

Daily Current Affairs



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10 MCQ QUIZ

Top 10 MCQ from today's
session

Consider the following statements: (2019)

According to the Indian Patents Act, a biological process to create a seed can be patented in India.

In India, there is no Intellectual Property Appellate Board.

Plant varieties are not eligible to be patented in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 3 only


(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

- 
- **With reference to the ‘National Intellectual Property Rights Policy’, consider the following statements:(2017)**

1. It reiterates India’s commitment to the Doha Development Agenda and the TRIPS Agreement.
2. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion is the nodal agency for regulating intellectual property rights in India.

- **Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

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

India's **Global Intellectual Property Ranking** in 2023 is **sixth**, with **64,480 patent applications**.

What is India's position in terms of **active trademark registrations globally**?

भारत का वैश्विक बौद्धिक संपदा रैंकिंग 2023 में छठा स्थान है, जिसमें **64,480 पेटेंट आवेदन** दर्ज किए गए हैं।

वैश्विक सक्रिय ट्रेडमार्क पंजीकरण के मामले में भारत की स्थिति क्या है?

-
- A. First / पहला
 - B. Second / दूसरा
 - C. Third / तीसरा
 - D. Fourth / चौथा

- The **Riyadh Design Law Treaty (DLT)** was signed by India under the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**.

What does **Intellectual Property (IP)** primarily protect?

रियाद डिज़ाइन लॉ ट्रीटी (DLT) पर भारत ने विश्व बौद्धिक संपदा संगठन (WIPO) के तहत हस्ताक्षर किए।

बौद्धिक संपदा (IP) मुख्य रूप से किसकी रक्षा करती है?

- **A. Patents and Literary Works / पेटेंट और साहित्यिक कार्य**
B. Physical Goods and Technology / भौतिक वस्तुएं और प्रौद्योगिकी
C. Natural Resources / प्राकृतिक संसाधन
D. Government Schemes / सरकारी योजनाएँ

-
- The **Siberian Demoiselle Crane**, Sukpak, set a record migration of 3,676 km to **Khichan, Rajasthan**.

What is the **IUCN status** of this bird?

साइबेरियन डेमोइसेल क्रेन, सुकपाक ने खिचन, राजस्थान तक 3,676 किमी की रिकॉर्ड प्रवास यात्रा की।

इस पक्षी की **IUCN स्थिति** क्या है?

- **A. Endangered / संकटग्रस्त**
- B. Vulnerable / असुरक्षित**
- C. Near Threatened / निकट संकटग्रस्त**
- D. Least Concern / कम चिंता**

-
- IIT Kanpur developed the **Anālākshya System**, enhancing **stealth and missile protection**.
Who leads the **Anālākshya development team**?
आईआईटी कानपुर ने **अनालाक्ष्य प्रणाली** विकसित की, जो **स्टेलथ और मिसाइल सुरक्षा** को बढ़ाती है।
अनालाक्ष्य विकास टीम का नेतृत्व कौन करता है?
 - A. Kumar Vaibhav Srivastava / **कुमार वैभव श्रीवास्तव**
B. Anantha Ramakrishna / **अनंता रामकृष्ण**
C. J. Ramkumar / **जे. रामकुमार**
D. All of the above / **उपरोक्त सभी**

-
- **Sabal-20 drones**, procured for the Indian Army, use **VTOL technology** and carry up to **20 kg payloads**.

What does **VTOL** stand for?

भारतीय सेना द्वारा खरीदे गए **सबल-20 ड्रोन**, **VTOL तकनीक** का उपयोग करते हैं और **20 किग्रा पेलोड** ले जाने में सक्षम हैं।

VTOL का पूरा अर्थ क्या है?

- **A. Variable Tracking of Operations and Logistics / संचालन और लॉजिस्टिक्स की परिवर्तनीय ट्रैकिंग**
- **B. Vertical Take-Off and Landing / वर्टिकल टेक-ऑफ और लैंडिंग**
- **C. Virtual Terrain Observation and Liftoff / वर्चुअल टेरेन ऑब्जर्वेशन और लिफ्टऑफ**
- **D. Versatile Transport for Operational Logistics / परिचालन लॉजिस्टिक्स के लिए बहुमुखी परिवहन**

- India signed the Riyadh Design Law Treaty. Under which organization was this treaty adopted?
भारत ने रियाद डिज़ाइन लॉ ट्रीटी पर हस्ताक्षर किए। यह संधि किस संगठन के तहत अपनाई गई थी?
- **A. World Trade Organization / विश्व व्यापार संगठन**
- **B. World Intellectual Property Organization / विश्व बौद्धिक संपदा संगठन**
- **C. United Nations Development Programme / संयुक्त राष्ट्र विकास कार्यक्रम**
- **D. G20**

According to NFHS-5, which state has the highest child marriage prevalence in India?
NFHS-5 के अनुसार, भारत में बाल विवाह की सबसे अधिक प्रचलित दर किस राज्य में है?

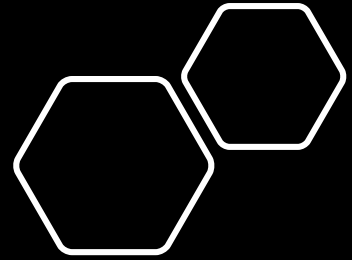


- A. Bihar / बिहार
- B. Rajasthan / राजस्थान
- C. Tripura / त्रिपुरा
- D. West Bengal / पश्चिम बंगाल

-
- India's industrial design applications grew by what percentage in 2023?
2023 में भारत के औद्योगिक डिज़ाइन अनुप्रयोग कितने प्रतिशत बढ़े?
 - **A. 10.4%**
 - **B. 25.6%**
 - **C. 36.4%**
 - **D. 42.8%**



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'No proposal for judges to make judges file property returns'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Thursday informed the Rajya Sabha that the government had no plans to bring a law to mandate Supreme Court (SC) and High Court (HC) judges to furnish their property returns.

On the declaration of assets by these judges, Mr. Meghwal said that such details were not centrally maintained. To a sub-question on whether the government is contemplating enacting a law mandating judges of the higher judiciary to furnish their property returns as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee in its report titled "Judicial process and their reform" of August, 2023, the Minister replied in the negative.

However, the Minister said the "Maintenance of values of judicial life" adopted by a "full court" meeting of the Supreme Court on May 7, 1997, laid down certain high standards to be followed by the Supreme Court and High Court judges. The Full

Law Minister says SC in 2009 had decided to disclose statement of assets submitted by the judges

Bench on August 26, 2009, decided to disclose the statement of assets submitted by the judges on the basis of a resolution to make it public by putting it on the Supreme Court website. Further, the full court, in its meeting dated September 8, 2009, resolved to put the declaration of assets on the Supreme Court website on or before October 11, 2009, and that it purely on a voluntary basis," he said.

The Minister informed that the number of cases filed in district and subordinate courts went up by more than nine lakh in the past 10 months. While more than 4.44 lakh cases were disposed in various lower courts as on January 1, it went up to over 4.64 crore as on November 15, he said. He also said the judiciary was facing a shortage of 5,248 judicial officers.

Schools, colleges in Manipur to reopen today after 13 days

Meitei pressure group enforces 'shutdown' of govt. offices in Imphal Valley for second straight day; police, Army continue joint search operation to locate a Meitei man who went missing on Nov. 25

The Hindu Bureau
IMPHAL

Educational institutions in Manipur will reopen on Friday, 13 days after they were closed following fresh violence triggered by the attack and murder of a woman and children by extremist in Imphal district on November 11.

An order issued by the State's Director of Education, Schools, on Thursday, said, "Normal classes will resume for all schools of the State - government, non-government aided, private, and central - from the first of November onwards. All Zonal Education Officers under the Department are hereby directed to inform all concerned under their jurisdiction and take up necessary actions as per the order."

A similar order was issued by the State's Higher and Technical Education Department for colleges and universities. Officials in Imphal said the Home Department decided to reopen the educa-



Calling the action People's Stage a riot to protest after a man disappeared allegedly after he entered an Army camp, an

attacks forced some of the MLAs to hide in bunkers or under ground chambers in their houses.

The Coordinating Committee of Manipur Integrity (COMCIAM), a Meitei pressure group, defied court orders to enforce a "complete shutdown" of State and Central government offices across the Imphal Valley for the second day on Thursday. The organization announced the 48-hour shutdown from Wednesday after the expiry of its seven-day deadline for the government to fulfil its demands.

The COMCIAM's demands include a review of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act reimposed in areas under its jurisdiction in the valley, action against those responsible for the killing of the woman and children in Imphal, and declaring the group of killers as a terrorist organisation.

Justice T. S. Thirumala A. S. Oka and Augustine George Masih issued notice on the Central agency's plea to transfer the cases and another application seeking to implement the other orders as continuing respondents. The court listed the next hearing on December 10.

The issue came up after the CBI had raised a strong objection against a Janam court order allowing his physical presence at a criminal trial connected to the killings case.

Justice Oka had said trial was afforded to even 26/11 bomber attacks terrorist Ajmal Kasab in response to Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta's submission that Mehta was not "just another terrorist".

SC notice on CBI plea to move Malik's trial from J&K to Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday decided to examine a petition made by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to transfer the trial of Kashmiri separatist Yasin Malik and co-accused in two cases, including the killing of four Indian Air Force personnel in 1989, from Jammu and Kashmir to Delhi.

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Augustine George Masih issued notice on the Central agency's plea to transfer the cases and another application seeking to implement the other orders as continuing respondents. The court listed the next hearing on December 10.

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The court had previously suggested setting up trial court within J&K, but the CBI

The Solicitor-General had submitted that Malik was playing tricks with the courts by insisting on cross-examining witnesses in the trial instead of keeping a lawyer. The law officer said Malik had been in contact with Pakistan militant and founder of terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba, Saifur Rahman. Mr. Mehta had cautioned that taking Malik to Jammu would be a security risk.

Already, he said, a witness in the case has been killed. Mr. Mehta had mentioned how Malik was once brought in person to the Supreme Court in July last year after the J&K had misinterpreted a judicial order. The visit had caused quite a furor and led to sharp remarks from the Bench.

SC urged to intervene in lower courts' survey orders

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

To bring a halt to a surfeit of petitions pleading for surveys of temples, mosques and places of worship, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board has urged the Supreme Court to take suo motu notice and bar the District and Sessions Courts from entertaining such petitions. The Chief Justice of India should take suo motu action and direct the lower courts to refrain from opening doors to further "diagnosis" of the Board's spokesman S.G.R. Bhan said in a statement.

The claim on Ajmer dargah as well as on the Sambhal Jama Masjid, where a blatant mockery of the law and the Constitution, is being made in the name of the existence of the Places of Worship Act, 1991," Mr. Bhan stated, calling for peace from all involved.

Politicians in J&K angered over notice to Ajmer dargah

The Hindu Bureau
BRIHANAGAR

Political leaders from Jammu and Kashmir, including members of the National Democratic Party (NDP) president Mehbooba Mufti and J&K Peoples Conference (JPC) chief Sajad Lone, on Thursday expressed concern over the survey of the iconic dargah of sufi saint Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer, Rajasthan.

Mr. Mufti, former J&K Chief Minister, described the survey as "dangerous and polarisation sparked by a controversial judgment delivered by a former Chief Justice of India". A local court in Ajmer on Wednesday directed that notices be issued to three parties in a civil suit which claims that there is a false temple in the dargah of sufi saint Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer.

Court notice on Ajmer dargah plea triggers political religious debate

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after a civil court in Ajmer issued notice on a suit claiming that a Lord Shiva temple existed at the site of the 13th Century dargah of Sufi mystic Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti, political and religious leaders across the country reacted sharply on the issue on Thursday.

The notice has triggered views on the attempts to redefine the religious character of the historic shrine, which attracts devotees of all faiths.

Civil judge Manmohan Chandel on Wednesday issued notices to the Dargah Committee, the Ministry of Minority Affairs and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on the plea seeking to declare the dargah a temple.

There were conflicting views on the attempts to redefine the religious character of the historic shrine, which attracts devotees of all faiths. While there was no official reaction from the Dargah Committee - a statutory body established under the Dargah Khwala Salsab Act, 1955 - the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party leaders said a controversy was being created over a judicial process with the intention to promote the "politicisation" of the shrine. The court's decision should be accept-

able to everyone, said the BJP leaders. The civil suit seeking directions to start Hindu rituals at the dargah was filed in September and the next hearing is scheduled on December 10.

The notices have come in the aftermath of a similar controversy at the dargah of Sufi mystic Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in Sambhal, where four persons were killed in the violence following a court-ordered survey of

Shah Jahan Masjid, Jaipur. While Union Minister Gauri Singh asked what was the problem in taking such matters to the courts, as these controversies have not resolved in 1947, All India Muslim Personal Law Board president and former Chief Justice of India Justice E.V. Ramesh Reddy said every Prime Minister of the country has been sending children (best of cloth draped on the dargah) to the dargah during the (observed) 100th death anniversary of the Sufi saint.

Others will all this stop? What will happen to the Places of Worship Act, 1991? This is being done to destabilise the country," Mr. Chandel said.

In Ajmer, the Anjuman Khudmudh (Khadmudh), a committee of Sufi devotees, has sought to be impleaded as a defendant in the court case.

CJ-led Bench to hear Sambhal case plea today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Justice E.V. Ramesh Reddy scheduled to hear on Friday a petition filed by the Sambhal Jama Masjid Committee against a civil court direction allowing a survey of the mosque to verify if it was built on the ruins of a temple.

The local court had issued the order on November 10, triggering violence and communal tensions across Sambhal district of Uttar Pradesh. Four people lost their lives in the violence. The committee argued that the local court order for an administrative survey was passed ex parte and based on a misleading statement.

The plaintiffs claimed the mosque would be demolished after the temple.

Economic historian Amiya Kumar Bagchi passes away

Prabhat Pattnaik
KOLKATA

Professor Amiya Kumar Bagchi, who passed away on Thursday evening, was one of the most outstanding economists, and public intellectuals of our time. A rebel all his life, he left the college where he had been admitted originally for specialising in economics against some injunctions, and joined Presidency College, Kolkata, which had a freer atmosphere. After his Master's in economics from Presidency, he went to Cambridge University on a new Bengal government scholarship, where he not only studied but also joined the Faculty of Economics and politics, with a Fellowship at Jesus College.

He had started out as a mathematical economist in fact a game theorist, but changed course while writing his Ph.D. dissertation and, and on the advice of one of his mentors, turned to economic history, a turn

for which we must be highly grateful. Mr. Bagchi was not an economic historian in the narrow sense that is, he was a macro-economist working on historical data.

Seeing patterns in data While digging up new and hitherto unavailable data, he found a remarkable match that of the most indubitable of the historians, the saw pattern in data which only his macro-economist eyes could see. He was thus an altogether new kind of an economist, one that both in economic theory and in applied economics has long-standing economic history. The first outstanding product of his prodigious scholarship was his book *Private Investment in India 1900-1920*, which many reviewers, even critics, unanimously praised. It has been compared to the monumental works of anti-colonial historiography, such as those by Dadabhai



Amiya Kumar Bagchi

Naoroji, Romesh Chunder Dutt, and D.R. Gadgil. This work was followed by his research on "Industrialisation in the Indian economy" in the *Colony of Capital* in which he covered a range of capitalism of countries in the global South, focusing on the demographic collapse initiated by imperialists.

After his stint at Cambridge, Bagchi returned to Kolkata to take up a teaching position in its then nascent, the Presidency College, from where he shifted after a few years to the newly established Centre

for the Study of Social Sciences, Calcutta, of which he subsequently became the second vice-chancellor. A staunch loyal to Kolkata, never permanently leaving the city, he had numerous jobs elsewhere, including in Delhi. Included, four persons were killed in the violence following a court-ordered survey of

An institution-builder He was a pioneer who initiated a range of programmes of students whom he taught and guided for Ph.D. work. He was an institution-builder who was an institution himself. He was a pioneer who initiated a range of programmes of students whom he taught and guided for Ph.D. work. He was an institution-builder who was an institution himself. He was a pioneer who initiated a range of programmes of students whom he taught and guided for Ph.D. work. He was an institution-builder who was an institution himself.

IAF team in Egypt for month-long training

Prabhat Pattnaik
NEW DELHI

An Indian Air Force contingent of 50-30 MRMs and personnel is in Egypt for a month-long training. The second edition of the month-long Tactical Leadership Programme (TLP) at Egyptian Air Force (EAF) Weapon School, along with the Air Force of Jordan and Greece.

The IAF team is led by the C-in-C based Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (ACE), which trains the top echelon of fighter pilots from the country. The IAF team reached Egypt on November 26, across a combined Egyptian and Jordanian exchange of ideas in the

domain of large force engagements involving complex and multi-aircraft missions. The TLP will see deepening interoperability, sources said.

In the maiden TLP in 2022, TACDE participated with three Indian TLPs at Egyptian Air Force (EAF) Weapon School, along with the Air Force of Jordan and Greece. The IAF team is led by the C-in-C based Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (ACE), which trains the top echelon of fighter pilots from the country. The IAF team reached Egypt on November 26, across a combined Egyptian and Jordanian exchange of ideas in the

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While digging up new and hitherto unavailable data with a diligence that could match that of the most industrious of the historians, he saw patterns in data which only his macroeconomics could enable him to see. He was thus an altogether new kind of an economist, *au fait* both in economic theory and in applied economics, including economic history. The first outstanding product of his prodigious scholarship was his book *Private Investment in India 1900-1939*, which many reviewers, even critics unsympathetic to his argument, have compared to the monumental works of anti-colonial historiography, such as those by Dadabhai



Amiya Kumar Bagchi

Naoroji, Romesh Chunder Dutt, and D.R.Gadgil. This work was followed by his research on "Deindustrialization in the Indian economy in the Colonial Period" which again provided definitive evidence to clinch a long-standing debate that had gone on since the days of Naoroji and Dutt.

Among his numerous books and articles, most of which are path-breaking, the one that stands out for me is a piece he wrote in the *Economic and Political Weekly* in 1972, in which he provided a superb and original outline of the dialectics

of development and under-development in a historical setting in the world economy. This work, in its simplicity and its persuasiveness, can be considered a true descendant of Paul Baran's masterly book *The Political Economy of Growth*. It provides a pithy introduction to the argument developed more elaborately, though perhaps with less immediate impact, in his later work, *The Political Economy of Underdevelopment*. His last magnum opus was *Perilous Passage: Mankind and the Global Ascendancy of Capital* in which he covered a range of experiences of countries in the Global South, focusing on the demographic collapse initiated by imperialism.

After his stint at Cambridge, Bagchi returned to Kolkata to take up a teaching position in his alma mater, the Presidency College, from where he shifted after some years to the then newly established Centre

for the Study of Social Sciences, Calcutta, of which he subsequently became the Director. A staunch believer in Left politics, Bagchi served for a long time as a member and then as the Vice-Chairman of the West Bengal State Planning Board, under the Left Front government. After leaving the government, he established and directed the Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata. He remained attached to this institution as a Professor Emeritus till his last days.

An institution-builder

Admired and respected by legions of students whom he taught and guided for Ph.D. work, he was an institution-builder who was an institution himself. He was a pioneer who re-established on a firmer footing the propositions first advanced by the Indian nationalist writers, and in the process illuminated with extraordinary clarity the

workings of imperialism in producing underdevelopment.

All his life however Bagchi remained loyal to Kolkata, never permanently leaving this favourite city of his, even though he had numerous offers of prestigious jobs elsewhere, including in Delhi. Indeed, he was for a long time a remarkable bridge between Kolkata and Cambridge, a friend of distinguished Cambridge economists like Maurice Dobb, Piero Sraffa, Richard Goodwin, and Joan Robinson; he also took great pleasure in listening to Rabindra Sangeet and discussing the latest poem of Shakti Chattopadhyay (his exact contemporary) and the latest play of Utpal Dutt. Above all however, he never lost his faith in a future where there will be a world free of exploitation.

Prabhat Patnaik is Professor Emeritus, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU

- **Life and Career of Amiya Kumar Bagchi**

- Renowned economist, historian, and public intellectual, Amiya Kumar Bagchi, passed away on Thursday evening.
- He initially joined Presidency College, Kolkata, and later went to Cambridge University on a West Bengal government scholarship.
- प्रसिद्ध अर्थशास्त्री, इतिहासकार, और सार्वजनिक बुद्धिजीवी, अमिया कुमार बागची का गुरुवार शाम को निधन हो गया।
- उन्होंने प्रारंभ में प्रेसीडेंसी कॉलेज, कोलकाता में अध्ययन किया और बाद में पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार की छात्रवृत्ति पर कैम्ब्रिज विश्वविद्यालय गए।

Contributions to Economics and History

Bagchi's notable works include *Private Investment in India 1900–1939*, *The Political Economy of Underdevelopment*, and *Perilous Passage: Mankind and the Global Ascendancy of Capital*.

His research focused on the dynamics of development, deindustrialization in colonial India, and global underdevelopment caused by imperialism.

बागची के उल्लेखनीय कार्यों में *प्राइवेट इन्वेस्टमेंट इन इंडिया 1900–1939*, *द पॉलिटिकल इकॉनमी ऑफ अंडरडेवलपमेंट*, और *पेरिलस पैसेज: मैनकाइंड एंड द ग्लोबल एसेंडेंसी ऑफ कैपिटल* शामिल हैं।

उनका शोध विकास की गतिशीलता, औपनिवेशिक भारत में औद्योगीकरण और साम्राज्यवाद के कारण वैश्विक पिछड़ेपन पर केंद्रित था।

- **Visionary Institution-Builder**

- Bagchi helped establish and direct the Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata.
- He served as a professor at Presidency College and later as the Director of the Centre for the Study of Social Sciences, Kolkata.
- बागची ने कोलकाता में इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ डेवलपमेंट स्टडीज की स्थापना और निर्देशन में मदद की।
- उन्होंने प्रेसीडेंसी कॉलेज में प्रोफेसर और बाद में कोलकाता के सेंटर फॉर द स्टडी ऑफ सोशल साइंसेज के निदेशक के रूप में कार्य किया।

- **Ideological and Political Beliefs**

- A staunch believer in Left politics, Bagchi was part of the West Bengal State Planning Board and contributed significantly to public policy discussions.
- His works often addressed the economic impact of colonialism and emphasized anti-imperialist perspectives.
- वामपंथी राजनीति में दृढ़ विश्वास रखने वाले, बागची पश्चिम बंगाल राज्य योजना बोर्ड के सदस्य थे और सार्वजनिक नीति चर्चाओं में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया।
- उनके कार्य अक्सर औपनिवेशिक शासन के आर्थिक प्रभाव को संबोधित करते थे और साम्राज्यवाद विरोधी दृष्टिकोण पर जोर देते थे।

Legacy and Influence

Bagchi was admired for his mentorship and guidance to Ph.D. students and young scholars.

Despite offers for prestigious positions, he remained loyal to Kolkata and contributed to its academic and intellectual life.

बागची को पीएचडी छात्रों और युवा विद्वानों को मार्गदर्शन देने के लिए प्रशंसा मिली।

प्रतिष्ठित पदों के प्रस्तावों के बावजूद, उन्होंने कोलकाता के प्रति वफादारी बनाए रखी और उसके शैक्षणिक और बौद्धिक जीवन में योगदान दिया।

- **Impact of His Work**

- His research provided critical insights into underdevelopment, imperialism, and economic history.
- Bagchi's interdisciplinary approach continues to inspire scholars in economics and social sciences.
- उनके शोध ने पिछड़ेपन, साम्राज्यवाद, और आर्थिक इतिहास पर महत्वपूर्ण अंतर्दृष्टि प्रदान की।
- बागची की बहुविषयक दृष्टि आज भी अर्थशास्त्र और सामाजिक विज्ञान के विद्वानों को प्रेरित करती है।



Chief Justice of Delhi HC Manmohan recommended as SC Judge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjay Kumar, on Thursday recommended Justice Manmohan, Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, for appointment as a Supreme Court judge.

This is the first recommendation to the Supreme Court Bench from the Chief Justice Khanna Collegium. If appointed to the top court, Justice Manmohan will fill one of the two pending vacancies in the Supreme Court, which has a sanctioned judicial strength of 34. The two vacancies arise with the retirements of Chief Justice Khanna's predecessor, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, and Justice Hima Kohli.

Senior Judge Justice Manmohan ranks second in the combined all-India list of High Court judges.

He is the senior-most judge serving in the Delhi High Court. As of Justice Manmohan, Chief Justice Khanna's parent High Court is Delhi.

Justice Manmohan was appointed a judge of the Delhi High Court on March 12, 2020. He has been functioning as the Chief Justice of the High Court since September 25.

"While recommending his name, the Collegium has taken into consideration the fact that at present, the Bench of the Supreme Court is represented by only one judge from the High Court of Delhi," the resolution said, "nothing is above the

Pannun issues threat to three-day meet of DGPs in Bhubaneswar

Satyanshu Rath
BHUBANESWAR

U.S.-based Khalistani separatist Gurbajwant Singh Pannun has threatened to disrupt a three-day meet starting in Bhubaneswar on Friday that will focus on India's internal security.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval are set to attend the conference.

The Odisha Police are on high alert after the video threat issued by Mr. Pannun. "We are on high alert and implementing security measures as needed," said S. Dev Datta Singh, Commissioner of Police for Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. Extensive security measures have been put in place for the IPR-IPR conference. The movement will be restricted from November 29 to December 1, with 70 platoons of police deployed across the city, which has also been declared a no-fly and no-drum zone.

As Mr. Modi is expected to spend a few hours at the

Armies making great progress in implementing settlement: China

Patrolling to resume in more places; Chinese Defence Ministry spokesperson says, 'We look forward to harmonious dance between the Chinese dragon and Indian elephant with concerted steps'; statement comes after meeting between Modi, Xi

Dinakar Patel
NEW DELHI

S tating that the Armistice of India and China are implementing the settlement reached between the two countries for disengagement and resumption of patrolling at Demchok and Depsang in eastern Ladakh, the Chinese Defence Ministry said on Thursday that they were making "great progress".

Sources in the know said the frequency of patrolling would be a maximum of one a week by each side in Depsang and Demchok. Talks are continuing between the two sides for the resumption of patrolling at the other five friction points where buffer zones are in place following disengagement.

The meeting came against the backdrop of the disengagement and the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi



Report said, Chinese Defence Ministry spokesperson Wu Qian at a press conference in Beijing on Thursday.

his Chinese counterpart, Admiral Dong Jun, in Laos on the sidelines of the BRICS Defence Ministers' Meeting.

The meeting came against the backdrop of the disengagement and the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi

Constitution copy in hand, Priyanka takes oath as LS member

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Thursday took oath as a Lok Sabha member, beginning her journey as a parliamentarian.

She was elected from Wayanad in Kerala which her brother and minister, Rahul Gandhi, vacated while retaining the Karapur seat. Mr. Gandhi emerged victorious in both Karapur and Wayanad in the Lok Sabha election.

The Congress leader took oath in Hindi holding a red and black copy of the Constitution, which she carried in his public meetings.

Asked about taking the oath holding up the Constitution, she said it signified that "nothing is above the



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

Constitution for us and we will continue to fight for it."

She said her priority would be to raise important issues concerning the nation and fight for the country and her party.

"It will strengthen Rahul, the party and the principles of the Constitution because we are fighting for that," she told the presspersons when asked about the impact of her entering Parliament.

Cong. says PM is not focusing on scaling down inflation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's complex move is not on disrupting inflation but on showing low inflation figures, the Congress said on Thursday.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jadhav Barmesh said India had seen 10 years of "Modi made inflation", created and fostered by poor policy-making, but the government was focused on propaganda and data manipulation. "The government is now concertedly attempting to manipulate the Consumer Price Index and Wholesale Price Index figures to show inflation as being under control, even as the ground reality is that the common man is facing non-stop price rise," he said.

Disruptions are a malady; Parliament risks sliding into irrelevance, says Dhankhar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Closing Rajya Sabha members in disrupting the House for three days, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said that Parliament risks sliding into irrelevance.

His comments came minutes before he addressed the House for the day. After the House sat down for business, Mr. Dhankhar said he notices under Rule 267 seeking suspension of the business of the day to discuss the subject of their notices, have been moved.

Revers of these notices were regarding "allegation of corruption against the Adani group", six of them on "recent violence in



Jagdeep Dhankhar

the house all noon.

When the House reassembled, the Opposition members led by Mr. Dhankhar exhorted them to restore order.

"Failed people" He said the House fell short of people's expectation, since it had failed to have constructive dialogues, constructive engagement echoing the collective sentiment of our people.

Parliamentary disruption is a "malady, it's a malady," he said.

"It weakens our foundation, it slides Parliament into irrelevance. We must continue to have our relevance. When we engage in this kind of conduct, we deviate from constitutional ordinance. We show our back to our duties," the Rajya Sabha Chairman said.

Lok Sabha extends tenure of Waqf JPC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Thursday adopted a motion extending the term of the Select Parliamentary Committee (SPC) on the Waqf Amendment Bill till the end of the Budget Session in 2025.

The Lok Sabha constituted the JPC on August 8, and the panel was supposed to submit its report on the last day of the first week of the Winter Session, which is November 20, Friday.

The motion for extension was adopted just before the House adjourned for the day amid protests by the Opposition over the demand for extension of the JPC on Waqf Bill was moved by committee Chairman and BJP leader Jagdish Patel and approved with a voice vote.

The decision to seek extension was taken after the panel's meeting on November 27.

Opposition parties have criticised the amendments proposed by the Bill to the existing Waqf Act, alleging they violate the religious rights of Muslims.

on certain issues, despite everything being discussed before. The Opposition though continued the protest and the House was adjourned for the day by Tahir Qureshi. Party MP Krishna Prasad Termeri, who was the Chair.

Earlier, when the House adjourned for the day at 11 a.m., Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Revindra Chavan took oath as members of the Lok Sabha, and immediately thereafter, disruptions started.

Following this Speaker Om Birla had adjourned the House in the room. The resolution for extending tenure of the JPC on Waqf Bill was moved by committee Chairman and BJP leader Jagdish Patel and approved with a voice vote.

The decision to seek extension was taken after the panel's meeting on November 27.

Opposition parties have criticised the amendments proposed by the Bill to the existing Waqf Act, alleging they violate the religious rights of Muslims.

NIA searches 22 locations in human trafficking case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday conducted searches at 22 locations in six states in a human trafficking and cyber fraud case.

The premises of 17 persons were searched in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Maharashtra and Punjab on suspicion that they were part of an organised trafficking syndicate engaged in the trafficking of violence in Manipur.

According to the NIA, the syndicate lured the youth to have an lucrative and legitimate jobs and then forced them into "cyber slavery". Their passports were seized by the companies committing scams.

Taking to the streets



Tireless march: Hindu groups at a procession in Kolkata to protest against alleged attack on minorities in Bangladesh. (Siddhanta Ghosh)

Union govt. clears scheme for tourism sites in 23 States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has approved interest-free loans worth ₹2,255 crore to States for the development of tourism sites and infrastructure.

As part this initiative, 20 new projects have been

identified across 23 States. Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on Thursday.

Through this initiative, the Union Tourism Ministry has also encouraged States to develop lesser-known, tourist destinations, including infrastructure in Uttar Pradesh, Ponda in

Goa, Gandikota in Andhra Pradesh and Purbachal in Gujarat.

The loans were cleared by the Union Finance Ministry earlier this week. As per the directions of the Department of Expenditure, the Ministry of Tourism has issued operational guidelines for special

Assistance to States for Capital Investment (ACCI) for development of iconic tourist centres.

"Interest free loans" The aim of this scheme is to infuse long-term interest free loans for a period of 60 years to States to comprehensively developing

GRAP-IV air pollution curbs to remain in Delhi-NCR till Dec. 2

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed that the tightened Grade 4 restrictions of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP-IV) to deal with air pollution in Delhi and the National Capital Region will continue till December 2.

The court said that the decision of the Commission for Clean Air Management to ease GRAP-IV restrictions from December 3 to December 2 is not valid.

A Bench asked the CAGM to consider further easing the restrictions from GRAP-IV to GRAP-III or GRAP-II, and report to the court.

The court asked the CAGM to examine if "combination" of GRAP-IV, GRAP-III and GRAP-II measures could be put in force.

Additional Solicitor-General Advaitya Bhargava informed the court that the CAGM had improved considerably. The Bench said it would on December 2 hear submissions from the States concerned on the suggestion to impose a permanent ban on fireworks in Delhi-NCR.

By infusing capital investment in the form of concessive loans, the scheme facilitates or envisages the growth of the local economy and the creation of employment opportunities through sustainable tourism projects," Mr. Shekhawat said at an interaction.

The projects were finalised after extensive regional consultations with State governments.

The States have been given a timeline of two years for completing the projects.

+

Union govt. clears scheme for tourism sites in 23 States

Sreeparna Chakrabarty

NEW DELHI

The Centre has approved interest-free loans worth ₹3,295 crore to States for the development of tourism sites and infrastructure.

As part this initiative, 40 new projects have been

identified across 23 States, Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on Thursday.

Through this initiative, the Union Tourism Ministry has also encouraged States to develop lesser-known tourist destinations, including Bateshwar in Uttar Pradesh, Ponda in

Goa, Gandikota in Andhra Pradesh and Porbandar in Gujarat.

The loans were cleared by the Union Finance Ministry earlier this week. As per the directives of the Department of Expenditure, the Ministry of Tourism has issued operational guidelines for Special

Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) for development of iconic tourist centres.

'Interest free loans'

The aim of this scheme is to infuse long-term interest free loans for a period of 50 years to States for comprehensively developing

iconic tourist centres in the country as well as branding and marketing them at a global scale.

"By infusing capital investment in the form of projects, the scheme further envisages the growth of the local economy and the creation of employment opportunities through sus-

tainable tourism projects," Mr. Shekhawat said at an interaction.

The projects were finalised after extensive regional consultations with State governments.

The States have been given a timeline of two years for completing the projects.

IN BRIEF

India tests ballistic missile with a range of around 3,500 km

India has tested a nuclear-capable ballistic missile with a range of around 3,500 km from a nuclear-powered submarine in the Bay of Bengal, in a major boost to its nuclear deterrence and strategic capabilities, sources said on Thursday.

Mumbai police detain woman after call on plot against Modi

The Mumbai Police detained a 34-year-old woman on Thursday for allegedly making a "prank call" to the police about a plan to assassinate Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Indian workers in Israel eligible for medical insurance

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Twelve thousand Indian workers travelling to Israel after the beginning of the conflict between Hamas and Israel on October 7, 2023, the government has informed the Rajya Sabha.

Farmers must get high-quality seeds, fertilizers, says Agriculture Minister

A. M. Ujjesh VARANASI

The 13th National Seed Congress, a three-day conclave of policy makers, scientists, and farmers that began here on Thursday, is seeking transformative solutions, especially in the wake of climate change and increasing diseases in various crops.

In Busan, India says it will not back 'use' of plastic alternatives

Though the national stand is against plastic waste and for alternative materials, country will not allow itself to be 'pushed' into using certain products or materials' during global plastic talks, despite four days of negotiations, disagreements prevail

Jacob Kohly BUDAPEST

While India may have banned single-use plastic in 2022 and called for employing "sustainable" alternatives, the nation has struck a contradictory note at the ongoing UN-led Global Plastic Treaty negotiations here.



One of the 15 million tonnes of plastic used in consumer products and becoming waste within a year, only about 30% is collected. (view)

spek out, these submissions are not cast in stone. Sources prior to the negotiations told The Hindu that the word "use" smacked of irritation at being told what to do.

While India's national stand was against plastic waste and pollution and promoting alternative, sustainable materials, India would not allow itself to be pushed into using certain products or materials, they said.

Semantics at play While the meeting highlighted India's stance was not

but differentiated responsibility. The latter is a principle enshrined in climate negotiations, where developed countries, which are smaller as responsible for smelting the bulk of atmospheric carbon, are asked to pay up for minimizing future global emissions.

Plastic alternatives There is little clarity on whether sustainable alternatives to plastic exist. While India has, on paper, allowed the use of "biodegradable" and "compostable" plastic, lack of clarity on whether such plastic is actually degradable and whether compostable wastes are being composted has hindered their widespread adoption.

An investigation by the Centre for Science and Environment estimates that in 2022, nearly 24 million tonnes of plastic packaging has been introduced into India with a meagre recycling capacity of only 9.8 million tonnes. Of

the 15 million tonnes of plastic that are used in consumer products and become waste within a year, only about 30% is collected.

While countries are largely on hand, there are disagreements. China, India, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the U.S. are the cessation of plastic production as potentially disruptive, as there has been pushback, though this is nuanced and varies country by country.

the 15 million tonnes of plastic that are used in consumer products and become waste within a year, only about 30% is collected.

the 15 million tonnes of plastic that are used in consumer products and become waste within a year, only about 30% is collected.

Lithuanian drama Toxic wins Golden Peacock

The Hindu Bureau PANAJI

The 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which was kick-started with a star-studded opening ceremony at the Dr. Bhausaheb Prasad Kulkarni Indoor Stadium in Panaji, on Wednesday had come to a close.

The nine-day festival presented over 160 international titles from 81 countries, which include 16 premieres in World, three in International, 43 in Asian, and 109 in Indian categories.

Toxic won the Golden Peacock Award for the Best Film for "exploring adolescence and the harsh realities of growing up in an economically deprived society." Toxic is the debut feature of Sante Blazevic, a Lithuanian filmmaker.

Vikrant Massey won the Indian Film Personality of the Year award. The actor had starred in 2024 film, the blockbuster Hindi film of 2023. Roghan Muresani won the Best Director award for his Romanian tragic comedy The New Year That Never Came. Australian director Phillip Noyce received the Saeed Jay Lites Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering cinematic legacy.

UGC approves guidelines for flexible-duration degrees for undergraduate students

Mahesh Parashar NEW DELHI

Students pursuing undergraduate degree programmes could soon have the flexibility to finish a degree earlier or extend it beyond the stipulated duration, the University Grants Commission (UGC) approved a standard Operating Protocol (SOP) on Accelerated Degree Programme (ADP) at a meeting held on November 29.

The National Credit Framework (NCF) enables that are resistant to bullwork, a major part that affects cotton crops. "But policies have become an impediment to test the results of these innovations," he said.



M. Jagdish Kumar

"Students can use this option to shorten or extend their study durations based on their learning abilities. The UGC has approved to place the SOP in public domain for feedback soon, officials said.

7 said UGC Chairman M. Jagdish Kumar. Mr. Kumar said higher education institutions should establish committees to evaluate students' eligibility for the programme, and that degrees will be equivalent to standard duration degrees for employability and academic purposes.

The UGC has issued HEds in designing academic content, credits, and assessment methods and in award of degree while institutions are mandated to extend their study durations based on their learning abilities. The ADPs allow students to complete a three-year or four-year degree in reduced time by earning additional credits per semester, while the Extended Degree Programme (EDP) enable an extended timeline with fewer credits per semester.

CROSSWORD 14343

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Down and Across words.

- Across 4. More ridiculous place where one may find chicks? (7) 8. Near about the end of angel after? (7) 10. Various hills and injura without purpose (8) 11. Calling loudly to replace birds of Conservations (1) March (10) 12. Carriage in hot and autumn (6) 13. Fish and panted fish with popular starter of Italian pasta (6)

SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid with some numbers filled in.

- 14. Backward ball, Maharashtra's opener shut out (10) 15. Piece of entering short resumed by resumed composition (7) 17. A special revelation that is valuable (9) 18. Crispness of some more high-leaving Regis soda (9) 23. Black granular coating plastic, resistance-free brown item of winter gear (8) 24. Completely deceased after short vacation (6) 25. Without support Rocky, say, after losing almost everything (8) 27. King is his messenger as "terminator" - antislavery combats (6) 28. Bull's rear, having separated (7) 29. "Jolly good fell" - uttered scientist (7) Down 5. Addict teetering over before tumble? That's nothing! (6) 6. Hinged wide, so not holding up (9) 8. Bunch by rail of Oriental pupae across kingdom (7) 9. Refine from such wafting a cold (6) 17. Fine and parabolic growth outside capital city (9) 18. Unusual state about focusing in this day and age a wafting a tone (7) 19. Speech by Commanding officer covers withdrawn dance concert (10) 20. Singer Anand got in a right answer after reflection (7) 21. Sportsperson gave permission to be featured on love articles (7) 23. Miniature scene from new old drama play (7) 24. Place to gather per blossom (6) 25. Variant of Tamil, not essentially new language (8)

FAITH

Rama Paduka is held invaluable and equally efficacious in Rama pada tirtham, said Dama Perundevi in a discourse. When Rama's feet touched a stone it transformed into Alabya, offering her relief from curse. Guhan, the boatman who ferried Rama, Lakshmana and Sita across the Ganga as they began their fourteen-year vanavasam banishment from kingdoms, intrinsically felt the godliness in Rama, something even his father Dasartha failed to notice, and very cleverly obtained Rama pada tirtham for himself, offering to ferry Rama, Lakshmana and Sita across the river. Guhan allowed Lakshmana and Sita to board first. However, when Rama was about to get on, Guhan stopped him. A perplexed Rama informed him that he was on a pitru paripatnam obeying his father's stated command mission and therefore, he needed to cross the river. Guhan promptly revealed the Alabya episode and said, "If the dust from your feet covers my boat into a female, how long will you wait for my profession?" Rama immediately said he would wash his feet in the river before boarding, but Guhan wanted to perform the act himself. Guhan then proceeded to wash Rama's feet thoroughly and then sprinkled that water on his head, as Mahabali had once done. Recalling this in Narayana-yam, Narayana Bhattacharya says, "When you (Vamana) approached the place of the sacred sacrifice, blinded by the power of your dazzling light, Rama and others covered you with severe extremely handsome, and the blessed guru, with hair standing erect over his body, and with great devotion, washed your divine feet and sprinkled that water on his head," and asks Guruvayavupada to protect him.



India tests ballistic missile with a range of around 3,500 km

India has tested a nuclear-capable ballistic missile with a range of around 3,500 km from a nuclear-powered submarine in the Bay of Bengal, in a major boost to its nuclear deterrence and strategic capabilities, sources said on Thursday. With this, India became part of a small group of nations having the capability to fire a nuclear missile from land, air and undersea. The K4 missile was tested from *INS Arighaat* off the coast of Visakhapatnam on Wednesday, the sources said. It was the first test of the submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) from a submarine, the sources said. PTI

In Busan, India says it will not back 'use' of plastic alternatives

Though the national stand is against plastic waste and for alternative materials, country will not allow itself to be 'pushed into using certain products or materials' during global plastic talks; despite four days of negotiations, disagreements prevail

Jacob Koshy
BUSAN

While India may have banned single-use plastic in 2022 and called for employing "sustainable" alternatives, the nation has struck a contradictory note at the ongoing UN-led Global Plastic Treaty negotiations here.

During formal submissions on Thursday, India said that while it "encourages the research, innovation, and development of sustainable alternatives and non-plastic substitutes", it would rather not support the "use" of these products, technologies, and services.

India has pushed back against a suggestion by the Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) to "reduce the use of primary plastic polymers and associated chemicals of concern in plastic products". Chemicals of concern are used in making goods but which are associated with harm.

Semantics at play

While the reasoning behind India's stance was not



Of the 15 million tonnes of plastic used in consumer products and becoming waste within a year, only about 20% is collected. H. VIBHU

spelt out, these submissions are not cast in stone. Sources privy to the negotiations told *The Hindu* that the word "use" smacked of irritation at being told what to do.

While India's national stand was against plastic waste and pollution and promoting alternative, sustainable materials, India would not allow itself to be "pushed into using" certain products or materials, they said. However, wording could change and depending on how the negotiations progressed, more conciliatory terms could be considered, the sources said. Single-use plastics are

only a subset of the wide variety of plastics made from polymer, and different grades of plastic lend themselves to varying degrees of recycling.

In its multiple submissions on Thursday, India stressed that any final agreement on addressing plastic pollution should not contravene other multilateral agreements; should respect "national priorities, capabilities and priorities and right to development"; and "developing countries must get financial and technical assistance including technology transfer in line with the principle of common

but differentiated responsibilities". The latter is a principle derived from climate negotiations, where developed countries, which are counted as responsible for emitting the bulk of atmospheric carbon, are asked to pay up for minimising future global emissions.

Plastic alternatives

There is little clarity on whether sustainable alternatives to plastic exist. While India has, on paper, allowed the use of "biodegradable" and "compostable" plastic, lack of clarity on whether such plastic is actually degradable and whether compostable versions are being composted has hindered their widespread adoption. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has frequently worn jackets made from recycled PET bottles and spoken about the benefits of doing so.

An investigation by the Centre for Science and Environment estimates that since 2022, nearly 24 million tonnes of plastic packaging has been introduced into India with a mechanical recycling capacity of only 9.8 million tonnes. Of

the 15 million tonnes of plastic that are used in consumer products and become waste within a year, only about 20% is collected. While this is not a uniquely Indian problem, the inability to manage plastic waste after it is used as a product has led to calls, such as in the INC negotiations, to check the production of plastic itself.

The INC-5 Chair, Luis Vayas Valdivieso, before the start of negotiations on Monday, presented a text, called a "non paper", that laid out a reference document containing 32 "Articles" dealing with multiple dimensions of plastic waste, pollution, and curbing sources of production.

While countries are largely on board, there are disagreements. China, India, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, and the U.S. see the cessation of plastic production as potentially disruptive, so there has been pushback, though this is nuanced and varies country by country. The net result is that every sentence in the 18-page document is contested, with countries demanding their own modifications.

- **India's Stand on Plastic Alternatives**

- India opposes being forced to use specific plastic alternatives during the Global Plastic Treaty negotiations in Busan.
- While promoting sustainable alternatives and innovation, India stresses that any decisions should respect national priorities and capabilities.
- भारत बुसान में ग्लोबल प्लास्टिक संधि वार्ता के दौरान विशेष प्लास्टिक विकल्पों के उपयोग के लिए मजबूर होने का विरोध करता है।
- भारत टिकाऊ विकल्पों और नवाचार को बढ़ावा देते हुए जोर देता है कि कोई भी निर्णय राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकताओं और क्षमताओं का सम्मान करना चाहिए।

- **Challenges with Plastic Waste**

- Of the 15 million tonnes of plastic used annually in consumer products, only 20% is collected and recycled.
- Mismanagement of plastic waste is a global issue but has specific implications for developing countries.
- उपभोक्ता उत्पादों में वार्षिक रूप से उपयोग किए जाने वाले 15 मिलियन टन प्लास्टिक में से केवल 20% एकत्र और पुनर्नवीनीकरण होता है।
- प्लास्टिक कचरे का कूपबंधन एक वैश्विक समस्या है, लेकिन विकासशील देशों के लिए इसके विशिष्ट प्रभाव हैं।

- **Global Disagreements on Plastic Alternatives**

- Developed nations bear the bulk of the responsibility for emissions from plastic waste but seek global agreements to manage it.
- Nations like China, India, and the U.S. see limitations in the broad adoption of alternative materials.
- विकसित देशों पर प्लास्टिक कचरे से होने वाले उत्सर्जन की अधिक जिम्मेदारी है, लेकिन इसे प्रबंधित करने के लिए वैश्विक समझौतों की तलाश करते हैं।
- चीन, भारत और अमेरिका जैसे देश वैकल्पिक सामग्रियों के व्यापक उपयोग में सीमाएँ देखते हैं।

- **Call for Balanced Policies**

- India emphasized that solutions to plastic pollution should not overlook national challenges, equity, and differentiated responsibilities.
- Decisions must be inclusive, considering the diverse priorities and realities of nations.
- भारत ने जोर दिया कि प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण के समाधान राष्ट्रीय चुनौतियों, समानता और विभिन्न जिम्मेदारियों की अनदेखी नहीं करना चाहिए।
- निर्णयों को समावेशी होना चाहिए, जो देशों की विविध प्राथमिकताओं और वास्तविकताओं को ध्यान में रखे।

- **Global Plastic Treaty Progress**

- Discussions include frameworks to reduce plastic production, manage waste, and promote alternatives.
- India remains committed to sustainable development while advocating for fairness in global agreements.
- चर्चा में प्लास्टिक उत्पादन को कम करने, कचरे के प्रबंधन और विकल्पों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए रूपरेखाएँ शामिल हैं।
- भारत वैश्विक समझौतों में निष्पक्षता की वकालत करते हुए सतत विकास के प्रति प्रतिबद्ध बना हुआ है।

EXPERIMENT AIMS TO RECOGNISE IMPORTANCE OF AI IN RELIGION, EXPLORE LIMITS OF HUMAN TRUST IN MACHINE

With an 'AI Jesus', chapel in Switzerland tests people's faith in machines and divine

JAMEY KEATEN

LUCERNE, NOVEMBER 28

WOULD YOU trust an "AI Jesus" with your innermost thoughts and troubles?

Researchers and religious leaders on Wednesday released findings from a two-month experiment through art in a Catholic chapel in Switzerland, where an avatar of "Jesus" on a computer screen — tucked into a confessional — took questions by visitors on faith, morality and modern-day woes, and offered responses based on Scripture.

The idea, said the chapel's theological assistant, was to recognize the growing importance of artificial intelligence in human lives, even when it comes to religion, and explore the limits of human trust in a machine.

After the two-month run of the "Deus in Machina" at Peter's Chapel starting in late August, some 900 conversations from visitors — some came more than once — were transcribed anonymously. Those behind the project said it was largely a success.

Often, a lag time was needed to wait for the response — a testament to the technical complexi-

ties. After exiting, nearly 300 visitors filled out questionnaires that informed the report.

Philipp Haslbauer, an IT specialist at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts who pulled together the technical side of the project, said the AI responsible for taking the role of "AI Jesus" and generating responses was GPT-4o by OpenAI, and an open-source version of the company's Whisper was used for speech comprehension.

Visitors broached many topics, including true love, the afterlife, feelings of solitude, war and suffering in the world, the exist-



Deus in Machina installed in a confessional of St Peters Chapel in the old town of Lucerne, Switzerland, earlier this week. AP

tence of God, plus issues like sexual abuse in the Catholic Church or its position on homosexuality.

Most visitors described themselves as Christians, though agnostics, atheists, Muslims, Buddhists and Taoists took part too. About one-third were German speakers, but it also had conversations in Chinese, English, French, Hungarian, Italian, Russian and Spanish. "What was really interesting (was) to see that the people really talked with him in a serious way. They didn't come to make jokes," said chapel theologian Marco Schmid, who spearheaded the project.

Schmid was quick to point out that the "AI Jesus" — billed as a "Jesus-like" persona — was an artistic experiment to get people thinking about the intersection between the digital and the divine, not substitute for human interaction or sacramental confessions with a priest, nor was it intended to save pastoral resources. "For the people it was clear that it was a computer ... It was clear it was not a confession," Schmid said.

Kenneth Cukier, a journalist, author and expert with the U.S.-based nonprofit group called "AI and Faith," said if "AI Jesus" helps people connect deeper to them-

selves and the world, it "has to be a good thing... It will lead to better individuals and a better world," he said. "However this does feel a little bit infantile, and pardon my pun, machine-like."

"The risk is that it pulls people, ultimately, farther away from that which is more meaningful, deeper and authentic in spirituality," said Cukier, co-author of "Big Data: A Revolution that Will Transform How We Work, Live and Think." For Schmid, the exhibit was a pilot project — and he doesn't foresee a second coming of "AI Jesus" anytime soon.

AP

Lithuanian drama *Toxic* wins Golden Peacock

The Hindu Bureau

PANAJI

The 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), which was kick-started with a star-studded opening ceremony at the Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Indoor Stadium in Panaji, on Wednesday has come to a close.

The nine-day festival presented over 180 international titles from 81 countries, which include 16 premieres in World, three in International, 43 in Asian, and 109 in Indian categories.

Toxic won the Golden Peacock Award for the Best Film for "exploring adolescence and the harsh realities of growing up in an economically deprived society." *Toxic* is the debut feature of Saulė Bliuvaitė, a Lithuanian filmmaker.

Vikrant Massey won the Indian Film Personality of the Year award. The actor had starred in *12th Fail*, the blockbuster Hindi film of 2023. Bogdan Muresanu won the best director award for his Romanian tragic comedy *The New Year That Never Came*. Australian director Phillip Noyce received the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering cinematic legacy.

Opening film	<i>Better Man</i> by Michael Gracey
Closing film	<i>Dry Season</i> by Bohdan Sláma
Location	Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium at Panaji , Goa, India
Founded	1952
Awards	Golden Peacock: <i>Toxic</i> by Saulė Bliuvaitė Silver Peacock: Best Director: Bogdan Muresanu, for <i>The New Year That Never Came</i> Best Actor: Clément Favreau for <i>Holy Cow</i> Best Actress: Vesta Matulyte and Vilma Raubaitė for <i>Toxic</i> Best Debut Film of a Director: <i>Familiar Touch</i> by Sarah Friedland
Hosted by	Government of Goa Directorate of Film Festivals
No. of films	180
Festival date	Opening: 20 November 2024 Closing: 28 November 2024

UGC approves guidelines on flexible-duration degrees for undergraduate students

Maitri Porecha

NEW DELHI

Students pursuing undergraduate degree programmes could soon have the flexibility to finish their degree earlier or extend it beyond the stipulated duration. The University Grants Commission (UGC) approved a Standard Operating Protocol (SOP) on Accelerated Degree Programmes (ADPs) at its meeting held on November 13. The UGC is expected to place the SOP in public domain for feedback soon, officials said.

The National Credit Framework (NCrF) enables students with varying learning abilities to move through the curriculum at rates faster or slower than the standard duration of a programme by earning the required credits.



M. Jagadesh Kumar

“Students can use this option to shorten or extend their study durations based on their learning abilities. The ADPs allow students to complete a three-year or four-year degree in reduced time by earning additional credits per semester, while the Extended Degree Programmes [EDPs] enable an extended timeline with fewer credits per semes-

ter,” said UGC Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar. Mr. Kumar said higher education institutions (HEIs) would establish committees to evaluate student eligibility for the programmes, and that degrees will be equivalent to standard duration degrees for employment and academic purposes.

The UGC SOP guides HEIs in designing academic content, credits, and assessment methods and in award of degree while implementing extended and accelerated degrees.

The UGC has proposed that HEIs may earmark 10% of their sanctioned student intake for the ADPs. The institutes may constitute a panel to scrutinise applications received at the end of the first or the second semester under the EDPs and ADPs and select students accordingly.

THE CITY

DIRECTED OFFICIALS TO FIND WAY TO ADOPT AYUSHMAN BHARAT: ATISHI P 4

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY



103-SEAT SURVEY IN OCTOBER SHOWED MAHAJUTI REVIVAL

Disquiet in Cong over EVM blame, leaders cite survey that party was losing LS gains

82% of over 57,000 surveyed said Ldka Bahin beneficiary in family... Blaming EVMs suits some: Congress leader

MANDELAI
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

Several members of the Lok Sabha poll panel have been asked to... Many leaders have told The Indian Express that the Mahajuti Bahin should not have come as a big shock — given that internal surveys carried out in the run-up to the November 20 elections in Maharashtra showed that the Maha Vikas



P Naidu, Aji Poojar, Ansh Shah, Hasmukh Shah and Devendra Fadnis in New Delhi Thursday. **PHOTO: ANSH SHAH**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'HOT HASTE... THREATENS NATION'S FABRIC'

Supreme Court to hear petition today against Sambhal mosque survey

CJI likely to hear; Masjid panel says keep survey report sealed

Behind faultline: Murder in 1976, breakdown of trust, role of a mahant

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26

DEVI MANI



Ananthakrishnan G

THE MANAGEMENT Committee of the Shri Sri Jagan Nath Temple, Mahant Bahinji Chitwan, has filed a petition with the Supreme Court challenging the order of the CJI Judge Justice Chandrachud allowing survey of the Masjid area, which was built by demolishing a Hindu temple.

Justice Chandrachud's order allows a survey of the Masjid area, which was built by demolishing a Hindu temple. The order also allows a survey of the Masjid area, which was built by demolishing a Hindu temple.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Lothal pit collapse that killed researcher: No ASI nod, trench dug within prohibited limits

BRENGAN DASHI & RITU SHARMA
LUDHIANA, NOVEMBER 26



Brengan Dashi

REPHRASED: A 10-metre deep pit collapsed near the Lothal site of Mohenjo-daro in Gujarat on Thursday, killing a researcher from IIT Delhi who was working on a project to study the site. The collapse occurred within the prohibited limits of the site.

project nearby study a 10-metre deep trench within the site. The collapse occurred within the prohibited limits of the site.

Bangla responsibility to protect minorities, India underlines; Hasina calls for Hindu monk release

SHURHAJITROY & DAMINI RATHI
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26



Shurhajitroy

INDIA HAS UNDERLINED its responsibility to protect minorities in Bangladesh, while Bangladesh has called for the release of a Hindu monk arrested in the country.

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IN PARLIAMENT



LS EXTENDS TENURE OF WAQF PANEL P 6

THE ABSENT of a Hindu monk and a member of the Parliament in Bangladesh has been a topic of discussion in the Lok Sabha.

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DELHI GOVT HOSPITALS, MOHALLA CLINICS



CM SOREN AGAIN

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BJP leader Hasmukh Soren took oath as the 14th Chief Minister of Jharkhand in Ranchi on Thursday. He will be the fourth son of a Chief Minister.

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DELHI GOVT HOSPITALS, MOHALLA CLINICS

'Spurious' drugs: Panel gives clean chit year after L-G sought CBI probe

ANUKTA UPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 26



Anukta Upadhyay

A panel of experts has given a clean chit to the Delhi government's procurement of drugs at Mohalla Clinics, despite a year-long probe by the CBI.

A panel of experts has given a clean chit to the Delhi government's procurement of drugs at Mohalla Clinics, despite a year-long probe by the CBI.



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CEO, NEXT IAS & MADE EASY Group

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*Note: *For Foundation course students who qualify for advanced programs upon clearing Prelims./

Ministry of Communications



India climbs up eleven slots to be among Top 50 Countries in Network Readiness Index 2024

Improved Ranking:

India advanced 11 positions, securing the 49th rank in NRI 2024, up from 60th in 2023.

The NRI 2024 assesses 133 economies across four pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact.

Enhanced Score:

India's score increased from 49.93 in 2023 to 53.63 in 2024.

Leading Indicators:

1st in AI scientific publications, AI talent concentration, and ICT services exports.

2nd in FTTH/Building Internet subscriptions, mobile broadband internet traffic, and international internet bandwidth.

3rd in domestic market scale.

4th in annual investment in telecommunication services.

Regional Performance:

Ranked 2nd among lower-middle-income countries, following Vietnam.

Telecommunications Progress:

Tele-density increased from 75.2% to 84.69% over the past decade.

Wireless connections reached 1.19 billion.

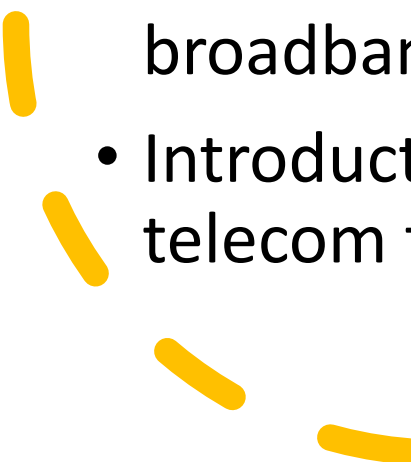
Internet subscribers rose from 251 million to 944 million, with significant growth in wireless internet usage.



- **Policy Reforms:**

- Improvements in spectrum management, ease of doing business, and consumer protection.

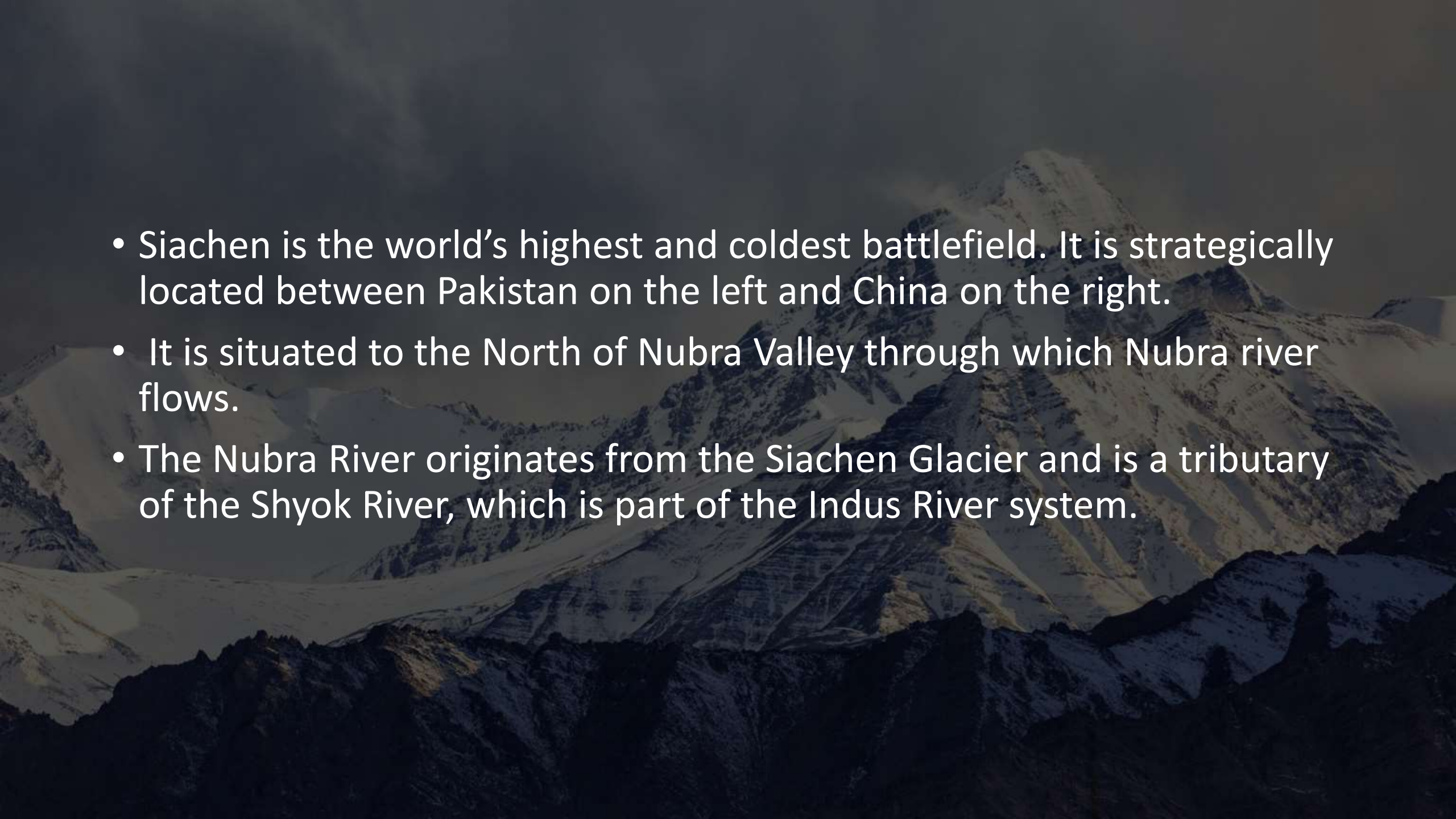
- **Technological Advancements:**

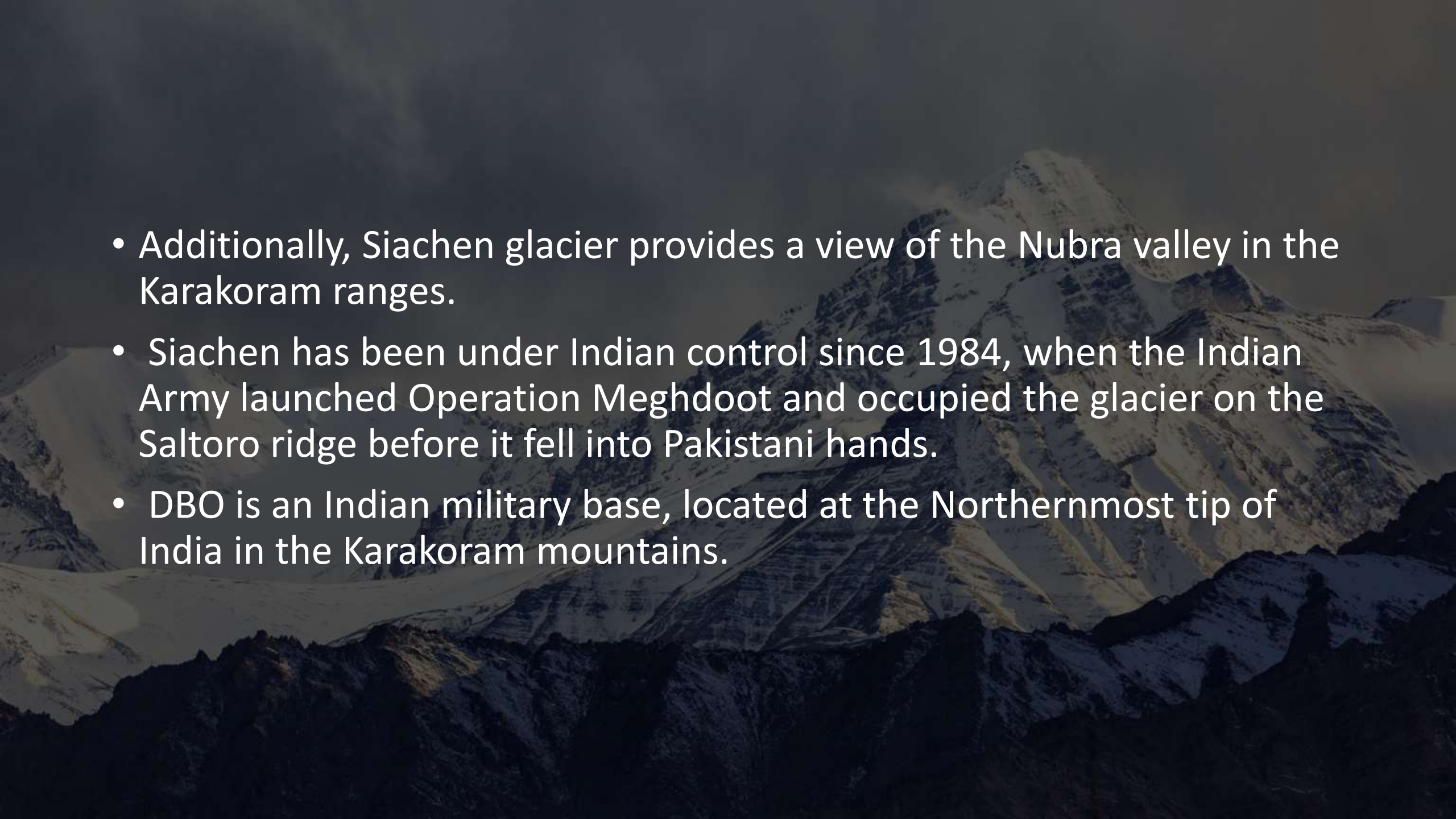
- Launch of 5G services in 2022, elevating India's global mobile broadband speed ranking from 118 to 15.
 - Introduction of Bharat 6G Vision to position India as a leader in future telecom technologies.
- 

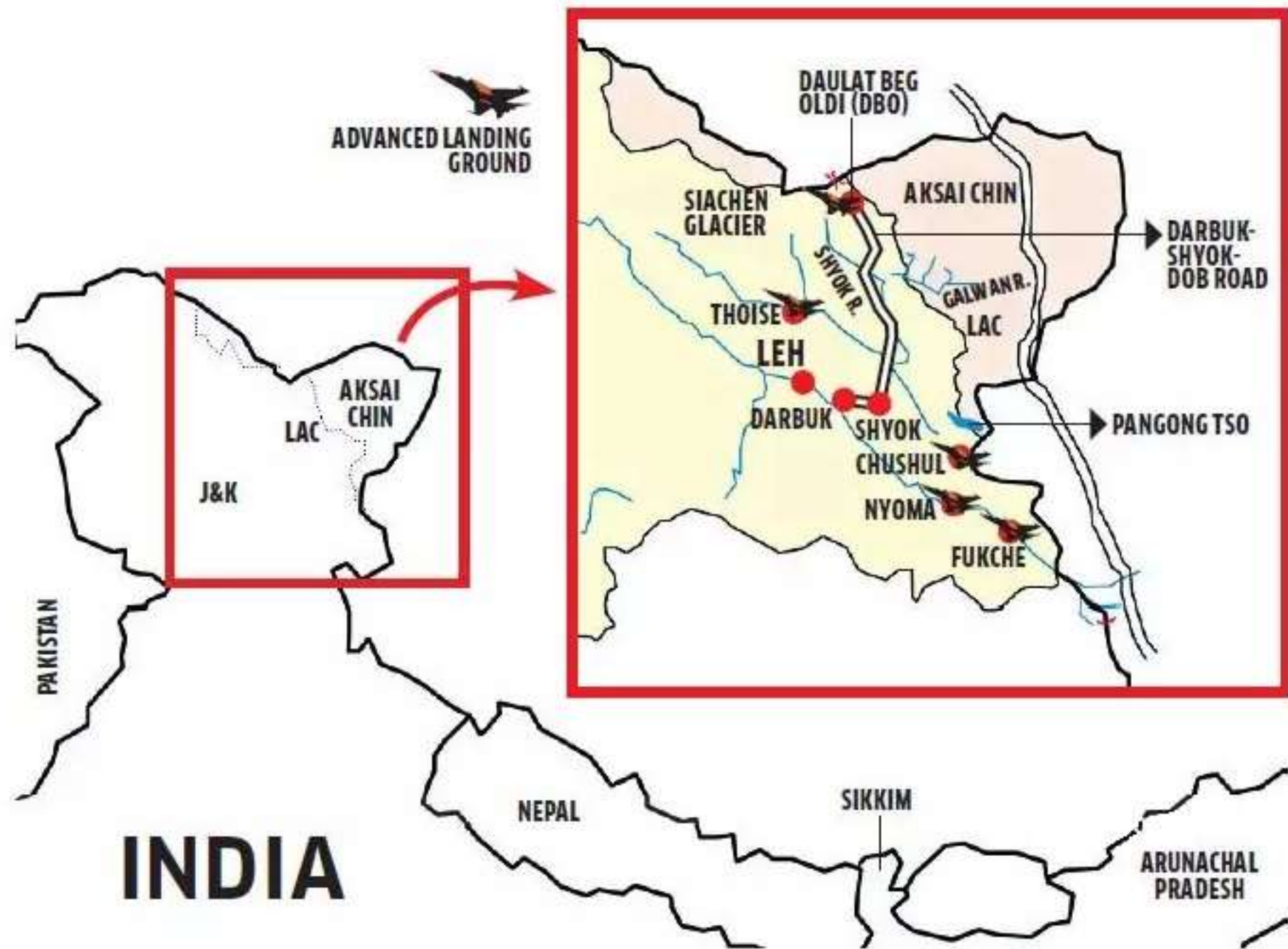


Optical Fibre in Siachen

- For the very first time, the Indian Army has successfully installed Optical fibre connectivity at Siachen and Daulet Beg Oldie (DBO) to ensure high-speed broadband connectivity.
- Fiber optic cables use fast-traveling pulses of light to transfer digital information. It relies on total internal reflection for their operation

- 
- Siachen is the world's highest and coldest battlefield. It is strategically located between Pakistan on the left and China on the right.
 - It is situated to the North of Nubra Valley through which Nubra river flows.
 - The Nubra River originates from the Siachen Glacier and is a tributary of the Shyok River, which is part of the Indus River system.

- 
- Additionally, Siachen glacier provides a view of the Nubra valley in the Karakoram ranges.
 - Siachen has been under Indian control since 1984, when the Indian Army launched Operation Meghdoot and occupied the glacier on the Saltoro ridge before it fell into Pakistani hands.
 - DBO is an Indian military base, located at the Northernmost tip of India in the Karakoram mountains.



An aerial photograph of the ocean surface, showing deep blue water with intricate, swirling patterns of white foam and ripples. The lighting creates a textured, almost crystalline appearance on the water's surface. Centered over this image is the text "India and the High Seas Treaty" in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

India and the High Seas Treaty




Why in News?



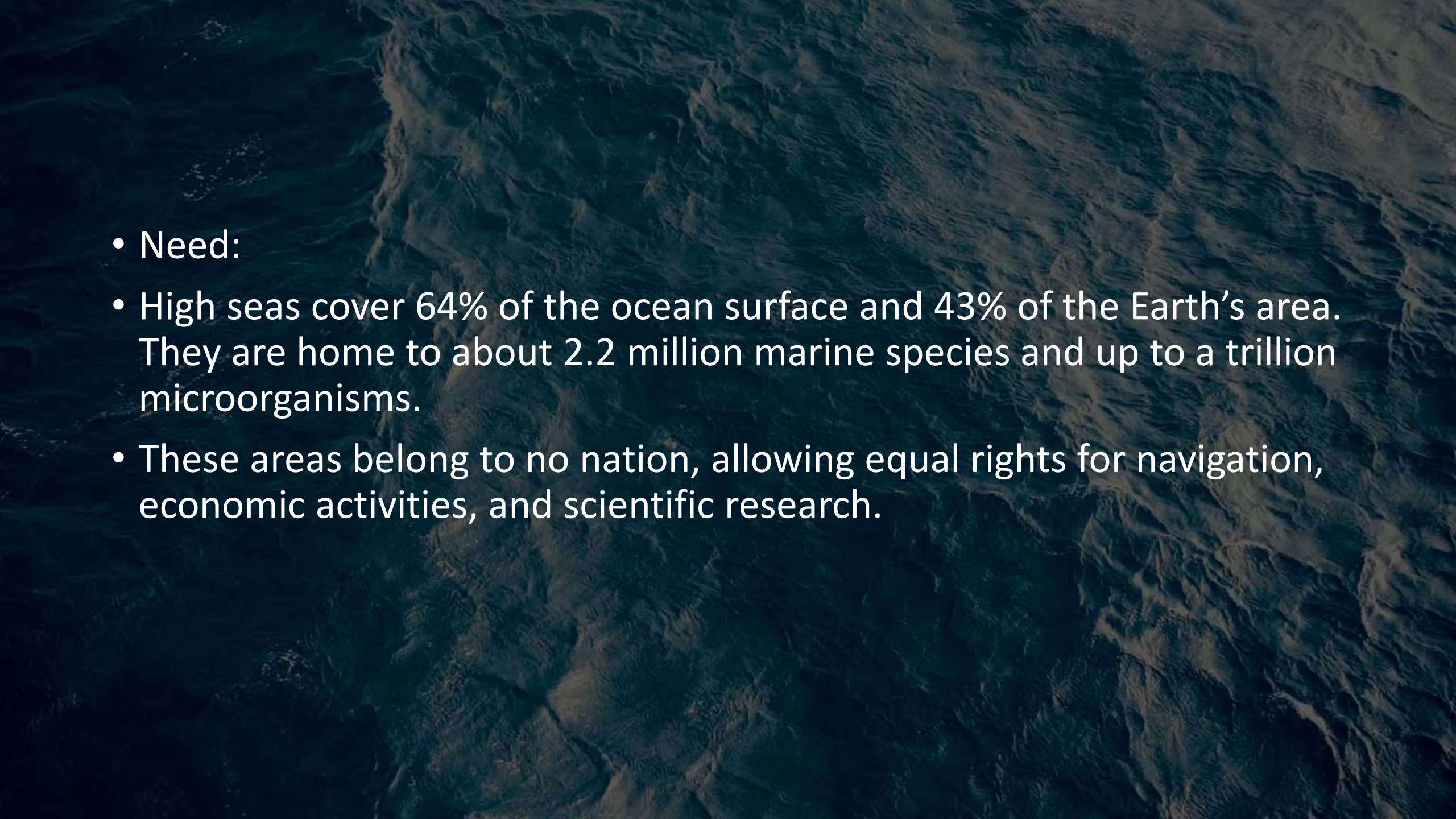
India signed the High Seas Treaty, formally known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, in September 2024, marking a major milestone in international ocean governance.



However, implementation and geopolitical challenges raise concerns about its effectiveness

- 
- An aerial photograph of a vast fleet of fishing vessels, likely tuna boats, scattered across the dark blue ocean at dusk. The boats are illuminated from below, creating a shimmering effect on the water's surface. The vessels vary in size and color, with many featuring bright yellow or orange accents. The overall scene conveys a sense of large-scale maritime activity in the open sea.
- What is the High Seas Treaty?
 - About:
 - The BBNJ Agreement developed under the framework of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) focuses on conserving and sustainably using marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, which are beyond the 200 nautical miles (370 km) of Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)

- 
- An aerial photograph of a large fleet of fishing boats, likely tuna vessels, scattered across the ocean. The boats are illuminated by the warm, low light of the setting or rising sun, creating a golden glow on the water and the hulls of the ships. The boats vary in size and color, with many having distinctive yellow and blue markings. The overall scene depicts a busy maritime activity in a vast, open sea.
- The BBNJ Agreement once it enters into force becomes the third implementing agreement under the **UNCLOS**, complementing:
 - The **1994 Part XI Implementation Agreement** (focused on mineral resource exploration in the international seabed).
 - The **1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement** (focused on conserving and managing straddling and migratory fish stocks).

- 
- An aerial photograph of the ocean surface, showing deep blue water with intricate, swirling patterns of white foam and lighter blue-green patches, likely representing currents or eddies. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.
- Need:
 - High seas cover 64% of the ocean surface and 43% of the Earth's area. They are home to about 2.2 million marine species and up to a trillion microorganisms.
 - These areas belong to no nation, allowing equal rights for navigation, economic activities, and scientific research.

As of November 2024



High Seas Treaty Signing and Ratification

196 UN Member Countries: ● No Action: 91 ● Signed: 105 ● Ratified: 15

Note: Some of the 196 UN Member Countries are too small to be seen on the map.

UN HIGH SEAS TREATY

aka BBNJ (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) Agreement

For the first time, UN members have agreed on a unified (legally-binding) treaty to protect biodiversity in the high seas

High Seas (HS)

All the saltwater bodies across Earth that aren't part of territorial sea/internal waters of a state

Background of Treaty

Demand for an updated framework to protect marine life in the High Seas, is about 20 years-old

Need to Protect HS

- Only 1.2% of HSs are currently protected
- 10% of global marine species at risk of extinction
- High exploitation due to commercial fishing, mining, acidification, pollution

The last int'l agreement on ocean protection was UNCLOS signed in 1982

This treaty is the 3rd "implementing agreement" under UNCLOS

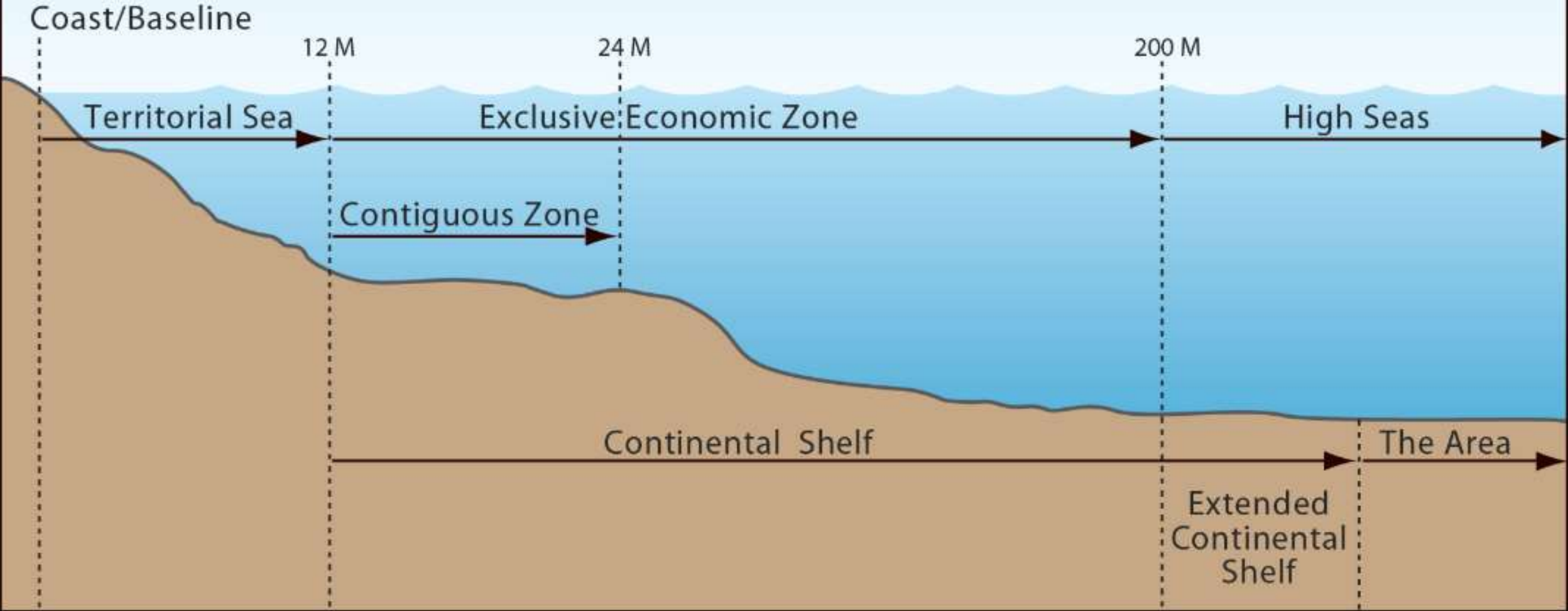
KEY FEATURES

- Create a new body to manage conservation of ocean life and establish marine protected areas in the high seas
- Estd. ground rules for conducting EIAs for commercial activities in oceans

KEY PLAYERS

EU, US, UK and China (in brokering the deal)

nautical mile (M)



Maritime Zones under International Law (Image credit: U.S. Department of State)

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS)

The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), also called Constitution for the oceans, has 168 parties, and sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.



The Convention has created three new institutions on the International level



THE INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA

01

An independent judicial body. It has jurisdiction over any dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention, and over all matters specifically provided for in any other agreement which confers jurisdiction on the Tribunal

02 THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

ISA has the mandate to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from deep-seabed related activities



THE COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

03

To facilitate the implementation of the UNCLOS in respect of the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles (M) from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured



Top 10 MCQ from
today's session

- Amiya Kumar Bagchi was a renowned economist, historian, and public intellectual. He helped establish which institute in Kolkata?

अमिया कुमार बागची एक प्रसिद्ध अर्थशास्त्री, इतिहासकार और सार्वजनिक बुद्धिजीवी थे। उन्होंने कोलकाता में किस संस्थान की स्थापना में मदद की?

- **A. Institute of Economic Growth / आर्थिक विकास संस्थान**
- **B. Institute of Development Studies / विकास अध्ययन संस्थान**
- **C. Centre for Policy Research / नीति अनुसंधान केंद्र**
- **D. Indian Statistical Institute / भारतीय सांख्यिकी संस्थान**

- The Indian Army has installed optical fibre connectivity at which two locations in Ladakh?
भारतीय सेना ने लद्दाख में किस दो स्थानों पर ऑप्टिकल फाइबर कनेक्टिविटी स्थापित की है?
- **A. Pangong Tso and Leh / पांगोंग त्सो और लेह**
- **B. Siachen and Daulet Beg Oldie / सियाचिन और दौलत बेग ओल्डी**
- **C. Nubra Valley and Kargil / नुब्रा घाटी और कारगिल**
- **D. Turtuk and Drass / तुरतुक और द्रास**

- The High Seas Treaty, developed under UNCLOS, focuses on which aspect?

UNCLOS के तहत विकसित हाई सीज़ संधि किस पहलू पर केंद्रित है?

- **A. Mineral resource exploration / खनिज संसाधन अन्वेषण**
- **B. Marine biological diversity conservation / समुद्री जैव विविधता संरक्षण**
- **C. Straddling fish stock management / प्रवासी मछली भंडार प्रबंधन**
- **D. Climate change adaptation / जलवायु परिवर्तन अनुकूलन**

The Global Plastic Treaty negotiations in Busan highlighted India's stand on plastic alternatives. What was India's primary concern?

बुसान में ग्लोबल प्लास्टिक संधि वार्ता में भारत का प्लास्टिक विकल्पों पर क्या मुख्य चिंता थी?

- A. High cost of alternatives / विकल्पों की उच्च लागत
- B. National priorities and capabilities / राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकताएँ और क्षमताएँ
- C. Lack of global cooperation / वैश्विक सहयोग की कमी
- D. Technological challenges / तकनीकी चुनौतियाँ

According to NFHS-5, what percentage of child marriages are reported in India annually?

NFHS-5 के अनुसार, भारत में हर साल बाल विवाह की कितनी प्रतिशत घटनाएँ रिपोर्ट की जाती हैं?

- A. 10%
- B. 15%
- C. 20%
- D. 25%

The Siachen Glacier is situated to the north of which valley?

सियाचिन ग्लेशियर किस घाटी के उत्तर में स्थित है?

- A. Nubra Valley / नुब्रा घाटी
- B. Aksai Chin / अक्साई चिन
- C. Gilgit / गिलगित
- D. Leh Valley / लेह घाटी

India opposed being forced to adopt specific plastic alternatives.

What percentage of plastic waste is recycled globally?

भारत ने विशेष प्लास्टिक विकल्प अपनाने के लिए मजबूर होने का विरोध किया। वैश्विक स्तर पर कितने प्रतिशत प्लास्टिक कचरे को पुनर्नवीनीकरण किया जाता है?

A. 10%

B. 15%

C. 20%

D. 25%

Under the Bharat 6G Vision, India aims to achieve leadership in future telecom technologies.

When was 5G launched in India?

भारत 6G विजन के तहत, भविष्य की दूरसंचार तकनीकों में नेतृत्व हासिल करने का लक्ष्य रखता है।
भारत में 5G कब लॉन्च किया गया था?



- A. 2021
- B. 2022
- C. 2023
- D. 2024

- Which river originates from the Siachen Glacier and flows into the Indus River system?

कौन सी नदी सियाचिन ग्लेशियर से निकलती है और सिंधु नदी प्रणाली में मिलती है?

- **A. Nubra River / नुब्रा नदी**
- B. Shyok River / श्योक नदी**
- C. Jhelum River / झेलम नदी**
- D. Chenab River / चिनाब नदी**



- **Siachen Glacier is situated to the (2020)**

- (a) East of Aksai Chin

- (b) East of Leh

- (c) North of Gilgit

- (d) North of Nubra Valley

Word of the day

Saunter:

to walk about in an idle or leisurely manner

Synonyms: amble, stroll

Usage: *They sauntered down the street. He walked with a kind of saunter as if he hadn't a care in the world*


International Phonetic

Alphabet: /'sɔ:n.tər/

Pronunciation: bit.ly/saunternew

Fun fact

- **Myth:** Eating carrots improves night vision.
Burst: Carrots are rich in vitamin A, which supports eye health, but they won't give you superhuman night vision. This myth originated as wartime propaganda!.
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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some wearing suits. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. An orange horizontal bar is in the top left corner.

Thank you
guys.
