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“

**Man is made by his belief.
As he believes, so he is.**

OSCAR 2024 Oppenheimer wins seven awards

India, which was downgraded to the status of an "electoral democracy" in 2023, has declined even further on a liberal democratic index to emerge as "one of the worst autocracies", according to a report by Gothenburg-based V-dem Institute. **NEWS > PAGE 4**

CENTRE-STATES TUSSELS Need judicial oversight in agencies' tech: SC

The court said the information on electoral bonds required to be divulged by the judgment was "readily available" with the bank. Once the bank forwards the details, the EC has to compile and publish the data on its official website by March 15 by 5 p.m. **NEWS > PAGE 4**

TAX REVOLUTION The issue of shares of some States Income distance criterion needs a review

The court noted Justice Sanjiv Khanna asked whether the bank wanted a specific judicial order to open the sealed covers containing the bond details right here in the courtroom. "Comply with what is in black and white in the judgment," Justice B.R. G. **EDITORIAL > PAGE 8**

IN CONTROL Mumbai calls the shots in Ranji final

The court said it did not want to initiate contempt proceedings against the SBI as of now. However, the Bench said it was putting the bank on notice, saying it would take action if SBI did not comply with Monday's directions. **SPORT > PAGE 16**

INSIDE

Report shows dip in India's liberal democracy

NEW DELHI India, which was downgraded to the status of an "electoral democracy" in 2023, has declined even further on a liberal democratic index to emerge as "one of the worst autocracies", according to a report by Gothenburg-based V-dem Institute. **NEWS > PAGE 4**

Kharge urges PM to break silence on MP's remarks

NEW DELHI Stepping up his attack on BJP MP Anbumuzam Hegde's statement that the BJP needed more than 400 Lok Sabha seats to change the Constitution, Congress president Mallikarjun Jaisankar on Monday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to break his "silence" on the issue. **NEWS > PAGE 5**

Centre-right alliance stakes claim in Portugal

LISBON A centre-right combination of the Democratic Alliance and allies staged a claim to form a minority government after winning the largest number of seats — 75 — in Sunday's snap Portuguese general election, which yielded a hung parliament. **NEWS > PAGE 12**

SC firm, tells SBI to share poll bond details today

Top court dismisses the bank's plea seeking more time to provide Election Commission the details | Says the information needed to be divulged by the judgment was 'readily available' with the bank | Directs the Commission to compile and publish the data on its website by 5 p.m. on March 15

Krishnasdas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed an application by the State Bank of India (SBI) for time till June 30 to provide details of electoral bonds purchased anonymously and their ownership by political parties. A five-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, which had on February 15 struck down the electoral bonds scheme as unconstitutional, gave the bank 24 hours, that is, by the close of "business" hours — on March 12, to provide the details to the Election

Commission (EC).

The court said the information on electoral bonds required to be divulged by the judgment was "readily available" with the bank. Once the bank forwards the details, the EC has to compile and publish the data on its official website by March 15 by 5 p.m. Senior advocate Harihar Salve, for the SBI, explained that matching the bonds purchased and names of donors with the bonds was a "time-consuming and complex" exercise. Details were kept in two separate silos and not stored in a digital format. The judgment had cap-

The spectre of bonds

A look at what followed the Supreme Court's scrapping of the electoral bonds scheme

- SBI'S PLEA:** The bank sought time till June 30 to "match" the information to ascertain "who contributed to which political party" between April 12, 2019, and February 15, 2024.
- WHAT SC SAID:** SBI should disclose details of electoral bonds by March 12. The EC must publish the information received from the SBI by March 15.

We asked you to do a plain disclosure. We did not tell you to match the details. You simply need to comply with our February 15 judgment. **SX. CHANDRACHUD**, Chief Justice of India

sized the "core purpose" of the electoral bonds scheme, which was "utmost secrecy". "We have to reverse the whole process", Mr. Salve argued. But Chief Justice Chandrachud said the judgment

had not asked the bank to "match" information to ascertain who contributed to which political parties. "We had only asked you to do a plain disclosure... We just wanted you to comply with the judgment."

mit to the bank their bond applications. Know Your Customer documentation and proof of payment. Similarly, political parties, in order to redeem a bond, had to open current accounts in any of the authorised branches. "There is no dispute that the process was followed by the bank. So, the information is available," the court noted. Justice Sanjiv Khanna asked whether the bank wanted a specific judicial order to open the sealed covers containing the bond details right here in the courtroom. "Comply with what is in black and white in the judgment," Justice B.R. G.

val, on the Bench, addressed Mr. Salve. Chief Justice Chandrachud pointed out that the SBI had not even bothered to mention what it had been doing for the past 26 days since the February 15 judgment. The court said it did not want to initiate contempt proceedings against the SBI as of now. However, the Bench said it was putting the bank on notice, saying it would take action if SBI did not comply with Monday's directions. **MORE REPORTS > PAGE 4**
NAMES AND BONDS > PAGE 8

Multiple re-entry vehicle technology successfully tested on Agni-5 missile

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday announced the successful test-firing of Agni-5 ballistic missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under Mission Divyastra. The flight test was carried out from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. This is considered a major technological breakthrough. "Proud of our DRDO scientists for Mission Divyastra, the first flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology," Mr. Modi posted on X. The MIRV technology means a single missile can portage multiple warheads. It will ensure that a single missile can deploy multi-

ple warheads at different locations, government sources said.

Select group of nations Noting that with this test India has joined the select group of nations who have MIRV capability, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh too congratulated the team. DRDO, in a statement, said, "Various telemetry and radar stations tracked and monitored multiple re-entry vehicles. The mission accomplished the designed parameters." "This system is equipped with indigenous avionics systems and high-accuracy sensor packages, which ensured that the re-entry vehicles reached the desired points within the desired accuracy. The capability is an emanator of India's growing technological prowess," sources said. The Agni series of missiles constitute the backbone of India's nuclear weapons delivery.



Adding missiles: The Agni-5 missile with MIRV technology being launched from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island on Monday. **ANI**

SC stays conviction of T.N. former Minister Ponnudiy

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the conviction and three-year prison sentence of former Tamil Nadu Minister and senior DMK leader K. Ponnudiy in a disproportionate assets case. A bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka also stayed the sentence of his wife, P. Visalakshi, in the case. The order paves the way for Mr. Ponnudiy's return as a legislator. The Supreme Court, in a chamber hearing in January, had granted the couple exemption from surrendering following the Madras High Court judgment. The couple were represented by senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and Siddharth Luthra. Advocate D. Kumanan appeared for the State of Tamil Nadu. The Agni series of missiles constitute the backbone of India's nuclear weapons delivery.

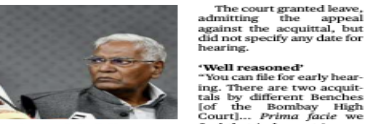


The case relates to the charge that Mr. Ponnudiy and his wife had amassed wealth disproportionate to their known sources of income when he held the portfolio of higher education and mines in the DMK regime between 2006 and 2011. The Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption registered the case against the IADMK couple in May 2011. **'High Court erred'** The petitioners argued that the High Court had wrongly overturned the acquittal by the trial court. They had submitted that the High Court erred in clubbing the assets of Mr. Ponnudiy and his wife to determine the "property disproportionate". It is prima facie apparent that his wife, who is not a public servant, is well-qualified, is a separate entity/individual who holds several assets and is running companies having separate sources of income even prior to the check period," their petition argued. The petition had said it was not "legally permissible to club the income of a public servant with the income of the spouse who is holding agricultural land measuring 20 acres and business with several crores of rupees" turnover. "She is earning independently... She is an income tax assesse as an independent individual... Her income and property are multi-fold than the property and income of Mr. Ponnudiy," it had contended.

SC refuses to stay Saibaba's acquittal, says there is no 'urgency' to jail him

Krishnasdas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Monday refused to stay the acquittal of former Delhi University professor G.N. Saibaba and five others by the Bombay High Court in a case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, saying it would be "unusual" to show urgency to imprison a man whose innocence has been already proved by the judgment of a court of law. "There cannot be any urgency to reverse orders of acquittal... that is unheard of. Urgency is only to reverse conviction," Justice B.R. Gavai, heading a Bench with Justice San-



The Bombay High Court had acquitted G.N. Saibaba (left) in a case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act on March 5. **ANI**

Union Home Ministry notifies CAA rules ahead of Lok Sabha election

Xijaita Singh

Just days ahead of the announcement of Lok Sabha election, the Union Home Ministry on Monday notified the Citizenship Amendment Rules, 2024 that would enable the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) passed by Parliament in 2019. "Through the law facilitates citizenship to undocumented people belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Parsi, Christian, and Jain communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, the rules state that applicants will have to provide six types of docu-



ments and specify the "date of entry" into India. Home Minister Amit Shah posted on X, "These rules will now enable minorities persecuted on religious grounds in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan to acquire citizenship in our nation. With this notification, Shri Narendra Modi has delivered on another commitment and realised the promise of the makers of our Constitution to the Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians living in these countries." The list of documents includes birth certificate, tenancy records, identity papers, any licence, or educational certificate issued by a government authority in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. The applicants will have to register on the portal <https://indiancitizenshipline.nic.in> and a mobile application. CAA-2019 has also been readied. All documents along with photographs are to be uploaded online and the application will be processed after a background check by security agencies. **MORE REPORTS > PAGE 5**

Activists of a left outfit take out a protest march against the notification in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on Monday. **PTI**

Multiple re-entry vehicle technology successfully tested on Agni-5 missile

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday announced the successful test-firing of Agni-5 ballistic missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under Mission Divyastra.

The flight test was carried out from Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. This is considered a major technological breakthrough.

“Proud of our DRDO scientists for Mission Divyastra, the first flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology,” Mr. Modi posted on X.

The MIRV technology means a single missile can carry multiple warheads. It will ensure that a single missile can deploy multi-

ple warheads at different locations, government sources said.

Select group of nations

Noting that with this test India has joined the select group of nations who have MIRV capability, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh too joined the PM in congratulating team DRDO. The DRDO, in a statement, said, “Various telemetry and radar stations tracked and monitored multiple re-entry vehicles. The mission accomplished the designed parameters.”

“This system is equipped with indigenous avionics systems and high-accuracy sensor packages, which ensured that the re-entry vehicles reached the target points within the desired accuracy. The capability is an enunciator of India’s growing technological prowess,” sources said.

The Agni series of missiles constitute the backbone of India’s nuclear weapons delivery.



Adding muscle: The Agni-5 missile with MIRV technology being launched from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island on Monday. ANI



अग्नि

अग्नि
श्री आर डी ओ

अग्नि-एक्स मिसाइल
AGNI - X MISSILE



India's Agni missiles

1.8m



Name	Type	Range
Agni-I	MRBM	700–1,200 km ^{[1][7]} (Operational)
Agni-P	MRBM	1,000-2,000 km (Under development) ^[15]
Agni-II	MRBM	2,000–3,500 km ^[16] (Operational)
Agni-III	IRBM	3,000–5,000 km ^[9] (Operational)
Agni-IV	IRBM	3,500–4,000 km ^[17] (Operational)
Agni-V	ICBM	7,000–8,000 km ^{[18][19][20][21][22]} (Operational)
Agni-VI	ICBM	11,000–12,000 km ^{[4][23][24]} (Under development)

Agni-I, P, II, III, IV, V, VI



Agni-V ICBM

Type	Medium-range ballistic missile (Agni-I, Agni-II, Agni Prime) Intermediate-range ballistic missile (Agni-III, Agni-IV) Intercontinental ballistic missile (Agni-V, Agni VI)
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Place of origin India

Service history

In service Active

Used by India

Production history

Designer Defence Research and Development Organisation

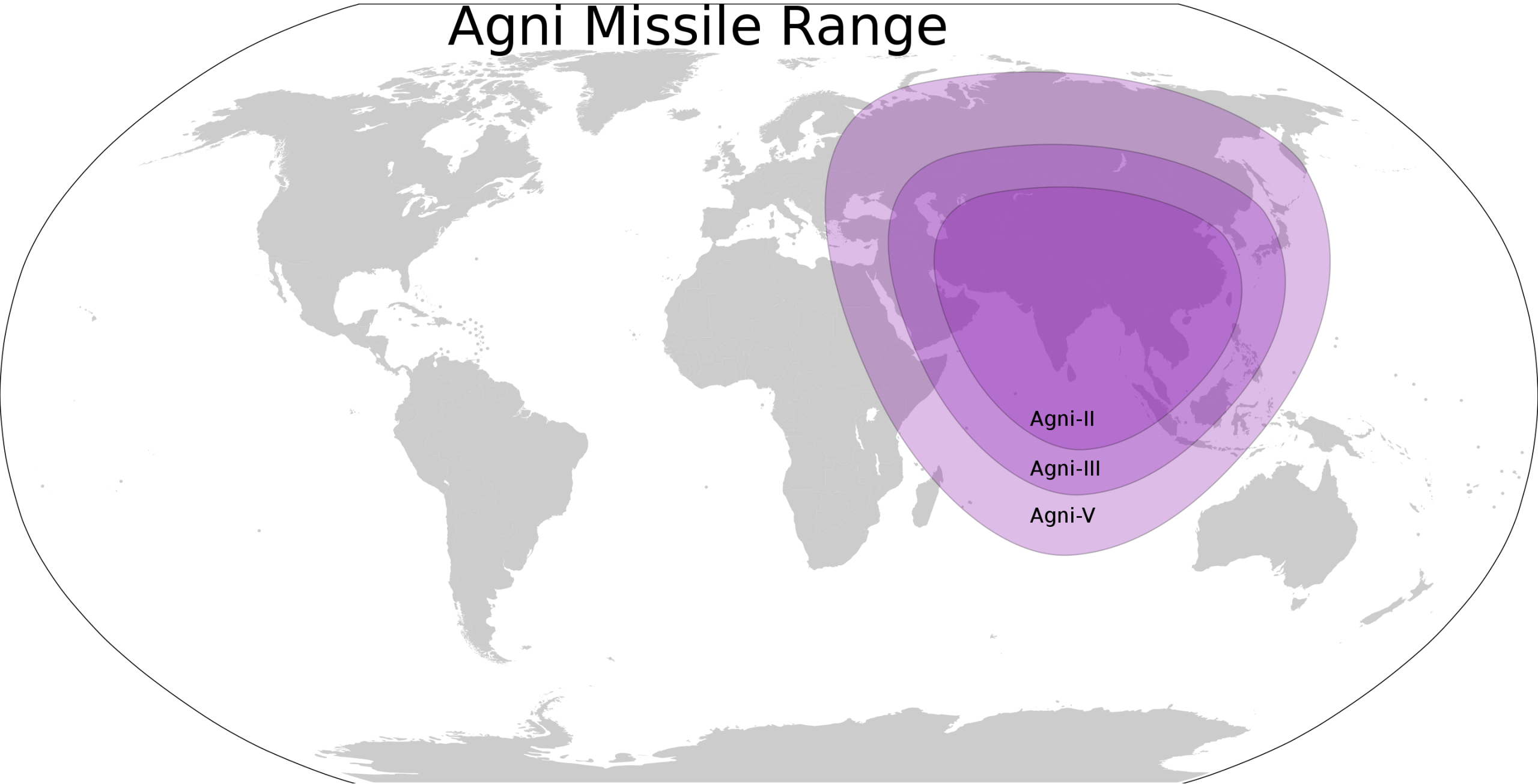
Manufacturer Bharat Dynamics Limited

Specifications

Mass	12,000 kg (Agni-I) ^[1] 16,000 kg (Agni-II) 48,000 kg (Agni III) 17,000 kg (Agni-IV) ^[2] 49,000 kg (Agni-V) ^[3] 55,000 kg (Agni VI) ^[4] 11,000 kg (Agni P)
Length	15 m (Agni-I) ^[1] 21 m (Agni-II) ^[5] 17 m (Agni-III) ^[6] 20 m (Agni-IV) ^[2] 17.5 m (Agni-V) ^[3] 10.5 m(Agni-P)
Diameter	1.0 m (Agni-I, Agni-II) 2.0 m (Agni-III, Agni V) 1.1 m (Agni VI) ^[4] 1.15 m (Agni P)
Warhead	Conventional high explosive -unitary, penetration, cluster munitions , incendiary weapon , thermobaric , strategic nuclear weapon
Engine	Composite rocket motor
Propellant	Solid fuel
Operational range	700–1,200 km (Agni-I) ^{[1][7]} 1,000–2,000 km (Agni Prime) ^[8] 2,000–3,500 km (Agni-II) ^[5] 3,000–5,000 km (Agni-III) ^[9] 3,500–4,000 km (Agni-IV) 7,000–8,000 km (Agni-V) ^[10] 11,000–12,000 km (Agni VI) ^[4]

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Flight altitude	300 km (Agni-I) ^[11] 230 km (Agni-II), ^{[5][12]} 350 km (Agni-III) ^[13]
Maximum speed	24 Mach (Agni 5)
Guidance system	Mid-course: Ring laser gyro inertial navigation system with GPS/NavIC satellite guidance Terminal: Imaging infrared homing, radar scene correlation, active radar homing
Launch platform	Road/Rail mobile ^[14]

Agni Missile Range

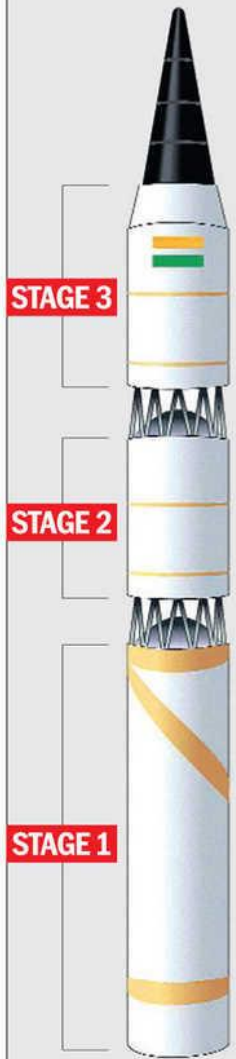


Agni-II

Agni-III

Agni-V

AGNI-V MISSILE



OPERATIONAL RANGE
5,500-8,000* km

WEIGHT	50,000 kg	SPEED	24 MACH
LENGTH	17.5 m	ENGINE	3 STAGE SOLID
DIAMETER	2 m	NUCLEAR WARHEAD	1,500 kg

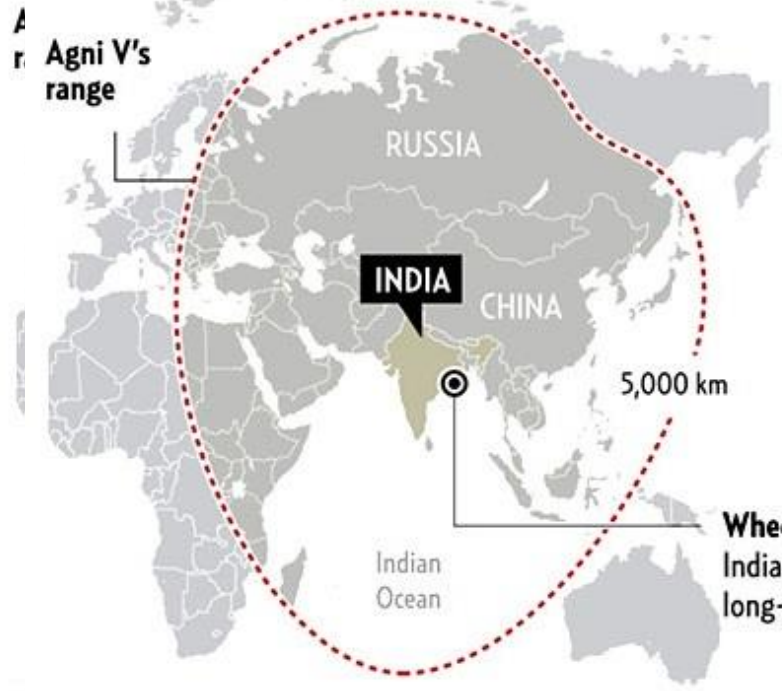
TESTS CONDUCTED	AGNI-I	AGNI-II	AGNI-III	AGNI-IV
RANGE	700 km	2,000 km	3,500 km	4,000 km

*5,550 km with full payload of 1.5-tonne warhead, 8,000 km with a lighter warhead

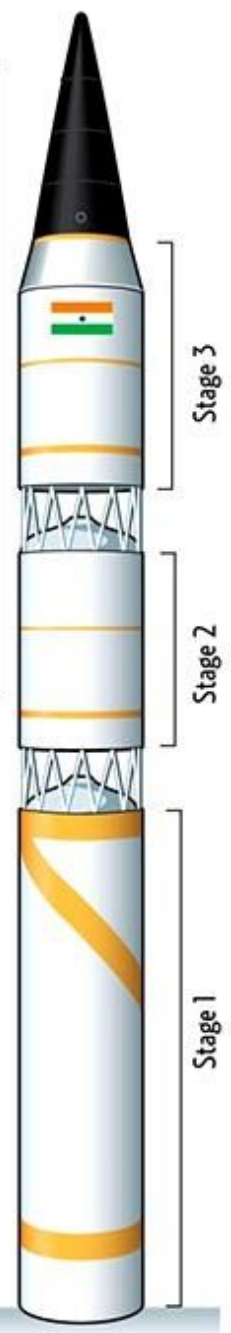
ICBM ZONE Agni-V is classified as an inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM), having a range of 5,500 km or more. The US, Russia, China, France and Israel already possess such missiles

India's Agni V missile

The nuclear warhead-enabled Agni V is the fifth in the series of medium and long-range missiles made in India in the past fifteen years



- AGNI V**
- Operational range: **5,000 km**
 - Payload: **1,360.78 kg**
 - Height: **17 m**
 - Future development possible for a submarine-launched variant



AGNI MISSILE SERIES

	Agni I	Agni II	Agni III
Range (km)	700	2,500	3,000
Payload (kg)	1,000	1,000	1,500
Height (m)	15	20	16.3



Report shows dip in India's liberal democracy

NEW DELHI

India, which was downgraded to the status of an “electoral autocracy” in 2018, has declined even further on a liberal democratic index to emerge as “one of the worst autocratisers”, according to a report by Gothenburg-based V-Dem Institute. » **PAGE 4**

Liberal democracy has declined significantly in India: report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India, which was downgraded to the status of an “electoral autocracy” in 2018, has declined even further on multiple metrics to emerge as “one of the worst autocratisers”, according to the “Democracy Report 2024” released by the Gothenburg-based V-Dem Institute.

The report categorises countries into four regime types based on their score

in the Liberal Democratic Index (LDI): Liberal Democracy, Electoral Democracy, Electoral Autocracy, and Closed Autocracy. “India, with 18% of the world’s population, accounts for about half of the population living in autocratising countries,” the report said.

Noting that almost all components of democracy were getting worse in more countries than they were getting better, the report singled out freedom of expression, clean elections,



The report details how BJP used various laws to silence critics. REUTERS

and freedom of association/civil society as the three worst affected components of democracy in

autocratising countries.

South and Central Asia regressed significantly, with the level of “liberal democracy” enjoyed by the average Indian now “down to levels last seen in 1975...when Indira Gandhi declared a state of emergency in India”. As per the V-Dem classification, a liberal democracy is one where, in addition to the requirements of electoral democracy such as regular free and fair elections, mechanisms for judicial inde-

pendence and constraints on executive overreach are robust, alongside rigorous protection of civil liberties and equality before law.

“The Modi-led government also continues to suppress the freedom of religion rights. Intimidation of political opponents and people protesting government policies, and silencing of dissent in academia are now prevalent,” the report noted.

With regard to India, the report said that a third con-

secutive term for the BJP and Mr. Modi “could lead to further autocratisation given the already substantial democratic decline under Modi’s leadership and the enduring crackdown on minority rights and civil society”.

V-Dem’s Democracy Report is a collaborative project involving 4,200 scholars from 180 countries, and is based on 31 million datasets that cover 202 countries from 1789 to 2023.

ANALYSIS

RIGHTS

India Ranked 104, Between Niger and Ivory Coast, on the Liberal Democracy Index: Report

The V-Dem report terms India as “one of the worst autocratisers lately”, and in the “top ten autocratisers” in the world. It dropped to an ‘electoral autocracy’ in 2018 and has stayed there in 2023, with worse scores.

The report observes that a “wave of autocratisation is observable globally. Autocratisation is ongoing in “42 countries, home to 2.8 billion people, or 35% of the world’s population. India, with 18% of the world’s population, accounts for about half of the population living in autocratising countries.”



The report says, “the level of liberal democracy enjoyed by the average human in the (South Asia) region is now down to levels last seen in 1975 – almost half a century ago. That was when the Vietnam War ended and when Indira Gandhi declared a state of emergency in India.” The population-weighted index puts India’s 1.4 billion citizens as being under autocracy.

The report cites India as “one of the worst autocratisers lately.”

The V-Dem *Liberal Democracy Index* (LDI) “captures both liberal and electoral aspects of democracy based on the 71 indicators included in the Liberal Component Index (LCI) and the Electoral Democracy Index (EDI).” India is at rank 104, with a score of .28 on this count and this has worsened over last time. Pakistan for context is at 119th rank and a score at .21

FIGURE 14. TOP 10 “STAND-ALONE” AUTOCRATIZERS, 2023

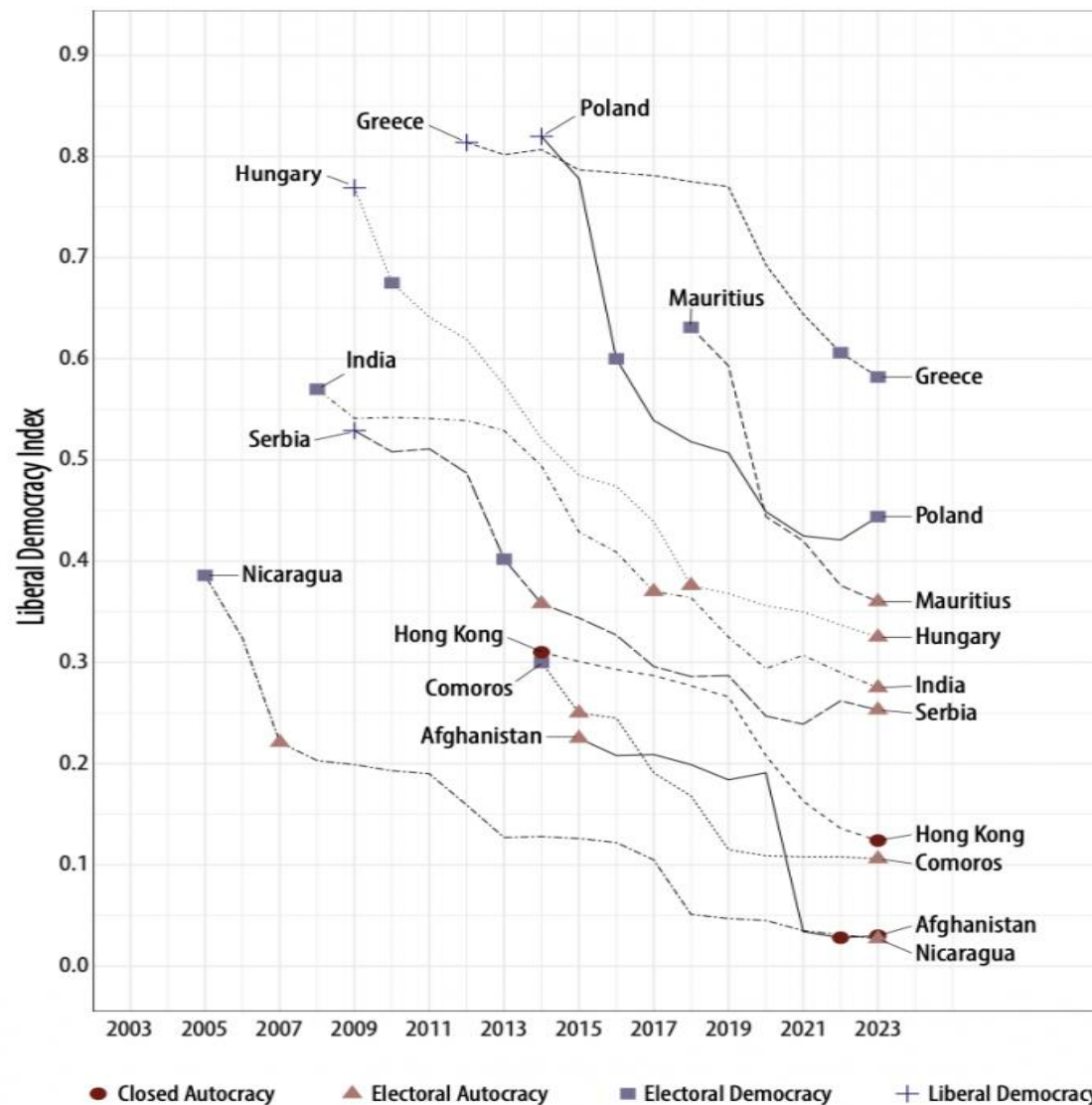


Figure 14 plots the LDI values for the top 10 “stand-alone” autocratizing countries. “Stand-alone” means that autocratization in these countries started after a period of relative stability (i.e., no substantial change on the EDI levels). This is different from bell-turn episodes of autocratization (see below). Note that the first year on the graph is technically a “pre-episode” year in the sense that the year after was the first one recording a decline by the ERT methodology. The plot visualizes the total magnitude of change during autocratization.

FIGURE 6. REGIONAL SHARES OF POPULATION BY REGIME TYPE, 2023

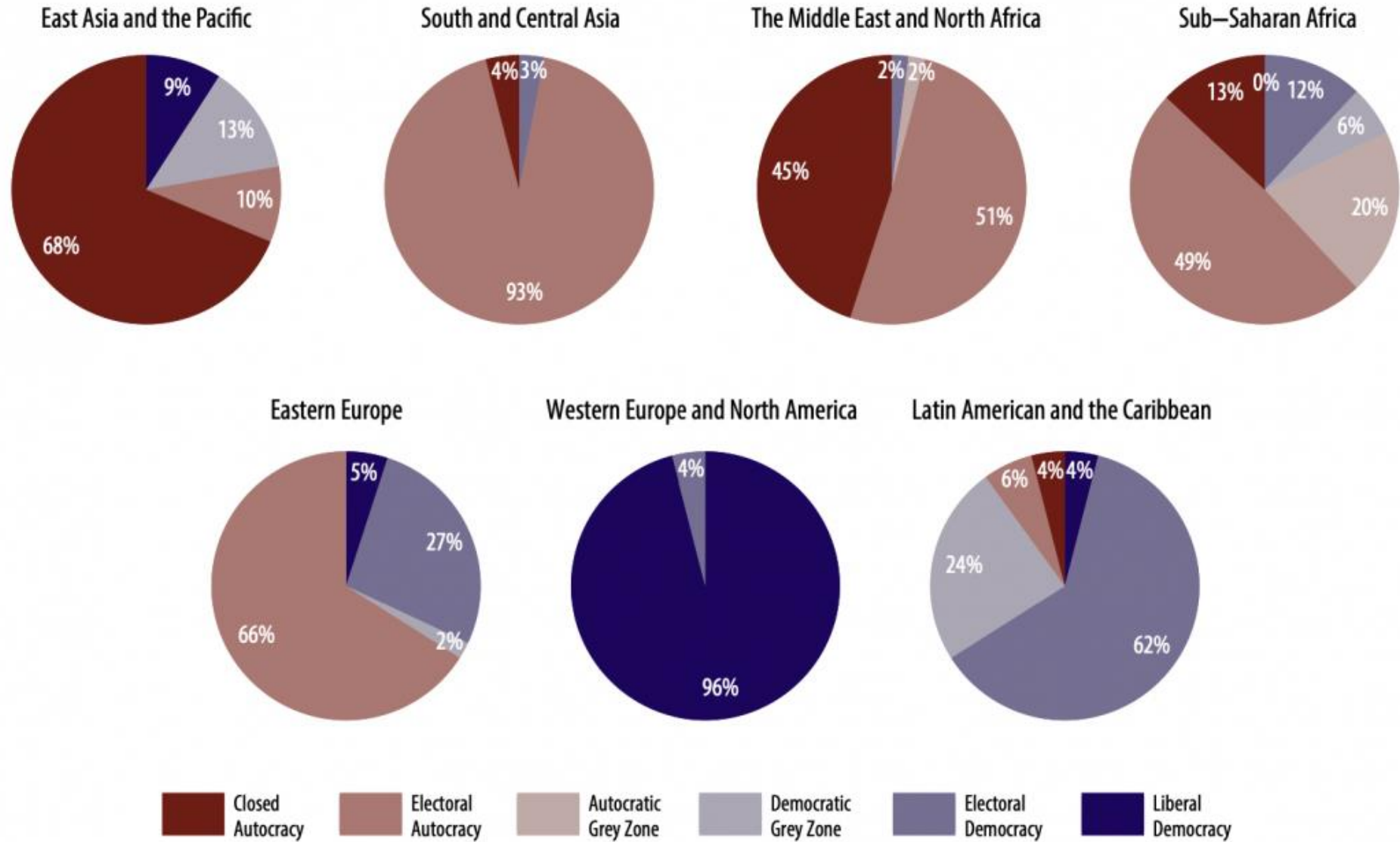


Figure 6 plots the share of population living in liberal democracies, electoral democracies, electoral autocracies, and closed autocracies, including "grey zone" subcategories, by regions of the world.

Modi to launch 205 'One Station, One Product' stalls for Southern Railway

PM will inaugurate railway projects worth ₹85,000 crore today; he will flag off one more Chennai-Mysuru Vande Bharat and a new Express train on Kollam-Trirupati route, and open Aushadhi Kendras selling affordable medicines at select stations

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate 'One Station, One Product' (OSOP) stalls at 205 railway stations across Southern Railway, including 168 in Tamil Nadu, through video conferencing on Tuesday.

The OSOP scheme, which promotes the 'Local for Local' vision of the Government of India, provides a market for local/indigenous products and creates additional income generation opportunities for the marginalised sections of society, Southern Railway General Manager R.N. Singh said.

Addressing presper-



On tracks Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually flag off the inaugural special of the Dr. MGR Chennai Central-SMTV Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

s here, Mr. Singh said as part of the ₹85,000-crore railway projects that would be dedicated to the nation on Tuesday, Mr. Modi would launch another Vande Bharat Express between Dr. MGR Chennai

Central and Mysuru. While the regular services of Train No. 29663/29664 Chennai-Mysuru Vande Bharat (except Wednesday) would commence on April 5, the train would run

between Chennai Central and SMTV Bengaluru from March 14 to April 4, with stops at Katpadi and Krishnarajapuram.

He will flag off a new Express train on the Kollam-Trirupati-Kollam route and an extension of the Thiruvananthapuram-Kasaragod Vande Bharat Express up to Mangaluru Central.

To ease freight loading/unloading, goods sheds with ample warehousing facilities would be opened at Singaperumal Koll, Gan- gaikondan, Theni, Pattukottai, Thiruthuraiipoondi and Vallur.

Mr. Modi will also inaugurate Jan Aushadhi Kendras at Dindigul, Erode, Tiruchi and Palakkad stations, where passengers

can buy quality generic medicines at an affordable price. Among other projects, a rail coach restaurant would be inaugurated at Chennai Central.

Air-conditioned EMUs A senior railway officer, who was present in the press conference, said two air-conditioned EMUs were allotted for Southern Railway and services would commence in May or June after the rakes are received from the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai.

To a question on Jerka experienced by passengers in Link, Hoffmann Busch (LHB) rakes, he said the issue was taken up with the ICF and some improvements were being made.

LDf, BJP spar as PM inaugurates Thalassery-Mahe NH bypass

The Hindu Bureau
KANNUR

The inauguration of the six-lane Thalassery-Mahe National Highway in Kerala by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday transformed into a political showdown between the BJP and Left Democratic Front (LDF), as both vied for credit for completing the project.

The inauguration of the bypass, spanning across

the Kannur and Vadakara Lok Sabha constituencies, saw both the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the LDF holding roadshows on the stretch featuring their respective candidates, claiming credit for the completion of the long-awaited project.

NDA candidate C. Raghunath (Vadakara) said the Modi government's proactive stance towards the State led to the realisation of the road project.

Hitting back, LDF Kannur candidate M.V. Jayarajan said, "Kerala is ruled by a government that has, for the first time in the State's history, allocated funds for the development of national highways."

The work for the project commenced in 2018 for which the process of land acquisition started in 1977. It encountered delays attributed to natural calamities and extended beyond its initially projected timeline.

Drones handed over to 1,000 women

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Women from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka showcased their drone flying capabilities during an event to hand over agricultural drones to women under the Nano Drone Yojana scheme on Monday.

The demonstration was done from 10 locations across the country. Later, 108 women also received certificates which

will allow them to fly the drones legally. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

handed over drones to 1,000 women chosen to operate drones for agriculture and related purposes.

"Below the sky, the drone can lead the technological revolution of India. Today, we see in the IT sector, space sector, and science sector how women are making their name," the Prime Minister said. (With PTI inputs)

BJP, TDP, and JSP finalise seat-sharing deal for polls

G.V.R., Subba Rao
VIJAYAWADA

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP), the Jana Sena Party (JSP), and the BJP have arrived at a consensus on seat sharing for the upcoming elections in Andhra Pradesh. The TDP and the JSP have agreed to allocate six Lok Sabha seats to the BJP according to a statement issued late on Monday.

The JSP will contest two Lok Sabha seats and 21 Assembly seats, while the TDP will field its candidates on 17 Lok Sabha and 144 Assembly seats.

Andhra Pradesh has 175 Assembly and 25 Lok Sabha seats.

High-level meeting A high-level meeting was held in Amaravati on Monday, which was attended by Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat, BJP national vice-president Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, TDP national president N. Chandrababu Naidu, and JSP president Paswan Kalyan.

Later, in a joint statement, they said that the list of candidates would be announced subsequently by the respective parties.

Mr. Naidu, talking to social media platform X on Monday, said that the BJP, the TDP, and the JSP had forged a formidable seat-sharing formula.

"With this significant step, we are paving the way for a brighter future," he said.

Shah slams AAP for allying with Congress in Delhi for LS polls

Satyika Mahajan
NEW DELHI



Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday attacked the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Congress tie-up in the national capital, saying Opposition parties could keep on forming alliances abroad if the general election, but the Narendra Modi-led government is bound to return to power with over 400 seats.

In response, AAP said: "The people of Delhi have repeatedly shown their preference for an honest government and will ensure the ouster of the BJP in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections."

Mr. Shah made the comments while unveiling several development projects in Delhi, which included providing piped gas to 41 the controversially surrounding alleged irregularities in the renovation of the CM's official residence.

'Free liquor' "They promised free education, but instead gave free liquor," Mr. Shah said, taking a swipe at former Education Minister Manish Sisodia, who is in judicial custody in a money laundering case related to the liquor scam.

Replying to Mr. Shah's remarks, AAP, in a statement, said: "On the one hand, you have AAP fighting on people-centric issues and on the other, the BJP is creating hurdles and becoming an obstacle in any scheme we bring for the betterment of the people of Delhi."

The senior BJP leader listed a number of achievements of the Union government, including the abrogation of Article 370 and the construction of Ram Temple. He said Mr. Kejriwal had joined forces with "the same party against which he had launched an anti-corruption campaign".

Karnataka HC refuses to quash rape charge against Murugha Math seer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Monday refused to quash the rape charge against Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, seer of Murugharajendra Brahman Math, Chitradurga, in the case of alleged sexual assault on minor girls studying in the educational institutions run by the math.

The order of the Chitradurga special court in framing charges under Section 376(2)(b) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for allegedly repeatedly raping the minor girls, and under Sections 4 and 7 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO)

The case pertains to the sexual assault on minor girls studying in the institutions run by the math

Act, 2012 for committing alleged sexual assault of varying degree, is sustainable and the accused will have to face trial for these offences, it said.

However, the court declared as not sustainable the charges against the seer under the provisions of the Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act,

1989, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, and under Section 376(2)(a) of the IPC, for allegedly gang-raping minor girls.

The order was passed while partly allowing the pleas filed by the seer questioning the legality of the order passed by the special court in 2022.

The seer was arrested in 2022 based on an FIR registered following a complaint by a member of the child welfare committee. The FIR was later transferred to Chitradurga Rural police. The seer was granted bail by the court on the condition that he should not enter Chitradurga till conclusion of the trial.

Conservation effort



Checking erosion: The extended beach formed after six weeks of sand pumping as part of the beach nourishment work by Dredging Corporation of India in Visakhapatnam on Monday. K.R. DEEPAK

In Telangana, an eagle squad to pull down rogue drones

Ravi Reddy
HYDERABAD

Close to three years of efforts and training have fructified for the Telangana Police after the eagles they had trained, successfully pulled down drones at demonstration held before top police officials recently.

Three eagles trained by two professionals were used in the demonstration witnessed by Director-General of Police Ravi Gupta along with senior IPS officers in the Hyderabad Intelligence Training Academy (ITA) near Hyderabad.

A video of the demonstration shows an eagle sitting on a shed suddenly taking to skies and flying towards a drone. In a split



Claws out: An eagle capturing a drone (left); the eagle trainers at the demonstration in Telangana (right). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

second, it grabs the drone completing the task with precision.

Layer of security Plans to be used for VIP visits and public meetings, these eagles are capable of identifying drones and pulling them down before they can inflict any damage. The eagle squad is part of the Internal Security Wing (ISW), the highly specialised police force to oversee VIP security in Telangana. The Telangana Police intend to add eagles as another layer of security. The three eagles

were inducted into training when they were three months old. A local person Md. Fareed and bird trainer Abir Bhandary from Kolkata were roped in for the project. In a span of little over two years, the eagles were fully trained to handle an intruding drone.

While two eagles were trained to keep an eye on the objects, more particularly the drones, the other one was specifically trained for surveillance purpose. The eagle is equipped with a surveillance camera and is capable of bringing high quality images of the targets.

Upset over fall in chilli prices, farmers torch APMC office

The Hindu Bureau
HUBLI

Upset over the sudden fall in prices of chilli varieties in the wake of heavy arrivals, a mob, comprising mainly of farmers, burnt down the APMC office in Byadgi on Monday.

They also torched a few vehicles, including a fire engine that was deployed to extinguish the blaze. According to local traders, the trouble started after the second process was completed and the prices of various chilli lots were announced. Some farmers then marched to

Karnataka bans colouring agent used in cotton candy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has banned the use of colouring agents in cotton candy and Gobi Manchurian, and warned of action against offenders.

"We have decided to ban the use of Rhodamine B, the colouring agent used in cotton candy. As per the existing law, Rhodamine B is already banned. There is no ban on sale of white cotton candy," Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said on Monday. The ban comes into effect immediately.

The Public Health Department had collected samples of coloured cotton candy and Gobi Manchurian. Tests revealed the use of the harmful agents.

the APMC (Agricultural Produce & Livestock Market Committee) office alleging that prices had been brought down deliberately. While the Byadgi APMC had registered arrival of over four lakh bags of chilli last week, Monday too witnessed huge arrivals. According to Superintendent of Police of Haveri Anshukumar Srivastava, some police personnel were injured in the protest. The police detained a few persons and the protest was brought under control. The market activities started again late in the evening.

Modi to launch 205 'One Station, One Product' stalls for Southern Railway

PM will inaugurate railway projects worth ₹85,000 crore today; he will flag off one more Chennai-Mysuru Vande Bharat and a new Express train on Kollam-Tirupati route, and open Aushadhi Kendras selling affordable medicines at select stations

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate 'One Station, One Product' (OSOP) stalls at 205 railway stations across Southern Railway, including 168 in Tamil Nadu, through video conferencing on Tuesday.

The OSOP scheme, which promotes the 'Local for Vocal' vision of the Government of India, provides a market for local/indigenous products and creates additional income generation opportunities for the marginalised sections of society, Southern Railway General Manager R.N. Singh said.

Addressing pressper-



On track: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually flag off the inaugural special of the Dr. MGR Chennai Central-SMVT Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sons here, Mr. Singh said as part of the ₹85,000-crore railway projects that would be dedicated to the nation on Tuesday, Mr. Modi would launch another Vande Bharat Express between Dr. MGR Chennai

Central and Mysuru. While the regular services of Train No. 20663/20664 Mysuru-Dr. MGR Chennai Central-Mysuru Vande Bharat (except Wednesday) would commence on April 5, the train would run

between Chennai Central and SMVT Bengaluru from March 14 to April 4, with stops at Katpadi and Krishnarajapuram.

He will flag off a new Express train on the Kollam-Tirupati-Kollam route and an extension of the Thiruvananthapuram-Kasaragod Vande Bharat Express up to Mangaluru Central.

To ease freight loading/unloading, goods sheds with ample warehousing facilities would be opened at Singaperumal Koil, Gangaikondan, Theni, Pattukottai, Thiruthuraiipoondi and Valliyur.

Mr. Modi will also inaugurate Jan Aushadhi Kendras at Dindigul, Erode, Tiruchi and Palakkad stations, where passengers

can buy quality generic medicines at an affordable price. Among other projects, a rail coach restaurant would be inaugurated at Chennai Central.

Air-conditioned EMUs

A senior railway officer, who was present in the press conference, said two air-conditioned EMUs were allotted for Southern Railway and services would commence in May or June after the rakes are received from the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai.

To a question on jerks experienced by passengers in Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) rakes, he said the issue was taken up with the ICF and some improvement was being made.



ONE DISTRICT ONE PRODUCT
UTTAR PRADESH
Department of MSME and Export Promotion, U.P.

One District One Product

**GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE ODOP SCHEME
PAN INDIA**

The scheme was first launched by **UP government** in 2018

The objective is to **convert** each district into an export hub

Support local exporters by **scaling up** manufacturing

DPIIT & DGFT are promoting the scheme at various levels

States under process to **identify** potential products for import substitution

एक जन्पद्
एक उत्पाद्



In Telangana, an eagle squad to pull down rogue drones

Ravi Reddy
HYDERABAD

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Claws out: An eagle capturing a drone (left); the eagle trainers at the demonstration in Telangana (right). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

second, it grabs the drone completing the task with precision.

Layer of security

Planned to be used for VVIP visits and public meetings, these eagles are capable of identifying drones and pulling them

down before they can inflict any damage. The eagle squad is part of the Internal Security Wing (ISW), the highly specialised police force to oversee VVIP security in Telangana. The Telangana Police intend to add eagles as another layer of security.

The Telangana Police decided to experiment with the eagle squad in 2020. This is the first and only eagle squad in the country and second in the world only after the Netherlands.

According to police sources, the three eagles

were inducted into training when they were three months old. A local person Md. Fareed and bird trainer Abir Bhandary from Kolkata were roped in for the project. In a span of little over two years, the eagles were fully trained to handle an intruding drone.

While two eagles were trained to keep an eye on the objects, more particularly the drones, the other one was specifically trained for surveillance purpose. The eagle is equipped with a surveillance camera and is capable of bringing high quality images of the targets.

Sustained training was given to the eagles for a duration of an hour every day and the success rate of interception is said to be very high, say police officials associated with the project.

“This is at an experimental stage but we are sure to induct them into active service shortly to create a specialised squad to pull down rouge drones,” the sources revealed.

India no longer has more losses than wins in Test cricket

Dominance at home since the 1990s and competitiveness in away games since the 2000s have helped

India breaks even in Tests

The tables and charts are based on data collated from the ESPNcricinfo's Statsguru



Table 1 | Win-loss ratio of teams currently in Test cricket. Only 12 teams have played international Test cricket

Team	Mat	Won	Lost	Tied	Draw	W/L
Australia	866	414	232	2	218	1.78
England	1071	392	324	0	355	1.21
South Africa	464	178	161	0	125	1.11
Pakistan	456	148	142	0	166	1.04
INDIA	579	178	178	1	222	1.00
West Indies	575	183	210	1	181	0.87
Sri Lanka	314	101	121	0	92	0.83
New Zealand	470	115	185	0	170	0.62
Afghanistan	9	3	6	0	0	0.50
Bangladesh	140	19	103	0	18	0.18
Zimbabwe	117	13	75	0	29	0.17
Ireland	8	1	7	0	0	0.14

Chart 2 | The cumulative number of wins, losses, and draws (including ties, abandoned and cancelled Tests) for India

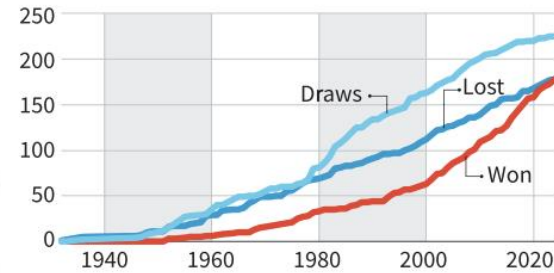
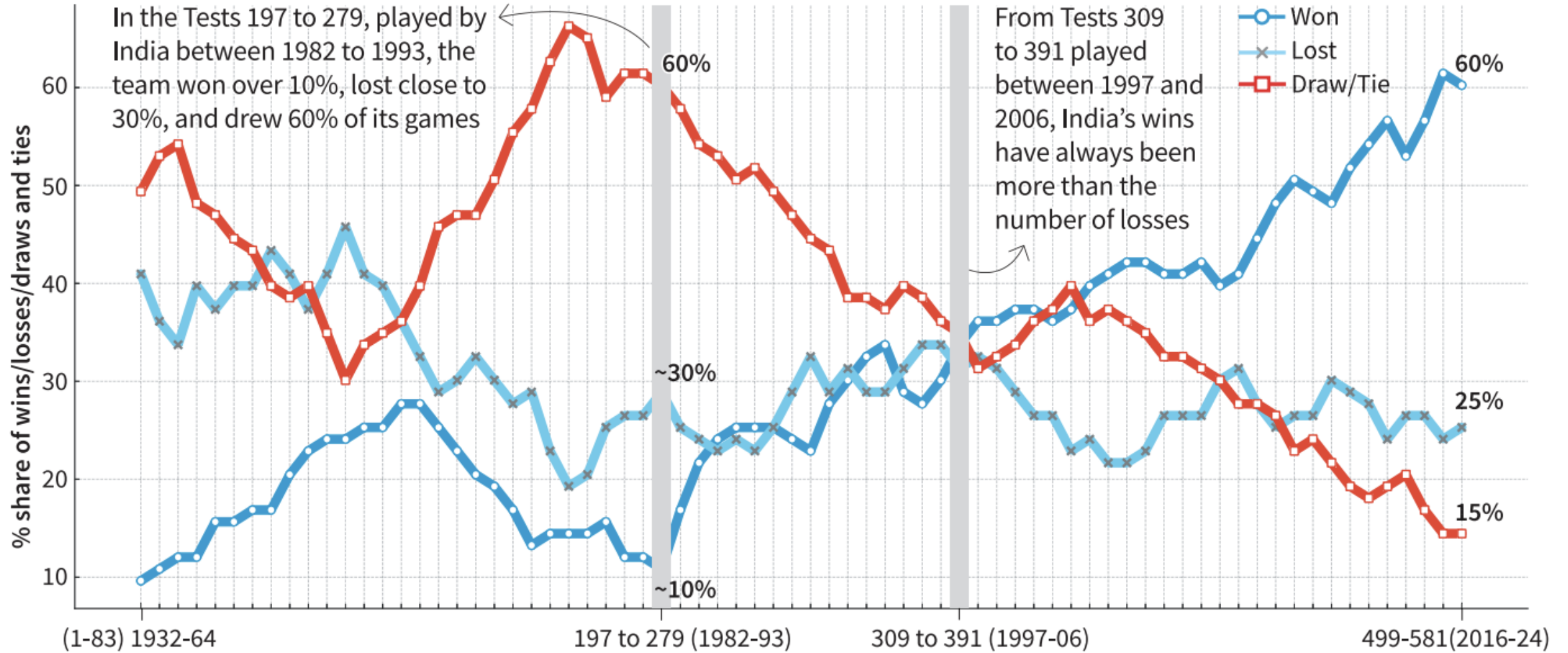


Table 4 Home and away records for the pre-1990s, 1990s, 2000s, 2010s and 2020s

Period	Away			Home		
	Wins	Loss	W/L	Wins	Loss	W/L
Pre-90s	13	54	0.24	30	35	0.86
90s	1	15	0.07	17	5	3.40
2000s	19	19	1.00	21	8	2.63
2010s	19	25	0.76	37	4	9.25
2020s	9	10	0.90	12	3	4.00

Chart 3 | Rolling averages for 83 Tests at a time. The first data point is for Tests 1 to 83, the next is for Tests 8 to 90 and so on



MALE

Maldives purchases drones from Türkiye to patrol maritime area



Maldives has for the first time acquired surveillance drones from Türkiye for patrolling its vast exclusive economic zone. Efforts have begun by the state to establish a drone base in Noonu atoll to operate the military drones. Türkiye was the first foreign country visited by Mohamed Muizzu after he was sworn in as President. PTI

LONDON

Princess of Wales apologises for photo that sparked health concern



Kate, Princess of Wales, apologised for "confusion" caused by her posting of a family photo released by the palace — an image of Kate and her children that was intended to calm speculation about her health, but had the opposite effect. It was the first official photo of Kate since she had abdominal surgery nearly two months ago. AP

ISLAMABAD

President administers oath to 19-member Cabinet in Pakistan



Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday administered the oath to 19 members of the Cabinet of newly elected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, ending the tenuous wait for the completion of government formation. Those who took oath included familiar faces such as Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Asif and Ahsan Iqbal. PTI

BUDAPEST

Orban claims Trump said he will not 'give a penny' to Ukraine



Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban said former U.S. President Donald Trump told him he would "not give a penny" to the war in Ukraine — a claim Mr. Trump's team did not comment on. Mr. Orban had travelled to Florida on Friday to meet Mr. Trump. He has frequently expressed hope for the Republican's return to power. AP

Goan-origin Portuguese PM Costa bows out

The centre-right Democratic Alliance emerged as the largest party with 79 seats, while Costa's Socialists finished second with 77; the far-right Chega party came third with 18% vote; Luis Montenegro, who has staked claim to form the next government, says he won't join hands with the far-right

Ashis Ray
LISBON

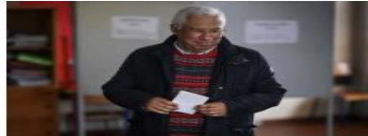
A centre-right combination of the Democratic Alliance (PSD) and allies (AD) staked a claim to form a minority government after winning the largest number of seats — 79 — in Sunday's snap Portuguese general election, which yielded a hung parliament.

The AD narrowly ahead of the Goan-origin Prime Minister Antonio Costa's outgoing Socialist Party (PS), which clocked 77 seats. Both formations were tied at 28.67% in terms of voter support.

The AD is 37 seats short of an absolute majority in a House of 230. They can,

perhaps, reach out to eight centrist Liberal Initiative lawmakers and nine "others". PSD leader Luis Montenegro maintained that the Portuguese people had spoken for "a change of government and of policies". He is now waiting for President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa to invite him to assume office. Historically, the balance of power in the 230-member House has alternated between the PS and the PSD.

For the first time in half a century the far-right in Portuguese politics, in the five-year-old incarnation of the Chega (Enough) party, emerged as a strong force mustering 48 seats and attracting 18% of the votes to finish third. This could



Curtains down: Antonio Costa resigned in November after officials arrested members of his staff and two Ministers for corruption. AP

compel a PSD-led government to seek Chega's support to pass legislation. Mr. Montenegro had insisted he would not turn to Chega for parliamentary business, let alone grant it the status of kingmaker,

as a football commentator on television before venturing into politics.

As PSD activists celebrated with "Victory" signs for cameras at their party headquarters, Mr. Ventura remarked: "The Portuguese clearly said they want a two-party government: Chega and the Democratic Alliance."

Four communists and greens and five Left Bloc MPs are potentially PS backers. But even if it cob- bled together a coalition to remain in power, it would not retain Mr. Costa, who has been Prime Minister for eight years — the past three and a half months as caretaker.

Mr. Ventura, formerly a trainee Catholic priest, captivated into public atten-

tion in 2017, which included a journey to his ancestral village of Rua Abade Faria, Margao, Goa, resigned in November after law enforcement authorities arrested his chief of staff and personal adviser together with naming two of his Cabinet Ministers as suspects over alleged irregularities in awarding state contracts.

Mr. Costa's handling of the COVID pandemic and the economy in what is Western Europe's poorest nation drew appreciation. Unemployment dipped and Portugal's GDP growth in 2023 reached 2.3% compared to the European Union (EU) average of 0.7%.

(Ashis Ray is a London-based journalist)

Student gets death term in Pakistan for 'blasphemy'

Associated Press
MULTAN

A Pakistani court sentenced a 22-year-old student to death and gave a teenager a life sentence in two separate cases after finding them guilty of insulting Islam's Prophet Muhammad, a defence lawyer and officials said on Monday.

A lawyer who represented student Junaid Munir, who got the death penalty last week, said the trial stemmed from charges brought in 2022 that Mr. Munir shared blasphemous content via WhatsApp.

Also last week, 17-year-old Abdul Hanan was convicted and sentenced to life in prison in a separate case in the same court.

'Playing with fire'



Hindu worshippers take part in 'Perang Api', a war of fire tradition believed to cleanse the evil elements and keep away misfortune, ahead of Nyepi Day, which marks the Balinese Hindu New Year, at Mataram in Indonesia on Sunday. Reuters

Oppenheimer wins awards for best picture, director and actor at the Oscars

AGENCY FRANCE PRESSE
HOLLYWOOD

Oppenheimer swept the board on Sunday at the Oscars, Hollywood's biggest night of the year, with seven awards including best picture and best director, crowning a triumphant year for filmmaker Christopher Nolan.

Nolan's masterful drama about the father of the atomic bomb, half of last summer's massive "Barbenheimer" phenomenon, also bagged acting prizes for lead Cillian Murphy and supporting actor Robert Downey Jr.

Nolan — a British-American filmmaker hailed as a generational talent — said that film as an art form still has room to grow. "Movies are just a little

bit over 100 years old. I mean, imagine being there 100 years into painting or theater," he told the audience at the Dolby Theatre.

"We don't know where this incredible journey is going from here. But to know that you think that I'm a meaningful part of it means the world to me."

Nolan's cerebral take on complete as Oppenheimer was nominated for 13 prizes, but with seven statuettes on the night it is still one of the most awarded films in Oscar history. Robert Downey Jr. was recognised for his stellar performance as J. Robert Oppenheimer's political nemesis Lewis Strauss. "I would like to thank my terrible childhood and the Academy, in that or-

der," Downey said after accepting the statuette. Downey, who had been the butt of a joke by host Jimmy Kimmel about his well-documented drug problems, lavished thanks on his wife Susan for her support.

"She found me a snarling rescue pet and loved me back to life," he said. Nolan's cerebral take on the man he has called "the most important person who ever lived" also snapped up prizes for editing, cinematography and best original score.

It seemed fitting that the story of the development of nuclear weapons was recognized on a night where the drumbeat of war was never far away. "We made a film about the man who created the



The cast and crew of Oppenheimer accept the best picture award during the Oscars at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles on Sunday. AP

atomic bomb. And for better or for worse, we are all living in Oppenheimer's world so I would really like to dedicate this to the peacemakers, everywhere," Murphy said as he accepted his award. "We made a film about the man who created the

song, the bubblegum fun it generated provided fodder for the whole evening. Supporting actor nominee Ryan Reynolds brought the house down with a star-studded rendition of "In the End," accompanied by Guns 'n' Roses guitarist Slash.

The performance slid into a karaoke session as the French court-room thriller did not go home empty handed, with Gillo's "What Was I Made For?" was the winning song from the summer hit film.

Poor Things wins In one of the few competitive awards of the evening, Best Actress went best as stress for her daring performance in the surreal, Frankenstein-esque Poor

Palestinians in Gaza begin Ramzan staring at hunger

Associated Press
RAFAH

Palestinians began fasting for Ramadan on Monday as the Muslim holy month ar- rived with ceasefire talks at a standstill, hunger wors- ening across the Gaza Strip and no end in sight to the five-month-old war between Israel and Hamas.

Prayers were held outside amid the rubble of demolished buildings late on Sunday. Some people hung fairy lights and decorations in packed tent camps, and a video from a UN-school-turned-shelter showed children dancing and spraying foam as a man sang into a loudspeaker. But there was little to celebrate after five months of war that has killed over 30,000 Palestinians and left much of Gaza in ruins. Families would ordinarily



Plumbeous assistance: Displaced Palestinians gather to collect food donated by a charity in Rafah on Monday. AP

break the daily fast with holiday feasts, but even where food is available, there is little beyond canned goods and the prices are too high. "You don't see anyone with joy in their eyes," said Sabah al-Hendil, who was shopping for food in the southern-most city of Rafah. "Every family is sad. Every family

has a martyr." The U.S., Qatar and Egypt had hoped to broker a cease-fire ahead of the month of dawn-to-dusk fasting that would include the release of dozens of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners, and the entry of humanitarian aid, but the talks stalled last week.

Things, which won three other technical prizes. She piped Lily Gladstone, who was bidding to become the first Native American to win an acting Oscar for her role in Martin Scorsese's crime saga Killers of the Flower Moon.

Stone also beat out Sandra Hueller of Oscar sleeper Anatomy of a Fall. The French court-room thriller did not go home empty handed, with Gillo's "What Was I Made For?" was the winning song from the summer hit film.

Co-writer Justine Triet revealed backstage that the 50 Cent song that features heavily in the film was originally going to be a Dolly Parton track. "But they refused to give us the rights," she told reporters. As well as the legacy of

Oppenheimer, there were several other reminders of the toll of Hamas on the United Kingdom scored its first-ever best international film Oscar with Auschwitz drama The Zone of Interest, which also won best sound.

Several nominees wore lapel pins calling for a cease-fire in the war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, while sporadic protests erupted around the world for best original screenplay.

There were also references to the war in Ukraine, with a best documentary in the film was originally going to be a Dolly Parton track. "But they refused to give us the rights," she told reporters. As well as the legacy of

'Playing with fire'



Hindu worshippers take part in 'Perang Api', a war of fire tradition believed to cleanse the evil elements and keep away misfortune, ahead of Nyepi Day, which marks the Balinese Hindu New Year, at Mataram in Indonesia on Sunday. REUTERS

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Agence France-Presse
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"We don't know where this incredible journey is going from here. But to know that you think that I'm a meaningful part of it means the world to me."

The haul was not quite complete as *Oppenheimer* was nominated for 13 prizes, but with seven statuettes on the night it is still one of the most awarded films in Oscar history.

Robert Downey Jr. was recognised for his stellar performance as J. Robert Oppenheimer's political nemesis Lewis Strauss.

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atomic bomb. And for better or for worse, we are all living in Oppenheimer's world so I would really like to dedicate this to the peacemakers, everywhere," Murphy said as he accepted his award.

The other huge smash

of 2023, Greta Gerwig's pop feminist blockbuster *Barbie*, featured heavily throughout the gala in Los Angeles.

While the movie, which grossed \$1.4 billion at the box office, only won one Oscar for best original

song, the bubblegum fun it generated provided fodder for the whole evening.

Supporting actor nominee Ryan Gosling brought the house down with a star-studded rendition of *I'm just Ken*, accompanied by Guns 'n Roses guitarist Slash.

The performance slid into a karaoke session as Gosling passed the microphone around to some of the A-list guests.

Billie Eilish's *What Was I Made For?* was the winning song from the summer hit film.

Poor Things wins

In one of the few competitive awards of the evening, Emma Stone won best actress for her daring performance in the surreal, Frankenstein-esque *Poor*

Things, which won three other technical prizes.

She pipped Lily Gladstone, who was bidding to become the first Native American to win an acting Oscar for her role in Martin Scorsese's crime saga *Kill-ers of the Flower Moon*.

Stone also beat out Sandra Hueller of Oscars sleeper *Anatomy of a Fall*.

But the French courtroom thriller did not go home empty handed, with a win for best original screenplay.

Co-writer Justine Triet revealed backstage that the 50 Cent song that features heavily in the film was originally going to be a Dolly Parton track.

"But they refused to give us the rights," she told reporters.

As well as the legacy of

Oppenheimer, there were several other reminders of the toll of human conflict.

The United Kingdom scored its first-ever best international film Oscar with Auschwitz drama *The Zone of Interest*, which also won best sound.

Several nominees wore lapel pins calling for a ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, while sporadic protests erupted around the event's security perimeter.

There were also references to the war in Ukraine, with a best documentary statuette for *20 Days in Mariupol*, and a brief tribute paid to Russian opposition figure Alexei Navalny, the subject of last year's Oscar-winning documentary.

And the Oscars go to...

Oppenheimer bags seven Oscars, followed by *Poor Things* with 4 awards.

BEST PICTURE: *Oppenheimer*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR:
Robert Downey Jr.,
Oppenheimer

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:
Da'Vine Joy Randolph,
The Holdovers

BEST ACTRESS:
Emma Stone,
Poor Things

BEST ACTOR:
Cillian Murphy,
Oppenheimer

BEST DIRECTOR:
Christopher Nolan,
Oppenheimer



BEST ORIGINAL SONG:
What Was I Made For? by
Billie Eilish for *Barbie*

BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY:
American Fiction

BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY:
Anatomy of a Fall

BEST ORIGINAL SCORE:
Oppenheimer



BEST LIVE ACTION SHORT: *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar*



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Oppenheimer



**BEST LIVE ACTION
SHORT:** *The Wonderful
Story of Henry Sugar*



Ryan Gosling performed his nominated *I'm Just Ken* in a pink suit surrounded by dancing Kens, as well as a guitar cameo from Slash.



Wrestler-actor John Cena stunned fans with his naked avatar as he joined Jimmy Kimmel to present the Oscar — for costume design



Emma Stone, in her speech, confessed that she had a 'broken' dress, whose back had unravelled during the *I'm Just Ken* performance



Jonathan Glazer, whose *The Zone of Interest* (depicting a Nazi family living next to Auschwitz) won Best International Film, spoke on the war in Gaza. "We stand here as men who refute their Jewishness and the Holocaust being hijacked by an occupation which has led to conflict for so many innocent people."

WHY ARE THE ACADEMY AWARDS CALLED OSCARS? MULTIPLE ANSWERS

RISHIKA SINGH

NEW DELHI, MARCH 11

THE 96TH Academy Awards ceremony was held on Monday. Why are the awards called the “Oscars”?

The official website of the Academy Awards says: “Officially named the Academy Award of Merit, the statuette is better known by its nickname, Oscar, the origins of which aren’t clear.”

Need for a new name

The first Academy Awards ceremony was held in 1927. Bruce Davis, the Academy’s Executive Director for 20 years, wrote in his book *The Academy and the Award* that a need for a short name for the award was felt by the mid-1930s.

The trade magazine *Variety* suggested calling it “The Iron Man” briefly, but the name did not find much acceptance. “The Gold Man” also had a short run.

The possible originators

Three people are often credited for the name — actor Bette Davis, librarian and later Academy Executive Director Margaret Herrick, and Hollywood gossip columnist Sidney Skolsky.

Bette Davis won the Best Actress award in 1936. She wrote in her 1962 book *The Lonely Life*: “I stared at the little gold-plated man in the palm of my hand. He was a Hollywood male, and, of course, epicene; but in a kind of madness his backview was the spit of my husband’s.” She was then married to Harmon Oscar Nelson.

However, Bruce Davis’s book records



Emma Stone holds her Oscar on March 10. Reuters

that “Employees have affectionately dubbed their famous statuette ‘Oscar.’”

The Hollywood columnist Sidney Skolsky, meanwhile, was apparently frustrated with the official term used to refer to the trophy — “statuette”.

“I’d show them, acting so high and mighty about their prize. I’d give it...a name that would erase their phony dignity... I remembered the vaudeville shows I’d seen. The comedians having fun with the orchestra leader in the pit would say, “Will you have a cigar, Oscar?” ...During the next year of columns, whenever referring to the Academy Award, I used the word ‘Oscar’. In a few years, Oscar was the accepted name,” Davis quoted Skolsky as writing his memoir, *Don’t Get Me Wrong — I Love Hollywood*

Films with multiple nominations and awards [\[edit \]](#)

Films with multiple nominations^{[39][40]}

Nominations	Film
13	<i>Oppenheimer</i>
11	<i>Poor Things</i>
10	<i>Killers of the Flower Moon</i>
8	<i>Barbie</i>
7	<i>Maestro</i>
5	<i>American Fiction</i>
	<i>Anatomy of a Fall</i>
	<i>The Holdovers</i>
	<i>The Zone of Interest</i>
3	<i>Napoleon</i>
2	<i>The Creator</i>
	<i>Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One</i>
	<i>Nyad</i>
	<i>Past Lives</i>
	<i>Society of the Snow</i>

Films with multiple wins^{[41][42]}

Awards	Film
7	<i>Oppenheimer</i>
4	<i>Poor Things</i>
2	<i>The Zone of Interest</i>

The following individuals received two or more Best Actor awards:

Wins	Actor	Nominations
3	Daniel Day-Lewis	6
2	Spencer Tracy	9
	Jack Nicholson	8
	Marlon Brando	7
	Dustin Hoffman	
	Gary Cooper	5
	Tom Hanks	
	Fredric March	
	Sean Penn	
	Anthony Hopkins	4

Multiple wins and nominations [[edit](#)]

The following individuals received two or more Best Actress awards:

Wins	Actress	Nominations
4	Katharine Hepburn	12
3	Frances McDormand	3
2	Meryl Streep	17
	Bette Davis	10
	Ingrid Bergman	6
	Jane Fonda	
	Elizabeth Taylor	5
	Olivia de Havilland	4
	Glenda Jackson	
	Jodie Foster	3
	Sally Field	2
	Vivien Leigh	
	Luise Rainer	
	Emma Stone	
Hilary Swank		

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CAA RULES NOTIFIED AHEAD OF LOK SABHA POLLS

No passport, no visa: Rules eased for seeking citizenship under CAA

PM delivered on commitment: Shah

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 11

A HINDI, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi or Christian from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, who entered India before December 31, 2014, can now seek Indian citizenship without producing a valid passport of these countries or a valid visa from India, according to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, (CAA) rules notified on Monday.

KEY RULE CHANGES

- Any document, even great grandfather's, good enough to prove country of origin
- Certificate from local body member enough to prove date of entry
- Central panel, not District Collector, to handle applications

RELATED REPORTS
PAGES 6 & 17

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PM hails first test of Agni-5 with multiple warhead technology

ONE MISSILE, MANY WARHEADS

Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV)

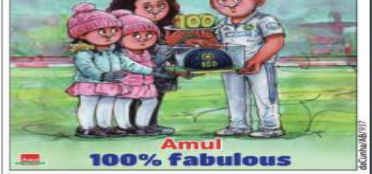
Normal missile: Single warhead

MIRV missile: Multiple warheads

Each re-entry vehicle can be independently targeted — they are all launched from one missile, but hit different targets

Source: Center for Arms Control and Non-proliferation

Ash good as it gets!



THE HARYANA STRETCH

PM Narendra Modi, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar at the inauguration of the 10-km Haryana stretch of the Dwaraka Expressway in Gurgaon on Monday. PTI

EXPRESS NETWORK

PM-LED PANEL TO MEET ON MARCH 14 TO PICK TWO ECs

1ST BATCH OF INDIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL LEAVES MALDIVES

SANDESHKHALI: SC REJECTS PLEA AGAINST CBI PROBE

PAGES 6 & 8

SC rejects SBI plea for more time, says submit bond details today

EC to post details online by March 15

ANANTHAKRISHNAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 11

THE SUPREME COURT Monday rejected the request by government-owned State Bank of India (SBI) for time till June 30 to disclose to the Election Commission of India details of electoral bonds purchased anonymously and encashed by political parties, and asked it to furnish these before close of business hours on March 12. Separately, it asked the EC to publish these details by 5 pm on March 15.

A five-judge Constitution Bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said there was no reason for further extension since the "submissions of SBI indicate that the information... is readily available".

"SBI is directed to disclose the details by the close of business hours of March 12, 2024," the bench said, also asking the EC to "compile the information and publish the details in its official website, no later than by 5 pm on March 15, 2024".

The top court had on **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA & AMITABH SINHA

INDIA ON Monday successfully tested a new-age Agni-5 ballistic missile equipped to carry multiple warheads, each of which is capable of hitting a separate target. The test marks a long-awaited upgrade of India's missile system and significantly enhances its strike capability, including the nuclear option.

This ability to carry multiple warheads on a single missile, called MIRV or Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle, is a technology that originated five decades ago, but is in possession of only a few nations.

EXPLAINED PAGE 17

SC rejects plea for stay on acquittal of Saibaba, others

Released from jail on March 7, two days after his acquittal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 11

THE SUPREME COURT on Monday rejected the Maharashtra government's plea for a stay on the acquittal of former Delhi University professor G N Saibaba and other co-accused in the Maseer links case.

Observing that the High Court's acquittal order on March 5 is "prima facie... very well-reasoned", a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta said, "The law is that there is a presumption of innocence. Once there is an order of acquittal, that presumption gets fortified."

The bench, however, admitted the state government's appeal against the HC order, rejecting the request of Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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EXTRAS

IN CONVERSATION

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, and Dr C Raja Mohan, Contributing Editor, The Indian Express, at the Express Adda in New Delhi on Monday. *Remika Puri*

In Raebareli, Cong legacy faces likely hurdle: 'Even emotions have a shelf-life'

PAGE 1 (CHOR)

MAULSHREE SETH
RAEBARELI, MARCH 11

SITTING WITH other Congress leaders around a large wooden table, Anant Mishra, secretary of the party's city committee, says he is heart that Rahul Gandhi did not get out of his jeep when the recent Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra wound its way through Raebareli town.

"Aap parivar ka rishi bhar Anant par (The Gandhi call us firmly and yet)... Rahul was welcomed at 25 spots in Raebareli, he could have stepped out of his vehicle at any of these places," he says.

As some of the veterans talk fondly of the Gandhi family and how Raebareli has always been "emotionally", Mishra is visibly uneasy.

And then, he spells out what frames the Congress's biggest challenge in this party pocket borough: "Raebareli mein party work ko aotension chahiye..."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



At an office in Raebareli, Congress functionaries discuss the party's electoral prospects. *Vishal Srivastava*

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Macron announces legislation for ‘aid in dying’, with strict conditions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS, MARCH 11

FRENCH PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron has announced new legislation to legalise “aid in dying” that will allow adults facing end-of-life illness to take lethal medication, a first in the country.

The move follows last year’s report indicating that most French citizens support legalising end-of-life options.

In an interview published Monday by French newspapers *La Croix* and *Liberation*, Macron said the new bill will be restricted to adults suffering from an incurable illness who are expected to die in the “short or



French President Emmanuel Macron. *File*

middle-term” and who are suffering “intractable” physical or psychological pain.

Macron said the law will offer “a possible path, in a determined

situation, with precise criteria, where the medical decision is playing its role”.

He gave the example of people with terminal cancer, some of whom until now have gone abroad to end their lives.

Only people aged 18 or above who are capable of forming their own views will be allowed to get in the process, meaning those with severe psychiatric conditions and neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease won’t be eligible, Macron specified.

Patients who seek to enter the process will need to reconfirm their choice after 48 hours and they should then receive an answer from a medical team within two weeks maximum, Macron

said. A doctor will then deliver a prescription, valid for three months, for the lethal medication.

People will be able to take the medication at home, at a nursing home or at a health care facility, Macron said. If their physical condition doesn’t allow them to do it alone, they will be allowed to get help from someone of their choice or by a doctor or a nurse.

Macron said the new bill will refer to “aid in dying ... because it’s simple and humane,” rather than terms like euthanasia or medically assisted suicide.

Macron set no date for the legislation to be applied, saying it will first need to follow a months-long legislative process that will start in May.

India's largest 8-lane elevated road

THE PROJECT

Dwarka Expressway, India's first elevated 8-lane access control urban expressway, is part of the Centre's Rs 60,000 crore highway development plan in the NCR to decongest the national capital.

TODAY'S OPENING

The Haryana section. It includes two packages — the 10.2-km Delhi-Haryana Border to Basai Rail-over-Bridge (ROB) and 8.7-km Basai ROB to Kherki Daula

HOW WILL IT HELP COMMUTERS?

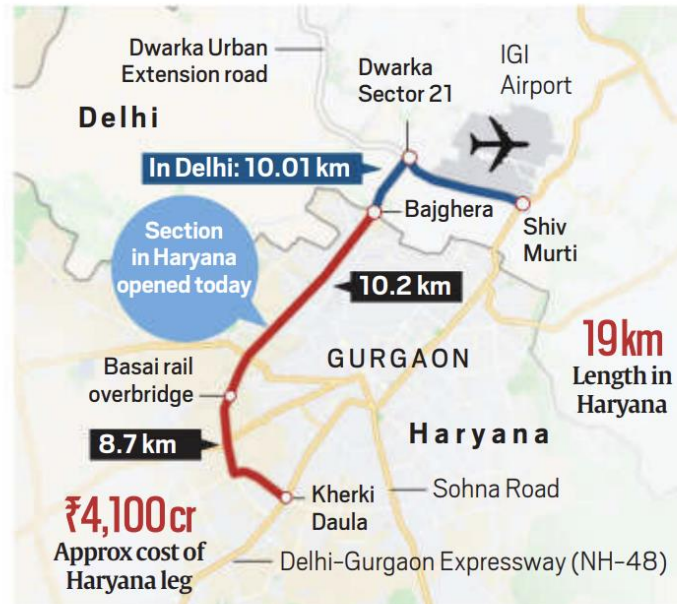
- Once completed, it will provide direct connectivity to the IGI Airport in Delhi and Gurgaon Bypass
- Will cater to heavy traffic requirements between Delhi and Gurgaon for the next 25 years

SOME FIRSTS

- It is India's first eight-lane elevated road constructed on 'single pier'
- Package 3 has a 8.6-km elevated section with a width of 34 metres
- Package 4 has a 3.7-km elevated section with a width of 34 metres. This section also features one of the widest railway over-



The Haryana section of the Dwarka Expressway ahead of its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday (image via PMO). PTI



bridges in India with 16 lanes as well as one of the longest 'Bow Spring Steel Bridge' of 125-metre length

- The clover leaf interchange at Kherki Daula is among the largest in the country with more than 2-km circumferential length

$$F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{d^2}$$

$$\phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

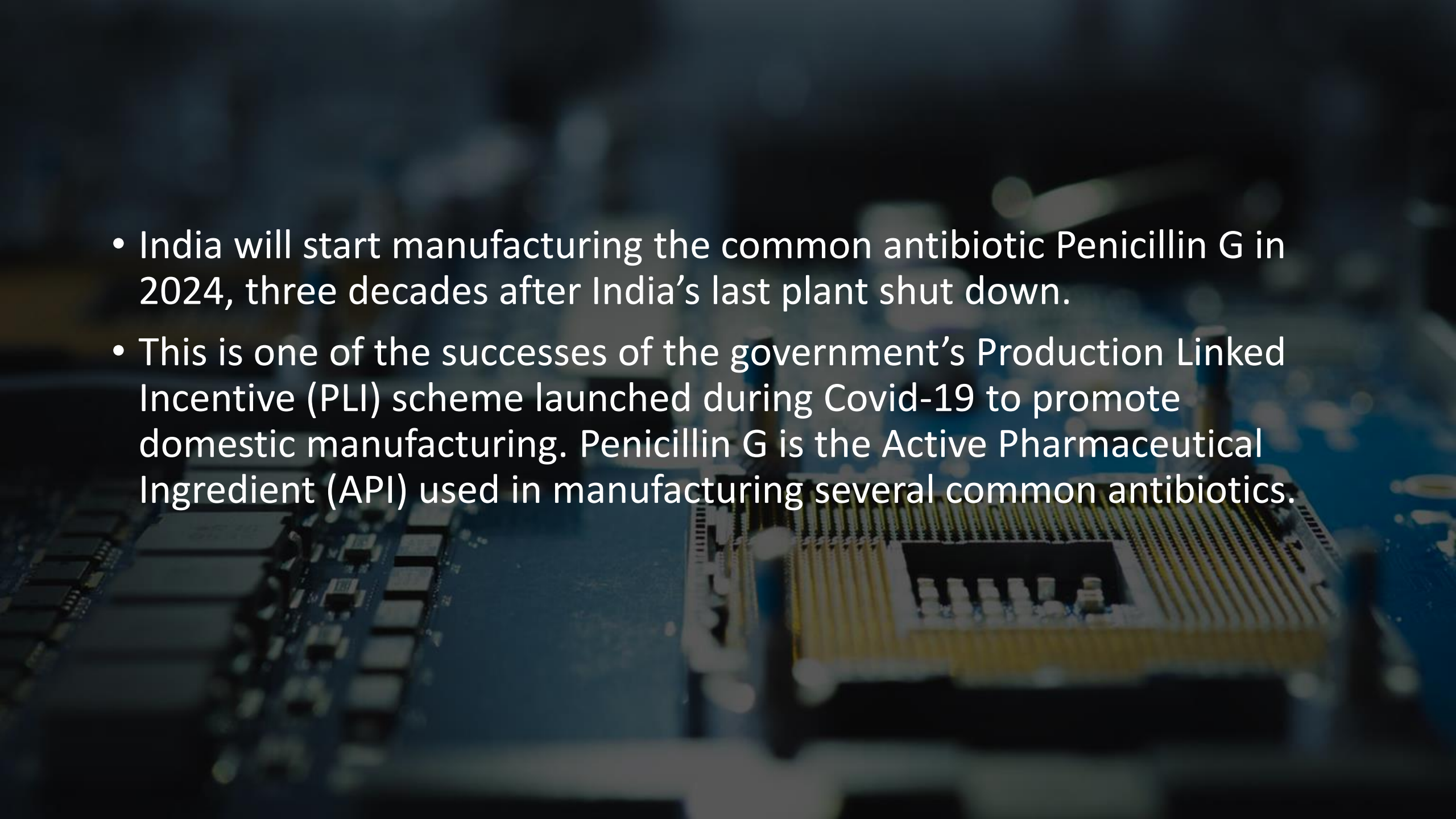
$$i\hbar \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi = \hat{H} \psi$$

$$F - E + V = 2$$

Penicillin G and PLI Scheme

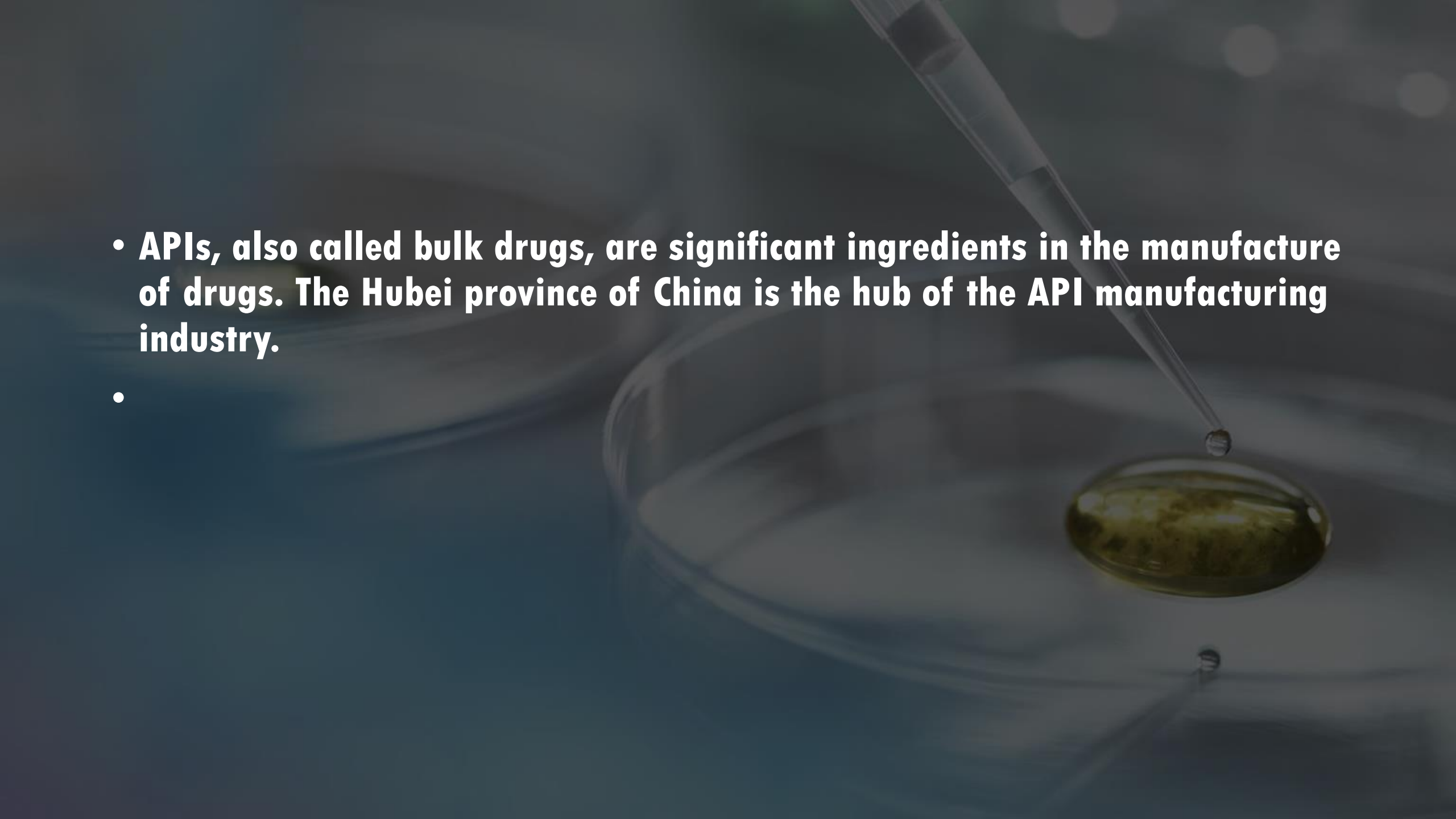
$$\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = c^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2}$$

$$\frac{df}{dt} = \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(t+h) - f(t)}{h}$$

- 
- India will start manufacturing the common antibiotic Penicillin G in 2024, three decades after India's last plant shut down.
 - This is one of the successes of the government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme launched during Covid-19 to promote domestic manufacturing. Penicillin G is the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) used in manufacturing several common antibiotics.

- **APIs, also called bulk drugs, are significant ingredients in the manufacture of drugs. The Hubei province of China is the hub of the API manufacturing industry.**

-



WHAT IS PENICILLIN G


PENICILLIN G is the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) used in several common antibiotics. An API is the main ingredient of a drug responsible for bringing about its desired effects. Like many other APIs, Penicillin G was phased out of production in India after cheaper Chinese products flooded the market. The last plant to stop production of the antibiotic was Torrent Pharma in Ahmedabad.

ACCORDING TO the United States government's National Library of Medicine, Penicillin G is a narrow spectrum antibiotic used for the treatment of several serious bacterial infections such as pneumonia, meningitis, gonorrhea, syphilis, etc. Due to poor oral absorption, Penicillin G is generally administered intravenously or intramuscularly. Penicillin G may have some side effects in some patients.

Why did Penicillin Manufacturing Stop in India?

Closure of Manufacturing:

- Penicillin G, along with numerous other **active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs)** manufactured in India, faced discontinuation due to the **influx of competitively priced Chinese alternatives** flooding the market.
- During the 1990s, at least five companies were engaged in the production of Penicillin G within the country. However, the significantly lower prices of Chinese counterparts **rendered Indian manufacturers economically nonviable**, leading to the closure of their operations.

- 
- Many sizable manufacturing plants had to be liquidated for scrap.
 - Additionally, the **Drug Prices Control Order**, which enforced price caps on essential medicines, further incentivized the adoption of cheaper imported products.
 - For Example, India initially sold Paracetamol at approximately Rs 800 per kilogram, but the entry of Chinese competitors slashed prices to nearly Rs 400 per kilogram, rendering domestic production economically unviable.

- **Impact of PLI Schemes:**

- **There has been a significant decrease in API imports following the implementation of the PLI scheme.**

- **For example, paracetamol, the imports have halved compared to pre-pandemic levels.**

- **However, despite this decline, a substantial portion of APIs, particularly for antibiotics, is still imported, highlighting the need for further development in domestic API manufacturing.**

-
- **The PII scheme offers incentives, including a 20% support for the first four years, 15% for the fifth year, and 5% for the sixth year for fermentation-based bulk drugs like antibiotics, enzymes, and hormones such as insulin.**
 - **These drugs, which involve fermentation in their production process, are considered more challenging to manufacture.**
 - **Additionally, chemically synthesised drugs are eligible for a 10% incentive over six years on eligible sales.**

What is the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI)?

About:

- The PLI scheme was conceived to scale up domestic manufacturing capability, accompanied by higher import substitution and employment generation.
- Launched in March 2020, the scheme initially targeted three industries:
 - Mobile and allied Component Manufacturing
 - Electrical Component Manufacturing and
 - Medical Devices.



- **Success in Smartphone Manufacturing:**

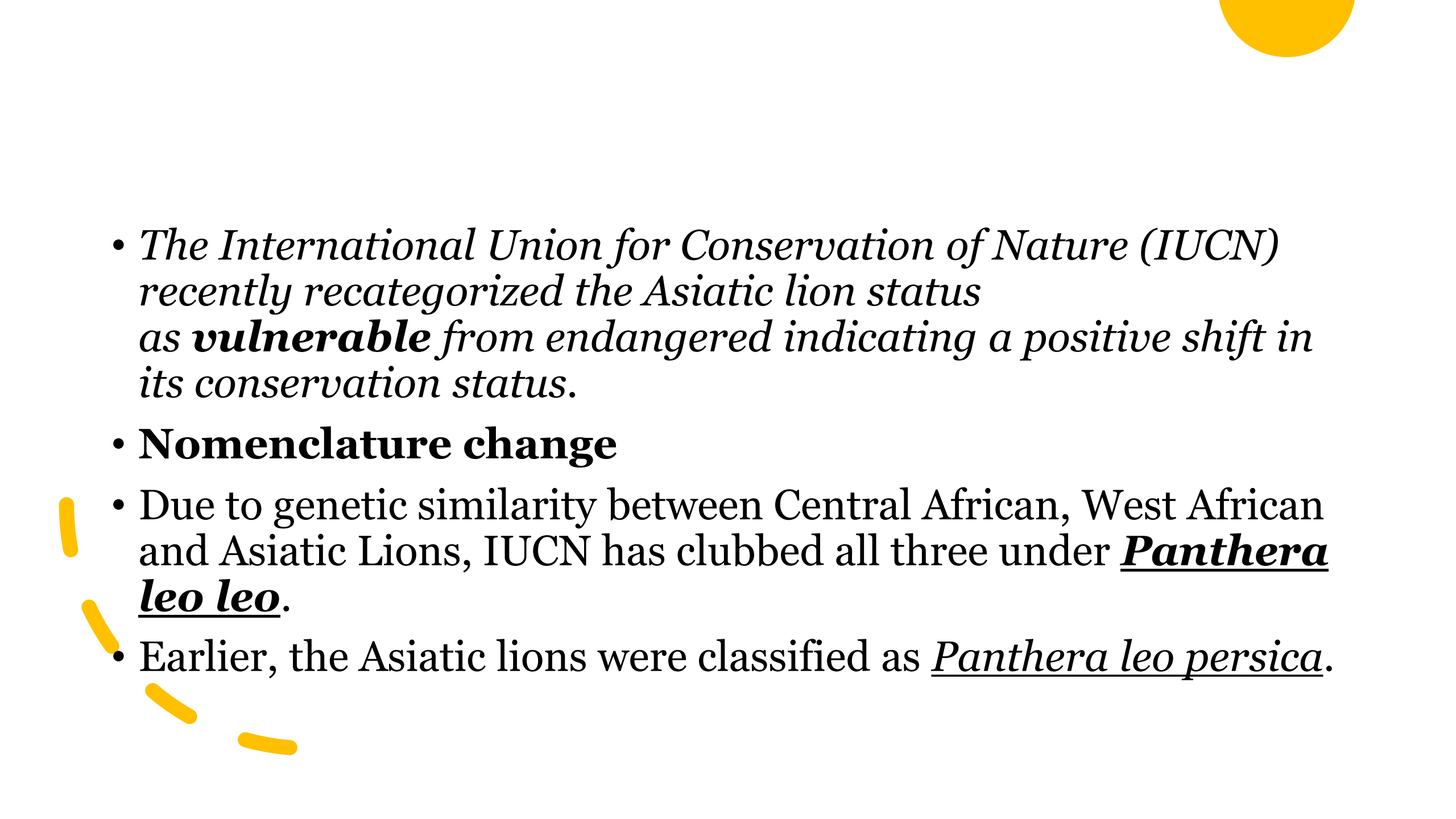
- **In FY 2017-18, mobile phone imports were USD 3.6 billion, while exports were a mere USD 334 million, resulting in a -USD 3.3 billion trade deficit.**
- **By FY 2022-23, imports reduced to USD 1.6 billion, while exports surged to nearly USD 11 billion, yielding a positive net exports of USD 9.8 billion.**

-



Asiatic Lions



- 
- *The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recently recategorized the Asiatic lion status as **vulnerable** from endangered indicating a positive shift in its conservation status.*
 - **Nomenclature change**
 - Due to genetic similarity between Central African, West African and Asiatic Lions, IUCN has clubbed all three under ***Panthera leo leo***.
 - Earlier, the Asiatic lions were classified as *Panthera leo persica*.



- **Asiatic Lions**

- **About** - The Asiatic lion is a subspecies of lion, slightly smaller than African lions.

- They are also known as *Persian lions or Indian lions.*

- **Scientific Name** - Panthera leo leo.

- **Family** – Felidae.

- **Distribution** - They used to range from Turkey, across Asia, to eastern India.

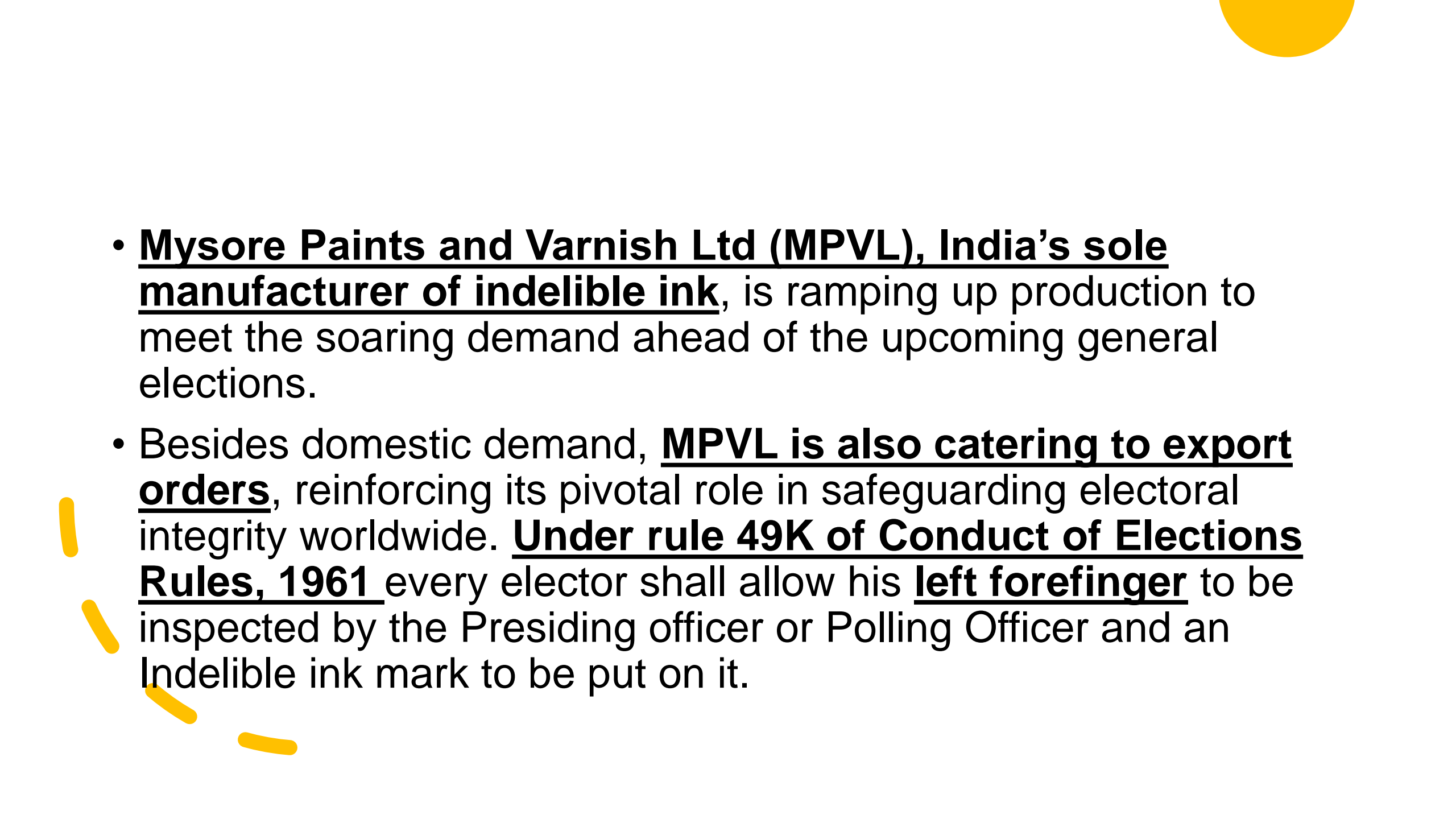
- **Habitat** - At present *Gir National Park, Gujarat* is the only abode of the Asiatic lion.

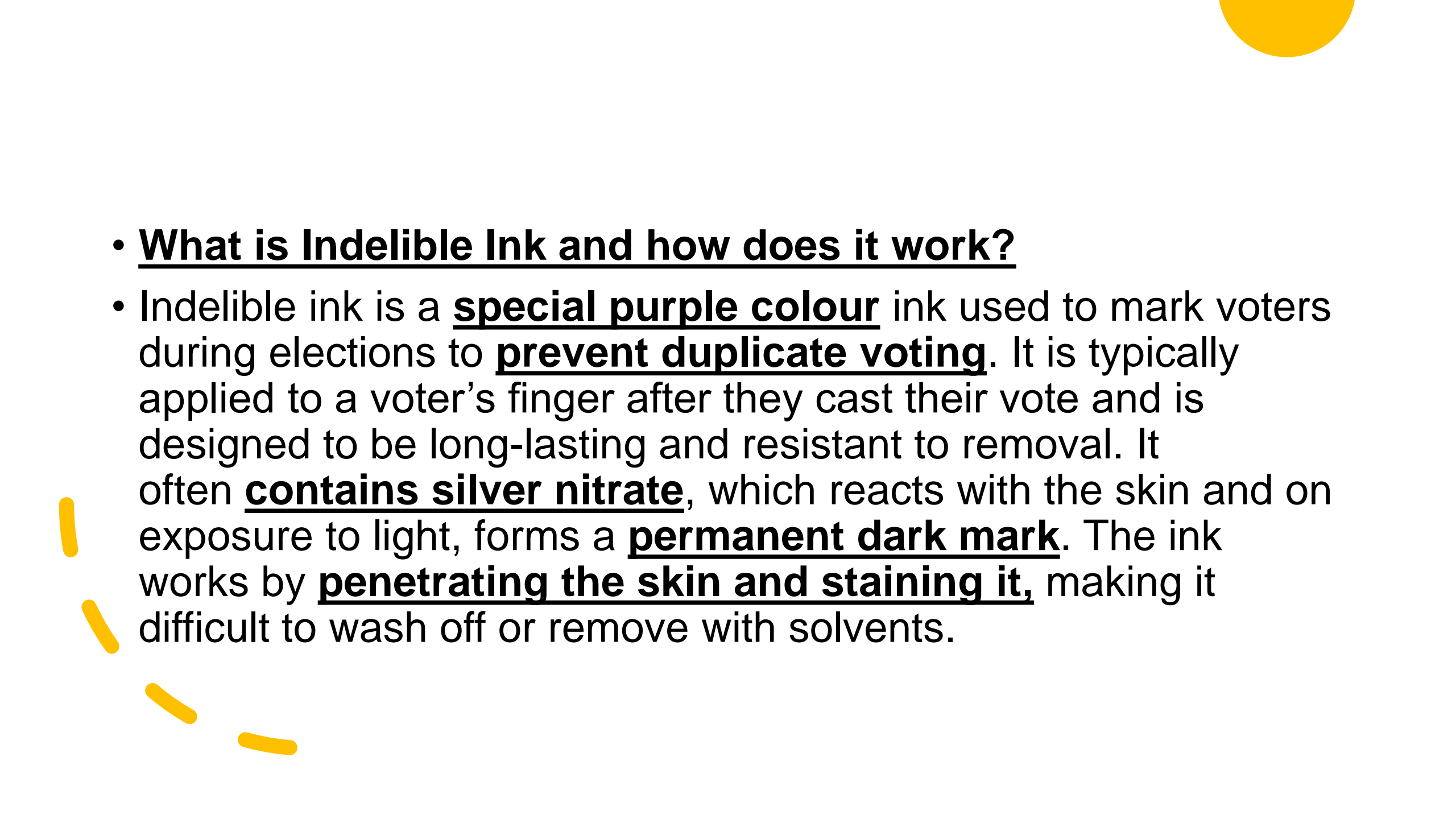
- They are one of the 5 [big cats](#) found in India and are better known as ‘the king of beasts’





Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd (MPVL)

- 
- **Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd (MPVL), India's sole manufacturer of indelible ink**, is ramping up production to meet the soaring demand ahead of the upcoming general elections.
 - Besides domestic demand, **MPVL is also catering to export orders**, reinforcing its pivotal role in safeguarding electoral integrity worldwide. **Under rule 49K of Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961** every elector shall allow his **left forefinger** to be inspected by the Presiding officer or Polling Officer and an Indelible ink mark to be put on it.

- 
- **What is Indelible Ink and how does it work?**
 - Indelible ink is a **special purple colour** ink used to mark voters during elections to **prevent duplicate voting**. It is typically applied to a voter's finger after they cast their vote and is designed to be long-lasting and resistant to removal. It often **contains silver nitrate**, which reacts with the skin and on exposure to light, forms a **permanent dark mark**. The ink works by **penetrating the skin and staining it**, making it difficult to wash off or remove with solvents.



'NITI for States' Platform

The **'NITI for States' platform**, a **digital initiative aimed at empowering states and union territories (UTs)** in achieving **national development goals** was launched recently.






The platform, **inaugurated at NITI Aayog's 'Viksit Bharat Strategy Room'**, provides a centralized **repository of resources including best practices, policy documents, datasets, and NITI Aayog publications.**

It features **multilingual accessibility, capacity building initiatives, an expert help desk, and data integration** from the National Data & Analytics Platform (NDAP).

It reflects NITI Aayog's commitment to collaborative governance and promoting development across the nation.



ChipIN Centre

- 
- **The ChipIN Centre, a hub for chip designers in India,** received a boost from leading semiconductor industry players, **aiming to empower the semiconductor design community in the country.**
 - The centre offers **state-of-the-art Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tools** to students at various academic levels.
 - These initiatives aim to realize **India's vision of becoming a semiconductor hub by fostering chip design innovation and entrepreneurship.**
- 
- 
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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. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange horizontal bar.

Thank you
guys.
