Daily Current Affairs













Class24 App download

Class pdf

10 Questions test related to this class

CIRRENT AFFAIRS

By Bhunesh Sir

- *OUPDATED CURRENT AFFAIRS*
- **♥COMPLETE 2 YEARS (2023 + 2024) CURRENT AFFAIRS**
- **⊘** COMPLETE NOTES (PDF)
- **♥360** DEGREE EXAMS COVERED

PRICE 999₹ 999

Class24

FIJIII

By Bhunesh Sir

- **STATIC GK**
- **SHISTORY**
- **POLITY**
- **GEOGRAPHY**
- **ECONOMICS**
- SCIENCE

PRICE 1999₹ 999

Use Code- B50

Use Code-B50



The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the nation.



29.4K 3 %ER



Bhagat Singh My Friend | Piyush Mishra's views on India's most loved freedom fighter at GIFLIF Fest

868K views • 4 years ago >100x



GIFLIF Fest 349K subscribers

Piyush Mishra shares that his research on Sardar **Bhagat Singh** Sandhu (aka Late **Bhag Singh** ji) was so intense that he actually ...

26.7K 3 %ER

U.P. madrasa law is against secularism: HC



RESS CLUB OF INDIA SC-monitored probe must be held: activists

The dream chasers who got inducted into war How scores of Indians ended up in battlefield UND ZERO » PAGE 7



Mustafizur sets up CSK's win over RCB

INSTIDE



Kejriwal's arrest will galvanise the Opposition: VCK

CHENNAL CHENNAL
Condemning the arrest of Delhi
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal
by the Enforcement Directorate
in the Delhi excise policy case,
Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi VCK) president Thol (VLR) president Thou Thirumavalavan on Friday said that it will only galvanise INDM bloc in the upcoming Lok



Lalu shortlists candidates, may field 2 daughters

PATNA

alliance) led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal in Bihar is abuzz Lalu Prasad is likely to field



Bridge under collapses; 1 dead

PATNA A portion of an

under-construction bridge of Kosi river in Bihar's Supaul district collapsed on Friday district collapsed on Fridar morning leaving one perso dead and nine others inju The bridge has 170 spans, with each span measuring

Arvind Kejriwal sent to ED custody till March 28

Seeking 10-day custody of the Delhi CM, the ED

describes him as 'kingpin' of excise policy 'scam'

The proceeds of crime could go much beyond

Kejriwal says his life is dedicated to the nation whether he is inside or outside the jail

adas Rajagopal

court here on Fri day remanded Del-hi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal in Enforcement Directorate (ED) cus tody till March 28, a day af-ter the Central agency arrested him in connection with an excise policy-linked money laundering

linked money laundering case.

Special Judge (Prevention of Corruption Act) Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Courts asked for Mr. Kejriwal to be produced before her on March 28 at 2 p.m. The six-day remand came on an ED piea mand came on an ED plea seeking his 10-day custody

"As the Chief Minister of the Delhi government which is run by the AAP, Arvind Kejriwal was the key conspirator in the excise policy scam," submit-ted Additional Solicitorted Additional Solicitor-General (ASG) S.V. Raju, re-presenting the ED, accusing the Delhi CM of wilfully disobeying the summonses issued to him

able the taking of bribes," Mr. Raju said, claiming that Mr. Kejriwal directly de-manded kickbacks from a Mr. Kejriwal directly de-manded kickbacks from a 'South Group' of liquor bu-sinessmen, which later se-cured licences in Delhi. The ED said that the

summonses issued to by the Central agency. 'Demanded kickbacks' "The liquor policy was formed so that it would en-



crore estimated earlier and exceed \$600 crore.
Lawyers representing Mr. Kejriwal alleged that the Central agency's allegations are a cut-paste job and questioned the timing of his arrest.

The control of the control

first summoned him in 2023... why did the agency wait this long to arrest him just on the eve of Lok Sab-ha elections?" said senior advocate Vikram Chaudhu-ri, demanding that the ED remove its "mask" and reremove its "mask" and re-veal whom it actually

SC refuses bail plea of BRS MLC Kavitha

NEW DELBH The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a piea for bail by Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLC K. Kavitha, arrested by the Enforcement Directorate, in connection with the Delhi excise policy case.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, also appearing for Mr. Kejriwal, opposed the ED's remand plea and said that the agency had to prove in court the necessi-ty to arrest Mr. Kejriwal. "Even before the first vote is cast the results are

non-level playing field," he Earlier, failing to secure a late-night hearing on

Thursday, AAP's legal team led by Mr. Singhvi had rushed to the Supreme rushed to the Supreme Court on Friday morning and requested Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud for an urgent hearing. Af-ter a series of twists and turns in court, the petition was withdrawn from the

was withdrawn from the top court shortly after judges agreed to recon-vene a Special Bench. Special Bench. Language of the Special Bench, that had earlier in the day refused a petition filed by Bharat Rashtra Sa-to quash her recent arrest to quash her recent arrest by the ED in the same ex-cise policy case, to allow

the Rouse Avenue magis trate instead. The cour permitted him to withdraw the petition.

AAP leaders detained Delhi Cabinet Ministers At-ishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj were detained on Fri-day as AAP leaders hit the streets in Delhi as well as ir several States on Friday in protest against their na-

protest against their na-tional convener's arrest. Earlier in the day, in his first reaction after his ar-rest, Mr. Kejriwal said his life is dedicated to the na-tion whether he is inside or outside the jail.

BELATED BERORTS » PAGES 2&3

India to double assistance to Bhutan to ₹10.000 crore over five years, says Modi

Suhasini Haidar NEW DELHI

India has decided to dou-ble Bhutan's assistance ov-

ble Bhutan's assistance ov-er the next five years, from \$5,000 crore in 2019-2024 role of the control of the control state of the control of the control thimphu on Friday. Thimphu on Friday. Thimphu on Friday. Sawarded Bhutan's highest homour, the 'Order of the sawarded Bhutan's highest homour, the 'Order of the amnounced in 2021, to ack-nowledge India's role in consuring 'Bhutan's success in managing the COVID-19 pandemic". After meeting Bhutan's Prime Minister Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, India and Bhutan inked seven agree-ments on energy, food sa-fety, sports, and research, as well as a space collabo-ration roadmap. "We will work on new

"We will work on new possibilities for connectivi-ty, infrastructure, trade, and energy sectors bet-ween India and Bhutan,"



said Mr. Modi, while expressing his gratitude for the award from the Bhutanese King. "We will soon see our in-

"We will soon see our in-titatives for a new airport for better connectivity, rail links between Kokrajhar-Gelephu and Banarhat-Samtse, and waterways na-vigation on the Brahmapu-

tra. To strengthen trade infrastructure, we will build integrated check posts," he said.

said.

Mr. Modi's specific men-tion of India's support to the 'Gelephu Mindfulness City' – which he called a "visionary project" "visionary project" launched by Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgvel Wangchuck in 2023 - is significant, as it indicates the project would be a benefi-ciary of India's latest assis-

tance to Bhutan. Mr. Modi landed in Bhumorning. He was received at the airport by Mr. Tob-gay, who welcomed bi-X referri "elder brother." After driv-ing to Thimphu, Mr. Modi received a ceremonial wel-

Speaking at the public award ceremony held in the Tendrelthang Festival Ground, Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar said Mr. Modi as a "true friend" of the Bhutanese people and "a firm supporter of Bhutan's national vision to achieve self-reliance and become a developed nation". "Bhutan-India relations

are exemplary among na-tions," Bhutan's King said, adding that "Bhutan also

has lost some of its mo-mentum, including from the support gained after

consecration of the

Governor R.N. Ravi re-inducts Ponmudy _ as Minister in T.N.



K. Ponmudy presents a bouquet to Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi as Chief Minister M.K. Stalin looks on. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau

A day after the Supreme Court made strong observations against Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi for refusing to re-induct forme Minister K. Ponmudy in the State Cabinet, the Go-vernor administered the oath of office and secrecy to the latter at a ceremony in the Raj Bhavan or

Friday.

Earlier in the day, the
Raj Bhavan announced
that the Governor accepted Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's recommendation to
re-induct Mr. Ponmudy.

Aband of the correspons

Ahead of the ceremony, the Chief Minister, Mr. Pon-mudy, their Cabinet col-leagues Udhayanidhi Stalin, Ma. Subramanian and P.K. Sekarbabu, Chief Se-cretary Shiv Das Meena, and senior officials were received by the Governor's Secretary on their arrival in the Rai Bhavan.

After the singing of the national anthem and the Thamizh Thai Vaazhthu (State anthem), the Chief Governor to administer the oaths of office and secrecy to Minister-designate Mr. Ponmudy. The Governor administered the oaths to the Minister and thereafter both of them signed the necessary papers.

On Thursday, Chief Justice of India DY. Chandra

nor for "defying the Supreme Court". The Go-vernor had declined to administer the oath of office to Mr. Ponmudy despite a apex court order, March 11, suspending order, on ending his march II, suspending his conviction in a dispropor-tionate assets case. A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice Chandrachud had given the Governor overnight to correct his course.

COURSE.

On Friday, AttorneyGeneral R. Venkataramani
said the Governor had
thought through the affair
and decided to invite Mr.
Ponmudy to be sworn in.
Mr. Venkataramani clarified that the Governor had
no intention to discretade no intention to disregard any orders of the Supreme

court recorded that "the Governor of Tamil Nadu is inviting Mr. Ponmudy fo being sworn in as Ministe of the State governmen pursuant to a reques made by the Chief Minister the fact that the swearing

place today*.

On the recommendation of the Chief Minister,
Mr. Ponmudy was given
the Higher Education portfolio, including Technical
Education, Electronics,
Science and Technology
that he held earlier before
his disqualification.

BJP and BJD to go solo in Odisha as alliance talks fail

The Hindu Bureau BHUBANESWAR/NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) have decided to go solo in Odisha for the upcoming Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, ending all speculation about the revival of their alliance. BIP insiders attributed

over the BID's internal suc cession plan, for which the BJP did not want to provide BJP did not want to provide a shield; party State presi-dent Manmohan Samal said the Centre's welfare schemes were not reaching people in the State. The BJD, however, wowed to win three-fourths of the seats on its own, in voking the "spirit of coop-

erative federalism". After 17 days of talks back and forth between New Delhi and Bhubanes war ended in a stalemate, Mr. Samal declared on Fri-

day that the proposed al-liance was off the cards. "This time, the BIP wil contest independently across all 21 Lok Sabha and 147 assembly seats, aiming to foster a developed India and Odisha under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The goal is to realise the hopes and aspirations of 4.5 crore people of Odisha." he posted on X. Hours later, the regional party followed suit, with BJD organising secretary Pranab Prakash Das saying that the party would "win



more than three-fourth

seats under the leadership of Odisha Chief Minister

of Odisha Chief Minister
Naween Patranik."
In his post on X, he said,
BJD will continue to take
decisions keeping people
of Odisha and their welfare
always in the forefront, in
the true spirit of cooperative federalism and states
manship required for na-

tion building." A senior BJP leader in-volved in Odisha affairs

told The Hindu that the relationship between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik was one of mutual respect and re gard". However, the BJP had strong feelings with re-gard to the BJD's internal

BD succession plan
Mr. Paralics long-time
side V.K. Pandian recently
left government service
and formally joined the
BJD, and is being seen by
succeed the BJD chief.
"Whether or not he is
acceptable to a large section of the voters in Od-

isha, as he is from Tamil Nadu, is still not clear. The BJP did not want to be a party, or to be a means of electorally endopring that electorally endorsing that since, for the last few years, we have been the principal Opposition in the State," the leader said. "It seemed that in this

deal, the BJD would gain much, a non-election, basically, and we would be stuck with justifying the BJD's succession plan," the

BID's succession plan," the leader added. The 17 days since it was first indicated that the BIP and BIP would likely form an alliance for the Lok Sab-ha and coterminous As-sembly pols in the State have had an impact on the prospects of the BIJ, which

Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Over the past 17 days, neither the BJP nor BJD announced party candidates for Lok Sabha or Assembly seats in Odisha as the nego-tiations took place in New The real test for the BJP

now will be to convince the electorate that this was an alliance that they weighed alliance that they weighed and found wanting, as well as justify their reasons for walking out of the negotia-tions. In a way, the BJP will have to combat not just Mr. Patnaik but also his succes-sion plan, after having been seen to be on board with it.

India to double assistance to Bhutan to ₹10,000 crore over five years, says Modi

Suhasini Haidar

NEW DELHI

India has decided to double Bhutan's assistance over the next five years, from ₹5,000 crore in 2019-2024 to ₹10,000 crore for the period till 2029, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in Thimphu on Friday.

Mr. Modi made the announcement after he was awarded Bhutan's highest honour, the 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo', which was announced in 2021, to acknowledge India's role in ensuring "Bhutan's success in managing the COVID-19 pandemic". After meeting Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, India and Bhutan inked seven agreements on energy, food safety, sports, and research, as well as a space collaboration roadmap.

"We will work on new possibilities for connectivity, infrastructure, trade, and energy sectors between India and Bhutan,"



Warm welcome: Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets a large gathering in Thimphu on Friday. ANI

said Mr. Modi, while expressing his gratitude for the award from the Bhutanese King.

"We will soon see our initiatives for a new airport for better connectivity, rail links between Kokrajhar-Gelephu and Banarhat-Samtse, and waterways navigation on the Brahmapu-

tra. To strengthen trade infrastructure, we will build integrated check posts," he said.

Mr. Modi's specific mention of India's support to the 'Gelephu Mindfulness City' – which he called a "visionary project" launched by Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel

Wangchuck in 2023 – is significant, as it indicates the project would be a beneficiary of India's latest assistance to Bhutan.

Mr. Modi landed in Bhutan's Paro valley on Friday morning. He was received at the airport by Mr. Tobgay, who welcomed him on X referring to him as his

"elder brother." After driving to Thimphu, Mr. Modi received a ceremonial welcome, an audience with Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar and then with his father and former King, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who is believed to be still extremely influential in matters of Bhutan's foreign policy.

'Exemplary relations'

Speaking at the public award ceremony held in the Tendrelthang Festival Ground, Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar said Mr. Modi was a "true friend" of the Bhutanese people and "a firm supporter of Bhutan's national vision to achieve self-reliance and become a developed nation".

"Bhutan-India relations are exemplary among nations," Bhutan's King said, adding that "Bhutan also stands to benefit when India succeeds; we feel reassured about the future of our neighbourhood".

Awards	Countries	Year
Order of the Nile	Egypt	2023
Companion of the Order of Logohu	Papua New Guinea	2023
Companion of the Order	Fiji	2023
Ebakl Award	Republic of Palau	2023
Order of the Druk Gyalpo	Bhutan	2021
Legion of Merit	US	2020
King Hamad Order of the Renaissance	Bahrain	2019
Order of the Distinguished Rule of Nishan Izzuddin	Maldives	2019
Order of St. Andrew Award	Russia	2019
Order of Zayed Award	UAE	2019
Grand Collar of the State of Palestine Award	Palestine	2018
State Order of Ghazi Amir Amanullah Khan	Afghanistan	2016
Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud	Saudia Arabia	2016

- **1. <u>Petroleum Agreement:</u>** Both nations signed an agreement ensuring a reliable supply of petroleum products from India to Bhutan
- **2.** <u>Food Safety Collaboration</u>: Bhutan's Food and Drug Authority and India's FSSAI signed an agreement to enhance cooperation in food safety measures, facilitating trade and reducing compliance costs.
- **3.** Energy Efficiency and Conservation: An MoU on energy efficiency and conservation reflects a commitment to sustainable development, with <u>India assisting Bhutan in enhancing energy efficiency</u> and promoting the use of energy-efficient appliances.
- **4.** <u>Border Dispute Resolution:</u> Ongoing discussions between China and Bhutan to resolve their border dispute were discussed, particularly <u>in the Doklam region</u>, with implications for regional security.
- **5.** <u>Bhutan's Regional Economic Hub in Gelephu:</u> Plans for a regional economic hub in Gelephu aim to foster regional development and connectivity

Strategic	Bhutan serves as a buffer between India and China, protecting the Siliguri Corridor (also known as Chicken's Neck). The Doklam standoff (2017) has re-established Bhutan's strategic significance for India. Bhutan does not have any formal diplomatic relations with China.	
Historical	The Indo-Bhutan Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1949, is the bedrock of India and Bhutan's relationship	
Economic	India is Bhutan's largest trading partner (mostly in electricity). Also, increased trade with Bhutan benefits landlocked states like Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. India has decided to support Bhutan's upcoming 13th Five-Year Plan (for 12 FYP, India had provided 4500Cr)	
Assistance	As per <u>India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy, the</u> largest share of the aid portfolio was granted to Bhutan in the <u>interim budget 2024-25</u>	
	For Bhutan's 12th Five-Year Plan, India's contribution of Rs 4,500 crore constituted 73% of Bhutan's total external grant component	
Cultural and Educational	Buddhism. India also offers various scholarships for Bhutanese students through Nehru- Wangchuck Scholarships, Ambassador's Scholarship	

Cultural and Educational	Buddhism. India also offers various scholarships for Bhutanese students through Nehru-Wangchuck Scholarships, Ambassador's Scholarship
Energy	India has constructed three Hydroelectric Projects in Bhutan (and exporting surplus power to India)—Chhukha HEP, Kurichhu HEP, and Tala HEP. India is also building Mangdechhu, Punatsangchhu 1 and 2 Hydroelectric Power Projects in Bhutan. Also, India will expedite the proposed Kokrajhar-Gelephu rail link project.
Regional	Both nations cooperate in regional forums such as BIMSTEC and SAARC.
Technological	E.g., the <u>E-Library project and the India-Bhutan satellite</u> , India's Vaccine Maitri Initiative
Environmental	India is supporting Bhutan in its efforts to become carbon-negative.



Finland to resume funding to UN Palestinian refugee agency



refugees UNRWA, Foreign Trade and De Tayio said on Friday. Finland suspended its yearly funding of five nillion euros in January, following Israel's allegations that 12 of the

Uganda's President Museveni promotes son as military chief



ead the country's defence forces, the nation's government said capping a dizzying rise for Muhoozi Kainerugaba. The Ministry cement late on Thursday followed years of speculation that

Maldives President seeks debt relief from India amid tensions



has struck a reconciliatory tone, saying India will continue to remain his country's "closest ally" and urged New Delhi to provide debt relief to the archipelago nation. The Maldives owed

Britain's Kate says she has cancer, and is undergoing chemotherapy



undergoing chemotherapy. Her condition was discle orded on Wednesday and broadcast on Friday, Ms. Kats asked for "time, space and privacy" while she is treated for an

Russia. China veto U.S. bid on Gaza 'ceasefire' at UN Security Council

The draft had stopped short of explicitly demanding that Israel immediately end its campaign in Gaza; Moscow accused Washington of a hypocritical spectacle that does not pressure Israel, Beijing said the draft dodged the most central issue

for speaking of a ceasefire

after "Gaza has been vir-tually wiped off the face of

is exceedingly politicised,

with the sole purpose be-ing to play to voters and throw them a bone in the

form of some kind of a

"The American product

the Earth".

ussin and chima on U.S.-led draft reso-lution at the Security Council on a ceasefire in Gaza, with Moscow accus-cratical spectacle" that construct the united spectacle that critical spectacle that does not pressure Israel. The United States, Israel.

vetoed previous ceasefire calls, put forward the reso-lution which for the first time would have support-ed "the imperative of an immediate and sustained ceasefire" and condemned the October 7 attack by Ha-

Russia and China exercised their vetoes, Algeria also voted against and



China's Ambassador to the UN, Zhang Jun, votes during a UNSC

other II Security Council members voted in favour, including permanent members France and

Russia's Ambassador, Vasily Nebenzia, said that the United States was do-ing nothing to rein in Is-rael, mocking Washington

mention of a ceasefire in Gaza," he said.

The resolution will "enther resolution of the cease, whose crimes are not even assessed in the draft." The draft had stopped the standard of the draft and the standard of the stan

The draft linked a ceasefire to ongoing talks, led by Qatar with support from the United States and Egypt, to halt the war in return for Hamas releasing China's representative.

Zhang Jun, said the draft "dodged the most central issue, that of a ceasefire'

language.

"Nor does it even provide an answer to the question of realising a ceasefire in the short term," he said.

French President Emma-nuel Macron, speaking in Brussels immediately after the vetoes, said France would keep pushing an al-ternative resolution for a ceasefire. The Security Council

may later on Friday consid may later on Friday consid-er another resolution with a more explicit call for an immediate ceasefire. Speaking before the vote on the U.S. draft, Am-

ssador The field said, "By adopting the resolution before us, we can put pressure on Hamas to accept the deal".

Russia admits 'state of war' amid massive strikes on Kviv

Russia admitted two years into its invasion of Ukraine on Friday that it was "in a on Friday that it was "in a a massive wave of missile and drone attacks on its neighbour's territory. 90 missiles and more than 60 Iranian-designed kamikaze drones, damaging dozens of energy facilities includ-drones, damaging dozens of energy facilities includ-tification of the country's electricity and beating supply the country's and beating supply the wave of strikes was retallation for a

series of Ukrainian attacks on its border regions in re-

cent weeks. At least five people were killed and more than 20 in-jured, according to Uk-raine's Interior Ministry

and local officials.
"We are in a state of war," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said in



an interview to a pro-Kremlin newspaper, pu-blished on Friday.

The admission marks an escalation in official lan-guage used to describe the conflict, which the Kremlin initially referred to as a "special" "special military

Loss of power Meanwhile, Kharkiv mayor said on Friday that a Rus-sian missile attack has "completely" cut off the electricity and heat

"The city is comple without power and as a re-sult the water and heating," supply are not working," Kharkiv mayor Igor Terek-hov said in a video on his

social media. It has targeted Ukraine's energy infrastructure throughout the war, now in its third year, in strikes Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has called "energy terrorism". Ukraine's state-run pow

er grid, Ukrenergo, said the attack on the energy network was the "largest

Simon Harris set to be Ireland's youngest PM

Simon Harris, set to be-come Ireland's youngest ever taoiseach (Prime Mi-nister), will hope his social media skills and fresh face can save his party's flag-ging fortunes as elections

Already dubbed by me-dia the "TikTok Taoiseach" hock"), the 37-year-old when he took the top job in After Mr. Varadkar's

shock resignation on Wed-nesday, Mr. Harris leapt from the blocks in the race right Fine Gael party and by default Prime Minister. By Thursday lunchtime



he had secured endorse ments by a majority of parout - and effectively end



ing the leadership contest before it had even begun. With no other candidates expected to emerge scribed Mr. Harris's apparent uncontested procession to the leadership as a "I'm in, I'm ready to step up, and I'm ready to step up, and I'm ready to step up, and i'm ready to broadcaster RTE's evening news programme after offi-cially amouncing his carrier in the step in the Harris's inevitable elec-tion as taoiseach when the Dail (Irish Parliament) rea to provide the step in the pro-ting of the pro

crowns a meteoric Mr. Harris's prominence

on social media especially TikTok has made him one of the most visible politi-cians in Ireland. With 1.4 million "likes" on TikTok, and hundreds of thousands of followers on both X and Instagram,

With his youth and slick communication skills his opponents jibe that he is

he posts content almost daily to his audience.

Chinese coast guard tries to block Filipino vessels in South China Sea

Chinese coast guard ships backed by a military heli-cessfully to block two Phi-lippine government vessels carrying scientists from the disputed South China Sea. Philippine officials sca. Philippine officials can be coast guard personnel blew the horn on one of their ships for on one of their ships for by transmitted radio warn-

ly transmitted radio warn ings during the confrontation on Thursday, but the Filipino scientists managed to complete their foursity research at the barren sandbars called Sandy Cay, the officials said. The Chinese coast guard

a Philippine vessel in the disputed South China Sea. AFP

A spokesperson, Gan Yu, said in a statement that its law enforcement offic-ers "boarded" the sandbars, which Beijing calls Tiexian Reef, and dealt with what it called "illegal activities" by 34 Philippine personnel who "ignored China's warnings and It was the latest flare-up in increasingly tense terri-torial disputes that are seen as a potential Asian flashpoint that might bring China and the United States into a conflict if they degenerate into a major armed confrontation China, the Philippines,

and Brunei have overlap

Worsening hostilities Hostilities between China and the Philippines, however, have worsened since last year, resulting it injuries to a few Filipino crewmen, sparking a war of words.

ic waterway but has que tioned China's claim to virtually the entire seaway. The United States has

repeatedly warned that it's obligated to defend the Philippines, its oldest trea ty ally in Asia, if Filipino forces, ships and aircraft come under an armed

Dozens of Rohingva feared dead or missing

Dozens of Rohingya refu-gees are feared dead or missing after their boat capsized off Indonesia's westernmost coast this week, the United Nations said on Friday, as local res cuers called off the search despite survivor accounts that many were swept

rway.
The mostly Muslim Roh sands risk their lives each year to try to reach Malay

If those still missing are gest loss of life for the Rob ingva at sea this year, ac

Australia, Britain to build AUKUS subs

Agence France-Presse

Australia and Britain said Australia and Britain said on Friday that a landmark deal to develop AUKUS nu-clear-powered submarines would go ahead, despite mounting fears about costs, capabilities and the possible return of Donald Trump. The fledgling AU-CUS, deal the two coun-

KUS deal, the two coun-tries along with the United States have pledged to beef up their military muscle in a bid to counter China's

Defence chiefs this week

Defence chiefs this week turweiled ambitious plans to supply Australia with a submarines, a key pillar of the agreement.
"The three governments are perfectly at pace to make this happen," Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles and on Fridayme fear Mr. Trump could jettson the pact if he wins this year's presidential election, resurning to his "America from the property of the property of the pact of the pact

The U.S. House of Representatives on Friday passed a \$1.2 fullion gohern and the property of the passed as a support from Democrats than the majority Republicans, leading to a fresh threat by a hardine out \$1.0 full property of the property of the Democratic Majority of the Democratic-majority Seaute, which have the property of a midnight are already of a midnight

The House's vote sends the proposal to the Senate, which has

deadline (0400 GMT Satur deadline (0400 GMT Satur-day) when parts of the De-partment of Homeland Se-curity, Internal Revenue Service and Justice Depart-ment to Treasury and State departments would begin to close.

The move marks a criti-cal step toward ending a jorie Taylor Greene to in-

House approves \$1.2 trillion package of

spending Bills before shutdown deadline

more-than-six-month battie over the scope of Washtie over the scope of Washscal year that began october 1. Ratings agencies
have warned that the repoould hurt the creditworthiness of a federal government that currently has
debt.
The measure passed the
House with IRS Democrats
awhich led hardline conservative Representative Marvative Representative Mar-

troduce a measure to oust Republican House Speaker Meanwhile, Democratic Senate Majority Leader Colleagues to move quickly to pass the measure.

A separate controversial Gongress where its leaders, except for Mr. Johnson, ur-scrept for Mr. Johnson, ur-scrept for Mr. Johnson, ur-passage of a 595 billion se-curity assistance package approved by the Senate for Calleagues and Talwan. Israel and

Gunmen open fire at

Moscow concert hall

Several gummen burst into a big concert hall in Mos-tomatic weapons at the crowd, injuring an unspec-lied number of people and an apparent terror attack days after President Valck highly or chestrated electo-ral landslide. Reside.

try called the incident a "terrorist attack" that had

to be condemned.

The attack took place as created particles of the account of th

Simon Harris set to be Ireland's youngest PM

Agence France-Presse

DUBLIN

Simon Harris, set to become Ireland's youngest ever taoiseach (Prime Minister), will hope his social media skills and fresh face can save his party's flagging fortunes as elections loom.

Already dubbed by media the "TikTok Taoiseach" (pronounced "Teeshock"), the 37-year-old beats the previous record holder, predecessor Leo Varadkar, who was 38 when he took the top job in 2017.

After Mr. Varadkar's shock resignation on Wednesday, Mr. Harris leapt from the blocks in the race for leader of the centreright Fine Gael party and by default Prime Minister.

By Thursday lunchtime



Simon Harris

he had secured endorsements by a majority of party colleagues, prompting rivals to rule themselves out – and effectively ending the leadership contest before it had even begun.

With no other candidates expected to emerge before nominations close on Monday, pundits described Mr. Harris's apparent uncontested procession to the leadership as a 'coronation'.

"I'm in, I'm ready to step up, and I'm ready to serve," he told the public broadcaster RTE's evening news programme after officially announcing his candidacy.

Harris's inevitable election as taoiseach when the Dail (Irish Parliament) returns from recess on April 9 crowns a meteoric ascent.

Mr. Harris's prominence on social media especially TikTok has made him one of the most visible politicians in Ireland.

With 1.4 million "likes" on TikTok, and hundreds of thousands of followers on both X and Instagram, he posts content almost daily to his audience.

With his youth and slick communication skills his opponents jibe that he is "Leo 2.0".

Australia, Britain to build AUKUS subs

Agence France-Presse

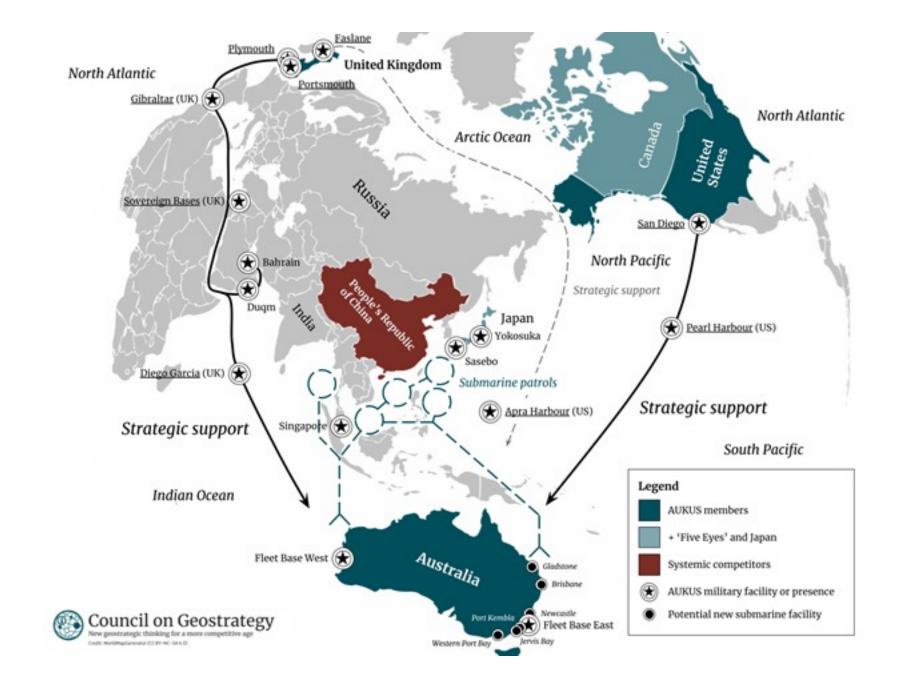
ADELAIDE

Australia and Britain said on Friday that a landmark deal to develop AUKUS nuclear-powered submarines would go ahead, despite mounting fears about costs, capabilities and the possible return of Donald Trump.

Under the fledgling AU-KUS deal, the two countries along with the United States have pledged to beef up their military muscle in a bid to counter China's rise. Defence chiefs this week unveiled ambitious plans to supply Australia with a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines, a key pillar of the agreement.

"The three governments involved here are working at pace to make this happen," Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles said on Friday.

However, some fear Mr. Trump could jettison the pact if he wins this year's presidential election, returning to his "America first" style of foreign policy.

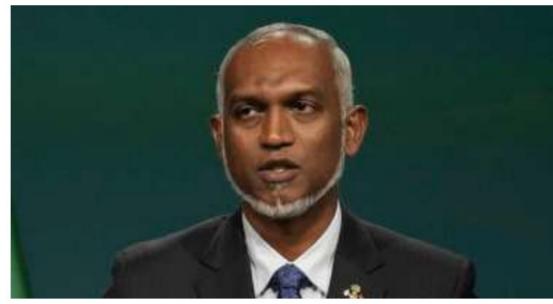




The Economist

MALE

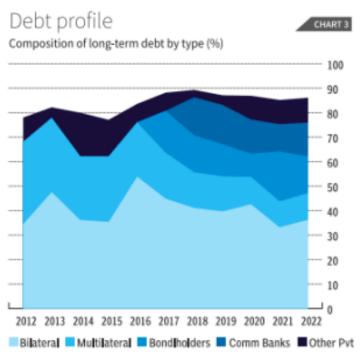
Maldives President seeks debt relief from India amid tensions

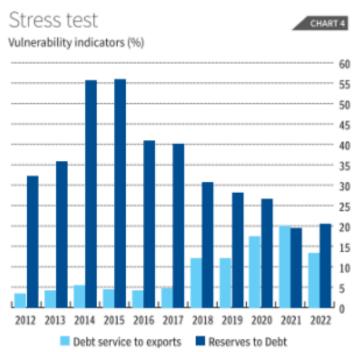


AP

After his anti-India rhetoric, Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has struck a reconciliatory tone, saying India will continue to remain his country's "closest ally" and urged New Delhi to provide debt relief to the archipelago nation. The Maldives owed approximately \$400.9 million to India by the end of last year. PTI

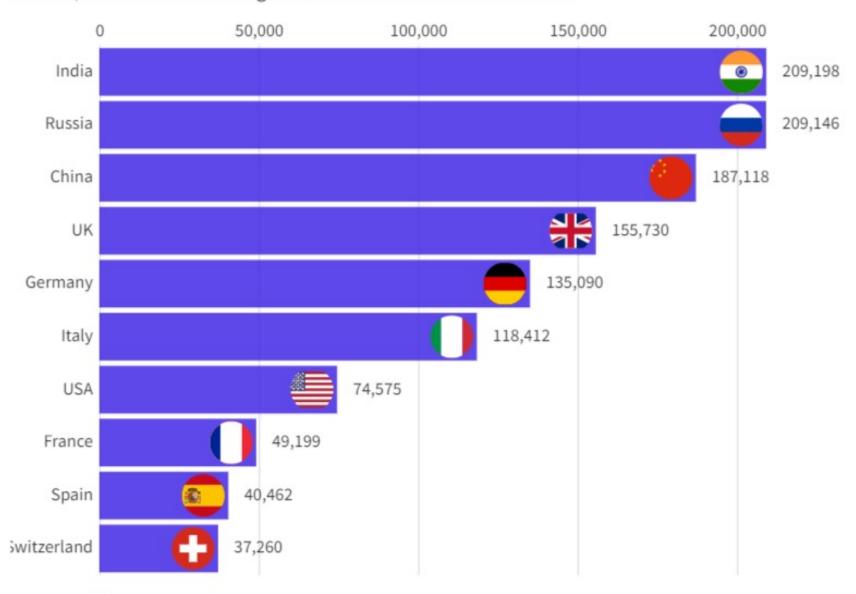






Tourist arrivals in Maldives in 2023

In 2023, Maldives saw the highest number of tourists from India

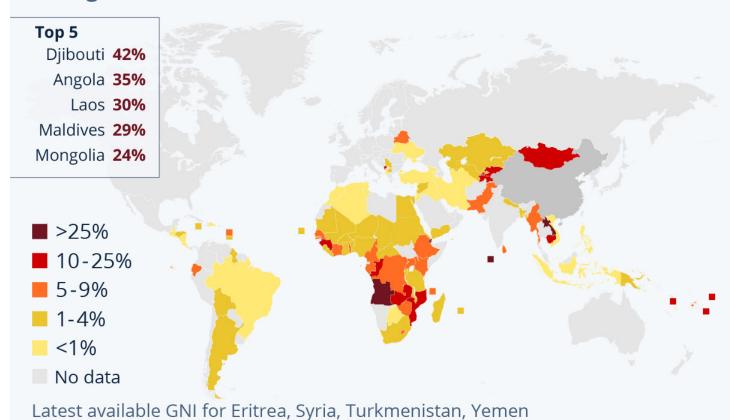


Source: Maldives Tourism Ministry

The Hindu Graphics

The Countries Most in Debt to China

External debt to China as a percentage of gross national income (2021)



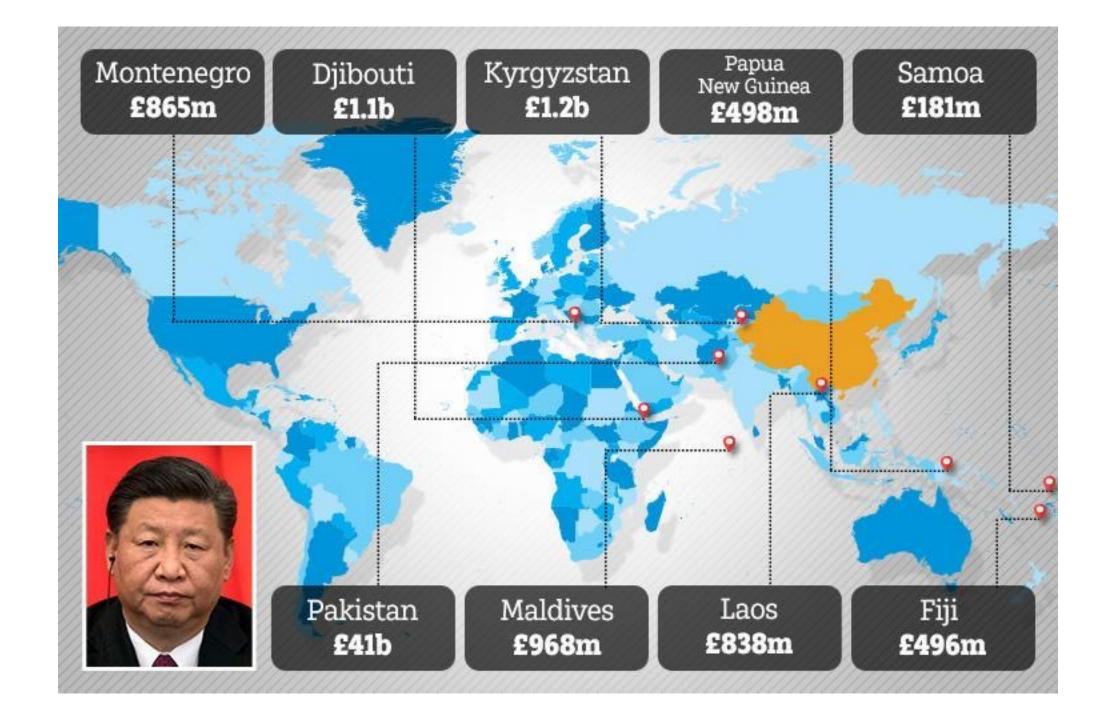






Sources: World Bank, Statista research





SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 22 PAGES

₹7.00 (₹8 BIHAR & RAIPUR, ₹12 SRINAGAR) WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.CO

ARRESTED DELHI CM IN ED CUSTODY UNTIL MARCH 28

ED gets Kejriwal custody, tells court he is scam kingpin; he says there's no 'material'

Case based on few approvers, you have a verdict before first vote is cast, says CM's lawyer Singhvi

IRBHAYTHAKUF

dy until March 28, hours afte e agency told a Delhi court tha was the "kingpin and key con pirator of the Delhi excise scam

nder investigation.

The ED also alleged that kick-acks received following hanges in the excise policy were used to fund AAP's Assembly

ught his remand for 10 days. he evening, the judge grants is custody until March 28.

The court directed that his terrogation be conducted at me place having CCTV coverome place having CLTV cover-ge in accordance with the usidelines laid down by the one ble Supreme Court' and the otage be preserved. While in ED custody, Kejriwal an meet his advocates Mohd. shad and Vivek Jain for half-an-

our daily between 6 pm and 7 m. His wife, Sunita Kejriwal, nd aide Bibhav Kumar can also eet him for the same duration uring that time period daily. Taking note of his health con-tion, the court allowed "med-ally recommended diet" and in



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal leaves the Rouse Avenue Court in New Delhi on Friday, ANI

KEJRIWALIN

disquiet. Framed by rivalry between Delhi government and Centre, it will test due

CUSTODY

His arrest is a m

ED: 'Bribes' from South In his constituency, the Group went to AAP for Goa polls, helped by CM

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA & NIRBHAY THAKUR PANAJI, NEW DELHI, MARCH 22

South Group were funnelled into the Aam Aadmi Party's Goa Assembly poll campaign through a web of hawala transactions, the Enforcement Directorate has alleged in its remand application, while claiming that Chief while claiming that Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was 'in-trinsically involved in the acts of (excise) policy formulation, kick-back scheme and the final use of the proceeds of crime'. The remand application, filed

chorus: 'galat hai', in jail or out, should stay CM THE EDITORIAL PAGE

MALLICA JOSHI

MOST IN his constituency do not remember the last time Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal visited them. But they do notre-sent his absence, and in fact, the message from his New Delhi Assembly constituency is clear - fight and continue to lead the

Sovernment.

Unlike the rest of the city, the New London House of the constituency is planned from the constituency in the constituency in the constituency is provided in the constituency by the ED in Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court, details how the South Group — which involved politicians, businessmen and middlemen — and my

Delhi minister Atishi after party protest at ITO. ANT

clusters in narrow lanes.

A 50-year-old employee of
the New Delhi Municipal
Council who lives in Valmiki

ED refers to AAP as PMLA accused, party could face action as well

APURVA VISHWANATH

(ED), in invoking "vicarious liabil-ity" of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Friday for his arrest in the excise scam, puts a question mark on whether the Aam Admi Party (AAP)itself will be subsequently

named an accused. Under vicarious liability, an individual is liable in law for the

individual is liable in law for the acts of others.

Additional solicitor General SV Raju, who appeared for the ED, told a Delhi Court during Kejriwal's remand hearing that the Chief Minister has been ar-rested because "of both individal and vicarious liability."
For the first time in court, in the remand application, the ED CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BYTINNY



ENERGY TO RAIL TO SPACE, PACTS SIGNED

Top Bhutan honour for PM: 'transforming ancient civilisation to dynamic tech centre'

SHUBHAJIT ROY

DESCRIBING PRIME Minister endra Modi's leadership as extraordinary and exemplary", hutan's King Jigme Khesar

Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck sald Friday in Andrew Shang Shang

HIGHEST NUMBER FOR A GROUP

Energy firm Greenko

entities to buy bonds

for YSRCP, BRS, BIP

Of its Rs 117 cr purchase, Rs 55 cr to

used its web of 44

the sake of power, but to effe

traordinary and exemplary. Whim at the helm, India's future bright. And as I said before, as

bright. And as I said before, a su cessful India means a bright f ture for Bhutan," the King said Modi, who arrived in Pa airport where an exception welcome was accorded to hi with people greeting him. with people greeting him along the journey from Paro Thimphu, met the Bhutan Kir CONTINUED ON PAGE

Metal detectors and 60 cameras: ASI begins survey of Bhojshala site

SC declines to interfere with HC order



ecurity personnel stand guard outside the Bhojshala in har, Madhya Pradesh, on Friday, PTI

NANDMOHAN

TEAM of the Archaeological urvey of India Friday began a urvey of the Bhojshala temle/Kamal Maula mosque con

ole/Kamal Maula mosque com-olex in Madhya Pradesh's tribal-lominated Dhar district. The ASI team, comprising nore than a dozen members, eached the complex in the

tion officials.

The team worked until noon, leaving before the afternoon namaz. The second phase of the survey will be conducted on Saturday. On March 11, the Madhya

Pradesh High Court had ordered the ASI to conduct within six weeks a survey of the pren

RUSSIA, CHINA BLOCK US-BACKED

UNSC RESOLUTION FOR GAZA CEASEFIRE KATE, PRINCESS OF HAS CANCER

THE ALLAHABAD High Court

Friday declared the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa

Education Act, 2004, "unconsti-

ASADREHMAN

No alliance for BJD, BJP in Odisha; talks hit Assembly seats hurdle

SILIIT BISOYI & LIZ MATHEW NESWAR, NEW DELHI

HC strikes down UP madrasa law,

says put students in regular schools

of the Constitution.

Hearing a petition filed by a
lawyer challenging the Act, a
bench of Justices Vivek
Chaudhary and Subhash
Vidyarthi also directed the state

government to "take steps forth-with for accommodating the madrasa students in regular schools recognised under the

AFTER MUCH deliberations, held The Birth and September and September 1 to foot and Birth and Birt



contest on anything less than 100 of the 147 Assembly seats, in the only state where it has a presence. But the BJP in-sisted on around 57 seats. The two also could not

High School and Intermediate Education Board of the state of

Uttar Fradesh".

"The state government for the said purpose shall ensure that as per requirement sufficient number of additional seats are created and further if required, sufficient CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Uttar Pradesh".

thanised the Naeveen Patrails-led BID for its support to the BIP gov-BID for its support to the BIP gov-moments, but said the BIP did not agree with the BID govern-ment on many issues pertaining like "Odia samita (pride)", and "Odia glocy." Paranab Paikasah Das said the party was confident about con-testing alone. "With the bless-testing alone. "With the bless-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



BREACH ORDER' MUIZZU NOW SAYS INDIA 'CLOSEST ALLY'

GOVT & POLITICS



In all, Greenko group compa-nies cumulatively shelled out Rs 117 crore on electoral bond

SUKALPSHARMA

THE ELECTORAL bonds data

ade public by the Election mmission of India (ECI) may

YSRCP, Rs 49 cr to BRS, Rs 13 cr to BJP weighs entities and related pa

> s. Ace Urban h nds worth Rs 10 cm Of the Rs 117 crore wort bonds bought by Greenko, Rs bonds bought by Greenko, Rs crore worth were redeemed the YSR Congress; Rs 49 crore the Bharat Rashtra Samithi; a Rs 13 crore by the Bharati Janata Party. CONTINUED ON PAGE

Trials on for seven weight-loss drugs knocking on Indian doors

NONNA DUTT

VITH STUDIES now proving that he new category of weight-loss hjectables can reduce your reight by up to 20% — comparale to life-saving bariatric surger-is — these are now expected to e available in India in the next

aple of years. Regulatory data analysed by

there are 31 trials in place. Two of these medications are already approved for use among diabet-ics and those struggling with obesity in the US.

sesity in the US.

Six of the seven therapies irrently under trial have been developed by Novo Nordisk, a Danish company, and Eli Lilly, a US drug manufacturer. These drugs are expected to be mar-

drugs are expected to be thar-keted in India once trials show positive results among the pop-ulation. Nordisk sells Semaglutide (antidiabetic and weight-loss medication) as Ozempic, a low-dose injectable

two important data sets: clinical trial registry data and recom-mendations of the drug regula-tion. These show that several phase 3 global trials of the popular com-pound Semaglutide are under the popular com-pound Semaglutide are under on diabetes management, weight loss, obesity-related heart diseases and chronic kid-ney diseases.

for diabetes, and Wegovy, a high-dose injectable for weight loss. Eli Lilly has rolled out Mounjaro for managing diabetes and Zepbound for weight loss. The Indian Express analysed two important data sets: clinical

LISTED WITH CLINICAL TRIAL REGISTRY NOVEL DRUG MAKERS ■ Novo Nordisk

■ Eli Lilly ■ Boehringer Ingelheim GENERIC DRUG MAKERS ■ Dr Reddy's

While one study is looking at the effect of the drug on children and adolescents, a few others are studying its impact on diabetes—studying its impact on diabetes its impact on diabetes its

(damage to the retina). A phase 2 study is under way to see the impact of the medicine on patients with non-alcoholic liver damage. "While Wegony is about to enter India and has shown about 10% weight loss in participants, India is also participating in trials of more retent. Setmagnutioe essentianty marines a hormone called glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP1), which stimu-more insulin. This in turn lowers blood sugar, reducing craving and slowing digestion. All these mechanisms keep you from overeating, ultimately leading to

Retarrutide, an upcoming drug, acts on three targets (GLP-1, GIP and glucagon), tackling obesity more effectively at 24%," says Dr V Moban, chairman, Dr Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre,

CagriSema is being studied f use by both diabetics and the obese, Icosema as being acomply only for its efficacy among di betics since it contains insuli lcoSema addresses the proble of weight gain in diabetics wi need insulin shots to contr

HC strikes down UP madrasa law, says put students in regular schools

ASAD REHMAN

LUCKNOW, MARCH 22

THE ALLAHABAD High Court Friday declared the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004, "unconstitutional", maintaining that it violates "the principle of secularism" as well as fundamental

rights provided under Article 14 of the Constitution.

Hearing a petition filed by a lawyer challenging the Act, a bench of Justices Vivek Chaudhary and Subhash Vidyarthi also directed the state government to "take steps forthwith for accommodating the madrasa students in regular schools recognised under the

Primary Education Board and schools recognised under the High School and Intermediate Education Board of the state of Uttar Pradesh".

"The state government for the said purpose shall ensure that as per requirement sufficient number of additional seats are created and further if required, sufficient

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

number of new schools are established. The government shall also ensure that children between the ages of 6 to 14 years are not left without admission in duly recognised institutions," it said.

Uttar Pradesh has a total of 16,513 recognised and 8,449 unrecognised madrasas with nearly 25 lakh students.

The madrasa Act is also "violative of Section 22 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956", the bench said.

It, however, added, "Further, we are not deciding the validity of Section 1(5) of the RTE (Right to Education) Act as we have already held the madrasa Act to be ultra vires and we are also informed by learned counsel for both the parties that in state of UP Vedik Pathshalas do not exist."

During the hearing on the petition filed by Anshuman Singh Rathore, the bench appointed advocates Gaurav Mehrotra, Akber Ahmad and Madhukar Ojha as amici curiae to assist the court.

A Court action assist the court.

During the hearing on the petition filed by Anshuman Singh Rathore, the bench appointed advocates Gaurav Mehrotra, Akber Ahmad and Madhukar Ojha as amici curiae to assist the court.

After going through the madrasa syllabi, the court said students are required to study Islam and its doctrines to progress to the next class and that modern subjects are either included or offered as optional, and that they have the choice to study just one optional subject. In his petition, Rathore challenged the Act on the grounds that "the provisions, scheme and the environment" created by the madrasa Act violate Articles 14, 15 and 21-A of the Constitution.

UP Madrasa Board chairman Iftikhar Ahmed Javed said, "It (order) will be examined. It (Act) was enacted by the government in 2004... It is unfortunate that our lawyers couldn't explain to the court that the government grant is not for religious education. The grant is for the promotion of oriental languages..."



REUSABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE PASSES TEST

Pushpak, a Reusable Launch Vehicle, lands at the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga, Karnataka, Friday. Calling it a major milestone, ISRO said the trial revalidated the indigenously developed technologies in the systems essential for performing a high-speed autonomous landing of a space-returning vehicle. PTI



Participating in the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council Reform, India has presented a detailed model on behalf of the G4 nations for United Nations Security Council Reform.

The model includes new permanent members elected democratically by the UN General Assembly and shows flexibility on the veto issue.

The G4 (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) was created in 2004 and has been promoting Security Council reform.

Little Satisfaction

On January 1, India began its tenure as non-permanent member of the powerful 15-nation UN organ for 2021-22 term

- India, Norway, Kenya, Ireland and Mexico join non-permanent members Estonia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Vietnam and the five permanent members in the Council for 2021
- India will be UNSC President in August 2021 and will preside over the Council again for a month in 2022. The presidency of the Council is held by each member in turn for one month, following the English alphabetical order of the member states' names
- On June 17, India was elected to the UN Security Council with 184 of the total 192 votes. A member country needs two-thirds majority of votes in the General Assembly to become a non-permanent member. This is the eighth time India has been elected as a non-permanent member
 - The UNSC has 15 members and five of them (P5) — US, UK, Russia, China and France — are permanent members with veto rights
- The ten elected or non-permanent members have a tenure of two years and no veto rights. This makes them a toothless grouping

THE G4 CASE

 By 1992, India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan staked their claims demanding inclusion as permanent members

INDIA

- India has been part of UN since inception, has the world's second-largest population, is the world's largest democracy and has contributed maximum peacekeepers to UN
- Brazil is the largest country in Latin America (unrepresented continent) and fifth largest in the world
 - Japan and Germany are one of the largest financial donors to the UN
- Besides G4 countries, South Africa (largest economy in African continent) is also a claimant, as the continent remains unrepresented on high table of permanent members
- The roadblock is that Articles 108 and 109 of the United Nations Charter grant P5 veto over any amendments to the Charter, requiring them to approve of any modifications to the UNSC veto power, that they themselves hold
- So even if one member of P5 doesn't agree to any reform, the UNSC cannot be reformed



BRAZIL

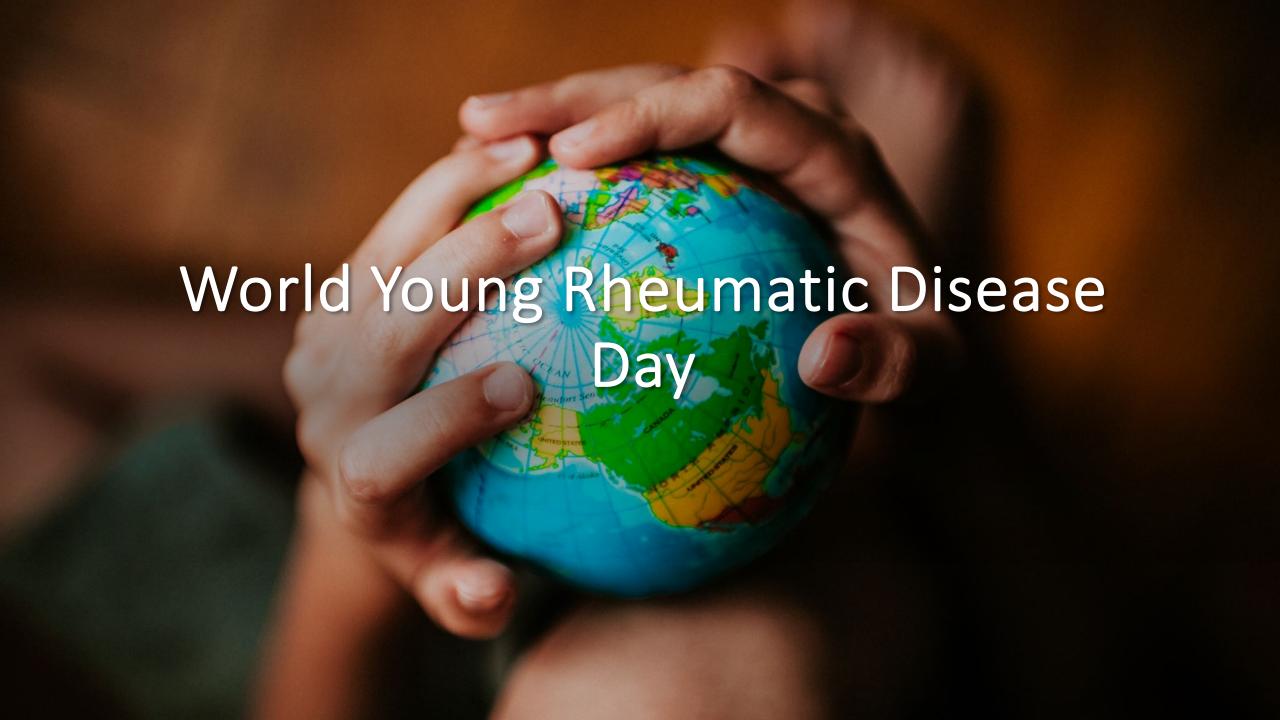
- Membership Expansion: The G4 model advocates for increasing the Security Council's membership from the current 15 to 25-26 members.
 - This expansion includes adding 6 permanent and 4 or 5 nonpermanent members.
 - Two new permanent members each are proposed from African states and Asia Pacific states, one from Latin American and Caribbean states, and one from Western European and Other states.

- What is the United Nations Security Council?
- The United Nations Security Council, established under the UN Charter in 1945, constitutes one of the UN's six principal organs.
- Comprising 15 members, it includes 5 permanent members (P5) and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.
 - The permanent members are the United States, Russian Federation, France, China, and the United Kingdom.

• India's participation in the Security Council has been as a non-permanent member during the periods of 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92, 2011-12, and 2021-22.

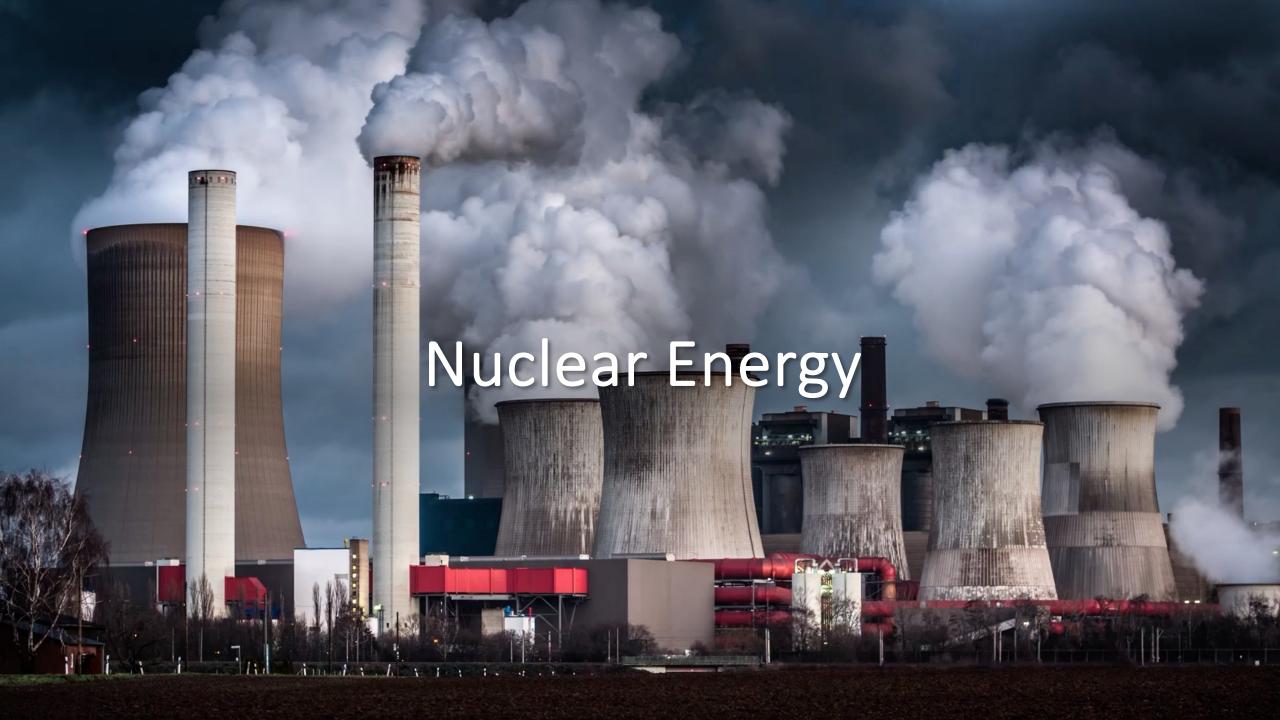
The Security Council of UN consists of 5 permanent members, and the remaining 10 members are elected by the General Assembly for a term of (2009)

- **(a)** 1 year
- **(b)** 2 years
- **(c)** 3 years
- (d) 5 years



- World Young Rheumatic Disease Day (WORD Day) (18th March) underscores the importance of early detection and awareness regarding rheumatic diseases among young individuals.
- Rheumatic disease is an umbrella term that refers to arthritis and several other conditions that affect the joints, tendons, muscles, ligaments, bones, and muscles

- The most prevalent paediatric rheumatic disorder, **Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA)** encompasses various inflammatory arthritis subtypes, posing a significant health challenge among children worldwide.
- JIA's global prevalence ranges from **0.07 to 4 per 1,000 children**, with varying distribution patterns across different regions.



World leaders gathered in Brussels at the first ever **Nuclear Energy Summit** to highlight the role of nuclear energy in addressing the global challenges to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

About the summit

The Summit comes in the wake of the historic inclusion of **nuclear energy in the Global Stocktake** agreed at the **UN Climate Change Conference (COP28)** in Dubai in December 2023, which called for accelerating its deployment along with other low carbon energy sources.

• The declaration signed by 22 world leaders mentioned the need to triple nuclear energy capacity by 2050.

The summit is an initiative in collaboration with the IAEA's 'Atoms4Netzero' programme, and is part of the multilateral approach to decarbonisation.



Nuclear Energy



The nuclear energy harnessed around the world today to produce electricity is through nuclear fission, while technology to generate electricity from fusion is at the R&D phase.



Nuclear energy is a form of energy released from the nucleus, the core of atoms, made up of protons and neutrons.

 This source of energy can be produced in two ways: fission – when nuclei of atoms split into several parts – or fusion – when nuclei fuse together.

Importance

- Nuclear power is a low-carbon source of energy, because unlike coal, oil or gas power plants, nuclear power plants practically do not produce CO2 during their operation.
- Nuclear reactors generate close to one-third of the world's carbon free electricity and are crucial in meeting climate change goals.
- Most importantly, nuclear power has the capacity to supply uninterrupted energy irrespective of geographical constraints making it a crucial component of the wider renewable energy mix.
- Nuclear power plants (NPP) also have low operating costs, smaller land imprint and
 a longer life cycle compared to all the other renewable energy sources.
- It enhance energy security and boost economic development

• There are 440 nuclear reactors in the world, accounting for a quarter of the world's low-carbon energy.

A. The number of nuclear reactors is increasing, with 60 reactors under construction and 110 in the planning stage, most being in Asia, particularly China, which is soon to overtake the U.S. and the nuclear giant France.

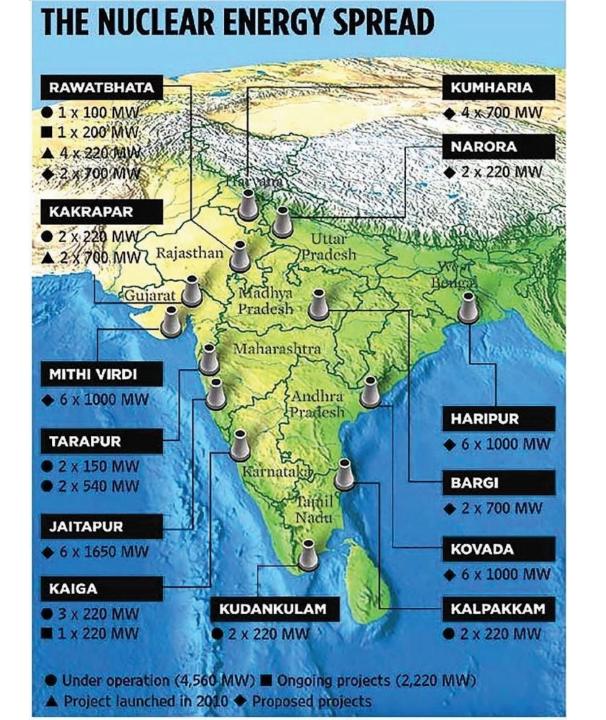
Status in India

India's first commercial NPP in Pahalgarh, Tarapur offers reliable energy at 2/kWh lower than solar power tariffs.

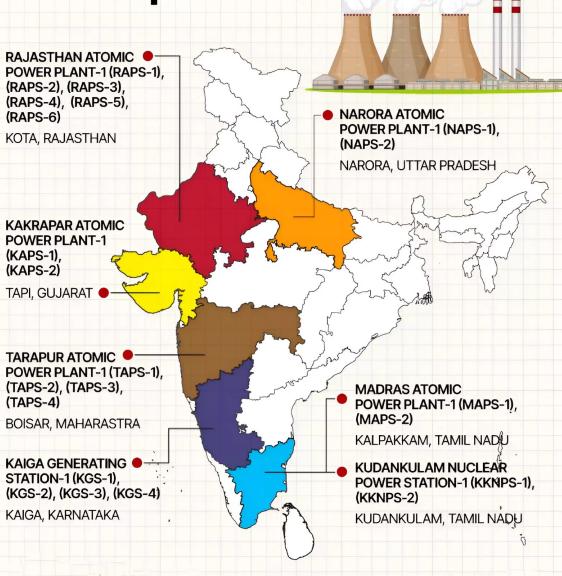
At Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu, a newer power plant offers electricity in the range of 4-6/kWh comparable to coal-fired thermal power plants.

Despite its versatile nature, nuclear power contributes **only 1.6%** of the total renewable energy mix in India.

• Stigma, weaponization risk, radiation leak, regulation, high upfront cost, and long project overruns are the reasons for low adoption rate of nuclear energy.



Nuclear Power Plants under operation in India



Project Gaia

• The European Central Bank, the Bank for International Settlements, the Bank of Spain, and the Bundesbank of Germany introduced **Project Gaia**.

About

• **Project Gaia** aims to help analysts search corporate climate-related disclosures and extract data quickly and efficiently using artificial intelligence (AI).

Operation Indravati

• India launched 'Operation Indravati' to evacuate its nationals from Haiti.

Background

- **Haiti** has been witnessing violence for over two years since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise.
- Now various armed groups launched coordinated attacks on key installations in Haiti in an attempt to force the resignation of the country's de facto leader Prime Minister Ariel Henry.

•

- About Haiti
- Capital: Port-au-Prince
- Haiti, is a country on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea, east of Cuba and Jamaica, and south of The Bahamas.



EXERCISE IMT TRILAT-2024

The 2nd edition of the Trilateral Exercise (IMT TRILAT) began recently in the western Indian Ocean.

It is a joint Tri Lateral maritime exercise between *India, Mozambique, and Tanzania.*

The exercise aims at capability development to address common threats through training and sharing of best practices.

Pusa-1121 and 1509 Basmati varieties

- Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) scientists have raised concerns about the unauthorized cultivation of Indian basmati rice varieties in Pakistan.
- Varieties such as <u>Pusa Basmati-1121 (PB-1121), Pusa Basmati-6 (PB-6), and PB-1509</u>, originally developed by IARI, are <u>being grown in Pakistan under different names</u>.
- For instance, <u>PB-1121 is marketed as '1121 Kainat' and PB-1509 as 'Kissan Basmati'.</u>

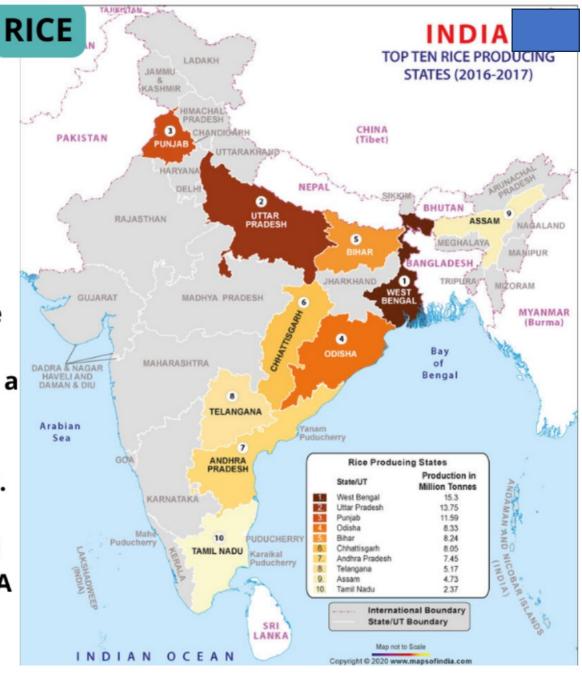
Basmati rice is a long-grain rice variety known for its distinct aroma, delicate flavour, and fluffy texture when cooked.

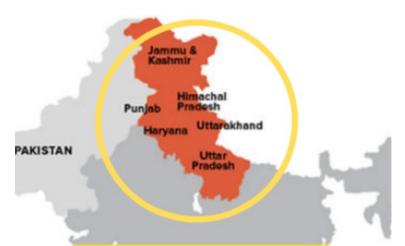
It is primarily grown in the Indian subcontinent, particularly in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Basmati rice has been cultivated for centuries and is highly prized for its quality and culinary properties.

So far 34 varieties of Basmati rice have been notified under the Seeds Act, 1966.

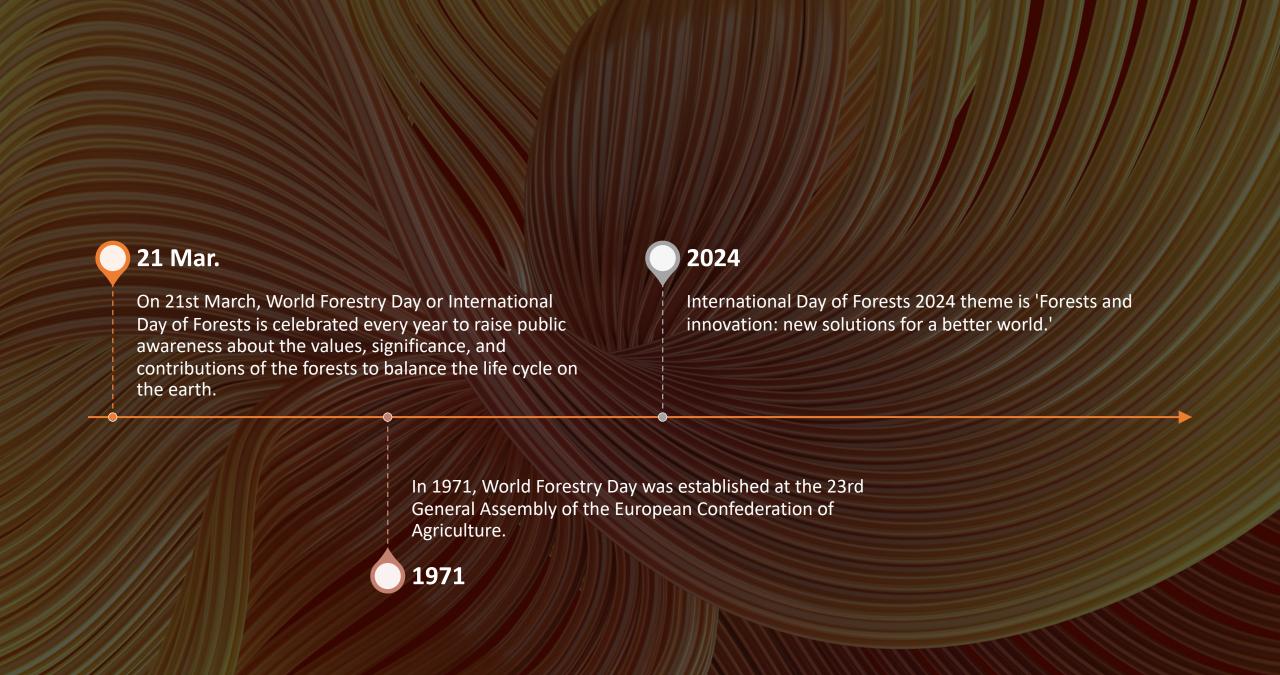
- Temperature: 22-32°C (high humidity)
- Rainfall: Around 150-300 cm.
- Soil Type: Deep clayey and loamy soil.
- Top Rice Producing States: West Bengal > Punjab > Uttar Pradesh > Andhra Pradesh > Bihar.
- Aus, Aman and Boro: In states like Assam, West Bengal and Odisha, three crops of paddy are grown in a year.
- India is the leading exporter of Basmati Rice to the global market.
- Major Export Destinations for Basmati Rice (2021-22): Iran, Saudi Arab, Iraq, United Arab EMTs, U S A and Yemen Republic.





The areas of Basmati Rice production in India are the states of J & K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand and western Uttar Pradesh.







On 22 March, World Water Day is observed annually to raise awareness about the importance of freshwater and advocate for the The theme for World Water Day 2024 is "Water sustainable management of freshwater for Peace". resources. 1992 2024 22 Mar. It was recommended to celebrate in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janerio. And then, in 1993 the first World Water Day is celebrated.

The theme for World Water Day 2024 is "Water for Peace"

CIRRENT AFFAIRS

By Bhunesh Sir

- *OUPDATED CURRENT AFFAIRS*
- **♥COMPLETE 2 YEARS (2023 + 2024) CURRENT AFFAIRS**
- **⊘** COMPLETE NOTES (PDF)
- **♥360** DEGREE EXAMS COVERED

PRICE 999₹ 999

Class24

FIJIII

By Bhunesh Sir

- **STATIC GK**
- **SHISTORY**
- **POLITY**
- **GEOGRAPHY**
- **ECONOMICS**
- SCIENCE

PRICE 1999₹ 999

Use Code- B50

Use Code-B50

SELF IMPROVEMENT

LANGUAGE SPEAKING



















