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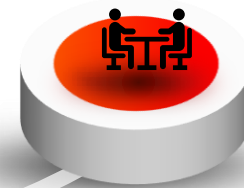
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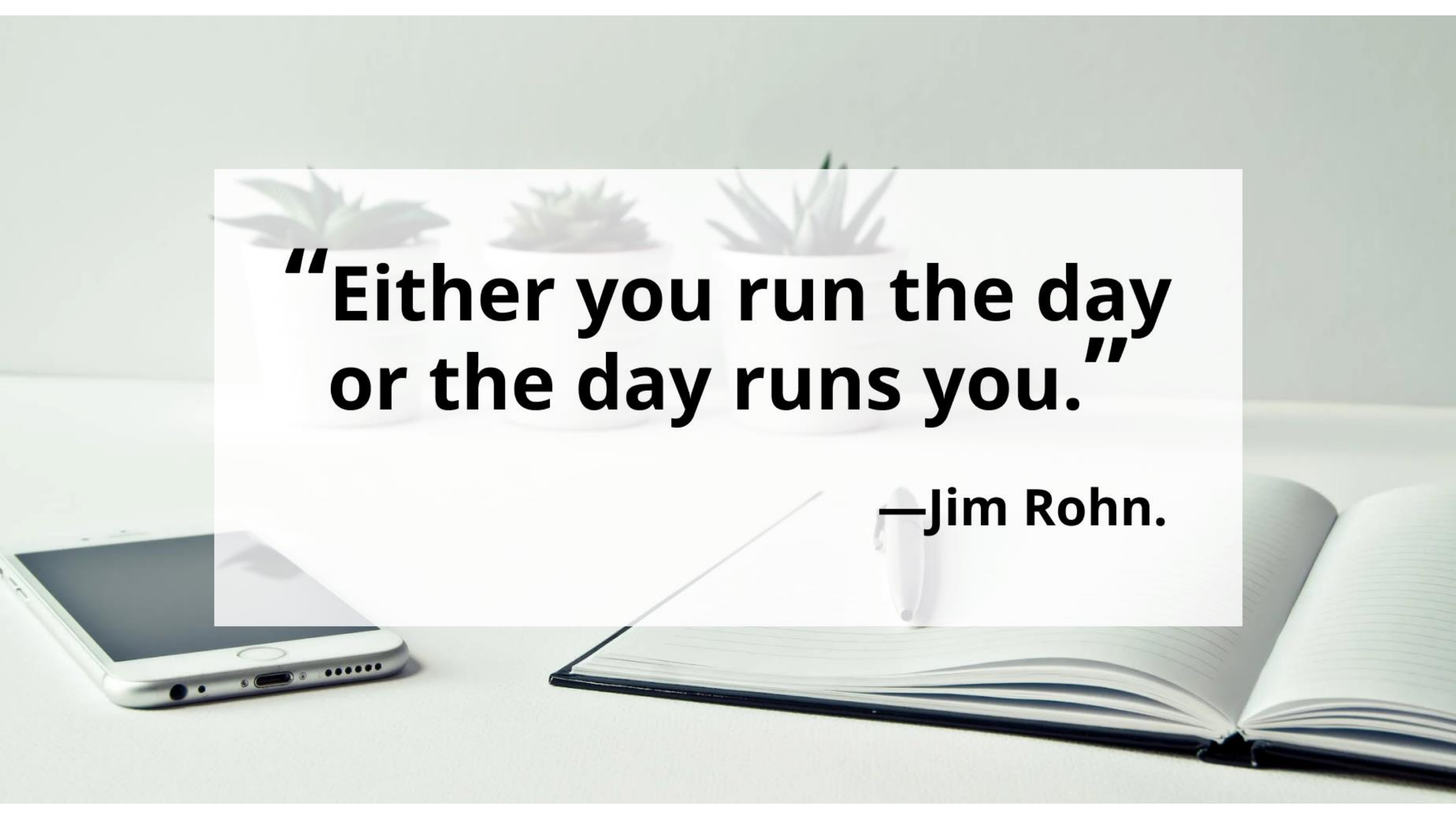
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**“Either you run the day
or the day runs you.”**

—Jim Rohn.

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MODERN-DAY SOLUTION
Co-living: a hit with Gen XYZ



Amid rising rental costs and busy lifestyles, more Indian professionals opt for the ease of co-living, a means to combat the loneliness epidemic

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Kash Patel: Donald Trump's die-hard loyalist

Australia has India on the mat in the second Test

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SP to quit MVA over post on Babri Masjid

MUMBAI
Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA Abu Amini said on Saturday that the party would quit the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Maharashtra, citing a controversial social media post on Babri Masjid by a close aide of Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray. » PAGE 3

U.P. bans protests by government staff for 6 months

LUCKNOW
The Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday invoked the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA), banning strikes by government employees for six months. The Act gives police the power to arrest employees violating its provisions, without a warrant. » PAGE 3

Yoon escapes impeachment over martial law

SEOUL
South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol escaped impeachment on Saturday over his brief declaration of martial law, after lawmakers from his ruling People Power Party boycotted a vote despite huge protests outside the parliament. » PAGE 12

Special Bench to hear Places of Worship Act case

Three-judge SC Bench headed by Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna to look into petitions seeking to 'reclaim' places of worship allegedly 'encroached' by 'fundamentalist invaders'; first hearing fixed on Dec. 12; 'grievances' against Mughal rulers not a valid ground to challenge validity of a legislative enactment, says group representing Gyanvapi mosque

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna has constituted a Special Bench to hear petitions challenging the validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991, a statute that has protected the identity and character of religious sites as they existed on August 15, 1947. The three-judge Bench will be headed by Chief Justice Khanna, and also include Justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan. The first hearing of the case is scheduled for 3.30 p.m. on December 12. The listing of the case

before the newly formed Special Bench was shown in the casefile published by the court on Saturday. The case involves a slew of petitions challenging the legality of the 1991 Act. The petitioners, including advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, blame the 1991 law for hurting Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs from approaching courts to "re-claim" their places of worship which were allegedly "invaded" and "encroached" upon by "fundamentalist barbaric invaders". Muslim organisations such as the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and the Jamiat

Ulama-i-Hind, however, have countered it. They say that these petitions, in the guise of public interest petitions, cannot challenge a Central law which has guarded the spirit of fraternity and secularism, virtues from the Preamble of the Constitution, as well as parts of the "Basic Structure" of the Constitution, through protection of the religious character of religious places. Ayodhya verdict The AIMPLB pointed out that even the Ayodhya judgment had observed that the 1991 Act spoke "to our history and to the future of the nation... In pre-

Act's ambit
The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 lays down the rules to prevent the conversion of religious places. SECTION 2(C) defines "place of worship" to include "temple, mosque, gurudwara, church, monastery or any other place of public religious worship...". SECTION 3 prohibits the conversion of any place of worship. SECTION 4 imposes a positive obligation to maintain the religious character of every place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947. PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Why can't world leaders agree on a plastic ban? Kash Patel: Donald Trump's die-hard loyalist Australia has India on the mat in the second Test

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'Healthy India, Happy India' campaign begins



The Hindu Bureau
WELLING

"Healthy India, Happy India", a joint initiative of The Hindu and Naruvi Hospitals, Wellere, to build awareness on preventive healthcare, was inaugurated by Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Saturday. He appreciated the partnership to take the message on health to people. G.V. Sampath, founder and chairman, Naruvi Hospitals, explained the genesis of the project, while N. Ram, director, The Hindu Group, highlighted Tamil Nadu's leadership in healthcare initiatives. The partnership will fea-

ture a series of 15 webinars on a variety of topics emphasising prevention and holistic health, to build awareness among people and start them on a journey of prioritising their health. These will be anchored by The Hindu's editorial team, with participation of experts from Naruvi Hospitals and specialists. The webinar series kicked off with an offline event at the hospital in Wellere, featuring experts, including pulmonary and respiratory medicine specialists, who weighed in on the twin burden of stress and sleep. MORE REPORTS » PAGE 4

Myanmar fisherfolk rescued off T.N. coast

The Hindu Bureau
NAGAPATTINAM

Four Myanmar fishermen, who were stranded at sea for nearly three weeks, were rescued by the Indian Coast Guard and brought to the Nagapattinam port in Tamil Nadu on Friday morning. The fishermen, who only speak Burmese, had set out on a bamboo raft from Bogale, Myanmar, on November 7. Severe weather conditions and rough seas had caused their anchor to break, pushing their raft over 1,000 nautical miles into the Indian waters. The fishermen were found drifting on a 10-foot-long and 12-foot-wide bamboo raft without a motor. This traditional fishing method, common in Bogale, involves fishermen staying on the raft for days before returning to the shore.

Their unique architecture gives mosques in Kashmir Valley a place in the sun

Broad-sloped roofs of these places of worship are ideal for tapping solar energy; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo has given the nod to include religious places under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

Peergada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The uniquely multi-tiered and broad-sloped roofs of mosques in Kashmir are set to be part of an ambitious project to generate renewable energy in the Valley. J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, at a meeting held in Srinagar recently, gave the nod to include religious places, especially mosques in Kashmir, under the flagship "PM Surya Ghar (sun house)-Muft Bijli Yojana (free electricity scheme)" to boost the generation of electricity in a region that faces low power cuts throughout the year. Reyaz Ameen Malik, an electrical engineer, feels the initiative could be a game-changer. "It has huge potential, given that there are mosques with wide roof surfaces in every locality in the Kashmir Valley. Religious sites have no load requirement at night, can easily become self-sufficient in the summers, and supply surplus electricity to the grid to generate 3 KW (kilo-watt) of electricity," he said. Kashmir has a great potential for solar generation. IMRAN NISARGI

Ambitious plans: With there being a mosque in every locality, Kashmir has a great potential for solar generation. IMRAN NISARGI

Militants 'close in' on Damascus; Syria denies Army retreat

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Islamist militants on a lightning advance through Syria said on Saturday they have begun to encircle Damascus as government forces denied they had withdrawn from areas near the capital. "Our forces have begun the final phase of encircling the capital, Damascus," said militant commander Hassan Abdel Ghani, with the Islamic-led alliance that launched the offensive. The Defence Ministry flatly denied the Army had fled its positions. "There is no truth to news claiming our front-line fighters have withdrawn," it said. Earlier, a war monitor and Abdel Ghani said rebels were within 20 km of Damascus as government forces fell back in the face of the offensive gathering even more momentum. The Syria Observatory for Human Rights said government forces had captured more key ground, losing all of southern Daraa province and evacuating posts in Quneitra, near the Egyptian-Syrian border. The monitor said government forces were al-

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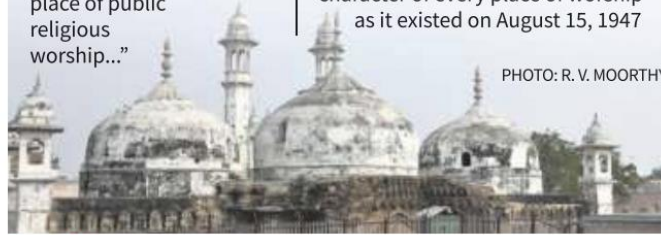


PHOTO: R. V. MOORTHY

Eye of the storm: The Gyanvapi mosque committee has also sought to intervene in the challenge against the 1991 Act.

servicing the character of places of public worship, Parliament has mandated

in no uncertain terms that history and its wrongs shall not be used as instruments

to oppress the present and the future".

The Gyanvapi mosque management committee has also sought to intervene in the challenge against the 1991 Act in the top court.

The Gyanvapi mosque is at the centre of multiple civil suits by Hindu plaintiffs claiming the presence of a temple under the mosque, and their right to worship.


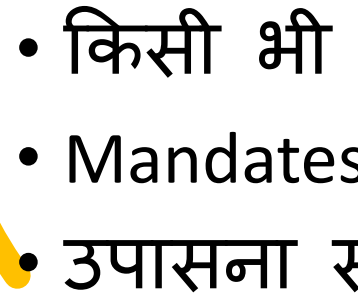
The Anjuman Intezamia Masajid Varanasi, which represents the Gyanvapi mosque, has argued that rhetorical claims and "purported grievances" caused by ancient rulers of the Mughal period cannot be grounds for challenging

the validity of a legislative enactment like the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act.

Centre stays silent

The Union government has chosen to remain tight-lipped so far, promising to file a counter-affidavit in the pending challenge against the 1991 Act.

The constitution of the Special Bench and listing of the case on a specific day by the top court has come amidst frenetic judicial interventions by local courts in States like Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in civil suits challenging the origins and character of mosques.

- 
- **Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991:** Protects the identity and character of religious sites as they existed on **August 15, 1947**.
 - धार्मिक स्थलों की पहचान और स्वरूप को 15 अगस्त 1947 की स्थिति के अनुसार सुरक्षित करता है।
 - Prevents the conversion of any place of worship.
 - किसी भी उपासना स्थल के रूपांतरण को रोकता है।
 - Mandates maintaining the religious character of places of worship.
 - उपासना स्थलों के धार्मिक स्वरूप को बनाए रखने का निर्देश देता है।
- 

Supreme Court Intervention / सुप्रीम कोर्ट का हस्तक्षेप:

Special Bench Constitution / विशेष पीठ का गठन:

- Headed by Chief Justice of India **Sanjiv Khanna**, including Justices Sanjay Kumar and K.V. Viswanathan.
- भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश संजीव खन्ना की अध्यक्षता में, जस्टिस संजय कुमार और के.वी. विश्वनाथन शामिल हैं।
- Scheduled for its **first hearing on December 12, 2024**, at 3:30 PM.
- पहली सुनवाई 12 दिसंबर 2024 को दोपहर 3:30 बजे निर्धारित।

Petitions Challenging the Act / अधिनियम को चुनौती देने वाली याचिकाएं:

Led by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, petitioners argue:

- The Act denies Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs the right to reclaim places of worship allegedly encroached upon by "fundamentalist invaders."
- याचिकाकर्ताओं का तर्क है कि यह अधिनियम हिंदुओं, जैनों, बौद्धों और सिखों को उन स्थलों पर दावा करने से रोकता है जो कथित रूप से "मूलवादी आक्रमणकारियों" द्वारा अतिक्रमित किए गए थे।

Gyanvapi Mosque Case / ज्ञानवापी मस्जिद मामला:At the center of multiple civil suits, with claims of a temple beneath the mosque.

मस्जिद के नीचे मंदिर होने के दावे के साथ कई दीवानी मुकदमों के केंद्र में।

The Gyanvapi mosque committee is seeking to intervene.

ज्ञानवापी मस्जिद प्रबंधन समिति हस्तक्षेप करना चाहती है।

Muslim Organizations' Stance / मुस्लिम संगठनों का रुख:

All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind argue:

- The Act is essential for maintaining fraternity and secularism.
- अधिनियम भातृत्व और धर्मनिरपेक्षता बनाए रखने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
- History and its "wrongs" should not dictate present or future actions.
- इतिहास और इसके "गलत कार्यों" को वर्तमान या भविष्य की कार्रवाई का आधार नहीं बनना चाहिए।

The AIMPLB cites the **Ayodhya Verdict** supporting the Act's historical significance.

AIMPLB ने अयोध्या फैसले का हवाला दिया, जो अधिनियम के ऐतिहासिक महत्व का समर्थन करता है।

Government's Position / सरकार का रुख:

Centre's Silence / केंद्र की चुप्पी:

- Union government has not revealed its stance, promising a counter-affidavit.
- केंद्र सरकार ने अपना रुख स्पष्ट नहीं किया है, लेकिन जवाबी हलफनामा दायर करने का वादा किया है।






- **Broader Implications / व्यापक प्रभाव:**

- Reflects tensions between historical grievances and constitutional principles.

- ऐतिहासिक शिकायतों और संवैधानिक सिद्धांतों के बीच तनाव को दर्शाता है।



- Balances preserving the **secular fabric** with addressing **religious sentiments**.



- धर्मनिरपेक्ष ढांचे को बनाए रखने और धार्मिक भावनाओं का समाधान करने के बीच संतुलन।

Show-cause notice sent to 86 IIT faculty members

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

A section of faculty members at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, is at loggerheads with the institute administration over the show-cause notice to 86 teachers. The rift began when the IIT Teachers' Association (IITTA) filed a complaint with the Union Education Ministry citing arbitrary recruitment, favouritism, and irregularities at the institute.

According to sources in the IIT, the issues began in September when the professors complained about "unprecedented nepotism, arbitrary faculty recruitment, failure in starting a multi-specialty hospital, and untimely recovery of payment from faculty".

Four IITTA office-bearers were sent show-cause notices after filing the complaint and were asked to justify their claims. The situation became more tense when 86 other professors submitted another petition to the institute. The institute sent show-cause notices to these 86 professors and it snowballed into a row.

SP to quit MVA in Maharashtra over post on Babri Masjid

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Samajwadi Party (SP) on Saturday announced its decision to quit the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Maharashtra, citing a controversial post by a close aide of Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray.

On Friday, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Milind Narwarikar shared a poster on X featuring images of the Babri Masjid demolition along with a quote from Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray: "I am proud of those who did this."

The post also included photographs of Mr. Uddhav and his son Aaditya Thackeray.

Reacting to the post, SP's Maharashtra unit chief Abu Azmi criticised the Shiv Sena (UBT), saying, "if anyone in the MVA uses such language, how are they different from the BJP? Why should we remain in this alliance? We are quitting the MVA, I am speaking with SP president (Akhlesh Yadav). The Congress must decide whether it can align with such a party."

Samajwadi Party has two MLAs — Mr. Azmi and Raees Sheikh — in the 288-member Assembly.

The Samajwadi Party has two MLAs — Mr. Azmi and Raees Sheikh — in the 288-member Assembly. Both took oath on Saturday while the remaining MVA legislators boycotted the first day of the Assembly's special session, alleging misuse of electronic voting machines.

Defends party's stance
In response, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Bhaskar Jadhav defended his party's consistent stance on the Babri Masjid since 1992, questioning why the SP has suddenly raised the issue after 31 years. Mr. Jadhav and several Congress leaders accused the SP of shifting allegiances toward the ruling alliance.

Mr. Azmi further criticised the Shiv Sena (UBT) for not having an effective coordination within the Akhlesh Yadav-led Maharashtra Assembly election. The SP had contested eight seats, winning two.

U.P. invokes ESMA, imposes six-month ban on protests

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday invoked the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA), banning strikes by government employees in all State government departments, corporations, and authorities for six months.

"In exercise of the powers under sub-section (3) of section-3 of the Uttar Pradesh Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1966 (U.P. Act No. 30 of 1966), the State government hereby prohibits strikes for a period of six months from the date of the notification," reads the notification issued by the government.

The decision came amid the upcoming Maha Kumbh, which is held in the State, and is an important programme.

The Act gives the police the power to arrest the en-



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during a visit to review preparations ahead of the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj on Saturday.

protesters violating the provisions of the Act without a warrant. The punishment is imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or a fine which may extend to ₹1,00,000 or both, to any person who instigated a strike which was illegal under the act.

The Opposition decried the decision as a black law, we condemn the move," said Anil Yadav, a senior Congress leader.



Protesters in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, holding placards and protesting against the government's decision to invoke the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA).

Protesters in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, holding placards and protesting against the government's decision to invoke the Essential Services Maintenance Act (ESMA). The protesters are demanding the withdrawal of the ESMA and the release of the arrested workers.

Rajnath to oversee commissioning of Tushil in Russia

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The first of two stealth guided missile frigates, Tushil, under construction in Russia, is set to be commissioned during the three-day visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh beginning on Sunday for the 21st meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRGC-MMTC).

Mr. Singh and his Russian counterpart, Andrey Belousov, will co-chair the 21st meeting of the IRGC-MMTC in Moscow on December 10, a Defence Ministry statement said. "The two leaders will review the entire range of multi-faceted relations between the two countries in the field of defence, including military-to-military and industrial cooperation. They will also exchange views on contemporary regional and global issues of mutual interest."

Mr. Singh will travel to Yantra Shipyard in Kaliningrad for the commissioning ceremony of the frigate during which he will be accompanied by Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi.



Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister, with Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi.

In addition, he will pay tributes at 'The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier' in Moscow to honour the Soviet soldiers killed during the Second World War. He will interact with members of the Indian community. Tushil is an upgraded Krivak III class frigate of Project 1135.6 of which six are already in service — three Talwar class ships, built at Baltiysk shipyard, St. Petersburg, and three follow-on Teg class ships, built at Yantra shipyard, Kaliningrad. The ship's construction was closely monitored by an Indian team of specialists from the Warship Overseeing Team stationed at Kaliningrad, under the aegis of the Embassy of India, Moscow, the Navy said in a statement.

BSF deployment moved to zero line along Bangladesh border in Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The Border Security Force has shifted the deployment of its personnel to the zero line along the border with Bangladesh in Murshidabad district of West Bengal. The border is a long stretch of char lands along the Padma river, and the force had so far been deployed a few hundred metres from the border inside the Indian territory.

Farmers who have their farmlands in the char land now had to register with the BSF to access and cultivate the lands.

"There are three battalions in Murshidabad, where there is a problem of char lands. Everywhere we have deployed forces along the zero line from Farakka to Kakmarchar," Deputy Inspector-General Anil Kumar Singh of the BSF Baharampur range told presspersons.



West Bengal shares a 2,216-km border with Bangladesh, and it is manned by three frontiers of the BSF. SHIV SAHAY SINGH

The official said the deployment has been made from three Battalion Battalions 73, 146, and 149 of the South Bengal Frontier of the BSF.

'Long-pending demand'
While sources in the security establishment said that the force had been stationed inside the Indian territory, BSF officials said it was a long pending demand of farmers in the area. Chars are pieces of land formed of sand and silt that appear and disappear depending on the flow of river.

The chars along the Bangladesh border are created by the Padma. They don't have power and water supply, which is why the force had been stationed inside the Indian territory.

BSF officials said that the work on surveying and erecting fences along the international border will start soon.

Better protection
Jitlikar Anil, secretary, Border Development Committee of Murshidabad, who has repeatedly demanded deployment of the BSF at the zero line in the chars, welcomed the move. He said it will benefit thousands of farmers.

They don't have power and access their land without having to take permission from the BSF. This would also help in better protection of our borders," he said.

Mr. Anil said that two Indian nationals were arrested and are still lodged in prison in Bangladesh after they crossed over to work in their fields on September 2. West Bengal shares a 2,216-km border with Bangladesh, and it is manned by three frontiers of the BSF.

'Design phase of indigenous nuclear attack submarines to take 4-5 years'

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The design phase of the indigenous nuclear attack submarines (SSN) will take four or five years, officials of the construction of the first one, but the experience of deployment of the first clear missile submarine programme (SSBN) will take another five years, officials in the navy said.

The third SSN leased from Russia is expected to be delivered to the Indian Navy in 2028 after delays. Last week, when asked about the indigenous SSN programme, Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi said that "as per their timelines, 2036-37 was the very realistic timeframe when the first SSN can be inducted followed by the second one in a couple of years."

The design and development should take four or five years, and the construction another five



INS Arighat with a displacement of 6,000 tonnes was commissioned into service in August 2016. FILE PHOTO

years, the sources said. An SSN is different from an SSBN but the experience of building the latter is helpful and the reactor and other specifications will be finalised considering the realistic timeframe when the first SSN needs, the sources said.

The second SSN, INS Arighat (S3), which is currently under construction, is expected to be commissioned in August 2026. The third SSN, INS Aridhanta (S4), is currently under construction and is expected to be commissioned in August 2031.

net Committee on Security approved the indigenous construction of two SSNs estimated to cost around ₹35,000 crore, while India's fourth SSBN referred to as 'S4' was launched into the water at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam, as reported earlier.

India currently has two SSNs in operation — INS Arighat with a displacement of 6,000 tonnes and powered by an S3-MW pressurised light-water reactor with enriched uranium was commissioned in August 2016.

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October saw two major developments — the Cab-

'Disappointing,' U.S. says in response to BJP's accusations

Suhamsini Hazare
NEW DELHI

The U.S. reacted sharply on Saturday to the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) allegation that the U.S. Department was behind targeted attacks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indian businessman Gautam Adani, including the accusations and saying they were "disappointing".

In response to the series of posts by the BJP on X, which included accusations that it was behind an investigative reporting project Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), the U.S. government said it had been a "champion of media freedom around the world", and does not influence editorial decisions by these organisations.

"It is disappointing that the ruling party in India would make these kinds of accusations," a spokesman (SIC) on Saturday to the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi told The Hindu.

The U.S. Embassy spokesperson did not deny the allegation that it was funding groups such as the OCCRP, but said the U.S. government "works" with independent organisations on programming that supports professional development and capacity building training of journalists," adding that this "programming does not influence the editorial decisions or direction of these organisations". The strong statements exchanged indicate a new low in ties between New Delhi and Washington, that have been under a strain. The Ministry of External Affairs has so far refused to comment.

Kerala panel defers release of Hema Committee report's redacted parts

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The State Information Commission (SIC) on Saturday deferred the release of the redacted portions of the Hema Committee report which documented intimidating details of systemic sexual exploitation, workplace harassment and gender inequality in the Malayalam film industry.

The panel, in a complaint from an individual against releasing the redacted portions of the report, precluded the SIC from taking a final call on the matter. Several activists had moved the SIC accusing the Kerala government of showing "overzealousness" in censoring parts of the report allegedly protect "high-profile wrongdoers". They said the panel had asked the government to



overstepping their brief." The report's "redacted" publication sparked off a controversial reckoning of the "misogyny" in the movie industry. It prompted many persons, including aspiring actors, joining ardent protests and petitions from other States, to relate their traumatic experiences "on conventional and social media."

ISKCON alleges its centre in Bangladesh capital set on fire

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

"A centre of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in Dhaka in Bangladesh, a spokesperson of the religious order said on Saturday.

"Early morning today, miscreants set fire to the Shri Shri Radha Krishna Temple and the Shri Sri Jagadgurur Lalabhai Narayan Temple, located in Ghorisail village, under the jurisdiction of Turag Police Station, Dhaka district."

The government had ordered the police to investigate the fire and to ensure the safety of the temple and its members. The fire was caused by a gas cylinder that exploded, and the temple was damaged down completely.

there are more than 100 centres of the religious order in Bangladesh and four of its monks including Chinmoy Krishna Das have been arrested. Mr. Das said was set on fire in Dhaka in Bangladesh, a spokesperson of the religious order said on Saturday.

Various Hindutva organisations have organised protests in Kolkata and other parts of the State demanding the release of Chinmoy Krishna Das. Certain groups including Leader of Opposition (Opposition) Anandiben Debbarman has, spokesmen of ISKCON Kolkata posted on X. He said the fire was initiated by lifting the tin roof at the back of the temple and using petrol or octane and all items inside the temple were burned down completely.

According to ISKCON, the temple was damaged down completely. According to ISKCON, the temple was damaged down completely.

Rajnath to oversee commissioning of *Tushil* in Russia

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

The first of two stealth guided missile frigates, *Tushil*, under construction in Russia, is set to be commissioned during the three-day visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh beginning on Sunday for the 21st meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC).

Mr. Singh and his Russian counterpart, Andrey Belousov, will co-chair the 21st meeting of the IRIGC-M&MTC in Moscow on December 10, a Defence Ministry statement said. "The two leaders will review the entire range of multi-faceted relations between the two countries in the field of defence, including military-to-military and industrial cooperation. They will also exchange views on contemporary regional and global issues of mutual interest."

Mr. Singh will travel to Yantra Shipyard in Kaliningrad for the commissioning ceremony of the frigate during which he will be accompanied by Navy




Rajnath Singh

chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi.

In addition, he will pay tributes at 'The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier' in Moscow to honour the Soviet soldiers killed during the Second World War. He will interact with members of the Indian community.

Tushil is an upgraded Krivak III class frigate of Project 1135.6 of which six are already in service – three Talwar class ships, built at Baltisky shipyard, St. Petersburg, and three follow-on Teg class ships, built at Yantar shipyard, Kaliningrad. The ship's construction was closely monitored by an Indian team of specialists from the Warship Overseeing Team stationed at Kaliningrad, under the aegis of the Embassy of India, Moscow, the Navy said in a statement.









- **Key Event / मुख्य घटना:**

- **Rajnath Singh to visit Russia for the commissioning of *Tushil*, a stealth guided missile frigate.**

राजनाथ सिंह रूस का दौरा करेंगे ताकि *तुषिल*, एक स्टेल्थ गाइडेड मिसाइल फ्रिगेट, का कमीशनिंग हो सके।

- **Scheduled during the 21st meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC).**

यह भारत-रूस सैन्य और तकनीकी सहयोग अंतर-सरकारी आयोग (IRIGC-M&MTC) की 21वीं बैठक के दौरान होगा।





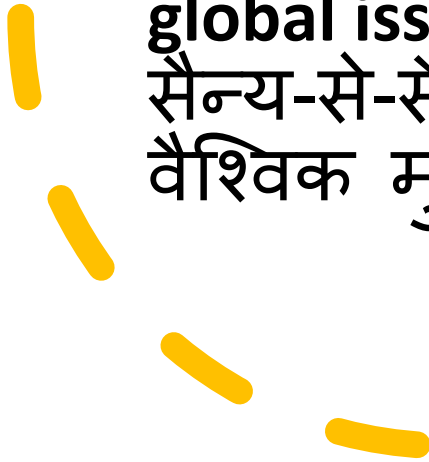
- **Agenda of the Visit / दौरे का उद्देश्य:**

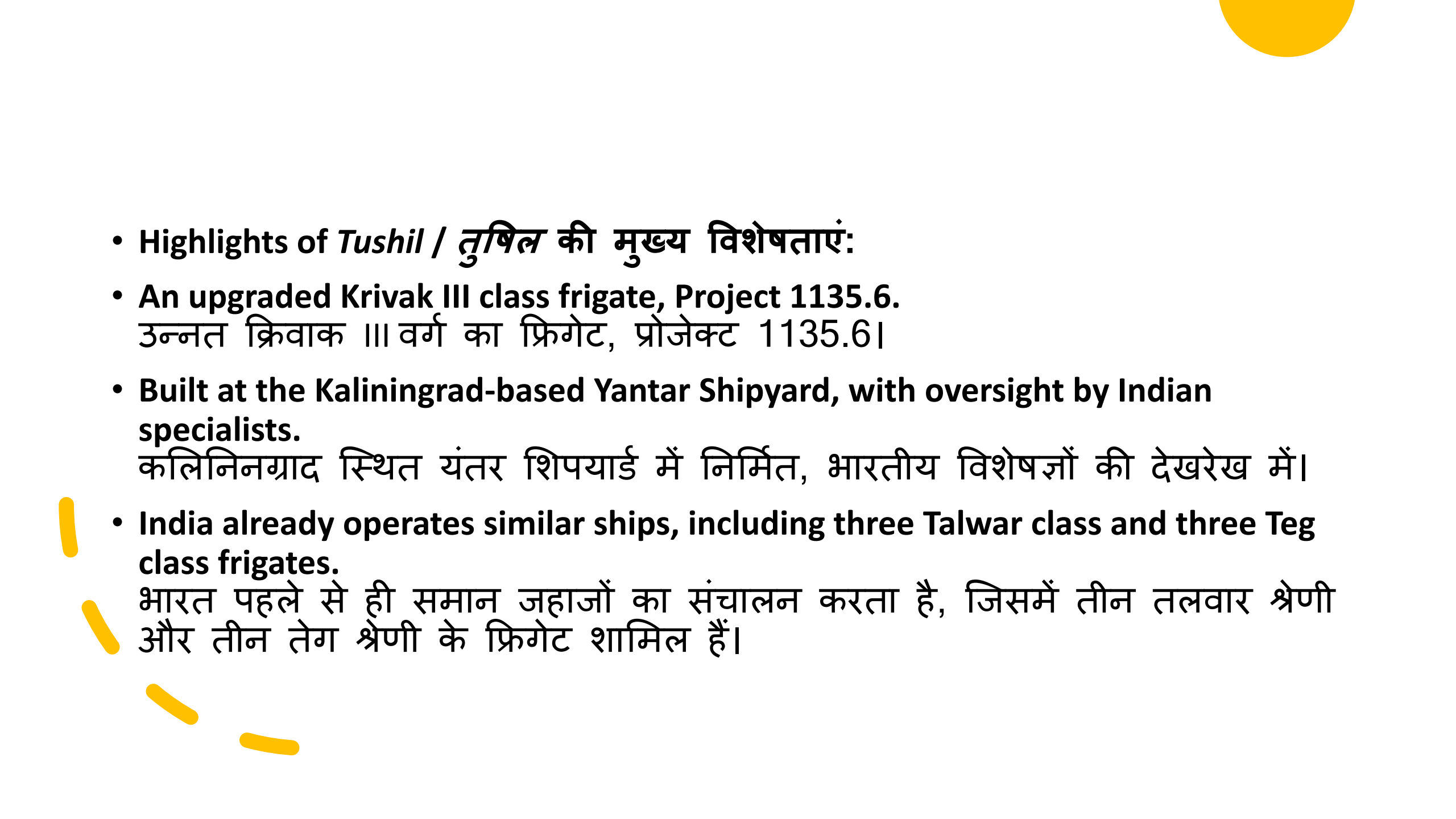
- **Meeting with Russian counterpart Andrey Belousov to discuss defence cooperation.**



रूसी समकक्ष आंद्रे बेलूसोव के साथ रक्षा सहयोग पर चर्चा।

- **Focus on military-to-military and industrial cooperation, reviewing global issues of mutual interest.**

सैन्य-से-सैन्य और औद्योगिक सहयोग, साथ ही पारस्परिक हित के वैश्विक मुद्दों पर समीक्षा।



- 
- **Highlights of *Tushil* / तुषिल की मुख्य विशेषताएं:**
 - **An upgraded Krivak III class frigate, Project 1135.6.**
उन्नत क्रिवाक III वर्ग का फ्रिगेट, प्रोजेक्ट 1135.6।
 - **Built at the Kaliningrad-based Yantar Shipyard, with oversight by Indian specialists.**
कलिनिनग्राद स्थित यंतर शिपयार्ड में निर्मित, भारतीय विशेषज्ञों की देखरेख में।
 - **India already operates similar ships, including three Talwar class and three Teg class frigates.**
भारत पहले से ही समान जहाजों का संचालन करता है, जिसमें तीन तलवार श्रेणी और तीन तेग श्रेणी के फ्रिगेट शामिल हैं।

- 
- **Commemorative Activities / स्मारक गतिविधियां:**
 - **Tribute to 'The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier' in Moscow to honour WWII Soviet soldiers.**
द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के सोवियत सैनिकों को सम्मानित करने के लिए मोस्को में 'द टॉम्ब ऑफ द अननोन सोल्जर' पर श्रद्धांजलि।
 - **Interaction with the Indian community in Russia.**
रूस में भारतीय समुदाय के साथ संवाद।
- 







- **Historical Perspective / ऐतिहासिक परिप्रेक्ष्य:**

- **India and Russia share a longstanding defence partnership, with significant arms trade and technology transfers since the Cold War era.**

भारत और रूस के बीच लंबे समय से रक्षा साझेदारी है, जिसमें शीत युद्ध युग से महत्वपूर्ण हथियार व्यापार और प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण शामिल हैं।

- **Krivak-class ships have been integral to India's Navy since the 1990s.**
क्रिवाक-क्लास जहाज 1990 के दशक से भारत की नौसेना का अभिन्न हिस्सा रहे हैं।






- **Geographical Context / भौगोलिक संदर्भ:**

- **Kaliningrad: A strategic Russian enclave on the Baltic Sea, home to key naval shipyards.**

कलिननिनग्राद: बाल्टिक सागर पर स्थित एक रणनीतिक रूसी क्षेत्र, जहां प्रमुख नौसेना शिपयार्ड स्थित हैं।

- **Strengthens India's naval capabilities in the Indian Ocean region.**

हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र में भारत की नौसेना क्षमताओं को मजबूत करता है।





The first frigate, INS Talwar was delivered in May 2002. The second, INS Trishul, was delivered in November 2002 and the third, INS Tabar, in May 2003.



The Russian firm delayed the delivery of three frigates by 13 months, 7 months and 11 months respectively. The contract stipulated the levy of liquidated damages for the delays and the same worked out to the equivalent of US\$38.5 million.



This was yet to be recovered as of December 2005.

Name	Pennant	Builder	Laid Down	Launched	Commissioned	Homeport	Status
Batch 1							
<i>Talwar</i>	F40	Baltiysky Zavod	10 March 1999	12 May 2000	18 June 2003	Mumbai	Active
<i>Trishul</i>	F43		24 September 1999	24 November 2000	25 June 2003		
<i>Tabar</i>	F44		26 May 2000	25 May 2001	19 April 2004		
Batch 2							
<i>Teg</i>	F45	Yantar Shipyard	July 2007	27 November 2009	27 April 2012 ^[39]	Mumbai	Active
<i>Tarkash</i>	F50		November 2007	23 June 2010	9 November 2012 ^[40]		
<i>Trikand</i>	F51		11 June 2008	25 May 2011 ^{[41][42]}	29 June 2013 ^[43]		
Batch 3							
<i>Tushil</i> (ex- <i>Butakov</i>)		Yantar Shipyard	13 July 2013	28 October 2021 ^[44]	9 December 2024 ^[45]		Sea trials ^[22]
<i>Tamala</i> (ex- <i>Istomin</i>)			15 November 2013		2025 (<i>exp.</i>) ^[46]		Under Construction

IN BRIEF



Approval granted to open 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said his government has taken another big decision to make school education as accessible as possible with the Cabinet approving the opening of 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas. "Our government has taken another big decision to make school education as accessible as possible. Under this, 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas will be opened across the country. While this step will benefit a large number of students, many new employment opportunities will also be created," Mr. Modi said in a post on X. He said the government was committed to providing school education to every section of society.

YouTuber Faizal Khan not arrested: Bihar Police

Educator and YouTuber Faizal Khan, popularly known as 'Khan Sir' of Khan Global Studies coaching institute in Patna, has not been arrested, and the coaching institute's X handle had a "misleading, baseless and provocative" post, the Bihar Police said on Saturday. "This handle has made a misleading post. 'Khan Sir' was not arrested or detained by the police. Legal action will be taken against the social media handle of Khan Global Studies coaching institute for propagating false, baseless and provocative information regarding the 'arrest' of Khan Sir," Anu Kumar, Sub-Divisional Police Officer of the Patna Secretariat Police Station-1, said.

Mumbai Police get message warning of threat to Modi

The Mumbai Police on Saturday received a message threatening to kill Prime Minister Narendra Modi, an official said. The number from which the message was sent was traced to Ajmer in Rajasthan and a police team was sent there immediately to nab the suspect, said an official. The WhatsApp message, received on the helpline of the traffic police in the early hours, mentioned two ISI agents and a plot to carry out a bomb blast to target Mr. Modi, he said. The investigators suspect that the sender is a mentally disturbed person or was under the influence of alcohol but further probe was on, the official added.

NMDFC, DICCI sign MoU to empower marginalised groups

The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) and the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI) on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote entrepreneurship among marginalised communities. Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju said, "This collaboration between the NMDFC and the DICCI is a significant step towards building an *Atmanirbhar Bharat*. By promoting entrepreneurship, we are empowering individuals to become job creators and role models, transforming lives and communities across the nation."

SUDOKU

9 8 4 1 6
2 5 8
9 5 2 6 8
8 9 9 6
5
7 4 3 1 3 7
6 1 9 5 3 2 8 7 4
5 3 8 9 7 4 1 2 6 8
4 9 6 8 7 3 2 5
3 9 6 8 5 7 2 4 1

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku
9 1 6 4 2 8 9 5 3 7
8 2 3 6 7 6 5 9 4 1
6 1 9 5 3 2 8 7 4
5 3 8 9 7 4 1 2 6 8
4 9 6 8 7 3 2 5
3 9 6 8 5 7 2 4 1

T.N. tops health sector with its schemes: Udhayanidhi

Deputy CM says services are brought to the doorsteps of people to create a significant impact; he launches 'Healthy India, Happy India', a collaborative initiative by Naruvi Hospitals and The Hindu

The Hindu Bureau
VELLORE



N. Ram, Director of The Hindu Group, presenting a framed front page of The Hindu to Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin at an event in Vellore on Saturday. C. VEJAYARAJAN

Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Saturday said the State's Health Department was the frontrunner in the country when it came to reaching out to people with its various flagship health schemes. "Makkalai Thedi Maruthavam" (Healthcare at people's doorstep) in Tamil Nadu has created a significant impact on the lives of nearly two crore people in the State by providing them essential health services. In its report, the NITI Aayog stated that Tamil Nadu was the frontrunner in at least 13 key departments, including health, in the country," he said.

Mr. Udhayanidhi said Mr. Stalin had taken the Health Department in the State to the "next level" by introducing the list of States in the country, especially in health sector. In that search the State's Health Department was not only a role model to the rest of the country but also to the world, he added. "Under the inspiration of Chief Minister Stalin, 'Makkalai Thedi Maruthavam' has become an internationally known health scheme as it bagged an award from the United Nations. The Health Department is also appreciated for its initiatives in non-communicable diseases," he noted, and lauded the efforts taken by the DMK government in the health sector.

"Innaysi Kappom-Nammal Kakkum 48", which funds health services in nine remote districts till December 9, the order issued by the Home Department said. The order was issued after reviewing the proposal for the relief situation, the government said.

G.V. Sampath, founder and chairman of Naruvi Hospitals, said the important partnership with The Hindu would take the message of awareness of health and wellness to the people. "It is the right step towards making informed decisions on health for the people," L.V. Navaneeth, CEO of The Hindu Group, said.

The Health and Family Welfare Minister Ma. Subramanian has become an internationally known health scheme as it bagged an award from the United Nations. The Health Department is also appreciated for its initiatives in non-communicable diseases," he noted, and lauded the efforts taken by the DMK government in the health sector. G.V. Sampath, founder and chairman of Naruvi Hospitals, said the important partnership with The Hindu would take the message of awareness of health

and wellness to the people. "It is the right step towards making informed decisions on health for the people," L.V. Navaneeth, CEO of The Hindu Group, said. The Health and Family Welfare Minister Ma. Subramanian has become an internationally known health scheme as it bagged an award from the United Nations. The Health Department is also appreciated for its initiatives in non-communicable diseases," he noted, and lauded the efforts taken by the DMK government in the health sector. G.V. Sampath, founder and chairman of Naruvi Hospitals, said the important partnership with The Hindu would take the message of awareness of health

'Mobile phone addiction leads to sleep deprivation'

The Hindu Bureau
VELLORE



Fear of missing out on things that happen around them is making people of all age groups give themselves to their mobile phones that deprives them of a good sleep, which should be seven or eight hours a day, said a group of experts on Saturday.

At a panel discussion titled "Stress and sleep: The twin burdens that deter us from achieving full potential", which was organised as part of "Healthy India, Happy India", a collaborative initiative of Naruvi Hospitals and The Hindu here, Maria Antony, specialist in child and adolescent mental health, said excessive usage of mobile phones is inimical to sleep. "Mobile phone usage has become the new-age times and pastimes, they think smartphones are the only way of recreation," she said. The hour-long discussion was moderated by Ramya Kannan, chief of Bureau (Tamil Nadu), The Hindu.

Satish Kumar, specialist in respiratory medicine, said that the concept of sleep hygiene is to have a set pattern of activities, including going to bed at a regular time. "Getting up during sleep and feeling sleepy when some causes might resolve themselves as the children grow up, others might need intervention, she added.

urgling people to keep a diary of sleep and wake times and to get up when they think smartphones are the only way of recreation," she said. The hour-long discussion was moderated by Ramya Kannan, chief of Bureau (Tamil Nadu), The Hindu.

Mary Kurien, an otorhinolaryngologist, spoke of the physiological causes that cause snoring among children and prevent them from getting adequate sleep. "While some causes might resolve themselves as the children grow up, others might need intervention, she added.

Relatives of women, children killed in Jiribam violence seek death penalty for perpetrators

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Family members of the victims of violence perpetrated in Manipur's Jiribam narrate their ordeal in New Delhi. SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Family members of the six women and children from the Meitei community abducted and murdered in Manipur's Jiribam district last month were in Delhi on Saturday where they made an appeal for justice, seeking swift identification of the perpetrators and the harshness of punishments to them under the law.

Sandhya Begum, sister of the victims Telem Thobli Devi and Laitheirjam, said, "We have asked, 'What could innocent women and children have to do with the war?' as she called for the death penalty against the persons responsible for the killings. On Saturday, different coalitions of Meitei civil so-

ciety organisations in New Delhi came together to organise a press conference in the city over the massacre in Jiribam last month. Telem Utam Singh and his son Nongyal Meitei were among other family members of the victims who were in New Delhi for the press conference. Mr.

Manipur extends ban on mobile data services

IMPHAL: The Manipur government extended the ban on mobile data services in nine remote districts till December 9, the order issued by the Home Department said. The order was issued after reviewing the proposal for the relief situation, the government said.

Manipur reported an alleged attack by armed militants near the Borobekra police station in Jakuradhor on November 11, to which they responded with firing and killed 10 militants from the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar community. While the Kuki-Zo civil society outfits in Churachandpur insisted that the men killed in the gunfight were "volunteers", the police reported that during the gunfight, six women and children from the Meitei community were abducted and two elderly persons burnt to death.

Days later, the bodies of the women and children, who included a 10-month-old child, were found floating in the Barak river, which borders Jiribam district.

Nadda opens 100-day campaign against TB

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

"The rate of TB (tuberculosis) decline in India has doubled from 8.3% in 2015 to 17.7% today, much ahead of the global average. Deaths due to TB have also reduced in India by 24.4% in the last 10 years," Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said at the launch of the intensified national '100 day TB elimination campaign' on Saturday in Haridwar.

The goal of the campaign is to find and treat 'missing TB cases', especially in high-risk groups, and reduce TB deaths significantly.

The Union Health Minister said that the campaign had been launched with the intention to provide new momentum to the goal of "TB-free Bharat". He said that TB is now detected early due to a pan-Indian network of over 1.7 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.

"The government has significantly scaled up diagnostic services by increasing the number of laboratories from 120 in 2014 to 8,293 laboratories today. It has also introduced a daily regimen of drug-sensitive TB, including a new, shorter and more effective regimen, which has improved TB treatment success rate to 87%," the Minister said. The Health Ministry in its release added that it had made it mandatory for even private medical practitioners to notify new TB patients, so that their treatment could be followed up immediately. "This might look like a small step but it has led to an 8-fold increase in the rate of TB notifications in the private sector," the release said.

UN declares December 21 as World Meditation Day

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India was a member of the core group of countries including Liechtenstein, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mexico and Andorra that guided the unanimous adoption of the resolution, titled "World Meditation Day in the 93rd member UN General Assembly" on Friday. India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Prakash Prakash and as Harish said in a post on X that India's leadership in the overall human wellbeing stems from "our civilisational dictum of 'Yasodhaiva Kutumbakam' - the whole world is one family."

The Hindu journalist wins accolades at IPI India Awards for reporting on Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Hindu journalist Vijaita Singh's reporting on Manipur's ethnic strife, raring for over 18 months, now wins accolades at the International Press Institute India award for Excellence in Journalism, 2024 on Saturday. The IPI, in a statement, said that there were several winners in the print, radio, and broadcast categories, covering different angles of the strife in Manipur and as a result, the jury had decided to recognise the five best entries for cash prizes and citations as a "mark of appreciation and acknowledgment of the media's efforts to bring out the various facets of the human

tragedy caused by the civil strife. The citation for Ms. Singh, Deputy Editor at The Hindu, came along with recognition of the reporting done on the conflict by other journalists and newsmen, which included The Print, The Greenon (Greshma Kuthar), Scroll-In (Arunabh Sankha and Toral Agarwal), and India Today (Ashutosh Mishra). The IPI India award for Excellence in Journalism, 2024, was awarded to photojournalist Bibhu Prakash Chandra for his account of the conflict in the tea and flower fields and no man's land end - published in The Week. This award comes with a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, a trophy and a citation.

The jury was headed by former Supreme Court judge Madan B Lokur. The members included Riyad Mathew, Chairman, IPI India and Chief Associate Editor on the conflict by other journalists and newsmen, which included The Print, The Greenon (Greshma Kuthar), Scroll-In (Arunabh Sankha and Toral Agarwal), and India Today (Ashutosh Mishra). The IPI India award for Excellence in Journalism, 2024, was awarded to photojournalist Bibhu Prakash Chandra for his account of the conflict in the tea and flower fields and no man's land end - published in The Week. This award comes with a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, a trophy and a citation.

sands of civilians across communities in the strife-torn State. Ever since the conflict began on May 3, 2023, over 250 people have been killed, thousands more injured, and over 60,000 people have been left internally displaced. After the awards were announced, Ms. Singh said, "I am very grateful to The Hindu for consistently providing space to report on an issue that I believe ought to be etched in public memory." The IPI added, "The jury was unable to select any winners in the broadcast category deserving the award." The award was instituted in 2003 and has been given to 20 media organisations and journalists in print and electronic media so far.

UN declares December 21 as World Meditation Day

Press Trust of India

UNITED NATIONS

India was a member of the core group of countries including Liechtenstein, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mexico and Andorra that guided the unanimous adoption of the resolution titled World Meditation Day in the 193-member UN General Assembly on Friday.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said in a post on X that India's leadership in overall human wellbeing stems from "our civilisational dictum of #VasudhaivaKutumbakam – the whole world is one family".



- **Resolution Adoption / प्रस्ताव का पारित होना**

- The UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution to declare December 21 as World Meditation Day.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा ने सर्वसम्मति से 21 दिसंबर को विश्व ध्यान दिवस घोषित करने का प्रस्ताव पारित किया।

- 
- A core group of countries including India, Liechtenstein, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Mexico, and Andorra played a key role in this initiative.

भारत, लिक्टेन्स्टीन, श्रीलंका, नेपाल, मैक्सिको, और अंडोरा जैसे देशों ने इस पहल में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।

1.Role of India / भारत की भूमिका

1. India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Parvathaneni Harish, highlighted India's leadership in promoting human well-being.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र में भारत के स्थायी प्रतिनिधि, परवथनेनी हरीश ने मानव कल्याण को बढ़ावा देने में भारत की नेतृत्व भूमिका पर प्रकाश डाला।

2. He linked this initiative to India's philosophy of **“Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”** (The world is one family).

उन्होंने इसे भारत के "वसुधैव कुटुंबकम" (संपूर्ण विश्व एक परिवार है) के दर्शन से जोड़ा।



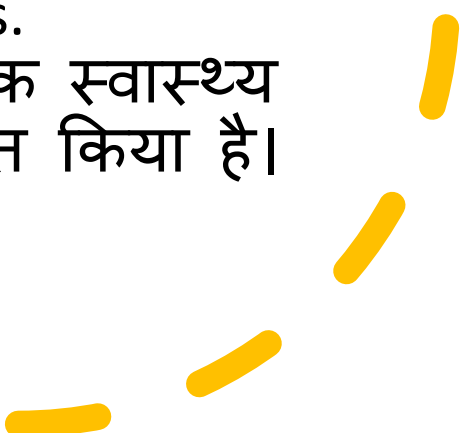
- **Meditation in World Cultures / ध्यान का वैश्विक इतिहास**

- Meditation has roots in ancient civilizations, particularly in India, where it has been an integral part of spiritual and physical well-being for millennia.

ध्यान का प्राचीन सभ्यताओं, विशेष रूप से भारत में, आध्यात्मिक और शारीरिक कल्याण का हिस्सा रहा है।

- Practices such as Yoga and Dhyana have significantly influenced global wellness movements.

योग और ध्यान जैसी प्रथाओं ने वैश्विक स्वास्थ्य आंदोलनों को महत्वपूर्ण रूप से प्रभावित किया है।

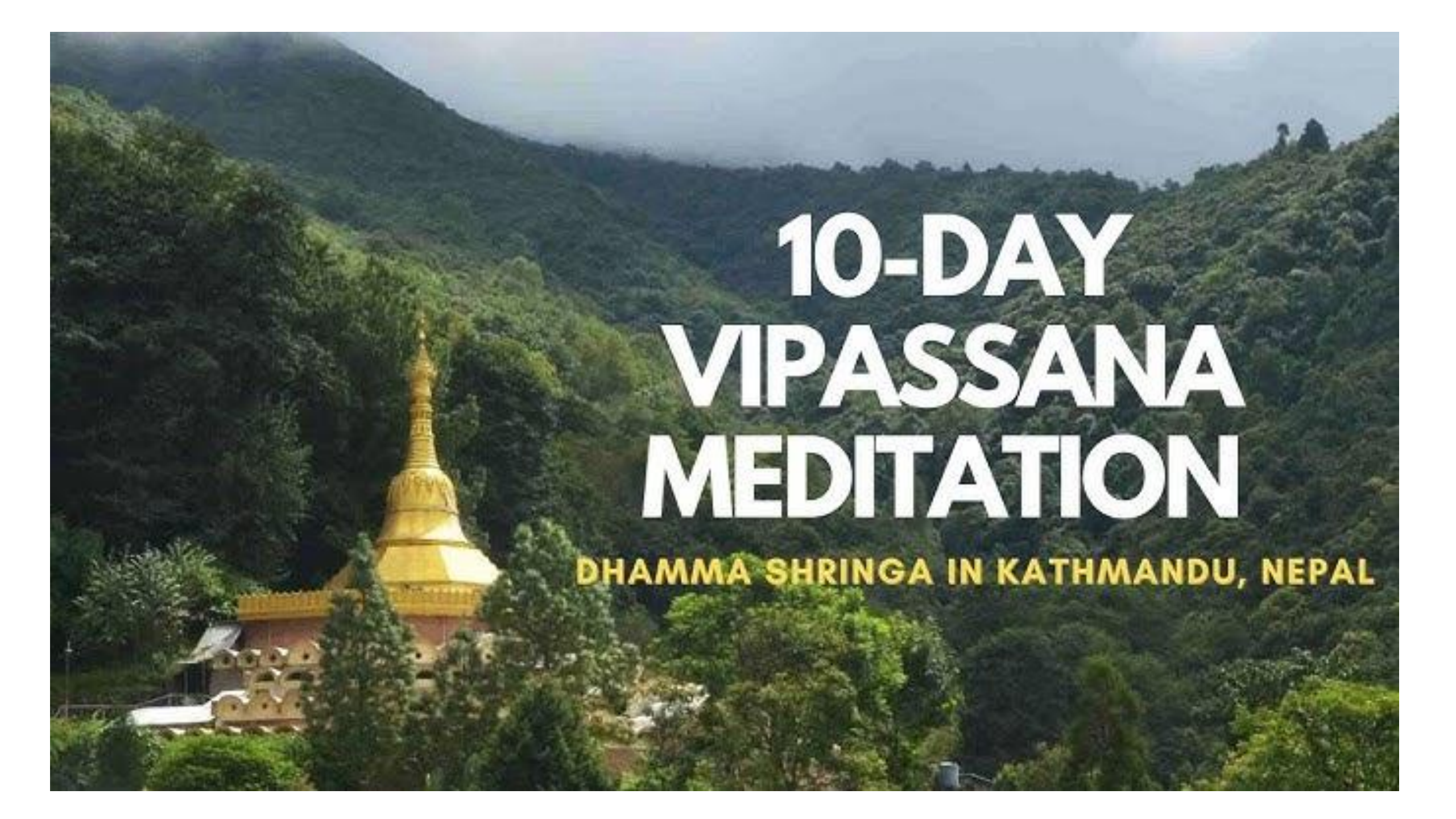


Global Participation / वैश्विक भागीदारी

- Countries across continents, from Europe to Asia and the Americas, were part of this resolution.
यूरोप, एशिया और अमेरिका जैसे महाद्वीपों के देश इस प्रस्ताव का हिस्सा थे।

India's Contribution / भारत का योगदान

- India has been a hub of meditation practices, with notable centers like Varanasi, Bodh Gaya, and Rishikesh.
भारत ध्यान की प्रथाओं का केंद्र रहा है, जिसमें वाराणसी, बोधगया और ऋषिकेश जैसे प्रसिद्ध स्थल शामिल हैं।

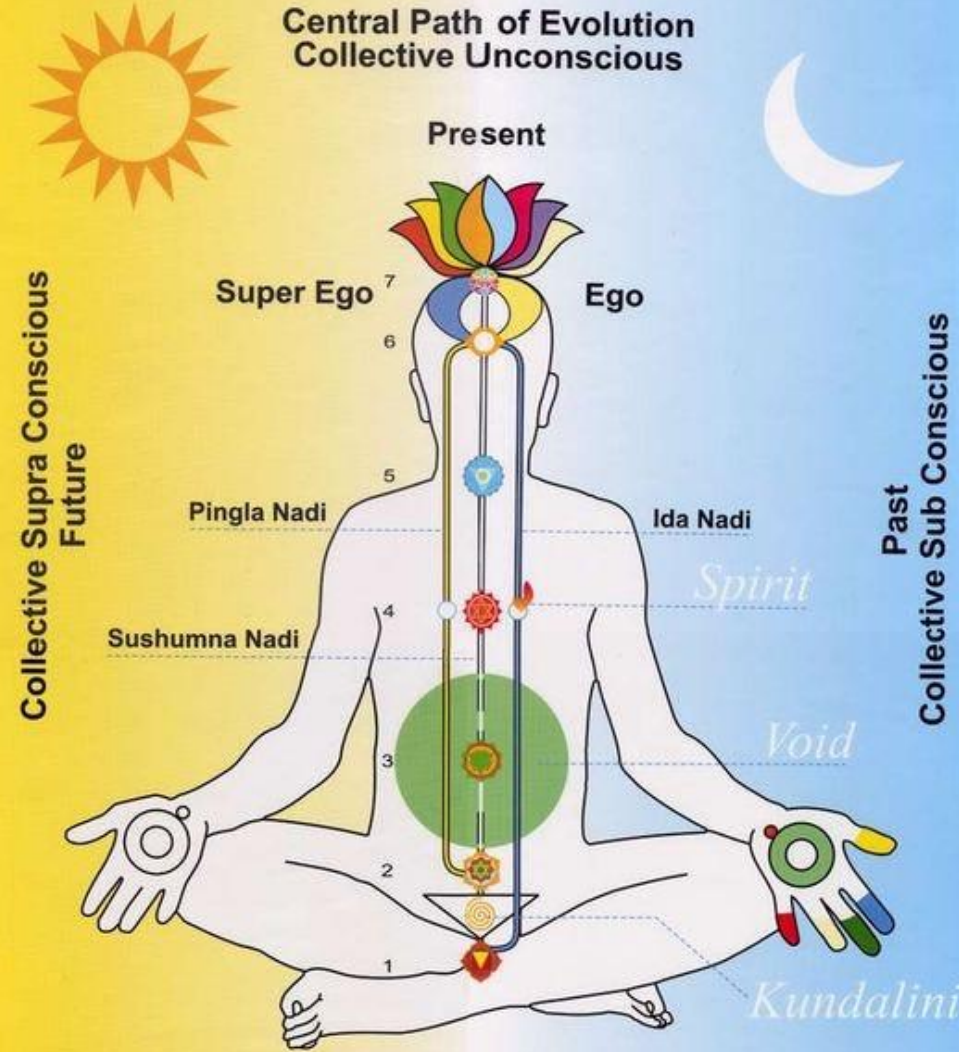


10-DAY VIPASSANA MEDITATION

DHAMMA SHRINGA IN KATHMANDU, NEPAL

Subtle System

Central Path of Evolution
Collective Unconscious



1 Mooladhara



innocence

2 Swadisthan



creativity

3 Nabhi



evolution

4 Anahat



security

5 Vishuddhi



collectivity

6 Agnya



forgiveness

7 Sahasrar



integration

Vipassana is the ability of “special-seeing.” Vipassana is the state of insightfulness to realize the reality of life. It is the skill to see things as they are, not exaggerating or discounting the aspects.

How to practice Vipassana?



Benefits of Vipassana Meditation



Helps to accept life as it is



Detox from distractions



Helps to accept failure



Helps to Identify happiness



Brings physical flexibility

DAYS AFTER U.S. INDICTMENT OF ADANI GROUP

Disappointing: US responds to BJP's allegation of backing agenda to destabilise India

Invokes press freedom to counter BJP charge that OCCR, partly funded by US, targeted India through Adani reports

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

DAYS AFTER the BJP accused the US State Department of trying to "destabilise India" through part funding a news portal that, it said, had "targeted" Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the US Embassy in New Delhi said Saturday that it is "disappointing" that the ruling party in India would make these kinds of accusations.

"The US government works with independent organisations on programming that promotes the professional development and capacity building training for



Outside the US Embassy in New Delhi.

journalists," a spokesperson of the US Embassy said. "This programming does not influence the editorial decisions or direction of these organisations." The United States has long been a champion of media freedom

around the world. A free and independent press is an essential component of any democracy, enabling informed and constructive debate and holding those in power accountable.

This comes after BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra, at a press conference, claimed that elements in the US "deep state" had colluded with a group of journalists and with leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi to put a spoke in the wheel of India's growth story with unsubstantiated allegations without a "shred of evidence". He suggested that all this is in conjunction with the US State Department.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Syrian rebel fighters after capturing the city of Hama as they pressed their advance towards Damascus, in the biggest challenge to President Bashar al-Assad in years.

Assad regime fights for survival as rebels advance on Damascus

Area in govt control shrinking fast, Iran pares back support

RAJA ABDULRAHIM
DECEMBER 7

PRESIDENT BASHAR AL-ASSAD's political survival was under threat Saturday as the Syrian government battled opposition rebels around the country and amid protests near the capital Damascus, withdrew forces from several of its suburbs, according to war monitoring groups.

The Syrian military denied that its forces had withdrawn from the suburbs of Damascus. Yet al-Assad's autocratic government, which had until just over a

India puts out advisory, days after Assad team held talks in Delhi to boost ties

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

AS A rebel coalition's advance in Syria challenged the writ of President Bashar al-Assad and his army, New Delhi issued a travel advisory, asking Indians to avoid travelling to Syria and urged those staying there to exercise "utmost precaution" and restrict their movements.

The Ministry of External Affairs also urged Indians residing in Syria to remain in touch with the Indian embassy in



Damascus. "In view of the situation prevailing in Syria, Indian nationals are advised to avoid all travel to Syria, until further notification," the MEA said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

HEARING ON DECEMBER 12

CJI-led bench to hear pleas against Places of Worship Act

Petitions have been pending for 4 yrs, Centre still to respond to SC notice

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 7

AT A time when suits seeking surveys of mosques and dargahs have rekindled a debate across the country, the Supreme Court has constituted a special bench to hear on December 12 a clutch of pending petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

The special bench comprises Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Justices Sanjay Kumar and KV Viswanathan.

The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 mandates that the nature of all places of worship, except the one in Ayodhya that was then under litigation, shall be maintained as it was on August 15, 1947. The Act, brought in by the P V Narasimha Rao-led Congress government during the height of the Ram temple movement, also meant to apply to the dis-ruined Kashi Vishwanath temple-Cyamapi mosque complex in Varanasi and the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple-Shahi

E In other courts, other pleas

THE 1991 Act, which left Ayodhya to the courts, froze the status of a place of worship as was on the day of India's independence. While the Supreme Court is still to decide the challenge to the Act, suits are being filed in different courts for surveying mosques believed to have been built on sites where temples once existed.

Idgah mosque complex in Mathura.

Several petitions have challenged the Act, saying it bars the remedy of judicial review which the Supreme Court, in its 1980 judgment in *Minerva Mills Ltd. vs Ors* vs Union Of India & Ors, said was a basic feature of the Constitution and, therefore, outside the legislative competence

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MVA cracks widen as SP walks out over post by Uddhav aide on Babri demolition

Sena (UBT) leader hits back, says party's stand on issue unchanged since 1992

SHUBHANGI KHAPRE & VALLABH OZARKAR
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 7

BARELY A fortnight after the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance was routed in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, the Samajwadi Party (SP) announced Saturday that it is quitting the MVA, saying that Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray was "back to his old position justifying the Babri Masjid demolition" which, it added, was "unacceptable".

"We have quit the MVA. What is the point of continuing

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"We have quit the MVA. What is the point of continuing



Maharashtra SP chief Abu Azmi in Mumbai, Saturday.

Ganesh Shirurkar REPORTS, P.6

in the front where there is no uniformity on issues nor adequate consultation with allies" state SP chief Abu Azmi said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NETWORK



AT THE FOREFRONT OF KERALA DIALYSIS CHALLENGE Page 10

Two weeks after four died in Sambhal, police say 'fired warning shots'

NEETIKA JHA
SAMBHAL, UP, DECEMBER 7

WEEKS AFTER the survey of a mosque led to violence in western UP's Sambhal, leaving four men dead with bullet injuries and mystery around who shot them, the district Superintendent of Police has told *The Indian Express* that police personnel had "fired warning shots in the air" to disperse the crowd.

On a video that purportedly shows a police personnel firing a weapon, SP Krishan Kumar Bishnoi said, "A police person can be seen firing in the air. We are investigating who fired two shots."

This is a departure from what the police and the district administration said on November 25, a day after the violence. At the time, Bishnoi had said, "Police only used pellet guns. The autopsy report of the three dead says that they died because of gunshot wounds from a .315 bore firearm."

Moradabad Divisional Commissioner Anjaneya Kumar Singh had also denied claims by the parents of Naerun, one of the dead, that he was killed in police firing.

Referring to some police personnel suffering injuries, allegedly from bullet fragments, Singh had said, "Police cannot shoot at themselves... it was the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Japan Korea Taiwan 17D - Apr 8, May 11 8, 300000 - 575000	Best of China 9 Days - Apr 10 250000	Japan China 15 Days-May 22 425000-450000	China Hong Kong Macao - 14D - May 4 350000
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AAP SLAMS CENTRE
'Rohingya' refugees
being settled in Delhi
NEWS » PAGE 4

BREAKING THROUGH
Gukesh
cashes
in on Ding's
blunders
SPORT » PAGE 16

MARCH SUSPENDED
Haryana Police use
tear gas on farmers
STATES » PAGE 2

DATA POINT
Aftermath of
historic rainfall
and a full dam
What went wrong
at Sathamur dam?
OPINION » PAGE 9

FULL IMPLEMENTATION
How did Chandigarh
enforce criminal laws?
NEWS » PAGE 6

INSIDE

Central team
assesses cyclone
damage in T.N.
CUDALORE/PUDUCHERRY
A 7-member team deputised by the Centre to assess the damage to property caused by Cyclone Fengal visited Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu on Sunday. » PAGE 2

Anti-drone unit
to secure
borders: Shah
JOSHIPUR
Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said India would create a comprehensive anti-drone unit to secure its borders as the 'menace' of unmanned aerial vehicles was going to get serious. » PAGE 4

VHP, Bajrang Dal
protest ahead of
concert in Indore
BHOPAL
The Bajrang Dal and the Vihva Hindu Parishad (VHP) continued their protests against the sale of liquor and meat at singer-elect Diljit Dosanjh's concert in Madhya Pradesh's Indore. » PAGE 4

Trump moans
truce in Ukraine,
NATO withdrawal
WASHINGTON
U.S. President-elect Donald Trump on Sunday called for an immediate ceasefire in Russia's war with Ukraine and renewed warnings that he was open to pulling the United States out of NATO. » PAGE 14

Militants in Syria capture Damascus as Assad flees

No sign of Army deployment as militants enter capital and declare ouster of President Assad. Prime Minister calls for free elections. Russian news agencies, citing Kremlin sources, say Assad and his family are in Moscow; militants also storm embassy of Iran, an ally of Assad's regime, in Damascus. U.S. says it will continue presence in eastern Syria

Reuters
AMMAN/BEIRUT/CAIRO
The militant group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) in Syria declared President Bashar al-Assad's ouster after seizing control of Damascus on Sunday, ending his family's iron-fisted rule after more than 13 years of civil war in a seismic moment for West Asia.
Mr. Assad fled out of Damascus for an unknown destination earlier on Sunday, two senior Army members said, as militants said they had entered the capital with no sign of Army deployments.
Hours later Russian news agencies, citing Kremlin sources, said that Mr. Assad and his family are in Moscow.
The Islamist militants also dealt a major blow to the influence of Russia and Iran in the region, key allies who propped up Mr.



Tense situation: Flames sweeping through the criminal security branch of Syria's Interior Ministry in Damascus on Sunday. AFP

Assad during critical moments in the conflict. Iran's embassy was stormed by the militants following their capture of Damascus. Iran's English-language Press TV reported on Sunday.
As Syrians expressed joy, Prime Minister Mohammad Ghazi al-Jalali called for free elections so the people could choose who they want.
The HTS was formerly an al-Qaeda affiliate known as the Nusra Front until its leader Abu Mohammed al-Jolani severed ties with the global jihadist movement in 2016.

DATA POINT
Aftermath of
historic rainfall
and a full dam
What went wrong
at Sathamur dam?
OPINION » PAGE 9

The government detained thousands. Syria's Army command notified officers on Sunday that Mr. Assad's rule had ended, a Syrian officer who was informed of the move, said.
But the Syrian Army later said it was continuing

'Indian embassy
in Syrian capital
operational'
NEW DELHI
Officials of the Indian embassy in the Syrian capital Damascus are safe and are in contact with Indians in the country, sources here said on Sunday.
Our embassy continues to remain operational in Damascus. Embassy is in touch with all Indian nationals, and they are safe, said a source in the Ministry of External Affairs. The Ministry had earlier said that around "90 Indian nationals" remain in Syria.

operations against "terrorist groups" in the key cities of Hama and Homs and in the Deiraa countryside.
Complex future
Mr. Jalali said he had been in contact with al-Jolani to

discuss managing the transitional period, marking a notable development in efforts to shape Syria's political future.
But that would require a smoother transition in a country with complex competing interests, from Islamists to groups with links to the U.S., Russia and Turkey.
The U.S. will continue to maintain its presence in eastern Syria and will take measures necessary to prevent a resurgence of the Islamic State, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Middle East Daniel Shapiro told the Manama Dialogue security conference in Bahrain's capital on Sunday.
HTS is Syria's strongest militant group and some Syrians remain fearful it will impose draconian Islamist rule or instigate reprisals. Countries such as the UAE and Egypt, both close U.S. allies, see Islamist militant groups as an existential threat, so HTS may face resistance from the regional powers.
HTS militants said they have started an attack on U.S.-backed Kurdish-led forces in the northern Syrian town of Manbij, according to a statement posted on Sunday by the Ministry of Defense of the Syrian Interim Government. (With AFP inputs)

The second coming



Out of the ashes: People attend a mass, open to the public, at the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris on Sunday. The restored monument reopened on Monday after being nearly burned down in 2019. AFP

Misri to visit Dhaka today, set to broach contentious issues

Subhasini Halder
NEW DELHI
Amid growing India-Bangladesh tensions over a number of issues, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will meet Bangladesh's Assistant High Commissioner in Agartala, and the future of Indian projects in Bangladesh.
'Routine talks'
After the pause on the Adani electricity agreement with a high-level inquiry being conducted into the tariffs charged, media reports in Dhaka said that the Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Authority is moving to cancel another private agreement with Airtel for India to use Bangladesh as a transit to provide broadband services to the northeastern States.
Officials on both sides have said that the talks are routine, and follow regular consultations on river water sharing, Ganga barrag-



BJP supporters shout slogans during a march to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka on Sunday. AFP

es, as well as meetings of land officials over the past few months.
"It's the first visit at senior official levels since the Interim Administration took over and would represent an important point of bilateral engagement at a time of increasing tension and acrimony," said former Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla, who had served as High Commissioner to Bangladesh.
However, in remarks in-

dicating that the agenda for talks could be overshadowed by trouble areas, Mr. Hussain said on Sunday that the India-Bangladesh relationship has changed in "qualitative terms" since the ouster of Ms. Hasina.
Although Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma had said in a speech last month that both sides had "sustained positive momentum" on trade, traders on both sides have expressed concerns as anger in both countries aimed at each other has grown.
On Sunday, three youth organisations of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party marched towards the Indian High Commission in Dhaka to protest against the attack by a mob on the Bangladesh mission in Agartala, where the Bangladesh flag was torn. According to sources, the protests were stopped by security forces about a kilometre short of the mission. Meanwhile, protests continue in different parts of India against minorities, particularly Hindus, in Bangladesh, while in Bangladesh these are seen as part of an "exaggerated" narrative being built in India.
"Bangladesh expects India to respect its sovereignty particularly when any comment by Bangladesh on things like India's CAA or NRC laws is frowned upon as 'India's internal affair'," said Syed Munir Khan, head of the Dhaka-based Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance.
During the FOC talks on Monday, Bangladesh could raise the issue of whether India would extradite Ms. Hasina who is facing a number of cases. Bangladesh has not so far formally approved India with a request for her extradition, however.

Gujarat court acquits ex-IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt in 1997 case

Press Trust of India
PORBANDAR
A court in Porbandar district of Gujarat has acquitted former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt in a 1997 custodial torture case, observing that the prosecution could not "prove the case beyond reasonable doubt".
Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Mukesh Pandya on Saturday acquitted Mr. Bhatt, the then Superintendent of Police of Porbandar, in a case registered against him under Sections of the Indian Penal Code pertaining to causing grievous hurt to obtain confession and other provisions, by giving him the benefit of electric shocks.
The court held that the prosecution could not "prove the case beyond reasonable doubt" that the complainant was forced to confess to the crime and was tortured by voluntarily causing pain using dangerous weapons and threats.
Mr. Bhatt and constable Vajubhai Chauhan, against whom the case was abated in 2013, were charged under Sections 330 causing hurt to extort confession and 324 causing grievous hurt with dangerous weapons of the IPC on the complaint by one Naran Jadav for causing him physical and mental torture in police custody to extract confession in a Terrorist Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act and Arms Act case.
A first information report was filed against Mr. Bhatt in 1997. According to the prosecution, a



Sanjiv Bhatt

team of Porbandar Police had taken Mr. Jadav to Mr. Bhatt's residence in Porbandar on July 5, 1997, from the Sabarnati Central Jail in Ahmedabad on a transfer warrant. Mr. Jadav was given electric shocks, his son was also given electric shocks.
The complainant later informed the court of the torture, following which an inquiry was ordered. Based on the evidence, the court registered a case on December 31, 1998, and issued a summons to Mr. Bhatt and Mr. Chauhan. On April 15, 2013, the court ordered an FIR against Mr. Bhatt and Mr. Chauhan.
More cases
Mr. Bhatt was sentenced to life imprisonment in a 1990 custodial death case in Jamnagar and 20 years in jail in a 1996 case related to planning drugs to frame a lawyer in Palanpur. He is lodged in the Rajkot Central Jail.
He is also accused in a case of alleged fabrication of evidence in connection with the 2002 Gujarat riots cases along with activist Teesta Setalvad and former Gujarat Director General of Police R.B. Sreekumar.

Militants in Syria capture Damascus as Assad flees

No sign of Army deployment as militants enter capital and declare ouster of President Assad; Prime Minister calls for free elections; Russian news agencies, citing Kremlin sources, say Assad and his family are in Moscow; militants also storm embassy of Iran, an ally of Assad's regime, in Damascus; U.S. says it will continue presence in eastern Syria

Reuters
AMMAN/BEIRUT/CAIRO

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Mr. Assad fled out of Damascus for an unknown destination earlier on Sunday, two senior Army members said, as militants said they had entered the capital with no sign of Army deployments.

Hours later Russian news agencies, citing a Kremlin source, said that Mr. Assad and his family are in Moscow.

The Islamist militants also dealt a major blow to the influence of Russia and Iran in the region, key allies who propped up Mr.

Assad during critical moments in the conflict.

Iran's embassy was stormed by the militants following their capture of Damascus, Iran's English-language Press TV reported on Sunday.

As Syrians expressed joy, Prime Minister Mohammad Ghazi al-Jalali called for free elections so the people could choose who they want.

The HTS was formerly an al-Qaeda affiliate known as the Nusra Front until its leader Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, severed ties with the global jihadist movement in 2016.

'End of injustice'

"We celebrate with the Syrian people the news of freeing our prisoners and releasing their chains and announcing the end of the era of injustice in Sednaya prison," the HTS said, referring to a jail on the outskirts of Damascus where



Tense situation: Flames sweeping through the criminal security branch of Syria's Interior Ministry in Damascus on Sunday. AFP

the government detained thousands. Syria's Army command notified officers on Sunday that Mr. Assad's rule had ended, a Syrian officer who was informed of the move, said.

But the Syrian Army later said it was continuing

operations against "terrorist groups" in the key cities of Hama and Homs and in the Deraa countryside.

Complex future

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But that would require a smooth transition in a country with complex competing interests, from

'Indian embassy in Syrian capital operational'

NEW DELHI
Officials of the Indian embassy in the Syrian capital Damascus are safe and are in contact with Indians in the country, sources here said on Sunday. "Our embassy continues to remain operational in Damascus. Embassy is in touch with all Indian nationals, and they are safe," said a source in the Ministry of External Affairs. The Ministry had earlier said that around "90 Indian nationals" remain in Syria.

Islamists to groups with links to the U.S., Russia and Turkey.

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MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGES 12, & 15





Capital and largest city	 Damascus 33°30′N 36°18′E
Major languages	Arabic ^[1]
Minor languages	See: Languages of Syria
Ethnic groups (2024) ^{[2][3][4][5][6]}	80–90% Arabs 9–10% Kurds 1–10% others
Religion (2024) ^[2]	87% Islam <ul style="list-style-type: none">74% Sunni Islam13% Alawism and other Shia Islam 10% Christianity 3% Druze
Demonym(s)	Syrian
Government	Transitional government <ul style="list-style-type: none">• President <i>Vacant</i>• Vice President <i>Vacant</i>• Prime Minister Mohammad Ghazi al-Jalali (caretaker)
Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arab Kingdom of Syria 8 March 1920• State of Syria under French mandate 1 December 1924• Syrian Republic 14 May 1930• <i>De jure</i> independence 24 October 1945• <i>De facto</i> independence 17 April 1946• Left the United Arab Republic 28 September 1961• Fall of the Assad regime 8 December 2024

Area	
• Total	185,180 ^[7] km ² (71,500 sq mi) (87th)
• Water (%)	1.1
Population	
• 2024 estimate	▲ 25,000,753 ^[8] (57th)
• Density	118.3/km ² (306.4/sq mi) (70th)
GDP (PPP)	2015 estimate
• Total	\$50.28 billion ^[9]
• Per capita	\$2,900 ^[9]
GDP (nominal)	2020 estimate
• Total	\$11.08 billion ^[9]
• Per capita	\$533
Gini (2022)	▼ 26.6 ^[10] low inequality
HDI (2022)	— 0.557 ^[11] medium (157th)
Currency	Syrian pound (SYP)






- **Capture of Damascus / दमिश्क पर कब्जा**

- The militant group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) declared the ouster of President Bashar al-Assad after seizing control of Damascus.

हयात तहरीर अल-शाम (HTS) मिलिटेंट ग्रुप ने दमिश्क पर कब्जा करने के बाद राष्ट्रपति बशर अल-असद को पद से हटाने की घोषणा की।


- This ends over 13 years of Assad's regime amidst a prolonged civil war in Syria.

यह सीरिया में 13 वर्षों से चल रहे असद शासन और गृह युद्ध का अंत करता है।





- **Assad's Escape / असद का पलायन**

- Reports suggest that Assad and his family fled to Moscow.
रिपोर्ट्स के अनुसार, असद और उनके परिवार ने मास्को में शरण ली है।
 - There was no deployment of the Syrian Army during the militant takeover of the capital.
राजधानी पर मिलिटेंट्स के कब्जे के दौरान सीरियाई सेना की तैनाती नहीं देखी गई।
- 



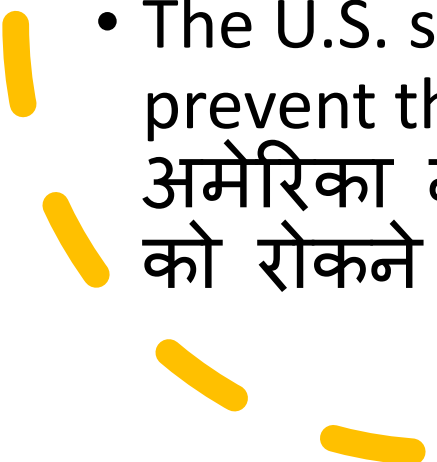
- **Global Reactions / वैश्विक प्रतिक्रिया**


- The Iranian embassy in Damascus was stormed, highlighting the anti-Assad sentiment.

दमिश्क में ईरानी दूतावास पर हमला हुआ, जिससे असद-विरोधी भावना उजागर हुई।

- The U.S. stated that it would continue its presence in eastern Syria to prevent the resurgence of ISIS.

अमेरिका ने कहा कि वह पूर्वी सीरिया में आईएसआईएस के पुनरुत्थान को रोकने के लिए अपनी उपस्थिति बनाए रखेगा।





- **Syrian Civil War / सीरियाई गृह युद्ध**

- The Syrian Civil War began in 2011 following anti-government protests.
सीरियाई गृह युद्ध 2011 में सरकार विरोधी प्रदर्शनों के बाद शुरू हुआ।




- Assad's government has been accused of human rights violations and heavy-handed tactics.

असद की सरकार पर मानवाधिकार उल्लंघन और कठोर नीतियों के आरोप लगे हैं।

- **Role of HTS / HTS की भूमिका**

- HTS emerged as a key militant group after splitting from al-Qaeda in 2016.

HTS 2016 में अल-कायदा से अलग होने के बाद एक प्रमुख मिलिटेंट ग्रुप के रूप में उभरा।



Modern Era

French Mandate (1920–1946):

- After World War I, Syria came under French control as a League of Nations mandate.
- Syrian nationalists fought for independence during this period.

Independence and Modern Syria (1946–present):

- Syria gained independence in 1946.
- Post-independence years were marked by political instability, military coups, and the rise of the Ba'ath Party.

Ba'ath Party Rule and Hafez al-Assad

- Hafez al-Assad consolidated power and ruled with an authoritarian regime.
- His policies emphasized state control and pan-Arabism.

1970–2000

2000–present

Bashar al-Assad and the Syrian Civil War

- Bashar al-Assad succeeded his father in 2000.
- The 2011 Arab Spring protests led to a violent crackdown, escalating into a prolonged and devastating civil war.
- The war has caused immense humanitarian suffering, displacement, and international intervention.

International Involvement:

- Assad's regime received significant military and political support from Russia, Iran, and Hezbollah.
- Western countries, Turkey, and Gulf states supported various opposition factions.
- Russia's intervention in 2015 was a turning point, helping Assad regain control of key territories.

Use of Chemical Weapons:

- The regime has been accused of using chemical weapons against civilians, leading to international condemnation and limited military responses by Western powers.

YEARS OF BLOODSHED AND DIVISION

The sudden collapse of Bashar al-Assad's rule over Syria marks the culmination of a nearly 14-year-old civil war that killed hundreds of thousands, displaced half the population and drew in outside powers. This is how it unfolded:

2011: Security forces suppress protests against Assad with arrests and shootings. The uprising becomes an armed revolt.



2013: Lebanon's Hezbollah helps Assad to halt rebel momentum.

2015: Rebel groups gain more ground and seize northwestern Idlib. Russia joins Assad's side.

2017: Israeli air strikes against Hezbollah in Syria. U.S.-backed Kurdish forces defeat ISIS in Raqqa.

2019: Islamic State loses its last scrap of territory in Syria.



2023: Hamas attack on Israel on Oct 7 leads to reduced Hezbollah presence in Syria.

2012: Al Qaeda's Syrian affiliate, the Nusra Front bombs Damascus. Assad responds with airstrikes and the war escalates.

2014: Islamic State group seizes northeast Syria. The US builds anti-ISIS alliance, helping Kurdish forces.

2016: Turkey launches an incursion with rebels. Assad and allies defeat rebels in Aleppo. Hayat Tahrir al-Sham formation.

2018: The Syrian army recaptures eastern, central, and southern Syria territory.

2020: Russia-backed offensive ends with a ceasefire with Turkey. Kurdish forces control the northeast.

2024: Rebels launch a new assault on Aleppo, and enter Damascus in eight days. Assad flees country



IN BRIEF

Foreign direct investment inflows into India cross \$1 tn

Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into India have crossed the \$1 trillion milestone in the April 2000-September 2024 period, firmly establishing the country's reputation as a safe and key investment destination globally.

Centre writes to States on menstrual hygiene policy

The Centre has written to the States to submit action plans to effectively implement the menstrual hygiene policy to ensure access to low-cost hygiene products and gender-responsive sanitation facilities in public and government-aided schools.

Confederation of Indian Industry urges government to stick to fiscal deficit target

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has suggested that the government stick to the fiscal deficit target of 4.9% of the GDP in the medium term (by 2030-31), and below 4.0% in the long term, to avoid adversely affecting India's economic growth.

Chandigarh leads in enforcing criminal laws

Union Territory is first in the country to implement three new laws in their entirety; it has ramped up internet speed at police stations, provided new tablets to investigators, and set up videoconferencing facilities for speedy trials; the police also use the DigLocker service to store digital evidence

Vijaya Singh CHANDIGARH

Five months after three criminal laws came into effect in the country, Chandigarh has become the first among all States and Union Territories to implement the laws in their entirety.



Training session: Kanwardeep Kaur, Senior Superintendent of Police, Chandigarh, explains the various facets of the new criminal laws during a programme on Sunday. VIJAYA SINGH

The police are also using "Chitra Khoji", a facial recognition software developed by the government to match photos of suspects with a database of photos of crime prisoners.

By 1, the police had registered 1,179 first information reports (FIRs) and 241 chargesheets, and secured conviction in four cases.

upgrading infrastructure and forensic capabilities, the States have been given five years to implement all aspects of the laws.

9,500 cases, he added. The new laws have provisions for time-bound investigation and trial and registration of Zero FIRs irrespective of jurisdiction.

To link key pillars of the criminal justice system - the police, forensics and judiciary - the Chandigarh administration has ramped up internet speed at police stations, provided new tablets to investigators, and set up videoconferencing facilities for speedy trials.

The Chandigarh Police recently transferred another Zero FIR case to the Andaman and Nicobar Police as the crime occurred there and the victim, being a Chandigarh resident, chose to complain here.

Since the video cannot be downloaded, the chain of custody is intact," Ms. Kaur said.

Another official said owing to the sensitivity of the cases registered against alleged gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, he joins all cases in court through videoconferencing.

Ayodhya verdict likely to be at the forefront of the battle over Places of Worship Act in SC

Krishananda Rajagopal NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court's Ram Janmabhoomi case judgment in 2019, which gave the title of the disputed Babri Masjid site to the Hindu side, finds itself in the vanguard of a legal battle on the validity of the Places of Worship Act.



Legal wrangle: The Gyanwar mosque in Varanasi where a survey was conducted by the ASI based on the orders of a court. ANI

Observations made in the judgment impresses, in less than 10 pages, the necessity to keep alive a Central law so "intrinsically related to the obligations of a secular state".

A Special Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna is scheduled to hear the challenge to the Places of Worship Act, 1991, on December 12 even as multiple legal actions instituted by Hindu plaintiffs in local courts across States such as Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan question the character of several mosques and even the Ajmer dargah.

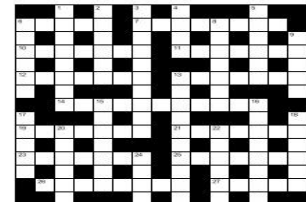
The challenge to the validity of the 1991 Act began trickling in even before a year passed after the Ayodhya judgment in November 2019.

hile worship, Parliament has mandated in no uncertain terms that history and its wrongs shall not be used as instruments to oppress the present and the future.

commencement of the Act in respect of which the cause of action would be barred by limitation.

The Bench said the protection of the 1991 Act was available only in cases in which the conversion of a religious character of a place of worship had taken place after August 15, 1947 and a legal action had been pending at the commencement of the statute.

THE CROSSWORD 14351



- Across 6 Nose of a nomad (5) 7 Genuine relationships for properties (8) 10 Overseas banks repeatedly accept complaints - is a natural phenomenon (7) 11 Starts with one big leap, gets around the glasses (7) 12 It could be a piece of writing (7)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site at: <https://www.thehindu.com/crossword>

- 13 He requests each should have a metal core (7) 14 Henry's request, follows a space traveller to survive (4,7) 15 American city on the river - double trouble ahead (7) 21 I write 1 (7) 23 Carol gets cut for verbally attacking (7) 25 Painter's friend sheltering terrorists (7) 26 Putting party before country is what parties look for to sustain 27 Allow a boy to come back after a day (5) Down 1 Bull-headed boxer, say, taking it back wearing a raincoat (8) 2 Pacers run a long distance (6) 3 He looks for likelihood to find good (10) 4 Bite of an insect crawling up (4) 5 Expect to lose first point on this side of the pool (6) 6 American invested in rising European currency, is well-padded (6) 8 Maybe unpalatable, dropping plan for a float (7) 9 Second in use, reportedly - regular trip is appropriate (5) 13 Closer, say, receives letter over Japanese diet (10) 15 Prepared principally in Russian army to drink (7) 16 Good-looking house - full of sand unfortunately (8) 17 Embarrass a gathering (5) 18 Failing to cross over (6) 20 First signature in marriage agreement (6) 22 A yacht built in ancient China (6) 24 Menacing at the centre of Wagah border (4)

SUDOKU

9x9 grid for a Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Solution to the previous puzzle and solution to yesterday's Sudoku.

FAITH

Govinda: cherished name

In the 28th psuram of Tiruppavai, Andal seeks the Lord's forgiveness for hitherto addressing him by insignificant names. She addresses him as Govinda, which means one who grazes cows. Until then, she had been addressing him as Narayana, Paraman, Uthaman, Padmanabhan etc. None of these names is insignificant. So why does Andal apologise for addressing him by these names?

There is an incident in Eshwarabhatt's Uttara Ramayana, which provides the answer, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse. Rama is now the king of Ayodhya. He has retained most of his father's officials. So the same man who served as palace guard in Dasaratha's time continues as the guard under Rama. One day, the guard instead of addressing Rama as His Highness, he calls him Ramabhadra. He then checks himself, because he knows that this is not the way to address his king. But why did he say Ramabhadra? Because that was Dasaratha's pet name for Rama. The palace guard had heard Dasaratha address Rama as Ramabhadra. And inadvertently he has now used that name. Normally a king would punish any act of disrespect. But Rama relishes the fact that the guard has addressed him as His father had. Rama instructs the guard that henceforth he should always address him as Ramabhadra. Whether in the Rama avatara or Krishna avatara, the Lord was known for His simplicity. Surely, He would be happier if His devotees addressed Him as a cowherd, rather than by any other name. The name Govinda is a clear reference to His simplicity and approachability. So Govinda would be the name that He would cherish more than any other.

Chandigarh leads in enforcing criminal laws

Union Territory is first in the country to implement three new laws in their entirety; it has ramped up Internet speed at police stations, provided new tablets to investigators, and set up videoconferencing facilities for speedy trials; the police also use the DigiLocker service to store digital evidence

Vijaita Singh
CHANDIGARH

Five months after three criminal laws came into effect in the country, Chandigarh has become the first among all States and Union Territories to implement the laws in their entirety.

To link key pillars of the criminal justice system – the police, forensics and judiciary – the Chandigarh administration has ramped up Internet speed at police stations, provided new tablets to investigators, and set up videoconferencing facilities for speedy trials.

The police are also using “Chitra Khoji”, a facial recognition software developed by the government, to match photos of suspects with a database of photos of 1 crore prisoners.

DigiLocker, the government’s cloud-based wallet to store documents such as driving licence and Aadhaar, is being used to upload crime scene videos and related information.

Director-General of Police S.S Yadav said since the laws were rolled out on Ju-



Training session: Kanwardeep Kaur, Senior Superintendent of Police, Chandigarh, explains the various facets of the new criminal laws during a programme on Sunday. VIJAITA SINGH

ly 1, the police had registered 1,179 first information reports (FIRs) and 245 chargesheets, and secured conviction in four cases.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita replaced the Indian Penal Code of 1860, the Indian Evidence Act of 1872, and the Code of Criminal Procedure of 1898, respectively.

As these laws require

upgrading infrastructure and forensic capabilities, the States have been given five years to implement all aspects of the laws.

Conviction rate

Home Minister Amit Shah said on December 3 that the new laws had improved conviction rate from 58% to around 85%. Across the country, more than 11 lakh FIRs were filed under the new laws and judgments delivered in

9,500 cases, he added. The new laws have provisions for time-bound investigation and trial and registration of Zero FIRs irrespective of jurisdiction.

Senior Superintendent of Police Kanwardeep Kaur said the Chandigarh Police had registered 14 Zero FIRs since July 1 and all cases pertained to sexual offences against women.

“If a victim files a Zero FIR for a sexual offence at a police station, the police

have to complete formalities such as medical examination and send the report online to the police station concerned,” Ms. Kaur said.

The officer said a woman who was sexually assaulted in Delhi filed a case after arriving in Chandigarh, two months after the crime was committed, as she was under the influence of the accused.

The Chandigarh Police recently transferred another Zero FIR case to the Andaman and Nicobar Police as the crime occurred there and the victim, being a Chandigarh resident, chose to complain here.

There are 20 police stations in Chandigarh, including specialised units. As the new law mandates mandatory audiovisual recording of crime scenes and search-and-seizure procedures, police stations were provided 170 tablets, Mr. Yadav said.

“The audio-video recording has a time stamp and once uploaded on DigiLocker, it cannot be tampered with as a hash value is generated. The courts can also access the record-

ing. Since the video cannot be downloaded, the chain of custody is intact,” Ms. Kaur said.

Digitising courts

At least two courts have become fully online and preparation is on to digitise 30 other courts.

“The new laws have provisions to produce an accused through videoconference in a court. It saves resources, fuel and is also safe. In heinous cases, online trial is preferred,” the officer said.

Another official said owing to the sensitivity of the cases registered against alleged gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, he joins all cases in court through videoconference.

“In Chandigarh, 80 videoconferencing spots have been identified, which include hospitals, forensic stations and courts where government officials can depose. Five videoconferencing spots are also being set up at the offices of sub-divisional magistrates for private witnesses to depose online,” Ms. Kaur said.

- **First in Implementation / कार्यान्वयन में पहला**

- Chandigarh is the first Union Territory in India to implement three new criminal laws in their entirety.

चंडीगढ़ भारत का पहला केंद्र शासित प्रदेश है जिसने तीन नए आपराधिक कानूनों को पूरी तरह लागू किया।

- These laws replaced the Indian Penal Code of 1860, Indian Evidence Act of 1872, and Code of Criminal Procedure of 1898.

इन कानूनों ने 1860 के भारतीय दंड संहिता, 1872 के भारतीय साक्ष्य अधिनियम, और 1898 के आपराधिक प्रक्रिया संहिता को प्रतिस्थापित किया।

- **Technological Advancements / प्रौद्योगिकी उन्नति**

- Tablets provided to investigators and videoconferencing facilities set up for speedy trials.
जांचकर्ताओं को टैबलेट प्रदान किए गए और त्वरित सुनवाई के लिए वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंसिंग सुविधाएं स्थापित की गईं।
- DigiLocker is used to store digital evidence such as driving license and Aadhaar.
डिजिटल साक्ष्य, जैसे ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस और आधार, संग्रहित करने के लिए डिजीलॉकर का उपयोग किया जाता है।

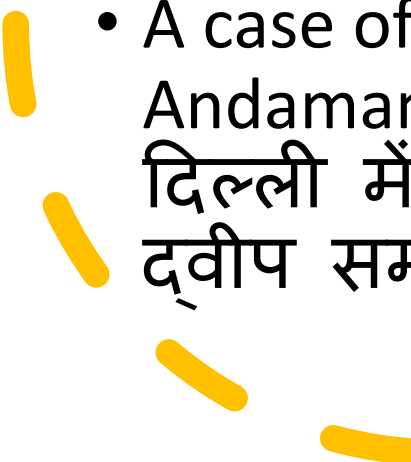


- **Zero FIR System / जीरो एफआईआर प्रणाली**

- Chandigarh registered 14 Zero FIRs since July 1, with cases predominantly related to sexual offenses.

चंडीगढ़ ने 1 जुलाई से 14 जीरो एफआईआर दर्ज किए, जिनमें अधिकांश मामलें यौन अपराधों से संबंधित थे।

- A case of sexual assault reported in Delhi was transferred to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



दिल्ली में दर्ज एक यौन उत्पीड़न मामले को अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह में स्थानांतरित किया गया।

Improved Conviction Rates / दोषसिद्धि दर में सुधार

- Conviction rate improved from 58% to around 85% under the new laws.
नए कानूनों के तहत दोषसिद्धि दर 58% से बढ़कर लगभग 85% हो गई।
- Across India, over 1 lakh FIRs were filed under these laws.
भारत में, इन कानूनों के तहत 1 लाख से अधिक एफआईआर दर्ज की गईं।

Facial Recognition Software / चेहरे की पहचान सॉफ्टवेयर

- "Chitra Khoji" software links suspects' photos with a database of over 1 crore images.
"चित्र खोजी" सॉफ्टवेयर संदिग्धों की तस्वीरों को 1 करोड़ से अधिक छवियों के डेटाबेस से जोड़ता है।

20,000 INDIAN STUDENT VISA APPOINTMENT SLOTS UNUSED IN PEAK SEASON

Surge to slowdown: 38% fall in US student visas issued to Indians in Jan-Sept this year

Reasons varied: From stabilising demand post-Covid to stricter visa norms to more overseas options

ABHINAV HARIOVIND
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

AFTER DRIVING the post-pandemic rebound in international student numbers on American campuses, India is now seeing a

sharp downturn, with US State Department data showing a 38 per cent drop in F-1 student visas issued to Indians in the first nine months of 2024 as compared to the same period last year.

An analysis by *The Indian Express* of monthly non-immi-



grant visa reports available on the Bureau of Consular Affairs' website shows that F-1 visas issued to Indian students have hit their lowest post-pandemic level.

From January to September this year, 64,008 visas were issued — a marked decline from 103,495 in the same months of 2023. Data shows that 65,235 visas were issued during the same period in 2021 and 93,181 in 2022. In the pandemic-hit year of 2020, just

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MAJOR BLOW FOR RUSSIA, IRAN

As rebels take Damascus, Assad flees Syria; given asylum in Russia: reports



Syrians at Aleppo's Saadallah al-Jabiri Square after rebels seized Damascus on Sunday. REUTERS

Syrians celebrate; new history being written, future is ours, says rebel leader

History of rebels to their geography: Why Delhi is cautious

MAYA GEBELLY & TIMOUR AZHARI
DAMASCUS, DECEMBER 8

SYRIAN REBEL fighters raced into Damascus unopposed on Sunday, overthrowing President Bashar al-Assad and ending more than five decades of his family's iron-fisted rule after a lightning advance that reversed the course of a 13-year civil war.

Late on Sunday, Russian news agencies, citing a Kremlin source, reported that Assad and his family had arrived in Russia and been granted asylum there. The Interfax news agency



Assad family's half-century rule ends

THE EXIT of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has been met with joy in the streets of Damascus but in capitals near and far, including New Delhi, the multiple moving parts in the spreading insurrection are keeping many fingers crossed.

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORTS
THE WORLD

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY



AFTER FACING a day of tear-gas shelling from Haryana Police at the Shambhu border point in Punjab, protesting farmers on Sunday evening suspended their foot march to Delhi by a day as Haryana administration officials met their leaders and assured them of talks.

Protesting farmers face tear-gas shells at Haryana border, halt march for a day

RAAKHI JAGGA
SHAMBHU (PATIALA), DEC 8

AFTER FACING a day of tear-gas shelling from Haryana Police at the Shambhu border point in Punjab, protesting farmers on Sunday evening suspended their foot march to Delhi by a day as Haryana administration officials met their leaders and assured them of talks.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Protesting farmers at Shambhu border, Sunday. HARNEER SODHI

AAP's Delhi poll map: Reworked line-up, change of seat for Sisodia



Patparganj MLA Sisodia likely to be fielded from Jangpura

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 8

FACING THE threat of anti-incumbency, disruption caused by the arrest of senior leaders and an Opposition hoping to cash in on corruption allegations, the Aam Aadmi Party is reworking its line-up for the next Delhi Assembly polls, which could result in several MLAs being discarded and some others being fielded from different constituencies, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

According to sources, the exercise may start at the top with farmer Deputy Chief Minister and Patparganj MLA Manish Sisodia

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IDEA EXCHANGE

ONCE IPL begins, it doesn't matter if you're a ₹20 lakh or ₹20 cr player, you have to win!
VENKATESH IYER
DOWNTOWN
PAGE 15

Gukesh wins, moves closer to crown

AMIT KAMATH
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 8

FOR ONE full hour on Sunday, nothing happened on the chessboard. The miniature battlefield separating reigning world champion Ding Liren and his teenage Indian challenger D Gukesh had gone silent after 10 moves as nothing moved. The pressure on



D Gukesh plays China's Ding Liren at the World Chess Championship, Sunday. AP

both players was so crippling that Gukesh had burnt 70 minutes on his clock just to make 11 moves, and Ding over 60 minutes on his first five. The minds of both players were calculating under great duress. It was, after all, the 11th game of the best-of-14 world championship.

Just a day earlier, both players had spoken about how heavy

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Investing feels too complicated?

Building wealth with Mutual Funds is

SIPlified.

Advantages of SIP



Freedom from timing the market



Flexibility to choose investment amount

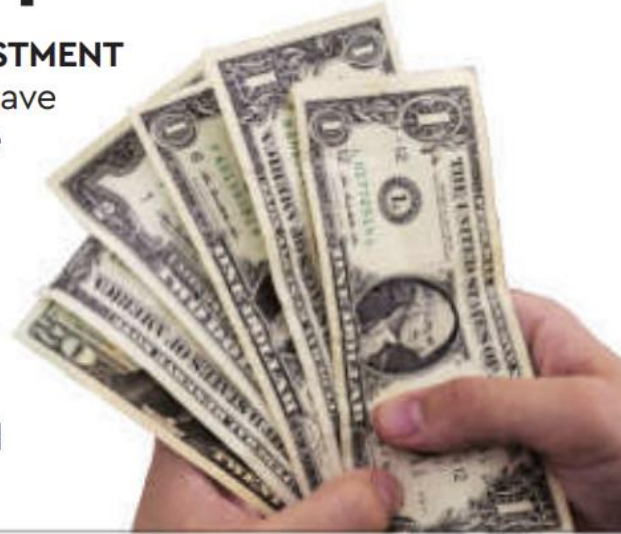
Contact your MF/DIA to know more



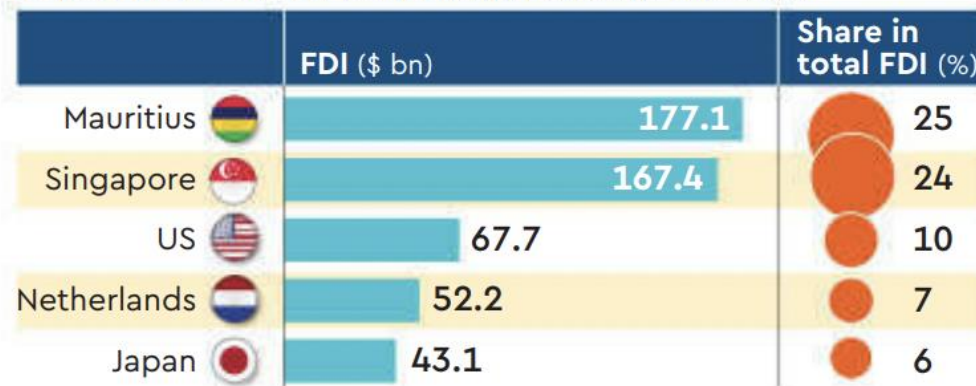
FDI since 2000 crosses \$1 trn

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

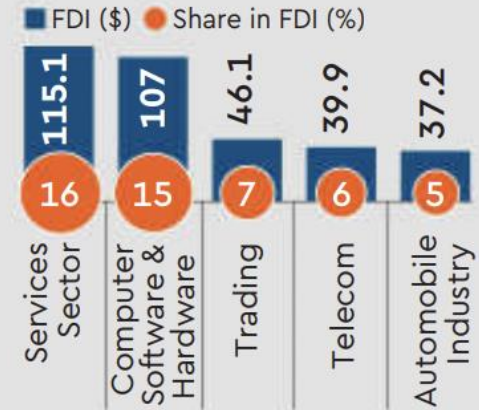
(FDI) inflows into India have crossed \$ 1 trillion since April 2000. The cumulative FDI, which includes equity, reinvested earnings and other capital, has been \$ 1033.4 billion between April 2000 and September 2024.



Top sources of FDI (Between April 2000 and Sept 2024)

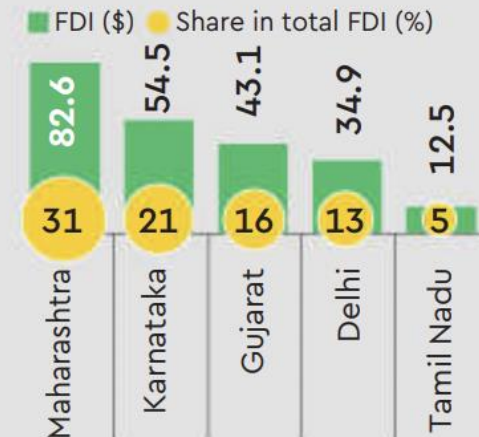


Sectors attracting maximum FDI




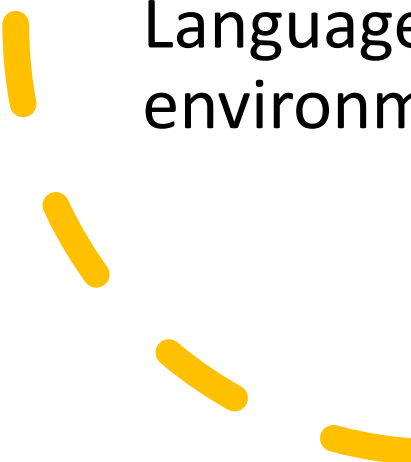
Services sector includes financial, banking, insurance, non financial/business outsourcing, R and D, Courier, Technology Testing and analysis and others.


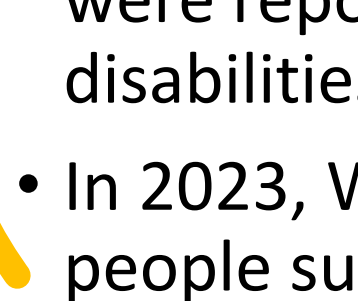
States attracting maximum FDI


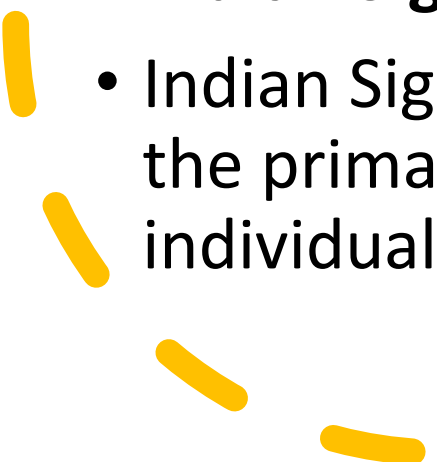




PM e-VIDYA Channel 31


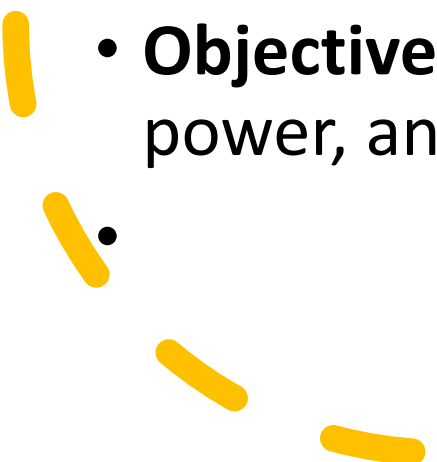
- 
- Union Minister of Education launched **PM e-VIDYA Channel 31**, a DTH channel dedicated to **sign language**.
 - **About**
 - This initiative aligns with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, which calls for promoting and standardising Indian Sign Language (ISL) across India to create a more inclusive educational environment.
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- This initiative aligns with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, which calls for promoting and standardising Indian Sign Language (ISL) across India to create a more inclusive educational environment.
 - **According to the Census 2011**, a total of 2.68 crore persons in India were reported as having disabilities out of which 19% have hearing disabilities.
 - In 2023, WHO estimates that in India, approximately 63 million people suffer from significant auditory impairment.
- 

- 
- **PM e-Vidya** was launched as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan by the Ministry of Education in 2020.
 - The initiative aims to provide **multi-mode access to education** through digital, online, and on-air platforms to minimise learning losses, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - **Indian Sign Language (ISL)**
 - Indian Sign Language (ISL) is a well-structured language that serves as the primary means of communication for hearing-impaired individuals.
- 

Polavaram Multipurpose Project



- 
- The **Polavaram Multipurpose Project** has become a point of contention among states, particularly **Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana.**
 - **About The Polavaram Irrigation Project**
 - **Location:** Godavari River, Andhra Pradesh.
 - **Objective:** Address irrigation, drinking water supply, hydroelectric power, and flood control.
- 


- 
- **Inception:** Conceived in 1980 following the recommendations of the **Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT)**.
 - **National Project Status:** Declared a national project under the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014**, making the Union Government responsible for executing it and obtaining requisite clearances.

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- **Major Concerns Raised By States**

- **Odisha:** Potential submergence of 162 villages in Malkangiri district, affecting tribal populations.
 - Odisha alleges that the revised design warrants a fresh backwater study, which the Central Water Commission (CWC) has refused.
 - **Chhattisgarh:** Raised concerns about submergence and environmental impact in downstream regions.
 - **Telangana:** Questioned the project's feasibility and its effect on local ecology and water resources.
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Gait Analysis



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- Kolkata Police recently utilized gait analysis to apprehend a suspect in a heinous crime, identifying him through CCTV footage that revealed a distinct limp.
 - **What is Gait Analysis?**
 - Gait analysis is the **study of human motion patterns**, particularly walking or running, to assess body movements, mechanics, and muscle activity.
 - It involves **visual observation, sensors, and advanced technologies** like optical marker-based frameworks to evaluate gait abnormalities.
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- **Applications of Gait Analysis**


- **Clinical settings:** To diagnose and treat movement abnormalities in people with conditions like Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy, or stroke.
- **Sports biomechanics:** To help athletes run more efficiently and identify movement problems.
- **Forensic science:** To compare a suspect's gait to evidence at a crime scene, such as footprints or CCTV footage





Rangeen Machhli App

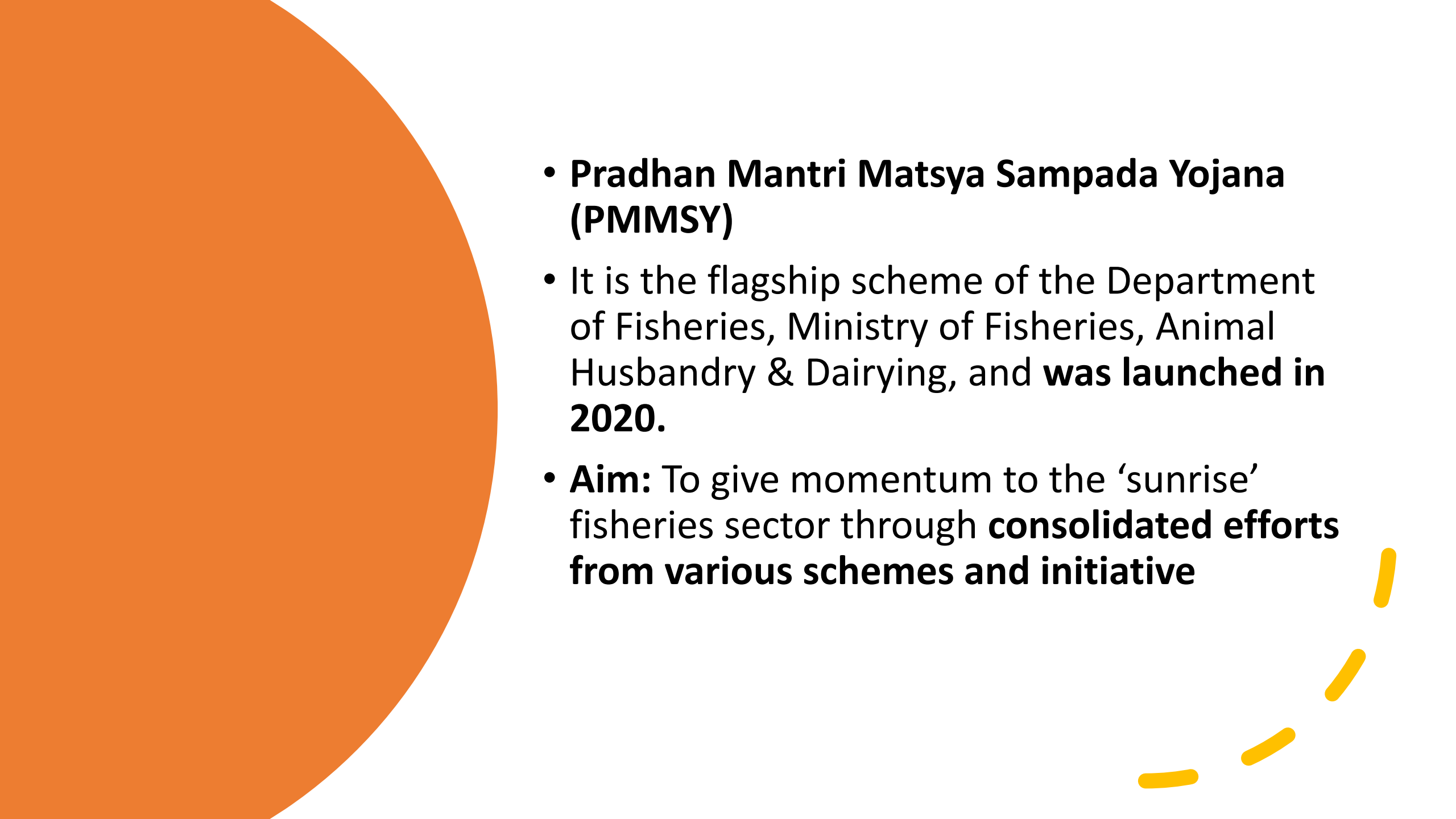
ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) has developed the “Rangeen Machhli” app.



About



It aims to support hobbyists, farmers, and professionals in the ornamental fish industry by providing multilingual, reliable, and comprehensive information on ornamental fish care, breeding, and maintenance.

- 
- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**
 - It is the flagship scheme of the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, and **was launched in 2020.**
 - **Aim:** To give momentum to the 'sunrise' fisheries sector through **consolidated efforts from various schemes and initiative**

Top 10 MCQ from
today's session

- **The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991** ensures which of the following?
उपासना स्थल (विशेष उपबंध) अधिनियम, 1991 निम्नलिखित में से किसकी गारंटी देता है?
- **A. Conversion of religious sites / धार्मिक स्थलों का रूपांतरण**
- **B. Preservation of the character of religious sites as of August 15, 1947 / 15 अगस्त 1947 की स्थिति के अनुसार धार्मिक स्थलों के स्वरूप का संरक्षण**
- **C. Establishment of new places of worship / नए उपासना स्थलों की स्थापना**
- **D. Tax exemption for religious sites / धार्मिक स्थलों के लिए कर छूट**

- Which country proposed the UN resolution declaring December 21 as World Meditation Day?
21 दिसंबर को विश्व ध्यान दिवस घोषित करने वाला संयुक्त राष्ट्र प्रस्ताव किस देश ने प्रस्तावित किया?
- **A. India / भारत**
- **B. Liechtenstein / लिक्टेन्स्टीन**
- **C. Sri Lanka / श्रीलंका**
- **D. All of the above / उपरोक्त सभी**

- What is the objective of the PM e-VIDYA Channel 31?
पीएम ई-विद्या चैनल 31 का उद्देश्य क्या है?
- A. Provide education in regional languages / क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं में शिक्षा प्रदान करना
- B. Promote Indian Sign Language (ISL) for inclusive education / समावेशी शिक्षा के लिए भारतीय सांकेतिक भाषा (ISL) को बढ़ावा देना
- C. Distribute digital tablets to students / छात्रों को डिजिटल टैबलेट वितरित करना
- D. Support STEM education in rural areas / ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में STEM शिक्षा का समर्थन करना

- What is the primary dispute surrounding the **Polavaram Multipurpose Project**?

पोलावरम बहुउद्देशीय परियोजना के आसपास मुख्य विवाद क्या है?

- A. Submergence of villages and displacement of tribals / गांवों का जलमग्न होना और आदिवासियों का विस्थापन
- B. Non-allocation of funds by the central government / केंद्रीय सरकार द्वारा धन का आवंटन न होना
- C. Improper hydroelectric power generation / अनुचित जलविद्युत उत्पादन
- D. Delay in obtaining environmental clearance / पर्यावरण मंजूरी प्राप्त करने में देरी

- Gait analysis was recently used by Kolkata Police in solving a crime. What is its application in forensic science?
गेट विश्लेषण का हाल ही में कोलकाता पुलिस द्वारा अपराध सुलझाने में उपयोग किया गया। फॉरेंसिक विज्ञान में इसका उपयोग क्या है?
- **A. Identifying suspects through walking patterns / चलने के पैटर्न के माध्यम से सदिग्धों की पहचान करना**
- **B. Tracking footprints at a crime scene / अपराध स्थल पर पैरों के निशान का पता लगाना**
- **C. Matching fingerprints with digital data / डिजिटल डेटा के साथ फिंगरप्रिंट का मिलान करना**
- **D. Analyzing handwriting in documents / दस्तावेजों में लिखावट का विश्लेषण करना**

- Which state recently raised concerns regarding the environmental impact of the Polavaram Project?
हाल ही में किस राज्य ने पोलावरम परियोजना के पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव पर चिंता जताई?
- **A. Odisha / ओडिशा**
- B. Chhattisgarh / छत्तीसगढ़**
- C. Telangana / तेलंगाना**
- D. All of the above / उपरोक्त सभी**

- What is the historical significance of the Krivak-class frigates for the Indian Navy?
भारतीय नौसेना के लिए क्रिवाक-क्लास फ्रिगेट्स का ऐतिहासिक महत्व क्या है?
- **A. They were the first submarines operated by India / वे भारत द्वारा संचालित पहली पनडुब्बी थीं**
- **B. They strengthened India's naval capabilities since the 1990s / उन्होंने 1990 के दशक से भारत की नौसेना क्षमताओं को मजबूत किया**
- **C. They were instrumental in the Kargil War / वे कारगिल युद्ध में महत्वपूर्ण थे**
- **D. They are indigenously developed in India / वे भारत में स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित किए गए हैं**

- What is the main feature of the **Rangeen Machhli App** launched under PMMSY?

पीएमएमएसवाई के तहत लॉन्च किए गए **रंगीली मछली ऐप** की मुख्य विशेषता क्या है?

- A. Tracks fish populations across Indian waters / भारतीय जल क्षेत्रों में मछली की आबादी को ट्रैक करता है
- B. Provides market prices for fisheries / मत्स्य पालन के लिए बाजार मूल्य प्रदान करता है
- C. Educates fishermen about sustainable fishing practices / मछुआरों को टिकाऊ मछली पकड़ने के तरीकों के बारे में शिक्षित करता है
- D. All of the above / उपरोक्त सभी

- What percentage of hearing disabilities was recorded in India as per WHO's 2023 estimates?
डब्ल्यूएचओ के 2023 के अनुमान के अनुसार भारत में सुनने की अक्षमता का प्रतिशत कितना है?
- **A. 10%**
- **B. 15%**
- **C. 20%**
- **D. 25%**

- What does the **Zero FIR system**, implemented in Chandigarh, primarily ensure?
चंडीगढ़ में लागू जीरो एफआईआर प्रणाली मुख्य रूप से क्या सुनिश्चित करती है?
- **A. Immediate lodging of complaints regardless of jurisdiction / क्षेत्राधिकार की परवाह किए बिना शिकायतों को तुरंत दर्ज करना**
- **B. Immediate compensation for victims / पीड़ितों के लिए तत्काल मुआवजा**
- **C. Automatic transfer of cases to higher courts / मामलों का उच्च अदालतों में स्वतः स्थानांतरण**
- **D. Filing of FIRs only in major crimes / केवल बड़े अपराधों में एफआईआर दर्ज करना**

Word of the day

Capacitate:

make legally capable or qualify in law;
make capable

Synonyms: qualify

Usage: *This instruction capacitates us to understand the problem.*


Pronunciation: newsth.live/
capacitatepro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /kə'pæsɪteɪt/

- **Myth:** Sugar makes kids hyperactive.
Burst: Numerous studies have shown no direct link between sugar consumption and hyperactivity in children. The excitement at events where sugary treats are served (like parties) is more likely the culprit.



A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, with a blueish tint. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange horizontal bar and a cluster of small, glowing red dots of varying sizes.

Thank you
guys.
