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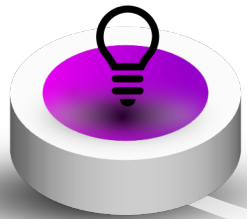


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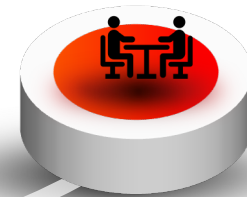


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The capacity to learn is
a *gift*; the ability to
learn is a *skill*; the
willingness to learn is a
choice.

Brian Herbert

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BOOST FOR T.N. Jallikattu law valid, rules SC
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PARLEY Will the proposed integrated system of medicine work? Doctors debate if a 'mix' will benefit patients
OPINION » PAGE 9

ALL SET Kashmir on high alert for G-20
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Meghwal replaces Kiren Rijiju as Law Minister

Nistula Hebbar Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

In a surprise move, the Modi government on Thursday removed Kiren Rijiju as Law Minister and appointed Arjun Ram Meghwal as his replacement. Mr. Meghwal, a Minister of State in Parliamentary Affairs, has been made Minister of Law and Justice. A Rashtrapati Bhawan communique announced the changes, including MoS for Law S.P. Singh Baghel being moved in the same rank to the Health Ministry. The changes come at a time when there is a perception that the judiciary and the Centre are on a collision course.

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Congress ends uncertainty, picks Siddaramaiah as CM

Shivakumar to be Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka; swearing-in ceremony to be held tomorrow; party leadership now turns to shortlisting 32 Ministers from the 50-odd aspirants

Sandeep Phukan Nagash Prabhu
NEW DELHI

Ending uncertainty and speculation, the Congress on Thursday announced that 75-year-old Siddaramaiah, an eight-term MLA, will be the next Chief Minister of Karnataka. Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar, who was insisted on securing the top job, will be the Deputy Chief Minister.

The announcement came after a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) of the MLAs-elect in Bengaluru, attended by the party's central observers. This is the second CLP meeting in a week. At the meeting, Mr. Shivakumar moved a resolution



Congress leader Randeep Singh Surjewala greets Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

to elect Mr. Siddaramaiah as the CLP leader and all the newly elected MLAs endorsed it unanimously. The Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister, and a group of Ministers will be sworn in on Saturday at Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. Leaders of like-minded parties — in-

cluding West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, Left leaders Sitaram Vechury and D. Raja, and Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar — are expected to attend. A Congress delegation called on Governor Thaa-

IN BRIEF



Cong. promises free power if elected in MP.

RAIPUR
The Congress on Thursday promised that it would provide 100 units of free electricity and 200 units at half tariff if voted to power in the Assembly election in Madhya Pradesh later this year. » PAGE 3

Delhi govt. seeks Centre's nod to appoint new CS

NEW DELHI
The Delhi government on Thursday sought the Centre's approval to appoint 1989-batch IAS officer P.K. Gupta as the new Chief Secretary, replacing incumbent Naresh Kumar. » PAGE 2

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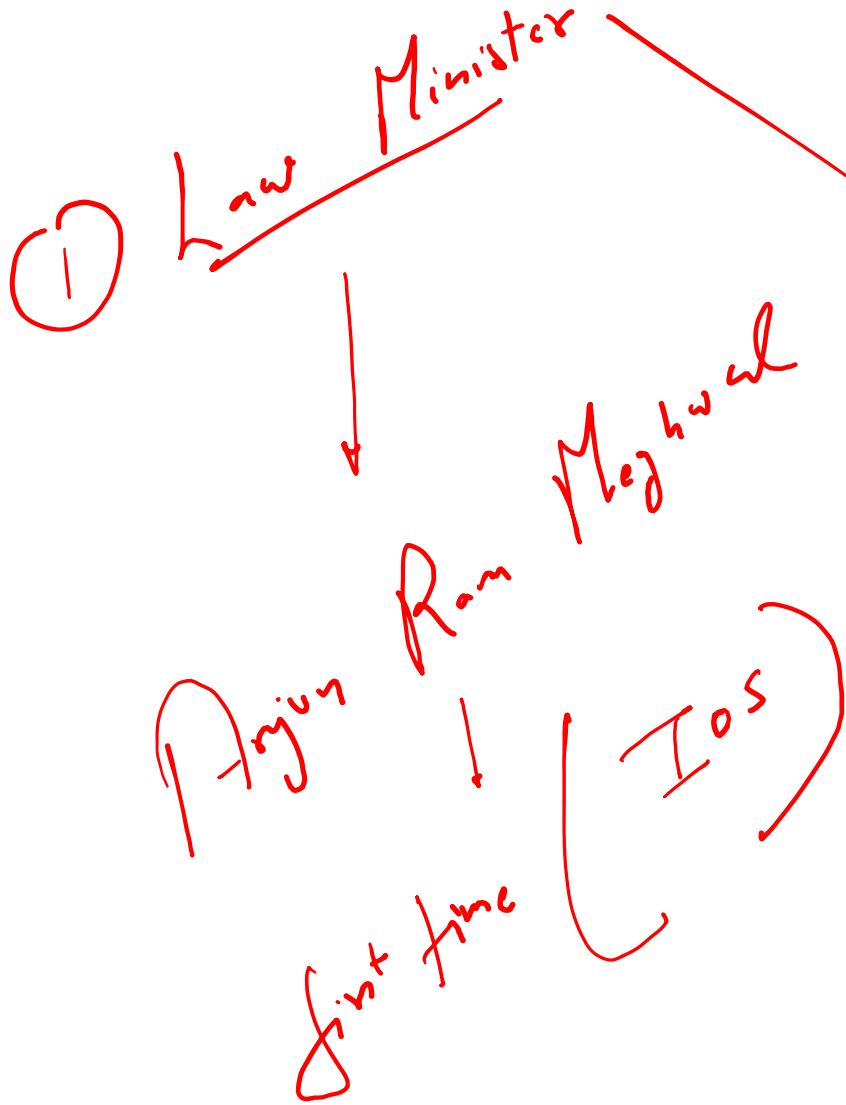
Meghwal replaces Kiren Rijiju as Law Minister

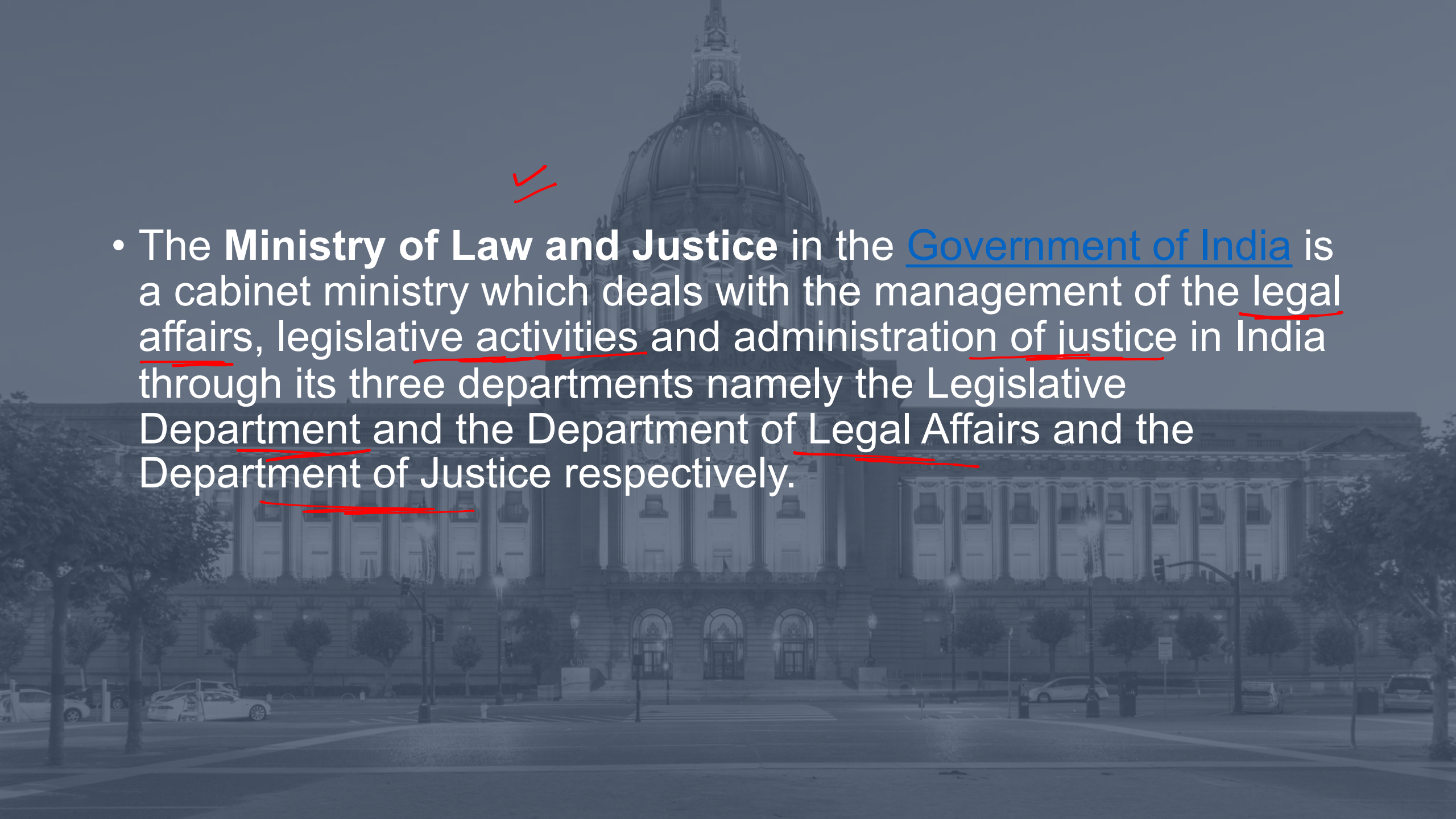
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The changes come at a time when there is a perception that the judiciary and the Centre are on a collision course.



- 
- The **Ministry of Law and Justice** in the [Government of India](#) is a cabinet ministry which deals with the management of the legal affairs, legislative activities and administration of justice in India through its three departments namely the Legislative Department and the Department of Legal Affairs and the Department of Justice respectively.

Law Minister

- The first Law and Justice minister of independent India was [Dr. B. R. Ambedkar](#), who served in the Prime Minister [Jawaharlal Nehru](#)'s cabinet during 1947–51.

-



Ministry of law and justice is the oldest limb of the government of India dating back to 1833 when the Charter Act 1833 was enacted by the British Parliament when India was under British control.



The said Act vested for the first time legislative power in a single authority, namely the Governor General in Council.

Law



By virtue of this authority and the authority vested under him under section 22 of the Indian Councils Act 1861 the Governor General in Council enacted laws for the country from 1834 to 1920

Congress ends uncertainty, picks Siddaramaiah as CM

Shivakumar to be Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka; swearing-in ceremony to be held tomorrow; party leadership now turns to shortlisting 32 Ministers from the 50-odd aspirants

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Nagesh Prabhu
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A Congress delegation called on Governor Thaa-

warchand Gehlot at Raj Bhavan to stake its claim to form the government.

As both Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar insisted on the top job, government formation was deadlocked and it reportedly took the intervention of former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi to resolve it.

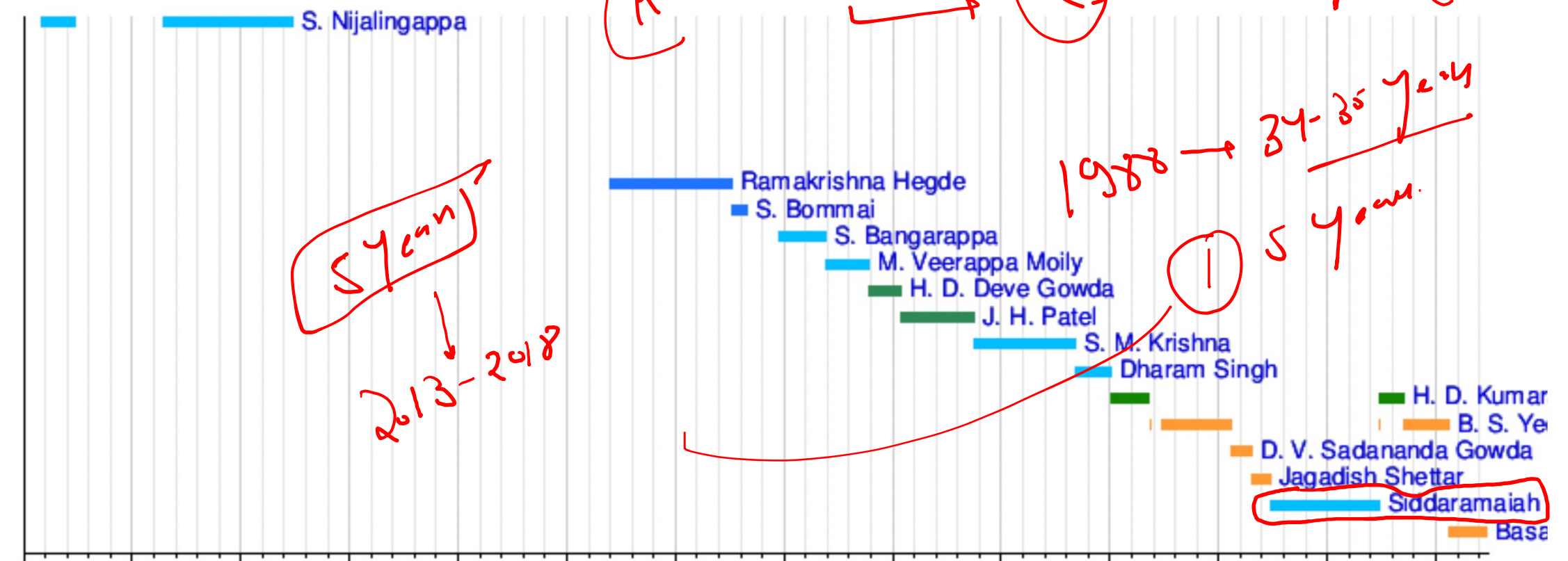
Addressing a press conference in Delhi along with the Congress general secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, general secretary for organisation K.C. Venugopal said Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge decided the names after consulting senior leaders, including Ms. Gandhi.

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8 MLA

Precursor	Dewan of Mysore
Inaugural holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• K. Chengalaraya Reddy (as the chief minister of Mysore (before state's reorganization))• C. M. Poonacha (as the chief minister of Coorg State)• S. Nijalingappa (as the chief minister of Mysore(after state's reorganization))• D. Devaraj Urs (as the chief minister of Karnataka)
Formation	1 <u>November 1956</u> (66 years ago)
Deputy	Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka
Salary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ₹350,000 (US\$4,400)/monthly• ₹4,200,000 (US\$53,000)/annually

1956



(Karnataka (M)) → 23 → 5 Year (CM)

1958 → 34-35 Year
5 Year

5 Year
2013-2018

1956 1961 1966 1971 1976 1981 1986 1991 1996 2001 2006 2011 2016 2021

Political Party INC INC(O) INC(U) JP JDL JD(S) BJP

IN BRIEF



BJP candidates file papers for Council byelection in U.P.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidates for by-election on two vacant seats of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council, Kanwar Manvendra Singh and Padmasen Chaudhary, filed their nominations on Thursday. State BJP leaders including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, along with Deputy CMs Brajesh Pathak and Keshav Prasad Maurya, were present. The MLAs seats had fallen vacant due to the appointment of Laxman Acharya as the Governor of Sikkim following the demise of Barun K. Dey.

Student shoots friend dead at Greater Noida varsity, kills self

A student on Thursday allegedly shot dead his woman friend before killing himself inside a university in Greater Noida, police said. Both were aged around 21 years and knew each other well but the cause of the incident is yet to be ascertained, they said. The incident took place around 1.30 p.m. at the Shiv Nadar University in Dadri police station area, a police spokesperson said. "The man was a third-year sociology (BA) student," the police said in a statement. The Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence said it was deeply saddened and pained at the unfortunate loss of lives. Relatives of both students have been informed, police said. (Those in distress may contact Sarjivini, Society for Mental Health suicide prevention helpline 011-40709022.)

All 23 police stations in Visakhapatnam likely to get e-Malkhana facility by June

V. Kamalakara Rao,
VISAKHAPATNAM

All the 23 police stations under the Visakhapatnam Police Commissionerate are likely to get e-Malkhana, a scientific way of storing property and evidence, by June, police officers here said. The work has started in some police stations like Kancharapalem Police Station (KPS) for inauguration by this month-end, while in other stations they will be ready by next month. KPS Circle Inspector S. Vijay Kumar said, "We have almost completed the infrastructure work of e-Malkhana. We are following the instructions from Police Commissioner C.M. Trivikram."



As far as cities are concerned, Visakhapatnam will be the first in Andhra Pradesh to have such a facility. Police officers here said it is likely to be opened in the next one week. The facility was first commissioned in July 2022 at Narisipatnam Police Station (presently in Anakapalli district), by the then ASP of Narisipatnam Tuhin Sinha. "As far as cities are concerned, Visakhapatnam will be the first in Andhra Pradesh to have such a facility. However, in rural areas, we already had it in Narisipatnam," a police officer said. According to police officers, earlier recovered properties and evidence used to be stored in storerooms and it was difficult to find them. The property seized and evidence collected from the crime scene can be stored in standard size cardboard boxes, which will be numbered with other details. A dynamic QR code will be generated and pasted on the box. A dedicated website is also hosted and all details pertaining to the case and property will be uploaded. All one has to do is to scan the QR code to get the details.

In strife-torn Manipur, Kuki-Meitei villagers stick together near the Myanmar border

Rahul Karmakar,
GUWAHATI

The fire of ethnic violence, which raged across Manipur from May 3, did not single the Meitei-only village of Khowtha, or the Kuki-dominated village of Khudenthabi that surrounds it. The residents of these two villages, located just 7.2 km from India's border with Myanmar, decided to let the "politically-ignited animosity" between the two communities undermine more than a century of coexistence and interdependence. Khudenthabi and Khowtha are in the Tengnoupal district, near a company operating base (COB) of the Assam Rifles, located about 100 km southeast of Manipur's capital Imphal. The district saw its share of the ethnic violence that unfolded on May 3, following a tribal solidarity march triggered by a Manipur High Court recommendation a push for Scheduled Tribes status for the Meiteis are a majority in Manipur, but the residents of Khowtha are a minority. The only Meitei village in

Tamil Nadu's amended law on jallikattu valid: SC

Court terms it a 'type of bovine sport' existing in TN for at least a century. It also found similar laws passed by Karnataka and Maharashtra, allowing bullock cart races and buffalo racing, valid

Krishnadas Rajagopal,
NEW DELHI



The Supreme Court on Thursday termed jallikattu a "type of bovine sport" existing in Tamil Nadu for at least a century, and did not interfere with the State legislature's finding that the bull-taming event is part of the cultural heritage and tradition of the people. A Constitution Bench headed by Justice K.M. Joseph upheld the validity of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules of 2017. The Amendment Act has received the Presidential assent. We do not think there is any flaw in the State action," the judgment held. The court also found similar laws passed by Karnataka and Maharashtra, allowing bullock cart races and buffalo racing "kambhala", valid. "Our decision on the Tamil Nadu Amendment Act also guides the Maharashtra and Karnataka Amendment Acts and we find all three legislation valid," the bench declared. The Constitution Bench held that the jallikattu law is not against the fundamental right of the animals participating in the event. The judgment, authored by Justice Anurudha Bose, directed that the district administrators competent authorities in Tamil Nadu would be responsible to ensure that jallikattu events are conducted in strict compliance of the safeguards laid out in the 2017 Amendment Act and Rules. "Jallikattu is a type of bovine sport and we are satisfied that it has been present in Tamil Nadu for at least a century," Justice Bose observed. The court described jallikattu as an event during which "a bull is set free in an arena and human participants are made to grab its hump to score in the game".

several measures to prevent any abuse to the participants or bulls or loss of human life. "The Amendment Act to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2017, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules, 2017, are in line with the constitutional provisions and the spirit of the law," Justice Bose held. The Bench held that the State was empowered to enact the 2017 law. The court dismissed the arguments made by petitioners, who included animal welfare activists and organisations, that jallikattu harmed bulls as they were not built to run and be grabbed at. They had argued that the sport was against the fundamental nature of bovine animals. The Constitution Bench found that the Division Bench of the court in the A. Nagaraju judgment, had erred in concluding that jallikattu was not part of the cultural tradition of Tamil Nadu without sufficient material to back its finding.

Banned in 2014 Justice Bose said jallikattu was banned in 2014 by the top court in the A. Nagaraju case and called "cruel". But that was before the State passed the Amendment Act in 2017, introducing

Stalin, EPS and other leaders hail court's ruling on jallikattu

The Hindu Bureau,
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday welcomed the Supreme Court's judgment upholding the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 2017, and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules, 2017, saying the traditional bull-taming sport jallikattu has been going on in the State for the last century.



M.K. Stalin

In a social media post, Mr. Stalin said the judgment was to be written in golden letters in the history of Tamil Nadu. He said the verdict was a huge victory for the government's legal struggle. Pointing out that a big jallikattu arena was being constructed in Madurai, he said a victory celebration would be held during the Pongal festival in January next. AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami welcomed the verdict and recalled the resolution adopted in the Assembly in favour of jallikattu during the erstwhile AIADMK government. Expelled AIADMK coordinator O. Panneerselvam said it was a victory for Tamil Nadu's culture. MDMK

founder Vaiko hailed the ruling as a victory for the culture of the State. "A setback to animals" However, Bharati Ramachandran, CEO, Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPAO), said the judgment was a big setback to animals and those fighting for animal rights. "More than a 100 people and over 20 bulls have died since 2017, when Tamil Nadu restarted jallikattu. How many more deaths will it take for the law to put an end to it? The view that jallikattu is part of Tamil culture is a debatable one," a press release quoted her as saying. The BJP's Tamil Nadu president, K. Annamalai thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "his persistent efforts" to lift the ban on jallikattu permanently.

Nadda exhorts BJP workers to become 'elements of change'

Shoumik Banerjee,
PUNE

Exhorting BJP workers to become "elements of change" for the 2024 Lok Sabha and Maharashtra Assembly elections, BJP national president J.P. Nadda on Thursday said a second coming of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition would be "a big loss for Maharashtra".



BJP national president J.P. Nadda and Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnis, Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray

Addressing party workers after the BJP's state executive meeting in Pune, Mr. Nadda took a veiled jibe at Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, who late last year (Shiv Sena founder) Bal Thackeray had said if he had to ally with the Congress, then he would shut down the Shiv Sena that very day. Now, only that Shiv Sena for

G. Anand,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

On the eve of the second anniversary of the Pinarayi Vijayan led Left Democratic Front government on May 20, the ruling front and the opposition present conflicting narratives about the incumbent administration's track record.

Massive rally The LDF has envisaged the celebrations emphasising achievements and not a curtain-raiser to its 2024 Lok Sabha campaign. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will lead a massive rally in Thiruvananthapuram. Ministers and top LDF leaders will share the big stage. The same morning, thousands of Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) workers

UDF, UDF spar over Kerala government's track record

The UDF seems emboldened that the Congress defeated the BJP in Karnataka by fighting on an anti-corruption platform

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ble development and welfare despite the odds. The government has credited itself for keeping brewing agitations at bay via empathetic action. It claims to have the citizenry on its side.

In contrast, the UDF's narrative harps about an ominous darkening of the public about the stifling "corruption-ridden" government. It talks to the public about the stifling CPM's "corrupt control of every aspect of governance and infrastructure development, with an eye on sizeable cuts to the next election. The UDF and LDF are locked in a grim battle for votes, the dynamic of which will likely play out in force in the looming 2024 Lok Sabha election campaign.

Projecting image The LDF seeks to project the image of a responsive and virtuous government that has delivered social and economic development and welfare despite the odds. The government has credited itself for keeping brewing agitations at bay via empathetic action. It claims to have the citizenry on its side.

DELHI
FRI, MAY 19
RISK 35-22 SET 19-02
RISK 35-22 SET 19-02
SATURDAY, MAY 20
RISK 35-22 SET 19-02
RISK 35-22 SET 19-02
SUNDAY, MAY 21
RISK 35-22 SET 19-02
RISK 35-22 SET 19-02

Dabo Weather
Dabo City: 36-22
Sardarjina: 36-22
Mehra: 36-22

Dabo Palm Today
Day will be very warm and sunny. Night will be comfortable.

Dabo Palm Tomorrow
39°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be hot and sunny. Night will be comfortable. Chance of strong dust raising winds.

THE HINDU
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Chalk out plans to ensure children aren't malnourished: HC

Satyansuvar Barik,
BILASPUR

The Orissa High Court has directed the State government to draw an action plan to ensure complete absence of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) children and reduction of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) children by half in the State, by the end of 2023.



By February 2023, as many as 30,915 children were found to be suffering from severe acute malnutrition in Odisha. FILE PHOTO

The SAM children are those in the red zone with a higher risk of contracting secondary infection. This category may suffer from severe illness. MAM children, on the other hand, show signs of malnourishment but are in the yellow zone which means their lives are not under threat. Hearing a PIL, a Division Bench comprising Chief

Living in harmony

"As the larger community, it was our duty to ensure our Meitei neighbours came to no harm. We have been sharing the same land and we cannot let communalism take over our lives and livelihoods," a Kuki elder of Khudenthabi said.

Both appealed to the State government to ensure long-term peace so that people could overcome the ordeal for a better future. Assam Rifles' backing. The villagers acknowledged the role of the Assam Rifles in shielding

Assam Rifles' backing

them from trouble-mongers from elsewhere in the district, and ensuring that they did not go hungry. Civil supplies to these villages on the Imphal-Moreh road have been virtually off since the onset of the violence.

"Apart from 24x7 security, we have been providing food and rations collected from the battalion. We have not let villagers and we are doing what any good neighbour would do," said a Kuki elder of Khudenthabi. Officials hoped that the resolution of the conflict of both communities to rise above their differences and work towards a shared vision of harmony would help heal wounds and rebuild trust.

Tamil Nadu's amended law on jallikattu valid: SC

Court terms it a "type of bovine sport" existing in T.N. for at least a century; it also found similar laws passed by Karnataka and Maharashtra, allowing bullock cart races and buffalo racing, valid

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A Constitution Bench headed by Justice K.M. Joseph upheld the validity of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act of 2017, and Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Conduct of Jallikattu) Rules of 2017. "The Amendment Act has received the Presidential assent. We do not think there is any flaw in the State action," the judgment held.

The court also found similar laws passed by Karnataka and Maharashtra, allowing bullock cart races and buffalo racing 'kambala', valid.

"Our decision on the Tamil Nadu Amendment Act also guides the Maharashtra and Karnataka Amendment Acts and we find all



Youngsters celebrating the Supreme Court verdict on jallikattu at Tamukkam in Madurai on Thursday. ASHOK R

three legislation valid," the Bench declared.

The Constitution Bench held that the jallikattu law "substantially minimises" the pain and suffering of the animals participating in the event.

The judgment, authored by Justice Aniruddha Bose, however directed that the district administrations and competent authorities in Tamil Nadu would be responsible to ensure that jallikattu events are conducted in strict compliance of the safeguards laid out in the 2017 Amendment Act and Rules.

"Jallikattu is a type of bo-

vine sport and we are satisfied that it has been present in Tamil Nadu for at least a century," Justice Bose observed.

The court described jallikattu as an event during which "a bull is set free in an arena and human participants are made to grab its hump to score in the game".

Banned in 2014

Justice Bose said jallikattu was banned in 2014 by the top court in the *A. Nagaraja* case and called "cruel". But that was before the State passed the Amendment Act in 2017, introducing

several measures to prevent any abuse to the participating bulls or loss of human life. "The Amendment Act overcomes the defects pointed out in the *A. Nagaraja* judgment," the court concluded.

"The Tamil Nadu Amendment Act is not a mere piece of colourable legislation... It minimises cruelty to animals and allows the continuation of the traditional sport," Justice Bose held.

The Bench held that the State was empowered to enact the 2017 law. The court dismissed the arguments made by petitioners, who included animal welfare activists and organisations, that jallikattu harmed bulls as they were not built to run and be grabbed at. They had argued that the sport was against the fundamental nature of bovine animals.

The Constitution Bench found that the Division Bench of the court in the *A. Nagaraja* judgment had erred in concluding that jallikattu was not part of the cultural tradition of Tamil Nadu without sufficient material to back its finding.

Jallikattu ✓

Cruelty

Bull taming

evang

Case

SC → Ban.

State → Law

SC = Ban Remove

KHADIJA KHAN

NEW DELHI, MAY 18

A FIVE-JUDGE Bench of the Supreme Court Thursday upheld the amendments made by Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Karnataka to The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960, allowing bull-taming sports like jallikattu, kambala, and bullock-cart races.

While the Bench led by Justice KM Joseph ruled that the 2017 amendments were “valid legislations”, it said that the jallikattu issue was “debatable” and must ultimately be decided by the House of the People (Lok Sabha). Making this decision requires social and cultural analysis in greater detail, and such an exercise “cannot be undertaken by the judiciary”, the Bench said.

How did the case reach SC?

In this case, the SC overruled its 2014 ruling, where a two-judge Bench had essentially outlawed two sports common in

Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, called ‘jallikattu’ and ‘Bullock Cart Race’ respectively. The ruling held that “bovine sports” were against the provisions of Sections 3, 11(1)(a) and (m) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 which relate to the “duties of persons having charge of animals” and define animal cruelty, respectively.

On January 7, 2016, a notification was issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change prohibiting the “exhibition or training of bulls as performing animals”. However, an exception was carved out for events such as jallikattu in Tamil Nadu, based on the customs and culture of different communities. It was specified that this exception is subject to conditions such as reducing the suffering of bulls. Two years later, a batch of petitions was filed challenging the exemption, relying on the 2014 ruling.

What is jallikattu?

Jallikattu, also known as eruthazhuvuthal, is a bull-taming sport traditionally

• Bullock
Cart
Maharashtra
• Bovine Sports

played in Tamil Nadu as part of the Pongal harvest festival. The festival is a celebration of nature, and thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest, of which cattle-worship is part. However, the practice of jallikattu has long been contested, with animal rights groups and the courts expressing concern over cruelty to animals and the bloody and dangerous nature of the sport.

In the present case, the petitioners challenged the Tamil Nadu amendment that allowed jallikattu, contending that since the central law prohibits cruelty to animals, there could not be an amending Act that perpetuates cruelty. The plea also named states like Karnataka and Maharashtra as parties to the case, since they too have similar sports.

What was the Tamil Nadu law?

In 2017, Tamil Nadu amended the PCA Act to allow jallikattu in the state. The amending

Act sought to preserve the cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu, and to ensure the survival and well-being of the native breeds of bulls.

While the initial petitions in SC had sought a direction to the states to comply with the 2014 SC ruling, the passage of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act in 2017 led to a scenario where the petitions had to be modified to include the quashing of the 2017 Act among its prayers.

Following this, an SC Bench opined that the jallikattu issue involved substantial questions of interpretation of the Constitution, and referred the matter to the Constitution Bench.

What was the 2014 ruling?

An SC Bench of Justices K S Radhakrishnan and Pinaki Chandra Ghose ruled that the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 “over-shadows or overrides the



so-called tradition and culture”, and advised Parliament to “elevate rights of animals to that of constitutional rights... so as to protect their dignity and honour”.

What did the other states do?

Following Tamil Nadu, Karnataka in January 2017 decided to amend the PCA Act, 1960, to pave the way for kambala, a sport involving a pair of buffaloes tied to the plough and anchored by one person. The buffaloes are made to run in parallel muddy tracks in a race. Acting on a PIL filed by PETA, the Karnataka High Court then passed an interim order banning all kambala races until the SC decided the matter.

Then, in July of that year, Maharashtra passed an amendment to the PCA Act, 1960, allowing “bullock cart races”, “with a view to follow tradition and culture on such days”. However, in the same year, the Bombay HC passed an interim order restraining the government from allowing bullock-cart races.

What did the court hold?

In its judgement, the top court held that the Tamil Nadu Amendment Act is “not a piece of colourable legislation” and that it relates to Entry 17 of List III of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution which relates to the prevention of cruelty to animals. Adding that the 2017 amendment “minimises cruelty to animals in the concerned sports”, the court held that once it’s implemented and read with the rules, the sports will not come under the definition of cruelty defined in the 1960 Act.

The court also said that the 2017 amendment does not violate Articles 51-A (g) and 51-A (h), which impose duties on Indian citizens to protect the environment and develop a scientific temper, humanism, spirit of inquiry, and reform, respectively. Further, it also held that the amendment didn’t violate Articles 14 (Right to Equality) and 21 (Right to **L**ife) of the Constitution.

Longer version on
[indianexpress.com/explained](https://www.indianexpress.com/explained)

Next & Comment

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

People with diabetes, hypertension to be put on standard care

75 million. The Health Ministry will put hypertension and diabetes patients on 'standard care' by 2025 to mark World Hypertension Day. Dr. V.K. Paul, member of NEI Ayaz, said this will be the largest expansion of non-communicable diseases in primary healthcare programmes in the world. **PH**

India's exports to the EU to be impacted by deforestation regulation

1.3 billion. Products such as leather, hides and wool, annually exported to the EU, will get impacted due to the European Union Deforestation-Free Products Regulation adopted this week, which prioritises protecting its agricultural sector and promoting exports. **PH**

Significant growth in India's coal production in April 2023

8.5 in percentage. India's coal production rose to 7.4 million tonnes (MT) during April this year, compared to 67.20 million tonnes in April 2022, according to data from the Ministry of Coal. India achieved 94.99% of the 77.08 MT production target for April 2023, the data showed. **PH**

Displacements caused by natural disasters in South Asia in 2022

2.5 in million. South Asia witnessed 2.5 million internal displacements due to disasters in 2022, with 90% of the movement being triggered by floods, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre. General. Pakistan and India were the most affected nations. **PH**

Worth of weapons imported by Myanmar since 2021 coup

1 in \$ billion. According to a UN report, Myanmar's military imported weapons worth 12.5 billion from Russia, China and other countries since 2021, which was also used against civilians. Weapons continue to flow to the military despite evidence of its responsibility for war crimes. **PH**

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Elections and the airwaves

Why are political parties provided free airtime on public broadcasters during elections? How does the scheme work and how does it benefit a political party? How does the Election Commission distribute time vouchers to parties without any bias?

EXPLAINER
Gurn Prasad
Pawan Paramanandam

The story so far
In the recently concluded Karnataka Assembly elections, political parties were provided free airtime on public broadcasters. All India Radio (Akashvani) and Doordarshan during elections. The allotment was available to six recognised national parties — the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Indian National Congress (INC), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the National People's Party (NPP), the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and one recognised State party, the Janata Dal (Secular). The parties were allocated a base time of 45 minutes and additional slots based on performance in previous polls. A total of 630 minutes of free airtime was issued under this allotment.

What is the rationale of the scheme?
The facility to provide free airtime for political parties during elections was given statutory basis through the 2003 amendment to the Representation of People Act, 1951. The Supreme Court, in its famed judgment (The Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vs Cricket Association of Bengal and ANR, 1995), held that airwaves are public property and its use should serve the greater public good. Elections being the lifeblood of a democracy, the misuse or abuse of airwaves to gain unfair electoral advantage is a key regulatory apprehension of governments around the world.
In the U.S., for example, the Federal Communications Commission, which regulates the electronic media in the country, devised the fairness doctrine to keep electioneering on the airwaves equitable. The now defunct fairness doctrine placed a positive obligation on broadcasters who carry political content of one candidate on its programme to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a roadshow ahead of the Karnataka elections, in Bengaluru.

extend the same to another candidate in the electoral fray.
In the U.S., too, political parties are allocated designated slots by Parliament, called the party political broadcasts (PPBs) to convey important political information to the people. The British Communications watchdog, Ofcom, is responsible for ensuring that PPBs are included in every licensed public service television channel and commercial radio services. Similar requirements are adopted in Singapore, Brazil and Japan.
What is the working of the scheme?
In the Karnataka elections, the BJP received 167 minutes of broadcast time on both DD and Akashvani, while the Congress got 174 minutes and the JDS got 107 minutes. Time vouchers are distributed by a lottery system by the Election Commission in a transparent process to obviate any preferential treatment in getting primetime slots.
The transcripts of political parties are

vetted to ensure that they adhere to relevant codes. These codes proscriber any content which are inter-caste, inter-religious, inter-community or inter-regional. In other countries, attack religions or other communities or incites violence and personal attacks. In case of any disagreements over the content of the script as vetted by the public broadcaster, it is referred to an Apex Committee comprising members from Akashvani and DD whose decision is final.
In the Indian media landscape, due to the pattern of ownership of media houses, the public generally identify a broadcaster as being affiliated with one political party or the other. In this regard, State-sponsored airtime provides more diversity and colour to the electoral process.
For example, the NPP, which was a rank outsider in the Karnataka elections, was afforded the same base time of 45 minutes as the INC and the BJP. Since the content being aired had to adhere to specific codes, it upholds the principle of

fair play.
The guidelines by the Election Commission of India (ECI) also require that a maximum of two panel discussions are also aired by Akashvani and DD.
These discussions provide an excellent platform for parties, both big and small, to debate and criticise each other's policies and manifestos. They also promote an informed citizenry.

What are the operational challenges?
The fact that the scheme is available to national and recognised State parties may attract arguments that it is not truly equitable. In light of the recent restriction of the national party status for the National People's Coalition (NPC) and the Trinamool Congress (TMC), this observation becomes important.
However, the ECI is constrained by the considerations of practicality and the fact that airwaves are not an infinite resource.
The Apex Committee comprises officials from Akashvani and DD and are expected to sit in review of their own decision in case of conflict with the political party on the content of the transcript. This leaves scope for conflicts of interest and therefore, a more transparent committee may be constituted.

There are also calls for extending the provision to cover private broadcasters akin to the fairness doctrine of the U.S. A designated slot may be mandated for private channels to air content equitably and provide a platform for smaller parties and candidates. The political broadcast may be clearly differentiated from regular news broadcasts and programmes.

The 2024 General Elections will witness unprecedented levels of electioneering in the media. As spaces for sober, fair, considered and thoughtful debates shrink, it is imperative that airwaves are used to nourish and enrich the Indian democracy and set standards for other electoral democracies.
The authors are Indian Information Service officers. Views expressed are personal and not those of the government.

THE GIST

▼ In the recently concluded Karnataka Assembly elections, political parties were provided free airtime on public broadcasters. All India Radio (Akashvani) and Doordarshan during elections.

▼ Time vouchers are distributed by a lottery system by the Election Commission in a transparent process to obviate any preferential treatment in getting primetime slots.

▼ The transcripts of political parties are vetted to ensure that they adhere to relevant codes. These codes proscriber any content which are inter-caste, inter-religious or inter-community or incites violence and personal attacks.

What are RBI regulations on green deposits?

What does the framework say? Can green deposits help the environment in any way?

Prasanth Perumal

The story so far
Last month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) came up with a regulatory framework for banks to accept green deposits from customers. Under the new framework, banks that accept green deposits will have to disclose more information on how they invest these deposits.

What are green deposits?
Green deposits are not very different from the regular deposits that banks accept from their customers. The only major difference is that banks promise to earmark the money that they receive as green deposits towards environment-friendly projects. For example, a bank may advertise that green deposits will be used towards financing renewable energy projects that fight climate change. A bank may also avoid using green deposits to invest in fossil fuel

projects that are considered harmful to the climate. A green deposit is just one product in a wide array of other financial products such as green bonds, green shares, etc., that help investors put money into environmentally sustainable projects.
What does the RBI's regulatory framework say?
The RBI's framework for the acceptance of green deposits lays down certain conditions that banks must fulfill to accept green deposits from customers. Firstly, banks will have to come up with a set of rules or policies approved by their respective Boards that need to be followed while investing green deposits from customers.
These rules need to be made public on the bank's website and banks will also have to disclose regular information about the amount of green deposits received, how these deposits were allocated towards various green projects,

and the impact of such investments on the environment. A third-party will have to verify the claims made by banks regarding the projects in which the banks invest their green deposits as well as the sustainability credentials of these business projects.
The RBI has come up with a list of sectors that can be classified as sustainable and thus eligible to receive green deposits. These include renewable energy, waste management, clean transportation, energy efficiency, and hydro-power generation.
Banks will be barred from investing green deposits in business projects involving fossil fuels, nuclear power, tobacco, gambling, palm oil, and hydro-power generation.
The new rules are aimed at preventing greenwashing, which refers to making misleading claims about the positive environmental impact of an activity. For example, a bank may advertise that their green deposits will have a huge positive

impact on the environment, while the actual impact may be minimal. A bank could also invest in projects that are not environment-friendly, perhaps because such projects offer higher returns, under the guise of green investing.

Will green deposits help depositors/investors and the environment?
Depositors who care about the environment may get some satisfaction from investing their money in environmentally sustainable investment products. However, there are challenges, for the range of projects in which green funds can be invested by the bank is limited by design.

When it comes to protecting the environment, green investing enthusiasts believe that putting money into green projects may be one of the best ways to help the environment. Critics, however, argue that green investment products are often just a way to make investors feel good about themselves and that these investments don't really do much good to the environment.

Noted finance expert Aswath Damodaran, for instance, calls green investing "a feel-good scam" that enriches only consultants.
Second, in a complex world where any action involves second-order effects that are difficult to see, it can be extremely hard to know if a project is really environmentally sustainable.

THE GIST

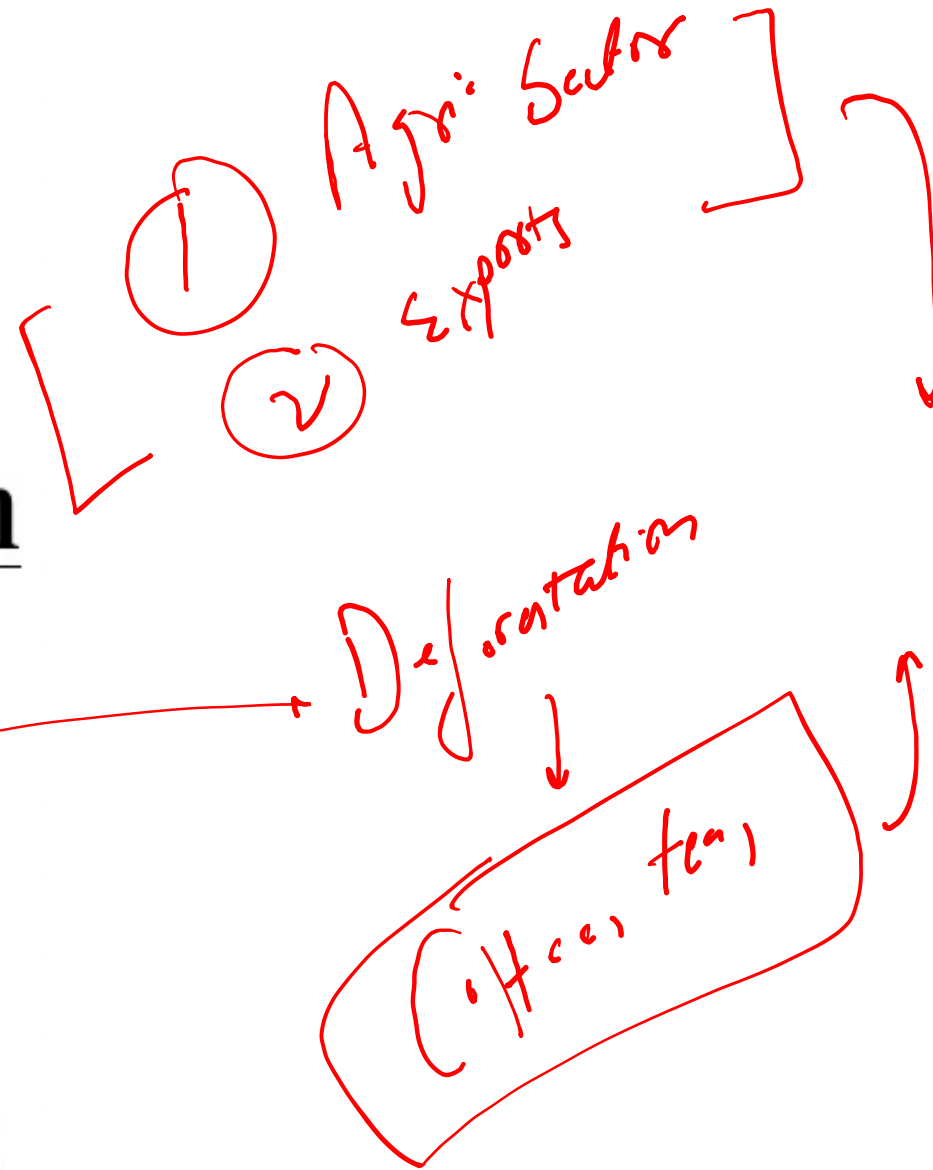
▼ Banks promise to earmark the money that they receive as green deposits towards environment-friendly projects.

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India's exports to the EU to be impacted by deforestation regulation

1.3 In \$ billion. Products such as coffee, leather hides and paperboard, annually exported to the EU will get impacted due to the European Union Deforestation-Free Products Regulation adopted this week, which prioritises protecting its agricultural sector and promoting exports. PTI



'Operation Dhvast': three held after NIA holds raids in States

Devesh K Pandey
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested three persons in connection with the raids conducted on Wednesday as part of a nationwide drive codenamed 'Operation Dhvast', in terrorist-gangster-drug smugglers network cases.

In a coordinated crackdown with the police in Punjab and Haryana, the NIA raided 129 of the total 324 locations.

Following the searches in the two States, besides Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chandigarh and Madhya Pradesh, the agency has taken into custody Parveen Wadhwa from Bhiwani (Haryana), Irfan from New Seelampur (Delhi) and Jassa Singh from Moga (Punjab).

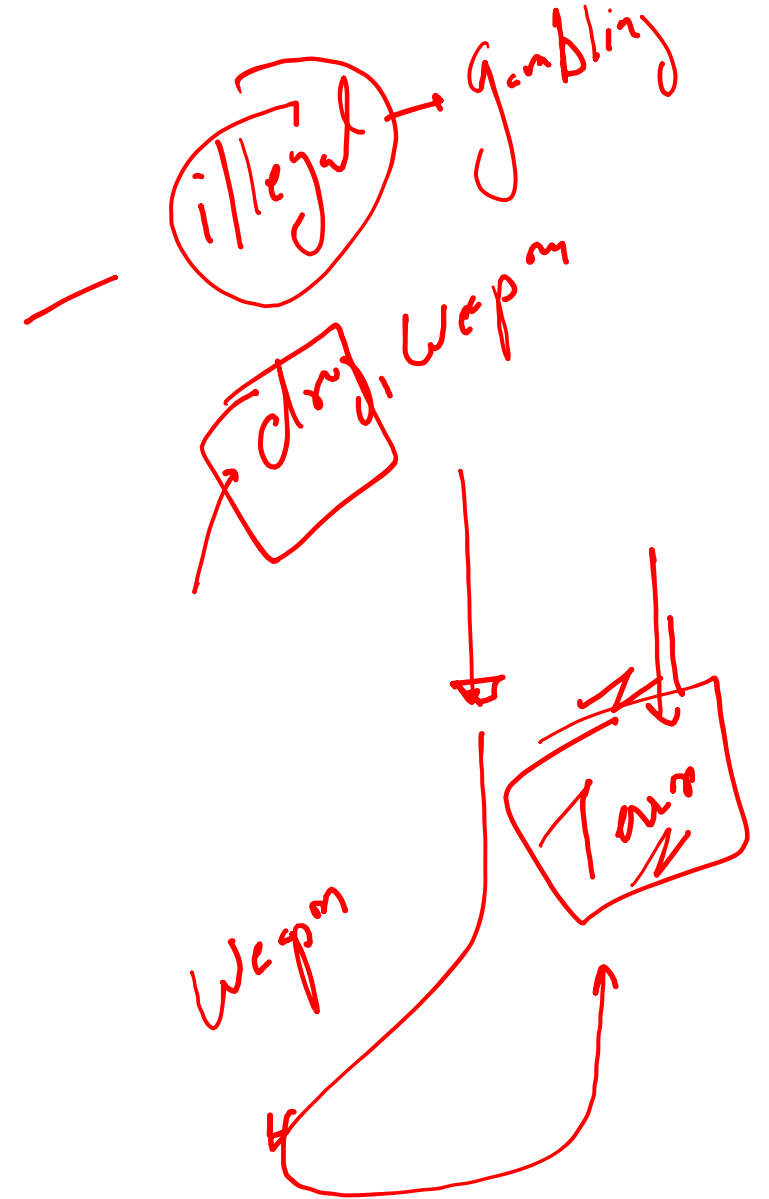
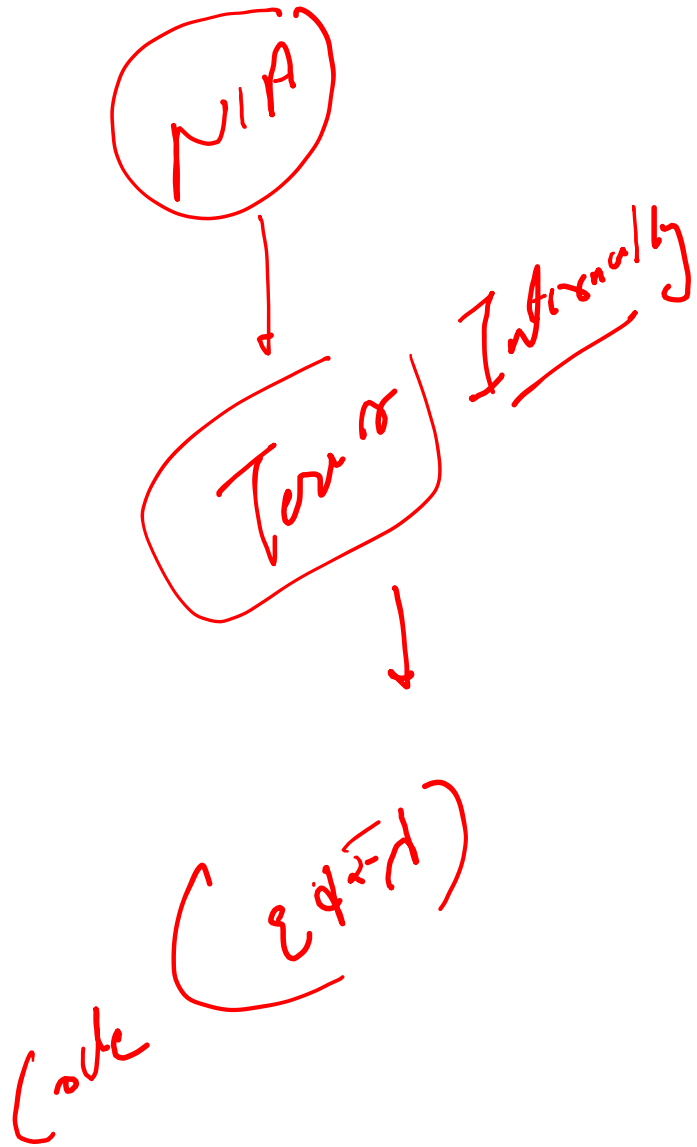
"Parveen Wadhwa was found liaising with certain notorious gangsters, including Lawrence Bishnoi, in jail. The NIA seized weapons from the house of Ir-



NIA team arrives to conduct raid at a location at Moga in Punjab on Thursday. ANI

fan, who is also associated with such gangsters. Jassa Singh was working at the behest of Canada-based 'listed terrorist' Arsh Dhal-la," said an agency official.

According to the NIA, Parveen Wadhwa was in regular touch with Lawrence Bishnoi and his gang members named Deepak aka Tinu and Sampat Nehra, along with other associates. "He was working as their special messenger from inside jails," said the agency. The latest searches were part of the continuing NIA action against terror networks as well as their funding and support infrastructure.



Agency overview

Formed	2009 ^[1]
Employees	649 ^[2]
Annual budget	₹182 crore (US\$23 million (2021–22 est.) ^[3])

Jurisdictional structure

Federal agency [India](#)
(Operations jurisdiction)

Operations jurisdiction [India](#)

Legal jurisdiction [India](#)

Governing body [Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India](#)

General nature [Federal law enforcement](#)

Operational structure

Headquarters ~~CGO Complex~~
[New Delhi, India](#)

 [28.5884°N 77.2329°E](#)

Elected officer responsible [Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs](#)

Agency executive [Dinkar Gupta, IPS, Director General](#)

• 2020 → 2023

• 4 storey
• ₹70 cr
• HCP design
• Tata projects

Modi to inaugurate new Parliament building on May 28

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the much-awaited new Parliament building on May 28.

The four-storey building has been built at an estimated cost of ₹970 crore. The building has been designed by the Ahmedabad-based HCP Design, Planning and Management and constructed by Tata Projects Ltd.

Seating capacity

The new building can seat 888 members in the Lok Sabha chambers against the 543 seats in the old building and can accommodate 300 members in the Rajya Sabha compared to the 250 earlier.

Since the new building does not have a central hall, joint sittings of members of both Houses would be held in the Lok Sabha which would be able to accommodate 1,280 MPs.

Notably, the new Parliament is being inaugurated two days after the Modi go-

The four-storey building has been built at an estimated cost of ₹970 crore by Tata Projects Ltd

vernment completes nine years in power.

“Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday and invited him to inaugurate the New Parliament Building. Construction of the new Parliament building is complete now and the new building symbolises the spirit of self,” the Lok Sabha Secretariat said in an official statement.

This in effect means that the Monsoon Session of Parliament would be held in the new building.

The old Parliament building was completed in 1927, which makes it almost 100 years old.

Lack of space and the need to modernise were some of the reasons for constructing a new Parliament.

• L.S = 888 L.S

• R.S = 300

• 1280 MP

• 1927

New seat of power

A look at some of the features of the proposed four-storey Parliament building

Shape: Triangular

Total area
64,500
square metres

Main spaces
Lok Sabha,
Rajya Sabha and
Central Lounge

THEME OF INTERIORS

Lok Sabha
Peacock
(National bird)

Rajya Sabha
Lotus
(National flower)

Central Lounge
Banyan
(National tree)



■ The National Emblem will crown the new Parliament building

CAPACITY



Lok Sabha
888
seats (current chamber can accommodate 552 people)



Rajya Sabha
384 seats

■ The Lok Sabha Hall will also have additional capacity, up to **1,272 seats**, to host joint sessions

NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING



Gearing up: Construction workers walking past a hoarding featuring the new Parliament building. ■ REUTERS

■ Construction was scheduled to start in December, but the works have been stopped till the Supreme Court disposes of challenges to the project

Estimated cost
₹971
crore

Contractor
Tata Projects Ltd.

Architect
HCP Design, Planning and Management

Completion deadline: October 2022, in time for the winter session of Parliament in the 75th year of Independence

34 years



THE NEW TEMPLE OF DEMOCRACY

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has sought environment clearance for the construction of the new Parliament House building



PARLIAMENT HOUSE AREA

2 plots

10.75 acres
area of existing Parliament House

9.5 acres
of the proposed building (land use yet to be changed)

STATUS OF GREEN COVER

326 no. of trees on the new plot

250 no. of trees in the existing building

250 no. of trees proposed to be planted

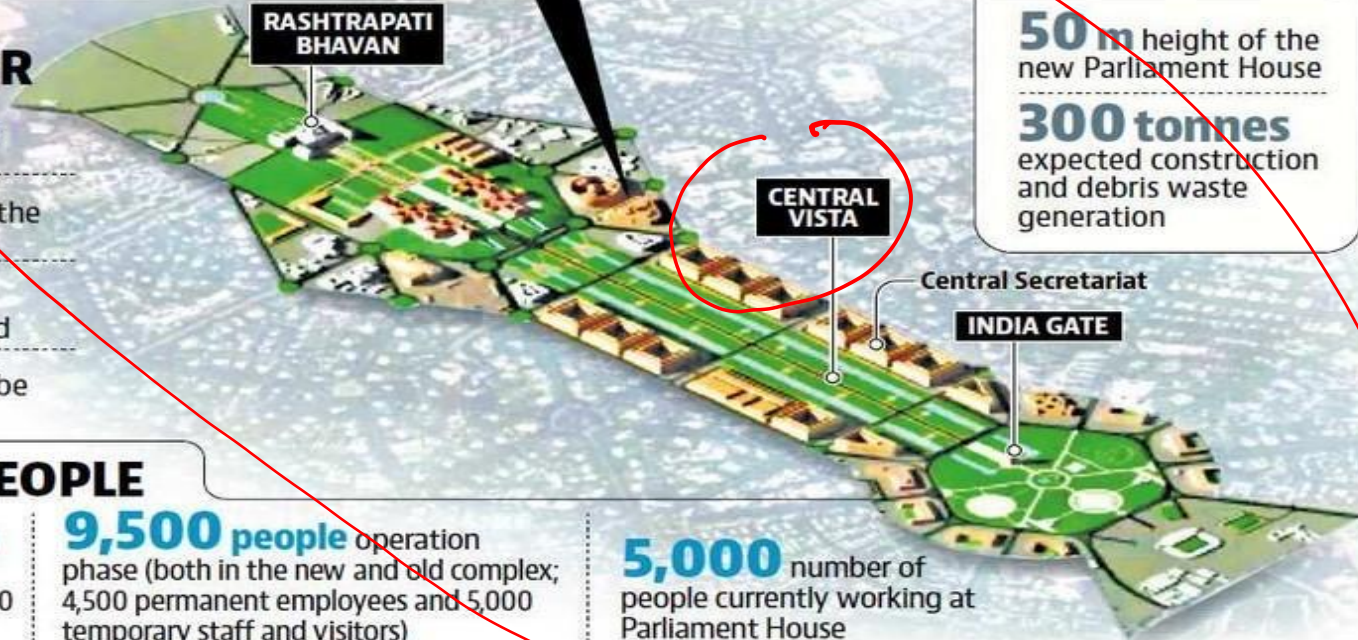
194 no. of trees to be felled/transplanted

INFLUX OF PEOPLE

3,200 workers
construction phase
(200 permanent and 3,000 temporary staff)

9,500 people operation phase (both in the new and old complex; 4,500 permanent employees and 5,000 temporary staff and visitors)

5,000 number of people currently working at Parliament House



50m height of the new Parliament House

300 tonnes expected construction and debris waste generation

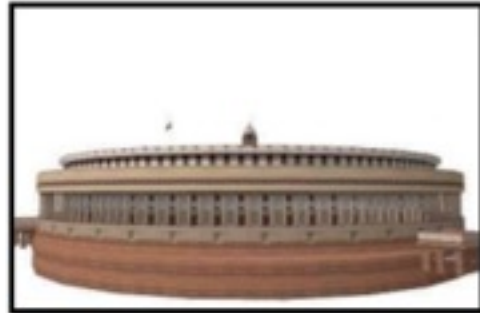
PM

VIP

office

The Parliament House

- The Parliament House was designed by **Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker**.
- It was built with **indigenous materials and by Indian labour** and the architecture of the building bears a close imprint of the Indian tradition.
- The **layout of fountains** both inside and outside the building, the use of **Indian symbols**, the "**Chhajjas**" and the varied forms of "**Jali**" in marble are reminders of the story of the craftsmanship displayed in ancient monuments and memorials.



COMMON FEATURES

THICK BAND



JALIS

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/The-Budget-s-journey-through-Parliament/Article1-1056413.aspx>

BUDDHIST DOME

THICK BAND

JALIS



<http://monuments-in-india.blogspot.in/2009/12/rashtrapati-bhavan.html>

BUDDHIST
DOME
THICK
BAND

JALIS



WHAT IS CENTRAL VISTA PROJECT

TOI

A plan to redevelop
the 3-km long stretch
from Rashtrapati
Bhavan to India Gate

INCLUDES

- New Parliament building
- Common Central secretariat
- New residences for PM and Vice President
- New building for PMO

Raksha
Bhavan

India
Gate

National War
Memorial

Estimated
cost

₹20,000cr

Montana to become the first American state to ban TikTok

DAVID SHEPARDSON

WASHINGTON, MAY 18

MONTANA GOVERNOR Greg Gianforte on Wednesday signed legislation to ban Chinese-owned TikTok from operating in the state to protect residents from alleged intelligence gathering by China, making it the first US state to ban the popular short video app.

Montana will make it unlawful for Google and Apple's app stores to offer TikTok within the state, but will not impose any penalties on individuals using the app. The ban is to take effect January 1, 2024, and is almost certain to face legal challenges.

TikTok, owned by Chinese tech company ByteDance, did

not respond to a *Reuters* question asking if it planned legal action.

Montana, which has a population of just over 1 million people, said TikTok could face fines for each violation and additional fines of \$10,000/day if it violates ban.

The short video app can be downloaded in app stores on Apple Inc and Google devices. Apple and Google, a unit of Alphabet Inc, could also face fines of \$10,000 per violation, per day if they violate the ban.

Apple and Google did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The American Civil Liberties Union slammed the law as "unconstitutional" and noted that it will go into effect on January 1 if the courts do not act. **REUTERS**

Handwritten notes in red ink:

- 2nd Use → Social Media
- 30-1 hr
- Social work
- Journal Connect
- 1 hr
- LA
- on short

Japan

ब्रिटिश प्रधानमंत्री सुनक ने किया 'ऐतिहासिक' हिरोशिमा समझौता



लंदन, 18 मई (भाषा)।

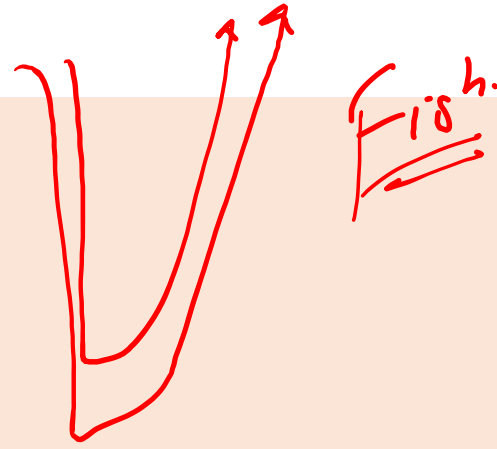
ब्रिटिश प्रधानमंत्री ऋषि सुनक और उनकी पत्नी अक्षता मूर्ति जी7 शिखर सम्मेलन के लिए गुरुवार को जापान पहुंचे जहां उन्होंने ब्रिटेन-जापान आर्थिक, सुरक्षा और प्रौद्योगिकी सहयोग के लिए एक नया 'हिरोशिमा समझौता' किया।

ब्रिटेन-जापान वैश्विक रणनीतिक साझेदारी को इस क्षेत्र में चीनी प्रभुत्व के प्रति संतुलन के रूप में देखा जा रहा है और इसके तहत प्रमुख क्षेत्र में आपूर्ति श्रृंखला लचीलेपन को मजबूत करने के लिए 'महत्वाकांक्षी' अनुसंधान एवं विकास सहयोग और कौशल विनिमय को आगे बढ़ाने के वास्ते एक सेमीकंडक्टर साझेदारी भी शामिल है। ब्रिटेन ने यह भी पुष्टि की कि उसका कैरियर स्ट्राइक ग्रुप (सीएसजी) युद्धपोत 2021 में भारत सहित हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र की पहली यात्रा के बाद 2025 में इस

क्षेत्र में वापस आ जाएगा। सुनक द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के दौरान परमाणु बम हमले के गवाह बने हिरोशिमा का दौरा करने वाले पहले ब्रिटिश प्रधानमंत्री बन गए हैं। ब्रिटिश-भारतीय नेता ने कहा कि जापान के साथ ब्रिटेन के रिश्तों के इस ऐतिहासिक पल में तोक्यो और हिरोशिमा का दौरा करना एक विशेषाधिकार है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री (फुमियो) किशिदा और मैं हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में शांति व सुरक्षा बरकरार रखने और मुक्त और निष्पक्ष व्यापार सहित हमारे मूल्यों की रक्षा करने के महत्व पर निकटता से जुड़े हुए हैं। हिरोशिमा समझौते से हम अपने सशस्त्र बलों के बीच सहयोग बढ़ा पाएंगे, हमारी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं का एक साथ विकास होगा और हमारी विश्व-अग्रणी विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी विशेषज्ञता विकसित होगी। यह ब्रिटेन और जापान की फूलती-फलती साझेदारी में एक रोमांचक अगले चरण का प्रतीक है।



India's Fisheries Sector
Sagar Parikrama Initiative



- **Sagar Parikrama**' program envisages to cover the maritime States/UTs in a phased manner. **The journey began on March 5th, 2022,** from **Mandvi, Gujarat.**
- The journey focuses on bridging the gaps in the expectations of fisher communities, developing **fishing villages**, and **upgrading infrastructure** such as **fishing harbors** and fish landing centers.

-



Phases of Sagar Parikrama:Phase I: The journey covered three locations in **Gujarat - Mandavi, Okha-Dwarka, and Porbandar.**



Phase II: Seven locations were covered in **Mangrol, Veraval, Diu, Jafrabad, Surat, Daman, and Valsad.**



Phase III: Coastal areas of northern **Maharashtra, including Satpati, Vasai, Versova, New Ferry Wharf (Bhaucha Dhakka), and Sasson Dock in Mumbai,** were part of this phase.



Phase IV: Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts in Karnataka were covered during this phase.



Upcoming Phase V: Phase V of Sagar Parikrama will cover six locations: Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg Districts in Maharashtra, and Vasco, Maorugoa, and Canacona in Goa.



Maharashtra, with its extensive coastline of **720 km**, has immense **untapped potential in the fisheries sector**.

The state ranks **7th** in fish production in the **country**, with marine fisheries contributing **82%** and inland fisheries **18%**.

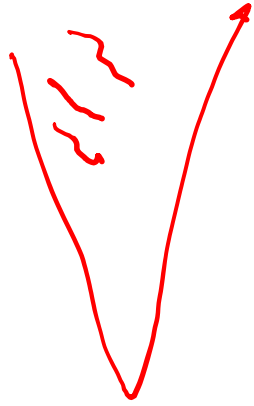
Goa, with a coastline of **104 km**, also plays a vital role in the **marine fishery sector**, providing livelihoods to many.



- What is the Status of the Fisheries Sector in India?

- **About:**

- As the **third-largest fish producer** and the **second-largest aquaculture producer** globally, India recognizes the significance of the fisheries and aquaculture industry.
- The **Indian Blue Revolution** has led to a major improvement in the fishing and aquaculture industries. The industries are regarded as **sunrise sectors** and are anticipated to have a big impact on the Indian economy.



- In the recent past, Indian fisheries has witnessed a paradigm shift **from marine dominated fisheries to inland fisheries**, with the latter emerging as a major contributor of fish production from **36% in the mid-1980 to 70% in the recent past**.
- The fish production reached an **all-time high of 16.25 MMT during FY 2021-22** with [marine exports](#) touching Rs. 57,586 Crores.



- **Top Producing States:**

- Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of fish in India followed by West Bengal.

- **Current Challenges:**

- ~~Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing~~

- ~~Inadequate Infrastructure and Technology:~~

- ~~Climate Change and Environmental Degradation~~

• Initiatives related to Fisheries Sector:

- Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana
- Palk Bay Scheme
- Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)

Insurance (2015)

///



National Workshop on Empowering PwD in Education

↓
Disability

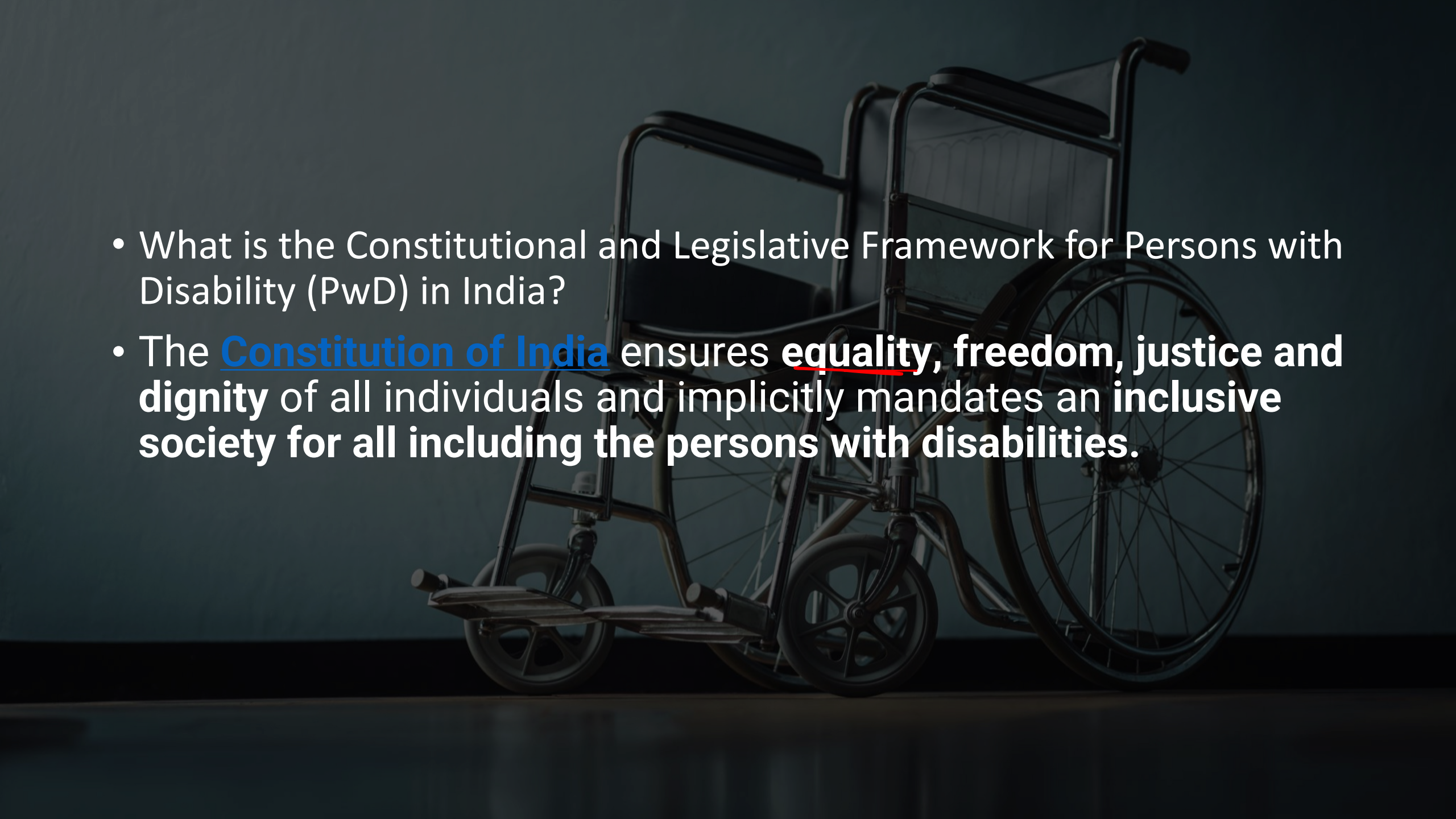
The National Workshop on "**Capacity building of training institutes and HRD in the disability field in the context of National Education Policy (NEP): 2020**" was recently inaugurated in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

Organized by the **Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)**, the workshop aimed to empower individuals with disabilities and implement the goals of the **NEP 2020**.

- Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD) on May 18th, 2023.
- GAAD is an annual event celebrated on the third Thursday of May, dedicated to promoting awareness and understanding of digital accessibility for individuals with disabilities

old eye
Accessibility
page

Acum

- 
- A row of three metal wheelchairs is shown against a dark, gradient background. The wheelchairs are arranged in a line, receding into the distance. The lighting is soft, highlighting the metallic frames and the spoked wheels. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.
- What is the Constitutional and Legislative Framework for Persons with Disability (PwD) in India?
 - The [Constitution of India](#) ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all including the persons with disabilities.

-
- Article 41 of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) states that the State shall make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and **disablement**, within the limits of its economic capacity and development.

-
- The main legislation on disability rights is the [Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.](#)

- The Act covers a **wide range of specified disabilities** and provides additional benefits for persons with **benchmark disabilities and those with high support needs.**

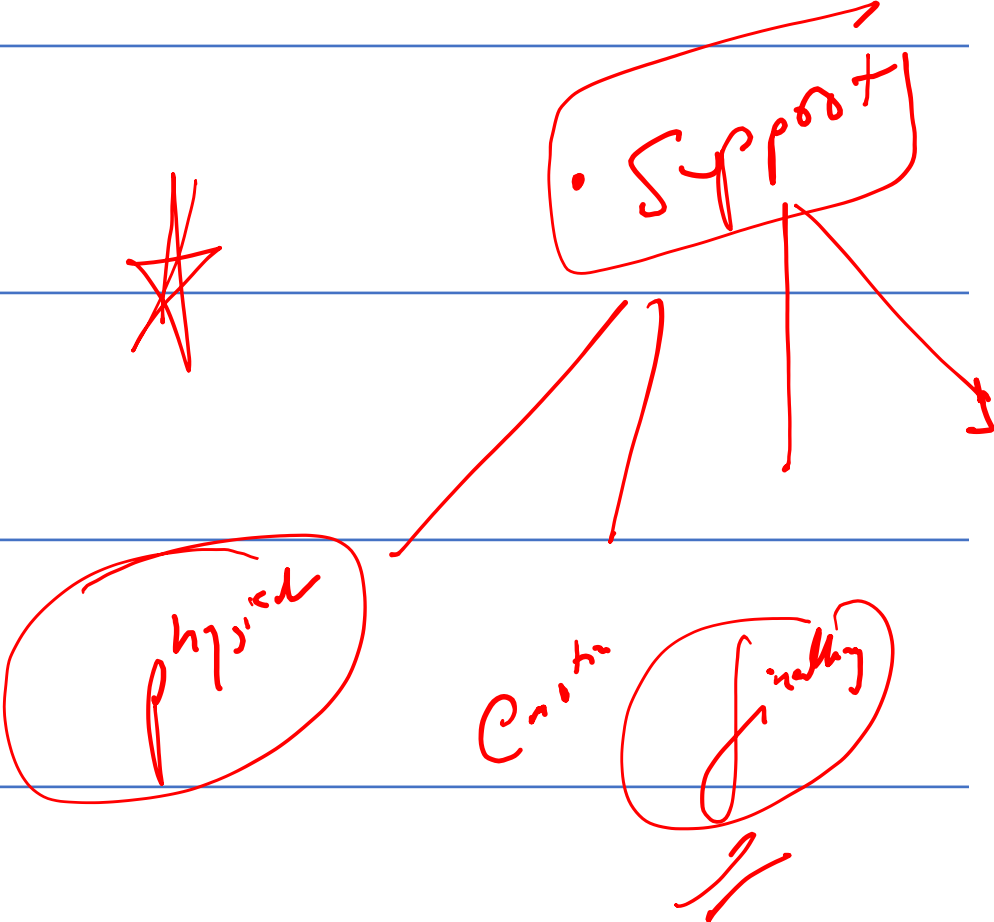
What are the Issues Associated with Person with Disability in India?

Accessibility Concern:

Lack of Access to Education

Lack of Proper Healthcare



Social Stigma and Discrimination

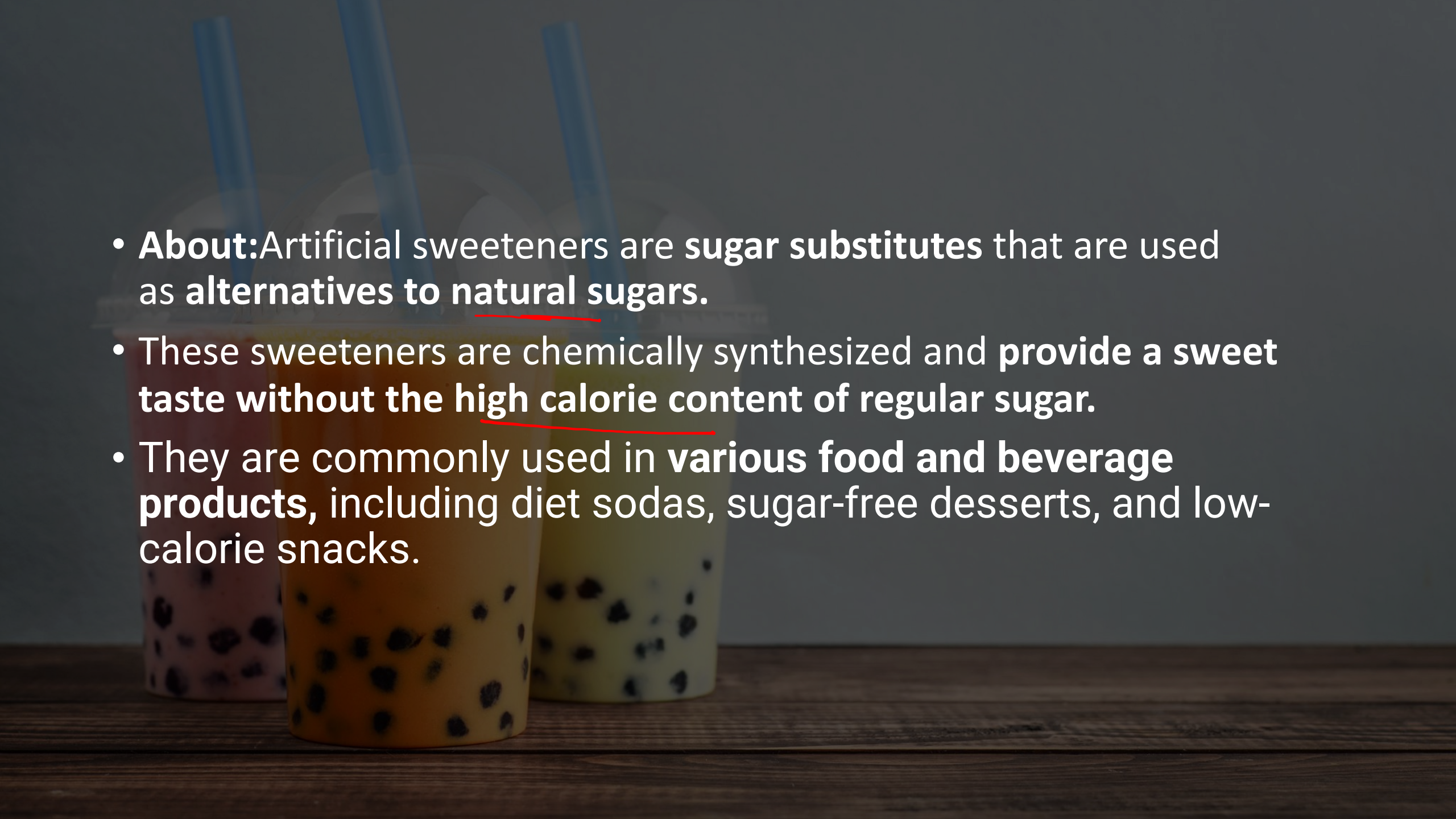


What are the Recent Initiatives to Empowerment of PwD?

Artificial Sweeteners

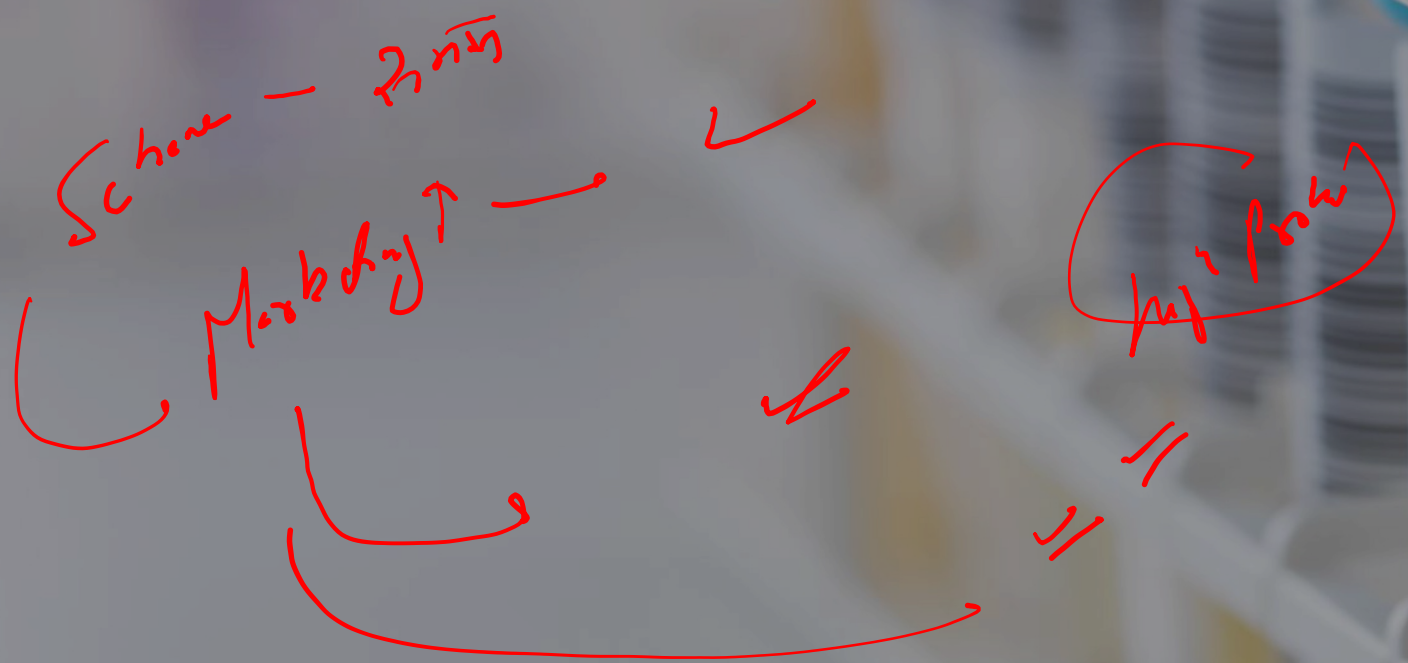


- 
- Artificial sweeteners have gained popularity among calorie-conscious individuals seeking **low-calorie options**. However, recent studies have raised **concerns about their long-term effectiveness for weight loss** and **potential health risks**.
 - The [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) has released recommendations against the use of artificial sweeteners for **weight control and prevention of lifestyle diseases**.
- 

- 
- **About:** Artificial sweeteners are **sugar substitutes** that are used as **alternatives to natural sugars**.
 - These sweeteners are chemically synthesized and **provide a sweet taste without the high calorie content of regular sugar**.
 - They are commonly used in **various food and beverage products**, including diet sodas, sugar-free desserts, and low-calorie snacks.

- **Benefits:**

- Artificial sweeteners offer benefits for weight management, diabetes control, tooth decay prevention, and provide safe options for individuals with phenylketonuria (PKU), a genetic disorder, due to their low or zero-calorie content, minimal impact on blood sugar levels, non-fermentable nature, and absence of phenylalanine.





- **Negative Impacts: Controversial Health Effects:**

- Some studies suggest potential negative health effects of artificial sweeteners, such as an **increased risk of metabolic disorders, and disrupted gut microbiota**. However, scientific evidence remains **inconclusive**.

- **Digestive Issues:**



2023 SAFF Championship

South Asia

- The **2023 SAFF Championship** is a biennial international men's football tournament for South Asian countries, organized by the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF).
- The **14th edition** of the tournament will be hosted by India in **Bengaluru** from June 21 to July 3, 2023.
- **India** is the defending champion, having won its **eighth title in 2021** by defeating Nepal in the final.
- The tournament will feature **eight teams**, including two guest teams from outside the region: Kuwait and Lebanon.

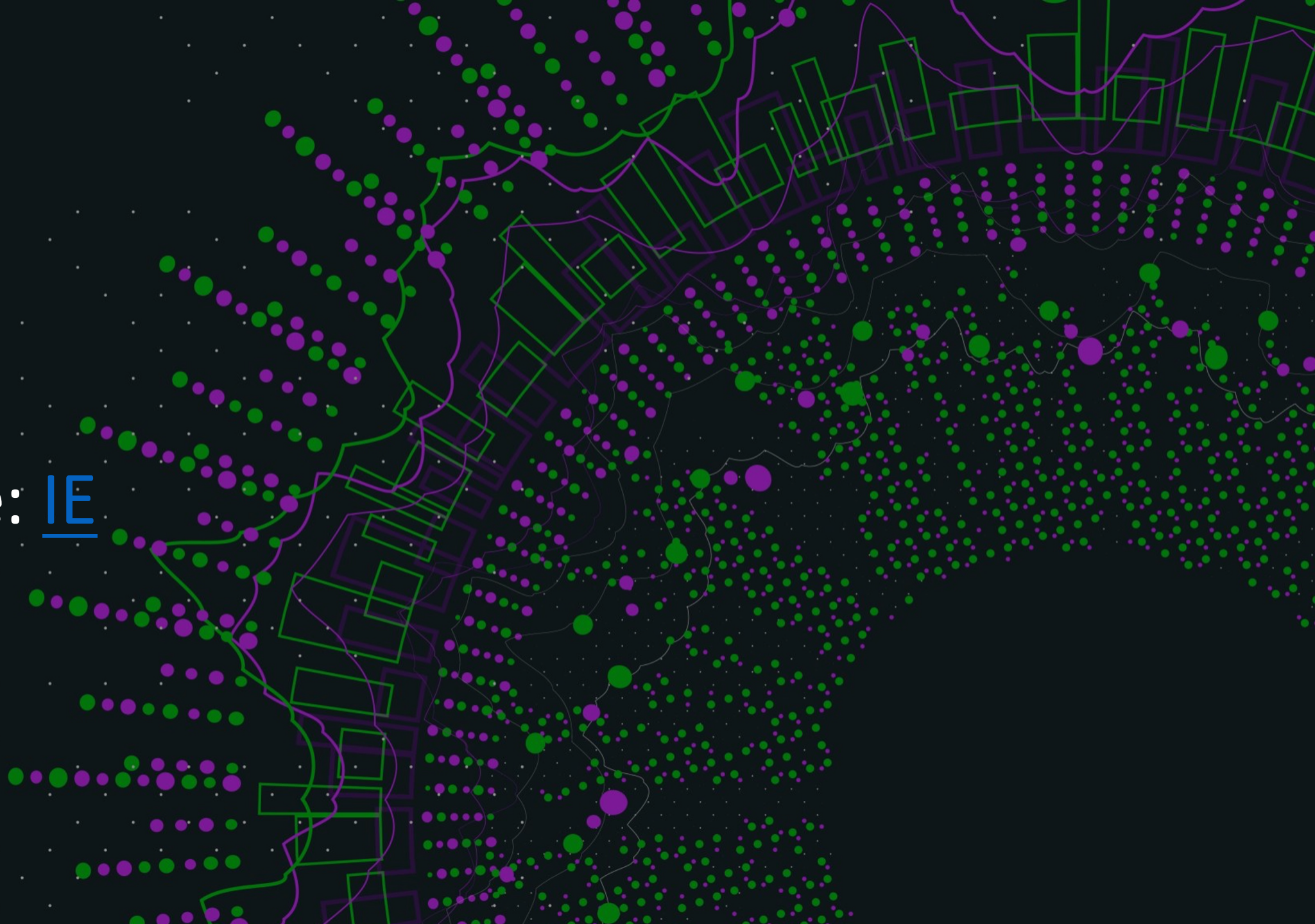
SAFF

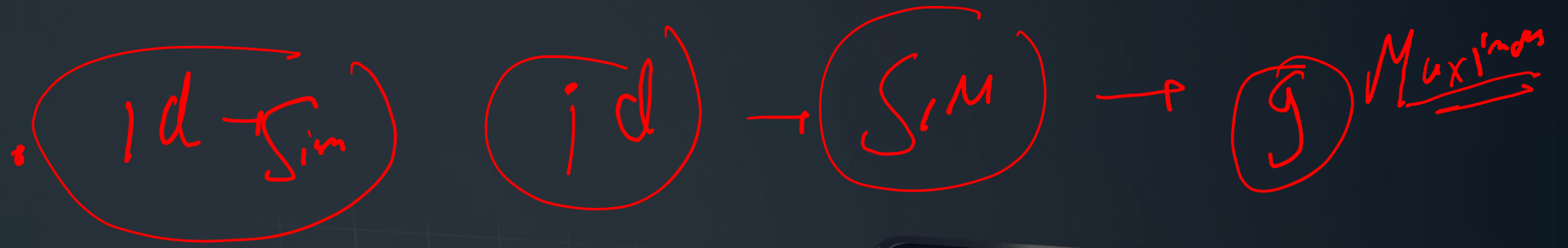
Sri Lanka was unable to participate due to its suspension by **FIFA** (**Fédération internationale de Football Association**), while Afghanistan withdrew from SAFF and joined the Central Asian Football Federation.

SAFF was formed in 1997 by founding Member Associations from Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

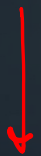
ASTR

Source: IE

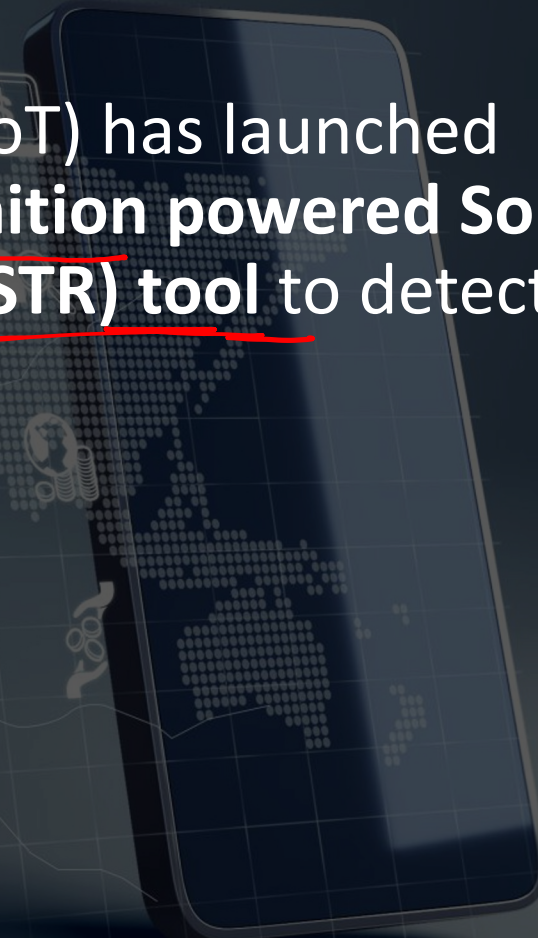




- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched the Artificial Intelligence and Facial Recognition powered Solution for Telecom SIM Subscriber Verification (ASTR) tool to detect and block fraudulent mobile connections.



ASTR



Purpose	To detect and block <u>fraudulent mobile connections</u>
Origin	In 2012, the DoT ordered telecom operators to share their subscriber database, including user pictures . These images form the basis for the facial recognition algorithm used in ASTR. The ASTR project was developed by the DoT's unit in Haryana between April 2021 and July 2021 .
Technology Used	Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Facial Recognition

Connection Limit

Currently, a **maximum of nine** **mobile connections** can be taken using a **single identity proof**

Action Taken

The list of fraudulent connections will be shared with telecom operators, banks, payment wallets, and social media platforms

Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary

Source: [aninews](#)



- 
- A tiger is the central focus of the image, partially obscured by tall green grass. The tiger's face and upper body are visible, showing its characteristic orange and black stripes. The background is a dense field of green grass, creating a natural, wild setting. The overall lighting is somewhat dim, giving the image a moody, naturalistic feel.
- Assam government is currently taking measures to open the traditional path for wild animals from **Kaziranga to Orang National Park via the Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary.**

Bura Chapori Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area in Assam, on the south bank of the Brahmaputra River in Sonitpur district.

Ecological Significance

It forms an integral part of the Laokhowa-Burachapori ecosystem and is a notified buffer of the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.

Wildlife

Considered an ideal habitat for the **Bengal Florican**

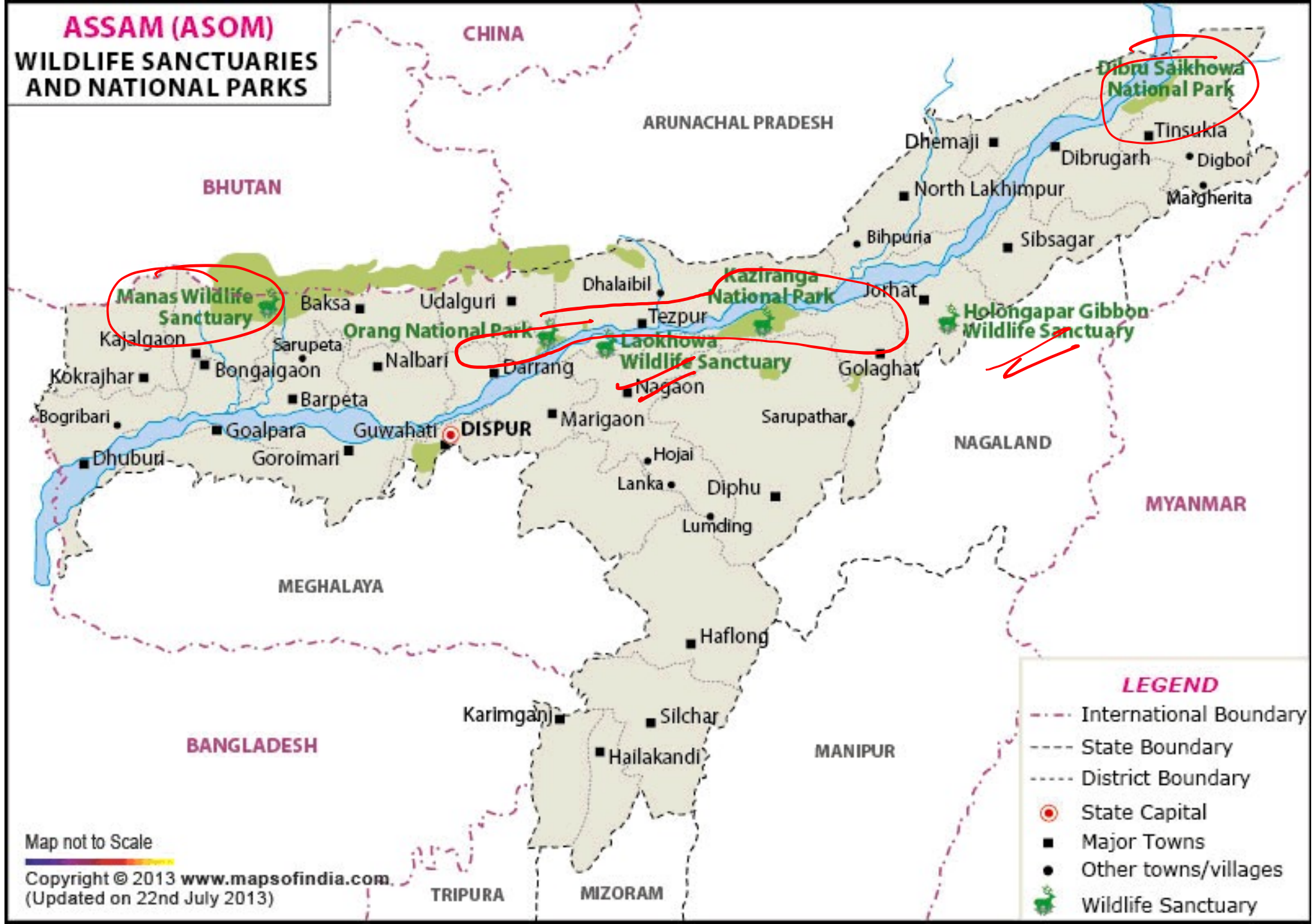
Official Recognition

Declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1995

Threats

The sanctuary is facing illegal land encroachment. Approximately 16,000 bighas of land recovered from illegal encroachers

ASSAM (ASOM)
WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES
AND NATIONAL PARKS



LEGEND

- - - International Boundary
- - - State Boundary
- - - District Boundary
- State Capital
- Major Towns
- Other towns/villages
- 🌿 Wildlife Sanctuary

Map not to Scale
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 (Updated on 22nd July 2013)

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• Under the Kisan Credit Card scheme, short-term credit support is given to farmers for which of the following purposes? (2020)

1. Working capital for maintenance of farm assets

2. Purchase of combine harvesters, tractors and mini trucks

3. Consumption requirements of farm households

4. Post-harvest expenses

5. Construction of family house and setting up of village cold storage facility

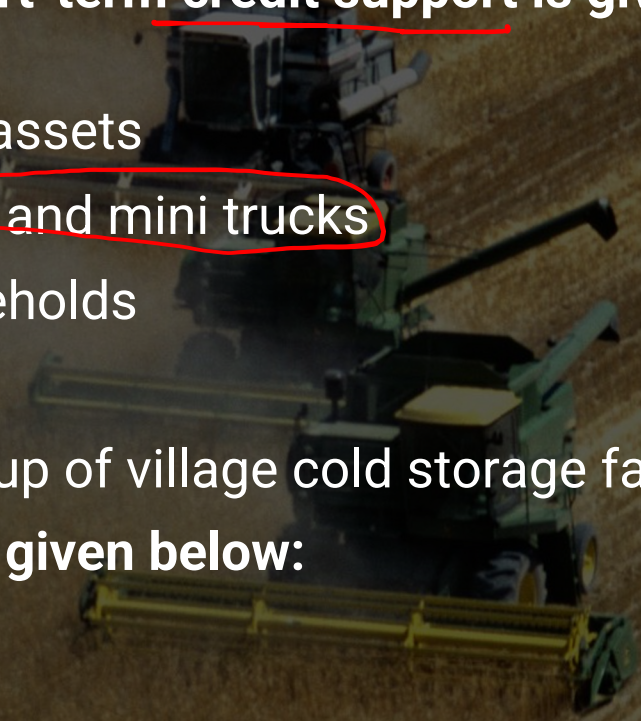
• **Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

• (a) 1, 2 and 5 only

(b) 1, 3 and 4 only

(c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5



• **India is home to lakhs of persons with disabilities. What are the benefits available to them under the law? (2011)**

~~1.~~ Free schooling till the age of 18 years in government run schools.

~~2.~~ Preferential allotment of land for setting up business.

~~3.~~ Ramps in public buildings.

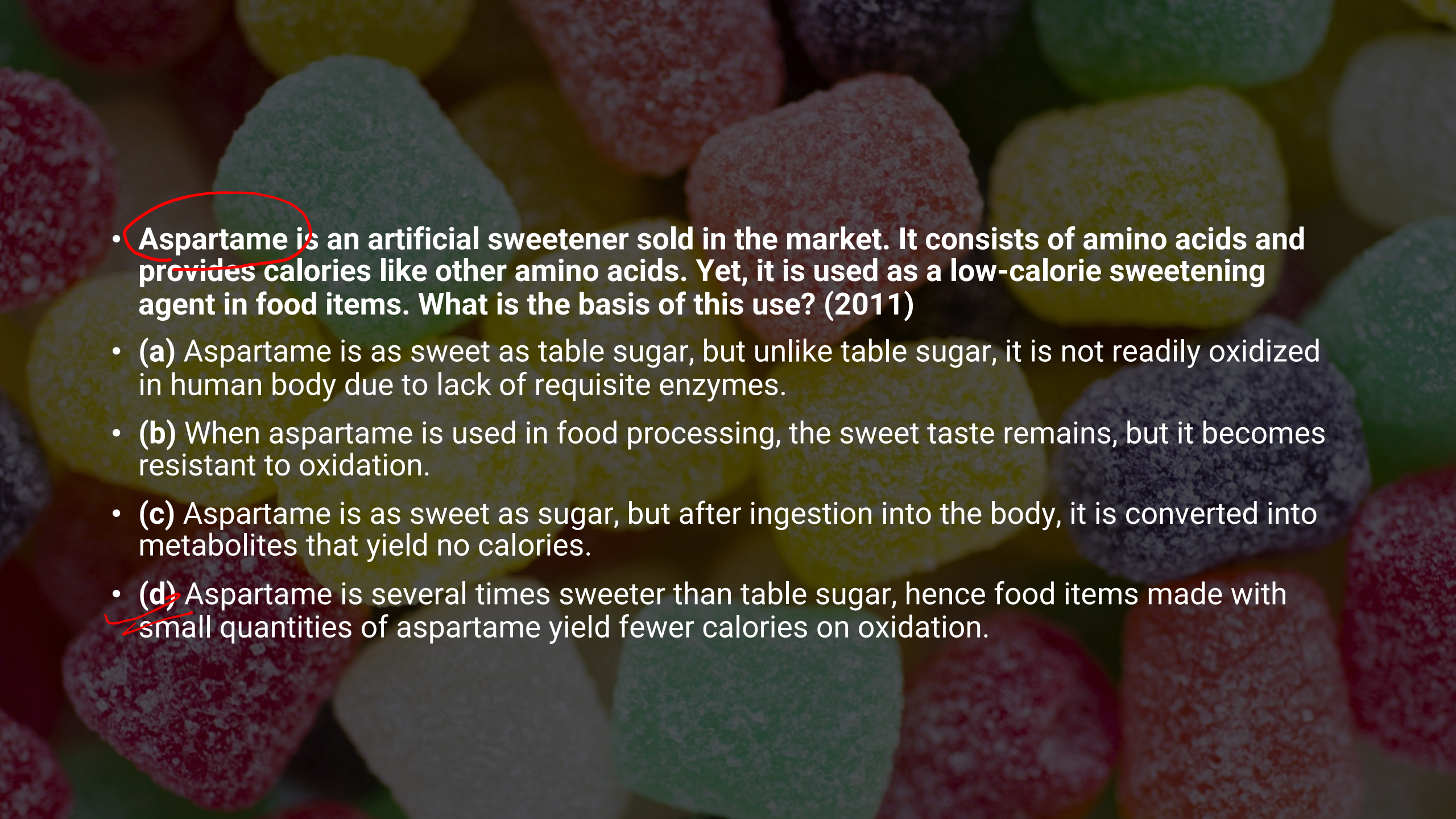
• **Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

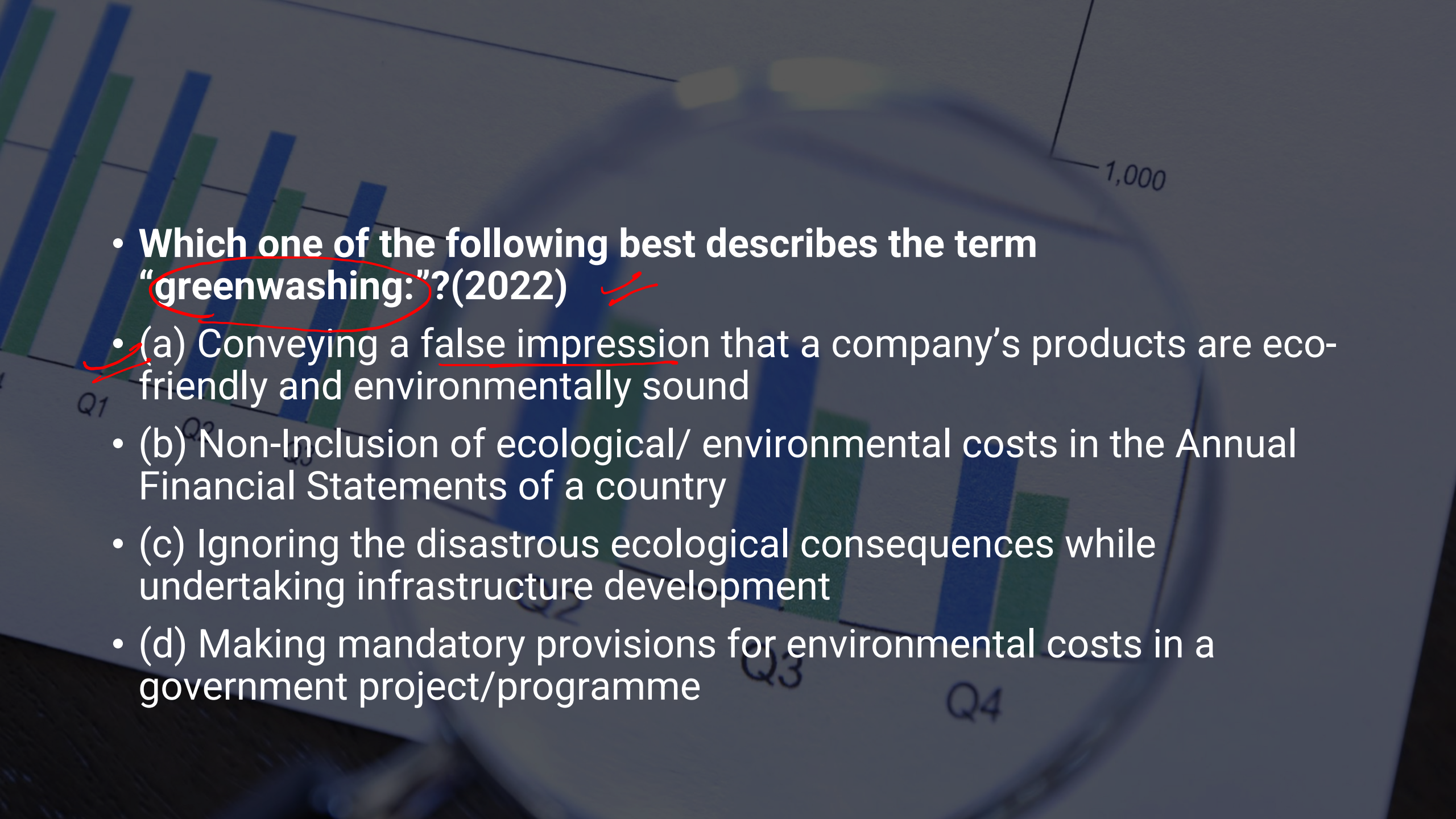
• (a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only


~~(d)~~ 1, 2 and 3

- 
- **Aspartame** is an artificial sweetener sold in the market. It consists of amino acids and provides calories like other amino acids. Yet, it is used as a low-calorie sweetening agent in food items. What is the basis of this use? (2011)
 - (a) Aspartame is as sweet as table sugar, but unlike table sugar, it is not readily oxidized in human body due to lack of requisite enzymes.
 - (b) When aspartame is used in food processing, the sweet taste remains, but it becomes resistant to oxidation.
 - (c) Aspartame is as sweet as sugar, but after ingestion into the body, it is converted into metabolites that yield no calories.
 - (d) Aspartame is several times sweeter than table sugar, hence food items made with small quantities of aspartame yield fewer calories on oxidation.



• Which one of the following best describes the term “greenwashing:”? (2022) ✓✓

- (a) Conveying a false impression that a company's products are eco-friendly and environmentally sound ✓
- (b) Non-Inclusion of ecological/ environmental costs in the Annual Financial Statements of a country
- (c) Ignoring the disastrous ecological consequences while undertaking infrastructure development
- (d) Making mandatory provisions for environmental costs in a government project/programme



Monday

Thank you
guys, see you
tomorrow
