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BIS ANNOUNCEMENT
IPR retention list to be released today
SPORT » PAGE 18

NEARBY



US repatriates 1,000 Indians for illegal entry

NEW DELHI
The U.S. has repatriated 1,000 Indians over the past year for trying to enter the U.S. illegally, said a senior official from the Department of Homeland Security. The official added there has been a "steady increase" in the number of Indians who have been repatriated. » PAGE 4



King Charles visits health hub in Bengaluru

BENGALURU
Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla visited a Bengaluru-based luxury wellness retreat for a three-day recuperative session. This was their first trip to India since he ascended the throne. » PAGE 5

THE NEW HINDU
Deepavali

has set its sights on...
The Hindu on November 1, 2024 in Chennai. It is a Hindu festival.

India, China troops complete disengagement

Patrols to resume soon, with ground commanders working out the modalities; the next steps involve addressing buffer zones as well as de-escalation and de-induction of the overall troop build-up in eastern Ladakh; troops will exchange sweets on account of Deepavali at all five border personnel meeting points along Line of Actual Control

Dishakar Patel
NEW DELHI

The troops of India and China completed disengagement at Depsang and Demchok in Eastern Ladakh on Wednesday. Army sources confirmed. This also marked the completion of disengagement from all friction points of the stand-off that began in May 2020. Following this, the two sides will exchange sweets at all five border personnel meeting (BPM) points, on account of Deepavali, along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on Thursday.
"Verification of the disengagement is in progress. Patrolling will resume very soon. The ground commanders, in the tanks of Brigades and below, met



Beet Sheel: The slip of the patrol teams at Depsang and Demchok is to be limited, likely under 10 troops, say sources. FILE PHOTO

late in the day to work out the modalities of patrolling," a source in the know said.
There are five BPM points along the LAC, near La and Kibitla in Arunachal Pradesh, Chindul and Daulat Beg Oldi in Ladakh, and Nitalu La in Sikkim.
Set to resume
Patrolling at Depsang and Demchok is set to resume in a day or two and will be coordinated by the two sides to avoid face-offs and clashes.
The size of the patrol teams would be limited, likely under 20 troops, and the frequency of patrols would be agreed upon between the two sides so that each can undertake patrols up to the points they occupied pre-2020, while preventing troops from

the buffer zones in such points continued to remain, with the resumption of patrolling yet to begin.
Next step
The buffer zones would be addressed subsequently, and new patrolling norms would have to be worked out.
The next step is de-escalation and de-induction of the overall troop build-up in Eastern Ladakh since the stand-off.
For the disengagement at Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points of the 2020 stand-off, a general framework agreement was concluded first at the diplomatic level subsequently, a detailed agreement outlining the modalities of disengagement as well as the patrolling was concluded at the

Corps Commanders' level on October 21, just before the start of the BRICS summit at Kazan, Russia.
The summit was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, who also held a bilateral meeting.
The agreement, in principle, means that the Indian Army will be able to resume patrols up to the Patrolling Point (PP) 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 in the Depsang area which it had managed to access in January 2020 and also access to the traditional grazing areas in Demchok.
After the stand-off, the Chinese People's Liberation Army had stationed Indian patrols from going beyond the Yumtson in the strategic Depsang plains.

City of lights



Festive facade On the eve of Deepavali, a aerial view of Anjathra shows the temple tower ablaze with lights for the 'Deepavali' event in its eighth year, and the first one since the consecration of the Ram Temple. FILE PHOTO

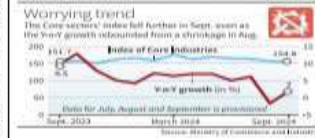
Shah 'ordered' campaign that targeted Sikh activists, says Canada

Associated Press
OTTAWA

A Canadian official on Tuesday alleged that Indian Minister Amit Shah ordered a campaign of violence, intimidation, and intelligence gathering targeting Sikh separatists in Canada.
Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister David Milton told Parliament members of the national security committee that he had confirmed Mr. Shah's name to The Washington Post, which first reported the allegations. He did not say how Canada knew of Mr. Shah's alleged involvement.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said a year ago that Canada had credible evidence that agents of the Indian government were involved in the murder of Canadian Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023.
Indian officials have repeatedly denied Canada has provided evidence and that the allegations are "unsubstantiated".
On October 14, Canada expelled the high Commissioner and five other diplomats, alleging they were persons of interest in multiple cases of coercion, intimidation, and violence aimed at quieting a campaign for a canteen at the National Capital Region. Mr. Trudeau's national security adviser said a meeting was held with India's national security adviser, Ajit Kumar, in Singapore earlier. He said the discussion was made to go public when it became evident the Indian government would not cooperate with Canada on proposed accountability measures.

As core sector output slumps, anxieties over growth deepen



Vikas Dhot
NEW DELHI

Output levels in India's eight core sectors, which account for about 40% of the country's industrial production, continued to dip in September with the Index of Core Industries (ICI) falling to a 10-month low of 154.6. That is 0.83% below August levels.
On a year-on-year basis, however, core industries output recorded a 2% uptick, reflecting a moderate but positive turnaround from August, when the index had contracted 1.6%. That is its sixth shrinkage in 30 months.
Forecasters were mixed for the two key construction-related sectors, with steel output growth hitting a 33-month nadir of 1.5% in September, while cement production rose 7.2% the fastest in six months.
Noting that steel output may have been dented by the automotive sector's contraction for the second month in a row, albeit with a milder shrinkage of 0.7% from September 2023. Crude oil production contracted for the fifth consecutive month, with the shrinkage deepening to 0.3%, while natural gas declined to 1.3%. Absolute production (GDP) had contracted marginally in August. The National Statistical

Bomb hoax chaos: U.S., Interpol help sought

Subramanian Mukherjee
NEW DELHI

With over 400 bomb hoaxes threats disrupting international and domestic air travel in India in the past two weeks, New Delhi has reached out to the U.S. government and Interpol to help investigate the calls.
In particular, it is learnt that Indian officials want to pursue any leads that might connect the calls to Khalistan groups in the U.S. In a broadcast last week, Sikhs for Justice chief Gurbaj Singh Panam, who is wanted in India, had called for a "boycott" of Air India from November 15 to November 19, to "destroy India economically".
FBI supports probe
According to sources, the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had been cooperating with the re-



Security personnel conduct an inspection of an Air India aircraft on Thiruvananthapuram. FILE PHOTO

quest from India, to trace the calls and emails that have been sent across the country to airlines using social media. In the 15 days between October 21 and October 28, over 410 domestic flights operated by Indian carriers have received bomb hoaxes. Threats, with Air India receiving dozens of such calls.
"U.S. law enforcement officials are in touch with

U.S. as well. "We need specific information about the hoax calls from Germany and the U.S. as the Vigil Private Network (VPN) servers from which these calls and messages are routed are located in these countries," the second government source said.
The cooperation from the FBI is significant as it comes at a time when in India U.S. has been under a cloud over the trial of an Indian government official and an Indian businessman accused of ordering an assassination attempt on Mr. Panam. While India has denied the allegations, that formally revealed in a Department of Justice indictment in November 2022. It has appointed a high-level inquiry into the case.
A team headed by Deputy National Security Adviser Anshul Singh travelled to the U.S. recently to discuss their findings.
Mr. Panam has made frequent broadcasts on social media, targeting India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and State agencies for alleged atrocities against Sikhs. He has made threats to disrupt Indian flights and events. However, U.S. officials have thus far not taken him into custody citing free speech laws and a lack of evidence that his threats are directly linked to concrete terror operations.
In his latest broadcasts, Mr. Panam has called for "students to shut down" schools run by the Central Reserve Police Force and Kandrya Vidyalyayas in the National Capital Region and Punjab. This is a means to target Union Home Minister Amit Shah, whom Mr. Panam accused of involvement in the alleged plot against him and other members of the Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada last year.

India, China troops complete disengagement

Patrolling to resume soon, with ground commanders working out the modalities; the next steps involve addressing buffer zones as well as de-escalation and de-induction of the overall troop build-up in eastern Ladakh; troops will exchange sweets on account of Deepavali at all five border personnel meeting points along Line of Actual Control

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

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“Verification of the disengagement is in progress. Patrolling will resume very soon. The ground commanders, in the ranks of Brigadiers and below, met

later in the day to work out the modalities of patrolling,” a source in the know said.

There are five BPM points along the LAC: Bum La and Kibithu in Arunachal Pradesh, Chushul and Daulat Beg Oldi in Ladakh, and Nathu La in Sikkim.

Set to resume

Patrolling at Depsang and Demchok is set to resume in a day or two and will be coordinated by the two sides to avoid face-offs and clashes.

The size of the patrol teams would be limited, likely under 20 troops, and the frequency of patrols would be agreed upon between the two sides so that each can undertake patrols up to the points they accessed pre-2020 while preventing troops from



Next steps: The size of the patrol teams at Depsang and Demchok is to be limited, likely under 20 troops, say sources. FILE PHOTO

coming face to face. Disengagement saw the removal of all temporary and semi-permanent structures set

up since the stand-off began.

There was also no change in the status at the

other friction points where disengagement was completed between July 2020 to September 2022, and

the buffer zones in such points continued to remain, with the resumption of patrolling yet to begin.

Next step

The buffer zones would be addressed subsequently, and new patrolling norms would have to be worked out.

The next step is de-escalation and de-induction of the overall troop build-up in Eastern Ladakh since the stand-off.

For the disengagement at Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points of the 2020 stand-off, a general framework agreement was concluded first at the diplomatic level. Subsequently, a detailed agreement outlining the modalities of disengagement as well as the patrolling was concluded at the

Corps Commanders' level on October 21, just before the start of the BRICS summit at Kazan, Russia.

The summit was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, who also held a bilateral meeting.

The agreement, in-principle, means that the Indian Army will be able to resume patrols up to the Patrolling Points (PP) 10, 11, 11A, 12, and 13 in the Depsang area which it last managed to access in January 2020 and also access to the traditional grazing areas in Demchok.

After the stand-off, the Chinese People's Liberation Army had blocked Indian patrols from going beyond the Y-junction in the strategic Depsang plains.





LAC

Daulat Beg Oldi IAF Base

Sumdo PLA camp

DEPSANG

PP 10

PP 11

PP 12

Raki nala

PP 13

ITBP's Burtse Camp

Y junction/Bottleneck
Now held by PLA



Completion of Disengagement (सैनिकों की दूरी की प्रक्रिया पूरी)



Indian and Chinese troops have completed the disengagement at Depsang and Demchok in Eastern Ladakh, marking the end of tensions since May 2020.

भारतीय और चीनी सैनिकों ने पूर्वी लद्दाख में देपसांग और डेमचोक में दूरी की प्रक्रिया पूरी कर ली है, जो मई 2020 से तनाव के अंत का प्रतीक है।

Patrolling Arrangements (गश्त की व्यवस्था)

Patrolling will soon resume at limited capacities with coordinated norms between both nations to avoid confrontations.

गश्त जल्द ही सीमित क्षमताओं में दोनों देशों के बीच समन्वयित नियमों के साथ फिर से शुरू होगी ताकि टकराव से बचा जा सके।

- 
- **Buffer Zones and De-escalation (बफर जोन और तनाव कम करना)**
 - Buffer zones will be created to maintain peace, with the next step focused on de-escalating and reducing troop presence in Eastern Ladakh.
 - शांति बनाए रखने के लिए बफर जोन बनाए जाएंगे, और अगला कदम पूर्वी लद्दाख में सैनिकों की उपस्थिति को कम करने पर केंद्रित होगा।
- 

- **Summit Agreement (शिखर बैठक का समझौता)**

- At a recent BRICS summit, PM Modi and President Xi Jinping agreed in principle to allow the Indian Army to resume patrols in previously blocked areas.
- हाल ही में हुई ब्रिक्स शिखर बैठक में पीएम मोदी और राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग ने सिद्धांत रूप में भारतीय सेना को पहले अवरुद्ध क्षेत्रों में गश्त फिर से शुरू करने की अनुमति देने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।

1. Bilateral Trust-Building (द्विपक्षीय विश्वास निर्माण)

1. Sweet exchanges between the troops at border meeting points reflect diplomatic goodwill, especially during Diwali celebrations.
2. सीमा बैठक बिंदुओं पर सैनिकों के बीच मिठाई का आदान-प्रदान कूटनीतिक सद्भाव को दर्शाता है, विशेष रूप से दिवाली के अवसर पर।

IN BRIEF

Salman Khan receives death threat, demand for ₹2 crore

The Mumbai Police on Wednesday said actor Salman Khan had received yet another death threat. The police said a message was sent to the coastal town of the Mumbai actor on Tuesday, threatening to kill the actor if he did not pay ₹2 crore. The World police have registered a case against an unidentified person. On Tuesday, the Mumbai police arrested a man, identified as Gufayat Mubsoob, who allegedly sent a threat message on October 25. The actor had received another death threat following the killing of BJP leader Babu Siddiqui in Bhubaneswar. In April, two persons on a motorcycle had opened fire outside the residence of the actor.

ICMR invites firms for making anaemia detection device

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has invited Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible organisations, companies, start-ups for manufacturing "non-invasive, minimally invasive hemoglobinometer". The device is intended to aid in the detection of anaemia, a key national health priority under the Anemia Mukt Bharat (AMB) programme. Aimed at expanding the effective screening network of anaemia among different age populations across India, the council said that over the past few years, several states in India have introduced nationally innovative hemoglobinometers that have become available.

Teenager beheaded over land dispute in U.P's Jaunpur

The Hindu Bureau Lucknow A 17-year-old boy was beheaded over a land dispute in Kabilrudpur village in Jaunpur district of Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday. The death of Anurag Yadav, a national-level table-tennis player, led to tension in the village. "The incident is a result of a land dispute between two parties for roughly 40-45 years. We are investigating the matter and have detained some people who are being interrogated," Superintendent of Police Ajay Pal Sharma. A video of the victim's mother, with the severed head went viral on social media. Reacting over the incident, the Samajwadi Party said that as the BJP government was becoming inactive, criminals were becoming emboldened in the State.

Govt. mulls new procurement model for multi-role fighters

This comes against the backdrop of the controversy surrounding the deal for 36 Rafale aircraft the Air Force is in urgent need of new fighter jets to arrest its falling fighter squadron strength

Dinakar Perli NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of the controversy in the procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets, the government is looking at a procurement model that is less controversial for the acquisition of 14 multi-role fighter aircraft that has been struck for several years now, sources said.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is facing a severe shortage in its squadron strength and is looking for quick induction of jets. Because of previous experiences, a procurement process is being thought of and also to ensure high level of indigenisation. The government is intent on doing what is required for the IAF, the source stressed.

The Request For Information (RFI) for 14 MRFA jets issued in April 2019 was a global aircraft manufacturer, which requires the aircraft to be in-service manufactured in India with significant technology transfer, but the process has been delayed and the project is yet to receive the acceptance. Recently (AoB), the start point of the formal procurement process.



Long wait: The delay in procurement is due to a cautious approach to avoid controversy as in the Rafale jet issue. IAF

The long delay is due to cautious approach to avoid controversy in the Rafale jet issue. IAF. The process has been delayed and the project is yet to receive the acceptance. Recently (AoB), the start point of the formal procurement process.

There is a major expression to look at alternatives, the Air Chief said.

Under the I20 Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft that was struck was another quantity acquired. All 36 jets have been inducted beginning September 2022. India and France are now in advanced stages of price negotiations for 26 Rafale-M jets for the Indian Navy's maritime fighters.

The IAF is currently at 30 fighter squadrons against sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons and is banking on accelerated delivery of the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) variants as an early conclusion and induction of the MRFA. The LCA-MRFA, 83 of which have been contracted and ordered for 97 more is in the pipeline, has been delayed. A larger and more complex project is under development and is supposed to do its first flight test in the second quarter 2024 to be ready for purchase of 36 jets during the current financial year.

The earlier procurement model, the sources stated.

Urgent need

Speaker of the media said this month, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh said the MRFA was "needed as on yesterday", underscoring the urgency of the procurement process.

The long delay is due to cautious approach to avoid controversy in the Rafale jet issue. IAF. The process has been delayed and the project is yet to receive the acceptance. Recently (AoB), the start point of the formal procurement process.

There is a major expression to look at alternatives, the Air Chief said.

Orissa HC grants bail to 3 in Balasore train accident case

Satyansunder Barik BHUBANESWAR

The Orissa High Court has attributed one of India's deadliest train accidents, which claimed the lives of 206 passengers in Balasore last year, to the composite negligence of railway authorities who were responsible for the upkeep, maintenance and proper functioning of the signal system at the Bahana station.

The court, however, granted conditional bail to three railway employees who were investigated for their alleged lapses in duty, stating that there was no conclusive evidence to suggest that they were completely responsible for the tragedy. "The petitioners' (three employees) entry in the North Gomti and the camping was the direct cause in North Gomti, which is the location of the development of the prosecution, did not conclusively indicate that the petitioners are solely responsible for the tragedy," the court observed.

Justice Malapatra said that the culpability for causing death of hundreds of passengers lies with the Indian Railways and its officials and employees, who were responsible for the magnitude of the damage caused by the train accident. "The investigation is required to be thorough and comprehensive, taking within its sweep the conduct of every officer involved in the signalling system."

Applications moved by the three employees, Justice Aditya Kumar Mohapatra said. "On a wholesome consideration of the entire incident, this court is of the view that the state's tragedy is a result of a composite negligence on the part of the railway personnel/officers/associates, who were responsible for the upkeep, maintenance and proper functioning of the signal system at the Bahana station."

There is no doubt that had the authorities been more careful and sincere in discharging their duties, the accident could have been averted, thereby saving the human lives lost," the judge observed.

Justice Malapatra said that the culpability for causing death of hundreds of passengers lies with the Indian Railways and its officials and employees, who were responsible for the magnitude of the damage caused by the train accident. "The investigation is required to be thorough and comprehensive, taking within its sweep the conduct of every officer involved in the signalling system."

Govt. notifies email policy for Ministries, Central departments

The Hindu Bureau New Delhi

The Union government on Wednesday notified the Email Policy of Government of India, 2024, outlining which government departments and bodies must use a national-level email service. The policy requires the use of the National Email Policy (NEP) for all government employees. The policy also allows for the use of private email addresses for officers as well as a generic name-based email address that would stay with them throughout their service in the State.

The government is also providing for redirecting of emails to transferred officials, and archiving of deleted emails. The notification states that an officer completes their tenure at a certain point, officers of several Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have been notified by Minister Narendra Modi. They urged Mr. Modi to ask the EPFO to provide higher pension as per the Supreme Court order of November 2022 and not in proportion to the contribution to the Employees Pension Scheme (EPS) made by the employees. The officers alleged that the EPFO had issued pension payment orders to some of the retired officers without considering the contribution they made to the scheme before September 2014.

PSU officers knock on Modi's door over EPFO's way of calculating higher pension

A.M. Hossain NEW DELHI

Asked over the decision of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation to calculate the higher PF pension according to pro-rata basis, officers of several Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) have knocked on the doors of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They urged Mr. Modi to ask the EPFO to provide higher pension as per the Supreme Court order of November 2022 and not in proportion to the contribution to the Employees Pension Scheme (EPS) made by the employees. The officers alleged that the EPFO had issued pension payment orders to some of the retired officers without considering the contribution they made to the scheme before September 2014.



PSU officers have alleged that the EPFO has not responded to their complaints. More than two lakh officers are coming under the category of Exempted Trusts, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) said in their letter to Mr. Modi, Union Labour Minister Manoj Sinha, and several Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha MPs that the EPFO was standing against the rightful entitlement of retired officers to post-2014 pension and salary. They also demanded the withdrawal of pro-rata

The officers said the EPFO gave several extensions to its subscribers to submit the joint option with the employer to claim higher pension. "Four months are over after this extended date and no viable improvement found on the implementation part," the NCFSA said. "Many Regional Offices of EPFO are rejecting the joint applications, submitted by the employees/retirees through proper channels by the employees of various PSUs. Their individual capacities too. Average salary for calculation of pension shall not be bifurcated into two pre September 1, 2014 and post September 1, 2014 i.e. pro-rata method of calculation should not be based upon it. Instead, average salary should be based on the average of 60 months of average pay or exit from service, as per 2014 amendments; one such letter said.

ED facilitates return of assets worth ₹185 crore

The Hindu Bureau New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate has facilitated the return of properties worth about ₹185 crore from various Pharmaceutical Lenders to a State Bank of India-led consortium of lenders via the official regulator. The agency on Wednesday said that as part of its ongoing efforts to reduce the proceeds of crime to the rightful victims, it held meetings with the claimants involved. "To safeguard the interests of the nationalised banks, the Directorate provided its no objection to the Special Court for the restitution of the properties," it said. Following the clearance under the Section 87 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act regulations, the court issued a restitution order on October 2.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

Sudoku puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

FAITH Significance of Deepavali article with text and decorative elements.

Govt. mulls new procurement model for multi-role fighters

This comes against the backdrop of the controversy surrounding the deal for 36 Rafale aircraft; the Air Force is in urgent need of new fighter jets to arrest its falling fighter squadron strength

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of the controversy in the procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets, the government is looking at a procurement model that is transparent and non-controversial for the acquisition of 114 multi-role fighter aircraft that has been stuck for several years now, sources said.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is facing a severe shortage in its squadron strength and is looking for quick induction of jets.

"Because of previous experiences, a procurement process is being thought of and also to ensure high level of indigenisation. The government is seized of the issue of IAF's fighter squadrons, and a decision may be taken in the next few months," a source said. The government is intent on doing what is required for the IAF, the source stressed.

The Request For Information (RFI) for 114 MRFA was issued in April 2019 to global aircraft manufactur-



Long wait: The delay in procurement is due to a cautionary approach to avoid a controversy as in the Rafale jet issue. AFP

ers, which requires the aircraft to be licence-manufactured in India with significant technology transfer, but the process has been delayed and the project is yet to receive the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), the start point of the formal procurement process.

The long delay is due to caution in avoiding a controversy in the process like the Rafale issue, which, the sources noted, also saw the disclosure of classified documents as part of the legal process.

There is a major exercise within the government to find a safe and transpa-

rent procurement model, the sources stated.

Urgent need

Speaking to the media early this month, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh said the MRFA was "needed as on yesterday", underscoring the urgency.

In April 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a visit to Paris, announced the direct purchase of 36 jets citing "critical operational necessity" of the IAF and a €7.87 billion Inter-Governmental Agreement was concluded in September 2016 with 13 India Specific Enhancements (ISE). The earlier

tender for 126 Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft that was stuck was subsequently scrapped. All 36 jets have been inducted beginning September 2020. India and France are now in advanced stages of price negotiations for 26 Rafale-M jets for the Indian Navy's aircraft carriers.

The IAF is currently at 30 fighter squadrons as against the sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons and is banking on accelerated deliveries of the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) variants and early conclusion and induction of the MRFA. The LCA-MK1A, 83 of which have been contracted and order for 97 more is in the pipeline, has been delayed. A larger and more capable LCA-MK2 is under development and is supposed to do its first flight next year October, with December 2027 to be end of research and development for LCA-Mk2. "If these timelines are met and the MRFA is signed parallelly we are okay. But if these timelines are pushed, then we need to look at alternatives," the Air chief said.

Aircraft flown

Attack	Jaguar, Eitan, Harop
Electronic warfare	A-50E/I, DRDO AEW&CS
Fighter	Su-30MKI, Rafale, Tejas, MiG-29, Mirage 2000, MiG-21
Helicopter	CH-47 Chinook, Dhruv, Chetak, Cheetah, Mi-8, Mi-17, Mi-26
Attack helicopter	Prachand, Apache AH-64E, Mi-25/35, Rudra
Interceptor	MiG 21
Reconnaissance	Searcher II, Heron
Trainer	Hawk Mk 132, HJT-16 Kiran, Pilatus C-7 Mk II
Transport	C-130J, C-17 Globemaster III, CH-47F (I) Chinook, Il-76, An-32, HS 748, Do 228, EADS CASA C-295, Boeing 737, ERJ 135, Boeing 777
Tanker	Il-78 MKI

- **Govt. Mulls New Procurement Model for Multi-Role Fighters**



- 1. Context and Background (प्रसंग और पृष्ठभूमि)**

1. Due to past controversies, particularly around the procurement of 36 Rafale jets, the government aims for a transparent and non-controversial process to acquire 114 multi-role fighter aircraft.
2. पिछले विवादों, विशेषकर 36 राफेल जेट्स की खरीद के संबंध में, सरकार 114 मल्टी-रोल फाइटर विमानों की पारदर्शी और गैर-विवादास्पद प्रक्रिया अपनाना चाहती है।

Need for Aircraft (विमानों की आवश्यकता)

The Indian Air Force (IAF) faces a squadron shortage and urgently needs new jets.

भारतीय वायुसेना (IAF) को स्क्वाड्रन की कमी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है और नए विमानों की अत्यधिक आवश्यकता है।

- 
- **Current Procurement Challenges (वर्तमान खरीद की चुनौतियाँ)**
 - Delay in the process is due to classified document disclosure and a requirement for local manufacturing with technology transfer.
 - प्रक्रिया में देरी गोपनीय दस्तावेजों के प्रकटीकरण और प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण के साथ स्थानीय निर्माण की आवश्यकता के कारण हो रही है।
- 

- **Ongoing and Future Deals (चल रहे और भविष्य के सौदे)**

- India and France are negotiating for 26 Rafale-M jets for the Navy, and indigenous projects like LCA-Mk1A and LCA-Mk2 are progressing.

- भारत और फ्रांस नौसेना के लिए 26 राफेल-एम जेट्स के लिए बातचीत कर रहे हैं, और स्वदेशी परियोजनाएं जैसे एलसीए-एमके1ए और एलसीए-एमके2 प्रगति पर हैं।

1.Planned Timelines and Goals (योजनाबद्ध समयसीमा और लक्ष्य)

1. The IAF aims to have 42 squadrons, with a decision on the MRFA likely in the next few months to meet urgent operational needs.
2. IAF का लक्ष्य 42 स्क्वाड्रन बनाना है, और अगले कुछ महीनों में MRFA पर निर्णय होने की संभावना है ताकि तत्कालिक संचालन की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा किया जा सके।

Stable decline

The text and data were sourced from Our World In Data. The text is a condensed version of the original report.



Chart 1: The chart shows decline in the Living Planet Index (LPI) across the world from 1980 to 2020

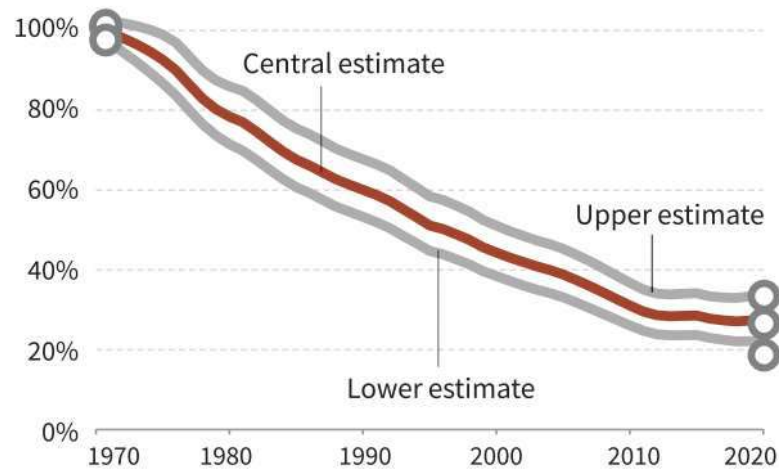


Chart 3: The share of studied populations in each taxonomic group with increasing, stable, or declining numbers

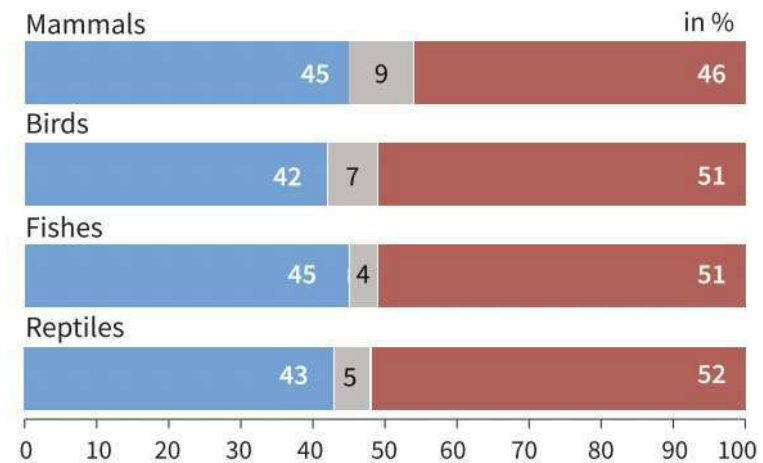
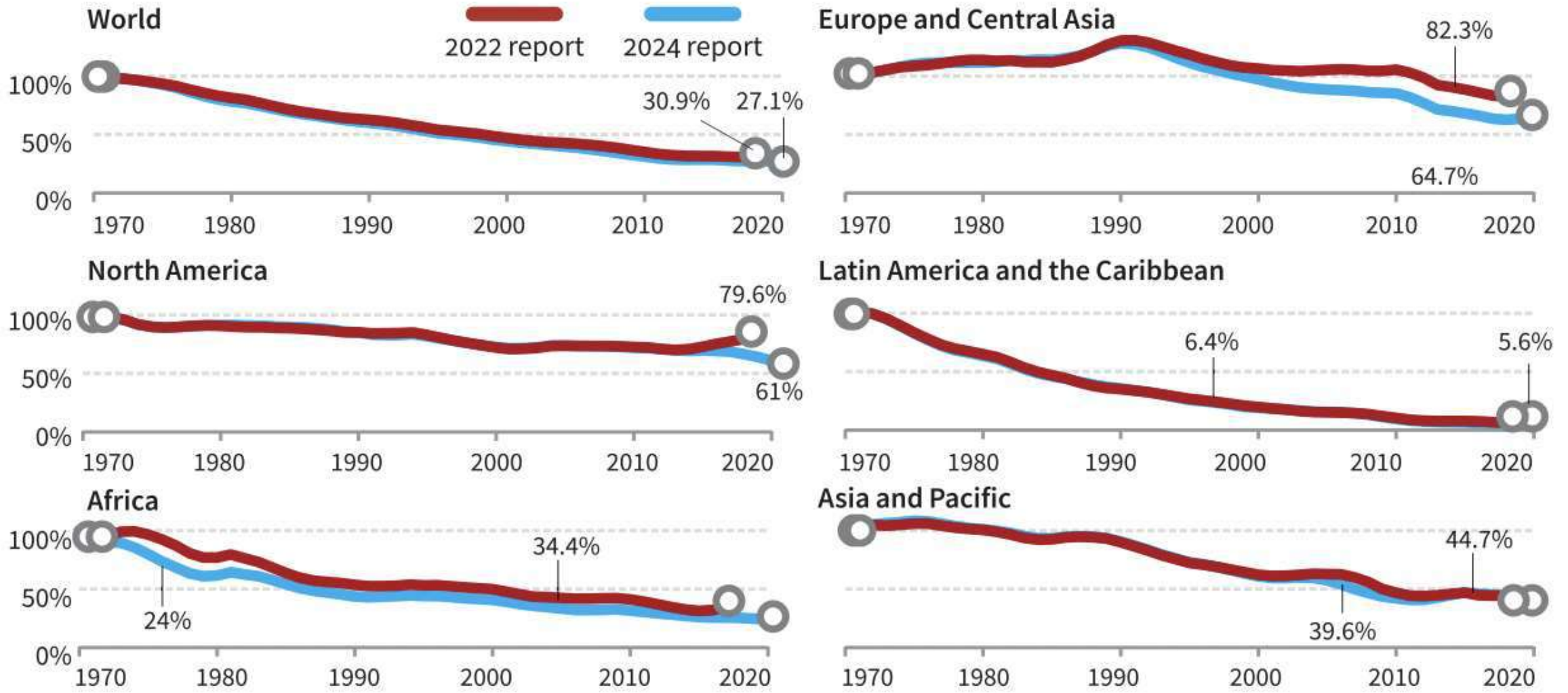


Chart 2: The chart compares the Living Planet Index in 2022 and 2024 globally and for different regions.



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Bob KFSang @ 8.40% p.a.
Bob CarLoan @ 8.95% p.a.
Utsav @ 10.85% p.a.
EDUCATION

PROPOSES 30-DAY TIMELINE VS CURRENT 6 MONTHS

Sebi wants AMC's to use NFO funds faster

AMCs can't launch new scheme unless earlier funds put in

JOYDEEP GHOSH
Mumbai, October 30

CUTTING DELAYS
Data shows AMC's took less than 30 days for asset allocation in 603 NFOs

Asset allocations in 98% of NFOs in last three financial years were completed in 60 days or less

Sebi paper says AMC's sometimes delay deploying funds due to large size of funds & market volatility

Feedback to Sebi proposal can be given till November 30

IN A BID to ensure that the funds raised by mutual fund issuers through new fund offers (NFOs) are invested faster, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Wednesday proposed a timeline of 30 days from the time of allotment of units to investors.

In addition, fund houses will have a window of another 30 days, if required. However, it will need to give reasons in writing for the delay to the investment committee which can allow an extension, along with

recommendations on how this new deadline can be met and a mechanism to track the fund deployment.

At present, asset management companies (AMCs) have 6 months from the date of issuance of final allotment by the market regulator with respect to particular schemes to

launch the scheme. "During examination of the periodic submissions made by AMC's, it was observed that in a certain instance there was a considerable delay in deployment of the funds," according to a Sebi statement.

Continued on Page 8

HOLIDAY
Financial Express wishes its readers a **HAPPY DIWALI**. As our offices are closed on Thursday, there will be no edition of the paper on Friday.

Fiscal deficit in H1FY25 benign

THE CENTRE'S FISCAL DEFICIT continued to underperform budget estimates, having come in at 2.1% of the annual target in the first half of the current financial year, compared with 3.3% in the year-ago period, reports **Pranshu Sahai**. ■ Page 2

GDP of US grows 2.8% on poll eve

THE US ECONOMY maintained a solid pace of growth in the third quarter, at 2.8%, as rising inflation and strong wage gains powered a resurgence spending ahead of the presidential election, reports **Roshini**. ■ Page 12

Suzuki & Toyota expand pact to make EVs in India for the world

VIKRAM CHAUDHARY
New Delhi, October 30

JAPANESE AUTOMAKERS Suzuki and Toyota on Wednesday expanded their collaboration to develop a factory electric vehicle (EV), which will be manufactured at Suzuki Motor Corp's plant in Hamamatsu from the early months of 2025.

Suzuki will supply the vehicle to Toyota to be sold globally first, while Maruti Suzuki India plans to launch the same model the following year.

This will be the first BEV to come out of the collaboration of the two firms, which first entered for internal-combustion engine (ICE) cars on May 28, 2018. The collaboration for ICE vehicles has seen Maruti Suzuki and Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) selling co-branded cars, with 13 such models launched till date in the country. These models are also exported to markets such as Europe, Africa, West Asia, and back to Japan.

"By leveraging the BEV unit and platform that we jointly developed, we will take a new step in our collaboration in the field of electric vehicles," Toyota president, **Toyotsugu** said in a statement. "Suzuki will supply our first BEV to Toyota globally, a testament that the collaboration between the two companies has further deepened in this way," Suzuki president **Toshihiro Suzuki** said.

The BEV unit and platform adopted for this model were jointly developed by Suzuki, Toyota, and Daihatsu Motor Corporation, adding such company's strength.

Continued on Page 8

E-comm strikes gold this Diwali as stores lose shine

Online sales cross ₹10L cr against just ₹4.25L cr of offline

CHEAPER & CONVENIENT

Retailers say they are looking out to online platforms due to deep discounts and convenience

E-commerce marketplaces usually generate about a third of their total annual sales during festive period

According to Flipkart, demand for premium brands has risen 17% year-on-year

Companies say about 35-40% of their sales coming from premium products

by approximately 30%." Their views are echoed by many popular markets across the national capital such as Connaught Place Market. Also, overall sales sentiment of online platforms and tech and mobile stores reflect the present situation of the latter.

An estimated trade of ₹4.15 lakh crore is likely to unfold over this Diwali, according to the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT). Retail markets across India registered a trade of ₹3.75 lakh crore last season. And, while more sales might be registered, it is less than half of what e-commerce delivered this Diwali — much less would cross ₹10 lakh crore.

Continued on Page 8

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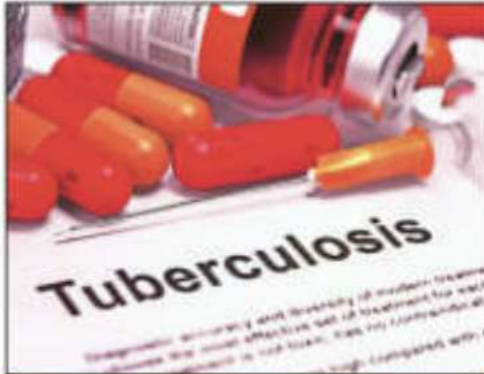
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Full of surprises.

India saw dip in TB cases & deaths in 2023: WHO

INDIA'S TUBERCULOSIS REPORT

Globally, 8.2 million were diagnosed with TB last year, highest since 1995



	2021	2022	2023
Estimated TB cases (in mn)	2.96	2.82	2.8
Share of global burden	28%	27%	26%
Mortality (in mn)	0.49	0.33	0.31
Share of global deaths	36%	26%	29%
Drug resistant TB (in mn)	0.11	0.11	0.11
Share of global cases	26%	27%	27%

Source: WHO's Global TB reports

ANONNA DUTT
New Delhi, October 30

INDIA REPORTED A slight decrease in the estimated number of tuberculosis (TB) cases and deaths in 2023, but remains far from its elimination targets, according to the Global TB Report released by the World Health Organisation on Tuesday.

Globally, 8.2 million people were diagnosed with TB last year – highest number recorded since the WHO began monitoring in 1995 – and there were 1.25 million deaths, making TB the world's top infectious disease killer, overtaking Covid-19.

According to the report, India saw an estimated 2.8 million TB cases and 315,000 deaths last year. This marks a slight decrease from 2022, when the country saw an estimated 2.82 million cases and 331,000 deaths (see chart).

Between 2015 and 2023, India reported an 18% decrease in TB cases – still a long way from the WHO's target of a 50% reduction by 2025. Similarly, TB deaths declined by 24% over the same period, falling short of the 75% reduction target set for 2025, according to the WHO report.

The findings are crucial, especially for India, which has set an ambitious goal of eliminating TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global target.

Importantly, India is estimated to have accounted for 27% of the world's cases of multi-drug-resistant TB, which is harder to treat, requires longer therapy, and poses a greater risk of spreading resistant strains.

A positive datapoint that has emerged is that the gap between estimated cases and

cases diagnosed has been narrowing. There were 2.52 million diagnosed cases in 2023, up from 2.42 million the previous year.

According to the data, India not only diagnosed more TB cases but also initiated treatment for 85% of those diagnosed. Among the 30 countries with the highest TB burden, India is among the seven that have over 80 per cent treatment coverage.

"The two countries that made the biggest contributions to the global rebound in the reported number of people newly diagnosed with TB

Between 2015 and 2023, India reported an 18% decrease in TB cases—still a long way from WHO's target of a 50% reduction by 2025

in 2022 and 2023 were India and Indonesia, which together accounted for 45% of the increase between 2021 and 2023," says the report.

The report highlights persistent challenges, including a significant shortfall in funding. Globally, only US\$ 5.7 billion of the targeted US\$ 22 billion was available for TB efforts in 2023, it says. "Global funding for TB prevention and care decreased further in 2023 and remains far below target. Low- and middle-income countries, which bear 98 per cent of the TB burden, faced significant funding shortages," it says.


In India, too, TB funding has seen a decline, dropping from \$ 432.6 million in 2019 to \$ 302.8 million in 2023. Domestic funding fell from \$ 345.9 million to \$ 253 million, while international funding decreased from \$ 86.7 million to \$ 49.8 million in this period.

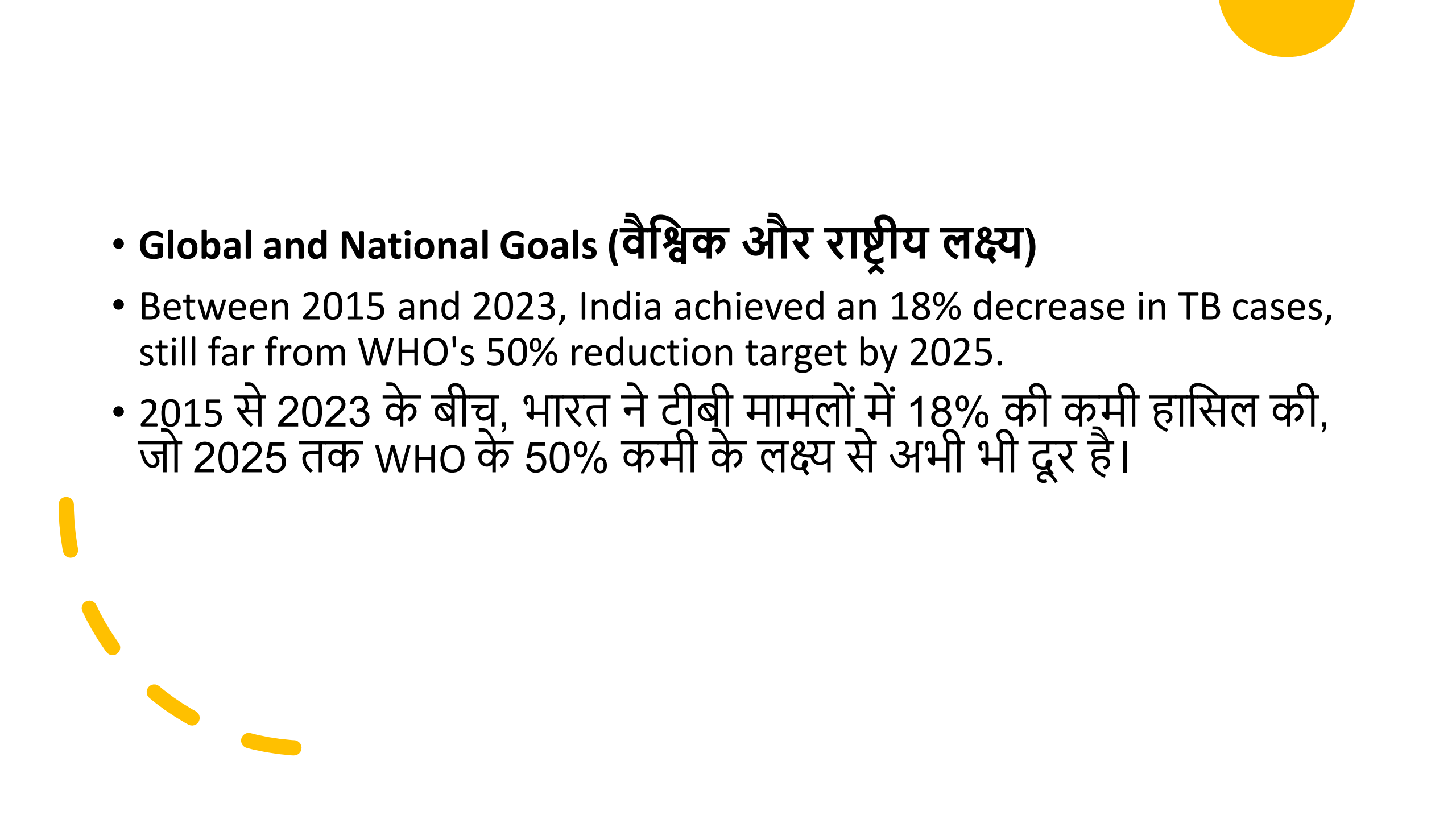
While domestic funding saw a sharp fall during the pandemic, to \$ 143 million in 2021 and \$ 183.7 million in 2022, international funding increased during this period to \$ 153.7 million in 2021 and \$ 117.7 million in 2022.



- **India's TB Status Report: Progress and Challenges**

1. Current TB Status (वर्तमान टीबी स्थिति)

1. India saw a slight decrease in TB cases in 2023, with an estimated 2.8 million cases and 315,000 deaths, a minor reduction from 2022.
 2. भारत में 2023 में टीबी मामलों में हल्की कमी देखी गई, अनुमानित 2.8 मिलियन मामले और 315,000 मौतें हुईं, जो 2022 से मामूली कमी हैं।
- 

- 
- **Global and National Goals (वैश्विक और राष्ट्रीय लक्ष्य)**
 - Between 2015 and 2023, India achieved an 18% decrease in TB cases, still far from WHO's 50% reduction target by 2025.
 - 2015 से 2023 के बीच, भारत ने टीबी मामलों में 18% की कमी हासिल की, जो 2025 तक WHO के 50% कमी के लक्ष्य से अभी भी दूर है।

- **Treatment Efforts (उपचार प्रयास)**
- India has an 80% treatment coverage, with initiatives for early diagnosis and treatment, significantly contributing to global TB control.
- भारत में 80% उपचार कवरेज है, जिसमें प्रारंभिक निदान और उपचार के प्रयास शामिल हैं, जो वैश्विक टीबी नियंत्रण में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दे रहे हैं।







- **Funding Challenges (वित्तीय चुनौतियाँ)**

- India's funding for TB has decreased over the years, with domestic funding dropping from \$432.6 million in 2019 to \$302.8 million in 2023.

- भारत में टीबी के लिए फंडिंग में वर्षों से कमी आई है, जिसमें घरेलू फंडिंग 2019 में \$432.6 मिलियन से घटकर 2023 में \$302.8 मिलियन हो गई है।



- 
- **Global Support and Gaps (वैश्विक सहायता और अंतर)**
 - The global funding shortfall for TB is substantial, with only \$5.7 billion of the \$22 billion target available in 2023.
 - वैश्विक टीबी फंडिंग में कमी महत्वपूर्ण है, 2023 में \$22 बिलियन के लक्ष्य में से केवल \$5.7 बिलियन उपलब्ध है।

Resistant TB and Spread Risks (प्रतिरोधी टीबी और प्रसार जोखिम)

India accounts for 27% of the world's multi-drug-resistant TB, which is harder to treat and poses a higher risk of spread.

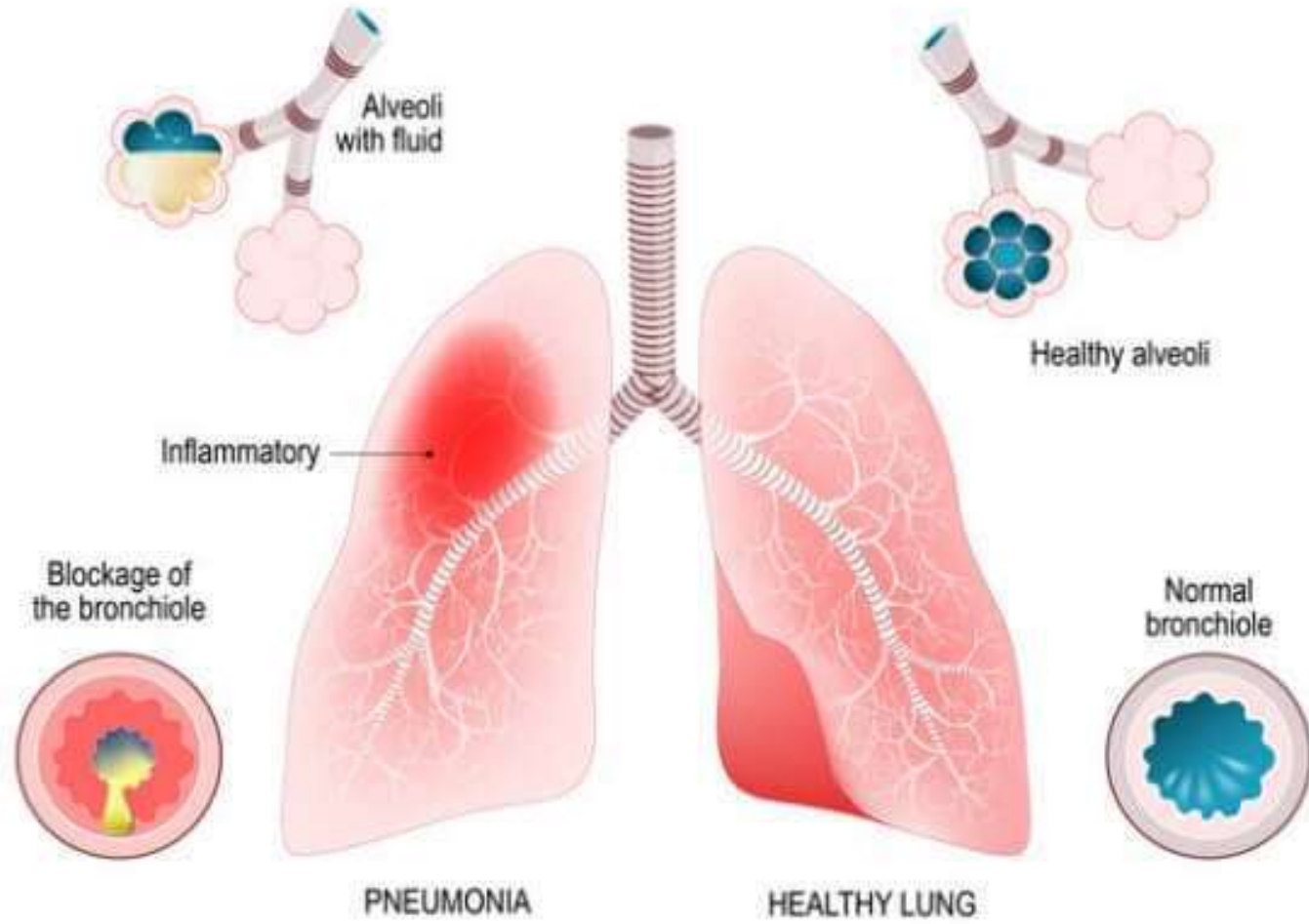
भारत दुनिया के 27% मल्टी-ड्रग-प्रतिरोधी टीबी के मामलों के लिए जिम्मेदार है, जिसे उपचार करना कठिन है और इसका प्रसार जोखिम अधिक है।

Positive Trends (सकारात्मक प्रवृत्तियाँ)

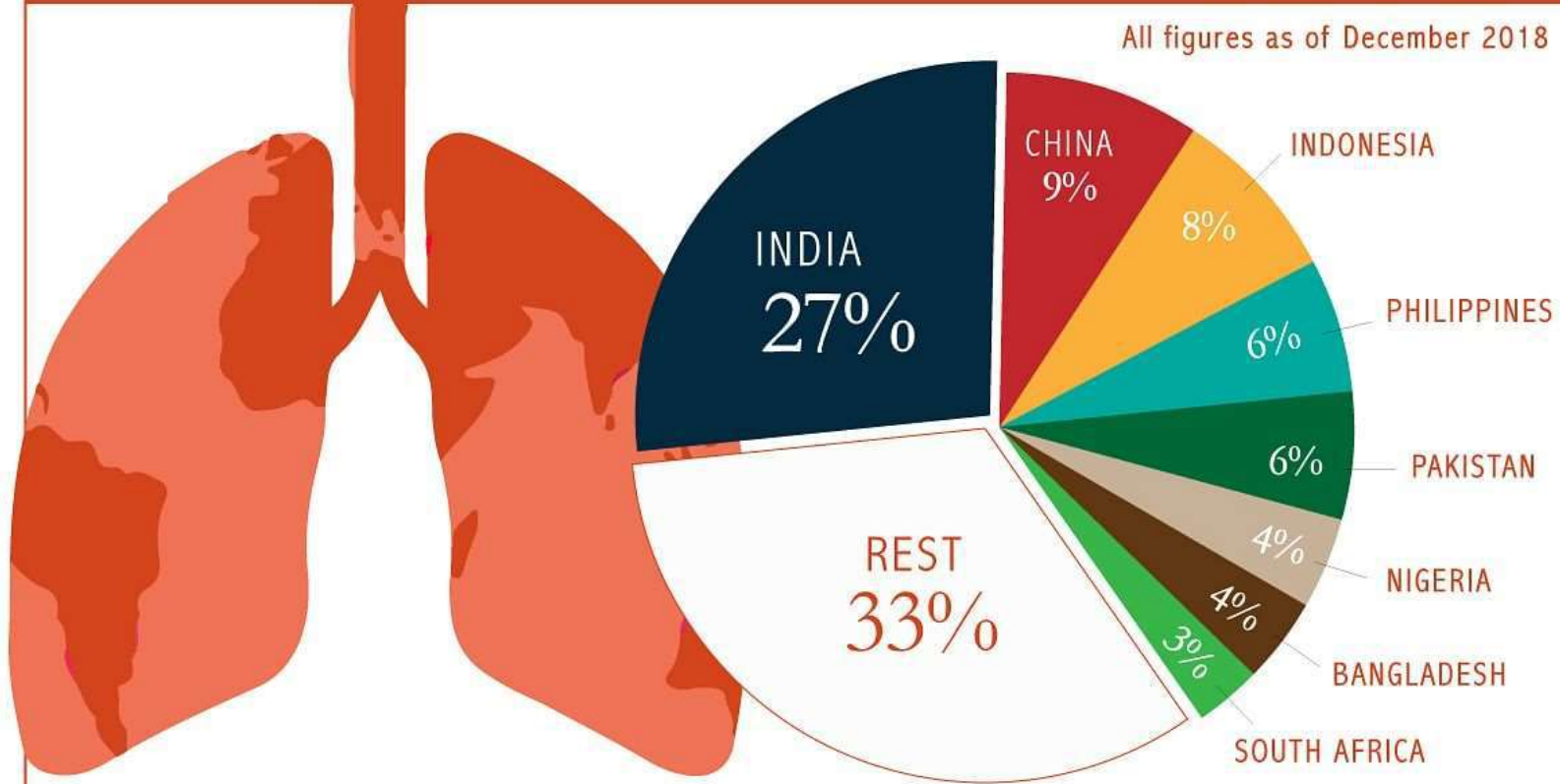
Gap reduction between estimated and diagnosed cases, and a high treatment initiation rate reflect positive strides in TB control.

अनुमानित और निदान किए गए मामलों के बीच का अंतर कम होना और उच्च उपचार शुरुआत दर टीबी नियंत्रण में सकारात्मक प्रगति को दर्शाता है।

Pneumonia



INDIA HAS LARGEST NUMBER OF TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS IN THE WORLD



TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE
IN THE WORLD SUFFERING
FROM TUBERCULOSIS: **1 crore**

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE
IN INDIA SUFFERING FROM
TUBERCULOSIS: **26.9 lakh**

DEATHS DUE TO TUBERCULOSIS
FELL FROM **1.6 million** IN 2017
TO **1.5 million** IN 2018



Types of Drug - Resistant TB



Multidrug Resistance TB (MDR)

► Resistant to at least **Isoniazid** and **Rifampicin**.



Extensively drug Resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB)

► Resistant to **Isoniazid** and **Rifampin**, plus any **fluoroquinolone** and at least one of three injectable second-line drugs (**amikacin**, **kanamycin**, or **capreomycin**).



Totally drug-resistant tuberculosis (TDR-TB)

► Resistant to all first- and second-line TB drugs.



WORLD TB DAY

World Tuberculosis Day is a worldwide event that aims to raise public awareness of tuberculosis and the efforts made to prevent and treat this disease.



58,000,000

lives saved between 2000 and 2018 by global efforts to end TB



10,000,000

people fell ill with TB in 2018



4,84,000

people fell ill with drug-resistant TB in 2018



\$10.1 Billion

Require for TB Diagnosis, Treatment and care in 2019



8,62,000

people with HIV fell ill with TB

It's time to
End TB!



IN 2018, There were

2,51,000

death from TB Among People with HIV



Only **27%** of Children under 5 years, eligible for TB Preventive Treatment were started on it



7 Million

people reported to have access to TB Care, up from 6.4 Million in 2017

Source: www.who.int

testbook.com

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India Remains Highly Dependent on Imports of Critical Minerals

CRITICAL MINERALS



- Minerals essential for Economic Development & National Security
- Their associated Economic Impact is higher than any other raw material

WHY ARE THESE MINERALS CRITICAL?

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Clean Energy Transition

Essential for the World transitioning towards Clean Energy.



Overdependency on other Countries

For Strategic autonomy of a country that is over dependent on others to produce critical minerals.



Supply Risk

Rare availability & growing demand of Minerals



MAJOR INDUSTRIES THAT RELEY ON CRITICAL MINERALS

©PMF IAS



Telecommunications and Electronics



Energy



Aerospace



Medical



Defence



Transportation



Agriculture

SEVENTEEN RARE EARTH ELEMENTS

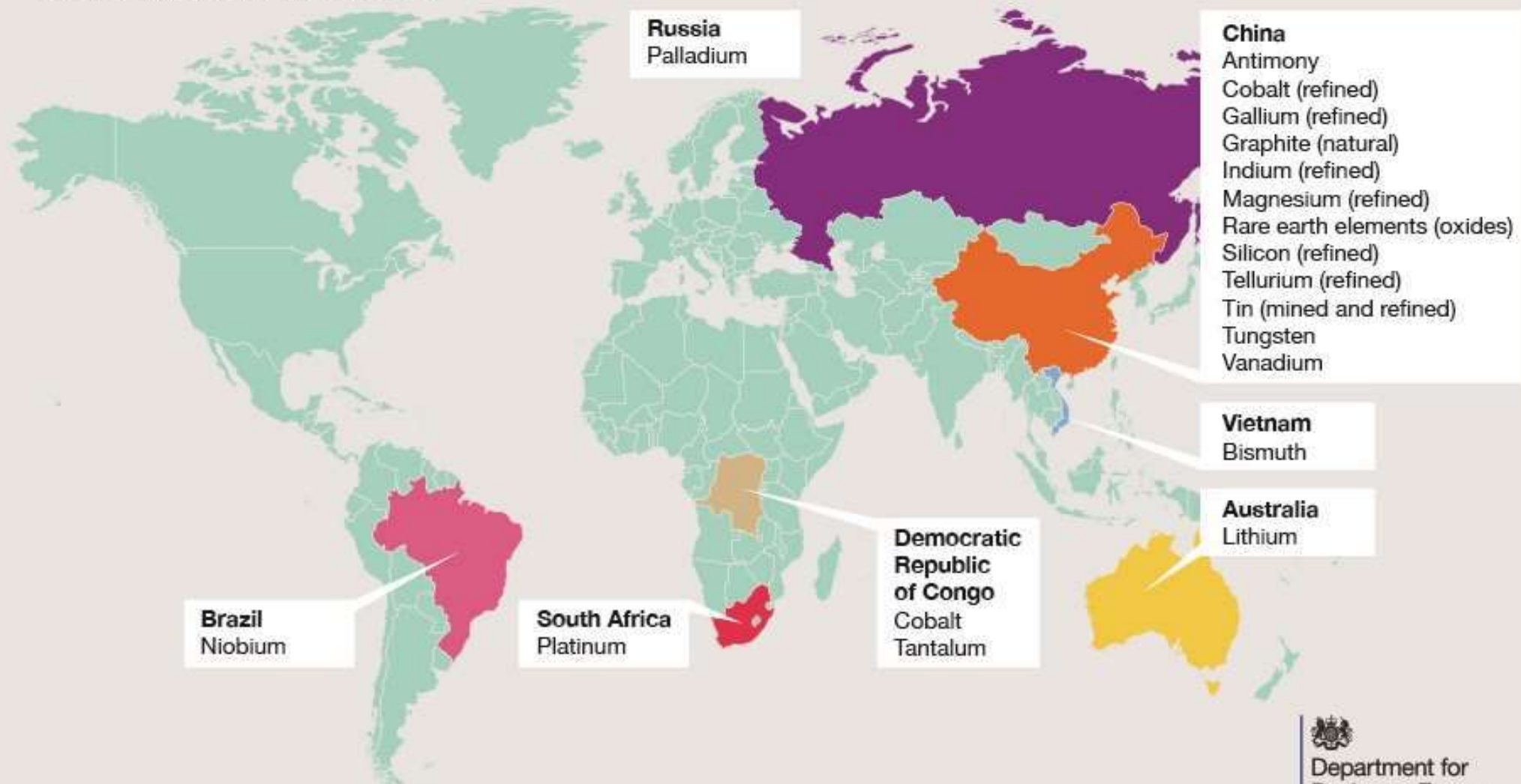
Rare earth name	Discovery year	Atomic name & number	Light/heavy REE	Critical/Uncritical
Yttrium	1788	Y-39	Heavy	Critical
Cerium	1803	Ce-58	Light	Excessive
Lanthanum	1839	La-57	Light	Uncritical
Erbium	1842	Er-68	Heavy	Critical
Terbium	1843	Tb-65	Heavy	Critical
Ytterbium	1878	Yb-70	Heavy	Excessive
Holmium	1878	Ho-67	Heavy	Excessive
Scandium	1879	Sc-21	Heavy	Critical
Samarium	1879	Sm-62	Light	Uncritical
Thulium	1879	Tm-69	Heavy	Excessive
Praseodymium	1885	Pr-59	Light	Uncritical
Neodymium	1885	Nd-60	Light	Critical
Dysprosium	1886	Dy-66	Heavy	Critical
Europium	1886	Eu-63	Heavy	Critical
Gadolinium	1886	Gd-64	Heavy	Uncritical
Lutetium	1907	Lu-71	Heavy	Excessive
Promethium	1947	Pm-61		

Source: Author



Top producers globally of the 18 critical minerals

Country with the highest production of each critical mineral; refers to mined production, unless otherwise stated.
5-year average production 2016-2020.





INDIA ENTERS TOP 10 LIST OF CRITICAL MINERAL PRODUCERS



WORLD RESERVES OF RARE EARTHS (By principal countries)

(In '000 tonnes of REO equivalent content)

China	44,000,000	
Vietnam	22,000,000	
Brazil	21,000,000	
Russia	21,000,000	
INDIA	6,900,000	

Source: USGS, Mineral Commodity Summaries, 2022/ Indian Minerals Yearbook 2021

WORLD PRODUCTION OF RARE-EARTH OXIDES (By principal countries)

In tonnes





(* Estimated)

a: Includes production from iron ore extraction, bastnaesite concentrates, and ion absorption clays; b: Year ending March 31;

c: Year ending June 30

Source: British Geological Survey 2016-20/ Indian Minerals Yearbook 2021

Note: REO: Rare-earth oxides. The rare-earth elements (REE) are a collection of 17 elements, namely, scandium, yttrium and lanthanides (15 elements in the periodic table with atomic numbers 57 to 71, namely, lanthanum (La), cerium (Ce), praseodymium (Pr), neodymium (Nd), promethium (Pm), samarium (Sm), europium (Eu), gadolinium (Gd), terbium (Tb), dysprosium (Dy), holmium (Ho), erbium (Er), thulium (Tm), ytterbium (Yb) and lutetium (Lu))

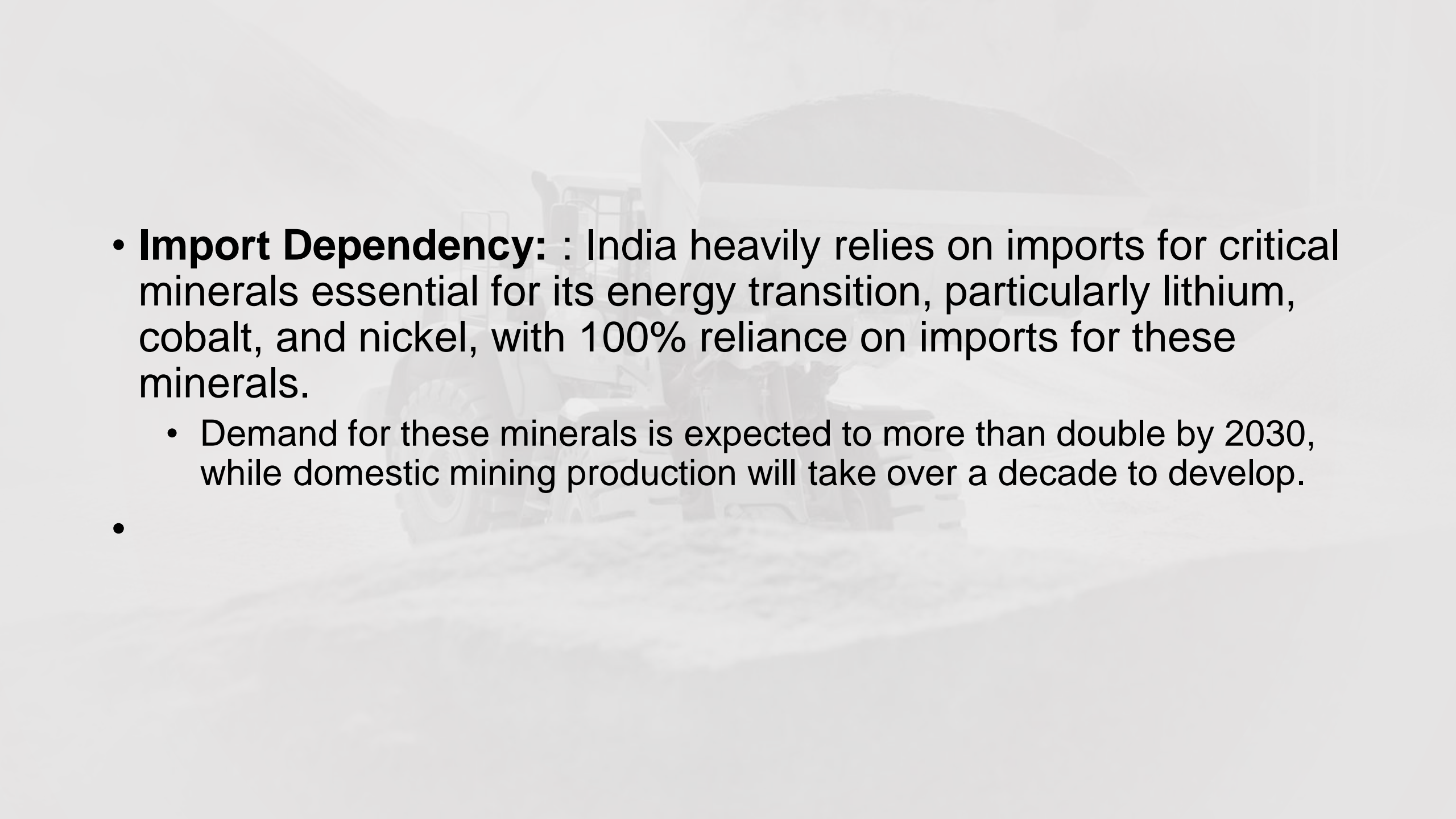
- 
- India's Hunt for Critical Minerals report recently published by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) India's landscape India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, is transitioning to a greener energy landscape driven by global climate commitments, reduced reliance on fossil fuels, and enhanced energy security.
- 

This shift relies heavily on critical minerals essential for renewable technologies like solar panels, wind turbines, electric vehicles, energy storage systems and also for defense and electronics.

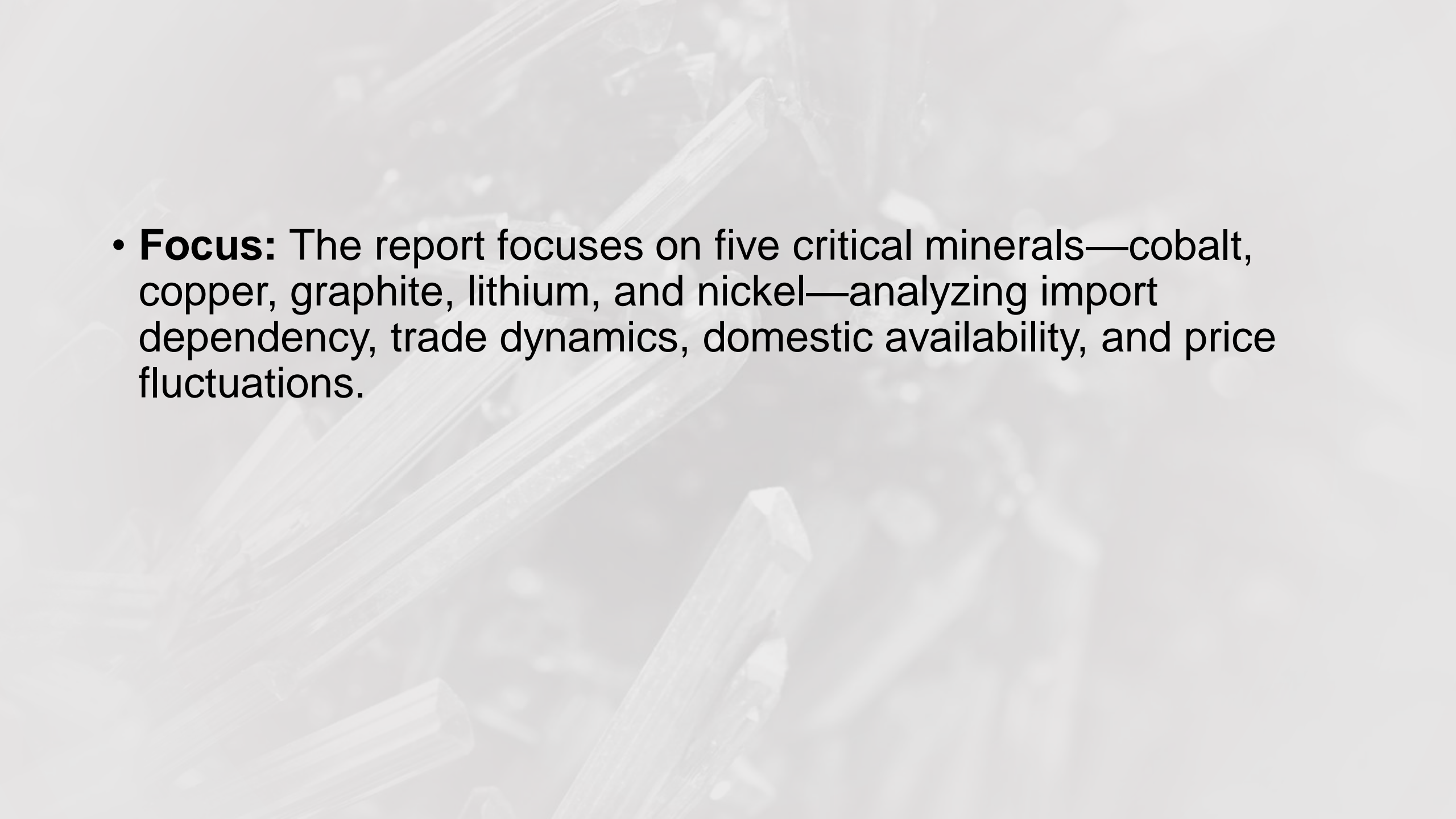
Challenges : India faces challenges in securing these minerals, including supply disruptions and geopolitical factors.

India's reliance on imports, particularly from China, poses risks, as highlighted by U.S.-China trade tensions in 2019.

Ethical concerns, such as child labor in cobalt mining and environmental impacts, further complicate the mining landscape. India must establish policy frameworks to address these issues.

- 
- **Import Dependency:** : India heavily relies on imports for critical minerals essential for its energy transition, particularly lithium, cobalt, and nickel, with 100% reliance on imports for these minerals.
 - Demand for these minerals is expected to more than double by 2030, while domestic mining production will take over a decade to develop.

-

- 
- The background of the slide features a close-up, high-angle photograph of several clear, faceted mineral crystals. The crystals are translucent and have sharp, geometric edges and flat surfaces, reflecting light in a way that highlights their crystalline structure. They are scattered across the frame, with some in sharp focus and others blurred in the background, creating a sense of depth and texture. The overall color palette is light and neutral, dominated by the whites and greys of the crystals against a soft, out-of-focus background.
- **Focus:** The report focuses on five critical minerals—cobalt, copper, graphite, lithium, and nickel—analyzing import dependency, trade dynamics, domestic availability, and price fluctuations.

- **Geopolitical Risks:** Countries like Russia, Madagascar, Indonesia, Peru, and China pose high geopolitical risks for sourcing critical minerals.
 - Imports of lithium oxide and nickel oxide are mainly from Russia and China, which poses trade risk
 - India is particularly reliant on China for synthetic and natural graphite .
 - For copper and nickel, India mainly imports from Japan and Belgium, and the report suggests diversifying suppliers by looking at the U.S., which is a significant copper producer.

-

CRITICAL MINERALS: INDIA'S NET IMPORT RELIANCE (2020)

Critical Mineral	%age	Major import sources
Lithium	100%	Chile, Russia, China, Ireland, Belgium
Cobalt	100%	China, Belgium, Netherlands, US, Japan
Nickel	100%	Sweden, China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines
Vanadium	100%	Kuwait, Germany, South Africa, Brazil, Thailand
Niobium	100%	Brazil, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Indonesia
Germanium	100%	China, South Africa, Australia, France, US
Rhenium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
Beryllium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
Tantalum	100%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
Strontium	100%	China, US, Russia, Estonia, Slovenia
Zirconium (zircon)	80%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
Graphite (natural)	60%	China, Madagascar, Mozambique, Vietnam, Tanzania
Manganese	50%	South Africa, Gabon, Australia, Brazil, China
Chromium	2.5%	South Africa, Mozambique, Oman, Switzerland, Turkey
Silicon	<1%	China, Malaysia, Norway, Bhutan, Netherlands

Source: 'Unlocking Australia-India Critical Minerals Partnership Potential', Australian Trade and Investment Commission, July 2021



Replicas of the Konark Wheels at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- Recently, **replicas of the Konark wheels**, made of sandstone, have been installed at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre and Amrit Udyan, aiming to showcase and promote India's historical legacy among visitors.

-





About the Konark Wheels

The Konark Wheels, an iconic feature of the **Konark Sun Temple in Odisha**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, represents the pinnacle of **Odishan temple architecture**.

The temple was constructed in the **13th century** by **King Narasimhadeva I (1238-64 CE)**, the temple is designed in the shape of a **colossal chariot carrying the Sun God**.

The chariot is adorned with **24 intricately carved wheels**, each about 12 feet in diameter, *symbolising the passage of time and the cycle of life*.

- **Architectural Marvel**

- The spokes of the wheels cast shadows that can be **used to calculate the time of day** with remarkable accuracy.
- This blend of **artistic beauty and scientific precision** highlights the **advanced knowledge and craftsmanship** of ancient Indian architects and artisans.

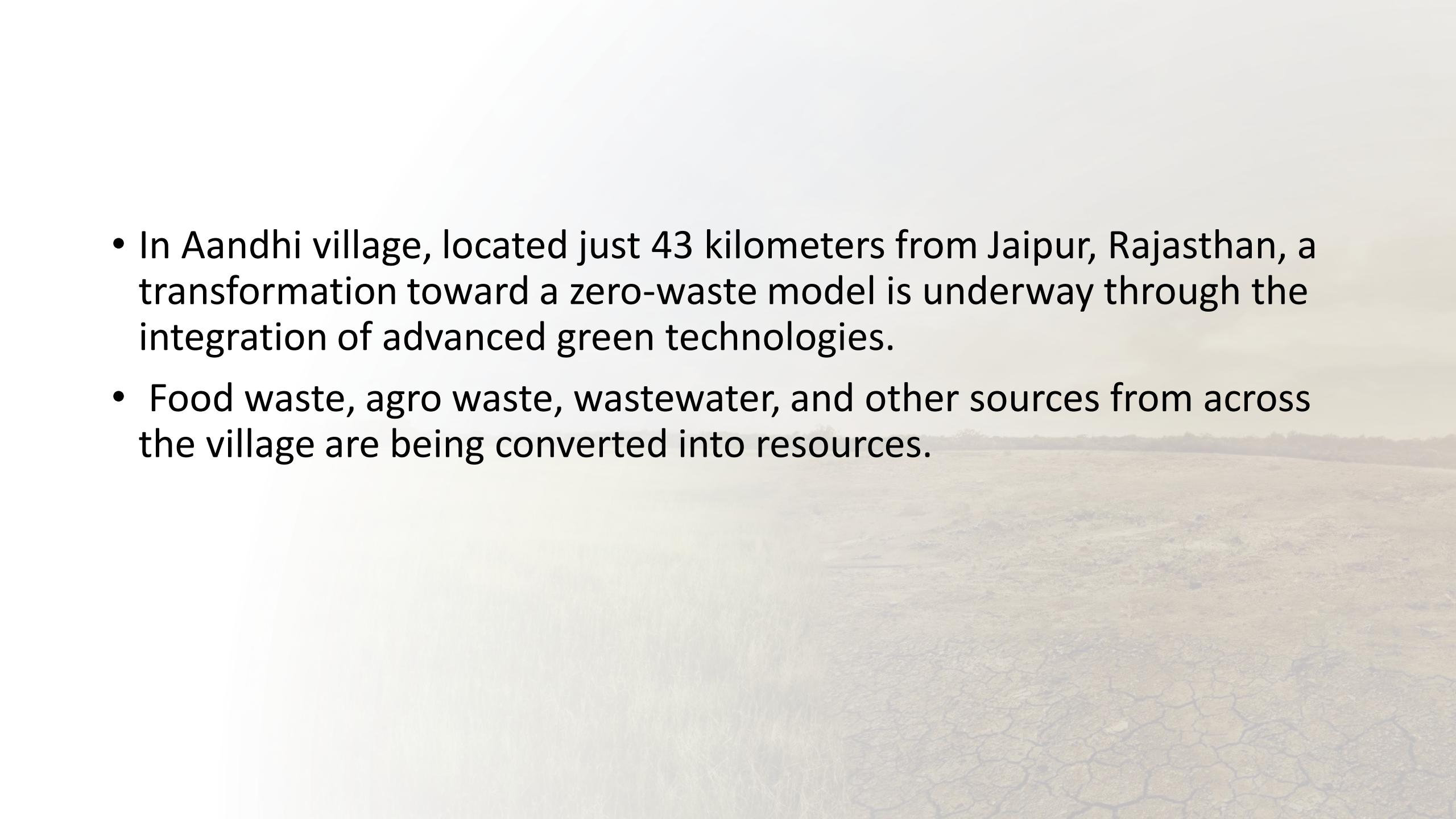
13th Century Wheel Clock



**HOW 750 YEAR OLD SUNDIAL
WORKS AT KONARK SUN TEMPLE ?**



Aandhi Village – Green Technology

- 
- In Aandhi village, located just 43 kilometers from Jaipur, Rajasthan, a transformation toward a zero-waste model is underway through the integration of advanced green technologies.
 - Food waste, agro waste, wastewater, and other sources from across the village are being converted into resources.

- Using an array of sustainable technologies like an Organic Waste Bio-Methanation Plant, Vermifiltration, and Constructed Wetlands, the village has started generating clean energy, treating wastewater, and recycling waste materials.
- This project, led by the Climate, Energy, and Sustainable Technology (CEST) Division, stands as a replicable model for rural India, setting a powerful example of resource recovery and environmental conservation through innovative interventions.

Petrapole Land Port (Maitri Dwar)



-
- Union Home Minister inaugurated a new passenger terminal building and the 'Maitri Dwar' cargo gate at Petrapole Land Port on the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal.



About Maitri Dwar:

Location: Positioned at **Petrapole Land Port** on the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal.

- Located in the **North 24 Parganas district**.



Purpose: Designed to streamline cross-border cargo movement and support increased trade between India and Bangladesh.

Capacity: Handles around 600-700 trucks daily, boosting the efficiency of cargo handling across the border.

- **Facilities**: Provides integrated infrastructure for customs, immigration, and security for seamless cross-border processing.
- **Significance**: Enhances India-Bangladesh trade relations by supporting nearly 70% of the land-based trade between the two countries.
- Petrapole is **South Asia's largest land port** and handles a significant portion of India-Bangladesh land-based trade.



Anti-Submarine Ship Abhay

- 
- Recently, the 7th Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), Abhay was launched.
 - Over 80% of the Abhay's content is indigenous demonstrating India's commitment to self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
 - The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, to build eight ASW SWC ships.
- 

-
- Its capabilities include **search attack unit (SAU)** and **coordinated ASW operations** with aircraft, interdiction/destruction of sub-surface targets in coastal waters.
 - It can be deployed in **Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO)** and **Mine Laying Operations**.
 - It has low-frequency **variable depth sonar**, hull-mounted sonar, and expendable bathythermograph.
 - Bathythermographs detect **changes in water temperature with changing depth**.
 -

Word of the day

Chthonic:

dwelling beneath the surface of the earth

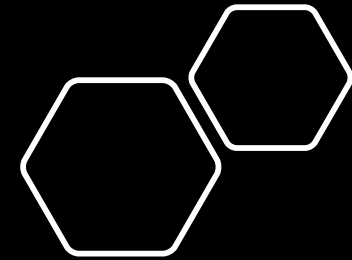
Synonym: nether

Usage: *It was a clearly chthonic tradition of worship.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/chthonicpro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /'kθɒnɪk/



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Thank you
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