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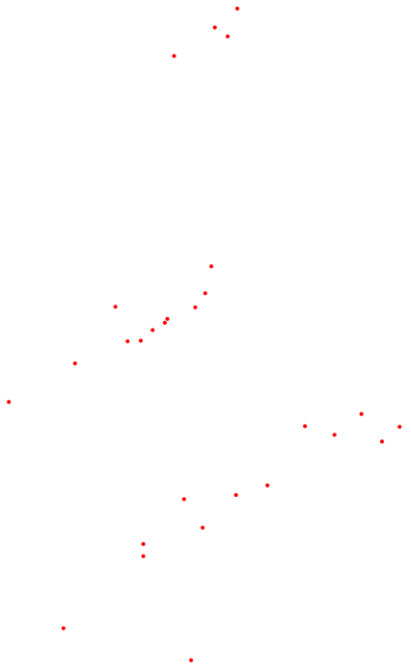
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10 MCQ from the session

. Under which section should blocking orders be issued, according to X Corp's legal challenge?

X कॉर्प की कानूनी चुनौती के अनुसार, ब्लॉकिंग आदेश किस धारा के तहत जारी किए जाने चाहिए?

- A. Section 66A
- B. Section 69A
- C. Section 79(3)(b)
- D. Section 72

**What is India's objection to Section 79(3)(b) being used for blocking content?**

**भारत में सेक्शन 79(3)(b) के तहत कंटेंट ब्लॉकिंग पर क्या आपत्ति है?**

- A. It violates copyright laws
- B. It is not constitutionally valid for blocking content
- C. It involves national security
- D. It promotes misinformation



**Who is the new IOC President succeeding Thomas Bach?**

**थॉमस बाख के बाद नए आईओसी अध्यक्ष कौन बने हैं?**

- A. Simone Biles
- B. Usain Bolt
- C. Kirsty Coventry
- D. PV Sindhu

**What is the global obesity statistic mentioned in the WHO 2022 report?**

**WHO 2022 रिपोर्ट के अनुसार वैश्विक मोटापे से संबंधित आंकड़ा क्या है?**

- A. 1 in 10 people
- B. 1 in 12 people
- C. 1 in 8 people
- D. 1 in 5 people

**What is Tirzepatide (Mounjaro) primarily used for?**

**तिरज़ेपाटाइड (मौंजारो) का प्रमुख उपयोग किस लिए होता है?**

- A. Blood pressure control
- B. Skin treatment
- C. Weight loss and diabetes management
- D. Cancer prevention



**What is the mechanism of action for Tirzepatide?**

**तिरज़ेपाटाइड कैसे कार्य करता है?**

- A. Increases thyroid hormone
- B. Mimics gut hormones to regulate appetite
- C. Stimulates brain activity
- D. Enhances calcium absorption

**Which Indian pharmaceutical companies are working on generic versions of Tirzepatide?**

**तिरज़ेपाटाइड के जेनरिक संस्करण पर काम करने वाली भारतीय फार्मा कंपनियां कौन सी हैं?**

- A. Zydus and Dr. Reddy's
- B. Cipla, Sun Pharma, Biocon, Natco
- C. Lupin and Torrent
- D. Glenmark and Aurobindo

**What does the Global Climate Report 2024 predict about the 1.5°C threshold?**

**ग्लोबल क्लाइमेट रिपोर्ट 2024 के अनुसार 1.5°C सीमा के बारे में क्या भविष्यवाणी की गई है?**

- A. Will never be breached
- B. Already permanently surpassed
- C. Likely to be breached by September 2029
- D. Breached only in Arctic region



**What is Rangpanchami associated with?**

**रंगपंचमी किससे संबंधित है?**

- A. Festival of harvest
- B. End of Holi celebrations
- C. Worship of Sun God
- D. South Indian festival

**What are Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201 developed by ISRO?**

**इसरो द्वारा विकसित विक्रम 3201 और कल्पना 3201 क्या हैं?**

- A. Satellite systems
- B. Microprocessors for space missions
- C. Navigation systems
- D. Communication antennas

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that hurts you,  
no matter how  
beautiful the view is.



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Heathrow airport closed for a day  
WORLD » PAGE 12

**MASSIVE ATTACK**  
Russia strikes Odesa, blames Kyiv for gas facility blast  
WORLD » PAGE 12

**FUNDS FOR MINISTRIES**  
Demands for Grants of ₹50 lakh cr. gets nod  
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**HAUNTED BY AURANGZEB**  
In Nagpur, a riot over a long-gone emperor's tomb  
Film fans communal flames in Maharashtra  
GROUND ZERO » PAGE 7

**IPL 2023 OPENER**  
Knight Riders take on Royal Challengers  
SPORT » PAGE 14

## INSIDE

**There is progress on GM food crops, says official**  
NEW DELHI  
A head of a fresh series of hearings in the Supreme Court next month over genetically modified (GM) food crops, the Department of Biotechnology said there was "progress" on this front. » PAGE 5

**'Indian students in the U.S. must follow local laws'**  
NEW DELHI  
In response to a question on the arrest of Badar Khan Suri, a Georgetown University student, Ministry of External Affairs on Friday said Indian students in the U.S. must follow local laws, adding they learned about his detention through media reports. » PAGE 3

**'13 Bangladeshi nationals have been deported'**  
NEW DELHI  
The Centre informed the SC on Friday that 13 Bangladeshi nationals have been deported to their country while the verification process for the remaining illegal immigrants in the detention centre in Assam is under way. » PAGE 4

**Bangladesh govt. says will not ban ousted PM's party**  
DHAKA  
Bangladesh's interim government says it has no plans to ban the political party of ousted premier Sheikh Hasina, putting it at odds with the student revolutionaries who overthrew her in an uprising last year. » PAGE 12

# Judge's transfer is not related to 'rumours': SC

SC says the proposal to transfer Justice Yashwant Varma was based on the Collegium's procedure; it adds the transfer proposal has been studied by the Collegium which has sought feedback from consultee judges of the SC and Chief Justices of HCs; Delhi HC has initiated an internal inquiry into 'incident', and findings will be reviewed by CJI

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court issued a statement on Friday that "misinformation and rumours" are being spread with regard to an "incident" at the residence of Delhi High Court Judge Justice Yashwant Varma, compelling the apex court, Collegium to transfer him out.  
The statement from the Supreme Court came after a report by *The Times of India*, followed by source-based online media reports, that a "huge pile of cash" was recovered when a fire broke out in the residential bungalow of the judge.  
The press note issued by the Supreme Court, while confirming the existence of

a proposal to transfer Justice Varma, stated categorically that it was unconnected with an in-house enquiry procedure into the "incident".  
"The proposal for transfer of Justice Yashwant Varma, who is the second senior-most judge in the Delhi High Court and a member of the Collegium to his parent High Court, i.e., the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, where he will be ninth in seniority, is independent and separate from the in-house enquiry procedure," it informed.  
The apex court note said the transfer proposal has been examined by the Supreme Court Collegium. The Collegium has further asked for feedback on the proposal from consultee judges of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justices of the High Courts concerned and also from Justice Varma. "Responses received will be examined and, the report, the Collegium will pass a resolution," the statement said.  
**In-house enquiry**  
On the "incident", the top court said the Chief Justice

**Judicial path**  
A brief look at the career of Justice Yashwant Varma, born on January 6, 1969 in Allahabad  
1992: Enrolled as an advocate  
October 13, 2014: Appointed Additional Judge, Allahabad High Court  
February 3, 2016: Took oath as Permanent Judge, Allahabad High Court  
October 11, 2022: Appointed Judge, Delhi High Court

**Is Allahabad HC a trash bin, asks bar association**  
NEW DELHI  
Responding to the "proposed reappointment" of Justice Yashwant Varma to the Allahabad High Court, the Bar Association of India has asked if the High Court was "a trash bin". » PAGE 4  
The press note referred to the Supreme Court judgment in *Additional District and Sessions Judge 'X' versus Registrar General, High Court of Madhya Pradesh* of 2015.  
**Stages of probe**  
The judgment elucidates the stages of the in-house enquiry procedure, which is meant to "ensure exclusion of favouritism, prejudice or bias".  
The in-house enquiry procedure against sitting High Court Judges is communalised and processed through two stages.  
The first stage involves the prima facie ascertainment by the Chief Justice of High Courts and a judge of the High Court concerned, in this case the Delhi High Court Chief Justice, of the dual integrity of the judge concerned.

The probe was called for. This would be done on the basis of a logical assessment made on a consideration of the response of the judge concerned.  
The second stage of the procedure is monitored by the Chief Justice of India and is kicked off if the endorses the High Court Chief Justice's report recommending a deeper probe. In such a situation, the CJI would constitute a three-member committee of two Chief Justices of High Courts and a judge of a High Court. The committee can devise its own procedure of investigation provided it follows the principle of natural justice.  
The judge in question would have a fair opportunity to respond to the allegations levelled against him.

## Ramzan staple



**Fast ingredients:** A woman preparing vermicelli, used in a traditional dessert made during the month of Ramadan, in Chennai on Friday. ANI

## U.S. federal judge blocks deportation of Indian student

**Press Trust of India**  
NEW YORK  
A U.S. federal judge has blocked the deportation of an Indian student at Georgetown University who was arrested after federal authorities accused him of actively spreading Hamas propaganda.  
Mr. Suri is a postdoctoral fellow at the Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at the Edmund A Walsh School of Foreign Service at the university.  
District Judge Patricia Toliver Giles said, "It is ordered that petitioner shall not be removed from the United States unless and until the court issues a contrary order."  
**FULL PAGE**

## Language issue raked up in T.N. to hide scams: Shah

**Vijalata Singh**  
NEW DELHI  
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday accused the Tamil Nadu government of using the language issue to hide its "corrupt activities, scams and scandals", while asserting that the Bharatiya Janata Party government at the Centre was not opposed to any south Indian language.  
Mr. Shah said they would go to each village and expose the intent behind raking up the issue of imposition by the DMK-led government.  
Replying to a debate on the working of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in Tamil Nadu, Mr. Shah said terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir were buried where they were killed and there had been no processing of the bodies since 2019. "We shoot them between the eyes as soon as we spot them," Mr. Shah said, referring to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remark during Bharat Jodo Yatra that he saw terrorists at a distance in Kashmir.  
In his two-hour speech, Mr. Shah did not respond to queries by the opposition members on the pending concerns by southern States around the population-based delimitation of parliamentary seats. Congress was last done in the country in 2011 and has been pending since 2021.  
Mr. Shah said that by December, through the newly created Bharatiya Vahasha Anubhag, he would respond to every letter or communication in the language they were sent in, thereby promoting all Indian languages.  
"This is a reply to those who are running their shop in the name of language to hide their corrupt activities. We have been asking for two years, but you do not have the courage to start medical and engineering courses in Tamil," he said.  
**'Spreading poison'**  
"When we come to power in Tamil Nadu, we will translate the courses. You spread poison in the name of language. You like a language that has its origin thousands of km away but cannot tolerate languages of your own country. We have seen enough division in the country on linguistic grounds, now is the time to think about its growth and development," Mr. Shah said without directly naming the DMK or the Congress.  
He asserted that Hindi was not in competition with any other language.  
Earlier, John Brittas of the CPI(M) sought to know which State in north India had implemented the three-language education policy.  
As Mr. Brittas quoted X's at assistant CJI on the Aurangzeb issue while referring to Bharatiya Vahasha owner Elon Musk as one of the "close friends" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Shah intervened. "You are the only international party and the rest are Indian political parties. Why are you doing Musk Musk, talk about India."

# "Trump allowing Russia relief without Ukraine's consent"

**Suhasini Halder**  
NEW DELHI  
U.S. President Donald Trump is giving away concessions on behalf of Ukraine, before negotiating with Russian President Vladimir Putin, said Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide.  
Mr. Trump is giving Russia a "boost" at a time when Moscow is facing economic problems and military losses due to the Ukraine war, Mr. Eide said.  
The Norwegian Minister was in Delhi for the Ministry of External Affairs' annual Raisina Dialogue conference, where the U.S. role in negotiating a Russia-Ukraine ceasefire dominated discussions.  
As U.S. and Russian officials prepare for another round of talks in Riyadh on

Monday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said at the conference that India has suggested to both Moscow and Kyiv to conduct "direct talks", rather than negotiating through other countries.  
**Economy in trouble**  
In an interview with *The Hindu*, Mr. Eide said, "Most of the Russian economy is in trouble, and Russia was not in a good spot. And then Mr. Trump came in and started suggesting some concessions to be given prior to negotiations."  
It is important that Mr. Trump does not give away positions on behalf of Ukraine ceasefire dominated discussions.  
"As U.S. and Russian officials prepare for another round of talks in Riyadh on

limited ceasefire is now in place with both Russia and Ukraine agreeing to avoid attacking each other's energy and infrastructure installations. However, differences over the way forward persist.  
Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiba, who held a meeting on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue with Mr. Jaishankar and many other Ministers has said Ukraine's "red lines" include not ceding Ukrainian territory occupied by Russia formally, and not accepting curbs on their military power or foreign policy.  
"Now is the time for diplomacy. We believe that with the help of U.S. President Trump we may have reached a just and lasting peace, and we count on the support of the international community for an end to the war this year," Mr. Sybiba said at the Raisina Dialogue. Senior Ukrainian diplomatic sources said that a negotiating team has already been officially formed, underlining Ukraine's "serious approach toward peace".  
However, State Duma (Russian Parliament) member Vyacheslav Nikonov, who was present at the conference said that no talks could be held with Ukrainian negotiators at present, as Russia considers the Volodymyr Zelenskyy government, whose tenure has ended, "illegitimate".  
"Constitutionally, [President Zelenskyy] is not legitimated for a just and lasting peace, because if Ukraine signs an agreement,

but a future government says it won't accept it, what does it mean?" Mr. Sybiba said, speaking to *The Hindu*.  
India has thus far rejected calls to criticise Russia over the war since the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Speaking at the Raisina Dialogue, Jaishankar said that countries such as India have an unhappily with India's position in the past were now more active in the "common-sense position", and that India has had a long leadership that was would not resolve the war, and would the Ukrainian leadership to speak directly to Russia.  
In the past few weeks, Norway has taken a tough position on the administration's policy on Ukraine.



# Judge's transfer is not related to 'rumours': SC

SC says the proposal to transfer Justice Yashwant Varma was based on the Collegium's procedure; it adds the transfer proposal has been studied by the Collegium which has sought feedback from consultee judges of the SC and Chief Justices of HCs; Delhi HC has initiated an internal inquiry into 'incident', and findings will be reviewed by CJI

**The Hindu Bureau**  
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The statement from the Supreme Court came after a report by *The Times of India*, followed by source-based online media reports, that a "huge pile of cash" was recovered when a fire broke out in the residential bungalow of the judge.

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The apex court note said the transfer proposal has been examined by the Supreme Court Collegium. The Collegium has further asked for feedback on the proposal from consultee judges of the Supreme

## Judicial path

A brief look at the career of Justice Yashwant Varma, born on January 6, 1969 in Allahabad

**1992:** Enrolled as an advocate

**October 13, 2014**

Appointed Additional Judge, Allahabad High Court

**February 1, 2016**

Took oath as Permanent Judge, Allahabad High Court



**October 11, 2021**

Appointed Judge, Delhi High Court

Court, the Chief Justices of the High Courts concerned and also from Justice Varma. "Responses received will be examined and, thereupon, the Collegium will pass a resolution," the statement said.

### In-house enquiry

On the "incident", the top court said the Chief Justice

of the Delhi High Court, Justice D.K. Upadhyaya, on receiving information, had commenced an in-house enquiry collecting details and evidence. The High Court Chief Justice had begun the enquiry even prior to a Supreme Court Collegium meeting on March 20. The enquiry report would be submitted to

## Is Allahabad HC a trash bin, asks bar association

NEW DELHI

Responding to the "proposed repatriation" of Justice Yashwant Varma to the Allahabad High Court, the Bar Association of the court has asked if the High Court was "a trash bin". » **PAGE 4**

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on March 21. The Delhi High Court Chief Justice's report would be "examined and processed for further and necessary action", the press note said.

The nature of the enquiry and report are confidential to protect the individual integrity of the judge concerned.

The press note referred to the Supreme Court judgment in *Additional District and Sessions Judge 'X' versus Registrar General, High Court of Madhya Pradesh* of 2015.

### Stages of probe

The judgment elucidates the stages of the in-house enquiry procedure, which is meant to "ensure exclusion of favouritism, prejudice or bias".

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The first stage involves the prima facie ascertainment by the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned, in this case the Delhi High Court Chief Justice, of the veracity of the allegations and whether a deeper

probe was called for. This would be done on the basis of a logical assessment made on a consideration of the response of the judge concerned.

The second stage of the procedure is monitored by the Chief Justice of India and is kicked off if he endorses the High Court Chief Justice's report recommending a deeper probe. In such a situation, the CJI would constitute a three-member committee of two Chief Justices of High Courts and a judge of a High Court. The committee can devise its own procedure of investigation, provided it follows the principle of natural justice. The judge in question would have a fair opportunity to repudiate the allegations levelled against him.



The Supreme Court of India clarified that Justice Yashwant Varma's transfer was a routine decision of the Collegium and was unrelated to the alleged "incident" at his residence.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने स्पष्ट किया कि न्यायमूर्ति यशवंत वर्मा का तबादला कोलेजियम की एक नियमित प्रक्रिया के तहत हुआ है और उनके आवास पर हुई कथित "घटना" से इसका कोई संबंध नहीं है।

Reports suggested that a "huge pile of cash" was found after a fire broke out at his residence, triggering speculations.

रिपोर्टों में दावा किया गया कि उनके आवास पर आग लगने के बाद "नकदी का बड़ा ढेर" पाया गया, जिससे अटकलें लगाई जाने लगीं।





## Supreme Court's Response | सुप्रीम कोर्ट की प्रतिक्रिया

- ✓ The Collegium approved the transfer proposal after seeking feedback from senior judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.  
कोलेजियम ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट और उच्च न्यायालयों के वरिष्ठ न्यायाधीशों से प्रतिक्रिया प्राप्त करने के बाद तबादले के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी।
- ✓ Justice Varma is being transferred from the Delhi High Court to the Allahabad High Court, where he will be ninth in seniority.  
न्यायमूर्ति वर्मा का तबादला दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय से इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय में किया जा रहा है, जहां वह वरिष्ठता सूची में नौवें स्थान पर होंगे।

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## Bar Association's Objection | बार एसोसिएशन की आपत्ति


- ⚠️ The Allahabad Bar Association questioned whether the High Court was being treated as a "dumping ground" for controversial transfers.  
इलाहाबाद बार एसोसिएशन ने पूछा कि क्या उच्च न्यायालय को विवादास्पद तबादलों के लिए "कचरा पात्र" के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है?
- ⚠️ Opposition parties have criticized the move, calling it an attempt to sideline an independent judge.  
विपक्षी दलों ने इस कदम की आलोचना करते हुए इसे एक स्वतंत्र न्यायाधीश को दरकिनार करने का प्रयास बताया है।


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### 3. Historical and Geographical Context | ऐतिहासिक और भौगोलिक संदर्भ


#### Judicial History of Transfers | न्यायिक तबादलों का इतिहास

-  The Supreme Court Collegium follows a structured process for transferring High Court judges to ensure impartiality.  
सुप्रीम कोर्ट कोलेजियम उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीशों के तबादलों के लिए एक संरचित प्रक्रिया का पालन करता है ताकि निष्पक्षता बनी रहे।



 In the past, transfers have been used to maintain judicial independence, but some have been controversial.

अतीत में, तबादलों का उपयोग न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता बनाए रखने के लिए किया गया है, लेकिन कुछ स्थानांतरण विवादास्पद भी रहे हैं।



## Legal Framework for In-House Inquiries | आंतरिक जांच के लिए कानूनी ढांचा

⚖️ The Supreme Court referred to the 2015 ruling in *Additional District and Sessions Judge X vs. Registrar General, Madhya Pradesh High Court*, outlining the process for in-house inquiries against judges.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 2015 के अतिरिक्त जिला एवं सत्र न्यायाधीश एक्स बनाम मध्य प्रदेश उच्च न्यायालय मामले का संदर्भ दिया, जिसमें न्यायाधीशों के खिलाफ आंतरिक जांच की प्रक्रिया निर्धारित की गई थी।

⚖️ The two-stage process involves:

- Preliminary assessment by the High Court Chief Justice.  
उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश द्वारा प्रारंभिक मूल्यांकन।
- Further investigation if deemed necessary by the Chief Justice of India.  
यदि आवश्यक समझा जाए, तो भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश द्वारा आगे की जांच।

IN BRIEF

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq seeks revocation of ban on his party

Hurryat chairman and Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, while addressing a Friday congregation in Srinagar for the first time since his party was banned by the Union Home Ministry, said the Centre's move "was harsh and uncalled for and should be revoked".

Two members of Manipur extremist group arrested

The Guwahati police on Friday apprehended two key members of a Manipur-based extremist group. A senior police officer said Meisram Bangochaba Singh and Tevcha Bonthcha Singh, both 42, are key members of the Kangleipak Communist Party (People's War Group).

AAIB to conduct in-depth probe into all tail strikes involving IndiGo aircraft

Jaariti Chandra NEW DELHI

With an IndiGo A321 Neo aircraft scraping the runway in Chennai earlier this month — the sixth known incident in two years — the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is now digging into every prior tail strike by the airline.

"Due to the criticality of the recent cases, as well as the frequent occurrence of tail strikes at IndiGo, we have decided to investigate them in totality," a senior AAIB official told The Hindu. The official said it will be investigating various factors such as training or procedural lapses, air crew profiling, and any glaring patterns behind the incidents.

On March 8, the tail section of an IndiGo Airbus A321 Neo aircraft from Mumbai hit the runway at

There is progress on GM food crops, says official

Remark comes amid apprehensions over the Environment Ministry's approval for commercial cultivation of GM mustard in 2022; Supreme Court is set to hear pleas on the same next month

Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI

Ahead of a fresh series of hearings in the Supreme Court next month over genetically modified (GM) food crops, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) said there was "progress" on this front.

"The matter is sub judice but GM mustard stories are being taken up again," DBT Secretary Rajesh Gokhale said at a biotechnology event on Friday. The DBT, which has for years funded research and development into transgenic and GM food crops, comes under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

At present, Bt cotton is the only genetically modified crop allowed to be cultivated. Though the Environment Ministry gave its conditional go-ahead for commercial cultivation of GM mustard in 2022, it has not taken off as it was challenged in the Supreme Court.

Science Minister Jitendra Singh who was also at the event, said, "There is so much dynamism in bio-



Awaiting hearings: Petitioners have challenged the Environment Ministry's approval for cultivation of GM mustard. (R. MOORTHY)

technology development that we cannot look at tomorrow through the prism of today."

Hearing from April 15 On March 6, a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court said it will begin hearing from April 15 petitions challenging the Environment Ministry's approval for cultivation of GM mustard. The court has told all parties to file their written submissions within a week.

A two-judge Bench of the top court, on July 23, 2024, gave a split verdict

first transgenic food crop to be approved for farmer fields by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee, a scientific body. However, it wasn't approved for cultivation following safety objections by activist groups.

However, the use of biotechnology to improve food crops — as in the case of GM mustard — is a key focus of the government's BioEd policy.

This involves manufacturing new kinds of enzymes, pharmaceuticals and agricultural products while applying techniques, including genetic engineering.

A report released by the DBT at the event on Friday said, "In current state of India's bio-economy" says that bio-agriculture accounts 8.1% — the smallest share — of the \$165.7 billion bio-economy in India.

"Valued at \$13.5 billion, this segment enhances agricultural productivity and resilience through genetically modified crops like Bt Cotton and precision agriculture technologies," the report notes.

In push for made-in India browser, a mandate to trust gov. encryption

Aroon Deep NEW DELHI

Making a push for an indigenous web browser, the Centre on Thursday awarded a prize of ₹1 crore to the Chennai-based Zoho Corporation for a web browser development challenge. A condition for the browser, Ulaa, must trust India's so-called root certifying authority.

This is also meant to be contingency planning, to ensure that if India's access to the global Internet is ever cut off, due to some unforeseen security scenario, it will still be possible to have a completely operational browser within the country.

Indian root certificate Root certifying authorities are around 100 organisations across the world who



Zoho Corporation accepts the first prize in the Indian web browser development challenge from Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

can confer trustworthiness tag on firms that issue Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) certificates, which are represented by the "https" on a web address. On most mainstream web browsers, a green lock icon with the "https" in the URL indicates an encrypted and legitimate connection to the given website.

The Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) — a body set up under the Electronics and Information Technology Ministry —

Do not publish NIRF ranking for 2025: HC to Education Ministry

The Hindu Bureau MADURAI

The Madras Bench of the Madras High Court on Thursday restrained the Education Ministry and the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) from publishing the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking for 2025.

The court was hearing a public interest litigation petition filed by C. Chellamuthu from Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu. He claimed that the ranking was without any basis and was misleading students.

The NIRF was launched by the NBA on the direction of the Education Ministry for evaluating higher education institutions.

The NBA publishes the ranking every year. Institutions are evaluated on five broad categories — teaching, learning and resources; research and professional practice; graduation outcomes; outreach and inclusivity; and perception — the petition said.

The NBA directs institutions to upload data on student and staff strength, staff salaries, graduation intake, placement details, the funds received for re-

NIRF ranking is done based on the data given by institutions without verification, says petitioner

search, and other parameters on its web portal. Based on this data, the ranking is awarded without further verification or auditing, the petitioner said.

Comparing it with the National Assessment and Accreditation Council's (NAAC) Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR), the petitioner said the NAAC-AQAR documents were audited and checked by expert committees sent by the NAAC to the institutions.

The petitioner sought a direction to the NBA to publish the NIRF ranking after comparing and verifying the data submitted by the institutions with the data in the government records and to disclose the calculation method.

A Division Bench of Justice J. Nishu Banu and S. Sriramthy restrained the authorities from publishing the ranking for 2025. The court sought a counter affidavit and posed the matter to April 24.

Whitewashing concludes at Jama Masjid in Sambhal

The Hindu Bureau LUCKNOW

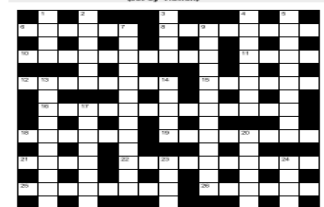
Only one Indian organisation — the private company eMadra's emsig — is currently trusted as a root certifying authority by browsers around the world.

Arvind Kumar, the current CCA, said on Thursday that Ulaa would help the government to navigate "the multiple kind of negotiation" compliances with the browsers are proposing on us", and "we should be able to have a good negotiating stage while developing while working with Mozilla or Google".

Mr. Kumar added that the browser would allow for an "indigenous authentication mechanism and enhance cybersecurity".

IT Secretary S. Krishnan said that a domestic browser would be "a key step in achieving Internet resilience for the country".

CROSSWORD 14439 (Set by Vidwan)



- Across 6 Mexican adapting somewhat to cold country (6) Diplomatic truce, partly extraordinary (8) 10 ED from old Berlin (4,6) 11 Ship could be exclusive (4) 12 King saw it as bad sign (8) 15 Contentant may do this for an ophthalmologist's device (6)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site @ https://qrqr.paperkit.in/qr/

- 16 Sales staff's hand is brown in photograph (4,3) 21 Calm angry politician leaving for Virginia (6) 19 A bit of verbalisation is ordinary in boring conversation (8) 21 Probability in conflict (4) 22 Some fear Trump ethnicity is something that amplifies commonly said things (3,7) 23 Most numerous, most prime and half-mad honestly (3-3-3) 24 About team going back to some imaginary magical solution (6) Down 1 Indian King's open backtracking (4) 2 A ground for legal action mostly involving court and a plant (6) 4 Film about boring mathematical problem (4) 4 Black American writer marching into daylight with a court order (8) 5 Somehow most assesses Trump as good enough for the job (4,3) 7 A Mexican by leaving for border, at last, made right move towards this (8,5) 9 Ones never seen can become, what one sees as a silly poem (8,5)

SUDOKU

Grid for a Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Solution to previous puzzle and Solution to yesterday's Sudoku. Includes a difficulty rating of 3 stars.

FAITH Panguni and Mannargudi

Come Panguni (the Tamil month corresponding to March-April), Vaishnavite devotees make a beeline for Mannargudi's Rajagopalaswamy temple. A popular Tamil adage states, 'Tiruvavur ther (chariot) azhagu (prey), Mannargudi madhal (compound wall) azhagu, reinforcing the pull of the famous Rajagopalaswamy Temple in Mannargudi.

On all 18 days, Rajagopalaswamy sports different looks for His devotees, each one a reminder and reinforcement of His kindness and succour to devotees who place their faith in Him. Wielding a staff in His right hand, bearing in the rising sun, sporting a tilak of rubies on His forehead, bedecked with lovely flowers, wearing a beautiful turban, the meandering Manmadan of the Chola belt, and the repository of limitless kindness towards His devotees, Rajagopalaswamy stands grandly, the sight of which sends His devotees into ecstasy. The significance of the deity appearing with the pot of butter (sennai thazhu) on the 16th day is fraught with deep philosophy. As renowned spiritual speaker Asaukavi Vilvar Swami said, "I bow down in prayer to the One who stole butter in Nandagopala's house and launched the butter (good for soul) that is the Bhagavad Gita, while chortlesteering for Arjuna."

# Do not publish NIRF ranking for 2025: HC to Education Ministry

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MADURAI

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Thursday restrained the Education Ministry and the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) from publishing the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking for 2025.

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**NIRF ranking is done based on the data given by institutions without verification, says petitioner**

search, and other parameters on its web portal. Based on this data, the ranking is awarded without further verification or auditing, the petitioner said.

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A Division Bench of Justices J. Nisha Banu and S. Srimathy restrained the authorities from publishing the ranking for 2025. The court sought a counter affidavit and posted the matter to April 24.





# इंडिया रैंकिंग्स 2024

उच्च शैक्षिक संस्थानों की रैंकिंग  
12 अगस्त, 2024  
भारत मंडपम, नई दिल्ली



**Shri Narendra Modi**  
Hon'ble Prime Minister



**Dr. Sukanta Majumdar**  
Hon'ble Minister of State for Education  
Government of India



**Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**  
Hon'ble Minister of Education  
Government of India

## Release of INDIA RANKINGS 2024

Ranking of Higher Educational Institutions

12<sup>th</sup> August, 2024  
Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi



Overall

Universities

Colleges

Research Institutions

Engineering

Management



Pharmacy

Medical

Dental

Law

Architecture and  
Planning

Agriculture and  
Allied Sectors

Innovation





National Institutional Ranking Framework  
Ministry of Education  
Government of India



[Home Ranking](#) | [List of Participating Institutions](#)

## India Rankings 2024: Engineering

Rank-band: 101-150 | Rank-band: 151-200 | Rank-band: 201-300

Show  entries

Search:

Institute ID	Name	City	State	Score	Rank
IR-E-U-0456	Indian Institute of Technology Madras <a href="#">More Details</a>	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	89.46	1
IR-E-I-1074	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi <a href="#">More Details</a>	New Delhi	Delhi	86.66	2
IR-E-U-0306	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay <a href="#">More Details</a>	Mumbai	Maharashtra	83.09	3
IR-E-I-1075	Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur <a href="#">More Details</a>	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	82.79	4
IR-E-U-0573	Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur <a href="#">More Details</a>	Kharagpur	West Bengal	76.88	5
IR-E-U-0560	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee <a href="#">More Details</a>	Roorkee	Uttarakhand	76.00	6
IR-E-U-0053	Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati <a href="#">More Details</a>	Guwahati	Assam	71.86	7
IR-E-U-0013	Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad <a href="#">More Details</a>	Hyderabad	Telangana	71.55	8
IR-E-U-0467	National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli <a href="#">More Details</a>	Tiruchirappalli	Tamil Nadu	66.88	9
IR-E-U-0701	Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University) Varanasi <a href="#">More Details</a>	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	66.69	10
IR-E-U-0490	Vellore Institute of Technology <a href="#">More Details</a>	Vellore	Tamil Nadu	66.22	11

- The NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework) rankings in 2024 evaluate institutions based on five key parameters: Teaching, Learning, and Resources (TLR); Research and Professional Practice (RP); Graduation Outcomes (GO); Outreach and Inclusivity (OI); and Perception (PR)


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## Court Order & Reasons for Restraint / अदालत का आदेश और रोक लगाने के कारण

- **Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court** has restrained the **Education Ministry and the National Board of Accreditation (NBA)** from publishing the **NIRF 2025 rankings**.  
\*मद्रै बेंच, मद्रास हाईकोर्ट ने शिक्षा मंत्रालय और राष्ट्रीय प्रत्यायन बोर्ड (NBA) को \*2025 की NIRF रैंकिंग प्रकाशित करने से रोक दिया।
- The court was hearing a **public interest litigation (PIL)** filed by **C. Chellamuthu** from **Tamil Nadu**, who claimed that the ranking process was **misleading and baseless**.  
\*तमिलनाडु के सी. चेल्लामथु द्वारा दायर एक जनहित याचिका पर सुनवाई करते हुए अदालत ने पाया कि \*रैंकिंग प्रक्रिया भ्रामक और निराधार है।


## Allegations Against NIRF Ranking Process / NIRF रैंकिंग प्रक्रिया के खिलाफ आरोप

- The petitioner argued that **NIRF rankings are based solely on data submitted by institutions, without any verification or auditing.**  
*\*याचिकाकर्ता ने दावा किया कि \*NIRF रैंकिंग केवल संस्थानों द्वारा प्रस्तुत डेटा पर आधारित है, बिना किसी सत्यापन या ऑडिटिंग के।*
- This leads to **manipulated rankings**, misleading students in their college selection process.  
*इससे हेरफेर की गई रैंकिंग मिलती है, जिससे छात्र कॉलेज चयन प्रक्रिया में भ्रमित होते हैं।*



In contrast, the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)** follows a stricter verification process before assigning accreditation to institutions.

*\*इसके विपरीत, \*राष्ट्रीय मूल्यांकन और प्रत्यायन परिषद (NAAC) संस्थानों को प्रत्यायन देने से पहले एक कठोर सत्यापन प्रक्रिया अपनाता है।*



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## Comparison with NAAC & Proposed Solutions / NAAC की तुलना और प्रस्तावित समाधान

- The petitioner urged the **court to direct NBA to verify NIRF rankings by cross-checking institutional data with government records.**  
*\*याचिकाकर्ता ने अदालत से \*NBA को निर्देश देने की मांग की कि वह संस्थागत डेटा को सरकारी रिकॉर्ड से क्रॉस-चेक करके NIRF रैंकिंग को सत्यापित करे।*
- **NAAC rankings involve expert evaluation and field audits, unlike NIRF which is entirely data-driven.**  
*NAAC रैंकिंग में विशेषज्ञ मूल्यांकन और फील्ड ऑडिट शामिल होते हैं, जबकि NIRF पूरी तरह डेटा-चालित है।*

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## . Court's Decision & Next Steps / अदालत का फैसला और आगे की प्रक्रिया

- A **Division Bench of Justices J. Nisha Banu and S. Srimathy** has directed the authorities **not to publish NIRF rankings for 2025** until further notice.  
*न्यायमूर्ति जे. निशा बानु और एस. श्रीमथी की खंडपीठ ने 2025 की NIRF रैंकिंग प्रकाशित करने पर रोक लगा दी।*
- The **court has sought a counter-affidavit** from the Education Ministry, and the next hearing is scheduled for **April 24**.  
*अदालत ने शिक्षा मंत्रालय से जवाबी हलफनामा मांगा है, और अगली सुनवाई 24 अप्रैल को होगी।*



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## Historical Background of NIRF / NIRF का ऐतिहासिक परिप्रेक्ष्य

- **NIRF was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Education to create a transparent ranking system for Indian higher education institutions.**  
*NIRF को 2015 में शिक्षा मंत्रालय द्वारा शुरू किया गया था ताकि भारत में उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों के लिए एक पारदर्शी रैंकिंग प्रणाली बनाई जा सके।*
- **Over 4,000 institutions participate annually, submitting data for evaluation in five categories.**  
*हर साल 4,000 से अधिक संस्थान भाग लेते हैं, और पांच श्रेणियों में मूल्यांकन के लिए डेटा प्रस्तुत करते हैं।*

## Social Impact / सामाजिक प्रभाव

- **Students rely on NIRF rankings for selecting colleges and universities**, but if rankings are manipulated, it can **mislead lakhs of students**.

*\* छात्र कॉलेज और विश्वविद्यालय चुनने के लिए NIRF रैंकिंग पर निर्भर करते हैं, लेकिन यदि रैंकिंग में हेरफेर किया गया तो यह  
\* लाखों छात्रों को गुमराह कर सकता है।*

- **Lack of transparency** may increase the **influence of private institutions** in rankings.

*पारदर्शिता की कमी से निजी संस्थानों का प्रभाव बढ़ सकता है।*

WINDHOEK

Namibia inaugurates its first woman President Nandi-Ndaitwah



Namibia on Friday inaugurated its first female President, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, aged 72, extending SWAPO's 39-year rule. A liberation veteran since age 14, she secured 58% of votes in chaotic elections. Mr. Nandi-Ndaitwah pledged economic growth, universal healthcare, and climate action. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pakistani journalist faces court over 'anti-state' social media posts



Journalist Farhan Malik, founder of Rojbar, appeared in court on Friday over alleged "anti-state" YouTube content. Detained after a three-month inquiry, he faces charges under PECA amendments. Critics view this as a clampdown on press freedom, sparking protests from journalists and rights groups. AFP

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia frees prisoners in apparent easing of crackdown



Saudi Arabia has released over 30 political prisoners since December, including activists jailed for social media posts, in an apparent rollback of "bad laws". While Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman criticised harsh sentences, analysts view these releases as image-driven rather than systemic reform. AFP

JAKARTA

Indonesia raises alert as Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki volcano erupts



Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki erupted Friday, sending ash 8,000 metres (26,000 feet) high and injuring several residents in the nearby villages. Authorities raised the eruption alert to the highest level and expanded the danger zone from seven to eight kilometres. Flights to Bali were cancelled. AFP

Russia strikes Odesa, accuses Kyiv of blowing up gas facility in Kursk

Zelenskyy calls for increased international pressure on Russia, including 'sanctions and defence support', to counter the ongoing attacks and prolongation of the war; attacks come after both sides, under U.S. mediation, agreed to a limited truce

Associated Press KYIV

Russian drones pummelled the Ukrainian Black Sea port city of Odesa, injuring three people and sparking massive fires, officials said on Friday, an attack that undermined Moscow's intention to halt aerial strikes even as it agreed to temporarily halt strikes on energy facilities. The head of the Odesa region, Oleh Kiper, said the city suffered "local emergency power outages" in three of its districts, an indication that the energy infrastructure of the city could have been damaged. Reacting to the attack,



Air attacks: A shopping mall destroyed following a drone attack in Odesa on Friday, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. AFP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that "joint pressure on Russia, strengthening sanctions and international support for our state... is the way to stop such terror and Russia's prolongation of the war." "We expect real pressure from Russia from the U.S., Europe and all our partners," Mr. Zelenskyy said in a statement on Tele-

gram. "And this is what will allow diplomacy to work." He reported blazes at at least three locations after the attack late on Thursday. "Civilian infrastructure, commercial facilities are on fire, cars damaged," Mr. Kiper said. Over 70 people and 20 fire engines were involved in extinguishing what the emergency services called "massive fires". Ukraine and Russia agreed in principle on Wednesday to a limited ceasefire after U.S. President Donald Trump spoke with the country's leaders. "This is another reminder to the whole world: the war continues and Ukraine continues to fight," Mr. Kiper said in a statement.

Power outage shuts down Heathrow, disrupts flights

Jagriti Chandra NEW DELHI

As many as 37 flights between India and London Heathrow could be hit after a massive power outage forced London Heathrow airport to shut operations on March 21. "Due to a fire at an electrical substation supplying the airport, Heathrow is experiencing a significant power outage. To maintain the safety of our passengers and colleagues, Heathrow will be closed until 23:59 on 21 March," the airport said on X. It has advised passengers not to travel to the airport and contact their airlines. Over 14 hours later, at 4 p.m. London time, the airport said in a statement that flights were restarting and repatriation flights would be prioritised. According to aviation analytics firm Cirium, 1,186 flights are scheduled between India and Heathrow Airport in March. Many passengers also take one-stop flights via airports in the Gulf such as Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha who will also be impacted. Over 1,300 flights were scheduled to depart from and arrive at London



Energy crisis: Smoke billows from a substation in Heathrow Airport amid efforts to douse the fire that broke out on Friday. AFP

Heathrow on Friday, according to Cirium. This means nearly 2.9 lakh passengers could be impacted. There were 669 flights scheduled to depart on March 21. Air India had six flights scheduled on Friday, its Heathrow-bound AI29 from Mumbai returned by March 20 repatriation. AI61 from Delhi was diverted to Frankfurt.

Israel Supreme Court freezes dismissal of Shin Bet chief

Reuters JERUSALEM

Israel's Supreme Court issued an injunction on Friday temporarily freezing the dismissal of the head of the domestic intelligence service as protesters returned to the streets for a fourth day. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced last week that he had lost confidence in Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar and intended to dismiss him. Tens of thousands of people joined demonstrations in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv this week protesting against the sacking, which critics saw as an attempt to undermine the state institutions. "I'm looking at the end of the way of Israel as we knew it in the past. We are very concerned that these are the last days of Israel as



Ronen Bar

a democracy," said Uri Arin, an entrepreneur who joined a protest outside Mr. Netanyahu's Jerusalem residence. "We are here to try and change this course, but the chances are not very high," he said. The Supreme Court ruling will allow the court to consider a petition launched against the dismissal, which was approved by Cabinet late on Thursday, with a decision no later than April 8, a

court statement said. Campaigners behind the petition said there were clear concerns about the move to dismiss Mr. Bar and an investigation by Shin Bet into alleged financial ties between Qatar and aides in Mr. Netanyahu's office. But they said the concerns were wider. The dismissal of Mr. Bar followed more than two years of hostility between Netanyahu supporters and elements of the security and defence establishment that was worsened by blame over the fallouts that allowed Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack, the worst security disaster in Israel's history and the trigger for the war in Gaza. The move to dismiss Mr. Bar came amid a bitter fight over the so-called "Qatargate" investigation that has simmered for months.

Unified voices



Protesters march through the street during a protest against impeached South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol in Seoul on Thursday. Despite experts predicting a verdict by mid-March, the Constitutional Court has yet to rule on whether to formally strip him of office. AFP

8 lakh Afghan nationals expelled from Pakistan

Press Trust of India PESHAWAR

The process of repatriation of illegally residing Afghan nationals in Pakistan continued unabated as more than 8,00,000 people were repatriated by March 20, an official said. With only 10 days remaining until the March 21 deadline for illegally residing individuals and Afghan citizens, Car holders to leave Pakistan, the government by March 20 repatriated 8,74,282 Afghans due to concerns over terrorism, an official said. But Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, the de facto leader of the caretaker government that took office after her toppling, said it had no intention of doing so.

Sudan's military 'retakes' Khartoum's Republican Palace

Associated Press CAIRO

Sudan's military said on Friday it retook the Republican Palace in Khartoum, the last heavily guarded bastion of rival paramilitary forces in the capital, after nearly two years of fighting. The seizure of the Republican Palace, surrounded by government ministries, represents a major symbolic victory for Sudan's military against the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces

(RSF). However, it likely does not mean the end of the war as the RSF holds territory in Sudan's western Darfur region and elsewhere. Khalid al-Aiser, Sudan's Information Minister, said the military had retaken the palace in a post on X. "A politician associated with the RSF called it part of 'the ups and downs' of history. The RSF later issued a statement claiming its forces 'are still present in the vicinity of the palace, fighting bravely'."

Trump signs Executive Order to dismantle U.S. Education Dept., to keep 'core functions'

Associated Press WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order Thursday calling for the dismantling of the U.S. Education Department, advancing a campaign promise to take apart an agency that's been a longtime target of conservatives. Mr. Trump has derided the Education Department as wasteful and polluted by liberal ideology. However, completing its dismantling is most likely impossible without an act of Congress, which created the depart-

ment in 1979. Republicans said they will introduce legislation to achieve that, while Democrats have quickly lined up to oppose the idea. The order says the education secretary will "to the maximum extent appropriate and permitted by law, take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education and return authority over education to the states and local communities". It offers no detail on how that work will be carried out or where it will be



Donald Trump

"core necessities," preserving its responsibilities for Title I funding for low-income schools, Pell grants and money for children with disabilities. The White House said education secretary will "to the maximum extent appropriate and permitted by law, take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education and return authority over education to the states and local communities". Mr. Trump said his administration will close the department beyond its

Ousted PM's party will not be banned, says Bangladesh govt.

Agence France-Press DHAKA

Bangladesh's interim government says it has no plans to ban the political party of ousted premier Sheikh Hasina, putting it at odds with the student revolutionaries who overthrew her in an uprising last year. Ms. Hasina's Awami League was accused of extensive human rights abuses during her 15-year tenure, including a violent crackdown on last year's

protest movement that killed more than 800 people. Student leaders still grieving the deaths of their comrades have demanded the party, which played a pivotal role in Bangladesh's bloody 1971 independence war under Mr. Hasina's father, be outlawed. But Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, the de facto leader of the caretaker government that took office after her toppling, said it had no intention of doing so.

**WINDHOEK**

## Namibia inaugurates its first woman President Nandi-Ndaitwah



AP

▲ Namibia on Friday inaugurated its first female President, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, aged 72, extending SWAPO's 35-year rule. A liberation veteran since age 14, she secured 58% of votes in chaotic elections. Ms. Nandi-Ndaitwah pledged economic growth, universal healthcare, and climate action. AFP





ANGOLA

ZAMBIA

NAMIBIA

BOTSWANA

*Atlantic Ocean*

○  
Windhoek

SOUTH AFRICA





ATLANTIC  
OCEAN

ANGOLA

ZAMBIA

MOZAMBIQUE

NAMIBIA

ZIMBABWE

WINDHOEK

BOTSWANA

ESWATINI

LESOTHO

SOUTH  
AFRICA

INDIAN  
OCEAN

<b>Capital</b> and largest city	Windhoek  22°34′S 17°5′E
<b>Official languages</b> Recognised national languages	English Afrikaans ( <i>lingua franca</i> ) German Khoekhoegowab Oshiwambo Otjiherero RuKwangali Setswana siLozi
Recognised regional languages	!Kung Gciriku Thimbukushu
<b>Ethnic groups</b> (2023) <sup>[9]</sup>	93.2% African <sup>[A]</sup> 3.6% Coloured <sup>[B]</sup> 1.8% White 1.4% other <sup>[C]</sup>
<b>Religion</b> (2023) <sup>[10]</sup>	87.9% Christianity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— 43.7% Lutheranism</li> <li>— 22.8% Catholicism</li> <li>— 17.0% Anglicanism</li> <li>— 4.4% other Christian</li> </ul> 10.2% traditional faiths 1.6% no religion 0.3% other
<b>Demonym(s)</b>	Namibian
<b>Government</b>	Unitary dominant-party <sup>[11]</sup> semi-presidential republic <sup>[12]</sup>
• President	Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah
• Vice President	TBD
• Prime Minister	TBD
• Deputy Prime Minister	TBD
• Chief Justice	Duke Shikwambane

<b>Legislature</b>	Parliament
• Upper house	National Council
• Lower house	National Assembly
<b>Independence from South Africa</b>	
• Constitution	9 February 1990
• Independence	21 March 1990
<b>Area</b>	
• Total	825,615 km <sup>2</sup> (318,772 sq mi) (34th)
• Water (%)	negligible
<b>Population</b>	
• 2025 census	3,092,816 <sup>[13][9]</sup> (138th)
• Density	3.7/km <sup>2</sup> (9.6/sq mi) (235th)
<b>GDP (PPP)</b>	2023 estimate
• Total	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> \$30.663 billion <sup>[14]</sup>
• Per capita	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> \$11,603 <sup>[14]</sup> (114th)
<b>GDP (nominal)</b>	2023 estimate
• Total	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> \$12.647 billion <sup>[14]</sup>
• Per capita	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> \$4,786 <sup>[14]</sup>
<b>Gini</b> (2015)	59.1 <sup>[15]</sup> high inequality
<b>HDI</b> (2022)	<span style="color: red;">▼</span> 0.610 <sup>[16]</sup> medium (142nd)

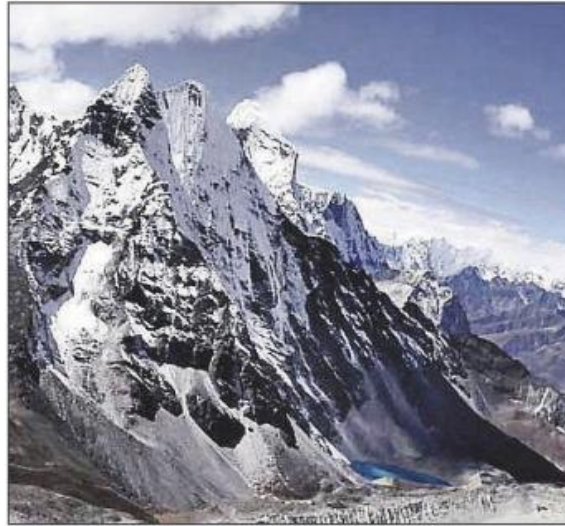


# Hindu Kush Himalayas facing fastest glacier melt, GLOF risk to triple by 2100: UN report

Gaurav.Talwar@timesofindia.com

**Dehradun:** On the first-ever World Day for Glaciers observed on Friday, the United Nations World Water Development Report issued a stark warning about the rapid loss of glaciers, particularly in the Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region.

According to the report, prepared under the aegis of Unesco and UN Water (an interagency mechanism that coordinates the efforts of UN entities and international organisations working on water and sanitation issues), glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH) are melting faster than the global average, with the eastern Himalayas experiencing the most severe losses. Citing research by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the report noted that glaciers in the HKH melted 65% faster between 2011 and 2020 than in the previous decade. It projects that if global temperatures remain be-



Glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region melted 65% faster between 2011 and 2020 than in the previous decade, the report noted

tween 1.5–2°C above pre-industrial levels, glaciers in the region could shrink by 30–50% by 2100. However, if temperatures exceed 2°C, glacier volume may decline by 20–45% of 2020 levels.

Notably, the World Meteorological Organisation recently stated in its annual climate report that 2024 was the warmest year in the 175-year observational record, with the global mean temperature reaching 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

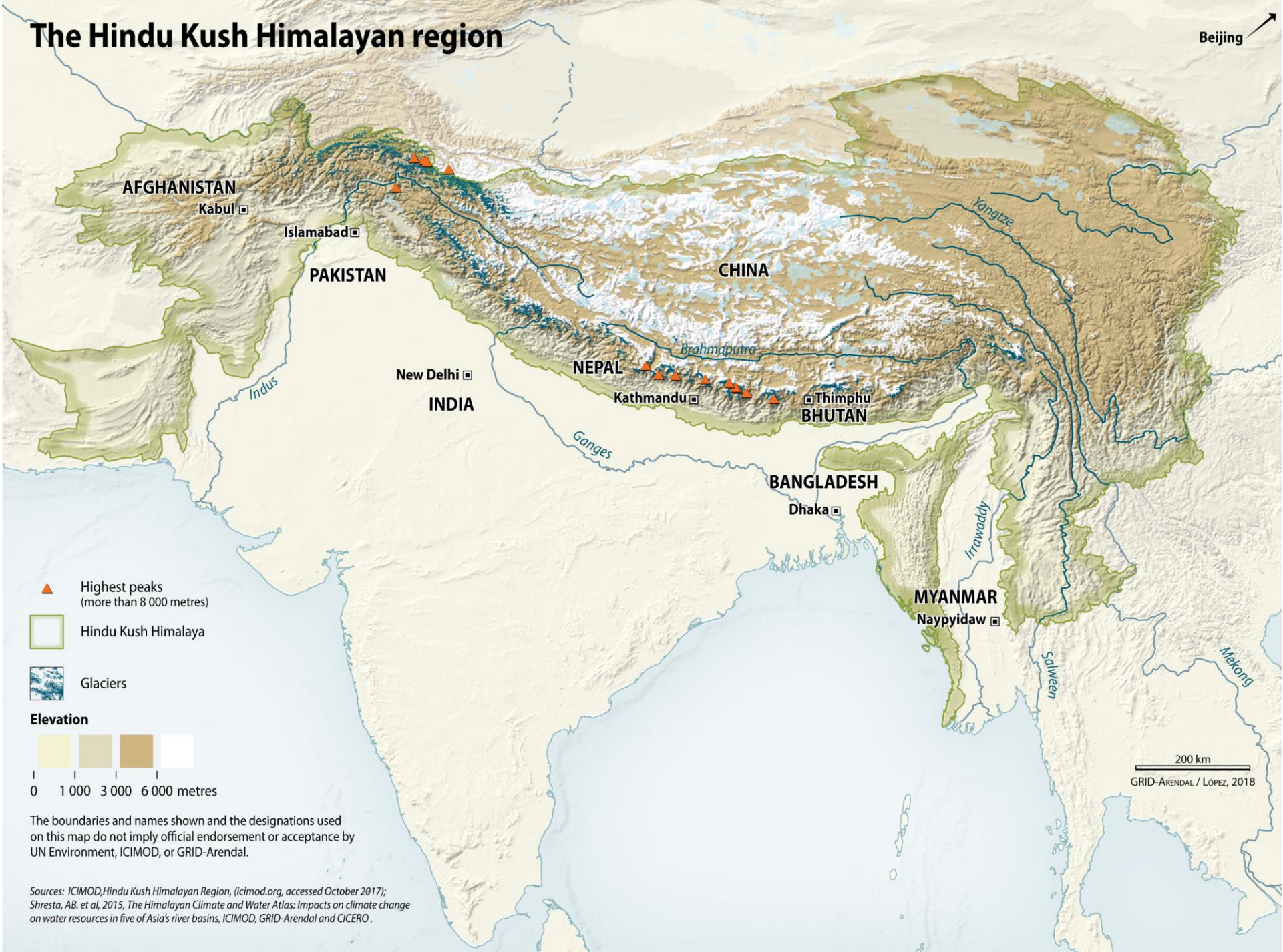
This rapid glacier melt is set to disrupt water flows in Third Pole region, with monsoon-fed river basins facing the greatest impact, said the report. Rivers like Indus, which depend heavily on glaciers and snowmelt, could initially see higher water levels followed by a sharp decline, threatening long-term water security.

The melting glaciers also pose an increasing threat of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) — the sudden and rapid release of water from a lake fed by glacier melt. These floods have claimed over 7,000 lives in the past 190 years, and by the end of the century, their frequency in HKH is expected to triple, severely affecting downstream countries, particularly in eastern Himalayas, the report stated.



# The Hindu Kush Himalayan region

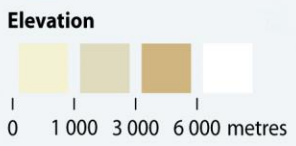
Beijing



▲ Highest peaks  
(more than 8 000 metres)

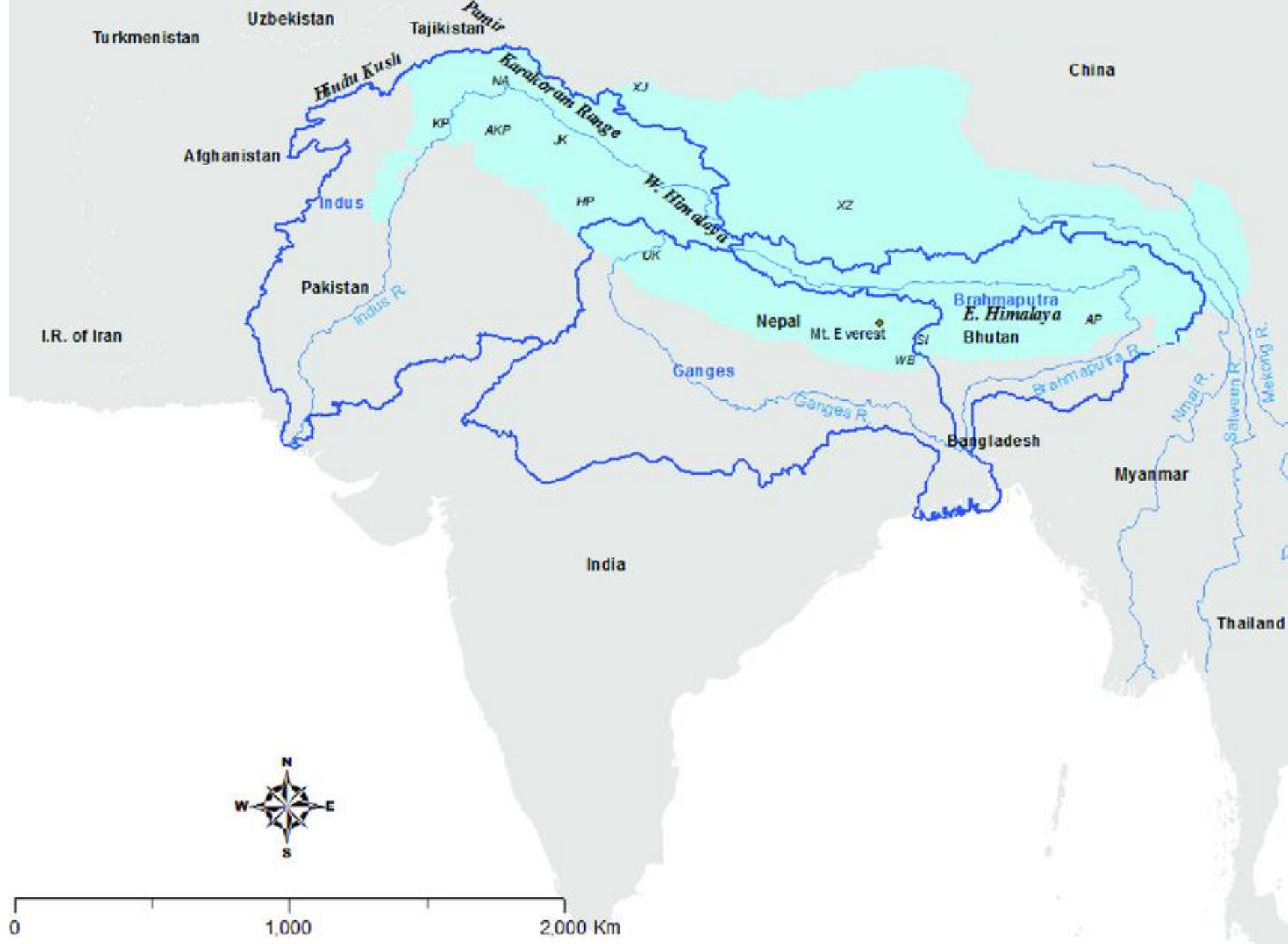
▭ Hindu Kush Himalaya

❄️ Glaciers



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UN Environment, ICIMOD, or GRID-Arendal.

Sources: ICIMOD, *Hindu Kush Himalayan Region*, ([icimod.org](http://icimod.org), accessed October 2017); Shresta, AB, et al, 2015, *The Himalayan Climate and Water Atlas: Impacts on climate change on water resources in five of Asia's river basins*, ICIMOD, GRID-Arendal and CICERO.





## Rapid Glacier Melt in Hindu Kush Himalayas (HKH) / हिंदू कुश हिमालय में तेजी से ग्लेशियर पिघलना

- **Glaciers in HKH are melting 65% faster between 2011-2020 than in the previous decade.**

*हिंदू कुश हिमालय के ग्लेशियर 2011-2020 के बीच 65% तेजी से पिघल रहे हैं पिछले दशक की तुलना में।*

- **The Eastern Himalayas are experiencing the most severe losses.**  
*पूर्वी हिमालय में ग्लेशियरों की सबसे अधिक हानि हो रही है।*

- If global temperatures remain **1.5-2°C above pre-industrial levels**, glaciers in HKH could shrink by **30-50% by 2100**.  
*\*यदि वैश्विक तापमान पूर्व-औद्योगिक स्तर से 1.5-2°C ऊपर रहता है, तो \*2100 तक ग्लेशियरों की मात्रा 30-50% तक घट सकती है।*
- If temperatures rise **above 2°C**, glacier volume may **decline by 20-45%** compared to 2020 levels.  
*यदि तापमान 2°C से अधिक हो जाता है, तो ग्लेशियरों की मात्रा 20-45% तक घट सकती है (2020 के स्तर की तुलना में)।*

## Impact on Water Security & River Systems / जल सुरक्षा और नदी तंत्र पर प्रभाव

- The melting glaciers will **disrupt water flows** in the **Third Pole region** (which includes HKH).  
*ग्लेशियरों के पिघलने से थर्ड पोल क्षेत्र (जिसमें हिंदू कुश हिमालय भी शामिल है) में जल प्रवाह बाधित होगा।*
- **Rivers like the Indus** (which rely on glacier melt) may first **experience high water levels** but later **face drastic declines**, leading to **long-term water shortages**.  
*सिंध जैसी नदियाँ, जो ग्लेशियरों पर निर्भर हैं, पहले अधिक जल स्तर देखेंगी लेकिन बाद में कमी आ सकती है, जिससे दीर्घकालिक जल संकट उत्पन्न हो सकता है।*



**Monsoon-fed river basins will be most affected, increasing flood risks followed by extreme droughts.**

*मानसून आधारित नदी बेसिन सबसे अधिक प्रभावित होंगे, जिससे पहले बाढ़ का खतरा बढ़ेगा और बाद में सूखे की संभावना बढ़ेगी।*



## Increasing Risk of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) / ग्लेशियर झील फटने की बाढ़ (GLOF) का बढ़ता खतरा

- **GLOF occurs when water from glacier-fed lakes is suddenly released, causing devastating floods.**  
*जब ग्लेशियर से बनने वाली झीलों का पानी अचानक निकलता है, तो यह विनाशकारी बाढ़ (GLOF) का कारण बनता है।*
- **Over 7,000 lives have been lost due to GLOFs in the past 100 years.**  
*पिछले 100 वर्षों में 7,000 से अधिक लोगों की मृत्यु GLOF के कारण हुई है।*

## Climate Change and Global Warming Impact / जलवायु परिवर्तन और ग्लोबल वार्मिंग का प्रभाव

- **2024** was the hottest year on record in 175 years, with global temperatures reaching **1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.**

*2024 पिछले 175 वर्षों में सबसे गर्म वर्ष था, जिसमें वैश्विक तापमान पूर्व-औद्योगिक स्तर से 1.5°C अधिक पहुंच गया।*

- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** has warned that **continued warming** will accelerate glacier loss, worsening floods and droughts.

*विश्व मौसम विज्ञान संगठन (WMO) ने चेतावनी दी है कि ग्लोबल वार्मिंग जारी रहने से ग्लेशियर तेजी से पिघलेंगे, जिससे बाढ़ और सूखे की समस्या बढ़ेगी।*

## Historical Perspective / ऐतिहासिक परिप्रेक्ष्य

- The **Hindu Kush Himalayas** have historically provided water to **1.9 billion people** across **India, China, Nepal, and Pakistan**.  
*\*हिंदू कश हिमालय ऐतिहासिक रूप से \*भारत, चीन, नेपाल और पाकिस्तान सहित 1.9 अरब लोगों को पानी प्रदान करता रहा है।*
- Ancient civilizations, like the **Indus Valley Civilization (2600-1900 BCE)**, flourished due to **glacier-fed rivers like the Indus and Ganges**.  
*\*प्राचीन सिंध घाटी सभ्यता (2600-1900 ईसा पूर्व) का विकास \*ग्लेशियरों से बनी नदियों (सिंधु, गंगा) के कारण हुआ था।*

## Social Impact / सामाजिक प्रभाव

- **Loss of glaciers will impact millions of people dependent on Himalayan water sources.**  
*ग्लेशियरों के पिघलने से उन लाखों लोगों पर प्रभाव पड़ेगा जो हिमालयी जल स्रोतों पर निर्भर हैं।*
- **Increased migration from affected regions due to water shortages and disasters.**  
*जल संकट और आपदाओं के कारण प्रभावित क्षेत्रों से पलायन बढ़ेगा।*
- **Rural communities in Nepal, Bhutan, Ladakh, and Himachal Pradesh will suffer drinking water shortages.**  
*नेपाल, भूटान, लद्दाख और हिमाचल प्रदेश जैसे ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में पीने के पानी की कमी होगी।*



# Trump signs order to shut down education dept

**Washington:** President Donald Trump on Thursday instructed education secretary Linda McMahon to begin shutting down her agency, a task that cannot be completed without congressional approval and sets the stage for a seismic political and legal battle over the federal government's role in the nation's schools.

Surrounded by schoolchildren seated at desks in the East Room of White House, Trump signed a long-awaited executive order that he said would begin dismantling the department "once and for all". The Trump

administration has cited poor test scores as a key justification for the move. "We're going to shut it down, and shut it down as quickly as possible," he said.

The department, which manages federal loans for college, tracks student achievement and supports programs for students with disabilities, was created by an act of Congress. That means, only Congress can shut it down.

However, Trump has already taken significant steps that have limited the agency's ope-

rations and authority. Since Trump's inauguration, his administration has slashed the department's workforce by more than half and eliminated

\$600 million in grants. The job cuts hit particularly hard at the department's Office for Civil Rights, which enforces the country's guarantee that all students have an equal opportunity

to an education. Trump's order contains potentially contradictory guidance for McMahon. On the one hand, the order directs her to fa-

cilitate the elimination of the agency. On the other, she is also mandated to rigorously comply with federal law. The order offers no guidance on how to square those two points.

Trump said the department would continue to provide critical functions that are required by law, such as the administration of federal student aid, including loans and grants, as well as funding for special education and districts with high levels of student poverty. The department would also continue civil rights enforcement, White House officials said. NYT



Linda McMahon

## Executive Order & Objective / कार्यकारी आदेश और उद्देश्य

- **President Donald Trump signed an executive order instructing Education Secretary Linda McMahon to begin shutting down the U.S. Department of Education.**

*\*राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने शिक्षा सचिव लिंडा मैकमोहन को \*अमेरिकी शिक्षा विभाग को बंद करने की प्रक्रिया शुरू करने का आदेश दिया।*


- **Trump called the move a long-awaited decision, stating that the federal government's role in education should be minimized.**

*\*ट्रम्प ने इस कदम को बहप्रतीक्षित निर्णय बताया और कहा कि \*संघीय सरकार की शिक्षा में भूमिका को कम किया जाना चाहिए।*



The order **cannot be fully executed without congressional approval,** setting the stage for a **legal and political battle.**

*इस आदेश को कांग्रेस की मंजूरी के बिना पूरी तरह लागू नहीं किया जा सकता, जिससे कानूनी और राजनीतिक संघर्ष शुरू होने की संभावना है।*



## Justification & Reasons Given by Trump Administration / ट्रम्प प्रशासन द्वारा दी गई वजहें

- **Poor test scores across the nation** were cited as a key reason for the department's closure.  
*राष्ट्रव्यापी कम परीक्षा परिणाम को इस फैसले का प्रमुख कारण बताया गया।*
- Trump stated, "**We're going to shut it down as quickly as possible.**"  
*\*ट्रम्प ने कहा, \* "हम इसे जल्द से जल्द बंद कर देंगे।"*
- The administration believes that **education should be handled at the state level, rather than being controlled by a federal department.**  
*\*प्रशासन का मानना है कि \* शिक्षा को संघीय स्तर के बजाय राज्य स्तर पर प्रबंधित किया जाना चाहिए।*

## Political & Legal Impact / राजनीतिक और कानूनी प्रभाव

- The **Department of Education** was created by Congress, meaning **only Congress can legally dissolve it.**  
*\*शिक्षा विभाग कांग्रेस द्वारा बनाया गया था, इसलिए \*केवल कांग्रेस ही इसे कानूनी रूप से भंग कर सकती है।*
- Democrats and **education policy experts strongly oppose** this move, arguing that it would **harm millions of students.**  
*\*डेमोक्रेट्स और शिक्षा नीति विशेषज्ञों ने इस कदम का कड़ा विरोध किया, यह कहते हुए कि यह \*लाखों छात्रों को नुकसान पहुंचाएगा।*
- The **legal battle over the shutdown** could last for years.  
*इस बंदी के खिलाफ कानूनी लड़ाई कई वर्षों तक चल सकती है।*



## Economic Impact / आर्थिक प्रभाव

- The Trump administration has already slashed the department's budget, cut staff by half, and eliminated \$600 million in grants.

*\*ट्रम्प प्रशासन ने पहले ही \*शिक्षा विभाग के बजट में कटौती की, कर्मचारियों की संख्या आधी कर दी और \$600 मिलियन अनुदान समाप्त कर दिया।*

- The removal of federal student loans and grants could severely affect low-income students.

*\*संघीय छात्र ऋण और अनुदान की समाप्ति से \*कम आय वाले छात्रों पर गंभीर प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।*

## Social & Educational Impact / सामाजिक और शैक्षिक प्रभाव

- The **Office for Civil Rights**, which enforces **equal education opportunities for students**, will be significantly weakened.  
*सिविल राइट्स ऑफिस, जो सभी छात्रों के लिए समान शिक्षा अवसर सुनिश्चित करता है, कमजोर हो जाएगा।*
- **Special education funding** and support for districts with **high poverty levels** could also be affected.  
*विशेष शिक्षा फंडिंग और गरीबी प्रभावित क्षेत्रों के लिए सहायता पर भी असर पड़ सकता है।*
- Critics argue that **states alone may not be able to provide the same level of education funding and resources.**  
*\*आलोचकों का मानना है कि \*राज्य अकेले इस स्तर की शिक्षा फंडिंग और संसाधन प्रदान करने में सक्षम नहीं होंगे।*



## ARE THERE HEALTH BENEFITS OF BOTTLED WATER?

Today, packaged water comes in various forms - mineral water, alkaline and black alkaline water, flavoured water, etc, each marketed with distinct health benefits.

However, experts caution that scientific evidence supporting their benefits is limited. Tanya Sahni, a nutritionist and an entrepreneur, warns, "Most of it is a marketing tactic. While some brands do contain minerals or come from natural sources, their benefits rarely surpass those of clean, regular water."

Similarly, Shalu Nijhawan, a holistic nutritionist, highlights how premium branding often misleads consumers, stating, "Labels like 'Himalayan water' or 'pure mineral water' are often just marketing gimmicks.

Most of this water is processed and repackaged. Always check for FSSAI certification and credible labelling."

## FSSAI DECLARES PACKAGED WATER AS 'HIGH-RISK FOOD CATEGORY'

● In December 2024, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) categorised packaged drinking water and mineral water as a 'High-Risk Food Category' for stricter quality control.

'High-Risk Food Category' includes foods prone to contamination and health risks, requiring strict regulations and frequent inspections for consumer safety. Examples include dairy, meat, seafood, infant foods, ready-to-eat foods, and now, packaged water.

.....  
● Manufacturers must undergo annual facility inspections and third-party food safety audits approved by FSSAI now. This move aims to enhance quality standards and reduce health risks associated with packaged water production.





with packaged water production.

## 'DRINK WATER FROM GLASS OR STAINLESS STEEL CONTAINERS'

- In a study published in 2024 in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, researchers found 10 to 100 times more bits of plastic than previously estimated - majorly nanoplastic (Plastic bits so tiny, they're invisible even under a microscope), in bottled water.

- **1 litre of bottled water contained an average of 240,000 plastic particles from seven types of plastics, 90% of which were identified as nanoplastics and the rest, microplastics.**

- The study states that nanoplastic can travel through the tissues of the digestive tract or lungs and enter the bloodstream, distributing harmful chemicals in the body.

- Commenting on the study, Dr Sherri Mason, director of sustainability at Penn State Behrend, Pennsylvania, told *CNN*, "The findings (of the study) reinforce long-held expert advice to drink tap water from glass or stainless steel containers to reduce exposure. This advice extends to other foods and drinks packaged in plastic as well."

## MITIGATE THE RISK

- Carry your own water bottle/metal or paper glasses that can be refilled
- If you buy bottled water, opt for glass bottles
- If you can't avoid buying plastic-bottled water, ensure it is BPA-free
- Plastic-bottled water should be kept away from high temperatures, as BPA, a chemical commonly found in these bottles, enters the water, especially in heated temperatures. BPA is linked to health risks like cancer, diabetes, and heart problems.

— Suggested by Anushree Sharma, a dietician

## ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC BOTTLES



To reduce the health and environmental risks plastic bottled water pose, brands must look for packaging alternatives like:

- Glass
- Aluminum cans
- Tetra packs
- Stainless steel
- Biodegradable bottles
- Bamboo bottles




# International Day of Forests 2025



- 
- The International Day of Forests, also known as World Forests Day (WFD), is celebrated each year on 21st March to raise awareness about the importance of forests and trees for the survival of humanity and the planet.
  - The theme for 2025 WFD is "Forests and Food".
- 



## International Day of Forests

- The International Day of Forests evolved from the "**World Forestry Day**" established by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** in **1971**.
  - It was **formally recognized** by the **United Nations General Assembly** in **2012**.
  - It aims to **raise awareness about forest conservation** and **sustainable management**.
- 

## What is the Significance of Forests?

- **Ecological Significance:**


- **Carbon Sequestration:** Forests absorb **~30% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions** (from fossil fuel) annually (FAO, 2020) and store **861 gigatonnes of carbon**, making them crucial for **climate change mitigation**.

**India's forests and tree cover (25.17% of total area, ISFR 2023) shelter species like tigers (3,167, NTCA 2022) and Asian elephants (~30,000, MoEFCC 2023).**

**Water Security:** Forests regulate hydrological cycles, recharge groundwater, and mitigate floods.



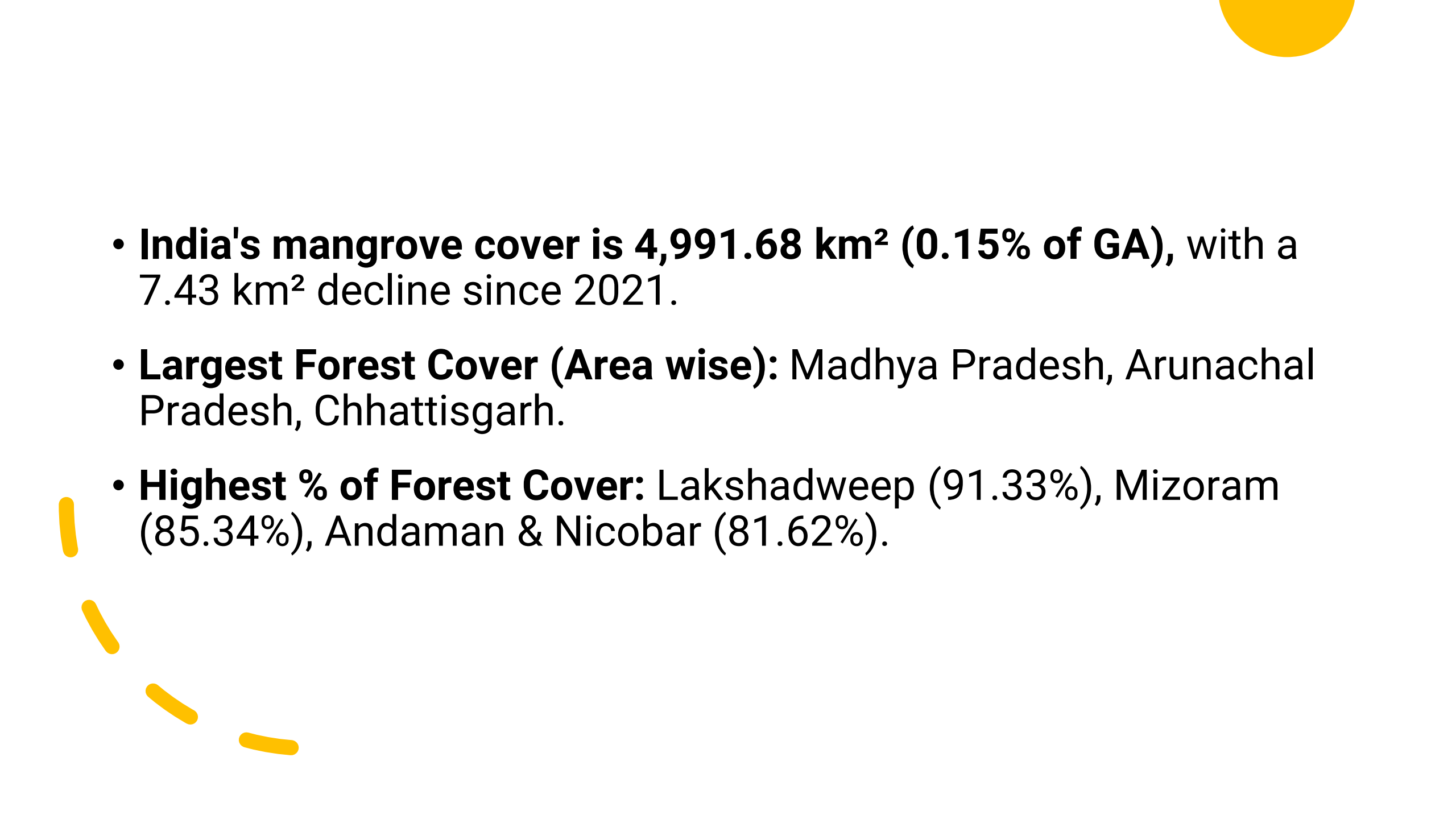
## Economic and Livelihood Value:

- **Global Dependence: 1.6 billion people** (including 70 million indigenous communities) rely on forests for **food, fuel, and medicine** (World Bank, 2022).
  - **Employment: Over 30 million people in India** depend on **forestry activities** for their livelihood, with **MGNREGA** supporting **afforestation projects** and rural livelihoods.
- 

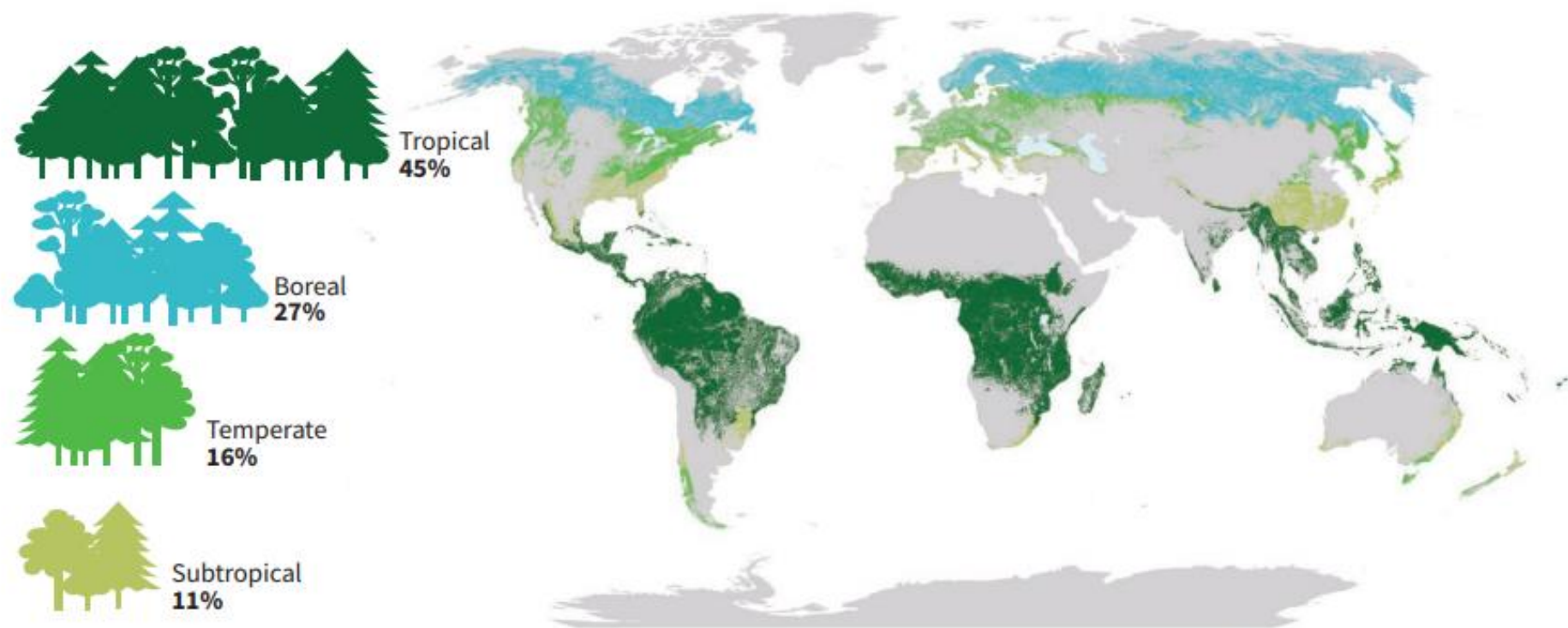
## What is the Status of Forests in India?

- As per the **India State of Forest Report (ISFR)-2023**, **forest and tree cover** is **25.17%** of its geographical area (GA), with **forest cover at 21.76%** and **tree cover at 3.41%**.
- The country's **forest and tree cover** has **increased by 1,445.81 km<sup>2</sup>** compared to 2021.
- The report said **19 states/UTs have above 33%** of the geographical area under forest cover.



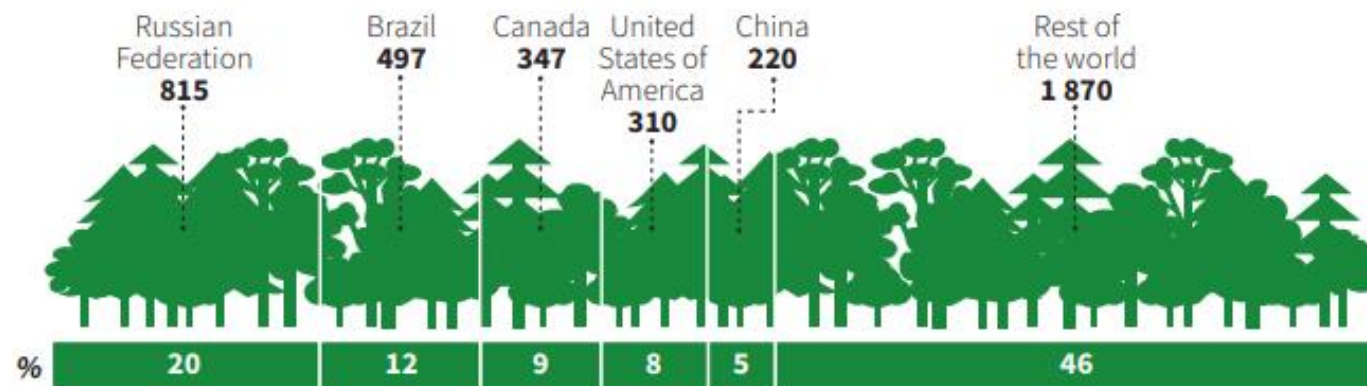
- 
- **India's mangrove cover is 4,991.68 km<sup>2</sup> (0.15% of GA),** with a 7.43 km<sup>2</sup> decline since 2021.
  - **Largest Forest Cover (Area wise):** Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh.
  - **Highest % of Forest Cover:** Lakshadweep (91.33%), Mizoram (85.34%), Andaman & Nicobar (81.62%).

## Proportion and distribution of global forest area by climatic domain, 2020



Source: Adapted from United Nations World map, 2020.

## Top five countries for forest area, 2020 (million ha)







# Ramadevara Betta Vulture Sanctuary



The rare sighting of the **Indian Long-Billed Vulture (Indian Vulture)** at **Ramadevara Betta Vulture Sanctuary** underscores the **success of protected area-based conservation efforts**.

### **Ramadevara Betta Vulture Sanctuary:**

- It is situated in the **Ramadevara Betta Hill Range** in **Ramanagara, Karnataka**.
- 

- 
- It is India's first and only vulture sanctuary established in 2012 and notified Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) in 2017 to safeguard endangered vulture species.
  - The Sanctuary is home to three of the nine vulture species found in India — the Indian Long-Billed Vulture, Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), and White-Backed Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*).
- 

# Advanced Security Ink to Combat Counterfeiting







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अर्जुन अरवि  
गवर्नर

I PROMISE TO  
PAY THE BEARER  
THE SUM OF TWO  
THOUSAND RUPEES  
*[Signature]*  
GOVERNOR

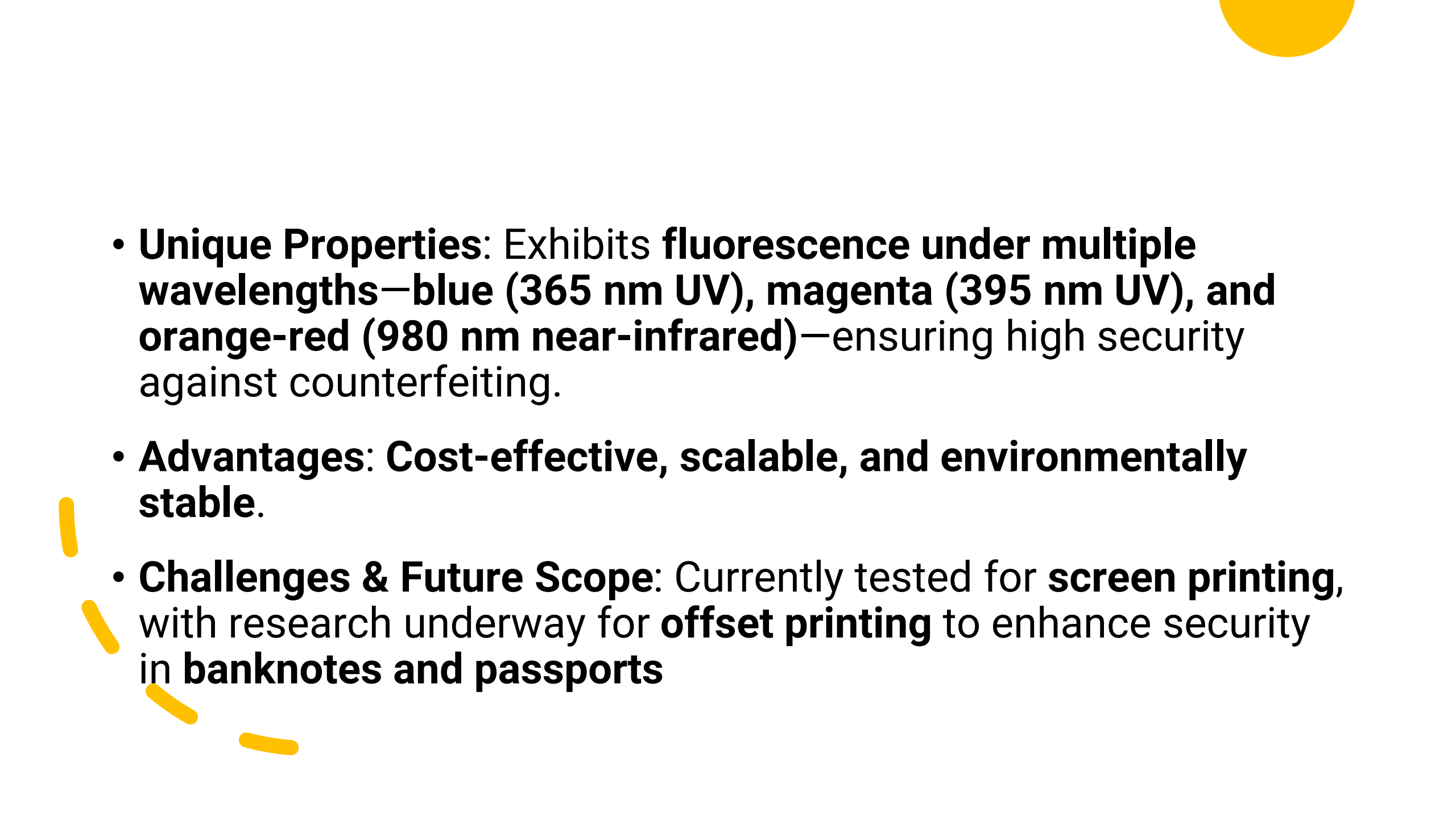
  
DeLaRue

Scientists have developed a **nanoparticle-based security ink** to improve **anti-counterfeiting** measures in **currency notes and sensitive documents**.

### **Nanoparticle-based Security Ink:**

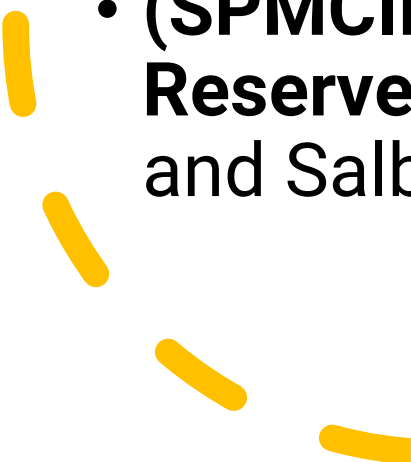
- **Composition:** Made of  **$\text{Sr}_2\text{BiF}_7$  (strontium bismuth fluoride) nanoparticles** doped with **erbium and ytterbium ions**, synthesized via a **cost-effective coprecipitation technique**.



- 
- **Unique Properties:** Exhibits **fluorescence under multiple wavelengths—blue (365 nm UV), magenta (395 nm UV), and orange-red (980 nm near-infrared)**—ensuring high security against counterfeiting.
  - **Advantages: Cost-effective, scalable, and environmentally stable.**
  - **Challenges & Future Scope:** Currently tested for **screen printing**, with research underway for **offset printing** to enhance security in **banknotes and passports**



## Currency Notes Printing:

- Banknotes in India are printed at **4 currency presses**: 2 under the **Central Government's Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd.**
  - **(SPMCIL)** at Nasik and Dewas and 2 under the **RBI's Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Ltd. (BRBNMPL)** at Mysuru and Salboni.
- 


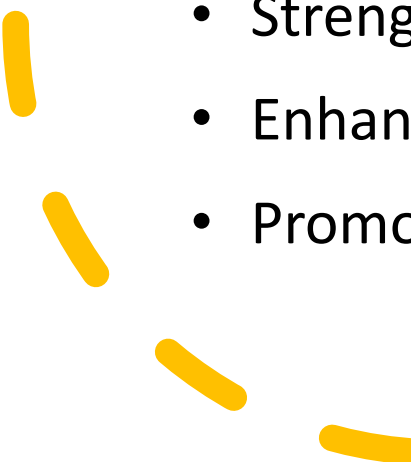
# Exercise Sea Dragon 2025






- India successfully concluded participation in Sea Dragon 2025, a two-week multinational anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise



- 
- **Host Nation:** United States Navy's 7th Fleet hosted the exercise.
  - **Location of Event:** Conducted at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Western
  - **Aim of the Exercise:**
    - Strengthen **maritime security** and defense collaboration.
    - Enhance **submarine detection, tracking, and neutralization capabilities.**
    - Promote the concept of a **free, open, and secure Indo-Pacific.**
- 



- **Nations Involved:**

- **India** (since 2021) with P-8I Neptune aircraft.
  - **Australia** – RAAF P-8A Poseidon.
  - **Japan** – JMSDF Kawasaki P-1 aircraft.
  - **South Korea** – ROKN P-3 Orion.
  - **United States** – P-8A Poseidon (Patrol Squadrons VP-16 & VP-47).
- 



10 MCQ from the session

**What was the Supreme Court's stance on Justice Yashwant Varma's transfer?**

**सुप्रीम कोर्ट का न्यायमूर्ति यशवंत वर्मा के तबादले पर क्या रुख था?**

- **A. It was linked to the alleged incident at his residence / यह उनके आवास पर हुई कथित घटना से जुड़ा था**
- B. It was a routine decision by the Collegium / यह कोलेजियम का एक नियमित निर्णय था**
- C. It was a punishment for judicial misconduct / यह न्यायिक कदाचार के लिए एक दंड था**
- D. It was reversed after Bar Association objections / बार एसोसिएशन की आपत्तियों के बाद इसे वापस लिया गया**

**Which Bar Association objected to Justice Varma's transfer?**

**न्यायमूर्ति वर्मा के तबादले पर किस बार एसोसिएशन ने आपत्ति जताई?**

- **A. Delhi Bar Association**
- B. Allahabad Bar Association**
- C. Bombay Bar Association**
- D. Karnataka Bar Association**



**Why did the Madras High Court halt the publication of NIRF 2025 rankings?**

**मद्रास उच्च न्यायालय ने NIRF 2025 रैंकिंग के प्रकाशन पर रोक क्यों लगाई?**

- **A. The ranking process was found to be misleading and unverifiable / रैंकिंग प्रक्रिया को भ्रामक और अप्रमाणित पाया गया**
- B. Colleges refused to submit data for rankings / कॉलेजों ने रैंकिंग के लिए डेटा प्रस्तुत करने से इनकार कर दिया**
- C. NIRF rankings were suspected of corruption / NIRF रैंकिंग में भ्रष्टाचार का संदेह था**
- D. Government decided to scrap NIRF rankings / सरकार ने NIRF रैंकिंग को समाप्त करने का निर्णय लिया**

**How much faster are glaciers melting in the Hindu Kush Himalayas between 2011-2020 compared to the previous decade?**

**2011-2020 के बीच हिंदू कुश हिमालय में ग्लेशियर कितनी तेजी से पिघल रहे हैं?**

- **A. 30% faster**
- B. 50% faster**
- C. 65% faster**
- D. 80% faster**

**What could happen if global temperatures rise above 2°C?**

**यदि वैश्विक तापमान 2°C से अधिक बढ़ जाता है, तो क्या हो सकता है?**

- **A. Glacier volume may decline by 20-45% compared to 2020 levels / ग्लेशियर की मात्रा 2020 के स्तर की तुलना में 20-45% तक घट सकती है**
- B. Glaciers will completely disappear by 2050 / 2050 तक ग्लेशियर पूरी तरह गायब हो जाएंगे**
- C. There will be no impact on glaciers / ग्लेशियरों पर कोई प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा**
- D. Glaciers will expand due to climate shifts / जलवायु परिवर्तनों के कारण ग्लेशियरों का विस्तार होगा**

**Which river system will be most affected by Himalayan glacier melting?**

**हिमालयी ग्लेशियरों के पिघलने से कौन सा नदी तंत्र सबसे अधिक प्रभावित होगा?**

- **A. Indus River / सिंधु नदी**
- B. Ganga River / गंगा नदी**
- C. Brahmaputra River / ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी**
- D. Godavari River / गोदावरी नदी**

**What is the significance of the Ramadevara Betta Vulture Sanctuary?**

**रामदेवरा बेट्टा गिद्ध अभयारण्य का क्या महत्व है?**

- **A. It is the only vulture sanctuary in India / यह भारत का एकमात्र गिद्ध अभयारण्य है**
- B. It is the largest vulture habitat in Asia / यह एशिया का सबसे बड़ा गिद्ध आवास है**
- C. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site / यह यूनेस्को की विश्व धरोहर स्थल है**
- D. It is home to all nine vulture species found in India / यह भारत में पाई जाने वाली सभी नौ गिद्ध प्रजातियों का घर है**

**What is the theme for International Day of Forests 2025?**

**अंतरराष्ट्रीय वन दिवस 2025 की थीम क्या है?**

- **A. Forests and Biodiversity**
- B. Forests and Sustainable Living**
- C. Forests and Food**
- D. Forests for Future Generations**



**What is unique about the newly developed nanoparticle-based security ink?**

**नव विकसित नैनोपार्टिकल-आधारित सुरक्षा स्याही की विशेषता क्या है?**

- **A. It changes color under different light wavelengths / यह विभिन्न प्रकाश तरंग दैर्घ्य के तहत रंग बदलती है**
- B. It is made of organic compounds only / यह केवल जैविक यौगिकों से बनी है**
- C. It is used only for military applications / इसका उपयोग केवल सैन्य अनुप्रयोगों के लिए किया जाता है**
- D. It is the costliest ink ever developed / यह अब तक विकसित की गई सबसे महंगी स्याही है**

**What was the primary objective of Exercise Sea Dragon 2025?**

**एक्सरसाइज सी ड्रैगन 2025 का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या था?**

- **A. Strengthening anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capabilities / पनडुब्बी रोधी युद्ध (ASW) क्षमताओं को मजबूत करना**
- B. Testing nuclear submarine deployments / परमाणु पनडुब्बी तैनाती का परीक्षण करना**
- C. Conducting joint space research / संयुक्त अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान करना**
- D. Coordinating cyber warfare strategies / साइबर युद्ध रणनीतियों का समन्वय करना**

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