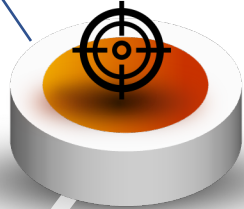


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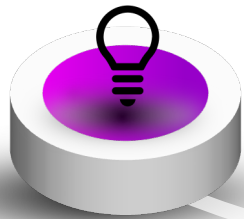


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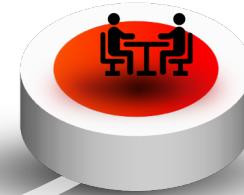


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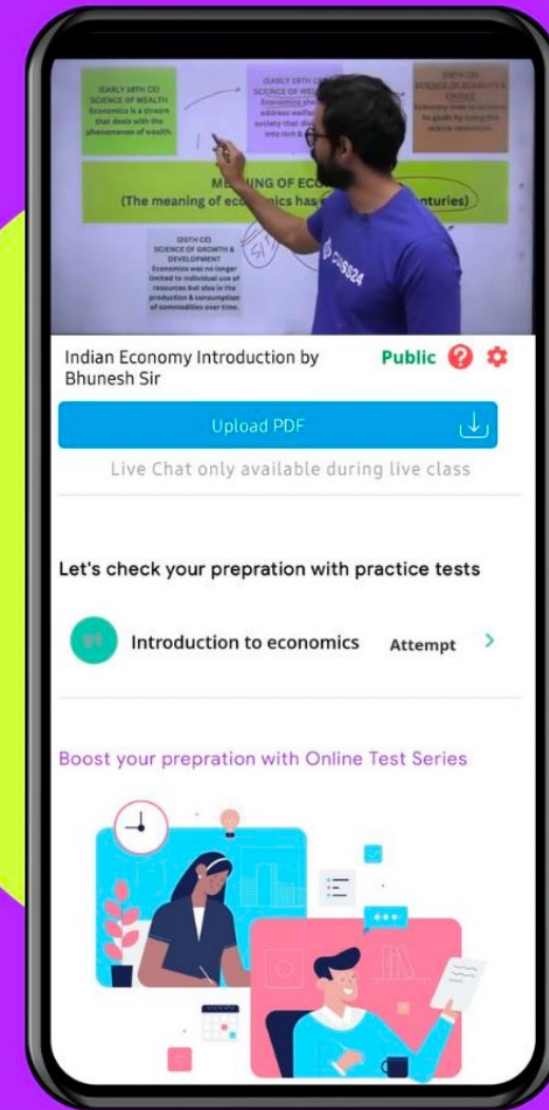
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NIRF rankings: IIT-M retains top spot

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) announced the In-

dia Rankings 2023 of higher education institutions here on Monday.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras remained the best educa-

tional institution in overall rankings for the fifth consecutive term.

**FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 12**

NIRF: IIT-Madras retains number one spot

5,543 institutions applied for Ministry of Education's India Rankings 2023; while IIT-M was ranked the best institution in overall ranking for the fifth consecutive term, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, was rated the top university for eight years in a row; Miranda House was named best college

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), under the Union Education Ministry, announced the India Rankings 2023 of higher education institutions here on Monday.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras retained its position as the best educational institution in overall ranking for the fifth consecutive term, while Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru was rated the best university in the country for eight years in a row.

Miranda House, Delhi was ranked the best college and the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad the top management institute. The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Hyderabad was named the best institute in the field.

Report card

IIT-Madras topped the list in the National Institutional Ranking Framework Rankings, 2023. A look at the top 10 educational institutions in India, according to the Education Ministry's list

Rank	Institution	Score
1	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	86.69
2	Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru	83.09
3	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	82.16
4	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	81.28
5	Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur	77.23
6	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi	72.14
7	Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur	71.82
8	Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee	71.66
9	Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati	68.78
10	Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi	67.44



The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi was ranked the best medical college and Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai got the honour of top dental college. The National Law School of India University, Bengaluru was rated the best law college in the country. The Indian Insti-

tute of Technology, Madras also received the honour of best engineering college for the eighth consecutive year.

Research category

The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru also stood first in the research institutions category for the third consecutive year.

The IISc was followed by Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia Islamia as second and third best universities.

National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Hyderabad topped the ranking in pharmacy for the first time, pushing Jamia Hamdard to the second slot.

The IIT-Roorkee got the first place in architecture and the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru retained its top ranking in law for the sixth consecutive year. "Colleges in Delhi maintained their dominance in the ranking of colleges with five colleges out of the first 10 colleges from Delhi," the Union Education Ministry said in a statement.

Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi took the top slot in agriculture and allied sectors. The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur topped the innovation category.

The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru and the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi were ranked the second and third best institutes, respectively, in the overall category. Hindu College, Delhi and Presidency College, Chennai were named the second and third best colleges, res-

pectively. The IIMs in Bangalore and Kozhikode secured the second and third positions, respectively, in the management institutes ranking.

Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh and Christian Medical College, Vellore were ranked the second and third best medical colleges.

Releasing the report, Minister of State for Education and External Affairs, Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, said the India Rankings have served as a valuable tool for students in selecting universities.

The five broad categories of parameters identified in the NIRF are teaching, learning and resources, research and professional practice, graduation outcome, outreach and inclusivity, and perception. For the 2023 rankings, 5,543 unique institutions applied for ranking.

COLLEGE CATEGORY (NIRF RANKING)

Institution	2023	2022
Miranda House	1	1
Hindu College	2	2
Presidency College	3	3
PSGR Krishnammal*	4	6
St. Xavier's College	5	8
ARSD College	6	7
Loyola College	7	4
Rama Krishna Mission**	8	9
Kirori Mal College	9	10
LSR College For Women	9	5
<i>College for Women*, Vivekananda Centenary College**</i>		

Univ list: JNU, Jamia retain ranks 2 and 3

VIDHEESHA KUNTAMALLA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 5

FOR THE seventh consecutive year under the universities category, Jawaharlal Nehru University has held onto the second rank under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). Jamia Millia Islamia, meanwhile, is third for the second year running.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, JNU Vice-Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit said the varsity has done well despite being publicly funded.

“I thank all our faculty, students and staff who are very committed. Despite being a totally public-funded university, and not being the highest funded, it shows that quality of work can come from any quarter. I think what makes JNU unique is that there is no other university like us; it brings excellence with empathy and equality with equity and inclusion with integrity.”

“We maintained the same

95.27 last year. The university made progress in outreach and inclusivity, where its score rose from 70.27 last year to 73.64 now.

For JMI, too, the ranking brought good news.

“I am very happy that Jamia once again figures among the top three universities of the country. We have constantly been making efforts to improve the quality of teaching, learning and research. In NIRF rankings, we have progressed from 83rd rank in 2016 to 3rd rank in 2022 and we have retained it this year too. I hope that in the coming years, the university will further improve its performance on all parameters,” said Vice-Chancellor Najma Akhtar in an official statement.

She attributed the achievement to the improved perception about the university with regard to teaching, placements, research, etc. The university has become one of the most sought after institutions by students, and an increase in the number of applications is a testimony to it, she added.

“We maintained the same rank as last year, we are 10th (in the overall category) because IITs are before us and they are a single-subject institution, and I commend their work. But we are a multi-subject university, and nobody has the type of active students that we have... If you compare us with the first nine (institutes on the list), our funding is nothing, even among central universities, we get very less funding. Despite this, our faculty and students are par excellence,” said Pandit.

The ranking framework evaluates institutions on five broad generic parameters — Teaching Learning and Resources (TLR); Research and Professional Practice (RP); Graduation Outcome (GO); Outreach and Inclusivity (OI); and Perception (PR).

As compared to the previous year, the varsity dropped to 65.51 in perception this year from 71.43. It scored the highest in GO — 94.89 — as compared to

she added.

Jamia, in the above five categories — all out of 100 — scored 69.8 under TLR; 49.83 under RP; 93.85 in GO, and 83.41 & 48.48 respectively under OI and Perception. The university scored almost the same under all five parameters last year too.

How rank is calculated

TLR takes into account things like faculty-student ratio, faculty with PhD, financial resources and utilisation. Research and professional practice gives weightage to publications, citations, patents and research projects.

Graduation outcomes are about the number of students who went for placements and higher studies, median salary. Outreach and Inclusivity includes regional and gender diversity, economic and physical challenges faced by students. Perception is based on feedback from public and institutional perception (from peers and employers).

NIRF RANKINGS 2023

IIT Madras, AIIMS Delhi, IIM Ahmedabad, IISc have retained the top positions

ENGINEERING

Institution	2022	2023
IIT-Madras	1	1
IIT-Delhi	2	2
IIT-Bombay	3	3
IIT-Kanpur	4	4
IIT-Roorkee	6	5
IIT-Kharagpur	5	6
IIT-Guwahati	7	7
IIT-Hyderabad	9	8
NIT-Tiruchirappalli	8	9
Jadavpur University	11	10

UNIVERSITY

IISc	1	1
JNU	2	2
Jamia Millia	3	3
Jadavpur Univ	4	4
BHU	6	5
MAHE-Manipal	7	6
AVV*	5	7
VIT	9	8
AMU	11	9
Hyderabad Univ	10	10

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham*

MEDICAL

Institution	2022	2023
AIIMS, Delhi	1	1
PGIMER, Chandigarh	2	2
CMC***	3	3
NIMHANS	4	4
JIPMER	6	5
AVV*	8	6
SGPGIMS	7	7
BHU	5	8
KMC, Manipal	10	9
Sree Chitra Tirunal**	9	10

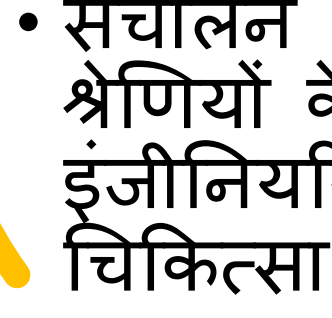
Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, *Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Christian Medical College*

MANAGEMENT

IIM-Ahmedabad	1	1
IIM-Bangalore	2	2
IIM-Kozhikode	5	3
IIM-Calcutta	3	4
IIT-Delhi	4	5
IIM-Lucknow	6	6
NITIE-Mumbai*	9	7
IIM-Indore	7	8
XLRI-Xavier School of Management	8	9
IIT-Bombay	11	10

National Institute of Industrial Engineering*

- 
- Depending on their areas of operation, institutions have been ranked under 11 different categories – overall, university, colleges, engineering, management, pharmacy, law, medical, architecture, dental and research

- 
- संचालन के उनके क्षेत्रों के आधार पर, संस्थानों को 11 विभिन्न श्रेणियों के तहत रैंक किया गया है - समग्र, विश्वविद्यालय, कॉलेज, इंजीनियरिंग, प्रबंधन, फार्मसी, कानून, चिकित्सा, वास्तुकला, दंत चिकित्सा और अनुसंधान

IN BRIEF

Six arrested for cheating over 2,000 people of ₹350 crore

A six-member extortion gang that cheated over 2,000 people of ₹350 crore on the pretext of offering them loans has been busted, the police said on Monday. The arrests were made based on a complaint of blackmail and extortion on the pretext of providing instant loans through an app called Cash Advance. The gang members were based in West Bengal, Gujarat and Delhi and had companies registered in Delhi, Surat, Kerala and Kolkata, said a senior police officer.



Mandoli inmate kills self, third suicide in fortnight in city jails

In the third such incident across the city's jails, a Mandoli jail inmate allegedly killed himself by consuming an unspecified amount of insecticide. The victim was taken to GTB Hospital where he was declared brought dead, the police said. On May 22, a man killed himself in a jail after being convicted in a robbery case. Four days later, a Maharashtra prisoner died after he consumed poison. Those in distress may contact *Saahas*, Society for Mental Health suicide prevention helpline 011-40793602.

Effective measures by Delhi govt. have caused reduction in pollution levels, says CM

Working to turn Capital into a 'City of Lakes', says Kejriwal at an event to mark World Environment Day; pollution brought under control through measures undertaken by the Centre, says Bidhuri

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal urged the city residents to participate in the Delhi government's fight against pollution and help transform it into a Jan Andolan (people's movement) on the occasion of World Environment Day. Speaking at Thyagaraj Stadium on Monday, Mr. Kejriwal listed various initiatives undertaken by the Delhi government to combat pollution, including transportation, including the tendering Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to industries and using Real Time Source Apportionment Study to map sources of air pollution on a real-time basis. "These multifaceted interventions underscore the

Greener Delhi



government's commitment towards curbing pollution, including transportation, to protect the health and well-being of Delhi's residents," he said. In his address, the CM said World Environment Day has been celebrated across the world over the past 50 years. He added that the go-

vernment is working towards turning Delhi into a "City of Lakes". "In the past eight years, the Centre recently provided 200 electric buses to boost public transport in the city. Mr. Bidhuri said that the eastern and Western peripheral highways have also contributed towards reducing pollution by allowing heavy vehicles to bypass the capital.

30% reduction in air pollution over past six years
26 days of 'very bad' quality air in 2022, only six such days in 2022
3% increase in tree cover over 2022, 23% tree cover in city now
Govt. working actively at 33 identified pollution hotspots
26 lakes restored/re-created, 310 more to come up

Students clash in Greater Noida university; 15 held

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI
Four medical students and 11 security guards have been arrested after clashes broke out between two groups over smoking cigarettes at the State-run Gau-

tam Buddha University, the police said on Monday. An argument broke out at 10.30 p.m. on Sunday after a security guard allegedly objected to a first-year MBBS student smoking in Mundali Frenchmandi Hostel on the campus.

The argument subsequently turned into a scuffle. **Six students serious** - Police officers said 22 students were injured, of whom four are serious and have been admitted to a hospital.

At least 33 people were initially detained by the police. The arrests were made based on CCTV footage, said a senior police officer. Two cross FIRs have been registered, he added.

Court denies bail to Sisodia citing 'serious allegations'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to grant interim bail to Sisodia, the former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, noting that the "allegations in the

present case are extremely serious in nature". The CBI had arrested Mr. Sisodia for alleged corruption in the now-scrapped excise policy in February. Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma, however, allowed the senior AAP leader to

meet his ailing wife for a day. The court ordered that Mr. Sisodia be taken to his residence or hospital from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., as per his wife's convenience. "However, during this period, the petitioner (Mr. Sisodia) shall not interact

with the media nor shall he meet anybody except his wife or members of his family," the court said. The former Deputy CM had urged for relief on humanitarian grounds, saying his wife's health had further deteriorated.

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Official notice for 'NOTICE INVITING BIDS FOR ROAD/ BRIDGE/ BUILDING WORKS'. Includes a table with columns for No., Name of work, Estimated cost, Revised cost, etc.

Advertisement for URDU ACADEMY, DELHI. Includes details about financial assistance for Urdu manuscripts and the submission of manuscripts.

Advertisement for DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED. Includes details about the Notice Inviting Tender for Domestic Competitive Bidding (DCB) Multi Package Tender.

MCD launches app that lets users geotag their properties

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has launched a mobile application to enable owners to geotag their properties. The civic body said the 'MCD App', launched by Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti, aims to bring a more transparent and responsive property tax regime.

According to officials, geotagging assigns a unique latitude-longitude coordinate to a property on the map by selecting the location against any Unique Property Identification Code (UPIC), so that all properties have their location identified against their unique position.

Arikompan captured in Theni district, to find a new home in Kalakad Tiger Reserve

Captured in TN, after an operation that lasted over five days, wild tusker taken to the KMTR by truck; officials say the jumbo will be closely monitored after release, fearing trouble from the relocated animal, tribals living near Papanasam and Servarai Dams stage demonstration

L. Srikrishna
THENI

Ending an operation that lasted over five days, officials of the Tamil Nadu Forest Department successfully tranquillised wild elephant Arikompan in the Chinnai Ovuvaiparam reserve forest in Theni district, early on Monday.

Sources said Arikompan, also known as Arisikompan, will be released at a Mathinkuzhivayal area in the Kalakad Muddantharal Tiger Reserve (KMTR). A large posse of officials and ground staff from multiple

departments led by the Forest Department had been closely monitoring the pachyderm for the past week, via a GPS-aided radio collar on it.

Supriya Sahu, TN, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment Climate Change and Forests, in a tweet, said the tusker has been safely tranquillised in the early hours of Monday, in Cambum's East Range forest. She added that Arikompan would be translocated to a suitable habitat where officials will continue to monitor it.

Arikompan had entered Cambum on the morning of May 27, and the district administration imposed ban orders under Section



On the move: Tranquillised Arikompan being taken in a truck to the Upper Gothayar area on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

On Monday, Theni District Collector R. V. Shajeevan lifted the prohibitory orders with immediate ef-

fect. The tusker was transported in a truck by Forest Department officials and as the vehicle entered villages, residents lined up in large numbers on the road-

side and hailed officials for the successfully capture. Many residents took photographs and posted them on social media platforms.

Given a shower As the heat dehydrated the tranquillised tusker while being taken on the truck from Chinnai Ovuvaiparam to Upper Gothayar, it was given a shower after crossing the Kayathar area in Theothakudi district.

Since the tusker, which had sustained an injury in the trunk, started striking the truck, another shower of water was administered when the vehicle reached Piranchery, situated about 13 km

from Palayamkottai on the Palayamkottai-Papanasam Road.

Condemning the Forest Department's decision to release in KMTR the captured Arikompan, a group of Kaani tribes living in three settlements near Papanasam and Servarai Dams, staged a demonstration near the Papanasam checkpoint in the evening.

Meanwhile, taking into account the elephant's capture, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Monday closed a public interest litigation petition on the issue.

(With inputs from P. Antony Joseph Sudahar in Tirunelveli and R. Thiak Chandar in Madurai)



CM Yogi Adityanath waders a sapping on the occasion of World Environment Day at Gorakhnath Temple on Monday. ANI

U.P. CM rings in birthday; PM, other leaders wish him

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several leaders extended their greetings to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on his 51st birthday on Monday, with supporters hailing his "good governance" and wishing him further success in his political journey.

"Birthday greetings to Uttar Pradesh's dynamic CM Yogi Adityanath ji. Over the last six years, he has provided great leadership to the state and ensured all-round progress. On key parameters, Uttar Pradesh development has been remarkable," Mr. Modi tweeted. Former U.P. CMs Akhilesh Yadav of Samajwadi Party and Bahujan Samaj Party's Mayawati also wished the premier incumbent.

A graphic novel, *Ajay to Yogi Adityan Nath*, was also released on the occasion by U.P. Minister Him Prasad in Lucknow. Written by his

biographer Shantanu Gupta, it covers his journey from being born as Ajay Bisht to a family in Pauri Garhwal (now in Uttarakhand) to becoming a five-time Lok Sabha MP from Gorakhpur and then CM. Mr. Adityanath himself was in Gorakhpur on his birthday and performed *raafraahshak* puja at the Gorakhnath Temple besides planting a tree on the temple premises to mark World Environment Day.

Milk offered Ambrish Singh 'Bhola', the in-charge of the Varanasi chapter of the Hindu Yuva Vahini, an outfit founded by the CM, offered 51 litres of milk in the Ganga near the Baba Vishwanath temple to mark the birthday. "People of the whole country and the world keep track of Yogi ji. He should rise further. He will definitely serve U.P. and the country," he said.

Kerala CM launches first phase of K-FON

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Projecting the Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON) as a symbol of the alternative path pursued by the government, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday committed to the first phase of the project.

The project will provide free internet access to 20 lakh below poverty line (BPL) families, connect 30,000 government institutions and provide inter-

net connection at a nominal rate to the public. He said that by ensuring connectivity to every place such as Idamalakudi, it is being ensured that no one is left behind and everyone is a part of the real Kerala story.

"Universal Internet access is essential to keep up with the changing world. Through K-FON, we are connecting entire Kerala with the global information highway," he said during the inaugural event.

HC quashes case against activist, says nudity should not be tied to sex

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday set aside the criminal case initiated against activist Rehana Fatima, for posting on social media a video showing her minor son and daughter painting on her semi-nude torso under the heading 'Body Art and Politics'.

The High Court observed that that depiction of the naked body of a wo-

man cannot per se be termed obscene, indecent or sexually explicit.

Justice Kausar Edappagath observed "Nudity should not be tied to sex. The mere sight of the naked upper body of the woman should not be deemed to be sexual by default. So also, the depiction of the naked body of a woman cannot per se be termed to be obscene, indecent or sexually explicit. The same can be deter-

mined to be so only in context. The context here is that the said objection is one of political expression of the petitioner and not the expression of the children."

'Not legally wrong' It added: "There is absolutely no reason to believe that an ordinary man viewing the video would be caused deprived, debased or even engaged to lasciviousness."

The court said that an expression of an opinion, with no overtones of obscenity or vulgarity, should not be a cause of action for criminal action. Morality and criminality are not coextensive. What is considered as morally wrong is not necessarily legally wrong. It pointed out that the final report filed in the case does not support or even draw a prima facie case for any of the statutory offences as alleged.

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Ex-Officer, Chemical & Dairy

Admitted to Best Test of the Ministry on 02 June 2023 at Combaria Laxmi Narayan Memorial Hospital, Chennai.

Funeral at Mari Sharda Christian Church, Chembur, Chennai, 06.06.2023 at 3.30 p.m.

Rel. Subbarayan, Komari, Subbarayan, Raju & LSR Family.

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Kerala CM launches first phase of K-FON

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Projecting the Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON) as a symbol of the alternative path pursued by the State government, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday commissioned the first phase of the project.

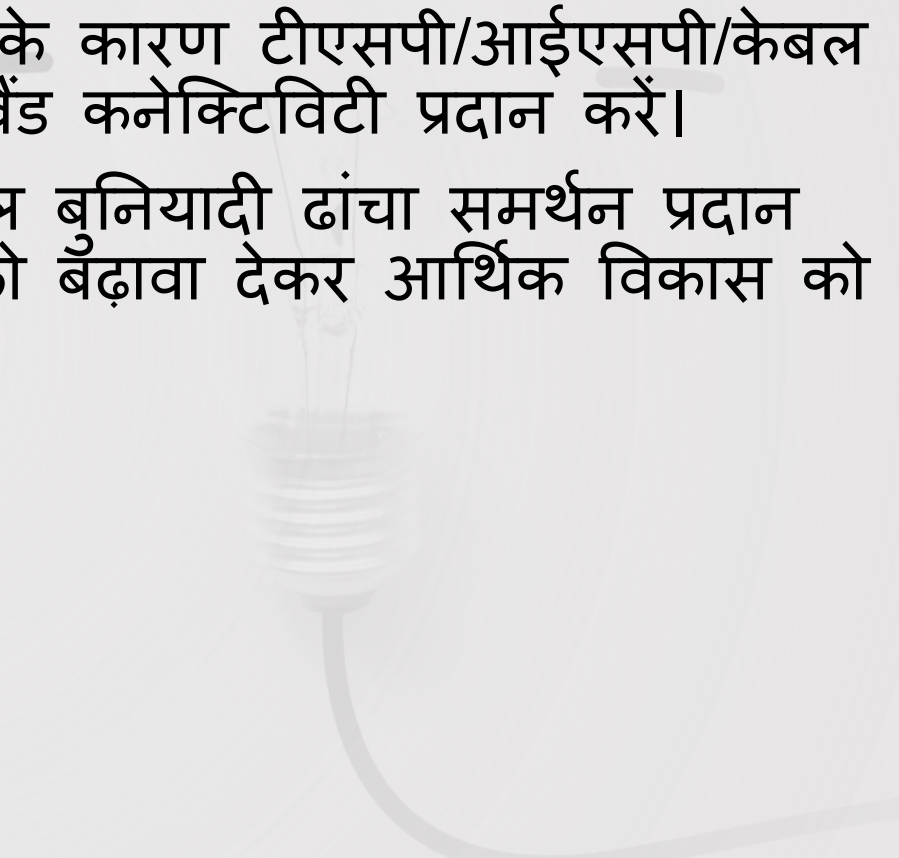
The project will provide free Internet access to 20 lakh below poverty line (BPL) families, connect 30,000 government institutions and provide Inter-

net connection at a nominal rate to the public. He said that by ensuring connectivity in far-flung places such as Idamalakudy, it is being ensured that no one is left behind and everyone is a part of the real Kerala story.

“Universal Internet access is essential to keep up with the changing world. Through this, we are connecting entire Kerala with the global information highway,” he said during the inaugural event.

-
- The following are some of the multiple benefits to be realized across the board.
 - Bridge the digital divide by making internet access a basic right to citizens and enable the state government's vision to provide free internet access to economically backward households.
 - Deliver e-Governance to citizens through TSPs/ISPs/Cable operators by leveraging this network.
 - बोर्ड भर में महसूस किए जाने वाले कई लाभों में से कुछ निम्नलिखित हैं।
 - इंटरनेट एक्सेस को नागरिकों का मूल अधिकार बनाकर डिजिटल डिवाइड को पाटना और आर्थिक रूप से पिछड़े परिवारों को मुफ्त इंटरनेट एक्सेस प्रदान करने के लिए राज्य सरकार के दृष्टिकोण को सक्षम बनाना।
 - इस नेटवर्क का लाभ उठाकर टीएसपी/आईएसपी/केबल ऑपरेटरों के माध्यम से नागरिकों को ई-गवर्नेंस प्रदान करें।

-
- Provide affordable and better broadband connectivity to households by the TSPs/ISPs/Cable operators due to a competitive market by leveraging this network.
 - Boost economic growth by providing digital infrastructure support for local enterprises and SMEs and promoting Electronics and IT industry.
 - Human capital development
 - Deliver remote education
 - Create job opportunities
 - Enhance skills
 - Provide remote healthcare access

- 
- इस नेटवर्क का लाभ उठाकर प्रतिस्पर्धी बाजार के कारण टीएसपी/आईएसपी/केबल ऑपरेटरों द्वारा घरों में सस्ती और बेहतर ब्रॉडबैंड कनेक्टिविटी प्रदान करें।
 - स्थानीय उद्यमों और एसएमई के लिए डिजिटल बुनियादी ढांचा समर्थन प्रदान करके और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और आईटी उद्योग को बढ़ावा देकर आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देना।
 - मानव पूंजी विकास
 - दूरस्थ शिक्षा प्रदान करें
 - रोजगार के अवसर सृजित करें
 - कौशल बढ़ाएँ
 - रिमोट हेल्थकेयर एक्सेस साबित करें

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- Bridging digital dividers

Text & Comment

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The members representing India at the Special Olympics

255 members. The Special Olympics World Games are the world's largest inclusive sporting event for people with intellectual disabilities and will be held in Berlin, Germany from June 17 to 25.

The Railway's expenditure on safety measures in five years

1 in ₹ lakh crore. Between 2017-2018 and 2021-22 there has been a steady growth in expenditure on track renewal, according to an official document. The numbers came out after the triple train accident in Odisha's Balasore.

Spotify all set to cut down on staff working with podcasts

200 people. Spotify said that this amounts to 2% of its workforce. They also announced in April that they passed 500 million monthly active users with 210 million paying subscribers.

Millions displaced internally in Burkina Faso due to violence

2 million. Violence linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group has made Burkina Faso one of the world's fastest-growing populations of internally displaced people, according to government data.

The expected net profit of the airline industry this year

9.8 In \$ billion. The International Air Transport Association attributed rising passenger traffic and meeting local economies to the increase in profit.

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What is affecting trade momentum?

What are the essential headwinds observed with respect to global trade? How is the Russia-Ukraine conflict affecting trade in the international market? Why has there been an overall decline in the demand for goods and services? How has the collapse of financial institutions affected trade?

EXPLAINER

Saikatprano Ghosh

The story so far:

Mired in a slowing economy, inflationary setting and tighter monetary controls worldwide, India's merchandise exports shrank 12.7% on a year-on-year (YoY) basis to \$34.66 billion in April – a six-month low. Imports fell sharper by 14% to \$49.90 billion during the same period. As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, the fall in imports and exports is not limited to India as other countries too have recorded similar declines – affirming the notion about slowing global demand.

What are the current underlying trends in global trade?

The essential headwinds observed with respect to global trade are weaker economic activities worldwide, inflation and tightening of monetary policies, disrupted supply chains because of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and financial instability because of the collapse of several financial institutions in advanced economies.

The ongoing conflict in Eastern Europe continues to have a bearing on the prices of energy, food and commodities. As observed by the World Trade Organization (WTO), though food and energy prices receded from their post-conflict peaks by the fourth quarter last year, "they remained high by historical standards and continued to erode real incomes and import demand" during the mentioned period. The impact of energy prices was strongest during the winter months in Europe as Russia was among the largest suppliers of energy to Europe before it was sanctioned. Europe responded to the loss of gas shipments from Russia by shifting to other suppliers, including the U.S., Qatar, Norway and Algeria. This potentially increased LNG prices elsewhere such as Japan, where the



ISTOCKPHOTO

prices doubled between January last year to February this year. The collapse of financial institutions – such as of the crypto exchange FTX (November 2022) alongside three banks in the U.S. since March (the Silicon Valley Bank, Signature Bank and First Republic Bank), and the loss of confidence in Credit Suisse added to the troubled scenario. As the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in its latest update (in April) concluded, the events raised "the spectre of financial contagion in an already slowing economy".

What are we looking at?

The EU is India's third largest trading partner after the U.S. and China. The European Economic Forecast (published in February) held that the region would "narrowly escape the recession" that took

shape around September. As for the U.S., in May, Fed Chair Jerome Powell said that inflation had "somewhat" moderated since the middle of the last year. Nonetheless, inflation pressures continued to run high with expectations of it receding to 2% having a "long way to go". The JP Morgan Global Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P, registered 49.6 in May – unchanged for the third consecutive month and indicating a marginal deterioration of business conditions. The indicator is used to assess manufacturing business conditions.

How are these related to trade?

To put it simply, in a period of economic slowdown, international trade, both exports and imports, falls sharply as overall demand for goods and services

stand reduced. There is an aversion for discretionary spending which particularly weighs on some imports and post-pandemic expenditures. It is in this light that the exports of engineering goods, gems and jewellery, chemicals, and ready-made garments and plastics, along with petroleum products contracted or grew at a slower pace in 2023. Similarly, inflation, the uneven rise in prices especially of essentials such as food and energy erodes the purchasing power of an individual. Additionally, inflation also affects the flow of capital to a developing country. Important to note, the share of exports of goods and services combined in GDP stood at 21.4% in FY 2023-22.

What next?

On May 15, Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Director General of Foreign Trade and Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Commerce had said, "Global demand is not looking good from markets like the EU and the US. For the next two-three months, the demand scenario doesn't look very optimistic", adding that the government will initiate inter-ministerial talks to find ways to diversify and sustain the exports momentum.

Likewise, Runkil Majumdar, Economist at Deloitte Ina told *The Hindu* that a global slowdown, especially in the U.S. which is our major trading partner would have implications on demand for our merchandise exports. High base effect may also reflect on growth numbers. "However, services exports will hold the fort. Imports may remain low as commodity pricing and INR value stabilise. However, quicker recovery may add pressure on import demand".

As for the concern about lower imports, Ms. Majumdar points to the non-crude metal jewellery segment that has grown by 15% in the last fiscal – higher than the long-term average growth. "This shows that domestic demand remains robust. A cyclical correction should not be seen as a slowdown. Lower imports have been because of stable oil prices, reducing our imports bills."

THE GIST

▼ The essential headwinds observed with respect to global trade are weaker economic activities worldwide, inflation and tightening of monetary policies, disrupted supply chains because of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and financial instability.

▼ In a period of economic slowdown, international trade, both exports and imports, fall sharply as overall demand for goods and services stand reduced.

▼ Similarly, inflation, the uneven rise in prices especially of essentials such as food and energy erodes the purchasing power of an individual. Additionally, inflation also affects the flow of capital to a developing country.

How can the woes of Delhi Metro users be solved?

What are some solutions to reduce overcrowding in metros? How have other countries tackled the issue?

Tanya Mittal

The story so far:

Traffic and congestion on Delhi roads have often caught the ire of daily commuters, but now overcrowded metros are adding to the chaos. Delhi is expected to become the world's most congested city around the year 2028, according to a UN survey. Residents in the capital city have gravitated towards metro trains which is the most common mode of public transport. But in a span of few years, the Delhi metro, which began its first service in December 2002, faces the challenge of being overly crowded, especially during peak hours. The network spans the length and breadth of Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) and carries over 20 lakh passengers every day.

How are countries like Israel and Japan tackling overcrowding?

The Delhi Metro faces an ever-growing ridership, and the space to move around

in trains during peak hours is becoming limited. Delhi must look at solutions which involve re-designing space in metros by adopting folding seats, double-decker metros and wider standing carriages as part of efforts to reduce overcrowding in local trains. The new strategy in Israel will feature folding seats and handles, while regular seats and tables will be dismantled from the floor.

Delhi can try to adopt similar although less extravagant, *quid pro quo* solutions to tackle the unbearable congestion in morning peak-hour trains. Another example is from the Tokyo Metro which is the fastest tube across the world. The Tokyo metro recently made international headlines when it started giving commuters free food coupons for staple Japanese dishes served in local restaurants like a bowl of soba noodles (thin buckwheat noodles) and tempura to those who use pre-peak hour trains for 10 consecutive days. Specifically, the Tozai line of the Tokyo metro is the most

crowded, linking the city's business hub to the suburb of Chiba. According to a report, it was found that the Tozai line had a 189% congestion rate before the scheme. For comparison, a 100% congestion rate means there are no free seats. And a 200% congestion rate means bodies come into contact with each other and one feels considerable pressure.

What are some solutions for Delhi?

The right set of policy actions and public investments can help leverage large-scale private investment in this sector and find new solutions. Modernising trains built to meet smaller passenger rates, expanding and improving existing networks, combined with modernisation of signalling systems and rolling stock, are some solutions the private sector can help with. One of the biggest problems that gets the least attention is the lack of focus on last-mile connectivity in Delhi public transportation.

Although there are almost 18 multi-level parking facilities across Delhi,

nearly all of them remain underutilised. For instance, the North Delhi Municipal Corporation's state-of-the-art seven-storeyed, automated underground parking at Kamla Nagar, which was constructed in 2013, lies almost empty during peak business hours. Better use of these public parking spaces will encourage people to not park on roads and cause further traffic jams. Every metro station provides parking spaces for people to close the gap of long distances between one's residence and the nearest metro station.

What has the budget stressed on?

The new budget proposal tabled by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi makes promises of upgrading the bus transport system and one feels considerable pressure. The capital outlay under this has set aside ₹28,556 crore to induct electric buses; ₹3,500 crore to improve Delhi's public transport system; ₹1,500 crore for electrification of 500 bus depots; 1,600 new electric buses; 900 EV charging points; and a Mohalla bus scheme for last mile connectivity. The "last mile bus" scheme ensures last mile-connectivity and the development of three ISBT's (Inner-Station Bus Terminus) with airport-like facilities in Delhi. The government also plans to develop 1,400 bus shelters with digital screens that will display bus schedules.

Tanya Mittal works with the FICCI International Division



NEWS IN NUMBERS

The members representing India at the Special Olympics

255 members. The Special Olympics World Games are the world's largest inclusive sporting event for people with intellectual disabilities and will be held in Berlin, Germany from June 17 to 25. PTI



Special Olympics



Founded	July 20, 1968; 54 years ago
Founder	Eunice Kennedy Shriver
Location	1133 19th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. , U.S. 20036
Origins	Camp Shriver
Area served	International
Official language	English and the host country's official language when necessary
Key people	Timothy Shriver (Chairman of the Board) Mary Davis (Chief Executive Officer) William P. Alford (Lead Director & Vice Chair) Angelo Moratti (Vice Chair) Loretta Claiborne (Vice Chair) ^[1]
Websites	Official website ↗

2017			11	 Graz and Schladming, Austria	March 14 – 25
2019	15	 Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates	March 14 – 21		
2022			-	 Kazan, Russia	cancelled ⁽²⁾
2023	16	 Berlin, Germany	June 16 – 25		
2025			12	 Turin, Italy	January 29 – February 9
2027	17	 Perth, Australia			
2029			13	 Chur, Switzerland	

Dealing with deepfakes

A deepfake is something that a machine has learnt to create. It contains false information to keep the deft deepfakes, however vague, in front of us because of the way deepfakes distort reality and attempt to persuade us that something false is true.

An 'upgrade' from Photoshop On May 28, the wrestlers protesting peacefully in New Delhi were tackled to the ground, arrested, and boarded in a van to keep them from disrupting the inauguration of the Parliament building. Shortly after, a photo appeared to show four of the beleaguered wrestlers posing with wide smiles for a selfie in the van.

If you had believed the photo to be real, you might also have believed that the wrestlers had orchestrated a clash with the police and that they wanted to be photographed while being "toughed up". This is what the person who created the photo may have intended. Though it emerged later that the photos had been morphed, and was not a deepfake, creating such visuals has become child's play. Deepfaking is a significant 'upgrade' from photomanipulating images as it transfers the talents of human skill. Here, machines iteratively process large amounts of data to falsify images and videos, sometimes in real time, and with fewer imperfections.

Deepfake images and videos that have an unrecognisable face. People worldwide have already used the technology to create a video of Barack Obama verbally abusing Donald Trump, hack facial recognition software, manufacture 'revenge porn', etc. On May 22, a deepfake image purporting to show a towering column of dark smoke rising from the Pentagon received sober coverage from a few Indian television news channels. The image was soon found to have been machine-made.

Fit to width

mukundh.v
@thehindu.co.in

As with other modern technologies like ChatGPT has been forcing us to ask. The major technology companies behind ChatGPT et al seem to have been driven by 'can we do this?' rather than 'should we do this?' although not without exceptions.

Our still-evolving experience with solar geoeengineering offers a useful, if also imperfect, parallel. Solar geoeengineering involves modifying the climate to be favourable over one part of the planet, by blocking sunlight, but which invariably has planet-wide consequences. Many scientists agree that this is dangerous and have called for a moratorium on the use of this technology and for international cooperation led, if required, by a treaty.

Clumsy though it may seem, deepfakes merit a similar response: laws that regulate its use and punish bad-faith actors, and keep the door open for democratic inputs to guide the future of such a powerful technology. A good starting point could be what political philosopher Adrienne de Rutter wrote in 2021, which is to protect against the "manipulation of hyper-realistic digital representations of our image and voice." This, she said, "should be considered a fundamental moral right in the age of deepfakes." And a stepping stone for us, as Indians, must be on how we wield it. This is also the question

Reedemable technology As such, despite its potential to rupture the social fabric, deep learning is entirely redeemable, just like the kitchen knife or the nuclear reactor. The problem is how we wield it.

Then again, these tools have also been used for good. Using deep learning, the ALS Association in the U.S. founded a 'voice cloning initiative' to restore the voices of those who had lost it to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Deep learning has also been adapted in comedy, cinema, music, and gaming. Experts have recreated the voices and/or visuals of visual artist Andy Warhol, celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain, and rapper Tupac Shakur, among others, enhancing our ability to understand, and even reinterpret, history (although some of these attempts haven't been free of controversy).

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Denying States their own cultures

Governor Rav's argument defies the principle of the concept of linguistic States

STATE OF PLAY

B. Kolamunn
kolamunn@thehindu.co.in

Tamil Nadu Governor N. Rav has yet again raked up a controversy by contending that there is nothing called "the culture of a State." He said States were created only for the convenience of governance, and that their creation created political entities. This view is similar to what Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh ideologue M.S. Golwalkar wrote in his book, *We, or Our Nationhood Defined*.

"For where religion does not form a distinguishing factor, culture together with the other necessary constituents of the Nation idea, becomes the important point in the making of individual nationality. On the other hand, in Hinduism, Religion is an all-absorbing entity. With us, every action in life, individual, social or political, is a command of religion," wrote Golwalkar. "Culture is but a product of our all-comprehensive religion, a part of its body and not distinguishable from it."

Mr. Rav's interpretation of culture seems to be shaped by Golwalkar's ideology. It has led him to complain that the creation of States "created political identities such as 'Tamilians', 'Telanganites', 'UP-ites', and all kinds of fictional identities (which) have been undoing and undermining the core strength of this country."

Edward Said had said American identity is too varied to be a unitary and homogeneous thing and that the battle within it was between the advances of unitary identity and those who see the whole as a complex but not a reductively unified one. In his words,

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Mr. Rav's interpretation of culture seems to be shaped by Golwalkar's ideology. It has led him to complain that the creation of States "created political identities such as 'Tamilians', 'Telanganites', 'UP-ites', and all kinds of fictional identities (which) have been undoing and undermining the core strength of this country."

Edward Said had said American identity is too varied to be a unitary and homogeneous thing and that the battle within it was between the advances of unitary identity and those who see the whole as a complex but not a reductively unified one. In his words,

that different language groups were emotionally integrated and saw themselves as cultural units. In a State such as Tamil Nadu, culture is rooted deeply in language, which is considered as important as religion.

Strands of Hinduism are seen across India, but regional variants and movements testify to their roots in unique cultural contexts. Devotional poetry is a cultural commonality in the country, but the Bhakti movement in Tamil is unique. In Tamil Nadu, the movement is seen as a revolt against Vedic religion and rituals and as having played a key role in rejuvenating the Tamil language. "The historical reasons for its emergence in diverse regions are varied — ranging from the rigidity of Brahminism to the need to carve out a spiritual identity vitiated by, and yet distinct from, the Shramana movement..." wrote Arundhati Sulemanian in *Gaining God: A Book of Bhakti Poetry*. Though Sanskrit was not entirely ignored, "For all her lapidary refinement, her exquisite subtlety, Sanskrit gradually began to seem inadequate to meet the needs of a growing tribe of religious aspirants," she wrote.

Further, life, culture and society are rooted in the landscape and terrain. Tamils themselves did not demonstrate a unitary culture. The Tamil concept of land division (*thinaal*) meant that culture, civilisation and even deities were identified with the land.

As Said said about culture: "It means all those practices, like the arts of descriptions, communication, and representation, that have relative autonomy from the economic, social, and political realms and that often exist in aesthetic forms, one of whose principal aims is pleasure."

Accidents decline, but expenses on safety remain low

The Balasore accident was an exception in recent years, but it also reflects the declining focus on safety measures by the Indian Railways

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani

A cursory look at historical data on railway accidents gives the impression that such incidents are a thing of the past. The Indian Railways saw an average of about 1,390 accidents per year in the 1960s. The numbers have dramatically dropped to 80 per year in the past decade. But the triple train collision in Odisha's Balasore, one of the deadliest in India, raises questions about safety in rail travel.

Here, train accidents refer to consequential train accidents — those that resulted in loss of human life, loss of railway property, caused injuries, and interrupted rail traffic. Derailments formed close to 70% of all accidents since 1990-91, followed by level crossing accidents, collisions and fires in trains (Chart 1). The chart shows the year-wise number of accidents under various categories.

Chart 2 shows the number of passengers killed in consequential accidents since 1990-91. The tragedy in Odisha that claimed at least 275 lives stands out. The number of deaths in this single incident is higher than the annual fatalities of the last 16 years. The Railways recorded zero fatalities in 2019-20 and 2020-21 due to consequential accidents. In 2020, when questioned by the NITI Aayog chief about the fact that 30,000 people had died over three years due to trespassing and other untoward incidents around railway premises, the Railways said it had no control over casualties due to trespassing or negligence or carelessness on the part of passengers and that efforts were being made to sensitise the public.

Notably, among the consequential train accidents 65% had occurred due to negligence or failure of the Railways staff. About 28% of accidents were attributed to the failure of persons other than the

Railways staff, and 6% had occurred due to equipment failure. A preliminary investigation has suggested a possible failure of the signalling system in the Balasore tragedy. Chart 3 shows the share of various causes in train accidents.

In the 2023-24 Union Budget, the Railways received a record allocation of ₹2,40 lakh crore. However, when capital expenditure on crucial activities related to safety such as track renewal and signalling and telecom are considered, their shares dwindled or stagnated over the last few years. Allocation for track renewal dipped to 7.2% and expenditure proposed for signalling remained at 1.7% in FY24 when considered as a share of budgetary support for capital expenditure (Chart 4).

The Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK) fund was created in 2017-18 with a corpus of ₹1 lakh crore to provide financial support for critical safety-related works and to curb accidents, including those at unmanned level crossings. However, a Parliamentary Standing Committee report in March 2023 observed that "appropriations to the RRSK has been falling short ever since it was introduced." The Committee also noted that the Railways did not meet the target of earmarked allocations for the previous five years.

The major causes of derailments are rail fractures, weld failures, track defects and rolling stock defects. As per a Ministry of Railways document on safety performance, the track forms the backbone of the Railways transportation system and needs to be safe. According to a white paper by the Ministry, 4,500 km of track should be renewed annually. However, data show that the target set by the Railways is much lower than the level suggested by the white paper. In the past seven years, the Railways could not achieve this level barring one year. Chart 5 shows the target of track renewal set by the Ministry and the target achieved in that year.

Safety out of track

The data for the charts were sourced from the Indian Railways' year books, and annual reports, Parliamentary Standing Committee reports and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.



Chart 1 | The chart shows the year-wise number of accidents

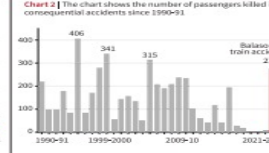


Chart 2 | The chart shows the number of passengers killed in consequential accidents since 1990-91

Chart 3 | The chart shows the share of various causes in train accidents

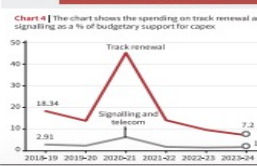


Chart 4 | The chart shows the spending on track renewal and signalling as a % of budgetary support for capex

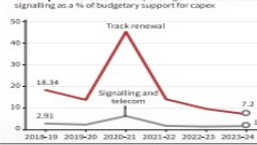
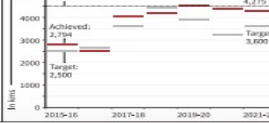


Chart 5 | The chart shows the target of track renewal set by the Ministry and the target achieved in that year



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 6, 1973

Australian PM hopes for close Sino-Indian ties

New Delhi, June 5: The Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Gough Whitlam, today expressed the hope that it would be possible for India and China — the two biggest nations in the world — to co-operate and co-exist. Interviewed on the "Personal View" programme of the Delhi Television, Mr. Whitlam said that India and China were two neighbours who were making determined efforts to develop by different methods. "The world must hope that they do succeed in their efforts to become prosperous and use their vast human resources." Asked if Australia would play the role of an intermediary between India and China, Mr. Whitlam replied: "I have not thought of that." Answering another question, the Australian leader said that it would be advantageous if there were some arrangements under which the countries in the South-East Asian region could regularly get together to exchange views. Such an arrangement would not be like a military pact nor an organisation in which Great Powers dominated, he added. Mr. Whitlam said Australia no longer desired to lock up in Britain as a father. "Britain is a brother country." His Government was trying to change the laws relating to appeals to the Privy Council in London. It embarrassed and insulted the judges of the Australian Supreme Court when a person convicted under the present laws was able to appeal to the Privy Council. However, any changes in relationship with Britain did not mean weakening of the Commonwealth association.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 6, 1923

In Parliament

London, June 4: The Commons passed the second reading by 285 votes to 127 of the Government Bill providing that the occupiers of agricultural land shall pay only a quarter instead of half local rates, the State paying the remainder, thus relieving the agriculturalists to the extent of £27,50,000 yearly. Mr. Neville Chamberlain represented agriculture as being in a desperate condition. He feared that unless assistance was given much arable land would go out of cultivation altogether or go to grass which would be disastrous. Liberal and Labour members opposed the Bill.

Chart 1 | The chart shows the year-wise number of accidents

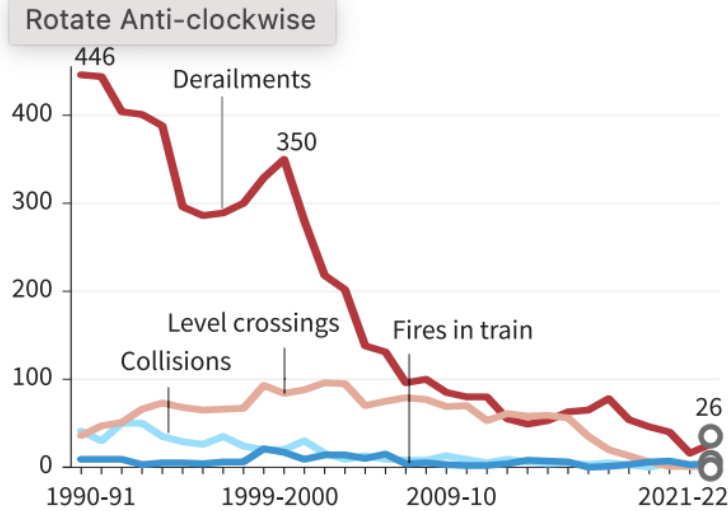


Chart 2 | The chart shows the number of passengers killed in consequential accidents since 1990-91

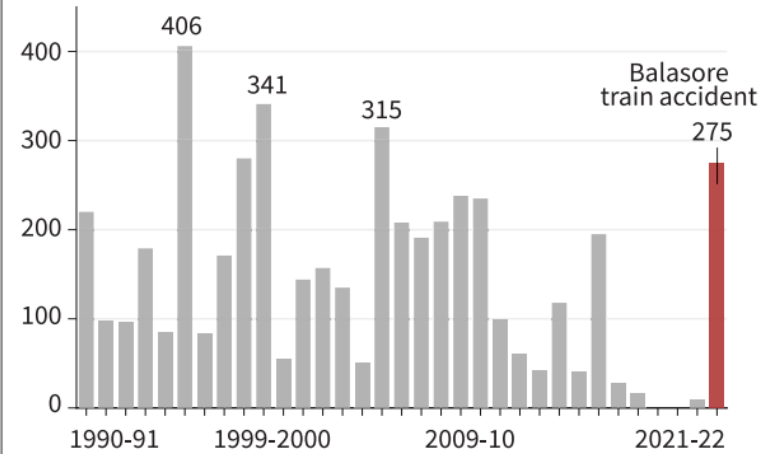


Chart 3 | The chart shows the share of various causes in train accidents

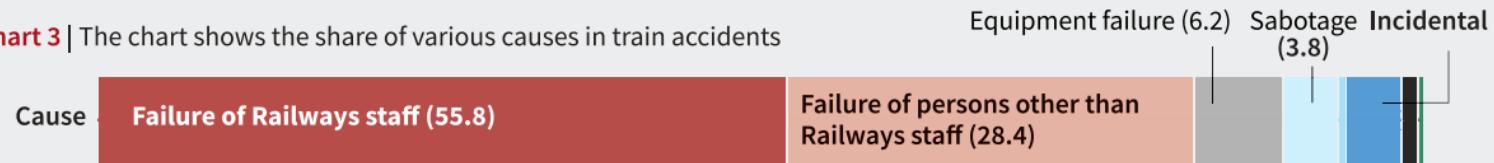


Chart 4 | The chart shows the spending on track renewal and signalling as a % of budgetary support for capex

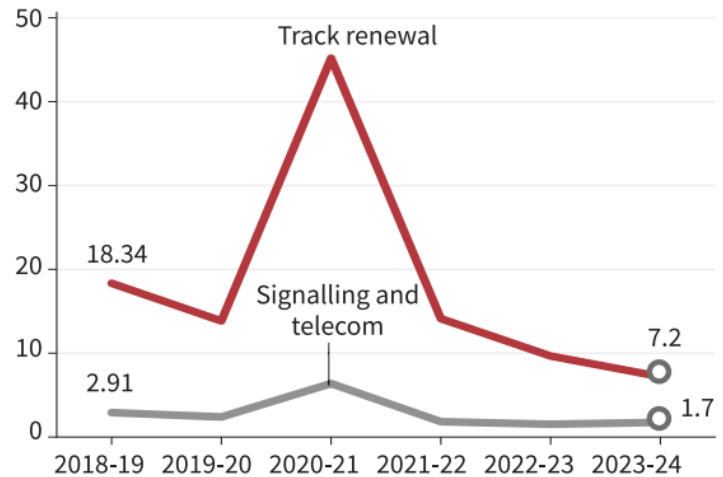
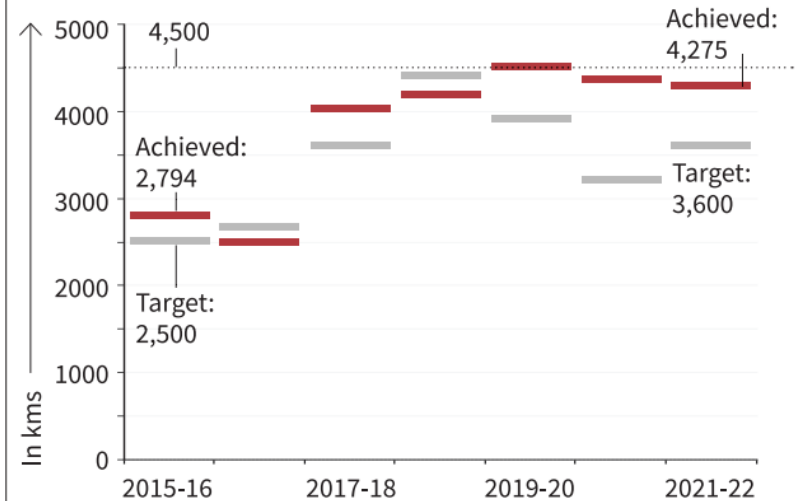


Chart 5 | The chart shows the target of track renewal set by the Ministry (●) and the target achieved in that year (●)





Gufi Paintal, much loved TV villain, passes away

Anuj Kumar
NEW DELHI

Gufi Paintal, perhaps the most loved villain of the small screen, died of health problems in Mumbai on Monday at the age of 78.

The actor-director is best known for playing Shakuni, the shrewd uncle of the Kauravas, in B.R. Chopra's *Mahabharat*.

Chopra's *Mahabharat*.

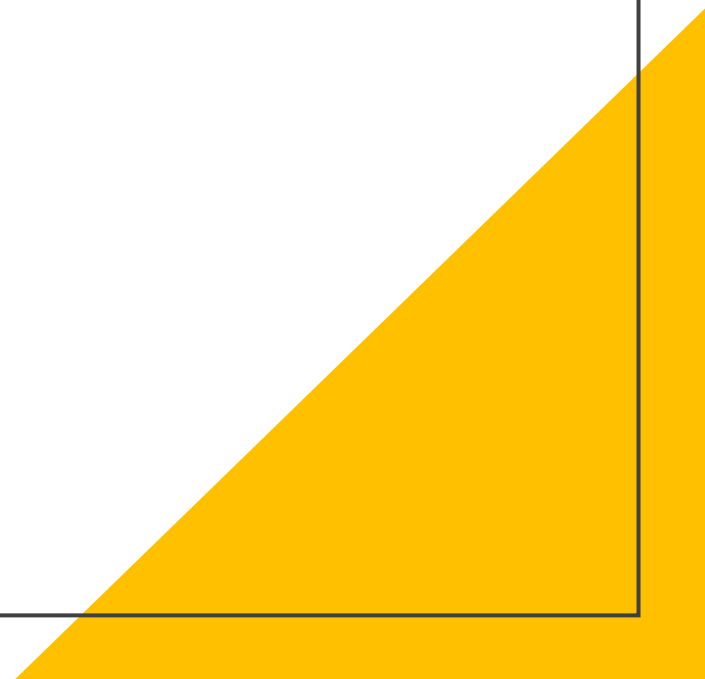
Soon, Shakuni became his calling card as he played the role at least twice more on the small screen and once on stage. Such was the character's popularity that he was also asked to host a political show on a channel in the get-up of the sinister uncle.

Gufi also wrote songs and went on to direct Vinod Khanna in a teleseries on *Maharana Pratap* and helmed a film on Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.





Kathakali



- **KK Gopalakrishnan** has recently released a captivating book titled "**Kathakali Dance Theatre: A Visual Narrative of Sacred Indian Mime.**"
- The book offers a **behind-the-scenes look into the world of [Kathakali](#)**, focusing on the **green room, artists' struggles, and the unique bonds forged during long make-up hours.**
- केके गोपालकृष्णन ने हाल ही में "कथकली डांस थिएटर: ए विजुअल नैरेटिव ऑफ सेक्रेड इंडियन माइम" नामक एक आकर्षक पुस्तक का विमोचन किया है।
- ग्रीन रूम, कलाकारों के संघर्ष, और लंबे मेकअप घंटों के दौरान बने अद्वितीय बंधन पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हुए, यह पुस्तक कथकली की दुनिया में पर्दे के पीछे का दृश्य प्रस्तुत करती है।



- **Origin and History:**
- **Kathakali emerged in the 17th century in the kingdom of [Travancore](#) (present-day Kerala).**
 - The art form was initially performed in **temple precincts and later gained popularity in the royal courts.**
- Kathakali is based on **Natya Shastra**, the ancient treatise on dance, written by **Sage Bharata**.
- उत्पत्ति और इतिहास: कथकली का उद्भव 17वीं शताब्दी में त्रावणकोर (वर्तमान केरल) में हुआ था।
- इस कला रूप को शुरू में मंदिर परिसर में प्रदर्शित किया गया था और बाद में इसे शाही दरबारों में लोकप्रियता मिली।
- कथकली ऋषि भरत द्वारा लिखित नृत्य पर प्राचीन ग्रंथ नाट्य शास्त्र पर आधारित है।

- However, Kathakali relies on **Hasthalakshana Deepika**, another classical text for its **hand gestures**.
- Kathakali was in peril and on the **verge of extinction in the beginning of 20th century**.
 - Renowned **Poet Vallathol Narayana Menon and Manakkulam Mukunda Raja** took the initiative to set up **Kerala Kalamandalam**, a centre of excellence for classical art forms for the revival of kathakali.
- हालांकि, कथकली हाथ के इशारों के लिए हस्तलक्षण दीपिका, एक अन्य शास्त्रीय पाठ पर भरोसा करती है।
- 20वीं सदी की शुरुआत में कथकली संकट में थी और विलुप्त होने के कगार पर थी।
- प्रसिद्ध कवि वल्लथोल नारायण मेनन और मनक्कुलम मुकुंद राजा ने कथकली के पुनरुद्धार के लिए शास्त्रीय कला रूपों के लिए उत्कृष्टता केंद्र केरल कलामंडलम स्थापित करने की पहल की।

- **Dance and Music:**
- Kathakali combines elements of **dance, music, mime, and drama.**
- The movements are highly stylized and include **intricate footwork, rhythmic swaying, and various hand gestures called mudras.**
 - The dancers use their facial expressions, known as **rasas**, to **convey emotions and tell stories.**
- नृत्य और संगीत: कथकली नृत्य, संगीत, स्वांग और नाटक के तत्वों को जोड़ती है।
- आंदोलनों को अत्यधिक शैलीबद्ध किया जाता है और इसमें जटिल फुटवर्क, लयबद्ध लहराना, और विभिन्न हाथों के इशारों को मुद्रा कहा जाता है।
- नर्तक भावनाओं को व्यक्त करने और कहानियां सुनाने के लिए अपने चेहरे के भावों का उपयोग करते हैं, जिन्हें रस के रूप में जाना जाता है।

- **Manipravalam**, a blend of Malayalam and Sanskrit, is the **language used in Kathakali songs**.
 - The text of Kathakali songs is known as **Attakkatha**.
 - **Chenda, Maddalam, Chengila and Elaththalam** are the major instruments used with Kathakali music.
- मणिप्रवालम, मलयालम और संस्कृत का मिश्रण है, जो कथकली गीतों में इस्तेमाल की जाने वाली भाषा है।
- कथकली गीतों के पाठ को अट्टक्कथा के नाम से जाना जाता है।
- चेंडा, मद्दलम, चेंगिला और एलाथथलम कथकली संगीत के साथ उपयोग किए जाने वाले प्रमुख वाद्य यंत्र हैं।



- **Recent Developments:**

- **Inclusion of Women:** Traditionally performed by male actors only, **Kathakali has gradually opened up to female performers** who have trained in this art form and taken up various roles.
- **Innovation in Themes:** Apart from the classical stories from Hindu epics and Puranas, Kathakali has also explored new themes from other sources such as **Shakespearean plays**, social issues, historical events and contemporary topics.

- नव गतिविधि:
- महिलाओं का समावेश: पारंपरिक रूप से केवल पुरुष अभिनेताओं द्वारा किया जाता है, कथकली धीरे-धीरे उन महिला कलाकारों के लिए खोल गया है जिन्होंने इस कला रूप में प्रशिक्षण लिया है और विभिन्न भूमिकाएं निभाई हैं।
- विषयों में नवीनता: हिंदू महाकाव्यों और पुराणों की शास्त्रीय कहानियों के अलावा, कथकली ने शेक्सपियर के नाटकों, सामाजिक मुद्दों, ऐतिहासिक घटनाओं और समकालीन विषयों जैसे अन्य स्रोतों से भी नए विषयों की खोज की है।

Himalayan Brown Bear



- The [Himalayan brown bear](#) (*Ursus arctos isabellinus*) population in **Kashmir** is facing numerous challenges that threaten both their survival and human safety.
- Recent incidents of **bears entering residential areas** and wrecking graveyards have raised concerns among local communities.
- These incidents highlight the urgent need to **address the underlying factors causing this behavior** and safeguard the habitat of this critically endangered species.
- कश्मीर में हिमालयी भूरे भालू (उर्सस आर्क्टोस इसाबेलिनस) की आबादी कई चुनौतियों का सामना कर रही है जो उनके अस्तित्व और मानव सुरक्षा दोनों के लिए खतरा हैं।
- भालूओं के रिहायशी इलाकों में घुसने और कब्रिस्तानों को तोड़ने की हाल की घटनाओं ने स्थानीय समुदायों के बीच चिंता बढ़ा दी है।
- ये घटनाएं इस व्यवहार के लिए जिम्मेदार अंतर्निहित कारकों को संबोधित करने की तत्काल आवश्यकता को उजागर करती हैं और इस गंभीर रूप से लुप्तप्राय प्रजातियों के आवास की रक्षा करती हैं।

- **About:**

- Himalayan brown bears are a **subspecies of brown bears** that inhabit the high-altitude regions of the Himalayas, ranging from Pakistan to Bhutan.
- They have **thick fur that is most often sandy or reddish-brown in color.**
- They can **grow up to 2.2 meters long** and weigh up to 250 kilograms.
- हिमालयी भूरे भालू भूरे भालू की एक उप-प्रजाति हैं जो हिमालय के उच्च ऊँचाई वाले क्षेत्रों में रहते हैं, पाकिस्तान से लेकर भूटान तक।
- उनके पास मोटे फर होते हैं जो अक्सर रेतिले या लाल-भूरे रंग के होते हैं।
- वे 2.2 मीटर तक लंबे हो सकते हैं और 250 किलोग्राम तक वजन कर सकते हैं।



- **IUCN Red List- Critically Endangered**
 - Brown bear (**Ursus arctos**) is listed as **Least Concern**.
- **CITES - Appendix I.**
 - Only the populations of Bhutan, China, Mexico and Mongolia; all other populations are included in Appendix II.
- **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972 - Schedule 1.**

- IUCN लाल सूची- गंभीर रूप से संकटग्रस्त
- भूरा भालू (उर्सस आर्क्टोस) सबसे कम चिंता के रूप में सूचीबद्ध है।
- सीआईटीईएस - परिशिष्ट II
- केवल भूटान, चीन, मैक्सिको और मंगोलिया की आबादी; अन्य सभी आबादी परिशिष्ट II में शामिल हैं।
- 1972 का भारतीय वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम - अनुसूची 1।

- **Behavior:**

- They are **nocturnal**, and their sense of smell is acutely developed and believed to be their principal means of finding food.

- **Threat:**

- Human-animal conflict, rapid habitat loss, poaching for fur, claws, and organs, and, in some rare cases, bear baiting.

- **Range:**

- North-western and central Himalaya, including India, Pakistan, Nepal, the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China, and Bhutan.



- **व्यवहार:**
- वे निशाचर हैं, और उनकी गंध की भावना तीव्र रूप से विकसित होती है और भोजन खोजने का उनका प्रमुख साधन माना जाता है।
- **धमकी:**
- मानव-पशु संघर्ष, तेजी से निवास स्थान का नुकसान, फर, पंजे और अंगों के लिए अवैध शिकार, और कुछ दुर्लभ मामलों में भालू का चारा।
- **श्रेणी:**
- उत्तर-पश्चिमी और मध्य हिमालय, जिसमें भारत, पाकिस्तान, नेपाल, चीन का तिब्बती स्वायत्त क्षेत्र और भूटान शामिल हैं।



1

The Himalayan brown bear's future remains bleak, as a study predicts a **decline of about 73% of their habitat by 2050** in the **western Himalayas**.

2

Climate change poses a significant risk, necessitating preemptive spatial planning of **protected areas to ensure the long-term viability of the species**.

3

हिमालयी भूरे भालू का भविष्य अंधकारमय बना हुआ है, क्योंकि एक अध्ययन में भविष्यवाणी की गई है कि 2050 तक पश्चिमी हिमालय में उनके आवास का लगभग 73% हिस्सा कम हो जाएगा।

4

जलवायु परिवर्तन एक महत्वपूर्ण जोखिम पैदा करता है, जिससे प्रजातियों की दीर्घकालिक व्यवहार्यता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए संरक्षित क्षेत्रों की रिक्तिपूर्व स्थानिक योजना की आवश्यकता होती है।




Oil reserves in salt caverns

Syllabus: Economy

Government-owned engineering consultancy firm Engineers India (EIL) is studying the **prospects and feasibility of developing salt cavern-based strategic oil reserves in Rajasthan.**



This is in line with the **government's objective of increasing the country's strategic oil storage capacity.**



The country's three existing strategic oil storage facilities — **at Mangaluru and Padur in Karnataka, and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh** — are made up of excavated rock caverns.

सरकारी स्वामित्व वाली इंजीनियरिंग कंसल्टेंसी फर्म इंजीनियर्स इंडिया (ईआईएल) राजस्थान में सॉल्ट केवर्न-आधारित रणनीतिक तेल भंडार विकसित करने की संभावनाओं और व्यवहार्यता का अध्ययन कर रही है।

यह देश की सामरिक तेल भंडारण क्षमता को बढ़ाने के सरकार के उद्देश्य के अनुरूप है।

देश की तीन मौजूदा रणनीतिक तेल भंडारण सुविधाएं— कर्नाटक में मंगलुरु और पाडुर में, और आंध्र प्रदेश में विशाखापत्तनम —खुदाई गई चट्टानी गुफाओं से बनी हैं।

Statistics about Oil Reserves In India:



India, the world's third-largest consumer of crude, depends on imports for more than 85% of its requirement.

India currently has an **SPR capacity of 5.33 million tonnes or around 39 million barrels of crude**. India's strategic petroleum reserves (SPR) currently **provide around 9.5 days of oil requirement coverage**.

भारत में तेल भंडार के बारे में आँकड़े:

दुनिया में कच्चे तेल का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा उपभोक्ता भारत अपनी आवश्यकता के 85% से अधिक के लिए आयात पर निर्भर करता है।

भारत में वर्तमान में एसपीआर क्षमता 5.33 मिलियन टन या लगभग 39 मिलियन बैरल कच्चे तेल की है। भारत के सामरिक पेट्रोलियम भंडार (एसपीआर) वर्तमान में लगभग 9.5 दिनों की तेल आवश्यकता कवरेज प्रदान करते हैं।

Additionally, oil marketing companies in India have their storage facilities, providing an additional 64.5 days of storage, totalling **approximately 74 days of petroleum demand coverage.**

India's strategic crude oil storages are currently located at **Visakhapatnam** (Andhra Pradesh), **Mangaluru** (Karnataka), **Padur** (Karnataka) and **Chandikhol in Odisha.**

The construction of the **Strategic Crude Oil Storage facilities** in India is being managed by **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL)** (a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas).

इसके अतिरिक्त, भारत में तेल विपणन कंपनियों के पास अपनी भंडारण सुविधाएं हैं, जो अतिरिक्त 64.5 दिनों का भंडारण प्रदान करती हैं, कुल मिलाकर लगभग 74 दिनों की पेट्रोलियम मांग कवरेज।

भारत के रणनीतिक कच्चे तेल के भंडारण वर्तमान में विशाखापत्तनम (आंध्र प्रदेश), मंगलुरु (कर्नाटक), पडुर (कर्नाटक) और ओडिशा के चंडीखोल में स्थित हैं।

भारत में स्ट्रेटेजिक क्रूड ऑयल स्टोरेज सुविधाओं का निर्माण भारतीय सामरिक पेट्रोलियम रिजर्व लिमिटेड (आईएसपीआरएल) (पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के तहत तेल उद्योग विकास बोर्ड (ओआईडीबी) की पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली सहायक कंपनी) द्वारा प्रबंधित किया जा रहा है।

Two types of underground reserves:

	Salt Cavern-Based Reserves	Rock Cavern-Based Reserves
Development Process	Developed through solution mining , involving the dissolution of salt deposits	Developed through excavation
Cost and Time	Simpler, faster, and less cost-intensive	More complex, time-consuming, and expensive
Sealing and Accessibility	Naturally well-sealed and engineered for rapid injection and extraction	May require additional sealing measures and access points
Oil Absorbency	Extremely low oil absorbency, creating a natural impermeable barrier	Absorbency varies depending on the rock type
Operation	Can be created and operated almost entirely from the surface	Requires excavation and underground operations
Examples	US Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) consists of salt cavern-based storage facilities	Mangaluru and Padur in Karnataka, and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh
Usage	Primarily used for oil storage, but also suitable for liquid fuels, natural gas, compressed air, and hydrogen	Primarily used for oil storage



E-Waste: Solar panels

- Solar panels, hailed as a crucial tool in reducing carbon emissions, face the challenge of disposal and replacement as they only **last up to 25 years**.
- **What is Solar E-Waste?**
- [Solar e-waste](#) refers to the electronic waste generated by discarded solar panels. As solar panels have a limited **lifespan of 20-25 years**, their disposal raises concerns about managing the electronic waste they create.

सौर पैनल, कार्बन उत्सर्जन को कम करने में एक महत्वपूर्ण उपकरण के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित, निपटान और प्रतिस्थापन की चुनौती का सामना करते हैं क्योंकि वे केवल 25 वर्षों तक ही चलते हैं।

सोलर ई-वेस्ट क्या है?

सोलर ई-कचरा डिस्कार्ड किए गए सौर पैनलों द्वारा उत्पन्न इलेक्ट्रॉनिक कचरे को संदर्भित करता है। चूंकि सौर पैनलों का जीवनकाल 20-25 वर्षों तक सीमित होता है, इसलिए उनका निपटान उनके द्वारा बनाए गए इलेक्ट्रॉनिक कचरे के प्रबंधन के बारे में चिंता पैदा करता है।



- **What does Solar Panel consist of?**

- A PV module is essentially made up of **glass, metal, silicon and polymer fractions**. Glass and aluminium, together constituting **around 80% of total weight**, are **non-hazardous**.
- But a few other materials used including **polymers, metals, metallic compounds and alloys** are classified as **potentially hazardous**.

- सोलर पैनल में क्या होता है?

- एक पीवी मॉड्यूल अनिवार्य रूप से कांच, धातु, सिलिकॉन और बहुलक अंशों से बना होता है। कांच और एल्युमिनियम मिलकर कुल वजन का लगभग 80% बनाते हैं, गैर-खतरनाक होते हैं।
- लेकिन पॉलिमर, धातु, धातु के यौगिकों और मिश्र धातुओं सहित उपयोग की जाने वाली कुछ अन्य सामग्रियों को संभावित खतरनाक के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया गया है।

Status:

PV module recycling is **still not commercially viable**

PV waste recycling is **still at a nascent stage globally**

India does not have a solar waste management policy, but it does have ambitious [solar power installation targets](#).

India's PV (photovoltaic) waste volume is estimated to grow to **2,00,000 tonnes by 2030** and around 2 million tonnes by 2050.

दर्जा:

पीवी मॉड्यूल पुनर्चक्रण अभी भी व्यावसायिक रूप से व्यवहार्य नहीं है

पीवी अपशिष्ट पुनर्चक्रण अभी भी विश्व स्तर पर एक प्रारंभिक अवस्था में है

भारत के पास सौर अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन नीति नहीं है, लेकिन इसके महत्वाकांक्षी सौर ऊर्जा स्थापना लक्ष्य हैं।

भारत के पीवी (फोटोवोल्टिक) कचरे की मात्रा 2030 तक 2,00,000 टन और 2050 तक लगभग 2 मिलियन टन तक बढ़ने का अनुमान है।

- **Recent Government Initiative:**
- **The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** added Solar Waste Treatment under [E-Waste \(Management\) Rules, 2022](#) in November 2022.
- **Green Credit Programme:** Launched under the [Environmental Protection Act \(1986\)](#) and announced in the [Budget 2022-2023](#), it aims to promote **green growth and sustainable practices.**

High cost of recycling	Recycling a solar panel costs between \$20 and \$30, while landfill disposal costs \$1-2
Toxic materials in the solar waste	Solar panels contain toxic metals and minerals that can harm the environment when not properly managed

Solar waste management by other countries

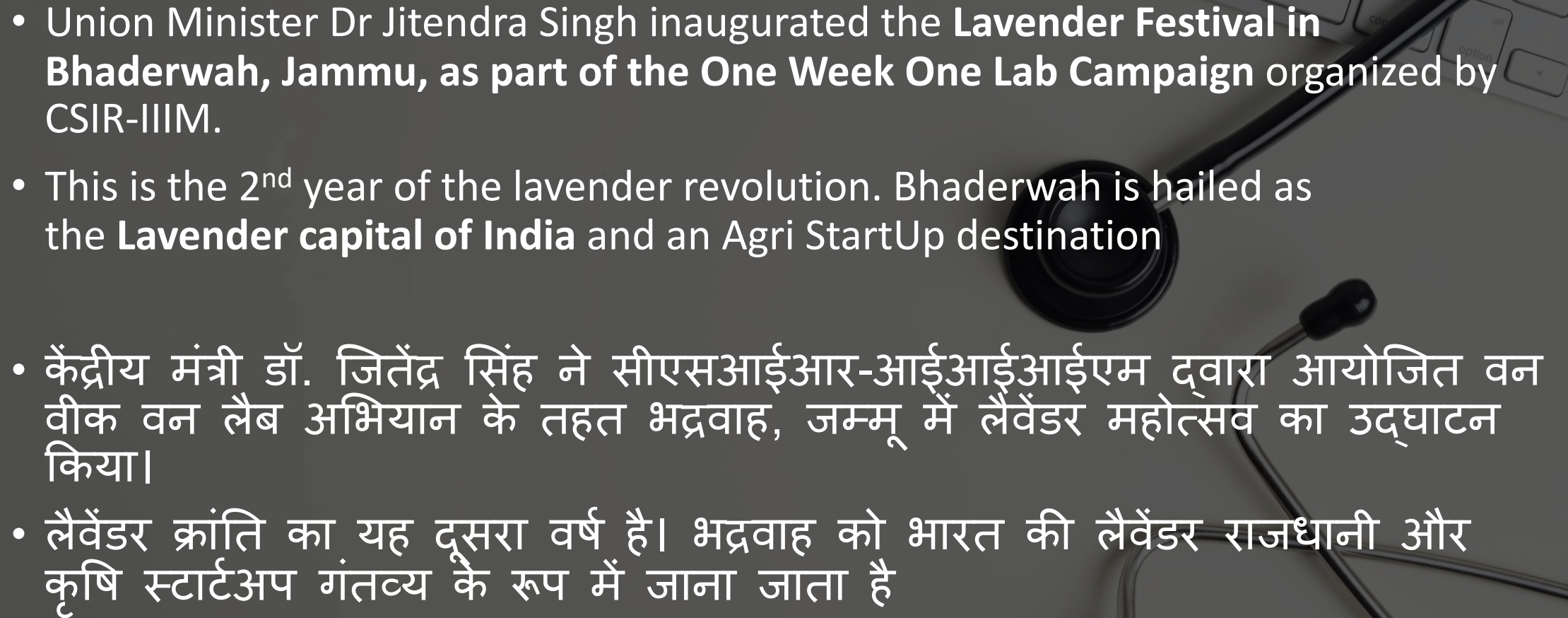
Country	Approach
European Union	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and Directive and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
United Kingdom	Industry-managed take-back and recycling scheme
United States	State-level regulations and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations, but no federal law
Australia	National Product Stewardship Investment Fund: \$2 million grant to develop industry-led PV product stewardship scheme
Japan	Voluntary guidelines to ensure proper recycling of solar PV modules have been issued by the Japan Photovoltaic Energy Association (JPEA).
South Korea	Dedicated legislation to address the PV waste problem

Lavender

Festival

Source: PIB



- 
- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the **Lavender Festival in Baderwah, Jammu, as part of the One Week One Lab Campaign** organized by CSIR-IIIM.
 - This is the 2nd year of the lavender revolution. Baderwah is hailed as the **Lavender capital of India** and an Agri StartUp destination
 - केंद्रीय मंत्री डॉ. जितेंद्र सिंह ने सीएसआईआर-आईआईएम द्वारा आयोजित वन वीक वन लैब अभियान के तहत भद्रवाह, जम्मू में लैवेंडर महोत्सव का उद्घाटन किया।
 - लैवेंडर क्रांति का यह दूसरा वर्ष है। भद्रवाह को भारत की लैवेंडर राजधानी और कृषि स्टार्टअप गंतव्य के रूप में जाना जाता है

About Lavender Revolution (also called Purple Revolution) and Aroma Mission:

	Description
About Lavender	Lavender is a fragrant flowering plant known for its aromatic purple flowers and soothing scent. It is widely cultivated for its essential oil, which has various uses in aromatherapy, cosmetics, and culinary applications.
Lavender Revolution Aroma Mission	Launched in 2016 by the Union Ministry of Science & Technology through the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)
Objective	To support the domestic aromatic crop-based agro-economy and promote entrepreneurship
Products	Lavender oil, lavender water, hydrosol
Significance	Supports the government's policy of doubling farm incomes, provides livelihoods, promotes entrepreneurship
Aroma Mission	CSIR initiative to bring transformative change in the aroma sector, promote the cultivation of aromatic crops, and benefit farmers
Phase-I and II	Phase-I covered 46 districts and trained over 44,000 people; Phase II aims to engage over 45,000 skilled resources and benefit farming families
Nodal Agency	CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP), Lucknow
Intended Outcomes	The additional area under cultivation, technical and infrastructural support, remunerative prices, value-addition to essential oils



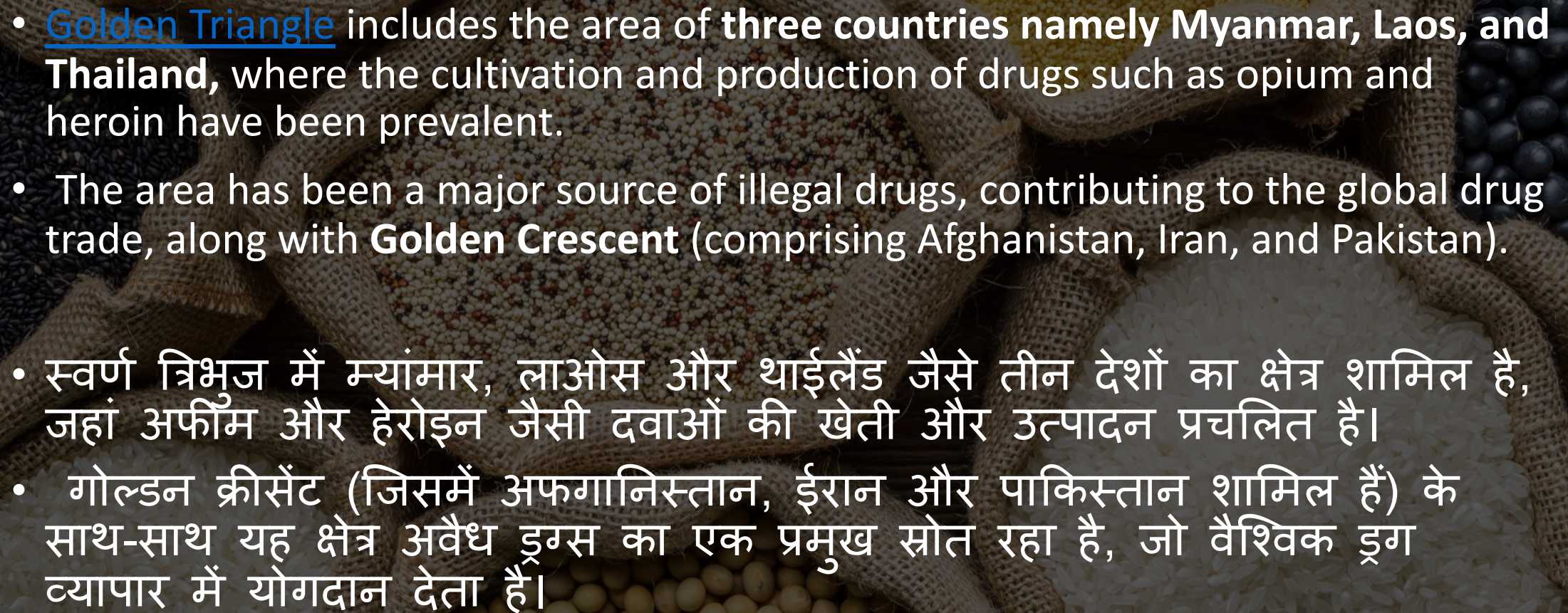
Golden Triangle

Source: UNODC



- As per United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report, **there is no slowdown of trade in methamphetamine** and other illegal drugs originating from a golden triangle of Southeast Asia.

- यनाइटेड नेशंस ऑफिस ऑन ड्रग्स एंड क्राइम (यूएनओडीसी) की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, मेथम्फेटामाइन और दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया के सुनहरे त्रिकोण से उत्पन्न होने वाली अन्य अवैध दवाओं के व्यापार में कोई मंदी नहीं है।

- 
- [Golden Triangle](#) includes the area of **three countries namely Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand**, where the cultivation and production of drugs such as opium and heroin have been prevalent.
 - The area has been a major source of illegal drugs, contributing to the global drug trade, along with **Golden Crescent** (comprising Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan).
 - स्वर्ण त्रिभुज में म्यांमार, लाओस और थाईलैंड जैसे तीन देशों का क्षेत्र शामिल है, जहां अफीम और हेरोइन जैसी दवाओं की खेती और उत्पादन प्रचलित है।
 - गोल्डन क्रीसेंट (जिसमें अफगानिस्तान, ईरान और पाकिस्तान शामिल हैं) के साथ-साथ यह क्षेत्र अवैध ड्रग्स का एक प्रमुख स्रोत रहा है, जो वैश्विक ड्रग व्यापार में योगदान देता है।




The background features a light gray gradient with numerous splatters and blotches of orange and green paint. The orange splatters are concentrated on the left side, while the green splatters are more prominent on the right side. The text is centered over this background.

Suriname

Source: TH

President Droupadi Murmu recently visited Suriname on a three-day trip, aiming to **strengthen India's bilateral relations** with the South American nation. The visit to Suriname is a significant component of her two-nation tour, **with Serbia being** the other destination.



Suriname (Capital: Paramaribo) is a small **country** on the northeastern coast of South America. It's defined by vast swaths of tropical rainforest, **Dutch colonial architecture** and a melting-pot culture

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू ने हाल ही में दक्षिण अमेरिकी राष्ट्र के साथ भारत के द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से तीन दिवसीय यात्रा पर सूरीनाम का दौरा किया। सूरीनाम की यात्रा उसके दो देशों के दौरे का एक महत्वपूर्ण घटक है, जिसमें सर्बिया अन्य गंतव्य है।



सूरीनाम (राजधानी: पारामारिबो) दक्षिण अमेरिका के उत्तरपूर्वी तट पर एक छोटा सा देश है। यह उष्णकटिबंधीय वर्षावन के विशाल क्षेत्रों, डच औपनिवेशिक वास्तुकला और एक मेल्टिंग-पॉट संस्कृति द्वारा परिभाषित किया गया है



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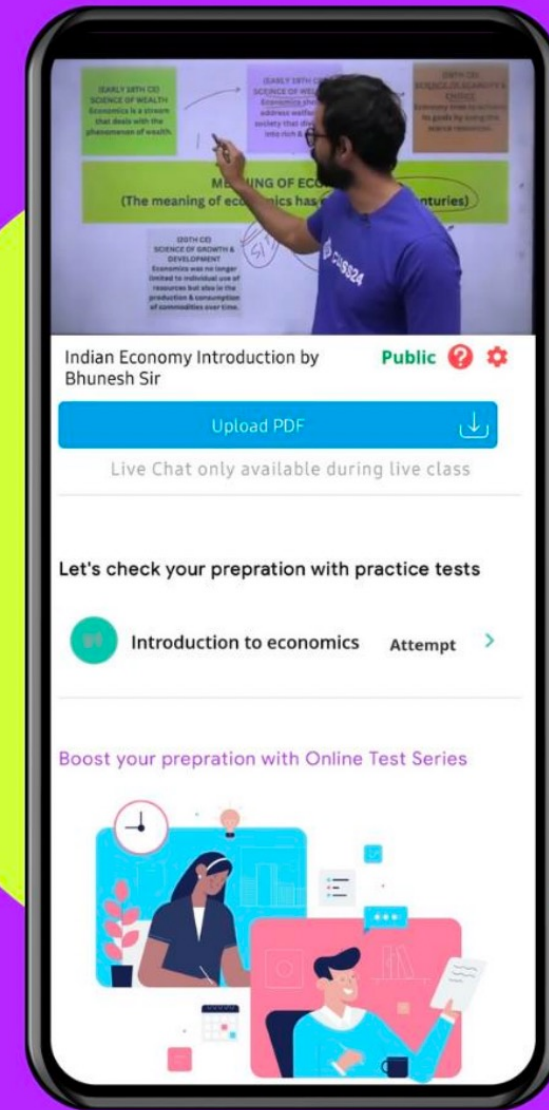
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- **With reference to the famous Sattriya dance, consider the following statements: (2014)**

1. Sattriya is a combination of music, dance and drama.

2. It is a centuries-old living tradition of Vaishnavites of Assam.

3. It is based on classical Ragas and Talas of devotional songs composed by Tulsidas, Kabir and Mirabai.

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

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

- In India, 'extend producer responsibility' was introduced as an important feature in which of the following? (UPSC 2019)
-
- (a) The Bio-medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998
- (b) The Recycled Plastic (Manufacturing and Usage) Rules, 1999
- (c) The e-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011
- (d) The Food Safety and Standard Regulations, 2011

- **Consider the following fauna: (2023)**

1. Lion-tailed Macaque

2. Malabar Civet

3. Sambar Deer

- **How many of the above are generally nocturnal or most active after sunset?**


- (a) Only one

- (b) Only two

- (c) All three

- (d) None



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

Thank you
guys, see you
at 9 am
