

# Daily Current Affairs



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Be a free thinker and don't accept everything you hear as **truth**.  
**Be critical** and evaluate what you believe in.

– *Aristotle*

## **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.

### RAISING THE BAR

## A winter sports hub in the making



The Indian Olympic Association has begun the spade work to see Gulmarg as a venue for international events

NEWS » PAGE 5





Chinese tech giant's U.S. conundrum  
PROFILES » PAGE 9

India makes the MIRV leap with Agni V test  
FAQ » PAGE 8

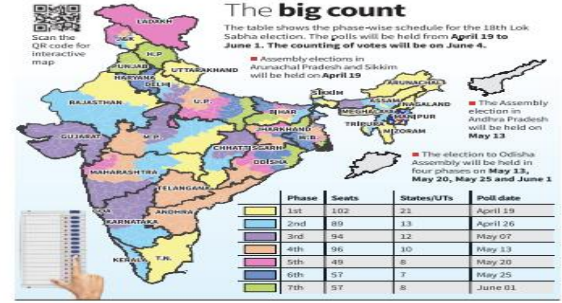
Capitals to fight it out with RCB for big prize  
SPORTS » PAGE 13

## 7-phased poll fest to kick off on April 19

■ Polling exercise will go on till June 1; votes will be counted on June 4

Sreeparna Chakrabarty  
NEW DELHI

India will go to the polls from April 19 to June 1, in a marathon seven-phase exercise to elect the 543 members of the 18th Lok Sabha, the Election Commission announced on Saturday. Assembly elections will be held simultaneously in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.



the country's first general election, which was held over five months between September 1951 and February 1952.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar announced the poll schedule, flanked by the two new Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and S.S. Sandhu.

Mr. Kumar said that by-elections to 26 Assembly constituencies will also be held alongside the Lok Sabha and four State Assembly polls.

India has a total of 96.8 crore registered voters, of which 49.72 crore are men and 47.1 crore are women. There are 1.82 crore first-time voters, of which 85 lakh are women.

Mr. Kumar said that the gender ratio among electors has improved significantly to 948 women for every 1,000 men, noting that there are more women than men in 12 States.

This is the first time in a general election that people above the age of 85 years, as well as those with more than 40% disability, will be able to vote from their own homes.

There are 85 lakh registered voters who are aged above 85 years while the number of voters with disabilities is 88.4 lakh. The electoral rolls also contain 21.18 lakh centenarians.

Special polling booths The Commission said that it has reviewed the ground situation in Manipur and has noted that a large number of electors registered in different constituencies had been displaced from their native places during

the recent ethnic conflict. Given these circumstances, special polling stations will be set up at or near the relief camps, where displaced electors who opt for such facilities will be able to register their votes in electronic voting machines.

The constituency of Outer Manipur will vote on two separate days. "We know the seat," the CEC said, indicating awareness of the prevailing situation. These dates were declared on 544 seats to elect 543 MPs.

Code of conduct With the poll dates having been announced, the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) comes into immediate effect and will be in force till the declaration of results. The CEC flagged the challenges of what he called the "four Ms": muscle power, money power, misinformation, and MCC violations.

"I would appeal to parties to maintain decorum during the campaign and refrain from personal attacks," Mr. Kumar said, adding that the EC will have a "calibrated" response to MCC violations.

He added that all election management-related news on all the major national and regional news channels will be monitored vigorously.

If any untoward incident or violation of any rule is noticed, action will be taken immediately, the CEC said.

### Standing on cusp of history, PM says NDA ready

NEW DELHI Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday declared that the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was fully prepared for the polls. He said the contest was between the NDA that adhered to "a glorious turnaround" and the Opposition that was "rudderless".

Set to take on and 'unsettle' BJP, says INDIA leaders

NEW DELHI The parties in the Opposition bloc welcomed the Lok Sabha poll dates and said they were ready to take on the BJP and unsettle it from power. The Congress said it would fight for the country while the Left parties said their primary objective was to remove the BJP from power.

'Always in favour of transparency, donors' privacy'

NEW DELHI Amid the storm over the scrapping of the electoral bonds scheme Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the Election Commission had always been in favour of transparency, but added that there was a need to ensure that the donors' privacy was protected.

Resturgent piracy

The vessel that was hijacked in the Horn of Africa coinciding with the volatile situation in the Red Sea with drone and missile attacks by Houthis on commercial shipping.

Earlier this week, a Bangladesh flagged merchant vessel MV Abdullah was hijacked by Somali pirates while it was enroute from Mozambique to the UAE.

## Within months of formation, firms bought poll bonds running into crores

NEW DELHI At least 43 firms newly incorporated in 2024 or later, bought electoral bonds worth over ₹384.5 crore. Of these four companies, all established in 2023 in Hyderabad, bought bonds worth crores of rupees, just a few months after getting established.

As many as nine firms in 2020 and 11 companies in 2021 which were formed in the middle of the pandemic, cumulatively purchased bonds worth close to ₹100 crore, in just one or two years after being formed.

The company information and date of incorporation are based on the Ministry of Corporate Affairs' (MCA) database.

The names of the companies which had purchased electoral bonds were matched with the names of the firms available in the Ministry database to draw out the list of newly incorporated companies.

Same bosses

A similar trend can be observed across many companies or partnerships. Another firm registered in Hyderabad — Bain Global Resources LLP — which was incorporated on May 25, 2023, bought bonds worth ₹2 crore just four months later on October 9, 2023.

Similar trends

As many as nine firms in 2020 and 11 companies in 2021 which were formed in the middle of the pandemic, cumulatively purchased bonds worth close to ₹100 crore, in just one or two years after being formed.

For instance, Askus Logistics Private Limited which was formed on November 25, 2021 in North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, bought bonds worth ₹22 crore between April 12, 2023 and January 10, 2024. The first transaction took place just a year and four months after formation.

Aparna Farms and Estates LLP, formed in Hyderabad on August 18, 2024, bought bonds worth ₹30 crore on two dates (₹15 crore each) — October 12, 2023 and November 20, 2023. Before the firm was bought barely three years after formation.

Another firm registered in Hyderabad which was bought barely three years after formation. Akshay Greentech Private Limited which was formed in December 2020 in Hyderabad bought bonds worth ₹5 crore within three years from incorporation.

Notably, on April 6, 2023, bought Hospitals which had purchased bonds worth ₹162 crore. Put together, these four firms had purchased bonds worth ₹17.5 crore.

Some firms have purchased bonds worth more than ₹20 crore within just one or two years of incorporation.

### INSIDE

Bodies of Indians killed in Russia brought home

NEW DELHI The bodies of two Indians who were killed on the Russian-Ukraine border after they were forced to fight alongside the Russian Army were brought to Delhi on Saturday.

Saudi Crown Prince reaffirms support for Pak.

ISLAMABAD Saudi crown prince and de facto ruler Mohammed bin Salman on Saturday assured Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif full support for Pakistan which has been going through an economic crisis.

## Indian Navy warship rescues 17 crew members of hijacked merchant vessel; 35 pirates surrender

Dinakar Perri  
NEW DELHI

In an end to the episode of the hijacked merchant vessel *Ruen*, the Indian Navy destroyer *INS Kolkata* through concerted actions successfully cornered and coerced all 35 pirates to surrender and ensured the safe evacuation of 17 crew members from the pirate vessel without any injury. The Indian Army was brought to Delhi on Saturday.

The ex-Malta flagged merchant vessel *Ruen*, which was hijacked on December 14 and taken to Somali waters, was turned into a pirate vessel and was reported being used as a pirate ship.

The vessel was intercepted by *INS Kolkata* on March 14 when it was fired upon. "INS Kolkata had carried out the interception of the Pirate Ship *Ruen* at almost 1,400 nm [2,600 km]



An Indian Navy helicopter during an anti-hijacking operation on board *Ruen*. PTI

from the Indian Coast, and forced the pirate ship to stop through calibrated actions which were augmented by *INS Subhadra*, high altitude long endurance unmanned aerial vehicle, P-8I maritime patrol air-

craft and MARCOS air-dropped by C-17 aircraft," the Navy spokesperson said. "The vessel has also been sanitised for presence of illegal arms, ammunition, and contraband." Earlier in the day,

the spokesperson said that the vessel opened fire on the warship, which was returning to the vessel. "The vessel was also hit by the Red Sea with drone and missile attacks by Houthis on commercial shipping.

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# 7-phased poll fest to kick off on April 19

Polling exercise will go on till June 1; votes will be counted on June 4

Simultaneous Assembly polls in A.P., Odisha, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh

96.8 crore electors eligible to cast votes; 1.82 crore are first-timers

Sreeparna Chakrabarty  
NEW DELHI

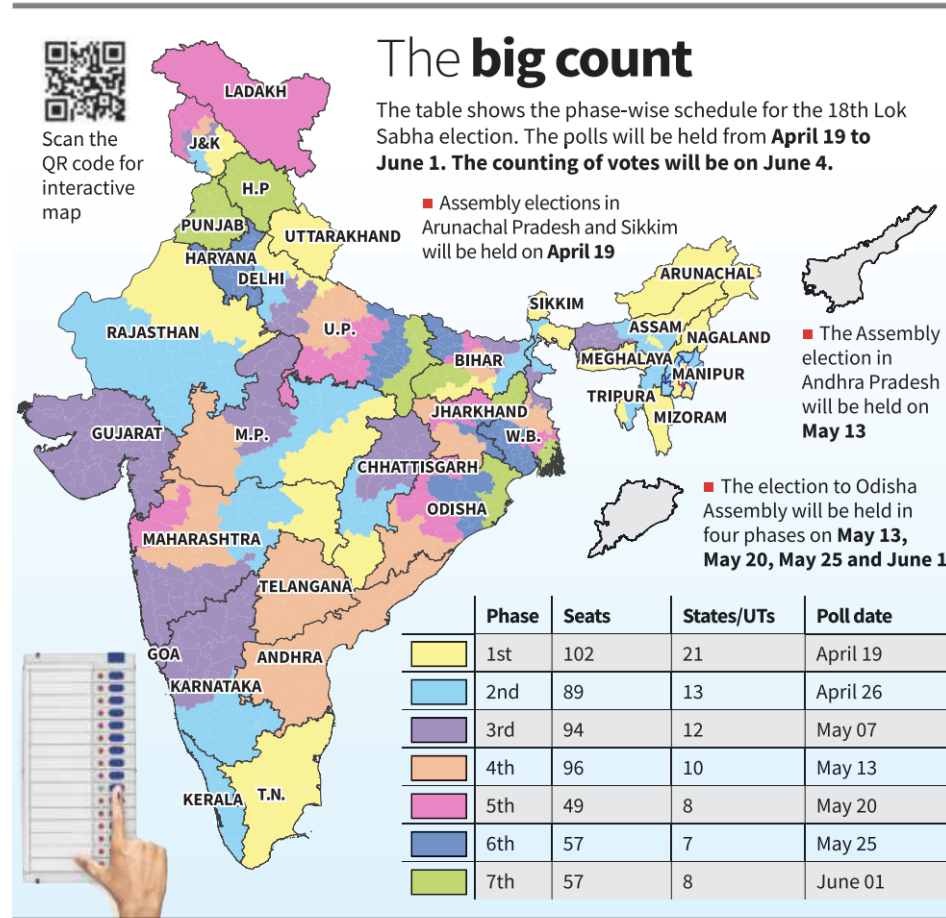
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The dates of polling for the Lok Sabha are April 19, April 26, May 7, May 13, May 20, May 25, and June 1.

In Bihar, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh, voting will take place in all seven phases.

The counting of votes will take place on June 4.

Voters in Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim will cast their ballots for their Assembly elections on April 19, while Andhra Pradesh will elect its Assembly on May 13. Odisha's Assembly election will be held in four phases, with voting on May 13, May 20, May 25, and June 1.



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## 'Always in favour of transparency



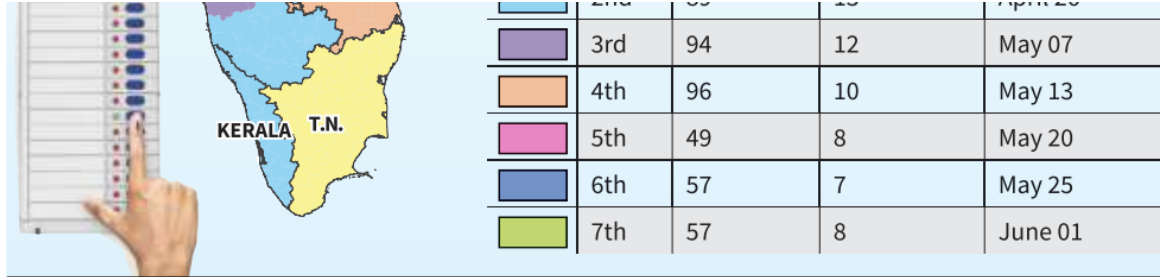
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### Second-longest poll

This parliamentary election – which is considered to be heavily stacked in favour of the ruling National Democratic Alliance led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with the Opposition INDIA bloc struggling to keep its flock together – will be the second longest polling exercise in India's electoral history.

The longest so far was



the country's first general election, which was held over five months between September 1951 and February 1952.

Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar announced the poll schedule, flanked by the two new Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and S.S. Sandhu.

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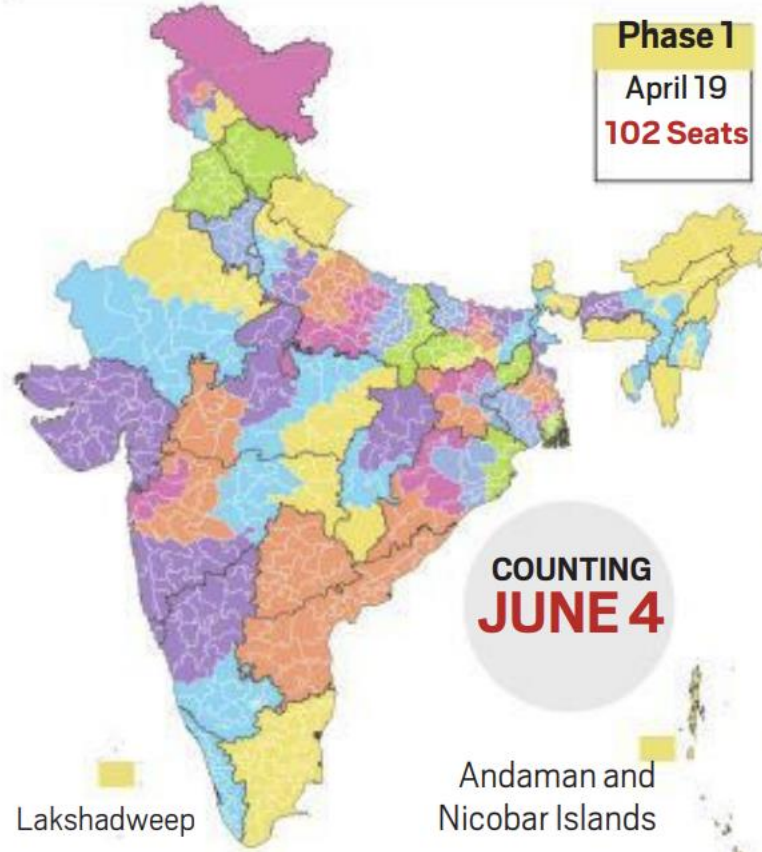
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## 'Always in favour of transparency, donors' privacy'

### NEW DELHI

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# FOR 18th LOK SABHA: 543 SEATS, 7 PHASES, 44 DAYS



COUNTING  
**JUNE 4**

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
April 19	April 26	May 7	May 13
<b>102 Seats</b>	<b>89 Seats</b>	<b>94 Seats</b>	<b>96 Seats</b>
Phase 5	Phase 6	Phase 7	
May 20	May 25	June 1	
<b>49 Seats</b>	<b>57 Seats</b>	<b>57 Seats</b>	



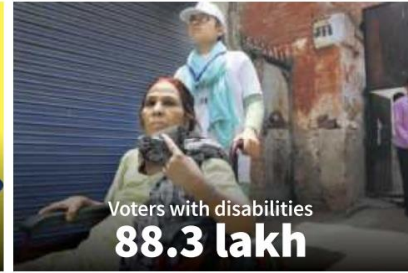
CEC Rajiv Kumar with ECs Gyanesh Kumar and S S Sandhu in New Delhi on Saturday. *Amit Mehra*

OVERALL VOTERS	2019:	91 cr	Male	Female	Transgender	First Time Voters
			2024: <b>96.8 cr</b>	47.33 cr	43.85 cr	
			49.7 cr	47.1 cr	48,000	2024: 1.8 cr

# Getting inked

The chart shows the various categories of electors in India. The Lok Sabha election will have 96.8 crore voters, including 1.84 crore electors in the 18-19 age group

**TOTAL ELECTORATE**  
**96.8 crore**



## Party wise distribution as of 18 December 2023

Party	Seats	Leader in Lok Sabha
BJP	290	Narendra Modi
INC	46	Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury
DMK	24	T. R. Baalu
AITC	23	Sudip Bandyopadhyay
YSRCP	22	P. V. Midhun Reddy
JD(U)	16	Rajiv Ranjan
SHS	13	Rahul Shewale
BJD	12	Pinaki Misra
BSP	9	Girish Chandra
BRS	9	Nageswara Rao
SS(UBT)	6	Vinayak Raut



**COMMANDER** Swachata Badhao, Tandrusti Badhe

**Slimhide** Badi Todfod + Deewar Ko Leakage Se Bachayen **Space Saving**

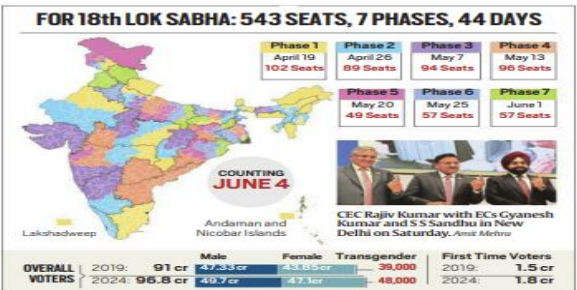
*Slim Hide Flush Tank Kahan...?*

**LOK SABHA POLLING IN 7 PHASES, from April 19 to June 1** | **MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT** kicks in with immediate effect | **ASSEMBLY POLLS IN 4 STATES** Andhra, Odisha, Arunachal, Sikkim | **ONE IN FIVE VOTERS UNDER 30,** 21.54 cr of 96.8 cr voters are 18-29 yrs

# Dates are in: Voting from April 19, Verdict June 4

Won't tolerate code violations; time to go beyond advisories and take concrete action: CEC

**DAMINI NATH** NEW DELHI, MARCH 16  
 KICKING OFF THE world's largest election exercise, the Election Commission of India Saturday announced that the 18th Lok Sabha elections would be held in seven phases from April 19 to June 1, with counting of votes on June 4. Close to a billion electors will be eligible to cast their votes in the exercise that will stretch well into the peak of summer, with over 10 million polling and security personnel being deployed for the job. This time, the complete polling process — from



**BUSINESS AS USUAL**  
 By UNNY  
 No disruption possible but don't depend on public convenience.

**Full Coverage, P 6**

**44 DAYS, SECOND-LONGEST SINCE 1951**  
**Delay over EC quitting, festivals: Why LS polls will extend into June**  
 Verdict in June first time since 1991

**RETIKA CHOPRA** NEW DELHI, MARCH 16  
 THE 2024 Lok Sabha elections, extending into the peak summer month of June for only the second time in the country's electoral history, marks a 44-day election period the second-longest after the first Parliamentary election in 1951-52. This protracted process has been necessitated by a combination of factors. The first general election to

**Manipur: Two phases for two seats, voting in relief camps**

**SUKRITA BARUAH** GUWAHATI, MARCH 16  
 VOTING IN conflict-ridden Manipur will take place over two phases with preparations under way to enable people displaced within the state to vote as close to their relief camps. According to sources, informal preliminary assessments place the number of displaced voters within the state at 23,000-25,000. The total number of voters in Manipur is 20.26 lakh. In the wake of the ethnic clashes that broke out in the state on May 3 last year, bar lines have been drawn between areas where the Kuki-Zomi are

**PM: Going to people with track record, Opp is rudderless, issueless**

**LALMANI VERMA** NEW DELHI, MARCH 16  
 WELCOMING THE announcement of dates for the Lok Sabha elections, the "biggest festival of democracy", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Saturday that the BJP-led NDA was "going to the people on the basis of our track record of good governance and service delivery across sectors". He attacked the Opposition

**Kharge: Last chance to save democracy; Cong pledges Right to Health**

**MANOJ CG** NEW DELHI, MARCH 16  
 SOON AFTER the announcement of the schedule for the Lok Sabha polls, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said this election is going to be "perhaps the last chance" to save India's democracy and Constitution. In a post on X Saturday, Kharge said, "2024 Lok Sabha

**INSIDE**  
**KAVITHA SENT TO E.D. CUSTODY UNTIL MARCH 23**  
**SKIPPING SUMMONS: DELHI COURT GRANTS BAIL TO KEJRIWAL**  
**AZAM CONVICTED IN 2016 DEMOLITION CASE**

**ED, I-T, regulator heat: 11 infra firms bought Rs 506-cr bonds**

**SOUMYARENDRA BARIK & AANCHAL MAGAZINE** NEW DELHI, MARCH 16  
 CONSTRUCTION AND infrastructure companies were among the biggest purchasers of electoral bonds, with at least 11 companies having bought bonds worth over Rs 506 crore — directly or through lesser known subsidiaries — close on the heels of regulatory or investigative action by agencies like the Central

**Cong chief Mallikarjun Kharge with Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah and Dy CM D K Shivakumar in Bengaluru on Saturday. ANI**

**Behind cheating video: Schools with low passing rate, high dropouts, staff crunch**

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**  
**AISWARYA RAJ** NEW DELHI, MARCH 16  
 IT WAS a frame that captured an intractable problem — mass cheating in examinations. The 17-second video of March 5 showed people using ropes suspended from windows to scale the walls of a school in Haryana's Nuh district and passing on chits to students inside appearing for

the Class 10 Board exams. The private Chandravati Senior Secondary School is one of 13 examination centres in the district for the ongoing Class 10 Board examination, with students of three schools — two government ones (in Raheeri and Padhwa villages) and the other private (in Noorpur) — appearing for their exams here. Nuh District Education Officer Paramjeet Chahal said an inquiry was conducted into the incident at Chandravati school. No FIR has been registered yet.

**GROUND IN A STONE CHAKKI**  
 WHICH GIVES BETTER QUALITY ATTA & DELICIOUS SOFT ROTIS

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**100% ATTA 0% MAIDA 6 HOURS SOFTNESS**

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# NAVNEET KUMAR IS NEW PRASAR BHARATI CHIEF



RETIRED  
BUREAUCRAT  
Navneet Kumar  
Sehgal has  
been  
appointed as  
the new Prasara

Bharati chairman, a post that had been vacant for four years. Sehgal succeeds A Surya Prakash, whose term ended in February 2020 after he turned 70 years, the upper age limit for a person holding the post.

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday chaired a meeting to select the chairman of the country's public broadcaster.

## Prasar Bharati

Praśar Bharati  
प्रसार भारती

### Agency overview

<b>Formed</b>	23 November 1997 (26 years ago)
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<a href="#">Government of India</a>
<b>Headquarters</b>	<a href="#">New Delhi, India</a>
<b>Minister responsible</b>	<a href="#">Shri Anurag Singh Thakur</a>
<b>Parent department</b>	<a href="#">Ministry of Information and Broadcasting,</a>
<b>Child agencies</b>	<a href="#">Doordarshan</a> (Television Network) <a href="#">All India Radio</a> (Radio Network)

Chennai > Coimbatore > Bengaluru > Hyderabad > Kolkata > New Delhi > Visakhapatnam > Thiruvananthapuram > Kochi > Vijayawada > Mangaluru > Thiruvananthapuram > Kollam > Hubli > Madurai > Indraprastha > Mysuru > Tiruppur > Lucknow > Cuttack > Patna



**MONEY LAUNDERING PROBE**  
**Baghel booked in Mahadev app case**  
NEWS » PAGE 4



**JOINT EFFORT**  
**Marathon operation led to surrender of pirates**  
NEWS » PAGE 6



**ON THE VERGE OF VICTORY**  
**Putin poised to return for another six years**  
WORLD » PAGE 12



**BATTLE FOR DEMOCRACY**  
**The Myanmar conflict is a regional issue**  
ASEAN must extend support to the people  
EDITORIAL » PAGE 8



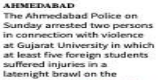
**REIGNING SUPREMACY**  
**Royal Challengers win WPL Season 2 title**  
SPORT » PAGE 16



**INSIDE**  
**T.N. Goundar stalls Ponnudiy's return to Cabinet**  
CHENNAI  
Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi has refused to re-induct DMK leader and former Minister K. Ponnudiy, whose conviction in an assets-related case was suspended by the Supreme Court, into the Cabinet saying it goes against constitutional morality. » PAGE 3



**2 held in Gujarat for violence at university**  
AHMEDABAD  
The Ahmedabad Police on Sunday arrested two persons in connection with violence at Gujarat University in which at least five foreign students suffered injuries in a late-night brawl on the hostel campus. » PAGE 4



**Netanyahu vows not to stop war despite criticisms**  
TEL AVIV  
Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu railed on Sunday against growing criticism from the U.S. against his leadership amid the war with Hamas, saying the pressure will not stop Israel from achieving "total victory". » PAGE 12



**West may have to intervene in Kyiv, says Macron**  
PARIS  
French President Emmanuel Macron said in an interview published on Saturday that Western ground operations in Ukraine might be necessary "at some point", days after meeting with German and Polish leaders. » PAGE 12

# Big recipients 'unable' to reveal bond donor data

BJP, Congress and Trinamool Congress have not shared details about poll bond donors to the EC. Data comes out after the EC published details submitted by parties under SC's directives. BJP says the rules of the scheme had precluded political parties from maintaining donor details.

**Abhinav Lakshman**  
NEW DELHI

Most large recipients of funding via electoral bonds, including the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Congress, and the Trinamool Congress have not shared any details about their donors, in submissions made to the Election Commission of India (EC) under the direction of the Supreme Court in May 2019 and November 2023.

**Data on donors**

Fresh data on poll bonds published by the EC revealed that a few regional parties disclosed the names of donors, while the BJP and Congress did not.

Party	Donor	Amount (₹ crore)
BJP	Future Gaming & Hotel	100
	MEL	100
	ES2	100
	India Cements Ltd.	100
Congress	Bajaj Finserv	7.5
	Infra Infrastructure	7.5
	Mr. Atul Chordia	10
	Mr. Avinash Bhosle	10
Trinamool Congress	Embassy Group	10
	Mega Engineering & Constructions	10
	Shankaranarayana Constructions	10
	JSW Steel Ltd.	10
Others	Amar Raj Groups	10
	Mr. Cyrus Poonawalla	10

Period: Jan. 10, 2019 - May 7, 2019  
Period: March 2, 2019 - April 6, 2019  
Period: April 15, 2019 - April 15, 2023

Amount in ₹ crore

Munnetra Kazhagam, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, and the Janata Dal (Secular). The BJP, the largest recipient of electoral bonds, justified its move not to reveal the names of donors by citing the rules framed under the electoral bonds

**DMK received ₹509 crore from 'lottery king'**

CHENNAI  
The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) received ₹509 crore in poll bonds from 'lottery king' Santiago Martins Future Games and Hotel Services. Of the ₹1,368 crore worth of bonds purchased by the firm between April 12, 2019 and January 24, 2024, 37% went to the DMK. » PAGE 4

as the Aam Aadmi Party, the Nationalist Congress Party, and the Janata Dal (United) only revealed donor names from the start of the electoral bond scheme in 2018 till May 2019. In some cases, only some of the donors' names were disclosed for bond sales till 2019.

This came to light on Sunday when the EC published the data previously submitted to it by political parties in sealed covers under the top court's directions. In fact, only a handful of parties have revealed their electoral bond donors' identities in their entirety; these parties include the Dravida

scheme that the SC has struck down as unconstitutional. These rules, it said, precluded parties from having to maintain donor details, and so it claimed that it had not maintained a record of these particulars. Some of the other parties that did not supply do-

nor details also noted that the scheme was designed in such a way that they did not have ready access to donor information, as these were essentially bearer bonds. The details will only be available with the authorised bank issuer, the State Bank of In-

dia (SBI), they said. The Congress and Trinamool Congress, in their 2019 disclosures, said that they had specific information, as the SBI to provide them with details of the donors' names. In response to the former's request, the SBI had written back in June

2019, saying, "The particulars of a donated EB (electoral bond) is available with the respective donor/political party."

"Details with the bank" in their updated disclosures for the period till September 2023, the Trinamool Congress again said that the information on donors was not available with the SBI, while the Congress noted that it had requested the bank yet again to provide this information to the EC in compliance with the SC's directions. It is not clear if the SBI responded again to that missive from Congress.

Regional players like the Telugu Desam party, YSR Congress, Bharat Kshatri Samithi, and Biju Janata Dal also did not reveal their bond donors. Others, such

## Formula for Kashmir



Fresh tracks: Drivers take part in the first ever Formula-4 car race held on the banks of Dal lake in Srinagar, on Sunday. (NISA/KANAK)

## Modi can't win polls without EVMs, CBI, ED, says Rahul

**Purnima Sah**  
**Abhinav Deshpande**  
MUMBAI



Launching a fierce criticism of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led BJP government, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said Mr. Modi cannot win the Lok Sabha election without electronic voting machines (EVMs), the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), and the Income Tax department.

Addressing an INDIA bloc rally at Shivaji Park here, he accused the ruling dispensation of subverting democratic institutions.

Mr. Gandhi said their fight was not against a party of one man, but against a shakti (power). In a show of strength, the INDIA bloc leaders had gathered for the massive rally, but the CPI(M) and the CPI boycotted the rally claiming that it was a Congress function.

## Trump warns of industrial 'bloodbath' in case he loses

**Associated Press**  
VANDALIA



Former U.S. President Donald Trump claimed that he — not President Joe Biden — will protect Social Security and warned of a "bloodbath" if he loses in November as he campaigned for Senate candidate Bernie Moreno in Ohio.

Mr. Trump, speaking on a wind-whipped airfield outside of Dayton on Saturday, praised his chosen candidate in the race as an "America first champion" and "political outsider who has spent his entire life building up Ohio communities."

auto industry and his plans to increase tariffs on foreign-made cars. Biden campaign spokesperson James Singer accused Mr. Trump of doubling "down on his threats of political violence."

## Where names indicate the order of birth in a family

Children of the Lisu and Singpho communities in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam are named according to the order they are born in the family, incorporating numbers into names; the names may also help identifying the clan a person belongs to.

**Rahul Karmakar**  
MIAO

**A**yu and Agey are familiar names among explorers of the 1,985-sq km Namdapha, India's easternmost tiger reserve bordering Myanmar. But for members of their Lisu or Yobin community, inhabiting pockets of the Miao subdivision in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh, the names of the two brothers are also clear indicators of the order they were born into their family.



Traditional affair: Members of the Lisu community taking part in a festival. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Yolisa Yobin of Gangdighram aka Shidi, about 60 km from Miao. Lisu boys and girls have separate sets of numbered names to live in the order of their birth. The eldest girl in a family has Ana in her name, and the ones after her are called

Angyi, Acha, Ado, Achhi, Ata, Akhu, Agu, Aju, and Aphi.

"Clearing confusion" "We use a mechanism for clearing the numerical confusion in cases where two or more families may have an equal or almost equal number of boys and girls. This is done by prefixing or suffixing the given names to the number assigned after birth."

used Aifusa but I dropped the 'A' from my name," he said.

He added that Lisu names may also reflect the names of their clans.

"The Lisu belong to the Tibeto-Burman family and inhabit the contiguous hilly regions of Arunachal Pradesh, China, Myanmar, and Thailand. They number about 5,000 in India."

The tradition of numbered names is also prevalent among the Singphos, an ethnic group inhabiting 200 sq km, including China's Yunnan province. In India, they mostly inhabit the Changlang and Namai districts of Arunachal Pradesh and the Tinsukia district of Assam.

# Sangita Kalanidhi award for vocalist T.M. Krishna

### The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

Carnatic vocalist and Magways Award winner T.M. Krishna has been selected for the Sangita Kalanidhi award of the Music Academy for 2024.

The news about the award was conveyed to Mr. Krishna by N. Murali, president, Music Academy, when the singer was performing, with his wife Sangeetha and students, at the memorial of St. Thyagaraja at Thiruvaiyaru.

The Executive Committee of the Music Academy, at its meeting on Sunday, decided to confer the award on him.

"He has been a top-ranking and extremely talented musician for a long time and truly deserves the award for his music. The Music Academy has thought it fit to confer on

him the award on the basis of sheer excellence in music," said Mr. Murali.

"It is very overwhelming to be chosen for the award and it is a special moment in my life," said Mr. Krishna, who visits the memorial of Thyagaraja once in a year to perform.

Mr. Krishna, a student of Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, said Sangita Kalanidhi was without doubt a very important award in the Carnatic music world.

"It is also humbling because the recipients of the awardees include my teacher Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, T. Brinda, M.S. Subbulakshmi who you admire and look up to for inspiration," said Mr. Krishna, who has penned a book on M.S. Subbulakshmi and history of mridangam makers.

He learnt from Sangita Kala Acharyas Bhagavatula



A file photo of T.M. Krishna (left) and Neena Prasad.

presented to mridhangam player Parasula Ravi (V. Ravendran Nair) and vocalist Geetha Raja.

**Other awards**

TTK Awards will go to Thiruvaiyarthi Brothers S. Narasimhan and S. Venkatesan, who are from a musical lineage that stretches back to Tyagaraja. Another artiste who will get the award is violinist H.K. Prasad.

The Musicologist Award will be given to Margaret Bastin.

This year's Nritya Kalanidhi award will be presented to Neena Prasad. She had her training in Mohiniyattam from Kalamandalam Kshemavati and Kalaraandalam Sugandhi. She learnt Bharatanatyam from Sangita Kala Acharya Adyar K. Ramasamy. K. Krishchipudi from Vempati Chinna Sateyam and Katha-

temer base of the art by taking it to varied social settings and focusing on its exploratory as opposed to tightly defined structures. He has used music as a tool for social reform." a press release from the academy said. Mr. Krishna has received several awards for music, writing and championing social causes.

The Sangita Kala Acharya awards will be

kali from Vembayam Appurthanthi Pillai. She obtained her Ph.D. from Rabindra Bharathi University for her research on *Thiruvaiyaru* dances in South Indian classical dances. She was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship from the University of Surrey.

The Sangita Kalanidhi awardees will preside over the academic sessions of the 98th Annual conference and concert of the Music Academy to be held between December 15, 2024 and January 2025, and will receive the award, together with those selected for the Sangita Kala Acharya, the TTK and the Musicologist awards at the Sadas on January 1, 2025.

The Nritya Kalanidhi award will receive the award at the inauguration of the 98th Annual Dance Festival on January 3, 2025.

# Governor stalls Ponnudiy's return to Cabinet

R.N. Ravi writes to CM Stalin to remind him that the Supreme Court had only suspended the conviction as interim relief and had not set it aside; response comes a day after Law Minister said there would be no issue in the swearing-in of the DMK leader after announcement of the poll schedule

### S. Vijay Kumar CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi has refused to re-induct senior DMK leader and former Higher Education Minister K. Ponnudiy into the Cabinet saying it would be against constitutional morality to do so.

In a letter to Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, Mr. Ravi said it was pertinent to note that the Supreme Court had suspended the

conviction by way of interim relief. Ponnudiy, it only meant that the conviction, though set aside, had been made non-operative and not set aside, sources in the Raj Bhavan told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

The offences for which he would be against constitutional morality to do so.

Mr. Ponnudiy was held guilty for offences relating to corruption that he committed as a public servant. "As he remains tainted by way of interim relief of corruption, re-induction as Minister would be against constitutional morality and hence, I am unable to accede to your request," the sources quoted Mr. Ravi as saying in the letter.

On his return after a



As he remains tainted by way of interim relief of corruption, re-induction as Minister would be against constitutional morality and hence, I am unable to accede to your request, the sources quoted Mr. Ravi as saying in the letter.

three-day visit to Delhi, Mr. Ravi replied to Mr. Stalin's letter requesting time for the swearing-in ceremony of Mr. Ponnudiy.

**Opinion of experts**

He had sought the opinion of legal experts on whether re-inducting him back into the Cabinet would be correct when the conviction was not set aside by the top court.

Mr. Ravi's response comes a day after the State

Law Minister said there would be no issue in the swearing-in of the DMK leader after announcement of the schedule for conducting the Lok Sabha elections.

Mr. Ponnudiy was disqualified as MLA after the Andhra Pradesh High Court sentenced him to three years in jail in a disproportionate assets case in December 2023. The Supreme Court has stayed his conviction and sentence.

### Traditional style WALKERS



Fit checks! Women wearing saris participate in a 'sari run' in Hyderabad on Sunday. The first-of-its-kind event in Hyderabad was organised to encourage women to prioritise fitness. © IMA/MAGNIFIK

# Latin Catholic Church calls for action on 'intolerance'

### G. Anand THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Latin Catholic Church's call for action to create social awareness against increasing attacks on Christians and growing religious intolerance for minorities arguably held attendant electoral ramifications for the duelling political fronts in the run-up to Lok Sabha election in Kerala, especially in the coastal districts.

On Sunday, Metropolitan Archbishop of the Latin Catholic Archdiocese of Trivandrum Thomas J. Nettungal urged the laity to observe prayer and fasting on March 22 as a benign form of protest and social action

against the rising tide of religious bigotry and worsening prejudice against minorities.

The Church's message is arguably a nod to the political narrative that the ascendancy of the Hindu far-right could threaten secularism, democracy, and diversity.

**687 attacks in 2023**

The Archbishop said that the attacks on Christians in Kerala jumped from 47 in 2014 to 687 in 2023.

According to the 2011 census, Latin Catholics constituted 13% of Kerala's Christians (8% of the total population). They remained a crucial electoral

bloc that could sway the prospects of the Left Democratic Front (LDF), the United Democratic Front (UDF), and the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA), especially in Thiruvananthapuram.

The community has rarely behaved as a homogeneous voting bloc, given the level of political fractionalisation, chiefly between the UDF and the LDF. However, the ruling front and the Opposition articulate the Church's increasingly vocal concern over rising far-right majoritarianism might galvanise the minority community into adopting a more uniform voting pattern in the polls.

# BJP has no role in BRS MLC Kavitha's arrest, says Kishan Reddy

### The Hindu Bureau HYDERABAD

Telangana BJP chief and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy has denied any "vendetta politics" behind the arrest of Bharatiya Janata Party Member of Legislative Council Kavitha by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for her alleged role in the now-scrapped Delhi liquor policy case.

A special PMO court on Saturday remanded her in ED custody till March 25.

Mr. Reddy also accused former Chief Minister K. Chandrababhanu Reddy's daughter of having had "dubious liquor deals" with the AAP government in Delhi.

"The ED probe into Ms. Kavitha's business deals has nothing to do with BJP or Telangana people or politics. A CBI investigation team stumbled upon evidence of her role in the illegal liquor business with the Delhi government and money laundering," he said at a press conference on Sunday.

"What is the BRS agitating against? It is shameful that the party is resorting to the burning of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flag when there are belt (liquor) shops everywhere, much to detriment to society," he said.

**KTR's visit**

Meanwhile, BRS leader C.T. Ramesh met Ms. Kavitha at the agency office on Sunday.

While sending Ms. Kavitha to the ED custody, the court had allowed the members to meet her for half an hour every day during the remand period. (With PTI inputs)

# CID launches probe into POCSSO case against Yediyurappa

### Shreeasa H.S. BENGALURU

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has launched a probe into the POCSSO case against the former Karnataka Chief Minister H.S. Yediyurappa.

The Sadashivnagar Police had registered a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 on March 14 based on a complaint by the mother of a 17-year-old girl that Mr. Yediyurappa allegedly molested the girl when they went to his house seeking help. The State government will be recording the case to the CID.

The girl underwent a

medical exam on Friday and Saturday at a private hospital in Bengaluru.

The next step in the process is to record the statement of the victim before a magistrate. Since the complainant is the girl's mother, the victim is yet to make any statement before the authorities. As per procedure, the victim's statement will be recorded before a magistrate very soon, a senior official said.

# JD(S) convenes meeting amid row with BJP over Kolar seat

### The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

As the Kolar Lok Sabha seat has become a bone of contention between the BJP and the Janata Dal (S), the latter has convened an emergency meeting on Monday to discuss the issue.

While the JD(S) had been claiming for over two months that it would get Hassan, Mandya, and Kolar seats as its share in the arrangement between the coalition partners, issues have cropped up in the Kolar, the victim is yet to make any statement before the authorities. As per procedure, the victim's statement will be recorded before a magistrate very soon, a senior official said.

from Bengaluru, for the seat. The development comes a day after the former Chief Minister and senior JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi where the issue reportedly came up for discussion.

**JD(S)'s predicament**

Candidates are yet to be announced for these seats that will go to the polls in the second phase on April 26. If Kolar slips out of the JD(S) hands, it will be left with only two seats to contest, down from the seven it contested in 2019 in all three constituencies.

Former Prime Minister and JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda is expected to speak to the BJP Central leadership.

wamy won the seat in 2019 Lok Sabha election, defeating seven-time BJP and former Minister K.H. Murali yappa. Inghing in the Congress, he had opposed to the alliance with the Congress had made the BJP and the party feels slighted at the move of the BJP State unit in contesting the seat. The JD(S) was asked to prepare only two seats to contest, down from the seven it contested in 2019 in all three constituencies.

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# Kerala to move SC on President withholding her assent to Bills

### K.S. Sudhi KOCHI

Kerala will soon challenge before the Supreme Court the legality of President Droupadi Murmu withholding her assent to the Kerala Legislature.

The President had withheld her assent to the Kerala University Laws (Amendment) No. 29 Bill 2022, University Laws (Amendment) No. 2022, and the University Laws (Amendment) No. 2022 from the seven Bills that were referred to her in November 2022. How often she gave her assent to the Kerala University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2022. The State is yet to hear

about the fate of two other University Law (Amendment) Bills.

The move of the Kerala government will open doors for a Constitutional Droupadi Murmu with judicial review of the decision of the President. The State would contend that the legality of the President's decisions and the factors that influenced them can be judicially reviewed.

The State plans to bring up the issue before the Supreme Court on March 22 when the court considers the writ petition seeking to issue a directive to the Governor to act on the Bills passed by the State Legislature.

# 21 fishermen from Tamil Nadu held by Sri Lankan Navy



Stringent actions: One of the trawlers that were seized by the Sri Lankan Navy on Saturday night. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### The Hindu Bureau RAMESWARAM

The Sri Lankan Navy on Saturday night arrested 21 Tamil Nadu fishermen and impounded two of their trawlers.

According to reports, the Navy personnel on surveillance duty arrested the fishermen near Neduntheevu and took them to the Kankesanthurai port for interrogation. They were held on charges of poaching and crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line.

Fisheries Department officials in Rameswaram said that more than 3,000 fishermen had ventured into the Palk Bay for fishing. The 21 fishermen - 12 in one boat and nine in the second - are likely to be produced before a court in Sri Lanka and sent to judicial custody.

Fisherfolk in Rameswaram, Thangachinadam and Mandapam were alerted to hear about the fresh arrests.

"This [the arrest] has only shown the lackadaisical attitude of the govern-

ments here. They have not redressed our genuine grievances despite several appeals. Only last month, our leaders met Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Chennai and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in New Delhi and submitted memoranda. However, no steps have been taken to protect us..." the fishermen explained.

Fishermen leader P. Jesu Raja told *The Hindu* that the arrest came within a few hours of announcement of the Lok Sabha election dates.

"We don't know where to go and plead now. Our plight is so bad that we want to give up fishing in the Palk Bay. We doubt whether the promises made to us by political leaders [will be fulfilled]," he said.

The Sri Lankan courts had already awarded six months, one-year and two-year jail terms to 500 fishermen. With the model code of conduct come into effect, neither officials nor politicians will take up our case. We are in a helpless situation...." he added.



# Sangita Kalanidhi award for vocalist T.M. Krishna

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

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him the award on the basis of sheer excellence in music,” said Mr. Murali.

“It is very overwhelming to be chosen for the award and it is a special moment in my life,” said Mr. Krishna, who visits the memorial of Thyagaraja once in a year to perform.

Mr. Krishna, a student of Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, said Sangita Kalanidhi was without doubt a very important award in the Carnatic music world.

“It is also humbling because the recipients of the awardees include my teacher Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, T. Brinda, M.S. Subbulakshmi who you admire and look up to for inspiration,” said Mr. Krishna, who has penned a books on M.S. Subbulakshmi and history of mridangam makers.

He learnt from Sangita Kala Acharyas Bhagavatula



A file photo of T.M. Krishna (left) and Neena Prasad.

Seetharama Sarma and Chengalpet Ranganathan before coming under the tutelage of Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer.

## ‘Adherence to tradition’

“Known for his powerful voice and his adherence to tradition when it comes to the art, he has experimented widely with its format. He has also worked towards expanding the lis-

tener base of the art by taking it to varied social settings and focusing on its exploratory as opposed to tightly defined structures. He has used music as a tool for social reform,” a press release from the academy said. Mr. Krishna has received several awards for music, writing and championing social causes.

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The Nritya Kalanidhi awardee will receive the award at the inauguration of the academy’s 18th Annual Dance Festival on January 3, 2025.

Sangeetha Kalanidhi or Sangeeta Kalanidhi or Sangita Kalanidhi (sangeetha = music, kala = art, nidhi = treasure or ocean) is the title awarded yearly to a Carnatic musician by the Madras Music Academy.

From 1929 to 1941, the award did not exist. The idea of the award was conceived in 1942 by the then Academy President KV Krishnaswami Iyer; and on 1 January 1943, all musicians who had presided over the annual conferences between 1929 and 1942 were awarded the title.

This included 2 or 3 past presidents - Palamarneri Swaminatha Iyer (1931), probably Umayalpuram Swaminatha Iyer (1936) and Mangudi Chidambara Bhagavatar (1937) - who were no more, but no posthumous award has been presented since then

# The military's continuing hold over Pakistan

After much waiting, Pakistan's election drama appears to be coming to a head. Shehbaz Khan, Prime Minister for the second time after his Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) joined hands with the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) to form a coalition government. The two parties may claim that they have taken this step to save Pakistan from instability. However, in reality, this is only poised to exacerbate the economic and political chaos. In the days ahead, the new government will have its task cut out to alleviate Pakistan's troubles while also pandering to the military's whims and fancies.

In Pakistan, it is a known secret that the military establishment interferes in the electoral process and selects the *ladla* (a derogatory term for the army-backed prime ministerial candidate). However, the brazenness with which the electoral manipulation has occurred this time has caused widespread anger among people against the army leadership.

Allegations of rigging notwithstanding, the military appears to have achieved its intended objectives without caring much about the people's mandate. This is bound to have implications for not just domestic political stability but also for South Asia.

**The military's interference** Pakistan's history is replete with instances of direct or indirect military interference in domestic politics, including four periods of martial law. This time, the independent candidates backed by Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) won the highest number of National Assembly seats. In 2018, Mr. Khan himself became the Prime Minister of Pakistan with the tacit support of the army. So, it is somewhat ironic that his party is now raising such a hue and cry about the rigging of the elections.

The last purportedly free and fair poll in Pakistan were held in

1970. However, the disastrous consequences of those elections still linger in the memory of the military establishment. Despite various parties, the political erstwhile East Bengal, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League was not allowed to form the government in Islamabad. This spawned a public outcry and eventually caused the breakup of Pakistan in 1971. Since then, the army has seen largely successful in manipulating the electoral mandate and selecting prime ministers. Both domestic and international pressures have so far failed to stop the army from interfering in domestic politics.

The latest arrangement of selecting the prime minister also squarely benefits the military establishment. First, with Mr. Shehbaz Sharif as the 'selected' Prime Minister, it will be easier for the army to control the civilian government. Unlike his elder brother, Nawaz Sharif, Mr. Shehbaz Sharif will not rebel against the military and will likely remain a trusted yes-man in the foreseeable future. Second, he shares good ties with important Western countries, in addition to China and Saudi Arabia. So, though the army is criticised by some countries for interfering in the elections, it will still receive some international support for at least holding general elections and helping form a token civilian government. The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir, is aware that the success of the Special Investment Facilitation Council, his pet project to stabilise the country's economy, depends on external financial support. For that support, any 'selected' government in Islamabad is sufficient to move things forward.

Third, a fractured electoral mandate with no clear majority means that any political party has given enough manoeuvring space to the army to put PML-N and PPP in a politically weak coalition. Considering the sad fate of previous governments in Pakistan, the army is likely to see this as

unlikely to last its five-year term. More importantly, this fractured mandate has already started an ugly power struggle among various parties. The political wrangling will help divert attention from the wrongdoings of the military establishment and put the spotlight on the political class and civilian institutions. Finally, with a 'selected' and weak prime minister in office, General Munir may now plan to seek an extension in November 2025. It is noteworthy that those were the first National Assembly polls under his tenure as the COAS. His responsibility was to ensure a free and fair election in a politically polarised Pakistan — a task at which he failed miserably.

Any rapprochement between Mr. Khan and the military establishment looks unlikely. Hinting at Mr. Khan's style of politics, General Munir said that Pakistan needed "stable hands and a healing touch" to move on from the politics of anarchy and polarisation, which does not suit a progressive country of 250 million people. Ironically, the army's interference in the elections has dashed all hopes of providing a "healing touch" to the people.

**A loss for the people** After a favourable election outcome, the military establishment now feels more emboldened to tighten its grip on Pakistan's civilian and political institutions. Journalists, PTI supporters, human rights activists, and minority communities are increasingly being targeted by state security agencies. Regular internet shutdowns, excessive social media monitoring, and the banning of platforms such as X have become daily occurrences. In his second year as COAS, with a new coalition government in power, General Munir will assert more control over all spheres of governance. As the military establishment wins another political battle by disregarding the public mandate, the ultimate loss is in the population's minds.

# Advancing equitable access to kidney care

Chronic kidney disease is the fifth leading cause of mortality in Tamil Nadu

## STATE OF PLAY

Sakthirajan Ramanathan

World kidney day is celebrated every year on the second Thursday of March. The theme of this year is 'Advancing equitable access to care and optimal medication practice'. The first Department of Nephrology in India was started at the Government General Hospital and the Premier Institute of Madras Medical College in Tamil Nadu in December 1971. The State has crossed many milestones since, including running a successful dialysis programme under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) — only Tamil Nadu and Kerala run a hemodialysis programme at government hospitals without opting for the PPP model — and delivering peritoneal dialysis bags at the doorstep of patients including screening through the Makkalai Theedi Maruthuvam scheme, launched by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in 2021 to provide healthcare at the doorstep of patients including screening, drug delivery, and palliative care for those still a long road towards the goal of ensuring kidney health for all.

## Tamil Nadu

Chronic kidney disease is the fifth leading cause of mortality in Tamil Nadu. This means that Tamil Nadu needs special attention compared to most other States. A recent survey, conducted by the Institute of Nephrology and Institute of Community Medicine, Madras Medical College, estimated chronic kidney disease to be prevalent in 8.4% of the adult population of Tamil Nadu. 0.3% will require dialysis immediately. With diabetes and hypertension increasing in the population, the number

of chronic kidney disease will only increase. This will impact not only the health of the people, but also the economy. Every year, the Tamil Nadu government spends more than ₹100 crore for hemodialysis alone for the CMCHIS; this is the highest amount being spent on one disease.

The need of the hour is to check blood creatinine levels to assess kidney function and use the dipstick method to check whether there is excess protein in urine among high-risk population, in primary care. Further, the people of Tamil Nadu are also prone to chronic kidney disease of unknown origin. This is still an enigma as it is more common among people working in agriculture, salt pans, brick kilns, and other industries which require outdoor activity. A high number of people are involved in agricultural activities in Tamil Nadu, so they should be prone to this. Though there are symptoms for every disease, unfortunately, chronic kidney disease, much like diabetes and hypertension, is a silent disease that remains asymptomatic and warrants a screening programme, which should be included in screenings for non-communicable diseases.

The State government has devised a mechanism to ensure that there are more speciality doctors in government-run hospitals. There is internal reservation for these

working in primary health centres and government hospitals to pursue speciality medicine. Though Tamil Nadu has the highest number of super-specialists (900 doctors across various disciplines) in government hospitals, it has qualified nephrologists in only 20 medical colleges. Nearly half these have only one specialist. A disease with a prevalence of 8.4% needs at least one specialist nephrologist in every medical college. Further, end-stage kidney disease can be prevented if appropriate treatment is given at various stages of chronic kidney disease (classified as stage 1 to 5). This will save opportunity cost.

The government has done commendable work through the Makkalai Theedi Maruthuvam scheme by delivering medicines, medicines, and hypertension at the doorsteps of individuals above 45 years of age. There are strengthened further to include drugs for chronic kidney disease. All more common communicable diseases need lifelong medication. This and other non-communicable diseases are the most expensive, as the direct cost of travel and wage cost for people to get the drug on a specified day, but also ensure good adherence to the drug.

Mr. Stalin has been emphasising that health and education are the two cornerstones of a government following the Pravidhan motto. There has to be assured reasonable steps in every corner to achieve health and education. With diabetes and hypertension, chronic kidney disease is a disease that has to be assured kidney health for all.

Sakthirajan Ramanathan is Senior Assistant Professor of Nephrology, Madras Medical College.

# No major change in employment status or wages in 10 years

A report by Bahuva Karnataka says that the share of self-employed workers increased, while the share of those in formal employment remained low

**DATA POINT**

**The Hindu Data Team**

In March 11, Bahuva Karnataka, a forum for concerned citizens and organisations, released a report titled 'Employment, Wages and Inequality', at the Press Club, Bengaluru. The report analyses the trends in various employment-related indicators in the last decade, ever since the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) came to power, including employment formalisation of jobs, and improvement in wages.

As the general elections draw near, the report also examines the progress of the NDA's employment-related initiatives. In April 2019, for instance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi claimed that 25 crore jobs have been added annually. Data reveal that the share of formal employment with social security and other advantages attached to it has remained stagnant. On the other hand, the number of self-employed individuals has increased substantially. Further, while wage earnings have increased when adjusted for inflation, the increase is negligible.

The stagnation is reflected in the share of households earning less than the national floor level minimum wage (NFLMW). About 44% of households in India earned less than the proposed NFLMW of ₹375 a day. Further, wage inequality has resulted in widening the gap between the rich and the poor. In 2022, the top 1% and 10% of the population held 22% and 57% of the national income, respectively, while the bottom 50% held 12.7%, according to data from the World Inequality Database.

**Chart 1** compares the share of employment across various employment categories in 2011-12 and 2022-23 for men and women. Data show that the share of employment in the formal sector remained below 25%. The share of

those who were self-employed remained above 50% by 2022-23. While the share of self-employed women was the highest, it also saw the highest growth of 8% points from 56.5% in 2011-12 to 64.3% in 2022-23. According to the report, between 2011-12 and 2022-23, women doing unpaid labour in their family business or farming rose from one in four to one in three due to lack of other remunerative employment and stagnant household earnings.

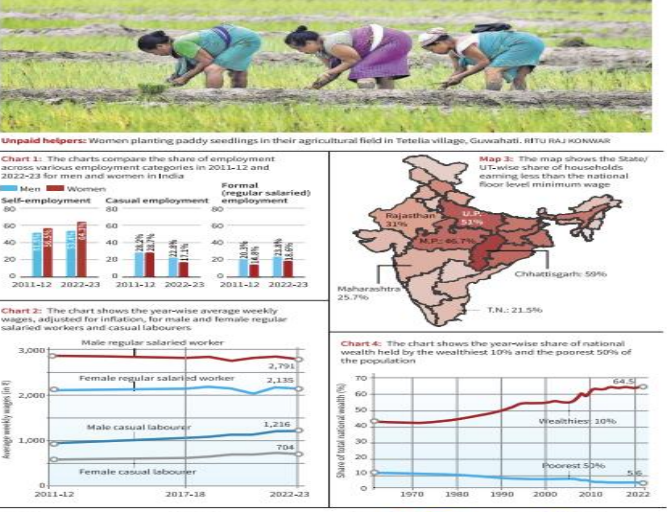
**Chart 2** shows the year-wise average weekly wages, adjusted for inflation, for male and female regular salaried workers and casual labourers. Data show there has not been any significant growth in income in the last five years across employment categories.

Further, many households still earn less than the NFLMW (Map 3). In 2019, an expert committee set up by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, recommended that the NFLMW should be at least ₹375 per day and ₹3,050 per week. Of the 34 States and Union Territories (UTs) analysed, in about 19 of them, more than 20% earned less than ₹375 a day or less than ₹3,050 a week in 2022-23. In Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh, above 50% of the households earned less than this threshold. The report adds that nearly 90 crore workers make less than the minimum wage.

The stagnancy in income growth among the majority of the population, when juxtaposed with hints at a widening gap between the rich and poor. In the last 10 years, GDP per capita increased by 60%, while close to 35% of the total households earned less than the NFLMW. The share of national wealth held by the wealthiest 10% of the population increased from 63% in 2012 to 64.5% in 2022, while the share held by the poorest 50% reduced further from 6% in 2012 to 5.6% in 2022 (**Chart 4**). The chart shows the year-wise wealth share of the top 10% and the bottom 50% of the population.

## Employment check

The charts were sourced from the report titled, 'Employment, Wages and Inequality', published by Bahuva Karnataka



## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 18, 1974

### Malaysia and Singapore hold differing views on peace zone idea

Kuala Lumpur, March 17: Following up the recent statement of the Malaysian Government in support of the call to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace, official sources here believe that the principle should be reiterated regardless of whether the United States with its East-West confrontation, in the Indian Ocean. Singapore, on the other hand, sees it as a problem of small power confrontation in its region. In the event of its relations deteriorating with Malaysia or Indonesia or both to the point of escalation, Singapore feels that it must have dependable ways of safeguarding its commercial sea lanes without which it cannot survive. Non-aligned and maritime nations may feel that the Indian Ocean must be non-aligned not only as between the super powers but among themselves, unless a peace zone also means agreement among its sponsors that they will themselves proceed with a view to keeping the peace among themselves, small States like Singapore have nowhere to go for support in an emergency. This is the Strait of Malacca have come to be crucial to Singapore's thinking on the region. Indonesia and Malaysia claim the Straits as part of their territorial waters.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 18, 1924

### Empire trade in the east

London, March 17: In the Commons today, replying to Mr. Neillins, Mr. Ammon stated that the aggregate value of the Empire trade in 1922 in eastern waters east of Africa was £100 million pounds while the cost of maintenance of the Empire squadrons including ships of dominion navies in Eastern Waters and the Pacific was £3,542,000.

# *No major change in employment status or wages in 10 years*

A report by Bahutva Karnataka shows that the share of self-employed workers increased, while the share of those in formal employment remained low

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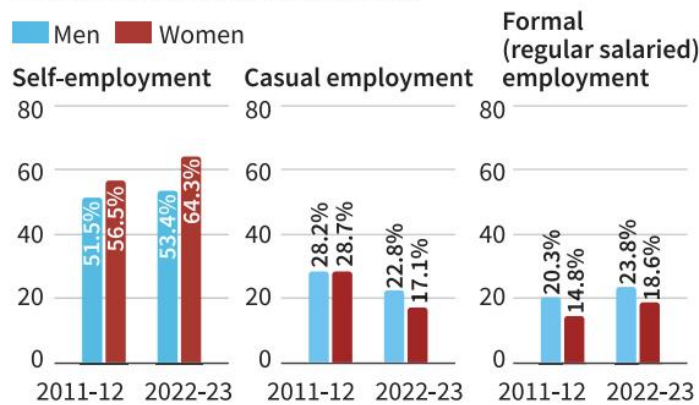
# Employment check

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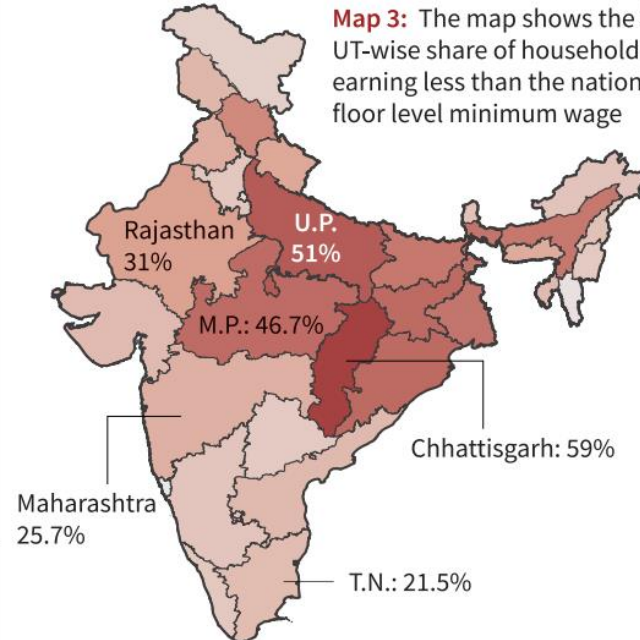
**Unpaid helpers:** Women planting paddy seedlings in their agricultural field in Tetelia village, Guwahati. RITU RAJ KONWAR

**Chart 1:** The charts compare the share of employment across various employment categories in 2011-12 and 2022-23 for men and women in India

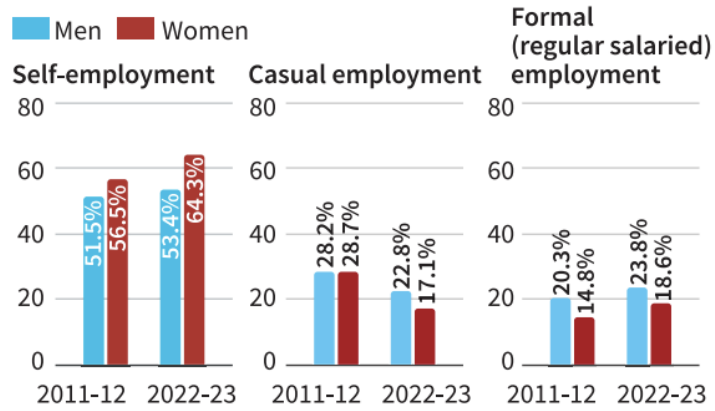


**Chart 2:** The chart shows the year-wise average weekly wages, adjusted for inflation, for male and female regular salaried workers and casual labourers

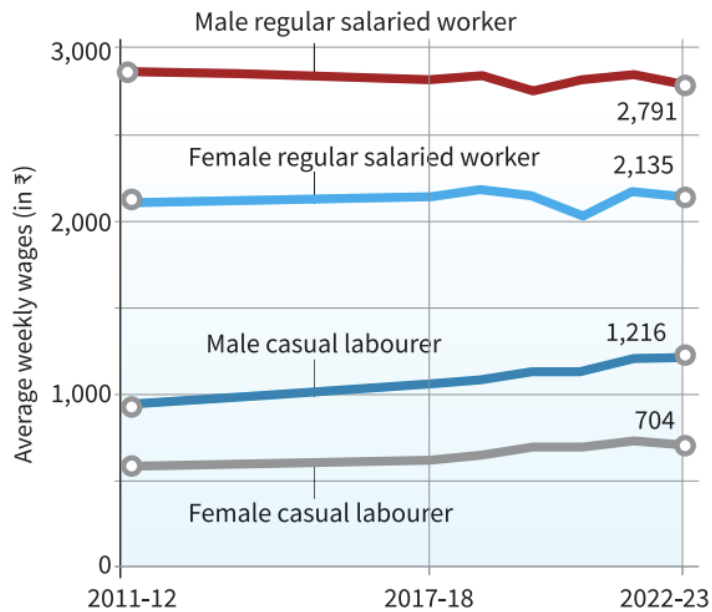
**Map 3:** The map shows the State/UT-wise share of households earning less than the national floor level minimum wage



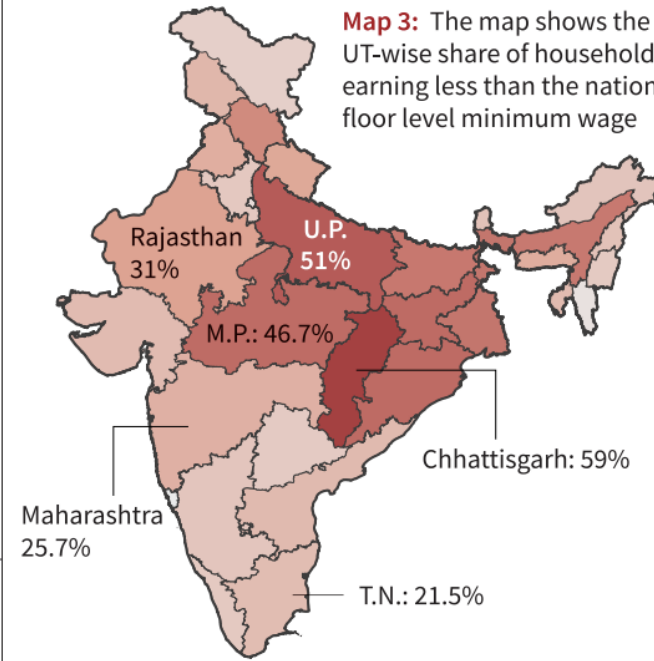
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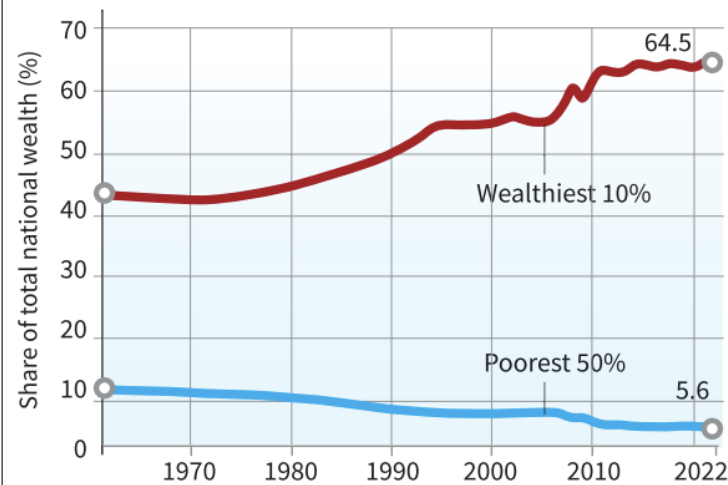
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**Chart 4:** The chart shows the year-wise share of national wealth held by the wealthiest 10% and the poorest 50% of the population



## LASHKAR GAN

### 21 killed in accident involving bus, tanker, and scooter in Afghanistan



At least 21 persons were killed and 38 injured on Sunday when a bus collided with a fuel tanker truck and burst into flames in southern Afghanistan. Officials said that a bike was also involved in the accident. The accident occurred in the early hours on a highway that sees traffic between Herat and capital Kabul. AFP

## TEHRAN

### Iran inks deals worth \$13 billion with domestic oil companies



Iran on Sunday sealed contracts worth billions of dollars with domestic companies to boost its oil production in the face of Western sanctions. The deals worth \$13 billion will increase daily oil production in six major fields and add 3,50,000 barrels per day to the country's daily production of oil. AFP

## SEOUL

### Blinken arrives in South Korea to attend democracy summit



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived on Sunday in South Korea on the first stop of a brief Asia tour also including the Philippines. Mr. Blinken landed on Sunday afternoon ahead of the third Summit for Democracy on Monday, an initiative of U.S. President Joe Biden, which Seoul is hosting this week. AFP

## GOMA

### Eight UN troops wounded as fighting escalates in DR Congo



Clashes have broken out between government forces and M23 rebels leaving eight UN peacekeepers injured after a brief lull in fighting in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the United Nations said. One of the peacekeepers was "gravely wounded" in the attack on Saturday at Sake, a UN official said. AFP

## Putin poised to rule Russia after an election with no other real choices

Early results after counting ballots from 24% of the precincts showed that Putin garnered 88% of the vote; three-day poll happened in a tightly controlled environment where no criticism of the Russian President or Ukraine war was allowed

Associated Press

Russian President Vladimir Putin is poised to extend his nearly quarter century of rule for six more years after a relentless crackdown on dissent — and early returns announced after polls closed in Russia showed he had nearly 88% of the vote with 24% of the precincts counted, according to Russia's Central Election Commission.

The three-day election that began on Friday has taken place in a tightly controlled environment where no public criticism of Mr. Putin or his war in Ukraine is allowed.

Mr. Putin's fiercest political foe, Alexei Navalny, died in an Arctic prison last month, and other critics are either in jail or in exile.

Navalny's associates have urged those unhappy with Mr. Putin or the war to protest by coming to a rally at noon on Sunday, a strategy endorsed by Navalny shortly before his death. Team Navalny de-



Close scrutiny: People queue outside a polling station during Russia's presidential election in Moscow on Sunday. AFP

scribed it as a success, releasing pictures and videos of people crowding near polling stations in various cities across Russia around noon.

The 71-year-old Russian leader faces three token rivals from Kremlin-friendly parties who have refrained from any criticism of his 24-year rule or his full-scale invasion of Ukraine two years ago. Mr. Putin has boasted of Russian battlefield successes in the run-up to the vote, but a massive Ukrainian drone attack across Russia early on Sunday sent a reminder of challenges faced by Moscow.

The Russian Defence Ministry reported downing

35 Ukrainian drones overnight, including four near the Russian capital.

Voting took place over three days at polling stations across the vast country's 11 time zones, in illegally annexed regions of Ukraine and online. While polls closed Sunday night in Russia, voting continued at some embassies around the world.

Cases of vandalism Despite tight controls, several dozen cases of vandalism at polling stations were reported.

Authorities in Russia have detained some 74 people across the country for protest actions linked to the presidential election.

## 'Ground operations in Kyiv are possible at some point'

Agence France-Presse  
Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron said in an interview published on Saturday evening that Western ground operations in Ukraine might be necessary "at some point", days after meeting with German and Polish leaders.

Last month Mr. Macron refused to rule out putting troops on the ground in Ukraine, which prompted a stern response from Berlin and other European partners.

But the French President has not recanted from his position, but stressed that Western allies would not take the initiative.

"Maybe at some point — I don't want it, I won't take the initiative — we will have to have operations on the



(from left) Emmanuel Macron, Olaf Scholz and Donald Tusk at a press conference at the Chancellery in Berlin on Friday. AFP

ground, whatever they may be, to counter the Russian forces," Macron told newspaper *Le Parisien* in an interview conducted on Friday.

"France's strength is that we can do it".

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz reacted angrily to Mr. Macron's earlier refusal to rule out sending troops to Ukraine and his pointed

comments urging allies not to be "cowards".

Mr. Macron met his German and Polish counterparts in Berlin on Friday, in a show of solidarity behind Kyiv.

After the meeting, Macron said the three countries of the so-called Weimer Triangle were "united" in their aim to "never let Russia win".

## EU and Egypt agree to a €7.4-billion deal on energy, migration

Agence France-Presse  
CAIRO

The EU chief and five European leaders visited cash-strapped Egypt on Sunday to announce a €7.4 billion financial package focused on boosting energy trade and stemming irregular migrant flows to the 27-member bloc.

The deal will include billions in credit over coming years for highly indebted Egypt, and stepping up energy sales that could help Europe "move further away from Russian gas", said a senior European Commission official.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen — who was joined by the leaders of Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Greece and Italy — met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi ahead of the scheduled signing ceremony.

**Split-up of funds** The Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership agreement includes five billion euros in loans over four years, 1.8 billion euros in investment and hundreds of millions for bilateral projects including on migration.

Egypt, mired in a painful economic crisis, borders war-battered Libya

and the centres of two ongoing conflicts — the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip and Sudan's war between the regular armed forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

**Haven for refugees** Egypt already hosts around nine million migrants and refugees, including four million Sudanese and 1.5 million Syrians, according to the UN's International Organization for Migration.

The EU official said the deal includes steps to cooperate on "security, counter-terrorism cooperation and protection of borders, in particular the southern one" with Sudan.

The Gaza Strip "will not be the main focus, but will be part of the discussion" in Cairo, the official added.

The delegation included three Mediterranean leaders — Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, her Greek counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis and Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides.

The agreement follows several controversial deals the EU has sealed in northern Africa — with Libya, Tunisia and Mauritania — to stem the flow of migrant migrants across the Mediterranean Sea.



EU chief Ursula von der Leyen and Egypt President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi at the Presidential Palace in Cairo on Sunday. AP

## Rome-runners



Contestants run by the Colosseum during the Rome Marathon on Sunday. Three activists from climate movement Last Generation briefly interrupted the marathon before the police arrested them. The group has called for creation of a reparations fund worth €20 billion. AFP

## UNICEF chief says Haiti situation resembles chaos of Mad Max

Agence France-Presse  
UNITED NATIONS

The UN children's agency chief offered a dire assessment Sunday of the chaotic situation in Haiti, saying it was "almost like a scene out of *Mad Max*," which depicted a violent and lawless post-apocalyptic future.

"Haiti is a horrific situation," UNICEF executive director Catherine Russell told CBS talk show *Face the Nation*.

"Many, many people there are suffering from serious hunger and malnutrition and we are not able to get enough aid to them," with gangs controlling large parts of capital Port-



Hoarding misery: Children line up to receive a plate of food at a shelter for families displaced by gang violence in Port-au-Prince. AP

au-Prince as well as key roads leading elsewhere.

The situation is "the worst that anyone has seen in decades," she said. "It's almost like a scene out of *Mad Max*. That's

basic services," a recent United Nations report warned.

**Shipment looted** The challenges facing foreign aid workers — some of whom have been attacked or kidnapped for ransom — were underlined on Saturday when gangs looted a UNICEF shipment intended to provide relief for suffering mothers and children.

As life grows more difficult for Haitians and foreigners, the US Embassy said Saturday it was organizing a charter flight to evacuate its citizens from Haiti. Non-essential embassy staff were evacuated six days earlier.

## Netanyahu vows not to stop despite U.S. criticism of Gaza war

Associated Press  
TEL AVIV

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rallied on Sunday against growing criticism from the United States against his leadership amid the devastating war with Hamas, saying the pressure will not stop Israel from achieving "total victory".

In recent days, top officials from the U.S., Israel's staunchest ally which has provided key military and diplomatic support, have publicly voiced their frustration with Mr. Netanyahu, U.S. President Joe Biden accused Mr. Netanyahu of hurting Israel because of the huge civilian death toll in Gaza.

**Call for Israel polls** U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, the highest-ranking Jewish official in the country and an Israeli supporter, called on Israel to hold a new election, saying Mr. Netanyahu had "lost his way." Mr. Biden expressed support for the call, but Mr. Schumer's "good speech."

The U.S. also has expressed concerns about a planned Israeli assault on Rafah, where about 1.4 million displaced Palestinians are sheltering, and support for a new round of talks aimed at securing a ceasefire and a UNICEF shipment intended to provide relief for suffering mothers and children.

As life grows more difficult for Haitians and foreigners, the US Embassy said Saturday it was organizing a charter flight to evacuate its citizens from Haiti. Non-essential embassy staff were evacuated six days earlier.

**Chuck Schumer, the Jewish official and an Israel supporter, had said that the Israeli PM had 'lost his way'.**

he had no plan to back down from the fighting that has killed more than 31,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials. More than five months have passed since Hamas's attack on southern Israel killed 1,200 people and left another 250 hostage in Gaza.

Mr. Netanyahu said that calls for an election now — which polls show he would lose badly — would force Israel to stop fighting and would paralyze the country for six months.

"If we stop the war now, before all of its goals are achieved, this means that Israel — will have lost the war, and this we will not allow," he said.

While the international criticism was mainly directed at Mr. Netanyahu and his leadership, his statement painted it as a broader attack on Israel.

**Rafah attack imminent** "No international pressure will stop us from realizing all of the goals of the war: Eliminating Hamas, freeing all of our hostages and ensuring that Gaza never again constitutes a threat to Israel," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu also reiterated his determination to attack Hamas in Rafah and said that his government approved military plans for such an operation. "We will operate in Rafah. This will take several weeks, and it will happen," he said.

**SEOUL**

## Blinken arrives in South Korea to attend democracy summit



AFP

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# EU and Egypt agree to a €7.4-billion deal on energy, migration

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The deal will include billions in credit over coming years for highly indebted Egypt, and stepping up energy sales that could help Europe “move further away from Russian gas”, said a senior European Commission official.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen – who was joined by the leaders of Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Greece and Italy – met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi ahead of the scheduled signing ceremony.

**Split up of funds**

and the centres of two ongoing conflicts – the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip and Sudan’s war between the regular armed forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

## **Haven for refugees**

Egypt already hosts around nine million migrants and refugees, including four million Sudanese and 1.5 million Syrians, according to the UN’s International Organization for Migration.

The EU official said the deal includes steps to cooperate on “security, counter-terrorism cooperation and protection of borders, in particular the southern one” with Sudan.

The Gaza Strip “will not be the main focus but will be part of the discussion” in Cairo, the official added.

The delegation included three Mediterranean leaders – Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, her Greek



<b>Capital and largest city</b>	Cairo  <span>30°2′N 31°13′E</span>
<b>Official languages</b>	Arabic <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>National language</b>	Egyptian Arabic <sup>[a]</sup>
<b>Religion</b>	See <i>Religion in Egypt</i> <sup>[b]</sup>
<b>Demonym(s)</b>	Egyptian
<b>Government</b>	Unitary semi-presidential republic under an authoritarian regime <sup>[6][7][8][9][10]</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>President</b></li> <li>• <b>Prime Minister</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abdel Fattah el-Sisi</li> <li>Moustafa Madbouly</li> </ul>
<b>Legislature</b>	Parliament
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Upper house</b></li> <li>• <b>Lower house</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senate</li> <li>House of Representatives</li> </ul>

## Establishment

- **Unification of Upper and Lower Egypt**<sup>[11][12]</sup> c. 3150 BC
- **Muhammad Ali dynasty** inaugurated 9 July 1805<sup>[13]</sup>
- **Independence from United Kingdom** 28 February 1922
- **Revolution Day** 23 July 1952
- **Republic declared** 18 June 1953
- **Current constitution** 18 January 2014

## Area

- **Total** 1,010,408<sup>[14][15]</sup> km<sup>2</sup> (390,121 sq mi) (29th)
- **Water (%)** 0.632

## Population

- 2023<sup>[16]</sup> estimate 110,000,000 (15th)
- 2017<sup>[17]</sup> census 94,798,827
- **Density** 103.56/km<sup>2</sup> (268.2/sq mi) (118th)

## GDP (PPP)

- **Total** ▲ \$1.809 trillion<sup>[18]</sup> (18th)
- **Per capita** ▲ \$17,123<sup>[18]</sup> (93rd)

## GDP (nominal)

- **Total** ▼ \$398.397 billion<sup>[18]</sup> (38th)
- **Per capita** ▼ \$3,770<sup>[18]</sup> (127th)

## Gini (2017)

▼ 31.5<sup>[19]</sup>  
medium

## HDI (2021)

— 0.731<sup>[20]</sup>  
high (97th)

## Currency

Egyptian pound (LE/E£/£E) (EGP)

- **Recently, the Indian Prime Minister (PM) has visited Egypt for the first time since 1997 to discuss bilateral relations between India and Egypt.**
- **The Government of Egypt bestowed the highest honor of the land — the Order of the Nile — on the PM.**
- **Note: Instituted in 1915, the ‘Order of the Nile’ is conferred upon heads of states, crown princes, and vice presidents who offer Egypt or humanity invaluable services.**



- **Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs):** Three MoUs were signed between India and Egypt in the fields of agriculture, archaeology and antiquities, and competition law, aiming to enhance cooperation in these areas.

-

- **Egypt's Participation in G-20 Summit:** Egypt was designated as a "guest country" at the upcoming G-20 summit scheduled to be held in September, further strengthening bilateral ties between India and Egypt.
- **Al-Hakim Mosque:** Indian Prime Minister visited the 11<sup>th</sup>-century Al-Hakim Mosque in Cairo, which was restored by India's Dawoodi Bohra community.
-

- **The mosque was built in 1012 and is the fourth oldest mosque in Cairo. The Dawoodi Bohra Muslims are known for their adherence to the Fatimi Ismaili Tayyibi school of thought and originated from Egypt before establishing a presence in India in the 11th century.**

- **Ashoka's edicts refer to his relations with Egypt under Ptolemy-II. In modern times, Mahatma Gandhi and the Egyptian revolutionary Saad Zaghloul shared the common goal of independence from British colonial rule.**
- **The first joint special forces exercise between the Indian Army and the Egyptian Army, "Exercise Cyclone-I" was completed in January 2023 in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.**



- **Bilateral Trade:**

- **India's trade with Egypt stood at USD 6,061 million in 2022-23, having declined by 17% over the previous year.**
  - **Nearly a third of it was petroleum related.**
- **India was Egypt's sixth largest trading partner, while Egypt was India's 38th in 2022-23.**
- **Indian investments in Egypt are spread over 50 projects totalling USD 3.15 billion. Egypt has invested USD 37 million in India.**

-

# UNICEF chief says Haiti situation resembles chaos of *Mad Max*

**Agence France-Presse**

UNITED NATIONS

The UN children's agency chief offered a dire assessment Sunday of the chaotic situation in Haiti, saying it was "almost like a scene out of *Mad Max*," which depicted a violent and lawless post-apocalyptic future.

"Haiti is a horrific situation," UNICEF executive director Catherine Russell told CBS talk show *Face the Nation*.

"Many, many people there are suffering from serious hunger and malnutrition and we are not able to get enough aid to them," with gangs controlling large parts of capital Port-



**Mourning misery:** Children line up to receive a plate of food at a shelter for families displaced by gang violence in Port-au-Prince. AP

au-Prince as well as key roads leading elsewhere.

The situation is "the worst that anyone has seen in decades," she said.

"It's almost like a scene out of *Mad Max*. That's

what it seems like," Ms. Russell said of the 1979 film.

Haiti, already hit by drought, natural disaster and weak government, has seen "the near-collapse of

basic services," a recent United Nations report warned.

## **Shipment looted**

The challenges facing foreign aid workers – some of whom have been attacked or kidnapped for ransom – were underlined on Saturday when gangs looted a UNICEF shipment intended to provide relief for suffering mothers and children.

As life grows more difficult for Haitians and foreigners, the US Embassy said Saturday it was organizing a charter flight to evacuate its citizens from Haiti. Non-essential embassy staff were evacuated six days earlier.



THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THE MAD

1000 HORROR KIDS BLOOD BILLYS  
TOM HARDY CHARLIZE THERON

# MAD MAX FURY ROAD



IN CINEMAS SOON

SEE IT IN 2D & 3D



Edited by  
Siner Lemos



<b>Area</b>	
• Total	27,750 <sup>[10]</sup> km <sup>2</sup> (10,710 sq mi) (143rd)
• Water (%)	0.7
<b>Population</b>	
• 2023 estimate	11,470,261 <sup>[11]</sup> (83rd)
• Density	382/km <sup>2</sup> (989.4/sq mi) (32nd)
<b>GDP (PPP)</b>	2023 estimate
• Total	<span>▲</span> \$38.952 billion <sup>[12]</sup> (144th)
• Per capita	<span>▲</span> \$3,185 <sup>[12]</sup> (174th)
<b>GDP (nominal)</b>	2023 estimate
• Total	<span>▲</span> \$25.986 billion <sup>[12]</sup> (139th)
• Per capita	<span>▲</span> \$2,125 <sup>[12]</sup> (172nd)
<b>Gini</b> (2012)	41.1 <sup>[13]</sup> medium
<b>HDI</b> (2021)	<span>▼</span> 0.535 <sup>[14]</sup> low (163rd)
<b>Currency</b>	Gourde (G) (HTG)
<b>Time zone</b>	UTC−5 (EST)
• Summer (DST)	UTC−4 (EDT)

<b>Capital</b> and largest city	Port-au-Prince <span><span><span></span></span></span> 18°32′N 72°20′W
<b>Official languages</b>	French Haitian Creole
<b>Ethnic groups</b>	95% Black 5% Mixed or White <sup>[4]</sup>
<b>Religion</b> (2020) <sup>[5]</sup>	87.0% Christianity 10.7% no religion 2.1% folk religions 0.2% others
<b>Demonym(s)</b>	Haitian
<b>Government</b>	Unitary semi-presidential republic under an interim government
• President	Ariel Henry (acting) <sup>[6][7][8]</sup>
• Prime Minister	Michel Patrick Boisvert (acting) <sup>[a][9]</sup>
<b>Legislature</b>	National Assembly <sup>[b]</sup>
• Upper house	Senate <sup>[b]</sup>
• Lower house	Chamber of Deputies <sup>[b]</sup>
<b>Independence</b> from France	
• Declared	1 January 1804
• Recognized	17 April 1825
• First Empire	22 September 1804
• Southern Republic	9 March 1806
• Northern State	17 October 1806
• Kingdom	28 March 1811
• Unification of Hispaniola	9 February 1822
• Dissolution	27 February 1844
• Second Empire	26 August 1849
• Republic	15 January 1859
• United States occupation	28 July 1915 – 1 August 1934
• Current constitution	29 March 1987

## 'Women gig workers on the road to financial security'



**Fast back:** The women riders earn \$10,000 a month on an average and additional income from extra trips. FILE PHOTO

T. E. Raja Simhan

Kamala (name changed) delivered a cake in her first assignment with a food delivery platform. The 25-year-old Chennai resident says she is excited to take up her new job as a delivery executive. "I have two daughters and my husband owns an auto. I love riding a two-wheeler; delivering items will help me earn a few thousand rupees a month," she says.

More and more women like Kamala are joining the last-mile delivery service, zipping through the streets on bikes to deliver food and other packages to customers across the city. The riders earn \$10,000 a month on average, with additional income dependent on any extra trips they can manage each day.

Of the estimated 10-12 lakh delivery riders across sectors like e-commerce, food delivery, and quick commerce, nearly 80,000 are women, says Yeshab Giri, Chief Commercial Officer, Operational Talent Solutions, at leading HR company Randstad India. "Though there is a huge gap between the number of male and female riders, hiring of women in the sector is increasing by 30-35% every year due to the improved work safety in operations and higher compensation, Mr. Giri says. "With our female delivery partner onboarding programme, over 2,000 inspiring women leverage our platform to participate in, and earn from last-mile deliveries," says Rakesh Ranjan, CEO, Food Delivery, Zamato.

(The writer is with *The Hindu Businessline*)

# Rolls-Royce rolls out the 'most complex clock face' in its history

Luxury carmaker unveiled Arcadia, the third custom-made 'Coachbuild Droptail' in the world, recently. Assembly took five months and the wood sections took 8,000 hours to create, according to the company. Droptail is said to be the first roadster body style in Rolls-Royce's modern history

NEWS ANALYSIS

S. Ronendra Singh

You can see, but you can't touch it! It was an exclusive 'Coachbuild' preview of the latest Rolls-Royce Motor Cars model for just a few of us from around the world, before the magnificent piece of art was to be handed over to a multi-billionaire client in the evening.

At a private ceremony in the Flower Field Hall at Gardens by the Bay, Singapore, the Coachbuild masterpiece was kept under wraps until some detailing and presentation was to be made. And, the wait of a few minutes before it was unwrapped was worthwhile.

The company presented the "Arcadia", the third Coachbuild Droptail commission - a uniquely pure reflection of Droptail's principal design, featuring the most complex clock face in Rolls-Royce history.

The assembly alone took five months, wood sections took 8,000 hours to create before the Arcadia emerged. Droptail is the first roadster body style in Rolls-Royce's modern history, the company said.

"The Rolls-Royce Arcadia Droptail demonstrates the true nature of a Coachbuild proposition in completely transforming the



**Bespoke luxury:** At a private ceremony in Singapore, the Coachbuild masterpiece was kept under wraps until some detailing and presentation was to be made. SMPK/ALAN WONG/GETTY

character of a motor car. With Arcadia Droptail we witness daring in minimalism and subtlety, informed by the lifestyle of an individual who has a unique appreciation for British luxury." Anders Warming, Design Director of the company said at the unveiling.

Presenting the Arcadia, he said in creating this historic motor car, "we once again prove our peerless abilities in synthesising and executing bespoke design at its highest level."

This coachbuild commission takes its name from the mythical realm of Arcadia, a place depicted in Ancient Greek mythology as 'Heaven on Earth' - a land renowned for its natural beauty and perfect harmony. Like the haven that inspires its name, Arcadia Droptail was envisioned by the client as a refuge from the complexities of their business life, the company said. The company has programmes called Bespoke and Coachbuild, wherein the designers, engineers and staff at Rolls-Royce work together with the client from day one, to build such models.

The U.K.-based company says that every Rolls-Royce that leaves the Home of Rolls-Royce at Goodwood includes some Bespoke elements. These range from subtle but significant touches - an individual exterior colour that evokes childhood memories or the client's initials embroidered on the headrests - to highly complex artworks requiring months or years of design and technical development.

## Floored by tradition



**Tiles to go:** An employee takes tiles out from the oven at Tuilerie de Niderviller, an artisan tile-maker, in Niderviller, north eastern France. More than 200 years old, the factory is the last traditional tiler in Lorraine, operating with machinery dating back to 1928 in an approach to preserving heritage.

## Kolkata port gearing up for ₹800-cr. container berth upgrade

Mithun Dasgupta

In an ambitious endeavour, Swarna Prasad Mukherjee Port, Kolkata (SMPK), plans to reconstruct and mechanise two container berths at the Netaji Subhas Dock of the Kolkata Dock System (KDS) within two years.

SMPK aims to award the ₹800-plus crore public-private partnership (PPP) projects in the next three months.

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways had earlier this month approved the projects for the re-construction of berth No. 8 and the mechanisation of berth No. 7 and 8 at the Netaji Subhas Dock.

The foundation stone



Rathendra Raman

for the project was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 1, 2024.

**Shorter wait for ships** "The projects for the reconstruction and mechanisation of berths at Netaji Subhas Dock of Kolkata Dock System are a part of the government's drive to enhance container and cargo handling capacity

and further mechanisation of SMPK," said SMPK chairman Rathendra Raman.

Tender for the projects has already been floated. We are looking to complete the process and award the projects within the next 3 months," he added.

The projects will be executed on a 'design, build, finance, operate and transfer' (DBFOT) mode.

Prior to the completion of the projects, the container handling capacity of berth No. 8 at Netaji Subhas Dock will stand at 0.48 million TEUs. Later, it can go up to 0.78 million TEU. Under this project, three rail-mounted quay cranes (RMQCs) will be installed.

It will increase the detention

time of ships at the dock and increase efficiency," said Mr. Raman.

**Sagamala projects** Comprising two dock systems, KDS and Haldia Dock Complex (HDC), SMPK, formerly known as Kolkata Port Trust, currently has a combined cargo handling capacity of about 7 million tonnes (MT).

The authorities plan to increase the combined capacity to 15 MT by 2030 through PPP projects. Three projects, worth ₹733 crore, have been awarded, while the rest, cumulatively worth about ₹5,200 crore, are in the pipeline.

(The writer is with *The Hindu Businessline*)

## Young Chinese again want to study abroad, just not in the U.S.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Families in Shanghai usually don't want to send their daughters to a place where guns are not banned — that was the primary reason, Ms. Wong said. "Between the U.S. and the U.K., the U.K. is safer, and that's the biggest consideration for my parents."

With an interest in studying abroad rebounding after the pandemic, there are signs that the decades-long run that has sent an estimated 3 million Chinese students to the U.S. is ending. The country's brightest, could be trending down, as geopolitical shifts redefine U.S.-China relations.

"International education is a bridge," said Paula Aw, executive director of the NAFSA Association of International Educators, who are the business entrepreneurs of the future. "Cutting people-to-people exchanges could have a lasting impact on relations between the two countries."

Ms. Aw said the U.S. government has sidelined English education, hyped gun violence in the U.S., and portrayed the U.S. as a declining power.

Attention, because China-U.S. relations are very important." Ms. Aw said the decrease is more notable in U.S. undergraduate programs to a declining population in China from low birth rates and strained U.S.-China relations, more regional educational centers in Asia and the high costs of a U.S. education.

But graduate programs have not been spared. Zheng Yi, an associate professor of mechanical and industrial engineering at Northeastern University in Boston, has seen the number of Chinese applicants to one of the school's engineering programs shrink to single digits, compared with 20 to 30 students before the pandemic.



**Fear psychosis:** The Chinese government has sidelined English education, hyped gun violence in the U.S., and portrayed the U.S. as a declining power. AP

He said the warning in the U.S. could be partly due to China's growing patriotism that nudges students to attend Chinese institutes instead.

**'Here to stay'** Andrew Chen, CEO of Pittsburgh-based Whole Ren Education, which has advised Chinese students in the U.S. for the past 14 years, said the downward trend is here to stay. "This is not a periodic wave," he said. "This is a new era."

The Chinese government has sidelined English education in the U.S., and portrayed the U.S. as a declining power. As a result, Mr. Chen said, Chinese families are hesitant to send their children to the U.S.

Beijing has criticised the U.S. for its unfriendly policies toward some Chinese students, citing an executive order by former President Donald Trump to keep out Chinese students who have attended in schools with strong links to the Chinese military.

The Chinese foreign ministry also has protested the number of Chinese students have been unfairly interrogated and sent home after they left U.S. airports in recent months. Spokeswoman Mao Ning recently described the actions as "selective, discriminatory and politically motivated."

State Department spokeswoman Marie Harbo said fewer than "one tenth of the" Chinese students have been detained or denied admission.

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**Bespoke luxury:** At a private ceremony in Singapore, the Coachbuild masterpiece was kept under wraps until some detailing and presentation was to be made. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sign,” said Alex Innes, Head of Coachbuild Design, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars.

But, it is easier said than done as the engineers and designers of Rolls-Royce often have to tackle unique demands from clients.

Jonathan Simms, Head of Bespoke, Rolls-Royce, cites the example of a client who wanted some silk materials they had been using to be used in the car which they were buying. However, Rolls-Royce had to tell them the company had to run some tests before it could be fitted in the car as such materials should last as long as

commissions, it’s very rare that we won’t have the client coming to Goodwood, meeting us or we meet them where they are and we really get to know much about them because if you know someone well, then you can be convinced...And, then our designers and our craftsmen will start work with the client,” Mr. Simms explains.

“When we start to make the car physically - the first parts - that’s when many of the clients love to come to Goodwood and actually see those parts being made, and many of them get very emotional,” he said. As the most exclusive

## Rs 209 crore Rolls-Royce Arcadia Drop Tail revealed

Rolls Royce has said that the woodwork alone on the Arcadia Drop Tail took over 8,000 hours to complete.

Published On Mar 01, 2024 04:50:00 PM

9 crore Rolls-Royce Arcadia Drop Tail revealed

48,454 Views

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## CUP NAMDE

We have got it, it is for the fans:  
Shreyanka won WPL triumph



Over the last few years, the *Ee Saalo Cup Namde* (The Cup is ours this time) slogan of RCB has remained the pet troll of the social media. Not anymore. "They keep saying *Ee Saalo Cup Namde* and we got it. That's it guys... this is for the fans," said RCB off-spinner Shreyanka Patil after the triumph.

## MR. COOL

Shreyanka credits coach Williams  
for keeping the RCB dugout calm



Shreyanka Patil lauded RCB head coach Luke Williams for keeping the dressing room calm. "Day in and day out we put in our hard work and felt like family. We did not know Luke much. During the last game that we won against Mumbai Indians, he shed tears of joy. We hope to do more of this," said Shreyanka.

## UNBELIEVABLE

The support for all the teams has  
been phenomenal, says Perry



The talismanic Ellyse Perry topped the run-makers' chart in the WPL with 347 runs, and the Australian all-rounder said the support for the teams throughout the event was very heartening. "Pretty bankers, to be honest. It's another level for us — the support for all the teams has been phenomenal and it's been unbelievable."

## SPECIAL ONE

The young Shreyanka has got  
the world at her feet: Perry



Ellyse Perry praised spinners Sophie Molineux and Shreyanka Patil for changing the complexion of the game in the final. "She [Molineux] turned the match on its head. The rest of the spinners backed her up. Shreyanka is such a young player and she has got the world at her feet. It was a special performance," said Perry.

## Red-hot spinners help Royal Challengers strike gold

Molineux, Shreyanka and Asha cast a spell over DC's batters as the team slips from 64 for no loss to get bundled out for 113; vital contributions at the top of the order see the Bengaluru side through



Over the moon: It was a night to remember for the members of the Royal Challengers Bangalore team as they prevailed over Delhi Capitals in a low-scoring final. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## WPL SEASON 2

Lavanya L  
NEW DELHI

With a fine display of the asphyxiating properties of a good spin attack, Smriti Mandhana-led Royal Challengers Bangalore beat Delhi Capitals by eight wickets to lift its maiden Women's Premier League title at the Arun

Jathey Stadium here on Sunday.

Coach Jonathan Batty, skipper Meg Lanning and batting first — time and again this combination has proved futile in league finals in the Women's Big Bash League and even in last year's WPL final which DC lost to Mumbai Indians. Lanning and Shafali Verma looked like they were batting on two different wickets. Where Shafali was striking the ball clean, Lan-

ning looked tentative right from the third ball of the innings where miscommunication nearly saw her lose her wicket. With Shafali taking charge, DC got to 61 in the PowerPlay, the joint best tally in the first six overs this season. However, Sophie Molineux was the out-of-syllabus question that left the league leader in tatters.

She removed Shafali Verma (holed out to Georgia Wareham at deep mid-

wicket), Jemimah Rodrigues (who got on one knee to sweep missing the ball completely as it hit the stumps) and Alice Capsey (a brain fade that saw her trying to scoop the ball only to lose her stumps) in the span of four balls.

Seeing the purchase Molineux got from the wicket, Smriti's ploy to spin, bringing her death-overs combo of Shreyanka Patil and Asha Sobhana into play. As she did a week ago,

Shreyanka got Lanning trapped leg before yet again, with the ball headed straight for her middle stump. From there on, DC slipped deeper into the quicksand, finally folding for 113 with nine balls left unaided, its lower-order's batting hiccups proving to be its Achilles' heel again. Smriti's ploy to strangle with spin was spot on. RCB's four twerkers gave away only 62 runs, bowling 35 dot balls between them.

What particularly hurt DC was the period between the 7th and the 14th over (7.4 overs to be precise) which saw no boundaries. Lanning, with her poker face on, did not let RCB have it easy. Sophie Devine and Smriti got off to a confident start putting on 49 runs before Shikha Pandey got Devine in the ninth over. Lanning bowled out her premiere pace options — Marizanne Kapp and Shikha — within the first 12 ov-

ers, potentially looking for their wicket-taking form to come through. The pair did well to keep things tight, bowling 26 dot balls in total and giving away 33 runs.

Jess Jonassen was introduced only in the 14th over with RCB needing 42 off as many deliveries. Smriti's off-spin weakness got the better of her as Minnu Mani sent her back. If the target wasn't so low, this fielding effort would have been a masterclass in how to de-

## SCOREBOARD

**DELHI CAPITALS**  
Meg Lanning 10w b Shreyanka 23 (23b, 3w), Shafali Verma c Wareham b Molineux 44 (27b, 2w), Jemimah Rodrigues b Molineux 0 (2b), Alice Capsey b Molineux 0 (2b), Marizanne Kapp c Devine b Asha 8 (16b), Jess Jonassen c Smriti b Asha 3 (12b), Radha Yadav run out 12 (8b, 2w), Minnu Mani 10w b Shreyanka 5 (2b, 1w), Anundhati Reddy b Shreyanka 10 (13b), Shikha Pandey (not out) 5 (5b), Tanya Bhatia c Richa b Shreyanka 0 (2b), Extras (w-3): 3. Total (in 19.3 overs): 113.

**FALL OF WICKETS**  
1-64 (Shafali, 7.1 overs), 2-64 (Jemimah, 7.3), 3-64 (Capsey, 7.4), 4-74 (Lanning, 10.4), 5-89 (Kapp, 13.1), 6-81 (Jonassen, 13.3), 7-87 (Minnu, 14.1), 8-103 (Radha, 16.2), 9-113 (Anundhati, 18.2).

**RCB BOWLING**  
Renuka 2-0-28-0, Molineux 4-0-25-3, Perry 2-0-14-0, Devine 1-0-9-0, Wareham 3-0-16-0, Shreyanka 3-3-0-12-4, Asha 3-0-14-2.

**ROYAL CHALLENGERS**  
Smriti Mandhana c Anundhati b Minnu 31 (39b, 3w), Sophie Devine 10w b Shikha 32 (27b, 3w), Ellyse Perry (not out) 35 (27b, 4w), Richa Ghosh (not out) 17 (24b, 2w), Total (for two wickets in 19.3 overs): 115.

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1-49 (Devine, 8.1), 2-82 (Smriti, 14.6).

**CAPITALS BOWLING**  
Kapp 4-0-29-0, Capsey 3-0-13-0, Shikha 4-0-11-1, Radha 1-0-18-0, Anundhati 3-3-0-26-0, Jonassen 2-0-15-0, Minnu 2-0-12-1.

**TEST: Delhi Capitals**  
ACB won by eight wickets with three balls to spare.

ferred with Test intensity in a T20 game by Lanning and Smriti. But it was far too less even for the genius of the world's most decorated leader.

In what tied the win up with a perfect bow, Richa — who, a week ago, was reduced to tears when she couldn't see out a run against the same opponent — hit the winning runs.

## The propellers



Stars of the night: Molineux, centre, started the slide by picking up three wickets in an over and Shreyanka took over to return a four-wicket haul. Perry then guided the team home in a tricky chase. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## Meteors, Defenders notch up victories

## PVL

Saikot Chakraborty  
CHENNAI

Mumbai Meteors defeated Delhi Toofans 15-11, 12-15, 15-12, 17-15 in a Super 5 clash of the Prime Volleyball League season three here at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium on Sunday.

Toofans were unable to get into the first set and fell behind early. The Delhi outfit came alive in the second set, led by the strong attack of S. Santhosh. The Meteors took the third set thanks to some good play from Anit Gulla.

The fourth set too was a close one, with neither team able to gain a significant advantage. In the end, it was Meteors who came out on top. Despite the

loss, the Toofans have still qualified for the knockouts.

Reigning champion Ahmedabad Defenders pulled off a dramatic come-from-behind win against Calicut Heroes. Despite losing the first two sets, Defenders fought back valiantly to win 16-18, 13-15, 15-11, 15-8, 15-13.

Their victory was fuelled by an exceptional team performance. Captain Muthusamy Appavu and star attacker Angamuthu led the charge, guiding their team to a crucial win. This sets up a clash against the Delhi Toofans in the eliminator, with the ultimate goal of facing Calicut Heroes again in the final.

The results: Mumbai Meteors bt Delhi Toofans 15-11, 12-15, 15-12, 17-15. Ahmedabad Defenders bt Calicut Heroes 16-18, 13-15, 15-11, 15-8, 15-13.



Rising to the occasion: The Mumbai outfit prevailed in a four-setter against Delhi Toofans. M. VEDHAN



**Over the moon:** It was a night to remember for the members of the Royal Challengers Bangalore team as they prevailed over Delhi Capitals in a low-scoring final. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## SCOREBOARD

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### FALL OF WICKETS

1-64 (Shafali, 7.1 overs), 2-64 (Jemimah, 7.3), 3-64 (Capsey, 7.4), 4-74 (Lanning, 10.4), 5-80 (Kapp, 13.1), 6-81 (Jonassen, 13.3), 7-87 (Minnu, 14.1), 8-101 (Radha, 16.2), 9-113 (Arundhati, 18.2).

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**Total:** Delhi Capitals



# WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

<b>Countries</b>	India
<b>Administrator</b>	<a href="#">Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)</a>
<b>Format</b>	<a href="#">Twenty20 cricket</a>
<b>First edition</b>	2023
<b>Latest edition</b>	2024
<b>Next edition</b>	2025
<b>Tournament format</b>	<a href="#">Double Round-robin and playoffs</a> (knock-out stage)
<b>Number of teams</b>	5
<b>Current champion</b>	<a href="#">Mumbai Indians</a> (1st title)
<b>Most successful</b>	<a href="#">Mumbai Indians</a> (1st title)
<b>Most runs</b>	<a href="#">Meg Lanning</a> (676)
<b>Most wickets</b>	<a href="#">Sophie Ecclestone</a> (27)
<b>TV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• India: <a href="#">Sports18</a> (Television)</li><li>• <a href="#">JioCinema</a> (Internet)</li></ul> <b>International</b> <a href="#">List of broadcasters</a>

Team	City	Debut	Owners	Captain	Head coach
Delhi Capitals	New Delhi	2023	JSW Group–GMR Group (JSW GMR Cricket Pvt. Ltd) <sup>[26]</sup>	Meg Lanning <sup>[27]</sup>	Jonathan Batty <sup>[28]</sup>
Gujarat Giants	Ahmedabad	2023	Adani Group	Beth Mooney <sup>[29][e]</sup>	Rachael Haynes <sup>[30]</sup>
Mumbai Indians	Mumbai	2023	Indiawin Sports	Harmanpreet Kaur <sup>[31]</sup>	Charlotte Edwards <sup>[32]</sup>
Royal Challengers Bangalore	Bangalore	2023	Diageo	Smriti Mandhana <sup>[33]</sup>	Ben Sawyer <sup>[34]</sup>
UP Warriorz	Lucknow	2023	Capri Global	Alyssa Healy <sup>[35]</sup>	Jon Lewis <sup>[36]</sup>



## 2024 Women's Premier League

<b>Dates</b>	23 February – 17 March 2024
<b>Administrator(s)</b>	<a href="#">Board of Control for Cricket in India</a>
<b>Cricket format</b>	<a href="#">Twenty20 cricket</a>
<b>Tournament format(s)</b>	<a href="#">Double Round robin</a> and <a href="#">playoffs</a>
<b>Host(s)</b>	<a href="#">India</a>
<b>Champions</b>	<a href="#">Royal Challengers Bangalore</a> (1st title)
<b>Runners-up</b>	<a href="#">Delhi Capitals</a>
<b>Participants</b>	5
<b>Matches</b>	22
<b>Player of the series</b>	<a href="#">Deepti Sharma</a> (UP Warriorz)
<b>Most runs</b>	<a href="#">Ellyse Perry</a> (Royal Challengers Bangalore) (347)
<b>Most wickets</b>	<a href="#">Shreyanka Patil</a> (Royal Challengers Bangalore) (13)

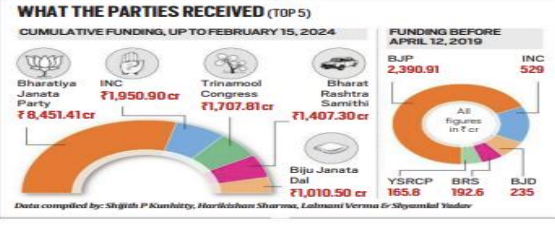
## SC hears SBI today on revealing unique bond numbers

# Fresh data out: Payments before 2019 polls; DMK, ADMK, JD(S), BJP among 10 who name donors

BJP tells EC not bound by law to keep donor records; Cong says it has told SBI to share with EC

RITU SARIN & RITIKA CHOPRA  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 17

A DNA by the Supreme Court hears the State Bank of India's response regarding its failure to disclose the unique alphanumeric code for each electoral bond purchased and redeemed.

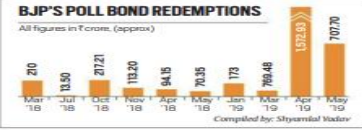


**Case to reveal gets stronger**  
IT MAY not be clear how the regional parties know the IDs of their donors but the fact that 10 of them have voluntarily revealed their names strengthens the case for SBI to disclose the bond numbers so that the donor can be matched with the party.

**INSIDE**  
**10 REGIONAL PARTIES ENCASHED ₹50-CR EBs TILL APR 12, 2019**

**AROUND 2019 POLLS, CSK WAS AIADMK'S DONOR NO.1**  
gave away Rs 50 crore to the JD(S) in Karnataka. Narayana Murthy-led Infosys donated Rs 3 crore to JD(S) two months before the 2018 Karnataka elections.

## MUMBAI, KOLKATA, DELHI TOP LIST Months before '19 polls, BJP got over ₹3K crore, 77% of its year's count



**SHYAMAL YADAV**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 17  
THAT THE BJP is the No. 1 recipient of poll bonds is a trend that was established since the inception of the scheme.

were announced on March 10 that year and counting of votes was done on May 23. In all, the BJP has redeemed at least Rs 4,551.41 crore since launch of the scheme.

## LOTTERY COMPANY GAVE 40% OF ITS TOTAL BONDS TO DMK Future Gaming, Bond Buyer No. 1, was DMK's top donor at ₹509 cr

ARUN JANARDHANAN & DEEPTIMANI TIWARY  
CHENNAI, NEW DELHI, MARCH 17

THE BIGGEST purchaser of electoral bonds, lottery company Future Gaming and Hotel Services Pvt Ltd, which bought bonds worth over Rs 1,300 crore between 2019 and 2024, donated almost 40% of its total purchases to the DMK.

### DMK'S TOP DONORS (IN ₹ CRORE)

Donor	Amount
Future Gaming and Hotel Services	509
Mega Infrastructure	105
India Cements	14
Sun TV Network Ltd	10
Triveni	8

to the latest data put out by the Election Commission on Sunday. According to the data, the party received a total of Rs 656.5 crore via poll bonds from April

19, 2019 till November 14, 2023. This included Rs 509 crore from Future Gaming, run by Santiago Martin, between April 2019 and

## JD(S) GOT ₹89.75 CR IN ALL, ₹50 CR FROM MEGA ENGINEERING Over half of JD(S)'s bond donations from Mega Engg, Bond Buyer No. 2

AKRAMM & DEEPTIMANI TIWARY  
BENGALURU, NEW DELHI, MARCH 17

JANATA DAL (Secular), which was among the parties to have disclosed the identity of their electoral bond donors, received more than half of its total Rs 89.75 crore donations from Hyderabad-based

### JD(S)'S TOP DONORS (IN ₹ CRORE)

Donor	Amount
Mega Engineering & Construction	50
Embassy Group	22
ITC	5
Shankaranarayana Constructions	5
BICCIN	2.5

Compiled by: Shigita P Kumbhkar

**MALLICA JOSHI**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 17  
BETWEEN APRIL 2018 and May 2019, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) got Rs 5,75 crore through electoral bonds — from five companies and two individuals.

In this period, the second highest electoral bond donor was Gujarat-based Torreon Pharmaceuticals Limited and Pune-based BCC Shirke Construction Technology Private Limited, both of which donated Rs 1 crore each through single



PM Narendra Modi, TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu and JanaSena Party chief Pawan Kalyan on Sunday. PTI

## PM, Naidu hold show of strength in Andhra: 'NDA will cross 400'

SREENIVAS JANAYALA  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 17

NEARLY A decade after they first shared the stage on April 30, 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief N Chandrababu Naidu and JanaSena Party (JSP) chief K Pawan Kalyan came together for a public meeting at Chitlakurupeta, in Palnadu district of Andhra Pradesh, on Sunday.

turned into a massive show of strength by the three parties, which joined forces earlier this month for the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh. Addressing the crowd in Hindi, with Andhra BJP chief Dasgupta translating his speech into Telugu, Modi said: "The NDA keeps regional aspirations as well as national progress in mind. Naidu and Pawan Kalyan are working. THE NDA rally, 'Pragajalam'."



At the INDIA bloc rally in Mumbai on Sunday. Ansh Chakravarty

## Opp raises poll bonds, EVMs to target PM as Rahul yatra ends

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI, MARCH 17

FROM UPLIFT of backward classes to increased vigilance in the use of EVMs, leaders of the Opposition INDIA bloc set the agenda as they sounded the bugle for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections at Mumbai's Shivaji Park ground Sunday. The show of strength, during which the Opposition leaders targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi

and his government, also marked the culmination of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyaya Yatra. Addressing the mega rally, Gandhi termed the electoral bond scheme as the national version of road side "hafa vasool" or extortion. "Today Narendra Modi has a monopoly over corruption. Electoral bond is nothing but national hafa vasool. They give contract and take percentage. CONCLUDED ON PAGE 2

## Mob targets Gujarat Univ's foreign students during namaz, 5 injured

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
AHMEDABAD, MARCH 17

FIVE FOREIGN students of Gujarat University were injured, including two who had to be hospitalised, when a group of 20-25 people barged into their

hostel and assaulted them for offering namaz during Ramadan in the hostel building Saturday night. Two of the assailants were arrested, police said, adding that an FIR has been lodged and investigators were on to identify the rest. According to the police, the

two foreign students who had to be hospitalised are from Sri Lanka and Turkmenistan. While one of them is still in hospital, the other has been discharged, they said. The other students who sustained injuries, two are from Afghanistan and one from Afghanistan. CONCLUDED ON PAGE 2

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Har Pal Anpre Sanch

# India's share swells in phone exports to US

MUKESH JAGOTA  
New Delhi, March 17

**INDIA HAS QUADRUPLED** its share in smartphone exports to the US, while that of China and Vietnam, the top two exporters of the devices to the world's largest economy, has declined.

India's smartphone exports to the US grew 254.3% on year to \$3.53 billion in April-December of this year, taking its market share to 7.76%, up from 2% in the same period of last year, an analysis by the ministry of commerce and industry showed.

This also made India the third biggest smartphone exporter to the US.

"After production of iPhones scaled up and an increase in overall (smartphone) production there has been a significant rise in our exports to the US," an official who did not wish to be named commented.

During this nine-month period, China's share in the US market declined to 70.9% from 77.7% in the year ago period.

Continued on Page 2

## CHINA, VIETNAM CEDE GROUND

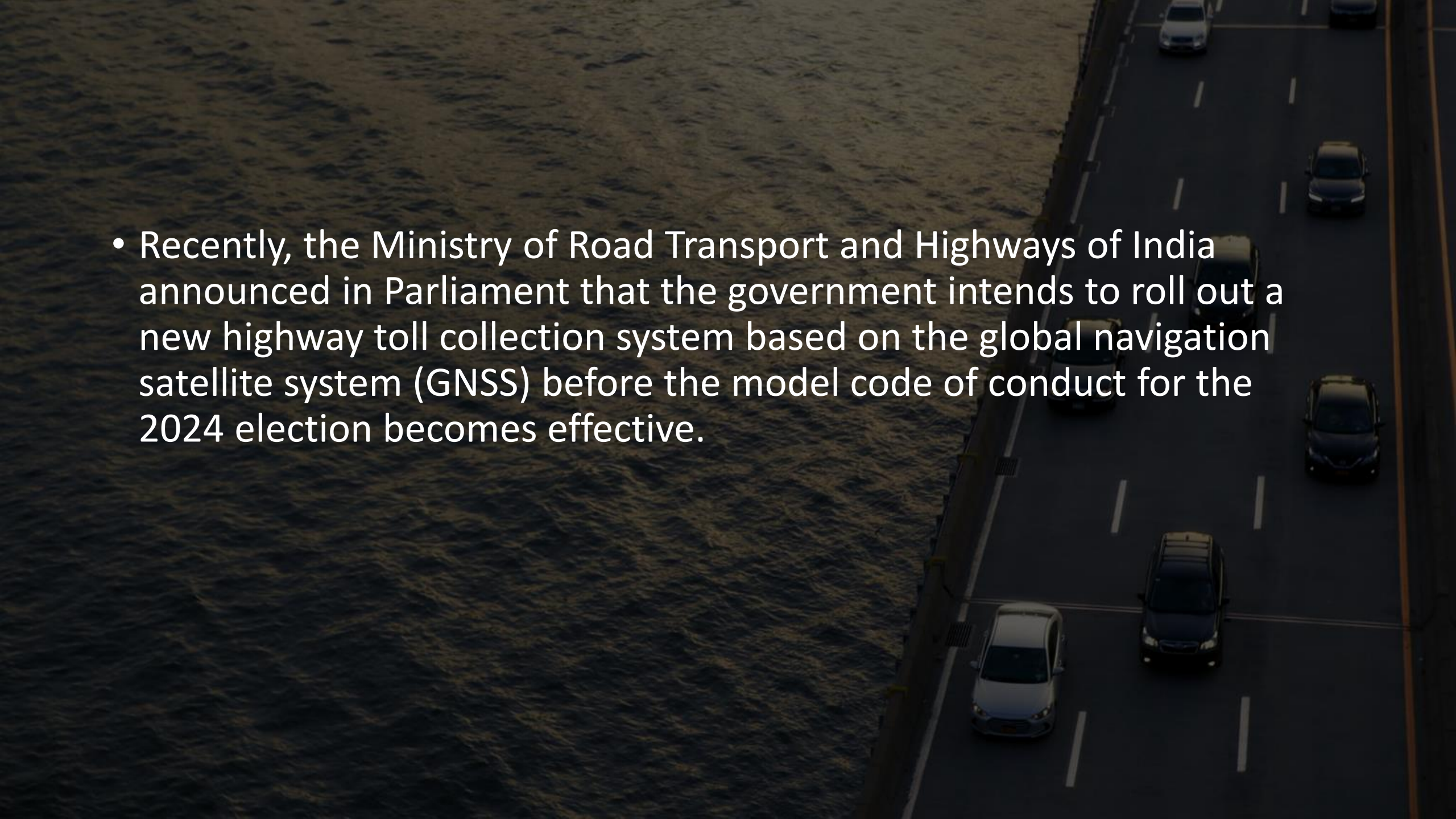
Smartphone exports to the US


(Apr-Dec, \$ mn) ■ 2022 ■ 2023 % share



# 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 and roads. The pushpin is positioned in the center-right of the slide, pointing downwards.
- 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**

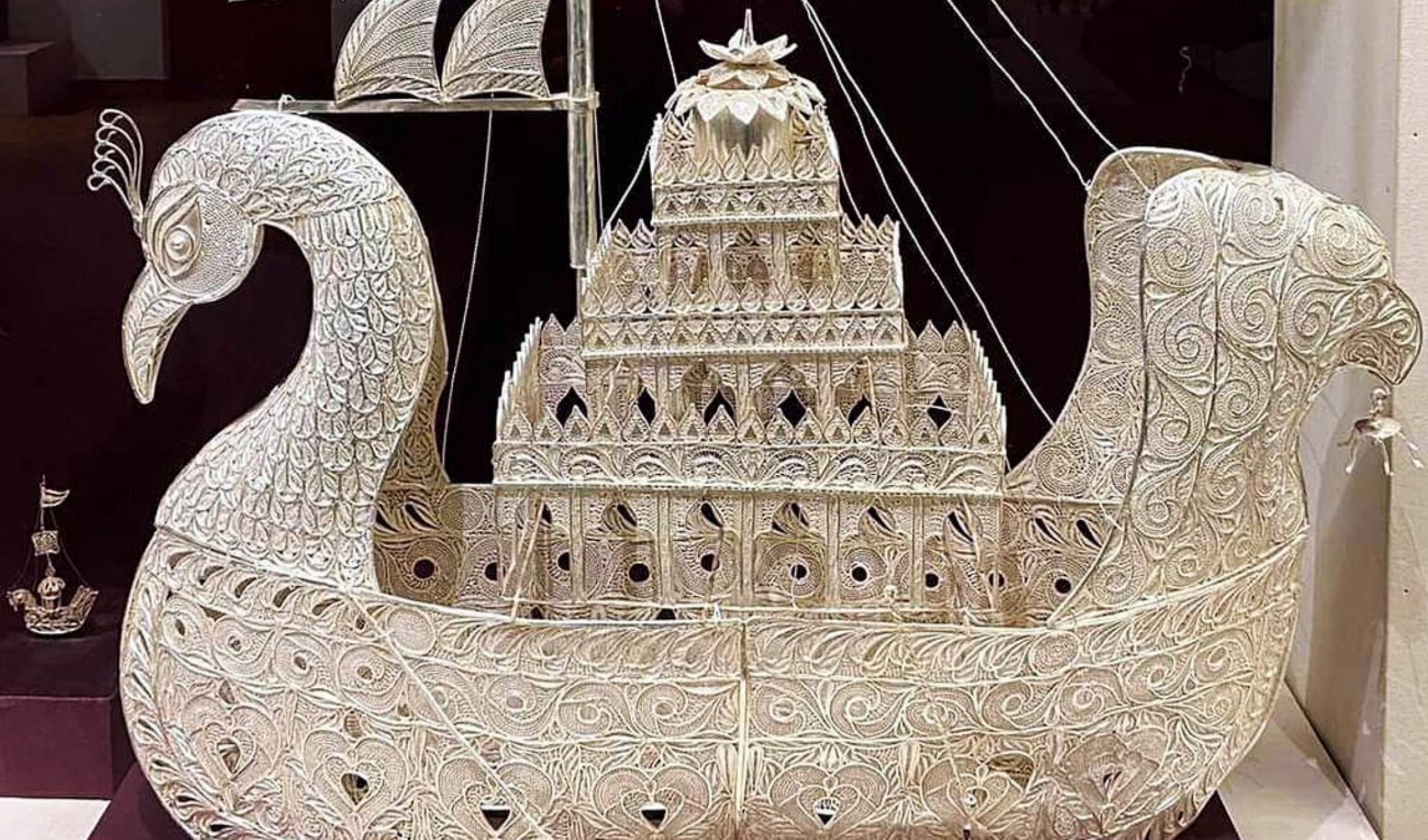
An aerial photograph of a river winding through a dense, lush green forest. The river is a vibrant turquoise color, contrasting with the deep green of the surrounding trees. A small boat is visible in the center of the river, leaving a white wake behind it. The forest appears to be a tropical or subtropical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

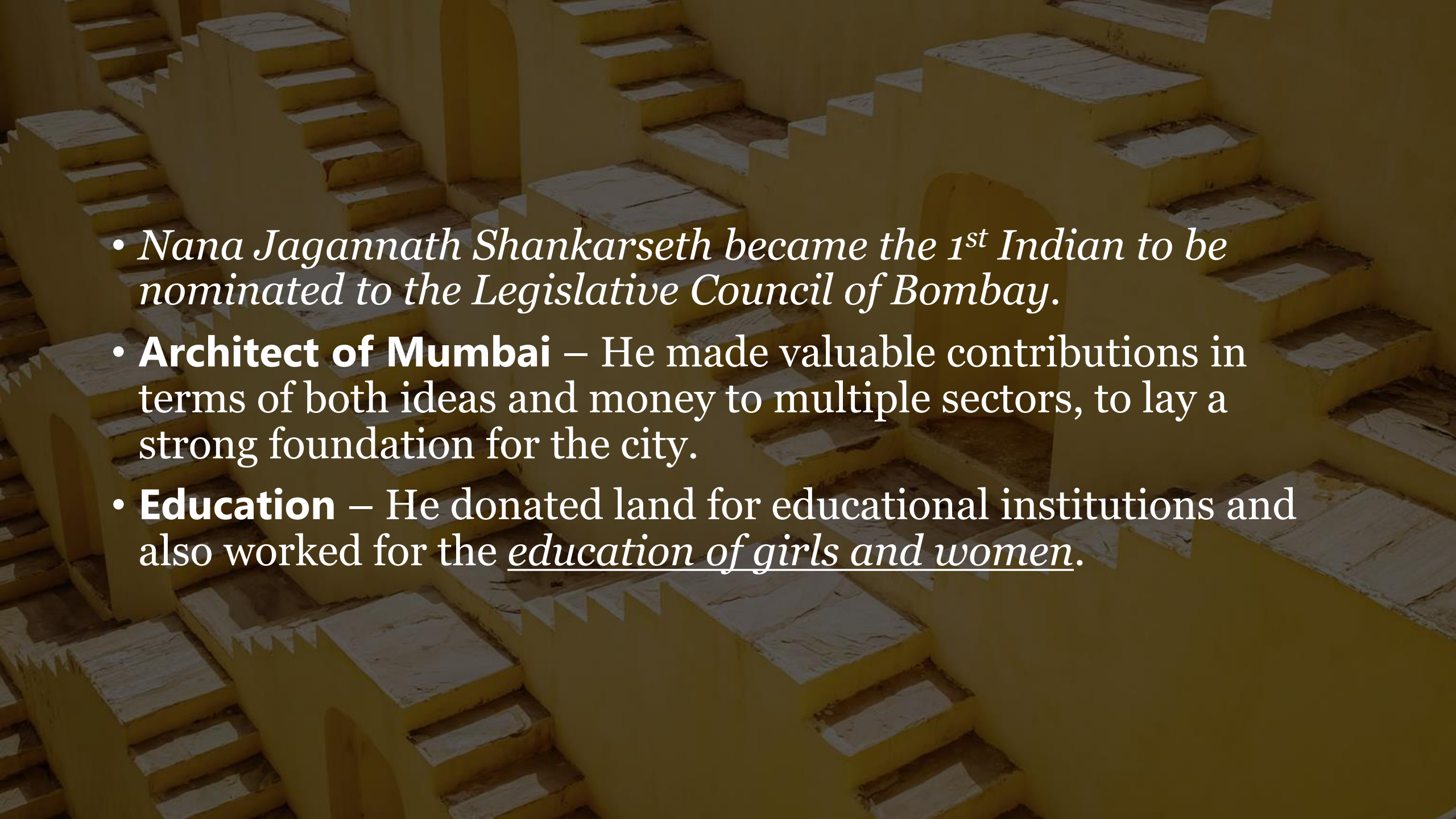
Bay of Bengal

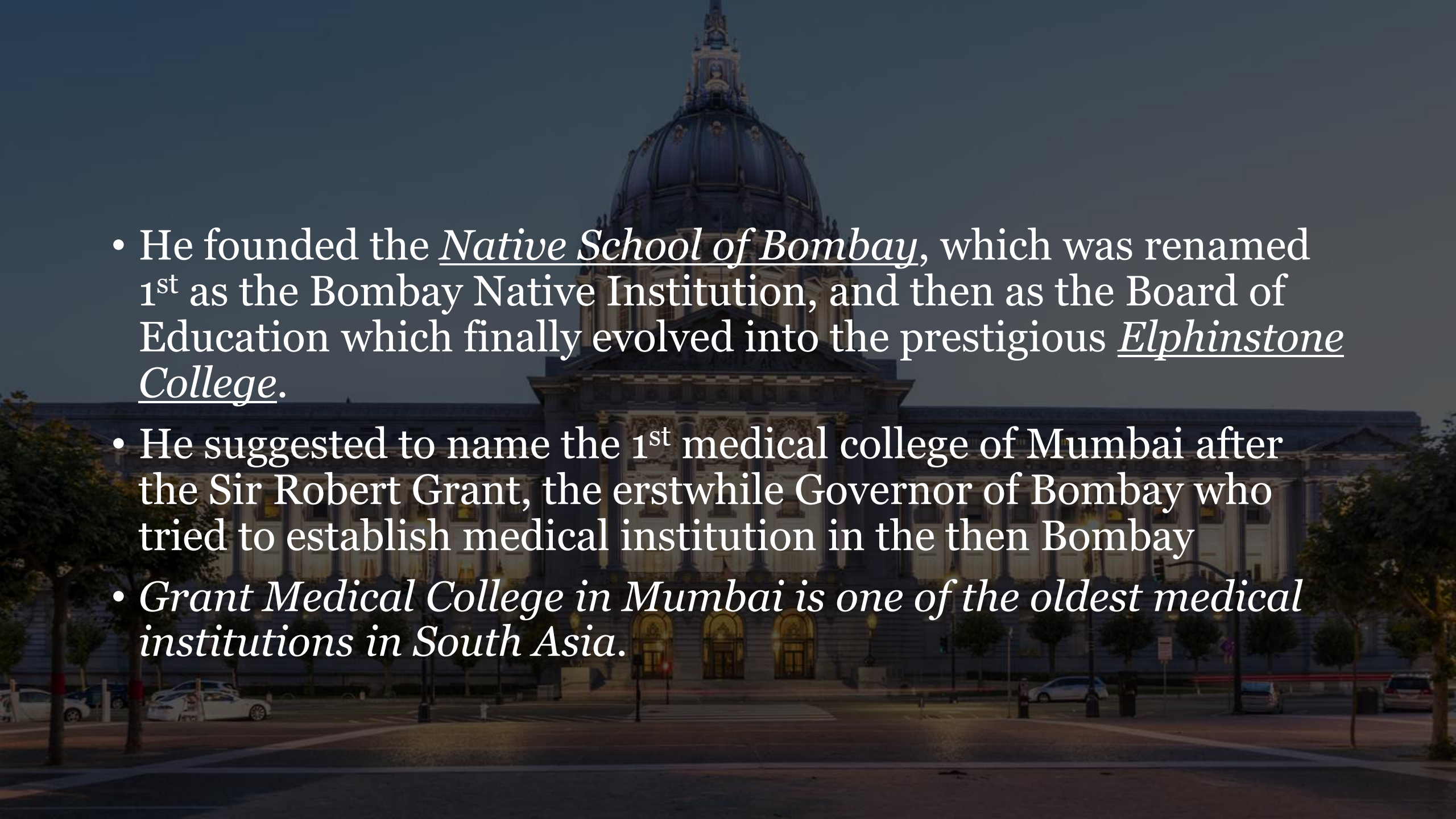
Nana Jagannath Shankarseth

The background of the image is a solid gold color. Overlaid on this background are several abstract, colorful shapes in shades of blue, red, purple, and teal. These shapes are scattered across the lower half of the image, appearing as if they are floating or falling. The text 'Nana Jagannath Shankarseth' is centered in the upper half of the image in a 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, 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.

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