

# Daily Current Affairs



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Perform your  
obligatory  
duty, because  
action is  
indeed better  
than inaction.

**Bhagavad Gita**





**China reaffirms its claim over Arunachal**  
NEWS » PAGE 6



**Anti-liquor disclaimers in films see an increase**  
NEWS » PAGE 6



**AAP launches social media campaign**  
NEWS » PAGE 4



**Water levels less than 25% in major dams**  
Worrying signs as the summer sets in  
OPINION » PAGE 5



**Super Kings face the Titans test**  
SPORT » PAGE 16

**INSIDE**

**Ukrainian FM invokes Gandhi for India backing**  
NEW DELHI  
The Foreign Minister of Ukraine, Dmytro Kuleba, said on Monday that supporting Ukraine's cause translates into supporting Gandhian ideals, freedom and independence. The Minister also announced in a video visit message that he will be visiting India this week. » PAGE 4

**Ex-BJP MLA to take on Speaker Birla for Cong.**  
NEW DELHI  
Former BJP MLA Prahlad Gunjal, who recently joined the Congress, will take on outgoing Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla in Rajasthan's Kota, as the party announced its sixth list of candidates on Monday. With five names in the fresh list, the Congress has so far announced 190 candidates. » PAGE 5

# United Nations calls for ceasefire in Gaza during month of Ramadan

The Security Council passes resolution 14-O after the U.S. abstains from voting. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu cancels high-level delegation's Washington visit, accuses the U.S. of 'retreating from a principled position' by allowing vote to pass

**Associated Press**  
UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations Security Council issued its first demand to halt the fighting in Gaza, calling for a ceasefire during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in a vote that drew an immediate protest from the Israeli Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cancelled a planned visit to Washington by a high-level delegation and accused the U.S. of "retreating" from a "principled position" by allowing the vote to pass without conditioning the ceasefire on the release of hostages held by Hamas.

The resolution passed 14-0 after the U.S. decided not to use its veto power and instead abstained on the resolution, which also



The vote comes after Russia and China vetoed a U.S.-sponsored ceasefire resolution on Friday. AFP

demanding the release of all hostages taken captive during Hamas' October 7 surprise attack in southern Israel. But the measure does not link that demand to the ceasefire during Ramadan, which ends on April 9.

The Israeli delegation was to present White House officials with plans

for an expected ground invasion of the strategic Gaza town of Rafah, where over 1 million Palestinian civilians have sought shelter from the war.

**U.S. reasoning**  
White House national security spokesman John Kirby said the U.S. had been "consistent" in its support

for a ceasefire as part of a demand would last just two weeks, though the draft says the pause in fighting should lead to a permanent sustainable ceasefire.

Monday's resolution, put forward by the 10 elected council members, was backed by Russia and China and the 22-nation Arab Group at the UN.

Algeria's UN Ambassador, on the council, thanked the council for "firmly" demanding a ceasefire shortly before Monday's vote, the elected members changed the final draft resolution to drop the word "permanent" and instead say that a Ramadan ceasefire will lead to a "permanent sustainable ceasefire," apparently at the request of the U.S.

# 14 injured in fire at Mahakal Temple in Madhya Pradesh

A fire that broke out in the Mahakal Temple on Monday.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav visits people injured in a fire that broke out in the Mahakal Temple on Monday. PTI

**Prasa Trust of India**  
UJJAIN

Fourteen priests were injured in a fire that broke out at Mahakal Temple in Ujjain town of Madhya Pradesh on Monday.

The blaze took place in the temple at 5:50 a.m. Ujjain Collector Neeraj Kumar Singh said.

"Fourteen priests suffered burns. Some are being treated in the district hospital here, while eight have sought treatment in Indore. A magisterial

probe has been ordered into the incident," Mr. Singh said. "The fire started as *gulaal* (coloured powder) fell on the *puja thali* (ritual plate) that contained burning camphor. It later spread on the floor and led to a blaze," he added.

The local administration engaged in every possible help to the victims under the supervision of the state government.

**Jaishankar calls on Singapore PM, discusses ties**  
SINGAPORE  
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Monday called on Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, and other Ministers and discussed ways to further the bilateral ties, and the situation in the Indo-Pacific and West Asia regions. » PAGE 6

**Four accused of Moscow attack held in custody**  
MOSCOW  
Russia has ordered four men accused of killing at least 137 people in a mass shooting at a Moscow concert hall to be held in custody on "terror" charges. The men face life in prison, but officials have clamoured for the lifting of a moratorium on the death penalty to deliver harsher sentences. » PAGE 14

## Rapture and relief



Run of joy: Students of the Government Model Boys High School in Kollam, Kerala sprint out of the examination hall in ecstasy on the final day of the Class 10 examinations on Monday. C. SURESH/KUMAR

# Will Sangh Parivar renounce 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai': Pinarayi

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KERALA  
Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has challenged the Sangh Parivar to renounce their slogan *Bharat Mata Ki Jai* because it was coined by a Muslim.

"It was Azimullah Khan, a Muslim, who first raised the slogan 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'. The Sangh Parivar followers are not aware of that. Will they be ready to renounce that slogan because it was made by a Muslim?" the Chief Minister said while addressing a rally against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) organised by the CPI (M) here on Monday.

Azimullah Khan, who

was a strategist in the first war of Indian independence, was credited to have first raised the call for motherland when used the slogan "Madar-e-watan, Bharat Ki Jai" in 1857.

**'Second-class citizens'**  
The Chief Minister said that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) was focusing on Muslims with the objective of turning them into second-class citizens.

"The Sangh Parivar views Muslims as a community that should be driven away from the country. They are against the citizenship law in order to achieve that goal," he said.

Mr. Vijayan also lashed out at the Congress for its

lapparam and Ponnani respectively, attended the function.

**BJP complains to EC**  
Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) State executive member K.K. Surendran complained to the Election Commission against the Chief Minister for alleged violation of the Model Code of Conduct by using religion during his election campaign.

In a letter sent to the Chief Election Commissioner, he alleged that a rally taken out by the CPI(M) at Malappuram on Monday was with the intention of instilling fear and hatred in the Muslim community, especially during Ramadan.

# EU probe into tech giants for 'violation' of new law may trigger hefty fines

**Sriram Lakshman**  
LONDON

The European Union, on Monday, launched probes into whether Apple, Alphabet and Meta violated a new law, the Digital Markets Act (DMA), in what is the latest instance of governments trying to exercise greater control over the functioning of big tech companies. The companies could be fined up to 10% of their global revenues and 20% for repeat infringements.

The announcement of the investigations comes three weeks after the bloc fined Apple more than \$1 billion (USD 2 billion) for anti-competitive behaviour in the market for the distribution of streaming music apps. The U.S. Department of Justice filed a case against Apple last week for allegedly stifling competition and keeping prices high in the smartphone market.

The DMA fully came into effect on March 7 and seeks to regulate online companies called 'gatekeepers', whose products and services are used by some 450 million people. The DMA has designated six 'gatekeepers' in September last year: Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, ByteDance (owners of TikTok), Meta and Microsoft.

Two of the announced investigations are against Alphabet and Apple's alleged "anti-steering" practices, the EU's competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager said, as the bloc has discussions along with internal market commissioner

## Under lens

What do the EU probes mean for Alphabet, Apple and Meta



- The probes will examine whether the companies violated the Digital Markets Act.
- If found so, they could be fined up to 10% of their global revenue.
- The investigations, which are likely to conclude in a year, will also look at issues around user choice, stifling competition, use of targeted advertising etc.

Thierry Breton at a press conference in Brussels. The Commission will investigate whether these companies are preventing app manufacturers from directly communicating and contracting with end users and thereby restricting user choice.

**Question of choice**  
The third probe is about whether Apple allows its users enough choice, including in terms of ease of uninstalling apps and changing default settings. Of particular concern was that the web browser choice screen deprived end users of making fully informed choices. Ms Vestager said. Apple also did not make several of its apps such as "Photos" uninstallable and prevents users from changing their default status (e.g. Cloud), as required by the DMA, she added.

Apple said it was "confident" its plan complied with the DMA.

"Teams across Apple

have created a wide range of new developer capabilities, features, and tools to comply with the regulation," an Apple spokesperson told *The Hindu* via email.

The fourth investigation is regarding what Mr Breton called Meta's "pay or consent" policy, where users have to pay if they want to use Facebook and Instagram without targeted advertising.

"But the DMA is very clear: gatekeepers must obtain users' consent to use their personal data across different services. And this consent must be free," he said.

The fifth inquiry is into whether Alphabet (Google's parent company) is prioritising its own interests in Google Search. Mr Breton specifically listed Google Shopping, Google Flights, and Google Hotels, possibly benefiting from preferential treatment.

The investigation is scheduled to be completed within 12 months.





# *Water levels less than 25% in many major dams in the south*

With most major dams in the State filled to close to 50% of their capacity, Kerala is the only exception

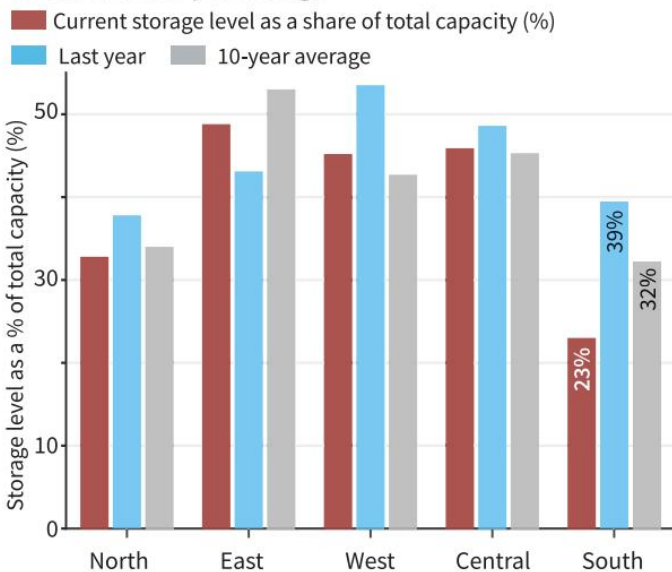
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# In troubled waters

The data for the charts were sourced from the latest weekly bulletin published by the Central Water Commission



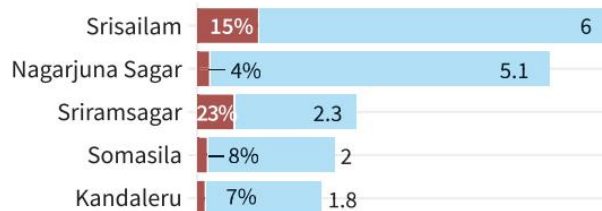
**Chart 1:** The chart shows a region-wise comparison of the current storage levels as a share of the total capacities of reservoirs. It also compares the current water levels with last year's levels and the 10-year average



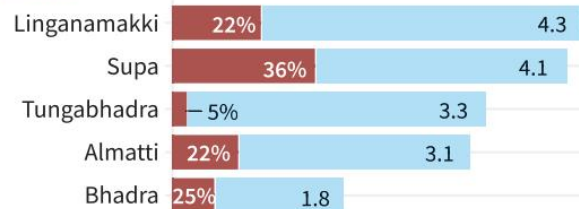
**Chart 2,3,4,5:** The charts show the current storage levels as a share of the total capacity of major dams in southern States

■ Current storage level as a share of total capacity (%)  
■ Total capacity (in lakh crore litres)

**Chart 2: Andhra and Telangana**



**Chart 3: Karnataka**

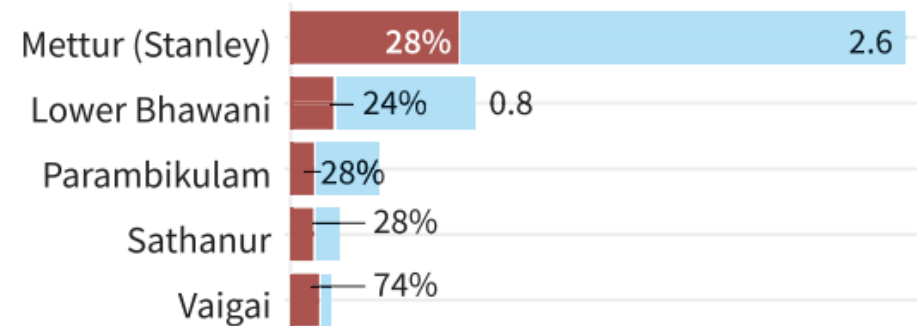


**Chart 4: Tamil Nadu**

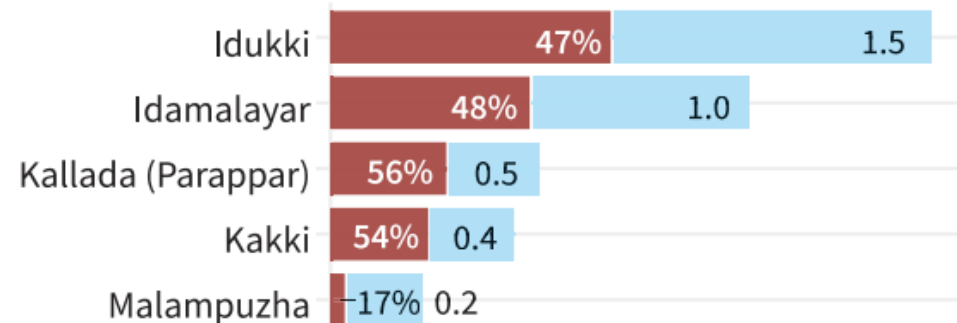
**Table 6:** The table shows the % of districts, across various levels of rainfall deficits, during the 2023 south-west monsoon. For instance, in about 27% districts of Kerala, rainfall deficit during last monsoon was 40% or more

State	Deficit				No deficit
	40% or more	25%-40%	15%-25%	<15%	
Andhra	5%	5%	32%	21%	37%
Karnataka	6%	13%	48%	26%	6%
Kerala	27%	20%	40%	13%	-
Tamil Nadu	3%	11%	13%	16%	58%
Telangana	-	7%	2%	27%	63%

**Chart 4: Tamil Nadu**



**Chart 5: Kerala**





# Robusta coffee price touches all-time high amid global shortage

The price of robusta coffee has risen sharply due to a supply shortage and global factors, surpassing the price of premium arabica coffee

**E.M. Manoj**  
KALPETTA

**R**obusta coffee farmers in South India are jubilant post-harvest with their produce fetching an all-time high price.

The farmgate price of raw Robusta coffee berries touched a record ₹172 per kilogram (kg) in the Wayanad market on Saturday, as against ₹115 per kg during the same period last year. Meanwhile, the spot price of Robusta coffee beans stood at ₹315 per kg, up from ₹210 during the same period in 2023. The price was ₹80 and ₹145 per kg for raw berries and beans, respectively, in March 2022.

Though the harvest is almost complete, there has been a huge shortfall in the supply of coffee to the market this year, thereby contributing to the increase in coffee prices, said Salu George, a coffee trader in Wayanad.



**Prolonged scarcity:** Farmers say production may decline by 25-30% next year too owing to dearth of backup showers. FILE PHOTO

ta coffee-growing country, has also led to the rise in prices, sources added. Robusta coffee production in Indonesia too dipped sharply this year, they said.

Notably, the price of Arabica seeds has dropped below the price of Robusta. The farmgate price of the Arabica variety of coffee was ₹305 per kg on Saturday. While traditionally the Arabica variety fetched a

in Karnataka, received a rainfall of 29.3 mm in the first week of January. Major parts of the district received no rain since then, Prasanth Rajesh, Director, Wayanad Coffee Growers' Association said.

The January showers helped in the blossoming of Robusta coffee plants, farmers say. But absence of backup showers, a major factor in the formation of

## Multiple factors

"We expect a decline of 30% in Robusta production this year owing to climatic vagaries, especially the scanty blossom shower in Robusta-growing regions last year," Mr. George said.

A sharp decline in the production of Robusta coffee—nearly 2 million bags—in Vietnam, a major Robus-

premium price, it is now Robusta that is selling at a higher price due to its low availability.

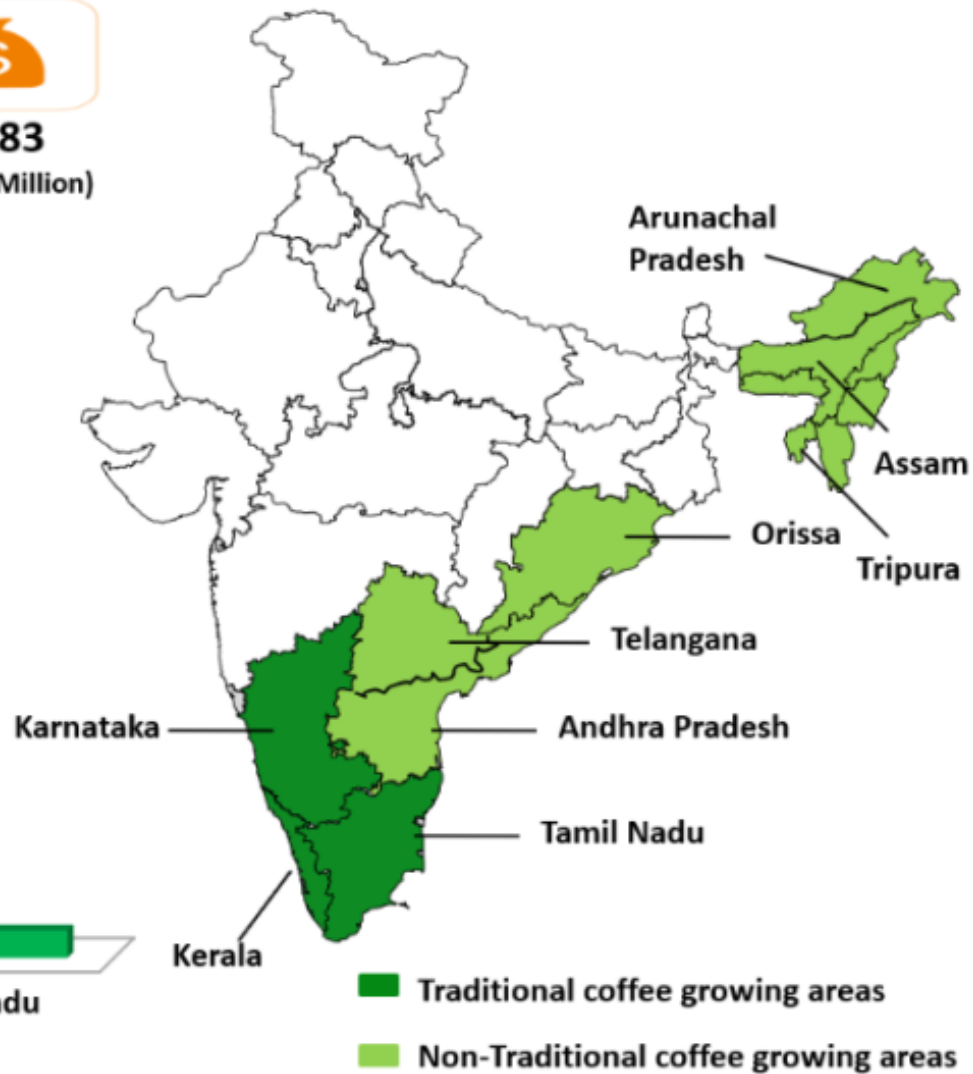
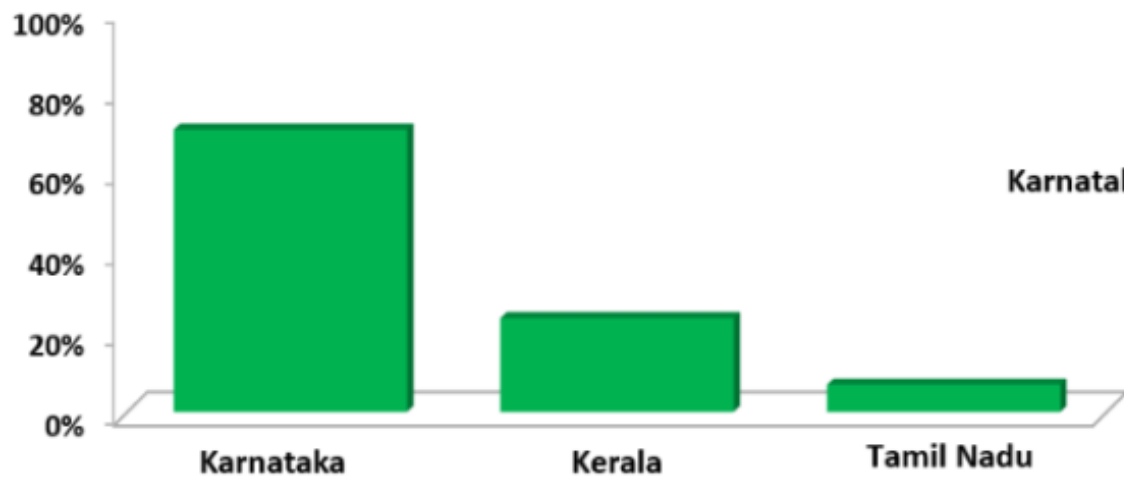
Farmers expect production to decline by 25%-30% next year too owing to a dearth of backup showers in many Robusta coffee-growing regions.

Wayanad in Kerala, which is the largest Robusta coffee-producing district in the country after Coorg

berries, is a concern.

According to the Coffee Board of India, the total production of coffee in India during the 2022-23 fiscal was 3,52,000 tonnes, including 2,52,000 tonnes of Robusta coffee. The total value of India's coffee exports has risen to ₹5,279 crore during the ongoing coffee season, from ₹3,982 crore during the same period in the earlier season.

# INDIA COFFEE MARKET-KEY DATA



Source: Coffee Board of India, Wikipedia

# Coffee

- **Climate:** Hot and humid (15-28 degree C); Dry weather is necessary at the time of ripening of the berries.
- **Rainfall:** High (150-250 mm)
- **Location:** Rainforest of Western Ghats
- **States:** Karnataka (highest) > Kerela > Tamil Nadu > Andhra Pradesh
- **India's position:** Sixth highest producer in the world (65-70% of India's coffee is exported). **Brazil** is the largest producer.



ROBUSTA

EXCELSA



LIBERICA



ARABICA

Varieties of Coffee

Arabica and Robusta are grown in India



Coffee Bean Belt of the world

## *Set for take off*



**Conquering skies:** The Xpeng Heitech, an electric flying car, is displayed at the 45th Bangkok International Motor Show. REUTERS



The Indian Express wishes its readers A Happy Holi... We are closed today...

INSIDE



LEFT PANEL SWEEPS JNU STUDENTS' UNION POLLS HELD AFTER 4-YEAR GAP... JDU, BSP RELEASE LIST OF LOK SABHA CANDIDATES

Will consider restoring trade ties with India: Pak Foreign Minister Dar



SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, MARCH 24

PAKISTAN WILL "seriously" consider restoring trade ties with India that remained suspended since August 2019...

He highlighted the eagerness of cash-starved Pakistan's business community to resume trade activities with India...

Pakistan downgraded its diplomatic ties with New Delhi after the Indian government alleged Article 370 of the

THE WORLD

RUSSIA MOURNS CONCERT HALL SHOOTING VICTIMS... In an attack on a concert hall in Moscow...

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 24

HE'S MALAYALAM novelist Muhammed Riyas's story about a land-lord's family and woe...

FIFTH LIST OF 111 TAKES BJP CANDIDATES COUNT TO 402 Pradhan, Prasad, Kangana, ex-HC judge in latest BJP LS list; Varun, VK Singh out

Naveen Jindal among 3 handed tickets the day they joined party

LIZ MATHEW NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

UNION MINISTER Dharmendra Pradhan, former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy, actor Kangana...

Industrialist Naveen Jindal, who announced his resignation on X



Industrialist Naveen Jindal at the BJP office in Delhi, Sunday... apart from Jindal, others in the BJP list are (clockwise from top) Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan...

shortly before he joined the BJP Sunday, has been handed a ticket... Omissions included Minister of State General V K Singh (retired) who announced before the release of the list that he

an independent; in Uttar Pradesh, whose controversial statements kicked up a row, has been dropped...

RELATED REPORTS

PAGE 6, 7



HOLI WITH FORCES Defence Minister Rajnath Singh celebrates Holi with soldiers in Leh on Sunday...

26 firms facing agencies' heat bought bonds, 16 of them after knock on door

Bonds worth ₹5,179 cr bought by the 26 firms; BJP got 37%, TMC 18%, Cong 12%

ANJISHNU DAS NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

OF 26 companies that bought the electoral bonds and have faced action by investigative agencies...

EXPRESS NETWORK

MEGHA ENGG TOP DONOR FOR BRP TOO, GAVE POLLS BONDS WORTH RS 185 CR

In states like the TMC got 18.29%, DMK 11.35%, BJP 4.48% and BRS 2.59%...

100 crore each. For instance, the top donor Future Gaming, owned by 'lottery king' Santosh Kumar...

Future Gaming and Hotel Services Pvt Ltd Bonds purchased before ED action: 0; after action RS 1,365 cr

ASI to remove 18 'untraceable' monuments from its list of protected sites

DIVYAA NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

IN THE first such largescale exercise in decades, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has put out a list of 18 central 'untraceable' monuments...

Monuments facing delisting include Kos Minar No.13 at Mujesar village in Haryana...

IDEA EXCHANGE

Both Prime Ministers want a FTA... ALEX ELLIS... 'Both Prime Ministers want a FTA...

Kejriwal sends first direction to his govt from ED custody, Opp rally on Mar 31

Told us to resolve water scarcity and prepare for summer: Minister Atishi



Delhi Minister Atishi with other INDIA bloc leaders at a press conference in Delhi...

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

IN HIS first "direction" to the Delhi government after being sent to the custody of the Enforcement Directorate...

Meanwhile, leaders of the Opposition INDIA bloc announced they would hold a joint rally at Ramilla Maidan in Delhi on March 31 to protest Kejriwal's arrest...

Over 50 per cent govt proposals cleared within 72 hrs during poll code: EC 2018 data

DAMINI NATH NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

THE MODEL Code of Conduct (MCC) has often been cited by the ruling BJP as hindering development and governance...

Documents accessed by The Indian Express under the Right to Information Act show that the EC, in a meeting held with the Law Commission on May 19, 2018, was requested to share data on the time taken to reply...

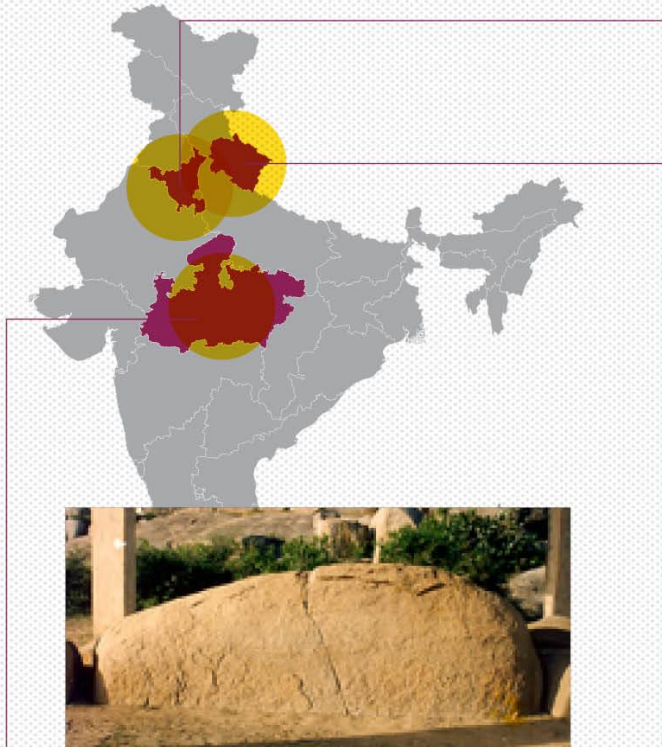
Horror novel, black magic, 2 killings: Kerala double murder unravels

where his serialised novel began appearing from October 2018... The story had all the ingredients of a hit horror flick — revenge, witchcraft, ghosts, and demons...

the floor of one of the rooms at their rented home in the family, who is investigating the case...

Inspector N Suresh Kumar, who is investigating the case, said Nithesh's serialised novel had many similarities to the first crime... There are a lot of similarities between the story and the sequence of events that led up to the first murder...

## MONUMENTS AND SITES THAT ARE UNTRACEABLE



### Haryana

- Kos Minar, Mujesar, Faridabad
- Kos Minar, Shahabad, Kurukshetra




### Madhya Pradesh



- Rock Inscription, Satna

### Uttarakhand

- Kutumbhari Temple, Dwarahat, Almora



ASI to remove 18  
'untraceable'  
monuments from its list  
of protected sites


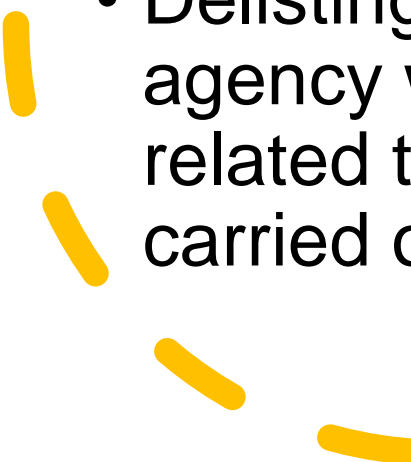
- 
- IN THE first such largescale exercise in decades, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has put out a list of 18 centrally protected monuments which it wants to delist as, according to the central agency, they no longer hold national importance.
- 



A 'monument of national importance', if designated by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), authorises the central government to “maintain, protect and promote the site”, which may be considered of significant historical importance, as mandated by the Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.




Currently, there are around 3,600 monuments of national importance being protected by the ASI.

- 
- The monuments facing delisting include Kos Minar No.13 at Mujessar village in Haryana; Bara Khamba Cemetery in [Delhi](#); Gunner Burkill's Tomb at Rangoon in Jhansi; Cemetery at Gaughat in [Lucknow](#); and Telia Nala Buddhist ruins, which form part of a deserted village in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
  - Delisting of the monuments effectively means the central agency won't have any onus to protect them, and activities related to construction and urbanisation in the area can be carried out in a regular manner.
- 

Currently, the ASI has 3,693 monuments under its purview, which will fall to 3,675 once the delisting exercise is completed in the next few weeks.

According to an official gazette notification dated March 8, published last week, the ASI has invoked Section 35 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act) to delist the 18 monuments, stating that these “have ceased to be of national importance”.



- The missing monuments included 11 in Uttar Pradesh, as well as two each in Delhi and Haryana. It also included monuments in Assam, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

- According to the ASI, which is under the Ministry of Culture, 14 of these 50 monuments were lost to rapid urbanisation, 12 submerged by reservoirs or dams, and 24 remain untraceable.

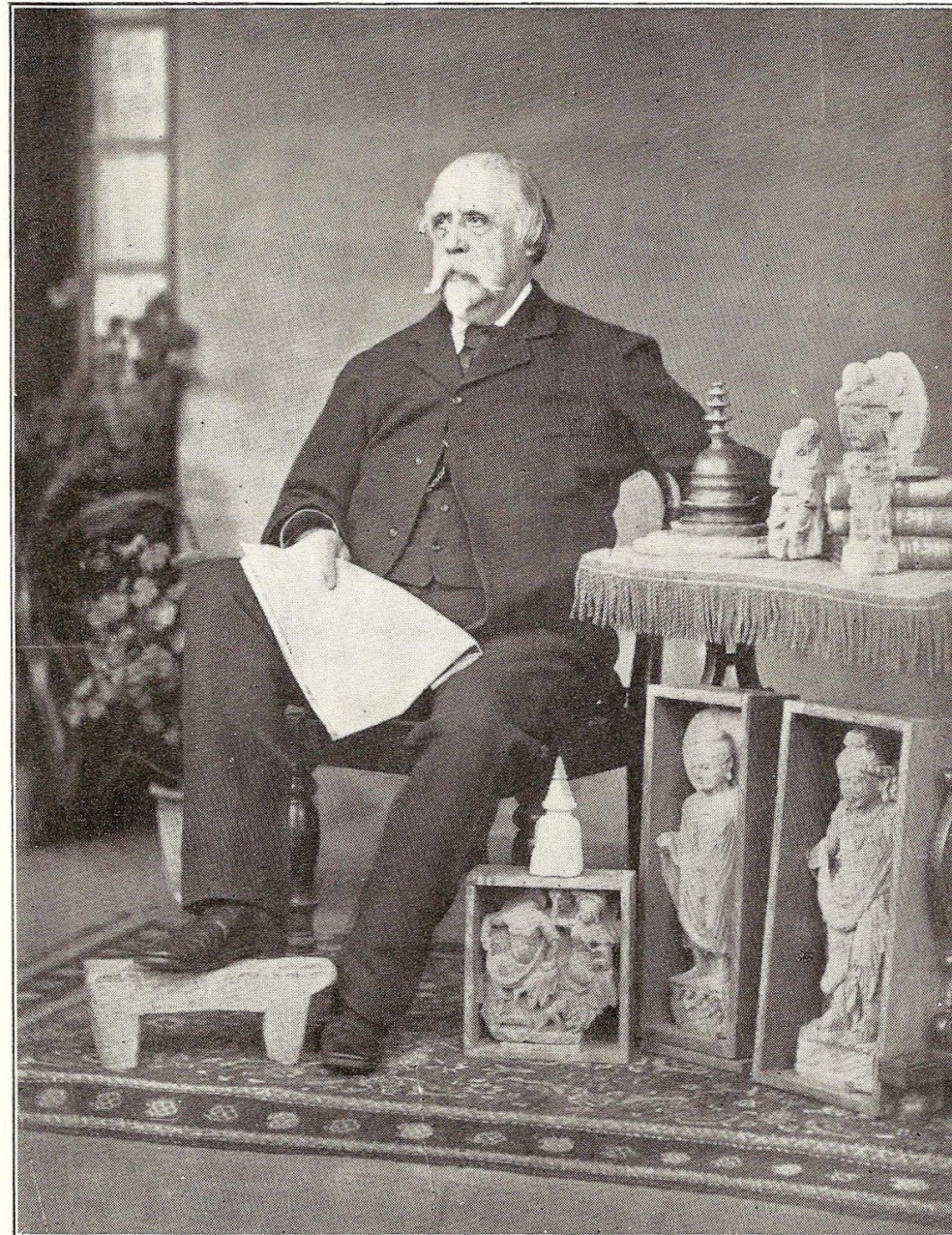
- The 18 monuments to be delisted come from the list of 24 monuments that remain untraceable.



## Official logo of the ASI



<b>Abbreviation</b>	ASI
<b>Formation</b>	1861; 163 years ago
<b>Founder</b>	<a href="#">Alexander Cunningham</a>
<b>Type</b>	<a href="#">Governmental organization</a>
<b>Headquarters</b>	New Delhi
<b>Region served</b>	India
<b>Official language</b>	English <a href="#">Hindi</a>
<b>Director General</b>	Yadubir Singh Rawat
<b>Parent organisation</b>	<a href="#">Ministry of Culture</a>
<b>Budget</b>	₹1,102.83 crore (US\$140 million) (2023–24) <sup>[1]</sup>




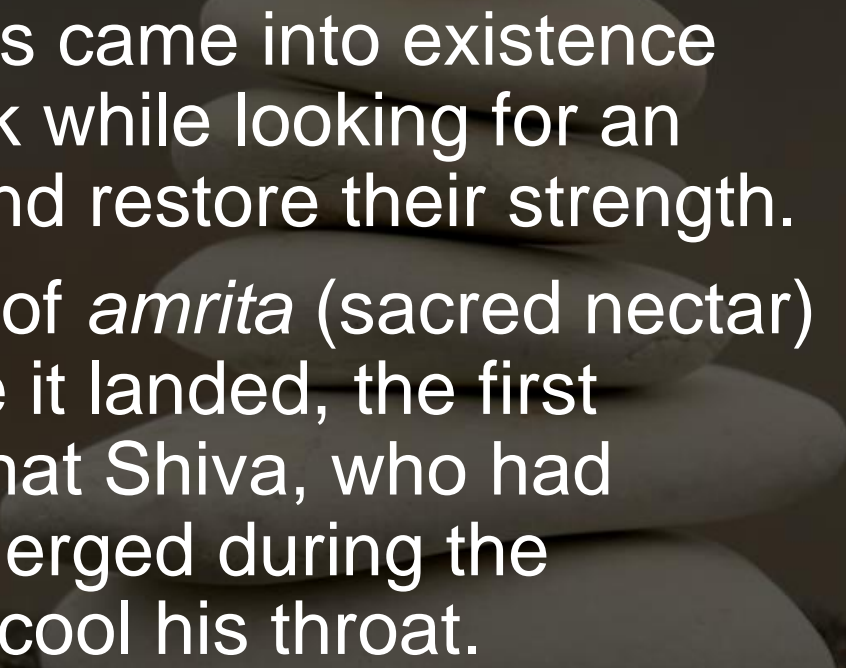
MAJOR-GENERAL SIR ALEXANDER C. CUNNINGHAM, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.,  
LATE BENGAL ENGINEERS.


News / Explained / Explained Culture / On Holi, a brief history of India's love affair with bhang

# On Holi, a brief history of India's love affair with bhang

According to some records, bhang has been in use for thousands of years and finds mention in ancient texts such as the Vedas. In Ayurveda, bhang is believed to cure not only physical ailments but also anxiety.

- 
- According to some records, it has been in use for thousands of years and finds mention in ancient texts such as the Vedas. In Ayurveda, bhang is believed to cure not only physical ailments but also anxiety.
  - Its widespread consumption in India even took the Britishers by surprise when they colonised the country. In the late 19th century, they commissioned a study of bhang's effects and cultural significance, according to a report by the *BBC*.

- 
- A stack of smooth, light-colored stones, possibly river stones, is arranged in a vertical column on a dark, textured surface. The stones vary in size and are stacked in a slightly irregular but balanced manner. The background is dark and out of focus.
- According to Hindu mythology, cannabis came into existence after the gods churned an ocean of milk while looking for an elixir that would make them immortal and restore their strength.
  - During the process of churning, a drop of *amrita* (sacred nectar) fell from the sky and at the place where it landed, the first cannabis plant sprouted. It's believed that Shiva, who had consumed the poison Halahala that emerged during the churning of the ocean, ate this plant to cool his throat.

- 
- Today, bhang is a staple at Holi and Maha Shivratri celebrations, where it is served most commonly with thandai — a cold beverage made from milk, sugar and an indulgent mix of nuts and species such as almonds, fennel seeds, watermelon kernels, rose petals, pepper, poppy seeds, cardamom and saffron.

- **What is bhang?**

- Bhang is essentially a green-coloured paste made from seeds and leaves of the female cannabis plants — they have higher potency and Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content than their male counterparts.
- Prepared by soaking and then grinding the plant material together, the paste is, traditionally, rolled into smooth balls, known as bhang goli.

- **Is bhang legal in India?**
- Under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, which was enacted in 1985 and deals with drugs and their trafficking in India, cannabis has been defined as a narcotic drug and its cultivation, possession, consumption or transportation is prohibited. However, only certain parts of a cannabis plant, such as resin and “flowering or fruiting tops” come under this ban. The Act excludes from prohibition its leaves and seeds, which are used for preparing bhang.

Notably, although the cultivation of cannabis is punishable across the country, harvesting the leaves that grow by themselves is perfectly legal.

Over the years, states have also come up with their own laws regarding the sale and consumption of bhang. A handful of them like Uttar Pradesh even license and tax bhang sales, much like alcohol.

Even if some states have banned the substance's consumption and sale, authorities rarely crack down on its sellers and customers on the occasion of Holi, a report by *The Wall Street Journal* said.





# Arresting the Chief Ministers

*Delhi Chief Minister Aravind Kejriwal was recently arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an excise policy case linked money laundering case*

A chief minister is permitted certain privileges within prison, such as making official phone calls and accessing crucial documents.

**Representation of People's Act, 1951-** It outlines disqualification provisions for certain offences, but a **conviction** is a prerequisite for anyone holding the office.

- 
- **Disqualification-** The Act says that a person convicted for an offence and sentenced to 2 years or above shall be disqualified from the date of such conviction.
  - **Electoral disqualification-** It says the lawmaker shall continue to be disqualified for a further period of 6 years after his release.
  - **Article 361-** President and Governor enjoy constitutional immunity from civil and criminal proceedings until the completion of their term.
- 

This immunity does not extend to Prime Ministers or Chief Ministers, as they are regarded as equals under the Constitution's principle of the Right to Equality before the law.

Despite this, they are not automatically disqualified solely by virtue of an arrest.

**Delhi framework-** Delhi is a Union Territory not a State, it operates under a unique constitutional framework outlined in Articles 239 AA and 239 AB of the Indian Constitution.

**Article 239 AB-** The Lieutenant Governor can seek Presidential intervention potentially leading to the imposition of President's rule.



# Hyperloop Technology

*A Switzerland-based hyperloop company Swisspod Technologies signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with TuTr Hyperloop, a spin-off of IIT Madras to develop hyperloop systems in India.*

**Origin-** It is a proposed ultra-high-speed, ground-level, solar-powered cargo and mass transportation system conceptualized in 2013 by American entrepreneur Elon Musk.



**Technology-** It is the 5<sup>th</sup> mode of transportation Hyperloop which works on a technology that would use magnetic levitation in low-pressure tubes to transport people and goods at airplane-like speeds.



**Maglev-** It is the system in which the vehicle runs levitated from the guide way (corresponding to the rail tracks of conventional railways).

■ The hyperloop train is the brainchild of billionaire Elon Musk, former boss of PayPal and founder of electric car company Tesla

Scale of ...compared to Hyperloop... London Tube



■ Hyperloop tube supported above ground on columns or tunneled below ground to avoid dangerous crossings and wildlife.

■ High-powered electromagnets on the side of the tube lift train above track and guide it

## HOW SPEEDS COMPARE



Train	Top speeds	London to Edinburgh	Birmingham to Manchester	London to Birmingham	London to Manchester
<b>Hyperloop One</b>	<b>670mph</b>	<b>50min</b>	<b>12min</b>	<b>14min</b>	<b>22min</b>
<b>HS2</b>	<b>250mph</b>	<b>3hr 30min</b>	<b>40min</b>	<b>49min</b>	<b>1hr 8min</b>
<b>Virgin trains</b>	<b>125mph</b>	<b>4hr 30min</b>	<b>1hr 31min</b>	<b>1hr 22min</b>	<b>2hr 8min</b>

■ Pods carry passengers or cargo at 670mph

■ Train is propelled by electromagnets on the central rail

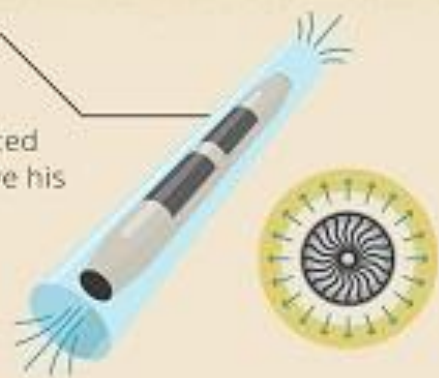




# facts about hyperloop

## OPEN-SOURCE

Hyperloop is an open-sourced technology. **Elon Musk** gave his idea away and encouraged others to develop it.



## SUSTAINABILITY

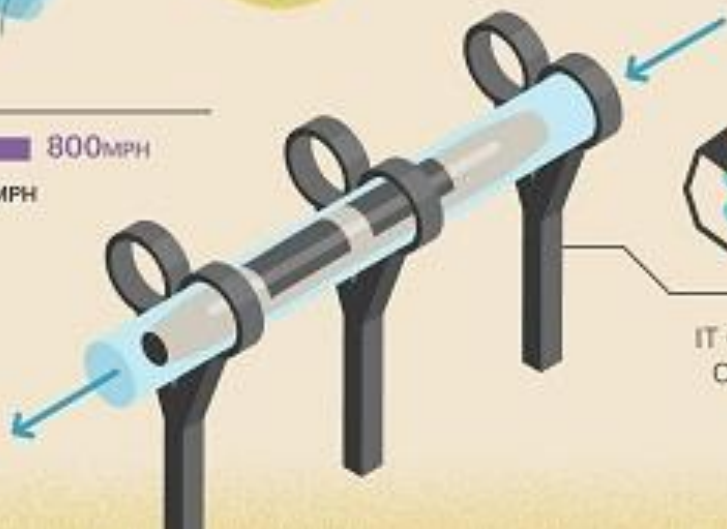
Hyperloop will be powered by the sun, with **solar panels** positioned along the transport tubes.



## SPEED



IT WILL TRAVEL AT 800MPH, FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF SOUND.



IT WILL COST \$6 BILLION, OR ONE-TENTH THE OVERALL COST OF THE RAIL SERVICE CALIFORNIA HAS PLANNED.

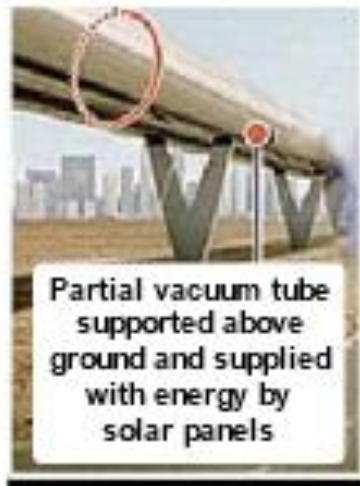
IT COULD ONLY RUN IN A FIXED STRAIGHT LINE, OR ELSE THE SPEED WOULD MAKE YOU SICK.



**A visual overview of hyperloop technology**



The supersonic hyperloop technology is brainchild of Elon Musk, the founder of Tesla



Partial vacuum tube supported above ground and supplied with energy by solar panels

Pods float above rails in tube and are pushed along by high-powered electromagnets

Pods carrying passengers or cargo travel at 760 mph through tube with most of the air removed to reduce friction.

To minimise friction, a powerful fan at the front would suck what air is in the tube to the rear

Propulsion required for only 5% of track. Once top speed is reached, pod could glide for 100 miles without any energy applied.

### HOW SPEEDS COMPARE

Concorde	1,354mph
<b>HYPERLOOP</b>	<b>760mph</b>
Boeing 737	485mph
Bullet Train	275mph
Eurostar	186mph

# Travelling in a Tube

## THE TECHNOLOGY

A capsule, with passengers, travels at speeds of more than **1200 KM/H** inside a vacuum tube

Vacuum tube has an area of **LOW PRESSURE INSIDE IT**

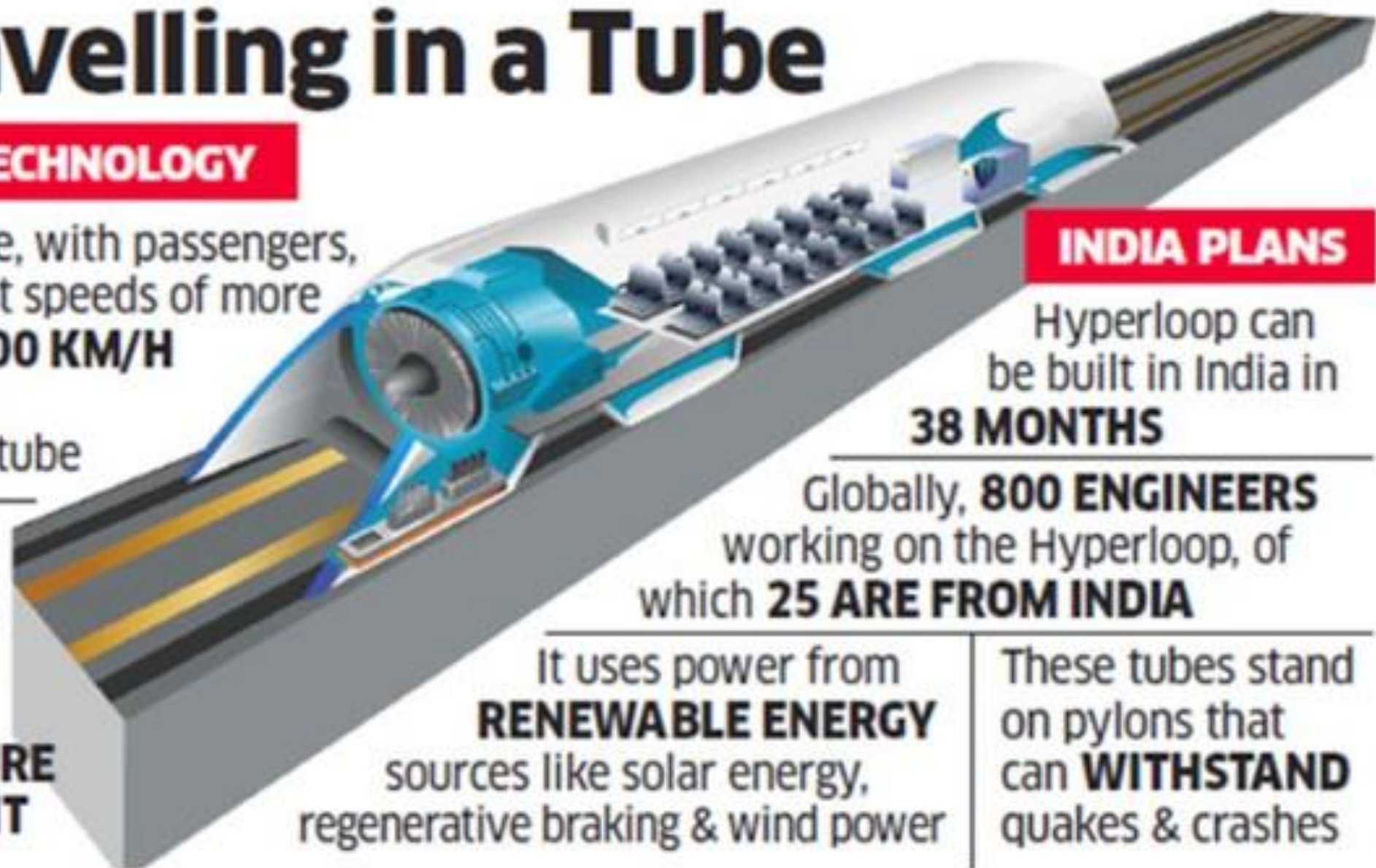
## INDIA PLANS

Hyperloop can be built in India in **38 MONTHS**

Globally, **800 ENGINEERS** working on the Hyperloop, of which **25 ARE FROM INDIA**

It uses power from **RENEWABLE ENERGY** sources like solar energy, regenerative braking & wind power

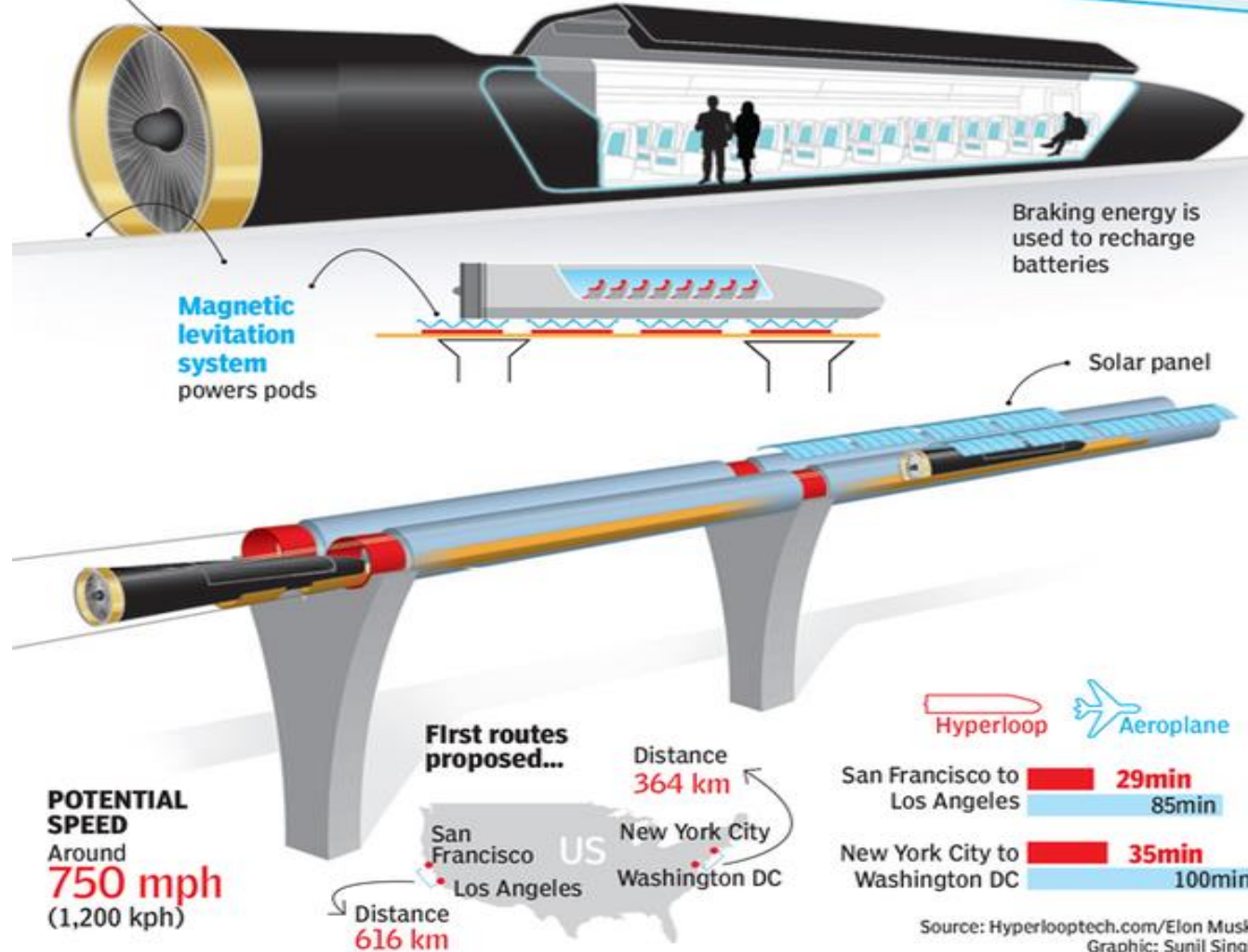
These tubes stand on pylons that can **WITHSTAND** quakes & crashes



# THE HYPERLOOP: TRAIN OF THE FUTURE

Compressor sucks air in  
to pull pod forward

Enclosed tube in  
ultra-low pressure to  
minimise air resistance



Source: Hyperlooptech.com/Elon Musk;  
Graphic: Sunil Singh



# World Tuberculosis (TB) Day



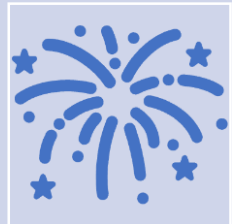
Every year on March 24th, World TB Day is observed to honor the announcement made by **Dr. Robert Koch in 1882** regarding his discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacterium responsible for tuberculosis (TB).



This day serves as an educational platform to raise awareness about TB and its global implications.



World Tuberculosis (TB) Day, 24 March 2024, continues with the theme “Yes! We can end TB”.



With continued efforts and awareness campaigns, the aim is to eradicate the world's deadliest disease.



# Nutrition and Tuberculosis



- More than two-thirds of **trial participants were tribals**, most of whom were accessing ration from the PDS.

- **Undernutrition** (BMI < 18.5 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) was prevalent in four out of five patients, with severe undernutrition (BMI < 16 kg/m<sup>2</sup>) in nearly half of these.

- Prevalence of HIV, diabetes, MDR-TB was low but **alcohol** and **tobacco use was high**.

- Nearly one per cent of patients were **hypotensive, hypoxic**, or were unable to stand, indicating need for in-patient care.

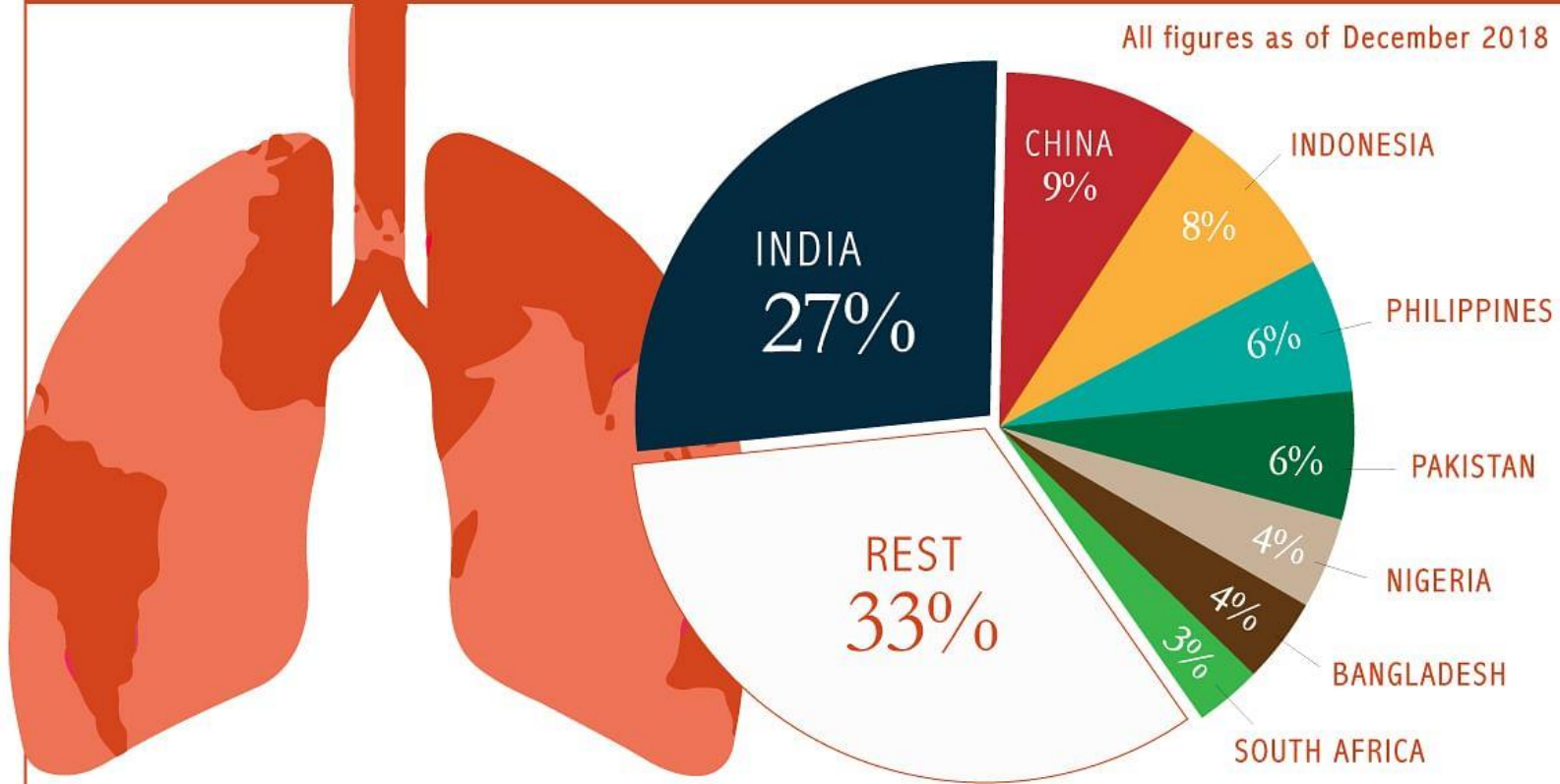
- One of three contacts across all ages had **undernutrition** at enrolment.

- There was a **39 per cent reduction** of incidence of **all forms of TB** and a **48 per cent reduction** of incidence of **infectious TB** in the intervention group of families.



Representative Image

# INDIA HAS LARGEST NUMBER OF TUBERCULOSIS PATIENTS IN THE WORLD



TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE  
IN THE WORLD SUFFERING  
FROM TUBERCULOSIS: **1 crore**

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE  
IN INDIA SUFFERING FROM  
TUBERCULOSIS: **26.9 lakh**

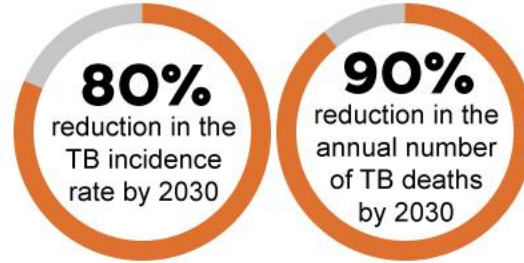
DEATHS DUE TO TUBERCULOSIS  
FELL FROM **1.6 million** IN 2017  
TO **1.5 million** IN 2018

# Tuberculosis

*Global TB targets:*

**SDG Target 3.3: Eliminate TB by 2030**

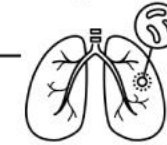
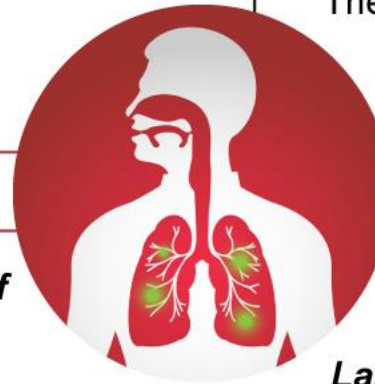
**WHO End TB Strategy**



**Burden of TB in India:**

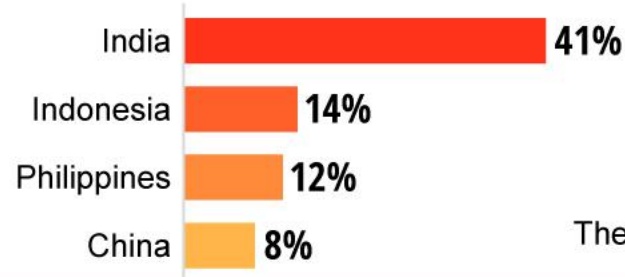
In 2019 the estimated TB incidence was **2,640,000**

The estimated incidence of people with MDR/RR-TB is **130,000**.

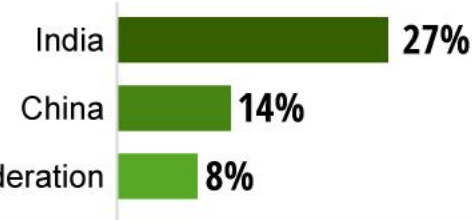


**India: Eliminate TB by 2025**

**Top countries in global drop of TB case notifications between 2019 and 2020:**



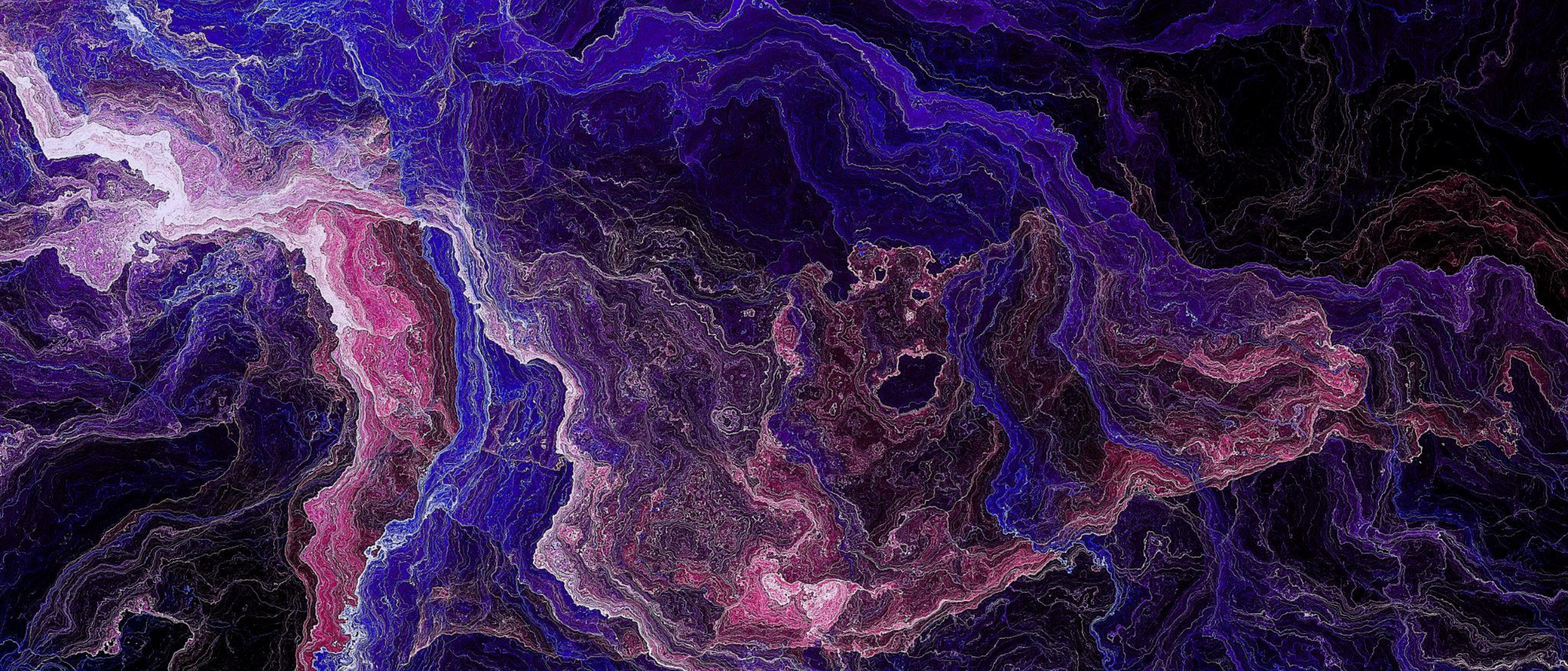
**Largest share of the global burden in 2019:**



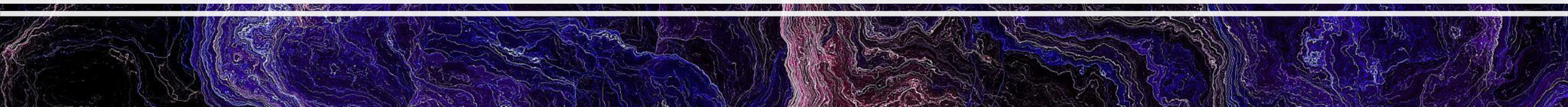
**TB incidence for "high burden" countries:**

<b>INDIA</b> 2,640,000	<b>INDONESIA</b> 845,000	<b>CHINA</b> 833,000	<b>PHILIPPINES</b> 599,000
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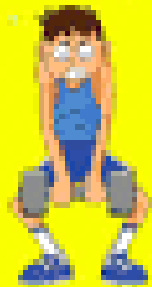
Fun fact



# DOES SWEATING BURN MORE CALORIES?

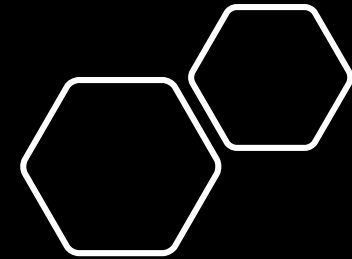
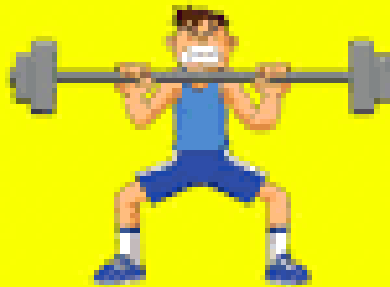
## MYTH

- SWEATING BURNS MORE CALORIES & THEREFORE MORE FAT. I SHOULD TURN OFF THE A/C AND WORKOUT IN A SWEATER TO SWEAT MORE.



## TRUTH

- IT IS SIMPLY THE BODY'S WAY OF REGULATING TEMPERATURE. I'LL LOSE WATER WEIGHT BUT ALSO DRINK IT RIGHT BACK.



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March

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HOLI





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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 wearing suits. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. The overall mood is celebratory and professional.

Thank you  
guys.

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