

# Daily Current Affairs



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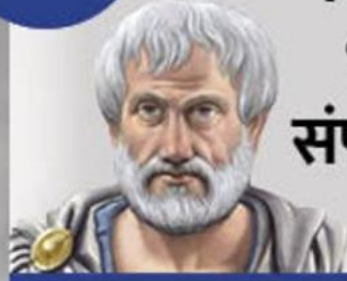
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किसी भी व्यक्ति का स्वभाव ही उसे भरोसेमंद बनाता है, न कि उसकी संपत्ति। इसीलिए धन-संपत्ति से ज्यादा स्वभाव को महत्व देना चाहिए।



**CID TO PROBE CASE**  
**Yediyurappa booked under POCSO Act**  
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**SOUNDING POLL BUGLE**  
**Lok Sabha election dates to be out today**  
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**DELHI LIQUOR POLICY SCAM**  
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**MURDER OF NINE-YEAR-OLD**  
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It brought the residents of the city to the streets  
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**BID TO ATTRACT TESLA**  
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### INSIDE



**Adani project in Sri Lanka: locals raise concern**

**COLOMBO**  
A wind power project being executed by Adani Green Energy in northern Sri Lanka has run into controversy, with locals and experts raising concern over its impact on its coastal region. » PAGE 11

**Army raises unit to man its Apache helicopters**

**NEW DELHI**  
Preparing to induct the first batch of AH-64 Apache attack helicopters into its fold, the Indian Army Aviation Corps raised its first unit at Jodhpur on Friday that will operate the helicopters. It will be the second attack helicopters in the Army. » PAGE 5

**Indian Railways plans to develop mega terminals**

**CHENNAI**  
The Indian Railways will create mega railway terminals with multi-modal connectivity in aspirational cities with a population of more than 10 lakh across the country. This is part of the infrastructure being developed for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Viksit Bharat' initiative. » PAGE 5

**Israel PM clears plan for Army action in Rafah**

**GAZA STRIP**  
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said on Friday he had approved the military's plan for an operation in Rafah. Mr. Netanyahu "approved the plans for action in Rafah," his office said in a statement. » PAGE 11

## Why has SBI not disclosed codes of bonds: SC

Top court sends SBI a notice over the missing unique codes and lists the case for March 19

SC to return original documents that the Election Commission submitted after making digital copies

According to the SBI, 22,217 electoral bonds were purchased and 22,030 were redeemed

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked the State Bank of India (SBI) why it had not disclosed the unique alphanumeric numbers of individual electoral bonds to the Election Commission (EC) for publication on its official website. "In our judgment of February 15, we had directed disclosure specifically of all the details of the electoral bonds, including date of their purchase, the amount, names of purchasers, the political parties which redeemed the bonds, etc. But the bank has not disclosed the numbers of the bonds purchased and encashed."

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, heading a five-judge Bench, asked the court issued a notice to the bank and listed the case for March 19. The Bench further agreed to return to the EC the documents regarding electoral bonds which the poll body had given the court, in compliance with judicial orders passed on April 12, 2019 and November 2, 2023. "No copies retained" in its judgment on February 15, the five-judge Bench had directed the EC to publish the confidential information submitted in the court, along with details of electoral bonds. However,

### Untangling the bond

A timeline of the electoral bonds issue in the Supreme Court  
March 15, 2019: An affidavit filed by the Ministry of Finance in the Supreme Court specifies that electoral bonds have "unique alphanumeric serial numbers as an in-built security feature"  
February 15, 2024: A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court directs that SBI must disclose details of each electoral bond encashed by political parties  
March 12: SBI hands over details of electoral bonds purchased by anonymous donors and redeemed by political parties to the EC  
March 15: A Constitution Bench asks why the SBI did not give the unique serial numbers to the EC  
Issues notice to the bank  
the EC filed an application on March 14, saying that it had given the court the originals of the documents and not retained any copies. The Commission said that it had handed over to

Many top donors were under ED, IT Dept. scanner

CHENNAI  
An analysis of the companies which feature among the top purchasers of electoral bonds shows that a significant number of them were under the Enforcement Directorate's or the Income Tax (IT) department's scanner at some point of time in the past five years. » PAGE 4

Rahul accuses Modi of running 'extortion racket'

THANE  
In a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the electoral bonds, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused Mr. Modi of running the world's largest extortion racket. He alleged that the funds amassed through electoral bonds scheme were used to split parties. » PAGE 4

### Fields of gold



Agricultural workers harvesting marigold flowers in a field near Undavalli village, close to Vijayawada. K.V.S. GRI

## New ECs take charge; Supreme Court refuses to stay their appointments

Krishnadas Rajagopal, Srasesarna Chakrabarty  
NEW DELHI

Former bureaucrats Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu assumed charge as Election Commissioners on Friday, a day after their selection by a high-powered panel chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Supreme Court refused to intervene immediately on a petition urging a stay on their appointments, on the grounds that the hurry and lack of transparency shown by the government has sent a wrong message that the two refused to officiate are "favourable" to the regime in power. "This is the first time that Election Commissioners have been appointed in accordance with the new Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, which was brought in by the government last December, and which replaces the Constitution of India with a Cabinet Minister in the selection panel chaired by the Prime Minister. Appearing before a three-judge Bench headed

by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, the petitioners — including Association for Democratic Reforms and Congress leader Jaya Thakur and others, represented by senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Vikas Singh, and advocate Prashant Bhushan — said the enactment of the new law, which gives the Union government a dominant role in the selection and appointment of Election Commissioners, had worked to its advantage. However, the Bench relied on a technical point that legislative enactments are not "normally" stayed. The court adjourned the case to be heard on March 22. Listing out the series of circumstances which raised suspicions about the process, advocate Prashant Bhushan said that the government had deliberately advanced the meeting of the high-profile selection committee by a day to appoint members to the panel ahead of the court hearing on Friday. The petitioners argued that this law had been enacted to get the better of a March 2023 Supreme Court judgment in the Anupam Chandra case, which had called for a fair and transparent appointment mechanism, with

the participation of the Chief Justice of India as a member of the selection committee. "In favour of Centre" The petitioners argued that even this law, which tolled the dice heavily in favour of the Union government, was violated when the "minority" member of the selection committee and leader of the Opposition party, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, found himself reduced to the status of a figurehead by a majority vote on Wednesday. Mr. Chowdhury was given 212 names of candidates only a day prior to the selection committee meeting. He had told the media that he was provided the names of shortlisted candidates only 10 days prior to the appointment. "This was a violation of Section 6 of the 2023 Act, which required the selection panel members to give ample opportunity to make a considered decision on the candidates. Mr. Kumar and Mr. Sandhu were appointed following vacancies created by the sudden resignation of EC Arun Goel, and the retirement of EC Anup Chandra Pandey.

## Supreme Court will hear petitions seeking stay on the CAA and its rules on March 19

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court agreed to hear on March 19 a slew of petitions to stay the operation of the controversial Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and its rules notified earlier this week, which fast-track the grant of Indian citizenship to non-Muslim migrants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. "The Act was enacted in 2019. They wait for four-and-a-half years and notify the rules just days ahead of the elections... Once the process of grant of citizenship starts under this Act, it cannot be reversed. Please hear our applications for stay," senior advocate Kapil Sibal urged a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Jus-



On the heels, All Assam Students' Union (AASU) members during a protest march against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019.

League (IUML), a political party also represented by advocate Haris Beeran. The IUML is the primary petitioner in the lead case that has 237 separate petitions challenging the legality of CAA on the grounds that it discriminates in granting citizenship on the basis of religion. Interim stay sought The Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI), represented by advocate Subhash Chandran K.R., has also filed an application seeking an interim stay on the implementation of the law. Solicitor-General Tushar

Mehta, appearing for the Union government, said listing the case early, on March 19, was "absolutely the prerogative of the court." "However, none of these petitions have the *prima facie* to say whether or not the Centre can grant citizenship... That may be kept in mind... Whether it is now the first day or the last day before the elections, the petitioner [represented by Mr. Sibal] need not go into that. This is a constitutional court," Mr. Mehta objected strongly. The Centre said all 237 petitions would be listed on March 19.



Task at hand: Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu assumed charge as ECs on Friday. PTI



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# Why has SBI not disclosed codes of bonds: SC

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“In our judgment of February 15, we had directed disclosure specifically of all the details of the electoral bonds, including date of their purchase, the amount, names of purchasers, the political parties which redeemed the bonds, etc. But the bank has not disclosed the numbers of the bonds purchased and encashed.

Why?” Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, heading a five-judge Bench, asked.

The court issued a notice to the bank and listed the case for March 19.

The Bench further agreed to return to the EC the documents regarding electoral bonds which the poll body had given the court, in compliance with judicial orders passed on April 12, 2019 and November 2, 2023.

## ‘No copies retained’

In its judgment on February 15, the five-judge Bench had directed the EC to publish the confidential information submitted in the court, along with details of electoral bonds. However,

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March 15: A Constitution Bench asks why the SBI did not give the unique serial numbers to the EC. Issues notice to the bank



the EC filed an application on March 14, saying that it had given the court the originals of the documents and not retained any copies.

The Commission said that it had handed over to

the Supreme Court a sealed cover containing 106 sealed envelopes, and then sealed boxes containing 523 sealed envelopes, in two tranches in pursuance of the judicial orders of April 2019 and No-

## Many top donors were under ED, I-T Dept. scanner

### CHENNAI

An analysis of the companies which feature among the top purchasers of electoral bonds shows that a significant number of them were under the Enforcement Directorate’s or the Income Tax (I-T) department’s scanner at some point of time in the past five years. » PAGE 4

vember 2023.

“We presumed you would have retained copies,” Chief Justice Chandrachud told advocate Amit Sharma, appearing for the EC.

The court ordered its

## Rahul accuses Modi of running ‘extortion racket’

### THANE

In a blistering attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the electoral bonds, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused Mr. Modi of “running the world’s largest extortion racket”. He alleged that the funds amassed through electoral bonds scheme were used to split parties. » PAGE 4

Registry to scan and digitise copies of the documents in the course of the day and finish the work by tomorrow. The originals will be returned to the EC along with a digitised copy. The ready availability of a

digitised copy, provided by the Supreme Court itself, will help avert any delay in the publication of these documents on electoral bonds.

The court, in its February 15 judgment, had required the SBI to provide the EC with the complete details, including dates of purchase; the names of the purchasers; and the denominations of the bonds purchased; along with the details of bonds redeemed by political parties, including their dates of encashment and denominations.

The SBI had said that 22,217 electoral bonds were purchased and 22,030 were redeemed by political parties between April 1, 2019 and February 15, 2024.

IN BRIEF



Former Navy chief Admiral L. Ramdas passes away

Former Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas passed away on Friday. He was 90. He is survived by his wife Lalitha Ramdas, daughters Kavitha, Sagori, and Mallika. The last rites would be performed with full Naval honours at Swarg Vatika on Saturday. Admiral Ramdas was the Chief of Naval Staff between 1990-1993. He joined the Joint Services Wing of the Armed Forces Academy in 1949. He was commissioned in the Indian Navy in September 1953, and trained as a communications specialist. The Admiral had a glorious career in the Indian Navy rising to the helm as its 13th chief.

Govt. notifies rules to improve film certification process

The Central government has notified the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024, in order to improve the process of certification of films for public exhibition. "These new rules aim to streamline and modernise the film certification process for the digital age, keeping pace with the emerging technologies and advancement in the film sector," the Information & Broadcasting Ministry said on Friday. The rules introduce age-based categories of certification by further subdividing the existing UA category into three age-based categories: seven years (UA 7+), 12 years (UA 12+), and 16 years (UA 16+), instead of 12 years.

U.P. Police arrest three in question paper leak case

The Uttar Pradesh police on Friday arrested three persons accused of leaking the question paper of the cancelled constable recruitment examination. Director-General of Police Prashant Kumar said the accused were former employees of a company that transported question papers. The accused were registered under Section 489 (punishment for cheating by personation), 420 (cheating by inducement), 467 (forgery of valuable documents), 468 (forgery for the purpose of cheating) and 471 (using as genuine a forged document) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in the paper leak case.

Bandh affects normal life in Manipur's Imphal Valley

A 48-hour 'general strike' imposed by 12 civil society organisations from Friday morning affected normal life in Manipur's Imphal Valley. The organisations called the bandh to exert pressure on the government to unconditionally release three leaders of the Fambai-led extremist group United National Liberation Front (UNLFF), which signed a peace agreement with the Centre in November 2023. The National Investigation Agency allegedly arrested the trio on March 13 in connection with a case registered in West Bengal. The organisations, however, shortened the duration of the shutdown to 24 hours later in the day to address the concerns of students appearing for the ongoing Class 10 final exams.

Railways plans to develop multi-modal transport hubs

The terminals will come up in 'aspirational cities' with population of over 10 lakh as part of 'Viksit Bharat' initiative; officials told to enhance travel experience of passengers by improving cleanliness

S. Vijay Kumar CHENNAI

The Indian Railways will create mega railway terminals with multi-modal connectivity in aspirational cities with a population of more than 10 lakh across the country.



Swachh focus: The principal chief mechanical engineers have been instructed to closely monitor housekeeping activities. AFP

The programme is part of the infrastructure being developed for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Viksit Bharat' initiative.

According to official sources, the Railway Board has communicated to Zonal Managers of all Zonal Railways that the project could also be extended to cities where a sizeable population was expected. Giving a list of cities with more than 10 lakh population, Shriish Kumar Sinha, Additional Member (Planning), called for suggestions to include new locations or stations.

'Enhancing experience' The Railway Ministry has also taken up enhancement of passenger experience on a mission mode and wanted that on the part of its senior officers will not be tolerated.

With the proliferation of Vande Bharat Express trains across the country, which are being projected as game changers, the Railway Board has taken up the task of enhancing the travel experience of passengers through improved cleanliness of coaches and properly maintained amenities on railway premises.

The principal chief mechanical engineers (PCMEs) of Zonal Railways have been instructed to closely monitor and ensure sustained housekeeping and maintenance activities and take necessary action on real-time basis.

Investigation needed Videos and pictures of staff cleaning exterior, toilets, fans, inaccessible areas, and so on developed confidence in the system. These

₹2,890-cr. deal for Dornier upgrade inked with HAL

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry on Friday signed a contract worth ₹2,890 crore with the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) for the midlife upgrade of 25 Dornier patrol aircraft of the Indian Navy.

The midlife upgrade for Dornier includes an upgrade to incorporate state-of-the-art avionics systems and primary role sensors. The upgrade would significantly enhance the operational capabilities of the Dornier aircraft of the Indian Navy to perform primary roles of maritime surveillance, coastal surveillance, electronic intelligence, and detection of maritime domain awareness," the Ministry said in a statement.

The upgrade will also enable the aircraft to carry out secondary roles of search and rescue, casualty evacuation, and communication linking.

No porting allowed within seven days of SIM card swap: TRAI

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Friday updated regulations to disallow telecom subscribers to port out of their current network provider if they have "swapped" their SIM card, after the loss or damage of a previous card, within the past seven days. The regulations prohibit telecom operators from issuing a "unique porting code" (UPC) which is the first step of changing providers using mobile number portability. This amendment would "result in preventing the porting of mobile connections soon after SIM swapping/ replacement, by fraudsters in the name of new subscribers," the TRAI said in an explanatory memorandum.

The move is part of the anti-spam measures the TRAI has taken. Previous steps include creating a do-not-disturb registry for subscribers to opt out of

spam, releasing a now-defunct app to enforce that registry by allowing users to file complaints against errant telemarketers, and requiring all transactional SMS messages by businesses to be as per a format registered with telecom operators, among others, which they get filtered out.

The TRAI has also recommended to the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) a feature that would display the legally registered name of every caller on recipient's handset, a feature that drew some criticism on privacy grounds. The DoT has launched Chakshu, its own portal for reporting "suspected fraud communication".

The DoT has asked the TRAI to examine a suggestion that telecom firms be required to match the identity of subscribers when they port out from one operator to another. The TRAI said that this suggestion will be "examined separately".

Rajnath inaugurates Navy's state-of-the-art headquarters in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Finally, the Indian Navy has a dedicated headquarters of its own. The newly constructed Nausena Bhawan located at Delhi Cantonment was formally inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday.

"The inauguration marks a significant milestone for the Indian Navy as it establishes its first independent headquarters in Delhi. Previously, the Navy operated from 13 different locations, necessitating a consolidated and purpose-built facility such as Nausena Bhawan," a Defence Ministry statement said.

"Comprising three wings across four storeys, the building incorporates innovative construction technologies to optimise efficiency and sustainability. Efforts toward energy conservation are evident throughout the complex, with the integration of solar generation systems and advanced building materials."

Notably, Nausena Bhawan boasts a comfortable

Previously, the Navy operated from 13 different locations, necessitating a consolidated and purpose-built facility.

and congenial atmosphere facilitated by a central heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system utilising advanced oxidation plasma technology, according to the statement. The complex is equipped with a state-of-the-art integrated building management system, ensuring efficient coordination and monitoring of security services and utility systems.

The building has achieved Green Rating IV under the integrated habitability assessment. Additionally, the complex also features a comprehensive three-tier security system including cutting-edge technologies such as automatic underbody scanning of vehicles, power fence, face recognition cameras, bollards, vehicle stoppers, access control, and security cameras, the statement added.

Army raises first unit to operate Apache attack helicopters in Jodhpur

Dinakar Peri NEW DELHI

Preparing to induct the first batch of AH-64E Apache attack helicopters into its fold, the Indian Army on Friday announced the formation of its first unit at Jodhpur on Friday that will operate the helicopters.

The second attack helicopter unit in the Army will be the indigenous light combat helicopter (LCH). The LCH is the first squadron was formally raised at Jodhpur on Friday in the presence of Lt. Gen. A. K. Suri, Director-General of the Army Aviation Corps, a defence official said.

"Army will receive the first batch of three Apaches in May and another three in July," the official added. India signed a deal with Boeing for six more Apaches for the army, at a cost of around \$800 million, in February 2020. As part of the deal, Boeing will train technicians were trained



The Indian Army will receive the first batch of three Apache attack helicopters in May. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

by Boeing in the U.S.

While the Army has been pushing the case for 11 more Apaches, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) last year ordered a study on the number of armoured helicopters required by the three Services.

In November, the Defence Acquisition Council approved the procurement of 150 LCHs at an estimated cost of ₹45,000 crore - ₹90 for the Army and 66 for the Air Force. There are 10 for the Air Force and five for the Army, currently being inducted, in addition to the 15 limited-series production LCHs at a total cost of ₹4,264 crore.

FAITH The doctrine of karma

What is Karma? Will it yield results directly? When will it give?

Valayapattai Sri Ramachariar said in a discourse that Karma refers to the deeds undertaken by human beings. It may be a good one (punya karma) or a bad one (papa karma). Not all will ever do only either the good or the sinful deeds. People will do both with or without their knowledge.

Punya Karma refers to those activities through which we derive benefits, solace, and comfort. The effect of papa karma will be that which we don't like to come to us (e.g., disease).

Karma is a non-sentient (Achetana) and cannot give results by itself directly. God, the Supreme One, grants results based on our Karma.

Adversities often compel a person to blame God, little realising that the divine Agency shows neither partiality nor favouritism.

The wealth one enjoys, or the poverty in which he is steeped are but the consequences of his past deeds - noble or wicked as the case may be.

We cannot say when the karmas will start giving results. It may be in this birth itself or in the births to come. God only knows. Good and bad Karma cannot be nullified. For every good or bad, one must face its effects separately.

One may wonder how a person indulging in wrongful deeds still enjoys various comforts. The retort is that the effect of his evil deeds has not started to disturb him but is in wait.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Clues include: 1. Leading industrialist escaped with man from Scotland and a native of Tehran (7); 2. The French retailer has no love for oriental plant (6); 3. No side rejected one who had a light-bulb moment? (6); 4. Broken chord affected opera pgg (6); 5. Eat each other, Italian bruschetta, buttery lamb enchiladas for starters (6); 6. Miserable old man! Sent away daughter to meet Queen's official distributor (7); 7. Say, Hulk's hips? (9,4); 8. Say, Hulk's hips? (9,4); 9. Judge's new table (check edges), deep dark in colour (3-5); 10. Corrupt art kills a place where animals go for supplements, perhaps (4,4); 11. Average man Spooner refers to as Professor Joseph (3,3); 12. Make yourself small and spirit away man around noon (7); 13. City without a square (6); 14. Force husband into custody (6).

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers and difficulty rating. Includes a solution to the previous puzzle and a solution to yesterday's Sudoku.

FAITH section containing the text about karma and its effects, as detailed in the previous block.



# Railways plans to develop multi-modal transport hubs

The terminals will come up in 'aspirational cities' with population of over 10 lakh as part of 'Viksit Bharat' initiative; officials told to enhance travel experience of passengers by improving cleanliness

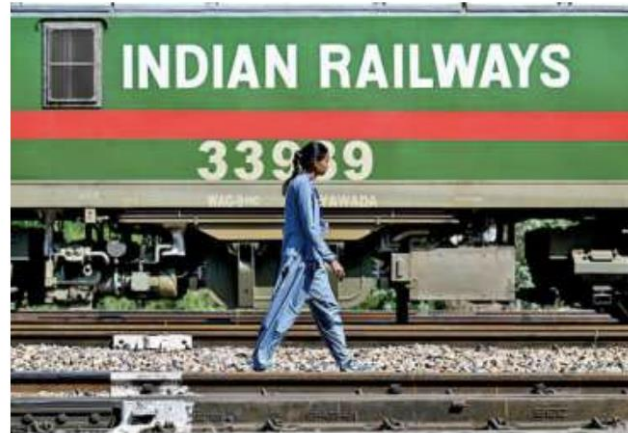
**S. Vijay Kumar**  
CHENNAI

**T**he Indian Railways will create mega railway terminals with multi-modal connectivity in aspirational cities with a population of more than 10 lakh across the country.

The programme is part of the infrastructure being developed for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Viksit Bharat' initiative.

According to official sources, the Railway Board has communicated to General Managers of all Zonal Railways that the project could also be extended to cities where a sizeable population was expected. Giving a list of cities with more than 10 lakh population, Shirish Kumar Sinha, Additional Member (Planning), called for suggestions to include new locations or stations.

**'Enhancing experience'**  
The Railway Ministry has also taken up enhance-



**Swachh focus:** The principal chief mechanical engineers have been instructed to closely monitor housekeeping activities. AFP

ment of passenger experience on a mission mode and warned that any laxity on the part of its senior officers will not be tolerated.

With the proliferation of Vande Bharat Express trains across the country, which are being projected as game changers, the Railway Board has taken up the task of enhancing the travel experience of passengers through improved cleanliness of coaches and properly maintained amenities on railway

premises.

The principal chief mechanical engineers (PCMEs) of Zonal Railways have been instructed to closely monitor and ensure sustained housekeeping and maintenance activities and take necessary action on real-time basis.

## **Investigation needed**

Videos and pictures of staff cleaning exteriors, toilets, fans, inaccessible areas, and so on developed confidence in the system. These

efforts were required to be increased and sustained to achieve a quantum jump in cleanliness level and enhancement in the passenger experience.

"While many divisions have been actively involved in this mission, a few are still to get into this important area of Rolling Stock Maintenance. I have been regularly emphasising this aspect during my interaction with PCMEs and no laxity is to be tolerated," Satish Kumar, member (Traction & Rolling Stock), Railway Board, said in an order recently.

Pointing out there had been a spate of cases relating to brake binding, brake block jamming, uncoupling of air hoses, and train parting, affecting the operation of passenger and freight trains, he urged the PCMEs to conduct a proper investigation into the incidents and implement remedial measures in consultation with the Research Designs and Standards Organisation.

# Army raises first unit to operate Apache attack helicopters in Jodhpur

**Dinakar Peri**

NEW DELHI

Preparing to induct the first batch of AH-64E Apache attack helicopters into its fold, the Indian Army Aviation Corps raised its first unit at Jodhpur on Friday that will operate the helicopters. The Apaches will be the second attack helicopters in the Army after the indigenous light combat helicopter (LCH).

The 451 Aviation Squadron was formally raised at Jodhpur on Friday in the presence of Lt. Gen. A. K. Suri, Director-General of the Army Aviation Corps, a defence official said. "Army will receive the first batch of three Apaches in May and another three in July," the official added.

India signed a deal with Boeing for six more Apaches for the Army, at a cost of around \$800 million, in February 2020. As part of the deal, six pilots and 24 technicians were trained



The Indian Army will receive the first batch of three Apache attack helicopters in May. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

by Boeing in the U.S.

The Army Aviation inducted its first dedicated attack helicopter with the LCH and the first squadron, 351 Army Aviation, was moved to Missamari, Assam in the Eastern Sector near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in November 2022.

The Cabinet Committee had in the past given sanction for the procurement of 39 AH-64 Apache attack helicopters from the U.S., as part of which the IAF inducted 22 Apaches under a deal signed in September 2015. Subsequently, the government decided that future Apache procurements

would go to the Army.

While the Army has been pushing the case for 11 more Apaches, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) last year ordered a study on the number of armoured helicopters required by the three Services.

Last November, the Defence Acquisition Council approved the procurement of 156 LCH at an estimated cost of ₹45,000 crore – 90 for the Army and 66 for the Air Force. There are 10 for the Air Force and five for the Army, currently being inducted, in addition to the 15 limited-series production LCH at a total cost of ₹4,264 crore.



# APACHE STATS

## IN THE COCKPIT

- Visual and aural cues
- Multipurpose colour displays
- Digitally shared graphics
- Automated data input

## PAYLOAD

- 4 Stinger missiles
- 16 Hellfire missiles
- 76 rockets
- 1,200 rounds of 30 mm calibre





# Deal done

India and the U.S. concluded agreements for the purchase of 24 MH-60R Seahawk and six AH-64E attack helicopters


The six Apaches and associated equipment will cost about **\$800 million**

## MH-60R SEAHAWK HELICOPTERS

- The procurement is through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route of the U.S. government and is worth **\$2.12 bn**
- MH-60R is the mainstay of the U.S. Navy's Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) capability
- These helicopters are being procured as replacement for 15 Sea King Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) helicopters de-inducted in 1991 and one Sea King 42B MRH lost in an accident. The current MRHs in service, Sea King 42Bs, were inducted in the 1980s and are in need of replacement
- They are capable of carrying out anti-ship, anti-submarine, electronic warfare, net-centric over-the-horizon offensive and defensive roles



## APACHE

- These will be operated by the Army and deployed with its strike Corps in the western sector
  - In September 2015, India contracted 22 AH-64E attack helicopters at a cost of **₹13,951.57 crore** for the IAF and the entire fleet will be in service in 2020
  - In August 2017, the government approved the procurement of six Apaches under the optional clause for the Army
- 
- On June 12, 2018, the Defence Security Cooperation Agency notified the U.S. Congress of the possible sale to India
  - Apache is a heavy attack helicopter and the most advanced craft currently in service globally
  - India is the 16th nation to select the Apache and the AH-64E is its most advanced variant, Boeing said
  - The Apache is the most advanced multi-role heavy attack helicopter in the world



INBRIEF

# CBU

## Clients can use FASTag using existing balance: Paytm bank

Paytm Payments Bank said clients can continue using FASTag for making payments at toll and parking merchants up to the available balance in the wallets despite the RBI's time limit for not accepting deposits taking effect on March 15. "However, no further funding or top-ups will be allowed in FASTags issued by Paytm Payments Bank after March 15," the bank said. Credit balance cannot be transferred from the bank's FASTag to a FASTag obtained from another bank.

## DRL's Mexico arm slapped with ₹29-cr. penalty in tax case

A wholly owned subsidiary of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories in Mexico has been directed to pay Mexican peso 58 million (₹28.8 crore) penalty in a tax litigation case. The Superior Chamber of the Federal Court in Administrative Justice, Mexico, in its order on the ongoing tax litigation, has levied the penalty on Industrias Químicas Falcon de Mexico, S.A. de C.V. (Dr. Reddy's Mexico), the subsidiary, the drugmaker had in a stock exchange filing on Thursday.

## Union government approves wage revision for LIC staff

The Centre has approved wage revision of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) staff and a one-time ex-gratia payment to pensioners. The revision, effective August 1, 2022, will benefit more than 1.10 lakh staff and result in a 17% rise in wage bill. NPS contribution enhancement from 10% to 14% form part of the revision and will benefit almost 24,000 staff who joined service after April 1, 2010. The ex-gratia will benefit more than 30,000 pensioners and family pensioners.

# Vistara tells pilots: 'accept new pay or risk job in merged firm'

Jagriti Chandra  
NEW DELHI

Vistara issued an ultimatum to its pilots on Friday, hours before a deadline to accept a new pay structure ahead of its merger with Air India that could result in a pay cut of more than 50% for some, warning that failure to sign could lead to their exclusion from the integrated airline. On Friday morning, Vistara's Human Resources department sent a mail to pilots reminding them it was the last day for them to accept the new pay structure, falling which they risked losing a one-time pay-out, their place in the sequence for upgrade, and their elimination from the merged entity. Pilots, particularly First Officers, had demanded an extension of deadline after a heated exchange during an online meeting with the HR on Thursday. "The First Officers argued the new salary structure, which offers 40 hours of minimum guaranteed flying to all pilots instead of the current 70 hours, results in an almost 57% pay cut. They also assert that under the new terms they have to fly up to 76 hours to earn what they were drawing at 70 hours earlier, and this at a time when Vistara's flights are expected to reduce as aircraft are shifted to Air India and Air India Express. On the other hand, Captains and Senior Captains would only have to fly 52-55 hours and 55-60 hours, respectively, to earn the salary they were getting for 70 hours of flying. "After an employee is hired, the conditions of employment can't be changed to his or her disadvantage," said aviation lawyer Yeswanth Shenoy. "This means that any benefits signed by pilots, along with undated cheques in lieu of training, will be invalid," he observed. Vistara had not responded to the questions mailed to it, till the time of going to press.

# India woos Tesla by slashing import duty on EVs to 15% from 70-100%

Policy links duty reduction to EV makers investing minimum \$500 million, setting up India plant within three years and reaching at least 25% domestic value addition in that time; lower duty will apply to CBUs of CIF value of \$35,000 and above

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

In a bid to woo firms like Tesla to set up a manufacturing plant in India, the Centre on Friday announced reduced import duty of 15% for electric vehicles (EVs) imported as a completely built unit (CBU), from the present 70% to 100% applicable for CBUs vehicle imports, provided the EV maker sets up a local manufacturing unit within three years. The reduced import du-



Target Tesla: The govt. is offering a 'limited concession' with the aim of bringing in players with latest technology, says Singh. AP

ty would be offered if the EV maker met certain pre-conditions, including a minimum investment of ₹4,150 crore (or \$500 million), starts a local plant

within three years and reaches 25% domestic value addition in that time, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said. "The concessional duty of 15% on CBUs would be applicable on EVs priced at ₹35,000 including cost, insurance and freight charges and above. The duty relief would be applicable for five years on a maximum of 8,000 vehicles per year would be permitted to be imported under the policy. Asked about concerns voiced by domestic manu-

facturers, the DPIIT Secretary, Rajesh Kumar Singh said the government was offering "limited concession for a limited number of imports." He added that since the benefit was only for EVs priced above ₹35,000, the impact on Indian manufacturers would be minimal. "Our intention is not to cannibalise their market, but to expand the electric vehicle market by bringing in new players with the latest technology," Mr. Singh asserted.

# Exports hit 11-month high in Feb. but gold pushed imports to \$60 bn.

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports grew 11.87% in February to hit an 11-month high of \$41.4 billion, while imports surged at a faster pace of 12.2% to hit \$60.1 billion, thanks to a sharp spike in gold imports which hit a four-month peak of \$6.15 billion. February marks only the fifth occasion that India's goods exports have registered positive growth in 2023-24, recording the highest uptick so far. However, rising imports lifted the trade deficit to



Sunil Barthwal

\$18.7 billion from January's 9-month low of 17.5 billion. "The export numbers in February have surpassed all our expectations, especially as it has been achieved despite tight monetary conditions in most

markets, ongoing conflicts and lower commodity prices," Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said. Exuding hope this year's "From trade deficit and current account deficit perspective last year's record ₹776 billion, he said the World Trade Organization (WTO) has spelled a brighter future in higher 3.3% growth in world trade for 2024. "We feel that this will now be a rising tide for all global economies. We will aim for 2024-25 too," he reckoned. In the first six months of the year, goods exports have contracted 3.5% to \$395 billion, while imports

have dropped 5.3% to \$620 billion, narrowing the trade deficit to \$225 billion from \$246 billion in the year-earlier period. "From trade deficit and current account deficit perspective last year's record ₹776 billion, he said the World Trade Organization (WTO) has spelled a brighter future in higher 3.3% growth in world trade for 2024. "We feel that this will now be a rising tide for all global economies. We will aim for 2024-25 too," he reckoned. In the first six months of the year, goods exports have contracted 3.5% to \$395 billion, while imports

# Goyal urges hallmarking of precious stone jewellery

Lalaxandhi Mishra  
MUMBAI

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Friday said the gem and jewellery industry should consider hallmarking of precious stones jewellery studded with emerald, rubies and sapphires. He said the government was able to successfully implement hallmarking of gold jewellery though it was notified more than two decades ago. Mr. Goyal was speaking at the Bharat Ratnam Mega Common Facility Centre for the gem and jewellery industry.

# Large MFs face higher risks, stress test shows

Suresh P. Iyengar  
MUMBAI

The SEBI-mandated stress test on mid- and small-cap mutual fund schemes shows some of the larger players may be at higher risk compared with smaller peers. Large fund houses, including HDFC MF and SBI MF, with assets of ₹28,597 crore and ₹25,534 crore, respectively, will take 42 and 60 days to sell 50% of their assets in the event of any heavy redemption. On the other hand, smaller players such as Edelweiss MF said it will take only three days to off-load half of the small-cap portfolio. (The writer is with The Hindu Businessline)

# States and UTs step on the gas to raise funds

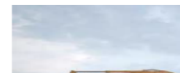
K. Ranu Kumar  
NEW DELHI

States & Union Territories (UTs) seem to be in a tearing hurry to raise monies before the close of FY24. This also comes in the backdrop of expected announcement of General Election dates of 2024. As many as 17 States and UTs are expected to mop up ₹50,206 crore collectively at an auction of State Government 11 Securities (SGS) to be conducted by the RBI on March 19. The amount to be raised is substantially higher than the ₹27,810 crore that was planned to mop up, going by the Indicative Calendar of Market borrowings. The amount will also be the highest that they have raised at a weekly auction in FY24 so far. As many as 20 States and UTs had raised ₹45,160 crore the second-highest amount raised in FY24 collectively on February 27. Nankatahshman Srinivasan, Founder & Managing Partner, Rockfort Finco LLP, said such a large weekly SGS auction size had not been witnessed before. States & UTs raise about ₹35,000-37,000 crore usually at the weekly RBI auctions. "The RBI Ombudsman is expected to provide an independent and impartial audit currently in their unresolved grievances. They have the power to facilitate delivery of fair redress of customers' grievances," he said. "There have been significant improvements in the implementation of the integrated Ombudsman framework of the Reserve Bank after the launch of the RBI-IOS, 2021," he added. (The writer is with The Hindu Businessline)

# At 40.4 mt, 92% of Indian iron ore exports went to China in April-Feb. FY24

Abhinav Kulkarni  
NEW DELHI

A year since withdrawal of COVID-19 restrictions in China, the country has increased iron ore buying from India. Nearly 92% of Indian iron ore exports of 40.40 million tonne (mt), for the 11-month period (April-February) of FY24, had gone to China. In percentage terms, this is the highest ever shipment over a seven-month period since the start of FY24 and second highest in 17.6 mt out of 40.40 million tonne (mt), for the 11-month period of FY24. India's exports of iron ore stood at 44.23 mt, up 16.2% y-o-y. Shipments to China increased nearly 200%.



Growing in strength: Trade sources said Chinese iron ore imports in the first two months of 2024 rose by more than 8% y-o-y. REUTERS

# Exports of iron ore and pellets had not actually gone up since shipments were badly hit by the duty.

Indonesia - between 0.58 mt and 1 mt. Exports to West Asian nations like Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE were less than 0.2 mt. Trade sources told businessinsider that Chinese iron ore imports in the first two months of 2024 rose by more than 8% y-o-y, as steelmakers there restocked to meet production needs. The world's largest iron ore consumer brought in 1.29 mt in these two months. Call for export check: Incidentally, industry bodies are drawing attention to the fact that the average rate of the Reserve Bank's secondary sector makers, have been seeking restrictions on iron ore exports. In a letter to the Union Minister, the industry body Federation of Iron Mineral

# Industries (FIMI) pointed out that export of iron ore and pellets had "not actually gone up since shipments were badly affected by the export duty that was in force between May and November of 2023.

According to R.K. Sharma, Secretary General, FIMI, export of iron ore is mainly for fines which are of lower grade, about 58% iron content. And, they have no use in the domestic market. "In mining of ore, lumps are generated to the tune of 25-30% and the rest are fines. Fines are kept in the mining lease area. Non-removal of these fines naturally lead to environmental hazards, while accumulation of fines also impact lump production that actually impacts availability for the steel sector," he explained. The Centre, though, has not announced any such curbs, but a senior Ministry official said, they continue to monitor the situation. (The writer is with The Hindu Businessline)

# Technology combined with behavioural analysis can prevent financial frauds: Das

The Hindu Bureau  
MUMBAI

Technology, combined with behavioural analysis, can go a long way in detecting anomalies in consumer behaviour and help in understanding and preventing frauds. Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das said while speaking at the annual conference of RBI Ombudsman in Mumbai. "Suspicious consumer behaviour that could be monitored include transactions during odd hours, transactions against usual patterns and unauthorised beneficiary additions. He said, however, that



Shaktikanta Das

on the flip side the utilisation of such technologies may also include invasion of privacy or subtle manipulations based on consumer profiling to

nudge [the customer] into certain services that may not be the right fit," he said. "Appropriate safeguards need to be put in place in this regard," he further said. Mr. Das also said that Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities currently being utilised to complement customer service through chatbots and virtual assistants tailored to specific products. Its deployment in prevention of frauds, identity verification, vulnerability assessment and transaction monitoring were, however, at nascent stages, he added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

Market	FBANK	% Change
Nifty 50	24,810.00	+0.02
US Dollar	82.86	-0.00
Gold	69,200.00	+0.07
Silver	88.39	-0.22

NIFTY 50

Stock	Price	Change
Adani Group	1532.20	-4.73
Asian Paints	1289.00	-21.26
Apollo Hospitals	1983.20	-9.70
Asian Hotels	1067.50	-9.76
Axata Bank	1046.40	-11.82
Bajaj Finance	8336.50	+1.40
Bajaj Finserv	1371.45	-7.75
Bajaj Fintech	1014.85	-13.09
Bharti Airtel	1210.00	-0.49
BHVA	986.45	-10.49
Birla Finance	1074.20	-16.38
Capita	1448.65	-6.68
Coal India	411.25	-12.45
Coaltech	1865.85	-10.68
Dr. Reddy's Lab	3088.90	-9.79
Edelweiss	3769.65	-9.08
Greaves Ind	2207.20	-0.68
HCL Tech	1649.90	-11.09
HDFC Bank	1452.45	-2.86
HDFC Life	1002.00	-1.00
Hera Housing	2662.30	-6.00
Indiabulls	103.20	-7.10
Indiabulls Infra	1007.75	-0.78
ICICI Bank	1009.35	-1.23
Indus Towers	1049.00	-10.38
Infysoft	411.00	-0.00
ITW India	786.45	-4.84
JSW Bank	416.00	-0.10
L&F	1037.10	-11.09
L1	1037.10	-11.09
Maple	1799.00	-11.09
Metals & Mining	1347.65	-11.09
Metals India	2003.45	-11.10
NTPC	314.20	-0.00
ONGC	258.75	-0.28
Powertech Corp	285.00	-0.00
Reliance Ind	2806.45	-0.28
SBI	1009.85	-0.80
State Bank	751.00	-1.13
Sun Pharma	1106.20	-0.00
Tata Consultancy	1312.35	-3.98
Tata Motors	989.85	-11.09
Tata Steel	341.20	-0.10
TCS	4019.25	-11.09
Tech Mahindra	1028.10	-11.10
Titan	1028.10	-11.10
UPL	1028.10	-11.10
United Tech	1028.10	-11.10
Wipro	363.00	-0.00

EXCHANGE RATES

INR vs US Dollar (1 US Dollar equals Indian Rupee per 1)

Market	FBANK	% Change
US Dollar	82.86	-0.00
UK Pound	103.75	-0.00
US Dollar	82.86	-0.00
China Yuan	11.48	-11.10
Japanese Yen	57.50	-11.10
Canadian Dollar	57.50	-11.10
Swiss Franc	77.00	-11.10
Australian Dollar	54.17	-11.10

# India woos Tesla by slashing import duty on EVs to 15% from 70-100%

Policy links duty reduction to EV makers investing minimum \$500 million, setting up India plant within three years and reaching at least 25% domestic value addition in that time; lower duty will apply to CBUs of CIF value of \$35,000 and above

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

**I**n a bid to woo firms like Tesla to set up a manufacturing plant in India, the Centre on Friday announced reduced import duty of 15% for electric vehicles (EVs) imported as a completely built unit (CBU), from the present 70% to 100% applicable for CBU vehicle imports, provided the EV maker sets up a local manufacturing unit within three years.

The reduced import du-



**Target Tesla:** The govt. is offering a 'limited concession' with the aim of bringing in players with latest technology, says Singh. AP

ty would be offered if the EV maker met certain pre-conditions, including a mi-

nimum investment of ₹4,150 crore (or \$500 million), starts a local plant

within three years and reaches 25% domestic value addition in that time, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said.

The customs duty of 15% on CBUs would be applicable on EVs priced at \$35,000 including cost, insurance and freight charges and above. The duty relief would be applicable for five years and a maximum of 8,000 vehicles per year would be permitted to be imported under the policy.

Asked about concerns voiced by domestic manu-

facturers, the DPIIT Secretary, Rajesh Kumar Singh said the government was offering "limited concession for a limited number of imports." He added that since the benefit was only for EVs priced above \$35,000, the impact on Indian manufacturers would be minimal.

"Our intention is not to cannibalise their market, but to expand the electric vehicle market by bringing in new players with the latest technology," Mr. Singh asserted.



# AIM TO REGISTER 5 LAKH NEW EVs IN 5 YEARS

**25%** of all new vehicle registrations by 2024 to be EVs

**0.1%** Share of electric cars in annual car sales at present

**0.2%** Share of electric two-wheelers in annual two-wheeler sales at present

**35,000** Electric vehicles planned to be brought by Delhi government in next one year, including 1,000 EVs for last-mile connect

**250** Public charging/swapping stations to come up in Delhi

**5** lakh new EVs targeted to be registered in Delhi in the next 5 years



- Focus on electric two-wheelers, auto-rickshaws, buses and goods vehicles, since they contribute to chunk of vehicular pollution
- Ride-hailing service



## FEATURES OF POLICY

- providers to be allowed to operate electric two-wheeler taxis
- Open permit system for e-autos
- All vehicles used by Delhi government officials to shift to electric within a year
- Road tax and registration fees to be waived for all battery electric vehicles during the period of this policy
- All new home and workplace parking will need to be 'EV ready'

- with 20% of all vehicle holding capacity/parking required to be EV ready
- A dedicated EV cell within transport department for effective day-to-day implementation of policy



## PURCHASE INCENTIVES TO USE E-VEHICLES



**₹10,000** for an average electric two-wheeler with 2 kWh battery

**₹30,000** For electric autos (e-autos)/ e-rickshaws/ e-carriers

**100%** Subsidy for purchase of charging equipment up to **₹6,000** per charging point



# PERSPECTIVE: MARKET SIZE OF EV COMPONENT INDUSTRY IN 2025

ELECTRIC VEHICLE VALUE CHAIN IN INDIA IS EXPECTED TO REACH \$4.8 BILLION IN 2025



**Electric motors** \$1.23 BILLION



**Batteries** \$1.86 BILLION



**Power electronics** \$1.47 BILLION



**Charging stations** \$0.230 BILLION



## KEY TRENDS

1/3<sup>rd</sup>

Of the EV motor market will emerge from demand in EV Buses in India in 2025

67%

Will be the Passenger Car segment's share in Battery Market in 2025

15.6 Million KWh

Will be the total demand for Li-Ion battery pack in 2025

61%

Will be the 2W vehicle segments' share in the Power electronics market in 2025



Advantages & Disadvantages of  
**E**lectric Vehicles



**ADVANTAGES**

**DISADVANTAGES**



**Doesn't depend on fossil fuels** for your commutation



**Priced 30-40% higher** than their regular counterparts



Electric vehicles are known for their **always-on power delivery**



**Charging infrastructure** not adequate



Electric vehicles **are silent operators**



**Driving range** offered by battery technology is **not adequate**



Running on electricity means **good bye to exhaust gases**. Say hello to clean air!



**Battery packs** that power them are **highly susceptible to wear & tear and expensive**

## NO FREE RIDE

### Current import duty

**70%** on imported cars (including EVs) with a cost, insurance & freight (CIF) value of less than \$40,000

**100%** on imported cars (including EVs) that have a CIF value of more than \$40,000



### Proposed duty

**15%** on vehicles of minimum CIF value of \$35,000 and above for 5 years

■ This is subject to firm setting up manufacturing facilities in India within a 3-year period

### Conditions apply:

■ Have to achieve 25% localisation in 3 yrs, should go up to 50% by 5th yr

■ To give bank guarantee for duty forgone, to be encashed in case of non-compliance



CHOP-CHOP

ICC makes the stop clock rule permanent in ODIs, T20Is



FILE PHOTO

Cracking the whip on time-wasting tactics in white-ball cricket, the ICC on Friday announced that the stop-clock system, which requires teams to start a new over within 60 seconds of the previous one to avoid penalty runs, will become a permanent feature starting with the T20 World Cup this year.

NEW ROLE

Lucknow Super Giants ropes in Voges as consultant for IPL 2024



GETTY IMAGES

Lucknow Super Giants on Thursday announced the signing of former Australia batter Adam Voges as its consultant for the IPL 2024 season. Voges will work closely with head coach Justin Langer and is the second high-profile addition to the LSG coaching staff this month after Lance Klusener joined as an assistant coach.

OPPORTUNITY

Ngidi ruled out of IPL; DC signs Aussie all-rounder McGurk



FILE PHOTO

South African pacer Lungi Ngidi, who was signed by the Delhi Capitals, was on Friday ruled out of the IPL 2024 due to an injury. The Capitals have roped in Australian all-rounder Jake Fraser-McGurk in place of Ngidi. The 21-year-old opener and leg-spinner has joined DC for his reserve price of \$1.50 lakh.

PULLING LEVEL

Nissanka and Asalanka power Sri Lanka to victory in second ODI



AFP

Pathum Nissanka (114) and Charith Asalanka (91) guided Sri Lanka to a series-leveling win against Bangladesh in the second ODI. The scores: Bangladesh 286/7 in 50 overs (Sarkar 68, Shanto 40, Hendry 96 n.o., Hasaranga 145) lost to Sri Lanka 287/7 in 47.1 overs (Nissanka 114, Asalanka 91).

Royal Challengers prevail in a thriller, eliminate holder Mumbai Indians

Perry resurrects the innings with a vital half-century before the spinners, led by Shreyanka, rise to the occasion to defend a modest total

WPL SEASON 2

LAKSHYA L

NEW DELHI

What a season Royal Challengers Bangalore has had! After a see-sawing campaign in the league stage, the side largely thanks to the brilliance of Ellyse Perry — crawled its way into the knockout. Facing Mumbai Indians — the very side it beat to qualify for the playoffs — RCB's luck and a few clinical performances under pressure carried the side into the final after it sealed a tense five-run win in the final over at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Friday.

Smriti opted to bat, looking to set a target on a surface that largely stayed slow. RCB belted its fourth new opening pair, sending an out-of-form Sophie Devine alongside Smriti Mandhana. The duo got off to a flyer, taking Shabnim Inamul for 14 runs. Hayley Matthews removed Devine, with the ball clipping her off stump in the second over. Smriti felt two deliveries later to Nat Sciver-Burnt.

Disha Kasar and Perry were tasked with steadying the innings, but the former — a regular top-order bat in domestic cricket — crumbled under pressure, fall-



Stars of the night: Perry stood firm amid the rains before Shreyanka put the lid on MI's scoring. SHY KUMAR PULSHAKAR

ing for a seven-ball duck. This forced Richa Ghosh to take guard far earlier than she would have liked. MI's bowlers cramped her for space much like pedestrians struggle for room in the crowded galleys of Old Delhi.

Richa, and Sophie Moloney eventually made their way back to the dugout, leaving Perry to do all

the heavy lifting yet again. She scored yet another fifty, with a sublime 50-ball 66 helping a once-doomed RCB total to a respectable 135.

Mathews and Yastika Bhatia started positively but the former's poor run of form continued after Shreyanka Patti dismissed her in the fourth over. Perry removed Yastika and

kept things tight, sticking to a tried and testing stump line. Sciver-Burnt was taken out by Wareham just as she started breaching the boundary.

Harmanpreet Kaur and Amelia Kerr looked set to take the team through with a 52-run stand, but Harman and Sajana soon after found themselves watching nervously from the

dugout. With 12 needed off the last six balls, Smriti turned to Asha Sobhana who helped keep things tight, removed Pooja Vastrakar and closed out a dicey win, defending the lowest score in the tournament.

RCB will lock horns with Delhi Capitals as both bid for a maiden WPL title on Sunday.

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Smriti Mandhana c Inamul b Sciver-Burnt 10 (7b, 2w), Sophie Devine b Matthews 10 (7b, 2w), Ellyse Perry c Sciver-Burnt b Saika 66 (50b, 8w, 1w), Disha Kasar c Pooja b Saika 0 (7b), Richa Ghosh c Sciver-Burnt b Matthews 14 (15b, 2w, 1w), Sophie Moloney b Sciver-Burnt 11 (27b, 1w), Georgia Wareham (not out) 18 (10b, 1w), Jewi, Shreyanka Patti (not out) 3 (3b), Extras (lb-3): 3. Total (for six wets in 20 overs): 135.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-20 (Inamul, 14 overs), 2-20 (Smriti, 2.2), 3-23 (Disha, 3.4), 4-49 (Saika, 9.1), 5-49 (Moloney, 14.6), 6-126 (Perry, 19.2).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Inamul 4-3-30-0, Matthews 4-0-18-2, Sciver-Burnt 4-0-18-2, Saika 3-0-27-2, Pooja 3-0-21-0, Kerr 2-0-18-0.

MUMBAI INDIANS

Yastika Bhatia b Perry 19 (27b, 3w), Hayley Matthews b Wareham 10 (7b, 2w), Harmanpreet Kaur c Devine b Shreyanka 33 (30b, 4w), Amelia Kerr (not out) 27 (25b, 2w), Sajana st. Richa b Moloney 1 (3b), Pooja b Vastrakar 1 (3b), Jewi b Kerr 2 (6b), Extras (lb-w, 2, nb-1): 7. Total (for six wets in 20 overs): 130.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-27 (Matthews, 3.5), 2-50 (Vastika, 7.5), 3-48 (Sciver-Burnt, 10.4), 4-120 (Harmanpreet, 17.6), 5-123 (Sajana, 18.1), 6-128 (Pooja, 19.4).

RCB BOWLING

Renuka 1-0-0-5, Shreyanka 4-0-36-2, Devine 1-0-9-0, Perry 4-0-29-1, Moloney 4-0-16-1, Wareham 4-0-37-3, Asha 2-0-13-1. Test: RCB; Post: Perry. Toss: RCB. Match: Final March 17: DC vs RCB.

Harmanpreet's wicket instilled belief: RCB assistant coach



Happy ending: Royal Challengers had the last laugh in a thriller against Mumbai Indians. SHY KUMAR PULSHAKAR

think when Harman got out, we thought there was something there for us."

Rangarajan hailed Asha Sobhana for holding her nerve in the tense finish. "Our idea was to bowl the best of our bowlers, take the game to the last over and see what emerges of it. When I was playing, V.B. Chandrasekhar once made a statement to us where he said players are made in four minutes, i.e., one over. Credit to Asha. To bowl leg spin with a shorter boundary on one side and see the game through took me back to this line."

"As a team, we know chasing has been difficult and that would have been running in their mind. They would have wanted to hit big sixes. When we batted, as soon as we played the fifth to sixth over, we were 150-160 wicket in hand. We had too many dot balls. I am unable to pinpoint when that belief crept in but I

Plucky Lakshya passes the Lee test, enters semifinals

ALL ENGLAND

BIRMINGHAM

Press Trust of India

BIRMINGHAM

Lakshya Sen, the 2022 runner-up at the All England Badminton Championships, defeated the 2021 winner Lee Zhi Jia of Malaysia 20-22, 21-10, 21-19 in an exciting quarterfinal clash here on Friday.

After losing a tight first game, the Indian showed remarkable resilience and composure to level the contest with a 21-10 win in the second despite trailing 14-16 at one stage.

In a gripping decider, Lakshya pulled ahead before Lee stormed back to level the score at 19. However, Lakshya produced a couple of winners to seal the issue in his favour.

Late on Thursday, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty bowed out in the men's doubles second round, losing 16-21, 15-21 to Muhammad Shohibul Fikri and Bagas Maulana of Indonesia.



Leap of faith: After losing the first game, Lakshya was down 14-16 in the second when he upped the ante. GETTY IMAGES

Real vs City headlines heavyweight last-eight CL draw

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LYON

Real Madrid and Manchester City will meet in a heavyweight Champions League quarterfinal between the past two winners and the only two teams to win all eight games in this season's competition.

Madrid will host the first leg on April 9 or 10 and the return will be the week after in Manchester.

Kyllian Mbappe's path to a first Champions League title with PSG in his farewell season there will next go through Barcelona. PSG hosts the first leg.

Arsenal was drawn to play the first leg at home against Bayern Munich. Atletico Madrid was paired with Borussia Dortmund in the other game.

The draw: Champions League: Quarterfinals: First leg: April 9: AC Milan vs Roma, Liverpool vs Atalanta, Bayer Leverkusen vs Borussia Dortmund, Real Madrid vs Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain vs Barcelona (Second leg will be held on April 16-17).

Match fee for Ranji should be increased: Gavaskar



Calendar flip: Gavaskar said the Ranji Trophy should be played between October and December.

Shayan Acharya

MUMBAI

Sunil Gavaskar lauded the Board of Control for Cricket in India's newly announced "Test Cricket Incentive Scheme" but also suggested that the match fee for Ranji Trophy should also be increased substantially.

"That (Test scheme) is a wonderful thing by the BCCI to reward those who are playing the format, but I would also request the BCCI to ensure that the premier Ranji Trophy match in India's newly announced 'Test Cricket Incentive Scheme' is also increased substantially. That (Test scheme) is a wonderful thing by the BCCI to reward those who are playing the format, but I would also request the BCCI to ensure that the premier Ranji Trophy match in India's newly announced 'Test Cricket Incentive Scheme' is also increased substantially.

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## **CHOP-CHOP**

# ICC makes the stop clock rule permanent in ODIs, T20Is



FILE PHOTO

Cracking the whip on time-wasting tactics in white-ball cricket, the ICC on Friday announced that the stop-clock system, which requires teams to start a new over within 60 seconds of the previous one to avoid penalty runs, will become a permanent feature starting with the T20 World Cup this year.





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### SADAK SURAKSHIYA FORCE & PUNJAB'S PROGRESS PATHWAYS RED Initiatives appear in today's edition of The Indian Express. These pages are an initiative of the marketing solutions team of The Indian Express Group and contain content paid for by advertisers. These pages should be read as an advertisement.

### Police book ex-CM BSY in POCOS case for harassing 17-year-old girl



**KIRAN PARASHAR** BENGALURU, MARCH 15

POLICE IN Bengaluru have registered a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against former Karnataka chief minister B S Yeddyurappa on allegations of sexually harassing a minor at his residence.

In a complaint filed on Thursday, a woman has alleged she visited Yeddyurappa's residence with her 17-year-old daughter on February 2, seeking his assistance in a rape case. The complainant alleged Yeddyurappa, 81, spoke for a few minutes before taking her daughter to a room and closing the door. The former CM and the teenager were in the room for five minutes, during which she was sexually harassed, the mother alleged in the complaint, adding that when they came out of the room, Yeddyurappa claimed that he was checking if the girl had been raped. He also apologised and told her not to make the matter public, the complainant alleged.

Denying the allegations, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### EXPRESS NETWORK



### MODI'S POLL PUSH IN SOUTH: THREE STATES IN ONE DAY

#### AARJUN SAYS CONCERN-D, INDIA HITS BACK

PAGE 8

## For BJP fund flow was year-round, Cong and TMC saw spikes in and around polls

**ANJISHNU DAS** NEW DELHI, MARCH 15

THE BJP the ruling party at the Centre since 2014, has been the biggest beneficiary of electoral bonds, redeeming a total of ₹ 6,061 crore between April 2019 and February 2024, according to data published by the Election Commission and the State Bank of India (SBI). Trailing behind the BJP are the Trinamool Congress (TMC) at ₹ 1,610 crore and the Congress at ₹ 1,422 crore for the same period.

## CONSTITUTION BENCH ISSUES NOTICE TO SBI, SEEKS RESPONSE BY MONDAY

# SC cracks the whip again: SB is duty-bound to give bond numbers

Orders return of data submitted earlier, directs EC to upload it too on its website

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN** NEW DELHI, MARCH 15

A DAY after the Election Commission of India released a list provided by the State Bank of India of all entities that purchased electoral bonds since April 2019 to make political donations, the Supreme Court Friday expressed its displeasure over non-disclosure of the bond numbers.

A five-judge Constitution Bench issued notice to the SBI and sought a response by Monday, saying the bank is "duty-bound" to furnish the unique alphanumeric code on the bonds to the EC to enable matching them with their recipients.

The Bench, comprising Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



### 'WE CAN TAKE EXCEPTION TO WHAT THEY DISCLOSED BECAUSE THEY WERE DUTY-BOUND'

D Y CHANDRACHUD, CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA

## After Centre alerted states on his 'fraud' in 2019, donor No. 1 Santiago went on poll bond buying spree

Home Ministry caution went out on Sept 23, 2019. In Oct that yr, lottery king's Future Gaming bought bonds worth Rs 190 cr

**RITU SARIN** NEW DELHI, MARCH 15

THE SINGLE largest political donor in data released by the Election Commission went on a poll bond buying spree in 2019 just days after the Ministry of Home Affairs issued a warning to states about his owner, the "lottery king" Santiago Martin. The Indian Express has learnt.

## 10 more firms bought poll bonds in probe shadow of ED, CBI & I-T

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL** NEW DELHI, MARCH 15

MUCH LIKE Future Gaming, Vedanta Ltd and Megha Engineering, the top electoral bonds purchasers which The Indian Express reported Friday faced probes by Enforcement Directorate and the Income Tax Department around the time of their purchases, major corporates such as RPSCL's Haldia Energy; DLF; pharma giant Hetero Drugs; Welspun Group; Div's Laboratories and Biocare's Kiran Mazumdar Shaw made significant purchases in the shadow of probes by Central agencies.

## Biggest extortion racket, freeze BJP account, SC must probe: Kharge, Rahul

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, MARCH 15

TARGETING THE BJP and the Prime Minister, Congress leader and Union Minister P Chidambaram said the bond scheme was designed to "legalise bribery" and ensure that the ruling party ends up as its biggest beneficiary. CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

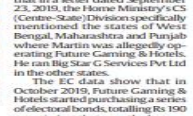
### INSIDE

#### INDIA INC'S 10 BIG GROUPS PURCHASED BONDS WORTH ₹1,306 CRORE

DIRECTORS OF OWNER FIRMS OF DONOR NO. 3 QWIK SUPPLY, ARE RELIANCE EXECUTIVES

#### IN LIST, FIRM IN TUNNEL CAVE-IN, OTHERS WITH A DODGY RECORD

PAGE 6



that in a letter dated September 23, 2019, the Home Ministry's CS (Centre-State) Divisions specifically mentioned the states of West Bengal, Maharashtra and Punjab where Martin was allegedly operating Future Gaming. He ran Big Star C Services Pvt Ltd in these states.

The EC data show that in October 2019, Future Gaming & Hotels started purchasing a series of electoral bonds, totalling Rs 190 crore in just that month alone. Overall, the EC data show, Rs 1,968 crore worth electoral bonds were cashed by various political parties in the last five years with the BJP cornering 47.46 per cent of the total value. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WITH A TOTAL paid-up capital of less than Rs 5 crore, 25 companies on the list made public on Thursday by the Election Commission of India purchased electoral bonds worth over Rs 250 crore — more than 50 times their equity — shows an analysis of the data by The Indian Express.

Nine of these companies were set up after the ED scheme was announced in 2018. Some of them purchased electoral bonds soon after incorporation. For example, Isharik Infra Developers Pvt Ltd and Isharik Overseas Education Consultancy Pvt Ltd were set up with a paid-up capital of Rs 1 lakh each in March and May 2023, respectively. In July 2023, they bought bonds worth Rs 75 crore.

The turnover and profit of these companies are not immediately available — access to the master data on the website of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs remained restricted through the day. CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

## After 4 hours of searches and some drama, Kavitha arrested by ED

HRIS leader K Kavitha leaves her home in Hyderabad Friday following her arrest by the Enforcement Directorate. ANI



**SREENIVAS JANYALA** HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

K KAVITHA, a Bharat Rashtreeya Samithi (BRS) leader and daughter of former CM K Chandrababtu Naidu, was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on Friday, hours after the agency and the Income Tax department conducted searches at her Hyderabad residence. The arrest is in connection with the Delhi excise policy case in which she has been named as an accused.

During the day, at least 10 officers from various agencies from New Delhi had conducted searches in the presence of Kavitha, who is a member of the legislative council (MLC) from Karnataka. CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

## MEGHA ENGINEERING & INFRASTRUCTURE LTD SPENT ₹821 CRORE

**SREENIVAS JANYALA** HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

FROM A small shed they set up with Rs 2 lakh capital to manufacturing pipes for local civic projects, Megha Engineering & Infrastructure (MEI), has grown to a ₹821 crore company. This window rearing and infrastructure company is owned by P V Krishna Reddy and his nephew P V Krishna Reddy in 1991. In a few years, they expanded to construction roads and small infrastructure projects.

In 2006, P P Reddy changed the firm's name to Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited and entered into major projects like constructing power plants, highways, irrigation projects and natural gas distribution projects in several cities. Krishna Reddy's enterprise and bold strategies that turned the small company into an industrial conglomerate, executing projects in over 20 states, as well as abroad. As head of one of the largest companies, with years of

## KEJRIWAL APPEARS IN COURT TODAY



**CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal will have to appear before a magisterial court in Delhi on Saturday. A sessions court Friday refused to stay the court summons following a complaint by the ED, which is probing the Delhi liquor policy case. PAGE 6**

Two ECs TAKE CHARGE, PANEL TO INDUSTRY POLI SCHEDULE TODAY

PAGE 8

"I need and indeed, look forward to your ideas, suggestions and support as we work to build the resolve of building a Viksit Bharat. I am confident that we will continue to take our nation to great heights together," he wrote.

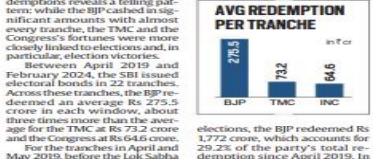
The letter came days after the Prime Minister, countering a jibe from opposition leader Rahul

## From a small shed to infra major: Meet electoral bond donor No. 2

**SREENIVAS JANYALA** HYDERABAD, MARCH 15

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## POLL BONDS: LITTLE KNOWN NAMES STEAL THE SHOW

# Reliance-linked Qwik Supply Chain emerges from shadow

## RIL says firm not its subsidiary

VIVEAT SUSAN PINTO  
Mumbai, March 15

**QWIK SUPPLY CHAIN** Private Limited, a little-known company with a registered address at Navi Mumbai's Dhirubhai Ambani Knowledge City (DAKC) and having links to Reliance Industries, was the third-largest donor to political parties using electoral bonds.

Qwik Supply Chain is in the spotlight, thanks to its ₹410-crore donation using electoral bonds between FY22 and FY24, making it the third-largest donor to political parties, according to information uploaded by the Election Commis-

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

■ Unlisted private firm Qwik Supply Chain is into warehousing, storage and transportation; incorporated on Nov 9, 2000



■ RoC filings show Reliance Group Support, Reliance Fire Brigade & Reliance Hospital Management together own 50.04% of Qwik

■ Firm provides logistics and supply chain support to Reliance Retail

■ Between FY22 and FY23, it donated ₹360 crore to political parties, ₹50 crore donated in FY24, EC data show

sion of India, after Future Gaming and Hotel Services and Megha Engineering & Infra. Another reason for Qwik's sudden entry into the limelight is that it shares a common address with Reliance Industries (RIL) — the Dhirubhai Ambani

Knowledge City (DAKC),

However, an RIL spokesperson in an emailed statement said that Qwik Supply Chain was not a subsidiary of any Reliance entity.

**Continued on Page 9**



# Directors of owner firms of Donor No. 3 Qwik Supply are Reliance executives

**AGGAM WALIA  
& SANDEEP SINGH**  
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI,  
MARCH 15

QWIK SUPPLY Chain Private Ltd, a warehouse and storage company, that purchased electoral bonds worth Rs 410 crore, is associated with Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), given that directors in the shareholder companies of Qwik Supply are serving or retired top executives of RIL.

Further, one of the directors in Qwik Supply Chain is also a director in several companies such as Reliance Polyester Private Limited, Reliance Oil and Petroleum Private Limited, Reliance First Private Limited, and Reliance Fire Brigade Services Private Limited.

Qwik Supply's registered email address as per the RoC is also linked to Reliance Industries Limited's domain (ril.com).

When contacted, an RIL spokesperson only said that Qwik Supply is "not a subsidiary of RIL". He did not respond to questions on the ownership of Qwik Supply and the link of its shareholders with RIL promoter Mukesh Ambani.

Ownership details of Qwik

Service Private Limited, Vibrant Advertising Pvt Limited, and Imaginationworks Production Company Pvt Ltd.

At least one director in five of these six companies is a top RIL executive; in the sixth company, one of the directors is a former top executive from RIL.

Qwik Supply's financial statements accessed from RoC shows its net turnover was Rs 9,813 crore in FY21, Rs 11,165 crore in FY22 and Rs 15,734 crore in FY23. In these three years, its net profit was Rs 24.24 crore, Rs 22.09 crore and Rs 33.65 crore, respectively.

In other words, Qwik Supply's aggregate profit of Rs 79.98 crore over the previous years was much lower than Rs 410 crore it spent on purchase of electoral bonds.

In the list of donors put in the public domain by the Election Commission on Thursday, Qwik Supply is the third highest buyer of bonds after Santiago Martin-owned Future Gaming and Hotel Services Private Ltd and PP Reddy-promoted company from Telangana Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd. It bought electoral bonds worth Rs 225 crore on January

Services Private Limited.

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Ownership details of Qwik Supply Chain, accessed by *The Indian Express* from the Registrar of Companies, shows it is owned in almost equal proportion by six companies — Gujarat Petcoke and Petroproducts Supply Pvt Ltd, Reliance Hospital Management Services Pvt Ltd, Reliance Fire Brigade Service Pvt Ltd, Reliance Group Support

electoral bonds.

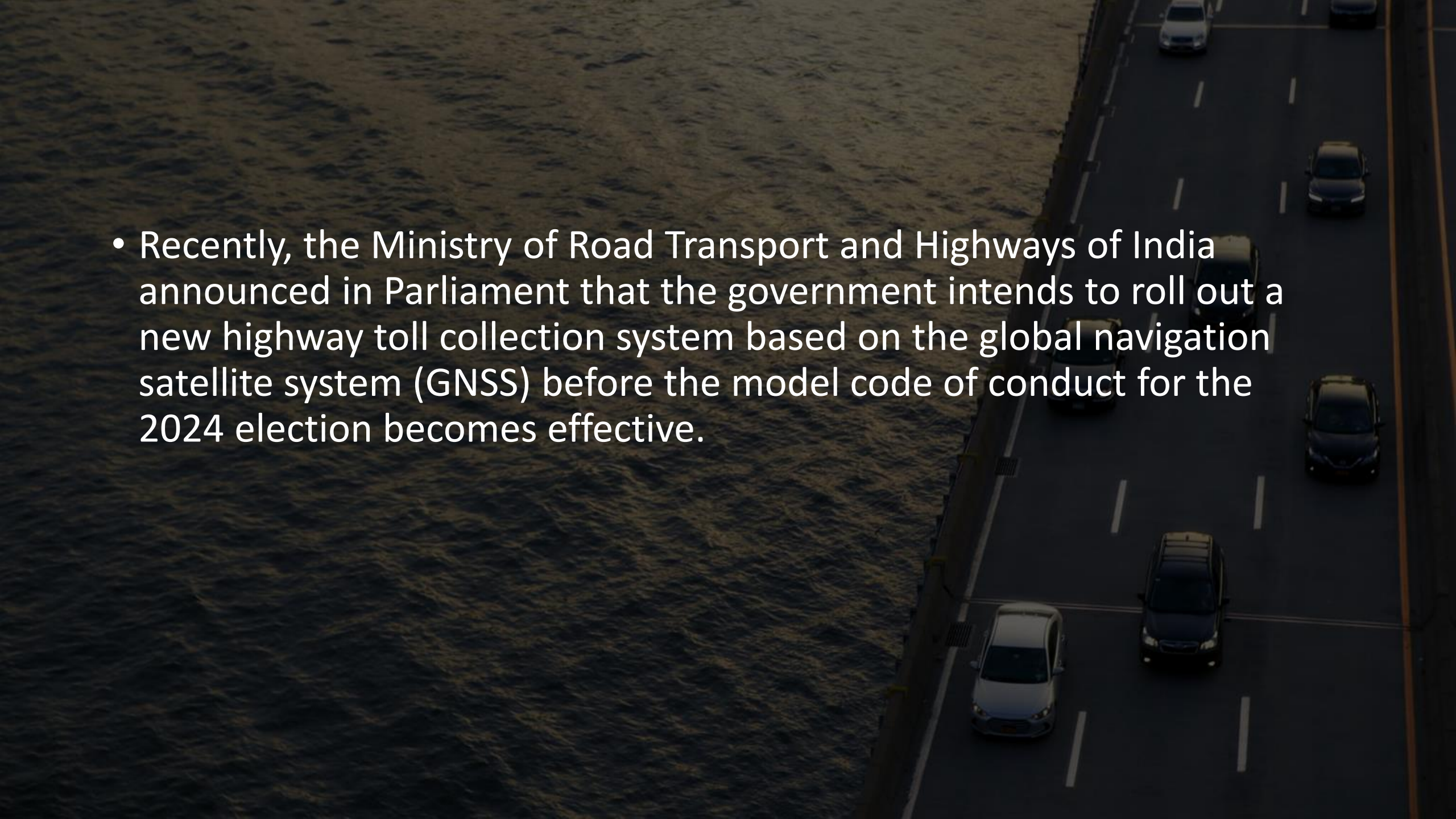
In the list of donors put in the public domain by the Election Commission on Thursday, Qwik Supply is the third highest buyer of bonds after Santiago Martin-owned Future Gaming and Hotel Services Private Ltd and PP Reddy-promoted company from Telangana Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd. It bought electoral bonds worth Rs 225 crore on January 5, 2022, Rs 10 crore on January 10, 2022, a month before the elections in Uttar Pradesh; Rs 125 crore on November 11, 2022, before elections in Gujarat; its latest purchase of Rs 50 crore was on November 17, 2023, before elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chattisgarh.

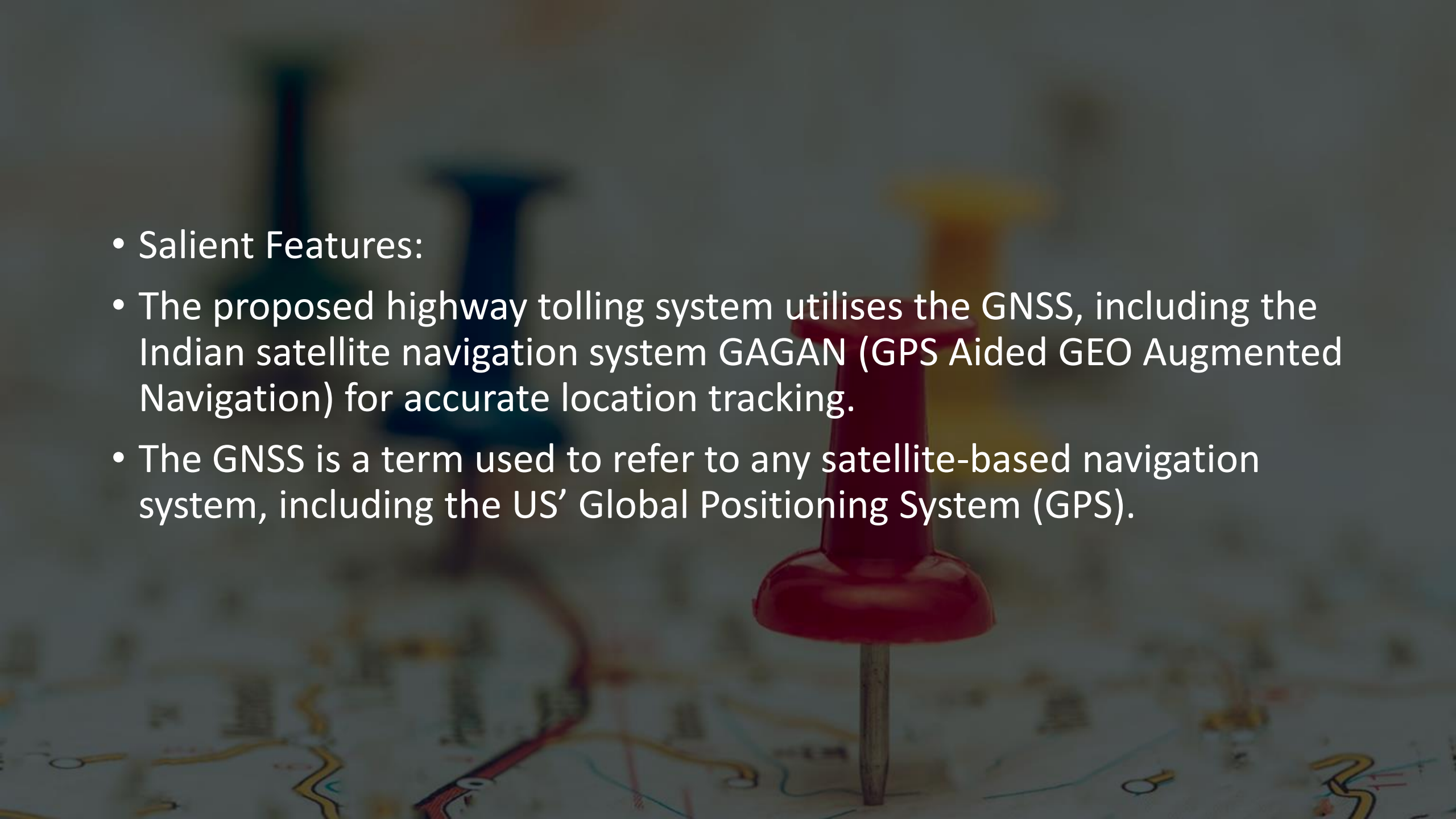


# New Satellite-Based Toll Collection System





- 
- Recently, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of India announced in Parliament that the government intends to roll out a new highway toll collection system based on the global navigation satellite system (GNSS) before the model code of conduct for the 2024 election becomes effective.

- 
- A red pushpin is pinned to a map, which is the background of the slide. The map shows various geographical features like roads and rivers. The pushpin is in the center-right of the slide, and its shadow is cast onto the map below it.
- Salient Features:
  - The proposed highway tolling system utilises the GNSS, including the Indian satellite navigation system GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) for accurate location tracking.
  - The GNSS is a term used to refer to any satellite-based navigation system, including the US' Global Positioning System (GPS).



- **It uses a large constellation of satellites to provide more accurate location and navigation information to users globally as compared to the GPS alone.**
- **Implementation involves fitting vehicles with an On-Board Unit (OBU), or tracking device, which communicates with satellites to determine location.**





- GAGAN

- GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) is an initiative by the Indian Government for Satellite-based Navigation Services in India.
- It aims to enhance the accuracy of global navigation satellite system (GNSS) receivers through reference signals.
- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) have collaborated to develop the GAGAN as a regional Satellite Based Augmentation System (SBAS).



- 
- **Which one of the following countries has its own Satellite Navigation System? (2023)**
  - **(a) Australia**
  - **(b) Canada**
  - **(c) Israel**
  - **(d) Japan**

- 
- **With reference to the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), consider the following statements: (2018)**

**1. IRNSS has three satellites in geostationary and four satellites in geosynchronous orbits.**

**2. IRNSS covers entire India and about 5500 sq. Km beyond its borders.**

**3. India will have its own satellite navigation system with full global coverage by the middle of 2019.**

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

- **(a) 1 only**
- **(b) 1 and 2 only**
- **(c) 2 and 3 only**
- **(d) None**



An aerial photograph of a river winding through a dense, lush green forest. The river is a vibrant turquoise color, contrasting with the deep green of the surrounding trees. A small boat is visible in the center of the river, leaving a white wake behind it. The forest appears to be a tropical or subtropical rainforest, with a thick canopy of trees. The overall scene is serene and natural.

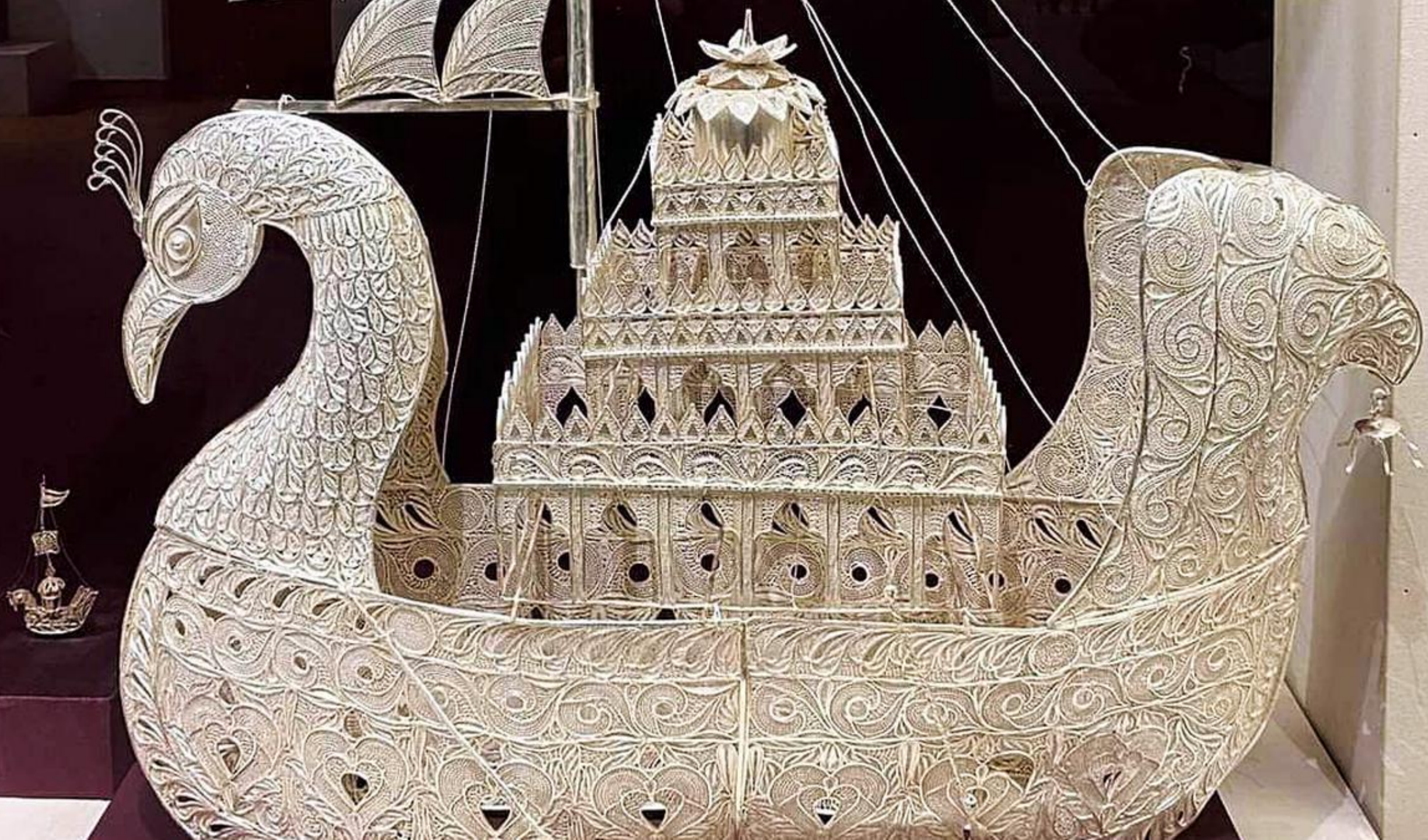
# GI Tag to Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi

The renowned Cuttack Rupa Tarakasi (Silver Filigree) has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, marking its distinct heritage and craftsmanship.

Dating back to ancient Mesopotamia, where filigree adorned jewellery as early as 3500 BCE, its journey to Cuttack potentially via Persia and Indonesia speaks volumes about cultural exchange through maritime trade routes.

Filigree is ornamental work especially of fine wire of gold, silver, or copper applied chiefly to gold and silver surfaces.







# World Monuments Fund

The background features a complex network of thin, light-colored lines connecting various sized circles. The circles are colored in a gradient from light blue and purple on the left to dark red and orange on the right, creating a sense of flow and connectivity.



- 
- Recently, **Kazhuvveli watershed region in Tamil Nadu** was proposed for nomination to **World Monuments Fund Watch for 2025**.
  - **About the World Monuments Fund (WMF):**
  - It is a **New York-based non-profit organisation** dedicated to **preserving and protecting** endangered ancient and historic sites around the world.
    - It works with local partners around the globe to provide financial and technical support.



- 
- It has raised over \$300 million and leveraged more than \$400 million from other agencies.
  - Since its inception, the WMF has conserved over 700 sites and advocated for more than 800 treasured places.

-





Alamparai  
Fort

Kazhuveli  
check dam

Marakkanam

Kazhuveli  
Wetland Bird  
Sanctuary

Bay of Bengal

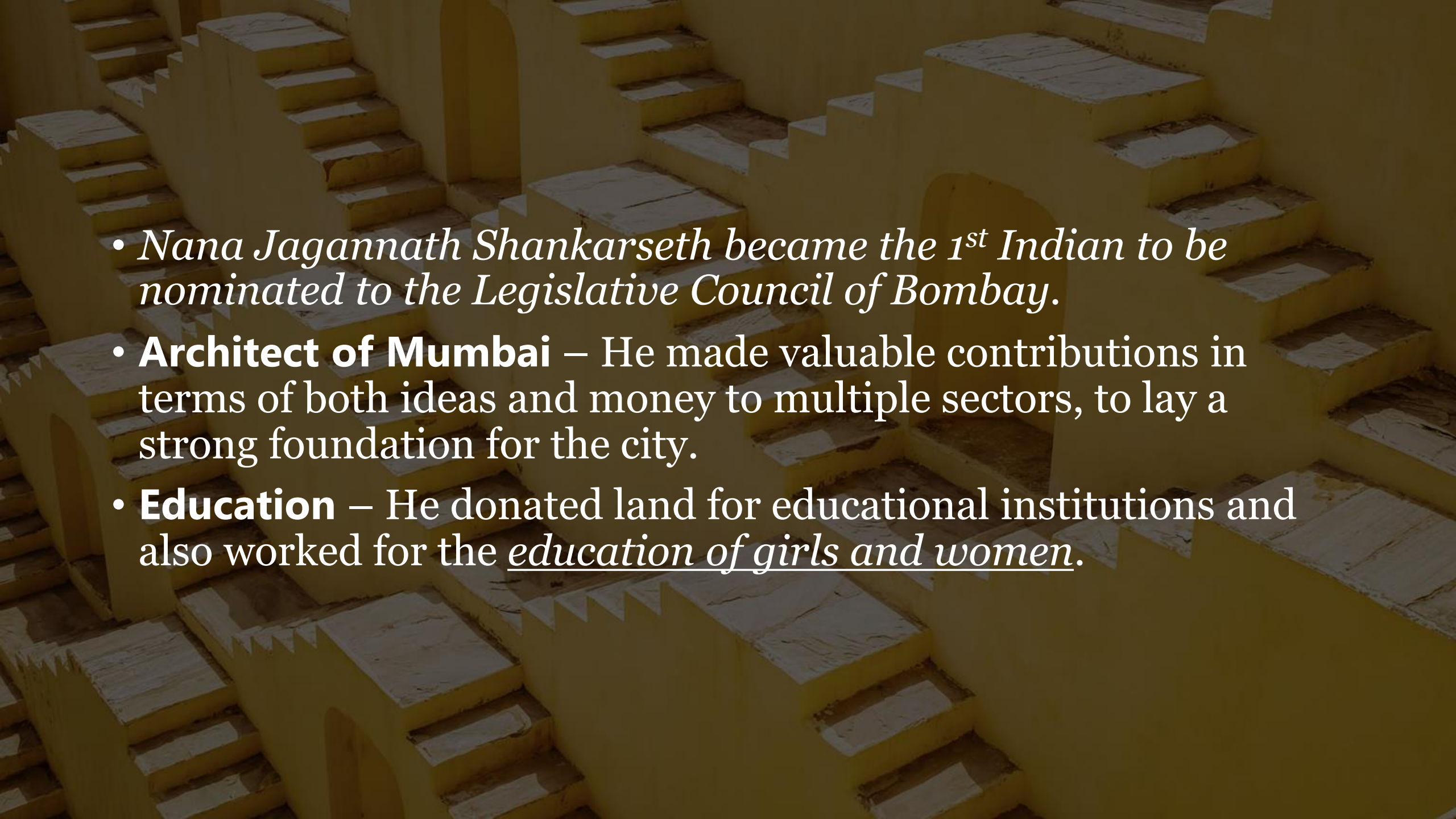
Nana Jagannath Shankarseth

The background of the image is a solid, muted brown color. Overlaid on this background are several abstract, organic shapes in various colors, including dark blue, red, teal, purple, and orange. These shapes are scattered across the lower half of the image, creating a dynamic and artistic composition. The text 'Nana Jagannath Shankarseth' is centered horizontally and positioned in the upper-middle part of the image, rendered in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

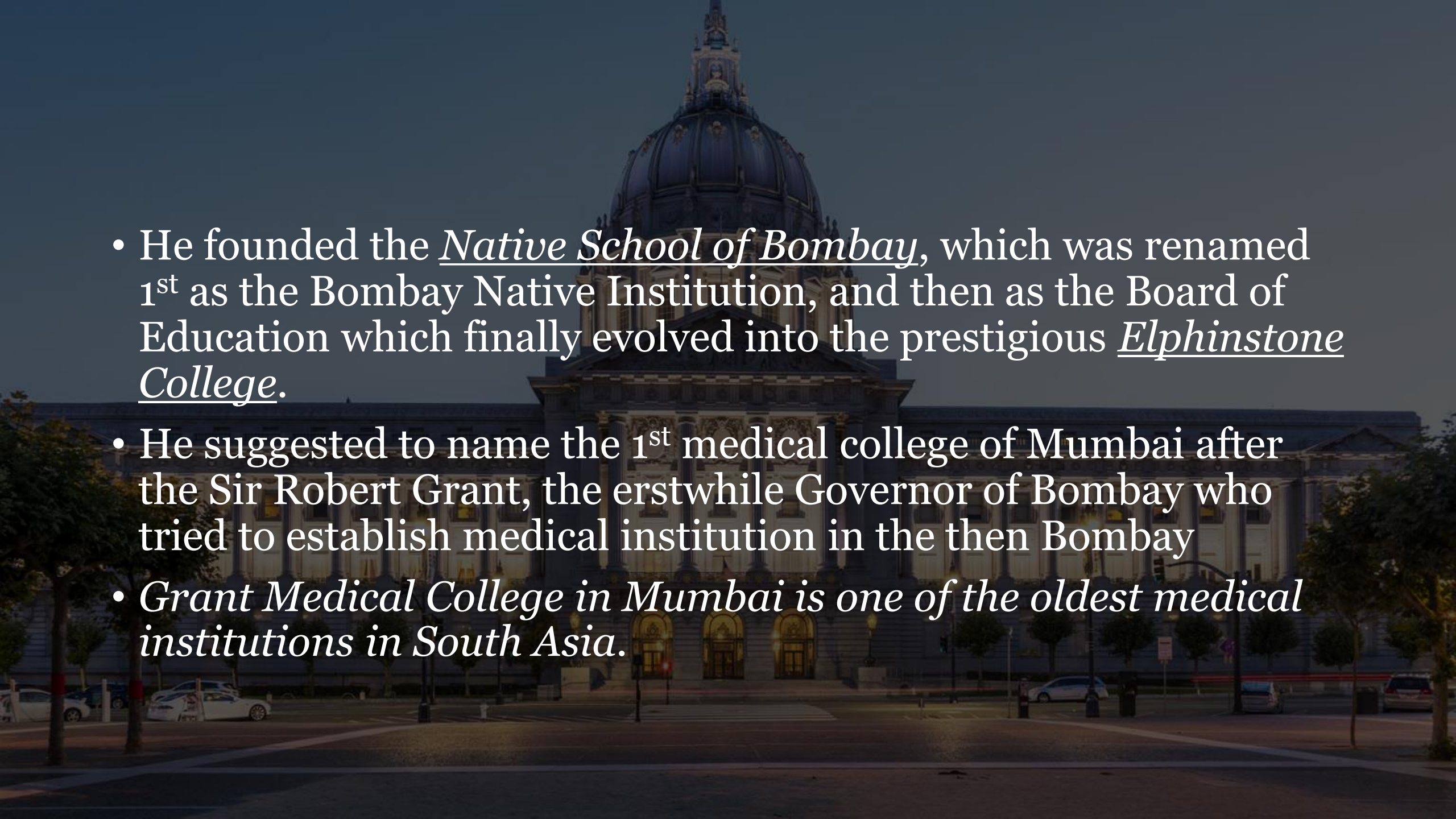


- *The Maharashtra cabinet decided to ask the Ministry of Railways to rename Mumbai Central station after Nana Jagannath Shankarseth.*
- He is a social reformer, educationist, and philanthropist who earned the goodwill of both Indians and the British.
- **Life time** – 1803 to 1865.
- **Inspired by** – The merchant and philanthropist Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy.

-

- 
- *Nana Jagannath Shankarseth became the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian to be nominated to the Legislative Council of Bombay.*
  - **Architect of Mumbai** – He made valuable contributions in terms of both ideas and money to multiple sectors, to lay a strong foundation for the city.
  - **Education** – He donated land for educational institutions and also worked for the *education of girls and women.*



- 
- He founded the *Native School of Bombay*, which was renamed 1<sup>st</sup> as the Bombay Native Institution, and then as the Board of Education which finally evolved into the prestigious *Elphinstone College*.
  - He suggested to name the 1<sup>st</sup> medical college of Mumbai after the Sir Robert Grant, the erstwhile Governor of Bombay who tried to establish medical institution in the then Bombay
  - *Grant Medical College in Mumbai is one of the oldest medical institutions in South Asia.*



































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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, with some wearing watches. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner.

Thank you  
guys.

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