

Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता

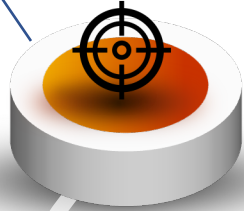


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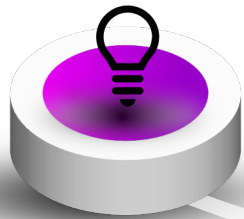


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The Hindu

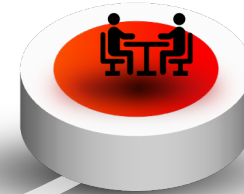


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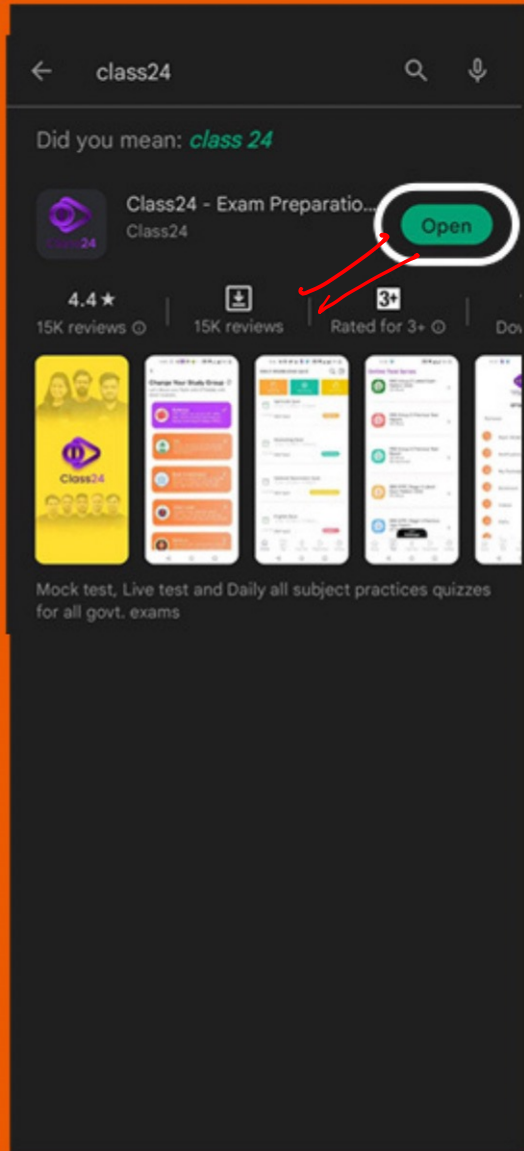


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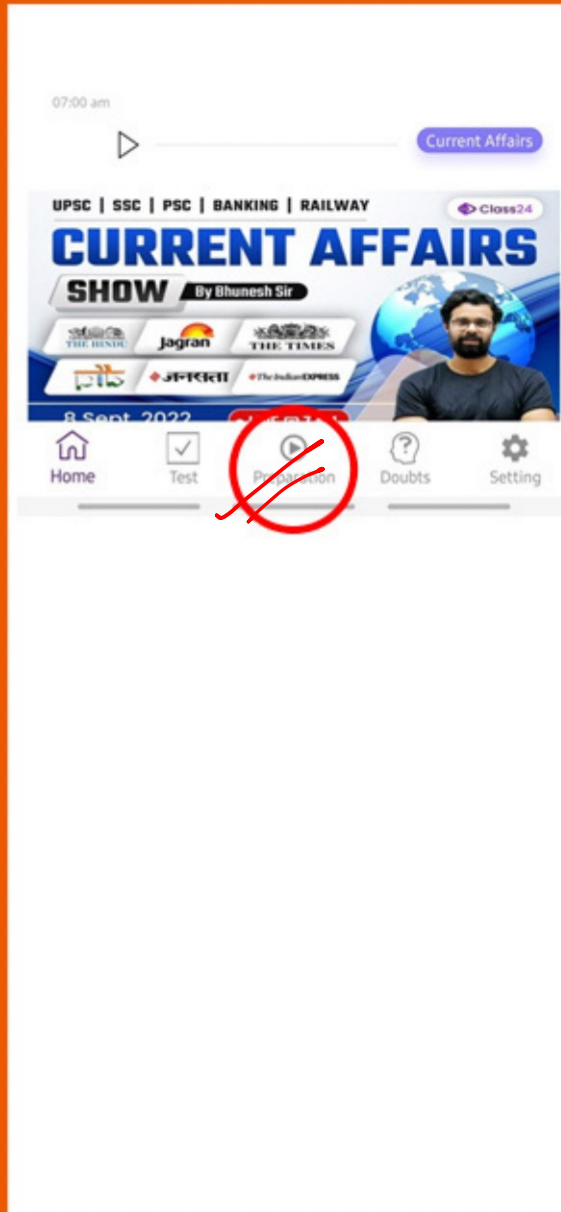
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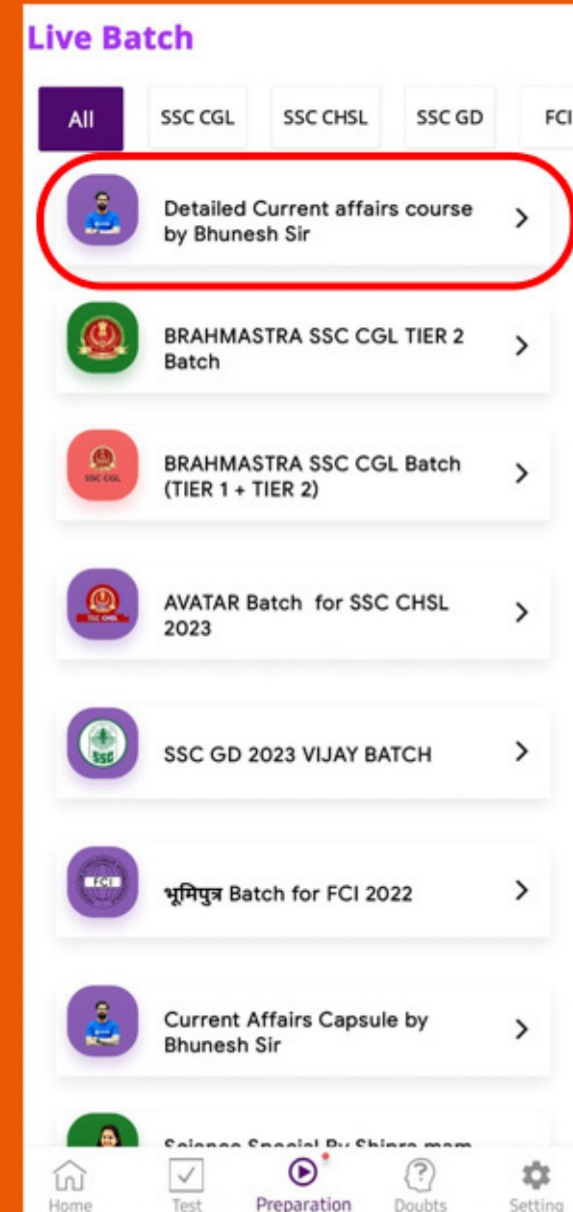
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STEP-2

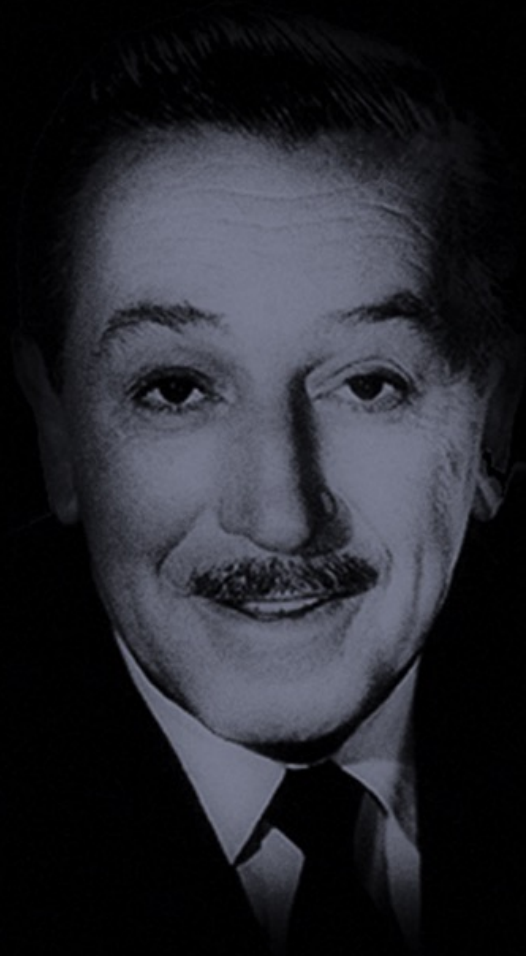


STEP-3



STEP-4





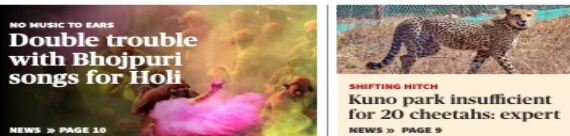
« The way to
get started is
to quit talking
and begin doing. »

—Walter E. Disney

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STUDENTS' APPEAL
SC to set up Bench to hear hijab case
STATES » PAGE 4



NO MUSIC TO EARS
Double trouble with Bhojpuri songs for Holi
NEWS » PAGE 10

SHIFTING HITCH
Kuno park insufficient for 20 cheetahs: expert
NEWS » PAGE 9



LAW AND ORDER
In Punjab, fear of the return of 'dark days'
A police station siege in Ajnala stokes concerns
GROUND ZERO » PAGE 7



SIGNIFICANT VICTORY
Aussies win third Test, book WTC Final berth
SPORT » PAGE 15

Select Central staff can opt for Old Pension Scheme

GOVT. allows one-time option for those who applied for jobs advertised before Dec. 22, 2003, the day National Pension Scheme was notified, but joined service in 2004, when NPS came into effect

Vijaya Srinivas
NEW DELHI

In a significant decision, the government has decided to give a one-time option to select Central government employees to migrate to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS). The employees should have applied for jobs advertised before December 22, 2003, the day the National Pension System (NPS) was notified, but joined service in 2004, when the NPS came into effect. The option is available to the Central government employees enrolled under the NPS as they joined service on or after January 1, 2004.

The order will also be applicable to the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel. Em-

Old vs New

A look at the difference between the old and the new pension schemes

Old Pension Scheme	New Pension Scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scheme guarantees a lifelong income, post-retirement. Government bears the expenditure incurred on the pension. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a pay parity scheme, where employees contribute to their pension corpus from their salaries, with matching contribution from the government. The funds are invested in earmarked investment schemes through Pension Fund Managers. On retirement, 60% of the corpus, which is tax-free, is withdrawn while the remaining 40% is invested in annuities, which is taxed.

ployees have time till August 31 to opt for the OPS. The employees' contribution to the NPS will be credited to the General Provident Fund (GPF) of the individual.

tion-ruled States such as Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh have announced that they would restore the OPS. A senior government official told *The Hindu* that the decision was taken to address the vast gamut of litigations that the government faced on the issue. "There were hundreds of litigations in courts across the country, the government did not win a single case. Through court orders, individual officials were getting benefits, we decided to issue general instructions for the benefit of all eligible officials," said the official.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Sangma to form govt. in Meghalaya; Rio will lead Nagaland with BJP help

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The National People's Party (NPP) on Friday overcame a hiccup in forming the next government in Meghalaya. In Nagaland, the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP)'s Neiphiu Rio will lead the coalition government that includes the BJP, while the BJP's Manik Saha staked his claim to form the government in Tripura.



Overcoming hurdles, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma speaking to the media in Shillong on Friday.

Mr. Conrad Sangma paraded 29 newly elected members — 26 of the NPP, two of the BJP and an independent — but told journalists later that he had the support of 32 MLA-elects. Minutes later, former CM and Trinamool Congress leader Mukul M. Sangma said the numbers were not with the NPP. The Trinamool had won five of

the 55 seats it contested. "They (NPP and BJP) may have met the Governor but we have the numbers. We are confident that the Governor will invite us to form the government," he said, pointing out that 29 was not the majority mark in a 60-member House.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

IN BRIEF



Democracy under attack, says Rahul

NEW DELHI
Indian democracy is under threat and several Opposition leaders, including himself, are being snooded upon by using brazen spyware. Pegasus, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, told a group of students during a lecture at Cambridge University. » PAGE 8

Confusion over EPFO link: CITU

NEW DELHI
The CITU has written to the Central Provident Fund Commissioner demanding immediate intervention as pensioners are facing practical problems while using the link provided by EPFO to exercise the option for higher pension benefits. » PAGE 8

Karnataka BJP MLA booked after son held for accepting bribe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka BJP MLA Madal Virupakshappa has resigned as the chairman of Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Ltd. reportedly at the behest of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

Facing arrest
The MLA now faces the threat of arrest. Holed up in an undisclosed location, he is exploring the best legal options, sources said. The police said they would take stock of the recoveries made during the raids and serve a notice to Mr. Virupakshappa to present himself for questioning in the case. "We will take a call on his arrest soon," a senior officer said.

As rumours set off panic, T.N. govt. seeks to pacify migrants

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI/COIMBATORE

With rumour-mongers and a section of Bihar politicians triggering panic among Hindi-speaking labourers claiming they were being targeted in Tamil Nadu, the government and industrialists on Friday stepped in to assure the migrants of their safety.

Acknowledging that workers from north India were integral to the development of infrastructure in Tamil Nadu, Labour Welfare Minister G.V. Ganesan said labourers from all States were working "peacefully and efficiently

without any threat whatsoever". The district administrations in Coimbatore and Tiruppur, where a large number of migrant workers are employed, issued appeals in Hindi urging the workers not to panic.

Helpline set up
District Collectors and industrial associations also set up helplines for workers to seek aid. A section of industrialists said some workers were taken in by the rumours and wanted to leave for their hometowns.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Kerala girl on World Hearing Day poster

Rizwana, a final-year MBBS student who underwent cochlear implantation as a child, proves that early newborn screening can save hearing impaired children from being disabled for life

C. Maya
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Rizwana was six years old when she first heard the music of rain and the joyous twitter of birds in the morning. She did not know till then that her anklets could produce such a melodious jangle or that hearing her mother's voice for the first time can bring her such joy.

The world that the cochlear implant opened up for Ms. Rizwana, who was born with hearing impairment, was nothing short of magic. It helped her attend normal school and pursue her dreams with confidence.



Rizwana aspires to be an ENT surgeon.

A final-year MBBS student at the Government Medical College Hospital, Kottayam, Ms. Rizwana is a living example that early newborn screening and consistent interventions can save many hearing impaired children from being disabled for life.

It is Ms. Rizwana's story that WHO India has chosen to put on its poster on World Hearing Day (March 3) to send out this powerful message to millions. It was the determination and grit of her parents — Abdul

Rasheed and Sabitha of Mannancherry, Alappuzha — that made it possible for Ms. Rizwana to hear and speak normally, despite the being a late candidate for cochlear implantation. Her hearing impairment was identified when she was a year old. Her parents had no idea about cochlear implantation at the time but she was put on rigorous speech therapy and was home-schooled. When the implantation was done at the age of six, her hearing was restored but doctors were not sure that she would speak. Ms. Rizwana now says that she hopes to be an ENT surgeon one day.

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Select Central staff can opt for Old Pension Scheme

Govt. allows one-time option for those who applied for jobs advertised before Dec. 22, 2003, the day National Pension Scheme was notified, but joined service in 2004, when NPS came into effect

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

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The order will also be applicable to the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) personnel. Em-

Old vs New

A look at the difference between the old and the new pension schemes

Old Pension Scheme	National Pension Scheme
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The scheme guarantees a life-long income, post-retirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ It is a participatory scheme, where employees contribute to their pension corpus from their salaries, with matching contribution from the government
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Government bears the expenditure incurred on the pension	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The funds are invested in earmarked investment schemes through Pension Fund Managers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Under the scheme, a monthly payment is assured, where the amount is equivalent to 50% of the last drawn salary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ On retirement, 60% of the corpus, which is tax-free, is withdrawn while the remaining 40% is invested in annuities, which is taxed



ployees have time till August 31 to opt for the OPS.

The employees' contribution to the NPS will be credited to the General Provident Fund (GPF) of the individual.

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led government has maintained that restoration of the old system will cause unnecessary financial burden on the government while several Opposi-

tion-ruled States such as Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Himachal Pradesh have announced that they would restore the OPS.

Official cites litigations

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that the decision was taken to address the vast gamut of litigations that the government faced on the issue.


"There were hundreds of litigations in courts across the country, the government did not win a single case. Through court orders, individual officials were getting benefit, we decided to issue general instructions for the benefit of all eligible officials," said the official.

CONTINUED ON
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A black silhouette of a person standing and pouring liquid from a pot into a shield-shaped container. The shield contains a white rupee symbol (₹). The person is facing right, and the pot is tilted towards the shield.

Comparison of New & Old Pension Scheme

S.N.	Details	Old Pension Scheme	NPS
01	Contribution of Employee	Nil	10% of Basic + DA +RA-NPA
02	Pension guarantee	Yes by Govt.	No
03	Amount of Pension	50% of last Pay	As per share price
04	Pension decide by	Government	Share Market / PFM's
05	On Price rise	Dearness Relief given	Nil
06	Amount of Commutation	Up to 40% allowed	Nil
07	PF Eligibility	Yes	No
08	PF withdrawal	PF Temp: within 15 years PF Final: After 15 years	Tier -I Nil, Tier-2 withdrawable



New Pension Scheme vs Old Pension Scheme | Learn With...

Supreme Court eases norm for selection of consumer court presidents, members

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday used its extraordinary powers under Article 142 to attract younger talent to preside over consumer courts by reducing the mandatory professional experience from 20 to 10 years.

In a judgment, a Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and M.M. Sundresh also introduced written exams and *viva voce* to check the candidates' performance.

Consumer commissions have the power of civil courts in many aspects.

The judgment noted that the government has proposed several amendments to the Consumer Protection (Qualification for appointment, method



of recruitment, procedure of appointment, term of office, resignation and removal of President and Members of State Commission and District Commission) Rules, 2020.

'Filling the vacuum'

However, it did not want to wait for the law. Rather, the court said its judgment would fill the vacuum until the amendments were

made in the 2020 Rules.

"We direct that in future and hereinafter, a person having a Bachelor's degree from a recognised university and who is a person of ability, integrity and standing, and having special knowledge and professional experience of not less than 10 years in consumer affairs, law, public affairs, administration, economics, commerce, industry, finance, management, engineering, technology, public health or medicine, shall be treated as qualified for appointment of president and members of the State Commission," the judgment directed.

The appointments to the district consumer commissions would also be made on the same criteria, the judgment noted.

Consumer Court is a special purpose court in [India](#). It primarily deals with consumer-related disputes, conflicts, and grievances. The [court](#) holds hearings to adjudicate these disputes.



उपभोक्ता न्यायालय भारत में एक विशेष प्रयोजन अदालत है। यह मुख्य रूप से उपभोक्ता संबंधी विवादों, संघर्षों और शिकायतों से निपटता है। अदालत इन विवादों पर फैसला सुनाने के लिए सुनवाई करती है।

- The rights provided by the Court are listed below:

1. **Right to Safety**: The right to be protected from all types of hazardous goods and services.

2. **Right to Information**: The right to be fully informed about the performance and quality of all goods and services.

3. **Right to Choose**: The right to freely choose goods and services.

- न्यायालय द्वारा प्रदान किए गए अधिकार नीचे सूचीबद्ध हैं:

- सुरक्षा का अधिकार: सभी प्रकार की खतरनाक वस्तुओं और सेवाओं से सुरक्षित होने का अधिकार।

- सूचना का अधिकार: सभी वस्तुओं और सेवाओं के प्रदर्शन और गुणवत्ता के बारे में पूरी तरह से सूचित होने का अधिकार।

- चुनने का अधिकार: वस्तुओं और सेवाओं को स्वतंत्र रूप से चुनने का अधिकार।

1.Right to be Heard: The right to be heard in all decision-making processes related to consumer interest.

2.Right to Seek Redressal: The right to seek compensation, whenever consumer rights have been infringed.

3.Right to Consumer Education: The right to complete consumer education.

There are two more Rights specified but they don't come as part of the 6 main Rights mentioned above.

- **सुने जाने का अधिकार: उपभोक्ता हित से संबंधित सभी निर्णय लेने की प्रक्रियाओं में सुने जाने का अधिकार।**
- **शिकायत निवारण का अधिकार: जब भी उपभोक्ता अधिकारों का उल्लंघन किया गया हो, तो मुआवजे की मांग करने का अधिकार।**
- **उपभोक्ता शिक्षा का अधिकार: उपभोक्ता शिक्षा को पूरा करने का अधिकार। दो और अधिकार निर्दिष्ट हैं लेकिन वे ऊपर उल्लिखित 6 मुख्य अधिकारों के हिस्से के रूप में नहीं आते हैं।**

- **National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)]:**
A court that operates nationally and deals with cases where claimed compensation exceeds one crore (₹10 million).
- The National Commission is the apex body of Consumer Courts; it is also the highest appellate court in the hierarchy.
- The NCDRC is the highest judiciary of the consumer court, the consumer Supreme Court of India.
- **National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)]:** एक अदालत जो राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर काम करती है और उन मामलों से निपटती है जहां दावा किया गया मुआवजा एक करोड़ (₹10 मिलियन) से अधिक है।
- राष्ट्रीय आयोग उपभोक्ता न्यायालयों का सर्वोच्च निकाय है; यह पदानुक्रम में सर्वोच्च अपीलीय अदालत भी है।
- एनसीडीआरसी उपभोक्ता न्यायालय, भारत के उपभोक्ता सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की सर्वोच्च न्यायपालिका है।

- **Revised Pecuniary Jurisdiction:**

- 50 lakh (earlier less than 1 crore) for District Commissions,
- More than Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 2 Crore (earlier 1 crore to 10 crore) for State Commissions,
- More than Rs. 2 Crore (earlier more than 10 crore) for the National Commission.

- **संशोधित आर्थिक क्षेत्राधिकार:**

- जिला आयोगों के लिए 50 लाख (पहले 1 करोड़ से कम), रुपये से अधिक। 50 लाख से रु. राज्य आयोगों के लिए 2 करोड़ (पहले 1 करोड़ से 10 करोड़), रुपये से अधिक। राष्ट्रीय आयोग के लिए 2 करोड़ (पहले 10 करोड़ से अधिक)।

CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 1986	PROVISIONS	CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 2019
No separate regulator	Regulator	Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to be formed
Complaint could be filed in a consumer court where the seller's (defendant) office is located	Consumer court	Complaint can be filed in a consumer court where the complainant resides or works
No provision. Consumer could approach a civil court but not consumer court	Product liability	Consumer can seek compensation for harm caused by a product or service
District: up to ₹20 lakh State: ₹20 lakh to ₹1 cr National: above ₹1 cr	Pecuniary jurisdiction	District: up to ₹1 cr State: ₹1 cr to ₹10 cr National: Above ₹10 cr
No provision	E-commerce	All rules of direct selling extended to e-commerce
No legal provision	Mediation cells	Court can refer settlement through mediation

World Bank to lend \$1 billion to support India's health sector

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The World Bank is lending up to \$1 billion to help India with preparedness for future pandemics as well as to strengthen its health infrastructure. The lending will be divided into two complementary loans of \$500 million each.

Through this combined financing of \$1 billion, the bank will support India's flagship Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), launched in October 2021, to improve the public healthcare infrastructure across the country.

Better service delivery

In addition to the national-

Enhanced Health Service Delivery Programme (EHSDP) will support government's efforts to strengthen service delivery through a redesigned primary healthcare model, which includes improved household access to primary healthcare facilities, stronger links between each household and its primary care facility through regular household visits and risk assessment of non-communicable diseases.

Both the PHSP and the EHSDP loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) have a final maturity of 18.5 years, including a grace period of five years, stated the World Bank.

Better service delivery

In addition to the national-level interventions, one of the loans will prioritise health service delivery in seven States – Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

The \$500-million Public Health Systems for Pandemic Preparedness Programme (PHSPP) will support the government's efforts to prepare India's surveillance system to detect and report epidemics of potential international concern.

Another \$500-million

including a grace period of five years, stated the World Bank.

The agreement was signed by Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of India and Auguste Tano Kouamé, country director, India, World Bank.

India's performance in health has improved over time. According to the World Bank estimates, India's life expectancy has increased from 58 in 1990 to 69.8 in 2020. This is higher than average for the country's income level.

The World Bank building in Washington, D.C.

Established	December 1944 (78 years ago)
Type	International financial institution
Legal status	Treaty
Headquarters	1818 H Street , NW Washington, D.C. , U.S. ^[1]
Membership	189 countries (IBRD) ^[2] 174 countries (IDA) ^[2]
Key people	David Malpass (President) ^[3] Axel van Trotsenburg (MD) Anshula Kant (MD and CFO) Indermit Gill (Chief Economist), ^[4]
Parent organization	World Bank Group



[Harry Dexter White](#) (left) and [John Maynard Keynes](#), the "founding fathers" of both the World Bank and the [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#)^[6]



The Gold Room at the [Mount Washington Hotel](#) where the [International Monetary Fund](#) and [World Bank](#) were established

IN BRIEF



SC extends Pawan Khera's interim bail till March 17

The Supreme Court on Friday extended the interim bail granted to Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera till March 17, even as Uttar Pradesh and Assam objected to the clubbing and transfer of FIRs registered against him for allegedly using objectionable words against Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a press conference in February.

French Minister inaugurates artist residency network

The French government on Friday inaugurated Villa Sagittarium, a cultural residency for artists from India and France. The pan-India network of residencies was opened here at the French Institute by the country's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna.

NIA attaches ₹20.65 crore in Left Wing Extremism case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has attached about ₹20.65 crore, including the balance in more than 150 bank accounts, in connection with a Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) case. According to the agency, the accounts include 124 special term deposits and one mutual fund belonging to Santosh Construction and its different partners.

Law Ministry notifies appointment of HC judges

The Law Ministry on Friday notified the elevation of 20 additional judges as permanent judges of the Allahabad, Bombay, Madras and Delhi High Courts. In separate notifications, the Department of Justice in the Law Ministry said that while five additional judges have been made judges of the Madras High Court, four others from the Bombay High Court have been elevated.

U.S. blames Indian firm for cough syrup deaths in Gambia

Inquiry suggests contaminated medicines imported into Gambia led to this Acute Kidney Injury cluster among children, CDC report says

Maitri Porecha NEW DELHI

An investigation report by the top public health body of the U.S., Centre for Disease Control, into the deaths of children in Gambia due to kidney injury, has suggested a strong link between these deaths and consumption of allegedly contaminated cough syrup manufactured by India-based Maiden Pharmaceuticals.



Big impact: The children observed by CDC had developed fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, loss of appetite and inability to pass urine.

A CDC report released on Friday said, "This investigation strongly suggests that medications contaminated with Diethylene Glycol (DEG) or Ethylene Glycol (EG) imported into Gambia led to this Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) cluster among children. The CDC report is the third such evidence to link cough syrups manufactured in India to the deaths. Earlier, the World Health Organization had stated that it had found DEG and EG, and other industrial chemicals, in tested samples in the range of 1% to 21.3%.

Parliament had said Maiden Pharma 'should be held accountable'. The Indian Health Ministry has not issued any official response to the U.S.-CDC report. Health officials have claimed it to be a political ploy. Between July and September last year, the Gambia had reported 22 cases of Health had identified that 75 children developed sudden kidney failure and up to 66 (89%) of them died. Gambia had requested help from CDC experts to help investigate the situation. Up to 56 patients met the criteria for investigation and were included in the CDC analysis.

India scores 74.4 in World Bank index on working women

Seema Chakrabarty NEW DELHI

The laws affecting the Indian working woman's pay and pension do not provide for equality with Indian men, dragging India's score in a World Bank index on the life cycle of a working woman down to 74.4 out of a possible 100.

Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

When it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, laws affecting women's decisions to work, and constraints related to marriage, India gets a perfect score, the report said. However, India lags behind when it comes to laws affecting women's pay, pension and child care after having children, constraints on women starting a business, gender differences in property and inheritance.

Uzbekistan cough syrup deaths: Noida firm staff held

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Noida police arrested three employees of a pharmaceutical firm on charges of manufacturing and selling adulterated drugs in connection with the death of 15 children in Uzbekistan last year, officials said on Friday.

Police said the cough syrup was alleged to have led to the death of 15 children in Uzbekistan. A First Information Report was registered on Thursday against five officials of Marion Biotech, after a complaint was filed by a Drugs Inspector of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), the police said. While the directors are absconding, teams have been formed to apprehend them," the police said. Central and Uttar Pradesh drug authorities had checked samples of Marion Biotech products and found the cough syrup to be "not of standard quality" (adulterated and spurious), as per the complainant Drug Inspector. Additional Deputy Commissioner (Central Noida) Rajiv Dixit said three persons associated with Marion Biotech were arrested on Friday. These people were engaged in preparation and sale of fake drugs.

Better infra has put remote villages on tourist map: Modi

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said better infrastructure has put remote Indian villages on the tourist map as has the development of religious centres like Yaramasa's Kashi Vishwanath Temple.

Addressing a post-Budget webinar on the subject of 'Developing Tourism in Mission Mode', Mr. Modi said it was a myth that tourism is a fancy word associated only with the high-income groups of the country. He noted that yatrae have been a part of India's cultural and social life for centuries and people used to go on pilgrimages even when there was no transport available. Mr. Modi gave the example of Kashi Vishwanath Dham in Varanasi and said around 80 lakh people used to visit the temple in a year before it was rebuilt, but the tourist footfall crossed seven crore last year after the renovation. He also mentioned that 15 lakh devotees have visited Kedarnath Temple compared to only four-five lakh before the completion of reconstruction work. The Prime Minister underscored that India's tourism sector can grow manifold with increase in civic amenities, good digital connectivity, good hotels and hospitals and excellent infrastructure. He gave the example of Indian villages. "Our villages are becoming centres of tourism", the Prime Minister remarked as he underlined that remote villages are now coming up on the tourism map due to their improving infrastructure. The Centre has started the Vibrant Village Scheme for the villages situated along the border, he said emphasising the need to support businesses such as homestays, small hotels and restaurants. He said India needs to think out of the box and plan ahead to take tourism to new heights. As parameters for the development of a tourist destination, he listed the potential of the place, ease of travelling to the destination and new ways to promote it.



Narendra Modi

Holi brings on a barrage of double entendre songs to Bihar's festivities

Amit Bhadral PATNA

In preparation for Holi this year, Bihar's Bhojpuri music scene is once again rife with sexual innuendo. The festival lends itself to songs with double entendre, because of the symbols popular at this time: water pistols, balloons, and horns with rubber air bladders (bhops).

The transition from folk family songs that documented seasons, relationships, and festivals, to raunchy music with double meaning has taken place over the past couple of decades. Particularly popular at Holi, up to 100 songs are released for the festival. They are often played in spaces like private buses that ply in motorist areas or at local melas (fairs). Perhaps not anymore.

1,000 to 1,300 songs are released, and of these 20-30% are vulgar. The trend reached its peak in 2017," he says, adding that the singers are between the ages of 25 and 35, with listeners being even younger. In Patna's Bakarganj, there are more than a 100 shops that people can visit to download songs. They carry along pen drives or memory cards and pay ₹30 to ₹50 for 1 GB of worth of songs. A shopkeeper in the area said there are several reasons these songs are popular.

Congress MLA Pratima Kumari raised the issue of Bhojpuri music's vulgarity in the Bihar Assembly last week. In reply, the State Planning and Development Minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav said that action would be taken against those making and playing songs with a double meaning and obscene videos. "The special branch of Bihar police has already issued instructions to district police units to file a complaint in this regard," Mr. Yadav said in the Assembly on Wednesday. "The Bhojpuri music industry — that includes both film songs and independent albums — is worth about ₹2,000 crore," says Rajanika Sinha, who handles the launch of most Bhojpuri songs. "Annually, about 500 songs are made, most of them oriented."

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Clues include: 1. Every verb ridiculed, dabbed, essentially upright! (13), 2. Advance in leaps, bounds, giant process, each a step further than the last! (4), 3. Friend of Eric finally by cricket match daily! (10), 4. Oddy, Goan first to taste French water and cake! (9), 5. Alarm initially rung out in city signalling an earthquake, say! (8). Solutions: 1. EMBROIDER, 2. LEAP, 3. FRIENDLY, 4. ODDY, 5. ALARM.

Sudoku puzzle grid with solution. Clues include: 1. Grain nod principally for UN's first debt instrument! (8), 2. Play the lead in & as Tarzan! (4), 3. Heat coloured fabric, ends trimmed! (4), 4. Magnify complete audiovisual for the example...! (8), 5. ... slide show, PowerPoint - your last two choices, in-depth and new! (8), 6. Energy firm second to secure U.S. guarantee for powerful contractor? (6), 7. Treated since 1961 using Archimedes' method? (10), 8. What a groom might say, essentially beholding model! (4), 9. Finger-snapper? (7A), 1. Galt photograph of American civil rights activist? (7), 2. Constitutional ambt! (5), 3. Fair peacekeeper Democrat's voice? (7), 4. Leader in performance, etc., or signaller! (8-7), 5. Heading to Champens? Trophy's final with two ducks and two fibres, like former India captain might? (6), 6. Priest going around a chamber, generating energy? (7), 7. Letters from golden-burgoning German city! (8), 8. Foot briefly measured by Spooner terrace? (7), 9. A Jewish girl talking about Rabbi essentially replacing head of religious centre? (7), 10. Vegetable starchy generally hated by Tintin's friend Alizer? (7), 11. Clear browner within 40 days before Easter! (6), 12. Upright Arab ruler first to condemn wrongdoing! (5).

FAITH section with Magnanimity of Lord Siva. Text discusses offering perishable things like flowers and fruits, and the importance of devotion in Hinduism. It mentions Lord Siva's love for flowers and the significance of the Arka (Erukam) leaves and flowers, the flower Leukus Aspera (Thumbar) and the Bael (Bilva) leaf. It also mentions the Siva Sankara's story and the importance of devotion in Hinduism.

India scores 74.4 in World Bank index on working women

Sreeparna Chakrabarty

NEW DELHI

The laws affecting the Indian working woman's pay and pension do not provide for equality with Indian men, dragging India's score in a World Bank index on the life cycle of a working woman down to 74.4 out of a possible 100.

A score of 100 on the Index means that women are on an equal standing with men on all the eight indicators being measured, according to the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law 2023 report. India scored higher than the 63.7 average for the South Asian region, though lower than Nepal which had the region's highest score of 80.6. Of the 190 economies covered in the Index, only 14 scored a per-

fect 100: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Luxemburg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

For India, the Index used data on laws applicable in Mumbai, viewed as the country's main business city.

"When it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, laws affecting women's decisions to work, and constraints related to marriage, India gets a perfect score," the report said.

However, India lags behind when it comes to laws affecting women's pay, pension and work after having children, constraints on women starting and running a business, gender differences in property and inheritance.

WALTERBORO Lawyer Alex Murdaugh gets life in prison for murder of wife, son



A judge sentenced South Carolina attorney Alex Murdaugh to life without parole on Friday, a day after he was convicted of murder in the shocking deaths of his wife and son. The Colleton County jury deliberated on Thursday before finding Murdaugh guilty of killing his 22-year-old son and his 52-year-old wife on June 7, 2021.

Russia is trying to be helpful to bring India, China closer: Lavrov

We never make friends against somebody. We have excellent relation with India and excellent relation with China, says Foreign Minister

Kajal Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Russia is interested in ensuring friendship between India and China and Moscow is trying to be "helpful" in this regard, said Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov here on Thursday. Responding to a question at the annual Raisina Dialogue, Mr. Lavrov mentioned against "outside players" and said Russia would like India and China to meet more often as the Russia-India-China trilateral has been in existence since the days of his predecessor, Vyevgeny Primakov. "We never make friends against somebody. We have excellent relation with India and excellent relation with China. The India-Russia relation is characterised at a high level. Documents signed by two leaders as specially privileged partners in partnership. This is what we believe is reflecting the reality. We are interested in these two great nations to be friends and we are trying to be helpful," said Mr. Lavrov.



Up close: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov speaking at the Raisina Dialogue 2023 in New Delhi on Friday. AP

The Russian Minister collected that the RIC (Russia, India, China - trilateral was created during the tenure of the late Vyevgeny Primakov when Russia took the initiative to bring the three sides together. "We met last year and we are going to meet next month at a level this year," said Mr. Lavrov. The RIC is a regular trilateral that meets at the government and non-government levels, covering experts in trade, technology, civil society and media. "My feeling is the more they meet, the better and RIC is a platform for India

SEOUL U.S., South Korea announce largest joint field exercises in five years



The South Korean and U.S. militaries announced on Friday they will conduct their largest joint field exercises in five years this month, as the U.S. flew a long-range B-1B bomber to the Korean Peninsula in a show of force against North Korea. The North has threatened to take "unprecedented" strong action against such exercises. AP

BANGKOK Singapore PM's brother says gov't persecuting his family



WASHINGTON Pentagon Papers leaker Ellsberg says he has terminal cancer



Nobel Peace Prize winner Bialiatzki jailed for 10 years

Reuters
MOSCOW

A court in Belarus on Friday sentenced Nobel Peace Prize winner and human rights activist Ales Bialiatzki to 10 years in prison for financing protests and other crimes, in a case that rights groups say was politically motivated. Exiled Belarusian Opposition leader Sviatlana Tikharouskaya said Bialiatzki and other activists sentenced in the same trial had been unfairly convicted, calling the verdict "appalling". Prosecutors had asked the Minsk court to give Bialiatzki, who denied the charges, a 12-year sentence. Exiled Belarusian Opposition leader Sviatlana Tikharouskaya said Bialiatzki and other activists sentenced in the same trial had been unfairly convicted, calling the verdict "appalling".



Ales Bialiatzki

of 2020 and continued into 2021.

"Viasna took a leading role in providing legal and financial assistance to those jailed. Mass demonstrations took place after long-time leader Alexander Lukashenko was declared the winner of the 2020 presidential election. The allegations against our colleagues are linked to their human rights activity, the Viasna human rights centre's provision of help to the victims of politically motivated persecution." Viasna has said of the case. Bialiatzki was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last October for his work on human rights and democracy, sharing it with Russian rights group Memorial and Ukraine's Center for Civil Liberties.

Don't withhold poll funds, Lanka SC tells authorities

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The Supreme Court of Sri Lanka on Friday issued an interim order restraining authorities from withholding funds allocated for the local government election, which was earlier scheduled for March 9, but postponed. The order, preventing state functionaries, including the Secretary to the Finance Ministry and the Attorney General, from withholding funds, was issued after the top court heard a petition filed by the main Opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB or United People's Force) general secretary and legislator Ranjith Maduduma Bandara.



Ranjith Maduduma Bandara

The Election Commission, which had postponed the elections citing the "lack of funds", on Friday said it would announce a new date by early next week. Commenting on the development, Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa said in a tweet, "The historic order of the Supreme Court today on an application made by the SJB General Secretary confirms the fact that democracy in Sri Lanka is very much alive & stifling democracy. One member of the opposition National Peoples Power alliance died after police fired tear gas and water cannons at a protest rally by its supporters last weekend, demanding timely polls. President Wickremesinghe's government also faces mounting opposition over recent tax hikes and three-fold increase in electricity prices. Nearly 40 unions went on a strike on Wednesday, threatening to continue their protests if the government does not address their economic hardships. The government increased taxes and utility bills in anticipation of a likely \$2.9 billion package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). On Thursday, Peter Breuer, Senior Mission Chief for Sri Lanka, and Massimo Nozaki, Mission Chief for Sri Lanka, IMF, defended the government's move noting that Sri Lanka is among countries collecting the least amount of fiscal revenue in the world. "External creditors are not willing to provide financing to fill the gap. Tax reforms are needed to correct this imbalance," the official said in a statement. The political opposition to the postponement of polls. Government critics accuse President Ranil Wickremesinghe's administration of

the independence of our noble judiciary is further reaffirmed. Mr. President, let the voices of the masses be heard."

Biden, Scholz to weigh next steps for Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

U.S. President Joe Biden hosts German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Washington on Friday for talks on charting the way ahead in their support for Ukraine, after friction over tank deliveries to Kyiv. Mr. Scholz's first trip to Washington since February 2022 offers the leaders the opportunity to demonstrate their resolve in backing Ukraine against Russia.

The talks might delve into thorny issues, including Germany's fears over green subsidies by the U.S.

But the talks will likely delve into thorny issues dividing the two, including Germany's fears over Washington's green subsidies under the Inflation Reduction Act, and U.S. caution over Berlin's continued strong economic

ties with Beijing. "I think the two of them are now more concerned about the way ahead - what will the next months in Ukraine look like? What does that mean for the support that the allies can organise for Ukraine?" said Mr. Scholz's spokesperson. In an address to Parliament on the eve of the meeting, Mr. Scholz said the partnership between two of Ukraine's biggest backers was "closer and more trusting than ever".

Inferno unleashed



Sight of a lifetime: The 'Wall of Fire' pyrotechnics display concludes the first public day of the Australian International Airshow/Aerospace and Defence Expo at Avalon Airport in Geelong on Friday. AP

WHO urges countries to come clean on COVID origins intel after China's denial

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The WHO on Friday urged all countries to reveal what they know about the origins of COVID-19, following U.S. claims of a Chinese lab leak and further Chinese denials from Beijing. FBI Director Christopher Wray told Fox News television on Tuesday that the U.S. Federal Bureau of In-

vestigation (FBI) had now assessed the source of COVID-19 pandemic was "most likely a potential lab incident in Wuhan". "The origins of COVID-19, following U.S. claims of a Chinese lab leak and further Chinese denials from Beijing, were recorded in late 2019 in the Chinese city, which houses a Chinese research laboratory. Chinese officials have angrily denied the FBI claim, calling it a smear campaign against Beijing.

"If any country has information about the origins of the pandemic, it's essential for that information to be shared with the rest of the international scientific community," said the World Health Organization's director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. "WHO has not abandoned any plans to identify the origins of the COVID-19

pandemic," he told reporters. "origins research was making the scientists' work harder - and the world less safe as a result. The comments from FBI chief Wray came after a report earlier this week said the U.S. Department of Energy had determined that a Chinese lab leak was the most likely cause of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Associated Press
BEIJING

China accused Washington on Friday of improperly attacking Chinese companies after genetics analysis giant BGI Group and 17 others were hit with curbs on access to U.S. technology on security or human rights grounds. "The Commerce Department said it saw a dang-

erous risk to national security that two BGI units might contribute to the government's surveillance apparatus, which human rights groups say is trying to create a database of genetic samples that Muslims and other minorities were being targeted to provide. "Suspected abuse" Other companies were cited for their role in the ruling Communist Party's mili-

itary modernisation or weapons development by Iran and Pakistan and suspected human rights abuses in Myanmar, Washington has accused China of trying to use civilian companies to obtain processor chip and other technologies that can be used to make weapons, Beijing rights groups said. They said that the U.S. is trying to stop potential commercial competitors. "Only increasing."

Wagner chief says Ukraine's Bakhmut 'practically surrounded'

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

The head of Russian mercenary group Wagner said on Friday the group has "practically encircled" Bakhmut, an industrial city in eastern Ukraine that has seen the fiercest fighting of the war. The Kremlin meanwhile warned the West against providing to more arms to Ukraine, as key Kyiv backers France and the U.S. and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz were set to meet in Washington.

Ukraine has said it will defend "fortress Bakhmut" for as long as possible but this week officials said the situation was becoming increasingly difficult. Russia is determined to seize Bakhmut - a now-destroyed city once known for its sparkling wine - as part of its wider aim of capturing the entire Donetsk region. Ukrainian troops have held out for months, fighting brutal trench warfare and artillery battles that have flattened large portions of the city, where only around 4,500 civilians remain. Mr. Zelensky said that the fighting was "only increasing."

Nobel Peace Prize winner Bialiat-ski jailed for 10 years

Reuters
MOSCOW

A court in Belarus on Friday sentenced Nobel Peace Prize winner and human rights activist Ales Bialiat-ski to 10 years in prison for financing protests and other crimes, in a case that rights groups say was politically motivated.

Exiled Belarusian Opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya said Bialiat-ski and other activists sentenced in the same trial had been unfairly convicted, calling the verdict “appalling”.

Prosecutors had asked the Minsk court to give Bialiat-ski, who denied the charges, a 12-year sentence.

He and three co-defendants were charged with financing protests and smuggling money.

Belarusian state news agency *Belta* confirmed the sentences, including a decade in jail for Bialiat-ski.

Aged 60, Bialiat-ski is a co-founder of the Viasna human rights group and one of the most prominent of hundreds of Belarusians who were jailed during a crackdown on months of anti-government protests that erupted in the sum-



Ales Bialiat-ski

mer of 2020 and continued into 2021.

Viasna took a leading role in providing legal and financial assistance to those jailed. Mass demonstrations took place after long-time leader Alexander Lukashenko was declared the winner of the 2020 presidential election.

“The allegations against our colleagues are linked to their human rights activity, the Viasna human rights centre’s provision of help to the victims of politically motivated persecution,” Viasna has said of the case.

Bialiat-ski was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last October for his work on human rights and democracy, sharing it with Russian rights group Memorial and Ukraine’s Center for Civil Liberties.

Hockey India confirms Fulton as chief coach of men's team

Uthra Ganesan

NEW DELHI

As first reported by *The Hindu* two days ago, Hockey India on Friday confirmed Craig Fulton as the new chief coach of the national men's team.

While no date has been confirmed for his arrival, the 48-year-old South African will join the team at the earliest upon completing formalities, most likely after the FIH Pro League games in Rourkela later this month.

Fulton came into the spotlight during his stint as the head coach with the Irish men's team, helping it



Craig Fulton.

qualify for the Rio Olympics and being named FIH Coach of the Year in 2015. Most recently he was assistant coach with Belgium for six years and was also named Belgium Coach of

the Year 2023 after taking the Royal Racing Club, Brussels to the Belgium League title last year, their first in 81 years.

“I have had the honour of playing against him and now I look forward to closely working with him in this new phase. He comes with tremendous experience in coaching and his work ethic induces confidence of raising the team's performance in world hockey,” HI president Dilip Tirkey said.

Appointments to the positions of the team's scientific advisor and analytical coach, though, are yet to be finalised.

Drishti IAS
The Vision

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BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNAY

It's time to unify the Opposition...

SCHOLZ IN U.S. TO MEET BIDEN OVER UKRAINE
BELARUS NOBEL LAUREATE JAILLED FOR 10 YEARS
PAGE 12

Supreme Court allows Chhattisgarh govt to probe ex-bureaucrats

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 3

THE SUPREME COURT has set aside a January 2022 decision of the Chhattisgarh High Court quashing FIRs under the Prevention of Corruption Act against former Principal Secretary Aman Singh and his wife Yasmin Singh, a consultant for over a decade, in the then Kaman Singh-led BJP government in Chhattisgarh. The FIR had alleged that the couple had assets disproportionate to their known sources of income.

PAGE 1 ANCHOR
PRATYUSHA RAJ
NEW DELHI, MARCH 3

AS THE inaugural Women's Premier League (WPL) kicks off in Mumbai on Saturday, with the Gujarat Giants and Mumbai Indians playing the first match, it heralds new beginnings for many.

FIRST TIME, JOINT STATEMENT OF FOREIGN MINISTERS MENTIONS UKRAINE WAR Day after G20, Quad sends message to Russia, China on Ukraine, aggression

Targets China over aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 3

FOREIGN MINISTERS of the Quad countries Friday called for lasting peace in Ukraine and, in an oblique reference to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, underlined respect for territorial sovereignty and integrity.

RELATED REPORTS
PAGE 5



E. Broadening the scope

THE FIRST reference to the Ukraine war in a joint statement of the Quad Foreign Ministers means the grouping, which had so far been concentrating mostly on the aggressive Chinese behaviour in the Indo-Pacific, has broadened its scope to include Russia. Without naming Russia, the ministers sent the Kremlin a clear message by calling for peace in Ukraine and the need to respect sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In counter, Lavrov hits out at West, says Russia, India & China will meet this year

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 3

HOURS AFTER Foreign Ministers of the Quad grouping met in New Delhi Friday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Foreign Ministers of Russia, India and China will meet this year for a meeting of the trilateral grouping.



Red flags, India's green certification under cloud Easy certification of forest produce makes it suspect, a potential tool to bypass global regulations



In the forests of Dhamtari district, Chhattisgarh. **AVINASH SHIV**
HOW FOREST CERTIFICATION WORKS, PAGE 13

AMITABH SINHA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 3

A 40 PER CENT dropout rate, allegations of widespread wrongdoings, fights between rival groups of former forest officials, and a government unable to decide whether to regulate or become a player itself — the forest certification industry in India is in a mess. But the business is still growing, and global players are rushing to cash in.

IN COLLABORATION WITH ICIJ | AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION - PART THREE

spite question marks over the soundness of certifications issued by them.

Sachin Raj Jain, a prominent player in the industry, credited with introducing forest certification in India about 15 years ago, says, "It is mostly an eyeswift. If scrutinised properly, the integrity of the majority of certificates issued in India would be suspect."

Several other people in the industry share Jain's candid assessment.

Forest certification is a sunrise industry, driven by a growing preference to avoid any product that can be linked to deforestation or illegal logging. In India, the forest certification industry is growing at 8 to 10 per cent every year, mainly catering to exporters wanting to tap the US and European markets that have strict regulations to ensure the legality of wood products coming in. Only products issued and allowed to be exported from India, not raw wood.

Over the last few months, The Indian Express spoke to several

Over Rs 8 cr seized from office of BJP MLA and his son's home in Karnataka

KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, MARCH 3

IN AN embarrassment to the BJP ahead of the Assembly elections, the Lokayukta police reportedly recovered unaccounted cash adding up to Rs 2.60 crore from the office of a party MLA and chairman of a state PSLI, and Rs 6.10 crore from the residence of the MLA's son.

CONTAMINATED SYRUP
Gambia linked India syrup to kids' deaths, now CDC confirms

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 3

WEEKS AFTER a select committee of the Gambian National Assembly concluded that the deaths of 70 children due to acute kidney injury (AKI) were linked to contaminated syrups made by India's Maiden Pharmaceuticals, a report by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released Friday said contaminated syrup imported to the Gambia led to the cluster of AKI deaths in children.

UZBEK DEATHS: 3 OF NOIDA PHARMA HELD
PAGE 6

Cricket history in India today: Women's Premier League begins

she faced from her parents for pursuing cricket.

There is also Australia legend and Delhi Capitals' captain Arundhanee Lanning, 32, who moved away from her home state of Queensland to Mumbai on Saturday, with the Gujarat Giants and Mumbai Indians playing the first match. It heralds new beginnings for many.

For Delhi Capitals' top batswoman and captain Smriti Mandhana, it was an opportunity to return to professional sport. There there is Royal Challengers Bangalore's skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, 28, who recently took a break to

Pratyausha Raj is a former sports journalist who has covered the women's cricket scene for several years. She is currently based in Mumbai and is a regular contributor to the Express. She has also written for various other publications and has been involved in several sports-related projects.



Over Rs 8 cr seized from office of BJP MLA and his son's home in Karnataka

Water Supply and Sewerage Board (WSSB) has been arrested. The FIR names the MLA as the first accused, and his son as the second accused. The FIR was filed based on the complaint of Shreyas Kashyap, a partner in Chemical Corporation, Bengaluru, who alleged that Prashanth Madal had demanded Rs 81 lakh as bribe for a KSEB tender.

CONTAMINATED SYRUP
Gambia linked India syrup to kids' deaths, now CDC confirms

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Cricket history in India today: Women's Premier League begins

she faced from her parents for pursuing cricket.

There is also Australia legend and Delhi Capitals' captain Arundhanee Lanning, 32, who moved away from her home state of Queensland to Mumbai on Saturday, with the Gujarat Giants and Mumbai Indians playing the first match. It heralds new beginnings for many.

For Delhi Capitals' top batswoman and captain Smriti Mandhana, it was an opportunity to return to professional sport. There there is Royal Challengers Bangalore's skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, 28, who recently took a break to

Pratyausha Raj is a former sports journalist who has covered the women's cricket scene for several years. She is currently based in Mumbai and is a regular contributor to the Express. She has also written for various other publications and has been involved in several sports-related projects.

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

IN THE NEWS

Borrowing leeway or states: 75% of limit in April-Dec
THE CENTRE WILL likely permit states to borrow up to 75% of their annual borrowing limit in the first nine months of FY23 to meet fiscal, to ensure they have enough resources to step up capex. This roughly works out to be about ₹6.4 trillion, reports **Rasanta Sahu**. ■ PAGE 2

₹6bn reserves down in Feb
FOREIGN exchange reserves fell by ₹15.8 billion during February following a strengthening in the dollar throughout the month. As of February 26, the foreign exchange reserves stood at \$56.9 billion, reports **R Bureau**. ■ PAGE 9

IBI slaps ₹3.06-cr penalty on Amazon Pay
THE RESERVE BANK OF India on Friday imposed a ₹3.06 crore penalty on Amazon Pay for non-compliance with norms related to the user, and member directions in prepaid payment issues, reports **R Bureau**. ■ PAGE 7

NCLT refuses SBI plea in Jet case
NCLT ON FRIDAY refused to grant any interim relief to SBI against the NCLT order of transfer of ownership of Jet Airways to the Jet Aircock consortium. But it will consider SBI's plea after the conclusion of arguments, reports **R Bureau**. ■ PAGE 4

SC dismisses Mallia's plea on fugitive tag
THE SUPREME COURT on Friday dismissed a plea by Vijay Mallia challenging the proceedings in a Mumbai court to declare him a fugitive economic offender, reports **PTI**. ■ PAGE 1A

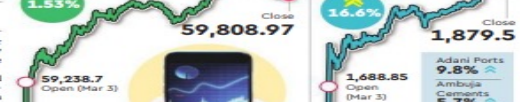
Retail participation in markets declines
RETAIL PARTICIPATION in Indian equities seems to be easing with individual cash flows improving as well as client-led additions tapering over the past few months, reports **Play Covinthe**. ■ PAGE 7

World Bank for healthcare
THE WORLD BANK will provide a \$1-billion loan to India to flagship Pradhan Mantri Aardram Mission for health infrastructure across the country, reports **R Bureau**. ■ PAGE 3

Explainer: What the lithium discovery means
■ PAGE 3A

What Mukesh Ambani might pull ahead of rival Gautam Adani
THE TWO BILLIONAIRES have adopted different playbooks. While Adani went hard into public utilities, Ambani has focused on private warrants. ■ PAGE 3A

Adani, fire effect push up SENSEX by 900 pts
Friday fireworks on D-St
ADANI ENTERPRISES



INSIDE
Europe's ESG funds sell more of their Adani shares PAGE 4
Icra revises outlook for Adani Ports & SEZ, Adani Total Gas to 'negative' PAGE 4

improved the market sentiment. Most global stocks inched higher on Friday and started March on a positive note as markets digested more signals on US monetary policy and positive Chinese economic data. Cyclical sectors are back in favour due to value-burging by investors," said Deepak Jasank, head of retail research at HDPC Securities.

Also approaches Airbus, Leonardo venture ATR
SIDDHARTHA SINGH & RAGINI SAXENA March 3
THE GOVERNMENT is looking to partner with global aircraft manufacturers, including Embraer and Sukhoi, to make small planes locally as it seeks to improve connectivity in small towns and tier-II cities, according to people familiar with the matter.

The government will keep 31% equity with an Indian company, while asking the foreign partner to hold 69%. The remaining 2% will be held by the government, people said, asking not to be identified as the deliberations are at an early stage. The jets, which typically seat less than 100 people, are likely to be produced in Gujarat, they said.

Leonardo of Italy, to make in India, they added. Embraer said India has "significant opportunities" for regional jets and the manufacturer "looks for ways to collaborate with India to find win-win solutions". Representatives for Sukhoi, ATR and the aviation ministry didn't respond to emails seeking comments.

Services PMI climbs to 1.2-year high in Feb
NEW DELHI, March 3
NEW BUSINESS GAINS and low input cost inflation pushed services sector activities growth to a 1.2-year high in February, as capacity pressures remained mild and jobs rise only marginally, according to a widely regarded survey.



State Bank of India, along with ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Housing Development Finance Corp had stepped in to rescue the lender as a part of the restructuring exercise.

On Friday, the counsel for Yes Bank, Kapil Sibbani, argued that the write-off in AT1 bonds was a part of a "well-thought-of" restructuring exercise. Without it, banks would not have inflated funds in Yes Bank, he added.

SC extends stay on order against Yes Bank AT1 bonds write-off
NEW DELHI, March 3
THE SUPREME COURT on Friday extended a stay on an order by the Bombay high court quashing the write-off of additional Tier-1 (AT1) bonds issued by Yes Bank. The top court was hearing an appeal by Yes Bank against the HC ruling that had set aside an administrative decision to write off ₹8,450 crore of AT1 bonds in March 2020 after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) initiated a restructuring of the lender.

On Friday, the counsel for Yes Bank, Kapil Sibbani, argued that the write-off in AT1 bonds was a part of a "well-thought-of" restructuring exercise. Without it, banks would not have inflated funds in Yes Bank, he added.

FRAUDS DON'T LAST 30 YEARS, SAYS GQG PARTNERS CHAIRMAN
Rajiv Jain's five-year wait yields 20% gains in just one day
GQG's Australian pension fund client queries deal

THE DAY AFTER

Company	Hillion price	Buy price	Price as on Mar 3	Gain/Loss	% chg
Adani Enterprises	88,701	1,410.86	2,879.35	1,813.3	33.2
Adani Ports	88,600	596.20	684.35	781.3	14.8
Adani Transmission	28,600	668.40	743.75	214.3	31.3
Adani Green	55,600	504.60	562.00	318.7	11.4
Total				3,127.6	20.2

tion Opportunities Fund. Jain, the founder of GQG, told the Australian Financial Review (AFR) that the ensuing crash in stock prices gave him the opportunity to snap up shares at a discount of about 2.5% and 5.7%.

They have their view and we manage money on behalf of at least four Australian pension funds with a total of A\$56.3 billion under management. Its investment could expose them to Adani.

AN AUSTRALIAN PENSION fund client of GQG Partners has asked the US boutique investment firm for more information about its nearly \$1.9 billion investment in Adani.

Foxconn plans \$700-mn iPhone unit in Bengaluru

FE BUREAU

New Delhi, March 3

APPLE WILL BE strengthening its production base in the country, with key contract manufacturer Foxconn setting up a new factory in Bengaluru on 300 acres. Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai said the new plant, which will make iPhones, will also create 100,000 jobs.

Though neither the state government nor Foxconn disclosed the investment amount, industry sources said it will entail an investment of \$700 million. The new plant will come up near the Bengaluru international airport, in Doddaballapura and Devanahalli taluks, the Karnataka government said in a statement.

Foxconn currently manufactures iPhones in Tamil Nadu under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme. Two other contract manufacturers of Apple make iPhones in India under the PLI scheme: Pegatron in Tamil Nadu and Wistron in Karnataka.

Under the PLI scheme, smartphone exports from India has crossed the ₹60,000-crore mark during April-December of the current fiscal. This is 100% higher

CHARGING AHEAD

■ Foxconn currently makes iPhones in Tamil Nadu; other iPhone makers in India are Pegatron and Wistron

■ Apple hit **\$1-bn** exports mark in April-August 2022; accelerated to \$1 billion in just Dec



than exports during the same period last year and 33% higher than those registered during the entire FY22 at ₹45,000 crore. Apple has contributed nearly 50% of the ₹60,000-crore exports thus far. Projections are that exports for the full FY23 will cross the ₹75,000-crore mark.

Continued on Page 8



जस्ता

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बेबाक बोल
भ्रष्टाचार पाआप है!

भाजपा ने प्रदर्शन कर मांगा दिल्ली के मुख्यमंत्री का इस्तीफा

जनासाह ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 3 मार्च।

भाजपा के नेताओं ने दिल्ली के मुख्यमंत्री के इस्तीफा करने के लिए दिल्ली के मुख्यमंत्री के नाम पर एक प्रदर्शन किया। प्रदर्शनियों के दौरान, भाजपा के नेताओं ने मुख्यमंत्री के नाम पर एक प्रदर्शन किया। प्रदर्शनियों के दौरान, भाजपा के नेताओं ने मुख्यमंत्री के नाम पर एक प्रदर्शन किया। प्रदर्शनियों के दौरान, भाजपा के नेताओं ने मुख्यमंत्री के नाम पर एक प्रदर्शन किया।

राहुल ने अपनी जासूसी किए जाने का लगाया आरोप, कहा मेरे व कई नेताओं के फोन में 'पेगासस' था

जनासाह ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 3 मार्च।

राहुल गांधी ने कहा कि उनके और कई अन्य विपक्षी नेताओं के फोन में 'पेगासस' नाम का सॉफ्टवेयर था। उन्होंने आरोप लगाया कि सरकार ने उनके फोन में 'पेगासस' नाम का सॉफ्टवेयर इंस्टॉल किया था।

युवक से बात करने पर बेटी की हत्या, गिरफ्तार

झारखंड, 3 मार्च (भासा)।

एक युवक को हत्या करने के आरोप में गिरफ्तार किया गया। पुलिस ने आरोपी को गिरफ्तार किया और उसे हत्या करने के आरोप में गिरफ्तार किया गया।

त्रिपुरा में साहा का इस्तीफा, मेघालय में सरकार बनाने का दावा पेश किया

जनासाह ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 3 मार्च।

त्रिपुरा में साहा का इस्तीफा पेश किया गया। मेघालय में सरकार बनाने का दावा पेश किया गया।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा भ्रष्टाचार है कैसर, कतई बदशक्त नहीं

जनासाह ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 3 मार्च।

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अफगानिस्तान, इराक, लीबिया पर क्यों नहीं चर्चा की गई: तावरोंज

जनासाह ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 3 मार्च।

अफगानिस्तान, इराक, लीबिया पर क्यों नहीं चर्चा की गई? तावरोंज ने कहा कि अफगानिस्तान, इराक, लीबिया पर क्यों नहीं चर्चा की गई?

लोकायुक्त अधिकारियों ने मारे छापे कर्नाटक में भाजपा विधायक के बेटे के घर से छह करोड़ रुपए नगद मिले

बंगलुरु, 3 मार्च (भासा)।

लोकायुक्त अधिकारियों ने मारे छापे कर्नाटक में भाजपा विधायक के बेटे के घर से छह करोड़ रुपए नगद मिले।

जो20 में यूक्रेन पर सहमति नहीं दिल्ली विवि की छात्राओं को ले जा रही बस पलटी, एक की मौत

दिल्ली, 3 मार्च (जनासाह)।

दिल्ली विवि की छात्राओं को ले जा रही बस पलटी, एक की मौत।

2035 तक नौ फीसद वार्षिक वृद्धि की संभावना भारत में बच्चों में मोटापा बढ़ने की आशंका

नई दिल्ली, 3 मार्च।

भारत में बच्चों में मोटापा बढ़ने की आशंका।

क्वाड देशों के विदेश मंत्रियों ने रूस का नाम लिए बगैर कहा यूक्रेन संकट को लेकर परमाणु हथियारों की धमकी अस्वीकार्य

जनासाह ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 3 मार्च।

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अफगानिस्तान, इराक, लीबिया पर क्यों नहीं चर्चा की गई: तावरोंज

जनासाह ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 3 मार्च।

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40 लाख की रिफंड लेने के अंदर में एकदम से बंद की कार्रवाई: विधायक ने केएसटीएल के अध्यक्ष को पत्र दिया है

जनासाह ब्यूरो
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जनासाह ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 3 मार्च।

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दिल्ली, 3 मार्च (जनासाह)।

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अफगानिस्तान, इराक, लीबिया पर क्यों नहीं चर्चा की गई: तावरोंज

जनासाह ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 3 मार्च।

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बंगलुरु, 3 मार्च (भासा)।

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जनासाह ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 3 मार्च।

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दिल्ली, 3 मार्च (जनासाह)।

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भारत में बच्चों में मोटापा बढ़ने की आशंका

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 3 मार्च।

क्या भारत में बच्चे मोटे हो रहे हैं? अगर हां तो इसकी वजह क्या है। यह अब अभिभावकों के लिए चिंता का विषय है। फास्ट फूड और बाजार के खाने की लत यह समस्या और बढ़ा रही है। इसी के साथ बच्चों में कई तरह की बीमारियां भी बढ़ रही हैं। विश्व मोटापा दिवस से पहले जारी वैश्विक अध्ययन में कहा गया है कि अगर देश में रोकथाम, उपचार और सहायता उपायों में सुधार नहीं होता है, तो बच्चों में मोटापे के मामलों में 2035 तक नौ फीसद सालाना वार्षिक वृद्धि हो सकती है।

हर साल चार मार्च को विश्व मोटापा दिवस मनाया जाता है। इसका उद्देश्य स्वास्थ्य के अनुरूप वजन हासिल

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि मोटापा बढ़ने से भारत के राष्ट्रीय सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (जीडीपी) पर 1.8 फीसद तक प्रभाव पड़ने की आशंका है। 'वर्ल्ड ओबेसिटी फेडरेशन' के अध्यक्ष प्रोफेसर लुईस बाउर ने कहा, इस साल की रिपोर्ट एक स्पष्ट चेतावनी है कि आज मोटापे को दूर करने में विफल रहने पर, हम भविष्य में गंभीर नतीजे भुगत सकते हैं। बच्चों और किशोरों में मोटापे की दर तेजी से बढ़ना विशेष रूप से चिंता का विषय है।

करने व बनाए रखने और मोटापे के वैश्विक संकट को दूर करने में मदद के लिए किए जा रहे व्यावहारिक कार्यों को प्रोत्साहित करना तथा समर्थन देना होता है।

'वर्ल्ड ओबेसिटी फेडरेशन' की ओर से प्रकाशित एक



अध्ययन रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत में 2035 तक मोटापे के शिकार लोगों की दर 11 फीसद हो जाएगी। 2020 से 2035 के दौरान वयस्कों में मोटापे के मामलों में 5.2 फीसद की सालाना वृद्धि होगी।

'वर्ल्ड ओबेसिटी एटलस 2023' नामक रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि 2020 में भारत में लड़कों में मोटापे का जोखिम तीन फीसद था, लेकिन 2035 तक यह जोखिम 12 फीसद तक बढ़ जाएगा और लड़कियों के लिए जोखिम 2020 में दो फीसद था, लेकिन अगले 12 साल में यह बढ़ कर सात फीसद हो जाएगा।

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि इससे भारत के राष्ट्रीय सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (जीडीपी) पर 1.8 फीसद तक प्रभाव पड़ने की आशंका है। 'वर्ल्ड ओबेसिटी फेडरेशन' के अध्यक्ष प्रोफेसर लुईस बाउर ने कहा, इस साल की रिपोर्ट एक स्पष्ट चेतावनी है कि आज मोटापे को दूर करने में विफल रहने पर, हम भविष्य में गंभीर नतीजे भुगत सकते हैं। बच्चों और किशोरों में मोटापे की दर तेजी से बढ़ना विशेष रूप से चिंता का विषय है।

Rank	Country	% of Health
1	Nauru	61.0%
2	Cook Islands	55.9%
3	Palau	55.3%
4	Marshall Islands	52.9%
5	Tuvalu	51.6%
6	Niue	50.0%
7	Tonga	48.2%
8	Samoa	47.3%
9	Kiribati	46.0%
10	Micronesia (Federated States of)	45.8%
11	Kuwait	37.9%

183	Republic of Korea	4.7%
184	Ethiopia	4.5%
185	Japan	4.3%
186	Nepal	4.1%
187	Cambodia	3.9%
187	India	3.9%
189	Timor-Leste	3.8%
190	Bangladesh	3.6%
191	Viet Nam	2.1%

Daily Current Affairs

Tapping into Helium Reserves

- Researchers propose a new model to tap into helium reserves to address shortage issues and a recent new study suggests that reservoirs of this gas, with no carbon footprint, likely exist in geological formations beneath the Earth.
- शोधकर्ताओं ने कमी के मुद्दों को हल करने के लिए हीलियम भंडार में टैप करने के लिए एक नए मॉडल का प्रस्ताव दिया और हाल ही में एक नए अध्ययन से पता चलता है कि इस गैस के जलाशय, बिना कार्बन पदचिह्न के, संभवतः पृथ्वी के नीचे भूगर्भीय संरचनाओं में मौजूद हैं।

What is the Proposed Model to Tap Helium Reserve?

- The gas can be produced and stored in crystalline basement rocks, dense rocks that extend from the mantle to the near-surface or surface.
- These rocks are 30-40 kilometre thick.
- They have also existed for millions or billions of years, allowing large amounts of helium to be produced and stored.
- गैस का उत्पादन किया जा सकता है और क्रिस्टलीय तहखाने की चट्टानों में जमा किया जा सकता है, घनी चट्टानें जो मेंटल से निकट-सतह या सतह तक फैली हुई हैं।
- ये चट्टानें 30-40 किलोमीटर मोटी होती हैं।
- वे लाखों या अरबों वर्षों से भी मौजूद हैं, जिससे बड़ी मात्रा में हीलियम का उत्पादन और भंडारण किया जा सकता है।

- Also, these rocks could also be a source of hydrogen.
- The model showed that energy generated from the radioactive decay of uranium and thorium could split water to form hydrogen.

- साथ ही ये चट्टानें हाइड्रोजन का स्रोत भी हो सकती हैं।
- मॉडल ने दिखाया कि यूरेनियम और थोरियम के रेडियोधर्मी क्षय से उत्पन्न ऊर्जा हाइड्रोजन बनाने के लिए पानी को विभाजित कर सकती है।

What is the Significance of Helium Gas?

- Helium is a noble gas and has a closed-shell electronic configuration, making it stable and unreactive.
- It has the lowest boiling and melting points of any element and exists only as a gas, except under extreme conditions.
- Helium was first discovered in 1868 by French astronomer Jules Janssen and English astronomer Joseph Norman Lockyer
- हीलियम एक नोबल गैस है और इसका एक बंद खोल वाला इलेक्ट्रॉनिक विन्यास है, जो इसे स्थिर और अक्रियाशील बनाता है।
- इसमें किसी भी तत्व का सबसे कम क्वथनांक और गलनांक होता है और यह चरम स्थितियों को छोड़कर केवल गैस के रूप में मौजूद होता है।
- हीलियम की खोज पहली बार 1868 में फ्रांसीसी खगोलशास्त्री जूलस जानसेन और अंग्रेजी खगोलशास्त्री जोसेफ नॉर्मन लॉकयर ने की थी

- As of 2022, the reserves of helium in the **United States** has **the largest reserves of helium** globally followed by Algeria and Russia.

- **India's Rajmahal volcanic basin in Jharkhand** is the **storehouse of helium** trapped for billions of years.

- 2022 तक, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में हीलियम के भंडार में विश्व स्तर पर हीलियम का सबसे बड़ा भंडार है जिसके बाद अल्जीरिया और रूस का स्थान है।

- झारखंड में भारत का राजमहल ज्वालामुखी बेसिन अरबों वर्षों से फंसे हीलियम का भंडार है।

Uses of Helium

- Balloons and airships
 - Industrial applications
 - Medical applications
 - Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR)
- गुब्बारे और हवाई जहाज
 - औद्योगिक अनुप्रयोग
 - चिकित्सा अनुप्रयोग
 - परमाणु चुंबकीय अनुनाद (NMR)

Daily Current Affairs

India's First DNA Vaccine for Dengue

- Researchers at India's National Centre for Biological Sciences, in collaboration with nine other institutions in India, Africa, and the US, have developed India's first and only DNA vaccine candidate for dengue fever.
- भारत के नेशनल सेंटर फॉर बायोलॉजिकल साइंसेज के शोधकर्ताओं ने भारत, अफ्रीका और अमेरिका में नौ अन्य संस्थानों के सहयोग से डेंगू बुखार के लिए भारत का पहला और एकमात्र डीएनए वैक्सीन विकसित किया है।

What is DNA Vaccine?

- A DNA vaccine is a type of vaccine that uses a small piece of DNA that codes for a specific antigen (a molecule that triggers an immune response) from a pathogen, such as a virus or bacterium, to stimulate an immune response.
- DNA vaccines are third-generation vaccines.
- The ZyCoV-D is the world's first and India's indigenously developed DNA based vaccine for COVID-19.
- एक डीएनए टीका एक प्रकार का टीका है जो डीएनए के एक छोटे टुकड़े का उपयोग करता है जो एक विशिष्ट एंटीजन (एक अणु जो एक प्रतिरक्षा प्रतिक्रिया को ट्रिगर करता है) के लिए एक रोगजनक, जैसे कि वायरस या जीवाणु, से एक प्रतिरक्षा प्रतिक्रिया को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए कोड करता है।
- डीएनए टीके तीसरी पीढ़ी के टीके हैं।
- ZyCoV-D COVID-19 के लिए दुनिया का पहला और भारत का स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित डीएनए आधारित वैक्सीन है।

What is Dengue?

- Dengue is a mosquito-borne tropical disease caused by the dengue virus (Genus Flavivirus), transmitted by several species of mosquito within the genus Aedes, principally Aedes aegypti.
- This mosquito also transmits chikungunya and Zika infection.
- डेंगू एक मच्छर जनित उष्णकटिबंधीय बीमारी है जो डेंगू वायरस (जीनस फ्लेविवायरस) के कारण होती है, जो जीनस एडीज के मच्छरों की कई प्रजातियों द्वारा प्रेषित होती है, मुख्यतः एडीज एजिप्टी।
- यह मच्छर चिकनगुनिया और जीका संक्रमण भी फैलाता है।

Dengue Vaccine

- The dengue vaccine CYD-TDV or Dengvaxia was approved by the US Food & Drug Administration in 2019, the first dengue vaccine to get the regulatory nod in the US.
- Dengvaxia is basically a live, attenuated dengue virus which has to be administered in people of ages 9 to 16 who have laboratory-confirmed previous dengue infection and who live in endemic areas.

डेंगू का टीका

- डेंगू वैक्सीन CYD-TDV या डेंगवाक्सिया को 2019 में यूएस फूड एंड ड्रग एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन द्वारा अनुमोदित किया गया था, जो अमेरिका में नियामक मंजूरी प्राप्त करने वाला पहला डेंगू वैक्सीन था।
- डेंगवैक्सिया मूल रूप से एक जीवित, क्षीण डेंगू वायरस है जिसे 9 से 16 वर्ष की आयु के लोगों में प्रशासित किया जाना है, जिनकी प्रयोगशाला में पिछले डेंगू संक्रमण की पुष्टि हुई है और जो स्थानिक क्षेत्रों में रहते हैं।

Dengue Fever



Aedes aegypti- mosquito
causing dengue

Symptoms

Febrile Phase

sudden-onset fever

headache

mouth and nose
bleeding

muscle and
joint pains

vomiting

rash

diarrhea

Critical Phase

hypotension

pleural effusion

ascites

gastrointestinal
bleeding

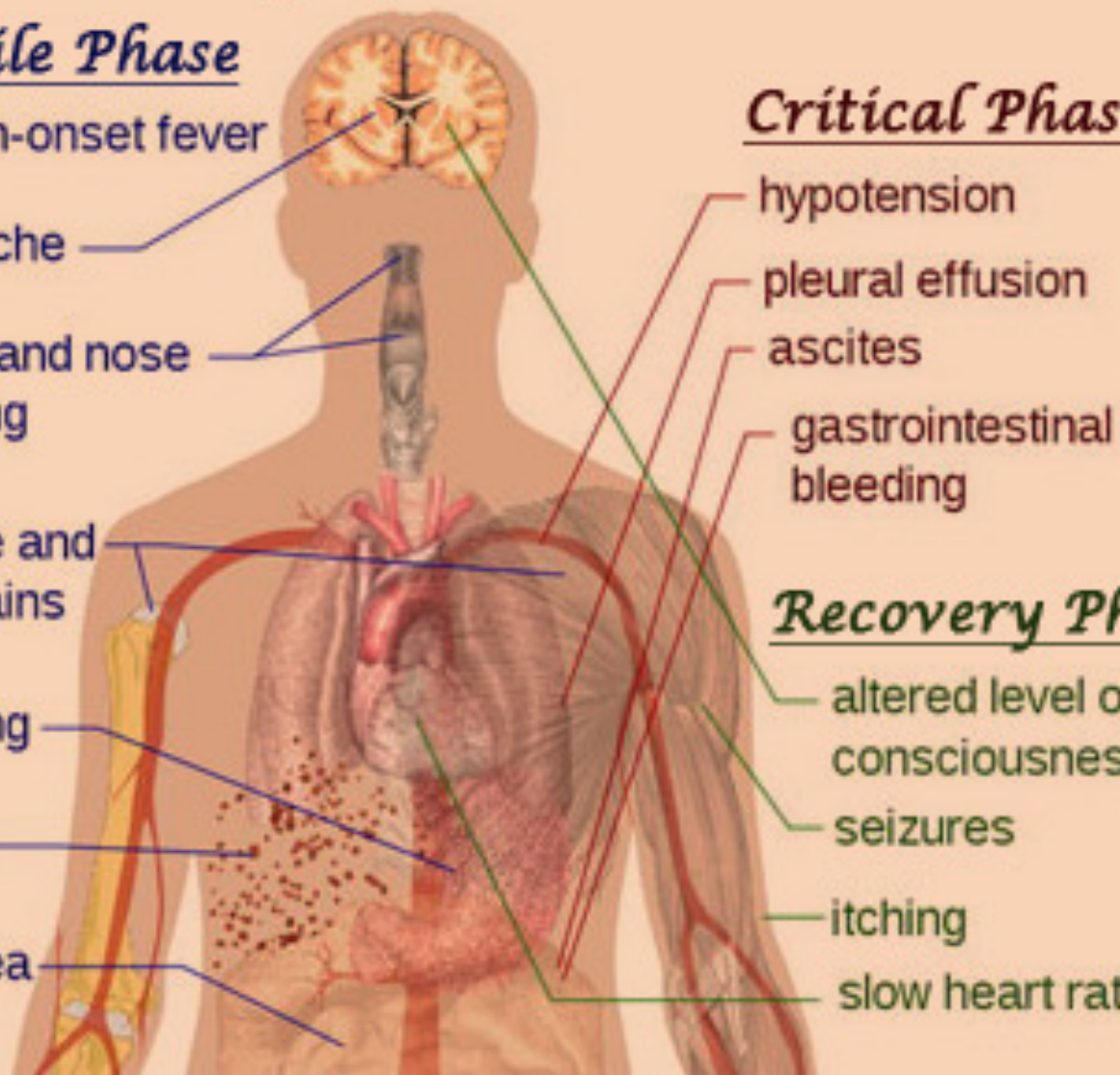
Recovery Phase

altered level of
consciousness

seizures

itching

slow heart rate



Daily Current Affairs

Ornamental Fish Aquaculture

- National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGR) under Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is providing technical support to provide intensive training to islanders of Lakshadweep for Ornamental Fish Aquaculture.
- भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद (ICAR) के तहत नेशनल ब्यूरो ऑफ फिश जेनेटिक रिसोर्सेज (NBFGR) सजावटी मछली एक्वाकल्चर के लिए लक्षद्वीप के द्वीपवासियों को गहन प्रशिक्षण प्रदान करने के लिए तकनीकी सहायता प्रदान कर रहा है।

What is Ornamental Fish Aquaculture?

- Ornamental fish culture is the culture of attractive, colourful fishes of various characteristics, which are reared in a confined aquatic system.
- Farmers and hobbyists mainly grow it and these fish are also known as living jewels.
- सजावटी मछली पालन विभिन्न विशेषताओं की आकर्षक, रंगीन मछलियों की संस्कृति है, जिन्हें एक सीमित जलीय प्रणाली में पाला जाता है।
- किसान और शौकिया इसे मुख्य रूप से उगाते हैं और इन मछलियों को जीवित रत्न के रूप में भी जाना जाता है।

What is this Initiative about?

- A total of 82 islanders, including 77 women, underwent training for an **experimental initiative aimed at promoting self-reliance** through community aquaculture.
- The NBFGR provided support and supplies for capacity building, including **culture devices and shrimp/clownfish seeds**.
- 77 महिलाओं सहित कुल 82 द्वीपवासियों ने सामुदायिक जलीय कृषि के माध्यम से आत्मनिर्भरता को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से एक प्रायोगिक पहल के लिए प्रशिक्षण लिया।
- NBFGR ने क्षमता निर्माण के लिए समर्थन और आपूर्ति प्रदान की, जिसमें कृषि उपकरण और झींगा/क्लाउनफ़िश बीज शामिल हैं।

- **Four community aquaculture units** involving 46 women were created and have successfully **raised ornamental shrimps to marketable size.**
- NBFGR also **maintains a germplasm resource center** on Agatti Island

- 46 महिलाओं को शामिल करते हुए चार सामुदायिक एक्वाकल्चर इकाइयाँ बनाई गईं और सजावटी झींगों को विपणन योग्य आकार तक सफलतापूर्वक बढ़ा दिया है।
- NBFGR अगत्ती द्वीप पर एक जननद्रव्य संसाधन केंद्र भी रखता है

What is ICAR-NBFGR?

- ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBFGR) was established in December 1983 at Allahabad.
- It was established **under the aegis of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.
- It aims to **undertake research related to the conservation of fish germplasm resources** of the country.
- आईसीएआर-नेशनल ब्यूरो ऑफ फिश जेनेटिक रिसोर्सेज (आईसीएआर-एनबीएफजीआर) की स्थापना दिसंबर 1983 में इलाहाबाद में हुई थी।
- यह भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद (ICAR) के तत्वावधान में स्थापित किया गया था।
- इसका उद्देश्य देश के मत्स्य जननद्रव्य संसाधनों के संरक्षण से संबंधित अनुसंधान करना है।

Daily Current Affairs

SMART-PDS

- As per the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, SMART-PDS is an **important technologically driven initiative**, therefore, all states and union territories should make earnest efforts to implement it at the earliest.
- SMART-PDS **is a system where smart ration cards are issued to beneficiaries of the public distribution system, and ration is given through fair price shops** on the production of the smart ration card by any member of the beneficiary family.

- केंद्रीय उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री के अनुसार, SMART-PDS एक महत्वपूर्ण तकनीकी रूप से संचालित पहल है, इसलिए, सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों को इसे जल्द से जल्द लागू करने के लिए गंभीर प्रयास करने चाहिए।
- स्मार्ट-पीडीएस एक प्रणाली है जहां सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लाभार्थियों को स्मार्ट राशन कार्ड जारी किए जाते हैं, और लाभार्थी परिवार के किसी भी सदस्य द्वारा स्मार्ट राशन कार्ड के उत्पादन पर उचित मूल्य की दुकानों के माध्यम से राशन दिया जाता है।

Major initiatives are undertaken by the Government of India to strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India which includes the **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)** implemented from April 2020 to December 2022 during the COVID-19 pandemic in coordination with States & UTs and **One Nation One Ration Card** plan implemented to support migrant population, promoting millets in the PDS is important for strengthening nutrition security in the country.

- भारत में सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (पीडीएस) को मजबूत करने के लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा प्रमुख पहल की गई हैं, जिसमें राज्यों और राज्यों के समन्वय से कोविड-19 महामारी के दौरान अप्रैल 2020 से दिसंबर 2022 तक लागू की गई प्रधानमंत्री गरीब कल्याण अन्न योजना (पीएमजीकेएवाई) शामिल है। प्रवासी आबादी का समर्थन करने के लिए यूटी और वन नेशन वन राशन कार्ड योजना लागू की गई, देश में पोषण सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने के लिए पीडीएस में बाजरा को बढ़ावा देना महत्वपूर्ण है।

Daily Current Affairs

Porter Prize 2023

- Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry **has received the Porter Prize 2023.**
- It recognized the **government's strategy in managing COVID-19**, also the approach, and involvement of various stakeholders **especially the involvement of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) workers.**
- The country's contribution to developing and manufacturing vaccines was also lauded.
- **India delivered more than 2.5 billion doses.**

- केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय को पोर्टर पुरस्कार 2023 प्राप्त हुआ है।
- इसने COVID-19 के प्रबंधन में सरकार की रणनीति, विभिन्न हितधारकों के दृष्टिकोण और भागीदारी विशेष रूप से मान्यता प्राप्त सामाजिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ताओं (आशा) कार्यकर्ताओं की भागीदारी को मान्यता दी।
- टीकों के विकास और निर्माण में देश के योगदान की भी सराहना की गई।
- भारत ने 2.5 अरब से अधिक खुराक वितरित की।

What is PORTER Prize

- Porter Prize is named after award-winning economist Michael E. Porter.
- He has brought economic theory and strategy concepts to bear on many of the most challenging problems faced by corporations, economies and societies.
- पोर्टर पुरस्कार का नाम पुरस्कार विजेता अर्थशास्त्री माइकल ई. पोर्टर के नाम पर रखा गया है।
- उन्होंने निगमों, अर्थव्यवस्थाओं और समाजों द्वारा सामना की जाने वाली कई सबसे चुनौतीपूर्ण समस्याओं को सहन करने के लिए आर्थिक सिद्धांत और रणनीति अवधारणाओं को लाया है।

ASHA programme

- India launched the ASHA programme in 2005-06 as part of the National Rural Health Mission.
- With the launch of the National Urban Health Mission in 2013, the programme was extended to urban settings as well.
- The core of the ASHA programme has been an intention to build the capacity of community members in taking care of their own health and being partners in health services.

आशा कार्यक्रम

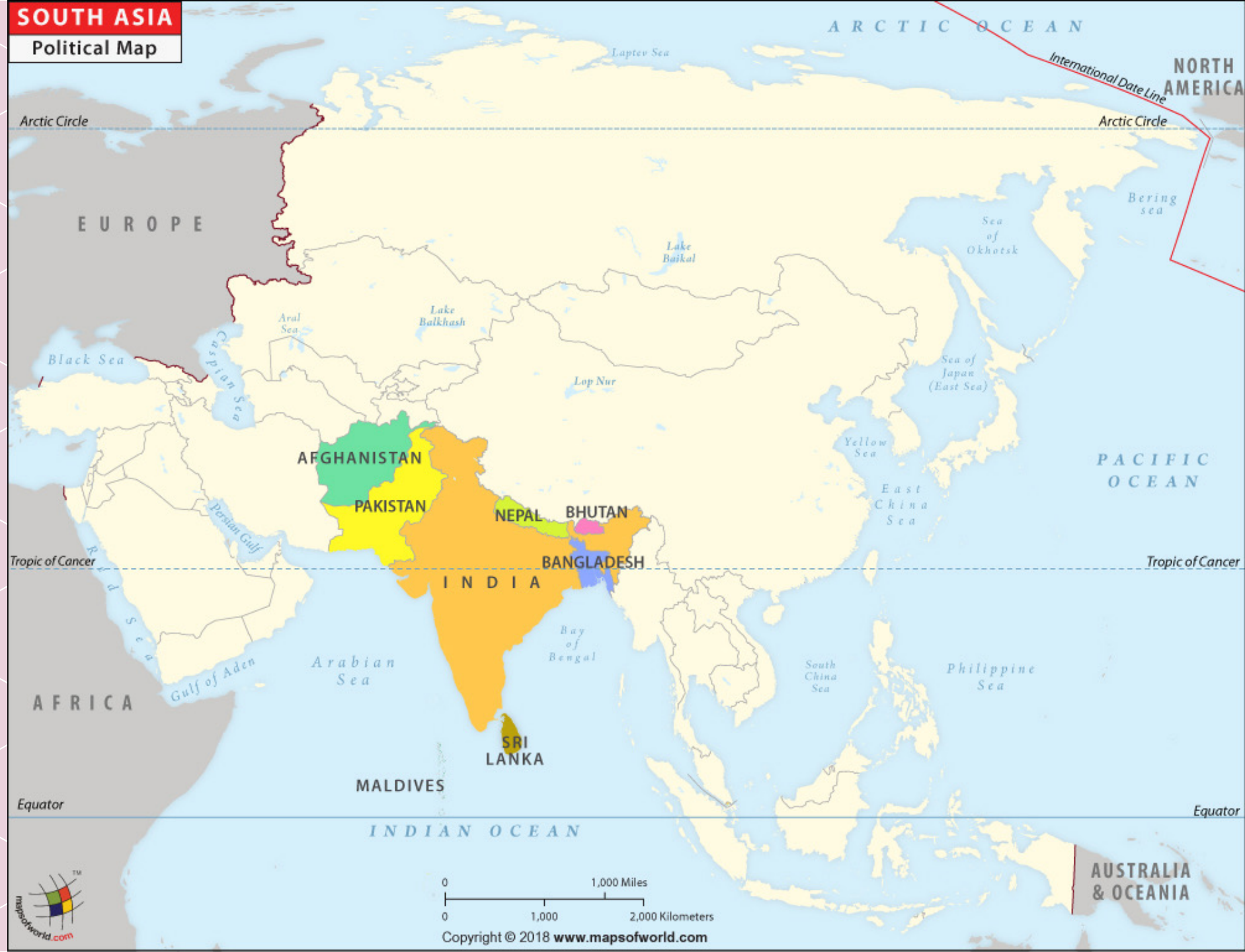
- भारत ने राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य मिशन के हिस्से के रूप में 2005-06 में आशा कार्यक्रम शुरू किया था।
- 2013 में राष्ट्रीय शहरी स्वास्थ्य मिशन के शुभारंभ के साथ, कार्यक्रम को शहरी सेटिंग्स में भी विस्तारित किया गया था।
- आशा कार्यक्रम का मूल उद्देश्य समुदाय के सदस्यों को अपने स्वयं के स्वास्थ्य की देखभाल करने और स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं में भागीदार होने की क्षमता का निर्माण करना है।

Daily Current Affairs

**South Asia's human
capital is the resilience it
needs**

SOUTH ASIA

Political Map



- The pandemic has put at risk the decade's progress in building human capital, including the improvements in health, survival rates, school enrollment, and reduced stunting.

Human Capital

- It consists of the knowledge, skills, and health that people accumulate over their lives, enabling them to realize their potential as productive members of society.

- महामारी ने मानव पूंजी के निर्माण में दशक की प्रगति को खतरे में डाल दिया है, जिसमें स्वास्थ्य में सुधार, उत्तरजीविता दर, स्कूल में नामांकन और स्टंटिंग में कमी शामिल है।

मानव पूंजी

- इसमें ज्ञान, कौशल और स्वास्थ्य शामिल है जो लोग अपने जीवन में जमा करते हैं, जिससे उन्हें समाज के उत्पादक सदस्यों के रूप में अपनी क्षमता का एहसास करने में मदद मिलती है।

Need of Human Capital

- The last few years have ushered in a harsh new reality where crises are the norm rather than the exception, examples being pandemics, economic slumps, extreme weather events, etc.
- The knowledge, skills, and health that people accumulate their human capital is a critical source of the resilience that countries rely on for recovery.
- पिछले कुछ वर्षों ने एक कठोर नई वास्तविकता की शुरुआत की है जहां संकट अपवाद के बजाय आदर्श हैं, उदाहरण महामारी, आर्थिक मंदी, चरम मौसम की घटनाएं आदि हैं।
- ज्ञान, कौशल और स्वास्थ्य जो लोग अपनी मानव पूंजी जमा करते हैं, उस लचीलेपन का एक महत्वपूर्ण स्रोत है, जिस पर देश पुनर्प्राप्ति के लिए भरोसा करते हैं।

South Asia's human capital

- With nearly half its population under the age of 24 and over one million young people set to enter the labour force every month until 2030, the region could reap an enviably high demographic dividend.
- To strengthen resilience and protect the well-being of future generations, governments across South Asia need to take urgent policy action and invest in human capital.
- 24 वर्ष से कम आयु की लगभग आधी आबादी और 2030 तक हर महीने दस लाख से अधिक युवा श्रम बल में प्रवेश करने के लिए तैयार हैं, यह क्षेत्र एक उच्च जनसांख्यिकीय लाभांश प्राप्त कर सकता है।
- लचीलेपन को मजबूत करने और भावी पीढ़ियों के कल्याण की रक्षा के लिए, दक्षिण एशिया की सरकारों को तत्काल नीतिगत कार्रवाई करने और मानव पूंजी में निवेश करने की आवश्यकता है।

Issues & challenges

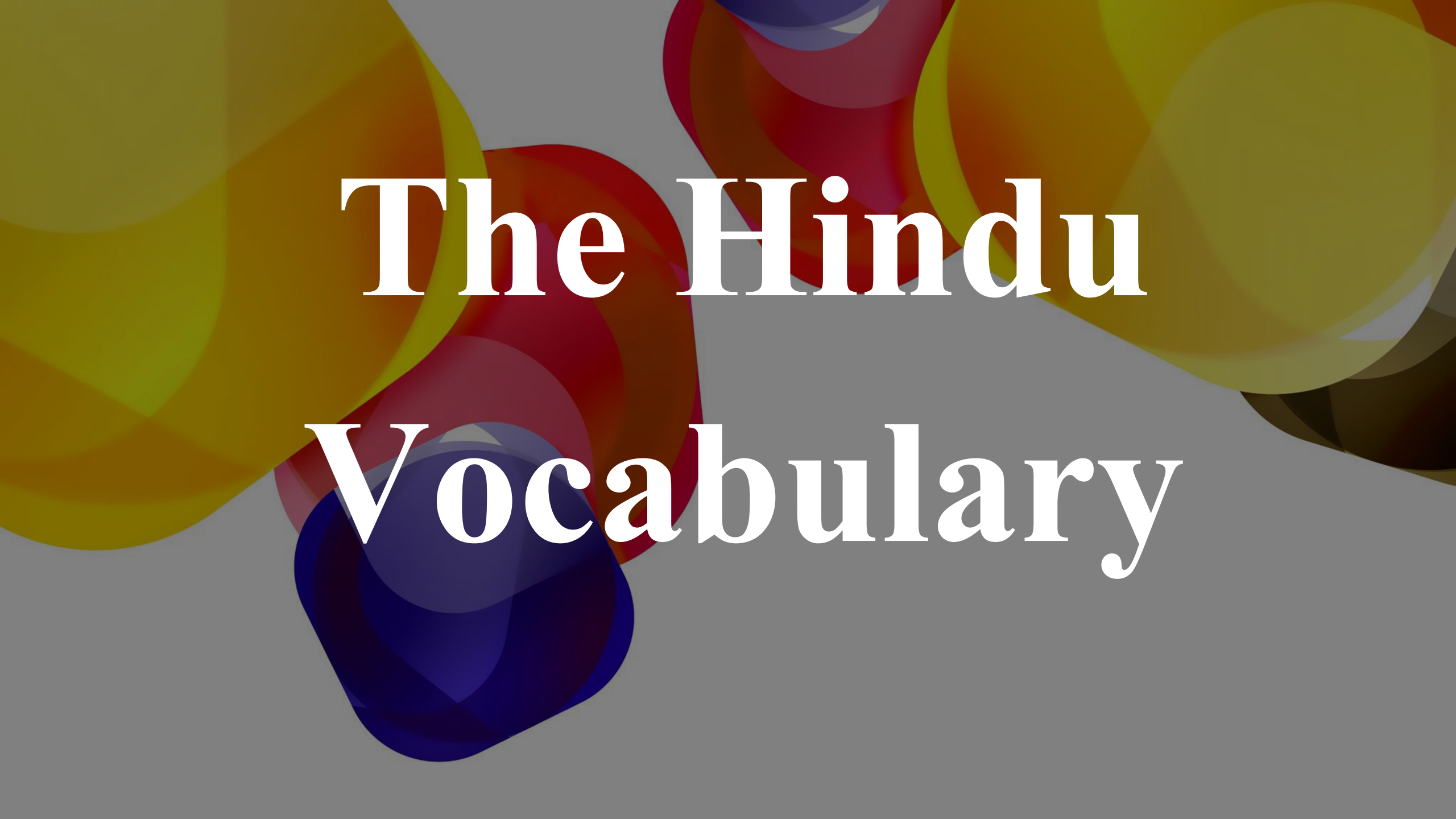
- Shortcomings
- Lack of resources & monetary support
- Impacts of COVID 19
- कमियों
- संसाधनों और मौद्रिक समर्थन की कमी
- कोविड 19 के प्रभाव

Suggestions

- Quality over quantity
- Acting before crisis
- Interdependent focus
- मात्रा से अधिक गुणवत्ता
- संकट से पहले अभिनय
- अन्योन्याश्रित ध्यान

Human Capital Index (HCI)

- The Human Capital Index is an annual measurement prepared by the World Bank.
- It claims to seek to measure the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18.
- In the Human Capital Index (HCI) 2020, India is placed 116th out of 180 countries.
- मानव पूंजी सूचकांक विश्व बैंक द्वारा तैयार किया गया एक वार्षिक माप है।
- यह मानव पूंजी की उस मात्रा को मापने का दावा करता है जो आज पैदा हुआ बच्चा 18 वर्ष की आयु तक प्राप्त करने की उम्मीद कर सकता है।
- मानव पूंजी सूचकांक (एचसीआई) 2020 में, भारत को 180 देशों में से 116वें स्थान पर रखा गया है।



The Hindu Vocabulary

Insurgency (Noun) : विद्रोह, उग्रवाद: an active revolt or uprising

Synonyms: uprising, revolt, rebellion, mutiny

Antonyms: counterinsurgency,
counterrevolution

Example Sentence: Despite the enormity of the war's casualties, the Iraqi insurgency continues to grow stronger with every passing day.



Indiscreet (Adjective) : अविवेकी: not careful or polite in what you say or do

Synonyms: unwise, imprudent

Antonyms: discreet, decorous

Example Sentence: Don't tell her any secrets; she's so indiscreet.



Conspicuous (Adjective) : विशिष्ट: clearly visible; attracting notice or attention

Synonyms: obvious, clear, plain, evident

Antonyms: invisible, unnoticeable, hidden

Example Sentence: The bank robber made the mistake of trying to escape in a conspicuous orange car.



Euphemism (Noun): प्रियोक्ति : a word or phrase used to avoid saying an unpleasant or offensive word

Synonyms: metaphor, phrase, term, idiom, colloquialism

Antonyms: directness, straightforwardness, terseness

Example Sentence: 1. "Senior citizen" is a euphemism for "old person".



Stringent (Adjective): कठोर: strict, precise, and exacting (of regulations, requirements, or conditions)

Synonyms: strict, rigorous, rigid

Antonyms: lenient, flexible

Example Sentence: The quantity of exports has declined since the early 80s due to the stringent procedures by the government.



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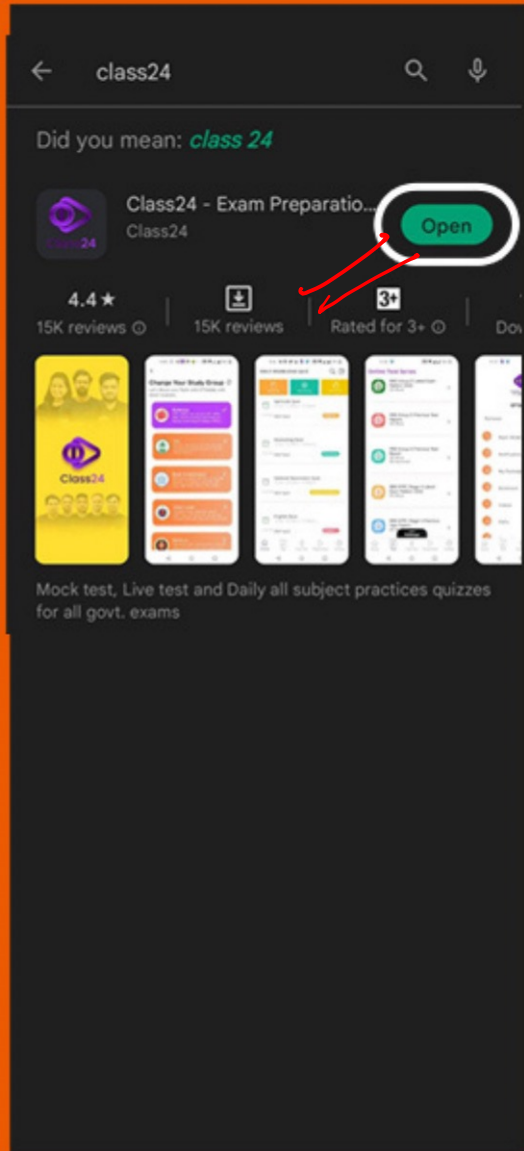
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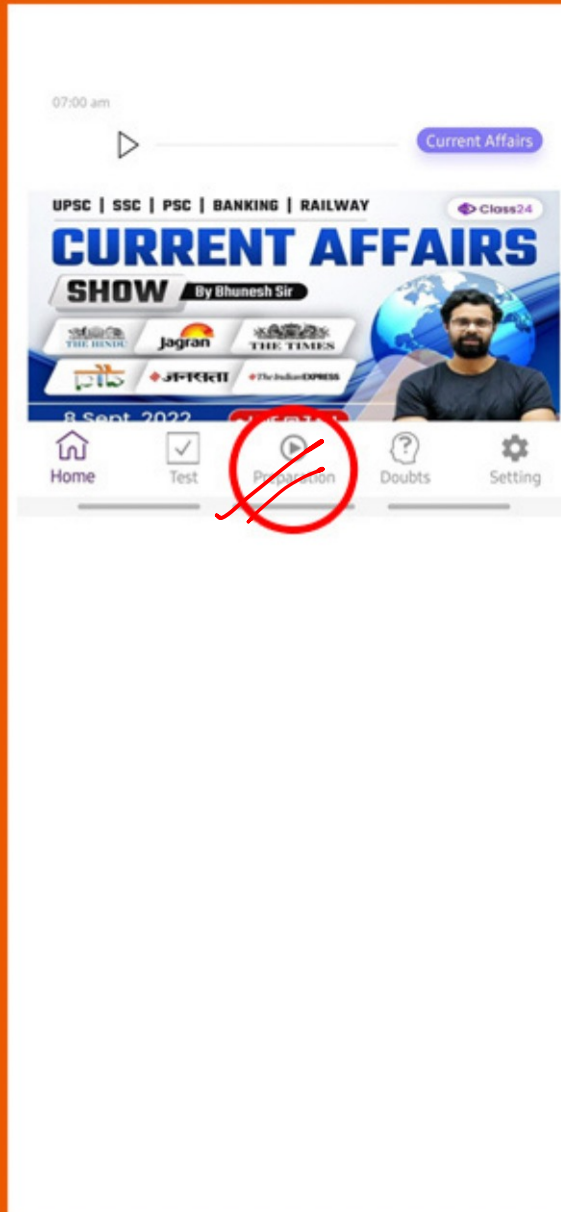
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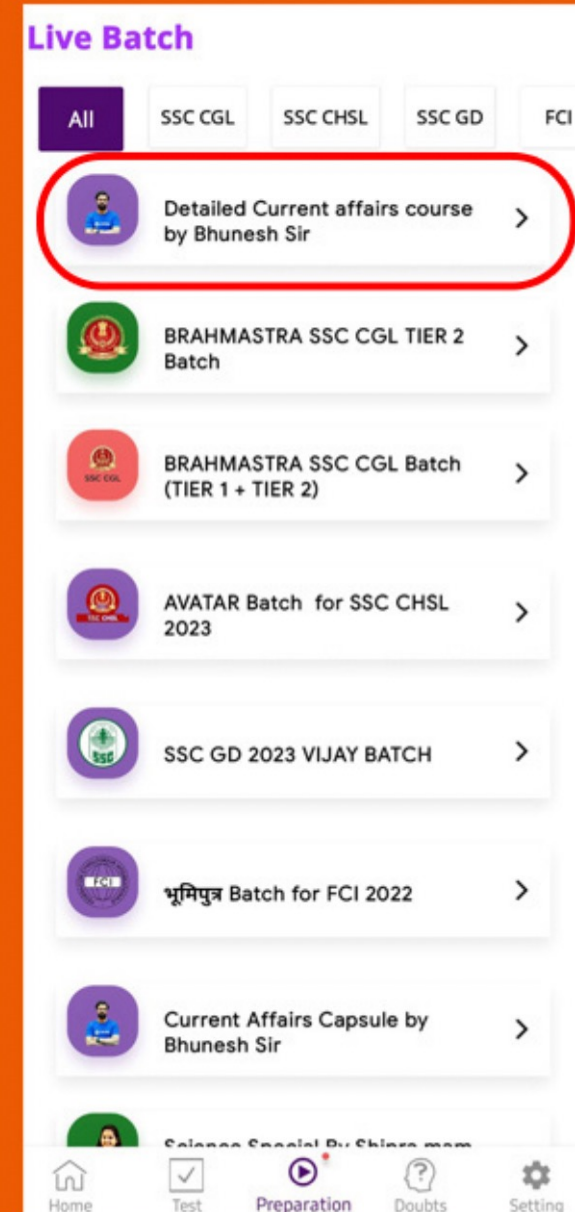
STEP-1



STEP-2



STEP-3



STEP-4



1. As per the recent judgment of Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, who among the following should be members of high-power committee to select Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs).

1. Prime Minister
2. Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha
3. Chief Justice of India

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

1. सर्वोच्च न्यायालय की संविधान पीठ के हाल के निर्णय के अनुसार, निम्नलिखित में से किसे मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त (CEC) और चुनाव आयुक्तों (ECs) का चयन करने वाली उच्च-शक्ति समिति का सदस्य होना चाहिए।

1. प्रधान मंत्री
2. लोकसभा में विपक्ष के नेता
3. भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश

ऊपर दिए गए कथनों में से कौन सा/से सही है/हैं?

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

Answer – D

- A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that a high-power committee consisting of the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India must pick the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs).

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The Election Commission of India is a five-member body.
2. Union Ministry of Home Affairs decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.
3. Election Commission resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct

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

2. निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. भारत का चुनाव आयोग पांच सदस्यीय निकाय है।
2. केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय आम चुनाव और उपचुनाव दोनों के संचालन के लिए चुनाव कार्यक्रम तय करता है।
3. चुनाव आयोग मान्यता प्राप्त राजनीतिक दलों के विभाजन/विलय से संबंधित विवादों का समाधान करता है।

ऊपर दिए गए कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं

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

Answer – D

- Statement 1 is not correct: Article 324 of the Constitution of India states that the Election Commission shall consist of the chief election commissioner and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the president may from time-to-time fix.
- At present, the Election Commission consists of a Chief Election Commissioners and two other Election Commissioners.
- Statement 2 is not correct: The Election Commission of India decides the election schedule for the conduct of both general elections and bye-elections.
- Statement 3 is correct It also resolves the disputes relating to splits/mergers of recognised political parties

3. Consider the following statements about International Space Station (ISS)

1. It is multi-nation construction project of United States, Russia, Canada and Japan.
2. It is set up in low Earth orbit (LEO)

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both correct
- d) Neither correct

3. अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन (आईएसएस) के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें

1. यह संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका, रूस, कनाडा और जापान की बहु-राष्ट्र निर्माण परियोजना है।
2. इसे लो अर्थ ऑर्बिट (LEO) में स्थापित किया गया है

ऊपर दिए गए कथनों में से कौन सा/से सही है/हैं?

- a) केवल 1
- b) केवल 2
- c) दोनों सही
- d) ना ही सही

Answer – C

- Statement 1 is correct: The International Space Station (ISS) is a multi-nation construction project that is the largest single structure humans ever put into space. Its main construction was completed between 1998 and 2011, although the station continually evolves to include new missions and experiment
- The ISS is not owned by one single nation and is a "co-operative programme" between Europe, the United States, Russia, Canada and Japan,
- Statement 2 is correct: It is the largest artificial object in the solar system and the largest satellite in low Earth orbit, regularly visible to the naked eye from Earth's surface

4. Consider the following statements regarding Non-profit organisation (NPO) making use of India's social stock exchange (SSE):

1. NPOs can raise money through SSE using private placement or public issue, or donations from mutual funds.
2. However, NPOs are not allowed to raise money through instruments in the nature of zero coupon bonds (ZCBs) as they are not always able to repay their loans.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both correct
- d) Neither correct

4. भारत के सोशल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज (SSE) का उपयोग करने वाले गैर-लाभकारी संगठन (NPO) के बारे में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें:

1. एनपीओ प्राइवेट प्लेसमेंट या पब्लिक इश्यू, या म्यूचुअल फंड से दान का उपयोग करके एसएसई के माध्यम से धन जुटा सकते हैं।
2. हालांकि, एनपीओ को जीरो कूपन बॉन्ड (जेडसीबी) के रूप में उपकरणों के माध्यम से धन जुटाने की अनुमति नहीं है क्योंकि वे हमेशा अपने ऋण चुकाने में सक्षम नहीं होते हैं।

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

- a) केवल 1
- b) केवल 2
- c) दोनों सही
- d) ना ही सही

Answer – A

- NPOs can raise money either through issuance of Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) Instruments from private placement or public issue, or donations from mutual funds.
- It is mandatory that the NPO is registered with the SSE for facilitating the issuance of ZCBs.
- The instrument must have a specific tenure and can only be issued for a specific project or activity that is to be completed within a specified duration as mentioned in the fund-raising document (to be submitted to the SSE).

- The minimum issue size is presently prescribed as Rs 1 crore and minimum application size for subscription at Rs 2 lakhs for ZCZP issuance.
- The NPO may choose to register on the SSE and not raise funds through it but via other means. However, they would have to make necessary disclosures about the same.

**5. India is importing the S-400 /
Triumf air defence systems from—**

- a) USA
- b) Russia
- c) France
- d) Israel

**5. भारत S-400/ट्रायम्फ वायु रक्षा
प्रणालियों का आयात कर रहा है—**

- a) अमेरीका
- b) रूस
- c) फ्रांस
- d) इजराइल

Answer – B

- Deliveries of five regiments of S-400 air defence systems under a \$5.43 billion deal with Russia are expected to be completed by year end or early 2024, according to official sources.

Thank you

- See you again

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