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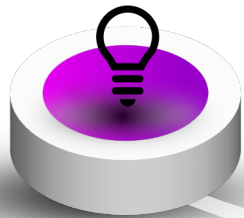
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The Hindu



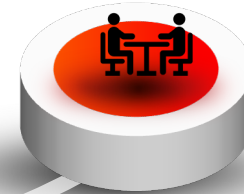
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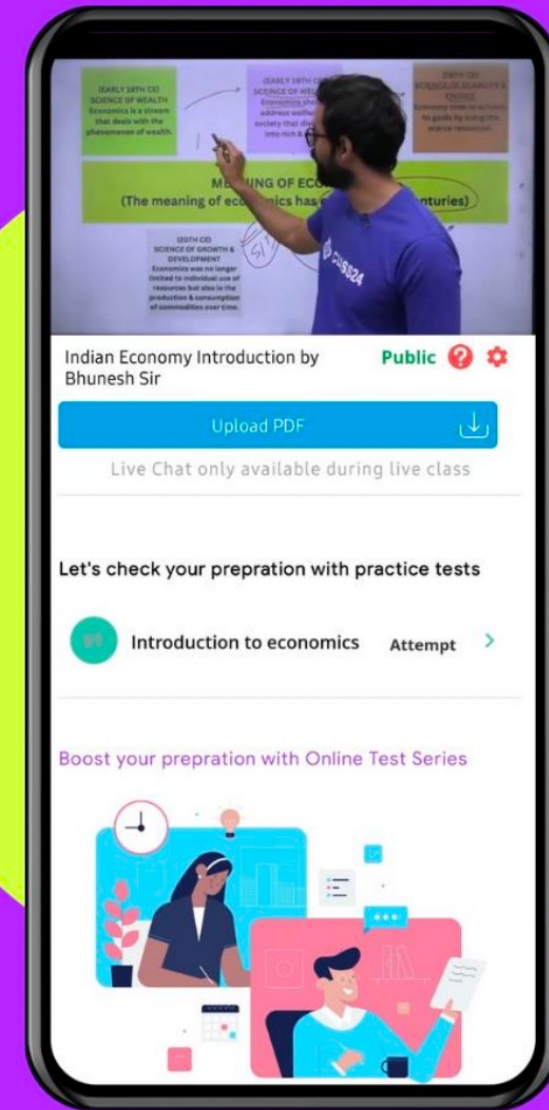
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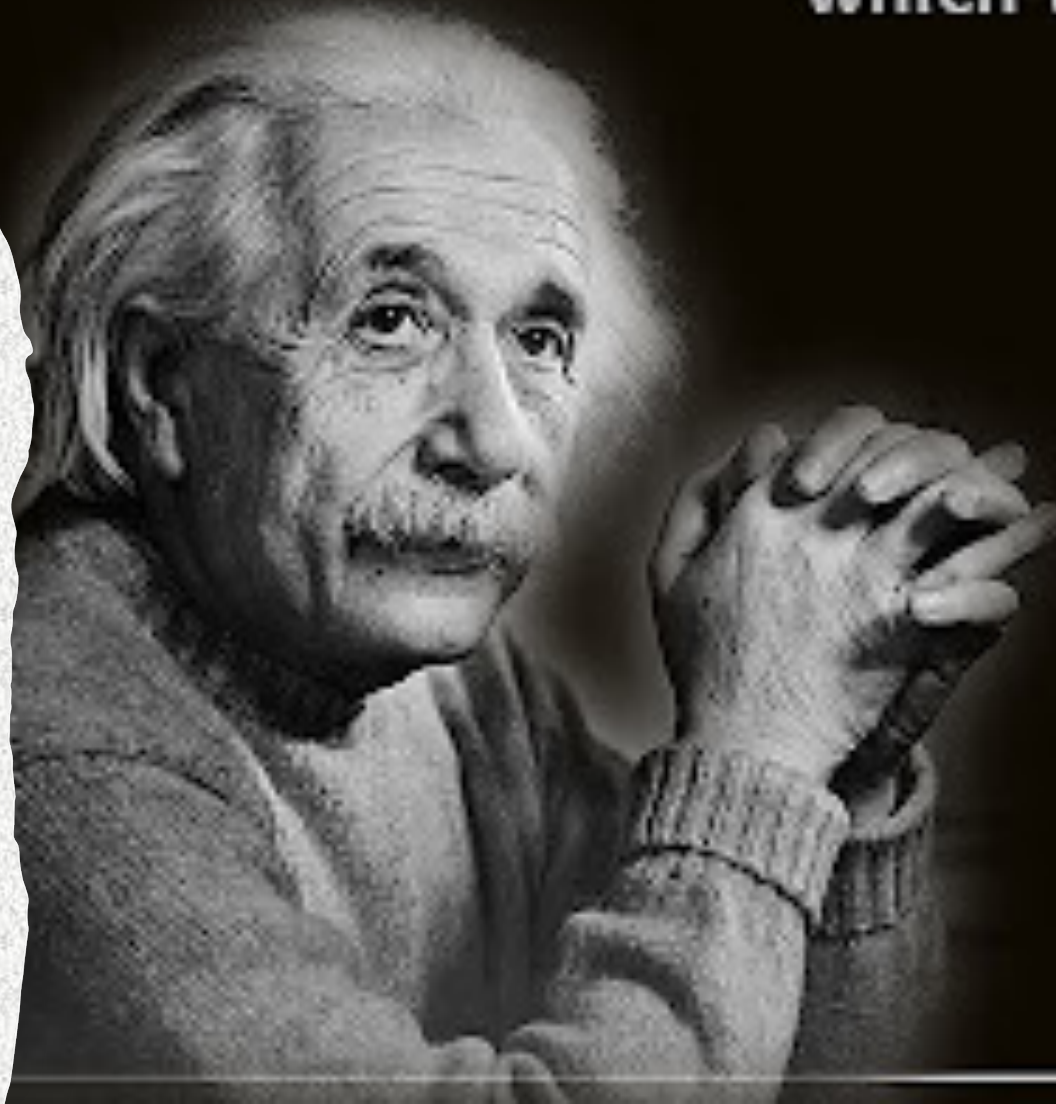
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provide the conditions in
which they can learn"**

**Albert Einstein
1879-1955**



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C-30 SRINAGAR MEET
'A moment of rejuvenation, reincarnation'
NEWS » PAGE 10

DATA POINT
Antarctic sea ice cover hits new lows
This poses a threat to sea levels, ecosystems
OPINION » PAGE 7



FINAL SECTIONS
Titans meet Super Kings in Qualifier 1
SPORT » PAGE 15

Fresh violence puts Manipur on edge

Abandoned houses torched in second incident of violence in 12 hours; ex-MLA 'behind the conspiracy' arrested, says Chief Minister Biren Singh

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Security forces tightened vigil and curfew was extended after a fresh incident of violence in Manipur's capital Imphal on Monday. Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh said a former MLA "behind the conspiracy" to trigger another round of unrest was picked up along with two others armed with single-barrel guns after they asked roadside vendors, mostly women, to vacate the New Chekion area of Imphal West district around 10 a.m. The former MLA instigated the armed men, he said.



Army and paramilitary personnel brought the situation under control after a mob set ablaze a few abandoned houses. ANI

As the news of the intimidation spread, a mob arrived and torched some abandoned houses, officials said. Army and para-

military personnel brought the situation under control. This was the second such incident in less than 12 hours. On Sunday night, three persons sustained minor injuries in Imphal West district when a man wielding a double-barrel gun attacked them. The attacker was arrested. "Peace was slowly returning to Manipur in the

last 10 days. But after the minor clash on Sunday, another incident took place in the heart of Imphal today," Mr. Singh told journalists. He appealed to the people to trust the peace-building process of the government monitored by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Do not rush to swap ₹2,000 notes: RBI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Seeking to allay concerns about the legal tender status of ₹2,000 currency notes after the September 30 deadline for their exchange or deposit, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday clarified that there was no need to rush to the banks; the announcement of the last date was only meant to nudge people to return the notes sooner.



Shaktikanta Das

Speaking in Delhi, he said a time limit had been specified along with the May 19 decision to withdraw the ₹2,000 notes from circulation just to ensure that the "announcement is taken seriously", adding that there were no plans to "rush" people with the banking system to replace these notes.

"While banks have been advised to make suitable arrangements for people to exchange the notes, Mr. Das indicated he did not expect bank branches to see the kind of rush like in 2016, after the old ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes were scrapped.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Need for deadline
"I will appeal to people there is no need to rush to the banks — four months' time has been given. You can do it anytime that it suits you. By September 30, please exchange it," he pleaded, emphasising that not setting a deadline would have made the process "endless".
CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

IN BRIEF



Row over President not being invited to open Parliament

NEW DELHI
The Congress on Monday attacked the Narendra Modi government for not inviting President Droupadi Murmu to inaugurate the new Parliament building. Senior party leader Anand Sharma termed the Centre's move "constitutionally improper".
» PAGE 11

Shah: will bring Bill to link death, birth data with voter rolls

NEW DELHI
A bill to link birth and death data with electoral rolls will be introduced in the next Parliament session, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday.
» PAGE 12

Raging inferno



Massive loss: Thick, black smoke billows out of the Manila Central Post Office on Monday as firefighters try to douse a blaze that broke out late on Sunday in the capital of the Philippines. Seven persons were injured and the nearly 100-year-old landmark was gutted in the fire. AP

Prime Minister extols value of Pacific island nations at third FIPIC summit

Kalpal Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Small island nations of the Pacific Ocean are an integral "large ocean states", said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, highlighting the importance of the 14 members of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC). In the opening session of the FIPIC-3 summit in Port Moresby, Mr. Modi spoke in favour of free and open Indo-Pacific region and India's commitment to assist the development goals of the member countries.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivers his opening remarks at the FIPIC summit at Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea on Monday. ANI

New Delhi will continue to help the Pacific island states in "every possible" way, he said. "Climate change, natural calamities,

poverty and famine already existed but now new challenges are emerging in the form of supply chains of food, fuel, fertilizer and pharma are facing issues. Those thought were reliable, we came to know they were not standing with us. In this time of difficulty, the old saying that a friend in need is a friend indeed has been proved. From vaccines to medicines, wheat and sugar, India has supplied the countries that are facing issues. The previous two meetings of the India-Pacific Islands Cooperation were held in November 2014 in Fiji, and August 2015 in

Jaipur. Mr. Modi arrived in Port Moresby on Sunday after completing his engagements at the G-7 summit in Hiroshima, where India was a guest country.

Welcoming the guest, Prime Minister Jaxmá Marape said the members of the FIPIC had suffered because of the high tariff on energy and food.

Plea to India
"We are victims of global power play and we want you to be an advocate for us and sit in those meetings," he said, urging India to serve as the voice of the Global South in the G-7 and the G-20.
CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Oppn. will hold joint meet by May-end: Cong., JD(U)

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties will hold a joint meeting by May-end as the first step towards building an anti-BJP forum ahead of the Lok Sabha poll, Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal and BJP's national president Rajiv Ranjan said after a meeting between Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi. The Centre's ordinance overriding the Delhi government's control over its officials has complicated the equation, with the Congress yet to take a call on supporting AAP to stall the Bill replacing the ordinance in the Rajya Sabha. "We will decide the date



Congress Chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi meet Bihar CM Nitish Kumar at Mr. Kharge's residence in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

and venue of the meeting in a day or two," Mr. Venugopal said, adding that he expects a "vast majority" of Opposition parties to attend it. "We had a detailed discussion on the emerging consensus among parties," Mr. Ranjan said. This is Mr. Kumar's second meeting with the Congress leadership in a month's time. He had last met Mr. Kharge and Mr.

parties are not Congress allies and Mr. Kumar approached them to understand their position ahead of the Lok Sabha election. "In today's meeting, Mr. Kumar shared the discussions he had with the five," a Congress leader said.

Opposition formula
According to informed sources, the two sides concluded that even if the BJP and the BRS — which in the past nine years of the BJP government have largely maintained a distance from the Opposition and inclined more towards the BJP — remain aloof, there are at least 400 Lok Sabha seats on which the Opposition formula of single candidate against the BJP can be arrived at. AAP's bid to stall the

Delhi ordinance has introduced a new twist. Without the Congress's support in the Rajya Sabha, AAP's campaign stands no chance. While both the JD(U) and the RJD have assured Mr. Kejriwal of their support, the Congress has not yet made up its mind. Mr. Venugopal told *The Hindu*, "We will have to hold internal discussions on the issue and when the Bill comes to Parliament, we will also speak to other like-minded parties before taking the final call." AAP, according to multiple sources, is making a strong effort to include including suggesting an electoral alliance in Delhi for the Lok Sabha election. **'Telecast test'** Responding to the demand, Mr. Punia said, "We were ready for a 'telecast test' long ago. The test should

Wrestlers accept WFI chief's demand for narco test under SC supervision

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The grapplers protesting against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Monday said they were ready to undergo a narco test under the supervision of the Supreme Court.



Resisters: Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik address a press conference in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Mr. Singh, who is facing sexual harassment allegations, had said Monday that he was willing to undergo a polygraph test if the same test was conducted on wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia. Mr. Singh, who is facing sexual harassment allegations, had said Monday that he was willing to undergo a polygraph test if the same test was conducted on wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia. **'Telecast test'** Responding to the demand, Mr. Punia said, "We were ready for a 'telecast test' long ago. The test should

be conducted under the Supreme Court's supervision and it should be telecast so that everybody gets to see the questions put to the WFI president and the wrestlers who have registered complaints." Ms. Phogat also de-

Prime Minister extols value of Pacific island nations at third FIPIC summit

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

Small island nations of the Pacific Ocean are in fact “large ocean states”, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, highlighting the importance of the 14 members of the Forum for India Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC).

In the opening session of the FIPIC-3 summit in Port Moresby, Mr. Modi spoke in favour of free and open Indo-Pacific region and focused on India’s commitment to assist the development goals of the member-countries.

New Delhi would continue to help the Pacific island states in “every possible” way, he said. “Climate change, natural calamities,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivers his opening remarks at the FIPIC summit at Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea on Monday. ANI

poverty and famine already existed but now new challenges are emerging as supply chains of food, fuel fertilizer and pharma are facing hurdles. Those we thought were reliable, we came to know they were not standing with us. In this time of difficulty, the old saying that a friend in

need is a friend indeed has been proved. From vaccines to medicines, wheat and sugar, India has supplied the countries that needed the items,” he said.

The previous two meetings of the India-Pacific Islands Cooperation were held in November 2014 in Fiji, and August 2015 in

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Mr. Modi arrived in Port Moresby on Sunday after completing his engagements at the G-7 summit in Hiroshima, where India was a guest country.

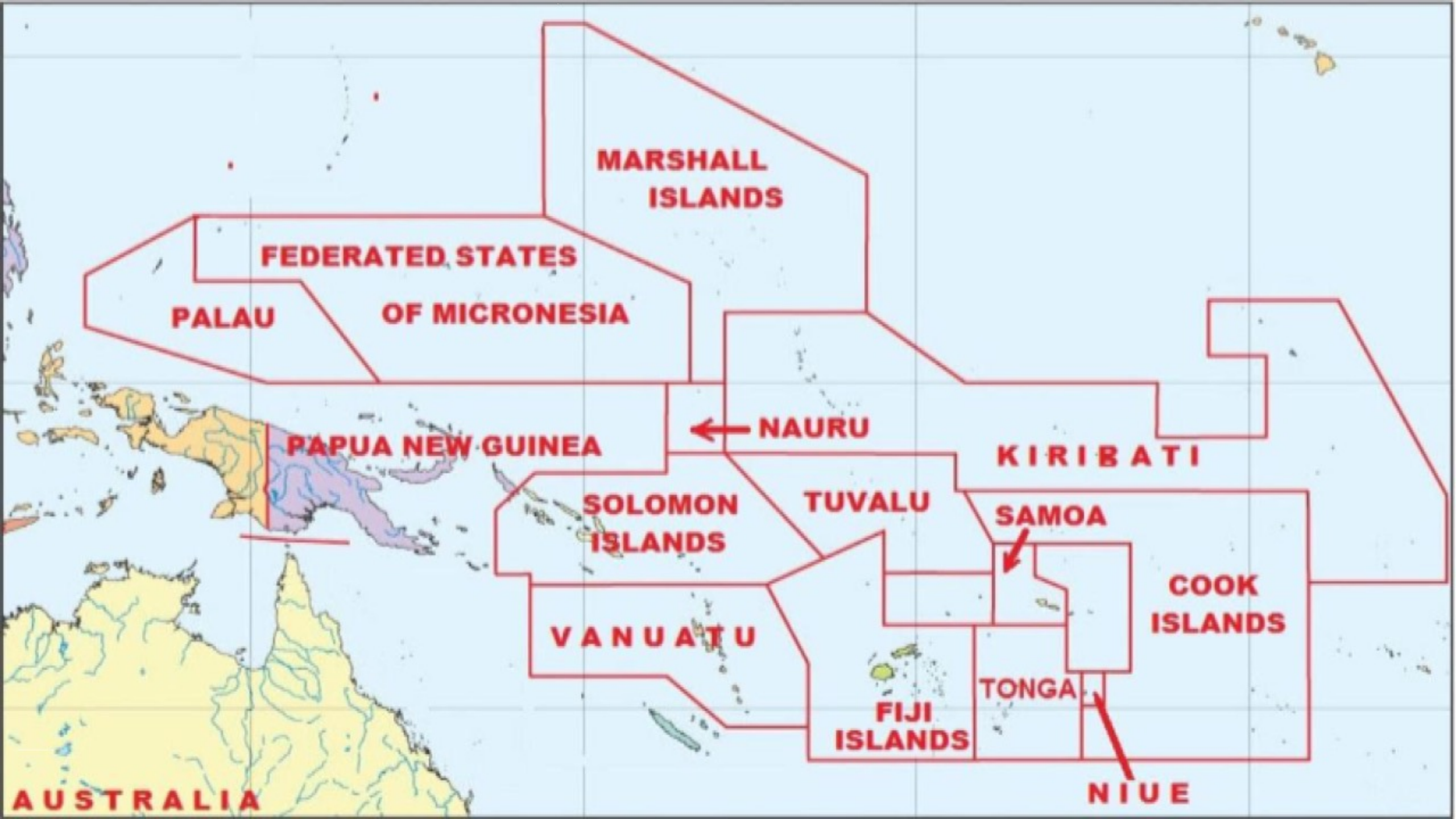
Welcoming the guest, Prime Minister James Marape said the members of the FIPIC had suffered because of the high tariff on energy and food.

Plea to India

“We are victims of global power play and we want you to be an advocate for us and sit in those meetings,” he said, urging India to serve as the voice of the Global South in the G-7 and the G-20.

CONTINUED ON

» PAGE 10



MARSHALL ISLANDS

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

PALAU

OF MICRONESIA

← NAURU

KIRIBATI

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

SOLOMON ISLANDS

TUVALU

SAMOA

COOK ISLANDS

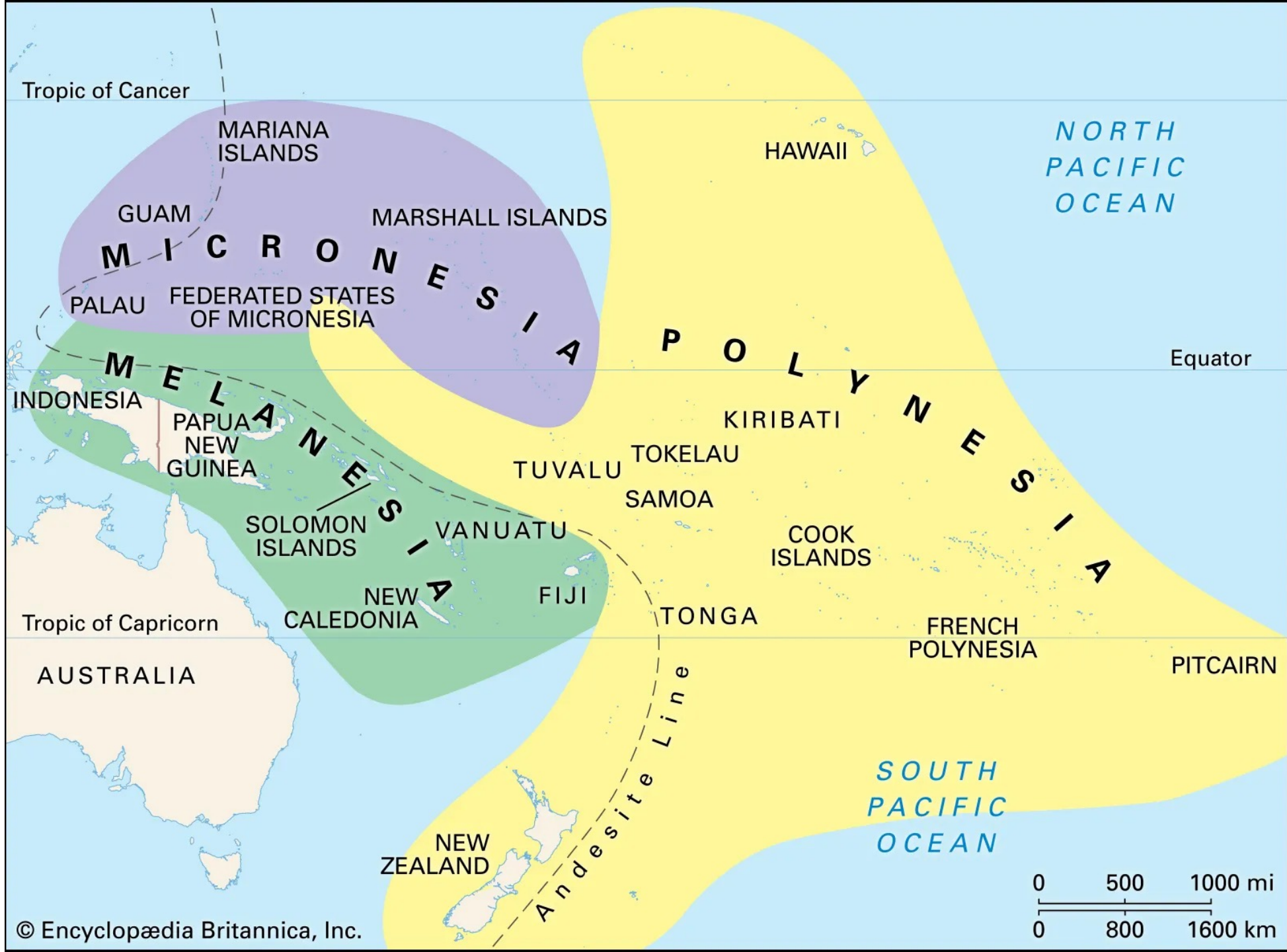
VANUATU

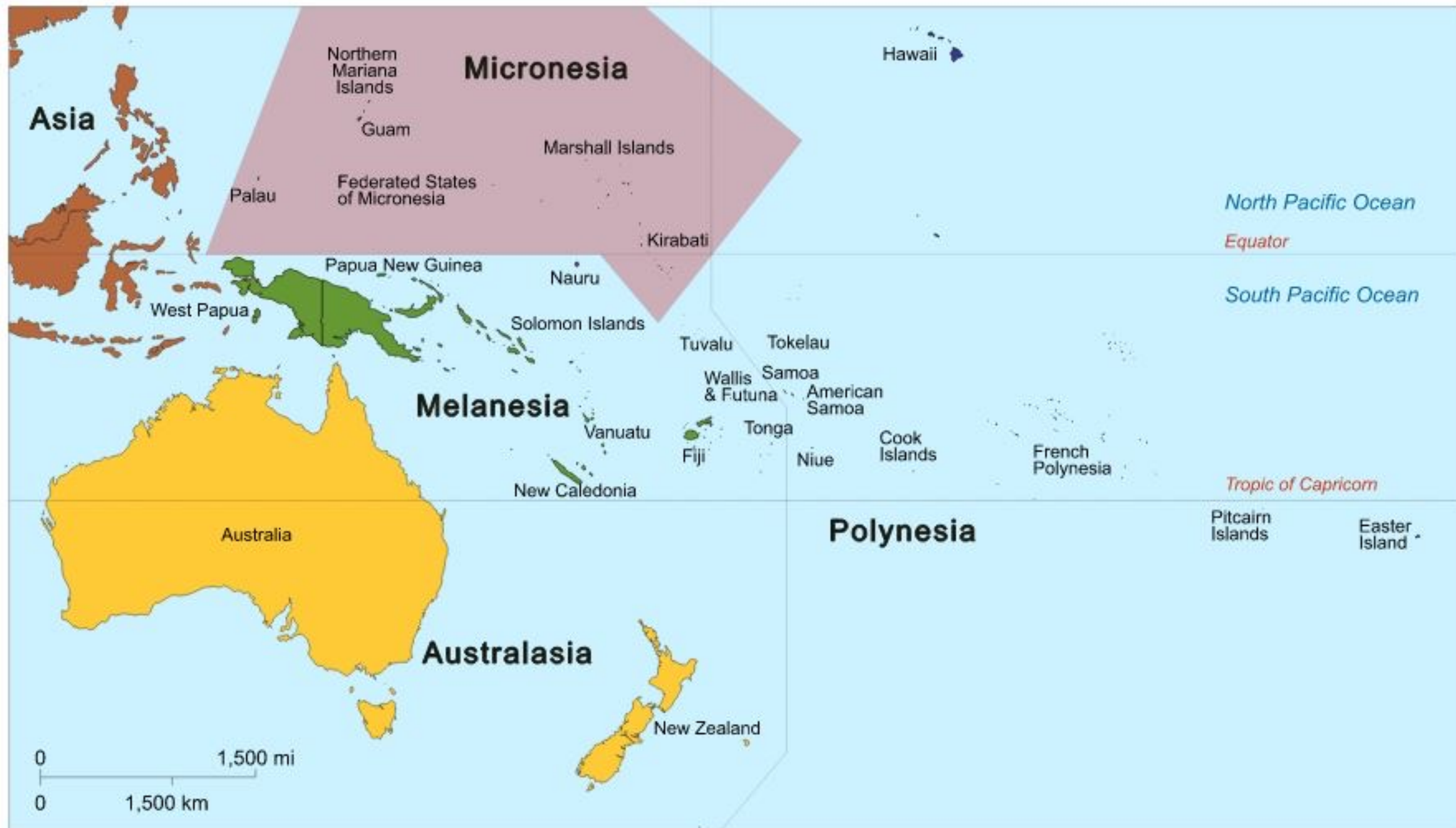
FIJI ISLANDS

TONGA


NIUE

AUSTRALIA







- 
- It consists of the 3 major groups of islands: **Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia**, and commonly refers to the **14** countries scattered in the South-West Pacific Ocean.
 - **These are the** Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

- 
- The region comprises **strategically located** (at the crossroads of significant maritime trade routes) **small island nations**, with small populations and **resource-rich Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs)**.
 - Their profile is rising particularly given the popularity of the **Indo-Pacific construct**.



- **The Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC):**
- It was launched during the PM of India's visit to Fiji in **2014** and **includes 14 of the PICs.**
- The FIPIC initiative marks a serious effort to expand (from the Indian Ocean) India's **strategic and commercial interests in the Pacific region.**

- 
- A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a large, colorful, beaded basket. The basket is made of woven fabric and is covered in intricate beadwork in various colors including red, yellow, green, and blue. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the basket and the person's hands.
- **India's major assistance projects in the PICs:**
 - Setting up a **special USD 1 million fund** for adapting to climate change and clean energy, **establishing a trade office in India**, Pan Pacific Islands **e-network** to improve digital connectivity.
 - India has **increased the annual "Grant-in-Aid"** from USD 125,000 to 200,000 to each of the 14 PICs for community projects of their choice, and **launched a new Visitors Programme for PICs**.
 - At the FIPIC-2 (Jaipur, 2015), FICCI launched the **Business Accelerator** for FIPIC to provide necessary information and facilitation to businessmen on both sides.

- 
- A person's hands are shown holding a large, spherical object covered in colorful beads. The beads are arranged in horizontal bands of various colors including blue, yellow, green, orange, and red. The background is a patterned fabric with a repeating geometric design in yellow, red, and black. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the text overlaid in white.
- **The advantage to India:** Presence of a sizable Indian Diaspora – nearly 40% of Fiji’s population is of Indian origin and about 3000 Indians live in PNG.
 -
 - **Challenges:** India’s interaction with the PICs **still largely revolves around its engagement with Fiji and PNG**

IN BRIEF



Air India, Air India Express to operate special Haj flights

Air India and Air India Express will operate Haj flights from Jaipur, Chennai, Kozhikode and Kanpur. The two carriers will fly close to 10,000 pilgrims to Jeddah and Medina in Saudi Arabia from the four cities...

Union Education Ministry discontinues two awards

The Union Higher Education Ministry has discontinued the 'Shiksha Puraskar', launched by the Centre in 1992 for encouraging original writings in Hindi. The decision is part of the Union Home Ministry's move to rationalise various awards instituted by the Centre...

Delhi HC issues notice to BBC on its documentary

The Delhi High Court on Monday issued notice to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on an NGO's plea claiming its documentary, India: The Modi Question, casts a slur on the reputation of India and makes false and defamatory imputations against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian judiciary.

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Will bring Bill to link death and birth data with voter rolls: Shah

Union Home Minister says registration of births and deaths is important for updating citizens' register and list of people who avail schemes

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

A Bill to link birth and death records with voter rolls will be introduced in the next Parliament session, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday.

The Minister said that registration of births and deaths is important for updating citizens' register, electoral rolls and list of people who avail themselves of welfare schemes.

Mr. Shah was speaking at the inauguration of the new census building here, the decennial census that was to be completed in 2022 was indefinitely postponed, initially due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Amit Shah with Census Commissioner of India Mithunajay Kumar Narayan at the inauguration of the census building in New Delhi. PTI

ing development plans in the period between the two decennial censuses that was to be completed in 2022 was indefinitely postponed, initially due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The government had not given any reason to further postpone the exercise, which was laid down in 2011.

Plea in HC against exchange of ₹2,000 notes without proof

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Following the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent decision to withdraw the ₹2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation, a public interest litigation (PIL) petition has been filed before the Delhi High Court against allowing the exchange of ₹2,000 banknotes without obtaining any requisition slip and identity proof.

Advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, in his petition, sought a direction to ensure that ₹2,000 banknotes are "deposited in respective bank accounts only so that no one could deposit the money in others' bank account".

"About 89% of the ₹2,000 denomination banknotes were issued prior to March 2017 and the Union Ministry estimated life span of 4-5 years. The total value of these ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation has declined to ₹1,75,73,34,000 crore, constituting only 10.2% of notes in circulation on March 31, 2023, the RBI tally indicates.

It is to ensure that no one deposits money in others' accounts, says advocate Upadhyay

Advocate Upadhyay said a large amount of the ₹2,000 denomination banknotes has reached either lockers of individuals or has "been hoarded by the separatists, terrorists, Maoists, drug smugglers, mining mafias and corrupt people".

The plea said, "Recently, it was announced by the Centre that every family has an Aadhaar card and a bank account. So, why is the Reserve Bank of India permitting the exchange of ₹2,000 banknotes without obtaining any identity proof?"

On May 20, the State Bank of India (SBI), in a communication to the chief general managers of its local head offices in the country, instructed that the facility of exchange of ₹2,000 denomination banknotes to all members of the public up to a limit of ₹20,000 at a time will be allowed without obtaining any requisition slip from the depositor.

Purchase of fuel using ₹2,000 notes spike to 90%

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Cash purchase of fuel at petrol pumps using ₹2,000 notes has spiked to almost 90% of the daily sales as buyers rushed to tender the withdrawn currency notes.

Petrol pump dealers said cash sales before the announcement on May 19 of the withdrawal of the ₹2,000 note was only 10%, but now customers were using the withdrawn note to make small purchases of ₹100 or ₹200, expecting petrol pumps to return change.

They have now asked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to instruct banks to provide enough small denomination notes to help serve customers smoothly. Petrol pumps were allowed to accept old ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes after the 2016 demonetisation of nearly 86% of the currency notes. Petrol pumps, however, soon turned into outlets to launder banned currency notes, leading to the government prematurely withdrawing the facility. This time, too, petrol pumps have become outlets to get the withdrawn currency out.

Centre seeks stricter implementation of ban on e-cigarettes

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

With electronic cigarettes readily available online and at tobacco shops despite a ban, the Union Health Ministry has issued a public notice for stricter implementation of the Act which prohibits their manufacture, sale and advertisement.

The Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Act came into force in 2019. The Ministry has directed all producers, manufacturers, importers, exporters, distributors, advertisers, transporters, including couriers, social media and shopping websites, shopkeepers, retailers being notified to directly or indirectly produce, manufacture, import, export, transport,

sell, distribute and store e-cigarettes, whether as a complete product or any part thereof. It has also asked them not to advertise e-cigarettes.

"The efficacy of production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale (including online sale), distribution, storage, and advertisement of electronic cigarettes is cognisable and punishable as per the statutory provisions of the Act," the Ministry added.

'Weak enforcement' Binoy Mathew, manager, Voluntary Health Association of India, said, "The ban on electronic cigarettes was introduced to protect our younger generation from a new form of toxic addiction. However, its enforcement has been weak, resulting in the market being flooded with cheap and unbranded Chinese-made electronic cigarettes."

Education Ministry holds meet on PARAKH aimed at unifying 60 school Boards

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Education Ministry organised a workshop in New Delhi on Monday with the aim of unifying a network of 60 school examination Boards of various States and Union Territories under one umbrella.

The main component of this plan is PARAKH, the National Assessment Centre, which has been set up as an organisation under the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). The mandate of PARAKH is to work on bringing the school boards across States and Union Territories on a common platform.

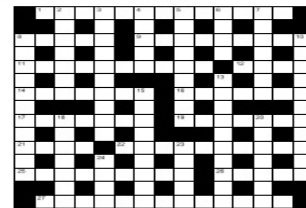


PARAKH aims to establish a unified framework for seamless transitions for students moving between Boards. FILE PHOTO

"As a first step, a workshop on PARAKH will act as a common platform for interaction of all stakeholders concerned in order to develop a holistic approach that ensures a fair assessment system which promotes equity in performance and equivalence in assessment of students," said Sanjay Kumar, Secretary (School Education), em-

phasising the need for equivalence of Boards said that the aim was to establish a unified framework that enables seamless transitions for students moving between different Boards or regions. The Education Ministry official added that the discussion revolved around the need to reassess the prevailing rote examination culture in the education system.

CROSSWORD 13872



- Across 1 Safe golfer's reason for not hitting long shots? (12,2,3) 2 Battle to seize heroin by force in dock (5) 3 Extremely calm couple, so different after drinking hit of rum (10) 4 Blind date accepted by rebellious woman going astray (1,7) 5 Initially, just attach image file forms (6) 6 Inaugurate gift - stylish and select clothes (7)

SUDOKU



- 16 Unscrupulous here ditching model? (7) 17 Active agent in tows (7) 18 Once more going around river with a famous waterfall? (7) 19 Extremely tight at first binge (4) 20 Whirl in hospital, overwhelmed by difficult time with bad flu (10) 21 Desire to check out attractive person having lunch with hot woman (5,4) 22 Surprise! Abruptly captures knight and mates (5) 23 Distressed by breaking fingers conducting stunt on top of elevator (8)

FAITH




The pairs of opposites like positive and negative are important in our life. Negatives are to be eschewed and positives are to be adhered. All general rules such as helping others, remaining free from evil thoughts, speaking truth are common to all irrespective of caste, creed or religion. When the neighbours of Yasodha complained in a shivering chill about the pranks of Krishna to her, she decided to hand out punishment to Him. When chased by Yasodha, Krishna scampering and ducking for cover sneaked into Dadhipandana - a potter's house. He begged the potter to hide him under a pot and the potter cupped Him under a big pot. Asked whether Krishna is here, Dadhipandana told Yasodha in negative with a blatant lie. Whether the potter was correct and whether he could utter a lie? In times of emergency it is said we can exceptionally deviate from the common rules. Pleasured with his help, Krishna offered Dadhipandana all material things, but he wanted moksha. To get normal release, Krishna had to give the real release.

The eyes of the Lord are with redness (samudra) and whiteness (varmudra). He is called 'Senthamaralkannan', Red for fierceness, indicating His intent to extend punishment to us for our negative doings (sigraham) and white for coolness - indicating His readiness to pardon us and extend His blessings for our positive deeds (anugraham). If we pray His divine consort, God becomes cool through Her mercy towards us and automatically showers on us His Benign blessings, said His Holiness Sri Srinivasa Gopala Mahadesikan, the Jeer of Ponnidareekapuram Ashram in an Aravaliya Bhushanam.

Union Education Ministry discontinues two awards

The Union Higher Education Ministry has discontinued the 'Shiksha Puraskar', launched by the Centre in 1992 for encouraging original writings in Hindi. The decision is part of the Union Home Ministry's move to rationalise various awards instituted by the Centre. The 'Hinditar Bhashi Hindi Lekhakar Puraskar', an award given to promote writings in Hindi by writers from non-Hindi speaking areas, has also been discontinued. Under the 'Shiksha Puraskar', five awards worth ₹1 lakh each is given every year. The 'Hinditar Bhashi Hindi Lekhakar Puraskar' carries a cash prize of ₹50,000.

Year	Awardee	Book	Genre
2022	Gyan Chaturvedi	Pagalkhana	Novel

2023		Sivasankari	"Surya Vamsam" (Memoir)
------	---	-------------	-------------------------

- The **K.K. Birla Foundation** was established in 1991 by [Krishna Kumar Birla](#) in Delhi. Its mission is to promote literature (especially [Hindi](#) literature) and the arts, as well as education and social work. It regularly gets mentioned in the media for the awards it confers, including:
 - the [Saraswati Samman](#) ₹1,500,000 (US\$19,000) for literary work in any Indian language(22),
 - the [Vyas Samman](#) ₹400,000 (US\$5,000) for prose/poetry work in Hindi,



the Bihari Puraskar ₹100,000 (US\$1,300) for prose/poetry work in Hindi/Rajasthani, only authors from Rajasthan are eligible,



the [Shankar Puraskar](#) ₹150,000 (US\$1,900) for a work in Hindi concerning Indian philosophy, culture and/or art,



the [Vachaspati Puraskar](#) ₹150,000 (US\$1,900) for any work in [Sanskrit](#)



the [G.D. Birla Award for Scientific Research](#) ₹150,000 (US\$1,900).

साहित्य अकादेमी

Emblem of Sahitya Akademi



Rabindra Bhawan, Delhi which houses the [Sangeet Natak Akademi](#), [Lalit Kala Akademi](#) and Sahitya Akademi

Abbreviation	SA
Formation	12 March 1954; 69 years ago
Headquarters	Rabindra Bhawan, Delhi
Location	New Delhi , India
Region served	India
President	Chandrashekhara Kambara
Publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indian Literature
Parent organisation	Ministry of Culture , Government of India

U.S. signs security pact with Papua New Guinea amid competition with China

Associated Press

PORT MORESBY

The U.S. signed a new security pact with Papua New Guinea on Monday as it competes with China for influence in the Pacific.

Papua New Guinea's location just north of Australia makes it strategically significant. It was the site of fierce battles during World War II, and with a population of nearly 10 million people, it's the most populous Pacific Island nation.

The State Department said the new agreement provides a framework to help improve security cooperation, enhance the capacity of Papua New Guinea's defence force and increase regional stability.



Widening horizon: Antony Blinken, left, and James Marape sign agreements in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, on Monday. AP

“The work that we’re doing together to try to shape the future could not be more important, could not be more timely,” U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told reporters.

Papua New Guinea Prime Minister James Marape said the pact is mu-

tually beneficial and “secures our national interests”.

But the agreement sparked student protests in the second-largest city, Lae. And many in the Pacific are concerned about the increasing militarisation of the region.



Location of Papua New Guinea (green)

Capital and largest city	Port Moresby 🌐 09°28′44″S 147°08′58″E
Official languages ^{[3][4]}	English · Hiri Motu · PNG Sign Language · Tok Pisin
Indigenous languages	851 languages ^[5]
Ethnic groups	Papuan
Religion (2011 census) ^[6]	95.5% Christianity — 64.3% Protestantism — 26.0% Catholicism — 5.2% Other Christian 3.1% Unspecified 1.4% Others / None

Government	Unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy
• Monarch	Charles III
• Governor-General	Bob Dadae
• Prime Minister	James Marape
Legislature	National Parliament
Independence from Australia	
• Papua and New Guinea Act 1949	1 July 1949
• Declared and recognised	16 September 1975
Area	
• Total	462,840 km ² (178,700 sq mi) (54th)
• Water (%)	2
Population	
• 2020 estimate	▲ 8,935,000 (98th)
• 2011 census	7,275,324 ^[7]
• Density	15/km ² (38.8/sq mi) (201st)
GDP (PPP)	2019 estimate
• Total	\$32.382 billion ^[8] (124th)
• Per capita	\$3,764 ^[8] (145th)
GDP (nominal)	2019 estimate
• Total	\$21.543 billion ^[8] (110th)
• Per capita	\$2,504 ^[8] (129th)

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ECONOMY

IBI: ENOUGH STOCKS FOR EXCHANGE OF ₹s 2,000 NOTES P 17

SANJAY SHERPURIA CASE

Probing conman link, ED raids firm run by former NDTV CEO, freezes fixed deposits

JEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) is probing a sports-tech start-up run by a former senior NDTV executive in connection with its money laundering probe into alleged conman Sanjay 'Kakshai' Sherpuria. The Indian Express has learned.

Earlier this month, the agency reportedly raided the premises of MySports Pvt Ltd in Delhi and froze its fixed deposits if more than Rs 4.6 crore. The company is founded and managed by Satav Banejee, former Co-CEO and CEO of NDTV group, and is being probed by the ED for allegedly parking Sherpuria's funds.

Sherpuria was arrested by the special task force of the Uttar Pradesh Police late last month for allegedly taking his access to the 'Prime Minister's Office and residence' 'missing' the PM's name for personal gain.

"Sherpuria received money from a number of businessmen in various forms on the promise

JANTAR MANTAR PROTESTS AGAINST SEXUAL HARASSMENT BY WFI CHIEF

'Like many girls, I had to suffer silently all these years because of this man (Brij Bhushan Singh)'

As the wrestlers' protest enters its 2nd month, its face and voice Vinesh Phogat breaks her silence

SPECIAL TO EXPRESS

VINESH PHOGAT

OUR FIGHT for justice is a months old yet it feels like we have been at Jantar Mantar for a year. Not because we have been sleeping on a footpath in the heat, getting bitten by mosquitoes, having stray dogs for company once dusk falls or don't have access to a clean toilet at night. Our fight for justice seems like it has been on forever because the wheels of jus-

ice have moved very slowly. This is despite seven women wrestlers, including a minor, having complained about sexual harassment by Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Singh.

Frankly, when we decided to speak up in January about the sexual harassment women wrestlers faced and the mismanagement in the federation, we believed our voices would matter. And for a short time, we believed it did. An Oversight Committee was set up by the Sports Ministry to probe the allegations but we know that it was an eyewash.

In January, when Bajrang (Pune), Sachhi (Madia), and de-



World Championship medalist Vinesh Phogat, 23, is seen smiling and holding a medal.

ided to begin protesting at Jantar Mantar, we believed it would not take more than two to three days to get justice. What's the point of the medals around your neck if you can't fight for justice?

When I say "special" just imagine this. They have to talk about traumatic events not once

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

BRIJ BHUSHAN TO SHOW STRENGTH AT AYODHYA RALLY P 8

CALLS FOR STRIKES IN VALLEY FIND NO TAKERS NOW: MINISTER

Dehi's G20 message lost, change here 2 generations lost, change here



Delegates participating in the G20 tourism working group meeting, at the Dal Lake in Srinagar on Monday. Divya A

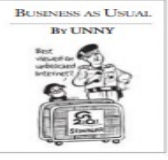
61 participants from 29 countries present; China, Turkey, Saudi, Egypt stay away

DIVYA A & NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, MAY 22

THE G20 tourism working group meeting in Srinagar on Monday saw 61 participants from 29 countries present. China, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Egypt stayed away.

When I was trying to capture all that I was seeing, the first thought that occurred to me was: it's indeed a moment of rejuvenation, a moment of reinvigoration, a moment of recommitment... Singh said as he outlined the positive changes in the Valley.

The Minister of State for PMO, giving an example, said that unlike in the past, there were no takers for strike calls here anymore. "If such an event was held earlier, a strike call would have been given from Islamabad and shops on



Residency Road (in the heart of Srinagar) would have shut down. Now there is no halt even if the call for hartal comes from here or there, he said.

Residency Road (in the heart of Srinagar) would have shut down. Now there is no halt even if the call for hartal comes from here or there, he said.

has changed has happened. Common people on the streets of Srinagar want to move on. They have lost two generations [due to militancy]," he said, addressing the delegates at a side event on "Film Tourism for Economic and Cultural Preservation".

The minister expressed hope that the delegates highlight the positives in the Valley when they

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

THE WORLD

UKRAINE AIMS TO ENFORCE EU SANCTIONS AFTER RUSSIAN CAPTURE CLAIMS

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

DELHI UNIVERSITY'S Department of Philosophy has strongly opposed the suggestion of the university's postgraduate and undergraduate curriculum committee to drop an elective course on B. R. Ambedkar's philosophy from an undergraduate programme, and

DU panel proposes to drop course on Ambedkar, Philosophy dept opposes

After pushback, DU relents, wants 'more thinkers' added

has requested Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh to retain the course, The Indian Express has learned.

According to sources, the suggestion to drop the course from the BA Programme (Philosophy) — first made on May 8 — was discussed in the meeting of the department's postgraduate and undergraduate curriculum committee held on May 12.

The department's curriculum committee expressed "strong reservations" on the proposal on the ground that "Ambedkar is an indigenous thinker representative of the social aspirations of a majority of people in the country," and that research on Ambedkar is on the rise.

The suggestion of dropping Ambedkar's name as part of the curriculum review being undertaken, based on the National Education Policy 2020,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

MAY 28 INAUGURATION

President, not PM, should open new House, says Opp; BJP calls it cheap politics

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, MAY 22

THE INAUGURATION of the new Parliament building by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 28, which also happens to be the birth anniversary of Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar, has triggered a political firestorm with Opposition parties alleging breach of Constitutional propriety and arguing that President Droupadi Murmu, as the head of Parliament, should have been invited to dedicate the building to the nation. And the BJP alleging that the Congress was playing "cheap politics" at a time of "national pride".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accused the Government of having reduced the office of the President to "tokenism" and linked the issue of Malhotra and Tripathi. Some of the other Opposition parties accused the BJP government of indulging in the tribal society. Sources said the Opposition parties are holding a boycott of the event. Sources in the Congress said the Opposition parties were likely to take a joint stand on whether to attend or stay away from the inauguration ceremony of the new Parliament building in December 2020, questioning its timing, since the farmers were protesting at the

DEPT BUDGET

Deep trust deficit

CRITICIZING THE farm protests and the pandemic, the Opposition stayed away from the foundation-laying ceremony of the new House in December 2020. This time, the Opposition is arguing that the President is the head of Parliament. Given that Parliament belongs to the people — Opp and Treasury benches — the controversy betrays a deep trust deficit between the two sides.

time, the pandemic was raging, and the country was experiencing economic distress induced by the lockdown.

Apart from laying the foundation stone, the Prime Minister had unveiled the national emblem on top of the new building in July last year. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had met Prime Minister Modi last week and invited him to inaugurate the new Parliament building.

Kharge alleged "the Modi Government is playing a double game" and "betraying the trust of the people".

OPP PARTIES TO MEET SOON PAGE 8



Security forces in Imphal on Monday. Jimmy Leivon

Manipur tension back as houses set on fire, CM appeals for calm

JIMMY LEIVON
IMPHAL, MAY 22

FRESH TENSIONS erupted in Manipur's capital on Monday after a mob set on fire some abandoned houses, belonging to members of the Kuki community, in the Imphal East district.

Earlier this month, the state saw violent clashes between the Meitei and Kuki communities that left at least 70 dead, over 200 injured and thousands displaced. Since then, an uneasy calm has prevailed in the state, but internet services are still barred and a heavy deployment of security forces remains on the ground.

Following the Monday morning flare-up, Chief Minister N Biren Singh appealed to the public to restrain from any form of violence and to work towards building peace. "Mob violence will not bring any solution. I appeal to the public to remain calm. Our government is doing whatever it can to bring normalcy. Have faith in the government," he said, adding that 200 companies of additional security forces are being requisitioned for the state.

He urged the public not to venture out at night, citing standing orders to shoot at sight.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

What Centre did not tell SC: It said no to Rajasthan request for cheetahs

IYAZ MAZOOMDAR
DELHI, MAY 22

AST WEEK, expressing concern over the death of three cheetahs in Kuno, Madhya Pradesh, the supreme court asked the Centre to rise above politics and consider shifting a few cheetahs to Rajasthan.

"It appears that Kuno is not sufficient for so many cheetahs... Why don't you look for a suitable place in Rajasthan? Merely because Rajasthan is ruled by an opposition party does not mean you will not consider it," the court said.

"It appears that Kuno is not sufficient for so many cheetahs... Why don't you look for a suitable place in Rajasthan? Merely because Rajasthan is ruled by an opposition party does not mean you will not consider it," the court said.

What the Centre didn't tell the court was that soon after media inked the cheetahs

At Harappan site, a mystery buried in time: Whose graves are these?

ROPAL KATESHYA
MATHYI (KUTCH), MAY 22

THE DRY, arid soil on a 16-hectare expanse on the outskirts of Khattiya village in Gujarat's Kutch district has thrown up several surprises — a shell bangle, pottery shards, stone blades, even human skeletal remains.

In 2018, a multi-disciplinary international team of archaeologists had discovered 500 graves and excavated 197 of those here. But deep below the site holds the key to an enduring mystery: whose graves are these?

led by Regesh S V, Assistant



During the excavation of Juna Khattiya site. University of Romska

parable to the pre-urban Harappan pottery found in Balochistan and North Gujarat.

However, he said, "The soil in Khattiya is acidic, facilitating faster decomposition of bodies. Therefore, researchers found it hard to extract DNA from samples excavated at the site."

This could then hold the answer to the Khattiya puzzle — who are the people whose remains were interred in these graves and where did they come from?

One of Dholavira, the UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the biggest metropolises of the Harappan civilisation, is also in Kutch, at 150 kilometres

away from Khattiya that's among the westernmost sites of the Harappan sites in India. Given the distance, researchers say, it's unlikely that people from the pre-urban settlements of Dholavira were buried at the Khattiya site.

"Desalpur and Khirsara, Kotla Bhatti and Hathi are other well-known Harappan sites in western Kutch. But each of them is a site of urban and post-urban periods of the Harappan civilisation," he said.

While Dholavira, the UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the biggest metropolises of the Harappan civilisation, is also in Kutch, at 150 kilometres

Why alcohol in Ireland will carry warning labels

ANONNA DUTT

NEW DELHI, MAY 22

IRELAND HAS enacted a law that requires all alcoholic products to prominently mention that their consumption is directly linked to liver disease and cancer. The comprehensive health labels or stickers – mandatory after May 22, 2026 – will also warn against drinking while pregnant.

Alcohol packs will need to provide the calorie count of the products.

While wine manufacturing countries like Italy, Spain, and six other EU member states criticised the decision by Ireland's Health Minister Stephen Donnelly, experts have backed it as a step in the right direction, saying many regular drinkers remained unaware of the dangers of alcohol consumption.

Drinking in Ireland

The Irish have traditionally had a reputation for drinking heavily, and alcohol plays a major role in the country's culture. A 2021 survey by the Irish government found that although alcohol consumption was declining, it continued to be high – 37% of the population older than 15 years drank at least once a week (down from 41% in 2018), and 15% binge drank typically (28% in 2018).

**EXPLAINED
HEALTH**

Labels in other countries

Although alcoholic products in many countries warn against underage drinking and drinking and driving, only South Korea currently warns of the link between alcohol and cancers, according to an editorial in *The Lancet Gastroenterology and Hepatology*. Ireland will be the second country to do so.

According to the article, South Africa had enacted a law requiring stringent alcohol warning labels in 2017, but repealed it in 2020 under domestic and international pressure.

Countries such as Australia and New Zealand require labelling for standard drink and alcohol content, and a warning on risks of consuming alcohol while pregnant on all products with more than 1.15% alcohol, according to a 2022 report on health warnings on alcoholic beverages by the World Health Organisation.

Need for warning labels

Alcohol has been listed as a class 1 carcinogen (cancer-causing agent) by a WHO agency since 1990. Earlier this year, the WHO warned: "When it comes to alcohol consumption, there is no safe amount that does not affect health."

Dr SK Sarin, vice chancellor of the Delhi-

based Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences said alcohol was the leading cause of liver cancers in Europe. "Between 40% and 52% of all liver cancers in European countries are due to consumption of alcohol," he said.

"Alcohol", Dr Sarin said, "is one of the most socially accepted poisons". Most people who came to his hospital with alcohol-related liver disease weren't aware of the damage it can cause, he said.

The WHO report mentioned earlier said: "Current labelling practices across countries are not standardized as they are with medicine, food products and soft drinks. The inconsistencies in displaying information and other factors such as the scale of interventions and assessment methods have resulted in divergent practices and outcomes, leaving consumers without critical information to make decisions."

LONGER VERSION

www.indianexpress.com/explained

SpaceX sends NASA veteran, Saudi's first woman to ISS



MARCIA DUNN
Cape Canaveral, May 22

SAUDI ARABIA'S FIRST astronauts in decades rocketed toward the International Space Station (ISS) on a chartered multimillion-dollar flight on Sunday.

SpaceX launched the ticket-holding crew, led by a retired NASA astronaut now working for the company that arranged the trip from Kennedy Space Center.

Also on board: a US businessman who now owns a sports car racing team.

The four should reach the space station in their capsule on Monday morning; they'll spend just over a week there before returning home with a splashdown off the Florida coast.

Sponsored by the Saudi Arabian government, Rayyanah Barnawi, a stem cell researcher, became the first woman from the kingdom to go to space. She was joined by Ali al-Qarni, a fighter pilot with the Royal Saudi Air Force.

They're the first from their country to ride a rocket since a Saudi prince launched aboard shuttle Discovery in

IN A NUTSHELL

- SpaceX launched the ticket-holding crew, led by a retired NASA astronaut
- Sponsored by the Saudi government, Rayyanah Barnawi, became the first woman from the kingdom to go to space
- SpaceX's first-stage booster landed back at Cape Canaveral eight minutes after liftoff

1985. In a quirk of timing, they'll be greeted at the station by an astronaut from the United Arab Emirates.

"Hello from outer space! It feels amazing to be viewing Earth from this capsule," Barnawi said after settling into orbit.

Added al-Qarni: "As I look outside into space, I can't help but think this is just the beginning of a great journey for all of us."

"Rounding out the visiting crew: Knoxville, Tennessee's John Shoffner,

former driver and owner of a sports car racing team that competes in Europe, and chaperone Peggy Whitson, the station's first female commander who holds the US record for most accumulated time in space: 665 days and counting.

"It was a phenomenal ride," Whitson said after reaching orbit. Her crewmates clapped their hands in joy.

It's the second private flight to the space station organized by Houston-based Axiom Space.

The first was last year by three businessmen, with another retired NASA astronaut. The company plans to start adding its own rooms to the station in another few years, eventually removing them to form a stand-alone outpost available for hire.

Axiom won't say how much Shoffner and Saudi Arabia are paying for the planned 10-day mission. The company had previously cited a ticket price of \$55 million each.

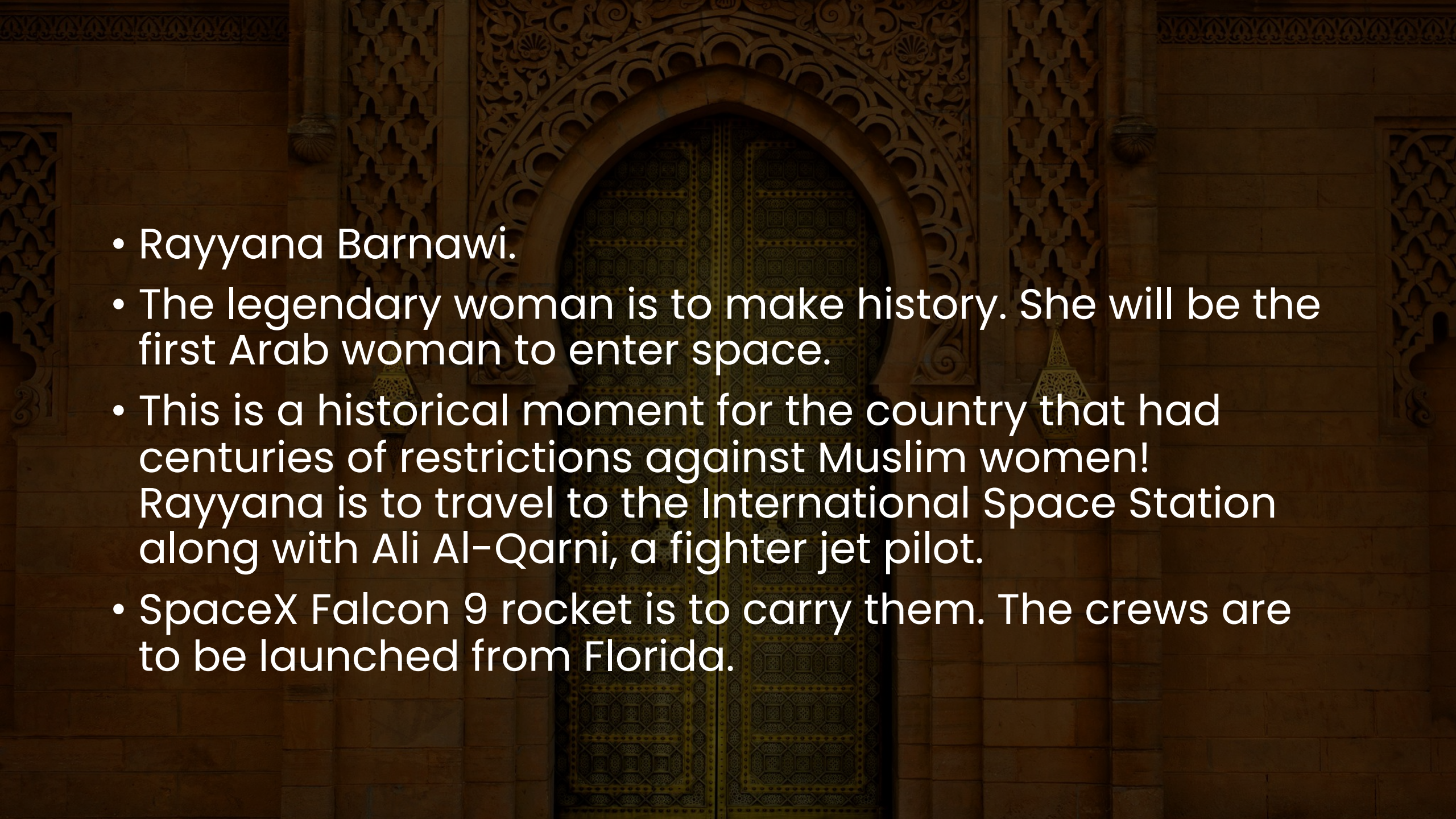
NASA's latest price list shows per-person, per-day charges of \$2,000 for food and up to \$1,500 for sleeping bags and other gear.


Need to get your stuff to the space station in advance? Figure roughly \$10,000 per pound (\$20,000 per kilogram), the same fee for trashing it afterward. Need your items back intact? Double the price. At least the email and video links are free.

The guests will have access to most of the station as they conduct experiments, photograph Earth and chat with schoolchildren back home, demonstrating how kites fly in space when attached to a fan.

After decades of shunning space tourism, NASA now embraces it with two private missions planned a year. The Russian Space Agency has been doing it, off and on, for decades.

"Our job is to expand what we do in low-Earth orbit across the globe," said NASA's space station program manager Joel Montalbano.

- 
- Rayyana Barnawi.
 - The legendary woman is to make history. She will be the first Arab woman to enter space.
 - This is a historical moment for the country that had centuries of restrictions against Muslim women! Rayyana is to travel to the International Space Station along with Ali Al-Qarni, a fighter jet pilot.
 - SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket is to carry them. The crews are to be launched from Florida.

- 
- **First Arab Muslim to travel to space**
 - The Royal Prince of Saudi Arabia Prince Sultan Bin Salman was the first Saudi Arabian to travel to space in 1985. He too travelled in a US-organized space flight.

● FOR BOTH INDIVIDUAL & GROUP CHATS

WhatsApp rolls out text editing feature

15-minute window allowed to revise sent messages

JATIN GROVER
New Delhi, May 22

META CEO MARK Zuckerberg announced on Monday that messaging platform WhatsApp has officially rolled out its highly anticipated message edit feature. This new functionality allows users to edit their sent messages within a 15-minute window, empowering them with greater control over their chats and the ability to rectify mistakes or make changes when needed.

The introduction of message editing comes as a welcome relief to over 2 billion monthly active user base of WhatsApp, who have long sought the ability to edit messages after



USER-FRIENDLY STEP

■ To edit a message, users can simply long-press on the sent message and select the 'Edit' option from the menu. The process ensures that users can quickly make necessary modifications

■ The edit history itself will not be visible, preserving the privacy and integrity of personal conversations. The end-to-end encryption remains in place for all personal messages, media and calls



Drishti IAS Congratulates

our 216+ selected candidates in UPSC CSE 2022

SUCCESS STORY
Women secure 4 top UPSC ranks



NEWS » PAGE 16

JALLIKATTU CASE
Justice that also makes space for animal welfare
Court's response to T.N. stand is dissatisfactory

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

SEEKING SUPPORT
Trinamool Congress to oppose Delhi Ordinance



NEWS » PAGE 15

₹2,000 notes reach banks amid hiccups

Four-month window opens amid complaints that some bank branches sought identity proof; banks say there is ample cash to meet demand

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The four-month window to exchange or deposit ₹2,000 currency notes opened on Tuesday with small queues and confusion at some banks over the requirement of identity cards such as PAN or Aadhaar, and requisition slips.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 19 announced withdrawal of ₹2,000 notes from circulation in pursuance of its 'Clean Note Policy'. It advised the public to deposit such notes into their bank accounts or exchange them for notes of other denominations at any bank branch, up to a limit of ₹20,000 at a time, by September 30.

While the RBI has not made the presentation of a



Notes being exchanged at a bank in Bhopal on Tuesday. A.M. FARUQI

valid ID or filling of deposit forms mandatory, there were complaints from some places that banks were asking customers to submit identity cards as proof.

Scores of people lined up outside banks in Delhi as the temperature hovered around 43 degrees Celsius. Chaos and confusion prevailed over the process of exchange which

left people, especially the elderly, disgruntled. Nearly 100 people turned up at a Union Bank branch in Connaught Place.

Manoj Kumar, a customer of HDFC bank, said though he wanted to exchange 20 notes, he was asked to give only 10 by the bank staff.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Update NPR to enumerate self during next Census

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

If citizens want to exercise the right to fill the Census form on their own rather than through government enumerators, they will have to first update their National Population Register (NPR) details online.

The NPR, first put together in 2010 and updated in 2015, already has the details of 119 crore people.

Census 2021, which has been postponed indefinitely, will be the first digital Census giving citizens an opportunity to "self-enumerate" as and when it is conducted.

The government has not announced when the next census will be held, with a January 2 notification ruling out the exercise at least till September.

The Census is conducted in two phases.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14



Strong bond: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese in Sydney. GETTY IMAGES

India-Australia ties built on trust: Modi

Press Trust of India
SYDNEY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the foundation of India-Australia relations lies in mutual trust and respect, as he along with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese addressed the Indian diaspora at a mega event here.

During the event, a suburb in Australia - Harris Park - was renamed "Little India", reflecting the strong bond between the

two strategic partners.

Mr. Modi also announced that India would open a consulate in Brisbane to fulfil a long-pending demand by the diaspora. The Prime Minister was given a rousing welcome by thousands of Indians who thronged the Qudos Bank Arena.

Mr. Albanese described India as a "force of global good" and a "bright spot" in the world economy.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

IN BRIEF



Two killed in blaze at Bengal firecracker warehouse

Two persons were killed in a fire at a warehouse where firecrackers were illegally stored, at English Bazaar town in Malda district of West Bengal. The fire was triggered by an explosion early in the morning. With this, 16 people have died in the past one week in explosions and fire in illegal firecracker units or godowns in the State. Speaking on the incident, Chairperson of the English Bazaar municipality, Krishnendu Narayan Chowdhury, said the fire had spread to other shops. Mr. Chowdhury said a labourer and a security guard died in the fire, which started in the morning and raged till afternoon.

Probe on into killings on Assam-Meghalaya boundary

A judicial panel probing the killing of six people at a disputed spot on the Assam-Meghalaya boundary in November 2022 is scheduled to resume the examination of the witnesses on Thursday. Officials in the two States said the proceedings may continue for two more days depending on the number of witnesses produced by Assam's Director-General of Police. Meghalaya had set up a judicial inquiry commission led by retired judge T. Vaidyanathan to probe the firing at Mukrols - Assam calls the place Mukhrow or Molkrag. Five of the victims were Meghalaya villagers and one an Assam Forest guard.

Forest guard shot dead by poachers in Odisha's Similipal

An on-duty forest guard in the Similipal Tiger Reserve of Odisha was killed by poachers on Monday night. The forest guard has been identified as Binmal Kumar Jena, 35, posted in the Baumsakhal beat of the Nawna range of the tiger reserve. Jena and team were patrolling the boundary areas of Pihahabata South and Nawna North range, when they stumbled upon the poachers. In the scuffle that followed, Jena was shot in the chest and killed on the spot. The Forest Department has identified 10 suspects, two of whom have already been arrested. A country-made pistol was seized.

Women bag top four ranks in Civil Services Examination

Ishita Kishore from Greater Noida gets first rank; Garima Lohia from Buxar comes second; UPSC recommends 933 candidates for the IAS, IFS, IPS and Central Services Groups A and B

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Women have scooped up the top four ranks in the Civil Services Examination, 2022 conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Results announced on Tuesday showed that among the top 20 ranks, 12 were secured by women. Ishita Kishore, 26, who graduated from Sri Ram College of Commerce of Delhi University, secured the first rank. The Greater Noida resident said she was overjoyed, as in her first two attempts, she could not clear the preliminary round. Ms. Kishore, daughter of a former Indian Air Force officer, credited her success to the unconditional support her family gave her.



Moment to savour: Ishita Kishore celebrates her achievement with family members and relatives in Greater Noida on Tuesday. PTI

Ms. Kishore, daughter of a former Indian Air Force officer, credited her success to the unconditional support her family gave her. "Although there is a lot of information available on the internet, you should follow only one website for current affairs. I trusted

my writing skills and did a lot of writing practice for the Mains because the exam pattern is so draining; it is important that you have a strong political science and international relations as the optional subject, said. "Though there is a lot of information available on the internet, you should follow only one website for current affairs. I trusted

Uma Harathi, 28, from Telangana and Smriti Mishra, 24, from Uttar Pradesh secured the third and fourth ranks, respectively. A total of 933 candidates were recommended by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for appointment to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Central Services Group A and Group B.

The successful candidates include 99 from the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category, 263 from the Other Backward Classes (OBC), 154 from the Scheduled Castes (SC), 72 from the Scheduled Tribes (ST) and 145 from the General Category. According to a press statement by the UPSC, there are 880 vacancies in the IAS in the IPS, 200 in the IPS and 604 in the Central Services.

'73% Smart City projects completed'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday said that more than 90% of the funds allocated under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) have been utilised till now, while 73% of the projects have been completed. As of May 1, a total of ₹28,400 crore was released under the mission, of which ₹15,261 crore has been utilised. Union Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri informed a Parliamentary Consultative Committee.

adding that all remaining projects were expected to be completed by June 30, 2024. The mission, launched in June 2015, got a year's extension last month. Only 22 out of 100 cities have been able to finish all projects commissioned under it. The implementation is monitored by a Spec Committee headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. It regularly reports on the progress of projects through the Real Time Geographical Information System.

The SCM has around 7,800 projects worth ₹1.8 lakh crore, of which more than 5,700 projects worth ₹1.1 lakh crore have been completed, Mr. Puri said, adding that all remaining projects were expected to be completed by June 30, 2024.



Hardeep Singh Puri

Smart City Advisory Forum (SCAF) has also been established at the city level to advise and enable collaboration among various stakeholders. So far the smart cities have convened about 756 meetings of SCAF. For each smart city, a Special Vehicle (SPV) has also been created to plan, appraise, approve, release funds, implement, manage, operate, monitor and evaluate the Smart City development projects.

INSACOG has not put out weekly bulletin since March 27

Hindu Shaihan Perappadan Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI

India appears to have slowed down on sequencing genomes of COVID-19 variants. The India SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), a multi-lab network, multi-agency, pan-India network tasked with sequencing, and keeping an eye out for new SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern, has not published a single bulletin since March 27.

Earlier, the agency would publish reports once a week. The bulletins provided information on the circulating variants of COVID-19. States that were seeing a surge in the contagious variants and information on whether SARS-CoV-2 variants linked to major outbreaks internationally had been found in the country. While December 2022 saw four bulletins on the 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th of the month, January 2023 saw bulletins on the 2nd and 9th. February saw no bulletins, March had bulletin releases on the 13th, 20th and the 27th of the month. April and May (so far) had no bulletins for the public.

Speaking to The Hindu, a top official from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), which oversees INSACOG, said that a new bulletin was expected later this week. Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, DBT, said sequencing had dipped because fewer samples were being made available to network labs from hospitals and medical colleges (SPV) has also been created to plan, appraise, approve, release funds, implement, manage, operate, monitor and evaluate the Smart City development projects. The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that countries should not look away from COVID-19 and on May 20, launched a global network to help protect people from infectious disease threats through the power of pathogen genomics. The surveillance network (IPSN) will provide a platform to connect countries and regions, improving systems for collecting and analysing samples, using these data to drive public health decisions. "The Health Ministry had written to the States and Union Territories warning against letting up on surveillance measures and asking them to keep up with testing. Data from the genome sequencing laboratories is analysed as per the field data trends to study the links (if any) between emerging genomic variants and disease trends. The surveillance network aids in forecasting super-spreader events, outbreaks and strengthening public health interventions across the country to help in breaking the chains of transmission. Linking this data with the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) data and patients' symptoms allows a better understanding of the viral infection dynamics, morbidity and mortality trends, said INSACOG.

India gives Bangladesh key rail infra

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

To further strengthen bilateral relationship between India and Bangladesh, the Ministry of Railways in India handed over 20 broad-gauge locomotives to its eastern neighbour. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the government had also offered Bangladesh the use of the IT system deployed by the GATI SHAKTI scheme, which has 1,600 layers of



Ashwini Vaishnaw

ests, towns and rail lines; no planning can be streamlined," he said. In keeping with the requirements of Bangladesh Railway, the locomotives have been suitably modified by the Indian side. The locomotives will help halve the increasing volume of passenger and freight train operations across Bangladesh, a Railways spokesperson said. In June 2020, India had provided 10 locomotives to Bangladesh as grant.

The Indian Railways is playing a vital role in improving and strengthening rail connectivity across the border and improving trade between both the countries, the Minister said. Trade between the countries via rail has seen a consistent growth with inter-changeable and close to 1000 cargo trains a month. Approximately 2.66 tonnes of cargo was sent to Bangladesh in the previous financial year.

Cheetah cub dies in Kuno Park

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

One more cheetah, this time a cub, died at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh, local authorities said on Tuesday. The two-month-old cub was one of four born to a female cheetah and a male cheetah in the park. The cub died of eight cheetahs imported from Namibia. The Kuno cheetah project, since 20 of the animals were relocated from Namibia,

press note from the Centre stating that a two-month-old cub was the "smallest and weakest of the litter". Literature and experience from Africa suggest that cheetah cubs, in the wild, have a survival rate of 10%, and roughly the same fraction make it to adulthood. The government's press release noted. This is the fourth cheetah to have died in India since 20 of the animals were relocated from Namibia.

The cub was one of four born to the cheetah Jwala, who was imported from Namibia

his and South Africa respectively to the KNP. Earlier this month, an adult female, Daksha, died following injuries involving a skirmish among the animals. Two other animals, Saha and Uday, died in February and April, respectively, from a renal infection and cardiovascular problems, respectively. Daksha's death had brought the total number of adult cheetahs to 17. The typical mortality rate for cheetah cubs is around 50% and wild cheetahs is 90%. So, it wouldn't be surprising to see more deaths, S.P. Yadav, Director, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), said. He was coordinating Project Cheetah, told The Hindu.

TH CROSSWORD 13873



- Across: 1 Discouraged to drink and drive (6) 2 Make-up is marvellous, most gorgeous (9) 3 Toxin in container broken by clumsy lot (7) 11 Destructive caused by reactionary men in rebellious row (7) 12 Students are encouraged showing brilliance (5) 13 Einstein's analysis about essence of gravity is thorough (5)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site at: https://grgo.puzzle.hindu.com/

- 14 Runs after girl abducted by monstrous hoodlum in confusion (6-6) 15 Take a gun deliberately with man and escape (4,3,7) 21 Like to embrace girl hurt about making a bloomer (8) 23 Contradict opinion endlessly (5) 24 Exceptionally strong guy working with head of Mossad in Middle Eastern country (4,3) 25 Juice is fresh and cold, a little tangy (7) 26 Hairy notion to pick up old article about Australian Beard (6) 27 Goady head of monastic order, musicians were baroque (6). Down: 1 Sharma swabber's polluted (6) 2 Top spacer for Bangladesh dismissed after wicket gets more damp (6) 3 Stop unionist interrupting visit at a plant (6) 4 Crime lord on launch filled with drug gets a sense of dread (7,7) 6 Nut in a cereal (5) 7 Wild girls in American buns (8) 8 Container by mistake taken by British Airways to capital city (8) 9 What one will find in previous TH publication - person who's no longer of interest (10,4) 15 Reviled old rogue watching article in capital city (4,5) 16 Intoxicating German is slurring (6) 17 Good Buddhist monk outside house in American state (8) 18 Will perhaps sleep around afternoon (8) 20 Old tenor welcomed by band, a group of six musicians (8) 22 Nale on vacation overwhelmed by just in Arabic country (5)

SUDOKU

9 2 3 2 3 6 8 6 7 8 1 6 5 3 7 4 5 8 5 3 9 9 5 1 3 7 1 2 8 9 3 4 1 9 7 6 6 9 2 7 6 8 2 5 3 8 3 4 1 7 2 6 5 9 5 9 5 8 6 1 3 4 4 7 8 2 6 9 5 3 4 1 1 3 8 2 1 7 2 9 8 7

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★ Solution to previous puzzle Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

FAITH An insult to dharma

Dushasana drags Draupadi to the Kaurava court and tries to disrobe her, but she surrenders to Krishna, who saves her from being shamed. But none in the august assembly has protested against Dushasana's conduct, although many of them, like Bhishma, Drona and Kripacharya, are well learned in the Sastras. They sit with their heads bent in shame. Draupadi questions their silence, said Kishanji Narayanan, in a discourse. Dharma is not something visible to the eye. But it shows its presence, when righteous conduct eventually is rewarded, and wickedness is punished, says Draupadi. Those who know dharma, know this. It is said 'dharma eva hanti dharma rakshati'. What this means is that if a person tries to crush dharma, dharma hits back at him. If dharma is protected, then dharma protects the one who protected it. An assembly is respected only when great men are a part of it. What determines this greatness? They must be people who speak of dharma. What is dharma? Truth is dharma. What is Truth? That which lacks deceit is truth. Vidura says that Dushasana's act is an insult to dharma. The learned men in the court had criticised Dhrतरashtra for remaining silent when such atrocious things happen in his court. Bhishma says in answer to Draupadi's questions that dharma is not understood even by the educated. In this world, sadly, might is right. When a rich man points to adharma and says it is dharma, the world does not question him, but accepts his words. Bhishma says that the Kaurava clan is seen going to be wiped out. Vidura says further that insulting a woman is even worse than gambling.

Women bag top four ranks in Civil Services Examination

Ishita Kishore from Greater Noida gets first rank; Garima Lohia from Buxar comes second; UPSC recommends 933 candidates for the IAS, IFS, IPS and Central Services Groups A and B

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Women have scooped up the top four ranks in the Civil Services Examination, 2022 conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Results announced on Tuesday showed that among the top 20 ranks, 12 were secured by women.

Ishita Kishore, 26, who graduated from Sri Ram College of Commerce of Delhi University, secured the the first rank. The Greater Noida resident said she was overjoyed, as in her first two attempts, she could not clear the preliminary round.

Ms. Kishore, daughter of a former Indian Air Force officer, credited her success to the unconditional support her family gave her.

She worked as an adviser at a multi-national firm



Moment to savour: Ishita Kishore celebrates her achievement with family members and relatives in Greater Noida on Tuesday. PTI

for two years before deciding to sit for the examination.

Talking of her preparation strategy, Ms. Kishore, who took political science and international relations as her optional subject, said, "Though there is a lot of information available on the Internet, you should follow only one website for current affairs. I trusted

my writing skills and did a lot of writing practice for the Mains because the exam pattern is so draining; it is important that you have the stamina."

Second rank holder Garima Lohia, 24, who cleared the exam in her second attempt, is from Buxar in Bihar and graduated from Kirori Mal College of Delhi University.

Uma Harathi, 28, from Telangana and Smriti Mishra, 24, from Uttar Pradesh secured the third and fourth ranks, respectively.

A total of 933 candidates were recommended by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for appointment to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Central Services Group A and Group B.

The successful candidates include 99 from the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category, 263 from the Other Backward Classes (OBC), 154 from the Scheduled Castes (SC), 72 from the Scheduled Tribes (ST) and 345 from the General Category.

According to a press statement by the UPSC, there are 180 vacancies in the IAS, 38 in the IFS, 200 in the IPS and 604 in the Central Services.

STEADY RISE, HITS HIGHEST OF 34% THIS YEAR

Year	Total*	Male	Female	Male	Female
2022	933	613**	320	66%	34%
2021	685	508	177	74%	26%
2020	833	595	238	71%	29%
2019	922	702	220	76%	24%
2018	812	619	193	76%	24%

*Total candidates recommended

**Approx numbers in 2022

WASHINGTON
ISS welcomes its first Saudi astronauts, in private mission



A SpaceX capsule carrying two Saudi astronauts docked with the International Space Station, as part of a private mission by Axium Space. Rayyan ah Barnawi, a scientist who became the first Saudi woman to go into space, and Ali Al Qarni, a fighter pilot, are the first two persons from their country to fly to the orbital outpost. AP

LONDON
Prince Harry loses bid to challenge British government over security



Prince Harry has lost an attempt to challenge the U.K. government over his security arrangements while in the U.K., according to a ruling published on Tuesday. Harry and his wife Meghan lost their U.K. taxpayer-paid protection when they quit frontline royal duties in 2020 and moved to North America. AP

MOSCOW
Russia extends Wall Street Journal reporter's detention till August 30



Russia on Tuesday extended by three months the detention of Evan Gershkovich, a Wall Street Journal journalist who was arrested in March for alleged spying, a charge he denies. Gershkovich's pre-trial detention was due to expire on May 23 and the hearing in Moscow to extend the term was held behind closed doors. AP

ISLAMABAD
Court grants Imran protection from arrest in terrorism cases



Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday pressed his legal battle before a court in the capital, Islamabad, which granted him protection from arrest until early next month in several cases where he faces terrorism charges for inciting violence. Officials have been cracking down on supporters of Mr. Khan. AP

Russia fights 'incursion' from Ukraine, reports drone hits

Twelve civilians wounded in the attack while an elderly woman died during evacuation; Kyiv blames the incursion on Russian dissidents unhappy about Putin's policies

Associated Press
KYIV

Russian troops and security forces fought for a second day on Tuesday against an alleged cross-border raid that Moscow blamed on Ukrainian military saboteurs but which Kyiv portrayed as an uprising against the Kremlin by Russian partisans.



Deceptive attacks: A building damaged in the alleged incursion in the Belgorod region of Russia on Monday. AP

Ukrainian territory and Russia-occupied areas of Ukraine have also been hit by drones and explosions that have derailed trains, though Kyiv officials brush off accusations of orchestrating them.

Russian dissidents unhappy about Russian President Vladimir Putin's policies were behind the assault, Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar said Tuesday.

A U.S. aircraft intercepted a Russian military aircraft from Sri Lanka on May 11 to 23, to review the implementation of the Fund's programme aimed at helping the country achieve debt sustainability and revive its economy after last year's economic crash, the worst the country has seen since independence.

In March, the IMF package for Sri Lanka, asking the country to "step up structural reforms".

IMF asks Sri Lanka to reach timely restructuring deals with creditors

Meera Srivinasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka is showing "tentative signs of improvement", the International Monetary Fund has said, while urging the island nation to reach timely restructuring agreements with its creditors, before the Fund's first scheduled review in September.

An IMF mission conducted a staff visit to Sri Lanka from May 11 to 23, to review the implementation of the Fund's programme aimed at helping the country achieve debt sustainability and revive its economy after last year's economic crash, the worst the country has seen since independence.

In March, the IMF package for Sri Lanka, asking the country to "step up structural reforms".

An IMF team visited Sri Lanka on May 11-23, to review the implementation of its programme

Following strong policy efforts, the macroeconomic situation in Sri Lanka is showing tentative signs of improvement, with inflation moderating, the exchange rate stabilising, and the Central Bank rebuilding reserves. However, the overall macroeconomic and policy environment remains challenging, the visiting delegation said in a statement.

Referring to discussions on progress in debt restructuring, the visiting officials noted: "Achieving timely restructuring agreements with creditors in line with the programme targets by the time of the first review is essential to restoring debt sustainability."

Earlier this month, a 17-member "creditor committee" for Sri Lanka, co-chaired by India, Japan and France, met to discuss Sri Lanka's formal request for debt treatment. China, which is Sri Lanka's top bilateral creditor - followed by Japan and India - attended the meeting as an observer.

In a statement following the meeting, the committee stressed the need for Sri Lanka's private creditors and other official bilateral creditors to provide a

debt treatment plan on terms "at least as favourable as the ones agreed by this creditor committee, in line with the comparability of treatment principle."

While India and the Paris Club have repeatedly underlined creditor parity, China has demanded that private creditors - who hold the largest share of Sri Lanka's debt - as well as multilateral lenders "share the burden" of a possible haircut.

Economic challenges Sri Lanka's own economic challenges began manifesting starkly from the beginning of last year, in a balance of payments problem, before rapidly escalating into a meltdown that left citizens without essential supplies for months.

'Over 450 Catholic clergy abused more than 2,000 Illinois children'

Associated Press
CHICAGO

An Illinois Attorney-General's office investigation released found that 451 Catholic clergy sexually abused nearly 2,000 children in the State over a nearly 70-year period, which was more than four times the 103 incidents in the state between when the state began its review in 2018.

pleared in many cases and that those abusers "will never see justice in a legal sense."

Lauding the accusers "It is my hope that this report will shine light both on those who violated their positions of power and trust to abuse innocent children, and on the men in church leadership who covered up that abuse," Mr. Raouf said, crediting the accusers for making the review possible.

The lengthy report describes Illinois church leaders as woefully slow to acknowledge the extent of the abuse. It also accuses them of frequently dragging their feet to confront accused clergy and of failing to warn parishioners about possible abusers in their midst sometimes even decades after allegations emerged about a clergy member.

No survivors in capsized of Chinese fishing vessel

Agence France Presse
BEIJING

There were no survivors after a fishing vessel carrying 39 crew members from China, Indonesia and the Philippines capsized last week in the Indian Ocean according to an initial government probe released on Tuesday.

The Chinese vessel overturned on May 16, with 17 Chinese, 17 Indonesians and five Filipinos on board. The boat capsized with in Australia's search-and-rescue region, 5,000 km to the west of Perth.

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD INVITATION OF BIDS - TWO COVER - TENDERS

Table with 4 columns: S/N, Name of Work, Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Crores), Bid Security (Rs. in Lakhs). Includes items for operation and maintenance of CWSS, and CWSS under various divisions.

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD INVITATION OF BIDS - TWO COVER - TENDERS

Table with 4 columns: S/N, Name of Work, Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Crores), Bid Security (Rs. in Lakhs). Includes items for CWSS in various districts and CWSS in Thiruvananthapuram District.

Tresind Studio wins two stars at the Michelin Dubai 2023 awards

Shonali Marthaliah
DUBAI

India shines bright at the 2023 Michelin Awards for Dubai, held at the glittering new Royal Atlantis hotel, with Tresind Studio winning two stars this year.



Moment to savour! The awarders share the stage at the Michelin Guide Ceremony Dubai, 2023. MICHELIN

have a significant impact on success: a single dot denotes excellence, while three stars, the highest accolade, indicate restaurants that are extraordinary, according to the guide.

The guide is known for its famously anonymous inspectors who travel the world and dine at establishments multiple times to determine whether they deserve to receive, or retain, a star. Scrutinised to more sustainable gastronomy, with a green star, which was awarded to Lowe, Boca and Tebbie.

Advertisement for READ FRONTLINE magazine, featuring the text "LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984" and "EVERY FORTNIGHT".

Tresind Studio wins two stars at the Michelin Dubai 2023 awards

Shonali Muthalaly

DUBAI

India shone bright at the 2023 Michelin Awards for Dubai, held at the glittering new Royal Atlantis hotel, with Tresind Studio winning two stars this year.

The prestigious guide, seen as the Oscars of the food industry, was launched in France in the early 1900s and is now in 41 destinations, with Dubai unveiled last year. A total of 14 restaurants won stars this year, with 11 receiving one star.

Besides Tresind, Ristorante - Niko Romito and Stay by Yannick Alléno got two stars each, retaining their stars from last year.

Omkar Walve of Avatāra, which focuses on vegetarian fine dining and describes its cuisine as



Moment to savour: The awardees share the stage at the Michelin Guide Ceremony Dubai, 2023. MICHELIN GUIDE

‘soulful Indian’, won the Young Chef Award, handed to chefs who stand out for their strong culinary personality. Avatāra also won its first Michelin star, along with Dinner by Heston Blumenthal and Moonrise, which were added to the list this year. The event also recognised three restaurants committed to more

sustainable gastronomy, with a green star, which was awarded to Lowe, Boca and Teible.

The guide is known for its famously anonymous inspectors who travel the world and dine at establishments multiple times to determine whether they deserve to receive, or retain a star. Stars tend to

have a significant impact on success: a single star denotes excellence, while three stars, the highest accolade, indicate restaurants that are extraordinary, according to the guide.

Gwendal Poullennec, the guide’s international director, who joined the event via a video call, explained how the guide has, so far, selected 16,000 restaurants worldwide, out of which 3,300 have stars and just about 140 actually have three stars. As Michelin expands its footprint, he says they have also been recruiting new inspectors, all of whom are professionals from the food industry. They currently come from 20 nationalities and travel the world looking for memorable meals.

(The author was on a visit to Dubai by invitation)

IN BRIEF

Alcaraz returns to No. 1 spot; Medvedev also moves up

Carlos Alcaraz replaced Novak Djokovic at the No. 1 spot in the latest ATP rankings, earning the top seeding at the French Open, and Daniil Medvedev's Italian Open title moved him up to No. 2 ahead of the year's second Grand Slam.

Malvika, Ashmita make it to Malaysia Masters main draw

Malvika Bansod and Ashmita Chahlia progressed to the women's singles main draw of the Malaysia Masters Super 500 tournament in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday. World No. 42 Malvika beat Chinese Taipei's Lin Hsiang-Ti 21-12, 21-10, while World No. 53 Ashmita overcame Canada's Wen Yu Zhang 10-21, 21-19, 21-17.

Other results: Men's S. Sanakar Muthusamy Subramanian lost to Chi Yu Jen (Tpe) 15-21, 14-21; Mithun Manjunath lost to Chia Hao Lee (Tpe) 13-21, 19-21.



Neeraj becomes numero uno in latest javelin rankings

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra became the World No. 1 for the first time in his career in the latest men's javelin rankings issued by the World Athletics. Neeraj topped the charts with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Grenada's reigning world champion Anderson Peters (4383). Neeraj rose to World No. 2 on August 30 last year, but was stuck behind Peters since then.

CRS and HP varsities women post wins in kabaddi

While the third Khelo India University Games will officially kick off from Thursday, competitive action began on Tuesday with kabaddi at Gautam Buddha Nagar. Four matches were played — two each in men and women — with Aral Bihari Vajpaiyee Vishwavidyalaya, Bilsapur losing 28-41 to Chaudhary Ranbir Singh, and in the women's opening game. In other women's games, HP, Shimla beat IICV, Durg 51-29. Among the men, Adamas, Kolkata lost 29-35 to Guru Kash, Talwandi Sabo while Kota won 28-23 over SRM, Chennai.

West Indies batter Thomas suspended for match-fixing

West Indies batter Devon Thomas has been provisionally banned for match-fixing, ICC announced on Tuesday. Thomas, 33, who has represented his country in all three formats, has been charged with breaching rules by three governing bodies.

LIVE TELECAST

HBI: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jo Cinema App, 6 a.m.
UPI: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jo Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jo Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)

DELHI ROUND-UP

Laksh slams century
The match of the match Laksh Thareja slammed a 93-ball 130 while Himmat Singh and Sanat Sangwan added half-centuries as Goat Eleven beat DC Blizzards in the 40th all-India Lata Mangeshkar Singh hot weather tournament.

Push Tulip in semifinals
Vivian Patel's 106 and three wickets by Arnav Sharma helped Punjab Tulip down Ansal Eleven by 27 runs and enter semifinals of Friendship Cup.

Foundation
Karan Garg scored a 92-ball 118 as Oyes Foundation put it across Dour Academy by 136 runs in the u-10 category, Turf

Ganemat, Darshna do well in women's skeet in World Cup

The former, who claimed her second individual medal in a WC, was in control of the final with a five-point lead, but missed five of the last 10 birds against the eventual gold medalist Assen

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Ganemat Sekhon led the gold slip, but it was a memorable day for India in women's skeet as Darshna Rathore also joined the podium in the shotgun World Cup in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on Tuesday. The 22-year-old Ganemat was in control of the final, with a five-point lead, but missed five of the last 10 birds against the eventual gold medalist Assen Orynbay of Kazakhstan. Tied on 50, Ganemat was beaten to the gold medal 2-1 by the Kazakh who had qualified on top with 121. The 21-year-old Darshna had qualified with the se-



Podium finish: The skeet medalists, Ganemat Sekhon, champion Assen Orynbay and Darshna Rathore on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cond-best score of 120, a national record equalling effort, and ended up with the bronze, climbing above his shooters from Cyprus, Czech Republic and Greece. It was the second individual medal in a World Cup for Ganemat, following her bronze in Delhi. For Darshna, it was her maiden individual medal in the international circuit. National champion Maheshwari Chauhan shot

108 and placed 26th in a field of 35. In men's skeet, Mairaj Ahmad Khan and Gurjeet Khangura shot 119 each and placed 77th and 19th in a field of 75. Anantjeet Singh Naruka

placed in 23rd spot. It was a tough field, and 122 made the cut for the final. Efhimios Mitas of Greece beat two-time World Champion Georgios Achilleos of Cyprus 21-10 in the shoot-off for the gold, after both tied on 56 in the final. With a silver and bronze medal, India was third in the medals' table behind Greece and Kazakhstan.

Newcastle firms up CL spot; Juventus hopes dashed

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE NEWCASTLE

Newcastle qualified for the Champions League for the first time in 200 years after a 0-0 draw against relegation-hunted Leicester on Saturday. Before kickoff, Juventus 3 (Chelsea 8).

bad day for Juventus turned worse when a 4-1 loss at Empoli saw its hopes of qualifying for the Champions League evaporate. Before kickoff, Juventus 3 (Chelsea 8).

point penalty for false accounting. That dropped the club to seventh in Serie A. The results: Premier League: Newcastle 0 drew with Leicester 0; Serie A: Roma 2 (E1 Sharaya 47, Serie B) drew with Salernitana 2 (Camdevra 12, Da 54). Empoli 4 (Caputo 18-pen, 48, Superbi 21, Pissolunghi 2) bt Juventus 3 (Chelsea 8).

Bhambri & Myneni advance to the quarterfinals in Lyon

Sports Bureau

Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni beat Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah 7-6(4), 3-6, (10-8) in the first round of the €650,705 ATP tennis in Lyon. The results: First round: 4833, 785 ATP, Lyon, France: Yuki Bhambri & Saketh Myneni bt Juan Sebastian Cabal & Robert Farah (Col) 7-6(4), 3-6, (10-8). 473,000 Challenger, Skopje,

Macedonia: Sumit Nagal bt Benjamin Boncompagni-Ludovisi 6-1, 6-3. Rafael Ymer (Swe) 6-3, 6-4. \$15,000 ITF men, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Parth Agarwal bt Dylan Strydom (RSA) 4-6, 6-4. Alec Beckley (USA) bt Ishaque Egal 7-5, 5-7, 6-3. Dev Javia bt Niko Vuk (RSA) 3-6, 7-5, 7-5. Niran Kumar Singh bt Yabets Kotebe (ETH) 6-0, 6-3. S.D. Prajwal Dev bt Denis Spaldon (Bw) 6-0, 4-1. Infrared, Shikab Agarwal bt Guy D'Orville (USA) 6-1, 6-2. Nishu Prasad Nedim Mohammed (ETH) 6-4, 6-2.

Karan Singh bt Jonathan Baron (Ind) 7-5, 6-4. Chirag Dabas bt Rafal Ymer (Swe) 6-3, 6-4. \$25,000 ITF women, Guyana, Guyana: Vandana Chaudhary bt Hsuan Lee (Tpe) 6-4, 6-4. Doubles: Vandana & Liza Ferganaru (Ind) bt Beck Dayson & Lee Eunyoung (Kor) 6-4, 7-6(6). \$25,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Tayah Preston (Aus) bt Tereza Kocikova 7-5. Doubles: Lariss Aziz (Egy) & Nishu Prasad bt Huang Yu & Xu Jitay (Chn) 6-2, 6-1.



Double delight: Pramod and Sukant with their coach Shiba Prasad Das after their success. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pramod wins two titles in Bahrain tournament

Sports Bureau

Pramod Bhatgal clinched two gold medals in the Bahrain Para badminton international in Manama on Tuesday.

Pramod defeated compatriot Nitesh Kumar 21-16, 21-17 in the SL3 singles final in 30 minutes, before combining with Sukant Kadam to down Nitesh and Tarun 22-24, 23-9, 21-14 in the SL3-SL4 doubles final.

Other results (Finals): Men: SL4: Mohd. Amin Burhanuddin (Mal) bt Suhay Yehring (Br) 21-12, 21-12. SH3: Irem Han-Chu (Tpe) bt Krishna Sagar 21-14, 21-8. Doubles: BUB: Muhammad Fareez & Lek Hou Cheah (Mal) bt Ching Rongta & Ravi Kumar 21-18, 19-21, 21-14. Women: SL3: Qiu Xia Yang (Chn) bt Thulasimathi Murugesan 21-14, 21-13.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION. General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person whose name, residence and family is unknown, was admitted unconscious in SGM Hospital where he was declared dead on 15.05.2023 at 10:00 AM. In this regard DD No. 60A, U/s 174 Cr.P.C., dated 15.05.2023, has been registered at P.S. Mangolpuri, Delhi. The description of the UDD is as under: Sex: Male, Age: About 55 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Dark, Face: Oval, Build: Normal, ID Mark: Black mole on right side of face, cheek, Wearing: White black head-wrath, black pant. If anyone has any information about this UDD, kindly inform the SHO/Mangolpuri, Delh.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION. General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person whose name, residence and family is unknown, was found dead in the area of P.S. K. Gate, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi mortuary for 72 hours. In this regard DD No. 38A, dated 19.05.2023, has been registered at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. The description of the UDD is as under: Sex: Male, Age: About 50 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Sallow, Face: Long, Build: Thin, ID Mark: Mark on forehead, Wearing: White shirt, blue lower, barefoot. If anyone has any information about this UDD, kindly inform the SHO/Kashmere Gate, Delhi.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED. General public is hereby informed that one male namely Brahma Nand Sanyal S/o Gori Dutt Sanyal R/o P-12/505, Sec-15, Rohini, Delhi, Age: 54 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Sallow, Face: Oval, Build: Normal, wearing Chocolate colour undershirt and blue shirt, has been missing from his house since 16.05.2023 at 4:30 AM. In this regard a DD No. 61A, dated 16.05.2023 has been lodged at P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about him please inform undermentioned. Website - http://nir.nic.in E-mail - nirmal@nir.nic.in Ph. No. 011-24369929, P.S. K.N. Katju Marg, Rohini, Delhi. DP/S336/RD/2023 Ph. 011-27571162, 27571171

ANDHRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES. Tender Notice No. - 03/2023-24. Cafeteria/IGM/Store TENDER NOTICE. The Director, I.G.M.S., Patna invites tender in Two Bid System (i.e. Technical & Financial Bid) from eligible, reputed and experienced Cafeteria Vendors to Set Up Cafeteria besides Library Block of this Institute. The last date of submission of tender document is 22/06/2023 up to 4:00 P.M. through Speed Post / Registered Post / Courier service. The received bids (Technical only) will be opened in presence of bidders on 23/06/2023 at 4:00 P.M. in the Board Room of Administrative Block (1st Floor). A Pre-Bid meeting will also be arranged on 01/06/2023 at 4:00 P.M. Details of the proposed tender and its terms & conditions can be seen and downloaded from Institute Website www.igms.org. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. Prospective bidders are advised to regularly visit www.igms.org for Contingendum Amendments etc., if any. It will be notified on this portal only and no separate advertisement will be made. Director, I.G.I.M.S., Patna

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION. General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person whose name, residence and family is unknown, was found dead at Pateragari Chowk, Delhi on 07.05.2023. In this regard DD No. 44A, U/s 174 Cr.P.C., dated 07.05.2023 has been registered at P.S. Paschim Vihar West, Delhi. The description of the UDD is as under: Sex: Male, Age: About 40 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Sallow, ID Mark: Tattoo on right and left hand, Wearing: Blue leather, black pyjama. If anyone has any information about this UDD, kindly inform the SHO/Paschim Vihar West, Delhi.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION. General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person whose name, residence and family is unknown, was found dead at MCD Mandi, Katra Bazar, Chowk, Delhi on 17.05.2023. In this regard DD No. 91A, U/s 174 Cr.P.C., dated 17.05.2023, has been registered at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi. The description of the UDD is as under: Sex: Male, Age: About 50 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Sallow, Face: Long, Build: Thin, ID Mark: Tattoo on right forearm, heart and arrow tattoo on forearm, old wound with old sarrage on left leg, Wearing: Cream shirt, cream with red collar, black pant. If anyone has any information about this UDD, kindly inform the SHO/Kotwali, Delhi.



Neeraj becomes *numero uno* in latest javelin rankings

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra became the World No. 1 for the first time in his career in the latest men's javelin rankings issued by the World Athletics. Neeraj topped the charts with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Grenada's reigning world champion Anderson Peters (1433). Neeraj rose to World No. 2 on August 30 last year, but was stuck behind Peters since then.

INSV Tarini crew back after completing historic voyage

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
PANAJI, MAY 23

“NOT A single day at sea is monotonous. You are occupied all the time. At sea, there is no Monday or a weekend. Just the sunrise and sunset. The world out there is really quiet and nights are even quieter,” said Lt Cdr Roopa A as INSV Tarini entered the harbour at INS Mandovi jetty in Goa on Tuesday, successfully completing a trans-ocean inter-continental voyage spanning 17,000 nautical miles after over six months.

The six-member crew was felicitated in a flag-in ceremony attended by Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar and former captain of Indian women hockey team, Rani Rampal.

Among the crew, the two women officers – Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A – undertook the entire expedition from Goa to Rio de Janeiro via Cape Town and back – sailing for 188 days on the



Union Minister Smriti Irani with the crew of INSV Tarini and Naval officers in Goa on Tuesday. *Twitter*

vessel. The women officers have now set their sights on training for the Navy’s next endeavour – to send a woman on a solo circumnavigation of the globe.

Other participants in the crew include Capt Atool Sinha, Lt Cdr Ashutosh Sharma, Lt Aviral Keshav, Cdr Nikhil Hegde, Cdr MA Zulfikar, Cdr Divya Purohit, and Cdr AC Doke.

“This journey was important because it was part of a preparatory sortie for the solo circumnavigation,” said Lt Cdr Dilna K, who hails from Kerala. “I always

wanted to do something adventurous and different. After joining the navy, I took up sailing and when volunteers were being sought for the expedition, I jumped at the opportunity,” she added.

The crew recounted their voyage on the vessel – their home for six months – which included sailing through a major storm, spotting dolphins, reading books of previous sailing expeditions, watching movies, cooking with dry rations and mostly maintenance of the sailboat.

Navika Sagar Parikrama is the first circumnavigation attempt by **Asian women** and the first such attempt by an all-women naval team. They will set sail from **Goa** in **September** and are expected to be back in **March 2018**. The voyage will have **five legs**, with stopovers in **Fremantle** (Australia), **Lyttelton** (New Zealand), **Port Stanley** (The Falklands) and **Cape Town** (South Africa)

Crew

Skipper: Lt Cdr
Vartika Joshi
Crew: Lt Cdr
Pratibha Jamwal and
P. Swathi, and
Lieutenants
S. Vijaya Devi,
B. Aishwarya and
Payal Gupta



INSV Tarini

- 55ft vessel, with a suite of six sails
- Built by **Aquarius Shipyard, Goa**
- Inducted into the navy in **February**
- Has an **RO plant** that will give **30 litres** of water an hour
- **130hp Volvo Penta D5** engine for auxiliary power
- **Inmarsat** network system
- **Superwind** wind generator
- **Raymarine** electronic autopilot and one wind-driven autopilot
- **Emergency position indicating radio beacon**, and a search and rescue transponder
- **HF/VHF** radio with digital selective calling



Nepal: Sherpa scales Everest for 28th time as deaths rise to 11

GOPAL SHARMA

KATHMANDU, MAY 23

A NEPALI sherpa reached the summit of Mount Everest for a record 28th time on Tuesday, an official said, completing his second ascent in a week, as toll in this year's climbing season rose to 11.

Kami Rita Sherpa, 53, reached the 8,849-metre summit by the traditional southeast ridge route, said Nepali tourism official Bigyan Koirala, following his 27th climb last week.

Kami Rita first climbed Everest in 1994, and has done so almost every year since, except for three years when authorities closed the mountain.

Another sherpa scaled Everest for the 27th time this week, the most summits after Kami Rita, while British climber Kenton Cool scaled it last week for the 17th time, the most by a foreigner.

Two more deaths over the weekend took place, taking the toll to 11 since April. **REUTERS**

Kerala set to be first fully e-governed state in India

FE BUREAU

Thiruvananthapuram, May 23

KERALA IS SET to declare itself India's first "total e-governed state" on Thursday, thanks to its strides towards a knowledge-based society and economy, and 100% digital literacy.

Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan will make the declaration in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday.

The achievement, which comes decades after Kerala became the first fully-literate state and began its quest to become a fully e-literate society, has been realised through a set of policy initiatives of the government seeking to transform the state into a digitally-empowered society. The delivery of all vital services has already been digitised, covering all key domains including health, education, land revenue, documentation of properties, public distribution system and social security payouts.

Besides digitising the delivery of government services to the people by making them transparent and inclusive, total e-governance will also ensure inclusion of all sections of the society, including the less privileged and marginalised.

Besides digitising the delivery of government services to the people by making them transparent and inclusive, total e-governance will also ensure inclusion of all sections of the society, including the less privileged and marginalised.

The achievement enables online delivery of the whole range of government services by leveraging state-of-the-art technology and platforms.

US and EU lawmakers want Jaber out as COP28 president

GLORIA DICKIE & KATE ABNETT
London, May 23

OVER 100 MEMBERS of the U.S. Congress and European Parliament called on Tuesday for Sultan al-Jaber to be removed as the designated head of the upcoming COP28 climate talks, saying the oil exec's appointment threatened the integrity of negotiations.

Jaber, who heads the United Arab Emirates oil giant Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, was chosen in January to lead the talks. He also serves as the UAE's ministry of industry and technology as well as its climate envoy.

In a letter sent to U.S. President Joe Biden, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the United Nations, the lawmakers voiced "profound concern" that private sector polluters would be able to "exert undue influence" on the

Jaber, who heads the United Arab Emirates oil giant Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, was chosen in January to lead the talks

climate negotiations, to be held in Dubai later this year.

"We urge you to ... engage in diplomatic efforts to secure the withdrawal of the president-designate of COP28," they wrote.

Signatories included US Democratic senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren. Most EU signatories hailed from the Greens and Left groups. Scientists and climate activists have expressed dismay at Jaber's appointment, taking it as a sign that big industry has commandeered the global response to the climate crisis.

More than 600 fossil fuel lobby-

ists were present at the COP27 climate talks held in Egypt last year.

A spokesperson for the COP28 president's office highlighted Jaber's long career in the renewable energy sector.

"We believe that Dr. Sultan's experience ... working across the energy spectrum, coupled with his experience as a senior global industry leader, are assets that will help drive the UAE's transformative approach to COP28," the spokesperson said.

Jaber previously told Reuters that he had "no intention" of deviating from the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global warming to 1.5C degrees above pre-industrial levels.

"Keeping 1.5 alive is a top priority and it will cut across everything I do," he said.

This is not the first time that lawmakers have called for Jaber's removal.

— REUTERS

दुनिया के नंबर एक पुरुष टेनिस खिलाड़ी बने कार्लोस अल्कारेज

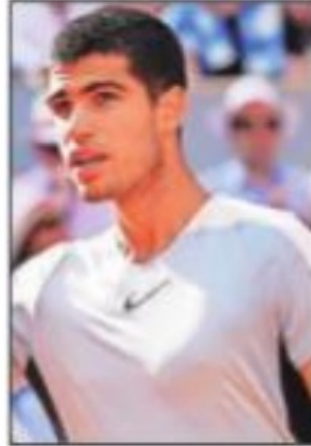
पेरिस, 23 मई (एपी)।

कार्लोस अल्कारेज नवीनतम एटीपी रैंकिंग में नोवाक जोकोविच को पछाड़कर दुनिया के नंबर एक पुरुष टेनिस खिलाड़ी बन गए हैं जिससे उन्हें फ्रेंच ओपन में शीर्ष वरीयता मिलेगी। इतालवी ओपन का खिताब जीतने वाले दानिल मेदवेदेव नवीनतम रैंकिंग में दूसरे स्थान पर हैं। रोम में गत चैंपियन के रूप में उतरे जोकोविच को चौथे दौर में हार का सामना करना पड़ा जिससे वह तीसरे स्थान पर खिसक गए।

अल्कारेज ने 2023 में 30 मुकाबलों में जीत दर्ज की है जबकि तीन में उन्हें हार का सामना करना पड़ा। दूसरी तरफ गत फ्रेंच ओपन चैंपियन ईगा स्वियातेक डब्ल्यूटीए रैंकिंग में शीर्ष पर बनी हुई हैं। वह एक साल

एटीपी रैंकिंग

रविवार से शुरू हो रहे फ्रेंच ओपन के साथ पहली बार स्पेन के अल्कारेज को किसी ग्रैंडस्लैम टूर्नामेंट में शीर्ष वरीयता मिलेगी। वे इस महीने 20 बरस के हो जाएंगे।



से अधिक समय से दुनिया की नंबर एक महिला टेनिस खिलाड़ी हैं। उनके बाद आस्ट्रेलियाई ओपन विजेता एरिना सबालेंका दूसरे स्थान पर हैं।

अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुक्केबाजी संघ ने चार राष्ट्रीय महासंघों को किया निलंबित

लुसाने, 23 मई (एजंसी)।


अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुक्केबाजी संघ (आइबीए) ने 'अनधिकृत' मुक्केबाजी संगठन में प्रतिनिधित्व के लिए जर्मनी, न्यूजीलैंड, स्वीडन और नीदरलैंड के राष्ट्रीय महासंघों को निलंबित किया है।

पिछले महीने अमेरिका और ब्रिटेन सहित राष्ट्रीय महासंघों के एक समूह ने नए संगठन 'वर्ल्ड बॉक्सिंग' का गठन किया था जिसका लक्ष्य ओलंपिक खेलों में खेल का दीर्घकालीन भविष्य सुरक्षित करना था। आइबीए ने बयान में कहा, 'चार (महासंघ) नियमों के उल्लंघन के दोषी थे और आइबीए सदस्यों के रूप में उन्हें निलंबित किया गया है।' उन्होंने कहा, 'इन सभी को सुनवाई का अधिकार दिया गया था लेकिन किसी ने भी अनधिकृत संचालन संस्था में प्रतिनिधित्व से इनकार नहीं किया और ना ही संगठन से दूरी बनाई।' वर्ल्ड बॉक्सिंग के अंतरिम कार्यकारी बोर्ड में जर्मनी, ब्रिटेन,

आइबीए



नीदरलैंड, फिलिपींस, स्वीडन और अमेरिका के प्रतिनिधियों ने हिस्सा लिया लेकिन इसमें सिर्फ यूएसए बॉक्सिंग ने आइबीए की अपनी सदस्यता रद्द की है। आइबीए ने हालांकि कहा कि इन चारों महासंघों को फिर से बहाल किया जा सकता है यदि वे दर्शाते हैं किसी अन्य अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुक्केबाजी महासंघ में उनसे संबंधित कोई अधिकारी नहीं हैं।

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- Recently, two police officers were suspended on the **charges of Custodial Torture(Violence)**, assaulting the accused in Police custody.

- What is Custodial Torture?

- **About:**

- Custodial torture is the **infliction of physical or mental pain or suffering on a person who is in the custody** of the police or other authorities.
- It is a grave violation of **human rights** and **dignity** and often leads to **custodial deaths**, which are deaths that occur while a person is in custody.

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- **Custodial Death in India:**According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), a total of **146 cases of death in police custody were reported** during 2017-2018,
 - 136 in 2018-2019,
 - 112 in 2019-2020,
 - 100 in 2020-2021,
 - 175 in 2021-2022.

-
- In the last five years, the **highest number of custodial deaths** (80) has been reported in **Gujarat**, followed by **Maharashtra** (76), Uttar Pradesh (41), Tamil Nadu (40) and Bihar (38).



- **Challenges in Preventing Custodial Torture in India:**

- Lack of ratification of the **UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT)**, which India signed in 1997 but has not yet ratified.
 - This prevents India from being bound by international obligations and standards to **prevent and combat custodial torture.**



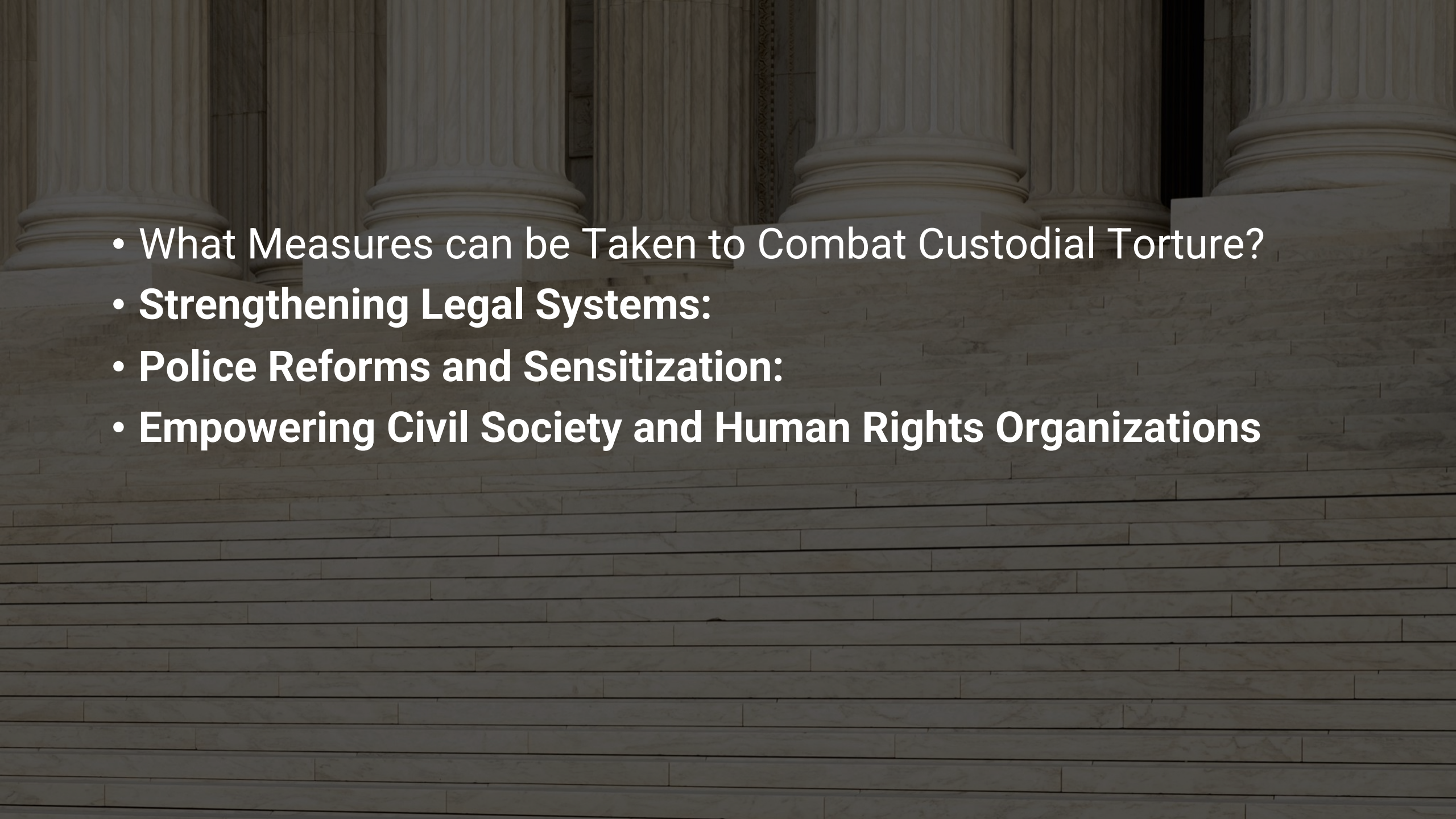
Legal Protections:



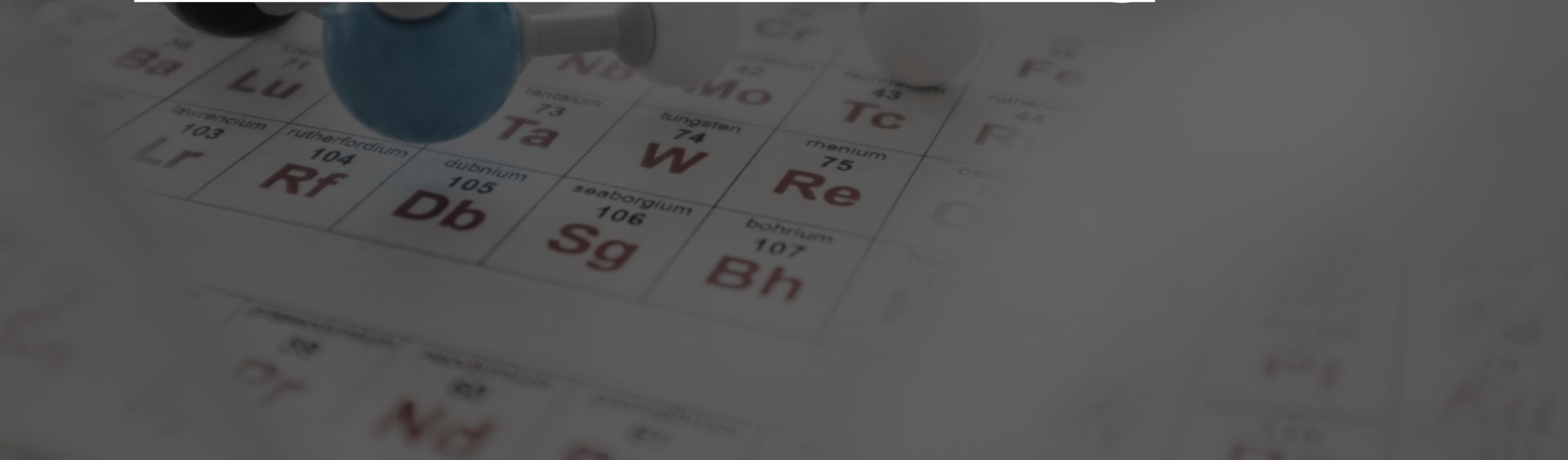
Section 24 Indian Evidence Act, 1872 declares that all the confessions made by the accused by succumbing to the threat, promise or inducement of investigating agencies would not be admissible in the court of law. This Section primarily works for preventing the accused to give confessions against his will.

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- **Section 330 and 331 of the [Indian Penal Code \(IPC\)](#)** criminalize voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt to extort confession or information from any person.

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- What are the International Conventions for Human Rights?
 - **International Human Rights Law, 1948**
 - **United Nation Charter, 1945**
 - **The Nelson Mandela Rules, 2015**

- 
- What Measures can be Taken to Combat Custodial Torture?
 - **Strengthening Legal Systems:**
 - **Police Reforms and Sensitization:**
 - **Empowering Civil Society and Human Rights Organizations**

Calcium-41 for Radiometric Dating



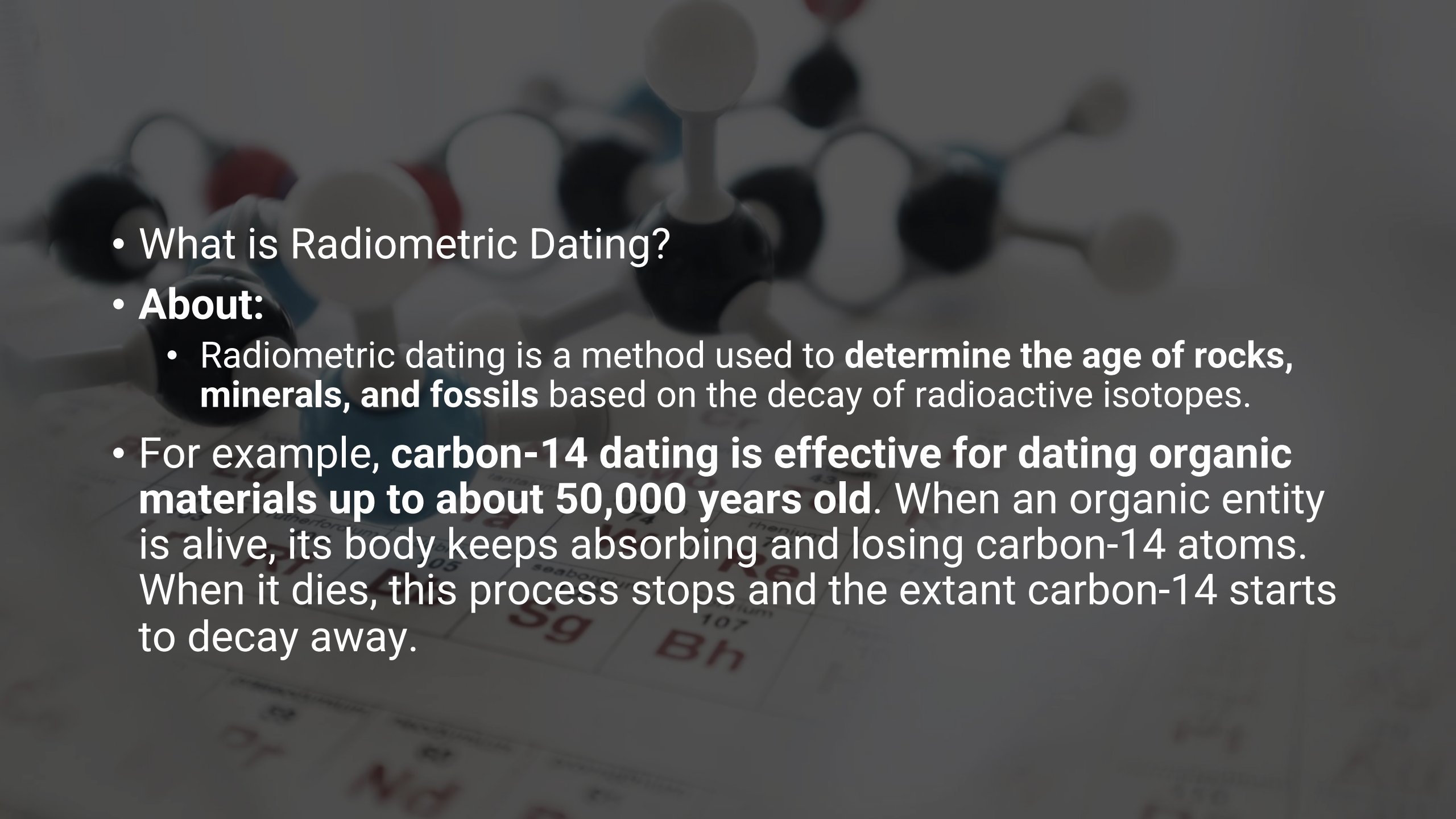
Scientists have suggested using **Calcium-41** for Radiometric Dating as an alternative to Carbon-14 for determining the age of fossilized bones and rocks.

They have suggested a technique called **Atom-Trap Trace Analysis (ATTA)** as a solution, because ATTA is sensitive enough to spot **Calcium-41**, which is a rare isotope.

- **Calcium-41:**

- Calcium-41 is a **rare long-lived radioisotope** of calcium with a half-life of 99,400 years.
- Calcium-41 is produced in the **Earth's crust when cosmic rays from space collide with calcium atoms** in soil or rocks.
- This isotope has the potential to be employed in dating methods for objects that are older than what can be accurately determined **using carbon-14 dating**.

-

- 
- What is Radiometric Dating?
 - **About:**
 - Radiometric dating is a method used to **determine the age of rocks, minerals, and fossils** based on the decay of radioactive isotopes.
 - For example, **carbon-14 dating is effective for dating organic materials up to about 50,000 years old.** When an organic entity is alive, its body keeps absorbing and losing carbon-14 atoms. When it dies, this process stops and the extant carbon-14 starts to decay away.

• Limitations with Carbon-14:

- Carbon-14 is an unstable and weakly radioactive isotope of carbon. It has a half-life of 5,700 years and is **used to estimate the age of carbon-based materials.**
- Carbon dating using Carbon-14 is limited to objects up to 50,000 years old due to carbon-14's 5,700-year half-life.



World Food India 2023

In celebration of the [International Year of Millets in 2023](#), India's Ministry of Food Processing Industries will be organizing the second edition of 'World Food India 2023', which aims to showcase India's rich food culture and attract global investments in the diverse [food processing sector](#).

The event will take place from **3rd-5th November 2023** in New Delhi.

-
- In celebration of the [International Year of Millets in 2023](#), India's **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** will be organizing the second edition of 'World Food India 2023', which aims to **showcase India's rich food culture and attract global investments in the diverse [food processing sector](#)**.
 - The event will take place from **3rd-5th November 2023** in New Delhi.

-
- **World Food India 2023** is a gateway to the [Indian food economy](#), facilitating partnerships between Indian and foreign investors.
 - It will be a **one-of-a-kind gathering of manufacturers, producers, food processors, investors, policymakers, and organisations** from across the global food ecosystem.
 - It is a promising platform to **showcase, connect and collaborate in retail, processing, technology transfer, manufacturing, and cold chain logistics, along the global food value chain.**

-
- India is one of the **world's largest producers and consumers of food products**.
 - India leads the world in the **production of milk, bananas, mangoes, papayas, guavas, ginger, okra and buffalo meat, ranks second in the production of rice, wheat, potatoes, garlic, cashew nuts.**



International Museum

Expo 2023

Recently, the Prime Minister (PM) of India inaugurated the **International Museum Expo 2023** in New Delhi to celebrate the 47th [International Museum Day \(IMD\)](#).




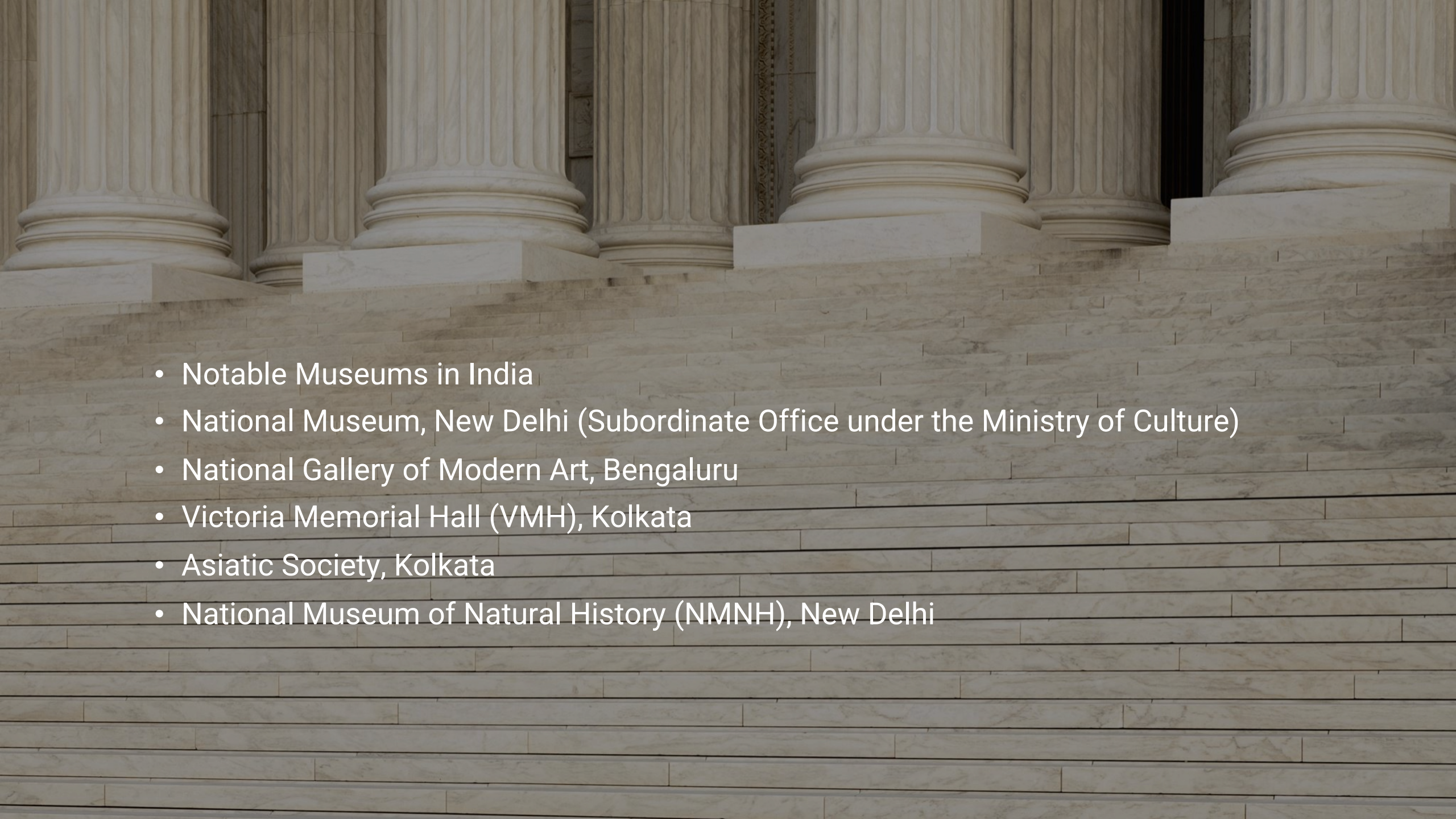
The PM also unveiled the plan for what is set to be the world's largest museum, **Yuge Yugeen Bharat**, which will capture **5,000 years of India's history**.

The **Mascot of the International Museum Expo** is a contemporized version of the **Dancing Girl** made of wood in the **Chennapatnam art style**.

What is International
Museum Day?

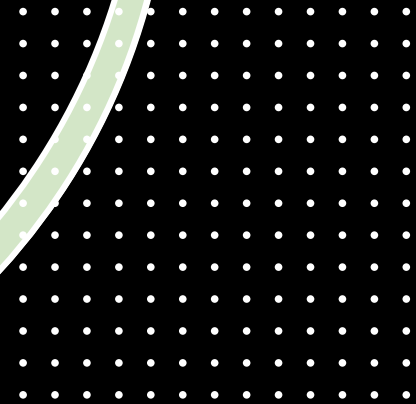
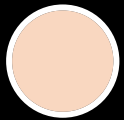


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- **International Museum Day and SDG:** Each year since 2020, the International Museum Day supports a set of Goals from the [Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations](#). In 2023, we will focus on:
 - **Goal 3 Global Health and Wellbeing, Goal 13 Climate Action, Goal 15 Life on Land.**


- 
- Notable Museums in India
 - National Museum, New Delhi (Subordinate Office under the Ministry of Culture)
 - National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru
 - Victoria Memorial Hall (VMH), Kolkata
 - Asiatic Society, Kolkata
 - National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), New Delhi




The International
Day for Biological
Diversity 2023



The [International Day for Biological Diversity \(IDB\)](#), celebrated on **22nd May 2023**, raises awareness about the importance of biodiversity for sustaining life on Earth.

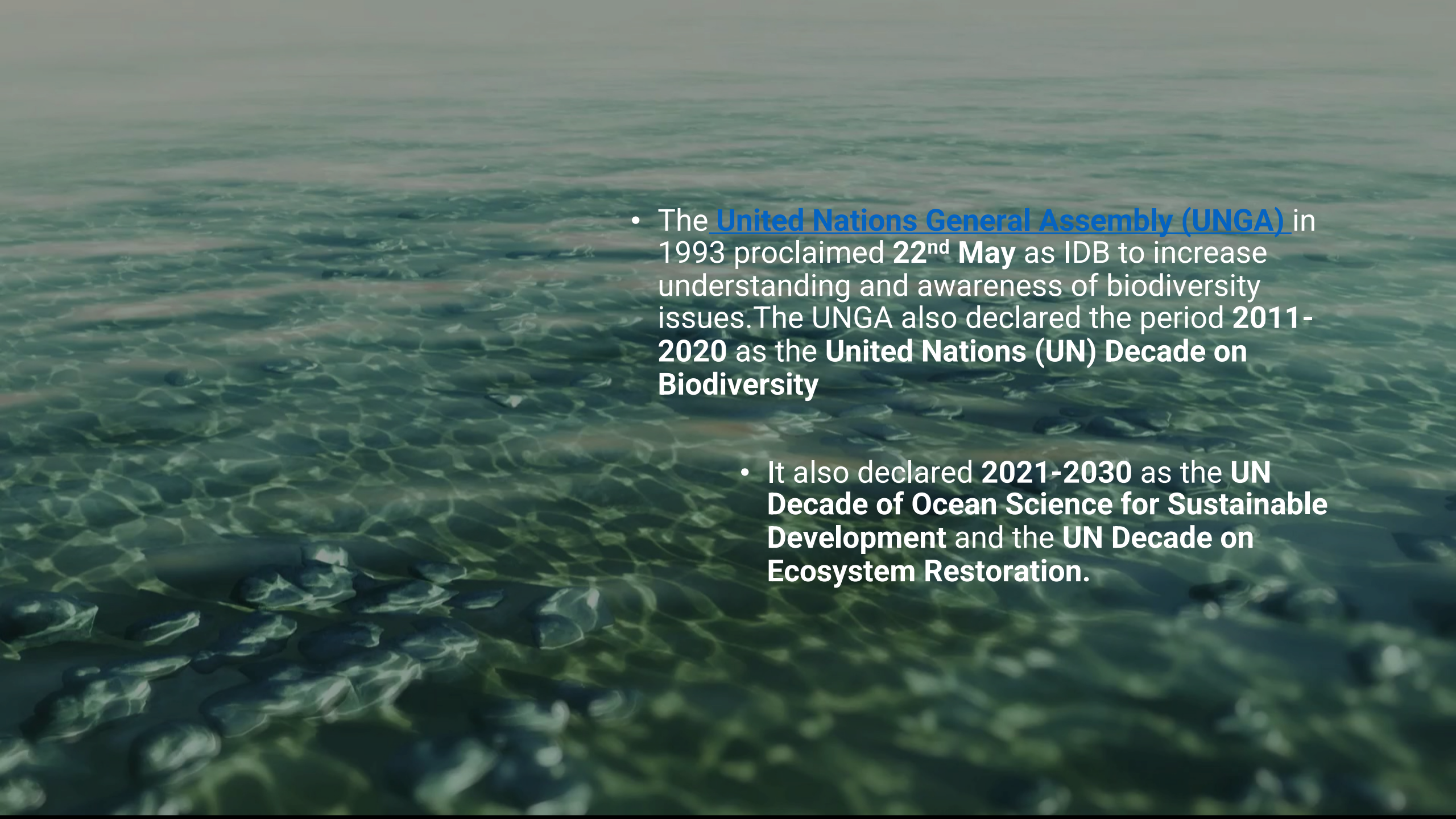


The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services highlights the **risk of extinction for around one million species**.



To address the biodiversity crisis, the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) was adopted at the [15th Conference of Parties \(COP 15\)](#) to the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#)

This framework sets ambitious targets for 2030 and provides a roadmap for conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity.

- 
- The [United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA\)](#) in 1993 proclaimed **22nd May** as **IDB** to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. The UNGA also declared the period **2011-2020** as the **United Nations (UN) Decade on Biodiversity**
 - It also declared **2021-2030** as the **UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development** and the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**.

- 
- The theme for 2023 is **“From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity”**.
 - **30 by 30 Target:**
 - The declaration made a reference to the '30 by 30' target which is a **key proposal being debated at the COP15**, that would afford **30% of the Earth’s land and oceans protected status by 2030**.

The framework consists of **four goals and 23 targets for 2030.**

The four goals are:




World Bee Day

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), recently celebrated [World Bee Day](#) on May 20th, 2023 at Balaghat, Madhya Pradesh.



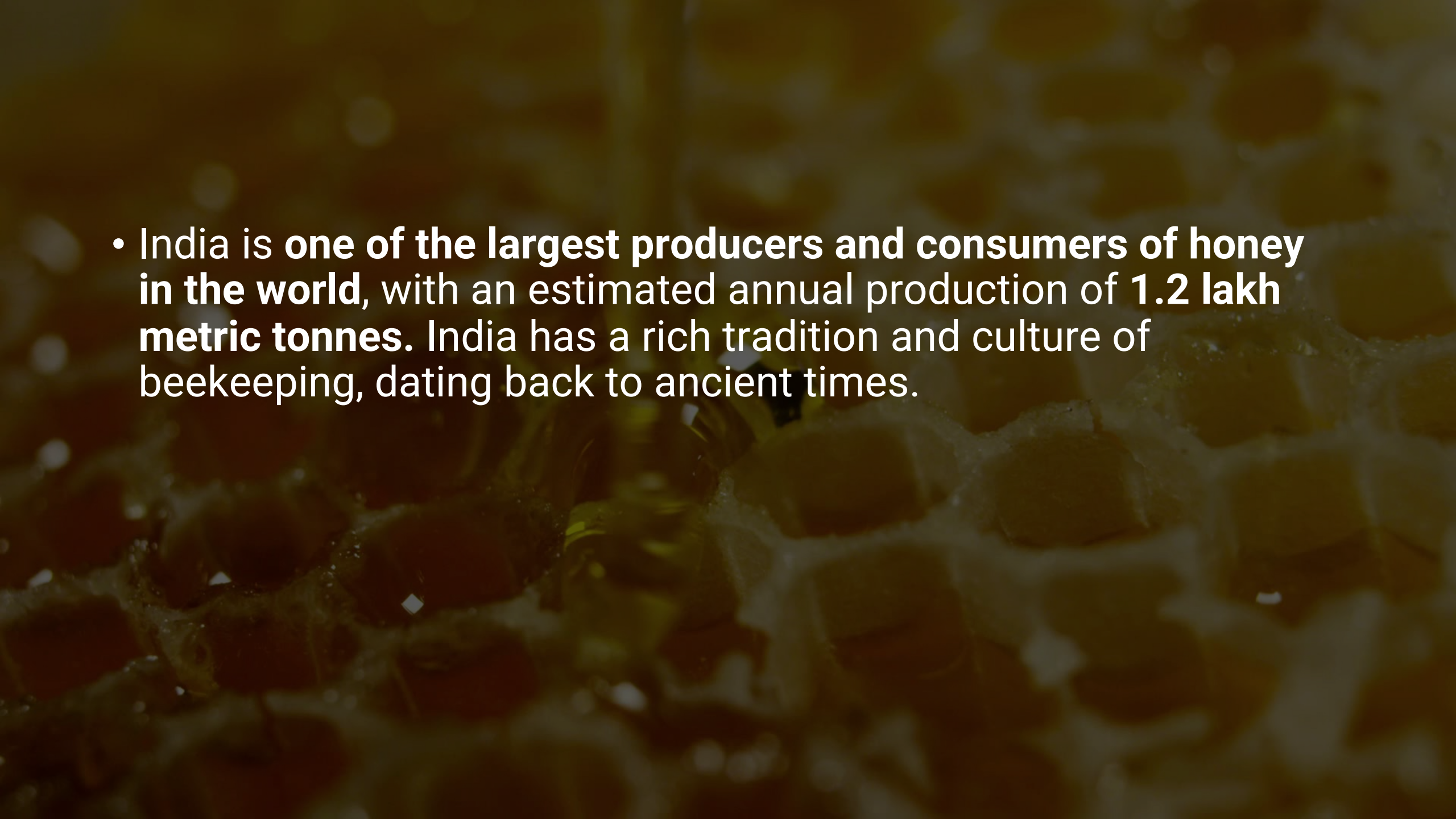
The event aimed to promote and popularise beekeeping nationwide through the [National Beekeeping & Honey Mission \(NBHM\)](#) under the Atma-Nirbhar Bharat initiative.



The Theme of 2023 is “Bee engaged in pollinator-friendly agricultural production”.

The date was chosen to commemorate the birthday of Anton Janša, a pioneer of modern beekeeping from Slovenia.

The [United Nations General Assembly](#) declared World Bee Day in 2017, following a proposal by Slovenia and the support of 115 countries.

- 
- **India is one of the largest producers and consumers of honey in the world, with an estimated annual production of 1.2 lakh metric tonnes.** India has a rich tradition and culture of beekeeping, dating back to ancient times.

At present, about **12,699 Beekeepers and 19.34 lakhs honey bees colonies** are registered with the [National Bee Board](#) and India is producing about 1,33,200 Metric tonnes of Honey (**2021-22 estimate**).

In **November 2022**, a new species of endemic honeybee named [Indian black honeybee](#) (*Apis karinjodian*) was discovered in the [Western Ghats](#) after a **gap of more than 200 years**.

- 
- The background features a repeating pattern of sheep, each enclosed within a transparent glass dome. These domes are arranged on a blue grid that resembles a honeycomb or a tiled surface. The sheep are white with black faces and legs, and they are positioned in various orientations within their respective domes. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, with a focus on geometric shapes and a cool color palette.
- As per the National Horticulture Board (NHB), **Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab, Bihar, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka** were the top ten honey-producing states in 2021-22.

THE JOURNEY FROM NECTAR TO HONEY



Forager bees gather nectar from flowers and return to the hive

Nectar is passed into the mouths of the worker bees who then store it in the hive's cells

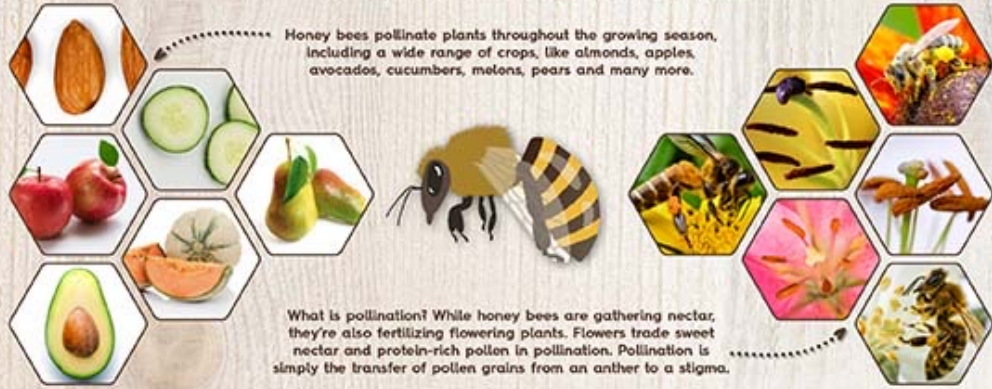
Bees in the hive fan their wings to dehydrate the nectar

It becomes honey when the hive interior is 95° F and the nectar's moisture level reaches 17%

WHAT DO BEES DO?

Everyone knows honey bees make honey, but they do so much more!

BEES ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR ECOSYSTEM



WHY DO BEES MAKE HONEY?

Honey bees collect nectar to create honey and store as food because it provides the energy for bees' flight muscles and provides heating for the hive in the winter. Fortunately, honey bees will make more honey than the colony needs, so beekeepers harvest the excess and bottle it for us to enjoy.



- Vinegar and honey mixture can be an easy hack to spot fake honey from pure honey. To perform this test, try mixing a few drops of honey into a solution of vinegar-water. If the mixture starts to foam, it might be a sign that the quality of the honey is contaminated.

Adulterated Honey



Pure Honey



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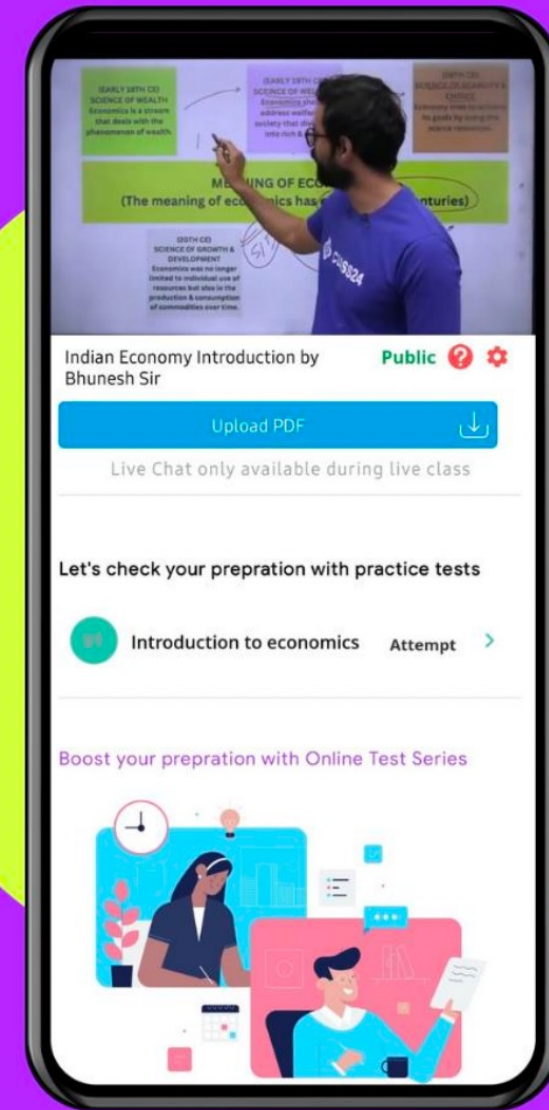
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• **Consider the following kinds of organisms: (2012)**

1. Bat

2. Bee

3. Bird

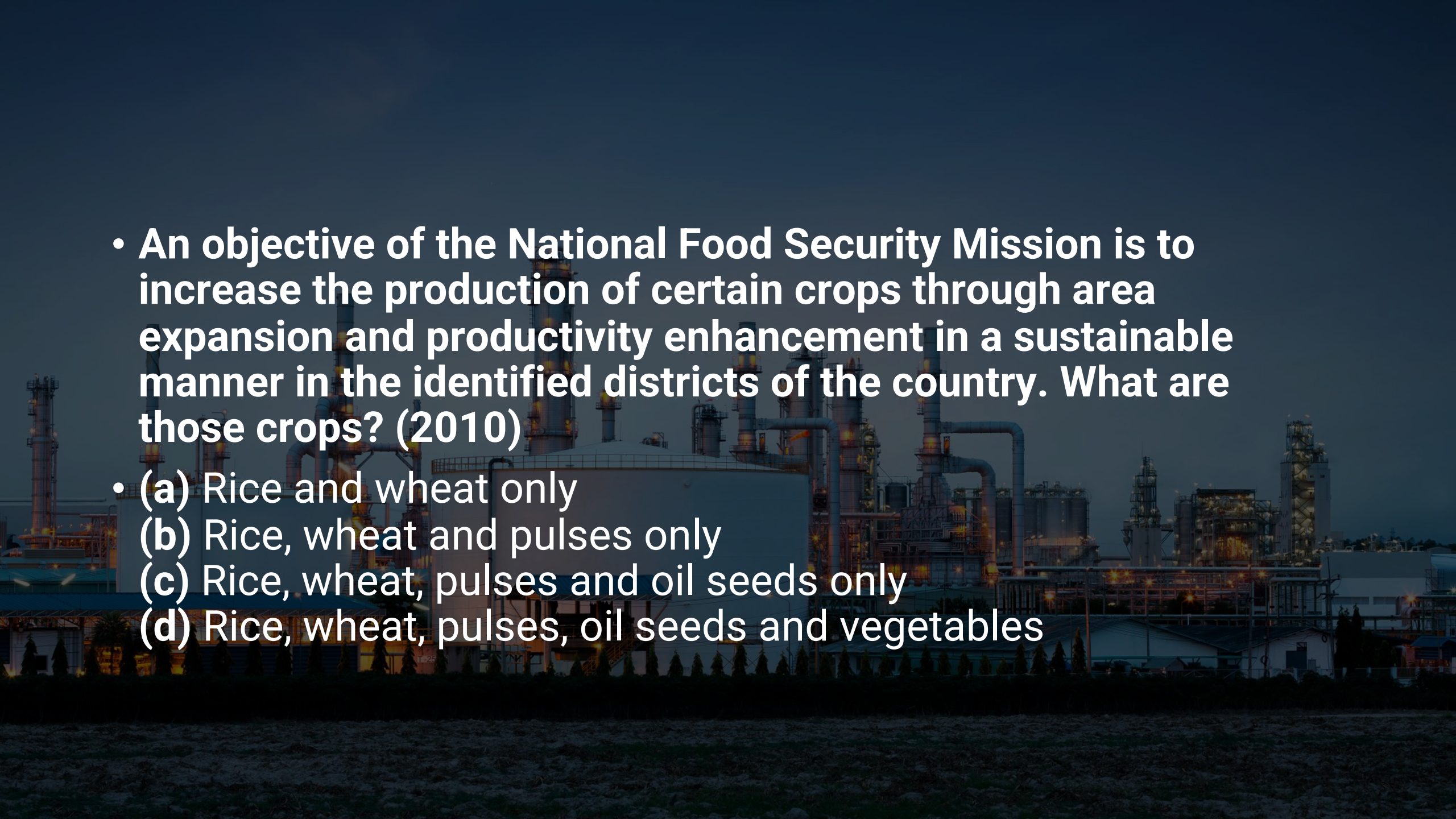
• **Which of the above is/are pollinating agent/agents?**

• (a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

- 
- **An objective of the National Food Security Mission is to increase the production of certain crops through area expansion and productivity enhancement in a sustainable manner in the identified districts of the country. What are those crops? (2010)**
 - **(a) Rice and wheat only**
 - **(b) Rice, wheat and pulses only**
 - **(c) Rice, wheat, pulses and oil seeds only**
 - **(d) Rice, wheat, pulses, oil seeds and vegetables**



- Among the following, which one is the largest exporter of rice in the world in the last five years? (2019)
- (a) China
- (b) India
- (c) Myanmar
- (d) Vietnam


- **With reference to the Indian judiciary, consider the following statements: (2021)**

1. Any retired judge of the Supreme Court of India can be called back to sit and act as a Supreme Court judge by the Chief Justice of India with the prior permission of the President of India.

2. A High Court in India has the power to review its own judgement as the Supreme Court does.

- **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

A group of people in a meeting room are clapping. 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
