

Daily Current Affairs



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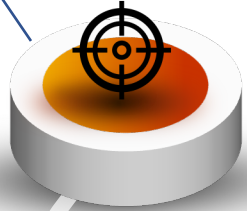


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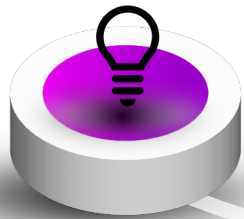


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The Hindu

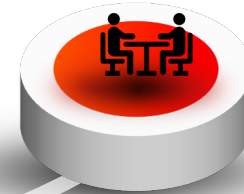


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What are India's immediate growth prospects?

The National Statistical Office (NSO), on February 28, 2023, released a set of new numbers pertaining to annual and quarterly national income for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23. This new dataset provides an opportunity to make a final assessment of COVID-19's adverse impact on India's GDP growth.

Recovery since pre-COVID year As per NSO's second advance estimate (SAE), India suffered a contraction of () 5.7% in 2020-21 which is much lower than its first advance estimate (FAE) at () 7.7%. In this revision, the three sectors which benefited the most were manufacturing, construction, and financial, real estate et al. Real GDP during this COVID-19 year amounted to ₹136.9 lakh crore, higher than the ₹134.4 lakh crore assessed earlier. Since then, GDP grew by 9.1% in 2021-22 and 7% in 2022-23. Comparing the current real GDP level at ₹139.7 lakh crore, the compound annual average growth rate between 2019-20 and 2022-23 was 3.2%. It may be noted that some countries like China, Bangladesh and Vietnam had a positive growth even in the COVID-19-affected year of 2020.

Sector-wise, while overall CVA in 2022-23 is higher by 1.3% as compared to 2019-20, one sector — mining and quarrying — still shows contraction at () 0.2%. Trade, hotels, transport et al also show a weak growth of 4.2%. Sectors showing a higher-than-average increase include construction at 18.6%, manufacturing at 14.8%, financial, real estate et al at 14.3% and agriculture at 12%. From the viewpoint of aggregate expenditure, overall increase in real GDP is 10% with overall final consumption expenditure (GFCE) growing at 7.4%. Gross fixed capital formation and private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) show an increase of 17.7% and 13.1%, respectively.

The gross fixed capital formation to GDP ratio in nominal terms is 29.2% in 2022-23 as

compared to 28.6% in 2019-20. The corresponding real investment rates are 3.4% and 3.8%, respectively. The difference in real and nominal rates is due to the differential inflation rates of capital goods vis-à-vis overall GDP. Thus, in real terms, there is more improvement in the investment rate. Accordingly, the estimated incremental capital output ratio (ICOR) was at 8.5 in 2019-20 as compared to 4.9 in 2022-23. This is because the 2019-20 GDP growth rate was rather low at 3.7%, reflecting considerable unutilised capacity. The average capacity utilisation ratio in the manufacturing sector was only 70.3% in 2019-20, having fallen from 75.2% in 2018-19. In the first half of 2022-23, the capacity utilisation ratio is higher at 73.5%. While the gross fixed capital formation rate has picked up whether measured in real or nominal terms, the subdued 2022-23 growth implies a lower capacity utilisation and a higher ICOR.

In Q3 of 2022-23, real GDP growth was at 4.4%, falling from 6.3% in Q2 and 13.2% in Q1. However, this decline in growth rate is in line with the projections made by the Reserve Bank of India earlier. It would now require a growth of 5.1% in Q4 to enable reaching an annual growth of 7% in 2022-23. This appears feasible as most high frequency indicators point towards an improved economic activity. PMI increased in January and February 2023 at 55.4 and 55.3, respectively, remained above its long-term average at 53.7. FMI services increased from 57.2 in January 2023 to a near 12-year high of 59.4 in February 2023. Core IIP showed a growth of 7.8% in January 2023, increasing from 7% in December 2022. Credit growth was also high at 16.1% in the week ending February 10, 2023. Monthly credit data, however, indicate a high credit growth only with respect to personal loans. Industrial credit growth was at a seven-month low. A higher quarterly growth in Q4

appears feasible because of a favourable base effect since growth was subdued in the corresponding quarter of the previous year at 4%. Sector-wise, in Q3 of 2022-23, manufacturing showed a contraction at () 1.1% while public administration, defence et al showed a weak growth at 2%. On the expenditure side, GFCE contracted by () 0.8% while PFCE showed a weak growth at 2.1%. The contribution of net exports to real GDP growth was () 0.2% points, improving from () 3.4% points and () 3.1% points, respectively, in the previous two quarters. Thus, the growth rate in Q3 and the expected growth rate in Q4 are quite decidedly low. From a normal base, growth is yet to pick up to the desired level.

Implications for growth Given the anticipated global economic slowdown, India's 2023-24 growth is likely to remain lower than the growth rate of its preceding year of 7%. The RBI has projected a growth of 6.4% for 2023-24. The International Monetary Fund, on the other hand, has projected a lower growth of 6.2%. NSO's data reveals indicate a lowering of the negative contribution of net exports in 2022-23 to () 1.9% points as per the SAE from () 3.2% points in the P.A.E. If fiscal stimulus is continued, injected largely through capital expenditures as envisaged in the 2023-24 Union budget, we may come closer to the RBI's growth estimate. However, with elections round the corner, there may be pressure to increase revenue expenditures. This might lead to a growth rate closer to 6%. Any stimulus for growth should be undertaken while adhering to the fiscal consolidation road map so as to keep India's medium-term story intact

Any stimulus for growth should be undertaken while adhering to the fiscal consolidation road map so as to keep India's medium-term story intact

A Lokayukta raid and after

The BJP is on the back foot after the Madal episode

STATE OF PLAY
S. Rangarajan
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In his most recent visit to Karnataka last Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conspicuously steered clear of any mention of the issue of corruption. In the southern district of Mandya, in his address following the inauguration of the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway, the emphasis was on infrastructure and development. The Prime Minister talked of how he was busy "building the expressway and making the lives of the poor easy" while the Congress was busy "digging Modi's grave."

In the northern district of Dharwad, on the same day, he argued that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had "insulted" social reformer Basaveshwara "by raising questions about Indian democracy in London." Basaveshwara, credited with creating a democratic space for dialogue called 'Amabhava Mantapa' in the 12th century, was also an icon of the Lingayat community, which has been a strong vote base of the BJP. This was in contrast to the tenor of Home Minister Amit Shah's speech on the Union budget, we may come closer to the RBI's growth estimate. However, with elections round the corner, there may be pressure to increase revenue expenditures. This might lead to a growth rate closer to 6%. Any stimulus for growth should be undertaken while adhering to the fiscal consolidation road map so as to keep India's medium-term story intact. A steady growth of 6% to 7% can be ensured over the medium term, only if the fixed capital formation rate is raised by another 2 percentage points. This is notwithstanding the global factors that are not encouraging.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Mahashtra agrees to give water to Mysore

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 15, 1973

Bangalore, March 14: Maharashtra has agreed to the Mysore request for 6,000 cusecs of Koyana waters to help relieve drinking water shortage along the Krishna basin in Mysore. In return, Mysore is to supply about Rs. 10 lakhs worth of electricity to Maharashtra. The barter deal, the second in almost a year, was arrived at in Bombay yesterday, at a meeting the Mysore Minister of State for Major Irrigation, Mr. H.N. Hanje, and his colleague in charge of Power. According to the agreement, the Koyana waters will be let into the Krishna river in the Mysore territory and the water will be used for drinking purposes benefiting hundreds of villages along the river banks. The river had been practically dry for want of rains. The Koyana waters are expected to last till early June, till the onset of the next monsoon. The Mysore Government is expected to ensure that the waters are not used for any purpose other than drinking. It was also understood that Mysore would make available electricity in return in a phased manner, having regard to its own present difficult power position caused by the drop in the level of the Linganamakki (Sarasawathi) reservoir. Last year, a similar barter deal between the two States had been entered into. While Mysore supplied power to Maharashtra in return for Koyana waters (used for power generation), the State had not been able to fully utilise the waters for drinking purposes owing to a number of hurdles. In a reference to the "mysterious" appearance of water in the Krishna river, last week, a Government spokesman said there could be no mystery. "The rains that Maharashtra itself had allowed the flow of the Koyana waters into the river for the benefit of the villages along the banks in its own territory."

Europe picks up more arms even as global weapon imports drop

Ukraine was the world's third-largest importer of arms in 2022

DATA POINT
The Hindu Data Team, Agencies

European countries increased imports of major weaponry by 47% between 2019-17 and 2018-2022 even as the global volume of international arms transfers fell by 5.1%. If only those European states in the U.S.-led NATO alliance are considered, the increase in arms imports was 65% in the same period.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine last year has prompted European countries to rush to bolster their defences. "Even as arms transfers have declined globally, those to Europe have risen sharply due to the tensions between Russia and most other European states," Piter D. Beseman, Senior Researcher with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), said in a statement. SIPRI 2023 major arms as aircraft, warships, tanks, artillery, missiles and various heavy defence systems.

Chart 1 shows arms imports of select European nations using SIPRI's Trend Indicator Values (TIV) expressed in millions. It shows the import data for five time periods: 1998-2002, 2003-2007, 2008-2012, 2013-2017 and 2018-2022.

The SIPRI TIV is a measure of the volume of international transfers of major arms. The TIV is based on the known unit production costs of a core set of weapons and is intended to represent the transfer of military resources rather than the financial value of the transfer. This data is intended to provide a common unit to allow the measurement of trends in the flow of arms to particular countries and regions over time. As seen in Chart 1, in many European countries such as the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, France, Belgium, Serbia, Belarus and Lithuania, the arms imports in 2018-2022 is the highest across all periods considered. In other nations such as the U.K., Poland, Ro-

mania, Germany and Sweden, arms imports in the latest period are at least higher than the previous five-year period (2008-2012). The chart also shows a sharp spike in Ukraine's arms imports from the U.S. and Europe in the latest period. This makes it the world's third largest importer of arms in 2022. Notably, from 1991, when Ukraine became independent, until the fall of the Soviet Union, the end of 2021, Ukraine imported fewer major arms.

While Europe's share in global volume of arms transfers increased significantly, the share of West Asia, Americas and Asia and Oceania decreased marginally in the last five years. Africa's share decreased significantly in the period. Chart 2 shows the region-wise share of arms imports in the last two five-year periods.

Meanwhile, Russia's arms exports fell by 31% between the two periods, and its share of global arms exports decreased from 22% to 16%, while France's share increased from 71% to 11%.

The export of arms has long been dominated by the U.S. and Russia with the two countries being the largest and second-largest arms exporters for the past three decades as shown in Chart 3. However, the gap between them has been widening significantly, while the gap between Russia and the third-largest arms supplier, France, has narrowed. The think-tank said it was likely that the invasion of Ukraine will further limit Russia's arms exports due to Moscow's need to prioritise supplying its own armed forces and the low demand from other states due to trade sanctions.

SIPRI, established in 1966, is an independent international institute dedicated to research of conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.

Weapons sales surge

The charts are sourced from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)'s latest report titled "Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2022"

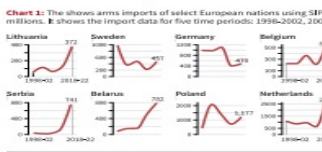


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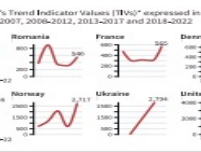


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Miss Jean Norris

Calcutta, March 14: The only woman stipendiary Magistrate in the world, Miss Jean Norris is amongst the American tourists in Calcutta. She had taken four months leave in order to study the administration of justice in various parts of the world. She was invited to take seat on the bench with two Mahomedan Judges at Calcutta, sat on Bench in Bombay and will visit Calcutta High Court to-day.

Europe picks up more arms even as global weapon imports drop

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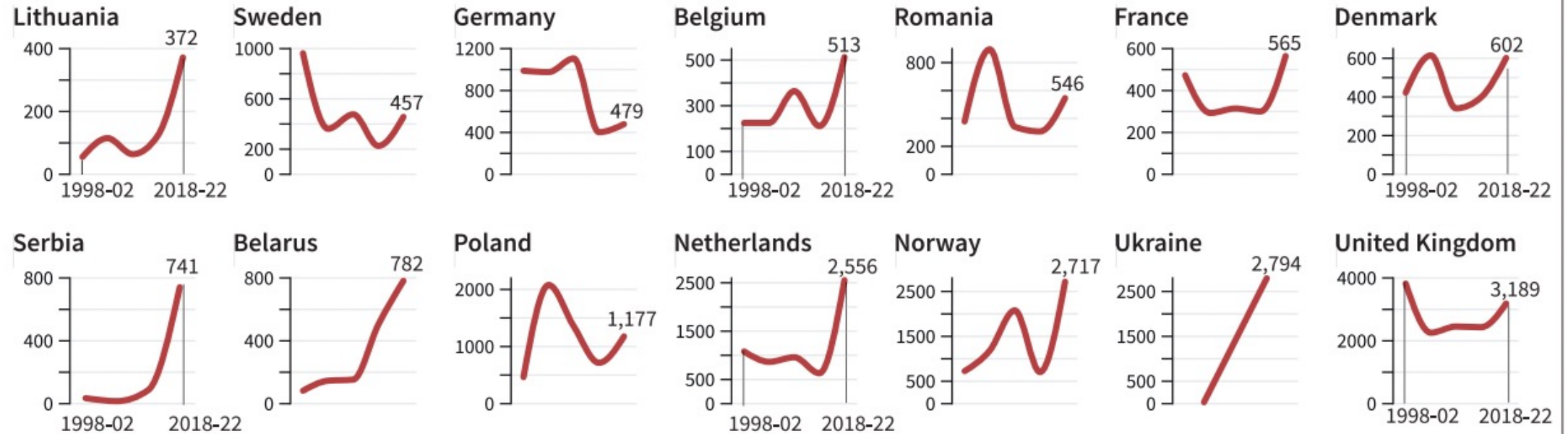


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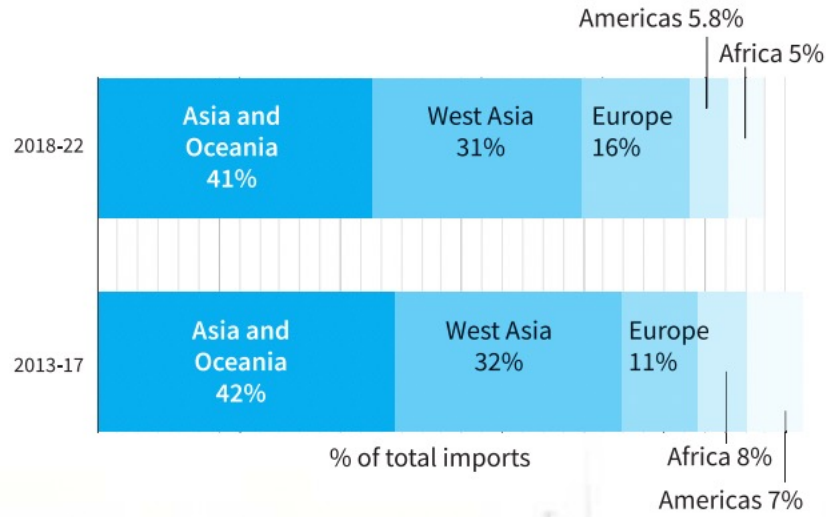
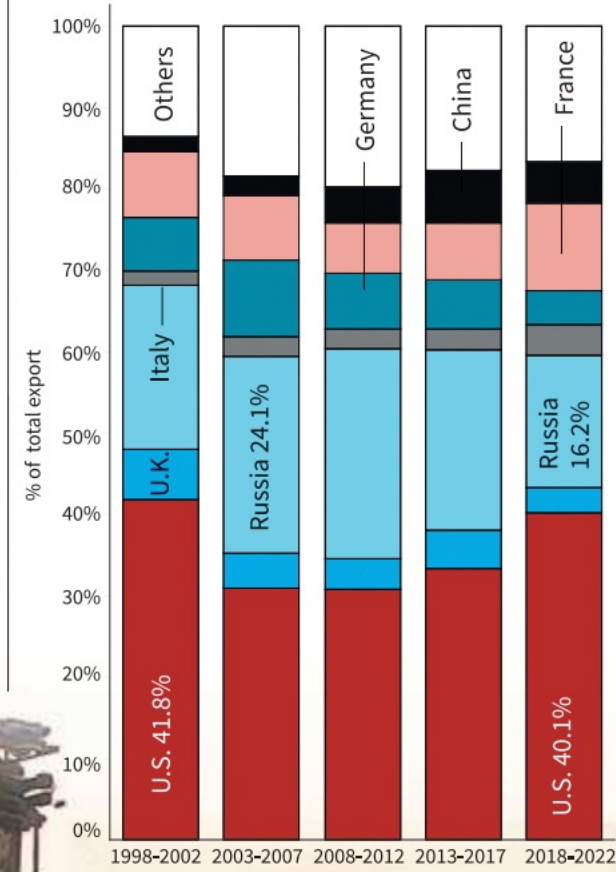


Chart 3: Chart shows the share of global arms exports among select countries. The export has long been dominated by the U.S. and Russia



*The SIPRI TIV is a measure of the volume of international transfers of major arms. The TIV is based on the known unit production costs of a core set of weapons and is intended to represent the transfer of military resources rather than the financial value of the transfer

IN BRIEF

Surekha is first woman to operate Vande Bharat train

Surekha Yadav, Aair's first woman loco pilot, has become the first woman to operate Vande Bharat Express train. A native of Satara district of Maharashtra, Ms. Yadav piloted the train between Solapur and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai on Monday. The train reached the CSMT five minutes before the scheduled arrival time after completing a more than 450-km journey. She was felicitated at the CSMT. "Vande Bharat" - powered by Nari Shakti Smt. Surekha Yadav, the first woman loco pilot of Vande Bharat Express," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaisnaw said in a tweet.

Indigenously very short range missile systems tested twice

The DRDO conducted two consecutive successful flight tests of Very Short Range Air Defence missiles at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha on Tuesday. In another development, the maiden flight test of the Power Take-off (PTO) Shaft was successfully conducted on Light Combat Aircraft (LCA-Tejas) Limited Series Production (LSP)3 aircraft in Bengaluru. "The flight tests were carried out successfully against ground-based man portable launcher against high-speed unmanned aerial targets, mimicking approaching and receding aircraft. The targets were successfully intercepted, meeting all mission objectives," a Ministry statement said.

Another U.S. Navy ship arrives at L&T shipyard for repairs

In the second such instance, a U.S. Navy replenishment ship, USNS *Matthew Perry*, has docked at Larsen & Toubro's Kattupalli shipyard on March 11 for repairs. The ship will undergo repairs from March 11 to 29. Navy chief Admiral J. Hari Kumar said on Monday. "Warships from friendly countries have begun utilising Indian shipyards and naval dockyards for repair and refit of their platforms, which has enhanced the prospects of an export-driven Indian shipbuilding industry. For instance, one of U.S. Navy's dry cargo ships had undertaken repairs at the Kattupalli shipyard last year," he said.

CBI condoles demise of its ex-chief K. Vijaya Rama Rao

The CBI condoled the death of its former Director K. Vijaya Rama Rao, who served as its 14th chief for three years from 1993 to 1996. Mr. Rao, who had served as a Minister in undivided Andhra Pradesh, died in Hyderabad on Monday night due to health issues. He was 85. "The officers and all ranks of Central Bureau of Investigation deeply mourn the sad demise of Shri K. Vijaya Rama Rao, former Director, CBI, and pray to the Almighty to provide the family strength, courage and fortitude to bear with this tragedy," the CBI said. His three years tenure saw the CBI probe cases such as the demolition of the Babri mosque, the assassination of Punjab CM Beant Singh among others, it said.

Coffee cup on flight cockpit raises safety concern

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

A photo of a coffee cup delicately perched on a start lever inside a cockpit, purportedly onboard a SpiceJet aircraft, which was widely circulated on social media on Tuesday, raised eyebrows over the alleged reckless behaviour of the airline's pilots that could endanger the safety of the plane and all passengers, and led to calls for strict action against them.

The airline said in response to a query from *The Hindu* that it was trying to ascertain the details related to the purported incident, following which it would take disciplinary action.

The photograph in question showed an uncovered cup with the airline's branding and carrying the name SpiceJet placed on a start lever on the central control panel when the aircraft, destined for Coimbatore, was in cruise mode at the height of 37,000 feet.

OBC panel does not have caste census data, says govt.

The commission was formed in 2017 by the Union Social Justice Ministry to sub-categorise the nearly 3,000 caste groups that are currently listed as Other Backward Classes on the Central list

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Even as experts have said that it will be impossible to conduct an accurate sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBC) groups without some form of a caste census, the Union government on Tuesday informed the Lok Sabha that the Justice G. Rohini Commission, which is looking into the sub-categorisation, has been working without the data from the previous Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) conducted in 2011.

The commission, headed by the former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, Justice G. Rohini (retd.), was formed in 2017 by the Social Justice Ministry. In response to a question in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday from A.K.P. Ghinrai of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), who had asked if the government had shared caste data from the 2011 SECC with the commission, the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, A. Narayanawamy, said: "No sir. No such request has been received from Justice G. Rohini-led Commission."



Reacting to this, Professor Sukhadeo Thorat, former Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Indian Council of Social Sciences, Research, said, "There has to be a study on socio-economic indicators and on levels of discrimination faced by these caste groups... The commission, initially tasked with submitting its report within 12 weeks, has been given 14 extensions, the most recent one being in January. The commission, headed by the former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, Justice G. Rohini (retd.), was formed in 2017 by the Social Justice Ministry. In response to a question in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday from A.K.P. Ghinrai of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), who had asked if the government had shared caste data from the 2011 SECC with the commission, the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, A. Narayanawamy, said: "No sir. No such request has been received from Justice G. Rohini-led Commission."

House panel on Tribal Affairs apprehensive about PM-PVTG outlay without population data

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

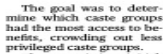
Weeks after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a ₹15,000-crore expenditure outlay for the Prime Minister's Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PM-PVTG) Development Mission, the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Tuesday expressed disappointment that such a massive budgetary allocation had been planned when even the Ministry of Tribal Affairs does not have data on PVTG populations in several States and Union Territories.

The House panel, headed by BJP MP Rama Devi, in its report on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, said, "The Committee is rather apprehensive on the enhanced budgetary allocation for PVTGs and its utilisation by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as data on population of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in several States/UTs is still not available with them."

The panel noted that Ministry officials informed members that for PVTGs, an annual expenditure of ₹5,000 crore had been planned - to be spent over the next three years. The officials also said that the States and Union Territories had been asked to carry out baseline surveys and that this exercise was now under verification process.

"The Committee felt that this should have been done earlier because they strongly believe that in the absence of correct details of the population of PVTGs, the financial allocations for the Scheme may not bear the desired results," the panel noted.

The House panel also noted that an evaluation study had revealed that PVTG data are absent in many States and UTs, including for Andam and Nicobar Islands, which the panel members recently visited, and where six of seven Scheduled Tribes groups fall under the PVTG categorisation. The panel also pointed out that the government



had been able to spend just ₹6.48 crore for the development of PVTGs in 2022-23, out of an initial allocation of ₹252 crore, and said that estimates had to be re-looked significantly in the financial years 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Writer Perumal Murugan thrilled with Pyre featuring on International Booker longlist

B. Kolagan
CHENNAI

The English translation of writer Perumal Murugan's Tamil novel *Pookkuzhi*, has figured on the longlist for the International Booker Prize, 2023. The translator is Anuradha Vasudevan, who also translated the writer's earlier work *Arubangari* into English as *One Part Woman*.

"I am extremely happy as it is the first Tamil novel to be featured on the International Booker longlist," said Mr. Perumal Murugan, who wrote *Pookkuzhi* in 2012. The novel was published by Kalachuvadu. The English translation has first published by Penguin and later by the U.K.-based Pushkin Press and Grove Atlantic in the U.S.

An inter-caste couple explores, setting in motion a story of terrifying forbidden love between a Dalit and a Brahmin, the novel is a great anatomist of power and, in particular, of the deeply deforming nature of caste hatred and violence.

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had been able to spend just ₹6.48 crore for the development of PVTGs in 2022-23, out of an initial allocation of ₹252 crore, and said that estimates had to be re-looked significantly in the financial years 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Further, Harish S. Wankhe, Assistant Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University's Centre for Political Studies, noted that developments related to the sub-categorisation in government's intent is to "bring the OBC question into the spotlight".

"The importance of conducting a socio-economic census of OBCs cannot be understated," Mr. Wankhe said. "The government's intent is to 'bring the OBC question into the spotlight'."

1,035 died while cleaning sewers since 1993: Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A total of 1,035 people have died while undertaking hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks across India since 1993, the Social Justice Ministry said on Tuesday, adding that of these, compensation had been given out to the families of 948.

The government was responding to a question from West Bengal MP Minu Chakraborty (Trinamool Congress) on the Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SEMS).

The Budgetary allocation for this scheme has been in decline for the last three fiscal years, as reported by *The Hindu* earlier this year. In the 2023-24 Union Budget, the government allocated no funds under this scheme. The Ministry had in 2022 decided to merge the SEMS with the National Action Plan for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem.

FAITH
Vidura's resolute counsel

Vidura did not give up trying to talk sense into Dhritrashtra and Duryodhana. He told Dhritrashtra that he must stop the game of dice being played by Yudhishtira and Sakuni, said Kadambari Narayanan, in a discourse. Duryodhana, by opposing the Pandavas needlessly, was only exposing himself to danger. A scorned gardener would not pluck buds and instead wait for them to open up into flowers. Likewise, Duryodhana must not lose sight of the overall good of the family and country in his desire to hurt the Pandavas. Dhritrashtra must not encourage Duryodhana because of his affection for his son. A man may want to buy peacocks but to do so, he would have to sell the fowls he owned, and use the money obtained from the sale to get the birds. Duryodhana was like such a fowls. He could be dispensed with to get the peacocks, in this case, the Pandavas. For the good of a family, it was all right to give up a wicked person, Vidura said. Duryodhana would bring nothing but misery to his family. It was best not to heed him. If, as a result, he were to move away from his father, so be it. Duryodhana's aim was to humiliate the Pandavas immediately. He had no thought of the harm this could do to him and to his family and his citizens. He was like the man who killed the birds that laid golden eggs. Killing them would only destroy a constant source of income. In the same way, if Duryodhana was on friendly terms with the Pandavas, it would work to the benefit of his kingdom and his family. But instead, he was bent on vanquishing them. That was an impossible task. All that would achieve was the destruction of the Kaurava family, Vidura warned.

TH CROSSWORD 13813
(set by Vidwan)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site at: <https://apps.puuug.com/13813>

Across

1. Navel - extremely soundly and full of gossip (5)
4. Angry 'hot' song used for targeting (3)
9. Culture's emblem comes for work to an unknown retailing establishment (7)
10. Boy quietly left, one not secure or enduring (7)
11. Disregard the tried securing my trust (charms) (2,4)
13. Average time required (5)
14. Come to see named sponsors of terrorism (2)

Down

1. Spooner's shining weapon for after-work parties (3)
2. Fly over a day in Jewish state (7)
3. Yes, that is extremely limited harvest (5)
5. Actor occasionally lived over fifty-two years, rarely neglecting approaches (5)
6. Management of one (5)
7. Something that decreases in a remote fashion (3,4)
8. My darn liberal philosopher (2,4)
9. Give up! No, not Lenin again! (3)
12. High tea snack (2)
14. Constant state of ad, loveless drifts (8)
17. Cubic-shaped most nice (3)
18. I try one to start scandal! (6)
21. Clothing/dresses/apparel (basically party skirts) for academic break (2,4)
23. Answer: 50 = 100% (3)
24. Some record in a logbook or service book (7)
26. An assessor's stand (2)
28. Judge uses it right away to confuse (5)
29. Improvisation of plans laid out beforehand at start (2,3)

SUDOKU

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1. Stewart for example - popular artist (3)
2. Bird preys essentially by cutting one quick (3)
3. Caught, say along with forbidden rank (2,3-3)
4. Purpose: Demand sanctioning of Casual Louisa (3)
5. One quietly tucked into couch with 2 feet (5)
6. Croquet from French decorative poetry (7)
7. Love to write and sing outdoors (4,3)
8. Virginia Spear's decorative drapery (7)
9. Controversial article about diplomat at the forefront (3)
10. Heard's tough (3)
11. Spooner's shining weapon for after-work parties (3)
12. Fly over a day in Jewish state (7)
13. Yes, that is extremely limited harvest (5)
14. Actor occasionally lived over fifty-two years, rarely neglecting approaches (5)
15. Management of one (5)
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Surekha is first woman to operate Vande Bharat train

Surekha Yadav, Asia's first woman loco pilot, has become the first woman to operate the newly introduced semi-high-speed Vande Bharat Express train. A native of Satara district of Maharashtra, Ms. Yadav piloted the train between Solapur and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in Mumbai on Monday. The train reached the CSMT five minutes before the scheduled arrival time after completing a more than 450-km journey. She was felicitated at the CSMT. "Vande Bharat – powered by Nari Shakti. Smt. Surekha Yadav, the first woman loco pilot of Vande Bharat Express," Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in a tweet.

Technical	
Rolling stock	Indian Railways
Track gauge	Indian gauge 1,676 mm (5 ft 6 in) broad gauge
Electrification	25 kV 50 Hz AC Overhead line
Operating speed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 130 km/h (81 mph) • 160 km/h (99 mph) (Certified for commercial run) • 180 km/h (110 mph) (Tested speed) • 200 km/h (120 mph) (potential speed)
Average length	384 metres (1,260 ft) (16 coaches)

Overview	
Service type	Low-cost Semi-Highspeed Rail(LC-SHR)
Status	Active
Locale	India
Predecessor	Shatabdi Express , MEMU
First service	15 February 2019; 4 years ago
Website	indianrail.gov.in ↗
Route	
Line(s) used	10 (Operational) 2 (To be commissioned)
On-board services	
Class(es)	CC Chair (Economy Class) Executive Chair (Premium Class)
Seating arrangements	Airline style · Rotatable seats
Catering facilities	On-board catering
Observation facilities	Large windows in all carriages
Entertainment facilities	On-board WiFi · Infotainment System · Electric outlets · Reading light
Baggage facilities	Overhead racks
Other facilities	Automatic doors · Smoke alarms · CCTV Cameras · Odour control system · Bio-vacuum toilets · Sensor-based water taps · Roller blinds

Writer Perumal Murugan thrilled with *Pyre* featuring on International Booker longlist

B. Kolappan

CHENNAI

Pyre, the English translation of writer Perumal Murugan's Tamil novel *Pookkuzhi*, has figured on the longlist for the International Booker Prize, 2023. The translator is Aniruddhan Vasudevan, who also translated the writer's *Maathorubhagan* into English as *One Part Woman*.

"I am extremely happy as it is the first Tamil novel that has found a place on the International Booker longlist," said Mr. Perumal Murugan, who wrote *Pookkuzhi* in 2012. The novel was published by Kalachuvadu. The English translation was first published by Penguin and later by the U.K.-based Pushkin Press and Grove Atlantic in the U.S.

"An inter-caste couple elopes, setting in motion a story of terrifying foreboding. Perumal Murugan is a great anatomist of power and, in particular, of the deep, deforming rot of caste hatred and violence. With flashes of fable, his novel tells a story specific



Perumal Murugan

and universal: how flammable are fear and the distrust of others," says the Booker Prize website, quoting the judges who have been asked to summarise each book.

The shortlist of six books will be announced on April 18. The winning title will be announced at a ceremony at the Sky Garden in London on May 23, 2023.

Set in the 1980s, *Pyre* exposes the blood-chilling vengeance by casteist forces against inter-caste couple Kumaresan and Saroja. Casteism, with its innumerable tentacles, engulfs Kumaresan and Saroja, reminding readers of real-life incidents in Tamil Nadu

such as the killing of Sankar, a Dalit who married Kausalya, a woman from an intermediate caste; the mysterious death of the young Dalit Ilavarasan, who fell in love with Divya, again from an intermediate caste; and the brutal murder of Gokul Raj, a Dalit boy who was in love with a girl of another community.

Aniruddhan Vasudevan says that translating *Pookkuzhi* has been a somewhat different experience.

"I think the difficulty is because there is more direct speech involved in *Pookkuzhi*; the characters speak a lot and their streams of thought too bear the distinct mark of regional speech patterns. In the Tamil text, Kumaresan and Saroja's people speak differently; their speech is marked by rural and semi-urban variations. It has been difficult to sustain that difference in translation. Perhaps this is an instance where specificity of language use resists translatability," he writes in the translator's note.

(The longlist can be found on bit.ly/prizebooker)

International Booker Prize



Inaugural winner [Ismail Kadare](#)

Awarded for Best book in English or in English translation

Country United Kingdom

Presented by [Booker Prize Foundation](#)

Reward(s) £50,000

First awarded 2005; 18 years ago

2021	David Diop	 France	Anna Moschovakis	United States	<i>At Night All Blood Is Black</i> (<i>Frère d'âme</i>)	French
2022	Geetanjali Shree	 India	Daisy Rockwell	United States	<i>Tomb of Sand</i> (<i>रेत समाधि</i>) ^[23]	Hindi

The Booker Prize

Awarded for Best novel of the year written in English

Location [Guildhall](#), London, England

Country United Kingdom

Presented by [Booker, McConnell Ltd](#) (1969–2001)
[Man Group](#) (2002–2019)
[Crankstart](#) (2019 onwards)

Reward(s) £50,000

First awarded 1969; 54 years ago

2020	Douglas Stuart ^[85]	<i>Shuggie Bain</i>	Novel	United Kingdom United States
2021	Damon Galgut ^[86]	<i>The Promise</i>	Novel	South Africa
2022	Shehan Karunatilaka ^[87]	<i>The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida</i>	Novel	Sri Lanka

TAICHUNG

Taiwan unveils portable attack drone as tensions with China rise



Taiwan unveiled its first portable attack drone, an unmanned aerial vehicle similar to a U.S. model used in Ukraine's fight against Russia, as China steps up military pressure on the island.

China says AUKUS deal going down the 'wrong and dangerous path'

Beijing expressed its "firm opposition" to Monday's announcement on Australia's purchase of nuclear-powered submarines, China's government on Tuesday slammed the Australia, U.S. and U.K. (AUKUS) partnership as going "down the wrong and dangerous path" and undermining international nuclear non-proliferation.

RIVADH

Saudi Arabia places order for up to 121 jetliners from Boeing



Two Saudi Arabian airlines will order 78 jetliners from Boeing and take options to buy 43 more in a major boost for the U.S. aircraft manufacturer.

STOCKHOLM

Swedish PM believes Finland's NATO entry will be ratified first



Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristensson said the likelihood that Finland would join NATO before Sweden is "increased".

MOSCOW

Putin says Nord Stream blasts were carried out on a 'state level'



Russian President Vladimir Putin said last year's blasts on the Nord Stream gas pipelines had been carried out on a "state level", dismissing the idea an autonomous pro-Ukraine group was responsible.

Australia to buy U.S. nuclear submarines under AUKUS

Albanese calls it the biggest single investment in Australia's defence capability in all of its history. UN nuclear watchdog wants to ensure that there are no proliferation risks from the deal.

Armenian PM slams Russian security alliance

Armenia's Prime Minister on Tuesday accused a Moscow-dominated security alliance of leaving his country in the cold in the face of a threat of renewed hostilities with neighbouring Azerbaijan.

China opens borders to tourists after 3 years of restrictions brought about by pandemic

China will, starting Wednesday, fully reopen its borders and allow tourists back into the country after three years of pandemic restrictions. The country's embassies abroad will resume "issuing various categories of visas to foreigners on Wednesday."

France France-France

Australia has unveiled plans to buy up to five U.S. nuclear-powered submarines, then build a new model with U.S. and British technology under an ambitious plan to bulk up Western nuclear muscle across the Asia-Pacific in the face of a rising China.

Associated Press

Armenia's Prime Minister on Tuesday accused a Moscow-dominated security alliance of leaving his country in the cold in the face of a threat of renewed hostilities with neighbouring Azerbaijan.

Advertisement for Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL) regarding the supply of spectacles.

Advertisement for Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL) regarding the supply of spectacles, including a table of bid details.

Advertisement for Malabar Cements Limited regarding the supply of flash chromatography pumps.

Advertisement for Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited regarding the selection of a contractor for development of Smart Roads and Underground Ducting.

Australia to buy U.S. nuclear submarines under AUKUS

Albanese calls it the biggest single investment in Australia's defence capability in all of its history; UN nuclear watchdog wants to ensure that there are no proliferation risks from the deal

Agence France-Presse
SAN DIEGO

Australia has unveiled plans to buy up to five U.S. nuclear-powered submarines, then build a new model with U.S. and British technology under an ambitious plan to bulk up Western muscle across the Asia-Pacific in the face of a rising China.

The announcement came on Monday at an event at a San Diego, California, naval base where U.S. President Joe Biden hosted Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

With a U.S. Virginia-class nuclear submarine moored behind the trio's podium, Mr. Biden said the U.S. had "safeguarded stability in the Indo-Pacific for decades" and that the submarine alliance would bolster "the prospect of peace for decades to come."

No nukes

As Mr. Biden stressed, Australia, which joined a newly formed alliance known as AUKUS with Washington and London 18 months ago, will not be getting nu-



Ship mates: (from left to right) Anthony Albanese, Joe Biden and Rishi Sunak at a San Diego naval base in the U.S. on Monday. AP

clear weapons.

However, acquiring stealthy submarines powered by nuclear reactors puts Australia in an elite club and at the forefront of U.S.-led efforts to push back against Chinese military expansion.

Mr. Albanese said the deal represents the biggest single investment in Australia's defence capability "in all of our history."

The submarines are expected to be equipped with cruise missiles that can strike foes from long distances, offering a potent deterrent to would-be attackers.

Mr. Albanese predicted that the wider economic impact at home would be akin to the introduction of

the automobile industry in the country after World War II.

IAEA's warning

Meanwhile, the UN nuclear watchdog on Tuesday said it has to ensure that "no proliferation risks" will come from the deal.

"Ultimately, the agency must ensure that no proliferation risks will emanate from this project," International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi said. "The legal obligations of the parties and the non-proliferation aspects are paramount," Mr. Grossi added.

The U.K. and the U.S., both nuclear-weapons states, have to report to the IAEA "international transf-

ers of nuclear material" to non-nuclear-weapon states such as Australia, the press release said.

Deal to be struck

Australia, for its part, will have to make "an arrangement" with the UN watchdog to be able to use nuclear material "such as nuclear propulsion for submarines", Mr. Grossi stressed.

The Australian government estimates the multi-decade project will cost almost \$40 billion in the first 10 years, and create an estimated 20,000 jobs.

Three conventionally armed, nuclear-powered Virginia class vessels will be sold "over the course of the 2030s," with the "possibility of going up to five if that is needed," Mr. Biden's national security advisor, Jake Sullivan, said.

Britain and Australia will then embark on building a new model, also nuclear-powered and carrying conventional weapons, dubbed the SSN-AUKUS. This will be a British design, with U.S. technology, and "significant investments in all three industrial bases," Mr. Sullivan said.

- **US, UK and Australia have unveiled details of their plan to create a new fleet of nuclear-powered submarines**, aimed at countering China's influence in the [Indo-Pacific region](#). Under the AUKUS pact Australia is to get at least three nuclear-powered submarines from the US.



The major highlight of this arrangement is the sharing of US nuclear submarine technology to Australia.



It involves a new architecture of meetings and engagements between the three countries, as well as cooperation across emerging technologies (applied AI, quantum technologies and undersea capabilities)

The idea for a nuclear-powered submarine was first proposed in the United States Navy by the Naval Research Laboratory's physicist Ross Gunn in 1939.

1939

1946

The Royal Navy began researching designs for nuclear propulsion plants in 1946.

- In July 1951, the U.S. Congress authorized construction of the first nuclear-powered submarine, *Nautilus*, under the leadership of Captain Hyman G. Rickover
- After overcoming many obstacles, including steam generation problems, radiation leaks, and other difficulties, the first nuclear submarine based on these combined efforts, K-3 *Leninskiy Komsomol* of the Project 627 *Kit* class, called a November-class submarine by NATO, entered service in the Soviet Navy in 1958.

Indian Navy [[edit](#)]

See also: [Indian Navy](#)

Decommissioned [[edit](#)]

- [INS *Chakra*](#) (Soviet [Charlie-class submarine](#)).
- [INS *Chakra 2*](#) (Russian [Akula-class submarine](#)).

Operational [[edit](#)]

- [Arihant-class submarine](#)- Ballistic missile submarines

Under development [[edit](#)]

- [Arihant-class submarines](#)- 2 boats under construction.
- [Project 75 alpha](#)- Attack submarines.
- [INS 'Chakra 3](#)- Attack submarines.
- [S5-class](#)- Ballistic missile submarines.

- UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)
- Mains
- **Q.** The new tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strength and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario. **(2021)**

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THE WORLD

PROTESTS IN PAK AS POLICE SEEK TO ARREST IMRAN ■ 10

WITH THE financial year drawing to a close and no headway yet on clearing outstanding double payments for weapons purchased from Russia, the government is set to go in for a series of big-ticket indigenous acquisitions for the military to use up its pending defence capital funds, top officials told The Indian Express.

BIG-TICKET INDIGENEOUS ACQUISITIONS

Next-gen missile vessels to radars: Govt on local shopping spree for armed forces

Orders likely to be placed before the end of financial year this month

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

Several new acquisitions, officials said, are under consideration and orders are likely to be placed this month once they get the final nod from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) or the Ministry of Defence.

THE SHOPPING LIST

- **INDIAN ARMY**
EW system for mountain, dedicated communications satellite
- **Air defence control and reporting system**
- **INDIAN AIR FORCE**
Medium and high power radars
- **Six Dornier-228 aircraft, 70 HT-40 basic trainer aircraft**
- **INDIAN NAVY**
Fleet support ships, next-gen offshore patrol vessels, next-gen missile vessels
- **Next-gen maritime mobile coastal batteries with BrahMos missiles**

This month include fleet support ships, Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels and Next Generation Missile Vessels—all made in Indian shipyards. Negotiations have been underway between the Indian Shipyard Limited for five fleet support ships since 2021. In 2018, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) had accorded approval for the procurement of six Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs), fitted with state-of-the-art sensor suite.

Can't say Naa tu an Osca **RRR**

Amul
Have with Nacho Nacho!

Key Adani investor Elara co-owner with Adani in defence firm

Alpha capabilities was focus: Adani Group

WHEN INVESTOR IS ALSO CO-OWNER



ELARA INDIA Opportunities Fund (Elara IOF), a venture capital fund managed by Elara Capital, is one of the top four entities registered in Mauritius that hold shares predominantly in Adani Group companies. Even after significantly reducing its share over the last three years, its holdings in three Adani companies add up to over 9,000 crore or over 96 per cent of its total corpus in December 2022. But Elara's just another investor. Records investigated by The Indian Express show that along with the Adani Group, it is a promoter entity in a defence company. Bengaluru-based Alpha Design Technologies Private Limited (ADTL),

AN INDIAN EXPRESS-ICIJ INVESTIGATION - PART TWO

An untold Kashmir story: Artefacts not traced, FIRs gathering dust

As many as 94 artefacts in US museum have a trail going back to J&K where authorities have made little headway in probe into those missing

SHYAMLAL YADAV
SRINAGAR, JAMSHEDPUR, MARCH 14

IF 77 ARTEFACTS in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art are linked to an antiquities smuggler who is now in a Tamil Nadu jail, there are over 100 other pieces that tell an untold story of Jammu and Kashmir.

On one side is the Me's formidable Asia collection with at least 94 artefacts of J&K origin—81 sculptures, five paintings, five pages of a manuscript, two Kashmir carpet antiquities and one page of calligraphy—none of which have details in the provenance or background documents, of which they were moved out and by whom, reveals investigation by The Indian Express in association with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) and UK-based Finance Uncovered.

And on the other side are several FIRs gathering dust in J&K on missing artefacts, with some of these cases closed as "not traced", according to FIR records and court and police records investigated by The Indian Express, which also visited key sites in Srinagar and interviewed several experts.



The ruins of a temple in Awantipora, in Pulwama district of J&K. Shyamal Yadav

Saraswati painting from J&K: Found in US — still sitting there for 6 years

SHYAMLAL YADAV
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

NOTHING BETTER illustrates the challenges faced by India in its quest to recover antiquities stolen and smuggled abroad than the wall it has hit to get a J&K painting back from the United States for over six years, records reviewed by The Indian Express under the Right to Information (RTI) Act reveal.

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW
AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

MANOJ C G
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

OPPOSITION PARTIES are maintaining a cautious silence on the question of legalisation of same-sex marriage, with the matter before the Supreme Court. The apex court on Monday referred the issue to a five-judge Constitutional Bench, after the Centre opposed same-sex marriage and urged to leave the decision to Parliament.

SVB crisis: IT Ministry likely to seek domestic loans for start-ups, transfer of accounts

SOURYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

TO ADDRESS the liquidity issues of Indian start-ups impacted by the fallout of the recent Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), the IT Ministry, in a submission to the Finance Ministry, is likely to emphasise the need to devise a plan on how the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) can get domestic banks to offer loans to these start-ups. The Indian Express has learnt.

MOHIT RAJEEV
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 14

HOPEING for relief

MOST INDIAN start-ups used their SVB deposits for payroll and other operational functions. And to compound the problem, the start-up ecosystem is already going through a funding winter. The new measures could mean much-needed relief.

ECONOMICS
WHAT HAPPENED AT SVB, HOW & WHY

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY

With all-much-needed in the RTI, why is Govt keeping the records secret?

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

RSS backs Govt: Marriage a sanskar in Hindu philosophy

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
SAMALAKHA (HARYANA), MARCH 14

THE RSS Tuesday put its weight behind the stand taken by the Centre on marriage rights for the LGBTQ+ community, saying "marriage can only take place between opposite genders".

Opp cautious, wants SC to take lead as on Section 377

off the record, said they would rather the Supreme Court set the ball rolling by pronouncing its verdict either in favour or against same-sex marriage, like it had done in the case of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. With the government dragging its feet, the Supreme Court had in 2018 scrapped the Section that criminalised homosexuality. The Congress, which had unenthusiastically welcomed the 2018 Supreme Court judgment, was circumspect about same-sex marriage. "This is hardly an

Milk in short supply, Karnataka comes up with a solution: Less being offered for same price

JOHNSON A.
PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS & HARISH DAMODARAN
BENGALURU, PUNE, NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

EVEN AS worries over central inflation are receding—with temperatures not rising as much to damage the standing wheat crop—it is milk that's increasingly becoming a cause for concern. The Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation



only on November 24, raised the price of all its variants of milk by Rs 2 per litre. "They are being forced to become suppliers have dried up. Their's short-term milk prices and all stop sale of ghee outside of Karnataka," said an industry source.

KMF's India's second largest dairy concern, with its district unions procuring an average 31.64 lakh kg per day (LKPD) of milk in 2021-22, next only to the 271.34 LKPD by the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, better known as

INSIDE
BHOPAL GAS LEAK: SC DISMISSES GOVT PLEA FOR MORE COMPENSATION
GOVT-OPPOSITION SHOWDOWN CONTINUES IN HOUSE

IT/ITES Plots (Captive) through e-Auction
Online Bidding Scheme Code: 0002/2023

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2	5G	Tech Zone	4647	829630000
3	5H	Tech Zone	4647	829630000
4	5J	Tech Zone	4647	829630000
5	5K	Tech Zone	4647	829630000
6	5M	Tech Zone	8094	1612860000
7	5N	Tech Zone	8097	1613430000

How to participate/better details: Interested parties will need to sign up on Greater Noida e-Auction portal (www.gnatraidaaauthority.in) and the web portal www.gnatraidaaauthority.in and the web portal www.gnatraidaaauthority.in and the web portal www.gnatraidaaauthority.in

For corrigendum/addendum, please refer to website www.greaternoidaauthority.in

Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority
Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority
Plot No. 5, Knowledge Park, Greater Noida-201308, UP, India
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0522-2330424, 2330423, 2330422, 2330421
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Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India

Nand Gopal Gupta, Noida Development Authority, Greater Noida

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Online Bidding Scheme Code: 0002/2023

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For corrigendum/addendum, please refer to website www.greaternoidaauthority.in

THE SHOPPING LIST

INDIAN ARMY

- EW system for mountains, dedicated communications satellite
- Air defence control and reporting system

INDIAN AIR FORCE

- Medium and high power radars

- Six Dornier-228 aircraft, 70 HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft

INDIAN NAVY

- Fleet support ships, next-gen offshore patrol vessels, next-gen missile vessels
- Next-gen maritime mobile coastal batteries with BrahMos missiles



Delhi ranks 4 on list of world's most polluted cities

New Delhi: Delhi ranked fourth on a list of 50 of the world's most polluted cities in terms of PM2.5 levels in 2022, according to World Air Quality Report prepared by IQAir.

Delhi had an average PM2.5 level of 92.6 µg/m³ in 2022, a little below the average of 96.4 µg/m³ in 2021. The most polluted city in the world was found to be Lahore, followed by Hotan in China, and Bhiwadi in Rajasthan. The average PM2.5 concentration in Bhiwadi was 92.7 µg/m³. Delhi has retained its ranking on this list – it stood fourth in 2021 as well. The WHO guideline for annual PM2.5 levels is 5 µg/m³.

The report makes a distinction between New Delhi and Delhi, with the former having an annual average PM2.5 level of 89.1 µg/m³.

New Delhi is the second most polluted capital city in the world. This is on a list of 116 capital cities. Over the past four years, Delhi has topped the IQAir list of most polluted capital cities.

IQAir is a Swiss air quality technology company that prepares annual world air quality reports based on data from monitoring stations operated by governments and other institutions. The 2022 report is based on PM2.5 data from 7,323 cities and 131 countries. A total of 39 Indian cities are on the list of 50 of the world's most polluted cities. These include cities like Noida, Gurgaon, Bulandshahr, Meerut, Charkhi Dadri, Jind, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, and Greater Noida. **ENS**

48.4L individual taxpayers in top-most 30% slab

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 14

FOR A total of 6.94 crore taxpayers in the financial year 2020-21, the year affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, 7.6 per cent or 48.4 lakh individual taxpayers were in the top-most 30 per cent tax slab in the country, government data presented in Parliament on Tuesday showed.

In the following fiscal, individual taxpayers in the 30 per cent tax slab increased to 60.81 lakh, though the percentage share cannot be determined as data for the total number of taxpayers is unavailable for financial year 2021-22.

Data for total taxpayers for financial year 2021-22 (assessment year 2022-23) is under compilation as the last date of filing revised return was December 31, 2022, the Finance Ministry said in response to a question in Parliament.

An individual taxpayer

senior citizens, the ministry said. The ministry used to earlier release annual tax filing data for direct taxes but it has not done so after AY 2018-19.

Total number of taxpayers had recorded a loss of Rs 23.25 lakh in the financial year 2019-20, declining to 6.71 crore from 6.94 crore in the previous financial year 2018-19, government data showed. Total number of taxpayers then again increased to around 6.94 crore in 2020-21 but still remained below the pre-pandemic level of 2018-19 by 24,645 taxpayers. The trend in individual taxpayers in the assessment year 2021-22 shows a shift towards middle-income and high-income categories away from the low-income category of zero to Rs 5 lakh.

In assessment year 2021-22, which broadly refers to the financial year 2020-21, the number of taxpayers in the income group of zero to Rs 5 lakh de-

tion in Parliament.

An individual taxpayer falls in 30 per cent tax slab, if his/her aggregate income exceeds Rs 10 lakh and has opted for old tax regime, or his/her aggregate income is more than Rs 15 lakh and has opted for new tax regime, with the exclusion of non-resident Indians, senior citizens and super

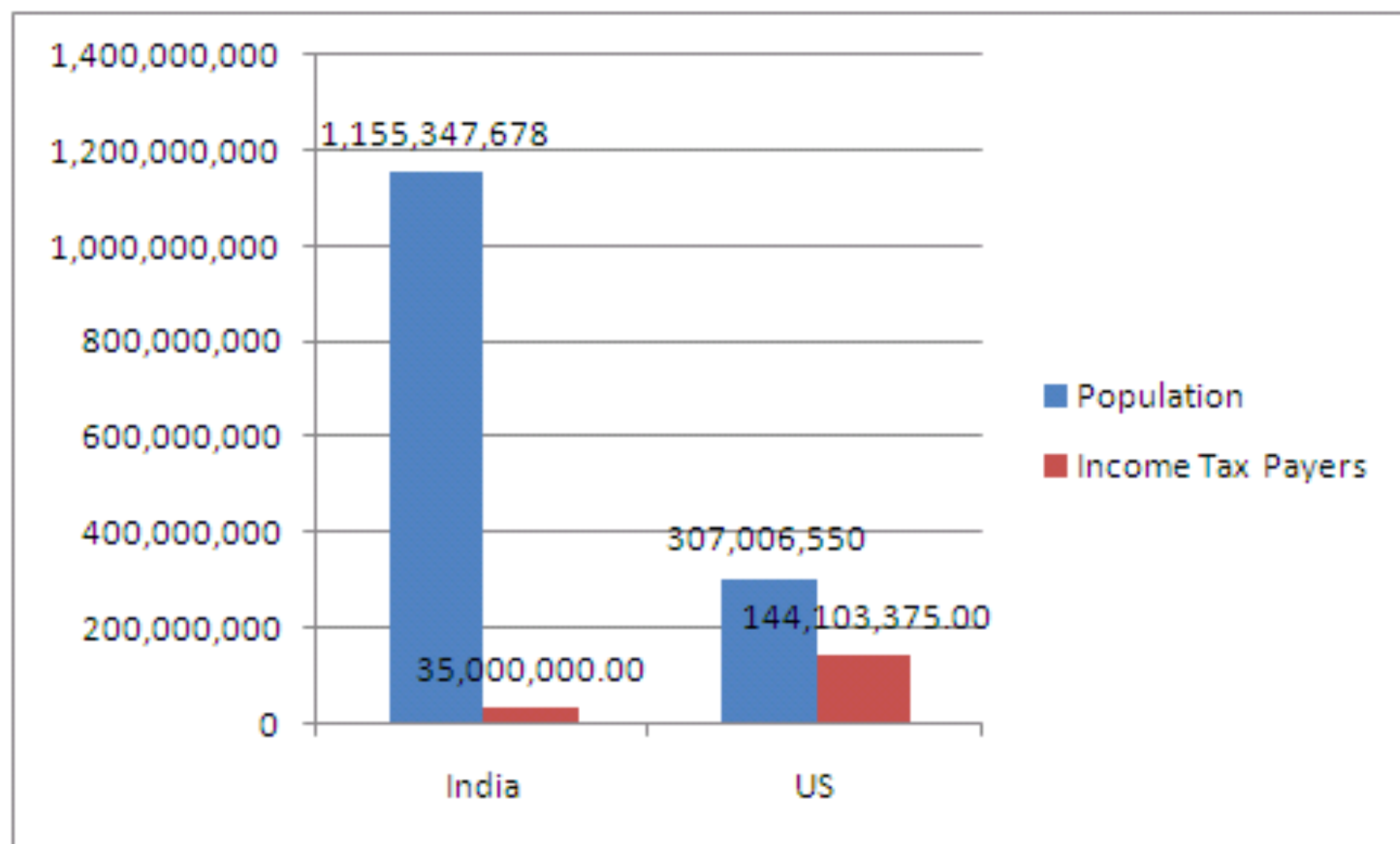
payers in the income group of zero to Rs 5 lakh decreased to 4.11 crore from 4.63 crore in the previous year. However, the number of taxpayers in the income group of Rs 5-10 lakh increased to 1.40 crore in FY21 from 1.12 crore in the previous year.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAXPAYERS

Personal Income tax	AY 2021-22	AY 2020-21	AY 2019-20
0 to 5 lakh	41160543	46327410	49879348
5 to 10 lakh	14074602	11228574	10626410
Over 10 lakh	8103067	5411934	4854198
Grand total	63338212	62967918	65359956

Source: Ministry of Finance





BILKIS BANO CASE
SC Bench to hear plea against remission
NEWS » PAGE 12



REIMAGINED WITH AI
Ghosts of Assam take digital form
NEWS » PAGE 14



BUSINESS DRAIN
550 foreign firms shut shop in India in 5 years
BUSINESS » PAGE 16



DATA POINT
The U.S. Fed is walking a tightrope
Rising interest rates led to bank runs
OPINION » PAGE 9



ZAMPA'S DAY OUT
Australia beats India, wins ODI series 2-1
SPORT » PAGE 17

COVID-19 pandemic is far from over, warns PM

Modi asks officials to increase whole genome sequencing to help identify emerging variants, at a meeting to assess the recent rise in COVID-19 and influenza cases and public health readiness

Hindu Shalan Perarupaden
NEW DELHI

The COVID-19 pandemic is far from over, Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned on Wednesday, emphasising the need to monitor the status of the disease across the country on a regular basis.



Keeping watch: In the past one week, as many as 888 new cases have been reported on average every day in India. (PI)

At a high-level review meeting, Mr. Modi directed officials to increase whole genome sequencing of COVID-positive samples, us-

ing the designated INSA-COG laboratories, as this would support the tracking of any new and emerging

variants, and facilitate a timely response. At the meeting, officials assessed the current CO-

VID and influenza situation in the country, and urged that COVID-appropriate behaviour be put in place in hospitals. They advised senior citizens and those with co-morbidities to adhere to the protocol when visiting crowded areas.

The review comes against the backdrop of a spike in influenza cases and a rise in COVID cases over the past two weeks.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

AAP gov. presents ₹78,800-cr. Delhi budget

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Kailash Gahlot on Wednesday presented the Delhi budget for 2023-24 with a focus on creating a "clean, beautiful and modern Delhi" as the capital readies to host the G-20 summit this year.

Education and health, the cornerstone of AAP's 'Delhi Kejriwal' model of governance, got the highest sector-wise allocation this year too in an overall outlay of ₹78,800 crore through their percentage of allocations dipped slightly from last year's.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the budget has increased 2.5 times under AAP. "Despite giving many freebies, the budget remains profitable, making it a unique case as other States do not give anything for free and are at a loss."

FULL COVERAGE » PAGE 2

Barricades off U.K. mission in Delhi after protests in London

Kallol Bhattacharjee
Subashini Baidya
NEW DELHI

The British High Commission on Wednesday refused to comment after the law enforcement agencies removed the barricades around the British High Commission in Delhi's Charakypuri and the residence of the U.K. High

Commissioner Alex Ellis. The development came two days after the Indian High Commission in London was vandalised by pro-Khalistan protesters seeking an end to police action against Amritpal Singh.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

MORE PROTESTS IN LONDON » PAGE 15

IN BRIEF



'SP will defeat BJP, other parties can offer support'

LUCKNOW
The SP will defeat the BJP in U.P. in the 2024 Lok Sabha poll, party chief Akhilesh Yadav said on Wednesday. He said it was up to the other parties to back the SP in its fight. » PAGE 12

'T.N. blast was inspired by Sri Lanka Easter bombings'

Wilson Thomas
COIMBATORE

Those involved in last October's car explosion in front of Coimbatore's San-

gameswarar temple operated an Islamic State (IS) module inspired by Zahran Hashim, the mastermind of the Easter 2019 bombings in Sri Lanka, the Na-

tional Investigation Agency's probe has found. An NIA source said the agency has unearthed evidence, which showed that the 12 persons found to be

involved in the blast so far were inspired and radicalised by Hashim.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

VIT
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Full Coverage » PAGE 2

https://viteee.vit.ac.in/

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AAP govt. presents ₹78,800-cr. Delhi budget

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Kailash Gahlot on Wednesday presented the Delhi budget for 2023-24 with a focus on creating a “clean, beautiful and modern Delhi” as the Capital readies to host the G-20 summit this year.

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Where the money goes

How the budget allocated funds across different sectors and schemes for 2023-24

Budget estimates for 2023-24

₹78,800 crore

Agriculture, Rural
Development & I&FC
₹788 (1%)

Interest Payment
₹3,094 (4%)

Energy
₹3,348 (4%)

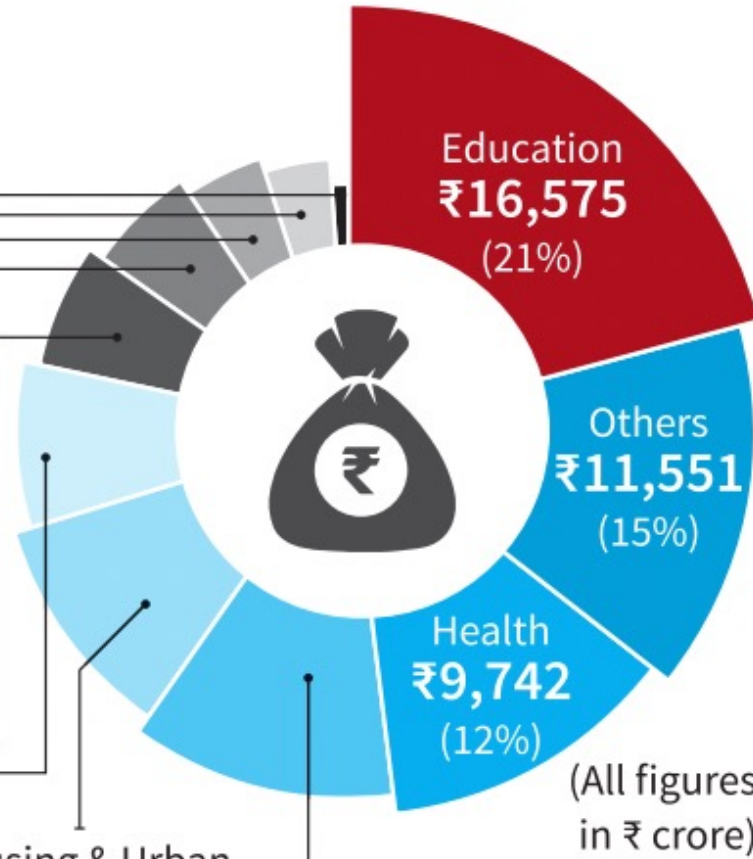
Social Welfare & Social Security
₹4,744 (6%)

Public Debt
₹5,040 (6%)

Water Supply & Sanitation
₹6,342 (8%)

Housing & Urban
Development
₹8,239 (11%)

Transport, Roads & Bridges
₹9,337 (12%)



Education

■ 20 new computers in every school in a phased manner. At least 350 schools will receive new devices.

■ New tablets for teachers, including regular, guest and contractual, vice-principals, principals and DDEs

■ Improving learning outcomes of MCD schools

Health

The big nine

- Upgradation and beautification of **1,400 km** of the entire PWD road network
- Construction of **26 new flyovers/underpasses/bridges** in different parts of Delhi
- Construction of **3 unique double-decker flyovers** in collaboration with the DMRC
- Induction of **1,600 new zero-emission electric buses**, including 100 feeder buses
- **Electrification of 57 existing bus depots** of Delhi
- Construction of **3 world-class inter-state bus terminals (ISBTs)**, 2 multi-level bus depots, 2 modern bus terminals, and 9 new bus depots in Delhi
- Construction of **1,400 new and modern bus queue shelters**
- Six-point action plan for a **clean Yamuna**
- Clearing all three garbage mountains [landfills]



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Finance Minister Kailash Gahlot (left) arrive for the budget presentation at the Assembly on Wednesday.
SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Transport

- Mohalla bus scheme to provide multiple options for last-mile connectivity
- Electric scooter sharing service in Dwarka under which 1,500 e-scooters will be deployed at 250 high footfall locations
- App-based premium bus aggregator scheme

Health

- Mohalla Clinics at metro stations and 100 Mahila Mohalla Clinics
- 9 new government hospitals. Four of them will be operational in next financial year
- Number of beds in Delhi government hospitals will increase from 14,000 to 30,000



Environment

- Real-time source apportionment project to be taken to the next level by setting up 11 mobile vans (one in each district) to go across Delhi
- Mega tree plantation drive by planting 52 lakh trees in the city
- Reducing road dust by keeping the entire 1,400-km PWD road stretch clean



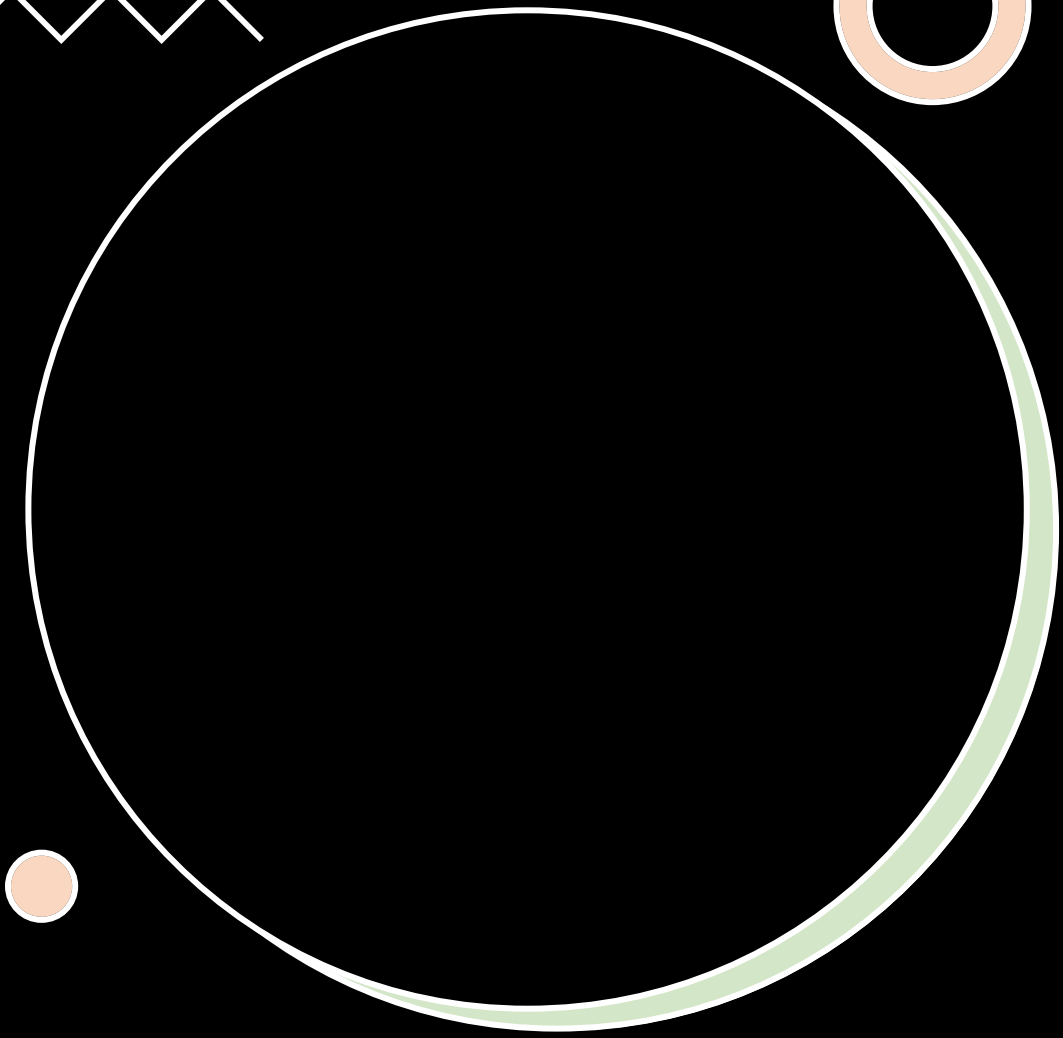
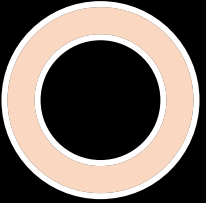


Tributes to the Heroes of our Nation
Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev
on their Martyrdom Day

March 23, 2023

It was on this day that Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were executed by the British government in 1931.

They were **hanged to death for assassinating John Saunders**, a British police officer in 1928. They had mistaken him for British police superintendent James Scott.



- Their lives **inspired countless youth and in their death, they set an example.**
- They carved out their own path for independence, where **individual heroism** and their aggressive need to do something for the nation stood out, departing from the path followed by the Congress leaders then.



Govt. will attempt to open corridor to Sharda Peeth in PoK for devotees: Shah

It could be on the lines of the Kartarpur corridor in Punjab, says Union Home Minister after inaugurating the Maa Sharda Devi temple near the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said the government would move forward to open a corridor to the Sharda Peeth in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK) on the lines of the Kartarpur corridor.

The Sharda Peeth, a revered site for the Hindu community, is located in the Neelum Valley in PoK across Teetwal village along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Shah was responding to a suggestion made by the convener of the Save Sharda Committee Kashmir, Ravindra Pandita, who requested that the Sharda Peeth corridor should be made operational on the lines of the Kartarpur corridor, which was opened in 2019.

The corridor links two important Sikh shrines – Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district of Punjab and Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, Pakistan



The Maa Sharda Devi temple in Kupwara, which was inaugurated by Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday. ANI

– and allows pilgrims to travel visa-free. The Minister said the Peeth was a historical centre of India's cultural, religious and educational heritage and the government – under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi – would definitely move forward to open it for devotees on the lines of the Kartarpur corridor.

Mr. Shah also virtually inaugurated the Maa Sharda Devi temple at Kupwara on Wednesday. He said the architecture and construction of the temple was

done according to the Hindu scriptures under the aegis of Sharda Peeth. The idol of Sharda Maa, donated by the Sringeri Math on January 24, was installed in the temple, he added.

Important step

“The reconstruction of Maa Sharda's temple in Kupwara is a necessary and important step in the direction of discovery of Sharda-civilisation and promotion of Sharda-script. Once upon a time, Sharda Peeth was considered the centre of know-

ledge in the Indian subcontinent, scholars from all over the country used to come here in search of scriptures and spiritual knowledge. Sharda script is the original script of our Kashmir, which has been named after Maa Sharda,” he said.

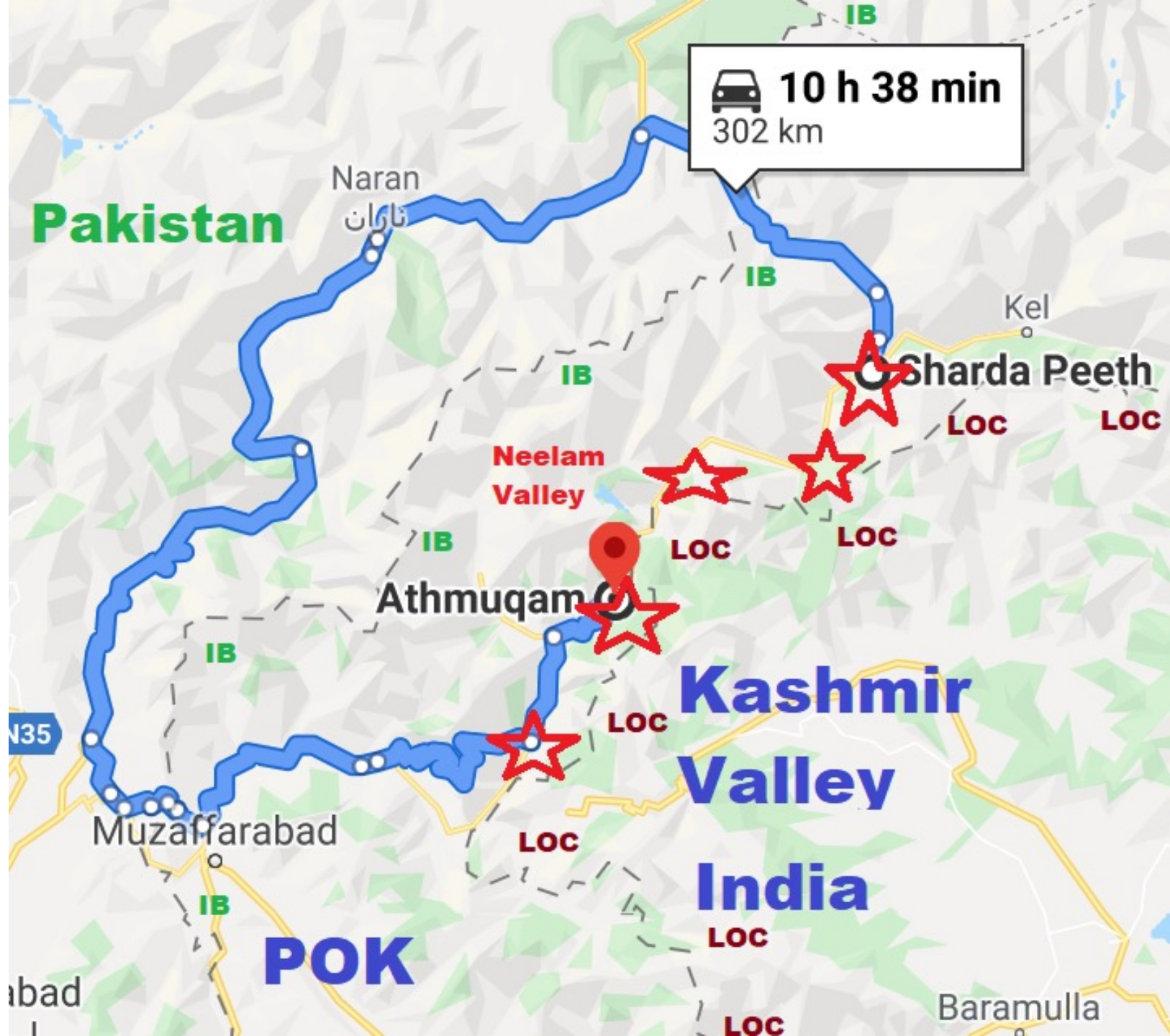
Mr. Shah said that since the reading down of Article 370, the Kashmir Valley and Jammu were once again returning to their old traditions, civilisation and “Ganga-Jamuni *tehzeeb*”. The government had taken efforts for cultural rejuvenation of the region, he added.

The Minister said systematic restoration and repair work was going on at 123 places, including many temples and Sufi places. In the first phase, 35 places were being renovated at the cost of ₹65 crore.

Mr. Shah said 31 mega cultural programmes were organised by identifying 75 religious places and Sufi shrines.

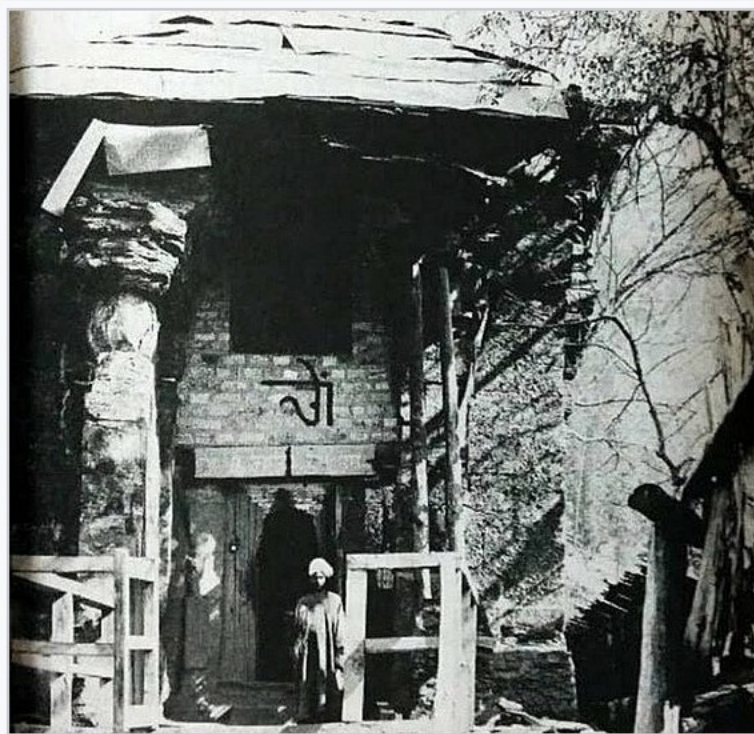
Twenty cultural festivals were also organised in the districts to help revive old heritage, he said.





-
- Between the 6th and 12th centuries CE, it was among the most prominent [temple universities](#) in the [Indian subcontinent](#). Known in particular for its library, stories recount scholars travelling long distances to access its texts.
 - It played a key role in the development and popularisation of the [Sharada script](#) in [North India](#), causing the script to be named after it, and [Kashmir](#) to acquire the moniker "*Sharada Desh*", meaning "country of Sharada"

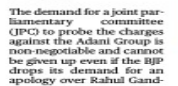
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- Sharada Peeth is located approximately 150 kilometres (93 mi) from [Muzaffarabad](#), the capital of Pakistani-administered Azad Kashmir, and 130 kilometres (81 mi) from [Srinagar](#), the capital of Kashmir. It is 10 kilometres (6.2 mi) away from the [Line of Control](#), which divides the Pakistani- and Indian-controlled areas of the former [princely state](#) of [Jammu and Kashmir](#).



A photograph of Sharada Peeth in 1893 by the [British archaeologist Sir Aurel Stein](#). A Kashmiri Pandit stands at the entrance

Won't go back on JPC demand over Adani issue: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Jairam Ramesh

The demand for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) to probe the charges against the Adani Group is non-negotiable and cannot be given up even if the BJP drops its demand for an apology over Rahul Gandhi's remarks in the U.K., the Congress said on Wednesday. Addressing a press conference to mark 100th quest for PM Narendra Modi under the *Hum Adani Ke Hum Kaun* series, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said efforts are being made to find a middle path where both the Opposition and the government soften their positions.

Mr. Ramesh said the Supreme Court-appointed expert panel lacks jurisdiction to probe all aspects of the Adani-Hindenburg report fallout and it would end up being a "clean-chit panel" for the Modi government. While the demand is "non-negotiable", the Congress leader said that it is Mr. Gandhi's right to be able to respond to the "accusations and baseless" charges.

Centre is not committed to Naga peace talks: NSCN (I-M)

Lack of seriousness on the part of the government has led to the belief that it plans to strike the Nagas with all its State machinery and a strategy will be worked out if dialogue fails, says the group

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

New Delhi's fluctuating commitment to the "Indo-Naga political issue" has made the Framework Agreement hang in balance, the Insak-Mush faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN) said.

The Framework Agreement was signed between the Union government and the NSCN (I-M) on August 3, 2015.

We have made our stand loud and clear to the government of India on the issue of the Naga flag and constitution which are indispensable and indivisible parts of the recognised sovereignty and unique history of the Nagas," NSCN (I-M) President, Q. Taca said while addressing the 44th Naga Republic political talks on Tuesday at the extremist group's headquarters near Dimapur, Nagaland's commercial hub.



Looking back: Narendra Modi with NSCN (I-M) general secretary Thuingliar Muivah in 2015 after a peace accord was signed. PTI

He said the Indian government's commitment to resolving the 25-year-old conflict "fluctuates wildly every now and then". He insisted that the outfit is "simply waiting for" how New Delhi "will pick up the threads of the Indo-Naga political talks with the correct narrative and not for its own convenience". The NSCN (I-M) claims the Centre had committed to letting the Nagas use their own flag and constitution to ensure lasting peace across the Naga-inhabited areas. The Centre denies having made such a commitment.

Mr. Taca said the politics of "hypocrisy" and "flattery" is raising its ugly head as the Government of India is again looking for an escape route to dilute the political significance of the Framework Agreement.

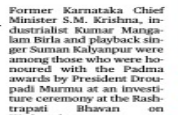
He blamed the Union government for the "absur-... regarding the political talks."

"Lack of seriousness" The lack of seriousness on the part of the Centre has led to the belief that it plans to "strike the Nagas with all its State machinery".

He said a survival strategy would have to be worked out if the talks eventually fail. "... this final showdown must be a battle to decide our future," he added. The ball, he asserted, is in the court of the Government of India for getting its act together and getting back the lost ground.

President confers Padma awards on S.M. Krishna, Kumar Mangalam Birla

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Times for laureate: President Droupadi Murmu presents the Padma Vibhushan to S.M. Krishna in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

Former Karnataka Chief Minister S.M. Krishna, industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla and playback singer Suman Kalpana were among those who were honoured with the Padma awards by President Droupadi Murmu at an investiture ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday.

Mr. Krishna, a former External Affairs Minister, who is "known for his staunch liberalist and administrative acumen during a career spanning more than six decades," was given the Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian award. Noted architect Balkrishna Doshi, known for his minimalist, simple and eco-friendly approach to architecture, was also given the Padma Vibhushan.



Former of Pandwani and Panthi art forms of Chhat-tigarh, and Raman Cheruvayal, a tribal farmer from Kerala who is known for his contribution to sustain- able agriculture and pres- ervation of biodiversity, were given the Padma Shri.

The ceremony was attended by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla as well as Home Minister Amit Shah.

The President had approved 106 Padma awards on the eve of Republic Day and over 54 people were given on Wednesday. Two awardees including music legend Zakir Hussain, who has been honoured with Padma Vibhushan, were not present at the ceremony. The rest of the awardees would be conferred the honours in another ceremony later.

Third-party involvement won't help in resolving border row: Chinese envoy

Kalid Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Involvement of third parties in India-China relations may not be helpful in resolving the border dispute between the two sides, said the Chinese ambassador to India on Wednesday.

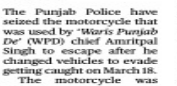
Addressing a media briefing, the senior-most official in the Chinese Embassy said that neither China nor India desired conflict over the issue and that the two countries have to talk. She also said that China was not against regional groupings that were helpful for economic growth of the countries but that Beijing was opposed to the Quad because it was aimed at "contain- ing" China.



When India and China is a bilateral issue. We think our two countries should use the wisdom to resolve this issue and we can properly handle that. We do not invite any other (country), especially from other regions to interfere in this bilateral dispute," said Ms. Mu. She responded to a question from The Hindu on in- teractions between the two sides.

Punjab police seize motorcycle used by Amritpal Singh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



The Punjab Police have seized the motorcycle that was used by "Mazis Punjab De" (WPD) chief Amritpal Singh to escape after he evaded getting caught on March 18. The motorcycle was found abandoned near a canal in Jalandhar. The police suspect that after leaving it there, the radical preacher fled on foot along with some of his associates. Given that he had al- leged links with a drug dealer who had gifted a luxury car to him, efforts are under way to determine if that person was al- so involved in providing him shelter or any other as- sistance.

The State Police have so far found out that after he drove them to the site in the afternoon of March 18 on the Shaheed-Mahjan Road in Jalandhar, he had switched to another car and gone to a "safe haven" where he stayed for about 45 minutes during which he changed his clothes, and then drove away on the motorcycle that was later seized by the police.

Based on the findings, the police have invoked the National Security Act (NSA) provisions against the self-styled preacher, whose four associates named Manpreet Singh, Gurdeep Singh, Harpreet Singh and Gurpreet Singh were arrested after the seizure of his motorcycle. On Wednesday, they were produced before a court in Punjab. A non-bailable warrant has already been issued against the WPD chief under the NSA.

Lawyer in HC The police have contacted Mr. Singh's relatives to determine his whereabouts. His legal adviser had earlier petitioned the Punjab and Haryana High Court al- leging that he had been il- legally detained, following which the Court has sought a response from the authorities concerned.

Six criminal cases have been registered by the police against the WPD chief under the NSA. The charges of spreading dis- harmony among citizens through hate speeches, at- tempted murder, and ob- structing the police from executing their duty.

CAG reaching out to political executives on audit issues

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India G. Chandra Murmu on Wednesday said that it's outreach was now being extended to include political executives to highlight audit concerns. "The intention is to build a shared understanding of the most pressing concerns in govern- ance and find possible so- lutions," he said during an orientation programme with the Officer Trainees of the Indian Information Service (IIS).

The probations of three batches of 2020, 2021 and 2022. Stating that public had the right to access fair and objective information, the CAG called for skilful use of artificial intelligence to address the future chal- lenges of media.

IAF pilots sharpen their skills at Exercise Cobra Warrior in U.K.

Dinakar Peri
WASHINGTON AIRBASE, U.K.

Over the past three weeks, five Indian Air Force (IAF) Mirage-2000 aircraft have been undertaking joint training involving high in- tensity, large force, and tactical air war fighting operations with six other Air Forces as part of the multi-lateral "Exercise Cobra Warrior" under way in the U.K. The Mirage, drawn from all three existing squadrons also include those that took part in the Balakot air strike in 2019.

The other countries in- clude U.K., Finland, Swe- den, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, the U.S., and Singa- pore. Finland, India and Saudi Arabia joined for the first time. The initial idea was to bring in indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas but they were debus in another exercise. "We have done two groups to venture abroad and acquire widespread global presence. Delhi-based professor Kapil Kapoor, spiritual leader Kamlesh D. Patel and Ms. Kalpana were al- so among those who were honoured with the Padma Vibhushan, the country's third highest civilian award. Jodhraj Bai Batga, a prominent artist, design- ing, painting, Usha Barje, per-

Pawar calls for meeting on remote voting

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Eknath Pawar has called for a meeting of all Opposition parties at his residence on Monday, to discuss the proposed Re- mote Voting Electronic Voting for Migrants (RVM), mooted by the Election Commission recently.

It has been a great expe- rience, he further stated. "We have learnt quite a bit when flying with partici- pating nations. We've flown with F-16s and F-18s carrying out entire spec- trum of air operations in terms of offensive and de- fensive counter missions and others," he stated.

योगनाथ यादवसुखा विद्यालय, नई दिल्ली
School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi
Application forms for PG Courses has been extended to Friday, 31st March 2023.

EXTENSION OF LAST DATE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS FOR P.G COURSES
It is to notify that the last date of receipt of application forms for PG Courses has been extended to Friday, 31st March 2023.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY -Tender Notice
Invitation for bids for supply of water treatment equipment...

सुर रीजन स्पॉट, बिहार
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
The participants may contact to Sr. Vendor Service Executive Engineers...

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY -Tender Notice
Invitation for bids for supply of water treatment equipment...

Executive Engineer II
UT-1 Bihar

THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR RECRUITMENT FOR FACULTY POSITIONS
The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad invites applications for the following faculty positions...

THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY
EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION FOR TEACHING RECRUITMENT (REG-2022)
The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad invites applications from the following categories...

APPOINTMENT
Kamarajar Port Limited
Public Notice
For more details please visit our website www.kamarajarport.in

IAF pilots sharpen their skills at Exercise Cobra Warrior in U.K.

Dinakar Peri

WADDINGTON AIRBASE, U.K.

Over the past three weeks, five Indian Air Force (IAF) Mirage-2000 aircraft have been undertaking joint training involving high intensity, large force, and tactical air war fighting operations with six other Air Forces as part of the multi-lateral 'Exercise Cobra Warrior' under way in the U.K. The Mirages drawn from all three existing squadrons also include those that took part in the Balakot air strike in 2019.

The other countries include U.K., Finland, Sweden, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, the U.S., and Singapore. Finland, India and Saudi Arabia joined for the first time. The initial idea was to bring in indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas but they were busy in another exercise.

"We have done two

stops en route, at Saudi Arabia and Greece, and covered a distance of 4,500 miles over three days with mid-air refuelling by IL-78 aircraft," said Gp. Capt. Pranav Raj, CO of 7 Mirage squadron 'Battle Axes' based at Gwalior, and the IAF's Exercise Director. On the challenges and lessons learnt he said, "The weather here is fairly challenging and quite different from what it is in Gwalior or Central India. The maintenance team has done a tremendous job in keeping all five aircraft available for missions."

It has been a great experience, he further stated. "We have learnt quite a bit when flying with participating nations. We've flown with F-18s and F-16s carrying out entire spectrum of air operations in terms of offensive and defensive counter missions and others." he stated.

BANGKOK Thailand police besiege gunman's home as he kills at least 2 persons



The Police in Thailand said Wednesday they have cordoned off a neighbourhood in a city southwest of the capital where they have trapped a gunman inside his house for at least three days at least two people and injured several others. The incident happened on a quiet street in Phetchabun, about 170 km southwest of Bangkok. AP

KYIV Three killed, seven injured after Russian drone attack on school



Three persons were killed and seven injured in a Russian drone attack that hit a vocational high school in the Kyiv region overnight, Ukrainian officials said on Wednesday. The attack, which took place to the south of Kyiv, "partially destroyed" two floors of two student residences and a building that is used for studying. AP

WASHINGTON U.S. Federal Reserve lifts interest rate amid banking sector fears



The U.S. Federal Reserve raised its lending rate, as it sought to strike a balance between curbing high inflation and averting further upheaval in the banking sector. The quarter-point increase, which was in line with expectations, lifts the target range to 4.75-5.00 percent at the end of a two-day policy meeting. AP

JURM At least 13 killed in 6.5 magnitude Afghanistan-Pakistan earthquake



At least 13 persons were killed in Afghanistan and Pakistan by a strong earthquake felt across thousands of kilometres, but the region appeared on Wednesday to have dodged the most casualties usually associated with a tremor of such scale. The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude of the earthquake was 6.5. AP

Russia, China vow to deepen relations; take aim at West

Xi and Putin criticise the U.S. 'Indo-Pacific strategy' and call out attempts to 'politicise' multilateral groupings; both sides also agree 'a package of 80 bilateral projects worth around \$165 billion'

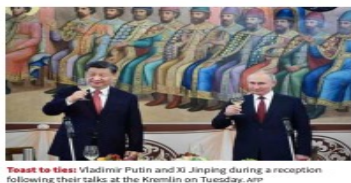
Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

China and Russia unveiled a broad long-term blueprint for their deepening relations, pledging to work together to push back against the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy as well as attempts to "politicise" multilateral platforms.

A joint statement, released in Mandarin and Russian, following Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Moscow and talks with President Vladimir Putin, said both sides "firmly oppose the politicisation" of multilateral platforms with unrelated issues and dilute the primary mission of the relevant mechanisms.

This reference pointed to sharp divisions in the G-20 ahead of this year's summit to be hosted by India, China and Russia earlier this month opposite references to the Ukraine war leading to the failure of the G-20 Foreign Ministers' meeting in New Delhi to issue a collective statement.

The lengthy joint statement also expressed "serious concern over NATO's continued strengthening of military security ties with Asia-Pacific countries" and said both sides oppose the cobbling together of a closed and exclusive bloc structure in the Asia-Pacific region, creating bloc politics and camp confrontation. Chinese officials have previously referred to the In-



Xi and Putin at a reception following their talks at the Kremlin on Tuesday. AP

dia-U.S.-Australia-Japan Quad as an "exclusive bloc" and "committed to building an equal, open and inclusive security system in the Asia-Pacific region that does not target third countries", pointedly using the term "Asia-Pacific" and not Indo-Pacific.

Both Mr. Xi and Mr. Putin hailed the state of their relations following lengthy talks in Moscow. The Chinese leader once again referenced Beijing's position paper on the Ukraine crisis, but this did not appear to suggest any major breakthrough in Chinese efforts to broker a peace in Ukraine, which Chinese media have highlighted in the wake of the recent landmark Saudi-Iran deal

signed in Beijing. The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Tuesday said the statement "oppose the practice by any country or group of countries to seek advantages in the military, political and other areas to the detriment of the legitimate security interests of other countries".

It said the "Russian side welcomes China's willingness to play a positive role for the political and diplomatic settlement of the Ukraine crisis".

Mr. Xi on Tuesday stressed the longevity of China-Russia ties, saying relations were "not severed with historical logic and a strategic choice of China." It will not be changed by any turn of events, he said, adding that "changes unseen in a century are evolving faster and the in-

ternational balance of power is undergoing a profound shift.

Both pledged to work together in multilateral groupings including BRICS, and also to take forward collaboration in the recently dormant Russia-India-China grouping. The two sides also said they would "support each other firmly in safeguarding their core interests, first and foremost sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and development interests." Russia said it supports China on Taiwan and also "firmly supports China's initiatives to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity".

Economic cooperation

Besides a joint statement, both sides also announced a "Plan to Promote the Key Elements of Russian-Chinese Economic Cooperation until 2030". Mr. Putin said both sides had agreed a package of 80 important and promising bilateral projects in various fields worth around \$165 billion.

"Russia is a strategic supplier of oil, natural gas, including LNG, coal, and electricity to China," he said. "Russian gas supplies to China are to reach at least 38 billion cubic metres by 2030, plus 100 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas. We have just discussed a good project, the new Power of Siberia-2 gas pipeline across Mongolia. We have reached agreement on most of the deal's parameters. Russia will export 30 billion cubic metres of gas from reliable, stable supplies."

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Khilistani protesters gathered opposite the Indian High Commission in London on Wednesday to protest the recent police action in Punjab. The atmosphere became especially tense from time to time with protesters throwing flares and water bottles at the High Commission and some pushing at barricades set up by the police.

After being criticised for lax security during Sunday's protest, when the national flag was taken down from the High Commission, at least a hundred police officers stood guard on both sides of the road and were on standby in the Aldwych neighbourhood on Wednesday morning.

Prior to the planned protest, which was organ-



At least a hundred police officers stood guard on both sides of the road outside the High Commission. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ised by the Federation of Sikh Organisations and the Sikh Youth Jathebandia, the Metropolitan Police told *The Hindu* that water security was in place. "I think we have a very good policing operation ... in place," a Sergeant Scott told *The Hindu* on Wednesday morning.

One police officer esti-

Protesters waved flags, mostly yellow and blue Khilistani flags, some wore Khilistani T-shirts and sweatshirts. Protesters carried placards with 'Ward Punjab de' written on it and called for an end to the media blackout in Punjab (Internet services have mostly been restored). Some called for the release of Amritpal Singh, a separatist preacher, who is actually not under arrest but on the run from the police.

Speakers, who waved microphones to address the crowds, accused the Indian media of bias and the crowd hurled insults at Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Individuals, presumably most or all of whom were Indian High Commission staff, were observed on top of the High Commission building waving flags back at the protesters.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Ferookh Khan S/o Shabaz Ahmad R/o 207, Block No. 32, Trilokpur, Delhi has committed or is suspected to have committed the offence in a case vide FIR No. 10/2021 dated 19.01.2021 U/s 148/196 Motor Vehicle Act registered at P.S. J.P. Estate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereon stating that the said Ferookh Khan could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Ferookh Khan has absconded for avoiding the service of the said warrant, Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Ferookh Khan is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 25.04.2023.

By Order
Sh. Vinod Kumar,
Metropolitan Magistrate-03
Central District, Room No. 150,
The Hazari Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) Shyam S/o Sh. Ramesh, (2) Matti W/o Sh. Ramesh, (3) Rajender S/o Sh. Ramesh, (4) Ajay S/o Sh. Ramesh, (5) Pooje D/o Sh. Ramesh, (6) Nisha D/o Sh. Ramesh, all R/o- Ward No. 09, Kharkhoda, Soripal, Haryana has committed or is suspected to have committed the offence in a case registered vide FIR No. 403/15 U/s 489A/489/34 IPC at P.S. Bawana, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereon stating that the said accused Shyam, Matti, Rajender, Ajay, Pooje and Nisha could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Shyam, Matti, Rajender, Ajay, Pooje and Nisha have absconded for avoiding the service of the said warrant, Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Shyam, Matti, Rajender, Ajay, Pooje and Nisha are required to appear before this court on or before the day of 25.04.2023.

Ms. Preeti
Metropolitan Magistrate
Mahila Court-02, North-West
Room No. 107, 107A, 107B,
Jail Road, Delhi

DP/2287/0N/2023 (Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Virender Kumar S/o Sh. Om Parkash, R/o Flat No. 120, Pocket B-5, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi has committed or is suspected to have committed the offence in a case vide FIR No. 10673/2018 U/s 138 NIA, PS North Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereon stating that the said accused person(s) Virender Kumar has absconded for avoiding the service of the said warrant, Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) Virender Kumar of CR No. 10673/2018 U/s 138 NIA, PS North Rohini, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated 27.04.2023.

By Order
Manali Malik
Metropolitan Magistrate (B)
Room No. 107, 107A, 107B,
Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/2895/RD/2023 (Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Tina, D/o: Anil Kumar, R/o: H. No. C-75, Gali No. 3, Part-1, C-Block, Mukandpur, Delhi has been reporting missing since 12.03.2023 at 11:00 AM from her house. In this regard DD No. 43 A dated 13.03.2023 has been lodged at Police Station Bhaswala Dairy, Delhi. The description of missing girl is as under:
Name: Tina, Age: 18 Years, Height: 4'8", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Build: Medium, Wearing: Black Kurti & Blue Jeans and Black Colour Chappal in Feet.
If anyone has any information about this missing girl please inform P.S. Bhaswala Dairy, Delhi.
Web: <http://cbl.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO
Police Station Bhaswala Dairy, Delhi
DP/2821/0N/2023 Ph: 011-27811934, 7065036328

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a boy namely Ajit, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Gali No. 10, D Block, Mukund Pur, Bhaswala Dairy, Delhi has been reporting missing since 09.11.2022 at 04:00 PM from Bhaswala Jheel. In this regard FIR No. 854/22 dated 13.11.2022 has been lodged at Police Station Bhaswala Dairy, Delhi. The description of missing boy is as under:
Name: Ajit, Age: 17 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Red Colour T-Shirt & Black Colour Pant and Slipper in Feet.
If anyone has any information about this missing boy please inform P.S. Bhaswala Dairy, Delhi.
Web: <http://cbl.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbl.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO
Police Station Bhaswala Dairy, Delhi
DP/2821/0N/2023 Ph: 011-27811934, 7065036328

Macron swears by pension reform plan

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday defiantly vowed to push through a controversial pension reform, saying he was prepared to accept unpopularity on the face of sometimes violent protests in the capital.

Mr. Macron told *TF1* and *France 2* that the changes needed to "conquer the future by the end of the year". "The longer we wait, the more it (the deficit) will increase. This reform is necessary, it doesn't make me happy, I would have preferred not to do it," he added. "Given a choice between opinion polls in the short term and the general interest of the country, I choose the general interest of the country," he said.

China boosts South Pacific influence with Solomons port deal

Agence France-Presse
SYDNEY

A state-backed Chinese company has won a contract to develop a key port in the Solomon Islands, a major victory in Beijing's quest to gain a strategic foothold in the South Pacific. The Solomon Islands' government on Tuesday announced that the China Civil Engineering and Construction Corporation had been chosen to lead a \$170 million project to develop the international port in the capital Honiara. The Solomons have become the unlikely epicentre of a diplomatic tussle between China and the U.S., after it signed a secret security pact with Beijing in 2022. Both China and Solomon Islands denied

U.S.-Argentine scholar wins Abel Prize for mathematics

Agence France-Presse
OSLO

The Abel Prize for mathematics was awarded to Argentine-American Luis Caffarelli, an expert in "partial differential equations" which can explain phenomena ranging from how water flows to population growth. A professor at the University of Texas, Mr. Caffarelli, 74, was honoured for his "seminal contributions to regularity theory for nonlinear partial differential equations," the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters said. "This type of equation models how several variables change with respect to each other, and play a prominent role in engineering, physics, economics and biology."

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U.S.-Argentine scholar wins Abel Prize for mathematics

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Abel Prize





ABEL PRISEN

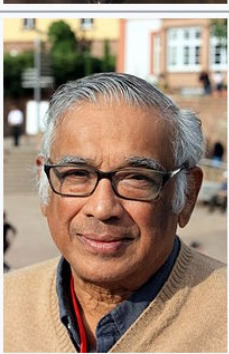
Awarded for Outstanding scientific work in
the field of [mathematics](#)

Country [Norway](#)

Presented by [Government of Norway](#)

First awarded 2003

2022	Dennis Sullivan		Stony Brook University and The Graduate Center, CUNY	"For his groundbreaking contributions to topology in its broadest sense, and in particular its algebraic, geometric and dynamical aspects." ^[47]
2023	Luis Caffarelli		University of Texas at Austin	"For his seminal contributions to regularity theory for nonlinear partial differential equations including free-boundary problems and the Monge–Ampère equation." ^[48]

2007	S. R. Srinivasa Varadhan		Courant Institute (NYU)	"For his fundamental contributions to probability theory and in particular for creating a unified theory of large deviation ." ^[27]
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IN BRIEF

Reliance Consumer unveils home, personal care products

Reliance Consumer Products Ltd. (RCPL), the RMCG arm and wholly owned subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd. (RRLV), said it had expanded its portfolio with the introduction of a range of home and personal care products...

IFC to invest ₹600 cr. in M&M's new last-mile mobility firm

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has announced an investment of ₹600 crore in a last-mile mobility company wholly owned by Mahindra & Mahindra. The firm will be a newly incorporated company (NewCo)...

Hero MotoCorp to increase prices by up to 2% from April

Hero MotoCorp on Wednesday said it will increase prices of its model range by about 2% from April 1 in order to offset the impact of rise in production cost to conform to stricter emission norms...

Number of foreign businesses exiting India surpass new entrants

Since 2018, more than 550 overseas firms ceased operations in the country, while just under 470 companies set up business over the same period, official data show. Analysts advise caution in interpretation given COVID, global economic slowdown

Vikas Dhoot NEW DELHI

The number of foreign companies quitting India have exceeded the number of new entrants since 2018, with foreign businesses setting up shop in the country falling to at least a five-year low in 2022...



Source: Ministry of Corporate Affairs

operations and become inactive in the same period. During this period, 2019 was the only year when the

number of foreign firms that started India operations (577) outnumbered the 535 firms that shut and became inactive.

Firms exiting the country last year added up to 78, while two firms have closed operations between January 1 and March 9, data shared by the Minister of

State for Corporate Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh in the Rajya Sabha. Investment experts advised caution in interpreting the data. 'A company may have been active in previous years and then shut down or become inactive in the said period,' said Sawant Singh, co-founding partner at Phoenix Legal.

UBS to buy back \$3 bn in bonds issued last week

Reuters

UBS Group said on Wednesday it would buy back \$2.75 billion (\$2.96 billion) worth of debt it issued less than a week ago, seeking to boost confidence among investors rattled by its \$3 billion rescue of rival Credit Suisse at the weekend.

Slump in Chinese demand leads drag on India's engineering exports

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

A sharp decline in Chinese imports of Indian engineering goods, along with marked dips in orders from 10 of the top 25 markets for the sector, is hurting the industry that accounts for a quarter of India's total goods exports. While engineering goods exports have dipped in seven of the first 11 months of 2022-23 and are down 4.24% year-on-year, shipments to China have plummeted 64% so far, with the monthly decline decelerating to 33.3% in February.



Duller appetite: Engineering exports to China declined 54% in the first 11 months of FY23, EEPIC data show. FILE PHOTO

far in FY23, compared with the year-earlier period. 'Major decline was witnessed in iron and steel segment, non-ferrous segment, two- and three-wheeler, railway transport, bicycle parts and project goods,' an EEPIC analysis noted. On the positive side, some large countries have scaled up orders from India, albeit from a relatively lower base.

Need to review bilateral flight capacity to Dubai: Akasa Air CEO

Jagriti Chandan NEW DELHI

There is a need to "review" bilateral rights on flight capacity between India and the UAE, said Akasa Air's CEO Vinay Dube with the newest carrier set to start international operations by the end of 2023.



Vinay Dube

wever, airlines like IndiGo and SpiceJet have opposed the move. The agreement offers reciprocal rights on the two sides. Emirates President Tim Clark during an interaction with the press on Tuesday had warned that restricted bilateral rights would "constrain growth" in India and result in losses of \$800 to \$900 million for Indian carriers, and also affect Indian citizens who travel on the route.

White Emirates and Flydubai have reached the maximum seat limit. The UAE has requested the Indian government to increase the number of seats Dubai carriers can fly between the city-state and Indian airports by another 50,000 seats, from the current capacity of 66,000.

Tamil Nadu women dethrone PSPPB, meet top seed RBI for the honours

NATIONAL TT

K. Kowshika JAMMU

Tamil Nadu women pulled off a major coup by outplaying defending champion Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPPB) 3-1 in the semifinals of the IJTT Senior National Inter-State table tennis championships here on Wednesday. TN will now go to RBI in the summit clash.



Glittering: The Tamil Nadu squad that stunned PSPPB. OFFICIAL ARRANGEMENT

that she had nothing to lose. Kowshika was exemplary in the fifth and deciding game, winning it 11-5. Yashini defeated Reeth Rishya in five games to give TN a 2-0 lead. However, PSPPB pulled one back when Archana Kannath defeated B. Ravayasee. Yashini closed out the match with a commanding per-

formance against Manika in the fourth. 'It is a huge win. All credit to our girls, who come from the same club (Jawahar TT Academy) in Chennai,' said TN women's team coach S.V. Rajan to The Hindu.

The results (Semifinals): Men: PSPB bt Delhi 3-0 (Jnanav

Government, funding info key to Adani ratings: S&P

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings said on Wednesday it was watching for additional information on Adani group's governance and funding for any ratings action. 'Continued to revise the outlook to stable, we will need to see evidence that governance practices in the group and funding access will improve in line with an investment-grade credit profile,' the ratings agency said.

The new airport would have the capacity to handle 9 crore passengers and 2.5 mt of cargo a year

Jagriti Chandan NEW DELHI

The first phase of Navi Mumbai Airport will begin operations by end 2024 and have the capacity to handle two crore passengers a year, said Arun Bansal, CEO, Adani Airports. 'After completion of phase one in December 2024, the remaining phases will be implemented over the next 15 years subject to passenger availability and external connectivity,' he said at the CAPA India Awards Summit here.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, is running to capacity and airlines have struggled in securing airport slots to fly to Mumbai

The firm is also working to ensure transportation between the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport and the Navi Mumbai airport. Airport business To a query on whether there is any rethink in terms of pace of expansion or investments for airports business in the context of the challenges faced by the Mumbai Group, Mr. Bansal replied in the negative. The group has been facing challenges following the report released by U.S.-based analyst Hinden-berg Research.

Sport

Lovlina, Nikhat, Saweety and Nitu make the last four to assure themselves of medals

WORLD BOXING

Y. B. Sarangi NEW DELHI

Spearedhead by Olympic medalist Lovlina Borgohain and World champion Nikhat Zareen, four Indian boxers won their respective quarterfinal bouts on Wednesday at the K.D. Jadhav Hall here on Wednesday. Lovlina (67kg) has secured her third Worlds medal, while Nikhat (50kg) and Saweety Bora (81kg) were set to claim their second. TN's Ghanghas (48kg) would have a maiden medal from the Worlds.



Demolishing: Saweety, right, pounded Kabirava into submission. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

(57kg), Jaismine Lamboria (60kg) and Nupur Sheoran (81kg), suffered losses. In a highly physical contest, Lovlina saw off Mozambique's Worlds bronze winner Ruby Gramame 5-0. 'The lucky Lovlina maintained a good distance and

used her counter punches, including an effective left jab and a surprise right-combustible receiving a few soft blows. She will meet two-time Olympic medalist and former World champion Li Qiang of China in a neck-and-neck

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

Table with 3 columns: Index, % Change, % Change. Rows: Sensex, Nifty 50, Bond yield.

NIFTY 50

Table with 3 columns: Stock Name, Price, % Change. Lists various stocks like Asian Paints, Adani Ports, etc.

Coromandel set to invest ₹1,000 crore, eyes foray into CDMO space

The Hindu Bureau HYDERABAD

Murugappa Group company Coromandel International has secured board approval to expand operations in crop protection chemicals, diversify into speciality and industrial chemicals and foray into contract development and manufacturing organisation (CDMO) business. Over the next two years it plans to invest ₹1,000 crore in the businesses and leverage macro tailwinds in the chemicals sector to build a business of scale, executive vice-chairman Arun Alagappan said.

Tamil Nadu women dethrone PSPPB, meet top seed RBI for the honours

NATIONAL TT

K. Kowshika JAMMU

Tamil Nadu women pulled off a major coup by outplaying defending champion Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPPB) 3-1 in the semifinals of the IJTT Senior National Inter-State table tennis championships here on Wednesday. TN will now go to RBI in the summit clash.

Other Indian results (quarterfinals): 52kg: Yu Wu (CHN) bt Sakshi Chhabra 5-0. 57kg: Arvina Ziani (FRA) bt Manisha Arora 3-1. 60kg: Pooja Vaidya (IND) bt Jaismine Lamboria 5-0. 48kg: Laxmi Kumbhar (KAZ) bt Nupur Sheoran 4-3.

Number of foreign businesses exiting India surpass new entrants

Since 2018, more than 550 overseas firms ceased operations in the country, while just under 470 companies set up business over the same period, official data show: analysts advise caution in interpretation given COVID, global economic slowdown

Vikas Dhoot

NEW DELHI

The number of foreign companies quitting India have exceeded the number of new entrants since 2018, with foreign businesses setting up shop in the country falling to at least a five-year low in 2022, as per official data.

While almost 470 new foreign investors set up business in India between 2018 and 2022, more than 550 overseas firms ceased

Revolving door

Data since 2018 indicates foreign firm exits outnumber entries



Year	No. of foreign firms that started India operations	No. of foreign companies that ceased operations
2018	102	111
2019	137	133
2020	90	120
2021	75	115
2022	64	78
2023*	1	2
Total	469	559

*till March 9, 2023

Source: Ministry of Corporate Affairs

operations and become inactive in the same period.

During this period, 2019 was the only year when the

number of foreign firms that started India operations (137) outnumbered the 133 firms that shut and became inactive.

In 2022, 64 new foreign investors started operations in India, the lowest figure since 2018 while just one new overseas business has begun operations (as of March 9) in 2023.

Firms exiting the country last year added up to 78, while two firms have closed operations between January 1 and March 9, data shared by the Minister of

State for Corporate Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh in the Rajya Sabha show.

Investment experts advised caution in interpreting the data.

“A company may have been active in previous years and then shut down or become inactive in the said period,” said Sawant Singh, co-founding partner at Phoenix Legal. “Moreover, the reducing trend of companies setting up in recent years is on account of COVID and global recessionary trends,” he noted.

Union Bank
YON Money App
Union Muskaan Saving Account

Barriers outside UK Mission go; fresh protests in London

security barricades outside home of British envoy in Delhi also removed

XPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

FRESH protest involving pro-Khalistan elements was held outside the Indian High Commission in London Wednesday evening as the Delhi Police removed security barricades from outside the High Commission premises and the British High Commission's residence in the national capital.

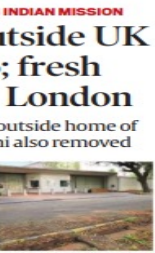
The Delhi Police move is being seen as a response to the lack of visible protection outside the Indian mission in London, as it was vandalised by pro-Khalistan activists during an earlier protest in Sunday.

While there was no official word from the Government on the removal of the cement barriers, Delhi Police officers said 12 barricades were removed from six locations in Chamlayapuri, the action was taken on directions from the police headquarters, sources said.

When contacted, a British High Commission spokesperson said: "We do not comment on security matters."

Following Sunday's violence targeting the Indian High Commission, the Government

INSIDE
CENTRE MAY NOT BACK MANIPUR MOVE TO END TRUCE
XI DEPARTS RUSSIA; KISHIDA VOWS AID TO POLAND
U.S. FED RAISES INTEREST RATES BY A QUARTER POINT
PAGES 10, 21, 23



The UK High Commission on Wednesday. *Abhinav Saha*

had lodged a protest by calling in the most senior diplomat at the British High Commission, Deputy High Commissioner Christina Christou.

(PTI adds: On Wednesday, around 2,000 protesters waving Khalistan flags reached the Indian High Commission in London for a planned demonstration, and hurled objects and chanted slogans aimed at heightening security presence and barricades.

The High Commission countered by unfurling a second Tricolour on the roof of its building, which seemed to rile the protesters.

AMRITPAL WIFE QUESTIONED PAGE 12

G20 summit approaches, Delhi govt shifts budget focus to urban renewal

XPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

WITH THE G20 Summit coming in September, the Delhi government Wednesday unveiled a budget that tilted heavily toward investment in road infrastructure and public transport — marking a shift from the Aam Aadmi Party's previous focus on welfare facilities for citizens.

Of the nine key announcements in the budget, seven are from these sectors, with both

BUSINESS AS USUAL
BY UNNAY

and the murder of 14 people during the 2002 Gujarat riots.

Chief Justice of India D. Y. Chandrachud said Wednesday that the special bench would be set up after Advocate Shobha Gupta, appearing for Bilkis Bano, raised the matter during morning sitting hours when matters that

A jumbo mission is in the works to capture a rogue elephant in Kerala

HAJUPHILIP
HILU ANANTHAPURAM,
MARCH 22

OPERATION of such elephant propositions requires meticulous planning. On Saturday, a 1-member Rapid Response team of the Kerala Forest department will convert a dilapidated building at Chinnakkal anicut in Idukki into a snare on stone to lasso a wild elephant,

NABBING ARIKOMPAN

10 people trampled to death | 60 houses and shops destroyed

71-member team, divided into 11 groups, formed for its capture

Chinnakkal
Santhanpara
Idukki
KERALA

arrangements to capture the wild pachyderm, called Arikompan (Rice Tuskler) due its habit of raiding shops for rice. The elephant, which has been



Winners of the 2020 Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards with CJI D Y Chandrachud; Viveck Goenka, Chairman and Managing Director of the Express Group; and Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group. *Ravika Patel*

Disagreement should not lead to hatred and violence, says CJI

'Press must remain free if a country is to remain a democracy'

ANANTHAKRISHNAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

UNDERLINING THE need to respect divergent views, Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud Wednesday said disagreements "must not distort into hatred and hatred must not be permitted to evolve into violence".

Speaking at the 16th edition

of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards in New Delhi where he was the chief guest, CJI Chandrachud said "many journalists, both in our country as well as across the world, work in difficult and unfriendly conditions. But they are relentless in the face of adversity and opposition. It is precisely this quality which must not be lost".

"As citizens, we may not agree with the approach that a journalist has adopted or the conclusions that they reach, I too, find myself disagreeing with many journalists. After all, who amongst us agrees with all other people? But disagreement must be in a friendly manner."

LIST OF 2019 AND 2020 WINNERS PAGE 12

EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Finance Partner: RELIANCE, Banking Partner: Union Bank, Education Partner: SHARDA, Associate Partners: SHARDA, VIRGINIAS, Writing Instruments: Partner: VIRGINIAS

EXPLAINED
SCIENCE
THE HIGH SEAS TREATY PAGE 18

Chennai man arrested for sharing video critical of Stalin, PTR

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, MARCH 22

A 23-YEAR-OLD was arrested by Chennai police late on Tuesday for allegedly sharing a 58-second viral video that is critical of a budget announcement made by the DMK government a day earlier.

Pradheep, who has been remanded to 15-day judicial custody, was arrested from his friend's house for not removing the video and sharing it repeatedly. He has been booked under various sections dealing with offences related to promoting enmity between groups, public mischief and insulting the modesty of women.

The police said Pradheep is the admin for a social media page, Voice of Savakshi Sankar, that belongs to a Tamil Nadu-based whistle-blower: a senior officer said Pradheep was arrested based on a complaint by A S Kumaran, the chairperson of the Tamil Nadu State Women's Commission.

The officer said, "The complaint was filed on Tuesday. Pradheep, who was handling the

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O mere sona re, sona re, sona re

Amul
Take a shine to it!

At Covid-19 review meet, PM stresses on tracking new variants

ANONMA DUTT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi directed officials on Wednesday to enhance whole genome sequencing of the Covid-19 virus to track newer variants and carry out effective monitoring of influenza-like illnesses and severe acute respiratory infections. He also urged people to follow respiratory hygiene and Covid-19 appropriate behaviour, according to a statement issued by the PMO.

The directions came at a high-level meeting the Prime Minister held to review the Covid-19 and influenza situation in the country. He was informed that availability and prices of 20 main Covid drugs, 12 other drugs, 8 buffer drugs and 1 influenza drug are being monitored.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Modi urged people to take Covid precautions

KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH

FOLLOWING THE devastating second wave that took India by surprise, the government has kept a regular watch on Covid cases. An early warning, when the cases are just on the rise, helps local bodies implement measures to prevent further spread. Whole genome-based surveillance also helps keep an eye.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

PM to address 'One World TB Summit' in Varanasi tomorrow

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE

LUCKNOW, MARCH 22

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will visit his Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi on Friday to address 'One World TB Summit' and also dedicate and lay foundation stones for various projects worth over Rs 1,780 crore, said a Prime Minister's Office press release.

To mark World Tuberculosis Day, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Stop TB Partnership are organising the summit where international delegates from over 30 countries are scheduled to be present. Founded in 2001, the Stop TB Partnership is a United Nations-hosted organisation that amplifies the voices of the people, communities and countries affected by TB.

During the event, the PM will launch various initiatives, including TB-Mukt Panchayat initiative;



Prime Minister Modi

ger ropeway from Varanasi Cantt station to Godowlia facilitating tourists, pilgrims and residents of Varanasi in their movement.

The 3.75 km ropeway with five stations will come up at an estimated cost of Rs 645 crore.

The PM will also lay the foundation stone for a 55 MLD sewage treatment plant at Bhagwanpur under the Namami Ganga Scheme. It will be built at the cost of more than Rs 300 crore.

- On this day in 1882, Dr. Robert Koch announced the discovery of a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* that causes TB and his discovery opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.
- Even today the TB is one of the world's deadliest infectious killers. As per [WHO \(World Health Organisation\)](#), every day, over 4100 people lose their lives to TB and about 28,000 people fall ill with this disease. Deaths from tuberculosis have risen in 2020 for the first time in more than a decade.



- According to the WHO, in **2020, around 9,900,000 people fell ill with TB and died, around 1,500,000**. Since the 2000 year, 66,000,000 lives have been saved by efforts taken globally to end TB.
- **India accounts for around 26% of the total TB cases** across the world.
- Therefore, World TB Day is observed **to educate people around the world about the disease TB and its impact.**
- World TB Day 2023, with the theme **'Yes! We can end TB!'**

Army to introduce ‘native, traditional’ millets in troop rations

Bajra, jowar and ragi will be issued to troops considering their preference, says Army

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

THE ARMY has decided to introduce millets in rations of troops deployed in various locations, including the northern borders, to promote consumption of the indigenous grain in the backdrop of the United Nations General Assembly declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets, the Army said on Wednesday.

“The landmark decision will

ensure troops are supplied with native and traditional grains after over half a century, when these were discontinued (in 1966) in favour of wheat flour,” the Army said in a statement.

It stated that millets will now form an integral part of the daily meal for soldiers of all ranks.

The Army said food made with millets has proven health benefits and is suited to the Indian geographical and climatic conditions and will thus be a vital step in mitigating lifestyle dis-

eases and enhancing satisfaction and morale of the troops. “Millets have the benefit of being a good source of protein, micro-nutrients and phytochemicals, thus boosting the nutritional profile of a soldier’s diet,” it said.

Officers in the Army said the scale of rations for troops had been fixed based on studies carried out earlier to determine the calorific value of food required for soldiers deployed in various locations, to ensure they get a balanced diet.

“Special rations are provided

to troops serving in high-altitude or super high-altitude areas to make up for calorie deficiencies of troops posted in difficult locations,” an officer said.

Three popular varieties of millets flour – bajra, jowar and ragi – will be issued to troops, duly considering their preference. The grains will be procured and issued to the troops based on options they exercise and the quantity they demand.

A second officer said this means the grains to be provided

to the troops at a certain location will depend on what they prefer. “For instance, troops from southern India and northeastern India prefer rice, as against wheat preferred by troops from northern India,” the officer said.

Additionally, the Army has issued advisories across commands to ensure that millets are used extensively in organised functions, such as in Barakhana, as well as in canteens.

The Army is also conducting centralised training of chefs to

EXPLAINED

E Study to fix millet share in ration

THE ARMY has sought the government’s sanction to procure millet flour not exceeding 25% of authorised entitlement of cereals – rice and wheat flour – in rations for troops from the next financial year. A fresh study will be conducted, it is learnt, to help fix the percentage of millets in ration in high-altitude or other difficult locations based on troops’ calorie requirements.

prepare delicacies made with millets, and there is a special emphasis on introducing value-added millet items and snacks to troops deployed along the northern borders.

Winners of the 16th edition of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards, 2020

HINDI

Jyoti Yadav & Bismee Taskin (print), *The Print*: For their report on the migrant exodus across rural Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the Covid-induced lockdown

Ashutosh Mishra (broadcast), *Aaj Tak*: For his report on the devastation caused by the pandemic

REGIONAL LANGUAGES

Sreelakshmi M, Rose Maria Vincent & Shabitha MK (print), *Mathrubhumi.com*: For their report on children's safety in the virtual world during the lockdown

Shrikant Bangale (broadcast), *BBC News Marathi*: For his report on the rise, the fall and the rise of the 'Masala Queen' in a tiny Maharashtra village

ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY REPORTING

Manish Mishra (print), *Amar Ujala*: For his report on climate change and its impact on farmers across the country; the loss and the suicides

Faye D'Souza & Arun Rengaswamy (broadcast), *Freemedia Interactive*: For their report on frontline workers dealing



with the Covid-19 outbreak in Dharavi

UNCOVERING INDIA INVISIBLE

Team (Danish Siddiqui, Alasdair Pal, Devjyot Ghoshal and Saurabh Sharma) (print), *Thomson Reuters*: For their reports on the migrant exodus, unemployment in villages and healthcare infrastructure buckling under the COVID-19 pandemic

Sanjay Nandan (broadcast), *ABP News*: For his report on what goes into the making of a Naxal in India

BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

Omkar Khandekar (print), *HT*

***Mint*:** For his report on how WhatsApp forwards nearly destroyed the Indian poultry industry during the pandemic

POLITICS AND GOVT.

Bipasha Mukherjee (Broadcast), *India Today TV*: For her report on the Popular Front of India

SPORTS

Mihir Vasavda (print), *The Indian Express*: For his report on sexual harassment complaints made by athletes against their coaches

Ajay Singh (broadcast), *NDTV India*: For his report on contractual coaches in UP working as labourers to make ends meet

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

Tanushree Pandey (print), *India Today*: For her coverage of the forcible cremation of the Hathras gangrape victim

Milan Sharma (broadcast), *India Today TV*: For his report on the mismatch in the Covid-19 toll released by the Centre and the figures provided by states

REPORTING ON ARTS & CULTURE/FEATURE WRITING

Tora Agarwala (print), *The Indian Express*: For her story on 'diggers' scouring the hills of Manipur to look for remains of soldiers who died in World War II

CIVIC JOURNALISM

Shaikh Atikh Rashid (print), *The Indian Express*: For his story on the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) scheme in Marathwada and Pune city

PHOTOJOURNALISM

Tarun Rawat (print), *The Times of India*: For his photograph of the juvenile who shot at Jamia students protesting against CAA on January 30, 2020

BOOKS

***Sixteen Stormy Days* by Tripurdaman Singh, *Penguin Random House India*:** For his book that narrates the riveting story of the First Amendment to the Constitution of India after a mere 16 days of debate in 1951.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT COVERING INDIA

Joanna Slater (print), *The Washington Post*: For her portrait of what life was when India's over 1.3 billion citizens went into strict lockdown

44 Indian courses among top 100 in QS University Rankings

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

IIT BOMBAY'S Mathematics programme at 92nd place and JNU's Sociology at 68th place are some of the courses that featured in the QS World University Rankings 2023 by subject. Apart from these 10 entries from BITS Pilani and two from OPJindal University also made it to top 100.

Led by its Institutes of Eminence (IoE), India has improved its position in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject, with 44 courses, in their respective subject categories, offered in the country's higher educational institutes, ranked among the global top 100.

The rankings, released on Wednesday, show that the 11 declared Institutes IoEs account for 44 per cent of the 355 programmes offered by Indian universities which made it to the overall rankings. In the previous round, there were 299 entries, including 35 among the top 100.

While the rankings cover 54 academic disciplines, the Indian universities perform well in the fields of Computer Science, Chemistry, Biological Sciences,

Business Studies and Physics.

Among the IOEs, barring Delhi Universities, the other institutes saw more courses offered by them gaining places compared to ones that slipped. However, in the case of DU, of the 27 programmes featured in the QS list, seven improved ranks, while 12 declined.

For the second consecutive year, the dentistry programme offered by the Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences posted the best performance among Indian institutes obtaining the 13th rank globally. Last year, it was ranked 18th.

"It is the only Indian university to achieve a perfect score (100/100) in both Citations per Paper and H Index. The next two highest ranked universities in these tables are the IIT Madras placed 21st in Petroleum Engineering (up 9 places) and the ISM University, Dhanbad, placed 25th," the QS said in a statement.

The QS noted that, globally, India, which saw its research output grow by 54% between 2017 and 2022, produces the world's fourth most research (1.3 million academic papers between 2017 and 2022), behind world leader China (4.5 million), the United States (4.4 million) and the United Kingdom (1.4 million).

But in citation count, India lags far behind. "From 2017 to 2021, India saw 15% of its publications cited in top journals. Meanwhile, its closest competitors in terms of research output volume, the United Kingdom and Germany boast top journal citation percentages more than double that, 38% and 33% respectively," the QS pointed out.

The highlights of the 2023 rankings include the entry of IIT Bombay's Mathematics programme in the global top 100 categories, getting the 92nd spot. IIT Delhi's Electrical engineering programme broke into the top 50 categories globally, placed 49th, while the same programme offered by IIT Kanpur has been placed 87th, featuring in the top 100 categories for the first time.

Jawaharlal Nehru University breaks into the world's top 100 in Sociology, taking 68th place, showing a rise of 33 places. The University of Delhi ranked 91.

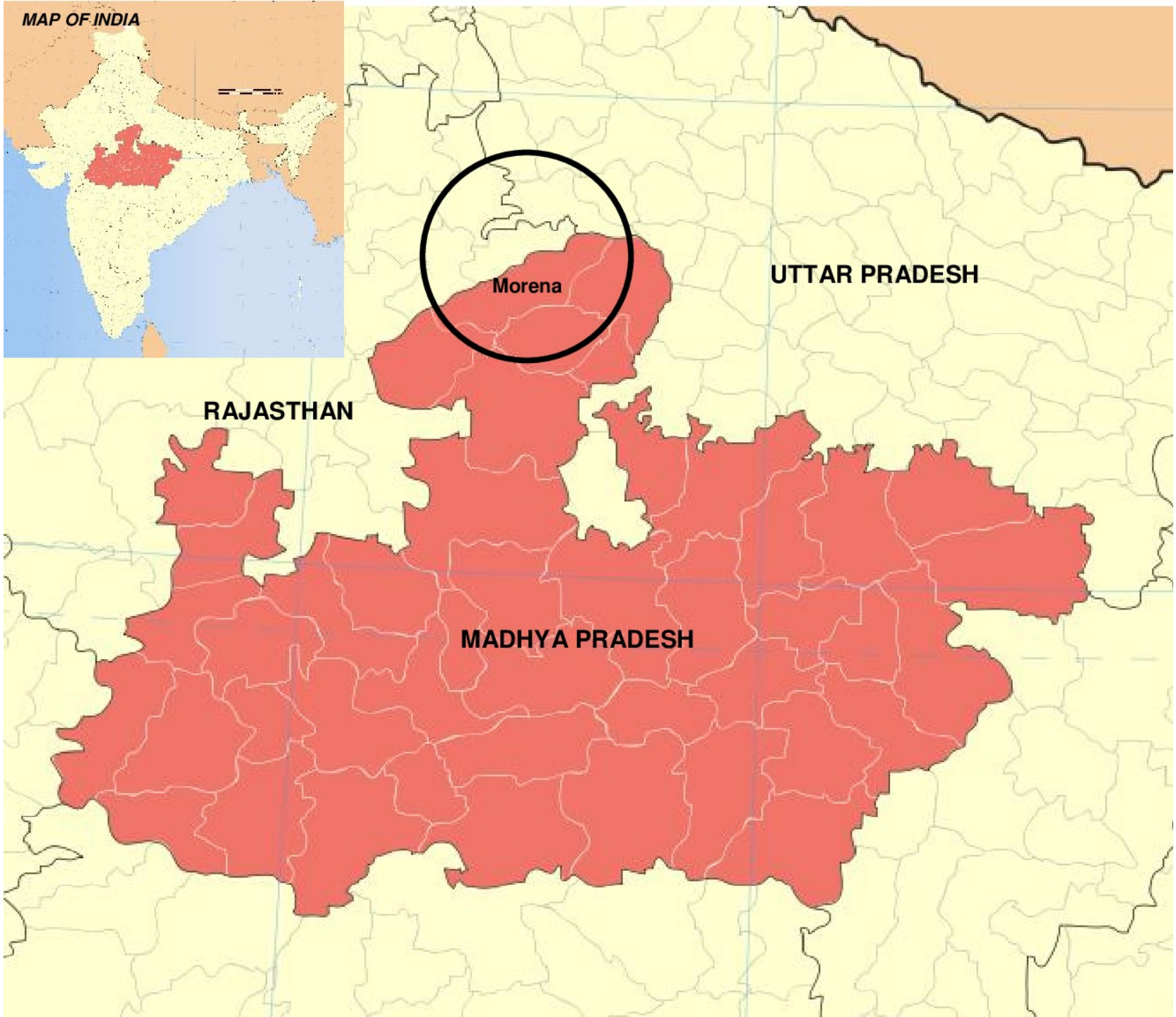
The organisation's Research Director Ben Sowter said among countries having over 10 universities featured in the rankings, "India is the second-most improved in Asia with its overall performance improving by 17.2% year on year, after Mainland China which improved by 21.9%."

Daily Current Affairs

**Joint action to stop illegal
sand mining in the
Chambal sanctuary**

- Three States have commenced joint action to stop illegal sand mining in National Chambal Sanctuary, situated at the trijunction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, which is known for its population of critically endangered gharials.
- राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश और उत्तर प्रदेश के ट्राइजंक्शन पर स्थित राष्ट्रीय चंबल अभयारण्य में अवैध रेत खनन को रोकने के लिए तीन राज्यों ने संयुक्त कार्रवाई शुरू की है, जो गंभीर रूप से लुप्तप्राय घड़ियालों की आबादी के लिए जाना जाता है।





National Chambal Sanctuary

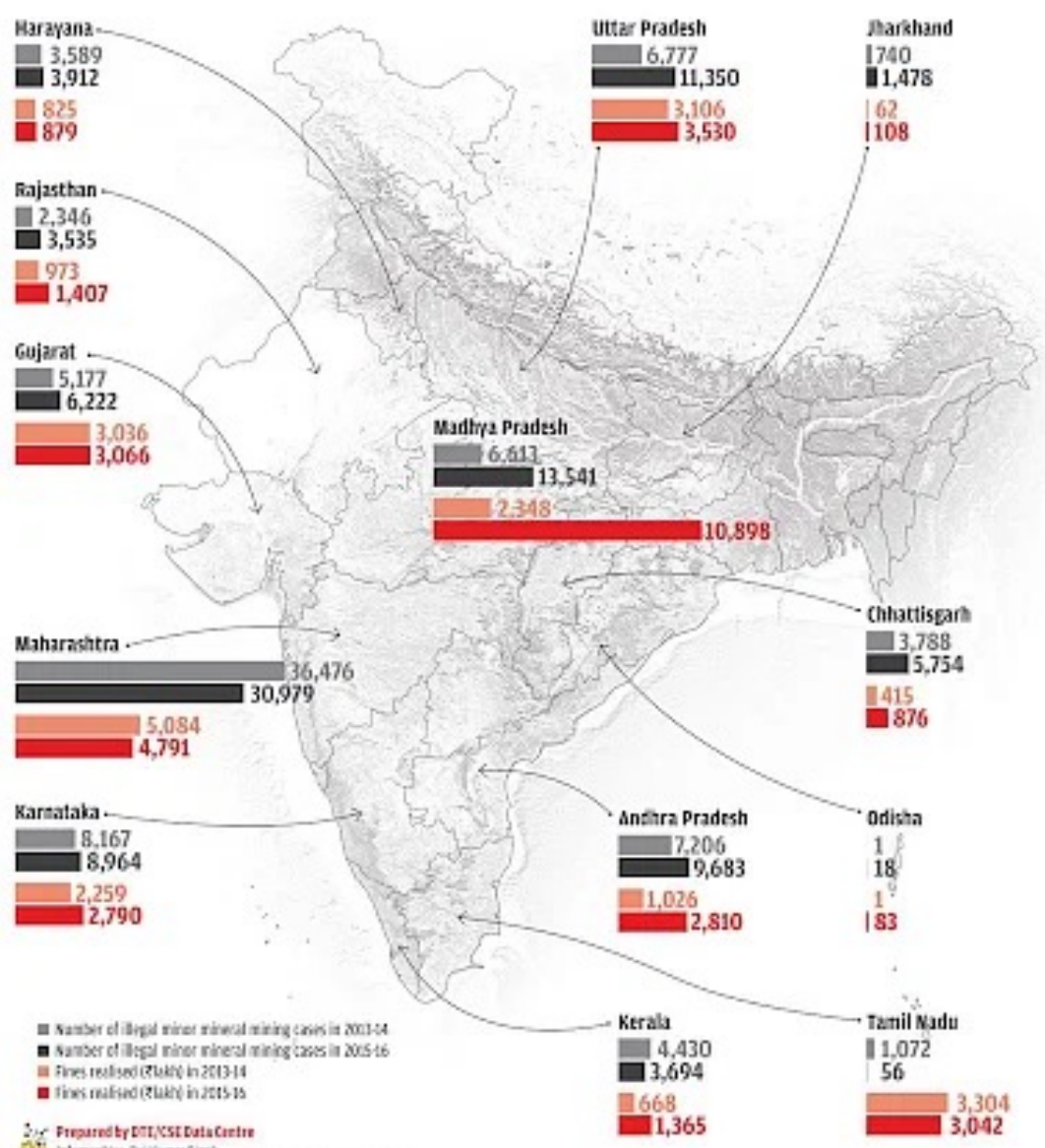
- The National Chambal Sanctuary, located at the trijunction of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh
- The sanctuary is listed as an 'Important Bird and Biodiversity Area' and is also a proposed Ramsar site.
- राष्ट्रीय चंबल अभयारण्य, राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश और उत्तर प्रदेश के ट्राइजंक्शन पर स्थित है
- अभयारण्य को 'महत्वपूर्ण पक्षी और जैव विविधता क्षेत्र' के रूप में सूचीबद्ध किया गया है और यह एक प्रस्तावित रामसर स्थल भी है।

- About 320 species of resident and migratory birds inhabit the sanctuary, and migratory birds from Siberia form part of its rich avian fauna.

- निवासी और प्रवासी पक्षियों की लगभग 320 प्रजातियाँ अभयारण्य में रहती हैं, और साइबेरिया के प्रवासी पक्षी इसके समृद्ध एवियन जीवों का हिस्सा हैं।

Countrywide malaise

As per the Union Ministry of Mines, sand is the fourth most important minor mineral in terms of production after road metals, building stone and brick earth. Yet the government does not collect data on the volume of illegally mined sand. Cases of illegal mining of minor minerals are present across the country



- Sand and gravel accounted for between 68 % to 85 % of the 47-59 billion tonnes of material extracted globally each year (UNEP-GEAS, 2014).
- The majority of sand and gravel mining is done in watersheds or rivers because of the amount of sand and gravel resource reserves owing to erosion and sedimentation from upstream areas and simple access to transportation.
- प्रत्येक वर्ष विश्व स्तर पर निकाले गए 47-59 बिलियन टन सामग्री में रेत और बजरी 68% से 85% के बीच होती है (UNEP-GEAS, 2014)।
- रेत और बजरी का अधिकांश खनन वाटरशेड या नदियों में किया जाता है क्योंकि अपस्ट्रीम क्षेत्रों से कटाव और अवसादन के कारण रेत और बजरी संसाधन भंडार की मात्रा और परिवहन की आसान पहुंच होती है।





Guidelines by the Government of India

- To address the issue of unregulated extraction of sand, the Union ministry of mines prepared a uniform set of framework that can be followed by the states as per their suitability and applicability. The framework document charts out suggestions for various elements of the process chains, starting from the objectives of the states, demand-supply situation, operations, monitoring, transportation and sales of sand, etc.
- The Union environment ministry released some guidelines in 2016 that laid emphasis on monitoring of the mined-out material.

भारत सरकार के दिशा निर्देश

- रेत के अनियंत्रित निष्कर्षण के मुद्दे को हल करने के लिए, केंद्रीय खान मंत्रालय ने एक समान रूपरेखा तैयार की जिसका पालन राज्यों द्वारा उनकी उपयुक्तता और प्रयोज्यता के अनुसार किया जा सकता है। राज्यों के उद्देश्यों, मांग-आपूर्ति की स्थिति, संचालन, निगरानी, परिवहन और रेत की बिक्री आदि से शुरू करते हुए, प्रक्रिया श्रृंखलाओं के विभिन्न तत्वों के लिए रूपरेखा दस्तावेज चार्ट तैयार करता है।
- केंद्रीय पर्यावरण मंत्रालय ने 2016 में कुछ दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए, जिसमें खनन सामग्री की निगरानी पर जोर दिया गया था।

- It recommended alternative sources of extraction of sand and gravel.
- Yet, several cases against illegal sand mining are pending with the National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- The current system has not been fruitful and powerful in helping the circumstances. The current mechanism needs to be revised for effective monitoring of sand and rock mining.
- इसने रेत और बजरी के निष्कर्षण के वैकल्पिक स्रोतों की सिफारिश की।
- फिर भी, अवैध रेत खनन के खिलाफ कई मामले राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण (एनजीटी) के पास लंबित हैं।
- वर्तमान व्यवस्था परिस्थितियों की सहायता करने में फलदायी और शक्तिशाली नहीं रही है। रेत और चट्टान खनन की प्रभावी निगरानी के लिए वर्तमान तंत्र को संशोधित करने की आवश्यकता है।

What is the Legislative Framework of Mining Sector in India?

- The entry at serial No. 23 of List II (State List) to the Constitution of India mandates the state government to own the minerals located within their boundaries.
- The entry at serial No. 54 of List I (Central List) mandate the central government to own the minerals within the exclusive economic zone of India (EEZ).
- भारत के संविधान की सूची II (राज्य सूची) के क्रम संख्या 23 में प्रविष्टि राज्य सरकार को अपनी सीमाओं के भीतर स्थित खनिजों के स्वामित्व के लिए बाध्य करती है।
- सूची I (केंद्रीय सूची) के क्रम संख्या 54 पर प्रविष्टि केंद्र सरकार को भारत के विशेष आर्थिक क्षेत्र (EEZ) के भीतर खनिजों के मालिक होने का अधिकार देती है।

- **International Seabed Authority (ISA)** regulates mineral exploration and extraction. It is guided by the UN treaty and India being a party to the treaty has received an exclusive right to explore polymetallic nodules over 75000 sq. km in Central Indian Ocean Basin.

- इंटरनेशनल सीबेड अथॉरिटी (आईएसए) खनिज अन्वेषण और निष्कर्षण को नियंत्रित करती है। यह संयुक्त राष्ट्र संधि द्वारा निर्देशित है और संधि के पक्षकार होने के नाते भारत को मध्य हिंद महासागर बेसिन में 75000 वर्ग किमी से अधिक बहुधात्विक पिंडों का पता लगाने का विशेष अधिकार प्राप्त है।

Cases related to sand mining in NGT in 2021

Date of NGT order	Location	Description
15/4/2021	Jeypore, Orissa	Related to illegal sand mining in Kharsrota river, Jeypore, Odisha. Illegal mining damaged the river bed and environment.
16/4/2021	Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal	Related to illegal sand mining carried out on the river bed of river Ajay within blocks Jamuria and Barbani.
23/6/2021	Jaipur, Rajasthan	Minerals mined in villages of Jaipur district. At least 15 mines do informal and destructive mining around the villages. Such activity impacts houses, agricultural fields and health of the people.
14/07/2021	Sonipat, Haryana	Action was taken by the NGT against illegal mining. DSP Associates, Sonipat, had diverted the natural flow of river by digging a man-made pit 20 foot deep and made a bund to stop the natural river flow.
10/8/2021	Paschim Bardhaman , West Bengal	The NGT had directed the district magistrate of Paschim Bardhaman to file affidavit providing information regarding the details of mining area, extent of illegal sand mining, quantity, duration of mining, name of the persons carrying out the mining activity and the loss of revenue due to illegal sand mining. The NGT directed the committee to compute environmental compensation and restore the environment.
16/8/2021	Jaipur, Orissa	Mechanical excavators to mine sand used during monsoon in violation of Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016 and Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining, 2020.

Environmental Consequences of Sand Mining

- Forcing the river to change its course
- Stealing of Water
- Groundwater Table Depletion
- Impact on Microorganisms
- Increased river erosion
- Damage to Roads And Bridges
- Threatens Agriculture
- Affects Coastal Ecosystem
- Affects Livelihood
- Affects Tourism
- नदी को अपना मार्ग बदलने के लिए विवश करना
- पानी की चोरी
- भूजल तालिका की कमी
- सूक्ष्मजीवों पर प्रभाव
- नदी का कटाव बढ़ा
- सड़कों और पुलों को नुकसान
- कृषि को धमकाता है
- तटीय पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को प्रभावित करता है
- आजीविका को प्रभावित करता है
- पर्यटन को प्रभावित करता है

Suggested Alternatives for Sand

- **Manufactured Sand (M-Sand):**

'Manufactured sand' is the most viable option. A stone-crushing plant produces it.

- **Fly Ash:** The use of fly ash from the industry as a construction material should be encouraged.

- **निर्मित रेत (एम-सैंड):** 'निर्मित रेत'

सबसे व्यवहार्य विकल्प है। स्टोन क्रशिंग प्लांट इसका उत्पादन करता है।

- **फलाई ऐश:** निर्माण सामग्री के रूप में उद्योग से प्राप्त फलाई ऐश के उपयोग को प्रोत्साहित किया जाना चाहिए।

- **Quarry Dust:** According to the results of an experiment, quarry dust can be used as a fine aggregate replacement.
- **Limestone:** In some places where river sand is scarce, there has been an increasing interest in using crushed sand obtained from limestone quarries in recent years.
- **Filtered Sand:** The filtered sand comes from a stagnant river bed.

- **खदान की धूल:** एक प्रयोग के परिणामों के अनुसार, खदान की धूल को एक महीन कुल प्रतिस्थापन के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है।
- **चूना पत्थर:** कुछ जगहों पर जहां नदी की रेत दुर्लभ है, हाल के वर्षों में चूना पत्थर की खदानों से प्राप्त कुचल रेत का उपयोग करने में रुचि बढ़ रही है।
- **फ़िल्टर की गई रेत:** फ़िल्टर्ड रेत एक स्थिर नदी तल से आती है।

Daily Current Affairs

**India could become top
aviation market globally**

- India could emerge as the top aviation market globally by the turn of the decade, surpassing the United States and China on most parameters, Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal said.
- नागरिक उड्डयन सचिव राजीव बंसल ने कहा कि भारत इस दशक के अंत तक वैश्विक स्तर पर शीर्ष उड्डयन बाजार के रूप में उभर सकता है, जो अधिकांश मापदंडों पर संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और चीन को पीछे छोड़ देगा।

Aviation in India

- Over the past six years, India's domestic passenger traffic has grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 14.5 per cent, while international passenger traffic has increased by a CAGR of around 6.5 per cent.
- The growth potential is even higher as the sector's penetration is currently at just 4-5 per cent of India's population base and demand is rising rapidly.
- पिछले छह वर्षों में, भारत का घरेलू यात्री यातायात लगभग 14.5 प्रतिशत की चक्रवृद्धि वार्षिक वृद्धि दर (CAGR) से बढ़ा है, जबकि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय यात्री यातायात में लगभग 6.5 प्रतिशत की CAGR से वृद्धि हुई है।
- विकास की क्षमता और भी अधिक है क्योंकि वर्तमान में इस क्षेत्र की पैठ भारत की जनसंख्या के आधार का केवल 4-5 प्रतिशत है और मांग तेजी से बढ़ रही है।

- According to CAPA India projections, the country's domestic passenger traffic is likely to rise to 16 crores in the 2023-24 fiscal year from an estimated 13.75 crore for the current fiscal. By 2029-30, India's domestic passenger traffic is likely to touch 35 crore.
- Passenger handling capacity at airports at the country's six major metropolitan cities is likely to expand to 320 million per year in the near future and to 500 million per year over the next few years

- CAPA इंडिया के अनुमानों के अनुसार, देश का घरेलू यात्री यातायात चालू वित्त वर्ष के अनुमानित 13.75 करोड़ से 2023-24 वित्तीय वर्ष में बढ़कर 16 करोड़ होने की संभावना है। 2029-30 तक, भारत का घरेलू यात्री यातायात 35 करोड़ को छूने की संभावना है।
- देश के छह प्रमुख महानगरीय शहरों में हवाई अड्डों पर यात्रियों को संभालने की क्षमता निकट भविष्य में बढ़कर 320 मिलियन प्रति वर्ष और अगले कुछ वर्षों में 500 मिलियन प्रति वर्ष होने की संभावना है।

MISSION AVIATION

AIRPORTS

2021-2022

140

2024-25

220 (Projections)



TOTAL AIRCRAFT FLEET

2022 | **710**



110 -120

aircraft will be added to fleet every year (Projections)

PASSENGERS



2018-19 |

344 million passengers

2024-25 |

410 million passengers (Projections)



IN TIME OF CRISIS

Union ministry of civil aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia said that as part of 'Operation Ganga', India successfully evacuated around 23,000 youth from war-hit Ukraine's five neighbouring countries

— **Moldova, Romania** | HUNGARY, SLOVAKIA AND POLAND

Recent Government Initiatives Related to Aviation Sector

- India's government aims to establish 6 major metropolitan cities as international hubs for air travel.
- National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP) 2016
- UDAN Scheme
- भारत सरकार का लक्ष्य 6 प्रमुख महानगरीय शहरों को हवाई यात्रा के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय हब के रूप में स्थापित करना है।
- राष्ट्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन नीति (NCAP) 2016
- उड़ान योजना

UDAN Scheme

- Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) was launched as a Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016.
- To develop the regional aviation market.
- To provide affordable, economically viable and profitable air travel
- उड़े देश का आम नागरिक (UDAN) को 2016 में नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय के तहत एक क्षेत्रीय कनेक्टिविटी योजना (RCS) के रूप में लॉन्च किया गया था।
- क्षेत्रीय विमानन बाजार का विकास करना।
- सस्ती, आर्थिक रूप से व्यवहार्य और लाभदायक हवाई यात्रा प्रदान करना

Challenges faced by the aviation Industry in India

- Shortage of trained employee
- Regional connectivity
- Rising fuel prices
- Declining yields
- Technical Challenges
- Gaps in Infrastructure
- प्रशिक्षित कर्मचारी की कमी
- क्षेत्रीय कनेक्टिविटी
- बढ़ती ईंधन की कीमतें
- घटती पैदावार
- तकनीकी चुनौतियां
- अवसंरचना में अंतराल

Daily Current Affairs

Vernal Equinox

- The vernal equinox will be observed on Mar 21, 2023, Tuesday. The equinox is also called the spring equinox in the northern hemisphere and the autumn equinox in the southern hemisphere.
- 21 मार्च 2023, मंगलवार को वसंत विषुव मनाया जाएगा। विषुव को उत्तरी गोलार्ध में वसंत विषुव और दक्षिणी गोलार्ध में शरद विषुव भी कहा जाता है।

SUMMER SOLSTICE



SUMMER



SPRING



VERNAL EQUINOX

WINTER

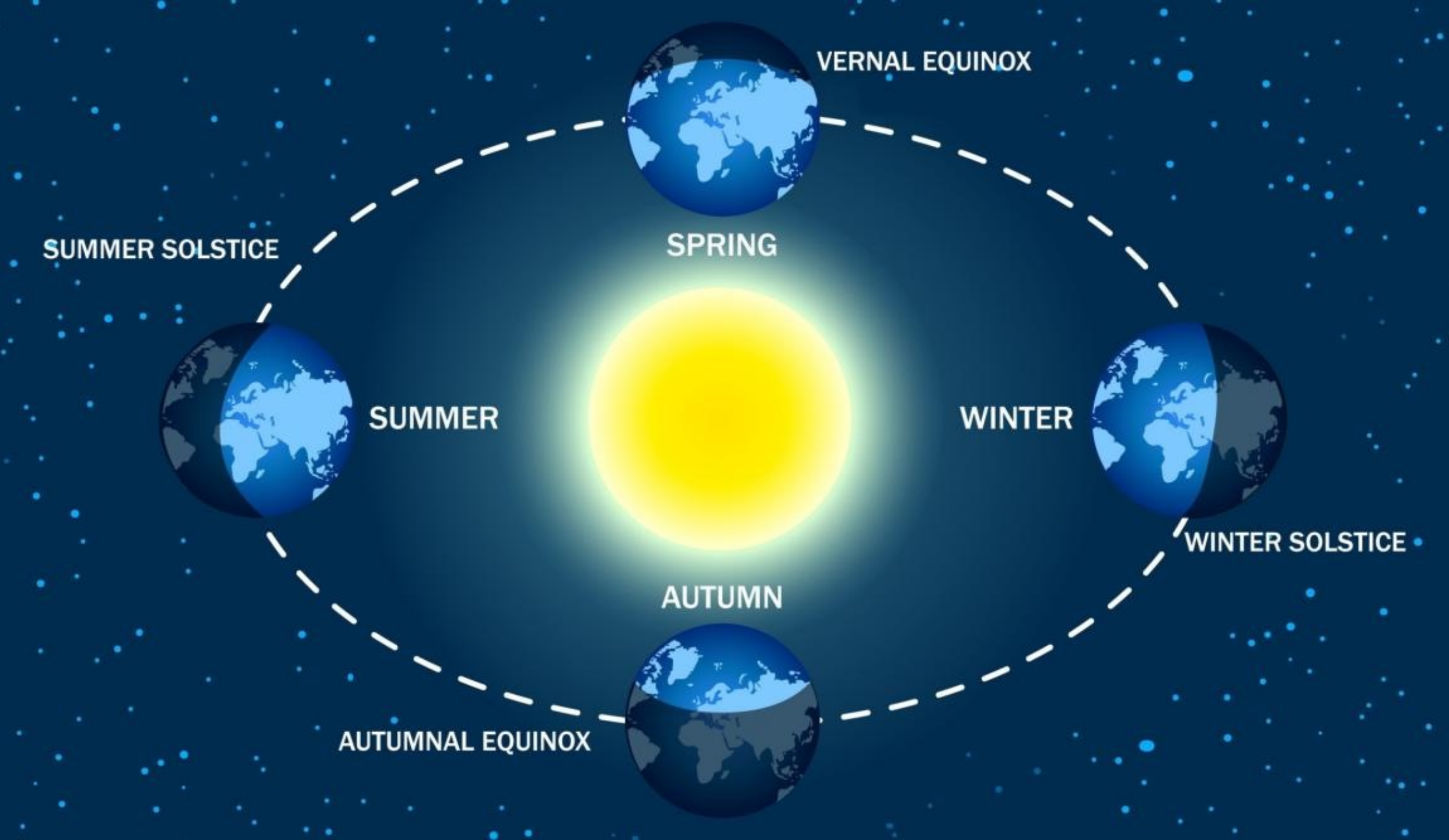


WINTER SOLSTICE

AUTUMN



AUTUMNAL EQUINOX



What is Vernal Equinox? & Why is it called Vernal Equinox?

- It's a day usually around March 21, when day and night are of generally equal length. Also known as the spring equinox.
- Vernal translates to “new” and “fresh,” and equinox is derived from the Latin *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night). Therefore, the vernal equinox or March equinox signals the beginning of spring.
- यह आमतौर पर 21 मार्च के आसपास का दिन होता है, जब दिन और रात आम तौर पर समान लंबाई के होते हैं। वसंत विषुव के रूप में भी जाना जाता है।
- वर्नल का अनुवाद "नया" और "ताज़ा" है, और विषुव लैटिन एसिक्स (बराबर) और नॉक्स (रात) से लिया गया है। इसलिए, वसंत विषुव या मार्च विषुव वसंत की शुरुआत का संकेत देता है।

Significance

- Equinoxes occur when the Earth's hemispheres aren't tilted towards or away from the Sun.
- As a result, the Sun is located directly above the equator, and both hemispheres receive an almost equal amount of sunlight.
- After the spring equinox, the northern hemisphere tilts closer to the sun in March tilts closer to the Sun, resulting in more hours of daylight, with earlier sunrises and later sunsets.
- विषुव तब होता है जब पृथ्वी के गोलार्ध सूर्य की ओर या उससे दूर नहीं होते हैं।
- नतीजतन, सूर्य सीधे भूमध्य रेखा के ऊपर स्थित होता है, और दोनों गोलार्धों को लगभग समान मात्रा में सूर्य का प्रकाश प्राप्त होता है।
- वसंत विषुव के बाद, उत्तरी गोलार्ध मार्च में सूर्य के करीब झुक जाता है, सूर्य के करीब झुक जाता है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप दिन के उजाले में अधिक घंटे होते हैं, पहले सूर्योदय और बाद में सूर्यास्त के साथ।

- According to Hindu astrology, Vernal Equinox is known as Vasant Vishuva or Vasant Sampat. When equinox is translated into Latin it roughly means "equal night".
- The March equinox brings earlier sunrises, later sunsets, and sprouting plants in the northern hemisphere.
- Meanwhile, later sunrises, earlier sunsets, chillier winds, and dry and falling leaves are observed in the south of the equator.

- हिन्दू ज्योतिष शास्त्र के अनुसार वसंत विषुव को वसंत विशुवा या वसंत संपत के नाम से जाना जाता है। जब विषुव का लैटिन में अनुवाद किया जाता है तो इसका अर्थ मोटे तौर पर "समान रात" होता है।
- मार्च विषुव उत्तरी गोलार्ध में पहले सूर्योदय, बाद में सूर्यास्त और अंकुरित पौधों को लाता है।
- इस बीच, भूमध्य रेखा के दक्षिण में बाद में सूर्योदय, पहले सूर्यास्त, सर्द हवाएं और सूखी और गिरती पत्तियां देखी जाती हैं।

Timings

- The sunrise on the day of the vernal equinox will be at 06:24 AM while the sunset will take place at 06:33 PM.

- वसंत विषुव के दिन सूर्योदय प्रातः 06:24 बजे होगा जबकि सूर्यास्त सायं 06:33 बजे होगा।

Vernal Equinox Day Duration

12 Hours 08 Mins 08 Secs

वसंत विषुव दिवस की अवधि

- 12 घंटे 08 मिनट 08 सेकेंड

Vernal Equinox Previous Day

Duration 12 Hours 06 Mins 24 Secs

वसंत विषुव पिछला दिन

- अवधि 12 घंटे 06 मिनट 24 सेकेंड

Vernal Equinox Next Day Duration

12 Hours 09 Mins 51 Secs

वसंत विषुव अगले दिन की अवधि

- 12 घंटे 09 मिनट 51 सेकेंड

What does equinox mean?

- Equinox is one of the two times in the year when the sun is above the imaginary line around the center of the earth (equator) and day and night are of equal length.
- विषुव वर्ष में दो बार में से एक है जब सूर्य पृथ्वी के केंद्र (भूमध्य रेखा) के चारों ओर काल्पनिक रेखा से ऊपर होता है और दिन और रात समान लंबाई के होते हैं।

Daily Current Affairs

World Water Day

- World Water Day (WWD) is celebrated on 22nd March Every Year.
- The United Nations General Assembly issued a resolution in 1993 declaring every year March 22 as World Day for Water.
- The theme for WWD 2023 is 'Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis', emphasizing the necessity of taking stern action to address the global water crisis.

- विश्व जल दिवस (WWD) हर साल 22 मार्च को मनाया जाता है।
- संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा ने 1993 में एक प्रस्ताव जारी कर हर साल 22 मार्च को विश्व जल दिवस के रूप में मनाने की घोषणा की।
- WWD 2023 की थीम 'जल और स्वच्छता संकट को हल करने के लिए परिवर्तन में तेजी लाना' है, जिसमें वैश्विक जल संकट को दूर करने के लिए कड़ी कार्रवाई करने की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया गया है।



DR. RAJENDRA SINGH

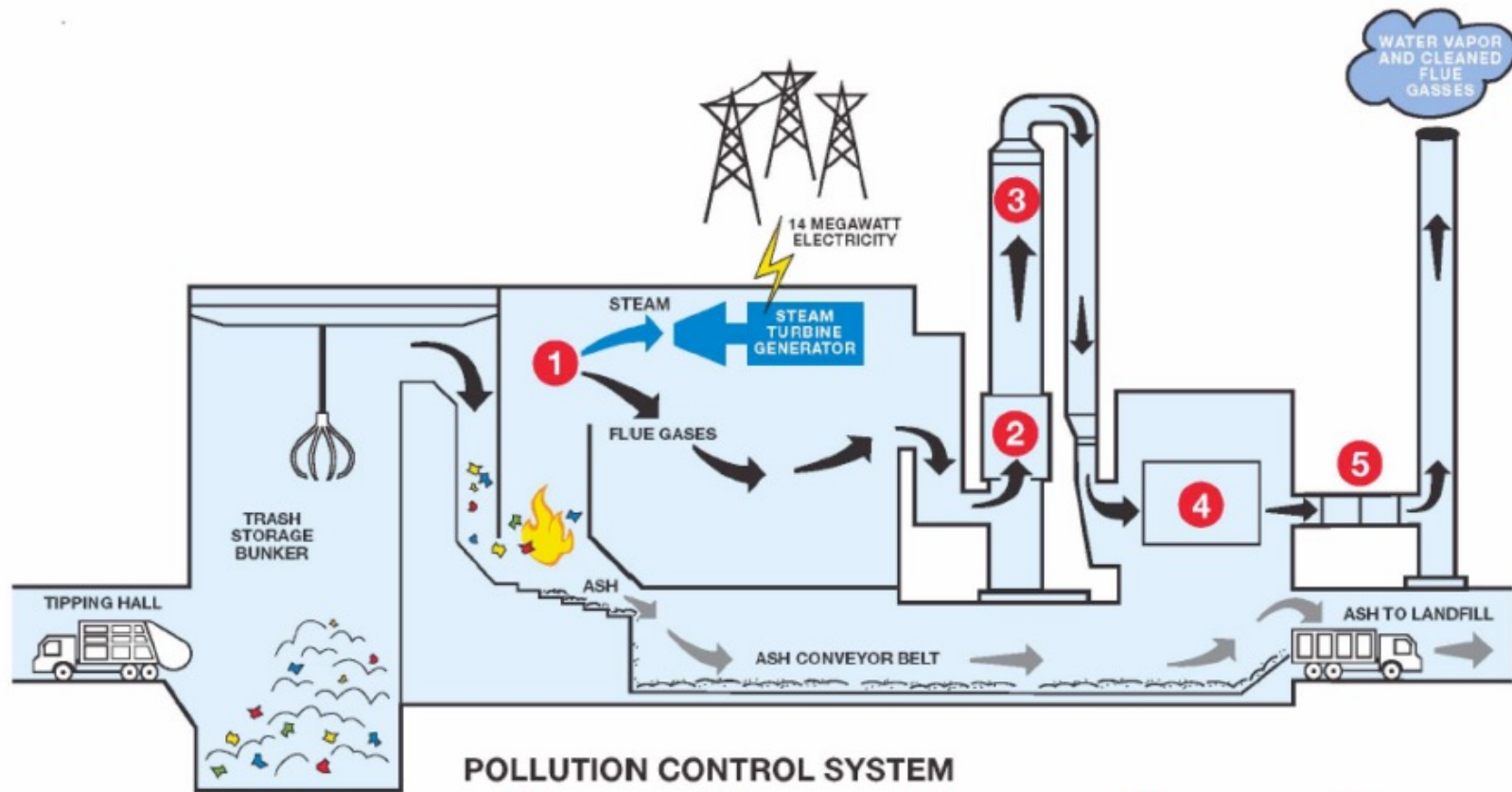
INDIA'S WATERMAN



Daily Current Affairs

Waste-to-Energy Plants

- Kerala government has announced the State's first waste-to-energy project in Kozhikode..
- Waste-to-energy projects use non-recyclable dry waste to generate electricity. They increase power generation capacity and eases the solid waste management (SWM) burden
- केरल सरकार ने कोझिकोड में राज्य की पहली अपशिष्ट-से-ऊर्जा परियोजना की घोषणा की है।
- अपशिष्ट-से-ऊर्जा परियोजनाएं बिजली उत्पन्न करने के लिए गैर-पुनर्नवीनीकरण योग्य सूखे कचरे का उपयोग करती हैं। वे बिजली उत्पादन क्षमता बढ़ाते हैं और ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन (एसडब्ल्यूएम) के बोझ को कम करते हैं



POLLUTION CONTROL SYSTEM



Waste-to-Energy

- 90% reduction of trash volume
- Power generation
- Pollution control



www.ecomaine.org

Status of solid waste in India

- According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) the total quantity of Solid waste generated in the country is ~160,000 metric tonnes per day (TPD).
- **~153,000 TPD of waste is collected at a collection efficiency of ~96%. 80,000 TPD (50 %) of waste is treated and ~30,000 (18.4%) TPD is landfilled.**
- केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (सीपीसीबी) के अनुसार देश में उत्पन्न होने वाले ठोस कचरे की कुल मात्रा ~ 160,000 मीट्रिक टन प्रति दिन (टीपीडी) है।
- ~96% की संग्रह दक्षता पर ~153,000 टीपीडी कचरा एकत्र किया जाता है। 80,000 टीपीडी (50%) कचरे का उपचार किया जाता है और ~30,000 (18.4%) टीपीडी लैंडफिल किया जाता है।

- Presently, India accounts for roughly 18 percent the world's population and 12 percent of global municipal solid waste generation. With India's population continuously rising, waste generation in the country is expected to see significant growth in the coming decades.
- **Maharashtra (22,632.71 tonnes per day), Uttar Pradesh (14,710 TPD) and West Bengal (13,709 TPD) generate the highest solid waste in the country.**

- वर्तमान में, भारत में दुनिया की आबादी का लगभग 18 प्रतिशत और वैश्विक नगरपालिका ठोस अपशिष्ट उत्पादन का 12 प्रतिशत हिस्सा है। भारत की जनसंख्या लगातार बढ़ रही है, आने वाले दशकों में देश में अपशिष्ट उत्पादन में महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि देखने की उम्मीद है।
- महाराष्ट्र (22,632.71 टन प्रतिदिन), उत्तर प्रदेश (14,710 टीपीडी) और पश्चिम बंगाल (13,709 टीपीडी) देश में सबसे अधिक ठोस अपशिष्ट उत्पन्न करते हैं।

What are the major solid wastes in India?

- Agro waste (organic nature)
- Industrial wastes (inorganic)
- Mining/Mineral waste
- Non hazardous other process waste
- कृषि अपशिष्ट (जैविक प्रकृति)
- औद्योगिक अपशिष्ट (अकार्बनिक)
- खनन/खनिज अपशिष्ट
- गैर खतरनाक अन्य प्रक्रिया अपशिष्ट

- Additionally, depending on the feedstock and technology, WtE processes may create air pollution, contaminated water or other residues. To address this risk, strict emission standards, controls and monitoring is required, which may reduce the feasibility of the WtE plant.
- इसके अतिरिक्त, फीडस्टॉक और प्रौद्योगिकी के आधार पर, डब्ल्यूटीई प्रक्रियाएं वायु प्रदूषण, दूषित पानी या अन्य अवशेष पैदा कर सकती हैं। इस जोखिम को दूर करने के लिए कड़े उत्सर्जन मानकों, नियंत्रणों और निगरानी की आवश्यकता है, जो डब्ल्यूटीई संयंत्र की व्यवहार्यता को कम कर सकते हैं।

- The concept of waste to energy (WtE) is still in the nascent stage in India, as such many initiatives were not successful and faced severe opposition from public in locating WtE plant in their neighbourhood due to pollution concerns. In addition poor financial performance of these plants, lead to unsuccessful ventures.
- अपशिष्ट से ऊर्जा (डब्ल्यूटीई) की अवधारणा अभी भी भारत में प्रारंभिक अवस्था में है, क्योंकि इस तरह की कई पहलें सफल नहीं रहीं और प्रदूषण की चिंताओं के कारण अपने पड़ोस में डब्ल्यूटीई संयंत्र लगाने में जनता के कड़े विरोध का सामना करना पड़ा। इसके अलावा, इन संयंत्रों के खराब वित्तीय प्रदर्शन के कारण असफल उपक्रम होते हैं।

Challenges of Waste-to-Energy Plants

- low calorific value
- Improper Segregation
- High costs of energy production
- कम कैलोरी मान
- अनुचित अलगाव
- ऊर्जा उत्पादन की उच्च लागत

— Government Initiatives



Swachh Bharat Mission



- **Waste to Wealth Portal**
- **Plastic Waste Management (PWM) Rules, 2016**
- **'My Home-My Neighborhood' (Ghar Bi Saaf-Pados Bhi Saaf) campaign**
- **Solid Waste Management Rules 2016**



GOBAR-dhan (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) Scheme

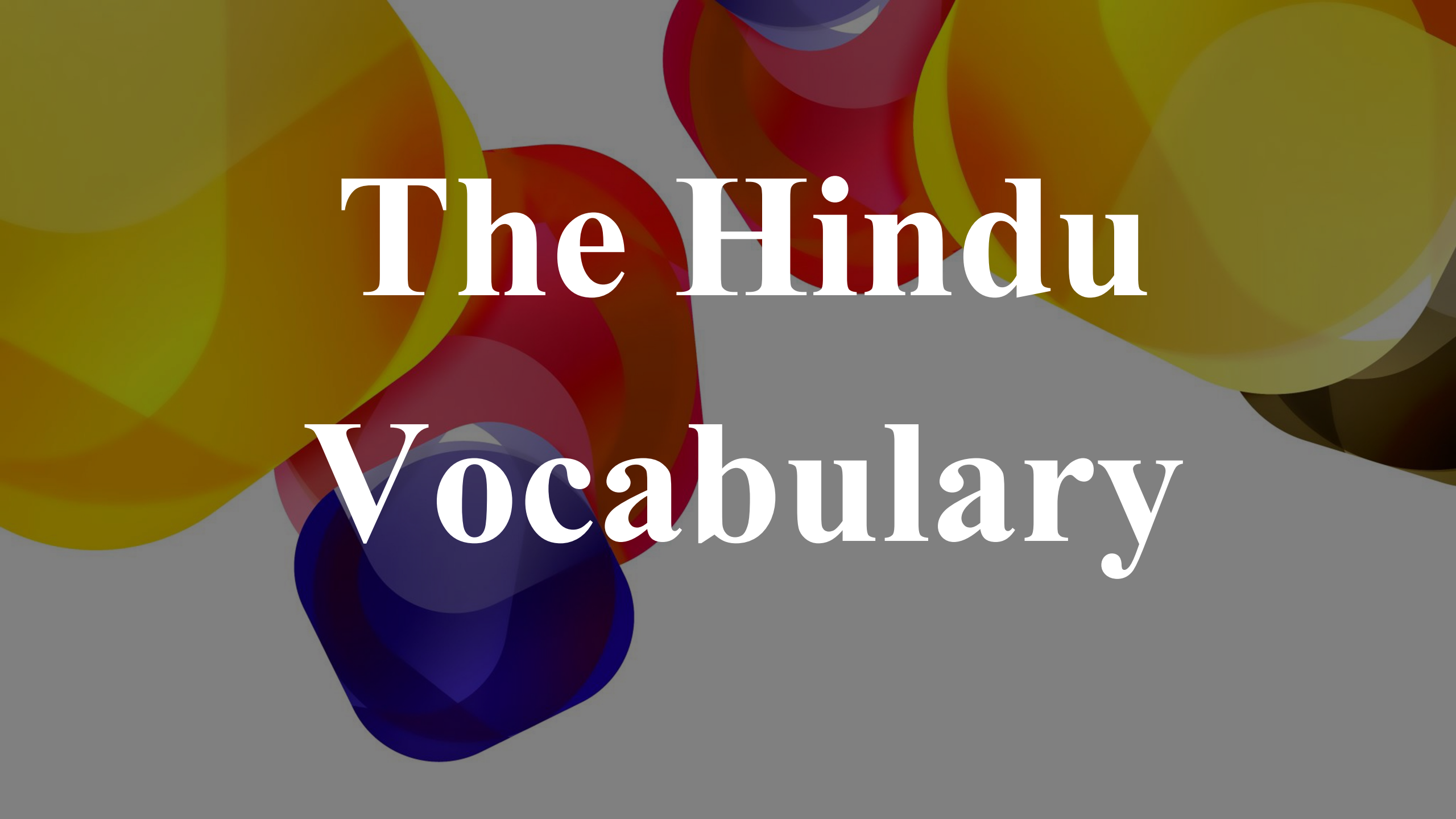


Jal Shakti Abhiyaan



Waste to Energy





The Hindu Vocabulary

Demystify (Verb): स्पष्ट करना : make (a difficult or esoteric subject) clearer and easier to understand.

Synonyms: explain, clarify, illustrate

Antonyms: obscure, confuse, confound



Word: Snoop (जासूसी करना, गुप्तचर)

Meaning: a. investigate or look around furtively in an attempt to find out something, especially information about someone's private affairs. (Verb)

Synonyms: pry, spy, meddle, intrude

Antonyms: ignore, neglect



Stench (Noun) : बदबू: a strong and very unpleasant smell.

Synonyms: stink, bad smell, foul smell

Antonyms: fragrance, aroma, sweetness



Malicious (दुर्जन)

Meaning: characterized by malice; intending or intended to do harm.

Synonyms: malevolent, spiteful, vicious, wicked, malignant

Antonyms: kind, benevolent, loving, considerate



Pertinent(ADJECTIVE) : संगतः

Relevant to something

Synonyms: Connected , Apposite

Antonyms: Improper , Unfitting



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1. Consider the following statements regarding the earthquakes:

1. The intensity of earthquake is measured on Mercalli Scale
2. The magnitude of an earthquake is a measure of energy release
3. Earthquake magnitudes are based on direct measurements of the amplitude of seismic waves
4. In the Richter Scale, each whole number demonstrates a hundred-fold increase in the amount of energy released

Which of these statements are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 1 and 4
- d) 1 and 3

1. भूकंप के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. भूकंप की तीव्रता मरकैली स्केल पर मापी जाती है
2. भूकंप का परिमाण ऊर्जा रिलीज का एक उपाय है
3. भूकंप परिमाण भूकंपीय तरंगों के आयाम के प्रत्यक्ष माप पर आधारित होते हैं
4. रिक्टर स्केल में, प्रत्येक पूर्ण संख्या जारी ऊर्जा की मात्रा में सौ गुना वृद्धि दर्शाती है

इनमें से कौन से कथन सही हैं?

- ए) 1, 2 और 3
- बी) 2, 3 और 4
- सी) एल और 4
- डी) 1 और 3

Answer – A

- An earthquake is the vibration/shaking experienced on surface of the Earth resulting from a sudden release of energy in the Earth's lithosphere that creates seismic waves.
- The intensity of earthquake is measured on Mercalli Scale where as the magnitude of an earthquake is a measured-on Richter Scale.
- The earthquake's magnitude is determined using the logarithm of the amplitude of the largest seismic wave calibrated to a scale by a seismograph.
- The each increase of 1 unit on the scale represents a 10-fold increase in the magnitude of an earthquake.
- That is each integer reading of the Richter scale has an energy 100 times that of the previous integer reading

2. What are the main Challenges of Waste-to-Energy Plants ?

- a) low calorific value
- b) Improper Segregation
- c) High costs of energy production
- d) All of the above

2. अपशिष्ट-से-ऊर्जा संयंत्रों की मुख्य चुनौतियाँ क्या हैं?

- a) कम कैलोरी मान
- b) अनुचित अलगाव
- c) ऊर्जा उत्पादन की उच्च लागत
- d) ऊपर के सभी

Answer – D

3. Who is Known as Waterman of India ?

- a) Dheerendra Prasad
- b) Kailash Satyarthi
- c) Rajendra Prasad
- d) None of the above

3. भारत के वाटरमैन के रूप में किसे जाना जाता है?

- a) धीरेंद्र प्रसाद
- b) कैलाश सत्यार्थी
- c) राजेन्द्र प्रसाद
- d) इनमे से कोई भी नहीं

Answer – C

4. Consider the following statements

1. Red Notice is not an international arrest warrant but only an international wanted persons' notice.
2. Red Notice is issued to warn about an event, a person, an object, or a process that poses a serious and imminent threat to public safety

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें

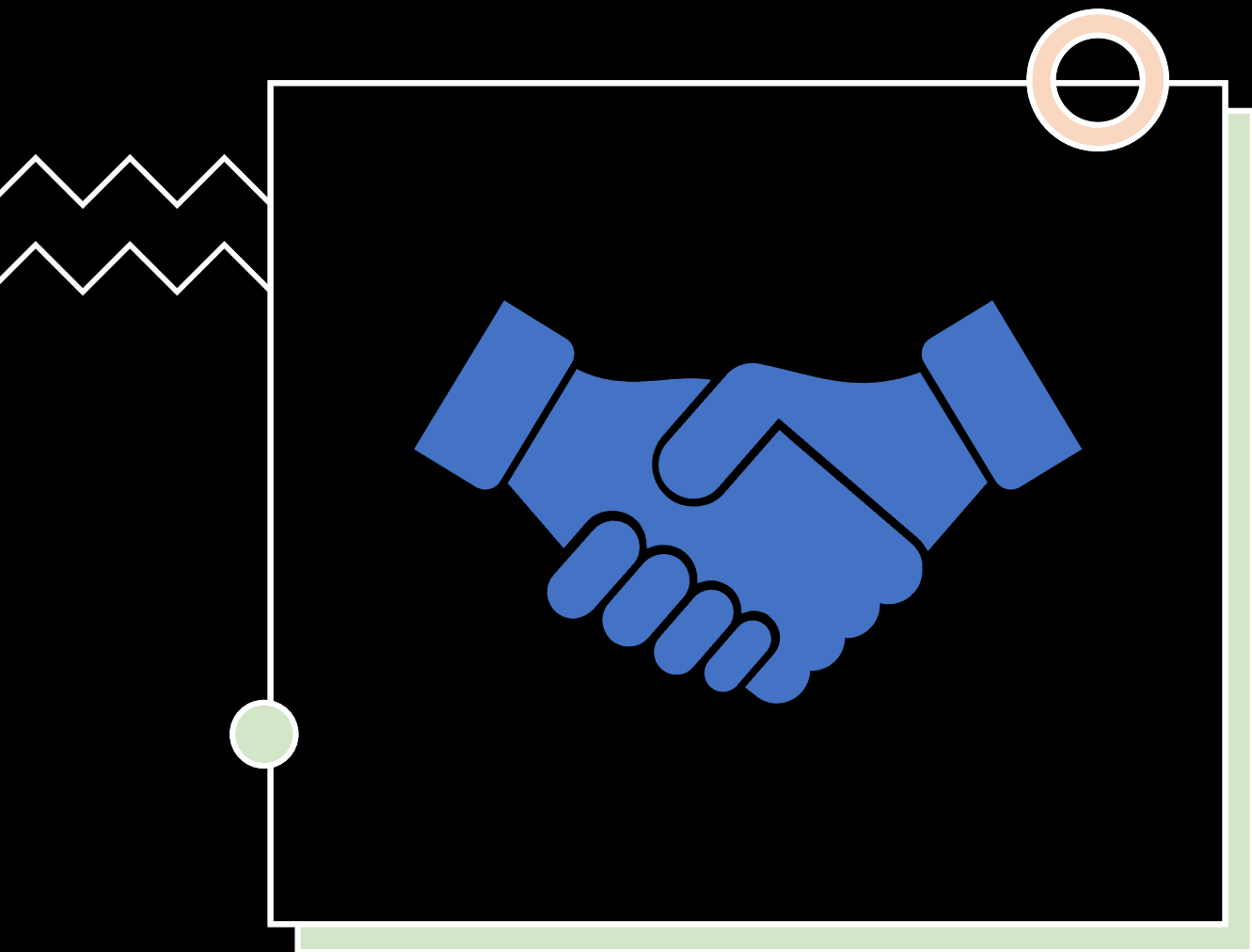
1. रेड नोटिस एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय गिरफ्तारी वारंट नहीं है बल्कि केवल एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय वांछित व्यक्तियों का नोटिस है।
2. रेड नोटिस किसी घटना, व्यक्ति, वस्तु या प्रक्रिया के बारे में चेतावनी देने के लिए जारी किया जाता है जो सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा के लिए एक गंभीर और आसन्न खतरा है।

ऊपर दिए गए कथनों में से कौन सा/से सही है/हैं?

- ए) केवल 1
- बी) केवल 2
- सी) 1 और 2 दोनों
- डी) न तो 1 और न ही 2

Answer – A

- **Red Notice:** It is issued to seek the location and arrest of wanted persons for prosecution or sentencing.
- **Yellow Notice:** To help locate missing persons or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves.
- **Blue Notice:** To collect additional information about a person's identity, location, or activities in connection with a crime.
- **Black Notice:** To seek information on unidentified bodies.
- **Green Notice:** To issue warning about a person's criminal activities, in case the person is considered a possible threat to public safety.



Thank you

