

Daily Current Affairs



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BY BHUNESH SIR
(TILL NOV 23)

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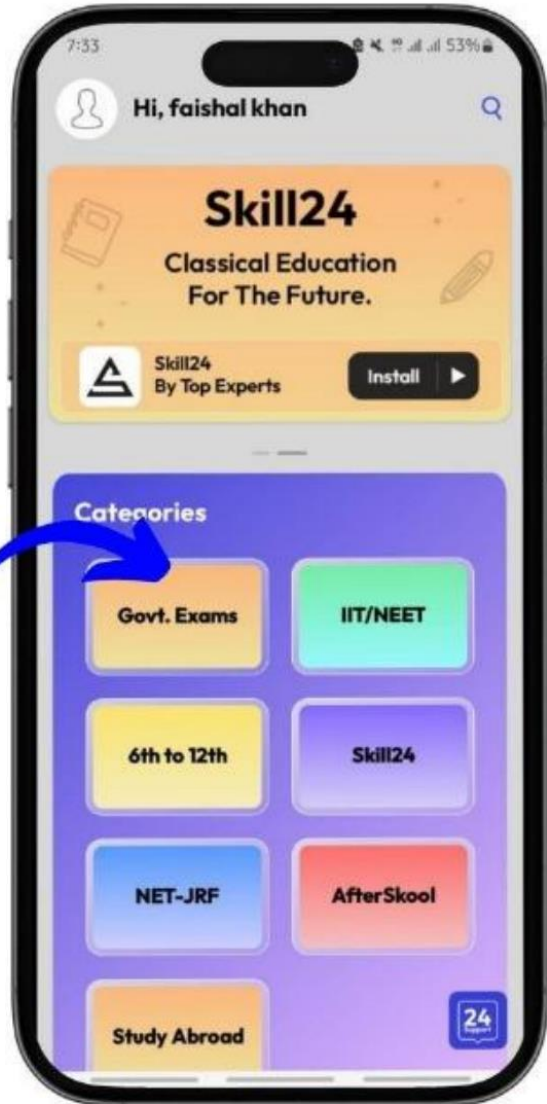
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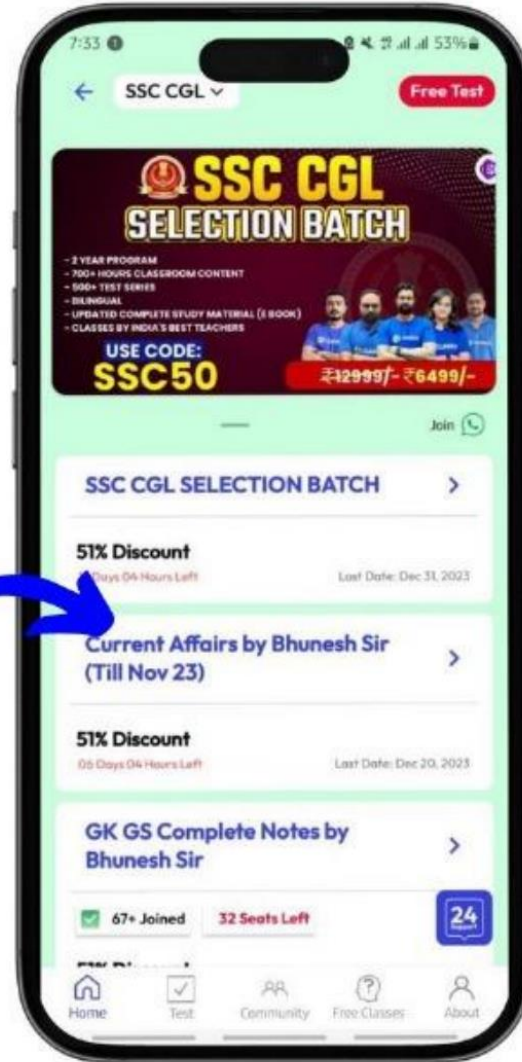
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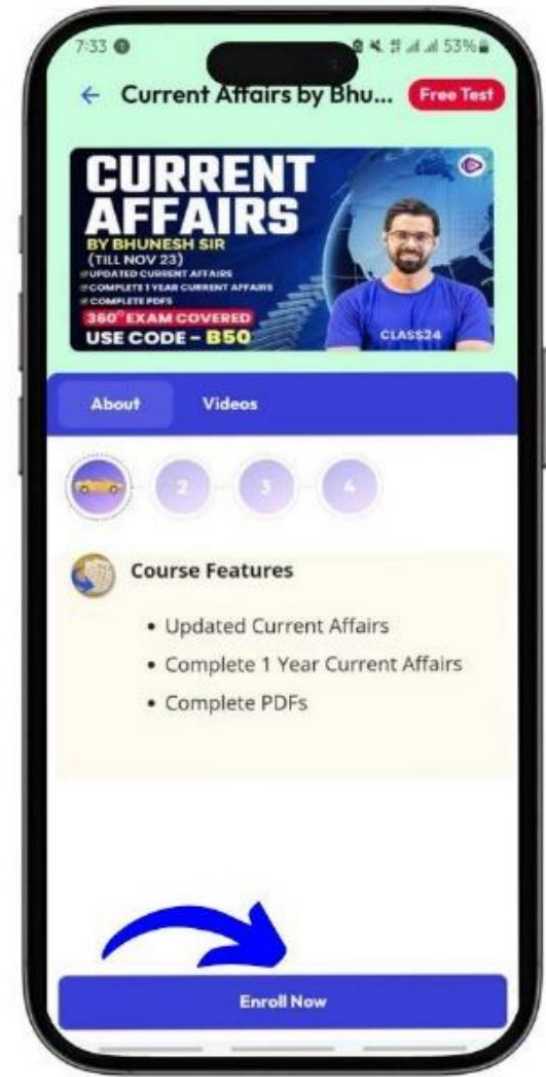
Step-2




Step-3



Step-4





**Do today's duty, fight today's
temptation; do not weaken and distract
yourself by looking forward to things
you cannot see, and could not
understand if you saw them.**

Charles Kingsley

BOARD RECONSTITUTED
Vijay Shekhar Sharma
resigns from Paytm
BUSINESS » PAGE 14

LEGISLATOR
Ghazal singer
Pankaj Udhas
passes away
NEWS » PAGE 6

MAKING HISTORY
Pak. gets first woman
CM in Maryam Nawaz
WORLD » PAGE 12

DATA POINT
Ghouth's attacks
hit Suez Canal
transits
Container tonnage falls
by 82% in February
OPINION » PAGE 9

CAPITALS' DAY OUT
Kapp, Radha and
Shafali star for Delhi
SPORT » PAGE 17

INSIDE



PM to inaugurate
three ISRO
facilities today

TRIVANANTHAPURAM
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will review the progress of the Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme and dedicate three facilities of the ISRO to the nation during a visit to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre here on Tuesday. » PAGE 3

75% of hate
speech events in
NJP-ruled States'

BHUDELKESH
About 75% of hate speech events recorded in 2023 took place in BJP-ruled States, Union Territories and Delhi, according to a report released by Washington DC-based India Hate Lab. » PAGE 4

Sweden to join
NATO as Hungary
ratifies bid

BUDAPEST
Hungary's parliament on Monday ratified Sweden's bid to join the U.S.-led NATO alliance, clearing the final obstacle for an enlargement of the military alliance spurred by Russia's war. » PAGE 12

Israel proposes
evacuation plan
for Gaza civilians

GAZA STRIP
Israel's military proposed a plan for "evacuating" civilians from Gaza Strip, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said a ground invasion of the city of Rafah was necessary for "total victory". » PAGE 12

HC rejects Gyanvapi mosque panel's appeal against puja

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI
Puja will continue in the southern cellar of the Varanasi-based Gyanvapi mosque as the Allahabad High Court on Monday dismissed the plea filed by the Varanasi Intezama Masjid Committee challenging a district court's order to allow prayers.
The High Court also observed that the 1993 decision by the then Uttar Pradesh government (headed by the Samajwadi Party) to stop the worship inside the cellar was "illegal".
The Varanasi district court on January 31 allowed prayers inside the "Vyasa Ka Tekhkhana" (then basement) area of the Gyanvapi mosque complex, adjoining the Kashi Vishwanath temple.
The district court's order came on a plea filed by one Shalendra Kumar Pathak 'Vyasa' seeking wor-



Security personnel deployed near the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi on Monday. (PTI)

1993 restraining the Vyasa family as well as the devotees from performing worship and rituals at the site was a "wrong being perpetuated".
The court further noted that Article 25 of the Constitution grants freedom of religion to every person, and the Vyasa family, which continued worship and rituals in the cellar, could not be denied access by an oral order.
The court maintained that the mosque committee failed to establish *prima facie* the right over the disputed property, while the plaintiff, the Vyasa family, had succeeded in building up a strong *prima facie* case negating the stand of the appellant.
The court added that the existence of Vyasa *tekhhana* (cellar) owned by Vyasa family in 1937 is *prima facie* proof of the possession claimed by the plaintiff till 1993.

Series sealed



We did it! Shubman Gill and Dhruv Jurel celebrate after guiding India to a five-wicket win over England in the fourth Test in Ranchi on Monday. The victory helped Rohit Sharma's men take an unassailable 3-1 lead in the five-match series. (K. DEEPAK REPORT ON PAGE 10)

Several Indians released by Russian Army: MEA

Ministry of External Affairs says it 'strongly' took up such cases with Russian authorities

Brother of a missing J&K resident says their calls to the Indian mission have gone unanswered

'Committed' to secure discharge of Indians in all relevant cases from Russian Army, says Ministry

Vijaya Singh
NEW DELHI
The Ministry of External Affairs said on Monday that several Indians who joined the Russian Army were already discharged after such cases were "strongly" taken up with the Russian authorities.
The Ministry said it has "seen some inaccurate reports in the media regarding Indians with the Russian Army seeking help for discharge."
The *Hindu* had reported that several workers hired as security helpers for the Russian Army have approached the Indian Embassy in Moscow seeking the government's help to



J&K resident Zahoor Ahmad Sheikh, who joined as a security helper with the Russian Army last year. (SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT)

months ago and reached Russia in December 2023. He regularly spoke with us but on January 1 he told us that he was going for training and his number would be unreachable for the next three months," Mr. Amin said. He added that the worker who was with Mr. Zahoor and had escaped the war zone called their father and said they were safe. "We had been waiting till then as Zahoor told us he would be in a no-network zone, but when we started calling him, his Indian and Russian phone numbers were not reachable," Mr. Amin said.
An agent helped the family lodge a complaint with the emergency num-

bers of the Indian Embassy on January 23 and submitted copies of their documents with the mission.
We have written several mails. Our calls to the Indian mission either remain unanswered or they say the officials are in a meeting. They keep saying that all papers work has been done and sent further to the Russian authorities," Mr. Amin said.
Contract in Russia
He added that Mr. Zahoor holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture and went to Russia as he was promised the job of a security helper. "He was made to sign a contract that was in Rus-

sian language. He did not know he will be sent to the war zone. We request the government to get him back," Mr. Amin said.
Another J&K resident, Anand Yusuf Kumar, who was hit by a bullet during training, has also appealed for a contract.
Surinder Paul (27), a resident of Jammu, said he was stuck in a bunker with another Indian in Ukraine. "We first approached the Indian mission through our agent on January 24. All documents were provided but we are still here. We want to come back. The Russians tell us that we cannot leave as the contract we signed states that we have to be here for a year," said Mr. Paul.

HC sets aside T.N. Minister's discharge in land scam case

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The public should not be led to believe that a trial against a politician in this State is nothing but a mockery of dispensing criminal justice, the Madras High Court observed on Monday and set aside the discharge of Rural Development Minister I. Periyasamy from an alleged irregular government plot against cases.



I. Periyasamy

Justice N. Anand Venkatesh, in the trial court's March 17, 2023 discharge order was "completely specious and perverse", and said: "The legitimacy of the administration of criminal justice will be eroded and the public confidence will be shaken if MLAs and Ministers,

other accused (former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi's personal security officer C. Ganesan to whom the plot was allotted in 2008 and real estate developer Kavitha to whom the former had conveyed the plot) were ordered to appear before the special court on March 28. The three accused were also directed to furnish a bond for ₹1 lakh each, along with two sureties, and cooperate in speedy trial through cross-examination of the witnesses on the same day they get examined. "If the accused adopt dilatory tactics, it is open to trial court to remand them," the judge said.
He ordered the trial to be conducted on a day-to-day basis and completed before July 31.

Centre 'examining' Indian tech firm sanctioned by EU, U.S. for 'close ties' with Russian companies

Subhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The government is examining details of an Indian tech company, involved in semiconductor research, that was sanctioned by the European Union on Friday for its dealings with Russia. The company is a partner of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for a very recent "Armanidhar Bharat" (Make in India) collaboration, officials confirmed to *The Hindu*.
The company, Bengaluru-based high-tech firm SIZ Microsystems, has a complex history as it has been banned by the U.S. from "dual-use" technology that is an industry partner for a project to research fabrication of chips, that was announced in collaboration with Indian Intel in a joint project in Madras," an official said, confirming the govern-

ment to travel to Russia, his lawyers confirmed. It indicated that the company had urged and close ties with Russian counterparts.
However, the company and its directors remained unavailable for comment on the latest sanctions, which were announced to mark two years of the Russian war in Ukraine.
The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) declined to comment, but officials told *The Hindu* all three Ministries concerned — the MEA, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (CIM) and MeitY — were aware of the announcement, as well as the links to the government.
"This is a known company that is an industry partner for a project to research fabrication of chips, that was announced in collaboration with Indian Intel in a joint project in Madras," an official said, confirming the govern-

Under scanner

European Union's latest sanctions after the second anniversary of the Russia-Ukraine war have reached India.
■ SIZ Microsystems (Entity number 610) has been sanctioned for transactions within EU for "dual-use" technological goods.
■ The firm had signed a collaboration agreement with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and IIT-Madras for production of silicon chips in October 2022.
■ It had been in the bankruptcy courts on account of non-payment of tax on Lookout Circular in 2022 when he sought permission to travel to Russia.
The company is an industry partner and MeitY's research partner, the official said.
When asked if any "due diligence" had been done with regard to the company, given its legal complications, the official said that the choice of partner had been made by IIT-Madras, where MeitY had set up the Centre for Programmable Photonic Integrated Circuit and Systems in 2020.



Microchips

In November 2023, SIZ Microsystems had been added to the U.S.'s restricted "Entities List" for supplying "U.S.-origin integrated circuits" to the Russian military despite the transaction being banned after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, without the requisite licence.
On Friday, the EU's latest list named as "SIZ Microsystems India as 'Entity number 620'.
The Hindu reached out to SIZ Microsystems directly but did not receive a response to the EU sanctions. Calls to their lawyers, who represented them in a bankruptcy matter where the company's head office building was attached by the Debt Recovery Tribunal in Mumbai in September 2022, went unanswered.
With inputs from Aron Deep in Delhi, Mini in Bengaluru and R. Sujatha in Chennai

IN BRIEF



CISCE postpones Class 12 chemistry exam to March 21

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) on Monday postponed the Class 12 board examination for chemistry to March 21 citing unforeseen circumstances. Please note, the ISC Year 2024 chemistry paper 1 (Theory) Examination, scheduled for Monday, 26th February 2024, has been postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. The paper has been rescheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2 p.m. ...

SC to seek SoP for ease of access to disabled in airports

The Supreme Court on Monday said it will consider asking the Centre and stakeholders, including Airports Authority of India, to frame a standard operating procedure (SoP) to ensure ease of access to persons with disabilities in airports. A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud made the oral observation after hearing the submissions made on behalf of a wheelchair-bound woman who was asked to stand up for security check at the Kolkata airport.

Grant permanent commission to women: SC to Coast Guard

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday urged the Indian Coast Guard to ensure that women are granted permanent commission. "Women cannot be left out. If you do not do it, we will do it. So take a look at that," Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, heading a three-judge Bench, addressed Attorney-General R. Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre. Mr. Venkataramani said operational difficulties in granting permanent commissions to Short Service Commission Officers. "You must have women on board," Chief Justice Chandrachud stood firm, adjourning the case to Friday.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by Indian Coast Guard officer Priyanka Tyagi seeking the grant of permanent commission to eligible women Short Service Commission Officers of the force.

Firm stands: The Supreme Court had frowned on the government's suggestion to allow 10% women permanent commission. FILE PHOTO

"You speak of 'nari shakti' (woman power). Now show it here. You are in the deep end of the sea in this matter. You must come up with a policy which treats women fairly," the court had observed in an earlier hearing.

"Patriarchal approach" It had wondered whether the Centre was adopting a "patriarchal approach" despite judgments upholding permanent commis-

sions to women officers in the armed forces. "Why are you being so patriarchal? You do not want to see the face of women in the Coast Guard... Now, the Coast Guard must come up with a policy," the top court had said.

The Supreme Court had frowned on the government's suggestion to allow 10% women permanent commission, saying women were to "lesser benefits".

Voice of love and longing fails silent

Pankaj Udhas started as a tabla player; later, he was introduced to playback singing but he switched to non-film ghazals where he found success; even when Hindi cinema moved away from ghazals, his concerts continued to attract crowds

Anand Kumar

The soulful voice that soothed broken hearts, Pankaj Udhas passed away after a prolonged illness in Mumbai on Monday at 72.

At the cusp of 1980, when the "sargary young man" had sucked the melody out of lives, Udhas following the footsteps of Mehdi Hasan and Jagjit Singh, popularised ghazals among the youth. Breaking away from the classical format, he liberated the romantic form from Persianised Urdu to convey pain in simple verse like *Deewaron Se Milkar Rona Acheha Lagta Hai* and twined the plaintive orchestration to create a new, youthful riff that could declare *Mohe Aal Na Jag Se Laaj Main Iti Zor Se Naahi Aai Ki Ghungroo Toot Gaye*.

The image of an elegantly dressed Udhas with a harmonium, not a hair out of place, serenading ever so softly into the microphone, *Aur Ahista Kiye Bostere Dhadakun Tere Raha Hoga*, is etched in the memory of his fans. Letters who grew up at a time when *Chitrahaar* was giv-



PANKAJ UDHAS (1951-2024)

ing way to music videos and the middle class was opening up to the idea of attending ghazal concerts.

But the song that immortalised Udhas was *Chithi Aayi Hai* which he sang for Mahesh Bhatt's *Namaste*. Released in 1986, the Lakshmi-Pyarelal composition, *Zor Se Naahi Aai Ki Ghungroo Toot Gaye*, them of diaspora and migrants.

Picturised on Udhas, the song was addressed to the Indian diaspora in the film but such is the verve in Udhas's voice that Anand Bakshi's lines became the epitome of every migrant's yearning for his home. Letters gave way to emails, Skype, and Zoom calls but

the song continued to create a lump in the throat every time Udhas raised his pitch to plead *Panchhi Dhinra Toi Ke Aaja, Desh Paragya Ke Aaja*.

The song made him a household name after he had already knocked out young hearts with *Purabi Na Bole Bole* and *Yun (Qawaab, 1985)*. It was followed by *Ek Majnoon (1988)*, where he composed the music and rendered the popular number *Chandi Jaisa Rang Hai Tera*.

The same year, he sang the popular duet *Aaj Phir Tumpe Pyar Aaya Hai* with Amaradha Paulwal for Feroz Khan's *Dayavan*. Another unforgettable

heartfelt ditty that continues to evoke pain is *Jeyee To Jeyeen Kaisa* that he rendered for Nadeem Shiravan in *Saagar (1994)*. His voice could engage the consoling *Chitthi Aayi Hai* in a truck driver. We all have covered many miles listening to a bus driver playing *Na Kujre Ki Dhaar (Chitthi Aayi Hai)* on his rickety cassette player.

Hailing from a family of landlords in Choralbad town in Rajkot, Udhas was introduced to music by his father, a government servant who loved to play rabab. Udhas started as a tabla player but soon switched to the classical genre under the guidance of Ustad Ghulam Nabi Khan. His family shifted to Mumbai, Udhas learned under Navrang Naagar and the support of the Bhandi Bazar Music Centre. He was married to Asha Bhosle. His elder brothers, Manhar and Nirbhay, were already established performers. It was Manhar who introduced Udhas to playback singing. After initial setbacks, Udhas switched to non-film ghazals where he found instant success with albums

like *Aahat, Mugarrrar, Tanavaran*, and *Mehfil*.

Many of his popular ghazals revolved around *palamona* (bagoni) and *mekhanda* (tavern). Ghazals like *Ek Taraf Uska Ghar, Ek Taraf Mulkada*, and *Sharab Cheez Hi Aisi Hai* became an essential feature of his concerts, but he also faced criticism for normalising excessive alcohol consumption. Udhas held that these were metaphors for the intoxication of the divine in Sufi poetry but the argument did not always hold as he sang *Ek Ek Ho Jaye Phir Ghar Ghate Jaane* with Kishore Kumar in *Ganga Jamunia Saraswati (1988)*. Music companies also pandered to this image by naming his albums *Nasha, Paimana*, and *Madhosh*. Because of his deep emotional connection with the diaspora, the Padma Shri was always in great demand for overseas concerts, and performed at the Royal Albert Hall in London and Madison Square in New York.

Even when Hindi cinema moved away from ghazals, his concerts continued to have a faithful following.

Govt. launches project aimed at anaemia control in girls

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Centre launched an initiative on Friday to improve nutrition in adolescent girls using Ayurveda.

The project for anaemia control under Mission Utkarsh will be a joint public health initiative by the Ministry of Ayush and Women and Child Development and would be launched in five aspirational districts first as a pilot project.

The two ministries signed an MoU for the scheme. Union Minister for Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal and Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani were present at the ceremony.

Under Mission Utkarsh, 15 central ministries or departments will work to elevate districts at the bottom. In States and national averages. This project will cover approximately 10 crore Anaemi Prone Centres in the five districts.

Ayush systems, backed by evidence from institutions like ICMR, will offer cost-effective solution to tackle anaemia. Union Minister Smriti Irani said.

Modi says govt. must not meddle in lives of middle-class people

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Inaugurating Bharat Tex, supposedly one of the largest textile exhibitions globally, here on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in the next few years, he will stop the government from interfering in the lives of middle-class people.

He asked people associated with textile industry to think out of the box to find new markets.

"Don't leave this work to the government. It will spoil your efforts. I am of the view that the government should be kept out of the lives of people," he said.

Mr. Modi added that in the past 10 years he did not allow the government to meddle with the lives of middle-class people and will ensure that the same is true of the next five years.

"Governments should help poor to access health and education," he said.

India-specific AI model to find gestational age developed

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

Researchers have developed an India-specific artificial intelligence model to precisely determine the gestational age of a foetus in the second and third trimester of pregnancy.

The model has been designed by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras and the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, Faridabad, as part of an interdisciplinary group for advanced research on birth outcomes.

DBT India initiative supported by the Centre. Over 3,500 exhibitors and 3,000 buyers from over 100 countries are participating in the event.

Mr. Modi said when he came to power in 2014, the valuation of textile market was less than ₹ lakh crore and now it had now crossed ₹ lakh crore. "There is a 25% increase in yarn, fabric, and apparel production," the Prime Minister said.

The Garbhini-GA2 accurately estimates the foetus' age, reducing error by almost three times

The Garbhini-GA2 accurately estimates the foetus' age, reducing error by almost three times that of current models. The Indian data would help to provide appropriate care for pregnant women and determine the gestational age of birth, reducing maternal and infant mortality rates.

Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, said GARBHINI, the department's flagship programme, was being validated across the country.

Several investigators, including Himanshu Sinha, associate professor, Bharat and Jyoti Mehta School of Biosciences, Department of Biotechnology, IIT Madras, and Shriniji Bhatnagar, principal investigator of the programme and a distinguished professor

at THSTI, were involved in the project.

The findings were published in the peer-reviewed *Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia*.

Mr. Sinha said advanced data science tools was used to build tools to predict unfavourable birth outcomes and the first step to a more accurate GA models help to provide appropriate care for pregnant women and determine the gestational age of birth, reducing maternal and infant mortality rates.

End-to-end partnership. Ms. Bhatnagar said the application of sophisticated data science tools was not sufficient. Ensuring that technological advances yield tangible benefits in the clinical realm lies in the end-to-end partnership between clinicians and data scientists. "Such collaboration ensures that the development of solutions that are not only sound but also clinically relevant and seamlessly integrated into healthcare workflows," she said.

CROSSWORD 14108

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting positions for clues. The grid is 15x15.

- Across
9 Vegetable and mushroom pie cooked in ceremonial burner (5,4)
10 Small of a tomato (2)
11 Agents of strong players (7)
12 Work for charred (17)
13 Evenly trimmed 'pear cocoa plant' (5)
14 Vegetable gift? pig (9)

SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid with some numbers filled in. The grid is 9x9.

- 16 Male, ultimately corrupt politicians, 24x7 and 7x27 (15)
19 Entertaining theme after exclusive party with Snop Dogg, perhaps (5,4)
20 Story, say, about subject (5)
24 Commercial flight of Indian aviation company on duty in Rhode Island (3,4)
26 SPECTRE's leaders, in Bond's overreaching grasp, grumble about ridiculous totalitarianism (7)
27 It's not sure, right or wrong (5)
28 Thought of setting matter, replacing iPad finally with books (9)
Down
1 Stylish cop with suspect (6)
2 Spooner's sullen, mercurial, absurd (8)
3 Ornamental case shielding volatile core (10)
4 Unhealthy atmosphere dictated setter's breathless answer (6)
5 Country primarily following ludicrously despotic authoritarian (8)
6 Pet's upsurge over snack (4)
7 Adjusting for outliers in metro districts, urban left's outperforming initially (6)
8 Wandering waltzer bored by opening of zoo rides (8)
15 Latticed formation fencing grazier's lime (6)
16 Maiden! Tight maiden over - spinner's first; handed badly? (8)
17 Mate, soft after resisting a most title (8)
18 Ran and spotted pompously about exercise (8)
20 Dawn of some petrosaur or archosaur (6)
21 European bad boy and popular girl going out (6)
23 What's left in test at Edgimston? (4)
25 Vibe of Jaguar car oddly ignored (4)

FAITH

Guidance of noble men
Ordinary human beings may not be able to understand fully the qualities of God. Sri Muralidharan Swarnigal said in a discourse that the good deeds, devotion and penance performed by a human being over various births make him born a pious personality (Mahan). Only such great people can reveal God's qualities. Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita that the man of knowledge finds refuge in Him at the end of many births. It is hard to find such great souls people (Bhoomam janmanamantie - Bhagavad Gita Chapter VII-49). Sage Valmiki, a hunter by profession, became an ascetic with sage Narada's blessings. Valmiki could not even pronounce the name "Kama" properly. As the hunter chanted fast "Maara, Maara" in succession, it sounded "Kama Rama", and he was freed from his past inglorious life. It is said sage Bharugu Maharshi was born as a brahmin to write Sri Ramayanam. For Nirguna Brahman (Brahman beyond time and space) the syllable "OM" is prefixed. The syllable need not be used for Saguna Brahman (Brahman with qualities and gunas). Kama is just a two-letter word, and it is called "Tharaka mantra", which signifies retrieving a person from the sea of samsara. So many noble and pious men like Azhwhars and Nayanmars, Sri Adh Sankaras, Ramamujacharya, and Madhavacharya were born in this world to uplift the ordinary people.

Voice of love and longing falls silent

Pankaj Udhas started as a tabla player; later, he was introduced to playback singing but he switched to non-film ghazals where he found success; even when Hindi cinema moved away from ghazals, his concerts continued to attract crowds

Anuj Kumar

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The image of an elegantly dressed Udhas with a harmonium, not a hair out of place, whispering ever so softly into the microphone, *Aur Ahista Kijiye Baatein Dhadkain Koi Sun Raha Hoga*, is etched in the memory of most of those who grew up at a time when *Chitrahaar* was giv-



PANKAJ UDHAS (1951-2024)

ing way to music videos and the middle class was opening up to the idea of attending ghazal concerts.

But the song that immortalised Udhas was *Chithi Aayi Hai* which he sang for Mahesh Bhatt's *Naam*. Released in 1986, the Laxmikant-Pyarelal composition emerged as the anthem of diaspora and migrants.

Picturised on Udhas, the song was addressed to the Indian diaspora in the film but such is the verve in Udhas's voice that Anand Bakshi's lines became the epitome of every migrant's yearning for his home. Letters gave way to emails, Skype, and Zoom calls but

the song continued to create a lump in the throat every time Udhas raised his pitch to plead *Panchhi Pinjra Tod Ke Aaja, Desh Parayi Chhod Ke Aaja*.

The song made him a household name after he had already knocked at young hearts with *Purab Na Jaiyo Paschim Na Jaiyo (Jawaab, 1985)*. It was followed by *Ek Hi Maqsad (1988)*, where he composed the music and rendered the popular number *Chandi Jaisa Rang Hai Tera*. The same year, he sang the popular duet *Aaj Phir Tumpe Pyar Aaya Hai* with Anuradha Paudwal for Feroz Khan's *Dayavan*. Another unforgettable

heartfelt ditty that continues to evoke pain is *Jeeye To Jeeyen Kaise* that he rendered for Nadeem Shruvan in *Saaajan (1991)*. His voice could engage the connoisseur as well as the aesthete in a truck driver. We all have covered many miles listening to a bus driver playing *Na Kajre Ki Dhaar (Mohra, 1994)* on his rickety cassette player.

Hailing from a family of landlords in Charkhadi town in Rajkot, Udhas was introduced to music by his father, a government servant who loved to play rabab.

Udhas started as a tabla player but soon switched to the classical genre under the guidance of Ustad Ghulam Qadir Khan. When the family shifted to Mumbai, Udhas learned under Navrang Nagpurkar, an exponent of the Bhandi Bazar Gharana, who also taught Asha Bhosle. His elder brothers, Manhar and Nirmal, were already established performers. It was Manhar who introduced Udhas to playback singing. After initial setbacks, Udhas switched to non-film ghazals where he found instant success with albums

like *Aahat, Muqarrar, Tarannum*, and *Mehfil*.

Many of his popular ghazals revolved around *paimana* (flagon) and *maikada* (tavern). Ghazals like *Ek Taraf Uska Ghar, Ek Taraf Maikada*, and *Sharab Cheez Hi Aisi Hai* became an essential feature of his concerts, but he also faced criticism for normalising excessive alcohol consumption. Udhas held that these were metaphors for the intoxication of the divine in Sufi poetry but the argument did not always hold as he sang *Ek Ek Ho Jaye Phir Ghar Chale Jaana* with Kishore Kumar in *Ganga Jamunaa Saraswati (1988)*. Music companies also pandered to this image by naming his albums *Nasha, Paimana*, and *Madhosh*. Because of his deep emotional connection with the diaspora, the Padma Shri was always in great demand for overseas concerts, and performed at the Royal Albert Hall in London and Madison Square in New York.

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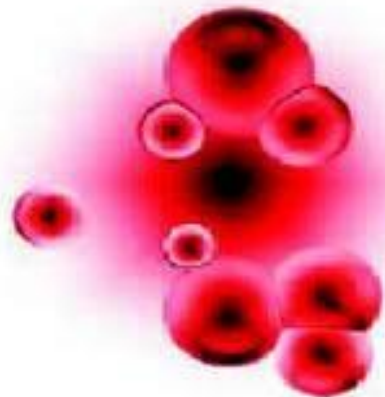
The project for anaemia control under Mission Utkarsh will be a joint public health initiative by the Ministries of Ayush and Women and Child Development and would be launched in five aspirational districts first as a pilot project.

The two ministries signed an MoU for the scheme. Union Minister for Ayush Sarbananda Sonowal and Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani were present at the ceremony.

Under Mission Utkarsh, 15 central ministries or departments will work to elevate districts at the bottom, to State and national averages. This project will cover approximately 10,000 Anganwadi Centres in the five districts.

Ayush systems, backed by evidence from institutions like ICMR, will offer cost-effective solution to tackle anaemia, Union Minister Smriti Irani said.

WAYS TO TACKLE ANAEMIA



CAUSES

- Iron and nutritional deficiency
- Blood loss during menstruation
- Worm infections of the intestine
- Chronic kidney ailments, hypothyroidism and endocrine abnormalities
- Body unable to absorb iron due to medical reasons



SYMPTOMS

Weakness, fatigue, shortness of breath, giddiness, headache, Increased heart-beat, pale and dry skin and irritation in mood.

TREATMENT FOR ANAEMIA

Proper balanced diet. Vegetables rich in iron include spinach, carrots, radish, beetroots, tomatoes, potatoes and green leafy vegetables. Fruits like bananas, apples, pomegranate, sapota.

Iron supplements only under medical advice.

In some cases, blood transfusion.



HOW TO DIAGNOSE

- Blood tests to detect the blood components
- RBC and WBC count
- Complete Blood Picture (CBP) Test
- Bone marrow exam to find iron storage capacity of body





ANEMIA MUKT BHARAT 6x6x6 STRATEGY



Children, 6–59 months of age



Adolescent girls and boys (10–19 years of age)



Pregnant women



Children, 5–9 years of age



Women of reproductive age (20–24 years of age)



Lactating mothers (of 0–6 months child)

6 Beneficiaries



6 Interventions

Prophylactic Iron Folic Acid Supplementation



Deworming



Intensified year-round Behaviour Change Communication Campaign (Solid Body, Smart Mind) including ensuring delayed cord clamping



Texting of Anemia using digital methods and point of care treatment



Mandatory Provision of Iron Folic Acid fortified foods in public health programmes



Addressing non-nutritional causes of anemia in endemic pockets, with special focus on malaria, haemoglobinopathies and fluorosis



6 Institutional Mechanisms



National Anemia Mukta Bharat Unit



Intra Ministerial Coordination



Strengthening Supply Chain and Logistics



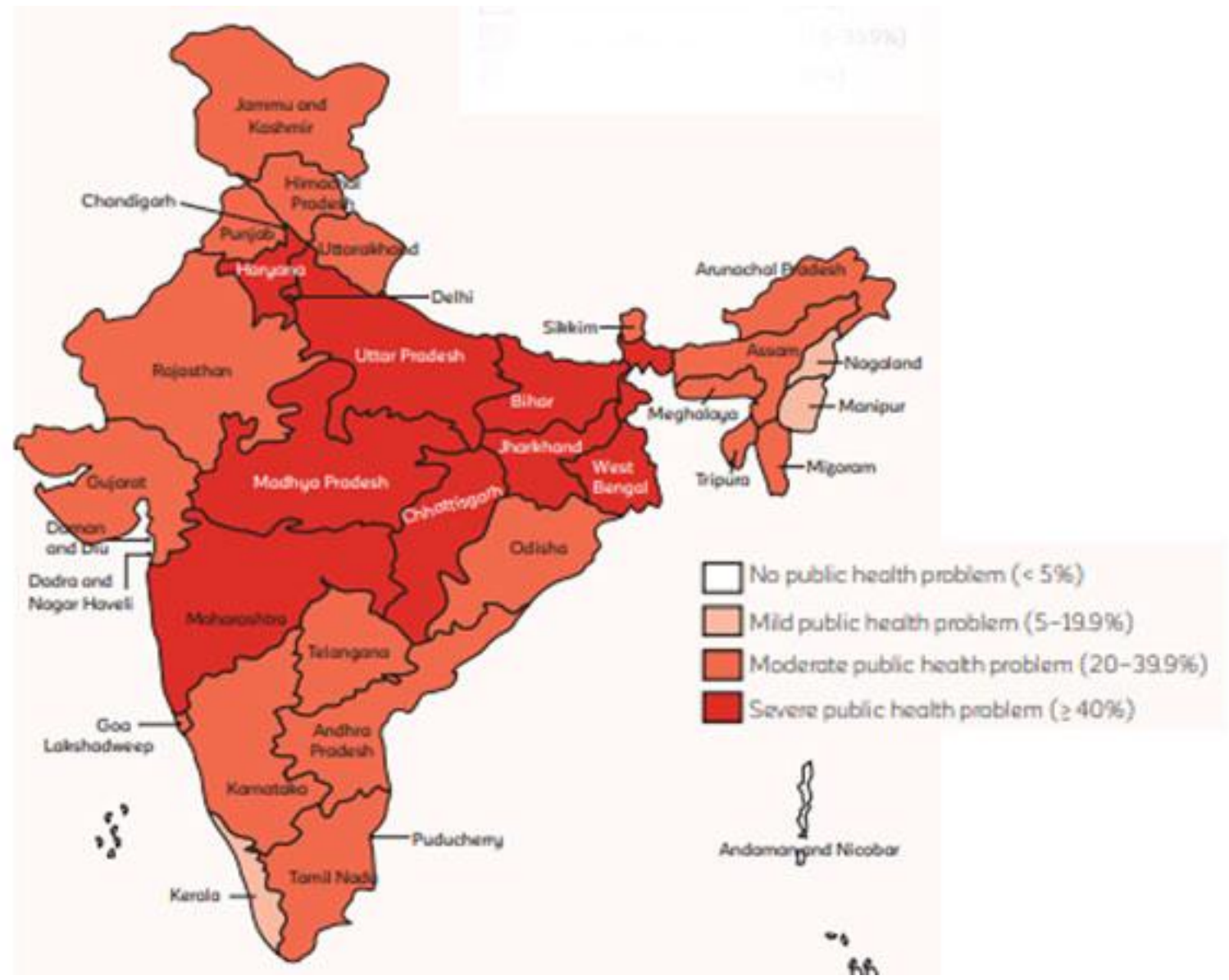
Convergence with Other Ministries



National Centre of Excellence and Advanced Research on Anemia Control

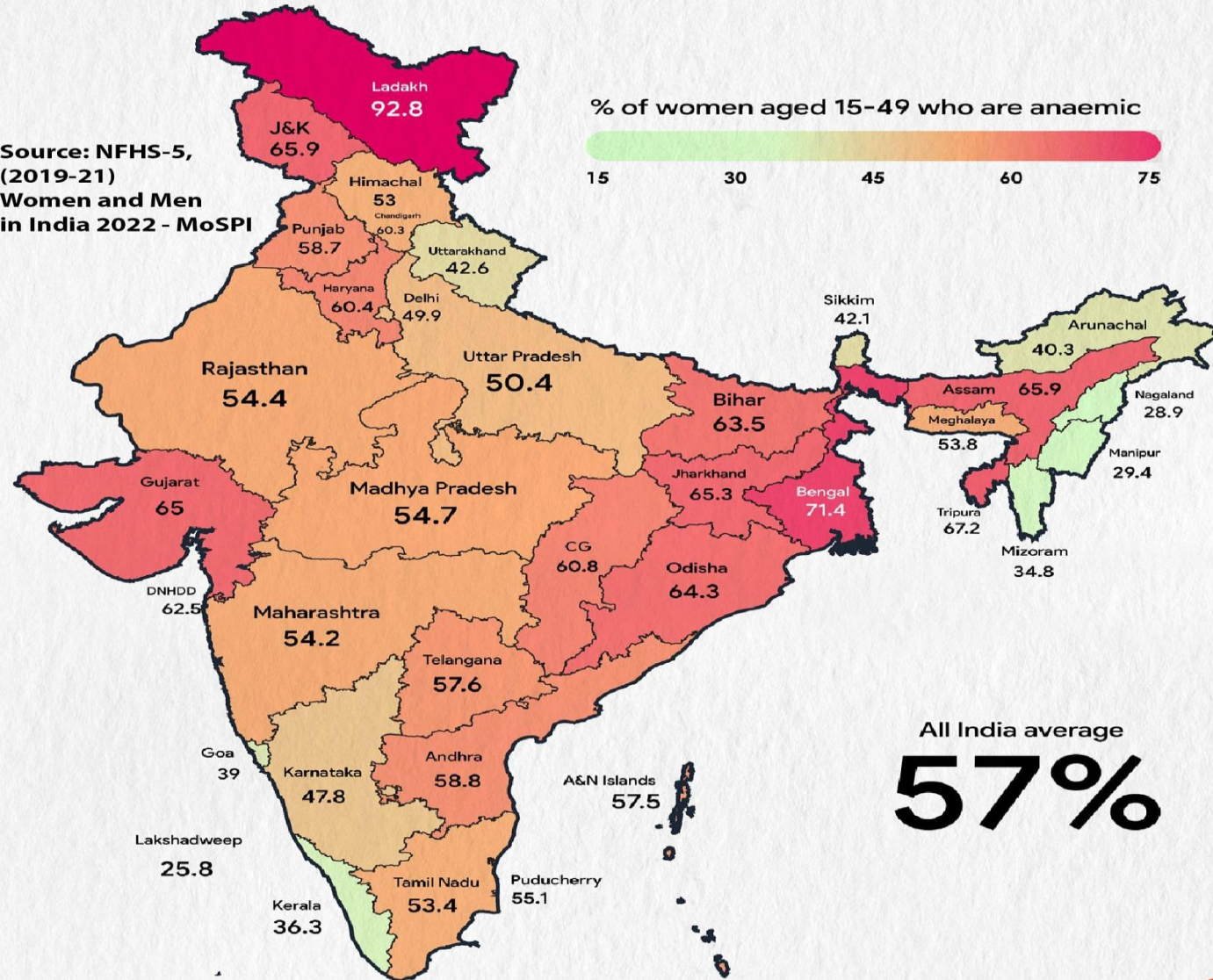


Anemia Mukta Bharat Dashboard and Digital Portal – One Stop Shop for Anemia



More than 57% women in India are anaemic

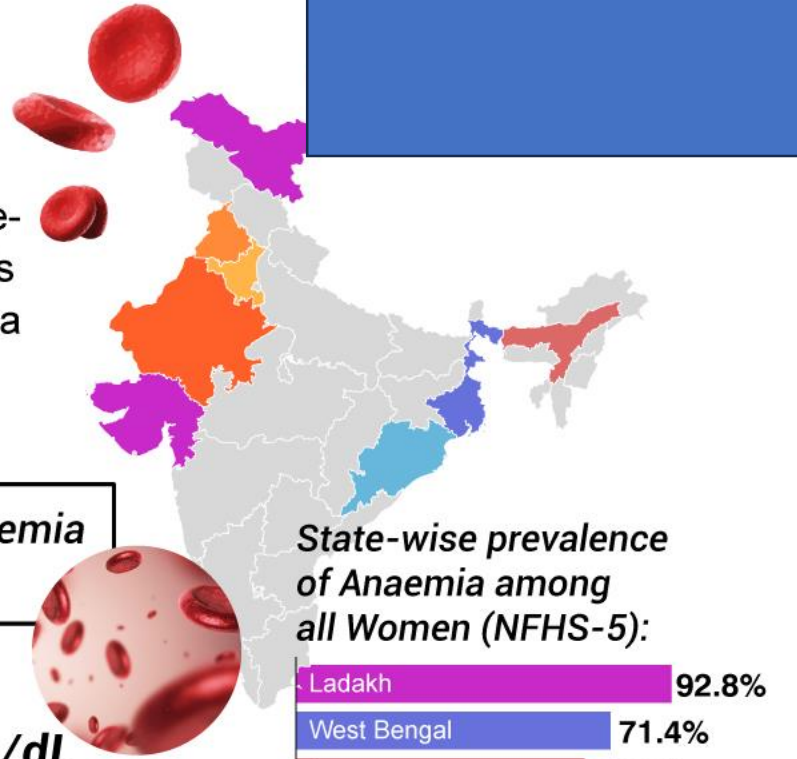
Source: NFHS-5, (2019-21)
Women and Men in India 2022 - MoSPI



All India average
57%

Anaemia

Anaemia is the condition in which the number of **red blood cells** or the concentration of haemoglobin within the blood cells is less than normal, which causes a decreased capacity of blood to carry oxygen in the body.



NFHS's classification of anaemia (in grams per decilitre):

Men: <13 g/dL

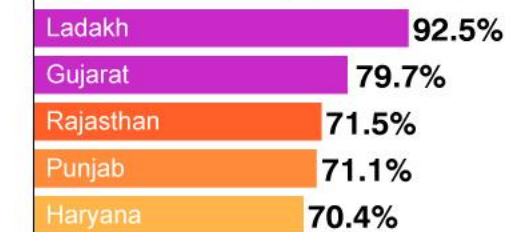
Adolescent Women: <12 g/dL

Pregnant Women: <11 g/dL

Children: <11 g/dL

Prevalence of Anaemia	NFHS-4	NFHS-5
All Women (15-49 years):	53.1%	57%
Pregnant Women (15-49 years)	50.4%	52.2%
Adolescent Women (15-19 years)	54.1%	59.1%
Children (6-59 Months):	58.6%	67.1%
Adolescent boys (15-19 years)	29.2%	31.1%

State-wise prevalence of Anaemia among Children (6 to 59 months) (NFHS-5):



THE CONSEQUENCES OF IRON DEFICIENCY ANAEMIA



RICE FORTIFICATION

Fortifying rice involves grinding broken rice into powder, mixing it with nutrients like iron, folic acid and vitamin B12, and then shaping it into rice-like kernels using an extrusion process. These fortified kernels are then mixed with normal rice in a 1:100 ratio and distributed for consumption.



DALY

WHO's meta-analysis - An outlay of around ₹2,800 crore per annum for rice fortification can avert 35% of the total or 16.6 million Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) per year with no known risk of toxicity.

ANAEMIA

Amounting to only around 1% of the food subsidy bill in 2018-19, rice fortification has the potential to avert a total of 94.1 million anaemia cases that can lead to savings of ₹8,098 crore over a period of 5 years.

2024 TARGET

Universalisation of rice fortification by 2024, will cover about 100 crore target population, including about 20 crore women of reproductive age.

BEIRUT

Israeli air force strikes deep inside Lebanon, killing 2 persons



The Israeli military said its air force on Monday struck targets of the militant Hezbollah group "deep inside Lebanon," where residents reported explosions near the northeastern city of Baalbek. At least two persons were killed in the strikes. The strikes came shortly after Hezbollah said its air defence shot down an Israeli drone. AP

KABUL

Taliban hold third public execution in the past five days



The Taliban held a public execution on Monday of a man convicted of murder in the northern Afghanistan as thousands watched at a sports stadium, the third such death sentence to be carried out in the past five days. Eyewitnesses said the brother of the murdered man shot the convict five times with a rifle. AP

BUDAPEST

Hungary parliament elects new President following scandal



Hungary's parliament elected Tamas Sulok as President following the resignation of his predecessor Katalin Novak, who caused outrage by pardoning a man convicted in a child abuse case. The affair turned into the biggest political crisis for nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban since he returned to power in 2010. AP

WASHINGTON

U.S. airman dies by setting himself on fire outside Israeli embassy



A U.S. airman has died after setting himself on fire outside the Israeli embassy in Washington at the weekend in protest over the war in Gaza, the Air Force said on Monday. The unnamed man had set himself shouting "Free Palestine" as he lit himself on fire. A spokesperson for the Israeli embassy said no staff were injured. AP

Maryam Nawaz sworn in as Chief Minister of Punjab

The eldest daughter of former PM Nawaz Sharif becomes Pakistan's first woman Chief Minister in eastern Punjab province; Opposition MPs supporting Imran boycott the vote in parliament

Associated Press LAHORE

The eldest daughter and close aide of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday became the country's first-ever woman Chief Minister in eastern Punjab province. Her rivals accused authorities of nepotism and boycotted the session of the provincial assembly.



New reign: Maryam Nawaz arrives to attend the Assembly session in Lahore in Pakistan's Punjab province on Monday. AP

Maryam Nawaz, 50, became Chief Minister in a 220-0 vote in her favour, beating out her rival Rana Aftab, nominated by the Sunni Ittehad Council and an ally of imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan. Opposition lawmakers supporting Mr. Khan, who was ousted in a no-confidence vote in Parliament in 2022, boycotted the 371-member Punjab As-

sembly session on Monday. Ms. Maryam was later sworn in at the provincial Governor's sprawling office in the eastern city of Lahore, her father seen next to her along with other family members during the televised ceremony. Mr. Aftab said Ms. Maryam's election was premature as some seats in the Assembly reserved for women and minorities have yet to be announced. He said her appointment was "yet another case of nepotism as her family is known for

picking relatives and friends to top positions whenever it comes into power." Earlier, one of Ms. Maryam's cousins, Hamza Shehbaz, had also served as Chief Minister in Punjab. Ms. Maryam thanked God during the ceremony and promised she would equally serve those who voted for her and those who did not. "The doors of my heart and office will remain open for the opposition as well," she said. Ms. Maryam's appointment was largely expected following the February 8 elections in which her Pakistan Muslim League party (PML-N) emerged as the largest party (after Imran Khan-backed independents) in the National Assembly or lower house of Parliament and in the Punjab Assembly.

Israel proposes evacuation plan as Netanyahu vows push into Gaza's far-south

Agence France-Presse GAZA STRIP

Israel's military proposed a plan on Monday for "evacuating" civilians from the Gaza Strip, after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said a ground invasion of the Palestinian territory's southern city Rafah was necessary for "total victory".

Foreign governments and aid organisations have repeatedly expressed fears that such an operation will inflict mass civilian casualties in Rafah, where around 1.4 million Palestinians — most of them displaced from other areas — have converged. It is also the entry point for desperately needed aid, brought in via neighbouring Egypt.



Aching loss: Palestinians visit a cemetery in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Monday. REUTERS

Israel's military "presented the War Cabinet with a plan for evacuating

the population from areas of fighting in the Gaza Strip, and with the upcoming operational plan", a statement in Hebrew from Mr. Netanyahu's office said on Monday. The statement did not provide more details. The announcement comes after Egyptian, Qatari and U.S. "experts" met in Doha for talks also attended by Israeli and Ha-

Palestine PM resigns citing 'new reality' of Gaza war

Agence France-Presse RAMALLAH

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh announced on Monday the resignation of his government, which rules parts of the occupied West Bank, citing the need for change after the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza ends.

He submitted his resignation to the leader of the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority, President Mahmoud Abbas, who formally accepted it.

The U.S. and other powers have called for a reformed Palestinian Authority to take charge of all Palestinian territories after the end of the war sparked by Hamas's October 7 attack.

Mr. Shtayyeh cited "developments related to the aggression against the Gaza Strip and the escalation in the West Bank and Jerusalem".

Last holdout Hungary approves Sweden's NATO membership

Agence France-Presse BUDAPEST

Hungary's parliament on Monday ratified Sweden's bid to join NATO, clearing the final obstacle for an enlargement of the military alliance spurred by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The vote ends more than a year of delays that left fellow NATO partners furious as Ukraine battled Russian troops. Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson hailed a "historic day," while NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg said Sweden will make the alliance "stronger and safer".

Speaking about Russia's potential reaction at a press conference, Mr. Kristersson said, "The only thing we can expect with any certainty is that they don't like Sweden becoming a member of NATO, nor Finland".

Final conditions While Finland became the 31st member of the U.S.-led defence alliance in April last year, Sweden had had to wait until it was ratified in last month.

On Monday, Hungary finally followed, with 188 members of parliament voting in favour and six against Sweden's accession.

A year of pain



Survivors and relatives of the victims pray on Monday at the site where a migrant boat capsized in the early morning of February 26, 2023, at a short distance from the shore in Steccato di Cutro, in the Italian southern tip, killing at least 94 people. AP

China's anti-graft body to look into corruption in BRI projects

Press Trust of India BEIJING

President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative under which China doled out billions of dollars of investments will for the first time come under the scanner of the country's anti-graft body amid allegations of corruption and the project of China's (CCPI) turning into debt traps for small and medium countries like Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The BRI and the Central External Audit Strategy are both signature policies of President Xi Jinping for Discipline Inspection's work report for 2024 (CCDI), the ruling Communist Party of China's (CPC) powerful anti-graft body, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post (SCMP) reported. The CCDI report released on Sunday stressed the need to eradicate the breeding grounds for corruption, deepen the sys-

tem reforms and strengthen the institutions for discipline inspection and supervision. The report, which was released after it was submitted two months ago by CCDI chief Li Xi, said the organisation would this year coordinate crackdowns both at home and overseas, according to the SCMP. The trillion-dollar trade and infrastructure BRI and the rural revitalisation strategy are both signature policies of President Xi who launched it in 2013 to counter China's global influence.

Sunak slams Tory MP's remark on London Mayor

Associated Press LONDON

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said on Monday that a Conservative lawmaker was wrong to say the mayor of London is controlled by Islamists, and also denied that the governing party tolerates anti-Muslim prejudice. Mr. Sunak is under pressure to condemn Islamophobia after the comments by Lee Anderson, who was suspended from the Conservative Party group in parliament on Saturday for comments about Mayor Sadiq Khan, amid growing tensions within British politics over the Israel-Hamas war.



Rishi Sunak

BBC radio on Monday. "Words matter, especially in the current environment where tensions are running high and I think it's incumbent on all of us to choose our words carefully." Asked whether his party has an Islamophobia problem, Mr. Sunak said: "No, of course it does not." Opponents accused the Conservatives of deliberately raising tensions over Islamophobia after the comments by Lee Anderson, who was suspended from the Conservative Party group in parliament on Saturday for comments about Mayor Sadiq Khan, amid growing tensions within British politics over the Israel-Hamas war. "These comments were not acceptable, they were wrong," Mr. Sunak told

sands of demonstrators, "hate marches" and accused police of being too lenient with them. The protest have been overwhelmingly peaceful, but there have been several dozen arrests over signs and chants allegedly supporting Hamas, a banned organisation in Britain. Some people also say the mass marches have created an intimidating atmosphere for Jewish Londoners. Islamophobic comment In an interview with right-wing TV channel GB News, Mr. Anderson criticised the police response to the demonstrations, levelling blame on the Mayor. He

Ukraine Army pulls back from eastern village near Avdiivka

Agence France-Presse KYIV

Ukraine said on Monday it had withdrawn from the settlement of Lastochkyne in eastern Ukraine, which Russia said it had captured, the latest in a string of Russian advances after the fall of Avdiivka. As the war enters its third year, Moscow's troops have mounted heavy attacks and taken Avdiivka — a key eastern town — while Ukrainian troops are struggling with a lack of ammunition. "Ukrainian Armed Forces units withdrew from the village of Lastochkyne to organise defences along

Kyiv's troops have withdrawn from Lastochkyne, a small village about 5 km west of Avdiivka

the line of Orlivka, Tonenke, Berdychi," Ukrainian military spokesman Dmytro Lykhoviy said. The small village is about 5 km west of Avdiivka, which Russian forces seized over a week ago. The battle for Avdiivka was one of the bloodiest, drawing comparisons to Russia's assault on Bakhmut, which it captured in last May since the war began on February 24, 2022.

Last holdout Hungary approves Sweden's NATO membership

Agence France-Presse

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potential reaction at a press conference, Mr. Kristersson said, "The only thing we can expect with any certainty is that they don't like Sweden becoming a member of NATO, nor Finland".

Final conditions

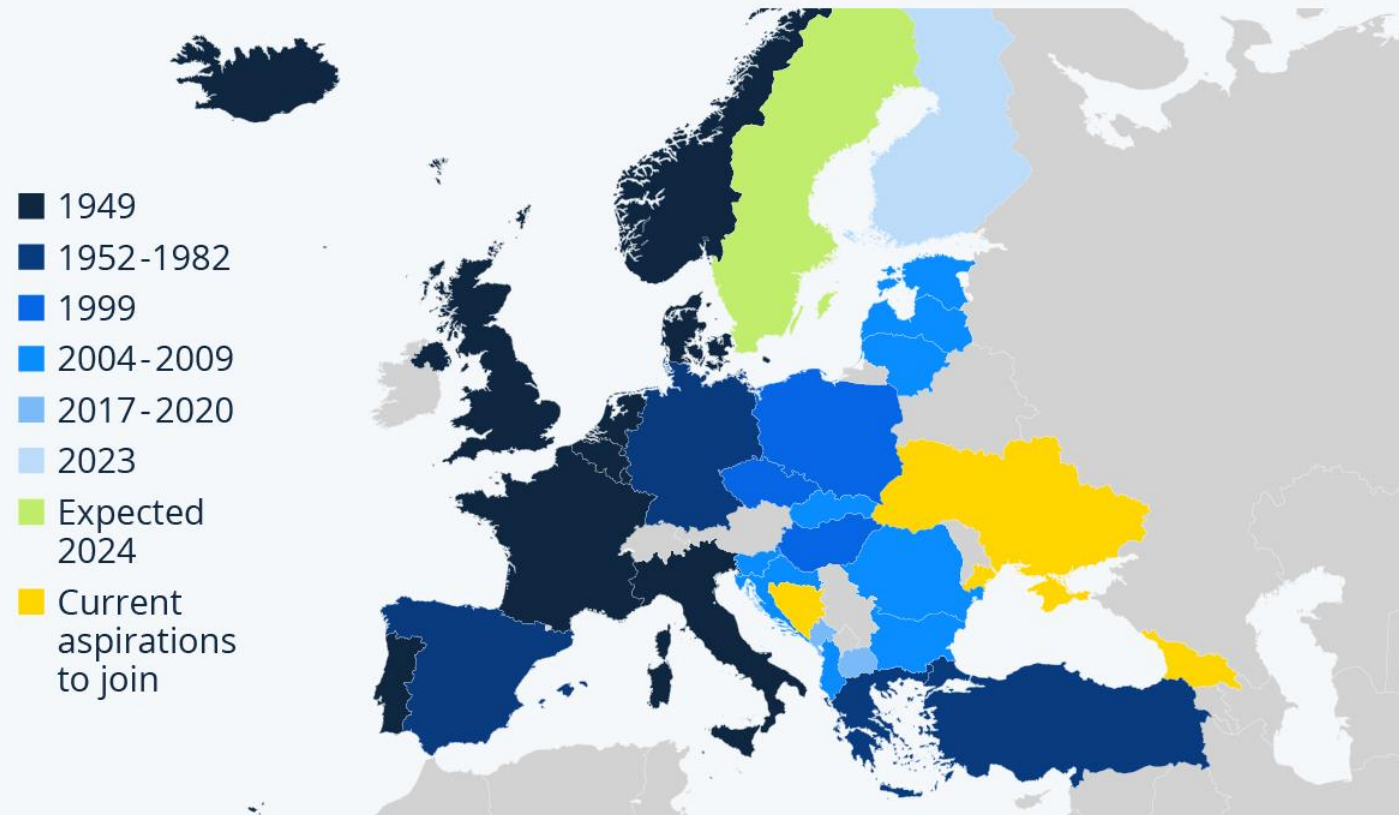
While Finland became the 31st member of the U.S.-led defence alliance in April last year, Sweden's bid had been held up.

Turkiye only ratified it last month.

On Monday, Hungary finally followed, with 188 members of parliament voting in favour and six against Sweden's accession.

Sweden To Join NATO After Approval From Hungary

European countries by year they joined NATO



Map excludes the United States and Canada, both founding members of NATO.

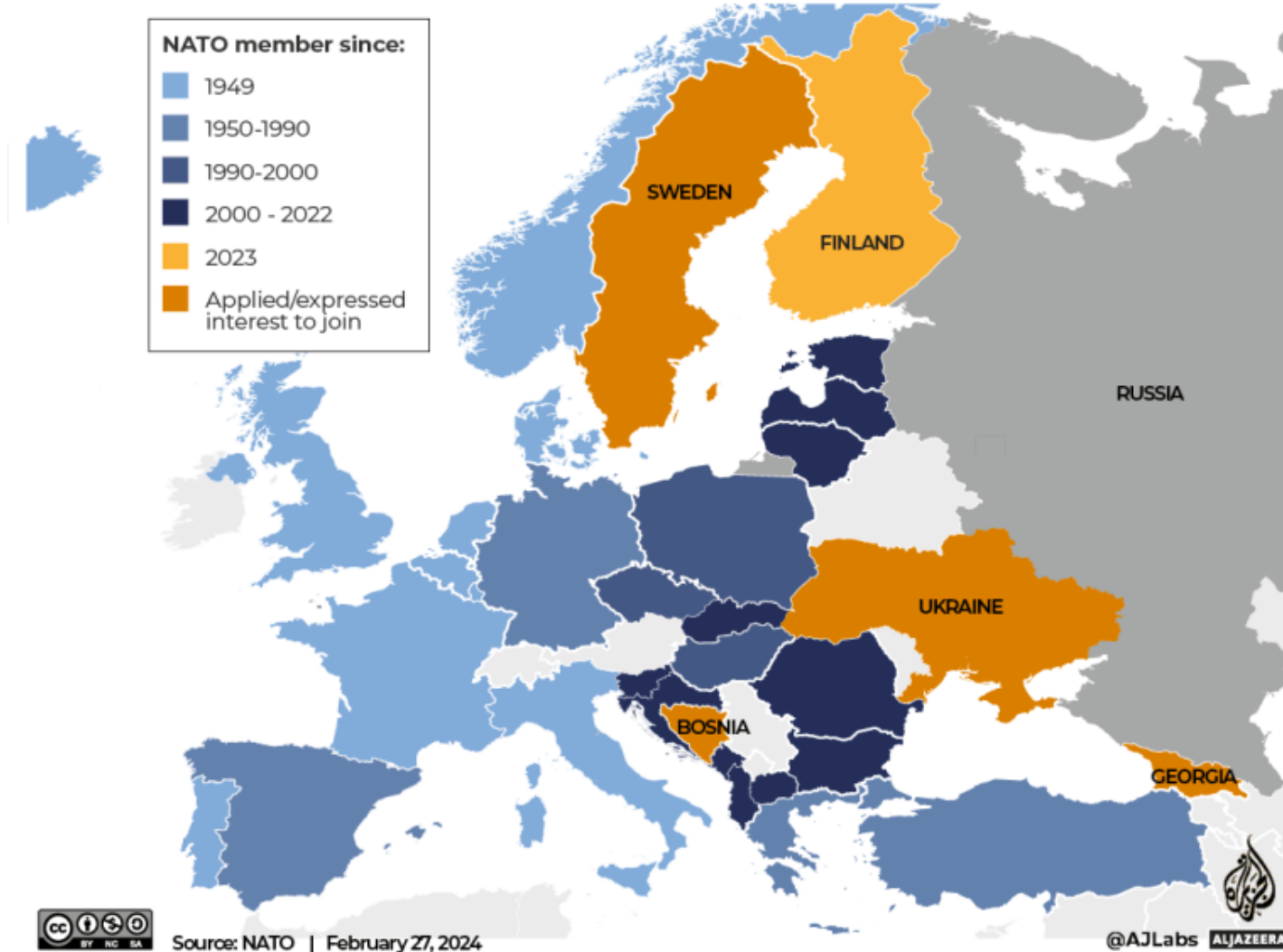
Source: NATO



NATO

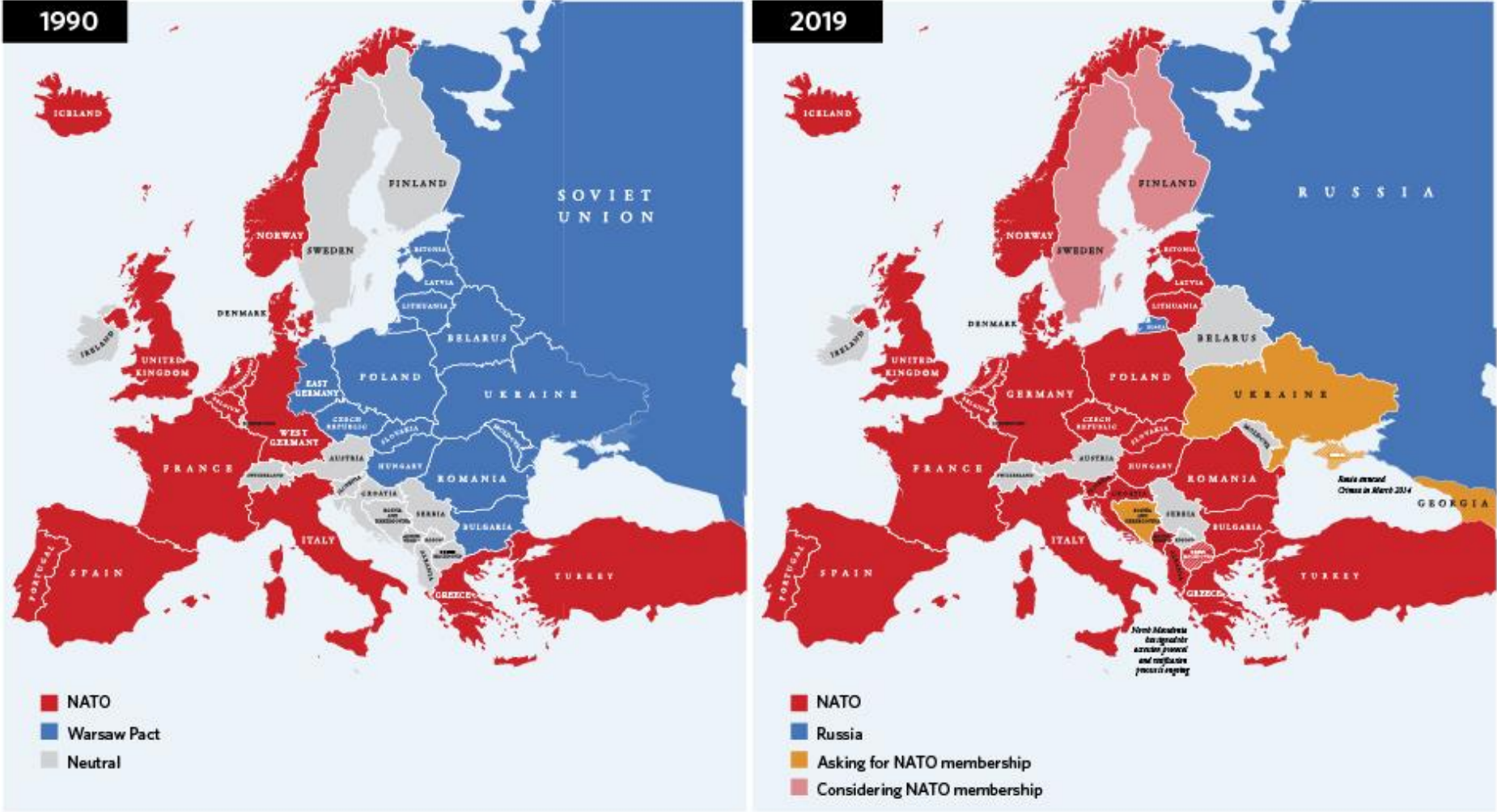
NATO's European expansion

NATO was founded in 1949 by 12 nations. It has since grown to 31 members, with Sweden now expected to become the 32nd member. Three other countries, including Ukraine, Georgia and Bosnia, have expressed their interest in joining the alliance.



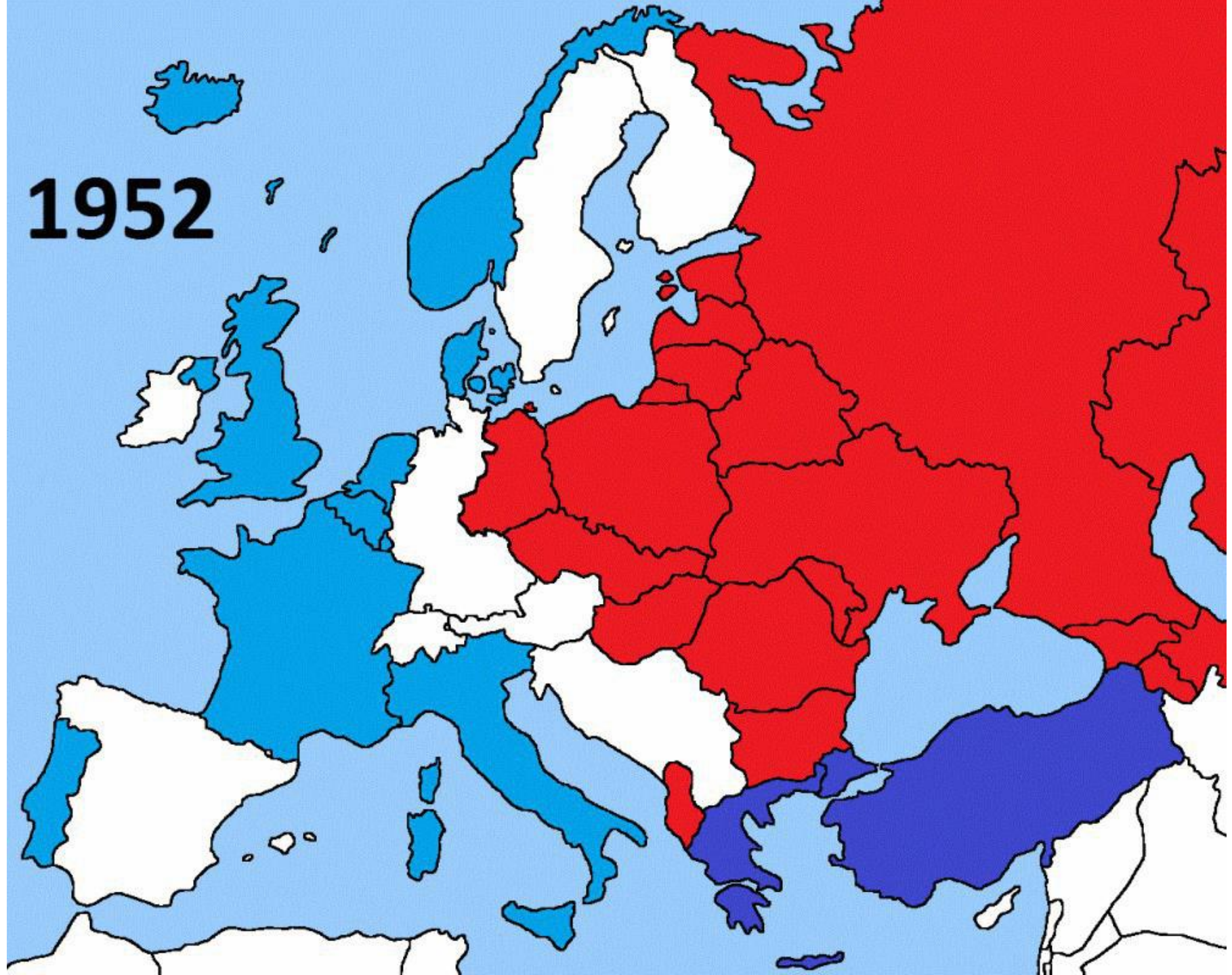
MAPS 1 AND 2

Military Expenditures of Russia and Select Countries



SOURCE: Russian Institute for Strategic Studies, <http://en.riss.ru/>.

1952






Member states shown in dark green

Abbreviation	NATO, <i>OTAN</i>
Formation	4 April 1949 (74 years ago)
Type	Military alliance
Headquarters	Brussels, Belgium
Membership	31 states ^[3] [show]
Official language	English and French ^[4]
Secretary General	Jens Stoltenberg
Chair of the NATO Military Committee	Lt. Admiral Rob Bauer , Royal Netherlands Navy
Supreme Allied Commander Europe	General Christopher G. Cavoli , United States Army
Supreme Allied Commander Transformation	Général Philippe Lavigne , French Air and Space Force
Expenses (2023)	NATO Total: US\$1.264 trillion NATO Europe and Canada: US\$404 billion ^[5]

The Treaty of Dunkirk was signed by France and the United Kingdom on 4 March 1947, during the aftermath of World War II and the start of the Cold War, as a Treaty of Alliance and Mutual Assistance in the event of possible attacks by Germany or the Soviet Union.



In March 1948, this alliance was expanded in the Treaty of Brussels to include the Benelux countries, forming the Brussels Treaty Organization, commonly known as the Western Union



A farmer emits hay onto the Belgian riot police as gas rises from tear gas canisters in Brussels on Monday. AFP

Protesting farmers clash with police as EU ministers meet

Associated Press
BRUSSELS

Farmers clashed with police in Belgium on Monday, spraying officers with liquid manure and setting fire to piles of tires in a fresh show of force as European Union Agriculture Ministers met in search of ways to address their concerns.

The Brussels police said that 900 tractors had entered the city, many bearing down on the European Council building where the Ministers were meeting. Smoke drifted through the air near where the police in riot gear used water cannons to disperse the EU's headquarters from behind concrete barriers and barbed wire.

The farmers are angry at red tape and competition from cheap imports from countries where the EU's relatively high standards do not have to be met. They lined up scores of tractors down main roads leading to the city's European quarter, snarling traffic and blocking public transport.

Some are lamenting what they see as the slow death of working the land. "Agriculture. As a child you dream about you die of it," said a protester. At the start of the month, a similar demonstration turned violent as farmers torched hay bales and threw eggs and firecrackers at police near a summit of EU leaders.

The EU presidency, currently held by Belgium, acknowledged that the farmers' concerns include the burden of respecting environmental policies, a drop in assistance from the bloc's agricultural subsidy system and the impact of Russia's attacks on Ukraine's grain supplies.

Focus on Russia as Sweden completes NATO presence along the Baltic shore

Sweden's membership in the U.S.-led military alliance means all the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea, except Russia, will be part of NATO. Russia can still menace the region, which some now label the 'NATO lake', from the heavily-armed exclave Kaliningrad and threaten undersea infrastructure

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

Sweden's accession to NATO adds a final puzzle piece to the alliance around the shores of the strategically important Baltic Sea, but Russia still poses a threat above and below water.

After Finland joined last year, Sweden's membership — which cleared the final hurdle on Monday with Hungary's vote on ratification — means all the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea, except Russia, will be part of the U.S.-led military alliance.

That has led some to label the sea a "NATO lake", with the Western allies now appearing well-placed to strangle Russia's room for manoeuvre in the crucial shipping route if a war with Moscow ever breaks out.

But analysts warn that while Sweden's accession makes it easier for NATO to exert control and reinforce its vulnerable Baltic states, Russia can still menace the exclave Kaliningrad and threaten undersea infrastructure.

"If you look at a map they make a research fellow at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs.



Fresh guard: Soldiers take part in the changing of the guard ceremony at the Royal Palace in Stockholm on Sunday. Analysts say Sweden's entry will make it easier for NATO to reinforce the Baltic states. REUTERS

"But there is still work to do for NATO."

Finland and Sweden to Estonia since Sweden's accession to NATO. Analysts say Sweden's entry will make it easier for NATO to reinforce the Baltic states.

Sweden's accession to NATO adds a final puzzle piece to the alliance around the shores of the strategically important Baltic Sea, but Russia still poses a threat above and below water.

Russia has its own vital outpost — the exclave of Kaliningrad.

Swaged between Poland and Lithuania, Moscow has in recent years turned the region into one of the most militarised in Europe, with nuclear-capable missiles stationed there.

Russia's Baltic fleet based in Kaliningrad is a shadow of what it was during the Cold War and the invasion of Ukraine has sapped some of its forces from the region.

But John Denti, a research professor at the U.S. Army War College, said the Kremlin has kept up investments in undersea capabilities and still has the flex power to stage small-scale landings or threaten NATO supply routes.

"In terms of artillery, indirect fire and nuclear-capable weapons they out-gun and out-range NATO allies in the region," Mr. Denti said. "Allies have to meet that threat and counter it."

On the other side, while Stockholm brings with it a rich heritage of naval history, like other NATO states in the area its sea power in the Baltic remains "even if you count Sweden, NATO naval assets are relatively limited," Mr. Denti said, adding that the allies need to develop their

ability to carry out demining under fire.

Achilles heel Three countries breathing a particular sigh of relief over the entry of Sweden — and Finland — are NATO's Baltic states, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, long seen as an Achilles heel for the alliance.

War planners have struggled to work out how to stop them being cut off if Russian land troops seized the 65-kilometre Suwalki Gap between Belarus and Kaliningrad.

Sweden's position straddling both the North and Baltic Seas opens up a key route for transiting more NATO forces to protect them in case of attack.

It allows U.S. forces to reinforce the Baltic States in a timely manner, said Tuuli Dunstone, Estonian undersecretary for defence policy.

Despite the joy at NATO over welcoming Sweden to the fold, however, Mr. Denti insisted the alliance should stay off course from its historic own property.

"Calling it a 'NATO lake' leads to complacency," Mr. Denti said. "The challenge and the threat posed by Russia in the region is significant in some ways and the allies need to have the capacity to counter that in a crisis."

A 'nobody' before election, President Jokowi's son set to be Indonesia's next VP

Agence France-Presse
JAKARTA

By his own admission, Gibran Rakabuming Raka was a "nobody" a few months before Indonesia's elections.

Now, the eldest son of President Joko Widodo looks set to become the country's youngest-ever Vice-President.

Mr. Gibran's meteoric rise to running mate of President-in-waiting Prabowo Subianto, who declared victory last week, was fuelled by his father's wild popularity.

"Three months ago I was a nobody. I thank Sir Prabowo who has given room for young people like me," Mr. Gibran, 36, told a packed arena in the capital Jakarta after polls closed on February 14.

"I believe these high figures were because of the young people."

Official results show De-



Gibran Rakabuming Raka

mayorship of Central Java's Surakarta city — Jokowi's old job. Mr. Gibran's business and property investments made him a millionaire, according to a 2020 disclosure to the election commission, way above the wealth of most Indonesians.

Jokowi, barred from a third term, leaves office in October, but the idea of another Widodo carrying on his policies has broad appeal in the country.

Indonesia enjoyed steady growth over his two terms and Jokowi is enjoying near-record approval ratings, so his tacit support strapped an election rocket to the Prabowo-Gibran ticket.

"When people see Gibran, they will see Jokowi," said Ujang Komarudin, a political analyst from Jakarta-based Al Azhar University. But "the big, strategic matters will be determined by Prabowo," he added.

tech moguls who, when she met them as entrepreneurs decades ago, promised to change the world for the better but often chose a path of destructive disruption instead, and along the way, they visionaries behind them.

Longtime Silicon Valley reporter Kara Swisher unveils how we got to this point in her incendiary memoir, *Burn Book*, coming out on Tuesday, an expose that also seeks to arrest technological calamity on the perilous road still ahead.

Ms. Swisher skewers many of the once-idealistic

tech moguls who, when she met them as entrepreneurs decades ago, promised to change the world for the better but often chose a path of destructive disruption instead, and along the way, they visionaries behind them.

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Tranquil surface



Lake wonder: People wade through a temporary 'lake' in Badwater Basin at the Death Valley National Park in California on Thursday. The basin, a salt flat which is the lowest point in North America, at 212 feet below sea level, was filled up by rain over the past few months. AP



Teach tales: *Burn Book* by long-time Silicon Valley reporter Kara Swisher is coming out today. AP

most disappointing," Ms. Swisher wrote in her 300-page book.

That is one of the milder critiques in what is a mostly scathing takedown by

one of the most respected and feared reporters covering technology.

Immense reputation Her reputation is such that Ms. Swisher has become a synonym for Silicon Valley as the famous entrepreneur who shaped it since she began covering the industry in the 1990s.

CEOs, including Mr. Zuckerberg and Mr. Musk, regularly granted her exclusive interviews, fed her scoops and sometimes even secretly called her for advice, according to her book.

Though she no longer

resides in Silicon Valley, she has remained plugged into — and worried — about what is happening with technology, particularly with the accelerating rise of artificial intelligence and its potential for causing even more damage than she thinks has already been done by social media, smartphones and other products that haven't been tightly regulated.

Ms. Swisher said that she hopes *Burn Book* serves as shot across the bow of both the technology industry and governments around the world, a warning that the same mis-

steps that happened during the past 20 years must not be repeated as artificial intelligence seeps into all corners of society.

"Don't get fooled a second time," Ms. Swisher said of what she hopes the book's main takeaway will be. "We need our government to make these (tech) industry people accountable and that has not happened. We need them to understand consequences because they certainly haven't done us right on the damaging parts of technology. We need to stop letting them off the hook."

Extreme cold kills 2 million livestock in Mongolia

Agence France-Presse
MONGOLIA

More than two million animals have died in Mongolia so far this winter, a government official said on Monday, as the country endures its coldest temperatures and snow.

The landlocked country is no stranger to severe weather from December to March, but this winter's temperatures plummet as low as minus 50°C in some areas.

But this winter has been more severe than usual, with lower than normal temperatures and very heavy snowfall, the United Nations said in a recent report.

The extreme weather is known as *dzud* and typically results in the deaths of huge numbers of livestock.

As of Monday, 2.1 million head of livestock had died from starvation and exhaustion, Gantulga Batkhishan of the country's Agriculture Ministry said.

Mongolia had 64.7 million such animals, including sheep, goats, horses and cows, at the end of 2023, official statistics show.

70% percent of Mongolia is experiencing "dzud" or near-dzud" conditions, the UN said.

That compares with 17% of the country at the same time in 2023.

The United Nations said climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of such weather events.

Mongolia has experienced six dzuds in the past decade, including a winter of 2022-23 when 4.4 million head of livestock perished.

This year's dzud has been exacerbated by summer drought that prevented animals from building up enough fatty stores to survive the harsh winter.

Burn Book torches tech titans in veteran reporter's tale of Silicon Valley

Associated Press

Technology is so pervasive and invasive that it's polarizing people, producing feelings of love and loathing for its devices, online services and the would-be visionaries behind them.

Longtime Silicon Valley reporter Kara Swisher unwraps how we got to this point in her incendiary memoir, *Burn Book*, coming out on Tuesday, an exposé that also seeks to avert technological calamity on the perilous road still ahead.

Ms. Swisher skewers many of the once-idealistic

tech moguls who, when she met them as entrepreneurs decades ago, promised to change the world for the better but often chose a path of destructive disruption instead. And along the way, they amassed staggering fortunes that have disconnected them from reality.

Harsh critiques

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, who broke into a sweat during an on-stage interview with Ms. Swisher in 2010, and Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who once talked to her regularly before cutting off communi-



Tech tales: *Burn Book* by long-time Silicon Valley reporter Kara Swisher is coming out today. AP

cations after he bought Twitter in 2022, are painted in the harshest light.

“If Mark Zuckerberg is the most damaging man in tech to me, Musk was the

most disappointing,” Ms. Swisher wrote in her 300-page book.

That is one of the milder critiques in what is a mostly scathing takedown by

one of the most respected and feared reporters covering technology.

Immense reputation

Her reputation is such that Ms. Swisher has become as synonymous with Silicon Valley as the famous entrepreneurs who shaped it since she began covering the industry in the 1990s.

CEOs, including Mr. Zuckerberg and Mr. Musk, regularly granted her exclusive interviews, fed her scoops and sometimes even secretly called her for advice, according to her book.

Though she no longer

resides in Silicon Valley, she has remained plugged into – and worried – about what is happening with technology, particularly with the accelerating rise of artificial intelligence and its potential for causing even more damage than she thinks has already been done by social media, smartphones and other products that haven't been tightly regulated.

Ms. Swisher said that she hopes *Burn Book* serves as shot across the bow of both the technology industry and governments around the world, a warning that the same mis-

steps that happened during the past 20 years must not be repeated as artificial intelligence seeps into all corners of society.

“Don't get fooled a second time,” Ms. Swisher said of what she hopes the book's main takeaway will be. “We need our government to make these (technology-industry) people accountable and that has not happened. We need them to understand consequences because they certainly haven't done us right on the damaging parts of technology. We need to stop letting them off the hook.”

Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

Giving wings to aspirations of youth

Compared to 2014, the number of AIIMS increased from 8 to 23; 7 new IITs, 8 new IIMs as well as 350 new universities established

Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNAY



US airman sets himself ablaze outside Israeli Embassy: 'Will not be complicit'



A video grab of Aaron Bushnell, 25

MICHAEL BALSAMO WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 26

AN ACTIVE-DUTY member of the US Air Force has died after he set himself ablaze outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC, while declaring that he "will no longer be complicit in genocide".

The 25-year-old airman, Aaron Bushnell, of San Antonio, Texas, died from his injuries, the Metropolitan Police Department said Monday.

Bushnell had walked up to the embassy shortly before 1 pm on Sunday and began livestreaming on the video-streaming platform Twitch, a person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press. Law enforcement officials believe the man started a livestream, set his phone down and then doused himself in accelerant and ignited the flames. At one point, he said he "will no longer be complicit in genocide," the person said.

The video was later removed from the platform, but law enforcement officials have obtained and reviewed a copy.

In a statement Monday, the US Air Force said, "The individual involved in yesterday's incident succumbed to his injuries and passed away last night." It said it would provide additional information as it becomes available.

THE WORLD

MARYAM NAWAZ IS PAK'S FIRST WOMAN CHIEF MINISTER

SWEDEN CLEARS FINAL HURDLE TO JOIN NATO

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

JAY MAZOOMDAR

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 26

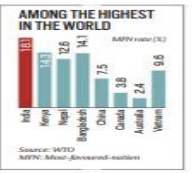
TRIPURA STATEMENTED its top forest official last week for recording two lions as Sita and Akbar, after the Calcutta High Court cautioned against naming zoo animals after deities and prominent figures revered by people.

Official records show that in zoos across India, for years, naming animals has only set off any ripples.

In the 1970s, Gujarat's Junagadh zoo, for example, paired lion Ram with lioness Bhambha, while cubs born to tigress Radha

TRADE DIPLOMACY WITH CHINA

Govt depts red-flag high duties to curb China imports, seek nuance in strategy



RAVI DUDDU MISHRA & ANIL SASI NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 26

MULTIPLE WINGS IN the government have started to red-flag the Centre's moves to progressively hike customs duties, especially the more recent offensive targeted at imports of Chinese components and inputs. A section within the government is in favour of a more nuanced approach in using tariffs as a diplomatic tool, fearing that there is

a possibility of the gains of India's manufacturing-focused thrust that include schemes such as Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) being squandered away.

What cannot be missed is that China still accounts for 14 per cent of India's imports, with not just inputs for the domestic industry in sectors ranging from electronics to pharmaceuticals and textiles to leather, but also capital goods, being sourced from China. This, coupled with the fact that average tariffs in India have jumped to 18.1 per cent in 2022 from 13 per cent eight years ago in 2014, has made India uncompetitive vis-a-vis countries such as Vietnam, Thailand and Mexico.

In fact, much of the protests from ministries have come after the industry warned of the detrimental impact of higher tariffs being used as a protectionist tool. The blockade targeting Chinese imports, which gathered traction across Central ministries and departments in the aftermath of the Galwan border clash

Team India seal series win — and a faith in tomorrow's Team India

Gill, Jurel, Jaiswal, Sarfaraz, Akash mark the young coming of age



SANDIPI RAO MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 26

AS BRIGHT young stars Shubman Gill and Dhruv Jurel scoured across the pitch to seal India's five-wicket victory over England, the home team dressing room spilled their guts. The symbolism of the moment could not be lost. After a noon-time rain collapse, India were tottering at 120-5 but Gill and Jurel took the team past the fourth-wicket target of 192 with an unbroken partnership of 72 runs. Not known to chase down tricky totals in pressure situations, India had recorded a rare win. And thanks was due to a bunch of cricketers in their mid-20s.

Shubman Gill and Dhruv Jurel after India won the fourth Test match against England, in Ranchi on Monday. PTI

Push for red-ball cricket: BCCI considers hike in Test match fees

DEVENDRA PANDEY MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 26

WITH the recent trend of players opting to save themselves for the Indian Premier League (IPL) while ignoring red-ball cricket, the BCCI is now considering a hike in the match fees for Tests, thus putting a premium on the long-form game.

It is learnt that the board decided to redraft the salary structure in the wake of wicket-keeper batsman Ishan Kishan ignoring the team management's calls to play domestic cricket, and instead opting to prepare for the IPL, that begins next month.

Explaining the new remuneration model, a source in the

EXPRESS NETWORK

GHAZAL SINGER PANKAJ UDHAS DEETS AT 72

GEETA KORA, CONG'S LOBE JHARKHAND MP, JOINS BJP

Ex-BJP MLA among 12 booked for murder of Haryana INLD chief

Opp raises issue in House; Govt to hand over probe to CBI

VARINDER BHATIA & SUKHIR SINGH CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 26

THE HARYANA POLICE Monday booked 12 persons, including former BJP MLA Naresh Kaushik, for the murder of INLD chief Nafe Singh Rathhe a day earlier. Hours later, the state government, under fire from the

Opposition, decided to hand over the probe to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). In the state Assembly, the Congress, led by Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda, slammed the ruling BJP coalition government, calling for the incident the state's first "political murder". The FIR, though, states that the killing was

Beyond Sita, Akbar, zoos cheered Ram, Mumtaz, Tendulkar, Aza

and tiger Krishna in Mysore zoo were named Mumtal and Sofflar in 1980. Long before the Calcutta HC put an end to freedom fighters on the no-go list, Azadi was a proud lioness born in the same Junagadh zoo in 2004.

Entertaining a petition against the naming and pairing of Sita and Akbar, two zoo lions transferred from Tripura to West Bengal, Justice Saugata Bhattacharya had on February 22 said his conscience did not support such naming. "It is not just Sita, I also do not support naming a lion as Akbar. Will you name a lion Sarfaraz Akhbar?"

It turns out that Gujarat's

KINGS, SAGES & STARS

- Tiger Harishchandra (1998 Bannerghatta) | Lion Sita (1994 Junagadh) | Tigers Ashok (1981, 1994 Nandankanan) | Lion Ashok (1991 Junagadh) | Lion Akbar (2011 Hyderabad) | Tiger Akbar (2016 Mangalore)
- Tigers Vishwamitra, Sesha (1986 Nandankanan) and Agasthya (2002 Mysore)
- Lion Kapil (1989 Kanpur) | Tigress Rekha (1993 Varanasi) | Lioness Rekha (1994 Junagadh) | Lioness Madhuri (1990 Junagadh) | Tigress Rekha (1997 Mysore) | Lioness Kajal (2000 Junagadh) | Tiger Tendulkar, David and Tiger Kalpana (2002 Bannerghatta) | Tigress Kavayata (2015 Kanpur) | Tiger Prabhas (2011 Hyderabad) | Dhanush (2013, Hyderabad)

Cheedilal, a 'man-eater', at Lucknow zoo. [UPI/Ankur/Ankur](#)

Junagadh | Lioness Hema (1990 Junagadh) | Lion Mumtaz (1991 Junagadh) | Tigress Ashwarya (1994 Kanpur)

Junagadh zoo had, indeed, named a lion Ashok in 1991. Odisha's Nandankanan zoo, too, had named two tigers, Ashok in 1981 and 1994. In 2000, when the younger Ashok fathered a male cub with tigress Tanuja, the same zoo named it Ashok.

Tanuja, incidentally, was the daughter of tiger Vishwamitra, named after one of the Vedic Saptarishi (seven venerated sages) who were believed to be brother was aptly named Ashok in 2000.

According to the Central Zoo Authority's National Studbooks (2018 editions) that contain pedi-

gree information of endangered species such as tigers and lions in captivity since the 1950s, both had named two tigers, Ashok in 1981 and 1994. In 2000, when the younger Ashok fathered a male cub with tigress Tanuja, the same zoo named it Ashok.

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According to the Central Zoo Authority's National Studbooks (2018 editions) that contain pedi-

of three tiger cubs Anu and Anthony, Mangalore the same in 2006.

Records show that cubs born in Indian zoos shared their names with goddess and mythology such as Brahma, Shiva, Sita, Seeta, Seta by 12 zoos in Karnataka, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Assam, Punjab, Bihar, Rajasthan and Odisha since 1974. In 2011, a male cub born to lion Atul and lioness Sonia was named Akbar in Hyderabad zoo.

One of Akbar's sisters from the same litter was named Laxmi. In 1981, Mysore zoo named a litter



Why India Inc wants lower duty

WHILE INDIA Inc has mostly been at the forefront of pushing for protectionist measures, including tariff and non-tariff barriers, it is the industry itself which wants the government to reduce duties on imports of capital goods and key inputs across sectors.

HC dismisses two pleas of Gyanvapi panel, allows puja in southern cellar

Says State Govt's oral orders in 19 stopping prayers arbitrary, illegal

MANISH SAHU LUCKNOW, FEBRUARY 26

DISMISSING TWO appeals filed by the Anjuman Itezamia Masjid Committee, which manages the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, the Allahabad High Court Monday said the move of the state government in 1993 restraining puja in the southern cellar of the mosque complex, also known as the Kashi Kirtimukha temple, was "illegal".

The mosque committee had filed appeals challenging two orders of the Varanasi District

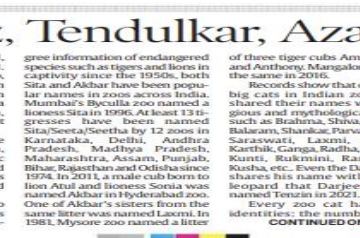
RS polls today: UP, Karnataka, Himachal to see tight contest

MAULSHREE SETH, AKRAM M & NAVJEETAN GOPAL LUCKNOW, BENGALURU, CHANDIGARH, FEBRUARY 26

MOCK VOTING, dinners and back-channel dialogue, a complaint to the Election Commission (EC), and legislators sequestered in a hotel. The stage

is set for a high-octane state election battle in Pradesh, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday.

These are 10 Upper Telematics from UP of which has the numbers to be unopposed and the Sa (SP) cats with ED with the BJP fielding b man-turned-politico



Outside the Gyanvapi mosque on Monday. Anand Singh

Reliance launches animal rescue centre

RAJESH KURUP
Mumbai, February 26

RELIANCE FOUNDATION, THE philanthropic arm of Reliance Industries (RIL), on Monday launched Vantara, an initiative to rescue and rehabilitate injured and abused animals in India and abroad.

Vantara — meaning star of the forest — was conceptualised by Anant Ambani, who is a director on the boards of RIL and Reliance Foundation. The initiative focuses on creating class animal conservation and care practices including healthcare, hospitals, research and academic centres.

It also focuses on integrating advanced research and collaboration with reputed global universities and organisations such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF).

The rehabilitation programme, which has been in the works for the last few years, has rescued more than 200 elephants, 300 large felines such as leopards, tigers, lions and jaguars, over 300 herbivores such as deer and over 1,200 reptiles such as crocodiles, snakes and turtles, as well as



WE WANT TO RESTORE VITAL HABITATS AND ESTABLISH VANTARA AS A LEADING-EDGE CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

ANANT AMBANI, DIRECTOR,
RIL & RELIANCE FOUNDATION



birds. It has rehabilitated key species such as rhinos, leopards and crocodiles.

Spread over 3,000 acres, the project is housed within the green belt of RIL's Jamnagar Refinery Complex in Gujarat.

"What started as a passion for me at a very young age has become a mission now, with Vantara and our brilliant and committed team. We are

focused on protecting critically-endangered species native to India. We also want to restore vital habitats and address urgent threats to species and establish Vantara as a leading-edge conservation programme," Anant Ambani said.

"Some of India's and the world's top zoological and medical experts have joined our mission," he added.

VIOLATIONS IN ADVERTISEMENTS
SC issues contempt notice to Patanjali
NEWS » PAGE 4

MONTHS AFTER PEACE PACT
Manipur sees rise in extortion cases
NEWS » PAGE 4

NEWSCLICK FOUNDER
AIIMS panel told to examine Purkayastha
NEWS » PAGE 4

CHANGING WORLD
End of road for the current global order?
What could replace the UN system and how?
EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

BREZZING HOME
Renuka, Molineux and batters shine for RCB
SPORT » PAGE 16

INSIDE

Land reforms top agenda for third term, says FM
NEW DELHI
The government led by Narendra Modi, if returned for a third term in office, will place reforms in all factors of production, including land, labour and capital on "top of the agenda" Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserted on Tuesday. » PAGE 4

Debate intensifies over Rahul's Wayanad contest
NEW DELHI
Congress Party of India (CPI) leader Anvita Raju's candidature from Wayanad has ignited the debate whether Congress leader Rahul Gandhi should seek re-election from the seat, where he faces a friendly party, or actually take the battle to BJP. » PAGE 5

Macron hints at Western ground troops in Ukraine
PARIS
French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday faced uneasy reactions from European allies and a warning from the Kremlin after he refused to rule out the dispatch of Western ground troops to Ukraine in its fight against the Russian invasion. » PAGE 12

Russia jails veteran activist for 30 months
MOSCOW
A Russian court on Tuesday sentenced top human rights campaigner Oleg Orlov to two-and-a-half years in jail for denouncing Russia's assault on Ukraine. The 70-year-old is a key figure of the Nobel Prize-winning Memorial group. » PAGE 12

4 IAF pilots named as possible Gaganyaan crew

Announcement made in the presence of Prime Minister Modi at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

They have been training in Russia and at the ISRO Astronaut Training Facility in Bengaluru

Final crew for the spaceflight mission which is to launch in 2025 will be picked from the four

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
India on Tuesday announced the names of the four astronaut-designates for the Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission, planned for launch in 2025.
The names of the Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots—Group Captain Prasanth Babakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla—were revealed for the first time in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) here.

Russia, and later at the Astronaut Training Facility established by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Bengaluru.
The Prime Minister presented the four with "astronaut wings" on the occasion.
According to ISRO, the Gaganyaan programme is designed to demonstrate indigenous capability to undertake human space flight mission to Low Earth Orbit (LEO). The mission is expected to pave way for a "sustained Indian human space exploration programme" in the long run.



The flagbearers: Prime Minister Narendra Modi bestows 'astronaut wings' to the astronaut-designates for the Gaganyaan mission, at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. ANI

The final crew for the mission will be picked among the four.
The astronauts will undergo rigorous selection process, they have been undergoing training in various aspects of space flight, initially in

Preparations on In the run-up to the crewed mission to LEO, ISRO is in the process of conducting various tests. These include the Integrated Air Drop tests, Test Vehicle Missions, pad Abort Tests. There will be unmanned flights before the actual flight.

ISRO has also announced plans to send astronauts to the moon by 2040.
During his visit, Mr. Modi reviewed the progress on the Gaganyaan Mission and dedicated three technical facilities developed at a cost of about ₹1,800 crore to the nation.
This includes a state-of-the-art Trisonic Wind Tunnel at the VSSC, Integration Complex (IPCC) at Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.

at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota and the Semi-cryogenic Integration Complex and Aircraft Test Facility (SIET) at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPC) at Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.

The Trisonic Wind Tunnel produces a controlled uniform airflow over scale models of rockets and aircraft to assess their aerodynamic characteristics. It is designed to make ISRO self-reliant in the end-to-

end design of upcoming launch vehicle projects. The PSLV Integration Facility (PIF) at Sriharikota will give ISRO the capability to increase the number of PSLV missions in a year from 6 to 15. SIET will be used to test the SCE-2000 semi-cryogenic engine and stages which will increase the payload capability of the launch vehicles.

Equipment display
On his arrival, ISRO chairman S. Somnath took the Prime Minister through a display of equipment related to the Gaganyaan mission, including 'Vyommitra,' the humanoid robot developed by the space agency for the programme.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan were present on the occasion.

Charm returns



Fine touch: Restoration and beautification of the 165-year-old Afghan War Memorial Church under way in Mumbai on Monday. ANI

Cross-voting in U.P. and Himachal allows BJP to claim two extra RS seats

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH/LUCKNOW

Rajya Sabha polls in Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh went down to the wire on Tuesday, with heavy cross-voting by Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress MLAs respectively, and the BJP walking away with two extra seats than its Assembly strength permitted. In Karnataka, a BJP MLA indulged in cross-voting for the BJP candidate from voting, as the Congress retained its three seats.



On the backfoot: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhdev Singh Solanki (left) and Congress Rajya Sabha candidate Abhishek Manu Singhvi addressing the media in Shimla on Tuesday. PI

The BJP's victory has already imperilled the Congress government in Himachal, with Leader of the Opposition Jairam Thakur scheduled to meet Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Wednesday. BJP candidate Harsh Mahajan won the seat in the Rajya Sabha seat in the fray from the State defeating Congress candidate Abhishek Manu Singhvi on the basis of a 50-50 split of the 100 votes, following a tie on votes.

Three are Independent MLAs. With the defeat of the Congress's official nominee in Himachal, the BJP is expected to bring a no-confidence motion in the ongoing Budget session itself, which is to end on February 29.

'Outsider' candidate
The result has also brought to the fore the factionalism within the Congress State unit, besides the party Central leadership's miscalculation in fielding a candidate (Mr. Singhvi), who was seen as an "outsider", and had resulted in discontent among a section of Congress MLAs. It was the first time since 1952 when a non-Himachali was nominated. Mr. Singhvi, who handles most of the legal issues of the party and the top leadership chosen over party in Himachal Pradesh, former Union Minister Anand Sharma. The BJP's move to field Mr. Mahajan, who left the Congress to join the BJP in 2022, ahead of the State Assembly election, was seen as an apt move against the backdrop of 'factionalism' within the

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Congress's State leaders. In Uttar Pradesh, all the BJP candidates were declared winners as they polled the requisite number of MLA votes. Out of three SP candidates, only two were elected, while the third, former Indian Administrative Service officer Mr. Alok Ranjan, lost by polling only 19 first preference votes. The requisite number of first preference votes of MLAs was 37.

'10,000 genome' project completed, says Centre

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Bengaluru and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad being the lead institutions coordinating the project.
Variations, mutations
The Indian population of 1.3 billion consists of over 4,600 population groups, and many of them are endogamous. These factors have led to the genetic diversity of the current population. Thus, the Indian population harbours distinct variations and often many disease-causing mutations are amplified within some of these groups.
"There are harmful mutations that are less prevalent in the world but common in endogamous groups at a high frequency [relative to their population] in India," said Kumaraswamy

IISc said the creation of a biobank housing 20,000 blood samples (from which genomes were sequenced) at the Centre for Brain Research, IISc, coupled with data archiving at the Centre for the Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad.
The United Kingdom, China, and the United States are among the countries that have programmes to sequence at least 1,00,000 of their genomes.
Dr. Y. Narahari of the

Creating a database representative of India's population diversity is a key step to learn about genetic variants unique to India. GETTY IMAGES
Thangaraj) of the CCMB and one of the leaders of the initiative.
This has been a revolutionary initiative but going ahead we will need to sample many more thousands of genomes to pick out more, rare mutations."

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Announcement made in the presence of Prime Minister Modi at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

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Final crew for the spaceflight mission which is to launch in 2025 will be picked from the four

Tiki Rajwi
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This includes a state-of-the-art Trisonic Wind Tunnel at the VSSC, integration facilities for the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)

at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, and the Semi-cryogenic Integrated Engine and Stage Test Facility (SIET) at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) at Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.

India will have its own space station by 2035, says PM

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Addressing scientists of the Indian Space Research Organisation at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India will have its own space station by 2035. He added that the nation would once again go to the moon. An Indian astronaut will land on the moon, he said, referring to the plans for a crewed lunar mission by 2040. The ISRO also has Venus on its radar, he added. » PAGE 6

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end design of upcoming launch vehicle projects. The PSLV Integration Facilities (PIF) at Sriharikota will give ISRO the capability to increase the number of PSLV missions in a year from 6 to 15. SIET will be used to test the SCE-2000 semi-cryogenic engine and stages which will increase the payload capability of the launch vehicles.

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GAGANYAAN MISSION

INDIA'S FIRST MANNED FLIGHT TO SPACE

The project was first approved by **PM Narendra Modi** on **August 15, 2018**.

It will send the three member crew to space for at least **seven days by 2022**.

ISRO hopes to deploy its biggest rocket, **GSLV MK III**, for this project.




The space agency hopes to launch the first mission within **40 months from the date of approval**.



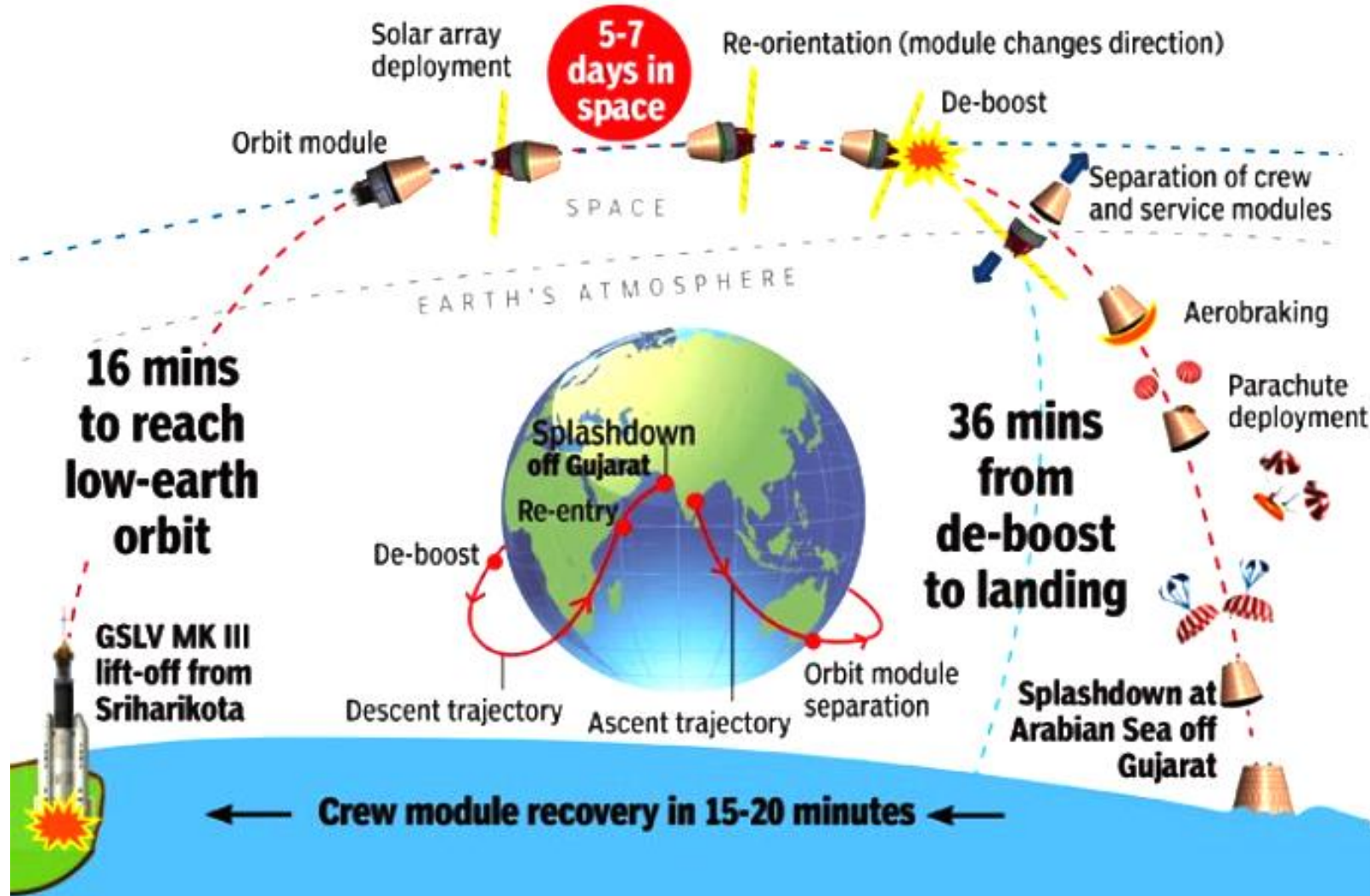
It would be one of the cheapest manned spaceflights in the world, with the estimated cost of not more than **Rs 10000 crore**.

India plans to call its astronauts "**Vyomnauts**" since '**Vyom**' in Sanskrit means '**Space**'.



India will become **fourth country after Russia, US and China** to send humans to space.

MANNED MISSION

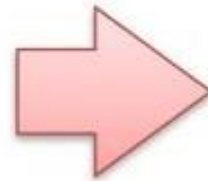
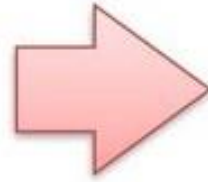


COST: Less than
₹10,000 cr

LAUNCH:
2022

India to be the 4th nation to launch
a manned spaceflight mission after
the US, Russia and China

Gaganyaan Mission



Crew Module: Habitat of Astronaut

Service Module: Does on-orbit servicing

Orbital Module
3 Astronauts; 7 days in space



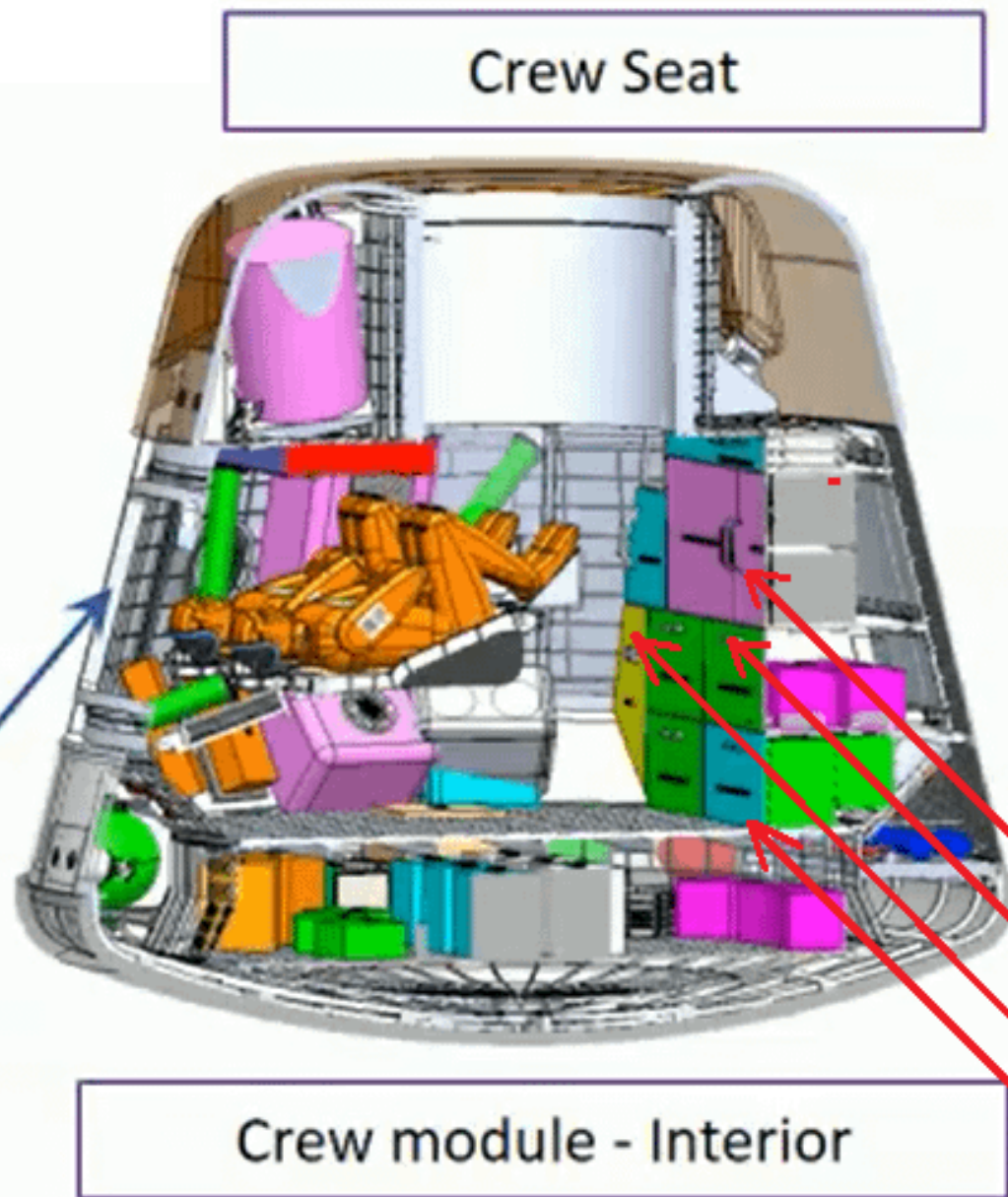
Human Rated Launch Vehicle
(GSLV MKIII derived)

In the video, The camera angle was from the Hatch Opening

Camera



Hatch



Crew Seat

Crew module - Interior

From Slide 06 presented by Dr. Unnikrishna Nair,

These boxes indicate storage boxes.

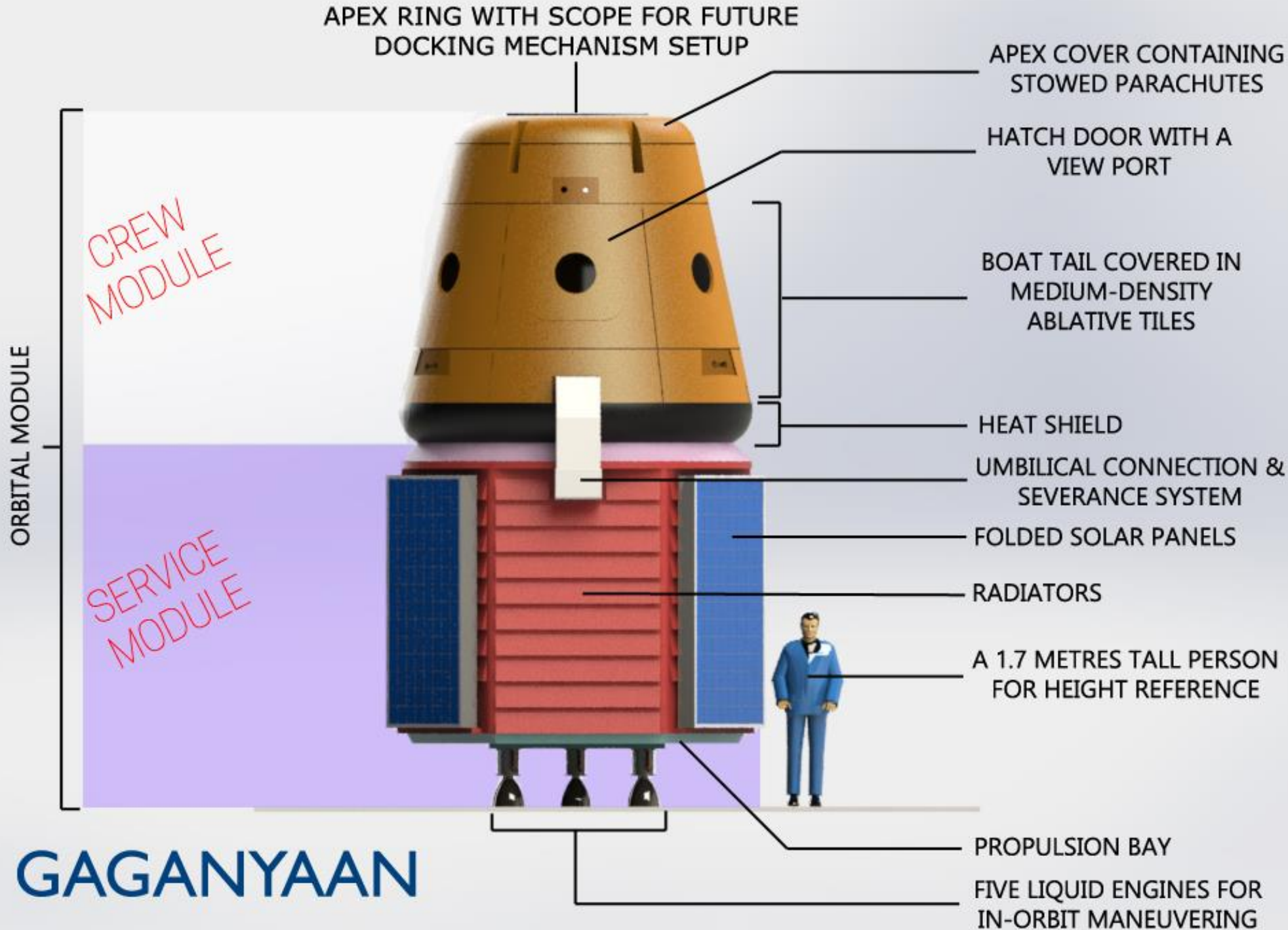
Trying to match the color code of the boxes with the estimated box label in the ISRO video:

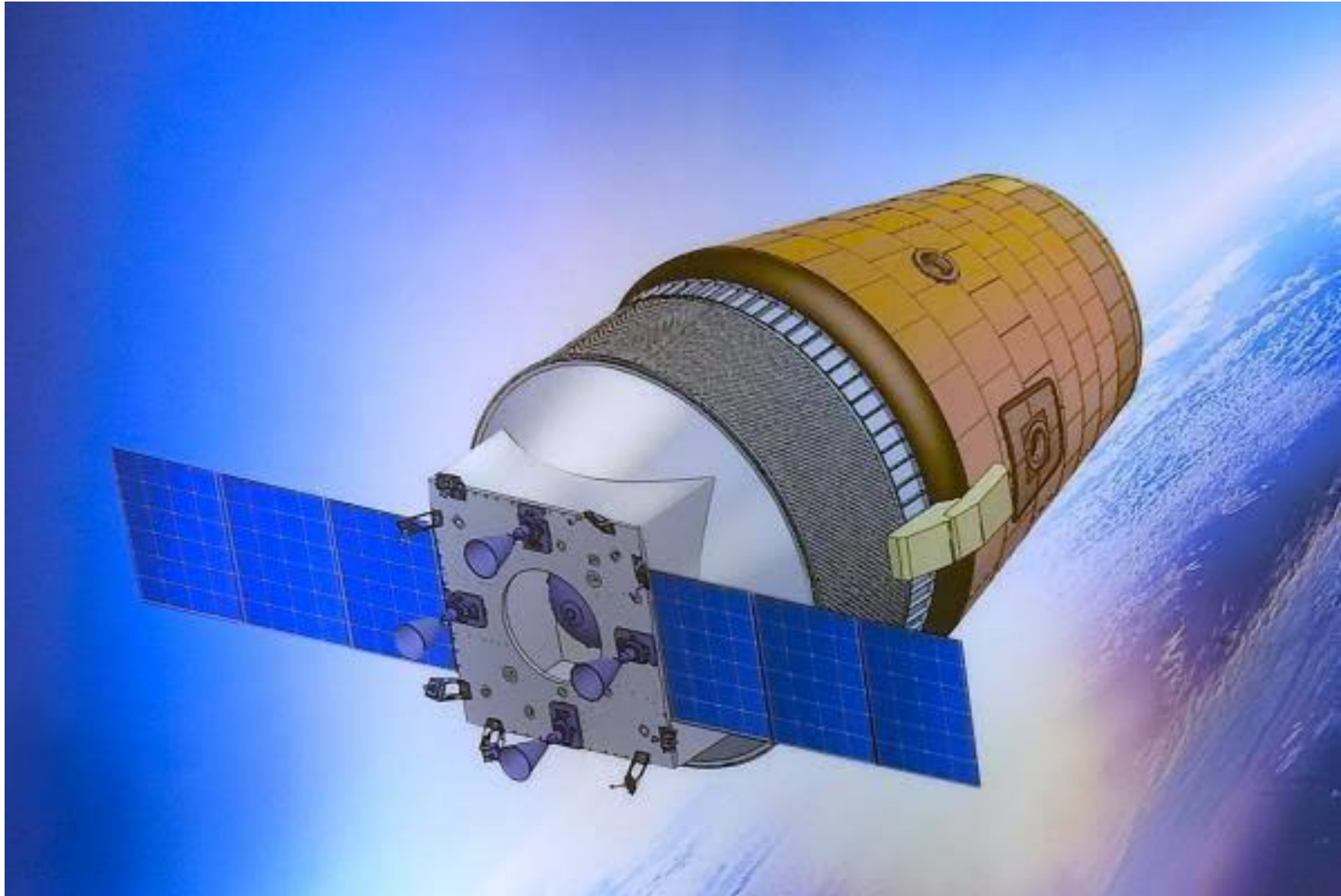
Pink Box: Medical Kit

Green Box: Storage

Yellow Box: Fire Kits

Blue Box: Waste Dump





'10,000 genome' project completed, says Centre

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) on Tuesday officially announced the completion of the '10,000 genome' project – an attempt to create a reference database of whole-genome sequences out of India.

While India first sequenced a complete human genome in 2006, creating a database that is representative of India's population diversity is seen as a key step to being able to learn about genetic variants that are unique to India's population groups and use that to customise drugs and therapies.

About 20 institutions

Bengaluru and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad being the lead institutions coordinating the project.

Variations, mutations

The Indian population of 1.3 billion consists of over 4,600 population groups, and many of them are endogamous. These factors have contributed to the genetic diversity of the current population. Thus, the Indian population harbours distinct variations and often many disease-causing mutations are amplified within some of these groups.

"There are harmful mutations that are less prevalent in the world but located in endogamous groups



Creating a database representative of India's population diversity is a key step to learn about genetic variants unique to India. GETTY IMAGES

Thangaraj of the CCMB and one of the leaders of the initiative.

"This has been a revolutionary initiative but going ahead we will need to sample many more thousands of genomes to pick out more rare mutations."

into India's population diversity, improve diagnostic methods and medical counselling, find genetic predispositions to disease, develop personalised and customisable drugs, improve gene therapy and throw more light on indivi-

IISc said the creation of a biobank housing 20,000 blood samples (from which genomes were sequenced) at the Centre for Brain Research, IISc, coupled with data archiving at the Indian Biological Data Centre "exemplified" the project's commitment to transparency, collaboration, and future research endeavours. All the data are being stored at the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC) set up by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India at the Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad.

The United Kingdom, China, and the United States are among the countries that have pr



**GENOME
INDIA
PROJECT**

Road to Future

Aim of Genome Mapping Project

Developing therapies for diseases such as cancer and other rare ones



Predictive diagnosis and precision medicine



22

Partner organisations to be roped in

Dept of Bio-technology has initiated the project

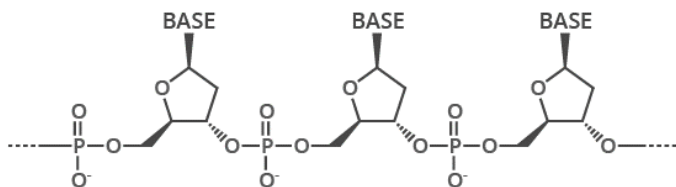
10,000

Number of Indians whose genomic data will be catalogued in phase 1



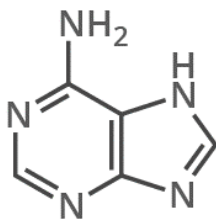
THE CHEMICAL STRUCTURE OF DNA

THE SUGAR PHOSPHATE 'BACKBONE'

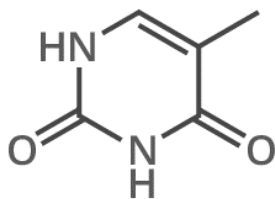


DNA is a polymer made up of units called nucleotides. The nucleotides are made of three different components: a sugar group, a phosphate group, and a base. There are four different bases: adenine, thymine, guanine and cytosine.

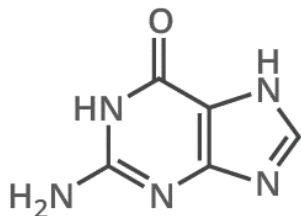
A ADENINE



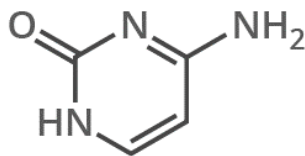
T THYMINE



G GUANINE

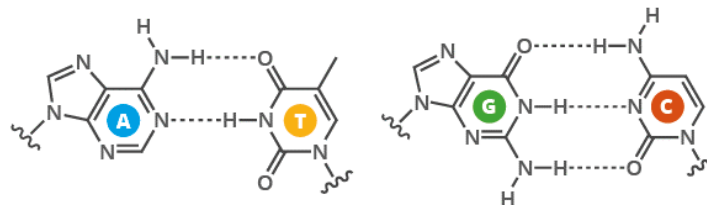


C CYTOSINE



WHAT HOLDS DNA STRANDS TOGETHER?

DNA strands are held together by hydrogen bonds between bases on adjacent strands. Adenine (A) always pairs with thymine (T), while guanine (G) always pairs with cytosine (C). Adenine pairs with uracil (U) in RNA.



FROM DNA TO PROTEINS

The bases on a single strand of DNA act as a code. The letters form three letter codons, which code for amino acids - the building blocks of proteins.



An enzyme, RNA polymerase, transcribes DNA into mRNA (messenger ribonucleic acid). It splits apart the two strands that form the double helix, then reads a strand and copies the sequence of nucleotides. The only difference between the RNA and the original DNA is that in the place of thymine (T), another base with a similar structure is used: uracil (U).



In multicellular organisms, the mRNA carries genetic code out of the cell nucleus, to the cytoplasm. Here, protein synthesis takes place. 'Translation' is the process of turning the mRNA's 'code' into proteins. Molecules called ribosomes carry out this process, building up proteins from the amino acids coded for.



1869



1869

**NUCLEIC ACID
DISCOVERED**

by Johann Friedrich
Miescher

1919



**MOLECULAR
STRUCTURE OF
DNA DEFINED
—ADENINE (A),
GUANINE (G),
CYTOSINE (C),
AND THYMINE (T)**

by Phoebus Levene

1944



**FOUND THAT DNA
CARRIES GENETIC
INFORMATION**

by Oswald Avery,
Colin MacLeod, and
Maclyn McCarty

1950



**DEFINED BASE
PAIRING—ADENINE
WITH THYMINE AND
CYTOSINE WITH
GUANINE**

by Erwin Chargaff

1953



**STRUCTURE
OF DNA DISCOVERED**

by James Watson,
Francis Crick, and
Rosalind Franklin

1953

Months after peace pact with UNLF, Manipur sees rise in extortion cases

In the absence of designated camps, armed members of the valley-based insurgent group are living in their homes or in other civilian areas; the government has also not nominated a security agency to track the movement of the insurgents

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Three months after the Union government and the Manipur government signed a peace agreement with one of the factions of the United National Liberation Front (UNLF), the oldest valley-based armed insurgent group, officials said the terms of the pact, which include monitoring of the armed cadre, are not available to the Central security agencies.

A senior government official told The Hindu that there has been a sharp rise in cases of extortion in the valley areas of the State in the name of UNLF.

The government has not designated a camp for holding the armed cadre nor it has nominated the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) or the State Police to monitor the movement of members, a second government official said. The total number of cadre and the monthly stipend to be allocated to them are also not known.

After a peace pact with an insurgent group is



The UNLF is one of the eight Meitei extremist organisations that were declared unlawful by the Home Ministry. *AMITISHAH*

signed, camps are earmarked for the cadre and their weapons and ammunition are accounted for through regular checks conducted by the nominated security force.

In 2008, after the Manipur government, the Home Ministry, and 24 Kuki insurgent groups issued a Suspension of Operation (SoO) pact, the Assam Rifles was designated as the monitoring agency. The pact, extended annually, is set to expire on February 28.

After the ethnic violence erupted in the State between the tribal Kuki-Zo people and the Meitei com-

munity on May 3, 2023, Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh claimed that SoO groups had violated ground rules and instigated violence. Meitei civil society groups have demanded that the pact should not be extended by the Ministry.

The UNLF, formed in 1964, is one of the eight Meitei extremist organisations that were declared unlawful by the Ministry under the anti-terror Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

The Ministry said the outfit had been "operating both within and outside the Indian territory."

"At present, two temporary camps have been identified for the UNLF cadre, many are living in their homes or in other civilian areas. They also have their weapons with them," said the first government official quoted above.

Another official said that since no security agency had been given the mandate to check the usage of arms and ammunition, it was impossible to keep a check on their movement.

Temporary camp
The official said the armed cadre had occupied a temporary camp at Nongsum in Imphal East, which borders the Kuki-Zo areas in Kangpokpi.

Apprehending an escalation of violence, the Assam Rifles had asked them to vacate the premises and the order was met with stiff resistance from local people who said they needed the UNLF cadre to defend their villages.

Since last year, buffer zones between the valley

areas, where the Meitei people live, and the hills, where the Kuki-Zo people live, can hold any kind of clash or arson. The buffer zones are manned by the UNLF cadre with the "21st century factor" of digital infrastructure in its pursuit to make India the world's third-largest economy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserted on Tuesday.

Ms. Sitharaman's statement assumes significance as it is the first major reference to long-pending reforms in land laws since August 2021, after promulgating an ordinance to change the land acquisition law.

In an interaction with industry leaders hosted by the Union Minister, the Finance Minister promised that systemic and area-specific reforms will continue to power while the UNLF cadre will certainly be on top of the agenda.

It will underline the fact that the reforms will touch on all the factors of production, be it your labour, be it your capital, but it will also add what may not fit into the traditional definition of what factors of production are. However, those are yet to come into force nationally as all States are still to come on board. Labour is a

Land, labour and capital reforms top of agenda in third term, says Nirmala

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The government led by Narendra Modi, if returned for a third term in office, will place reforms in all factors of production, including land, labour and capital on top of the agenda, along with the "21st century factor" of digital infrastructure in its pursuit to make India the world's third-largest economy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserted on Tuesday.

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Yet to be enforced
The government had steered reforms to the labour laws by subsuming over two dozen laws into four Codes on different aspects of work such as Wages and Social Security in 2019 and 2020.

However, those are yet to come into force nationally as all States are still to come on board. Labour is a

Supreme Court issues contempt notice to Patanjali, MD Balakrishna

Krishnadas Rajasekhar
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday issued contempt notice against Patanjali Ayurved and its Managing Director Acharya Balakrishna for publishing advertisements of its products in violation of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 and its Rules, despite an undertaking given to the court in November.

A Bench of Justices Himanshu Kohli and Abanindranath Amanullah said the company and Mr. Balakrishna had violated its assurance to the Supreme Court on November 21, 2023 to refrain from advertising or branding its products as "permanent relief" for diseases like obesity, blood pressure, asthma, etc., in violation of the 1954 Act.

"What do you mean by 'permanent relief'? There are only two types of permanent reliefs. One, the person dies. Two, the person is cured. There is no third 'permanent relief'," Justice Amanullah addressed the lawyer for Patanjali.

Justice Amanullah asked the Centre, represented by Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj, whether it had taken any action on the issue of Patanjali advertisements violating the law. Mr. Nataraj said he would file a "better" affidavit.



Acharya Balakrishna

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Senior advocate P.S. Patil, appearing for the petitioners including the Indian Medical Association (IMA), intervened to point out metaphorically that Baba Ramdev was like "everything and nothing at the same time" to Patanjali.

The Bench directed the company and its Managing Director to file their replies to the contempt notice in two weeks. Meanwhile, the court restrained Patanjali from advertising or branding its products in violation of the 1954 Act and its Rules.

The court also cautioned the stakeholders in Patanjali from making any statements adverse to any system of medicine in print or electronic media in any form.

The Bench listed the case on March 19.

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Top court directs AIIMS medical team to examine NewsClick founder

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the medical team of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to appoint a board of doctors to examine NewsClick founder Prabhu Kavyasritha, a septuagenarian journalist lodged in Tihar Jail under a draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), to verify his mental health.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Sanjay Kumar was visibly surprised to hear Additional Solicitor General S.K. Raju, for the Delhi Police, submit that "hospitals are meant for patients, not for prisoners."

"Provided he requires it," the law officer replied. "That is his outlook," Senior advocate Kapil

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Lengthy walk: Prabhu Kavyasritha being brought to Delhi Police Special Cell in New Delhi on October 3, 2023. *AP*

Sibal, appearing for Mr. Purkayastha, asked what "principle" the law officer was referring to.

"I will personally contribute. They are in some difficulty," Mr. Sibal said.

The hearing began with Mr. Purkayastha's side pressing "dissatisfaction" under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and their actions "directly impact the stability of the country."

Mr. Sibal said the report did not depict the medical condition of Mr. Purkayastha.

The Bench ordered the proposed AIIMS panel to go through the jail doctors' reports and consult the medical history of Mr. Purkayastha and the prison records. The Bench posted the case after two weeks.

"The nearly 70-year-old and is in great difficulty," Mr. Sibal said.

Mr. Purkayastha had appealed the SC after the Delhi High Court had rejected his contentions about "procedural infirmity" and violation of constitutional provisions in relation to the arrest and the remand order.

The High Court had concluded that they were booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and their actions "directly impact the stability of the country."

Former SC judge A.M. Khanwilkar is Lokpal Chairperson

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Former Supreme Court judge A.M. Khanwilkar was appointed as the Chairperson of the anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal on Tuesday, nearly two years after the post fell vacant.

The Lokpal has been working without its regular chief after Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose completed his term on May 27, 2022.

Justice Pradyumn Kumar Mishra, a judicial member of the Lokpal, is currently acting as the Chairperson.

Justice Khanwilkar retired from the Supreme Court in July 2022. A communication issued by the Rashtrapati Bhavan said that retired Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy, Sanjay Yadav and Ritu Raj Awasthi have been ap-



Justice A.M. Khanwilkar

pointed as judicial members of the anti-corruption ombudsman.

Sushil Chandra, Pankaj Kumar and Ajay Tirkey will be non-judicial members of the committee. Acting Chairperson.

Consumption survey report inspired by polls: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday described the Household Consumption Expenditure report of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) as "election-inspired survey" and questioned the different estimates of poverty given by different agencies in the past one year.

The party also accused the Narendra Modi government of "destroying the credibility of the country's economic data."

After a gap of more than 10 years, the NSSO, under the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Programme Implementation, had released data on Household Consumption Expenditure for 2022-23 on Saturday. A day later, NITI Aayog CEO B.K. Subrahmanyam had said the latest consumer expenditure survey indicated that poverty has

party accuses Modi govt. of destroying the credibility of country's economic data

fuel expenditure of rural families reduced by only 1.5% while the Modi government continues to boast of the success of the Ujjwala scheme?" the Congress chief asked.

"Experts are saying that the wheel for 10 years," Mr. Ghose said. "The criteria of measuring food inflation (CPI) data based on the poorest 5% of rural India was spending only 54¢ daily."

"Why did the poorest 5% of families get the least benefit from government schemes?" he asked. "Only 60% monthly? Why is the monthly income of farmers less than the average income of rural India? Why has the

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A.P.'s checkdam plan against federalism

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu's Minister for Water Resources Duraimurugan on Tuesday said that the proposal of Andhra Pradesh to construct a checkdam does not have any merit against the principle of federalism.

"When cases are pending before the Supreme Court, each step [A.P. allocating funds in the Budget for the poorest 5% of rural India] should not be undertaken," Mr. Duraimurugan said.

According to the 1992 agreement between the two States, the Tamil Nadu Minister said.

The Supreme Court, too, in a judgment on February 16, 2018, said that the two agreements, signed in 1892 and 1924, covered areas of larger public interest that do not have any political element. In this judgment, the agreements were neither innovative nor completely extinct.

Government extends ban on J&K group for five years

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Tuesday extended the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), Jammu Kashmir under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, for five years.

The ban was declared an "unlawful association" on February 28, 2019. Home Minister Amit Shah said, "Pursuing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policy of a no-condonance against terrorism and separatist organisations, the Government has extended the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmir for five years. The organisation is found continuing its activities against the sovereignty of the nation. Any support for its 'carelessness' over Andhra Pradesh's proposal.

Another case had been moved in the Andhra Pradesh Court, opposing the Centre's attempt to increase the height of the existing dam. The Government of Andhra Pradesh and the two States are pending before the top court, he said.

Former AIADMK coordinator O. Panseerabham on Tuesday hit out at the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) regime for its "carelessness" over Andhra Pradesh's proposal.

Supreme Court issues contempt notice to Patanjali, MD Balkrishna

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

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A Bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah said the company and Mr. Balakrishna had violated its assurance to the Supreme Court on November 21, 2023 to refrain from advertising or branding its products as “permanent relief” for diseases like obesity, blood pressure, asthma, etc., in violation of the 1954 Act.

“What do you mean by



Acharya Balkrishna

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vit. He said it was up to the States to implement the provisions of the Act.

During the hearing, the court pointed out that it had on November 21 directed the company to not make any “casual statements” to the print or electronic media about the efficacy of their medicinal products or indulge in any disparaging statements about other disciplines of medicine like allopathy.

Order violated

However, a press conference was held by Baba Ramdev, on November 22, the very next day of the Supreme Court order, the Bench observed.

When the court asked how exactly Baba Ramdev was associated with Patanjali, the company’s lawyer vaguely responded that he was a yoga guru and a *sanyasi*.

Senior advocate P.S. Patwalia, appearing for the petitioners including the Indian Medical Association (IMA), intervened to point out metaphorically that Baba Ramdev was like “everything and nothing at the same time” to Patanjali.

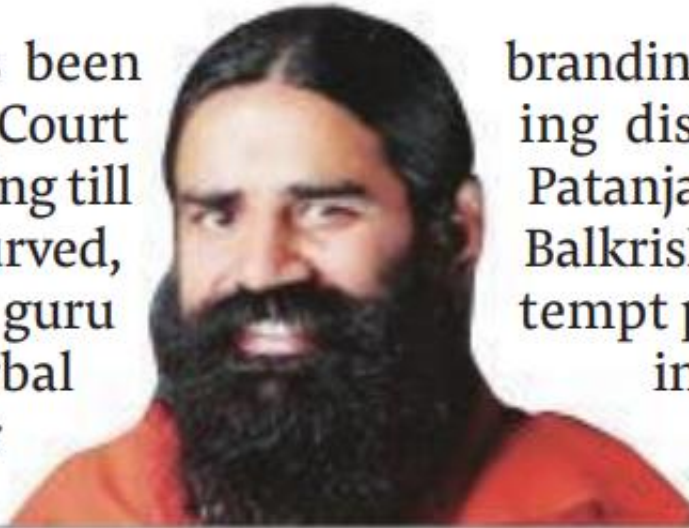
The Bench directed the company and its Managing Director to file their replies to the contempt notice in two weeks. Meanwhile, the court restrained Patanjali from advertising or branding medicinal products as cures for diseases or disorders specified under the 1954 Act and its Rules.

The court also cautioned the stakeholders in Patanjali from making any statements adverse to any system of medicine in the print or electronic media in any form.

The Bench listed the case on March 19.

'Entire country taken for a ride': SC slams Patanjali for misleading ads

THE ENTIRE COUNTRY has been "taken for a ride", the Supreme Court said on Tuesday while restraining till further orders on Patanjali Ayurved, a company co-founded by yoga guru Ramdev and dealing in herbal products, from advertising or



branding products meant for treating diseases. Issuing notices to Patanjali Ayurved and MD Acharya Balkrishna, the SC asked why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against them.

■ Page 5

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Press Trust of India

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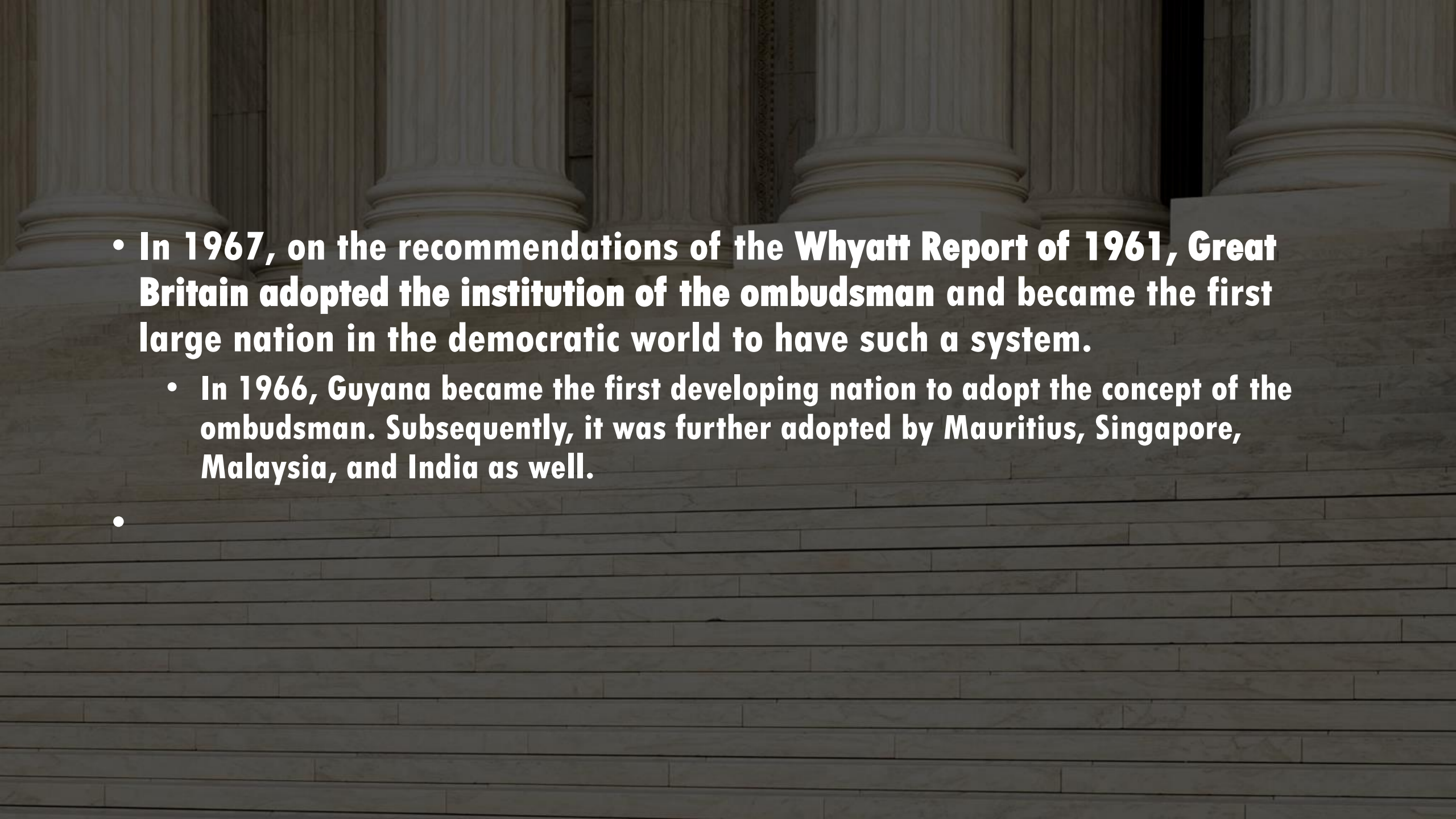
Justice A.M. Khanwilkar

pointed as judicial members of the anti-corruption ombudsman.

Sushil Chandra, Pankaj Kumar and Ajay Tirkey will be non-judicial members, the communique said. These appointments will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices, it added.

Apart from a Chairperson, the Lokpal can have eight members, four judicial and four non-judicial.

- What is the Background of their Formation?
- **In 1809, the institution of ombudsman was inaugurated officially in Sweden.**
 - **In the 20th century, Ombudsman as an institution developed and grew most significantly after the Second World War.**
 - **New Zealand and Norway adopted this system in the year 1962 and it proved to be of great significance in spreading the concept of the ombudsman.**

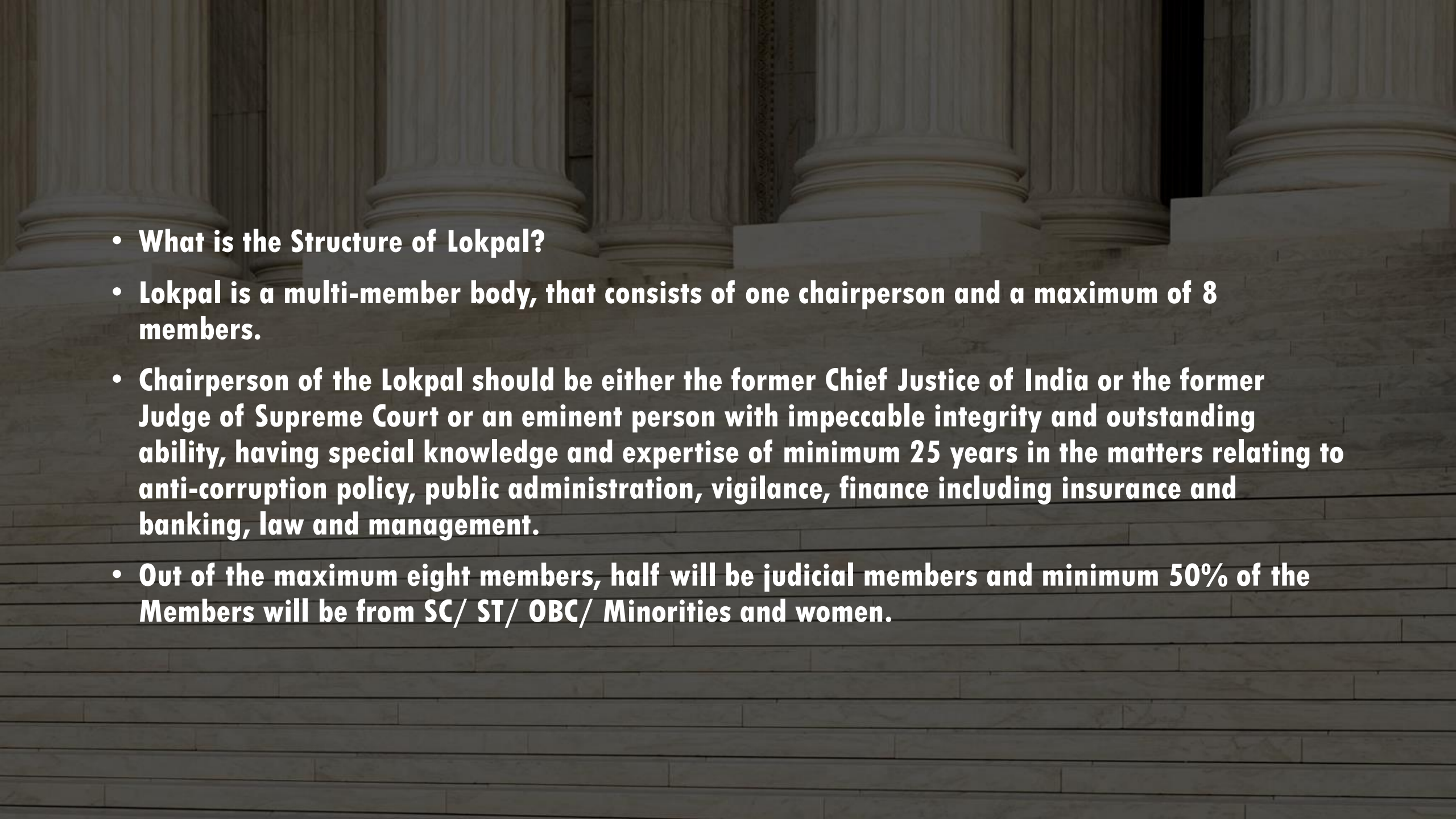
- 
- **In 1967, on the recommendations of the Whyatt Report of 1961, Great Britain adopted the institution of the ombudsman and became the first large nation in the democratic world to have such a system.**
 - **In 1966, Guyana became the first developing nation to adopt the concept of the ombudsman. Subsequently, it was further adopted by Mauritius, Singapore, Malaysia, and India as well.**

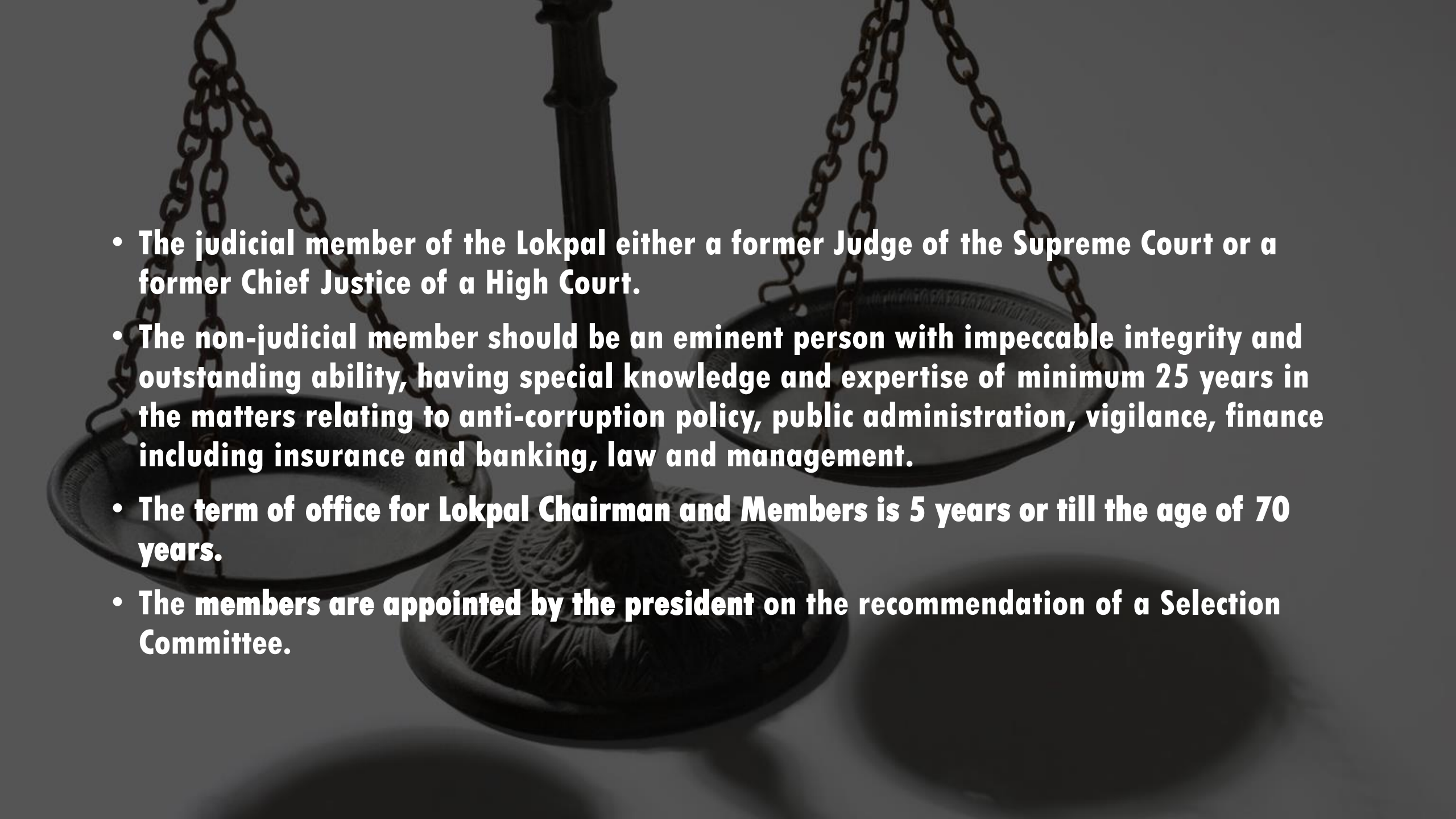
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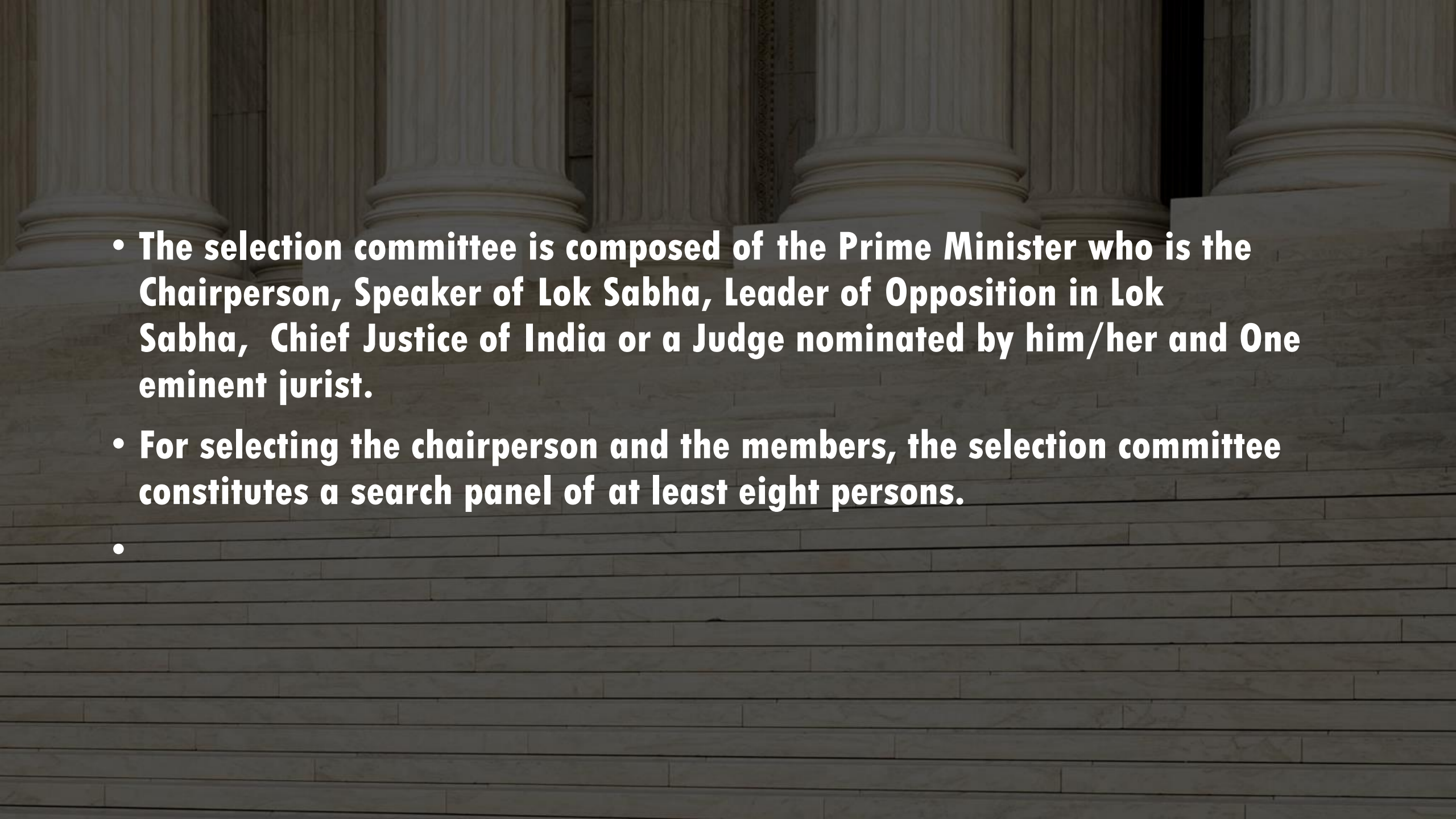
- **In India, the concept of constitutional ombudsman was first proposed by the then law minister Ashok Kumar Sen in parliament in the early 1960s.**
 - **The term Lokpal and Lokayukta were coined by Dr. L. M. Singhvi.**
- **In 1966, the First Administrative Reforms Commission recommended the setting up of two independent authorities- at the central and state level, to look into complaints against public functionaries, including MPs.**

-

- **What are the Key Provisions of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Act, 2016?**
- **It amended the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013.**
- **It also amended section 44 of the 2013 Act that deals with the provision of furnishing of details of assets and liabilities of public servants within 30 days of joining the government service.**
- **It replaces the time limit of 30 days, now the public servants will make a declaration of their assets and liabilities in the form and manner as prescribed by the government.**

- 
- The background of the slide features a row of classical, fluted columns, likely from a government building or court, rendered in a dark, muted color. The columns are evenly spaced and recede into the distance, creating a sense of depth and grandeur.
- **What is the Structure of Lokpal?**
 - **Lokpal is a multi-member body, that consists of one chairperson and a maximum of 8 members.**
 - **Chairperson of the Lokpal should be either the former Chief Justice of India or the former Judge of Supreme Court or an eminent person with impeccable integrity and outstanding ability, having special knowledge and expertise of minimum 25 years in the matters relating to anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance including insurance and banking, law and management.**
 - **Out of the maximum eight members, half will be judicial members and minimum 50% of the Members will be from SC/ ST/ OBC/ Minorities and women.**

- 
- **The judicial member of the Lokpal either a former Judge of the Supreme Court or a former Chief Justice of a High Court.**
 - **The non-judicial member should be an eminent person with impeccable integrity and outstanding ability, having special knowledge and expertise of minimum 25 years in the matters relating to anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance including insurance and banking, law and management.**
 - **The term of office for Lokpal Chairman and Members is 5 years or till the age of 70 years.**
 - **The members are appointed by the president on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.**

- 
- **The selection committee is composed of the Prime Minister who is the Chairperson, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Chief Justice of India or a Judge nominated by him/her and One eminent jurist.**
 - **For selecting the chairperson and the members, the selection committee constitutes a search panel of at least eight persons.**

-

What comes under the Jurisdiction of Lokpal and its Powers?

Jurisdiction of Lokpal includes Prime Minister, Ministers, members of Parliament, Groups A, B, C and D officers and officials of Central Government.

- **The Inquiry Wing of the Lokpal has been vested with the powers of a civil court.**
- **Lokpal has powers of confiscation of assets, proceeds, receipts and benefits arisen or procured by means of corruption in special circumstances.**
- **Lokpal has the power to recommend transfer or suspension of public servant connected with allegation of corruption.**
- **Lokpal has the power to give directions to prevent the destruction of records during the preliminary inquiry.**

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CAA rules likely to be notified before poll code, to seek proof of India entry, religion

DEEPTIMANT TIWARY
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

THE RULES for implementation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), which was enacted by Parliament in December 2019 and spawned protests in parts of the country, are likely to be notified within the next fortnight or so, sources in the Ministry of Home

Affairs (MHA) said Tuesday. "I cannot tell you the date but they will be notified before the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) comes into force," an official of the MHA said.

The MCC comes into force when the Election Commission announces polls. It is expected that the Lok Sabha poll dates will be announced sometime next month.

Despite its enactment four years ago, the CAA could not be implemented because the rules were not notified.

Sources said the rules will specify the evidence needed for applicants to prove their credentials and eligibility for citizenship under the new law.

The CAA allows non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan to

apply for Indian citizenship through the naturalisation process — the applicants must belong to the Hindu, Sikh, Christian, Parsi, Jain and Buddhist communities. The legislation grants citizenship on the basis of the assumption that these communities faced religious persecution in these three Islamic countries.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RS POLLS: BJP 10, CONG 3, SP 2

BJP stuns Cong in Himachal, SP in UP as many MLAs cross-vote

CM Sukhu in trouble after Singhvi loses tie-breaker, party rushing observers

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

SENDING A worrying signal to the Congress government in Himachal Pradesh, party candidate and Congress Working Committee member Abhishek Manu Singhvi was defeated Tuesday in the election for the lone Rajya Sabha seat from the state after nine MLAs — six from Congress and three independents — voted against him, resulting in the victory of the BJP nominee Harsh Mahajan.

In Uttar Pradesh, Congress's INDIA bloc ally Samajwadi Party took a hit after at least seven of its MLAs cross-voted in favour of the BJP, resulting in the defeat of

Key test before Lok Sabha polls

THE RAJYA Sabha elections for 15 seats in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka were an acid test for the parties in the count-down to the Lok Sabha elections which are likely to be announced next month. This is also the time when alignments are being formed.

In all, the BJP won 10 of the 15 Rajya Sabha seats in UP, one of the SP's three candidates.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

JUREL IN THE CROWN



10,000 human genomes sequenced in India: Govt

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

THE GOVERNMENT'S ambitious Genome India initiative achieved a significant milestone Tuesday as researchers completed sequencing 10,000 healthy genomes from different regions of the country, representing 99 distinct populations. This accomplishment has culminated in the creation of a comprehen-

sive genetic map of India, which holds immense potential for clinicians and researchers alike.

"Sequencing 10,000 genomes and creating an Indian repository is a big achievement. The first whole human genome sequence was announced in 2001. It was completed over 13 years at the cost of \$3 billion. The technology has come a long way, allowing us to sequence thousands of genomes in a matter of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

Who else? One person, One Election, one big campaign!

UPPER HOUSE

INSIDE

AAP NAMES 4 PICKS FOR DELHI LS SEATS, 1 FOR HARYANA

FORMER SC JUDGE A M KHANWILKAR IS NEW LOKPAL CHIEF

PAGES 4, 14

Sitharaman will be guest at Adda today

As PM, has presented six Budgets in a row

REGULATED BY THE INSURANCE REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Associate Partners: APIT, LIC

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

UNION MINISTER of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman has been in charge of two key portfolios in the Narendra Modi-led government, and as India's longest serving full-time woman Finance Minister, she has presented six Budgets in a row — equalling the record of Morarji Desai.

At a time when the global economy faces a slowdown, economic growth and development of India is being closely watched for being an outlier among emerging economies. Sitharaman has steered the Indian economy through the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

POWERING PUNJAB

A RED initiative appears in today's edition of The Indian Express. This page is an initiative of the marketing solutions team of The Indian Express Group and contains content paid for by advertisers. This page should be read as an advertisement.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with astronauts-designate (from left) Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. **PTI**

Astronaut wings for Gaganyaan's IAF pilots, PM calls them 4 Shakti

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 27

SIX YEARS after he announced the decision to send Indians into space, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday presented to

the nation the four selected astronauts-designate who have been undergoing training under assessorship for the last four years.

The four candidates — Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair (47), Angad Pratap (41), Ajit Krishnan (41) and Wing Commander Shubhanshu

Shukla (38), all officers of the Indian Air Force — will follow in the footsteps of Rakesh Sharma, the first and only Indian to have travelled to space, way back in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

A STATUS CHECK P 18

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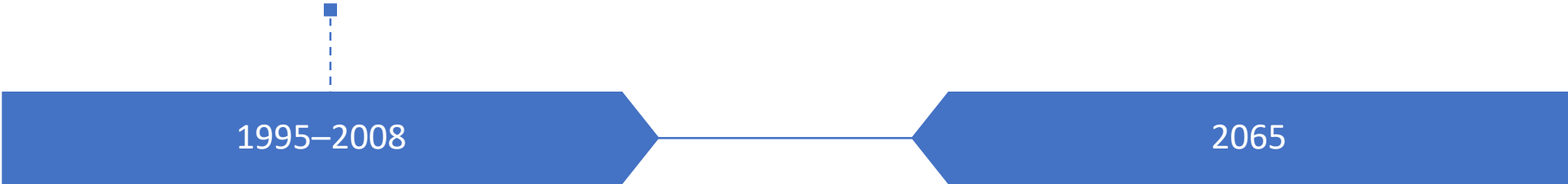
LIC Logo

JAPAN

Newborns are at a new low, fewer couples marry

Tokyo: The number of babies born in Japan last year fell for an eighth straight year to a new low, government data showed on Tuesday. The 758,631 babies born in Japan in 2023 were a 5.1 per cent decline from the previous year, according to the Health and Welfare Ministry. It was the lowest number of births since 1899. The number of marriages fell by 5.9% to 489,281 couples. **AP**

According to Kingston, from 1995 to 2008, Japan's number of regular workers decreased by 3.8 million while the number of irregular workers increased by 7.6 million.



Japan's population is projected to shrink well into the middle of this century, dropping to an estimated 88 million in 2065 — a 30% decline in 45 years.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emperor • Prime Minister 	<p>Naruhito</p> <p>Fumio Kishida</p>
<p>Legislature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper house • Lower house 	<p>National Diet</p> <p>House of Councillors</p> <p>House of Representatives</p>
<p>Formation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imperial Dynasty established • Meiji Constitution • Current constitution 	<p>539 AD^{[1][2][3]}</p> <p>November 29, 1890</p> <p>May 3, 1947</p>
<p>Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total • Water (%) 	<p>377,975 km² (145,937 sq mi)^[4] (62nd)</p> <p>1.4^[5]</p>
<p>Population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 1, 2023 estimate • 2020 census • Density 	<p>▼ 125,416,877^[6] (11th)</p> <p>▼ 126,226,568^[7]</p> <p>330/km² (854.7/sq mi) (44th)</p>
<p>GDP (PPP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total • Per capita 	<p>2023 estimate</p> <p>▲ \$6.495 trillion^[8] (4th)</p> <p>▲ \$52,120^[8] (34th)</p>
<p>GDP (nominal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total • Per capita 	<p>2023 estimate</p> <p>▼ \$4.231 trillion^[8] (4th)</p> <p>▲ \$33,950^[8] (30th)</p>
<p>Gini (2018)</p>	<p>▼ 33.4^[9] medium</p>
<p>HDI (2021)</p>	<p>▲ 0.925^[10] very high · 19th</p>
<p>Currency</p>	<p>Japanese yen (¥)</p>

Qualcomm, Jio to bring ₹8,000 5G smartphone by 2024-end

Product targeted at 300 million 2G users

JATIN GROVER
New Delhi, February 27

SAN DIEGO-BASED QUALCOMM, a global innovator in wireless products, solutions and technologies, is working with Reliance Jio to develop a 5G smartphone priced below \$99 (around ₹8,000). The phone is likely to be launched by the end of the current calendar year, Qualcomm's senior vice-president and general manager of handsets Chris Patrick said at the ongoing World Mobile Congress in Barcelona.

In 2020, Qualcomm Ventures, the investment arm of Qualcomm, had invested ₹730 crore in Jio Platforms, translating into a 0.15% equity stake.

THE AFFORDABILITY FACTOR

■ Qualcomm's new chipset to support 5G standalone architecture, offered by Jio currently

■ Qualcomm has been working to bring down price of its chipsets for some time now

■ Share of 5G smartphone shipments crossed **52%** in 2023, with **66%** y-o-y growth, according to Counterpoint



The duo developing a smartphone priced around ₹8,000 is significant as it may accelerate the migration of 2G users to 4G and 5G services. While Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea have 2G users, Jio's network is fully 4G-5G. There are some smartphones priced around ₹8,000 in the market today,

but the Qualcomm-Jio product is expected to be packed with more features — higher RAM (random access memory) and a better processor — which may make it more attractive to consumers.

Continued on Page 18

Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8)

The India-Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8) meeting was held recently on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue, 2024 in New Delhi.



NB8 - A regional framework consisting of 8 countries from the Northern Europe.



Members -

5 Nordic Countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden.

3 Baltic countries - Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

-
- **Established in** - 1992
 - **Aim** - To discuss important regional and international issues in an informal atmosphere.
 - **Chair** - In 2024, the NB8 is chaired by Sweden which was taken over from Latvia.
 - **NB8 Wise Men Report** - It is also known as Birkavs-Gade Report.
 - It provides concrete guidelines for promoting cooperation between the 8 countries.
 - **e-PINE** - Enhanced Partnership in Northern Europe (e-PINE) was launched by the United States in 2003.



A close-up photograph of a green grasshopper with long antennae perched on a red flower. The grasshopper is positioned on the right side of the frame, facing left. Its body is a vibrant green with some darker spots and patterns, particularly on its legs and wings. The red flower it is sitting on is in sharp focus, showing its intricate petal structure. In the background, there are green, serrated leaves, likely from a fern, which are slightly out of focus. The overall scene is brightly lit, highlighting the textures of the insect and the flower.

Gemma

-
- *Google has recently introduced Gemma, latest open artificial intelligence (AI) model.*
 - Gemma is a family of open-source AI models developed by Google DeepMind.
 - Its name is derived from the Latin word '*gemma*,' which translates to precious stone.

-
- It has been built using the same research and technology used in *Gemini models* by Google.
 - Gemma is being offered in 2 model sizes, Gemma 2B and Gemma 7B, which have been released with pre-trained and instruction-tuned variants



Dosti-16

-
- *The 16th edition of the Dosti-16 exercise has been recently concluded with observers from Bangladesh.*
 - Dosti-16 is a trilateral exercise between the coast guards of **India, the Maldives, and Sri Lanka**.
 - The exercise aims to improve maritime interoperability, enhance cooperation, and strengthen friendship.
 - The exercise has been held **every 2 years** since 1991, except in 2021.



DHARMA GUARDIAN

- 
- *The 5th edition of EXERCISE 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' commenced recently in Rajasthan.*
 - Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is a **Joint annual military exercise** and conducted alternatively in **India and Japan**.
 - **Aim** - To foster Military Cooperation and enhance combined capabilities to execute joint operations in semi-urban environment under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter.

Tangail Saree

Bangladeshis annoyed after West Bengal gets GI Tag for Tangail Saree.

Tangail sarees named after the place called Tangail, located in Bangladesh.

Weavers from Tangail region of then East Bengal, migrated to different parts of West Bengal and continued their weaving profession for production of Tangail Sarees.

The Tangail saree is a simplification of Jamdani cotton saree but with minimal designs in body portion, thereby minimizing the labour and price.

The traditional tangail borders had a 'paddo' or lotus pattern, pradeep or lamp pattern apart from popular 'ans par' that was common in Shantipur region.

Materials used - Tangail weavers normally used cotton and the texture is usually high and compact.


Tassar silk yarn, Mercerized cotton yarn, dyed twisted cotton yarn are used as extra warp for making designs in the borders of the sarees.

Jacquards fabrics are used for making designs in the borders.

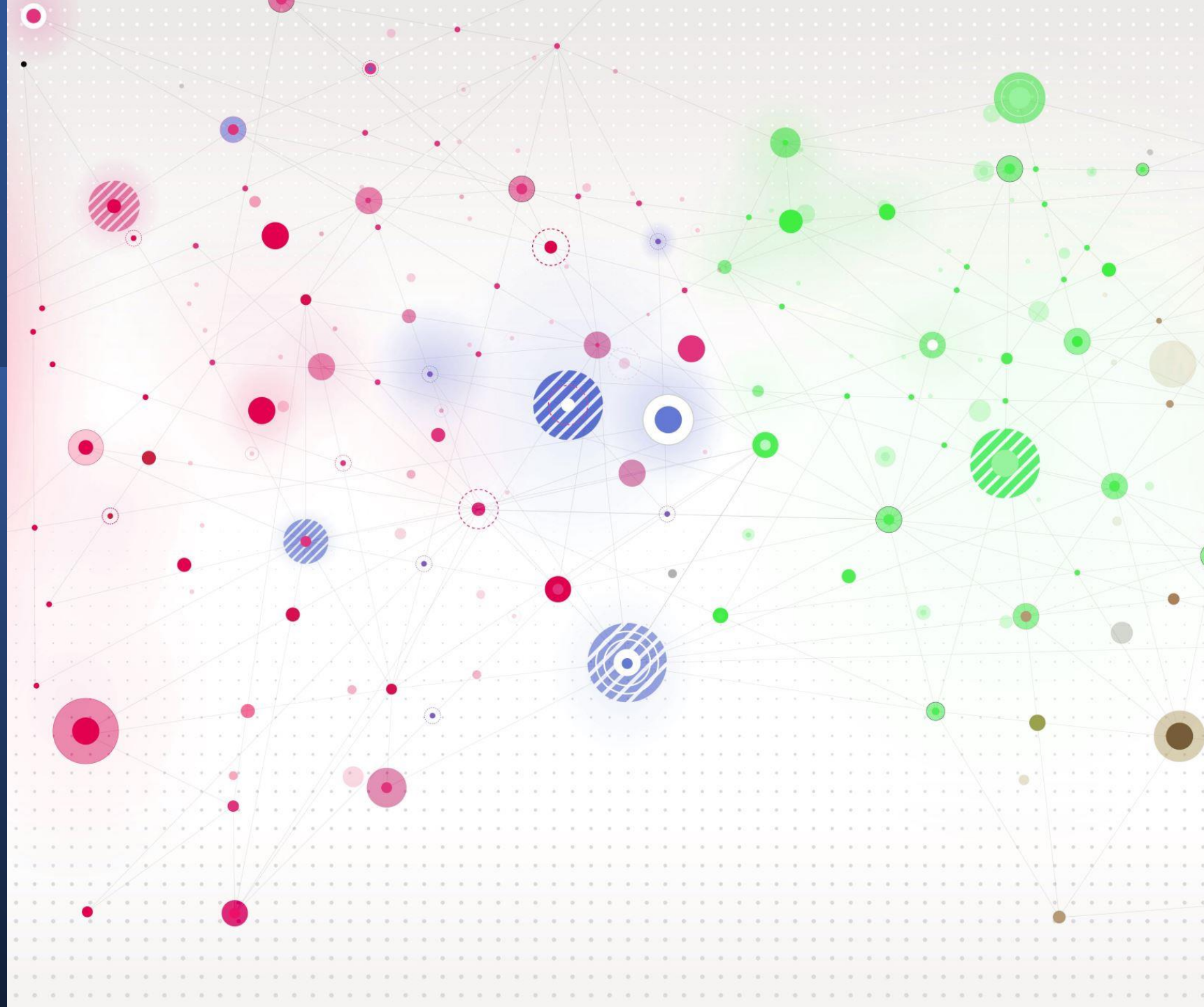
Coloured yarns are used for both warp and weft and in extra warp also.



Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

- It is defined under Article-23 and 24 of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
 - GI tag is a form of certification that recognizes unique products based on their origin.
 - GI tagged products can be natural or man-made.
 - The raw materials for such products do not necessarily have to come from that region, unless it is an agricultural tag.
- 

Rani Chennamma



-
- Commemorating 200 years of Rani Chennamma's rebellion against the British East India Company, several social groups across India have organised a national campaign, Naanoo Rani Chennamma (I am Rani Chennamma too) on 21st February.

The Campaign is trying to invoke Chennamma's memory to show that women can be the vanguards of safeguarding dignity and justice. Rani Chennamma's bravery is an inspiration to the women of the country.

Her stride and quick thinking to safeguard her homeland can be seen as a testament to her commitment and dedication to protecting her kingdom.



Chenamma was born on 23rd October 1778, in Kagati, a small village in present-day Belagavi district in Karnataka.

23 Oct. 1778

1816

1816

After Mallasarja's death in 1816, his eldest son, Shivalingarudra Sarja, ascended the throne. But it wasn't long before Shivalingarudra's health started deteriorating.

At the age of 15, she married Raja Mallasarja of Kittur, who ruled the province until 1816.

Kittur needed an heir apparent to survive. However, Shivalingarudra had no natural heir and Chennamma too had lost her son.



Before his death in 1824, Shivalingarudra adopted a child, Shivalingappa, as the successor. However, the British East India Company refused to recognise Shivalingappa as the successor of the kingdom under the 'Doctrine of Lapse'.

- **Under the doctrine, any princely state without a natural heir would collapse and would be annexed by the Company.**
- **John Thackeray, the British official at Dharwad, launched an attack on Kittur in October 1824.**

-

Battle Against British:

In 1824, a fleet of 20,000 British soldiers was positioned on the foothills of the Kittur fort as they attempted to invade the former princely state of Karnataka.

But Rani Chennamma retaliated and killed a British official to protect and safeguard her homeland.

Trained in martial arts and military tactics, she was a **formidable leader**.

She led her army into battle, **employing guerrilla warfare tactics to surprise the British forces**

- **What is the Doctrine of Lapse?**
- **It was an annexation policy followed widely by Lord Dalhousie when he was India's Governor-General from 1848 to 1856.**
- **According to this, any princely state that was under the direct or indirect control of the East India Company where the ruler did not have a legal male heir would be annexed by the company.**
 - **As per this, any adopted son of the Indian ruler could not be proclaimed as heir to the kingdom.**
- **By applying the doctrine of lapse, Dalhousie annexed the States of:**
 - **Satara (1848 A.D.), Jaitpur, and Sambalpur (1849 A.D.), Baghat (1850 A.D.), Udaipur (1852 A.D.), Jhansi (1853 A.D.), and Nagpur (1854 A.D.).**
-

A photograph of a nuclear power plant at night. The scene is dominated by several large, cylindrical cooling towers and tall smokestacks. Thick plumes of white steam or smoke are rising from the towers and stacks, filling the dark sky. The plant's structures are illuminated from below, creating a stark contrast with the dark background. In the foreground, there are some trees and a fence line. The overall atmosphere is industrial and powerful.

Private Investments in India's Nuclear Energy

India is set to revolutionise its nuclear energy sector by inviting private companies to invest approximately USD 26 billion, marking a significant shift in its energy policy.

This move aims to boost electricity generation from non-carbon-emitting sources and aligns with India's ambitious targets for renewable energy adoption.



The government is negotiating with leading firms such as Reliance Industries, Tata Power, Adani Power, and Vedanta Ltd.



for investments of about Rs 440 billion (\$5.3 billion) each in the nuclear energy sector. The government aims to add 11,000 megawatts (MW) of new nuclear power generation capacity by 2040 through this investment.



This initiative is expected to diversify India's energy mix, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and enhance energy security in the long run.



Private companies will be responsible for making investments in nuclear plants, acquiring land, and water, and undertaking construction activities.





However, the rights to build, operate, and manage the nuclear stations, as well as fuel management, will remain with the **state-run Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL)** as per legal provisions.



Private companies are anticipated to **generate revenue from electricity sales, while NPCIL will operate the projects for a fee.**



Cyclone Shelter HAMs Excel in IOTA Expedition

- 
- A dedicated team of amateur radio operators (HAMs) advocating last-mile connectivity, aimed to integrate HAM education in schools for enhanced disaster response, embarked on a significant journey from cyclone shelters in Nachugunta Island, Andhra Pradesh, to participate in the Island on the Air (IOTA) expedition.
- 

KALIA Scheme

The Odisha state cabinet recently extended the KALIA scheme for 3 more years.



KALIA stands for “Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation”.

It is a cash assistant scheme launched by Odisha Government in 2018 to accelerate Agricultural Prosperity and reduce poverty in the State.

Financial assistance of Rs.25,000 will be given per farm family over 5 seasons.



Operation AMRITH (Antimicrobial Resistance Intervention for Total Health)

- 
- The Kerala Drug Control Department launched Operation AMRITH to prevent the overuse of antibiotics in the state.
 - **Background**
 - In 2011, the Indian government introduced the **H1 rule** to prohibit the **over-the-counter (OTC) sales** of antibiotics without a prescription, responding to the growing concern over antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- 

-
- In 2013, the rule to limit the OTC restriction was limited to second- and third-line antibiotics, allowing the sale of first-line antibiotics without a prescription.
 - Step was taken to ensure that life-saving antibiotics remained accessible to the public, especially in remote areas
 - Operation AMRITH enforces the original H1 rule, mandating a doctor's prescription for acquiring any class of antibiotics.
 -

First private ammunition
manufacture facility opens



-
- In a **first in the private sector**, two facilities for the manufacture of ammunition and missiles were opened by **Adani Defence and Aerospace** in **Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh** recently.
 - **About:**
 - The **Kanpur complex is set to become one of the largest integrated ammunition manufacturing complexes in South Asia.**
 - The facilities will produce **high-quality small, medium and large calibre ammunition** for the armed forces, paramilitary forces and the police.



Garbhini-GA2



BRIC-THSTI Faridabad and IIT Madras researchers have developed an India-specific model to determine the **age of a foetus in a pregnant woman** in the second and third trimesters precisely.

About

Currently, the **age of a foetus (gestational age, GA)** is determined using a formula developed for **Western populations** and are likely to be erroneous when applied in the later part of pregnancy due to variations in the growth of the foetus in the Indian population.

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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, with some in the foreground and others blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, creating a sense of appreciation and collective effort. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner of the image.

Thank you
guys.
