

Daily Current Affairs



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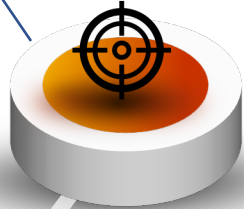


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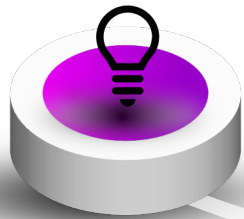


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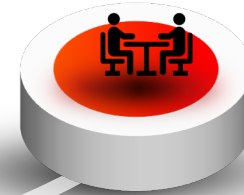


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- Albert Einstein



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Next five years will be hottest, says UN

WORLD » PAGE 13

SUPREME COURT VERDICTS
Two judgments and principle of accountability
Dissecting Maharashtra verdict versus Delhi case

EDITORIAL » PAGE 6

CABINET GO-AHEAD
IT hardware sector to get ₹17,000 cr. for PLI scheme

BUSINESS » PAGE 14

SC gives time till Aug. 14 to SEBI to probe Hindenburg charges

Krishnakumar Rajasekhar
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) time till August 14 to complete its investigation into the Hindenburg-Adani group allegations.

The market regulator clarified that the "investigation" referred to by Minister Pankaj Chaudhary in Parliament in July 2020 concerns an October 2020 probe into "minimum public shareholding norms and consequential violations", which happens to be a part of the U.S.-based short-seller's damning report against the group.

SEBI was responding to submissions by petitioners that it had been probing Adani since 2016.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Siddaramaiah is likely choice of high command

Congress waits for a decision from Shivakumar, discusses various options with him; Rahul meets both contenders; Karnataka will have a government in 48 to 72 hours, says party leadership

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The decision on Karnataka's next Chief Minister and the new State Cabinet will be taken in the next 48 to 72 hours, the Congress announced on Wednesday, as former party chief Rahul Gandhi held separate meetings with the rival claimants for the top post — Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) chief D.K. Shivakumar and former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah — for the first time after the party's big victory in the Assembly election.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who enjoys the support of a majority of the newly elected legislators, is said to be the high command's choice and will be treated as an undisputed "rumour and fake news" through a section of the media, the Congress general secretary for Karnataka, Randeep Sarjewa, warned party leaders not to issue any statement on the leadership issue.

"Any out-of-turn remark made from here onward will be treated as an indiscipline and action will be taken," Mr. Sarjewa posted on his Twitter handle.

In the past two days, Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar have made public statements about why they are the right choice for the top job.

Sources told *The Hindu* that the high command is "working" on Mr. Shivakumar, who spent close to an hour with Mr. Gandhi at former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi's 30 Janpath residence, and then spent nearly two hours at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's official residence.

Senior leaders, including Mr. Sarjewa and general secretary for organisations, K.C. Venugopal, were also present.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10
RELATED REPORT » PAGE 4



Wait continues: Supporters of senior Congress leader Siddaramaiah outside his residence in Bengaluru on Wednesday. PTI

IN BRIEF

A.K. Singh to be the new Services Secretary of Delhi

NEW DELHI
Senior IAS officer A.K. Singh has been appointed the new Services Secretary, replacing Ashish More. A government spokesperson on Wednesday said the file to make the new appointment was signed by the CM and then sent to the L.G for approval. **» PAGE 2**

Don't be worried by Karnataka poll results, says KCR

HYDERABAD
BRS chief and Telangana CM K. Chandrababu Naidu has asked party leaders not to get perturbed by the Karnataka Assembly poll results and focus on publicising the good work done by the government for the last nine years. **» PAGE 13**

Regional parties must lead the fight against BJP, says Akhilesh

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav has backed the suggestion of West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee that regional parties should lead the fight against the BJP in the Lok Sabha poll wherever they have a strong presence.

"The party that is strong in a State should be kept in the forefront while contesting the election there," the SP chief said in a statement on Tuesday, without mentioning the Congress.

Bihar Chief Minister and JDU leader Nitish Kumar, Telangana Chief Minister and Bharat Rashtra Samithi chief K. Chandrababu Naidu, and leaders of other parties also want that to happen, it added.

On Monday, Ms. Banerjee had said the Congress and the regional parties should support each other in their strongholds and the Congress must be prepared for some "sacrifice".

Shift in stance
Mr. Yadav's statement signals a clear shift in position after targeting the Congress over the past few months. "Both the BJP and the Congress are the same, and the SP is ruling out any tactical understanding or alliance with the grand old party," the SP chief had said earlier, indicating that the party planned to field a candidate for the Amethi seat, a Congress bastion represented till 2019 by the Gandhi family, which the SP had left uncontested for almost three decades.

L-G can destabilise MCD with power to appoint aldermen: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said that holding the power to nominate aldermen to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) may arm the Lieutenant-Governor with muscle to destabilise a democratically elected body headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud reserved a petition filed by the ruling Aam Aadmi Party challenging notifications that give the L-G authority to use his own discretion to appoint 10 aldermen to the MCD without the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.

"Against practice" Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for the petitioner, said such notifications went against the practice of the past 30 years. "So what has changed now? The practice followed was that the Lieutenant-Governor never appointed aldermen without the aid and advice of the Ministers," Mr. Singhvi said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

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From Page One Siddaramaiah is likely choice of high command

From rotating the chief ministership in a power-sharing arrangement to offering Mr. Shivukumar the Deputy Chief Ministers post along with his KPCC president's post, various options were being discussed in the public domain.

But there was no comment from Mr. Shivukumar on any of these options, or whether he considered them acceptable.

Apart from meeting Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Kharge, the Karnataka Congress chief also had a one-on-one meeting with Mr. Siddaramaiah, who conveyed his demands to Mr. Kharge at a late meeting. "I am not making any comments. You people are making all the comments... No decision, just a *pranam* (greeting)," the KPCC chief told presspersons as he was going to meet Mr. Surendra in the evening.

While Mr. Shivukumar held back-to-back meetings with senior leaders — in a sign that he was the one the high command was trying to placate — Mr. Siddaramaiah went back to his hotel after meeting Mr. Gandhi in the morning. He did not have any other meetings. A source close to the KPCC chief told *The Hindu* that Mr. Siddaramaiah is the Chief Minister's post or nothing at all. That is the scenario that the Congress's central leadership wants.

While Mr. Shivukumar is credited with reviving the party and pulling in the influential Vokkaliga community, Mr. Siddaramaiah has been the party's grip over AHINDAS, which is an acronym for the rainbow coalition of religious minorities. Other backward classes and religious minorities.

SEBI gets time to probe Hindenburg charges

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh had joined in with a tweet that the "Minister of State for Finance, Panchaj Chaudhary, told the Lok Sabha on July 19, 2022 that SEBI had been investigating the Adani Group. Now SEBI tells the Supreme Court they have not been investigating any of the serious allegations against Adani"

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for SEBI, said it had not begun any probe against Adani in 2016. "The Minister, in his reply to Parliament on July 19, 2022, confirmed that SEBI is investigating companies with regard to SEBI regulations. It may be noted that the "investigation" referred to is with regard to non-compliance with minimum public shareholding (MPS) norms and consequential violations. This investigation commenced in October 2020. It was this investigation which the Minister referred to in the Parliament. It is clear that the investigation referred to by the Minister had not commenced in 2016," Mr. Mehta submitted.

He said "one of the allegations in the Hindenburg report was related to the non-compliance of minimum price shareholding norms and violations." The SEBI was already investigating it.

The court said the updated status report of SEBI should cover issues "directly related" with the Hindenburg report. "One of the aspects which will have a bearing on what is disclosed in the Hindenburg report is the compliance with MPS norms," the Bench noted.

The Solicitor-General said the 2016 "investigation" brought up time and again, concerned an order of the SEBI regarding the issuance of Global Depository Receipts (GDR) by 51 Indian listed companies. "No listed entity of this company (Adani) was part of the 51 companies," he maintained.

"You can't pick up something in 2016 and 2020 and connect it with the allegations from the Hindenburg report... The 2016 issue was totally different," he said.

Mr. Mehta said the petitioners could not use the court proceedings to go on a "roving enquiry". The Bench observed that the ambit of the court proceedings was limited to the Hindenburg report. "The purpose of these proceedings is not for us or for a PIL petitioner to conduct a roving enquiry... On whatever is directly related to the Hindenburg report, the Solicitor-General said he is filing an affidavit... What is now related to the Hindenburg report is about compliance with MPS norms," Chief Justice Chandrachud addressed Prashant Bhushan, appearing for one of the petitioners.

'L-G can destabilise MCD with power to appoint'

Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, for the L-G, said there was a clear difference in the powers of the L-G under Article 239AA of the Constitution and his role as an Administrator of the national capital and argued that he had an active role in the nomination of aldermen as per the law.

"There is another way of viewing this... By giving this power to the L-G, he can effectively destabilise the democratically elected MCD. They will have voting power," the court noted.

The Supreme Court had recently clarified that the L-G did not have sweeping executive powers in the national capital, where a unique "quasi-federal model" of governance was in existence. The court had made it clear that the L-G could only by his discretion to exercise executive power in three specific areas — public order, police and land in Delhi as mentioned in Article 239A(4)(a). The court had held that if the L-G had differences with the Council of Ministers of the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, he should act in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Transaction of Business Rules.

SC asks Manipur leaders to show restraint in statements

State said priority was to restore calm; court directed Manipur government to file a fresh status report; at one point, Bench wanted to stay the HC order to consider inclusion of Meiteis on ST list

Krishnadas Rajarajam
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday urged constitutional authorities in Manipur to show "some restraint" in making a "great sense of responsibility" after a students' federation alleged that Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had made "provocative and targeted" statements.

"Please advise your constitutional authorities that statements should be made with a great sense of responsibility," Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud addressed Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Manipur.

Nizam Padua, advocate representing the Zomi Students' Federation in an interim application, referred to a recent judgment in which the court had asked "public functionaries and other persons of influence and celebrities" to be aware of the impact their public statements may have on people.



Please advise your [Manipur] constitutional authorities that statements should be made with a great sense of responsibility. D.Y. CHANDRACHUD, Chief Justice of India

Mr. Mehta agreed with the state, and said that the State's first priority was to "restore calm". However, he backed an apprehension voiced by senior advocate Tanjil Kumar, for the High Court Bar Association, that the State's "provocative" statements were "surprised" by the statement. He noted that the status report submitted by the State did not have a word about the killings that happened after the last hearing in the Supreme Court on May 8. "That is because the intentions are different. My intention is to restore calm and peace, and not to aggravate... Politics can wait," Mr. Mehta countered.

Mr. Mehta said that the State had "improved a lot". He said that the State was "peaceful and quiet" and "celebrating" the 75th anniversary of the State. He said that he was "surprised" by the statement. He noted that the status report submitted by the State did not have a word about the killings that happened after the last hearing in the Supreme Court on May 8. "That is because the intentions are different. My intention is to restore calm and peace, and not to aggravate... Politics can wait," Mr. Mehta countered.

State government to "consider the ease of the petitioners for inclusion of the Meitei/Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribe list, expeditiously, preferably within a period of four weeks".

"We gave time for Justice Muralidharan to correct himself and he has not done so. Now we have to stay the March 27 order," Chief Justice Chandrachud observed initially. However, Mr. Mehta said that staying the March 27 order at this point of time may affect the situation on the ground.

Vijalita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah told a group of civil society organisations from Mizoram that it was the Centre's duty to restore peace in Manipur and the situation would normalise in a few days, Lalrinhchhuana, vice-president of Central Young Mizo Association, who led the delegation, told *The Hindu*.

More than 5,000 people from Manipur have taken refuge in Mizoram following the May 3 violence in the State that has claimed 73 lives so far. More than 35,000 people were displaced and over 700 properties, including religious places, were torched. Parts of Manipur are still under curfew and mobile internet remains suspended.

The NGO Coordination Committee of Mizoram from Mr. Shah on Monday. Mr. Lalrinhchhuana said Mr. Shah listened to their grievances patiently. "The Home Minister did not speak much. He told us that it was the Government

of India's duty to create a conducive atmosphere for restoring peace in Manipur. He said as a Home Minister, it was his duty to do so. He said things will be settled in a few days and the situation will normalise within no time," he said. The Chairman of the Zomi tribals in Manipur and Mizoram share ethnic ties.

The delegation apprised the Minister of a shortage of essential commodities, particularly in the hill districts, due to the curfew and other restrictions. Ten Kuki MLAs from Manipur have demanded a separate administration, accusing the N. Biren Singh government of targeted attacks against the tribals. They said the divide between the Meitei community in the valley and the tribals in the hills had partitioned the State and they cannot live together.

Listen to our podcast | What is behind the Manipur violence? bit.ly/indianews

NHRC issues notice over exploitation of 13 girls in U.P. school

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued notices to the Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary and the Director-General of Police, calling for a detailed report into an incident where 13 girl students were allegedly sexually exploited by a computer instructor at a government school in Shahjahanpur.

They have been asked to submit a detailed report, including action taken against the perpetrators, and the current status of the investigation, within six weeks.

The commission would like to know the status of the compensation paid to the victims' families so far and whether any counselling has been provided to the girl students who are reportedly scared and hesitant to attend the school, after the incident," the NHRC said.

The NHRC took suo motu cognisance of media reports which stated that a computer instructor molested the girls.

The commission also said that the State government should revise proper guidelines are issued to all the schools under its jurisdiction, to avoid any delay or attempts to conceal facts in any untoward incident from the police, so that perpetrators are nabbed without delay.

Panel has asked for detailed report, including action taken against the perpetrators in case

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Drive against drugs, forest encroachment not against any tribe: Manipur govt.

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The BJP-led Manipur government has claimed its eviction and anti-drug drives — two of the factors said to be behind the Kuki-Meitei clashes — are not targeted against any community.

Data released by K. Meghaachandra Singh, Superintendent of Police of the Narcotics and Affairs of Border (NAB), on Tuesday said poppy plants on a total of 15,496.8 acres were identified between the 2017-18 and 2022-23. During this period, 2,518 acres of poppy plants under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988, out of the total area under poppy cultivation, 15,121.8 acres was an area dominated by the Kuki-Chin people, 2,340 acres by the Meitei, 1,083 were Muslims (mostly Meitei Pangals), and 381 were Meitei.

Data on forests: Another set of data said 291 encroachers were evicted from 203 reserved forests (RFs) and protected forests (PFs) across five districts — three of them in the north tribal Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley — from January 1, 2017, to April 18,

2023. The data claimed that 29 people were arrested from 16 of these RFs and PPs, Kabul Nagas from five, Rukhs from four, Nepalese from three, Meitei Pangals from two and Chin tribals from one.

"The Manipur government never targeted any particular community during eviction drives in protected areas, conducted state-wide to preserve forests in view of the deteriorating climatic conditions," Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said. "The drive against drugs too has not been any community-specific," he added.

Anti-drug activists and policemen destroy poppy plants on a mountain slope in Imphal. SPECIAL AGENCE/REUTERS

Anti-drug activists and policemen destroy poppy plants on a mountain slope in Imphal. SPECIAL AGENCE/REUTERS

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Anti-drug activists and policemen destroy poppy plants on a mountain slope in Imphal. SPECIAL AGENCE/REUTERS

SP, Hinduja Chairman of the Hinduja Group, passes away at age of 87 in London

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Srichand Parmarand Hinduja (87), the eldest of the four Hinduja brothers and Chairman of the Hinduja Group, died in London on Wednesday. He was unwell for some time.

The Hinduja family patriarch and his brothers, Srichand and Prakash, were accused of receiving bribes from Indian legal commissions to help Swedish gunmaker AB Bofors secure an Indian government contract.

"Gopichand, Prakash, Ashok and the whole Hinduja family with a heavy heart announced the passing away of our fa-

ther before moving to Iran in 1992. In 1994, S.P. Hinduja distributed Raj Kapoor-starrer 'Sangam' through the Middle-East market which helped him earn his first million dollars.

The ₹1,437 crore deal for the supply of 400 units of 155 mm Howitzer guns to the Army was entered into on March 24, 1986. Swedish Radio later claimed that the company had paid bribes to Indian politicians and defence personnel.

The CBI registered a case against Martin Arshid, the then president of AB Bofors, alleged middleman Vin Chandra, and the Hinduja brothers. They were excused in 2005 due to a lack of evidence.

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Harassment case: SC relief for Youth Congress chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday protected Youth Congress president B.V. Srinivas in a case registered in Assam on a criminal complaint alleging sexual harassment.

A Bench ordered that in the event of arrest, Mr. Srinivas should be released on anticipatory bail on furnishing solvent sureties to the sum of ₹50,000.

The court directed Mr. Srinivas to appear before the probe officer on May 22. The court *prima facie* found that there was a delay of almost two months in lodging the FIR.

Appearing for Mr. Srinivas, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi submitted the complainant had actually complained of discrimination and there was a whisper about sexual harassment in the six media interviews she gave prior to filing the complaint.

Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, for Assam, denied any political motive behind the FIR information Report.

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S.P. Hinduja, Chairman of the Hinduja Group, passes away at age of 87 in London

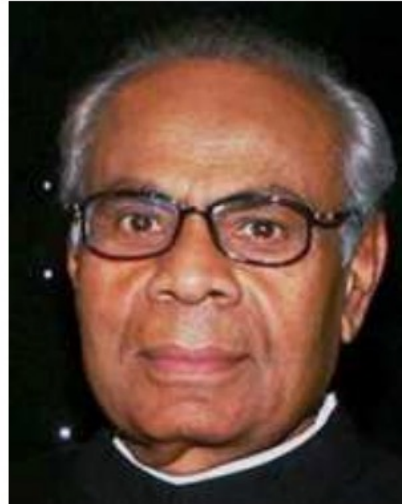
Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Srichand Parmanand Hinduja (87), the eldest of the four Hinduja brothers and Chairman of Hinduja Group, died in London on Wednesday. He was unwell for some time.

The Hinduja family patriarch and his brothers, Gopichand and Prakash, were accused of receiving nearly SEK 81 million in illegal commissions to help Swedish gunmaker AB Bofors secure an Indian government contract.

“Gopichand, Prakash, Ashok and the whole Hinduja family with a heavy heart regret to announce the passing away of our fa-



S.P. Hinduja

mily patriarch, and Chairman of Hinduja Group, Mr. S.P. Hinduja today,” a family spokesperson said.

The Hinduja empire was started by Parmanand Deepchand Hinduja, who traded goods in the Sindh region of India (now Pakis-

tan) before moving to Iran in 1919. In 1964, S.P. Hinduja distributed Raj Kapoor-starrer ‘Sangam’ through the Middle-East markets which helped him earn his first million dollars.

The ₹1,437 crore deal for the supply of 400 units of 155 mm Howitzer guns for the Army was entered into on March 24, 1986. Swedish Radio later claimed that the company had paid bribes to Indian politicians and defence personnel.

The CBI registered a case against Martin Arbdö, the then president of AB Bofors, alleged middleman Win Chandra, and the Hinduja brothers. They were exonerated in 2005 due to a lack of evidence.

HINDUJA

Type	Private
Industry	Conglomerate
Founded	1914; 109 years ago
Founder	Parmanand Deepchand Hinduja
Headquarters	Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
Area served	Worldwide
Key people	Ashok Hinduja (Chairman, India)
Products	Automotive Financial services ITES Oil and Gas Media Telecom Healthcare
Revenue	▲ US\$70 Billion (2022) ^[1]
Owner	Hinduja family
Number of employees	200,000+ ^[2]

Subsidiaries	Ashok Leyland IndusInd Bank Hinduja Bank (Switzerland) Gulf Oil International Ltd. Quaker-Houghton Hinduja Healthcare Limited
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- The Hinduja brothers have around US\$100 billion of assets around the world.
- The Hinduja family has around US\$50 billion of assets in America. The 2022 net worth of the Hinduja brothers was US\$32 billion, making them the wealthiest people in the United Kingdom.

- The company was founded in 1914 by [Parmanand Deepchand Hinduja](#), who was from a [Sindhi](#) family based in India.
- Initially operating in [Shikarpur](#) (in modern-day Pakistan) and [Mumbai](#), India, he set up the company's first international operation in Iran in 1919.
- The headquarters of the group remained in [Iran](#) until 1979, when the [Islamic Revolution](#) forced it to move to [Europe](#)



The Hinduja brothers have around US\$100 billion of assets around the world.



The Hinduja family has around US\$50 billion of assets in America. The 2022 net worth of the Hinduja brothers was US\$32 billion, making them the wealthiest people in the United Kingdom.

CBI searches multiple places in graft case related to Kiru hydro-electric power project

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation on Wednesday searched 12 locations in Delhi and Rajasthan in connection with a case alleging corruption in the award of ₹2,200 crore civil works related to the Kiru hydro-electric power project in Jammu and Kashmir.

“In Delhi, the premises of one Saunak Bali, three chartered accountants, Sanjay Narang, Virender Singh Rana and Kanwar Singh Rana, besides one Anita, were searched. At two places in Rajasthan, the premises searched were linked to Priyanka

The probe has been launched on charge that e-tendering norms were not followed in project

Chowdhary,” an official said.

In July 2022, the agency had conducted searches in Delhi, Mumbai, Patna, Jammu and Srinagar, against the associates of the main accused persons, middlemen and others.

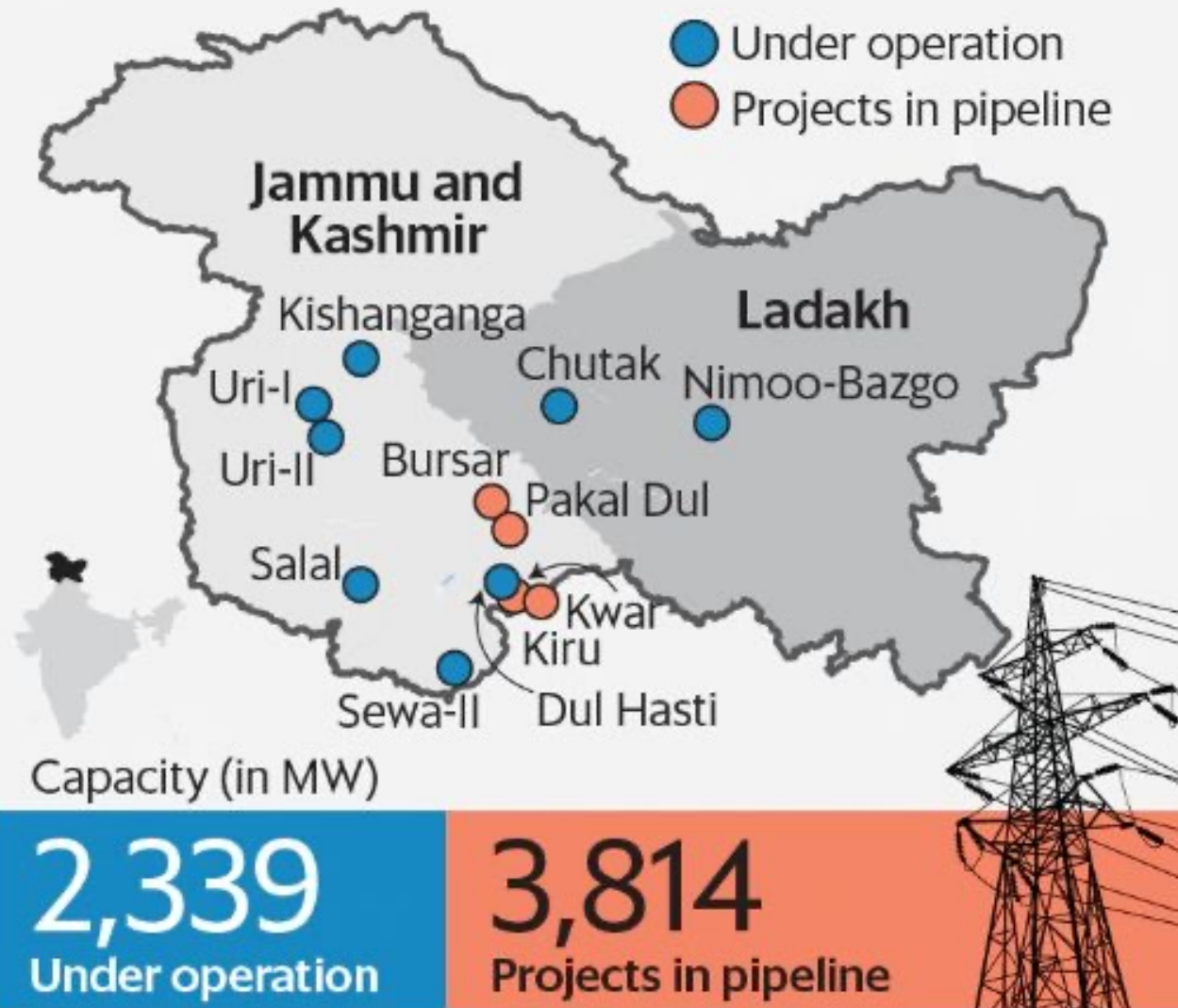
The premises of one chartered accountant, Rakesh Gupta, Rupen Patel of Patel Engineering Limited (Mumbai), and its three employees were also searched.

In the FIR registered on April 20 last year, among those named as accused are Navin Kumar Choudhary, an Indian Administrative Service official, as the then Chairman of Chenab Valley Power Projects (P) Limited (CVPPPL); its then Managing Director M.S. Babu, Directors M.K. Mittal and Arun Kumar Mishra and Patel Engineering.

The probe has been launched on a reference from the J&K administration with respect to the charge that e-tendering guidelines were not followed despite the CVPPPL Board’s decision, and the contract was awarded to Patel Engineering in 2019.

Power play

NHPC has been present in J&K for around 40 years and has invested ₹20,778.38 cr. Going forward, the plan is to build hydropower projects totalling 3,814MW.





Pakistan

China

India

INDUS

JHELUM

CHENAB

RAVI

SUTLEJ

SUTLEJ

BEAS

INDUS

#	Name	District	Basin	River
1	Baglihar Stage- I Hydroelectric Project	Doda	Indus up to International Border	Chenab
2	Chenani Hydroelectric Project	Ladden 8 km from Udampur, J&K	Indus up to International Border	River Tawi tributary of Chenab
3	Chenani-III Hydroelectric Project		Indus up to International Border	Tawi
4	Chutak Hydroelectric Project	Village-Minji, Kargil	Indus up to International Border	Suru
5	Dulhasti Hydroelectric Project	Doda	Indus up to International Border	CHENAB
6	Ganderbal Hydroelectric Project	20 km from Srinagar, J&K	Indus up to International Border	Sindh Nallah tributary of Jhelum
7	Iqbal (Kargil) Hydroelectric Project	Kargil/leh	Indus up to International Border	Wakharong
8	Kishenganga Hydroelectric Project		Indus up to International Border	Kishanganga
9	Lower Jhelum Hydroelectric Project	Near Warikhah, Baramulla	Indus up to International Border	Jhelum river
10	Nimmo-Bazgo Hydroelectric Project		Indus up to International Border	Indus
11	Ranjit Sagar Dam Hydroelectric Project	SHAHPURKANDI (Pathankot)/ GURDASPUR	Indus up to International Border	Ravi
12	Salal - I & II Hydroelectric Project	Reasi/Udhampur	Indus up to International Border	River Chenab
13	Sewa-II Hydroelectric Project	Kathua	Indus up to International Border	Sewa
14	Sewa-III Hydroelectric Project		Indus up to International Border	Ravi
15	Stakna Hydroelectric Project	Leh	Indus up to International Border	Indus
16	Upper Sindh Hydroelectric Project	57 km from srinagar, J&K	Indus up to International Border	Sindh Nallah tributary of Jhelum
17	Upper Sindh-II Hydroelectric Project		Indus up to International Border	Sindh Nallah & Wangath nallah of Jhelum
18	Uri-I Hydroelectric Project	8 km from Baramula, Distt-Kashmir North	Indus up to International Border	Jhelum
19	Uri-II Hydroelectric Project		Indus up to International Border	Jhelum

IN BRIEF



L. Murugan inaugurates India pavilion at Cannes

Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan inaugurated the India pavilion at the Marche du Film (film market) at Cannes on Wednesday...

Seven hurt as Delhi-Sydney AI flight faces severe turbulence

Seven passengers on board the Delhi-Sydney Air India flight were injured after the flight encountered severe turbulence mid air on Tuesday...

Go First extends flight cancellations to May 26

For the sixth time in a fortnight, Go First extended flight cancellations and announced that operations until May 26 were being suspended...

Privilege notice against Rauf for chor mandal remark

A breach of privilege notice against Rajya Sabha member Sarfaraz Rauf was referred to the Committee of Privileges for investigation by Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar...

Take steps to reduce unnecessary hysterectomies, Centre tells States

Missive from the Health Ministry comes after Supreme Court judgment flagged the violation of women's right to health: order was based on a petition that said some hospitals were carrying out the procedure to claim fees via insurance

Hindu Shaiban Perasapudam NEW DELHI

Worried that poor, less-educated women, particularly in rural areas, continue to be at higher risk of undergoing unnecessary hysterectomies...



In 2022, the Health Ministry had issued guidelines to prevent unnecessary hysterectomies. FILE PHOTO

The action comes following the Supreme Court's direction last month, where the States and Union Territories were instructed to implement the health guidelines...

Jaipur serial blasts case: SC declines to stay HC order

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined to stay a Rajasthan High Court decision to acquit four men sentenced to death in the 2008 Jaipur serial blasts case...

Cabinet gives approval for fertilizer subsidy of ₹1.08 lakh crore for kharif

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

With fertilizer prices continuing to remain high due to global factors — such as a fall in production and hiked logistics costs...

The total consumption of urea in the country is about 325 to 350 lakh tonnes (t). Apart from this, 100 to 125 t of DAP, 100 to 125 t of NPK, and 50 to 60 t of muriate of potash (MOP) are also sold in the country...

Sameer Wankhede gets protection from arrest for five days

Asian News International NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted protection from arrest (no coercive action) till May 22 to former Narcotics Control Bureau officer Sameer Wankhede...



Sameer Wankhede

Mr. Wankhede had moved the Delhi High Court and stated that the allegations by the NCB against him were 'false and misleading'...

The CBI has booked Mr. Wankhede for allegedly demanding ₹25 crore as a bribe for not implicating actor Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan in a drugs case...

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Clues include 'Animation through electronic network (4)', 'Cancelled by navata, being reconstituted (4)', 'Common people tease and taunt (6)', etc.

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers and solutions. The grid is a 9x9 grid with some numbers filled in, and the solution is provided below.

Upadesa Panchakam text. It is a collection of five verses in Sanskrit, each with a meaning in English. The verses are related to the Vedas and the company of good people.

Hypertension to be tackled at primary health centres

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has launched an initiative here on Wednesday, World Hypertension Day, to prevent unnecessary hysterectomies...

The recent judgment also stated that the guidelines were found to be misusing the procedure only to claim insurance under various health insurance schemes offered by the government...

Hypertension to be tackled at primary health centres

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has launched an initiative here on Wednesday, World Hypertension Day, to screen and place 75 million people with hypertension and diabetes under standard care by 2025.

The announcement was made by V.K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, at a G-20 co-branded event, “Accelerating the Prevention and Management of Hypertension and Diabetes”, organised by the Health Ministry and the World Health Organization.

Dr. Paul said that the battle against non-communicable diseases must be fought at the primary healthcare level.

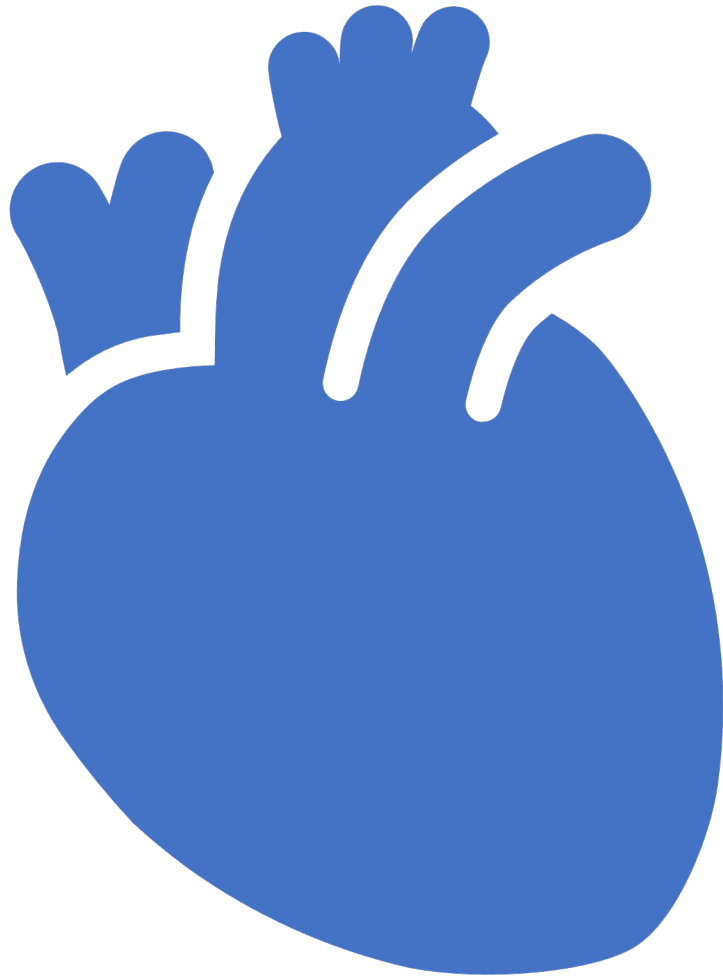
He pointed out that India had developed a platform to fight the menace through the creation of more than 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres and operationalisation of telemedicine and digital health services.

-
- The theme of World Hypertension Day, 2023 is 'Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer'



-
- Some of the major causes of hypertension in young people are high-stress levels, obesity, poor dietary habits, and a sedentary lifestyle.
 - Never neglect high BP or just a headache, hypertension may lead to a serious health crisis. It is necessary to raise awareness about hypertension disease, its causes, and prevention





-
- WHD was first inaugurated in May 2005. Basically, it is a high blood pressure condition and causes various health problems like heart disease and stroke.
 - In high blood pressure, the force on the arteries is higher and usually, it has no signs or symptoms.
 - This day encourages citizens of all countries to prevent and control it. Hypertension is also known as a silent killer, the modern epidemic.

No Hypertension
Heart Pumping Normally

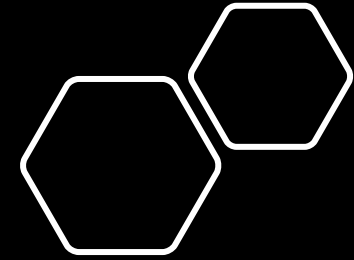


Blood flows easily
through vessels

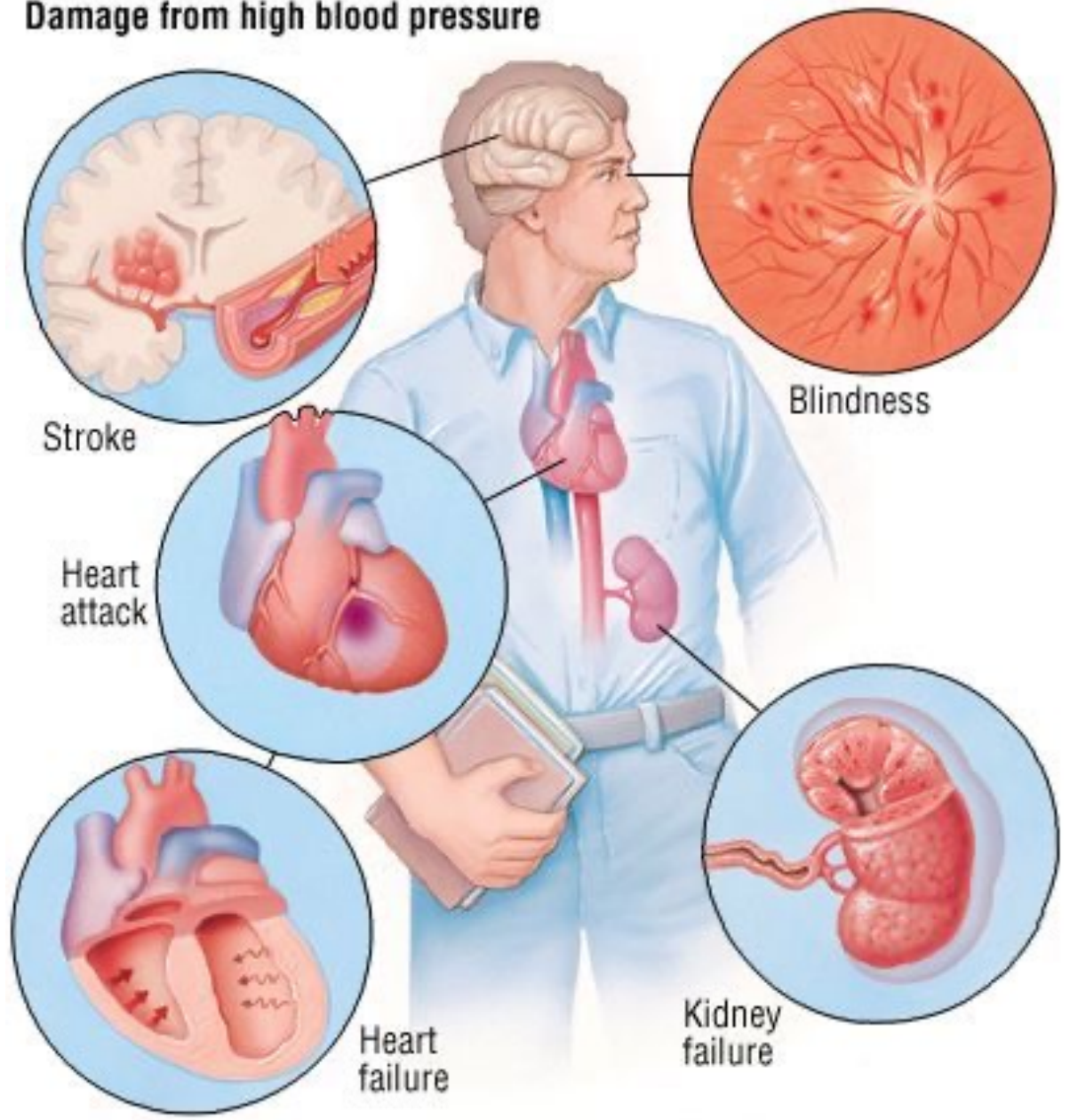
Hypertension
Heart Pumping Harder



Blood may not flow
easily through vessels



Damage from high blood pressure



ROME
8 killed as heavy rain causes havoc in drought-struck northern Italy



Exceptional rain on Wednesday in a drought-struck region of northern Italy swelled rivers over their banks, killing at least eight people and forcing the evacuation of thousands. A Minster said an average of 200 mm of rain had fallen in 36 hours in Emilia-Romagna region, with some areas registering 500 mm in that period.

NEW YORK
Prince Harry, Meghan in 'near catastrophic' paparazzi car chase



Prince Harry and his wife Meghan were involved in a car chase while being followed by photographers following a charity event in New York, the couple's office said on Wednesday. The pair was followed for more than two hours by a half-dozen vehicles with blacked out windows, which "resulted in multiple near collisions", it said.

LAHORE
Imran seeks independent inquiry into violence on military bases



Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday demanded an independent inquiry into the violence following his arrest as he distanced himself and his party from attacks on military installations. He made the demand in an address to the PTI workers at the Zaman Park residence here via video link.

UNITED NATIONS
UN welcomes new deal to export Ukraine grain, says Guterres



UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres welcomed the Turkish-brokered agreement on Wednesday to extend a pact to allow shipments of grain from Ukraine to the global market for another two months. "This matter for global food security, Ukrainian, Russian products feed the world," Mr. Guterres said.

Key climate threshold likely to be breached in 5 years: UN

There is two-thirds chance of global temperatures exceeding the 1.5 degrees Celsius warming limit, warns World Meteorological Organization; 2023-2027 set to be hottest five-year period ever

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

It is near-certain that 2023-2027 will be the warmest five-year period ever recorded, the United Nations warned on Wednesday as greenhouse gases and El Nino combine to send temperatures soaring. There is a two-thirds chance that at least one of the next five years will see global temperatures exceed the more ambitious target set out in the Paris accord on limiting climate change, the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said. The hottest eight years ever recorded were all between 2015 and 2022, with 2016 the warmest — but temperatures are expected to increase further as climate change accelerates. There is a 66% likelihood that at least one of the next five years and the five-year period as a whole, will be the warmest on record," the WMO said. The 2015 Paris Agreement saw cap global warming at

below 2 degrees Celsius above average levels measured between 1850 and 1900 — and 1.5 degrees Celsius if possible. The global mean temperature in 2022 was 1.15 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 average. The WMO said there was a 66% chance that annual global surface temperatures will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels for at least one of the years 2023-2027, with a range of 1.1 degree Celsius to 1.8 degrees Celsius forecasted for each of those five years. "WMO is sounding the

alarm that we will breach the 1.5C level on a temporary basis with increasing frequency," said the agency's chief Petteri Taalas. "A warning El Nino is expected to develop in the coming months and this will combine with human-induced climate change to push global temperatures into uncharted territory. This will have far-reaching repercussions for health, food security, water management and the environment. We need to be prepared." El Nino is the large-scale warming of surface temperatures in the central

and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. The weather phenomenon normally occurs every two to seven years. Typically, El Nino increases global temperatures in the year after it develops — which in this cycle would be 2024. Heat gets trapped in the atmosphere by so-called greenhouse gases, which are at a record high. The major greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, plus methane and nitrous oxide. The return to normal level might take even thousands of years because they already have such a high concentration of carbon dioxide, and we have lost the melting of glaciers and sea level game," said Mr. Taalas. "There's no return to the climate which prevailed during the last century."

Read our explainer on climate change affecting global health: bit.ly/climatechangehal

Beijing asks embassies to remove political signs

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Authorities in China's capital asked several Western embassies this week to remove political signs from their outer walls, diplomats said in Beijing. Several Western embassies across Beijing display Ukrainian flags in solidarity with the country's fight against Russia's invasion, some accompanied by messages of support in English and Chinese. However, sources in several European missions said they had received a notice from Chinese officials that they would refuse the request and that they will not change their policies. However, an official from another European embassy said it was unclear whether the request that exceeded the 100m of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. The official said they "strictly" followed the Vienna conventions. There has had no reason for us to react to this note".

Australia cancels Quad meeting in Sydney after U.S. President pulls out

Associated Press
CANBERRA

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has ruled out a Quad summit taking place in Sydney without President Joe Biden, saying the four leaders will talk at the Group of Seven meeting this weekend in Japan. Mr. Albanese said on Wednesday he understands why Mr. Biden pulled out of the summit to focus on debt limit talks in Washington since they are crucial to the economy. The summit including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida had been scheduled to take place in Sydney. "The blocking and the disruption that's occurring in domestic politics in the United States, with the debt ceiling issue, means that because that has to be solved prior to June 1 — otherwise there are quite drastic consequences for the U.S. economy, which will have a negative impact on the global economy — he understandably has had to make that decision," Mr. Albanese said.



Four global leaders. From left, Anthony Albanese, Joe Biden, Narendra Modi and Fumio Kishida at a summit in Tokyo in 2022. FILE PHOTO

Mr. Biden "expressed very much his disappointment" at being unable to come to the Sydney summit and to the national capital Canberra a day earlier to address Parliament, Mr. Albanese said. The four leaders will soon be together in Hiroshima, Japan, for the Group of Seven summit and are planning to meet there, he said. "The decision of President Biden meant that you can't have a Quad leaders' meeting when there are only three out of the four there," Mr. Albanese told the reporters.

Search on as Chinese ship capsizes in Indian Ocean with 39 on board

Ananth Krishnan
Dinakar Datt
NEW DELHI

Search and rescue vessels were in a race against time on Wednesday to locate a Chinese fishing vessel, which had capsized in the waters of the Indian Ocean south of Sri Lanka on Tuesday, with 39 people on board. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) was coordinating the rescue effort in waters located around 5,000 km from Australia and 1,300 km south of Sri Lanka. Chinese state media reported the AMSA had received a distress beacon signal early on Tuesday from the Chinese vessel Lu Peng Yuan Yu 028, which had on board 17 Chinese, 17 Indonesians and five mariners from the Philippines. The AMSA has requested the Australian Defence Force to provide assets for the search, and a P-8A Poseidon aircraft had already been deployed on Tuesday night. No survivors found yet Two Chinese vessels in the area had also been involved in rescue efforts while Chinese embassies and consulates in Australia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Indonesia, the Philippines and other countries had been engaged to coordinate the efforts, Chinese state media reported. No survivors have been found so far, and extreme weather in the area on Tuesday complicated search efforts.



All-out efforts in the rescue of the missing people are needed. Efforts should be strengthened for the investigation and early warning of potential safety risks in deep-sea operations to ensure the safety of life and property. XI JINPING
Chinese President

Iran, Russia ink deal to complete major transport network

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran and Russia agreed on Wednesday to collaborate on the construction of the final part of a commercial transport network linking to the Gulf and India while avoiding Western sea lanes. Iranian Transport Minister Mehrdad Barzpas, who signed the agreement with his Russian counterpart in Tehran, said the 30-kilometre railway in Iran's north would be completed within three years. It is the only missing link in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) from northeast Russia via Azerbaijan to Iran's southern coastline and on to India by sea. Russia and Iran are both under international sanctions that restrict trade. The freight network of ship, rail and road routes, which covers some 2,200 kilometres, avoids the Suez Canal between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea which would otherwise transport some Russian seaborne cargo. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, who attended the signing ceremony, and Russia's Vladimir Putin, who spoke there via video-conference, both hailed the economic opportunities the agreement presents. The planned railroad would connect Rasht, a city in northern Iran, and the Astara crossing on the border with Azerbaijan.

GRIDCO Limited (A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office : Jambath, Bhubaneswar - 751022, ODISHA
Phone : 0674-2540998/2540877, Fax : 2541804/2543831, Web : www.gridco.co.in
CN : U40109OR1995SGC003960

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR AND QUARTER ENDED 31st MARCH 2023 (₹ in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated	
		31.03.2023	31.03.2022	31.03.2023	31.03.2022
1.	Total income from Operations	1,446.77	2,262.72	1,292.13	1,611.58
2.	Net profit (Loss) for the period before Tax, Exceptional and an Extraordinary Item(s)	(311.69)	(97.90)	(1,761.21)	(496.29)
3.	Net profit (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and an Extraordinary Item(s))	(433.80)	(311.69)	(97.90)	(1,776.18)
4.	Net profit (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and an Extraordinary Item(s))	(433.80)	(311.69)	(97.90)	(1,776.18)
5.	Total comprehensive income for the period (including profit/loss for the period after Tax and other comprehensive income)	(433.80)	(311.69)	(97.90)	(1,776.18)
6.	Part-III Equity Share Capital (₹ 8,000 crore Equity Share Capital of 1,00,00,00,000 Shares)	3,000.04	2,791.22	2,791.22	3,000.04
7.	Reserves (including Reserves Retained)	(8,064.20)	(7,399.10)	(8,230.76)	(8,464.90)
8.	Securities Premium Account	—	—	—	—
9.	Part-III Debt Capital / Outstanding debt	(5,892.20)	(5,892.20)	(5,892.20)	(5,892.20)
10.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference share	—	—	—	—
11.	Debt-Equity Ratio	2.10	2.39	2.10	2.39
12.	Dividends Per Share (of Rs. 1000/-each) (for continuing and discontinued Operations) - 1. Basic	(155.28)	(329.70)	(35.87)	(278.48)
13.	2. Diluted	(155.28)	(329.70)	(35.87)	(278.48)
14.	Capital Revaluation Reserve	—	—	—	—
15.	Debit Reserve Retention Reserve	—	—	—	—
16.	Debit Reserve Coverage Ratio	(6.14)	(6.07)	0.21	0.13
17.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	(5.51)	(5.50)	2.33	0.55
18.	Exceptional and/or Extraordinary Items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules.	—	—	—	—

Notes:
a) The above is an extract of the detailed form of Quarterly/Annual Financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 52 of the LODR Regulations. The full form of the quarterly financial results is available on the website: <https://www.gridco.co.in>.
b) For the other financial matters referred in regulation 52(4) of the LODR Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Regulator (ESE) and can be accessed on the company website: <https://www.gridco.co.in>.
c) There is no change in accounting policies and accordingly there is no impact on net profit/loss, total comprehensive income or any other relevant financial item(s).

Place : Bhubaneswar
Date : 17.05.2023
Managing Director
MNS-NEE

Key climate threshold likely to be breached in 5 years: UN

There is two-thirds chance of global temperatures exceeding the 1.5 degrees Celsius warming limit, warns World Meteorological Organization; 2023-2027 set to be hottest five-year period ever

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

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There is a two-thirds chance that at least one of the next five years will see global temperatures exceed the more ambitious target set out in the Paris accords on limiting climate change, the UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said.

The hottest eight years ever recorded were all between 2015 and 2022, with 2016 the warmest – but temperatures are forecast to increase further as climate change accelerates.

“There is a 98% likelihood that at least one of the next five years, and the five-year period as a whole, will be the warmest on record,” the WMO said.

The 2015 Paris Agreement saw countries agree to cap global warming at



Parched living: Women carrying jerrycans of water towards a makeshift camp on the outskirts of Baidoa in Somalia. AFP

“well below” two degrees Celsius above average levels measured between 1850 and 1900 – and 1.5 degrees Celsius if possible.

The global mean temperature in 2022 was 1.15 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 average.

The WMO said there was a 66% chance that annual global surface temperatures will exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels for at least one of the years 2023-2027, with a range of 1.1 degrees Celsius to 1.8 degrees Celsius forecasted for each of those five years.

“WMO is sounding the

alarm that we will breach the 1.5C level on a temporary basis with increasing frequency,” said the agency's chief Petteri Taalas.

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“This will have far-reaching repercussions for health, food security, water management and the environment. We need to be prepared.”

El Nino is the large-scale warming of surface temperatures in the central

and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. The weather phenomenon normally occurs every two to seven years.

Typically, El Nino increases global temperatures in the year after it develops – which in this cycle would be 2024.

Heat gets trapped in the atmosphere by so-called greenhouse gases, which are at a record high.

The major greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, plus methane and nitrous oxide.

“The return to normal level might take even thousands of years because we already have such a high concentration of carbon dioxide, and we have lost the melting of glaciers and sea level game,” said Mr. Taalas.

“There's no return to the climate which persisted during the last century.”



Read our explainer: Is climate change affecting global health? bit.ly/climatechangehel



Members of the United Nations

Headquarters	760 United Nations Plaza, Manhattan, New York City (international territory)
Official languages	Arabic · Chinese · English · French · Russian · Spanish ^[1]
Type	Intergovernmental organization
Membership	193 member states 2 observer states
Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secretary-General António Guterres• Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed• General Assembly President Csaba Kőrösi• Economic and Social Council President Collen Vixen Kelapile• Security Council Presidency Switzerland (May 2023)

Establishment

- **UN Charter** signed 26 June 1945 (77 years ago)
- Charter entered into force 24 October 1945 (77 years ago)

Population

- 2016 estimate 7,403,020,000

Credit card spend in forex to come under LRS, and taxed 20%

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

THE CENTRAL Government, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, on a late night notification Tuesday amended rules under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, bringing in international credit card spends outside India under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS). As a consequence, the spending by international credit cards will also attract a higher rate of Tax Collected at Source (TCS) at 20 per cent effective July 1.

The notification brings transactions through credit cards outside India under the ambit of the LRS, with immediate effect, which enables the higher levy of TCS, as announced in the Budget for 2022-23, from July 1. This is expected to track back high-value overseas transactions that will not apply on the payments for purchase of foreign goods/services from India.

Prior to this, the usage of an international credit card to make payments towards meeting expenses during a trip abroad was not covered under the LRS. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

OUTWARD REMITTANCES UNDER LRS

Overseas travel	2022-23	2021-22	YOY change
Total outward remittances	24.38	18.63	23.3%

Real include remittances for deposits, property purchases, gifts and medical treatment, among others. *For Apr-Feb, in \$ billion. Source: RBI

Quad meet cancelled, PM to go ahead with Australia visit



Australia PM Albanese cancelled the meet after Biden postponed his trip

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

WITH US President Joe Biden cancelling his trip to Australia due to the crucial debt-ceiling talks in Washington, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced that the Quad leaders' summit would not take place in Sydney. However, there is a possibility of the Quad leaders meeting in Hushima, on the margins of the G7 summit.

But Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has lined up bilateral engagements including a meeting with Albanese, top business CEOs and the Indian diaspora in Sydney, will continue with his scheduled trip to Australia, sources said in New Delhi.

Early Wednesday morning, Biden announced that he would postpone the Australia leg of his Asia trip, along with the visit to Papua New Guinea, over the uncertainty and intense negotiations with the opposition Republican party to ensure that **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

After year with farmer, a Maggi-loving Sarus crane trains to be a bird again in Kanpur zoo

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

ASAD REHMAN
KANPUR, MAY 17

IN A lonely, 'confidential' corner of Kanpur Zoological Park, a solitary Sarus crane has been living its life in what it is to be a bird.

A month after it attained the status of a minor celebrity on social media in February, 'Arif Ka Sarus' — the crane that spent an year with Mohammed Arif, a farmer in Amethi district of Madhya Pradesh — has been leading a quiet existence in a 40 x 25 foot enclosure at a 'secret location inside the zoo hospital' since March 25.

Cut off from almost all human contact since its arrival at Kanpur zoo "to undo human imprinting", the only proof of the Sarus' existence is the life feed in the zoo director's office monitored by the top official himself — from two CCTV cameras — by the top official himself.

Zoo director Krishna Kumar Singh says the year the bird spent in the care of humans had turned the crane into an avian that looked forward to its daily chawal and Maggi. The bird has now started eating 'superworms' feed and varieties of dhana (rice), pulses, coriander and spinach. It has also started eating 'chicken' feed instead of being fed by hand.

KARNATAKA GOVT FORMATION DK does not blink, Cong says new cabinet in 48 to 72 hours

Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar meet Rahul: Cong looks to Sonia to break deadlock

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

FOUR DAYS after the Congress registered an emphatic victory in Karnataka, uncertainty clouded the exercise to name the next chief minister, despite both contenders — former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Karnataka PCC chief D K Shivakumar — holding separate meetings with party leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday.

Shivakumar also had a lunch meeting with party president Mallikarjun Kharge.

With Shivakumar not backing down, sources said a proposal to give the post to a Dalit leader is also on the table now.

The Congress maintained that a new cabinet would be in place "within the next 48 to 72 hours".

So far, the central party leadership's offers — a shared term with Siddaramaiah, or the deputy Chief Minister's post with some important portfolios — are learnt to have received a warm response from Shivakumar, complicating the government formation exercise.

Sources said Shivakumar has not accepted or rejected these proposals, but has not been to come one of the two or three deputy chief ministers, given his status as the state Congress chief who played a key role in bringing the party to power.

However, following more meetings, it is expected to be **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



D K Shivakumar meets party MLAs at his brother D K Suresh's residence in Delhi on Wednesday.

VERDICT KARNATAKA

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BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY

THE SUPREME COURT observed on Wednesday that giving the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) the power to nominate members to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will mean that he can "effectively destabilise the democratically elected" civic body.

The bench, led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, was hearing a plea filed by the Delhi government, challenging the nomination of 10 aldermen by the L-G. The bench, also comprising Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala, reserved its order.

"The nomination of people who have specialised knowledge in a local body such great concern to the Union of India that the Union of India's representative should choose. By giving this power to the L-G, he can effectively destabilise the democratically elected municipal corporation, because these peo- **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

Manipur: SC says HC order 'absolutely wrong', asks for status report

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

THE SUPREME COURT on Wednesday said the Manipur High Court single judge order — asking the state government to submit a recommendation to grant scheduled Tribe status for the Meitei community — was "absolutely wrong".

The court, however, declined to stay it, noting that the matter was pending before a division bench of the court.

The bench, led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, also asked the Manipur government to submit a fresh status report on measures taken for security, relief and rehabilitation.

While noting that law and order is a state subject, the court said it will ensure that the political executive does not "turn a blind eye" to the situation.

"We are not transferring all proceedings to Manipur. Let the state government give us a fresh status report on reopening (the SC) is on summer break from May 22 to July 2. We are not stalling any proceedings before the High Court, but independently, as a constitutional court, we want to be apprised and medically on what steps are being taken," said the senior justice.

Justices P S Narasimha and JB Pardiwala.

"We don't want another round of highly politicised **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

L-G can destabilise elected MCD with power to nominate aldermen, says SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

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Delhi L-G Vimal Kumar Saxena

ple will sit in the standing committees, ward committees," the CJ said.

In his plea, the Delhi government sought quashing of the orders and notifications dated January 1, 2023 and January 4, 2023 issued by the L-G, naming 10 persons as nominated members of the MCD under the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act, 1957. It also sought directions to the L-G to nominate members "in accordance with the aid and advice" of the council of ministers.

The AAP won the civic elections in December last year, ending the BJP's 15-year run at the helm of the MCD.

Appearing for the L-G, Additional Solicitor General **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

Tihar officer who 'favoured' Jain faced probe in excise case

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

THE THARAK jail superintendent who was transferred on Tuesday, allegedly providing "undue favours" to former Delhi Home Minister Satyendra Jain, was posted as assistant commissioner in the excise department when the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 — which has since been scrapped — was implemented. The officer, Rajesh Choudhary, was also raided and questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

"As per our records, a raid was conducted at the officer's residence in Delhi around November 5 last year. This was the same time raids were conducted on former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's personal assistant (PA) and other officials in connection with the case. The officer was also questioned by ED officers," said sources linked to the probe into the alleged excise scam.

According to sources, Choudhary had served as assistant commissioner (excise) for about two months.

"He was questioned on November 5 and was transferred to jail No. 7 on November 13-15. We are checking records and will conduct an enquiry," said a senior jail officer.

When contacted, Choudhary, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

COMING SOON: NEW ROUTES, FASTER OPTION

Metrolink to Goa	Karnataka to Goa
Tejas Express 8 hrs 50 mins	Jan Shatabdi 7 hrs 50 mins
Vande Bharat 7 hrs	Vande Bharat 6 hrs
Metrolink to Dehradun	Luvshabadi to New Jalpaiguri
Jan Shatabdi 5 hrs 50 mins	Rajdhani 6 hrs 30 mins
Vande Bharat 4 hrs	Vande Bharat 6 hrs

Special journey time on Vande Bharat

Kashmir, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana among others along its routes. Railways is exploring options on all the routes to decrease the journey time to the extent possible, by eliminating speed restrictions and other measures.

On Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will inaugurate the Kowrah-Puri Vande Bharat Express, the first for Odisha and **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

UP hires IIT, IIM grads to assist investors, bridge gap with depts

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, MAY 17

TO ENSURE smooth entry for industrialists who want to invest in Uttar Pradesh, the state government has hired graduates from top institutes of the country and abroad, including IITs and IIMs, who would act as a link between the investors and different government departments for all their requirements.

The professionals — to be referred to as 'Udyami Mitra' or friends of industrialists — will be posted in each district of the state as well as at the headquarters from next month, officials told The Indian Express.

The government has completed the process of hiring 300 such professionals, the officials said. Chief Minister Akiyath is likely to hand over the appointment letters to them on May 26. They would get a minimum salary of Rs 70,000, including perks.

Are you passionate about catalyzing mass impact on the ground?

1 Motivator Prodeesh **NIPUN Professionals**

Last date to apply **May 21, 2023**

A program to build a career in public policy, by collaborating with the District officers on the NIPUN Bharat Mission to improve Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) learning outcomes for students in early grades.

We are looking for 52 change makers under the age of 32 to join our program for a 2-year full-time commitment.

As a NIPUN Professional, you will:

- Contribute to a national priority by driving mission implementation
- Receive an INR 80,000 monthly stipend
- Earn a certified course from TISS
- Undergo an exclusively curated professional development journey

Apply at www.nipun.gov.in

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Credit card spend in forex to come under LRS, and taxed 20%

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

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EXPLAINED

E Surge in overseas travel

THE MOVE comes in the backdrop of a surge in spending in overseas travel under LRS, which zoomed 104 per cent between April-February in FY23. The implementation of the TCS on credit card spends abroad could potentially increase the compliance burden for issuing banks and likely result in funds of individuals getting locked till the time actual refunds get initiated by the tax department.

Prior to this, the usage of an international credit card to make payments towards meeting expenses during a trip abroad was not covered under the LRS. The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

The government had changed the limits for TCS for foreign remittances in the Budget for 2023-24. The Budget had stated that on foreign outward remittance under LRS, other than for education and medical purposes, a TCS of 20 per cent will be applicable from July 1, 2023. Before this proposal, the TCS of 5 per cent was applicable on foreign outward remittances above Rs 7 lakh and 5 per cent without any threshold for overseas tour package.

TCS is a direct tax levy, which is collected by the seller of specified goods from the buyer and deposited to the government. Taxpayers can then claim refunds on the TCS levy at the time of filing tax returns, which some experts pointed out could result in funds of individuals getting locked till the time actual refunds get initiated by the tax department.

spendings through international credit cards were excluded from LRS by way of Rule 7 of the Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transaction) Rules, 2000. With the latest notification, Rule 7 has been omitted, paving way for the inclusion of such spendings under LRS.

“It is strictly for transactions under Schedule III (of the FEM rules) and not for payments for purchase of foreign goods/services. This demand had come from the domestic travel industry,” a finance ministry official said.

This comes in the backdrop of a surge in spending in overseas travel. Indians spent \$12.51 billion on overseas travel between April-February of fiscal 2022-23, a rise of 104 per cent compared to the same period of the last year, albeit over a low base due to Covid-linked travel restrictions.

17th Vande Bharat will be flagged today, 4 key new ones on their way

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, MAY 17

AROUND SIX hours from Mumbai to Goa, Ranchi to Patna, Guwahati to New Jalpaiguri, and around four hours from Delhi to Dehradun — these are some of the routes on which the Vande Bharat Express will run in the coming days as the signature offering from Indian Railways aims to touch all states.

So far, the 16-coach semi-high-speed trainsets have touched states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and

COMING SOON: NEW ROUTES, FASTER OPTION	
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Tejas Express 8 hrs 50 mins	Jan Shatabdi 7 hrs 50 mins
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CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

If your net-worth is ₹1.44 cr, you're among 1% of wealthiest: Report

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MAY 17

IF YOU have a net-worth of Rs 1.44 crore (\$175,000), you are among the top one per cent of wealthy individuals in India, says a report.

According to a study based on Knight Frank's Wealth Sizing Model, the wealth needed to join their ranks varies sharply from country to country. In Monaco, which has the world's densest population of super-rich individuals, the entry point for the one per cent club is \$12.4 million.

This is double the amount needed by the second-place country in this study, Switzerland, which has an entry point of \$6.6 million. Singapore has the highest threshold for Asia with \$3.5 million, followed by Hong Kong at \$3.4 million, the firm said.

Knight Frank said India's ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWI) with a net-worth over \$30 million are estimated to rise by 58.4 per cent in the next five years from 12,069 in 2022 to 19,119 individuals in 2027. India's billionaire population is

expected to increase from 161 individuals in 2022 to 195 individuals in 2027.

The Indian high-net-worth-individual (HNI) population, with an asset value of \$ one million and more, which was recorded at 797,714 persons in 2022, will also rise to 1.65 million, recording an impressive 107 per cent in five years, it said.

"In 2022, the global population of UHNWIs declined by 3.8 per cent, after a record climb of 9.3 per cent in 2021, as the wealth and the investment portfolio of the ultra-wealthy were impacted by economic slowdowns, frequent rate hikes and rising geopolitical uncertainties," it said.

The trend was noted in India, where the UHNWI population registered a decline of 7.5 per cent in 2022 over 2021. For India, apart from the rise in interest rates, the appreciation of the US dollar also impacted the growth of wealth. However, the HNI population remained on a growth path registering a growth of 4.5 per cent in 2022, and India's billionaire population rose by 11 per cent in 2022 compared to the previous year, it said.



France's highest civilian award for Chandrasekaran

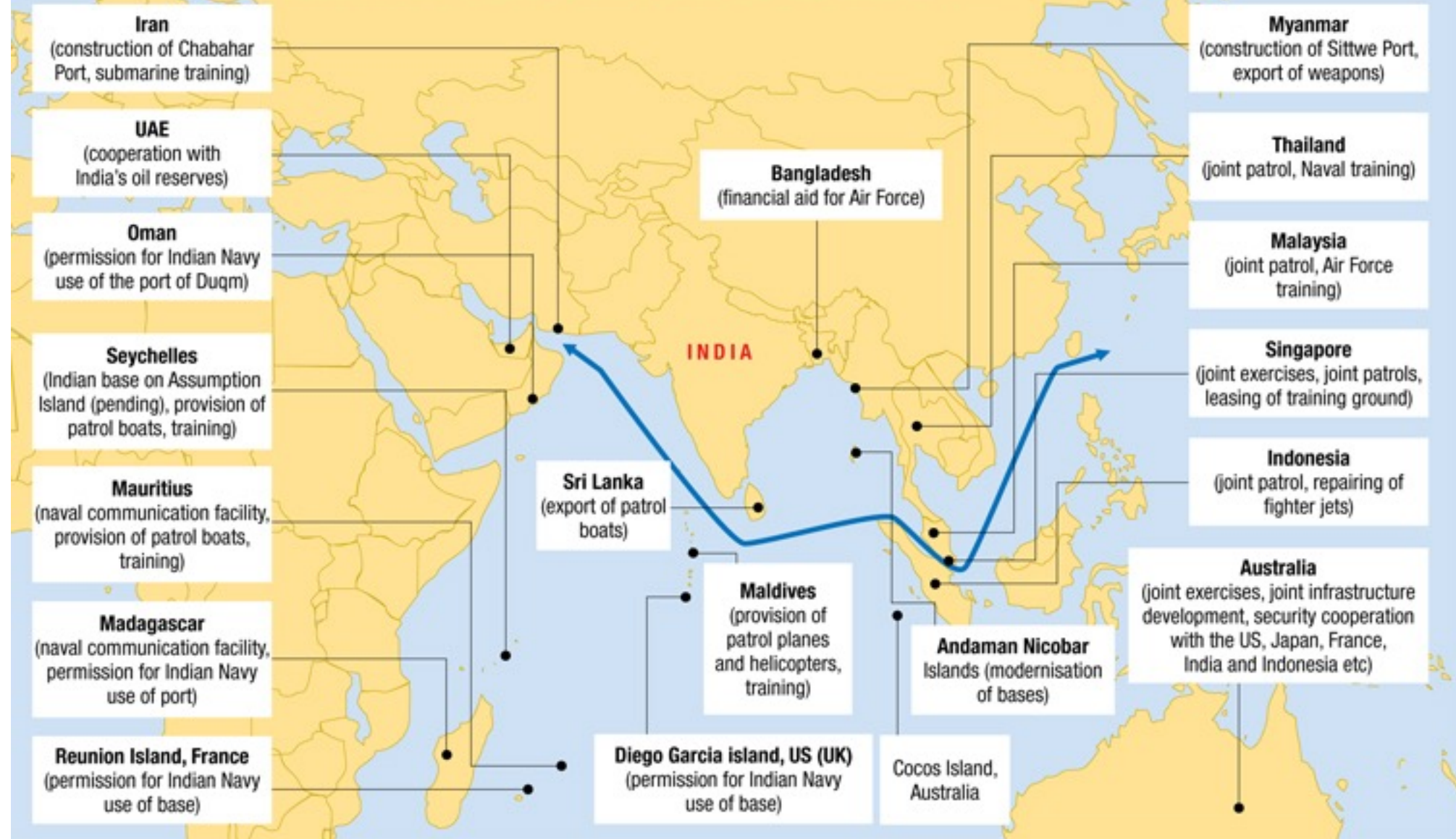
TATA GROUP CHAIRMAN N Chandrasekaran has been given France's highest civilian award Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur for his contributions to strengthen the trade relationship between India and France. French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna gave the award to Chandrasekaran on Tuesday. **PTI**

6th Indian
Ocean
Conference



-
- Improving and enhancing connectivity in the [Indian Ocean region](#) emerged as a top priority during the 6th Indian Ocean Conference held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
 - The conference, with the theme "**Peace Prosperity and Partnership for a Resilient Future**," brought together delegates from over 25 countries to discuss ways to promote **economic development while maintaining peace and stability in the region.**

India's Presence in the Indian Ocean



- 
- A magnifying glass is positioned over a bar chart. The chart has a light blue background and a grid. The x-axis is labeled with 'Q1', 'Q2', 'Q3', and 'Q4'. The y-axis has a '1,000' mark. There are two data series: blue bars and green bars. The blue bars are consistently taller than the green bars. The magnifying glass is centered over the Q3 and Q4 data points. A list of five bullet points is overlaid on the chart, with the first point being a question and the others being key themes. In the bottom left corner, there are several yellow dashed lines.
- What are the Major Highlights of the Conference?
 - **Connectivity**
 - **Upholding Legal Obligations and Agreements**
 - **Sustainable Projects and Debt:**
 - **Shared Responsibility and Focus**

- What is Indian Ocean Conference?
- Indian Ocean Conference is a flagship consultative forum of the Indian Ocean countries to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for Security and Growth for All in Region (SAGAR).
- The first edition of the Indian Ocean conference was held in Singapore in 2016 and fifth in 2021 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.



- Mains

- **Q.1** What is the significance of Indo-US defense deals over Indo-Russian defense deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region. **(2020)**





Alzheimer's Disease



After the **US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** granted “accelerated” approval for a drug to treat Alzheimer’s disease, developed by Biogen and Eisai and called [lecanemab](#), another pharmaceutical company, Eli Lilly, has released its **own candidate Alzheimer’s treatment, donanemab**.

Donanemab is currently not approved for use in either the US or Europe.

What is Donanemab and Lecanemab?

About:

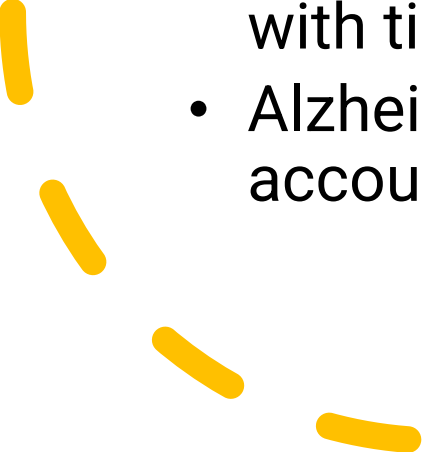
- Donanemab belongs to a class of antibody-based therapies that target **amyloid-beta (A β) proteins**. These proteins can form amyloid plaques in the brain, leading to cognitive decline.
 - Donanemab aims to **remove these plaques** and slow the progression of the disease.
 - Lecanemab belongs to a class of drugs called **monoclonal antibodies**. These antibody-mediated drugs also **target beta amyloid and disrupt cell function**.

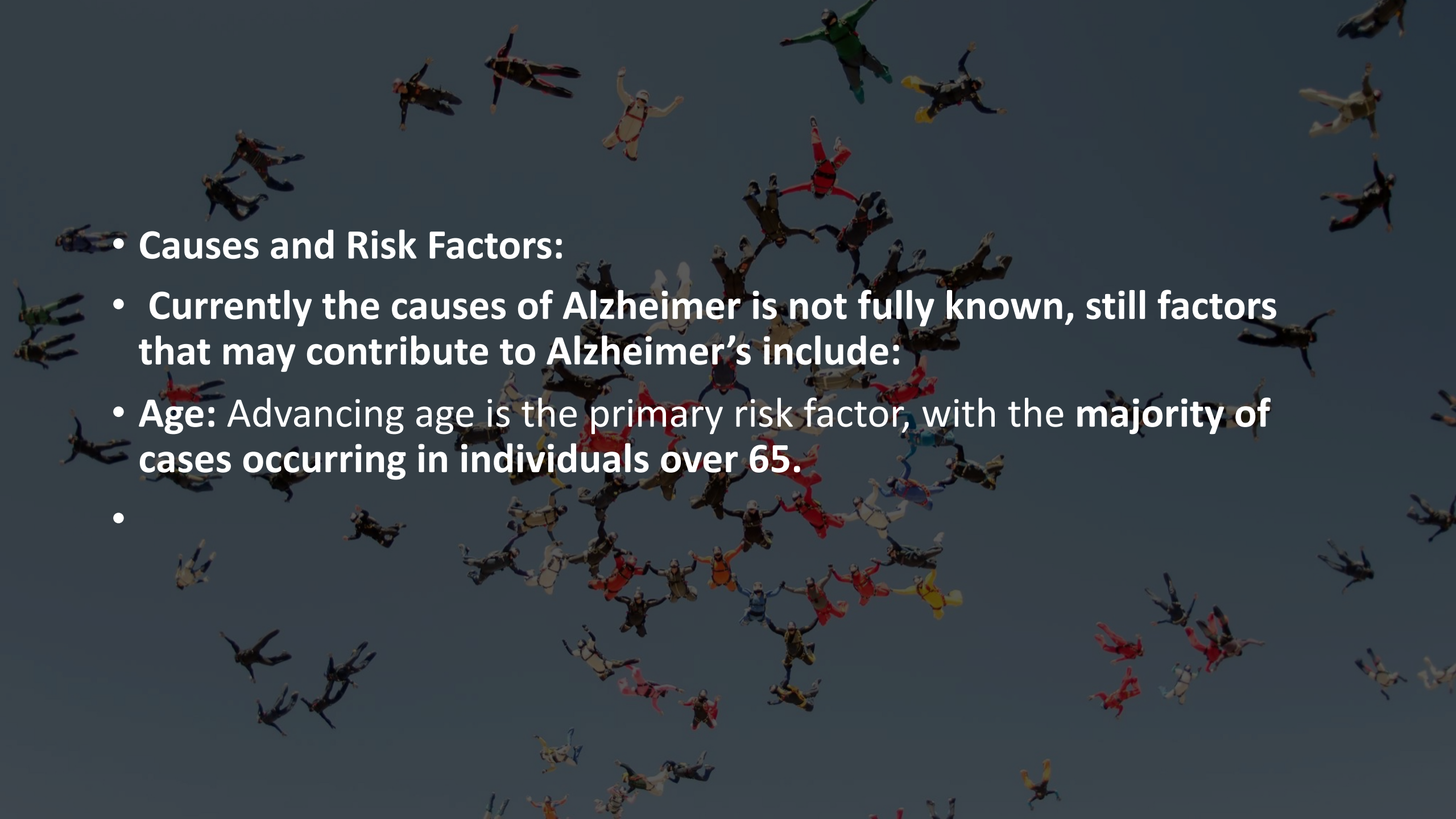
- 
- **Safety Concerns and Side Effects:** Both donanemab and lecanemab carry a high risk of side effects, including **amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA)**, such as **brain swelling or bleeding**.
 - Tragically, three patients in the donanemab trials **lost their lives due to these side effects**
- 



- What is Alzheimer's Disease?

- **About:**

- Alzheimer's disease is a **progressive neurodegenerative disorder** that affects the **brain, leading to memory loss, cognitive decline**, behavioral changes, problems with words in speaking or writing, poor judgment, changes in mood and personality, confusion with time or place, etc.
 - Alzheimer's disease is the most **common cause of dementia**, accounting for **60-80% of dementia cases**.
- 



- **Causes and Risk Factors:**

- **Currently the causes of Alzheimer is not fully known, still factors that may contribute to Alzheimer's include:**

- **Age: Advancing age is the primary risk factor, with the majority of cases occurring in individuals over 65.**

-

- **Genetics:** Certain gene mutations, such as those in the **APP, PSEN1, and PSEN2 genes**, can increase the risk of developing Alzheimer's.
- **Amyloid Protein:** Alzheimer's disease is thought to be caused by the abnormal build-up of amyloid-beta and tau proteins in and around brain cells.
- **Lifestyle Factors:** Chronic conditions like [cardiovascular disease](#), [diabetes](#), **obesity**, **smoking**, and a sedentary lifestyle may contribute to the risk.



• **Diagnosis:**

- Cognitive and neuropsychological tests to assess memory, thinking, and problem-solving abilities.
- Imaging techniques (MRI, PET scans) to identify brain changes.
- **Biomarker tests** (cerebrospinal fluid analysis, amyloid PET) to detect amyloid plaques.

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a hand holding a white, oval-shaped pill. The hand is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the frame, with the thumb and index finger gripping the pill. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a piece of fabric or paper, with some faint grid-like patterns. The overall lighting is soft and focused on the pill, creating a sense of medical care or treatment.

- **Treatment and Management:**

- There's currently **no cure for Alzheimer's disease**. But there is medicine and supportive therapies available that can temporarily reduce the symptoms.

-



- **Prevalence:**

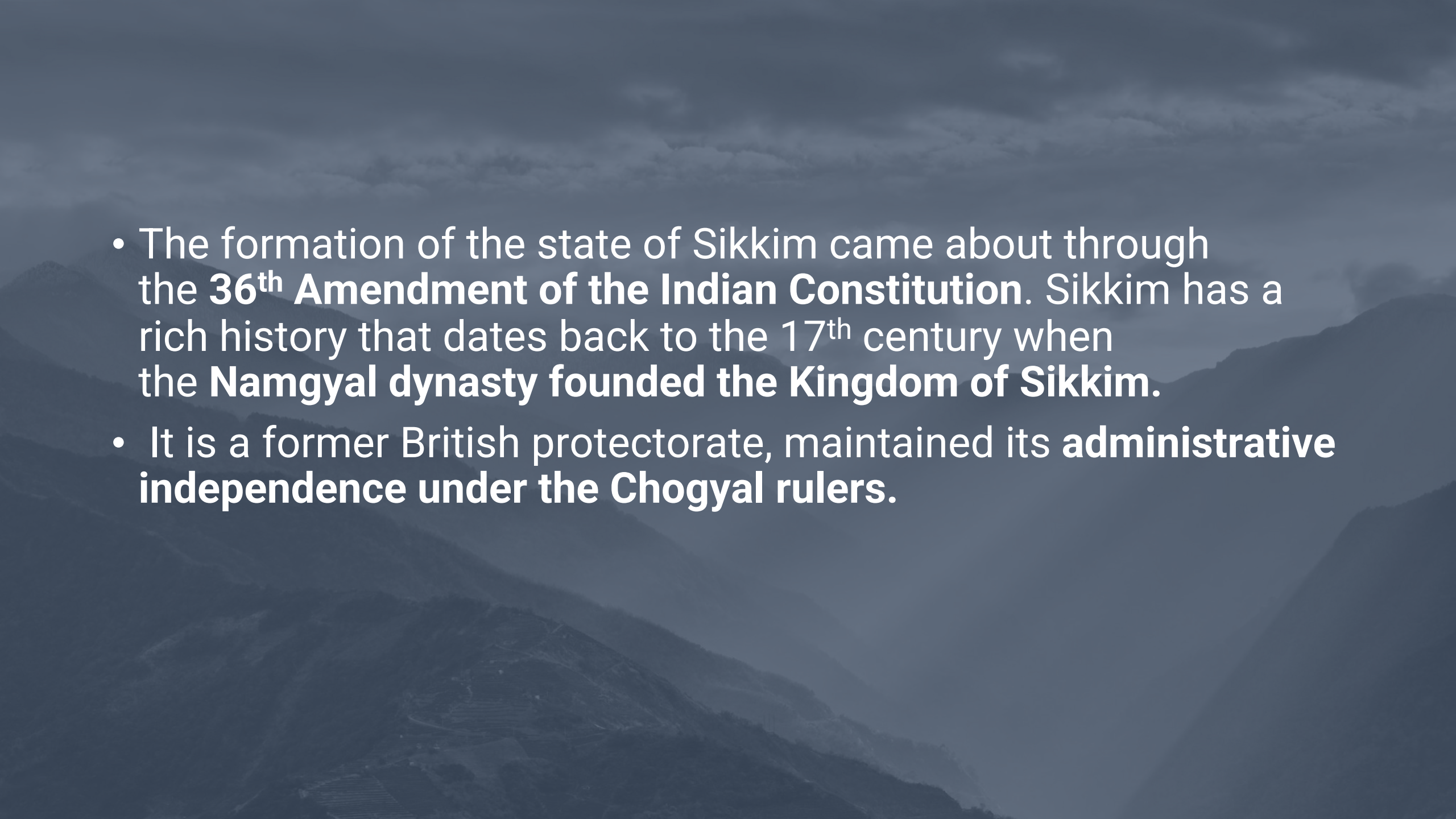
- Alzheimer's disease affects a significant number of people worldwide, with **at least 55 million individuals suffering from the condition.**
- In India, As India's population ages, the number of people with **dementia and Alzheimer's** is set to rise to **7.6 million by 2030.**



Sikkim's Statehood Day

On the occasion of [Sikkim's Statehood Day](#), Prime Minister extended his greetings to the people of Sikkim.

Celebrated annually on **May 16**, this day marks the acknowledgment of **Sikkim's integration with India and its establishment as the 22nd state of the country in 1975.**

- 
- The formation of the state of Sikkim came about through the **36th Amendment of the Indian Constitution**. Sikkim has a rich history that dates back to the 17th century when the **Namgyal dynasty founded the Kingdom of Sikkim**.
 - It is a former British protectorate, maintained its **administrative independence under the Chogyal rulers**.

- After India's independence, **Sikkim continued as a protectorate with India overseeing its external relations**, defense, and communications. However, in 1973, the people's agitation led to changes in governance.
- The Chogyal became a titular figure, and **Sikkim was designated an "associated state."**
- In 1975, Sikkim was granted statehood, integrating it into India and abolishing the monarchy on May 16.

SIKKIM



CHINA
(TIBET)

NEPAL

CHINA
(TIBET)

BHUTAN

WEST
BENGAL

- LEGEND**
- International Boundary
 - - - State Boundary
 - · - · District Boundary
 - == National Highway
 - Major Road
 - Railway
 - ~ River
 - State Capital

Map not to Scale

Sikkim

State



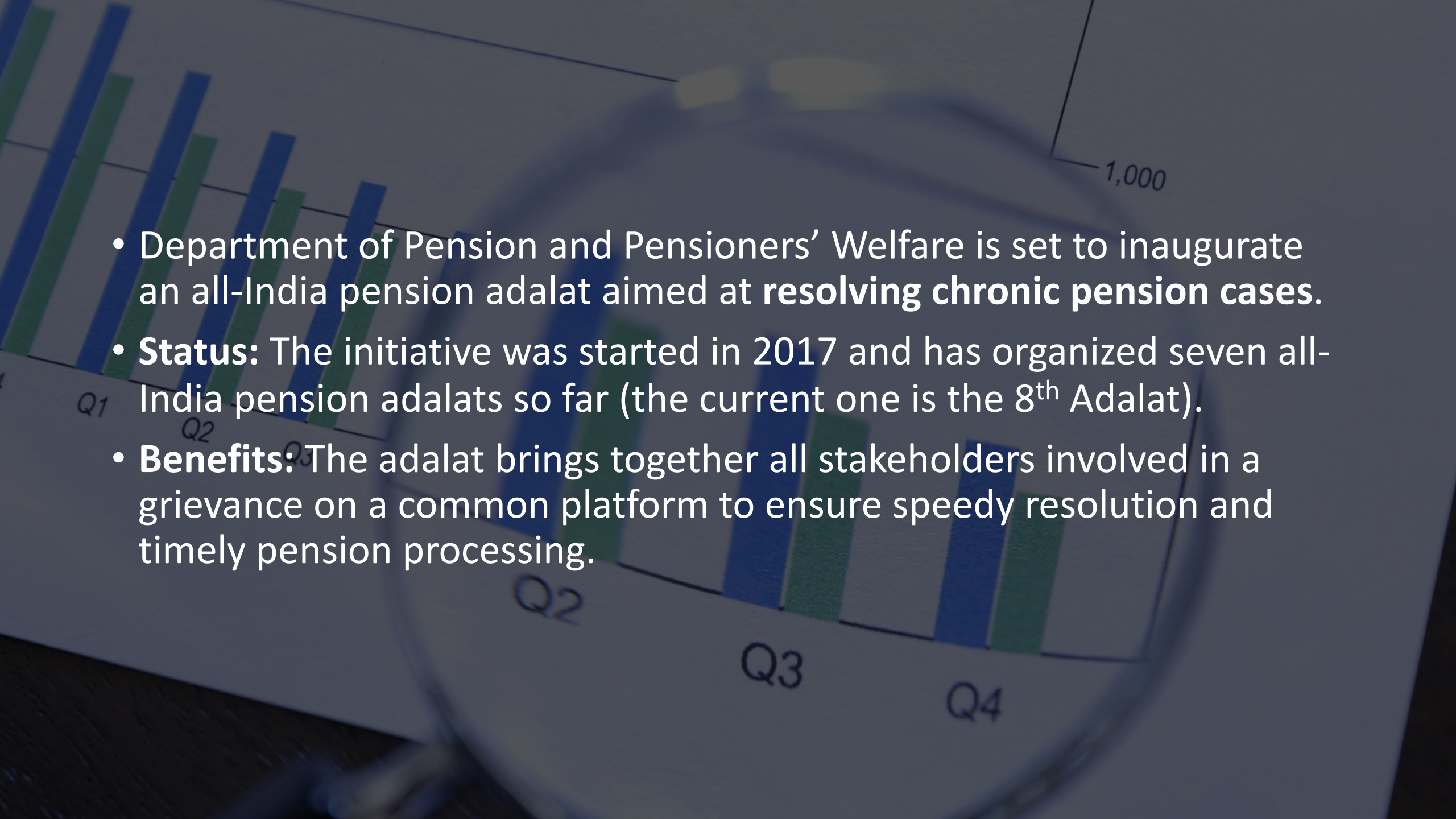
(clockwise from top) Kangchenjunga; Gurudongmar Lake; Rumtek Monastery; Temi Tea Garden

Country	 India
Region	Northeast India
Before was	Kingdom of Sikkim
Formation (as a state)	16 May 1975
Capital and largest city	Gangtok
Districts	6
Government	
 • Body	Government of Sikkim
 • Governor	Lakshman Acharya
 • Chief minister	Prem Singh Tamang (SKM)
State Legislature	Unicameral
 • Assembly	Sikkim Legislative Assembly (32 seats)
National Parliament	Parliament of India
 • Rajya Sabha	1 seat
 • Lok Sabha	1 seat
High Court	Sikkim High Court
Area	
 • Total	7,096 km ² (2,740 sq mi)
 • Rank	27th
Dimensions	
 • Length	116 km (72 mi)
 • Width	65 km (40 mi)

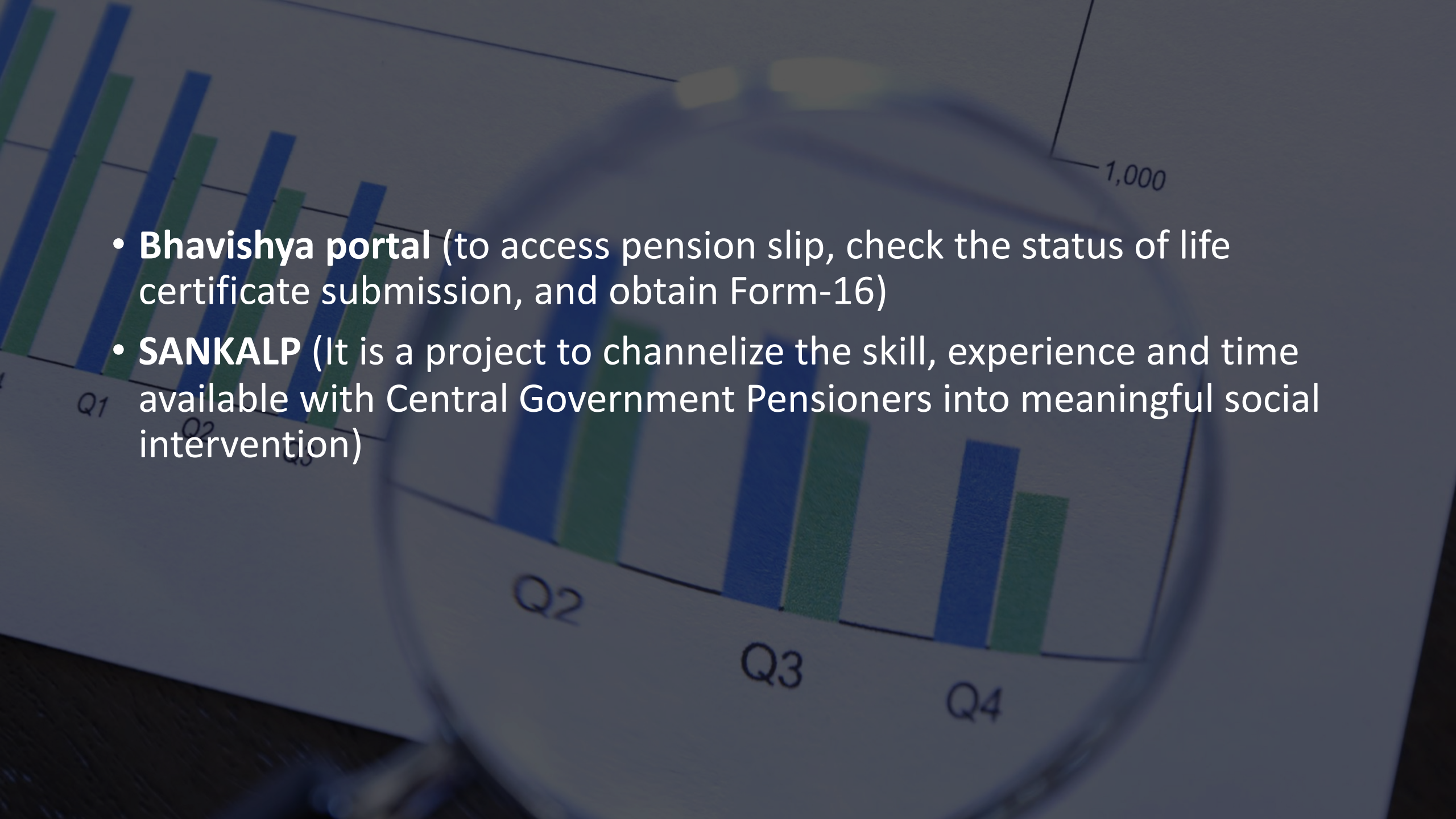
Elevation	1,650 m (5,410 ft)
Highest elevation (Kangchenjunga ^[1])	8,586 m (28,169 ft)
Lowest elevation (border with West Bengal ^[2])	280 m (920 ft)
Population (2011) ^[3]	
 • Total	▲ 610,577
 • Rank	32nd
 • Density	86/km ² (220/sq mi)
 • Urban	25.15%
 • Rural	74.85%
Language	
 • Official	Nepali • Sikkimese • Lepcha • English ^{[4][5]}
 • Additional official	Gurung • Limbu • Magar • Mukhia • Newari • Rai • Sherpa • Tamang
GDP	
 • Total (2019-20)	▲ ₹30,000 crore (US\$3.8 billion)
 • Rank	29th
 • Per capita	▲ ₹412,754 (US\$5,200)
Time zone	UTC+05:30 (IST)
ISO 3166 code	IN-SK
Vehicle registration	SK
HDI (2019)	▲ 0.764 Very High (10th)
Literacy (2011)	▲ 81.42% (13th)
Sex ratio (2011)	890 ♀/1000 ♂ (10th)

Pension Adalat

Source: TH

- 
- Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare is set to inaugurate an all-India pension adalat aimed at **resolving chronic pension cases**.
 - **Status:** The initiative was started in 2017 and has organized seven all-India pension adalats so far (the current one is the 8th Adalat).
 - **Benefits:** The adalat brings together all stakeholders involved in a grievance on a common platform to ensure speedy resolution and timely pension processing.

- **Other initiatives:**
- **Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare** has decided to integrate various portals, including pension **disbursing bank portals**, **ANUBHAV**, **CPENGRAMS**, and **CGHS**, with the newly created **"Integrated pensioners' portal"** (ipension.nic.in)

- 
- **Bhavishya portal** (to access pension slip, check the status of life certificate submission, and obtain Form-16)
 - **SANKALP** (It is a project to channelize the skill, experience and time available with Central Government Pensioners into meaningful social intervention)



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Source: ET

- **Amy Pope from the United States** has been elected as the **new Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, making her the **first woman** to hold this position.

Information	Description
About	IOM is an intergovernmental organization that provides services and advice concerning migration to governments and migrants, including refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrant workers.
Origin	IOM was established in 1951 as Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM) to help resettle people displaced by World War II.
Status in UN	It was granted Permanent Observer status to UN General Assembly in 1992. It is part of the UN now.
Major report	World Migration Report is published every year.

Work	IOM works in four broad areas of migration management —Migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, and Forced migration.
Members	It has 175 member states . India is a member of IOM.
Significance	The IOM, with predominantly American leadership , plays a significant role in addressing global migration challenges, providing assistance to migrants, and advising governments on migration-related policies.

An aerial photograph of a mountain valley. The terrain is rugged and rocky, with a prominent waterfall cascading down a central ridge. A dirt road winds through the valley on the right side. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric, with a grey, overcast sky. The text 'UNFF18' is overlaid in the upper left corner, and 'Source: DTE' is overlaid below it.

UNFF18

Source: DTE

The **eighteenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF18)** was held in New York.



United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF):



The UN Economic and Social Council **established it in 2000.**

- 
- **Objective:** To promote the **management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment** to this end.
 - **Key highlights:**
 - **Practice Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Tropical Regions**
 - **India:** It presented a case of a UNFF country-led initiative on long-term SFM and expressed concerns **regarding wildfires and the limitations of current forest certification schemes.**

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A group of people are clapping in a meeting room. The image is dark and moody, with a focus on the hands and arms of the participants. The background is blurred, showing a person in a white shirt and another person in a grey shirt. The overall atmosphere is one of appreciation and collaboration.

Thank you
guys, see you
tomorrow
