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Affairs



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3
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6
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0
The Indian Express



0
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0
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**"THE HEART WAS MADE TO BE
BROKEN."
- OSCAR WILDE**

TRIBAL WELFARE
PM unveils projects for ₹6,650 crore in Bihar
NEWS » PAGE 3

PEACE OFFER
Hamas ready for ceasefire in Gaza
WORLD » PAGE 12

NORTH-WEST MAHARASHTRA
Fragmentation muddies poll picture
NEWS » PAGE 4

BANDHAVGARH TRAGEDY
A jumbo crisis in Madhya Pradesh
State ill-equipped to manage the increasing elephant population
GROUND ZERO » PAGE 7

DREAM DAY
Tilak-Samson pair in sensational stand
SPORT » PAGE 14

INSIDE



700 kg meth seized off Gujarat coast; 8 arrested

NEW DELHI
The Narcotics Control Bureau on Friday seized 700 kg of methamphetamine off the coast of Porbandar. Eight people who claim to be Iranian nationals were held. » PAGE 5

Modi a 'puppet of billionaires', says Rahul at poll rally

PATNA
Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being a puppet of billionaires. He alleged that whatever the billionaires say, Mr. Modi does the same. » PAGE 3

Punjab, Haryana lock horns over new Assembly

CHANDIGARH
Punjab and Haryana are once again locked in a battle over Chandigarh — the shared capital of the States — days after the Centre's reported nod to grant 10 acres in the Union Territory to Haryana to build its Assembly building. » PAGE 2

Trump vows to end wars with a 'strong military'

PALM BEACH
President-elect Donald Trump on Thursday promised a "strong military" as he repeated his pledge to end the Russia-Ukraine war. Mr. Trump, previously has also said he wants to end bloodshed in West Asia. » PAGE 12

President's coalition sweeps Sri Lanka polls

NPP wins 159 seats in 225-member House, securing over two-thirds majority; SJP follows with 40 seats | Compared to the September election, NPP wins in regions that are home to Tamils and Muslims | The Rajapaksa party was nearly wiped out with just 3 seats; it had won 145 in the 2020 general elections

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's ruling alliance secured a landslide win in Sri Lanka's November 14 general elections, shattering records of strong governments of the past and making history in the island's ethnic minorities-dominated north, east, and hill country. The National People's Power (NPP) won a total of 159 seats in the 225-member House, securing over two-thirds majority, official results declared on Friday. The Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB or United People's Force) followed, with just 40 seats. The former Tamil northern Tamil parties, including the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchi (ITAK). The poll results in this region overturns the image of the NPP's chief consultant Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) or People's Liberation

three seats from the 145 it won in the 2020 general elections. The poll outcome gives President Dissanayake ample power in the legislature to take forward his pledges on political and economic reform. Compared to the September presidential election, the NPP's vote share rose considerably across the island in the parliamentary polls, but its especially remarkable mandate in the north and east that are home to Tamils and Muslims drew attention. In Jaffna, the NPP won three out of six seats, becoming the first mainstream party from the south to topple prominent northern Tamil parties, including the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchi (ITAK). The poll results in this region overturns the image of the NPP's chief consultant Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) or People's Liberation



Confident strides: President Anura Kumara Dissanayake walking out after casting his vote in the election on Thursday. REUTERS

Front) as an "anti-Tamil rights" party, based on the JVP's fierce opposition in the 1980s to Tamil self-rule and the merger of the north and east. "It (Jaffna) is the crown of this victory," prominent JVP member and former

MP Bimal Rathnayake told *The Hindu*. Signalling a change towards Tamils and Muslims who voted for Mr. Dissanayake's political rivals mainly former Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa — in the

presidential election appear to have now voted for the NPP. In almost all districts in the hill country, the east, the NPP beat prominent regional parties, including traditional Muslims, signalling that the call for change that

dominated the Sinhala-majority south ahead of the September presidential election had found island-wide resonance more recently. "Tamil parties suffering" According to senior journalist and political commentator V. Thanabalasingham, "Tamil political parties" are suffering the consequences of not introspecting the political path of the past and believing they could "fool" the Tamils for a long time, going to Parliament with "only emotional nationalist slogans." "It is too late for even an introspection," he noted on X. Mr. Dissanayake's alliance also recorded big wins in the hill country across the island's Central, Southern and Uva provinces, outdoing traditional parties representing the Malayala Tamils.

This would be the first instance of a political party garnering a two-thirds majority in Parliament under Sri Lanka's proportional representation system, observed senior lawyer Saliya Peiris in a social media post. "The result will also pave the way for the NPP government to quickly honour its promise to abolish the Executive Presidency," he said. While the landslide win is a testament "that most people are happy with the direction of the country since the election of President Dissanayake", the NPP must resist the temptation to enact laws that will erode democratic rights and freedoms, Mr. Peiris cautioned, while managing "extraordinary expectations" of the electorate on political and economic fronts.

CHANCE TO CHANGE HISTORY
» PAGE 12

Corn craft



Grain gala: A farmer shaking newly harvested corns at Kalivan in Nasik district of Maharashtra on Thursday. UJAY SONI

Manipur police recover three bodies from Barak river

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Four days after three children and three women were allegedly abducted by armed militants in Jiribam district during an encounter with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the police, the Manipur police are yet to trace the victims. A government source told *The Hindu* that the police found three bodies, of a woman and two children, floating in the Barak river on Friday afternoon and are ascertaining their identity. "We cannot definitively say that the bodies belong to the missing victims, we are waiting for the post-mortem report. The bodies were, however, found close to the location from where the abduction took place," said the source. A police source said that



High alert: Police stand guard along the Imphal-Mooring road amid militant activity at Ningthoukhong town in Manipur's Bishnupur area.

that, in September, he had sent his family to his mother's home in Jiribam for their safety as he was posted in another volatile area. Mr. Herojit filed a police complaint on Friday with the help of senior police-men though he could not travel to Jiribam. "I last spoke to my wife at around 3:30 p.m. on November 11. She was hiding

under the bed with the children when they (armed militants) entered the house. We spoke for 30 to 40 seconds and then the call was disconnected. I have not heard anything from them since," Mr. Herojit said, adding that he had only received his family's photograph after it had gone viral on social media. The women and children were missing as armed militants came looking for Meitei people before they attacked the CRPF camp and the police station next to it. The victims were living in the camp's vicinity. The area had been on edge since November 7 when armed militants captured, and burned a Hmar woman to death, apart from torching at least a dozen houses. Manipur police said on Friday that "senior officers of IG (Inspector General) and DIO (Deputy Inspector

General) ranks of Manipur Police are presently stationed in Jiribam, the border areas for supervision and coordination of efforts by forces regarding the (sic) missing persons." The official said that the central security agencies and the Assam Rifles were in touch with the Kuki-Zo-Hmar civil society groups. Inspector Sagapam Ibom Singh, the officer-in-charge at Jiribam police station, resigned from service on Friday, a day after he was shuttled from the post. In a letter addressed to the Director General of Police, Manipur, he said that he joined the police in 2007 as an assistant sub-inspector and was promoted to the Inspector rank in 2016 but would now like to tender his resignation from service "voluntarily" due to "unbearable circumstances" in the family and "other reasons."

No need for Central law for health workers: NTF

Krishnasdas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The National Task Force (NTF) report filed in the Supreme Court in the suo moto case concerning the R.G. Kar rape and murder case has said there is no need to enact a "separate Central law" to protect healthcare professionals. The NTF said States had enough laws to protect health workers safe. Besides, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 could take care of heinous offences committed against doctors.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 5

India says climate finance is not an 'investment goal'



Green images: Women posing for a picture by the logo of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Baku by Friday. REUTERS

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

At the ongoing COP29 negotiations in Azerbaijan's Baku, India stated that climate finance — the money that developing countries will collectively require from developed countries to adapt to climate change and shift to renewable resources without compromising on developmental needs. The existing estimate, agreed upon in 2009, was to mobilise and deliver \$100 billion annually from 2020-2025 but was fulfilled — not to universal goals — by developed countries. "Climate finance cannot be changed into an investment goal when it is a unidirectional provision and mobilisation goal from the developed to the developing countries. The Paris Agreement is clear on who the climate finance — it is the developed countries," said a statement by India's lead negotiator, Nareish Pal Gangwar, on late Thursday (November 14, 2024). The statement was formally made public by the Union Environment Ministry on Friday. Currently, \$56.8 trillion worth of climate finance until 2030 is being mooted at Baku. Several technical issues are being deliberated upon at Baku. The key moment, however, that the hundreds of negotiators are working upon is the New "ambitious" goal on Climate Finance. This is an estimate of the money

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INDIA VOICES DISSENT
» PAGE 5
WARIS DISTRACTING TALKS
» PAGE 13

President's coalition sweeps Sri Lanka polls

NPP wins 159 seats in 225-member House, securing over two-thirds majority; SJP follows with 40 seats

Compared to the September election, NPP wins in regions that are home to Tamils and Muslims

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President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's ruling alliance secured a landslide win in Sri Lanka's November 14 general elections, shattering records of strong governments of the past and making history in the island's ethnic minorities-dominated north, east, and hill country.

The National People's Power (NPP) won a total of 159 seats in the 225-member House, securing over two-thirds majority, official results declared on Friday showed. The Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB or United People's Force) followed, with just 40 seats. The formerly powerful Rajapaksas' party, Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna, was nearly wiped out, with its presence in the legislature shrinking to

three seats from the 145 it won in the 2020 general elections. The poll outcome gives President Dissanayake ample power in the legislature to take forward his pledges on political and economic reform.

Compared to the September presidential election, the NPP's vote share rose considerably across the island in the parliamentary polls, but its especially remarkable mandate in the north and east that are home to Tamils and Muslims drew attention.

In Jaffna, the NPP won three out of six seats, becoming the first mainstream party from the south to topple prominent northern Tamil parties, including the Ilankai Tamil Arasu Katchi (ITAK). The poll results in this region overturns the image of the NPP's chief constituent Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP or People's Liberation



Confident stride: President Anura Kumara Dissanayake walking out after casting his vote in the election on Thursday. REUTERS

Front] as an "anti-Tamil rights" party, based on the JVP's fierce opposition in the 1980s to Tamils' self-rule and the merger of the north and east.

"It [Jaffna] is the crown of this victory," prominent JVP member and former

MP Bimal Rathnayake told *The Hindu*.

Signalling a change

Tamils and Muslims who voted for Mr. Dissanayake's political rivals – mainly former Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa – in the

presidential election appear to have now voted for the NPP. In almost all districts, barring Batticaloa in the east, the NPP beat prominent regional parties, representing Tamils and Muslims, signalling that the call for change that

dominated the Sinhala-majority south ahead of the September presidential election had found island-wide resonance more recently.

'Tamil parties suffering'

According to senior journalist and political commentator V. Thanabalingham, Tamil political parties "are suffering the consequences of not introspecting the political path of the past" and believing they could "fool" the Tamils for a long time, going to Parliament with "only emotional nationalist slogans". "It is too late for even an introspection," he noted on X.

Mr. Dissanayake's alliance also recorded big wins in the hill country across the island's Central, Southern and Uva provinces, outdoing traditional parties representing the Malaiyaha Tamils.

This would be the first instance of a political party garnering a two-thirds majority in Parliament under Sri Lanka's proportional representation system, observed senior lawyer Saliya Peiris in a social media post. "The result will also pave the way for the NPP government to quickly honour its promise to abolish the Executive Presidency," he said. While the landslide win is a testament "that most people are happy with the direction of the country since the election of President Dissanayake", the NPP must resist the temptation to enact laws that will erode democratic rights and freedoms, Mr. Peiris cautioned, while managing "extraordinary expectations" of the electorate on political and economic fronts.

CHANCE TO CHANGE HISTORY
» PAGE 12


A hand holding a gold medal with a red ribbon. The medal is circular and features a central emblem, possibly a national symbol, surrounded by a laurel wreath. The background is a dark, textured surface.

• **Victory of NPP in Sri Lankan Parliamentary Elections**

- English: President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's National People's Power (NPP) coalition won a landslide victory in the parliamentary elections, securing 159 seats in the 225-member House, achieving over a two-thirds majority.
- हिंदी: राष्ट्रपति अनुरा कुमारा डिसानायके के नेशनल पीपल्स पावर (एनपीपी) गठबंधन ने संसदीय चुनावों में भारी जीत दर्ज की, 225 सदस्यीय सदन में 159 सीटें जीतकर दो-तिहाई बहुमत प्राप्त किया।




- **Opposition Performance**

- English: The opposition Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB) secured 40 seats, while the Rajapaksas' party, which was previously dominant, won only 3 seats.
 - हिंदी: विपक्षी समागी जन बलवेगया (एसजेबी) ने 40 सीटें जीतीं, जबकि राजपक्षे की पार्टी, जो पहले प्रमुख थी, केवल 3 सीटों पर सिमट गई।
- 

Significance of the Victory



English: This marks the first instance of a party gaining a two-thirds majority under Sri Lanka's proportional representation system, which may pave the way for significant political and economic reforms.



हिंदी: यह श्रीलंका की आनुपातिक प्रतिनिधित्व प्रणाली में किसी पार्टी को दो-तिहाई बहुमत मिलने की पहली घटना है, जो महत्वपूर्ण राजनीतिक और आर्थिक सुधारों का मार्ग प्रशस्त कर सकती है।

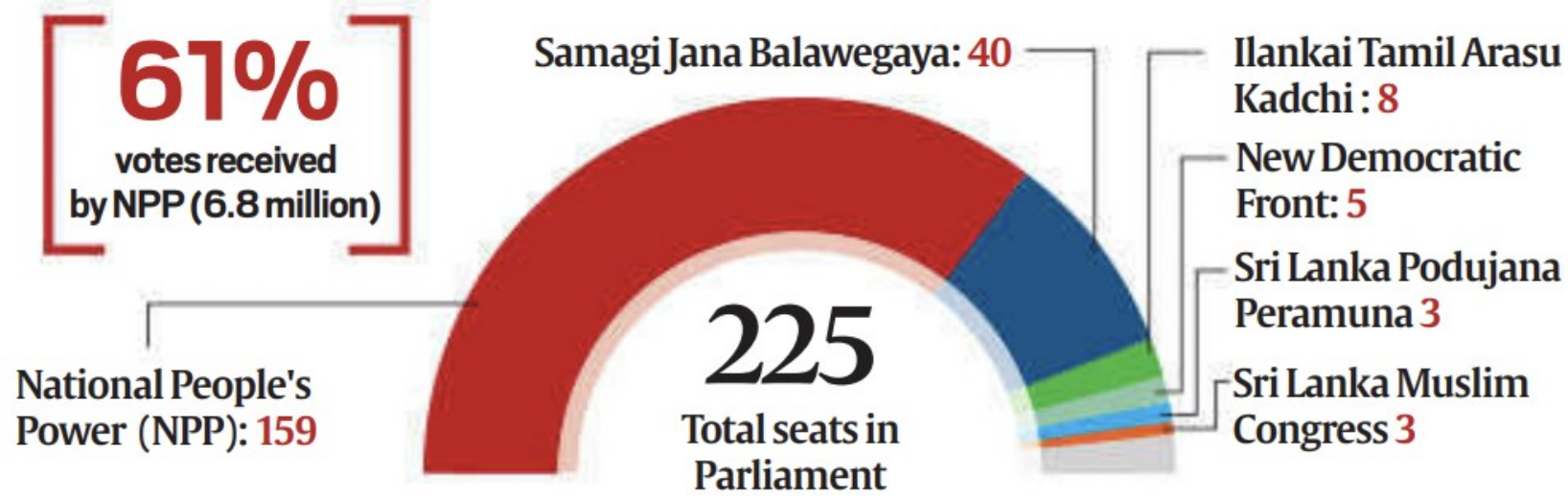
- **Impact on Tamil and Muslim Regions**

- English: Compared to the September presidential elections, the NPP's vote share increased significantly across the island, including regions with a high concentration of Tamil and Muslim populations.
- हिंदी: सितंबर के राष्ट्रपति चुनावों की तुलना में, एनपीपी का वोट शेयर पूरे द्वीप में, विशेषकर तमिल और मुस्लिम बहुल क्षेत्रों में काफी बढ़ गया।

1.Challenges and Political Expectations

1. English: The NPP's victory comes with high expectations for maintaining democratic rights and freedoms while carrying out political reforms.
- 2.हिंदी: एनपीपी की जीत के साथ लोकतांत्रिक अधिकारों और स्वतंत्रताओं को बनाए रखते हुए राजनीतिक सुधारों की उच्च अपेक्षाएँ भी जुड़ी हुई हैं।

How the new Parliament looks



RAJAPAKSA FAMILY'S PARTY 'WIPED OUT'

Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna party of the Rajapaksa family, whose cohort of brothers gave Sri Lanka two presidents during a dozen years in power and had 145 seats in the outgoing legislature, was virtually wiped out, winning just three seats

NPP MAKES HISTORY IN TAMIL-DOMINATED JAFFNA

NPP made history in the Jaffna electoral district as it trounced traditional Tamil nationalist parties. The NPP won over 80,000 votes in the district, outperforming ITAK's 63,000 votes. Three seats in district went to NPP, and ITAK, ACTC one each.

IN BRIEF

Akhilesh targets Adityanath over bulldozer action in U.P.

Addressing a public meeting in Khair Assembly seat on Friday, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday took potshots at U.P. CM Yogi Adityanath over his saffron dress saying one does not become a yogi just with his attire but through thought and actions. He targeted the CM for bulldozer action which has been halted by the Supreme Court and accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party of doing politics based on dividing people. "They want to do politics by dividing, we socialists want to do politics by uniting," he said.

Fire in basement of Mumbai's BKC metro station, none hurt

A fire broke out in the basement of the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) underground metro station in Mumbai on Friday afternoon, leading to suspension of services for more than two hours as a precautionary measure, officials said. Nobody was injured in the blaze that erupted around 1:10 p.m. in the non-operational A4 entry-point of the station that is under construction, they said. The fire was confined to wooden chairs, furniture and construction material at a depth of 40-50 feet of the station located in Bandra East, causing heavy smoke in the operational area of the station. Eight fire engines and other fire brigade vehicles were rushed to the spot, the officials said.

Rajasthan to boost medical tourism with new policy

The Hindu Bureau JAIPUR

The Bharatiya Janata Party government in Rajasthan will shortly launch a new pharmaceutical policy aimed at a medical value travel policy to unlock the potential of the tourism potential in the State.

Both the government and the private hospitals as well as the natural and yoga centres in the State attract a large number of people for secondary and tertiary health care.

'Highest allocation' Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma said here that the policies would help leverage the State's expanding healthcare infrastructure. The 2024-25 State budget had made the highest-ever allocation of ₹.28,000 crore for the health sector, which was 18.26% of the overall budget, Mr. Sharma said.

No child left behind? Not if you are a Rohingya refugee in Delhi

Solham Rocky Singh NEW DELHI

Documentation roadblocks are coming in the way of several Rohingya refugees' families to their formal education for their children in the national capital.

About 35-40 Rohingya families have been residing in the densely populated Sri Ram Colony in Kharjori Khas, north-east Delhi, for several years after fleeing persecution in Myanmar. However, their bid to secure admission for their children in Delhi government-run schools and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)-run schools has been stuck due to documentation issues.

While schools typically require Aadhaar cards or other government-issued identification for enrolment, the Rohingya pos-

sess only refugee cards issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The lack of documentation stands as the primary barrier to these children getting admission," said advocate Ashok Chahal, who took the matter to Delhi High Court last month seeking directions for schools to admit Rohingya children.

Chahal "he speak openly about these challenges is widespread among Rohingya refugees due to fear of repercussions. Many Rohingya families residing in Kharjori Khas, voiced the struggles he underwent while trying to get his eight-year-old daughter Reshma admitted to schools in the vicinity. "My daughter was denied admission in all the schools. We had no choice but to ar-

Punjab and Haryana at odds over new Assembly building in Chandigarh

Chandigarh belongs to Punjab, not an inch of land should be given to Haryana, AAP delegation tells Governor. Haryana also has rights, leaders should avoid indulging in petty politics, says Saini

Vikas Vasudeva CHANDIGARH

Punjab and Haryana are once again locked in a battle over Chandigarh — the shared capital — days after the Centre's reported move to clear the allotment of 10 acres of land in the Union Territory to Haryana for the construction of its Assembly building.

Haryana had sought the land in Chandigarh for the construction of an additional building of the State Assembly. Punjab and Haryana Assembly complexes are housed in a single building in Chandigarh, and Haryana had been long raising the demand for a demarcated land under the terms of the creation of Haryana after it was carved out as a separate State from Punjab in 1966.

On Friday, a delegation of the Aam Aadmi Party, led by Punjab Finance Minister Harjot Singh Cheema and Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains, met Go-



Punjab and Haryana share the Vidhan Sabha complex, designed and built by French architect Le Corbusier, in Chandigarh. FILE PHOTO

vernor Gulab Chand Kataria and submitted a memorandum to register their opposition. Mr. Kataria is also the administrator of Chandigarh. "Chandigarh belongs to Punjab and we are not going to give even an inch of land to Punjab has right over Chandigarh and we will fight for our right. We have submitted a memorandum to the Governor. We have said that no land should be allotted to Haryana in Chandigarh for the Vidhan Sabha," Mr. Cheema told mediapersons after the meeting.

On his part, Haryana CM

"The Haryana government has sought 10 acres of land in Chandigarh in exchange for 12 acres in Panchkula. This proposal is part of their agenda to establish their Assembly complex in Chandigarh. AAP strongly opposes this move and will not allow even an inch of Chandigarh to be given to Haryana," he said, adding that when Punjab and Haryana were created, it was understood that Haryana would establish its own capital in Panchkula, and not in Chandigarh.

Water issue

Mr. Saini asked the AAP delegation to share Sutlej Yamuna link canal waters. "Driven by political motives, the leaders of Punjab had first stopped Haryana's Sutlej Yamuna Link canal water and now they are talking about stopping the Haryana Vidhan Sabha from being built. The people of Punjab share a strong bond with Haryana, and want Haryana to get SYL water," he said. Punjab Energy Minister Anil Vij said, "Chandigarh can only belong to Punjab if the Hindi-speaking regions are transferred to Haryana. Haryana receives its share of SYL water. Otherwise, as much as Chandigarh belongs to Punjab, it belongs to Haryana too."

Expedite inquiry into ransacking of AIADMK office, HC directs CB-CID

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Friday directed the Crime Branch-Criminal Investigation Department (CB-CID) to expedite the investigation into a case filed over the ransacking of the All India Madras State Munnar Kazhagam (AIADMK) headquarters in Chennai on July 11, 2022, following a split between the party's incumbent general secretary, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, and the expelled leader, G. Panneerselvam.

Justice P. Velmurugan issued the direction while disposing of a petition filed by party leader and former Minister C.Ve. Shanmugam in 2022, seeking the transfer of the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The petitioner's counsel, M. Mohanram Riyaz, complained that the CB-CID had not concluded the probe and filed the final report, even though more than two years had elapsed since the crime took place.

Mr. Panneerselvam's supporters of having trespassed into the party office by breaking the doors, the petitioner alleged that they stole several documents, including bank passbooks and registration certificates of 37 vehicles owned by the party. He said that ₹31,000 in petty cash was stolen, and that the rioters also damaged two party vehicles.

The direction was issued while disposing of a petition seeking the transfer of the case to the CBI

Relief for ex-Minister Justice Velmurugan, who also holds the portfolio of MP/MLA cases, also quashed a criminal defamation case filed by the State government against the AIADMK Minister, M. Mohanram Riyaz, complained that the CB-CID had not concluded the probe and filed the final report, even though more than two years had elapsed since the crime took place.

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Bypoll candidate who slapped SDM sent to judicial custody; strife-hit Tonk situation stable

Press Trust of India JAIPUR

The situation in Rajasthan's violence-hit Tonk district was stable on Friday, a day after the arrest of Independent candidate for the Deoli-Unkara Assembly bypoll Nareesh Meena, who was sent to judicial custody for a fortnight.

Both the government and the private hospitals as well as the natural and yoga centres in the State attract a large number of people for secondary and tertiary health care.

'Highest allocation' Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma said here that the policies would help leverage the State's expanding healthcare infrastructure. The 2024-25 State budget had made the highest-ever allocation of ₹.28,000 crore for the health sector, which was 18.26% of the overall budget, Mr. Sharma said.



Apart from Nareesh Meena, 52 people arrested in connection with the violence were sent to 14-day judicial custody. FILE PHOTO

"State machinery was deployed to attack people," State Agriculture Minister Kiroodi Lal Meena met Minister of State for Home Jawahar Singh Bedham in Jaipur and spoke to him about the situation in Samratva village where the violence started. The villagers were also present during the discussion.

Police produced Mr. Meena before a court in Niwai of Tonk district virtual-

Shiv Sahay Singh KOLKATA

An inter-State gang is involved in the fraud of direct benefit transfer of West Bengal's Taruner Swapno scheme where funds meant for students to buy tablets and smartphones have been siphoned off to other accounts, the State police said on Friday.

With the tentacles of the alleged scam spreading far and wide, affecting thousands of beneficiaries, the West Bengal police has set up a joint investigation team with officials of the Criminal Investigation Department and cybercrimes. The members of the team said the racket may have embezzled funds from similar schemes in Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Bihar.

Apart from him, 52 people arrested by the police in connection with the violence were also present during the discussion.

Probe team set up to bust inter-State gang involved in Taruner Swapno scheme

Shiv Sahay Singh KOLKATA

As per the latest information, 93 cases have been registered. 11 people have been arrested. SUPRATIM SARKAR, West Bengal State and Inspector General of Police

beneficiaries have been transferred to other accounts, and that they are an inter-State gang. Of the three main accounts, the one of Malda's Baisnabnagar and one from Chopra in Uttar Dinajpur district.

According to the police, the funds under the Taruner Swapno Scheme were transferred to 16 lakh students, but based on the FIRs 1,911 students have not received funds, which is about 0.1% of the total beneficiaries.

'Rough and tough' Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, breaking her silence on the fraud, called it an administrative issue. Ms. Banerjee assured that all those ministers who have not received the money would get their share of the funds.

"This kind of hacking has taken place earlier in Maharashtra as well as other States. Police are investigating and our administration is rough and tough. We will handle this," the Chief Minister said.

Meanwhile, several questions have arisen, such as the accuracy of the data and the account numbers of beneficiaries. Since most of the arrests have been of residents of Chopra and Mal-



da, speculations are rife that these places may have a direct link with the scam. The investigators have refused to elaborate more on the modus operandi but added that Chopra and Malda may be linked with the fraud-ridden hub.

The State government's Taruner Swapno Scheme is aimed to bridge the digital divide among students by providing a one-time grant of ₹10,000 to those studying in higher secondary classes to buy smartphones and tablets. In the financial year 2024-25, the West Bengal government has allocated about ₹900 crore for the scheme.

While there have been allegations of irregularities in the implementations of welfare schemes in the State, this is the first time allegations of manipulation of the beneficiary list have come to the fore.

The allegations of fraud has surfaced from 15 districts of the State.

As per the latest information, 93 cases have been registered. 11 people have been arrested.

beneficiaries have been transferred to other accounts, and that they are an inter-State gang. Of the three main accounts, the one of Malda's Baisnabnagar and one from Chopra in Uttar Dinajpur district.

According to the police, the funds under the Taruner Swapno Scheme were transferred to 16 lakh students, but based on the FIRs 1,911 students have not received funds, which is about 0.1% of the total beneficiaries.

'Rough and tough' Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, breaking her silence on the fraud, called it an administrative issue. Ms. Banerjee assured that all those ministers who have not received the money would get their share of the funds.

"This kind of hacking has taken place earlier in Maharashtra as well as other States. Police are investigating and our administration is rough and tough. We will handle this," the Chief Minister said.

Meanwhile, several questions have arisen, such as the accuracy of the data and the account numbers of beneficiaries. Since most of the arrests have been of residents of Chopra and Mal-

The State government's Taruner Swapno Scheme is aimed to bridge the digital divide among students by providing a one-time grant of ₹10,000 to those studying in higher secondary classes to buy smartphones and tablets. In the financial year 2024-25, the West Bengal government has allocated about ₹900 crore for the scheme.

While there have been allegations of irregularities in the implementations of welfare schemes in the State, this is the first time allegations of manipulation of the beneficiary list have come to the fore.

The allegations of fraud has surfaced from 15 districts of the State.

U.P. board moves civil services preliminary test to December 22

Mayank Kumar LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPPSC) on Friday announced that the Preliminary Civil Services (PCS) preliminary exam 2024 would be conducted on December 22, consolidating the tests originally planned for December 7 and 8 into a single day.

The declaration followed intense protest from aspirants for four days over the issue and subsequent announcement by the Commission postponed the exam and declared that a committee would be formed soon to look into the issue and submit a report. While it postponed the exam, it also announced fresh dates for the exam.

The student protests in Prayagraj ended after UPPSC's announcement.

Documentation hurdles prevent Rohingya children in Kharjori Khas from enrolling in schools since the latest thrust on govt-issued IDs

The UNCHR card is useless here as schools demand Indian documents," said Hussain Ahmed, another Rohingya family facing a similar predicament with his eight-year-old daughter. As opposed to Kharjori Khas in north-east Delhi, the situation is relatively better at another Rohingya refugee locality in south-east Delhi, Madanpur Khadar. Mohd. Salim, a community leader and a resident here, says many Rohingya children managed to get admission in schools till Class 10 on the back of support from organisations like the UNHCR. But such help is not uniformly available across localities, he pointed out. "Although the UNHCR lawyers assist with the documentation in that area, this support is absent in Kharjori Khas, Mewat, or Faridabad," he said, making it difficult for the schools to disperse benefits." he said, adding that he has a concentration of around 500 and 50 Rohingya refugees in the area respectively. Refugee children in both places are not permitted to seek admission in any of the local schools, he said. A Delhi Education Department source said there are provisions to admit refugee children in schools and the UNHCR looks into

Punjab and Haryana at odds over new Assembly building in Chandigarh

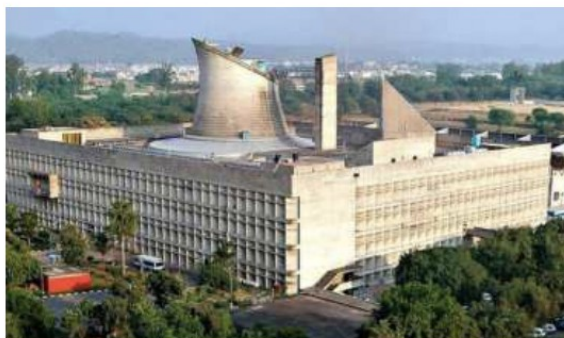
Chandigarh belongs to Punjab, not an inch of land should be given to Haryana, AAP delegation tells Governor; Haryana also has rights, leaders should avoid indulging in petty politics, says Saini

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Punjab and Haryana are once again locked in a battle over Chandigarh – the shared capital – days after the Centre’s reported move to clear the allotment of 10 acres of land in the Union Territory to Haryana for the construction of its Assembly building.

Haryana had sought the land in Chandigarh for the construction of an additional building of the State Assembly. Punjab and Haryana Assembly complexes are housed in a single building in Chandigarh, and Haryana had been long raising the demand for a demarcation under the terms of the creation of Haryana after it was carved out as a separate State from Punjab in 1966.

On Friday, a delegation of the Aam Aadmi Party, led by Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema and Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains, met Go-



Punjab and Haryana share the Vidhan Sabha complex, designed and built by French architect Le Corbusier, in Chandigarh. FILE PHOTO

vernor Gulab Chand Kataria and submitted a memorandum to register their opposition. Mr. Kataria is also the administrator of Chandigarh. “Chandigarh belongs to Punjab and we are not going to give even an inch of land... Punjab has right over Chandigarh and we will fight for our right. We have submitted a memorandum to the Governor. We have said that no land should be allotted to Haryana in Chandigarh (for the Vidhan Sabha),” Mr. Cheema told mediapersons after the meeting.

“The Haryana government has sought 10 acres of land in Chandigarh in exchange for 12 acres in Panchkula. This proposal is part of their agenda to establish their Assembly complex in Chandigarh. AAP strongly opposes this move and will not allow even an inch of Chandigarh to be given to Haryana,” he said, adding that when Punjab and Haryana were created, it was understood that Haryana would establish its own capital in Panchkula, and not in Chandigarh.

On his part, Haryana CM

Nayab Singh Saini said, “Haryana also has a right over Chandigarh, and the leaders of Punjab should avoid indulging in petty politics over the matter of the State Assembly.”

Water issue

Mr. Saini asked the AAP dispensation to share Sutlej Yamuna link canal waters. “Driven by political motives, the leaders of Punjab had first stopped Haryana’s Sutlej-Yamuna Link canal water and now they are talking about stopping the Haryana Vidhan Sabha from being built. The people of Punjab share a strong bond with Haryana, and want Haryana to get SYL water,” he said.

Haryana Energy Minister Anil Vij said, “Chandigarh can only belong to Punjab if the Hindi-speaking regions are transferred to Haryana and Haryana receives its share of SYL water. Otherwise, as much as Chandigarh belongs to Punjab, it belongs to Haryana too.”

-
- **Dispute over Chandigarh between Punjab and Haryana**
 - English: Punjab and Haryana are in conflict again over Chandigarh, the shared capital, due to a reported move by the Centre to allocate 10 acres of land in Chandigarh to Haryana for building its Assembly complex.
 - हिंदी: चंडीगढ़, जो पंजाब और हरियाणा की साझा राजधानी है, को लेकर दोनों राज्यों के बीच फिर से विवाद छिड़ गया है। केंद्र सरकार द्वारा हरियाणा को विधानसभा परिसर बनाने के लिए चंडीगढ़ में 10 एकड़ भूमि आवंटित करने की खबर से यह विवाद पैदा हुआ।

- **Haryana's Demand for Separate Assembly Complex**

- English: Haryana has long sought its own Assembly building in Chandigarh, citing the need for separate complexes since Punjab and Haryana were carved out as distinct entities in 1966.

- हिंदी: हरियाणा लंबे समय से चंडीगढ़ में अपना विधानसभा भवन चाहता है, यह कहते हुए कि 1966 में पंजाब और हरियाणा के अलग-अलग राज्य बनने के बाद से अलग परिसरों की आवश्यकता है।

Opposition from Punjab

English: Punjab leaders, including the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), oppose any move to allot Chandigarh land to Haryana, claiming Chandigarh belongs solely to Punjab and that not an inch of land should be given away.

हिंदी: आम आदमी पार्टी (आप) सहित पंजाब के नेताओं ने हरियाणा को चंडीगढ़ में भूमि आवंटित करने की किसी भी कोशिश का विरोध किया है। उनका दावा है कि चंडीगढ़ केवल पंजाब का है और एक इंच भी भूमि नहीं दी जानी चाहिए।

- **Views of Leaders from Both States**

- English: Leaders like Nayab Singh Saini have stated that Haryana has rights over Chandigarh, urging Punjab's leaders to avoid petty politics. The AAP, meanwhile, submitted a memorandum opposing Haryana's proposal.

- हिंदी: नायब सिंह सैनी जैसे नेताओं का कहना है कि हरियाणा का भी चंडीगढ़ पर अधिकार है और पंजाब के नेताओं को छोटी राजनीति से बचना चाहिए। इस बीच, आप ने हरियाणा के प्रस्ताव का विरोध करते हुए एक ज्ञापन सौंपा।

1. Related Issues - Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal

1. English: The Sutlej Yamuna Link canal issue has resurfaced, with discussions on water sharing and political motives being highlighted by leaders of both states.
2. हिंदी: सतलुज-यमुना लिंक नहर मुद्दा भी फिर से उभर आया है, जिसमें दोनों राज्यों के नेताओं द्वारा जल वितरण और राजनीतिक उद्देश्यों पर चर्चा की जा रही है।

IT'S OVER

Prajnesh announces retirement from professional tennis



Prajnesh Gupteswar announced his retirement from professional tennis on Friday. The 35-year-old, who won bronze in the 2018 Asian Games...

WINNING SHOW

England takes unassailable lead in T20I series against West Indies



England's three-wicket win in the third T20I against the West Indies in Gros Islet helped it take a 3-0 lead with two matches remaining.

STORMING THROUGH

Abhay reaches the semifinals of Ace Malaysia squash cup



India's Abhay Singh reached the semifinals of the Ace Malaysia squash cup, a bronze-level PSA Tour event...

ONE-SIDED

Devank, Ayan help Pirates run away with it against Warriorz



Devank Dalal and Ayan Lochhab scored Super 10s as Patna Pirates registered a thumping 52-31 win over Bengal Warriorz...

Samson and Tilak on a bull run at Bullring as Men in Blue pile up 283

Their record 210-run unbroken second-wicket partnership sets up a massive 135-run win; Suryakumar's team clinches series 3-1

INDIA IN SA PRESS TRUST OF INDIA JOHANNESBURG

Sanju Samson's pre-climax met its match in Tilak Varma's elegance as India toyed with the South African bowling attack to post an imposing 283 for one in the fourth and final T20I international here on Friday.

This is India's highest T20I total overseas, and the best by a team on South African soil. Among the plethora of records that tumbled, the most special will be the two Indian batters scoring centuries in the same T20I innings.

Chasing the gargantuan total, the Proteas were never in the hunt. After Hardik Pandya bowled a superb maiden over — the second of the innings — and also sent back opener Ryan Rickelton, Arshdeep Singh took over. The left-arm pacer first cased Rileeza Hendricks before removing Aiden Markram (caught by Kavi Bisht) and Heinrich Klaasen (lbw) off successive deliveries.

The in-form Varun Chakravarthy and Asar Patel scalped two each as Suryakumar's men finished brightly in the Rain-bow Nation.

SCOREBOARD INDIA Sanju Samson (not out) 109 (56b), 6of, 3of; Abhishek Sharma 36 (27b), 2of, 1of; Tilak Varma 36 (27b), 2of, 1of; Hardik Pandya 24 (16b), 1of; Extras (w: 17, nb: 11); Total (for one wk, in 20 overs) 283.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-73 (Janssens, 4.5 overs) SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING Jansen 4-0-42-0, Coetzee 3-0-43-0, Sipamla 4-0-1, Simelane 3-0-47-0, Maharaj 3-0-42-0, Markram 2-0-36-0, Stubbs 1-0-21-0.

SOUTH AFRICA Ryan Rickelton c Samson b Hardik 1 (8b), Reeza Hendricks b Asar 1 (2b), Aiden Markram c Bisht b Arshdeep 8 (8b), 1of, Tristan Stubbs lbw b Hardik 43 (28b, 2of, 2of), Heinrich Klaasen lbw b Arshdeep 9 (11b), David Miller c Tilak b Varun 36 (27b), 2of.

Poorly-packed: Samson and Tilak toyed with the South African bowlers. AP

574 players to battle it out for 204 slots

Amol Karhadkar MUMBAI

A total of 574 cricketers, including 366 Indians, will be in the fray for the 204 slots (134 Indian, 70 overseas) at the Indian Premier League player auction to be held at Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) on November 24 and 25.

The final list of players was released by BCCI secretary Jay Shah through a media statement on Friday. The list — pruned from 1,500-plus cricketers who had registered themselves for the full auction — features 318 uncapped Indian cricketers besides 48 capped Indians.

opting for the highest base price of ₹2 crore.

Among the 12 marquee players — divided into two groups — David Miller (1.50 crore) is the only player who hasn't opted for the highest base price band.

The others in the marquee sets are Jos Buttler, Liam Livingstone, Kagiso Rabada, Mitchell Starc, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj.

As many as 46 players have been retained, including 10 overseas. The break-up: Total: 574, Capped Indians: 48, Uncapped Indians: 318, Capped Overseas: 193, Uncapped Overseas: 12, Associate: 3. Reserve price: ₹2 crore (91 cricketers); 1.50 crore (27); 1.25 crore (18); 1 crore (23); 75 lakh (20); 50 lakh (46); 40 lakh (5); 30 lakh (32).

SNAPSHOTS

Argentina loses to Paraguay, Brazil held MONTEVIDEO: World champion Argentina suffered a 2-2 defeat to Paraguay while Brazil was held to a 1-1 draw at Venezuela in CONMEBOL World Cup qualifying on Thursday. Despite the loss, Argentina remained on top of the standings with 22 points. Brazil was third.

Italy, France book quarterfinal slots PARIS: Italy ensured qualification for the Nations League quarterfinals with a victory over Belgium on Thursday that also guaranteed France a place in the last-eight. Top results: League A: Group 2: Belgium 0 lost to Italy 1 (Tonali 21); France 0 drew with Israel 0. League B: Group 2: Greece 0 lost to England 3 (Watkins 7, Vlachodimos 18-46, Jones 82); Iceland 1 (Ferguson 45) bt Finland 0.

Haryana to take on Odisha in senior National final

K. Keerthivasan CHENNAI

Odisha prevailed over Manipur 4-2 while Haryana shut out a spirited challenge from Uttar Pradesh 3-2 in the semifinals of the Hockey India 14th senior National championship at the SDAF Major Krishnan Stadium here on Friday.

On Saturday, Haryana will look to clinch its third title from four finals while Odisha will be eager to bag its maiden gold medal. Consisting quite a few players in the National junior and senior camp, Odisha played high intensity hockey throughout, keeping Manipur at the end of the tether. Shilman Lakra, who returned to the Indian senior team — he played in the India-Germany Test series recently — after undergoing a surgery on his left knee, was the star of Odisha, scoring a goal and being involved in an assist.



Opening the floodgates: Sanjeev Nilam, right, scored Odisha's first goal against Manipur. G. S. VITTA/REUTERS

was enjoying most of the ball possession and was looking for a possible win when UP came back strongly in the final quarter. A yellow card to Pardeep Mor in the last 10 minutes put enormous pressure on Haryana. Goals by Arun Sahani and Manish Yadav, off penalty corners, gave a glimpse of hope to UP. During the time, goal-keeper Pawan Malik produced quite a few effective saves to give Haryana a deserving victory.

P.K. Ajith Kumar KOLKATA

They were just too good. Magnus Carlsen and Aleksandra Goryachkina were so good, the final round of the rapid section of the Tata Steel Chess India tournament was only about the runner-up spots. They emerged as the champions at the Dhono Dhanoo Auditorium on Friday in spectacular style indeed. Both finishing with 7.5 points from nine rounds, two points more than their nearest rivals. Carlsen, in fact, had increased his lead to two points at the end of the eighth round. That is some performance at this level of elite chess.



A cut above: Goryachkina and Carlsen both finished with 7.5 points, two more than their nearest rivals. PRESENTATION

The World No. 1 had been the day with just half a point lead over Nordbæk-Abdusattorov though, but his back-to-back wins, and excellent ones at that, over Vincent Keymer and Daniil Dubov, meant the race for the title was over. In sharp contrast, Abdusattorov had lost both his games — to Wesley So and Arjun Erigaisi. The Uzbek youngster, however, prevented Carlsen from posting his seventh win in a row. But he may not be happy with that draw though — he had a winning position until blundering with his queen on the 38th move.

Carlsen and Goryachkina finish champions in spectacular style; Praggnanandhaa second

Gukesh is the significant favourite on current form, but in terms of peak chess ability, it is quite even

Carlsen was the World Championship match between the Indian and Liren makh, in the next. She finished her campaign with a win against fellow-Russian Valentina Gunina. Nana Dzagnidze finished second with 5.5 points, while Valentina Gunina drew with Nana Dzagnidze (Gow) lost to Aleksandra Goryachkina (Rus); Alexandra Kosteniuk (Sov) drew with Nana Dzagnidze (Gow). Eighth round: Harika bt Kosteniuk; Dzagnidze lost to Gunina; Goryachkina bt Divya; Vaishtal bt Humpy; Vaishtal bt Lagno. Seventh round: Vaishtal bt Harika; Lagno drew with Kosteniuk; Humpy drew with Goryachkina; Divya lost to Dzagnidze; Gunina lost to Kosteniuk. The standings: 1. Goryachkina 7.5; 2. Dzagnidze 5.5; 3. Vantika 4; 4. Lagno, Harika and Gunina 4.5; 7-9. Divya, Vaishtal and Kosteniuk 3.5; 10. Humpy 3.

Nihal, So drew with Praggnanandhaa; Arjun bt Abdusattorov; Carlsen bt Dubov. Seventh round: Carlsen bt Keymer; Dubov drew with Arjun; Abdusattorov lost to So; Praggnanandhaa bt Narayanan; Nihal bt Gujrathi. The standings: 1. Carlsen 7.5; 2. Praggnanandhaa and So 5.5; 4. Abdusattorov 3; 5. Keymer 4.5; 6. Nihal 4; 7-8. Dubov and Arjun 3.5; 9-10. Gujrathi and Narayanan 3. Women: Ninth round: Katerina Lagno (Rus) bt D. Harika; Komaru Humpy drew with Vantika; Divya Deshmukh bt Vantika; Agrevala bt Nana Dzagnidze (Gow) lost to Aleksandra Goryachkina (Rus); Alexandra Kosteniuk (Sov) drew with Nana Dzagnidze (Gow). Eighth round: Harika bt Kosteniuk; Dzagnidze lost to Gunina; Goryachkina bt Divya; Vaishtal bt Humpy; Vaishtal bt Lagno. Seventh round: Vaishtal bt Harika; Lagno drew with Kosteniuk; Humpy drew with Goryachkina; Divya lost to Dzagnidze; Gunina lost to Kosteniuk. The standings: 1. Goryachkina 7.5; 2. Dzagnidze 5.5; 3. Vantika 4; 4. Lagno, Harika and Gunina 4.5; 7-9. Divya, Vaishtal and Kosteniuk 3.5; 10. Humpy 3.

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A cut above: Goryachkina and Carlsen both finished with 7.5 points, two more than their nearest rivals. DEBASISH BHADURI

contrast, Adbusattorov had lost both his games - to Wesley So and Arjun Erigaisi.

The Uzbek youngster, however, prevented Carlsen from posting his seventh win in a row. But he may not be happy with that draw though - he had a winning position until blundering with his queen on the 38th move.

R. Praggnanandhaa brought some cheer to the full house, as he took the

second spot, with 5.5 points, after beating compatriot Arjun in the final round. Wesley So, who also scored 5.5, finished third when the tie-breakers were applied.

In the women's event, the second-seeded Goryachkina, who had an overnight lead of one point, took a quick draw in the day's first round from Koneru Humpy, but scored a crucial win against another Indian rival, Divya Desh-



Gukesh is the significant favourite on current form, but in terms of peak chess ability, it is quite even

CARLSEN
on the World Championship match between the Indian and Liren

mukh, in the next. She finished her campaign with a win against fellow-Russian Valentina Gunina.

Nana Dzagnidze finished second with 5.5 points, while Vantika Agrawal ensured an Indian woman was on the podium. She took third place, with five points.

The results:

Men: Ninth round: Daniil Dubov (Rus) lost to Vincent Keymer (Ger); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb) drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor); R. Praggnanandhaa bt Arjun Erigaisi; Nihal Sarin drew with Wesley So (USA); Vidit Gujrathi bt S.L Narayanan.

Eighth round: Keymer bt Gujrathi; Narayanan drew with

Nihal; So drew with Praggnanandhaa; Arjun bt Abdusattorov; Carlsen bt Dubov.

Seventh round: Carlsen bt Keymer; Dubov drew with Arjun; Abdusattorov lost to So; Praggnanandhaa bt Narayanan; Nihal bt Gujrathi.

The standings: 1. Carlsen 7.5; 2-3. Praggnanandhaa and So 5.5; 4. Abdusattorov 5; 5. Keymer 4.5; 6. Nihal 4; 7-8. Dubov and Arjun 3.5; 9-10. Gujrathi and Narayanan 3.

Women: Ninth round: Kateryna Lagno (Rus) bt D. Harika; Koneru Humpy drew with R. Vaishali; Divya Deshmukh bt Vantika Agrawal; Valentina Gunina (Rus) lost to Aleksandra Goryachkina (Rus); Alexandra Kosteniuk (Swi) drew with Nana Dzagnidze (Geo).

Eighth round: Harika bt Kosteniuk; Dzagnidze lost to Gunina; Goryachkina bt Divya; Vantika bt Humpy; Vaishali bt Lagno.

Seventh round: Vaishali bt Harika; Lagno drew with Vantika; Humpy drew with Goryachkina; Divya lost to Dzagnidze; Gunina lost to Kosteniuk.

The standings: 1. Goryachkina 7.5; 2. Dzagnidze 5.5; 3. Vantika 5, 4-6. Lagno, Harika and Gunina 4.5; 7-9. Divya, Vaishali and Kosteniuk 3.5; 10. Humpy 3.

IN THE NEWS

GST COUNCIL MEET ON DEC 21 TO TAKE UP INSURANCE TAX

RETAIL AUTO SALES GROW 12% IN FESTIVE PERIOD

FOREX RESERVES FALL FOR SIXTH STRAIGHT WEEK

FE SPECIALS

Uncovers hidden gem of the Konkan, called Ganpatipule

Multi-year health cover offsets rising premiums

DATA PROTECTION LAW TO TAKE OVER A YEAR TO BE IMPLEMENTED

Tired of promotional calls? The wait for relief just got longer

CONSUMERS FED UP WITH THE PROMOTIONAL CALLS

JATIN GROVER New Delhi, November 15

TRUMP WIN PROMPTS MOVE -trump: SA backs India over China

VIVEK KUMAR M Mumbai, November 15

JUST A MONTH after reducing India's overweight to 10% to increase exposure to China...

₹1L-cr m-cap club sees 17 exits

Table with columns: THE EXITS, Market cap, Nov 14 (₹ crore), % fall, and NEAR THE DANGER MARK, Market cap, Nov 14 (₹ crore), % fall.

DATA PROTECTION LAW TO TAKE OVER A YEAR TO BE IMPLEMENTED

another 18-24 months to implement the same. This is because companies need to be given adequate transition time.

Economy in a sweet spot to grow 7.2% in 2024: Moody's

Sees RBI sticking to tight monetary policy stance going into 2025

FE BUREAU New Delhi, November 15

NTPC-ONGC green V leads race for Ayana

Submits highest bid of \$650 million

SARITA CHAGANTI SINGH New Delhi, November 15

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UNILEVER IS CUTTING ABOUT 1,500 fewer jobs in Europe than initially anticipated and hiring about 1,000 people...

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High-frequency indicators signal steady economic momentum in Q3, says Moody's

underscore the RBI's cautious approach to policy easing.

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Unilever to cut fewer jobs in Europe


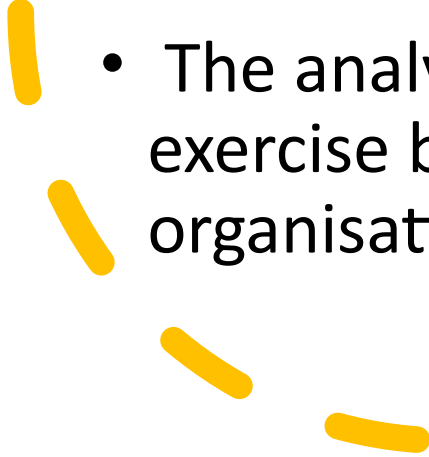
UNILEVER IS CUTTING ABOUT 1,500 fewer jobs in Europe than initially anticipated and hiring about 1,000 people...


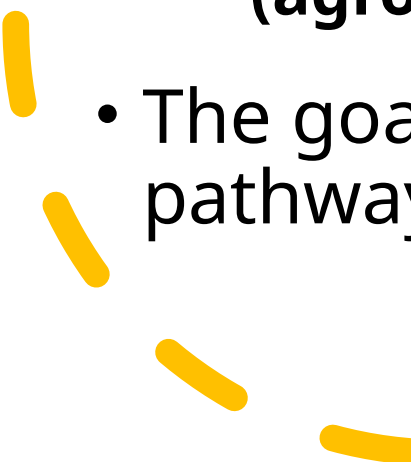
A LONGER TIMELINE

For every instance of data breach, the entity in charge will have to pay a penalty of ₹250-crore penalty if found guilty





Assessing the Potential of Natural Farming

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- An analysis conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh (AP) government suggests that the AP model of natural farming has the potential to double the employment opportunities for farmers compared to industrial agriculture, thereby reducing overall unemployment and increasing farmers' incomes by 2050.
 - The analysis was a part of 'AgroEco2050', a collective future-building exercise by the AP government, French agricultural research organisation and FAO.
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- **AgroEco2050 initiative aimed to assess two potential futures** for agriculture, food, land use, nature, jobs, and incomes in AP by 2050.
 - One vision focused on intensifying conventional industrial farming, while the other explored scaling up **natural farming (agroecology)**.
 - The goal was to compare the implications of these two pathways and assess their coherence.
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- What is Natural Farming?
 - **About & Objective:** Natural farming is a **chemical-free approach** that relies on locally available resources, including desi cow dung and urine, and emphasises traditional, indigenous practices.
 - It eliminates the use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, **promoting on-farm biomass recycling, including mulching, and pest management** through biodiversity, botanical concoctions, and exclusion of all synthetic chemicals.

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- **Current Scenario:** Several states, including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala, have already adopted natural farming and developed successful models.
 - While still in its initial stages, **the natural farming system is steadily gaining acceptance** within the farming community.
- 



COMPONENTS OF NATURAL FARMING



Beejamrit

The process includes treatment of seed using cow dung, urine and lime based formulations.

Whapasa

The process involves activating earthworms in the soil in order to create water vapor condensation.



Jivamrit



The process enhances the fertility of soil using cow urine, dung, flour of pulses and jaggery concoction.

Mulching

The process involves creating micro climate using different mulches with trees, crop biomass to conserve soil moisture.

Plant Protection

The process involves spraying of biological concoctions which prevents pest, disease and weed problems and protects the plant and improves their soil fertility.

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- Why Should Natural Farming be Adopted?
 - **Employment Impact:** As per the **FAO**, by 2050, **natural farming will employ twice as many farmers as industrial agriculture**, with 10 million farmers in natural farming compared to 5 million in industrial farming.
 - This shift would reduce unemployment, which is **projected to rise to 30% in the industrial agriculture scenario**, while in the natural farming scenario, unemployment would drop to 7%.
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- Farmer Income:
 - Natural farming is expected to be more profitable for farmers due to lower production costs (seeds, chemicals, irrigation, credit, and machinery) and better market prices for high-quality produce.
 - The **income gap between farmers and non-farmers** would narrow significantly—from **62% in 2019 to 22% in 2050** under natural farming. This is nearly half the income gap of 47% expected in the industrial agriculture scenario by 2050.



Land Use and Biodiversity: Under natural farming, the total cultivated area in 2050 would be 8.3 million hectares, compared to 5.5 million hectares under industrial agriculture.

Nutritional Benefits: Despite slightly lower yields per hectare, natural farming would produce more nutritious food per capita (5,008 kilocalories/day) compared to industrial agriculture (4,054 kilocalories/day).

08

Encourage biodiversity

07

Supports animal health and welfare

06

Discourage algae blooms

05

Supports water conservation & water health



Discourage environmental exposure to pesticides & chemicals

01

Builds healthy soil

02

Helps combat erosion

03

Fights the effects of global warming

04




Challenges Related to Natural Farming?

Inadequate Farmer Training and Handholding

Cumbersome Certification Process

Poor Marketing Linkages:

Insufficient Funding and Policy Support





Domestic Systemically
Important Banks (D-
SIBs)



Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) retained the State Bank of India, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).

The Reserve Bank designated SBI and ICICI Bank as D-SIBs in 2015 and 2016, and HDFC Bank joined them in 2017.

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- What are the Key Points About D-SIBs?
 - **About:** D-SIBs are banks that are considered '**Too Big to Fail**' (TBTF) within the domestic economy due to their **size, complexity, and interconnections** with the financial system.
 - These banks are classified based on the **potential economic disruption** if they fail.


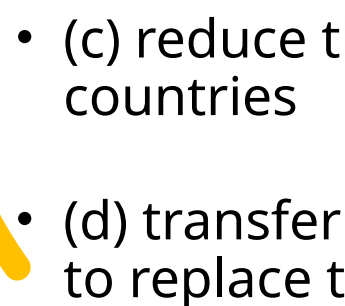
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- Importance:
 - D-SIBs are subjected to additional regulatory measures like capital buffers, stress tests, and recovery and resolution planning to enhance their resilience and ability to withstand financial shocks.
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- **Bucketing Structure:** D-SIBs are classified into different **buckets** based on their **systemic importance scores**.
 - **Bucket 1** represents the **lowest risk**, while **Bucket 4** represents the **higher risk**.
 - The **RBI** has placed **SBI** in **bucket 4**, **HDFC Bank** in **bucket 3** and **ICICI Bank** in **bucket 1**.



Global Systemically Important Banks (G-SIBs): G-SIBs are large international banks whose failure would have a global impact.

As of **2023**, there are **29 G-SIBs** including **JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, Citigroup, HSBC, Agricultural Bank of China, Bank of China, Barclays and BNP Paribas.**

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- **'Basel III Accord' or simply 'Basel III', often seen in the news, seeks to (2015)**
 - (a) develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
 - (b) improve banking sector's ability to deal with financial and economic stress and improve risk management
 - (c) reduce the greenhouse gas emissions but places a heavier burden on developed countries
 - (d) transfer technology from developed countries to poor countries to enable them to replace the use of chlorofluorocarbons in refrigeration with harmless chemicals
- 



Europe's Digital Euro

The European Central Bank (ECB) has introduced the digital euro as a new central bank digital currency (CBDC), designed to modernise the payment landscape in Europe.

The digital euro aims to facilitate direct payments without intermediary banks or gateways, functioning as a digital version of cash that enables peer-to-peer transactions, even offline, while maintaining a level of anonymity similar to cash.

- Issued directly by the ECB, this CBDC is designed to **lower transaction costs**, including for **micro-payments** which are currently expensive with traditional banks.
- The ECB envisions the digital euro as a **counterbalance to non-European payment providers** and a tool to strengthen **Europe's digital sovereignty** against global competitors, especially US companies.

DIGITAL RUPEE

- A digital version of Indian rupee
- Also known as e-rupee, Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)
- A centrally owned digital currency, **unlike privately owned cryptos**
- **Offline functionality proposed** - one can transact without the internet

Advantages

- **No or Minimal Disruption** to the financial system
- **Free of Risk:** Offers people the experience of dealing in currency in digital form, minus the risks seen with cryptos
- **Reasonable Anonymity:** Offers reasonable anonymity for small value transactions akin to physical cash

Issues

- Cyber security
- Privacy and issue of Data use
- Digital Divide
- Uncompetitive step vis-a-vis other market players like Visa, Mastercard, etc.



Roll Out Plan

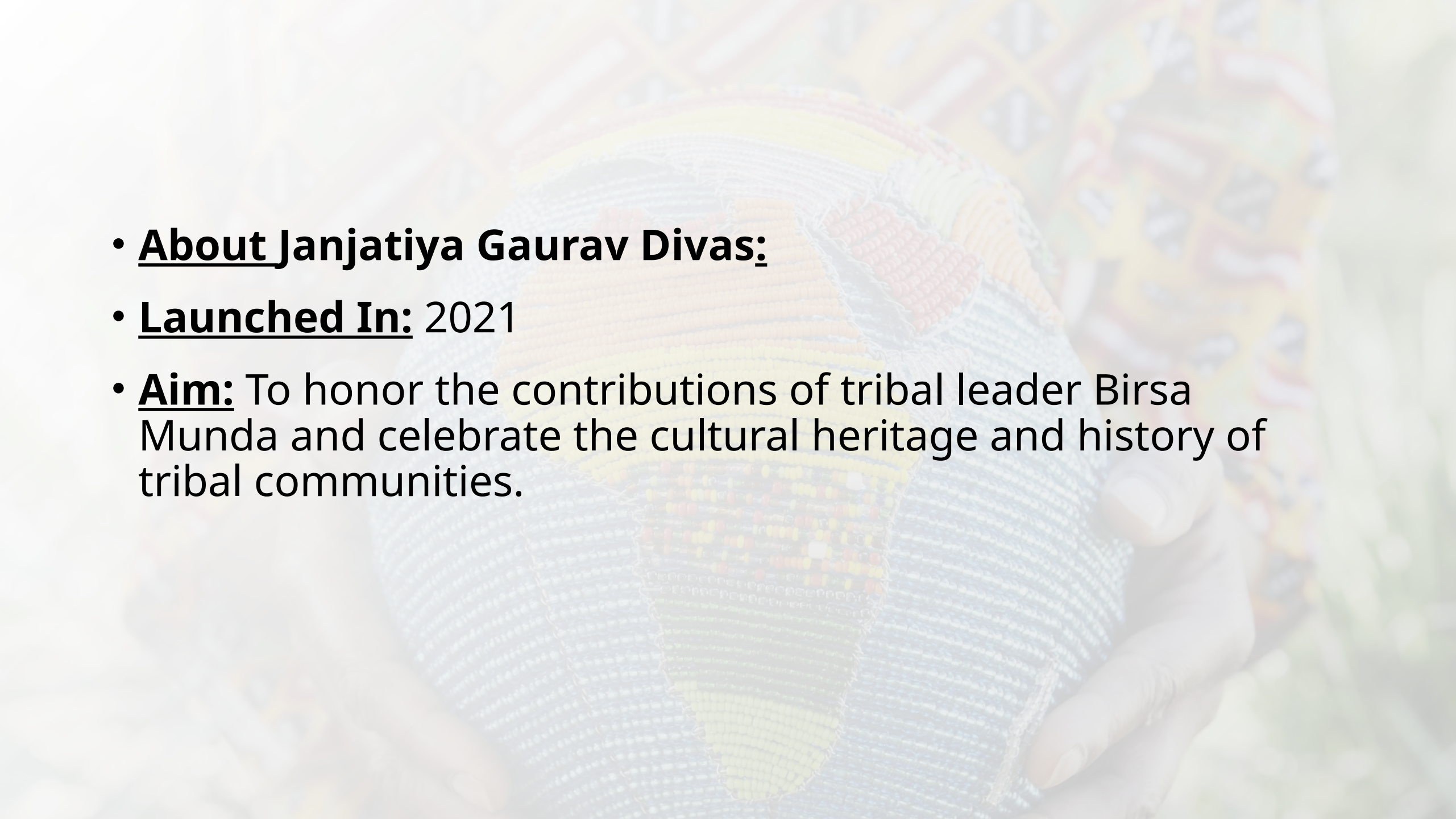
- **Wholesale:** For restricted access to select financial bodies, also called **CBDC-W**.
 - Targets to make settlement systems more efficient and secure
 - It could be account-based
- **Retail:** It would be potentially available for use by all also called **CBDC-R**.
 - It could offer safer means of digital payment for citizens
 - This could likely be token-based, akin to cash

- **Ten countries have launched CBDC (July 2022)**
First was Bahamian Sand Dollar in 2020 and the latest was Jamaica's JAM-DEX


Birsa Munda

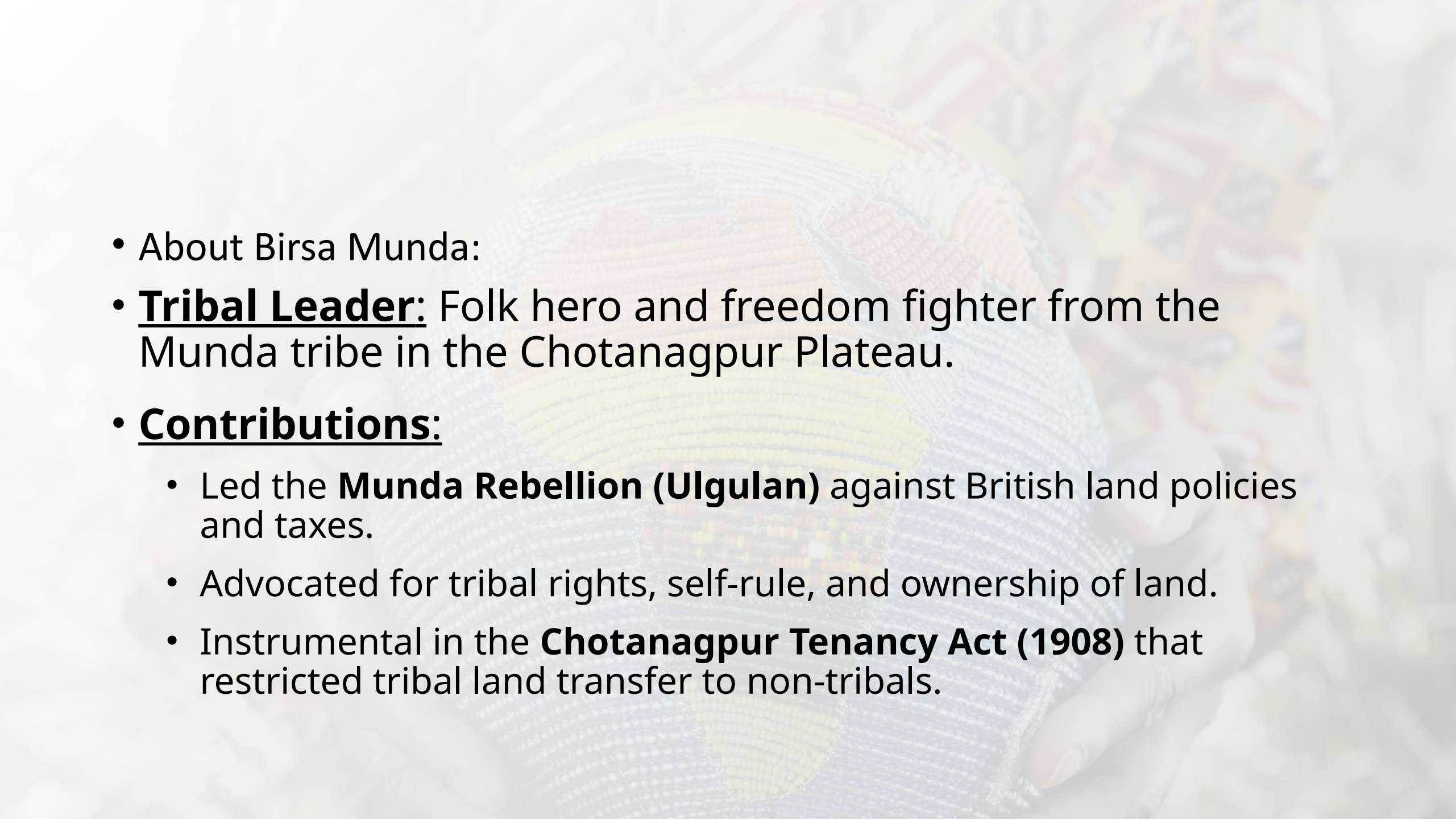


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- To honor the 150th birth anniversary of tribal leader Birsa Munda, Prime Minister will interact with beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyay Maha Abhiyan and launch the 'Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan' to uplift tribal communities across India.
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- A person is holding a large, colorful, woven basket. The basket is made of a blue and white grid pattern with various colored sections in yellow, orange, and red. The person's hands are visible at the bottom right, holding the basket. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and white, suggesting an outdoor setting.
- **About Janjatiya Gaurav Divas:**
 - **Launched In:** 2021
 - **Aim:** To honor the contributions of tribal leader Birsa Munda and celebrate the cultural heritage and history of tribal communities.



- 
- A hand holding a colorful, woven basket with a globe pattern. The basket is made of blue, yellow, and red threads, and the globe is visible through the mesh. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and white.
- **About Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan:**
 - **Objective:** To enhance the socio-economic well-being of tribal communities through targeted development programs.
 - **Scope:** National campaign focusing on education, healthcare, employment, and preservation of tribal traditions.
 - **Significance:** Encourages inclusive development and empowerment of tribal regions.

- 
- A woman in traditional Indian attire, including a yellow and red sari, is holding a large, colorful woven basket. The basket is filled with various items, including what appears to be a small, colorful woven object. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting.
- About Birsa Munda:
 - **Tribal Leader**: Folk hero and freedom fighter from the Munda tribe in the Chotanagpur Plateau.
 - **Contributions**:
 - Led the **Munda Rebellion (Ulgulan)** against British land policies and taxes.
 - Advocated for tribal rights, self-rule, and ownership of land.
 - Instrumental in the **Chotanagpur Tenancy Act (1908)** that restricted tribal land transfer to non-tribals.

Religious Role:



- Founded the **Birsait faith**, emphasizing monotheism and tribal traditions.
- Revered as '**Dharti Aba**' (**Father of the Earth**) among tribal followers.

Legacy:

- Passed away at age 25 in 1900.
- His birth anniversary, November 15, is celebrated as **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas**.
- The state of Jharkhand was created on his birth anniversary in 2000 in his honor.




Student Direct Stream (SDS) Visa Program

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- The Canadian government recently announced the discontinuation of the Student Direct Stream (SDS) visa program, impacting a significant number of Indian students who seek higher education in Canada.
 - **About SDS**
 - **Country:** Canada
 - **Launched:** 2018
 - **What is SDS Visa:** A fast-track study permit application program for students from select countries, including India, offering expedited visa processing.
- 





- **Features:**

- Faster processing time for eligible students (reduced from months to weeks).
 - Lower application fees compared to regular student visas.
 - Simplified documentation requirements (proof of funds, English proficiency, admission to a Designated Learning Institution).
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Solomon Islands

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- Scientists have uncovered the largest coral colony on Earth in the **Solomon Islands**, offering insights into marine ecosystems' resilience and the threats posed by climate change
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INDONESIA

**PAPUA
NEW GUINEA**

**FEDERATED STATES
OF MICRONESIA**

NAURU

KIRIBATI

**SOLOMON
ISLANDS**

TUVALU

HONIARA

**CORAL
SEA**

VANUATU

FIJI

**NEW CALEDONIA
(FRANCE)**

AUSTRALIA

PACIFIC OCEAN

- **New Discovery of Coral Colony:**
- **Location:** Solomon Islands, Southwest Pacific Ocean.
- **Region and Depth:** Found 42 feet underwater, near the Macquarie Ridge.
- **Size and Structure:** Measures **112 feet by 105 feet**, rising 16 feet above the ocean floor.
- **Age:** Estimated to be around **300 years old** or older.

Features: Composed of hard coral Pavona clavus, with colors ranging from brown, yellow, red, pink, and blue. Often referred to as “shoulder blade coral.”


Discovery: Made during an October 2024 expedition by National Geographic’s Pristine Seas team.



- About Corals:

- Nature: Corals are **sessile animals** that attach permanently to the ocean floor.

- Symbiosis: Corals share a mutualistic relationship with algae (**zooxanthellae**), which provide nutrients through photosynthesis.




Structure:

- **Polyps:** Individual coral animals that form large colonies.
- **Skeletons:** Hard corals create reefs with limestone skeletons, providing habitats for marine life.

Classification: Divided into **hard corals** (reef-building) and **soft corals** (non-reef-building).

Ecological role:

- Serve as **rainforests of the sea**, home to thousands of marine species.
- Play a crucial role in marine biodiversity and shoreline protection.

A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, with a blueish tint. An orange horizontal bar is visible in the top left corner.

Thank you
guys.
