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**INSIDE**

**Peace will return to Manipur in 3 months: Biren**  
GUWAHATI  
Manipur Chief Minister B. Biren Singh on Thursday said peace would return to the State in three months time as the new government at the Centre has given priority to restoring the conflict. **2 PAGE 8**

**Pune crash: order on plea to release minor on June 25**  
MUMBAI  
The Bombay High Court on Friday released 10-year-old minor accused in the Pune car crash case, seeking release of the minor from an observation home. **2 PAGE 2**

# EC begins work on polls in J&K and three States

It will be the first Assembly election since abrogation of Article 370, division of J&K into two UTs; delimitation of constituencies to be held; Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand too gear up for polls

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has kicked off preparatory work for holding Assembly elections in Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Karnataka by updating electoral rolls in these States.

The terms of the existing legislative Assemblies will end on November 3 (Haryana), November 26 (Maharashtra) and January 8, 2025 (Jharkhand) and polls are required to be conducted before the completion of their terms. Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir are also to be conducted for constituting a new House and delimitation of constituencies. The EC said in a statement on Friday.

### Prelude to polls

- The EC's schedule for the poll process in the States
- July 1 will be the cut-off date for updating electoral rolls
- The pre-poll activities will begin on August 25
- The final rolls will be published on August 31
- In the terms of Haryana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assemblies will end on Dec. 3, Nov. 26 and Jan. 8, respectively.



"Witnessing the huge participation of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the recent Lok Sabha elections, the commission has also directed for updating electoral rolls in the union territory with July 1, 2024 as the qualifying date," the statement said. In December last year, the Supreme Court had directed the poll body to hold Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir by September 30. PM, Narendra Modi said on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Assembly polls would be held in Jammu and Kashmir and plans were also afoot to restore Statehood to the Union Territory. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said recently that the poll body would soon initiate the process of holding Assembly polls in the Union Territory after witnessing the enthusiastic response during the Lok Sabha polls. It will be the first Assembly polls since the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories. The poll body said July 1 would be the qualifying date for the electoral roll update. Pre-poll activities will begin on August 25 to set up of rationales polling stations at local level. Most convenient to electors in group housing societies, slums, city outskirts and rural areas. The final electoral rolls will be published on August 31.

## SC refuses to put off NEET-UG counselling set to begin on July 6

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the National Testing Agency (NTA) to respond to pleas for conducting a fresh National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) 2024 following allegations of question paper leaks. A five-judge bench of Justices Vikram Nath and S.V. Narayana Murthy, however, refused to postpone or stay the counselling process scheduled to begin on July 6. "Counselling only commences from July 6. It will continue for a week. Meanwhile, the applicants have many options...," Justice

### Anti-cheating act comes into effect

**NEW DELHI**

The Centre notified the Public Examination (Prevention of unfair means) Act, 2024 that has provision for up to five years' imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹ 1 crore for organised cheating in government recruitment exams to come into effect from Friday. **2 PAGE 3**

Abhant told a counsel for a petitioner. The court, for the second consecutive week, issued orders to pleas seeking a CBI investigation into the allegations. A petitioner urged the court to bring the scam under its direct monitoring.

## Celebrating Yoga



Yogis celebrate International Yoga Day at the Gateway of India in Mumbai on Friday. **HISTORIC**

## Patent filings credit BBIL as 'inventor' of Covaxin, omit ICMR

**Jacob Kishor**  
NEW DELHI

India's first indigenously developed coronavirus vaccine, Covaxin, was a joint collaboration between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) with intellectual property rights jointly shared between the two organisations. That is what the public record states. However, filings by the BBIL at patent offices in India, the United States and Europe suggest that only its scientists and personnel are credited as 'inventors' of the vaccine with no mention of ICMR scientists. The Hindu has viewed documents detailing these

patent applications. If BBIL personnel, credited in applications as Deepak Kumar and Krishna Murthy Ella — Chairman and Founder, BBIL — are indeed the only inventors, it contradicts a statement by the Union Health Ministry in the Rajya Sabha, which claimed that the IP rights are "jointly owned".

An answer to a question by July 2021 by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who demanded details of the agreement between the ICMR and the BBIL for the development of Covaxin, the Union Health Ministry's Bharat Pravin Pawar laid out a detailed response. **Jointly owned** The Minister's statement said the ICMR would pro-



vided a "small characterised" virus strain for vaccine development, the BBIL would develop the final vaccine formulation and be given a "non-exclusive" licence granted to commercialise the product within two years. It was explicitly mentioned that the "...intellectual property over the product would be jointly owned by the ICMR and the BBIL".

ment, one of its institutes — the ICMR-National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune — had spent "hundreds of Crores" developing Covaxin.

**Received royalty** It also funded phase-3 clinical trials of Covaxin at 28 locations, involving 25,400 participants. All in all, the ICMR spent ₹35 crore for developing Covaxin. As of January 2022 — as per an update by the government to the Rajya Sabha — the ICMR received ₹71 crore as royalty for Covaxin. Ms. Pawar's response to Parliament, however, did not elaborate on the sharing of patent rights. The BBIL, which has over the years had several research collaborations with public research bodies such as the Council of

Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the ICMR-NIV, has listed scientists from all institutions as 'inventors' in patent applications. A BBIL spokesperson told The Hindu that the patent filed by Bharat Biotech was only for "process development" and specific to the making of the vaccine. It also covered the use of an adjuvant (an ingredient used in vaccines to elicit a stronger response) that was licensed from the Kansas-based Virvax and advised by Covaxin. India's patent laws allow both private and public patents. Product patents grant an inventor a monopoly over, say, a drug. Process patents bar competitors from making a drug using the same sequence of steps.

## Kejriwal to remain in jail as HC stays bail order of court

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

After a day-long hearing on the bail application, the court granted to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case, the Delhi High Court on Friday put on hold the trial court's order.

"Till the pronouncement of this order, the application of the impugned order of the trial court shall remain stayed," a Vice-Chief Justice of Justices Sudhish Kumar Jain said, adding that he was reserving the order for two to three days as he wanted to get through the entire records. The HC had moved an urgent plea challenging the trial court's bail order, which was passed late Thursday night. Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S.V. Raju, representing the ED, contended that the agency was not given adequate opportunity to argue its case by



Arvind Kejriwal

the trial court. On the other hand, senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi and Vikram Chaudhary, representing Mr. Kejriwal, urged the High Court not to stay the bail order; they instead suggested that the court send him back to jail if it found overwhelming and cogent evidence. Presenting his case before the High Court, Mr. Raju said, "Material facts were not considered by the trial court. There cannot be a better case for cancellation of bail than this one. Three cannot be greater

### Trial court comes down on ED 'bias'

**NEW DELHI**

The ED was acting with bias against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who was booked in the excise policy case, the Delhi court observed on Thursday. **2 PAGE 4**

"I was not allowed to argue fully. I was not given proper time to file written submissions. The trial court said 'finish off in half an hour' as it wanted to deliver the judgement. It did not give us full opportunity to argue the case," he said. Refuting Mr. Raju's claims, Mr. Singhvi said, "This matter lasted for five hours before the trial court. Nearly 3 hours 45 minutes were taken by Mr. Raju (ED) and then trial judge is faulted because she does not repeat every sentence and full stop."

## Tamil Nadu hooch tragedy toll touches 50; probe begins

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KALLAKURCHI

The death toll in the hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu rose to 50 with 13 more persons losing their lives after consuming spurious liquor at Karumaparam in Kallakurchi. The victims included five women and a trans person.

Most of the victims who died on the interim night between Thursday and Friday were from Karumaparam. Twenty-seven persons died at the Government Kallakurchi Medical College Hospital, 16 at the Government Mahabharat Kumaranganpalam Medical College Hospital in Salem, four at the Government Villupuram Medical College Hospital and three at the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) in Puducherry.

**138 people hospitalised** A total of 138 others, including six women, are undergoing treatment at the Government Kallakurchi Medical College Hospital; government medical hospitals in Salem and Villupuram; and JIPMER. Official sources said a 71-member team of specialist doctors, nurses and technicians drawn from government medical colleges and hospitals in Salem, Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, Thanjavur and Chengalpattu had been sent to the Kallakurchi hospital. Former High Court Judge B. Gokulakrishnan, the interim commission appointed by the State government to probe the tragedy, on Friday visited the Kallakurchi hospital and Karumaparam, the epicentre of the tragedy, and held a meet-



Bidding adieu: Relatives of the hooch tragedy victims taking part in a funeral procession in Kallakurchi. **2 PAGE 8**

### AIADMK MLAs evicted after sit-in

**CHENNAI**

AIADMK MLAs were evicted from the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Friday after they staged a sit-in over the hooch tragedy, which has so far claimed 50 lives in Kallakurchi district. Speaker M. Appavu told that the AIADMK MLAs could not attend the House for the rest of the day. **2 PAGE 8**

ing with officials. He visited those admitted to the hospital and inquired about the incident. He met the family members of the victims. He also held a meeting with Collector M.K. Prasanth, Superintendent of Police Rajal Chinnaveedu and officials from various law departments. Tamil Nadu Minister for Health and Family Welfare M. Sudhanshan visited the JIPMER in Puducherry, where some of the victims Judge B. Gokulakrishnan, the interim commission appointed by the State government to probe the tragedy, on Friday visited the Kallakurchi hospital and Karumaparam, the epicentre of the tragedy, and held a meet-



# Act punishing organised cheating comes into effect

The law has provision for up to five years' imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹1 crore for exam malpractices; the UGC-NET exam cancelled on June 19 will not be covered by the new legislation

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 that has provision for up to five years' imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹1 crore for malpractices and organised cheating in government recruitment exams was notified by the Union government to come into effect from Friday.

The UGC-NET 2024 examination that was cancelled on June 19 on grounds of being compromised and is being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will however not be covered by the newly enacted law.

On February 6, Parliament passed the Bill.

A notification issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on Friday said, "In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 1 of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 (1 of 2024), the Central government hereby appoints the 21st day of June, 2024 as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall



**Worrying state:** National Students Union of India (NSUI) supporters stage a protest against the irregularities in NEET-UG, in Nagpur on Friday. ANI

come into force."

The Act mentions punishments for "leakage of question paper or answer key", "directly or indirectly assisting the candidate in any manner unauthorised in the public examination" and "tampering with the computer network or a computer resource or a computer system" as offences done by a person, group of persons or institutions.

#### List of offences

Besides these, "creation of fake website to cheat or for monetary gain", "conduct of fake examination, issuance of fake admit cards or offer letters to cheat or for monetary gain" and "manipulation in seating

arrangements, allocation of dates and shifts for the candidates to facilitate adopting unfair means in examinations" are also among the offences punishable under the law.

"Any person or persons resorting to unfair means and offences under this Act shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not less than three years but which may extend to five years and with fine up to ₹10 lakh," said the Act.

A service provider, engaged by the public examination authority for conduct of examinations, shall also be liable to be punished with imposition of a fine up to ₹1 crore "and proportionate cost of examination shall also be re-

covered" from it, according to the Act.

Such service providers shall also be barred from being assigned with any responsibility for the conduct of any public examination for a period of four years.

The Act defines service provider as any agency, organisation, body, association of persons, business entity, company, partnership or single proprietorship firm, including its associates, sub-contractors and provider of support of any computer resource or any material, by whatever name it may be called, "which is engaged by the public examination authority for conduct of public examination".

## AT A GLANCE

### List of issues with tests conducted by NTA in recent years

#### ■ CUET 2022

Allegations of paper leaks; wrong translation of questions from English to regional languages

#### ■ CUET 2023

Discrepancies in the answer key

#### ■ JEE Main 2024

Discrepancies in the JEE Main marks & predicted percentiles



#### ■ NEET-UG 2024

Allegation of paper leaks; **random grace marks given to 1,563 students**

#### ■ UG-NET 2024

Exam was cancelled after the **paper was leaked on the Darknet**

- **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024:**

- Provision for up to five years' imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹1 crore for malpractices and organized cheating in government recruitment exams.
- The Act came into effect on June 21, 2024.
- UGCC-NET exam cancelled on June 19, 2024, is not covered by this Act.

- **सार्वजनिक परीक्षा (अनुचित साधनों की रोकथाम) अधिनियम, 2024:**

- सरकारी भर्ती परीक्षाओं में कदाचार और संगठित धोखाधड़ी के लिए पांच साल तक की कैद और ₹1 करोड़ तक के जुर्माने का प्रावधान।
- यह अधिनियम 21 जून, 2024 को लागू हुआ।
- 19 जून, 2024 को रद्द की गई यूजीसीसी-नेट परीक्षा इस अधिनियम के अंतर्गत नहीं आती है।

- **Specific Offenses and Punishments:**

- Offenses include leakage of question papers, tampering with computer networks, creation of fake websites, issuance of fake admit cards, and manipulation in seating arrangements.
- Penalties include imprisonment up to three years and fines up to ₹10 lakh for unfair means in examinations.
- Service providers involved in unfair means can face imprisonment and fines up to ₹1 crore.

- विशिष्ट अपराध और दंड:

- अपराधों में प्रश्नपत्रों का लीक होना, कंप्यूटर नेटवर्क के साथ छेड़छाड़, फर्जी वेबसाइट बनाना, फर्जी प्रवेश पत्र जारी करना और बैठने की व्यवस्था में हेरफेर शामिल हैं।
- परीक्षाओं में अनुचित साधनों के लिए दंड में तीन साल तक की कैद और ₹10 लाख तक का जुर्माना शामिल है।
- अनुचित साधनों में शामिल सेवा प्रदाताओं को कारावास और ₹1 करोड़ तक के जुर्माने का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।

- **Additional Provisions:**

- The Act defines a service provider broadly, including any agency, organization, or individual engaged by the public examination authority.
- The Act aims to prevent unauthorized assistance to candidates and tampering with exam processes.

- **अतिरिक्त प्रावधान:**

- अधिनियम मोटे तौर पर एक सेवा प्रदाता को परिभाषित करता है, जिसमें सार्वजनिक परीक्षा प्राधिकरण द्वारा नियुक्त कोई भी एजेंसी, संगठन या व्यक्ति शामिल है।
- अधिनियम का उद्देश्य उम्मीदवारों को अनधिकृत सहायता और परीक्षा प्रक्रियाओं में छेड़छाड़ को रोकना है।

- Consider the following statements regarding the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024:
  1. The Act provides for up to five years' imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹1 crore for exam malpractices and organized cheating.
  2. The UGC-NET exam cancelled on June 19, 2024, is covered by this Act.
  3. Offenses under the Act include the creation of fake websites and manipulation in seating arrangements.
  4. Service providers involved in unfair means can be fined up to ₹1 crore under the Act.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?
  - A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 1, 3, and 4 only
  - C. 2, 3, and 4 only
  - D. 1, 2, 3, and 4



# NTA postpones joint CSIR-UGC-NET citing 'logistical issues'

## **The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

Amid multiple controversies that the National Testing Agency (NTA) is currently embroiled in, the agency on Friday issued a notification postponing the Joint CSIR-UGC-NET exam due to “unavoidable circumstances and logistical issues”.

The notification stated: “The candidates are hereby informed that the Joint CSIR-UGC-NET Examination June-2024 which was scheduled to be held between 25.06.2024 to 27.06.2024 is being postponed due to unavoidable circumstances as well as logistic issues. The revised

schedule for the conduct of this examination will be announced later through the official website.”

Candidates have been asked to keep checking the official website.

## **Recurring issue**

This comes days after the Education Ministry cancelled UGC-NET following inputs from the Home Ministry suggesting that the integrity of the examination had been compromised.

Over the past few days, students across the country have been questioning the testing agency over the irregularities in NEET-UG, and now about the cancellation of UGC-NET.

WASHINGTON U.S. Supreme Court upholds ban on domestic abusers owning guns



The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday upheld a federal law prohibiting a person subject to a domestic violence restraining order from possessing a firearm. The case was the first involving gun rights to come before the court, where conservatives held a 6-3 majority, since a major ruling it caused last year loosening curbs on guns. AP

South Korea summons Russian Ambassador

Associated Press SEOUL

South Korea summoned the Russian Ambassador to protest the country's new defence pact with North Korea on Friday, as border tensions continued to rise with vague threats and brief, seemingly accidental incursions by North Korean troops.

Earlier on Friday, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un issued a vague threat of retaliation after South Korean activists wore balloons carrying anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets across the border, and South Korea's military said it had fired warning shots the previous day to repel North Korean soldiers who briefly crossed the rival's land border.

That came two days after Moscow and Pyongyang reached a pact concerning mutual defence assistance if either is attacked, and a day after Seoul responded by saying it would consider providing arms to Ukraine to fight Russia's invasion.

South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Hong Ryun summoned Russian Ambassador Georgy Zaitsev to protest the deal and called for Moscow to immediately halt its alleged military cooperation with Pyongyang.

Mr. Kim, the South Korean diplomat, pressed that any cooperation that helps the North build up its military capabilities would violate UN Security Council resolutions and pose a threat to the nearby's security, and warned of consequences for Seoul's relations with Moscow.

Hong Kong charges two under the new national security law

Agence France-Presse HONG KONG

Hong Kong has charged two persons in the span of a week with "sedition" or social media posts and clothing slogans under a new national security law.

The city passed a home-grown security law in March, commonly known as Article 23, which the United States and Britain have criticised for curbing rights.

The legislation is Hong Kong's second national security law and follows one imposed by Beijing in 2020 after huge, sometimes violent pro-democracy protests a year earlier.

On Friday, authorities said that as charged Au Kin-wai, 58, with publishing "seditious" posts on social media platforms such as Face-

ISLAMABAD Former Pakistan Prime Minister Abbasi launches political party



Former Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Friday formed a new political party named Awam Pakistan after parting ways with the ruling PML-N. Mr. Abbasi, who was Prime Minister from August 2017 to May 2018, was joined by former Finance Minister Miftah Ismail who also parted ways with the PML-N. PTI

Armenia becomes the latest nation to recognise Palestine

With the move, Yerevan joins the ranks of Spain, Ireland, and Norway who officially recognised Palestine last month; the former Soviet republic also condemns Hamas's kidnapping of civilians

Agence France-Presse YEREVAN

Armenia announced on Friday it was recognising the state of Palestine, the latest country to do so during the war in Gaza, saying it was against "violence towards civilian populations."

A series of nations have recognised the State of Palestine amid the war between Israel and Hamas, drawing strong rebukes from Israeli officials.

Yerevan summoned the former Soviet Republic's ambassador for a "severe reprimand". "Yerevan noted it is 'generally interested in stabilising long-term peace and stability in the Middle East (West Asia)'"



Serby states Armenia also criticised Israel's military conduct in Gaza where more than 27,000 people have been killed. AP/PTI

"Confirming its commitment to international law, equality of nations, sovereignty and peaceful coexistence, the Republic of Armenia recognises the State of Palestine," Armenia ad-

BEIJING Heavy rainfall in China leads to flood, mudslides, killing 47 people



At least 47 people have died as downpours in southern China's Guangdong province caused rivers flooding and mudslides, while authorities warned of more extreme weather ahead in other parts of the country. The heaviest rains were on Sunday, with an average rainfall of 139 mm, and one town seeing 365.7 mm. AP

WINDHOEK Namibian court strikes down law criminalising same-sex relations



A top Namibian court on Friday struck down colonial-era laws criminalising same-sex relationships in a "historic" verdict. The high court in the capital, Windhoek, declared the crimes of "sodomy" and "unnatural sexual offences" as "unconstitutional and invalid" in its ruling on the case brought by a local LGBTQ activist. AP

Hinduja family members get jail term for exploiting staff

Agence France-Presse GENEVA

A Swiss court handed jail sentences to four members of Britain's richest family on Friday for exploiting Indian staff at their Geneva mansion.

The Hinduja - who were not present in court - were acquitted of human trafficking, but convicted on other charges in a stunning verdict for the family whose fortune is estimated at 37 billion pounds (\$47 billion).

Prakash Hinduja and his wife Kanal Hinduja received four-year terms, while their son Ajay and his wife Namrata received four-year terms, the presiding judge in Geneva ruled.

Family authorities accused the four-year-old Prakash of "coercing" his servants from their na-



Prakash Hinduja

tive India and included accusations of confiscating their passport once they were flown to Switzerland.

Prosecutors argued the Hinduja paid their staff aittance and gave them little freedom to leave the house. The family denied the allegations, claiming the prosecutors wanted to "do in the Hinduja".

The Hinduja reached a confidential out-of-court settlement with the three employees who made the

accusations against them. Despite this, the prosecution decided to pursue the case due to the gravity of the charges.

Geneva prosecutor Yves Borrassa had requested a custodial sentence of five-and-a-half years against Prakash and Kanal Hinduja.

Aged 78 and 75 respectively, both had been absent since the start of the trial for health reasons.

In his closing address, the prosecutor accused the family of abusing the "asymmetrical situation" between powerful employer and vulnerable employee to save money.

But the Hinduja family's defence lawyers argued that the three plaintiffs received ample benefits, were not kept in isolation and were free to leave the villa.

Mid-year New Year



An Armenian musician plays an instrument during a ceremony to ring in the Andean New Year 5532 in La Paz in Bolivia on Friday. AP/PTI

ICC unveils arrest warrant for top Sahel jihadist leader

Agence France-Presse THE HAGUE

International Criminal Court judges made public an arrest warrant for one of the Sahel's top jihadist leaders over alleged atrocities in the Mallam city of Timbuktu from 2012 to 2013, but an Ghana is said to be the undisputed leader of all jihadist groups.

The PMD (Islamic Movement in Mali) and the PMU (Islamic Movement in Mali) are the main jihadist groups in Mali, which President Vladimir Putin replaced as Defence Minister last month.

Ismail, arrested in April, was charged with taking an especially large bribe. His lawyers said he maintains his innocence. The Bamako District Court in Mali on Thursday extended his detention pending investigation and trial until at least September 23. If convicted, he faces up to 30 years in prison.

Russian media, citing an online registry of government officials, said Thursday that Ismail was dismissed from his post. His lawyer Denis Babayev confirmed the dismissal in comments to Russian bank- news agency RIA, but wasn't immediately clear on the reports when contacted by Reuters.

Other top military officials arrested in recent months include deputy chief of the Russian military general staff Lt. Gen. Vadim Shumakov; Gen. Igor Sergeev, a former top commander in Russia's offensive in Ukraine; and Lt. Gen. Yuri Kuznetsov, head of the Defense Ministry's personnel directorate.

All three have been accused of bribery.

Mob kills tourist in Pakistan for allegedly desecrating the Koran

Agence France-Presse ISLAMABAD

A mob in the picturesque Pakistani town of Swat has hanged down a tourist, dragged him through the town and later hanged him in full public view for allegedly committing desecration of the Koran.

The incident happened on Thursday night when Muhammad Ahmad, a resident of Islamabad in Punjab province, was visiting the southwestern Pakistan hill resort town of Swat and was accused of having burnt the pages of Islam's holy book in Madyan, a town of Swat district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

District Police Officer (DPO), Bawal, Zahidullah said that initially the police had taken Ahmad in custody and locked him up in the police station when the alleged desecration incident



Local residents inquest the spot where a mob lynched and hanged a man in Madyan in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday. AP

was reported. However, the incident was announced from mosque through loudspeakers in the market, prompting thousands of people to gather outside the police station.

Soon after, the angry mob demanded that the police hand over the suspect to them. On refusal, a force exchange of fire took

place between the local people and the police in which eight persons were killed.

After that, the mob touched the police station, forcing the cops on duty to flee for their lives.

"After that, the people entered the police station and shot and killed the suspect and dragged his body to the Madyan Ada, where

Russia fires Deputy Defence Minister jailed for corruption

Associated Press

Russian authorities have normally dismissed a Deputy Defence Minister jailed on bribery charges and accused by Kremlin critics of living a lavish lifestyle, Russian media reported on Thursday.

A court ordered that his pretrial detention be extended for three more months.

Yevgeny Ivanov, 46, is one of several senior military officers arrested on corruption charges in recent months. He was a close associate of Sergei Shoigu, whose President Vladimir Putin replaced as Defence Minister last month.

Ivanov's arrest came nearly a month after Mr. Putin called on the Federal Security Service to "keep up a systematic anti-corruption effort" and pay special attention to state defense procurement.

Russian media reported that Ivanov oversaw some of the construction in Mariupol - a Ukrainian port city that was decimated by bombardment and occupied by Russian forces early in the war. Ivanov has been sanctioned by both the United States and European Union.

Zvezda, the official TV channel of the military, reported in 2022 that the military was building a residential block in Mariupol.

That same year, the team of the late Alexei Navalny, alleged Ivanov and his family had been enjoying luxurious trips aboard lavish parties and owning elite real estate. The anti-oligarchists also alleged that Ivanov's wife, Svetlana, diverted him to 2022 avoid sanctions and continued living a lavish lifestyle.

"After that, the military's personnel directorate issued living a lavish lifestyle accusations against him. All three have been accused of bribery.

# Hinduja family members get jail term for exploiting staff

**Agence France-Presse**

GENEVA

A Swiss court handed jail sentences to four members of Britain's richest family on Friday for exploiting Indian staff at their Geneva mansion.

The Hinduja – who were not present in court – were acquitted of human trafficking, but convicted on other charges in a stunning verdict for the family whose fortune is estimated at 37 billion pounds (\$47 billion).

Prakash Hinduja and his wife Kamal Hinduja each got four years and six months, while their son Ajay and his wife Namrata received four-year terms, the presiding judge in Geneva ruled.

The cases stem from the family's practice of bringing servants from their na-



Prakash Hinduja

tive India and included accusations of confiscating their passports once they were flown to Switzerland.

Prosecutors argued the Hinduja family paid their staff a pittance and gave them little freedom to leave the house. The family denied the allegations, claiming the prosecutors wanted to "do in the Hinduja family".

The Hinduja family reached a confidential out-of-court settlement with the three employees who made the

accusations against them. Despite this, the prosecution decided to pursue the case due to the gravity of the charges.

Geneva prosecutor Yves Bertossa had requested a custodial sentence of five-and-a-half years against Prakash and Kamal Hinduja.

Aged 78 and 75 respectively, both had been absent since the start of the trial for health reasons.

In his closing address, the prosecutor accused the family of abusing the "asymmetrical situation" between powerful employer and vulnerable employee to save money.

But the Hinduja family's defence lawyers argued that the three plaintiffs received ample benefits, were not kept in isolation and were free to leave the villa.

# HINDUJA

<b>Company type</b>	Corporate group
<b>Industry</b>	Conglomerate
<b>Founded</b>	1914; 110 years ago
<b>Founder</b>	Parmanand Deepchand Hinduja
<b>Headquarters</b>	Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
<b>Area served</b>	Worldwide
<b>Key people</b>	Ashok Hinduja (Chairman, India)
<b>Products</b>	Automotive Financial services ITES Oil and Gas Media Telecom Healthcare
<b>Owner</b>	Hinduja family
<b>Number of employees</b>	200,000+ <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Subsidiaries</b>	Ashok Leyland IndusInd Bank Hinduja Bank (Switzerland) Gulf Oil International OneOTT Intertainment Quaker-Houghton Hinduja Technologies Limited Hinduja Healthcare Limited

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- **Swiss Court Verdict:**

- Four members of the Hinduja family sentenced for exploiting Indian staff at their Geneva mansion.
- Acquitted of human trafficking but convicted on other charges.
- The family's fortune is estimated at 37 billion pounds (\$47 billion).

- **स्विस कोर्ट का फैसला:**

- जिनेवा हवेली में भारतीय कर्मचारियों का शोषण करने के आरोप में हिंदुजा परिवार के चार सदस्यों को सजा सुनाई गई।
  - मानव तस्करी से बरी कर दिया गया लेकिन अन्य आरोपों में दोषी ठहराया गया।
  - परिवार की संपत्ति 37 बिलियन पाउंड (\$47 बिलियन) आंकी गई है।
-

- **Sentences:**

- Prakash Hinduja and his wife Kamal Hinduja: four years and six months each.
- Their son Ajay and his wife Namrata: four years each.

- वाक्य:

- प्रकाश हिंदुजा और उनकी पत्नी कमल हिंदुजा: प्रत्येक चार साल और छह महीने।
- उनका बेटा अजय और उसकी पत्नी नम्रता: चार-चार साल।



- **Background of the Case:**

- The case involved the practice of bringing servants from India and confiscating their passports upon arrival in Switzerland.
- Prosecutors claimed the staff were paid a pittance and given little freedom.
- The Hindujas denied the allegations, arguing that the employees received ample benefits and freedom.

- **मामले की पृष्ठभूमि:**

- इस मामले में भारत से नौकरों को लाने और स्विट्जरलैंड पहुंचने पर उनके पासपोर्ट जब्त करने की प्रथा शामिल थी।
- अभियोजकों ने दावा किया कि कर्मचारियों को बहुत कम वेतन दिया गया और बहुत कम आज़ादी दी गई।
- हिंदुजा ने आरोपों से इनकार करते हुए तर्क दिया कि कर्मचारियों को पर्याप्त लाभ और स्वतंत्रता मिली।

- **Prosecution and Defense:**

- Geneva prosecutor Yves Bertossa had requested five-and-a-half-year sentences for Prakash and Kamal Hinduja.
- The family argued that the employees were not isolated and had freedom to leave the villa.
- The Hinduja reached an out-of-court settlement with the three employees who made the accusations.

- अभियोजन और बचाव:

- जिनेवा अभियोजक यवेस बर्टोसा ने प्रकाश और कमल हिंदुजा के लिए साढ़े पांच साल की सजा का अनुरोध किया था।
- परिवार ने तर्क दिया कि कर्मचारी अलग-थलग नहीं थे और उन्हें विला छोड़ने की आजादी थी।
- हिंदुजा ने आरोप लगाने वाले तीन कर्मचारियों के साथ अदालत के बाहर समझौता कर लिया।



## 1. Health and Absence:

1. Prakash and Kamal Hinduja, aged 78 and 75 respectively, were absent from the trial for health reasons.
2. The prosecution emphasized the abuse of the "asymmetrical situation" between the powerful employer and vulnerable employee.
3. स्वास्थ्य और अनुपस्थिति:
4. प्रकाश और कमल हिंदुजा, जिनकी उम्र क्रमशः 78 और 75 वर्ष थी, स्वास्थ्य कारणों से मुकदमे से अनुपस्थित थे।
5. अभियोजन पक्ष ने शक्तिशाली नियोक्ता और कमजोर कर्मचारी के बीच "विषम स्थिति" के दुरुपयोग पर जोर दिया।

# Armenia becomes the latest nation to recognise Palestine

With the move, Yerevan joins the ranks of Spain, Ireland, and Norway who officially recognised Palestine last month; the former Soviet republic also condemns Hamas's kidnapping of civilians

**Agence France-Presse**

YEREVAN

**A**rmenia announced on Friday it was recognising the State of Palestine, the latest country to do so during the war in Gaza, saying it was against “violence towards civilian populations.”

A series of nations have recognised the State of Palestine amid the war between Israel and Hamas, drawing strong rebukes from Israeli officials.

## Envoy summoned

Shortly after the former Soviet republic announced the recognition, Israel's Foreign Ministry said it summoned Yerevan's Ambas-



**Sorry state:** Armenia also criticised Israel's military conduct in Gaza where more than 37,000 people have been killed. REUTERS

sador for a “severe reprimand”.

Yerevan noted it is “genuinely interested in establishing long-term peace and stability in the Middle East [West Asia].”

“Confirming its commitment to international law, equality of nations, sovereignty and peaceful coexistence, the Republic of Armenia recognises the State of Palestine,” Armenia ad-

ded. Yerevan, which has itself been ridden by conflict with neighbouring Azerbaijan for decades, slammed Israel's military conduct in Gaza.

## Call for freedom

It also criticised Hamas for “the captivity of civilian persons” and said Armenia “joins the demands of international community on freeing them.”

In late May, Spain, Ireland, and Norway officially recognised the State of Palestine, stating they saw the move as a step towards peace in the region.

Israeli authorities accused the European trio of “rewarding terrorism” with their actions.



**Palestinian Loss of Land 1947 to Present**



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (2019), Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (2020), Israel Ministry of Interior (2020), Jerusalem Institute for Policy Research (2020).

@AJLabs ALJAZEERA



# ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a long-standing geopolitical dispute over territory and self-determination in the Middle East.

## BEGINNING

- UN adopted **Resolution 181** - the Partition Plan in 1947
- State of Israel created in 1948, sparking the **first Arab-Israeli War** (Israel won)

- ↳ **Arab-Israeli War** (Israel won)
- ↳ Palestinians displaced
- ↳ Division of territory into - State of Israel, West Bank and Gaza Strip

## INITIAL TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS (1956-1979)

- Suez Crisis and Israeli **invasion of Sinai Peninsula** in 1956
- Six-Day War (1967)** - Israel gained control over Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, East Jerusalem and Golan Heights

### Controversy over Jerusalem as Capital

- **Israel view:** Complete and united Jerusalem
- **Palestinians view:** East Jerusalem future capital

- Yom Kippur War (1973)** - Surprise attack by Egypt and Syria
- Camp David Accords (1979)** b/w Egypt and Israel

### Intifada (Arabic for 'shake off')

- **First Intifada - 1987 to 1993**
  - ↳ Led to the foundation of Hamas (1987) - a Palestinian political party designated as a foreign terrorist org by US
  - ↳ Response - **Madrid Conference 1991** (chaired by the US and Russia)
- **Second Intifada - 2000-2005**
- The latest escalation (2023) is being called the beginning of "Third Intifada"

## OSLO ACCORDS (MEDIATED BY US)

- First (1993)**
  - ↳ Estd framework for **Palestinian self-governance** in West Bank and Gaza
  - ↳ Enabled mutual recognition between Israel and Palestine

## Second (1995)

- ↳ Expanded on Oslo I Accords
- ↳ Mandated **complete Israeli withdrawal** from several cities and towns in **West Bank**

## POST 2000 CONFLICT AND RESPONSES

- 2013** - US-led peace process began
- 2014-18** - Gaza Conflict (2014)
  - ↳ Palestine announced break from territorial divisions under Oslo Accords (2015)
- 2018-20** - US Cancelled funding for Palestinian refugees under UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)
  - ↳ US proposed "**Peace to Prosperity**" plan
- 2020** - **Abraham Accords**
- 2022-2023:**
  - ↳ Israel raids on **Jenin refugee camp**
  - ↳ Hamas launched "**Operation Al-Aqsa Flood**" and Israel launched "Operation Iron Swords" (both in 2023)
    - ↳ Israel declared a **State of War**
  - ↳ **India's Stand:**
    - ↳ Supports a **Two State solution** for Israel and Palestine
    - ↳ **Condemned the recent attack** by Hamas on Israel





- **Armenia Recognizes Palestine:**

- Armenia officially recognizes the State of Palestine.
- The announcement was made amid the ongoing war in Gaza.
- Armenia condemns violence towards civilian populations.

- आर्मेनिया ने फ़िलिस्तीन को मान्यता दी:

- आर्मेनिया आधिकारिक तौर पर फ़िलिस्तीन राज्य को मान्यता देता है।
- यह घोषणा गाजा में चल रहे युद्ध के बीच की गई।
- आर्मेनिया नागरिक आबादी के प्रति हिंसा की निंदा करता है।



- **International Context:**

- Armenia joins Spain, Ireland, and Norway, which recognized Palestine last month.
- This recognition comes in the context of the conflict between Israel and Hamas

- अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संदर्भ:

- आर्मेनिया स्पेन, आयरलैंड और नॉर्वे में शामिल हो गया, जिसने पिछले महीने फिलिस्तीन को मान्यता दी थी।
- यह मान्यता इज़रायल और हमास के बीच संघर्ष के संदर्भ में आई है

- **Israeli Response:**

- Israel summoned Armenia's Ambassador for a "severe reprimand".
- Israel criticized Armenia's decision and accused it of rewarding terrorism.

- इज़राइली प्रतिक्रिया:

- इज़राइल ने आर्मेनिया के राजदूत को "गंभीर फटकार" के लिए बुलाया।
- इजराइल ने आर्मेनिया के फैसले की आलोचना की और उस पर आतंकवाद को बढ़ावा देने का आरोप लगाया.



## 1.Armenian Stance:

1. Armenia aims for long-term peace and stability in the Middle East.
2. Condemns both Israel's military actions in Gaza and Hamas's kidnapping of civilians.
3. Armenia supports international calls for freeing kidnapped civilians.

- अर्मेनियाई रुखः
- आर्मेनिया का लक्ष्य मध्य पूर्व में दीर्घकालिक शांति और स्थिरता है।
- गाजा में इजराइल की सैन्य कार्रवाइयों और हमास द्वारा नागरिकों के अपहरण दोनों की निंदा करता है।
- आर्मेनिया अपहृत नागरिकों को मुक्त कराने के अंतरराष्ट्रीय आह्वान का समर्थन करता है।

• Consider the following statements regarding Armenia's recent diplomatic decision:

1.Armenia has officially recognized the State of Palestine.

2.Armenia's recognition of Palestine aligns it with countries like Spain, Ireland, and Norway.

3.Israel has welcomed Armenia's decision as a step towards peace in the Middle East.

4.Armenia condemned both Israel's military actions in Gaza and Hamas's kidnapping of civilians.

• Which of the statements given above are correct?

• A. 1, 2, and 3 only

B. 1, 2, and 4 only

C. 2, 3, and 4 only

D. 1, 3, and 4 only

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EXPLOITING DOMESTIC WORKERS: FOCUS OF HINDUJA FAMILY SENTENCED TO 4 YRS

**NTA TOLD TO SET NEW PAPER**  
Another test hit by leak claims: Govt postpones CSIR-NET for 2 lakh science graduates  
June 25-27 entry test was for PhD and teaching jobs in the sciences  
RITIKA OHOPRA  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

LESS THAN 48 hours after cancelling the UGC-NET, the Ministry of Education Friday asked the National Testing Agency (NTA) to postpone the CSIR-UGC NET exam, scheduled to be held from June 25 to 27, "as a matter of abundant precaution" in light of reports and claims that this exam, too, may have been leaked on the dark web.

The decision was taken after a series of operations targeting by Bihar-based Naxalites Chhannanda Pradhan, which were also attended by IAS Chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar and Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba. The Indian Express has learned. This came the same day the Department of Personnel and Training notified the centre's name and paper leak too. Public Examination (Prevention of Leak Means) Act 2024, that was passed in Parliament in February.

NTA has been conducting CSIR-UGC, NET in online mode on behalf of the UGC and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research since December 2019. About 2 lakh candidates were expected to appear for CSIR-UGC NET from June 25 to 27. It is known to be the single-window for under-graduate programs at 46 Central universities, including Delhi University (DU), Allahabad University, and

## DELHI CM TO REMAIN IN TIHAR JAIL UNTIL HC DECIDES HC suspends Kejriwal bail order for '2-3 days', reserves verdict on ED's stay plea

Trial court order perverse: ASG for ED; a stay will be bail cancellation: Singhvi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

THE DELHI High Court Friday put on hold for "two-three days" the order of the trial court a day earlier granting bail to AAP leader and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The High Court said it was awaiting a report from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) seeking a stay on the bail order. This incident that Kejriwal, arrested by the ED on March 21 in a money laundering case linked to the Delhi water supply case, being probed separately by the CBI, will continue to remain in jail.



Arrested on March 21 by ED

### Ball order questions ED case

THE ED's charge against Singhvi is that he was involved in money laundering both directly as CM and indirectly as AAP convenor. The trial court granted bail on the basis of this finding of arrest. Singhvi claims in apparent statements that Delhi is not a crime proceeds.

### Bail order quotes CJJ, pokes holes in ED claims on 'crime proceeds'

MIRRHAY THAKUR  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21

THE CHIEF justice of India's encouragement of trial courts to grant bail, rather than the Supreme Court's observations that Delhi is not a crime proceeds, is not a threat to

society while granting interim bail and a finding that the Enforcement Directorate is yet to establish guilt against the accused — these are the key reasons for the Delhi Court to grant bail to Arvind Kejriwal. A 28-page order by Judge Nitya Mishra said the ED's charge against Singhvi is that he was involved in money laundering both directly as CM and indirectly as AAP convenor. The trial court granted bail on the basis of this finding of arrest. Singhvi claims in apparent statements that Delhi is not a crime proceeds.

## MUMBAI HOARDING COLLAPSE KILLED 17



The hoarding in Chhatrapati collapsed on May 13, 2024

IPS officer approved hoarding, money trail points to his wife's business associate

### MOHAMED THAYER

MUMBAI POLICE investigators are probing a series of money transactions allegedly linking the company that owned the giant hoarding that collapsed in Chhatrapati late month, killing 17 people, and a business associate of the wife of the IPS officer who approved the structure at the site without calling for tenders. The police officers have learned the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case has

found that Ego Media Pvt Ltd, which owned the "illegal" 140x120 ft hoarding, remitted the 40 lakh through 30 transactions into 30 different accounts between 2021 and 2022, and all the money was allegedly taken by one person identified as Anand Khan, it is learned. Registrar of Companies (ROC) records accessed by the Indian Express show that Anand Khan is a co-director in Maharashtra Contractors Pvt Ltd along with Somnath Quanser Khalid, the wife of the officer Quanser Khalid.

### PAGE 1 ANCHOR

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 21  
COMING FROM a farmer's family and working as a small-time contractor until 2012, Santosh Singh Yadavendu (56) had largely flown under the radar. That was until his name emerged in connection with the alleged NEEET-2019 paper leak in Bihar. Baby Yadavendu is, according to state police officers, accused in the case. He was arrested on May 5, hours after the exam was held, alongside 12 others, including four aspirants

## Farmer's son, 'influential' junior engineer: Meet NEEET's prime accused

Yadavendu, who lives in a village in Begusarai area of Patna's manager, has a diploma in engineering and his own land as a contractor until a decade and a half. His father was a farmer, and the family once might have been a part of the Bihar's rural development. After clearing IAS 10 in the 1980s, he moved to Ranchi, where he studied until class 12, and got a diploma. In 2012, when the NMA was in process in Bihar, he landed a job as a junior engineer with the water resources department. In



Sikandar Yadavendu was arrested on May 5

In 2023, he had a falling out with some seniors and was transferred to the water resources department, but he managed to get the transfer order reversed, and a source in the Bihar Municipal Council. The ruling BJP has alleged that Yadavendu was closely associated with Patna's former deputy CM and now state leader of Opposition Tejendra Prasad Yadav. Yadavendu was in the Bihar Municipal Council. The ruling BJP has alleged that Yadavendu was closely associated with Patna's former deputy CM and now state leader of Opposition Tejendra Prasad Yadav. Yadavendu was in the Bihar Municipal Council. The ruling BJP has alleged that Yadavendu was closely associated with Patna's former deputy CM and now state leader of Opposition Tejendra Prasad Yadav.

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## YOGA DAY IN SRINAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes a selfie with the gathering after leading a yoga session on the 10th International Day of Yoga in Srinagar on Friday.

## GOVT CHOOSES MAHTAB OVER CONG'S K BURESH

Pro tem Speaker choice: Opp alleges bias against Dalit. Govt says it is as per norms

### EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

DELHI, JUNE 21  
A DAY after the government announced the appointment of Bhairubhai Mahtab as the pro tem Speaker of Lok Sabha, the Opposition said it was a violation of parliamentary norms as the post should have gone to the

most senior MP — Kotturam Murali of Congress. While Mahtab is a seven-time MP from Jharkhand, Buresh is an eight-time MP from Kerala. According to the government of being anti-Dalit, the Congress asked if Buresh was denied the post because he belongs to the Dalit community. The party was backed by NDA bloc ally CPI(M), with Kerala Chief

Minister Pinarayi Vijayan alleging that "upper caste politics" may have played a role behind the decision. Commenting the Opposition leader K. J. Somaiya said that "as per the Westminster system, the MP who has the longest-serving, uninterrupted tenure" is chosen for the position.

## Hasina-Modi talks today: Defence to connectivity, water to power on table



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina being welcomed by Ministry of State for External Affairs Ravi Varadhan Singh upon her arrival in New Delhi on Friday.

### SHUBHAJIT ROY

NEW DELHI, JUNE 21  
LESS THAN two weeks after she came to New Delhi for the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Council of Ministers, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned to the Capital Friday on a two-day State

visit and met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. A bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Modi is scheduled Saturday with a range of topics on the table — defence, connectivity and infrastructure, power and energy cooperation, trade and economic partnership, development projects, river water-sharing and cultural ties.

### EXPRESS NETWORK

**NET PAPER LIKELY LEAKED JUNE 10, SOLD FOR OVER 25 LAKH: PROBE**  
**SC REFUSES TO STAY RE-TEST OR POSTPONE COUNSELLING**

# Don't sell ULIPs as investment products: Irdai

FE BUREAU  
Mumbai, June 21

**TO CURB THE** mis-selling of life insurance policies as pure investment products, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) has barred insurance companies from advertising unit-linked insurance plans or ULIPs as investment plans.

The insurance regulator said all insurers shall advertise the launch of ULIPs only with reference to the underlying life insurance coverage and the products associated with it.

"Further, no press release or statement shall be issued by the insurer without making a reference to the life insurance coverage and the associated products," Irdai said in the master circular.

This comes against the backdrop of insurers launching mid-cap and small-cap ULIPs in the past couple of years when the two indices were rising steadily. Investors were mis-selling these products as pure investment products, said industry players.

In addition, the regulator said all the advertisements shall disclose that the past performance does not construe any indication of future bonuses, and other factors – a move that is similar to Securities and Exchange Board of India guidelines for mutual funds.

"This is a progressive move. It could have come earlier," said Ashvin Parekh, managing partner of Ashvin Parekh Advisory Services.

Parekh said this was a necessary step given that the stock market has done pretty well in the last few years. "There is a tendency to sell Ulips on the basis of investment returns rather than on protection basis. It is not necessary that manufacturers encourage this, but this tendency exists," he said.

Insurers will have to specifically state that market-linked insurance plans are different from traditional



**Investors have been mis-selling certain ULIP products as pure investment products, according to industry players**

endowment policies and carry risks. Likewise, participating (with bonus) endowment policies will have to state upfront that the bonuses projected in benefit illustrations are not guaranteed.

The insurance regulator also added that there should be no advertisement on services related to insurance, comparison of rates or discounts to erstwhile tariff, highlighting the potential benefits of an insurance product without a fair indication of associate risks, exaggerating the benefits of the product, etc.

Parekh also added it would be interesting to see how the regulator follows up on this with insurers because even if the manufacturer is not promoting it as investment product, intermediaries like insurance agents might take that route to sell the products, especially when the stock markets are booming.

Life insurers also have to create a public notice on the home page of their website, cautioning the general public about spurious calls and fictitious offers which announce bonus or investment of premiums.

## Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India



भारतीय बीमा विनियामक और विकास प्राधिकरण  
Insurance Regulatory and Development  
Authority of India

<b>Abbreviation</b>	IRDAI
<b>Formation</b>	1999
<b>Type</b>	Regulatory Body
<b>Legal status</b>	Active
<b>Headquarters</b>	Sy No. 115/1, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad – 500032
<b>Location</b>	India Hyderabad, Telangana
<b>Coordinates</b>	 17.385°N 78.486°E
<b>Services</b>	Insurance of India
<b>Owner</b>	Ministry of Finance, Government of India
<b>Key people</b>	Debasish Panda, IAS (Chairperson)



# Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP)

*[ˈyü-nət ˈlɪŋ(k)t in-ˈʃʊr-ən(t)s ˈplæn]*

A product that offers both insurance coverage and investment exposure in equities or bonds.

# TYPES OF FUND IN ULIPS

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01



## Large Cap Funds

Invests In Top 100  
Large-Cap Companies

02



## Mid Cap Funds

Targets Medium-Sized  
Companies For Higher  
Returns

03



## Debt Funds

Focuses On Fixed-  
Income Securities Like  
Bonds

04



## Balanced Funds

Mixes Equity And Debt  
Investments

# Why ULIPs

ULIP Plans offer double benefit of Insurance and Investment

Enjoy a life cover



Long-term growth



Save tax under Section 80C & 80D



Boost your returns



- **IRDAI Directive:**

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has barred insurance companies from marketing unit-linked insurance plans (ULIPs) purely as investment products.
- Insurers must advertise ULIPs with reference to the underlying life insurance coverage and associated products.
- No press release or statement should omit reference to the life insurance aspect.

- आईआरडीएआई निर्देश:

- भारतीय बीमा विनियामक और विकास प्राधिकरण (आईआरडीएआई) ने बीमा कंपनियों को यूनिट-लिंकड बीमा योजनाओं (यूलिप) को पूरी तरह से निवेश उत्पादों के रूप में विपणन करने से रोक दिया है।
- बीमाकर्ताओं को अंतर्निहित जीवन बीमा कवरेज और संबंधित उत्पादों के संदर्भ में यूलिप का विज्ञापन करना चाहिए।
- किसी भी प्रेस विज्ञप्ति या बयान में जीवन बीमा पहलू का संदर्भ नहीं छोड़ा जाना चाहिए।





- **Mis-selling of ULIPs:**

- The directive aims to curb the mis-selling of ULIPs as pure investment products.
- It addresses the launch of mid-cap and small-cap ULIPs during rising market indices.
- Advertisements must disclose that past performance does not guarantee future returns.

- **यूलिप की गलत बिक्री:**

- इस निर्देश का उद्देश्य शुद्ध निवेश उत्पादों के रूप में यूलिप की गलत बिक्री पर अंकुश लगाना है।
- यह बढ़ते बाज़ार सूचकांकों के दौरान मिड-कैप और स्मॉल-कैप यूलिप के लॉन्च को संबोधित करता है।
- विज्ञापनों को यह बताना चाहिए कि पिछला प्रदर्शन भविष्य के रिटर्न की गारंटी नहीं देता है।

- **Adherence to SEBI Guidelines:**

- The IRDAI directive aligns with SEBI guidelines for mutual funds, ensuring full disclosure of potential risks and benefits.
- Advertisements should avoid exaggerating benefits without highlighting risks.

- सेबी दिशानिर्देशों का पालन:

- आईआरडीएआई का निर्देश म्यूचुअल फंड के लिए सेबी के दिशानिर्देशों के अनुरूप है, जो संभावित जोखिमों और लाभों का पूर्ण खुलासा सुनिश्चित करता है।
- विज्ञापनों को जोखिमों को उजागर किए बिना लाभों को बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर बताने से बचना चाहिए।

- **Industry Reactions:**

- Industry experts support the move, emphasizing the need to focus on protection rather than investment returns.
- The directive aims to curb spurious claims and fictitious offers regarding bonuses or premium investments.

- उद्योग प्रतिक्रियाएं:

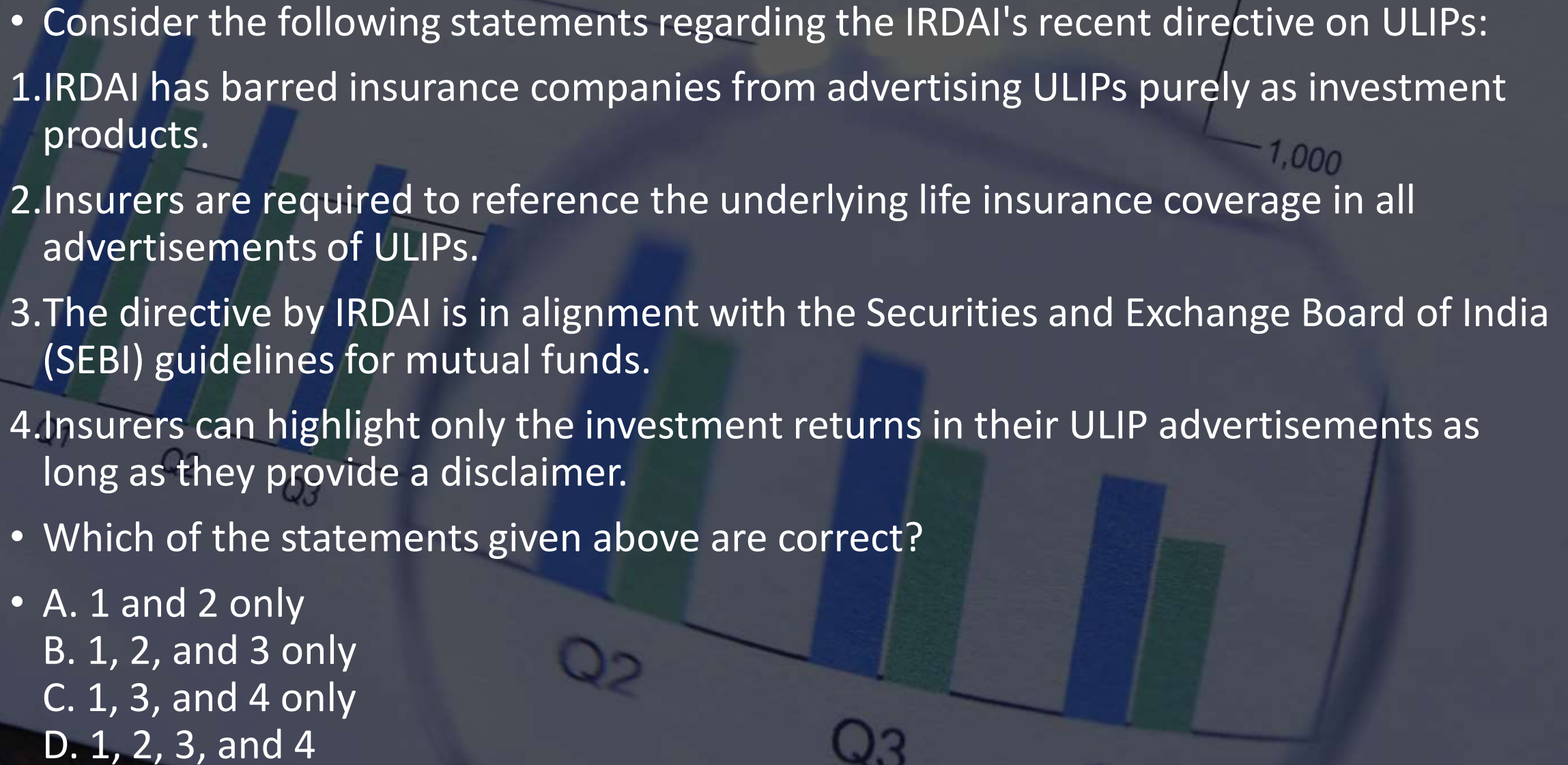
- उद्योग विशेषज्ञ इस कदम का समर्थन करते हैं और निवेश रिटर्न के बजाय सुरक्षा पर ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता पर जोर देते हैं।
- निर्देश का उद्देश्य बोनस या प्रीमियम निवेश के संबंध में फर्जी दावों और फर्जी प्रस्तावों पर अंकुश लगाना है।

- **Additional Provisions:**

- Life insurers must clearly state the differences between market-linked insurance plans and traditional endowment policies.
- No advertisement on services related to insurance should compare rates or discounts to erstwhile tariffs without fair indication of associated risks.

- **अतिरिक्त प्रावधान:**

- जीवन बीमाकर्ताओं को बाजार से जुड़ी बीमा योजनाओं और पारंपरिक बंदोबस्ती पॉलिसियों के बीच अंतर स्पष्ट रूप से बताना चाहिए।
- बीमा से संबंधित सेवाओं पर किसी भी विज्ञापन में संबंधित जोखिमों के उचित संकेत के बिना दरों या छूट की तुलना पूर्ववर्ती टैरिफ से नहीं की जानी चाहिए।

- Consider the following statements regarding the IRDAI's recent directive on ULIPs:
    1. IRDAI has barred insurance companies from advertising ULIPs purely as investment products.
    2. Insurers are required to reference the underlying life insurance coverage in all advertisements of ULIPs.
    3. The directive by IRDAI is in alignment with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) guidelines for mutual funds.
    4. Insurers can highlight only the investment returns in their ULIP advertisements as long as they provide a disclaimer.
  - Which of the statements given above are correct?
    - A. 1 and 2 only
    - B. 1, 2, and 3 only
    - C. 1, 3, and 4 only
    - D. 1, 2, 3, and 4
- 

# Mercy Petition

Recently, the President of India has denied the mercy petition of a Pakistani national sentenced to death for the 2000 Red Fort terrorist attack.

हाल ही में, भारत के राष्ट्रपति ने 2000 के लाल किले पर आतंकवादी हमले के लिए मौत की सजा पाए एक पाकिस्तानी नागरिक की दया याचिका को खारिज कर दिया है।

- **What is Mercy Petition?**

- **About:**

- A mercy petition is a **formal request** made by someone who has been sentenced to **death or imprisonment** seeking mercy from the President or the Governor, as the case may be.
- The idea of Mercy Petition is followed in many countries like the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada, and India.

- दया याचिका क्या है?

- के बारे में:

- दया याचिका किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति द्वारा किया गया एक औपचारिक अनुरोध है जिसे मौत या कारावास की सजा सुनाई गई है और राष्ट्रपति या राज्यपाल, जैसा भी मामला हो, से दया की मांग की जाती है।
- दया याचिका का विचार संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका, यूनाइटेड किंगडम, कनाडा और भारत जैसे कई देशों में अपनाया जाता है।



- **Philosophy behind:**

- The philosophy behind the pardoning powers in India is rooted in the recognition that no judicial system is infallible and the need for a mechanism to rectify potential judicial errors.

- **Rectification of Judicial Errors:**

- This safeguard acts as a **corrective measure** against potential miscarriages of justice.

- पीछे दर्शन:

- भारत में क्षमादान की शक्तियों के पीछे का दर्शन इस मान्यता में निहित है कि कोई भी न्यायिक प्रणाली अचूक नहीं है और संभावित न्यायिक त्रुटियों को सुधारने के लिए एक तंत्र की आवश्यकता है।

- न्यायिक त्रुटियों का सुधार:

- यह सुरक्षा न्याय के संभावित गर्भपात के विरुद्ध एक सुधारात्मक उपाय के रूप में कार्य करता है।

- For example, in 2012, 14 judges from the Supreme Court and High Courts, in separate letters to the President of India, highlighted cases from the 1990s where courts had wrongfully awarded capital punishment to 15 individuals, two of whom were subsequently executed.

- उदाहरण के लिए, 2012 में, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय और उच्च न्यायालयों के 14 न्यायाधीशों ने, भारत के राष्ट्रपति को अलग-अलग पत्रों में, 1990 के दशक के मामलों पर प्रकाश डाला था, जहां अदालतों ने गलत तरीके से 15 व्यक्तियों को मृत्युदंड दिया था, जिनमें से दो को बाद में फांसी दे दी गई थी।

### Article 72

- › The President shall have the **power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions** of punishment or to **suspend, remit or commute** the sentence of any person convicted of any offence:
- › In all cases where the punishment or sentence is by a **Court Martial**
- › In all cases where the punishment or sentence is for an offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the Union extends
- › In all cases where the sentence is a sentence of death

### Article 161

- › It provides that the **Governor** of a State shall have the power to **grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions** of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the State extends.
- › The SC in 2021 held that the Governor of a State can pardon prisoners, including death row ones, even before they have served a minimum 14 years of prison sentence.

- **Process of making a Mercy Petition:**

- There is **no statutory written procedure** for dealing with mercy petitions, but in practice, after extinguishing all the reliefs in the court of law, either the **convict in person or his relative** on his behalf may submit a written petition to the President.
- The petitions are received by the President's secretariat on behalf of the President, which is then forwarded to the **Ministry of Home Affairs** for their comments and recommendations.

दया याचिका दायर करने की प्रक्रिया:

दया याचिकाओं से निपटने के लिए कोई वैधानिक लिखित प्रक्रिया नहीं है, लेकिन व्यवहार में, अदालत में सभी राहतों को समाप्त करने के बाद, या तो दोषी व्यक्ति या उसकी ओर से उसका रिश्तेदार राष्ट्रपति को एक लिखित याचिका प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।

राष्ट्रपति की ओर से याचिकाएँ राष्ट्रपति सचिवालय द्वारा प्राप्त की जाती हैं, जिन्हें बाद में गृह मंत्रालय को उनकी टिप्पणियों और सिफारिशों के लिए भेज दिया जाता है।

Type of Pardoning	Description	Example
<b>Power</b>		
<b>Pardon</b>	Completely absolves the convict of the crime, erasing the conviction and all associated penalties.	The President grants a pardon to a person wrongly convicted of treason.
<b>Commutation</b>	Substitutes a harsher punishment with a lighter one.	The President commutes a death sentence to life imprisonment.
<b>Remission</b>	Reduces the period of the sentence without changing its nature.	The Governor remits one year from a two-year sentence of rigorous imprisonment.
<b>Reprieve</b>	Temporarily postpones the execution of a sentence, usually for a short period.	The President grants a reprieve to a condemned prisoner to allow time for the filing of a mercy petition.
<b>Respite</b>	Similar to reprieve, but for a longer period and often for medical reasons.	The Governor grants a respite to a terminally ill prisoner to allow them to spend their final days at home.

- **Grounds for filing Mercy Petition:**

- The mercy or clemency is granted on the grounds based on his **health, physical or mental fitness**, and his family's financial conditions considering if he is the only sole earner of bread or butter or not.
- The Supreme Court in cases such as *Shatrughna Chauhan vs Union of India (2014)* held that Right to seek for mercy under Article 72/161 of the Constitution is a constitutional right and not at the discretion or whims of the executive.

- दया याचिका दायर करने का आधार:

- दया या क्षमादान उसके स्वास्थ्य, शारीरिक या मानसिक फिटनेस और उसके परिवार की वित्तीय स्थिति के आधार पर दिया जाता है, यह विचार करते हुए कि क्या वह रोटि या मक्खन कमाने वाला एकमात्र व्यक्ति है या नहीं।
- शत्रुघ्न चौहान बनाम भारत संघ (2014) जैसे मामलों में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने माना कि संविधान के अनुच्छेद 72/161 के तहत दया मांगने का अधिकार एक संवैधानिक अधिकार है और यह कार्यपालिका के विवेक या इच्छा पर निर्भर नहीं है।

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- **Which of the following are the discretionary powers given to the Governor of a State? (2014)**

1. Sending a report to the President of India for imposing the President's rule

2. Appointing the Ministers

3. Reserving certain bills passed by the State Legislature for consideration of the President of India

4. Making the rules to conduct the business of the State Government

- **Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- **(a) 1 and 2 only**

- **(b) 1 and 3 only**

- **(c) 2, 3 and 4 only**

- **(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4**

The background is a stylized world map where continents are represented by various colors and patterns. North America is a reddish-brown shape, Europe is a light blue shape with small white dots, and Africa is a dark green shape with small white dots. Other continents are shown in shades of blue, green, and brown, some with white dots or patterns. The overall style is abstract and artistic.

# Container Port Performance Index (CPPI) 2023



- India's port development program received a major boost as 9 ports from India were included in the Global Top 100 for the first time in the Container Port Performance Index (CPPI), 2023.
- The credit for this achievement has been given to the Sagarmala programme which has focused on the modernisation of the ports and improving their efficiency.

- भारत के बंदरगाह विकास कार्यक्रम को एक बड़ा बढ़ावा मिला क्योंकि कंटेनर पोर्ट परफॉर्मेंस इंडेक्स (सीपीपीआई), 2023 में पहली बार भारत के 9 बंदरगाहों को ग्लोबल टॉप 100 में शामिल किया गया।
- इस उपलब्धि का श्रेय सागरमाला कार्यक्रम को दिया गया है जिसने बंदरगाहों के आधुनिकीकरण और उनकी दक्षता में सुधार पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया है।

- **About the Index:**

- It is a global index developed by the World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence. It measures and compares the performance of container ports around the world.

- The index ranks 405 global container ports by efficiency, focusing on the duration of port stay for container vessels.

- यह विश्व बैंक और एस&एंडपी ग्लोबल मार्केट इंटेलिजेंस द्वारा विकसित एक वैश्विक सूचकांक है। यह दुनिया भर में कंटेनर बंदरगाहों के प्रदर्शन को मापता है और तुलना करता है।
- सूचकांक में कंटेनर जहाजों के लिए बंदरगाह पर रहने की अवधि पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हुए दक्षता के आधार पर 405 वैश्विक कंटेनर बंदरगाहों को रैंक किया गया है।

- **Global Ranking:**

- In the CPPI 2023 rankings, **Yangshan Port in China is first, followed by the Port of Salalah in Oman. The Port of Cartagena is third, and Tangier-Mediterranean is fourth.**

- वैश्विक रैंकिंग:

- सीपीपीआई 2023 रैंकिंग में चीन का यांगशान बंदरगाह पहले स्थान पर है, उसके बाद ओमान का सलालाह बंदरगाह है। कार्टाजेना बंदरगाह तीसरे स्थान पर है, और टैजियर-मेडिटेरेनियन चौथे स्थान पर है।

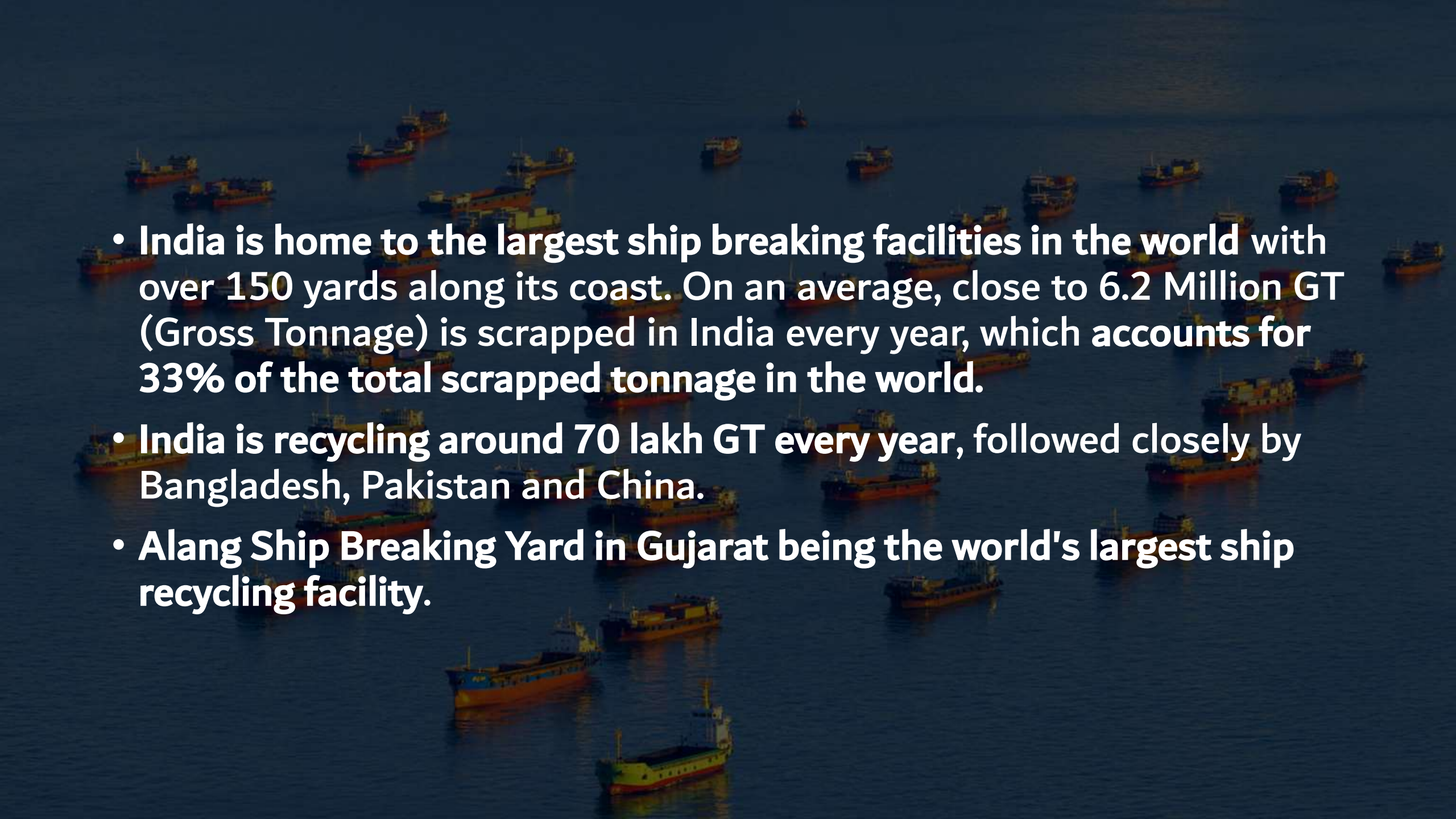
- **India's Position:**

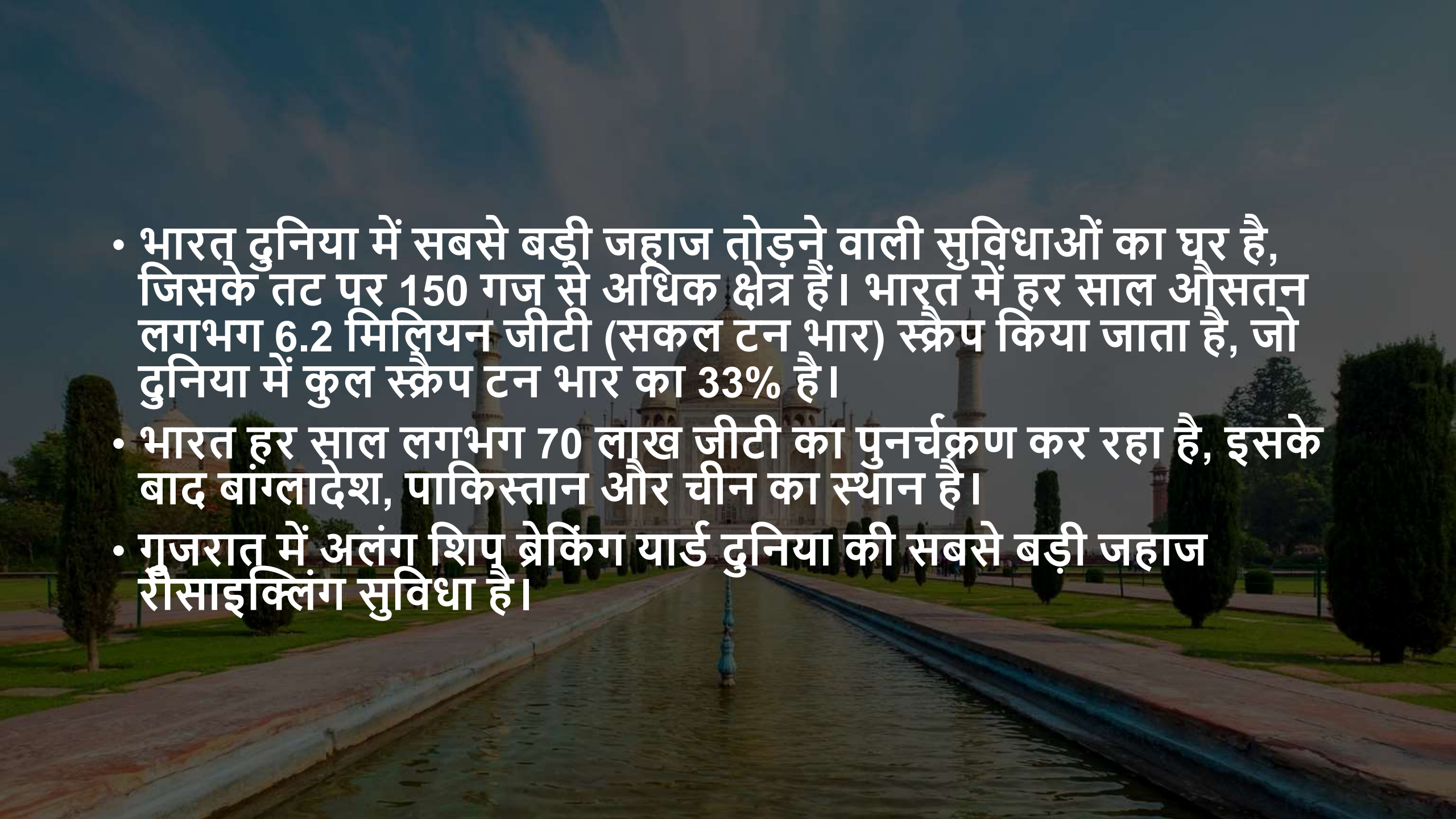
- **Visakhapatnam Port** jumped from 115 in 2022 to 19 in the 2023 rankings, becoming the **first Indian port to reach the Global Top 20.**
- **Mundra Port** also improved its position, rising from 48 last year to 27 in the current ranking.
- **Seven other Indian ports, which secured ranks in the top 100, are** Pipavav (41), Kamarajar (47), Cochin (63), Hazira (68), Krishnapatnam (71), Chennai (80) and Jawaharlal Nehru (96).

- विशाखापत्तनम पोर्ट 2022 में 115 से बढ़कर 2023 रैंकिंग में 19वें स्थान पर पहुंच गया, और ग्लोबल टॉप 20 में पहुंचने वाला पहला भारतीय बंदरगाह बन गया।
- मुंद्रा पोर्ट ने भी अपनी स्थिति में सुधार किया है, जो पिछले साल के 48वें स्थान से बढ़कर मौजूदा रैंकिंग में 27वें स्थान पर पहुंच गया है।
- सात अन्य भारतीय बंदरगाह, जिन्होंने शीर्ष 100 में रैंक हासिल की, वे हैं पिपावाव (41), कामराजार (47), कोचीन (63), हजीरा (68), कृष्णापट्टनम (71), चेन्नई (80) और जवाहरलाल नेहरू (96)।

- According to the Ministry of Shipping, around 95% of India's trading by volume and 70% by value is done through maritime transport.
- In November 2020, the Prime Minister renamed the Ministry of Shipping as the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- जहाजरानी मंत्रालय के अनुसार, भारत का लगभग 95% व्यापार मात्रा के हिसाब से और 70% व्यापार समुद्री परिवहन के माध्यम से होता है।
- नवंबर 2020 में, प्रधान मंत्री ने जहाजरानी मंत्रालय का नाम बदलकर बंदरगाह, जहाजरानी और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय कर दिया।

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- India is the **sixteenth-largest maritime country** in the world with a coastline of 7,516.6 kms.
  - The Indian ports and shipping industry **play a vital role in sustaining growth in the country's trade and commerce.** The Ports sector in India is being driven by high growth in external trade.
  - भारत 7,516.6 किलोमीटर की तटरेखा के साथ दुनिया का सोलहवां सबसे बड़ा समुद्री देश है।
  - भारतीय बंदरगाह और शिपिंग उद्योग देश के व्यापार और वाणिज्य में विकास को बनाए रखने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। भारत में बंदरगाह क्षेत्र बाहरी व्यापार में उच्च वृद्धि से प्रेरित हो रहा है।

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- An aerial photograph showing a vast number of ships, likely at a shipbreaking yard, scattered across a large body of water. The ships are of various sizes and colors, and their reflections are visible on the water's surface. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, bold font.
- **India is home to the largest ship breaking facilities in the world with over 150 yards along its coast. On an average, close to 6.2 Million GT (Gross Tonnage) is scrapped in India every year, which accounts for 33% of the total scrapped tonnage in the world.**
  - **India is recycling around 70 lakh GT every year, followed closely by Bangladesh, Pakistan and China.**
  - **Alang Ship Breaking Yard in Gujarat being the world's largest ship recycling facility.**

- 
- भारत दुनिया में सबसे बड़ी जहाज तोड़ने वाली सुविधाओं का घर है, जिसके तट पर 150 गज से अधिक क्षेत्र हैं। भारत में हर साल औसतन लगभग 6.2 मिलियन जीटी (सकल टन भार) स्क्रेप किया जाता है, जो दुनिया में कुल स्क्रेप टन भार का 33% है।
  - भारत हर साल लगभग 70 लाख जीटी का पुनर्चक्रण कर रहा है, इसके बाद बांग्लादेश, पाकिस्तान और चीन का स्थान है।
  - गुजरात में अलंग शिप ब्रेकिंग यार्ड दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी जहाज रीसाइक्लिंग सुविधा है।



# Major Ports in India



- Ports in India are classified as **Major** and **Minor Ports** according to the jurisdiction of the Central and State government as defined under the **Indian Ports Act, 1908** i.e. Major Ports are owned and managed by the Central Government and Minor ports are owned and managed by the State Governments.
- The **Major Port Authorities Act, 2021** provides for regulation, operation and planning of major ports in India and provide greater autonomy to these ports. It replaced the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.
- There are **12 major ports**. **13<sup>th</sup> Major Port** (under construction) is **Vadhavan port, Maharashtra**.

**Q. Consider the following pairs: (2023)**

	<b>Port</b>	<b>Well known as</b>
1.	Kamarajar Port	First major port in India registered as a company
2.	Mundra Port	Largest privately owned port in India
3.	Visakhapatnam Port	Largest container port in India

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
- (b) Only two pairs
- (c) All three pairs
- (d) None of the pairs



IPBES wins Blue Planet Prize

- 
- Recently, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) won the Blue Planet Prize for 2024.
  - IPBES was awarded as "the leading global authority on the state of knowledge and science about biodiversity, ecosystem services and nature's contributions to people".
  - The other awardee is Robert Costanza from the Institute for Global Prosperity, University College London, for his contributions to the field of ecological economics.
  - हाल ही में, जैव विविधता और पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र सेवाओं पर अंतर सरकारी मंच (आईपीबीईएस) ने 2024 के लिए ब्लू प्लैनेट पुरस्कार जीता।
  - आईपीबीईएस को "जैव विविधता, पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र सेवाओं और लोगों के लिए प्रकृति के योगदान के बारे में ज्ञान और विज्ञान की स्थिति पर अग्रणी वैश्विक प्राधिकरण" के रूप में सम्मानित किया गया था।
  - पारिस्थितिक अर्थशास्त्र के क्षेत्र में उनके योगदान के लिए अन्य पुरस्कार विजेता यूनिवर्सिटी कॉलेज लंदन के इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर ग्लोबल प्रोस्पेरिटी के रॉबर्ट कोस्टान्ज़ा हैं।

- 
- About Blue Planet Prize:
  - It was established in 1992, the year of the Rio Earth Summit.
  - This award is given annually by Japan's Asahi Glass Foundation for outstanding achievements in scientific research and its application which have helped to solve global environmental problems.
  - Two winners are chosen every year and the prize includes an award of USD 500,000.
  - ब्लू प्लैनेट पुरस्कार के बारे में:
  - इसकी स्थापना 1992 में रियो पृथ्वी शिखर सम्मेलन के वर्ष में की गई थी।
  - यह पुरस्कार जापान के असाही ग्लास फाउंडेशन द्वारा वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान और उसके अनुप्रयोग में उत्कृष्ट उपलब्धियों के लिए प्रतिवर्ष दिया जाता है, जिससे वैश्विक पर्यावरणीय समस्याओं को हल करने में मदद मिली है।
  - हर साल दो विजेताओं को चुना जाता है और पुरस्कार में 500,000 अमेरिकी डॉलर का पुरस्कार शामिल होता है।

## About

- An independent intergovernmental body aimed at strengthening the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services.

## Established

- In Panama City in 2012 by 94 Governments (**including India**)
- Currently has more than 145 Member States.
- Secretariat - Bonn, Germany.



- **Consider the following statements regarding the Blue Planet Prize:**

1. The Blue Planet Prize is awarded annually by the Asahi Glass Foundation of Japan.

2. It was established in the year 1992, which coincides with the Rio Earth Summit.

3. The prize includes an award of USD 1,000,000 shared equally between the two winners.

4. The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is one of the 2024 awardees.

- **Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1, 2 and 4 only

- b) 1, 3 and 4 only

- c) 1 and 2 only

- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some wearing suits. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window with light coming through. The overall mood is celebratory and professional.

Thank you  
guys.

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