

Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता



The Indian EXPRESS

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS



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1
The Indian Express

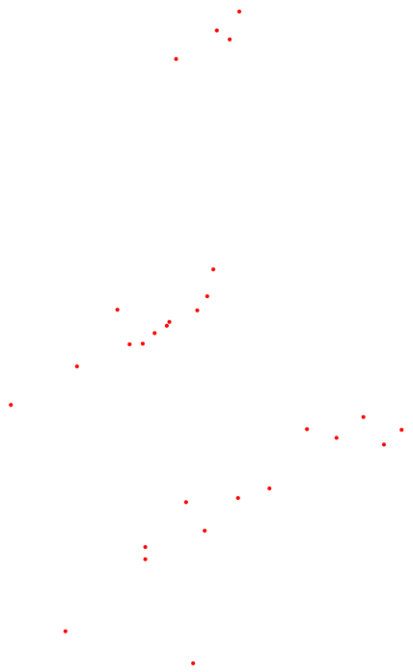


0
Jansatta



1
Financial Express

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PDF



10 MCQ QUIZ



10 MCQ from the session

- What regulatory concern did the Supreme Court recently highlight regarding online content?
- सप्रीम कोर्ट ने हाल ही में ऑनलाइन सामग्री को लेकर कौन सी नियामक चिंता व्यक्त की?
- A. Misinformation and fake news spread / गलत सूचना और फेक न्यूज़ का प्रसार
- ~~B. Use of vulgar and obscene language in online platforms / ऑनलाइन प्लेटफार्मों पर अश्लील और अभद्र भाषा का उपयोग~~
- C. Censorship of political discussions / राजनीतिक चर्चाओं की सेंसरशिप
- D. Illegal streaming of copyrighted content / कॉपीराइट सामग्री की अवैध स्ट्रीमिंग

- What principle did the Supreme Court emphasize regarding online content regulation?
- ऑनलाइन सामग्री विनियमन के संबंध में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने किस सिद्धांत पर जोर दिया?
- A. Absolute freedom of speech / पूर्ण अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता
- ~~B. Balancing free speech with responsibility and decency / मुक्त अभिव्यक्ति को जिम्मेदारी और शालीनता के साथ संतुलित करना~~
- C. Government control over all digital platforms / सभी डिजिटल प्लेटफार्मों पर सरकारी नियंत्रण
- D. Banning content creators from monetization / सामग्री निर्माताओं को मुद्राकरण से प्रतिबंधित करना

• What is the objective of the 'CITIIS 2.0' initiative?


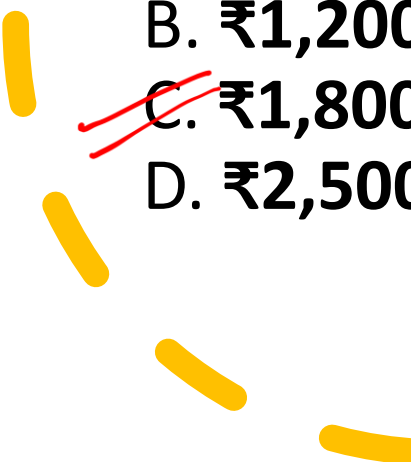
• 'CITIIS 2.0' पहल का उद्देश्य क्या है?

• ~~A.~~ Promoting smart cities and urban innovation / स्मार्ट सिटीज़ और शहरी नवाचार को बढ़ावा देना

B. ~~Developing India's~~ railway infrastructure / भारत के रेलवे बुनियादी ढांचे का विकास करना


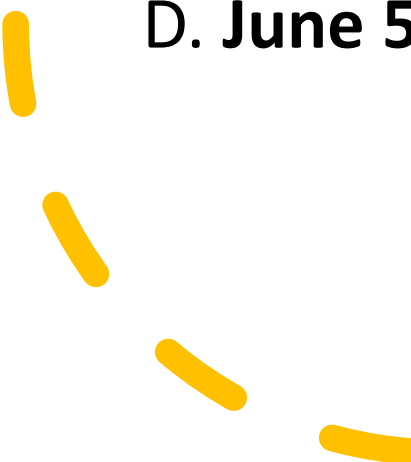
C. ~~Enhancing India's~~ cybersecurity measures / भारत की साइबर सुरक्षा उपायों को बढ़ाना

D. Strengthening rural water supply systems / ग्रामीण जल आपूर्ति प्रणालियों को मजबूत करना

- 
- Under the 'CITIIS 2.0' initiative, how much investment was announced for urban projects?
 - 'CITIIS 2.0' पहल के तहत शहरी परियोजनाओं के लिए कितनी निवेश राशि की घोषणा की गई?
 - A. ₹500 crore
 - B. ₹1,200 crore
 - ~~C. ₹1,800 crore~~
 - D. ₹2,500 crore
- 

- What is the aim of the 'Swavalambini' initiative launched in Meerut?
- मेरठ में शुरू की गई 'स्वावलंबिनी' पहल का उद्देश्य क्या है?
- A. Providing free education to rural children / ग्रामीण बच्चों को निःशुल्क शिक्षा प्रदान करना
- B. Empowering female entrepreneurs through training and mentorship / महिला उद्यमियों को प्रशिक्षण और मार्गदर्शन के माध्यम से सशक्त बनाना
- C. Developing rural healthcare infrastructure / ग्रामीण स्वास्थ्य सेवा अवसंरचना का विकास करना
- D. Improving sports infrastructure in universities / विश्वविद्यालयों में खेल अवसंरचना में सुधार करना

- What is the primary focus of the 'Sashakt Panchayat – Netri Abhiyan'?
- 'सशक्त पंचायत – नेत्री अभियान' का प्राथमिक फोकस क्या है?
- ~~A.~~ Strengthening Women's Participation in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) / पंचायती राज संस्थानों (PRIs) में महिलाओं की भागीदारी को मजबूत करना
- B. Encouraging foreign investment in rural areas / ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में विदेशी निवेश को प्रोत्साहित करना
- C. Providing scholarships for female students in rural areas / ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में छात्राओं के लिए छात्रवृत्ति प्रदान करना
- D. Developing digital banking infrastructure in panchayats / पंचायतों में डिजिटल बैंकिंग बुनियादी ढांचे का विकास करना

- 
- When is World Wildlife Day celebrated?
 - विश्व वन्यजीव दिवस कब मनाया जाता है?
 - A. February 2
 - ~~B. March 3~~
 - C. April 22
 - D. June 5
- 

- 
- What was the theme of World Wildlife Day 2025?
 - विश्व वन्यजीव दिवस 2025 की थीम क्या थी?
 - A. "Conserving Wildlife for Future Generations"
 - ~~• B. "Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet"~~
 - C. "Sustainable Coexistence with Nature"
 - D. "Restoring Ecosystems for a Better Tomorrow"
- 

- Why was March 3 chosen for World Wildlife Day?
- विश्व वन्यजीव दिवस के लिए 3 मार्च को क्यों चुना गया?
- A. It marks the foundation day of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) / यह अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रकृति संरक्षण संघ (IUCN) की स्थापना तिथि को चिह्नित करता है
- ~~B. It is the day when the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) was adopted / यह वह दिन है जब लुप्तप्राय प्रजातियों के अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार पर कन्वेंशन (CITES) को अपनाया गया था~~
- C. It was the birth anniversary of a famous conservationist / यह एक प्रसिद्ध संरक्षणवादी की जयंती थी
- D. It was declared by the UN as a global day for environmental awareness / संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा इसे पर्यावरण जागरूकता के वैश्विक दिवस के रूप में घोषित किया गया था

Un/like

Handwriting



To be yourself
in a world that is
constantly trying to
make you something
else is the greatest
accomplishment.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Zelensky offers truce as Trump cuts military aid

Praises US Prez, Expresses ~~Regret~~ Over WH Fiasco

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

US President Donald Trump has pulled the plug on military assistance to Ukraine, abandoning a country Washington poured more than \$100 billion into for its defence against Russia.

As the decision sent shockwaves across Europe, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky tried to placate Trump, proposing a new framework for a partial ceasefire with Russia, posting on X that Kiev would be willing to release prisoners and agree to a truce that would ban long-range attacks on civilian and energy infrastructure.

Zelensky said the Oval Office blowup with Trump was

US MAY LIFT SOME RUSSIA SANCTIONS

➤ US has given Ukraine **more than \$180bn in assistance** since Russia launched all-out war on Feb 24, 2022, including over \$66.5bn in military aid

➤ US officials chose to use the words 'suspended' and 'paused' for the aid halt, suggesting that **matters could be salvaged if Zelensky sued for peace**



➤ US analysts say **Zelensky tested Trump's patience by insisting that European Nato partners gave Ukraine 'a lot'**, contrary to Trump's claim that US was shouldering much of the burden

➤ US may lift some sanctions on Russia, a day after Pentagon suspended offensive cyber operations



➤ AID CUT LEAVES EUROPE VULNERABLE, P 16

"regrettable", adding that he stands ready to work under the latter's "strong leadership" to get a lasting peace. Kiev is also ready to sign a deal on rare earths and security with DC.

Hours after smacking down on Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky for saying that the end of the war with Russia is "very, very far away", Trump suspended military aid to Kyiv "till it is de-

termined that Ukraine had demonstrated a commitment to peace negotiations with Moscow".

In the same breath, the Trump administration is also reported to be considering lifting some sanctions on Russia, a day after the Pentagon suspended offensive cyber operations against Moscow.

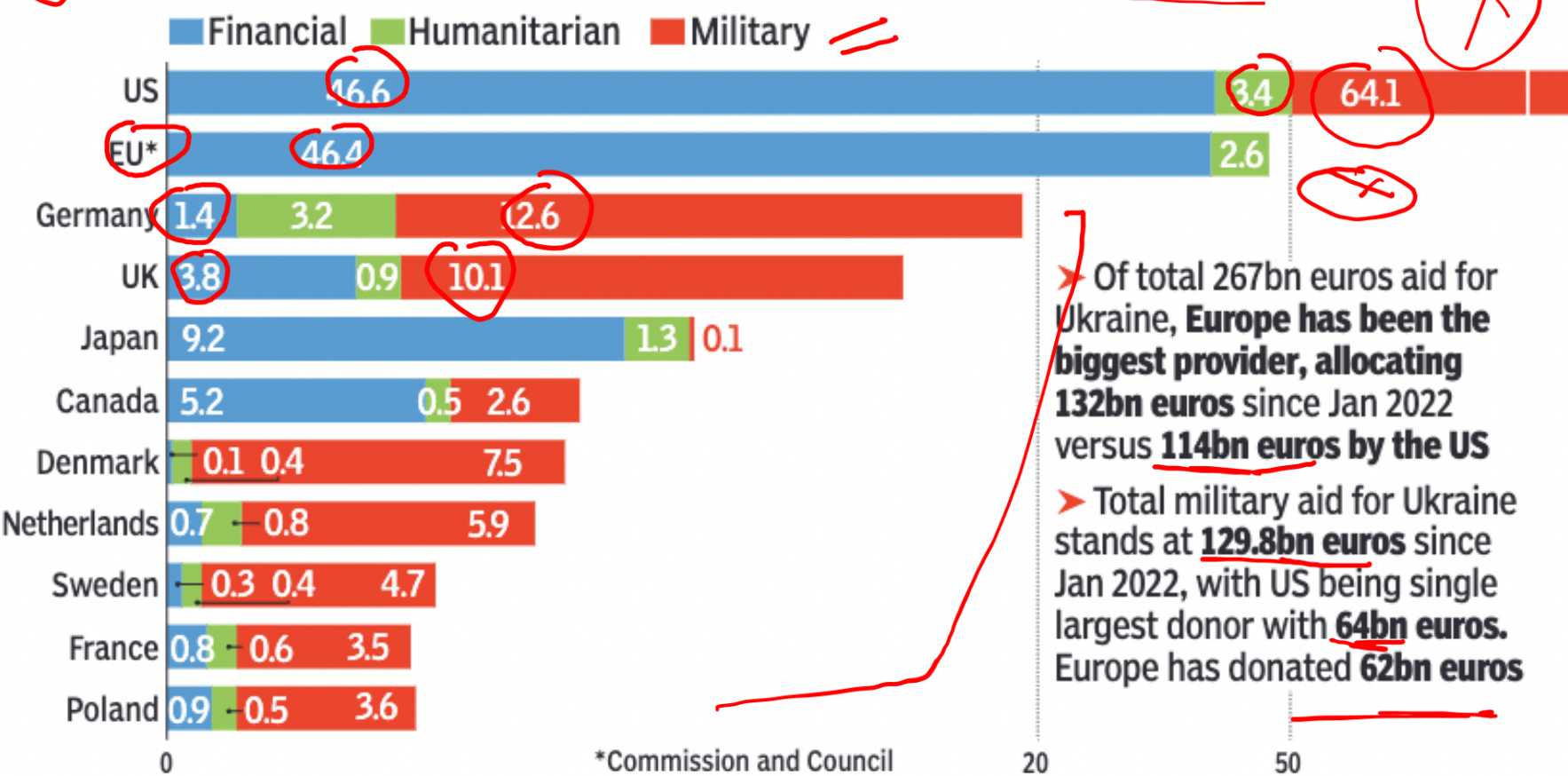
➤ Continued on P 16

~~16.5 BN~~
180 BN
Military Aid
US Aid

EUROPE TOPS US IN GIVING AID TO UKRAINE

The US supplies Ukraine with vital defensive and offensive capabilities, although the impact of the suspension would take time to filter down to the battlefield and Ukraine is less reliant on US supplies than it used to be. A look at the international assistance to Ukraine during the conflict:

US vs Other Top 10 Donors (allocations in billion euros) Jan 2022 to Dec 2024



Of total 267bn euros aid for Ukraine, **Europe has been the biggest provider, allocating 132bn euros** since Jan 2022 versus **114bn euros by the US**

Total military aid for Ukraine stands at **129.8bn euros** since Jan 2022, with US being single largest donor with **64bn euros**. Europe has donated **62bn euros**

Russia's (with a circled X and an arrow pointing away)

USA (with a circled X and an arrow pointing towards the chart)

Europe (with a circled X and an arrow pointing towards the chart)

132
267 bn (with handwritten annotations and arrows)

Aid as share of donor GDP (2022-24)

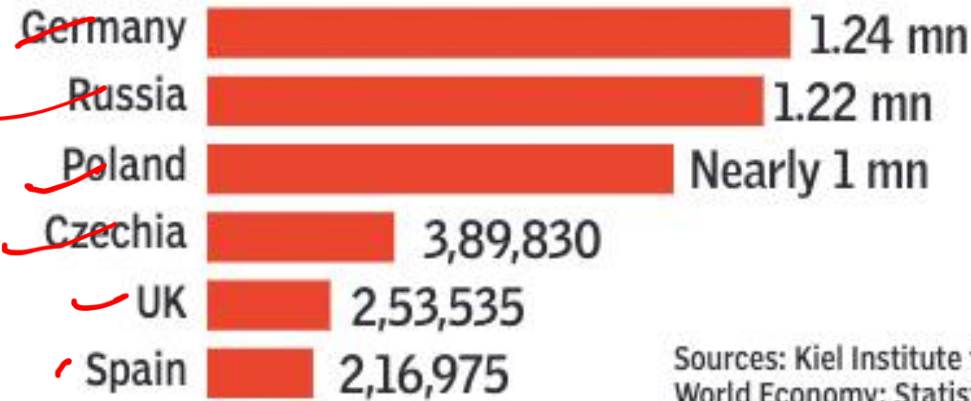


*Aid
GDP*

One of worst humanitarian crises in Europe

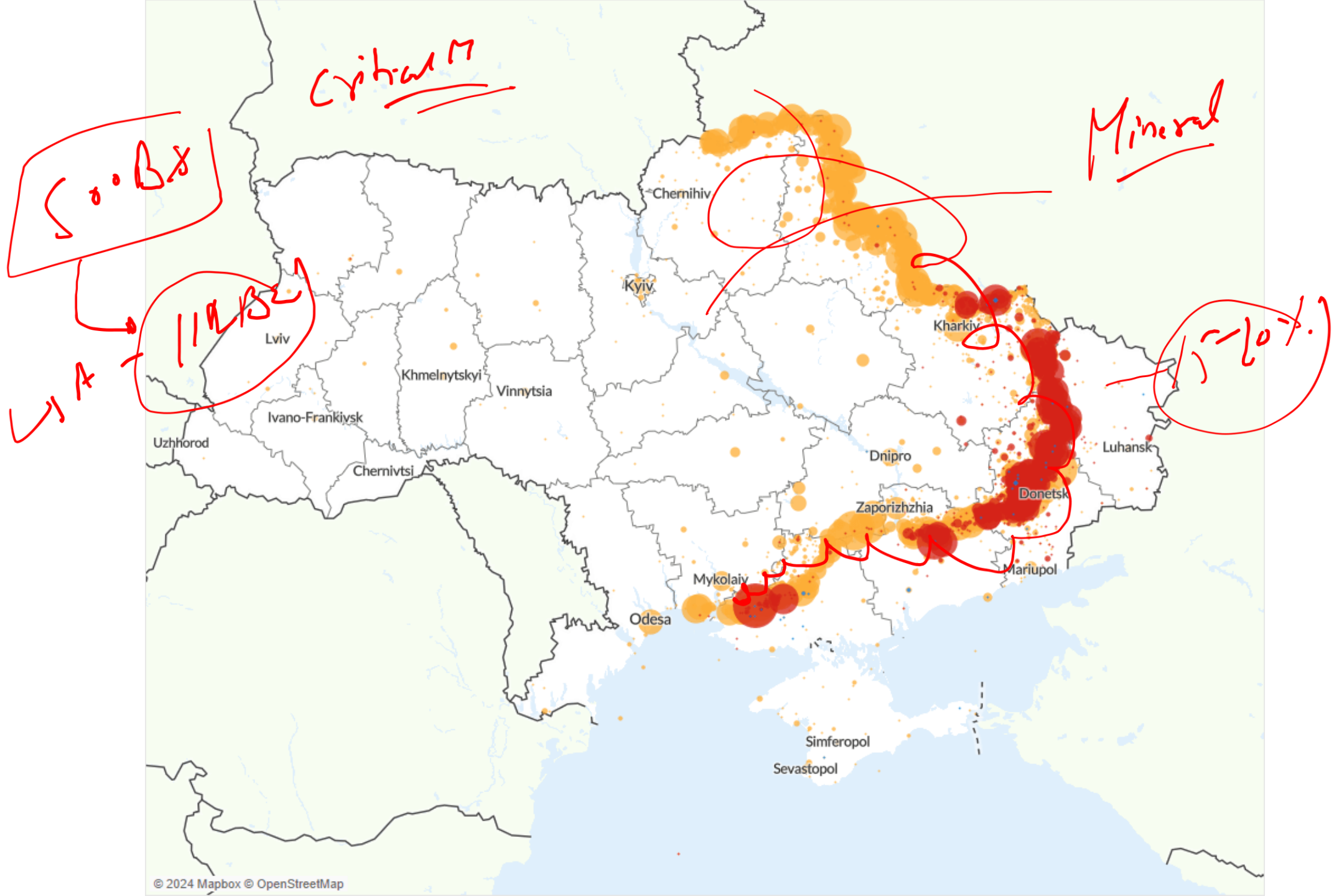
In total, around 6.3 million Ukrainian refugees were registered across Europe and 6.8 million worldwide as of Jan 2025

Refugees from Ukraine since Feb 2022 to Feb 2024



Sources: Kiel Institute for the World Economy; Statista

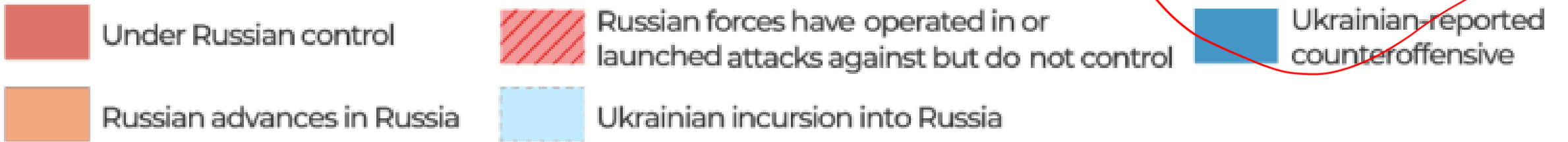
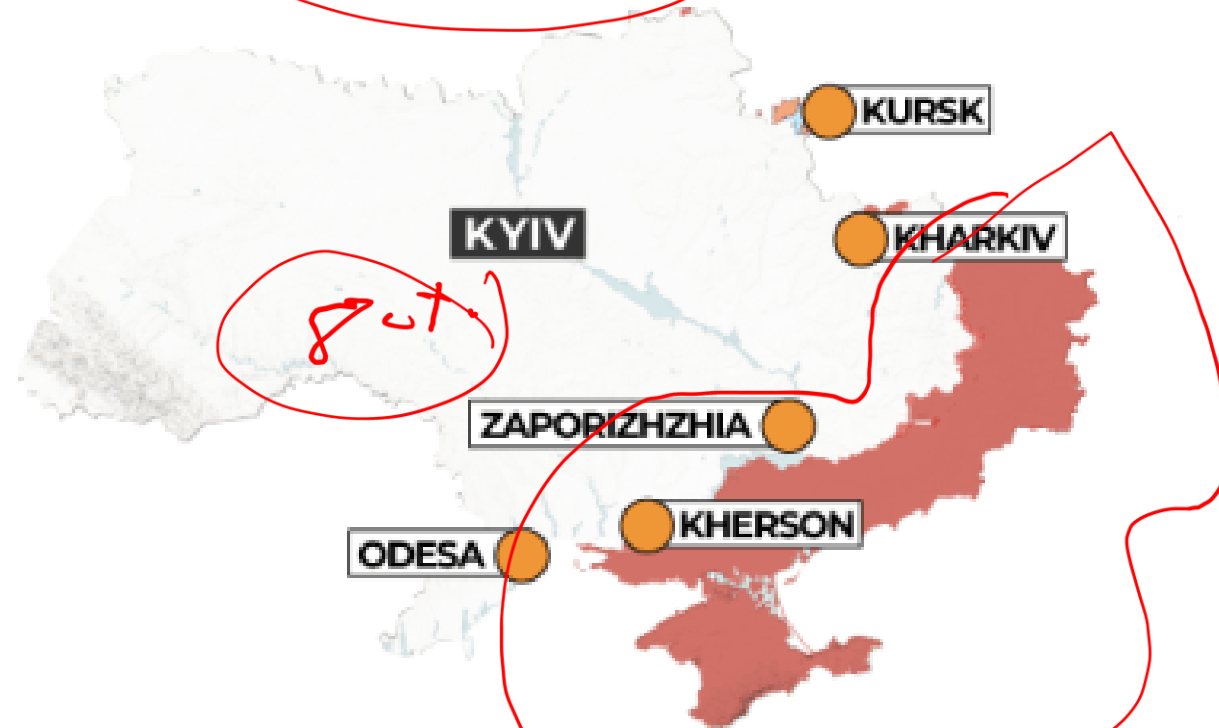




November 2022



February 2025



IN BRIEF



ED arrests SDPI leader on money-laundering charge

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) national president M.K. Falyan on money-laundering charge in connection with the case against banned terror outfit Popular Front of India (PFI). On Tuesday, he was produced before a special Delhi court that sent him to six-day ED custody. The 55-year-old accused was arrested at the Delhi airport upon his arrival from Cochin on Monday.

'Arrest all policemen involved in infant's death at Alwar'

All police personnel involved in the death of a month-old infant during a police raid in Alwar must be immediately booked on charges of murder, CP(M) leader Brinda Karat said on Tuesday after visiting the victim's family. The death occurred when police raided the house of one Imran Khan without prior notice or warrant. They reportedly "jumped" onto the bed and crushed the sleeping child.

India hit targeted maternal mortality rate of 100 deaths per lakh live births: Nadda

Hindu Shalan Perappadan NEW DELHI

India has achieved the National Health Policy (NHP) target of a maternal mortality rate (MMR) of 100 deaths per one lakh live births, Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said on Tuesday.

The nation had also achieved an 83% decline in MMR between 1990 and 2020, which was much higher than the decline in Global MMR, he added.

Mr. Nadda was chairing the ninth meeting of the Mission Steering Group, the highest policy-making and governance body for the health sector under the National Health Mission (NHM).

The Minister said that a 6% decline was observed in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in India during this period (19-2020), while the decline in Global IMR was 25%. Additionally, there has been a 75% decline in "Under-5s (years) Mortality Rate" while the global rate of decline was 45%.

At the meeting, the MI-



India's 69% decline in infant mortality rate (1990-2020) is higher than the Global IMR dip of 55%, the Minister says. FILE PHOTO

Minister stressed the need to translate the agendas and objectives of different health schemes into action, and the importance of the role of officers, including Chief Medical Officers (CMO), at the ground level to achieve it.

"Enhancing and strengthening the capacities of CMOs is vital as in the need for training and capacity building exercises, so that their capacities can be utilised in the best way possible," he said. "Under-5s (years) Mortality Rate" results of healthcare schemes at the grassroots level," Mr. Nadda said.

Jaishankar meets U.K. PM Starmer, Cabinet officials

He discusses India-U.K. free trade deal with Trade and Business Secretary, he will hold talks on the Technology Security Initiative during his meeting with U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy

Seiram Lakshman LONDON

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar began his visit to the U.K. on Tuesday with a series of meetings in London with British government officials.

He met with U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, The Hindu has learned. At the time The Hindu went to press, details of the meeting were not available.

Mr. Jaishankar met with Trade and Business Secretary, Reynolds (TBS) and Home Secretary Yvette Cooper (Yvonne).

Mr. Jaishankar is visiting the U.K. to deepen the partnerships with both countries, also met with U.K. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper.

The two Ministers "discussed the flow of talent, people to people exchange, and joint efforts in tackling trafficking and extremism", according to Mr. Jaishankar.



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Home Secretary Yvette Cooper in London on Tuesday. ANI

He is set to open two consulates — in Belfast (on March 7) and Manchester (on March 8). "This expansion of India's diplomatic presence

will further boost our trading relationship and support the valued Indian community in the U.K.," Foreign Secretary David Lammy said.

Mr. Lammy and Mr. Jaishankar will meet at Chevening House on Wednesday. Chevening is the U.K. government's scholarship and fellowship programme for foreign students.

The Ministers will discuss the Technology Security Initiative, launched during Mr. Lammy's visit to Delhi in July 2024.

They are expected to discuss collaboration in sectors such as critical minerals, artificial intelligence, and telehealth, as well as opportunities for resilient supply chains and affordable healthcare, the U.K. Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said.

Belgium defence giant ties up with Indian firm to manufacture tank turrets

Dinakar Peri NEW DELHI

Belgium's John Cockerill Defence (JCD), the world's top-turret manufacturer for battle tanks, and the Pune-based Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics (EPH) Pvt. Ltd. announced a Joint Venture (JV) in India with initial focus on the Indian Army's light tank contest under way.

They had already tied up for supplying turrets for Zorawar, the light tank developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) which is currently in advanced stages of trial.

The light tank is a critical requirement for the Indian Army, a need identified during the stand-off between China in eastern Ladakh.

It will be a 60-40 JV between JCD and EPH in



The Pune-based Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics will handle the Indian segment of the deal, but remain available for tank turrets today. India's strength in electronics and Artificial Intelligence will allow us to build very efficient systems," he said during a recent media interaction.

Giving an overview of EPH, Ravi Ranjith, Joint Managing Director, said that the company has been in the defence sector for 25 years, manufacturing simulators and missile launchers.

"The 4300 crore company, which has manufacturing facility at Chakan in Pune, generates 35-40% of its revenue from defence, one of its five verticals," Prashant Gadeipalli, Director-Operations and Marketing, EPH, said.

It will be the best technology

Belgium Princess Astrid, and Deputy Prime Minister Maxime Prevot at a seminar in New Delhi on Monday. AP

Belgium to scale up defence ties, set to sign MoU this year

Subhasini Haidar NEW DELHI

Europe needs to develop its own "strategic autonomy", Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Maxime Prevot said on Tuesday, speaking about the U.S. decision to change its course on the Ukraine war.

As a result, Belgium will need to build its defence sector, Mr. Prevot said, pushing for cooperation with India.

He was speaking after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Belgian Princess Astrid, who led a delegation of more than 300 Belgian business leaders on an "economic mission" to India, addressing the media along with Mr. Prevot, Belgian Defence Minister Theo Francken said that India and Belgium will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on defence cooperation by the end of 2025.

New Delhi, which has been engaging all sides in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, will send Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri to Moscow this week for Foreign Office consultations.

He is expected to prepare for a high-level meeting between Mr. Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin this year, with Mr. Putin to visit India for the annual summit, and the PM invited to attend Russia's 80th Victory Day or "Pobeda" celebrations in Moscow on May 9.

Situation in flux The high-powered Belgian delegation's visit comes amid turmoil in Europe over the changed U.S. stance on the Russia-Ukraine war, and reports that U.S. President Donald Trump is ceasing all aid to Kyiv after his showdown with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the White House on Friday.

The Belgian visit follows last week's visit by European Union Commissioners led by European Commission

President Ursula von der Leyen, and comes two days before an extraordinary summit of the European Union to be held in Brussels on Thursday, where members are expected to chart their future course.

"The situation has changed from a couple of weeks ago, so we need to be flexible and united. That's the message that we are disseminating to the European Union. So it means that we need to develop our own strategic autonomy, certainly regarding the defence sector," Mr. Prevot said, in response to a question from The Hindu.

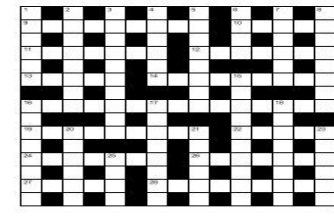
Belgium stands by Ukraine as we are with the Ukrainian people. There is an aggressor, and there is a victim (in this conflict). It is not acceptable that some parts of the world try to put those two countries on the same footing," Mr. Prevot said, adding that the U.S. and Belgium would remain "strong allies".

Mr. Prevot said that while the Belgians had not discussed the Ukraine issue with Mr. Modi when they met on Tuesday, he was "aware of the concerns of Europe", and that for Europe — and Belgium in particular — hopes India can be a "strong support" in the development of military capabilities, with Belgian companies offering to provide defence technologies to "make in India".

Defence cooperation As part of overall efforts to scale up defence cooperation with India, Belgium will post a Defence Attaché in India and the two countries will sign an MoU on defence cooperation by the end of 2025, Mr. Francken said.

The MoUs in the defence sector were among 24 MoUs signed with the Belgian delegation in the field of food processing, health, engineering, and education. (With inputs from Kallol Bhattacharjee)

THE CROSSWORD 14424 (set by Gussalufz)



- 16 Now keep a bit of mash (i.e., beet puree) covered in saffronella (3, 4-5)
17 Second authentication code: zero... one... a large number ending in eight? That's a PIN (4, 7)
22 A breather, then the second part of filming, and that's a rhino (9)
24 Mythical creature is combination packing rocs' tail and whirp's head (7)
26 Dreams of ride (a Tesla) (7)
27 Catch girl and love (5)
28 Out playing golf? Beer at conclusion of game? (3,6)
Down
1 Cloth merchant: 'Standard to have red border around' (5)
2 Death in advance for criminal (8)
3 Ban chess & porn widely overwhelming India (10)
4 Appreciation plummets after husband's input (6)
5 Whole party abruptly ends in show over TV channel (8)
6 Called loud, scratching bottom (4)
7 Deer saw a girl inside fencing (6)
8 The man hogged vulgarly — prickly creature (8)
9 Confident of shining when trouble, sporting implant (10)
10 Very well-fitted, voiding 210% of excretia (12)
11 Complex relationship though involving no-good European (8)
12 Top-rated metal soldier back-fitting (8)
13 Pointless life, so I took up boxing (6)
14 Beg air travellers: 'Wags on the counter, this is an inspection' (6)
15 Broadcast is prosecuted (6)
16 Unpleasant smell in old electronic instrument (4)

- Across
9 Cold drink cure? (9)
10 Mindful of a light starting to erupt (3)
11 Persuade and preserve, son, without ever straying (5,2)
12 Quarrelling with signal guard about dropping lids off (7)
13 Rwanda Air regularly carries this detector (5)
14 Upon return, he said, "Frank Hippo's killing every other marine creature" (6)

SUDOKU

9x9 grid with numbers 3, 5, 9, 6, 1, 2, 4, 5, 1, 9, 2, 7, 1, 9, 3, 2, 6, 7, 4, 9, 8, 1, 3, 2, 5, 3, 7, 1, 3, 7, 9, 4, 7, 1, 5, 8, 2, 6, 3, 5, 3, 6, 1, 4, 9, 2, 7, 5, 8

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★
Solution to previous puzzle
Solution to yesterday's Sudoku
4 2 9 8 7 5 6 3 1
1 5 8 3 4 6 9 7 2
6 7 4 9 8 1 3 2 5
8 9 2 5 3 7 1 6 4
6 3 7 1 9 4 5 8 2
9 4 7 1 5 8 2 6 3
2 8 5 7 6 3 4 1 9
3 6 1 4 9 2 7 5 8

FAITH Reading Sundara Kanda

While charming the ocean of milk, Karpaga tree, which incessantly gratifies petitioners with the objects sought, is the white king of elephants, Goddess Mahalakshmi, affluence personified; the divine nectar, Koushubha — the rarest of the gems, and halahala, the poison, have emerged. Allegorically, in churning the sea of Ramayana came Goddess Sita, the Karpaga tree-like Sugreeva, the moon-like Lakshmana, the elephant-like Angadha, the nectar-like Vibhishana, the embodiment of surrender, Hanuman, the rarest gem, and Ravana, the most dangerous poison. If all characters of Ramayana are strung as a garland, Hanuman will be the central pendant studded with the most precious gems.

Sundara Kanda is in the middle of the Ramayana. Sundara Kanda narrates about Hanuman and praises his great qualities. Hanuman is the manifestation of Lord Siva, who is also called Sundaresa. Hence, the portion that glorifies Hanuman is named Sundara Kanda. Sri Kesava Vajapeyay Swamy said in a discourse that the term 'sreyas' in Sanskrit denotes the removal of sorrows and attainment of comforts. Reading Sundara Kanda will give all sreyas. Even if we are confident in performing a worship, we should invoke God's blessings to complete it without hurdles. Jambhavan praised Hanuman. He explained his powers to him, which bolstered Hanuman's confidence in crossing the ocean and reaching Lanka. Before starting, Hanuman prayed to Lord Rama to bless and help him cross the ocean. Hanuman's role model was Garuda, the king of birds. Reading Sundara Kanda will alleviate all our fears, ill thoughts and difficulties.

Belgium to scale up defence ties, set to sign MoU this year

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

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Situation in flux

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President Ursula von der Leyen, and comes two days before an extraordinary summit of the European Union to be held in Brussels on Thursday, where members are expected to chart their future course.

“The situation has changed from a couple of weeks ago, so we need to be flexible and united... That’s the message that we are disseminating in the European Union. So it means that we need to develop our own strategic autonomy, certainly regarding the defence sector,” Mr. Prévot said, in response to a question from *The Hindu*.

“Belgium stands by Ukraine, we are with the Ukrainian people. There is an aggressor, and there is a victim [in this conflict]. It is not acceptable that some parts of the world try to put those two countries on the same footing,” Mr. Prévot said, adding that the U.S. and Belgium would remain “strong allies”.

Mr. Prévot said that while the Belgians had not discussed the Ukraine issue with Mr. Modi when they met on Tuesday, he was “aware of the concerns of Europe”, and that Europe – and Belgium in particular – hopes India can be a “strong support” in the development of military capabilities, with Belgian companies offering to provide defence technologies to “make in India”.

Defence cooperation

As part of overall efforts to scale up defence cooperation with India, Belgium will post a Defence Attache in India and the two countries will sign an MoU on defence cooperation by the end of 2025, Mr. Francken said.

The MoUs in the defence sector were among 24 MoUs signed with the Belgian delegation in the fields of food processing, health, engineering, and education.

(With inputs from Kallol Bhattacharjee)





NETHERLANDS

North Sea

GERMANY

□ Brussels

BELGIUM

FRANCE





DENMARK

*NORTH
SEA*

**UNITED
KINGDOM**

NETHERLANDS

GERMANY

★ **BRUSSELS**

BELGIUM

LUXEMBOURG

FRANCE

SWITZERLAND

ITALY



INDIA-BELGIUM RELATIONS

A FRIENDLY AND ROBUST ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

- ONE OF THE FIRST WESTERN COUNTRIES WITH WHOM INDIA ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS RIGHT AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

- INDIAN TRADERS OWN A LARGE PART OF THE US\$ 54 BILLION DIAMOND TRADE IN ANTWERP.

- BELGIUM HAS SUPPORTED INDIA'S PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP TO UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

- BELGIUM IS INDIA'S 2ND LARGEST TRADING PARTNER IN THE EU

- INDIA IS BELGIUM'S 2ND LARGEST EXPORT DESTINATION

- 80 PER CENT OF TRADE IS DIAMOND TRADE

Category	Details
Official Name	Kingdom of Belgium
Capital	Brussels ==
Largest City	Brussels =
Official Languages	Dutch , French, German
Government Type	Federal parliamentary constitutional monarchy
Monarch	King Philippe
Prime Minister	Alexander De Croo
Area	30,689 sq km
Population	11.7 million (2024 est.)
Currency	Euro (€) (EUR) =
GDP (Nominal)	\$621 billion (2023 est.)
Major Industries	Automobile , Pharmaceuticals , Steel, Chemicals, Chocolate, Beer
Famous for	Medieval towns, European Union HQ, Waffles, Tintin, Tomorrowland Festival

M

1.168

MUSIC

USA

EU

CR

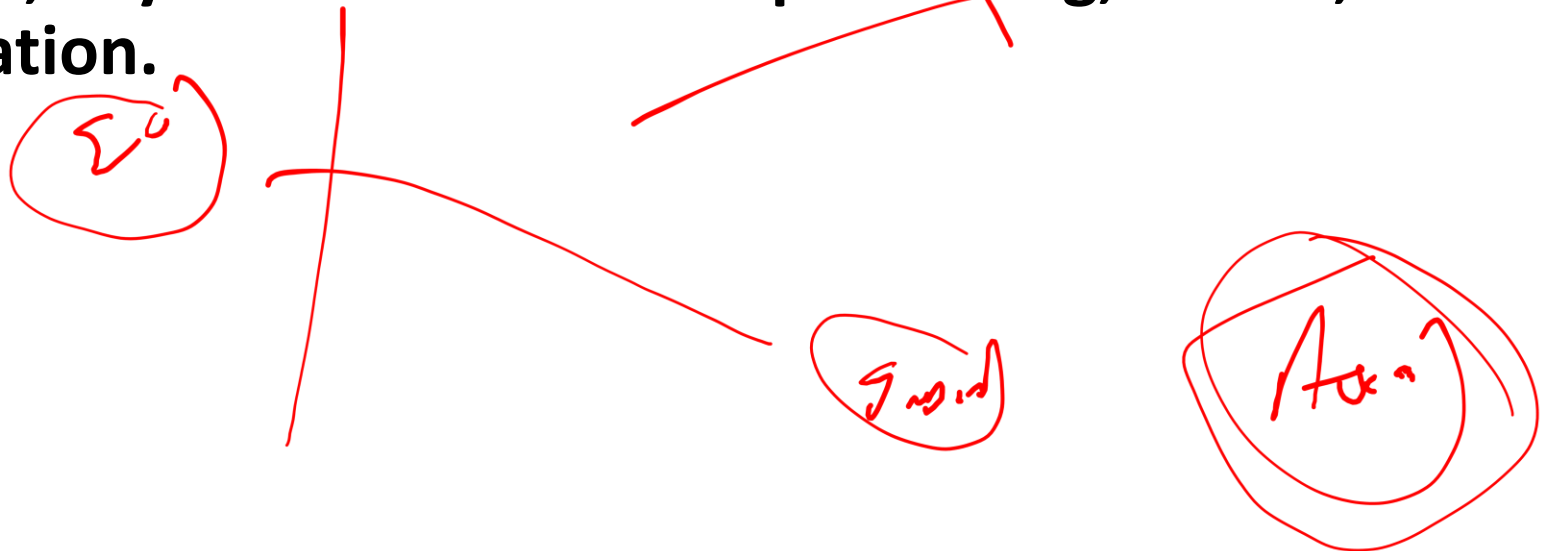
MoU

- Belgium to Scale Up Defence Ties, Set to Sign MoU This Year (बेल्जियम रक्षा संबंधों को बढ़ाएगा, इस वर्ष एमओयू पर हस्ताक्षर करेगा)

- Belgium aims to strengthen its defence sector and develop "strategic autonomy" amid changing U.S. policies on the Ukraine war.

- Talks between Indian PM Narendra Modi and Belgian Princess Astrid led to a delegation of 300+ Belgian business leaders visiting India.

- Belgium to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India on defence cooperation by the end of 2025.
- Belgium stands with Ukraine in the conflict and remains a "strong ally" of the U.S. New Delhi continues diplomatic engagements with all sides, including upcoming Foreign Secretary visits to Moscow.
- Belgium to post a Defence Attaché in India as part of growing defence cooperation.
- Among 24 MoUs signed, key areas include food processing, health, engineering, and education.



- **A. Strategic Aspects (रणनीतिक पहलू)**
- **Belgium's focus on "strategic autonomy" highlights Europe's increasing desire for defence independence.**
- **Growing India-Belgium defence ties can diversify India's military partnerships.**
- **Belgian companies to provide military technologies to be developed under "Make in India."**
- **Belgium to deploy a Defence Attaché, strengthening military collaboration.**

- **B. Economic Aspects (आर्थिक पहलू)**
- **Belgium signed 24 MoUs with India across multiple sectors, boosting bilateral trade.**
- **Stronger defence ties may lead to increased trade in arms, technology, and military supplies.**
- **Potential job creation in India's defence manufacturing sector.**
- **Strengthened economic ties may encourage Belgian businesses to expand operations in India.**

- **C. Political Aspects (राजनीतिक पहलू)**
- **Belgium remains aligned with the U.S. but is expanding its independent global defence ties.**
- **India's diplomatic engagement with all sides, including Russia and Europe, strengthens its non-aligned strategy.**
- **Belgium's visit follows European Commission leaders' engagement, showing deeper EU-India ties.**
- **Upcoming India-Russia summit may also impact global defence alliances.**

Belgium defence giant ties up with Indian firm to manufacture tank turrets

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

Belgium's John Cockerill Defence (JCD), the world's top-turret manufacturer for battle tanks, and the Pune-based Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics (EPH) Pvt. Ltd. announced a Joint Venture (JV) in India with initial focus on the Indian Army's light tank contest under way.

They had already tied up for supplying turrets for Zorawar, the light tank developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) which is currently in advanced stages of trials. The development comes as India and Belgium look to scale up defence cooperation and are set to sign a memorandum of understanding on defence cooperation by the end of 2025.

The light tank is a critical requirement for the Indian Army, a need identified during the stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh.

It will be a 60:40 JV between JCD and EPH in



The Pune-based Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics will handle the Indian segment of the deal. FILE PHOTO

which the former will bring the technology and know-how while the latter will focus on the manufacturing, according to Thierry Renaudin, Chief Executive Officer, JCD. "We will get a new world-class turret..." he said.

While the initial focus on the Indian light tank requirement could eventually go up to 700 tanks, the focus of the JV is much broader, said Francois Michel, Group Chief Executive Officer, John Cockerill. "There are several programmes in India that justify this JV. Our alignment is not for one single project, it goes way beyond. We have the best technology

available for tank turrets today. India's strength in electronics and Artificial Intelligence will allow us to build very efficient systems," he said during a select media interaction.

Giving an overview of EPH, Ingrid Rasquinha, Joint Managing Director, said that the company has been in the defence sector for 25 years, manufacturing simulators and missile launchers. "The ₹300 crore company, which has manufacturing facility at Chakan in Pune, generates 35-40% of its revenue from defence, one of its five verticals," Prashant Gadepalli, Director-Operations and Marketing, EPH, said.

- Belgium Defence Giant Ties Up with Indian Firm to Manufacture Tank Turrets (बेल्जियम रक्षा दिग्गज ने भारतीय कंपनी के साथ टैंक टर्नेट्स के निर्माण के लिए समझौता किया)
- Belgium's John Cockerill Defence (JCD), a leading tank turret manufacturer, partners with Pune-based Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics (EPH) for a Joint Venture (JV) in India.
- The focus is on manufacturing turrets for the Indian Army's light tank program "Zorawar," developed by DRDO & L&T.

EPH

JV

- India and Belgium aim to scale up defence cooperation, set to sign an MoU on defence ties by the end of 2025.
- The JV follows a 60:40 partnership where JCD brings technology & expertise, while EPH focuses on manufacturing.
- India's electronics & AI capabilities will enhance the efficiency of tank turret systems.
- The ₹300 crore EPH company in Pune generates 35-40% of its revenue from the defence sector.

- **A. Strategic Aspects (रणनीतिक पहलू)**
- **Strengthening India's tank manufacturing aligns with its goal of self-reliance in defence (Atmanirbhar Bharat).**
- **Enhances India's military preparedness, especially in high-altitude warfare, given the Zorawar tank's requirement post-China standoff.**
- **Deepening India-Belgium defence ties underlines Europe's growing interest in India's military-industrial sector.**
- **The deal could open more opportunities for future Indo-European defence collaborations.**

India hit targeted maternal mortality rate of 100 deaths per lakh live births: Nadda

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

India has achieved the National Health Policy (NHP) target of a maternal mortality rate (MMR) of 100 deaths per one lakh live births, Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said on Tuesday.

The nation had also achieved an 83% decline in MMR between 1990 and 2020, which was much higher than the decline in Global MMR, he added.

Mr. Nadda was chairing the ninth meeting of the Mission Steering Group, the highest policy-making and governance body for the health sector under the National Health Mission (NHM).

The Minister said that a 69% decline was observed in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in India during this period (1990-2020), while the decline in Global IMR was 55%. Additionally, there has been a 75% decline in the "Under 5 [years] Mortality Rate" while the global rate of decline was 58%.

At the meeting, the Mi-



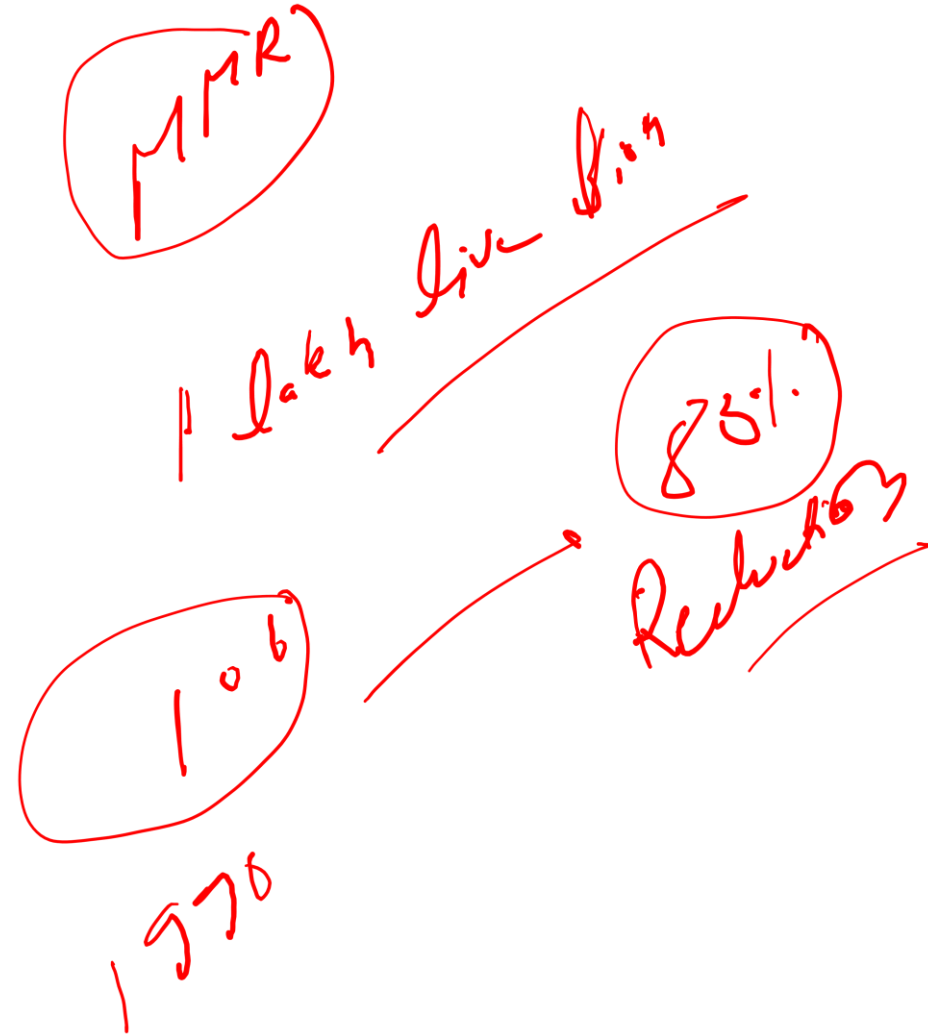
India's 69% decline in infant mortality rate (1990-2020) is higher than the Global IMR dip of 55%, the Minister says. FILE PHOTO

nister stressed the need to translate the agendas and objectives of different health schemes into action, and the importance of the role of officers, including Chief Medical Officers (CMO), at the ground level to achieve it.

"Enhancing and strengthening the capacities of CMOs is vital as is the need for training and capacity-building exercises, so that their capacities can be utilised in the best way possible; that will pave the way for achieving required results of healthcare schemes at the grassroots level," Mr. Nadda said.

Mr. Nadda also spoke about the role of ASHA workers in the healthcare system, and remarked on the need for their empowerment and welfare through revised incentives for routine activities, and providing enhanced honorariums.

While commending the developments and new technological advances working to strengthen the health infrastructure, Mr. Nadda also said the quality of the latest additions, including the Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri (BHISHM), should be ensured.



- **India Achieves Targeted Maternal Mortality Rate of 100 Deaths per Lakh Live Births: Nadda**
- **India has met the National Health Policy (NHP) target of Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) at 100 deaths per one lakh live births.**
- **India witnessed an 83% decline in MMR between 1990 and 2020, surpassing the global decline.**

- The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) declined by 69% in the same period, higher than the global decline of 55%.
- Under-5 mortality rate in India saw a 75% decline, compared to the global rate of 58%.
- The government emphasized strengthening grassroots healthcare through ASHA workers and CMOs.
- New technological ~~healthcare~~ initiatives, including the Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri (BHISHM), will be prioritized.

- **A. Social Aspects (सामाजिक पहलू)**
- **Improved maternal and child health will contribute to women's empowerment and child welfare.**
- **ASHA workers' role in community healthcare has been recognized and incentives revised.**
- **A strong healthcare system at the grassroots level ensures better healthcare access for marginalized communities.**
- **Lower child mortality rates indicate better awareness of maternal and neonatal care.**

- **B. Economic Aspects (आर्थिक पहलू)**
- **Reduced maternal and child mortality rates contribute to a healthier workforce, indirectly improving economic productivity.**
- **Government initiatives for ASHA workers and grassroots healthcare infrastructure enhance employment in rural healthcare.**
- **Lower healthcare burdens due to preventable maternal and child deaths result in reduced public healthcare expenditure.**
- **Investments in healthcare technology (BHISHM) will drive innovation and private-sector collaboration.**

$$\frac{122.3}{1 \text{ lakh}} \text{ per year}$$

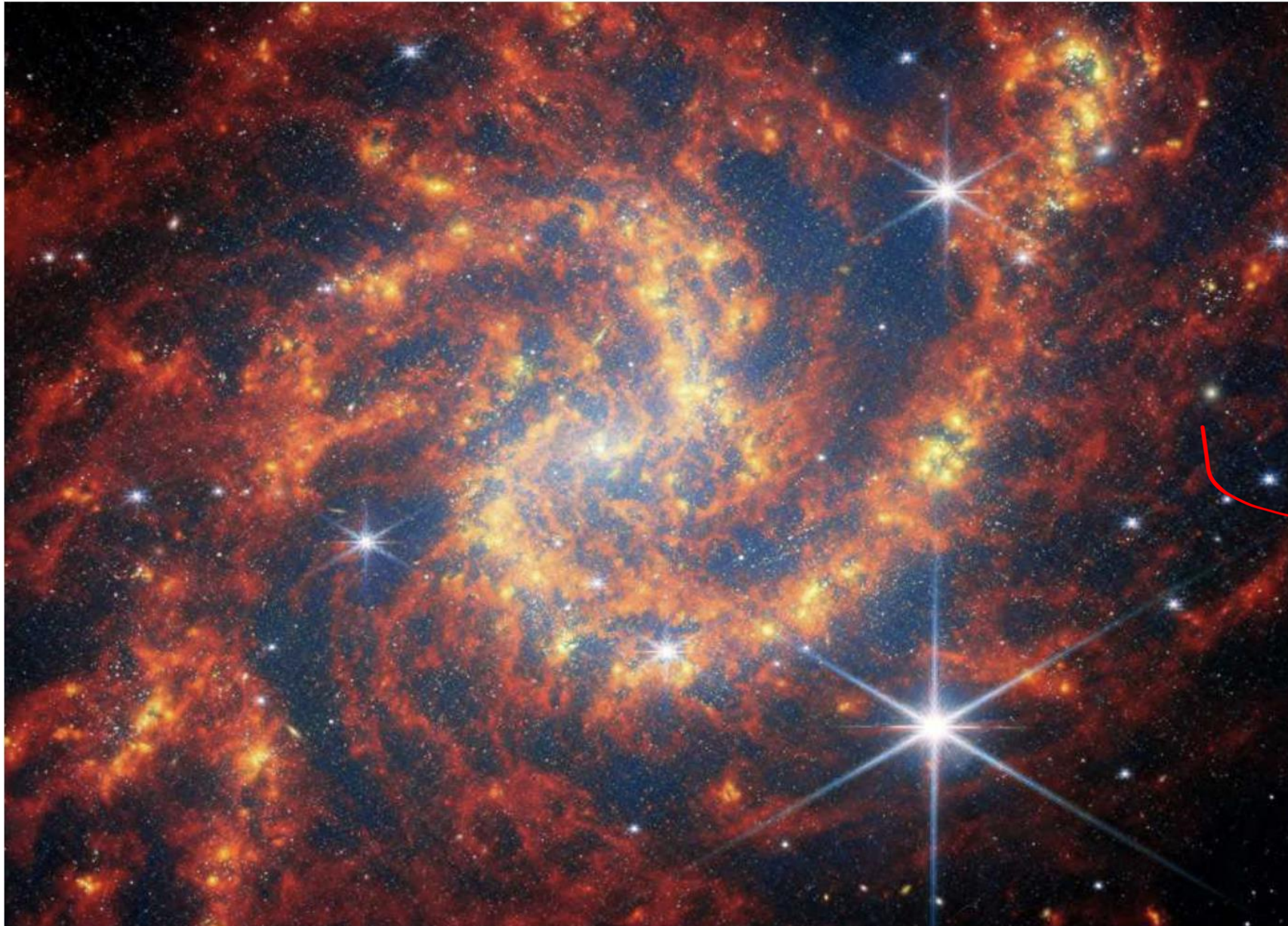
$$\frac{100}{1 \text{ lakh}}$$

India

Norway

$$\frac{2.7}{1 \text{ lakh}}$$

BIG SHOT



NGC 2283

The Webb space telescope captured this new view of barred spiral galaxy NGC 2283 in just 10 minutes of observing time, showcasing the light from clouds of hydrogen gas heated by young stars, as well as the stars themselves. ESA/WEBB, NASA & CSA, A. LEROY

James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) Overview

Category	Details
Full Name	James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)
Launch Date	December 25, 2021
Operator	NASA, ESA, CSA
Developed By	NASA, ESA, CSA
Mission Type	Infrared Space Telescope
Primary Mirror Diameter	6.5 meters
Wavelength Coverage	0.6 to 28.3 microns (Infrared Spectrum)
Orbit	Lagrange Point 2 (L2), 1.5 million km from Earth
Scientific Goals	Study early universe, exoplanets, star formation, galaxy evolution
Notable Discoveries	Deepest infrared images of the universe, exoplanet atmospheres analysis



Language bridges: Chinese teacher Ma Shuaib, right, gives a Mandarin lesson at a school in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. AFP

Mandarin's entry into Saudi Arabian schools highlights growing China ties

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

With a map of China on the wall behind him, 14-year-old Yasser al-Shaalan studied the names of professors in a Chinese textbook, one of thousands of Saudi Arabian children now learning the language at school. Mandarin's entry into public schools is the latest sign of growing ties between Saudi Arabia and China, as the oil-rich kingdom pushes to diversify its economy and not stand by and watch as the world around us becomes more unipolar.

In August, Saudi Arabia introduced China's official language as a compulsory second foreign language after English in six of its 13 administrative regions' schools. Mandarin is one of the world's most widely spoken languages, and the overwhelming majority of its speakers live in China.

After a visit to China in 2019, Saudi Arabian crown prince and de facto ruler Mohammed bin Salman announced a plan to introduce Chinese throughout the education system.

Following China's emergence as a major economic power, Mandarin teaching has become increasingly popular around the world, including in Europe.

However, in 2022, Germany was the first communist institute language centres were being "used by the Communist Party for propaganda."

Dozens have closed in recent years, following similar accusations in the U.S., Sweden, France, Australia, and Canada.

In Saudi Arabia, no such fears have been expressed. Thousands of these people work in Saudi Arabia, particularly in Riyadh, where the airport now displays trilingual signs in Arabic, English and Chinese.

Saudi Arabia is a long-standing partner of the United States but has also strengthened its relations with China and Russia.

The largest economy in West Asia is the world's leading exporter of crude oil, with China taking about a quarter of its shipments.

Former U.S. President Joe Biden once pledged to make Saudi Arabia "a pariah" over the 2018 murder of dissident Saudi Arabian journalist Jamal Khashoggi, before later changing course.

A geopolitical rival to the U.S., China has worked to strengthen its influence in West Asia. In 2023, it brokered a stunning rapprochement between heavyweight rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran after years of no ties between them.

"For Saudi Arabia, the relationship with China has become one of the most important," said Umar Karim, an expert on Saudi Arabian foreign policy at the University of Birmingham.

"The move to teach kids Chinese is again in line with the changing global order dynamics where China has emerged as the global economic powerhouse," Karim said.

Calls grow to revive conscription in Germany amid NATO concerns

Fears about the future of the military alliance have surged in Europe following shift of U.S. towards Russia under Trump; leader of Germany's poll winning bloc has favoured conscription after saying Europe will have to handle its own security

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

Germany's conservatives, who are set to lead the next government, on Tuesday argued that the country should quickly reintroduce compulsory military service.

Friedrich Merz, head of the CDU/CSU bloc that topped last month's election, has argued that in the era of U.S. President Donald Trump, Europe will have to better handle its own security.

The defence policy spokesperson of his centre-right alliance, Florian Hahn, told *Bild* daily that Germany's "suspension of conscription no longer fits the current threat situation."

"The first conscripts will have to walk through the barracks gates in 2025," Mr. Hahn told the daily.

"We cannot stand by and watch as the world around us becomes more unipolar."

Fears about the future strength of the NATO military alliance have surged in Europe, not least after Mr. Trump recently sided repeatedly with long-isolated Russia against Ukraine, upending the Western consensus of recent years.

Mr. Merz has vowed to break with many policies of former CDU Chancellor



Clear aim: Although conscription has been highly controversial in Germany for a long time, support for bringing back some form of military service has grown across political party lines. FILE PHOTO

Angela Merkel, including on migration, but also on her 2011 decision to suspend compulsory military service.

Need of numbers This week, Mr. Merz reiterated that he would favour the reintroduction of a compulsory year in which young people could perform either military or community service.

"We need a much higher personnel strength in the armed forces," he said. "I am not committing myself to any numbers now, but we cannot manage with the current number."

and we also need a much stronger reserve."

Although conscription has been highly controversial in Germany for a long time, support for bringing back some form of military service has grown across political party lines.

Fears about the future strength of the NATO military alliance have surged in Europe, not least after Mr. Trump recently sided repeatedly with long-isolated Russia against Ukraine, upending the Western consensus of recent years.

He has promoted a model that relies on voluntary service but also allows the country to make conscription compulsory if needed.

In a first step, the outgoing Scholz cabinet in November signed off on plans for a new model under which all 18-year-olds would be sent a questionnaire about their interest in the Army and their physical condition.

All young men would be required to return the questionnaire, while for women it would be voluntary.

A contingent of young men and women would then be invited to a selection process and some recruited for an initial six-month stint of military service.

vice, with the option of extending.

German Armed Forces Association chairman Andre Wuestner also spoke out on Tuesday in favour of starting conscription based on the so-called Swedish model, and to improve pay and conditions.

"We have to start this year, otherwise we risk imploding in terms of personnel starting next year," he told Welt TV.

"We have enormous problems in terms of personnel. It's about the need to regenerate about 27,000 people a year who leave the armed forces and need to be recruited back."

The CDU/CSU bloc is currently in exploratory talks with the SPD towards building a coalition government, with Mr. Merz eyeing an Easter deadline.

Joschka Fischer, former Foreign Minister of the Greens also argued that Germany must reintroduce compulsory military service.

"I was in favour of abolishing it," he recently told news weekly *Stern*. "That was a mistake that we must reverse."

"Compulsory military service must be reintroduced, for both sexes. Without this step, we will not see any progress in protecting Europe."

Taiwan to boost military budget amid 'China's threat'

Taiwan's Defence Minister says the island is planning to boost military spending in the face of the "rapidly changing international situation and the escalating threats from adversaries."

Wellington Koo gave no figure but said President William Lai Ching-te was working with the ministry in consideration of enemy threats and urgent readiness needs, a reference to China's threats to invade the island, which it considers its own territory.

Those would "increase the proportion of the defence budget in relation to GDP," Mr. Koo said, in comments on Monday that were embargoed until Tuesday.

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Arab leaders gather in Cairo with fate of Gaza truce uncertain

Associated Press
CAIRO

Arab leaders meeting in Cairo on Tuesday are set to approve a counterproposal to U.S. President Donald Trump's call for the Gaza Strip to be depopulated and transformed into a beach destination, even as the continuation of the Israel-Hamas ceasefire is uncertain.

The summit hosted by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is expected to include the leaders of regional heavyweights Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, whose support is crucial for any ceasefire plan.

Israel has meanwhile ended what it says is an alternative U.S. proposal to attack that triggered the war. It has blocked the entry of food, fuel, medicine, and other supplies to Gaza to try to get Hamas to

accept the new proposal and has warned of additional consequences, raising fears of widespread criticism, with human rights groups saying it violated Israel's obligations under international law.

The new plan would require Hamas to release half its remaining hostages — the militant group's main bargaining chip — in exchange for a ceasefire and a promise to negotiate a lasting truce. Israel made no mention of releasing more Palestinian prisoners as part of the plan.

Egypt has developed a postwar plan in which Palestinians would be relocated to safe areas inside Gaza and equipped with mobile homes while its cities are emptied. Hamas would gain power to an interim administration of political independence until a reformed Palestinian Authority can



A screen displays Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, center, with Arab Leaders, at the emergency Arab Summit in Cairo. AP

assume control. President Mahmoud Abbas, head of the Western-backed authority and an opponent of Hamas, was attending the summit.

Israel has ruled out any role for the Palestinian Authority in Gaza, and, along with the United States, has demanded Hamas' disarmament. Hamas, which does not accept Israel's existence, has said it is willing to cede power in Gaza to other Pal-

estianians but will not give up its arms until there is a Palestinian state.

A draft statement endorsing the plan called for a "permanent and just solution" for the Palestinian cause and for the United Nations Security Council to deploy international peacekeepers in Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Israel has vowed to maintain an open-ended security control over both territories, which it cap-

tured in the 1967 war and which Palestinians want for their future state. Israel's government and most of its political class opposed the Palestinian statehood.

Mr. Trump shocked the region last month when he suggested Gaza's roughly 2 million Palestinians be resettled in other countries. He said the United States would take ownership of the war-ravaged territory and redevelop it into a West Asian "riviera."

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu endorsed the plan called for a "permanent and just solution" for the Palestinian cause and for the United Nations Security Council to deploy international peacekeepers in Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Meeting with Mr. Trump at the White House last month, Jordan's King Abdullah II offered to take in some 2,000 children for medical treatment.

The first batch of around 30 children left Gaza for Jordan on Tuesday, according to Nasser Hospital in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis. The children are being accompanied by up to two family members.

Jordan said the children are amputees, and will return to Gaza when their treatment is complete. The kingdom has also set up field hospitals in Gaza and delivered at least 16 months' worth of Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Israel's 15-month offensive killed over 48,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. It does not say how many were fighters but says women and children made up more than half the dead.

Israel says it killed over 7,000 civilians, without providing evidence.

Lebanese leader calls for Israel's withdrawal as he visits Saudi Arabia

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Lebanon's President ended a visit to Saudi Arabia Tuesday where he discussed regional affairs with the kingdom's crown prince, after which both countries said Israeli troops should withdraw from south Lebanon and only the Lebanese state should have arms and that the Lebanese army should be supported.

Mr. Aoun last week told Saudi Arabia's *Alsharq News* that Riyadh would reactivate a \$3 billion package for the Lebanese army. In 2016, Saudi Arabia announced it was halting deals aimed at equipping and supporting the Lebanese army and police forces in retaliation for the tiny country's siding with Iran amid the Sunni kingdom's spat with the Shia power.

The statement added that both sides agreed to study the obstacles that are facing the resumption of Lebanese imports to Saudi Arabia and measures needed to allow Saudi Arabian citizens to visit Lebanon again. They also agreed that the Lebanese economy should come out of its historic crisis and that Beirut should implement reforms demanded by the international community.

It said Mr. Aoun invited the Saudi Arabian crown prince to visit Lebanon, adding that he welcomed the invitation.



Lebanese President Joseph Aoun with Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh on Monday. REUTERS

A joint statement issued after the summit said that only state institutions in Lebanon should have the right to have arms and that the Lebanese army should be supported. It added that Israel should withdraw from all parts of Lebanon.

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Language bridge: Chinese teacher Ma Shuaib, right, gives a Mandarin lesson at a school in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. AFP

Mandarin's entry into Saudi Arabian schools highlights growing China ties

Agence France-Presse
RIYADH

With a map of China on the wall behind him, 14-year-old Yasser al-Shaalan studied the names of professions in a Chinese textbook, one of thousands of Saudi Arabian children now learning the language at school.

Mandarin's entry into public schools is the latest sign of growing ties between Saudi Arabia and China, as the oil-rich kingdom pushes to diversify its economy and strategic alliances.

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Following China's emergence as a major economic power, Mandarin teaching has become increasingly popular around the world, including in Europe.

However, in 2022, Germany warned the Confucius Institute language centres were being "used by the Communist Party for political ends".

Dozens have closed in the U.S., Sweden, France, Australia, and Canada in recent years, following similar accusations.

In Saudi Arabia, no such fears have been expressed. Thousands of Chinese people work in Saudi Arabia, particularly in Riyadh, where the airport now displays trilingual signs in Arabic, English and Chinese.

Saudi Arabia is a long-standing partner of the United States but has also strengthened its relations with China and Russia.

The largest economy in West Asia is the world's leading exporter of crude oil, with China taking about a quarter of its shipments.

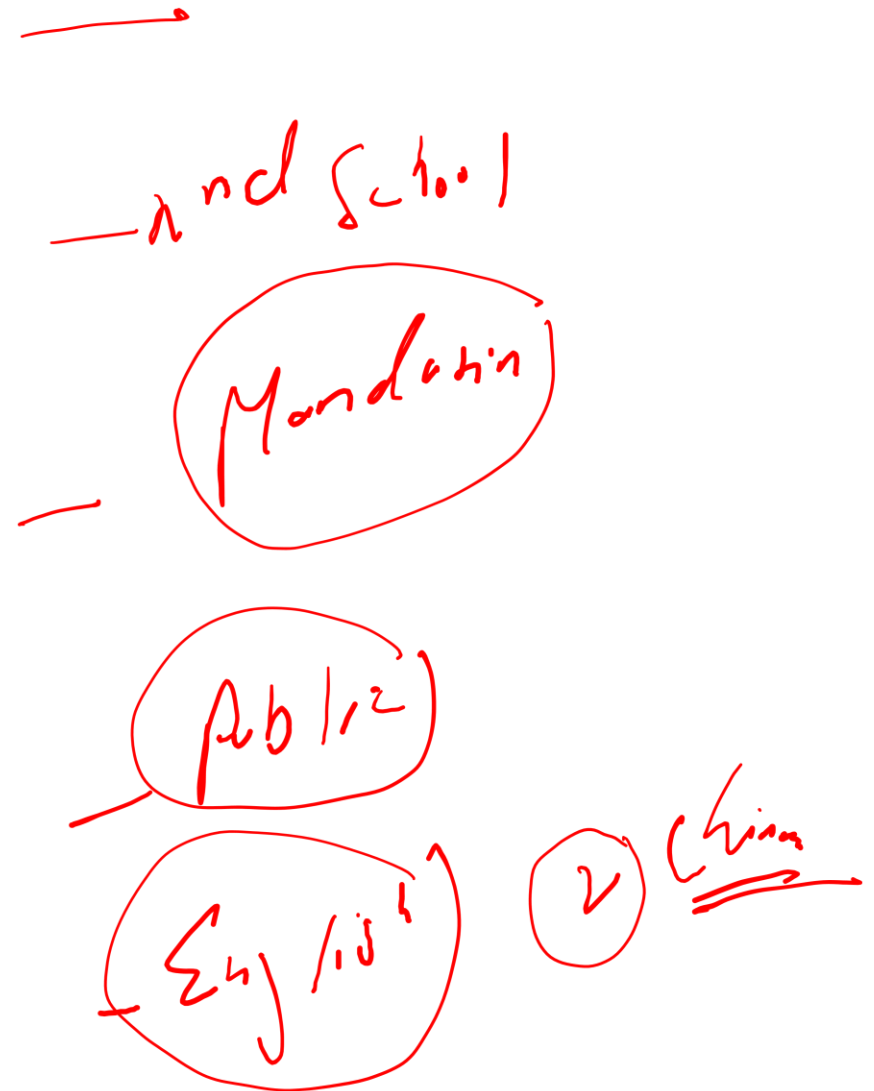
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Payodhi Milk Bank



ELN, IHP

87-1

Water:

Lactose, Fat, Protein (Whey)

V, M, S, Ash's, Harmon

- AllMS launched 'Payodhi', a human milk bank, to provide pasteurised donor human milk for critically ill preterm babies in the NICU.

- What is Payodhi?

Casein, Whey

Colostrum


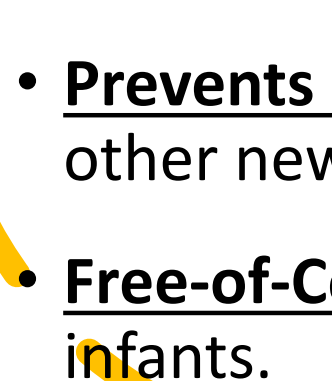
- Payodhi is a human milk bank and lactation management centre at AllMS, New Delhi.
- It collects, processes, and stores pasteurised donor milk for premature and critically ill newborns.
- Launched at: AllMS Neonatology Division, Department of Pediatrics, after acquiring a pasteuriser in September 2024.

(W) — (G M M M)

Aim of Payodhi:

To provide safe ~~and~~ processed human milk to preterm and critically ill NICU babies.

To support lactating mothers through counselling, milk donation, and storage facilities.

- 
- **Significance of Payodhi:**
 - **Lifesaving Nutrition:** Ensures better survival, immunity, and brain development for premature infants.
 - **Supports NICU Babies:** Addresses cases where mothers cannot breastfeed due to medical reasons.
 - **Prevents Milk Wastage:** Utilises excess breast milk from donors to help other newborns.
 - **Free-of-Cost Service:** Ensures equitable healthcare access to critically ill infants.
- 

Navratna Status



- The Central Government has granted Navratna status to IRCTC and IRFC, making them the 25th and 26th Navratna CPSEs in India.

26th
Navratna



Maharatna and Navratna category



Context: Oil India is now the 13th Maharatna CPSE in India. Additionally, the government raised ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) to a Navratna CPSE, making it the 14th Navratna among CPSEs.

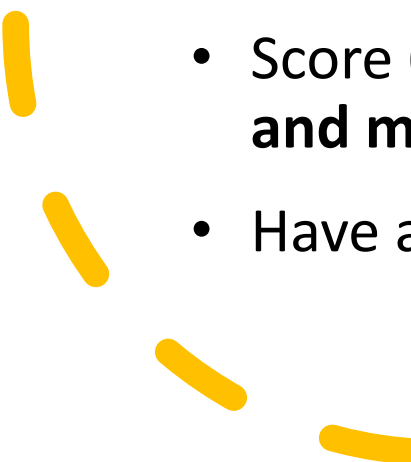
Handwritten notes in red ink:

- 1st → MA
- PSU
- M
- N
- Mini (2)
- MA (I)

Criteria for Maharatna Status	Criteria for Navratna Status	Criteria for Miniratna Status
1. Shall have Navratna status	1. Miniratna Category - I or Schedule 'A' CPSEs	Miniratna Category-I status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made profit in the last 3 years continuously • Pre-tax profit is Rs.30 crores or more in at least 1 of the 3 years • Having Positive net worth status
2. Listed on the Indian stock exchange with prescribed public shareholding	2. 'Excellent' or 'Very Good' rating in 3 of last 5 years	
3. Average annual turnover > Rs. 25,000 crores (last 3 years)	3. Composite score of 60 or above in the following 6 performance indicators including	Miniratna Category-II status: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made profit for the last 3 years continuously • Having positive net worth status. • Not defaulted in the repayment of loans/interest payment on any loans due to the Government. • Not dependent upon budgetary support or Government guarantees.
4. Average annual net worth > Rs. 15,000 crores (last 3 years)	Net Profit to Net Worth, Cost of Services, Earning per share, etc.	
5. Average annual net profit after tax > Rs. 5,000 crores (last 3 years)		
6. Significant global presence/international operations		




- **Eligibility Criteria for Navratna Status:**

- To qualify as a Navratna CPSE, a company must:
 - **Be a Miniratna-I CPSE with a positive net worth.**
 - Secure an “Excellent” or “Very Good” MoU rating in **three of the last five years.**
 - Score **60+ points** on key financial indicators, including **net profit, net worth, and manpower cost.**
 - Have at least **four independent directors** on its board.
- 



- **Benefits of Navratna Status to Firms:**

- **Investment Autonomy:** Can invest up to **₹1,000 crore or 15% of net worth** without government approval.
 - **Expansion and Diversification:** Freedom to form **joint ventures, subsidiaries, and alliances** globally.
 - **Increased Market Credibility:** Attracts **investors and strategic partnerships**, enhancing business growth.
- 

Strengthening Tribunals in India





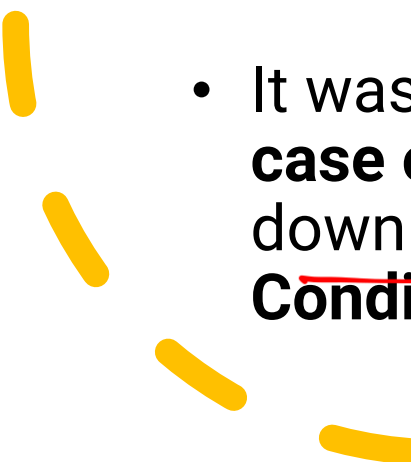
- The **Supreme Court (SC)** is examining key issues affecting tribunals and reviewing the constitutional validity of the **Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021**.
- It underscored the importance strengthening **tribunals** to ensure **efficient adjudication and maintain public confidence**





- What is the Tribunals Reforms Act, 2021?


- **About:**

- The **Act** was enacted to **streamline the functioning of tribunals** by **dissolving certain appellate tribunals** and transferring their functions to existing judicial bodies like the High Courts.
 - It was introduced in **response to the Supreme Court's ruling in the case of *Madras Bar Association vs. Union of India (2021)***, which struck down certain provisions of the **Tribunal Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021**.
- 

- 
- **Key Provisions: Abolition of Tribunal:** The Act dissolves multiple appellate tribunals and shifts their functions to High Courts and other judicial bodies
- 

EIGHT TRIBUNALS DISSOLVED VIA BILL

Act under which Tribunal was setup	Abolished tribunal	Where disputes are heard after abolition
The Cinematograph Act, 1952	Film Certification Appellate Tribunal	High Court
The Trade Marks Act, 1999	Intellectual Property Appellate Board	High Court
The Copyright Act, 1957	Intellectual Property Appellate Board	Commercial Division of High Court
The Customs Act, 1962	Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal	High Court
The Patents Act, 1970	Intellectual Property Appellate Board	High Court
The Airports Authority of India Act, 1994	Airports Appellate Tribunal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Central government (disposal of properties on airport premises left by unauthorised occupants) ■ High Court (appeals against eviction orders)
The Control of National Highways (Land & Traffic) Act, 2002	The National Highways Tribunal	Civil Court
The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999	Intellectual Property Appellate Board	High Court

- 
- **Search-cum-Selection Committee:** It has been established to recommend the appointment of tribunal chairpersons and members. **For Central Tribunals:**

- **Chairperson:** Chief Justice of India (CJI) or a Supreme Court judge nominated by the CJI (casting vote).

- Two **Secretaries** nominated by the Central Government.

- **Sitting/outgoing Chairperson of the tribunal**, or a retired Supreme Court judge, or a retired Chief Justice of a High Court.

- **Non-voting member:** Secretary of the relevant Union Ministry






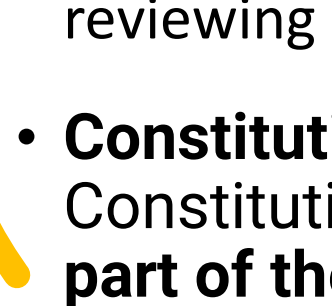
- **For State Administrative Tribunals:**

- **Chairperson:** Chief Justice of the respective High Court (casting vote).
- **Chief Secretary** of the State Government.
- Chairman of the **State Public Service Commission**.
- **Sitting/outgoing Chairperson of the Tribunal** or a retired High Court Judge.



- **Tenure and Age Limits:** Tenure for Chairperson and Members **4 years**, with a **minimum age of 50 years**.



- 
- What are Tribunals?
 - **About:** A tribunal is a quasi-judicial body that deals with the resolution of disputes pertaining to **administration, taxation, environment, securities, etc.**
 - **Functions:** It performs various functions, including **adjudicating disputes, determining rights between parties**, making administrative decisions, and reviewing existing administrative rulings.
 - **Constitutional Provisions:** Tribunals were introduced in the Indian Constitution through the **42nd Amendment Act, 1976**, as they were **not part of the original Constitution.**
- 



10 MCQ from the session

- Which country is set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India on defense cooperation by the end of 2025?
- कौन सा देश 2025 के अंत तक भारत के साथ रक्षा सहयोग पर एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर करने के लिए तैयार है?
- A. France / फ्रांस
- B. Belgium / बेल्जियम
- C. Germany / जर्मनी
- D. United Kingdom / यूनाइटेड किंगडम

- What is the key strategic goal of Belgium in strengthening defense ties with India?
- भारत के साथ रक्षा संबंधों को मजबूत करने में बेल्जियम का प्रमुख रणनीतिक लक्ष्य क्या है?
- A. To expand its influence in the Indo-Pacific / इंडो-पैसिफिक में अपना प्रभाव बढ़ाना
- B. To achieve "strategic autonomy" in defense / रक्षा में "रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता" प्राप्त करना
- C. To supply advanced missiles to India / भारत को उन्नत मिसाइलें आपूर्ति करना
- D. To reduce dependence on NATO alliances / NATO गठबंधन पर निर्भरता कम करना

- Which Indian company has partnered with Belgium's John Cockerill Defence (JCD) to manufacture tank turrets?
- कौन सी भारतीय कंपनी बेल्जियम की जॉन कॉकरेल डिफेंस (JCD) के साथ टैंक टर्नेट्स के निर्माण के लिए साझेदारी कर रही है?
- A. Bharat Dynamics Ltd. (BDL) / भारत डायनेमिक्स लिमिटेड (BDL)
- B. Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics (EPH) / इलेक्ट्रो न्यूमैटिक्स एंड हाइड्रॉलिक्स (EPH)
- C. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) / हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड (HAL)
- D. Tata Advanced Systems / टाटा एडवांस्ड सिस्टम्स

- What is the name of India's indigenous light tank program for which tank turrets are being developed?
- भारत के स्वदेशी हल्के टैंक कार्यक्रम का नाम क्या है, जिसके लिए टैंक टर्नेट्स विकसित किए जा रहे हैं?
- A. Arjun Mk-II / अर्जुन Mk-II
- B. K-9 Vajra / के-9 वैज्र
- C. Zorawar / ज़ोरावर
- D. Bhishma T-90 / भिष्म T-90

- What is the targeted Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) achieved by India under the National Health Policy?
- राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य नीति के तहत भारत ने किस मातृ मृत्यु दर (MMR) लक्ष्य को प्राप्त किया है?
- A. 150 deaths per 1 lakh live births / 1 लाख जीवित जन्मों पर 150 मौतें
- B. 120 deaths per 1 lakh live births / 1 लाख जीवित जन्मों पर 120 मौतें
- C. 100 deaths per 1 lakh live births / 1 लाख जीवित जन्मों पर 100 मौतें
- D. 80 deaths per 1 lakh live births / 1 लाख जीवित जन्मों पर 80 मौतें

- Which new technological initiative has been launched under the Bharat Health Initiative?
- भारत स्वास्थ्य पहल के तहत कौन सी नई तकनीकी पहल शुरू की गई है?
- A. BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita, and Maitri)
B. PM-JAY Digital Health Mission
C. National e-Health Program (NeHP)
D. Ayushman Bharat 2.0

- What is the primary objective of 'Payodhi' launched by AIIMS?
- AIIMS द्वारा शुरू किए गए 'पयोधि' का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- A. To provide nutrition to pregnant women / गर्भवती महिलाओं को पोषण प्रदान करना
- B. To provide pasteurized donor human milk to critically ill preterm babies / गंभीर रूप से बीमार समयपूर्व शिशुओं को पास्चुराइज़ किया हुआ दान किया गया मानव दूध प्रदान करना
- C. To develop vaccines for newborns / नवजात शिशुओं के लिए टीके विकसित करना
- D. To promote breastfeeding awareness / स्तनपान जागरूकता को बढ़ावा देना

- Which two companies were recently granted 'Navratna' status by the Central Government?
- केंद्र सरकार द्वारा हाल ही में किन दो कंपनियों को 'नवरत्न' का दर्जा दिया गया?
- A. BHEL and ONGC
B. IRCTC and IRFC
C. NTPC and SAIL
D. HAL and BEL

- According to the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, who heads the search-cum-selection committee for central tribunals?
- न्यायाधिकरण सुधार अधिनियम, 2021 के अनुसार, केंद्रीय न्यायाधिकरणों के लिए खोज-सह-चयन समिति का अध्यक्ष कौन होता है?
- A. Prime Minister of India / भारत के प्रधानमंत्री
B. Chief Justice of India (CJI) or a Supreme Court Judge nominated by CJI / भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI) या उनके द्वारा नामित एक सुप्रीम कोर्ट जज
C. Chairperson of the Tribunal / न्यायाधिकरण के अध्यक्ष
D. Union Minister of Law and Justice / कानून और न्याय मंत्री

- Under which Constitutional Amendment were tribunals introduced in India?
- भारत में न्यायाधिकरण (Tribunals) किस संवैधानिक संशोधन के तहत पेश किए गए थे?
- A. 39th Amendment Act, 1975
- B. 42nd Amendment Act, 1976
- C. 44th Amendment Act, 1978
- D. 52nd Amendment Act, 1985

80/100

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Word of the day

Supine:

lying face upward; passive as a result of indolence or indifference


Synonym: inactive

Usage: *No other colony showed such supine, selfish helplessness in allowing her own border citizens to be mercilessly harried.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/supinepro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /'s(j)u:paɪn/



Thank you
guys.
