

Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता

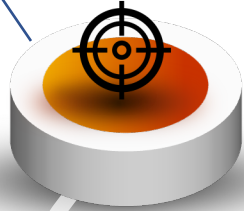


The Indian EXPRESS

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS

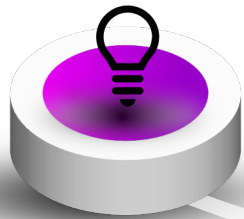


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The Hindu

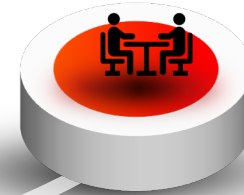


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we can to *life*, not to get
what we can from *life*.



WILLIAM OSLER

GH



GOA SUMMIT
Russia, China, Pak to attend SCO meet
PELA FOR ALTERNATIVE
Govt. to take a look at execution by hanging
NEWS » PAGE 12



CENTRE'S GO-AHEAD
Meghalaya likely to restart coal mining
NEWS » PAGE 13



DATA POINT
Communal tensions and Ram Navami
Violent incidents rising over the last decade
OPINION » PAGE 9



THRILLING WIN
Capitals pip Titans in low-scoring contest
SPORT » PAGE 17

Go First flights suspended, airline files for bankruptcy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Low-cost carrier Go First has filed for bankruptcy at the National Company Law Tribunal and suspended its flight operations for May 3, 4, and 5 over mounting losses, which it has attributed to delays in the delivery of Pratt & Whitney engines, resulting in the grounding of half its fleet.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has served a show-cause notice on the airline for the sudden cancellation of flights, and has asked it to submit its plan for resumption of flights.

The airline said once the NCLT admitted its plea, the court would appoint an insolvency resolution professional who would take over Go First's operations.

Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said it was "incumbent on the airline to make alternative travel arrangements for passengers".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Bilkis Bano case convicts playing for time: SC judge

He convicts seek adjournment by two weeks to file counter-affidavits. Justice K.M. Joseph says it is 'more than obvious' that they do not want his Bench to hear the petition against their early release

Krishnakant Rajasekhar
NEW DELHI
Justice K.M. Joseph, on a Division Bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday, said that it was "more than obvious" that the men released early from life imprisonment in the case of gang rape of Bilkis Bano and murder of her family members during the 2002 Gujarat riots were raising a maze of procedural objections in successive court hearings to avoid his Bench.

Justice Joseph noted that time was running out for him, with his retirement now just days away. "I think it should be more than clear to you what is happening... So, the problem for me is the retiring on June 16, but my last working day is May 19 [last working day before court closes for summer vacation till July 2].... It is obvious they do not want

us to hear the matter. It is more than obvious," Justice Joseph, accompanied by Justice B.V. Nagarathna, addressed advocate Shobha Gupta, Ms. Bano's counsel.

Seeking delays
The oral remark came after the courtroom rang with submissions made by the lawyers for the 12 released convicts, who claimed that they were not served notice of the case. They sought an adjournment by at least two weeks to file



Then it is all the more important that they should not succeed. Such tactics should not be used in court.

INDIRA JAISING
Senior advocate



Released convicts should not be allowed to interrupt justice in this way. **VRINDA GROVER**, Advocate

their counter-affidavits to Ms. Bano's petition challenging the decision of the State of Gujarat, endorsed by the Centre, to remit their life sentences. "It is more than clear to all of us what is happening," Ms. Gupta told the judge.

"Then it is all the more important that they should not succeed... Such tactics should not be used in court," senior advocate Indira Jaising addressed the Bench.

Advocate Vrinda Grover

Govt. extends date to opt for higher EPF pension to June 26

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government has extended the time to submit exit options for claiming higher Employees' Provident Fund pension till June 26. The deadline to submit the applications was May 3.

The decision was taken based on the representations received from various Central trade unions and pensioners' organisations.

The online facility was to remain available only till May 3. In the meantime, the issue has been considered and it has been decided that in order to provide a larger window of opportunity and in order to enable all eligible persons to file their applica-

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

IN BRIEF

GOANGSTER TILHU STABBED TO DEATH IN TIHAR JAIL
NEW DELHI
Jailed gangster Sural Balyan alias Tihu Tajpuria, 33, was stabbed to death by members of the rival Gogi gang inside Tihar jail's high-security ward on Tuesday, the police said. Over 90 stab wounds were found on his body according to the initial post-mortem examination. » Page 2

CONG. PROMISES 'ACTION' AGAINST HATEMONGERS
BENGALURU
The Congress on Tuesday promised to undo the BJP's anti-people programmes in Karnataka and said it would take action against groups spreading hatred among communities on the grounds of caste or religion. » Page 6

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 2

Gaining support



Shrawan Kisan Union spokesperson Rakesh Tiwari meeting protesting workers of Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Tuesday. He pledged support in their fight against Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. » W WIKIMEDIA COMMONS (SEE ALSO PAGE 6)

Pawar steps down as NCP chief, says will not contest polls from now on

Abhinav Deshpande
MUMBAI

Amid speculation that his nephew and senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar is considering an understanding with the BJP, Sharad Pawar, party founder and chief since 1999, on Tuesday announced that he is stepping down from the post and will not contest elections in future.

"After a long period of public life from May 1, 2003, to May 1, 2023, it is necessary to take a step back. After this prolonged political career, one must think about stopping somewhere. One must not be greedy. Hence, I have de-



Taken aback: NCP leaders and supporters requesting Sharad Pawar to revoke his decision, at a book launch in Mumbai. **SHAMKAR YOGAN**

clared to step down as president of the NCP on the 52-year-old veteran politician said at the launch of the second edition of his political memoirs, *Lok Maza Sangam* ("People Accompany Me").

rashtra Assembly election. His decision to step down comes at a time when he was seen as a leader who could bring together Opposition parties of different interests and ideologies, ahead of the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections next year.

The NCP patriarch said it was time for the new generation to guide the party, and recommended that a committee of senior leaders, including his daughter and Baramati MP Supriya Sule, Mr. Ajit Pawar, Jayant Patil, Chhagan Bhugbal and Pratul Patel, choose his successor.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

In gig economy, 'lesser pay is better than no pay'

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

Unsure of the weekly payment they might draw after the management rolled out a new earnings system last month, Blinkit workers went on strike in parts of Delhi and the National Capital Region on April 29 with no earnings, little savings and no alternative options to fall back on, they resumed work after holding out for barely a week.

"One would wonder why we joined back despite this pay cut. The answer is simple: lesser pay is better than no pay," said Gyan Jaishankar, a 32-year-old Blinkit delivery worker and one of those who spearheaded the protests.



tor platform had changed the payment system from ₹32 per order within a 2-km radius to ₹15. "This cut was accompanied by a decline in the incentives as well, which has left us with barely anything after paying ₹300-₹350 every day for petrol and diesel," said Mr. Jaishankar. Earlier, an average Blinkit delivery executive, on completing 150 orders a week, would earn ₹6,000; now they earn ₹3,600 for the same target.

was a useful recourse after a DU degree didn't land him any other job. But it has been a case of diminishing returns in effort for many. "Instead of promotion, we get demotions," said Geeta Devi, 27, who works for an in-home services aggregator and earns ₹3,000 monthly as a beautician when she first came from U.P. four years ago but struggles to make ₹30,000 a month now.

Mr. La's earnings have dwindled from ₹40,000 a month three years ago to barely ₹30,000.

No interim relief for Rahul; HC to give verdict after June 4

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat High Court on Tuesday reserved its orders on a criminal revision petition filed by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi seeking a stay on when the first case in the "Modi surname" remark case.

The court declined to give interim protection, and said the verdict would be pronounced after the summer vacation. Citing "extreme urgency" as a ground, Mr. Gandhi's lawyer had sought interim protection.



Rahul Gandhi has been convicted in a defamation case. The judge directed the trial court to produce original proceedings and records of the case.

On Tuesday, the court heard the arguments from Atish Amin, for the State of Gujarat, and senior counsel Nirupam Navanani, who appeared for BJP MLA Parvesh Mehta, the original complainant, who both opposed the prayer for interim relief from Mr. Gandhi's counsel, Abhishek Manu Singhvi.

Mr. Navanani argued that staying of conviction was a discretionary relief and must be granted in rarest of rare circumstances. Mr. Singhvi held that defamation was not a heinous crime and he, therefore, sought protection for the petitioner.

Go First flights suspended, airline files for bankruptcy

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

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Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said it was "incumbent upon the airline to make alternative travel arrangements for passengers".

Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code, 2016



To speed up resolution of stressed assets in the country

WHY



WHO

Applicable to :
Individuals,
partnerships, LLPs and
Corporates

Authority to decide insolvency application within 180 days (90 days extension allowed)

WHEN



WHEN

Fast track process of 90 days available for specified entities



Adjudicating authority:
NCLT for corporates,
DRT for individuals &
partnership firms

HOW



भारतीय दिवाला और शोधन अक्षमता बोर्ड

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

Insolvency and bankruptcy regulator in India

Established in 2016 by the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

Headquarters: New Delhi
Headed by IBBI Board Chairman

- Regulating authority for insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings
- Oversees the activities of the Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPA), Insolvency Professionals (IP) and Information Utilities (IU), Registered Valuers, and Registered Valuer Organisations
- Makes and implements rules governing the corporate insolvency resolution process, individual insolvency, corporate liquidation and individual bankruptcy

- Salient features of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
- Covers all individuals, companies, Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) and partnership firms.
- Adjudicating authority:
 - National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for companies and LLPs
 - Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) for individuals and partnership firms
- दिवाला और दिवालियापन संहिता, 2016 की मुख्य विशेषताएं
- सभी व्यक्तियों, कंपनियों, सीमित देयता भागीदारी (एलएलपी) और साझेदारी फर्मों को शामिल करता है।
- न्यायिक प्राधिकरण:
- कंपनियों और एलएलपी के लिए नेशनल कंपनी लॉ ट्रिब्यूनल (एनसीएलटी)।
- ऋण वसूली न्यायाधिकरण (डीआरटी) व्यक्तियों और साझेदारी फर्मों के लिए

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- त्वरित समाधान: IBC से पहले, समाधान प्रक्रियाओं में औसतन 4-6 वर्ष लगते थे, IBC के अधिनियमन के बाद, वे घटकर 317 दिन रह गए।
- उच्च वसूली: वसूली भी अधिक है: आईबीसी के बाद 43%, इससे पहले 22% की तुलना में।
- IBC की संस्था के कारण, हमने देखा है कि कई व्यावसायिक संस्थाएँ दिवालिया घोषित होने से पहले ही भगतान कर रही हैं। अधिनियम की सफलता इस तथ्य में निहित है कि एनसीएलटी को भेजे जाने से पहले ही कई मामलों को सुलझा लिया गया है।

Insolvency, Bankruptcy and Liquidation

3



- ❑ Insolvency precedes bankruptcy and liquidation follows bankruptcy.
- ❑ Insolvency warnings:
 - ❑ drop in sales
 - ❑ delay in payments
 - ❑ Increasing reliance on credit
- ❑ Cash flow test:
 - ❑ when cash flow "in" is less than cash flow "out".

Pawar steps down as NCP chief, says will not contest polls from now on

Abhinay Deshpande

MUMBAI

Amid speculation that his nephew and senior Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar is considering an understanding with the BJP, Sharad Pawar, party founder and chief since 1999, on Tuesday announced that he is stepping down from the post and will not contest elections in future.

“After a long period of public life from May 1, 1960, to May 1, 2023, it is necessary to take a step back. After this prolonged political career, one must think about stopping somewhere. One must not be greedy. Hence, I have de-



Taken aback: NCP leaders and supporters requesting Sharad Pawar to revoke his decision, at a book launch in Mumbai. EMMANUAL YOGINI

ecided to step down as president of the NCP,” the 82-year-old veteran politician said at the launch of the second edition of his political memoirs, *Lok Maze Sangati* (‘People Accompany Me’).

Mr. Pawar is widely credited as the architect of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) for bringing together the NCP, the Congress and the ideologically opposite Shiv Sena in an unlikely coalition, after the 2019 Maha-

rashtra Assembly election.

His decision to step down comes at a time when he was seen as a leader who could bring together Opposition parties of different interests and ideologies, ahead of the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections next year.

The NCP patriarch said it was time for the new generation to guide the party, and recommended that a committee of senior leaders, including his daughter and Baramati MP Supriya Sule, Mr. Ajit Pawar, Jayant Patil, Chhagan Bhujbal and Praful Patel, choose his successor.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Sharad Pawar



Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha

Incumbent

Assumed office

3 April 2014

President Pranab Mukherjee

Ramnath Kovind

Droupadi Murmu

Constituency Maharashtra

President of the Nationalist Congress Party

In office

10 June 1999 – 2 May 2023

Preceded by Position Established

Leader of the Nationalist Congress Party, Rajya Sabha

Incumbent

Incumbent

Assumed office

3 April 2014

Leader of the Nationalist Congress Party, Lok Sabha

In office

1999–2014

Preceded by Position Established

Succeeded by Supriya Sule

Chief Minister of Maharashtra

In office

18 July 1978 – 17 February 1980

Preceded by Vasantdada Patil

Succeeded by President's Rule

In office

26 June 1988 – 25 June 1991

Preceded by Shankarrao Chavan

Succeeded by Sudhakarrao Naik

In office

6 March 1993 – 14 March 1995

Preceded by Sudhakarrao Naik

Succeeded by Manohar Joshi

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha

In office

19 March 1998 – 26 April 1999

Preceded by Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Succeeded by Sonia Gandhi

President of the Bharat Scouts and Guides

In office

2001–2004

Preceded by Rameshwar Thakur

Succeeded by Rameshwar Thakur

Union Minister of Agriculture

In office

23 May 2004 – 26 May 2014

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

Preceded by Rajnath Singh

Succeeded by Radha Mohan Singh

Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

In office

23 May 2004 – 26 May 2014

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

Preceded by Sharad Yadav

Succeeded by Ram Vilas Paswan

President of the International Cricket Council

In office

2010–2012

Preceded by David Morgan

Succeeded by Alan Isaac

Minister of Defence

In office

26 June 1991 – 6 March 1993

Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao

Preceded by Chandra Shekhar

Succeeded by P. V. Narasimha Rao

Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha

In office

20 June 1991 – 16 May 2009

Preceded by Ajit Pawar

Succeeded by Supriya Sule

Constituency Baramati

Chairperson of Maha Vikas Aghadi

Incumbent

Assumed office

26 November 2019

President Uddhav Thackeray

Secretary • Balasaheb Thorat

Preceded by Position established

President of Board of Control for Cricket in India

In office

2005–2008

Preceded by Ranbir Singh Mahendra

Succeeded by Shashank Manohar

Personal details

Born 12 December 1940 (age 82)^[1]

Baramati, Bombay
Presidency, British India^[1]
(present-day Maharashtra,
India)

Political party Nationalist Congress Party
(1999–present)

Other political affiliations Indian National Congress (until 1999)

Spouse Pratibha Pawar (m. 1967)

Children 1 daughter – Supriya Sule

Residence Baramati

Education Bachelor of Commerce

Alma mater Brihan Maharashtra College of Commerce, Pune^[1]

Wayanad tops Swachh Bharat's ODF Plus rankings

The Hindu Bureau

KALPETTA

Kerala's Wayanad has become the first district in the country to be declared ODF (open defecation-free) Plus.

Wayanad district has come first in the ODF Plus rankings of the Swachh Bharat Mission in three-star category, followed by Mancheriyal district in Maharashtra and Anupur in Madhya Pradesh, District Suchitwa Mission sources said on Tuesday.

Wayanad has scored 100 points in the ODF ranking, the sources said. Earlier, the district had won two national awards in the sanitation and waste management sectors.

	Elimination of OD practices	Access to toilets	Conveyance and treatment of faecal waste
ODF City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a single person found defecating in the open • No traces of faeces are visible in the city at any time of the day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the properties in the city have access to either own toilet or functional community/ public toilet • Floating population in the city has an access to sufficient and functional public toilets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All toilets are connected to a disposal system
ODF+ City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a single person found defecating in the open • No traces of faeces are visible in the city at any time of the day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 80% of residential properties in the city have access to own toilets • Remaining properties and floating population in the city have access to functional community/ public toilets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All toilets are connected to a disposal system • Regular and safe collection, conveyance and treatment of all the faecal matter
ODF++ City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a single person found defecating in the open • No traces of faeces are visible in the city at any time of the day. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 95% of residential properties in the city have access to own toilets • Remaining properties and floating population in the city have access to functional community/public toilets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All toilets are connected to safe disposal system • Regular safe collection, conveyance and treatment of all faecal matter and waste water including septic tank effluent and grey water

- **What is Open Defecation Free Status?**
- **ODF:** An area can be notified or declared as ODF if at any point of the day, not even a single person is found defecating in the open.
- **ODF+:** This status is given if at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and/or urinating in the open, and all community and public toilets are functional and well maintained.
- **खुले में शौच मुक्त स्थिति क्या है?**
- **ओडीएफ:** किसी क्षेत्र को ओडीएफ के रूप में अधिसूचित या घोषित किया जा सकता है यदि दिन के किसी भी समय, एक भी व्यक्ति खुले में शौच नहीं करता पाया जाता है।
- **ओडीएफ+:** यह स्थिति तब दी जाती है जब दिन के किसी भी समय, एक भी व्यक्ति खुले में शौच और/या पेशाब करते नहीं पाया जाता है, और सभी सामुदायिक और सार्वजनिक शौचालय कार्यात्मक और अच्छी तरह से बनाए हुए हैं।

- **ODF++:** This status is given if the area is already ODF+ and the faecal sludge/septage and sewage are safely managed and treated, with no discharging or dumping of untreated faecal sludge and sewage into the open drains, water bodies or areas.
- ODF++: यह स्थिति तब दी जाती है जब क्षेत्र पहले से ही ODF+ है और मल कीचड़/सेप्टेज और सीवेज को सुरक्षित रूप से प्रबंधित और उपचारित किया जाता है, खुली नालियों, जल निकायों या क्षेत्रों में अनुपचारित मल कीचड़ और सीवेज का कोई निर्वहन या डंपिंग नहीं होता है।

- What is Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G)?
- **About:**
 - It was launched in 2014 by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** to accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on sanitation.
 - The mission was implemented as **nation-wide campaign/Janandolan which aimed at eliminating open defecation in rural areas.**
- स्वच्छ भारत मिशन ग्रामीण (SBM-G) क्या है?
- के बारे में:
- इसे 2014 में जल शक्ति मंत्रालय द्वारा सार्वभौमिक स्वच्छता कवरेज प्राप्त करने के प्रयासों में तेजी लाने और स्वच्छता पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने के लिए शुरू किया गया था।
- मिशन को राष्ट्रव्यापी अभियान/जनांदोलन के रूप में लागू किया गया था जिसका उद्देश्य ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में खुले में शौच को खत्म करना था।

- **Swachh Bharat Mission (G) Phase-I:**

- The rural sanitation coverage in the country at the time of launch of **SBM (G)** on 2nd October, 2014 was reported as 38.7%.
- More than 10 crore individual toilets have been constructed since the launch of the mission, as a result, rural areas in all the States have declared themselves ODF as on 2nd October, 2019.

- **स्वच्छ भारत मिशन (जी) चरण- I:**

- 2 अक्टूबर, 2014 को एसबीएम (जी) के लॉन्च के समय देश में ग्रामीण स्वच्छता कवरेज 38.7% बताया गया था।
- मिशन के लॉन्च के बाद से 10 करोड़ से अधिक व्यक्तिगत शौचालयों का निर्माण किया गया है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप, सभी राज्यों के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों ने 2 अक्टूबर, 2019 तक खुद को खुले में शौच से मुक्त घोषित कर दिया है।

SBM(G) Phase-II:It emphasizes the sustainability of achievements under phase I and to provide adequate facilities for **Solid/Liquid & plastic Waste Management (SLWM) in rural India.**

It will be implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25 in a mission mode with a total outlay of **Rs. 1,40,881 crores.**

The SLWM component of **ODF Plus will be monitored on the basis of output-outcome indicators for 4 key areas:**

- Plastic waste management,
- Biodegradable solid waste management (including animal waste management),
- Greywater (Household Wastewater) management
- Fecal sludge management.

- एसबीएम (जी) चरण- II: यह चरण I के तहत उपलब्धियों की स्थिरता और ग्रामीण भारत में ठोस/तरल और प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन (एसएलडब्ल्यूएम) के लिए पर्याप्त सुविधाएं प्रदान करने पर जोर देता है।
- इसे 2020-21 से 2024-25 तक मिशन मोड में रुपये के कुल परिव्यय के साथ लागू किया जाएगा। 1,40,881 करोड़।
- ओडीएफ प्लस के एसएलडब्ल्यूएम घटक की निगरानी 4 प्रमुख क्षेत्रों के लिए आउटपुट-परिणाम संकेतकों के आधार पर की जाएगी:
- प्लास्टिक अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन,
- बायोडिग्रेडेबल ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन (पशु अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन सहित),
- ग्रेवाटर (घरेलू अपशिष्ट जल) प्रबंधन
- मल कीचड़ प्रबंधन।



- **Top Performing States:**

- The top five performing states are Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh where maximum number of villages have been declared as ODF Plus.

- शीर्ष प्रदर्शन करने वाले राज्य:

- प्रदर्शन करने वाले शीर्ष पांच राज्य तेलंगाना, तमिलनाडु, ओडिशा, उत्तर प्रदेश और हिमाचल प्रदेश हैं जहां अधिकतम गांवों को ओडीएफ प्लस घोषित किया गया है।

TheHindu

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The GST collection rises to record high in April 2023

1.87 In ₹ lakh crore. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) in April rose by 12% from ₹1.6 lakh crore in April 2022, according to the Finance Ministry. The highest-ever tax collected on a single day was on April 20, 2023. **11**

Coal production rises in April 2023, says Coal India Ltd (CIL)

7.7 In percentage. The CIL said that the supply of coal to users will increase as summer begins. Coal is used to generate about 70% of the electricity in the country and its availability is being shored up to meet the increased demand during summer. **11**

The share of families that have been victims of online fraud

39 In percentage. In a survey conducted by LocalCircles, Indian families claimed to have experienced financial fraud in the last three years, with only 24% receiving their funds back. The highest share of responders had experienced card fraud. **11**

Europe's inflation remained high throughout April

7 In percentage. The consumer prices in 20 countries using the euro currency jumped from 6.9% in March, according to Eurostat. Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and fuel, slowed slightly though high at 5.6%, while food price inflation eased. **11**

Russians killed in the Russia-Ukraine war since December

20,000 As per from Russia have been rebuffed by Ukrainian assaults, the U.S. estimates that Russia suffered one lakh casualties. **11**

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Why are Blinkit workers protesting?

How did the strikes start? What is 'platform work'? Do the new Labour Codes protect the rights of gig workers? Does the Code on Social Security, 2020 differentiate between employee and gig worker? Have there been petitions in courts to legally recognise gig work and workers?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far: The recent strike by Zomato-owned Blinkit delivery agents has once again brought to the forefront issues plaguing the gig economy in the country. The strikes began when Blinkit rolled out its new payout structure for delivery executives, under which the minimum payout per delivery was slashed to ₹15 from ₹25. As a result, Blinkit delivery executives are now set to earn ₹600-700 a day as opposed to ₹1,200 before.

Who is a 'gig worker'? Gig workers refer to workers outside of the traditional employer-employee relationship. There are two groups of gig workers — platform workers, and non-platform workers. When gig workers use online algorithmic matching platforms or apps to connect with customers, they are called platform workers. Those who work outside of these platforms are non-platform workers, including construction workers and non-technology-based temporary workers.

Whether gig workers should be categorised as 'employees' or as 'independent contractors' has been a heated debate. In India, employees are entitled to a host of benefits under statutes such as the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (EPFMA), and the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. Similarly, contract labourers are governed under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and are also entitled to benefits such as provident funds. However, given the unique nature of gig work, gig workers display characteristics of both employees and independent contractors and thus do not squarely fit into any rigid categorisation. As a result, gig workers have limited recognition under current



At risk: A Blinkit delivery agent on his way to deliver groceries in New Delhi in 2022. **11**

employment laws and thus fall outside the ambit of statutory benefits.

What is the proposed law? The Ministry of Labour and Employment introduced the Code on Social Security, 2020 which brings gig workers within the ambit of labour laws for the first time.

Under section 2(85) of the Code, a 'gig worker' is defined as 'a person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship'. The Code defines platform work as 'a work arrangement outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship in which organisations or individuals use an online platform to access other organisations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services' in exchange for payment. Although the Code

recognises 'gig workers', it distinguishes between such workers and employees. While employees have benefits such as gratuity, employee compensation, insurance, provident fund, and maternity benefits, the Code stipulates that Central and State governments must frame suitable social security schemes for gig workers on matters relating to health and maternity benefits, provident funds and accident benefits among others.

The Code also mandates the compulsory registration of all gig workers and platform workers to avail of the benefits under these schemes.

What are some of the concerns? Out of the four new labour codes proposed, gig work finds reference only in the Code on Social Security. As a result, gig workers remain excluded from vital benefits and protections offered by other

Codes such as minimum wage, occupational safety etc. They also cannot create legally recognised unions. Moreover, they remain excluded from accessing the specialised redressal mechanisms under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, denying them an effective remedy for grievances against their employers. Considering the non-traditional nature of their work, gig workers also do not have the right to collective bargaining — a fundamental principle of modern labour law crucial to safeguarding the rights of workers.

A 2022 report by Fairwork India, an international research project, highlighted the deplorable working conditions of the employees of digital labour platforms in India and the need for statutory affirmation of the rights of gig workers. Despite receiving the assent of the President, the Labour Codes are still awaiting implementation three years on. The Centre has said that this is due to the delay in framing of rules by the States.

Have the courts intervened? On September 20, 2021, the Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers (IFATW) filed a public interest litigation on behalf of gig workers before the Supreme Court. The petition demanded that gig workers or platform workers be declared as 'unorganised workers' so that they can come under the purview of the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 (UWSS Act) and be provided with statutory protection in the form of social security benefits. It has been contended that the exclusion of gig workers from the category of 'unorganised workers' or 'wage workers' under Sections 2(m) and 2(n) of the UWSS Act is violating their fundamental rights under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution. Further, it has been argued that such denial of social benefits amounts to exploitation through forced labour, within the meaning of Article 23.

Although the Supreme Court sought the Centre's response to this petition back in December 2021, the Centre has not yet responded.

UAE-based company in the field of geospatial artificial intelligence that would sponsor his race. However, just three weeks before the race was to start, the boat collided with a ship and required massive repairs. At the end of it all, he was there at the starting line at Les Sables d'Orque on the western coast of France on September 4, 2022, to finish the job he was forced to quit abruptly four years back.

Why is his feat stupendous? Only three of the 11 contestants of GGR-2022 lasted the course of the race, with Kirsten Neuschäfer becoming the first woman to win a solo circumnavigation of the world's oceans. It was almost a neck-and-neck finish for Tomny and Neuschäfer after both had faced similar times in the Georgian Ocean. Officially, Tomny's was the most 'repaired' boat in the race and it was all carried out by the sea fighting unfavourable sea conditions and lack of sleep. The main sail of Tomny's was damaged. Similar loss forced many contestants to quit, but Tomny put his skills to good use to do the repairs, including firing a wind vane from his toilet door. His messages relayed by the GGR organiser on social media were testimony to the sailor's wry wit even in the face of odds. In the end, Tomny, who had received ocean sailing tips from Knox-Johnston himself, became the first Asian to complete the 30,000-mile GGR.

How did he return to GGR? In 2021, Tomny began to look for sponsors, and boats, in order to take part in GGR-2022. He also tried to get crowdfunding. Eventually, in March, 2022, he announced his participation in the race on the Bayanik, named after a

THE GIST

The Blinkit strikes began when the company rolled out its new payout structure for delivery executives, under which the minimum payout per delivery was slashed to ₹15 from ₹25.

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THE GIST

Abhilash Tomy, former Commander in the Indian Navy, has now completed another solo circumnavigation when he made podium finish at the Golden Globe Race (GGR), 2022, on April 29.

The Golden Globe Race is a non-stop, solo, unassisted yacht race around the world which was held for the first time in 1968-69. One of the conditions of the race is that the contestants would prescribe premodern specifications and would not be allowed to use any modern navigational gear.

Only three of the 11 contestants of GGR-2022 lasted the course of the race.

The Golden Globe Race: the voyage of mad men

Why is Abhilash Tomy completing the race a stupendous feat? How is this race different from the others?

S. Anandan

The story so far:

Abhilash Tomy, former Commander in the Indian Navy who became the first Indian to go around the world on a sailboat solo and unassisted back in 2013, has now attained another feat by completing a solo circumnavigation under even more grueling circumstances when he made podium finish at the Golden Globe Race (GGR), 2022, on April 29. He finished second after South African Kirsten Neuschäfer.

What is GGR?

The Golden Globe Race is a non-stop, solo, unassisted yacht race around-the-world which was held for the first time in 1968-69. Just one of the nine participants — 30-year-old British sailor Robin Knox-Johnston — made it to the finishing point sailing a boat named Suhaili which was built in India. The

second edition of the race was held 50 years later, in 2018, when Tomny threw his hat in the ring. One of the conditions was that the contestants would use boats designed to prescribed premodern specifications and would not be allowed to use any modern navigational gear. They would have to rely entirely on sextants and paper charts. To be more specific, anything that wasn't available in 1968 would not be allowed. Satellite phones would be available for extremely restricted use, up to four short messages a day, and use of the GPS chart plotter carried in a sealed box (for emergency) would lead to disqualification from the race. And the sailing would be along a stipulated route, rounding the three great capes, the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa, Cape Leeuwin in Australia and Cape Horn in Chile.

What happened at the race in 2018?

Tomny got a boat, Thuriya, built similar to Suhaili at the same yard that had built

INSV Mhadei used by Cdr (ret'd) Dilip Donde and Tomny for circumnavigating the globe and made a tremendous start in 2018. He was racing in the third position when Thuriya got dismantled in a storm in the Southern Indian Ocean with a spinal injury. He was subsequently evacuated in a multi-nation effort and was operated upon, with titanium rods inserted into his spine and five vertebrae fused into one. He had great difficulty in walking, and it was thought he would hardly sail again. But before hanging up his naval uniform in early 2021, Tomny, a naval pilot, flew his last Dornier sortie and did a fairly good amount of ocean sailing and kiting.

How did he return to GGR?

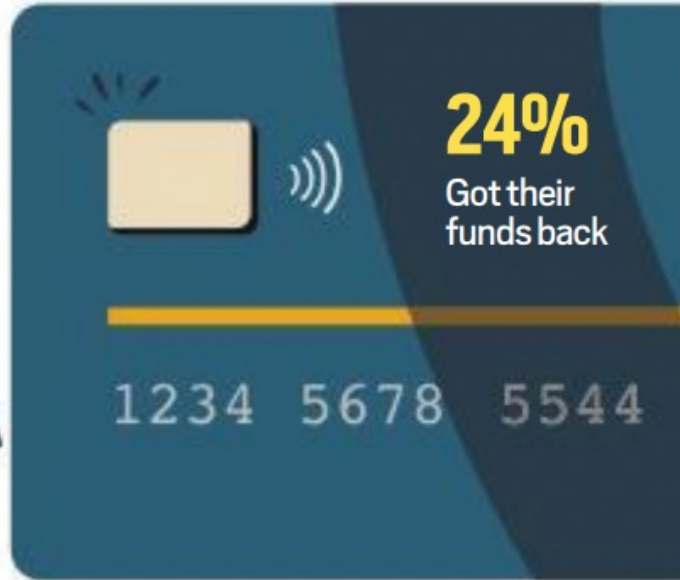
In 2021, Tomny began to look for sponsors, and boats, in order to take part in GGR-2022. He also tried to get crowdfunding. Eventually, in March, 2022, he announced his participation in the race on the Bayanik, named after a

The share of families that have been victims of online fraud

39 In percentage. In a survey conducted by LocalCircles, Indian families claimed to have experienced financial fraud in the last three years, with only 24% receiving their funds back. The highest share of responders had experienced card fraud. PTI

'39% Indian families victim of online financial fraud'

Percentage of families who have reported and were able to get back their funds has risen from 18% last year to 24% in 2023, as per LocalCircles survey



41%

Matter is still pending

10%

ATM card fraud

10%

Bank account fraud

70% No resolution to complaint

18% Filed complaint to designated platform and got money back

17% Feel helpless stating 'there was nowhere to go'

23% Have experienced credit or debit card fraud

13% Defrauded by websites taking money for products

30% Had one member in the family who had been a fraud victim

9% Multiple members subject to financial fraud

Source: PTI/LocalCircles

Karnataka ranked the most 'innovative' State in manufacturing

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

A survey on the degree of innovation among manufacturing firms found that Karnataka, overall, is the most “innovative” State, followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu (DNH&DD), Telangana, and Tamil Nadu.

Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu had the highest share of innovative firms at 46.18%, 39.1% and 31.9%, respectively, with Odisha, Bihar, and Jharkhand reporting the lowest share of such firms at 12.78%, 13.47% and 13.71%, respectively.

Nearly three-fourths of the 8,000-odd firms surveyed, most of them micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME), neither made any innovative product nor business pro-

cess innovation during the survey period of financial years 2017-2020. However, nearly 80% of the firms that did reported significant gains such as expanding markets and reducing production costs.

The most frequent “barriers to innovation” were the lack of internal funds, high innovation costs, and lack of financing from external sources. Gujarat and DNH&DD reported the highest frequencies of barriers to innovation.

The findings are part of the National Manufacturing Innovation Survey (NMIS) 2021-22, a joint study by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to evaluate the innovation performance of manufacturing firms in the India.

India regains top spot in Tests, remains No.1 in ODIs

Press Trust of India

DUBAI

India has overtaken Australia to regain the No. 1 position in the ICC men's Test team rankings following the annual update that drops results from the 2019-20 season and reflects all series completed since May 2020.

India's rating points have moved up from 119 to 121 as its 2-0 defeat to New Zealand in March 2020 no longer figures in the rankings, which assesses series completed prior to May 2022 at 50% and subsequent series at 100%.

India was last at the top for a month in December 2021.

Australia has slipped from 122 to 116 as its home series wins over Pakistan (2-0) and New Zealand (3-0) in 2019-20 no longer figure in the rankings.

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UGC opens ‘unified portal’ for faculty recruitment in varsities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 2

THE UNIVERSITY Grants Commission (UGC) on Tuesday launched a ‘unified portal’ for recruitment of faculty to central universities, where nearly 31 per cent of the sanctioned positions are vacant, according to the Union Government’s recent submission in the Lok Sabha.

UGC chairperson M Jagadesh Kumar, who launched the portal curec.samarth.ac.in, said both applicants and universities will benefit from it as it will carry a consolidated list of job openings across all central universities and provide a simple interface to apply.

There are 46 central universities under the Union Ministry of

Education. Kumar told The Indian Express that the portal will “help UGC hand-hold the universities to fast-track the recruitment process, as it will throw up real-time data on vacancies, applications under consideration, and also track whether the reservation policy is being followed or not”.

Kumar stressed that the portal was not aimed at centralising faculty hiring for all central universities, which will “continue to have their autonomy in the recruitment process”. Some faculty unions had expressed apprehension on this count after Kumar had first floated the idea of the portal in March 2022. However, the central universities have been directed to disband their existing recruitment portals.

“The central universities will

continue to advertise the positions, collect online applications, shortlist the applicants, conduct the interviews and appoint the faculty members as they were doing earlier. All the above activities will be carried out through the admin dashboard for each university on this portal,” said Kumar.

On the portal, applicants will find a consolidated list of openings across the central universities, personalised dashboards to help manage the application process. There will be filters such as location, designation, subject, experience and education level, which the applicants can tick to view the openings that suit them.

“For universities, the platform shall provide real-time tracking of applications, from initial application to screening,” Kumar said.

Arun Gandhi, activist, writer, and grandson of the Mahatama, dies

SUSHANT KULKARNI

PUNE, MAY 2

Arun Manilal Gandhi, an Indian American social activist, journalist, writer and grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, died in Hanbarwadi village in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district on Tuesday. He was 89.

"Bereaved. Lost my father this morning," tweeted Arun Gandhi's son Tushar Gandhi.

Born to parents Manilal Gandhi (second of the four sons of Mahatma Gandhi) and Sushila Mashruwala in South Africa's Durban on April 14, 1934, Arun Gandhi worked for the *The Times of India* as a journalist for 30 years.

He has also been associated with Avani — an organisation

notable for its work towards the empowerment of the marginalized children, child labourers, migrant brickyard and sugar cane workers and the women in the labour force. Arun Gandhi was associated with Avani for the last three decades.

A biographical note on Arun Gandhi's website said that since he was growing up under the discriminatory apartheid laws of South Africa, he was beaten by white South Africans for being too black and black South Africans for being too white. So, he sought an eye-for-an-eye justice.

However, the biographical note said, Arun Gandhi learned from his parents and grandparents that justice didn't mean revenge, but changing the opponent through love and suffering.



गांधीजी की माता

पुतलीबाई



मोहनदास गांधी

कस्तूरबा गांधी (पत्नी)

गांधीजी के 4 बेटे

गांधीजी के पिता



करमचंद गांधी



हरिलाल



मणिलाल



रामदास



देवदास

At 36%, Pak inflation beats Sri Lanka's as Asia's fastest

KAMRAN HAIDER

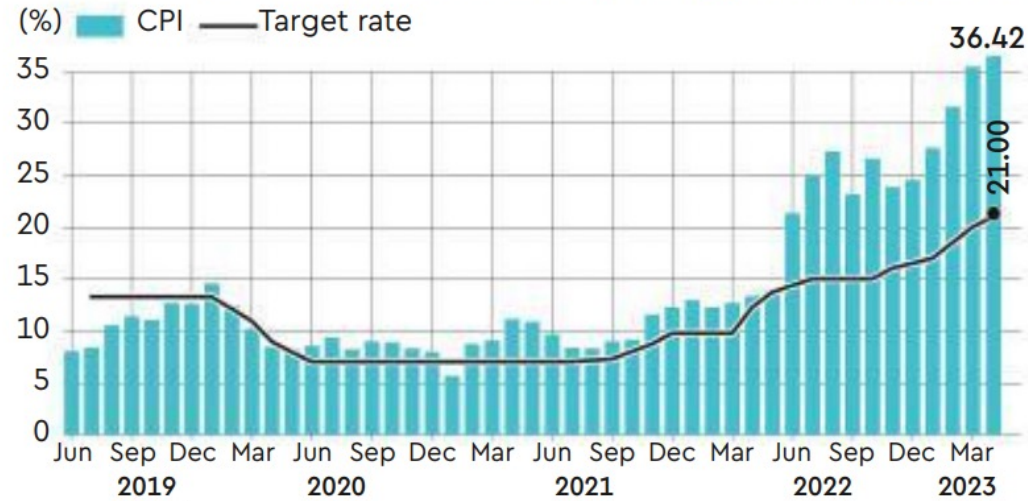
May 2

PAKISTAN TOOK THE crown for Asia's fastest inflation from Sri Lanka as a weaker currency and rising food and energy costs drove price gains to a record in April.

Consumer prices rose 36.4% in April from a year earlier, the highest since 1964, according to data released by the statistics department Tuesday. That compares with a median estimate for a 37.2% gain in a Bloomberg survey and a 35.4% increase in March.

The data shows Pakistan's inflation outpaced price gains in Sri Lanka that eased to 35.3% in April and is starting to show signs of recovery from an economic crisis. The Pakistani rupee is one of the worst performing currencies globally so far in 2023, declining

Pakistan inflation hits record despite high borrowing cost



Source: Bloomberg

20% to the dollar, and making imported goods more expensive.

Transport prices climbed 56.8% while food inflation quickened 48.1% in April from a year earlier, data showed. Clothing and footwear prices gained 21.6% and

housing, water and electricity costs rose 16.9%. Pakistan's inflation is expected to rise further after authorities raised taxes and fuel prices to meet the IMF's conditions for the revival of a \$6.5 billion loan programme. —BLOOMBERG

High Indebtedness: Pakistan has long struggled with a number of issues; its current condition is not new. Due to this, Pakistan is heavily indebted to friendly countries and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Weak External Position: Pakistan was finally taken off the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list in 2022, after being on it for many years. This had an impact on Pakistan's standing globally and led to the imposition of several economic sanctions.

उच्च ऋणग्रस्तता: पाकिस्तान लंबे समय से कई मुद्दों से जूझ रहा है; इसकी वर्तमान स्थिति नई नहीं है। इस वजह से पाकिस्तान मित्र देशों और अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (आईएमएफ) का भारी कर्जदार है।

कमजोर बाहरी स्थिति: पाकिस्तान को कई वर्षों तक रहने के बाद आखिरकार 2022 में फाइनेंशियल एक्शन टास्क फोर्स (FATF) की ग्रे सूची से हटा दिया गया। इसका विश्व स्तर पर पाकिस्तान की स्थिति पर प्रभाव पड़ा और इसके कारण कई आर्थिक प्रतिबंध लगाए गए।

Food Crisis: The cost of perishable foods has increased by over 56%. In Pakistan, the cost of wheat flour has been steadily rising to uncomfortable proportions.

Rising Terrorism: In an effort to split Pakistan into two countries, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has increased its terrorist activities there since 2022.

खाद्य संकट: खराब होने वाले खाद्य पदार्थों की कीमत में 56% से अधिक की वृद्धि हुई है। पाकिस्तान में, गेहूं के आटे की कीमत लगातार असुविधाजनक अनुपात में बढ़ रही है।

बढ़ता आतंकवाद: पाकिस्तान को दो देशों में विभाजित करने के प्रयास में, तहरीक-ए-तालिबान पाकिस्तान (टीटीपी) ने 2022 से वहां अपनी आतंकवादी गतिविधियों को बढ़ा दिया है।

Crisis in Pakistan Causes

Some of the major reasons for the current situation in Pakistan are:

2022 floods: The floods in Pakistan in 2022 cost the nation an unprecedented \$3 billion in damages, destroyed essential infrastructure, uprooted 8 million people, and reduced domestic output.

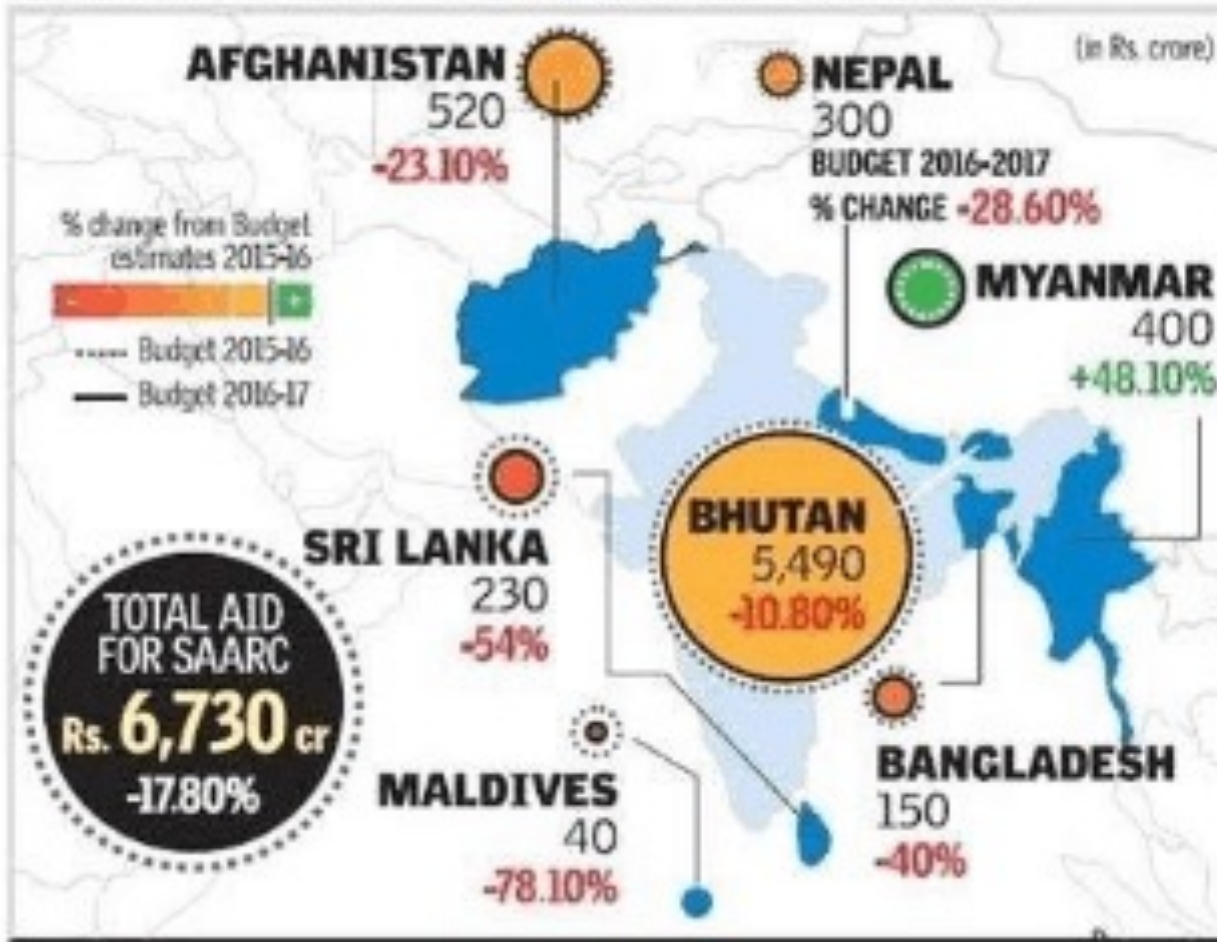
Economic policies that are inconsistent and procyclical: Many of Pakistan's growth-enhancing initiatives came at the expense of growing vulnerabilities and enduring structural and institutional shortcomings.

Local problems: According to analysts, Pakistan's distribution challenges are more of a concern than its insufficient supply levels, which have led to shortages and price increases.

- पाकिस्तान में संकट के कारण
- पाकिस्तान में मौजूदा स्थिति के कुछ प्रमुख कारण हैं:
- 2022 की बाढ़: 2022 में पाकिस्तान की बाढ़ से देश को अभूतपूर्व \$3 बिलियन का नुकसान हुआ, आवश्यक बुनियादी ढाँचे को नष्ट कर दिया गया, 8 मिलियन लोग उजड़ गए, और घरेलू उत्पादन कम हो गया।
- आर्थिक नीतियां जो असंगत और चक्रीय हैं: पाकिस्तान की कई विकास-बढ़ाने वाली पहलें बढ़ती कमजोरियों और स्थायी संरचनात्मक और संस्थागत कमियों की कीमत पर आईं।
- स्थानीय समस्याएं: विश्लेषकों के अनुसार, पाकिस्तान की अपर्याप्त आपूर्ति स्तरों की तुलना में वितरण संबंधी चुनौतियां अधिक चिंता का विषय हैं, जिसके कारण कमी और कीमतों में वृद्धि हुई है।

- In November 2022, IMF had refused to release a pending payment of \$1.18 billion due to the Pakistan government's reluctance to meet certain demands including assurances from the country on:
 - Increasing energy rates
 - Imposing more taxes
 - Artificial control over the exchange rate
- नवंबर 2022 में, IMF ने पाकिस्तान सरकार की कुछ मांगों को पूरा करने में अनिच्छा के कारण \$1.18 बिलियन के लंबित भुगतान को जारी करने से इनकार कर दिया था, जिसमें देश से आश्वासन भी शामिल था:
 - ऊर्जा दरों में वृद्धि
 - अधिक कर लगाना
 - विनिमय दर पर कृत्रिम नियंत्रण

UNKIND CUT FOR NEIGHBOURS



THE BUDGET TABLED IN PARLIAMENT HAS SLASHED INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN SOUTH ASIA

Budget 2016-17 sees sharp drop in development assistance (grants) to SAARC neighbours

Maldives, Nepal, Bangladesh are worst hit by cuts

MEA: revised estimates will show higher grants

India has also raised Lines of Credit to Bangladesh- \$2bn and Nepal- \$1.65 bn

Daily Current Affairs

What is Windfall Tax?

- India recently slashed the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to ₹4,100 per tonne from ₹6,400 per tonne.
- भारत ने हाल ही में घरेलू स्तर पर उत्पादित कच्चे तेल पर विंडफॉल टैक्स को 6,400 रुपये प्रति टन से घटाकर 4,100 रुपये प्रति टन कर दिया है।



Windfall Tax

- It is a **higher tax levied by the government on specific industries when they experience unexpected and above-average profits.**
- यह विशिष्ट उद्योगों पर सरकार द्वारा लगाया जाने वाला एक उच्च कर है, जब वे अप्रत्याशित और औसत से अधिक लाभ का अनुभव करते हैं।



When is it imposed?

- When the government notices a **sudden increase in an industry's revenue**, they impose this tax.
- However, these revenues **cannot be linked to anything the company actively pursued**, such as its business strategy or expansion.
- जब सरकार किसी उद्योग के राजस्व में अचानक वृद्धि देखती है, तो वे यह कर लगाती हैं।
- हालाँकि, इन राजस्वों को कंपनी द्वारा सक्रिय रूप से अपनाई गई किसी भी चीज़ से नहीं जोड़ा जा सकता है, जैसे कि इसकी व्यावसायिक रणनीति या विस्तार।

- Consequently, a Windfall Tax is imposed on an industry's profits when it experiences a sharp increase in revenue due to unrelated external events.

- नतीजतन, एक उद्योग के मुनाफे पर एक अप्रत्याशित कर लगाया जाता है जब यह असंबंधित बाहरी घटनाओं के कारण राजस्व में तेज वृद्धि का अनुभव करता है।

Rationale behind the imposition of windfall tax

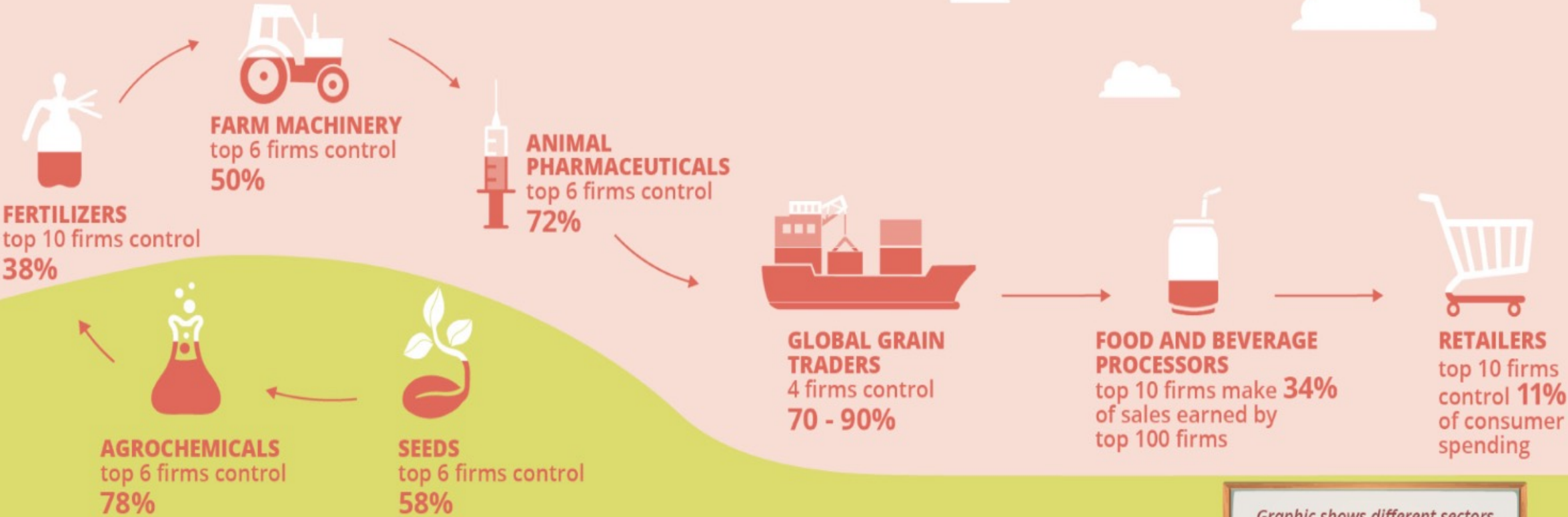
- **Redistribution of unexpected gains**, when high prices benefit producers at the expense of consumers;
- To **fund social welfare schemes**;
- As a **supplementary revenue stream** for the government;
- As a way for the Government to **narrow the country's widened trade deficit**;
- अप्रत्याशित लाभ का पुनर्वितरण, जब उच्च कीमतें उपभोक्ताओं की कीमत पर उत्पादकों को लाभ पहुंचाती हैं;
- सामाजिक कल्याण योजनाओं को निधि देने के लिए;
- सरकार के लिए एक पूरक राजस्व धारा के रूप में;
- देश के व्यापक व्यापार घाटे को कम करने के लिए सरकार के लिए एक उपाय के रूप में;

Daily Current Affairs

Who's Tipping the Scales Report: IPES

- Recently, a report has been released by the **International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES)** titled “**Who’s tipping the scales**”, highlights how corporate capture of global **Food Governance** is increasingly taking place in more visible ways and raising concerns over **Bluewashing**.
- हाल ही में, सस्टेनेबल फूड सिस्टम्स (IPES) पर विशेषज्ञों के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय पैनल द्वारा “हूज़ टिपिंग द स्केल” शीर्षक से एक रिपोर्ट जारी की गई है, इस बात पर प्रकाश डाला गया है कि कैसे वैश्विक खाद्य प्रशासन का कॉर्पोरेट कब्जा तेजी से अधिक स्पष्ट तरीकों से हो रहा है और ब्लूवॉशिंग पर चिंता जता रहा है।

Corporate concentration in the agri-food supply chain



Graphic shows different sectors of the agri-food chain and the percentage of the world market that the top firms control

Source: ETC Group, 2022, Food Barons 2022.

What is Bluwashing?

- Bluwashing is using misinformation to deceive consumers into thinking that a company is more digitally ethical and secure than it really is.
- The term 'bluwashing' was first used to refer to companies who signed the United Nations Global Compact and its principles but did not make any actual policy reforms.
- ब्लूवॉशिंग उपभोक्ताओं को यह सोचने में धोखा देने के लिए गलत सूचना का उपयोग कर रहा है कि कोई कंपनी वास्तव में डिजिटल रूप से अधिक नैतिक और सुरक्षित है।
- 'ब्लूवॉशिंग' शब्द का इस्तेमाल पहली बार उन कंपनियों के लिए किया गया था जिन्होंने संयुक्त राष्ट्र ग्लोबल कॉम्पैक्ट और इसके सिद्धांतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए थे लेकिन कोई वास्तविक नीतिगत सुधार नहीं किया था।

What are the Highlights of the Report?

- Corporate Takeover of Food Governance
- Normalization of Corporate Role in Food Governance
- Concerns Over Corporate Influence
- Visible and Invisible Corporate Influence
- Causes of Increases Corporate Involvement
- Incidences of Corporate Involvement
- खाद्य प्रशासन का कॉर्पोरेट अधिग्रहण
- खाद्य प्रशासन में कॉर्पोरेट भूमिका का सामान्यीकरण
- कॉर्पोरेट प्रभाव पर चिंता
- दृश्य और अदृश्य कॉर्पोरेट प्रभाव
- कॉर्पोरेट भागीदारी बढ़ने के कारण
- कॉर्पोरेट भागीदारी की घटनाएं

What are the Challenges Related to Excessive Corporate Involvement in Global Food Governance?

- Limited Accountability
 - Hyper-nudging
 - Unequal Distribution of Benefits
 - Limited Transparency
 - Exacerbate Food Security
- सीमित जवाबदेही
 - अति-कुहनी मारना
 - लाभों का असमान वितरण
 - सीमित पारदर्शिता
 - खाद्य सुरक्षा को बढ़ाना

What are the Recommendations?

- Create a robust conflict of interest and grievance policies and new mechanisms grounded in Human Rights, that allow people's organizations, social movements and other civil society actors to participate in food governance on their own terms.
- मानवाधिकारों पर आधारित हितों और शिकायत नीतियों और नए तंत्रों का एक मजबूत संघर्ष बनाएं, जो लोगों के संगठनों, सामाजिक आंदोलनों और अन्य नागरिक समाज अभिनेताओं को अपनी शर्तों पर खाद्य प्रशासन में भाग लेने की अनुमति देता है।

- Build up autonomous processes and spaces for claims and proposals from people's organizations and social movements, especially those that build agency for marginalized communities.

- लोगों के संगठनों और सामाजिक आंदोलनों से दावों और प्रस्तावों के लिए स्वायत्त प्रक्रियाओं और स्थानों का निर्माण करें, विशेष रूप से वे जो हाशिए के समुदायों के लिए एजेंसी का निर्माण करते हैं।

Daily Current Affairs

Flash Floods in the Horn of Africa

- Reports from organizations like the **United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA)** and the **Kenya Red Cross** show dire cases of flash floods in Kenya, Tanzania, and parts of Horn of Africa.
- The Horn of Africa is a **peninsula in Northeast Africa** that includes countries like **Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti.**
- The floods come at a time when the countries in the Horn of Africa are struggling with a **sharp surge in climate-linked disease outbreaks, including diarrhoea, cholera, and measles.**

- मानवीय मामलों के समन्वय के लिए संयुक्त राष्ट्र कार्यालय (UN-OCHA) और केन्या रेड क्रॉस जैसे संगठनों की रिपोर्ट केन्या, तंजानिया और हॉर्न ऑफ़ अफ्रीका के कुछ हिस्सों में अचानक बाढ़ के गंभीर मामलों को दर्शाती है।
- हॉर्न ऑफ़ अफ्रीका पूर्वोत्तर अफ्रीका में एक प्रायद्वीप है जिसमें सोमालिया, इथियोपिया, इरिट्रिया और जिबूती जैसे देश शामिल हैं।
- बाढ़ ऐसे समय में आई है जब अफ्रीका के हॉर्न के देश डायरिया, हैजा और खसरा सहित जलवायु से जुड़ी बीमारियों के प्रकोप में तेज वृद्धि से जूझ रहे हैं।



Daily Current Affairs

Padma Awards-2024

- Recently, online nominations/recommendations for the Padma Awards 2024 have opened.
- हाल ही में, पद्म पुरस्कार 2024 के लिए ऑनलाइन नामांकन/सिफारिशें शुरू हो गई हैं।



Padma Awards

- The Padma Awards namely, **Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri**, are amongst the highest civilian awards of the country.
- These Awards were **instituted in 1954** and they are announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day.
- पद्म पुरस्कार नामतः, पद्म विभूषण, पद्म भूषण और पद्म श्री, देश के सर्वोच्च नागरिक पुरस्कारों में से हैं।
- इन पुरस्कारों की स्थापना 1954 में की गई थी और हर साल गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर इनकी घोषणा की जाती है।

- The award seeks to **recognize** ‘**work of distinction**’ and is given for distinguished and **exceptional achievements/service in all fields/disciplines**, such as- Art, Literature and Education, Sports, Medicine, Social Work etc.

- यह पुरस्कार 'विशेषता के कार्य' को मान्यता देना चाहता है और सभी क्षेत्रों/विषयों, जैसे- कला, साहित्य और शिक्षा, खेल, चिकित्सा, सामाजिक कार्य आदि में विशिष्ट और असाधारण उपलब्धियों/सेवा के लिए दिया जाता है।

Eligibility for the nomination

- **All persons without distinction** of race, occupation, position, or sex are eligible for these Awards.
- **Government servants** including those working with PSUs, **except Doctors and Scientists**, are **not eligible** for Padma Awards.
- नस्ल, व्यवसाय, स्थिति या लिंग के भेद के बिना सभी व्यक्ति इन पुरस्कारों के लिए पात्र हैं।
- सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों के साथ काम करने वाले सरकारी कर्मचारी, डॉक्टरों और वैज्ञानिकों को छोड़कर, पद्म पुरस्कारों के पात्र नहीं हैं।

- Awardees receive a **Sanad (Certificate) and Medallion**, a small size replica (miniature) of the main medal is separately handed over to the recipient **but no monetary grant** is attached to these Awards.

- पुरस्कार विजेताओं को एक सनद (प्रमाणपत्र) और पदक प्राप्त होता है, मुख्य पदक की एक छोटे आकार की प्रतिकृति (लघु) अलग से प्राप्तकर्ता को सौंपी जाती है लेकिन इन पुरस्कारों के साथ कोई मौद्रिक अनुदान संलग्न नहीं किया जाता है।

Who decides the winner?

- All nominations received for Padma Awards are placed before the **Padma Awards Committee**, which is **constituted by the Prime Minister every year.**
- The Padma Awards Committee is **headed by the Cabinet Secretary** and includes Home Secretary, Secretary to the President and four to six eminent persons as members.

- पद्म पुरस्कारों के लिए प्राप्त सभी नामांकन पद्म पुरस्कार समिति के समक्ष रखे जाते हैं, जिसका गठन हर साल प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा किया जाता है।
- पद्म पुरस्कार समिति की अध्यक्षता कैबिनेट सचिव करते हैं और इसमें गृह सचिव, राष्ट्रपति के सचिव और सदस्यों के रूप में चार से छह प्रतिष्ठित व्यक्ति शामिल होते हैं।

- The Prime Minister and the President of India **finally review and approve** the recommendations.

- प्रधान मंत्री और भारत के राष्ट्रपति अंततः सिफारिशों की समीक्षा करते हैं और उन्हें स्वीकृति देते हैं।

Result announcement

- The result will be announced on the occasion of Republic Day to recognize the 'work of distinction' of the people for their distinguished and exceptional achievements/service in all fields/disciplines.
- परिणाम गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर सभी क्षेत्रों/विषयों में उनकी विशिष्ट और असाधारण उपलब्धियों/सेवा के लिए लोगों के 'विशिष्ट कार्य' को मान्यता देने के लिए घोषित किया जाएगा।

Daily Current Affairs

Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR)

- A rare melanistic tiger was found dead in the core area of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR).
- सिमिलिपाल टाइगर रिजर्व (एसटीआर) के मुख्य क्षेत्र में एक दुर्लभ मेलानिस्टिक बाघ मृत पाया गया।



Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR)

- **Location:** STR is located within the **Mayurbhanj District**, in the Northernmost part of **Odisha**.
- It is surrounded by **high plateaus and hills**, the highest peak being the **twin peaks of Khairiburu and Meghashini** (1515m above mean sea level).
- The **terrain is mostly undulating and hilly**, interspersed with **open grasslands and wooded areas**.
- स्थान: एसटीआर मयूरभंज जिले के भीतर, ओडिशा के सबसे उत्तरी भाग में स्थित है।
- यह ऊँचे पठारों और पहाड़ियों से घिरा हुआ है, सबसे ऊँची चोटी खैरिबुरु और मेघशिनी की जुड़वाँ चोटियाँ हैं (समुद्र तल से 1515 मीटर ऊपर)।
- इलाका ज्यादातर लहरदार और पहाड़ी है, जिसके बीच-बीच में खुले घास के मैदान और जंगली इलाके हैं।

- **Vegetation:** It is a mix of different forest types and habitats, with Northern tropical moist deciduous dominating some semi-evergreen patches.
- It was declared a '**Tiger Reserve**' in the year **1956** and included under the national conservation programme 'Project Tiger' in 1973.
- The STR, along with a 'transitional area' of 2250 sq. km, has been included as a **part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves** by UNESCO in the year 2009.

- वनस्पति: यह विभिन्न वन प्रकारों और आवासों का मिश्रण है, जिसमें उत्तरी उष्णकटिबंधीय नम पर्णपाती कुछ अर्ध-सदाबहार क्षेत्रों पर हावी है।
- इसे वर्ष 1956 में 'टाइगर रिजर्व' घोषित किया गया था और 1973 में राष्ट्रीय संरक्षण कार्यक्रम 'प्रोजेक्ट टाइगर' के तहत शामिल किया गया था।
- एसटीआर, 2250 वर्ग किमी के 'संक्रमणकालीन क्षेत्र' के साथ, वर्ष 2009 में यूनेस्को द्वारा बायोस्फीयर रिजर्व के विश्व नेटवर्क के एक हिस्से के रूप में शामिल किया गया है।

- It is the only landscape in the world that is home to melanistic tigers.
- The region around STR is home to a variety of tribes, including Kolha, Santhala, Bhumija, Bhatudi, Gondas, Khadia, Mankadia and Sahara.

- यह दुनिया का एकमात्र परिदृश्य है जो मेलेनिस्टिक बाघों का घर है।
- एसटीआर के आसपास का क्षेत्र कई प्रकार की जनजातियों का घर है, जिनमें कोल्हा, संथाला, भूमिजा, भटुडी, गोंडा, खड़िया, मनकडिया और सहारा शामिल हैं।

What are Melanistic animals?

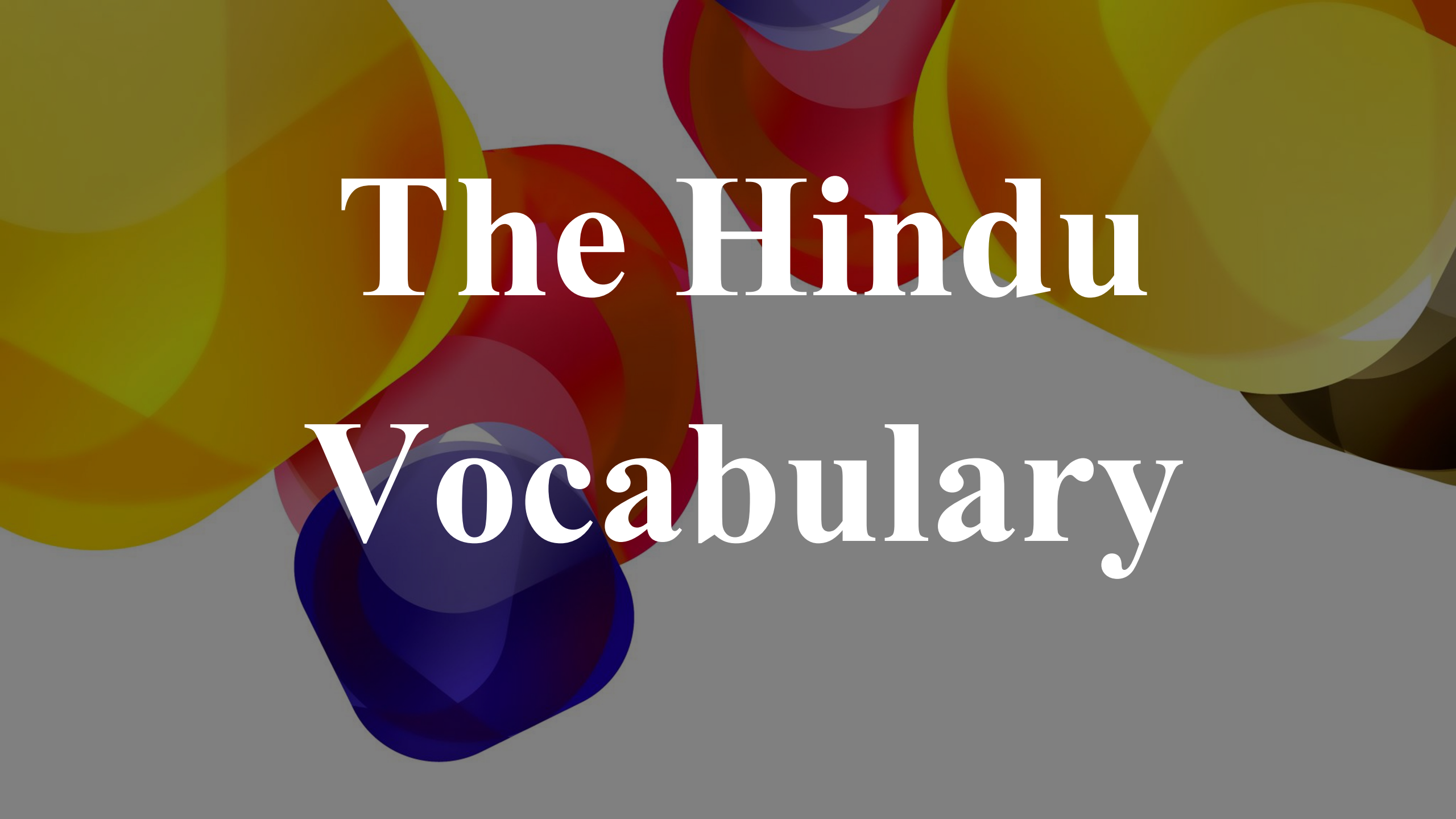
- They are animals with an increased amount of the dark pigment melanin in their skin, hair and feathers, etc., giving them a dark appearance.
- Melanism is a genetic mutation that occurs in many different types of animals, including mammals, reptiles and insects.
- वे ऐसे जानवर हैं जिनकी त्वचा, बाल और पंख आदि में गहरे वर्णक मेलेनिन की मात्रा बढ़ जाती है, जिससे उन्हें काला रूप मिलता है।
- मेलेनिज़्म एक आनुवंशिक उत्परिवर्तन है जो स्तनधारियों, सरीसृपों और कीड़ों सहित कई अलग-अलग प्रकार के जानवरों में होता है।





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- यहां ऑर्किड की 94 प्रजातियों सहित पौधों की आश्चर्यजनक 1078 प्रजातियां पाई जाती हैं।
 - साल यहाँ की प्रमुख वृक्ष प्रजाति है
 - तेंदुआ, गौर, हाथी, लंगूर, बार्किंग और चित्तीदार हिरण, स्लोथ भालू नेवला, उड़ने वाली गिलहरी, साही, कछुआ, मॉनिटर छिपकली, अजगर, सांभर, पैंगोलिन आदि।



The Hindu Vocabulary

Insinuation (Noun) : an unpleasant hint or suggestion of something bad (an indirect or subtle hint)

Synonyms: Inference, Suggestion, Hint, Indication, Omen

Antonyms: Explicit statement, Clear declaration, Direct assertion



Clout (Noun) : अधिकार : power, influence, or authority, especially in politics or business

Synonyms: influence, authority, power, domination, supremacy, command

Antonyms: powerlessness, weakness, subordination



Stern (adj.) : (of a person or their manner) serious and unrelenting, especially in the assertion of authority and exercise of discipline. (कठोर)

Synonyms: serious, unsmiling, frowning

Antonyms: clement, forbearing, gentle



Stymie (Verb): रुकावट डालना : to hinder, block, or thwart someone or something from making progress or achieving a goal

Synonyms: impede, obstruct, block, hamper, sabotage

Antonyms: aid, assist, help, facilitate, promote, support



Munificent (adj.) : (of a gift or sum of money) larger or more generous than is usual or necessary. (उदार)

Synonyms: generous, bountiful, openhanded

Antonyms: mean, cheap, thrifty



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1. Consider the following statements about Bluebugging

1. Bluebugging attacks work by exploiting Bluetooth-enabled devices.
2. Once a device is bluebugged, a hacker can listen to the calls, read and send messages and steal and modify contacts.

Choose the correct statements:

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

1. ब्लूबगिंग के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें

1. ब्लूबगिंग हमले ब्लूटूथ-सक्षम उपकरणों का शोषण करके काम करते हैं।
2. एक बार डिवाइस के ब्लूबग हो जाने के बाद, एक हैकर कॉल सुन सकता है, संदेश पढ़ सकता है और भेज सकता है और संपर्क चुरा सकता है और संशोधित कर सकता है।

सही कथनों का चयन करें:

- ए) केवल 1
- बी) केवल 2
- सी) 1 और 2 दोनों
- डी) न तो 1 और न ही 2

Answer – C

2. Consider the following statements about Gum Arabic

1. It is a natural gum derived from the hardened sap of two species of the Acacia tree.
2. It is soluble in water, edible and used primarily in the food industry and soft-drink industry as a stabiliser.
3. About 70% of the world's supply of gum Arabic comes from the Sahel region of Africa.

Choose the correct statements:

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 1 and 2
- c) 2 and 3
- d) 1 and 3

2. गोंद अरबी के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें

1. यह एक प्राकृतिक गोंद है जो बबूल के पेड़ की दो प्रजातियों के कठोर रस से प्राप्त होता है।
2. यह पानी में घुलनशील है, खाद्य है और मुख्य रूप से खाद्य उद्योग और शीतल पेय उद्योग में स्टेबलाइजर के रूप में उपयोग किया जाता है।
3. दुनिया की गोंद अरबी की आपूर्ति का लगभग 70% अफ्रीका के साहेल क्षेत्र से आता है।

सही कथनों का चयन करें:

- ए) 1, 2 और 3
- बी) 1 और 2
- सी) 2 और 3
- डी) 1 और 3

Answer – A

- It is a natural gum derived from the hardened sap of two species of the Acacia tree – *Senegalia Senegal* and *Vachellia seyal*.
- Gum Arabic first found its way to Europe via Arabic ports, hence the name.
- It is soluble in water, edible and used primarily in the food industry and soft-drink industry as a stabiliser.
- It is also used in printing, paints, glues, cosmetics, and viscosity control in inks and textile industries.
- About 70% of the world's supply of gum Arabic, for which there are few substitutes, comes from the acacia trees in the Sahel region that runs through.

4. With reference to Thrissur Pooram, consider the following statements

1. Thrissur Pooram is an annual Hindu festival held in Kerala.
2. Both the Muslim and Christian communities participate in the festival

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

4. त्रिशूर पूरम के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें

1. त्रिशूर पूरम केरल में आयोजित एक वार्षिक हिंदू त्योहार है।
2. त्योहार में मुस्लिम और ईसाई दोनों समुदाय भाग लेते हैं।

उपरोक्त कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- ए) केवल 1
- बी) केवल 2
- सी) 1 और 2 दोनों
- डी) न तो 1 और न ही 2

Answer – C

- Thrissur Pooram is an annual Hindu festival held in Kerala. It is celebrated on the day when the star sign “Pooram” occurs in the Malayalam month of “medam (April-May)”.
- Pooram, though a Hindu ritual, has grown to encompass all religious and cultural strains of Kerala. Both the Muslim and Christian communities participate in the festival in a variety of ways highlighting secular credentials of the state.



Thank you