

Daily Current Affairs



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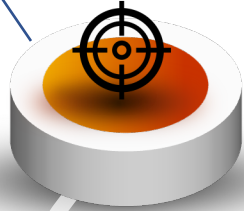


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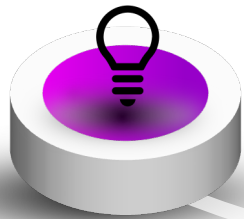


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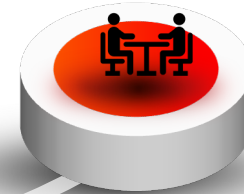


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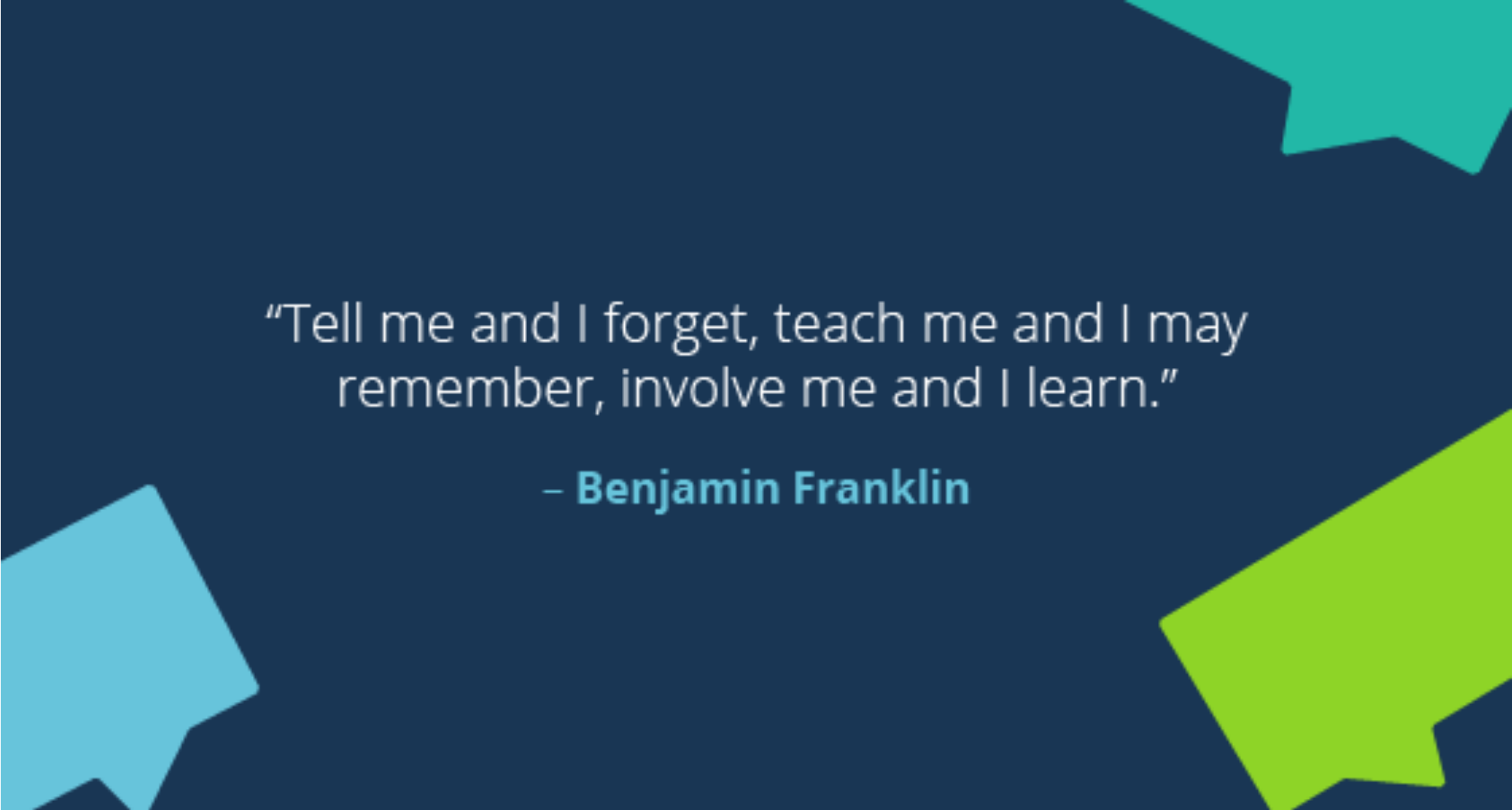


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"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

– **Benjamin Franklin**

IN BRIEF

Abhishek appears before CBI in W.B. school job scam

KOLKATA
TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee on Saturday appeared before the CBI in connection with the West Bengal school job scam and was questioned for nine hours at its office. **> PAGE 9**

1984 riots case: chargesheet filed against Tytler

NEW DELHI
The CBI on Saturday filed a chargesheet against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler in a case related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots in Delhi. **> PAGE 3**

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PHYSICS
08th-June-2023
ONLINE TEST

Kerala curios to take on Chinese souvenirs

As part of the Kerala Souvenir Network project, branded artefacts will be made available in tourist destinations and Responsible Tourism portal

Aabha Raveendran
KOZHIKODE

An artisan of talent from Wayanad, Bipu Babu weaves magic in bamboo, crafting artefacts that reflect the beauty of Kerala. Handicrafting craftsmanship is being eclipsed by an avalanche of inexpensive Chinese imitations flooding the local market.

"I am disheartened. It is curbing a shadow over my creative endeavours and spirit," Mr Babu says.

Across the nation, it has become increasingly commonplace to find trinkets and mementos bearing the emblem of Kerala. Yet these "souless" souvenirs churned out in far-flung factories in China or north India offer no true link to Kerala's vibrant culture. "On closer inspection, we find that they are neither made in Kerala nor hand-made. You need not be surprised to find a 'Made in China' inscription on it," says Jiji Elizabeth, an artisan from Kozhikode.

For artisans like Mr Babu and Ms Elizabeth, however, a flicker of optimism is emerging, courtesy an intervention of the Kerala government. The Kerala Souvenir Network, launched by Tourism Minister



Safety nets: The Souvenir Network aims to give a leg-up to Kerala handicrafts. **K.J. MUSTAFAH**

P.A. Mohamed Riyas on Thursday, is perceived to be a solution to the situation.

"The products of this network will be branded under Kerala Tourism and will be made available exclusively at premium government authorised outlets at resorts and tourist destinations across the State besides on the Responsible Tourism portal," says K. Roopesh Kumar, State coordinator of the Responsible Tourism Mission, the nodal agency for implementing the souvenir network.

CONTINUED ON > PAGE 8

No expulsions in Rajasthan Congress, says Randhawa

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Congress's Rajasthan in-charge Subhinder Singh Randhawa on Saturday ruled out expulsions in the State unit in the wake of Sachin Pilot's ultimatum to the Ashok Gehlot government. The former Deputy CM had demanded a probe into alleged instances of corruption by the previous BJP regime by May-end.

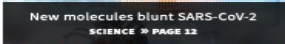
Mr. Randhawa denied that the party's State unit was a disunited house in an election year and blamed the BJP for "spreading rumours". "We have made south India BJP-free and after that, we will make north India BJP-free," he said.

Mr. Randhawa termed the 'Jan Sangharsh Yatra' Mr. Pilot's "personal march", but frowned at it being launched during the poll season in Karnataka.

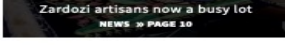
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BEYOND REACH
OTT players keep out the disabled
NEWS > PAGE 10



New molecules blunt SARS-CoV-2
SCIENCE > PAGE 12



Zardozi artisans now a busy lot
NEWS > PAGE 10

Siddaramaiah takes charge as Karnataka CM; Cabinet approves 5 poll 'guarantees'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Siddaramaiah was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Karnataka and D.K. Shivakumar as his deputy at a grand ceremony attended by thousands at Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday.

Eight Congress leaders were sworn in as Cabinet Ministers by Governor Thawarachand Gehlot: G. Parameswara, K.H. Muniyappa, K.J. George, Priyank Kharge, Sattish Jaisankholi, Ramalinga Reddy, B.Z. Zamser Ahmed Khan and M.B. Patel.

"People have blessed the Congress and the victory of the party is a victory of people. Our governance will meet the expectations of the people who have voted us to power seeking



Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah with leaders of Opposition parties at the swearing-in ceremony in Bengaluru on Saturday. K.J. MUSTAFAH

change. We will implement all the promises made in the manifesto in the next five years," Mr. Siddaramaiah said after taking the oath of office.

After the ceremony, Rahul Gandhi said the Congress will provide a corruption-free government. "The people of Karnataka have defeated corruption and hate despite the BJP having money, power and

each member of a BPL family to 10 kg per month under the 'Anna Bhagya' scheme, providing ₹3,000 aid to unemployed graduates, and ₹1,500 to unemployed diploma holders on the 18-25 age group) every month for two years under the 'Yuva Nidhi' scheme.

The other guarantees were free 200 units of power per month under the 'Gruha Jyothi' scheme, free travel for women in buses under the 'Shakti' scheme, and ₹2,000 for every woman head of a family every month under the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme. The estimated cost for the implementation of these schemes would be ₹50,000 crore per year.

RELATED REPORTS > PAGE 4

Stepping up security



High-profile event: Central Reserve Police Force commandos conduct a security drill on Dal Lake on Saturday ahead of the three-day tourism working group meeting of G-20 countries scheduled to begin in Srinagar on May 22. **NISAR AHMED/REPORT ON PAGE 6**

India will do its best to end the war, Modi tells Zelensky

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

India will do "everything" necessary to resolve the war in Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday during a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in Hiroshima, Japan. Mr. Modi expressed anguish at the devastation caused by the war and conveyed his personal desire to end the hostilities, during the interaction which was his first with Mr. Zelensky since the war began in February 2022.

"You know much more than any of us the pain of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky meet on the sidelines of the G-7 summit in Hiroshima, April war but I could very well understand your pain and the pain of the Ukrainian people when our children narrated the circumstances in your country after they were brought back

CONTINUED ON > PAGE 8
QUAD LEADERS MEET > PAGE 9

Ordinance an insult to SC, we will challenge it: Kejriwal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday said the Aam Aadmi Party government would challenge in the Supreme Court the ordinance brought by the Centre and reach out to Opposition leaders to ensure that the Bill, when introduced in the Rajya Sabha, is not passed. He called the bid to take away control from the city government and transfer and translocate all bureaucrats an "insult" and a "direct challenge to the majesty and power" of the highest court of the country.

On Friday, the Centre had promulgated the ordinance creating a National Capital Civil Service Authority

conditions, transfer and posting of officials, seen as a move to wrest back control after the May 11 apex court ruling that the Delhi government has legislative and executive powers over services except for public order, police and land. It also establishes the L-G as the administrator of Delhi who will have the final say. The Centre government has also sought a review of the May 11 ruling, arguing that it had the effect of declaring Delhi a "full-fledged State" when it is actually a Union Territory.

Timing questioned
Addressing a press conference in the Capital, Mr. Kejriwal said the ordinance was "undemocratic" and an "attack on the federal structure" as it takes away



power from an elected government to perform its duties effectively. "The entire battle is now Supreme Court vs Centre. It is extremely dangerous. Kejriwal is just a small player in this. This way the Centre will bring an ordinance to negate any unfavourable judgment since they have the majority." **ARVIND KEJRIWAL, Delhi Chief Minister.**

"Surprising move" The Chief Minister also expressed surprise at the Centre filing a review petition. "When the Central government has brought an ordinance and overturned the order, then what is the point of the review petition? What exactly are they reviewing over here, when they have upturned the ruling?" Mr. Kejriwal said.

Charting the way forward, Mr. Kejriwal said that AAP would hold a "grand rally" against the BJP. "This ordinance by the BJP-led

government is a slap on the face of the residents of Delhi. It is essentially the BJP telling the people that if you elect a government other than that of the BJP, it will do everything in its capacity to stop the work."

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AAP TO HIT THE STREETS > PAGE 2

Rajiv Gandhi



Gandhi in 1987

6th Prime Minister of India

In office

31 October 1984 – 2 December 1989

President	Zail Singh R. Venkataraman
Preceded by	Indira Gandhi
Succeeded by	V. P. Singh

Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha

In office

18 December 1989 – 23 December 1990

Prime Minister	V. P. Singh
Preceded by	Jagjivan Ram
Succeeded by	L. K. Advani

President of the Indian National Congress

In office

28 December 1985 – 21 May 1991


Preceded by	Indira Gandhi
Succeeded by	P. V. Narasimha Rao

Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha

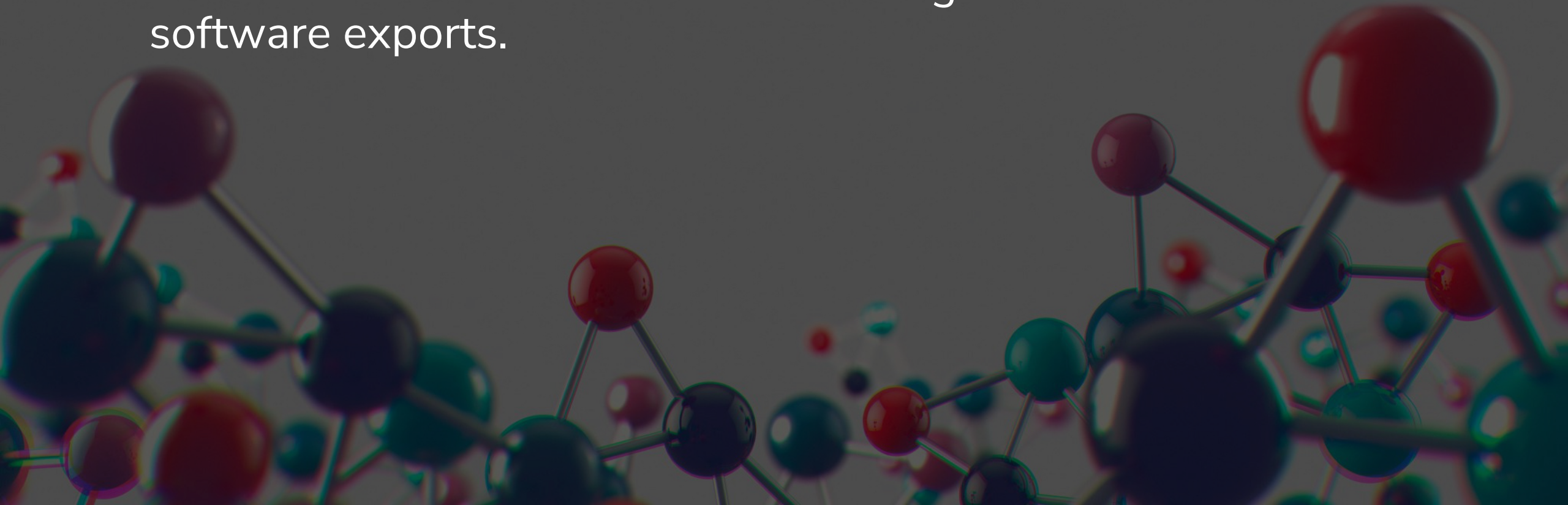
In office

17 August 1981 – 21 May 1991

Preceded by	Sanjay Gandhi
Succeeded by	Satish Sharma
Constituency	Amethi

Born	Rajiv Ratna Gandhi 20 August 1944 Bombay, Bombay Presidency , British India (present-day Mumbai , Maharashtra, India)
Died	21 May 1991 (aged 46) Sriperumbudur , Tamil Nadu, India
Manner of death	Assassination
Political party	Indian National Congress
Spouse	Sonia Maino (m. 1968)
Relations	Nehru–Gandhi family
Children	Rahul · Priyanka
Parents	Feroze Gandhi (father) Indira Gandhi (mother)
Alma mater	Trinity College, Cambridge (dropped out) Imperial College London (dropped out)
Awards	Bharat Ratna (1991)
Monuments	Veer Bhumi
Signature	

- Rajiv Gandhi is typically credited with introducing telecommunications to India, but a strategy implemented by Indira Gandhi weeks before her death gave India a head start in software exports.



Pitroda led six technological missions for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1987, including telecommunications, water, literacy, vaccination, dairy, and oilseeds.

Software professionals were not recognized as entrepreneurs prior to the 1984 IT policy, and software was not considered a company. This rendered workers in this industry ineligible for bank loans, leaving them without the necessary funds to establish a business.

- **Anti - Defection Laws (52nd Amendment)**
- In 1985, India's government, led by Rajiv Gandhi, proposed the 52nd Amendment to the Constitution, which included the Anti-Defection Law, which is found in the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.
- **Expansion of National Policy for Education (NPE)**
- **Improving ties with the USA**
- **Maldives Coup D'Etat**
- **Intervention in Sri Lankan Civil War**



- **Drawbacks And Issues During The Rajiv Gandhi Government**

- With the Shah Bano amendment, he appeased Muslim extremists by denying divorced Muslim women the same right to maintenance as any other divorced Indian women.
- He appeased Hindu zealots by allowing the foundation stone for a Ram temple to be laid outside the barred gates of Ayodhya.
- Bofors Scandal- The Bofors scandal was a major weapons-contract political scandal that occurred between India and Sweden during the 1980s and 1990

KATHMANDU Nepal PM Prachanda says his visit to India will script 'new history'



Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" said that Nepal has made "good preparations" for his upcoming visit to India this time and it will script "new history" in bilateral ties. The visit to India would be the 68-year-old leader's first foreign trip after he became Prime Minister for the third time in December last year. AP

GHIBULLO 14 persons killed, over 36,000 people displaced by Italy floods



More than 36,000 people have now been forced from their homes by deadly floods in northeast Italy. Violent downpours earlier this month killed 14 people, transforming streets of the Emilia Romagna region into rivers. Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said she was leaving the G-7 summit early to deal with the emergency. AP

TERRAN Iran executes leader of human trafficking and prostitution group



Iran executed a man convicted of leading a human trafficking and prostitution ring, a day after hanging three men linked to protests triggered by Mahsa Amini's death. "Following confirmation of the sentencing of Shahrzad Sohranvari, aka Alex, in the supreme court, he was hanged this morning," the judiciary's news website said. AP

TAIPEI Taiwan President vows to keep 'status quo' on cross-strait relations



Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen vowed to maintain peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait with China, saying that "war is not an option" under Tsai's two terms as President. The self-ruled island has seen stepped-up warplanes and sea incursions from China, which claims Taiwan as its territory. REUTERS

Sri Lanka slams Canada over 'Tamil Genocide Day' remarks

Foreign Minister Ali Sabry summoned Canadian High Commissioner, and stated that PM Trudeau's 'politically motivated statement was divisive and issued for domestic political consumption'

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Friday "condemned and rejected outright" the remarks made by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on May 18, marked as "Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day" by the North American country.

According to a press release issued by Sri Lanka's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Saturday, Foreign Minister Ali Sabry summoned Canadian High Commissioner Eric Wash and stated that Mr. Trudeau's "politically motivated statement was divisive and issued for domestic political consumption". "Sri Lanka vehemently rejects this unsubstantiated allegation of 'genocide' relating to the country's almost three decades of terrorist conflict perpetrated by the LTTE," the statement further said.

Mr. Trudeau had said the stories of the Tamil-Canadians affected by the



Etched in history: A commemorative event held in Mullaitivu in Sri Lanka on May 18. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

conflict "serve as an enduring reminder that human rights, peace, and democracy cannot be taken for granted. That's why Parliament last year unanimously adopted the motion to make May 18 Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day".

In January this year, Canada imposed sanctions on former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his brother Mahinda Rajapaksa, for committing "gross and systematic violations of human rights" during the civil war. Fourteen years since Sri

Lanka's state denies the allegations, despite internationally acknowledged evidence of mass civilian deaths in an area that the military had assured was a "No Fire Zone". The UN's estimates, widely considered conservative, point to around 40,000 civilian deaths.

Claiming that the final battle was a "humanitarian operation", the Sri Lankan state marks May 19 as "Victory Day" to celebrate its soldiers as "war heroes", as it did on Friday in the presence of President Ranil Wickremesinghe and Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena.

Despite intimidation, periodic surveillance, and obstacles in the past — including the removal of war victims' memorial by authorities — scores of Tamils gathered at Mullaitivu on Thursday to pay respects to their loved ones. It is the first time since the conflict's eastern edge, where their relatives were last seen alive before succumbing to Army shelling.

Wagner claims Bakhmut captured, Kyiv says fight is ongoing, situation critical

Agence France-Press
MOSCOW

Russia's private Army Wagner claimed on Saturday the total control of the east Ukrainian city of Bakhmut, the epicentre of fighting, as Kyiv said the battle was continuing but admitted the situation was "critical".

The fall to Russia of Bakhmut, where both Moscow and Kyiv are expected to have suffered huge losses, would have huge symbolic value.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy took part in the G-7 summit in Japan.

The mercenary group's boss, Yevgeny Prigozhin said in the video, adding that Wagner fighters would search the captured city before handing it over to Russian Army.

"By May 25 we will completely encircle Bakhmut, create the necessary lines of defence and hand



Tracheerous paths: Bakhmut's loss would allow Russia to bring home a victory after a series of humiliating defeats. AP

it to the military," Mr. Prigozhin said.

Ukraine, which earlier this month claimed success in and around Bakhmut, said the fighting for the city was ongoing.

"The situation is critical. Deputy Defence Minister Ganna Malayeva posted on Telegram. She said Ukrainian troops were "holding the defence" in the city's "airplane area".

"As of now, our defenders control certain industrial and infrastructure facilities in the area," she said.

Pak. Taliban's new 'hit list' names Maryam Nawaz, Rana Sanaulah

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's banned Taliban militant outfit is planning to target senior political leaders like Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah and PML-N party vice president Maryam Nawaz along

with top military and intelligence officials under a new hit list, according to a media report. The new list prepared by the outlawed Taliban-led Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its affiliate Jamaat-ul-Ahram (JuA) also includes several other senior go-

vernment officials, and has emerged a day after rightwing religious-political party Jamaat-e-Islami chief Sirajul Haq survived a suicide bombing in a remote area of Balochistan province on May 19, the news international reported on Friday.

Agence France-Press
KABACH

Activists on Saturday vowed to launch a Supreme Court challenge against a ruling by Pakistan's religious judiciary, which deemed a transgender legal protection in law, also undoing their right to state documents like passports and inheri-

rance proceedings matching their self-acquired gender identity.

This decision will further increase the incidents of violence against transgender people, said Shahzad Rai, of the Gender Intersective Alliance and Sindh province's trans activist group Moorat.

Despite a rich history in South Asia, most trans Pakistanis are forced to live on the fringes of society — often resorting to begging or sex work for survival.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan said 19 trans people were murdered in Pakistan last year and accused the state of getting "cold feet" over

community protections.

The country's Federal Shariat Court was established in 1980 under a rule of military dictator Zia-ul-Haq as part of a sweeping Islamisation of Pakistan's institutions. Under the constitution, laws deemed "repugnant" to Islam according to a Bench of Muslim judges can "cease to have effect".

In divided Turkey, Tayyip Erdogan's hold is weakened but not broken

Nishtha Gautam
ISTANBUL

"Why are you so curious?" Ceban finally asked after at least 40 minutes of Google Translate-aided conversation. And suddenly, it occurred to me that his honest responses could have got him in trouble if he was not careful. Sitting on a public bench in Kalesci, Antalya, overlooking the blue Mediterranean waters, we discussed politics. President Erdogan's possible return, growing religiosity in Turkey, steep inflation, and the Kurds.

On May 15, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan — an Islamist who was imprisoned on the charges of inciting religious hatred and violence in 1999 while holding the mayoral office of Istanbul — pruned at Hagia Sophia for his return as Turkey's most powerful man. In the opinion polls before the May 14 elec-

tions, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, Mr. Erdogan's rival and the opposition coalition candidate, was said to have a slight edge. However, the preliminary results showed that Mr. Erdogan won 49.5% of the votes against Mr. Kilicdaroglu's 44.2%, and his coalition has secured a comfortable majority in Parliament.

A resurgent Mr. Erdogan will now face off Mr. Kilicdaroglu at a presidential run-off on May 28. Stirred but not shaken Clearly, his hold over Turkey is not broken. For each Ataturkist Turkish citizen, there's at least one staunch Erdogan supporter and half a decrier of the "West's conspiracy to undermine Islam". Ceban, 36, a fitness trainer in Antalya and he wasn't expecting to be ambushed by a curious foreigner on a sunny afternoon. He was there with

his friend, Orhan, smoking cigarettes and drinking beer that the duo kept furnishing from a tiny black plastic bag. When Erdogan comes back, we won't be able to drink beer in public like this," he typed on his phone. "My parents are Erdogan supporters. Sent me an Ataturk," he said, referring to Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern, secular Turkey.

He declared with medieval pride and echoed the words of Atatürk, a woman and woman in Istanbul, Izmir, Bursa and Pamukkale. Barak, 34, a tourist guide in Istanbul, had given me a great primer. One day I landed in Turkey on a plane with young people in coastal Turkish cities thought of the two decades of Mr. Erdogan's rule. His guided tour in the Sultanhani neighbourhood of Istanbul was deeply political in spirit. "The Otto-



Class contest: A political worker of the Turkish Workers' Party (TIP), puts up posters of party candidates. NISHTHA GAUTAM

man decided to convert Hagia Sophia, the church, into a mosque in 2020. Barak, 34, a tourist guide in Istanbul, had given me a great primer. One day I landed in Turkey on a plane with young people in coastal Turkish cities thought of the two decades of Mr. Erdogan's rule. His guided tour in the Sultanhani neighbourhood of Istanbul was deeply political in spirit. "The Otto-

Ataturk, who abolished the Caliphate, closed down Hagia Sophia in 1930. Five years later, it was reopened as a museum. Mr. Erdogan turned it back to a mosque in July 2020. "Erdogan has destroyed our country beyond repair," Ataturk continued. "People wanted employment, healthcare, he gave them religion."

Insallah, Erdogan Despite the criticism, he faces and the mounting economic woes of Turkey, Erdogan remains in control. Mr. Erdogan's supporters remain adamant and confident. Mehmet, 20, who works in a small cafe in the Ilgaz Valley in the tourist-riddled Cappadocia region, says, "Insallah, Erdogan!" He responded to my sly question about the most possible President of Turkey that I cautiously slip in after almost an hour of Google

Translate-facilitated conversations about food, fashion, education, family, and girls. I smile and ask Google, "Why are you so curious?" This time his father, Yaman, gesticulates, "Prices are up!" Inflation has been Mr. Erdogan's biggest challenge as it surged to above 85% last year and is hovering around 40% now. Why is he not able to control inflation, I enquire. "Even if I were in control, I would not go easily. He cannot afford to, there are too many skeletons in his cupboard. Yes, you may call me a pessimist."

As a dependency surges in the anti-Erdogan camp, all eyes are now on Ekrem Inamoglu, mayor of Istanbul and Kemal Kilicdaroglu's vice presidential candidate. "Whoever the president decides will have consequences not just for the country, but for the rest of the world, too. Nishtha Gautam is a Delhi-based writer and entrepreneur.

WHO's global network to detect threat from diseases

Agence France-Press
GENEVA

The World Health Organization on Saturday launched a global network to help swiftly detect the threat from infectious diseases, like COVID-19, and share the information to prevent their spread.

The International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN) will provide a platform for connecting countries and regions, improving systems for collecting and analysing samples, the agency said.

The network aims to help ensure infectious disease threats are swiftly identified and tracked while the information is shared and acted on to prevent catastrophes like the Coronavirus pandemic.

The network will rely on pathogen genomics to analyse the genetic code of viruses, bacteria and other disease-causing organisms. WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus hailed the "ambitious" expansion of the new network, saying it could "play a vital role in health security".

WHO's global network to detect threat from diseases

Agence France-Presse

GENEVA

The World Health Organization on Saturday launched a global network to help swiftly detect the threat from infectious diseases, like COVID-19, and share the information to prevent their spread.

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- **About International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN):**
 - The International Pathogen Surveillance Network (IPSN) is a **global network of pathogen genomic actors**.
 - It is hosted by the **WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence**.
 - Its aim is to **accelerate progress on the deployment of pathogen genomics and improve public health decision-making**.

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Delegates' Kashmir itinerary changed
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DATA POINT
One in seven Indian schools run by lone teacher
This is in gross violation of the Right to Education Act
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DELIGHT AND DESPAIR
MI makes the playoffs; heartbreak for RCB
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SBI's U-turn: no ID card, slip to swap ₹2,000 notes

RBI had not issued orders to collect proofs for exchanging notes, Finance Ministry had intervened to make SBI change its directive, say sources

Lalitendra Mishra
MUMBAI

In a sudden volte-face following a huge public outcry, the State Bank of India, the country's biggest bank, on Sunday withdrew its decision on the mandatory filing of a slip for exchange of ₹2,000 bank notes at its branches.

"In partial modification of instructions, it has been decided that the facility of exchange of ₹2,000 denomination bank notes to all members of the public up to limit of ₹20,000 at a time will be allowed without obtaining any requisition slip as per the format attached in Annexure III," said a letter by SBI Chief General Manager (Opera-

Cash flow

The State Bank of India has issued instructions to all its branches regarding exchange of ₹2,000 notes

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- The RBI on May 23 announced withdrawal of ₹2,000 currency notes from circulation but gave public time till September 30 to either deposit such notes in accounts or exchange them at banks
- The facility for exchange will be available from May 23

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PM: countries should respect sovereignty

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Unrest in any part of the world affects all the countries of the global community, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday at the G-7 meeting in Hiroshima, Japan.

Speaking at the 'Working Session 9' of the G-7

summit, Mr. Modi reiterated India's commitment to do "everything" to bring an end to the war in Ukraine and said all countries should "respect" sovereignty and territorial integrity of the member states of the United Nations.

CONTINUED ON
> PAGE 10

IN BRIEF

Kejriwal reaches out to 'allies' to stall Bill in RS

NEW DELHI
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First phase of CUET-UG 2023 is glitch-free

NEW DELHI
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BJP opportunistic, dictatorial: Uddhav

EXCLUSIVE

Yashwantrao Chavan
MUMBAI

People are voting against the BJP wherever there is a strong Opposition party, and the BJP may resort to communal polarisation in the coming days to recover its

lost ground, Shiv Sena (E) leader Uddhav Thackeray said in his first media interview after the recent Supreme Court verdict. In a no-holds-barred conversation at his residence, "Matoshree", Mr. Thackeray accused his former ally, the BJP, of being dictatorial and opportunistic on questions of Hindutva.

INTERVIEW ON
> PAGE 11

UPSC IAS LIVE

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"Further, no identity proof is required to be submitted by the tenderer at the time of exchange," the letter issued to SBI branches said. "Hence, Annexure III which is attached to E-

Circular dated 19.05.2023 stands withdrawn immediately. There is no change in other instruments given in the E-Circular," it added.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

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EDUCATION PLUS » PAGE 5

From Page One

SBI's U-turn: no ID card, slip to swap ₹2,000 notes

On Friday, the same SBI office had issued a letter saying, "Deposit of ₹2,000 banknotes into accounts maintained with our bank will be allowed in the usual manner, that is, without restrictions and subject to compliance with extant Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and other applicable statutory requirements." SBI's KYC norms require a requisition slip and identity proofs.

Countries should respect sovereignty: PM

"It is necessary that all sides should respect the UN Charter, international law and nation-states should respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Everyone should raise their voice against one-sided attempts to change status quo. India has always felt that all tensions and disputes should be resolved in a peaceful manner, through dialogue, and if a solution is reached through dialogue then that should be respected."

Speaking ahead of Mr. Modi, the Ukrainian President focused on the ongoing military activities in his country, and called upon the G7 members and partner countries to support Ukraine in the fight against Russia.

Indicating at his discussion with Mr. Modi and other neutral countries, Mr. Zelenskyy said that Kyiv is trying to convince "certain leaders" about the position of Ukraine in the war with Russia. Mr. Modi in his remarks said, "Today we heard President Zelenskyy. I met him yesterday. I do not consider the current situation (in Ukraine) a political or economic issue. I think it is a pressing humanitarian matter. We have maintained from the beginning that dialogue and diplomacy are the only way out of this and India will do everything that is required to resolve the current conflict."

"Global peace, stability and prosperity are part of the common goals of us all. In today's inter-connected world, unrest in any region affects every country and developing nations that have limited resources are easily affected by such events. The developing countries are paying a heavy price because of the food, fuel and fertilizer crisis," Mr. Modi said. The Indian leader raised the issues relevant to the Global South in his most-detailed address at the G7. On Saturday, he met several world leaders, including Mr. Zelenskyy, French President Emmanuel Macron and others.

The meeting between Mr. Modi and Mr. Zelenskyy on Saturday was the first face-to-face discussion the two had since their meeting on November 2, 2022 in Glasgow. A major part of Mr. Modi's visit to India was to secure strong support from countries like India and Brazil, which have maintained a neutral position in the war while deepening economic ties with Russia. Significantly, a meeting between Mr. Zelenskyy and Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva was cancelled because of "scheduling" issues.

Karnataka Cabinet expansion: discussion after special session

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

Consultations over expansion of the Cabinet are expected to resume after the special legislative session comes to an end on Wednesday. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will head back to Delhi to meet the Central leaders.

A special three-day session has been convened for Monday when the newly elected members will take the oath as members of the pro-term Speaker R.V. Deshpande. "The Cabinet expansion will take place before May 26," KPCC working president Saleem Ahmed told The Hindu. He indicated that the Cabinet would be a mixture of seniors and few new faces. "The allocation of portfolio is also expected to be



KPCC working president Saleem Ahmed. FILE PHOTO

Jaishankar, Blinken meet in Hiroshima, discuss plans for PM's U.S. visit in June

Retreat with President Biden outside Washington, diaspora events on the cards; Secretary of State says the U.S. is looking forward to hosting Prime Minister Modi, whose visit will celebrate the deep partnership between the two countries; it will be the first state visit for an Indian PM since 2009

Subhasini Haider

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met in Hiroshima on Sunday, the two sides discussed plans for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. in June, with sources saying a number of possible plans, including a "short retreat" outside Washington, were still being finalised.

"We look forward to hosting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June, whose visit will celebrate the deep partnership between the United States and India," Mr. Blinken said in a tweet, which Mr. Jaishankar thanked him for.

At the Quad meeting held on the sidelines of the G7 summit on Saturday, U.S. President Biden also

reportedly referred to the upcoming visit. According to the BJP's National Information & Technology Department in-charge, Amit Malviya, who tweeted that Mr. Biden heaped "favouring praise" on Mr. Modi, the U.S. President said that there was a "huge demand from people across the U.S. to attend the state dinner next month", joking that he should seek Mr. Modi's "autograph".

Neither the External Affairs Ministry nor the U.S. Embassy in Delhi confirmed the remarks by the U.S. President in Hiroshima.

Ceremonial welcome While the state visit, the first for an Indian Prime Minister since 2009, will address the country's welcome at the White House and a state banquet, the visiting dignitaries are also



Diplomatic terms: S. Jaishankar, left, with Antony Blinken on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit, in Hiroshima on Sunday. ANI

often accorded a lunch at the State Department to meet with the Vice President and the Secretary of State.

Last month, India Caucus co-chair Ro Khanna confirmed he was writing to the U.S. Speaker to request that Mr. Modi also address the country's diaspora organised by the Indian Embassy.

Earlier, the BJP's overseas wing and diaspora groups were cool on the possible diaspora events in Chicago or Atlanta, but sources said there was "no

clarity" on whether a large diaspora event on the lines of the 2018 "Howdy Modi" festivity in Houston would be included.

Short trip Sources also said that the two governments were discussing a short trip outside Washington by Mr. Biden and Mr. Modi. According to the sources, officials have discussed the possibility of the two leaders travelling to the U.S. presidential retreat for hosting foreign dignitaries at Camp David, or Mr. Biden's private vacation home on Rehoboth beach.

The programme is evolving and details are not finalised yet," said at least two officials involved in planning the visit.

In the past, Mr. Modi has addressed the U.S. Congress, so the question on whether the issue would be raised during the India-U.S. bilateral.

Last-minute changes made to itinerary as G-20 meet begins in Kashmir today

Poozrada Asha Srinagar

There has been a last-minute change in the itinerary of around 60 foreign and local delegates touring Kashmir from May 22 to 24 for a G-20 working group meeting on tourism. The alteration in the plan is on the advice of security agencies.

The scheduled signage along the Dal Lake National Park, Srinagar, and tourist hotspot Gulmarg in north Kashmir have been dropped, officials said.

The organisers, according to senior government officials, have decided to showcase Polo View market, the Valley's first pedestrian-only bazaar thrown open with multi-facilities recently, under the ongoing ₹980-crore Srinagar Smart City project, to the delegates.

Shopkeepers have been asked to report at their shops around 9 a.m. on all the three days. On May 22 till May 24, they have been advised against "observing any shutdown" on



Heavily armed: MARCOS patrolling the Dal Lake in Srinagar ahead of the upcoming G-20 meeting. NISRA/ANI

the call of separatists, several shopkeepers told The Hindu. "Special passes have been provided to us so that we are allowed to cross the security checkpoints," they added.

Tourist spots The organisers will also be taking to the famous Mughal gardens in Srinagar, which include Nishat, Cheshmashahi and Pari Mahal. All the locations are within the vicinity of eight kilometres from the main tourist hub of Kashmir International Convention Centre (KICC), located on the banks of the Dal lake. A senior government official told The Hindu that

the trip to the lush green Dachigam National Park was cancelled "because of space issues".

He added that Gulmarg was cancelled "due to tight schedule of delegates in Srinagar", including sightseeing of locations within the city.

A travel advisory has been issued for the local people for the next three days and they have been asked to avoid travelling on the route where the main venue is located, during restricted hours.

The elite NSG and MARCOS, an special navy team, will maintain a vigil on the venue and the route being used by the delegates.

Dinakar Peri

New Delhi

India and the U.S. are discussing possibilities of co-producing jet engines, long-range artillery and infantry vehicles under the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (ICET) announced earlier this year, and officials said some high-technology initiatives are expected to be announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the U.S. next month.

Ahead of the visit, the launch of INDUS-X under the ICET to promote partnerships between the two countries' defence innovation ecosystems is scheduled in Washington.

In the run-up to the visit, these issues were discussed at the 17th meeting of India-U.S. Defence Policy Group (DPG), chaired by External Secretary G. Harinarayan from India and Under Secretary of Defence Policy Colin Kahl last week.

The two sides reviewed the progress made in furthering defence industrial cooperation and

If the U.S. agrees to transfer jet engine technology to India, it sends a very strong message to China

operationalising the India-U.S. Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), said four countries make jet engines for planes, and India will be the fifth one if the deal is announced.

"So the jet engine deal will take India's capability in the aircraft industry to new levels. The deal also sends a message to the Chinese that the relationship between India and the U.S. is not just a surface relationship and is getting deeper," he told The Hindu.

If the U.S. agrees to transfer jet engine technology to India, which China doesn't at present have the capability to, it sends a very strong message, Mr. Agliha further said. Earlier efforts at co-developing a jet engine has failed to take off owing to U.S. domestic legislation. Among proposals being discussed is to jointly pro-

India, U.S. to hike technology cooperation; co-production of jet engines on the table

duce a jet engine for India's future indigenous jets for which General Electric is competing with Safran of France and Rolls-Royce of U.K.

Commenting on this, president and CEO of the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), said only four countries make jet engines for planes, and India will be the fifth one if the deal is announced.

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NIA arrests banned Naxal outfit's leader Dinesh Gope

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested Dinesh Gope, a self-styled supreme of the Peoples Liberation Front of India (PLFI), a proscribed Naxal outfit of Jharkhand. The accused was involved in over 100 criminal cases and carried a reward of ₹30 lakh. A case was registered against Gope by the NIA in 2018, but it was initially taken place through this year. "More importantly, this strong dividend transfer would provide a bonanza for core money market liquidity with the central government eventually using this for its expenditure in the coming months," the report underlined.

Return of ₹2,000 currency notes to bolster bank coffers, money market liquidity: report

Vikas Dhoot

New Delhi

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decision to withdraw ₹2,000 notes will draw ₹2,000 notes from banks' deposit base and liquidity in the money market by anywhere between ₹40,000 crore to ₹1 lakh crore, even if just about a third of these heavily hoarded high currency notes are flushed out by the exercise, according to a research report. A part of those notes which are being hoarded to avoid taxes on unaccounted-for incomes could be funnelled into assets such as real estate and jewellery, the report reckoned. The central bank has said that the notes will remain legal tender, but has asked people holding such

notes to deposit or exchange them by September 30.

With no clarity yet on what the status of these notes will be after that deadline, a flurry of exchanges is expected over next few months, which could "re-kindle memories of demonetisation" from 2016, QuantEco Research said in a note. Estimating the stock of ₹2,000 denomination banknotes to be around ₹5.7 lakh crore or 1.3% of GDP - equivalent to 10.8% of the cash in circulation at the end of March - the note said that banks' deposit base would be bolstered if all of those notes came back by the stipulated deadline. "However, since ₹2,000 denomination notes were not commonly used for



founder Shubhada Rao, pointed out. "Unaccounted-for income might fuel demand for high-value currency items like real estate and precious metals, like the expensive post the Demonetisation episode in 2016," they added. "However, if we assume a scenario where 10%-30% of cash is hoarded and gets back to circulation, then this could have a durable impact on banks' deposit base and money market liquidity," they added. In the case, the increase in banks' deposit base on account of its withdrawal from circulation could prove to be temporarily as precautionary demand would eventually settle for lower-denomination notes, led by

Dividend income Another decision taken by the central bank - to transfer a hefty ₹87,000 crore to the government as dividend, com-

India, U.S. to hike technology cooperation; co-production of jet engines on the table

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India and the U.S. are discussing possibilities of co-producing jet engines, long-range artillery and infantry vehicles under the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) announced earlier this year, and officials said some high-technology initiatives are expected to be announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the U.S. next month.

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"The two sides reviewed the progress made in furthering defence industrial cooperation and

If the U.S. agrees to transfer jet engine [technology] to India, it sends a very strong message to China

operationalising the India-U.S. Major Defence Partnership. Important aspects such as military-to-military cooperation, and cooperative activities in the Indian Ocean Region were discussed," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

Enhancing cooperation
The Ministry further said that considerable focus was given on the ways and means to enhance defence industrial cooperation, including technology partnership, long-term research and development, and improving supply chain security.

Officials from both sides confirmed that the jet engine collaboration was discussed during DPG along with other collaboration mechanisms within co-production and co-development.

Among proposals being discussed is to jointly pro-

duce a jet engine for India's future indigenous jets for which General Electric is competing with Safran of France and Rolls-Royce of U.K.

Commenting on this, Mukesh Aghi, president and CEO of the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), said only four countries make jet engines for planes, and India will be the fifth one if the deal is announced.

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Earlier efforts at co-developing a jet engine has failed to take off owing to U.S. domestic legislation.

(With inputs from Suhasini Haidar)

1949

- Indian PM meets USA president
- This trip precedes India's formal proclamation of neutrality in the developing cold-war

1959

- Inspired by Gandhi's non-violent struggle, Martin Luther arrives in India
- Also, first serving USA president visits India

1962

- Nine American universities and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) help establish one of the first Indian Institutes of Technology at Kanpur

1962

- Washington supports India in the Indo-China border conflict, recognizing the McMahon line as the border, and provides air assistance and arms

1963

- Norman Borlaug travels to India to begin testing high-yield wheat varieties. His collaboration with Indian scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan results in the "Green Revolution," and India goes from food scarcity to self-sufficiency

1974

- India completes first Nuclear test- the move contributes to a period of estrangement between the USA and India

1978

- USA enacts the Nuclear Nonproliferation Act, which requires countries not included in the Nonproliferation Treaty—which includes India—to allow inspections of all nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency. India refuses, and Washington ends all nuclear assistance to Delhi

1991

• India Launches Economic Reforms that help expand economic ties with USA

1998

• India tests Nuclear devices and badly damages its relationship with USA

2000

• The visit of US president ends the estrangement of the post-1998 Indian nuclear weapons tests

2001

• USA lifts all remaining sanctions that were imposed on India after its 1998 nuclear test

2005

• The United States and India sign the New Framework for the U.S.-India Defense Relationship

2010

- The United States and India formally convene the first U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue

2011

- The United States and India sign a Memorandum of Understanding in New Delhi to promote closer cybersecurity cooperation

2016

- The United States elevates India to a major defense partner, a status no other country holds

2018

- During a “two-plus-two” dialogue in New Delhi, COMCASA signed

2020

- The Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) is the last of four foundational military agreements signed by both countries over the past two decades

Name of the Exercise	Participating Units
Tiger Triumph	· Indian Army and Navy · US Navy
Vajra Prahar	· United States Army Special Forces · Para SF
Yudh Abhyas	· It is the largest running joint military training and defence cooperation endeavour between India and the US.
Cope India	· Between Air Force units
Malabar Exercise	· Quadrilateral naval exercise of India, USA, Japan and Australia



The two countries now have **four agreements** that cover areas of Military Information, Logistics exchange, compatibility, and security between them




GSOMIA (a military information agreement) was the first of the foundational agreements to be signed in 2002

- **LEMOA (logistics exchange agreement) signed in 2016**
 - It provides the framework for sharing military logistics, for example for refuelling and replenishment of stores for ships or aircraft transiting through an Indian/US facility



- 
- **COMCASA (communications security agreement)** was signed in 2018
 - This enables the US to supply India with its proprietary encrypted communications equipment and systems, allowing secure peacetime and wartime communications between high-level military leaders on both sides

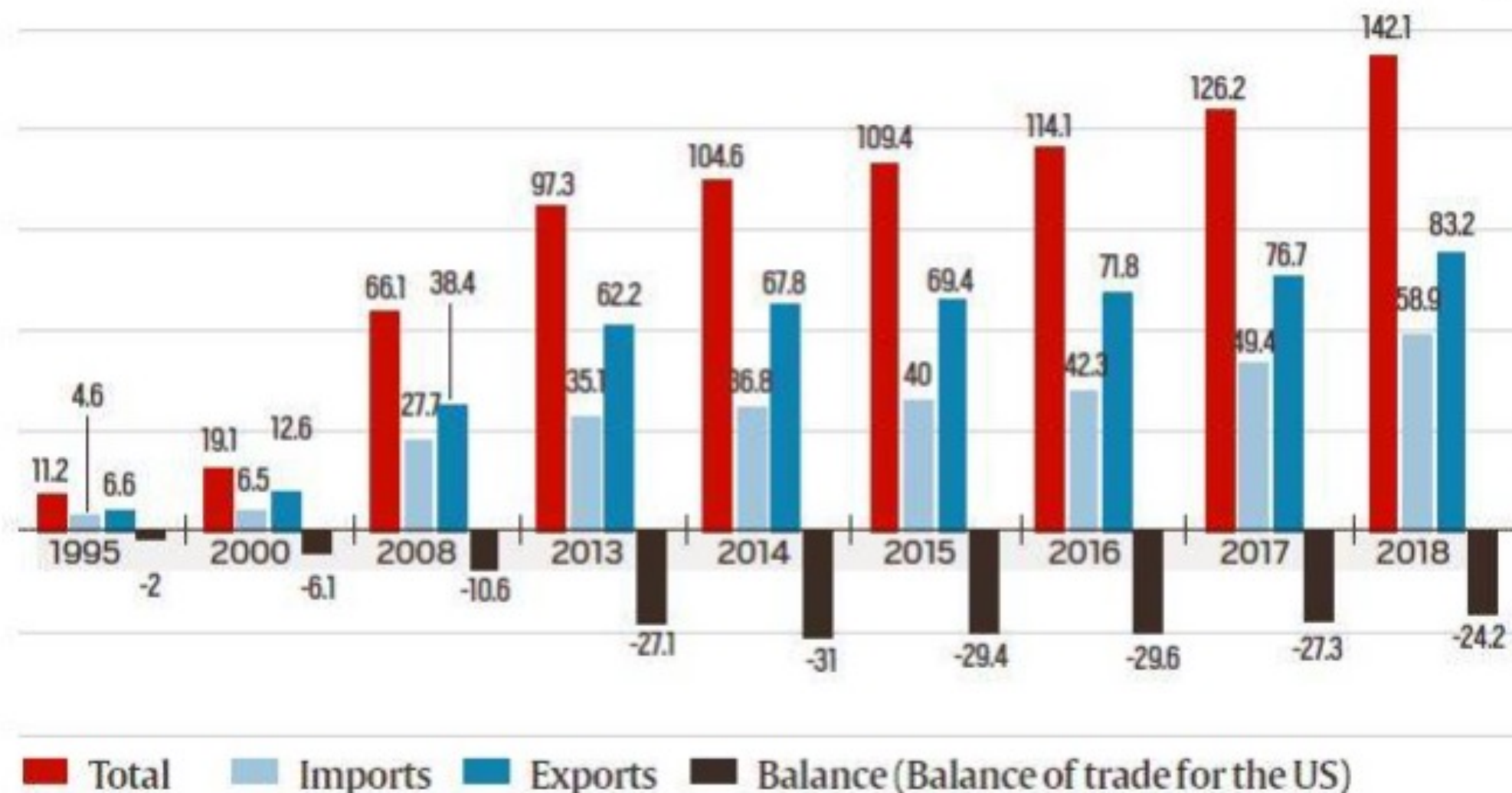
- 
- **Basic Exchange Cooperation Agreement (BECA)** signed in 2020
 - BECA will help India get real-time access to American geospatial intelligence that will enhance the accuracy of automated systems and weapons like missiles and armed drones.
 - Through the sharing of information on maps and satellite images, it will help India access topographical and aeronautical data, and advanced products that will aid in navigation and targeting

The background of the slide features a blurred financial candlestick chart with blue and orange bars, overlaid with a grid and a yellow dashed line that curves across the bottom left. A white arrow points downwards from the top center towards the main text.

• Trade and Economic relations

- The US was India's largest export destination and the second largest trading partner in 2020-21
- India's exports to the US in 2020-21 were valued at \$51.62 billion and imports at \$28.88 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of about \$23 billion for the US
 - The top traded goods include pearls and precious stones, pharmaceuticals, machinery, electronics, clothing, vehicles, chemicals and fish products, optical, photo, medical apparatus and aluminium

INDIA'S GOODS & SERVICES TRADE WITH US (IN BILLION DOLLARS)



Source: United States Trade Representative (USTR) data

ATHENS
Greece PM's conservative party wins polls, but no outright victory



Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis's conservative party scored a thumping win in Sunday's election, but would likely call a new ballot in a month as it fell short of an outright majority to rule alone. With just over 50% of the ballot counted, his New Democracy Party scored a 20-point lead ahead of his nearest rival. AFP

SAN SALVADOR
12 dead, many injured in stampede at El Salvador football stadium



Twelve persons were killed and hundreds injured on Saturday in a stampede at an El Salvador football stadium. Initial reports pointed to a crush of fans who tried to enter the Cascaflan Stadium in the Central American country's capital San Salvador to watch a local tournament match between teams Alianza and FAS. AFP

BEIJING
China says U.S. chipmaker Micron failed national security review



U.S. semiconductor giant Micron failed a national security review, China's cybersecurity watchdog said, asking operators of "critical information infrastructure" to stop buying its products. It marked the latest escalation in the chip war between the nations, with the U.S. looking to cut off China's access to semiconductors. AFP

TEHRAN
Iran summons Swiss envoy over tweet calling for halt executions



Iran summoned Switzerland's Ambassador over a tweet calling for a stop to executions linked to protests triggered by the death of Mahsa Amini. The Swiss embassy took to Twitter on Friday to "strongly condemn" the execution of three men convicted of killing security force members during last year's protests. AFP

Kyiv disputes Moscow's claim over Bakhmut

Reuters
KYIV

Russia and Ukraine gave conflicting accounts of the situation in Bakhmut on Sunday, with Kyiv saying it still controlled a small part of the besieged eastern city while Moscow congratulated the Wagner private army and Russian troops for "liberating" it.

Russia said on Saturday it had fully captured the destroyed city. Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated his troops and Wagner.

However, Ukrainian officials disputed the claims. A top Ukrainian general said Kyiv's forces controlled an "insignificant" part of Bakhmut, but said the foothold would be enough to enter the city when the situation changed.

G-7 wants to de-risk, not decouple from China: Biden

U.S. President says G-7 leaders agreed to diversify supply chains to reduce dependence on one country; he expects a thaw in relations with Beijing and hopes to speak with Xi Jinping soon

Reuters
HIROSHIMA

U.S. President Joe Biden on Sunday said the Group of Seven (G-7) nations had agreed on a united approach to China that called for diversifying supply chains to reduce dependence on one country, and hinted that he could speak with China's President Xi Jinping soon.

"We're not looking to decouple from China. We're looking to de-risk and diversify our relationship with China," Mr. Biden told a press conference after a three-day summit with G-7 leaders. He said G-7 nations were more unified than ever in terms of "resisting economic coer-



Freed in need: Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his U.S. counterpart Joe Biden at the G-7 summit in Hiroshima, Japan.

cion together and countering harmful practices that hurt our workers".

G-7 leaders outlined a shared approach to "de-risk, not decouple" economic engagement with China in a Saturday com-

with China "very shortly" after strains caused by an incident earlier this year when the U.S. shot down a Chinese balloon that flew over sensitive military sites.

Taiwan issue
On the issue of tensions between China and Taiwan, Mr. Biden said there was a clear understanding and among most of the allies that if China were to act unilaterally against the self-governed island of Taiwan, there would be a response.

"We're not going to tell China what they can do," he said. "But in the meantime we're going to put Taiwan in a position where they can defend themselves."

Israel far-right Minister visits Al-Aqsa compound

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel's National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir visited the flashpoint Al-Aqsa mosque compound on Sunday, a controversial move by the extreme-right politician amid heightened tensions in annexed east Jerusalem.

The move came three days after Mr. Ben-Gvir and tens of thousands of Jewish nationalists marched through the Old City and just over a week into a fragile Gaza ceasefire.

"Jerusalem is our soul," Mr. Ben-Gvir wrote on Telegram, alongside a photo of himself at the site in the heart of the Old City. "The threats of Hamas will not deter us, I went up to the Temple Mount," he wrote.



Fanning flames: Itamar Ben-Gvir, left, walk through the courtyard of Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque complex on Sunday. AFP

and is administered by Jordan. Non-Muslims are permitted to visit the site, but not pray there. The compound is also the most sacred site for Jews, who pray below it at the Western Wall.

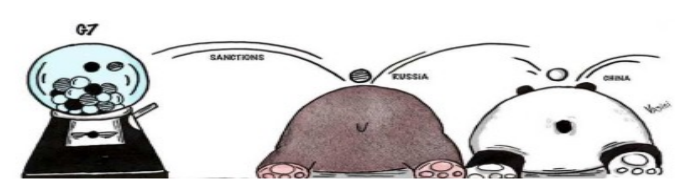
Hamas, the militant group that rules Gaza, denounced Mr. Ben-Gvir's last visit to the site in Janu-

ary and again slammed his action on Sunday.

Israel will "bear responsibility for the barbaric incursions of its Ministers and herds of settlers", the group wrote on Telegram.

Jordan described Mr. Ben-Gvir's actions as a "provocative step" and a "dangerous and unacceptable escalation".

On the draw



German police probing poisoning of Russian exiles

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

The German police are investigating the possible poisoning of exiled Russians after a journalist and an activist reported health problems following a Berlin meeting of dissidents, a spokesman for the force said on Sunday.

"An investigation has been opened," he said.

Russian investigative media outlet Agentstvo this week published a report saying two participants who attended an April 29-30 meeting of Russian dissidents in Berlin experienced health problems.

The Berlin meeting was organised by exiled former oligarch-turned-Kremlin critic Mikhail Khodorkovsky. One participant, a journalist who had recently left Russia, experienced unspecified symptoms during the event. They said the symptoms may have started earlier.

Martin Amis, author of Money, London Fields, dies aged 73

Agence France-Presse
MIAMI

Renowned and influential British writer Martin Amis has died aged 73 at his home in Lake Worth, Florida, the Booker Prizes said on Saturday.

Mr. Amis was "one of the most acclaimed and discussed writers of the past 50 years and the author of 14 novels," said the website of Booker Prizes, the leading literary awards for fiction in the U.K.

His wife, Isabel Fonseca, told media that the author of searing and insightful works such as Money, A Suitable Boy, London Fields and Time's Arrow died on Friday after a bout with cancer.

His death was announced on the same day as the Cannes Festival showing of a film based on his 2014 book The Zone of Interest.

In 2008, the Times of London named him one of the 50 greatest British writers since 1945.



Martin Amis

Shooting at Kansas City bar kills three, injures two

Associated Press
KANSAS CITY

Three persons were killed and two others wounded — including one critically — in a shooting at a Kansas City bar early on Sunday, the police said.

Multiple officers responded to the shooting at Klymax Lounge that was reported just before the bar's 1:30 a.m. closing time to find multiple victims and immediately began providing medical aid.

The police said two of the victims died at the scene — one was found inside the bar and the other was outside the building. A third victim died at the hospital. Details about the circumstances that led to the shooting were not immediately available, and it was not immediately clear where the victims were when they were shot.

The police said the victims were adults, but their ages and identities were not immediately available.

SPORTS IS NOT WHAT IT WAS. THE GAME HAS EVOLVED AND HOW. AND YET, SOME THINGS REMAIN. THE FANS. THE PASSION. THE SPIRIT. NO MATTER HOW SPORT CHANGES, THE EMOTION OF IT NEVER WILL.

THE ALL-NEW, REDESIGNED SPORTSTAR CHANGES FOR THE CHANGING GAME. FOR, LIKE YOU, WE GO ALL IN FOR SPORTS.

SPORTSTAR
LIVING UP TO YOUR NAME

THE NEW, REDESIGNED SPORTSTAR ALL IN FOR SPORTS.

Martin Amis, author of *Money*, *London Fields*, dies aged 73

Agence France-Presse

MIAMI

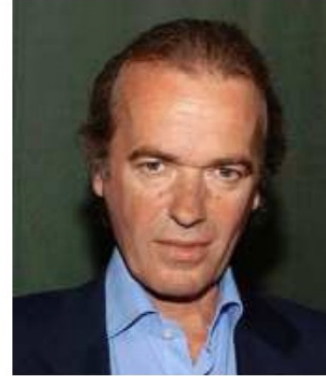
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His wife, Isabel Fonseca, told media that the author of searing and insightful works such as *Money: A Suicide Note*, *London Fields* and *Time’s Arrow* died on Friday after a bout with oesophageal cancer.

His death was announced on the same day as the Cannes Festival showing of a film based on his 2014 book *The Zone of Interest*.

Set in Auschwitz, the novel tells the story of a Nazi officer who fell in love with



Martin Amis

the wife of the extermination camp commander.

Mr. Amis, the son of renowned comic novelist Kingsley Amis, equalled and even surpassed his father in fame with novels filled with savage humour.

“The novel is an incredibly intimate portrait of a writer,” the younger Mr. Amis once told the BBC, reflecting on his career. “Although I don’t write autobiography, I am everywhere in my books.”

In 2008, the Times of London named him one of the 50 greatest British writers since 1945.

Sajjan singh Dev	India's vaccine Growth story
Jagdeep Dhankar	Mundaka Upanishad-The Bridge of immortality
KM Chandrashekhar	As Good As My Word
Dr.Gyan Chaturvedi	Pagalkhana
Abhay K	The Book of Bihari Literature
Dr. Karan Singh	Mundaka Upanishad: The Gateway to Eternity
P. Jyothimani, former Judge	India's Struggle for Independence – Gandhian Era

Shri Rajiv Malhotra and Mrs. Vijaya Viswanathan	Snakes in the Ganga
Anurag Behar	A Matter of the Heart: Education in India
Shrimant Kokate	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Smoke and Ashes	Amitav Ghosh
Collective Spirit, Concrete Action	Shashi Shekhar (The Book documenting PM Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' programme)
Sachin @ 50: Celebrating a Maestro	Boria Majumdar

Azaad	Autobiography of Ghulam Nabi Azad
Courting India: England, Mughal India and the Origins of Empire	Nandini Das

SBI says no ID or slip needed for exchange of Rs 2,000 notes Use for hoarding black money among reasons cited for withdrawal of note

2,000 banknotes from May 23 to September 30, 2023 to complete the exercise in a time-bound manner and to provide adequate time to the members of public. As many as 18,150 lakh pieces of Rs 2,000 notes are expected to be exchanged...

MODI SPEAKS FOR PEACEFUL, STABLE, PROSPEROUS WORLD PM at G7: Raise voice against unilateral change in status quo

Remarks being read in the backdrop of aggressive stance by Russia and China

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, MAY 21

IN WHAT IS being read as a reference to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific region including the India-China border...



Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays homage at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Sunday. (PTI)

Signal to Moscow & Beijing

AFTER MODI and Zeleny's first in-person meeting since the invasion in February last year, the inclusion of the sentence 'raise your voice against unilateral attempts to change the status quo' is being perceived as a signal to Moscow...

that this is a matter of humanity, matter of human values. From the very beginning, we have CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

G20 tourism meet in Srinagar from today amid tight security

NAVEED HOJAL & BASHARAT MA SOOD SRINAGAR, MAY 21

THE THIRD G20 tourism working group meeting is set to begin in Srinagar Monday amid elaborate security arrangements. The three-day meeting will see the highest participation of foreign delegates as compared to two previous meetings...

India can become biggest chip producer in next 5 yrs: Vaishnav

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, MAY 21

INDIA WILL become the biggest semiconductor manufacturing destination in the world in the next five years with the Centre ensuring that the right ecosystem is built, with production in India being the cheapest globally...

Advertisement for Religare Adda, featuring logos of various companies like Fostima, Devans, and Meridien.

Finding mates for India's single African jumbos: It's complicated

ABHINAV HARGOVIND NEW DELHI, MAY 21

THE ZOOUS at Delhi and Mysuru are grappling with a tall order: finding mates for Shankar and Richie, the only two African elephants in the country?...

22-year-old techie drowns in a flooded underpass in heart of country's IT capital

AKRAM BENGALURU, MAY 21

A BENGALURU-based Infosys employee drowned Sunday after the SUV he was travelling in got stuck in a flooded underpass in the heart of India's IT capital...

Guilty until proven innocent: A TN officer's decade-long trauma

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, MAY 21

IN 2010, a raid by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) at Kankesanipatti in Superhighway in Chennai led to the seizure of documents and signed cheque books belonging to Superhighway, a Myanmar national...

Nitish backs Kejriwal: Need unity to stop tweaks in Constitution to Centre's advantage

If Opp unites, defeats ordinance in RS, it will be seminal for 2024: Delhi CM

EXRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MAY 21



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal with Bihar CM Nitish Kumar and his deputy Tejashwi Yadav in New Delhi on Sunday. (PTI)

Nitish backs Kejriwal: Need unity to stop tweaks in Constitution to Centre's advantage

If Opp unites, defeats ordinance in RS, it will be seminal for 2024: Delhi CM

EXRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MAY 21

BHAR CHIEF MINISTER Nitish Kumar Sunday strongly backed his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal in his tussle with the Centre and said there was a need for all parties to come together to stop the Centre from changing the Constitution to its advantage...

SUDAN'S WARRING FACTIONS AGREE TO TEMPORARY TRUCE

POLLS IN GREECE: CONSERVATIVES TAKE EARLY LEAD

BIDEN ANNOUNCES 37.5-MIN MILITARY AID FOR KYIV PAGE 14

AVANEESH MISHRA DEHRADUN, MAY 21

A BJP leader in Uttar Pradesh has put off his daughter's wedding to a Muslim man following protests by right-wing groups and backlash online after the invitation went viral on social media...

BJP leader backs his daughter on interfaith wedding, puts it off after backlash

EX-MLA Biyani's daughter's lower situation not favourable

Underpass in Bengaluru was also stuck in the flooded K R Circle

An autorickshaw that was also stuck in the flooded K R Circle underpass in Bengaluru on Sunday. (PTI)

● ENHANCING REGIONAL AIR CONNECTIVITY

UDAN 5.1 in the offing for northeast, hilly regions

Routes will be serviced only via choppers

ROHIT VAID
New Delhi, May 21

THE CIVIL AVIATION ministry is expected to soon come out with the next phase of its flagship regional air connectivity scheme UDAN 5.1 to award routes in the northeast and hilly regions that will be serviced exclusively via choppers.

“The scheme will promote connectivity through the utilisation of both single and double engine choppers. The quantum of VGF (viability gap funding), the number of routes and helipads in the scheme are being finalised,” officials said.

To enhance regional air connectivity, the scheme provides VGF to operators

HELIPADS BEING FINALISED



■ The new scheme will promote chopper usage and grow the existing number of helicopters in India

■ At present, there are only around 280 civilian choppers in the country which are used in various sectors

that have been selected via a bidding process to operate flights on under-served or unserved routes.

The new scheme will promote chopper usage and grow the existing number of helicopters in India.

At present, there are only around 280 civilian chop-

pers in India which are used in various sectors.

Currently, the government has invited bids for regional routes under the scheme's fifth phase.

The fifth phase has introduced new equipment types such as 'category 2' (20–80 seats) and 'category 3'

(more than 80 seats) aircraft operations.

Furthermore, the earlier stage length cap of 600 km has been waived off.

The 10-year-duration scheme was launched in October 2016, as part of the National Civil Aviation Policy unveiled that year.



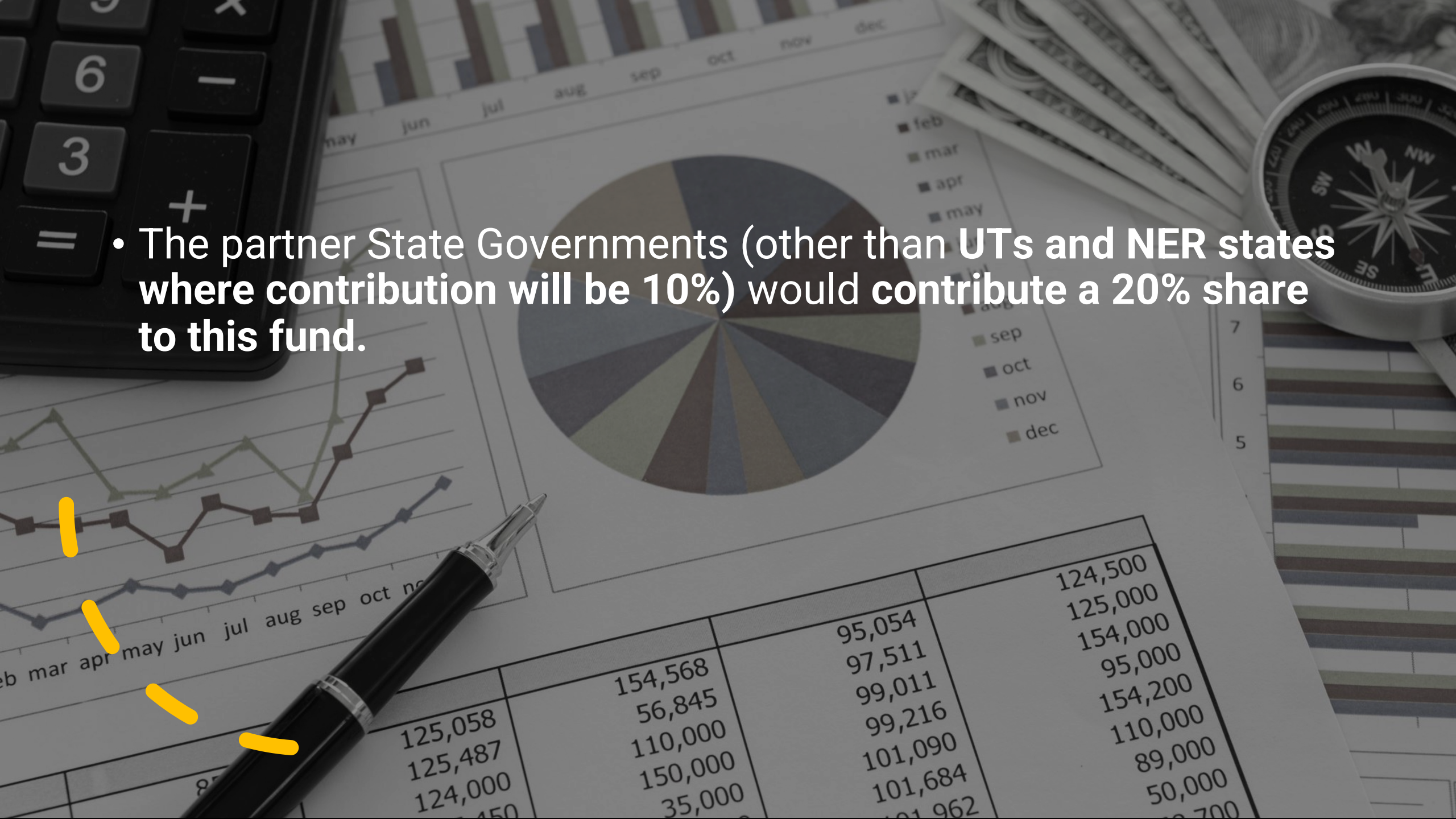
India's Regional Air Connectivity Scheme

Aimed at bringing air travel within reach of the common man, Central Government has launched the UDAN scheme

Highlights

-  Offers subsidy to airlines for flying to domestic airports with limited connectivity
-  Fare cap of ₹ 2,500 per hour of flying by plane and ₹ 5,000 for helicopters
-  State governments and airport operators will contribute to the scheme
-  First flight under this scheme to take off in Jan 2017
-  50% seats of the UDAN flights to have a fare cap of ₹ 2,500 and the rest will have market-based pricing
-  Applicable on flights of 200 km to 800 km distance
-  Hilly, remote, island and security sensitive regions have no distance limit
-  Centre will provide concessions on VAT and service tax to the airlines
-  No landing charges, parking charges and Terminal Navigation Landing Charges
-  A Regional Connectivity Fund will be created to fund the scheme

- The partner State Governments (other than UTs and NER states where contribution will be 10%) would contribute a 20% share to this fund.



125,058	154,568	95,054	124,500
125,487	56,845	97,511	125,000
124,000	110,000	99,011	154,000
450	150,000	99,216	95,000
	35,000	101,090	154,200
		101,684	110,000
		101,962	89,000
			50,000
			700



UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)



Q. Examine the development of Airports in India through joint ventures under Public–Private Partnership (PPP) model. What are the challenges faced by the authorities in this regard? **(2017)**

‘उल्का पिंड की टक्कर से बना गड्ढा ‘भू पर्यटन केंद्र’ के रूप में विकसित होगा’

जयपुर, 21 मई (भाषा)।

राजस्थान सरकार बारां जिले के रामगढ़ में लगभग 60 करोड़ साल पहले संभवतः अंतरिक्ष से किसी उल्का पिंड के गिरने से बने गड्ढे (क्रेटर) को भू पर्यटन केंद्र के रूप में विकसित करने जा रही है। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि यह देश का तीसरा और राज्य का पहला ऐसा ‘क्रेटर’ है। बाकी दो ‘क्रेटर’ में से एक महाराष्ट्र और एक मध्य प्रदेश में है।

अधिकारियों के मुताबिक, योजना के लागू होने के बाद राजस्थान पर्यटन विभाग को हर साल 30,000 से 40,000 पर्यटकों के ‘रामगढ़ क्रेटर’ के दीदार के लिए बारां आने की उम्मीद है। उन्होंने बताया कि रामगढ़ क्रेटर को 57.22 करोड़ रुपए की लागत से पर्यटन केंद्र के रूप में विकसित किया जाएगा, जिसमें गड्ढे में बनी झील के सौंदर्यीकरण से लेकर आसपास जरूरी बुनियादी



ढांचे का विकास शामिल है। अधिकारियों के अनुसार, पर्यटन विभाग वहां उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली सड़क, सूचना केंद्र, ज्ञान केंद्र और कैफेटेरिया का निर्माण कर रहा है। उन्होंने बताया कि ‘क्रेटर’ के आसपास बगीचों और हरित क्षेत्र के विकास, घाट के निर्माण और ड्रिप सिंचाई की व्यवस्था करने का भी प्रस्ताव किया गया है। पर्यटन विभाग की निदेशक रश्मि शर्मा ने कहा कि विभाग भू पर्यटन

को बढ़ावा देने की दिशा में आगे बढ़ रहा है। ‘रामगढ़ क्रेटर’ आने वाले दिनों में देश के एक पसंदीदा पर्यटन स्थल के रूप में उभरेगा। यह स्थल भूविज्ञान, पुरातत्व और इतिहास के बीच सामंजस्य के प्रतीक के रूप में अपनी पहचान कायम करेगा। उन्होंने बताया कि वन विभाग द्वारा रामगढ़ क्षेत्र को भी आरक्षित क्षेत्र घोषित किया गया है। अधिकारियों के मुताबिक, इस क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए पर्यटन, वन विभाग और लोक निर्माण विभाग कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर काम कर रहे हैं।

‘द सोसाइटी आफ अर्थ साइंटिस्ट्स’ के महासचिव सतीश त्रिपाठी ने बताया कि बारां जिले की मांगरोल तहसील से 12 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर स्थित ‘रामगढ़ क्रेटर’ को 1869 में खोजा गया था। माना जाता है कि 3.5 किलोमीटर व्यास वाले इस गड्ढे का निर्माण 60 करोड़ साल पहले अंतरिक्ष से एक उल्कापिंड के गिरने के बाद हुआ था।

Meteors and Meteorites



Comet

Icy body that releases gases as it orbits the Sun



Asteroid

Rocky body smaller than a planet that orbits the Sun



Meteor

Streak of light seen when a meteoroid heats up in the atmosphere



Meteoroid

Rocky or metallic fragment of an asteroid, comet, or planet

Meteorite

Meteor fragment that reaches the ground



Asteroids, Comets, Meteors & Meteoroids: What's the difference?

Asteroids, comets and the meteors that sometimes come from them are leftovers from the formation of our Solar System 4.6 billion years ago.



Meteoroid:
much smaller rocks or particles in orbit around the Sun.



Meteor:
If a meteoroid enters the Earth's atmosphere and vaporizes, it becomes a meteor, which is often called a shooting star.



Meteorite:
If a small asteroid or large meteoroid survives its fiery passage through the Earth's atmosphere and lands on Earth's surface, it is then called a meteorite.



Asteroid:
These rocky fragments are leftovers from the beginning of our solar system.

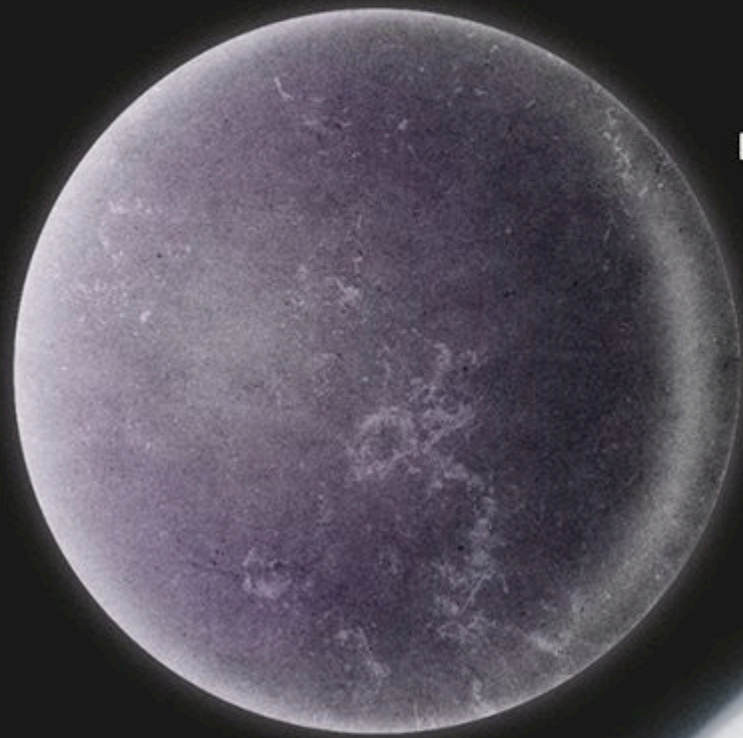


Comets:
Cosmic snowballs of gas and dust that make sweeping orbits around our sun.

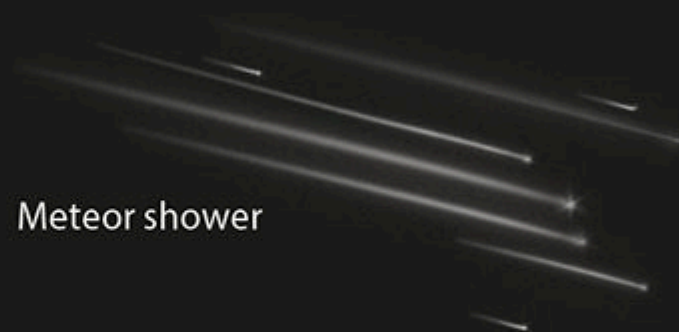


estimates there are currently 839,880 known asteroids and 3,596 known comets.

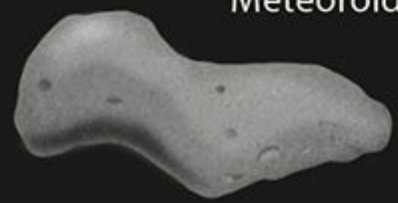
Dwarf planet



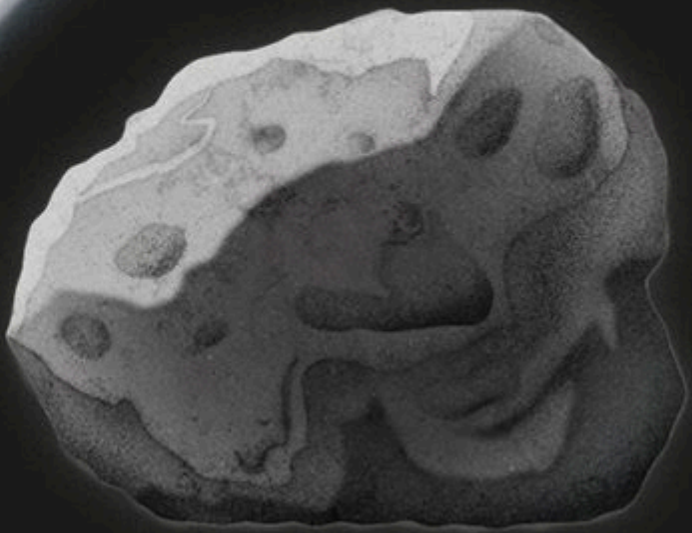
Meteor shower



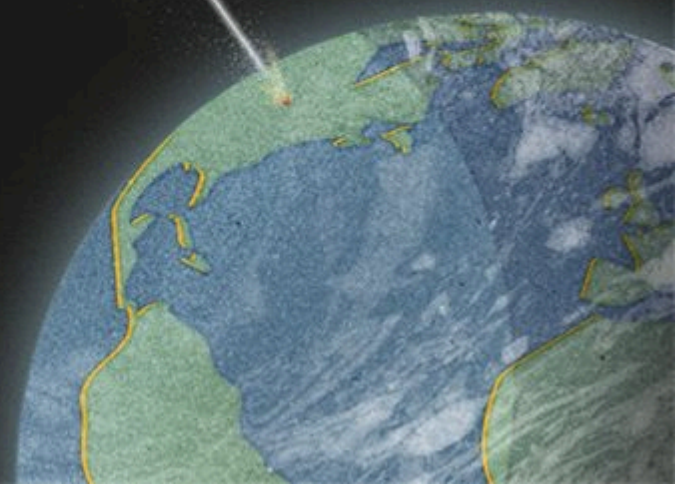
Meteoroid



Asteroid



Meteorite



Comet



उपलब्धि सत्र 2022-23 में यूपी में चीनी उत्पादन 107.29 लाख टन रहा

उत्तर प्रदेश ने महाराष्ट्र को पछाड़ा

लखनऊ, 21 मई (भाषा)।

उत्तर प्रदेश ने 2022-23 के पेराई सत्र में चीनी उत्पादन में महाराष्ट्र को पीछे छोड़ दिया है, जबकि इस सत्र में राज्य में संचालित 118 चीनी मिलों के मुकाबले महाराष्ट्र में 210 चीनी मिलें परिचालन में थीं। उत्तर प्रदेश के गन्ना विकास और चीनी मिल मामलों के मंत्री लक्ष्मी नारायण चौधरी ने बताया, जहां तक चीनी के उत्पादन की बात है तो उत्तर प्रदेश कई अन्य कारकों के साथ महाराष्ट्र से आगे है।

चौधरी ने आगे विस्तार से कहा, चीनी सत्र 2022-23 में उत्तर प्रदेश द्वारा उत्पादित कुल चीनी 107.29 लाख टन है (जिसमें 3.05 लाख टन खांडसारी शामिल है), जबकि महाराष्ट्र में 105.30 लाख टन चीनी का उत्पादन हुआ है। महाराष्ट्र में 14.87 लाख हेक्टेयर की तुलना में उत्तर प्रदेश में गन्ने की खेती का क्षेत्र 28.53 लाख हेक्टेयर (भारत में अधिकतम) है। पेराई का मौसम अक्टूबर से जून तक होता है। चौधरी ने कहा, उत्तर प्रदेश में गन्ने का उत्पादन 2,348 लाख टन रहा, जबकि महाराष्ट्र में यह 1,413 लाख टन था। उन्होंने कहा कि 2022-23 के सत्र

मंत्री लक्ष्मी नारायण ने बताया, उत्तर प्रदेश में 19.84 लाख टन चीनी को एथनाल में बदला गया, जबकि इसकी तुलना में महाराष्ट्र में यह आंकड़ा सिर्फ 15.70 लाख टन रहा। यहां स्थापित मिलों की संख्या 157 है।

में उत्तर प्रदेश में चीनी मिलों द्वारा कुल गन्ने की पेराई 1,084.57 लाख टन थी, जबकि महाराष्ट्र में यह 1,053 लाख टन रही।

मंत्री ने कहा कि उत्तर प्रदेश में 19.84 लाख टन चीनी को एथनाल में बदला गया, जबकि इसकी तुलना में महाराष्ट्र में यह आंकड़ा सिर्फ 15.70 लाख टन रहा। महाराष्ट्र में स्थापित 246 चीनी मिलों की तुलना में उत्तर प्रदेश में स्थापित चीनी मिलों की संख्या 157 है।

उत्तर प्रदेश में 118 की तुलना में महाराष्ट्र में 210 चीनी मिलें परिचालन में हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि 2022-23 सत्र में किसानों को 28,494.32 करोड़ रुपए का भुगतान किया जा चुका है और लगभग 80 चीनी मिलें हैं, जिन्होंने काम बंद होने के एक सप्ताह के भीतर 100 फीसद भुगतान कर दिया है।

25th Anniversary of
Pokhran-II

- India recently celebrated the **25th anniversary of Pokhran-II on 11th May 2023** marking the successful nuclear bomb test explosions which became a significant **milestone in its journey to become a [nuclear power](#)**.
- May 11 is also celebrated as the **[National Technology Day](#)** to honour Indian scientists, engineers and technologists, who worked for the country's scientific and technological advancement and **ensured the successful conduct of Pokhran tests**.

What is Pokhran-II and India's Journey as a Nuclear Power?

Origin:

• **Reasons for India's Pursuit of Nuclear Weapons:**

- India's pursuit of nuclear weapons was motivated by concerns over its **sovereignty and security threats from China and Pakistan.**
- The [1962 Sino-Indian War](#) and China's nuclear test in **1964** heightened the need for India to safeguard its national security.
- The **war with Pakistan in 1965**, with **Chinese support**, further emphasized the need for self-sufficiency in defense capabilities.

An aerial photograph of a nuclear power plant. Two tall, white smokestacks with red horizontal bands are prominent in the background. The plant itself consists of several large, white industrial buildings with flat roofs. In the foreground, there are green cylindrical storage tanks and a paved area with some vehicles. The background shows rolling hills under a clear sky.

- **Pokhran- I: About:**

- By the 1970s, India was capable of conducting a nuclear bomb test.
 - Pokhran-I was **India's first nuclear bomb test** conducted on **May 18, 1974**, at the **Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan**.
- It was code-named **Smiling Buddha** and officially described as a "**peaceful nuclear explosion**" with "**few military implications**".
- India became the **6th country in the world to possess nuclear weapons capability** after the **US, Soviet Union, Britain, France and China**.

- **After Pokhran-I:**

- The 1980s saw a resurgence of interest in nuclear weapons development due to Pakistan's progress.
- India increased funding for its missile program and **expanded its plutonium stockpiles.**



- **Pokhran-II>About:**

- Pokhran-II refers to a sequence of **five nuclear bomb test explosions conducted by India** on between 11-13th May 1998 at Rajasthan's Pokhran desert.
- Code name - Operation **Shakti**, this event marked **India's 2nd successful attempt.**



- **Significance:**

- Pokhran-II cemented **India's status as a nuclear power.**
- It demonstrated **India's ability to possess and deploy nuclear weapons**, thus enhancing its **deterrence capabilities.**
- The Indian government led by **Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee** officially declared itself as a state possessing nuclear weapons following Pokhran-II.

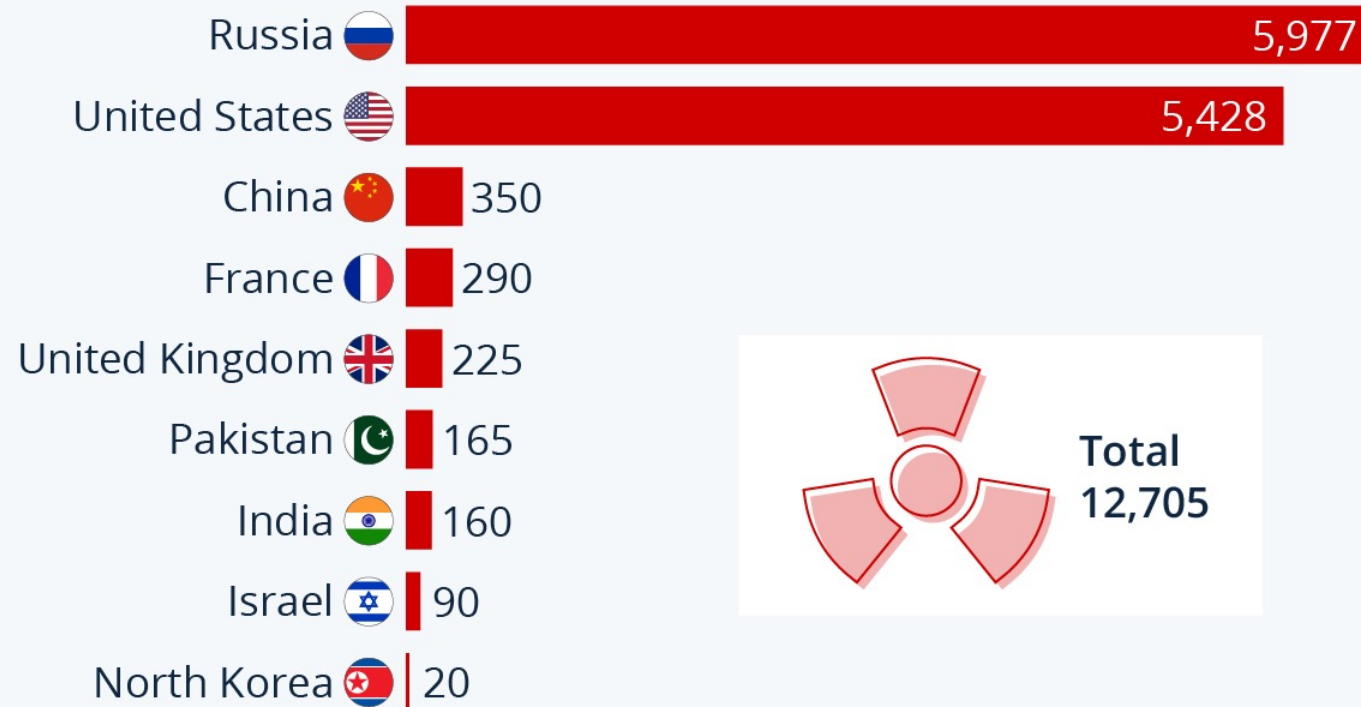


- **India's Current Nuclear Capability:**

- India currently possesses approximately **160 nuclear warheads, according to the Federation of American Scientists (FAS).**
- **India has achieved an operational nuclear triad capability, allowing for the launch of nuclear weapons from land, air, and sea.**
 - The triad delivery systems include **Agni, Prithvi, and K series ballistic missiles**, fighter aircraft, and nuclear submarines.

The Countries Holding The World's Nuclear Arsenal

Estimated global nuclear warhead inventories (2022)*



* Includes deployed, stockpiled and retired warheads awaiting disarmament

Source: Federation of American Scientists



What is India's Status on Various International Treaties about Nuclear Weapons?

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) 1968:

- **India is not a signatory; it declined to accede to the NPT**, citing concerns about the treaty's perceived discriminatory nature and lack of reciprocal obligations from nuclear weapons states.



Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT):

India has **not signed the CTBT** as it is a **strong advocate for a time-bound disarmament commitment from nuclear weapon states (NWS)** and may use the lack of a commitment as a reason to refrain from signing the CTBT.



The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW):

It entered into force on 22 January 2021 and **India is not a member of this treaty.**

Nuclear Suppliers Group(NSG):

- India is not a member of the NSG.

Wassenaar Arrangement:

- India joined the arrangement on December 2017 as its 42nd participating state.



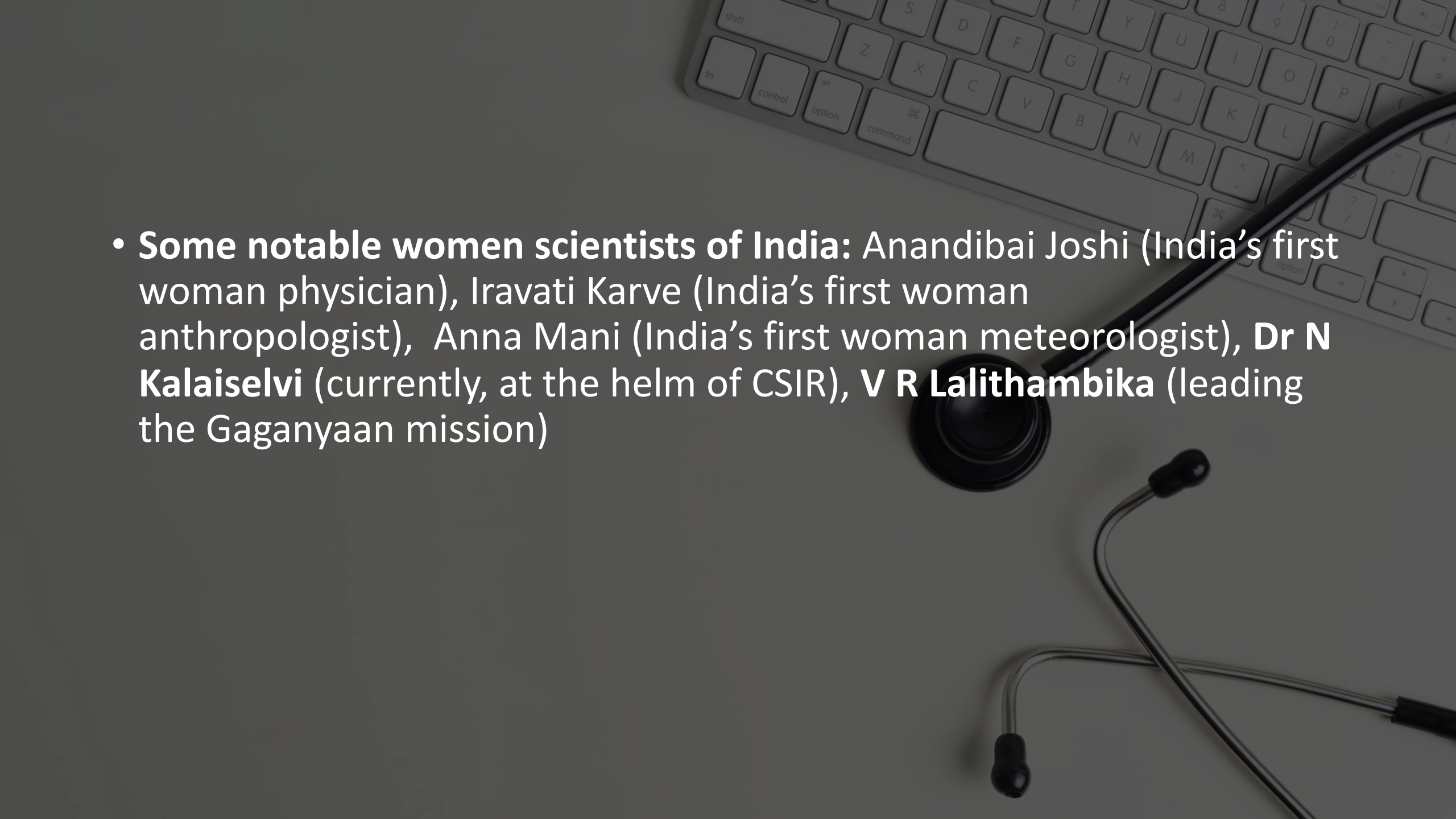
- Mains

- **Q.** With growing energy needs should India keep on expanding its nuclear energy programme? Discuss the facts and fears associated with nuclear energy. **(2018)**
- **Q.** Give an account of the growth and development of nuclear science and technology in India. What is the advantage of fast breeder reactor programme in India? **(2017)**

A woman in a white lab coat is looking intently at a multi-well microplate. A pipette tip is positioned above one of the wells, with a small drop of liquid hanging from it. The background is blurred, showing a laboratory setting with other people and equipment.

India's Women in Science

- Two books – **Lilavati's Daughters (2008)** and **Lab Hopping (2023)** – highlight the **complicated relationship between science and gender** in India.

- 
- **Some notable women scientists of India:** Anandibai Joshi (India's first woman physician), Iravati Karve (India's first woman anthropologist), Anna Mani (India's first woman meteorologist), **Dr N Kalaiselvi** (currently, at the helm of CSIR), **V R Lalithambika** (leading the Gaganyaan mission)

Kadambini Ganguly

(1861-1923)

The first Indian woman to get admission to Calcutta Medical College (1884), becomes India's first female doctor & practitioner (1886) of western medicine in the whole South Asia

**Mary Poonen Lukose**

(1886-1976)

The first female Surgeon General in India, (1938). She became the first woman obstetrician of India

**Bibha Chowdhary**

(1913-1991)

First woman high energy physicist of India and the first woman scientist at the TIFR (1948). The International Astronomical Union honored her by naming a white yellow dwarf star after her name

**Edavalesh Kakkat Janaki Ammal**

(1897-1984)

Renowned botanist & plant cytologist, made significant contributions to genetics, evolution, phytogeography and ethnobotany. First Director of the Central Botanical Laboratory at Allahabad, 1952

**Kamala Sohonie**

(1911-1998)

First Indian woman to receive a PhD in a scientific discipline. She discovered the enzyme 'Cytochrome C' which plays an essential role in the electron transport chain occurring in plants, human and animal cells for energy synthesis

**Asima Chatterjee**

(1917-2006)

The first woman to be awarded a Doctor of Science by an Indian University (Calcutta) in 1944. She was the first woman to be elected as the General President of the Indian Science Congress



2001

Ketayun Ardeshir Dinshaw

Padma Shri for contribution in evolution of cancer treatment and radiation therapy

2005

Archana Bhattacharyya

First woman Director of Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, DST

2006

Sujatha Ramadori

First Indian Mathematician to win the prestigious ICTP Ramanujan Prize

2011

Tessy Thomas

First woman scientist to head a missile project in India

2015

Sanghamitra Bandopadhyay

First woman Computer Scientist & Director of the Indian Statistical Institute

2020

Jyotirmayee Dash

Youngest woman scientist to receive Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in Chemical Sciences

Chandrima Saha

First woman president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA)

2019

GC Anupama

First woman President of the Astronomical Society of India (ASI)

Neena Gupta

Youngest person to ever receive the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize at the age of 35

2018

Aditi Sen De

First female physicist awarded the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize

Gagandeep Kang

First Indian woman to be elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society

2017

Soumya Swaminathan

First Indian to become WHO's Deputy Director General, and also its first chief scientist



As per the latest “Research and Development Statistics 2019-20” of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), **India has 16.6% of women researchers** directly engaged in R&D activities.

The obstacles that hold women back include:

Lack of representation, deeply entrenched **patriarchy**

Institutional apathy

Poor working conditions, sexual harassment

Familial issues like marriage, family responsibility (twin burden of home and the workplace), relocation due to transferable job of the spouse, etc.

An aerial photograph showing a dense, dark green forest on the left side, which meets a calm, teal-colored body of water on the right. The forest is composed of many small, uniform trees, creating a textured pattern. The water is still, reflecting the sky and the forest. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Lakes

Source: IE, DTE

- As per a recent study published in the Journal of Science, more than **half of the world's large lakes** are drying up.

Findings	Details
Indian lakes	More than 30 large lakes in India experienced a drying trend from 1992 to 2020. E.g., Mettur, Krishnarajasagar, Nagarjuna Sagar, and Idamalayar, showed a decline in lake levels and storage
Global lakes	Global lakes contribute to 95% of the total lake water storage on Earth. 53% of the world's largest lakes have been losing water, while 24% have seen an increase in water levels.
Global population affected	Nearly 33% of the global population resides in a basin with a large, drying lake.
Role of climate change	Climate change, including temperature, precipitation, and runoff , was identified as one of the main drivers of water losses
Other factors contributing to lake decline	Human water consumption, potential evapotranspiration, and sedimentation were identified as additional factors contributing to the decline of lakes.
Measures needed	Integrated approaches to lake management are crucial to address the declining trends

**Lakes in
India**

Largest **Freshwater**: Wular Lake
(J&K) Largest **Brackish** water: Chilika
(Odisha)

Largest **Saltwater**: Sambhar (RJ)

Largest **Artificial**: Gobind Ballabh Pant Sagar
(UP)

Longest: Vembanad (Kerala)

High altitude: Cholamu (Sikkim)

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- **Consider the following countries: (2015)**

1. China.

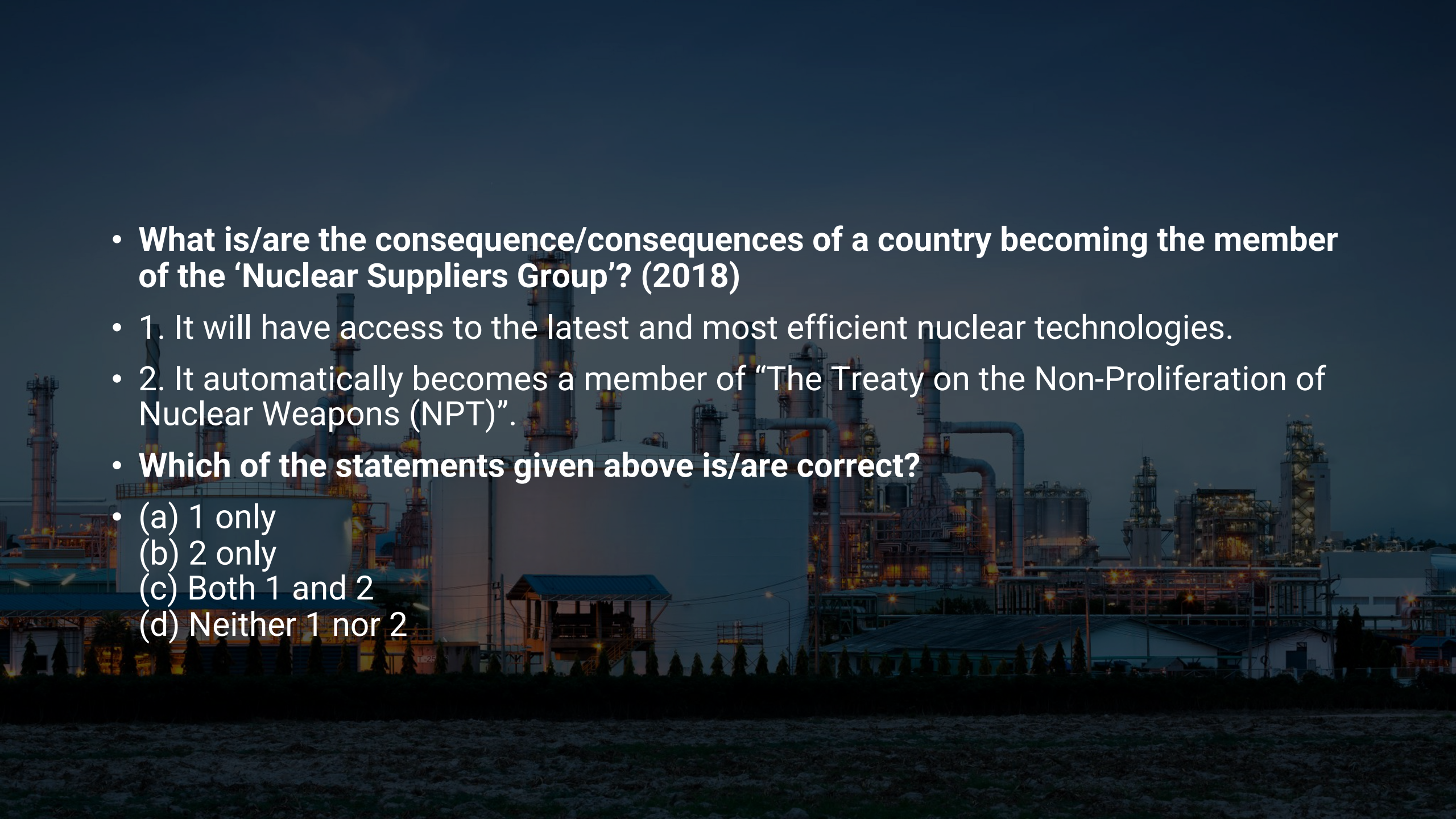
2. France

3. India

4. Israel

5. Pakistan

- **Which among the above are Nuclear Weapons States as recognized by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commonly known as Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)?**
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 2, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

- 
- **What is/are the consequence/consequences of a country becoming the member of the 'Nuclear Suppliers Group'? (2018)**
 - 1. It will have access to the latest and most efficient nuclear technologies.
 - 2. It automatically becomes a member of "The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)".
 - **Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

- The world's first nuclear explosion occurred on July 16, 1945, what was the codename given to it?
- A) Trinity
- B) Smiling Budha
- C) Shakti
- D) Destroy






- How many members are there in NSG as of now 2023?

- A) 50

- B) 59

- C) 28

- D) 48

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 text "Thank you guys, see you tomorrow" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Thank you
guys, see you
tomorrow
