while education inflation was unchanged at 3.9%. Health inflation inched up fractionally to 4.05% in December.
Seven of the 22 states (including the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kash-

Rupee at \$670 to USD, lowest point in two years

Lalalendu Mishra
MUMBAI
In what proved to be a manic Monday for India's financial markets, the rupee recorded its sharpest slide in almost two years, to close off trading down against the U.S. dollar at \$670, while benchmark stock indices fell about 1.4%-1.5% to hit their lowest level in over seven months.
A strengthening U.S. dollar and rising crude oil prices in the global markets fuelled the downturn for India's currency and stocks, with small-cap and mid-cap indices also bleeding along with all sectoral gauges. The advance-decline ratio for shares listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange hit 0:15, the lowest since June 4, 2024.
FULL REPORT ON PAGE 5
OPPOSITION PLAYS GOVT. » PAGE 5

Flower shower



Rose petals: Rose petals are showered from a helicopter on devotees as they take a holy dip at the Sangam on Monday, the first day of Maha Kumbh, in Prayagraj. (PHOTO COURTESY OF NISARG)

India defends fencing along Bangladesh



Kalal Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI
The Ministry of External Affairs on Monday defended the construction of a border fence along the India-Bangladesh border, saying it was carried out in accordance with "all protocols and agreements". The conversation took place a day after Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Mohammad Jashim Uddin expressed "deep concern" over the construction works along the border.
FULL REPORT ON PAGE 4

Prime Minister inaugurates Z-Morh tunnel in J&K; remains silent on Statehood



Deerzada Ashiq
SONAMARG (J&K) SPECIAL
Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who inaugurated the strategic Z-Morh tunnel in Sonamarg area of Ganderbal on Monday, remained non-committal on the timeline of restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. But he said the new network of roads and railway lines in the Union Territory has bridged the distance between J&K and New Delhi.
Amid freezing conditions, Mr. Modi inaugurated the state-of-the-art 6.5-kilometre tunnel built at a cost of ₹1,700 crore. The tunnel has made tourist hotspot Sonamarg a round-the-year destination. Mr. Modi said the Z-Morh tunnel will ease the lives of the people in Kargil and Ladakh.
Referring to the militant attack of October 20, 2024 that left seven workers dead at the construction site, Mr. Modi said, "I salute the dedication of workers who braved harsh weather conditions to even risked their lives to complete this project."
Deerzada Ashiq, a destination on the "distinctive" border, said the tunnel and road bridges and "other projects" will ease the lives of the people in Kargil and Ladakh. He said the construction works along the border were completed last week on the Z-Morh tunnel, the Chenani-Nashri tunnel, the Udhampur-Baramulla railway link and the rope ways at the Shankar-

charya temple, Shiv Khori temple and Baltal-Amar-nath shrine are underway. In all ₹42,000 crore of connectivity projects are being executed in J&K, which include the Katra-Delhi expressway, four national highway projects, two ring roads and 14 Sonamarg-like tunnels. J&K will be the most connected region. Tourists can now reach untouched destinations.
"J&K is the crown of the country and has to be beautiful and strong. I assure you Modi will walk the talk. Any hurdle in your dreams will be removed. 'Dilli Ki doori' is already over now. We have to work together to fulfill dreams and have to take pledges together," the Prime Minister added.
Earlier, Mr. Abdullah, in his speech, made a case for fulfilling the promise of restoration of Statehood. "On his previous visit to Kashmir on International Yoga Day, Prime Minister talked about three promises, which included eliminating the 'Dilli Ki doori aur Dilli Ki doori' (Distance of hearts and distance between Delhi-Srinagar). People have started trusting you. You (PM Modi) have already fulfilled the promise of holding Assembly elections (in J&K), where no rigging or misuse of official machinery was reported; however, the third promise of Statehood is yet to be fulfilled," Mr. Abdullah said.
In response to Mr. Modi's statement on the restoration of Statehood, Mr. Abdullah said, "I am not speaking, where he referred to the Statehood demand. Mr. Modi remained silent on divulging any timeline. When Modi makes a promise, he fulfils it. Every time has its right time. Right things will take place at the right time," he said.
NC MOBILISES PEOPLE » PAGE 4

IN BRIEF



Centre slammed for delay in naming airport after D.B. Patil

Shiv Sena(UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray on Monday expressed disappointment with the Union government for its continued delay in approving the proposal to name Navi Mumbai International Airport after late leader D.B. Patil. The proposal, submitted in June 2022 by the then Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, remains pending. The construction of the Navi Mumbai airport began in February 2018, and the MVA government decided in 2022 to christen it Loknete Swargiya DB Patil International Airport in honour of the late leader.

612 arrested in Gujarat for dealing in illegal kite threads

A total of 609 FIRs have been filed and 612 individuals arrested in Gujarat for manufacturing, selling and stocking prohibited items such as nylon threads, lantern and glass-coated threads in run up to the Uttarayan festival, the government told the High Court on Monday. In an affidavit submitted in response to a PIL, seeking the HC direction to prohibit the use of nylon threads and strings coated with glass for flying kites during the festival on January 14, the State Home Department said between January 9 and 12, police lodged FIRs against 99 manufacturers and 404 sellers across the State.

'Security snatched for raising issue of corruption'

The Hindu Bureau GHAZIABAD

Former Union Minister and Muzaffarnagar MP Sanjeev Balyan on Monday alleged that U.P. Police had taken away his security cover after he raised his voice against their "corrupt practices". In a letter to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Mr. Balyan alleged that officials of Mansoorpur distillery in collusion with the district police have been occupying land meant for a temple and a resthouse by building a wall.

Mr. Balyan said on January 12, he had led the villagers to the police station to raise the issue but the police didn't take any action. However, Abhishek Singh, SSP Muzaffarnagar, told The Hindu that Mr. Balyan was being provided security as per the rules.

A police officer who uses lyrics as 'weapon' to win hearts

Peerzada Ashif SRINAGAR

Unlike his tribe, this Kashmir police officer has a completely different set of weapons in his arsenal — from dance numbers to wedding songs and from satirical to devotional songs. Peer Zahoor (50), a Senior Superintendent of Police rank officer in the J&K Police, is hitting the right notes to win the hearts and minds in "wounded paradise" with his lyrics. "The most played wedding song in 2022 was 'Yambara Zahoor'. In fact, the only second dance number written after Yambara Zahoor from Bollywood movie Mission Kashmir. The Yambara, which brings the energy of yester-year Bollywood actor Shammi Kapoor to the screen, has already

more than one million hits on YouTube. It enthused audiences to the extent that they created over 5,600 remixes of the song on Instagram. It's a distinction very rare in Kashmir where cinema halls remained shut for more than three decades. Besides, his satirical questionnaires, like 'Wah Wah Wah' on the electricity crisis in Kashmir, remains the most circulated song online in the Valley. Favourite wedding song "We don't have much to offer in the genre of dance items in Kashmir. 'Yambara Zahoor' was an effort to give a flip to this genre. I was pleased to hear this song in most weddings. I attended in Kashmir. In fact, when I was on duty for the Kashmir Marathon event last year, it was heartening to hear my song playing in the backdrop." Mr. Zahoor told The Hindu. In an interview,



Peer Zahoor is inspired by the songs of Gulzar and Ghazal Bakshi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mr. Zahoor was born in the most troubled area of Srinagar's Nowhatta, the centre of the old city. After completing his Bachelor of Engineering degree in Electrical Engineering from Srinagar's Regional Engineering College, he quit his job in Kashmir Police Service (KPS) to join the J&K Police 2011. Since then, the police officer is now 20-plus years old in the music industry. He has already created rip-



The fishermen had put out to sea on December 29 from the Thengapattanam harbour on a mechanised boat.

15 Kanniyakumari fishermen detained near Diego Garcia

The Hindu Bureau KANNIYAKUMARI

Fifteen fishermen who had ventured into the waters of the Thengapattanam fishing harbour in Kanniyakumari district were reportedly detained near the Diego Garcia island, part of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), on January 9 for allegedly crossing the maritime boundary. Sources said eight of the fishermen were from Thoothoor in Kanniyakumari, while the remaining were from other parts of the country. They would usually go deep-sea fishing and return to the shore only after a long haul. The fishermen had put out to sea on December 29, 2024, from Thengapattanam on a mechanised boat owned by J. Paul Surgen of Thoothoor.

Akali Dal faces an uphill comeback amid launch of Amritpal's party and rebels waiting to strike

NEWS ANALYSIS

Vikas Vasudeva CHANDIGARH

Even as Sukhbir Singh Badal's resignation as the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president has been accepted — a move that is being seen as a 'course correction' — the party is facing an existential crisis. The party's poor show could be seen in the recent Lok Sabha election, where it won only one seat — the task at hand to resurrect the party could be arduous. While the party rebels are deliberating on launching a new outfit, Lok Sabha member Amritpal Singh, a former SAD member (and State for Sikhs) propagator, has already declared the launching of his political party on January 14. For the SAD, which often claims to be the sole representative of the Sikh community, both developments of its vote bank, which has already eroded over the years to the extent that the



Sukhbir Badal paying obeisance at the Golden Temple on January 1.

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Minister Indira Gandhi's assassin Beant Singh — were seen in political circles as the subtle rise of radical elements in the State. Earlier, the victory of Sarbajit Singh Mann, a known hardline Sikh leader and chief of SAD (Amritsar), from Sangrur parliamentary seat in the 2022 by-election, gave a message that the hardliners are getting stronger.

Minister Indira Gandhi's assassin Beant Singh — were seen in political circles as the subtle rise of radical elements in the State. Earlier, the victory of Sarbajit Singh Mann, a known hardline Sikh leader and chief of SAD (Amritsar), from Sangrur parliamentary seat in the 2022 by-election, gave a message that the hardliners are getting stronger. Meanwhile, the rebel Akali leaders are unhappy with the party not completely adhering to the directions of the Akali Takht, the highest Sikh temporal seat. Former MP and rebel SAD leader Prem Singh Chandumra said if the party doesn't enforce Akali Takht's directives, they will be forced to consider launching a new outfit. The radical Sikh outfit Dal Khalsa has also said that without a successful assertion to implement the Akali Takht's directives, the situation would be a "division case".

Madhya Pradesh CM changes 'displeasing' names of 11 villages

The Hindu Bureau BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has announced name change of 11 villages in the Ghatkoti district of the State. The move comes just days after he changed the names of three villages in his home district of Ujjain. Mr. Yadav retained the names of Kalapipal tehsil on Sunday. The villages are: Mohamadpur Machhalan to Mohanpur; Bhabha Hussainpur to Bhabha Ram; Mohamadpur Pawadia to Kamrup Pawadiya; Khajuri Alalad to Khajuri Ram; Halpur to Halkaram and Merya Awazuddin to Nipanya Dev; Reschdi Muradabad to Ritchee;

W.B. govt. seeks CID's help to probe 'lapse' in 'expired' saline administration

Shrabana Chatterjee KOLKATA



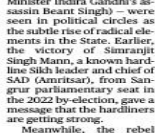
Congress workers staging a protest demanding the CM's resignation over the Medinipur incident, on Monday.

The West Bengal Health Department on Monday admitted to a lapse and asserted that they would take strict action against anyone found guilty in the administration of expired saline at Medinipur Medical College and Hospital. The government has sought the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to probe the "lapse", which led to a woman's death while three others remained in critical condition. Five women were administered Ringer's Lactate (RL) on the intravenous (IV) fluid, which had allegedly expired. All of them died after delivery of a baby. Three other women were shifted to the S.S.K.M. Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata, on Sunday night through a green corridor. Families of the patients questioned the delay in taking the investigation is completed. West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant said they have yet to verify whether the lapse happened due to a human error or a techni-



Congress workers staging a protest demanding the CM's resignation over the Medinipur incident, on Monday.

hospital officials when complications arose during delivery after the RL was administered. Mr. Pant assured them that if the allegation was proven, action would be taken. 'Cause of suspicion' Saumya Sanakar Sarangi, Chief Medical Officer of Health of the Medinipur hospital, said, "As far as I have seen, a bond was signed. But how anyone came to know that the particular RL from that batch will cause reactions is something, we are not able to grasp. This is cause for suspicion." Meanwhile, two public interest litigations were filed at the Calcutta High Court on Monday. The case will be heard on January 16.



Minister Indira Gandhi's assassin Beant Singh — were seen in political circles as the subtle rise of radical elements in the State. Earlier, the victory of Sarbajit Singh Mann, a known hardline Sikh leader and chief of SAD (Amritsar), from Sangrur parliamentary seat in the 2022 by-election, gave a message that the hardliners are getting stronger.

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HC orders fast-track trial in Badlapur assault case

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday ordered a fast-track trial in the Badlapur sexual assault case as the two victims are young children. A male attendant had sexually assaulted the girls — aged four and five — inside the toilet of their school located in Badlapur area of Maharashtra's Thane district in August last year. Public prosecutor Hiten Venegonkar informed a Division Bench comprising Justice Ravasi Mohite-Dere and Justice Neela Gokhale that the probe into the case was over and trial would be held as the next step.

Odisha signs MoU, joins PM's health insurance scheme

After years of resistance by then ruling BJD, Majhi-led BJP govt. will now implement scheme in convergence with Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

After years of attempting to persuade the then Naveen Patnaik-led Biju Janata Dal (BJP) government to join the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, the Centre has finally signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Odisha government with the Mohan Charan Majhi-led government at the helm after the Bharatiya Janata Party swept to power in the eastern Indian State last year.

Odisha has now become the latest State to implement the Ayushman Bharat scheme with the National Health Authority of the Union Health Ministry and the State's Health Department inking an MoU on Monday for inclusion in the Central scheme. The signing ceremony was presided over by Union Health Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda.

The BJD had consistently avoided implementing the



Union Minister J.P. Nadda with Odisha CM Mohan Majhi during signing of MoU for Ayushman Bharat scheme in New Delhi. ANI



scheme, arguing that its own Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) - now replaced by the Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY) - offered better and broader health coverage. The State government had then implemented BSKY mobilising its own resources. The BJP had turned the demand for adopting the Ayushman Bharat scheme into a major poll issue.

According to a statement issued after the signing of the MoU, AB PM-JAY will be implemented in convergence with the existing GJAY in Odisha. It will pro-

vide a cover of ₹5 lakh per family per annum with an additional ₹5 lakh for women members.

It was a travesty: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the people of Odisha for inclusion in the scheme. "It was indeed a travesty that my sisters and brothers of Odisha were denied the benefits of Ayushman Bharat by the previous Government. This scheme will ensure the highest-quality healthcare at affordable rates," he remarked replying to a post on X by Mr. Majhi.

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- Recently, Odisha has officially joined the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)**.
 - The scheme will be implemented in convergence with **Odisha's existing Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY)**.
- 

**Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri
Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)**

About: It is a flagship health insurance scheme (**Centrally Sponsored Scheme**) that was launched in **2018**. It aims to provide accessible and affordable healthcare to the economically disadvantaged sections of society.

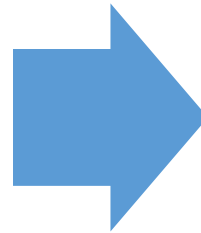
- **National Health Authority (NHA)** is the implementing agency of the scheme **under the MoH&FW.**

- **Objectives:** To reduce the financial burden on poor and vulnerable groups arising out of catastrophic hospital episodes.
 - To ensure access to quality health services.
 - To provide a health cover of **up to ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.**

Difference Between Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Care Hospitalization

Aspect	Primary Care	Secondary Care	Tertiary Care
Definition	First level of contact for individuals with the healthcare system.	Specialized care provided by medical specialists after referral from primary care.	Advanced and specialized medical care requiring highly specialized equipment and expertise.
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preventive care. - Basic treatment. - Health promotion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diagnosis and treatment of illnesses. - Specialist consultation. - Basic surgeries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complex surgeries. - Treatment of critical illnesses. - Advanced diagnostics and therapies.
Providers	General practitioners, family physicians, nurses.	Specialists (e.g., cardiologists, orthopedists) and general surgeons.	Super-specialists (e.g., neurosurgeons, oncologists) and advanced medical teams.
Facilities	Community health centers, clinics, and primary healthcare centers.	District hospitals, specialty hospitals, and nursing homes.	Multi-specialty or super-specialty hospitals and research institutes.
Services Provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immunizations. - Treatment of common illnesses (e.g., flu, fever). - Basic health education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diagnostic tests. - Specialized outpatient care. - Non-critical surgeries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organ transplants. - Cancer treatment. - Advanced ICU care.
Example Scenarios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vaccination. - Treatment for cold, fever, or minor injuries. - General health checkups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Treatment for fractures, appendicitis, or heart issues requiring a specialist. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brain surgery. - Heart bypass surgery. - Treatment for rare diseases.
Accessibility	Widely available and serves as the first point of contact.	Requires referral from primary care providers.	Limited to large cities and major hospitals; often expensive.
Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevention and early detection. - Continuity of care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diagnosis and management of specific illnesses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advanced treatment and rehabilitation for complex cases.

Key Features: Coverage: Over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) identified based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data.



Cashless and Paperless: Beneficiaries can avail of cashless and paperless access to health services at the point of service in any empaneled hospital, both public and private, across India.

Comprehensive Benefits: Covers pre- and post-hospitalization expenses, diagnostics, medicines, and nearly 1,400 medical procedures, including major surgeries.

Funding Pattern: 60:40 cost-sharing between the Union Government and States.

- 90:10 for North Eastern States and Himalayan States (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jammu & Kashmir (UT)).
- 100% central funding for Union Territories (UTs) without a legislature.

Recent Developments: In 2024, the Union Cabinet approved the expansion of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to **cover all senior citizens aged 70 and above**, irrespective of their income status.



Benefits and Impact: Since its inception, AB PM-JAY has achieved:

8.19 crore hospital admissions, with ₹1.13 lakh crore spent on healthcare.


Coverage for 45% of India's population.



Reduced out-of-pocket healthcare expenses for the poor.

Increased access to both public and private healthcare facilities.



- **Health in India**

- Health is a **State Subject in Schedule VII in Indian Constitution**, making healthcare delivery primarily the states' responsibility.
 - It covers **primary and secondary healthcare**, public health initiatives, health infrastructure etc.
- 

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- **National Health Mission (NHM)** is a flagship initiative that **provides financial and technical assistance to states** to strengthen their healthcare systems. Key components of NHM include:
 1. **NRHM**: Focuses on rural healthcare.
 2. **NUHM**: Addresses urban health challenges.
 3. **RMNCH+A**: Provides healthcare across different life stages.
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IN BRIEF



Anti-tank guided missile Nag Mk-2 tested successfully

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Monday announced that the indigenously developed third-generation fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile, Nag Mk-2, and the entire system was ready for induction into the Army following successful field firing trials. Field evaluation trials of Nag Mk-2 were successfully conducted recently at the Polbhan Field Range in the presence of senior officers of the Army, the DRDO said in a statement. "During the three field trials, the missile systems destroyed precisely all the targets - maximum and minimum range, thus validating its firing range," it said.

Pugmarks finally lead to capture of tiger in Bengal

Forest department officials on Sunday night captured a 10-year-old male tiger from the Kisorimohanpur area in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal after pursuing pugmarks adjoining residential areas for around a week, officials said. "The tiger was successfully captured on Sunday night with the help of a bait." Divisional Forest Officer of South 24 Parganas Nisha Goswami told *The Hindu*. Ms. Goswami added that after confirming that the tiger was fully healthy, it was released into the wild in the Sunderbans. According to forest officials, the tiger roamed on forest fencing and was roaming in areas that were hardly 50 metres from people's houses.

Six-year-old query from Supreme Court on rat-hole mines remains unanswered

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

An oral question from the Supreme Court to the Union government remains unanswered even as rescue workers recovered bodies of four workers from a flooded rat-hole coal mine in Dima Hasao district of Assam.

On January 11, 2019, nearly six years ago, the top court asked whether rat-hole mines could possibly operate in the north-east hills without the "connivance" of officials. The Bench was at the time examining the rescue of 15 miners trapped in such a mine deep inside the East Jaintia Hills on December 13, 2018.

"Lives are lost due to illegal mining. What about the officials who allowed this to happen? It could not have been done without the connivance of the offi-



Underground mines: A 2019 photo of rat-hole mines in East Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya. RTU SAJ KHAMAR

cialists..." Justice A.K. Sikri (retired) had asked the Union and Meghalaya governments in a hearing in January 2019.

The incident at East Jaintia Hills occurred four years after the National Green Tribunal (NGT), in April 2014, banned rat-hole mining and illegal transport of coal "forthwith" in Meghalaya.

The ban, seconded by the Supreme Court, was

Search on for miners in Assam; Navy team exits

Five miners remain trapped since January 6 in the flooded coal mine and its lateral branches; water being pumped out, agencies trying to locate workers, Dima Hasao Commissioner says

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Indian Navy team on Monday moved out of the site of the flooded rat-hole coal mine in Dima Hasao district of Assam where five miners have remained trapped since January 6. The bodies of four miners, including a Nepal national, have been retrieved so far.

District officials said the almost unchanged level of the murky water in the 50-metre-deep mine made it difficult for the Navy divers to operate.

Nine pumps operating simultaneously from the ill-fated mine and three abandoned ones nearby helped bring the water level down from 30 metres to about 12 metres over the day, but the level dropped by only 0.3 metres subsequently.

Murky water "The murkiness of the water and the angles of the tunnels are beyond the capability of the Navy's remotely operated vehicle to enter and navigate. The tunnels are too narrow for divers, who cannot remain



Anxious moments: Villagers watching the rescue operation at the coal mine disaster site at Kalamati village in Dima Hasao district of Assam. RTU SAJ KHAMAR

under water for more than 11 minutes at a time, to go in with air tanks and other gear," an official monitoring the rescue operations said.

"Dewatering continues with other agencies still trying to locate the other trapped miners," Dima Hasao's District Commissioner, Simanta Kumar Das, said.

Personnel of the Army, the paramilitary Assam Rifles and the National Disaster Response Force, the State Disaster Response Force,

Coal India Ltd., police, and the local administration are engaged in the rescue operations.

FIRs lodged On Sunday, an organisation named the Hahai Progressive Welfare Society lodged a first information report at the Umrangoo police station against Deboli Goswami and his wife, Kanika Hojai. Mr. Goswami is the Chief Executive Member of the North Cachar Hills Autonomous District Council, which go-

vernors Dima Hasao. It accused the duo of defying the ban on rat-hole mining by the National Green Tribunal in Assam. The top court to operate the illegal mines in the Umrangoo area. A similar FIR was filed by Sarmindar Karbi Apel, an apex body of the Karbi ethnic community, at the Umrangoo police station against Ms. Hojai, accusing her of involvement in illegal coal mining activities along with Punish Hojai, one of two arrested in connection with the accident.

Doctors from 14 nations seek change in India-linked name of a hard-to-treat fungus

Hindu Shalini Parappadan
NEW DELHI

Dermatologists from India and 13 other countries, including Germany, have objected to the region-specific name given to a novel species of fungus — *Trichophyton (T.) indotinae* — that causes widespread and hard-to-treat skin infections and is resistant to most anti-fungal medicines.

The fungal species, named *Trichophyton indotinae*, has turned up in over 40 countries and its origin currently remains unknown.

Japanese dermatologists, who had spotted the fungus in patients from India and Nepal, proposed in 2020 that the fungus should be considered a new species and named

The doctors' group says that prejudicial naming impacts the perceptions of clinicians and public

Trichophyton indotinae, in line with a historical tradition of linking new infectious agents to specific locations and is resistant to most anti-fungal medicines.

The doctors' group said that prejudicial naming impacts the perceptions of clinicians and public alike, ignoring the exhortations of the World Health Organization, the American Society of Microbiology, and others, not to do so.

In this case, the species name *T. indotinae* was introduced based on isolates from just two patients, one Indian and one Nepalese, in whom the isolated fungus

Patna High Court CJ Vinod Chandran appointed to SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday appointed Justice Krishnan Vinod Chandran, Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, a judge of the Supreme Court.

The appointment returns the top court to its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges.

The Supreme Court Collegium had on January 7 recommended Justice Chandran for the appointment.

In its resolution, the collegium headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna noted that there was currently no Supreme Court judge with the High Court of Kerala as the parent court.

At the time of his recommendation, Justice Chandran was the senior-most among High Court judges hailing from Kerala.

The top court would function at full quorum till the retirement of Justice Hrishikesh Roy on January 31.

Justice Chandran was appointed a judge of the Kerala High Court on November 8, 2011, and elevated as the Patna High Court Chief Justice on March 29, 2023. He has served as a High Court judge for over



Krishnan Vinod Chandran

11 years and as a Chief Justice for more than a year. He stands 13 in the combined all-India seniority of High Court judges.

The Supreme Court Collegium has repeatedly emphasised the need to have its full sanctioned strength of judges, especially with the pendency of cases.

A November 2023 collegium resolution had pointed out that the top court cannot afford even one judicial vacancy taking into account the ever-mounting pendency of cases.

"The workload of judges has increased considerably. Bearing in mind the above, it has become necessary to ensure that the court has full working judge-strength leaving no vacancy at any point of time," the collegium had underscored.

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site at bit.ly/crosswordlink or



- Across
- Vehicle one shouldn't walk into (4)
 - Excitedly sits eating eggs (10)
 - Thoroughly defeated communist outside Oxford University by end of bout (10)
 - Spanish person's resort with drain reflux (8)
 - Difficult struggle to capture one Indian town (8)

- 14 Animals having style dance stupendously in the beginning (6)
- 16 Bacterial infection from European behind animal endurance (4)
- 17 Hunter, perhaps, turning in bad (5)
- 18 Feel absence of young lady (4)
- 19 Reportedly cheat some to obtain mineral (6)
- 21 Customers excitedly rose, red about initial remark (8)
- 22 Large eagles fly around Zulu's animals (8)
- 26 Author Waugh terribly hyperventilates in absence of therapist (6)
- 27 Weaver's pet pigeon flies over maiden (7,3)
- 28 Masseur orders carrying money (4)
- Down
- Tony girl ran wildly and with concert (10)
 - Build pits in front of tree with European fighter (8)
 - Bereaved lady covers new hole in the wall (6)
 - Uniques, "Monkey carrying king" (4)
 - Maine lab synthesizes legume (4,4)
 - Sleeta's embraced by stout meowher in Portuguese pilgrimage town (6)
 - "Hark, that lady has the answer" (4)
 - Communicative in Agro disease (5)
 - Red oysters spread over warships (10)
 - Making blunders and breaking Ming bulb (8)
 - Killed a group of crows in front of overcast (6)
 - Brushes dust from top of shell and cries (6)
 - Doctor, same mixture results in visions during sleep (6)
 - Silver with Edward is old (6)
 - Take seat with Earl and plot (4)

SUDOKU

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FAITH

Chidambara Rahasyam

The image of Lord Shiva, dancing His eternal cosmic dance, with one foot lifted and a swinging arm, as depicted in the Chidambaram temple, has been one of the most mesmerising visions over centuries, captivating devotees. In fact, in Saitivism, the word temple refers to Chidambaram, which is celebrated as the topmost shrine, the Kailash on earth, said P. Swaminathan in a discourse.






When Manikavachakar saw the idol at Chidambaram, the image came to life before his eyes and he could hear the anklets tinkle as the Lord performed a unique dance movement on the floor. Espying the idol, Tiruvavukkarasaar said: "If one could but be privileged to see the arched eyebrows... the wet matted locks... and the sweet lifted foot, even human birth is desirable on this vast earth." Chidambaram, a seat of true knowledge, has the intriguing reputation of holding a secret. This is derived from the special worship conducted around 7.30 p.m. every day at a small gate adjacent to the Siddha Sabha. However, there is no idol here, only a garland made of wither leaves, with the niche covered with a curtain. One may ask what is the significance of this. This service is said to lead one from ignorance to true knowledge. This is to reinforce the fact that the Supreme Being, who is everywhere, is also here in the 'empty space'. One cannot see God directly, but one can only feel Him.

The Chidambaram Rahasyam (secret) is to make one realise God through one's inner eye; that knowledge drives out ignorance. One sees the divine form of the Lord (visible to the eyes as Nataraj) and also his formlessness (all pervading but not visible to the outer eye).



Anti-tank guided missile Nag Mk-2 tested successfully

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Monday announced that the indigenously developed third-generation fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile, Nag Mk-2, and the entire system was ready for induction into the Army following successful field firing trials. Field evaluation trials of Nag Mk-2 were successfully conducted recently at the Pokhran Field Range in the presence of senior officers of the Army, the DRDO said in a statement. “During the three field trials, the missile systems destroyed precisely all the targets - maximum and minimum range, thus validating its firing range,” it said.

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- **Third-Generation Fire-and-Forget Technology:** Enables precision targeting with minimal operator intervention post-launch.
 - **Versatile Performance:** Capable of neutralising modern armoured vehicles equipped with explosive reactive armour (ERA).
 - **Platform Compatibility:** Successfully integrated with Nag Missile Carrier (NAMICA), enhancing battlefield mobility and deployment flexibility.
 - **Range:** Nag Mk-2 is estimated to have a range of **7 to 10 kilometres**, an improvement over Nag Mark 1, which had a 4-kilometre range.
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Kumbhvani radio keeps pilgrims informed, entertained

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Devotional songs interspersed with discussions on the spiritual significance of the Kumbh, a live account of how lakhs of people took a dip in the confluence of rivers on the first day of the religious fair, and a discussion with a senior Railway official on arrangements being made by the Indian Railways. These were on Monday among the broadcasts on the radio channel launched for the duration of the mega fair.

Kumbhvani – an OTT-based Radio FM channel – dedicated to disseminating information related to the Kumbh Fair was launched by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath last week. Broadcasting at a frequency of 103.5 MHz, the channel will be on air from January 10 to February 26, operating daily from 5.55 a.m. to 10.05 p.m.

As lakhs took a dip in the confluence of Ganga-Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati in Prayagraj, there was a live report on the event on the *Kumbhvani* channel.

Even as more devotional music followed, there was soon a discussion on the many initiatives taken by the Railways. The senior Railway official also explained how the stations would be operating within the city on the day of the ritual bathing when the crowds would be at their peak.

The radio channel is



As lakhs took a holy dip, there was a live report on the event on the *Kumbhvani* channel.

part of many initiatives taken by the government to project the cultural significance of the Kumbh. Some others are a special cultural zone called *Kalagram* where music, theatre, and crafts programmes would be held.

Local residents, however, do not feel that these initiatives would be instrumental in bringing more pilgrims.

“The Kumbh Mela has been held for centuries, people from all parts of the country have been coming here irrespective of the efforts of the government,” Deepak Kumar Sen, Allahabad resident, and author of the book *The Divine Kumbh: Echoes of Eternity: Ganga, Shipra, Godavari, and Sangam*, said.

According to political analyst Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, “This is yet another example of the agency of the State getting into the promotion of a religious event with the aim of furthering the stranglehold of Hindutva or Hindu majoritarian politics. I find it hugely problematic.”

- **About Kumbhvani Radio**

- Kumbhvani is an OTT-based FM radio channel launched to cater to the pilgrims at the Kumbh Mela.
- Broadcasts devotional songs, discussions on spiritual topics, and live updates of events during the Kumbh.
- Operational from January 10 to February 26 on 103.5 MHz, from 5:55 a.m. to 10:05 p.m.

- **कुंभवाणी रेडियो के बारे में**


- कुंभवाणी एक ओटीटी-आधारित एफएम रेडियो चैनल है जो कुंभ मेले के तीर्थयात्रियों को जानकारी प्रदान करता है।
- भक्ति गीत, आध्यात्मिक विषयों पर चर्चा और कार्यक्रमों के लाइव अपडेट प्रसारित करता है।
- 10 जनवरी से 26 फरवरी तक 103.5 मेगाहर्ट्ज़ पर सुबह 5:55 से रात 10:05 तक प्रसारण।



- **Purpose and Significance**

- Highlights cultural aspects of the Kumbh Mela, including its spiritual importance.
- Provides practical information, such as railway arrangements, to assist pilgrims.

- **उद्देश्य और महत्व**

- कंभ मेले के सांस्कृतिक पहलुओं और आध्यात्मिक महत्व को उजागर करता है।
 - तीर्थयात्रियों की सहायता के लिए रेलवे व्यवस्थाओं जैसी व्यावहारिक जानकारी प्रदान करता है।
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- **Public and Expert Opinions**


- Many residents believe the Kumbh has its own legacy that doesn't need government promotion.

- Critics suggest the initiative aligns with political strategies promoting Hindutva.

- **जनता और विशेषज्ञों की राय**

- कई निवासियों का मानना है कि कुंभ की अपनी विरासत है जिसे सरकारी प्रचार की आवश्यकता नहीं।

- आलोचकों का कहना है कि यह पहल हिंदुत्व को बढ़ावा देने की राजनीतिक रणनीति से जुड़ी है।



China trade surplus reaches a record of nearly \$1tn

Beijing Exports In 2024 Exceeded Imports On A Scale Seldom Seen Anywhere Except During Or Immediately After 2 World Wars

Keith Bradsher

China announced Monday that its trade surplus reached almost \$1 trillion last year as its exports swamped the globe, while the country's own businesses and households spent cautiously on imports.

When adjusted for inflation, China's trade surplus last year far exceeded any in the world in the past century, even those of export powerhouses like Germany, Japan or the US. Chinese factories are dominating global manufacturing on a scale not experienced by any country since the US after World War II.

The outpouring of goods from Chinese factories has drawn criticism from an ever-lengthening list of China's trade partners. Industrialised and developing countries alike have erected tariffs, attempting to slow the tide. In many instances, China has retaliated in



China now produces about a third of the world's manufactured goods, according to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. That is more than the US, Japan, Germany, South Korea and Britain combined

kind, bringing the world closer to a trade war that could further destabilise the global economy. President-elect Trump, who will take office next week, has threatened to escalate already aggressive American trade policies aimed at China.

On Monday, China's general

administration of customs said that the country exported \$3.6 trillion worth of goods and services last year, while importing \$2.6 trillion. The resulting surplus of \$990 billion broke its previous record, which was \$838 billion in 2022. Exports in Dec, including some that may've be-

en rushed to the US before Trump can take office, propelled China to a new single-month record surplus of \$104.8 billion.

While China ran a deficit in oil and other natural resources, its trade surplus in manufactured goods represented 10% of China's economy. By comparison, US reliance on trade surpluses in manufactured goods peaked at 6% of American output early in WWI, when factories in Europe had mostly stopped exporting and shifted to wartime production. Many countries seek trade surpluses in manufactured goods because factories create jobs and are important for national security. A trade surplus is the amount by which exports exceed imports. China's exports of everything from cars to solar panels have been an economic bonanza for the country. Exports have created millions of jobs not just for factory workers, but also for


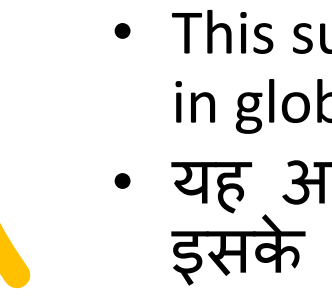
high-earning engineers, designers and research scientists.

At the same time, China's imports of factory goods have slowed sharply. It has pursued national self-reliance over the past two decades, most notably through its Made in China 2025 policy, for which Beijing pledged \$300 billion to promote advanced manufacturing.

The backlash to China's trade imbalance has come from industrialised and developing countries alike. Governments are worried about factory closings and job losses in manufacturing sectors that cannot compete with low prices from China. The EU and the US raised tariffs last year on cars from China. But some of the broadest barriers to China's exports have been put up by less affluent countries with middle-income manufacturing sectors, like Brazil, Türkiye, India and Indonesia. They have been on the cusp


of industrialisation but fear that could slip away.

The volume of China's exports has been rising more than 12% a year. The dollar value of its exports has been growing at half that pace, as prices plunged because Chinese companies were producing even more goods than foreign buyers were ready to purchase. The question is whether China can maintain its lead if other countries raise tariffs. Yet many importers find that China remains the most competitive place to buy goods. Eric Poses, owner of All Things Equal, a US firm that invents and distributes board games and electronic tabletop games, uses suppliers in Shanghai. Printing board games costs twice as much in the US, while the US does not even manufacture many electronics needed for the tabletop games. "I wish I could do it here in a cost effective manner, but it's just not possible." NYT

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- **Record Trade Surplus**China's trade surplus in 2024 reached nearly \$1 trillion, surpassing historical records.
 - चीन का व्यापार अधिशेष 2024 में लगभग \$1 ट्रिलियन तक पहुँच गया, जिसने ऐतिहासिक रिकॉर्ड तोड़ दिया।
 - **Economic Perspective:**
 - This surplus accounted for 10% of China's economy, driven by its dominance in global manufacturing and reduced imports.
 - यह अधिशेष चीन की अर्थव्यवस्था का 10% था, जो वैश्विक उत्पादन में इसके प्रभुत्व और आयात में कमी के कारण हुआ।
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- **Exports and Imports Data** China exported goods worth \$3.6 trillion while importing \$2.6 trillion, marking a surplus of \$990 billion.
 - चीन ने \$3.6 ट्रिलियन का निर्यात किया और \$2.6 ट्रिलियन का आयात किया, जिससे \$990 बिलियन का अधिशेष दर्ज हुआ।
 - **Geographical Influence:**
 - China's exports dominated markets in the US, EU, and emerging economies, reinforcing its manufacturing base.
 - चीन का निर्यात अमेरिका, यूरोपीय संघ और उभरती अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में हावी रहा, जिससे इसका विनिर्माण आधार मजबूत हुआ।

- **Global Impact** -China's trade policies have caused friction, with countries imposing tariffs to protect local industries.
- चीन की व्यापार नीतियों ने तनाव उत्पन्न किया है, क्योंकि देश अपने स्थानीय उद्योगों की रक्षा के लिए टैरिफ लगा रहे हैं।
- **Political Perspective:**
 - Countries like the US are concerned about China's growing economic influence, leading to trade wars and policy shifts.
 - अमेरिका जैसे देश चीन के बढ़ते आर्थिक प्रभाव को लेकर चिंतित हैं, जिससे व्यापार युद्ध और नीतिगत बदलाव हो रहे हैं।

- 
- **Industrial Dominance**-Chinese factories now produce one-third of the world's manufactured goods, overtaking countries like the US, Germany, and Japan.
 - चीनी फैक्ट्रियां अब दुनिया के एक-तिहाई निर्मित वस्तुओं का उत्पादन करती हैं, जो अमेरिका, जर्मनी और जापान जैसे देशों से आगे हैं।
 - **Historical Perspective:**
 - Post-World War II, China's rise as a manufacturing giant marked a significant shift in global economic dynamics.
 - द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के बाद, एक विनिर्माण दिग्गज के रूप में चीन का उदय वैश्विक आर्थिक गतिशीलता में एक महत्वपूर्ण बदलाव

5.Challenges and Sustainability

5. Experts question if China can sustain its lead as other countries strengthen local manufacturing and increase tariffs.
6. विशेषज्ञ सवाल उठाते हैं कि क्या चीन अपनी बढ़त बनाए रख सकता है, क्योंकि अन्य देश स्थानीय उत्पादन को मजबूत करते हैं और टैरिफ बढ़ाते हैं।

7. Economic Outlook:

5. Rising production costs and global policy shifts may challenge China's export-driven economy.
6. बढ़ती उत्पादन लागत और वैश्विक नीतिगत बदलाव चीन की निर्यात-प्रधान अर्थव्यवस्था को चुनौती दे सकते हैं।

- 
- **Future Implications**-China's "Made in China 2025" initiative pledges \$300 billion to promote advanced manufacturing and self-reliance.
 - चीन की "मेड इन चाइना 2025" पहल उन्नत विनिर्माण और आत्मनिर्भरता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए \$300 बिलियन का वादा करती है।
 - **Political and Economic Strategy:**
 - The policy aims to reduce dependence on foreign technology and dominate emerging tech industries.
 - यह नीति विदेशी प्रौद्योगिकी पर निर्भरता कम करने और उभरते प्रौद्योगिकी उद्योगों में प्रभुत्व स्थापित करने का लक्ष्य रखती है।

When a Pakistani cricketer called Indian players ‘kafirs’!

Test stalwart Mohinder Amarnath recalls the 1978 tour in new memoir

Avijit.Ghosh@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Indian cricketers received a tumultuous welcome when they arrived in Pakistan for a Test series in 1978. But the players were taken aback when a foreign-educated Pakistani cricketer referred to them as “kafirs”, a pejorative term for those who don’t adhere to Islam.

“An unnecessary remark by a Cambridge-educated cricketer gave us a bit of a shock,” writes Mohinder Amarnath in his newly-released memoirs, *Fearless*, penned with brother Rajender. The player who made the remark is not named.

The incident occurred after a game in Rawalpindi. “After the match, we were a bit casual boarding the bus. Gratuitously, this cricketer said, “*Bithao, bithao, in kafiron ko jaldi bithao* (Board these non-believers quickly),” writes Amarnath, further adding, “What was the use of a good education if it could not change their negative attitude towards others?”

In contrast, the cricketers received a wildly joyous reception at the Karachi airport. About 40,000-50,000 turned up to welcome the visiting team. The crowd was double the number, but many had left beforehand because the flight was delayed.

“The distance from the airport to the hotel normally took 20 minutes, but for us, it took four hours; people had occupied every inch of space on the pavement and the road, and they refused to leave unless and until they caught a glimpse of the Indian cricketers or shaken hands with us. They were warm and hospitable,” says Amarnath, who played 69 Tests, scored 4,378 runs, hit 11 tons, took 32 wickets, was also Man of the Match in India’s 1983 ODI

World Cup final triumph.

However, some Pakistani players behaved differently. The memoir says, “... this artificial bubble burst quicker than anticipated and hostility emerged from an expected quarter. Apparently, certain Pakistani players acted on the advice of seniors and kept their distance. If we spoke to them, their tone and tenor was aggressive. At least two of them, Javed Miandad and Sarfraz Nawaz, and to a lesser degree Mudassar Nazar, took the advice a little too seriously. I don’t think either Javed or Sarfraz ever kept quiet on the field.”

The cricketer, known to be one of the finest players of pace bowling, recalls an incident in the Karachi Test involving Nawaz and Sunil Gavaskar, who hit centuries in both innings (111 and 137) in the game.

“Whenever he bowled a bouncer, Gavaskar allowed it to sail over his head. When the same bowler pitched the ball up to him, it was dispatched to the fence. This annoyed Sarfraz and he vented his frustration in crass Punjabi words, which Gavaskar couldn’t understand. After the over, he came to me and asked, “Why is Sarfraz calling me pant coat?” I laughed at his ignorance and whispered, “He meant p...c...!” Those who still cannot follow should recall the ‘Ben Stokes’ memes on social media.

In the late 1970s, exceptions aside, alcohol was banned in Pakistan. Fateh Singh Rao Gaekwad, who was the manager of the team, hosted the players at his Bombay residence before the tour and, “on a lighter note” asked the players “fond of drinks” to carry their quota.

“Many were taken aback by the suggestion, knowing the restrictions on alcohol in Pakistan. The next morning, crates of two-litre Johnnie Walker Red Label whisky arrived and was distributed among the players,” the memoir says.

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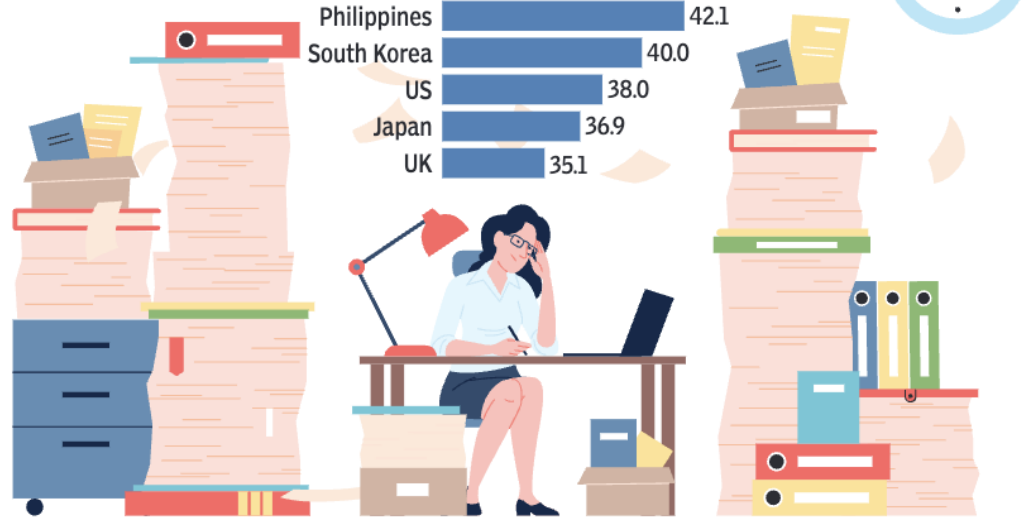
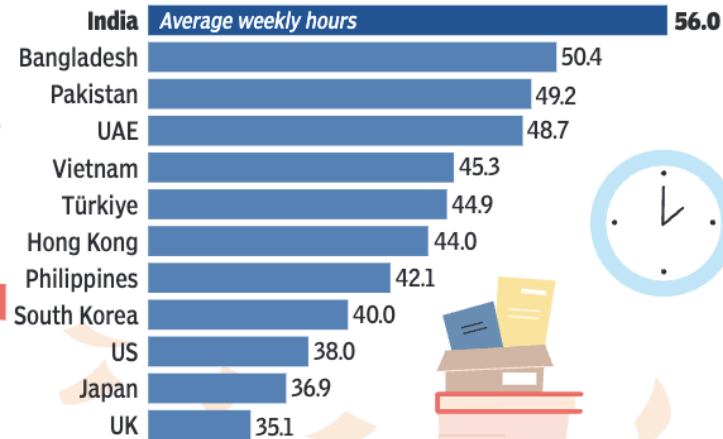
Why a 90-hour work week is a very bad idea

L&T chairman SN Subrahmanyan triggered a storm by saying people should work even on Sundays and put in 90 hours a week. In advanced economies, though, people work for fewer hours but are far more productive, finds **Chandrima Banerjee**

Only **soldiers** come close to **90 hrs.** Among rest, Indians lead pack

India's formal workforce clocks the highest weekly hours globally for two of three categories analysed by International Labour Organization (ILO). Clerical staff put in 56 hours a week while professionals – software engineers, doctors, lawyers, and so on – do 52 hours. Indian CXOs and others in corporate decision-making roles, or the managers, work 57 hours weekly in India but are second behind their counterparts in Sudan, who do 60 hours.

India is already the land of the hardest-working employees (Latest ILO estimate of mean hours actually worked by an employee in a week)



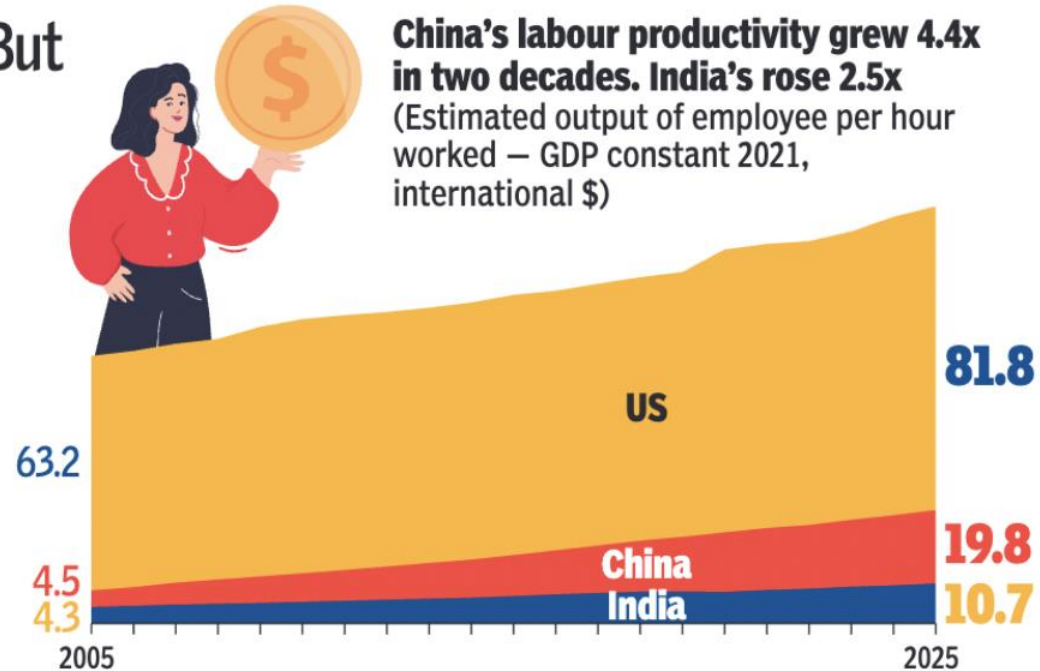
If we consider only “employees” – those whose use of time at work is determined by someone else and not by themselves – as opposed to “employed people”, India has been home to the most hardworking labour force since at least 2018

The 90-hr force | Soldiers in Honduras put in 80 hours a week in 2023. Decades of data show that only the armed forces in various countries ever put in anywhere close to 90 hours a week, even if none has been reported to have touched it

China has moved on from '996'. But it also has a productivity problem

For every hour on duty, a worker in China contributes 19.8 international dollars as against 10.7 in India. In fact, India is No.133 in the world on labour productivity. Workers in China and India, however, lag the global average for productivity, 23.1 PPP dollars.

Long working hours did contribute to China's rapid economic growth but the country's glorified '996' culture – working 9 am to 9 pm/6 days a week – is now frowned upon worldwide and by its govt. After a spurt in the 2000s, the country's productivity growth plateaued and then slowed down. Now, China is seen as a low-productivity economy that pushes forward through sheer scale.



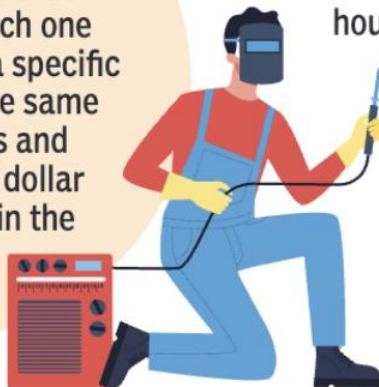
Productivity highest in high-skilled work. Investing in workers can help

Labour productivity is all about what workers actually do. The highest output per hour worked is in Luxembourg (166 international dollars). But these are financial sector workers who are highly skilled. Ireland (139 international dollars) comes second for much the same reasons. But then there is Guyana, where the beginning of oil production in 2019 sent labour productivity soaring – the world's highest growth over the past two decades (12 international dollars in 2005 to 114 now).

But the oil-rich Arab countries have been grappling with declining labour productivity and an ILO official said that's due to "an inability to invest fiscal gains in promoting productivity growth and a lack of investing in skilling the labour force to meet new labour market needs".

What are international dollars?

A notional figure that indicates how much one needs to spend in a specific country to buy the same amount of goods and services a US dollar would buy in the US.

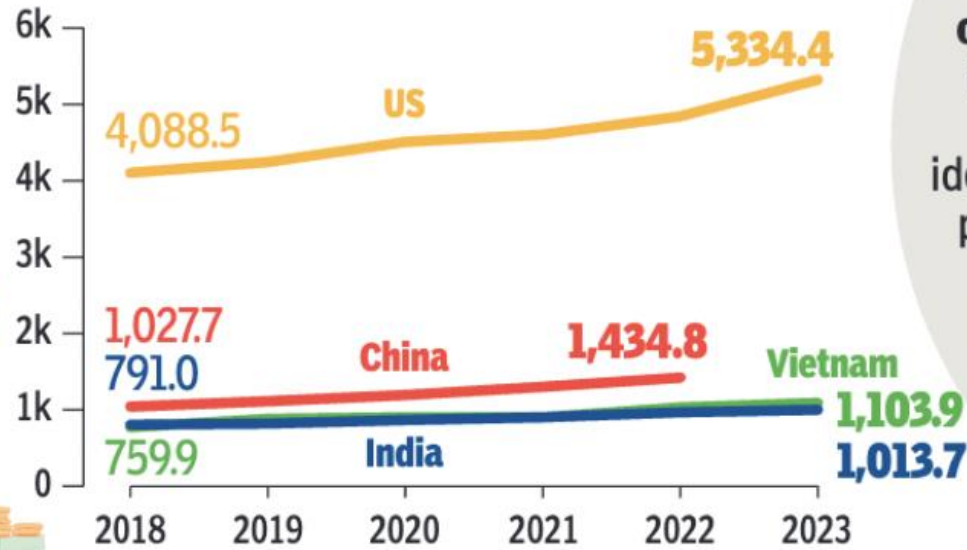


Let's take a look at where **Indian salaries stand**

Compared with other countries, in 2023, India's average monthly earnings were the world's 12th lowest in PPP terms. And even within the most well-paying services sector, Indian employees earned more in PPP terms than only 15 other countries, low-income and lower-middle income economies like Rwanda, Zambia, Indonesia, Egypt, and so on.

This is how an Indian employee's earnings compare with those in China, Vietnam or the US

(Average monthly earning of employee, 2021 PPP\$)



Note: 2023 data not available for China

Design: **Anil Panwar**; Source: ILO



“Workers’ productivity declines with overwork,” Prof Elizabeth Anderson, a leading thinker on work ethics, told **TOI**. In a country like China, “overwork is more of a national ideology and not primarily driven by the singular personalities of particular CEOs”, she said. As for corporate leaders promoting overwork, she said “the only important thing for them is to achieve their own glory. And they are willing to let their overworking subordinates bask in the light of their glory as their reward”.

PM launches 'Mission Mausam' to make India 'climate-smart' nation

KEY GOALS UNDER **IMD VISION 2047**

➤ **Global leadership** | Attain recognition as a leading meteorological agency at the global level

➤ Exporting instruments to meet the global demand

➤ Substantial improvement in quality, accuracy & efficiency in service delivery and forecast accuracy

➤ Use of UAVs for surface and boundary layer meteorological observations

➤ Setting up one million observations at voluntary homes (neighbourhood meteorological network)

➤ Involvement of all stakeholders in weather reporting (aviation, railways,

power, wind and solar farms)

➤ Setting up 300 electronic sensors-based observatory

➤ Using mobile weather station; application of AI/ML; application of robotics

➤ Utilisation of energy from waste to power all surface observatories and automated stations

➤ Implementation of advanced algorithms and data analytics for real-time lightning detection and prediction systems

➤ Precise observations and continuous monitoring to map sea-level rise

➤ Constant observations of glacier monitoring and hydrological data



► **Continued from P 1**

Referring to the substantial progress made in weather information dissemination system in the past decade, Modi pointed out that only 10% farmers and livestock owners used weather-related advice 10 years ago, but the number has increased to over 50%.

The PM on the occasion launched 'Mission Mausam' with the goal of making the country a 'weather-ready, climate-smart' nation, and released 'IMD Vision 2047' document that spells out the next 22 years journey of Met department for making India a global leader in weather forecast system, climate modelling and export of meteorological instruments.

'Mission Mausam' aims at achieving the goal by deploying cutting-edge weather surveillance technologies and systems, implementing high-resolution atmospheric observations, next-generation radars and satellites, and high-performance computers in the coming years.

Modi highlighted the need to work with future requirements in mind, including developing warning systems for natural disasters.

Underlining India's rich history of meteorological expertise, the PM pointed out that the country's traditional knowledge was well documented, refined and deeply studied in ancient texts like Vedas, Samhitas, and Surya Siddhanta, and called for greater exploration and integration of this knowledge with contemporary scientific practices.

"There is need to research more in this direction and explore how to link substantiated (traditional) knowledge with modern science," said PM Modi after citing numerous examples of ancient texts carrying information on meteorology.

The PM referred to how significant works such as 'Krishi Parashar' and 'Brihat Samhita' studied cloud formation and types, and the mathematical work on planetary positions at the time where there were no scientific instruments available to study those phenomena.

Lauding IMD's efforts towards accuracy of forecast, the PM spoke how his visit to Sonamarg in J&K to inaugurate a 6.5-km tunnel Monday was planned on the basis of Met department's advance prediction of clear weather.

-
- **Progress in Weather Information Dissemination**A decade ago, only 10% of farmers and livestock owners used weather-related advice. The figure has now increased to over 50%.
 - एक दशक पहले केवल 10% किसान और पशुपालक मौसम संबंधी सलाह का उपयोग करते थे। यह आंकड़ा अब 50% से अधिक हो गया है।
 - **Economic Impact:**
 - Improved weather forecasting aids farmers in optimizing agricultural practices, reducing crop losses.
 - बेहतर मौसम पूर्वानुमान किसानों को कृषि प्रथाओं को अनुकूलित करने और फसल के नुकसान को कम करने में मदद करता है।

2. Launch of 'Mission Mausam'

2. The initiative aims to make India a "weather-ready, climate-smart" nation through advanced technologies.
3. इस पहल का उद्देश्य उन्नत तकनीकों के माध्यम से भारत को "मौसम तैयार, जलवायु-स्मार्ट" राष्ट्र बनाना है।

4. Technological Perspective:

2. Deployment of next-gen radars, satellites, and high-performance computers for accurate weather predictions.
3. सटीक मौसम पूर्वानुमानों के लिए अगली पीढ़ी के रडार, उपग्रह और उच्च-प्रदर्शन कंप्यूटरों की तैयारी।

3. IMD Vision 2047

3. A roadmap to establish India as a global leader in weather forecasting, climate modeling, and export of meteorological instruments by 2047.
4. 2047 तक भारत को मौसम पूर्वानुमान, जलवायु मॉडलिंग और मौसम विज्ञान उपकरणों के निर्यात में वैश्विक नेता के रूप में स्थापित करने का रोडमैप।

5. Geographical Scope:

3. Enhanced weather systems will benefit disaster-prone areas across the Indian subcontinent.
4. उन्नत मौसम प्रणाली भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप के आपदा-प्रवण क्षेत्रों को लाभान्वित करेगी।

- **Integration of Traditional Knowledge** PM emphasized using ancient Indian texts like Vedas and Surya Siddhanta to link traditional meteorological knowledge with modern science.
- पीएम ने पारंपरिक मौसम संबंधी ज्ञान को आधुनिक विज्ञान से जोड़ने के लिए वेदों और सूर्य सिद्धांत जैसे प्राचीन भारतीय ग्रंथों का उपयोग करने पर जोर दिया।
- **Historical Context:**
 - Ancient texts such as 'Krishi Parashar' and 'Brihat Samhita' studied cloud formations and planetary positions without modern tools.
 - 'कृषि पराशर' और 'बृहद संहिता' जैसे प्राचीन ग्रंथों ने आधुनिक उपकरणों के बिना बादल संरचनाओं और ग्रह स्थितियों का अध्ययन किया।

- **Disaster Management and Future Needs** Development of advanced warning systems for natural disasters like cyclones and floods is a key focus.
- चक्रवात और बाढ़ जैसी प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के लिए उन्नत चेतावनी प्रणालियों का विकास एक मुख्य फोकस है।
- **Political Perspective:**
 - Such initiatives strengthen India's disaster management capabilities, garnering global recognition.
 - इस तरह की पहल भारत की आपदा प्रबंधन क्षमताओं को मजबूत करती है और वैश्विक मान्यता प्राप्त करती है।

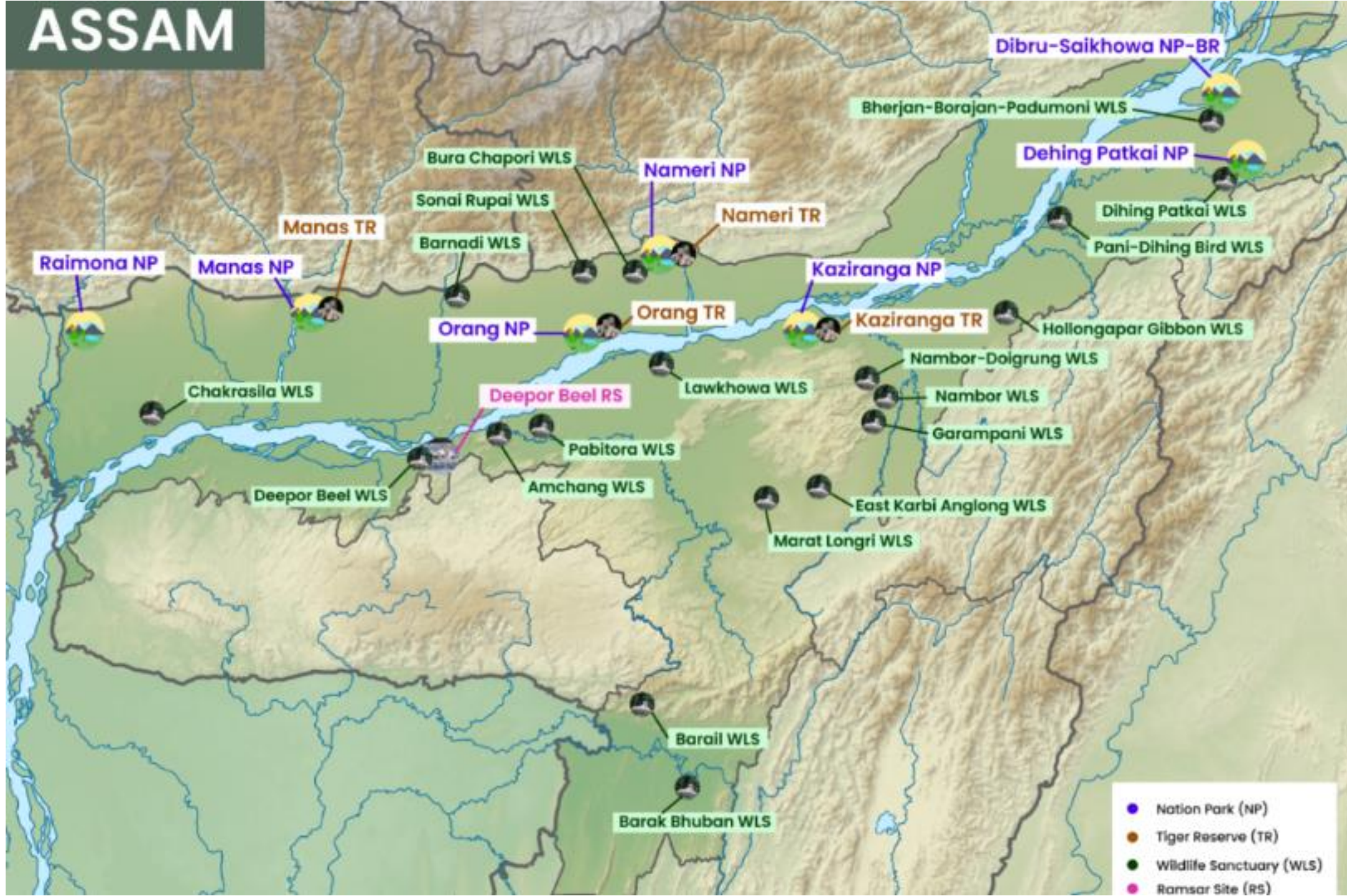



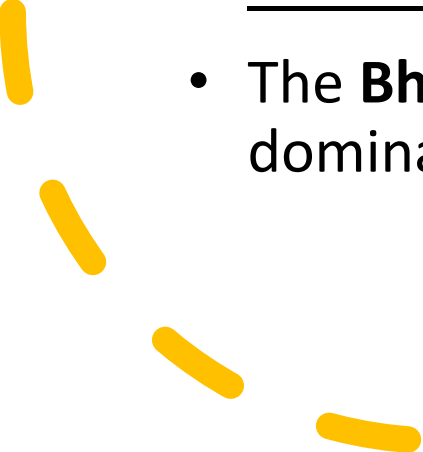
Hoolongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary



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- The Centre's National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) has approved exploratory drilling for oil and gas in the eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) of Assam's Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary.
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ASSAM



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- **Location:** Situated in **Jorhat district, Assam**, the sanctuary lies in a secluded region of evergreen forest.
 - **Habitat:**
 - **Altitude:** Ranges between **100–120 m (330–390 ft)**.
 - **Terrain:** Gently slopes downward from southeast to northwest.
 - The **Bhogdoi River** borders the sanctuary, creating waterlogged areas dominated by **semi-hydrophytic plants**.
- 

- **Fauna:**

- Home to India's only **gibbons**, the **Hoolock Gibbons**.
- Northeast India's only **nocturnal primate**, the **Bengal Slow Loris**, is found here.
- **Other species:** Indian elephants, tigers, leopards, jungle cats, wild boars, civets, stump-tailed macaques, northern pig-tailed macaques, and four types of squirrels.

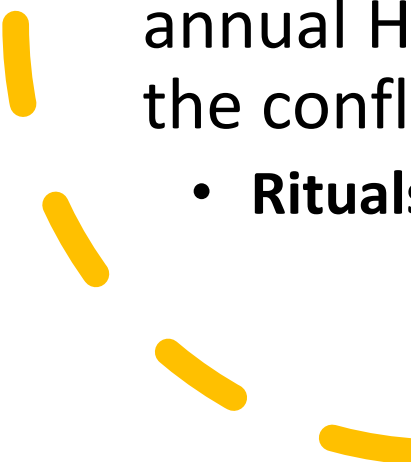
- **Uniqueness:**



- Named after the **Hoolock Gibbons**, making it the **only sanctuary in India** named after a primate species.
- Known for its **dense gibbon population and rich biodiversity**.

Gangasagar Mela

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- The organisers of the Gangasagar Mela have announced several new initiatives, including a certificate for pilgrims participating in the annual pilgrimage.

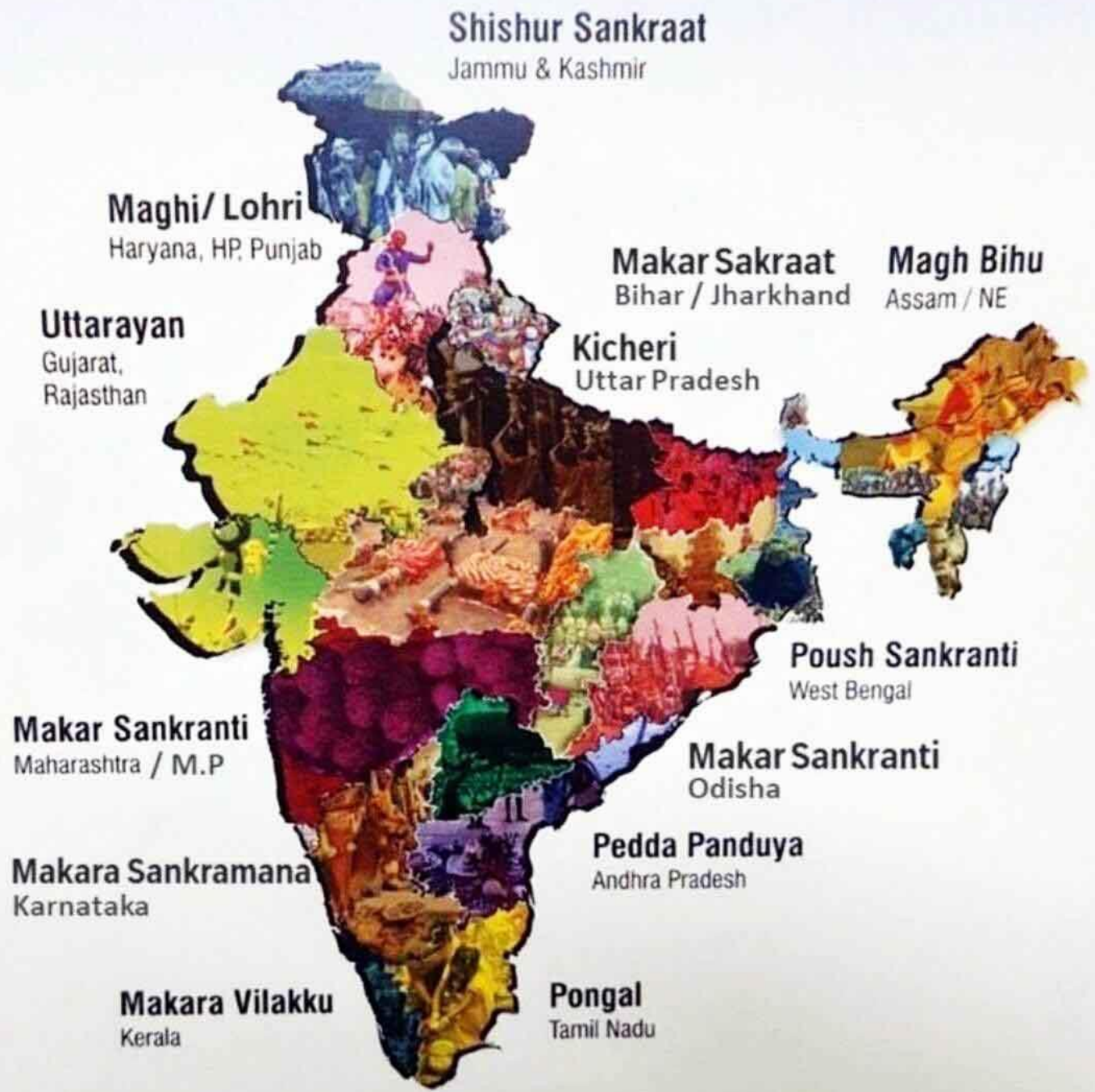
- **About**


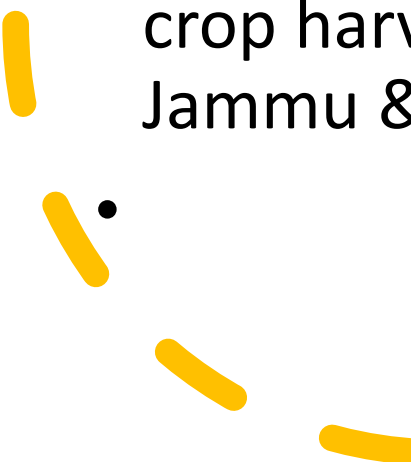
- The **Gangasagar Mela**, also known as the **Gangasagar Yatra**, is an annual Hindu religious festival held on **Sagar Island, West Bengal**, at the confluence of the Ganges River with the Bay of Bengal.
 - **Rituals** include the **Sacred bath** and **Deepdan** (offering of lamps).
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- It is celebrated during **Makar Sankranti**, it is the **second-largest** religious gathering in India after the **Kumbh Mela**.
 - **Makar Sankranti** marks the Sun's transition into Capricorn (Makara Rashi) and is considered highly auspicious in Hinduism.
 - The pilgrimage site has ancient roots, being mentioned in the **Mahabharata's Vana Parva (1500–2000 BC)**.
 - The mela is closely associated with the **Kapilmuni Ashram**, where devotees pay homage to **Sage Kapila**.
- 

Harvest Festivals Across India





- 
- Recently, various regions of India have witnessed harvest festivals which reflect the deep and harmonious relationship between humans and nature.
 - **About Harvest Festivals of India**
 - **Lohri:** Marks the end of the winter solstice and celebrates the rabi crop harvest. Celebrated in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir by Hindus and Sikhs.
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- **Makar Sankranti:** Marks the sun's northward journey (Uttarayan) and the end of winter. Celebrated as a harvest festival across India.
 - Known as **Poush Sankranti (Bengal), Sukarat (Central India), Makara Sankranti (South and West India).**
 - **Magh Bihu (Assam):** Marks the end of the harvest season and the transition to spring.
 - **Pongal (Tamil Nadu):** A four-day festival dedicated to the Sun God, marking Uttarayan and the harvest season.
 - Includes cleaning (Bhogi), worship of the Sun (Surya Pongal), honoring cows (Maattu Pongal), and social visits (Kanum Pongal).

Terrace Tourism









Jaipur Makar Sankranti Celebration



- 
- Old Ahmedabad celebrates two-day Uttarayan with flying kites boosting its **terrace tourism**.
 - **About**
 - **Terrace Tourism:** During the two days of the festival on 14th-15th January, intense kite fights take place on rented terraces.
- 

Terrace tourism in Old Ahmedabad started some years ago, it has recently gained traction with not just people from Gujarat but even from Maharashtra and Gujarati NRIs.

Kites are a big business in Gujarat. The state is the **largest contributor to India's kite production, with 40%.**

Old Ahmedabad was given the **UNESCO World Heritage City tag in 2017.**



Diego Garcia

Fishermen were detained near **Diego Garcia island** for crossing the maritime boundary and poaching.

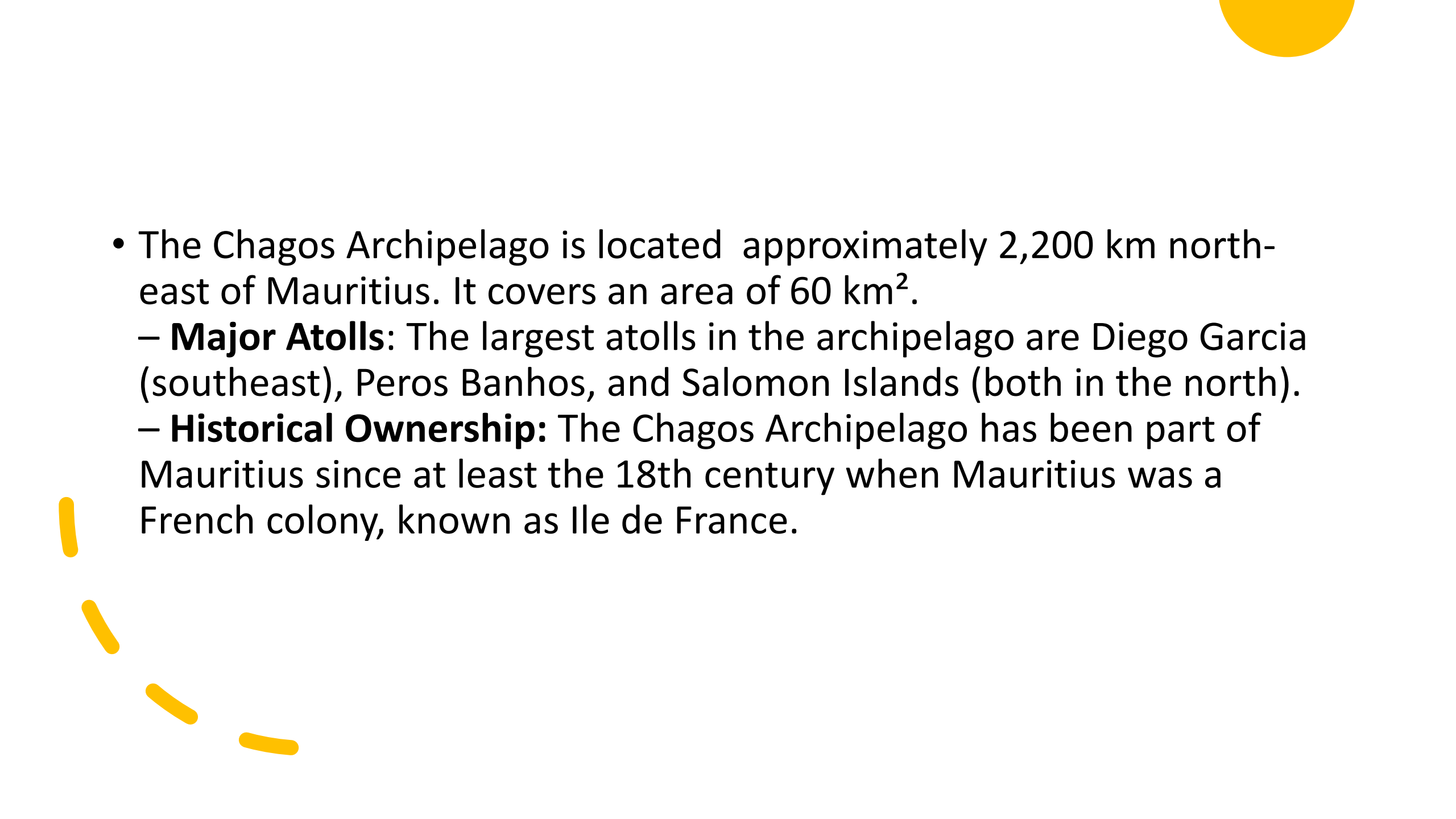
Diego Garcia


It is the largest and southernmost island of the **Chagos Archipelago**, located in the central Indian Ocean.

It consists of a V-shaped cay.

It was discovered by the Portuguese in the early 16th century.

It is part of the British Indian Ocean Territory.


- 
- The Chagos Archipelago is located approximately 2,200 km north-east of Mauritius. It covers an area of 60 km².
 - **Major Atolls:** The largest atolls in the archipelago are Diego Garcia (southeast), Peros Banhos, and Salomon Islands (both in the north).
 - **Historical Ownership:** The Chagos Archipelago has been part of Mauritius since at least the 18th century when Mauritius was a French colony, known as Ile de France.



- – **Transfer to Britain:** In 1810, following the cession of Ile de France from France to Britain, the Chagos Archipelago became part of the British-controlled Mauritius.

1. The Chagos Archipelago was separated from Mauritius in 1965, during British colonial rule.

- **Britain and Mauritius** made good progress in talks over the sovereignty of the Chagos Islands, including the U.S.-British military base.









Iran's Capital Shift to Makran and Alexander's Legacy

Iran plans to relocate its capital from Tehran to the southern Makran coastal region due to economic and ecological concerns.

In ancient times, Makran was notable as the region where Alexander the Great lost a third of his men while retreating to Macedonia, after his Invasion of India (327–325 BCE).

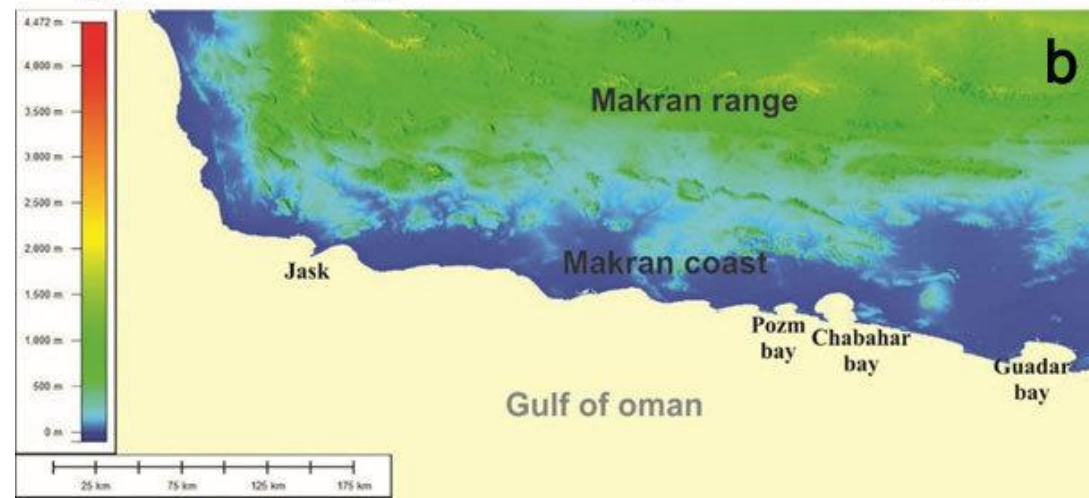
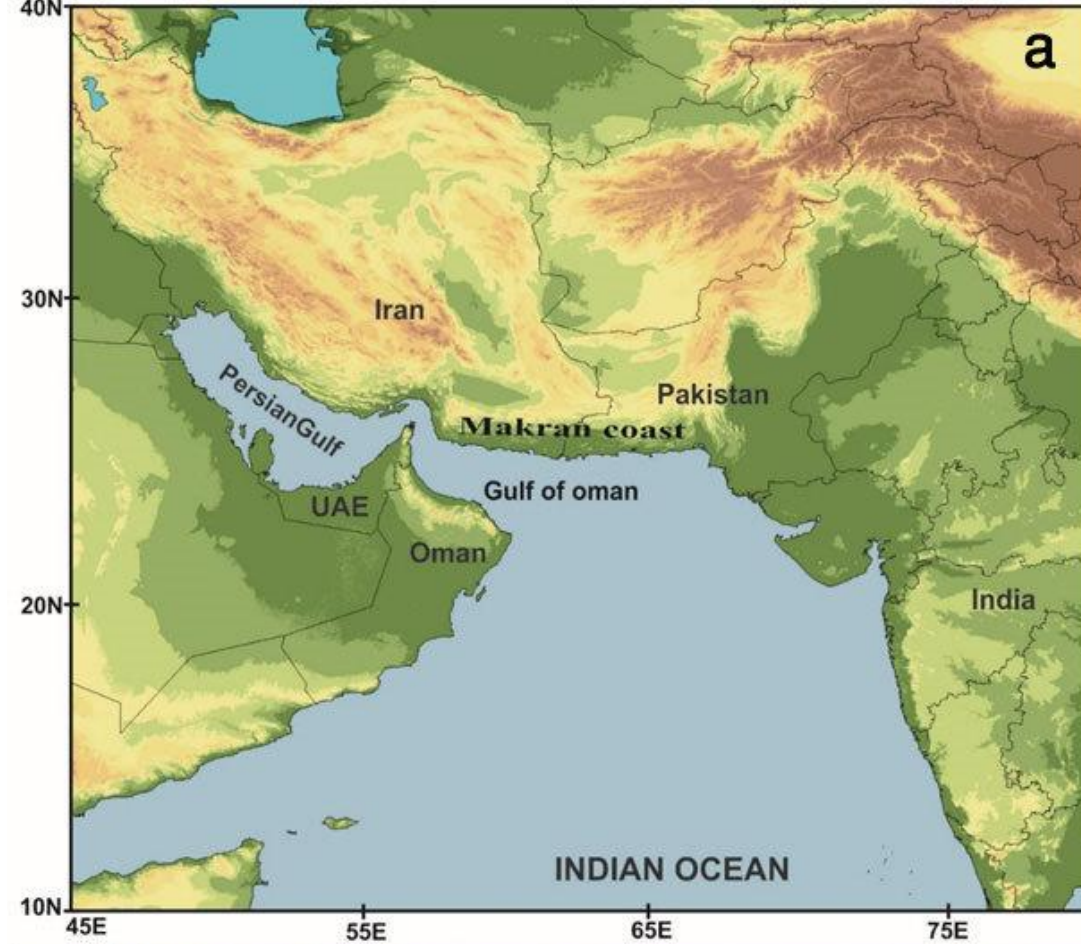
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- What are Key Facts Regarding Iran's Plan to Relocate its Capital?
 - **Historical Context:** Tehran has been Iran's capital for **over 200 years**, having been established during the reign of **Agha Mohammad Khan**, the first ruler of the **Qajar dynasty (1794 to 1925)** of Iran .
- 



- Planned Relocation:
- Iran intends to move its capital from Tehran to Makran in Sistan and Baluchestan Province due to Tehran's overpopulation, pollution, water scarcity, and energy shortages.
- The idea of relocating the capital was first proposed during Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's presidency in the early 2000s.

Makran's Strategic Importance:

Makran's strategic location near the Gulf of Oman presents opportunities to boost the maritime economy and enhance national economic prospects

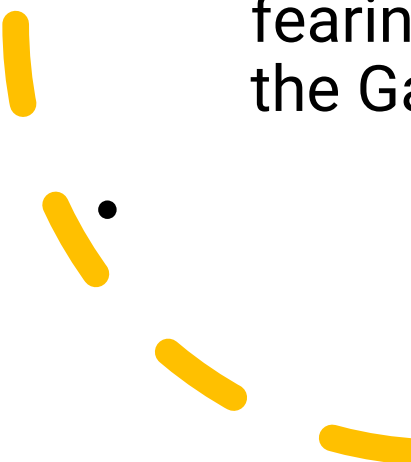
. Makran coast is a major source of Iran's petroleum reserve and coastal trade due to the presence of ports like Chabahar.



- 
- What are Key Facts Regarding Alexander's Indian Invasion?
 - **About Alexander: Alexander the Great** was king of **Macedonia** (336 BC to 323 BC) and conquered a huge empire that stretched from the **Balkans to modern-day Pakistan**.
 - He remained **undefeated in battle** and is regarded as **one of history's greatest military commanders**.
- 



- **Key Events:**

- **Battle of the Hydaspes:** Alexander faced strong **resistance from Porus** at the Jhelum River. After defeating him, Alexander admired his bravery, **restored his kingdom, and made him an ally.**
 - **Halting at the Hyphasis (Beas) River:** Alexander's army, exhausted and fearing a **larger Indian force led by Nandas, refused to advance** into the Gangetic Plain and persuaded him to retreat.
- 





- **Forced Retreat:**

- The Greek historian **Arrian** in his account “***The Anabasis of Alexander***” described the march through the **Gedrosia (Makran Desert) desert** as one of extreme suffering. Alexander led part of his army back to Persia through the harsh Gedrosian (Makran) Desert, aiming to **surpass Cyrus the Great, who had failed to cross it.**

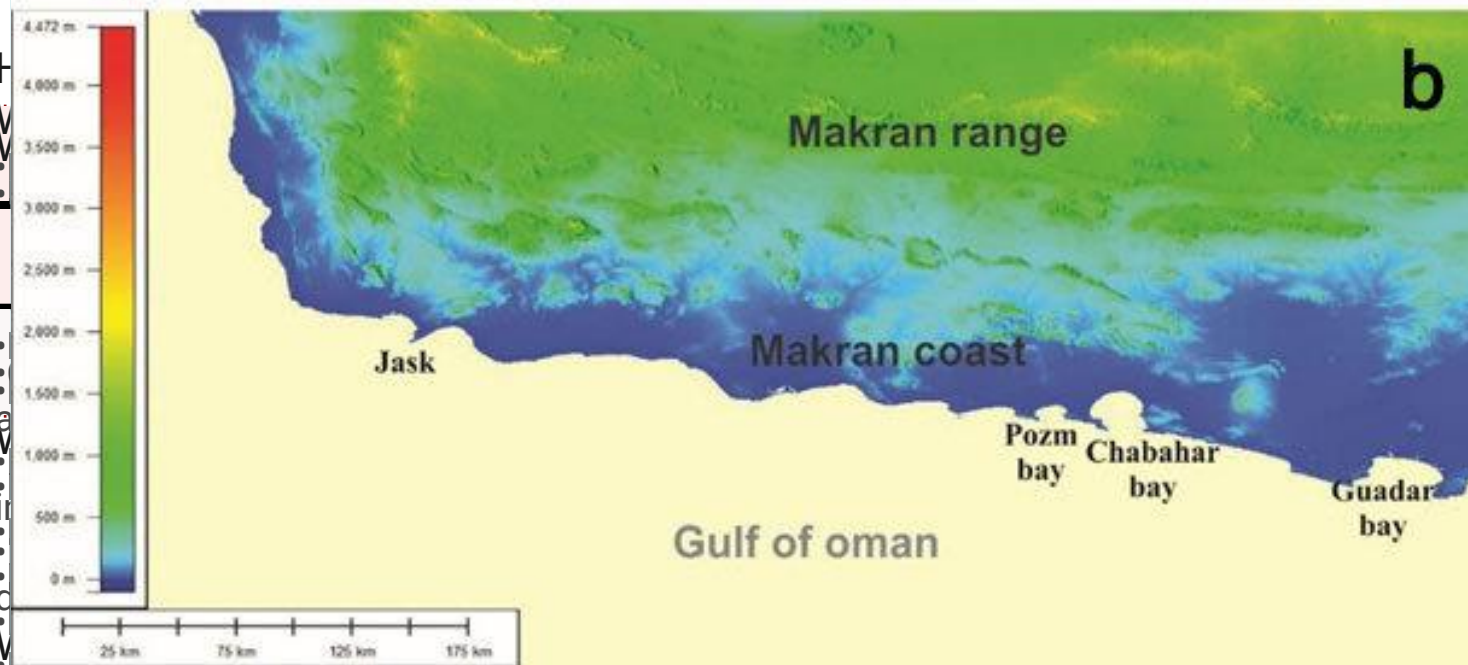
- **Cyrus the Great (590-529 BC)**, also known as **Cyrus II**, was a **Persian King** who united all the **Iranian tribes.**



- 
- A large portion of Alexander's army **died from dehydration, exhaustion, and starvation**, with soldiers killing their horses and mules for food.
 - Out of the estimated **1,20,000 infantry and 15,000 cavalry** Alexander took to India, only one-fourth survived the return journey.
- 

ALEXANDER'S EMPIRE, C. 323 BCE





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What are Key Facts Regarding Alexander's Indian Invasion?

About Alexander: Alexander the Great was king of Macedonia (336 BC to 323 BC) and conquered a huge empire that stretched from modern-day Dalkistan



World Hindi Day 2025

- 
- Vishwa Hindi Divas or World Hindi Day is celebrated annually on 10th January to expand Hindi's presence on the international stage.
 - About World Hindi Day:
 - This date commemorates the historic moment in 1949, when Hindi was first spoken at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- 

In 1975, the first World Hindi Conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, marking an important step toward global recognition of Hindi.




1975

10 Jan. 2006

World Hindi Day, designated on 10th January 2006, is different from Hindi Diwas celebrated on 14th September, as Hindi Diwas marks the adoption of Hindi as one of India's official languages in 1949.





- **Significance:**

- **Hindi**, with over **600 million speakers**, is the third most spoken language globally, and **most spoken language in India**.
 - The day is observed to raise awareness of **Hindi's importance** as a global language of communication.
- 

-
- **World Hindi Day 2025 Theme:**
 - The theme for **World Hindi Day 2025** is “**A Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride,**” focusing on promoting **linguistic exchange** and fostering **cultural pride** through Hindi.



- 
- Constitutional Status of Hindi:
 - Hindi is recognized as the official language of India under Article 343 of the Constitution, alongside English for official purposes.
 - It is also listed in the 8th Schedule, which includes 22 languages recognized for official use
- 

A blurred photograph of a modern office interior. In the background, several people are seated around a long wooden table, engaged in a meeting. The scene is brightly lit by large windows, creating a soft, out-of-focus atmosphere. The text "Top 10 MCQ from the session for every exam" is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

Top 10 MCQ from the session for
every exam

- What is the key feature of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) recently implemented in Odisha?
ओडिशा में हाल ही में लागू आयुष्मान भारत प्रधानमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना (AB PM-JAY) की मुख्य विशेषता क्या है?
- **A. Provides health cover of ₹1 lakh per family / प्रति परिवार ₹1 लाख का स्वास्थ्य कवर प्रदान करता है**
- B. Offers health cover up to ₹5 lakh per family per year / प्रति परिवार प्रति वर्ष ₹5 लाख तक का स्वास्थ्य कवर प्रदान करता है
- C. Focuses only on primary care / केवल प्राथमिक देखभाल पर केंद्रित
- D. Covers expenses for only government hospitals / केवल सरकारी अस्पतालों के खर्च को कवर करता है

- What is the range of the Nag Mk-2 missile?
नाग Mk-2 मिसाइल की रेंज क्या है?
- **A. 5-7 kilometers / 5-7 किलोमीटर**
- B. 7-10 kilometers / 7-10 किलोमीटर**
- C. 10-15 kilometers / 10-15 किलोमीटर**
- D. 4-6 kilometers / 4-6 किलोमीटर**

- What does the National Health Mission (NHM) focus on under NRHM?
राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन (NHM) के तहत NRHM का फोकस किस पर है?
- **A. Rural healthcare / ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य देखभाल**
- **B. Urban healthcare / शहरी स्वास्थ्य देखभाल**
- **C. Healthcare for senior citizens / वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के लिए स्वास्थ्य देखभाल**
- **D. Mental health initiatives / मानसिक स्वास्थ्य पहल**

- What is the purpose of the Kumbhvani FM radio channel launched during Kumbh Mela?
कुंभ मेले के दौरान लॉन्च किए गए कुंभवाणी एफएम रेडियो चैनल का उद्देश्य क्या है?
- **A. Promote tourism in the region / क्षेत्र में पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देना**
- **B. Provide live updates and devotional songs / लाइव अपडेट और भक्ति गीत प्रदान करना**
- **C. Broadcast local advertisements / स्थानीय विज्ञापन प्रसारित करना**
- **D. Highlight government schemes for pilgrims / तीर्थयात्रियों के लिए सरकारी योजनाओं को उजागर करना**

- Which river forms the boundary of the Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam?
असम में हूलोंगापार गिबबन वन्यजीव अभयारण्य की सीमा कौन सी नदी बनाती है?
- **A. Brahmaputra River / ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी**
- **B. Bhogdoi River / भोगदोई नदी**
- **C. Subansiri River / सुवनसिरी नदी**
- **D. Dhansiri River / धनसिरी नदी**

- What makes Hoollongapar Gibbon Wildlife Sanctuary unique?
हूलोंगापार गिबबन वन्यजीव अभयारण्य को अद्वितीय क्या बनाता है?
- **A. It is home to India's only gibbons, the Hoolock Gibbons / यह भारत के एकमात्र गिबबन, हूलॉक गिबबन का घर है**
- **B. Largest tiger population in India / भारत में बाघों की सबसे बड़ी आबादी है**
- **C. Only sanctuary named after a bird species / केवल पक्षी प्रजाति के नाम पर रखा गया अभयारण्य**
- **D. Known for its coral reefs / इसके कोरल रीफ्स के लिए प्रसिद्ध**

- Which is the second-largest religious gathering in India after the Kumbh Mela?
कंभ मेले के बाद भारत में दूसरा सबसे बड़ा धार्मिक आयोजन कौन सा है?
- **A. Gangasagar Mela / गंगासागर मेला**
- **B. Pushkar Fair / पुष्कर मेला**
- **C. Rath Yatra / रथ यात्रा**
- **D. Sabarimala Festival / सबरीमाला उत्सव**

- What is the focus of IMD's Vision 2047?
IMD की दृष्टि 2047 का फोकस क्या है?
- A. Becoming a global leader in weather forecasting / मौसम पूर्वानुमान में वैश्विक नेता बनना
- B. Developing early warning systems for cyclones / चक्रवातों के लिए प्रारंभिक चेतावनी प्रणालियों का विकास
- C. Promoting traditional knowledge in meteorology / मौसम विज्ञान में पारंपरिक ज्ञान को बढ़ावा देना
- D. Expanding disaster response networks / आपदा प्रतिक्रिया नेटवर्क का विस्तार करना

- What is the major significance of Diego Garcia in the Chagos Archipelago?
चागोस द्वीपसमूह में डिएगो गार्सिया का मुख्य महत्व क्या है?
- **A. Strategic US-British military base / रणनीतिक यूएस-ब्रिटिश सैन्य अड्डा**
- B. Largest coral reef system / सबसे बड़ा कोरल रीफ सिस्टम**
- C. Key location for fishing industries / मछली पकड़ने के उद्योगों के लिए प्रमुख स्थान**
- D. Historical trade hub / ऐतिहासिक व्यापार केंद्र**

- What does the theme for World Hindi Day 2025 emphasize?
विश्व हिंदी दिवस 2025 का विषय किस पर जोर देता है?
- **A. Promoting Hindi literature / हिंदी साहित्य को बढ़ावा देना**
- **B. "A Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride" / "एक वैश्विक आवाज़ और सांस्कृतिक गर्व"**
- **C. Expanding Hindi in technology / प्रौद्योगिकी में हिंदी का विस्तार**
- **D. Increasing Hindi readership worldwide / हिंदी पाठकों को विश्व स्तर पर बढ़ाना**



Fun Fact

The Only Non- Rectangular Flag

- Nepal's national flag is the only **non-rectangular national flag** in the world. Its unique design comprises two stacked triangles symbolizing the Himalayas and the two major religions of the country: Hinduism and Buddhism



Word of the day

Segue:

the act of changing smoothly from one state or situation to another; proceed without interruption, in music or talk

Usage: *He segued into another discourse.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/seguepro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /'segweɪ/

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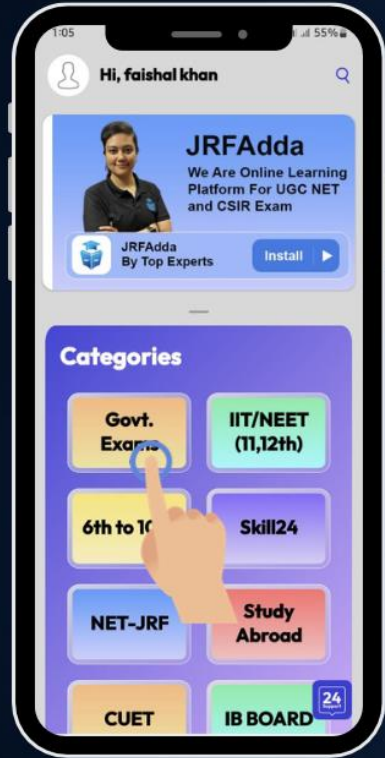
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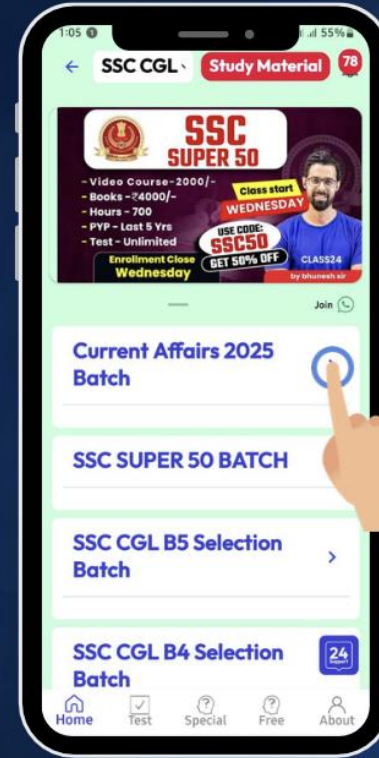
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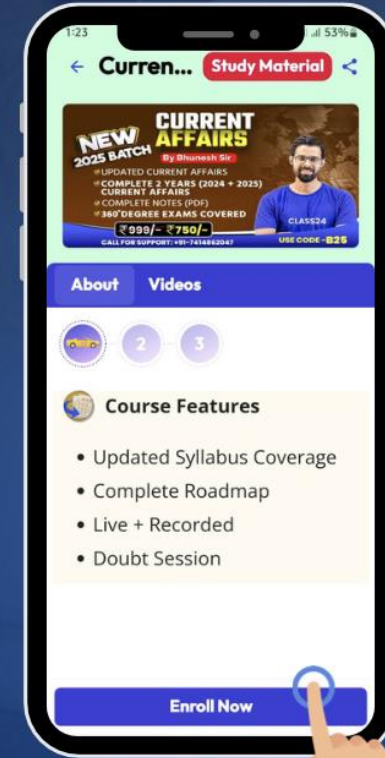
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Step 3



Step 4





Thank you
guys.
