

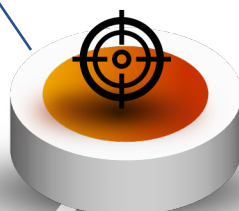
# Daily Current Affairs





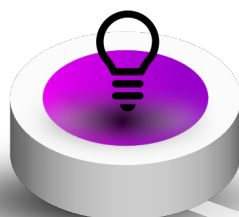


**4**  
**The Hindu**

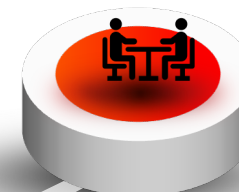


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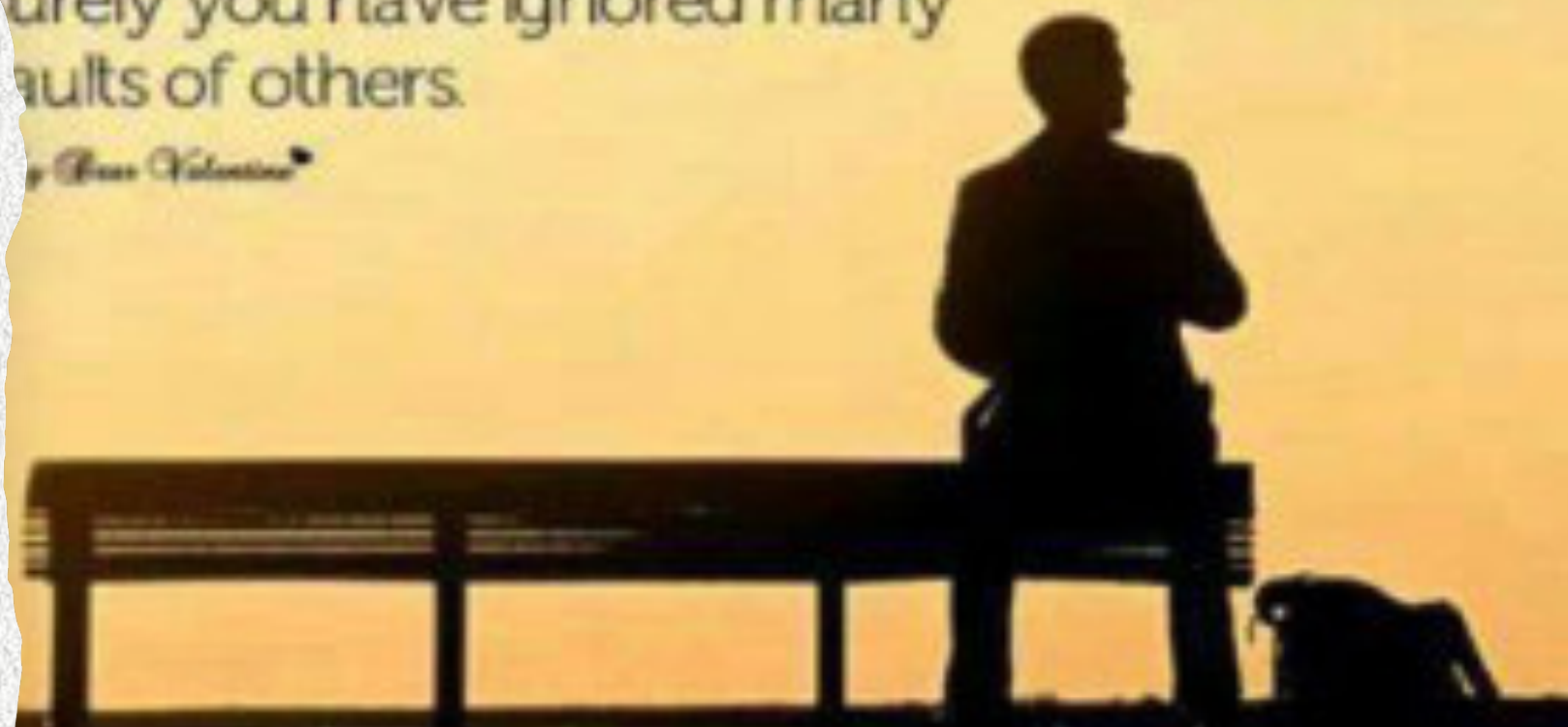


# Fact Of Life.

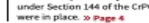
If everyone is happy with you,  
then surely you have made many  
compromises in your life.

If you are happy with everyone,  
surely you have ignored many  
faults of others.

*By Bruce Valentine*













# Comic books to mark 100th *Mann Ki Baat*

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**

NEW DELHI

Amar Chitra Katha comic books featuring people and themes mentioned in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's *Mann Ki Baat* series, projection mapping shows in iconic heritage sites like Red Fort and Konark Sun Temple and an exhibition by well-known artists would mark the completion of 100 episodes of the Prime Minister's radio programme.

Through the monthly radio programme, Mr. Modi interacts with citizens on themes and issues of social importance. The 100th

episode of *Mann Ki Baat* will be broadcast on April 30. The first of the series of the 12 Amar Chitra Katha comic books would be released on April 30 and the rest over the next year. For the series, the comics will use people mentioned by the Prime Minister in his programme, those who have made a difference to society in everyday life.

"Free copies of the comic books would be distributed in all CBSE and Central Board schools. The publishers, however, are free to sell the books in open market," Union Culture Secretary Govind Mohan said.



**Amar Chitra Katha (ACK Comics)** is an Indian publisher of comics and graphic novels. Most of its comics are based on religious legends and epics, historical figures and biographies, folktales and cultural stories. The company was founded in 1967 by Anant Pai and is headquartered in Mumbai.



अमर चित्र कथा (एसीके कॉमिक्स) कॉमिक्स और ग्राफिक उपन्यासों का एक भारतीय प्रकाशक है। इसकी अधिकांश कॉमिक्स धार्मिक किंवदंतियों और महाकाव्यों, ऐतिहासिक शख्सियतों और जीवनियों, लोककथाओं और सांस्कृतिक कहानियों पर आधारित हैं। कंपनी की स्थापना 1967 में अनंत पई द्वारा की गई थी और इसका मुख्यालय मुंबई में है।



After quitting [Indrajal Comics](#), Anant Pai started Amar Chitra Katha (ACK) by buying the rights for 10 [American fairy tales](#) such as [Red Riding Hood](#), [Snow White](#) and *Seven Dwarfs*, [Jack and the Beanstalk](#) and [Pinocchio](#). The first Indian comic done and released in ACK was [Krishna](#) (serial number #11)

इंद्रजाल कॉमिक्स को छोड़ने के बाद, अनंत पई ने रेड राइडिंग हूड, स्नो व्हाइट और सेवन ड्वार्फ्स, जैक एंड द बीनस्टॉक और पिनोच्चियो जैसी 10 अमेरिकी परियों की कहानियों के अधिकार खरीदकर अमर चित्र कथा (एसीके) शुरू की। एसीके में किया और जारी किया गया पहला भारतीय कॉमिक कृष्ण था (क्रम संख्या #11)



## Anant Pai



<b>Born</b>	17 September 1929 <a href="#">Karkala, Madras Presidency, British India</a> (Currently in Karkala, Karnataka)
<b>Died</b>	24 February 2011 (aged 81) <a href="#">Mumbai</a> , Maharashtra, India
<b>Nationality</b>	Indian
<b>Other names</b>	Uncle Pai Walt Disney of India <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Alma mater</b>	<a href="#">Institute of Chemical Technology</a> (Formerly UDCT)
<b>Known for</b>	Founding <a href="#">Amar Chitra Katha</a>
<b>Spouse</b>	Lalita Pai (1961–2015)









- The first Mann Ki Baat programme was broadcast on the occasion of [Vijayadashami](#) on 3 October 2014 followed by the second broadcast on 2 November 2014.

- पहला मन की बात कार्यक्रम 3 अक्टूबर 2014 को विजयादशमी के अवसर पर प्रसारित किया गया और इसके बाद दूसरा प्रसारण 2 नवंबर 2014 को किया गया।









# हेमन्त सरकार का संवेदनशील प्रयास जीवन रक्षा को मिली उड़ान





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धनबाद

गिरिडीह

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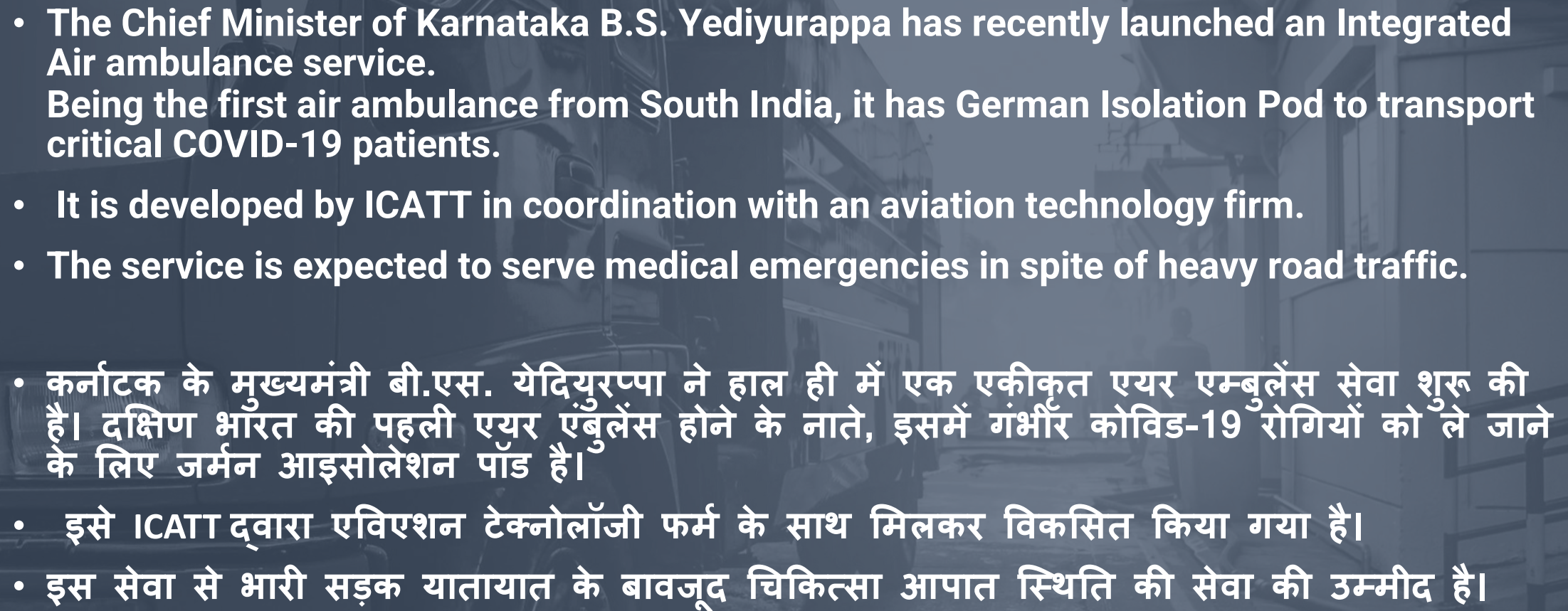


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- 
- The Chief Minister of Karnataka B.S. Yediyurappa has recently launched an Integrated Air ambulance service.  
Being the first air ambulance from South India, it has German Isolation Pod to transport critical COVID-19 patients.
  - It is developed by ICATT in coordination with an aviation technology firm.
  - The service is expected to serve medical emergencies in spite of heavy road traffic.
  - कर्नाटक के मुख्यमंत्री बी.एस. येदियुरप्पा ने हाल ही में एक एकीकृत एयर एम्बुलेंस सेवा शुरू की है। दक्षिण भारत की पहली एयर एम्बुलेंस होने के नाते, इसमें गंभीर कोविड-19 रोगियों को ले जाने के लिए जर्मन आइसोलेशन पॉड है।
  - इसे ICATT द्वारा एविएशन टेक्नोलॉजी फर्म के साथ मिलकर विकसित किया गया है।
  - इस सेवा से भारी सड़क यातायात के बावजूद चिकित्सा आपात स्थिति की सेवा की उम्मीद है।



- A survey shows that over 80% of India's population doesn't have access to higher medical centres so as to get the required treatment they deserve in their territory.
  - These patients need to be transferred to other cities.
  - But these patients are not advised to travel through road ambulances in order to avoid their condition to further deteriorate.
  - In such cases, Air Ambulances find its importance. These services are significant because,
- 
- एक सर्वेक्षण से पता चलता है कि भारत की 80% से अधिक आबादी के पास उच्च चिकित्सा केंद्रों तक पहुंच नहीं है, ताकि वे अपने क्षेत्र में आवश्यक उपचार प्राप्त कर सकें।
  - इन मरीजों को दूसरे शहरों में ट्रांसफर करने की जरूरत है।
  - लेकिन इन रोगियों को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे अपनी स्थिति को और बिगड़ने से बचाने के लिए रोड एंबुलेंस से यात्रा न करें।
  - ऐसे में एयर एंबुलेंस की अहमियत बढ़ जाती है। ये सेवाएं महत्वपूर्ण हैं क्योंकि,



---

It cuts down the travel time.

---

Patient can be air-lifted in a best possible manner with specialised team of doctor on board.

---

It can reach to remote areas even in flood and COVID-19 like situation.

---

It has a less waiting time.

---

यह यात्रा के समय में कटौती करता है।

---

बोर्ड पर डॉक्टर की विशेष टीम के साथ रोगी को सर्वोत्तम संभव तरीके से एयर-लिफ्ट किया जा सकता है।

---

यह बाढ़ और कोविड-19 जैसी स्थिति में भी दूरदराज के इलाकों में पहुंच सकता है।

---

इसका वेटिंग टाइम कम होता है।



and the duo will join Shubhankar Sharma in the men's team.



# The Indian who took on Ali, Kaur Singh passes away

## **Sports Bureau**

KOLKATA

Heavyweight boxer Kaur Singh, the lone home boxer to land a gold at the 1982 New Delhi Asian Games and who was also known for his exhibition bout with the legendary Muhammad Ali in 1980, passed away on Thursday. He was 74.

Hailing from Sangrur, Punjab, Kaur, who took up boxing after joining the Indian Army's Sikh Regiment in the early 1970s became Asian champion in 1980.

"Kaur Singh was devoted to boxing. After leaving the Army and joining Punjab Police, he coached its team at the Hyderabad Na-



Kaur Singh.

tional championships in 2007," Dronacharya B.B. Mohanty, who worked with Kaur, told *The Hindu*.

"Kaur Singh was the first from the Sikh Regiment to receive the Arjuna Award and Padma Shri. He also

participated in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics," he said.

Mohanty recalled an incident from the 1982 Asian Games.

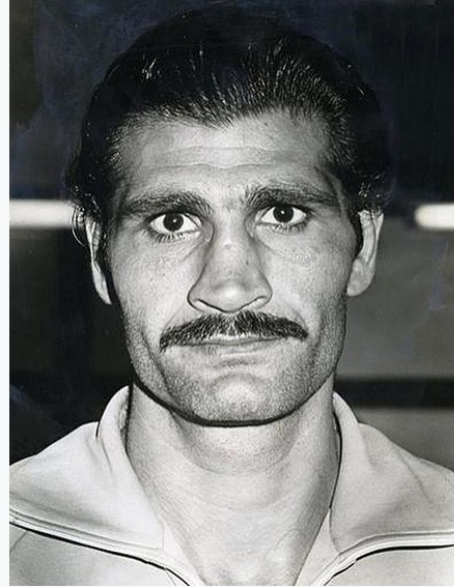
"In the presence of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, film star Amitabh Bachchan hung the medal around Kaur Singh's neck. Bachchan was impressed with Kaur Singh, who was a few inches taller than the superstar," said Mohanty.

Former India coach G.S. Sandhu paid tribute to Kaur Singh, "He was unmatched in terms of fitness, endurance and power," said Sandhu.

The BBFI condoled Kaur Singh's passing.



## Kaur Singh



### Statistics

**Weight(s)** [Heavyweight](#)

**Nationality**  [Indian](#)

**Born** 1948/1949  
Khanal Khurd, Sangrur, [East Punjab](#), [India](#)

**Died** 27 April 2023 (aged 74)  
[Kurukshetra](#), [Haryana](#), [India](#)

**Stance** [Orthodox](#)

### Medal record [\[hide\]](#)

**Men's [amateur boxing](#)**

**Representing**  [India](#)

**[Asian Games](#)**

 [1982 New Delhi](#) [Heavyweight](#)

**[Asian Championships](#)**

 [1980](#) [Heavyweight](#)





Mallikarjun Kharge in Gadag, Karnataka, on Thursday.

## Kharge draws BJP fire after his 'poisonous snake' remark against Modi

AKRAM M  
GADAG (KARNATAKA),  
APRIL 27

CONGRESS PRESIDENT M Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "like a poisonous snake", triggering sharp reactions from the BJP even as he sought to clarify that his remarks were against the BJP ideology, and it wasn't a personal attack on any individual.

Addressing an election rally in Bion, in Gadag district, Kharge said in Kannada: "Modi is like a poisonous snake. Don't try to lick this snake to check whether it is venomous or not. If you taste it, you are dead."

He later issued a clarification, saying he meant that the BJP was like a snake. "I did not call him (Modi) that. I have said earlier that I do not make personal attacks. What I said was that the (BJP) ideology was poisonous. If you support the ideology and want to taste it, death is certain."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## HC orders NIA probe into violence during Ram Navami in Bengal

ATRI MITRA  
KOLKATA, APRIL 27

THE CALCUTTA High Court Thursday ordered a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) into violence during Ram Navami processions in several West Bengal localities including Richra in Hooghly district, Shibpur in Howrah, and Talisnola in South Dinajpur.

The High Court was hearing a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

**Boost to BJP attack on TMC**  
THE ORDER will put further pressure on the state government, which has been facing Opposition heat over its handling of the Ram Navami violence. It also comes as an indictment of the state police, and will provide fresh ammo to the BJP.



Security personnel conduct a route march at Dhankol Hat near Kaliaganj on Thursday.

## Kaliaganj on edge after 30-yr-old is shot dead, family says police did it

SWEETY KUMARI  
RADHAPUR (KALIAGANJ),  
APRIL 27

A MAN was shot dead, allegedly by police, in Kaliaganj in West Bengal's North Dinajpur early Thursday morning, sparking a fresh wave of words between the BJP and the ruling TMC.

The victim, Mrityunjay

Barman (30), was a resident of Radhikapur gram panchayat in Kaliaganj. According to his family, he was shot dead outside his home between 2 am and 2.30 am, allegedly by a policeman who was part of a search team. His killing came a day after the police station in Kaliaganj was set on fire by a mob, prompting a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

## RAJNATH, GENERAL LI HOLD 'FRANK' TALKS Violation of pacts eroded basis of ties: India to China

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

IN A strongly-worded public articulation of the state of Sino-Indian bilateral ties, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told General Li Shangfu, the visiting Chinese State Councillor and Minister of National Defence, Thursday that Beijing's "violation of existing agreements" has eroded the entire basis of bilateral relations.

Referring to the nearly three-year military standoff along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, Singh said "all issues at the LAC need to be resolved in accordance with existing bilateral agreements and commit-

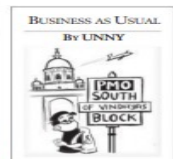


Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with his Chinese counterpart Li Shangfu in New Delhi on Thursday.

ments" and "disengagement at the border will logically be followed with de-escalation". The sharply-worded public

statement that "the entire basis of bilateral relations" has been "eroded" is not common during

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



RUSSIA: WELCOME ZELENSKYY-XI CALL BUT OUR GOALS UNCHANGED

## Man arrested in UP had many IDs, cheated by faking PMO access: FIR

ASAD REHMAN & JIGNASA SINHA  
LUCKNOW, NEW DELHI,  
APRIL 27

SANJAY KAI "Sherpuria", the alleged conspirator arrested by Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) on Wednesday, claimed to live at "1, Beside Race Course, Sakinagar Rd", used photos of the Prime Minister and Union Ministers to flaunt his connections, and collected Rs 6 crore from a prominent Delhi industrialist as donation for a trust, according to an FIR filed by the police.



Sanjay Rai "Sherpuria" is an alias used by the accused. He is a resident of Sakinagar, Lucknow. He is a prominent Delhi industrialist.



Parkash Singh Badal 1927-2023

## WRESTLERS PROTEST AGAINST WFI CHIEF Vinesh asks why top cricketers, others silent: 'Are you all so afraid?'

"They backed Black Lives Matter... may be worried about effect on brand deals"

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 27

POINTING TO the silence of star cricketers and other top sports personalities, World Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, speaking at the Indian Express - Idea Exchange event on Monday, May 1, said that "they don't have the courage to stand up to those in power. Vinesh, along with Olympic medalists Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, is at the forefront of the ongoing wrestlers' protest".



Vinesh Phogat said she was "pained" to see that "they don't have the courage to stand up to those in power. Vinesh, along with Olympic medalists Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, is at the forefront of the ongoing wrestlers' protest".

Speaking at the Indian Express - Idea Exchange event on Monday, May 1, said that "they don't have the courage to stand up to those in power. Vinesh, along with Olympic medalists Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, is at the forefront of the ongoing wrestlers' protest".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

## India Calling Conference 2023 Rising India - Inviting Partnership for Growth

Saturday, 29 April 2023 | Time : 10:00 am to 5:30 pm  
Format : Hybrid-in-person and on virtual platform | In-Person Venue : Hotel Taj Santacruz, Mumbai, India

**Chief Guest**

Hon'ble Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Textiles, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

**Chief Guest**

Hon'ble Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways

**Chief Guest**

Hon'ble Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Aquaculture

**Chief Guest**

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Railways & Textiles

**Chief Guest**

G20 Sherpa, Government of India

**Guests of Honour**

Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs

Secretary, Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Govt. of India

Chairman, Mumbai Port Authority

Chief of Defence Staff

Chairman - Bajaj Auto and Chairman and Managing Director, Mucund Limited

President, IBC

Chairman, IBC International Business Committee

Director General, IBC

Deputy Director General, IBC

Deputy Director, IBC

Co-Chairman, IBC International Business Committee

Co-Chairman, IBC International Business Committee

**Session 1: Inaugural Plenary Session on Make in India**

Session Chair: Mr. Anand Singhania, President, IMC and CEO, JK Enterprises and Director, JK Organisation

Speaker Panel

Chairman, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Managing Director, GIZ India

Chairman and Managing Director, Godrej Industries Ltd. and Chairman - Godrej Agri Solutions Ltd

Chairman, Kevita Energy and Founder & CEO, Kevita Green Energy & Power Solutions Limited

**Session 2: Opportunities - Defence Manufacturing**

Session Chair: Mr. S. R. Shukla, Chairman, Mahindra Defence, Mahindra Agri & Mahindra CE Automation

Speaker Panel

Executive Vice President & Head, L&T Defence, Larsen & Toubro Limited

Promoter and Managing Director, Precision Electronics Limited

Advisor, Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing

**Session 3: Gati Shakti (Powering Progress with Speed) National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity**

Inaugural Address by Chief Guest

Hon'ble Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways

Session Chair: Mr. Dhruv Gadhi, Partner - Maritime & Logistics, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd.

Speaker Panel

Partner, Sylvester & Co and Chairman - IMC Shipping and Logistics Committee

Founder and Chairman, Akanga Group

**Session 4: Opportunities in the State and Urban Development**

Inaugural Address by

Asst. Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Region

Session Chair: Mr. Ashish Vaid, Managing Director - Ashish Estates & Properties Pvt. Ltd. and Past President - IBC

Speaker Panel

CEO, Senior Executive Director - Research, Advisory

Senior Executive Director - Research, Advisory

**Session 5: Enablers of Business Environment | Followed by Case Study on successful Joint Ventures**

Guest of Honour

Secretary, Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Govt. of India

Special Guest

Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy), Ministry of External Affairs of India

Session Chair: Mr. Nayan Patel, Executive Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers Private Limited and Past President, IBC

Speaker Panel

Chairman, Railways Capital Limited and Past President, IBC

Chairman, Pricer Limited, BASF India, Kunal Mehta, Pricer, Sonata Software & India Fund, Ashish Pvt. Ltd.

Managing Director, Badve Industries Ltd.

**Roundtable with G20 Diplomats in India - Plan of Action**

Session Chair: Prof. Harsh V. Pant, Vice President - Studies and Foreign Policy, Observer Research Foundation

Speaker Panel

Joint Secretary (G20), Ministry of External Affairs

Consul General of South Africa in Mumbai

Consul General of the Republic of Turkey in Mumbai

Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Mumbai

Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia in Mumbai

Consul General of Canada in Mumbai

**Validatory Session: G20 - One Earth One Family One Future**

Session Chair: Mr. Deepak Premnagar, Executive Chairman & Founder, ICS Group and Past President, IBC

Flexible Chat

Senior Partner, McKinsey & Company

Managing Partner and Co-founder, Gopa Capital



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# **Unravelling Mysteries: A Sharp Rise In Forensic Probes After Rule Tweak**

All Offences Attracting Punishment Of Over 6 Years Must Be Put To Scientific Test



# CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION



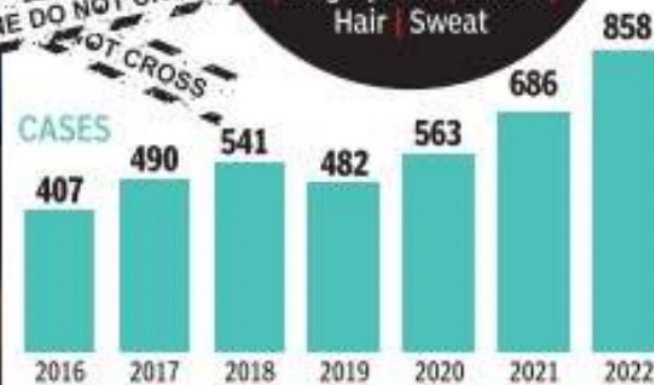
There has been a sharp rise in 'crime scene' cases at Forensic Science Laboratory

FSL attributes it to the rule that makes **forensic tests mandatory** in offences attracting punishment of more than six years



## Physical evidence collected from spot

Blood | Semen | Clothes | Saliva | Bullets | Bones | Tools, wood, metal objects | Plastic, rubber items | Power residue | Paint | Glass | Documents | Fingerprints | Fibres | Hair | Sweat



> Currently, FSL has six teams in six ranges of Delhi Police; to have 15 teams in all 15 districts soon



> Six forensic vehicles also being procured



## Forensic photography

Crime scene | Ballistics | Documents | CFU | Chemistry | Toxicology | Biology | DNA

## THE INVESTIGATION

> FSL has a crime scene management division and a 24x7 control room

> Duty officer receives calls related to crime scene



> Notes down the nature of crime, including date, time, place and occurrence



> Informs HOD

> Call assigned to forensic team of range

> The team visits spot, collects evidence and hands it over to investigating officer



> Report prepared and submitted to IO





# Shah launches first liquid Nano DAP to cut fertiliser import bill

'Will Help Restore Fertility Of Land, Reduce Threat To Farmers' Health'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah on Wednesday launched the world's first liquid Nano DAP — a novel nano fertiliser containing nitrogen and phosphorus — whose use will not only reduce India's fertiliser import dependence but also take the country towards sustainable farming and increase the farmers' income by bringing down input cost.

Nano DAP is the second such variant of fertiliser. Nano Urea was the first one in this series, launched in February, 2021. One bottle of 500 ml of Nano DAP can replace a 50 kg bag of traditional DAP (diammonium phosphate). The manufacturing units of Nano DAP have been established in Kalol, Gujarat and Paradeep, Odisha by IFFCO which has patents of both the Nano variant of liquid fertilisers.

Launching the Nano DAP



Shah said that the application of nano variants will help reduce usage of granular urea by about 14% and that of DAP initially by 6% and later by 20%

fertiliser for commercial sale at Rs 600 per 500ml bottle, less than half of the current price of conventional DAP, Shah said use of liquid DAP, through spraying on the plant, will help increase both the quality and quantity of production. It will also help in conserving the soil as farmers by using liquid DAP and liquid urea can in-

crease the number of earthworms in their land and thus move towards natural farming without reducing production and income, he added.

"This will contribute a lot in restoring the fertility of land and will reduce the threat to the health of crores of Indians caused by the chemical fertilisers," said the minister while exhorting the farmers to maximise the use of liquid Nano DAP and urea.

The fertiliser import bill was Rs 2.2 lakh crore in 2022-23. It is estimated that the production of 18 crore bottles of nano DAP till 2025-26 will replace 90 lakh tonnes of conventional DAP. In 2021-22, India imported 91.3 lakh tonnes of urea, 54.6 lakh tonnes of DAP, 24.6 lakh tonnes of MoP (muriate of potash) and 11.7 lakh tonnes of NPK fertilisers.

Shah noted that the application of nano variants will help reduce usage of granular urea by about 14% and

that of DAP initially by 6% and later by 20%.

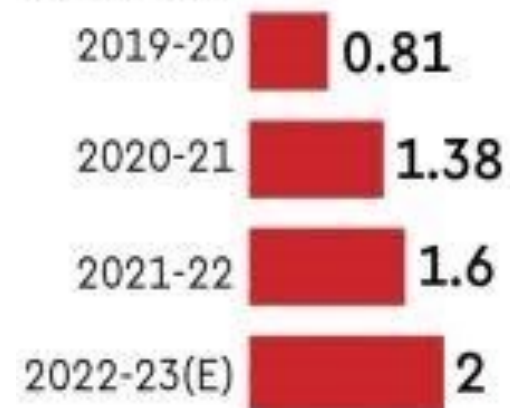
Speaking about his government's efforts to strengthen the cooperative sector, Shah said the government has decided to create two lakh new viable multi-dimensional primary agricultural credit societies (PACS), covering each of the uncovered panchayats across the country, in the next five years through convergence of various existing schemes of departments of fisheries and dairying.

He also said the model bye-laws of PACS have been sent to the states and 17 of them have already adopted these model bye-laws. He said that under the multi-dimensional PACS, a single PACS would be created by combining four PACS providing multi-usage services, fisheries, providing financial loans to farmers and dairy. This will rejuvenate the PACS and also help improve their income, the minister added.





Fertiliser subsidy  
(₹ trillion)



Average landed cost of import  
(\$ tonne) y-o-y change



Source: Fertilizer ministry budget estimate



# इफको नैनो यूरिया तरल

दुनिया के किसानों के लिये  
पहला नैनो यूरिया तरल

**IFFCO**

पूर्णतः सहकारी स्वामित्व  
Wholly owned by Cooperatives

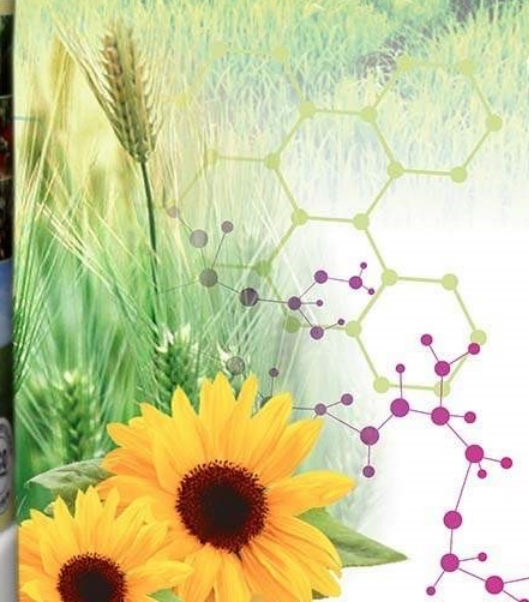
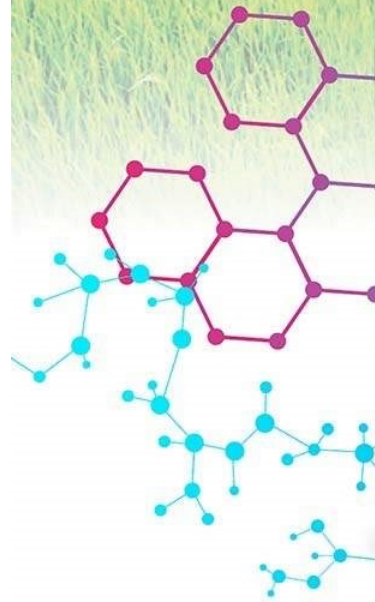


Nano Urea  
(4% N x 1)  
Net Volume  
500 ml

कम से कम एक यूरिया बैग के बराबर  
Equivalent to at least One Bag of Urea



नैनो यूरिया का बादा, लागत कम, लाभ ज्यादा  
IFFCO Nano Urea Promises, Less Cost, More Profit





50 किलो 'डी ए पी' बोरी के बराबर  
सिर्फ आधा लिटर नैनो 'डी ए पी'।

D  
A  
P



=



Nano  
DAP

021 15:02



# 1st woman Rafale pilot in IAF team for multi-nation drill being held in France

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The first Indian woman fighter pilot to fly the new Rafale jets, Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh, is now soaring high in the skies over France as part of the IAF detachment taking part in the ongoing multi-nation Orion exercise there.

This is the first time that India has sent its Rafale fighters. In all, the IAF has sent four Rafale fighters, two C-17 Globemaster-III strategic airlifters, two IL-78 mid-air refuellers and 165 personnel, including 17 pilots, to take part in the Orion exercise.

Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh follows her senior Squadron Leader Avani Chaturvedi who became the first IAF woman pilot to fly a Sukhoi-30MKI fighter in an overseas exercise when she took part in the bilateral 'Veer Guardian' exercise with Japan at the Hyakuri airbase in January, as

was reported by TOI earlier.

The Orion exercise is one of the largest-ever war-games hosted by France, and also involves land and sea drills with thousands of Nato troops at a time when tensions continue to run high in Europe due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

There are now 17 women fighter pilots in the IAF. Squadron Leader Chaturvedi and her course-mate Bhawana Kanth now fly the Russian-origin Sukhoi at the Jodhpur airbase. Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh, in turn, is the first woman to fly the French-origin Rafale omni-role jets as part of the 17 'Golden Arrows' Squadron in Ambala.

Flight Lieutenant Singh earlier flew MiG-21 Bisons before she converted to the 4.5-generation Rafales. After studying in the Banaras Hindu University, she was among the second batch of women fighter pilots who were commissioned in 2017.



**Daily Current Affairs**

# India and EFTA



- In a recent meeting held in New Delhi, India and the four European countries that form the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) have expressed their willingness to resume their negotiations for a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) that has been stalled since 2018.
- The TEPA aims to boost bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two regions by reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers, enhancing market access, and promoting investment flows.



- हाल ही में नई दिल्ली में आयोजित एक बैठक में, भारत और यूरोपीय मुक्त व्यापार संघ (ईएफटीए) बनाने वाले चार यूरोपीय देशों ने व्यापार और आर्थिक भागीदारी समझौते (टीईपीए) के लिए अपनी बातचीत फिर से शुरू करने की इच्छा व्यक्त की है जो 2018 से रुका हुआ है।
- टीईपीए का उद्देश्य दोनों क्षेत्रों के बीच टैरिफ और गैर-टैरिफ बाधाओं को कम करके, बाजार पहुंच को बढ़ाकर और निवेश प्रवाह को बढ़ावा देकर द्विपक्षीय व्यापार और आर्थिक सहयोग को बढ़ावा देना है।



# What is EFTA?

- It is an intergovernmental organization established in 1960 by the Stockholm Convention.
- **Objective:** Promotes free trade and economic integration between its members within Europe and globally.
- EFTA currently has 4 member countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
- यह स्टॉकहोम कन्वेंशन द्वारा 1960 में स्थापित एक अंतर सरकारी संगठन है।
- **उद्देश्य:** यूरोप के भीतर और विश्व स्तर पर इसके सदस्यों के बीच मुक्त व्यापार और आर्थिक एकीकरण को बढ़ावा देता है।
- EFTA में वर्तमान में 4 सदस्य देश हैं: आइसलैंड, लिक्टेन्स्टीन, नॉर्वे और स्विट्ज़रलैंड।



- The EFTA countries **have developed one of the largest networks of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)**. These FTAs span over 60 countries and territories, including the European Union (EU).
- **In contrast to the EU, EFTA is not a customs union.** This means that the individual EFTA States are free to set their own customs tariffs and arrange other foreign trade measures vis-à-vis the non-EFTA States.

- ईएफटीए देशों ने मुक्त व्यापार समझौतों (एफटीए) के सबसे बड़े नेटवर्क में से एक विकसित किया है। ये एफटीए यूरोपीय संघ (ईयू) सहित 60 से अधिक देशों और क्षेत्रों में फैले हुए हैं।
- यूरोपीय संघ के विपरीत, EFTA एक सीमा शुल्क संघ नहीं है। इसका मतलब है कि अलग-अलग ईएफटीए राज्य अपने स्वयं के सीमा शुल्क टैरिफ निर्धारित करने और गैर-ईएफटीए राज्यों की तुलना में अन्य विदेशी व्यापार उपायों की व्यवस्था करने के लिए स्वतंत्र हैं।



Norway



Iceland



Liechtenstein



Switzerland



E  
F  
T  
A

European Free Trade Association



# Governance Structure

- EFTA's **highest governing body is the EFTA Council**. It generally **meets 8 times a year** at the ambassadorial level and twice a year at the ministerial level.
- **The headquarters of the EFTA Secretariat is located in Geneva**. It assists the EFTA Council in the management of relations between the 4 EFTA States and deals with the negotiation and operation of EFTA's FTAs.
- EFTA का सर्वोच्च शासी निकाय EFTA परिषद है। यह आम तौर पर वर्ष में 8 बार राजदूत स्तर पर और वर्ष में दो बार मंत्री स्तर पर मिलते हैं।
- EFTA सचिवालय का मुख्यालय जिनेवा में स्थित है। यह 4 EFTA राज्यों के बीच संबंधों के प्रबंधन में EFTA परिषद की सहायता करता है और EFTA के FTA की बातचीत और संचालन से संबंधित है।



**Daily Current Affairs**

# Mahila Samman Saving Certificate Account



- The Union Minister for Women and Child Development and Minority Affairs opened a Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) account.
- केंद्रीय महिला एवं बाल विकास और अल्पसंख्यक मामलों के मंत्री ने महिला सम्मान बचत प्रमाणपत्र (एमएसएससी) खाता खोला।



# Mahila Samman Savings Certificate Scheme

- It is a new small savings scheme launched specifically for female investors and was announced in Budget 2023 to promote investment among women.
- Accounts opened under this scheme will be **single-holder accounts** that can be opened at the Post Office or any registered bank.
- **Who can open a Mahila Samman Savings account:** Any woman can open a Mahila Samman account that can be opened for herself or on behalf of a little girl.
- यह विशेष रूप से महिला निवेशकों के लिए शुरू की गई एक नई लघु बचत योजना है और महिलाओं के बीच निवेश को बढ़ावा देने के लिए बजट 2023 में इसकी घोषणा की गई थी।
- इस योजना के तहत खोले गए खाते एकल-धारक खाते होंगे जिन्हें डाकघर या किसी पंजीकृत बैंक में खोला जा सकता है।
- महिला सम्मान बचत खाता कौन खोल सकता है: कोई भी महिला महिला सम्मान खाता खोल सकती है जो अपने लिए या किसी छोटी बच्ची की ओर से खोला जा सकता है।



- A time gap of three months shall be maintained between the existing account and the opening of other account.
- **Limit on minimum and maximum investment:** The minimum investment amount is Rs 1000, and the maximum investment authorised under the plan is Rs 2 lakh.
- **Interest rate: 7.5% annually**
- **Payment on maturity:** After two years from the date opening eligible balance will be paid to the depositor.
- **Withdrawal from account:** The account holder may withdraw up to 40% of the balance after the first year from the date of account opening but before the account matures.

- मौजूदा खाते और दूसरा खाता खोलने के बीच तीन महीने का समय अंतराल बनाए रखा जाएगा।
- **न्यूनतम और अधिकतम निवेश की सीमा:** न्यूनतम निवेश राशि 1000 रुपये है, और योजना के तहत अधिकृत अधिकतम निवेश 2 लाख रुपये है।
- ब्याज दर: 7.5% सालाना
- **परिपक्वता पर भुगतान:** प्रारंभिक तिथि से दो वर्ष के बाद जमाकर्ता को पात्र शेष राशि का भुगतान किया जाएगा।
- **खाते से निकासी:** खाता खोलने की तारीख से पहले वर्ष के बाद खाता धारक शेष राशि का 40% तक निकाल सकता है, लेकिन खाता परिपक्व होने से पहले।



- **Premature closure of account:** The account shall not be closed before maturity except in the following cases, namely:
  - On the death of the account holder
  - On extreme compassionate ground
    - (i) Life threatening decease of account holder
    - (ii) death of the guardian on production of relevant documents.
- When an account is closed prematurely, interest on the principal amount is payable at the rate applicable to the Scheme for which the account was held.

- खाते का समय से पहले बंद होना: निम्नलिखित मामलों को छोड़कर खाते को परिपक्वता से पहले बंद नहीं किया जाएगा, अर्थात्:
- खाताधारक की मृत्यु होने पर
- अति करुणामय धरातल पर
- (i) खाताधारक की जान को जोखिम में डालने वाली मृत्यु (ii) संबंधित दस्तावेज प्रस्तुत करने पर अभिभावक की मृत्यु।
- जब खाता समय से पहले बंद कर दिया जाता है, मूल राशि पर ब्याज उस योजना के लिए लागू दर पर देय होता है जिसके लिए खाता आयोजित किया गया था।



**Daily Current Affairs**

# Saurashtra-Tamil Sangam



- Overwhelmed by the ‘success’ of the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam, the Union government is set to hold the Saurashtra-Tamil Sangam in Gujarat which will be followed by the Kedarnath-Tamil Sangamam.
- काशी-तमिल संगमम की 'सफलता' से अभिभूत, केंद्र सरकार गुजरात में सौराष्ट्र-तमिल संगम आयोजित करने के लिए तैयार है, जिसके बाद केदारनाथ-तमिल संगमम होगा।



## About Saurashtra-Tamil Sangam (STS)

- The Saurashtra Tamil Sangam aims to rediscover, reaffirm and celebrate the over 1,000-year-old emigration and contribution of **Saurashtrian Tamils**.
- It is a program that highlights the oneness of India's culture by narrating untold histories of how a community emigrated to Tamil Nadu and their contributions to the country.
- सौराष्ट्र तमिल संगम का उद्देश्य सौराष्ट्रियन तमिलों के 1,000 साल से अधिक पुराने उत्प्रवास और योगदान को फिर से खोजना, पुनः पुष्टि करना और जश्न मनाना है।
- यह एक ऐसा कार्यक्रम है जो भारत की संस्कृति की एकता को उजागर करता है, जिसमें अनकहा इतिहास बताया गया है कि कैसे एक समुदाय ने तमिलनाडु में प्रवास किया और देश में उनके योगदान को बताया।



- The Saurashtra Tamil Sangam will be held at Somnath, Dwarka and other places in Gujarat to connect Tamil Nadu and Saurashtra.
- It will celebrate the civilisational links between people from the southern part of the country and the People from the Saurashtra and Kedarnath in the north.
- It is a unique attempt where States shared their culture, civilisation and heritage with each other, and the country united in soft power.
- The STS is the second such programme under the 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' initiative.

- सौराष्ट्र तमिल संगम तमिलनाडु और सौराष्ट्र को जोड़ने के लिए सोमनाथ, द्वारका और गुजरात के अन्य स्थानों पर आयोजित किया जाएगा।
- यह देश के दक्षिणी हिस्से के लोगों और उत्तर में सौराष्ट्र और केदारनाथ के लोगों के बीच सभ्यतागत संबंधों का जश्न मनाएगा।
- यह एक अनूठा प्रयास है जहां राज्यों ने अपनी संस्कृति, सभ्यता और विरासत को एक दूसरे के साथ साझा किया और देश सॉफ्ट पावर में एकजुट हुआ।
- एसटीएस 'एक भारत, श्रेष्ठ भारत' पहल के तहत इस तरह का दूसरा कार्यक्रम है।



- The firstone was the ‘Kashi Tamil Sangamam’, a month-long event held last year to “rediscover” links between Varanasi and Tamil Nadu.

- पहला था 'काशी तमिल संगमम', जो पिछले साल वाराणसी और तमिलनाडु के बीच "फिर से खोज" करने के लिए एक महीने तक चलने वाला आयोजन था।



# Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

- The initiative 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' was announced in 2015.
  - The program aims to actively enhance interaction between people of diverse cultures living in different States and UTs in India, with the objective of promoting greater mutual understanding among them.
  - Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Education
- 2015 में 'एक भारत श्रेष्ठ भारत' पहल की घोषणा की गई थी।
  - कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य भारत में विभिन्न राज्यों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों में रहने वाले विविध संस्कृतियों के लोगों के बीच आपसी समझ को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से सक्रिय रूप से बातचीत को बढ़ाना है।
  - **नोडल मंत्रालय:** शिक्षा मंत्रालय







**Daily Current Affairs**

# Konark Sun Temple



- A petition has been filed in the Orissa High Court challenging the minimum eligibility criteria of matriculation adopted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for issuing licences to photographers to operate inside Sun Temple at Konark.
- उड़ीसा उच्च न्यायालय में एक याचिका दायर की गई है जिसमें भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण (एएसआई) द्वारा कोणार्क में सूर्य मंदिर के अंदर काम करने के लिए फोटोग्राफरों को लाइसेंस जारी करने के लिए अपनाई गई मैट्रिक की न्यूनतम पात्रता मानदंड को चुनौती दी गई है।



# Konark Sun Temple

- It is located on the coastline of Odisha in Puri district.
  - It was built by King Narasimha Deva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty in 1244.
  - It was given the status of a World Heritage Site in 1984 by UNESCO.
- यह पुरी जिले में ओडिशा के तट पर स्थित है।
  - इसे 1244 में पूर्वी गंगा राजवंश के राजा नरसिम्हा देव प्रथम द्वारा बनवाया गया था।
  - इसे 1984 में यूनेस्को द्वारा विश्व विरासत स्थल का दर्जा दिया गया था।



# Features

- Also called the Surya Devalaya, the temple is dedicated to the Hindu god Surya.
- It is a classic example of the Odisha style of Architecture or Kalinga Architecture.
- The temple complex has the appearance of a 100-foot high solar chariot, with 24 wheels and pulled by six horses, all carved from stone.
- इसे सूर्य देवालय भी कहा जाता है, यह मंदिर हिंदू देवता सूर्य को समर्पित है।
- यह वास्तुकला की ओडिशा शैली या कलिंग वास्तुकला का एक उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण है।
- मंदिर परिसर में 24 पहियों वाले 100 फुट ऊंचे सौर रथ का आभास होता है और इसे छह घोड़ों द्वारा खींचा जाता है, जो सभी पत्थर से तराशे गए हैं।



- It is oriented towards the east so that the first rays of the sunrise strike the main entrance.
- The wheels of the temple are sundials, which can be used to calculate time accurately to a minute.
- Around the base of the temple, there are images of animals, foliage, warriors on horses and other interesting structures.
- On the walls and roof of the temple, beautiful sensual figures are carve

- यह पूर्व दिशा की ओर उन्मुख है ताकि सूर्योदय की पहली किरणें मुख्य प्रवेश द्वार से टकराएं।
- मंदिर के पहिए धूपघड़ी हैं, जिनका उपयोग एक मिनट तक समय की सटीक गणना करने के लिए किया जा सकता है।
- मंदिर के आधार के आसपास, जानवरों, पत्तों, घोड़ों पर योद्धाओं और अन्य रोचक संरचनाओं की छवियां हैं।
- मंदिर की दीवारों और छत पर सुंदर कामुक आकृतियां उकेरी गई हैं



- The temple, built from Khondalite rocks, is also known as 'BLACK PAGODA' due to its dark colour.
- The temple remains a site of contemporary worship for Hindus, during the annual Chandrabhaga Festival, around the month of February.

- खोंडालाइट चट्टानों से बने इस मंदिर को इसके गहरे रंग के कारण 'ब्लैक पैगोडा' के नाम से भी जाना जाता है।
- मंदिर फरवरी के महीने के आसपास, वार्षिक चंद्रभागा महोत्सव के दौरान, हिंदुओं के लिए समकालीन पूजा स्थल बना हुआ है।



## Daily Current Affairs

# Sanchi



- Sanchi, a world heritage site located in Madhya Pradesh, is all set to become India's first solar city.
- सांची, मध्य प्रदेश में स्थित एक विश्व विरासत स्थल, भारत का पहला सौर शहर बनने के लिए तैयार है।





# Sanchi

- It is located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh.
  - It lies in an upland plateau region just west of the Betwa River.
  - Sanchi is a religious place with historical and Archaeological significance.
  - It has India's best-preserved group of Buddhist monuments, collectively designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1989.
- यह मध्य प्रदेश के रायसेन जिले में स्थित है।
  - यह बेतवा नदी के ठीक पश्चिम में एक ऊंचे पठारी क्षेत्र में स्थित है।
  - सांची ऐतिहासिक और पुरातात्विक महत्व वाला एक धार्मिक स्थल है।
  - इसमें बौद्ध स्मारकों का भारत का सबसे अच्छा संरक्षित समूह है, जिसे सामूहिक रूप से 1989 में यूनेस्को की विश्व धरोहर स्थल नामित किया गया था।



# Key Facts about Sanchi Stupa

- It was built by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka in the third century BC.
- It enshrines religious relics or remains of the Buddha and his most revered disciples.
- It is enclosed by a massive stone railing pierced by four gateways, which are adorned with elaborate carvings (known as Sanchi sculpture).

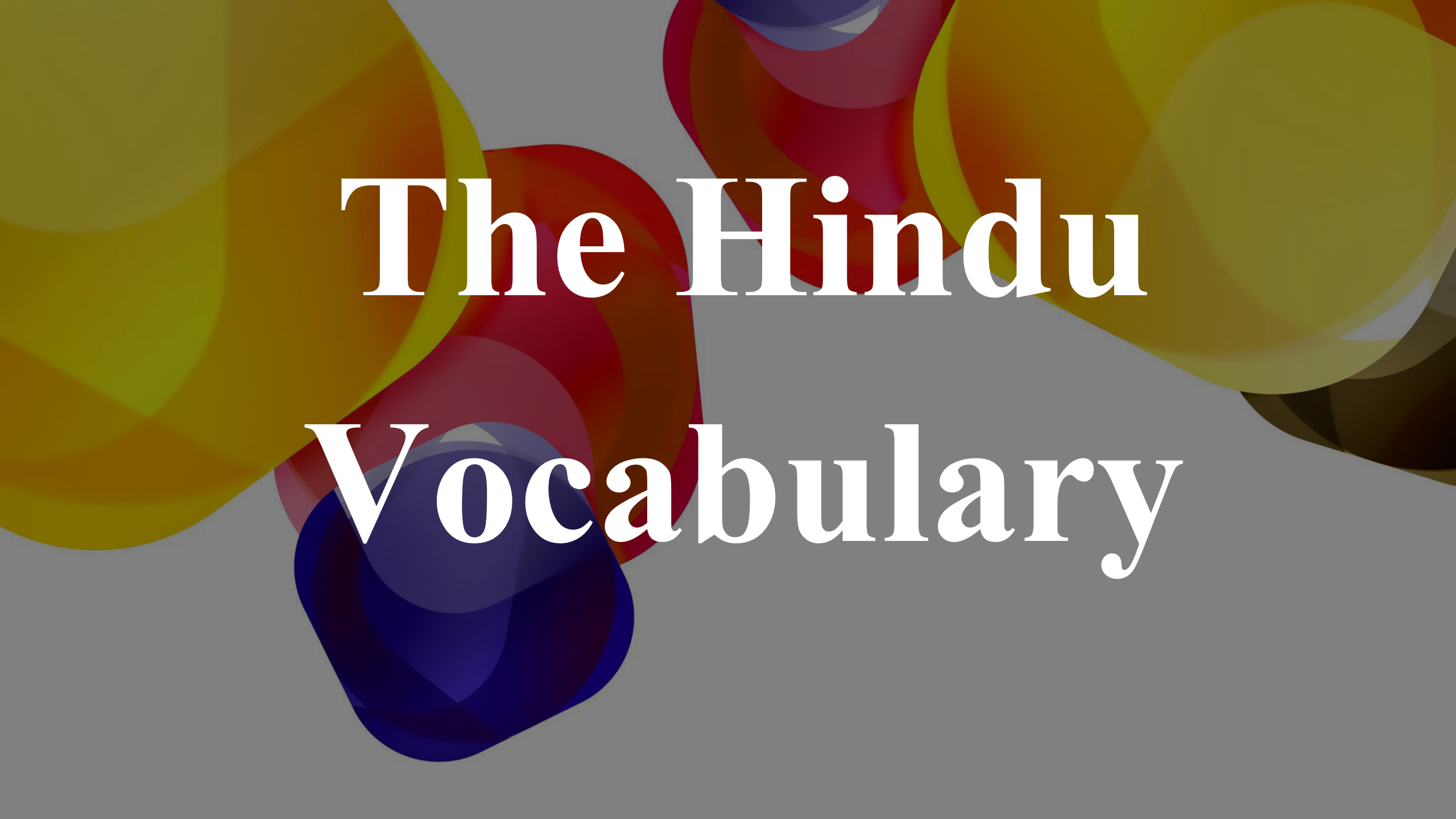
- इसे मौर्य सम्राट अशोक द्वारा तीसरी शताब्दी ईसा पूर्व में बनवाया गया था।
- इसमें बुद्ध और उनके सबसे श्रद्धेय शिष्यों के धार्मिक अवशेष या अवशेष हैं।
- यह चार प्रवेश द्वारों द्वारा छेदी गई एक विशाल पत्थर की रेलिंग से घिरा हुआ है, जो विस्तृत नक्काशियों (सांची मूर्तिकला के रूप में जाना जाता है) से सुशोभित हैं।



- The stupa itself consists of a base bearing a hemispherical dome (anda), symbolizing the dome of heaven enclosing the earth.
- It is surmounted by a squared rail unit (harmika) representing the world mountain, from which rises a mast (yashti), symbolizing the cosmic axis.
- The mast bears umbrellas (chatras) that represent the various heavens (devaloka).

- स्तूप में एक आधार होता है जिसमें एक अर्धगोलाकार गुंबद (अंडा) होता है, जो पृथ्वी को घेरने वाले स्वर्ग के गुंबद का प्रतीक है।
- इसके ऊपर विश्व पर्वत का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाली एक वर्गाकार रेल इकाई (हार्मिका) है, जिसमें से एक मस्तूल (यष्टि) निकलता है, जो ब्रह्मांडीय अक्ष का प्रतीक है।
- मस्तूल पर छतरियां (छत्र) हैं जो विभिन्न स्वर्गों (देवलोक) का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं।





# The Hindu Vocabulary



**Trailblazing** (adj.): introducing new ideas  
or methods; innovative or pioneering.  
(पथप्रदर्शक)

**Synonyms:** pioneering, progressive,  
innovative

**Antonyms:** traditional, conventional





**Myriad** (बहुत बड़ी संख्या) :a very great or indefinitely great number of persons or things.

**Synonyms:** countless, innumerable, infinite

**Antonyms:** limited, measurable, countable





**Inundation** (noun) : a great flow of water  
or of something that overwhelms (सैलाब)

**Synonyms:** overflow, deluge, torrent

**Antonyms:** drought, dribble, drip





**Paucity** (अभाव) : the presence of something in only small or insufficient quantities or amounts.

**Synonyms:** insufficiency, dearth, scarcity

**Antonyms:** plethora, abundance, plenty





**Vainglorious** (adj.) : excessively proud  
of oneself or one's achievements;  
overly vain. (गुमानी)

**Synonyms:** assured, biggety,  
complacent

**Antonyms:** egoless, humble, modest





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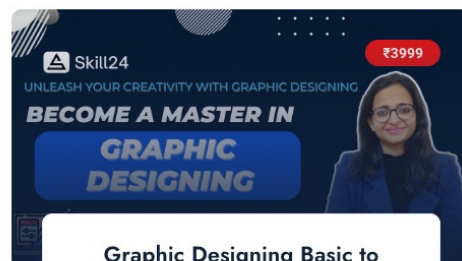
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**1. With reference to rescue operations carried out by India in other countries , consider the pairs**

1. Operation Maitri – Nepal
2. Operation Sankat Mochan — South Sudan
3. Operation Devi Shakti — Afghanistan
4. Operation Ganga — Sudan

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

**1. भारत द्वारा अन्य देशों में चलाए गए बचाव कार्यों के संदर्भ में जोड़ियों पर विचार कीजिए**

1. ऑपरेशन मैत्री - नेपाल
2. ऑपरेशन संकट मोचन - दक्षिण सूडान
3. ऑपरेशन देवी शक्ति - अफगानिस्तान
4. ऑपरेशन गंगा – सूडान

उपरोक्त युग्मों में से कितने जोड़े सही है/हैं?

- ए) केवल 1
- बी) केवल 2
- ग) केवल 3
- डी) 1, 2 और 3



## Answer – C

- **Operation Maitri (2015):** It is the joint relief and rescue operation by the Indian government and the Indian Armed forces in the aftermath of the 2015 Nepal earthquake.
- **Operation Sankat Mochan (2016):** During the South Sudanese Civil War, the Indian Air Force conducted Operation Sankat Mochan to evacuate Indian citizens and other foreign nationals from South Sudan
- **Operation Devi Shakti (2021):** An evacuation operation by the IAF was kicked off in 2021 to safely bring back Indian nationals from Afghanistan after the collapse of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
- **Operation Ganga (2022):** It is an evacuation mission to bring back all the Indian nationals who are currently stranded in Ukraine.



**2. Operation Kaveri, recently seen in news is associated with which of the following countries?**

- a) India and Ukraine
- b) India and Vietnam
- c) India and Sudan
- d) India and Mauritius

**2. हाल ही में खबरों में रहा ऑपरेशन कावेरी निम्नलिखित में से किस देश से जुड़ा है?**

- a) भारत और यूक्रेन
- b) भारत और वियतनाम
- c) भारत और सूडान
- d) भारत और मॉरीशस



## **Answer – C**

- Operation Kaveri is a codename for India's evacuation effort to bring back its citizens stranded in Sudan amid intense fighting between the army and a rival paramilitary force there.
- The operation involves the deployment of Indian Navy's INS Sumedha, a stealth offshore patrol vessel, and two Indian Air Force C-130J special operations aircraft on standby in Jeddah.
- There are about 2,800 Indian nationals in Sudan, and there is also a settled Indian community of about 1,200 in the country.



**3. With reference to the Heatwaves in India, consider the following statements:**

1. Heatwave is a period of abnormally high temperatures.
2. India Meteorological Department (IMD) classifies heat waves according to regions and their temperature ranges.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

**3. भारत में लू के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए:**

1. हीटवेव असामान्य रूप से उच्च तापमान की अवधि है।
2. भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD) क्षेत्रों और उनकी तापमान सीमाओं के अनुसार गर्म तरंगों का वर्गीकरण करता है।

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

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



## Answer – C

- Statement 1 is correct: A heatwave is a period of abnormally high temperatures, a common phenomenon in India during the months of May-June and in some rare cases even extends till July.
- Statement 2 is correct: India Meteorological Department (IMD) classifies heat waves according to regions and their temperature ranges. As per IMD, the number of heatwave days in India has increased from 413 over 1981-1990 to 600 over 2011-2020.
- This sharp rise in the number of heatwave days has resulted due to the increasing impact of climate change.



**4. In which year Sanchi Stupa was declared as a World Heritage Site?**

- a) 1989
- b) 1997
- c) 1999
- d) 2002

**4. साँची स्तूप को किस वर्ष विश्व विरासत स्थल घोषित किया गया ?**

- a) 1989
- b) 1997
- c) 1999
- d) 2002



**Answer – A**



**5. In which year was the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat scheme started?**

- a) 2014
- b) 2015
- c) 2013
- d) 2003

**5. एक भारत श्रेष्ठ भारत योजना की शुरुवात किस वर्ष की गयी थी ?**

- a) 2014
- b) 2015
- c) 2013
- d) 2003



**Answer – B**