Daily Current Affairs

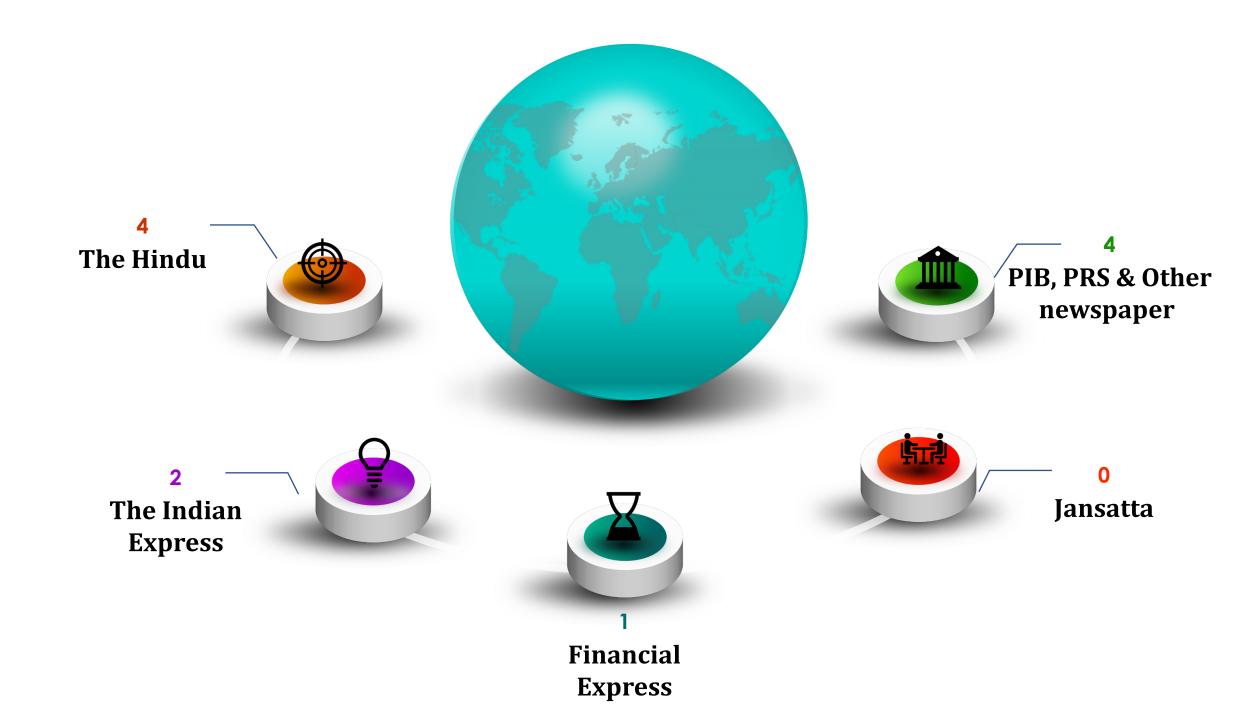












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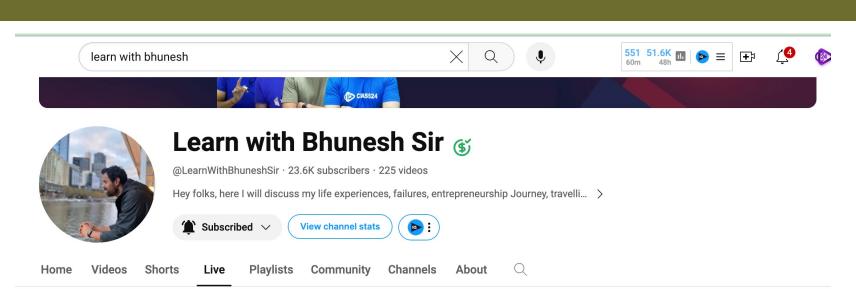








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IN BRIDE



SC declines to vacate order on T.N. temple priests

The Supreme Court on Wednesday did not vacate or modify its September 25 interim order issuing status guo in the Archakashi the age-old Agamas in Tamil Nadu. » Page 6

11.5 cr. PAN cards deactivated over no Aadhaar link

the CBDT said in a reply to an RTI query. » Page 14

Centre mulls ombudsman for air travellers

NEW DELHI The Centre on Wednesday discussed the possibility of appointing an ombudsman or setting up an authority to

Kerala moves SC against Governor again

The Kerala government on Wednesday moved the Su-preme Court for the second time against Gover-nor Arif Mohammed Khan, accusing him of trying to "defeat the rights of the pe-ople" of the State by indefinitely sitting on several crucial Bills, especially those addressing post-COviD public concerns. health The State, represented by advocate C.K. Sasi, said the arbitrary show of lack of urgency by the Gover-nor violated the funda-mental right to life of the people of Varails people of Kerala. "The conduct of the Go-

vernor in keeping Bills pending for long and inde-finite periods of time is manifestly arbitrary and also violates Article 14 (right to equality) of the Constitution. Additionally, it de-feats the rights of the peo-



under Article 21 (right to life) of the Constitution, by denying them the benefits of welfare legislation enact-ed by the State Assembly," the State said. The 461-page special leave petition appeals a Kerala High Court judg-ment delivered on Novem-ber 30 last year, which re-fered to five time limit for

fused to fix a time limit for the Governor to deal with Bills presented to him under Article 200 of the Con-stitution.

Bright and beautiful



Festive fare: Women painstakingly apply colour to eco-friendly lamps at Kanha Uoyan in Lucknow, Around 50,000 lamps have already by on November 11 and will be part of a display of 25 lakh lamps during Deepayali. SANDEEP SAXENA

G-7 meet appeals for humanitarian pauses in Gaza

Foreign Ministers who met in Tokyo seek the release of hostages and a return to a 'broader peace process', offer to draw up long-term solutions

-7 Foreign Ministers on Wednesday called for humanitarian pauses in the Israel-Hamas war to let aid in and

Hamas war to let aid in and help the release of hostages and sought a return to a sa Israell forces continue to strike the Gaza Strip.

The continue to strike the Gaza Strip.

sustainable long-term solu-tions for Gaza and a return to a broader peace process in line with the internationally agreed parameters, the statement said.
"... We support humani-tarian pauses and corri-

dors to facilitate urgently needed assistance, civilian novement and the release



the view that "a two-state solution... remains the on-ly path to a just, lasting, and secure peace". It was only the second joint statement from the G-7 since gunmen from the Palestinian militant group

Hamas sparked the conflict with an October 7 attack on southern Israel, killing 1,400 people and taking some 240 hostages. The Israeli bombardment of Ga-za has since killed more than 10,000 Palestinians, around 40% of them children.

"I believe it's important

reporters. Asked whether all G-7 members were calling for humanitarian pauses or whether some favoured a full ceasefire, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blin-ken said there was "real unity" among the bloc.

» PAGE 12 MORE REPORTS ON PAGE 15

Now, Delhi plans November rain to breathe easy

Reeling from noxious air, the national capital would now be attempting to in-duce artificial rain to tackle the rising pollution levels. Announcing this on Wednesday, Delhi Environ-wednesday, Delhi Environ-issaid he met experts from ITT Kanpur to explore the IIT Kanpur to explore the possibility of cloud seeding for rain, and the cloudy weather forecast for No-vember 20-21 could provide an opportune time to execute the plan. Cloud seeding has been attempt-ed earlier in other parts of the country as well, including Maharashtra.



Clearing the air: An anti-smog gun sprays water droplets to curb air pollution in the national capital on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The Delhi government, he said, will receive a de-tailed proposal from the in-stitute that would be sub-mitted to the Supreme Court for its go-ahead. Mr. Rai also cleared the confu-sion over the implementa-tion of the 'odd-even' or

DIC

vehicle-rationing scheme, saying the government would submit two case studies to the court for its pe-rusal and nod for roll-out. Lieutenant-Governor Vi-

pathi, member, steering

tee, National Clean Air Pro-gramme, ITT Kanpur. While proposing the plan to the Supreme Court on Friday, the AAP government intends to request for cooperation from the Centre through the court. nai Kumar Saxena, in a post on X, also referred to the meeting with experts from

IIT Kanpur. "... Enquired about the effectiveness of the technology and asked them to submit a concrete proposal," he said. Equipment ready
"We have an aircraft and
cloud seeding equipment,
and our team has been
closely monitoring the
cloud situation," said Professor Sachchida Nand Tri-

On the oddewen scheme, it: Rai also the government would be submitting studies from the finergy Policy insettute as and the Delhi Technological University regarding The Supreme Court had on Tuesday called the Del Technological University and the policy and the policy of the court had on Tuesday called the Del Technological University and wondered if the odd-even scheme curbed whichular poliution in the past. The top court has asked the government to look at short-term steps to mitigate the situation on an immediate basis.

Nitish apologises as remark raises furore

Amarnath Tewary
Sreeparna Chakrabarty
PATNA/NEW DELJE
A day after his "derogatory" comment on the role of the Opposition BJP, ho-





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CTING NATIONS THROUGH Project in Sri Lanka to get funding from U.S. govt.

An untouched facet

of colonial history

The bicentenary of

People of M.P. looking for change, BJP will be voted out: Kamal Nath ecame under RID he also

Madhya Pradesh Congress president and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath as-serted that the people of the State will vote out the BJP as they are looking for a change

a change.
"I have been in politics for 45 years and can read their sentiments. People of Madhya Pradesh want

huge margin," Mr. Nath told The Hindu.

The Congress weeren also the Congress was a state to the congress with the was overtly playing the "Hindu card" in trying to woo voters by holding a produce of the congress was produced by the congress was been a priest of Bageshwar Dham, a rethe State. change and the BJP is going corruption to lose the elections by a

scams under BJP, he also questioned why did Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan not implement the Ladli Behna scheme, offering a monthly sum of \$1,500, earlier. "The BJP has

Now, Delhi plans November rain to breathe easy

Satvika Mahajan

NEW DELHI

Reeling from noxious air, the national capital would now be attempting to induce artificial rain to tackle the rising pollution levels.

Announcing this on Wednesday, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said he met experts from IIT Kanpur to explore the possibility of cloud seeding for rain, and the cloudy weather forecast for November 20-21 could provide an opportune time to execute the plan. Cloud seeding has been attempted earlier in other parts of the country as well, including Maharashtra.



Clearing the air: An anti-smog gun sprays water droplets to curb air pollution in the national capital on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The Delhi government, he said, will receive a detailed proposal from the institute that would be submitted to the Supreme Court for its go-ahead. Mr. Rai also cleared the confusion over the implementation of the 'odd-even' or

vehicle-rationing scheme, saying the government would submit two case studies to the court for its perusal and nod for roll-out.

Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, in a post on X, also referred to the meeting with experts from

IIT Kanpur. "... Enquired about the effectiveness of the technology and asked them to submit a concrete proposal," he said.

Equipment ready

"We have an aircraft and cloud seeding equipment, and our team has been closely monitoring the cloud situation," said Professor Sachchida Nand Tripathi, member, steering and monitoring committee, National Clean Air Programme, IIT Kanpur.

While proposing the plan to the Supreme Court on Friday, the AAP government intends to request for cooperation from the Centre through the court.

On the odd-even scheme, Mr. Rai said the government would be submitting studies from the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago and the Delhi Technological University regarding the scheme's effectiveness.

The Supreme Court had on Tuesday called the Delhi government's efforts as "all optics" and wondered if the odd-even scheme curbed vehicular pollution in the past. The top court has asked the government to look at short-term steps to mitigate the situation on an immediate basis.

MORE REPORTS

» PAGE 2

How cloud seeding works



Cloud seeding

Traditional method of rainmaking, in use since the 1940s

Silver iodide

1 101 1 101 1

11/11/1

An aircraft injects silver iodide or other substances into the atmosphere / / /

The chemicals mimic the particles that serve as surfaces for condensation that creates water droplets

3 Once the condensation creates water droplets that are large enough, the rain will fall **OPENING UP THE CLOUDS**

WHAT IS CLOUD SEEDING

A weather-modification technology that can create rain in drought-affected areas and also help fight air pollution

HOW IT WORKS

Scientists use aircraft or rockets to inject silver iodide or another substance into the atmosphere to mimic ice nuclei

HELPING HAND

Clouds often lack naturally occurring ice nuclei, so injecting them with silver iodide particles (which are very similar in structure to ice) increases the number of nuclei

The amount of rain or snow a cloud can produce depends on a balance between the number of ice nuclei inside it and the amount of water available to grow around those nuclei

Silver iodide



It makes the clouds more efficient at generating ice crystals that either fall as snowflakes or melt to produce raindrops, depending on temperatures in and beneath the cloud. Cloud seeding is also used to disperse fog banks near some airports

ARTIFICIAL RAIN: WILL IT WORK?

NEWSICLE

WHAT IS CLOUD SEEDING?



rocess to augment rainfall by spreading either dry ice (or more commonly silver iodide aerosols) into

upper part of clouds to try and stimulate precipitation process for rain

CHEMICALS USED

> Silver jodide. potassium iodide and dry ice (solid carbon dioxide). Liquid propane. which expands into a gas, has also been used.



> Use of table salt is becoming more popular

USED IN MAHARASHTRA

2015 | It was

tried in Ma-

harashtra to

fight 4-year-

long drought

Preparation

for a similar

experiment

not brought

made but

2016

into

prac-

tice as

it rained

naturally



E :

> 2018 l

PAST EXPERIENCE IN **MAHA & RESULTS**

27.1cm

CALCULATED RAINFALL .381.

MM,

47 flights undertaken over 90 days

from August 1 to Nov 1

> Project mostly undertaken over Marathwada

METHODS

- > Cloud seeding chemicals
- > Using dispersion devices on ground (generators or canisters fired from anti-aircraft guns or rockets)
- > For release by aircraft, silver iodide flares are ignited and dispersed as an aircraft flies through clouds



- may be dispersed by aircraft

EFFECT ON

ENVIRONMENT

mpact of cloud seeding on environment has been proved to be minimal

➤ During 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, clouds were seeded using rockets so that there would be no rain during the opening and closing ceremonies Effect on environment

EXPERIMENTS

xperiments conducted by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune reported to show an indication of 24% enhancement in precipitation



IITM Pune demonstrates cloud seeding can

The approximate cost of producing water through cloud seeding was 18 paisa per litre; the cost will drop by more than 50% if we use indigenous seeding aircraft

October 28, 2023 09:00 pm | Updated 09:00 pm IST









NBRIBE



ED issues fresh summons to TMC's Abhishek Banerjee

The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday issued fresh summons to Trinamool Congress (TMC) general secretary Abhishek Banerjee to appear before the agency in connection with the school job scam on November 9. The Trinamool leadership said that Mr. Banerjee will appear before the investigating agency on Thursday in Kolkata. The Trinamool leader has been summoned by the agency in connection with cases both by the ED and CBI, multiple times. The ED had earlier summoned the Dia Harbour MP to appear before it on October 9, after he skipped the October 3 summons.

SP, BSP should join hands to defeat BJP in 2024: Maurya

Mahan Dal president Keshav Dev Maurya, who heads the party that is said to have support among some sections of Other Backward Classes (OBC) in U.P., on Wednesday said the BJP in the State could be defeated if an alliance is forged between the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) like in the previous parliamentary poll. Mahan Dal is said to have backing from OBC communities such as Mauryas and the Kushwahas. Mr. Maurya also called for a broader coalition of like-minded backward class forces in the State for the 2024 Lok Sabha election to take on the ruling party at the Centre

Rahul ups the ante on paddy procurement in poll-bound Chhattisgarh

Congress' pledge to hike paddy prices to ₹3,200 per quintal is just the beginning, he says; asks why BJP leaders send their children to English schools, but do not want tribals to do the same

party's promise to pay ₹3,200 for ev-ery quintal of paddy to farmers in poll-bound Chhattisgarh is just the ing voters that the amount would be hiked further.

would be hiked further.
Addressing a poll rally in
Ambikapur, the constituency of Deputy Chief Minister T.S. Singh Deo in the
tribal belt of Sarguig, Mr.
Gandhi also alleged that
the Bharatiya Janata Party
did not want tribals to
'dream big" and was thus
turning them away from
English medium school

"We have announced that you will get ₹3,200 per quintal [of paddy], you can write it down. Five years [ago], I had said ₹2,500, and now I am saying that the beginning will be with \$3,200... the beginning.



That means it will start from ₹3,200 and will keep on increasing. Whatever the farmer needs, we will do whatever we can," he caid

mise to waive farm loans are critical issues in the elections, more so in the second phase on Novem-ber 17 when the fertile areas of the State's central plains go to the polls. In his speech, Mr. Gand-claimed that whatever promises he made were

fulfilled, and accused the

fulfilled, and accused the BJP and Prime Minister Na-rendra Modi of lying.
"The Prime Minister came here and told all of you that he will put in 155 you that he will put in 155 anyone's bank account. He had said that black money would be recovered through demonetisation. It was said that the farmers would benefit from the would benefit from the would benefit from the Farmers' Bill[s], but they themselves rejected the Bill. Farmers said the Prime Minister is lying, we do not want the Bill. You all

Mr. Gandhi also slammed the BJP for using the term vanvasi (forest-dwellers) to refer to the tribal popula-tion, instead of adivasis (original inhabitants). Cit ing the incident where a BJP worker urinated on a tribal man in Sidhi in Mad hya Pradesh, the Congress leader asserted that it re-flected "the BJP's mindset".

mindset".

Promising that a caste
survey would be conducted from day one if the Congress came to power in
Chhattisgarh, and promising a nationwide survey if
the Opposition INDIA bloc
won pert war's Lok Sabha won next year's Lok Sabha poll, Mr. Gandhi questioned the Prime Minister's claim that there was only one caste, the poor.

"So why do you call yourself an OBC? If there is only one caste, then who are the ones who are rich?" he asked.

Rahul convinced of Cong.'s defeat in Assembly polls'

Press Trust of India Uttar Pradesh Chief Minis

ter Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said Rahul Gandhi is convinced that

Gandhi is convinced that the Congress was going to lose in the ongoing As-sembly elections. The Congress "played with our faith" in the past but he felt happy that Mr. Gandhi recently visited the Koderneth tomple, the Rin Kedarnath temple, the BJP leader said at a campaign rally at Ajaigarh consti-tuency in Madhya Pra-desh's Panna district ahead of the November 17

"Congress used to play with our faith. I felt sati Kedarnath. Rahulji is alrea-dy convinced that Con-gress is losing badly in the semi-finals of these As-sembly polls. That is why he left the field and ran away," Mr. Adityanath said. Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi has transformed Kedarnath, he said. Kedarnath, he said.
"There was a tragedy in
Uttarakhand during the
time of the Congress government, and Kedarnath
was badly destroyed. People (displaced by the

rat...he said he wanted to help there but the Congress governments in the State and Centre did not give permission," Mr. Aditvanath alleged.

As soon as Mr. Modi got the opportunity, he started building a grand new Ke-darnath with the help of the Uttarakhand govern-"Rahulji is praying at the same grand Kedarnath temple during this crisis," Mr. Adityanath said. Mr. Adityanath or con-ment of Kedarnath or con-struction of the Ram As soon as Mr. Modi got

struction of the Ram temple would be possible under a Congress governunder a Congress govern-ment. "This can never hap-pen because Congress it-self is a problem while the BJP believes in finding so-lutions," he said.

Panneerselvam camp exploring options after HC restrains him from associating with AIADMK

T. Ramakrishnan CHENNAI

With the Madras High Court restraining AIADMK's former coordinator O. Panneerselvam from associating himself with the party in any form

ferent options to face the situation.

For the time being, the camp has approached the Court with an appeal, which will be heard on Friday, Senior leaders emphasise that the legal battle in one forum or the other is not yet over.

not yet over. The camp's propaganda secretary Va. Pugazhendi, in a letter sent to the Election Commission of India (EC) a few days ago, re-ferred to the EC's Secretary lavdeb Lahiri's commun cation to Edappadi K. Pala-



from giving the impression that he was the general se-cretary of the party, as the communication, according to Mr. Pugazhendi, did not mention the nomenclature of "general secretary."

Political options As for political options, the predominant view in the camp is to sail with the BJP, the AMMK led by T.T.V. Dhinakaran, and many other like-minded parties. Even if the High Court's order gets reinforced in the fu-ture, the camp may like to wait till the poll schedule is out for the Lok Sabha elec tion, after which it may ap proach the EC for the allot ment of a symbol.

One reason behind such a course of action is that since there are four MLAs the course of the court or der. One reason behind such

der. Meanwhile, Mr. Palanis wami called a meeting of the party's district secre-taries and point persons at the head office in Chenna on November 21 to take stock of the progress of the formation of booth com-

JD(S), BJP will work like a family to win all 28 LS seats: HDK

The Hindu Bureau

Former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy is not both-ered about how many seats his party will win in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections

liance wins all 28 seats in Karnataka. Addressing a media con-ference in Hassan along with his party colleagues, Mr. Kumaraswamy said the Mr. Kumaraswamy said the Congress government in Karnataka is rattled after he met senior leaders of the BJP a couple of times. "We have only talked about joining the NDA. Already, the Congress party is jittery. Imagine what would be their state once would be their state once we finalise our under-standing with the BJP in Karnataka," he said.



in the preliminary stage. The details would be final-ised after the Assembly elections in five States. "We will talk about the alliance with State leaders of the BJP. Talking with only Delhi leaders will not help We have to take them into confidence, and leaders of both parties have to work as a family. There is no huras a family. There is no hur-ry. Many of the questions being raised by the media about the alliance will be answered in December," he said.

as world's longest-serving lawyer

Palakkad veteran trumps man

from Gibraltar to enter Guinness

Seventy-three years and 60 days of practice as a lawyer is a Guinness World Record. Palakkad's veteran civil lawyer P.B. Menon ha brought that world record to India by knocking out Gibraitar government lawyer Louis Triay's Guinness record of 70 years and bruary this year at 94.

Mr. Menon is 97 and still attends the courts with the vivacious zest of a beginner. "He is a phenomenon, which today's practitioners have many lessons to ught that world record

ers have many lessons to learn," said Deputy Direc-tor of Prosecution P.

Premnath. The world's longest serving lawyer had entered the India Book of Records a few months ago. At 97, his memory remains intact. Rather he loves falling back



on nostalgic moments at the beginning days of his career in the early 1950s. After graduating from overnment Victoria Col After graduating from Government Victoria Col-lege, Palakkad, in 1947 Mr. Menon studied law from Madras Law College (now Dr. Ambedkar Govern ment Law College, Chen nai). He shifted his practice to Palakkad after two years

advised Mr. Menon to fo-cus on civil law when he won a criminal case as a ju-nior lawyer. "That was a turning point in my caree and life. I begin my days by and life. I begin my days by remembering that senior judge," said Mr. Menon, sharing his early experiences. Rose Land, Mr. Menon's

Rose Land, Mr. Menon's house at Puthur in Palak-kad town, remains open to everyone. He is approacha-ble and affable to lawyers of all ages.

There is no such thing as

minor or insignificant case for him. "He approaches all cases with utmost se-riousness. Ensuring justice for his client is his motto," said his daughter Subhadra

In a chat with the media here, Mr. Menon said there is no point in arguing too much in courts, adding,

In Karnataka, 'vocal for local' doesn't translate into uptake of State's languages

The Hindu Bureau

"The use of Kannada a slogan," said Karnataka Chief Minister Siddara-maiah, as he led the Statewide celebrations of the 68th Kannada Raivotsava and 50 years of renaming Mysore State as Karnataka in a colourful event at the in a colourful event at the Kanteerawa Stadium on No-vember 1. He added that Kannada should be used as Kannada should be used as ministrative language and government programmes, and even non-Kannadigas living in the State ought to learn the language. The 'wocal for local'

push from the top to ele-vate the status of Kannada is, however, running into some grassroots drag. The mandatory teaching of the language in schools has been hamstrung by legal hurdles as well as resistance from non-State board schools.

Despite two successive Acts to ensure the same, private schools affiliated with Central boards (CBSE. CISCE) and following the NCERT curriculum have not been teaching Kannada as the first or second

Legal push
The new Kannada Language Comprehensive paguage Comprehensive 2022,
Which was passed by both
Houses in the State during
the previous BJP governthe Kannada Language
Learning Act, 2015, which
stipulates: "All students
studying in classes 1 to X in
all schools in the State will



second language in a phased manner." The new Act adds a provision for teaching the Kannada lan-guage in higher, technical and professional educa-

servation in higher, technical and professional education for Kannadamedium students However, the govern-ment had also made a pro-

in the rules of the Karnataka Learning Language Act, 2015, and the Karnataka Educational Institutions (Issue of No Objection Cer-

2022. It is this provisional rule that many private schools have used to teach Kannada as a third lar guage, instead of a first or cond language. It isn't just schools that

seem disgruntled with the stipulations of these Acts 20 parents of students en polled in centrally affil schools moved the Karna schools moved the Karna-taka High Court in August 2023 against the State go-vernment's decision to make Kannada a compul-sory language.

NEP hope However, there seems to be a ray of hope. In a move to promote multilingual education in accordance with the Centre's National Education Policy (NEP), the CBSE has allowed schools to offer education

pre-primary to Class 12. Meanwhile, in 2015, the Karnataka government amended the Right to Education Act, 2009, when a Bill was passed in both Houses of the State Legisla-Houses of the State Legisla-ture to make either the mother tongue of the stu-mother tongue of the stu-pulsory medium of in-struction in all primary schools. However, despite the Bill being forwarded to the approval of the Gover-nor, the Union Ministry of Education, which is sup-posed to send this Bill to a recommendation, has a recommendation, has not taken any action so far.

In an effort to promote non-Kannada languages spoken in various regions

guages like Konkani, Tulu and Kodava have also en-tered schools and colleges in recent years. Konkan and Tulu are being taught at both school and college levels, while Kodava has emerged as a subject of study at higher education. Beary is yet to be intro duced at the primary, se duced at the primary, se-condary or tertiary level; the Beary Adhyayana Peetha of Mangalore Un-iversity has finished pre-paring the syllabus of a cer-tificate course in the language and hopes to in-troduce it soon. However, though these languages are spoken by a large number of people,

not many students opt for their study due to lack of job opportunities with their undergraduate or postgraduate degree.

CM C

Palakkad veteran trumps man from Gibraltar to enter Guinness as world's longest-serving lawyer

Abdul Latheef Naha

PALAKKAD

Seventy-three years and 60 days of practice as a lawyer is a Guinness World Record. Palakkad's veteran civil lawyer P.B. Menon has brought that world record to India by knocking out Gibraltar government lawyer Louis Triay's Guinness record of 70 years and 311 days. Louis died in February this year at 94.

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P.B. Menon

on nostalgic moments at the beginning days of his career in the early 1950s.

After graduating from Government Victoria College, Palakkad, in 1947 Mr. Menon studied law from Madras Law College (now Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, Chennai). He shifted his practice to Palakkad after two years at Madras High Court.

It was a veteran judge at a sub-court in Kochi who

advised Mr. Menon to focus on civil law when he won a criminal case as a junior lawyer. "That was a turning point in my career and life. I begin my days by remembering that senior judge," said Mr. Menon, sharing his early experiences.

Rose Land, Mr. Menon's house at Puthur in Palak-kad town, remains open to everyone. He is approachable and affable to lawyers of all ages.

There is no such thing as minor or insignificant case for him. "He approaches all cases with utmost seriousness. Ensuring justice for his client is his motto," said his daughter Subhadra Muraleedharan.

In a chat with the media here, Mr. Menon said there is no point in arguing too much in courts, adding, "My plaint, cross-examination and arguments are always short."

INBRIEF



Mahout gored to death by elephant at Guruvayur camp

An elephant gored its mahout to death at the elephant camp of the Guruvayur Devaswom of Wednesday. The deceased was identified as A.R. Ratheesh. The incident occurred on Wednesday when Ratheesh was giving water to elephant Chandrasekharan. Though the mahout was rushed to hospital, he could not be saved. The elephant, who has only one tusk, is a known troublemaker, according to fellow mahouts.

Dollar smuggling case: six accused to pay ₹4.9 crore fine

The Customs has imposed a penalty of ₹4.9 crore on the six accused in the dollar smuggling case on the six accused in the dollar smuggling case involving a former diplomat of the UAE Consulate in Thiruvananthapuram. Khaled Mohamed Ali Shoukry, former finance head of Mohamed Ali Shoukry, former finance head of the UAE Consulate; M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan; Swapna Surseh, accused in the gold smuggling case; P.S. Sarith, former staff of the UAE Consulate; Sandeep Nair, fourth accused in the gold smuggling case; and Santhosh Eapen, a builder, are the accused in the case.

Wild elephant electrocuted in Chittoor district of A.P.

A wild elephant was electrocuted after it reportedly came in contact with a power transformer in an agriculture field at Gantavari Palli village of Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday. A herd of wild elephants entered the thickets of Sadum mandal a few days ago, On Wednesday, an elephant, which got separated from the herd and entered the fields, came in contact with a transformer and was electrocuted

SC refuses to vacate order on temple priests in Tamil Nadu

Court had passed interim order on September 25 on the basis of a series of petitions; it was alleged that the State was attempting to appoint 'non-believers' as Archakas in Agamic temples



a series of petitions alleg-

ing that the State government was attempting to ap-point "non-believers" as Archakas (priests), connot fall," Justice M.M. Sun-dresh, on a Bench headed by Justice A.S. Bopanna said, listing the case for Ja-nuary 25, 2024.

-IIIII

Senior advocate Dush yant Dave, appearing for the State government, urged the court to lift the stay order. Mr. Dave said the status quo order would freeze the filling of 2,405 vacancies for Archakaship in the Agamic temples. Further, it would impact

Let the status quo order of Supreme court continue JUSTICE M.M. SUNDRESH

the required training con-templated for persons who had completed courses from the Archaka training school. "This will cause great hardship in perform-ing poojas in Agamic tem-ples," he stressed.

The government had filed an urgent application for the vacation of the interim order on the petitions filed by several parties, including All India Adi Saiva Sivacharyargal Seva Asso-

ciation, represented by se-nior advocates Guru Krish-nakumar, P. Valliappan and advocate G. Balaji, to quash the government di-rectives in July and August to "train persons in the performance of poojas/ce-remonies/rituals, contrary to the Agamas". Senior advocates C.S. Vaidyanathan and Vikas

Singh, also for the petitioners arraigned against the State government, said the government, by "appoint-ing and transferring Archakas, has virtually taken ov-er the running of the Agama temples". Mr. Dave countered that

appointments were a secu-lar function of the govern-

Nadu. Additional Director

part of an ongoing routine

Noida police question YouTuber Elvish Yadav in snake venom case

Samridhi Tewari NEW DELHI

The Noida police on Wednesday said they have questioned YouTuber Elvish Yaday in con

wish Yadav in connection with his alleged involve-ment in supplying snake venom at rave parties. The winner of Bigg Boss OTT Season 2, Mr. Yadav

OTT. Season 2, Mr. Yadav appeared before the police for questioning on Tuesday and the police of the

case. The police said they have sought from the court the custody of the other five accused for

The case was registered under the Wildlife (Protecion) Act on November 4 the accused's involvement in supplying snake venom

at rave parties.

The sting operation was conducted by officials of the Forest Department and an animal welfare officer of the People for Animals, an NGO run by BJP MP Mane-

NGO run by BJP MP Mane-ka Gandhi.
According to the police, Gaurav Gupta, the NGO's animal welfare officer, had told them that he had con-tacted the YouTuber for

Cauvery water for Bengaluru

he posed with snakes and how those procured: police

purchasing snake venom. Mr. Yadav had allegedly put him in touch with the other five persons.

"Venom glands missing"
The Veterinary Department of the Veterinary Department of the Veterinary officer De Nikhil Varshayo Gibor De Nikhil Varshay

Pramod Kumar Srivastava confirmed that his depart-ment has received the inquiry report. He said the snakes have been released in the Surajpur Wetland

area. Siddharth Kumar Singh, director at the Snake Awareness Association, told The Hindu that if ve nom is extracted from a snake, it doesn't die. "Venom is a mix of enzymes and proteins. Once extract ed, snakes create it after 10-15 days," he said.

Mr. Singh said, according Mr. Singh said, according to experts, it is converted into a powder, mixed with a liquid opioid and then in-jected in the tongue. It is taken in small quantity, not more than one mg at one time, which causes one to helbuciette.

Murugha math seer | Police widen dragnet gets bail in one case | for escaped 'Maoists'

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday granted bail to Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, seer of Murugarajendra Bruhan Math, Chitradurga, in one of the two criminal cases regis-tered against him last year for alleged sexual assaults on two minor girls. The High Court said

though medical report of the two girls (which stated



has only corroborative va-lue, it has to be considered in the light of statement

escaped after the encoun-ter and also for others op-erating in the tri-junction of the three States of Kera-la, Karnataka, and Tamil

The Thunderbolt squad and the Special Operations Group have arrested two suspected activists – Chan-dru and Unnimaya – of the lowing a gun battle at Peri-ya in Wayanad on Tuesday

Additional Director General of Police M.R. Ajith Kumar said on Wed-nesday that the elite forces zeroed in on four suspect-ed CPI(Maoist) activists, including three women, at Periya on Tuesday night as night. The forces have widened the dragnet in their search for two women who

Karnataka orders water supply board to utilise 24 tmcft of

The Hindu Bureau

The Karnataka government has issued an order to utilise 24 tmcft of Cauvery water annually for catering to the drinking water needs of Bengaluru City and its surrounding areas.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, held a meeting with the Karnataka's legal team in the national capital and said the Bengaluru Wa-

ter Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) should utilise 24 tmcft of Cauvery wa-ter for drinking purposes of Bengaluru. Speaking to presspersom, Mr. Shivakumar said som, 2015. Shivakumar said Court had stipulated that 24 tmcft of water can be used for drinking water "But till now no one has ta-ken any action in this mar-ken any action in this mar-ken say action in this mar-der. William is said to the provide of the City in the

next 20 years. "Water should be made Harohalli, Bengaluru North. We are also provid-

day Bengaluru North is growing at a rapid speed and there is a need to pro-vide water. The said. As the said of the said is due to the said of the said to the use of 24 tmcft water for Bengaluru, he said, "Drinking water is our first priority and we are follow-ing the order given by the Supreme Court. Let them raise any objection. Why should we give up our rights? We are now follow-ing the order given earlier (in 2018). We have given any part of the Cauvery ba-sin."

plea in sand mining case adjourned

Naidu's bail

Andhra Pradesh High Court on Wednesday ad-journed former Chief Mi-nister N. Chandrababu Naicase to November 22 on being told by the CID that it pires on November 28. Mr. Naidu and some o

his former TDP Ministers and MLAs are accused of

Sudden showers



Motorists caught in a downpour in Vijayawada on Wednesday. As per India Meteorological Department, rain, accompanied with

Kerala forms Organic Farming Mission to boost agriculture

The Hindu Bureau

The Kerala government has created an Organic Farming Mission to enforming Mission to enforming Mission to enforming Mission to endistribution of the distribution of the distribution of the mission here on Wednesday. The gosued orders related to the susset orders related to the susset of the government of the mission on Cotober 26.

vernment had formally is-sued orders related to the mission on October 26. In farms run by the Agri-culture Department, at least 10% of the area will on a marketing of organic

CM (



set aside for organic farm-ing. Another mandate of the mission is to make sure that selected beneficiaries/ farms of organic farming

Kerala. An organic farming protocol, which is in sync with protocols prevalent at the national and interna-tional levels, will be imple-

mented as part of the activities. The mission will also focus on value addition of organic products.

An 85-year-old woman

An 85-year-old woman, who went missing from Sa-dagal village in Karnataka on November 5, was found in the forest about as killo-day on the state of the state of

with animals, braving nea-vy rain.

After she was traced by the local people, as she got into the ambulance, the first thing she told her fa-



Out of the woods: 85-year-old woman

Sharadamma, after being rescued. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

After she was traced by check-up at the governtinto the ambulance, the
first thing she told her family members was that she
mily members was that she
nothing to worry. She was
nothing to worry. She was
nothing to worry. She was
she were mily of her son Jayasheela.
She went missing around 3
She work missing around 3
She went missing around 3
She work of the governthe villagers in the search. Cear
Them When the search team
"When the search team
"The search team
"

lead in the operation Eventually, Ms. Sharadam p.m. on November 5 after she left home to check if she left home to check if stray cattle had ventured into the family farm. As she did not return by evening, family members started ma was found about six ki-lometre away from her family members started searching for her. The search continued the next day as well, but there was no sign of her. Their pet dog, which had gone with the next day, making the family members more wor-ried about her safety. Later on Tuesday, police and forest officials joined Shivamogga Superinten-

lometre away from her home.

Her nephew, H.K. Ma-hantesh, told The Hindu-field the Hindu-if stray cattle had entered the farm. "In her attempt to chase the cattle away, she followed them for some distance, and lost the way accompanied by the way accompanied by she was accompanied by the dog. It is a miracle how she survived," he said. When the search team reached her, she was found bitton by loodby

survives two nights in forest amid rain booked for comments

October 29.

Kalamassery blasts: vlogger

The Kerala Police have filed a First Information Report under Section 153 (wantonly giving provoca-rico) of the Indian Penal Code against a woman vlogger, Lasitha Palackal, and another person, Sree-sial social media posts. Both are from Ernakulam. The duo reportedly Democratic Party (PDP) ny with the multiple blasts at a convention centre at Kalamassery in Kochi on

The Kerala Police have

Kerala forms Organic Farming Mission to boost agriculture

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government has created an Organic Farming Mission to encourage the adoption of sustainable organic and climate-smart farming practices in the State. The mission aims at expanding organic farming to 5,000 hectares in the next five years through an annual target of 1,000 ha.

Agriculture Minister P. Prasad announced the formation of the mission here on Wednesday. The government had formally issued orders related to the mission on October 26.

In farms run by the Agriculture Department, at least 10% of the area will be



Kerala Agriculture Minister announces the formation of Organic Farming Mission in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. FILE PHOTO

set aside for organic farming. Another mandate of the mission is to make sure that selected beneficiaries/farms of organic farming schemes pursue the system at least for five years.

The mission will take steps to expand the system for certification, branding, and marketing of organic agricultural products from Kerala. An organic farming protocol, which is in sync with protocols prevalent at the national and international levels, will be implemented as part of the activities.

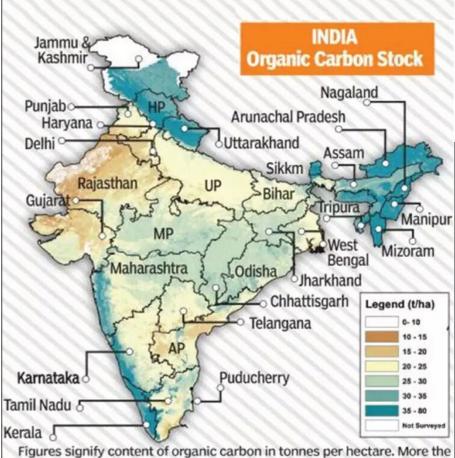
The mission will also focus on value addition of organic products.



No synthetic No GMOs fertilizers No Organic agrochemicals fertilizers Reducing the use Crop rotation of non-renewable resources ORGANIC FARMING Use of local Lower energy resources use Reduced soil Lower water loss consumption Increased soil Larger floral, faunal Improved soil organic matter and microbiological water holding biodiversity capacity







ORGANIC FARMING

Digital map identifying areas holding high potential for organic farming prepared by ICAR-National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS&LUP), ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal, and Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)

Since 2011, around 2 lakh samples collected and analysed at different regional centres

Findings

- A Entire North- Eastern India fit for organic farming with high content of organic carbon in soil
- In Central and southern India, parts of Kerala, Karnataka, Goa and Mahara possess rich organic carbon, ideal for organic farming
- In Northern India, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand and Part of Jammu and Kashmir are the best zones.



organic carbon, better the potential for organic farming





Comparison between Conventional, Organic and ZBNF

Context: As per the new study, Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) in Andhra Pradesh has led to significantly higher crop yield

Aspect	Conventional Farming	Organic Farming	Zero Budget Natural Farming
Use of	Uses chemical	Discourages use (not	Prohibits the use of any
chemicals	fertilizers and	prohibits) of chemical	chemical or organic
	pesticides	fertilizers and pesticides,	fertilizers or pesticides
	extensively	relies on natural methods	.
Use of	Relies on external	Relies on organic	Relies only on locally
external	sources for manures	manures and fertilizers	available and farm-based
resources	and fertilizers	from external sources	resources e.g.,
resources	Will ter time to	Trom carred and sources	Bijamrita and Jeevamrutha
Soil	Relies on plowing,	Still requires basic agro	No plowing, tilling, or
preparation	tilling, and mixing	practices like plowing	fertilizers used, encourages
ргерагастоп	of manures	and tilting	decomposition of organic
	of manufes	and thing	matter on soil surface
Weed control	Uses chemical	Encourages natural	Considers weeds as essential.
weed control	herbicides or	methods of weed control,	,
		,	uses them as living or dead
D441	mechanical weeding	such as mulching	mulch layer
Pest control	Uses chemical	Uses natural pest control	Uses natural, farm-made
	pesticides	methods, such as	pesticides like Dashparni
		biological control and	ark and Neem Astra
~ .		natural pesticides	
Cost	Can be expensive	Can be expensive due to	Can be done almost in zero
	due to the cost of	the cost of organic inputs	budget, using only locally
	external inputs and	and labour	available and farm-based
	machinery		resources
Sustainability	Has a negative	Promotes sustainability,	Promotes sustainability,
	impact on the	protects soil quality and	works with the local
	environment,	biodiversity	biodiversity and ecology
	degrades soil quality		
	and biodiversity		

Organic cultivation in North-Eastern region

(In hectares)

Area	In conversion	
71.001	THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T	
74,094	1,982	
2,580	37,756	
9,883	18,129	
3,526	5,314	
51	6,129	
158	5,240	
204	2,048	
0	999	
90,496	77,597	
	9,883 3,526 51 158 204	



India has More Organic Farmers Than Any Other Country

India 5,85,200

Ethiopia 2,03,602

Mexico 2,00,039

Uganda 1,90,670

Philippines **1,65,958**



India Saw the Third Highest Annual Increase of Organic Cultivable Land in 2015

Area added in 2015 (hectares)

Australia 43,50,000

US 4,74,810

India 4,60,000

Spain 2,58,095

Source: Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FIBL); International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)

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Australia has the Largest Organic Cultivable Land in the World

Total organic cultivable area in 2015 (million hectares)

Australia 22.6

Argentina 3.1

US 2

Spain 2

China 1.6

India has the Third Largest Organic Wild Collection & Beekeeping Area

Total organic wild collection area in 2015 (million hectares)

Finland **12.2**

Zambia 6.6

India 3.7

Namibia 2*

Romania 1.8

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Here's how organic farming can benefit our planet and wellbeing:

1/3

Fresh Air

Switching to the use of organic farming practices across the US could help eliminate carbon dioxide from the air equivalent to at least a third of the cars in our world.3

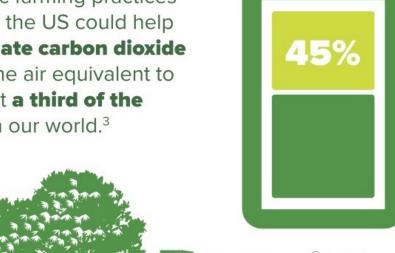
Energy Savings

Organic practices could help reduce the energy used in farming up to 45%.4



Nature's Ally

In a world where nearly 40% of the farming land is suffering significant degradation, organic farming can help protect soils and conserve wildlife.4



Sources

- www.kashi.com/natural-living/organic/ kashi-and-the-nongmo-project
- 2 www.kashi.com/natural-living/organic
- 3 www.ota.com/organic/benefits/global.html
- 4 rodaleinstitute.org/our-work/farming-systems-trial/



- There was an increase of nearly 50% in organic exports in 2018-19, touching Rs. 5151 crore.
- Commencement of exports from Assam, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland to UK, USA, Eswatini and Italy have proved the potential by increasing volumes and expanding to new destinations as the demand for health foods increases.

THE MAN HINDU -

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The rise in terror attacks in neighbouring Pakistan

In percentage, Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that suicide bombings rose by 500% after the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan. He said that 2,267 Pakistani citizens were killed in the past two years.

Cost of terminal in Colombo that the U.S. plans to build

in 5 million. The U.S. announced a project to build a deep-water shipping container terminal in Sri Lanka's Colombo as it competes with China in development financing, Adani owns 51% of the consortium building the terminal.

People globally diagnosed with TB in 2022: WHO

in million. This is the highest number of tuberculosis cases recorded in a year since the World Health Organization began global TB monitoring in 1995, according to WHO's 2023 Global

Tax devolution authorised by the Union government

72,961 in ₹ crore.
The Centre
has
authorised releasing tax devolution to States on November 7 instead of November 10, 41% of taxes is devolved in 14 instalments among States in a year, pro

Farm fires reported in Punjab, AQI quality

many stubble-burning incidents, while parts of Haryana saw air quality indices in the 'severe' and 'very poor' categories.

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Importance of 'loss and damage' funds

developed nations to provide money.

What are the implications of this The TCS outcome highlights a profound lack of trust between affluent and

impoverished nations, particularly

undermines faith in global climate

concerning climate reparations

emerging economies regarding their historical responsibilities, creating a substantial divide between wealthy and

The unwillingness of wealthy nations to fulfil intended commitments

undermines tain in good climate negotiations and hampers the cooperative spirit necessary to address climate change. It represents a missed chance to take concrete steps to combat the

When was the decision to establish a loss and damage fund taken and in which Conference of Parties did member states take concrete steps to bring this fund to fruition? What is the role of the Transitional Committee? Have the meetings by this committee been successful?

EXPLAINER

Indu K. Murthy

The story so far: s the climate crisis intensifies, two terms are in sharp focus -adaptation and 'loss and damage' (L&D). Adaptation is the proactive response to climate change, the art of survival by which communities and countries make deliberate choices to prepare for and cope with climate-related challenges. In contrast, L&D represents the irreversible consequences of climate the irreversible consequences of climate change: impacts that can't be avoided or mitigated through adaptation efforts. They encompass the real losses that they encompass the real losses that to the core of human rights and well-being. L&D includes economic losses, human casualties, and the degradation of ecosystems and cultural heritage.

What is the Loss and Damage fund?

The call for affluent nations to acknowledge their accountability for historic pollution is more than 30 years old. Historic pollution has elevated the world's average surface temperature by more than I degree Celsius and is currently inflicting damage worldwide, but especially in the poorest nations.

At the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP 19) to the United Nations Framewo Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Warsaw, Poland, in 2013. representatives of member countries formally agreed to establish the L&D fund. It was being created to provide financial and technical assistance to economically developing nations that conomically developing nations that were incurring L&D due to climate

change. At COP 25, the Santiago Network for At COP 25, the Santiago Network for L&D was set up, but countries didn't commit any funds. Subsequently, at COP 26, the Glasgow Dialogue on finance for L&D was established to continue discussions over the next three years on the fund. Finally, at COP 27 in November 2022, after intense negotiations, representatives of the UNFCCC's member states agreed to set up the L&D fund and a Transitional Committee (TC) to figure out how the new funding mechanisms under the fund would operate. The TC was also to prepare recommendations that countries would consider, deliberate on, and potentially adopt by COP 28.

But so far, four meetings of the TC have concluded with no clear recommendations. And herein lies an important problem.

What has caused the impasse at the TC meetings?
The fourth meting of the TC, or TC4,
The fourth meting of the TC, or TC4,
The fourth meting of the TC, or TC4,
Lab fund. The principal bones of
contention had to do with hosting the
fund at the World Bank, the foundational
responsibilities (CBDR), climate
reparations, and the eligibility of all differences on these counts deepened the rift between developed and developing

nations at the TC4 meeting.

An impromptu fifth meeting of the TC, that is TC5, in Abu Dhabi concluded a few days back, and a set of recommendations have been drafted and forwarded to COP 28. TCS was not on the original agenda a sign of how contested the L&D fund

At the TCS meeting, developing nations conceded to the fund being hosted by the World Bank Financial Intermediary Fund for an interim period of four years,



The price of climate change

The unwillingness of wealthy nations to fulfil fund commitments undermines faith in global climate negotiations

Maria loss: \$107bn Maria deaths: 4,600

June-July 2021: Summer 2022: Heatwave in Norrthwestern U.S., British Columbia Loss: \$10.4bn+ Loss: \$8.9 billion (bn) Deaths: 1,400 August-October 2019: Typhoons Faxai and Hagibis in Japan Japan Faxai loss: \$9.1bn Hagibis loss: \$17bn Hagibis deaths: 85 August 2021: Hurricane Ida in September 2022: Hurricane lan in Florida 2019-2020: August-September 2017: Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria in Plorida, Texas, Puerto Rico, Caribbean Harvey loss: \$125bn Harvey deaths: 88 Irma loss: \$65 billion Irma deaths: 134 2017-2018: Wildfires in California California 2017 loss: **\$180bn** 2017 deaths: **40**

serviced by a new dedicated and independent secretariat. While the World Bank is yet to confirm that it is willing, it is important to note that it charges an exorbitant overhead fee. Moreover, the developed nations, particularly the U.S., have remained non-committal about being primary donors to the fund and have rejected references to the CBDR, equity, and liability in the draft. The result is that their support is voluntary. This has watered down the spirit and intent of the L&D fund.

2018 loss: \$148.5bn 2018 deaths: 103

Source: Reuters

Further, there is currently no ruther, there is currently no indication of the size of the fund because such a statement was quashed under pressure from the U.K. and Australia. The current draft simply urges and invites

escalating consequences of climate

and tensions emerge in vulnerable nations and threaten

Climate-change-induced instability can have security implications as well, as conflicts

to spill across borders

escalating consequences of climate change on vulnerable communities and signifies a breakdown in diplomatic efforts, leading to doubts about nations' ability to collaborate effectively. The discontent among developing nations stems from the perception that their concerns and needs are not

adequately addressed by the international

adequately addressed by the international community, making the path to climate action—and indeed other global issues—even more complicated.

Beyond the immediate diplomatic and Beyond the immediate diplomatic and down of the L&D fund has wide-reaching implications. It threatens climate justice and exacerbates the suffering of vulnerable communities in developing nations. These communities have not only the dependent of the communities have the communities have been considered to the communities have continued to the communities of the communities have the communities have been communitied have continued to the communities have been communitied have be change. The watering down can also crises, including via food shortage, people displacement, and conflict, and force ommunities to cope independently with a worsening climate and its

The absence of support has economic consequences for both developing and developed nations; financial crises and economic downturns in one region can have extensive repercussions due to the interconnectedness of the global economy. Without adequate L&D funds, without adequate L&D funds, to address environmental degradation and he loss of vital ecosystems, which will further worsen environmental crises, to the loss of vital ecosystems, which will further worsen environmental crises, to the loss of vital ecosystems of the Finally, climate change-induced instability can have security implications as well, as conflicts and tensions emerge in vulnerable nations and threaten to spill across borders. economic downturns in one region car

How will L&D funds ensure climate

As we strive to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change, we must remember that adaptation and L&D are not mutually clusive concepts. They exist on a continuum of climate

resilience, and both have a place in our collective efforts to combat climate

collective efforts to combat climate change.

A successful response to climate change requires us to balance the proactive measures of adaptation with the addressing the losses and damages that are – regrettably – an inescapable part of a climate-altered world.

The L&D fund was conceived as a critical component of global climate consequences of climate change are irreversible and beyond the capacity of

irreversible and beyond the capacity of vulnerable nations to handle. So to achieve climate justice, rich countries must meet their obligations to reduce emissions and deliver inance in line with what is fair, and thus uphold the principles of equity, justice, and solidarity in the face of a changing climate. Otherwise, global climate action will get derailed, putting more pressure on the already beleaguered COP 28 talks later this month.

Indu K. Murthy is a Principal Research nau K. marriy is a Principal Research Scientist heading the Climate, Environmer and Sustainability Sector at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), a research-based think tank.

THE GIST

Loss and Damage represents the irreversible cons of climate change: impacts that can't be avoided or mitigated through adaptation efforts.

Parties (COP 19) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Warsaw, Poland, in 2013, representatives of member countries formally agreed to establish the L&D food.

a critical component of global climate action, recognising that some of the consequences of climate change are irreversible and beyond the capacity of vulnerable nations to handle.

-

The story so far:

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What is the Loss and Damage fund?

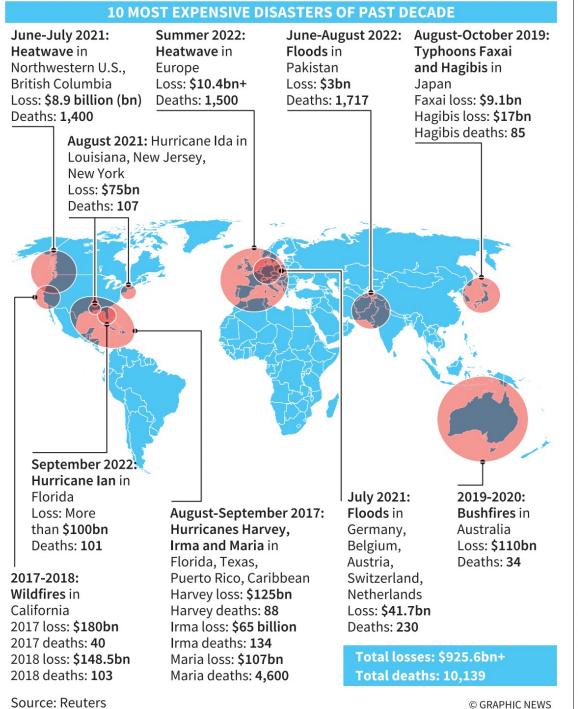
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## **♦**TheIndian **EXPRE**

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BUSINESS AS USUAL





#### PM slams Nitish over 'indecent' remarks: 'He has no shame, his allies silent'

RIME MINISTER Narendra nar's crude remarks on how

On Tuesday, in his address uring the tabling of the caste ensus report in the Bihar



Assembly, Nitish
suggested that
an educated
woman is able
to ensure sex
doesn't necessarily end in
pregnancy,
which helps keep the popu-

we been inviting so much crit-ism... If what I said was rong, I apologise. I take back yourds, If my statement is be-g criticised, I apologise." This came on a day Modi ad-essed three rallies in Madhya adesh's Damoh, Guna and orena.

ena.

n Guna, the Prime Minister

"Those who read newspa-those who watch TV, their ntion must have gone to an dent yesterday... One of the eaders of the INDI Alliano their alliance... that leader d indecent things in the as-nbby, where mothers and sis-s were also present. No one i imagine it. He doesn't have y shame. Not only that, not a gle leader of the alliance was CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

#### MEETING TODAY TO ADOPT DRAFT, WILL THEN BE SENT TO SPEAKER

#### **Ethics panel draft report recommends** Moitra expulsion from LS, pulls up Ali

Moitra hits back at Dubey over his claim of Lokpal seeking a CBI probe

THE ETHICS Committee of Lok THE ETHECS Committee of Lok Sabha, which inquired into the cash-for-query allegations lev-elled by BJP MP Nishtkart Dubey against TMC MP Mahua Moitra, is learnt to have recommended ber expulsion from the 17th Lok Sabha in its draft report.





Sonkar's questioning, called it vostrohoron: he said she

chairman Vinod Rumar Sonikar's line of questioning at the last meeting earlier this month. Opposition members in the panel are expected to submit dissent notes, disagreeing with the recommendations of the 15-

member panel in which the rul-ing NDA has a majority. Moitra and five members of the Opposition — Ali, Congress's Uttam Kumar Reddy and V Vaithilingam, CPM's P R

Natarajan and JD(U)'s Giridhari Yadav, had walked out of the CONTINUEDON PAGE 6

in Telangana. Moitra had claimed Tuesday filing of his nomination from Telangana so as to deplete



#### School winter break advanced in Delhi. app-based cabs from other states face ban

Possible answer to farm

fires: New rice variety

can replace Pusa-44

IN FURTHER steps to curb poll

IN FLIKTHEIR steps to curb pollu-tion even as the air qualify index ("very poor") on Tuesday to 424 ("severe") on Wednesday, the Delhi government said is would registered in other state. Announcing the decision at Announcing the decision at the listue, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Raid and the listue, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Raid has been directed to issue an or-der in this regard. No details



adding that bus and metro ser

#### Income bar too low, EWS senior faculty posts go vacant in most Central varsities

**VACANT FACULTY POSTS IN CENTRAL UNIVS** 

Data, as on July 1 this year, for 35 central universities that have

vation for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) was in-troduced, almost all faculty po-sitions for associate professors and professors in Central univerween two eligibility criteria set by the Union government, ac-cording to data accessed under the RTI Act by The Indian Express. As on July 1, 2023, of the 35

Delhi University, Hyderabad

TO KNOW AN EXPRESS RTI

Danish Ali for violating Rule 275 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha which deals with confi-

dentiality of proceedings of Parliamentary committees.

University of Allahabad, and Pondicherry University, have failed to fill even a single position professor level. This has resulted in about 380 faculty positions

EWS faculty posts

#### WITH ADVANI, ON HIS 96TH BIRTHDAY Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah meet BIP veteran LK Advani at his Delhi residence on his 96th birthday on Wednesday, AW

#### Eye on China, US agency commits funds to Adani's Colombo project

DFC announces \$553 m for development of port terminal

#### GEORGE MATHEW MUMBAI, NOVEMBER 8

Corporation (DFC) Wednesday said it has committed \$553 mil-lion (around Rs 4,600 crore) to nion architat es, acupar crees (the Adami Caroup's deepwaters shipping container terminal in the Pert of Colombo, Sri Lamka error Terminal is being developed by a consortium involving Adani and Carona error and Carona error in involving Adani and the Stathority. Adani and the Stathority Adami an



John Keells Holdings and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority, Adani Ports and SEZ. Sri Lankan group Ports holds a 51 per cent stake in

the container terminal of the port, which also has a terminal Holdings Co Ltd.

The funding by DFC — a development finance institution and agency of the United States federal government that invests however, and middle-incorne countries — is being seen as a contries—is being seen as a contribution.

Tuesday directing the tries — is being seen as a con-certed push by Washington for the India-linked project at a time when New Delbi is comparing CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 paddy... grown mostly in

Punjab". This variety and "the time period in which it is grown" were seen as major causes of stubble burning and the resultant pollution problems in the National Capital Region.

Though the order didn't mame the variety, didn't name the variety.

the reference was likely to Pusa-44. It's this vari-ety that Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had said would be





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#### Mumbai's landmark Air India building now state property

PAGE 1

#### VALLABHOZARKAR

emment facing a space crunch at the Mantralaya and its ane, some of its offices will

f Minister Fknath Shind Wednesday, the State binet decided to acquire building for Rs 1,601 crore. building for its 1,601 crore. The building, designed by Il-known architect John igee, was constructed in 4 on reclaimed land that



decides to acquire building for Rs 1,601 crore, Express

leased to Air India. It is among Mumbai's well-known land-

marks. In 2018, five years after CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Homeopathy, NIT and



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# With 148 varsities in QS Asia Rankings, India has 'most representation', surpasses China

#### **PALLAVISMART**

MUMBAI. NOVEMBER 8

THE INDIAN Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, continues to retain its top ranking in India, with China retaining its top-most position in QS World University Rankings: Asia 2024. However, India has surpassed China in the number of ranked universities.

With 148 featured universities, "India is now the most represented higher education system" in QS World University Rankings: Asia. This shows 37 new entries from India compared to last year's report, which is significantly more than only seven new entries from China (mainland). The UK-based ranking agency, QS Quacquarelli Symonds declared its Asia ranking for the year 2024 on Wednesday.

Peking University from China (mainland) retains its top-most position, this year too. A total of seven Indian institutions feature in the top 100 ranks of QS World University Rankings: Asia; of

| HOW INDIA'S TOP INSTITUTIONS FARE |                      |                      |                       |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| Institute                         | Asia ranking<br>2023 | Asia ranking<br>2024 | World ranking<br>2024 |  |  |
| IIT Bombay                        | 40                   | 40                   | 149                   |  |  |
| IIT Delhi                         | 46                   | 46                   | 197                   |  |  |
| IIT Madras                        | 53                   | 53                   | 285                   |  |  |
| IISc Bangalore                    | 52                   | 58                   | 225                   |  |  |
| IIT Kharagpur                     | 61                   | 59                   | 271                   |  |  |
| IIT Kanpur                        | 66                   | 63                   | 278                   |  |  |
| DU                                | 85                   | 94                   | 407                   |  |  |
| *Source QS World                  | University Rankir    | igs: Asia 2024       |                       |  |  |

which five are IITs, whereas other two include Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Delhi University.

According to the statement, this edition is the largest to date, featuring 856 institutions from 25 countries and Indian universities have demonstrated remarkable resilience in the QS Asian University Rankings with just over half of the ranked universities declining in position, 21 improving, 15 unchanged and 37

new entries. "In fact, India takes the lion's share of the new entries, while Mainland China sees only seven new additions to its list of ranked institutions," states the report. Ben Sowter, Senior Vice President at QS, noted, "The increasing visibility of Indian universities in the QS rankings reflects the dynamic expansion of India's higher education landscape. While the significant growth in the number of Indian institutions and their research

contributions marks a noteworthy development in the region's educational profile, it also illuminates the path ahead for India to further elevate its standing in the global academic community."

The QS, a UK-based company specialises in the analysis of higher education institutions around the world, ranked institutions on the basis of 10 indicators — academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty-student ratio, international relation network, citations per paper, paper per faculty, staff with PhD, international faculty, international students, and outbound exchange students.

While India falls below the regional average in academic reputation (11.8 vs 19) and employer reputation (9.6 vs 18), it achieves the second-best regional results in the papers per faculty metric (36.0 vs 14.8) among the higher education systems with more than 10 universities ranked. Seven Indian universities feature among the top 10 in the region for the papers per faculty indicator. India has achieved its best average score

for the 'staff with PhD' indicator (42.3 vs 22), signalling a strong research output and a highly qualified faculty body. This is only lower than Hong Kong SAR (57.6) and Taiwan (47.3).

QS' papers per faculty indicator is measured based on paper count over a five-year period, excluding the current one. Stating that India's research output has increased exponentially from 2018 to 2022, the UK-based ranking agency shared that it has increased by some 60 per cent over this period, "more than double the global average," shared the agency, adding, "While China's growth rate for the same period is 9 per cent higher, at 69 per cent."

According to QS World University rankings, "Reducing the time frame of reference suggests that India is closing this growth gap. For example, from 2020 to 2022, China's research output grew by 31 per cent while India's grew by 29 per cent - a 7 per cent reduction in growth difference, suggesting that India is catching up with its regional competitor."

## Why Bhutan's first military op in 140 yrs came against Indian insurgents

EXPLAINED

**HISTORY** 

#### **SUKRITA BARUAH**

**GUWAHATI. NOVEMBER 8** 

BHUTAN KING Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, after a historic three-day visit to Assam. Despite the 265.8-km border shared by Assam and Bhutan, this was the first time that a Bhutanese monarch had ever visited the state.

The visit was significant also because it came after a tense period in the 1990s, when the peaceful relationship between the neighbours was complicated by Assam insurgent groups setting up camps in Bhutan. This pushed the hill kingdom to undertake its first military operation in 140 years.

"Operation All Clear" was launched by the Royal Bhutan Army on December 15, 2003, and dealt a crippling blow to the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), and the Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO), active largely in West Bengal.

#### Why were Indian insurgents present in Bhutan?

In the 1990s, the Indian military and the Assam police launched successive crackdowns against militant groups in Assam, putting them under pressure. At the same time, Bangladesh ceased to be a refuge, with the pro-India Awami League government coming to power in 1996 and taking action against them. As a consequence, these

groups set up camps in South East Bhutan, particularly in the Samdrup Jongkhar district that borders Assam. According to the Bhutan government, at the time of its crackdown, there were 13 ULFA camps, 12 NDFB camps and 5 KLO camps in its territory.

#### What was Bhutan's initial approach?

Initially, Bhutan ignored the Indian insurgents and did

not engage with them. However, pressure began to mount as their presence strained ties with India — Bhutan's neighbour, biggest funder and trade partner.

The Bhutan government entered into dialogue with these groups in 1998, but was still reluctant to take coercive action to drive

them out. A major factor behind this was its small and inexperienced military. However, the talks did not yield any outcome despite five rounds with the ULFA and three rounds with the NDFB. The smallest of the three groups, the KLO, snubbed efforts at dialogue.

#### What finally led to the crackdown?

On the day of its crack-down, the Royal Bhutan

Government laid out all the factors which had pushed it to military action. It underlined that the presence of the insurgents had become a "direct threat to Bhutan's sovereignty and national security."

"Of particular concern are the misperceptions surrounding their presence and

the implications on the excellent bilateral relations with India, which is of the highest importance for the Royal Government and the Bhutanese people," a government statement said.

It stated that apart from this, their presence had taken a toll on development and economic activities in Bhutan, including the stalling of the Dungsam Cement Project as well as the closure of education institutes in vulnerable areas.

Political Science professor and researcher Arijit Mazumdar wrote in his paper, *Bhutan's Military Action Against Indian Insurgents*, that another major factor had been fears that the insurgent groups would supply arms to the ethnic Nepalese Lhotshampas — subjected to repressive policies by the Bhutan government.

#### What was the result of the operation?

On December 15, the 6,000-member Royal Bhutan Army launched simultaneous attacks on camps of all three outfits. Logistical and medical assistance was provided by the Indian Army, which also sealed the Indo-Bhutan border so militants could not escape into India.

In January 2004, India's Chief of Army Staff, General NC Vij, claimed that at least 650 insurgents had been either killed or captured. Among the top leaders captured were ULFA idealogue and founding member Bhimkanta Buragohain, ULFA publicity secretary Mithinga Daimary, and KLO crack squad chief Tom Adhikary.

## Top 500 ranking, no online class: UGC rules for foreign varsities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, November 8

## **THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS**Commission (UGC) on Wednesday notified the regulations for

day notified the regulations for foreign universities to set up and operate their campuses in India. "The regulations aim to

facilitate the entry of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) into India, in line with the NEP recommendations and to provide an international dimension to higher education in India. "These regulations aim to ensure that the education imparted in the (India) campus is at par with that of the main campus in the country of origin and that its operations comply with the applicable laws and regulations," UGC chairman M Jagadesh Kumar said.

According to the regulations, "Foreign institutions intending to establish campuses in India should have secured a position within the top 500 in the overall category of global rankings, as decided by the commission



■ Foreign institutions will be allowed to offer programmes leading to certificates, diplomas and degrees from time to time, or should have secured a position within the top 500 in the subject-wise category of global rankings and should possess outstanding expertise in a particular area, as decided by the commission from time to time."

In case an FHEI desires to receive or utilise foreign contributions, it will have to obtain registration or prior permission under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 and comply with legal requirement under the FCRA, the UGC

stated.

In their Indian campuses, foreign universities will be allowed to offer study programmes leading to the award of certificates, diplomas, degrees, research and other programmes at the undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral and post-doctoral levels.

"Foreign universities cannot open learning centres, study centres, or franchises that may act as representative offices of the parent entity to undertake promotional activities for their programmes in their home jurisdiction or any other jurisdiction outside India. They are required to seek prior approval from the commission before starting any new programme in their campus in India," the regulations said.

"No programmes can be offered in online or in Open and Distance Learning modes under these regulations. However, lectures in online mode not exceeding 10% of the programme requirements are allowed," it added.

#### QS Asia rankings: India pips China

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay has retained its top position in India in the QS World University Rankings-Asia, and India has surpassed China in the number of ranked universities.

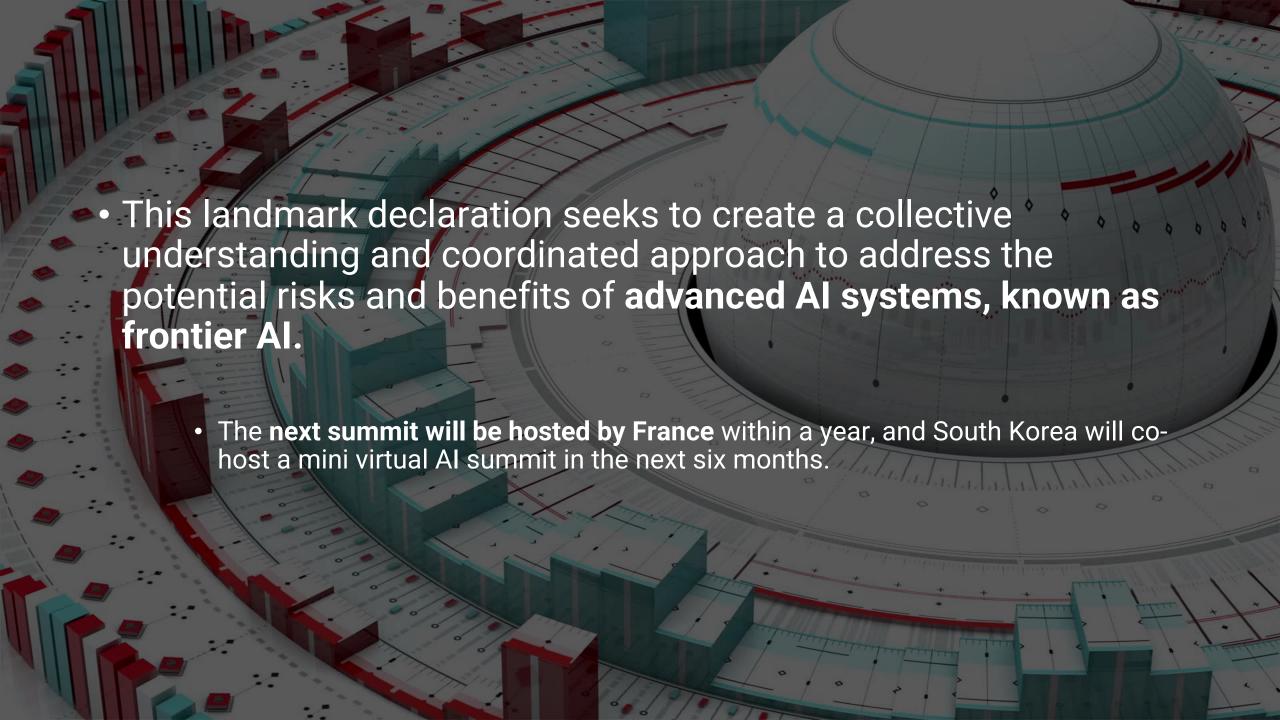
According to the rankings announced on Wednesday, India is now the "most represented higher education system", with 148 featured universities, 37 more than last year. It is followed by Mainland China with 133 and Japan with 96. Myanmar, Cambodia and Nepal featured in the rankings for the first time. Like last year, IISc Bangalore, Delhi University and five IITs secured positions in the elite top 100 institutes in Asia.

— PTI



The Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Safety Summit 2023 held at
Bletchley Park, England has
marked a significant turning
point in the global approach to
tackling the challenges posed
by frontier AI technologies.

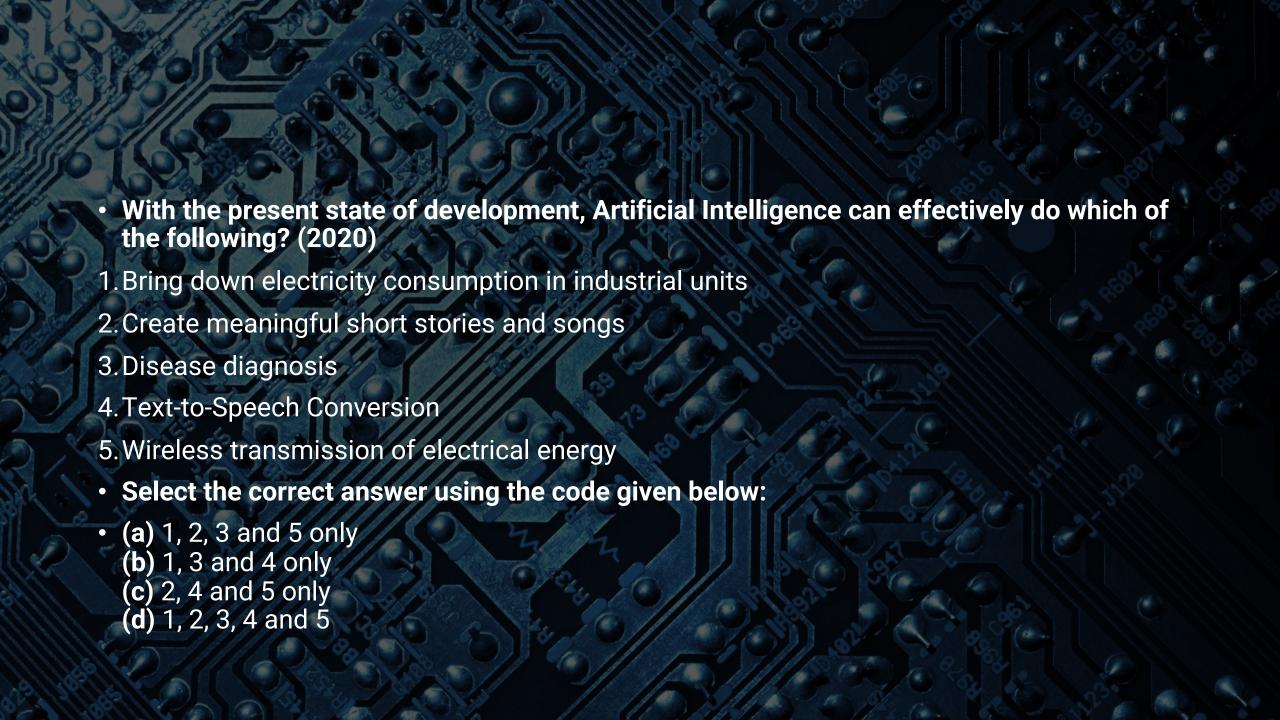
To tackle these challenges, 28 major countries, including the United States, China, India, and the European Union, signed the Bletchley Park Declaration at this first-ever Al Safety Summit.

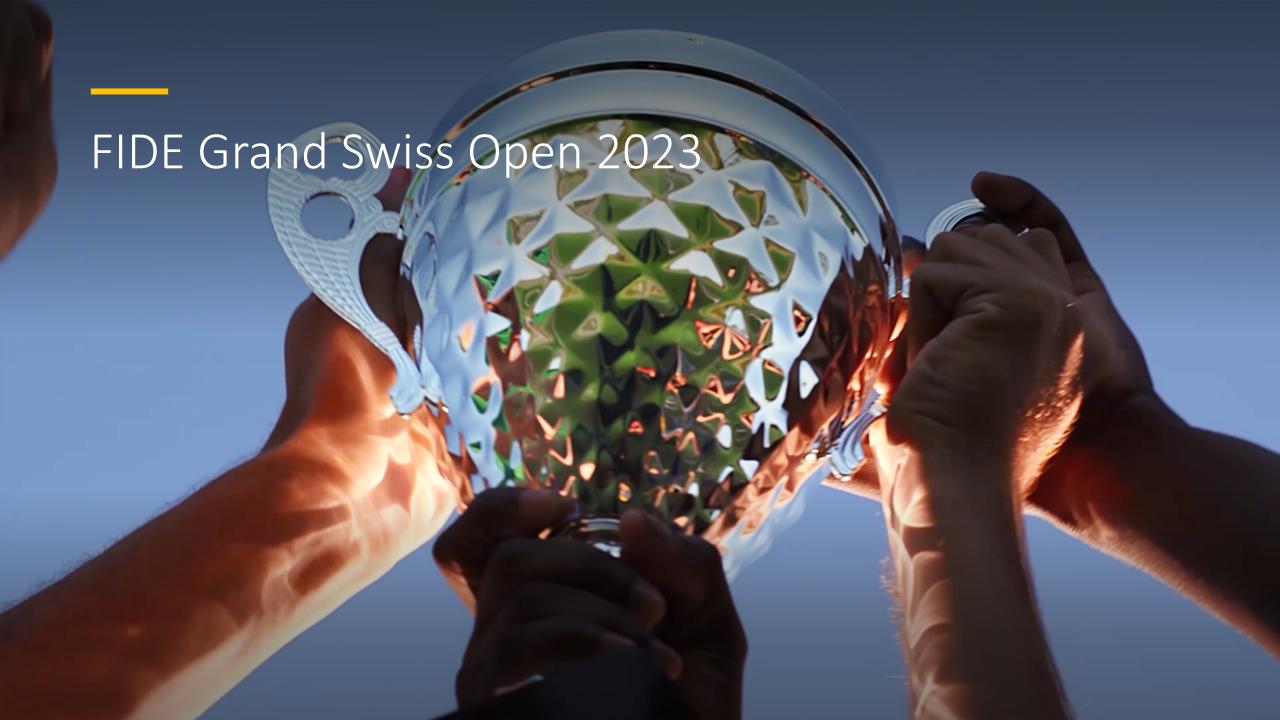


- India's Stance at the Summit:
- India has shifted from a stance of not considering AI regulation to actively formulating regulations based on a risk-based, userharm approach.
  - India called for a global framework for the expansion of <u>"ethical" AI</u> tools, signaling a commitment to responsible AI usage

India has shown interest in establishing regulatory bodies at both domestic and international levels to ensure the responsible use of AI.

Digital India Act, 2023 which is yet to Implement, is expected to introduce issue-specific regulations for online intermediaries, including AI-based platforms.



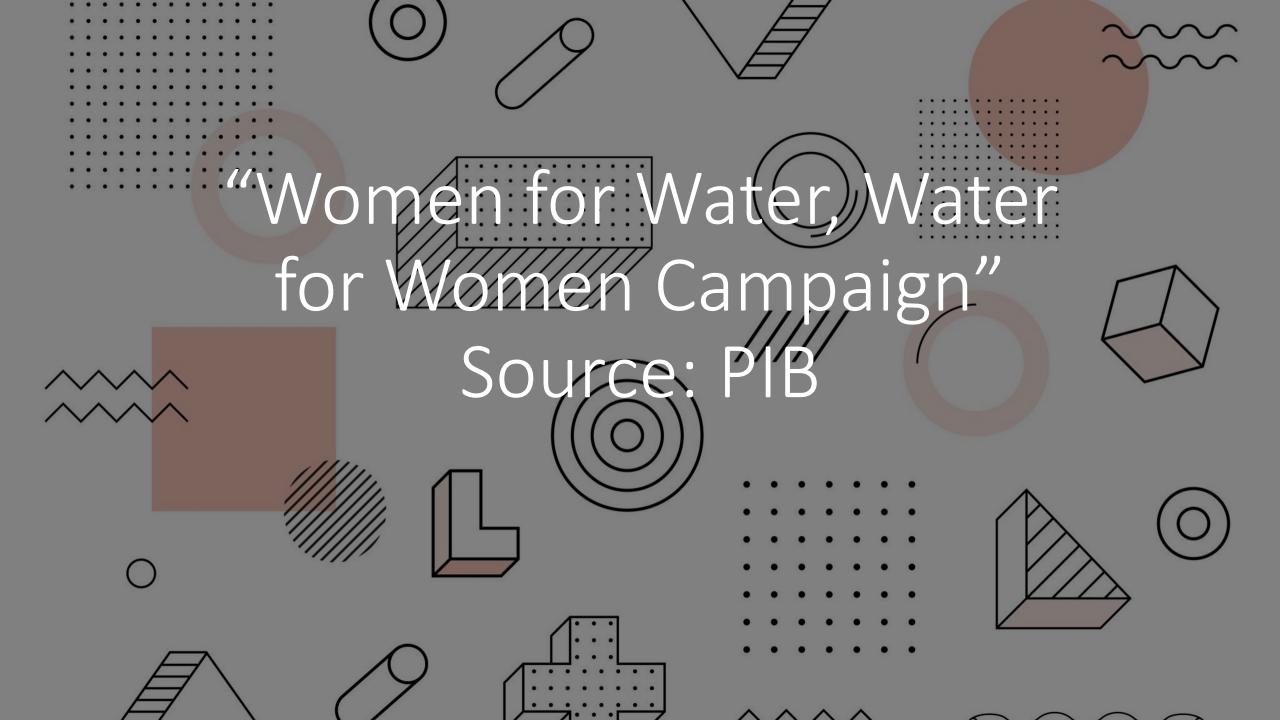








- Consider the following statements in respect of the 44th Chess Olympiad, 2022:(2023)
- 1. It was the first time that Chess Olympiad was held in India.
- 2. The official mascot was named Thambi'.
- 3. The trophy for the winning team in the open section is the Vera Menchik Cup.
- 4. The trophy for the winning team in the women's section is the Hamilton-Russell Cup.
- How many of the statements given above are correct?
- **(a)** Only one
  - (b) Only two
  - (c) Only three
  - (d) All four

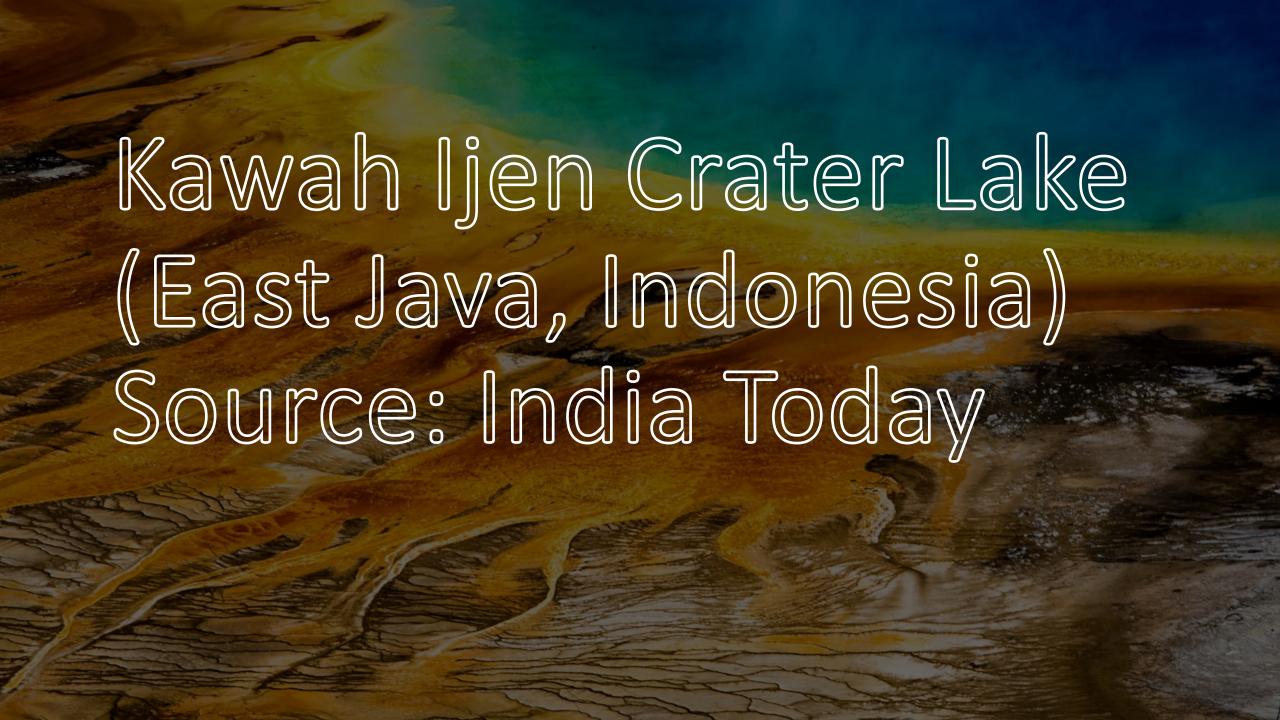


The "Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign" launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs aims to empower women in water governance.

Under it, women will visit water treatment plants to learn about water treatment processes and quality testing protocols.

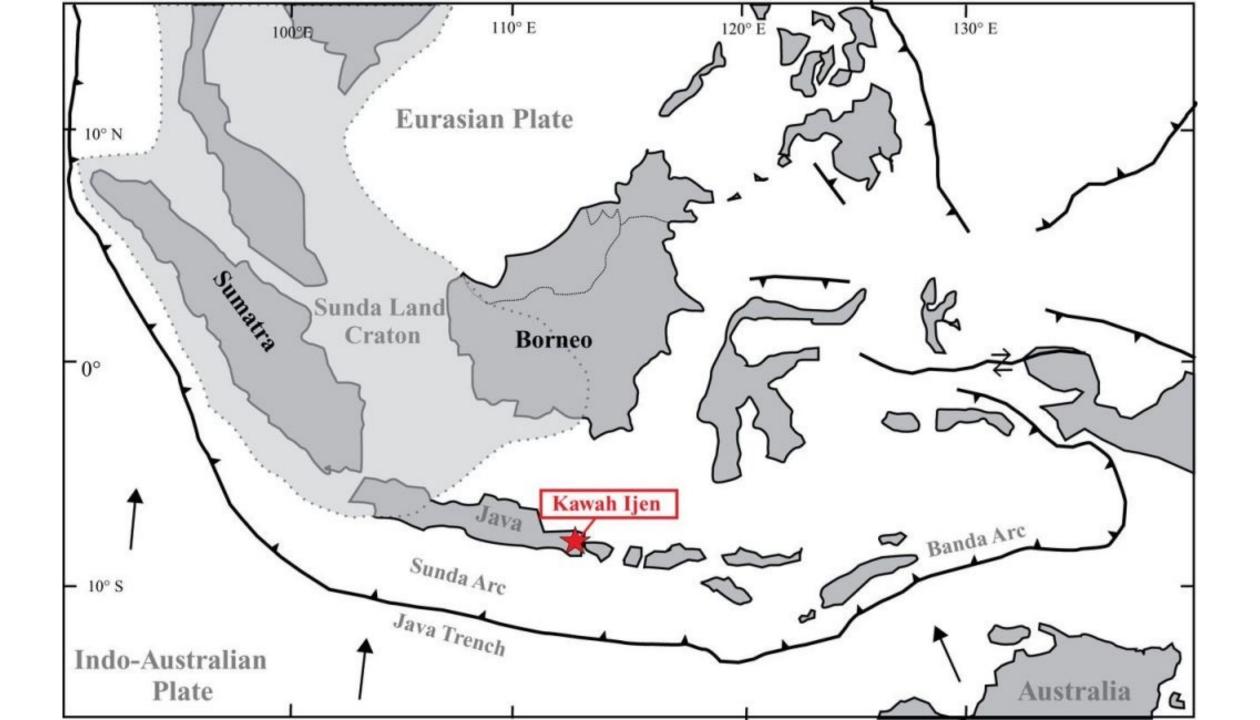
The campaign focuses on instilling a sense of ownership among women towards water infrastructure, with over 15,000 Self Help Groups (SHG) women participating.

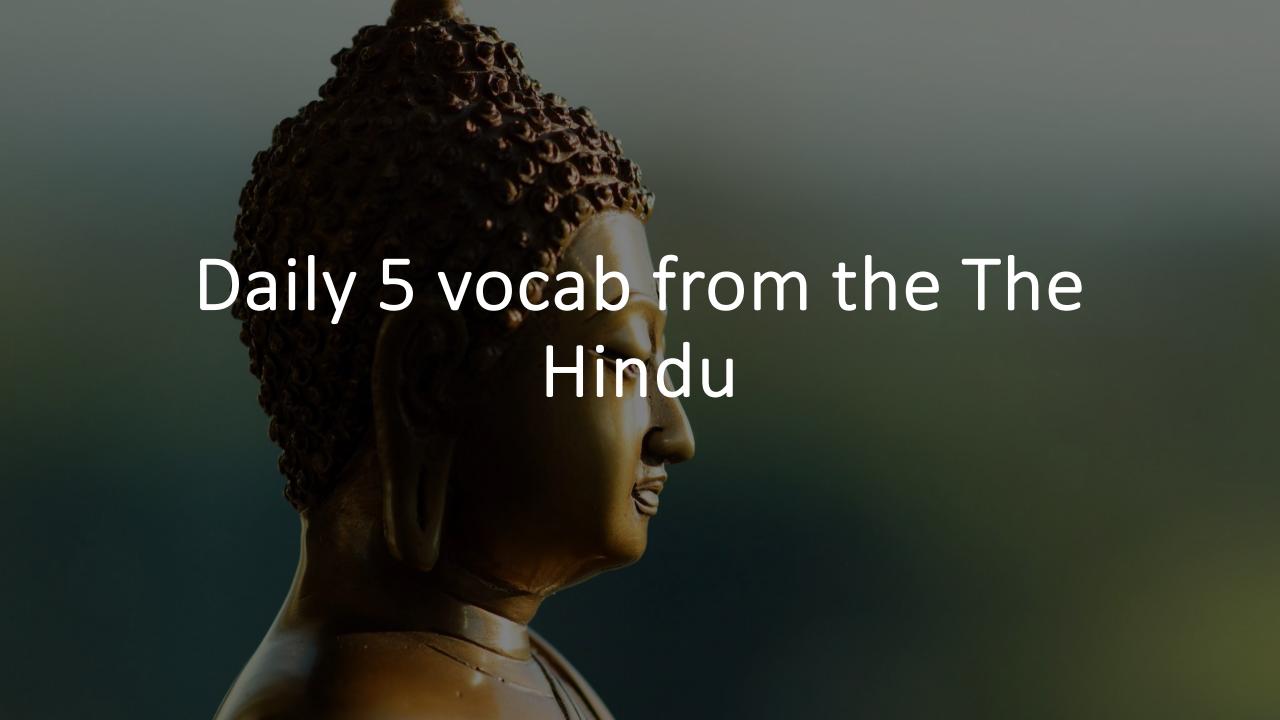
- It promotes inclusivity, and gender equality, and aims to enhance women's role in ensuring access to safe drinking water for their households.
- The campaign is part of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and has the potential to create positive community impact and serve as a model for future initiatives.



- Kawah Ijen Crater Lake in East Java, Indonesia, is the world's largest acidic lake, as it contains high concentrations of sulphuric and hydrochloric acids, making it unswimmable.
- It's easily <u>visible from space</u> (turquoise blue waters) and has a <u>pH as</u> <u>low as 0.5</u>, similar to car battery acid. The lake also emits <u>hot</u>, <u>flammable sulphurous gases</u> that burn with an eerie <u>blue flame</u>, blue fire, creating a mesmerizing nighttime spectacle. Despite its harsh conditions, there is <u>life in the form of microbial</u>



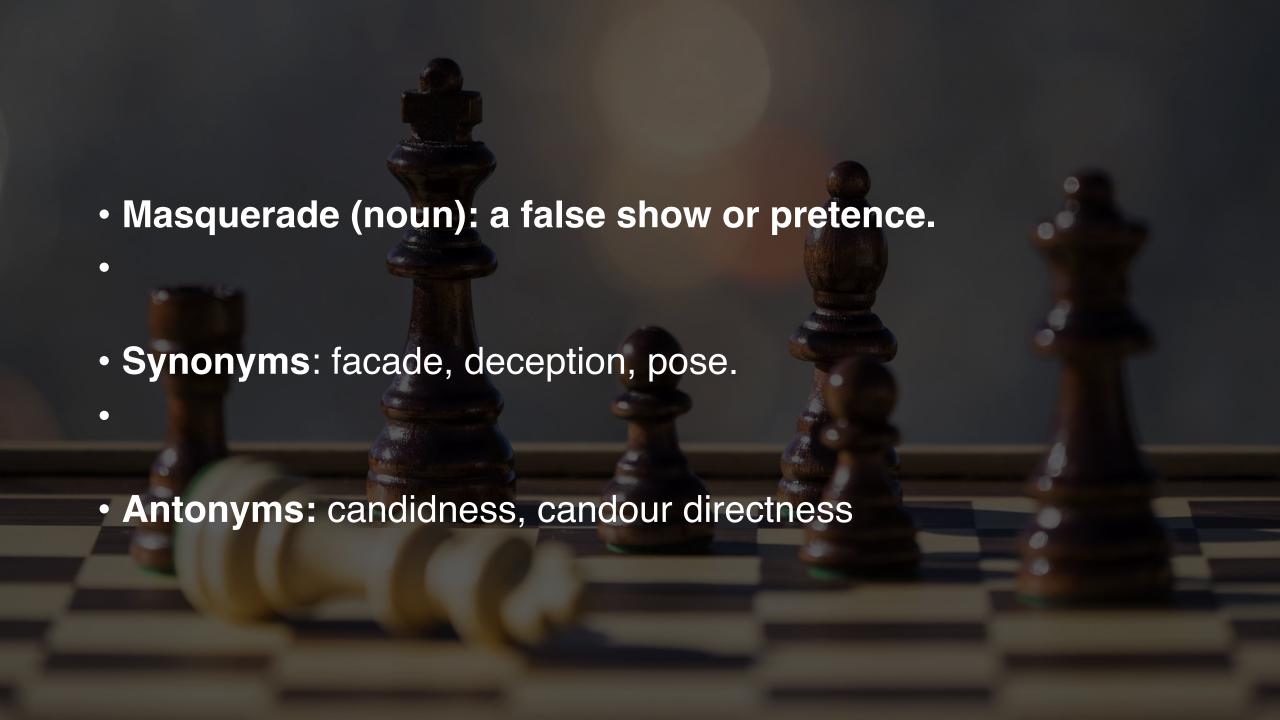




Enmeshed (verb): cause to become entangled in something.

Synonyms: entangle, ensnare, snare

Antonyms: disentangled, untangled, liberated





Ambivalence (noun): the state of having mixed feelings or contradictory ideas about something or someone.

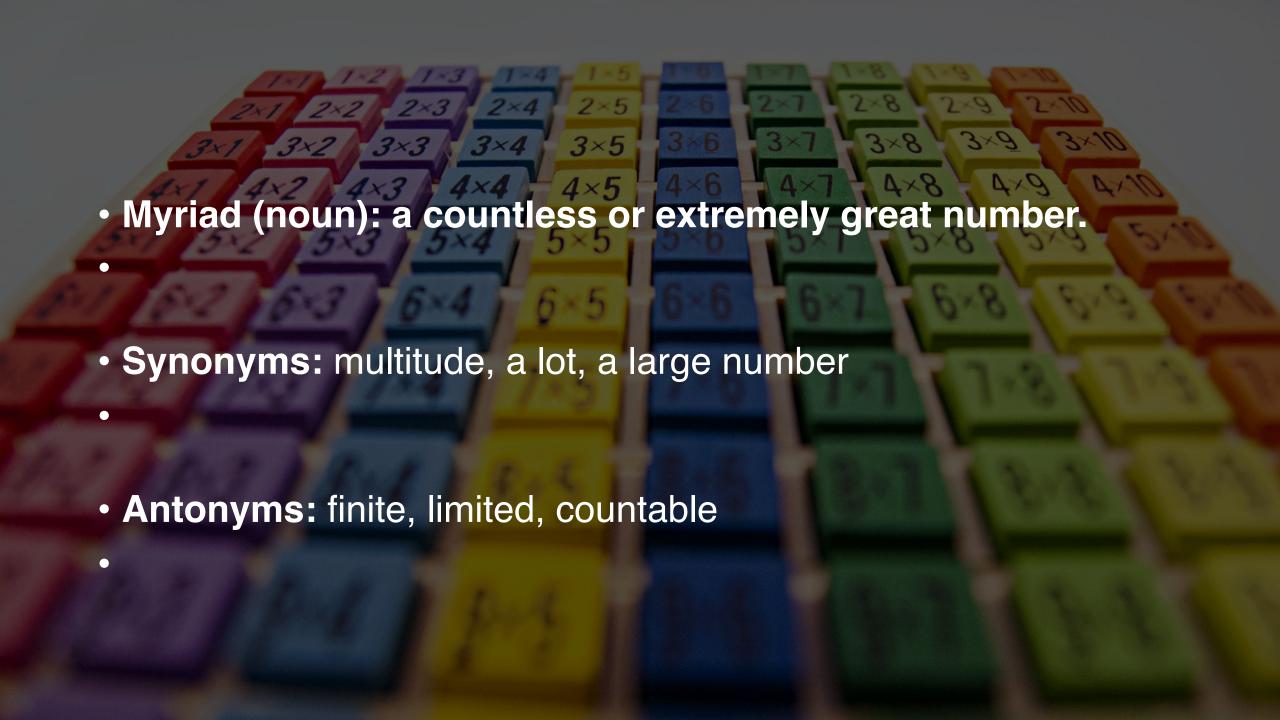


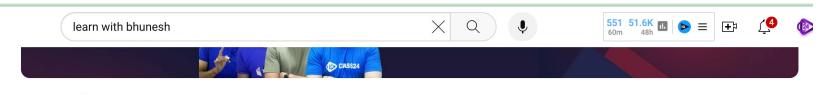
**Synonyms:** equivocation, uncertainty, unsureness

Mawkish (adjective): sentimental in a feeble or sickly way.

• Synonyms: sentimental, oversentimental, overemotional

• Antonyms: unsentimental, unadulterated, unvarnished







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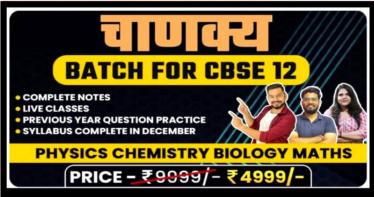


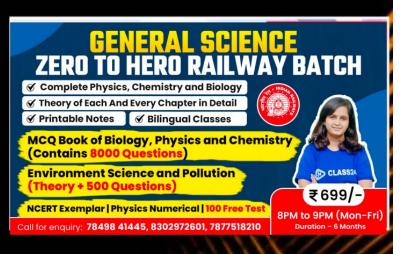




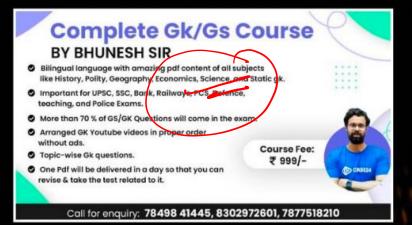














# STEP 1

### STEP 2

# STEP 3



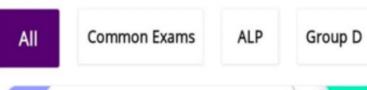
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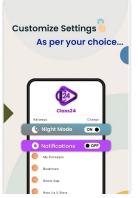


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