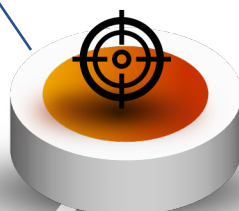


Daily Current Affairs



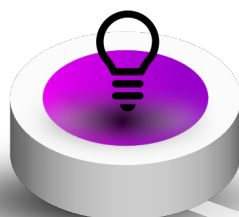


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The Hindu

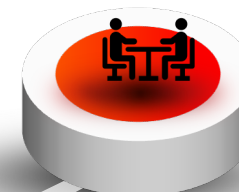


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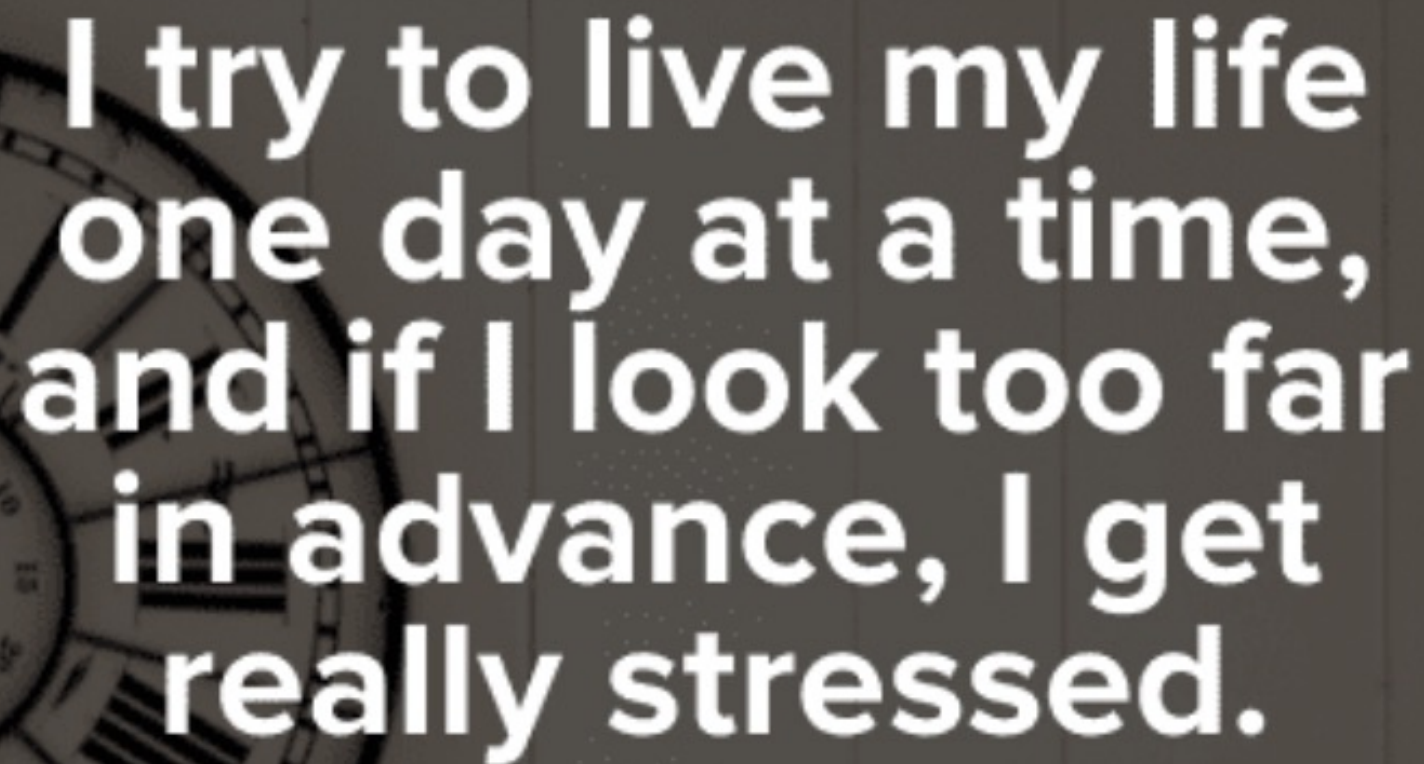
²
**The Indian
Express**



⁰
**Financial
Express**



⁰
Jansatta



**I try to live my life
one day at a time,
and if I look too far
in advance, I get
really stressed.**

product exposure under standard test conditions. Standard machines, not fit in customized machines.

Rahul gets two-year jail term in defamation case

Congress to appeal against the Surat court order, as Mr. Gandhi's Lok Sabha membership hangs in the balance; Parliamentary Affairs Minister says legal experts will study the verdict

The Hindu Bureau

SURAT/NEW DELHI

A Surat court on Thursday convicted former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi in a criminal defamation case and awarded him a two-year jail term over his “why all thieves have Modi surname” comment.

Mr. Gandhi was present at the court when the judge passed the verdict. The court suspended the sentence for 30 days, so that Mr. Gandhi can appeal in a higher court. The court has given bail to him on ₹10,000 bond. The Congress has said that it will appeal against the verdict.

Mr. Gandhi had allegedly made the remarks during campaigning for the



Rahul Gandhi arrives at the New Delhi airport after appearing before a court in Surat, Gujarat. REUTERS

2019 parliamentary polls. The criminal defamation case was filed against him by BJP MLA Purnesh Modi, who was earlier president of the BJP unit of Surat city. In his complaint, Mr. Purnesh Modi alleged that Mr. Gandhi while addressing a poll rally in 2019 in Karna-

taka defamed the entire Modi community with his remark, “How come all the thieves have Modi as the common surname?”

Chief Judicial Magistrate H.H. Varma had last week concluded hearing final arguments from both sides. Mr. Gandhi had last ap-

peared before the Surat court regarding the case, filed under Indian Penal Code (IPC) Sections 499 and 500 (dealing with defamation), in October 2021 to record his statement.

Thursday's developments have put a question mark over Mr. Gandhi's Lok Sabha membership from Wayanad.

In the landmark 2013 *Lily Thomas v Union of India* judgment, the Supreme Court had clearly spelt out that a lawmaker stands immediately disqualified on attracting a sentence of two years or more unless the conviction is stayed by a higher court.


CONTINUED ON

» **PAGE 12**

CONGRESS TO FIGHT BACK

» **PAGE 13**

Defamation is the communication of a **false statement** that harms the reputation of an individual person, business, product, group, government, religion, or nation



मानहानि एक झूठे बयान का संचार है जो किसी व्यक्ति, व्यवसाय, उत्पाद, समूह, सरकार, धर्म या राष्ट्र की प्रतिष्ठा को नुकसान पहुंचाता है

- In India, defamation can both be a **civil wrong and a criminal offence**.
- While a civil wrong tends to provide for a redressal of wrongs by awarding compensation, a criminal law seeks to punish a wrongdoer and send a message to others not to commit such acts.
- In Indian laws, criminal defamation has been specifically defined as an offence under the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** whereas the civil defamation is based on **tort law**

- भारत में, मानहानि दीवानी गलती और फौजदारी अपराध दोनों हो सकती है।
- जबकि एक सिविल गलत मुआवजा प्रदान करके गलतियों के निवारण के लिए प्रदान करता है, एक आपराधिक कानून एक गलत काम करने वाले को दंडित करने और दूसरों को ऐसे कार्य न करने का संदेश भेजने का प्रयास करता है।
- भारतीय कानूनों में, आपराधिक मानहानि को विशेष रूप से भारतीय दंड संहिता (आईपीसी) के तहत एक अपराध के रूप में परिभाषित किया गया है, जबकि नागरिक मानहानि अपकृत्य कानून पर आधारित है

- **Criminal Defamation:**
- **Section 499 and 500** of Indian Penal Code, 1860 deals with Criminal defamation.
- It prescribes two years' imprisonment with or without fine for a person found guilty of defamation.
- **Pre colonial scenario:**
- The criminal provisions have often been used to pursue political vendettas. In the colonial era, the law was used, along with sedition, to jail freedom fighters.
- So-called **SLAPP (or strategic lawsuit against public participation)** suits have been used in the recent past to muzzle investigative journalists and prevent critical analysis of the financial information of listed companies.

- आपराधिक मानहानि:
- भारतीय दंड संहिता, 1860 की धारा 499 और 500 आपराधिक मानहानि से संबंधित है।
- यह मानहानि का दोषी पाए जाने वाले व्यक्ति के लिए जुर्माने के साथ या उसके बिना दो साल के कारावास का प्रावधान करता है।
- पूर्व औपनिवेशिक परिदृश्य:
- राजनीतिक प्रतिशोध को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए अक्सर आपराधिक प्रावधानों का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। औपनिवेशिक युग में, स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों को जेल में डालने के लिए देशद्रोह के साथ-साथ कानून का इस्तेमाल किया जाता था।
- तथाकथित SLAPP (या सार्वजनिक भागीदारी के खिलाफ रणनीतिक मुकदमा) सूट का उपयोग हाल के दिनों में खोजी पत्रकारों को रोकने और सूचीबद्ध कंपनियों की वित्तीय जानकारी के महत्वपूर्ण विश्लेषण को रोकने के लिए किया गया है।

-
- In Subramanian Swamy vs Union of India case, a bench of Justices Dipak Misra and P C Pant approved the Constitutional validity of sections 499 and 500 (criminal defamation) in the Indian Penal Code, underlining that an individual's fundamental right to live with dignity and reputation "cannot be ruined solely because another individual can have his freedom".
 - सब्रमण्यम स्वामी बनाम भारत संघ मामले में, जस्टिस दीपक मिश्रा और पी सी पंत की पीठ ने भारतीय दंड संहिता की धारा 499 और 500 (आपराधिक मानहानि) की संवैधानिक वैधता को मंजूरी दी, जिसमें यह रेखांकित किया गया कि गरिमा और प्रतिष्ठा के साथ जीने का एक व्यक्ति का मौलिक अधिकार है। केवल इसलिए बर्बाद नहीं किया जा सकता क्योंकि दूसरे व्यक्ति को उसकी स्वतंत्रता हो सकती है"।

-
- The ruling noted that **“the right to freedom of speech and expression is not an absolute right”** and has to be **“balanced with the right to reputation”** which is **protected under Article 21 of the Constitution**.
 - फैसले में कहा गया है कि "बोलने और अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता का अधिकार पूर्ण अधिकार नहीं है" और इसे "प्रतिष्ठा के अधिकार के साथ संतुलित" किया जाना चाहिए जो कि संविधान के अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत संरक्षित है"।

- **Way Forward:**

- Criminal complaints should not be entertained unless the damage to reputation is prima facie, a serious one.
 - Unnecessary complaints should be dismissed at the threshold. That apart, complaints cannot be entertained except on behalf of the "person aggrieved".
 - Such a restriction must not be arbitrary or excessive, and the impairment of freedom must be 'as little as possible'.
-
- आगे बढ़ने का रास्ता:
 - आपराधिक शिकायतों पर तब तक विचार नहीं किया जाना चाहिए जब तक कि प्रतिष्ठा की क्षति प्रथम दृष्टया गंभीर न हो।
 - अनावश्यक शिकायतों को दहलीज पर ही खारिज कर देना चाहिए। इसके अलावा, "पीड़ित व्यक्ति" की ओर से शिकायतों पर विचार नहीं किया जा सकता है।
 - इस तरह का प्रतिबंध मनमाना या अत्यधिक नहीं होना चाहिए, और स्वतंत्रता की हानि 'यथासंभव कम' होनी चाहिए।

-
- This is not to say that defamation must not be discouraged.
 - But decriminalising it will bring the IPC in accord with Article 19(2), ensuring that the means used to discourage defamation do not end up damping legitimate criticism.
 - Criminal defamation laws have been **repealed in most democracies** and it is high time India modernised its law to take cognisance of new modes of communication.
-
- यह कहना नहीं है कि मानहानि को हतोत्साहित नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।
 - लेकिन इसे डिक्रिमिनालाइज़ करने से आईपीसी अनुच्छेद 19(2) के अनुरूप हो जाएगा, यह सुनिश्चित करेगा कि मानहानि को हतोत्साहित करने के लिए इस्तेमाल किए गए साधन वैध आलोचना को समाप्त न कर दें।
 - अधिकांश लोकतंत्रों में आपराधिक मानहानि कानूनों को निरस्त कर दिया गया है और अब समय आ गया है कि भारत संचार के नए तरीकों का संज्ञान लेने के लिए अपने कानून का आधुनिकीकरण करे।

India rejects J&J's attempt to extend patent on TB drug

Vital intervention

Bedaquiline, manufactured by J&J, is a crucial anti-TB drug



- India has rejected J&J's appeal to extend its patent beyond July 2023

- Currently priced at

around \$400 for a six-month treatment regimen, the prices are likely to fall

- After July, generic producers like Lupin and Macleods are likely to manufacture the drug

- Over 55,000 patients, in whom other drugs have stopped working, may benefit from Bedaquiline access

- Till March 2020, only a little over 10,000 patients received the drug

Maitri Porecha

NEW DELHI

In a victory for patients fighting for wider access to the crucial anti-tuberculosis drug Bedaquiline, the Indian Patent Office on Thursday rejected U.S. pharmaceutical giant Johnson & Johnson's attempt to extend its monopoly on manufacturing the drug in India beyond July 2023.

J&J's primary patents on Bedaquiline expire in July, paving the way for generic drug manufacturers such as Lupin and Macleods, among others, to produce Bedaquiline, thus ensuring cheaper and wider access to the drug. Currently, Bedaquiline tablets are priced at \$400 per six-month treatment course.

Bedaquiline is a crucial drug in the treatment of multi-drug resistant TB patients for whom the first-line drug treatment has

stopped working.

Evergreening attempts

Since 2007, J&J had indulged in 'evergreening' – a strategy to extend the life of patents about to expire in order to retain revenues from them – by making multiple claims in its applications for patent extensions.

When the firm filed for evergreening of its patent on fumarate salt (a formulation salt of Bedaquiline), the practice was challenged by TB survivors Nandita Venkatesan and Phumeza Tisile.

"We filed a patent challenge in 2019, because we wanted to ensure that safer, oral and efficacious drug Bedaquiline was available to all people who need it," Ms. Venkatesan told *The Hindu*.

CONTINUED ON

» PAGE 12

India rejects J&J patent extension on TB drug

Our attempt to break the monopoly of a pharma company over this life saving drug has been successful," Ms. Venkatesan said.

'No inventive step'

J&J had sought a patent extension on the basis of its claim that it had invented the method for making a derivative of quinoline in its salt form. However, in her order passed on Thursday, Latika Dawara, Assistant Controller of Patents and Designs, stated that the invention claimed was obvious and does not involve any inventive step, and is therefore non-patentable.

Section 3(d) of the Patents Act states that salt forms and derivatives of known substances are not patentable.

According to the latest available estimates, in 2019, over 55,000 patients who had developed multi-drug resistant TB could have benefited from access to Bedaquiline. As of March 2020, only a little over 10,000 of these patients had accessed the drug.

What is The Difference?

What is Protected?	How Long?	Type of Law?	Government Body?	Common Law ?	Pre-Reg. Mark	Post-Reg. Mark	Exclusive Rights
Patents	Inventions	15-20 Yrs	Federal	USPTO	"Patent Pending"	Patent Granted	Make, Use, Sell, Import
Trademarks	Brands	Indefinitely	State & Federal	USPTO	TM	®	Use within Class
Copyrights	Artwork	70-170 Yrs	Federal	U.S. Copyright Office	"Copyright 2019"	©	Reproduce, Make Derivative Works, Perform, Display
Trade Secrets	Information	Indefinitely	State & Federal	None	"Confidential"	None	Prevent Misappropriation

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Registration of electric vehicles (EV) in India in 2023 calendar year

2.78 lakh. Minister Nitin Gadkari informed the Lok Sabha that electric vehicle registrations rose to 10,20,000 in 2022 from 3.29 lakh in 2021. Data on Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is included as they are in the process of migrating to the Vahan portal. PTI

Professionals heading back to office, despite hybrid work culture

78 per cent. A report by LinkedIn revealed that 8 in 10 professionals in India prefer to go back to the office and bond with their colleagues. About 86% of them said that they feel positive about going back to their offices, compared to a year ago. PTI

Sri Lanka imports eggs from India to ensure food security

2 million. The Trade Ministry announced the use of Indian-origin eggs only in the bakery industry after necessary quality checks. In January, the Animal Production and Health Department had declined to approve egg imports from India as Pakistan as both countries saw bird-flu outbreaks in past six months. PTI

African Union urges funding for Somali peacekeeping force

90 million. Ambassador Bankole Adesoye, the AU commissioner for political affairs, peace and security, said that more than 19,600-strong AU force will not be able to function properly and help the Somali people unless the current funding gap is filled. AP

Tear gas, riot-control weapons cause injuries to people

1.19 lakh. A report by the Physicians for Human Rights and International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations said since 2015, over one lakh people were injured by tear gas, while 2,000 suffered injuries from "less lethal" projectiles. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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India's push for semiconductors

Why is the Indian government encouraging manufacturing semiconductors in the country? What advantages does India hold? Will the government's semiconductor ambition be limited?

EXPLAINER

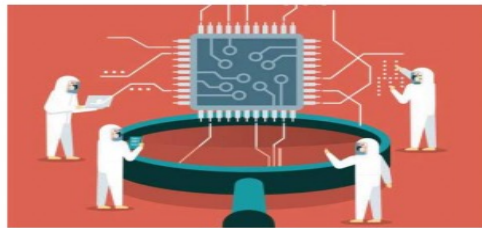
Arun Deep

The Union Government has disbursed around ₹1,600 crore in performance-linked incentives (PLI) for electronics manufacturers so far, as part of its efforts to bring in more of the electronics supply chain to India. The push for semiconductors, or integrated circuits, is far more pressing now, as these chips are found in practically every modern electrical appliance and personal electronics devices. More and more nations are trying to turn away from China's dominance in the space, following geopolitical pressures to de-leverage themselves from supply chain vulnerabilities.

Why is the government encouraging semiconductor manufacturing? Semiconductor fabrication units, or fabs, turn raw elements such as silicon into integrated circuits that are fit to be a part of practically all electronic hardware in the world. Fabs are highly capital-intensive undertakings, costing billions of dollars for large facilities. Semiconductor fabs of today may still be building circuits, but they require highly reliable and high-quality supply of water, electricity, and insulation from the elements, reflecting the high degree of precision, cost and capital needed to make the sophisticated circuits.

Countries have spotted strategic value in cornering segments of the value chain for fabs, even as the sophistication and capital needed to run them have climbed to historic highs. China pulled ahead of Taiwan last year, in terms of share of global sales from fabs, according to a report by the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA).

It's not just India that is wary of this dominance. The U.S. passed the CHIPS Act last August, providing upwards of \$280 billion in subsidies and investments to manufacturers opening fabs and



GETTY IMAGES

making semiconductors in the U.S. This has been combined with restrictions on the Chinese semiconductor industry.

Are fabs opening in India?

The government's Invest India agency estimates that electronics manufacturing as a whole will be worth \$300 billion by the financial year 2025-26. While facilities for assembling finished products have been steadily growing in number, fabs for making chips and displays, which are crucial parts of the manufacturing process for many electronics, are rarer. Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the first semiconductor manufacturing fab would be announced in the coming weeks.

Can semiconductors and finished products both be made in India?

The SIA, which represents the bulk of semiconductor manufacturers in the U.S. and elsewhere, said in a report with APEC Worldwide in February that India should lean on its strength in the electronics manufacturing value chain.

So-called "foundry companies", which

turn silicon into semiconductors, require investments upwards of 35% of revenues, the SIA warned, and entry costs run into billions of dollars. But companies that specialise in Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) are less expensive to set up, and generate better margins, the SIA pointed out. The OSAT set-ups take care of the less capital-intensive parts of chipmaking, such as assembling the precise components that have already been manufactured, and running specialised tests to approve them.

A problem with many chip facilities in the traditional sense is that they tend to be captive units of large companies. While Foxconn's assembly facilities are being touted as creating several jobs and inviting investment into India, some of its most valuable facilities globally are dedicated to building Apple devices, which account for a fraction of handsets sold in India.

What other advantage does India have?

A large part of semiconductor manufacturing involves design and intellectual labour. India has an advantage

here, as a large portion of semiconductor design engineers globally are either Indian or Indian-origin. Chipmaking firms such as Intel and NVIDIA have large facilities in India that are flush with Indian talent working on design problems.

This is an advantage as China is losing control over in the face of sanctions and an ageing population.

"We need a sustainable pipeline of high calibre talent. China's goals for the semiconductor sector, especially in terms of further indigenising the industry, will be not achievable," Dr. Denis Simon, a Clinical Professor of Global Business and Technology at the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School said in a testimony to the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

Will India's semiconductor ambition be limited?

The opening of display and semiconductor fabs is one of the strategic and economic goals of India's electronics manufacturing incentive programmes, and breaking new ground on ambitious plans connected to popular brands such as Apple is something that the Union government and States are equally eager to accomplish.

The government appears to be developing the parts of the ecosystem that have promise for sustainable growth and fiscal feasibility.

Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar said at the Raisina Dialogue earlier this month that the electronics value chain would have to be an international undertaking among nations with common values to be effective.

That is, if like-minded nations each specialise in different aspects of the semiconductor and electronics manufacturing process, and work together on distribution, that still solves the geopolitical problem of Chinese dominance without simply monopolising power with a different country. No country should "deduce" themselves into thinking that they will be the "king of the hill," Mr. Chandrasekhar said.

THE GIST

➤ The push for semiconductors, or integrated circuits, is far more pressing now, as these chips are found in practically every modern electrical appliance and personal electronics devices. More and more nations are trying to turn away from China's dominance in the space, following geopolitical pressures to de-leverage themselves from supply chain vulnerabilities.

➤ While facilities for assembling finished products have been growing in number steadily, fabs for making chips and displays, which are crucial parts of the manufacturing process for many electronics, are rarer.

➤ A large part of semiconductor manufacturing involves design and intellectual labour. India has an advantage here, as a large portion of semiconductor design engineers globally are either Indian or Indian-origin.

Why is India's CAMPA at odds with new IPCC report?

Why is afforestation contested in India? What does CAMPA play? Why are natural ecosystems important?

Vasudevan Mukundh

The story so far: A report released on March 20, that originates in the Synthesis Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a U.N. expert body, states that not degrading existing ecosystems in the first place will do more to lower the impact of the climate crisis than restoring ecosystems that have been destroyed — a finding that speaks to an increasingly contested policy in India that has allowed forests in one part of the country to be cut down and 'replaced' with those elsewhere.

Why is afforestation contested? India has committed to adding "an additional (cumulative) carbon sink of 2.5-3 GtCO₂e through additional forest and tree cover by 2030", as part of its climate commitments to the U.N.

Afforestation is also codified in the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), a body chaired by the Environment Minister.

When forest land is diverted to non-forest use, such as building a dam or a mine, that land can longer provide its historical ecosystem services nor biodiversity. Accordingly to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the project proponent that wishes to divert the land must identify carbon elsewhere to afford, and pay for the land value and the afforestation exercise. That land will, thereafter, be stewarded by the forest department.

Why does CAMPA matter?

The money paid sits in the fund overseen by the CAMPA. As of 2019, the fund had ₹47,000 crore.

The CAMPA has come under fire for

facilitating the destruction of natural ecosystems in exchange for forests to be set up in faraway places.

Why do natural ecosystems matter?

Research has found that nature ecosystems sequester more carbon. "Creating single-species plantations in, say, Haryana does not really come close to a natural sal forest lost to a development project in, say, Central Indian forests in terms of biodiversity, local livelihoods, hydrological services, and sequestered carbon," Sharatchandra Lele, distinguished fellow in Environmental Policy and Governance, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru, told *The Hindu* by email. "Of these, sequestered carbon recovers fastest under fast-growth under fast-growing plants, but even then, it will take many decades before it approaches the level of carbon

sequestered in a natural forest," Dr. Lele said. "Within the climate action ecosystem, [the report's finding] also means that climate actions, such as technologies to combat climate change, renewable energy farms, etc., should not come at the cost of natural ecosystems," said Nishi Sinha, a conservation biologist.

How do ecosystems compare to renewable energy?

The IPCC report also found that the sole option (among those evaluated) with more mitigating potential than "reducing conversion of natural ecosystems" was solar power and that the third-highest was wind.

But many solar parks in India have triggered conflicts with people living nearby because they limit access and increase local water consumption. A 2018 study published in *Nature Ecology & Evolution* also found that wind farms in the Western Ghats had reduced the "abundance and activity of predatory birds, which consequently increased the density of birds."

However, the IPCC report also noted that "reducing conversion of natural ecosystems" could be more expensive than wind power, yet still less expensive than "ecosystem restoration, afforestation, [and] restoration", for every GtCO₂e.

THE GIST

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Registration of electric vehicles (EV) in India in 2023 calendar year

2.78

In lakh. Minister Nitin Gadkari informed the Lok Sabha that electric vehicle registrations in India rose to 10.20 lakh in 2022 from 3.29 lakh in 2021. Data on Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh is included as they are in the process of migrating to the Vahan portal. PTI

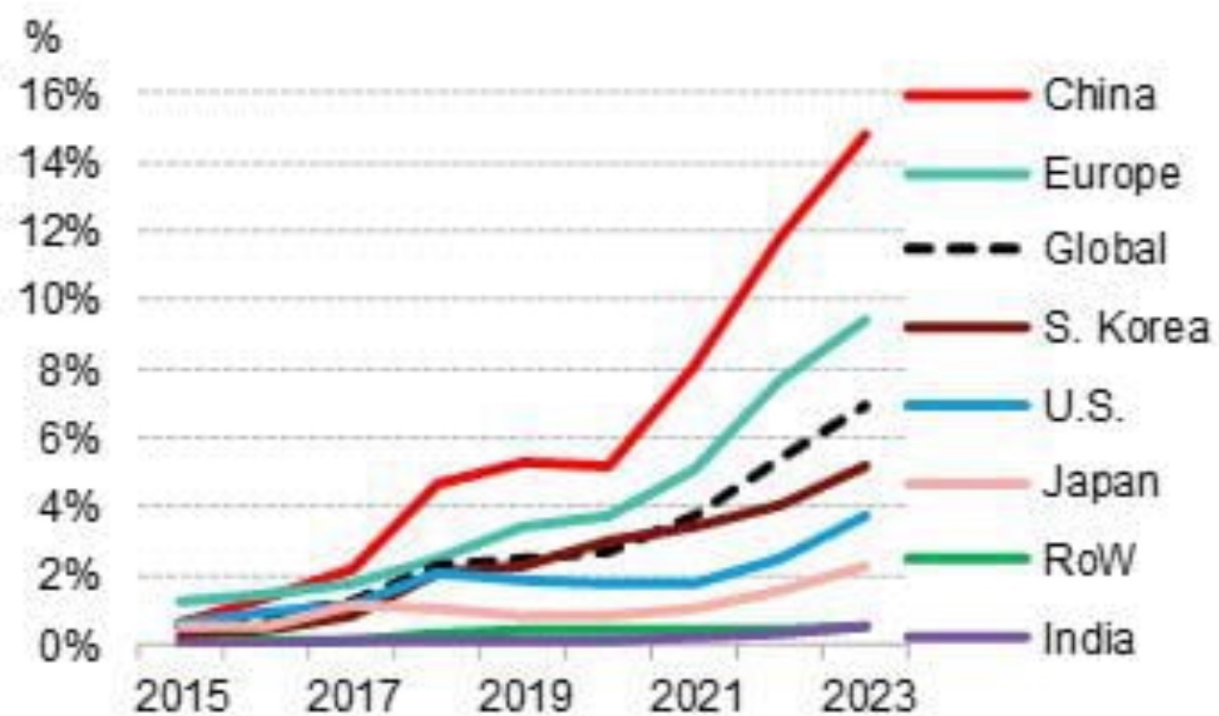
295.8 million

In a country with the third largest road network in the world, the total number of vehicles in fiscal year 2019 stood at 295.8 million.

295.8 मिलियन

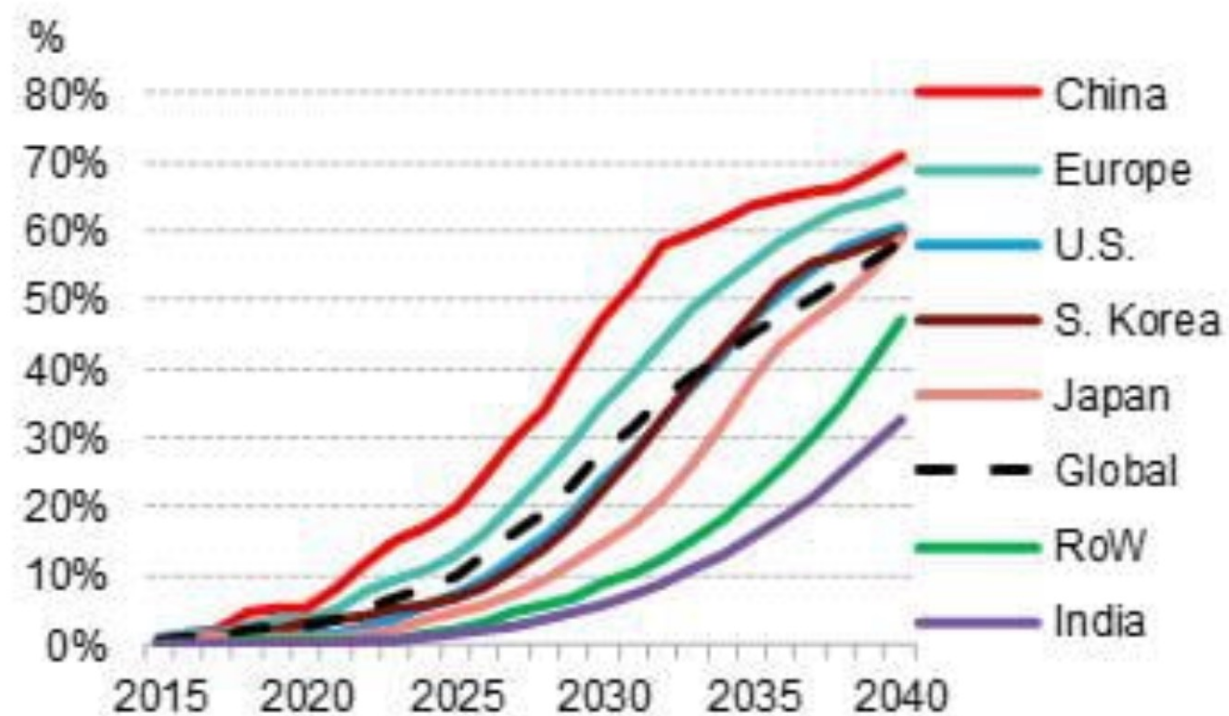
दुनिया में तीसरे सबसे बड़े सड़क नेटवर्क वाले देश में, वित्तीय वर्ष 2019 में वाहनों की कुल संख्या 295.8 मिलियन थी

Figure 1: Global short-term EV share of new passenger vehicle sales by region



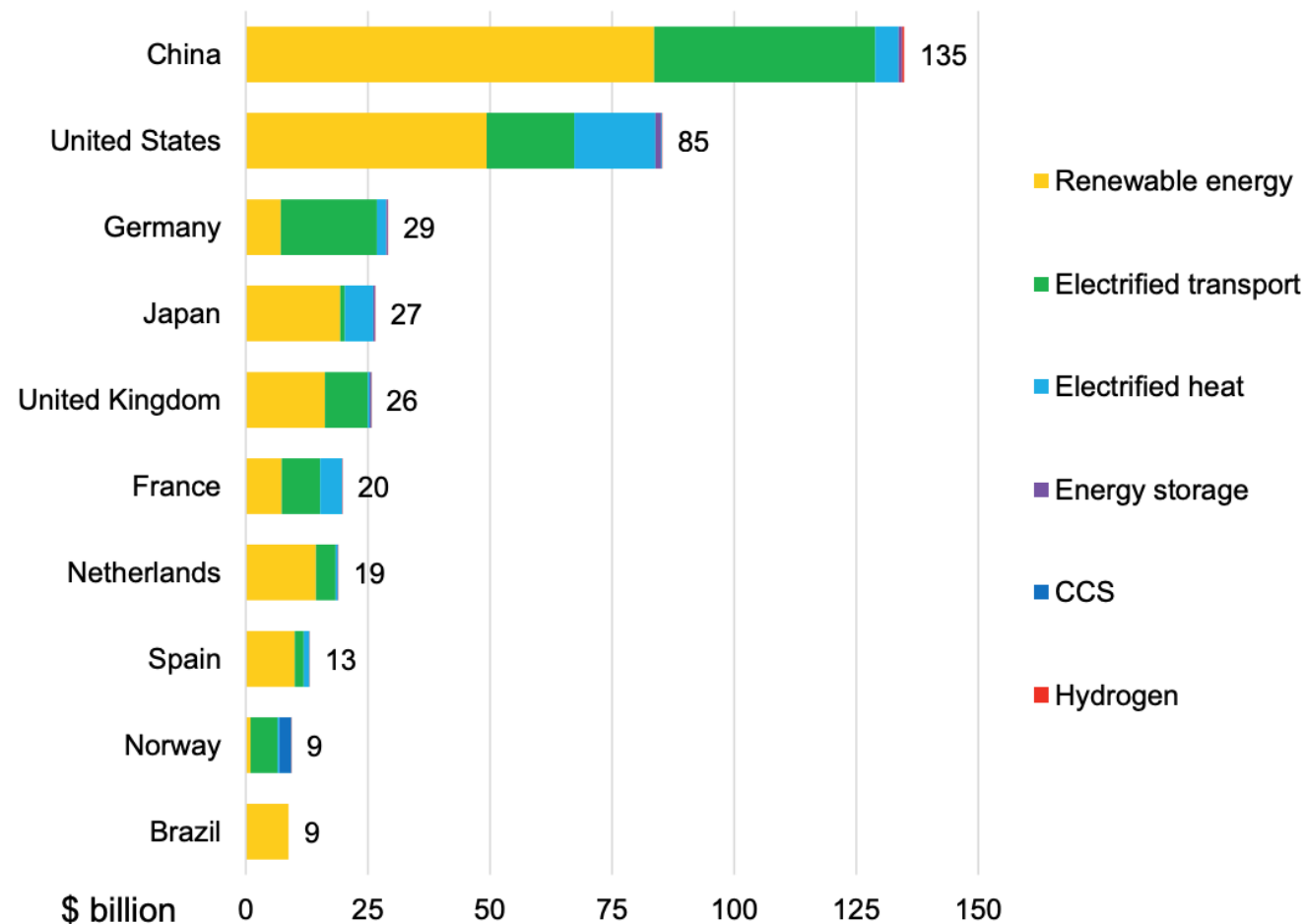
Source: BNEF. Note: Europe includes EU, U.K. and EFTA.

Figure 2: Global long-term EV share of new passenger vehicle sales by region



China invested more than any other country, with the U.S. in second place

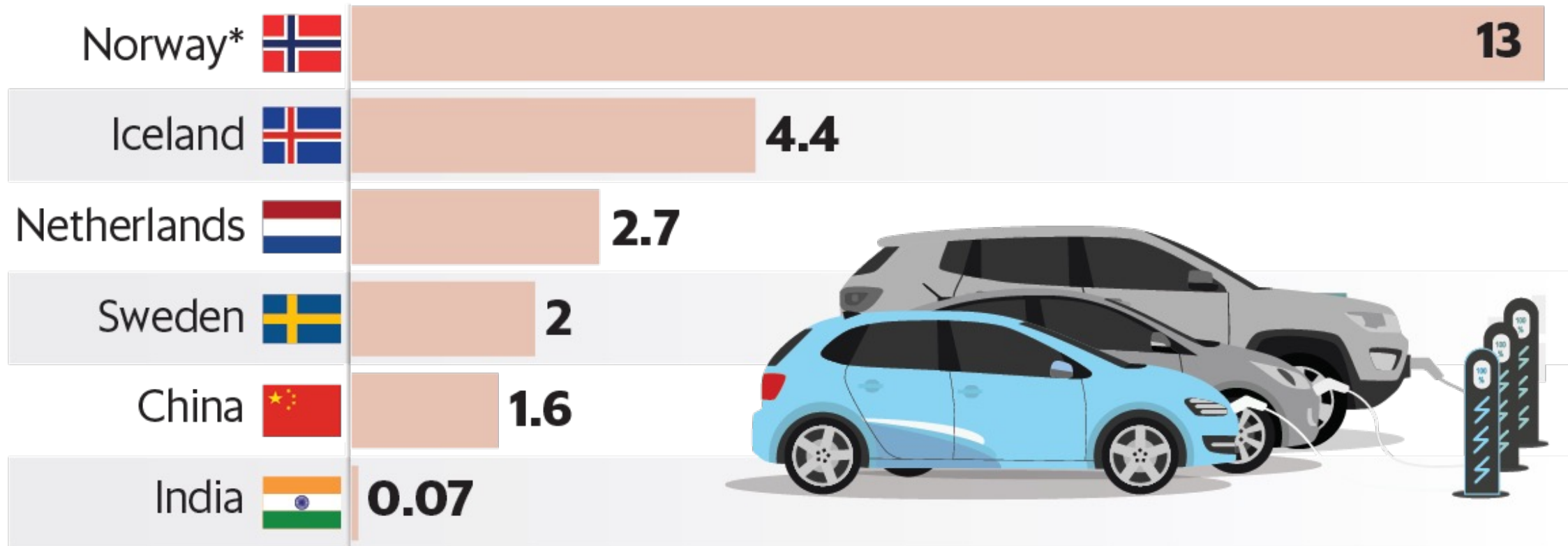
Global investment in energy transition by country, 2020



Embracing future tech

As of end 2019, the world had 7.2 million electric cars, a 40% jump over 2018. While 1.6% of cars in China are EVs, electric cars comprise just 0.07% of the cars in India. Moreover, Norway, Iceland, Netherlands and Sweden have an even higher percentage.

Electric cars as a proportion of the number of cars in a country (in %)



*In case of Norway, the second-hand imported EVs (about 10% of passenger car sales in 2019) were not counted to avoid double counting with exporting countries.

Source: Global EV Outlook 2020, International Energy Agency

Turkish Parliament commission approves Finland's NATO bid



The Turkish Parliament's foreign affairs commission approved a Bill ratifying Finland's bid to join NATO, effectively taking Helsinki another step toward membership of the trans-Atlantic pact. The Parliament's general assembly still needs to approve the Bill and is expected to do so before it closes in mid-April. REUTERS

[illegible]

ANKARA

Turkish Parliament commission approves Finland's NATO bid



AFP



The Turkish Parliament's foreign affairs commission approved a Bill ratifying Finland's bid to join NATO, effectively taking Helsinki another step toward membership of the trans-Atlantic pact. The Parliament's general assembly still needs to approve the Bill and is expected to do so before it closes in mid-April. REUTERS

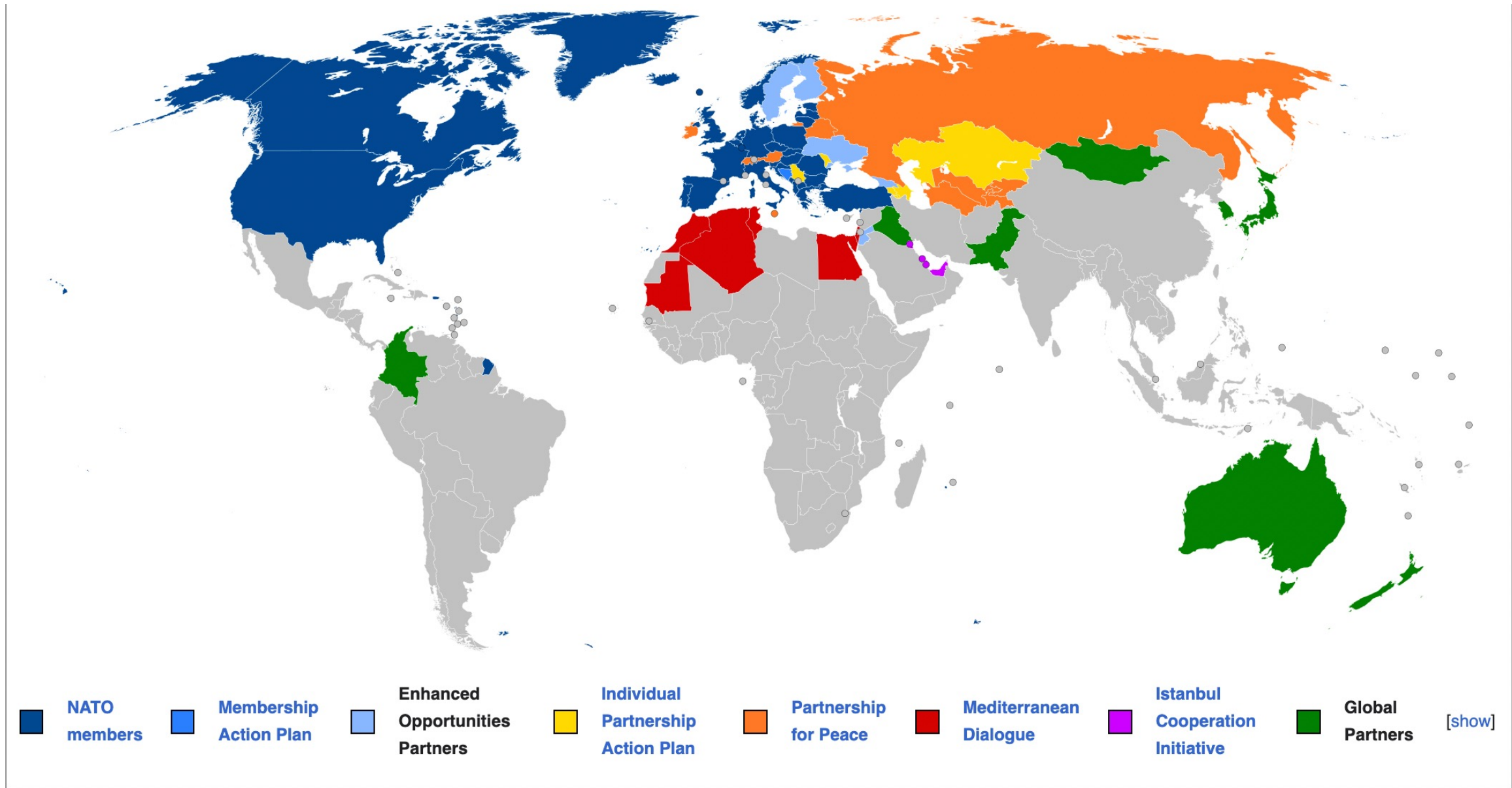
Member states shown in dark green

Abbreviation	NATO, <i>OTAN</i>
Formation	4 April 1949 (73 years ago)
Type	Military alliance
Headquarters	Brussels , Belgium
Membership	30 states [show]
Official language	English and French ^[1]
Secretary General	Jens Stoltenberg
Chair of the NATO Military Committee	Lt. Admiral Rob Bauer , Royal Netherlands Navy
Supreme Allied Commander Europe	General Christopher G. Cavoli , United States Army
Supreme Allied Commander Transformation	Général Philippe Lavigne , French Air and Space Force
Expenses (2021)	US\$1.050 trillion ^[2]

Flag



Member states shown in dark green





Visitors on tourist, business visas can apply for jobs in U.S.

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON

The U.S. has announced that individuals travelling to the country on a business or tourist visa – B-1 and B-2 – can apply for new jobs and even appear in interviews, but the prospective employees must ensure that they have changed their visa status before starting a new role.

B-1 and B-2 visas are generally referred to as “B visas”, and they are the most common types of visa issued for a wide range of uses in the U.S. The B-1 visa is issued mainly for short-term business trips, while the B-2 visa is issued mainly travelling for tourism purposes.

In a note, and a series of tweets, the U.S. Citizenship

The move comes as thousands of highly skilled foreign-born workers in the U.S. were recently laid off

and Immigration Services (USCIS) said on Wednesday when nonimmigrant workers are laid off, they may not be aware of their options and may, in some instances, wrongly assume that they have no option but to leave the country within 60 days.

The move by the USCIS came as thousands of highly skilled foreign-born workers, including Indians, in the U.S., have lost their jobs due to a series of recent layoffs at companies like Google, Microsoft and Amazon.

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GST appellate tribunal may be headed by a former SC judge

New tax tribunal expected to address pile-up of unresolved legal cases, thus lowering the burden on courts and taxpayers; single-member bench will hear disputes involving less than ₹50 lakh

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Appellate Tribunal is likely to be headed by a former Supreme Court judge or a former Chief Justice of a High Court and its framework may permit the resolution of disputes involving dues or fines of less than ₹50 lakh by a single-member bench.

Amendments to the GST laws to enable the tribunal's constitution, are expected to be introduced in the Lok Sabha.

Expediting dispute resolution

A new appellate tribunal headed by ex-judges is aimed at expediting resolution of GST disputes



■ Amendments to GST laws to enable tribunal's constitution expected to be introduced in LS

■ Low value cases (up to ₹50 lakh) may be handled by single-member benches

■ Currently, taxpayers file writ petitions burdening the High Courts

While there will be one principal bench of the Appellate Tribunal in New Delhi and several State benches, appeals pertain-

ing to disputes of less than ₹50 lakh that don't deal with a question of law could be decided by a single-member bench, as per

the norms approved by the GST Council.

In February, the Council had reached a broad consensus on the long-awaited appellate body's functioning. Tax experts said the delay in setting up the Appellate Tribunal has led to a pile-up of unresolved legal matters over the tax.

"Currently, taxpayers are filing writ petitions to directly move the High Court," said Tanushree Roy, director at Nangia Andersen. "Establishment of Appellate tribunal would result in lower burden on the courts and taxpayers."

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COVID-INCREASE IN SUB-VARIANT XBB.1.16 CASES
ARRESTED FAKE PMO OFFICIAL HELD MEET ON G20, SAYS CONG

PAGES 12, 13

SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS IN JAIL BY SURAT COURT

Rahul convicted in defamation case, Cong scrambles to keep him in House

Court suspends sentence, gives him 30 days to file an appeal

KAMAL SAIYED
SURAT, MARCH 23

A SURAT court Thursday convicted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a defamation case over his 2019 remark about thieves with the surname Modi and sentenced him to two years in prison. The court approved Gandhi's bail on a surety of Rs. 15,000 and suspended the sentence for 30 days to allow him to appeal.

Gandhi, who is MP from Varanasi in UP, can avert disqualification from Lok Sabha if an appellate court stays the conviction and suspends the jail term. He was present in the courtroom where Chief Judicial Magistrate HH Verma held him guilty. In his order, CJI Verma said the complainant — it was lodged by Purnesh Modi, BJP MLA from Surat West and a former Gujarat minister — "has proved his case without doubt" based on witness statements, documentary and electronic evidence. The case against Gandhi was over his remark "Why do all thieves have the name Modi?" He made the remark on April 13, 2019 during an election rally in Kolar in Karnataka. In its order in Gujarat, the court observed that "the complaint was lodged not only



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on his arrival at Delhi airport on Thursday. Gajendra Yadav

Can avert disqualification as MP if conviction stayed

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 23

TRIGGERING THE process of immediate disqualification from Parliament, a Surat court Thursday sentenced Congress MP Rahul Gandhi to two years in jail in a 2019 defamation case over his remarks about the "Modi" surname. As per Section 8(3) of the Representation of People Act, 1951, "a person convicted of any

offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years shall be disqualified from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a further period of six years since his release." However, the disqualification can be reversed if a higher court grants a stay on the conviction or decides the appeal in favour of Gandhi. Chief Judicial Magistrate HH Verma's decision will have to be

Unsustainable judgment, will challenge legally and politically, says Cong

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 23

STATING THAT it would challenge the Surat court's decision in a higher court, the Congress on Thursday said Rahul Gandhi's conviction in the defamation case was an "infirm, erroneous and unsustainable" judgment. While alleging that the government may move swiftly to disqualify Rahul from Lok Sabha without allowing reasonable time to try and obtain a stay, party

Surat boost for BJP attack on UK remarks: 'Congress doesn't respect institutions' They want freedom to abuse: Prasad

LIZ MATTHEW
NEW DELHI, MARCH 23

THE SURAT court's conviction of Rahul Gandhi for defamation gives a fillip to the BJP's campaign criticising his remarks in the UK and its insistence on an apology. Given that the verdict disqualifies Gandhi from membership of the House — until a

spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi said the government's "efforts to create a chilling effect, a throttling effect, strangulating effect on open, fearless speech relating to public interest will not stop either Rahul Gandhi or the Congress party". Soon after the court order, Rahul tweeted in Hindi, quoting Mahatma Gandhi: "My religion is based on truth and non-violence. Truth is my God and non-violence the means to achieve it." While he was in Surat for the court proceedings, he returned

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Police: Amritpal was in Haryana, woman who gave shelter arrested

NAVJEEVAN GOPAL & VARINDER BHATIA
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 23

THE POLICE have arrested a 30-year-old woman from Haryana for allegedly providing shelter to Amritpal Singh, the Waris Punjab De chief who has been on the run for six days, and his associate at her home in Kurukshetra district, Punjab IC Sukhchain Singh Gill said. Police identified the woman as Rajjit Kaur, and said that Amritpal stayed at her under-construction house in Sidhant Colony in the Shahbad Markanda area on the night of March 19 — a day after evading arrest in Punjab.



Amritpal Singh

IG (Headquarters) Gill told reporters that Rajjit was arrested in a joint operation Thursday morning by Punjab and Haryana police. According to Gill, Rajjit had completed her MBA from Huar and was not employed or married. She was allegedly in touch with Amritpal's aide

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

UK to review security at India House; mounted police, chopper at protest

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, MARCH 23

THE UK will review the security at the Indian High Commission here following "unacceptable" acts of violence by pro-Khalistan protesters, Foreign Secretary James Cleverly has said, asserting that the government takes these matters "very seriously" and would "robustly" respond to such incidents. Around 2,000 protesters waving Khalistan flags descended upon the Indian mission here on Wednesday for a planned demonstration and hurled objects and chanted slogans amid a heightened security presence and barricades. Unlike the violent disorder on Sunday when the India House came under attack, the protesters were barricaded across the road with uniformed officers standing guard and patrolling the area throughout. In a statement issued on Wednesday, Cleverly said the British government takes such matters very seriously and would "robustly" respond to the attack as it works with the Metropolitan Police to make the necessary changes to ensure the security of the mission's staff. As a sign of the action already

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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REPORT REVEALS 40-75% FAKE ACCOUNTS

Shortly after Adani, Hindenburg shorts Jack Dorsey's firm Block

REUTERS
March 23

HINDENBURG RESEARCH ON Thursday disclosed short positions in Block and alleged that the Jack Dorsey-led payments firm overstated its user numbers and understated its customer acquisition costs.

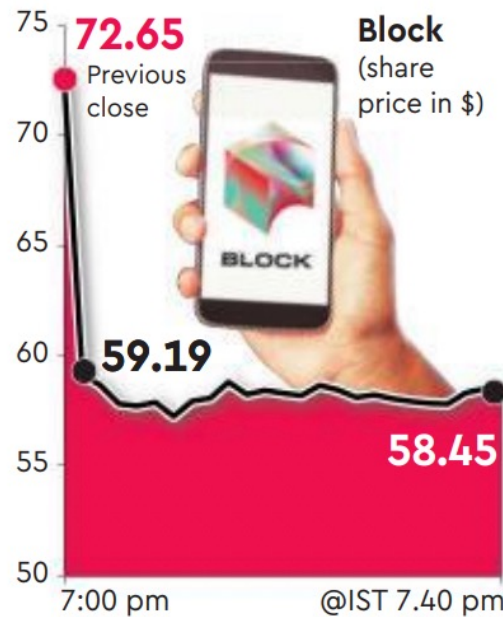
Shares of Block slid 20% to \$57.85 in premarket trading following the report. If losses hold through the session, shares could record their steepest percentage fall since March 2020.

"Our 2-year investigation has concluded that Block has systematically taken advantage of the demographics it claims to be helping," the short seller said in a note published on its website.

Block did not immediately respond to a *Reuters* request for comment.

The US short-seller, behind a market rout of over \$100 billion in the Adani Group, said in its report that former Block employees estimated that

ANOTHER ROUT LOOMS



▶ INSIDE

Adani Power under short term ASM again

PAGE 10

40%-75% of accounts they reviewed were fake, involved in fraud, or were additional accounts tied to a single individual. *Reuters* could not verify the claims raised in the report.

Hindenburg added that Block "obfuscates" how many individuals are on the Cash App platform by reporting misleading "transacting active" metrics filled with fake and duplicate accounts.

Hindenburg added that co-founders Jack Dorsey and James McKelvey collectively sold over \$1 billion of stock during the pandemic as the company's share price soared.

Other executives including finance chief Amrita Ahuja and the lead manager for Cash App Brian Grassadonia also dumped millions of dollars in stock, the report added.

About 5.2% of Block's free float shares were in short position as of March 22, according to Ortex data.

Continued on Page 2



Siddhartha Mohanty tipped to be new LIC chairman

AN INDIAN GOVERNMENT body tasked with picking candidates for top positions in state-run banks and financial institutions has recommended Siddhartha Mohanty as the chairman of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), the Financial Services Institutions Bureau said on Thursday. **REUTERS**

1

Section (109) of the Goods and Service Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act) mandates the constitution of a GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) and its Benches.

2

The GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) is a specialized authority to resolve disputes related to GST laws at the appellate level.

3

माल और सेवा कर अधिनियम, 2017 (सीजीएसटी अधिनियम) की धारा (109) जीएसटी अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (जीएसटीएटी) और इसकी पीठों के गठन को अनिवार्य बनाती है।

4

GST अपीलीय न्यायाधिकरण (GSTAT) अपीलीय स्तर पर GST कानूनों से संबंधित विवादों को हल करने के लिए एक विशेष प्राधिकरण है।

-
- The **principal bench of the GSTAT will be located in New Delhi**, and each state can decide on the number of benches or boards they require, subject to [GST council](#) approval.
 - The bench will consist of two judicial members and two technical members, with the selection panel including a senior judicial member from the State High Court.
 - जीएसटीएटी की प्रधान पीठ नई दिल्ली में स्थित होगी, और प्रत्येक राज्य जीएसटी परिषद अनुमोदन के अधीन आवश्यक बेंचों या बोर्डों की संख्या पर निर्णय ले सकता है।
 - बेंच में दो न्यायिक सदस्य और दो तकनीकी सदस्य शामिल होंगे, जिसमें राज्य उच्च न्यायालय के एक वरिष्ठ न्यायिक सदस्य सहित चयन पैनल होगा।

- Under GST, if a person is not satisfied with the decision passed by any lower court, an appeal can be raised to a higher court, the hierarchy for the same is as follows (from low to high):

1. Adjudicating Authority

2. Appellate Authority

3. Appellate Tribunal

4. High Court

5. Supreme Court

- जीएसटी के तहत, यदि कोई व्यक्ति किसी निचली अदालत द्वारा पारित निर्णय से संतुष्ट नहीं है, तो उच्च न्यायालय में अपील की जा सकती है, उसके लिए पदानुक्रम इस प्रकार है (निम्न से उच्च):

- निर्णायक प्राधिकरण

- अपीलीय प्राधिकरण

- अपील अधिकरण

- हाईकोर्ट

- सुप्रीम कोर्ट

-
- **Why need such Tribunal?**
 - **Unburden judiciary:** GST Appellate Tribunal will help resolve the rising number of disputes under the 68-month old indirect tax regime that are now clogging High Courts and other judicial fora.
 - **Improve efficiency of GST System:** Overall, the establishment of the GST Appellate Tribunal is expected to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the GST system in India.
-
- ऐसे न्यायाधिकरण की आवश्यकता क्यों है?
 - बोझमुक्त न्यायपालिका: जीएसटी अपीलिय न्यायाधिकरण 68 महीने पुरानी अप्रत्यक्ष कर व्यवस्था के तहत विवादों की बढ़ती संख्या को हल करने में मदद करेगा जो अब उच्च न्यायालयों और अन्य न्यायिक मंचों को बंद कर रहे हैं।
 - GST प्रणाली की दक्षता में सुधार: कुल मिलाकर, GST अपीलिय न्यायाधिकरण की स्थापना से भारत में GST प्रणाली की दक्षता और प्रभावशीलता में सुधार होने की उम्मीद है।

Independent mechanism: The proposed Tribunal will provide an independent and efficient mechanism for resolving disputes related to GST.

Avoid tax evasion: It will help to expedite the resolution of disputes, reduce the burden on the judiciary, and promote greater certainty and predictability in the GST system.

स्वतंत्र तंत्र: प्रस्तावित ट्रिब्यूनल जीएसटी से संबंधित विवादों को हल करने के लिए एक स्वतंत्र और कुशल तंत्र प्रदान करेगा।

कर चोरी से बचें: यह विवादों के समाधान में तेजी लाने, न्यायपालिका पर बोझ को कम करने और जीएसटी प्रणाली में अधिक निश्चितता और पूर्वानुमेयता को बढ़ावा देने में मदद करेगा।

Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) was the first Tribunal in India to be created on 25th January, 1941 and is also known as 'Mother Tribunal'! And it functions under the Ministry of Law and Justice and not the obvious looking Ministry of Finance.

इनकम टैक्स अपीलेंट ट्रिब्यूनल (ITAT) 25 जनवरी, 1941 को बनाया गया भारत का पहला ट्रिब्यूनल था और इसे 'मदर ट्रिब्यूनल' के नाम से भी जाना जाता है! और यह कानून और न्याय मंत्रालय के तहत कार्य करता है न कि स्पष्ट दिखने वाले वित्त मंत्रालय के तहत।

Daily Current Affairs

Bharat 6G Project

- Recently, the Prime Minister has unveiled a Vision Document to roll out high-speed 6G Communication Services by 2030 and also launched Bharat 6G Project to identify and fund research and deployment of the next-generation technology in India.
- हाल ही में, प्रधान मंत्री ने 2030 तक हाई-स्पीड 6G संचार सेवाओं को रोल आउट करने के लिए एक विजन डॉक्यूमेंट का अनावरण किया है और भारत में अगली पीढ़ी की तकनीक की पहचान और अनुसंधान और तैनाती के लिए भारत 6G प्रोजेक्ट भी लॉन्च किया है।

6G: Vision & mission

- Mission to run in two phases till 2030
- To make India 6G R&D, manufacturing hub
- At 1Tbps, 6G to be 100 times faster than 5G
- Network to be built upon 5G infrastructure; be more reliable and affordable
- Suitable spectrum to be identified
- Hyper personalised networks, drone communications, and holographical on cards
- मिशन 2030 तक दो चरणों में चलेगा
- भारत को 6G R&D, मैनुफैक्चरिंग हब बनाने के लिए
- 1Tbps पर 6G 5G से 100 गुना तेज होगा
- 5जी इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर पर बनेगा नेटवर्क; अधिक विश्वसनीय और किफायती हो
- उपयुक्त स्पेक्ट्रम की पहचान की जानी है
- हाइपर पर्सनलाइज्ड नेटवर्क, ड्रोन संचार और कार्ड पर होलोग्राफिक

About 6G Technology

- G (sixth-generation wireless) is the **successor to 5G cellular technology**.
- 6G networks will be able to **use higher frequencies than 5G networks and provide substantially higher capacity and much lower latency**.
- One of the goals of 6G internet will be to support one microsecond-latency communication.
- G (छठी पीढ़ी का वायरलेस) 5G सेलुलर तकनीक का उत्तराधिकारी है।
- 6G नेटवर्क 5G नेटवर्क की तुलना में उच्च आवृत्तियों का उपयोग करने में सक्षम होंगे और काफी अधिक क्षमता और बहुत कम विलंबता प्रदान करेंगे।
- 6G इंटरनेट के लक्ष्यों में से एक एक माइक्रोसेकंड-विलंबता संचार का समर्थन करना होगा।

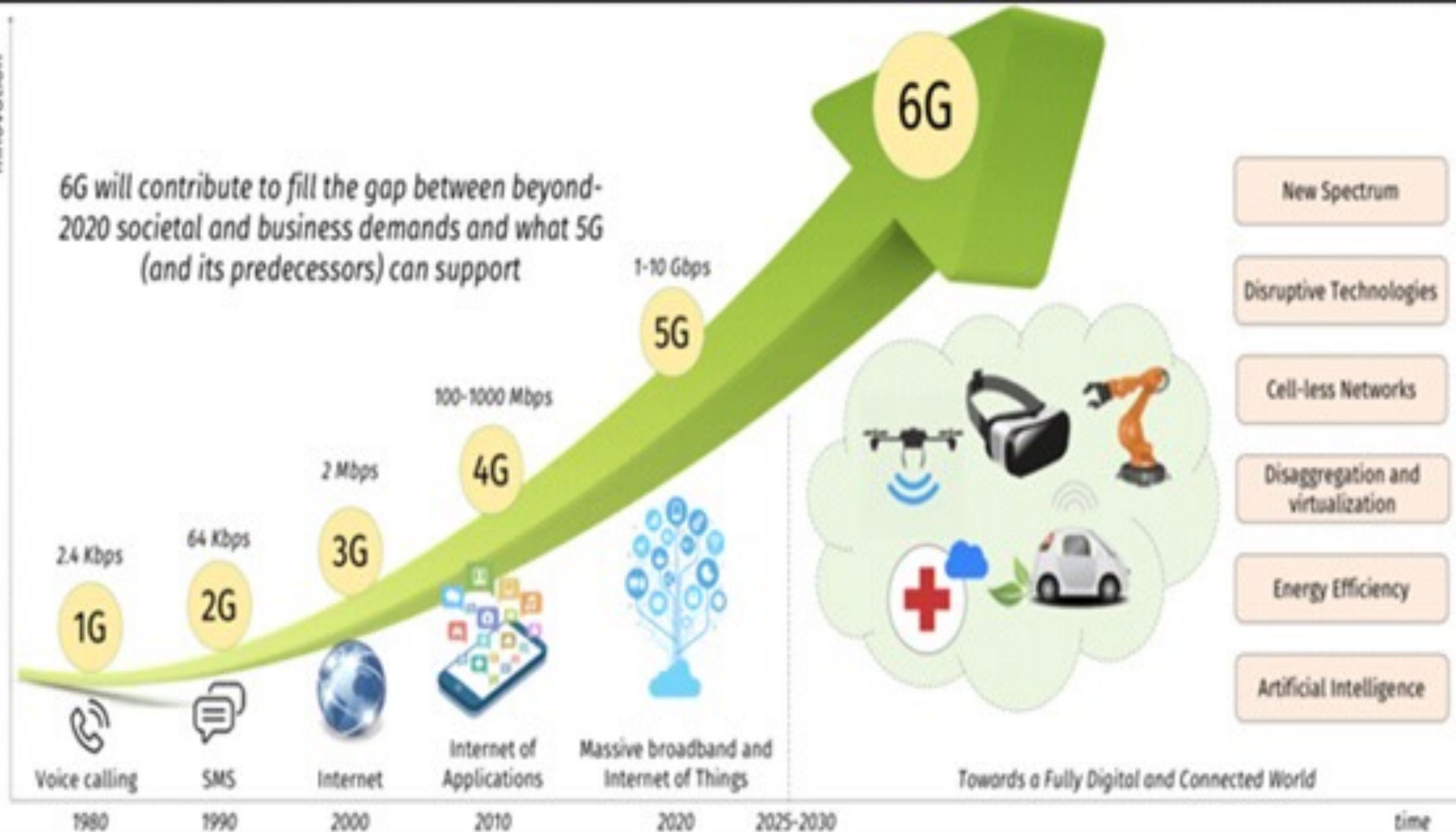
- This is 1,000 times faster — or 1/1000th the latency — than one millisecond throughput.
- **Working in conjunction with artificial intelligence (AI)**, the computational infrastructure of 6G will autonomously determine the best location for computing to occur; this includes decisions about data storage, processing and sharing.

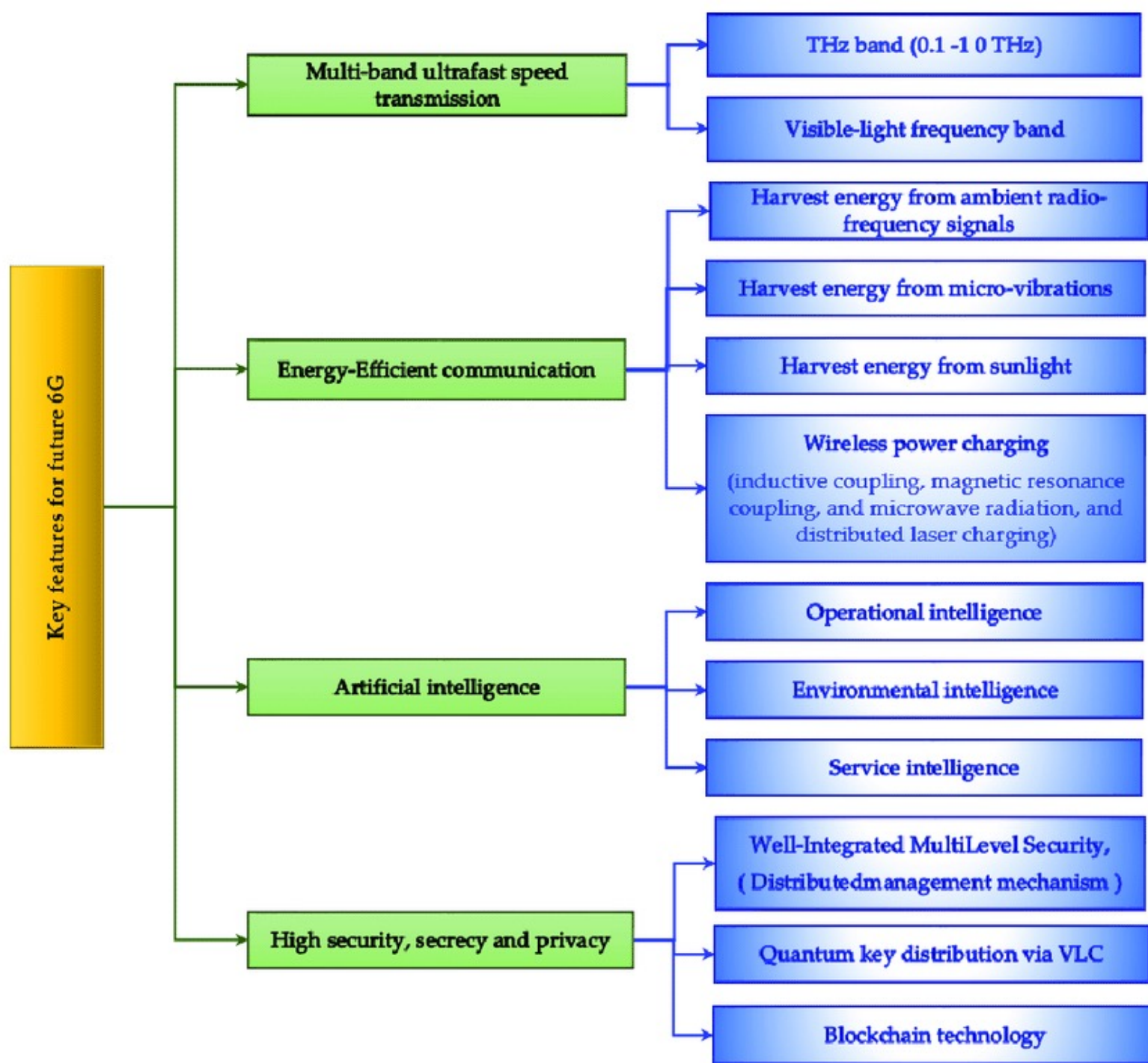
- यह एक मिलीसेकंड थ्रूपुट की तुलना में 1,000 गुना तेज — या विलंबता का 1/1000वां — है।
- आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस (AI) के साथ काम करते हुए, 6G का कम्प्यूटेशनल इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर कंप्यूटिंग होने के लिए स्वायत्त रूप से सर्वोत्तम स्थान निर्धारित करेगा; इसमें डेटा संग्रहण, संसाधन और साझाकरण के बारे में निर्णय शामिल हैं।

- 6G is expected to **support data rates of 1 terabyte per second.**
- It seeks to utilize the **terahertz band of frequency** which is **currently unutilized.**
- Terahertz waves **fall between infrared waves and microwaves** on the electromagnetic spectrum.
- These waves are **extremely tiny and fragile, but there's a huge amount of free spectrum up there** that would allow for spectacular data rates.

- 6G के प्रति सेकंड 1 टेराबाइट की डेटा दरों का समर्थन करने की उम्मीद है।
- यह आवृत्ति के टेराहर्ट्ज़ बैंड का उपयोग करना चाहता है जो वर्तमान में अप्रयुक्त है।
- इलेक्ट्रोमैग्नेटिक स्पेक्ट्रम पर टेराहर्ट्ज़ तरंगें इन्फ्रारेड तरंगों और माइक्रोवेव के बीच आती हैं।
- ये तरंगें बेहद छोटी और नाजुक होती हैं, लेकिन ऊपर बड़ी मात्रा में मुफ्त स्पेक्ट्रम होता है जो शानदार डेटा दरों की अनुमति देता है।

6G will contribute to fill the gap between beyond-2020 societal and business demands and what 5G (and its predecessors) can support





Significance

- The project will provide an R&D platform to start-ups, researchers, industry and other broadband wireless applications in India like e-Governance, smart cities, rural Broadband or other Digital India initiatives under Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- यह परियोजना भारत में स्टार्ट-अप, शोधकर्ताओं, उद्योग और अन्य ब्रॉडबैंड वायरलेस अनुप्रयोगों जैसे ई-गवर्नेंस, स्मार्ट सिटी, ग्रामीण ब्रॉडबैंड या अन्य डिजिटल इंडिया पहलों को आत्मनिर्भर भारत के तहत एक आर एंड डी मंच प्रदान करेगी।

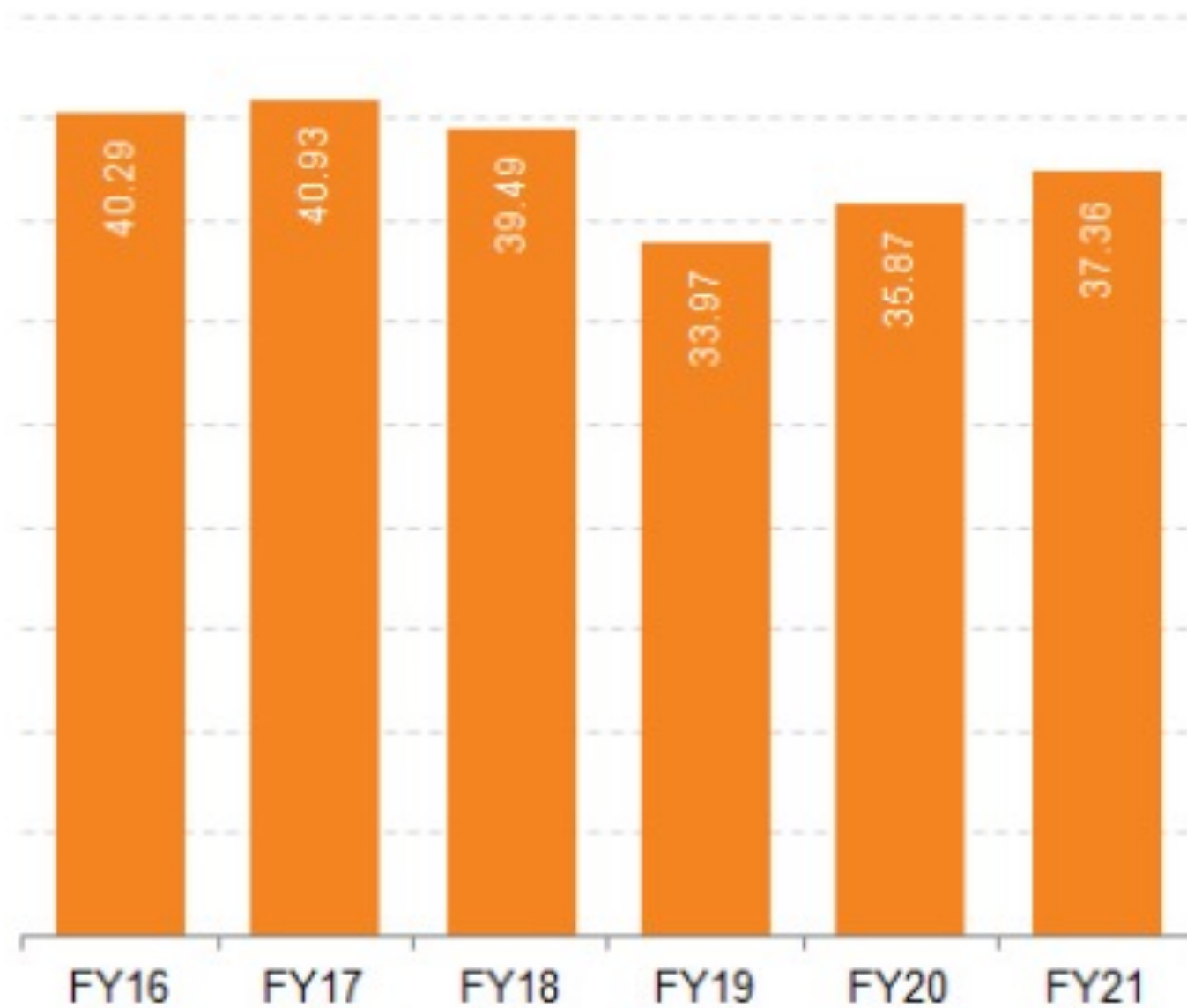
Indian Telecom sector

- India is the world's second-largest telecommunications market.
- The total subscriber base, wireless subscriptions as well as wired broadband subscriptions have grown consistently.
- भारत दुनिया का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा दूरसंचार बाजार है।
- कुल सब्सक्राइबर आधार, वायरलेस सब्सक्रिप्शन के साथ-साथ वायर्ड ब्रॉडबैंड सब्सक्रिप्शन में लगातार वृद्धि हुई है।

- Tele-density stood at 84.88%, as of April 2022, total broadband subscriptions grew to 788.77 million until April 2022 and total subscriber base stood at 1.16 billion in April 2022.
- Gross revenue of the telecom sector stood at Rs. 64,801 crore (US\$ 8.74 billion) in the first quarter of FY22.

- अप्रैल 2022 तक टेली-घनत्व 84.88% था, अप्रैल 2022 तक कुल ब्रॉडबैंड सब्सक्रिप्शन बढ़कर 788.77 मिलियन हो गया और अप्रैल 2022 में कुल सब्सक्राइबर बेस 1.16 बिलियन हो गया।
- दूरसंचार क्षेत्र का सकल राजस्व रु। FY22 की पहली तिमाही में 64,801 करोड़ (US\$ 8.74 बिलियन)।

Telecom Sector Gross Revenue (US\$ billion)



Some of the developments in the recent past

- In January 2022, Google made a US\$ 1 billion investment in Airtel through the India Digitization Fund.
- In September 2021, Bharti Airtel announced an investment of Rs. 50 billion (US\$ 673 million) in expanding its data centre business to meet the customer demand in and around India.
- In the first quarter of FY21, customer spending on telecom services increased 16.6% y-o-y, with over three-fourths spent on data services.

Some of the developments in the recent past

- जनवरी 2022 में, Google ने India Digitization Fund के माध्यम से Airtel में US\$ 1 बिलियन का निवेश किया।
- सितंबर 2021 में, भारती एयरटेल ने रुपये के निवेश की घोषणा की। भारत और उसके आसपास ग्राहकों की मांग को पूरा करने के लिए अपने डेटा सेंटर व्यवसाय का विस्तार करने के लिए 50 बिलियन (US\$ 673 मिलियन)।
- FY21 की पहली तिमाही में, डेटा सेवाओं पर तीन-चौथाई से अधिक खर्च के साथ, दूरसंचार सेवाओं पर ग्राहक खर्च में 16.6% की वृद्धि हुई।

- This spike in consumer spending came despite of the COVID-19 disruption and lack of access of offline recharges for a few weeks
- India had over 500 million active internet users (accessed Internet in the last one month) as of May 2020.

- उपभोक्ता खर्च में यह उछाल COVID-19 व्यवधान और कुछ हफ्तों के लिए ऑफ़लाइन रीचार्ज तक पहुंच की कमी के बावजूद आया है
- मई 2020 तक भारत में 500 मिलियन से अधिक सक्रिय इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ता (पिछले एक महीने में इंटरनेट का उपयोग किया गया) थे।

Daily Current Affairs

**ICMR releases guidelines
for artificial intelligence
use in the health sector**

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released Ethical Guidelines for AI in Healthcare and Biomedical Research to guide the effective, safe development/deployment/adoption of AI-based technologies.
- इंडियन काउंसिल ऑफ मेडिकल रिसर्च (आईसीएमआर) ने एआई-आधारित तकनीकों के प्रभावी, सुरक्षित विकास/तैनाती/अपनाने का मार्गदर्शन करने के लिए हेल्थकेयर और बायोमेडिकल रिसर्च में एआई के लिए नैतिक दिशानिर्देश जारी किए हैं।

Keypoints

- It outlined 10 key patient-centric ethical principles for AI application in the health sector for all stakeholders involved.
- These are accountability and liability, autonomy, data privacy, collaboration, risk minimisation and safety, accessibility and equity, optimisation of data quality, non-discrimination and fairness, validity and trustworthiness.
- इसमें शामिल सभी हितधारकों के लिए स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में एआई अनुप्रयोग के लिए 10 प्रमुख रोगी-केंद्रित नैतिक सिद्धांतों को रेखांकित किया गया है।
- ये उत्तरदायित्व और उत्तरदायित्व, स्वायत्तता, डेटा गोपनीयता, सहयोग, जोखिम न्यूनीकरण और सुरक्षा, पहुंच और इक्विटी, डेटा गुणवत्ता का अनुकूलन, गैर-भेदभाव और निष्पक्षता, वैधता और भरोसेमंदता हैं।

- The ethical review process came under the domain of the ethics committee which assesses a host of factors including data source, quality, safety, anonymization, etc.

- नैतिक समीक्षा प्रक्रिया आचार समिति के अधिकार क्षेत्र में आती है जो डेटा स्रोत, गुणवत्ता, सुरक्षा, गुमनामी आदि सहित कई कारकों का आकलन करती है।

Role/ Applications of AI in healthcare:

- AI programs have been developed and applied to practices such as **diagnosis processes, treatment protocol development, drug development, personalized medicine, and patient monitoring and care.**
- **Medical Research** AI can be used to analyse and identify patterns in large and complex datasets faster and more precisely than has previously been possible.
 - It can also be used to search the scientific literature for relevant studies, and to combine different kinds of data for example, to aid drug discovery.

Role/ Applications of AI in healthcare:

- एआई कार्यक्रम विकसित किए गए हैं और निदान प्रक्रियाओं, उपचार प्रोटोकॉल विकास, दवा विकास, वैयक्तिकृत दवा, और रोगी की निगरानी और देखभाल जैसी प्रथाओं पर लागू किए गए हैं।
- चिकित्सा अनुसंधान एआई का उपयोग बड़े और जटिल डेटासेट में पैटर्न का विश्लेषण और पहचान करने के लिए पहले की तुलना में तेजी से और अधिक सटीकता से किया जा सकता है।
 - इसका उपयोग प्रासंगिक अध्ययनों के लिए वैज्ञानिक साहित्य को खोजने के लिए, और विभिन्न प्रकार के डेटा को संयोजित करने के लिए भी किया जा सकता है, उदाहरण के लिए, दवा की खोज में सहायता के लिए।

- Researchers have developed an AI ‘robot scientist’ called Eve which is designed to make the process of drug discovery faster and more economical.
- **Clinical Care:** AI has the potential to aid the diagnosis of disease. Using AI to analyse clinical data, research publications, and professional guidelines could also help to inform decisions about treatment.
- **Precision Medicine:** Genetics and genomics look for mutations and links to disease from the information in DNA. With the help of AI, body scans can spot cancer and vascular diseases early and predict the health issues people might face based on their genetics.

- शोधकर्ताओं ने ईव नामक एक एआई 'रोबोट वैज्ञानिक' विकसित किया है जिसे दवा की खोज की प्रक्रिया को तेज और अधिक किफायती बनाने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है।
- नैदानिक देखभाल: एआई में रोग के निदान में सहायता करने की क्षमता है। नैदानिक डेटा, शोध प्रकाशनों और पेशेवर दिशानिर्देशों का विश्लेषण करने के लिए एआई का उपयोग करने से भी उपचार के बारे में निर्णय लेने में मदद मिल सकती है।
- प्रेसिजन मेडिसिन: जेनेटिक्स और जीनोमिक्स डीएनए में जानकारी से म्यूटेशन और बीमारी के लिंक की तलाश करते हैं। एआई की मदद से, बॉडी स्कैन कैंसर और संवहनी रोगों को जल्दी पहचान सकते हैं और स्वास्थ्य संबंधी समस्याओं का अनुमान लगा सकते हैं जो लोगों को उनके आनुवंशिकी के आधार पर सामना करना पड़ सकता है।

- **Diagnosis:** It is estimated that more than 80% of the health data is unstructured, making it invisible to current systems, according to a PWC report. Unlike humans, AI decisions are all evidence-based and free of cognitive biases or overconfidence, enabling rapid analysis and vastly reducing even eliminating misdiagnosis.
- **Monitoring of Chronic Conditions:** Conditions like diabetes, cholesterol, fertility issues and cardiac health are managed by regular monitoring and lifestyle changes. Connected POC devices help generate a lot of data about the user's body parameters.

- निदान: पीडब्ल्यूसी की एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, यह अनुमान लगाया गया है कि 80% से अधिक स्वास्थ्य डेटा असंरचित है, जिससे यह वर्तमान प्रणालियों के लिए अदृश्य हो जाता है। मनुष्यों के विपरीत, एआई निर्णय सभी साक्ष्य-आधारित और संज्ञानात्मक पूर्वाग्रहों या अति आत्मविश्वास से मुक्त होते हैं, जो तेजी से विश्लेषण को सक्षम करते हैं और गलत निदान को भी कम करते हैं।
- पुरानी स्थितियों की निगरानी: मधुमेह, कोलेस्ट्रॉल, प्रजनन संबंधी मुद्दों और हृदय संबंधी स्वास्थ्य जैसी स्थितियों को नियमित निगरानी और जीवनशैली में बदलाव के द्वारा प्रबंधित किया जाता है। कनेक्टेड POC डिवाइस उपयोगकर्ता के शरीर के मापदंडों के बारे में बहुत अधिक डेटा उत्पन्न करने में मदद करते हैं।

Indian Healthcare System

- The Indian healthcare sector is expected to record a three-fold rise, growing at a CAGR of 22% between 2016–22 to reach US\$ 372 billion in 2022 from US\$ 110 billion in 2016.
- By FY22, Indian healthcare infrastructure is expected to reach US\$ 349.1 billion.
- In the Economic Survey of 2022, India's public expenditure on healthcare stood at 2.1% of GDP in 2021-22 against 1.8% in 2020-21 and 1.3% in 2019-20.

Indian Healthcare System

- भारतीय स्वास्थ्य सेवा क्षेत्र में 2016-22 के बीच 22% की सीएजीआर से बढ़कर 2022 में 372 बिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर तक पहुंचने की उम्मीद है, जो 2016 में 110 बिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर था।
- FY22 तक, भारतीय हेल्थकेयर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर के 349.1 बिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर तक पहुंचने की उम्मीद है।
- 2022 के आर्थिक सर्वेक्षण में, स्वास्थ्य सेवा पर भारत का सार्वजनिक व्यय 2021-22 में सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का 2.1% था, जो 2020-21 में 1.8% और 2019-20 में 1.3% था।

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

- **In the Union Budget 2022-23:** Rs. 86,200.65 crore (US\$ 11.28 billion) was allocated to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)
- Human Resources for Health and Medical Education was allotted Rs. 7,500 crore (US\$ 982.91 million).
- National Health Mission was allotted Rs. 37,000 crore
- Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) was allotted Rs. 6,412 crore (US\$ 840.32 million).
- The Government of India approved continuation of ‘National Health Mission’ with a budget of Rs. 37,000 crore

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

- **केंद्रीय बजट 2022-23 में:** रुपये स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय (MoHFW) को 86,200.65 करोड़ (US\$ 11.28 बिलियन) आवंटित किया गया था।
- प्रधानमंत्री स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा योजना (पीएमएसएसवाई)
- स्वास्थ्य और चिकित्सा शिक्षा के लिए मानव संसाधन रुपये आवंटित किए गए थे। 7,500 करोड़ (यूएस \$ 982.91 मिलियन)।
- राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन को रुपये आवंटित किए गए थे। 37,000 करोड़
- आयुष्मान भारत - प्रधानमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना (AB-PMJAY) को रुपये आवंटित किए गए थे। 6,412 करोड़ (यूएस \$ 840.32 मिलियन)।
- भारत सरकार ने रुपये के बजट के साथ 'राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन' को जारी रखने की मंजूरी दी। 37,000 करोड़

Size of India's Healthcare Market (2008-2020) with Projections for 2022-2025 (US\$ Billion)



*All figures with * represent forecasted data.*

Graphic©Asia Briefing Ltd.

World Happiness Report 2023

The background of the image features a stylized world map composed of a grid of small, light blue dots. This map is set against a dark blue background that is filled with numerous out-of-focus, colorful bokeh lights in shades of blue, yellow, and white, creating a vibrant and global atmosphere.

- 
- Recently, the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network released the World Happiness Report 2023** which ranks countries on happiness.
- 

What is World Happiness Report?

Since 2012, the World Happiness Report has been **released annually around March 20th** as part of the **International Day of Happiness** celebration.

The report ranks global happiness basis survey data from people in over 150 countries.

This year, the report ranked 136 countries.

The ranking uses six key factors to measure happiness — **social support, income, health, freedom, generosity, and absence of corruption.**

Besides ranking the countries, the report also looks at the state of the world in 2023.

- **Top Performers:**

- For the sixth year in a row, **Finland** has been crowned as **the happiest nation**, **Denmark is at number two**, followed by Iceland at number three.
- Unlike previous years, where the same countries tend to appear in the top 20, there's **a new entrant this year — Lithuania (at the 20th spot)**.

Worst Performers:

- **Afghanistan** was ranked as the **unhappiest nation**, followed by Lebanon, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, respectively.

India's Performance:

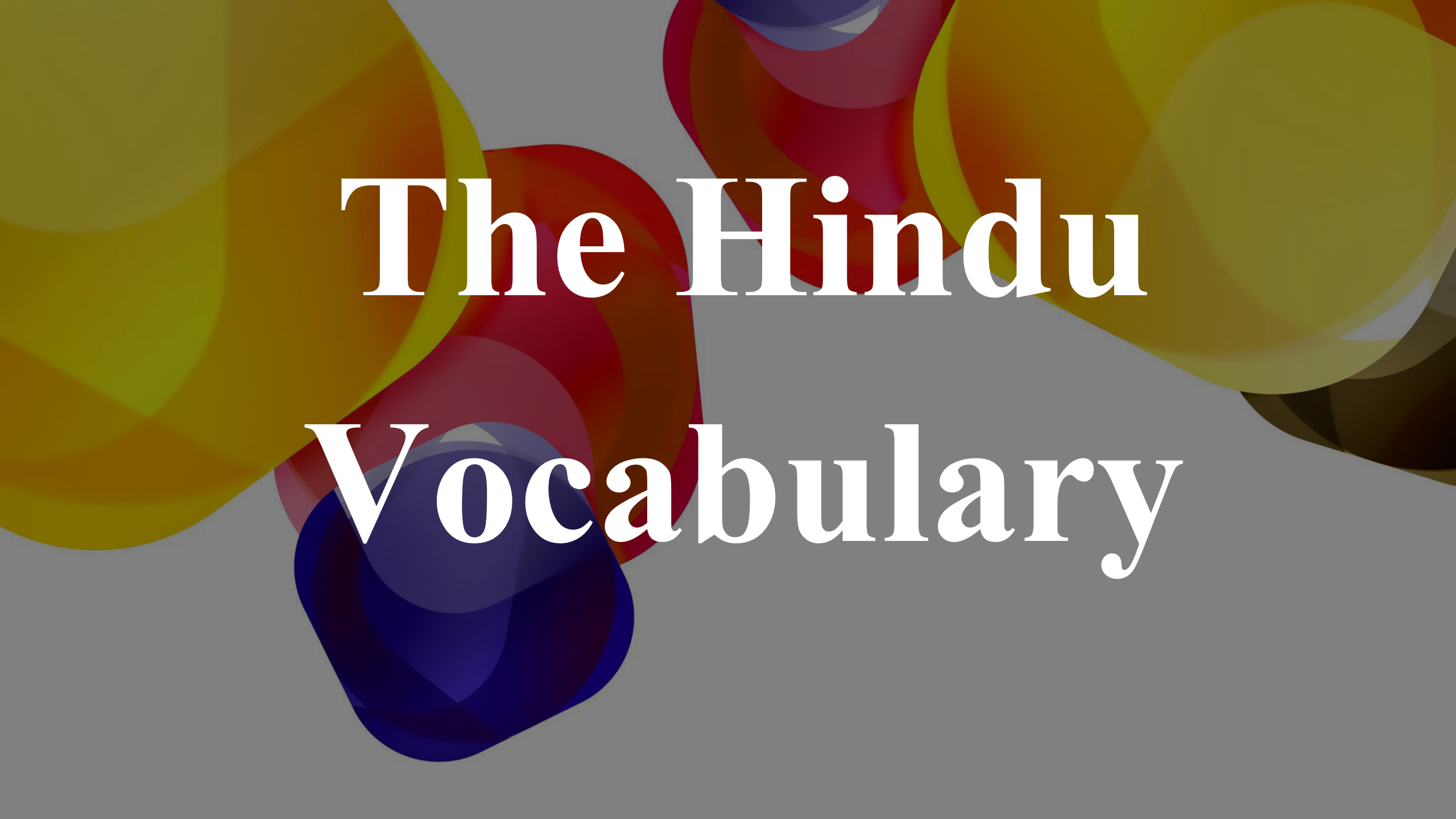
- **India ranks at 125th position out of 136 countries**, making it one of the least happy countries in the world.
 - In 2022, India ranked 136th position out of 146 countries.
- It even **lags behind its neighbouring nations like Nepal, China, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.**

1	Finland
2	Denmark
3	Iceland
4	Israel
5	Netherlands
6	Sweden
7	Norway
8	Switzerland
9	Luxembourg
10	New Zealand
126	India

What is Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)?

In 2012, the UN SDSN was launched under the auspices of the **UN Secretary-General**.

SDSN promotes integrated approaches to implement the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, through education, research, policy analysis, and global cooperation.



The Hindu Vocabulary

Pursuance (Adjective) : the carrying out of a plan or action

Synonyms: implementation, carrying out, fulfilment

Antonyms: non-performance, nonfulfillment



Trivial (तुच्छ) Adjective

Meaning: of little value or importance.

Synonyms: insignificant, unimportant, petty, inconsequential

Antonyms: important, significant, serious, consequential, essential



Mercenary (Adjective) : लालच : having or marked by an eager and often selfish desire especially for material possessions

Synonyms: greedy, avaricious, acquisitive

Antonyms: altruistic, charitable



Intrinsic (अंतर्भूत) Adjective

Meaning: belonging naturally;
essential

Synonyms: inherent, innate, essential

Antonyms: acquired, external



Enumerate : सूची बनाना : the action of mentioning a number of things one by one;

Synonyms: numbering, computation

Antonyms: randomize



1. World Happiness Report 2023, recently seen in news is released by?

- a) United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- b) United Nations Development Programme
- c) World Bank
- d) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

1. हाल ही में खबरों में रही वर्ल्ड हैप्पीनेस रिपोर्ट 2023 किसके द्वारा जारी की जाती है?

- a) संयुक्त राष्ट्र सतत विकास समाधान नेटवर्क
- b) संयुक्त राष्ट्र विकास कार्यक्रम
- c) विश्व बैंक
- d) संयुक्त राष्ट्र शैक्षिक, वैज्ञानिक और सांस्कृतिक संगठन

Answer – A

- It is an annual publication of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- It is based on global survey data from people in more than 150 countries.
- It is based on people's own assessment of their happiness, as well as economic and social data.
- The report considers six key factors: social support, income, health, freedom, generosity, and absence of corruption.
- It assigns a happiness score based on an average of data over a three-year period.

2. Consider following statements regarding Tuberculosis (TB):

1. It is caused by a virus.
2. In humans, TB affects only lungs.
3. TB is spread from person to person through the air.

Which of the above statements is/are INCORRECT?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1 and 2
- d) 3 only

2. क्षय रोग (टीबी) के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

यह एक वायरस के कारण होता है।

मनुष्यों में टीबी केवल फेफड़ों को प्रभावित करती है।

टीबी हवा के माध्यम से एक व्यक्ति से दूसरे व्यक्ति में फैलता है।

उपरोक्त में से कौन सा/से कथन गलत है/हैं?

- a) केवल 1
- b) केवल 2 और 3
- c) 1 और 2
- d) केवल 3

Answer – C

- TB is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Some of *Mycobacteria* cause diseases like TB and Leprosy in humans and others infect a wide range of animals.
- In humans, TB most commonly affects the lungs (pulmonary TB), but it can also affect other organs (extra-pulmonary TB). TB is a treatable and curable disease.
- TB is spread from person to person through the air. When people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air.
- Common symptoms of active lung TB are cough with sputum and blood at times, chest pains, weakness, weight loss, fever and night sweats.

3. Which of the following statements is/are correct with reference to National Security Act?

1. A person can be detained without charge for a maximum of 12 months.
 2. The arrested person does not have the right to apply for bail in criminal court.
-
- a) Only 1
 - b) Only 2
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2

3. राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा अधिनियम के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा/से कथन सही है/हैं?

एक व्यक्ति को अधिकतम 12 महीने तक बिना आरोप के हिरासत में रखा जा सकता है।

गिरफ्तार व्यक्ति को आपराधिक अदालत में जमानत के लिए आवेदन करने का अधिकार नहीं है।

- a) केवल 1
- b) केवल 2
- c) 1 और 2 दोनों
- d) न तो 1 और न ही 2

Answer – C

4. IMF Executive Board has approved a USD 3 billion bail-out programme for which country?

- a) Sri Lanka
- b) Afghanistan
- c) China
- d) Pakistan

4. आईएमएफ के कार्यकारी बोर्ड ने किस देश के लिए 3 बिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर के बेल-आउट कार्यक्रम को मंजूरी दी है?

- a) श्रीलंका
- b) अफ़ग़ानिस्तान
- c) चीन
- d) पाकिस्तान

Answer – A

- The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) USD 3 billion bailout programme for Sri Lanka was approved by the financial agency's Executive Board.
- It is expected to help the island nation overcome its economic crisis.

A black and white photograph showing two hands clasped together in a firm grip. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with fingers interlaced. A ring is visible on the ring finger of the hand on the right. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the hands. The text "Thank you, see you again" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Thank you, see you again