

Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता

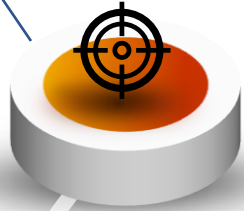


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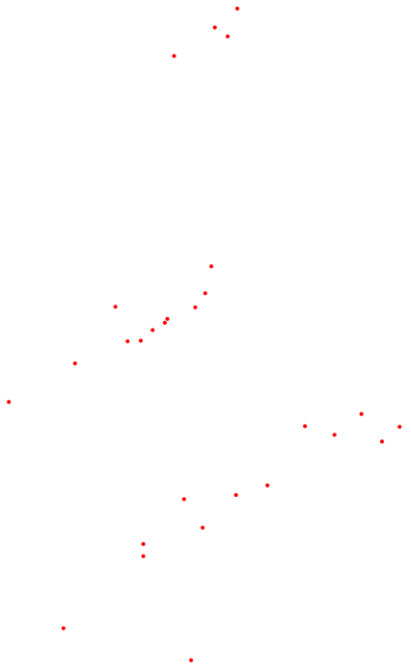
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10 MCQ QUIZ

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13 March

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10 MCQ from the session

What is “Tavasya” in the context of Indian defence?

भारतीय रक्षा के संदर्भ में "तवस्या" क्या है?

- A. A naval aircraft
- B. A submarine
- C. A stealth frigate built under Indo-Russia agreement
- D. A coastal radar system

Which Indian shipyard is building the Tavasya frigate?

तवस्या फ्रिगेट का निर्माण किस भारतीय शिपयार्ड में किया जा रहा है?

- A. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- B. Cochin Shipyard
- C. Goa Shipyard Ltd. (GSL)
- D. Garden Reach Shipbuilders

Who provides the engines for the Krivak-class frigates?

क्रिवाक-कलास फ्रिगेट्स के इंजन कौन प्रदान करता है?

- A. France
- B. Russia
- C. Ukraine's Zorya-Mashproekt
- D. Israel

Who is the first author from Chhattisgarh to win the Jnanpith Award?

ज्ञानपीठ पुरस्कार जीतने वाले छत्तीसगढ़ के पहले लेखक कौन हैं?

- A. Gopal Das Neeraj
- B. Vinod Kumar Shukla
- C. Ashok Vajpeyi
- D. Uday Prakash

What does the Jnanpith Award include?

ज्ञानपीठ पुरस्कार में क्या-क्या शामिल है?

- A. ₹1 crore cash
- B. ₹11 lakh, Saraswati idol, and citation
- C. Only a certificate
- D. ₹25 lakh and gold medal

At what age do infants begin encoding memories, as per fMRI studies?

fMRI अध्ययन के अनुसार, शिशु किस उम्र से स्मृतियाँ संचित करना शुरू करते हैं?

- A. At birth
- B. 3 months
- C. 6 months
- D. 12 months

What part of the brain is associated with memory formation in infants?

शिशुओं में स्मृति निर्माण से मस्तिष्क का कौन सा भाग जुड़ा होता है?

- A. Amygdala
- B. Cerebellum
- C. Hippocampus
- D. Cortex

Who won the 2025 Sangita Kalanidhi Award?

2025 का संगीत कलानिधि पुरस्कार किसे मिला?

- A. T.M. Krishna
- B. Bombay Jayashri
- C. R.K. Shriramkumar
- D. M.S. Subbulakshmi

Which state has the largest coal reserves in India?

भारत में सबसे बड़े कोयला भंडार वाला राज्य कौन सा है?

- A. Odisha
- B. Chhattisgarh
- C. West Bengal
- D. Jharkhand

Who won the 2025 Stockholm Water Prize?

2025 स्टॉकहोम वॉटर पुरस्कार किसे प्रदान किया गया?

- A. David Schindler
- B. Sunita Narain
- C. Günter Blöschl
- D. Vandana Shiva

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PARLIAMENT DISRUPTED
BJP MPs protest over Shivakumar's remarks
SOUTH » PAGE 5

WORRY FOR INDIA
Trump to tax buyers of Venezuelan oil, gas
WORLD » PAGE 14

TOWARDS TRANSPARENCY
SEBI to review conflict of interest provisions
BUSINESS » PAGE 12

DATA POINT
Delimitation could reinforce BJP's hegemony
Process can shift more power towards the BJP
OPINION » PAGE 9

INCREDIBLE TURNAROUND
Ashutosh's blitz leaves Super Giants stunned
SPORT » PAGE 16

Collegium clears judge's transfer

The decision to move Justice Yashwant Varma from Delhi HC to Allahabad HC comes as inquiry into allegations of 'burnt currency' is set to commence; the judge is likely to be excluded from judicial work in the new post on the request of CJI

Krishnadas Ralagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium on Monday recommended the government to transfer Justice Yashwant Varma from the Delhi High Court to Allahabad as well as a three-member committee of judges is scheduled to commence, in a day or two, a deeper fact-finding inquiry into allegations of "sacks of burnt currency" found in a gated storeroom on the grounds of his official residence on March 14.



Under fire: Police stand guard outside the residence of Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma, in New Delhi on Sunday. PTI

Court Collegium on March 20 after viewing the video and photographs of what may be half-burnt money lying in the charred room. Delhi High Court Chief Justice D.K. Upadhiyaya had agreed with the Supreme Court Collegium's proposal to transfer Justice Varma on the evening of March 20 itself, saying the move would be in the "interest of better administration of justice".

Review verdicts by Justice Varma: Allahabad HC Bar

Amid the corruption row against Delhi High Court Justice Yashwant Varma, the Allahabad High Court Bar Association on Monday demanded that all the judgments delivered by him during his tenure as a judge be reviewed. » PAGE 4

The top court had said the proposal was "independent and free" of the ongoing in-house procedure. The probe would continue while the transfer was intended to establish a distance between judge and the High Court. The Collegium resolution to transfer Justice Varma has come shortly after Chief Justice Upadhiyaya submitted an enquiry report to the CJI on March 21

Dhankhar holds meeting on judicial accountability

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairperson and Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday held a meeting with Leader of the House and Union Minister J.P. Nadda as well as Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge on judicial accountability, against the backdrop of allegations of discovery of "sacks" of half-burnt currency notes from the residence of a Delhi High Court judge.



Jagdeep Dhankhar

Mr. Dhankhar said they decided to wait for the findings of the in-house inquiry panel appointed by the Chief Justice of India before moving ahead with the issue. Meanwhile, Justice Varma was removed from judicial work on the request of the CJI.

Chief Justice of India has in a transparent, accountable manner put all material available to him in public domain and shared it without keeping anything with the court.

Calling it a step in the right direction, the Chairman said, "Constitution of a committee by the Chief Justice of India and the alertness he has reflected is also a factor that needs consideration. Institutions like judiciary and legislature serve their purpose best when their in-house mechanism is effective, fast and upholding public trust."

INSIDE



U.S. working on arranging partial truce in Ukraine

DUBAI
U.S. negotiators worked on a proposed partial ceasefire in the three-year-old war in Ukraine on Monday, meeting with representatives from Russia a day after holding separate talks with the Ukrainian team. » PAGE 14

10,000 samples of TB genome sequenced

NEW DELHI
The Department of Biotechnology has completed the genomic sequencing of a third or, 10,000 samples, of the target of 32,500 samples of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in a bid to improve the understanding of drug-resistant TB in India. » PAGE 6



Shashi Tharoor criticises Finance Bill in Lok Sabha

NEW DELHI
Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Monday criticised the Finance Bill for inadequate revenue distribution to South Indian States, calling the Bill a "classic case of patchwork solution". » PAGE 5

Tulip runway



Teach-ups: A gardener works at the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, Asia's largest tulip garden, in Srinagar on Sunday. Housing a flower carpet of 17 lakh tulips of 74 varieties, the garden will welcome visitors from Wednesday. IANS/ISTEAD

Over 1,100 detained as unrest over arrest of Opposition candidate spreads in Turkey

Agence France-Presse
ISTANBUL

The Turkish police have detained more than 1,100 people, including journalists, since the arrest of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's main rival sparked the country's worst unrest in years.



Brutal responses: The police use pepper spray on protesters during clashes in Istanbul on Sunday night. GETTY IMAGES

ed in on Sunday as the main Opposition party's candidate descended into fierce street-level clashes with riot police and beating people

in Istanbul. Before dawn on Monday, police detained 10 Turkish journalists at home "for covering the protests", the Media and Law Studies Association rights group said. Most of them were covering the mass demonstrations outside City Hall, it said, in a move denounced by Mr. Imamoglu's wife.

Since Wednesday, police had detained more than 1,133 people for "illegal activities". Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said on Monday.

ing protesters detained by the police, the Bar Association in the western coastal city of Izmir said. Mr. Imamoglu has been widely seen as the only politician who could defeat Turkey's long-time leader Mr. Erdogan at the ballot box.

Maharashtra wants Kamra to apologise for joke on Shinde

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Monday said comedian Kunal Kamra should apologise for comments on Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde during a show, calling it a political "contract act".

The government said it would also check his call data records and bank statements "to ascertain who is behind this". A first information report has been registered against the stand-up comedian by Shiv Sena MLA Murji Patel under Sections 353(b), 353(c) and 356(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at the MIDC police station in Mumbai.

Structure demolished: Meanwhile, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation razed "illegal" structures outside the Habitat studio, where the show was held, and said it would screen the location for any further illegalities.



Kunal Kamra

continental Hotel in Khar where the comedy show was performed. They were released on bail in a few hours.

"The way stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra has tried to insult Eknath Shinde, we condemn it. The people of Maharashtra have decided in the 2024 election as to who is a 'gadgar' (traitor) and who is a 'Khadgar' (self-respecting person). Everyone has the right to do comedy. But if there is an intentional effort to insult and defame a top leader, it won't be tolerated. Proper legal action will be taken. Kunal Kamra should apologise," Mr. Fadnis said.

The Shiv Sena UBT came out in support of the comedian, with Uddhav Thackeray saying, "Calling a 'gadgar' a 'gadgar' is not an attack." The Congress hit out at the government after the Shiv Sainiks took law in their own hands. "Your sentiments get hurt so easily. You can't take law in your hands. Why are you so scared of comments and criticism? We don't support this vandalism at all. It is against freedom of speech, it is against the Constitution," said Congress leader Atul Londhe.

IN BRIEF



Cheetah mother, cubs pelted with stones in M.P. village

A female cheetah and her four cubs were pelted with stones on Monday as they tried to hunt a calf on the outskirts of a village in Madhya Pradesh...

Mishap at bullet train site in Ahmedabad, no casualties

A segmental launching gantry along the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train corridor accidentally skidded from its position late on Sunday night...

India Navy announces maiden India-African exercise, IOS Sagar

Dinakar Peri NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of massive incursions by China in Africa, the renewed threat of piracy and the continued threat from Houthis...



Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, from 9 African countries. "IOS Sagar is an initiative towards continued cooperation with IOR nations..."

wholeship activities, watch keeping and other events related to their respective branches...

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site at https://www.thehindu.com/crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and a QR code for online access.

- Across 1. Used his bidding dubiously to become famous (13) 10. Item is returned after cheat essentially stresses and persists (9) 11. Into talks to include Court (5) 12. State's article released regularly this month (5) 13. Titles like Chief - Business Strategy primarily (9)

- 14. Say, Alto burns almost at run (6) 15. One in hurry causes damage (4) 16. Shock to see North is overturned by rule (4) 20. Times misprint creates panic (6) 21. Dialects used in illegal gun sale include Arabic & Gujarati primarily (9) 25. Worried to participate in department's Saturday meetings (5) 27. About to receive greeting note from a country (5) 28. Rates sure to modify fortunes (9) 29. Domestic arrest of people without leader (General) (13) Down 1. Bad rating frames number of blind (8) 3. Team leader taking money leads to case (5) 4. Nothing new's tough when worked upon (6) 5. State reportedly watches at a higher level (8) 6. Say, moon's position is over a state (9) 7. Warning and taking ad off and consuming (6) 8. Seas can destroy canoes (6) 9. Shoot fellow before strike (5) 15. Boost in nurse's bottles (9) 17. Female's correct, essentially gent will intimidate (8) 18. Conditions are terribly erratic where setter is housed (8) 21. Oppose others bossing a society (6) 22. Stop development (5) 23. Say, you or me will get back support in hotel (6) 24. Position of party leader in caste conflict (6) 26. Tax princess's company to club (5)

Sequencing of 10,000 TB genome samples completed

Dare2erad TB initiative aims at using genome sequencing to detect drug-resistant TB and capture unique features of the TB bacterium; all samples expected to be sequenced by October this year

Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI



Fighting a disease: A doctor offers flowers to a TB patient on World TB Day in Agartala on Monday.

The Department of Biotechnology, under the Ministry of Science and Technology, has completed the genome sequencing of a third, or 10,000 samples, of the target of 32,500 samples of Mycobacterium tuberculosis...

search (CSIR) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) are involved in the programme as part of a common effort called Indian Tuberculosis Genomic Surveillance...

therefore is critical to eliminating the millennia-old disease. In WHO parlance, "eradicating" a disease means bringing the number of cases close to zero...

Anti-TB campaign will be expanded to all districts: Nadda

Bhinda Shalan Prasadnand NEW DELHI

Under the 100-day TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, which started on December 7, 2024, 12.97 crore people were screened for tuberculosis (TB) with over 7.19 lakh TB patients notified across India...

Under the campaign, nearly 2.85 lakh asymptomatic patients were notified across India

Major challenge Another major challenge is the prevalence of drug-resistant TB. Of the 10,000 samples sequenced as part of the DBT project, 7% were reportedly resistant to a single drug...

Centre concerned over hospitals not sharing organ transplant data

S. Vijay Kumar CHENNAI

The Union government has expressed "serious concern" over hospital non-sharing data on organ transplant activities with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



It is mandatory to update data in the National Transplant Registry within 48 hours of a transplant procedure.

have persistently failed to submit the daily and monthly data on organ transplantation activities and register transplantations on the National Transplant Registry...

"Impedes the objective" It is a matter of serious concern that many registered transplant hospitals

ties, ensuring transparency, facilitating equitable organ allocation, and supporting policymaking to enhance organ and tissue donation in the country. The Centre asked the Health Secretaries to direct hospitals and transplant centres to furnish comprehensive data...

Sudoku puzzle with a 4x4 grid and a list of clues. Includes a solution to the previous puzzle and a difficulty rating of 4 stars.

FAITH section featuring a yoga ladder to vedanta. Includes text about the impact of Adi Sankara's teachings and a list of 29 shlokas.

Sequencing of 10,000 TB genome samples completed

'Dare2eraD TB' initiative aims at using genome sequencing to detect drug-resistant TB and capture unique features of the TB bacterium; all samples expected to be sequenced by October this year

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Department of Biotechnology, under the Ministry of Science and Technology, has completed the genomic sequencing of a third, or 10,000 samples, of the target of 32,500 samples of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* – the bacterium behind tuberculosis (TB) – in a bid to improve the understanding of drug-resistant TB and capture unique genomic features of the bacterium in India.

Of the sequenced samples, 7% are said to be resistant to a single drug. The preliminary numbers were reported at an event organised by the DBT on Monday to mark World TB Day.

The genome sequencing initiative, part of Data-Driven Research to Eradicate TB (Dare2eraD TB), an umbrella programme of the DBT, was launched in 2022 with a goal to sequence about 32,500 samples from across the country. It is tied to the Centre's broader mission to eliminate TB. Nine labs of the DBT, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Re-



Fighting a disease: A doctor offers flowers to a TB patient on World TB Day in Agartala on Monday. PTI

search (CSIR) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) are involved in the programme as part of a consortium called Indian Tuberculosis Genomic Surveillance. Officials said they expected all the samples to be sequenced by October 2025.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in 2018, at the End TB Summit, claimed that India would “eradicate” tuberculosis in the country by 2025. This, he underlined, would be five years ahead of the World Health Organization's (WHO) target of 2030. India has the highest number of diagnosed TB cases and

therefore is critical to eliminating the millennia-old disease.

In WHO parlance, ‘eradicating’ a disease means bringing the number of cases close to zero. “Eliminating TB,” the WHO says, means getting the number down to about one in a million. As per the latest estimates, India has 1,990 cases per million in 2022, down from 2,370 per million in 2015.

India accounts for about 28% of new TB cases worldwide. This again, refers to those who have been clinically confirmed to have TB, and those with ‘latent’ TB could be poten-

tially up to 3,000 per million, Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, former head of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and advisor to the Health Ministry on tuberculosis, told *The Hindu* last August. Having a large pool of those asymptomatic with TB means they will continue to spread the disease.

Major challenge


Another major challenge is the prevalence of drug-resistant TB.

Of the 10,000 samples sequenced as part of the DBT project, 7% were reportedly resistant to a single drug, according to a presentation made on Thursday by scientists at the National Institute of Immunology (NII).

“Better understanding of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis along with careful use of AI means you can make tests that will reduce the time taken to confirm TB from three weeks to one week,” said Debasisa Mohanty, Director, NII.

In the dataset, most of the those with TB spanned 18-45 years of age. A significant number of them were diabetic and underweight.

Sequencing of 10,000 TB Genome Samples Completed

 10,000 टीबी जीनोम नमूनों का अनुक्रमण पूरा हुआ

Initiative Details | पहल का विवरण:

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), under the Ministry of Science and Technology, completed the sequencing of 10,000 genome samples of **Mycobacterium tuberculosis**.

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग (DBT) ने 10,000 टीबी जीवाणु (Mycobacterium tuberculosis) के जीनोम नमूनों का अनुक्रमण पूरा किया है।

- This is part of the '**Dare2eraD TB**' programme, which aims to eradicate tuberculosis in India by **2025**.

यह कार्य '**Dare2eraD TB**' कार्यक्रम का हिस्सा है, जिसका उद्देश्य **2025 तक भारत से टीबी को समाप्त करना** है।

Key Scientific Objective | प्रमुख वैज्ञानिक उद्देश्य:

The sequencing aims to:

- Detect **drug-resistant TB** strains
- Capture **unique genome features**
अनुक्रमण का उद्देश्य:
- दवा प्रतिरोधी टीबी की पहचान करना
- टीबी जीवाणु के अद्वितीय जीनोमिक गुणों को पकड़ना है

Of the 10,000 sequenced samples, **7% were resistant to a single drug.**
इन 10,000 नमूनों में से 7% एक दवा के प्रति प्रतिरोधी पाए गए हैं।

National Collaboration | राष्ट्रीय सहयोग

Partners in the genome project include:

- National Institute of Immunology (NII)
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- Indian Tuberculosis Genomic Surveillance consortium
परियोजना में शामिल प्रमुख संस्थान हैं:
- **राष्ट्रीय प्रतिरक्षा संस्थान (NII)**
- **वैज्ञानिक और औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद (CSIR)**
- **भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद (ICMR)**
- **भारतीय टीबी जीनोमिक निगरानी संघ**

Timeline & Progress | समयसीमा और प्रगति

- Target: **32,500 samples**
 - 10,000 completed
 - Remainder to be completed by **October 2025**
लक्ष्य: **32,500 नमूनों** का अनुक्रमण
 - 10,000 पूरे
 - शेष कार्य **अक्टूबर 2025** तक पूरा होगा

Global & Indian Context | वैश्विक और भारतीय परिप्रेक्ष्य

- **India accounts for 28% of global TB cases**
भारत में दुनिया के 28% नए टीबी मामले दर्ज होते हैं
- **India had 1,990 TB cases/million in 2022 (down from 2,370/million in 2015)**
भारत में 2022 में 1.99 लाख प्रति मिलियन टीबी मामले थे, जो 2015 के मुकाबले कम हैं
- **India has the highest number of diagnosed TB cases globally**
भारत में दुनिया में सबसे अधिक टीबी मरीजों का निदान होता है
- **WHO aims for eradication = fewer than 1 case per million**
WHO के अनुसार, उन्मूलन का अर्थ है प्रति मिलियन 1 से कम मामला

Major Challenge | प्रमुख चुनौती

- High burden of multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB)
बहु-दवा प्रतिरोधी टीबी (MDR-TB) भारत में बड़ी चुनौती है
- Many asymptomatic but infectious carriers continue spreading TB
कई टीबी संक्रमित लेकिन बिना लक्षण वाले लोग रोग फैलाते रहते हैं

Interesting Demographics | दिलचस्प आंकड़े

- Most TB patients in dataset were:
 - Aged **18–45 years**
 - Many were **clinically underweight**
आंकड़ों में अधिकांश मरीज:
 - **18–45 वर्ष की आयु** के थे
 - **कई कम वजन** के थे

Historical Context | ऐतिहासिक परिप्रेक्ष्य

- TB has plagued humanity for centuries and was once known as "**consumption**".
टीबी सदियों से मानवता को प्रभावित करता रहा है, पहले इसे "**क्षय रोग**" कहा जाता था।
- India's fight against TB intensified after **Prime Minister Modi's 2018 pledge** to eliminate it by 2025, **5 years ahead of WHO target (2030)**.
भारत ने **2025 तक टीबी खत्म करने** का लक्ष्य रखा है जो कि **WHO के लक्ष्य (2030)** से 5 साल पहले है।

India Navy announces maiden India-African exercise, IOS Sagar

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of massive inroads by China in Africa, the renewed threat of piracy and the continued threat from Houthi rebels to global shipping, the Indian Navy has announced initiatives for bolder cooperation with the continent and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). This includes a large-scale multinational exercise titled “Africa India Key Maritime Engagement”, or “AI-KEYME”, scheduled to be held with 10 African countries.

Another cooperation initiative with Africa is the Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) Sagar under which the offshore patrol vessel *INS Sunayna* is set to be deployed to the Southwest IOR from April 5 to May 8 with a combined Indian crew and 44 personnel



Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti

from 9 African countries.

“IOS Sagar is an initiative towards continued cooperation with IOR nations. *INS Sunayna* is being deployed to the Southwest IOR with a combined crew of India and nine Friendly Foreign Countries (FFC) - Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, South Africa. The ship is planned to be deployed for over a month in April, and would be undertaking port calls at Dar-es-Salaam, Nacala, Port

Louis, Port Victoria and Male and Joint surveillance of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of Tanzania, Mozambique, Mauritius and Seychelles,” Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti said, briefing the media.

With the announcement of Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security Across the Regions (MAHA-SAGAR) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his recent visit to Mauritius, the maiden initiatives of IOS Sagar and AIKEYME are aimed at consolidating Indian Navy’s stature as the ‘Preferred Security Partner’ and ‘First Responder’ in Indian Ocean Region, he said.

The personnel from FFCs would undergo a training capsule of two weeks at various naval professional schools at Kochi, including training at sea, and would be engaged in

wholeship activities, watch keeping and other events related to their respective branches/trade, according to the Navy. The participants of IOS Sagar are also set to witness harbour phase activities of Exercise AIKEYME at Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

Over the past decade, the Indian Navy has been extensively collaborating with Indian Ocean littoral states on various initiatives such as joint naval exercises, coordinated patrols, information sharing, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) efforts, capacity building and other diplomatic engagements. The maiden edition of the India-Africa multilateral exercise ‘AIKEYME’ is being co-hosted by the Indian Navy and Tanzania Peoples’ Defence Force (TPDF) and will be conducted at/off Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

Overview | अवलोकन:

- The Indian Navy has launched two new cooperation initiatives with Africa:
 - **Multinational Naval Exercise: AI-KEYME (Africa India Key Maritime Engagement)**
बहुराष्ट्रीय नौसैनिक अभ्यास: AI-KEYME
 - **Deployment of INS Sunayna under initiative IOS Sagar**
आईओएस सागर पहल के तहत आईएनएस सुनयना की तैनाती

IOS Sagar | आईओएस सागर:

- Full form: **Indian Ocean Ship Sagar**
- Objective: Strengthen cooperation with **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)** nations and **African coastal states**
उद्देश्य: **हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र (IOR)** और अफ्रीकी तटीय देशों के साथ सहयोग बढ़ाना
- Deployment Details:
 - Ship: **INS Sunayna**
 - Region: **Southwest Indian Ocean**
 - Duration: April 5 – May 8, 2024
 - Ports of Call: Dar-es-Salaam, Nacala, Port Louis, Port Victoria, Male
 - Joint surveillance of EEZs of: Tanzania, Mozambique, Mauritius, Seychelles
- Crew: 44 personnel from India and 9 African countries
दल: भारत और 9 अफ्रीकी देशों के **44 कर्मी**

AI-KEYME Multilateral Exercise | एआई-कीमे बहुराष्ट्रीय अभ्यास:

- Participants: **10 African countries + India**
प्रतिभागी: भारत और 10 अफ्रीकी देश
- Co-host: **Indian Navy & Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF)**
सह-संयोजक: भारतीय नौसेना और तंज़ानिया की रक्षा सेना
- Location: **Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania**
स्थान: डर-एस-सलाम, तंज़ानिया
- Activities:
 - Coordinated patrols
 - Humanitarian assistance
 - Disaster relief
 - Training on ship activities like watch keeping, wholesale operations

Political Context | राजनीतिक संदर्भ:

- Launched under **PM Modi's MAHASAGAR initiative** (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security Across Regions)
प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की MAHASAGAR पहल के तहत इन अभ्यासों की शुरुआत हुई
- Goal: Consolidate India's role as the **'Preferred Security Partner'** and **'First Responder'** in the Indian Ocean
उद्देश्य: भारत को "प्राथमिक सुरक्षा भागीदार" और "प्रथम प्रतिक्रियाकर्ता" के रूप में स्थापित करना

Strategic and Geopolitical Factors | रणनीतिक और भू-राजनीतिक पहलू

- Countering China's growing footprint in Africa
अफ्रीका में **चीन के बढ़ते प्रभाव** का जवाब
- Addressing maritime security challenges like:
 - Piracy
 - Houthi rebel threats
 - Illegal shipping activities
समुद्री सुरक्षा चुनौतियों जैसे:
 - समुद्री डकैती
 - हर्ती विद्रोह
 - अवैध नौवहन गतिविधियों से निपटना

Historical & Defence Diplomacy Context | ऐतिहासिक और रक्षा कूटनीति

- Over the past **decade**, India has increased naval cooperation with African countries
पिछले **10 वर्षों** में भारत ने अफ्रीकी देशों के साथ नौसेनिक सहयोग बढ़ाया है
- Earlier efforts included:
 - Joint naval exercises
 - Information exchange
 - Humanitarian missions
 - Disaster relief (HADR)
पूर्व प्रयासों में:
 - संयुक्त अभ्यास
 - सूचना साझाकरण
 - मानवीय सहायता
 - आपदा राहत अभियान

Truth, transparency Openness in ordering probe against judge should result in accountability too

In ordering an in-house inquiry by a three-judge panel, the Chief Justice of India, Sanjay Chandra, has demonstrated a welcome element of transparency and quelled speculation that the institution may not act decisively on its own accountability among constitutional and judicial judges. The action taken so far, in the wake of allegations that burnt currency notes were found while a fire was being doused at the High Court of Justice Yashwant Varma of the Delhi High Court, is multi-pronged. A preliminary report from the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, Justice D.K. Upadhyaya, along with a response from the judge concerned, was obtained; it has been decided not to allocate judicial work to Justice Varma; a proposal had already been initiated to send him back to his parent High Court, the Allahabad High Court. The inquiry will be conducted by the Chief Justices of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, and the Himachal Pradesh High Court, and a judge of the Karnataka High Court. It is clear that the CJ wants to get to the bottom of the issue, despite Justice Varma's categorical denial that the cash had anything to do with him, and his assertion that it is improbable that someone would store a large amount of cash in a virtually unsecured, unshielded, out-of-the-court area accessible from both the front and back gates and frequented by pedestrians and vehicles.

By posting photographs and a video clip showing wads of burnt notes, as well as Justice Upadhyaya's report and the reply given by Justice Varma, on the Supreme Court of India's website, the institution has demonstrated rare transparency. This suggests what as there is reason to believe that the in-house inquiry's findings may also be made public. However, there are some concerns about the efficacy of the probe mechanism, especially if it turns out to be a conspiracy to implicate the judge by setting fire to the store room in his residence. A regular police investigation may have been better to ascertain the facts, such as the cause of the fire and whether anyone removed the burnt notes from the site. There was also a mysterious claim by a Fire Services official that no currency notes were found, but it was subsequently denied. Even since the Court held that no first information report can be registered against a superior court judge without consulting the CJ, the police rarely conduct investigations against complaints against judges, and an internal mechanism became inevitable. While the judiciary does its work, the government should not be over-cautious in this matter, lest it be seen as the mastermind trying to trigger public demands for a robust accountability mechanism and a transparent system for judges. If there is a lesson to be drawn from this murky episode, it is that the independence of the judiciary is not protected by insulation from regular investigative processes but by acting fully and transparently in its functioning.

Lessons not learnt Trump's move to shut Department of Education is irresponsible

A new broom sweeps clean, but reckless change serves little purpose. After targeting health care — pulling the United States out of the World Health Organization and paralyzing USAID — U.S. President Donald Trump turned to another cornerstone of the state: education, whose long-term significance to any nation is indisputable. Last week, he signed an executive order to "begin eliminating" the federal Department of Education (DOE), vowing to shut it down "as quickly as possible". Established in 1979, the DOE administers federal student loans for college and university students, and provides targeted support for disadvantaged groups, including students from low-income families and those with disabilities. As in India, public K-12 schools in the U.S. are primarily managed at the State level, with only a fraction of their funding coming from the federal government. Yet the DOE plays a critical role in ensuring a baseline of equity. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt defended the executive order by citing decades of "falling behind" in funding for low-achieving students, despite over \$3 trillion in federal spending. "What has been the return on that investment for the American taxpayer?" she asked. But demanding a measurable return on investment on public welfare is not just misguided — it borders on malevolence. It targets the most vulnerable students and risks stripping away their only path out of adversity.

The Department of Education has long been in the cross hairs of Conservatives: since the Reagan era, abolishing it has been a Republican aspiration. But no one has come closer to realising that goal than Mr. Trump. Even before signing this order, the department's workforce had been nearly halved, with abrupt terminations issued under the Elon Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency — now a hallmark of the new administration's approach. Critics have denounced the move, arguing that if student outcomes are truly the concern, efforts should first focus on reforming and strengthening the system, and not dismantling it. Crucially, the executive order cannot take full effect without congressional approval and it remains to be seen whether Mr. Trump's political will can carry it through. Already, lawsuits are being filed in federal courts, challenging the order's legality. The future of millions of disadvantaged students hangs in the balance. It is up to the rest of the U.S. to ensure that the president is not pulled out.

China ties beware conciliation without deterrence

Political winds seem to be shifting, with India adopting a more conciliatory attitude towards China. In a podcast released in mid-March, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made his warmest comments about China in years, saying "only through dialogue can we build a stable, cooperative relationship", which is "essential for global stability and prosperity". Chinese officials lapped it up.

This has not come out of nowhere. India-China relations have been slowly recovering since they ruptured in 2020, when China launched multiple incursions across the Line of Actual Control into Ladakh, and a skirmish killed 20 Indian soldiers. Military units had habitually disengaged forces from many sites on the border. Despite a diplomatic initiative, bilateral trade grew to set new records. And less than six months ago, in October last year, India and China made a surprising deal to disengage their troops from the last two incursion sites. The crisis was nominally resolved, and the two countries were on the path toward normalisation.

On India's stance
It is not yet clear if Mr. Modi's comments were simply a new tone, or if they presage a substantive policy shift. New Delhi itself has probably not decided, and may just be keeping its options open. It may be returning to the more conciliatory approach of the earlier days of the Modi government, when New Delhi hoped to find a mutually productive relationship through summits with China's President Xi Jinping to find areas of policy alignment. At the same time, the India-China rivalry is structural and abiding. Just days after Mr. Modi's podcast appearance, India's Chief of Defence Staff, general Anil Chauhan, met with senior commanders from India's Quad partners, Australia, Japan, and the United States. India's grand strategy has always prioritised national economic development, from that perspective, it is more prudent to defuse military confrontations with its largest trading partner.

Indeed, China boasts an economy more than four times larger than India's. So, as India's



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External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said bluntly, it is "common sense" for India to seek a stable and even profitable relationship with its giant neighbour.

The three body problem
New Delhi does not, however, make policy in a vacuum. The Modi government has doubtless been examining the new Trump administration closely and reassessing its own stance. Mr. Trump suggest an ambiguous policy stance. Mr. Trump has followed through on his threat to impose tariffs on his toughest trading partners, but does not seem to extend to defence policy. He warily suggested that the United States and China (along with Beijing) should share a "strategic partnership" of half. His nominee for the top policymaking job at the Pentagon, Elbridge Colby, who is widely said to be a frontline ally such as Japan — as well as Taiwan — should radically increase military spending and assume more responsibility for their own defence.

Apart from China, Mr. Trump has shown a predilection for orchestrating grand bargains with other great powers. His peace process for Ukraine involves accommodating Russian strategic interests, while delivering lavish commercial profits to the U.S. Mr. Trump has thus urged Congress to audit the military's use of policy, ceding a sphere of influence to America's erstwhile rival, Russia, for the sake of forging a 19th century-style compact among great powers. There is no logical impediment to Mr. Trump seeking a similar arrangement with China's other great power rival, China — trading away America's strategic influence for mercantilist gain and an illusory peace.

More pointedly, Mr. Trump all but ceased support for Ukraine — even as he announced warnings of Russian missile attacks against civilians — to coerce Kyiv into submitting to an American's European ally. He has shown little faith in its decades-old security guarantees. Such a policy presumes tactics that have not escaped New Delhi's attention. India does not rely on American protection, but as former Indian Defence Secretary G. Kishan Reddy admitted, it has come to expect U.S. assistance, especially

intelligence, in managing the Chinese threat on the border. Now, doubts over American support in a crisis, and even the slight possibility of a deal that strengthens China's position, add more reasons for India to stabilise its relationship with its powerful neighbour.

Sharpen the sword
With a new tone, and possibly a new conciliatory policy, some in New Delhi may be tempted to conclude that India can ease off on investing in military capabilities, or deepening military cooperation with partners. In fact the opposite is true. India's military preparations have been anaemic even despite the urgency imposed by the Ladakh crisis. Defence spending, as a share of the national budget and as a share of GDP, has steadily declined over the past decade.

The risk of a stabilisation policy that it gives New Delhi an excuse to keep putting off overdue investments in modernisation or organisational reforms. That would play right in to Beijing's hands. For India to have military options in the future, it must invest in military power today. Military capabilities take inordinate time to field — as recent news stories have reiterated again and again, building submarines and developing fighter aircraft take years, if not decades. In the interim, the Indian military should continue to pursue operational cooperation with its partners, regardless of Washington's unpredictability or New Delhi's tactical shifts in tone. Exercises in the field and on the high seas would interpose a similar amount of time. Further coordination of operations and plans can be undertaken with partners, without the need for binding New Delhi or any of its partners to any particular policy.

Ultimately, the purpose of military power is to deter, and, if necessary, defeat aggression. Indian policymakers can expect more Chinese aggression in the future — just as they have endured for decades in the past, including after Mr. Modi's own summits with Mr. Xi. If India wants stability, it must accompany its conciliatory tone with the material capacity to deter aggression. Otherwise, stability risks turning into submission.

When it comes to China ties, India must note that a stabilisation policy also requires wielding a sharp sword

The United Nations Environment Programme's Food Waste Index Report (FWIR) 2024 reveals that in 2022, the world wasted 1.05 billion tonnes of food, equating to nearly 20% of all food available for consumption. Alarmingly, India ranks among the top contributors to this global issue. This is an issue that demands our immediate attention. This issue transcends mere resource mismanagement, representing a profound moral and environmental failure.



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is an Assistant Professor at the Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agriculture and Horticulture, Shivamoga, Karnataka

Waste versus loss
Food waste, as defined by FWIR 2024, includes edible and inedible parts discarded from the food supply chain, from manufacturing and retail to restaurants and households. This differs from food loss, which occurs earlier in the supply chain due to issues such as poor storage, transport and handling. The report highlights India's position as one of the highest food-wasting nations, second only to China. While the per capita household food waste in India (55 kilograms annually) is lower than in some other countries such as the United States (73 kg), India's large population means that this still represents an immense volume of wasted food. This waste exacerbates climate change, causes economic loss and represents a major form of social injustice.

Food worth a trillion dollars is wasted globally every year, a figure that becomes even more disturbing when one considers that 783 million people are facing hunger. This crisis is particularly serious in India, where an estimated 78 million tonnes of food are discarded each year, even as over 20 crore Indians go to bed hungry. As one of the world's largest food producers, India faces a complex challenge: abundant production alongside persistent food insecurity. This stems from inefficiencies throughout the food supply chain, from farm to consumer. Household waste is driven by over-purchasing (buying more groceries than needed), improper food planning (not planning meals ahead of time and then having ingredients go bad), limited storage (small refrigerators or lack of cool, dry pantries) and cultural habits of excess food

Governments, businesses and individuals must collaborate to develop an efficient food management system that fosters responsible consumption

preparation (cooking large portions for groups), in urban areas, retail markets struggle with poor refrigeration and produce short shelf life. Approximately 60% of global food waste occurs at the household level, highlighting the importance of consumer education and better food management practices to address this issue.

Measuring the environmental impact
The environmental cost of food waste is immense. Food production is resource-intensive, requiring large amounts of land, water and energy. When food is wasted, so are these precious resources. Food waste accounts for 10%-12% of total municipal waste, contributing significantly to methane emissions from landfills (methane is a potent greenhouse gas) and composting when organic matter decomposes without oxygen.

The UN Climate Change (2024) reports that food loss and waste generate 8%-10% of annual greenhouse gas emissions globally. If food waste was in the form of a country, it would be the third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases after China and the U.S. Household-level activities, including food waste, excessive energy consumption and poor waste management (not recycling or composting), significantly increase the carbon footprint. Minimising greenhouse gas emissions at the household level, through actions such as reducing food waste, improving energy efficiency and better waste management, are more plant-based foods and less meat, are crucial.

The social injustice of food waste in India is undeniable. Despite being a major food producer, India faces significant challenges in food accessibility and affordability. Excessive food waste prevents food from reaching those who need it most, hindering progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 12.3 (Responsible Consumption and Production). Climate change further intensifies food insecurity in India through extreme weather events, such as rising temperatures, erratic monsoons and

weather shocks (droughts, floods and landslides) that disrupt crop yields and weaken supply chains. Food waste exacerbates this by increasing the demand for limited resources.

Actions that need to be taken
Addressing this crisis requires a multi-pronged approach encompassing both individual actions and systemic reforms. At the household level, individuals can reduce waste through smart meal planning and shopping (creating and sticking to shopping lists), efficient food storage (using airtight containers and storing food at the right temperatures), creative use of leftovers (turning leftover vegetables into soup), composting (turning kitchen scraps into vermicompost) and donating surplus food (to local food banks or charities). Systemically, the government must invest in building more cold storage and transportation infrastructure. Businesses should adopt sustainable practices, such as redistributing unsold food. Educational institutions can raise awareness about responsible consumption. Policymakers should subsidise innovative solutions such as food redistribution networks (apps that connect surplus food with those in need) and improved cold storage (providing subsidies for farmers to invest in refrigeration). Initiatives such as India's "Save Food Share Food" programme demonstrate the potential of large-scale redistribution efforts.

India stands at a critical juncture. Addressing food waste is essential for tackling carbon footprint, ensuring food security and reducing social inequality. Governments, businesses and individuals must collaborate to develop an efficient food management system that minimises waste, optimises resources and fosters responsible consumption. The solution is not simply increasing food production but managing and conserving what is already available. By making conscious food choices, reducing waste at every level and advocating sustainable food systems, we can move toward a future where every level and every resource are optimised and no one goes hungry.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Judiciary and integrity
As more details emerge about the fire incident at the residence of a Delhi High Court judge, one must remember the line from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*: "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark" (Page 1, March 24). One wonders how a store room within the premises can be utilised by all and sundry. The higher judiciary needs to act quickly to restore public confidence in the judicial system. **J. Radhakrishna Kumar, Ettimannor, Kottayam, Kerala**

I write this letter as a former Member of Parliament. The way the Supreme Court of India responded to

'accidental finding' of unaccounted cash bundles about the fire incident at the residence of a Delhi High Court judge, one must remember the line from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*: "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark" (Page 1, March 24). One wonders how a store room within the premises can be utilised by all and sundry. The higher judiciary needs to act quickly to restore public confidence in the judicial system. **J. Radhakrishna Kumar, Ettimannor, Kottayam, Kerala**

It is imperative that the news media — print, social media and TV channels —

should refrain from jumping the gun with 'debates' and 'analysis' in the name of free speech. It is disturbing that the institution invited the news for a probe into its dealings. **S. Subhadra, Chennai**

There is no doubt that the incident has cast a shadow on the judiciary's image when judges must possess the qualities of integrity, transparency, accountability, impartiality, selfless and fairness. To ensure that there is an impartial judicial system, it is essential to expose the corrupt elements who

Caesar's wife must be above suspicion. In a way, the fire in the judge's residence is also an Agni Pariksha for the judiciary. **Budhika Jagdish Rao, Visakhapatnam**

Mahatma and the media
The report, "The Late Mr. Kasturba Ranga Iyengar" (Editorial page, From the Archives - *The Hindu*, A Hundred Years Ago, March 24, 1925), was an inspiring and valuable read. There are exceptions, journalism of the day in India finds itself distracted from its mission. Journalistic path shown by Mahatma Gandhi. Will print media in India return spiritedly to

the selfless road of reporting? **P.K. Sharma, Barmala, Punjab**

Sparking debut
Amidst a sea of yellow jerseys and roaring chants, an unassuming 24-year-old scripted a wonderful IPL debut for Mumbai Indians at Chennai on Sunday. Vignesh Puthur spun magic that put the brakes on CSK's chase temporarily. The "whistle post" army will not forget Vignesh Puthur's name anytime soon. **R. Sivakumar, Chennai**
Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Colossal wastage that is food for thought

The United Nations Environment Programme's Food Waste Index Report (FWIR) 2024 reveals that in 2022, the world wasted 1.05 billion tonnes of food, equating to nearly 20% of all food available to consumers. Alarming, India ranks among the top contributors to this global issue. This is an issue that demands our immediate attention. This issue transcends mere resource mismanagement, representing a profound moral and environmental failure.

Wastage versus loss

Food wastage, as defined by FWIR 2024, includes edible and inedible parts discarded from the food supply chain, from manufacturing and retail to restaurants and households. This differs from food loss, which occurs earlier in the supply chain due to issues such as poor storage, transport and handling. The report highlights India's position as one of the highest food-wasting nations, second only to China. While the per capita household food waste in India (55 kilograms annually) is lower than in some other countries such as the United States (73 kg), India's large population means that this still represents an immense volume of wasted food. This wastage exacerbates climate change, causes economic loss and represents a major form of social injustice.

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Governments, businesses and individuals must collaborate to develop an efficient food management system that fosters responsible consumption

preparation (cooking large portions for celebrations or guests). In urban areas, retail markets struggle with poor refrigeration and product short shelf life. Approximately 61% of global food waste occurs at the household level, highlighting the importance of consumer education and better food management practices to address this crisis.

Measuring the environmental impact

The environmental cost of food waste is immense. Food production is resource-intensive, requiring huge amounts of land, water and energy. When food is wasted, so are these precious resources. In India, food waste accounts for 10%-12% of total municipal waste, contributing significantly to methane emissions from landfills (methane is a potent greenhouse gas produced when organic matter decomposes without oxygen).

The UN Climate Change (2024) reports that food loss and waste generate 8%-10% of annual greenhouse gas emissions globally. If food waste was in the form of a country, it would be the third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases after China and the U.S. Household-level activities, including food waste, excessive energy consumption and improper waste disposal (not recycling or composting), significantly increase the carbon footprint. Minimising greenhouse gas emissions at the household level, through actions such as reducing food waste, improving energy efficiency and adopting sustainable diets (eating more plant-based foods and less meat), are crucial.

The social injustice of food waste in India is undeniable. Despite being a major food producer, India faces significant challenges in food accessibility and affordability. Widespread wastage prevents food from reaching those who need it most; hindering progress toward Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 12.3 (reduce food waste at retail and consumer levels). Climate change further intensifies food insecurity in India.

Rising temperatures, erratic monsoons and

weather shocks (droughts, floods and landslides) disrupt crop yields and weaken supply chains. Food waste exacerbates this by increasing the demand for limited resources.

Actions that need to be taken

Addressing this crisis requires a multi-pronged approach encompassing both individual actions and systemic reforms. At the household level, individuals can reduce waste through smart meal planning and shopping (creating and sticking to shopping lists), efficient food storage (using airtight containers and storing food at the right temperatures), creative use of leftovers (turning leftover vegetables into soup), composting (turning kitchen scraps into vermicompost) and donating surplus food (to local food banks or charities). Systemically, the government must invest in building more cold storage and transportation infrastructure. Businesses should adopt sustainable practices, such as redistributing unsold food. Educational institutions can raise awareness about responsible consumption. Policymakers should subsidise innovative solutions such as food redistribution networks (apps that connect surplus food with those in need) and improved cold storage (providing subsidies for farmers to invest in refrigeration). Initiatives such as India's "Save Food Share Food" programme demonstrates the potential of large-scale redistribution efforts.

India stands at a critical juncture. Addressing food waste is essential for tackling carbon footprint, ensuring food security and reducing social inequality. Governments, businesses and individuals must collaborate to develop an efficient food management system that minimises waste, optimises resources and fosters responsible consumption. The solution is not simply increasing food production but valuing and conserving what is already available. By making conscious food choices, reducing waste at every level and advocating sustainable food systems, we can move toward a future where food is preserved, resources are optimised and no one goes hungry.

◆ 1. Global & Indian Food Waste | वैश्विक और भारतीय परिप्रेक्ष्य

- 🌍 In 2022, the world wasted **1.05 billion tonnes of food** – around **20% of total food available to consumers**.
- 🌐 भारत दुनिया का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा खाद्य अपव्यय करने वाला देश है, चीन के बाद।
- भारत में प्रति व्यक्ति खाद्य अपव्यय: **55 किलोग्राम प्रतिवर्ष** (US में 73 किग्रा)

◆ 2. Waste vs Loss | नुकसान और अपव्यय का फर्क

- **Food loss (खाद्य हानि):** सप्लाई चेन में खराबी के कारण (जैसे ट्रांसपोर्ट, प्रोसेसिंग में खराबी)
- **Food waste (खाद्य अपव्यय):** उपभोक्ता स्तर पर बचा हुआ/फेंका गया भोजन (जैसे बचा हुआ खाना, एक्सपायर्ड पैकेज)
- "India's food waste stems from inefficiencies in the entire supply chain – from farm to fork."
"भारत में यह संकट पूरी आपूर्ति श्रृंखला में असंगठित व्यवस्था के कारण है।"

"

◆ 3. Environmental & Climate Impact | पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव

- 🌱 Food production uses massive land, water, and emits GHGs.
- 🚫 अगर भोजन बर्बाद होता है, तो उसकी सारी ऊर्जा और संसाधन भी व्यर्थ होते हैं।
- In India:
 - Food waste causes **10-12% GHG emissions** from landfills.
 - Methane from waste decomposing is a potent greenhouse gas.
- "भोजन की बर्बादी = जलवायु परिवर्तन में योगदान"





◆ 4. Social & Economic Impact | सामाजिक व आर्थिक प्रभाव

- 🌍 783 million people go hungry, while 1 trillion dollars worth of food is wasted yearly.
- भारत में 78 मिलियन टन भोजन हर साल बर्बाद होता है, जबकि करोड़ों भूखे सोते हैं।
- **Reasons in India:**
 - Overbuying, improper planning
 - Poor cold storage
 - Festivals, weddings with mass catering
 - Supply chain breakdown during floods/drought







- drought

◆ 5. Urgent Solutions Required | ज़रूरी उपाय

a. Individual Actions | व्यक्तिगत कदम

-  Smart planning (planning meals, storing at right temperature)
-  Composting food waste (कम्पोस्टिंग)
-  Airtight containers (ठीक तापमान पर भंडारण)
-  Donating surplus food (बचा हुआ भोजन दान करें)

b. Systemic Actions | व्यवस्थागत समाधान

-  Cold storage infra (शीतगृह संरचना)
-  Food distribution apps
-  Save Food Share Food campaigns
-  Awareness & education on responsible consumption
-   Farmer incentives to reduce overproduction losses

- losses

◆ 6. Sustainability & Policy | स्थिरता और नीति

- India must align with **SDG 12.3**: Cut food waste in half by 2030.
- "Sustainable food systems are the key to climate justice and food equity."
- "नीति निर्माताओं को जिम्मेदार उपभोग और खाद्य सुरक्षा से जुड़े सुधारों पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।"

EV GIANT'S PROFIT ROSE 34%, REVENUE UP 29%

BYD sales surpass Tesla as tech focus wins over Chinese drivers

DANNY LEE
March 24

BYD'S SALES LAST year surpassed the \$100 billion mark, leapfrogging Elon Musk's Tesla, on revenue, as the Chinese auto giant wows consumers with a range of electric and hybrid cars packed with high-tech features.

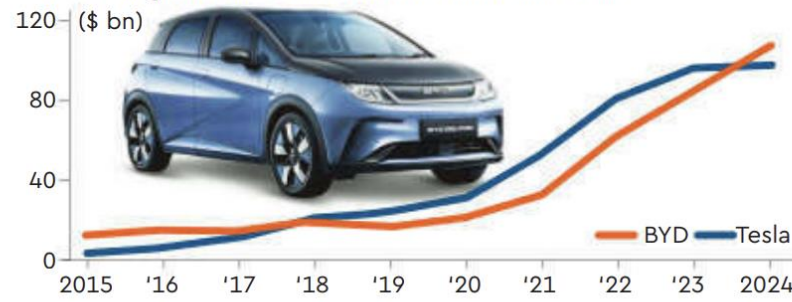
Shenzhen-based BYD reported revenue of 777 billion yuan (\$107 billion) for the year ended December 31, up 29%, according to a filing late Monday, beating estimates for 766 billion yuan. Tesla's 2024 revenue was \$97.7 billion. The Chinese EV maker's net income rose 34% year-on-year to 40.3 billion yuan, beating analyst estimates for 39.5 billion yuan.

BYD has risen quickly to the top of China's car market — the world's biggest and most competitive in terms of electric vehicles. This year alone, BYD has unveiled a new ecosystem that allows EVs to charge for 400 kms in five minutes and introduced advanced driver assistance technology in even its most basic models. Investors have sent its shares to a record and BYD's Hong Kong-listed stock is up around 51% this year.

BYD also sells about the same

TOUGH COMPETITION

Chinese EV giant moves ahead for first time since 2018



Source: Bloomberg

number of EVs as Tesla — 1.76 million in 2024 versus 1.79 million — but, when all of its other passenger hybrid cars sales are included, it's much larger. BYD's total deliveries last year climbed to 4.27 million, almost as much as Ford Motor.

BYD has forecast it can sell between 5 million to 6 million vehicles this year. It's already off to a strong start, with sales in the first two months of 2025 up 93% year-on-year to 623,300 units.

One area where Tesla still clearly leads however is market valuation. The US carmaker is worth about \$800 billion despite a share-price

rout that's seen the stock plunge 38% this year. BYD has a market capitalization closer to \$157 billion.

Musk's EV maker also makes more money on an absolute basis; Tesla's net income last year was \$7.6 billion.

But whereas Tesla is losing in China — shipments have been backsliding there for the past five consecutive months on a year-on-year basis — BYD is winning. China is still far and away BYD's biggest market, where it commands a share of almost 15%, not just for new-energy vehicles but any sort of passenger car.

—BLOOMBERG

VW, BMW outsell Tesla in Europe in Feb

TESLA EV SALES in Europe have fallen in February behind legacy brand Volkswagen and the BMW group, as well as rivals from China, a report showed on Monday.

Elon Musk's all-electric brand is facing a loyalty test in Europe he openly supported far-right parties in the continent. Musk's role in politics, rising competition in the EV market and the phasing out of the existing version of its best-selling vehicle, the Model Y, have all impacted sales, Felipe Munoz, global analyst at JATO Dynamics, said.

Tesla's battery-electric vehicle registrations in 25 EU markets, the UK, Norway and Switzerland fell on average by 44% from the same month of 2024.

—REUTERS

1. BYD Surpasses \$100 Billion in Revenue

BYD ने 100 अरब डॉलर का रेवेन्यू पार किया

2023 में BYD का रेवेन्यू: 777 बिलियन युआन (\$107 बिलियन)

Tesla का रेवेन्यू 2024 में रहा \$97.7 बिलियन

BYD का नेट प्रॉफिट बढ़ा 34% से बढ़कर 40.3 बिलियन युआन
Tesla का नेट इनकम: \$7.6 बिलियन (कम लेकिन प्रति कार ज्यादा मुनाफा)

. Why BYD is Winning in China

BYD चीन में क्यों जीत रहा है?

- Advance tech features in EVs
उन्नत टेक्नोलॉजी जैसे ड्राइवर असिस्टेंस
- Lower pricing than Tesla
Tesla से सस्ते विकल्प
- Strong focus on hybrid & plug-in models
BYD के पास अधिक विकल्प हैं – इलेक्ट्रिक और हाइब्रिड दोनों
- BYD's domestic brand image stronger among Chinese
चीन में “स्थानीय” ब्रांड के रूप में विश्वास

BYD vs Tesla Sales & Market Share

BYD और Tesla के आंकड़े:

- BYD ने बेचीं 4.27 मिलियन कारें 2023 में
Tesla: 1.76 मिलियन EVs (slightly more than BYD's 1.79 million EVs)
- BYD's passenger vehicle share in China: **15%**
लेकिन Tesla का सिर्फ **passenger EV market** में दबदबा

4. Tesla Faces Setbacks in Europe

Tesla को यूरोप में झटका

- Volkswagen, BMW ने फरवरी 2024 में यूरोप में Tesla को पीछे छोड़ा
- Norway, UK, Switzerland जैसे मार्केट्स में Tesla की EV बिक्री में 44% तक गिरावट

. Market Valuation & Stock Performance

स्टॉक और वैल्यूएशन:

- Despite lower sales, **Tesla's market cap = \$157 billion**
- BYD का शेयर **38% गिरा है**
- लेकिन Tesla की गिरावट को BYD ने “कंज्यूमर फोकस्ड टेक्नोलॉजी” से कैपिटलाइज़ किया

Strategic Factors | रणनीतिक और सामाजिक कारक:

◆ Political

- Elon Musk's open support for far-right parties impacts Tesla's perception in Europe.
इलॉन मस्क का राजनीतिक झुकाव यूरोप में Tesla की लोकप्रियता को नुकसान पहुंचा रहा है।

◆ Social

- BYD को चीन में “made in China” ब्रांड का फायदा
देशभक्ति की भावना के चलते स्थानीय ब्रांड को प्राथमिकता

◆ Technological

- BYD के पास Tesla की तुलना में **कम लागत वाले मॉडल** हैं
- New driver assistance ecosystem in BYD vehicles appeals to mid-segment

◆ Economic

- BYD ने 5 नए मॉडल लॉन्च किए – 400 किलोमीटर की रेंज के साथ
- Price-sensitive ग्राहक BYD को ज्यादा पसंद कर रहे हैं



Anthurium Flowers

- 
- The first-ever export consignment of Anthurium flowers from Mizoram to Singapore was flagged off in February



Grown In:

- **Native region:** Americas, from northern Mexico to northern Argentina and parts of the Caribbean.
- **In India:** Widely cultivated in **Mizoram** and other North Eastern states.

Features of the Plant:

- Herbaceous plants that can grow as epiphytes or terrestrially.
- Inflorescence consists of a spadix and colorful spathe (red, pink, orange, and other colors).
- Produces juicy berries containing seeds.
- Toxic in nature due to calcium oxalate crystals; sap can irritate skin and eyes.

Revision of MSME Definition

The Government of India has notified revised criteria for MSME classification, increasing investment and turnover limits.

Finance Minister had announced new classification criteria for MSMEs, with investment and turnover limits for the classifications proposed to be increased to 5 times and 2 times, respectively.

Rs. in Crore	Investment		Turnover	
	Current	Revised	Current	Revised
Micro Enterprises	1	2.5	5	10
Small Enterprises	10	25	50	100
Medium Enterprises	50	125	250	500

- **Features of New MSME Definition:**

- **Micro Enterprises:**

- Investment limit raised from ₹1 crore to ₹2.5 crore.
- Turnover limit increased from ₹5 crore to ₹10 crore.

- **Small Enterprises:**

- Investment threshold increased from ₹10 crore to ₹25 crore.
- Turnover ceiling raised from ₹50 crore to ₹100 crore.

- **Medium Enterprises:**

- Investment limit revised from ₹50 crore to ₹125 crore.
- Turnover limit doubled from ₹250 crore to ₹500 crore.



Secret Sitting in House

- Discussions have resurfaced on the provision of holding a secret sitting in Lok Sabha as outlined in the parliamentary rules.
- Despite existing rules, India has never officially held a secret sitting, with the closest instance being during the 1962 India-China conflict.

About Secret Sitting of Lok Sabha:

- What it is

- A secret sitting is a closed-door parliamentary session where discussions are held confidentially, without public or media access.

- Constitutional Provision:

- The Constitution of India does not directly mention secret sittings, but it empowers Parliament to frame its own rules under Article 118.

History:

- Though permitted by law, India has never conducted a secret sitting.
- In 1962, during the Chinese aggression, the proposal for secret sitting was suggested but declined by PM Jawaharlal Nehru.

Who can declare a secret sitting:

- The **Leader of the House** can request it.
- The **Speaker of the Lok Sabha** has the authority to approve and schedule the secret sitting.
- **Secret sitting is allowed in Rajya Sabha** as well.
 - It is provided under **Rule 266 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha)**, where the Chairman can permit a secret sitting on a request made by the Leader of the House.



10 MCQ from the session

Under which programme has India completed genome sequencing of 10,000 TB samples?

• भारत ने 10,000 टीबी नमूनों का जीनोम अनुक्रमण किस कार्यक्रम के तहत पूरा किया है?

A. Mission TB-Free India

B. Dare2eraD TB

C. Nirog Bharat Yojana

D. Swasthya Mission

What is India's target year to eliminate tuberculosis?

- **भारत का टीबी समाप्त करने का लक्ष्य वर्ष क्या है?**
 - A. 2030
 - B. 2027
 - C. 2025
 - D. 2040

What percentage of the world's TB cases are reported from India?

- **दुनिया के कितने प्रतिशत टीबी मामले भारत में दर्ज होते हैं?**
 - A. 10%
 - B. 18%
 - C. 28%
 - D. 40%

What is the objective of the Indian Navy's IOS Sagar initiative?

- **भारतीय नौसेना की IOS सागर पहल का उद्देश्य क्या है?**
 - A. Promote cruise tourism
 - B. Strengthen maritime cooperation with IOR and African nations
 - C. Expand submarine capability
 - D. Train private security

What was the name of the multilateral naval exercise involving India and African countries?

• भारत और अफ्रीकी देशों के बीच आयोजित बहुराष्ट्रीय नौसैनिक अभ्यास का नाम क्या था?

A. Indo-African Sea Shield

B. AI-KEYME

C. SAGAR Bond

D. MARSEC-25

What is India's rank in global food waste as per 2022 data?

- **2022 के अनुसार भारत वैश्विक खाद्य अपव्यय में किस स्थान पर है?**
 - A. 1st
 - B. 2nd
 - C. 3rd
 - D. 4th

Which gas from food waste contributes significantly to global warming?

• खादय अपव्यय से निकलने वाली कौन सी गैस ग्लोबल वॉर्मिंग में योगदान देती है?

A. Carbon Dioxide

B. Methane

C. Nitrous Oxide

D. Sulphur Dioxide

Which company recently overtook Tesla in overall car sales in China?

• चीन में किस कंपनी ने हाल ही में कुल कार बिक्री में टेस्ला को पीछे छोड़ दिया?

A. NIO

B. SAIC

C. BYD

D. Xpeng

What is the new investment limit for a Medium Enterprise under revised MSME norms?

- **संशोधित एमएसएमई मानदंडों के अनुसार एक मीडियम एंटरप्राइज की नई निवेश सीमा क्या है?**
 - A. ₹50 crore
 - B. ₹75 crore
 - C. ₹100 crore
 - D. ₹125 crore

What is a 'secret sitting' in the context of Indian Parliament?

- **भारतीय संसद में 'गुप्त बैठक' का क्या अर्थ है?**
 - A. Budget session with closed doors
 - B. Special emergency session for national security
 - C. A closed-door session without public/media access
 - D. Meeting between PM and Speaker

Word of the day

Vernal:

suggestive of youth; vigorous and fresh; of or characteristic of or occurring in spring

Synonyms: young, youthful

Usage: *Take in the vernal freshness of the land.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/vernalpro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /'vɜ:n(ə)l/



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