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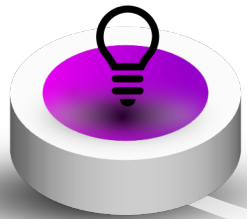
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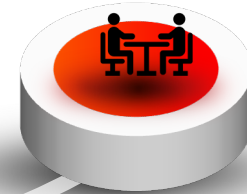
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CLIMATE CHANGE
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NEWS » PAGE 14



PARLIAMENT LOGJAM
House stays stalled over Rahul remarks
NEWS » PAGE 12



THE INDIAN MUSLIM
Undermined by religious absolutism
Blinkered advisories need to be questioned
EDITORIAL » PAGE 8



WARRIORZ QUALIFY
Harris powers U.P. side into the playoffs
SPORT » PAGE 17

'Severity of COVID variant XBBL16 is not alarming'

Hindu Shajan Perappattan
NEW DELHI

A newly detected variant of the COVID-19 virus is behind the current surge in cases across the country, confirmed experts, adding that there is currently no "alarming severity" that is being reported.

The XBBL16 variant, first identified in January, is being monitored. Dr. Saumitra Das, co-chair of the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), told *The Hindu*: "We don't have enough data right now to understand this fully, but we need to keep our guard up and mask on," he added.

Dr. Das said with the natural immunity and vaccination cover that most Indians enjoy, it was certain that new variants would not have a free run.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Kishida calls for unified stand on global order

Japanese Prime Minister discusses Ukraine issue, G7 and G-20 agendas and bilateral ties with PM Modi during his visit to India to launch the 'New Plan for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific'

Suhasini Haider
NEW DELHI

Russia's war in Ukraine "obliges" Japan and India to take a common stand on the importance of maintaining the international order, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said here on Monday.

Mr. Kishida and PM Narendra Modi discussed coordinating the agendas of the G-7, to be held in Hiroshima in May, and the G-20, to be held in Delhi in September, on a number of issues like debt financing, food and energy security.

Mr. Modi accepted Mr. Kishida's request to be one of the special invitees to the G-7 summit of the world's seven most developed countries on May 19-21. Among other special in-



Deepening ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese PM Fumio Kishida at Buddha Jayanti Park in New Delhi. PTI

Vites announced on Monday are leaders of Brazil, Indonesia, Australia, South Korea, Vietnam, the Cook Islands and Comoros.

Mr. Kishida's remarks were significant as they came the same day Chinese President Xi Jinping landed in Moscow to discuss the Ukraine conflict with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"I explained in detail to Prime Minister Kishida about the priorities of India's G-20 Presidency. Giving voice to the priorities of Global South is an important pillar of our G-20 Presidency," said Mr. Modi, in a statement at Delhi's Hyderabad House after their meeting. "The India-Japan Special Partnership and Global Partnership is based on

our shared democratic values, and respect for the rule of law in the international arena," he added.

"I reaffirmed with Prime Minister Modi our commitment to strongly upholding international order based on the rule of law," said Mr. Kishida, adding that views of the G-7 and G-20 groupings concur on issues like "development finance, food security, climate change and energy".

Speaking to journalists, Japanese Cabinet Secretary for Public Affairs Noriyuki Shikata said Mr. Kishida was "straightforward" about the fact that no country should "condone" a unilateral change in the status quo anywhere in the world.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Consulate vandalised in San Francisco; India lodges protest with U.S.

Sriram Lakshman
Kallol Bhattacharjee
LONDON/NEW DELHI

India lodged a strong protest on Monday with the United States over vandalism by pro-Khalistan elements targeting its consulate in San Francisco. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) summoned Charge d'Affaires Elizabeth Jones and reminded the U.S. of its "basic obligation" to protect India's diplomatic missions on its territory.

In addition to vandalism in San Francisco and London, there were reports that the Indian High Commissioner to Canada, Sanjay Kumar Verma, had to cancel an event after sword-wielding individuals gathered at a venue demanding an end to police action against fugitive Waah Punjab De leader Amritpal Singh in Punjab.

THE INCIDENT IN SAN FRANCISCO CAME HOURS AFTER A GROUP OF PRO-KHALISTAN AGITATORS ON SUNDAY PROTESTED AGAINST THE MANHUNT LAUNCHED BY PUNJAB POLICE FOR THE PREACHER AND BROUGHT DOWN THE TRICOLOUR OUTSIDE THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN LONDON. ONE MAN HAD BEEN ARRESTED, ACCORDING TO THE U.K.'S METROPOLITAN POLICE. AN INDIAN DIPLOMAT SAID THE INDIVIDUAL WAS "APPARENTLY RELEASED ON BAIL".

A man was arrested for the Tricolour being brought down outside the Indian High Commission in London, according to the U.K.'s Metropolitan Police

(With PTI inputs)

MORE REPORTS
» PAGE 13

IN BRIEF



Uncertainty over Delhi budget presentation

NEW DELHI
A day before it was to be presented in the Assembly, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday claimed the Centre has put the Delhi government's budget on hold at the "last minute". » PAGE 3

Mamata to meet Naveen today, to visit Delhi soon

KOLKATA
After criticising and ruling out any alliance with the Congress for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is now embarking on a visit to meet leaders of regional parties, starting with Odisha on Tuesday and Delhi thereafter. » PAGE 4

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CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

- **Defense Ties:**

- JIMEX- bilateral naval exercise
- SHINYU Maitri- bilateral air force exercise
- Dharma Guardian- bilateral army exercise
- Malabar- QUAD naval exercise

- रक्षा संबंध:

- JIMEX- द्विपक्षीय नौसैनिक अभ्यास
- शिन्यू मैत्री- द्विपक्षीय वायु सेना अभ्यास
- धर्म संरक्षक- द्विपक्षीय सैन्य अभ्यास
- मालाबार- क्वाड नौसैनिक अभ्यास

- **Economic Ties:** A test of the reliability of Japan as a friend was witnessed in **1991** when Japan was among the few countries that **bailed India out of the balance of payment crisis**.
 - In recent years, the economic relationship between Japan and India has steadily expanded and deepened. The volume of trade between the two countries has increased. **Japan was the 12th largest trading partner for India in 2020.**
 - Also, direct investment from Japan to India has increased, and Japan was the **4th largest investor in India in FY2020.**
- आर्थिक संबंध: एक मित्र के रूप में जापान की विश्वसनीयता का परीक्षण 1991 में देखा गया था जब जापान उन कुछ देशों में से था जिसने भारत को भुगतान संकट के संतुलन से बाहर निकाला था।
- हाल के वर्षों में, जापान और भारत के बीच आर्थिक संबंध लगातार विस्तारित और गहरे हुए हैं। दोनों देशों के बीच व्यापार की मात्रा में वृद्धि हुई है। जापान 2020 में भारत के लिए 12वां सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक भागीदार था।
- साथ ही, जापान से भारत में प्रत्यक्ष निवेश बढ़ा है, और वित्त वर्ष 2020 में जापान भारत में चौथा सबसे बड़ा निवेशक था।

- **Health-Care:** In view of the similarities and synergies between the goals and objectives of **India's [AYUSHMAN Bharat Programme](#) and Japan's AHWIN**, both sides had been consulting with each other to identify projects to build the narrative of AHWIN for AYUSHMAN Bharat.

- स्वास्थ्य-देखभाल: भारत के आयुषमान भारत कार्यक्रम और जापान के AHWIN के लक्ष्यों और उद्देश्यों के बीच समानता और तालमेल को देखते हुए, दोनों पक्ष आयुषमान भारत के लिए AHWIN की कहानी बनाने के लिए परियोजनाओं की पहचान करने के लिए एक-दूसरे से परामर्श कर रहे थे।

- **Investment and ODA:** India has been the largest recipient of the Japanese [Official Development Assistance\(ODA\)](#) Loan for the past decades. **Delhi Metro** is one of the most successful examples of Japanese cooperation through the utilization of ODA.

-

- निवेश और ओडीए: भारत पिछले दशकों से जापानी आधिकारिक विकास सहायता (ओडीए) ऋण का सबसे बड़ा प्राप्तकर्ता रहा है। दिल्ली मेट्रो ओडीए के उपयोग के माध्यम से जापानी सहयोग के सबसे सफल उदाहरणों में से एक है।

- India's **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC)** project is funded by a soft loan provided by Japan International Cooperation Agency under **Special terms for economic partnership (STEP)**.
 - Besides, Japan and India had committed to build a **High-Speed Railways in India by introducing Japan's Shinkansen System**.
 - **India Japan Nuclear Deal 2016** will help India build the six nuclear reactors in southern India, increasing nuclear energy capacity ten-fold by 2032.
-
- भारत का वेस्टर्न डेडिकेटेड फ्रेट कॉरिडोर (DFC) परियोजना आर्थिक साझेदारी (STEP) के लिए विशेष शर्तों के तहत जापान इंटरनेशनल कोऑपरेशन एजेंसी द्वारा प्रदान किए गए साफ्ट लोन द्वारा वित्त पोषित है।
 - इसके अलावा, जापान और भारत ने जापान की शिंकानसेन प्रणाली की शुरुआत करके भारत में हाई-स्पीड रेलवे बनाने का वादा किया था।
 - भारत जापान परमाणु समझौता 2016 भारत को दक्षिणी भारत में छह परमाणु रिएक्टर बनाने में मदद करेगा, जिससे 2032 तक परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षमता दस गुना बढ़ जाएगी।

- **Within India:** Japan has been a leading financial donor in the form of **ODA (Official Development Assistance)** to India.
 - It continues to maintain a high degree of interest and support for India's mega infrastructure projects like the **Delhi-Mumbai Freight Corridor, Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, Chennai-Bangalore Industrial Corridor and the Ahmedabad-Mumbai High Speed Rail**
 - **Outside India: Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGR)** announced in 2017 and joint projects in some third countries like Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka and in Africa as well will be taken jointly.
-
- भारत के भीतर: जापान भारत के लिए ओडीए (आधिकारिक विकास सहायता) के रूप में एक अग्रणी वित्तीय दाता रहा है।
 - यह दिल्ली-मुंबई फ्रेट कॉरिडोर, दिल्ली-मुंबई इंडस्ट्रियल कॉरिडोर, चेन्नई-बैंगलोर इंडस्ट्रियल कॉरिडोर और अहमदाबाद-मुंबई हाई स्पीड रेल जैसी भारत की मेगा इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर परियोजनाओं के लिए उच्च स्तर की रुचि और समर्थन बनाए रखना जारी रखता है।
 - भारत के बाहर: एशिया-अफ्रीका ग्रोथ कॉरिडोर (एएजीआर) 2017 में घोषित किया गया और कुछ तीसरे देशों जैसे बांग्लादेश, म्यांमार और श्रीलंका और अफ्रीका में भी संयुक्त परियोजनाओं पर संयुक्त रूप से काम किया जाएगा।

- Problems

- **Rising China's Dominance:** China does not shy away from making efforts to block the rise of India and Japan, including by stepping up military pressure on them and **opposing their [UN Security Council's permanent membership](#)**.
- **Influence of China-America Rivalry:** The intensification of Chinese-American rivalry contributes to **disturbance of regional security in the Indo-Pacific**.

- समस्या

- चीन का बढ़ता प्रभुत्व: चीन भारत और जापान के उदय को रोकने के प्रयास करने से नहीं हिचकिचाता है, जिसमें उन पर सैन्य दबाव बढ़ाना और उनकी संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद की स्थायी सदस्यता का विरोध करना शामिल है।
- चीन-अमेरिका प्रतिद्वंद्विता का प्रभाव: चीनी-अमेरिकी प्रतिद्वंद्विता की तीव्रता भारत-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा की गड़बड़ी में योगदान करती है।

- **Consider the following countries: (2018)**

1. Australia

2. Canada

3. China

4. India

5. Japan

6. USA

- **Which of the above are among the 'free-trade partners' of ASEAN?**

- **(a)** 1, 2, 4 and 5

- **(b)** 3, 4, 5 and 6

- **(c)** 1, 3, 4 and 5

- **(d)** 2, 3, 4 and 6

21st March

On the Occasion of International Day of Forests

Chhattisgarh Government

Launches

Mukhyamantri



Vriksha Sampada Yojana

Nation's First Ever

Large-scale Commercial Plantation Drive



Shri Bhupesh Baghel
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh

23,600 farmers across all 33 districts set to carry out commercial tree plantation on 36,230 acres of land

For the first time in the country, there will be guaranteed procurement of trees of identified species at the minimum support price

Target to plant trees on 180,000 acres of land within the next five years

Harness the untapped potential of the wood-based industry

Farmers can earn additional annual income of upto ₹50,000


Potential for additional income by monetizing the carbon credits

- **History**

The history of the International Day of Forests can be traced back to 1971 when the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) established World Forestry Day. The day was established to create and raise awareness of the importance of forests for people and the planet.

- इतिहास अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वन दिवस का इतिहास 1971 में देखा जा सकता है जब संयुक्त राष्ट्र के खाद्य और कृषि संगठन (FAO) ने विश्व वानिकी दिवस की स्थापना की थी। लोगों और ग्रह के लिए वनों के महत्व के बारे में जागरूकता पैदा करने और बढ़ाने के लिए इस दिन की स्थापना की गई थी।

In 2011, the United Nations declared the years 2011 to 2020 as the International Decade of Forests. Its objective was to promote sustainable management, conservation, and development of all types of forests. In the year 2012, the International Day of Forests was established.



2011 में, संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने वर्ष 2011 से 2020 को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वन दशक घोषित किया। इसका उद्देश्य सभी प्रकार के वनों के सतत प्रबंधन, संरक्षण और विकास को बढ़ावा देना था। वर्ष 2012 में, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वन दिवस की स्थापना की गई थी।

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- The theme for 2023 is '*forests and health.*'

- **Forest Conservation**

Forests are essential for maintaining the ecological balance and mitigating climate change. Here are some ways you can help protect forests:

- ◆ Reduce paper usage by using electronic documents.
- ◆ Prefer recycled products over nonbiodegradable ones.

- 2023 की थीम 'जंगल और स्वास्थ्य' है।

- वन संरक्षण वन पारिस्थितिक संतुलन बनाए रखने और जलवायु परिवर्तन को कम करने के लिए आवश्यक हैं। यहाँ कुछ तरीके दिए गए हैं जिनसे आप वनों की रक्षा में मदद कर सकते हैं: ◆ इलेक्ट्रॉनिक दस्तावेजों का उपयोग करके कागज का उपयोग कम करें। ◆ गैर-जैवनिम्नीकरणीय उत्पादों की तुलना में पुनर्नवीनीकृत उत्पादों को प्राथमिकता दें।

- ◆ Reduce meat consumption as it is one of the leading causes of deforestation.
- ◆ Educate people around you to adopt an eco-friendly approach towards nature.
- ◆ Promote reforestation efforts to counter the negative effects of deforestation.

◆ मांस की खपत कम करें क्योंकि यह वनों की कटाई के प्रमुख कारणों में से एक है। ◆ प्रकृति के प्रति पर्यावरण के अनुकूल दृष्टिकोण अपनाने के लिए अपने आसपास के लोगों को शिक्षित करें। ◆ वनों की कटाई के नकारात्मक प्रभावों का मुकाबला करने के लिए वनों की कटाई के प्रयासों को बढ़ावा देना।

The wide disparities in human development

India is now one of the fastest-growing economies globally. However, this growth has not resulted in a corresponding increase in its Human Development Index (HDI). The HDI is a composite statistical measure created by the United Nations Development Programme to evaluate and compare the level of human development in different regions around the world. It was introduced in 1990 as an alternative to conventional economic measures such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which do not consider the broader aspects of human development. The HDI assesses a country's average accomplishment in three aspects: a long and healthy life, knowledge, and a decent standard of living. According to the Human Development Report of 2022-22, India ranks 132 out of 191 countries, behind Bangladesh (129) and Sri Lanka (72).

Given India's size and large population, it is critical to address the subnational or State-wise disparities in human development. Doing so will help India realise its demographic dividend. For this purpose, I have developed a new methodology suggested by the UNDP and the National Statistical Office (NSO) which quantifies human development on a subnational level for 2019-20.

Calculating HDI
The HDI is calculated using four indicators: life expectancy at birth, mean years of schooling, expected years of schooling, and Gross National Income (GNI) per capita. Life expectancy, schooling, and GNI per capita are unavailable at the subnational level, gross state domestic product (GSDP) per capita is used as a proxy indicator to measure the standard of living. GSDP (PPP) at constant prices 2011-12 is gathered from the



Nandini Mishra
is senior research fellow at International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai.

Reserve Bank of India's Handbook of Statistics on Indian States. GSDP per capita is estimated using the population projection provided by the Registrar General of India's office. The methodology involves calculating the geometric mean of the normalised indices for the three dimensions of human development while applying the maximum and minimum values recommended by the UNDP and NSO. HDI scores range from 0 to 1, with higher values indicating higher levels of human development.

The subnational HDI shows that while some States have made considerable progress, others continue to struggle. Delhi occupies the top spot and Bihar occupies the bottom spot. Nonetheless, it is worth noting that Bihar, unlike the previous HDI reports, is no longer considered a low human development State.

The five states with the highest HDI scores are Delhi, Goa, Kerala, Sikkim, and Chandigarh. Delhi and Goa have HDI scores above 0.799, which makes them equivalent to countries in Eastern Europe with a very high level of human development. Nineteen states remain a concern. For example, while the country has achieved near-universal enrolment in primary education, the quality of education remains low.

Governments must prioritise human development alongside economic growth to ensure that the benefits of growth are more evenly distributed. This requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses income inequality and gender inequality, improves access to quality social services, addresses environmental challenges, and provides for greater investment in social infrastructure such as healthcare, education, and basic household amenities including access to clean water, improved sanitation and electricity, and Internet in underdeveloped States.

Despite having the highest GSDP per capita among the States, Gujarat and Haryana have failed to translate this advantage into human development and rank 21 and 10, respectively.

Conversely, Kerala stands out with consistently high HDI values over the years, which can be attributed to its high literacy rates, robust healthcare infrastructure, and relatively high income levels. Bihar, however, has consistently held the lowest HDI value among the States with high poverty levels, low literacy rates, and poor healthcare infrastructure being the contributing factors. It is worth noting that the impact of COVID-19 on human development will be known when post-pandemic estimates are available.

Reasons for discrepancies
One of the main reasons for this discrepancy is that economic growth has been unevenly distributed. The top 10% of the Indian population holds over 77% of the wealth. This has resulted in significant disparities in access to basic amenities, healthcare and education. Another reason is that while India has made significant progress in reducing poverty and increasing access to healthcare and education, the quality of such services remains a concern. For example, while the country has achieved near-universal enrolment in primary education, the quality of education remains low.

Governments must prioritise human development alongside economic growth to ensure that the benefits of growth are more evenly distributed. This requires a multi-faceted approach that addresses income inequality and gender inequality, improves access to quality social services, addresses environmental challenges, and provides for greater investment in social infrastructure such as healthcare, education, and basic household amenities including access to clean water, improved sanitation and electricity, and Internet in underdeveloped States.

A fiscal mess in West Bengal

If the Trinamool government not does act soon, the road ahead will be bumpy

STATE OF PLAY

Shiv Sahay Singh
shivsahay@thehindu.co.in

The West Bengal government allocated ₹10,767 crore for Lakshmi Bhandar, a cash transfer scheme to all women in 2022-23. Four schemes of the State's tax revenue for 2022-23. This is 13.6% of the State's tax revenue for 2022-23. Four schemes of the West Bengal government — Lakshmi Bhandar, Kanyashree Prakalpa, Krishak Bandha and Rupashree Prakalpa — made up 23.8% of the tax revenue of the State for 2022-23, according to data published in the Reserve Bank of India's monthly bulletin in June 2022.

On February 15, 2023, when the 2023-24 Budget was tabled in the Assembly, the Trinamool Congress government announced that Lakshmi Bhandar beneficiaries would be linked to the pension scheme when they turn 60. A section of the employees called a strike on March 10, which was largely a success. The Governor, C.V. Ananda Bose, has urged them to withdraw the strike, but the employees insist that he mediate with Chief Minister Manu Bhanu Prasad and bring her to the talking table. Ms. Banerjee had earlier ruled out any DA revision.

Many believe that the populist policies of the State government are responsible for the fiscal mess. The Trinamool government has done out cash to thousands of clubs, whistles and other community Durga Pujas or for promoting sports. While these have helped the party cement its political base, they have hurt the State's finances. The government had to scale down capital expenditure from



₹33,444.37 crore in the Budget for 2022-23 to ₹21,468.37 crore (revised for 2022-23), in terms of per capita GSDP. West Bengal, which is among the bigger States in the country, was ranked 26th for 2019-20. In the same period, it was ranked 17th out of 18 States in terms of size of debt to GSDP ratio.

The State government is unable to pay Dearness Allowance (DA) to its employees on a par with the Centre and other States. The Calcutta High Court had pointed out that DA was the right of State government employees. The employees claim that DA in the State is 35% less than what is given to Central government employees. A section of the employees called a strike on March 10, which was largely a success. The Governor, C.V. Ananda Bose, has urged them to withdraw the strike, but the employees insist that he mediate with Chief Minister Manu Bhanu Prasad and bring her to the talking table. Ms. Banerjee had earlier ruled out any DA revision.

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gram continue to haunt the State. Despite big business names participating in the Bismarck Global Summit for several years, there is no silver lining in the industrial situation of the State.

Industries such as jute and tea, which were the bedrock of the State's economy and provided employment to lakhs of people, are in the doldrums. The poor condition of roads and the crumbling health and education infrastructure are evidence of the lack of capital expenditure.

Out-migration is turning out to be a bigger problem with every passing year. The Trinamool government has not considered any policy interventions to provide employment to the thousands of workers who migrate to States in the west and south. A large share of the population in Bengal survives on remittances and doles offered by the State government. While the cash transfers did help the majority of them to sustain themselves, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Trinamool government needs to think beyond its time-tested formula that has helped it reap political dividends.

Too much dependence on welfare schemes has also led to corruption in implementation of MGNREGA and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The political sluffest between the Centre and State over corruption and the discontinuation of Central funds had not only adversely impacted the State's finances, but has also pushed the beneficiaries to the brink. Eleven years is a long time in governance. If the Trinamool government does not change the gears of its political base and clean up the financial mess, the people will have to brace for a bumpy ride in the years ahead.

The citizenship dilemma over Islamic State women returnees

Of IS affiliates, about 18% men and only 5% of women returned to their country of departure

DATA POINT

Sonikka Loganathan

In 2015, IS-year-old Shamima Begum and two of her friends left East London to join the Islamic State (IS), a Sunni jihadist group. At the time, IS had strongholds in Syria and Iraq and was recruiting members to its "caliphate" through propaganda. IS sometimes the group would reportedly show potential recruits videos of gruesome murders and sometimes they would promise them a utopia where Muslims could live peacefully. Begum claims she promised such a utopia. After joining IS, Begum married an IS fighter. She had three children. All of them later died). In 2019, during the fall of IS, a pregnant Begum said she wanted to return to the U.K., but stopped short of saying she regretted joining the group.

Her apparent lack of remorse shocked British officials who revoked her citizenship. Since then, Begum has repeatedly petitioned U.K. courts to return. Late last month, a court said there was a credible case that Begum was trafficked, but she still posed a threat to national security. Stripping people of their citizenship has become an increasingly popular way of battling terrorism in the post-9/11 world.

Chart 1 shows the share of countries with laws allowing revocation of citizenship to be revoked over disloyalty to one's nation in 2013 and 2020. The share of countries that had such a law in place increased from 52% to 79% in the period. There are many like Begum. Jack Letts or "Jihadi Jack" was stripped of British citizenship but is still a citizen of Canada. Areeb Majeed was arrested after returning to India, but remains a citizen.

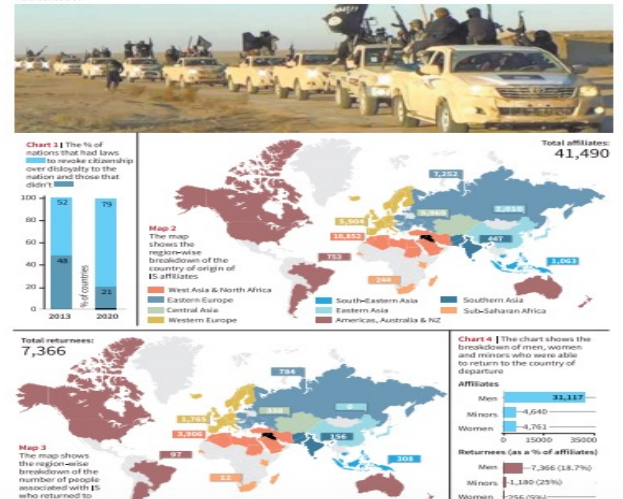
ple associated with IS who returned to their country of departure. Although 41,490 people left their countries to join IS, only 7,366 returned, as per latest estimates. Europe saw the second-highest number of returnees after North Africa. Debates on how to handle such fighters/affiliates are most intense and complicated in these regions.

Apart from recruiting fighters, IS's promise of a utopian society attracted women, minors and sometimes even entire families. While men were mostly fighters, women were used as jihadi brides and carried out "caliphate-building" roles, the role of women and children as people who were not foreign terrorist fighters but were still advancing IS's cause poses a dilemma for officials who examine cases such as Begum's.

Of the returnees, men make up a majority. Of the approximately 31,000 men who were IS affiliates, about 18% were able to return in contrast to just about 5% of women. A report by the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation says there are several reasons for this. Women living under IS were unable to travel without a male guardian and were usually forced to surrender their passports on arrival. For the women, especially if they had children, to trust human smugglers was complicated and risky. The report states that in 2015, only two Western terrorist fighters had returned, compared to 30% of men. Chart 4 shows the breakdown of men, women and minors who were able to return.

The fraught issue of IS returnees

The charts and maps are sourced from the Global Citizenship Observatory and the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The of the Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 21, 1973

Mustard oil price: MP Minister's claim

New Delhi, March 20: In the Lok Sabha to-day, the Government agreed to re-examine its decision to allow the vanaspathi manufacturers to use mustard oil in place of groundnut oil after being grilled by members over the sudden spurt in edible oil prices in Eastern Indian States. The announcement was made by the Minister of State for Food and Agriculture, Mr. Sher Singh, who maintained that the decision did not have any adverse effect on the prices of mustard oil. On the contrary, he said with an increase in mustard seed production of some six lakh tonnes this year, prices had begun registering a downward trend this March. The Congress and Opposition members from the Eastern States contested the Minister's claim. Mr. Shashi Bhanu Singh accused that the Agriculture Ministry was giving "false statistics". Members from all sides said the prices had gone up by Rs. two a kilo. The Minister replied in the negative when asked whether the vanaspathi manufacturers of Gujarat were buying mustard seeds in large quantities to thereby creating scarcity in mustard oil.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 21, 1923

Leprosy in India

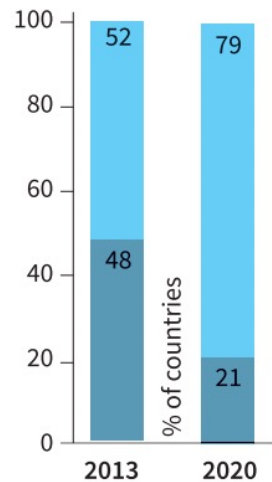
Leaflet (Oxford) midnight March 20: Lecturing on leprosy before the Royal Society of Arts Sir Leonard Rogers related the favourable results on the treatment of disease with chaulmoogra oil and other similar oils such as cod liver oil and royan oil. He said that every case that treated had remained free from all signs of disease for at least five years, while the fatality of the disease had been greatly reduced or completely removed in the successful cases. Sir Leonard Rogers added that hitherto the greatest obstacle in the campaign against leprosy had been the reluctance of patients to apply for treatment which had not been only unsatisfactory, but meant isolation of lepers in asylums. Now, however, this treatment was available which would both ameliorate the condition of lepers and render diseases less infectious. Conditions were completely altered. For the first time in the long struggle against leprosy in Sandwich islands numerous early cases had come forward in more curable stages and asked for new treatment and the same all important change was taking place in children in China.

The fraught issue of IS returnees

The charts and maps are sourced from the Global Citizenship Observatory and the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation



Chart 1 The % of nations that had laws to revoke citizenship over disloyalty to the nation and those that didn't

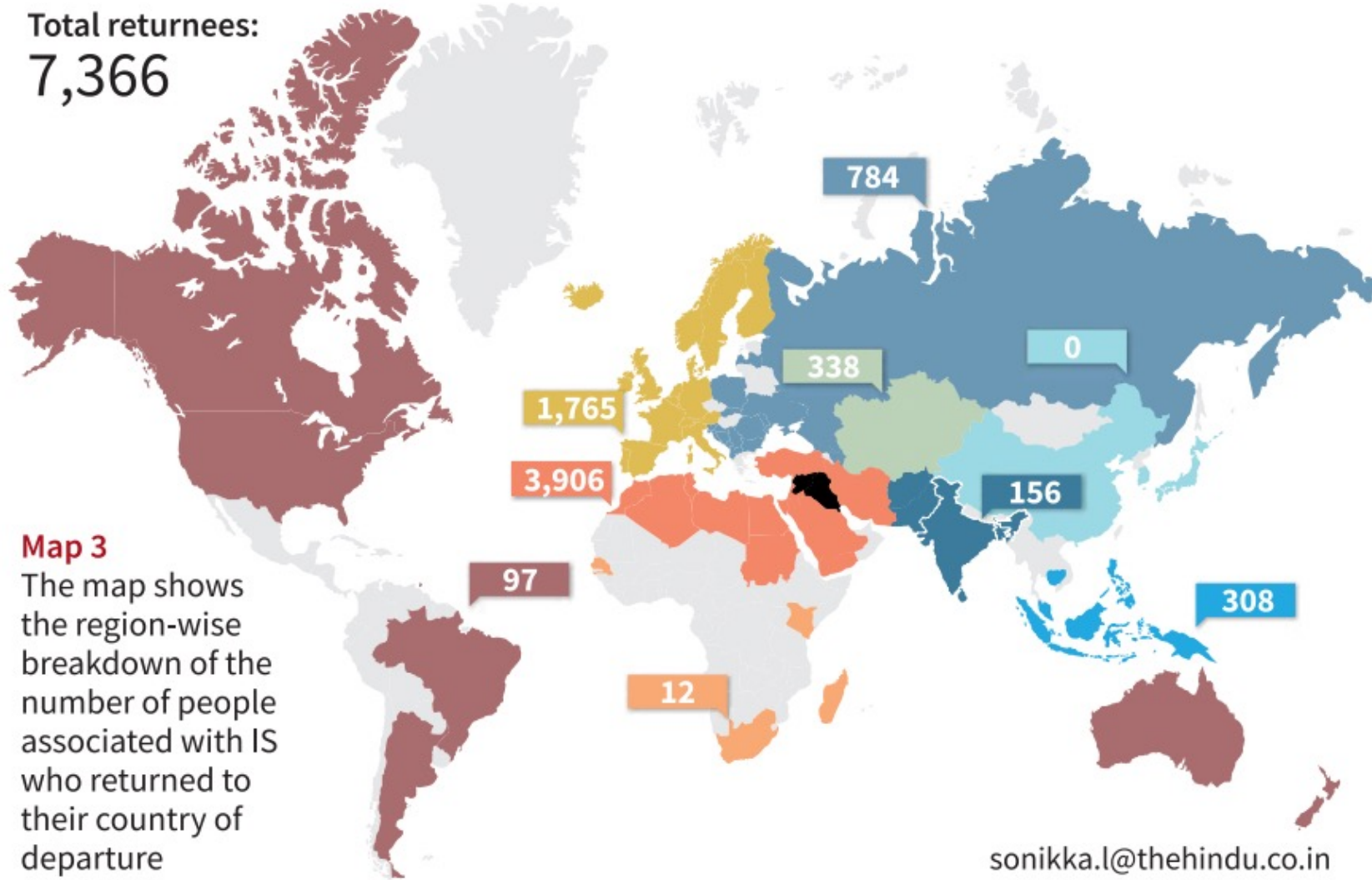


Map 2 The map shows the region-wise breakdown of the country of origin of IS affiliates



Total affiliates:
41,490

Total returnees:
7,366



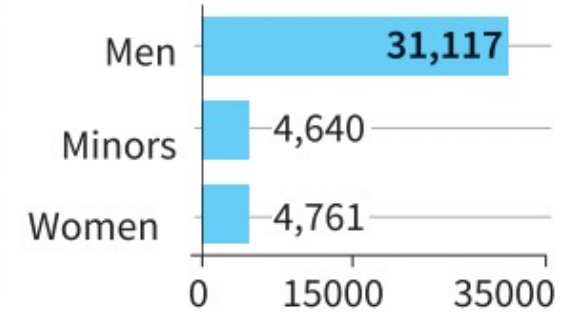
Map 3

The map shows the region-wise breakdown of the number of people associated with IS who returned to their country of departure

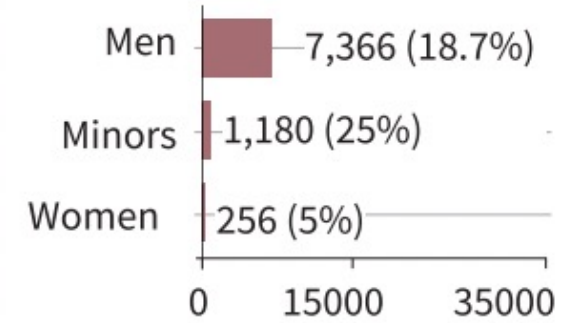
sonikka.l@thehindu.co.in

Chart 4 | The chart shows the breakdown of men, women and minors who were able to return to the country of departure

Affiliates



Returnees (as a % of affiliates)



- MOST HISTORIANS OF the Islamic State agree that the group emerged out of al-Qaeda in Iraq as a response to the U.S. invasion in 2003.
- They also agree that it was shaped primarily by a Jordanian jihadist and the eventual head of al-Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.
- The Jordanian had a dark vision: He wished to fuel a civil war between Sunnis and Shiites and establish a caliphate.
- Although he was killed in 2006, his vision was realized in 2014—the year ISIS overran northern Iraq and eastern Syria.

- इस्लामिक स्टेट के अधिकांश इतिहासकार इस बात से सहमत हैं कि समूह 2003 में अमेरिकी आक्रमण की प्रतिक्रिया के रूप में इराक में अल-कायदा से उभरा।
- वे यह भी मानते हैं कि इसे मुख्य रूप से एक जॉर्डन के जिहादी और इराक में अल-कायदा के प्रमुख अबू मुसाब अल-जरकावी द्वारा आकार दिया गया था।
- जॉर्डन के पास एक गहरी दृष्टि थी: वह सन्नियों और शियाओं के बीच एक गृहयुद्ध को बढ़ावा देने और खिलाफत स्थापित करने की कामना करता था।
- हालांकि वह 2006 में मारा गया था, लेकिन उसकी दृष्टि 2014 में साकार हुई—जिस साल आईएसआईएस ने उत्तरी इराक और पूर्वी सीरिया पर कब्जा कर लिया।

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NAIROBI
Several held as Kenya Opposition leads anti-government protests



At least three Kenyan legislators and several protesters were held in protests in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, organised by the Opposition demanding the resignation of President William Ruto. Opposition leader Raila Odingo announced weekly demonstrations until the President resigns or the cost of living goes down.

BANGKOK
Thailand Prime Minister dissolves Parliament and calls for election



Thailand Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha dissolved Parliament, setting up a general election in May as the former coup leader seeks to extend Army-backed rule. The vote pits unpopular former Army chief Prayut, who came to power in a 2014 putsch, against the daughter of billionaire former PM Thaksin Shinawatra, who

DUBAI
Yemen groups agree to prisoner swap as peace efforts accelerate



Yemen's Houthi rebels and the internationally recognised government agreed in Switzerland to swap more than 800 prisoners, as efforts accelerate to end the war. The move comes as a result of the restoration of ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia, who have supported the opposing sides in the conflict.

MOSCOW
Russia opens criminal probe into ICC after arrest warrant on Putin



Russia said it had opened a criminal probe into international Criminal Court prosecutor Karim Khan after the court based in The Hague issued an arrest warrant for President Vladimir Putin. Russia said that the case was mounted against Khan and several other judges based on their "unlawful" decision to seek Putin's arrest.

EU to chalk out €2-bn ammunition plan for Kyiv

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

European Union ministers were set to sign off on Monday on a €2-billion plan to raid their stockpiles and jointly purchase desperately needed artillery shells for Ukraine in the war against Russia. Ukraine has told the EU it wants 3,50,000 shells a month. Foreign and Defence ministers meeting in Brussels are expected to agree on a multipronged initiative aimed at providing Ukraine with one million shells in the next year and replenishing own stocks. Meanwhile, the U.S. announced \$350 million in new military aid for Ukraine, including ammunition for HIMARS rocket launchers and Bradley armored fighting vehicles.

Xi in Moscow for talks with Putin on ties, Ukraine conflict

Xi says he is confident that the visit will be fruitful and give new momentum to the development of Chinese-Russian relations; Kremlin says Beijing's Ukraine peace plan will be discussed

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Xi Jinping hailed his landmark visit to Moscow on Monday as giving "new momentum" to Chinese-Russian ties ahead of talks with Vladimir Putin on Beijing's proposals to stop the fighting in Ukraine. The summit between the Russian President and the Chinese leader comes as Xi seeks to portray himself as a neutral party in the Ukraine conflict. Washington has accused Beijing of mulling arms exports to Russia, while China has vociferously denied. Landing at Moscow's Vnukovo Airport, Xi was greeted by Deputy



Peace push: Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin shake hands at the Kremlin in Moscow on Monday.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on a red carpet as a military brass band played the countries' anthems. Russian state media showed Xi and Putin in a healthy and stable development of Chinese-Russian relations. Mr. Xi was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying shortly after landing. "In a world of volatility and transformation, we will continue to work with

Russia to safeguard the international system with the UN at its core," he said. The two leaders are due to discuss China's 12-point position paper on the Ukraine conflict, which includes a call for dialogue and respect for all countries' territorial sovereignty. "One way or another, the issues raised in (Beijing) will be discussed at a high level," which would give the coalition control over who becomes an explainer to a judge before Parliament takes a monthlong holiday break next week. As Israeli and Palestinian delegations were holding talks in Egypt to reduce violence in the West Bank, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich de-

There is no such thing as a Palestinian nation, history, or language: Israel Minister

Associated Press
TEL AVIV

A far-right Israeli Minister claimed there's "no such thing" as a Palestinian people or the overhaul government plowed ahead on Monday with a part of its plan to overhaul the judiciary. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition said it was pushing a key part of the overhaul, which would give the coalition control over who becomes an explainer to a judge before Parliament takes a monthlong holiday break next week. As Israeli and Palestinian delegations were holding talks in Egypt to reduce violence in the West Bank, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich de-



Bezalel Smotrich

livered a speech in Paris, saying the notion of a Palestinian people was artificial. "There is no such thing as a Palestinian nation. There is no Palestinian history. There is no Palestinian language," he said in French late on Sunday. He spoke at a lecture draped with what appeared to be a map of Israel that included

the occupied West Bank and parts of Jordan. Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shuayeb said Mr. Smotrich's remarks were "conclusive evidence of the extremist, racist Zionist ideology that governs the parties of the government."

A far-right settler leader who opposes Palestinian statehood, Mr. Smotrich has a history of offensive statements against the Palestinians. Last month, he called Jewish settlers ransomed through the town in response to a shooting attack that killed two Israelis. Mr. Smotrich later apologized after an international uproar.

Civil society groups call for mediation between Khan and Sharif government

Railo Bhattacherjee
ISLAMABAD

A collective of civil society organisations of Pakistan has offered to mediate between the Shehbaz Sharif government and former PM Imran Khan-led Opposition and urged for inclusive election to end political uncertainty. Over a hundred non-governmental and social organisations, including trade unions and women's rights advocates, have appealed to the political parties to the "confrontation", saying the attitude of the leaders "leaves little room for dialogue" and

over 100 groups appeal to parties to bring down their confrontational rhetoric.

The political crisis is increasingly becoming intricate with the exacerbating the economic woes of the masses. Before things go out of the hands of everybody, we feel extremely concerned about the kind of existential crises that may have very grave consequences for the nation...in the meanwhile, the civil society have

agreed to form an informal group of Mediators to engage with all political parties to start a reconciliation process," said the organisations, calling for an all-party conference.

Pakistan has been witnessing a tug-of-war between Mr. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the coalition government of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and the Pakistan People's Party. The Islamabad police have slapped terror charges on Mr. Khan and 22 of his party colleagues for unlawful riot-like scenes outside the Federal Judicial Complex in the capital on

Saturday when Mr. Khan was expected to appear for the Toshakhana gift case. Calling the breakdown of law and order, the civil society groups said, "therefore with all sincerity and a non-partisan approach, we call upon all political parties, the parliamentary parties in particular to bring down their confrontational and intolerant rhetoric and sit together to sort out their political differences on the holding of election in the greater interests of the nation, the supremacy of the constitution and a mutually agreed peaceful democratic transition."

Taliban chief issues decree against nepotism

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

The supreme leader of the Taliban has issued a decree against nepotism, barring officials in Afghanistan's Taliban administration from hiring relatives in government positions. Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada also ordered all Taliban officials to sack their sons and other relatives who are also working in their administration. The reasons were not revealed but the move followed rumors that many Taliban officials have appointed their sons and relatives in high-ranking government positions rather than professionals or those with experience needed for the posts.

Nepal PM Prachanda wins second vote of confidence in 3 months

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Monday secured a vote of confidence in parliament, winning the second floor test within three months. Prime Minister Prachanda secured 172 votes in the 275-member House of Representatives. Other 89 lawmakers voted against him whereas one abstained. A total of 262 members of the lower house were present in the house. The 68-year-old Maoist leader needed at least 138 votes to stay in power. He secured 278 votes against him. Nepal Workers and Peasants Party abstained.

The French government survived a no-confidence vote on Monday in the lower chamber of parliament and was expected to survive a second, after its push to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64. The no-confidence motion received 278 votes in the National Assembly, falling short of the 287 needed to pass. The no-confidence motions were filed by lawmakers furious that President Emmanuel Macron ordered the use of special constitutional powers to force through an unpopular Bill raising the retirement age without giving them a vote.



Pushpa Kamal Dahal

Macron gov't survives first no-confidence vote in France

Associated Press
PARIS

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Government of Maharashtra Public Works Department P.W. Division, Panvel
To: 22247797
E-Tender Notice No. 92 (Open ONLINE) Mar-2023-23
E-mail address: panvel.ee@mahapwd.gov.in
P.W. Number: 022-2749740
Executive Engineer P.W. Division Panvel. B-1 Tender From Registered Contractor with Govt. of Maharashtra Detail Tender Notice Available On www.mahapwd.gov.in and www.mahatenders.gov.in Portal.
Note - Total 01 Work include in tender notice.
Online Tender Download & Bid Preparation Period Date 20.03.2023 At 10:00 AM to Date 13.04.2023 18:00 PM.
Online Tender Bid Preparation Last Date 13.04.2023 at 18:00 AM.
E-Tender/ON No./P.W./PNL/ Office of the Executive Engineer, Public works Division, Panvel. Sd/-
Dist. Road No. Executive Engineer P.W.Division, Panvel
DG/PR/2023/09947

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
See Section 82 Cr.P.C.
Whereas complaint has been filed before me that one accused Saddam Hausain S/o Taj Mohd., R/o E-80/T-111, Rajive Camp, Jhilmil Colony, East Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FR No. 208/2019 u/s 279/304A IPC** has been registered at P.S. JP Estate, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Saddam Hausain cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Saddam Hausain has absconded (or is concealing himself) to avoid the service of the said warrant, Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Saddam Hausain of **FR No. 208/2019 u/s 279/304A IPC** has been registered at P.S. JP Estate, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 27.05.2023.
By Order
Sh. Vinod Kumar
Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate-03, Court No. 108, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
DP/2925/CJ/2023 (Court Matter)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that one person (public) in heretofore identified in the photo name Sunil Singh Bhatti S/o Deepal Singh R/o Vengra Bostla, Keshavnagar, Fazaal, Kirti Singh, Delhi, age 35 years, was found injured at Tarambala, Opp. DCM Mall, Near Railway Station, Delhi on 13.03.2023, s/o was declared brought dead on 15.03.2023. The said body has been preserved Bhatia No. 156/2023 U/s 302/304 IPC Dated 15.03.2023. The said body has been preserved Bhatia No. 156/2023 U/s 302/304 IPC Dated 15.03.2023.
Hindu Rao Hospital, Delhi. The said body has been preserved Bhatia No. 156/2023 U/s 302/304 IPC Dated 15.03.2023.
His physical description is as under:-
Age: 35 years, Height: 5' 8", Complexion: Wharish, Face: Oval, Build: Slim, Weight: Brown, Hair: Black.
Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following:-
Sd/-
DIBG Road, Delhi.
E-mail: cjc@cjb.gov.in Ph: 011-2361252, 2357374
Tel. No: 011-24368639 Fax No: 011-24368639
DP/2902/CJ/2023

DELTA TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(An Enterprise of NCT of Delhi)
2nd Floor, Mahatma Park, BHT, Khasrawa Gate, Delhi
NOTICE
Applications for the job are invited from interested persons to fill the following posts:-
Sr. Engineer (Mechanical) 01
Sr. Engineer (Electrical) 01
Sr. Engineer (Civil) 01
Sr. Engineer (Mechanical) 01
Sr. Engineer (Electrical) 01
Sr. Engineer (Civil) 01
The last date of receipt of applications is 23.03.2023. Further details regarding the job and application forms are available on the website of the Corporation. The applications should be submitted to the undersigned on or before 23.03.2023. The applications should be submitted to the undersigned on or before 23.03.2023.
By Order
Sd/-
Chief Engineer
DELTA TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
2nd Floor, Mahatma Park, BHT, Khasrawa Gate, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused Amir Seikh @ Salim, S/o Late Tajiul Seikh, R/o Jhilmil near Surya Hotel, Village Rithala, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FR No. 4809/2018, U/s 379/411 IPC**, registered at P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Amir Seikh @ Salim cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Amir Seikh @ Salim, has absconded (or is concealing himself) to avoid the service of said warrant, Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Amir Seikh @ Salim, of case **FR No. 4809/2018, U/s 379/411 IPC**, P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi, is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 06.07.2023.
By order
Navdeep Gupta
Ld. M. M.,
Room No. 108,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
DP/2827/DJ/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 persons namely Surender @ Salander S/o Sunder Lal R/o A-1/446, Sec-6, Rohini, Delhi and C-5/11, Sec-5, Rohini, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide **FR No. 4511/18 Dated 20.09.2018 U/s 392/394/411/34 IPC** registered at P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Surender @ Salander could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused Surender @ Salander has absconded (or is concealing himself) to avoid the service of the said warrant, Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Surender @ Salander is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 21.04.2023.
By Order
Sh. Rohini Devi
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,
Tel. No: 011-24368639 Room No. 108, 1st Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
DP/255/W/2023 (North West), Room No. 108, 1st Floor, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

MOSCOW

Russia opens criminal probe into ICC after arrest warrant on Putin



AP

Russia said that it had opened a criminal probe into International Criminal Court prosecutor Karim Khan after the court based in The Hague issued an arrest warrant for President Vladimir Putin. Russia said that the case was mounted against Khan and several other judges based on their “unlawful” decision to seek Putin’s arrest. AFP

-
- The [International Criminal Court \(ICC\)](#) issued an arrest warrant for war crimes for **President Vladimir Putin** and a second Russian official.
 - This is the first time that the ICC has issued an arrest warrant against one of the **five permanent members of the [United Nation Security Council](#).**
 - अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अपराध न्यायालय (आईसीसी) ने राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन और एक दूसरे रूसी अधिकारी के लिए युद्ध अपराधों के लिए गिरफ्तारी वारंट जारी किया।
 - यह पहली बार है जब आईसीसी ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद के पांच स्थायी सदस्यों में से एक के खिलाफ गिरफ्तारी वारंट जारी किया है।

-
- Why did the ICC Issue an Arrest Warrant against Putin?
 - ICC issued an arrest warrant against Russian President Vladimir Putin for the alleged **war crime of unlawfully deporting and transferring children** from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation.
 - ICC ने पुतिन के खिलाफ गिरफ्तारी वारंट क्यों जारी किया?
 - ICC ने यूक्रेन के कब्जे वाले क्षेत्रों से बच्चों को रूसी संघ में अवैध रूप से निर्वासित करने और बच्चों को स्थानांतरित करने के कथित युद्ध अपराध के लिए रूसी राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन के खिलाफ गिरफ्तारी वारंट जारी किया।

-
- What is ICC?
 - On 17 July, **1998 Rome Statute was adopted by 120 States** in direction of creating a more just world.
 - On 1 July, **2002 Rome Statute took effect upon ratification by 60 states, officially establishing the ICC.** Since it has no retroactive jurisdiction, the ICC deals with crimes committed on or after this date.
 - The Rome Statute, grants the **ICC jurisdiction over four main crimes:**
 - **The crime of Genocide**
 - **Crimes against Humanity**
 - **War crimes**
 - **Crime of Aggression**

-
- The ICC is the **world's first permanent international criminal court**.
 - Currently, **123 countries** are party to the Rome Statute, **India is not a party to Rome Statute along with US and China**.
 - The ICC was established to prosecute the most heinous offenses only when a country's own legal machinery fails to act. Unlike the [International Court of Justice \(ICJ\)](#), which deals with **countries and inter-state disputes**, the ICC prosecutes individuals.
 - ICC दुनिया का पहला स्थायी अंतरराष्ट्रीय आपराधिक न्यायालय है।
 - वर्तमान में, 123 देश रोम संविधि के पक्षकार हैं, भारत अमेरिका और चीन के साथ रोम संविधि का पक्षकार नहीं है।
 - ICC की स्थापना सबसे जघन्य अपराधों पर मुकदमा चलाने के लिए तभी की गई थी जब किसी देश की अपनी कानूनी मशीनरी कार्य करने में विफल रही हो। अंतरराष्ट्रीय न्यायालय (ICJ) के विपरीत, जो देशों और अंतर-राज्यीय विवादों से निपटता है, ICC व्यक्तियों पर मुकदमा चलाता है।

As of March 2023, **Russia is not a party to the Rome Statute**, and therefore, the **ICC has no jurisdiction over crimes committed on its territory**.

However, the ICC can investigate and prosecute crimes committed by individuals from other countries who committed the alleged crimes on the territory of a **state party to the Rome Statute**.

मार्च 2023 तक, रूस रोम संविधि का पक्षकार नहीं है, और इसलिए, आईसीसी के पास अपने क्षेत्र में किए गए अपराधों पर कोई अधिकार क्षेत्र नहीं है।

हालांकि, ICC अन्य देशों के व्यक्तियों द्वारा किए गए अपराधों की जांच और उन पर मकदमा चला सकता है, जिन्होंने रोम संविधि के पक्षकार राज्य के क्षेत्र में कथित अपराध किए हैं।

- Ukraine is also not a State Party to the Rome Statute”, but **it has twice exercised its options to accept ICC’s jurisdiction** over alleged crimes under the Rome Statute, occurring on its territory, **under Article 12(3) of the Statute.**

- युक्रेन भी रोम संविधि के लिए एक राज्य पार्टी नहीं है”, लेकिन इसने दो बार रोम संविधि के तहत कथित अपराधों पर ICC के अधिकार क्षेत्र को स्वीकार करने के अपने विकल्पों का प्रयोग किया है, जो संविधि के अनुच्छेद 12(3) के तहत अपने क्षेत्र में हो रहा है।

- **Article 12(3) states** that if the acceptance of a state that is not a party to the statute, the **state may accept the jurisdiction of the court** for a crime concerned, by **making a declaration to the Registrar and cooperating without any delay or exception.**

- अनच्छेद 12(3) में कहा गया है कि यदि किसी ऐसे राज्य की स्वीकृति जो कानून का पक्ष नहीं है, तो राज्य संबंधित अपराध के लिए न्यायालय के अधिकार क्षेत्र को स्वीकार कर सकता है, रजिस्ट्रार को एक घोषणा करके और बिना किसी देरी या अपवाद के सहयोग कर सकता है .

BANGKOK

Thailand Prime Minister dissolves Parliament and calls for election



REUTERS

Thailand Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha dissolved Parliament, setting up a general election in May as the former coup leader seeks to extend Army-backed rule. The vote pits unpopular former Army chief Prayut, who came to power in a 2014 putsch, against the daughter of billionaire former PM Thaksin Shinawatra. AFP

- Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's new conservative, royalist party faces a strong challenge from the Pheu Thai party, led by exiled former PM Thaksin Shinawatra's daughter Paetongtarn.
- Mr Prayuth, who led a 2014 coup against the last pro-Thaksin government, has trailed in opinion polls for months.
- प्रधान मंत्री प्रयुथ चान-ओचा की नई रूढ़िवादी, शाही पार्टी को निर्वासित पूर्व पीएम थाकसिन शिनावत्रा की बेटी पैतोंगटार्न के नेतृत्व वाली फीयू थाई पार्टी से कड़ी चुनौती का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।
- पिछली समर्थक थाक्सिन सरकार के खिलाफ 2014 के तख्तापलट का नेतृत्व करने वाले श्री प्रयुथ महीनों से जनमत सर्वेक्षणों में पीछे हैं।

Religion (2018) ^[2]	93.5% Buddhism (official) 5.4% Islam 1.13% Christianity 0.02% Hinduism 0.003% no religion
Demonym(s)	Thai, Siamese
Government	Unitary parliamentary semi-democratic ^[3] constitutional monarchy
• Monarch	Vajiralongkorn (Rama X)
• Prime Minister	Prayut Chan-ocha
Legislature	National Assembly
• Upper house	Senate
• Lower house	House of Representatives
Formation	
• Sukhothai Kingdom	1238–1448
• Ayutthaya Kingdom	1351–1767
• Thonburi Kingdom	1767–1782
• Rattanakosin Kingdom	6 April 1782
• Constitutional monarchy	24 June 1932
• Current constitution	6 April 2017
Area	
• Total	513,120 km ² (198,120 sq mi) (50th)
• Water (%)	0.4 (2,230 km ²)



Show globe

Show map of ASEAN

Show all

Location of Thailand (green)

– in [Asia](#) (grey)

– in [ASEAN](#) (grey)

Capital and largest city	Bangkok  13°45′N 100°29′E
Official language and national language	Thai ^[1]
Spoken languages	Thai , Isan , Lanna , Dambro , Karen , Pattani Malay , Bangkok Malay

Population	
• 2022 estimate	69,648,117 ^[4] (20th)
• 2010 census	64,785,909 ^[5] (21st)
• Density	132.1/km ² (342.1/sq mi) (88th)
GDP (PPP)	2022 estimate
• Total	▲ \$1.480 trillion ^[6] (23rd)
• Per capita	▲ \$21,114 ^[6] (73rd)
GDP (nominal)	2022 estimate
• Total	▲ \$534.758 billion ^[6] (28th)
• Per capita	▲ \$7,631 ^[6] (89th)
Gini (2020)	▲ 35.0 ^[7] medium
HDI (2021)	▼ 0.800 ^[8] very high · 66th
Currency	Baht (฿) (THB)

MAP OF THAILAND



50,155 CAPF personnel quit in past five years: Centre

Vijitra Singh
NEW DELHI

More than 50,000 Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel quit service in the past five years, according to data provided by the Union Home Ministry to a parliamentary panel. The highest attrition was in 2022, when 11,884 personnel quit service.

The panel sought to know about the CAPF-wise attrition, including "suicides and missing in action", in the past five years. The Ministry replied that 654 CAPF personnel took their lives between 2018 and 2022. The highest suicide rate was observed in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) followed by the Border Security Force (BSF), Sanjiv Prasad, Astra Seema Bal (SSB), while the lowest rate was in the National Security Guards (NSG). The BSF witnessed the highest attrition in this period, followed by the CRPF, while the lowest was in the SSB.

Rapid action against climate change needed: UN panel

Failing to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius will result in irreversible impact on certain ecosystems, says the IPCC in a report, warns of a 'rapidly closing window of opportunity'

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health and there is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a livable and sustainable future for all, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said in a report on Monday. The UN panel does not itself undertake scientific assessments but only evaluates the state of scientific evidence on various aspects of climate change. The current report does not weigh in on new scientific evidence but synthesises findings from three working groups. It also integrates evidence from three special reports during the sixth assessment cycle. The BSF witnessed the highest attrition in this period, followed by the CRPF, while the lowest was in the SSB.



Mainstreaming equitable climate action will not only reduce damages for nature, it will also provide wider benefits. APF

committed sea level rise, the IPCC said in the report. Certain future changes are "unavoidable and/or irreversible" but could be limited by deep, rapid and sustained global greenhouse gas emissions reduction, it added. "Mainstreaming effective and equitable climate action will not only reduce losses and damages for nature and people, it will also provide wider benefits," IPCC Chair Hoesung Lee said in a statement.

"This synthesis report underscores the urgency of taking more ambitious action and shows that, if we act now, we can still secure a livable sustainable future for all."

Climate justice is crucial because those who have contributed least to climate change are being disproportionately affected, Aditi Mukherji, one of the 93 authors of the report, said.

Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav tweeted that India "welcomed" the report and it "reaffirmed" the principle that historically few developed rich countries were responsible for the crisis. "Role of unsustainable lifestyles and over-consumption have been emphasized... curbing such losses and damages for nature and people, it will also provide wider benefits," he said.

Supreme Court directs govt. to clear ₹28,000-crore OROP arrears by February next year

Krishnadas Balagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday gave the government a "sealed cover" containing documents purportedly to the "financial implications" and "live wire" issues connected to the OROP expenditure.

The hearing saw a three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India D.V. Chandrachud toss back to the government a "sealed cover" containing documents purportedly to the "financial implications" and "live wire" issues connected to the OROP expenditure. "This is not fair. I am personally averse to sealed covers in fundamentally contrary to the judicial process and principle of fair trial. The court has to be transparent..." Chief Justice Chandrachud told Mr. Venkataramani. "The Attorney-General never received any confidential as they con-



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INBRIEF



Interpol takes down Red Notice against Mehul Choksi

In a major setback to Indian agencies, the Interpol has taken down from its website the Red Notice against fugitive diamond merchant Mehul Choksi, who is wanted in connection with the ₹3,578-crore Punjab National Bank fraud cases. The Interpol took the decision following a representation by Mr. Choksi, who has been declared a fugitive by an Indian court, based on its reported finding that there was a possibility that Mr. Choksi's abduction was done with the purpose of getting him back to India.

I&B Ministry blacklists man for fraudulent activities

The Information & Broadcasting Ministry has blacklisted a man for charging money from film festival organisers to facilitate the permission for the exemption of films from the certification requirements for their screening in film festivals. Stating that the man, Santanu Ganguly, had been misguiding various film festival organisers, the order said that he charged money from the organisers "in lieu of facilitation for permission of exemption of films from the certification of certification for their screening in film festivals".

Air India case: victim moves SC for 'zero tolerance' guidelines

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A 72-year-old woman on whom a drunk passenger allegedly relieved himself inside a New York-New Delhi flight, has moved the Supreme Court seeking clear and zero tolerance guidelines for civil authorities and airlines to deal with such "traumatic" incidents.

The senior citizen, represented by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan and advocate Rajul Narayan, said Air India and the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), both, failed to treat her with "care and responsibility" as she was "severely" assaulted and urinated on her during the flight on November 26, 2022.

The woman said the cabin crew "discarded" the handing over of her mobile phone number to the man in order for him to reimburse the cost of shoes, dry-cleaning, etc". The petition said that she was made to sit on the "very same seat" that was wet and smelled of urine".

Scholars, experts from SCO countries discuss ways to revive Buddhist culture

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In a first-of-its-kind event, India hosted a conference last week on 'Shared Buddhist Heritage' under the ambit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), which saw participation of scholars and experts from Russia, China, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Belarus, Bahrain, Myanmar, the United Arab Emirates and Kazakhstan.

The idea also highlights India will also host the World Buddhist Conference in the next few months, officials said.

"Cross-cultural linkages between central Asian and South East Asian nations need to be revived and the spiritual artery of Buddhism remains in India. And the effort for the revival of Buddhist culture to which the SCO can give momentum, given the common linkages despite the divergences," an official said on the sidelines of the conference. The two-day conference on March 14 and 15 was organised by the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of External Affairs and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), as a grantee body of the Ministry of Culture.

Pornographic clip aired at railway station in Bihar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The commuters at the Patna railway station were taken aback on Sunday when a pornographic clip started playing on the LED screens installed on the platform instead of advertisement films.

The bizarre incident left commuters shocked and baffled, a few of whom reported the incident to the Railway Police.

The broadcasting agency, Dutta Studio Private Ltd, has been taken to task by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and two FIRs have been registered against the company. One FIR was registered by the RPF while another under the Information and Technology Act was by Government Railway Police (GRP). An official statement released by East Central Railway (ECR) Zone noted for at least three minutes. A senior official from ECR said that the contract of the GRP agency had been terminated and the agency blacklisted.

CROSSWORD 13818 (set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site at: <https://apps.page.crossword.jp/>

14 Unclear on Victor's exit with fever [4]
15 Group of stars seen off during editing [3,3]
18 Exponent's replace dine with name, it is within reach [4]
20 Principles of schematic rewritten by leading scientist [10]
21 Interruptions in rest, unhappy with son [10]
25 Money, greed essentially leads to depression [6]
26 A century followed by a LW, in front, inconsistent [8]
28 Welsh rabbit was not very sparse in the beginning [8]
Down
1 Cyclonic storm indicator talking head off [8]
2 Sutter with a bird with clipped making cat sound [4]
3 Happiest one giving rewards in advance at Estonia [8]
4 Critical that dog starting late reaches man [6]
5 Frozen cat start to fish [6]
6 Each copper follows one for insight [6]
8 Retro mood? Well rebuild as a defensive fort [8,5]
13 Private tavern at the outskirts of Eater [5]
14 At the start, Allen's low-investing ball interrupted by defence [5]
16 Tyres can burst in race [8]
17 Select new leader to replace daughter in control [8]
19 Right in time, first teacher took article and found mistakes [8]
20 Pet fish led astray [6]
22 Excellent time to send the English to end [1-3]
23 Bantu band's instrument [6]

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

FAITH

Education and knowledge

Thiruvalluvar says that the only indispensable wealth is education. He says a person who shuns learning is akin to an ignorant man. Comparing those who read with those who do not is not an appropriate comparison, for how can one compare man and beast? Animals are not endowed with the faculty to read, but human beings are blessed in this respect. And yet, if we do not use this boon we have, then what difference is there between an animal and us? One way to learn is through listening to someone explain what is contained in literary works, said Malayalam in a discourse.

But if a man is interested only in exercising the faculty of taste and not the faculty of listening, then there is any point in his being alive? It would be better if he were dead, says Thiruvalluvar. Knowledge is of two kinds. There is the knowledge we get from books and through formal education. There is another kind of knowledge, that is spiritual knowledge. For this we need to introspect and analyse ourselves.

Thirumoolar says that he understood the concept of self, and once he understood the self, he had no need to know anything else. And yet a brahmi is never arrogant, despite having understood the purpose and goal of life. A truly educated man always has the feeling that what he has learnt is equal to a fistful of sand. But what he has not studied is as large as the world. Naladiyar says there is a lot to study, but our lifespan is too short for us to study all that we need to. Nanneri says an educated man must not have the manner of a proud bull. Aranericharan says that one must not take pride in the number of books one has read.



Interpol takes down Red Notice against Mehul Choksi

In a major setback to Indian agencies, the Interpol has taken down from its website the Red Notice against fugitive diamond merchant Mehul Choksi, who is wanted in connection with the ₹13,578-crore Punjab National Bank fraud cases. The Interpol took the decision following a representation by Mr. Choksi, who has been declared a fugitive by an Indian court, based on its reported finding that there was a possibility that Mr. Choksi's abduction was done with the purpose of getting him back to India.



Common name Interpol

Abbreviation ICPO-INTERPOL

Motto *Connecting police for a safer world*

Agency overview

Formed 7 September 1923; 99 years ago

Preceding agencies First International Criminal Police Congress (1914)
International Police Conference (1922)
International Criminal Police Commission (1923)

Employees 1,050 (2019)

Annual budget €142 million (2019)

Jurisdictional structure

Jurisdictional structure

International agency

Countries 195 member states



Map of International Criminal Police Organization's jurisdiction

Governing body [General Assembly](#)

Constituting instrument ICPO-INTERPOL Constitution and General Regulations^{[1][2]}

Operational structure

Headquarters [Lyon, France](#)

Multinational agency

Nationalities of personnel 114 (2019)

Agency executives [Jürgen Stock, Secretary-General](#)
[Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi, President](#)
Sarka Havrankova, Garba Baba Umar, Valdecy Urquiza, Vice Presidents

Facilities

National Central Bureaus 195



Former Interpol President 
[Meng Hongwei](#) pleaded guilty
for accepting bribes over 14.5
million yuan or \$2.11
million.^[42]

From Page One

Kishida calls for unified stand on global order

"PM Kishida is clear that today's Ukraine could be tomorrow's Asia," he said, indicating Japan's concerns over China's actions in the Senkaku Islands, South China Sea and Taiwan Straits. Mr. Shikata said the issue of "shared responsibilities" on the rule of law between India and Japan was discussed by the two leaders during bilateral talks. The Japanese Prime Minister went on to launch Japan's "New Plan for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).

Common perspective

"Russia's aggression against Ukraine obliges us to face the most fundamental challenge: defending peace," Mr. Kishida said at the Sapru House lecture organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), adding that it was necessary for countries to build a common perspective on what international order should be. "This was clearly demonstrated by the considerable discrepancies in the attitudes across various countries toward Russia's aggression against Ukraine," Mr. Kishida said, indicating countries like India, that have not criticised Russia's actions openly.

Mr. Kishida praised Mr. Modi's statement from September 2022 that "this era is not of war", and officials said Japan is hopeful India would be more "forthcoming" during the upcoming G-7 summit, which would see a number of documents calling for Russia to end the war in Ukraine. While his appearance has not been confirmed, Ukrainian President Zelensky has reportedly been invited to address the same virtually.

The two leaders, who met again in the evening to visit the Buddha Jayanti park together, also discussed a number of bilateral issues, as well as plans to cooperate on countries in south Asia. They also exchanged documents on the financing of the next (DVth) tranche of Japanese funding for a loan of 300 billion Yen for the Mumbai-Alameda High Speed Rail (MAHSR) or "Bullet Train" project, as well as an MoU on Japanese language education for the MEA. Mr. Kishida also said Japan plans to mobilise a total of U.S. \$75 billion in public and private funds by 2030. In particular, he mentioned about coordinating with India for projects as a part of a "Bay of Bengal-Northeast India industrial value chain" concept.

Severity of new COVID variant is not alarming

"But we can't rule out the virus' ability to evade this cover either. Also, with the several viral diseases in circulation that we have seen with COVID load, the condition of the patients can be adversely impacted," he said.

INSACOG was set up under the Health Ministry on December 30, 2020, to study and monitor genome sequencing and identification of circulating strains of COVID-19 in India.

According to government data, Kerala, Maharashtra and Gujarat have reported the highest number of active cases. The Centre has advised the three States, and their neighbours Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, to follow a strategy of test, track, treat and vaccinate as they witness a rise in cases.

Dr. Vinod Scaria, a genomics researcher at the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), said that the mutation in the spike of XBB.1.16 is largely involved in immune escape. "So it could evade pre-existing antibodies from previous infection/vaccine," he said.

"Other mutations are in open reading frame (ORF) gene, the real function of which we don't really know," he added.

Open reading frame is a surrogate name for gene in lower organisms.

Parliament stays stalled over Rahul remarks, JPC demand

Treasury benches raise slogans against Congress leader. Opposition counters with the Adani issue. Speaker objects to a member showing a placard reading 'Please allow Parliament to function'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Both Houses of Parliament remained paralysed on Monday over the apology from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his democracy remarks and the Opposition's demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the alleged stock manipulation by the Adani Group.

Amid the regular disruptions since March 13, Mr. Gandhi has once again written to the Lok Sabha Speaker to allow him to respond to the BJP that has been attacking him for his "democracy under attack" statement that he had made in London. The letter, said sources, was written on March 18.

As soon as the Lok Sabha met, members of the treasury benches raised slogans against Mr. Gandhi. Opposition members,



Best on the same page: Shri Ram Akali Dal member Harshman (left) holds a placard in protest as Janata Dal (United) MP Lalan Singh speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session on Monday. PTI

including those that all of Congress, however countered, by shouting slogans demanding a JPC on the Adani issue.

Speaker Om Birla urged the members to allow the speaker to take place and assured that he would give everyone an opportunity later. "Nation wants to watch the House proceedings. This House belongs to you

from her seat.

Ms. Badal's poster read, "Parliament to function" on one side and "save democracy" on the other side. "You want Parliament to function and bring placards in the House? Is it your way of running Parliament? Placards are not allowed," Mr. Birla told Ms. Badal as he asked her to stop displaying the placard.

As the members didn't relent, Mr. Birla adjourned the House till 2 p.m. Finally, the Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day soon after papers and reports were laid on the floor of the House when it reassembled at 2 p.m.

The Rajya Sabha functioned for nine minutes in the afternoon session. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar informed the House that he received 14 notices under Rule 267 that requires suspension of day's business.

Has sought time for Rahul to speak in Lok today: Kharage

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharage on Monday said that time has been sought for Rahul Gandhi to speak in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday and that he will make his statement if allowed.

Mr. Kharage also slammed the BJP-led government over the Delhi Police team reaching Mr. Gandhi's residence on Sunday to inquire about his women are still being sexually assaulted. The statement made during the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"This is an attempt to target and harass. They want to follow a strategy of intimidation, but we will not get scared or be weakened," Mr. Kharage said.

Mr. Kharage's remarks come amid the statements from Parliament over Mr. Gandhi's statements made during his trip to the U.K. with both Houses failing to transact any significant business during the session.

'Implead BJP in plea against parties with religious symbols'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Union Muslim League (IUM) on Monday sought the Supreme Court to implead the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in a writ petition filed by it, seeking the cancellation of symbols and names allotted to the political parties with religious connotations.

Appearing before a Bench led by Justice M.R. Shah, the IUM, represented by senior advocate Dushyant Dave and advocate Harv Beesan, said the "flower lotus is a religious symbol and very much related to Hinduism and Buddhism. Therefore, the BJP being a political party carrying a religious symbol ought to be impleaded in the writ petition".

The petition, filed by the IUM, also sought to Hindu God/Goddess and the same has been mentioned in the BJP's manifesto. The IUM application said, "The Bench adjourned the case.

Govt. nod for CBI inquiry against Harsh Mander's NGO

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has recommended an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) into a government organisation (NGO) run by prominent human rights lawyer and former bureaucrat Harsh Mander.

A senior government official said on Monday that the alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act.

According to Mr. Mander's website, Aman Bhadrari had alleged violation of the 2002 Gujarat riots.

Mr. Mander did not comment on the issue, but a source close to the activist said that Aman Bhadrari doesn't have an FCRA registration. "We are yet to receive any official communication regarding the irregularities," the source

SC clubs FIRs against Khara, protection from arrest extended

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday clubbed the first information reports (FIRs) lodged in Assam and Uttar Pradesh against Congress spokesperson Pawan Khara and transferred them to the other side.

"You want Parliament to function and bring placards in the House? Is it your way of running Parliament? Placards are not allowed," Mr. Birla told Ms. Badal as he asked her to stop displaying the placard.

As the members didn't relent, Mr. Birla adjourned the House till 2 p.m. Finally, the Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day soon after papers and reports were laid on the floor of the House when it reassembled at 2 p.m.

The Rajya Sabha functioned for nine minutes in the afternoon session. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar informed the House that he received 14 notices under Rule 267 that requires suspension of day's business.



Pawan Khara

The FIRs were separately registered against Mr. Khara at the Hailong police station in Dima Hasao district of Assam, and at the Cantonment police station, Varanasi, and Hazratganj police station in Uttar Pradesh.

Mr. Khara is reported to have referred to the Prime Minister as "Narendra Gaud tamdas Modi" during a press conference seeking a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe into the U.S.-based Hindenburg Research's report against the Adani Group, led by Gautam Adani.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.V. Chandrachud gave Mr. Khara

Gyanvapi dispute: ASI given more time to reply on 'shivling'

Shiba Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court on Monday granted one more chance to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to file its reply on whether carbon dating, ground penetrating radar (GPR), excavation or any other method can be used for safe evaluation of the site of the shivling structure purportedly found inside the Gyanvapi Mosque complex.

The matter is being heard by the Bench of Justice Arvind Kumar Mishra-I, who asked the ASI to expedite the process as their "time-extension application is working against the interest of justice" and the issue should not be allowed to go any further than April 5.

The ASI's own uncertainty over the shivling structure was also a factor in the court saying the agency needs more time to consult with its institutions and



Gyanvapi mosque

agencies to conclude if the age of the shivling can be evaluated. The HC had granted ASI the time. The agency has now been given time till April 5 to file its reply.

The case pertains to a revision plea moved by Lakshmi Devi and three others who challenged the Varanasi district court's order rejecting Hindu worshippers' plea for conducting a scientific probe of the shivling.

The Gyanvapi mosque management has maintained that there is no shivling in the mosque.

Farmers remind Centre of 'unfulfilled promises', seek MSP guarantee for crops

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Thousands of farmers assembled here on Monday for the Kisan Mahapanchayat organised by the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) to remind the Centre of unfulfilled promises. A delegation of SKM leaders met Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and submitted two memoranda.

The Mahapanchayat also decided to hold State-level conventions and all-India rallies to mobilise people on farmers' problems. The farmers decided to continue their protests against corporate



In union: Farmers attending the Kisan Mahapanchayat at the Ramnada Maidan in New Delhi on Monday. SURESH KUMAR VERMA

control over agriculture and the alleged anti-farmer policies of the Centre. The SKM said Mr. Tomar had agreed to hold discussions with it on the issues and other problems of farmers. The minister dismissal of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra "Tera" for his alleged role in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident.

Increase in women staff in public sector banks, says Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The proportion of women employees has increased over the past year in all but one public sector bank, and as many as three banks now have 30% or more women in their payrolls, according to data shared by the Minister of State for Finance Bhagwati Karad in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

As of February 28, Indian Overseas Bank had the highest share of women staff strength at 36%, followed by Canara Bank (31.6%) and Punjab & Sindh Bank, whose share moved up from 29.3% in March 2022 to 30% in the first 11 months of 2022-23. While Bank of Baroda's share of women staffers

has remained static over the past year at 16.2%, the Central Bank of India recorded the sharpest uptick in women staff strength, moving up from 24.3% to 29.2%.

On an average, the remaining 10 public sector banks raised their share of women staffers by about 0.3 percentage points over the year.

Responding to a query from MP P. Ravindranath, on whether any all-women bank has been set up in the public sector following the merger of the Bharatiya Mahila Bank with the State Bank of India, Mr. Karad said: "Public sector banks have informed that there is no proposal for setting up a bank dedicated to 'all-women bank branches' under consideration."

BJP mulling proposal from Maharashtra unit to advance Assembly election schedule

Nitasha Hebbar
Vikas Dhotu
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) central leadership is mulling a proposal to advance the Assembly election in the State during October 2024 to coincide with the Lok Sabha poll due in January 2025.

"The party is thinking of this with an eye on the all-India MP P. Ravindranath, on whether any all-women bank has been set up in the public sector following the merger of the Bharatiya Mahila Bank with the State Bank of India, Mr. Karad said: "Public sector banks have informed that there is no proposal for setting up a bank dedicated to 'all-women bank branches' under consideration."

The party's State think tank believes the governance record under the recently formed alliance with Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena would be a major talking point in a certain feel-good factor.

"Timing the Assembly polls with the general elections where Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal among the 11 crore voters so weigh on voters' minds, could influence voters for both the parties, a member of the Council of Ministers told The Hindu.

"The party's top brass in the State has made the suggestion for the central leadership is now considering the option," the Minister said. "In any case, the elections are scheduled just five months after the Lok Sabha polls, so it should not be too much of an issue," he added.

The BJP is also keen to see the simultaneous State and Centre polls to amplify the fissures in what it believes is a fragile and opportunistic Opposition alliance between the

Congress, Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena and the National Congress Party (NCP). "The Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition may survive till the elections are announced, but we don't see them lasting beyond it. They may possibly implode even during the campaign," he said.

Behind the thinking is also the BJP's own uncertain equation with the Shiv Sena faction of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. It feels that while the alliance could form a government, a narrative for a victory was still elusive and an issue," he added.

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has remained static over the past year at 26.2%, the Central Bank of India recorded the sharpest uptick among the 11 other public sector banks this year, moving up from 24.3% to 25.2%.

On an average, the remaining 10 banks have raised their share of women staffers by about 0.3 percentage points so far this year.

Responding to a query from MP P. Ravindranath on whether any all-woman branches can be expected in the public sector following the merger of the Bharatiya Mahila Bank with the State Bank of India, Mr. Karad said: "Public sector banks have informed that there is no proposal regarding reintroduction of 'all-women bank branches' under consideration."

- As per the data compiled by the [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#), of which India is a member, women represent 14.44% of the total members of the **Lok Sabha**.
- As per the latest [Election Commission of India \(ECI\)](#) data:
 - अंतर-संसदीय संघ, जिसका भारत एक सदस्य है, द्वारा संकलित आंकड़ों के अनुसार, महिलाएं लोकसभा के कुल सदस्यों का 14.44% प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं।
 - भारत के नवीनतम चुनाव आयोग (ईसीआई) के आंकड़ों के अनुसार:

- As of October 2021, **Women represent 10.5%** of the total members of the **Parliament**.
- The scenario for women **Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs)** across all state assemblies in India is even worse, with the national average being a pitiable 9%.
- In the last 75 years of independence, women's representation in Lok Sabha has **not even increased by 10%**.

- अक्टूबर 2021 तक, महिलाएं संसद के कुल सदस्यों का 10.5% का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं।
- भारत में सभी राज्य विधानसभाओं में विधान सभाओं (विधायकों) की महिला सदस्यों के लिए परिदृश्य और भी बदतर है, राष्ट्रीय औसत 9% दयनीय है।
- आजादी के पिछले 75 वर्षों में, लोकसभा में महिलाओं का प्रतिनिधित्व 10% भी नहीं बढ़ा है।

- Government Efforts
- **The Women's Reservation Bill 2008:**
 - It proposes to amend the Constitution of India **to reserve 1/3rd of all seats** in the Lower house of Parliament of India, the Lok Sabha, and in all state legislative assemblies for women.
- सरकारी प्रयास
- महिला आरक्षण विधेयक 2008:
- यह भारत की संसद के निचले सदन, लोकसभा और सभी राज्य विधानसभाओं में महिलाओं के लिए सभी सीटों का 1/3 आरक्षित करने के लिए भारत के संविधान में संशोधन करने का प्रस्ताव करता है।

- **Reservation for Women in Panchayati Raj Institutions:**
 - [Article 243D of the Constitution](#) ensures participation of women in [Panchayati Raj Institutions](#) by mandating not less than **one-third reservation for women** out of total number of seats to be filled by direct election and number of offices of chairpersons of Panchayats.
- पंचायती राज संस्थाओं में महिलाओं के लिए आरक्षण:
- संविधान का अनुच्छेद 243डी सीधे चुनाव और पंचायतों के अध्यक्षों के कार्यालयों की संख्या से भरी जाने वाली सीटों की कुल संख्या में सै महिलाओं के लिए कम से कम एक-तिहाई आरक्षण अनिवार्य करके पंचायती राज संस्थानों में महिलाओं की भागीदारी सुनिश्चित करता है।

- **The highest proportion of women representatives elected to the Lok Sabha** so far was in the 2019 elections, and it was **less than 15 percent of total**
- The number of women candidates and MPs varies greatly across states and parties.
- In the present Lok Sabha (17th), **Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have the highest numbers of women MPs**. In terms of percentage, **Goa and Manipur** had fielded the **highest proportion of women candidates**.
- अब तक लोकसभा के लिए निर्वाचित महिला प्रतिनिधियों का उच्चतम अनुपात 2019 के चुनावों में था, और यह कुल के 15 प्रतिशत से भी कम था
- महिला उम्मीदवारों और सांसदों की संख्या राज्यों और पार्टियों में बहुत भिन्न होती है।
- वर्तमान लोकसभा (17वीं) में, उत्तर प्रदेश और पश्चिम बंगाल में सबसे अधिक महिला सांसद हैं। प्रतिशत के संदर्भ में, गोवा और मणिपुर ने महिला उम्मीदवारों के उच्चतम अनुपात को मैदान में उतारा था।

BUSINESS AS USUAL



EXPRESS NETWORK



WON'T LET GOV RUN AWAY FROM SETTING UP JPC ON ADANI

OPPS PROTEST: GOVT WARNS OF ACTION

PAGES 6, 11

CBI suffers setback as Interpol withdraws notice against Choksi

DEEPTI MANI TIWARY NEW DELHI, MARCH 20



IN A major setback for the CBI and India's efforts to get fugitive jeweller Mehul Choksi back, the Interpol has withdrawn the Red Corner Notice issued against the key accused in the Rs 13,500-crore PNB loan fraud case.

The notice is now unavailable on Interpol's website. Choksi's lawyer in India, Vijay Aggarwal, said, "because of the efforts of the legal team and the genuineness of my client's case, his RCN has been cancelled, and ultimately truth has prevailed."

The CBI, which is probing the case, declined comment. Sources said the RCN was removed following a petition by Choksi to Interpol. In 2021, Choksi had alleged an abduction bid by men he claimed were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Day before Delhi Budget, Kejriwal says Centre has 'stopped it'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

DELHI'S ANNUAL Budget will not be presented as originally scheduled on Tuesday, with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal alleging that the Centre had 'stopped it'.

The Budget was to be presented at 11 am Tuesday by newly appointed finance minister Kailash Gahlot, who tabled the economic survey and outline budget on Monday.

Kejriwal's comments sparked a war of allegations between the Delhi government, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Lieutenant Governor's office. "You will be shocked. This has never happened before in the history of the country. The Delhi Budget has to be presented in the Delhi Assembly tomorrow morning. The Centre has stopped the Delhi Budget from being presented. The Budget will

CJI: Sealed cover practice must end, goes against process of fair justice

ANANTHAKRISHNAN NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

STATING THAT the sealed cover procedure must stop as it is "fundamentally contrary to the basic process of fair justice", Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Monday reiterated his stand on the issue, saying he was "personally averse" to it.

The bench, also comprising Justices P S Narasimha and J B Pardiwala, was hearing the Indian Ex-Service men Movement's (IESM) plea on payment of One Rank One Pension (OROP) arrears. The court set a time schedule for payment of arrears to the pensioners, categorized under several heads.

At the last hearing, the court had asked the government to submit a note on what has been done, what remains to be done, the time schedule, and the best possible time in which the pensioners can be paid their dues. Attorney General of India R Venkataraman produced the note in a sealed cover on Monday, saying "it is confidential".

But the bench did not agree. Asking why it can't be shared with the counsel representing the pensioners, the CJI said, "I am personally averse to sealed covers. What happens is, we see something he does not see. And we decide the case without showing it to him. This is fundamentally contrary to the judicial process. There cannot be secrecy in the Court. The Court has to be transparent."

He said secrecy is understandable if it concerns a case directory to which an accused is not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

CRACKDOWN ON WARIS PUNJAB DE Day 3: Search on for Amritpal, his arrested uncle & aides face NSA

Centre calls for alert at Pakistan and Nepal borders, airports on watch

After London, vandalism in San Francisco, India protests

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL & MAHENDER SINGH MANIAR CHANGIDGARH, NEW DELHI, MARCH 20



WITH THE hunt for Waris Punjab De chief Amritpal Singh Sandhu entering the third day, and the Centre alerting border forces that he "may try to cross over to Pakistan or Nepal, the Punjab Police invoked the stringent National Security Act (NSA) against five of his arrested aides, including his uncle who was held early on Monday.

The state government, meanwhile, extended the suspension of mobile internet services for another 24 hours till Tuesday noon to "maintain public order". The police also with-

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

A DWI after India summoned the "senior-most" UK diplomat to protest against vandalism at its High Commission in London by a group of people chanting pro-Khalistan slogans, New Delhi lodged a strong protest with the US administration over another incident of vandalism at its Consulate in San Francisco.

At a meeting with the US Charge of Affairs in New Delhi, the US administration was asked to take appropriate measures to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Garbage loader by night, scholar by day: His journey from Mumbai chawl to UK for PhD

PALLAVI SMART MUMBAI, MARCH 20

THE MOTOR Loader Chowki at Bandra — a dark, grimy room with rusty lockers, a framed B&W photograph of B R Ambedkar and plaster peeling off its pink walls — was where Mayur Hella reported for work at 10 every night. Here, he would mark his attendance, before setting off with his colleagues in one of the designated garbage trucks.



Mayur Hella at the BMC's 'Loader Chowki' in Bandra, from where garbage vans are sent out. Anir Chakravarty

It's a routine that Hella fol-

lowed for the last 12 years as he worked as a motor loader (the men who tip garbage into vans) with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). Starting next month, Hella, 30, will step into a completely different routine as he heads to UK's Lancaster University to pursue a fully-funded PhD, working on a project titled 'Historic Landmarks and Shifting Realities'. Last month, he re-signed from the BMC.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Advertisement for LIC (Life Insurance Corporation of India) featuring a person and LIC logo.

Advertisement for Lal Bahadur Shastri National Memorial Trust featuring Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at Buddha Jayanti Park, New Delhi, Monday.

KISHIDA CONDEMNS RUSSIA Japan PM: India indispensable for free Indo-Pacific

India, Japan PMs hold talks: Our ties crucial for stable region, says Modi

on shared democratic values, and respect for the rule of law in the international arena. "Strengthening this partnership is not only important for both our countries, it also promotes peace, prosperity and stability in the Indo-Pacific region," he said.

"As the world is standing at history's turning point fraught with difficulties, what role should Japan and India play," said the visiting Japan PM.

While both leaders did not mention the Russian invasion of Ukraine in their public statements, officials said the issue figured prominently during the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BHOPAL IS PROUD TO HOST



ISSF
WORLD CUP RIFLE AND PISTOL

21-27 MARCH 2023

ISRO's LVM-3 to launch second fleet of 36 satellites on Sunday

ANONNA DUTT

NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

IN ITS second commercial launch, India's heaviest launch vehicle LVM-3 will launch a fleet of 36 OneWeb satellites, completing the first generation of the huge broadband constellation. The launch is scheduled for 9 am on Sunday, March 26, from the second launch pad of the country's only spaceport at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The final launch will enable the company to initiate global coverage.

The satellites have already been integrated and the rocket is in place at the launch pad ahead of Sunday's launch. This is the second OneWeb fleet that India is launching, with the first being carried out by the same vehicle in October last year. This initiated India's journey into the commercial heavy lift-off space.

The UK-based company, backed by the UK government and India's Bharti, plans to create a 588-satellite strong constellation to provide high-speed, low-latency global connectivity. These satellites will be placed in 12 rings of 49 satellites each, with every satellite completing a full trip around the Earth in 109 minutes.



LVM-3 at the launch pad in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. PTI

Sunday's launch will be the 18th fleet to be launched by the firm.

"OneWeb already has connectivity solutions active today in key geographies across the globe and is bringing new areas online. OneWeb's high-speed, low-latency solutions will help connect communities, enterprises, and governments around the world, demonstrating the unparalleled potential of LEO (low earth orbit) connectivity," the company said in its release. "Across India, OneWeb will bring secured solutions not only to enterprises but also to towns, villages, municipalities and

schools, including the hardest-to-reach areas across the country."

In the previous mission, the 36 satellites were launched in a 600-km circular orbit around the Earth in a precise manner. "The separation has to be sequenced in such a way that the customer requirement of a minimum 137-metre distance between any pair of satellites is maintained. This is achieved by orienting and reorienting the cryo stage (third stage of the rocket) using the on-board thrusters," Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre director, Dr S Unnikrishnan Nair, had said dur-

EXPLAINED

E Eyeing satellite market

WITH THE space sector opening up to private players in 2020, several startups have emerged, focusing on building satellites and applications. ISRO, too, has developed a small satellite launch vehicle for the commercial market. India aims to increase its current 2% share of the commercial market to 10% by 2030.

ing the previous mission.

The same challenge will be faced by the launch vehicle during Sunday's launch. Until the OneWeb India-1 mission in October, the heavy launch vehicle had carried only a single satellite during its two development flights and its first operational flight carrying onboard Chandrayaan-2.

Ajay Lele, senior fellow at Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, said with a focus on the commercial space market, India managed to seize the opportunity presented by OneWeb.

The LVM3-M2 mission is a dedicated commercial mission for a foreign customer OneWeb, through **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).

This newest rocket is capable of **launching 4,000-kilogram class of satellites into GTO (Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit)** and 8,000 kgs of payloads into LEO.

It is a **three-stage launch vehicle consisting of two solid propellant S200 strap-ons** on its sides and core stage comprising L110 liquid stage and C25 cryogenic stage.

LVM3-M2 मिशन न्यूस्पेस इंडिया लिमिटेड (NSIL), एक सेंट्रल पब्लिक सेक्टर एंटरप्राइज (CPSE) के माध्यम से एक विदेशी ग्राहक वनवेब के लिए एक समर्पित वाणिज्यिक मिशन है।

यह नवीनतम रॉकेट GTO (जियोसिंक्रोनस ट्रांसफर ऑर्बिट) में 4,000 किलोग्राम वर्ग के उपग्रह और LEO में 8,000 किलोग्राम पेलोड लॉन्च करने में सक्षम है।

यह एक तीन-चरण वाला प्रक्षेपण यान है, जिसके किनारों पर दो ठोस प्रणोदक S200 स्ट्रैप-ऑन हैं और कोर चरण में L110 तरल चरण और C25 क्रायोजेनिक चरण शामिल हैं।

- **Features:**

- First Commercial Mission of LVM3
- First launch of LVM3 to LEO
- First Indian rocket with six-ton payload
- First NSIL Mission with LVM3
- First OneWeb Mission with NSIL/Department of Space.

-

- विशेषताएँ:

- LVM3 का पहला वाणिज्यिक मिशन
- LVM3 का LEO के लिए पहला लॉन्च
- छह टन पेलोड वाला पहला भारतीय रॉकेट
- LVM3 के साथ पहला NSIL मिशन
- NSIL/अंतरिक्ष विभाग के साथ पहला वनवेब मिशन।

- **Technical Achievements:**

- Handling of multiple satellite separation events
- Increased nominal mission duration
- Ensuring safe separation distance through C25 (cryo) stage re-orientation & velocity addition
- Ensuring data availability for entire mission duration
- Realisation of new payload adaptor and interface ring for the satellites dispenser

- तकनीकी उपलब्धियां:

- कई उपग्रह पृथक्करण घटनाओं को संभालना
- नाममात्र मिशन अवधि में वृद्धि
- C25 (क्रायो) स्टेज री-ओरिएंटेशन और वेलोसिटी एडिशन के माध्यम से सुरक्षित पृथक्करण दूरी सुनिश्चित करना
- संपूर्ण मिशन अवधि के लिए डेटा उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करना
- उपग्रह डिस्पेंसर के लिए नए पेलोड एडाप्टर और इंटरफेस रिंग की प्राप्ति



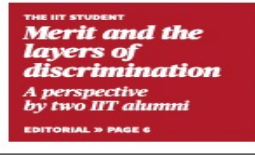
ELECTION BONDS
Top court to examine petitions on April 11
NEWS » PAGE 10



MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION
Panel seeks data on deaths post COVID
NEWS » PAGE 12



KREMLIN TALKS
Xi seeks tighter bonds with Russia
WORLD » PAGE 13



THE IIT STUDENT
Merit and the layers of discrimination
A perspective by two IIT alumni
EDITORIAL » PAGE 6



ALL TO PLAY FOR
India and Australia meet in series decider
SPORT » PAGE 15



DELHI TO TABLE
budget today
NEWS » PAGE 2



THE HINDU special issue on the occasion of UGADI
OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

SC Bench seeks data on alternatives to hanging

See if there is a more 'humane' method of execution that would render the present practice unconstitutional, a Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice P.S. Narasimha asks govt.

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to provide data that may point to a more dignified, less painful and socially acceptable method of executing prisoners other than death by hanging.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice P.S. Narasimha even mooted the setting up of an expert committee to relook India's method of putting to death its criminals.

The Chief Justice said such a committee would have experts from the national law universities, professors of law, doctors and scientific persons.

The court, indicated to the Centre, represented by Attorney General R. Ven-

If we have to relook death by hanging, we need better data... We want to know the impact of the sentence of death by hanging, the pain caused, the period of actual death and the availability of resources for hanging a person

D.Y. CHANDRACHUD
Chief Justice of India

kataramani, that it needed some underlying data based on which it could examine if there was a more "humane" method of execution, which would render death by hanging unconstitutional.

"If we have to relook death by hanging, we need better data... We want to know the impact of the sentence of death by hang-

ing, the pain caused, the period of actual death and the availability of resources for hanging a person," Chief Justice Chandrachud observed.

The Bench explained that it also needed to know what strides the fields of science and technology have made in suggesting "any other method of execution consistent with human dignity".

The court was hearing a petition filed by advocate Rishi Malhotra challenging the constitutionality of death by hanging as a mode of execution. Section 354 (5) of the Code of Criminal Procedure mandates that a person sentenced to death shall "be hanged by the neck till he is dead".

Mr. Malhotra said there is a need to evolve a "humane, quick and decent alternative". He termed hanging as "cruel and barbarous" compared to lethal injection, as used in the United States.

Justice Narasimha, however, noted that to suggest that "hanging is closest to literature" is suggesting "any other method of execution consistent with hu-



Vikas Dhout
NEW DELHI

Some States are falling behind in making contributions towards their employees' retirement savings under the New Pension Scheme, the Finance Ministry indicated on Tuesday, flagging "an increasing divergence of practices between different State Governments" in the way they handle pension obligations for staff recruited after 2004.

While a majority of the States are paying the correct dues, "some have issued orders adopting NPS but not made due contributions", Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad informed the Lok Sabha, in reply to a query from former Bihar Finance Minister and BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi.



IMF clears \$3-billion bailout for Sri Lanka

Megha Sriwijayan
COIMBATORE

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday cleared a \$3-billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Sri Lanka, potentially unlocking more loans for the debt-ridden island nation that is struggling to recover from last year's economic meltdown.

"The objectives of the EFF-supported programme are to restore macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability, safeguarding financial stability,

Holding their ground



Continuing their protest, Opposition MPs raise slogans in the corridors of Parliament on Tuesday demanding a Joint Parliamentary Committee probe into the Adani issue. IMA (REPORT ON PAGE 10)

Why Bihar CM Nitish Kumar sees red each time he encounters English

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar saw red when an LED screen inside Bihar's Legislative Council on Monday showed information in English. Snapping at council chairperson Dewesh Chandra Thakur, he said, "I can see words like honourable and speaking time. What is the point? Hindi ko Khatri kar dijiye kiya [Do you intend to finish off Hindi?]"

Mr. Thakur pacified the Chief Minister, saying he would change it, which he did later.

Last month, Mr. Kumar had scolded a farmer for speaking in English during a programme of the agriculture department. Mr. Ku-

mar's recurring public disapproval of English comes against the backdrop of an intense struggle to hold on to his rural, OBC social base that is being chipped away by the BJP.

Anti-English, pro-Hindi rhetoric used to be the staple of socialist politicians in Bihar, but that lapsed in the background in recent years. Observers of State politics believe Mr. Kumar is reviving the old line partly as a cultural antidote to the BJP's Hindutva politics.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and MLA from Sonpur Assembly constituency Ramkishan Prasad supported Mr. Kumar's stand and said, "Hindihi never protested against English, he is only supporting

observers of State politics believe he is reviving the old line partly as a cultural antidote to the BJP's Hindutva politics

Hindi, which is understood by most people in Bihar, while English is limited to few."

However, Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal national president Upendra Kushwaha, who had broken away from the Janata Dal (United), of which Mr. Kumar is the leader, said, "He should first rectify the Janata Dal (United) board written in English at the party office. We should all promote the local language, but what's wrong if someone is speaking or writing in English?"

BJP spokesperson Nikhil Anand wrote on his Twitter handle that Mr. Kumar was getting enraged hearing English much like a bull does, when it sees a red cloth.

Most socialist leaders, from Uttar Pradesh's Ram Manohar Lohia to Bihar's Karpoori Thakur, advocated the use of Hindi or the mother tongue, so that people did not feel excluded from public life.

In 2016, BJP leader Shashi Kumar Modi, who was the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, while the government was led by Mr. Kumar, had said that the State must revisit the education policy regarding English.

Bengal CM to stage dharna against Centre for depriving State of funds

Sobhana K. Nair
Shiv Sahay Singh
NEW DELHI/KOLKATA

Accusing the Union government of "deliberately depriving" West Bengal of funds under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and other Centrally-sponsored schemes, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Ba-

merjee on Tuesday announced that she would sit on a dharna on March 29 and 30.

"In this Budget also, there was no allocation for 100-day work (MGNREGS) in the State. West Bengal is the only State where nothing has been given. Schemes (MGNREGS) are pending funds. For 55 lakh houses, funds are pending, we are completing 11 lakhs (houses)," she told reporters. She remarks come a day after *The Hindu* reported that the Union Rural Development Ministry had decided to withhold the MGNREGS funds for West Bengal for the financial year 2023-24. The Centre stopped the funds invoking Section 27 of MGNREG Act for alleged widespread corruption in the implementation of the scheme since

December 2021. The CM said that she had raised the issue of pending funds relating to the MGNREGS, housing and rural roads with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

(PTI) State secretary Mohammed Salim accused both the Centre and Trinamool Congress government in the State for misleading the people.

6.6 magnitude earthquake in Afghanistan rocks Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A 6.6 magnitude earthquake centred in Afghanistan rocked many parts of north India, including the National Capital Region at 10.30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Panic-stricken people rushed out of buildings in Delhi and many other places as the earthquake struck. It was also felt in Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan.

No immediate reports of casualties or damages were reported.

"Though it was of moderate magnitude, the depth of it meant that surface waves from the quake travelled quite far," M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences told *The Hindu*.

"We don't expect aftershocks," he added.

(With inputs from PTI)

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(With inputs from PTI)



KAZAKHSTAN

UZBEKISTAN

KYRGYZSTAN

TURKMENISTAN

TAJIKISTAN

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AFGHANISTAN

PAKISTAN

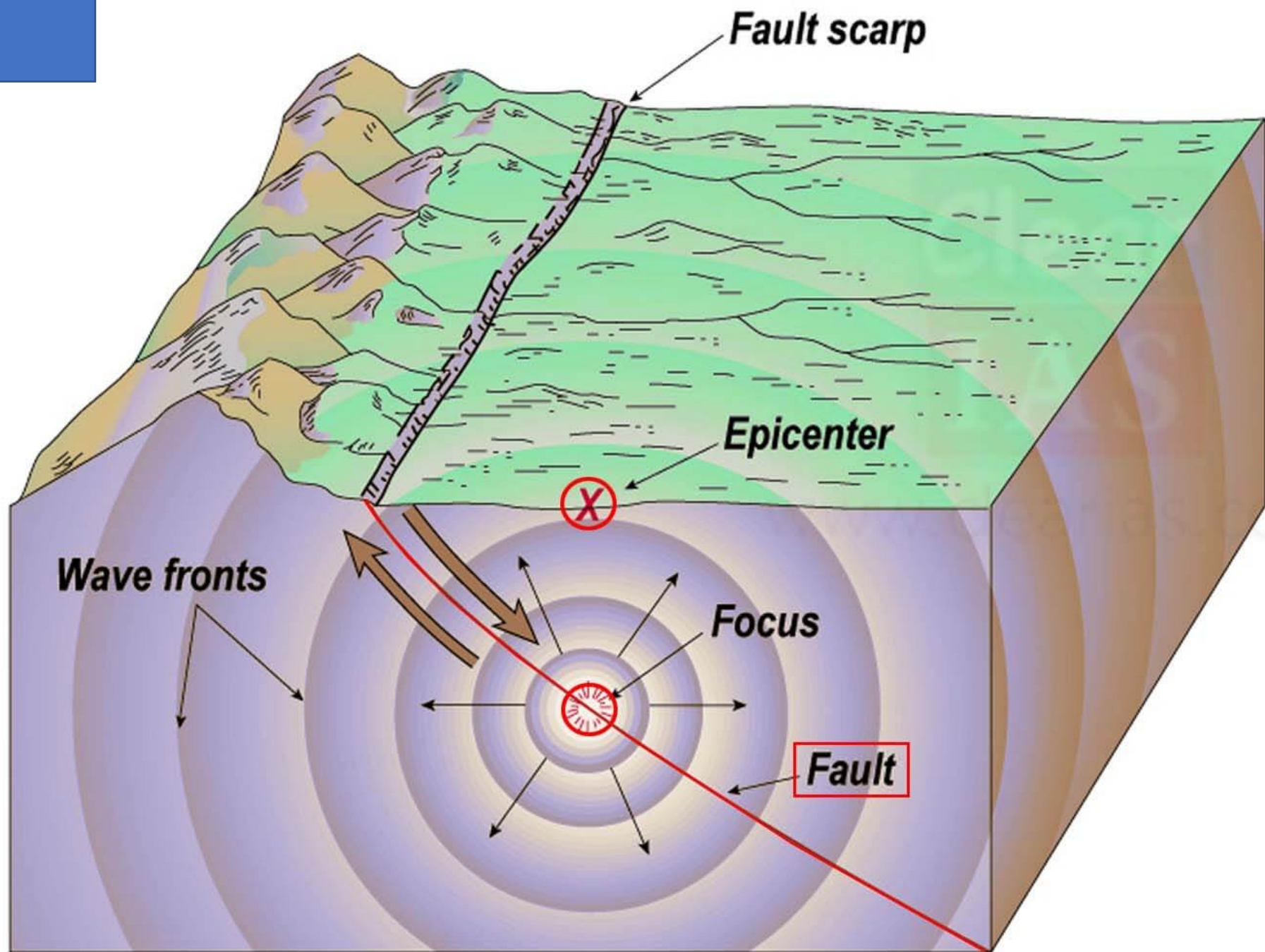
NEPAL

BHUTAN

BANGLADESH

INDIA

MYANMAR



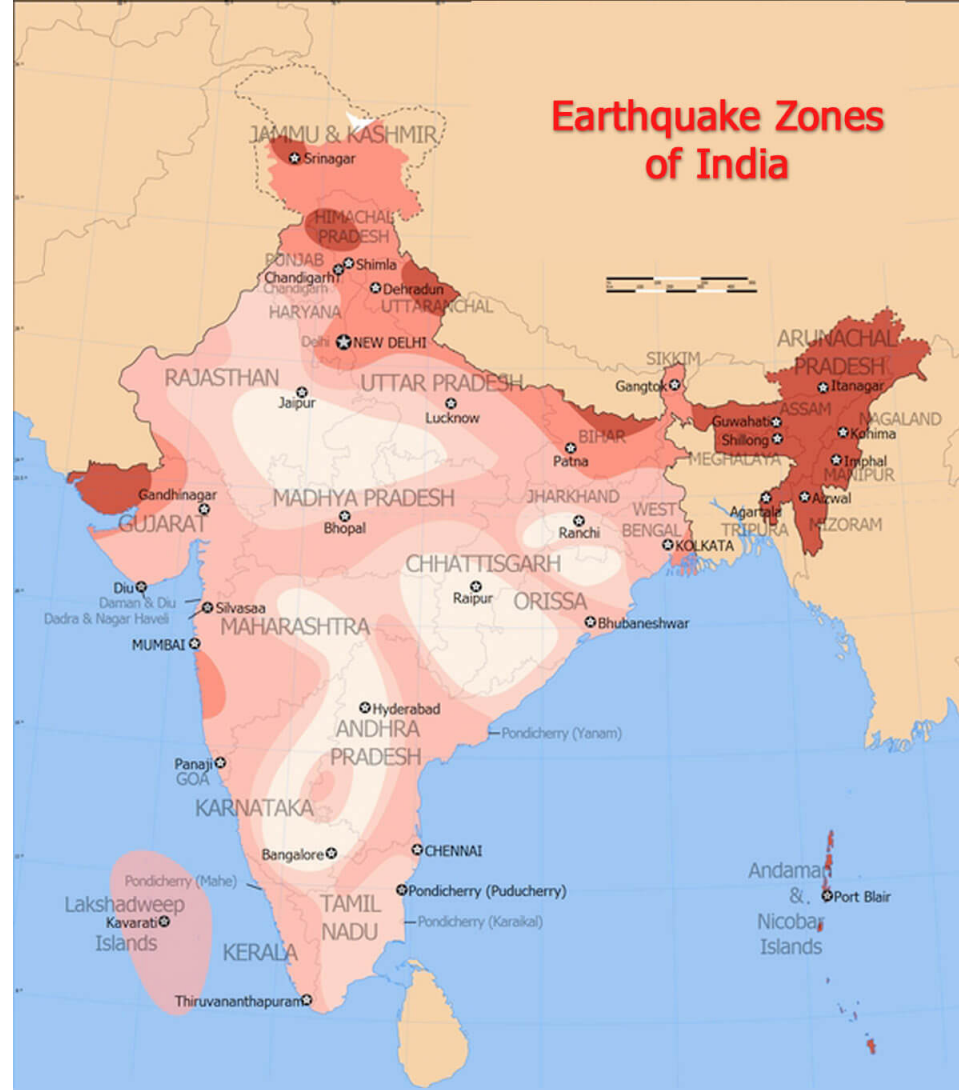
- **Mercalli Scale:**






- The scale represents the **intensity** of earthquake by analyzing the after effects like how many people felt it, how much destruction occurred etc. The range of intensity is from 1-12.

- **Richter Scale:**

- The scale represents the **magnitude** of the earthquake. The magnitude is expressed in absolute numbers from 1-10. Each whole number increase in Richter scale represents a ten times increase in power of an earthquake.

Earthquake Zones of India

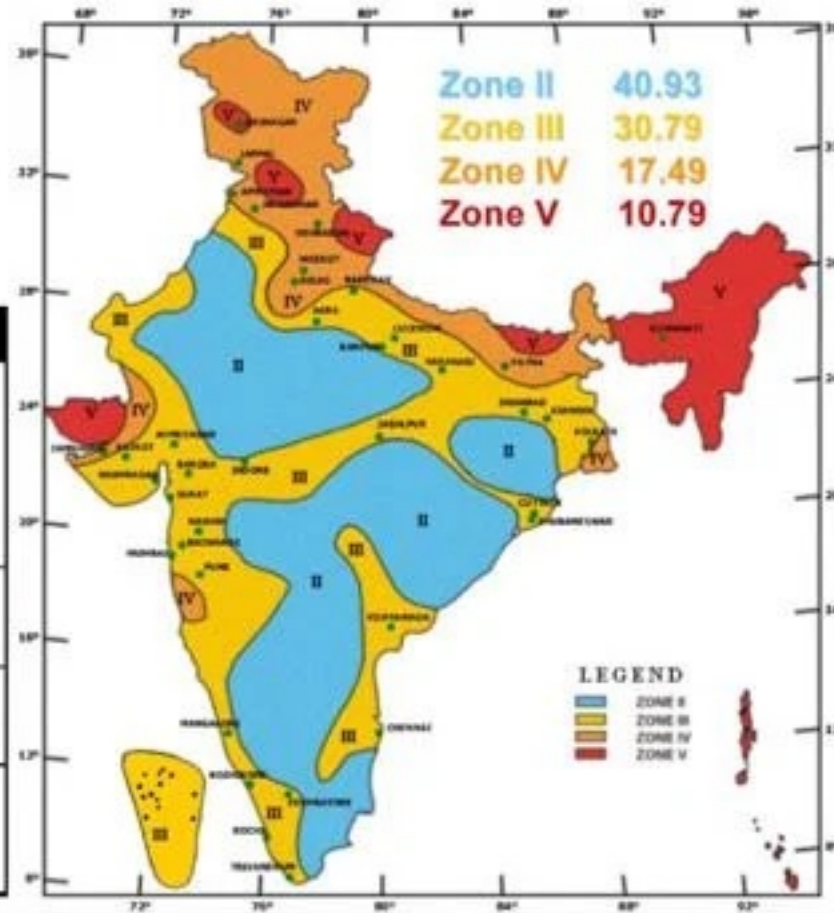


- Zone I 
- Zone II  Low Risk Zone
- Zone III  Moderate Risk Zone
- Zone IV  High Risk Zone
- Zone V  Very High Risk Zone

Seismic Zone Map of India: -2002

About 59 percent of the land area of India is liable to seismic hazard damage

Zone	Intensity
Zone V	Very High Risk Zone Area liable to shaking Intensity IX (and above)
Zone IV	High Risk Zone Intensity VIII
Zone III	Moderate Risk Zone Intensity VII
Zone II	Low Risk Zone VI (and lower)





Amid protests, Rajasthan becomes first State to pass Right to Health Bill

Doctors and paramedical staff of private hospitals and nursing homes have been agitating against the Bill saying its 'draconian provisions' would stifle the private health sector

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Amid a strong protest by the agitating private doctors, the Rajasthan Assembly on Tuesday passed the Right to Health Bill with the provision for mandatory free-of-cost emergency treatment for every resident of the State at both the government hospitals and the privately-run institutions. With this, Rajasthan has become the first and the only State in the country to legislate the right to health.



Police use water cannons in Jaipur to disperse doctors protesting against Rajasthan's Right to Health Bill which was passed by the Assembly on Tuesday.

The Bill, which was tabled in the Assembly on September 22 last year and was later referred to a Select Committee, was passed by voice vote in the House. The Bill gives every resident of the State the right to emergency medical care "without prepayment of requisite fee or charges" by any public health institution, health

care establishment and designated health centres. Medical and Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena said during a two-hour debate on the Bill that it was major welfare step aimed at protecting the interests of the health sector. Mr. Meena said the State government would reimburse the expenses to the health care provider if a patient was unable to pay the requisite charges after

emergency care, stabilisation and health. The doctors and paramedical staff of private hospitals and nursing homes have been protesting against the Bill, saying its "draconian provisions" would stifle the private health sector. The agitating doctors said the amendments suggested by them to the Select Committee were not carried out and the Bill had made it mandatory to pro-

Strong, scary: residents of Delhi-NCR recount powerful tremor

Deepa Tripathi of India
NEW DELHI

"I have experienced earthquakes in the past but the tremors this time were strong and long enough to make me rush out of my apartment with my dog. I am scared to sleep now," Vidhya Bhalia, a resident of Delhi's New Friends Colony, said on Tuesday night.



People rush out of their homes after a strong earthquake was felt in several parts of north India on Tuesday.

Ms. Bhalia's account was echoed by a cross-section of residents of Delhi-NCR after a 6.6 magnitude temblor on Tuesday night was felt across large swathes of northern India as the earthquake struck the Hindu Kush region in Afghanistan.

People in residential colonies and apartments rushed out of their homes as their buildings started shaking. Jyoti, a resident of Lajpat Nagar, said she was watching television when she suddenly saw the TV and sofa shaking. Initially, she ignored it but when her husband alerted her, she and her family members rushed out

of their home. "We rushed outside our home. Thankfully, we are on the ground floor, so in such situations, we have an easy escape," she said.

Meanwhile, relatives also started flooding residents of the national capital with phone calls as soon as the news of earthquake broke out. Standing outside their residences, many of them were busy informing their relatives that they were safe and sound.

Ms. Bhalia said she got scared when she noticed her fan shaking and felt dizzy. The tremors were felt around 10.20 p.m. There was no immediate report of any loss of life or property anywhere.

3 States chip in to stop illegal sand mining in Chambal sanctuary

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

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.

The Chambal river cuts through the mazes of ravines and hills in the sanctuary. Coordination among the three States was discussed at a high-level meeting in Jaipur on Tuesday with emphasis on protecting the fragile ecosystem critical for breeding of gharials, which are full-fledged crocodiles. Illegal sand mining is threatening the bird and fauna in some parts of the sanctuary.

Rajasthan Chief Secretary Usba Sharma said the Forest and Mineral Departments as well as the police and district administration in the three States would be required to operate in close coordination to put a complete stop to illegal mining. Chief Secretaries Iqbal Singh Bains of Madhya Pradesh and Durga Shankar Mishra of Uttar Pradesh attended the meeting via video conferencing.

Ms. Sharma said a prompt exchange of information among the officials would help prevent the mining activities, while manual checking of vulnerable places would stop the entry of the people with questionable credentials. The sanctuary is listed as an 'Important Bird and Biodiversity Area' and is also a proposed Ramsar site.

Delay in investigation against Haryana Minister questioned

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

The leaders of various national women organisations on Tuesday questioned the delay in investigation, raised questions over the delay in investigation, and the delegation pointed out that the charge-sheet was not filed in the case even three months after the registration of the FIR and attempt to rape charge was not invoked against the accused.

A delegation of women leaders met senior Chandigarh Police officers and raised questions over the delay in investigation. The delegation pointed out that the charge-sheet was not filed in the case even three months after the registration of the FIR and attempt to rape charge was not invoked against the accused.

L. Timings
DELHI

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 22
RISE: 5:22, SET: 16:33
RISE: 16:50, SET: 19:31

THURSDAY, MAR. 23
RISE: 16:22, SET: 16:24
RISE: 17:23, SET: 19:20

FRIDAY, MAR. 24
RISE: 16:24, SET: 16:35
RISE: 17:17, SET: 19:27

Delhi Weather
max min
Delhi City 28 16
South Delhi 30 16
Patna 25 16

Delhi Palm Today
29°C A mostly dry weather to prevail. Morning will be slight cool with mist and rain. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool.

Delhi Palm Tomorrow
32°C Rise in temperature. Day will be hot warm. Night will be slight cool.

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THE HINDU
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Shinde govt's 'silence' over Karnataka plan questioned

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Ambadas Darve, Leader of the Opposition in the Maharashtra Legislative Council and Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC, on Tuesday questioned the silence of the State government over the neighbouring Karnataka government's move to block the health scheme for the 865 disputed border villages with a significant Marathi population.

Mr. Darve said the Karnataka government was stopping funds worth ₹54 crore allocated by the Maharashtra government for extending health benefits to Marathi people. Recently, the Shinde government had decided to implement its health scheme in all the 865 disputed villages.

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Authorized Officer
Dated: March 21, 2023

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6623 Manager (Civil) 1
6623 Engineer (Civil) on contract basis 1
7023 Engineer (Civil) through GATE 2023 10
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Head/Asst (Security) WS-I(17-41) Permanent S.S.L.C (Pass) + 15 years of service in the Defence Forces 07 (UR-05, 02-W, 02-O) Rs.20,500 - 7% - Rs.75,000
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Last date of receipt of applications is 10th April, 2023. For eligibility criteria, application, pay scale and other details please visit CAREERS link on the official WEBSITE www.bhel.co.in only. Sr. DGM (HR&I) BEL-GAD

Court adjourns Sisodia's bail plea in excise case to Friday

IN BRIEF

A Delhi court on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of Manish Sisodia's bail plea in the excise policy case, being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation, to March 24. The CBI counsel argued against the grant of bail to former Deputy CM saying he could tamper with the evidence and jeopardise the investigation. The CBI had arrested Mr. Sisodia on February 26 in connection with the alleged irregularities in the implementation of the now-scrapped 2021-22 excise policy. "Now that he knows what has been put to him... If he comes out, he will jeopardise my investigation," CBI counsel D.P. Singh told the court. He also accused Mr. Sisodia of destroying evidence linked to the case, including his cell phone.



Chouhan visits villages hit by hailstorm, announces aid

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday visited villages in Vidisha district to take stock of crops damaged by hailstorm and unseasonal rains, and announced financial aid of ₹32,000 per hectare in event of 50% crop loss and other relief measures for farmers. Payments under the crop insurance scheme will be given separately to the farmers, official sources quoted Mr. Chouhan as saying during the visit.

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Bandhan Bank Ltd (the "Bank") invites Expression of Interest from ARIAs for purchase of Loans originated from Banking Units (BU's) and Securitised Loans originated from BU's, amounting to INR 2,316.32 crore. The sale will be conducted in a Swiss Challenge Method. The Bank has received the approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for this sale. Through this invite, eligible parties are called for submitting "Expression of Interest" for "Swiss Challenge Method" for purchase of the above mentioned assets. For further details, please contact: Mr. A. Prasad, Contact No. 9773166130, email: prasad.a@bandhanbank.com
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Amid protests, Rajasthan becomes first State to pass Right to Health Bill

Doctors and paramedical staff of private hospitals and nursing homes have been agitating against the Bill saying its 'draconian provisions' would stifle the private health sector

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Amid a strong protest by the agitating private doctors, the Rajasthan Assembly on Tuesday passed the Right to Health Bill with the provision for mandatory free-of-cost emergency treatment for every resident of the State at both the government hospitals and the privately-run institutions. With this, Rajasthan has become the first and the only State in the country to legislate the right to health.

The Bill, which was tabled in the Assembly on September 22 last year and was later referred to a Select Committee, was passed by voice vote in the House. The Bill gives every resident of the State the right to emergency treatment care "without prepayment of requisite fee or charges" by any public health institution, health



Police use water cannons in Jaipur to disperse doctors protesting against Rajasthan's Right to Health Bill which was passed by the Assembly on Tuesday. PTI

care establishment and designated health care centres.

Medical and Health Minister Parsadi Lal Meena said during a two-hour-long debate on the Bill that it was major welfare step aimed at protecting the interests of the public. Mr. Meena said the State government would reimburse the expenses to the health care provider if a patient was unable to pay the requisite charges after

emergency care, stabilisation and referral.

The doctors and paramedical staff of private hospitals and nursing homes have been protesting against the Bill, saying its "draconian provisions" would stifle the private health sector.

The agitating doctors said the amendments suggested by them to the Select Committee were not carried out and the Bill had made it mandatory to pro-

vide free treatment without defining an emergency.

While the doctors clashed with the police at Statue Circle near the State Assembly, the health care services across the State were adversely affected, as the private hospitals remained closed for the second consecutive day. Police used water cannons to disperse the agitating doctors, even as the medicos in government hospitals boycotted work for two hours as a symbolic gesture of support.

Mr. Meena said the private doctors' demand for withdrawal of the Bill was not justified, as it had been amended based on several of the suggestions submitted by them.

The ruling Congress had made a promise to legislate the Bill in its manifesto for the 2018 Assembly polls and the delay in bringing the law had caused a serious concern among the health activists.

Key Features

- The Bill provides the right to health and access to healthcare for people in the state. This includes free health care services at any clinical establishment to residents of the state.
- The Bill sets certain obligations on the state government to ensure the right to health and maintain public health.
- Health Authorities will be set up at the state and district level. These bodies will formulate, implement, monitor, and develop mechanisms for quality healthcare and management of public health emergencies.

Key Issues and Analysis

- There is no provision for reimbursing private health establishments for providing free healthcare services. This may make these establishments commercially unviable and violate Article 19(1)(g) of the Constitution.
- The District Health Authority is required to upload an action taken report on the web portal for complaints. The Bill does not specify who will have access to the report on the web portal. This may infringe on the patient's right to privacy in medical cases.
- Implementing the right to health may increase the financial obligation of the state. The Bill does not provide for such additional costs.

- **Related Provisions in India: International Conventions:**

- India is a signatory of the Article 25 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (1948) by the [United Nations](#) that grants the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being to humans including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services.

- **Fundamental Rights:**

- [Article 21](#) of the Constitution of India guarantees a fundamental right to life & personal liberty.
 - The right to health is inherent to a life with dignity.

- भारत में संबंधित प्रावधान: अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन:

- भारत संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा मानव अधिकारों की सार्वभौमिक घोषणा (1948) के अनुच्छेद 25 का एक हस्ताक्षरकर्ता है, जो भोजन, कपड़े, आवास और चिकित्सा देखभाल सहित मनुष्यों के स्वास्थ्य और कल्याण के लिए पर्याप्त जीवन स्तर का अधिकार प्रदान करता है। और आवश्यक सामाजिक सेवाएं।
- मौलिक अधिकार:
- भारत के संविधान का अनुच्छेद 21 जीवन और व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता के मौलिक अधिकार की गारंटी देता है।
- स्वास्थ्य का अधिकार गरिमापूर्ण जीवन में निहित है।

- **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP):**

- Articles 38, 39, 42, 43, & 47 (**DPSP**) put the obligation on the state in order to ensure the effective realization of the right to health.

- **Inadequate Funding:**

- **Expenditure on public health** funding has been consistently low in India (approximately 1.3% of **GDP**).
- As per OECD, India's total out-of-pocket expenditure is around 2.3% of GDP.

- राज्य नीति के निर्देशक सिद्धांत (DPSP):

- अनुच्छेद 38, 39, 42, 43, और 47 (DPSP) स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए राज्य पर दायित्व डालते हैं।

- अपर्याप्त धन:

- भारत में सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य निधि पर व्यय लगातार कम रहा है (जीडीपी का लगभग 1.3%)।
- OECD के अनुसार, भारत का कुल आउट-ऑफ-पॉकेट व्यय GDP का लगभग 2.3% है।

A grave mistake in Great Nicobar

In unprecedented haste, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has cleared the deck for a mega project at the cost of about ₹70,000 crore at the southern tip of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. NITI Aayog is piloting the project and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation is the project proponent. The 'Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Islands' project aims to develop an international transhipment port of 14.2 mTEU cargo capacity at Calcutta Bay along the island's south-eastern coast, an international airport to support 4,000 passengers during peak hours, a 450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant, and an ecotourism and residential township of about 160 sq km. The government hopes to establish the offices of multinational corporations by clearing about a million trees in the tropical rain forest and destroying large parts of coral reefs.

Quick clearances
The process towards implementation of this free trade zone and transhipment facility in Great Nicobar, located about 1,650 km from Chennai and 40 nautical miles from the international shipping route, started in September 2020 when the NITI Aayog issued a request for proposals for preparing the master plan for the project. In March 2021, AECOM India Private Ltd, a consulting firm, released a pre-feasibility report. The MoEFCC's Expert Appraisal Committee initiated the process of environmental clearance in April, and the project proponent contracted the Hyderabad-based Vinta Labs to prepare the environmental impact assessment (EIA) report. In December 2021, the Ministry placed the draft EIA report in the public domain for comments and discussion. The quick approvals, clearances, exemptions and de-notifications



C.P. Rameshwar
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The ecological and environmental cost of the project in an area known for its marine and terrestrial biodiversity appears to have been set aside

show that the Union government is keen to implement this project. The Great Nicobar island has a population of about 8,000. Once completed, the project is expected to attract more than 3 lakh people, which is equal to the current population of the entire 1,000-km-long island chain. The ecological and environmental cost of this urbanisation project in an area known for its marine and terrestrial biodiversity appears to have been set aside without any serious consideration. Thus, it would be a misnomer to call this project as 'holistic.' Have the authorities forgotten that a financially successful transhipment hub can be sustained only with viable hinterland economic activities? Expecting that in a place like Great Nicobar is wishful thinking. The island, which is spread over 900 sq km, was declared a biosphere reserve in 1989 and included in the UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme in 2013. More than three-fourth of it is designated as a tribal reserve under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Amendment Regulation. The agenda to convert this pristine forest into a commercial hub to compete with the international port in Singapore is not only 'backslide' but also run counter to the rights of vulnerable tribes. In a similar fashion, as the Nicobarese and Shompen, who have been living in these areas for thousands of years and who depend on the forests for survival, are denied compensation as a compensation for the loss of forest in the Great Nicobar island project, such as the one being implemented in Haryana and Madhya Pradesh, far-field afforestation, that too in areas that have no ecological comparison makes no sense. The project will end up destroying vast stretches of forest, which the government recommends 'translocation' of an existential threat due to climate

change-induced ocean warming. Translocated corals do not have a high survival rate and are susceptible to bleaching, according to various studies. **Tectonic instability**
Further, the Great Nicobar Island is located close to the epicentre of the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake which displaced the sea floor by 10-20m vertically as well as several trillions of tonnes of undersea rock. The EIA report itself admits that "Great Nicobar lies in close proximity to the Ring of Fire and the Tsunami of 26 December 2004 is a clear demonstration of how prone it is to severe natural disasters...". The report, however, fails to mention scientific studies during and prior to the 2004 earthquake. The coastline of the Great Nicobar Islands, which was raised earlier, sank several meters during the earthquake. Post-earthquake satellite measurements show that the island topography is slowly regaining its original height relative to the sea level. Massive earthquakes like this are inevitable in this region. The repeated up and down movement of land in response to such earthquakes makes the Great Nicobar island unsuitable to be developed as an urban port city, but the EIA report hardly considers the tectonic instability around Great Nicobar. On international fora, India's leaders and representatives always highlight the country's role in promoting conservation, sustainability, and green development initiatives, but our optimism is dampened by unsustainable developmental projects such as the one being formulated for Great Nicobar — projects which dilute the environmental laws to ease execution. Growth in terms of GDP makes no sense if it ends up in the irrevocable loss of natural capital. It is high time that the Prime Minister's expressed vision of 'green developmental model' becomes the guiding principle for future economic activities.

Sourness in the Assembly over sweets

There is a risk that democratic policy debates are getting stifled in Gujarat

STATE OF PLAY
Mahesh Langra
mahesh.langra@thehindu.co.in

In March 10, the ongoing Budget session of the Gujarat Assembly witnessed dramatic scenes when Congress MLAs were suspended from the House for a day following their protest demanding a discussion on the change of prasad (offering) at the Ambaji temple. The decision of the temple authorities to discontinue 'mohan thal' and instead offer 'chikki' sparked a controversy in the State. The government suspended the issue later saying the temple authorities will offer 'mohan thal' as prasad and 'chikki' as an option. This was the second time that Opposition members were suspended from the House during this session of the State Assembly. On March 11, 19 legislators from the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party were suspended from the Assembly for a day after they shouted slogans against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government. The Opposition MLAs were demanding a discussion then too — on the issue of a fake trainee police sub-inspector found undergoing training at a State-run police training academy. When Aam Aadmi Party's Chaudhary rejected the demand of the Congress for an urgent discussion on the issue, which the party claimed was linked to the future of the Keshubhai Patel trust and three AAP MLAs walked out as a protest. Following this, Gujarat Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs minister Prakash Patel moved a motion for the suspension of the members of the House. He claimed that the Opposition

was naturally passed without any fracas. Due to such frequent suspensions, critical issues concerning the public are not discussed by the lawmakers when the House is in session. It is perhaps for the first time that the Gujarat Assembly has not found a single issue worth debating under Rule 116 of the Assembly, which deals with matters of "urgent public importance", even three weeks into the Budget session. This is the second session of the 15th Assembly after the Assembly polls were held in December 2022. The 14th Assembly held 11 sessions between January 2018 and September 2022 totalling 123 days, according to a report by the PES Legislative Research. The report says that on average, the 14th Assembly sat for two sessions and 25 days a year. In 2000 and 2010, the average sitting days for the State Assembly was 31 days a year. In the 12th Assembly, the Assembly too sat for an average of 31 days a year.

Between Opposition members suspended and a reduced number of sitting days of the Gujarat Assembly, there is a risk that substantive, democratic policy debates are getting stifled in the State. Unless a robust bipartisan spirit re-enters the Assembly debates, led by Mr. Chaudhary and the BJP majority of the House, the absence of Opposition voices raising critical questions regarding the policy agenda will be to the detriment of development, and nudge Gujarat towards a strong-arm approach to governance. Equally, the Opposition could play a more effective role in the Assembly if it prioritised policy issues rationally, such as unemployment, instead of stoking confrontation over prasad preferences.

With rising cancer cases, a larger economic burden

Most of the expense for the treatment of cancer, which is among the costliest diseases to treat, is borne by the patients

DATA POINT

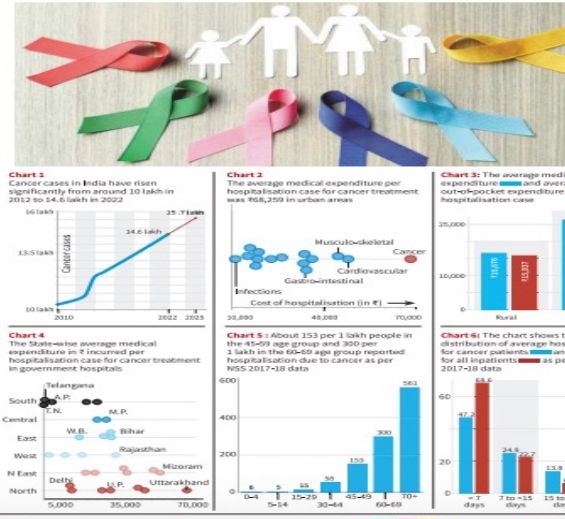
Thammya Prakash & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

In March 14, the Minister of State for Health said cancer cases in India crossed the 15 lakh mark by 2025. A research paper published by the Indian Council of Medical Research in December last year had estimated that cancer cases are likely to increase from 14.6 lakh in 2022 to 15.7 lakh in 2025 in India. In the last decade, cancer cases have risen from around 10 lakh in 2012 to 14.6 lakh in 2022 (Chart 1). While increasing disease burden is a concern, the economic burden is equally a worry given that cancer treatment is among the most expensive compared to other diseases. A Parliamentary Standing Committee report on cancer, released in September 2022, expressed concern about the "inaccessible and increasing cost of cancer treatment. For instance, according to the National Sample Survey (NSS 2017-18 report, the average medical expenditure per hospitalisation case for cancer treatment was ₹68,259 in urban areas (Chart 2). The average expenditure for cardiovascular disease, the second most expensive disease on the list, was ₹47,788. The Committee said that while anti-cancer medicine costs can be regulated, the cost of treatment also depends on other expenditure such as radiotherapy. Radiotherapy machines are not manufactured in India and are therefore expensive. It said that the cost of radiotherapy cannot be regulated as it has not been declared an essential service. Notably, a significant share of medical costs is incurred by patients in India while in hospital, poor insurance penetration. According to the NSS 2017-18 report, more than 80% of hospital bills are paid out of pocket. Chart 3 shows the average medical expenditure

and average out-of-pocket expenditure per hospitalisation case as per the NSS report. While comparison data post the implementation of Ayushman Bharat, an insurance scheme launched in 2018, are not yet available, the Committee observed that the "entire prescription and latest cancer therapies were not covered in the scheme." It also said that many diagnostic tests are not covered. And given that initial investigations can be "very expensive, it leads to delay in treatment." The Committee observed that some State-specific insurance schemes have been highly beneficial to the community at large, and suggested a convergence of State and Central schemes. Its observations are accurate as the cost of cancer treatment does vary widely across States. Chart 4 shows the State-wise average medical expenditure incurred per hospitalisation case for cancer treatment in government hospitals as per NSS 2017-18. The chart shows that the expenditure was lowest in Tamil Nadu and Telangana (with less than ₹1,000 spent per case) followed closely by Andhra Pradesh. This is an outcome of existing State-specific insurance schemes. While expenditure was highest in the northern and north-eastern parts of India, the central, eastern and western States were middling. The NSS data also show that 153 per 1 lakh people in the 45-59 age group and 300 per 1 lakh in the 60-69 age group reported hospitalisation due to cancer (Chart 5). This shows that cancer often strikes around the retirement age of an earning member, which leads to mounting debt burden. The data also show that the average hospital stay of 14.7% of cancer patients was more than 30 days in India, while on average, only 2.7% patients stay in hospital for that long. As longer stays lead to higher bills, cancer is indeed an expensive disease to treat.

Emperor of all maladies

The chart is based on data collated from the Indian Journal of Medical Research, the NSS 2017-18 report titled 'Health in India', and questions from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 22, 1973

Centre not for cinema houses nationalisation

New Delhi, March 21: Mr. I.K. Gujral, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, made it clear in the Lok Sabha during question time today that the Government's policy was not to nationalise cinema houses. Mr. Gujral, who was replying to Mr. Prabodh Chandra, said that while the Government would make some public investments in the construction of cinema houses, they would want private enterprise to run cinema houses. The Government had plans to establish a chain of theatres to make up the big shortage in the number of cinema houses available and the State Governments were expected to act on the recommendation of a recent conference of State Information Ministers to set apart 10 per cent for the encouragement of construction of cinema houses. After Mr. Dharamvir Bir Sahra, Deputy Minister of Information, had said, in reply to Dr. H.P. Sharma, that there were only 7400 cinema houses in the country against the 25,000 required, Mr. Prabodh Chandra said people were not coming forward to construct cinema houses because of nationalisation were being held out often as was happening in Punjab. He wanted a categorical statement that cinema houses would not be nationalised. In reply to him as well as Mr. Jayaramn Basu, who had alleged that threats of nationalisation were being held out to collect money for the Congress, Mr. Gujral said he had seen reports of the Punjab Government's intention to take over cinema houses, but the State Government had not approached the Centre on this issue.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 22, 1923

Disarmament

Leaflet (Oxford) midnight, March 21: According to a telegram from Washington, Mr. Hughes, Secretary of State, announces that he has received from Great Britain an official denial of the statement which was made at Newhaven to the effect that in a considerable number of British ships bulges had increased and turret loading arrangements been fitted, elevation of turret guns had been modified. Mr. Hughes explains that he obtained the information regarding the British ships from the United States Navy department which in its turn now accepts the statement of the British Government.

Emperor of all maladies

The charts are based on data collated from the Indian Journal of Medical Research, the NSS 2017-18 report titled 'Health in India', and questions from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha



Chart 1

Cancer cases in India have risen significantly from around 10 lakh in 2012 to 14.6 lakh in 2022

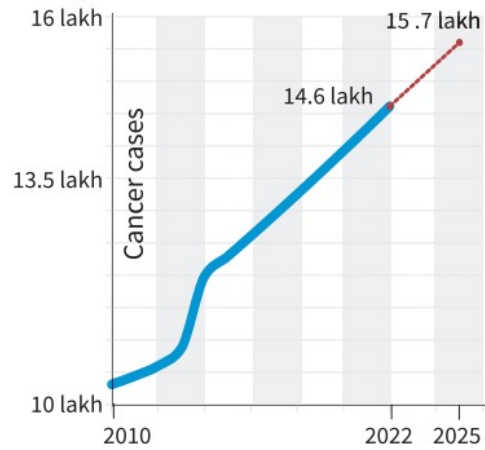


Chart 2

The average medical expenditure per hospitalisation case for cancer treatment was ₹68,259 in urban areas

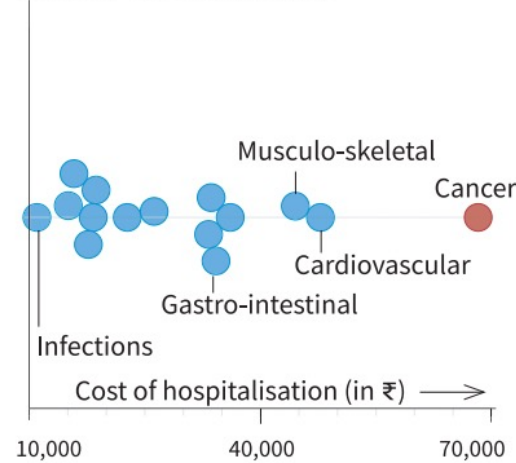


Chart 3: The average medical expenditure and average out-of-pocket expenditure per hospitalisation case

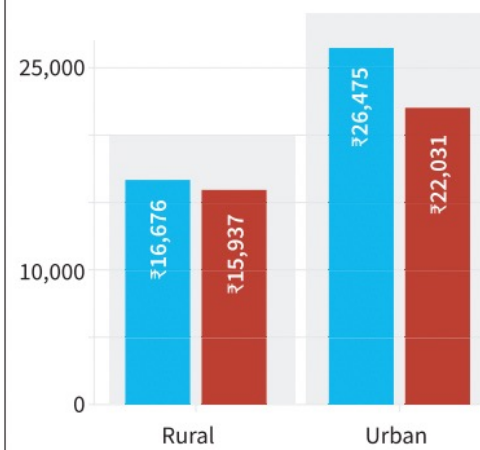


Chart 4

The State-wise average medical expenditure in ₹ incurred per hospitalisation case for cancer treatment in government hospitals

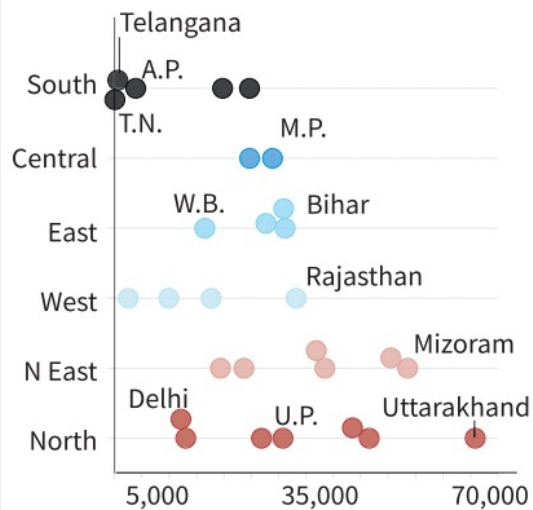


Chart 5 : About 153 per 1 lakh people in the 45-59 age group and 300 per 1 lakh in the 60-69 age group reported hospitalisation due to cancer as per NSS 2017-18 data

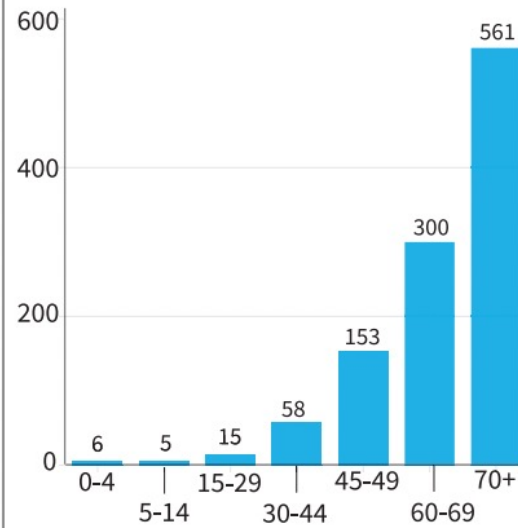
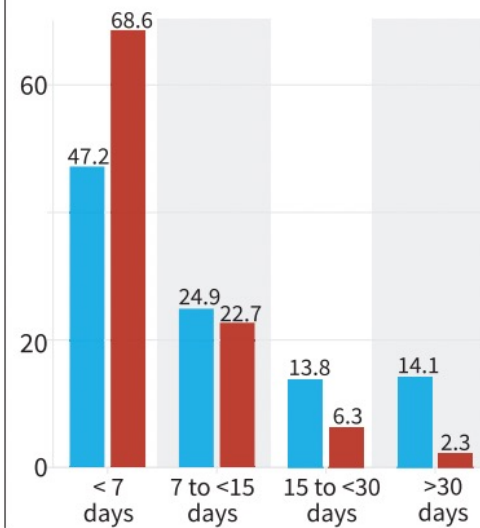


Chart 6: The chart shows the % distribution of average hospital stay for cancer patients and the same for all inpatients as per NSS 2017-18 data



cancer treatment was ₹66,299 in urban areas (**Chart 2**). The average expenditure for cardiovascular disease, the second-most expensive disease on the list, was ₹47,788. The Committee said that while anti-cancer medicine costs can be regulated, the cost of treatment also depends on other expenditure such as radiotherapy. Radiotherapy machines are not manufactured in India and are therefore expensive. It said that the cost of radiotherapy cannot be regulated as it has not been declared an essential service.

Notably, a significant share of medical costs is incurred by patients in India due to relatively poor insurance penetration. According to the NSS 2017-18 report, more than 80% of hospital bills are paid out of pocket. **Chart 3** shows the average medical expenditure

and average out-of-pocket expenditure per hospitalisation case as per the NSS report.

While comparison data post the implementation of Ayushman Bharat, an insurance scheme launched in 2018, are not yet available, the Committee observed that doctors' "entire prescription and latest cancer therapies were not covered in the scheme." It also said that many diagnostic tests are not covered. And given that initial investigations can be "very expensive, it leads to delay in treatment."

The Committee observed that some State-specific insurance schemes have been highly beneficial to the community at large, and suggested a convergence of State and Central schemes. Its observations are accurate as the cost of cancer treatment does vary widely across States. **Chart 4** shows the

IN BRIEF



Anti-submarine warship INS Androth launched
The INS Androth, second in a series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, was launched in Kolkata on Tuesday. It was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers. Propelled by three diesel-driven water jets, these ships can attain a maximum speed of 25 knots. Their primary role is to conduct anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, low intensity maritime operations and mine laying operations. "These ships are also capable of full-scale sub surface surveillance of coastal waters and various surface platforms and coordinated ASW operations with aircraft," a statement said.

SC refuses to intervene in plea over demonetised notes

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to intervene on behalf of individuals who could not exchange their demonetised currency for valid bank notes in 2016. Two months after a Constitution Bench delivered a majority verdict upholding the government's demonetisation policy, the court said it cannot flex its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to help persons who missed the opportunity to trade their demonetised ₹500 and ₹1000 bills for the new bank notes. The court, however, observed that the grievances may be genuine and directed the aggrieved petitioners to approach the Centre for redress.

Substance abuse defined as mental illness in Act Centre

The Mental Health Care Act, 2017 defines substance abuse disorders as mental illness, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, in response to a question about whether the government recognised this. The Union government's measures to address this issue come under the umbrella of the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction. This involves running the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan in 372 vulnerable districts, 340 integrated rehabilitation centres for addicts, 48 community-based intervention centres, and 71 outreach and drop-in centres.

Mamata to meet JD(S) leader Kumaraswamy on Friday

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will on Friday meet former Karnataka Chief Minister and Janata Dal (G) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy in Kolkata. This is likely to be Ms. Banerjee's third meeting with a key leader of a non-Congress opposition party in less than a week. These meetings assume significance amidst efforts by the Trinamool Congress and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi to stitch together a third Opposition front. On March 17, Ms. Banerjee met with Samajwadi Party president Abhishek Yadav and on Tuesday she left for Odisha to meet Chief Minister Naveen Patra. The meeting between Mr. Kumaraswamy and Ms. Banerjee comes months before the Karnataka Assembly elections.

Why couples want recognition for same-sex marriage

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI
Last week, Deepak Sharma was rushed to a hospital in Bengaluru for an emergency surgery. There, writhing in pain, he signed his own documents, as his partner of 13 years, Ankur Bhatnagar, stood by helplessly. Hospital authorities insisted that only "family" could sign the documents and not "friends", Mr. Bhatnagar said.

who have the legal sanction of a marriage, same-sex couples have trouble accessing some basic relationship rights. Whether it is buying a house together, securing medical insurance, having a joint bank account, ensuring inheritance, or even on visa applications, there is no recognition of same-sex partners.



Five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court will start hearing petitions on the issue on April 18.

"Our partners do not exist for the system," Mr. Sharma said. India decriminalised homosexuality in 2018, while in 2007 the Supreme Court had recognised sexual orientation as protected under right to privacy. However, because financial and social security benefits are only accorded to those

Legal rights
Social worker Koel Ghosh, who lives with her partner Ankana Dey in her ancestral house in Kolkata, is petrified that if something happens to her, her family may throw Ms. Dey out from the house as she has no legal right over the property despite having spent an equal amount of money on its upkeep.
The couple are one of

herit the house. How fair is that?" Mr. Vhatwar asked. Accessing each other's Provident Fund, medical insurance or any kind of joint social security options are out of bounds for these couples without the stamp of marriage.
Financial matters
Things get more complicated when one partner is financially dependent on the other. Mr. Vhatwar's partner Spooner G., is eight years younger, was a student and 19 years old when they started living together. Since her parents objected to the relationship, she had no security net.
It is the dependence on the natal or birth families for accessing resources which puts a lot of LGBTIQ people at risk of physical

violence. Legal recognition for same-sex unions would mean that a couple can access police and legal protection.
Adoption, surrogacy, or even IVF for lesbian couples is almost impossible legally, with one person having to bear the full legal responsibility.
There is also a question mark on the fate of children adopted in case the couple decides to part ways after some years, as in the absence of joint custody, only one would be left responsible for the upbringing of the child. Mr. Sharma and Mr. Bhatnagar, who have explored all avenues for having a child over the last decade, are waiting with high expectations for the Supreme Court to start hearing the petitions on April 18.

Parliamentary panel pulls up Railways over losses incurred

Loss of ₹15,024 crore recorded in FY22; Rise in staff cost after 7th Pay Commission and pandemic impact cited as reasons for net revenue fall

Maltri Porecha
NEW DELHI



The committee has recommended that Railways should institute remedial measures to plug leakages and reverse trend in net revenue.

A drastic fall in the net revenue of the Indian Railways has left the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Railway Welfare perturbed. Revenue is essentially the lifeblood of the Railways, as reflected in its FY2022-23, when the Railways recorded a negative net revenue of ₹15,024.58 crore, down from ₹10,661.51 crore in FY2021-22. The committee has observed that the Railways' net revenues is witnessing a downward trend, except in 2014-15, when it witnessed an increase of 8.29%.
"During the last five years, with effect from 2016 to onwards, the revised estimates (RE) were reduced to more than 50% and the actuals were far behind from RE in all these years," the panel noted.
The Railways noted that it recorded a loss due to a sharp rise in staff cost following the implementation of the 7th Central Pay Commission in 2016-17 and 2017-18, and the adverse impact of the Railways' untimely remedial measures to plug leakages and stem the trend of declining net revenue, and find ways and

House panel seeks data on heart attack deaths post COVID

Hindu Shalini Peranamban
NEW DELHI

In an attempt to understand the rise of myocardial infarctions (heart attacks) in the country among people following the COVID-19 pandemic, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Railway Welfare has asked the Indian Council of Medical Research "to give evidence-based clarification based on the findings of its previous studies on the matter."
"Currently, there is insufficient evidence/data to prove whether rise of myocardial infarctions and sudden deaths have been due to COVID-19 vaccines - but these cases of sudden deaths due to myocardial

Academics raise concern over query in RS on 'Pakistani author'

The Hindu Shreya
NEW DELHI

About 250 academics and teachers, including historian Romila Thapar, have expressed concern over a letter sent by the UGC to Registrars of all Central Universities on March 16 regarding a question asked in Parliament.
The question from the Rajya Sabha was asked whether the latter had taken cognisance of the fact that a book by a Pakistani author was being taught at Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia Millia Islamia and other educational institutions. The question also wanted to know whether the Government was derogatory to Indian citizens and also if it supported terrorism.
"While it appears that a specific book by a specific author is the subject of the

Caste data from 2011 'technically flawed': govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Tuesday reiterated its position that the caste data collected in the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) of 2011 is "technically flawed" and hence has not been made official for any purpose.
The reply was tabled in response to a question from Dravidu Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) MP V. Vasu, by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in the Lok Sabha.
Even as the Opposition parties continue to press for the data to be made public and for the Centre to conduct a fresh census, some States have conducted their own caste surveys.

CROSSWORD **13819** To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site. <https://qrgg.page.link/jRrVn>

(set by Afterdark)

Across

1. Civil engineer with guards surround (from the need) a morally correct phrase (6)
2. Move through the taxi in parkmark (5)
3. Student's expressed (5)
4. Dresser (dog an onion (not new) hurriedly (8)
5. Headline graduate's hundred thousand at American city and state (6)

Down

1. Stars' celebrations without provisions (6)
2. Don't go off (4/2)
3. Cop's endless rules, primarily expected to keep criminals list (6/3)
4. Paperwork on migration to leave Thailand may to be rezone (7)
5. Cuba airmen learn act amended by Mexican, perhaps (7/5)
6. Direction class (5)
7. Lolly, one with cape is in seclusion (8)
8. Gold set for baltimeter (2-4)
9. Paper frequently left in front part of the church (5/4)
10. A blow for meal, leader left to share (8)
11. 67% of males are blind (6)
12. Gain time for transportation (7)
13. Conversation last rally was associated to the stars (5)
14. Atmosphere at Ecuador outskirts could be drier (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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



Anti-submarine warship *INS Androth* launched

The *INS Androth*, second in a series of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, was launched in Kolkata on Tuesday. It was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers. Propelled by three diesel-driven water jets, these ships can attain a maximum speed of 25 knots. Their primary role is to conduct anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, low intensity maritime operations and mine laying operations. “These ships are also capable of full-scale sub surface surveillance of coastal waters and various surface platforms and coordinated ASW operations with aircraft,” a statement said.

ROLE MODEL
Starc is a big part of my Australia journey, says speedster Ellis



Starc has been huge for me. Personally, he is someone I looked up to a lot of time. He presented me my first Australia cap too. He is a big part of my journey. He is a calming influence; he is also someone who has been there and done almost everything the game has to offer — Australia speedster Nathan Ellis.

BLITZ
Klaassen's unbeaten century helps South Africa level series



Heinrich Klaassen slammed a 54-ball century as South Africa beat the West Indies by four wickets in the third and final One-Day International at Posthofstroom on Tuesday. The scores: West Indies 260 in 48.2 overs (Brandon King 72) lost to South Africa 264/9 in 29.3 overs (Heinrich Klaassen 119 n.o.).

HONOUR
Stadium named after Rani, first woman to get the honour



Indian hockey player Rani Rampal became the first woman in the sport to have a stadium named after her — in Rae Bareilly. MCF Rae Bareilly has renamed the stadium as Rani's Girls Hockey Turf. Rani shared photos on the social media, where she is seen interacting with players and inaugurating the stadium with other staff members.

COMPLETELY CURED
Martina Navratilova reveals that she is cancer-free



Martina Navratilova has been told by doctors that, "as far as they know, I'm cancer-free," and that she should be "good to go" after some additional radiation treatment. The 66-year-old Navratilova, an 18-time Grand Slam singles champion, discussed her health in an interview with Piers Morgan on TalkTV to be aired on Tuesday.

Men in Bue need to find a way to tackle the Mitchells' menace

Marsh, with two aggressive half-centuries, and Starc, with eight wickets in two games, have proved to be thorns in India's flesh; the spinners are expected to come to the fore for Rohit's men on a pitch likely to assist them

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA
S. Dipak Ragay
CHENNAI

Bilateral one-day internationals may have lost relevance in recent times, but for visiting teams, a series win in India is still a big deal. The Men in Blue have only lost one ODI series since 2016, when Australia beat India 2-2 in 2016. On Wednesday at the recently-renovated M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, the Aussies will look to repeat their feat from four years ago in the third and final one-day match of the series now level at 1-1.

The visitors will take confidence from the commanding 10-wicket win in Visakhapatnam on Sunday to level the three-match competition after the opening-game loss in Mumbai.

Perfect finish
And an ODI series win in India ahead of the World Cup here later this year would be a perfect way to finish the tour for Australia, which lost the four-Test series 2-1. For the tourists, the two Mitchells — Marsh and Starc — have been firing on all cylinders with bat and ball, respectively.

In the series, Marsh, who has opened the batting in the absence of David Warner, has grabbed the opportunity with both hands with consecutive half-centuries to amass 147 runs so far.

In a positive development for the Aussies, Warner batted in the nets for over 20 minutes on Tuesday.

The left-handed batter missed the first two matches as he had not fully recovered from his elbow injury.

If the swashbuckling opener does return, Marcus Stoinis is likely to be the one to make up for him.

Meanwhile, India will look to complete a clean sweep of the series win at home this year, having blanked New Zealand and Sri Lanka 3-0. However, Australia has proved to be a far more formidable opponent.

In the two matches, the Indian top-order has been found wanting in security-friendly conditions against the Aussie pace attack led by Starc.

With the new ball, the left-arm seamer made full use of the assistance from the pitch and ambient conditions, taking eight wickets in the two outings, including a five-for in the second match.



Need of the hour: Gill will do well to put a price on his wicket even while playing his natural game. S. JOTHIRAMALINGAM

Starc has had the right-hander heavy Indian top-order in a tangle, especially with the ball coming in. It is something Rohit's men would look to address.

Shubman Gill — who has had a stellar start to his ODI career — has had a quiet series and was guilty of churning away his wicket with loose shots in both games. The young opener would be keen to make amends in the decider.

The Chennai pitch may not help the speedsters like the ones for the first two games, which should please the batters after two low-scoring matches. On a surface that is traditionally known to help spinners, India will fancy its chances considering its depth in the department.

The teams (From):
India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Hardik Pandya, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, KL Rahul, Ishan Kishan, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldip Yadav, Washington Sundar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mohit Sharma, Mohammed Siraj, Umran Malik, Shantnu Thakur, Anur Patel and Jaydev Unadkat.
Australia: Steve Smith (Capt.), David Warner, Travis Head, Marcus Labuschagne, Mitchell Marsh, Marcus Stoinis, Alex Carey, Glenn Maxwell, Cameron Green, Josh Inglis, Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Mitchell Starc, Nathan Ellis and Adam Zampa.

We're in a good space and clear about the kind of team we want to play: Dravid

S. Dipak Ragay
CHENNAI

India's head coach Rahul Dravid said the team management has a fair idea about the 17-18 players for the 2019 World Cup to be played at home later this year.

"We have almost narrowed it down to 17-18 players. We have guys who are recovering from injuries and might come into the mix, depending on the time frame of their recoveries and how long it takes for them to come back," said Dravid, ahead of the third ODI against Australia here on Tuesday.

"But all in all, we are pretty much in a good space and clear about the kind of team we want to play. Hopefully, we can give these guys who we have zeroed in on as many playing opportunities as possible," the former India skipper added.

When asked about how fruitful the three ODI series against Sri Lanka, New Zealand and Australia have been in terms of preparation for the World Cup, Dravid said, "To a large extent, I think we have got a lot more clarity at the end of these nine games, irrespective of whatever happens tomorrow (on Wednesday)."

"For us now, it's just



Impact player: Dravid will be keen that Suryakumar comes good in the decider. S. JOTHIRAMALINGAM

against Mitchell Starc in the first two matches, the coach said it wasn't an area of concern. "We have put up some big scores in one-day cricket, so not too much of a concern, but these things can happen."

Mitchell Starc has bowled well, so credit to him as well. I think we need to find a way to get through that spell and but and not lose too many wickets upfront, especially

Capitals ease past Warriorz, enter final



Alice in Wonderland: Everything Capsy touched turned to gold on Tuesday. EMMANUEL YOGINI

WPI.
Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

Warriorz got off to a brisk start with Shweta Sehrawat and Alyssa Healy bringing up 30 runs in just four overs.

While Capsy and Radha stemmed the run flow with quick wickets of Healy, Samran Shaikh and Kiran Navgire, Tahila McGrath took charge of the innings for the second game and second day in a five-wicket win over UP Warriorz here on Tuesday.

The win, sealed with 13 balls to spare, sent Capitals into the final, edging Mumbai Indians by virtue of being the best net run rate. MI and UPW will meet in the Eliminator on March 24.

Final points table

Team	W	L	T	NR	Net Run Rate
Delhi Capitals (Q2)	5	6	2	1	1.256
Mumbai Indians (Q2)	5	6	2	1	1.173
UP Warriorz (Q1)	5	4	4	0	-0.206
Royal Challengers (R)	5	2	6	4	-1.137
Gujarat Giants (E)	5	2	6	4	-2.225

SCOREBOARD
UP WARRIORZ
Alyssa Healy st. Tanya B. Capsy 36 (34), 4x4, 2x1, Shweta Sehrawat c. Anoushka B. Radha 19 (13), 4x4, Samran Shaikh c. Anoushka B. Radha 13 (23), 2x1, Tahila McGrath (not out) 58 (32), 6x1, 4x1, 3x1, 2x1, 1x1, 1x1, Tanya B. Capsy 2 (8), Deepthi Sharma st. Tanya B. Capsy 2 (8), Sophie Ecclesstone st. Tanya B. Capsy 9 (2), Anjali Sawani (not out) 3 (6), Extras (DLS, w, O, F, Total) 9 for six wickets in 20 overs: 138.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-36 (Shweta, 4.3 overs), 2-63 (Healy, 9.5), 3-71 (Sehrawat, 11.5), 4-81 (Girani, 14.5), 5-104 (Deepthi, 17.1), 6-105 (Ecclesstone, 17.5).
CAPTAIN'S BOWLING
Kapp 4-0-24-0, Shaikha 3-0-16-0, Jones 4-0-24-1, Radha 4-0-28-2, Anandhathi 2-0-19-0, Casper 4-0-28-2.

Rodrigues and Lanning in the seventh over, but the Kapp-Capsy show took over. By the time Capsy fell, Capitals were just nine runs away. Jess Jonassen's run-out saw the game drift into the 18th over. But Kapp sealed it with a boundary.

Kerr does the star turn as Mumbai Indians subdues Royal Challengers Bangalore

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NAVI MUMBAI

After a bit of an aberration, normal service resumed at the Women's Premier League, Mumbai Indians won their eighth RCB Challengers Bangalore lost.

The Mumbai women, who lost their last two games, must be relieved with their four-wicket victory at the D.Y. Patil Stadium on Tuesday. After reducing RCB to 125 for nine, they romped home with 3.3 overs to spare.

MI captain Harmanpreet Kaur won the toss for the first time in the tournament. Off the third ball, Sophie Devine, fresh from her astonishing 36-ball 99 against Gujarat Giants, was sent out following poor communication with her skipper and opening partner Smriti Mandhanna.

Smith, though, began to show glimpses of her all-rounder talent as she kept her touch that had deserted her for most of the tournament. But she fell to spin again, this time top-edging the Kiwi leggie Amelia Kerr behind the stumps.

Elyse Perry (29, 35B, 3x4) and Richa Ghosh (29, 13B, 3x4, 2x6) jointly top-

scored, though in contrasting styles. Kerr finished with three wickets, while the England duo of Nat Sciver-Burnett and Issy Wong picked up two each.

MI's chase got off to a flying start, with Harmanpreet Kaur (19, 18B, 2x4) ensured MI got its morale-boosting win. RCB's campaign ended with two losses.

SCOREBOARD
ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Smriti Mandhanna c. Yastika Bhatia b Kerr 24 (23), Jas Jais, Sophie Devine run-out (26), Elyse Perry bow b Kerr 29 (29), Anoushka Bhatia c. Heather Knight c Wong b Kerr 12 (23), Jas Jais, Anoushka Bhatia b Kerr 12 (23), Jas Jais, Anoushka Bhatia c. Schutt 8w 5-0-37-0, Heather Perry 2-0-9-0.

TOTALS
Capitals, 161; Capsy Captains won by five wickets with 23 balls to spare.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-19 (Devine, 0.3 overs), 2-33 (Smith, 6.4), 3-59 (Knight, 10.4), 4-79 (Radha, 14.4), 5-81 (Perry, 16.1), 6-93 (Ghosh, 16.4), 7-108 (Smith, 17.5), 8-119 (Richa, 19.1), 9-125 (Richa, 19.6), 1-53 (Vankar, 3.0), 2-62 (Mathews, 7.1), 3-72 (Gher-Burnett, 8.4), 4-73 (Harmanpreet, 9.1), 5-120 (Poosha, 15.5), 6-120 (Wong, 15.6).

RCB BOWLING
Hayley Matthews c. Smith 1 (Schutt 4-19-2), Devine 3-0-17-0, Schutt 24 (27B, 2x4), Radha 13 (20), 6x1, Nat Sciver-Burnett c. Bhatia c. Smith 13 (Shroyanka 3-0-24-1), Preeti 2-0-11-0, Kaur 3-0-5-2, Smith 0.3-0-0.

TOTAL MI: 161; Kerr: 49 runs by four wickets with 26 balls remaining.



Stellar role: Kerr (22.2 & 31 n.o.) shone for MI. SPORTSPIC/WAL

FALL OF WICKETS
1-1 (Devine, 0.3 overs), 2-33 (Smith, 6.4), 3-59 (Knight, 10.4), 4-79 (Radha, 14.4), 5-81 (Perry, 16.1), 6-93 (Ghosh, 16.4), 7-108 (Smith, 17.5), 8-119 (Richa, 19.1), 9-125 (Richa, 19.6).
MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Smriti Mandhanna c. Yastika Bhatia b Kerr 24 (23), Jas Jais, Sophie Devine run-out (26), Elyse Perry bow b Kerr 29 (29), Anoushka Bhatia c. Heather Knight c Wong b Kerr 12 (23), Jas Jais, Anoushka Bhatia b Kerr 12 (23), Jas Jais, Anoushka Bhatia c. Schutt 8w 5-0-37-0, Heather Perry 2-0-9-0.

HONOUR

Stadium named after Rani, first woman to get the honour



Indian hockey player Rani Rampal became the first woman in the sport to have a stadium named after her — in Rae Bareilly. MCF Rae Bareilly has renamed the stadium as Rani's Girls Hockey Turf. Rani shared photos on the social media, where she is seen interacting with players and inaugurating the stadium with other staff members.

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Opposition MPs display a banner in Parliament on Tuesday, demanding a JPC probe into the Adani Group. Press Nath Pandey

Budget Session may be cut short; meetings by Speaker, V-P fail to end House deadlock

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

WITH MEETINGS called by presiding officers of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha failing to end the stalemate between the government and Opposition, there is uncertainty over whether the Budget Session will continue till its scheduled date of April 6.

Speakers said the BJP leadership held a high-level meeting on Tuesday morning to initiate discussions on the strategy regarding passing the Budget, if the House proceedings remain stalled.

On Tuesday, for the seventh day in a row, proceedings in both the Houses were adjourned following chaotic scenes. Amid the disorder, the Janata and Kadamr Appropriation Bill, 2023, was passed in the Lok Sabha.

Some MPs said the government may quarantine the demands for grants and pass the Finance Bill without any discussion in Lok Sabha on Thursday.

At the meetings held by Speaker Om Birla for Lok Sabha and Vice-President and Rajya

MORE ARRESTS, FLOWN TO ASSAM

How did you let Amritpal escape, HC asks Punjab

Won't spare, says CM; NSA invoked against Amritpal and aides: Police in affidavit to HC

JAGPREET SINGH & KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 21

PULLING UP the Punjab government for failing to arrest Warden Punjab De leader and Khalistan sympathiser Amritpal Singh, the Punjab and Haryana High Court said Tuesday that the state had an 80,000-strong police force and if he did give them the slip, it amounted to intelligence failure.

The state told the High Court an affidavit filed by Santinder Singh, SSP Amritsar (Rural), was taken on record — that orders to detain Amritpal and others under the National Security Act had been issued on March 18.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, in a video

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

‘Came to our gurdwara, changed clothes and fled’

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA & NAVJEEVAN GOPAL
JALANDHAR, CHANDIGARH, MARCH 21

IN NANGL Ambian, a village in Jalandhar district, Ranjit Singh, the priest of the gurdwara, was getting ready to visit a relative when he was told that Amritpal Singh had turned up.

This was around 1 pm on March 18, the day the Punjab Police cracked down on the leader of Warden Punjab De and his aides.

Ranjit Singh said he had no idea then about the police action against Amritpal.

“When I heard he was here, I was very worried because I thought his men may have come to break something as they had done in Jalandhar,” he recalled.

He said he received a sigh of relief when one of the four men accompanying Amritpal said they needed clothes since they had to go to a “programme”.

“I was surprised but I did what they said and got my son’s clothes,” Ranjit said.

Amritpal then told Ranjit’s wife to get him a long trowel which she did.

Amritpal and his men sa

CONTINUED ON PAGE 1

CJI to present Ramnath Goenka Journalism Awards today

ADITYA VADDEPALLI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

IN 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic brought life to a standstill, impacting human lives and livelihoods in unprecedented ways.

Through their stories that reborn around the pandemic — health infrastructure, migrant exodus, plight of frontline workers, unemployment, rumours and unreported deaths, winners of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards focused, among other issues, on the impact the pandemic had on the lives of ordinary Indians.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM AWARDS

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud

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Anti-Modi posters in Capital: 44 FIRs, 4 arrests

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE DELHI Police has registered 44 FIRs and arrested four persons, including two printing press owners, after posters including some seeking the ouster of Prime Minister Narendra Modi (‘Modi haram, deti bachao’), were found pasted on walls and poles in several areas of the Capital.

At least 2,000 posters were removed and 2,000 more seized after a van was intercepted.

Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order Northern Zone) Dependra Pathak told The Indian Express that police intercepted a van in JP Estate when it was coming from the AAP headquarters on DDU Marg and arrested a man.

The arrested man disclosed that he was asked by his employer to deliver the posters at AAP’s headquarters, and that he had made a delivery a day earlier as well. We have arrested two other men and further investigations are on,’ Pathak said.

There was no immediate response from the AAP.

According to police, two

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

KANNADA ACTOR HELD OVERTWEEET ON HINDUTVA

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, MARCH 21

RAJASTHAN ON Tuesday became the first state to pass in Assembly the Right to Health Bill, which gives every resident of the state the right to avail free Out Patient Department (OPD) services and in Patient Department (IPD) services at all public health facilities. Also, similar healthcare services will be provided free of cost at select private facilities.

The Bill was passed despite

Power shortage: Grid managers brace for 18 ‘alert days’ in April

ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

INDIA’S ELECTRICITY grid is bracing for a tough summer, with an over 8 per cent surge in anticipated peak demand of 230 GW (giga watt) this year end and the system operators bracing for an estimated 18 “alert days” in April where a serious power crunch could be on the cards, according to projections by the National Load Despatch Centre (NLDCC).

Last year’s peak demand of 211.6 GW was recorded in July.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Rs 70 crore lost last year, Bengaluru sees surge in crypto-trading frauds

PAGE 1 ANCHOR
KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, MARCH 21

ON OCTOBER 10 last year, a 28-year-old software engineer received a WhatsApp message from ‘Lilly’. The ‘accidental’ meet was followed by conversations spanning nearly three weeks, during which Lilly expressed her desire to visit India and learn more about the techie’s family.

Since he had mentioned a financial problem, Lilly offered a solution — buy cryptocurrency and invest it on a portal she trusted on. He invested Rs 1.5 lakh. Over the next two months, he took loans from three banks and made his girlfriend avail a loan of Rs 25 lakh. It was only when he lost the 50 lakh in Bengaluru resident realised he had been deceived.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Probe looks at deposits of Rs 40 cr, some in name of farm protest victims’ relatives

VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 21

INVESTIGATION AGENCIES have detected alleged dubious transactions of over Rs 40 crore, spread over 7 years since 2016, in multiple bank accounts of at least five members of Warden Punjab De whose leader Amritpal Singh is on the run.

“In a few cases, it was found that money was received in the name of giving financial assistance to the families of a few who lost their lives during the farmer agitation at Delhi’s border.

Others in another case, it was found that money was received in the name of promoting religious activities,” a highly placed source said.

Over Rs 35 crore, source said, had been received by Amritpal’s close aide Daljit

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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BUILDING ON BUDDHIST TIES THROUGH SPIRITUAL OFFERINGS

PM gifts Kishida sandalwood Buddha statue



The Buddha figure has been hand-carved with traditional designs. *Express*

DIVYAA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday presented a sandalwood Buddha statue to his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida, who is on a two-day visit to India. The two leaders also spent some time at the Buddha Jayanti Park in New Delhi a day earlier.

The Buddha figure, sitting in “dhyana mudra” under the Bodhi tree, is made of pure sandalwood and has been hand-carved with traditional designs

and natural scenes, officials said.

It is believed that the Buddha was sitting in this posture while meditating under the Bodhi tree before his enlightenment.

The “kadamwood jail” box, in which the statue was encased, has imprints of birds and animals, officials said.

The art of sandalwood carving has been practised in Karnataka for centuries. This craft involves carving intricate designs into blocks of fragrant sandalwood, creating intricate sculptures, figurines and other decorative items.

Sandalwood tree, a species na-

tive to India, has been an important part of Indian culture for centuries and it is widely regarded as one of the most valuable and prized woods in the world.

Indian sandalwood is one of the most sacred herbs of Ayurveda. Karnataka is also called gandhadagudi – the land of sandalwood. The earliest origins of sandalwood carving can be traced back to the 3rd century BC, when sandalwood was used to make wooden idols and carvings for temples and other religious sites.

Buddhism is among the most dominant religions in Japan.



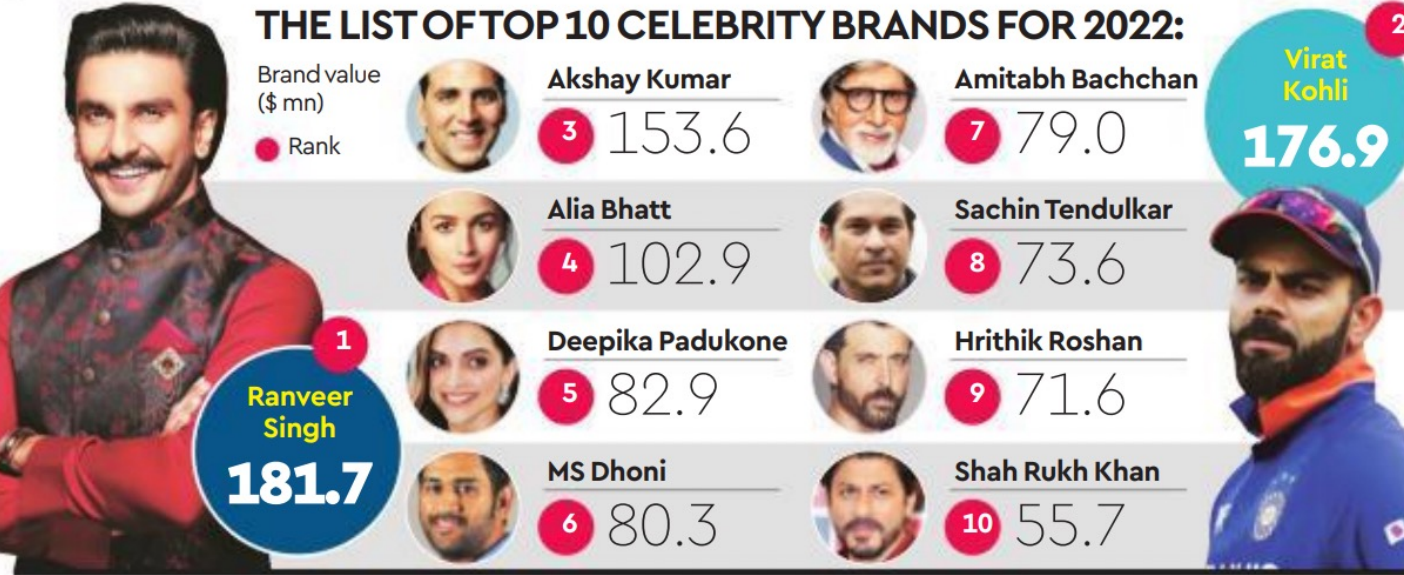
BOLLYWOOD STARS' SHARE IN TOP 20 FALLS TO 67.6%, SPORTS STARS AT 28.9%

Ranveer pips Kohli as most valued celebrity in 2022

AKANKSHA NAGAR
New Delhi, March 21

WITH A BRAND value of \$181.7 million, actor Ranveer Singh has surpassed cricket star Virat Kohli to become the most valued Indian celebrity in 2022, according to the eighth edition of Kroll's celebrity brand valuation study titled "Beyond the mainstream". The overall brand value of the top 25 celebrities in 2022 is estimated at \$1.6 billion, an increase of 29.1% from 2021. Kohli slipped to the second position with a brand value of \$176.9 million while Akshay Kumar retained his third position with a brand value of \$153.6 million.

Thanks to the roaring success of South Indian movies in recent years, actors Allu Arjun (20) and Rashmika Mandanna (25) made their way into the top 25 list for the first time, with brand values of \$31.4 million and \$25.3 million respectively. Olympic



gold medalist Neeraj Chopra debuted in the list at the 23rd position with a brand value of \$26.5 million. Actors Kiara Advani, Kartik Aaryan and Sara Ali Khan were other debutants on the top 25 list.

Singh became the most valued celebrity brand in India for the first time on the back of his mammoth

endorsement portfolio, which is now the largest in the industry comprising more than 40 brands, and his widening global presence. After signing up with global sportswear brand Adidas and the National Basketball Association, he was roped in as brand ambassador of Yas Island in Abu Dhabi and as India's ambassador for

the Fifa World Cup 2022.

Kohli, who slipped to the second position this year, had topped the list for three successive years in 2019 (brand value of \$237.5 million), 2020 (\$237.7 million) and 2021 (\$185.7 million).

The study ranked India's celebrity brands based on their endorsement

portfolios and social media presence. In the latest analysis, the share of Bollywood stars in the overall brand value for India's top 20 celebrities fell to 67.6% from 81.7% in 2016, with sport stars contributing 28.9% and the remaining 3.5% belonging to Tollywood stars.

Aviral Jain, managing director, valuation advisory services, Kroll, said that this year's theme is driven by the rise of South Indian movie stars and sports celebrities. Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu film industries posted a swashbuckling performance last year and even outperformed Bollywood in terms of both content and box office numbers.

"In 2021, almost half of the releases were driven by non-Bollywood cinema and I think they will continue to drive the business going forward. Now, Bollywood has to play catch-up.

Continued on Page 4

Daily Current Affairs

Menace of Missing Antiquities in India

- There is a formidable gap between artefact that has been “officially” declared missing and what is surfacing in global markets or being found in museum shelves and catalogues.
- Since Independence, 486 antiquities have been reported as missing from the 3,696 monuments protected and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- "आधिकारिक तौर पर" लापता घोषित की गई कलाकृतियों और वैश्विक बाजारों में जो सामने आ रही हैं या संग्रहालय की अलमारियों और कैटलॉग में पाई जा रही हैं, उनके बीच एक बड़ा अंतर है।
- स्वतंत्रता के बाद से, भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण (एएसआई) द्वारा संरक्षित और अनुरक्षित 3,696 स्मारकों में से 486 पुरावशेष गायब बताए गए हैं।

Issues Highlighted Regarding Missing Artefacts

- RTI records show that 305 antiquities have been brought back to India from abroad since 1976, including 292 since 2014.
- 3,696 monuments protected and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), including 139 from Madhya Pradesh, 95 from Rajasthan and 86 from Uttar Pradesh
- आरटीआई रिकॉर्ड बताते हैं कि 1976 के बाद से 305 पुरावशेष विदेशों से भारत वापस लाए गए हैं, जिनमें 2014 के बाद से 292 शामिल हैं।
- भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण (एएसआई) द्वारा संरक्षित और अनुरक्षित 3,696 स्मारक, जिनमें मध्य प्रदेश के 139, राजस्थान के 95 और उत्तर प्रदेश के 86 शामिल हैं

- Nearly four years ago, the US Department of Homeland Security's investigative wing informed a court in New York that it had seized 2,622 antiquities valued at over \$143 million (nearly Rs 1,165 crore), mainly from Asia, with links to just one man alone — Subhash Kapoor, the Indian antiquities smuggler who is serving a 10-year prison term in Tamil Nadu for idol theft.

- लगभग चार साल पहले, यूएस डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ होमलैंड सिक्योरिटी की जांच शाखा ने न्यूयॉर्क में एक अदालत को सूचित किया था कि उसने 143 मिलियन डॉलर (लगभग 1,165 करोड़ रुपये) से अधिक मूल्य की 2,622 पुरावशेष जब्त किए थे, मुख्य रूप से एशिया से, केवल एक व्यक्ति के लिंक के साथ - सुभाष कपूर, भारतीय पुरावशेष तस्कर, जो मूर्ति चोरी के लिए तमिलनाडु में 10 साल की जेल की सजा काट रहा है।

- In its report on June 15 last year, the Parliament committee flagged that “number of antiquities retrieved” by the ASI from abroad “are not even the tip of the iceberg in comparison to the huge number of antiques smuggled out from country”.

- पिछले साल 15 जून को अपनी रिपोर्ट में, संसद समिति ने कहा था कि एएसआई द्वारा विदेशों से प्राप्त "प्राचीन वस्तुओं की संख्या" "देश से तस्करी की गई बड़ी संख्या में प्राचीन वस्तुओं की तुलना में हिमशैल का सिरा भी नहीं है"।

- The ASI's list of missing antiquities covers 17 states and two Union Territories.
- Apart from MP, Rajasthan and UP, the list includes: Uttarakhand (33), Tamil Nadu (30), Bihar (22), Andhra Pradesh (18), Karnataka (15), Maharashtra (12), Chhattisgarh (8), Odisha (5), Telangana (5) and West Bengal (3), among others.

- एएसआई की लापता पुरावशेषों की सूची में 17 राज्य और दो केंद्र शासित प्रदेश शामिल हैं।
- एमपी, राजस्थान और यूपी के अलावा, सूची में शामिल हैं: उत्तराखंड (33), तमिलनाडु (30), बिहार (22), आंध्र प्रदेश (18), कर्नाटक (15), महाराष्ट्र (12), छत्तीसगढ़ (8), ओडिशा (5), तेलंगाना (5) और पश्चिम बंगाल (3), दूसरों के बीच में।

- The menace of missing antiquities is also illustrated by UNESCO. It estimates that “more than 50,000 art objects have been smuggled out of India till 1989”.
- The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities has so far registered 3.52 lakh antiquities from the 16.70 lakh it has documented for an “effective check” on illegal activities.

- लुप्त पुरावशेषों के खतरे को यूनेस्को द्वारा भी चित्रित किया गया है। यह अनुमान है कि "1989 तक भारत से 50,000 से अधिक कला वस्तुओं की तस्करी की गई है"।
- स्मारकों और पुरावशेषों पर राष्ट्रीय मिशन ने अब तक अवैध गतिविधियों पर "प्रभावी जांच" के लिए 16.70 लाख पुरावशेषों में से 3.52 लाख पुरावशेषों को पंजीकृत किया है।

What is Antiquity?

- The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, implemented on April 1, 1976, defined “antiquity” as “any coin, sculpture, painting, epigraph or other work of art or craftsmanship; any article, object or thing detached from a building or cave; any article, object or thing illustrative of science, art, crafts, literature, religion, customs, morals or politics in bygone ages; any article, object or thing of historical interest” that “has been in existence for not less than one hundred years.”

पुरातनता क्या है?

- 1 अप्रैल, 1976 को लागू पुरावशेष और कला निधि अधिनियम, 1972 ने "पुरातनता" को "किसी भी सिक्के, मूर्तिकला, पेंटिंग, पुरालेख या कला या शिल्प कौशल के अन्य कार्य" के रूप में परिभाषित किया; किसी इमारत या गुफा से अलग कोई वस्तु, वस्तु या वस्तु; बीते युगों में विज्ञान, कला, शिल्प, साहित्य, धर्म, रीति-रिवाज, नैतिकता या राजनीति का उदाहरण देने वाला कोई भी लेख, वस्तु या वस्तु; कोई भी लेख, वस्तु या ऐतिहासिक रुचि की वस्तु" जो "कम से कम एक सौ वर्षों से अस्तित्व में है।"

What do international conventions say?

- The UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property defined “cultural property” as the property designated by countries having “importance for archaeology, prehistory, history, literature, art or science.”

- सांस्कृतिक संपत्ति के अवैध आयात, निर्यात और स्वामित्व के हस्तांतरण को रोकने और रोकने के साधनों पर यूनेस्को 1970 कन्वेंशन ने "सांस्कृतिक संपत्ति" को "पुरातत्व, प्रागितिहास, इतिहास, साहित्य, कला या विज्ञान के लिए महत्व" रखने वाले देशों द्वारा निर्दिष्ट संपत्ति के रूप में परिभाषित किया। ”

- After that, in 2000, the General Assembly of the UN and the UN Security Council in 2015 and 2016 also raised concerns on the issue.
- An INTERPOL report in 2019 said that almost 50 years after the UNESCO convention, “the illicit international traffic of cultural items and related offences is sadly increasingly prolific.”

- उसके बाद 2000 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा और 2015 और 2016 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद ने भी इस मुद्दे पर चिंता जताई थी।
- 2019 में इंटरपोल की एक रिपोर्ट में कहा गया था कि यूनेस्को के सम्मेलन के लगभग 50 साल बाद, "सांस्कृतिक वस्तुओं और संबंधित अपराधों का अवैध अंतरराष्ट्रीय यातायात दुखद रूप से तेजी से बढ़ रहा है।"

What do Indian laws say?

- In India, Item-67 of the Union List, Item-12 of the State List, and Item-40 of the Concurrent List of the Constitution deal with the country's heritage.
- Before Independence, an Antiquities (Export Control) Act had been passed in April 1947 to ensure that “no antiquity could be exported without license.”
- भारत में संघ सूची की मद-67, राज्य सूची की मद-12 तथा संविधान की समवर्ती सूची की मद-40 देश की विरासत से संबंधित है।
- स्वतंत्रता से पहले, एक पुरावशेष (निर्यात नियंत्रण) अधिनियम अप्रैल 1947 में यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए पारित किया गया था कि "बिना लाइसेंस के किसी भी पुरावशेष का निर्यात नहीं किया जा सकता है।"

- In 1958, The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act was enacted.
- Then in 1971, Parliament saw an uproar over the theft of a bronze idol from Chamba and some important sandstone idols from other places.
- This, along with the UNESCO convention, prompted the government to enact The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 (AATA), implemented from April 1, 1976.

- 1958 में, प्राचीन स्मारक और पुरातत्व स्थल और अवशेष अधिनियम बनाया गया था।
- फिर 1971 में, संसद ने चंबा से एक कांस्य मूर्ति और अन्य स्थानों से कुछ महत्वपूर्ण बलुआ पत्थर की मूर्तियों की चोरी पर हंगामा देखा।
- इसने, यूनेस्को सम्मेलन के साथ, सरकार को 1 अप्रैल, 1976 से लागू पुरावशेष और कला निधि अधिनियम, 1972 (एएटीए) को अधिनियमित करने के लिए प्रेरित किया।

Daily Current Affairs

**WhatsApp threatening
to leave UK**

- During a visit to the U.K. last week, WhatsApp's head Will Cathcart said that WhatsApp would not comply with the country's proposed Online Safety Bill (OSB) which will in effect outlaw end-to-end (E2E) encryption. Mr. Cathcart said that it was the first time a "liberal democracy" was attempting to block a "secure product".
- पिछले सप्ताह यूके की यात्रा के दौरान, व्हाट्सएप के प्रमुख विल कैथकार्ट ने कहा कि व्हाट्सएप देश के प्रस्तावित ऑनलाइन सुरक्षा विधेयक (OSB) का पालन नहीं करेगा, जो कि एंड-टू-एंड (E2E) एन्क्रिप्शन को प्रभावी रूप से समाप्त कर देगा। श्री कैथकार्ट ने कहा कि यह पहली बार था जब एक "उदार लोकतंत्र" एक "सुरक्षित उत्पाद" को अवरुद्ध करने का प्रयास कर रहा था।

What is the Online Safety Bill?

- The Online Safety Bill is a proposed British legislation that seeks to improve online safety by placing certain duty of care obligations on online platforms.

Controversial provision of OSB

- OSB empowers the British telecommunications regulator to issue notices to most kinds of internet service providers, including private messaging apps and search engines, to identify and take down:
 - terrorism content that is communicated publicly and
 - Child Sex Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA) content that is communicated publicly or privately.
- The clause also requires the platforms to prevent terrorism and CSEA content from being communicated using the platforms.

ऑनलाइन सुरक्षा विधेयक क्या है?

- ऑनलाइन सुरक्षा विधेयक एक प्रस्तावित ब्रिटिश कानून है जो ऑनलाइन प्लेटफॉर्म पर देखभाल दायित्वों के कुछ दायित्वों को रखकर ऑनलाइन सुरक्षा में सुधार करना चाहता है।

OSB का विवादास्पद प्रावधान

- OSB ब्रिटिश दूरसंचार नियामक को निजी मैसेजिंग ऐप और सर्च इंजन सहित अधिकांश प्रकार के इंटरनेट सेवा प्रदाताओं को पहचान करने और हटाने के लिए नोटिस जारी करने का अधिकार देता है:
- आतंकवाद सामग्री जो सार्वजनिक रूप से संप्रेषित की जाती है और
- बाल यौन शोषण और दुर्व्यवहार (CSEA) सामग्री जो सार्वजनिक या निजी तौर पर संप्रेषित की जाती है।
- इस खंड में प्लेटफार्मों का उपयोग करके आतंकवाद और सीएसईए सामग्री को संप्रेषित करने से रोकने के लिए प्लेटफार्मों की भी आवश्यकता है।

Why there is controversy around these provisions?

- Although, these provisions do not mandate removal of E2E encryption.
- However, it would de-facto mean breaking it as messaging apps would have to scan all messages that are sent on their platform to flag and take down terrorist and CSEA content.
- हालाँकि, ये प्रावधान E2E एन्क्रिप्शन को हटाने का आदेश नहीं देते हैं।
- हालाँकि, इसका वास्तविक मतलब यह होगा कि इसे तोड़ दिया जाएगा क्योंकि मैसेजिंग ऐप्स को उन सभी संदेशों को स्कैन करना होगा जो उनके प्लेटफॉर्म पर भेजे गए हैं और आतंकवादी और CSEA सामग्री को हटा सकते हैं।

- Under these clauses, WhatsApp would have to implement a client-side scanning mechanism to scan content on users' devices before it is even encrypted.
- Critics view this Bill as a disproportionate step that allows the state to mandate bulk interception and surveillance.

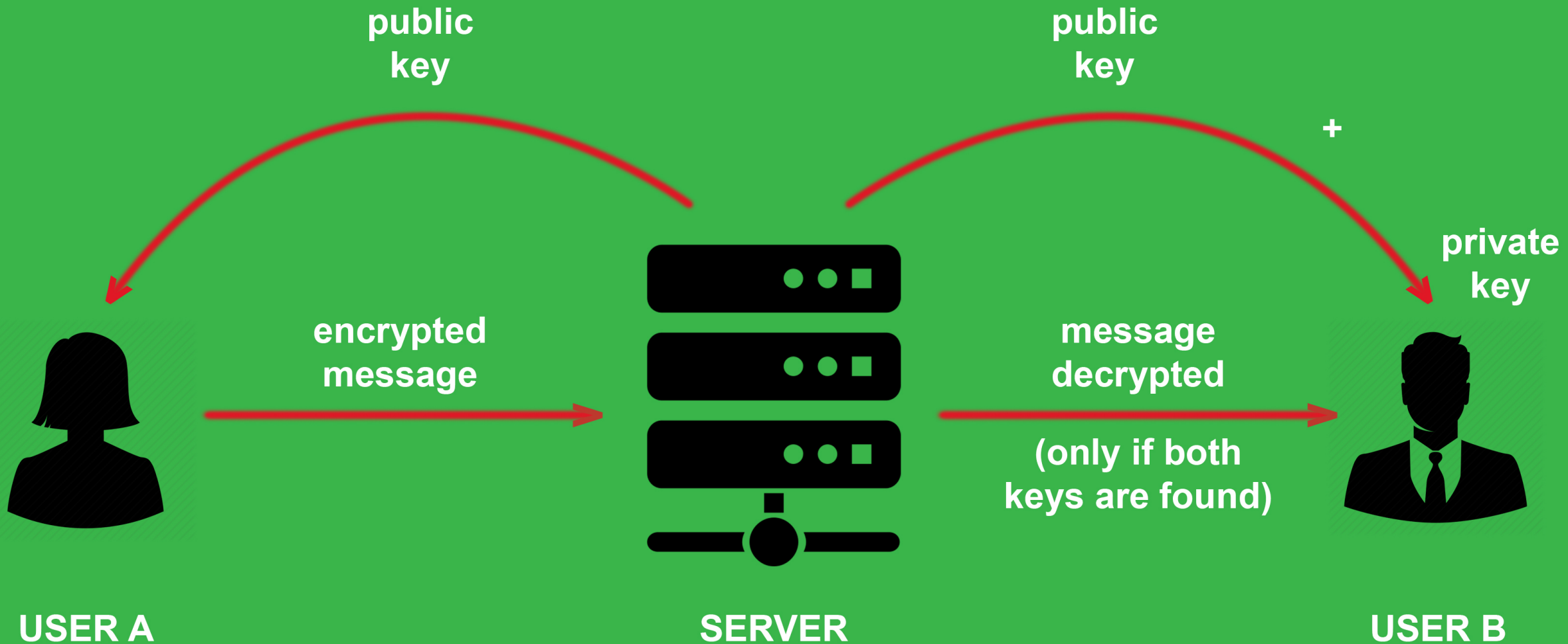
- इन धाराओं के तहत, व्हाट्सएप को उपयोगकर्ताओं के उपकरणों पर सामग्री को एन्क्रिप्ट करने से पहले स्कैन करने के लिए क्लाइंट-साइड स्कैनिंग तंत्र को लागू करना होगा।
- आलोचक इस विधेयक को एक असंगत कदम के रूप में देखते हैं जो राज्य को बल्क इंटरसेप्शन और निगरानी को अनिवार्य करने की अनुमति देता है।

What is end-to-end encryption?

- E2E encryption ensures that a message can only be decrypted by the intended recipient using a secure decryption key that is unique to each sender-recipient pair and to each of their messages.
- Decryption, even by the messaging service provider, is impossible.
- E2E एन्क्रिप्शन सुनिश्चित करता है कि एक सुरक्षित डिक्रिप्शन कुंजी का उपयोग करके केवल इच्छित प्राप्तकर्ता द्वारा एक संदेश को डिक्रिप्ट किया जा सकता है जो प्रत्येक प्रेषक-प्राप्तकर्ता जोड़ी और उनके प्रत्येक संदेश के लिए अद्वितीय है।
- संदेश सेवा प्रदाता द्वारा भी डिक्रिप्शन असंभव है।

- Even if the platform's servers are compromised, without the intended recipient's decryption key, only a garbled string of characters will be available.
- Over the last few years, E2E encryption has been steadily gaining ground. It is offered by default on WhatsApp, Signal, Apple's iMessage and FaceTime and is an option on Meta's Messenger and Telegram.

- भले ही प्लेटफॉर्म के सर्वर से समझौता किया गया हो, इच्छित प्राप्तकर्ता की डिक्риप्शन कुंजी के बिना, केवल वर्णों की एक विकृत स्ट्रिंग उपलब्ध होगी।
- पिछले कुछ वर्षों में, E2E एन्क्रिप्शन लगातार जमीन हासिल कर रहा है। यह व्हाट्सएप, सिग्नल, ऐप्पल के आईमैसेज और फेसटाइम पर डिफॉल्ट रूप से पेश किया जाता है और यह मेटा के मैसेंजर और टेलीग्राम पर एक विकल्प है।



END TO END ENCRYPTION

What have other platforms said?

- Last month, Signal's president Meredith Whittaker told the BBC that Signal ***“would absolutely, 100% walk”*** if forced to weaken the privacy of its messaging platform.
- In a blog post, she wrote, “[encryption] is either broken for everyone, or it works for everyone.”
- पिछले महीने, सिग्नल के अध्यक्ष मेरेडिथ व्हिटेकर ने बीबीसी को बताया कि अगर सिग्नल को अपने मैसेजिंग प्लेटफॉर्म की गोपनीयता को कमजोर करने के लिए मजबूर किया गया तो "बिल्कुल, 100% चलना" होगा।
- एक ब्लॉग पोस्ट में, उसने लिखा, "[एन्क्रिप्शन] या तो सभी के लिए टूटा हुआ है, या यह सभी के लिए काम करता है।

- There is no way to create a safe backdoor.” Matthew Hodgson, the CEO of British Company Element that runs Matrix-based E2E encrypted messenger, said that *if the OSB was passed, he may have to exit the U.K. entirely and shift his company’s headquarters.*

- सुरक्षित बैकडोर बनाने का कोई तरीका नहीं है। ” मैट्रिक्स-आधारित E2E एन्क्रिप्टेड मैसेंजर चलाने वाली ब्रिटिश कंपनी एलिमेंट के सीईओ मैथ्यू हॉजसन ने कहा कि अगर OSB पास हो गया, तो उन्हें पूरी तरह से यू.के. से बाहर निकलना पड़ सकता है और अपनी कंपनी के मुख्यालय को स्थानांतरित करना पड़ सकता है।

Did India enact a similar law?

- Indian government had notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.
- Through these rules, the Indian government made it mandatory for messaging platforms with more than five million users in India to enable the identification of the first originator of a message, or what is commonly called traceability.
- भारत सरकार ने सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी (मध्यवर्ती दिशानिर्देश और डिजिटल मीडिया आचार संहिता) नियम, 2021 को अधिसूचित किया था।
- इन नियमों के माध्यम से, भारत सरकार ने संदेश के पहले प्रवर्तक की पहचान को सक्षम करने के लिए भारत में पाँच मिलियन से अधिक उपयोगकर्ताओं वाले मैसेजिंग प्लेटफ़ॉर्म के लिए इसे अनिवार्य कर दिया, या जिसे आमतौर पर ट्रैसेबिलिटी कहा जाता है।

- This is not the same as asking for scanning and flagging of all encrypted content.
- It is about getting to the first person who sent a message that may have been forwarded multiple times.

- यह सभी एन्क्रिप्टेड सामग्री को स्कैन करने और फ़्लैग करने के समान नहीं है।
- यह पहले व्यक्ति तक पहुंचने के बारे में है जिसने एक संदेश भेजा है जिसे कई बार अग्रेषित किया जा सकता है।

Daily Current Affairs

**Exercise Bold
Kurukshetra**

- The Singapore Army and Indian Army participated in the 13th edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra, a bilateral armour exercise at Jodhpur Military Station, India.
- For the first time in the exercise series, both armies participated in a command post Exercise, which involved Battalion and Brigade level planning elements and computer wargaming
- सिंगापुर सेना और भारतीय सेना ने भारत के जोधपुर सैन्य स्टेशन में द्विपक्षीय कवच अभ्यास बोल्ड कुरुक्षेत्र के 13वें संस्करण में भाग लिया।
- अभ्यास श्रृंखला में पहली बार, दोनों सेनाओं ने एक कमांड पोस्ट अभ्यास में भाग लिया, जिसमें बटालियन और ब्रिगेड स्तर की योजना बनाने वाले तत्व और कंप्यूटर वॉरगेमिंग शामिल थे।



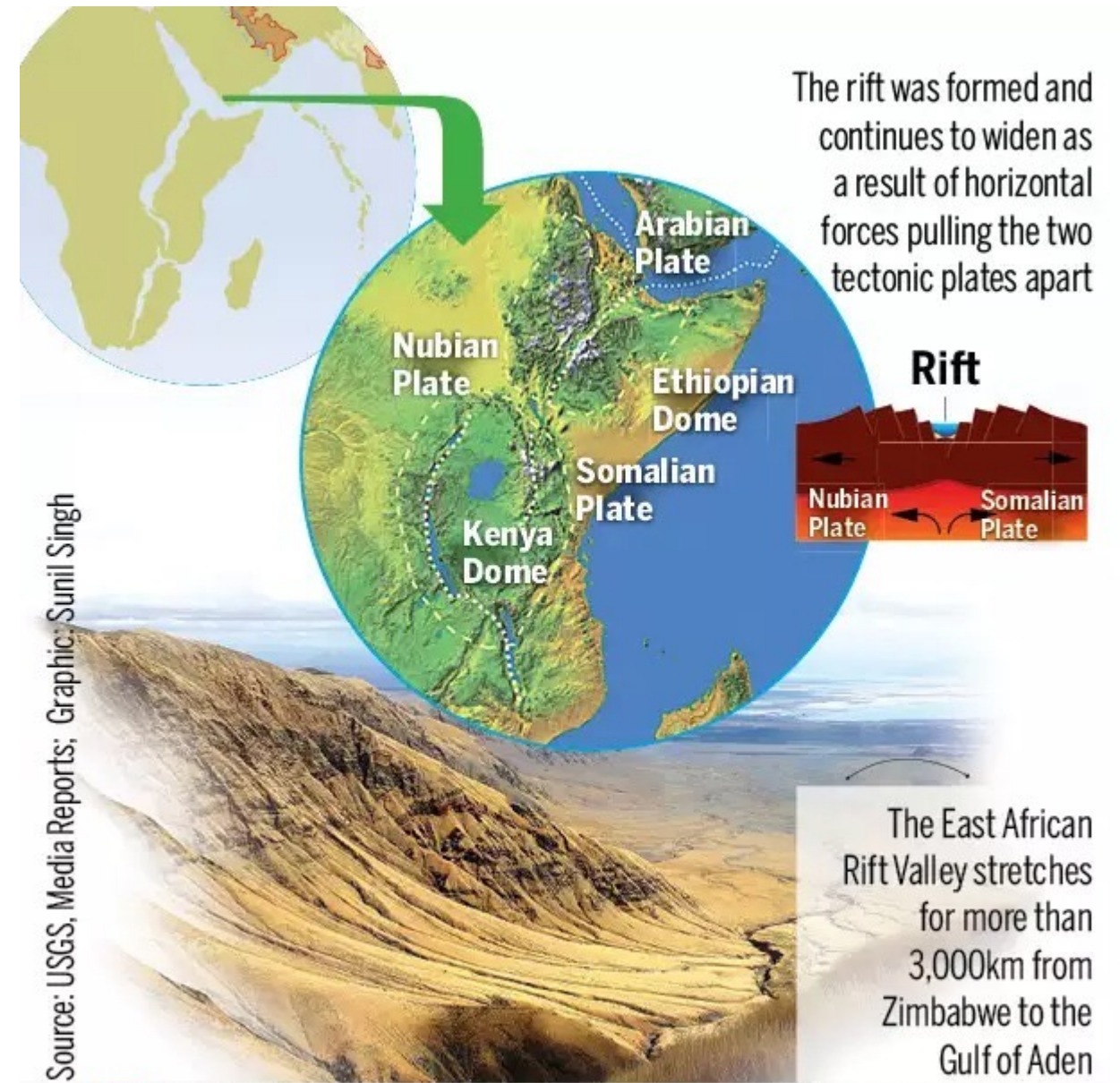
Daily Current Affairs

The Great Rift Africa's Splitting Plates



- Scientists, in 2020, predicted a new ocean would be created as Africa gradually splits into two separate parts.

- वैज्ञानिकों ने, 2020 में भविष्यवाणी की थी कि एक नए महासागर का निर्माण होगा क्योंकि अफ्रीका धीरे-धीरे दो अलग-अलग हिस्सों में विभाजित हो जाएगा।







A map of the Great African Rift Valley



- Key Volcanoes
- Rift Valley
- Mount Kenya
- Mount Kilimanjaro



0 900km
Approx.

What is Rifting?

- In geology, a rift is a linear zone where the lithosphere is being pulled apart and is an example of extensional tectonics.
- Typical rift features are a central linear downfaulted depression, called a graben, or more commonly a half-graben with normal faulting and rift-flank uplifts mainly on one side.
- भूविज्ञान में, दरार एक रेखीय क्षेत्र है जहां लिथोस्फीयर को अलग किया जा रहा है और यह विस्तारित टेक्टोनिक्स का एक उदाहरण है।
- विशिष्ट दरार विशेषताएं एक केंद्रीय रेखिक डाउनफॉल्टेड डिप्रेशन हैं, जिसे ग्रैबेन कहा जाता है, या सामान्य रूप से सामान्य फॉल्टिंग और रिफ्ट-फलैंक अपलिफ्ट्स के साथ एक आधा ग्रैबेन मुख्य रूप से एक तरफ होता है।

Causes of the East African Rift System

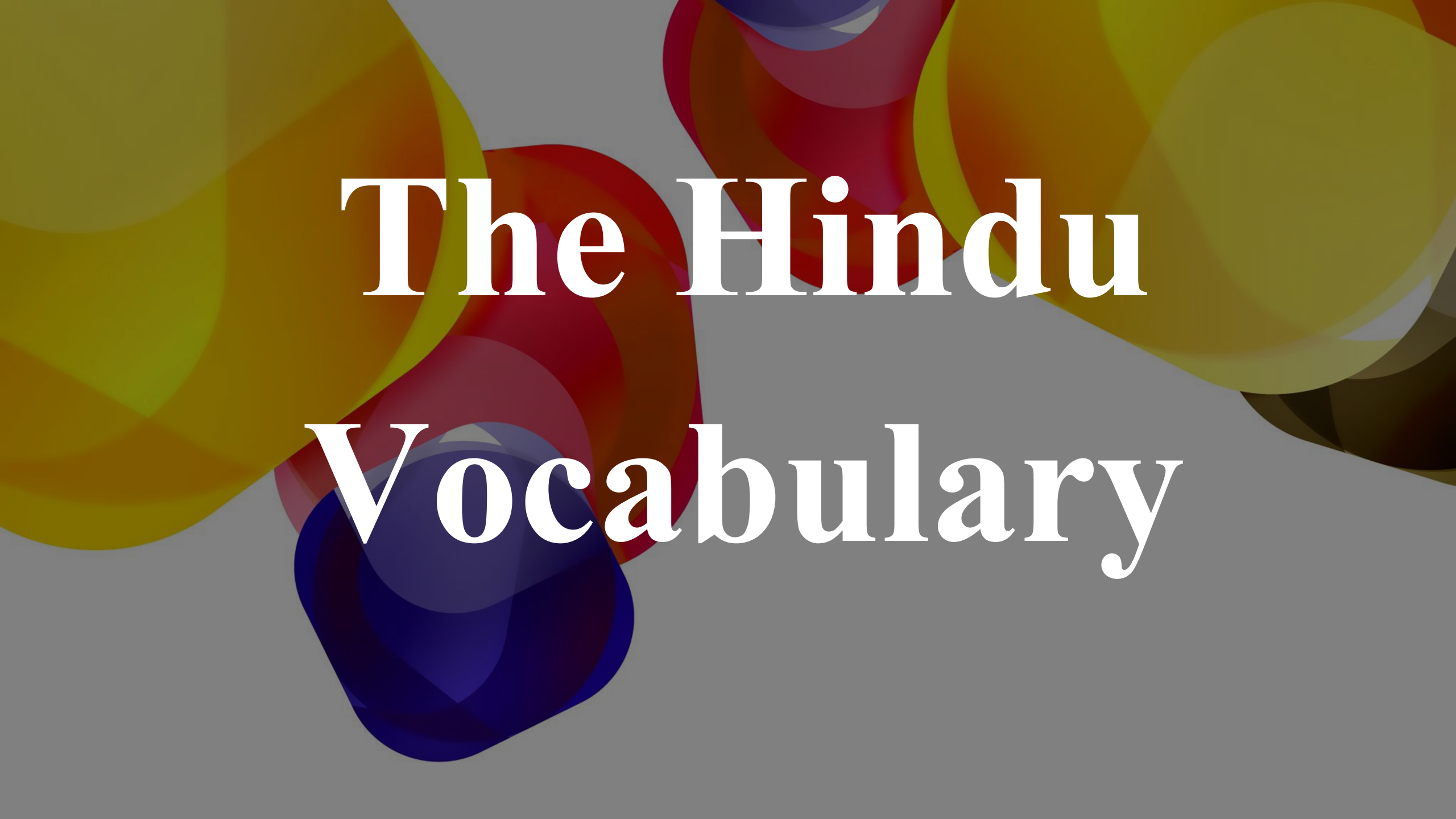
- The rift system is caused by the movement of the African Plate away from the Arabian Plate and the Somalian Plate.
- This movement creates tension in the Earth's crust, causing it to pull apart and form a rift.

Impact: Lakes Formed by Rifting

- Over time, the rifting process has led to the formation of several large lakes in the region.
- These lakes include Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika, and Lake Malawi.
- They are believed to have formed as a result of the sinking of the land between the rift valleys.

What is Plate tectonic theory ?

- Plate tectonics is a scientific theory that explains how major landforms are created as a result of Earth's subterranean movements.
- The theory, which solidified in the 1960s, transformed the earth sciences by explaining many phenomena, including mountain building events, volcanoes, and earthquakes.
- प्लेट टेक्टोनिक्स एक वैज्ञानिक सिद्धांत है जो बताता है कि पृथ्वी के भूमिगत आंदोलनों के परिणामस्वरूप प्रमुख भू-आकृतियों का निर्माण कैसे हुआ।
- सिद्धांत, जो 1960 के दशक में जम गया, ने पर्वत निर्माण की घटनाओं, ज्वालामुखियों और भूकंपों सहित कई घटनाओं की व्याख्या करके पृथ्वी विज्ञान को बदल दिया।



The Hindu Vocabulary

Exuberant (Adjective) : full of energy, excitement, and cheerfulness

Synonyms: joyful, effervescent, vivacious, lively

Antonyms: low-spirited, sullen, apathetic, dull



Blockade (नाकेबन्दी/ संरोध करना)

Meaning: a. an act or means of sealing off a place to prevent goods or people from entering or leaving.

Synonyms: block, barricade, siege

Antonyms: access, opening



Bailout (Noun) : an act of giving financial assistance to a failing business or economy to save it from collapse

Synonyms: underwrite, give a helping hand

Antonyms: disagreement, infringement



Progressive (प्रगतिशील/ उन्नतिशील)

Meaning - Favouring progress.

Making progress.

Synonyms - Forward-looking,
Forward-thinking, Left, Leftist

Antonyms - Conservative, Moderate,
Orthodox, Traditional



Perception (अनुभूति)

Meaning: The ability to see, hear, or become aware of something through the senses.

Synonyms: understanding, impression, notion

Antonyms: misunderstanding, ignorance



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ON ALL COURSES AND TEST SERIES ON JRFADDA APP

1. Consider the following statements in respect of the ICC World Test Championship:

1. The finalists are decided by the number of matches they won.
2. India recently qualified for WTC final because it won more number of matches than Sri Lanka.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

1. आईसीसी विश्व टेस्ट चैम्पियनशिप के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. फाइनलिस्ट का फैसला उनके द्वारा जीते गए मैचों की संख्या से होता है।
2. भारत ने हाल ही में डब्ल्यूटीसी फाइनल के लिए क्वालीफाई किया क्योंकि उसने श्रीलंका की तुलना में अधिक मैच जीते।

उपरोक्त 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 – D

- Finalists of ICC World Test Championship are to be decided by percentage of points earned, not by the number of matches won by them.

2. As per Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report of 2023, who was the world's largest arms importer during 2018-22?

- a) India
- b) Pakistan
- c) Saudi Arabia
- d) Ukraine

2. स्टॉकहोम इंटरनेशनल पीस रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट (SIPRI) की 2023 की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, 2018-22 के दौरान दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा हथियार आयातक कौन था?

- ए) भारत
- बी) पाकिस्तान
- ग) सऊदी अरब
- डी) यूक्रेन

Answer – A

- India remained the world's largest arms importer (followed by Saudi Arabia) for the five-year period between 2018-22 even though its arms imports dropped by 11% between 2013–17 and 2018–22, according to the Swedish Think Tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- Russia was the largest supplier of arms to India in both 2013–17 and 2018–22, but its share of total Indian arms imports from Russia fell from 64% to 45% while France emerged as the second largest supplier between 2018-22, and USA the third.

3. The H3N2 virus, recently circulating across the world, is a subtype of—

- a) Influenza A
- b) Influenza B
- c) Influenza C
- d) Coronavirus

3. H3N2 वायरस, जो हाल ही में दुनिया भर में फैल रहा है, एक उपप्रकार है-

- ए) इन्फ्लुएंजा ए
- बी) इन्फ्लुएंजा बी
- सी) इन्फ्लुएंजा सी
- घ) कोरोनावायरस

Answer – A

- Seasonal influenza or the ‘flu’ is a respiratory infection caused by the Influenza viruses. There are three types of Influenza viruses that infect humans: A, B, and C.
- Influenza A is an RNA virus. Influenza A is further classified into different subtypes and one of them is H3N2.
- Influenza B virus (IBV) and Influenza C virus (ICV) primarily infect humans. Influenza D virus (IDV) is found in cattle and pigs.

4. As per the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, which of the following statement describe the 'antiquity'

1. Any coin, sculpture, painting, epigraph or other work of art or craftsmanship that has been in existence for not less than fifty years.
2. Manuscript, record or other document which is of scientific, historical or aesthetic value that is not less than hundred years

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. पुरावशेष और कला निधि अधिनियम, 1972 के अनुसार, निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा कथन 'पुरातनता' का वर्णन करता है

1. कोई भी सिक्का, मूर्तिकला, पेंटिंग, पुरालेख या कला या शिल्प कौशल का अन्य कार्य जो कम से कम पचास वर्षों से अस्तित्व में है।
2. पाण्डुलिपि, अभिलेख या अन्य दस्तावेज जो वैज्ञानिक, ऐतिहासिक या सौन्दर्यात्मक मूल्य का हो जो सौ वर्ष से कम का न हो

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

- ए) केवल 1
- बी) केवल 2
- c) 1 और 2 दोनों
- d) न तो 1 और न ही 2

Answer – D

What is an antiquity?

- The Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, implemented on April 1, 1976, defined “antiquity” as
- “Any coin, sculpture, painting, epigraph or other work of art or craftsmanship;
- any article, object or thing detached from a building or cave;
- any article, object or thing illustrative of science, art, crafts, literature, religion, customs, morals or politics in bygone ages;

- any article, object or thing of historical interest” that “has been in existence for not less than one hundred years.”
- For “manuscript, record or other document which is of scientific, historical, literary or aesthetic value”, this duration is “not less than seventy-five years.”

5. When did the Bhopal gas tragedy happen?

- a) December 3, 1989
- b) January 13, 1989
- c) March 20, 1989
- d) None of these

5. भोपाल गैस त्रासदी कब हुई थी ?

- a) 3 दिसंबर, 1989
- b) 13 जनवरी , 1989
- c) 20 मार्च , 1989
- d) इनमे से कोई नहीं

Answer – A