

Daily Current Affairs

13
90%



जनसत्ता

The Indian EXPRESS

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS



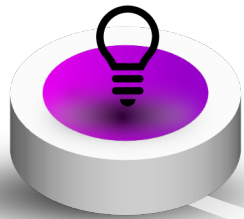
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The Hindu



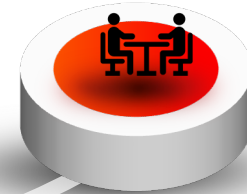
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PIB, PR4 & Other newspaper



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The Indian Express



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1
Financial Express



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Class pdf


**10 Questions
test related to
this class**



Discuss privately - (initially)

- publicly

“Bahut andar tak
jalaa deti hai,
Woh shikaayatein jo
bayaan nahi hoti.”

NET BORROWING CAP
Constitution Bench to hear Kerala's plea
STATES > PAGE 3

EXCISE POLICY CASE
Kejriwal sent to 14-day judicial custody
NEWS > PAGE 4

SECOND HIGHEST COLLECTION
GST revenues hit ₹1.78 lakh cr. in March
BUSINESS > PAGE 12

PMLA
A law that has lost its way
A strange evolution of law linked to narcotics and money laundering
EDITORIAL > PAGE 8

ON THE PROWL
Boult, Chahal star in Royals' thumping win
SPORT > PAGE 16

INSIDE



New rules to wait
fliers from aboard aircraft

NEW DELHI
The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security issued new standard operating protocols for airports and airlines, allowing passengers who have declined after any delay in flight to undergo security check at the boarding gate. > PAGE 4

Heatwaves likely during election season, says IMD

NEW DELHI
The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday warned of "above-normal" heatwave conditions in most parts of the country in April and May. These are the months when polling will be held across the country. > PAGE 6

Author quits Akademi over 'interference'

NEW DELHI
A controversy erupted in the Sahitya Akademi on Monday after Malayalam author C. Radhakrishnan resigned from the membership of the premier literary body's general council, citing political interference. > PAGE 6

Pakistan court suspends Imran, wife's jail term

ISLAMABAD
In a temporary relief to jailed former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, a high court on Monday suspended a 14-year sentence handed out to him and his wife Bushra Bibi in the Toshakhana corruption case. > PAGE 14

Supreme Court allows Hindu worship to continue inside Gyanvapi premises

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday managed a balancing act, allowing a Hindu priest to continue to offer worship inside the cellar or ~~temple~~ Gyanvapi premises while Muslims used the mosque and the surrounding courtyard for performing namaz.
A three-judge bench of Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud found it "appropriate" to order the *status quo* in order to "enable both communities to offer religious worship."
This way ~~namaz~~ is offered on the premises of the mosque. The ~~temple~~ *shikharas* is safeguarded. The arrangement would be maintained between now and the trial. Chief Justice Chandrachud remarked

the suit filed in a Varanasi court was only a ruse to encroach into the mosque land.
Legal battle
The mosque managers have been fighting a prolonged legal battle after the suit by the Hindus, who started out seeking a judicial declaration of their right to worship inside the mosque premises, followed by the "discovery" of a "shiring". However, the Muslim side claimed the structure was a fountain. The courts had allowed carbon dating and a "scientific survey" of the structure.
Back-to-back orders by the Varanasi court had allowed Hindu religious rituals in a cellar of the mosque accessed through the southern side of the premises.
Vishweshwar since Satyag. They said the temple, which stood on the Gyanvapi plot, was brought down by the "Farman of Emperor Aurangzeb in the year 1659". Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmad, for the mosque's management, Anjumam Islamia Masjid, claimed

the suit filed in a Varanasi court was only a ruse to encroach into the mosque land.
Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI
Amidst allegations of "tax terrorism", the Income Tax Department on Monday stated in the Supreme Court its resolve not to take any "coercive steps" against the Congress on tax demands of approximately ₹2,500 crore raised in March. In view of the Lok Sabha election, the department said it had no intention of taking any such steps.
At the very outset of the hearing before a Bench headed by Justice R.V. Ravi, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta stated that "since election is going on, we do not want any problem to arise for any political party... We will not take any coercive steps till the case is heard again on July 24, 2024".
His [Mehta] has rendered years 2014-15 to 2016-17.

Gone with the sea



Skeletal structures: Houses destroyed by a sea surge on Monday at Mundakkal in Kollam, Kerala. C. SURESH/KOLKATA

Centre and Cong. spar over Katchatheevu issue

PM and External Affairs Minister flay Congress regimes for indifference towards the island

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI
The controversy over India "ceding" the island of Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka in 1974 escalated on Monday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged news reports on the issue for the second day and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar declared that previous Congress governments had given away the rights of Indian fishermen in that area.
Hitting back, the Congress quoted the government's (RTI) reply on the issue in 2015, which said the island was situated on "the Sri Lankan side of the international Maritime Boundary Line". Mr. Modi, in a post on X, flagged a second news report on the issue that said the DMK, under then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, was kept in the loop when the Union government decided on ceding Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka.
PM questions DMK
"Rhetoric aside, DMK has done NOTHING to safeguard Tamil Nadu's interests. New details emerging on Katchatheevu have UNMASKED the DMK's double standards totally. Congress and DMK are family units. They only care that their own sons and daughters rise. They don't care for anyone else. Their callousness on Katchatheevu has harmed the interests of our poor fishermen and fishermen in particular," Mr. Modi said in his post. Mr. Jaishankar, in his press conference at the BJP's headquarters on Monday, said it was wrong to say that the ceding of

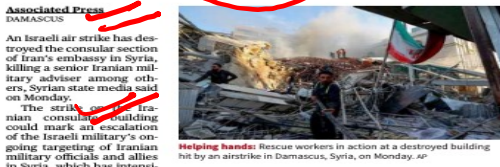
Congress quotes Centre's 2015 RTI reply, which stated that the island lies on the 'Sri Lankan side'

The Congress and DMK raised the issue in Parliament as if they bear no responsibility for it, while they are the parties which did it
Will Foreign Minister Mr. Jaishankar please refer to the RTI reply dated 27-1-2015, the reply justified the circumstances under which India acknowledged that a small island belonged to Sri Lanka
P. CHIDAMBARAM, Congress leader

Opposition leaders ask if the 'change of stance' by Modi govt. is related to 'election politics'

Revisiting pact could affect ties: former diplomats
NEW DELHI
A pact signed by the government in 1974 between India and Sri Lanka, which gave away the island of Katchatheevu, could have a long-term impact on India's ties in the region, warned former diplomats, in a piece published by the Centre and the State government. Mr. Jaishankar said, adding that he had replied to the current Tamil Nadu Chief Minister (M.K. Stalin) "at least 21 times". He said that Prime Ministers from the Congress

Israeli air strike destroys Iranian consulate in Syria



Associated Press
DAMASCUS
An Israeli air strike has destroyed the consular section of Iran's embassy in Syria, killing a senior Iranian military adviser among others, Syrian state media said on Monday.
The strike, which could mark an escalation of the Israeli military's ongoing targeting of Iranian military officials and allies in Syria, which has intensified since the onset of its war with Hamas.
Israel said it had no comment about the Syrian media reports.
Iranian state television Al-Alam and pan-Arab television station Al-Mayadeen said the strike killed Iranian military adviser Gen.

No coercive action over tax notices against Cong. in view of polls: I-T Dept.

Poll respite
I-T Dept. submits in SC that the Congress need not have any apprehensions over tax demands till July due to upcoming polls
total tax demand made of Congress amounts to ₹3,567 crore
In the latest notice, tax demand raised ₹1,745 crore from 2014-17
Tax authorities have already withdrawn tax demand from the party's accounts for the year 2016-17
Relief comes after party lost its appeal before I-T Appellate Tribunal and Delhi High Court
With the latest notice, the department had raised a total tax demand of ₹3,567 crore from the Congress.
The authorities had ended the tax exemption available to political parties and had taxed the party for gross receipt based on ₹1,745 crore from the party for the year 2016-17.
The Congress has challenged the High Court order that gross receipt was taxable.
"Gross receipt is never taxable. Only total income is taxable. We are a political party, not a profit-making organisation," Mr. Singhvi argued. He raised the issue that Section 13A of the Income Tax Act provided tax exemption to political parties.
Mr. Mehta said the total of over ₹3,500 crore was a "block assessment" of the past seven years. This was excluding the ₹135 crore recovered from the party through attachment. He said the department had wrongly made the "block assessment" to avoid coercive measures in view of the prevailing circumstances of the elections.
THE BIGGER ISSUE
> PAGE 4

*Small cities
Ambassy - Capital*

IN BRIEF

IAF jets to conduct landing drills on highway in Kashmir

A strip of road in south Kashmir's Bijnbehara on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway will be used to conduct emergency landing drills by aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) from Monday night, according to officials...

NPPA revises ceiling prices of over 900 drug formulations

There has been marginal hike in the prices of antibiotics and painkillers from Monday. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) had allowed price hike for select medicines by 0.0055%...

Agencies must focus on crimes that truly threaten nation: CJI

Underlining that investigative agencies such as the Central Bureau of India (CBI) have been spread 'too thin' over the years, Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday said they must pick their battles to promote efficiency and concentrate attention on crimes that truly threaten the nation's security...

SC notice to EC on plea to check EVM, VVPAT counts

The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Election Commission (EC) on a writ petition seeking a direction to mandatorily cross-verify the count in electronic voting machines (EVMs) with votes verifiably recorded as cast by counting all voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) slips.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Sandeep Mehta tagged the petition filed by lawyer and activist Arun Kumar Agrawal, represented by advocate Neha Rathi, with pending ones on the same issue.

Ms. Rathi argued for a complete count of VVPAT slips in elections as opposed to the current practice of verification of only five randomly selected EVMs through VVPAT paper slips.

Rise in demand for MG-NREGS points to failure of govt.: Cong.

The data point to 'widespread unemployment and stagnant wages' that runs counter to development narrative being talked, says Cong. leader

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Reacting to the latest statistics of the employment guarantee scheme showing that demand for work is more than the pre-pandemic level and on a steady rise, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh has said it is a 'living monument' to the Narendra Modi government's many failures.



Hitting out: MGNREGS was designed by the Congress government as a safety net for the rural poor. FILE PHOTO

for the rural poor. "It is demand-driven which means that employment is generated only when there is no alternative paying better wages," Mr. Ramesh said.

Heatwave conditions likely during election season, warns IMD

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday warned of "above-normal" heatwave conditions in most parts of the country in April and May.

Advisories have been issued to the Election Commission (EC) and the States to take adequate precautions.

One of the reasons for the expected hotter than usual summers is the continuing effect of the El Niño, Mr. Mohapatra, Director-General, IMD, said.



Advisories have been issued to the EC and the States to take adequate precautions.

States to "take precautions" and equip polling booths with oral rehydration salts for booth officials or voters who may experience a heatstroke.

Author quits Sahitya Akademi citing political interference

Sreeparna Chakrabarty NEW DELHI

A controversy erupted in the Sahitya Akademi on Monday after Malayalam author C. Radhakrishnan resigned from the membership of the premier literary body's general council, citing political interference.

eroding the independent stature of the Akademi." The Sahitya Akademi was quick to respond, and said Mr. Radhakrishnan's written resignation was "misleading."

'Pannun case probe part of national security interests'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The investigation into the alleged plot to assassinate U.S.-based Khalistani separatist Gurbaj Singh Pannun is part of India's national security interests, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Monday.

to a question about Mr. Garcetti's comment on the involvement of an Indian official in the alleged assassination plot.

In an all-time high, defence exports cross ₹21,000 crore

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

India's defence exports crossed ₹21,000 crore for the first time, Defence Minister Piyush Singh said on Monday.

CROSSWORD 14138 (sent by Vishvas) with grid and clues. Clues include: 1. It goes into more than one rule (6), 2. Part of Indian diet (3-5), 3. Returns two-fold praise (4), 4. Unmanageable support works, involving resistance (10), 5. Election Victory! Back to people finally! (4), 6. How to get a message carried by the waves? (10).

SUDOKU with grid and clues. Clues include: 17. Part of mega lavish celebration (4), 18. Medico retained by business for data repository (2-3), 19. Support black sensitivity (4), 21. Travelling faster than word of mouth? (10), 23. Chance of noble backing king (4), 24. Can a small magazine art possibly be a symbol of constitutional democracy (5-5), 25. Large, adult, male black sheep (4), 26. Left oust judge! Removal leads to poll! (8), 27. Sight wound (6).

FAITH The key role of parents. The importance of parents in our lives is repeatedly emphasised by the dharmasastras. For an atma to gain liberation, it must first take birth. Since our parents are responsible for our births, they deserve respect, said Velukkudi Krishnan in a discourse.

SUDOKU SOLUTION to previous puzzle and SUDOKU SOLUTION to yesterday's Sudoku. Includes a grid and difficulty rating.

In an all-time high, defence exports cross ₹21,000 crore

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The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's defence exports crossed ₹21,000 crore for the first time, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday.

The figures indicated that defence exports had grown by 31 times in the past 10 years compared with FY 2013-14, the Defence Ministry said.

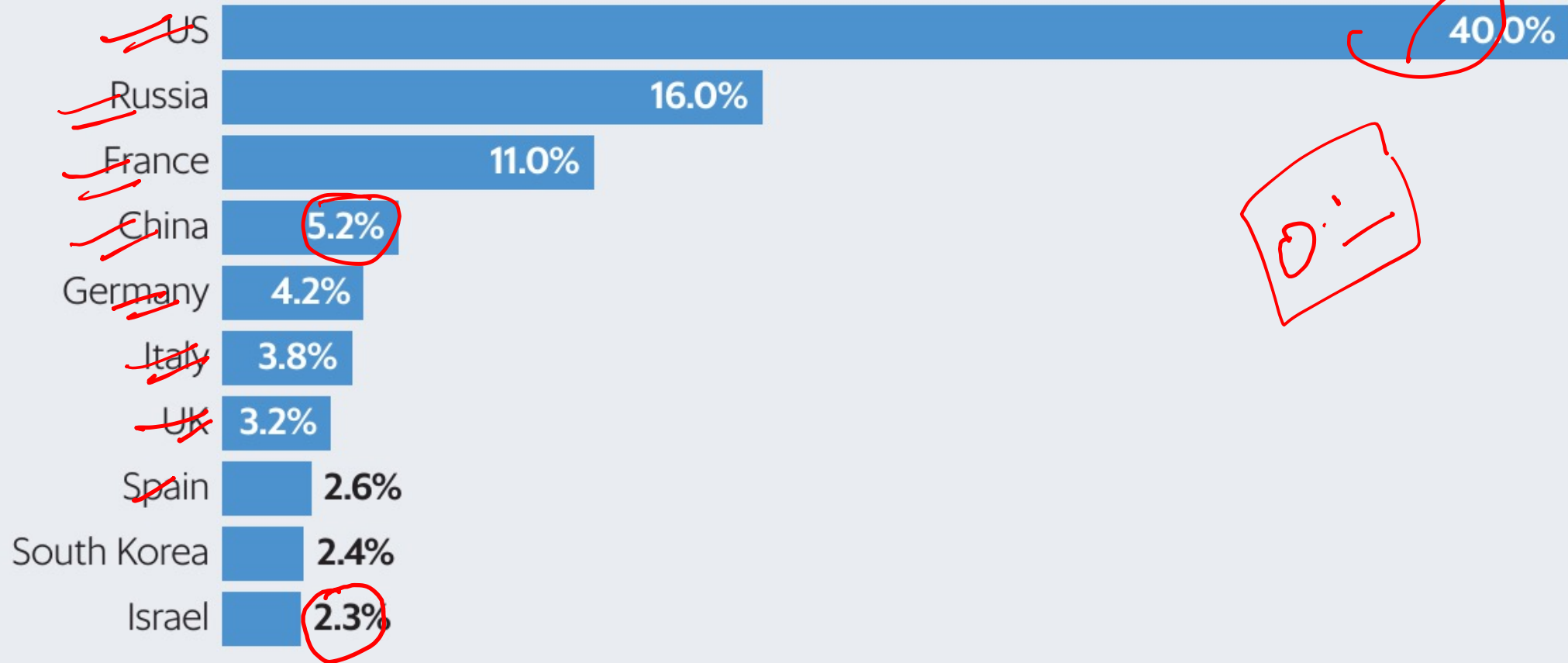
"Delighted to inform that defence exports have scaled to unprecedented heights and crossed ₹21,000-crore mark for the first time in the history of Independent India!," Mr. Singh said on X. "Defence exports have reached the level of ₹21,083 crore in the financial year 2023-24 which is a spectacular growth of 32.5% over the previous fiscal."

~~*~~ 2013-14 → 10x
2013-24
21,000 cr

21,083 cr
32.5% ↑

India's defence exports ranked well outside the top 25 countries during the period 2018-2022

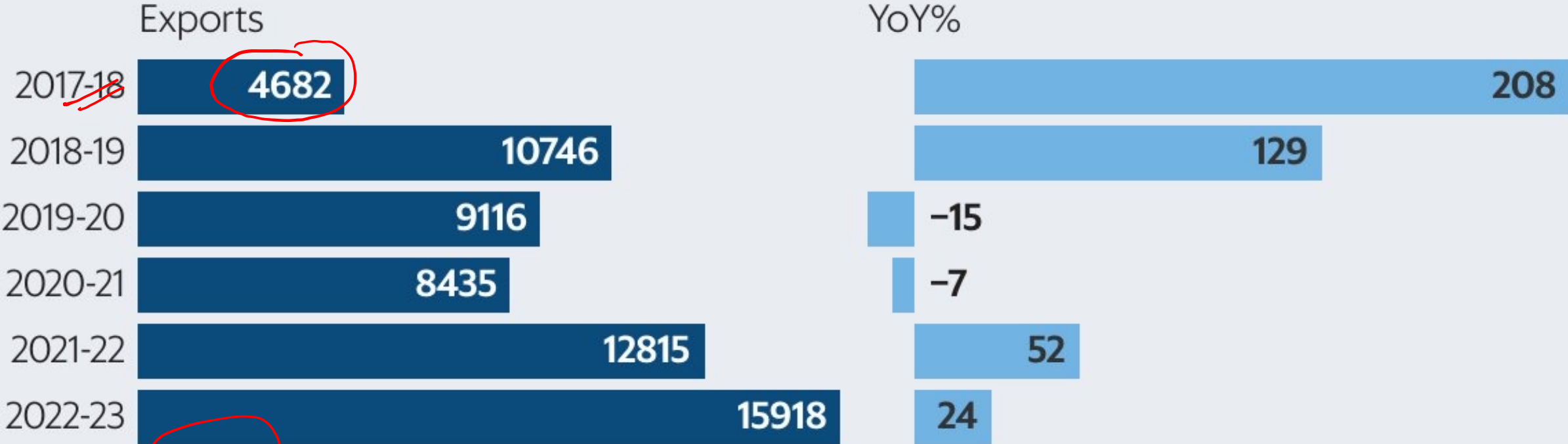
Share (%) of largest arms exporters between 2018-2022



Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

India's defence exports rose 24% in FY23, and tenfold in six years

India's defence exports (in Rs crore) and year-on-year change (%)



Includes only export by defence public sector undertakings.

Source: Ministry of Defence



Access and misuse

The charts were sourced from the report titled, "Variations in the prevalence of caesarean section deliveries in India between 2016 and 2021 – an analysis of Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh", published in BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth



Neloni

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Chart 1: Change in % of births delivered by C-sections in public hospitals in India, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh between 2015-16 and 2019-21

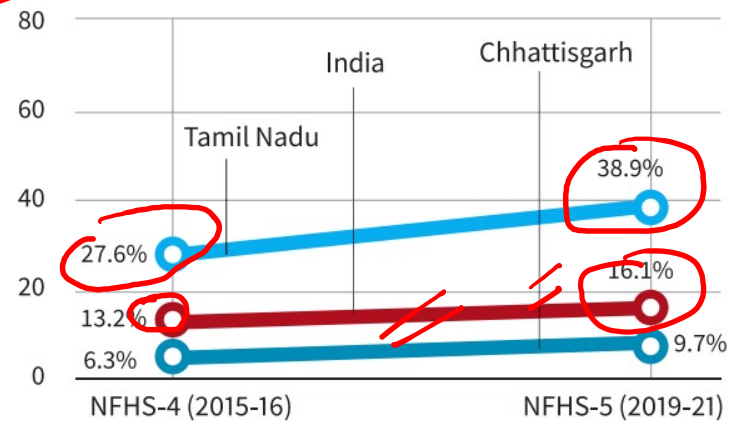
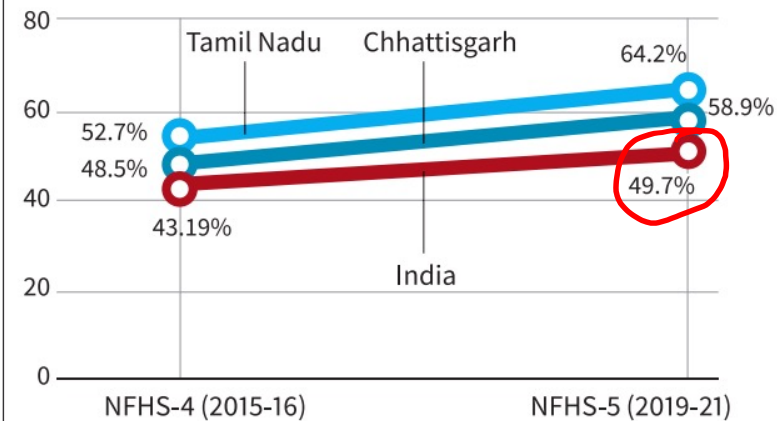


Chart 2: Change in % of births delivered by C-sections in private hospitals in India, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh between 2015-16 and 2019-21



50%

Chart 3: Disparity among women from the poor and non-poor categories in their access to C-sections in **public hospitals** across India, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh in 2015-16 and 2019-21. Figures in %

● Poor ● Non-poor

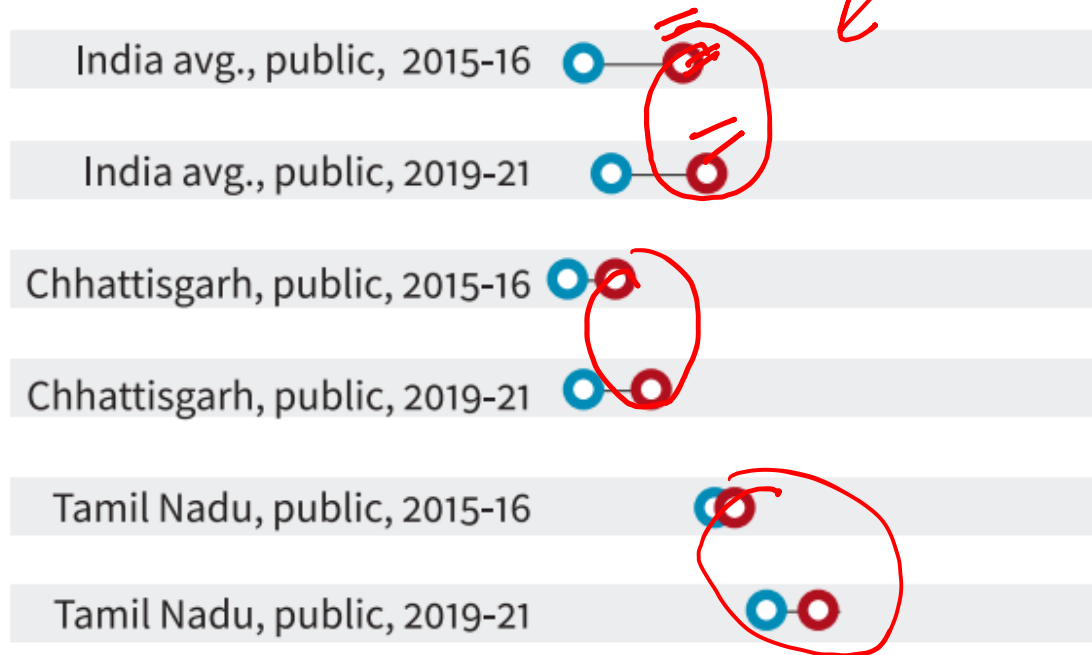
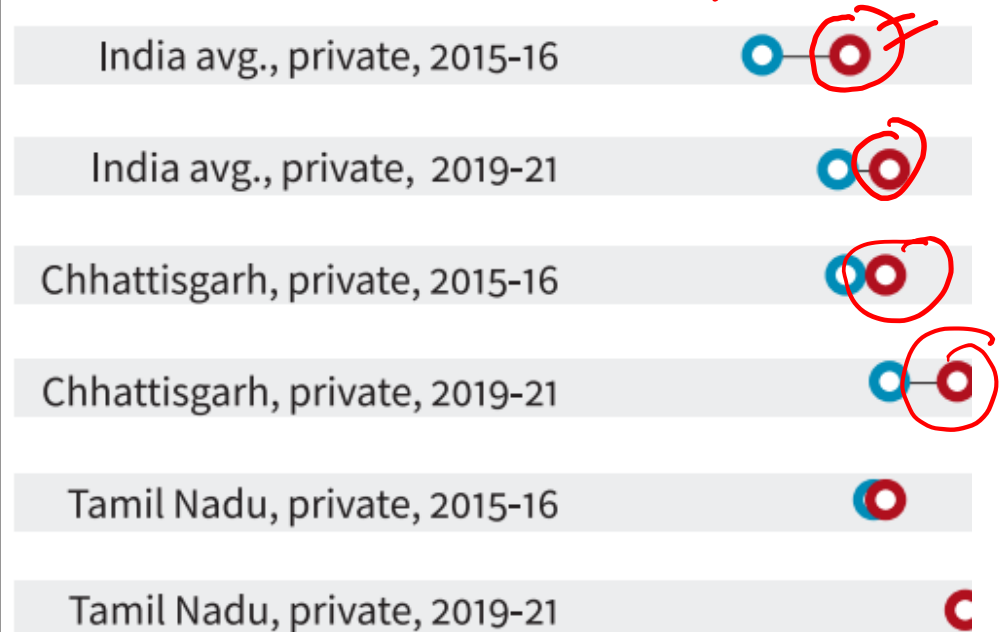


Chart 4: Disparity among women from the poor and non-poor categories in their access to C-sections in **private hospitals** across India, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh in 2015-16 and 2019-21. Figures in %

● Poor ● Non-poor



KABUL
Nine children killed in landmine blast in southeastern Afghanistan



Nine children were killed in a blast in southeastern Afghanistan that was caused by a landmine laid during the country's decades of conflict, a provincial official said on Monday. The mine went off as a group of young boys and girls were playing with it in the Geru district of Ghazni province on Sunday. AFP

LONDON
U.K. says Channel crossings on small boats hit a record this winter



Channel arrivals on small boats to the U.K. hit a record in the first quarter of 2024 with a nearly 42% rise over last year, the interior Ministry said on Monday. British officials processed 5,373 migrants from the shores of south-eastern England in the first three months of the year compared to 3,753 last year. AFP

MOSCOW
Russia arrests four more plotters of Moscow concert hall attack



Russia's FSB security service has said that four persons arrested on Sunday in a foiled "terror" plot had provided money and arms for the deadly attack on a Moscow concert hall last month. More than 140 people were killed when gunmen stormed the Crocus City Hall venue on March 22 before setting the building on fire. AFP

BALTIMORE
Alternative route opened for ships clearing Baltimore wreckage



The U.S. Coast Guard opened a temporary alternative channel for vessels involved in the clearing of debris at the site of the collapsed Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, part of a phased approach to opening the main channel leading to the port. The bridge collapsed after a container ship rammed into it after losing power. AP

Israeli MPs give approval for Bill to ban Al Jazeera

Agence France-Presse JERUSALEM

The Israeli Parliament passed a Bill on Monday giving top Ministers the authority to bar from the broadcasts of news channel Al Jazeera - a step Premier Benjamin Netanyahu is poised to take.

This law, which passed by 70 votes to 10, carries the authority to ban the broadcast of content from foreign channels but also allows the closing of their offices in Israel.

Israel had claimed in January that an Al Jazeera staff journalist and a freelancer killed in an air strike in Gaza were "terror operatives".

The following month it said another journalist for the channel, wounded in a separate strike, was a "deputy company commander" with Hamas. Al Jazeera has fiercely denied the accusations and accused Israel of systematically targeting Al Jazeera employees in Gaza.

Israel withdraws from Shifa hospital after two-week raid

Tel Aviv claims its operation at Gaza's largest hospital has killed some 200 militants and detained hundreds more, WHO says more than 20 patients died and dozens were put at risk during raid

Associated Press DEIR AL-BALAH

Israel's military withdrew from Gaza's largest hospital early on Monday after a two-week raid, in which it said it killed some 200 militants and detained hundreds more. Palestinian residents said the troops left behind several bodies and a vast swath of destruction.

The military has described the raid on Shifa Hospital as a major battlefield victory in the nearly six-month war. But it came at a time of mounting frustration in Israel, with tens of thousands protesting against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday and demanding he do more to bring home dozens of hostages held in Gaza. It was the largest anti-government demonstration since the start of the war. The fighting showed



Dilapidated state: Palestinians inspect the damage at Gaza's al-Shifa hospital after the Israeli military withdrew on Monday. AFP

that Hamas can still put up resistance even in one of the hardest hit areas, which brought even further destruction to a hospital that had already largely ceased to function. Bassel al-Hilou said the bodies of seven of his relatives had been found in the wreckage surrounding the hospital. He said they had sought shelter at a neighbour's house after theirs was bombed, but then

another strike hit the home where they were staying. "There was a massacre in my uncle's house," he said. "The situation was indescribable."

Toll unknown It was not yet known how many Palestinian civilians were killed during the raid. The military denied that its forces harmed any civilians inside the compound.

Israel has accused Hamas of using hospitals for military purposes and has raided several medical facilities. Health officials in Gaza deny these allegations. Critics accuse the Army of recklessly endangering civilians and of decimating a health sector already overwhelmed with war-wounded. Palestinians say Israeli troops forced hundreds of people living near Shifa to evacuate to the south.

Imamoglu maintains grip on Istanbul mayor post

Agence France-Presse ISTANBUL

Ethem Imamoglu's second convincing victory in an Istanbul city election looks set to propel him into the running for the 2028 presidential vote.

The football-loving 52-year-old, who first became the mega-city's mayor in 2019, on Sunday again defeated Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's chosen candidate in the country's economic powerhouse despite a concerted effort to unseat him by the veteran president.

"Tomorrow is a new spring day for our country," Mr. Imamoglu told tens of thousands of euphoric supporters during his re-election late on Sunday, wearing his trademark shirtsleeves and rimless glasses.

Mr. Imamoglu, candidate for the social-democratic Republican Party (CHP), had spent much of the campaign targeting Erdogan rather than his nominal opponent, former Environment Minister Murat Kurum, who was largely unknown in 2019. Mr. Imamoglu that year ended 25 years of rule by Mr. Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) and its allies in the city of 16 million where the President was once mayor.



People's man Ethem Imamoglu had spent much of the campaign targeting Tayyip Erdogan rather than his opponent Murat Kurum. AP

He has since become one of Turkey's most popular politicians, even as he was targeted with legal action. In Sunday's election, Mr. Imamoglu ran as the CHP candidate as he failed to get Turkey's fractured opposition parties to rally around his bid.

The size of his victory will also have stunned those erstwhile allies. Now Mr. Imamoglu is seen as the most likely potential candidate to beat whoever stands for Erdogan's party in the 2028 presidential election.

Minor hiccup The smooth talking Mr. Imamoglu was initially stripped of his victory when the vote was controversially annulled. But he won by an even bigger margin in a re-run three months later.

Pakistan PM assures Chinese nationals of foolproof security

Press Trust of India ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said his government would ensure foolproof security measures for the Chinese nationals working across the country, days after five Chinese workers were killed in a suicide attack in the country's northwest.

A vehicle-borne suicide bomber targeted a convoy of Chinese engineers in the remote Beshbalik area of Khyber-Paktunkhwa on Tuesday last, killing five Chinese nationals and their Pakistani driver. "I want to assure you that the government of Pak-

Shehbaz's guarantee comes days after five Chinese workers were killed in a suicide attack

kistan will not leave any stone unturned, will not spare any opportunity to make sure you get the best possible security for your families and yourself," Mr. Sharif said at a gathering of the Chinese workers at the site of Dasu Hydropower project in Kohistan, during a visit to express solidarity with them.

At least 12 persons, including the mastermind, have been arrested in connection with the blast.

Dogs' day in Taiwan



Dogs sniff each other from their strollers while waiting for their pet-friendly train along the Taipei Mass Rapid Transit. The Taipei Metro on Sunday began operations of two pet-friendly trains with eight trips throughout the day and stopping at all usual stations along the route. AP

Germany gives controversial green light to cannabis

Agence France-Presse BERLIN

Cannabis aficionados lit up dried cannabis and cultivate up to three marijuana plants at home, as the country became the largest EU nation to legalise recreational use, despite fierce objections from opposition politicians and medical associations.

Under the first step in the much-debated new law, adults over 18 are now allowed to carry 25 grams of dried cannabis and cultivate up to three marijuana plants at home. The changes leave Germany with some of the



As a first step, adults are now allowed to carry 25 grams of cannabis and cultivate up to three marijuana plants at home, straws, most liberal cannabis laws in Europe, alongside Malta and Luxembourg, which legalised recreational use in 2021 and 2023, respectively.

Netherlands, known for its permissive attitude to the drug, has in recent years taken a stricter approach to counter cannabis tourism. As the law took effect on Monday, some 1,500 people cheered in central Berlin by the Brandenburg Gate, according to the police, with some lighting up joints in celebration. Cannabis consumption has been brought out of the "taboo zone," Health Minister Karl Lauterbach said on X, formerly Twitter. The new law was "bet-

ter for real addiction help, prevention for children and young people and for combating the black market," Lauterbach said, referring in part to criticism levelled against the next step in the reform, from July 1 it will be possible to legally possess up to 50 grams. These regulated associations will be allowed to have up to 500 members each, and will be able to distribute up to 50 grams of cannabis per person per month.

Initial plans for cannabis to be sold via licensed shops were ditched due to EU opposition. Medical groups have raised concerns that legalisation could lead to an increase in use among young people. The law has likewise drawn criticism from police, who fear it will be difficult to enforce. Another potential issue is the implementation of a retroactive amnesty on cannabis-related offences, which could create an administrative headache for the legal system.

Court suspends jail terms of Imran, wife in Toshakhana case

Press Trust of India ISLAMABAD

In a temporary relief to jailed former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, a high court on Monday suspended the 14-year sentence handed out to him and his wife Bushra Bibi in the Toshakhana corruption case.

The beleaguered couple were sentenced to 14 years in jail each by an accountability court on January 31 for alleged corruption in state gifts they got from the state depository, days before the general elections. According to the verdict, Mr. Khan and Ms. Bushra were barred from holding any public office for 10 years and slapped with a fine of Pakistani Rupee 787 million each.

They challenged the conviction in the Islamabad High Court where a two-member Bench headed by IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case.

On Monday, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) gave temporary relief to the couple in the case by suspending their sentences and granting them bail in the case. However, the court announced that their appeals against the conviction would be heard after the Eid festival next month. But Mr. Khan may not be released as he is convicted in other cases and cannot be released until absolved from charges in



Imran Khan

other cases. Similarly, Ms. Bushra is also convicted in another case and may not be released until her sentence has been suspended.

In the Toshakhana corruption case, the 71-year-old former cricketer-politician is accused of retaining expensive state gifts they received during his tenure as Pakistan's Premier. Under the rules governing Toshakhana - a Persian word meaning "treasure house" - government officials can keep gifts by paying a price for them but first the gift should be deposited. Mr. Khan and his wife either failed to deposit the gift or got it for a low price by allegedly using their authority. The conviction of Mr. Khan in the Toshakhana case had come a day after he was sentenced to 10 years in jail in the cipher case on January 30. Earlier, he was also convicted in a different Toshakhana corruption case in August 2023, leading to his arrest.

Malta — Luxembourg — Germany

Germany gives controversial green light to cannabis

Agence France-Presse

BERLIN

Cannabis aficionados lit up in Germany on Monday, as the country became the largest EU nation to legalise recreational use, despite fierce objections from opposition politicians and medical associations.

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The changes leave Germany with some of the



As a first step, adults are now allowed to carry 25 grams of cannabis and cultivate up to three marijuana plants at home. REUTERS

most liberal cannabis laws in Europe, alongside Malta and Luxembourg, which

legalised recreational use in 2021 and 2023, respectively.

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The new law was “bet-

ter for real addiction help, prevention for children and young people and for combating the black market,” Mr. Lauterbach said, responding in part to criticisms levelled against legalisation.

As the next step in the legal reform, from July 1 it will be possible to legally obtain weed through “cannabis clubs” in the country. These regulated associations will be allowed to have up to 500 members each, and will be able to distribute up to 50 grams of cannabis per person per month.

Initial plans for cannabis to be sold via licensed shops were ditched due to EU opposition.

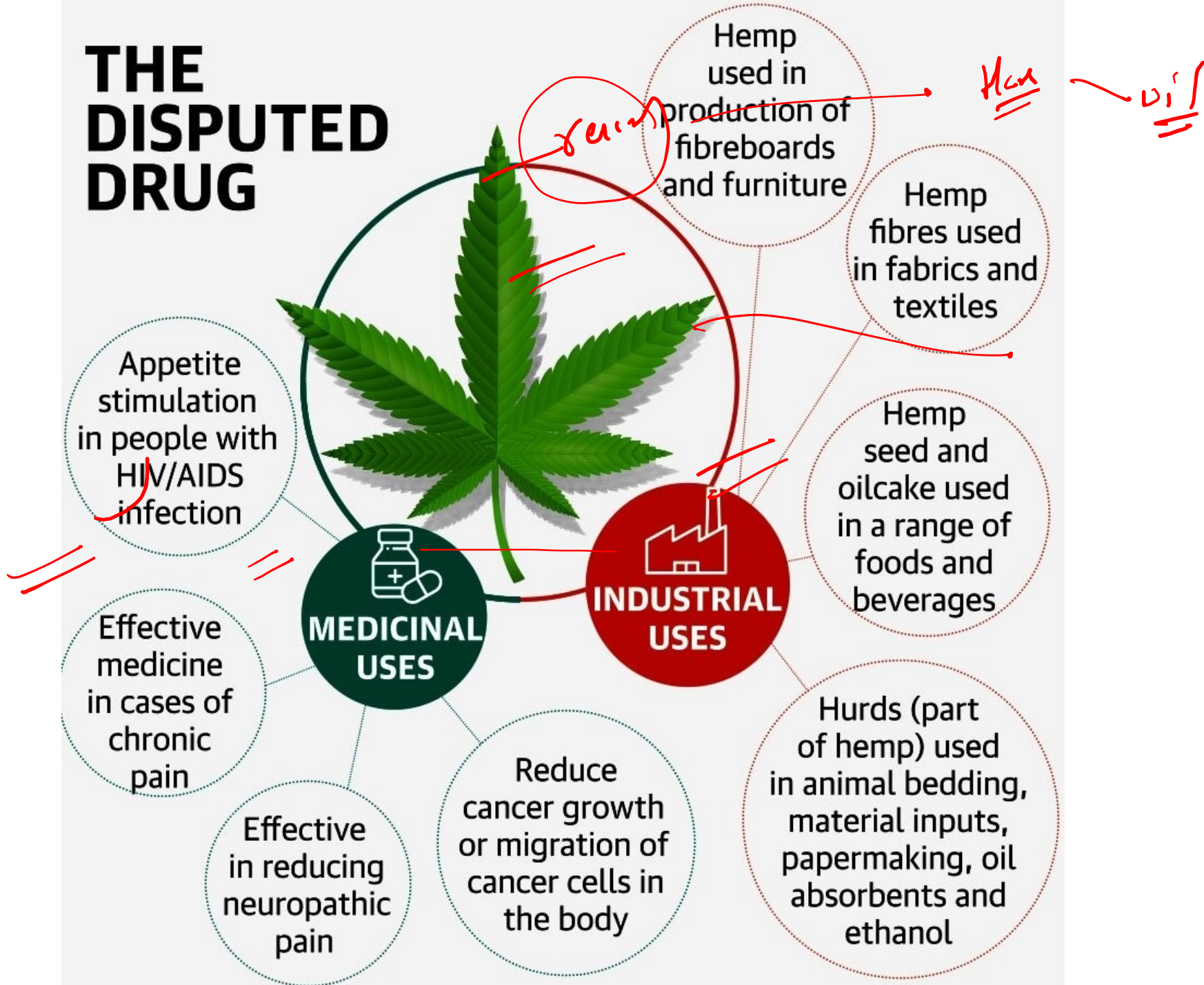
Medical groups have raised concerns that legalisation could lead to an increase in use among young people.

The law has likewise drawn criticism from police, who fear it will be difficult to enforce.

Another potential issue is the implementation of a retroactive amnesty on cannabis-related offences, which could create an administrative headache for the legal system.



THE DISPUTED DRUG



5 SHOCKING FACTS

ABOUT LEGAL MARIJUANA IN THE UNITED STATES



The Legal Marijuana Industry is Worth

\$1.53 BILLION

With the legal marijuana industry worth such a staggering amount, it is easy to see why keeping it legal is important to many individuals and businesses alike.

COLORADO

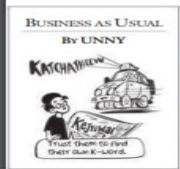
Collects Annual Taxes of

\$98 MILLION

because of legal MARIJUANA SALES



In states like Colorado, where marijuana use has been legalized, the potential for profits from collected taxes is astronomical. Similar numbers have been reported from other states, like Washington.



BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY
PRESSING NEED FOR PROBE AGENCIES TO STRIKE BALANCE: CJI
PAGE 7

Kejriwal sent to Tihar till April 15: ED says he's uncooperative, evasive, misleading

ED: Kejriwal said accused reported to Atishi, Bharadwaj; AAP: old statement

NIRBHAY THAKUR
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal was sent to Tihar Jail on Monday afternoon, hours after a city court granted judicial custody till April 15.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), which arrested Kejriwal on March 21 in connection with the now-scrapped Delhi excise pol-

icy case, sought 15 days judicial custody, saying that he was "totally uncooperative", "evasive", gave "misleading replies" and "concocted information" during his questioning.

Speaking to reporters before entering the courtroom, Kejriwal said: "Jo PM ke nahi hain woh desh ke hie achha nahi hai (whatever the PM is doing is not good for the country)". AAP ministers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at court on Monday. P11



PM Narendra Modi with (from left) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, CM Eknath Shinde on Monday. P11

PM to RBI: On Day 1 after swearing-in, lot of work coming your way

HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, APRIL 1

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi Monday told the Reserve Bank of India to think of ways to support new emerging sectors such as space, green energy, dig-

ital technology and tourism in the coming days, because a lot of work will come its way once the new government takes oath.

"Abhi 100 din mai chunav mein busy hain. Aap ke paas Bharpoor samay hai. Aap soch ke rakhiye, kyonki shapath lena ke

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

KATCHATHEEVU: JAISHANKAR ADDS HIS WEIGHT Lanka minister says no word from India on island; Centre working on it: TN BJP

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, APRIL 1

INDIA HAS not sent any official communication yet on the Katchatheevu island issue, a senior Sri Lanka minister told The Indian Express on Monday even as the BJP scaled up its attack on the Congress, accusing it and the DMK of giving away the island.

FOR THE BJP, the focus on Katchatheevu appeals to Tamil sentiments in a state where regional pride carries resonance, and has been an obstacle in its efforts to make inroads.

and the party's Tamil Nadu unit chief K. Anumalai claiming that the Centre is taking all possible measures to reclaim the territory.

"As far as Sri Lanka is concerned, Katchatheevu island falls within the Sri Lankan line of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

TELANGANA SNOOPING ROW BRS opponents' cars intercepted, cash seized, supporters not spared: Probe

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, APRIL 1

INTERCEPTING VEHICLES of opposition candidates and seizing cash, conspiring to ensure a BRS victory for the third time in

TELANGANA, running a surveillance network that covered not just critics but also supporters — startling allegations have emerged in the alleged snooping scandal that has rocked Telangana and put the state's Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB) under scanner.

The allegations figure in a remand report filed by officers investigating the case, seeking custody of former Deputy Commissioner of Police (Task Force - Hyderabad - City) P Radhakrishnan Rao, who was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NOTICES TO RECOVER ₹3,567 CR FROM PARTY After Cong said 'tax terror', I-T tells court: No coercive action until elections over

Congress lawyer Singhvi calls it 'gracious' gesture

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

THE INCOME Tax Department assured the Supreme Court Monday that it will not take any "coercive steps" to recover approximately ₹ 3,500 crore demanded from the Indian National Congress before the end of Lok Sabha elections 2024.

"Please record my statement that till the matter is heard next, whenever, we will not take any coercive steps... We will not take any coercive steps till the elections are over", Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the I-T Department, told a bench of justices BV Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih.



At the Congress's central election committee meeting for the Lok Sabha elections in New Delhi on Monday. P11

LEVEL PLAYING FIELD DEMAND Unease within, poll panel deliberates over response to Opp alarm

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

THERE IS a sense of "unease" in the Election Commission (EC) over how to respond — if at all — to the Opposition alliance's demand that the poll panel "stop coercive action" by Central agencies to ensure a level-playing field in the Lok Sabha elections, The Indian Express has learned.

Opposition parties regard it unfairness of the poll process.

One option, they said, is to sue an advisory to investigate agencies, calling for "neutral and impartiality" — an echo what the EC had done in 20 when it had told the ED to a neutrally after Opposition parties had accused the party power of using agencies against them. The Commission, it learned, is also deliberating whether there is room to "go beyond" what was stated in its 2019 advisory.

At the same time, there is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Jumla of 2 crore new jobs per year

Jumla of double the income for farmers

Jumla of women security

Jumla of controlling Inflation

Jumla of 15 lakhs in every account

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PREVIOUS JUMLAS?

MERE VIKAS KA DO HISAAB

HAATH BADLEGA HALAAT

Trade with China, EU 'in favour' of India in 2023: Govt

In calendar year 2023 exports to China and European Union countries have increased by 7.1% and 2.1%, respectively

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 1

THE TRADE dynamics with China and European Union (EU) in 2023 was in favour of India as its exports to both the geographies jumped by 7.1 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively compared to the previous year, the commerce and industry ministry said on Monday.

This comes after a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report last month showed that India's dependence on China and EU jumped by 1.2 per cent each in 2023 amid changing trade dynamics along geo-political lines.

"The current observation of increasing India's trade dependence may carry negative connotations. However, detailed analysis indicated trade dynamics in favour of India. India's trade during calendar year (CY) 2023 indicated that India's exports to both China and EU countries have increased by 7.1 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively in CY2023 over CY2022."

The ministry further stressed that India's imports from China have also declined by 3 percent during 2023.

The ministry stated that

'IMPORTS FROM CHINA DOWN 3% IN 2023'

■ The commerce and industry ministry said that imports from China have also declined by 3% during 2023 and that trade has remained resilient despite global challenges

India's trade has remained resilient despite global challenges. According to UNCTAD's Global Trade Update released in March 2024, the projection for global trade in 2023 between January to December indicated a decline in global trade by 3 per cent. While the merchandise trade slipped by 5 per cent, service trade increased by 8 per cent.

"Compared to UNCTAD's global merchandise trade estimates of 5 per cent decline globally, the decline in India's merchandise exports has been less at (-) 4.8 per cent from CY2023, while the estimates of rise in services exports has been more rapid, at 9.1 per cent from the same period as compared to 7 per cent globally," the ministry said.

On imports, the ministry clarified that India mostly imports capital goods, 35 per cent in CY2022 and intermediate goods or raw materials, 50 per cent in CY2022 from the EU that are further used as input.

"India's imports from the EU have increased by 9.7 per cent in CY2023. The highest increase of import from EU in CY2023 is observed in parts of telephone sets, telephones for cellular networks and for other wireless networks and of other apparatus for the transmission or reception of voice, images or other data, which is an input for manufacturing of mobile or smart phones at \$ 2.4 billion in CY2023 (\$3.42 billion in CY2022) with 43 per cent share in total imports increased from EU," the ministry said.

Moreover, it should also be noted that India's export of smart phones have increased by 98.42 per cent in CY2023 from \$7.19 billion in 2022 to \$14.27 billion in CY2023, the ministry said.

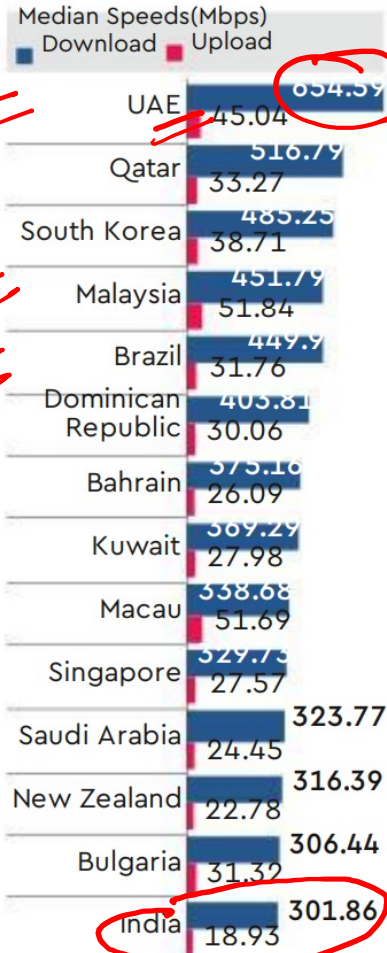
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4519 MT OF VARIOUS TYPES
OF METAL SCRAP, ETC.

China - EU
↑ 7.1%
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80-90% by

UNCTAD
↓

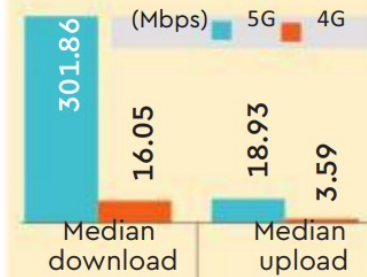
India features in top 15 markets with fastest 5G median download speeds

Median 5G performance in select countries (Q4 2023)

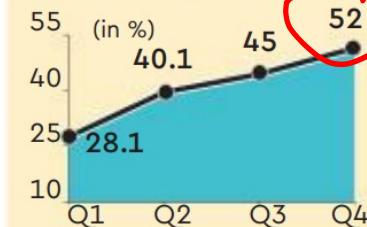


ABOUT 18 MONTHS after the launch of 5G services by telecom operators - Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel, India is now among the top 15 markets with the fastest reported 5G median download speeds, shows a report by Ookla. With a 5G median download speed at 301.86 Mbps as of October-December quarter, India is ranked 14th globally. The 5G availability improved to 52% in the quarter from 28.1% in January-March of 2023.

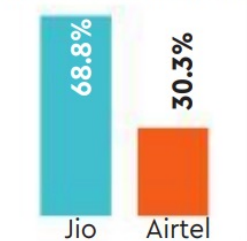
4G and 5G comparison in India



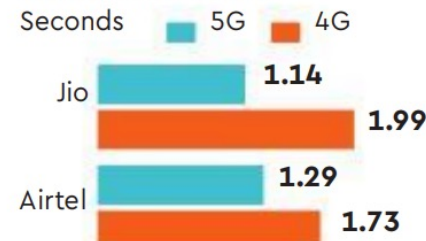
5G availability trend in India



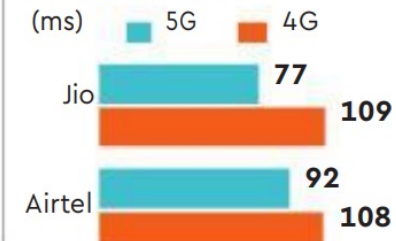
5G availability by providers in India



Video adaptive startup time in India



Mobile gaming latency in India



People are losing control over phones

The Internet was designed to evolve in a distributed fashion. Individual machines which were connected to the Internet were given the power to decide who people should talk to for a service in which they are interested. In the entire domain of the network layer, there were no gatekeepers except for very basic functionality such as allocation of Internet Protocol addresses and root servers for allowing top-level domains like .com, .org, and .net. Anyone could connect to the Internet and start providing or consuming a service.

As a result, the Internet saw rapid growth in the 1990s and 2000s. Many services such as emails, websites, and chats came up and became an important part of the Internet ecosystem. They enabled the sharing of information and e-commerce. To access a website, all we needed was a web browser. The standardisation of protocols and languages made this easy. In the beginning, Yahoo provided a directory of websites under various categories. As the number of websites exploded, a search engine, Google, came up to quickly provide a list of web pages that matched our search queries.

Ceding control
And then came mobile devices. When Apple came up with the iPhone, everyone began porting their websites to mobile devices. This could be easily viewed on small hand-held devices. Apple also urged third-party developers to build web applications (apps) that could run on mobile devices. But then developers wanted the same control over the devices that Apple had. They wanted the ability to ship native apps on these hand-held devices. Apple opened the App Store for the first time on July 10, 2008.

Apps are software programs that can run natively on mobile phones. Running untrusted software and the too many apps is a big security nightmare. With direct access to the machines,



Sushant Sinha
has done his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Michigan, and he and currently runs the Indian Kancon website that is a search engine for Indian law.

apps can exploit local privilege escalation vulnerabilities and get control over the devices. This is something that cannot be exploited remotely. Understanding the risk of running untrusted native code, Google's security team came up with a wonderful sandbox called Native Client in 2009. With few changes to the software, it can run safely on user devices. But none of that materialised and the app stores continue to allow apps as usual.

Web standards, on the other hand, evolved into accepting JavaScript as a safe-enough language to do client side computing. Supported by browsers, it became the standard for running untrusted software on users' machines. It presented a decent sandbox that eliminated a lot of security threats so that people could browse untrusted websites without much danger. Over time, JavaScript matured, hardened, and presented a decent way to run untrusted code.

But businesses loved the app. It meant they could run their services under various code names. As machines, unhindered. They started pushing their users to install their apps rather than providing their services through a standardised browser. The users were told that the apps would provide a far more "immersive" experience than a website could ever give. But to get such an experience, users needed to cede control over their SMS, photos, videos, and location. They also had to lose the controls that a web browser provided, such as blocking advertisements. The gatekeepers, app stores, tried to allay the fears of users that these apps are safe. Yet newspapers are filled with stories on how app stores contain apps with malware, or commit financial frauds, or even steal private information. Apps were wonderful for everyone except the users who have been at the receiving end of various unscrupulous apps. Developers can publish their apps on app stores and get users to

install their apps (untrusted native code) on their phones just because the app stores say they are safe. A decade ago, I had highlighted these security issues with the apps and why web browsers are a better alternative. But people loved apps, businesses loved apps, and now the app stores love apps, because they can impose an app tax ranging from 15% to 30%. The businesses, which loved apps for the control they got over the users, are now enraged. They believe that they had only signed up to get control over the users and not to share revenue.

Anti-trust cases have been filed across the globe against organisations such as Google for abusing their dominant position. Even the Epic Games vs. Apple court cases, there was little success as Apple kicked out Epic Games from its App Store. Google lost its Play Store case against the Competition Commission of India, which ruled that Google is abusing its dominant position and fined it ₹1,337 crore. But Google came back with a refreshed version of the app tax calling it User Choice Billing and started removing apps from the Play Store.

A raging battle
The battle between businesses and app stores is far from being settled. It seems unlikely that the app stores will easily leave out the lucrative revenue coming from the app tax. Instead of rethinking whether we need to go back to web services accessible on a web browser, businesses want an app store that doesn't have any app tax. Some have even advocated an Indian app store in national spirit.

Respective of how this battle between app stores, business, and courts pans out, it should be clear to the users that apps are not the way they should have chosen to access Internet services. The "immersive" experience was drowning the users earlier and is now drowning businesses. In the end, there will be only two winners, the ones that control the app stores: Apple and Google.

Helping the hills breathe easy

Restricting traffic on the ghat roads leading to Ooty and Kodaikanal is welcome

STATE OF PLAY

Mohamed Ibrahim S.
mohamedimr@an.sghthehindu.in

City and Kodaikanal, known respectively as the 'Queen of Hill Stations' and the 'Princess of Hill Stations', in Tamil Nadu have been choking with traffic for some time now. Heavy and unregulated tourist movement has taken a heavy toll on these hills forcing the Madras High Court and the State government to step in and contemplate certain restrictions.

Nudged by a special Division Bench of Justices N. Sarish Kumar and D. Bhārathi Chakravarthy, constituted to hear forest-related cases, the State government has in-principle agreed to control vehicular movement by fixing a 'carrying capacity' for the ghat roads after conducting scientific studies through IT Madras and Anna University.

Advocate General U.S. Rahman recently informed the court that the decision was taken at a high-level committee meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena. If the plan fructifies, the government will fix a cap on the number of motor vehicles that will be permitted to ply on the ghat roads every day.

The Bench was seized of a number of cases related to several issues in both Nilgiris and Dindigul districts, where the two hill stations are located. These include poaching, poaching, electrocution of elephants, deaths of elephants on railway tracks, eradication of exotic and invasive species which are causing deforestation and plastics.

It was while hearing the plea to ban plastics in the hill stations that the Bench ordered the establishment of

Tamil Nadu

check posts at all the entry points to frisk tourists and disallow harmful plastics, including plastic water bottles. Alternatively, it promoted the establishment of paid water dispensers in the hill stations through corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

On learning that bottle pieces of empty liquor bottles left behind in the forests lead to serious injuries to the animals, the Bench prodded the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC), which has a monopoly over wholesale retail and vending of alcoholic beverages in the State, to introduce a bottle buy-back scheme to encourage consumers to return empty bottles.

As part of the ongoing exercise to protect the forests, anti-cruelty Cheevan Mohan and Rajal Balaji brought to the notice of the Bench an order passed by the Himachal Pradesh High Court, and followed up by the National Green Tribunal, fixing a cap on the number of motor vehicles allowed to ply between Manali and Rohtang Pass. The lawyers suggested that a similar cap could be fixed for the ghat roads leading to Ooty and Kodaikanal as well. The order found favour with the Bench, which felt that increasing vehicular traffic to the hill stations, especially during the tourist seasons, had caused great damage to the flora and fauna.

On being asked to submit data on vehicular movement, Nilgiris Collector M. Aruna told the court that while on average, around 2,000 vehicles ply on the ghat roads every day, during tourist seasons the number increases to about 20,000 a day.

Providing a rough estimate of the accommodations available in the district, she said 1,035 commercial buildings had 5,520 rooms which could accommodate approximately 20,000 people at a time. However, a detailed scientific assessment would have to be carried out before fixing the carrying capacity for the ghat roads, she said.

After taking note of her submissions and finding that the ultimate decision on fixing carrying capacity could be taken only by the State government, the judges requested the Advocate General to assist the court in the matter by taking the issue to the notice of the Chief Secretary.

The Advocate General reverted saying the government had in-principle accepted the court's suggestion on fixing a carrying capacity. He said scientific assessments would be carried out on the ghat roads leading to both Ooty and Kodaikanal and orders for commencing the work would be issued after the completion of the Lok Sabha polls.

This is a welcome initiative. The two popular hill stations which are picturesque and boast of a pleasant climate, have been bursting at the seams and struggling to cope with the pressure on their infrastructure for a few decades now. What Ooty and Kodaikanal, which are tourism-dependent economies, urgently need are these measures that will ensure sustainable tourism and enable the protection of the environment.

Indian Americans are the least poor among Asian Americans

Half the Asian Americans who lived in poverty said that their 'American dream' was out of reach

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Only 6% of Indian Americans lived along or below the poverty line as of 2022 in the United States. This is the lowest share among the various Asian groups that live in the country, according to a recent Pew Research Center report. Most Asian Americans who lived in poverty felt that their 'American dream' was out of reach as they struggled to pay bills and turned to charities, friends, and family for food and employment. Pew's analysis was based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) and Pew Research Center's 2022-23 survey of Asian American adults, conducted between July 2022 and January 2023, with 7,006 respondents.

While Asian Americans are considered educationally and financially successful compared to other racial and ethnic groups, there are wide economic and educational differences within the group. As Chart 1 shows, the highest poverty rates were seen among Burmese (19%), Hmong (17%), and Mongolian (16%) Americans, while the lowest poverty rates were seen among Indian (6%), Sri Lankan (6%) and Filipino (7%) Americans. Chinese, Bangladeshi, and Pakistani-origin Americans were in the middle with poverty rates of 11%, 12% and 13%, respectively.

Chart 2 shows the share of Asians living below and above the poverty line across various demographics. Among Asians living along or below the poverty line, 57% were immigrants and 42% were born in the U.S. About 23% of them were teenagers (aged 18-29), and 21% were aged 30-49. Close to half of them had completed high school or less. The poverty levels among those with college degrees saw a drastic decline as close to 42% of Asian adults who lived near or below the poverty line in the U.S. said they had trouble paying bills in the past year, compared with just 17% of those who lived above the poverty line. Similarly, 38% and 33% of those who lived near or below the poverty line had got food from a charity and had problems paying rent/mortgage in the past year, respectively, compared with just 6% and 11% among those above the poverty line, respectively. Moreover, 28% of those near or below the poverty line had trouble paying for medical care in the last year, compared with 14% above the poverty line. Chart 3 shows the share of Asian adults above and below the poverty line who faced a type of financial challenge in the last year. More than 60% of Asian adults living near or below the poverty line also said they turned to family or friends to help with bills, housing, food, or jobs. Close to 50% sought help from local, state, or federal governments. Nearly 21% said they took help from religious institutions such as churches or temples, while 13% had turned to Asian community groups.

A third of Asian immigrants who came to the U.S. due to conflict or fear of persecution in their home country said they received help from governments for various expenses and employment. In contrast, a smaller share of Asian immigrants who came for educational opportunities (44%) or economic opportunities (65%) or who migrated to be with family (25%) said the same.

Roughly half the Asian Americans who lived in poverty said their American dream was out of reach. About 36% said they were on their way to achieving it, while 45% said they had achieved the dream (Chart 4). On the other hand, of those living above the poverty line, a large share was optimistic about their chance of realising their dream. As many as 46% said they were on their way to achieving it, 27% said they had already achieved it, while only 26% said their dream was out of reach.

Between doom and the dream

The charts were sourced from the Pew Research Center's report on Asian Americans living in poverty



Asians in the States: Chinatown's Central Plaza in Los Angeles is decorated with red lanterns for the Lunar New Year. AFP

Chart 1: The chart shows origin-wise share of Asian Americans who lived along or below the poverty line as of 2022

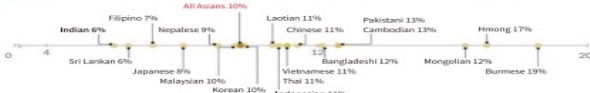


Chart 2: The chart shows the share of Asian Americans living along or below poverty line by their nativity, age, employment status and education level

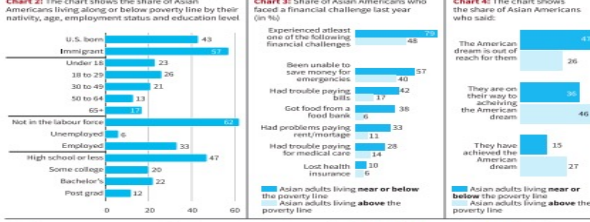


Chart 3: Share of Asian Americans who faced a financial challenge last year

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 3, 1974

War crimes trial issue may be settled at Delhi meet

New Delhi, April 2: The Foreign Ministers of India and Bangladesh will commence their preparatory talks tomorrow for working out a common approach to the tripartite meeting with Pakistan, which begins this week-end amid expectations of a major breakthrough in opening a new era of peace and stability in the subcontinent.

These Indo-Bangla talks were to have been held at the highest level between Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Delhi last week, in view of the great importance being attached by India and Bangladesh to a successful outcome of the dialogue with Pakistan. But the Sheikh had to cancel the Delhi visit because of his illness which required prolonged treatment in the Soviet Union. So the Bangladesh Foreign Minister, Dr. Kamal Hossain, arrived to-day for consultations with his Indian counterpart, Mr. Swaran Singh, on how the two countries should proceed during the discussions with Pakistan.

Dr. Hossain, who has come three days ahead of the tripartite meeting, to deliver the Ambedkar Memorial Lectures - stressed, in his talk with pressmen before his departure from Dacca and on his arrival in Delhi, the need for a common approach, policy and strategy between India and Bangladesh in dealing with Pakistan. And it was disclosed to-day that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman himself would be stopping over in Delhi on his way back from the Soviet Union for a detailed review of the results of the tripartite discussions.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 3, 1924

Asiatics on British trade ships

London, April 1: In the Commons to-day replying to Commander Kenworthy, Mr. Kelby said that enquiries had hitherto not confirmed the statement that the number of Asiatics employed on British home trade ships had increased. He was not in a position to propose action in that respect. Earl Winterton declared there was a very strong feeling among Indians against any proposal to exclude from British ships His Majesty's Indian subjects, especially in view of the gallant services they had rendered to Britain in war time.



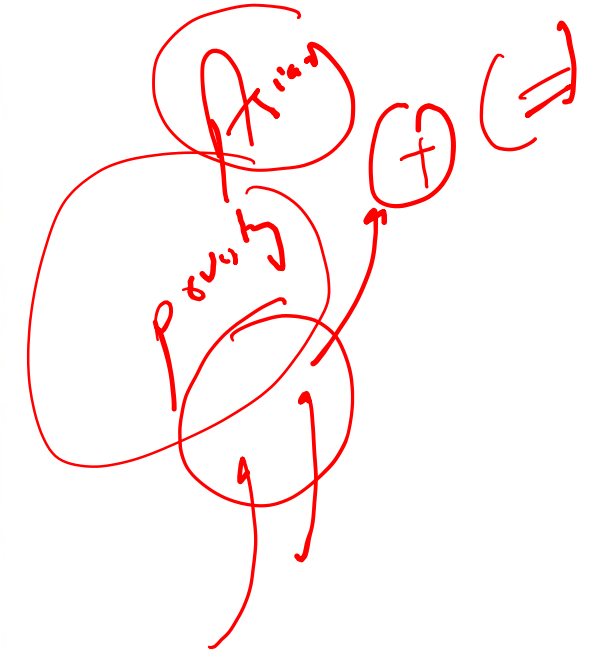
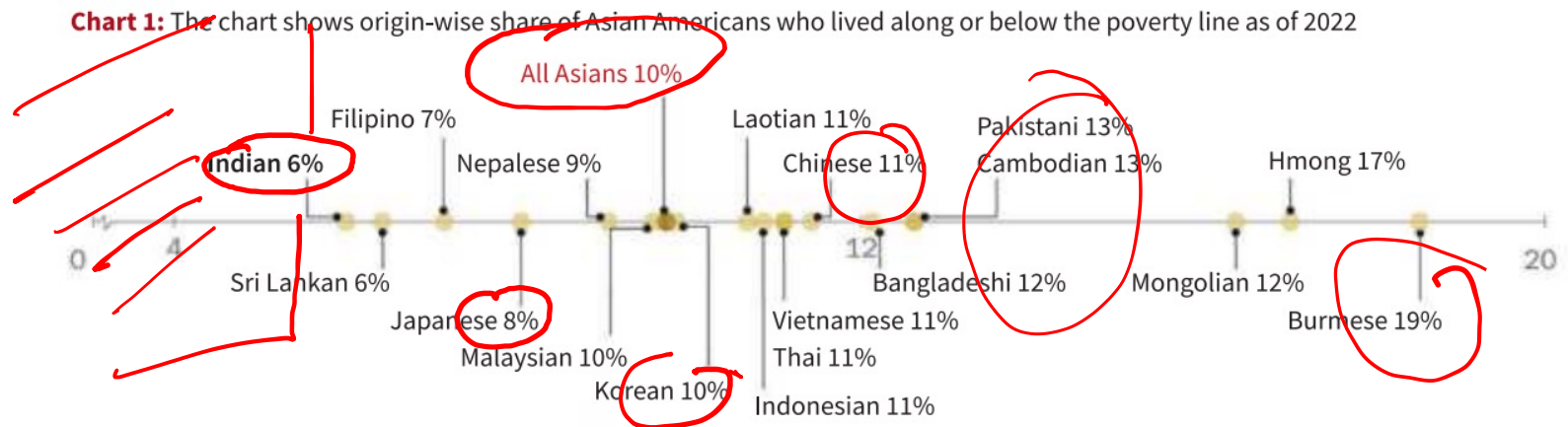
Between doom and the dream

The charts were sourced from the Pew Research Center's report on Asian Americans living in poverty



Asians in the States: Chinatown's Central Plaza in Los Angeles is decorated with red lanterns for the Lunar New Year. AFP

Chart 1: The chart shows origin-wise share of Asian Americans who lived along or below the poverty line as of 2022



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Chart 2: The chart shows the share of Asian Americans living along or below poverty line by their nativity, age, employment status and education level

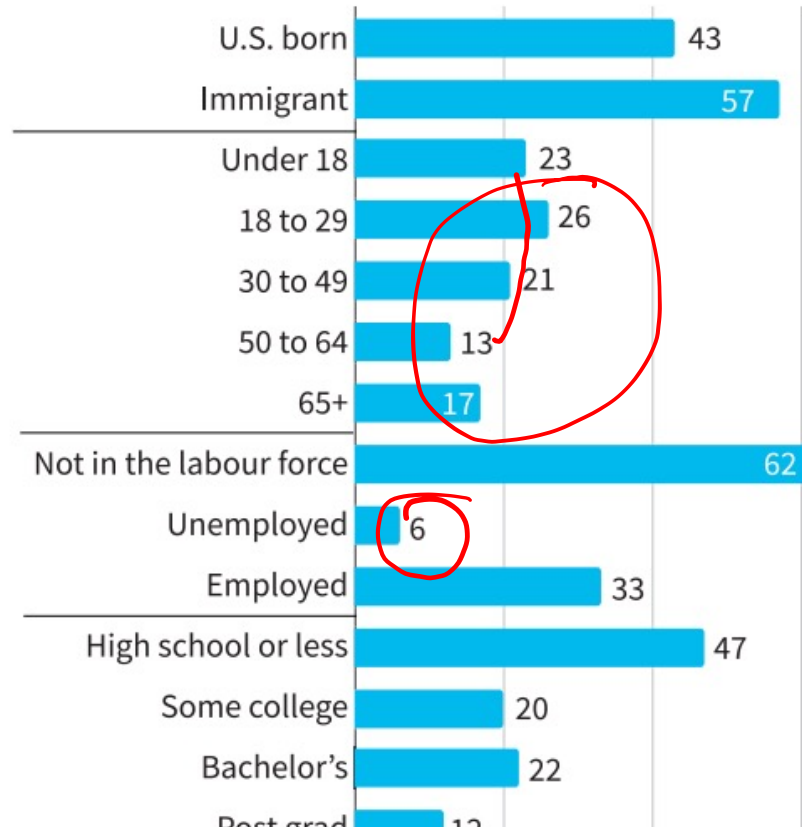


Chart 3: Share of Asian Americans who faced a financial challenge last year (in %)

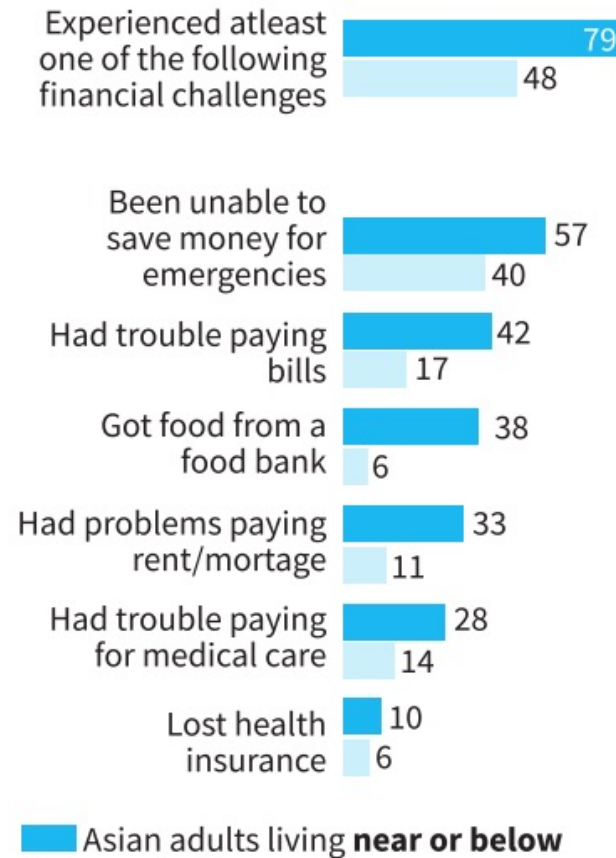
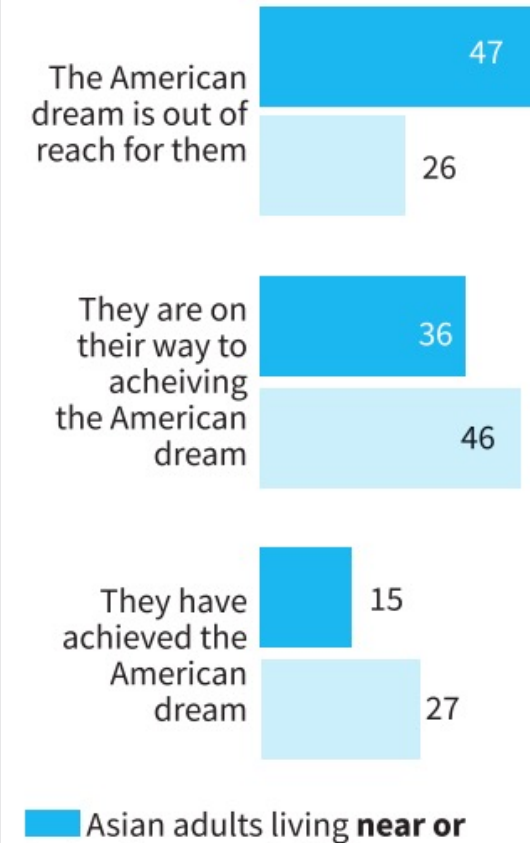


Chart 4: The chart shows the share of Asian Americans who said:





Rowling made controversial remarks the day the crime of 'stirring up hatred' came into effect in Scotland. FILE PHOTO

U.K. backs Rowling in Scottish hate crime law challenge

Reuters
LONDON

The British government said writer J.K. Rowling should not be arrested for her transgender views after the *Harry Potter* author challenged Scotland's new hate crime law with social media posts asserting that a number of transwomen were men.

Ms. Rowling, a prominent gender critical campaigner, made the comments on Monday, the day that the crime of "stirring up hatred" relating to age, disability, religion, sexual orientation and transgender identity came into effect. She tested the law by listing 10 transwomen, including a convicted rapist, sex abusers and high profile activists, on X saying they were men.

Scottish ministers have previously said misgendering people would not be an offence under the new law. However, Minister for Victims and Community Safety Stobbart Brown told BBC radio on Monday that it would be a matter for police to decide.

Scotland's First Minister Humza Yousaf said the new Bill was about "protecting people from a rising tide of hatred" but his government was threatening or abusive and intends to stir up hatred, then you have nothing to worry about in terms of the new offences being created," he said.

Women are not protected as a group, but the Scottish National Party-led government in Edinburgh is looking at separate reforms to target misogyny. Scotland has been at the forefront of extending rights to the transgender community but a previous attempt to make it easier to change a legal gender was blocked by London over concerns it would infringe existing equality legislation.

Republicans strive to win over Black voters as support for Biden wanes

Strong turnout from Black voters in handful of States was crucial in Biden's victory in 2020 and those States are expected to help decide the 2024 election as well, while polls show a fall in the President's approval ratings among the demographic. The scenario is not too different for Trump either

Reuters
MILWAUKEE

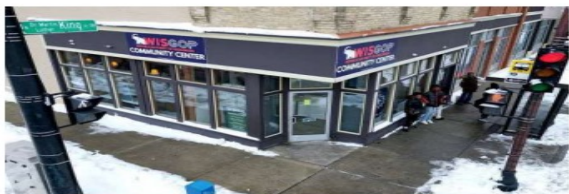
Floraldo Owens, a rare Republican activist in a majority-Black district of Milwaukee in Wisconsin State of the U.S., had hoped this election season would be different.

With national polls showing waning enthusiasm for Democratic President Joe Biden, especially among Black voters who say they are frustrated with his performance on the economy and other issues, State Republican party officials and activists saw an opening. Wisconsin holds its primary on Tuesday, where voters will weigh in on the presidential race, weeks after Biden and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump visited their respective nominations.

Wisconsin Republicans hosted a Black History Month event in February at the party's community engagement centre in the historically Black Bronzeville neighbourhood.

Mr. Owens, the Republican party representative for the city's six majority-Black wards, is planning a roundtable of Black business and church leaders this month and a door-knocking campaign aimed at undecided voters.

But the voter engagement drive was thrown into confusion when the Republican National



Reaching out: The Republican effort to win over Black voters started in 2022 with the opening of a community centre in the predominantly Black neighbourhood of Bronzeville in Milwaukee. REUTERS

Committee (RNC) last month announced it was axing plans for 40 community centers aimed at organising Black, Hispanic and Asian American voters — underlining the challenge the party faces in persuading Milwaukee's Black voters that they are committed to the community beyond November's presidential election.

"Our commitment has always been questioned — but regardless of a building, we are going to be here even if we have to work out of satellite offices or garages," Mr. Owens said.

The State party said it will keep the Bronzeville community engagement centre open. Reuters spoke to nearly 30 Black voters in majority-Black neighbourhoods of Milwaukee, about

half of whom said they remained undecided about voting for Mr. Biden in November or voting at all.

Those votes cast in majority-Black wards, according to an analysis of election and census data by John Johnson, a public policy research fellow at Marquette Law School Lubar Center.

"It's fair to say that without Milwaukee, Biden would've lost Wisconsin," Mr. Johnson said.

A Pew Research Center poll showed Mr. Biden's approval rating, among non-Hispanic Black adults fell from a peak of 89% in April 2021 to 48% in January 2024.

The Republican effort to win over Black voters started in 2020 with the opening of the Bronzeville community center. It ramped up in 2022 when the RNC selected Milwaukee to host the party's convention.

By early 2023, money

thrived as a center for enterprise on the city's commerce. But the construction of a freeway through the heart of the neighbourhood in the 1960s resulted in the demolition of over 8,000 homes and the displacement of businesses.

"Obvious tactic" "It seems pretty obvious on its face they are trying to go into the most Democratic part of Wisconsin to plant a flag," said Jon Fleischman, a Republican strategist. "I think the party sees Donald Trump's campaign as an opportunity to create new constituency groups."

The Republican party office, located on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, is decorated with a distinctive white starburst on a red and blue backdrop of the Juneteenth flag, commemorating the emancipation of the last enslaved people at the end of the civil war.

Inside, a collage features Black Republican congressional members, portraits of civil rights leaders — and an image of Mr. Trump, a polarising figure who has employed racist rhetoric.

Party officials said their voter outreach efforts will highlight resident concerns including inflation, rise in robberies and carjackings, and the Biden administration's handling of migration at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Party officials said their voter outreach efforts will highlight resident concerns including inflation, rise in robberies and carjackings, and the Biden administration's handling of migration at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Norway plans to increase number of conscripted soldiers

Associated Press
COPENHAGEN

Norway is to increase the number of conscripted soldiers from the present 9,000 to 13,500, the Norwegian government said on Tuesday.

"We must have enough people with the right skills at the right time," Defence Minister Bjorn Arild Gram said. "We will need more people with professional military expertise going forward."

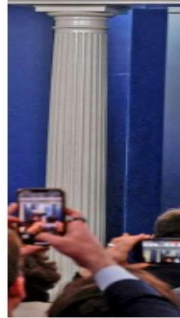
The country's armed forces will see a gradual increase in the number of conscripts for initial service each year. Mr. Gram said, adding that several billion (several hundred million dollars) will be invested in the Norwegian Armed Forces' facility at Terningmoen, north of Oslo, where the NATO member will gather all new recruits. He did not specify precisely how much oil-rich Norway will spend.

Norwegian news agency NTB said the aim was to reach 13,500 conscripts by 2036.

The move by the Scandinavian NATO member comes after neighbouring Denmark last month said it wanted to increase the number of young people doing military service by extending conscription to women and increasing the time of service from four months to 11 months.

The Danish government wants to increase the number of conscripts by 300 to reach a total of 5,000. Both Denmark and Norway are staunch supporters of Ukraine in its war against Russia's invasion.

Festive cameo



Special brief: The Easter bunny makes a guest appearance in the White House briefing room in Washington on Monday. REUTERS

Abortion legal in many African countries, but few women know their rights

Associated Press
ACRCA

When Efua, a 25-year-old fashion designer and single mother in Ghana, became pregnant last year, she sought an abortion at a health clinic but worried the procedure might be illegal. Health workers assured her abortions were lawful under certain conditions in the West African country, but Efua said she was still nervous.

"I had lots of questions, just to be sure I would be safe," Efua said, on condition that only her middle name be used, for fear of reprisals from the growing anti-abortion movement in her country. Finding reliable information was difficult,

she said, and she didn't tell her family about her procedure. "It comes with too many judgments," she decided. More than 20 countries across Africa have loosened abortion laws, but experts say many like Efua are unaware of their rights. They are entitled to safe abortion and despite the expanded legality of the procedure in places like Ghana, Congo, Ethiopia and Mozambique, some doctors and nurses say they've become increasingly wary of openly providing the service. They're fearful of triggering the ire of opposition groups. "We are providing a le-



The Maputo Protocol, in effect for all African Union members, gives women the right to medical abortion in certain cases. FILE PHOTO

found that people are OK with our clinic providing abortions, as long as we don't advertise it openly," says Dr. Prash, who works at the clinic where the Maputo Protocol, a legal under Ghana's law, passed in 1985. "We've

Pursuing leaders of Rwanda genocide 'urgent', says IRW

Agence France-Presse
NAIROBI

Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Tuesday that there was an "urgent need" to pursue the remaining leaders of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, mostly from the total minority, were killed over 100 days in an ethnic program.

Instigated by the Hutu extremist regime in Rwanda at the time, the United Nations estimates that around 800,000 people, mostly from the total minority, were killed over 100 days in an ethnic program. HRW said in a statement that "a significant number of individuals responsible for the genocide, including former high-level government officials and other key figures behind the massacres, have since been brought to justice."



A worker stands near victims' bones recovered from pits which were used as mass graves during 1994 Rwandan genocide. FILE PHOTO

But it added that "in recent years, several high-level alleged genocide masterminds have died, or, in the case of one alleged planner, been declared unfit to stand trial, highlighting the urgent need to continue the quest to deliver justice."

The Hague declared that a presumed funder of the genocide now in his 80s

could not be tried because of his deteriorated mental state.

International prosecutors determined in November that the Rwandan one of the last remaining fugitives suspected of playing a major role in the killings, had in fact died in Rwanda in 1997.

Two senior genocide suspects are still on the run.

countries of the African Union, says every nation on the continent should grant women the right to a medical abortion in cases of rape, sexual assault, incest, and endangerment for the mental or physical health of the mother or fetus.

Yet to pass laws Africa alone globally in having such a treaty, but more than a dozen of its countries have yet to pass laws granting women access to abortion. Even in those that have legalised the procedure, obstacles to access remain. And information is rampant in the Maputo Protocol, a human rights treaty in effect since 2005 for all 55

"The right to abortion exists in law, but in practice, the reality may be quite different," said Evelynne Opondo, of the International Center for Research on Women. She noted that for the mental or physical health of the mother or fetus, such as Benin and Eritrea, may permit abortions in some instances but struggle with a lack of resources to make them available to all women. Many women learn of their options only through word of mouth.

Reproductive Choices — which provides contraception and abortion in 37 countries worldwide — reports that staff have been repeatedly targeted by anti-abortion groups across Africa. The

group cites harassment and intimidation of staff in Ethiopia and in Nigeria, MSI's clinic was raided and temporarily closed after allegations that staffers had illegally accessed confidential documents in partnership.

"The opposition to abortion in Africa has always existed, but now they are better organised," said Opondo, to make the national Planned Parenthood Federation in Kenya. She noted that a significant amount of money backing anti-abortion groups appears to have come from conservative American groups and several reports have found millions of dollars in contributions from Christian organisations.

Abortion legal in many African countries, but few women know their rights

Associated Press
ACCRA

When Efua, a 25-year-old fashion designer and single mother in Ghana, became pregnant last year, she sought an abortion at a health clinic but worried the procedure might be illegal. Health workers assured her abortions were lawful under certain conditions in the West African country, but Efua said she was still nervous.

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cult, she said, and she didn't tell her family about her procedure. "It comes with too many judgments," she decided.

More than 20 countries across Africa have loosened restrictions on abortion in recent years, but experts say that like Efua, many women probably don't realise they are entitled to a legal abortion. And despite the expanded legality of the procedure in places like Ghana, Congo, Ethiopia and Mozambique, some doctors and nurses say they've become increasingly wary of openly providing abortions. They're fearful of triggering the ire of opposition groups.

"We are providing a le-



The Maputo Protocol, in effect for all African Union members, gives women the right to medical abortion in certain cases. FILE PHOTO

gal service for women who want an abortion, but we do not advertise it openly," said Esi Asare Prah, who works at the clinic where Efua had the procedure – legal under Ghana's law, passed in 1985. "We've

found that people are OK with our clinic providing abortions, as long as we don't make it too obvious what we are doing."

The Maputo Protocol, a human rights treaty in effect since 2005 for all 55

countries of the African Union, says every nation on the continent should grant women the right to a medical abortion in cases of rape, sexual assault, incest, and endangerment for the mental or physical health of the mother or fetus.

Yet to pass laws

Africa is alone globally in having such a treaty, but more than a dozen of its countries have yet to pass laws granting women access to abortions. Even in those that have legalised the procedure, obstacles to access remain. And misinformation is rampant in many countries, with a recent study faulting practices by Google and Meta.

"The right to abortion exists in law, but in practice, the reality may be a little different," said Evelyne Opondo, of the International Center for Research on Women. She noted that poorer countries in particular, such as Benin and Ethiopia, may permit abortions in some instances but struggle with a lack of resources to make them available to all women. Many women learn of their options only through word of mouth.

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~~in Ghana~~

Maputo

2005 (50)

countries

WAS IN CUSTODY FOR SIX MONTHS IN DELHI EXCISE POLICY CASE

Bail to AAP's Sanjay Singh, ED doesn't oppose after SC says no money found

Can't be a precedent, not going into merits of case: Bench

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2



Sanjay Singh was arrested in October 2023. *File*

SIX MONTHS after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in the Delhi excise policy case on the charge that Rs 2 crore illegal cash changed hands, his residence in New Delhi, AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh was granted bail by the Supreme Court Tuesday.

The ED did not oppose Singh's bail application, hours after its counsel, Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, was

KEJRIWAL KINGPIN, KEY CONSPIRATOR: ED TO DELHI HC PAGE 8

reminded by the court that the "money has not been recovered" and he should "take instructions whether you really require him now after six months".

Singh was arrested on October 4, 2023 following a search of his North Avenue home. The ED alleged that businessman Dinesh Aroa, an accused who later turned approver in the excise policy case, had given Rs 2 crore in cash to Singh.

The bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Dipankar Datta and P B Varke, granted bail to Singh. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Its leadership behind bars, why bail raises AAP hopes

JATIN ANAND & MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

AN AAP orator next only to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, a Member of Parliament with links across Opposition parties apart from his hold on MLAs in Delhi and Punjab — for a party that has its top brass behind bars, the Supreme Court's grant of bail

TO

to Sanjay Singh could not have been more timely.

With Singh set to be released from Tihar Jail where he spent the last six months after his arrest under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, senior AAP leaders went into a huddle Tuesday afternoon to discuss plans for their Rajya Sabha MP ahead of the party's Lok Sabha campaign. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Birla in Lucknow on Tuesday. *ANI*

RALLIES IN UTTARAKHAND, RAJASTHAN

PM: 10 years out of power, Cong talks of burning nation, is this democracy?

AVANESH MISHRA & HAMZA KHAN
DEHRADUN, JAIPUR, APRIL 2

HOLDING HIS first campaign rallies in Uttarakhand and Rajasthan ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Tuesday targeted Rahul Gandhi and the Congress, accusing them of having an "Emergency" mindset and of talking about "burning the country" if the BJP is brought back to power for a third time.

Referring to the INDIA bloc rally held in Delhi on Sunday, the PM also said "the corrupt are holding rallies to stop action on corruption".

"The Congress and the INDI Alliance have already shown

their intentions. The shehzada (prince) of the Congress royal family announced that if the country chooses the BJP government for the third time, there would be fire," he said at a rally in Dehradun city, in Uttarakhand's Udhampur district.

"Those who ruled for 67 years, and have been out of power for just 10 years, are talking about burning the country. Do you accept this? Is this the language of democracy?" — The Congress party, which has the mentality of the Emergency, does not have faith in democracy," he said.

The PM was referring to Rahul Gandhi's speech during Sunday's INDIA bloc rally in Delhi, during which the Congress leader said, "if the

country chooses the BJP government for the third time, there would be fire," he said at a rally in Dehradun city, in Uttarakhand's Udhampur district.

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The PM was referring to Rahul Gandhi's speech during Sunday's INDIA bloc rally in Delhi, during which the Congress leader said, "if the

CRPF officer shifted, airport woman staffer had alleged harassment

SUKRITA BARUAH & MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
GUWAHATI, NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

TWO WEEKS after a complaint was filed with the police alleging that the most senior CRPF officer in the North East Zone had harassed a woman employee at Guwahati airport, the IPS officer was on Tuesday prematurely repatriated to his parent cadre.

On March 19, the CRPF Officer of the Lokprst Gopinath Bordoloi Airport, Guwahati submitted a complaint to the Depu Commissioner of Police, Guwahati West, alleging th

Binod Kumar Singh, a 199 batch IPS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, had harassed airport employees.

The complaint was forwarded to the Guwahati Commissioner of Police Digbar Baruah, and a preliminary enquiry into the allegations was initiated. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION

Since 2014, 25 Opposition leaders facing corruption probe crossed over to BJP, 23 of them got reprieve

3 cases closed, 20 stalled; officials say probe is open, will act if required

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

THE LAW takes its own course — unless it is nudged by politics. Since 2014, at least 25 prominent politicians facing action from Central agencies for alleged corruption have crossed over to the BJP. They cut across party lines: 10 are from the Congress; four each from NCP and Shiv Sena; three from TMC; two from TDP; and one each from SP and YSRCP.

In 23 of these cases, their political move has translated into reprieve, an investigation by The Indian Express has found.

Three of the cases have been closed, 20 others remain stalled for in cold storage — the investigative agency's action, after the switch, has been, in fact, inaction. Six of the politicians on this list moved to the BJP this year alone, weeks before the general elections.

This is in sharp contrast to what happens when the accused is in the Opposition — an investigation by The Indian Express in October 2022 revealed how 95 per cent of prominent politicians that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) took action against after 2014, when the NDA came to power, were from the Opposition.

The Opposition calls it the "washing machine" mechanism by which politicians accused of corruption don't face legal consequences if they quit their party and join the BJP.

Not that this is new — it's the scale that is unprecedented. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 6**

PROBE PIVOTS ON POLITICAL FLIP-FLOPS IN AJIT PAWAR CASE PAGE 6



Outside the Enforcement Directorate's office in New Delhi. *Amir Memon*

Pawar, Patel, Adhikari, Sarma... how some cases were closed, others sent to cold storage

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

FROM CLOSING the case to putting it in cold storage — this is how the Enforcement Directorate, CBI and IT Department changed course once the accused changed their party and moved over to the ruling BJP, reveals an investigation of the chronology of case records by The Indian Express.

CLOSING THE CASE
AJIT PAWAR: Mumbai probe shut, case hits dead end

Party Shift: NCP shifted to BJP-led NDA in 2023

The Case: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW)'s FIR against Ajit Pawar, Sharad Pawar and others, in a case of money laundering linked to alleged irregularities in Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank, was based on a Bombay High Court order of August 2019. The ED's probe that followed also named Congress leaders Jayant Patil, Diliprao

Deshmukh and the late Madan Patil; NCP's Ishwarlal Jain and Shivaji Rao Nakawade; and Shiv Sena's Anantraje Adasi.

CHRONOLOGY OF FLIP-FLOP
August 2019: Mumbai Police's EOW registers FIR

October 2020: EOW files closure report, ED challenges it

April 2022: ED files chargesheet without naming Pawar

June 2022: Sena splits, Shinde faction forms NDA govt with BJP

October 2022: Mumbai EOW seeks further probe based on ED evidence

July 2023: Pawar joins NDA govt as CM

January 2024: EOW files second chargesheet

Current Status: ED has filed intervention application in court on ED's closure

PRAFUL PATEL: Safe landing after turbulence

Party Shift: NCP shifted to BJP-led NDA in 2023

The Case: The former civil aviation minister is being probed by CBI and ED for alleged corruption in the purchase of 111 aircraft by Air India as well as in the AI-Indian Airlines merger. The allegations involve ceasing of profitable routes to foreign airlines, opening of training institutes with foreign investment, and free with lobbyist Deepak Talwar. The FIRs do not list Patel as an accused but mention his name.

CHRONOLOGY OF FLIP-FLOP
May 2017: CBI files FIR in Air India-Indian Airlines merger

May 2019: ED names Patel in its chargesheet

June 2023: Patel joins NDA

March 2024: CBI files closure report

Current Status: Closure pending in court

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY



EXPRESS NETWORK

APOLOGY JUST LIP SERVICE: SC PULLS UP PRAMDEV PAGE 11

At Paris Olympics, Team India to get taste of home: dal, roti, aloo-gobi, chicken curry

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, APRIL 2

THE UPCOMING Paris Olympics could see Indian sportspersons landing some comfort food on their plates. In a first, in the dining halls of the Athletes Village will be specially curated steamed Basmati rice, dal, roti, aloo-gobi, gently spiced tandoori chicken curry and an asst-

sortment of South Asian broths. Shiva Keshavan, who was recently appointed India's deputy chef de mission for the Olympics, said the menu was passed on to the Paris organisers of the Games during their recent meeting with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). He said the early recipe meeting was held to ensure Indian athletes would feel at home, even in the crucible of high-pressure competition, far away from the country.

"Many of our recommendations accepted," Keshavan, chef de mission for Olympics



Menu recommendations accepted, Keshavan, chef de mission for Olympics

cepted. Each one was cleared by a nutritionist," said Keshavan, a former Winter Games luge athlete. Contestants from previous Games have often highlighted the need for an Indian menu, he added.

"Food tends to be a big issue with our athletes. Of course, at the Olympics you can engage with cuisines from all over the world in the main dining area. But we pressed the organisers to include a wider South Asian menu for our athletes. Athletes are anyway out of their comfort

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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PM Judith Suminwa

Congo gets its first woman PM as violence surges in east

Kinshasa: Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi on Monday appointed the country's first female prime minister, fulfilling a campaign promise and taking an important step toward the formation of a new government after his reelection late last year. Former planning minister Judith Suminwa Tuluka will step into the role at a time of worsening violence in the country's mineral-rich east, which borders Rwanda. The conflict has displaced more than 7 million people according to the UN, making it one of the world's worst crises. Tuluka promised to work toward peace and development in her first speech. Still, it could be months before a new government is formed as it requires negotiations with many political parties.

AP

//

Judith

Kinshasa

11/17

Belgium

1960

Debate on Post-Retirement Appointments for Judges

- The practice of judges accepting official posts after retirement has become a subject of debate, particularly in light of recent events where a former judge joined a political party shortly after resigning from the judiciary raised questions about judicial conduct.
- What are the Constitutional Provisions Related to Retired Judges in india?
- Constitutional Provisions:
- Article 124(7): It prohibits a retired judge of the Supreme Court from practising before any court or authority in India.

- This restriction is aimed at maintaining the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.
- However, the Constitution does not explicitly prohibit retired judges from accepting post-retirement assignments or appointments.

- **Article 128:**

- The **Chief Justice of India**, with the President's consent, may request a **retired Judge of the Supreme Court, Federal Court, or High Court** qualified for Supreme Court appointment to sit and act as a Supreme Court Judge.

- **Article 220:**

- It bars High Court judges from pleading before “any authority in India except the Supreme Court and the other High Courts.”

Retm (27/08)

- Related Cases and Recommendations
- : Bombay Lawyers Association v. Union of India
- : The Supreme Court dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) petition seeking a mandatory cooling-off period of two years for retired judges before accepting post-retirement appointments.
- The apex court stated that it was not within the court's jurisdiction to mandate a cooling-off period.

↙

-
- **14th Law Commission:** The 14th Law Commission, headed by **MC Setalvad**, had recommended that judges should not take up post-retirement jobs from the government; it also recommended setting the **Cooling-off Period after retirement**.
 - However, there is no specific rule that prevents judges from accepting such positions.

Constitutional Provisions Related to Appointment of Judges

- Articles **124 (2)** and **217** - Appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts
 - President makes appointments after consulting with "such judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts" as s/he may deem necessary.
- But the Constitution **does not lay down any process** for making these appointments.

Collegium

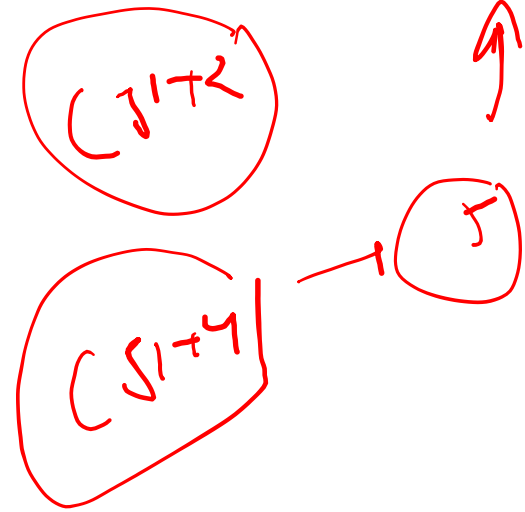
Evolution of the System

First Judges Case (1981)

- SC held that in the appointment of a judge of the SC or the HC, the word "**consultation**" in Article **124 (2)** and in Article **217** of the Constitution does not mean "concurrence"
- Gave the **executive primacy** over the judiciary in judicial appointments

Second Judges Case (1993)

- SC overruled the First Judges Case
- Gave **birth to the Collegium System (Primacy to the Judiciary)**
- Collegium included the Chief Justice of India and the **2** most senior judges of the SC



Third Judges Case (1998)

- SC expanded the Collegium to include the CJI and the **4** most-senior judges of the court after the CJI

Third Judges Case (1998)

- SC expanded the Collegium to include the CJI and the **4** most-senior judges of the court after the CJI

Current Structure



Supreme Court Collegium: CJI and the **4** senior-most judges of the SC



High Court Collegium: CJI and **2** senior most judges of the SC

Criticism

- Opaqueness
- Scope for Nepotism
- Exclusion of Executive
- No Predetermined Procedure of Appointment

National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)

- It was an attempt to replace the Collegium System. It prescribed the procedure to be followed by the Commission to appoint judges
- NJAC was established by the **99th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2014**
- But the **NJAC Act was termed unconstitutional** and was struck down, citing it as having affected the independence of the judiciary

• **With reference to the Indian judiciary, consider the following statements: (2021)**

1. Any retired judge of the Supreme Court of India can be called back to sit and act as a Supreme Court judge by the Chief Justice of India with the prior permission of the President of India.

2. A High Court in India has the power to review its own judgement as the Supreme Court does.

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

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- ~~(c) Both 1 and 2~~
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

The background features a dark green gradient with a network of light green dots and lines, resembling a molecular or digital structure. The text is centered in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

SKOCH ESG Award 2024

REC Limited won the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 for 'Renewable Energy Financing'. REC (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) is a 'Maharatna' Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, and is registered with the RBI as a Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC), and Infrastructure Financing Company (IFC).

REC funds both power and non-power infrastructure, encompassing a wide range from generation to transportation and communication projects, along with sectors including renewables, electric vehicles, and green technologies.

The SKOCH ESG Awards recognise organisations demonstrating outstanding performance in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices.

The Award and Assessment are a crucial benchmark for assessing organisations' dedication to India 2047 by emphasising the link between sustainable investments and processes for a sustainable business future.

Havana Syndrome

The background features a dark, almost black, field with several vertical, glowing lines. These lines are primarily green and blue, with some appearing as thin, bright streaks and others as thicker, more diffuse bands. The lines are arranged in a way that suggests a central vertical axis, with lines on either side that appear to curve or taper towards the top and bottom. The overall effect is that of a digital or scientific visualization, possibly representing data or a complex system.

According to a joint media investigation, Havana Syndrome is linked to a Russian intelligence unit.

About Havana Syndrome

Havana syndrome refers to a **set of mental health symptoms** that are said to be experienced by United States intelligence and embassy officials in various countries.

- Generally, the word 'syndrome' simply means a set of symptoms.

Origin and Symptoms : It was first reported in 2016 when U.S. diplomats in Cuba's capital (Havana) reported falling ill and **hearing piercing sounds** at night, sparking speculation of an attack by a foreign entity using an unspecified sonar weapon.

Other symptoms including bloody noses, headaches and vision problems were later reported by embassy staff in China and Europe.

- However, the joint investigation suggests the first cases of Havana Syndrome may have occurred in Germany two years earlier than the cases reported in Havana.
- **Causes** : After the Havana incident, there was a suspicion that the syndrome was a “sonic attack”, which was carried out by Cuba — a country that had been hostile to the US for over five decades.

Russia



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SCORES 2.0

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Securities

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Secru

Know about Securities and Exchange Board of India

It is a **statutory body** established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the **Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992**.

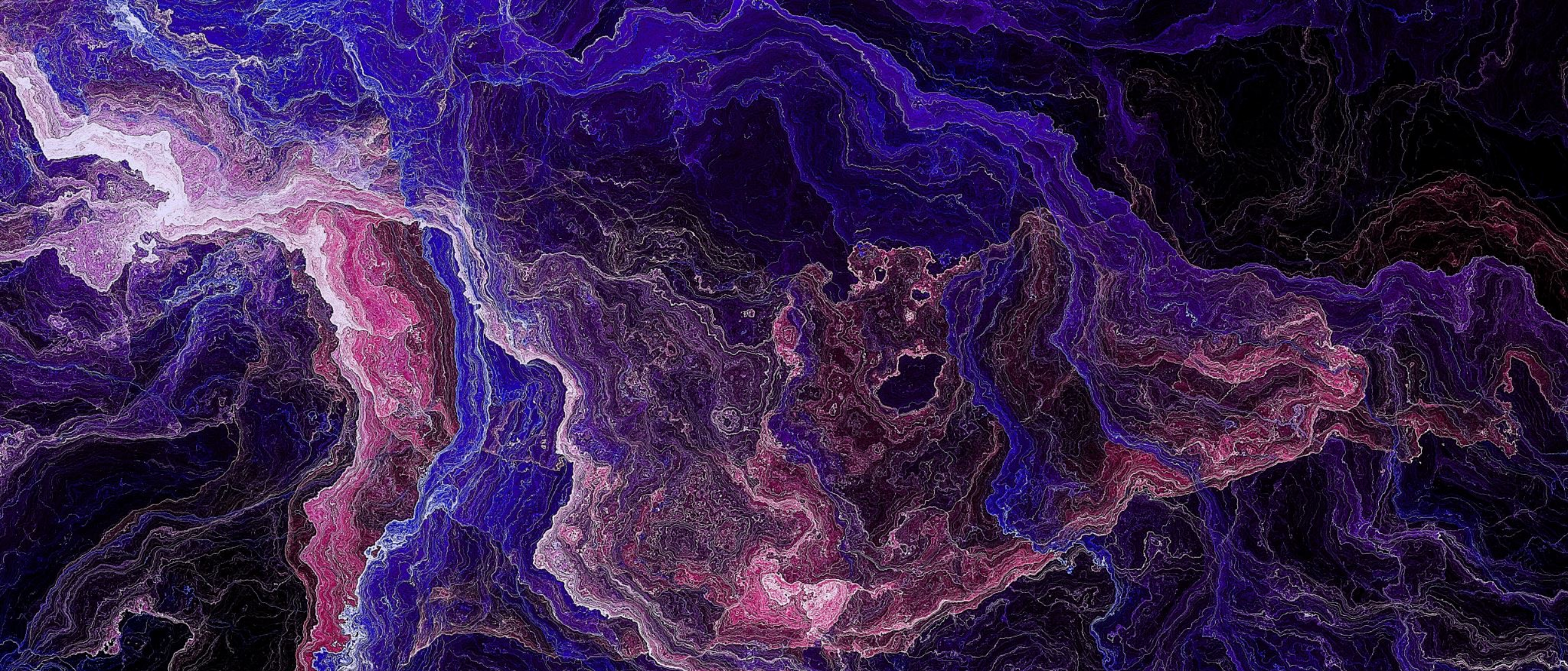
Before SEBI came into existence, Controller of Capital Issues was the regulatory authority; it derived authority from the Capital Issues (Control) Act, 1947.

It is a **quasi-legislative and quasi-judicial body** which can draft regulations, conduct inquiries, pass rulings and impose penalties.

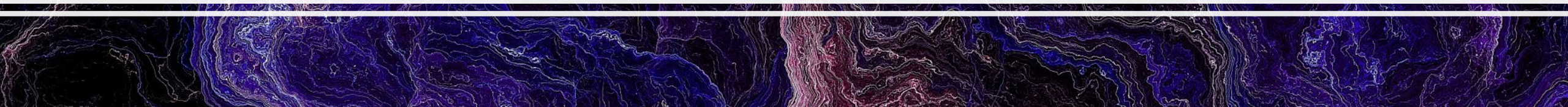


Ex- Ayutthaya

- 
- Exercise Ayutthaya is the bilateral exercise between the *Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy (RTN)*.
 - The exercise's name translates to "The Invincible One" or "Undefeatable".
 - It symbolizes the importance of the ancient cities of *Ayodhya in India and Ayutthaya in Thailand*, holds historic legacies and has rich cultural ties.
 - **Ayutthaya** is the former capital of Thailand, named after Ayodhya, the birthplace of Rama, which establishes a connection to Hinduism and the Ramayana.



Fun fact



Tennis
6
per day
200x/day



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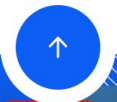



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Thank you
guys.