

# Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता



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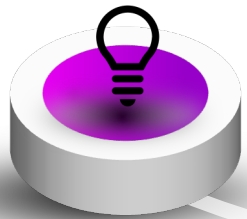


**4**  
**The Hindu**

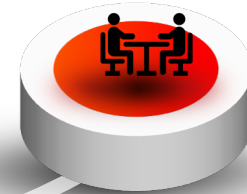


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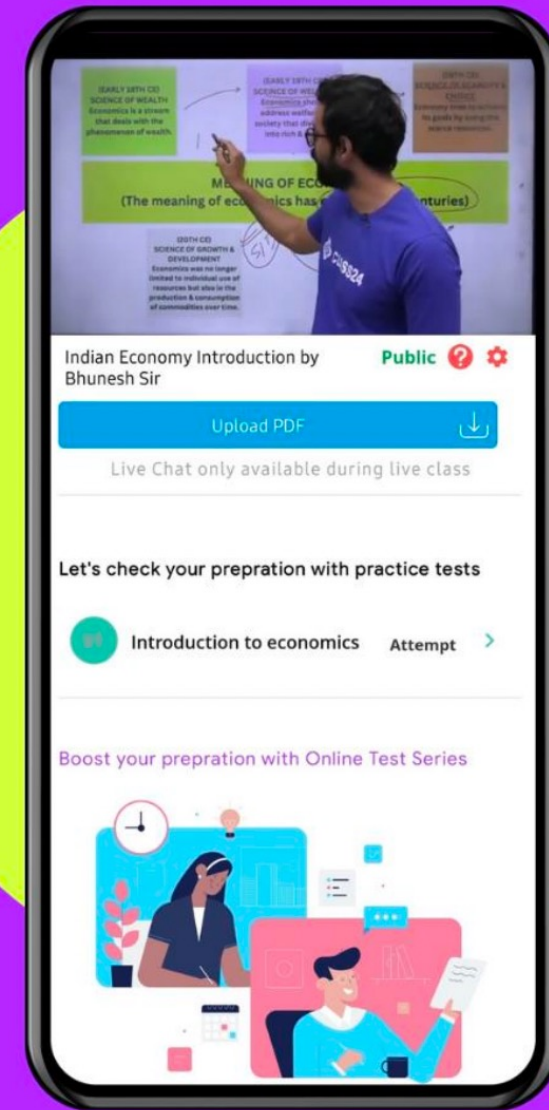
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BAGAYYAN CREW MODULE  
ISRO, Navy  
release  
training  
plan  
NEWS » PAGE 10

AN ELEPHANT STORY  
**How Arikompan got a new home**  
His translocation could serve as a blueprint for human-wildlife conflict  
GROUND ZERO » PAGE 7



KARNATAKA CABINET  
24 MLAs to take oath as Ministers today  
STATES » PAGE 4

## Only six religion options make it to next Census form

Detailed codes for Sarnaism, the Lingayat religion, etc. were dropped in the final schedule; form to include questions on source of drinking water

Vijaya Singh  
NEW DELHI

Do you consume "packaged or bottled water"? The Census wants to know. This will be one of the new questions in the next Census, which will also introduce "natural calamities" as a new option when asking about the factors responsible for migration of an individual or a family, besides existing options.

Despite demands from several communities to be counted as a separate religion, the next Census will only count Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Sikh and Jain as options. Nature-worshipping Adivasis in

### Making it count

- Next Census retains six options for religions
- The Census introduces questions on bottled water consumption and migration due to natural calamities
- Next Census will be India's first digital one, allowing citizens to participate from the comfort of their home
- New queries about travel time and Metro-rail usage have been added
- The Census now includes categories such as acid attack, intellectual disability, chronic neurological disease, and blood disorder in the disability section
- A code directory is added to streamline data processing

Jharkhand, Chattisgarh and Odisha have been campaigning to include their Sarna faith as a separate religion, while Karnataka's Lingayats have been making a similar demand.

Though respondents can write the name of any other religion, no separate code will be provided.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 8

## IMD retains its normal outlook for monsoon

Jacob Koshy  
NEW DELHI

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has kept its forecast of normal rainfall from June-September this year, unchanged from its prediction in April. At 90% of the Long Period Average (a 50-year mean) of 87 cm, this is at the lowest end of what is considered "normal". The chances of an El Nino forming are near certain, and this will likely mean that rainfall levels will be below normal in northwest India, IMD said on Friday.

The key factor influencing the quantum of monsoon rains is the development of an El Nino, a phenomenon of warming in the central Pacific Ocean that is linked to diminished rainfall in western and northwestern India.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 8



Inside view: The Lok Sabha hall inside the new Parliament complex, set to be inaugurated on Sunday. AP

## SC refuses to hear plea against opening of Parliament by PM

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a petition challenging the inauguration of the new Parliament building on Sunday by the Prime Minister, and not the President.

A Vacation Bench of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and P.S. Narasimha said it was not "inclined" to hear the petition filed by advocate C.R. Jaya Sukin. When Mr. Sukin urged the Court to

permit him to withdraw the petition, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the lawyer may then file it before another court and keep the issue alive. He said the court should record a dismissal of the petition to make it conclusive.

Mr. Sukin's petition was filed on Thursday amidst a heated debate between the government and Opposition over the inauguration.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 8

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# Only six religion options make it to next Census form

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## Making it count

Next Census is a mix of newer aspects and older conventions

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**CONTINUED ON**  
» **PAGE 8**

A comparison of the questions asked in 2011 and those finalised for the next Census shows that for a section on the mode of travel to place of work, respondents will have to answer new queries on their travel time in hours and minutes, and whether they use metro rail. A question on types and causes of disabilities has been expanded to include “acid attack, intellectual disability, chronic neurological disease and blood disorder”.

The next Census will also record details on whether a person who lives in a rented house owns a house somewhere else or does not own any residential property. On the question of availability of drinking water, it explains that “near the premises” means “within 100 metres in urban areas” and “within 500 metres in rural areas”.

- 
- **Population Census** is the total process of **collecting, compiling, analyzing** and **disseminating demographic, economic and social data** pertaining, at a specific time, of all persons in a country or a well-defined part of a country.
    - It also **provides the trends in population** characteristics.
  - The **Indian Census is one of the largest administrative exercises** undertaken in the world.

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- **Nodal Ministry:**

- The decennial Census is conducted by the [Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner](#), Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Until 1951, the Census Organisation was set up on an **ad-hoc basis** for each Census.

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- **Legal/Constitutional Backing:**

- Census is conducted under the provisions of the **Census Act, 1948**.

- The bill for this Act was piloted by [Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel](#), the then Home Minister of India.

- The population census is a **Union subject under Article 246** of India Constitution.

- It is listed at **serial number 69** of the [seventh schedule](#) of the constitution.



- **Ancient and Medieval Period:**

- **Rigveda:** The earliest literature 'Rig-Veda' reveals that some kind of population count was **maintained during 800-600 BC** in India.
- **Arthashastra:** 'Arthashastra' by 'Kautilya' written in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BC prescribed the collection of **population statistics as a measure of state policy for taxation.**
- **Ain-i-Akbari:** During the regime of the Mughal king Akbar, the administrative report '[Ain-e-Akbari](#)' also **included comprehensive data pertaining to population, industry, wealth and many other characteristics.**

---

- **Initial Attempts:**

- The history of the census began with 1800 when England had begun its Census.
- In its continuation, a census was conducted in **Allahabad** (1824) and in **Banaras** (1827-28) by **James Prinsep**.
- The first complete census of an Indian city was conducted in **1830** by **Henry Walter in Dacca** (now Dhaka).
  - The Second Census was conducted in 1836-37 by **Fort St. George**.
- In 1849, the Government of India ordered the local governments to conduct **quinquennial** (five-yearly) returns of population.

**First Non-synchronous Census:** It was conducted in India in 1872 during the reign of **Governor-General Lord Mayo**.

**First Synchronous Census:** The first synchronous census was taken under British rule on February 17, 1881, by **W.C. Plowden** (Census Commissioner of India).

- Since then, censuses have been undertaken **uninterruptedly** once every ten years.



## Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC)





# Inspired by 'Shooter Dadis', grandma chops her way to podium at international karate event

**Ashok Kumar**  
GURUGRAM

At 59, when most people have retirement plans on top of their minds, Geeta Godara has begun a new innings as a karateka, finishing second at an international karate championship in Dubai a month ago, participating alongside her teenage granddaughter.

Donning a pair of black leggings and a T-shirt with a scarf around the neck, Ms. Godara, dressed much unlike a stereotypical grandmother, told *The Hindu* that she loved "challenges" and had this "insatiable desire" to learn. She said she had always wanted to do something "extraordinary".

"I had dreamt of joining the Army, or being a commando as a child. But be-



Geeta Godara with granddaughter Aashka at the 2023 Budokan Cup International Karate Championship. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ing a girl, I was denied the opportunities. I had to drop out after primary school, but that desire to do something extraordinary stayed with me," said Ms. Godara, a resident of Gurugram's Sector 5.

Ms. Godara, grandmother to two girls, took to cy-

cling two months ago and also learnt kathak while accompanying one of her granddaughters to the classical dance classes. A yoga enthusiast, Ms. Godara, is a regular at the gym. "So far, I don't suffer from any ailments. All my medical reports are fine," she said.

Interestingly, her journey to being a karateka began two years ago while accompanying her granddaughter Aashka, 13, to the Sai Karate Academy in the neighbourhood. "It was on the very first day to the academy that I enquired whether there was something on offer for the elderly too. And two months later, I joined the classes," said Ms. Godara.

Her coach Sunil Saini recalled that she would train for two hours daily and her routine included sledgehammer tire workout, battle ropes and push-ups, but hardly showed signs of fatigue. "Her energy levels are unbelievable," remarked Mr. Saini.

Her husband Pradeep Godara, a retired Haryana government bureaucrat, and both her sons and

daughters-in-law were in for a surprise when she broke the news about going to Dubai for the 2023 'Budokan Cup – International Karate Championship'.

## Basking in the glory

"They knew that I was learning karate, but had least expected me to contest at an international event," chuckled Ms. Godara, basking in the glory of her new-found identity.

Inspired by the story of the oldest sharpshooters, Chandro Tomar and Prakash Tomar, who were nicknamed 'Shooter Dadis', Ms. Godara said she had never expected to go this far when she embarked upon the journey to become a karate player. "It all seems like a dream now," she exclaimed.



# Indus Waters Treaty: Centre advises J&K to scale up efforts for 'better utilisation'

**Peerzada Ashiq**

SRINAGAR

The Union government on Friday instructed officials in Jammu & Kashmir to scale up efforts for “better utilisation of the country’s rights under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)” over the three rivers flowing through the Union Territory. Deputy National Security Adviser Sari Vikram Mis-

ri chaired the second meeting of the special task force in Srinagar “to ensure exercise of India’s rights under the IWT”, a spokesman said.

The meeting took stock of the progress made on various hydro power projects in J&K. It was noted that progress had been made on several fronts and emphasis was laid on completing the works on all the

Indus Basin Projects in a timely manner to enable better utilisation of India’s rights under the IWT, the spokesman said.

The high-level meeting was attended by top officials, including J&K’s Principal Secretary of the Power Development Department, officials from the Ministry of External Affairs and Commissioner (Indus) and the Ministry of

Jal Shakti.

The Deputy NSA also met J&K Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha and apprised him of the ongoing efforts to monitor implementation of hydro power projects in the Indus Basin under the directions of the Prime Minister’s Office. “The L-G assured full cooperation in this national endeavour,” the spokesman said.

# The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

■ The distribution of waters of the Indus and its tributaries between India and Pakistan is governed by the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

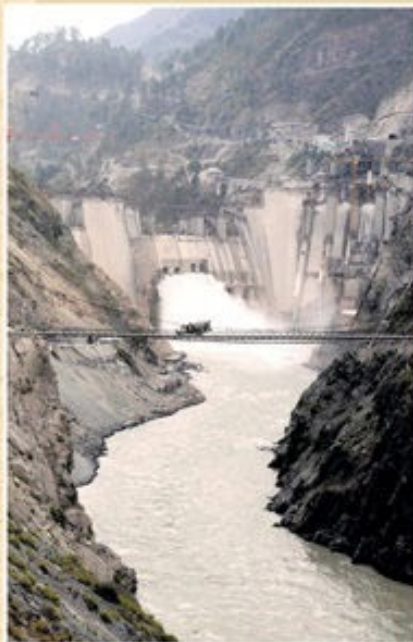
■ Was signed on Sept 19, 1960, between India, Pakistan and a representative of World Bank after eight years of negotiations.

■ Partition of India cut across the Indus river basin, which has the Indus river, plus five of its main tributaries.

## Western rivers

### Chenab, Jhelum, Indus

India's rights over these rivers: Limited — can set up certain irrigation, run-of-the-river power plants, very limited storage, domestic and non-consumptive use, all subject to conditions

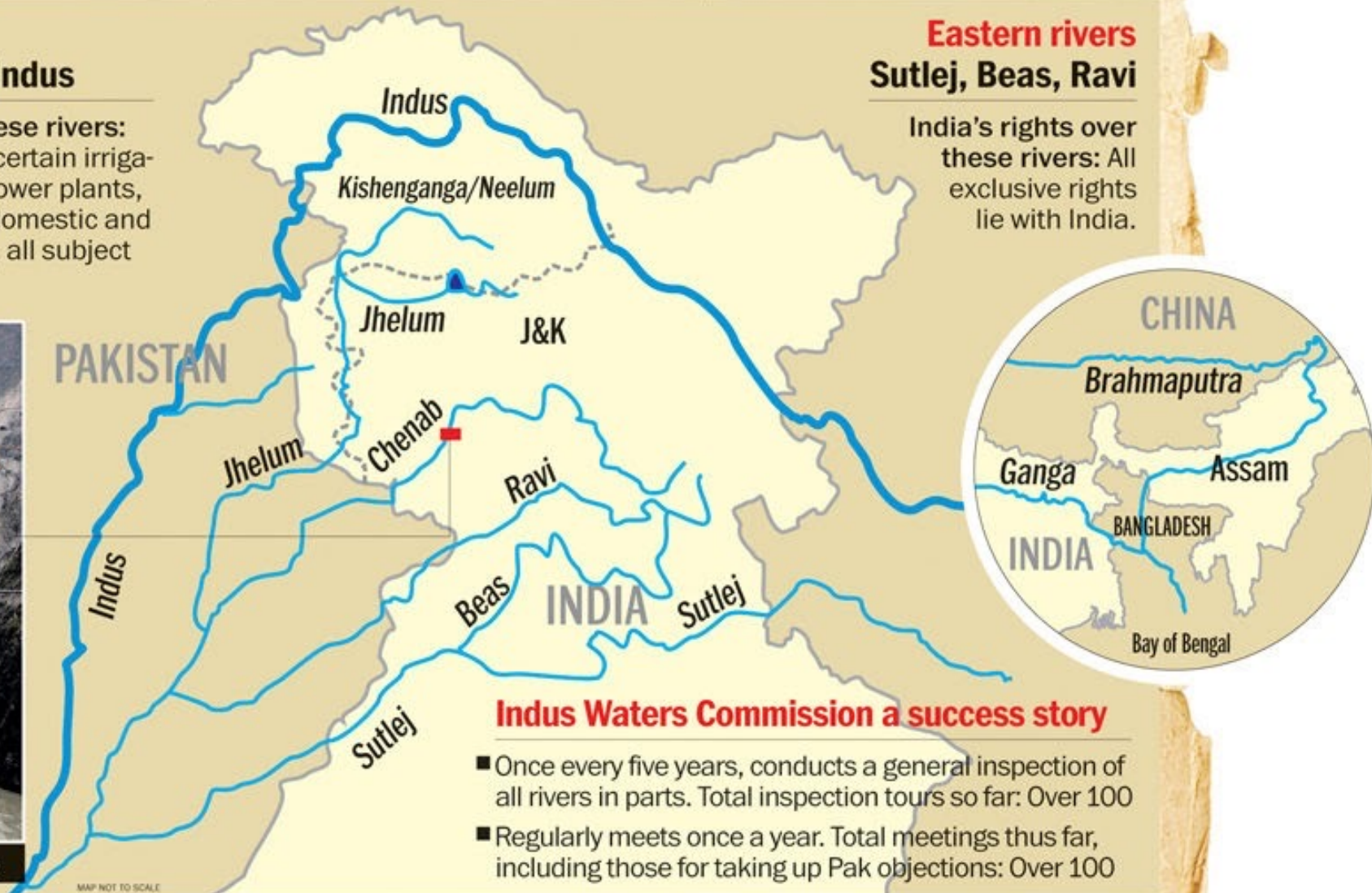


Baglihar dam on Chenab

## Eastern rivers

### Sutlej, Beas, Ravi

India's rights over these rivers: All exclusive rights lie with India.



## Indus Waters Commission a success story

- Once every five years, conducts a general inspection of all rivers in parts. Total inspection tours so far: Over 100
- Regularly meets once a year. Total meetings thus far, including those for taking up Pak objections: Over 100

IN BRIEF

G-20 meet in Srinagar will allay fears of future visitors

The government on Friday said the G-20 Tourism Working Group meeting in Srinagar held earlier this week will boost tourism in J&K and help in allaying any fears in future visitors...

No Bengal representative at Niti Aavog meeting today

West Bengal will not have any representative at the Niti Aavog meeting in New Delhi on Saturday as the TMC government's request to send the State Finance Minister and the Chief Secretary was "turned down" by the Centre...

SC stays High Court order to release Gangi Reddy on bail

The Supreme Court on Friday stayed a Telangana High Court order to release Yerra Gangi Reddy — the prime accused in the V.S. Vivekananda Reddy murder case — on bail on July 1...

Air India plane to Vancouver suffers snag, lands safely

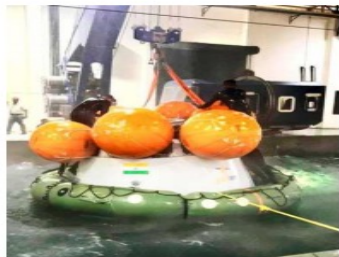
An Air India plane en route to Vancouver returned to Delhi shortly after take-off on Friday, due to a technical issue. The Boeing 777 aircraft landed back safely in the national capital...

Navy, ISRO release training plan for Gaganyaan crew

The human spaceflight is scheduled to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2024; the astronaut designates for the mission are currently undergoing their mission-specific training at Bengaluru

Dinakar Peri NEW DELHI

It is an important step towards realising India's ambitious Gaganyaan mission to put an Indian in space, the Indian Navy and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) released the Gaganyaan Recovery Training Plan at the Water Survival Training Facility (WSTF) at INS Garuda, Kochi.



The Indian Navy and ISRO recently released the Gaganyaan Recovery Training Plan at INS Garuda in Kochi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The document outlines the training plan for recovery of the crew module of the mission. It defines overall requirements with respect to training of various teams participating in recovery operations including divers, MARCOS (maritime commandos), medical specialists, communications, technicians and naval aviators...

The recovery training is planned in incremental phases starting from un-manned recovery to

undergoing their mission-specific training at Bengaluru with the second semester of crew training currently also been completed. Corresponding evaluation and assessment activities have also been completed.

In December 2022, Minister of State in the PMO for Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, informed Parliament that India's maiden human space flight 'G1' mission is targeted to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2024.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Dr. Singh said that in view of the paramount importance of crew safety, two test vehicle missions are planned before the 'G1' mission to demonstrate the performance of crew escape system and parachute-based deceleration system for different flight conditions.

"The uncrewed 'G1' mission is targeted to be launched in the last quarter of 2023, followed by the second uncrewed 'G2' mission in the second quarter of 2024, before the final human space flight 'G1' mission in the fourth quarter of 2024," he stated.

The astronaut designates for human space flight mission are currently

Operations; Dr. Unnikrishnan Nair, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, (VSSC); and Dr. Umamaheshwari R., Director, Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) of the ISRO.

The training document was jointly released by Vice Admiral Anul Anand, Director General of Naval

Shiv Sahay Singh KOLKATA

A recent study by scientists has revealed that Darjeeling, the queen of hills and a popular tourist destination, may be on the way to becoming one of the most polluted cities of West Bengal.

The present study throws light on one of the geographically, climatologically, and ecologically important high-altitude Himalayan stations in India, where people have been contributing as well as experiencing huge pollution loads but remained out of sight of the policy makers.

The research, spanning from 2009 to 2021, focused on characterising PM10 levels (very fine small pollutant particles found in dust and smog) in Darjeeling. It determined that summer



The study has pointed out that the steam-driven Toy Train is also a secondary contributor to pollution. DEBASISH BHANDAR

(March-May) and winter (December-February) were the two seasons in Darjeeling when PM10 concentration exceeded 70 micrograms per cubic metre of air, surpassing the Indian standard of 60 micrograms per cubic metre.

The study said that dust transport from the Indo-Gangetic plain, coal combustion from power, domestic use, and the Toy Train, as well as secondary sources, also played a role in the pollution.

Union Food Ministry counters Cong., says fortified rice is safe

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Union Food Ministry on Friday countered the Opposition Congress's allegation that the distribution of fortified rice through fair price shops is being done despite multiple warnings from experts and institutions such as NITI Aayog and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

A spokesperson of the Ministry said the NITI Aayog had been actively engaged in running the scheme. "There is no basis in the reports that NITI Aayog took a stand against fortified rice," he said.

The Ministry has been maintaining, citing various studies, that consumption of fortified rice resulted in significant improvement in haemoglobin levels and reduction in the prevalence of anaemia.

The Ministry said rice fortification has been adopted by seven countries including the U.S., since 1958. "Concurrent evaluation is being done by NITI Aayog in association with the Indian Council of Medical Research. Evaluation study of some pilot districts are also under way,"



The Ministry said consumption of fortified rice improved haemoglobin levels.

the official said. Meanwhile, the Alliance for Sustainable & Holistic Agriculture (ASHA) said in a statement that the Centre, in a unilateral decision, has been supplying iron-fortified rice in public safety net programmes such as the PDS, mid-day meals, and anganwadis, reaching crores of Indians.

"These are mostly poor citizens who rely on State subsidised food aid for whom iron-fortified rice has become mandatory since they cannot afford to buy other (non-fortified) rice in the open market. The scaling up of this programme came before a pilot scheme in 15 States was completed, or evaluated independently and rigorously. The evaluation of these pilots was due in late 2022 as per an RTI response by the government," the statement said.

New Chief Justices appointed to Madras, Bombay High Courts

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Justice Sanjay V. Gangapurwala, who is officiating as the Chief Justice of Bombay High Court, has been appointed as the Chief Justice of Madras High Court, while Justice Ramesh D. Dharmika has been appointed as the Chief Justice of Bombay High Court, the Law Ministry notified on Friday.

Both the names were part of a batch of appointments, the Department of Justice issued separate notifications announcing the appointment of acting Justice Gangapurwala and Justice Dharmika.

On Wednesday, Justice S. Vaidyanathan was appointed as the acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court after Justice T. Raju, who was serving as the acting Chief Justice, demitted office on attaining the age of 62 years.

While Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal took to



Justice R.D. Dharmika

Twitter to inform about the appointments, the Department of Justice issued separate notifications announcing the appointment of acting Justice Gangapurwala and Justice Dharmika.

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Darjeeling to join the list of most polluted cities of West Bengal, reveals study

Shiv Sahay Singh KOLKATA

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There can be no laxity with the quality of medicine

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

If India wants to continue being the pharmacy of the world, there can be no laxity on the quality of pharmaceutical products, said Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, speaking at the 8th international conference on the pharma and medical device sector on Friday.

He added that India's products should be affordable and competitive in the global market. He said that India's pharmaceutical sector will be contributing more in the coming years to domestic needs and will also continue to cater to global demand.

"Our competitive advantage over other nations is price competitiveness and quality. India's pharmaceutical industry is robust, resilient, and responsive," the Minister said.

THE CROSSWORD 13876



- Across 7 'Fire and ice' cast separated by falling dynasty's first heir (11) 10 Starts to wane, nudging Dhoni to finish (3) 11 Handy protection close to sitting duck (5) 12 Head returned as a rite (tenants were 4) 13 Mistakes of fiefdoms (5)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site. <https://www.thehindu.com/crossword>

- 15 Not really certain it's complicated (9) 16 Place from East shatters between behemoths (8) 18 Huge group of soldiers led by American soldier (8) 21 Starts to tremble, really terrified about what cannibals do in therapy (9) 23 Characters of play organized around August (5) 25 Check couple twirling rings (diamonds) (4) 26 Farwell notice that is push (5) 27 Black bird in sink (4) 28 Supply runs in the morning (5) 29 Swiss general's left to reform rivers (11) Down 1 He led win batting in city (1,5) 2 Just a lake (4) 3 Soutians protecting grand rulers (5) 4 Rejected plant kept in rows (7) 5 Animal at liberty to plod per Spooner (4,4) 6 Fonder about extracting German beetles (6) 9 Like cuddling felinas going back and forth making noise (8) 14 Nice lake missed by small farmers (8) 17 Comfort extremely shy husband, in Hindi medium earlier (9) 18 Cold snake inhabiting tree in harmony (8) 20 He questions moving lower down to catching position (7) 22 Qualifications for jockeys (4) 24 Excellent meal softly polished off (5) 27 Defects in vehicle consuming gallons (4)

SUDOKU

9x9 grid for a Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Solution to previous puzzle

9x9 grid showing the solution to the previous Sudoku puzzle.

FAITH

Many forms of Varaha

Our scriptures lend themselves to numerous, nuanced interpretations. Over centuries, preceptors, saints, savants and philosophers have made a deep study of them all and offered discourses that help the faithful get a better understanding of God. Devotees also voice their doubts among the learned and one such question has often come around Varaha: why do we say Varaha, Nrisimha, Rama, and Krishna avatar, giving him pride of place? The answer is simple. Varaha is very versatile, said Dharmal Ramakrishnan in a discourse.

Varaha is said to have emerged from Brahma's nostrils when the former was besieged by devas after the asura Hiranyaksha imprisoned Bhoos Devi in the ocean. Even as the devas were pleading their cause, Varaha emerged and set off on the rescue mission. He vanquished the asura and rescued Bhoos Devi. In fact, Andhra's arrival on earth is an extended development of Varaha avatar, since Bhoos Devi wanted someone to guide other devotees on praying to God in a simple but effective manner. "Even the ordinary person should be able to follow the guidelines of worship," she said, resulting in Andhra's Tirupavai. Interestingly, although Varaha is one avatar, there are many forms to him. He is worshipped as Yagna Varaha (yatsava muthy) in Srirangam. In the same stalam, Boo Varaha presides as the mooolavar. In Tirupati, Lord Srinivasa is His tenant, and Varaha is the bahadri padipati and a number of devotees seek His blessings for financial success in their ventures. In Tiruvellarai, a glowing Varaha offers darshan and protection to all. At Tiruvadanai, as Lakshmi Varaha Perumal, He is believed to help unmarried find spouses.

# Darjeeling to join the list of most polluted cities of West Bengal, reveals study

**Shiv Sahay Singh**

KOLKATA

A recent study by scientists has revealed that Darjeeling, the queen of hills and a popular tourist destination, may be on the way to becoming one of the most polluted cities of West Bengal. The study was published in the journal *Atmospheric Environment*.

“The present study throws light on one of the geographically, climatologically, and ecologically important high-altitude Himalayan stations in India, where people have been contributing as well as experiencing huge pollution loads but remained out of sight of the policy makers. The study raises a serious concern in front of the policy makers that a high-altitude tourist station such as Darjeeling in the eastern Himalayas would soon be-



The study has pointed out that the steam-driven Toy Train is also a secondary contributor to pollution. DEBASISH BHADURI

come a non-attainment city,” the paper stated.

The six cities in West Bengal that are considered non-attainment cities and did not meet the national ambient air quality standards were Asansol, Durgapur, Kolkata, Howrah, Haldia, and Barrackpore.

The research, spanning from 2009 to 2021, focused on characterising PM10 levels (very small pollutant particles found in dust and smoke) in Darjeeling. It determined that summer

(March-May) and winter (December-February) were the two seasons in Darjeeling when PM10 concentrations exceeded 70 micrograms per cubic metre of air, surpassing the Indian standard of 60 micrograms per cubic metre. “

The study said that dust transport from the Indo-Gangetic plain, coal combustion from eateries, domestic use, and the Toy Train, as well as secondary sources, also played a role in the pollution.



### BUSINESS AS USUAL

**By UNNNY**  
Opposition must come and appreciate the PM's slogan and bring back the first PM.

### Admitted to ICU, Jain gets six-week bail on medical grounds



Former minister fell inside the bathroom at Tihar jail

### EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, MAY 26**  
THE SUPREME COURT on Friday granted bail to former Delhi minister Satyendra Jain six weeks interim bail on medical grounds, saying it is "appropriate that a citizen has the right to receive treatment of his choice at his own expenses".  
The order by a vacation bench of justices JK Maheshwari and P S Narasimha came a day after Jain was admitted to the ICU at Lok Nayak Hospital following a fall inside the prison bathroom. A photo released by the Delhi government Thursday showed a frail-looking Jain on oxygen support.  
The bench said it had "no reason to doubt" Jain's May 4 health report from the Central Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, New Delhi. The details of the report were not immediately known.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

### INSIDE

**KARNATAKA CABINET EXPANSION: 24 MINISTERS TO TAKE OATH TODAY**  
**TERROR FUNDING: NIA SEEKS DEATH PENALTY FOR MALIK**  
PAGES 8, 9

### DMK workers stop I-T team at TN minister's home, damage vehicle

**ARJUN JANARDHANAN**  
CHENNAI, MAY 26  
DMK WORKERS stopped an Income-Tax (I-T) team from searching the rented accommodation of Tamil Nadu minister Senthil Balaji and his brother Ashok in Karur town, his brother's vehicle, as the central agency launched simultaneous searches at around 40 premises linked to the two Friday morning.  
According to I-T officials, they had to abort searches at a few other places as well due to protests.  
The searches were carried out at properties in Chennai, Coimbatore and Karur districts. "Around 40 premises linked to Balaji and his brother Ashok are under inspection since morning. The properties mostly belong to Balaji, his brother, and other close allies and friends," said a senior I-T official.  
Properties of Thangaraj, a quarry owner and friend of Ashok, and Senthil Karthik, a

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

### Chhattisgarh official drains reservoir to find cellphone he dropped during selfie

### PAGE 1 ANCHOR

### JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU

**RAIPUR, MAY 26**  
A SELFIE proved costly for a government official, who was suspended on Friday after it was revealed that water was drained from a reservoir next to a dam in Chhattisgarh over two days, starting Tuesday, in search of his new phone.  
The phone, a Samsung S23 ultra worth ₹95,000, belonged

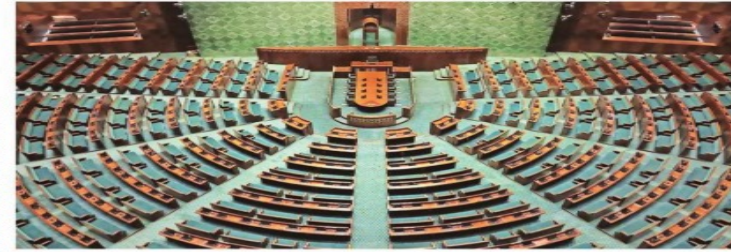
### CONGRESS, BJP SPAR OVER CEREMONIAL SCEPTRE

## New Parliament tomorrow

PM tweets video of new complex: 'Will make every Indian proud'

**DAMINI NATH & DIVYA A**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

AHEAD of its official inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday — which is set to be boycotted by 20 Opposition parties including the Congress, amid a bitter war of words with the ruling BJP — the Centre on Friday released a video clip of the new Parliament building.  
Sharing the video, Modi tweeted: "The new Parliament building will make every Indian proud. This video offers a glimpse of this iconic building. I have a special request — share this video with your own voice-over, which conveys your thoughts. I will re-tweet some of them. Don't forget to use #MyParliamentMyPride."  
The video showed an aerial view of the triangular building with the national emblem on top, as well as close-ups of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha chambers.



The Lok Sabha chamber of the new Parliament building, which will be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on Sunday. PTI

### TN jewellers who made Sengol to be honoured

**ARJUN JANARDHANAN**  
CHENNAI, MAY 26

LIP UNTIL 2018, the current generation in charge of Muzumil Bangaru Jewellers, a chain of jewellery stores in Chennai, was unaware of the part the family had played in the "transfer" of power in India from Nehru to Modi during a ceremony on August 15, 1947. The family was responsible for creating the Sengol (sceptre) — derived from the Tamil word *samant*, meaning righteousness,

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

### SC dismisses plea seeking inauguration by President

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

THE SUPREME COURT on Friday dismissed a petition which sought a directive to the Lok Sabha Secretariat to get the new Parliament building inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu instead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 28.  
"It is not a function of the court to look into," a bench of justices JK Maheshwari and P S Narasimha said.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

### Ujjwala to vaccinate to Vande Bharat: BJP showcases nine years of Govt

**JATIN ANAND**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

MARKING NINE years of the Narendra Modi-led NDA Government, the top leadership of the BJP Friday said that its motto of "inclusive growth" since 2014 had effected sweeping change in a range of areas: from rail, air and road infrastructure to "irreversible empowerment" of millions through initiatives blending technology and social welfare that included vaccines and rations during Covid.  
Speaking in one of a series of meet-the-press events to mark the milestone, BJP president J P Nadra said that the Prime Minister's recent three-nation tour had reinforced the image of a transformed India on the global stage while on the domestic front, flagship programmes and schemes had enriched the "tope".  
The event was attended by senior BJP leaders and several Union ministers, including Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Anusuihree Thakur, Smriti Irani and Rajeev Chandrasekhar. Also



BJP president J P Nadra. PTI

### 9 YRS, 9 QUESTIONS, ASKS CONGRESS

New Delhi: The nine years of the Modi government have been a betrayal of the people and continuous distractions from the real issues, the Congress said Friday and asked nine questions.

**PAGE 6**

### Kicking off road to 2024

MARKING 9 years also flags the start of the BJP's campaign for 2024 that will include a month-long nationwide out-reach. Given that no major new scheme is expected to be launched in the final year of the second term, the focus will be on sharpening the message for 2024 and building on events in the run-up to the dedication of the new Parliament on May 28 or opening the Ram temple expected in January 2024.

### Facing harassment FIRs, Brij Bhushan: Laws to protect women being misused

**LALMANI VERMA**  
LUCKNOW, MAY 26

WRESTLING FEDERATION of India (WFI) president and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has been accused of sexual harassment by seven female wrestlers including a minor, has alleged that the "law to protect women and girls" is being misused.  
Singh did not name the



Shares letter by 'Sant Sabha' against POCSO Act

### Union minister inside, mob tries to storm his residence in Manipur

**JIMMY LEIVON**  
IMPHAL, MAY 26

A MOB tried to storm the house of Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Education R K Ranjan Singh at Kongpha in Manipur's East Imphal district late on Thursday night.  
Rapid Action Force (RAF) and Manipur Police personnel reached the spot and dispersed the mob before it could storm into the house, where the minister is learnt to have been present. No casualties were reported.  
Meanwhile, on Friday, Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh urged the public not to be worried as operations against armed miscreants had begun both in the hills and the valley.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

### FINOLEX PIPES

We wish the honourable Minister of Road Transport and Highways of India,

## SHRI NITIN GADKARIJI

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## 27 MAY

Vishwas had gone for a picnic with friends to Paralkot reservoir on May 21. He dropped his phone into the 10-foot-deep reservoir while taking a selfie. A government servant for the past nine years, Vishwas told the Indian Express, "Since I am a local, some villagers who know

# Indus civilisation Dancing Girl and her story

**ARJUN SENGUPTA & DIVYAA**

NEW DELHI, MAY 26

INAUGURATING THE International Museum Expo in New Delhi's Pragati Maidan on May 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the expo's mascot — a “contemporised” version of the famous “Dancing Girl of Mohenjodaro”. “The mascot is regarded as contemporary *dwarfpals* extending an invitation to the expo,” it was announced during the unveiling.

The more than five-foot-tall adaptation was subsequently criticised for distorting the form of the iconic 4,500-year-old bronze figurine. Standing just 10.5 cm tall, the original figurine is dark, and wears only bangles and a necklace. The mascot has fairer skin, and is dressed in a bright pink blouse and an off-white waistcoat.

The Ministry of Culture has clarified that the mascot is no more than “an inspired craft work”. “The idea of introducing the mascot, especially through a toy, was also to bring forth the importance of museum merchandise and in turn, self-sustainability of these cultural institutions,” officials told *The Indian Express*.

## The Dancing Girl

The discovery of the Indus Civilisation

(3300-1300 BC; mature stage 2600-1900 BC) — also known as the Harappa-Mohenjodaro Civilisation and the Sindhu Saraswati Sabhyata — was announced in 1924, after sites and artefacts known since the early 19th century were correctly dated and recognised as part of an ancient culture like the ones in Mesopotamia and Egypt.

A spate of excavations followed in the two major sites known at the time — Harappa in Punjab and Mohenjodaro in Sindh, both in present-day Pakistan. The Dancing Girl was discovered in 1926 by the British archaeologist Ernest McKay in a ruined house in the “ninth lane” of the “HR area” of Mohenjodaro's citadel.

After Partition, the Dancing Girl remained with India. The bronze figurine sits in the National Museum in New Delhi as artefact no. HR-5721/195, enthralling visitors as the star of the museum's famous Indus Civilisation gallery.

## Beauty & attitude

The Dancing Girl — the

pose she strikes and what it conveys — has long fascinated archaeologists and historians.

The figurine has “the pleasing stance of a young and spirited woman,” Romila Thapar wrote in *The Penguin History of Early India: From Origins to AD 1300* (2002).

“This young woman has an air of lively pertness, quite unlike anything in the work of other ancient civilisations,” A L Basham wrote in his 1954 classic *The Wonder that was India*.

Mortimer Wheeler, director general of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) between 1944 and 1948, was awestruck: “A girl perfectly, for the moment, perfectly confident of herself and the world. There's nothing like her, I think, in the world.”

John Marshall, who headed the ASI from 1902 to 1928 and oversaw the initial excavations in Harappa and Mohenjodaro, described the figurine as “a young girl, her hand on her hip in a half-impudent posture, and legs slightly forward as she beats

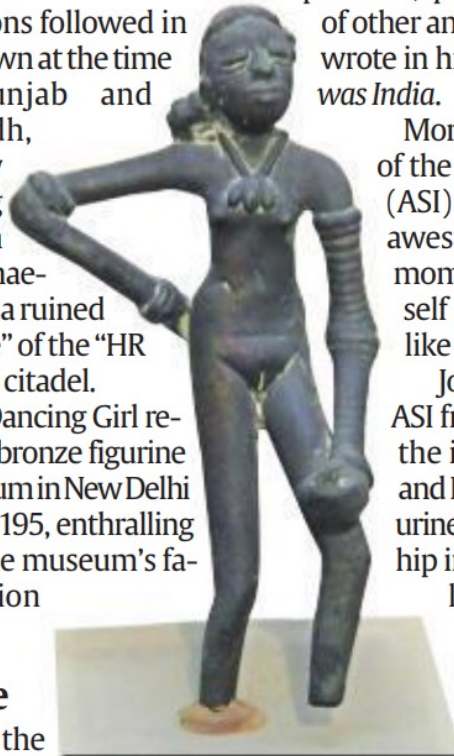
time to the music with her legs and feet”.

## Various inferences

As Marshall's description suggests, the pose the figurine strikes has led historians to believe that it depicts a dancer. However, there is no other evidence to support this claim. The American archaeologist Jonathan Kenoyer wrote in *Art of the First Cities: The Third Millennium BC from the Mediterranean to the Indus* (2003) that the dancer label was “based on a colonial British perception of Indian dancers, but it more likely represents a woman carrying an offering”.

In 2016, a paper by Thakur Prasad Verma in *Itihaas*, the Hindi journal of the Indian Council of Historical Research, claimed that the figurine was in fact a depiction of Goddess Parvati. The paper attempted to tie the Indus Civilisation to Vedic Hinduism — an understanding that most historians have rejected.

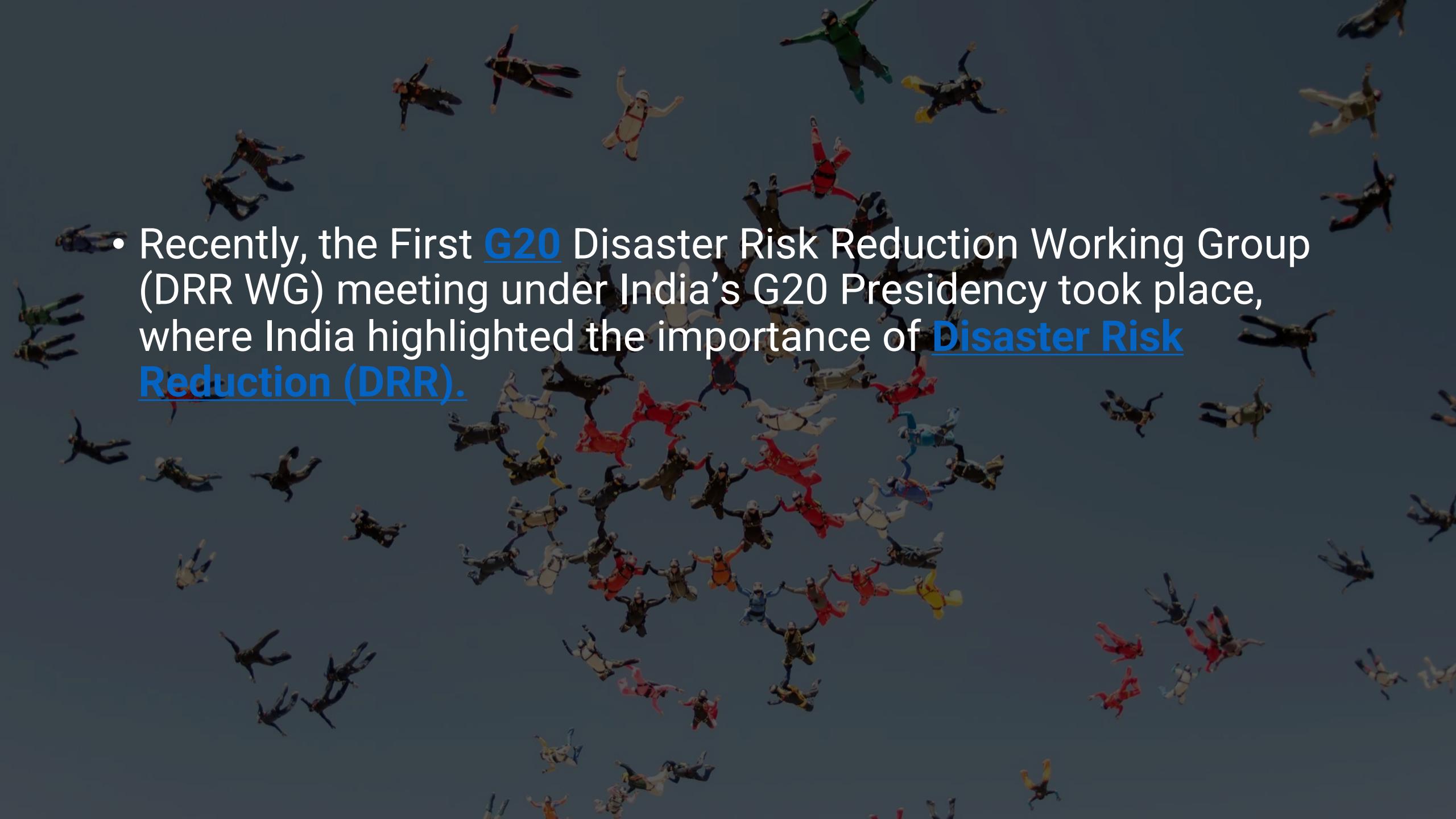
What the bronze statuette does confirm though, is the degree of sophistication of Harappan artistry and metallurgy. The Dancing Girl is evidence of the Indus civilisation's knowledge of metal blending and lost-wax casting — a complex process by which a duplicate sculpture is cast from an original to create highly detailed metallic artefacts.



The bronze figurine is just 10.5 cm tall. *Wikipedia*

# G20 Countries and Disaster Risk Reduction





- Recently, the First [G20](#) Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRR WG) meeting under India's G20 Presidency took place, where India highlighted the importance of [Disaster Risk Reduction \(DRR\)](#).

## What are the Highlights of the Meeting?

The G20 Disaster Risk Resilience Working Group has called upon governments to build a **social protection system** with an effective and preferred instrument for disaster risk financing.

- It emphasised the **need for new-age Social Protection Systems that invest in local risk resilience** to mitigate, prepare and recover from disasters.



• The five **priorities outlined:**

- Global coverage of Early Warning Systems
- Increased commitment towards making infrastructure systems disaster resilient
- Stronger **national financial frameworks** for DRR
- Strengthened national and global disaster response system
- Increased application of ecosystems-based approaches to DRR

- What is the Need for Creating a Collective G20 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction?
- The G20 nations, with a population of 4.7 billion, have large exposure, **risk from asset concentration, and vulnerability to natural disasters.**
- In the current World Risk Index, four out of the top 10 vulnerable countries are G20 nations.
- The combined estimated annual average loss in the G20 countries alone is USD 218 billion, equivalent to **9% of the average annual investment in infrastructure** made by them.
- Disaster risk reduction measures can play an important role in preventing such losses.

What can be the key Strategies for Reducing Disaster Risk?

**Better Economic and Urban Development:**

**Financing**

**Infrastructure**

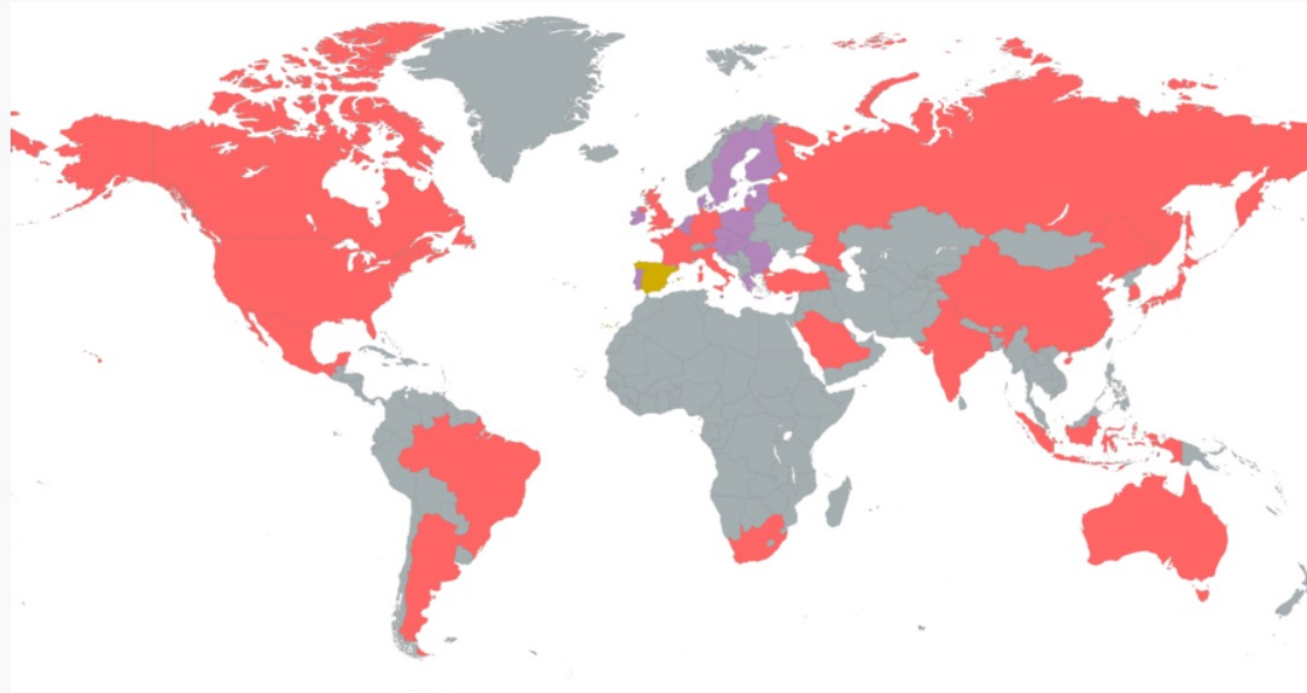
**Dealing with Extensive and Intensive Risk**


**Multi-tiered, Multi-sectoral Effort**


**[International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction - 13th October](#)**





## Group of Twenty



 Member countries in the G-20

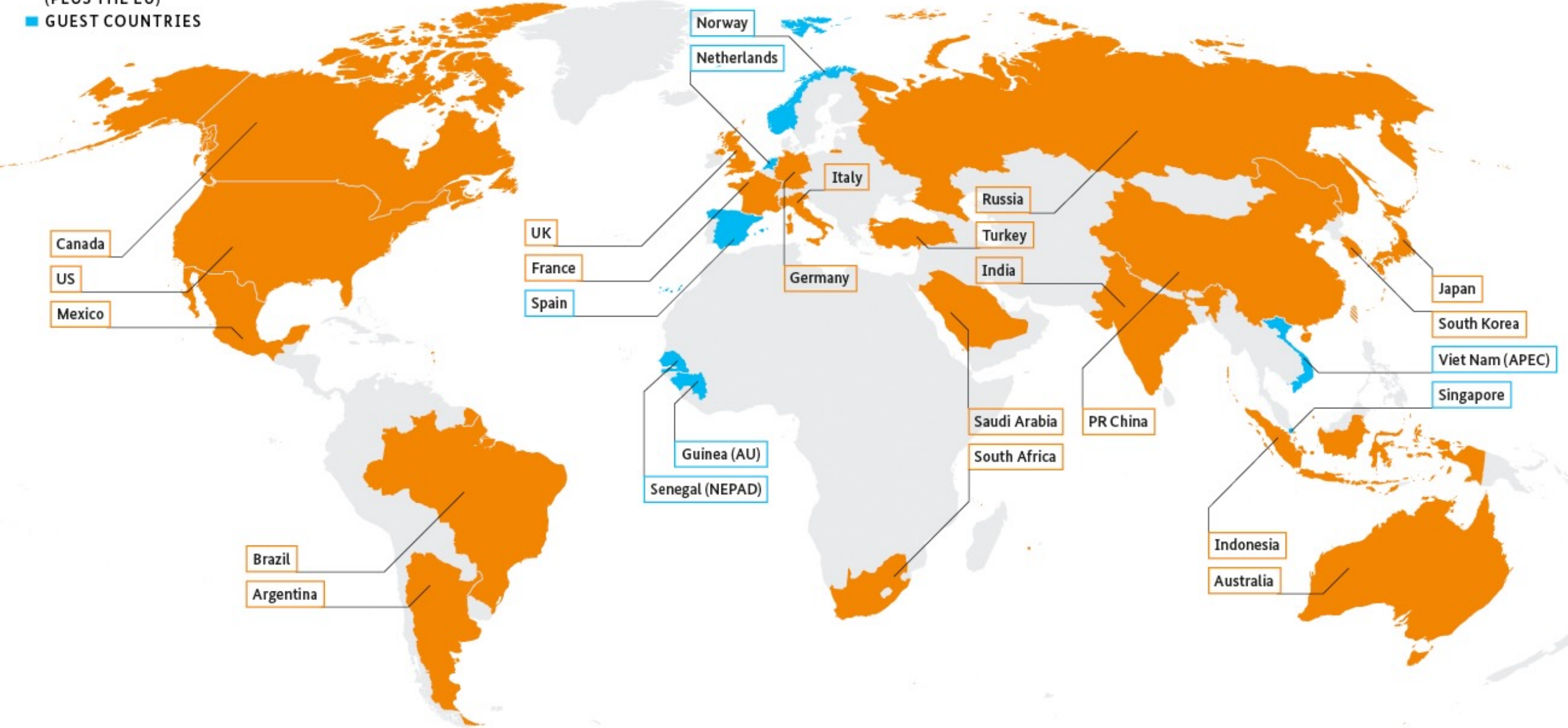
 Countries represented through the membership of the European Union

 Countries permanently invited ([Spain](#))

<b>Formation</b>	26 September 1999 (23 years ago) 2008 ( <a href="#">heads-of-state/heads-of-government</a> summits)
<b>Purpose</b>	Bring together systemically important <a href="#">industrialized</a> and <a href="#">developing economies</a> to discuss key issues in the <a href="#">global economy</a> . <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Membership</b>	20 members <sup>[a]</sup> <a href="#">[show]</a>
<b>Chairman (Incumbent)</b>	 <a href="#">Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India</a>

17th	15–16 November 2022	 Indonesia	Nusa Dua, Bali	The Apurva Kempinski Bali	Joko Widodo
18th	9–10 September 2023	 India	New Delhi	International Exhibition-Convention Centre (IECC)	Narendra Modi
19th	TBD 2024	 Brazil	Rio de Janeiro	TBD	Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva
20th	TBD 2025	 South Africa	TBD	TBD	TBD

■ G20 COUNTRIES  
(PLUS THE EU)  
■ GUEST COUNTRIES



**In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of G20? (2020)**

- (a)** Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey
- (b)** Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand
- (c)** Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam
- (d)** Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea

# New Tax Rules for Online Gaming Platforms






The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has recently introduced **new tax rules for online gaming platforms in India.**



These rules aim to bring clarity and establish guidelines for Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) on **winnings from online gaming.**

- 
- What are the New Tax Rules for Online Gaming?
  - **No TDS on Winnings up to Rs 100:**
  - **Taxable Deposits**
  - **Calculation of Net Winnings:**



**TDS Provision for Online Gaming:** To regulate online gaming transactions, the **Finance Act 2023 introduced section 194BA in the Income-tax Act, 1961**, requiring online gaming platforms to deduct **income tax on net winnings in a user's account**.



TDS at a **rate of 30% will be applicable** on the net winnings from any online gaming platform.



Tax is required to be deducted at the time of withdrawal and at the end of the **financial year**



What is CBDT?

It is a **statutory authority** that functions under the [Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963](#).

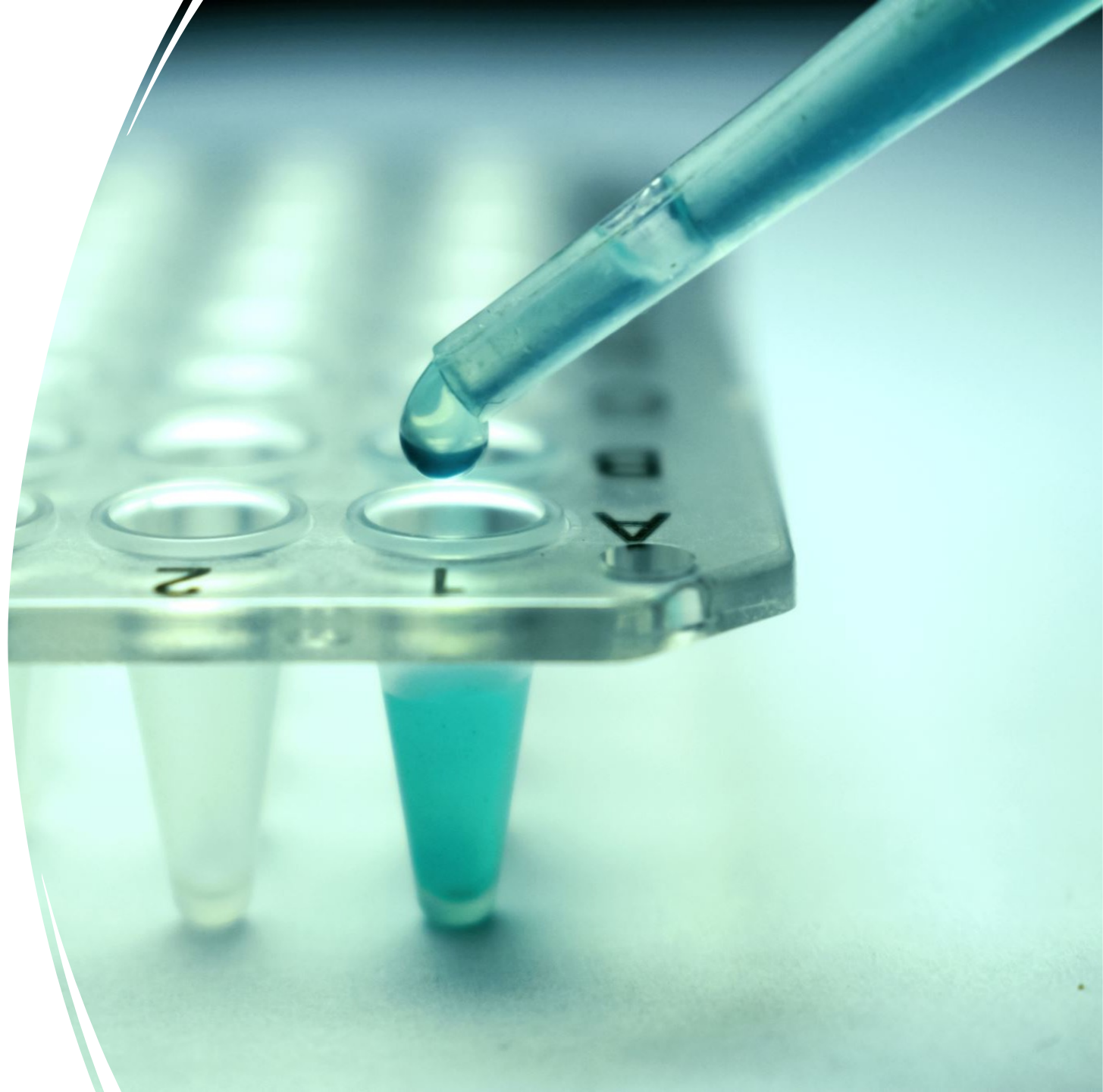
- It is a part of the **Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance**.

It provides **inputs for policy and planning of direct taxes in India** and is also responsible for the administration of direct tax laws through the **Income Tax Department**.

Direct Taxes include [income tax](#), corporation tax etc.

Narco  
Analysis Test

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- 
- Protesting wrestlers at Jantar Mantar, Delhi have expressed their **willingness to undergo narco analysis tests**, with the **condition that it is monitored by the Supreme Court and broadcasted live for the entire country to witness.**

- 
- In a narco analysis test, a **drug called sodium pentothal is injected into the body of the accused**, which transports them to a hypnotic or sedated state in which their imagination is neutralised.
    - In this hypnotic state, the accused is understood as being **incapable of lying and is expected to divulge information that is true.**
  - In India, Narco analysis tests were notably used in the [2002 Gujarat riots case](#), and the [26/11 Mumbai terror attack case](#).

**Sodium pentothal, or sodium thiopental, is a fast-acting, short-duration anaesthetic used in larger doses to sedate patients during surgery.**

It belongs to the **barbiturate class of drugs** that act on the central nervous system as **depressants**.

- Because the drug is believed to weaken the **subject's resolve to lie, it is sometimes referred to as a "truth serum"** and is said to **have been used by intelligence operatives during World War II.**

# Iran Successfully Tests Long-Range Ballistic Missile



- Iran showcased its latest version of the **Khorramshahr ballistic missile**, unveiling the **Khorramshahr-4** with a range of **2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles)** and a **1,500-kilogram (3,300-pound) warhead**



The Khorramshahr-4 derives its name from an **Iranian city** associated with intense warfare during the [Iran-Iraq War](#).

The missile is also called **Kheibar**, after a Jewish fortress conquered by the Muslims in the 7th century.

As Iran continues uranium enrichment, nearing weapons-grade levels, and given the missile's range, it raises concerns about the potential threat to **Israel**.



# Migration, Mobility Pact with Australia (MMPA)



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[India and Australia](#) signed a migration partnership agreement during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Australia.

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### Features of the Agreement:

---

**Aim:** It is aimed at promoting **two-way exchange of students, graduates, researchers, and business people**, and expanding people-to-people ties.

---

**New Pathway:** Their mobility will be facilitated through a new skilled pathway named **MATES (Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early Professionals Scheme)** specifically created for India.



- **Other developments:**

- India announced the **opening of a consulate in Brisbane**, adding to its existing consulates in Perth, Melbourne, and Sydney.
- The India-Australia hydrogen task force was established, to explore opportunities in green hydrogen and address energy targets.



[India's Child Wasting](#)

Source: [DTE](#)

- 
- According to the latest UN inter-agency estimates, India has **the highest child-wasting rate globally, with over 18% of Indian children** affected by wasting in 2020.

- India had a **stunting** rate of **31.7 per cent** in 2022, down from **41.6 per cent** in 2012
- India had an **overweight percentage** of **2.8 per cent** in **2022**, compared to **2.2 per cent** in 2012.
- India is the **largest country in southern Asia**, where **half of all children** with wasting in the world live
- More than **three-quarters of all children** with severe wasting live in Asia
- There is **insufficient progress** to reach the **2025 World Health Assembly (WHA) global nutrition targets** and UN-mandated Sustainable Development Goal target **2.2**.

	Stunting	Wasting	Malnutrition
Definition	Low height-for-age due to chronic or recurrent undernutrition	Low weight-for-height due to recent and severe weight loss	Deficiencies or excesses in nutrient intake, imbalance of essential nutrients, or impaired utilization
Causes	Poverty, poor maternal health and nutrition, frequent illness, inappropriate feeding and care in early life	Inadequate food intake and/or frequent illnesses	Inadequate nutrition, poor dietary diversity, poverty, food insecurity
Impacts	Physical and cognitive developmental delays	Increased risk of mortality, weakened immunity	Impaired growth and development, weakened immunity, increased susceptibility to diseases
Prevalence	Globally, over 22% of children under 5 were affected by stunting in 2022 (148.1 million children)	Globally, around 7% of children under 5 were affected by wasting in 2022 (45 million children)	The double burden of malnutrition affects many countries, with undernutrition and overweight/obesity coexisting
Long-term consequences	Stunting can lead to permanent physical and cognitive impairments, reduced productivity in adulthood	Severe wasting without timely treatment can result in death	Malnutrition can have long-term health consequences, including increased risk of noncommunicable diseases

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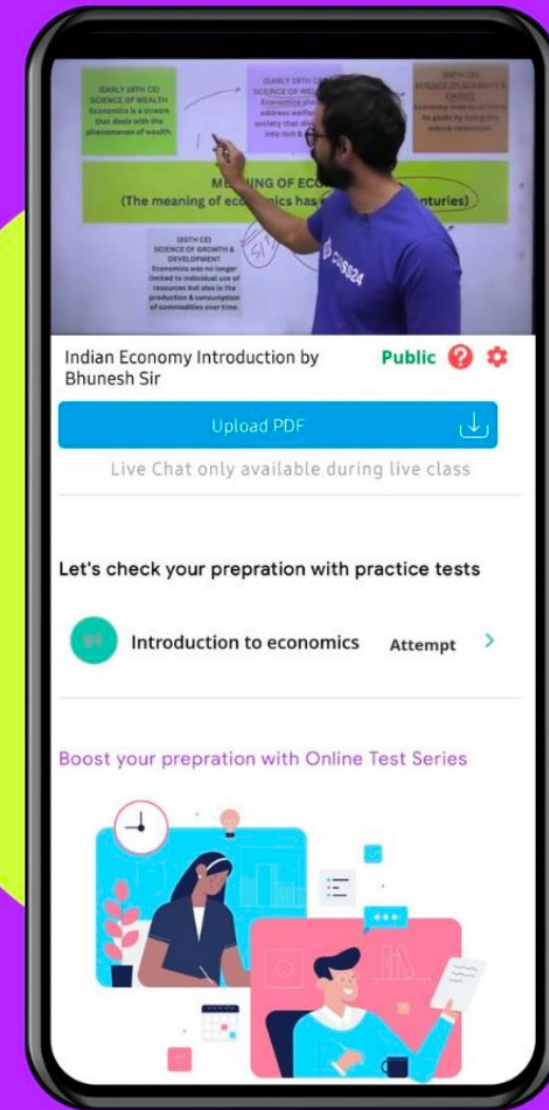
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- **With reference to Foreign Direct Investment in India, which one of the following is considered its major characteristic? (2020)**
- **(a)** It is the investment through capital instruments essentially in a listed company.
- **(b)** It is a largely non-debt creating capital flow.
- **(c)** It is the investment which involves debt-servicing.
- **(d)** It is the investment made by foreign institutional investors in Government securities.

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• **Consider the following: (2021)**

1. Foreign currency convertible bonds
2. Foreign institutional investment with certain conditions
3. Global depository receipts
4. Non-resident external deposits

• **Which of the above can be included in Foreign Direct Investments?**


- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 and 4
- (d) 1 and 4

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A group of people are clapping in a meeting or conference room. The image is dark and moody, with a focus on the hands and arms of the participants. The text "Thank you guys, see you tomorrow" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Thank you  
guys, see you  
tomorrow

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