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**The question isn't who is
going to let me; it's who is
going to stop me.**

-Ayn Rand

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Kerala Governor sacks V-Cs of two varsities
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INSIDE

Bengal the safest State for women, says Mamata
KOLKATA West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, addressing a gathering on the eve of Women's Day said that reports of atrocities on women at Sandeshkhali were misleading and Bengal was the safest State for women. > PAGE 2

Rahul likely to seek re-election from Wayanad
NEW DELHI The Congress's top election body is said to have cleared the candidature of party leader Rahul Gandhi for the Wayanad constituency in the coming Lok Sabha polls. There is, however, no official announcement from the party. > PAGE 5

China calls Gaza war a 'disgrace to civilisation'
GAZA STRIP China described the war in Gaza as a "disgrace to civilisation" and called on Thursday for an immediate ceasefire as the conflict stretched into its sixth month despite efforts by mediators to reach a truce. > PAGE 12

'Inflation likely stayed over 5% in February too'
NEW DELHI Despite the pace of price rise in some food items the basket in February, overall real inflation is likely to have stayed at about 5.1% in February, the same level as January, Bank of Baroda economists said on Thursday. > PAGE 14

Working days Perhaps oblivious to the fact that International Women's Day falls on March 8, tribal women from Kotia village on the Andhra Pradesh-Odisha border go about their daily chores. Not much has changed for these tribals, especially the women. V. RAJU

Sena row: SC asks if Speaker contradicted verdict

Top court questions the way Maharashtra Speaker declared Shinde's faction as the 'real' Shiv Sena | A Constitution Bench had earlier held that Speaker should not be swayed by legislative majority factor | It said leadership structure outside the Legislative Assembly is a consideration relevant to the issue

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Thursday asked whether Maharashtra Speaker Rahul Narwekar "contradicted" a Constitution Bench judgment to declare Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's faction as the "real" Shiv Sena.
"The Speaker says the 'real' political party is discernible from which faction held the legislative majority at the time of the emergence of the rival factions... Is this not contrary to what we had laid down on May 11?" Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, heading a three-judge Bench, asked.
Deciding the disqualification petitions filed against Mr. Shinde, Mr. Narwekar had on January 10 declared the Chief Minister's camp as the true party based on a finding that he had commanded the legislative majority at the time Shiv Sena splintered in June 2022.
On May 11, 2023, a Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice Chandrachud had made it clear that the Speaker should not be swayed by the factor of a legislative majority.

"The Speaker must not base his decision as to which group constitutes the political party on a blind appreciation of which group possesses a majority in the Legislative Assembly. This is not a game of numbers, but of something more. The structure of leadership outside the Legislative Assembly is a consideration which is relevant to the determination of this issue," Chief Justice Chandrachud had observed in the judgment.
Different wings
The Constitution Bench had differentiated between the legislative wing, composed of the MLAs of the party, and the political wing of the party, made up of the cadre.
It had held that the answer to which faction was the real party should

be gleaned from the support from the political wing and not the numbers on the legislative side. "A majority faction of the legislature party cannot be construed as the political party for the purposes of the Tenth Schedule," the May 11 judgment had noted. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, A.M. Singhvi and Devadutt Kamat said the Speaker had also stumbled by refusing to accept the 2018 Constitution of the Shiv Sena party, which appointed Mr. Thackeray as president.
"The 2018 Constitution was relied upon by the High Court and the Supreme Court. Nobody disputed it then. But the Speaker said he will not depend on this Constitution as it was not filed with the Election Commission of India. So, he went by a Constitution from 1959 when

nobody had even talked about it," Mr. Sibal submitted. Mr. Salve countered that the documents produced by the Thackeray camp before the Speaker had been "brazenly fabricated".
He said that a similar case against the Speaker's decision of January 10 was pending in the Bombay High Court. He said the Speaker camp could not file petitions in multiple courts at the same time over the same issue.
However, the Supreme Court decided to go ahead and list the case for further arguments in the week commencing April 8.

Life as usual



Working days: Perhaps oblivious to the fact that International Women's Day falls on March 8, tribal women from Kotia village on the Andhra Pradesh-Odisha border go about their daily chores. Not much has changed for these tribals, especially the women. V. RAJU

SC to consider contempt plea against SBI for seeking time

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Thursday said the Supreme Court would consider listing a contempt petition against State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khera for seeking time till June 30 to provide complete details of electoral bonds purchased since April 2019 to anonymously fund political parties.
The contempt petition, filed jointly by petitioners Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and Common Cause, said the Supreme Court, while striking down the electoral bonds scheme, had directed the SBI to share details of the bonds to anonymous donors and political parties who had benefited from the transactions to the Election Commission by March 6.
The Election Commission



The bank has said it needs time till June end to provide details about electoral bonds. REUTERS

ha Rathi, for the contempt petitioners, urged the court to list the contempt plea along with the SBI's application on Monday (March 10).
The contempt petition said the bank was deliberately trying to ensure that details of donors and the amounts contributed to political parties, mostly were not disclosed to the public before the coming Lok Sabha polls.
MORE REPORTS
> PAGE 4

Kashmiris 'breathing freely' since revocation of Article 370, says Modi

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Claiming that the people of Kashmir were now "breathing free" thanks to the revocation of Article 370, Prime Minister Narendra Modi — on his first trip to Jammu and Kashmir since it lost its autonomous status and Statehood — pledged to "keep winning the hearts of Kashmiris".
Addressing the crowd in Srinagar on Thursday, Mr. Modi targeted the Congress and its allies over Article 370. "Kashmir is touching new heights of progress and prosperity after the revocation of Article 370. Locals are able to breathe free. This *azadi* [freedom] has come after Article 370's removal. For decades, the Congress and its



Painted souvenirs: J&K L.G. Manoj Sinha presents a memento to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Srinagar on Thursday. NISSAR AHMAD

allies misled the people of J&K as well as the country about Article 370," the Prime Minister said.
"New Kashmir" This is the new Kashmir we all were awaiting for decades. This is the new Kashmir that has come after Article 370's removal. For decades, the Congress and its

so consider themselves as *parivara*," he said.
In a bid to strike a chord with all sections of his audience, Mr. Modi wished residents as well as the rest of the country on the occasion of the upcoming festivals of both Ramzan and Maha Shivratri.
Speaking on the occasion, J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha highlighted the developmental initiatives taken up in Kashmir after the revocation of Article 370. "No more youth are hit by pellets or lose their sight. No innocents get killed. Youth have laptops rather than stones in their hands. The ecosystem of terrorism has been dismantled. We always said that we will not buy peace but establish peace in Kashmir," Mr. Sinha said.

Reincarnation and realpolitik keeps Dalai Lama's succession in dilemma

Agence France-Presse
MCLIBOD GANJ

Esoteric questions of reincarnation rarely have real-world political consequences, but many fear the search for a successor to Tibet's Dalai Lama could inflame regional rivalries.
The 84-year-old spiritual leader, Tenzin Gyatso, has shown no indication of serious health issues, and has said that his dreams suggest he could live until he is 113.
But as Tibetans prepare to mark on Saturday the 65th anniversary of the failed uprising against Chinese forces that led to him fleeing into exile in India, the question of who will succeed their ageing leader is in sharp focus.
Tibetan activists are keenly aware that his death



Long struggles: Dalai Lama is celebrated worldwide for his tireless campaign for greater autonomy for his Tibetan homeland. AFP

will mark a major setback in his push for more autonomy for the Himalayan region. It would deprive the cause of a Nobel Prize winner whose moral teachings and idiosyncratic humour made him one of the world's most popular figures.
Many expect China will name a successor. That

believe their soul carries on, living in a new being.
Tibetan monks traditionally choose the Dalai Lama through a ritualistic search that can take years, seeking *tertöla* signs a child is the reincarnation of a spiritual leader first born in 1399.
The 14th Dalai Lama, who has lived in exile in the northern Indian town of Dharamshala since the failed uprising in 1959, has floated the possibility of a non-traditional succession.
He already ended the pope's political powers in 2011 in favour of an elected government-in-exile.
Keeping Beijing on its toes, he has alternatively suggested that his reincarnation could be a girl for the first time, or that it might be the last Dalai Lama.

SC to consider contempt plea against SBI for seeking time

Krishnadas Rajagopal

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The Election Commis-



The bank has said it needs time till June end to provide details about electoral bonds. REUTERS

sion was ordered to publish the data obtained from the bank on its official website by March 13.

However, the bank has put a spoke in the wheel by filing a nine-page application in the Supreme Court on March 4, just two days before the deadline. The bank said it needed time till June end to provide the Election Commission details about the bonds.

Making an oral mentioning in court on Thursday, advocates Prashant Bhushan, Cherul D'souza and Ne-

ha Rathi, for the contempt petitioners, urged the court to list the contempt plea along with the SBI's application on Monday (March 11).

The contempt petition said the bank was deliberately trying to ensure that details of donors and the amounts contributed to political parties anonymously were not disclosed to the public before the coming Lok Sabha polls.

MORE REPORTS

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The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Almost 60% of the funds received by political parties cannot be traced and come from “unknown” sources, including electoral bonds, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The ADR, which analysed the audit reports and the donations declared in statements filed by political parties with the Election Commission of India each year, said that between the financial years 2004-05 and 2022-23, the country's six national parties collected ₹19,083.08 crore from unknown sources.

At present, political parties are not required to reveal the names of individuals or organisations giving them less than ₹20,000. As a result, three-fifths of the funds received cannot be traced and are from ‘unknown’ sources, the report said.

Of the ₹3,076.88 crore declared as income by national parties in 2022-23, ₹1,832.87 crore – or more than 59% – came from unknown sources. Of this, the share of income from electoral bonds was ₹1,510.61



The vast majority of these funds went to the BJP.

crore, or 82.42%.

The vast majority of these funds went to the BJP. During 2022-23, the ruling party declared ₹1,400.23 crore as its income from unknown sources. This amounts to 76.39% of the total income from unknown sources declared by all national parties; the other five national parties together have received only ₹432.63 crore from unknown sources.

The Congress came a distant second, claiming 17.19% of the national pie and declaring ₹315.11 crore as its income from unknown sources.

The other parties included in the ADR's analysis were the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), the Aam Aadmi Party, and the National People's Party.

Predecessor	<p>Imperial Bank of India (1921 – 1955)</p> <p>Bank of Calcutta (1806 – 1921)</p> <p>Bank of Bombay (1840 – 1921)</p> <p>Bank of Madras (1843 – 1921)</p>
Founded	<p>1 July 1955; 68 years ago State Bank of India</p> <hr/> <p>27 January 1921 Imperial Bank of India</p> <p>2 June 1806 Bank of Calcutta</p> <p>15 April 1840 Bank of Bombay</p> <p>1 July 1843 Bank of Madras</p>
Headquarters	State Bank Bhawan, M.C. Road, Nariman Point , Mumbai , Maharashtra , India
Number of locations	<p>India: 22,219 Branches 62,617 ATMs</p> <p>International: 229 Branches in 31 countries</p>
Area served	Worldwide
Key people	<p>Dinesh Kumar Khara (Chairman)^[1]</p> <p>Kameshwar Rao Kodavanti (CFO)^[2]</p>

Revenue	▲ ₹473,378.14 crore (US\$59 billion) ^[3] (2023)
Operating income	▲ ₹93,582.84 crore (US\$12 billion) ^[3] (2023)
Net income	▲ ₹55,648.20 crore (US\$7.0 billion) ^[3] (2023)
Total assets	▲ ₹6,317,052.20 crore (US\$790 billion) ^[3] (2024)
Total equity	▲ ₹371,767.90 crore (US\$47 billion) ^[3] (2023)
Number of employees	<p>240,198 (31 December 2022)^[4]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 106,429 officers • 95,992 assistants • 32,138 subordinate staff • 5,639 contractual officials
Parent	Ministry of Finance (Government of India) (57.5%)
Subsidiaries	<p>SBI Life Insurance Ltd</p> <p>SBI Mutual Fund (63%)</p> <p>SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd</p> <p>SBI General Insurance (70%)</p> <p>Jio Payments Bank (30%)</p> <p>Yes Bank (30%)</p> <p>Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (35%)</p> <p>Kaveri Grameena Bank (35%)</p>
Capital ratio	Tier 1 11.03% (2022) ^[5]
Rating	<p>S&P BBB− / A-3/ Stable^[6]</p> <p>Moody's Baa3/ P-3/ Stable^[6]</p> <p>Fitch BBB− / F-3/ Stable^[6]</p>
Website	bank.sbi ^[7]

Governor Khan sacks V-Cs of two universities in Kerala

The V-Cs have 10 days to challenge the orders in Kerala High Court; Raj Bhavhan directs them to vacate the positions saying their appointments are found to be 'not in terms with UGC regulations'

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Karunakaran's daughter and KPCC general secretary joins the BJP

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Padmaja Venugopal, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) general secretary and the late Kerala Chief Minister K. Karunakaran's daughter, has joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Kerala in-charge Prakash Javadekar formally welcomed her into the party fold at a brief function at the party headquarters in New Delhi.

Ms. Venugopal said she was pained to renounce the party "she was born into".

"I greatly respect Sonia Gandhi, but she has become remote and inaccessible. My father also felt similarly shunned by the Congress leadership, which is ultimately responsible for my shift to the BJP. The Congress has no single unifying leader," she said. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Ms. Venugopal said.

Mr. Javadekar declined to comment on the BJP's plans for Venugopal.

Ms. Venugopal denied forsaking her father's strident anti-Sarkar political legacy. She said Karunakaran was more anti-left than anti-BJP.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan as Chancellor of universities on Thursday invalidated the appointments of the Vice-Chancellors of Calicut University and Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit M.K. Jayaraj and M.V. Narayanan respectively.

The move comes around two weeks after Mr. Khan conducted hearings for four Vice-Chancellors, including the duo who have been removed from their positions.

Suspense continues over the fate of Saji Gopinath,



Arif Mohammed Khan

Vice-Chancellor of Digital University Kerala, and P.M. Mubarak Pasha of Sree Narayana Guru Open University, with the University Grants Commission (UGC) seeking two weeks to provide a clarification for the application of regulations on the appointment of the first Vice-Chan-

cellors and the point of time from which they would apply.

The Chancellor has not accepted a resignation letter submitted by Prof. Pasha thus far.

Citing a Supreme Court order that had set aside the appointment of former Vice-Chancellor of APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University M.S. Rajasekar, Raj Bhavhan directed Prof. Jayaraj and Prof. Narayanan to vacate the positions citing that their appointments were found to be "not in terms with UGC regulations".

"The 10 days to challenge the orders in the Kerala High Court.

light of the law laid down by the Supreme Court," the order read.

Mr. Khan found Prof. Narayanan to have been the sole name to have been proposed by the search-selection committee for appointment as Vice-Chancellor. This contravened the requirement for a panel of short-listed candidates.

In the case of Prof. Jayaraj, the selection panel included the then Chief Secretary and thereby violated the UGC regulations.

The two academics will have 10 days to challenge the orders in the Kerala High Court.

Board exams for classes 5, 8 and 9 can be conducted: Karnataka HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Division Bench of the High Court of Karnataka on Thursday gave green signal to the state government to conduct board exams for the summative assessment of students of classes 5, 8, and 9 as per the schedule, beginning from March 11.

The Bench comprising Justice K. Somashekar and Justice Rajesh Rai K. passed the interim order by staying the March 6 judgment of a single judge on an appeal filed by the State government questioning the correctness of the single judge's verdict.

Noticing that there was no interim order restraining the authorities from holding proposed exams during the pendency of the petitions before the single judge, the Bench said: "In such circumstances, if the order is not stayed, the same is likely to prolong the present situation of uncertainty, which is extremely detrimental to the student community."

The Bench also noted that the proposed assessment led by Bharat Rashtra Samithi party. The Governor rejected their nomination. The Council of Ministers of the government, led by Chief Minister A. Revathi, had already been formed. The Council of Ministers of the government, led by Chief Minister A. Revathi, had already been formed.

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The single judge had directed the government to hold board exams for classes 5, 8, 9, and 11 from 2023-24.

'Only farmer suicides doubled under Modi regime, not income'

Shomajit Banerjee
PUNE



Shomajit Banerjee

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Thursday hit back at Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent allegations of him being an ineffectual Union Agriculture Minister, remarking instead that while Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised to double the farmers' income, it was the number of farmer suicides that had increased significantly during the BJP's ten-year reign at the Centre.

Mr. Pawar, the former Union Agriculture Minister in the erstwhile Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government, was targeted by Mr. Shah at the latter's rally in Sambhajinagar earlier this week.

The NCP leader, who was holding a rally in Lonavala (part of the Maharashtra Lok Sabha), lambasted the Prime Minister's tall assurance, which came to nothing on ground.

"PM Modi promised to increase the farmers' income by twofold. Has it increased? The only thing that has increased is farmer suicides. Is this Mr. Modi's guarantee? Last year, farmers from Punjab and Haryana camped near Delhi's gates for a year, enduring Delhi's bitter cold and extreme heat... this PM can only give hollow assurance," Mr. Pawar said.

The 83-year-old lauded his Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance bloc ally, Trinamool Congress chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Ma-

mat Banerjee, while censuring Mr. Modi's ad hominem attacks on Mr. Banerjee during his Bengal visit.

"During his speech in West Bengal, PM Modi criticised Chief Minister Manu Mat Banerjee, who was an MP for 25 years and has been a Union Minister for five years. She has been the CM of the state for the last 10 years. She is from a simple family. We worked together in the Central government. You will be surprised that she lives in a small room even today. People have repeatedly voted for her, and give the reins of the state to her with great respect. The PM should be proud of her, but he criticises her instead. This does not fit within the parameters of parliamentary democracy," he said.

He also called out Mr. Modi for repeatedly criticising Chief Minister Delhi's gates for a year, enduring Delhi's bitter cold and extreme heat... this PM can only give hollow assurance," Mr. Pawar said.

"Modi Ki Guarantee". If one considers whose money is being used to publish these advertisements, the answer is that it is the people's money," he said.

Telangana HC quashes Governor's order rejecting nomination of 2 MLCs

Mari Ramu
HYDERABAD

Telangana High Court on Thursday quashed the order of Governor rejecting nomination of Dasoji Sravan Kumar and Karra Satyanarayana as Members of Legislative Council (MLCs) under Governor's quota.

Pronouncing verdict in the writ petition filed by Mr. Sravan Kumar and Mr. Satyanarayana challenging Governor's order

issued on September 19 of 2023, the High Court also quashed the notification issued by the State government on January 27, 2024 nominating M. Kodandaram and Amer Ali Khan as MLCs under Governor's quota.

The Bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhite and Justice Anil Kumar Jubbani, disposing of the two pleas, said that the Governor was bound to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers while exercising powers under Article 174

(5) of the Constitution of India.

However, it was open for the Governor to reject the nomination if the Council of Ministers, the court noted. The Governor also had the power to remit the matter back to the Council of Ministers asking the latter to furnish request afresh for reconsideration of the recommendation made by it.

The names of Mr. Sravan Kumar and Mr. Satyanarayana were recommended for nomination as MLCs by the Bharat Rashtra Samithi party. The Governor rejected their nomination. The Council of Ministers of the government, led by Chief Minister A. Revathi, had already been formed.

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Covishield vaccine demonstrated more robust immune response compared to Covaxin, says study

Hemant C.S.
BENGALURU

A new study by a consortium of 11 institutes, led by scientists from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), has found that the Covishield vaccine demonstrated more robust immune responses compared to Covaxin.

The study compared the immunogenicity of Covishield and Covaxin, the two primary COVID-19 vaccines widely used in India.

The findings of the study, which have been published in the journal *The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia*, offer valuable



The study compared the immunogenicity of COVID-19 vaccines Covishield, Covaxin.

insights into the quality and quantity of immune responses elicited by these vaccines against SARS-CoV-2, with significant implications for shaping future vaccination strategies.

The key findings state that Covishield, leveraging a virus vector to deliver the spike protein of the coronavirus, consistently demonstrated more robust immune responses compared to Covaxin, an inactivated virus vaccine.

"Notably, Covishield exhibited a near-complete immune response in the majority of participants, whereas the response to Covaxin was variable," states the key findings released by NCBS.

The study, carried out from June 2021 to January 2022, involved assessing 691 participants, aged between 18 and 45 years, from Bengaluru and Pune.

Beating the heat



Water-bounds: A flock of egrets herald the start of a Chennai summer with a dip in the Adyar river. M. SIBINATHI

initiated 17 short-term measures to check man-animal conflicts in the district.

The meetings of the inter-State coordination committee, the setting up of a Community Control Centre in Wayanad, and steps for strengthening the early warning systems to alert people about the possible presence of wild animals in human habitations are part of the measures taken forward by the State government.

Deployment of drones for surveillance, clearing compensation to victims of wild animal attacks, setting up of a new forest station, and closure of ecotourism destinations in the forest till the issue of man-animal conflict is reduced are also being implemented, the State informed the court.

Close on the heels of the Bharatiya Janata Party's outgoing Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar not to administer oath to the newly elected Rajya Sabha member Nasser Hussain, 22 retired all-India services officers and Central services officers have urged the Vice-President, who is also the minister of P&W, to put the oath-taking on hold.

They have urged the Vice-President to put it on hold till the completion of judicial proceedings in the incident of allegedly raising "pro-Pakistan" slogans by the supporters of the newly elected member.

The police have arrested three persons in connection with the case.

Kerala on Thursday launched its government-owned OTT platform CSpace with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan terming it as a decisive step in the on-way journey of Malayalam cinema.

Inaugurating CSpace at a function held at the Kalbari Theatre here, the Chief Minister termed it a pioneering initiative that would give prominence to films with artistic and cultural value without hurting the mainstream film industry.

"Private OTT platforms give prominence to films in the most widely spoken language since their prime motive is to maximize profit. The priority of CSpace,

NIA traces trail of cafe blast suspect

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency and Central Crime Branch of Bengaluru Police, which have been trailing the suspect involved in the Rameshwaram Cafe case, have found new leads. Sleuths have found CCTV footage of the suspect at Tumkur.

Stand on the night of March 1. NIA officials have questioned a few in Tumkur. Further, they have footage to show the suspect went to Ballari and from there to Bhatkal. The police have also changed his attire multiple times and took a circuitous route to mislead the probe.

Bengaluru caps tanker supply price

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to address water scarcity and skyrocketing tanker prices, Bengaluru district administration has capped water tanker prices at a maximum of ₹1,200 per load of 12,000 litres.

At present, a 12,000-litre tanker load costs anywhere between ₹1,800 and ₹2,500 depending on the locality. What was an area worst hit by drinking water crisis, the move comes amid escalating demand and soaring prices of tankers, with all taluks in Bengaluru Urban district declared as drought-hit.

The order does not specify the cost of a tanker load for distances beyond 10 km.

Kerala comes up with long, short-term measures to prevent man-animal conflict

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

A smart elephant fence is among the long-term measures proposed by the Kerala government to prevent marauding wild elephants from reaching human habitations and reduce the instances of man-animal conflict.

The removal of undergrowth in private estates in the locality, which has also been proposed. The service of workers of the employment guarantee scheme would be used to remove the undergrowth, according to a set of proposals submitted by the State government to a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court.

Eradication of invasive plants such as *sema*, eco-



Eradication of invasive plants such as *sema*, one of the measures proposed by Kerala to contain human-animal conflict.

restoration activities by removing eucalyptus and acacia plants, supporting the regeneration of natural vegetation, improvement of wildlife habitats, and charging fees for entry of private vehicles to the forest area will also be explored.



Eradication of invasive plants such as *sema*, one of the measures proposed by Kerala to contain human-animal conflict.

Plans for protecting the life and property of people and putting up fences to prevent the entry of wild animals into human habitations are also there in the long-term measures suggested by the State government.

The State has also initiated 17 short-term measures to check man-animal conflicts in the district.

V-P asked not to administer oath to Nasser

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close on the heels of the Bharatiya Janata Party's outgoing Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar not to administer oath to the newly elected Rajya Sabha member Nasser Hussain, 22 retired all-India services officers and Central services officers have urged the Vice-President, who is also the minister of P&W, to put the oath-taking on hold.

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Kerala-owned OTT platform launched

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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OTT platform launched

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala on Thursday launched its government-owned OTT platform CSpace with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan terming it as a decisive step in the on-way journey of Malayalam cinema.

Inaugurating CSpace at a function held at the Kalbari Theatre here, the Chief Minister termed it a pioneering initiative that would give prominence to films with artistic and cultural value without hurting the mainstream film industry.

"Private OTT platforms give prominence to films in the most widely spoken language since their prime motive is to maximize profit. The priority of CSpace,

Kerala-owned OTT platform launched

The Hindu Bureau

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Inaugurating CSpace at a function held at the Kairali Theatre here, the Chief Minister termed it a pioneering initiative that would give prominence to films with artistic and cultural value without hurting the mainstream film industry.

“Private OTT platforms give prominence to films in the most widely spoken language since their prime motive is to maximise profit. The priority of CSpace,

on other hand, is to onboard and stream contents with artistic and cultural values,” Mr. Vijayan said.

The launch of CSpace also signifies leveraging of the cutting-edge technologies, he said.

The decision that CSpace will only stream films that are already released in theatres signifies that this is not a move that will harm the interests of the film industry.

CSpace will be managed by the Kerala State Film Development Corporation.

The platform, which operates on pay per view basis, allows viewers to watch a feature film for ₹75 and shorter contents for much lesser price.

Viewers can download CSpace app from Play Store and App Store.

IN BRIEF

Parliament case: police seek more time to file chargesheet

The Delhi Police on Thursday moved an application in a Patiala House court seeking three months' time to file chargesheet in the Parliament security breach case...

Indian diplomat meets Taliban minister in Kabul

A senior Indian diplomat met Taliban "foreign minister" Amir Khan Muttaqi in Kabul on Thursday. This was announced on social media...

85% of gig workers sweat it out for over 8 hours, 65% women feel unsafe: study

A survey conducted among more than 5,000 gig and platform workers across 12 cities in the country has found that 85% of them work above eight hours a day as drivers and riders...

Of the respondents, 52% have been delivery or riders and 16% for 5+ years. Commerce workers' will be a better nomenclature to address them because...

Citizens have right to criticise revocation of Article 370, says SC

The Supreme Court on Thursday quashed an FIR accusing a college professor in Maharashtra of spreading enmity among different classes of people...

Justice Oka said a "simple protest" registered by Professor Javed Ahmed Hamid against the decision to revoke Article 370 cannot be used to lodge a case under Section 153A...

SBI took the stand due to pressure from govt.: CPI(M)

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Thursday called for protests against the State Bank India for failing to provide details about electoral bonds to the Election Commission...

Party criticises SBI for seeking more time from the SC to furnish details of bonds; it says PM is terrified of revealing his corporate donors to people

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Hitting out at the State Bank of India (SBI) for seeking more time from the Supreme Court to disclose details on electoral bonds, the Congress on Thursday asserted that the bank's arguments were flawed...

Congress questions 'hide and seek' over electoral bonds data

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Hitting out at the State Bank of India (SBI) for seeking more time from the Supreme Court to disclose details on electoral bonds, the Congress on Thursday asserted that the bank's arguments were flawed...

Asked to furnish data on the electoral bond scheme by March 6 by the Supreme Court, the SBI had approached the top court for time until June 30 to make the details available. "Hide and seek in New Delhi: Nation seeks, Modi hides!"



Hitting hard: Former Union Minister Jai Ram Ramesh says the SBI's request for time until June 30 was "conveniently timed" for its own interests.

'Political parties got 60% of funds from unknown sources'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Almost 60% of the funds received by political parties cannot be traced and come from "unknown" sources, including electoral bonds, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

The ADR, which analysed the audit reports and the donations declared in statements filed by political parties with the Election Commission of India each year, said that between the financial years 2004-05 and 2022-23, the country's six national parties collected ₹19,083.08 crore from unknown sources.

J&K resident Gujar declared terrorist by Centre under UAPA

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday designated Mohammad Gajim Gujar, a 32-year-old resident of Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir, as an individual terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Gujar is the 57th person to be designated a terrorist under the UAPA. In a post on X, the Ministry said: "The Modi government has declared the dreaded mastermind of several terrorist attacks Mohammad Qasim Gujar, alias Salman, alias Suleman, as a designated terrorist."

Cabinet approves 4% hike in DA for Central government employees and pensioners

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, which met here on Thursday, decided to release an additional 4% Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central government employees and pensioners with effect from January 1.

The increase will be four percentage points over the existing 40% basic pay/pension, to compensate against price rise, the government said.

The hike will be four percentage points over the existing 40% basic pay or pension

Mr. Goyal said the increase in DA and DR would be ₹12,868.72 crore per annum. This will benefit about 40.18 lakh central government employees and 40.18 lakh pensioners.

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It is a wonder that I came out of jail alive, says G.N. Saibaba

Abhinav Deshpande MUMBAI

Former Delhi University Professor G.N. Saibaba on Thursday said it was only by chance that he had come out alive despite experiencing "brutal" jail life. He was speaking to presspersons after being released from the Nagpur Central Jail.



Sigh of relief: Former Delhi University Professor G.N. Saibaba with his wife during a press conference after he was released. PTI

Union govt. extends Ujjwala assistance by one more year

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Weeks ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, the Union Cabinet on Thursday decided to extend the subsidy for LPG cylinders for up to 12 refills per year till the end of next financial year. About 10.27 crore beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) will be covered by the scheme, said Union Finance Minister Piyush Goyal after the meeting of the Cabinet.



About 10.27 crore beneficiaries under the PMUY will be covered by the scheme.

2024, the effective price of domestic LPG for PMUY consumers is ₹603 per LPG cylinder of 14.2 kg. The total expenditure for the continuation of the scheme will be ₹12,000 crore.

Cabinet approves 4% hike in DA for Central government employees and pensioners

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, which met here on Thursday, decided to release an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners with effect from January 1.

The increase will be four percentage points over the existing rate of 46% of the basic pay/ pension, to compensate against price rise, the government said. Other allowances, including house rent allowance, canteen allowance and deputation allowance, will also be increased subsequently.

Beneficial for lakhs

Talking to presspersons after the meeting, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said the combined impact on

The hike will be four percentage points over the existing rate of 46% of the basic pay or pension

the exchequer on account of both DA and DR would be ₹12,868.72 crore per annum. "This will benefit about 49.18 lakh Central government employees and 67.95 lakh pensioners," he said.

Mr. Goyal said the increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, based on the recommendations of the Seventh Central Pay Commission. Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, major unions of Central government employees have decided to go on an indefinite strike demanding implementation of the old pension scheme.

Employees had also taken out rallies asking the Centre to address the anomalies in promotions, pension, and salaries.

This financial year, the Centre will spend ₹15,014 crore towards the payment of additional DA.

Other allowances

Mr. Goyal added that transport allowance, canteen allowance, and deputation allowance will also be increased by 25%.

House rent allowance has been raised from 27%, 19%, and 9% of the basic pay to 30%, 20%, and 10%, respectively.

Benefits under gratuity will also be increased by 25%, with an increased ceiling of ₹25 lakh from the existing ₹20 lakh. For this, the government may have to fund ₹9,400 crore annually.

Components of a salary slip include:

Basic salary

Dearness allowance

House rent allowance

Transport allowance

Medical reimbursement

Special allowance

TDS, Bonus paid

HRA

IN BRIEF

Air India debarks woman passenger at Delhi airport

A woman business class passenger on an Air India flight to London was debarked at the Delhi airport following an argument with cabin crew earlier this week. The incident happened on flight AI 103 on March 5 and the passenger involved was a senior corporate executive, according to sources. In a statement, an Air India spokesperson said a passenger travelling in business class was debarked on the advice of the captain before the scheduled pushback. "The passenger who was off boarded was travelling for some compelling reasons and was accommodated on a subsequent flight following a written assurance," the spokesperson said.

Government raises MSP for raw jute by ₹285 for 2024-25

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has increased the minimum support price (MSP) for raw jute for the 2024-25 season by ₹285 to ₹5,335 a quintal. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal told presspersons that the decision would ensure a return of 64.8% over the all-India weighted average cost of production. "In the last 10 years, the government has increased MSP for raw jute from ₹2,400 a quintal in 2014-15 to ₹5,335 a quintal in 2024-25, registering a growth of 122%," Mr. Goyal said. The decision is expected to help jute farmers in West Bengal, Bihar, and Assam. Mr. Goyal said the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) will continue as the nodal agency to undertake Price Support Operations. He said the JCI will procure jute if the market prices go below the MSP.

5th generation fighter jet project gets CCS approval

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved the project for the design and development of India's fifth-generation fighter jet, Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), to be undertaken by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, defence sources confirmed on Thursday. The AMCA is envisaged as a 25-tonne twin-engine stealth aircraft with an internal weapons bay and diverterless supersonic intake which has been developed in India for the first time. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., the production agency for the project, has initiated manufacturing activities.

AI knowledge consortium formed by 12 organisations

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Twelve research institutions and think tanks have joined forces to establish the Artificial Intelligence Knowledge Consortium (AIKC) in India, "dedicated to championing (a) multi-stakeholder approach to AI governance", the bodies announced on Thursday. "As AI becomes an integral part of our daily lives, the AIKC recognises responsible business practices and comprehensive societal oversight are dual imperatives," the organisations said. The AIKC's secretariat will be housed at Koon Adirva, a private consultancy that advises foreign firms on entering the Indian market.

The launch was accompanied by a report titled "What Indian Parliamentarians Think of AI", which surveyed 37 MPs on the technology. "Nearly all MPs emphasised the importance of a human-centric approach to AI regulation, while 82% also stress the centrality of innovation-led growth," Congress MP Manish Tewari said. The members include Aapf Institute, Cyber Saathi, Communeset, Eysa will continue as the nodal agency to undertake Price Support Operations. He said the JCI will procure jute if the market prices go below the MSP.

Centre to rope in ISRO to provide Internet in 80 remote tribal villages

This collaboration will see the government set up V-SAT stations for tribal villages in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra that are geographically remote and have difficult terrain

Abhinav Lakshman Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI

The Tribal Affairs Ministry is planning to collaborate with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to deploy V-SAT (very small aperture terminal) stations on a pilot basis for around 80 tribal villages in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra to bring Internet services there, according to a proposal unveiled on Thursday at a Ministry event. "To transform innovative projects for tribal development," ISRO chief S. Somnath confirmed to The Hindu on Thursday. The project will collaborate with the Ministry on this project and that the two bodies would soon sign a memorandum of understanding to give pilot connectivity services such as internet, medical and educational connectivity to these tribal-dominated villages. This proposal was among the many that were tabled at Thursday's meeting, chaired by Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda, on innovative projects for empowering tribal communities.



Union Minister Arjun Munda presiding over a meeting on projects for empowering tribal communities on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Various projects In addition to the collaboration with the ISRO, proposals for projects with other ministries such as the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta, and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru

with e-governance in these remote areas. They added that the Ministry was in the process of identifying these 80 villages in the four States and soon the modalities of the project would be worked out. Apart from this, the Ministry is partnering with the AIIMS to conduct advanced research on tribal health issues with special emphasis on sickle cell anaemia and in organising training programmes for doctors and paramedical staff working in tribal areas. Plans are also on for setting up a Bhagwan Birsa Munda Chair of Tribal Health and Haematology at the AIIMS.

In addition, a proposal has been brought to set up a similar specialised department for appropriate technology and entrepreneurship in collaborations with the IIT Delhi and the IIM, Kolkata. "One other proposal was also tabled to collaborate with the IISc for setting up a training facility which will offer courses on semiconductor to tribal students."

Centre estimates dip in onion, potato production

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Fruit and vegetable production in the country could touch 355.25 million tonnes (MT) in 2023-24, according to the first advanced estimates of area and production of horticultural crops released by the Union Agriculture Ministry on Thursday. The area of advanced estimates of area and production of horticultural crops released by the Union Agriculture Ministry on Thursday. The area of advanced estimates of area and production of horticultural crops released by the Union Agriculture Ministry on Thursday. The area of advanced estimates of area and production of horticultural crops released by the Union Agriculture Ministry on Thursday.

India's horticulture production in 2023-24 largely steady at 355.25 million tonnes

Production in 2023-24 (final estimates), mainly due to increases in production of banana, mandarin and mango. Production of vegetables is envisaged to be around 209.39 million tonnes. Increase is expected in production of cabbage, cauliflower, pumpkin, tapioca, tomato and other vegetables," he added. While the production of tomatoes is expected to increase by 1.93% over the previous year's numbers, the production of onions is expected to be around 254.73 lakh tonnes, much less than the 302.08 lakh tonnes last year. Production of potatoes in 2023-24 is also expected to be lower at around 589.94 lakh tonnes compared with around 601.42 lakh tonnes last year.

INS Kolkata assists vessels hit in Gulf of Aden; rescues 21 crew members

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Indian Naval destroyer INS Kolkata responded to two instances of missile/drone attacks on merchant vessels in the last few days. On Wednesday, the warship rescued 21 crew members, including one Indian, from Barbados-flagged bulk carrier MV True Confidence after it was hit in the Gulf of Aden and the crew was forced to abandon ship. In another incident, on March 4, INS Kolkata responded to a request from MSC Sky II, a Liberian-flagged container vessel, which was hit around 9 p.m., approximately 90 nautical miles south-east of Aden, and rescued 21 crew members, including one Indian



Rescue mission: The rescued crew, including the critically injured personnel, were evacuated to Djibouti. AFP

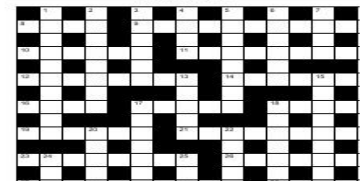
at the early hours of March 5, a specialist fire-fighting team of 23 personnel from INS Kolkata embarked the vessel and provided assistance in extinguishing the residual fire. Additionally, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team also embarked the vessel for residual risk assessment." The Navy said, adding the crew of 23 personnel were evacuated to Djibouti later on Wednesday. On MSC Sky II, the Navy

Pakistan PM thanks Modi for greetings after election

Subhasini Halder NEW DELHI

Pakistan's newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his greetings on social media on Thursday, even as the two countries showed signs of any thaw in ties at present. "Thank you [PM Modi] for felicitations on my election as the Prime Minister of Pakistan," Mr. Sharif said in response to Mr. Modi's equally short message of "congratulations to [PM Sharif] on being sworn in as the Prime Minister of Pakistan." Significantly, the message was welcomed by Washington on Wednesday, which said it would also welcome talks between the two countries. "The United States values its relationship with both India and Pakistan, and we want to see them have a productive and peaceful relationship," a U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller at a regular briefing. "We would welcome productive and peaceful relations between India and Pakistan, but the pace, scope, and character of any dialogue is a matter for India and Pakistan to determine."

TH CROSSWORD 14117 (Set by Incognito)



- Across: 8. Foot part used in marching (4); 9. Oregon trip arranged for ancestor (10); 10. Duck! Two-wheeler has lost one wheel! (6); 11. Skate, 'Little Hunger' (8); 12. What a dentist might give to a child who is yet to learn writing... (4,4).

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

- 14. Lemur? Yes! Yes! (3,3); 15. Only a pair of (4); 16. Part of Shanklet? (5); 17. Endured tidal waves rushing up a narrow estuary (4); 18. Help animal first! (6); 19. Soars wildly consuming oxygen, for example, in a sea that has no coastline! (8); 20. Embarrassed, daughter entered barn and cut into thin strips (8); 21. Interrupt, 'Tin tab is damaged' (7,2); 22. Careful and precise clue I must be composing about oppression leader! (10); 23. Playboy's garden lot! (4). Down: 1. Rep is confused by debt notes covering vehicle that is likely to 'fall' (10); 2. Well-meaning untruth that may be told while tie is knotted (5,3); 3. In short, about academic paper predicting rarity of xenon, for starters! (6); 4. Therefore, note piece of furniture! (4); 5. Temporary worker delayed producing pattern (8); 6. Get oil wound around helix! (3,3); 7. Female model carries spectacles for Tootsie! (6); 13. Compete girl to hug a king before end of June (5); 14. 36-inch ruler's standards of judgement? (10); 17. Cadet married? (5,3); 18. Boy left flowers for workmen using explosives for demolition (8); 19. Setter with violent bear goes around one peninsula in Europe... (10); 22. After leaving turbulent sea, saboteurs regrouped and became strong! (6); 24. A part of the foot kept in the elbow (4); 25. Regressive frame of mind leads to destruction (4).

SUDOKU

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

Solution to previous puzzle. Solution to today's Sudoku: 6 9 4 7 1 8 2 5 3; 5 3 4 7 9 6 8 2 1; 1 7 8 5 2 1 3 6 4; 2 8 5 2 1 8 3 7 4; 8 2 4 7 4 7 4 5 6; 7 6 8 3 4 1 5 2 9.

FAITH Maha Sivaratri significance

The Hindu tradition has many festivals and each one is meant to propitiate a certain deity and further one's divine quest. Among all the auspicious occasions, the one occupying the pre eminent position is Maha Sivaratri, when devotees pray to Lord Parameshwara, to dispel the darkness of ignorance and usher in the light of gnanam, said Tiruvaimanur Brahmasari Nidhiswara, Shriyogswathi gal in a discourse. As per the Hindu calendar, a Sivaratri occurs every month. Among these, the most auspicious one is the Sivaratri falling in the Tamil month of Maasi during Krishna Paksham. This is the day when Parameshwara took the form of a blazing flame when Brahma and Vishnu defied each other to find the head and the feet of Lord Shiva. The two Gods sported thus in order for mankind to realise the folly of egotism. Hence, this day is supremely auspicious for praying to Mahadev Parameshwara. Sivaratri is a form of a blaze symbolises the light of wisdom, emphasising that rich riches lie in god consciousness. There are four parts to Sivaratri. Fasting, forsaking sleep, offering prayers and charity. On Maha Sivaratri, fasting, forsaking sleep and doing puja are important. One should start the day by offering of prayers and fast through the day and night. Through the four phases of the night devotees should render stonas in praise of Him, chant His name, listen to discourses on Parameshwara and read from Paniruvu Tirumurai, a collection of 12 holy scriptures, which includes discourses by Tiruvachagan. Parasaras say that Shiva manikins in all the Siva lingas on this day in all the temples.

Centre to rope in ISRO to provide Internet in 80 remote tribal villages

This collaboration will see the government set up V-SAT stations for tribal villages in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra that are geographically remote and have difficult terrain

Abhinay Lakshman
Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Tribal Affairs Ministry is planning to collaborate with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to deploy V-SAT (very small aperture terminal) stations on a pilot basis for around 80 tribal villages in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Maharashtra to bring Internet services there, according to a proposal unveiled on Thursday at a Ministry event meant to brainstorm innovative projects for tribal development.

ISRO chief S. Somnath confirmed to *The Hindu* that they were going to collaborate with the Ministry on this project and that the two bodies would soon sign a memorandum of understanding to give pilot connectivity (services such as Internet, medical and educational connectivity) to these tribal-dominated villages.

This proposal was among the many that were tabled at Thursday's meet-



Union Minister Arjun Munda presiding over a meeting on projects for empowering tribal communities on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ing, chaired by Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda, on innovative projects for empowering tribal communities.

Various projects

In addition to the collaboration with the ISRO, proposals for projects with other eminent institutes such as the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Calcutta, and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru

were discussed.

The collaboration with the ISRO will see the government set up V-SAT stations for these 80 villages that are geographically remote and have difficult terrain, challenges that have kept them out of reach of connectivity for the longest time.

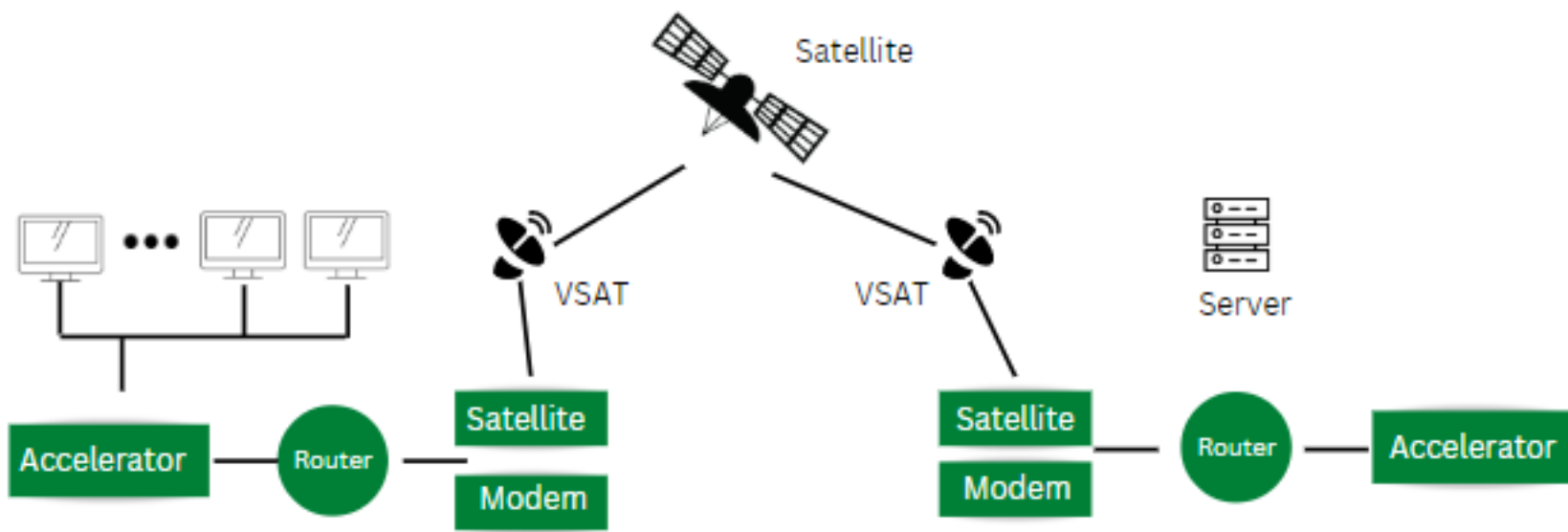
Officials at the Tribal Affairs Ministry said the pilot project would be monitored so that it could be scaled up to other similar tribal villages in other States as well, adding that the goal was also to help

with e-governance in these remote areas. They added that the Ministry was in the process of identifying these 80 villages in these four States and soon the modalities of the project would be worked out.

Apart from this, the Ministry is partnering with the AIIMS to conduct advanced research on tribal health issues with special emphasis on sickle cell anemia and in organising training programmes for doctors and paramedical staff working in tribal areas. Plans are also on for setting up a Bhagwan Birsa Munda Chair of Tribal Health and Haematology at the AIIMS.

In addition, a proposal has been brought to set up a similar specialised department for appropriate technology and entrepreneurship in collaboration with the IIT, Delhi and the IIM, Kolkata.

One other proposal was also tabled to collaborate with the IISc for setting up a training facility which will offer courses on semiconductor to tribal students.



Agency overview

Abbreviation	ISRO
Formed	15 August 1969; 54 years ago
Preceding agency	INCOSPAR (1962–1969)
Type	Space agency
Jurisdiction	Department of Space
Headquarters	Bangalore, Karnataka, India  13°2′7″N 77°34′16″E
Chairman	Sreedhara Somanath
Primary spaceports	SDSC · TERLS
Owner	Government of India
Employees	19,247 (as on 1 March 2022) ^[1]
Annual budget	₹13,042.75 crore (2024) ^[2]

IN BRIEF

Tata Motors to increase CV prices by up to 2% from April 1

Tata Motors Ltd. has announced it will increase the price of its commercial vehicles effective April 1 by up to 2%.

TVS Supply Chain Solutions adds warehousing capacity

TVS Supply Chain Solutions has added 6,50,000 sq.ft. of space to its modern, multi-client warehouse at Hosur.

FMCG to see subdued growth till September quarter: Kantar

The fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector will have a "subdued" growth till September quarter due to factors, including an uncertain outlook for the agricultural sector.

Inflation likely stayed over 5% in Feb. too: Bank of Baroda

A sharp uptick in prices was seen in potatoes, which rose 16.6%, tomatoes (30.3%), pulses such as chana dal or gram dal (15%) and urad (15.5%) compared with the February 2023 levels

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Despite the pace of price rise in some food items like onions, potatoes and pulses hastening in February, overall retail inflation, stayed at about 5.1% in February.

Expensive essentials

Prices of half of the 20 items tracked by the bank's Essential Commodities Index (ECI) saw momentum building up in Feb.

Prices of about half of the 20 items tracked by the bank's Essential Commodities Index (ECI) saw some momentum building up last month with the index rising 4.2% y-o-y compared with January's 3.8%.

Pulses like chana dal or gram dal (15%) and urad (15.5%) compared with February 2023 levels. On a sequential basis, prices rose for 16 of the 20 commodities in the index, including onions, vegetables, pulses, edible oils, and sugar.

For the first five days of March, the BoB ECI has inched up further by 5.3%, on a y-o-y basis. The bank's economist Dipanwita Mazumdar said, "We expect inflation measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to settle at around 5.1% in February."

JM Financial: SEBI bars debt mandates

Lalatednu Mishra MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has barred merchant banking firm JM Financial from taking new mandates to act as lead manager for the public issue of debt securities.

However, JM Financial can continue as lead manager for public issue of debt securities for 60 days for existing mandates. The order comes in the wake of RBI's curbs on the group's NBFC JM Financial Products.

Moody's pegs India's FY24 growth at 8%

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Moody's Investors Service on Thursday said India's robust economic growth will continue and its real GDP growth will accelerate to around 8% in 2023-24 from 7% in 2022-23.

'Government capex and strong domestic consumption will underpin India's economic growth'. Bank of India Governor Shikhar Datta said real GDP growth is likely to be closer to 8% as NSO's current estimate of 5.9% GDP growth for Q4 of FY24 is likely to be overshoot.

RBI, Bank Indonesia to use local currencies for two-way deals

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank Indonesia (BI) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies viz., the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) for cross-border transactions.

'The MoU on establishing a framework for cooperation in the area of cross-border transactions in local currencies between India and Indonesia, aims at promoting the use of INR and IDR bilaterally.'

'The MoU covers all current-account transactions, permissible capital-account transactions and any other economic and financial transactions as agreed upon by both countries.'

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH table with columns: Security, Price, % Change

NIFTY 50 table with columns: Name, Price, Change

EXCHANGE RATES table with columns: Currency, Rate

'After 3 years, steel demand to grow in single digits in 2024-25'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

With imports from China and Vietnam rising since last October, India is likely to be a net finished-steel importer in 2023-24 after a gap of five years, and is likely to remain so in the coming years unless the external demand environment improves meaningfully, rating agency ICRA has said.

Moreover, domestic steel consumption growth is expected to slide to 7% after three years of double-digit growth, down from about 12%-13% this year, while higher input costs and soft steel prices will squeeze operating profit for margins for producers by 10-15 basis points.

trends, the numbers nonetheless hint at demand remaining soft over the next two quarters as the government spending moderates around the election period," remarked Jayanta Roy, Senior Vice-President and Group Head of Core and Sector Ratings at ICRA.

On the external front, steelmakers remain on tenterhooks, ICRA said, as multiple structural headwinds in China have propelled its steel exports to a seven-year high in 2023. "With most other large steel-producing countries globally also facing subpar economic activities in the second half, global steel trade flows have been increasingly redirected to high-growth markets like India," ICRA said.

Govt. panel backs higher carbon tax on coal imports

Reuters SINGAPORE

A panel of officials from Indian Ministries has called for a bigger carbon tax on higher-quality imported coal while cutting rates for domestic coal, in a bid to slash shipments of the polluting fuel, the Coal Ministry said on Thursday.

Coal is among India's top five commodity import categories, with a surge in local output, mainly by low-quality coal with high ash content, it failed to cut back on imports and the world's second-largest importer. India's imports of thermal coal rose nearly 10% in 2023 to 176 million tonne.

NBFCs, fintechs seek RBI nod to offer credit on UPI

Anshika Kavastha MUMBAI

Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and fintechs are seeking the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to allow them to offer credit on UPI, either through credit cards or pre-approved credit lines, both of which are currently reserved for banks.

While discussions among industry players and regulators to permit NBFCs to offer credit via the UPI payments platform. "We are hopeful that something like that will be permitted, with NBFCs being allowed to find a way to offer credit on UPI in some form or factor, whatever it may be. Because UPI is the most powerful transmission tool we have in this country," a source told.

"However, other industry participants argue volumes have been minimal so far, as it is difficult for ecosystem players to efficiently utilise this channel of distribution. The volumes are unlikely to pick up till private lenders, fintechs and card networks are included into the fold."

"Private players are usually the drivers of small credit. Allowing NBFCs will benefit first-time users, it added. Partnerships and co-lending. The government is very good at setting up guidelines and better management of the industry should be allowed," a senior industry official said.

India's Maritime Development Fund likely by year end

Abhishek Law NEW DELHI

India's proposed Maritime Development Fund - that seeks providing long-term, low-cost financial support to indigenous ship-building - is likely to be ready by the end of this year, multiple officials of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said on Thursday.

Contours of the fund, and other details towards spending the same are currently under discussion and it may have participation from industry stakeholders, financial institutions and Ministries.

Sources said two options under discussion include setting up a dedicated maritime vertical under a proposed development finance institution, while the second one involves having a standalone company with multi-agency equity.

Leasing ships. Currently, India spends about \$75 billion annually on leasing ships from outside. India owns about 2% of the world's tonnage and has some 1,500-odd ships under its flag. "We want to ensure we have a ship-building industry, that is local. So we want to do the entire value chain here - that include shipbuilding, financing, ownership financing, leasing, among others. If not the other way around, we want to 5% of the world's tonnage. That is what the Maritime Development Fund will work towards," said a senior official. The Waterways (MoSWS) told businessline, on the sidelines of a FICCI

Cabinet approves ₹10,372 cr. AI corpus

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved a ₹10,372 crore corpus to fund Artificial Intelligence Computing Infrastructure setup in various states and other such facilities.

It will also contribute to application development and solutions from India for government use. The corpus will be made in Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode," Mr. Goyal added.

'Auto sales rose 13% in Feb. on 2, 3 wheelers'

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

The Indian auto retail segment grew 13% year-on-year in February, with two- and three-wheelers.

"2W, 3W, tractors and CV sectors registered growth rates of 13%, 24%, 12%, 16% and 8% respectively," the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA) said in a statement. The 2W market growth was a notable driver driven by the rural sector, while 3W market saw a significant 24% y-o-y increase, with EVs constituting 53% of this growth,

highlighting a shift towards e-rickshaws and a rise in first-time users, it added. PVs grew 12%, the highest February sales ever. "Elevated inventory levels in the PV segment, as well as concerns about demand, necessitate OEMs to adjust production to reduce dealer carrying costs," it said. The CV sector rose 8%, overcoming challenges such as cash flow issues, it added.

Table with columns: Currency, Rate, % Change

RBI, Bank Indonesia to use local currencies for two-way deals

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Bank Indonesia (BI) on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies viz., the Indian Rupee (INR) and the Indonesian Rupiah (IDR) for cross-border transactions.

“The MoU on establishing a framework for cooperation in the area of cross-border transactions in local currencies between India and Indonesia, aims at promoting the use of INR and IDR bilaterally, “ the RBI said in a statement.

The MoU covers all current-account transactions, permissible capital-account transactions and any other economic and financial transactions as agreed upon by both countries.

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“This framework would enable exporters and importers to invoice and pay in respective domestic currencies, which in turn would enable the development of an INR-IDR foreign exchange market. Use of local currencies would optimise costs and settlement time for transactions,” the central bank added.

“The use of local currencies in bilateral transactions will eventually contribute to promoting trade between India and Indonesia as well as deepen financial integration,” the Reserve Bank of India said in the statement.



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Viksit Bharat

Poll bond details delay: SC to consider contempt petition against SBI chief

ANANTHAKRISHNAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

THE SUPREME COURT said Thursday it will look into a request to list for hearing a petition by the NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) seeking contempt of court proceedings against the Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI) for not furnishing the details of purchase of electoral bonds to the Election Commission of India (EC) within the March 6 deadline set by the court.

E "Now, not after LS elections"

AT THE heart of the petition seeking action against SBI is the demand for disclosure of donor names before the Lok Sabha polls. The ADR maintains that the SBI has the systems in place to comply with the SC order within the time-frame set by the court when it struck down the poll bond scheme.

Educate cops on free speech: SC quashes FIR on Art 370 protest, greeting Pakistan

ANANTHAKRISHNAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

UNDERLINING THAT it is time to "sanitize and 'educate our police'" on freedom of speech and expression and "the extent of reasonable restraint", the Supreme Court Thursday set aside a Bombay High Court order and quashed an

FIR against a Maharashtra college professor booked for his WhatsApp status critical of the abrogation of Article 370 and for wishing Pakistan on its independence day.

The bench of Justices A S Oka and Ujjai Bhuyan said, "Every citizen of India has a right to be critical of the action of

UNVEILS MULTIPLE PROJECTS FOR UT J&K breathes free... from shackles of Article 370, dynastic politics: Modi

In first trip to the Valley after end of J&K special status, PM flags development



NAVEED IQBAL
SRINAGAR, MARCH 7

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar where he addressed a public rally on Thursday. PTI

DESCRIBING THE abrogation of Article 370 as "bondishton se azadi" (freedom from impediments) while highlighting the Centre's development and welfare measures for the Union Territory, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Thursday that "Jammu & Kashmir is breathing freely today" and "attaining new heights".

On his first visit to the Valley since the end of the special status of J&K in August 2019, Modi told a public rally at the Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar that this "naya (new) Jammu and

GOVT & POLITICS
FRIEND NAZIM BROUGHT SWEET REVOLUTION IN BEKEEPING: PM

moved" there are now "equal opportunities and rights for everyone" in the UT.

Targeting the Congress and its allies, he said they "misled the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the name of (Article) 370" and "only a few political families benefited" from it which "the people of J&K have now realised".

Describing J&K as the "musical" and with the "shackles re-

In big AI push, Rs 10,000-cr plan for computing capacity gets Govt nod

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, MARCH 7

THE UNION Cabinet Thursday approved the India AI Mission with an outlay of Rs 10,372 crore for the next five years, under which the government will allocate funds towards subsidising private companies looking to set up artificial intelligence (AI) compute capacity in the country and also allocate seed funding for AI startups, and create a framework for curating non-per-

OTHER DECISIONS
DEARNESS ALLOWANCE for govt staff hiked by 4% to 50%; gratuity limit up from ₹20 lakh to ₹25 lakh
ONE-YEAR extension to Rs 300 per cylinder targeted subsidy under the PM Ujjwala Yojana
UNNATI 2024 scheme to push industrialisation in the North-East approved

sonal data, among other things.

"With AI Mission... compute power (will be) available to innovators, startups, students, and educational institutions," IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in a statement.

Minister of State for IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said in a post on X: "AI is one of the greatest inventions of our time, this programme will position us as a force shaping the future of AI for India and for the world."

The Indian Express had first

Congress focus on youth as Rahul promises govt jobs and startup funds

HAMZAKHAN
JAIPUR, MARCH 7

SHARPENING HIS pitch for the youth ahead of Lok Sabha elections, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Thursday announced the party's five promises, including filling government job vacancies and bringing in a right to apprenticeship, if voted to power.



Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge with Rahul Gandhi in Banswara, Thursday. PTI

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY

Budget's tax-judge clause 'exclude himself' from this post.

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PAGE 10

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Under the India AI Mission, the government will look to establish a computing capacity of more than 10,000 GPUs and also help develop foundational models with a capacity of more than 100 billion parameters trained on datasets covering major Indian languages for priority sectors such as healthcare, agriculture and governance. AI Curation Units (ACUs) will also be developed in 50 government departments. The proposal also includes the establishment of an AI marketplace designed to offer AI as a service and pre-trained models to those working on such applications.

The implementation of this AI compute infrastructure will be done through a public-private partnership model with 50 per cent viability gap funding. If the compute prices come down, the private entity will have to add

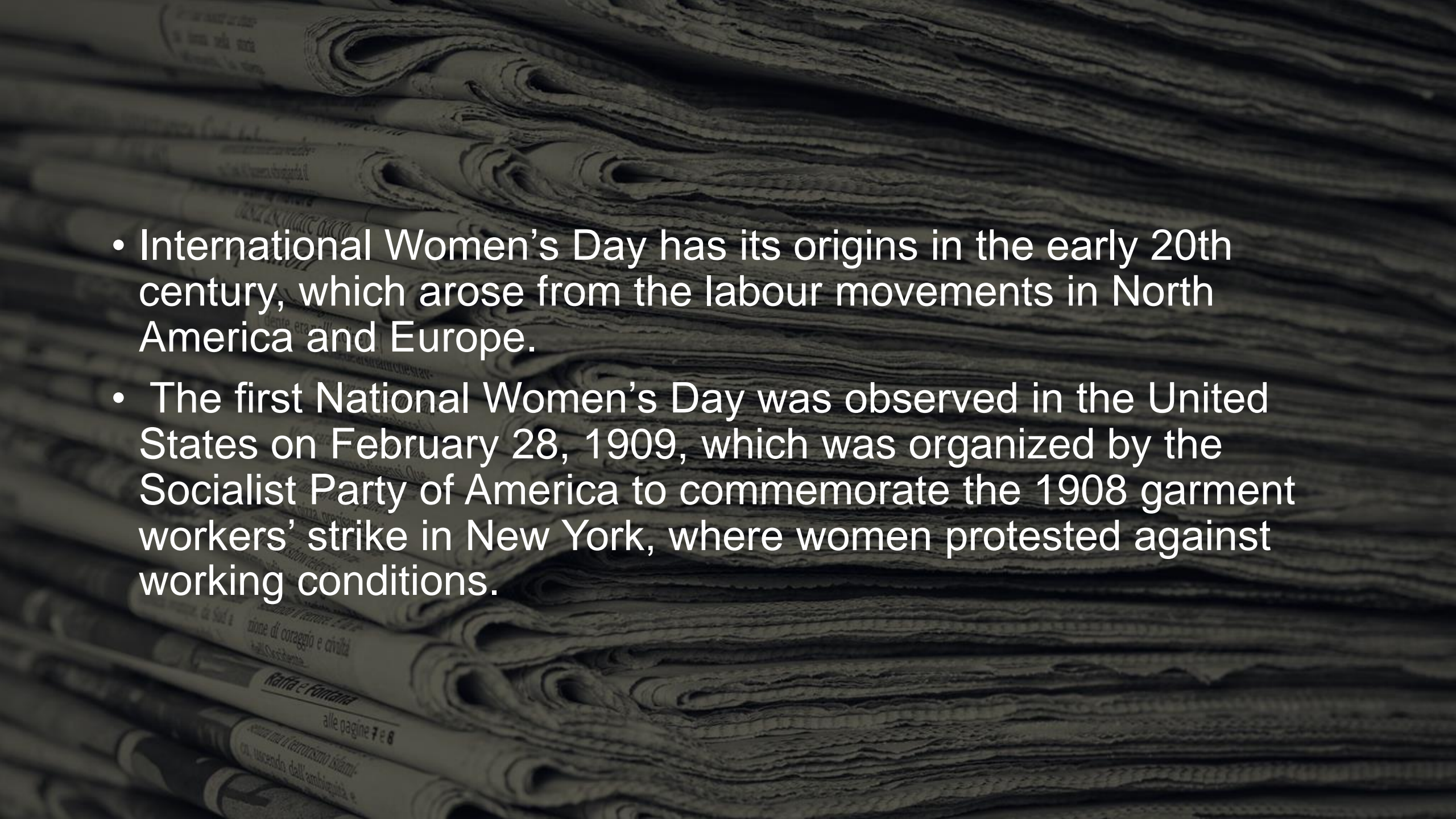
INTERNATIONAL

Women's Day



MARCH 8TH

-
- The United Nations has designated the year 2024's theme as '**Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress**' with a focus on addressing economic disempowerment, while the campaign theme for this year is '**Inspire Inclusion.**'

- 
- International Women's Day has its origins in the early 20th century, which arose from the labour movements in North America and Europe.
 - The first National Women's Day was observed in the United States on February 28, 1909, which was organized by the Socialist Party of America to commemorate the 1908 garment workers' strike in New York, where women protested against working conditions.

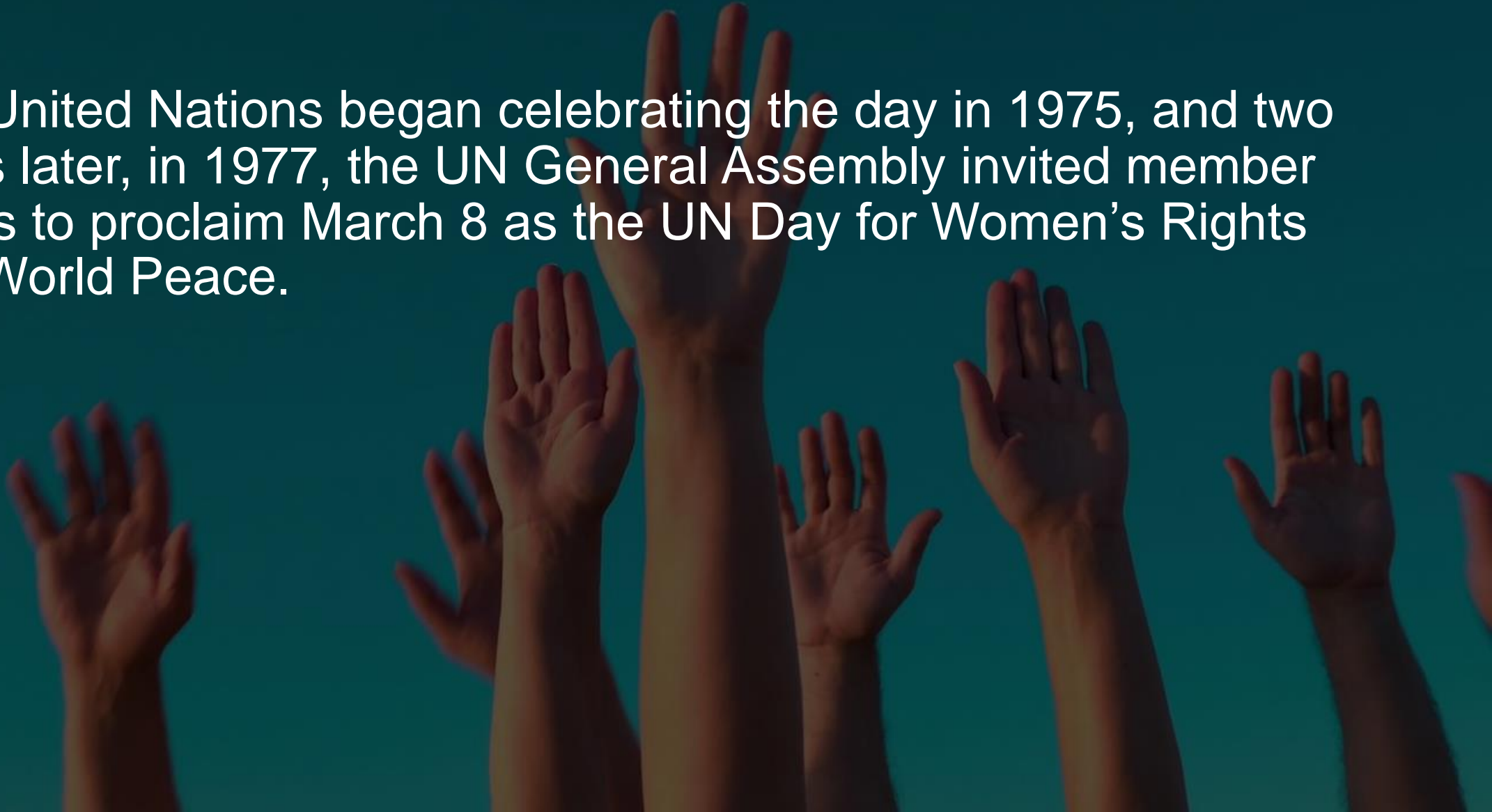
Later in 1910, Clara Zetkin proposed International Women's Day at the International Women's Conference in Copenhagen.

1910

1911

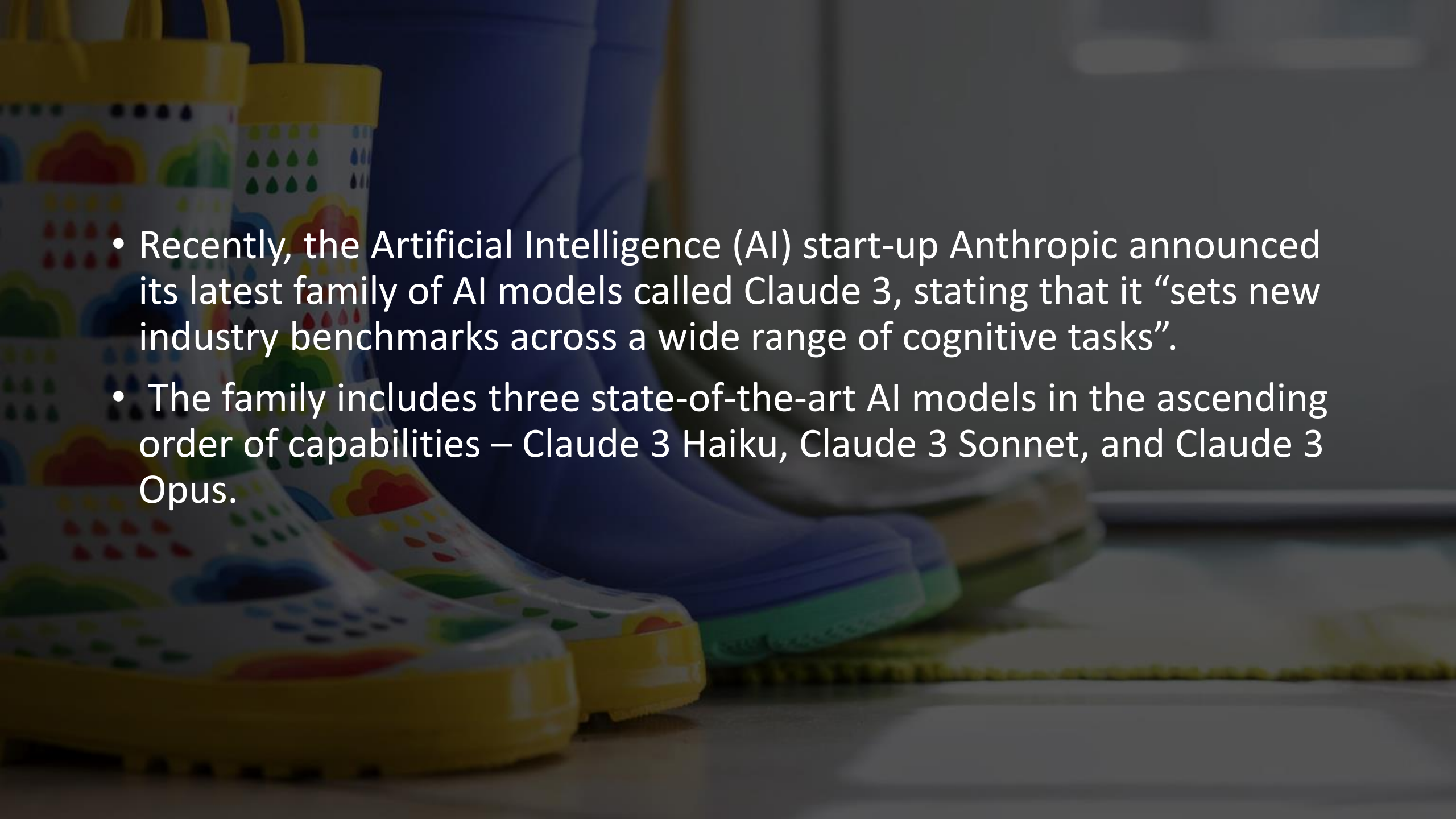
The idea was unanimously approved, leading to the first observance in 1911 in several European countries, with over a million participants advocating for women's rights.

- The United Nations began celebrating the day in 1975, and two years later, in 1977, the UN General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8 as the UN Day for Women's Rights and World Peace.



The background is a dark blue field filled with abstract, glowing elements. It features numerous small teal and yellow dots scattered across the space. Overlaid on these are thin, wavy lines in teal and yellow, and several overlapping, semi-transparent rectangular outlines in the same color palette. The overall effect is a complex, digital, and futuristic aesthetic.

Claude 3 AI Chatbot

- 
- Recently, the Artificial Intelligence (AI) start-up Anthropic announced its latest family of AI models called Claude 3, stating that it “sets new industry benchmarks across a wide range of cognitive tasks”.
 - The family includes three state-of-the-art AI models in the ascending order of capabilities – Claude 3 Haiku, Claude 3 Sonnet, and Claude 3 Opus.

Anthropic is an OpenAI rival started by former leaders at the ChatGPT maker.

While OpenAI has closely tied itself to its business partner Microsoft, Anthropic's primary **cloud computing partner** is Amazon.

- About Claude:
- Claude is a group of Large Language Models (LLMs) developed by Anthropic.
- LLMs are a specific class of generative AI models that are trained to understand and generate human-like text.
- The chatbot is capable of handling text, voice messages, and documents.
- The chatbot is capable of generating faster, contextual responses compared to its peers.

• **With the present state of development, Artificial Intelligence can effectively do which of the following? (2020)**

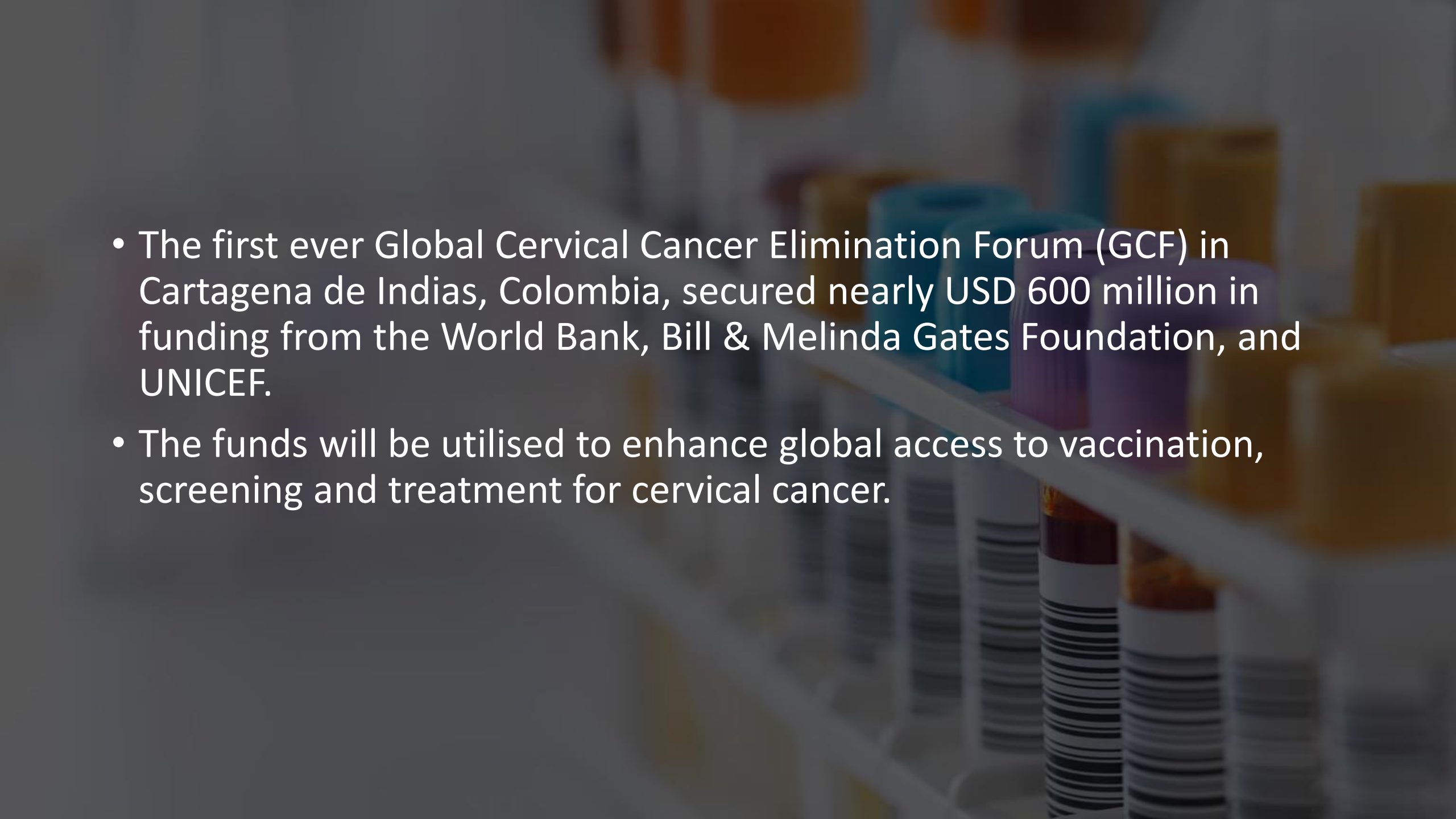
- 1. Bring down electricity consumption in industrial units**
- 2. Create meaningful short stories and songs**
- 3. Disease diagnosis**
- 4. Text-to-Speech Conversion**
- 5. Wireless transmission of electrical energy**

• **Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only**
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only**
- (c) 2, 4 and 5 only**
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**



Global Cervical Cancer Elimination Forum

- 
- The first ever Global Cervical Cancer Elimination Forum (GCF) in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, secured nearly USD 600 million in funding from the World Bank, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and UNICEF.
 - The funds will be utilised to enhance global access to vaccination, screening and treatment for cervical cancer.

- Cervical cancer is a cancer that starts in the cervix, which is the lower end of the uterus that connects it to the vagina.
- It's caused by a long-lasting (human papillomavirus) HPV infection, which is a common virus transmitted through sexual contact.
- Cervical cancer is ranked as the fourth most prevalent cancer among women globally.
- Despite available tools for prevention and elimination, it claims a woman's life every 2 minutes globally, with over 90% of cervical cancer deaths in 2022 occurring in low- and middle-income nations.

WHO's Global Strategy for Cervical Cancer Elimination, launched in November 2020, targets, by 2030:

90% of girls vaccinated against HPV by age 15

70% of women screened with a high-performance test by ages 35

and 90% of women with cervical disease receive treatment.

- Indian Government intends to initiate a three-phase vaccination drive against human papillomavirus (HPV) for girls aged 9-14, aiming to mitigate the risk of cervical cancer.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF CERVICAL CANCER?

- 🎗️ Unscheduled bleeding (during or after sex, between periods)
- 🎗️ Unusual discharge
- 🎗️ Post-menopausal bleeding
- 🎗️ Pain or discomfort during sex
- 🎗️ Lower back or pelvic pain



MYTH

VS

FACT

Cervical screening checks for cervical cancer



Cervical screenings are used to check the health of your cervix and identify cell changes.

If your cervical screening comes back abnormal, you have cervical cancer.



An abnormal test result means changes to the cervical cells, which could potentially cause cancer in the future.

Older women do not need to undergo cervical screenings.



Women aged 50-64 should undergo a cervical screening every 5 years.

Smoking is not linked to cervical cancer.



Around 20% of cervical cancers in the UK are linked to smoking.

CONCLUSION:

If you are aged between 25-64, it is crucial to attend all your scheduled cervical screenings to detect any cervical cell changes early on and get the necessary treatment.

Visiting your GP or gynaecologist at the earliest sign of any symptoms is also vital in detecting cervical changes early and preventing cervical cancer.



SC Upholds Rajasthan's Two Child Rule

- SC upholds Rajasthan rule barring those with more than 2 kids from police force.
- **About**
- **Rule 24(4) of the Rajasthan Police Subordinate Service Rules, 1989**, which stipulates a **maximum limit of two children per candidate**, is non-discriminatory and constitutional.

-
- Rajasthan has a law which bars persons over **two children on or after June 1, 2002 or male candidates** with more than one living wife to be appointed in the Subordinate Police Services.
 - “**Population control and family planning**” is a subject on the **concurrent list**, which contains matters both the Centre and the states can legislate on. Thus, several states have made laws to push for the family planning to **opt two child policy**.
 -

-
- In **Javed vs. the State of Haryana**, SC upheld the Haryana Municipal (Second Amendment) Act, 1994, and consequently affirmed the two child-policy for holding the offices of sarpanch or up-sarpanch in the state.

The **Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act 1994** disqualifies those with over two children from contesting elections as a panch or a member.




The **Odisha Zilla Parishad Act, 1991**, bars those with more than two children from contesting.



The **Gujarat Local Authorities Laws (Amendment) Act, 1962**, disqualifies those with more than two children from contesting elections for bodies of local self-governance, like panchayats, municipalities, and municipal corporations.

Second Rocket Launch Port of ISRO



- 
- Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone of the second rocket launchport of ISRO at Kulasekarapattinam, in Tamil Nadu.
 - **Why is the new launchport located in Tamil Nadu?**
 - The trajectory followed by all launches from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** are longer as they follow a path which requires the **vehicle to skirt eastwards around Sri Lanka** before taking the actual southward flight. This consumes additional fuel.
 -

- The new launchport will provide a natural advantage to ISRO's future launches pertaining to the **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)**.



ON A MORE DIRECT ROUTE

Second spaceport will be used for smaller rockets

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE

- Dogleg manoeuvre is a sharp turn that causes the rocket to deviate from a straight flight path
- This manoeuvre requires more fuel in the rocket which eats into the payload capacity of the launcher



When rockets are launched from Kulasekarapattinam, this manoeuvre is not required as there is no landmass along the flight path in the southward direction

In polar missions, a PSLV from Sriharikota must perform a dogleg manoeuvre to avoid flying over Sri Lanka, to protect it from rocket debris



The image features a group of graduates in silhouette against a light, clear sky. They are celebrating, with many holding up their black graduation caps and white diplomas. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking up at the graduates, creating a sense of achievement and joy. The text 'National Youth Parliament Festival 2024' is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

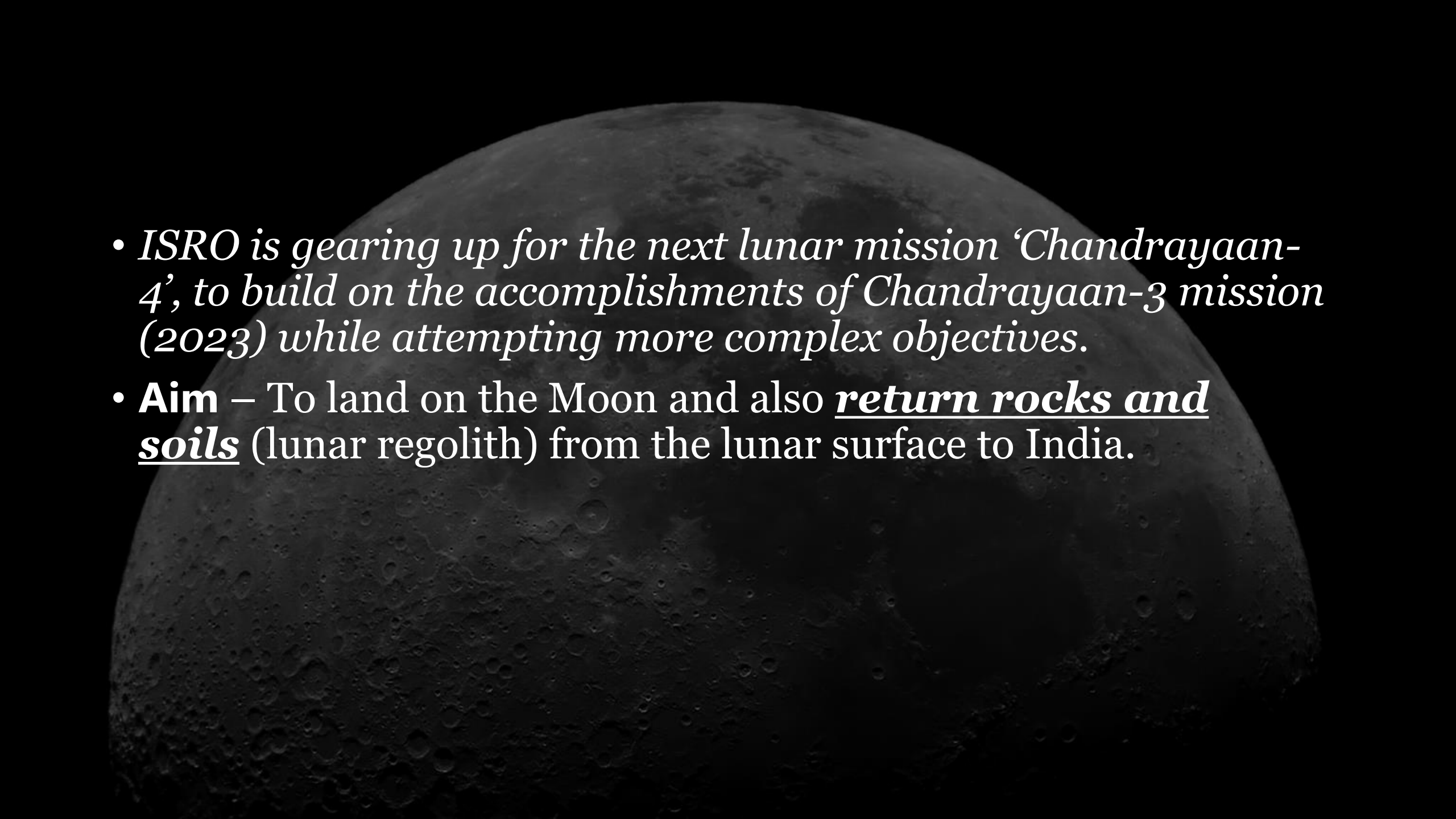
National Youth Parliament Festival 2024

- **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** organised the **inaugural of the finals of the National Youth Parliament Festival, 2024**
- **About**
- **Yatin Bhaskar Duggal** from Haryana won the first prize in the National Youth Parliament Festival, 2024.
- **First National Youth Parliament Festival** was organized in **2019**.
-

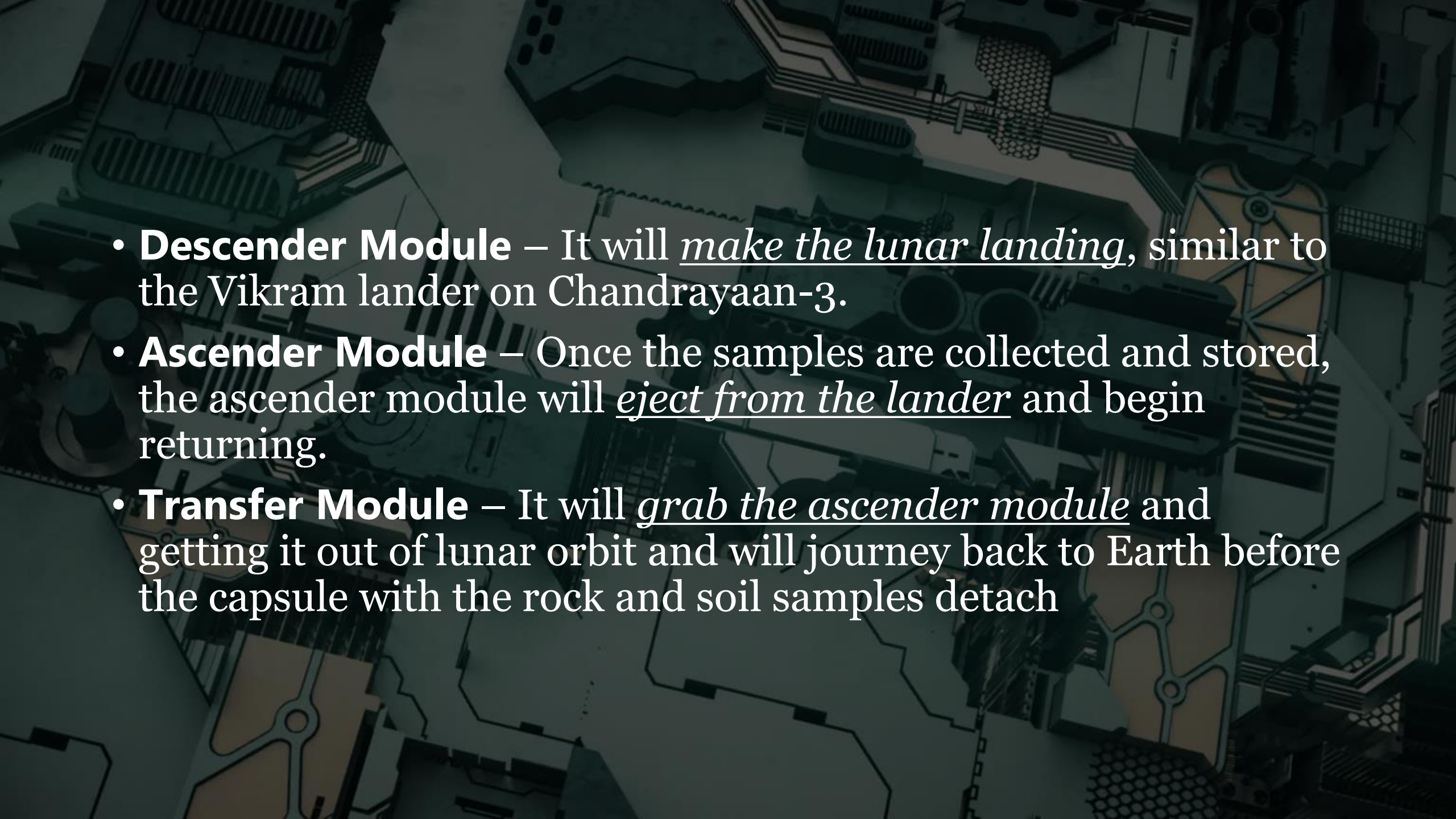
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports through the **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)** and **National Service Scheme (NSS)** has been organizing the Youth Parliament.
- **Aim:** These Youth Parliaments are aimed at strengthening the roots of democracy; inculcate healthy habits of discipline, tolerance of the view of others and to enable youths to know about practices and procedures of the Parliament.



Chandrayaan-4

- 
- *ISRO is gearing up for the next lunar mission ‘Chandrayaan-4’, to build on the accomplishments of Chandrayaan-3 mission (2023) while attempting more complex objectives.*
 - **Aim** – To land on the Moon and also **return rocks and soils** (lunar regolith) from the lunar surface to India.

- **5 spacecraft modules** – Like Chandrayaan-3 it takes lander, rover and the propulsion module along with 2 additional components to return the samples from the Moon.
- **Propulsion Module** – Similar to Chandrayaan-3, the propulsion module will guide Chandrayaan-4 in lunar orbit, before separating.

- 
- **Descender Module** – It will make the lunar landing, similar to the Vikram lander on Chandrayaan-3.
 - **Ascender Module** – Once the samples are collected and stored, the ascender module will eject from the lander and begin returning.
 - **Transfer Module** – It will grab the ascender module and getting it out of lunar orbit and will journey back to Earth before the capsule with the rock and soil samples detach

- **Re-entry Module** – This will be the capsule carrying the lunar regolith that will land on Earth.
- **2 separate launches** – It is the 1st mission involving 2 launch vehicles aimed at completing a single mission.
 - **LVM-3** – It will launch with 3 components (Propulsion Module, the Descender Module and the Ascender Module).
 - **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** – It will launch the Transfer Module and the Re-entry Module.

-

- *LVM-3 is India's heaviest launch vehicle.*
- *If successful, Chandrayaan-4 will make India only the 4th nation to bring back samples from the lunar surface.*





Global Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) 2024

- 
- A photograph of a bird, possibly a flycatcher, with its wings spread wide, perched on a dark, textured branch. The bird has a yellowish-brown breast and a dark head. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.
- *India records 1,036 species for backyard bird count — third highest globally.*
 - **GBBC**
 - The [GBBC](#) was launched in 1998, in the USA and was initially restricted to the USA only.
 - GBBC is a citizen-driven scientific project aimed at counting and reporting the details of birds in the area of their neighborhood.
 - It was an initiative of Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society of USA.
 - In 2013, it took the global stage turning into a global bird census.



World Poverty Clock

- *The latest data of World Poverty Clock showed India has managed to bring down 'extreme poverty' below 3% of its population.*
- The World Poverty Clock provides real-time estimates until 2030 for almost every country in the world.
- It monitors progress against Ending Extreme Poverty, which is the UN's first Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). The escape rate calculates the current rate of poverty reduction in the world.

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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, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, with a blueish tint. An orange horizontal bar is visible in the top left corner.

Thank you
guys.
