

Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता

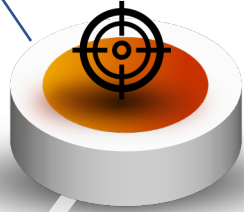


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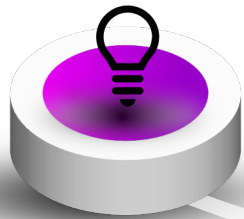


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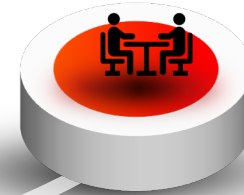


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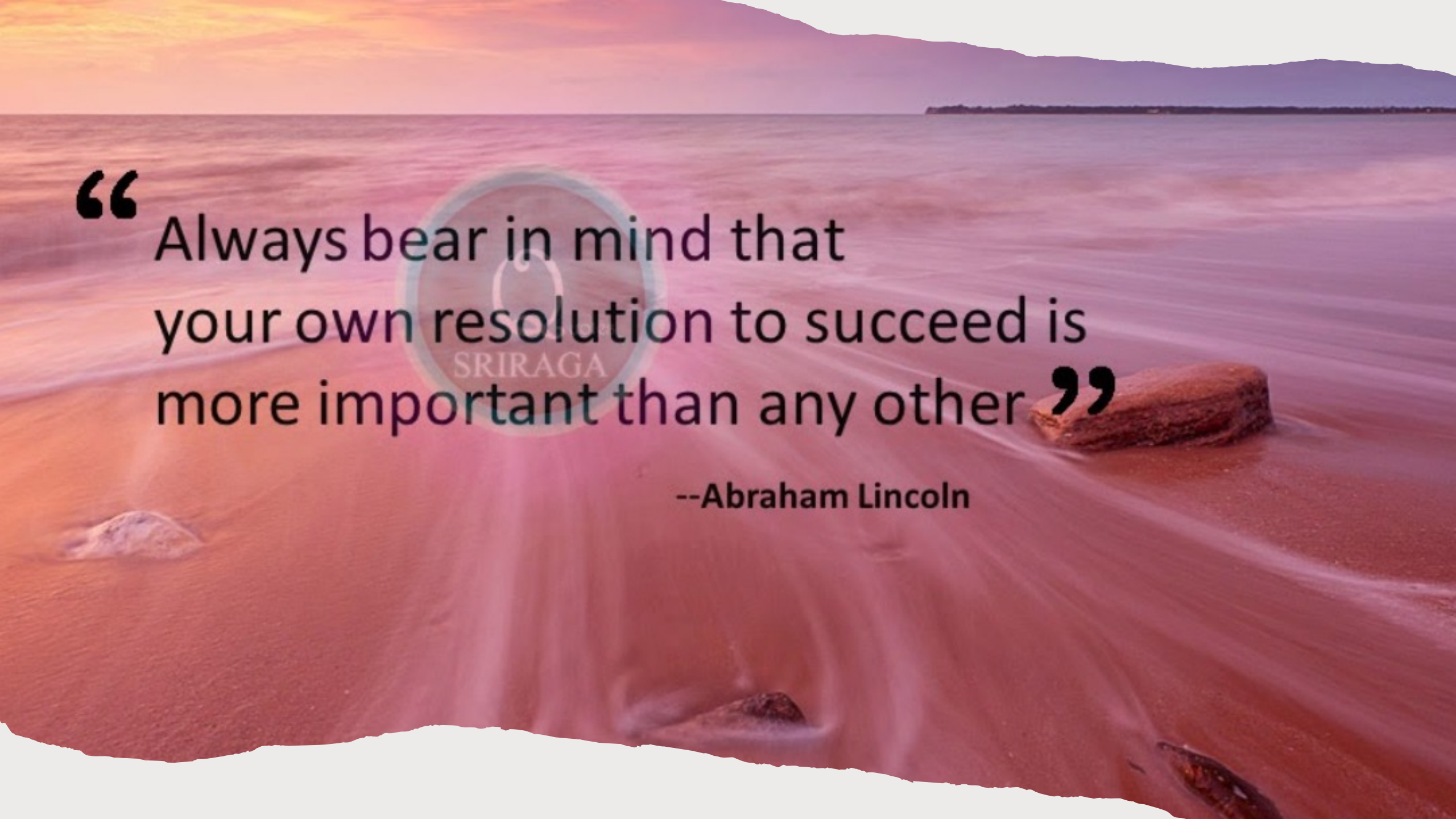
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your own resolution to succeed is
more important than any other **”**

--Abraham Lincoln



RIGHT TO MARRY IS NOT ABSOLUTE, SAYS CENTRE

SAME-SEX UNION

NEWS » PAGE 13



360 INDIANS EVACUATED FROM SUDAN

BACK HOME

NEWS » PAGE 14



XI MAKES FIRST CALL TO ZELENSKY IN PEACE BID

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR


WORLD » PAGE 15

A PILLAR OF DEMOCRACY

The challenge of reviving a sense of fraternity

It is an essential virtue in this diverse nation

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8



WINNING WITH EASE

KKR'S OVERALL SHOW TOO STRONG FOR RCB

SPORTS » PAGE 17

IN BRIEF



Modi wins praise for 'apolitical' Mann Ki Baat

NEW DELHI
Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for steering clear of politics in his Mann Ki Baat speeches.
» Page 14

Oberoi re-elected Mayor as BJP pulls out of contest

NEW DELHI
AAP's Shelly Oberoi secured another term as Mayor of Delhi following her re-election on Wednesday after the BJP candidate, Shikha Rai, withdrew her nomination minutes before voting began.
» Page 2

10 jawans killed in blast by Maoists in Dantewada

Civilian driver also dead; District Reserve Guard team was returning from an anti-naval operation launched on a tip-off, when their vehicle was blown up by an IED packed with 50 kg of explosives

**Shubhomoy Sikdar
Vijlata Singh
RAIPUR/NEW DELHI**

Ten security personnel returning from a counter-insurgency operation and a civilian driver were killed when Maoists blew up their vehicle in Dantewada of Chhattisgarh on Wednesday afternoon, according to the State police.

"Acting on a tip-off about Maoist presence in the area, an operation was conducted by the Deputy Inspector-General. As they were returning to the Dantewada headquarters, the [District Reserve Guard] team was targeted by the Maoists," Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraaj P. said. The incident took place on the Arampur Road.

The Dantewada headquarters is in the Bastar region, nearly 350 km from the State capital of Raipur. A senior government official said the attack took place around 15 km from a police station and a security camp of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).



A crater was formed under the impact of the blast in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada on Wednesday. PTI

"After blowing up the vehicle with an IED [improvised explosive device], the Maoists exchanged fire with other policemen who were part of the convoy. Two other vehicles were following the affected vehicle. The Maoists managed to flee," the official said, adding that the IED was packed with over 50 kg of explosives. The blast was so powerful that a crater was formed on the road.

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» PAGE 12
BIGGEST ATTACK
» PAGE 12

Attach the properties of those who set police station afire: Mamata

**Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA**

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday directed the police to crack down on those involved in the attack on a police station in Kallagan town of Uttar Dinajpur district a day earlier and even attach the arsonists' properties if needed.

As more videos of the violence that unfolded during a protest by locals over the death of a teenage girl surfaced, Ms. Banerjee pinned the blame on the BJP, saying its "goons from Bihar" ransacked the police station. The Opposition party in turn accused the administration of mishandling the situation and sent a delegation to meet Governor C.V. Ananda Bose.

DETAILS
» PAGE 4

Despite court stay, OTT platforms face pressure on content

Net alert

The two advisories issued by the I&B Ministry

- In February 2022, it told streaming platforms to ensure that details of a grievance officer are made publicly available on their websites.
- On March 24, 2023, it told platforms to exercise "abundant precaution in ensuring that films and web-series... do not fall foul of the... Code of Ethics" that is laid out in the IT Rules.



**Aroon Desai
NEW DELHI**

OTT, or over-the-top, streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video are facing pressure to comply with the Information Technology Rules, 2021, and to exercise further restraint in streaming mature content. This is despite the fact that two High Courts have stayed provisions of the IT Rules, which require them to appoint a grievance officer

and take down content when ordered to do so by a self-regulatory body.

Two advisories
The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) has issued two advisories on the issue: the first, in February 2022, told the platforms to ensure that a grievance officer's details are made publicly available on their websites.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

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10 jawans killed in blast by Maoists in Dantewada

Civilian driver also dead; District Reserve Guard team was returning from an anti-naxal operation launched on a tip-off, when their vehicle was blown up by an IED packed with 50 kg of explosives

Shubhomoy Sikdar
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A crater was formed under the impact of the blast in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada on Wednesday. PTI

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A senior government official said the attack took place around 1.5 km from a police station and a security camp of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).

“After blowing up the vehicle with an IED [improvised explosive device], the Maoists exchanged fire with other policemen who were part of the convoy. Two other vehicles were following the affected vehicle. The Maoists managed to flee,” the official said,

adding that the IED was packed with over 50 kg of explosives. The blast was so powerful that a crater was formed on the road.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
BIGGEST ATTACK
» PAGE 12

Officials say they lack proper technology to detect IEDs while the extremists have been avoiding direct combat; tri-junction of Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Odisha has been a vulnerable point

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

The Maoist ambush on Wednesday has highlighted what is seen as the last major challenge for security forces in Chhattisgarh – foiling improvised explosive device (IED) attacks in the forested tri-junction in Bastar region.

Security officials cite the lack of foolproof technology to detect IEDs and the increasing desperation of Maoists, who are avoiding direct combat with the forces, for such incidents.

The latest attack was the biggest strike by the extremists on the security forces in the State in the past two years. Ten District Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel and a driver were killed when the extremists blew up their vehicle in the Aranpur area of Dantewada district.



Deadly attack: Arms and ammunition recovered in a search conducted by security forces after a blast in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh on Wednesday. PTI

The tri-junction of Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Odisha located right at the southern tip of Sukma district in the south Bastar region is an area that witnesses the highest number of such incidents including the deadly 2010 Maoist ambush in Dantewada where

75 CRPF and one Chhattisgarh police personnel were killed.

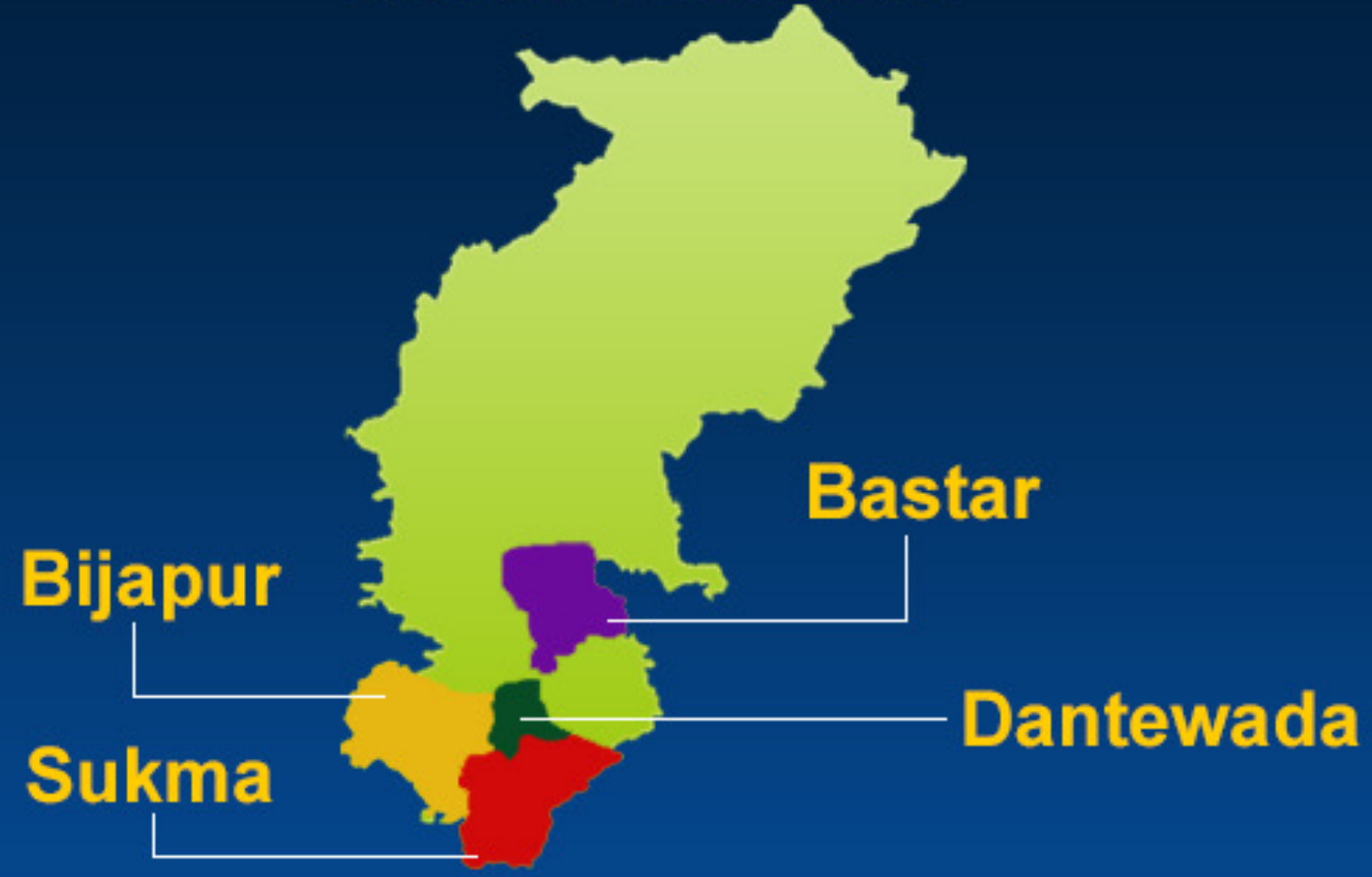
The Centre has maintained that left-wing extremism (LWE) has almost been wiped out in Jharkhand and Bihar after sustained operations, noting that violence has come

down by 77% in just over a decade.

“South Bastar region and its bordering areas and the IEDs are the last Maoist bastions to be breached. Forces are working towards this goal,” a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer said.

NAXAL AFFECTED AREAS

CHHATTISGARH



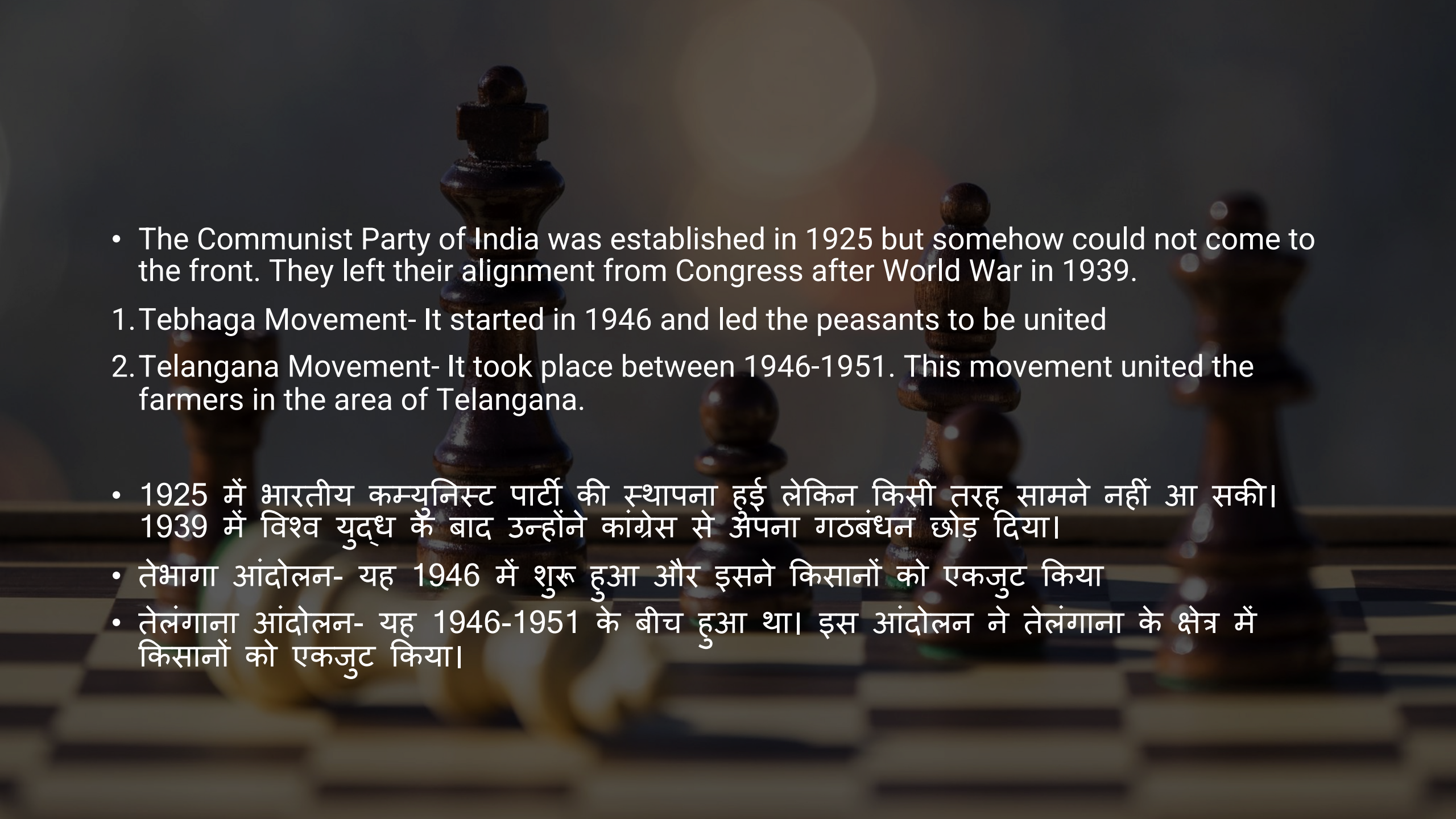
• Left Wing Extremism: History

1. It all began with Karl Marx. His manifesto included the workers' struggles. His ideology was that the proletariat must unite and rise against the bourgeoisie or the capitalists and establish a welfare state.
2. This was carried forward by Vladimir Lenin in the Russian Revolution. He stated that workers and peasants must come together and establish the communist government.

• वामपंथी उग्रवाद: इतिहास

- यह सब कार्ल मार्क्स के साथ शुरू हुआ। उनके घोषणापत्र में मजदूरों के संघर्ष शामिल थे। उनकी विचारधारा थी कि सर्वहारा वर्ग को एकजुट होकर पूंजीपतियों या पूंजीपतियों के खिलाफ उठ खड़ा होना चाहिए और एक कल्याणकारी राज्य की स्थापना करनी चाहिए।
- इसे रूसी क्रांति में व्लादिमीर लेनिन ने आगे बढ़ाया था। उन्होंने कहा कि श्रमिकों और किसानों को एक साथ आना चाहिए और कम्युनिस्ट सरकार की स्थापना करनी चाहिए।

- This was carried forward by Chinese Revolution led by Mao Zedong. This is the birth or origin of the ideology of Maoism or Naxalism adopted in India.
- Through this ideology he overthrew the earlier regime and established the current communist government of China.
- इसे माओत्से तुंग के नेतृत्व वाली चीनी क्रांति ने आगे बढ़ाया। यह भारत में अपनाई गई माओवाद या नक्सलवाद की विचारधारा का जन्म या उत्पत्ति है।
- इस विचारधारा के माध्यम से उन्होंने पहले के शासन को उखाड़ फेंका और चीन की वर्तमान साम्यवादी सरकार की स्थापना की।

- 
- The Communist Party of India was established in 1925 but somehow could not come to the front. They left their alignment from Congress after World War in 1939.

1. Tebhaga Movement- It started in 1946 and led the peasants to be united

2. Telangana Movement- It took place between 1946-1951. This movement united the farmers in the area of Telangana.

- 1925 में भारतीय कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी की स्थापना हुई लेकिन किसी तरह सामने नहीं आ सकी। 1939 में विश्व युद्ध के बाद उन्होंने कांग्रेस से अपना गठबंधन छोड़ दिया।
- तेभागा आंदोलन- यह 1946 में शुरू हुआ और इसने किसानों को एकजुट किया
- तेलंगाना आंदोलन- यह 1946-1951 के बीच हुआ था। इस आंदोलन ने तेलंगाना के क्षेत्र में किसानों को एकजुट किया।



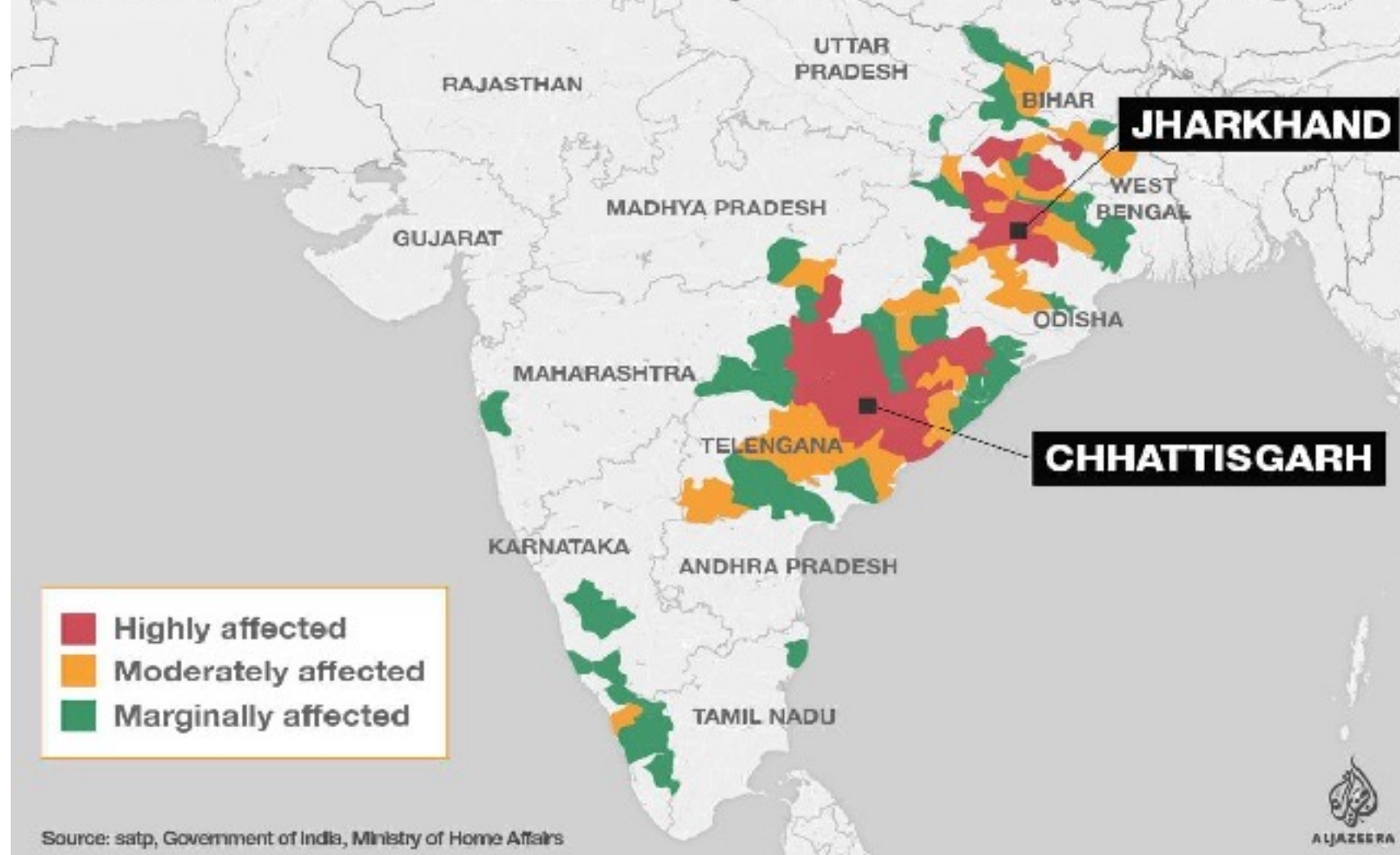
1. Sino Indian War- This happened in 1962 and gave wind to the Maoist movement in India after our country lost land to China.

2. Naxalbari incident- This is a small village in West Bengal where the farmers united and acted under the leadership of Charu Mazumdar and reacted to the Zamindars/ Landlords.

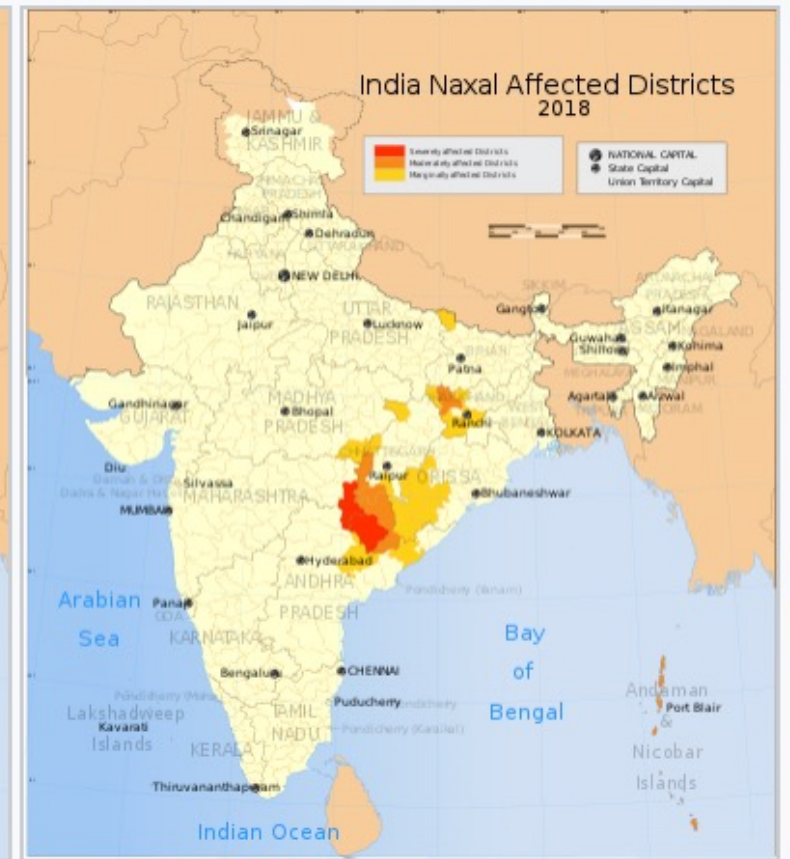
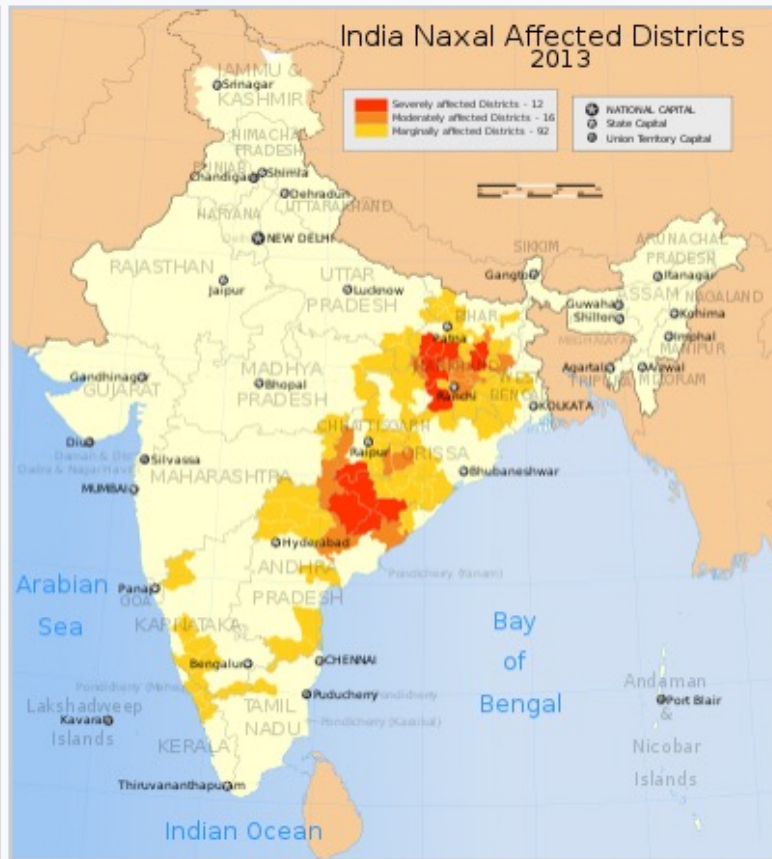
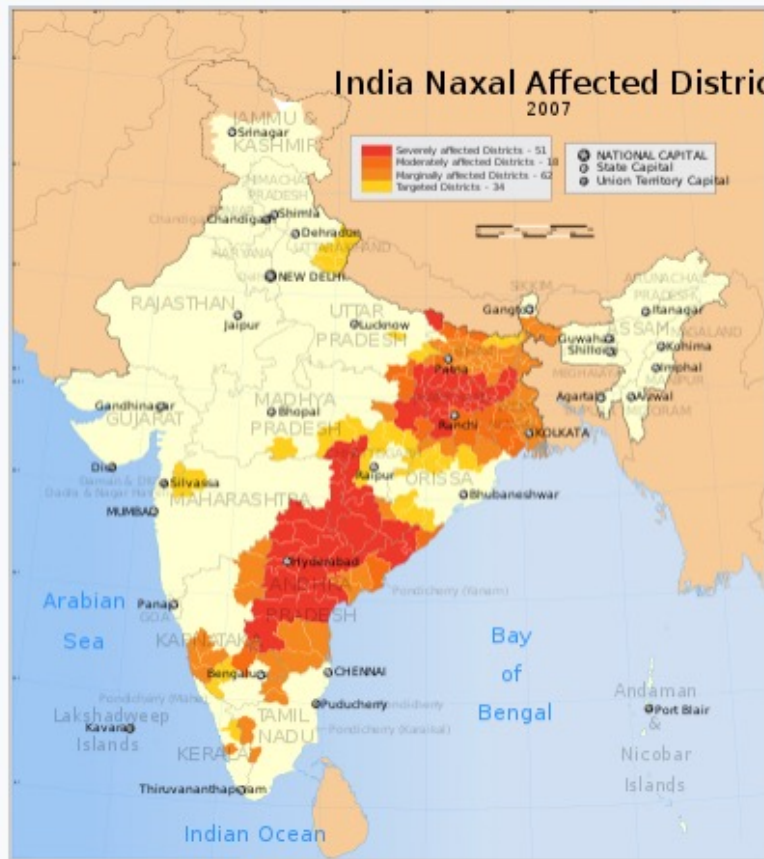
- चीन भारतीय युद्ध- यह 1962 में हुआ और हमारे देश द्वारा चीन से जमीन गंवाने के बाद भारत में माओवादी आंदोलन को हवा दी।
- नक्सलबाड़ी की घटना- यह पश्चिम बंगाल का एक छोटा सा गाँव है जहाँ के किसानों ने एकजुट होकर चारु मजूमदार के नेतृत्व में काम किया और जमींदारों / जमींदारों को प्रतिक्रिया दी।

A map of India's Maoist conflict

A crackdown on Maoist rebels has led to a rise in the number of casualties in the country's tribal areas. Here are the regions that are most affected.



Source: satp, Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs



Areas with Naxalite activity in 2007 (left), in 2013 (centre), and in 2018 (right)

Nobel Prize of Asia



It's never too late: The Dalai Lama receives the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award in person from members of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation at his residence in Dharamsala on Wednesday, 64 years after it was conferred on him. His brother Gyalo Thonden had received the award on his behalf in Manila in August 1959. PTI/PHOTO

Audio clip is fabricated by 'blackmail gang': T.N. Minister

The clip was released by BJP State president Annamalai to disrupt good governance of the DMK and create a rift in the ruling party; this is the base level of his politics, says Palanivel Thiaga Rajan

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan on Wednesday said that an audio clip released by BJP State president K. Annamalai, purportedly containing his voice, was fabricated by a "blackmail gang" to achieve its political ambitions and disrupt the good governance being delivered by the ruling DMK.

Mr. Rajan, who posted his statement as a video on Twitter, began by showing a few deepfake videos. "If such authentic-looking videos can be machine-generated, imagine what all



Palanivel Thiaga Rajan THE HINDU

can be done with audio files," he said.

The Minister alleged that the BJP leader had gone to the extent of posting "an audio of somebody telling nobody about some others. This is the base level of his politics." He added that he strongly and specifically denies "having said to any in-

dividual, personally or on the phone... what is contained in the audio clip being circulated since yesterday".

The person in the audio clip, released by Mr. Annamalai on Tuesday, seemed to be criticising the functioning of the DMK, with an indication that it was controlled by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's son and Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Udhayanidhi Stalin and son-in-law V. Sabareesan.

"Cheap tactics" The Minister said certain forces, unable to digest the achievements of the ruling DMK, were using ad-

vanced technologies and cheap tactics. Arguing that the government, through major financial reforms, had achieved what had not been attempted in the past decade, Mr. Rajan said the results were superior to what the Union government had achieved in the previous decade.

While Mr. Stalin was not only the "guiding light" of Tamil Nadu but also the hope of the country, Mr. Udhayanidhi was the hope for the next generation, and had got a great reception from the Tamil people, the Minister said. Reacting to Mr. Rajan's statement, Mr. Annamalai said he was willing to face the law.

Goa police plan to withdraw summons issued to Kejriwal

Press Trust of India
PANAJI

The Goa police on Wednesday told the Bombay High Court that they are withdrawing the summons issued to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, in which he was asked to appear before them on April 27 in a case related to the illegal sticking of posters on public properties during the 2022 Assembly election campaign.

The police had issued the notice *suo moto* to Mr. Kejriwal on April 13 under section 41 (A) of the Code

The case related to sticking of posters on public properties during the 2022 election campaign

of Criminal Procedure (CrPc).

But he challenged the summons issued to him by the Pernem police, asking him to appear before the investigating officer on April 27 in connection with the case.

The case was heard by a Division Bench comprising Justices Mahesh Sonak and Valmiki Meneses of the

Goa Bench of the Bombay High Court on Wednesday, during which the police submitted that they are going to withdraw the summons issued to Mr. Kejriwal.

Advocate Subodh Kantak, who represented Mr. Kejriwal, said the petition was disposed of by the Bench after the police submission.

"... it is revealed that there are reasonable grounds to question you to ascertain facts and circumstances from you in relation to the present investigation," Mr. Pawar said while

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A day after the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) announced the suspension of soil survey work for the multi-billion dollar Ratnagiri Refinery and Petrochemical Limited at Barsu in Ratnagiri district following protests by villagers, Maharashtra Industries Minister Uday Samant on Wednesday met Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar in Mumbai and briefed him about the situation.

Mr. Pawar said while

they did not oppose any project that was expected to benefit the people of the Konkani region, one could not ignore the intensity of locals' opposition to a particular project.

"It is important to understand why the locals are opposing and a need on the part of authorities to have a dialogue with them. If their demands are legitimate, then there is a need to find an alternative site for the project," Mr. Pawar said after meeting Mr. Samant.

Villagers are protesting against the project and the



Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar addressing a press conference in Mumbai on Wednesday. ANI

MVA coalition is supporting them. Ratnagiri police have arrested 111 people, most of them women, during the protest. In February,

Marathi newspaper journalist Shashikant Warishe was mowed down by an SUV allegedly driven by land broker Pandharnath Amberkar, a supporter of the project, while the victim was extensively reporting on the issues related to the setting up of the unit.

When asked about the Shinde-Fadnis government's claims that it was Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray who suggested Barsu as an alternative site for project instead of Nanar, what he was the Chief Minister, Mr. Pawar said he was not

aware of that.

Mr. Samant assured to hold dialogues with the locals on Thursday.

He also clarified that there was no survey being conducted at Barsu, and only soil testing was being conducted to know if the project could come up there.

"This is a very preliminary stage. The government will speak to the villagers. We are in favour of having dialogue," he said.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) has decided to launch an agitation against the proposed project.

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Nobel Prize of Asia



It's never too late: The Dalai Lama receives the 1959 Ramon Magsaysay Award in person from members of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation at his residence in Dharamsala on Wednesday, 64 years after it was conferred on him. His brother Gyalo Thonden had received the award on his behalf in Manila in August 1959 PTI PHOTO

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Website

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- The Ramon Magsaysay Award is an annual award established to perpetuate former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay's example of integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society.
- The prize was established in April 1957 by the trustees of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund based in New York City with the concurrence of the Philippine government.
- It is often called the "Nobel Prize of Asia
- रेमन मैग्सेसे पुरस्कार एक वार्षिक पुरस्कार है, जिसे फिलीपीन के पूर्व राष्ट्रपति रेमन मैग्सेसे के शासन में ईमानदारी, लोगों के लिए साहसी सेवा और एक लोकतांत्रिक समाज के भीतर व्यावहारिक आदर्शवाद के उदाहरण को बनाए रखने के लिए स्थापित किया गया है।
- इस पुरस्कार की स्थापना अप्रैल 1957 में फिलीपीन सरकार की सहमति से न्यूयॉर्क शहर स्थित रॉकफेलर ब्रदर्स फंड के ट्रस्टियों द्वारा की गई थी।
- इसे अक्सर "एशिया का नोबेल पुरस्कार" कहा जाता है



Anshu Gupta and Sanjiv Chaturvedi	Emergent Leadership	2015
Bezwada Wilson, Thodur Madabusi Krishna	Human rights activist, Carnatic music	2016
Bharat Vatwani and Sonam Wangchuk	Restoring health and dignity to the lives of the troubled Education for community progress	2018
Ravish Kumar	Journalist (NDTV show called "Prime Time")	2019



Fruits of labour



Wide array: Farmers displaying over 50 varieties of kharif seeds during the International Seed Day celebrations organised by the Deccan Development Society at Pastapur village in Zaheerabad mandal of Sangareddy district in Telangana on Wednesday. MOHAMMAD ARIF

- **What is Order 81?**

- International Seeds Day was first observed in 2019 and has since gained global recognition.
- It is an opportunity for individuals, organizations, and communities to come together to raise awareness, share knowledge, and take action toward the conservation and protection of seeds.
- आदेश 81 क्या है?
- अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बीज दिवस पहली बार 2019 में मनाया गया था और तब से इसे वैश्विक मान्यता प्राप्त हुई है।
- यह व्यक्तियों, संगठनों और समुदायों के लिए जागरूकता बढ़ाने, ज्ञान साझा करने और बीजों के संरक्षण और संरक्षण की दिशा में कार्रवाई करने के लिए एक साथ आने का एक अवसर है।

- The 'Order 81' was signed by Paul Bremer, the administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) in Iraq which brought about several changes to Iraq's agricultural practices.
- This is why April 26 was selected to commemorate International Seeds Day.
- 'ऑर्डर 81' पर इराक में गठबंधन अनंतिम प्राधिकरण (CPA) के प्रशासक पॉल ब्रेमर ने हस्ताक्षर किए थे, जिसने इराक की कृषि पद्धतियों में कई बदलाव लाए।
- यही कारण है कि 26 अप्रैल को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बीज दिवस मनाने के लिए चुना गया।

From Page One

10 jawans killed by Maoists in Dantewada

It remains unclear why a civilian was driving the vehicle full of policemen, or whether the vehicle was a private civilian one.

The deceased jawans were members of the District Reserve Guard (DRG), a locally-raised force designed to carry out anti-Maoist operations. They have been identified as Joga Sothi, Munna Ram Kadi, Santosh Tamo, Dulgo Mandani, Lakshma Mackam, Joga Kewas, Hari Ram Mandani, Rajaram Kartam, Jairam Podiyam and Jagdish Karwas. The civilian driver was Dhaniram Yadav.

With this incident, the number of security forces killed by Maoists in Chhattisgarh in the first four months this year has touched at least 17, almost twice the nine casualties reported in 2022. Security experts say that between February and June, Maoists conduct a tactical counter-offensive campaign, during which they target security forces, before the onset of the monsoon makes attacks difficult in the Bastar region.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, and others expressed their condolences to the families of those killed in the attack. "Strongly condemn the attack in Dantewada. I pay my tributes to the brave personnel we lost in the attack. Their sacrifice will always be remembered. My condolences to the bereaved families," Mr. Modi tweeted.

OTT platforms face pressure on content

The second advisory, issued on March 24 this year, warned streaming platforms to exercise "abundant precaution in ensuring that films and web-series... do not fall foul of the... Code of Ethics" that is laid out in the IT Rules.

"Given that the Code of Ethics under Rule 90 of the IT Rules, 2021 has been stayed by the Bombay and Madras High Courts, OTT platforms are not bound by the terms of the Internet Freedom Foundation said in a statement to The Hindu.

Beyond the government advisories, a self-regulatory body that includes Netflix, Amazon Prime Video and Airtel as members, issued its own internal advisory to streaming firms. The fact that some sites do not have grievance officers or monthly reports of grievances posted on their website does "not appear to be in strict conformity with the law," says the Centre and Veterinary Minister Alexander Laloo Helk confirmed his meeting with the Trinamool's State unit president, Charles Pyrogope, and former Chief Minister Mukul M. Sangma, following reports that the Trinamool legislators were planning to switch over to change their political fortunes.

"We had an informal conversation over tea," Mr. Helk said, admitting that a possible merger of Trinamool legislators with the BJP was one of the topics discussed.

Delhi Police seek time for 'inquiry' before registering FIR against MP Brij Bhushan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police in the Supreme Court on Wednesday said they "felt" that some preliminary inquiry "may be needed before registering an FIR on the sexual harassment complaints of two women wrestlers against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

The intervention by the police came on Wednesday as a Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, remained in court that the allegations were "serious". The Bench had urgently moved the Supreme Court. The court has listed the case on Friday.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, in his urgent mentioning for the police on Wednesday, seemed to give a reason for the non-registration of the FIR by highlighting the "need" for a "preliminary enquiry".

But the law officer, in

Police officers who refused to register sex-related complaints must be prosecuted, says Kabil Sibhal

the same breath, added that if the court felt an FIR was required to be registered immediately, the police would do so. Chief Justice Chandrachud advised him to present when the case is taken up for hearing on the issue of how to proceed with the case.

Prosecuting the police Senior advocate Kabil Sibhal, representing the women wrestlers on Tuesday, had pointed out in court that even police officers who had refused to register an FIR ought to be prosecuted because the accused

Biggest attack by Maoists in Chhattisgarh in two years

Officials say they lack proper technology to detect IEDs while the extremists have been avoiding direct combat; tri-junction of Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Odisha has been a vulnerable point

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Maoist ambush on Wednesday has highlighted what is seen as the last major challenge for security forces in Chhattisgarh — foiling improvised explosive device (IED) attacks in the forested tri-junction in Bastar region.

Security officials cite the lack of foolproof technology to detect IEDs and the increasing desperation of Maoists, who are avoiding direct combat with the forces, for such incidents.

The latest attack was the biggest strike by the extremists on the security forces in the State in the past two years. Ten District Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel and a driver were killed when the extremists blew up their vehicle in the Arampur area of Dantewada district.



Deadly attack: Arms and ammunition recovered in a search conducted by security forces after a blast in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh on Wednesday. PTI

The tri-junction of Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Odisha located right at the southern tip of Sukma district in the south Bastar region is an area that witnesses the highest number of such incidents including the deadly 2010 Maoist ambush in Dantewada where

75 CRPF and one Chhattisgarh police personnel were killed. The Centre has maintained that left-wing extremists (LWE) has almost wiped out in Jharkhand and Bihar after sustained operations, noting that violence has come

down by 77% in just over a decade. "South Bastar region and its bordering areas and the IEDs are the last Maoist bastions to be breached. Forces are working to wipe this out," a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer said.

Need for state action was felt in triple talaq issue, Centre tells SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government has reasoned that it had to introduce a law criminalising the practice in response to a series of judgments which have challenged the constitutionality of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, which makes the pronouncement of triple talaq an offence punishable with three years' imprisonment.

Countering arguments that the government was overboard to criminalise triple talaq when the court had only made it "void", the government said it was not for the court to say "less than what was done might have been enough". It was "irrelevant" to argue that the provisions of the Act were more onerous than the occasion demanded. The petitions against the 2019 Act include one by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, which has argued that while a Muslim man would suffer imprisonment for pronouncing talaq and non-bailable offence, a man from another faith could desert his wife without fearing punishment. Desertion was at best a ground for divorce. The organisation said the law has made the declaration of triple talaq an offence punishable with three years' imprisonment.

"We had an informal conversation over tea," Mr. Helk said, admitting that a possible merger of Trinamool legislators with the BJP was one of the topics discussed.

Northern Command chief visits Poonch

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

The Army's Northern Command chief visited the Rajouri-Poonch sector in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday after militants killed five soldiers in the region.

An Army spokesman said Lieutenant-General Upendra Dwivedi, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command visited Rajouri and Poonch and reviewed operational preparedness. "He took stock of the ongoing operations," he said. The police suspect the role of local people in providing logistics to the attackers. Officials said over 50 local people were questioned by the security forces to identify those who had supported the attackers. An attacker has been identified or arrested.

Angry with reform delays, India calls system 'anachronistic'

Subodhi Halder
NEW DELHI

With another year of meetings on reforming the United Nations and particularly the question of the expansion of the Security Council — coming to a close in India, the police of the UN system with its most scathing indictment so far.

In a speech at the UNSC this week, the Indian Permanent Representative called the UN Charter "anachronistic", adding that it has failed in handling the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukraine war, terrorism and climate change. "Can we practise 'reflection multilateralism' by defending a Charter that makes five nations more equal than others, and proposes to strengthen the power to ignore the collective will of the rest of the world?" Ms. Kamboj asked, at the meeting chaired by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Monday.

This is the first time India has specifically criticised giving the veto to the P-5, clarifying its stand that in any expansion of the Security Council, the veto



Ruchira Kamboj was speaking at a session on how to make multilateralism effective by defending the UN Charter. PTI PHOTO

must be given to all members, or none. "The tough words in the Indian speech are a reflection of India's frustration at the slow pace of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) process, as well as the need to keep UN reforms at the top of the global body's agenda even though India is not in the Security Council this year, officials said.

The IGN process, which began in 2008 in row in its 15th year, and through a draft text of the reforms proposed was presented in 2015, there is little indication that negotiations on the basis of a text will begin

IN BRIEF

ED arrests TMC leader Anubrata Mondal's daughter

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday arrested Sukanya Mondal, daughter of Trinamool Congress leader Anubrata Mondal, in connection with the cattle smuggling scam. The arrest comes almost eight months after Mr. Mondal, Biharum district president of TMC, was arrested in the scam. Ms. Mondal was summoned at the ED's office in Delhi on Wednesday, where she was questioned for several hours before her arrest. The investigating agencies have found several properties and companies in the name of Ms. Mondal, who is a school teacher by profession. The agency had summoned Ms. Mondal for questioning on several occasions, including in March, when she failed to turn up. On being questioned about disproportionate assets, she had claimed ignorance.

Ayurveda physicians not on a par with allopathy doctors: SC

The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside a Gujarat High Court order which had held that Ayurveda practitioners working in government hospitals should be treated on a par with allopathy doctors and entitled to equal pay. The top court was hearing a batch of appeals challenging a 2012 Gujarat High Court order which had held that Ayurveda practitioners are entitled to be treated on a par with doctors with MBBS degrees. While recognising the importance of Ayurveda practitioners and the need to promote alternative or indigenous systems of medicine, the top court said it could not be oblivious of the fact that both categories of doctors were certainly not performing equal work to be entitled to equal pay. The Bench said allopathy doctors were required to perform emergency duties and provide trauma care. ■

Non-bailable warrants issued against 23 militants in J&K

Non-bailable warrants were issued against 23 active militants hailing from the Chenab Valley's Kishtwar district, and operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on Wednesday in J&K. Chief Investigation Officer, DSIPT Vishal Sharma, had approached the Special NIA Court for issuing non-bailable warrants against these accused for "their active involvement in terror activities for creating unrest in the Chenab Valley and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir." They mobbed electric cells and pushed them into J&K in connivance with secessionist and separatist leaders for counter-terrorism. The government of Jammu and Kashmir design of seceding Jammu and Kashmir from Union of India." Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Kishtwar, Khushi Poonwala said.

IAS officers of 1985 batch to oppose letting out Mohan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The IAS batchmates of G. Krishniah, the former District Magistrate of Poonch in Bihar who was murdered by a mob led by gangster-turned-politician Anand Mohan Singh in 1994, are exploring legal options to challenge a Bihar government order that would allow the life convict walk out of jail soon.

Krishniah's life for the 1985 batch IAS officer of the Bihar cadre. He was pulled out of his official vehicle and killed by a mob belonging to a landless Dalit family in Telangana. He fought all odds to clear the coveted exam. One of the retired IAS officers said they were planning to file a petition in the Supreme Court against the Bihar government's order that would pave the way for Mohan's release from jail. The Union Civil and Administrative (Central) Association, New Delhi on Tuesday issued a statement opposing Bihar government's move.

Ayurveda physicians not on a par with allopathy doctors: SC

The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside a Gujarat High Court order which had held that Ayurveda practitioners working in government hospitals should be treated on a par with allopathy doctors and entitled to equal pay. The top court was hearing a batch of appeals challenging a 2012 Gujarat High Court order which had held that Ayurveda practitioners are entitled to be treated on a par with doctors with MBBS degrees. While recognising the importance of Ayurveda practitioners and the need to promote alternative or indigenous systems of medicine, the top court said it could not be oblivious of the fact that both categories of doctors were certainly not performing equal work to be entitled to equal pay. The Bench said allopathy doctors were required to perform emergency duties and provide trauma care. PTI

Angry with reform delays, India calls UN system ‘anachronistic’

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

With another year of meetings on reforming the United Nations – and particularly the question of the expansion of the Security Council – coming to a close in June, India lashed out at the UN system with its most scathing attack thus far.

In a speech at the UNSC this week, the Indian Permanent Representative called the UN Charter “anachronistic”, adding that it has failed in handling the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ukraine war, terrorism and climate change.

Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj was speaking at a session convened by Russia that called for a discussion on how to make multilateralism effective “by defending the UN Charter”.

Veto for all or none

Ms. Kamboj also called for expanding the Security Council’s permanent membership and hit out at the “veto power” given to



Ruchira Kamboj was speaking at a session on how to make multilateralism effective ‘by defending the UN Charter’. FILE PHOTO

the “P-5” of the U.S., the U.K., France, Russia and China.

“Can we practise ‘effective multilateralism’ by defending a Charter that makes five nations more equal than others, and provides to each of those five, the power to ignore the collective will of the remaining 188 member states?” Ms. Kamboj asked, at the meeting chaired by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Monday. This is the first time India has specifically criticised giving the veto to the P-5, clarifying its stand that in any expansion of the Security Council, the veto

must be given to all members, or none.

The tough words in the Indian speech are a reflection of India’s frustration at the slow pace of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) process, as well as its determination to keep UN reforms at the top of the global body’s agenda even though India is not in the Security Council this year, officials said.

The IGN process, which began in 2008 is now in its 15th year, and though a draft text of the reforms proposed was presented in 2015, there is little indication that negotiations on the basis of a text will begin

in the near future. Ms. Kamboj also called for a “clear attribution of groups and member states” or naming those who oppose expansion for specific countries, indicating the “United For Consensus” group that includes Argentina, Italy, Mexico, Pakistan and Turkey. All eyes will now be on the next IGN session in June, the last for this year – where national statements of various countries will be “webcast” live for the first time – that will discuss the way forward in the process.

Significantly, at the UNSC meeting this week, many joined India’s voice of concern about the process, and about the lack of representation for Africa, South America and Asia. China is the only Asian P-5 member.

Apart from reform, India also called for an urgent review of the UN Charter from 1945, citing Article 109 that had said a “review conference” must be held within a decade of the original charter being adopted.

INCREASED DISCLOSURE
Sebi ups the ante on disclosures for M&A-bound firms

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

FINANCIAL EXPRESS

SENSEX: 60,300.58 ▲ 169.87 NIFTY: 17,813.60 ▲ 44.35 NIKKEI 225: 28,416.47 ▼ 203.60 HANG SENG: 19,757.27 ▲ 139.74 KOSPI 200: 81.77 ▲ 0.15 ...

IN THE NEWS
SEI arm revises methodology for leveraged entities

THE INDEX MAINTENANCE sub-committee of NSE Indices, a subsidiary of the NSE, on Wednesday revised the methodology for treatment of leveraged entities...

Offshore gaming firms under GST-Meity lens

IN A BID TO track offshore online gaming companies and ensure they comply with IT laws, tax officials are working with the ministry of electronics and information technology...

Journalists told to take loan misleading ads

WITHIN WEEKS OF food blogger flagging high sugar content in Bourmitva, the National Commission for the Protection of Consumer Rights on Wednesday asked brand's maker Mondelez...

IBFCs target rural market for gold loan

AT A TIME when banks are rapidly increasing their market share in the gold loan market, IBFCs are extending their operations in rural and semi-urban areas...

SW denies reports of take buys in MG, BYD

AS A RESULT OF denied reports that it plans to pick up stakes in Indian arms of MG Motors or BYD, reports in Reuters said: "We confirm that no such proposal has been placed for discussion of the Board or of its Committees."

RESULTS CORNER
Ajaj Fin Q4 profit zooms 1% to ₹3,158 crore

AS A RESULT OF ajaj Towers reports Q4 profit of ₹1,399.1 cr

EXPLAINER
India's interests in equity oil

As the country remains fixed post-reform, the initial higher pension gains will peter out if inflation-linked increments are to be factored in, an analyst said.

FE SPECIALS
Good choices for budget-conscious buyers

Nokia C12 Pro & Lava Blaze 2 are smooth and fast phones with bright display and good camera set-ups

TORRENT AND OAKTREE CAPITAL SKIP AUCTION
Hinduja one bidder for RCap, offers ₹9,650 cr

Bid price far below liquidation value of ₹13,000 crore
RAJESH KURUP Mumbai, April 26
THE HINDUJA GROUP has emerged as the lone bidder for the entire assets of debt-laden Reliance Capital (RCap), quoting ₹9,650 crore as an upfront cash for the former Anil Ambani firm.

Two other prospective applicants — Torrent Group and Oaktree Capital — did not take part alleging lack of clarity and assurance of "finality" in the extended challenge mechanism, sources close to the development said.

Hinduja group, which placed its bids through a group firm Industind International Holdings (IHL), has assured there will be no deferred payment.

The bid price of ₹9,650 crore would give the lenders a total of ₹10,100 crore, as RCap already has ₹500 crore in cash on its books, sources said.

The recovery for secured lenders will be about 70% of the total secured debt of RCap is at about ₹16,400 crore. However, the bid price falls below the liquidation value of ₹13,000 crore as assessed by two independent valuers, Duff & Phelps.

Gujarat-based Torrent Group's Tor-

rent Investments, Singapore's Oaktree Capital and consortium of Firalal Group and Cosmea Financial, did not participate in this round, even though they were eligible to take part in the process due to the Earnest Money Deposit they had made.

Continued on Page 4

Maruti to set up new 1-million-unit plant
Looks at total capacity of 4.3 million by 2028

SWARAJ BAGGOONKAR Mumbai, April 26
MARUTI SUZUKI (MSIL), the country's largest passenger vehicle manufacturer, will set up a new plant in Gujarat to produce 1 million cars per year. The company's board of directors on Wednesday gave an in-principle approval for the new manufacturing unit. The location, funding and other details are to be worked out by the automaker later.

Maruti's current annual installed capacity, including its plant at Gurugram and Manesar, is 1.3 million units. The company had earlier decided to add another 1 million units at a new plant, which is coming up at Kharakhoda in Haryana.

MSIL's installed capacity will go up further to 3.3 million units once the new plant, approved by the board on Wednesday, comes up. If the current capacity of 750,000 units a year at Suzuki Motor Gujarat is added, the total annual installed capacity of Maruti Suzuki would be around 4.3 million units. This peak capacity would be achieved some time around 2028.

RC Bhargava, chairman, MSIL, said that the company's aim through capacity additions is to regain its peak market share of 50% in the passenger vehicle market.

"Market share is dependent on external factors which you cannot control but the intention of Maruti Suzuki will always be to get as close to our 50% target, which we had in the past. The phasing of the creation of the new capacity will depend on the market demand," Bhargava said.

Continued on Page 4

Whole-annuity NPS can fetch OPS-like pension: PFRDA chief

DEEPAK MOHANTY, PFRDA CHAIRMAN New Delhi, April 26
THE ACCUMULATED CORPUS of a subscriber under the contributory National Pension System (NPS) can generate more than 50% of the last pay drawn as pension after a government service total of 30-33 years, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) chairman Deepak Mohanty said on Wednesday.

The remark comes when a government panel is reviewing NPS and exploring ways to make it more attractive in terms of risk-free pension payouts. The review is in the wake of many state governments reverting to the defined benefit-based old pension scheme (DBPS), and some announcing plans to follow suit.

"Certainly, with the full contribution (100%) invested in annuities or a similar product, NPS will generate returns sufficient for providing more than 50% of the last pay drawn as pension. Of course, the exact pension would vary depending on grade and promotion, and is subject to various assumptions and calculations," Mohanty told FE.

Mohanty is a member of the panel headed by finance secretary TV Somanathan to review the nearly two-decade old NPS, with an intent to enable it to provide higher pensionary benefits. However, the NPS corpus might not still be enough if the pension amounts were to be compared with the fiscally non-sustainable non-contributory DBPS for 2004 staff, who get annual increments in pension, linked to increasing inflation.

As the corpus remains fixed post-reform, the initial higher pension gains will peter out if inflation-linked increments are to be factored in, an analyst said.

Continued on Page 4

MG takes on Tata with cheapest EV offering

ROHIT VAID & SWARAJ BAGGOONKAR New Delhi/Mumbai, April 26
THE PRICE WAR in the passenger electric vehicle (EV) segment began with MG Motor India on Wednesday launching its country's cheapest model, Comet, at an introductory price of ₹7.98 lakh (ex-showroom). Before Comet, Tata Motors' Tiago EV, which was launched in September last year, had the most affordable tag at ₹8.69 lakh.

Barring these two models, no other EV in the passenger vehicle segment is priced below ₹10 lakh. Most other EVs currently available in the market from other manufacturers like Hyundai and Kia are priced above ₹20 lakh.

Most other specifications of the Tata and Tiago, like driving range, battery capacity, power, etc, are also in similar range. For instance, the MG Comet comes with a driving range of around 230 km on a single charge, with a 3.7 kWh Li-ion battery and can be fully charged in around 7 hours.

Similarly, the Tiago has a driving range of 250 km with a 19.2 kWh lithium-ion battery and can be fully charged in 6-9 hours.

SAC Motor, which is a wholly-owned arm of China SAIC Motor, has invested around ₹700 crore in the development of Comet, which would be rolled out from its Hialeah-based plant in Gujarat.

The two-door hatch comes with an automatic transmission, two front airbags and a reverse parking camera, among other features.

Continued on Page 4

RACE IS ON TO LAUNCH PREMIUM CAFES IN KEY CITIES
Stage set for coffee war: Reliance and Tata to add more stores

Launched first food and beverage retail chain Pret A Manger last week. To launch its boutique cafe chain of UK-based ELAN in the coming months. Talking to luxury brands to launch their cafes.

signed a franchise partnership with UK-based boutique cafe chain ELAN to launch its premium cafes in the country. Reliance Retail's CEO Dinesh Talwar said in a post on Tuesday, Sunil D'Souza, managing director and CEO, The Company Brands, said that the plan with Tata Starbucks was to aggressively expand store numbers as it sought to capitalise on sales momentum.

In addition, Tata Starbucks would introduce learnings from a pilot it ran in 2022, the company said in an investor presentation, where the focus would be on introducing familiar and more beverage options, a new 'Picco' size (which is a smaller size) in beverages, a revamped food menu and more inviting store interiors.

WHAT'S BREWING? Tata Starbucks 333 cafes in 41 cities in FY23. Plans to rapidly scale up in India, aggressive store launches in FY24.

Reliance Brands Home to 50 international brands: ₹1,279 cr in FY22. Launched first food and beverage retail chain Pret A Manger last week.

India 4th in defence spend in 2022: Report



INDIA WAS THE world's fourth largest military spender in 2022, with its defence spending increasing by around 6% as compared to 2021, a report by Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said. The military expenditure report said around 23% of the total spending by India was towards funding equipment and infrastructure.

PTI

- With military expenditure of USD 81.4 billion (one billion=100 crore), India's spending was up by six per cent from 2021 and by 47 per cent as compared 2013.

"The increase in India's spending shows the effects of its border tensions with China and Pakistan," the report released on Monday said.

- 81.4 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर (एक बिलियन = 100 करोड़) के सैन्य व्यय के साथ, भारत का खर्च 2021 से छह प्रतिशत और 2013 की तुलना में 47 प्रतिशत अधिक था। पाकिस्तान, "सोमवार को जारी रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है।

- The United States, accounting for 39 per cent of the world military spending in 2022, was the top spender, followed by China (13 per cent), Russia (3.9 per cent), India (3.6 per cent) and Saudi Arabia (3.3 per cent).

Together, these five countries accounted for 63 per cent of total global military spending in 2022.

- The 15 largest spenders in 2022 together accounted for 82 per cent of the world military expenditure of USD 1,842 billion.
- संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका, 2022 में विश्व सैन्य खर्च का 39 प्रतिशत हिस्सा था, शीर्ष व्ययकर्ता था, इसके बाद चीन (13 प्रतिशत), रूस (3.9 प्रतिशत), भारत (3.6 प्रतिशत) और सऊदी अरब (3.3 प्रतिशत) थे। सेंट)। इन पांच देशों ने मिलकर 2022 में कुल वैश्विक सैन्य खर्च का 63 प्रतिशत खर्च किया।
- 2022 में सबसे ज्यादा खर्च करने वाले 15 देशों ने मिलकर 1,842 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर के विश्व सैन्य खर्च का 82 प्रतिशत हिस्सा लिया।

- Total global military expenditure increased by 3.7 per cent in real terms in 2022, to reach a new high of USD 2,240 billion. Military expenditure in Europe saw its steepest year-on-year increase in at least 30 years.

The largest spenders in 2022 -- the United States, China and Russia -- accounted for 56 per cent of the world total.

In 2021, India's military spending of USD 76.6 billion ranked third highest in the world. It was fifth largest military spender in the world in 2016 at USD 55.9 billion.

- 2022 में कुल वैश्विक सैन्य व्यय वास्तविक रूप से 3.7 प्रतिशत बढ़कर 2,240 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर के नए उच्च स्तर पर पहुंच गया। यूरोप में सैन्य खर्च में कम से कम 30 वर्षों में साल-दर-साल सबसे तेज वृद्धि देखी गई। 2022 में सबसे अधिक खर्च करने वाले - संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका, चीन और रूस - दुनिया के कुल 56 प्रतिशत के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं। 2021 में, भारत का 76.6 बिलियन अमरीकी डालर का सैन्य खर्च दुनिया में तीसरे स्थान पर रहा। यह 2016 में 55.9 बिलियन अमरीकी डॉलर के साथ दुनिया का पांचवां सबसे बड़ा सैन्य खर्च करने वाला देश था।

Daily Current Affairs

Vilakkumadom of Thirunelly Temple

- The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has urged the government to conserve the historically significant structures, including the 600-year-old 'Vilakkumadom'.
- इंडियन नेशनल ट्रस्ट फॉर आर्ट एंड कल्चरल हेरिटेज (INTACH) ने सरकार से 600 साल पुराने 'विलक्कुमाडोम' सहित ऐतिहासिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण संरचनाओं के संरक्षण का आग्रह किया है।

Thirunelly Temple

- The Thirunelly Maha Vishnu temple is an iconic temple in Wayanad, Kerala near to Brahmagiri hills. It is also known as "Sahyamala Kshetram" and "Kashi of the South".

- Thirunelli Temple is the only temple in the world where the devotees can perform all the rituals related to one's life, starting from birth to death and life after death.

- थिरुनेली महा विष्णु मंदिर ब्रह्मगिरी पहाड़ियों के पास वायनाड, केरल में एक प्रतिष्ठित मंदिर है। इसे "सह्यामाला क्षेत्रम" और "दक्षिण की काशी" के नाम से भी जाना जाता है।

- थिरुनेली मंदिर दुनिया का एकमात्र ऐसा मंदिर है जहां भक्त जन्म से लेकर मृत्यु तक और मृत्यु के बाद के जीवन से संबंधित सभी अनुष्ठान कर सकते हैं।

- The rituals are performed on the banks of the stream **Papanasini** which flows down from **Mount Brahmagiri**.
- On the western side of the temple is the cave temple **Gunnika**, dedicated to **Lord Shiva**.

- ब्रह्मगिरि पर्वत से नीचे बहने वाली पापनाशिनी धारा के तट पर अनुष्ठान किए जाते हैं।
- मंदिर के पश्चिमी तरफ गुन्निका गुफा मंदिर है, जो भगवान शिव को समर्पित है।



About Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)

- The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) was **founded in 1984 in New Delhi with the vision to spearhead heritage awareness and conservation in India.**
- Today INTACH is recognized as one of the world's largest heritage organizations, with over 190 Chapters across the Country.
- **Headquartered in New Delhi,** it operates through various divisions.
- इंडियन नेशनल ट्रस्ट फॉर आर्ट एंड कल्चरल हेरिटेज (INTACH) की स्थापना 1984 में नई दिल्ली में भारत में विरासत जागरूकता और संरक्षण को आगे बढ़ाने के विजन के साथ की गई थी।
- आज INTACH को दुनिया के सबसे बड़े विरासत संगठनों में से एक के रूप में मान्यता प्राप्त है, जिसके देश भर में 190 से अधिक अध्याय हैं।
- नई दिल्ली में मुख्यालय, यह विभिन्न प्रभागों के माध्यम से संचालित होता है।

- The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage is a non-profit charitable organisation registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- In 2007, the United Nations awarded INTACH a special consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council.

- इंडियन नेशनल ट्रस्ट फॉर आर्ट एंड कल्चरल हेरिटेज सोसाइटी पंजीकरण अधिनियम, 1860 के तहत पंजीकृत एक गैर-लाभकारी धर्मार्थ संगठन है।
- 2007 में, संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने INTACH को संयुक्त राष्ट्र आर्थिक और सामाजिक परिषद के साथ एक विशेष सलाहकार का दर्जा प्रदान किया।

Daily Current Affairs

What is Mexican Giant Turtle?

- The Mexican Giant Turtle, also known as the Red Eared Slider was recently found in West Bengal's Howrah district.
- मैक्सिकन विशालकाय कछुआ, जिसे रेड ईयर स्लाइडर के रूप में भी जाना जाता है, हाल ही में पश्चिम बंगाल के हावड़ा जिले में पाया गया था।

Mexican Giant Turtle

- Mexican Giant Turtle, also called the Red Eared Slider, is the most destructive among the seven turtle species found in the world.
- It is considered as one of the world's 100 worst invasive non-native species.
- Scientific Name: Trachemys scripta elegans
- मैक्सिकन विशालकाय कछुआ, जिसे लाल कान वाला स्लाइडर भी कहा जाता है, दुनिया में पाई जाने वाली सात कछुओं की प्रजातियों में सबसे विनाशकारी है।
- इसे दुनिया की 100 सबसे खराब आक्रामक गैर-देशी प्रजातियों में से एक माना जाता है।
- वैज्ञानिक नाम : ट्रेकेमिस स्क्रिप्ट एलिगेंस

- **Distribution:** They are native to the south-eastern USA and Mexico but have found their way across the globe, including India, through the trade of exotic animals.

- It is known for its **bright red circular or oblong spots near its ears.**

- वितरण: वे दक्षिण-पूर्वी संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और मैक्सिको के मूल निवासी हैं, लेकिन उन्होंने विदेशी जानवरों के व्यापार के माध्यम से भारत सहित दुनिया भर में अपना रास्ता खोज लिया है।

- यह अपने कानों के पास चमकीले लाल गोलाकार या आयताकार धब्बों के लिए जाना जाता है।

- The carapace (upper shell) is olive-brown with numerous black and yellow lines.
- The exposed skin is dark green with narrow black and yellow lines.
- It is primarily aquatic and will emerge from the water for basking on rocks and logs.
- Average Life Span: 20 to 30 years.

- कैरपेस (ऊपरी खोल) कई काली और पीली रेखाओं के साथ जैतून-भूरे रंग का होता है।
- खुली हुई त्वचा गहरे हरे रंग की होती है जिसमें संकीर्ण काली और पीली रेखाएं होती हैं।
- यह मुख्य रूप से जलीय है और चट्टानों और लॉग पर बैठने के लिए पानी से निकलेगा।
- औसत जीवन काल: 20 से 30 वर्ष।



Daily Current Affairs

Taam Ja Blue hole

- Recently, scientists have discovered a massive blue hole off the coast of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico.
- हाल ही में, वैज्ञानिकों ने मेक्सिको में युकाटन प्रायद्वीप के तट पर एक विशाल ब्लू होल की खोज की है।



About Blue Hole

- It is a type of underwater sinkhole or vertical cave that is typically found in low-lying coastal karst platform regions.
- These are formed when limestone or other carbonate rock is dissolved by slightly acidic groundwater over a long period.
- यह एक प्रकार का पानी के नीचे का सिंकहोल या लंबवत गुफा है जो आमतौर पर निचले तटीय कार्स्ट प्लेटफॉर्म क्षेत्रों में पाया जाता है।
- ये तब बनते हैं जब लंबे समय तक चूना पत्थर या अन्य कार्बोनेट चट्टान थोड़े अम्लीय भूजल द्वारा घुल जाते हैं।

Features of Taam Ja Blue hole

- It is around 900 feet deep and scientists have dubbed it the second-deepest blue hole found on the planet.
- It has a nearly circular shape at its surface with steep sides that form a large conic structure covered by biofilms, sediments, limestone, and gypsum ledges.

- ताम जा ब्लू होल की विशेषताएं
- यह लगभग 900 फीट गहरा है और वैज्ञानिकों ने इसे ग्रह पर पाया जाने वाला दूसरा सबसे गहरा नीला छेद करार दिया है।
- इसकी सतह पर खड़ी भुजाओं के साथ इसकी लगभग गोलाकार आकृति है जो बायोफिल्म, तलछट, चूना पत्थर और जिप्सम के किनारों से ढकी एक बड़ी शंकु संरचना बनाती है।

Daily Current Affairs

Manamadurai pottery

- Recently, the Manamadurai pottery from the state of Tamil Nadu earned a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Manamadurai in the Sivagangai district of Tamil Nadu is known for pottery making.
- हाल ही में, तमिलनाडु राज्य के मनामदुराई मिट्टी के बर्तनों को भौगोलिक संकेत (GI) टैग मिला है।
- तमिलनाडु के शिवगंगई जिले में मानामदुराई मिट्टी के बर्तन बनाने के लिए जाना जाता है।



How are these pots made?

- The Vaigai River enriches the clay used for the Manamadurai pottery.
 - Pot making requires expertise as the bottom has to be perfectly round.
 - The circumference of the pot and the neck should be proportionate so that the pot sits flat on the ground.
 - The right proportion of mud, clay and heating makes this product very strong.
- मनमदुरई मिट्टी के बर्तनों के लिए इस्तेमाल की जाने वाली मिट्टी को वैगई नदी समृद्ध करती है।
 - बर्तन बनाने के लिए विशेषज्ञता की आवश्यकता होती है क्योंकि तल पूरी तरह से गोल होना चाहिए।
 - बर्तन और गर्दन की परिधि समानुपातिक होनी चाहिए ताकि बर्तन जमीन पर सपाट बैठे।
 - मिट्टी, मिट्टी और ताप का सही अनुपात इस उत्पाद को बहुत मजबूत बनाता है।

- The main raw materials for making these pots are soil and water.
- The **sand, collected from different places** in the district, is used for making pottery and dried for two days. The particles of the mud get separated by sieving.

- इन बर्तनों को बनाने के लिए मुख्य कच्चा माल मिट्टी और पानी है।
- जिले के विभिन्न स्थानों से एकत्र की गई रेत का उपयोग मिट्टी के बर्तन बनाने और दो दिनों तक सुखाने के लिए किया जाता है। छानने से मिट्टी के कण अलग हो जाते हैं।

What is a Geographical Indication Tag?

- It is a sign used on products that have a **specific geographical origin and possess** qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- This is typically used for agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts and industrial products.
- यह उन उत्पादों पर उपयोग किया जाने वाला एक चिन्ह है जिनकी एक विशिष्ट भौगोलिक उत्पत्ति है और उन गुणों या प्रतिष्ठा के अधिकारी हैं जो उस मूल के कारण हैं।
- यह आमतौर पर कृषि उत्पादों, खाद्य पदार्थों, वाइन और स्प्रिट पेय, हस्तशिल्प और औद्योगिक उत्पादों के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है।

- The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.
- This GI tag is valid for 10 years following which it can be renewed.

- वस्तुओं का भौगोलिक संकेत (पंजीकरण और संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1999 भारत में वस्तुओं से संबंधित भौगोलिक संकेतों के पंजीकरण और बेहतर सुरक्षा प्रदान करने का प्रयास करता है।
- यह जीआई टैग 10 वर्षों के लिए वैध है जिसके बाद इसे नवीनीकृत किया जा सकता है।

Daily Current Affairs

SUPREME Initiative

- Recently, the Union Minister of Science and Technology launched the SUPREME initiative to provide financial support for the upgradation and maintenance of analytical instrumentation facilities (AIFs).
- हाल ही में, केंद्रीय विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री ने विश्लेषणात्मक उपकरण सुविधाओं (एआईएफ) के उन्नयन और रखरखाव के लिए वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए सर्वोच्च पहल की शुरुआत की।

SUPREME Initiative

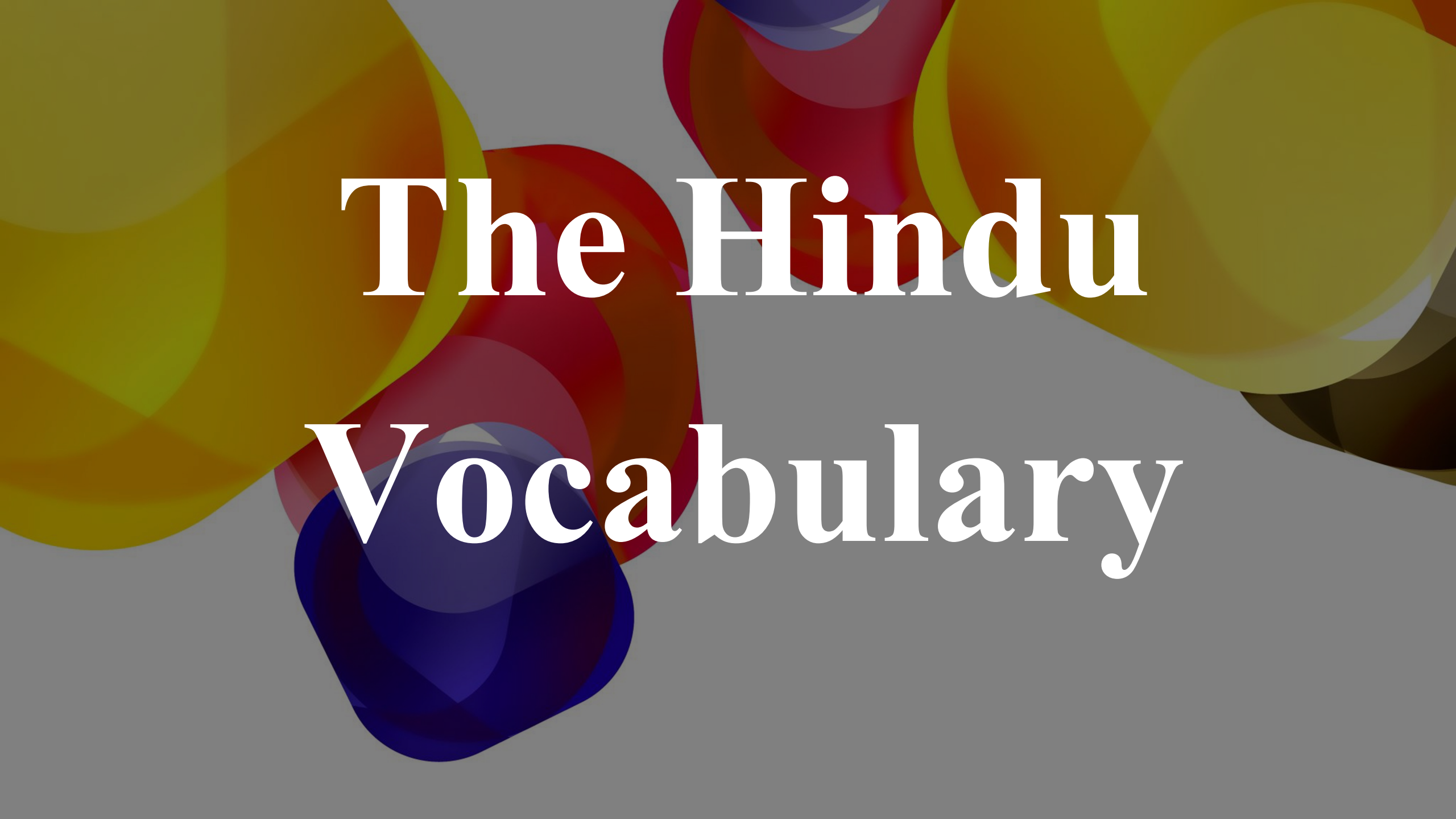
- The Support for Up-gradation Preventive Repair and Maintenance of Equipment (SUPREME), is a first-of-its-kind programme by the government.
- It extends financial support for repair, upgradation, maintenance, retrofitting, or acquiring additional attachments to increase the functional capabilities of existing analytical instrumentation facilities.
- सपोर्ट फॉर अपग्रेडेशन प्रिवेंटिव रिपेयर एंड मेंटेनेंस ऑफ इक्विपमेंट (SUPREME), सरकार द्वारा अपनी तरह का पहला कार्यक्रम है।
- यह मौजूदा विश्लेषणात्मक उपकरण सुविधाओं की कार्यात्मक क्षमताओं को बढ़ाने के लिए मरम्मत, उन्नयन, रखरखाव, रेट्रोफिटिंग या अतिरिक्त संलग्नक प्राप्त करने के लिए वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करता है।

- **Eligibility:** Different facilities created under the projects/ Analytical instrumentation facilities (AIFs) created earlier from the support of DST, only will be considered for the funding support under this Scheme
- Such facilities at institutions **recognised by the University Grants Commission** (UGC) are eligible to apply for grants under this initiative.
- **Duration:** The duration of support will be for a **period not exceeding 3 years.**

- योग्यता: डीएसटी के समर्थन से पहले बनाई गई परियोजनाओं/विश्लेषणात्मक उपकरण सुविधाओं (एआईएफ) के तहत बनाई गई विभिन्न सुविधाएं, केवल इस योजना के तहत वित्त पोषण सहायता के लिए विचार की जाएंगी
- विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (यूजीसी) द्वारा मान्यता प्राप्त संस्थानों में ऐसी सुविधाएं इस पहल के तहत अनुदान के लिए आवेदन करने के लिए पात्र हैं।
- अवधि: समर्थन की अवधि 3 वर्ष से अधिक नहीं होगी।

- **Funding Pattern:** The funding pattern in the scheme **would be 75:25 for all private and govt owned institutions** (except for state-funded institutions for which 100% funding would be considered).

- फंडिंग पैटर्न: योजना में फंडिंग पैटर्न सभी निजी और सरकार के स्वामित्व वाले संस्थानों के लिए 75:25 होगा (राज्य द्वारा वित्त पोषित संस्थानों को छोड़कर जिसके लिए 100% फंडिंग पर विचार किया जाएगा)।



The Hindu Vocabulary

-Annexation(Noun) : राज्य-हरण : To take what originally belonged to someone else.

Synonyms: Seizure , Invasion

Antonyms: Detachment , Loss



Discretionary (adj.): available for use at the discretion of the user. (वैकल्पिक)

Synonyms: optional, non-compulsory, voluntary

Antonyms: compulsory, mandatory, nonelective



Flagrant (Adjective): shocking because of being so bad and so obvious

Synonyms: blatant, obvious, gross, egregious

Antonyms: underground, concealed, furtive



Relegate (verb): consign or dismiss to an inferior rank or position. (बाहर निकाल देना)

Synonyms: downgrade, lower in rank, put down

Antonyms: ascent, rise, upswing



Testimony (Noun): गवाही / प्रमाण: a formal written or spoken statement, especially one given in a court of law

Synonyms: evidence, proof, witness, confirmation

Antonyms: rebuttal, refutation



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1. With reference to 'Indiahandmade portal', consider the following statements

1. It is a virtual store developed by Ministry of Textiles that offers clothing, home decor, jewellery and accessories
2. Artisans will be directly connected to the buyers through a common platform and no commission would be taken

Select the correct statement(s)

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

1. 'इंडियाहैंडमेड पोर्टल' के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए

1. यह कपड़ा मंत्रालय द्वारा विकसित एक वर्चुअल स्टोर है जो कपड़े, घर की सजावट, आभूषण और सामान प्रदान करता है
2. कारीगर एक सामान्य मंच के माध्यम से खरीदारों से सीधे जुड़े रहेंगे और कोई कमीशन नहीं लिया जाएगा

सही कथन का चयन करें

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

Answer – C

- Indiahandmade portal offers a wide range of products, including clothing, home decor, jewellery, accessories, and more. All their products are handmade by skilled artisans, and they pride themselves on offering unique and authentic pieces that showcase India's diverse cultural heritage.
- To provide products from more than 35 Lakh Handloom weavers & 27 Lakh Handicraft artisans directly to the consumers while eliminating the middlemen, the Ministry of Textiles has developed an E-Commerce portal for handicrafts and handloom sector

4. Which of the following statements with reference to Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage is/are incorrect?

1. It is a non-profit charitable organisation registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
2. It has a special consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council.

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) both 1 and 2
- d) neither 1 nor 2

4. इंडियन नेशनल ट्रस्ट फॉर आर्ट एंड कल्चरल हेरिटेज के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा/से कथन गलत है/हैं?

1. यह सोसायटी पंजीकरण अधिनियम, 1860 के तहत पंजीकृत एक गैर-लाभकारी धर्मार्थ संगठन है।
2. इसे संयुक्त राष्ट्र आर्थिक और सामाजिक परिषद के साथ एक विशेष सलाहकार का दर्जा प्राप्त है।

- a) केवल 1
- b) केवल 2
- c) 1 और 2 दोनों
- d) न तो 1 और न ही 2

Answer – D

5. Consider the following statements with respect to Operation Kaveri

1. It is an operation to prohibit illegal sand mining in the River Kaveri.
2. It was implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu in cooperation with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
3. It aims to rejuvenate the river Kaveri by constituting a task force to prevent illegal sandmining activities.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are not correct?

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

5. ऑपरेशन कावेरी के संबंध में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार करें

1. यह कावेरी नदी में अवैध रेत खनन पर रोक लगाने के लिए एक अभियान है।
2. इसे संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण कार्यक्रम (यूएनईपी) के सहयोग से तमिलनाडु सरकार द्वारा लागू किया गया था।
3. इसका उद्देश्य अवैध बालू खनन गतिविधियों को रोकने के लिए एक टास्क फोर्स का गठन करके कावेरी नदी का कायाकल्प करना है।

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

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

Answer – D

- India launched a rescue operation— Operation Kaveri— to evacuate its stranded citizens from Sudan. The name for rescue operations in Sudan has been kept Operation Kaveri for the same purpose that Prime Minister Modi chose to name rescue ops in Ukraine as Operation Ganga.
- Commenting on the naming of this operation by the Central government, a top source said: “Rivers reach their destination irrespective of barriers. It’s like a mother who will ensure she will bring her children back to safety”.