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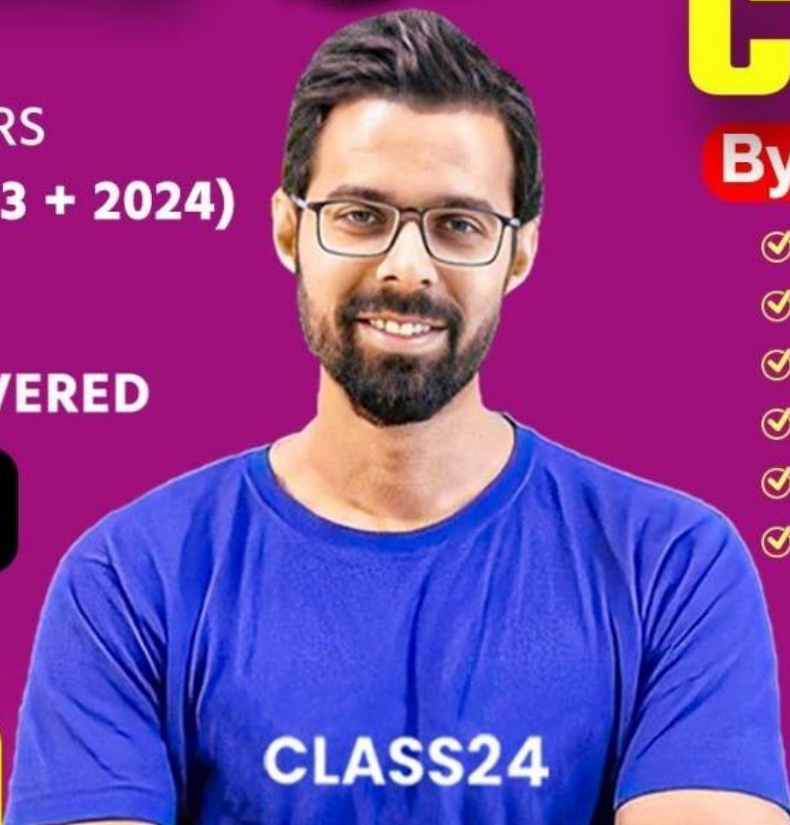
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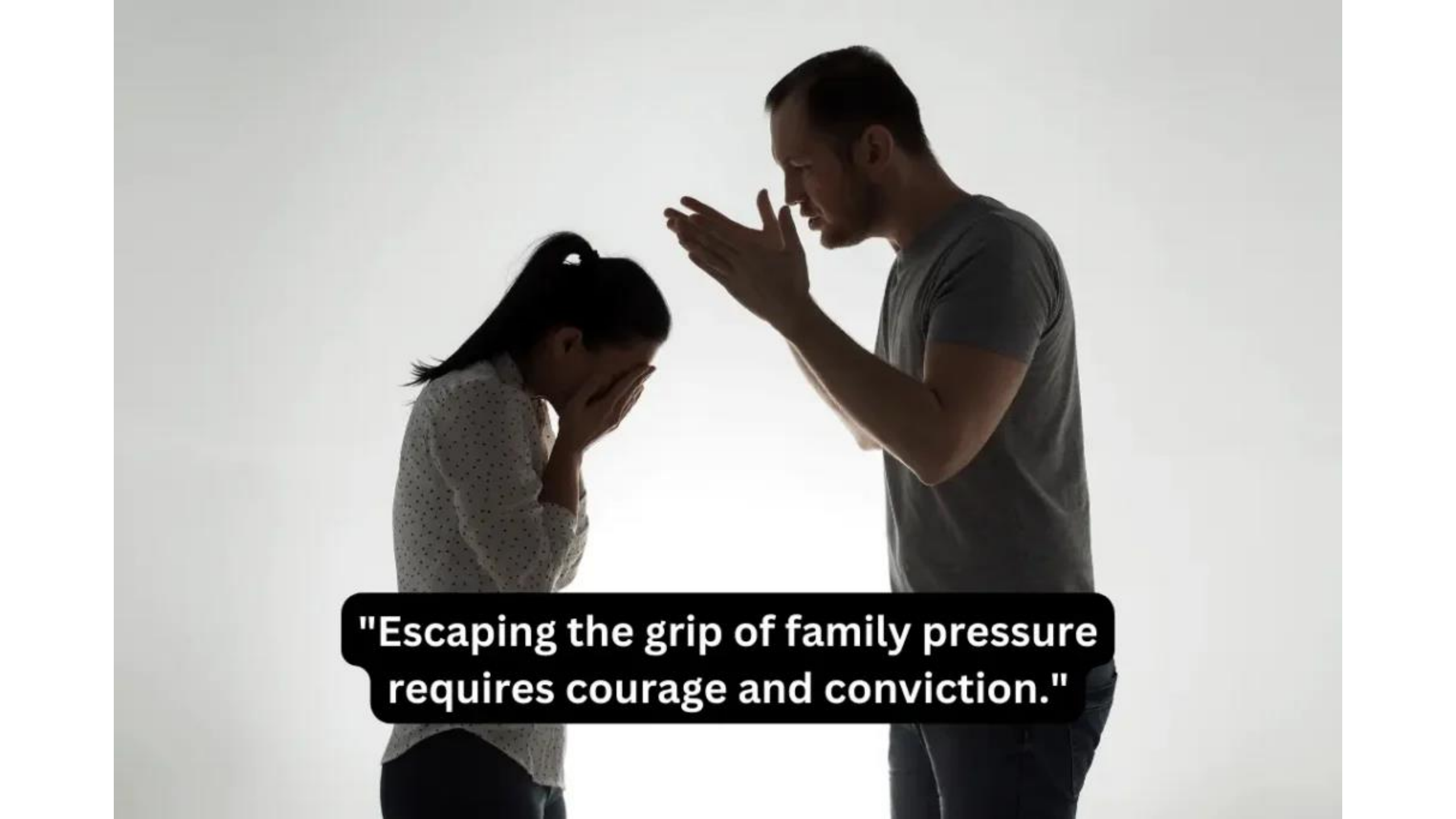
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TWEET ON KANGANA
BJP seeks action against Shrinata
NEWS > PAGE 5



TEMPORARY REPRIEVE
U.K. court delays Assange's extradition
WORLD > PAGE 14



DEATH KNEEL FOR JOURNALISM
Rich using injunctions to gag media, says SC
NEWS > PAGE 4



CYCLISTS' MANIFESTO
In India, cycling is a matter of social justice
It is not another transport issue
EDITORIAL > PAGE 8



TIME TO CLICK
SRH and MI look for their maiden win
SPORT > PAGE 16

INSIDE

BJP says no to Akali Dal to go it alone in Punjab
CHANDIGARH Amid speculation about it joining hands with old ally Shiromani Akali Dal ahead of the poll, the Bharatiya Janata Party on Tuesday dismissed any such possibility between the two parties. > PAGE 2

'India supports Philippines' sovereignty
NEW DELHI India supports the Philippines' sovereignty, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in Manila, in comments that sparked a response from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. > PAGE 6

Ladakh activist ends 21-day-long hunger strike
SRINAGAR Activist Sonam Wangchuk on Tuesday ended his 21-day hunger strike seeking Statehood for Ladakh. "From tomorrow, women's groups will start their fast, followed by youth," he said. > PAGE 6

Israel digs in as pressure mounts for Gaza ceasefire
JERUSALEM Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday vowed to press ahead with Tel Aviv's offensive and blasted a UN Security Council resolution calling for a pause in the fighting. > PAGE 14

High drama in Delhi as AAP, B.P hold protests

AAP leaders detained after trying to march to PM's residence protesting Kejriwal's arrest

Section 144 imposed around Lok Kalyan Marg, HC to hear the CM's petition against ED arrest today

At least 57 BJP protesters detained as they head for Secretariat, demanding the CM's resignation

Satvika Mahajan Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday staged protests at opposite ends of central Delhi. While AAP leaders and workers took to the streets against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with the excise policy case, the BJP protesters sought Mr. Kejriwal's resignation. The AAP leaders, including Punjab Minister Harjot Singh Sandhu and Somnath Bharti, were detained as they attempted to march towards the Prime Minister's residence on Lok Kalyan Marg. According to the Delhi Police, security was



No holding back! AAP workers protesting in New Delhi on Tuesday. SHAGUN SHERKAR/WASHNAP

stepped up around Metro stations in central Delhi. DCP (New Delhi) Devesh Kumar said, "No permission was given for any kind of protest. Security has been intensified around the area as we also got information that protesters will gather at the Patel Chowk Metro station." Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) banning assembly has already been imposed around the Prime Minister's residence, an officer said. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, in a post on X said the entry and exit gates at the Lok Kalyan Marg Metro station have been closed due to security reasons. Entry and exit have also been restricted at the Patel Chowk and Connaught Place Metro stations, it added.

Mr. Kejriwal's resignation. The police said some BJP workers climbed over barricades during their march. "Water cannons were used to disperse the protesters. Some of them were detained when they tried to break through a layer of barbed wire," a police officer said. In parts of central Delhi, security personnel equipped with anti-riot gear were deployed to ensure the area remained secure. Mr. Kejriwal was remanded in the ED custody till March 28 by a court. The Delhi High Court will on Wednesday hear the Chief Minister's petition against the ED arrest. The petition, which has sought his immediate release on the ground that the police and the subsequent remand was "illegal", is listed before Justice Swarasa Kanta Sharma at 10.30 a.m. The Chief Minister, meanwhile, issued directions to his government to ensure that medicines and testing facilities are available to people at all government hospitals and Mohali Clinics, Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj told presspersons at a press conference. This is the second such direction by the Chief Minister from the ED custody. On Sunday, he asked his government to make arrangements for water tankers to help people cope with summer shortage in the city.

Catastrophic collapse



Brought down! The Francis Scott Key Bridge over the Patuxent River at Baltimore, U.S., which caved in after a cargo vessel with an all-Indian crew crashed into it on Tuesday. At least 7 people have gone missing in the incident. REUTERS (REPORT ON PAGE 14)

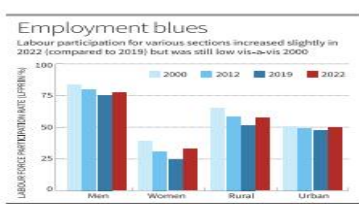
Sensing China threat, India joins Sri Lanka in race for seabed mining; applies for exploration rights

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI Earlier this month, India applied to the International Seabed Authority (ISA), Jamaica, for rights to explore two vast tracts in the Indian Ocean seabed that aren't part of its jurisdiction. The application to explore one of these regions, a cobalt-rich continental shelf known as the Afanasy Nikitin Seamount (AN Seamount), is a gambit under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). For any actual extraction to happen, interested explorers in this case — countries — must apply first for an exploration licence to the ISA, an autonomous international organisation established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). **Open ocean** These rights are specific to areas that are part of the open ocean, meaning ocean — whose air, surface and sea-bed, where no countries can claim sovereignty. Around 60% of the world's open ocean and though believed to be rich in a variety of minerals, the costs and challenges of extraction are prohibitive. Currently, no country has commercially extracted resources from open oceans. However, another UNCLOS-linked body, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, may impede India's exploration ambitions. Countries have exclusive rights up to 200 nautical miles, and its underlying sea-bed from their borders. Some ocean-bound states may have a natural stretch of land, connecting their border and the edge of the deep ocean that extends beyond this 200, as part of their so-called continental shelf. To claim so, however, a country must give a detailed

scientific rationale to show the unbroken land-connection to a scientific commission appointed by the ISA. If such a claim is approved, then such a country will have primacy to explore and potentially exploit the resources in the region. Normally, claims to the continental shelf do not extend beyond 350 nautical miles from their coast. "However, there is a provision under which countries along the Bay of Bengal can apply a different set of criteria to make claims on the extent of their continental shelf. Using this, Sri Lanka has claimed up to 500 nautical miles. Whether they are actually awarded so we have to wait and see but India has staked a claim for exploration because we have noted Chinese presence. If we don't at least stake a claim now, then this could have consequences in the future," the official said.

Employment scenario in India grim, says ILO report

A. M. Heggad
NEW DELHI The share of those with secondary or higher education among the unemployed youth in India has almost doubled from 35.2% in 2000 to 65.7% in 2022, according to the India Employment Report 2024 released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Institute of Human Development (IHD) here on Tuesday. The report says that almost 83% of the country's unemployed workforce.



Employment and under-employment of the youth increased between 2000 and 2019 but declined during the pandemic years, the study, released by Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran, said, adding that educated youngsters experienced much higher levels of unemployment in the country during the period. The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR) showed a long-term deterioration between 2000 and 2019, but witnessed an improvement after 2019, the study said. It added that the improvement coincides with the fact that non-farm employment grew at a higher rate than farm employment over the different periods prior to 2018, the report said. Labour from agriculture was mainly absorbed by the construction and services sectors. Also, almost 90% of workers remain engaged in informal work while the share of regular work, which steadily increased after 2000, declined after 2018. There are widespread livelihood insecurities, the report added, with only a small percentage being covered with social protection measures, especially in the non-agriculture, organised sector. "Worse, there has been a rise in contractualisation, with only a small percentage of regular workers covered by long-term contracts," the report said.

While India's large young workforce is a double-edged sword, the report noted that they don't appear to have the skills to deliver — with 75% of youth unable to send emails with attachments, 60% unable to copy and paste files, and 90% unable to put a mathematical formula into a spreadsheet. The country is also facing the challenge of a substantial gender gap in the labour market, with low rates of female labour force participation. **Social inequalities** Throwing light on the growing social inequalities, the report said despite affirmative action and targeted policies, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes still lag in terms of access to better jobs. "Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have greater participation in work due to economic necessity but engage mostly in low-paid temporary casual wage work and informal employment," it said. "Despite improvement in educational attainment among all groups, the hierarchy within social groups persists," the report added. **ON GOVT. INTERVENTION** > PAGE 12

Sensing China threat, India joins Sri Lanka in race for seabed mining; applies for exploration rights

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Earlier this month, India applied to the International Seabed Authority (ISBA), Jamaica, for rights to explore two vast tracts in the Indian Ocean seabed that aren't part of its jurisdiction. The application to explore one of these regions, a cobalt-rich crust long known as the Afanasy Nikitin Seamount (AN Seamount), is a gambit by India.

Rights to the region have already been claimed by Sri Lanka under a separate set of laws, *The Hindu* has learnt, but India's application is part-motivated by reports of Chinese vessels undertaking reconnaissance in the same region, a highly placed official, who declined to be identified, confirmed to *The Hindu*.

The AN Seamount is a structural feature (400 km long and 150 km wide) in

the Central Indian Basin, located about 3,000 km off India's coast. From an oceanic depth of about 4,800 km it rises to about 1,200 metres and is rich in deposits of cobalt, nickel, manganese and copper.

For any actual extraction to happen, interested explorers – in this case, countries – must apply first for an exploration licence to the ISBA, an autonomous international organisation established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Open ocean

These rights are specific to areas that are part of the open ocean, meaning open ocean – whose air, surface and sea-bed – where no countries can claim sovereignty. Around 60% of the world's seas are open ocean and though believed to be rich in a variety of mineral wealth, the costs and challenges of extrac-



Matsya 6000, a deep-sea exploration vehicle being designed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology in Chennai. R. RAVINDRAN

tion are prohibitive. Currently, no country has commercially extracted resources from open oceans.

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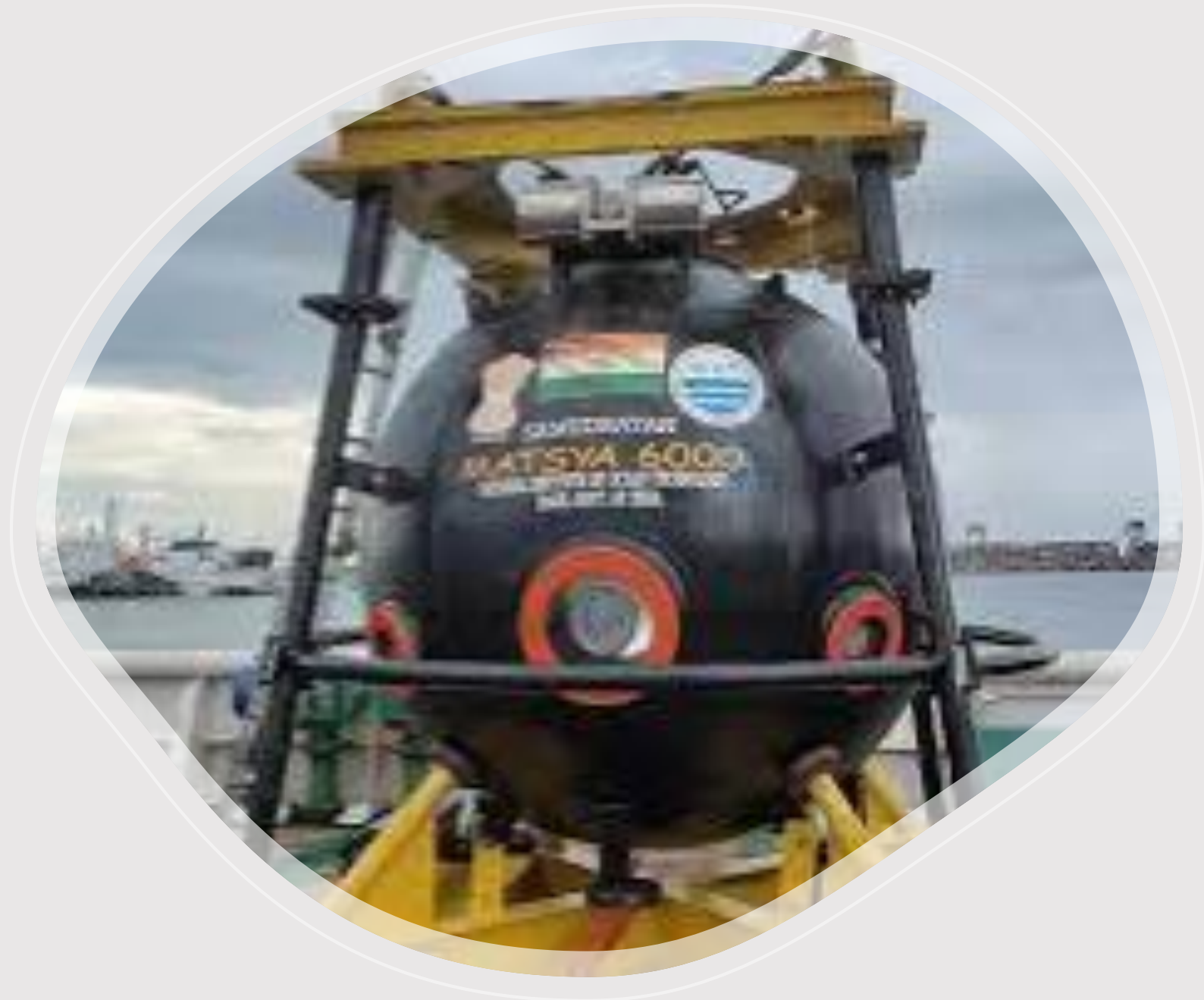


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EXPLORATIONS DOWN UNDER

Manned submersible may be useful in looking for minerals in central and southern Indian Ocean

SHAPE

Spherical with a diameter of **3.2m**

MATERIAL

Titanium. Metal can withstand pressure underwater

DIVING DEPTH

6km

VITAL STATS

CAPACITY

Can accommodate a three-member crew

DURATION

Can remain underwater for **6 to 8** hours

DEADLINE

After Centre approves likely to be ready in **5** years

BUDGET
₹500cr

HOW IT WORKS

Once deployed from a ship, a pilot can steer the vehicle underwater

1

2

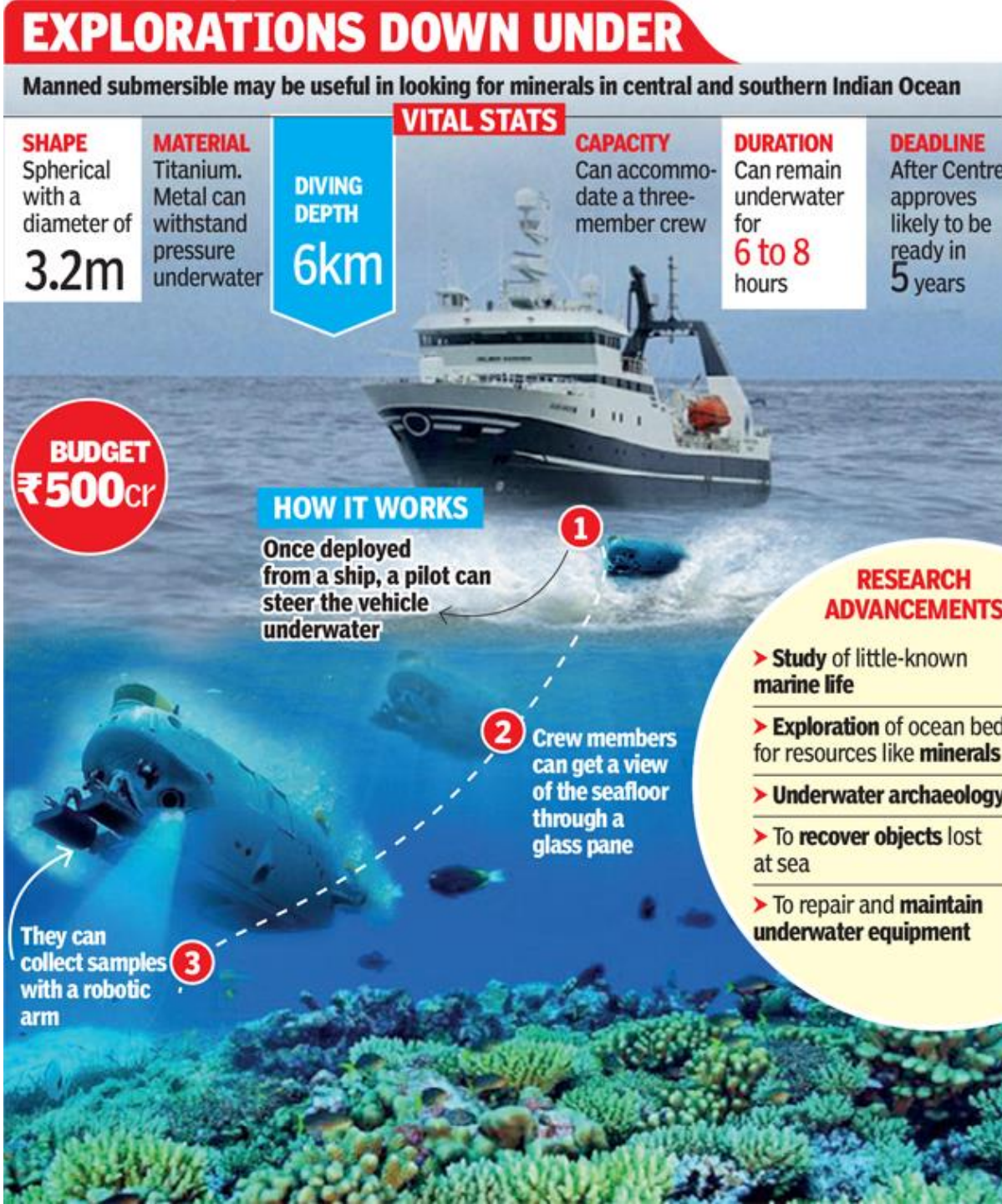
Crew members can get a view of the seafloor through a glass pane

3

They can collect samples with a robotic arm

RESEARCH ADVANCEMENTS

- > Study of little-known marine life
- > Exploration of ocean bed for resources like minerals
- > Underwater archaeology
- > To recover objects lost at sea
- > To repair and maintain underwater equipment



Employment scenario in India grim, says ILO report

A. M. Jigeesh

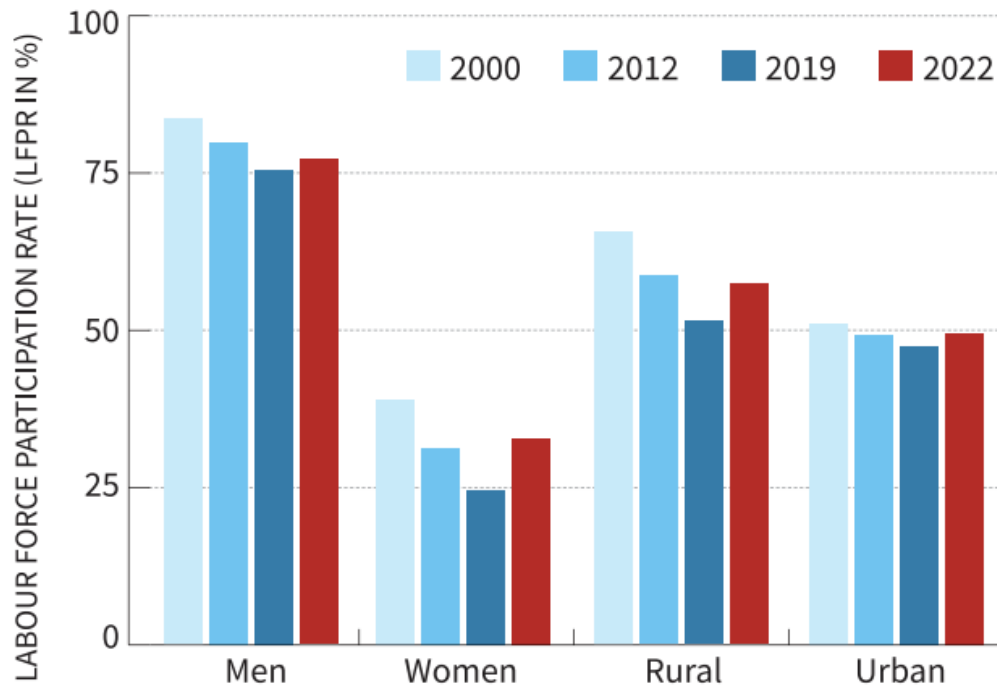
NEW DELHI

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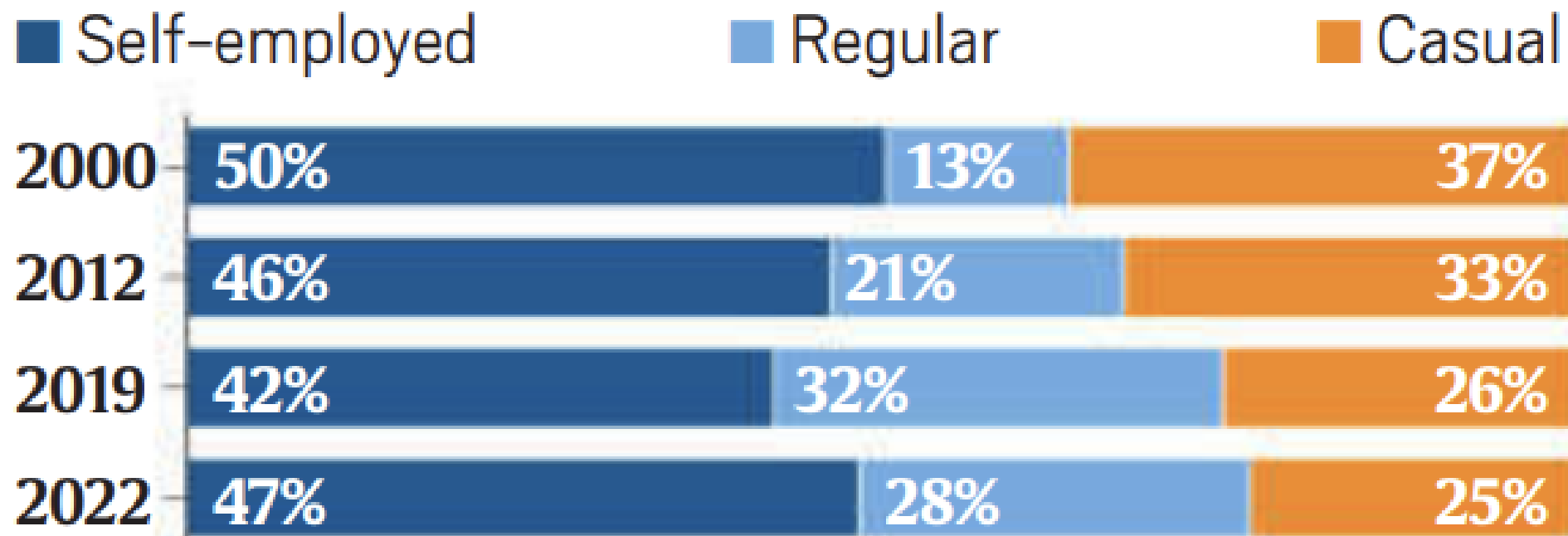
The report says that youngsters account for almost 83% of the country's unemployed workforce.

Employment blues

Labour participation for various sections increased slightly in 2022 (compared to 2019) but was still low vis-a-vis 2000



STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT OF YOUTHS



Source: IHD-ILO India Employment Report 2024

International Labour Organization

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Abbreviation | ILO |
| Formation | 11 April 1919; 104 years ago |
| Type | United Nations specialized agency |
| Legal status | Active |
| Headquarters | Geneva , Switzerland |
| Director-general | Gilbert HOUNGBO |
| Parent organization | United Nations General Assembly United Nations Economic and Social Council |
| Award(s) | Nobel Peace Prize (1969) |

Cash crunch plagues Cong. poll campaign

The cash woes of the Congress in Kerala stem from the Income Tax department's decision to block the party from accessing bank accounts for belatedly filing the 2017-18 tax returns; a depleted election war chest will make massive rallies and high-profile roadshows few and far between

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress's Lok Sabha election campaign in Kerala is facing a cash crunch. On Tuesday, Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan admitted that the party does not have money to buy "a glass of lime juice for election workers".

The party's cash woes stem from the Income Tax department's decision to block the party from accessing its bank accounts for belatedly filing the 2017-

18 tax returns. A cash shortage will likely manifest in national leaders and star campaigners scaling down their campaign itinerary in the State. It will pressure overstressed candidates to shore up resources to keep their campaigns on track. A depleted election war chest will make massive rallies and high-profile roadshows few and far between. Losing the political money fight at the hustings could yield more propaganda space to rivals, demoralise workers, and de-

prive the disadvantaged party of the glitter of a colourful and healthy election campaign. The BJP and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) seem to have a cash edge over the Congress. The BJP's 10-year incumbency advantage has given it sufficient time and latitude to muster resources to fund its expansive electoral operations in the States. For one, it has fielded two Union Ministers in Kerala. Over the years, the CPI (M) has built a fundraising



A file photo of the roadshow taken out by Congress leader K. Muralideharan as part of the Lok Sabha election campaign.

network that depends mainly on the levy paid by members and public-fund collection drives. However, the Congress is poised to take the issue

to the people. It hopes to replenish its election war chest by encouraging people to make trifling donations to the party's election effort. Crowd-sourcing and printing small-contribution coupons are options. It believes the impending fundraising campaign will create voter sympathy and yield political and electoral dividends in the Lok Sabha polls. With time running out, replenishing the election chest at short notice might be an uphill task for the party.

HC asks poll panel to consider MDMK's plea for 'top' symbol

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Tuesday asked the Election Commission of India (EC) to consider a representation made by Marumalarchi Dravidia Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK) for allotment of the 'top' symbol to it for contesting in the Tiruchi Lok Sabha constituency this year.

Chief Justice Sanjay V. Gangapurwala and Justice D. Bhaskara Chakravarthy wanted the EC to take a decision on the plea made under para 18(c) read with para 12(c) of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 by 9 a.m. on Wednesday and report the outcome to the court by afternoon.

The orders were passed after the petitioners, N. Ram, director, THG Publishing Private Limited, said Mr. Gahan had studied international agreements regarding rivers in other countries as well. He appreciated Mr. Ramakrishnan for meticulously digging out data and taking a stand on issues relating to the Cauvery.

Mr. Ramakrishnan said the idea was to make people of the entire Cauvery basin realise that "the river is a common precious resource to be used judiciously. There is enormous scope for the riparian states in Tamil Nadu, in years to come as the river's environment is facing serious challenges."

The book is available for purchase at <https://publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/>



The MDMK wants the 'top' symbol allotted to contest in the Tiruchi LS constituency.

Court asks Election Commission of India to take a decision on the plea today

under para 10B was related to allotment of a common symbol to a party which had lost its recognition and that the question of allotment of such common symbol would arise only if the party contests in more than one seat.

The present petitioner before the court wanted to contest in just one - Tiruchi Lok Sabha constituency alone - during the general election this year and hence its plea could not be considered under para 10B. Further, the 'top' symbol now remained under erstwhile reserved symbol category and not a free symbol, he said.

After hearing both sides, the judges asked the EC to consider the petitioner's plea under para 18(c) and revert to the court by Wednesday.

Cauvery is not just about water: former Madras HC judge

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

For the people of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, the Cauvery is not just about water. "She is the giver of food, literature, music. Everything that makes our life Cauvery is connected," said Prabha Sridevan, former Madras High Court judge.

She launched the book, *Cauvery - A Long-winded Dispute*, published by The Hindu here on Tuesday authored by its senior associate editor T. Ramakrishnan.

Ms. Sridevan said her great grandfather had been one of the signatories of the agreement on water sharing. Later her grandfather was an assistant engineer when the Mettur dam on the river was con-

structed. Her husband, as a special government pleader, made several trips to New Delhi to appear at hearings of the Cauvery dispute cases in the Supreme Court.

"Managed to be fair" "It is difficult to spell what Cauvery means to us. Therefore, it is perhaps very difficult to be objective," Mr. Ramakrishnan has managed to be very fair," she said, adding that being fair would enable a person to be truthful. "Cauvery is not just a matter of dispute between two States. The issue is much more complex involving many aspects, including demand side management, an area that has received little attention," she remarked.

"Language does not separate us." The boundary



Prabha Sridevan, third from left, retired judge of the Madras High Court, with other authors of the book, *Cauvery - A Long-winded Dispute*, in Chennai on Tuesday. M. VIDYAN

ter). She suggested that the book be translated into Kannada and Tamil as "it tells us how the pendulum swings and how at some point some extraneous factor that has nothing to do with it pushes it [what had been achieved] backward."

"Equally objective" Kauturi and Sons' director N. Ravi, who has written the foreword for the book, said Cauvery is a unifying source as a cultural icon but as an economic resource, becomes contentious. "It is because of the asymmetry of power on the one side and the use on the other," he said.

"Actually, living in Tamil Nadu it is very difficult to be objective," Mr. Ravi said, recalling that S. Gahan, a former bureaucrat in Tamil Nadu, had objectively reviewed the issue in his book, *The Cauvery River Dispute Towards Reconciliation* published by *The Hindu* in 1993. The current book is also equally objective in treating the Cauvery

without taking sides". N. Ram, director, THG Publishing Private Limited, said Mr. Gahan had studied international agreements regarding rivers in other countries as well. He appreciated Mr. Ramakrishnan for meticulously digging out data and taking a stand on issues relating to the Cauvery.

Mr. Ramakrishnan said the idea was to make people of the entire Cauvery basin realise that "the river is a common precious resource to be used judiciously. There is enormous scope for the riparian states in Tamil Nadu, in years to come as the river's environment is facing serious challenges."

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Trial under way in 4 cases pertaining to illegal mining against Janardhana Reddy

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

At least four cases pertaining to illegal mining registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) are pending against former Minister and mining baron G. Janardhana Reddy. The trials in these cases are on and are at various stages of inquiry.

Mr. Reddy, once an important leader of Bharatya Janata Party (BJP) in the Hyderabad Karnataka region, who played a key role in the party coming to power for the first time in 2008, was arrested by the CBI on September 5, 2011, in the Obulapuram Mining Company illegal mining case. Before that, the Kar-



G. Janardhana Reddy.

nataka Lokayukta who probed illegal mining scam in the State said during 2006-2011 period, over 12,000 crore worth illegal iron ore was exported by mining mafia and named Mr. Reddy as one of the kingpins.

The BJP distanced itself from him ever since, and Mr. Reddy, after coming out on bail, bulk the Kalya-

na Rajya Pragati Paksha and became an MLA from Gangavathi in 2023.

"The CBI booked Mr. Reddy in a total of eight cases - four pertaining to illegal mining and four pertaining to alleged benami transactions. He has been acquitted in all the four benami transaction cases. Trial is on in the remaining four illegal mining cases," Mr. Reddy's counsel C.H. Harumant has said.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has barred Mr. Reddy from entering his home district Ballari, over fears that he may influence witnesses in the cases against him. This prompted him to contest from Gangavathi, a taluk in Koppal district bordering Ballari.

Speaking to the media before appearing at a court on Tuesday, she said that she would come out clean in the case. She was arrested by the Central probe agency on March 15 in connection with the Delhi excise policy case.

'Will come out clean'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDRABAD

BRS MLK K. Kavitha asserted that the ongoing investigation into the Delhi excise policy scam does not revolve around "money laundering" but points to a "political

laundering case". Speaking to the media before appearing at a court on Tuesday, she said that she would come out clean in the case. She was arrested by the Central probe agency on March 15 in connection with the Delhi excise policy case.

With Kerala stepping into peak summer season, the State is starting at heat wave like conditions at many places. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday issued an alert warning of 40 degree Celsius in Thirissur and 39 degree Celsius in Kollam and Palakkad for the next five days (till March 29). The highest temperature in the current season was recorded in Thirissur on Monday and Tuesday at 39.9 degree Celsius and 39.8 degree Celsius, respectively.

Thirissur district recorded the highest temperature of 39.9 degree Celsius

For declaring a heat wave, the temperature should be higher than the average normal temperature in the region. On Tuesday, the temperature was 37 degree Celsius above normal for that time in the region. The criteria for the coastal station maximum temperature should be greater than or equal to 37 degree Celsius. So, the weather conditions for declaring a heat wave have been technically met

in Thirissur. However, the IMD is yet to declare it officially. It has been depending on the data processed by the coastal meteorological observatories of the IMD are considered coastal since their elevation is less than 100 metres. With no major summer rain forecast for the next seven days, the maximum temperature is likely to rise high in the coming days, says IMD sources. As per the record books of the IMD, Kollam, Thirissur, Punalur in Kollam, and Palakkad will be the hottest regions in March.

Heralding Ugadi



Rhythmic and steps: Artists perform devotions at the temple of Sri Kanakamma Ammanavaru at Maddilapalem in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday in connection with the 'jatharas' (fairs) organised ahead of the Ugadi festival, in S.A.U.

Kavitha sent to judicial custody till April 9

Shilpa Mishra
NEW DELHI

A court here on Tuesday sent Bharat Kashtra Samithi leader K. Kavitha to 15 days judicial custody in connection with the Delhi excise policy case.

Ms. Kavitha, daughter of former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on March 15.

On March 22, the Supreme Court denied her urgent relief from her plea challenging the arrest in the remand application, ED alleged that Kavitha was "one of the conspirators and beneficiaries" of the excise policy scam. On Tuesday, the ED re-



K. Kavitha

quested the Rose Avenue Courts to send her to 15 days of judicial custody. The agency claimed that there was every likelihood that Ms. Kavitha would influence the witnesses and tamper with the evidence, if released.

term i.e. Indo Spirits through her proxy, which generated proceeds of crime of ₹19.8 crore. Speaking to the media before appearing at a court on Tuesday, Ms. Kavitha said she would come out clean in the case.

Kerala stares at heat wave-like conditions; IMD issues alert

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With Kerala stepping into peak summer season, the State is starting at heat wave like conditions at many places. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday issued an alert warning of 40 degree Celsius in Thirissur and 39 degree Celsius in Kollam and Palakkad for the next five days (till March 29). The highest temperature in the current season was recorded in Thirissur on Monday and Tuesday at 39.9 degree Celsius and 39.8 degree Celsius, respectively.

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ISRO to hold training sessions in educational institutions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will conduct the Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) programme during April and May.

In this connection, ISRO solicits Expression of Interest (EOI) to host START-2024 in educational institutions, universities, colleges within India who are offering UG and PG courses in physical sciences and technology.

The main objective of the training programme is to attract the youngsters to the fields of space science and technology.

The training modules will comprise introductory level topics on various verticals of space science and technology. In addition to these, there will be sessions on Indian space exploration programmes and research opportunities.

Post-graduate students and final year undergraduate students of physical sciences (physics and chemistry) and technology (e.g. electronics, computer science, mechanical, applied physics, radiophysics, optics & opto-electronics, instrumentation and other associated subjects) studying in educational institutions, universities, colleges within India are eligible to be considered for the training. Last date for online registration is April 8, 2024. For more details, visit <https://jigyasa.irs.gov.in/>. START by institutes, colleges, universities & etc. Student registration opens on April 8 and ends on April 22.

ISRO to hold training sessions in educational institutions

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will conduct the Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) 2024 programme during April and May.

In this connection, ISRO solicits Expression of Interest (EoI) to host START-2024 in educational institutes, universities, colleges within India who are offering UG and PG courses in physical sciences and technology.

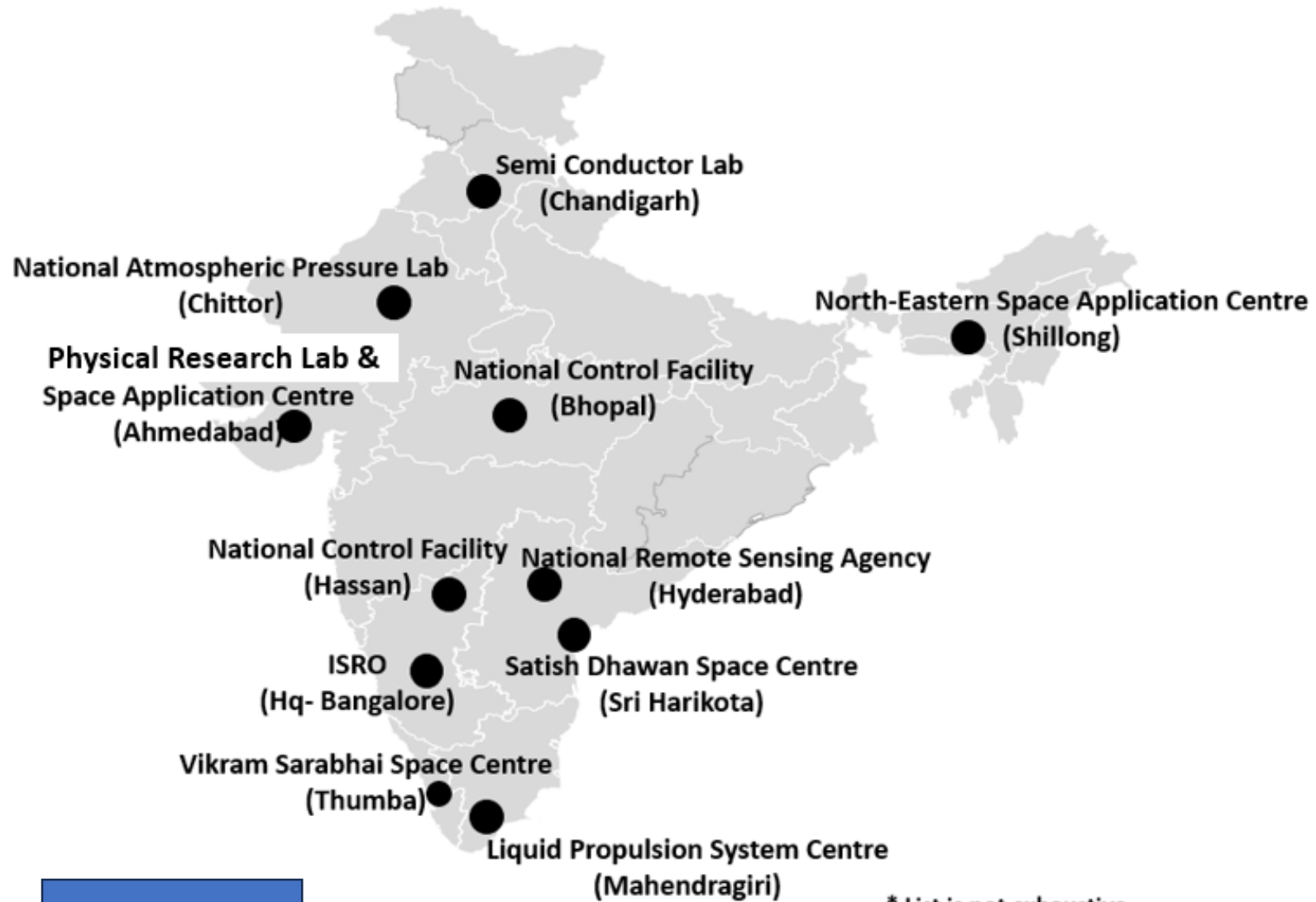
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Last date for online registration of EoI through <https://jigyasa.iirs.gov.in/> START by institutes, colleges, universities is April 2.

Student registration opens on April 8 and ends on April 12.



Agencies under Department of Space

DAKAR

Senegal President-elect pledges to fight graft after stunning victory



Senegal woke up on Tuesday to a new President-elect, Bassirou Diomaye Faye, a former tax inspector and political newcomer who was released from prison just weeks ago and had inspired voters, many of them unemployed youth, with a vow to fight corruption and reform the economy. AP

BEIJING

China files WTO complaint over U.S. new energy vehicle subsidies



China has lodged a complaint with the World Trade Organization over subsidies provided by the U.S. for its new energy vehicle sector, Beijing said on Tuesday, accusing Washington of unfair competition. China's Ministry of Commerce urged the U.S. to abide by WTO rules and correct its "discriminatory industrial policies". AP

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka cuts key interest rates, seeks China debt restructure deal



Sri Lanka's central bank cut interest rates on Tuesday as the Prime Minister visited China seeking a debt restructuring deal crucial to maintaining an IMF bailout. Transport Minister and government spokesman Bandula Gunawardana said Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardana was in Beijing, the island's biggest bilateral creditor.

BRUSSELS

Belgium says 650 people with jihadist, extremists links on radar



Belgium's anti-terrorist agency on Tuesday said 650 people believed to have jihadist and other extremist ties are under surveillance in the country. The data was published as officials stress they are doing everything to prevent attacks after at least 139 people were killed in Moscow in a massacre claimed by the Islamic State. AP

Julian Assange granted temporary reprieve from extradition to the U.S.

U.K. court gives Washington three weeks to assure it that Assange would not face the death penalty; the U.S. wants to try the 52-year-old Australian on 18 counts, for obtaining and publishing sensitive U.S. military and diplomatic information

Sriram Lakshman LONDON

Wikileaks founder Julian Assange was granted a temporary reprieve from being extradited to the U.S. from the U.K., after the British High Court ruled on Tuesday that he would not be extradited immediately and gave the U.S. three weeks to provide assurances regarding the trial of Mr. Assange.



Small breather: Stella Assange, wife of Julian Assange, speaks to the media outside the Royal Courts of Justice in London. AP

The U.S. wants to try the 52-year-old Australian on 18 counts, for obtaining and publishing sensitive U.S. military and diplomatic information. Seventeen of the charges are under the U.S.'s Espionage Act. Mr. Assange has been imprisoned in London since 2019 after spending approximately seven

years in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where he had sought refuge from extradition to Sweden on rape charges. The investigation was dropped by prosecutors in 2019 due to lack of sufficiently strong evidence. Mr. Assange has sought an appeal of the U.K. government's 2022 decision

to extradite him on nine separate grounds. The High Court, which permits extradition trials to appeal if it believes there are grounds to do so, said it was of the opinion that three of these grounds had a "real prospect of success". The court gave Washington three weeks to assure it that Mr. Assange would not

face the death penalty (which is technically applicable in cases of treason under U.S. law). It also sought assurances that Mr. Assange, an Australian, would be able to rely on the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment (freedom of speech) rights during his trial and that the trial would not be prejudiced because he is not an American citizen.

A decision is expected on May 20, which means Mr. Assange will not be extradited at least until then. Addressing the media outside the Royal Courts of Justice in London, Mr. Assange's wife Stella Assange called the ruling "astounding". She said that though the court had recognized the risks Mr. Assange was exposed to, it had sought a "political" intervention from the U.S., asking Washington to declare, "it's all okay".

Israel and Hamas dig in as international pressure mounts for ceasefire in Gaza

Associated Press JERUSALEM

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday vowed to press ahead with 'Tel Aviv's offensive and blasted a UN Security Council resolution calling for a pause in the fighting, saying it had emboldened Hamas to reject a separate proposal for a ceasefire and hostage release.

As the war in Gaza grinds through a sixth month, each side has publicly insisted that its own idea of victory is in reach and rejected international efforts to stem the bloodshed. Mr. Netanyahu has said Israel can achieve its aims of dismantling Hamas and thriving cities of hostages as it expands its ground offensive to the southern city of Rafah, where over half of Gaza's population has sought refuge, many in



Benjamin Netanyahu

crowded tent camps. Hamas has said it will hold onto the hostages until Israel agrees to a more permanent ceasefire, withdraws its forces from Gaza and releases hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, including top militants.

'Hamas lacks interest' He said late on Monday that it has rejected a recent proposal that fell short of those demands — which, if fulfilled, would allow it to claim an extremely costly

victory. Mr. Netanyahu said in a statement that the announcement "proved clearly that Hamas is not interested in continuing negotiations toward a deal and served as unfortunate testimony to the damage of the Security Council decision."

"Israel will not surrender to Hamas's delusional demands and will continue to act to achieve all the goals of the war: releasing all the hostages, destroying Hamas' military and governing capabilities, and ensuring that Gaza will never again be a threat to Israel."

The war has killed over 32,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The fighting has left much of the Gaza Strip in ruins, displaced most its residents and driven a third of its population — 2.3 million to the brink of famine.

Russia blames Ukraine for Moscow gun attack

Agence France-Presse MOSCOW

A senior Russian security official on Tuesday laid the blame on Ukraine for orchestrating the attack on a Moscow concert hall that killed at least 130 people dead last week.

The accusation from the secretary of Russia's powerful Security Council Nikolai Patrushev comes after the Islamic State group said it was behind the attack. "Of course, Ukraine," Mr. Patrushev said, answering a question on whether Kyiv or the Islamic State group, which claimed responsibility, was behind Friday's attack.

Five Chinese among six killed in Pakistan suicide bombing

Associated Press PESHAWAR

A suicide bomber in northwest Pakistan rammed his explosive-laden car into a vehicle on Tuesday, killing five Chinese nationals and their Pakistani driver, the police and government officials said.

The attack happened in Shangda, a district in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the local police chief said.

Dams Dam project He added that the five killed were construction workers' and engineers heading to the Dams Dam, the biggest hydropower

project in Pakistan, where they worked. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province borders Afghanistan.

The Pakistani Taliban have stepped up attacks in the region in recent years. Tuesday's attack came less than a week after Pakistani security forces killed eight Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA) militants who opened fire on a convoy carrying Chinese citizens outside the Chinese-funded Gwadar port in the volatile southwestern Baluchistan province in the country.

The BLA wants independence from the central government in Islamabad.

'Kill the pill'



Anti-abortion pregnant women attend a protest outside the U.S. Supreme Court as justices hear oral arguments in a bid by President Joe Biden's administration to preserve broad access to the abortion pill in Washington DC on Tuesday. REUTERS

cesses" to diminish any risks. "With today's guidelines we are making full use of all the tools offered by the DSA to ensure platforms comply with their obligations and are not misused to manipulate our elections, while safeguarding freedom of expression," said the EU's top tech enforcer, Thierry Breton.

While the guidelines are not legally binding, platforms must explain what other equally effective measures they are taking to limit the risks if they do not adhere to them. The EU can ask for more information that threatens the integrity of electoral pro-

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EU asks big tech firms to identify AI deepfakes ahead of elections

Agence France-Presse BRUSSELS

The EU called on Facebook, TikTok and other tech titans on Tuesday to crack down on deepfakes and other AI-generated content by using clear labels ahead of Europe-wide polls in June.

The recommendation is part of a raft of guidelines published under a landmark content law by the European Commission for digital giants to tackle risks to elections including disinformation. The EU executive body has unleashed a string of measures to clamp down on big tech, especially regarding con-

tent moderation. Its biggest tool is the Digital Services Act (DSA) under which the bloc has designated 22 digital platforms as "very large" including Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube and X. There has been feverish excitement over artificial intelligence since OpenAI's ChatGPT arrived on the scene in late 2022, but the EU's concerns over the technology's harms have grown in parallel. Brussels especially fears the impact of Russian "manipulated" disinformation" on elections taking place in the bloc's 27 member states on June 6-9. In the new guidelines,



The move is part of a law to tackle risks to elections, including disinformation, across Europe. AP

The Commission said the largest platforms "should also mitigate specific risks linked to AI, for example by clearly labelling content generated by AI (such as deepfakes)".

stagram, TikTok and four other platforms to provide more information on how they are countering AI risks to polls on March 14.

DSA to ensure platforms comply with their obligations and are not misused to manipulate our elections, while safeguarding freedom of expression," said the EU's top tech enforcer, Thierry Breton. While the guidelines are not legally binding, platforms must explain what other equally effective measures they are taking to limit the risks if they do not adhere to them. The EU can ask for more information that threatens the integrity of electoral pro-

'Crew of Baltimore ship were all Indians'

Press Trust of India NEW YORK

The entire 22-member crew of the cargo ship that struck a major bridge in Baltimore in the U.S. early on Tuesday, causing it to snap and plunge into the river, are Indians who also had authority to "power issue" before the collision.

The Singapore-flagged container ship Dali collided with one of the piers and the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore at approximately 1:30 a.m. local time. According to the vessel information provided by the Symmetry Start Group, the crew was "all Indian, 22 in total". The "Dali" has a capacity of 10,000 TEU and onboard Units of 4,679 TEU.

Grace Ocean Private Ltd owns the vessel and the ship's movement was outboard from Baltimore to Colombo. Crew safe "All crew members, including the two pilots, have been accounted for and there are no reports of any injuries. There has also been no pollution." It said. Whilst the exact cause of the collision has not yet been determined, the Dali has now mobilised its Qualified Incident Response Team. The ship lost power and rammed into the bridge, causing the span to buckle into the river below, plunging a construction crew and several vehicles into the dangerously cold waters.

Julian Assange granted temporary reprieve from extradition to the U.S.

U.K. court gives Washington three weeks to assure it that Assange would not face the death penalty; the U.S. wants to try the 52-year-old Australian on 18 counts, for obtaining and publishing sensitive U.S. military and diplomatic information

Sriram Lakshman

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The U.S. wants to try the 52-year-old Australian on 18 counts, for obtaining and publishing sensitive U.S. military and diplomatic information. Seventeen of the charges against him are under the U.S.'s Espionage Act. Mr. Assange has been imprisoned in London since 2019 after spending approximately seven



Small breather: Stella Assange, wife of Julian Assange, speaks to the media outside the Royal Courts of Justice in London. AP

years in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where he had sought refuge from extradition to Sweden on rape charges. The investigation was dropped by prosecutors in 2019 due to lack of sufficiently strong evidence.

Mr. Assange has sought an appeal of the U.K. government's 2022 decision

to extradite him on nine separate grounds. The High Court, which permits under-trials to appeal if it believes there are grounds to do so, said it was of the view that three of these grounds had a "real prospect of success".

The court gave Washington three weeks to assure it that Mr. Assange would not

face the death penalty (which is technically applicable in cases of treason under U.S. law). It also sought assurances that Mr. Assange, an Australian, would be able to rely on the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment (freedom of speech) rights during his trial and that the trial would not be prejudiced because he is not an American Citizen.

Decision by May 20

"It has given the Government of the United States of America and the Secretary of State an opportunity to offer assurances that would address those grounds of appeal," the High Court said on Tuesday. If Washington's response was not satisfactory, the court would allow Mr. Assange to appeal.

A decision is expected

on May 20, which means Mr. Assange will not be extradited at least until then.

Addressing the media outside the Royal Courts of Justice in London, Mr. Assange's wife Stella Assange called the ruling "astounding".

She said that though the court had recognised the risks Mr. Assange was exposed to, it had sought a "political intervention" from the U.S., asking Washington to declare, "It's all okay."

The Biden administration should not issue assurances, Ms. Assange said, asking it instead to drop this "shameful case".

In its 2019 indictment, the U.S. had said that starting in 2009, Mr. Assange aided, abetted and caused a (then) intelligence officer, Chelsea Manning, to give him classified documents.



Assange in 2015

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Born | Julian Paul Hawkins 3 July 1971 (age 52) Townsville, Queensland, Australia |
| Citizenship | Australia Ecuador (2017-2021) |
| Occupations | Editor · publisher · activist |
| Years active | 1987–present |
| Known for | Founding WikiLeaks |
| Title | Director ^[1] and editor-in-chief of WikiLeaks (2006–2018); publisher (since 2018) ^[2] |
| Political party | WikiLeaks (2013–2015) |
| Spouses | Teresa Assange (m. 1989; div. 1999) Stella Devant (m. 2022) |

Honours and awards [[edit](#)]

- 2008, [The Economist](#) New Media Award^[564]
- 2009, [Amnesty International UK New Media Award](#) for *Kenya: The Cry of Blood—Extra Judicial Killings and Disappearances*^[565]
- 2010, [Time Person of the Year](#), Reader's Choice^[566]
- 2010, [Sam Adams Award](#)^[567]
- 2010, [Le Monde Readers' Choice Award for Person of the Year](#)^[568]
- 2010, "Rockstar of the year" by the Italian edition of [Rolling Stone](#)^[569]
- 2010, Honorary member, [Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance](#)^[570]
- 2011, Free Dacia Award^[571]
- 2011, [Sydney Peace Foundation](#) Gold Medal^[572]
- 2011, [Walkley Award](#)^[573]
- 2011, [Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism](#)^[574]
- 2011, Voltaire Award for Free Speech^[575]
- 2012, [Big Brother Award](#) Italy 2012 "Hero of Privacy"^[576]
- 2013, [Global Exchange](#) Human Rights Award, People's Choice^[577]
- 2013, [Yoko Ono Lennon](#) Courage Award for the Arts^[578]
- 2013, [New York Festivals](#) World's Best TV & Films Silver World Medal^[579]
- 2013 The Brazilian Press Association Human Rights Award^[580]
- 2014, Union of Journalists in Kazakhstan Top Prize^[581]
- 2019, [GUE/NGL](#) Galizia prize^[582]
- 2019, [Gavin MacFadyen](#) award^[583]
- 2019, [Catalan](#) Dignity Prize^[377]
- 2020, [Stuttgart Peace Prize](#)^[584]
- 2021, Honorary member, [PEN Centre Germany](#)^[585]
- 2023, [Konrad Wolf Prize](#)^[586]

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY



Five Chinese among six killed in Pak suicide attack

SALJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, MARCH 26

AT LEAST five Chinese nationals and their Pakistani driver were killed on Tuesday when a suicide bomber rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into their bus in Pakistan's troubled province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, officials said.

The Chinese nationals were working on the Datsu hydropower project, which is located about 300 km to the north of Islamabad. The 4,320 MW project is being constructed by China Gezhouba with funding from the World Bank.

This is the second suicide attack on personnel working on the China-backed hydropower project since 2021. Several people were also injured in Tuesday's attack that occurred in the Risban area of Shangila district when the bus, escorted by a convoy, was on its way from Islamabad to Kohistan. A vehicle coming from the opposite direction rammed into the bus in the hilly terrain, police said. The incident took place around 1 pm.

One of the convoy vehicles caught fire and fell into a ravine
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



AIR AID

Humanitarian aid being air-dropped over Gaza City on Monday. Relief materials were airdropped on Tuesday as well even as uncertainty continued over efforts to secure a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel. **AP/PTI**

AMOUNT TRACED IN I-T RAIDS BEFORE 2019 ELECTIONS

Rs 135 cr gone, Congress faces I-T action on 'unaccounted' Rs 524 cr

RITU SARIN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

WITH LOK Sabha elections scheduled three weeks from now, the Congress party is bracing itself for another hefty demand from the Income Tax Department for "unaccounted transactions" totalling Rs 524.87 crore covering the period 2014-2021.

This will deal another blow to the party which only recently saw the I-T department withdrawing Rs 135 crore on the eve of general

elections, a bigger setback is expected, thus crippling it further. But what is, left to 'cripple'? Tanha told *The Indian Express*. In March, the Congress party lost its appeal before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) where it had sought a stay on withdrawal of Rs 135 crore from its bank accounts. On March 22, it also lost in the Delhi High Court a challenge to the search operations conducted by the I-T department. The party had argued that these were

bank accounts for previous dues. The "unaccounted transactions" of Rs 524.87 crore were traced during I-T raids conducted prior to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. When contacted, Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member V. K. Tankha, who is a senior lawyer, said the party apprehended that a hefty penalty and interest would now be added to the Rs 524.87 crore for calculation of fresh demand. "Not satisfied with crippling us by withdrawing the lien amount of Rs 135 crore on the eve of general

elections, a bigger setback is expected, thus crippling it further. But what is, left to 'cripple'? Tanha told *The Indian Express*. In March, the Congress party lost its appeal before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) where it had sought a stay on withdrawal of Rs 135 crore from its bank accounts. On March 22, it also lost in the Delhi High Court a challenge to the search operations conducted by the I-T department. The party had argued that these were



SONAM WANGCHUK ENDS CLIMATE FAST IN LADAKH

YAMINI AIYAR TO QUIT AS CPR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PAGES 7 & 10

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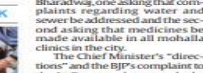
Manish Sahu

Lucknow, March 26

A DAY after the body of a jeweller's 12-year-old son, who was kidnapped from Auraiya in Uttar Pradesh, was found in Delhi, all eight abductors were arrested Monday after being shot in the leg in an encounter, police said.

The accused are currently undergoing treatment for their gunshot wounds in a hospital. Doctors said their condition was stable.

According to the police, Subhan, a class 6 student, was abducted from outside his home



NIRBHAY THAKUR

NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

A DELHI court Tuesday sent Bharat Kashtira Samithi (BKS) leader K Kavitha to 14-day judicial custody until April 9.

Following the court order, she was taken to Tihar jail. She will be lodged in jail No. 5 which has women inmates. She will undergo a medical examination in jail.

Earlier, Kavitha was in the custody of the Enforcement Directorate for 10 days following her arrest in connection with the Delhi liquor policy case.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



BRS leader K Kavitha

being taken to Rouse Avenue Court in New Delhi on Tuesday. **AP**

Her counsel Nitesh Rana submitted a prayer for urgent interim relief, citing the upcoming examinations of her minor son. The court of Special Judge Kaveti Raweja gave the ED time until April 1 to respond to the plea.

While entering the court, Kavitha said it wasn't a case of money laundering but one of "political laundering". A member of the Telangana Legislative Council and daughter of former Chief Minister K Chandrababhan Rao, Kavitha is accused of allegedly paying Rs 100 crore to AAP leaders in return for liquor licenses in Delhi.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



JATIN ANAND, APURVA VISHWANATH & MALLICA JOSHI

NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Citing Karandlaje case, BJP to EC: Undue haste in acting against us

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

COMPLAINING THAT the Election Commission has shown "undue haste in taking action against BJP members, sometimes even in the absence of formal complaints," the BJP Tuesday told the poll panel that "such promptness is conspicuously absent in cases involving members of

other political entities". In a complaint addressed to the Chief Election Commissioner and Commissioners, the BJP urged them to "direct the State Chief Electoral Officers/ District Election Officers/ Returning Officers and other officers involved in the election process to maintain impartiality throughout the election process" and to "take prompt

action against those who are found guilty of a level playing field". This UNUSUAL complaint by the BJP comes days after the INDIA bloc complained to the poll panel that the government's "misuse" of Central agencies had led to the "erosion of a level playing field".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BJP to go it alone in Punjab, SAD says principles are above politics

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, MARCH 26

ENDING SPECULATION about a possible revival of its alliance with the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), the BJP on Tuesday announced that it would contest the Lok Sabha elections in Punjab on its own.

While the SAD snapped ties

with the BJP in September 2020 over the now-scrapped farm laws, the two parties have been holding back-channel talks in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls. However, sources said the former allies could not reach a consensus on seat-sharing, with the BJP keen to have demanded at least six of the total 13 Lok Sabha seats in the state.



CONG'S LUDHIANA MP BITTU JOINS BJP

P.6

Maximum City has maximum billionaires in India, fastest growing club in the world

PAGE 1
ANCHOR

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 26

INDIA ADDED 94 new billionaires in 2023, the most by any country other than the US, taking the total to 271, according to the 2024 Hurun Global Rich List. An individual with \$1 billion in wealth is a billionaire.

The collective wealth of Indian billionaires amounts to US\$ 1 trillion or 7 per cent of total wealth, emphasising the na-

WHERE THE RICH LIVE

| City | Billionaires | City | Billionaires |
|-------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1. New York | 119 (14) | 6. Shenzhen | 84 (-10) |
| 2. London | 97 (10) | 7. Hong Kong | 65 (-12) |
| 3. Mumbai | 92 (26) | 8. Moscow | 59 (2) |
| 4. Beijing | 91 (-18) | 9. New Delhi | 57 (18) |
| 5. Shanghai | 87 (-16) | 10. San Francisco | 52 (-2) |

Change: Y-o-Y (%)

tion's substantial economic influence, it said. The average age of Indian billionaires is 67 years. Dominant industries among India's billionaires represented include pharmaceuticals (39), automobile & auto components (27) and chemicals (24).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



SONAM WANGCHUK ENDS CLIMATE FAST IN LADAKH

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

KEJRIWAL'S 'DIRECTIONS' FROM CUSTODY
BJP complains to L-G against CM, Centre & AAP look at next steps

Legal opinion being sought on CM's continuance

JATIN ANAND, APURVA VISHWANATH & MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

THE BJP Tuesday lodged a formal complaint with Delhi Lt Governor V K Saxena against Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over his "unauthorised use of power and authority" after the AAP said he had issued directions for the functioning of the Delhi government while in Enforcement Directorate custody.

Two "directions" were issued to Water Minister Atishi and Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj, one asking that complaints regarding water and sewer be addressed and the second asking that medicines be made available in all medical clinics in the city.

The Chief Minister's "directions" and the BJP's complaint to the Lt Governor have sparked a debate on the next steps and whether the Centre would make the first move before the Lok Sabha to seek control of the reins for Delhi's administration.

This, according to government sources, is being deliberated upon in the Ministry of Home Affairs, the office of the Solicitor General and the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



BRS leader K Kavitha

being taken to Rouse Avenue Court in New Delhi on Tuesday. **AP**

No relief for Kavitha, sent to Tihar for 14 days

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Har Pal Apke Saath

Maximum City has maximum billionaires in India, fastest growing club in the world

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Change Y-o-Y in ()



tion's substantial economic influence, it said. The average age of Indian billionaires is 67 years.

Dominant industries which India's billionaires represented include pharmaceuticals (39), automobile & auto components (27) and chemicals (24).

Mumbai was the fastest growing billionaire capital in the world with 92 billionaires, adding 26 in the year, taking it to third in the world and Asia's billionaire capital. New York ranked number 1 with 119; London was in second spot with 97. Beijing dropped from first place last year to the fourth position with 91, just three

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE TOP 10

| Name | Wealth* | Country | No. of Billionaires |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| Elon Musk | 231 (47%) | China | 814 (-155) |
| Jeff Bezos | 185 (57%) | USA | 800 (109) |
| Bernard Arnault | 175 (-13%) | India | 271 (94) |
| Mark Zuckerberg | 158 (132%) | UK | 146 (12) |
| Larry Ellison | 144 (44%) | Germany | 140 (-4) |
| Warren Buffett | 144 (24%) | Switzerland | 106 (6) |
| Steve Ballmer | 143 (41%) | Russia | 76 (6)) |
| Bill Gates | 138 (26%) | Italy | 69 (11) |
| Larry Page | 123 (64%) | France | 68 (-4) |
| Mukesh Ambani | 115 (40%) | Brazil | 64 (13) |

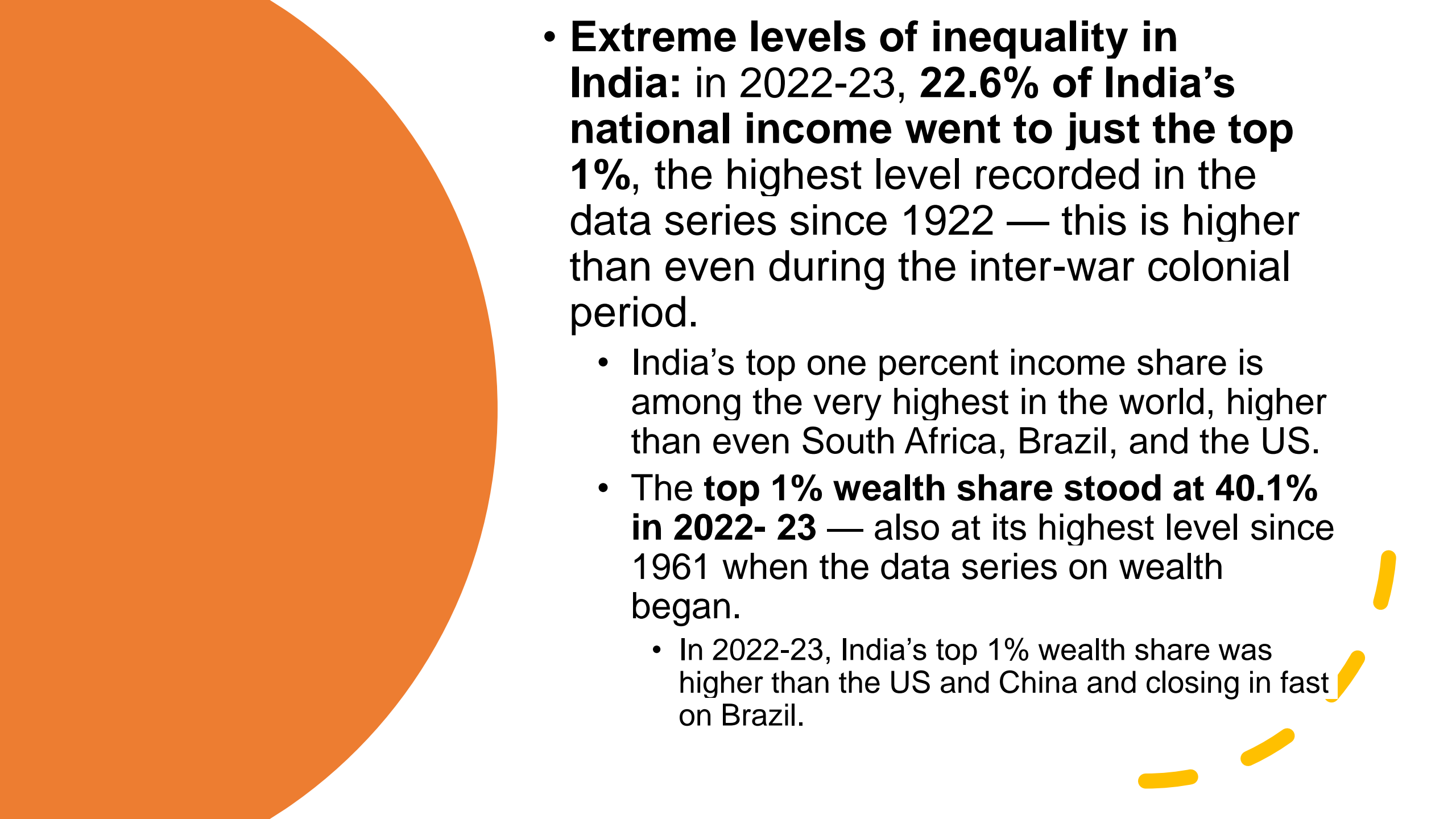
* In USD billion

Change in ()

WHERE RICH PEOPLE LIVE

| Rank | Country | Billionaires | Change |
|------|-------------|--------------|--------|
| 1 | China | 814 | -155 |
| 2 | USA | 800 | 109 |
| 3 | India | 271 | 84 |
| 4 | UK | 146 | 12 |
| 5 | Germany | 140 | -4 |
| 6 | Switzerland | 106 | 6 |
| 7 | Russia | 76 | 6 |
| 8 | Italy | 69 | 11 |
| 9 | France | 68 | -4 |
| 10 | Brazil | 64 | 13 |

Source: Hurun Global Rich List

- 
- **Extreme levels of inequality in India:** in 2022-23, **22.6% of India's national income went to just the top 1%**, the highest level recorded in the data series since 1922 — this is higher than even during the inter-war colonial period.
 - India's top one percent income share is among the very highest in the world, higher than even South Africa, Brazil, and the US.
 - The **top 1% wealth share stood at 40.1% in 2022- 23** — also at its highest level since 1961 when the data series on wealth began.
 - In 2022-23, India's top 1% wealth share was higher than the US and China and closing in fast on Brazil.


'LIC WORLD'S STRONGEST INSURANCE BRAND'



LIFE INSURANCE
CORPORATION of
India (LIC) has
emerged as the

strongest insurance brand globally, according to a report Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024. The report said that LIC's brand value remains steady at \$9.8 billion, accompanied by a brand strength index score of 88.3 and an associated AAA brand strength rating. Following LIC, the rankings highlight Cathay Life Insurance as the second-strongest brand, experiencing a 9% increase in brand value to \$4.9 billion.

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Founded | 1 September 1956 (67 years ago) |
| Key people | Siddharth Mohanty (Chairperson) R Doraiswamy (Managing Director) M Jagannath (Managing Director) Tablesh Panday (Managing Director) |
| Products | Life insurance Term life insurance Unit-linked insurance plan Endowment policy Money-back policy Whole life insurance Retirement plans Health insurance Investment management Asset management Risk management Mutual funds Exchange-traded funds Index funds Fund of funds |
| Revenue | ▲ ₹784,889 crore (US\$98 billion) (2023) ^[1] |
| Operating income | ▲ ₹41,093 crore (US\$5.1 billion) (2023) ^[1] |
| Net income | ▲ ₹37,997 crore (US\$4.8 billion) (2023) ^[1] |
| Total assets | ▲ ₹4,924,495.5 crore (US\$620 billion) (2023) ^[1] |
| Total equity | ▲ ₹46,233 crore (US\$5.8 billion) (2023) ^[1] |
| Owner | Government of India (96.5%) ^[2] |
| Number of employees | 95,700 (2023) ^[1] |
| Subsidiaries | LIC Pension Fund Limited LIC Mutual Fund LIC Cards Services Ltd LIC Housing Finance National Stock Exchange (NSE) |

The background features a perspective view of a road with white lane markings on a dark surface. A dashed center line and solid edge lines create a sense of depth. In the foreground, the numbers '1', '2', and '3' are painted on the road surface, each within a lane. The text 'Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024' is overlaid in a white, outlined font.

Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has introduced the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024, replacing the outdated 1983 rules, in accordance with the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act, 2023.
- The Cinematograph (Amendment) Act of 2023 amended the Cinematograph Act of 1952, which governs the certification, exhibition, and censorship of films in India



- What are the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024?

- **Aim:**

- **The rules aim to keep pace with emerging technologies and advancements in the film sector to ensure relevance and effectiveness.**

-

Key Aspects in the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 2024: Alignment with Online Certification Processes:

- The rules have undergone a comprehensive revision to align with online certification processes, ensuring enhanced transparency, efficiency, and ease of doing business for the film industry.

Reduction in Certification Time-Lines:

- Time-lines for film certification processing have been reduced, with the adoption of complete digital processes to eliminate all transactional delays.



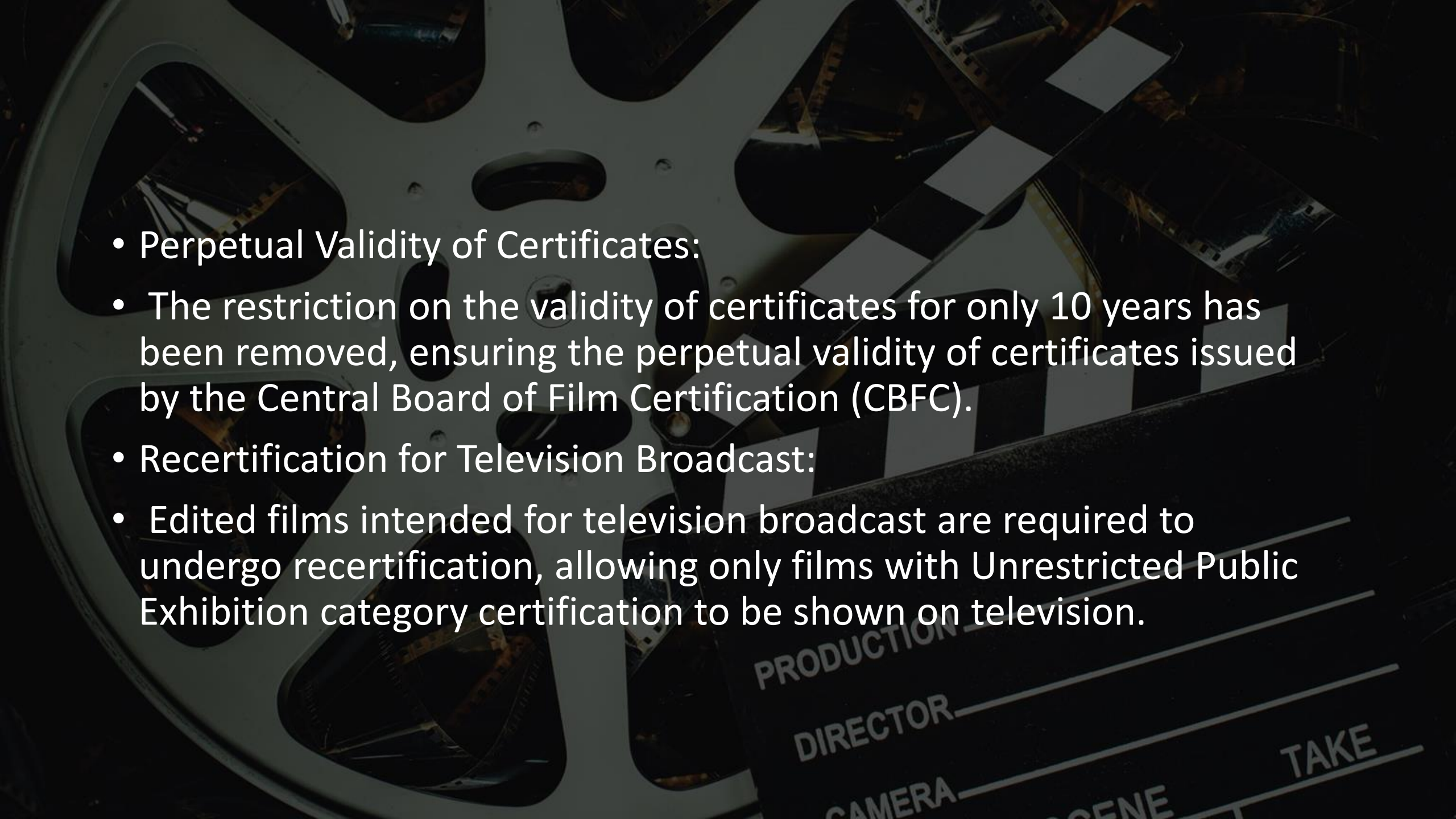
- **Accessibility Features for Films:**

- **Movies and feature films are required to incorporate accessibility features for certification, making them inclusive for disabled persons as per the stipulated guidelines.**

- **Introduction of Age-Based Certification:**

- **The existing UA (Universal Adult) category has been further subdivided into three age-based categories: UA 7+, UA 13+, and UA 16+.**
- **These age-based markers serve as recommendations for parents or guardians to determine whether the film is suitable for their children, promoting age-appropriate content consumption.**

-
- Enhanced Gender Representation:
 - The rules stipulate greater representation of women in the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) Board and Advisory Panels, with one-third of the members in the Board and preferably half being women.
 - System for Priority Screening of Films:
 - Provision for priority screening of films has been introduced to expedite the certification process, particularly for filmmakers facing urgent commitments related to film releases.

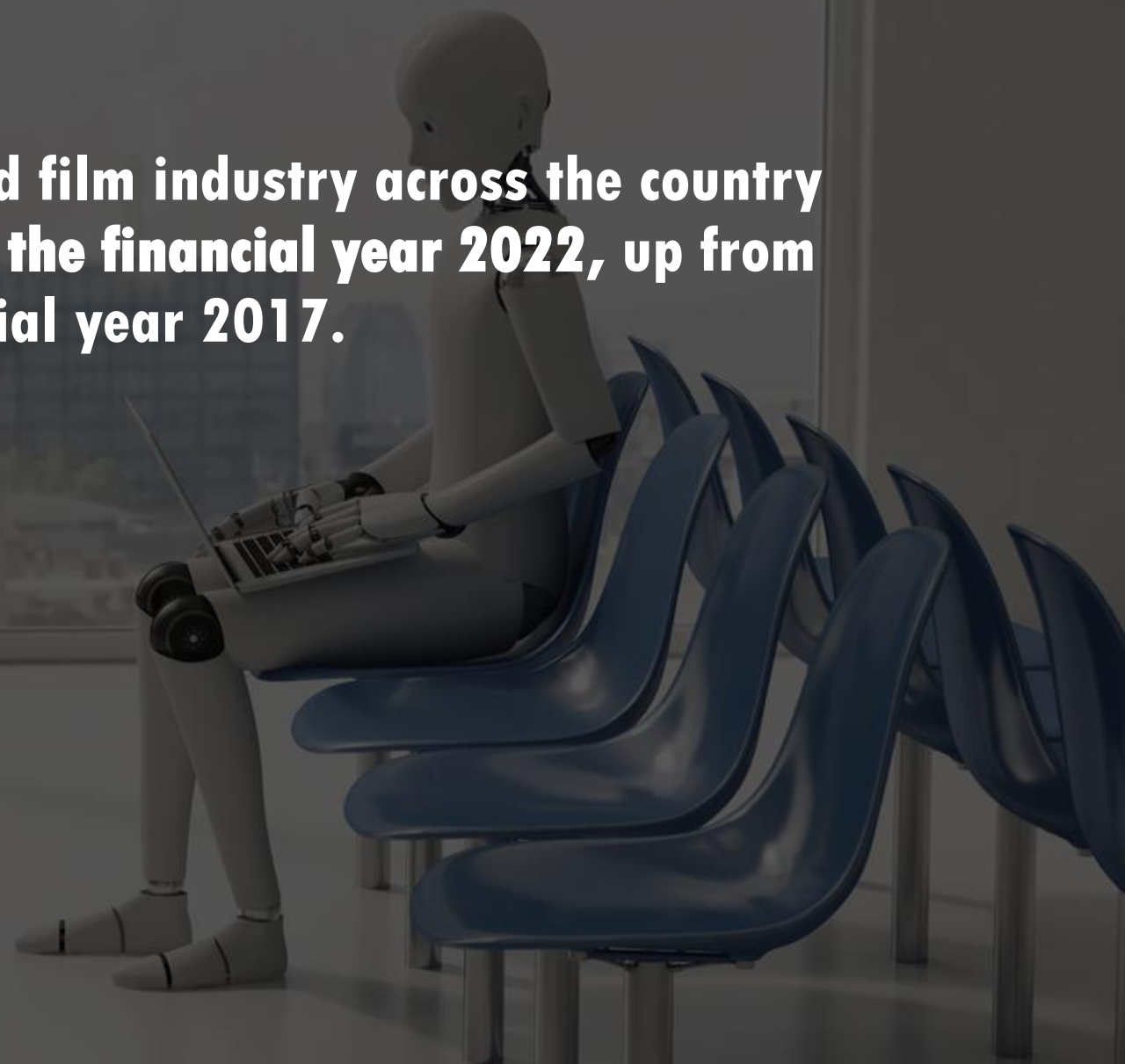
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- Perpetual Validity of Certificates:
 - The restriction on the validity of certificates for only 10 years has been removed, ensuring the perpetual validity of certificates issued by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC).
 - Recertification for Television Broadcast:
 - Edited films intended for television broadcast are required to undergo recertification, allowing only films with Unrestricted Public Exhibition category certification to be shown on television.



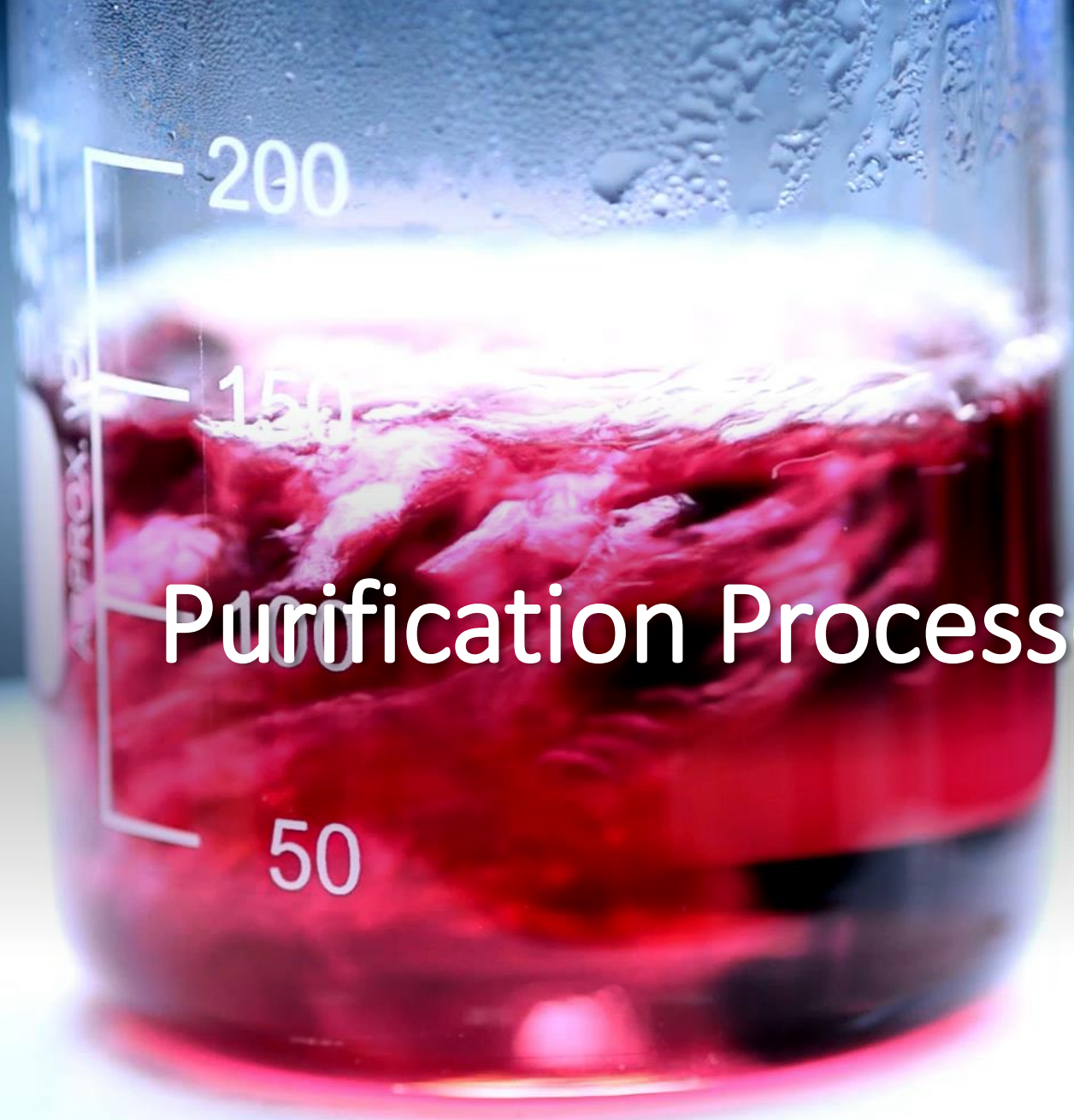
- **Film Industry in India**

- **The Indian film industry is the largest in the world in terms of the number of films produced and the most globalised industry in the world producing more than 3,000 films annually in more than 40 languages.**
 - **The three largest film industries in India are Hindi, Telugu, and Tamil.**

- **The jobs created by the television and film industry across the country were estimated to be 4.12 million in the financial year 2022, up from about 2.36 million jobs in the financial year 2017.**

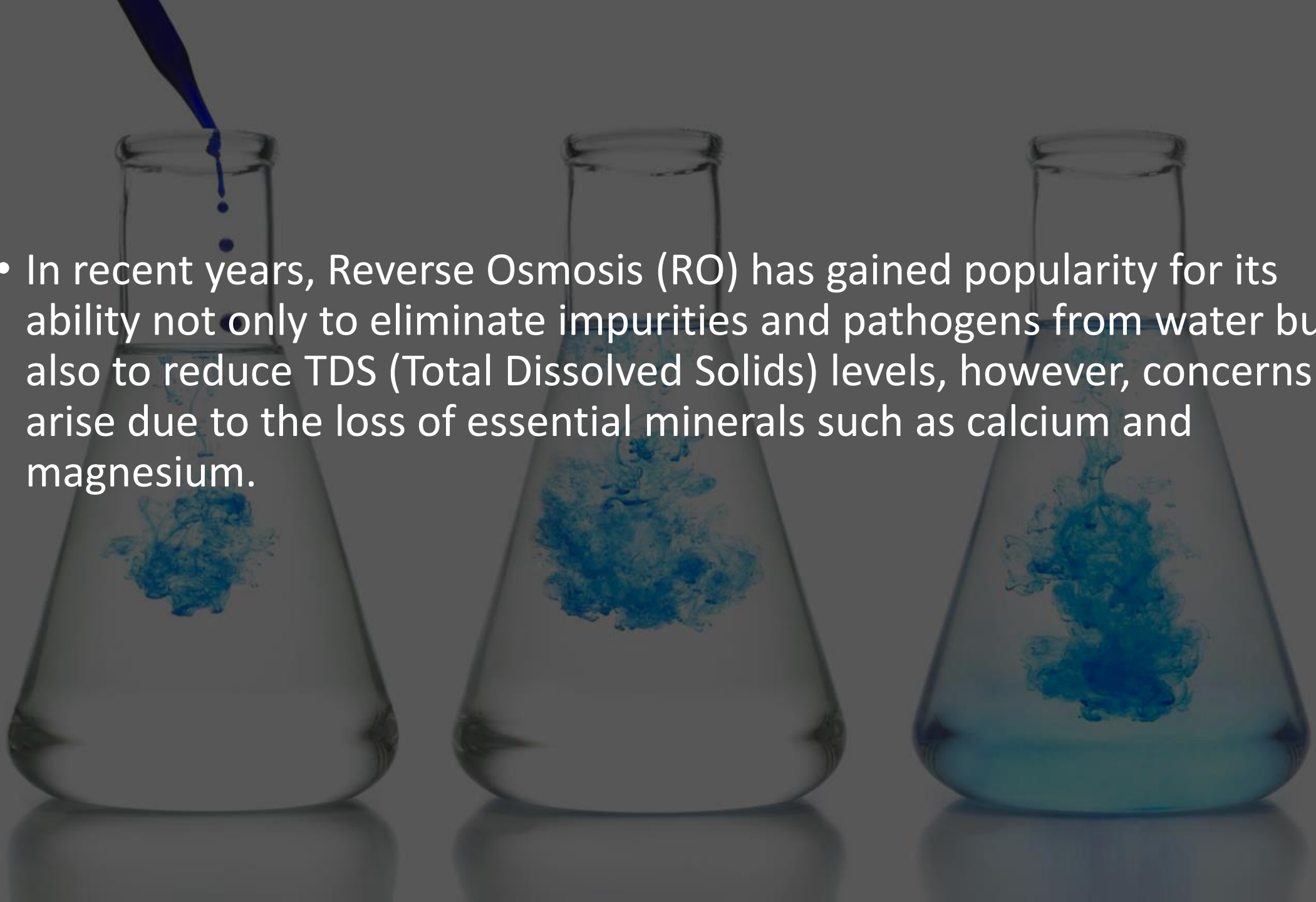


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- **A recent movie titled *The Man Who Knew Infinity* is based on the biography of (2016)**
 - **(a) S. Ramanujan**
 - **(b) S. Chandrasekhar**
 - **(c) S.N. Bose**
 - **(d) C.V. Raman**



Purification Processes of Water

- In recent years, Reverse Osmosis (RO) has gained popularity for its ability not only to eliminate impurities and pathogens from water but also to reduce TDS (Total Dissolved Solids) levels, however, concerns arise due to the loss of essential minerals such as calcium and magnesium.



What is the RO Water Purification Method?

About:

- RO is a water purification process that **removes contaminants from water by utilising a semi-permeable membrane.**
- A typical RO system consists of a semi-permeable membrane, **with pores 0.0001 to 0.001 microns in size.**
- In this method, **water is forced through the membrane under pressure,** while contaminants such as **dissolved solids, chemicals, microorganisms,** and other impurities are left behind.

The membrane **allows water molecules to pass through** while blocking larger molecules and ions.

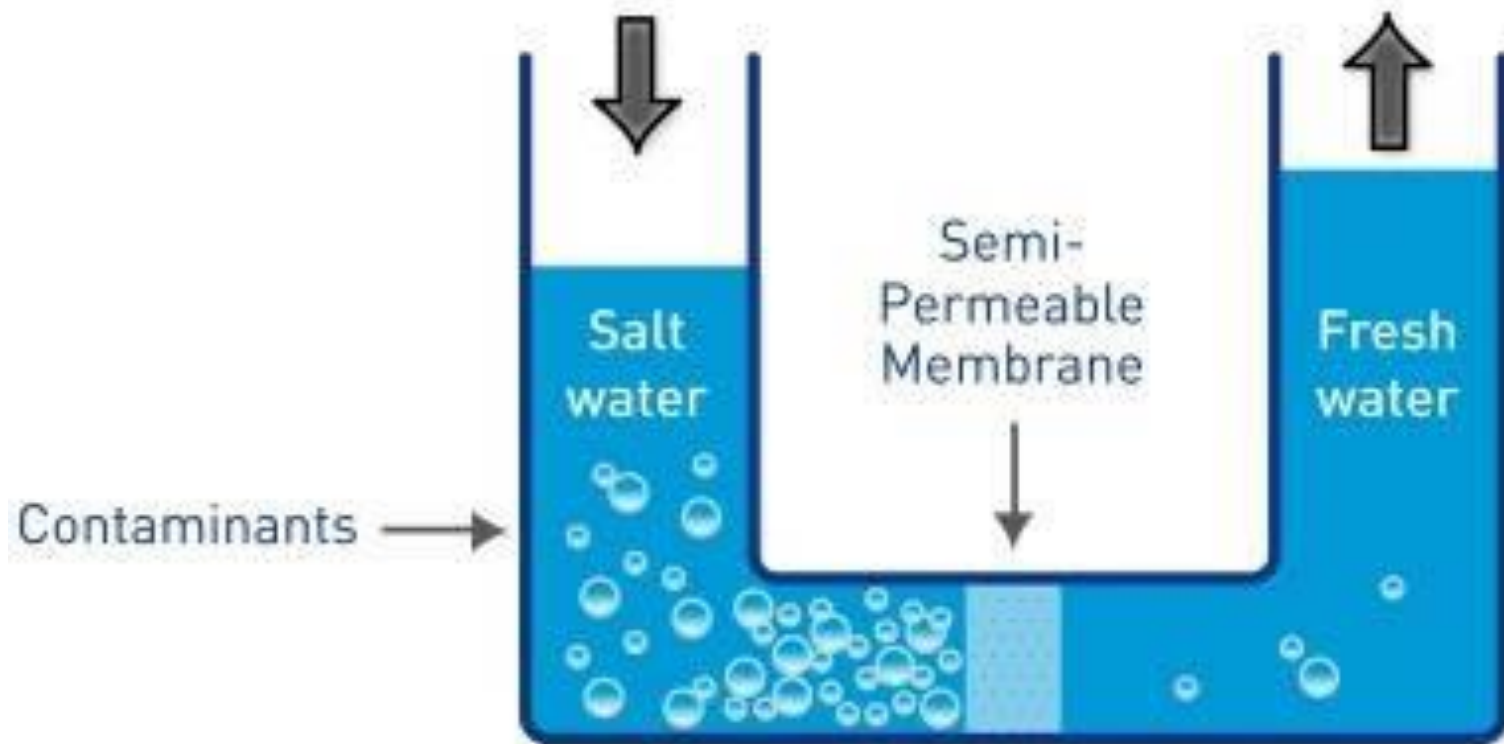
The RO process effectively removes a wide range of impurities, including salts, heavy metals, bacteria, viruses, and organic compounds, producing clean and purified water.

- This technology is widely used in both residential and industrial settings to improve water quality for drinking, cooking, and various other applications.

REVERSE OSMOSIS

APPLIED PRESSURE

PURE WATER



Contaminants →



Direction of water flow

Reasons for Growing Demand for RO Water.

Poor Water Quality

Perceived Health Benefits

Convenience and Accessibility

Increasing Urbanisation

What are the Concerns Related to the RO Process?

Loss of Essential Minerals:

- RO systems are **highly effective at removing impurities and pathogens** from water, including minerals like calcium and magnesium.
- While this purification process ensures clean water, it also **leads to a reduction in essential minerals** that are beneficial for human health.
- This loss of minerals, especially **calcium and magnesium**, can **potentially contribute to micronutrient deficiencies** and pose a public health threat, particularly in regions where people already **suffer from such deficiencies**.

- **Extreme Less TDS Levels:**

- **In several studies, it was discovered that the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) level was below 50 mg/l in numerous locations, indicating a significant reduction in calcium and magnesium levels.**

- **In one study conducted across nearly 4,000 locations nationwide, TDS levels were observed to range from 25 to 30 mg/l, signalling a scarcity of essential minerals in the water.**

-

Health Impacts:

Research suggests that RO systems can remove significant amounts of beneficial calcium and magnesium, leading to potential health issues such as **joint pain, coronary heart disease, back pain, and vitamin B12 deficiency.**

What are the Recommended TDS Limits for Safe Drinking Water?

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) states that the maximum TDS limit for safe drinking water is 500 milligrams per litre (ppm).

However, in the absence of any alternative water source, a TDS limit of 2,000 mg/l is permissible.

In its drinking water standards issued in 2017, WHO (World Health Organization) states that TDS in drinking water should be between 600 and 1,000 mg/l.

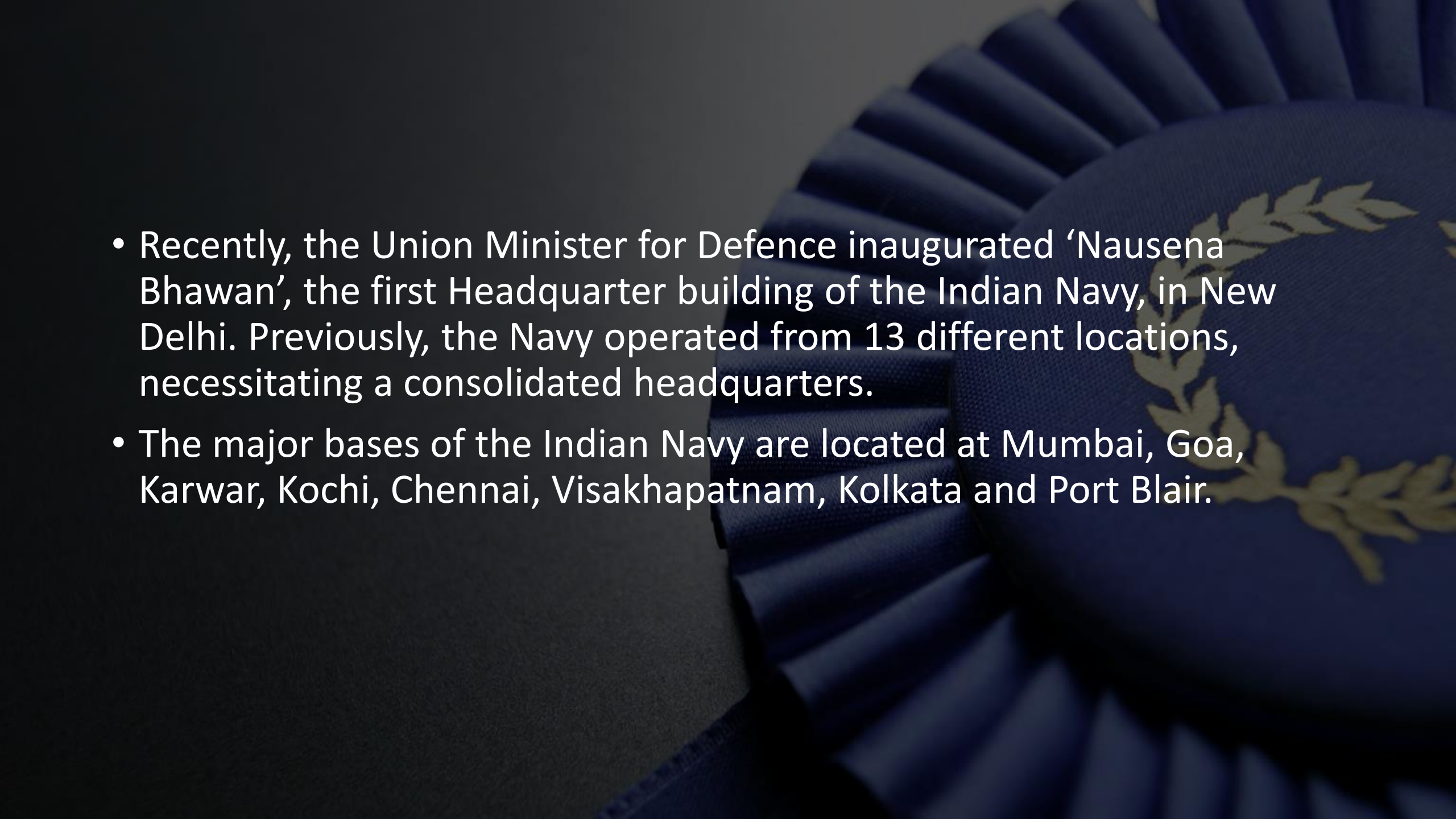


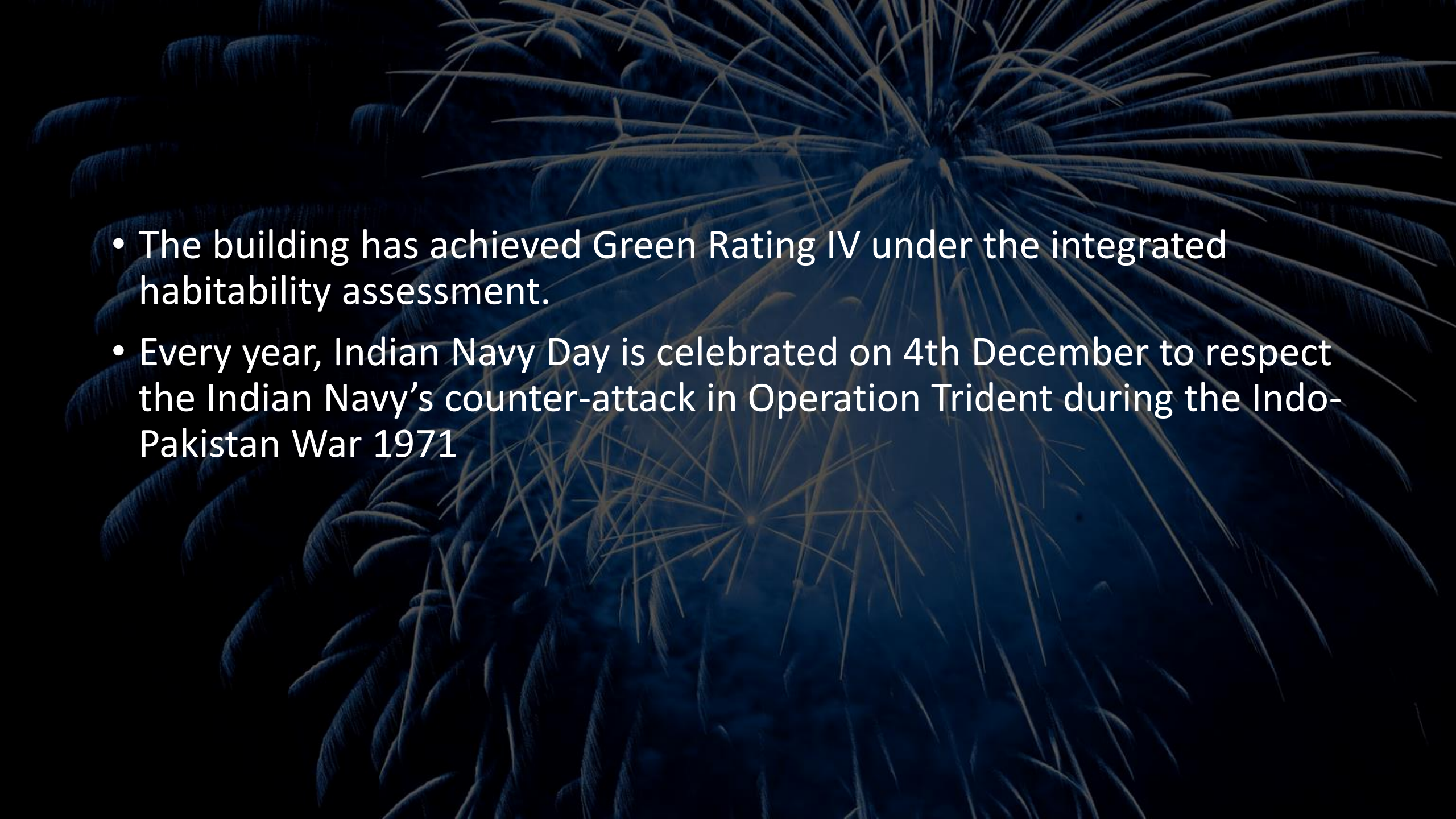
- **Countries in Europe, the US and Canada have set TDS standards at 500 to 600 mg/l.**

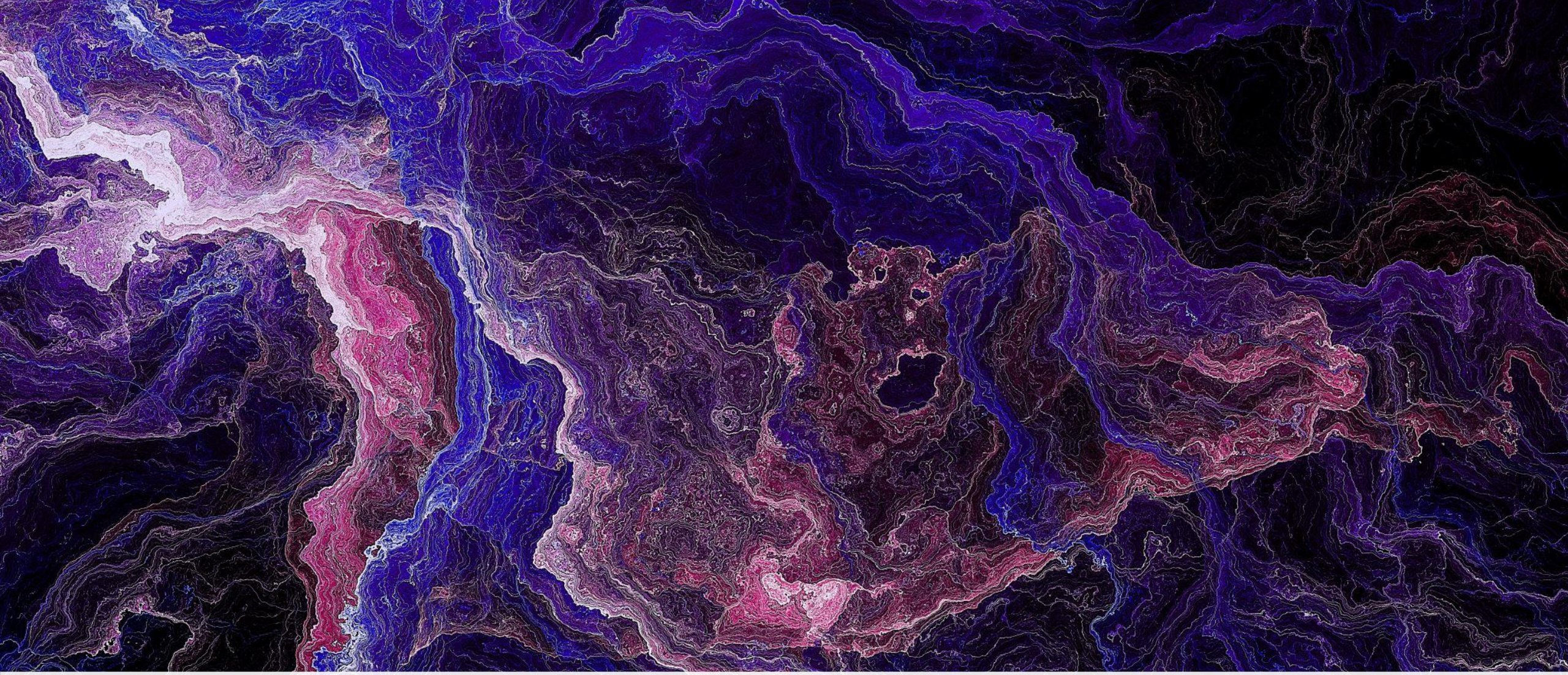
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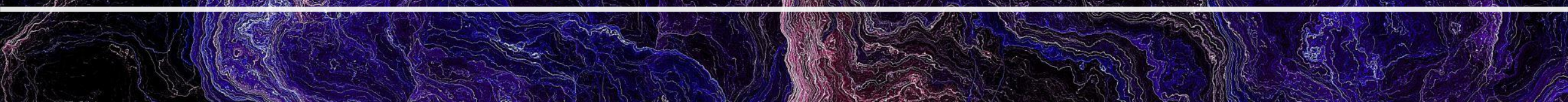
Nausena Bhawan

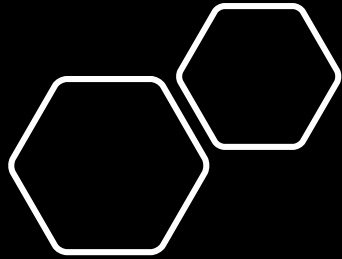
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- Recently, the Union Minister for Defence inaugurated 'Nausena Bhawan', the first Headquarter building of the Indian Navy, in New Delhi. Previously, the Navy operated from 13 different locations, necessitating a consolidated headquarters.
 - The major bases of the Indian Navy are located at Mumbai, Goa, Karwar, Kochi, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Kolkata and Port Blair.

- 
- The building has achieved Green Rating IV under the integrated habitability assessment.
 - Every year, Indian Navy Day is celebrated on 4th December to respect the Indian Navy's counter-attack in Operation Trident during the Indo-Pakistan War 1971



Fun fact





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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.
