

Daily Current Affairs



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3
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10 MCQ QUIZ

"Manifest good."

Top 10 MCQ from
today's session

- South Korea declared **martial law** for the first time in over 40 years.
What was the stated reason for this declaration?
दक्षिण कोरिया ने 40 वर्षों में पहली बार **मार्शल लॉ** लागू किया। इस घोषणा का मुख्य कारण क्या था?
- **A. Threats from North Korea and anti-state forces / उत्तर कोरिया और राज्य विरोधी ताकतों से खतरा**
- **B. Economic instability / आर्थिक अस्थिरता**
- **C. Public protests against the government / सरकार के खिलाफ सार्वजनिक प्रदर्शन**
- **D. Cybersecurity breaches / साइबर सुरक्षा उल्लंघन**

- India's **MH-60R multi-role helicopter deal** with the United States aims to enhance which capability?
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के साथ भारत के **MH-60R मल्टी-रोल हेलीकॉप्टर सौदे** का उद्देश्य किस क्षमता को बढ़ाना है?
- **A. Anti-submarine warfare / पनडुब्बी रोधी युद्ध**
- **B. Air-to-air combat / हवा से हवा में लड़ाई**
- **C. Strategic airlift / सामरिक हवाई परिवहन**
- **D. Border surveillance / सीमा निगरानी**

- . India accounts for **7-8% of all recorded species** globally. How many biogeographic zones does India have?
भारत वैश्विक स्तर पर **7-8% दर्ज प्रजातियों** के लिए जिम्मेदार है। भारत में कितने जैव भौगोलिक क्षेत्र हैं?
- **A. 8**
- **B. 9**
- **C. 10**
- **D. 12**

- The **13th edition of the National Seed Congress (NSC)** was recently held. What was its theme?
हाल ही में **राष्ट्रीय बीज कांग्रेस (NSC) के 13वें संस्करण** का आयोजन किया गया। इसका विषय क्या था?
- **A. Innovating for a Sustainable Seed Ecosystem / स्थायी बीज पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के लिए नवाचार**
- **B. Enhancing Farmer Productivity / किसान उत्पादकता बढ़ाना**
- **C. Towards a Climate-Resilient Agriculture / जलवायु लचीला कृषि की ओर**
- **D. Sustainable Crop Diversification / स्थायी फसल विविधीकरण**

- The **PENCiL Portal** was launched to combat child labour. Under which act does this portal function?

PENCiL पोर्टल बाल श्रम से निपटने के लिए लॉन्च किया गया था। यह पोर्टल किस अधिनियम के तहत कार्य करता है?

- **A. Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 / बाल श्रम (प्रतिषेध और विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1986**
- B. Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 / किशोर न्याय अधिनियम, 2015**
- C. National Child Policy Act, 2009 / राष्ट्रीय बाल नीति अधिनियम, 2009**
- D. Education and Child Welfare Act, 2012 / शिक्षा और बाल कल्याण अधिनियम, 2012**

- India accounts for **7-8% of all recorded species globally**. How many global biodiversity hotspots are present in India?
भारत वैश्विक स्तर पर **7-8% दुर्ज प्रजातियों** के लिए जिम्मेदार है। भारत में कितने वैश्विक जैव विविधता हाटस्पाट हैं?
- **A. 2**
- **B. 3**
- **C. 4**
- **D. 5**

- The **National Seed Congress (NSC)** focused on strengthening India's agricultural sector. What was the theme of its 13th edition?
राष्ट्रीय बीज कांग्रेस (NSC) का उद्देश्य भारत के कृषि क्षेत्र को मजबूत करना है। इसके 13वें संस्करण का विषय क्या था?
- **A. Innovating for a Sustainable Seed Ecosystem / स्थायी बीज पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के लिए नवाचार**
- **B. Seeds for Future Farming / भविष्य की खेती के लिए बीज**
- **C. Climate-Resilient Agriculture / जलवायु-लचीला कृषि**
- **D. Advancing Agri-Tech Solutions / एग्री-टेक समाधान को बढ़ावा देना**

- The **Coastal Erosion Report** highlighted that **33.6% of India's coastline** is threatened. Which ministry presented this data?

तटीय कटाव रिपोर्ट ने उजागर किया कि भारत के **33.6% तटीय क्षेत्र** को खतरा है। यह डेटा किस मंत्रालय द्वारा प्रस्तुत किया गया?

- **A. Ministry of Earth Sciences / पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय**
- **B. Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change / पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय**
- **C. Ministry of Water Resources / जल संसाधन मंत्रालय**
- **D. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs / आवास और शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय**

- The **Paryatan Mitra/Paryatan Didi initiative** aims to enhance tourism in India. How many pilot destinations were selected for this initiative?
पर्यटन मित्र/पर्यटन दीदी पहल का उद्देश्य भारत में पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देना है। इस पहल के लिए कितने पायलट स्थलों का चयन किया गया था?
- **A. 4**
- **B. 5**
- **C. 6**
- **D. 7**

- The **13th edition of Exercise Agni Warrior (XAW-2024)** between India and Singapore was conducted in Maharashtra. What is the primary focus of this exercise?

भारत और सिंगापुर के बीच अभ्यास अग्नि योद्धा (XAW-2024) के 13वें संस्करण का आयोजन महाराष्ट्र में किया गया। इस अभ्यास का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?

- **A. Maritime security cooperation / समुद्री सुरक्षा सहयोग**
- **B. Joint counter-terrorism operations / संयुक्त आतंकवाद विरोधी अभियान**
- **C. Cybersecurity readiness / साइबर सुरक्षा तैयारी**
- **D. Border patrol tactics / सीमा गश्ती रणनीतियाँ**

India backs UN resolution calling on Israel to leave Palestine

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India voted in favour of a United Nations General Assembly resolution that called for the withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem. The resolution reiterated the call for achieving a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in West Asia.

The draft resolution, "Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine", tabled by Senegal, was overwhelmingly adopted in the 193-member General Assembly on Tuesday.

India was among the 157 nations that voted in favour, while eight member states – Argentina, Hungary, Israel, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, and the United States – voted against it.

Cameroon, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Georgia, Paraguay, Ukraine, and Uruguay abstained.

The resolution called for the "withdrawal of Israel from the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem" and for the realisation of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination and the right to their independent state.

Through the resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed its support, per international law, for the two-state solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognised borders, based on the pre-1967 borders. It rejected any attempt at demographic change in the Gaza Strip. India also voted in favour of a resolution that demanded that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of June 1967.



Palestinian Loss of Land 1947 to Present





West Bank
(Palestine)

Gaza
(Palestine)

Israel

Sinai Peninsula
(Egypt)

Egypt

Syria

Lebanon

Golan
Heights

Sea of
Galilee

Dead
Sea

Jordan

Saudi Arabia

ISRAEL'S BOUNDARIES TODAY

- Palestinian civil control
- Built-up Palestinian area



INITIAL TENSIONS AND CONFLICTS (1956-1979)

- ↳ **Suez Crisis** and Israeli **invasion of Sinai Peninsula** in 1956
- ↳ **Six-Day War (1967)** - Israel gained control over Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, East Jerusalem and Golan Heights

Controversy over Jerusalem as Capital

- **Israel view:** Complete and united Jerusalem
- **Palestinians view:** East Jerusalem future capital

- ↳ **Yom Kippur War (1973)** - Surprise attack by Egypt and Syria
- ↳ **Camp David Accords (1979)** b/w Egypt and Israel

Intifada (Arabic for 'shake off')

- **First Intifada** - 1987 to 1993
 - ◆ Led to the foundation of Hamas (1987) - a Palestinian political party designated as a foreign terrorist org by US
 - ◆ Response - **Madrid Conference 1991** (chaired by the US and Russia)
- **Second Intifada** - 2000-2005
- The latest escalation (2023) is being called the beginning of "Third Intifada"

- **India Supports UN Resolution for Israel's Withdrawal from Palestine**
- **Overview of the Resolution**
- India voted in favor of a **UN General Assembly resolution** demanding Israel's withdrawal from Palestinian territories occupied since **1967**, including **East Jerusalem**.
 - भारत ने 1967 से कब्जे में लिए गए पूर्वी यरुशलम समेत फिलिस्तीनी क्षेत्रों से इजराइल की वापसी की मांग करने वाले संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा के प्रस्ताव के पक्ष में मतदान किया।
- The resolution emphasizes the **inalienable rights** of Palestinians, including the **right to self-determination** and independence.
 - प्रस्ताव फिलिस्तीनियों के आत्मनिर्णय और स्वतंत्रता के अधिकार को रेखांकित करता है।

Voting Results

157 countries, including India, supported the resolution.

- 157 देशों ने प्रस्ताव का समर्थन किया।

8 countries, including the United States and Israel, opposed it.

- अमेरिका और इजराइल सहित 8 देशों ने विरोध किया।

9 nations, such as Ukraine and Uruguay, abstained.

- यूक्रेन और उरुग्वे सहित 9 देशों ने मतदान में भाग नहीं लिया।

Key Points of the Resolution

Call for Israel's Withdrawal

- Demands Israel's complete withdrawal from **Palestinian territories** occupied post-1967, including **East Jerusalem**.
- प्रस्ताव में 1967 के बाद कब्जे में लिए गए पूर्वी यरुशलम से इजराइल की वापसी की मांग की गई है।

- **Two-State Solution**

- Reaffirms support for a two-state solution under international law, ensuring both Israel and Palestine coexist peacefully within **recognized borders**.

- अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून के तहत दो-राज्य समाधान का समर्थन, जहां मान्यता प्राप्त सीमाओं में इजराइल और फिलिस्तीन शांति से रह सकें।

- **Gaza Strip**

- Opposes any demographic changes in the Gaza Strip.
 - गाजा पट्टी में जनसांख्यिकी परिवर्तन का विरोध।

1. Syrian Golan Heights

1. India supported another resolution urging Israel to withdraw from the **Syrian Golan Heights** to the pre-1967 lines.

1. भारत ने सीरियाई गोलान पहाड़ियों से 1967 से पहले की सीमाओं तक इजराइल की वापसी का समर्थन किया।

- **India's Stand**

- India's vote aligns with its **historic support** for Palestinian rights and the **peaceful resolution** of conflicts in **West Asia**.

- भारत का रुख पश्चिम एशिया में शांतिपूर्ण समाधान और फिलिस्तीनी अधिकारों के लिए ऐतिहासिक समर्थन से मेल खाता है।

IN BRIEF



No protest or strike can be allowed at Sabarimala: HC

The Kerala High Court has slammed dolly operators at Sabarimala for going on a flash strike on Tuesday in protest against the Travancore Devaswam Trust's move to introduce prepaid counters for the dolly cartage services. The court said Sabarimala is a place of worship and no such protest or strike could be allowed there. If the operators had any complaints, they should have informed the TDT in advance, it said.

First report of autobiography soon: CPI(M) leader Jayaram

Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader E.P. Jayaram in preparing to release the first part of his autobiography by December end. A row broke out in Kerala over the autobiography after its purported excerpts - said to be critical of the PM-led government - were released by publisher DC Books on November 13. The day before the excerpts were held in the State, Mr. Jayaram filed a police complaint, alleging a conspiracy behind the unauthorised release.

T.N. pilgrim killed, around 20 injured as bus falls into gorge

One person was killed and 20 were injured when a taxi carrying pilgrims from Sabarimala collided with a lorry and plunged into a gorge at Aranyakam in Kozhikode district on Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Chandrasekhar from Sabarimala. Ten others were injured have been admitted to the Punarab Thak Hospital. Two critically injured passengers have been shifted to the Government Medical College Hospital in Thiruvananthapuram. The accident took place near the Aranyakam check post.

Hyderabad to get India's first Google Safety Engineering Centre

The Telangana government has entered into a strategically crucial and broad-ranging partnership with Google on Wednesday with the company asserting that it is committed to establishing India's first Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC) in the city, as per an announcement.

It would be the first of its kind in the Asia Pacific region, after Tokyo, and only the fifth in the world, with similar facilities in Dublin, Munich and Malaga.

GSEC's focus "This GSEC is a specialised international cybersecurity hub that will play a vital role in developing advanced security and online safety products for the Indian context. The centre will focus on cutting-edge research, AI-driven security solutions, and creating a collaborative platform for leading experts and researchers in cybersecurity. It also aims to foster skill development, boost employment, and enhance cybersecurity capabilities among 'India, as per the press release.

Mobile awareness



Safety Week: The Karnataka State Road Safety Authority conducting an awareness drive to educate people about road safety using digital vans at different locations in Mangaluru on Wednesday. U.S. IAN/AN/PT

Kerala's draft heli-tourism policy suggests developing a network of heliports at strategic locations

Dhishah Kallungal THIRUVANANTHAPURAM The draft heli-tourism policy released by the Kerala government envisages linking commercially attractive sites closer to major tourism destinations in the State with a sizeable number of football with chopper services.

The policy lays thrust on developing infrastructure, such as heliports, helipads, and heliports, on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis. The draft policy suggests developing heliports in the vicinity of at least four airports in Kerala.

These heliports will serve as feeder hubs for the heliports and helipads to be developed near locations of tourism importance. The draft policy also suggests making use of many operational heliports in the State which can be put to use for the development of a heli-tourism network. The draft also suggests formulating various models for the development of heliports in the PPP mode.

In the first category, the land will be provided by the State government and the private entities should be responsible for developing the required infrastructure and operation of facilities on concession. At the end of the concession period, the entire facility should be transferred to the government. The second option envisages infrastructure being developed and owned by the government, but operators will be handled by private entities. At locations that are critically important, the policy envisages developing heliports, helipads, and heliports and operations by the government itself.

5.3 magnitude earthquake jolts Telangana's Mulugu

Tremors felt in central and northern India: biggest earthquake recorded in the past 55 years in the region, no reports of casualties or property damage as seismic energy dispersed at greater depth

The Hindu Bureau HYDERABAD

A magnitude 5.3 earthquake on Richter scale that originated 40 km below ground in the Kurnagaram forest area of Telangana was felt in central and northern India at 7.27 a.m. The National Centre for Seismology (NCS) identified the location as 168km NNE of Nalgonda and 250km ENE of Hyderabad. Many citizens reported feeling the tremors for a few seconds. There were no reports of loss of life or damage to property.



Significance It was the second biggest quake recorded in the last 55 years in the region, according to scientists at the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). **Fault zone** NCS identified the location as 168km NNE of Nalgonda and 250km ENE of Hyderabad. **Depth** The quake occurred at a depth of 40 km below ground.

Rise above politics, provide relief to people hit by Wayanad landslide: Priyanka to Shah

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi, leading a delegation of parliamentarians from Kerala, called Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday demanding the Centre's support for the landslide-affected people of Wayanad. She said the Centre should rise above partisan politics in provid-

ing relief and pointed out that the landslide-affected people in Wayanad had no support system left. The delegation included K.C. Vasudevan and Kodikunni Suresh of the Congress, Jyoti Prasad of the CPI(M), E.T. Mohammed Basheer of the Indian Union Muslim League. Mr. Vasudevan said people had a lot of hope after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the area and

if the Centre could not step up to meet the expectations of the victims, it would send a very bad message to the entire country. "We appealed him of the situation there and told him how people have been devastated. Large parts of the river's entire course has changed and everything was washed away," she told reporters after meeting Mr. Modi's visit to the area and

depth," says a preliminary analysis by the NCS. While the NCS identified the location in the forests of Kurnagaram, the US Geological Survey monitoring station reported the quake as originating on the banks of the Godavari River near the same location. The NCS said it received 100 text responses on its app and website with most of them originating in Telangana. NCS-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) scientists said that the "moderate" earthquake that occurred at Medaram in Mulugu district in the second largest quake recorded in the last 55 years in the region, but there is "nothing to be alarmed about".

A.P. dam project may adversely impact tribals in Odisha: BJD

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

A delegation of elected representatives, former Ministers, and legislators of the Biju Janata Dal from Odisha's Malkangiri and Koraput regions on Wednesday met with Astar Singh Arya, Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) in New Delhi, seeking the Commission's urgent intervention in the Polavaram dam project in Andhra Pradesh. In a memorandum to the Chairperson, the representatives from Odisha raised a number of issues regarding the project and the way it was proceeding, arguing that its implications on the lives and livelihoods of local tribal populations in the upstream regions of Odisha required urgent attention and remedial actions.



The BJD delegation seeking a memorandum to NCST Chairperson Astar Singh Arya in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Submergence risk The key issue raised by the delegation, led by senior leader Debi Prasad Mishra, was over alleged changes to the design flood discharge capacity for the project and the consequent backwater submergence. In the memorandum, the delegation said the flood discharge capacity was increased from 36 lakh cumecs to 80 lakh cumecs without any consent of the Government of Odisha and "without proper public hearings in Odisha and Chhattisgarh".

The representatives said: "This shift has caused apprehensions among the affected populations of Malkangiri, who are at risk of losing their lands and homes." In their memorandum, the leaders from Odisha have asked that the NCST "initiate a comprehensive backwater study of its own to assess the potential impact of the project on thousands of tribal populations in the States of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana." The leaders also met with Union Jal Shakti Minister C.B. Patel on Tuesday over the same issue. In their submissions to the ST Commission, the leaders said there were lack of transparency in the clearances granted for the project. Affected States were not adequately brought into the loop, they said. The leaders alleged that the environmental clearances for the Polavaram project were granted "without proper public hearings in Odisha and without conducting detailed backwater studies for the updated flood discharge capacity."

ED's letter to Lokayukta on MUDA site allotment is a bid to influence case: Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau BANGALORE

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday described the letter written by the Directorate of Industries to state Lokayukta on the alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites for the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) to his wife Parvathi as an effort to "influence" the court. While seeking queries from respondents during a visit to Mandya district on Wednesday, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the letter by ED comes on the eve of the September 24, 2024 decision of a single judge



Siddaramaiah

judge of the High Court of Karnataka in the MUDA case. A Division Bench headed by the Chief Justice of the High Court of Karnataka will on Thursday hear an appeal by Mr. Siddaramaiah, who has challenged the September 24, 2024 decision of a single judge

who had upheld the Government's action of granting permission to conduct an investigation against him on alleged irregularities in allotment of 14 sites worth ₹56 crore by MUDA. The appeals filed by Devaraju J., who had sold three acres of land in Kottase village to Mr. Siddaramaiah's brother-in-law in 2014 after getting the land allotted from MUDA, are also listed for hearing along with Mr. Siddaramaiah's appeal. Mr. Siddaramaiah said the ED's letter was "prejudicial" to the probe by Lokayukta probe as well as the court hearing. He said the letter sent by ED was "politically motivated".

Panel seeks timely action to curb illegal discharge of waste into Ashtamudi Lake

The Hindu Bureau KOLLAM

The State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC), Kerala, appointed by the National Green Tribunal, has recommended implementation of projects in a time-bound manner to check the illegal discharge of bio-waste, including faecal sludge, into Ashtamudi Lake in Kollam district. A preliminary probe indicates the presence of excessive 'algae bloom', a direct result of discharge of bio-waste, points out A.V. Ramakrishna Pillai, Chairman of the SLMC, Kerala, in his report on the mass fish kill reported in Ashtamudi Lake on October 27.



Garbage accumulated on the shore of Ashtamudi Lake in Kollam district of Kerala, in a river.

The report dated November 13, 2024 was submitted before the Principal Bench of the tribunal in New Delhi in an original petition related to the pollution of Ashtamudi and Vembanad Lakes, both

which is sluggish. If it is completed on a war footing, a major portion of the problem relating to sewage waste in Kollam district can be solved. The tribunal may issue instructions to the Kerala Water Authority to complete the project in a time-bound manner, says the report. The SLMC has also urged the tribunal to issue strict instructions to the Kollam district administration, Kollam municipal corporation, and the Kerala Suchewa mission to ensure that the contract engaged in collection of sewage waste are regulated with the local bodies concerned.

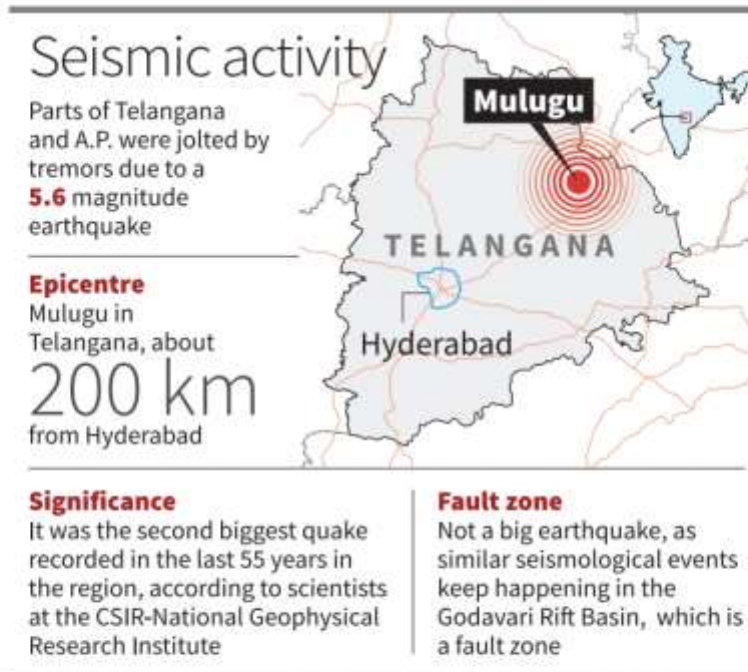
5.3 magnitude earthquake jolts Telangana's Mulugu

Tremors felt in central and northern India; biggest earthquake recorded in the past 55 years in the region; no reports of casualties or property damage as seismic energy dispersed at greater depth

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A magnitude 5.3 earthquake on Richter Scale that originated 40 km below ground in the Eturnagaram forest area of Telangana was felt in central and northern India at 7.27 a.m. The National Centre for Seismology (NCS) identified the location as 185km NNE of Nalgonda and 219km ENE of Hyderabad. Many citizens reported feeling the tremors for a few seconds. There were no reports of loss of life or damage to property.

“The epicentre of the earthquake is confined to the Godavari fault system and its vicinity where sev-



eral earthquakes in the past happened and it is therefore, the zone of strain energy release and occurred at the deeper

layers that caused the lesser degree of shaking than expected due to dissipation of maximum seismic energy at the deeper

depth,” says a preliminary analysis by the NCS.

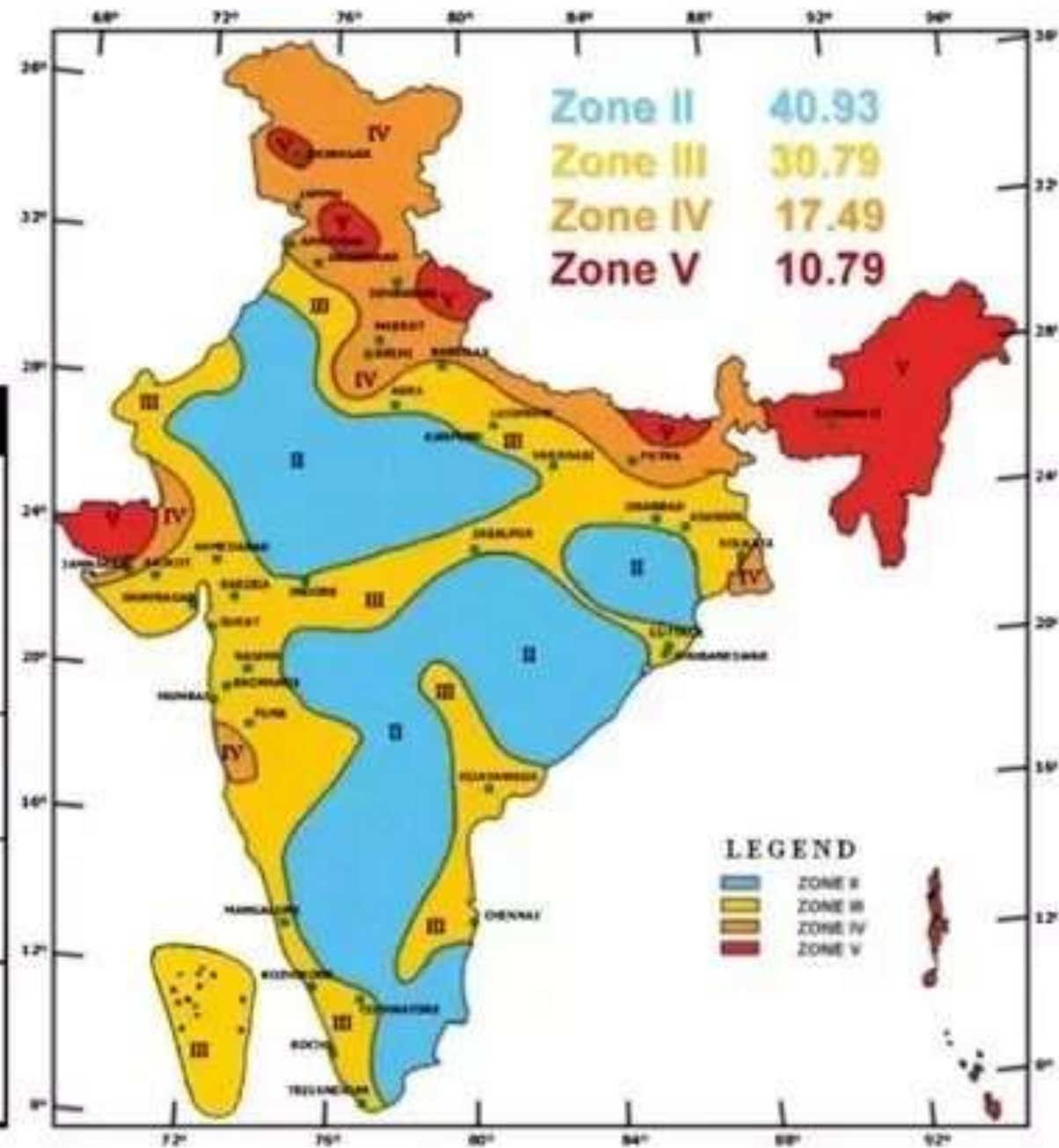
While the NCS identified the location in the forests of Eturnagaram, the US Geological Survey monitoring station reported the quake as originating on the banks of the Godavari River near the same location. The NCS said it received 100 felt-responses on its app and website with most of them originating in Telangana.

CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) scientists said that the ‘moderate’ earthquake that occurred at Medaram in Mulugu district is the second biggest one recorded in the last 55 years in the region, but there is “nothing to be alarmed about”.

Seismic Zone Map of India: -2002

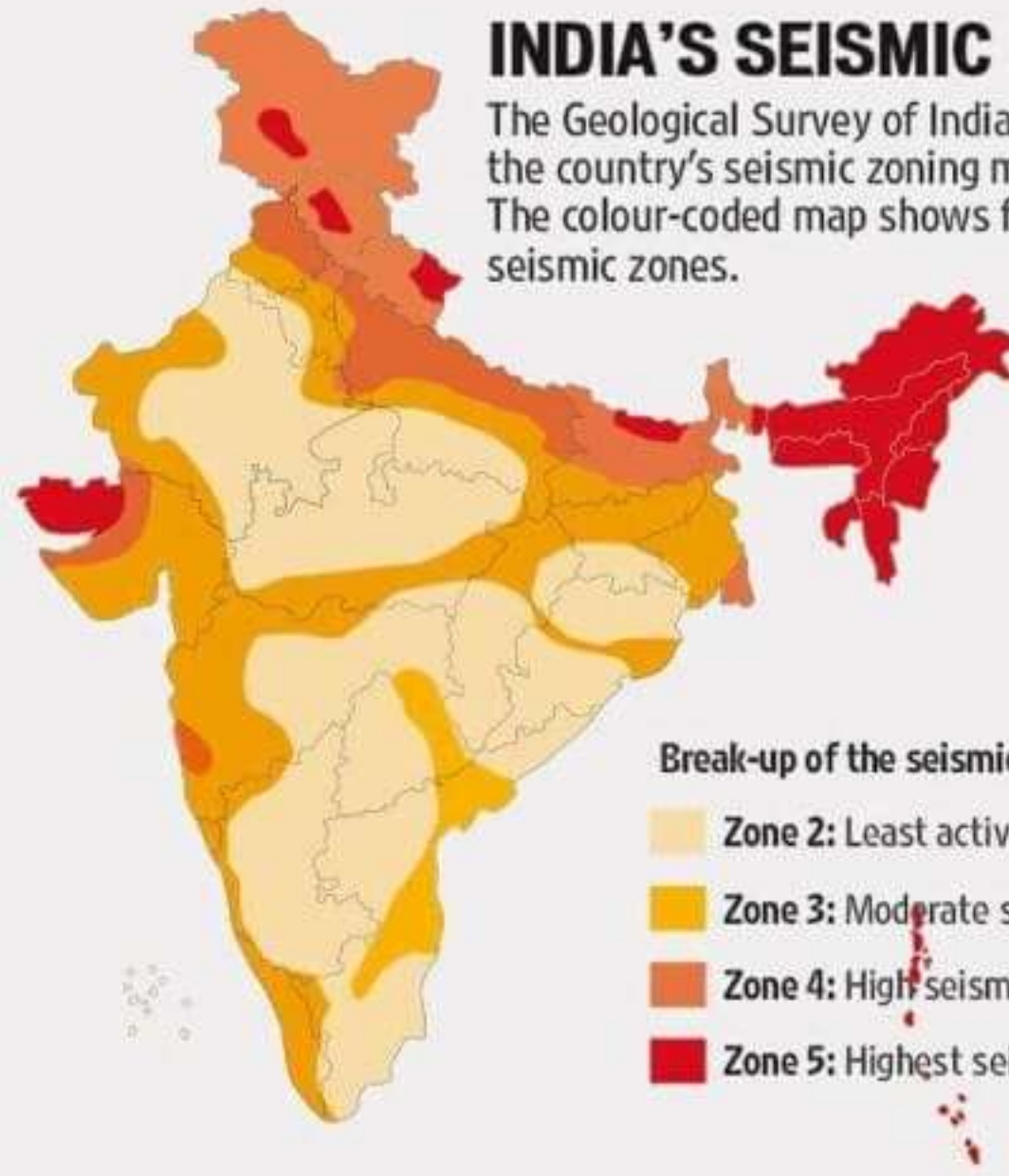
About 59 percent of the land area of India is liable to seismic hazard damage

Zone	Intensity
Zone V	Very High Risk Zone Area liable to shaking Intensity IX (and above)
Zone IV	High Risk Zone Intensity VIII
Zone III	Moderate Risk Zone Intensity VII
Zone II	Low Risk Zone VI (and lower)



INDIA'S SEISMIC ZONES

The Geological Survey of India published the country's seismic zoning map in 1935. The colour-coded map shows four distinct seismic zones.



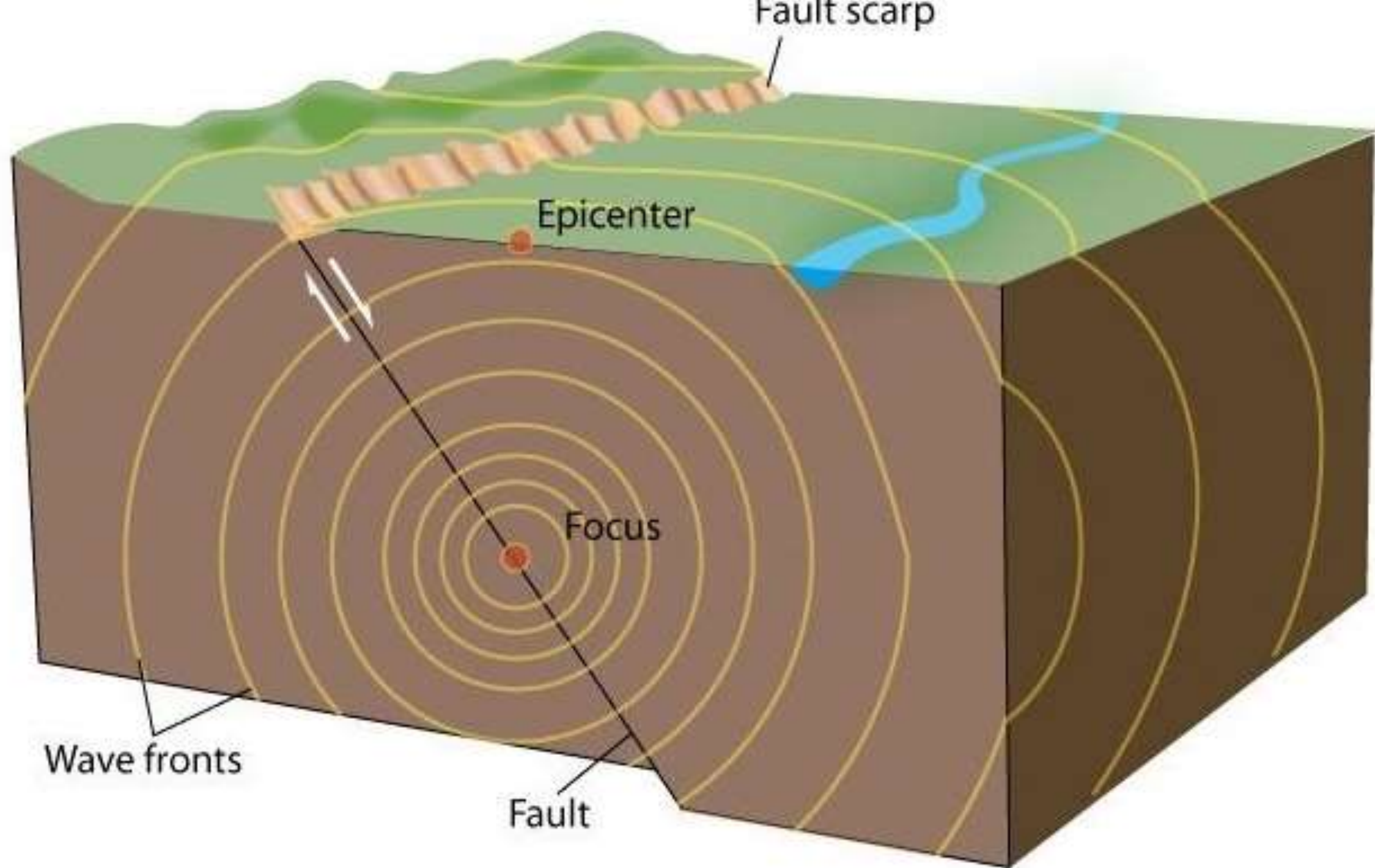
Break-up of the seismic zones:

- Zone 2: Least active seismic zone**
- Zone 3: Moderate seismic zone**
- Zone 4: High seismic zone**
- Zone 5: Highest seismic zone**



EARTHQUAKE MAGNITUDE SCALE







1. Body Waves

- **Primary waves (P-waves):**
 - The fastest type of seismic wave.
 - Travel through solids, liquids, and gases.
 - Cause particles in the medium to move back and forth in the same direction as the wave (longitudinal motion).
- **Secondary waves (S-waves):**
 - Slower than P-waves.
 - Travel only through solids, not liquids or gases.
 - Cause particles to move perpendicular to the wave's direction of travel (transverse motion).

2. Surface Waves

- **Love waves (L-waves):**
 - Move horizontally, side to side, perpendicular to the direction of wave travel.
 - Cause significant horizontal shearing of the ground, damaging structures.
- **Rayleigh waves (R-waves):**
 - Move in an elliptical, rolling motion similar to ocean waves.
 - Cause both vertical and horizontal ground motion.
 - Responsible for much of the shaking felt during earthquakes.

Comparison of Rayleigh and Love Waves

Feature	Rayleigh Waves	Love Waves
Particle Motion	Elliptical (retrograde, rolling motion)	Horizontal, side-to-side motion
Direction	Vertical and horizontal displacement	Horizontal displacement only
Speed	Slower than Love waves	Faster than Rayleigh waves
Damage	Rolling motion damages structures	Shearing motion damages structures

- **Event Overview**
- **Magnitude:** 5.3 on the Richter Scale.
 - मात्रा: रिक्टर पैमाने पर 5.3।
- **Time:** 7:27 AM.
 - समय: सुबह 7:27 बजे।
- **Epicenter:** Eturnagaram forest area, 185 km NNE of Nalgonda and 219 km ENE of Hyderabad.
 - केंद्रबिंदु: एटुर्नागारम वन क्षेत्र, नलगोंडा से 185 किमी उत्तर-उत्तर-पूर्व और हैदराबाद से 219 किमी पूर्व-उत्तर-पूर्व।

- **Impact**

- 1. Tremors Felt:**

1. Felt across **central and northern India**, including parts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
2. **कंपन:** तेलंगाना और आंध्र प्रदेश सहित मध्य और उत्तरी भारत में महसूस किया गया।

- 2. No Casualties or Damage:**

1. No reports of **life loss or property damage** due to the deep origin of the quake.
2. **कोई हानि नहीं:** भूकंप की गहराई के कारण जान-माल का नुकसान नहीं हुआ।

Geological Significance

Historical Context:

- Second-largest earthquake recorded in the region in the past **55 years**.
- **इतिहास:** क्षेत्र में पिछले 55 वर्षों में दर्ज किया गया दूसरा सबसे बड़ा भूकंप।

Fault Zone:

- Linked to the **Godavari Rift Basin**, known for regular seismic activity.
- **भूकंपीय क्षेत्र:** गोदावरी दरार बेसिन से जुड़ा, जो नियमित भूकंपीय गतिविधियों के लिए जाना जाता है।

Observations by Authorities

NCS (National Centre for Seismology):

- Reported the **depth of origin** at 40 km below ground.
- **राष्ट्रीय भूकंपीय केंद्र**: भूकंप का केंद्र पृथ्वी से 40 किमी नीचे बताया।

CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute:

- Assessed it as a **moderate earthquake**, with dissipated seismic energy reducing its impact.
- **सीएसआईआर-राष्ट्रीय भूभौतिकीय अनुसंधान संस्थान**: इसे "मध्यम भूकंप" माना, जिसमें ऊर्जा का प्रभाव कम रहा।

Hyderabad to get India's first Google Safety Engineering Centre

The Hindu Bureau

HYDERABAD

Google has chosen Hyderabad to set up Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC).

The Telangana government has entered into a 'strategically-crucial' and broad ranging partnership with Google on Wednesday with the company asserting that it is committed to establishing India's first Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC) in the city, as per an announcement.

It would be the first-of-its-kind in the Asia-Pacific region, after Tokyo, and only the fifth in the world, with similar facilities in Dublin, Munich and Malaga.

GSEC's focus

"This GSEC is a specialised international cybersecurity hub that will play a vital role in developing advanced security and online safety products for the Indian context. The centre will focus on cutting-edge research, AI-driven security solutions, and creating a collaborative platform for leading experts and researchers in cybersecurity. It also aims to foster skill development, boost employment, and enhance cybersecurity capabilities in India," as per the press release.

The establishment of GSEC in Hyderabad will be transformative for the city and the State, bringing in best-in-class safety engineers, local policy experts, and collaboration with academic institutions and government partners to address the unique challenges of cybersecurity in India, it added.

-
- **Hyderabad to Host India's First Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC)**
 - **Key Announcement**
 - Google has selected **Hyderabad** for India's first **Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC)**.
 - गूगल ने हैदराबाद को भारत का पहला गूगल सेफ्टी इंजीनियरिंग सेंटर (GSEC) स्थापित करने के लिए चुना है।
 - Telangana government entered into a strategic partnership with Google, aiming to enhance **cybersecurity** capabilities in India.
 - तेलंगाना सरकार ने गूगल के साथ रणनीतिक साझेदारी की है, जिसका उद्देश्य भारत में साइबर सुरक्षा क्षमताओं को बढ़ाना है।

- **Unique Features of GSEC**

- **Asia-Pacific First-of-Its-Kind**

- After Tokyo, it is the first such centre in the **Asia-Pacific region** and only the **fifth in the world** (others in Dublin, Munich, Malaga, and Tokyo).
- टोक्यो के बाद यह एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में अपनी तरह का पहला और दुनिया में केवल पांचवां सेंटर है।

- **Cutting-Edge Focus**

- GSEC will specialize in **AI-driven security solutions** and online safety products tailored for India.
- GSEC भारत के लिए विशेष रूप से एआई-आधारित सुरक्षा समाधान और ऑनलाइन सुरक्षा उत्पादों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करेगा।

Objectives of GSEC

Research and Development

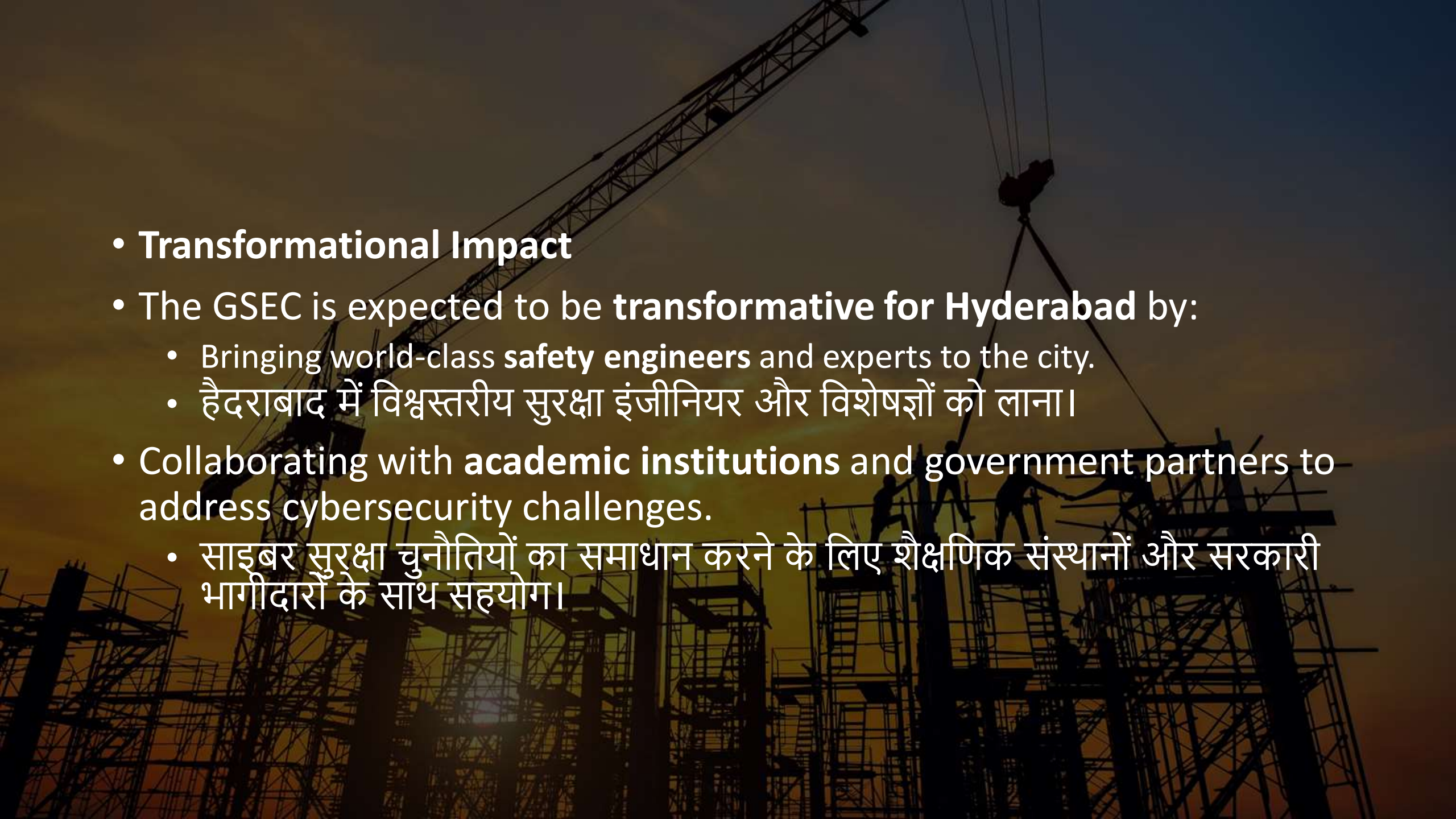
- Focused on **advanced security technologies** for the Indian context.
- भारत के संदर्भ में उन्नत सुरक्षा तकनीकों पर शोध और विकास।

Collaboration

- Aims to create a platform for **leading experts and researchers** in cybersecurity.
- साइबर सुरक्षा में अग्रणी विशेषज्ञों और शोधकर्ताओं के लिए एक मंच तैयार करना।

Skill Development and Employment

- Will boost local talent, foster skill-building, and enhance job opportunities in the cybersecurity domain.
- स्थानीय प्रतिभाओं को प्रोत्साहित करना, कौशल विकास को बढ़ावा देना और साइबर सुरक्षा क्षेत्र में रोजगार के अवसरों को बढ़ाना।

- 
- **Transformational Impact**
 - The GSEC is expected to be **transformative for Hyderabad** by:
 - Bringing world-class **safety engineers** and experts to the city.
 - हैदराबाद में विश्वस्तरीय सुरक्षा इंजीनियर और विशेषज्ञों को लाना।
 - Collaborating with **academic institutions** and government partners to address cybersecurity challenges.
 - साइबर सुरक्षा चुनौतियों का समाधान करने के लिए शैक्षणिक संस्थानों और सरकारी भागीदारों के साथ सहयोग।



HC refuses to entertain plea against Navjot Singh Sidhu

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a plea against Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu's claims that certain remedies helped his wife in her battle against Stage-4 cancer...

Manipur probe panel gets another extension till May

The three-member Commission of Inquiry (CoI) notified by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to probe the Manipur ethnic violence has received another extension and has been asked to submit its report to the Centre as soon as possible but not later than May 20, 2025...

SJM says low fertility will affect India's economy

Days after Rashtriya Swamipeetham Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat urged couples to have more than two children, another branch of the Sangh Parivar has warned of the economic repercussions of slowing population growth...

Off-duty jawan injured in gunfire in Pulwama

The Hindu Bureau BIRNAGAR

An off-duty soldier was shot at and injured in Pulwama district in south Kashmir on Wednesday evening. Gunfire militants tossed two grenades at a picket of an Army camp in Poochik district of the Jammu province...

Officials said the soldier, a resident of the Tval area, was fired upon from a close range by unidentified armed men in fogbank. He sustained bullet wounds in lower limbs and his condition is stated to be stable, the officials said.

Security forces rushed reinforcements and cordoned off the area to track the militants. No militant was claimed responsible for the attack.

In Poonch, militants targeted the Army picket of an installation with grenades on Tuesday night. An official said one grenade exploded and another soldier was injured. A body was recovered on Wednesday outside the camp of the Reserve Force of the Army in the Surokote area. Officials added that no one was injured in the attack.

After anomaly alert, ISRO sets PROBA-3 launch for today

The mission was scheduled to launch at 4:08 p.m. on Wednesday; the 44.5-metre PSLV-C59 rocket will carry 550-kg satellites to their orbit

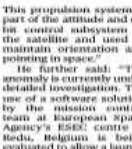
By Ananya Khandasree CHENNAI

The PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 mission, initially scheduled for launch at 4:08 p.m. on Wednesday, has been rescheduled to 4:22 p.m. on Thursday after the detection of an anomaly.

At 1:19 p.m., the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced on its official page on X: "Due to an anomaly detected in PROBA-3's space-based PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 launch rescheduled to tomorrow (Thursday) at 4:22 p.m."

Key ISRO officials communicated the same to presspersons gathered at an office area where a grenade exploded and another soldier was injured. A body was recovered on Wednesday outside the camp of the Reserve Force of the Army in the Surokote area. Officials added that no one was injured in the attack.

Even at 3:08 p.m., the ISRO said the countdown had been progressing smoothly. "Countdown is progressing smoothly as per the redundant propulsion system of the Corona-2000, prepared



This propulsion system is part of the attitude and orbit control subsystem of the satellite and used to maintain orientation and pointing in space.

The further said: "The anomaly is currently under detailed investigation. The use of a software solution by the mission control team at European Space Agency's ESXZ centre at Redu, Belgium is being evaluated to allow a launch on Thursday, December 5."

The PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 Mission, the 6th flight of PSLV and the 10th using the Xc configuration, is set to launch ESA's PROBA-3 satellites into a highly elliptical orbit. The mission is the 11th flight of the PSLV-Xc configuration. It is set to launch ESA's PROBA-3 satellites into a highly elliptical orbit from the First Launch Pad (FLP), Satish Dhawan Space Centre (ISRO-SHAR), Sriharikota.

The 44.5-metre rocket will carry the 550-kg PROBA-3 satellites to their designated orbit in a mission lasting about 18 months.

Bhutan King Jigme Wangchuck to pay 2-day visit to India

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck will pay a two-day visit to India beginning on Thursday to further advance the already close bilateral partnership between the two nations.

King Wangchuck will be accompanied by Queen Jetsun Pema Wangchuck and senior officials of the Bhutanese government. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, announcing the trip. The King will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the two leaders are expected to deliberate on ways to further deepen the bilateral cooperation in a wide range of areas.

The visit shall provide both sides an opportunity to discuss the ongoing project of bilateral cooperation and to further advance the exemplary bilateral partnership across diverse sectors. The India-China stand-off in Doklam in 2017 even triggered fears of a larger conflict. Bhutan has said the area belonged to it, and India supported the Bhutanese claim.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and other senior officials of the government will also call on the King, it said.



King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck visited India around 10 days ago. The King's visit to New Delhi comes amid China's efforts to establish formal diplomatic relations with Bhutan.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri briefs parliamentary panel on Canada, China

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

A day after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar made a suo motu statement in Parliament on Tuesday, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri briefed a parliamentary panel on China and Canada.

Another meeting of the parliamentary panel is likely to be on Wednesday. The government is expected to brief on the latest situation in Bangladesh. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri is scheduled to visit Bangladesh's capital Dhaka on December 10 amid growing concerns over targeted attacks on Hindus in the country.

On Wednesday, Misri said that Mr. Misri gave a detailed presentation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, on the disengage-

Singh Nijjar, Mr. Misri said the Canadian government had not been able to produce any evidence to back its charge. The committee members were informed that Khalistani elements were active in a few other countries as well, but the local governments did not provide the kind of protection that Canada does.

That is why the Khalistani groups have found a safe space to carry out anti-India campaigns from Canada, Misri said.

With some MPs demanding a briefing on the situation in Bangladesh, especially in the aftermath of the deposition of the Sheikh Hasina government, the committee is likely to meet on December 11.

The issue of targeting of Hindus in Bangladesh, who make up 8% of the country's population, has surfaced in the Lok Sabha in the past two days.

Indo-Russian venture to set up 3 depots for Vande Bharat project

Mailir Porocha NEW DELHI



The joint venture Kinet is set to supply 1,020 Vande Bharat sleeper coaches to Indian Railways, a move

training for production staff is progressing to ensure operational readiness. TMH CEO Kiril Lipsa told The Hindu in an interview at the end of June. The plant commenced operations in September 2023.

The plant is currently undergoing equipment installation. It will be equipped with a state-of-the-art assembly line, including facilities such as body shop, storage, assembly, testing and tooling and paint shop. Hiring and

ponents to meet the needs of both the Indian market and export to other BRICS countries, Mr Lipsa said.

While Kinet and Indian Railways are in the process of freezing design of the Vande Bharat sleeper train, Mr Lipsa said the process of setting up production capacities is under way in parallel to design discussions.

Mr Lipsa said the total working capital which will be needed for upfront investment exceeds \$300 million, and the revenue will start rolling in for Kinet only after first prototypes are delivered next year.

According to tender requirements, Kinet is set to supply 1,020 Vande Bharat sleeper coaches to Indian Railways, with first prototypes to be delivered within 24 months of the signing of contract in September last year. The project costs \$1.8 billion, including \$1.7 billion for manufacturing and \$0.1 billion for its maintenance over 35 years.

Crossword puzzle with 13 clues and a grid. Clues include: 1. Catch him walking (6), 2. Egypt's loved one gets caught in entrapment (8), 3. India's wage on tonight, signed fraction of heart (8), 4. Boy breaking a path increases (5), 5. Suffering night, kept off over the place (10), 6. Interested in most close conductors (7).

Sudoku puzzle with a 9x9 grid and a difficulty rating of 4 stars. Clues include: 1. Takes into account popular tips about Bennett's capital (8), 2. Single shade leaves heart in August (6), 3. Even Ms. Emma's calls are hits (6), 4. Criminal is angry over nothing, beauty's a treatment (8), 5. Sources picked up: 'Sexy American has tormented actor' (4), 6. Punter's room recommended after death (10), 7. Husband punches window on the beach (6), 8. Former Queen is hiding in empty cable train (8), 9. Look, these devils misled rookback moose (8), 10. Inevitable daughter's life ends in London (6).

FAITH section with a religious story titled 'God will protect devotees'. The story describes a devotee's journey and a divine intervention. It includes a quote from a devotee: 'God gave us from multiple difficulties, just as a mother would when caring for her child, Sri Krishna has vowed to protect Pandava at all costs because they are truly followers of the path of Dharma. Yudhishtira sees Sri Krishna as the Dharma who holds the universe.'

After anomaly alert, ISRO sets PROBA-3 launch for today

The mission was scheduled to launch at 4.08 p.m. on Wednesday; the 44.5-metre PSLV-C59 rocket will carry 550-kg satellites to their orbit

Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

The PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 mission, initially scheduled for launch at 4.08 p.m. on Wednesday, has been rescheduled to 4.12 p.m. on Thursday after the detection of an anomaly.

At 3.19 p.m. the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced on its official page on X: "Due to an anomaly detected in PROBA-3 spacecraft PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 launch rescheduled to tomorrow December 5, 2024 at 16.12 hours."

Key ISRO officials communicated the same to presspersons gathered at the launch venue.

Even at 3.08 p.m., the ISRO said the countdown had been progressing smoothly. "Countdown is progressing smoothly as PSLV-C59, an initiative led by NSIL and supported by ISRO's expertise, prepares



This mission is the 61st flight of PSLV and the 26th using the PSLV-XL configuration. PTI

to launch ESA's PROBA-3 satellites into a highly elliptical orbit," it said.

Josef Aschbacher, Director-General of the European Space Agency, posted a message on social media saying: "During Proba3's pre-launch preparations at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in India, an anomaly in the redundant propulsion system of the Coronagraph Spacecraft occurred.

This propulsion system is part of the attitude and orbit control subsystem of the satellite and used to maintain orientation and pointing in space."

He further said: "The anomaly is currently under detailed investigation. The use of a software solution by the mission control team at European Space Agency's ESEC centre at Redu, Belgium is being evaluated to allow a launch on Thursday, December 5."

The PSLV-C59/Proba-3 Mission, the 61st flight of PSLV and the 26th using its XL configuration, is set to carry the ESA's PROBA-3 (Project for Onboard Autonomy) satellites into a highly elliptical orbit from the First Launch Pad (FLP), Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR), Sriharikota.

The 44.5-metre rocket will carry the 550-kg PROBA-3 satellites to their designated orbit in a mission lasting about 18 minutes.

- **ISRO Reschedules PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 Mission After Anomaly Alert**
- **Mission Overview**
- **ISRO's PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 mission**, initially set for launch on **December 4, 2024, at 4:08 p.m.**, has been rescheduled to **December 5, 2024, at 4:12 p.m.** after detecting an anomaly.
 - **ISRO का PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 मिशन**, जो पहले **4 दिसंबर 2024, शाम 4:08 बजे** लॉन्च होने वाला था, एक विसंगति के कारण अब **5 दिसंबर 2024, शाम 4:12 बजे** के लिए पुनर्निर्धारित किया गया है।



- **Details of the Anomaly**

- The anomaly was detected in the **redundant propulsion system** of the Coronagraph spacecraft during pre-launch preparations at **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota.**

- यह विसंगति प्री-लॉन्च तैयारी के दौरान सतीश धवन स्पेस सेंटर (SDSC), श्रीहरिकोटा में कोरोनाग्राफ अंतरिक्ष यान के प्रणोदन प्रणाली में पाई गई।

- **Satellite and Mission Configuration**
- **PSLV-C59 rocket** (44.5 meters tall) will carry **ESA's PROBA-3 satellites** weighing 550 kg into a highly elliptical orbit.
 - **PSLV-C59 रॉकेट** (44.5 मीटर ऊंचा) **ESA के PROBA-3 उपग्रहों** को 550 किग्रा भार के साथ एक उच्च अण्डाकार कक्षा में ले जाएगा।
- The mission marks the **61st flight of PSLV** and the **26th using the PSLV-XL configuration**.
 - यह मिशन **PSLV की 61वीं उड़ान** और **PSLV-XL कॉन्फिगरेशन का 26वां उपयोग** है।

- ISRO is all set to launch European Space Agency (ESA)'s PROBA-3 mission satellites into orbit from Sriharikota with the help of ISRO's PSLV-C59 vehicle.

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About PROBA-3 Mission (Project for Onboard Autonomy)

Scientific Goals:

- Advance understanding of solar storms and coronal mass ejections that affect Earth's satellite operations, communication systems, and power grids.
- Provide critical data for solar dynamics and space weather phenomena.
- Test new spacecraft technologies and concepts.
- Enhancing expertise in solar science following ISRO's Aditya-L1 mission

Agencies Involved: ESA leads the mission, and ISRO, through NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL), will facilitate the launch.

Spacecraft: The mission uses two spacecraft:

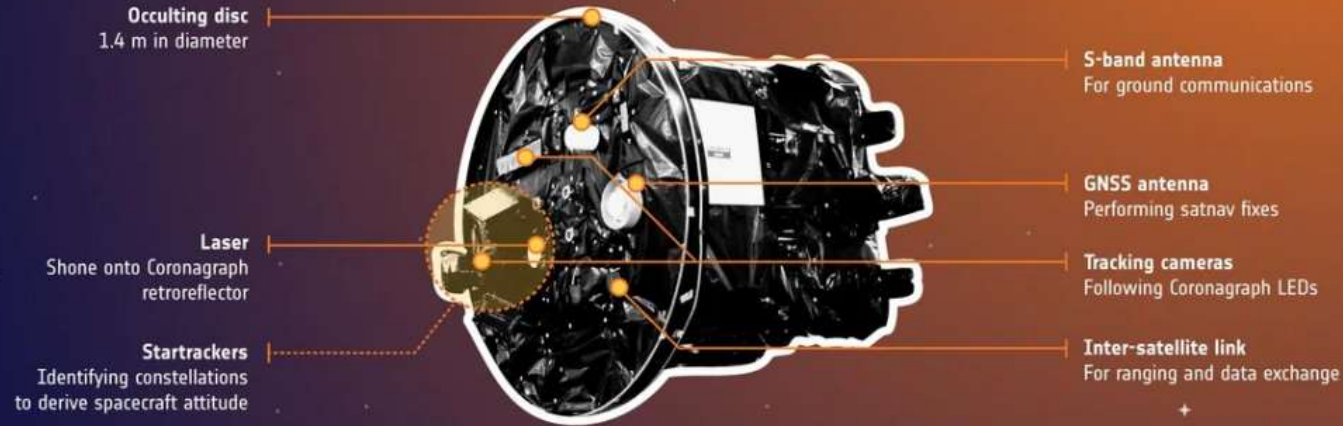
- **Coronagraph:** Studies the Sun's corona.
- **Occulter:** Blocks the Sun to create artificial eclipses for better observation.

PROBA-3: SPACECRAFT



Lined up with the Sun, Proba-3's Occulter uses its occulting disc to cast a precisely controlled shadow onto the Coronagraph. The pair host multiple positioning technologies to achieve millimetre level precision: GNSS receivers, radio links, optical cameras tracking flashing LEDs, a reflected laser and shadow-detecting sensors.

OCCULTER SPACECRAFT



CORONAGRAPH SPACECRAFT



Indo-Russian venture to set up 3 depots for Vande Bharat project

Maitri Porecha

NEW DELHI

The Marathwada Rail Coach Factory in Latur, which has been taken over by the Indo-Russian joint venture Kinet for manufacturing Vande Bharat sleeper train sets, is currently undergoing equipment installation and will be equipped with a state-of-art assembly line, a top Kinet official stated.

Kinet has been established by the public sector Rail Vikas Nigam and Russian transportation company Transmashholding. The JV took over operational control of the Latur plant at the end of June. The plant commenced operational activities on September 3.

"The plant is currently undergoing equipment installation. It will be equipped with a state-of-the-art assembly line, including facilities such as body shop, storage, assembly, testing and trolley and paint shop. Hiring and



The joint venture Kinet is set to supply 1,920 Vande Bharat sleeper coaches to Indian Railways. G. MOORTHY

training for production staff are progressing to ensure operational readiness," TMH CEO Kirill Lipa told *The Hindu* in an interview.

Following Western sanctions due to the Russia-Ukraine War, Mr. Lipa said that India has emerged as a key hub for development and procurement of spare parts. "The supply chain team is collaborating closely with Indian suppliers to ensure the project's success. A number of contracts have been signed al-

ready," he said. For supply of brake and air-conditioning systems, TMH relies on China as a key supplier.

TMH is looking at supporting development of three depots, including the Latur factory, for indigenous manufacture of train sets in India. "TMH's expertise in manufacturing sleeper, seating and special-purpose coaches of various classes comes to mind as a potential perfect fit. The long-term intention is to build an industrial hub to manufacture com-

ponents to meet the needs of both the Indian market and export to other BRICS countries," Mr. Lipa said.

While Kinet and Indian Railways are in the process of freezing design of the Vande Bharat Sleeper train sets, Mr. Lipa said the process of setting up production capacities is under way in parallel to design discussions.

Mr. Lipa said the total working capital which will be needed for upfront investment exceeds \$150 million, and the revenue will start rolling in for Kinet only after first prototypes are delivered next year.

According to tender requirements, Kinet is set to supply 1,920 Vande Bharat Sleeper coaches to Indian Railways, with first prototypes to be delivered within 24 months of the signing of contract in September last year. The project costs \$6.5 billion, including \$1.7 billion for manufacturing of rolling stock and \$4.8 billion for its maintenance over 35 years.

- **Overview of Kinet's Role**
- **Kinet**, a joint venture between **Rail Vikas Nigam** and **Russian transportation company Transmashholding (TMH)**, has taken over the **Marathwada Rail Coach Factory** in Latur.
 - काइनेट, जो रेल विकास निगम और रूसी परिवहन कंपनी ट्रांसमाशहोल्डिंग (TMH) का संयुक्त उपक्रम है, ने लातूर के मराठवाड़ा रेल कोच फैक्ट्री का अधिग्रहण किया है।
- The plant is equipped with a **state-of-the-art assembly line** including body shop, storage, assembly, testing, and paint shop.
 - संयंत्र में उन्नत असेंबली लाइन है, जिसमें बॉडी शॉप, भंडारण, असेंबली, परीक्षण और पेंट शॉप शामिल हैं।

-
- Kinet is set to supply **1,920 Vande Bharat sleeper coaches** to Indian Railways. काइनेट भारतीय रेलवे को **1,920 वंदे भारत स्लीपर कोच** की आपूर्ति करेगा।
 - The project is valued at **\$6.5 billion**, with \$1.7 billion allocated for manufacturing rolling stock and \$4.8 billion for maintenance over 35 years. इस परियोजना की लागत **6.5 बिलियन डॉलर** है, जिसमें 1.7 बिलियन डॉलर रोलिंग स्टॉक के निर्माण और 4.8 बिलियन डॉलर 35 वर्षों तक रखरखाव के लिए आवंटित हैं।

1. Brake and Air-conditioning Systems

1. TMH relies on **China** as a key supplier for brake and air-conditioning systems.
2. ब्रेक और एयर-कंडीशनिंग सिस्टम के लिए TMH **चीन** पर निर्भर करता है।

- **Challenges and Investments**

- Kinet requires over **\$150 million** in upfront investment for production capacities.
 - काइनेट को उत्पादन क्षमताओं के लिए **150 मिलियन डॉलर** से अधिक के अग्रिम निवेश की आवश्यकता है।
- Revenue generation is expected after the delivery of first prototypes next year.
 - राजस्व उत्पन्न होने की उम्मीद है जब अगले साल पहले प्रोटोटाइप वितरित किए जाएंगे।

- **Strategic Importance**

- India has emerged as a **key hub** for manufacturing and spare parts development due to Western sanctions on Russia.

- पश्चिमी प्रतिबंधों के कारण भारत निर्माण और स्पेयर पार्ट्स विकास के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण केंद्र के रूप में उभरा है।

- TMH aims to build an indigenous manufacturing hub to serve both Indian and BRICS markets.

- TMH का लक्ष्य भारतीय और BRICS बाजारों को सेवा देने के लिए एक स्वदेशी निर्माण केंद्र बनाना है।

- **Future Projections**

- The first prototypes will be delivered within **24 months** of contract signing.
 - पहले प्रोटोटाइप अनुबंध पर हस्ताक्षर के 24 महीनों के भीतर वितरित किए जाएंगे।
- Long-term plans include the development of various classes of coaches for Indian Railways.
 - दीर्घकालिक योजनाओं में भारतीय रेलवे के लिए विभिन्न श्रेणियों के कोचों का विकास शामिल है।

India's strategic focus on West Africa

Last month, on his way to Brazil to participate in the G-20 Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a strategic halt in Nigeria. During his first two terms, Mr. Modi travelled to 10 African countries, including Uganda, where he delivered a historic speech outlining India's vision of Africa. However, his visit to Nigeria is significant as it marks the first African visit by the Prime Minister to his third term. This visit is also the first by an Indian Prime Minister to Nigeria in 17 years.

The importance accorded to India by Nigeria was evident from the very moment Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu welcomed Mr. Modi at Abuja airport. Later, the Indian Prime Minister was conferred Nigeria's second-highest national award, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger. He became the only second foreign dignitary to receive this distinction since 1999, after Queen Elizabeth II, undershining India's rising global stature and the trust and recognition Mr. Modi has gained for his commitment to the Global South.

India-Nigeria ties
Nigeria is both the largest economy and the largest democracy in Africa. Nigeria is also a regional hegemon in West Africa and plays a key role as the African Union leader. It is regarded as a moderate role player in the African continent, strengthening India's ties with Nigeria would undoubtedly have effects far beyond the nation's borders.

In his conversation with President Tinubu, Mr. Modi reiterated the high priority India accords to its strategic partnership with Nigeria and expressed interest in boosting ties in areas such as defence, space, technology, trade, health, and education. With terrorists,



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Assistant Fellow, Africa, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

separation, piracy, and drug trafficking are major challenges for Nigeria. Mr. Modi underscored the continuing salience of strong cooperation on security issues. This encompasses the purchase of Indian weapons and cooperation in the counterterrorism operations against the Islamist groups, particularly Boko Haram.

Mr. Modi's trip is also a follow-up to an Indian defence industry delegation's visit to Lagos earlier this year. Mr. Tinubu had expressed interest in buying arms from India during that visit. India is emerging as a key defence supplier to Africa, with sales to Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tanzania, and Mozambique.

In over six decades of close partnership between India and Nigeria, India has also emerged as a development partner of Nigeria on two fronts — offering developmental assistance through concessional loans (USD 2 billion) and capacity building training programmes — shaping India's partnership in a distinctive 'India Way'.

Nigeria's China connection
Nigeria currently has over 200 Chinese companies. It is China's largest export market and its second-largest trading partner in Africa. On the other hand, China is Nigeria's third-largest export market. China has funded over \$47 billion for 22 large-size infrastructural projects across the country. As of March 31, 2020, Chinese loans to Nigeria totalled \$3.12 billion, or 1.2% of Nigeria's \$27.67 billion in external debt. Earlier, Nigeria had under taken several significant infrastructure projects using Chinese money, such as the National Public Security Communications System project and the Abuja Light Rail project, and planned terminal expansions at four major airports.

In 2023, China funded the Lekki Deep Sea Port. The port, one of the largest in West Africa, will relieve cargo congestion, which costs billions of dollars in annual revenue and is expected to

generate over 170,000 new jobs. It is anticipated that the port will boost Nigeria's struggling economy.

The Chinese technology giant Huawei has a significant presence in Nigeria. Since 2019, Huawei has trained 2,000 Nigerian youths and 1,000 federal civil servants across Ministries, departments, and agencies, and it plans to continue training government employees in cybersecurity strategy. Huawei has deployed over 27,000 mobile phone towers and up to 10,000 kilometers of fibre optic cable in Nigeria. It has also signed a contract with the Federal government to install an electronic surveillance system at the country's land border.

China is also active in Nigeria's mining sector. Last February, Kaduna selected China's Ming Xin Mineral Separation Nig. Ltd. to build the nation's first lithium processing plant. It aims to produce batteries for electric vehicles. Yet, five months ago, the Nigerian government rejected Tesla's proposal to buy raw lithium from the country. Meanwhile, China Sinoma International Engineering and Nigeria's Dangote Industries Limited also signed a contract to construct a cement plant with six million tonnes per year in Ibad, Ogun state.

Despite growing Chinese interest in financing and building infrastructure, India remains one of Nigeria's key partners. Trade between India and Nigeria has declined from \$14.06 billion in 2021-22 to \$7.09 billion in 2023-24, primarily due to India's increasing oil imports from Russia. India and Nigeria, however, continue cooperating on multiple issues. As leaders of the Global South, an enhanced bilateral relationship between India and Nigeria should also open well for the rest of the Global South.

In 2023, China funded the Lekki Deep Sea Port. The port, one of the largest in West Africa, will relieve cargo congestion, which costs billions of dollars in annual revenue and is expected to

Trinamool holds ground amid chaos

The results underscore the Opposition's failure to capitalise on public discontent

STATE OF PLAY

Shubh Sahas Singh
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Discontent and anger against the government did not automatically result in the electoral victory against the ruling party. Trinamool Congress won by a margin of over 27,000 votes over the past few years in West Bengal politics, the latest example being the recently concluded Assembly bypolls.

Despite the protests over the rape and murder of a doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, the ruling Trinamool Congress won bypolls in all six Assembly seats without much resistance from the Opposition parties.

The ruling party not only retained five seats it had won in 2023 but also secured victory in north Bengal, considered to be a stronghold of the BJP, a seat the State's ruling party had never won in the past. On some seats such as Harees in North 24 Parganas and Bhal in Cooch Behar, the margin of victory of the Trinamool Congress candidate was over 1.3 lakh votes.

For more than two months, Kolkata and its adjoining suburbs witnessed unprecedented protests with thousands of people on the streets demanding justice for the rape and murder of a doctor. The anger was directed at the State government for failing to provide security to a woman doctor at a health centre. The accused being a civic police volunteer, and the alleged attempt to hush up the crime by a section of police and hospital staff.

The protests brought the government to its knees when Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was forced to transfer Kolkata Police Commissioner and

West Bengal

officials of the State health department.

The question being discussed in political circles is how the Trinamool Congress managed to emerge unscathed from protests. More than the success of the Trinamool Congress, the bypolls re-assert the failure of Opposition parties to capitalise on the anger and discontent among the people. While the citizen groups kept political parties away from the protests, the parties could not organise any meaningful movement, and their intervention failed not only before the protests on the streets died down.

For several years, despite the issues of law and order and several scams, the vote share of Trinamool Congress has increased. The perception that the Trinamool Congress government will collapse under the weight of its issues and its own contradictions of factionalism and divide between the young leadership and old loyalists has not worked for the Opposition.

The Trinamool Congress has held the elections together through each incentive scheme and its ruling on its behalf politics. For the BJP, the prospects look bleak as its vote share has seen a decline after the 2023 Assembly bypolls. The BJP has lost all by-

polls held since then, including the one held in July this year. In the Lok Sabha polls, the Trinamool Congress increased its tally to 39 seats, whereas the seats of the BJP dropped to 12. After the debacle in the recent polls, the State BJP leadership tried to hide behind the argument that bypolls usually belong to the ruling party and a no verdict in favour of the ruling party was a foregone conclusion. The CPM-led Left Front and the Congress, which contested the elections separately, also failed to make any mark in the bypolls. For over a decade, both parties have appeared confused about defining their primary political opponent in the State — whether it is the BJP or the Trinamool Congress.

Credit must also be given to the Trinamool Congress leadership of Mr. Banerjee, who allowed the protests to run their usual course for almost 100 days. She held meetings with protesting doctors, and did not take any hasty actions, even after being misled on one occasion when protesters refused to meet her and left her waiting.

Though the results indicate the electoral supremacy of the Trinamool Congress, it is assumed that the protests around the R.G. Kar incident did not serve any purpose would be incorrect. For decades, the State which has been steadily lacked any civil society movement. The protests demonstrated over the gruesome crime have given people the courage to dissent on the streets and raise their voices against the State and the ruling establishment. This very act and defiance may go a long way in shaping society and the politics of the State in the future.

₹2.4 lakh crore collected in toll plazas since inception

More than 98% of payments in recent months were done using FASTags, with over 10 crore tags issued till now

DATA POINT

Arbitra toll plazas
Visakhapatnam, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, Pune, Thiruvananthapuram

A total of ₹2.4 lakh crore has been collected as user fees at toll plazas across India's national highways since the inception of toll collection, according to recent data presented in the Lok Sabha. This figure is based on the 758 toll plazas for which the overall data was available.

Plazas in Uttar Pradesh, followed by Rajasthan and Maharashtra have collected the most among States. Notably, over 98% of the toll payments made in recent months were done through the FASTag technology. Chart 1 shows the state-wise amount of fees collected (in crore) across toll since inception. With ₹32,541 crore collected, Uttar Pradesh is at the top. The Delhi NCR region collected the least tolls at ₹262 crore.

Chart 2 shows the top four national highways where the most toll was collected since inception. The NH-48, which runs from Delhi to Chennai, is the longest with a collection of ₹24,490 crore followed by NH-44 (Shimoga to Kanyakumari), NH-66 (Kochi to Chennai), and NH-27 (Port Blair to Silchar).

Chart 3 shows the situation of FASTags issued cumulatively (left axis) and the amount collected electronically in crores across all tolls (right axis), every month over time. Except for the dip during the pandemic months, the transaction value and the tags issued have surged since inception. As of October 2024, 10 crore tags have been issued. Map 4 shows the toll plazas which collected over ₹100 crore electronically from April to October 2024. The toll plaza in Haryana collected ₹236 crore in the period, the most across the 1,044 tolls for which this data was available. The Shajapur toll plaza in Rajasthan and the Bhadrachalam in Gujarat are second and third on the list.

Collections surge across India's tolls

The data for the charts were sourced from Lok Sabha questions and answers

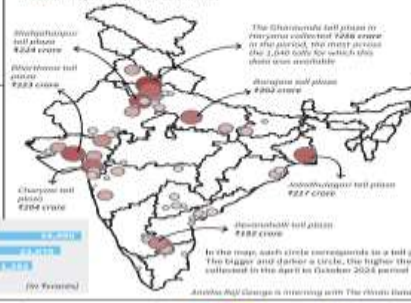


Map 1: State-wise toll collected in ₹100 crore increments since inception

State	Toll Collected (₹ Crore)	Percentage of Total
Uttar Pradesh	32,541	13.6%
Rajasthan	14,490	6.0%
Maharashtra	13,600	5.7%
Delhi NCR	262	0.1%



Map 4: The map shows the toll plazas which collected a toll of over ₹100 crore electronically from April to October 2024



Arbitra Toll Plazas in Rajasthan are second and third on the list.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The **Hindu**

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 5, 1974

Student participation in politics welcomed

New Delhi, Dec. 4: The high-level committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Nurul Hasan, Union Education Minister, which went into the question of student unrest in the country, has welcomed the politicisation of the student community. The Committee categorically said that students should be familiar with the programmes of different political parties and should have opportunities to meet their leaders for discussion. Students should also be free to become members of any political party of their choice. But the Committee has cautioned that no permission should be given for the establishment of an office of any political party at the students' wing of any political party on the campus of any educational institution.

Discussing the question of students and politics, the Committee said that in fact their view was that the student community was as yet as "fully politicised" as it should be. The Committee therefore recommended, among other things that "all students at the undergraduate stage should be involved in national and academic discussion of the problems facing the country, such as the problems of food, clothing, education, health." The Committee also expressed its unhappiness at the attempt made by certain political elements to exploit the students for their own ulterior motives. The Committee said that "there is little possibility of different political parties evolving an agreed code of conduct in dealing with students. The only alternative is to create a better student-teacher relationship and make the entire educational process as relevant and challenging that it will absorb all the energies of the students."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 5, 1924

Mrs. Besant re-joins Cong.

Madras, Dec. 4: Mrs. Besant has re-joined Congress. She has signed the creed and entered the Triplicane Sabha as a four-annas member for the Madras District. She is a member of the All-India Congress Committee in virtue of her being Ex-President. She has arranged to attend the ensuing Congress at Madras.

Mr. Devanarayana is at Arday teaching her to spin a full-sized Charka, and she is making good progress.

₹2.4 lakh crore collected in toll plazas since inception

More than 98% of payments in recent months were done using FASTags, with over 10 crore tags issued till now

DATA POINT

Amitha Reji George
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

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Chart 2 shows the top four national highways where the most toll was collected since inception. The NH48, which runs from Delhi to Chennai, is listed first with a collection of ₹24,490 crore followed by NH44 (Srinagar to Kanniyakumari), NH16 (Kolkata to Chennai), and NH27 (Porbandar to Silchar).

Chart 3 shows the number of FASTags issued cumulatively (left axis) and the amount collected electronically in crores across all tolls (right axis), every month over time. Except for the dip during the pandemic months, the transaction value and the tags issued have surged since inception. As of October 2024, 10 crore tags have been issued. **Map 4** shows the toll plazas which collected over ₹100 crore electronically from April to October 2024. The Gharaunda toll plaza in Haryana collected ₹256 crore in the period, the most across the 1,040 tolls for which this data was available. The Shahjahanpur toll plaza in Rajasthan and the Bharthana in Gujarat, are second and third on the list.

Collections surge across India's tolls

The data for the charts were sourced from Lok Sabha questions and answers



Chart 1: State-wise fee collected (in ₹crores) across tolls since inception

U.P. 32,510 crore	Gujarat 24,587	A.P. 22,287	W.B. 16,625	M.P. 15,047
Rajasthan 29,808	Telangana 14,487	Karnataka 10,605	T.N. 5,364	
Maharashtra 25,029	Bihar 11,408	Odisha 5,559	Chhattisgarh 3,137	

Chart 3: Number of FASTags issued cumulatively (left axis) and the amount collected electronically in ₹crores across all tolls (right axis)

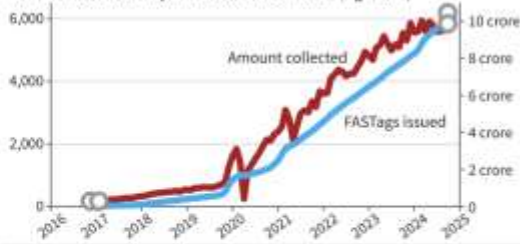
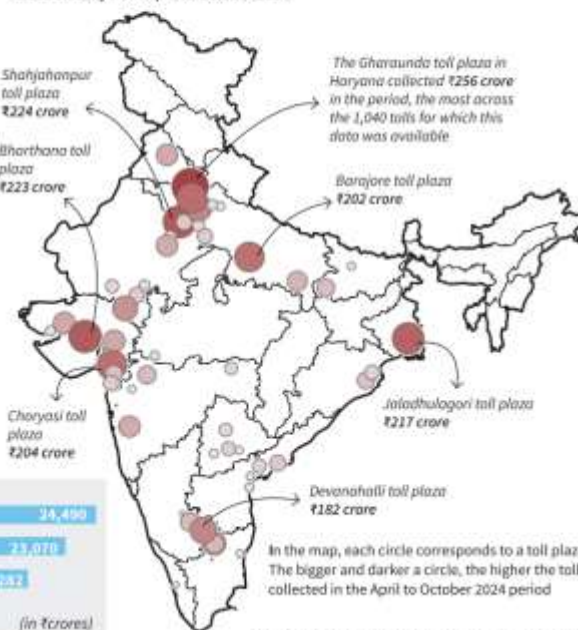


Chart 2: Top four national highways where the most toll was collected

NH48: Delhi to Chennai	24,490
NH44: Srinagar to Kanniyakumari	23,070
NH16: Kolkata to Chennai	21,287
NH27: Porbandar to Silchar	11,687

(in ₹crores)

Map 4: The map shows the plazas which collected a toll of over ₹100 crore electronically from April to October 2024



Amitha Reji George is intern with The Hindu Data Team

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Mega honours Indian writer Amitav Ghosh after receiving the Erasmus Prize at the Royal Palace in Amsterdam on November 26, 2024.

Amitav Ghosh tells the story of the past, present, and with dread, the future

The writer has been honoured with the Erasmus Prize, 2024, for 'imagining the unthinkable'. In his novels and non-fiction, Ghosh has put down in words the anthropometric nature of climate change, migration, colonialism, cultural possession and dispossession

Rishya Ranjan

During an interview with *The Hindu* last year, Amitav Ghosh was asked if he fancied himself, as many have alluded to him, as the Emperor of the East, among novelists. His response is a true insight into the core of Ghosh's stupendous body of work: "I would say it's the other way around. The east is the emperor of us."

Among the pre-eminent authors writing on subjects 'east' and among the early modern authors to shed the stereotypes of the east as exotic and chaotic, Ghosh tells the story as it was, in the past, as it is, in the present, and with trembling lips and a sense of dread, in the future. It is suitable that the Praemium Erasmianum Foundation decided to award him the Erasmus Prize in 2024, and the reasons for their decision are precisely the compelling reasons for reading Ghosh.

The chatter reads: "He receives the prize for his paradigmatic contribution to the theme 'imagining the unthinkable', in which an unprecedented global crisis - climate change - takes shape through the writer's world. Ghosh has delved deeply into the question of how to do justice to this existential threat that defies our imagination."

His work offers a remedy by making an uncertain future palpable through compelling stories about the past. He also wields his pen to show that the climate crisis is a cultural crisis that results from a death of the imagination."

Impressive oeuvre
In the many years since Ghosh started writing, he has built up an impressive oeuvre of work, douped in a social consciousness that has seldom found such consistent exposition in the works of one author. For his fans, both of his writings and his politics, it is not a matter of argument that Ghosh is indeed the pre-eminent chronicler of the east to make an impact in recent times. It is a matter of deep faith for them.

The themes of Ghosh's work, the essays and historical novels, include the anthropometric nature of climate change, migration, colonialism, cultural possession and dispossession, how trade impacts the lives of people, and the havoc that humanity's avarice has let loose upon the world. Using polyphonic narratives, or multiple perspectives to portray the naturally rich diversity of his settings, Ghosh builds compelling stories that not only draw the reader deep in, but also keep them hooked, from start to finish, even waiting with bated breath for the next book.

Studying the Sunderbans

Perhaps we should take our cue from the Erasmus Prize and start with *The Hungry Tide*, set in the tidal landscape of the Sunderbans, examining the impact of rising sea levels and climate change in the deltaic mangrove area formed at the confluence of the Haldia, Ganges and Meghna rivers entering the Bay of Bengal. The novel revolves around Piyá, a marine biologist researching river dolphins, and Kanai, a Delhi-based

translator, as they navigate the natural and social complexities of this unique landscape. Here, it's not merely climate change that is centrepiece, but also the tension between conservation theories and human rights, as portrayed in the struggles of the refugees of Morichhatri.

In the context of climate change and human migration, his 2019 book, *Gun Island*, creates a world of realistic fiction, to urge, challenge, and shake up readers to act upon the urgent demands of the environment. The story starts with the quest of Ison Batta, a rare book dealer from Brooklyn, to figure out more about the British legend of the 'gun merchant' (Shondol Sedgari), and examines how ecological collapse impacts migration, and upends traditions. Repeatedly, Ghosh has relied on folklore and myths to highlight the profound messages these tales contain, including in his delightful novella-in-verse, *Jungle Nana*.

Following a spice

In his 2022 work, *The Naturop's Curse: Parables for a Planet in Crisis*, also referenced in his acceptance speech for the Erasmus Award, Ghosh follows the journey of a spice, nutmeg, from its native Banda Islands to the world, using it as a lens to understand the imprints of colonialism upon attitudes towards indigenous cultures, and environmental change.

The Fish Trilogy, is another phenomenal work that started with the *Son of Pappas* (2008), followed by *River of Smoke* (2014), and finally, *Flood of Fire* (2015). Set in the 1800s, this epic sweeps

across countries, and years, mashing the factors that build up to the First Opium War across China and the Indian Ocean region, cementing his place as a historian-writer of the east. The story begins in British-ruled India, where the cultivation of opium is changing rural lives forever. The opium, 'the' is the name of the ship that sets sail from Calcutta to Mauritius, carrying a diverse group of passengers, including indentured labourers, convicts, and sailors, some to be contracted indenturedly with the massive changes that are set to happen, in east Asia. The second book shifts focus to China, the centre of the opium trade, detailing the Chinese government's attempt to curtail the trade and the resistance of British and Indian merchants.

The final book focuses on the First Opium War, recording its impact on the characters, and its classical Ghosh style, the broader geopolitical landscape. The 'the', notably, serves as a metaphorical and literal link between characters as they navigate war, displacement, and personal ambitions.

In his most recent book, *Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey Through Opium's Hidden Histories* (2023), Ghosh again tells one contemporary, opium, focusing on its colonial history and legacy in India and China, and its connection to modern corporate practices.

There are many more books and essays from the body of work of this beloved 'narrator of the east'. For him, certainly, lying in wait are many more awards from the world he's trying to hold a mirror to.

Please send in your answers to dataguest@thehindu.co.in

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid activist, on his death anniversary

Vignesh P. Venkitesh

- QUESTION 1**
What is Nelson Mandela's birthname, which meant 'to pull a branch off a tree' and 'troublemaker' in his Xhosa tribe?
ANSWER 1
Nelson Mandela had a nickname inspired from a popular novel about a hero with a secret identity. What is it?
QUESTION 2
Name the island where Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years in imprisonment.
QUESTION 3
Who shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Mandela?
QUESTION 4
Name the Spike Lee movie in which Mandela appeared in a guest role?



Visual question: How is Mandela linked to this flower?

- Questions and Answers in the previous day's daily quiz:** 1. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) has named many countries and was founded in this year: **ANSWER 1** 1964. 2. The name of the next cyclone that was named by this country: **ANSWER 2** Shabbir. 3. Cyclone Didi was named by this country: **ANSWER 3** Bangladesh. 4. The meaning of Cyclone Didi: **ANSWER 4** Generosity. 5. This cyclone, named by India, is regarded as the worst tropical cyclone to ever strike the Western island of Sumatra. **ANSWER 5** Megh. 6. The maximum number of letters the name of a cyclone can have: **ANSWER 6** Eight. Visual: This 1976 cyclone was named in East Pakistan, which is now Bangladesh. **ANSWER 7** Shabbir. 8. Name the author: **ANSWER 8** Tanjika Gauri (M. Suresh Kumar) Lakshmi Hachikumar.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

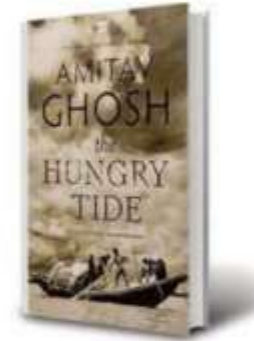
"Yes, he's a great runner. And when you think about it, many of the great athletes from America are black."
"Very true. Some of the finest athletes are African-Americans."
"African-Americans?"
"That's right, African-Americans."
"There's a general feeling that people should not be referred to by their colour, so the word 'black' is being slowly replaced by 'African-American'. And this is particularly true of the media. Newspapers talk of the African-American community and newspapers announce that the man killed in the shoot-out was an African-American."
"It's strange how one word quickly replaces another. Well, I have to go to the barber now and..."
"Ah! Barber! That's a word one hardly hears in America."
"Really? Then what do they call the chap who cuts everyone's hair?"
"He/she is called a 'hair stylist'."
"Hair stylist! That sounds very stylish indeed!"
"Perhaps that's why they have renamed themselves. 'Hair stylist' sounds much more impressive than 'barber', doesn't it?"
"Well, you're right..."
"And if you look around, you'll find that most of the professionals have renamed or redefined themselves. For example, the 'undertaker'..."
"You mean the chap who buries people?"
"Very rarely put. No, yes. He's the man who buries people. Anyway, he is now called a 'Funeral Director'."
"Funeral Director! Sounds impressive." "It certainly does. And the nurse who looks after you in hospital is now being called 'Patient-Care Specialist'."
"Patient-Care Specialist! That's a mouthful!"
"If you think that's a mouthful, what do you think of 'Petroleum Transfer Engineer'?"
"Petroleum Transfer Engineer! Sounds important. What does he do?"
"He's the chap who works at the petrol tank and fills petrol in your car."
"But he's not an engineer!"
"But some have started to call themselves that now. Makes his job sound much more dignified and complicated than it really is, doesn't it?"
"It certainly does. But getting back to the word 'barber' - is there a real difference between a 'barber' and a 'hair-dresser'?"
"I wasn't talking about a 'hairstresser', but a 'hair stylist'."
"Who's the difference?"
"A 'hairstresser' usually takes care of women's hair, and a 'hair stylist', men's hair. But coming back to your question, hair stylists believe that there is a difference between a barber and themselves. A barber merely 'cuts' people's hair. A hair stylist, on the other hand, 'shapes' the hair depending upon the client's face."
Published in *The Hindu* on April 26, 1994.

Word of the day

Umbel: an earth pigment, a reddish brown to dark-brown colour; of the colour of any of various natural brown earth pigments.
Synonyms: deep brown
Usage: It resembled a refurbished house with umbel bricks.
Pronunciation: ʌmˈbɛl
International Phonetic Alphabet: ʌmˈbɛl

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BIBLIOGRAPHY



Huge honour: Indian writer Amitav Ghosh after receiving the Erasmus Prize at the Royal Palace in Amsterdam on November 26. AFP

Sukhbir Badal escapes attack on Day 2 of guard duty at Golden Temple, shooter held

Accused a former militant, was at shrine Tuesday too, say police

KAMALDEEP SINGH BHAR
AMRITSAR, DECEMBER 4

PUNJAB'S FORMER Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal (72) had a narrow escape on Wednesday as a man, identified as a former militant, attempted to open fire at him while the 50-year-old was on guard duty at the Golden Temple here. The attack was followed by a police officer who was part of the temple's security detail — the 2-plan procedure. Even as the attacker, Narain Singh Chaura, was being overpowered, he managed to fire a shot. The bullet hit the



Narain Singh Chaura (bottom left) tries to shoot at Sukhbir Singh Badal (in wheelchair). **AND MORE REPORTS, PAGE 8 & 9**

'Apology can't absolve Akali sins': Attacker's FB post earlier

KAMALDEEP SINGH BHAR & VARINDER BHAHA
AMRITSAR, CHANDIGARH
DECEMBER 4

THE MAN who opened fire at former Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal on Wednesday, as he sat on guard duty at Golden Temple, is a former employee of the Shiromani Gurbani Parcharitee Committee (SGPC), and once a militant. In recent years, though, he has moved away from politics and is now a politician and a leader. He has been the religious leader of the Golden Temple on Tuesday, when Badal and other Akali leaders began the religious

shooter's entrance was behind Badal, who escaped unhurt. Police later said a 50mm pistol was recovered from Chaura. Police sources said CCTV footage showed that Chaura was on the Golden Temple on Tuesday, when Badal and other Akali leaders began the religious

5 years, 107 deaths in hospital fires, same story of zero accountability

The Indian Express looked at hospital fires with a minimum casualty of 5 and found a pattern of cutting corners, lack of punitive action & cases stretching on

ANURNA DUTT, SONIA DINGRA, PRATAP ACHARYA, SURESH KUMAR JAYALA & ANKITA UPADHYAY
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, PUNE, BANGALORE, BANGOR, HYDRABAD, BHEPAL, DECEMBER 4

WHEN A fire at a government hospital killed 18 newborns in Jaipur last month, the headlines were all too familiar — a general ward caught fire, a health care system operating beyond capacity and high-level probes in its responsibility.

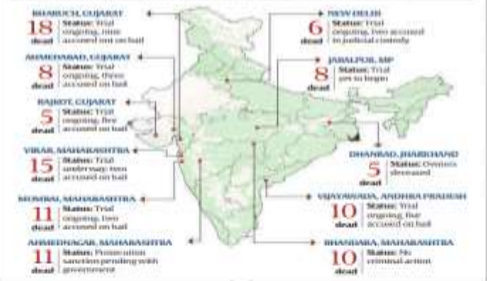
The Indian Express looked at the cause and aftermath of 11 prominent hospital fires in the last five years, which claimed 107 lives, and found that in every case, the same story of zero accountability — hospital corners on safety — are still being cut. Significantly, in seven instances, most cases are still dragging on.

The Indian Express looked at hospital fires that claimed five or more lives. To be sure, this is a fraction of the total hospital fire deaths in the past half decade — between January 2020 and October 2024, there were at least 107 such reported incidents. Significantly, there was an increase in fatal fire incidents during Covid-19 — nine of the 11 incidents. The Indian Express looked at took place in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Five took place in 2021 when the pandemic was at its peak and the health care system was overstrained. There were many other startling instances — at least eight of the 11 fires were likely caused by short circuits, with improper maintenance of electrical lines and equipment. In some cases, hospitals ignored basic safety measures and lacked firefighting equipment like extinguishers, heaters, sprinklers and well-trained staff, and the government agencies failed to keep a check on hospitals running on expired fire certificates, violating fire safety norms, and missing key safety measures in place.

Delhi to Mumbai, Rajkot to Dhanbad



A rescued newborn after being shifted from the NICU ward of Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College in Jaipur, where 18 newborns died last month. **INDIA TODAY**



INSIDE

IN ONLINE ADDRESS TO SUPPORTERS IN NY, HASINA TARGETS YULIUS

SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT FACES IMPEACHMENT

Delhi Police arrests BCYOA as he gets bail in extortion case

NIKHILY THAKUR

NIKHILY THAKUR, 36, is a former member of the Indian National Congress (INC) who was arrested by Delhi Police on Saturday in connection with an extortion case filed last year, was granted bail Wednesday but was arrested a separate case lodged under provisions of the Maharashtra Control of Organisations Act (MCOCA). During the hearing of his bail plea in the main case, Delhi Police informed the court of additional charges against Akhilesh Kumar Badal that they would arrest the MP in the MCOCA case. "We will be arresting Nareish Balyan in a different MCOCA case, we will be arresting him right now," Special Public Prosecutor Akhilesh Prasad Singh said before the Bhopal court. Earlier in the day, police moved an application before Additional Sessions Judge Vasudevan Jain in Bhopal court, seeking permission to arrest Balyan in connection with the MCOCA case while he is on bail. The Special Public

Indian-origin artist wins Turner Prize: 'Weaves personal, political, spiritual'

PAGE 1 ARCHON

VANDANA KALRA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

INDIAN-ORIGINIST JASHEEN KAZI has won the prestigious Turner Prize 2024 for her sculpture "Ain Akbar" that reflects on plurality, personal and political concerns.

and spiritual... choreographing a visual and aural experience that suggests both individual and joy." It also highlighted Kazi's ability to gather different elements through unexpected and playful combinations of materials.

At 38, Kazi won the 2024 prize for this year's award with her sculpture "Ain Akbar" worth of ₹23,000. This year marks the 45th anniversary of the prize. The other shortlisted artists included "Pic Abad", Claude Bouteiller and Delany Le Bis.

Born in Glasgow, Kazi's great-grandfather's migration moved from Punjab in 1950, three years after Partition, her fa-



Jasheen Kazi at the award ceremony in London. **DAVID PUGH/GETTY IMAGES**

MAHARASHTRA GOVT FORMATION

Fadnavis to take oath as CM today, Shinde drags out suspense on his role

Ajit Pawar to be sworn in as Deputy CM, no other ministers to be named as yet

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE, VALLABH OZARKAR & ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 4

MORE than 10 days after the Maharashtra government formation, the suspense is finally over. At 5.30 pm on Thursday, Devendra Fadnavis will be sworn in as Chief Minister of Maharashtra. While it is confirmed that Ajit Pawar will be taking oath as Deputy CM, it is also likely, though confirmation will come later, that Shinde will be sworn in as Deputy CM.



Maharashtra leaders Devendra Fadnavis, Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar in Mumbai on Wednesday. **SHUBHANGI KHAPRE**

are still continuing, no other leader will be taking oath for now. Maharashtra can have a ministry of 43 members. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who helped part of the BJP's history, 122 seat win in Maharashtra, will be present for the swearing-in.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Forcible acquisition of ports firm at Jagan's behest: Andhra CID FIR

SURENVAR JANYALA
HYDRABAD, DECEMBER 4

THE ANDHRA Pradesh CID has registered an FIR against three persons based on a complaint by S YSRCP's Raju Raju, CEO and shareholder in Kakani Road, Andhra Pradesh. The FIR was filed at the instance of S YSRCP's Raju Raju, CEO and shareholder in Kakani Road, Andhra Pradesh, who was the chief trustee.



December 3. Three people and their firms have named in the FIR. S YSRCP's Raju Raju, CEO and shareholder in Kakani Road, Andhra Pradesh, who was the chief trustee. Hyderabad-based Raju filed his complaint at the CID police station at Mangalagiri on

Rahul stopped on way to Sambhal: 'As Leader of Opp, right to visit'

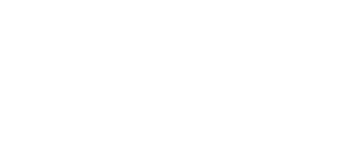
NEETIKA JHA
DELHI, DECEMBER 4

A CONGRESS delegation led by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Pratibha Patil, and Union Minister, Piyush Garg, were stopped by Uttar Pradesh Police from going to Sambhal, at the Chhapra border with Delhi on Wednesday morning.



Congress MPs Rahul Gandhi and Piyush Garg after being stopped by UP Police on Wednesday. **TOI**

Pratibha Patil from going to Sambhal, at the Chhapra border with Delhi on Wednesday morning. After being stuck for around two hours on the site late 1980s. However, the police said the deployment of over 200 police was stopped by Uttar



Burrha Banham in a meeting. **BY UNNAY**

Assam Govt bans beef at restaurants, gatherings

SURRIYA BANHAM
GUWAHATI, DECEMBER 3

ASSAM Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Wednesday announced a complete ban on the public consumption of beef in the state — including in restaurants and community gatherings.



The decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting held earlier in the day. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Sarma claimed that the move was prompted by a discussion on some recent statements by Congress leaders, who accused the BJP of voting against "soft beef" in Assam — the BJP's majority seat in the BJP's last month.

According to the latest decision, beef cannot be served in any hotels, restaurants or community functions — whether religious or otherwise. According to the CM, provisions to this effect will be added to the existing Assam Beef Prohibition Act, 2011.

CLASS 6 STUDENT APPEARED FOR DEATH OF HIS CLASSMATE
LIMITED SUCCESS IN CAPTURING CHINA PLUS ONE CHANCE
NTI AAYOGI PAGE 10

'Weaves personal, political, spiritual'

has often discussed her multi-cultural upbringing and influences. In her 2021 series, "Our Feelings Meri Jaan", explored about personal experiences and her journey, history and art. In the 2018 "I Keep Talking, There These Stories" she used as their footage and recordings gathered from India and traveled to explore culture as peace, family, identity and religion. Her 2019 publication, "The Like Felton" was co-edited by Pami for Glasgow Museum Library, which contains conversations between Kazi and members of Indian literature living in the UK.

Indian-origin artist wins Turner Prize: 'Weaves personal, political, spiritual'

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

VANDANA KALRA
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

INDIAN-ORIGIN SCOTTISH artist Jasleen Kaur has won the prestigious Turner Prize 2024 for her exhibition, "Alter Altar", that reflects on plurality, personal and political themes.

The jury — chaired by Alex Farquharson, Director, Tate Britain — praised "the considered way in which Kaur weaves together the personal, political

and spiritual... choreographing a visual and aural experience that suggests both solidarity and joy". It also highlighted Kaur's "ability to gather different voices through unexpected and playful combinations of material".

At 38, Kaur was the youngest nominee for this year's award that includes a cash prize of £25,000. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the prize. The other shortlisted artists included Pio Abad, Claudette Johnson and Delaine Le Bas.

Born in Glasgow, Kaur's great-grandfather reportedly moved from Punjab in 1950, three years after Partition; her fa-

ther owns a hardware store in Scotland. Her prize-winning exhibition "Alter Altar", first shown in Glasgow last year, also reflects on her own family history as migrants to Scotland and her upbringing.

It featured, among others, a vintage red Ford Escort covered with a huge crocheted doily, a reference to her father's migrant aspirations, worship bells, Im-Bru orange resin, an Axminster carpet, and family photographs. Also playing were soundtracks that were part of Kaur's growing up years, from Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan to Bob Marley.

In several interviews, Kaur



Jasleen Kaur at the award ceremony in London. David Parry/PA
Media Assignments

EXPLAINED
E The
Turner
Prize

SINCE IT was established in 1984, the Turner Prize has emerged as one of the most prestigious art awards. Recognising the work of a British artist, it endeavours to highlight recent developments in contemporary British art. Indian-origin British artist Anish Kapoor won the prize in 1991.

has often discussed her multicultural upbringing and influences. In her 2021 series, "Cut Feelings Meri Jaan", explored ideas around inheritance and belonging, history and archive, in the 2018 "I Keep Telling Them These Stories", she used archival footage and recordings gathered from India and Scotland to explore culture as praxis, family, identity and origins. Her 2019 publication, "Be Like Teflon", commissioned by Panel for Glasgow Women's Library, comprises conversations between Kaur and women of Indian heritage living in the UK.

Her website describes her as:

"An artist making with the slurry of life. Raised amidst betrayal, secrecy and banished outsiders, her work is to make sense of what is out of view or withheld. She is called towards plurality, declassifications, polyphony, the blur. She is practising singing in the sediment till she is intoxicated."

In an interview on the Tate website, Kaur states: "There's this particular theory that I grew up with from the Sikh tradition which talks about Miri Piri, which is this balance of the political and the spiritual. I'm really interested in that duality and I've become quite obsessed with this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

- **Overview of the Award**
- **Jasleen Kaur, an Indian-origin Scottish artist, has won the Turner Prize 2024 for her exhibition “Alter Altar”.**
 - **जसलीन कौर, एक भारतीय मूल की स्कॉटिश कलाकार, ने “अल्टर अल्टर” प्रदर्शनी के लिए टर्नर पुरस्कार 2024 जीता।**
- **The exhibition reflects themes of plurality, personal experiences, and political narratives.**
 - **यह प्रदर्शनी विविधता, व्यक्तिगत अनुभवों और राजनीतिक कहानियों पर आधारित है।**

Details of the Exhibition

Elements in “Alter Altar”

- Featured a **vintage red Ford Escort** covered with a crocheted doily symbolizing her father's migrant aspirations.
- **एक पुरानी लाल फोर्ड एस्कॉर्ट** शामिल है, जो उनके पिता की प्रवासी आकांक्षाओं का प्रतीक है।
- Other elements include **worship bells, Irn-Bru orange resin, Axminster carpet**, and family photographs.
- अन्य तत्वों में **पूजा की घंटियाँ, ऑरेंज रेजिन, कालीन**, और पारिवारिक तस्वीरें शामिल हैं।

1. Themes

1. Explores **multicultural heritage** and the **migration journey** of her family from Punjab to Scotland post-Partition.
2. **बहुसांस्कृतिक विरासत** और विभाजन के बाद पंजाब से स्कॉटलैंड तक उनके परिवार की प्रवास यात्रा को दर्शाता है।
3. Reflects the **duality of political and spiritual narratives** in Sikh tradition.
4. सिख परंपरा में **राजनीतिक और आध्यात्मिक कहानियों** की द्वंद्वता को प्रदर्शित करता है।

Turner Prize Significance

Established in **1984**, the Turner Prize is one of the most prestigious contemporary art awards.

- **1984 में स्थापित**, टर्नर पुरस्कार समकालीन कला के सबसे प्रतिष्ठित पुरस्कारों में से एक है।

Marks its **40th anniversary** in 2024, with a **£25,000 prize** for the winner.

- **2024 में पुरस्कार का 40वां वर्षगांठ** मनाई गई और विजेता को **£25,000 पुरस्कार** मिला।

UPI Lite: RBI raises per transaction limit to ₹1,000

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank on Wednesday increased the UPI Lite wallet limit to Rs 5,000 and per-transaction limit to Rs 1,000. Currently, the upper limit of an offline payment transaction is Rs 500 and the total limit for offline transactions is Rs 2,000 at any point in time. **PTI**

IndiGo ranked among worst airlines globally by AirHelp; airline refutes survey

SUKALP SHARMA

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4

INDIA'S LARGEST airline IndiGo has been listed among the world's worst airlines by European air passenger claims processing and facilitating agency AirHelp, which has ranked the airline at the 103rd spot out of a total of 109 airlines in the rankings. Reacting to the AirHelp rankings, IndiGo has refuted the survey and even questioned its credibility.

AirHelp releases an annual ranking of international airlines and airports. The rankings for airlines are based on three criteria — on-time performance, customer opinion, and processing of compensation claims. According to AirHelp, the three criteria contribute to the airline's score in equal measure, or 33.33 per cent each. In its 2024 report, AirHelp gave IndiGo a score of 4.80, placing it at the 103rd spot among 109 air-



File

lines in the list. The only other Indian airline on the list is Air India, which has been ranked 61 with a score of 6.15. Brussels Airlines has been ranked at the pole position, followed by Qatar Airways, and United Airlines with scores of 8.12, 8.11, and 8.04, respectively.

"India's aviation regulator DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation), publishes data on airline punctuality and customer complaints monthly. IndiGo has consistently scored high on punctuality and has the lowest customer complaint ratio for an airline of its size and scale of operations. The

data published in the survey by AirHelp, an EU claim processing agency, does not report the sample size from India, and neither takes into account the methodology or compensation guidelines used by the global aviation industry — casting a doubt on its credibility," IndiGo said in a statement. "As India's most preferred airline, IndiGo refutes the findings of this survey and reiterates its promise of on-time, affordable, courteous and hassle-free travel experience for its customers," the airline added.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Ranking Details

IndiGo, India's largest airline, was ranked **103rd out of 109 airlines globally** in AirHelp's 2024 report.

- भारत की सबसे बड़ी एयरलाइन इंडिगो को एयरहेल्प की 2024 रिपोर्ट में **109 में से 103वां स्थान** दिया गया।

The rankings are based on **three criteria**:

- **On-time performance**
- **Customer opinion**
- **Processing of compensation claims**
- यह रैंकिंग **तीन मानदंडों** पर आधारित है:
 - समय पर प्रदर्शन
 - ग्राहक राय
 - मुआवजा दावों की प्रक्रिया

- **Performance Metrics**

- IndiGo scored **4.80** overall, one of the **lowest scores globally**.

- इंडिगो का कुल स्कोर **4.80** रहा, जो वैश्विक स्तर पर सबसे कम स्कोरों में से एक है।

- Air India ranked **61st** with a score of **6.15**.

- एयर इंडिया को **6.15 स्कोर** के साथ **61वां स्थान** मिला।

- **Top airlines:**

- **Brussels Airlines** secured the **first position**.

- Followed by **Qatar Airways** and **United Airlines**.

- शीर्ष स्थान ब्रुसेल्स एयरलाइंस को मिला, इसके बाद कतर एयरवेज और यूनाइटेड एयरलाइंस का स्थान रहा।

- **Airline's Response**

- IndiGo **refuted the survey findings**, questioning its credibility.

- इंडिगो ने सर्वेक्षण के निष्कर्षों को खारिज करते हुए इसकी विश्वसनीयता पर सवाल उठाए।

- Claimed that the survey lacked **methodology transparency** and **sample size details**.

- एयरलाइन ने दावा किया कि सर्वेक्षण में **कार्यप्रणाली की पारदर्शिता** और **नमूने के आकार का विवरण** शामिल नहीं था।

- Stated it consistently scores high in punctuality and customer satisfaction in **DGCA reports**.

- इंडिगो ने कहा कि वह डीजीसीए रिपोर्ट्स में समयबद्धता और ग्राहक संतुष्टि में लगातार उच्च स्कोर करती है।

- **Airline's Assurance**

- IndiGo emphasized its commitment to **on-time, affordable, and hassle-free travel** for customers.
 - इंडिगो ने ग्राहकों के लिए **समय पर, सुलभ और परेशानी मुक्त यात्रा** प्रदान करने के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई।

- **Industry Context**

- AirHelp is a **European agency** that evaluates airlines annually.
 - एयरहेल्प एक **यूरोपीय एजेंसी** है जो वार्षिक रूप से एयरलाइनों का मूल्यांकन करती है।
- IndiGo reiterated its position as **India's most preferred airline**, disputing the survey results.
 - इंडिगो ने खुद को **भारत की सबसे पसंदीदा एयरलाइन** बताते हुए सर्वेक्षण के परिणामों को खारिज कर दिया।

PM internship scheme kicks off

MANU KAUSHIK
New Delhi, December 4

TWO DAYS AFTER its planned launch, the PM internship scheme (PMIS) kicked off as interns from 656 districts started their internships with companies such as IOCL, ONGC, Vedanta, Maruti Suzuki, Titan, NTPC and others.

The ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) has also started the disbursement of ₹6,000 one-time grant under the direct benefit transfer (DBT) to the selected interns.

While the ministry didn't share the exact number of people who started their internships on Wednesday, the pilot project of the scheme aims to provide 1.25 lakh internship opportunities to people between 21-24 years of age. The interns will get a monthly stipend of ₹5000 for 12 months.

"The internships under PMIS aim to provide interns with hands-on experience and enhance the employability of India's youth," said an MCA statement.

While companies like ONGC are offering accommodation to interns travelling from different districts -- along with training in soft skills and computer proficiency -- others like Maruti

PILOT PROJECT



■ Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has started disbursement of ₹6,000 one-time grant under the DBT to the selected interns

■ MCA has received more than 650,000 applications for 127,000 opportunities offered by 280 companies

Suzuki have designed a comprehensive 30-day induction programme.


Announced in the Budget 2024-25, PMIS aims to provide internship opportunities to 10 million people in top 500 companies over five years.

MCA had launched the pilot project October this year. Under the pilot project, the MCA has received over 6.5 lakh applications for 1.27 lakh opportunities offered by 280 companies. Initially, the scheme was scheduled to inaugurate on December 2, but it has been deferred.



- **Overview of PMIS Launch**

- The **PM Internship Scheme (PMIS)** began operations with interns from **656 districts** starting their roles in companies like **IOCL, ONGC, Vedanta, Maruti Suzuki, Titan, and NTPC.**

- पीएम इंटरनशिप योजना (PMIS) ने 656 जिलों के इंटर्न्स के साथ संचालन शुरू किया, जो IOCL, ONGC, वेदांता, मारुति सुजुकी, टाइटन और एनटीपीसी जैसी कंपनियों में शामिल हुए।
- 

- **Key Features of the Scheme**

- 1. Pilot Project Scope**

1. Aims to provide **1.25 lakh internship opportunities** to youth aged **21–24 years**.
2. Interns receive a monthly stipend of **₹5,000 for 12 months**.
3. पायलट प्रोजेक्ट का उद्देश्य 21–24 वर्ष के युवाओं को **1.25 लाख इंटरनशिप अवसर** प्रदान करना है।
4. इंटर्न को **₹5,000 मासिक वजीफा** 12 महीनों के लिए मिलेगा।

- 2. Hands-On Experience**

1. Designed to give interns practical exposure and improve their employability.
2. योजना का उद्देश्य इंटर्न्स को व्यावहारिक अनुभव प्रदान करना और उनकी रोजगार क्षमता को बढ़ाना है।

1. Application Statistics

1. **6.5 lakh applications** were received for **1.27 lakh opportunities** offered by **280 companies**.
2. **6.5 लाख आवेदन** 1.27 लाख अवसरों के लिए प्राप्त हुए, जो **280 कंपनियों** ने पेश किए।

• Implementation Details

- **₹6,000 one-time grant** disbursed via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- **₹6,000 का एकमुश्त अनुदान** सीधे लाभ हस्तांतरण (DBT) के माध्यम से वितरित किया गया।
- Internships include training in **soft skills, computer proficiency**, and accommodation in some cases (ONGC).
- इंटरनशिप में **सॉफ्ट स्किल्स, कंप्यूटर दक्षता** और कुछ मामलों में आवास (ONGC) शामिल हैं।



- **Induction Programs**


- Companies like **Maruti Suzuki** have designed a **30-day induction program**.

- मारुति सुजुकी जैसी कंपनियों ने **30-दिन का इंडक्शन प्रोग्राम** तैयार किया है।

- **Long-Term Goals**

- PMIS aims to create **10 million internship opportunities** over five years with **top 500 companies**.

- पीएमआईएस का लक्ष्य पांच वर्षों में **शीर्ष 500 कंपनियों** के साथ **1 करोड़ इंटरशिप अवसर** प्रदान करना है।



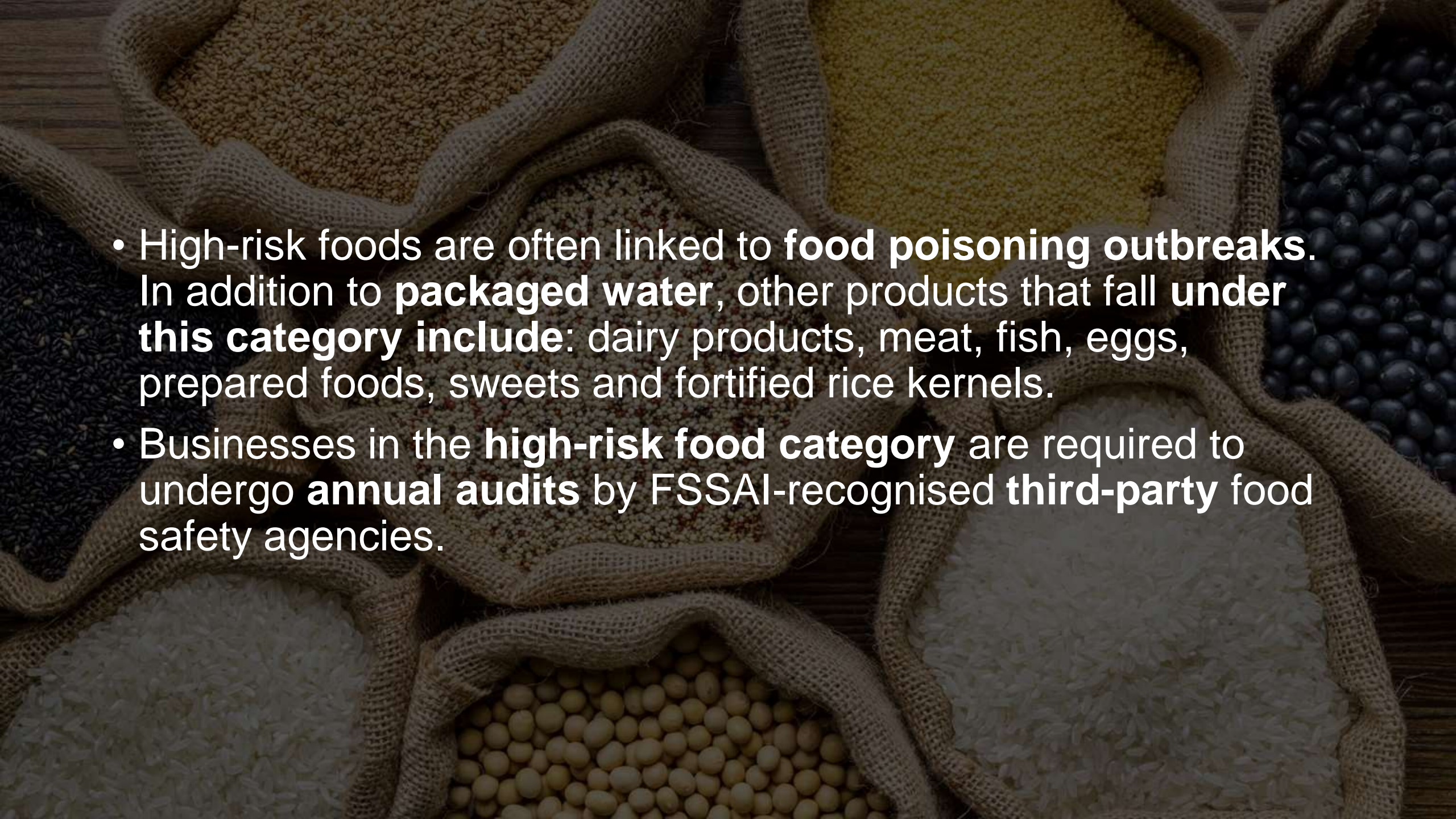
A top-down view of a wooden table with various food items. On the left is a large pizza with toppings like mushrooms, onions, and broccoli. In the center are two burgers on sesame seed buns with lettuce. To the right are french fries and another pizza with prosciutto and arugula. At the bottom left are cherry tomatoes and a sandwich. At the bottom center is a small bowl of sliced onions. At the bottom right are a knife and a fork. The text "High-Risk Food Category" is overlaid in the center in white.

High-Risk Food Category

FSSAI has categorised the packaged drinking water as '**high-risk food**'.

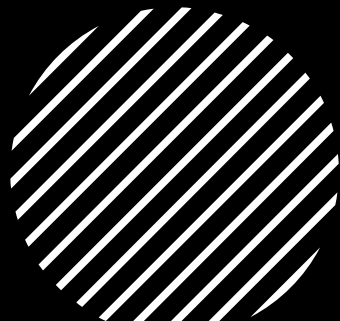
What are High-Risk Food Categories?

They are ready-to-eat items that can support **pathogen growth**, requiring careful handling and separation from raw foods.

- 
- High-risk foods are often linked to **food poisoning outbreaks**. In addition to **packaged water**, other products that fall **under this category include**: dairy products, meat, fish, eggs, prepared foods, sweets and fortified rice kernels.
 - Businesses in the **high-risk food category** are required to undergo **annual audits** by FSSAI-recognised **third-party** food safety agencies.

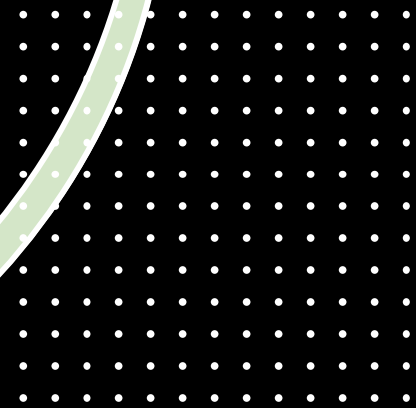
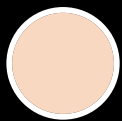


- **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**
 - It is an **autonomous body** under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
 - **Established in 2008** under **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006** ensuring proper regulation, storage and distribution of food for consumption.





SC's Concern Over Voter Limit Increase



Recently, Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna emphasised that "no voter should be turned down," indicating the court's commitment to ensuring accessible voting for all citizens.

Earlier, Election Commission of India (ECI) has pushed the maximum limit per polling station from 1,200 (in rural) and 1,400 (urban) to a uniform 1,500 voters, which has raised concerns regarding potential disenfranchisement.

- **A petition challenged the ECI's decision, arguing that it would lead to overcrowded polling stations and longer wait times.**
 - A voter takes around 90 seconds to cast their vote, allowing 45 voters per hour. Over 11 hours, a polling station can accommodate only 495 voters (660 voters with maximum efficiency).
 - The petition highlights that ECI's rationale for increasing the limit lacks **fresh data like updated census.**

-
- Rules for Setting up Polling Station:
 - Representation of People Act, 1951 mandates the Election Commission to provide for a 'sufficient number of polling stations for every constituency'.
 - A polling station should be located so that voters typically travel no more than 2 kilometers to vote, with exceptions for sparsely populated hilly or forest areas.

Top 10 MCQ from
today's session

- India supported a **UN resolution demanding Israel's withdrawal** from Palestinian territories occupied since 1967. What key principle does the resolution emphasize?

भारत ने 1967 से कब्जे में लिए गए फिलिस्तीनी क्षेत्रों से **इजराइल की वापसी की मांग** करने वाले संयुक्त राष्ट्र प्रस्ताव का समर्थन किया। यह प्रस्ताव किस मुख्य सिद्धांत पर जोर देता है?

- **A. Mutual trade agreements / आपसी व्यापार समझौते**
- **B. Inalienable rights of Palestinians / फिलिस्तीनियों के अविभाज्य अधिकार**
- **C. Economic sanctions on Israel / इजराइल पर आर्थिक प्रतिबंध**
- **D. Military disengagement / सैन्य अलगाव**

- The **Syrian Golan Heights** resolution urged Israel to withdraw to pre-1967 lines. What is India's stand on this issue?

सीरियाई गोलान पहाड़ियों के प्रस्ताव में इजराइल से 1967 से पहले की सीमाओं तक वापस जाने का आग्रह किया गया। इस मुद्दे पर भारत का क्या रुख है?

- A. Supports the resolution / प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता है
- B. Abstains from voting / मतदान से अनुपस्थित रहता है
- C. Opposes the resolution / प्रस्ताव का विरोध करता है
- D. Maintains neutrality / तटस्थता बनाए रखता है

- The **Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC)** in Hyderabad is the first of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region. What is its primary focus?
गूगल सेफ्टी इंजीनियरिंग सेंटर (GSEC), हैदराबाद में, एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में अपनी तरह का पहला केंद्र है। इसका मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- **A. Cybersecurity solutions / साइबर सुरक्षा समाधान**
- **B. AI-driven online safety products / एआई-आधारित ऑनलाइन सुरक्षा उत्पाद**
- **C. Cloud data management / क्लाउड डेटा प्रबंधन**
- **D. Blockchain technology / ब्लॉकचेन तकनीक**

- The **PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 mission** was rescheduled due to an anomaly. What was the issue detected?
PSLV-C59/PROBA-3 मिशन को विसंगति के कारण पुनर्निर्धारित किया गया।
पाई गई समस्या क्या थी?
- **A. Fuel leakage in the propulsion system / प्रणोदन प्रणाली में ईंधन रिसाव**
- **B. Issue in the satellite deployment system / उपग्रह तैनाती प्रणाली में समस्या**
- **C. Redundant propulsion system anomaly / अनावश्यक प्रणोदन प्रणाली में विसंगति**
- **D. Software malfunction / सॉफ्टवेयर खराबी**

- The **Kinet joint venture** will supply 1,920 Vande Bharat sleeper coaches.

What is the total project value?

काइनेट संयुक्त उद्यम 1,920 वंदे भारत स्लीपर कोच की आपूर्ति करेगा।
परियोजना की कुल लागत क्या है?

- **A. \$5.5 billion**
- B. \$6.5 billion**
- C. \$7.5 billion**
- D. \$8.5 billion**

- The **PM Internship Scheme (PMIS)** provides a stipend to interns across India. How much is the monthly stipend offered under this scheme?
पीएम इंटरनशिप योजना (PMIS) के तहत भारत भर में इंटर्न्स को वजीफा प्रदान किया जाता है। इस योजना के तहत मासिक वजीफा कितना है?
- **A. ₹3,000**
- **B. ₹4,000**
- **C. ₹5,000**
- **D. ₹6,000**

Word of the day

Umber:

an earth pigment; a medium brown to dark-brown colour; of the colour of any of various natural brown earth pigments

Synonyms: deep brown

Usage: *It resembled a refurbished house with umber bricks.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/umberpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ʌmbə/

- **Myth:** Fingernails grow after death.
Burst: Humans did not evolve directly from monkeys. Instead, humans and modern monkeys share a **common ancestor**. Here's a breakdown of the concept:

Common Ancestor: Humans, monkeys, and apes all evolved from a shared ancestor that lived millions of years ago.

This ancestor was neither a modern monkey nor a modern human but a species with traits that eventually diverged into different evolutionary paths.

Evolutionary Tree:

Monkeys are part of the primate family, which also includes apes and humans.


Humans are more closely related to great apes (like chimpanzees and gorillas) than to monkeys.

Modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) share about 98–99% of their DNA with chimpanzees, indicating a close evolutionary relationship.

Key Differences:

Monkeys generally have tails, whereas apes and humans do not.

Humans have larger brains and more complex cognitive abilities compared to monkeys and apes.

A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some wearing suits. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window with light coming through. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner.

Thank you
guys.
