

Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता



The Indian EXPRESS

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**10 Questions
test related to
this class**

**It's only after we've lost
everything that we're
free to do anything.**

Fight Club, Tyler

EVERYDAY **POWER**

PROTEST NEAR EC OFFICE
Trinamool leaders
detained in Delhi
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'People have
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A case of air
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SWEET HOME
Jadeja and Rituraj
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INSIDE
Cong. moves EC
over PM's remark
on poll manifesto
NEW DELHI
The Congress on Monday raised a complaint with the Election Commission against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comment that the Congress manifesto carried the imprint of the Muslim League, with "every page reeking of breaking India." » PAGE 4

Ceasefire talks
on Gaza to
resume in Cairo
ISRAEL
A day after Israel announced the withdrawal of all combat troops from the northern Gaza, Egyptian officials claimed progress in a fresh round of ceasefire talks in Cairo with both Hamas and Israel sending delegations for talks. » PAGE 14

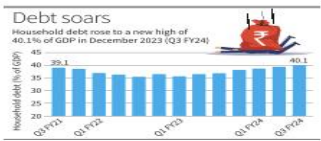
SC stays trial of T.N.
Minister Periyasamy
The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the trial of Tamil Nadu Rural Development Minister I. Periyasamy in a corruption case regarding the alleged allotment of a High Income Group plot in the Mogappair Eri scheme of the Tamil Nadu Housing Board. A bench headed by Justice Hrishikesh Roy stepped in after the Special Judge trying the case had refused to defer proceedings. The trial judge reasoned that the Madras High Court had given him a deadline of July 31, 2024 to complete the trial. Any postponement would lead to delay. The Minister, represented by advocate Ram Sankar, had wanted to put the trial on temporary hold in the case for want of proper sanction under Section 197 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Households' debt surged to new high by Dec. 2023

According to a research report, debt levels are reckoned to have touched an all-time high of 40% of GDP, while net financial savings had likely dropped to their lowest level at around 5% of GDP

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

In what may be construed as a sign of rising financial distress, India's household debt levels are reckoned to have touched an all-time high of 40% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by December 2023, while net financial savings had likely dropped to their lowest level at around 5% of GDP, as per a research report from leading financial services firm Motilal Oswal. In September 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) estimated that households' net financial savings had dropped to 5.1% of GDP in 2022-23, a 47-year low, triggering a flurry of criticism that the Finance Ministry had relented sharply. It had argued that households are adding fewer financial assets than in the past because they were taking loans to buy real assets such as homes and vehicles which is "not a sign of confidence in their future employment and income prospects".



The first revised estimates of national income for 2022-23 published this February, raised the estimated net financial savings in households to 5.3% of GDP, which is still the lowest in 47 years, and weaker than the average of 7.6% of GDP recorded between 2011-12 and 2019-20. The revised estimates also scaled up household debt levels to 38% of GDP in 2022-23, second only to the 39.9% of GDP recorded in 2020-21. Personal loans "Our estimates suggest that household debt has risen to approximately 40% of GDP as of December 2023, reaching a new high. Based on banks' data, it is clear that unsecured personal loans continue to grow at the fastest pace within household debt, followed by secured debt, agricultural loans, and business loans." Motilal Oswal research analysts Nikhil Gupta and Tanisha Ladda said. The report ascribed the dismal 2022-23 net financial savings numbers to weak income growth, robust consumption and growth in physical savings. With income growth remaining weak and household net financial savings likely at its lowest at around 5% of GDP, it is not

surprising that both private consumption and household investment growth have weakened considerably in 2023-24, it postulated. "Not an exception" "Were the falling net financial savings and lower savings in 2022-23 an exception? We do not think so," the analysts concluded, estimating households' net financial savings were broadly unchanged at around 5% of GDP in the first nine months of 2023-24. For the full year gone by, these savings could very likely end up between 5% and 5.5% of GDP, they noted. Over the first nine months of last year, households' gross financial savings rose a tad to 10.8% of GDP, from 10.5% in the corresponding period of 2022-23, but financial liabilities also rose by a similar extent to 5.8% of GDP from 5.5% of GDP, the report said. Households' annual borrowing had surged to 5.8% of GDP in 2023-23, the second highest in the post-independence period.

States being compelled to move court against Centre: Supreme Court

Krishnamas Rajasekhar
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said a steady stream of States are compelled to approach it against the Centre while cautioning the Union government against entering into a "contest" with water-starved Karnataka over its request for drought relief. "Let there be no contest here between the Union and the State... We are seeing various State governments having to appear in court," Justice B.R. Gava, heading the bench, addressed Attorney-General R. Venkataramani and Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, both appearing for the Union government. Recently, the Tamil Nadu government accused the Centre in the Supreme Court of treating the people of the State in a "step-motherly" fashion by delaying the release of disaster relief funds to the tune of nearly 38,000 crore to help tide over the twin calamities of cyclone Mocha and unprecedented floods in the State's southern districts. Like-

wise, Kerala filed a first-of-its-kind suit directly in the top court, blaming the Centre for arbitrarily interfering in its net borrowing limits, pushing the State to the brink of a financial emergency. "Grave crisis" Karnataka said its request for financial relief from the Centre to tide over a "grave humanitarian crisis" has hit a wall. The State sought ₹18,714.4 crore under the National Disaster Response Fund six months ago, only to be met with silence. The total estimated loss due to crop damage in the State is ₹35,162.05 crore, the petition said. The State, represented by advocate D.L. Chidambaram, said it was reeling under severe drought, af-

flicting the lives of its people. "For the Kharif 2023 season (June-September), a total of 223 out of 236 taluks are declared as drought-affected, with 196 taluks categorised as severely affected and the remaining 27 categorised as moderately affected," it said. The State said the Centre under the Manual for Drought Management, was required to take a final decision on NDRF assistance to a State within a month of the receipt of the Inter-Ministerial Central Team.

However, nothing has happened for the past six months. The court gave the two law officers of the Union government to take instructions and get back after two weeks.

Landscape layout



Farmers in Smit village of Meghalaya have kept their fields ready as they await the showers for this season's cultivation. A scenic view of the vast tracts of land in the village, which is famous for organic farming, captured on Monday. (PTU/AN/REUTERS)

As guns fall silent, bunkers turn into kitchen, storeroom

Vijaya Singh
KATHUA
Biro Devi, 40, ecstatically shows a bunker built next to her one-room house in her village, overlooking the Pakistan border in Jammu's Kathua. Constructed in 2022, she uses the structure meant to protect the family from cross-border firing as a kitchen and a storeroom these days. For the past three years, her village has not seen any shelling from Pakistan. "Till three years ago, there was uncertainty. The firing would start particularly during the harvest season. The bunker's construction started in 2021 and it was completed in 2022," said Ms. Devi. In February 2021, after India and Pakistan agreed for re-observance of the 2003 ceasefire agreement, cross-border firing and shelling have reduced drastically along the border. At the village, dominated by the Scheduled Caste community, the administration has ensured that there is a saturation of social schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Kiran Devi, 29, another resident, said the last time

were reported. In 2017, in the wake of repeated firings and killings of civilians, the Ministry of Home Affairs approved ₹415 crore for the construction of over 14,000 bunkers in Kathua, Samba, Jammu, Rajouri and Poonch districts. These included 1,431 community and over 13,000 individual bunkers. In 2023, at least six ceasefire violations were reported along the Jammu border and a Border Security Force personnel was killed as the Pakistan Rangers resorted to "unprovoked" firing at Samba on November 9. Before that, as many as 72 incidents of ceasefire violations were reported from the Jammu border. In 2023, there was no ceasefire violations stood at 450 and in 2022, six such incidents

Cong., NC announce J&K, Ladakh poll plan

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Leaving out the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) from seat-sharing arrangements, INDIA bloc constituents - the Congress Party and the National Conference (NC) - on Monday announced a pre-poll seat-sharing arrangement for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The Congress has decided to field its candidates from the two seats in Jammu province, Jammu and Jammu, and the sole seat in the Union Territory of Ladakh. The NC will contest all three seats in the Kashmir Valley, that is,

Congress to contest 2 seats in Jammu and the sole Ladakh seat; NC to contest all 3 Kashmir Valley seats

Anantnag-Rajouri, Srinagar, and Baramulla. The announcement was jointly made by NC vice-president Chinar Abshullah and Congress's seat-sharing committee member Salman Khurshid, in New Delhi. On the exclusion of the PDP, which is also a member of the INDIA bloc, Mr. Khurshid sought to separate the larger ideological alliance from the seat-sharing arrangements.

IN BRIEF



SC declines plea by Sanjay Singh against defamation case

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a special leave petition filed by Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh challenging a defamation case registered against him for his alleged comments on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's educational qualification.

TASI's satellite successfully deployed in space

Tara Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL) announced the successful deployment in space of its sub-metre resolution optical satellite, TASI-1A, by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. The satellite was placed in space as part of the Bandwagon-1 mission and was launched from Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, U.S., on April 7.

SKM seeks SC-monitored probe into poll bonds

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) has demanded a probe into the "electoral bonds scam" by a special investigation team of retired administrators, monitored by the Supreme Court.

Linking the electoral bonds with debt relief and statutory minimum support price for all crops, the SKM said in a statement here on Monday that decisions of the Centre such as the three farm laws, four labour laws, and privatisation of public undertakings were taken to please the corporate donors.

The SKM appealed to farmers to campaign for a Supreme Court-monitored probe into the "scam" and demanded the prosecution of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Cabinet Members and the BJP leadership. "Through 1,00,00,474 farmers and 3,12,214 daily wage workers - a total of 4,12,688 persons - committed suicide during 2014-2022, the Modi government did not provide debt relief of a single rupee to farmers and farming households despite the promise the BJP made in the 2014 election manifesto," the statement added.

Right against climate change a fundamental right, says SC

It says rights to life and equality cannot not be fully realised without clean, stable environment; underscores the important role solar power would play in arresting the ills of climate change

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has recognised a right against the adverse effects of climate change as a distinct fundamental right in the Constitution.

"It is yet to be articulated that the people have a right against the adverse effects of climate change. This is perhaps because this right and the right to a clean environment are two sides of the same coin. As the havoc caused by climate change increases year-by-year, it becomes necessary to articulate this as a distinct right. It is recognised by Articles 14 (right to equality) and 21 (right to life), the Supreme Court observed in a judgment passed on April 6.

The judgment came in a case connected with the survival of the endangered Great Indian Bustard species. An order was pronounced in open court on March 21, constituting an expert committee to examine the problem faced by the bird species whose natural habitat and flight routes collide with power transmission lines in Gujarat and Rajasthan.

The case had been posted for further hearing in August. However, the court, unannounced, upheld a judgment during the weekend. The text of the judgment has several paragraphs on climate change and its adversities. The inability of under-served communities to adjust to climate change during the weekend. The text of the judgment has several paragraphs on climate change and its adversities.



The court noted that the right to a healthy environment, safe from the ill-effects of climate change, was a fundamental human right.

in vector-borne diseases, rising temperatures, droughts, shortages in food supplies due to crop failure, storms, and flooding. The inability of under-served communities to adjust to climate change during the weekend. The text of the judgment has several paragraphs on climate change and its adversities.

"The right to health (which is a part of the right to life under Article 21) is impacted due to factors such as air pollution, shifts

equality, and the right to development. The judgment noted that the right to a healthy environment, safe from the ill-effects of climate change, was a "fundamental human right".

India's solar potential would play in arresting the ills of climate change. India needed to shift to solar power due to three issues - One, the country is likely to account for 25% of global energy demand growth over the next two decades. Two, rampant air pollution emphasises the need for cleaner energy sources. Three, declining groundwater levels and decreasing annual rainfall.

By shifting towards renewable energy sources, India's reliance on its energy security, reducing reliance on volatile fossil fuel markets, cannot mitigate the risks associated with energy scarcity. Additionally, the adoption of renewable energy sources helps in curbing air pollution, thereby improving public health and reducing healthcare costs.

The court also highlighted the interconnection between climate change and various human rights, including the right to health, indigenous rights, gender

equality, and the right to development. The judgment noted that the right to a healthy environment, safe from the ill-effects of climate change, was a "fundamental human right".

Strong link between high glycaemic index diet and diabetes, says study

Ramya Kannan CHENNAI

The findings of an international study suggest that consuming low glycaemic index and low glycaemic load diets might prevent the development of type 2 diabetes. They also found a strong association between glycaemic index (GI) and the risk of type 2 diabetes among individuals with higher Body Mass Index (BMI).



GI ranks carbohydrate-containing foods based on the blood glucose response, post-prandial or after a meal. The higher the blood sugar reading, the higher will be the GI. Meanwhile, GL, is both the quality and quantity of carbohydrates in a specific food and is the product of the GI and the amount of carbohydrates available in a serving.

One of the Indian authors of the paper, V. Mohan, founder, Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, tries to break it down: "It's this

question. If you continue to eat certain foods, will you develop diabetes?" Strangely enough, the concept of GI impacting diabetes has been controversial, and there has been little actual evidence applicable to a large population, he says.

"For persons with high BMI and a family history, better and nutritive food choices can put off the onset of diabetes. GI is also very important because the quantity of low nutrition foods you eat also has an impact," he explains. A

total of 1,27,594 adults aged 35-70 years without known diabetes from 20 high-income, middle-income, and low-income countries, had enrolled as part of the Prospective Urban and Rural Epidemiology study. Their diet was assessed at baseline using country-specific food frequency questionnaires. The GI and GL were estimated based on the intake of seven categories of carbohydrate-containing foods.

In the follow-up after nearly 12 years, 7,326 (5.7%) cases of type 2 diabetes occurred. A diet with a higher GI was associated with a higher risk of diabetes. Participants in the highest quintile of GI had a higher risk of incident type 2 diabetes compared with those in the lowest quintile. GI's association with diabetes was stronger among individuals with a higher BMI.

Cochin Shipyard signs ship repair agreement with the U.S. Navy

Dinakar Peri NEW DELHI

As India and the U.S. look to expand cooperation in ship repairs as part of maintenance to turn India into a regional hub, Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) became the third Indian shipyard to enter into a Master Shipyard Repair Agreement (MSRA) with the U.S. Navy, which will enable to repair U.S. Navy ships.



CSL became the third shipyard to enter into a pact with the U.S. Navy, which will enable to repair U.S. Navy ships. The State-run shipbuilding facility in Kochi is the latest in the line after Larssen Offshore (L&T) and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL).

L&T shipyard in Kattupalli near Chennai was the first to sign the agreement in July last year. Last month, a U.K. naval ship arrived for the first time at Kattupalli for repairs.

As it benefits both countries, giving business and jobs to Indian shipyards while giving alternative options to the U.S. Navy for the smaller repairs of its ships without going faraway increasing their turnaround time and at a lesser cost.

The joint statement issued after bilateral talks held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden in September last year, both countries recommitted to advancing India's "emerging Memorandum of Agreement in maintenance and repair" of forward-deployed U.S. Navy assets and other aircraft and vessels.

U.K. deploying its fleet On March 26, the U.K.'s Littoral Response Group (LRG) arrived in Chennai as the first engagement of its deployment to the Indian Pacific region. The

Cannot bar Mahua from defending herself: HC

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday said Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra cannot be barred from defending herself against ill-effects of climate change, was a "fundamental human right".

The court made the oral observation while hearing lawyer Jal Anant Dehadrai's plea seeking an interim order to bar the expelled Lok Sabha MP from making "defamatory" statements against him.

Mr. Dehadrai has filed a lawsuit against Ms. Moitra seeking damages of ₹2 crore for making allegedly defamatory statements against her against the backdrop of the cash-for-query row. The court told Mr. Dehadrai, "If you put the allegations in the public domain, she has every right to defend herself. Except that she cannot mitigate the risks associated with energy scarcity. Additionally, the adoption of renewable energy sources helps in curbing air pollution, thereby improving public health and reducing healthcare costs."

THE CROSSWORD 14144

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and a QR code for the solution.

SUDOKU 14144

Sudoku puzzle grid with clues and a QR code for the solution.

FAITH Why Lord chose Dasaratha

Unable to withstand Ravana's atrocities, Devas prayed and surrendered to God seeking relief; at the same time, Dasaratha was conducting Ashwamedha and Putra Kameshti yagams. Lord Narayana assured the devas that He would soon descend upon earth and advised them to wait in Kishkinda until such time, in the guise of monkeys.

- Across: 1 Eisenhower follows boy's bicycle (4); 2 Host runs around university giving direction (5); 3 Uniform container returned for detachment (4); 4 A sort of agreement (6); 5 Be nice at first before being badly without harmful effect (8); 6 No virus can travel around second piece capture (3,5); 7 Africa followed by Indian state capital (6)

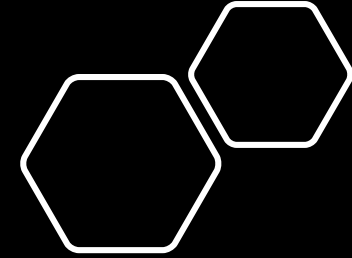
- Down: 1 Concealed European skin (4); 2 Not right flows around for remnant of earlier meal (4,4); 3 Hymns initially sung after lamps are arranged (6); 4 What you may see before these clues... or after them (7); 5 Ring-less preparation results in a disease (8); 6 Judicial persons' rates (6); 7 Assonimate long? Sigh! (6); 8 Playing harmonium, not horn, shows basic taste (5); 9 Relative takes gift's nudes (5); 10 Adages show reasonably basic sense; for starters (8); 11 Argument Indian position in cricket field (8); 12 Hereditary unit is containing son's origins (7); 13 Old American possessing ring with key leads to mass emigration (6); 14 Spanish exclamations about four Roman fruits (6); 15 Birds captured by three Musketeers (4); 16 Salesman has drinks (4)

Sudoku solution grid and crossword solution grid.

While He was named as Rama for His beauty, siblings were likewise named for their characteristics.

TASL's satellite successfully deployed in space

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL) announced the successful deployment in space of its sub-metre resolution optical satellite, TSAT-1A, by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket. The satellite was placed in space as part of the Bandwagon-1 mission and was launched from Kennedy Space centre, Florida, U.S., on April 7. "This achievement follows the collaboration signed between TASL and Satellogic in November 2023, leveraging Satellogic's expertise to develop and integrate an advanced earth observation satellite in India and TASL's capability to undertake complex system integration," it said in a statement.



CEO and MD of TASL, Sukaran Singh told TOI, "In the government sector, Isro has launched various high-resolution earth observation satellites, but this is the first sub-metre high-resolution earth observation satellite by the private sector in India. It has around 0.5-0.8-meter resolution natively, which will be enhanced to 0.5 to 0.6-meter super resolution using software. It is in low-earth orbit and weighs less than 50 kg."



TATA ADVANCED SYSTEMS

Company type	Private
Industry	Defence and Aerospace
Founded	2007
Headquarters	Hyderabad, Telangana, India
Area served	India
Key people	Banmali Agarwal (Chairman) ^[1] Sukaran Singh (CEO & MD) ^[2]
Products	Aerostructures · Aero-engines · Fixed-wing aircraft · Rotorcraft · Avionics · Armoured vehicles · Infantry fighting vehicles · Artillery weapons · Missile launchers · Radar and Sonar systems · Command and control systems · Unmanned aerial systems · Optronics · Security systems · Rugged systems · Portable fuel cells ^[3]
Revenue	▲ ₹3,346 crore (US\$420 million) (FY23) ^[3]
Net income	▲ ₹35 crore (US\$4.4 million) (FY23) ^[3]
Number of employees	3000+
Parent	Tata Sons (100%)
Subsidiaries	Tata Power SED

Strong link between high glycaemic index diet and diabetes, says study

Ramya Kannan

CHENNAI

The findings of an international study suggest that consuming low glycaemic index and low glycaemic load diets might prevent the development of type 2 diabetes. They also found a strong association between glycaemic index (GI) and the risk of type 2 diabetes among individuals with a higher Body Mass Index (BMI).

In a paper published in *The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology* last week, the authors say: “The association between the glycaemic index and the glycaemic load [GL] with type 2 diabetes incidence is controversial.” They found that diets with a high GI and a high GL were associated with a higher risk of type 2 diabetes in the study that spanned five continents.

Low GI foods

- Fruits ■ Grains ■ Lentils
- Non-starchy vegetables
- Legumes ■ Dairy products
- Brown rice



High GI foods

- Sugar ■ Sweetened drinks
- White polished rice
- Potatoes ■ White bread



GI ranks carbohydrate-containing foods based on the blood glucose response, post-prandial or after a meal. The higher the blood sugar reading, the higher will be the GI. Meanwhile, GL, is both the quality and quantity of carbohydrates in a specific food and is the product of the GI and the amount of carbohydrates available in a serving.

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question. If you continue to eat certain foods, will you develop diabetes?” Strangely enough, the concept of GI impacting diabetes has been controversial, and there has been little actual evidence applicable to a large population, he says.

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total of 1,27,594 adults aged 35-70 years without known diabetes from 20 high-income, middle-income, and low-income countries, had enrolled as part of the Prospective Urban and Rural Epidemiology study. Their diet was assessed at baseline using country-specific food frequency questionnaires. The GI and GL were estimated based on the intake of seven categories of carbohydrate-containing foods.

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GI is a number from 0 to 100 assigned to food, with pure glucose arbitrarily given the value of 100, which represents the relative rise in the blood glucose level two hours after consuming that food.



The GI of a specific food depends primarily on the quantity and type of carbohydrate it contains.




But it is also affected by the amount of entrapment of the carbohydrate molecules within the food, the fat and protein content of the food, the number of organic acids (or their salts) in the food, and whether it is cooked and, if so, how it is cooked.



A food is considered to have a low GI if it is 55 or less; high GI if 70 or more, and mid-range GI if 56 to 69.


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Low Glycemic Index Foods List

(Low GI Foods)

Fruit



Cherries



Grapefruit



Pear

Vegetable



Cauliflower



Broccoli



Egg Plant

Cereal



Steel-Cut Oats



Muesli



Wheat Bran

Eat for Glycemic Index



Low GI Foods
Eat Mostly



Medium GI Foods
Eat sometimes

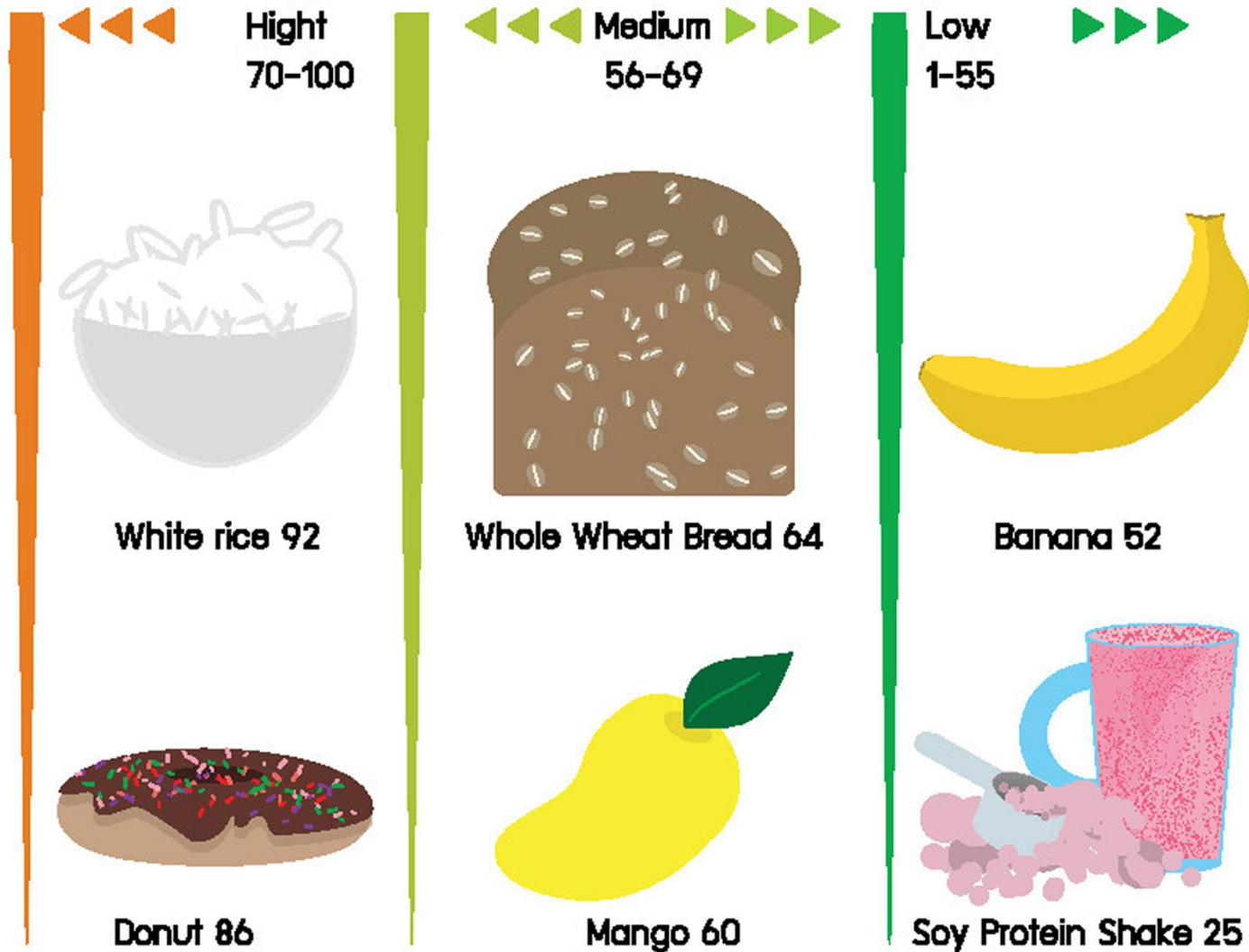


High GI Foods

Pair with Low High Fibre + High Protein



Glycemic Index Foods



150% rise in cases of diabetes in India: ICMR

Not all grains are created equal.
Opt for these low GI Indian grains



Black Rice



Matta Red Rice



Buckwheat (Kuttu)



Foxtail Millet



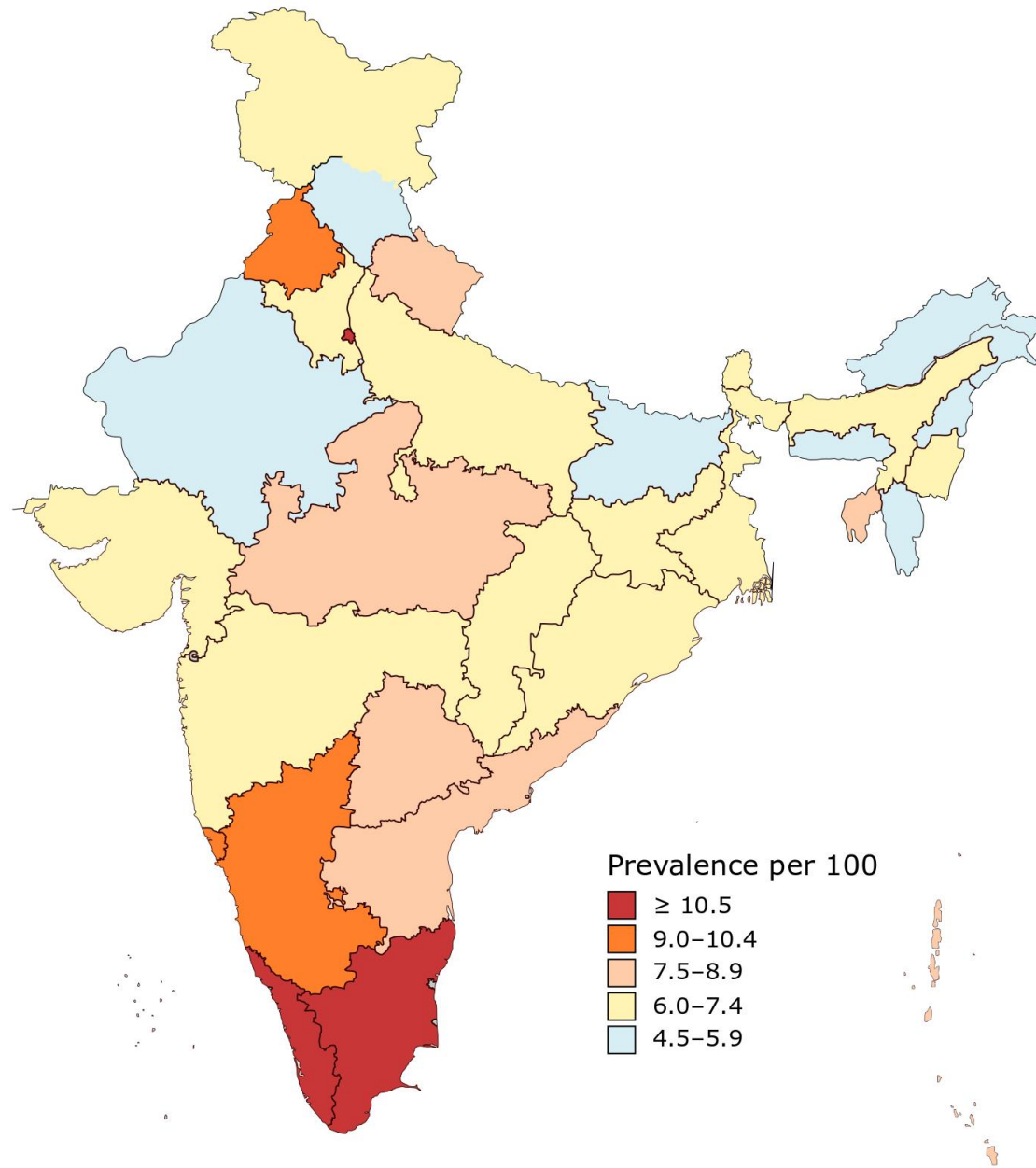
Broken Wheat (Dalia)

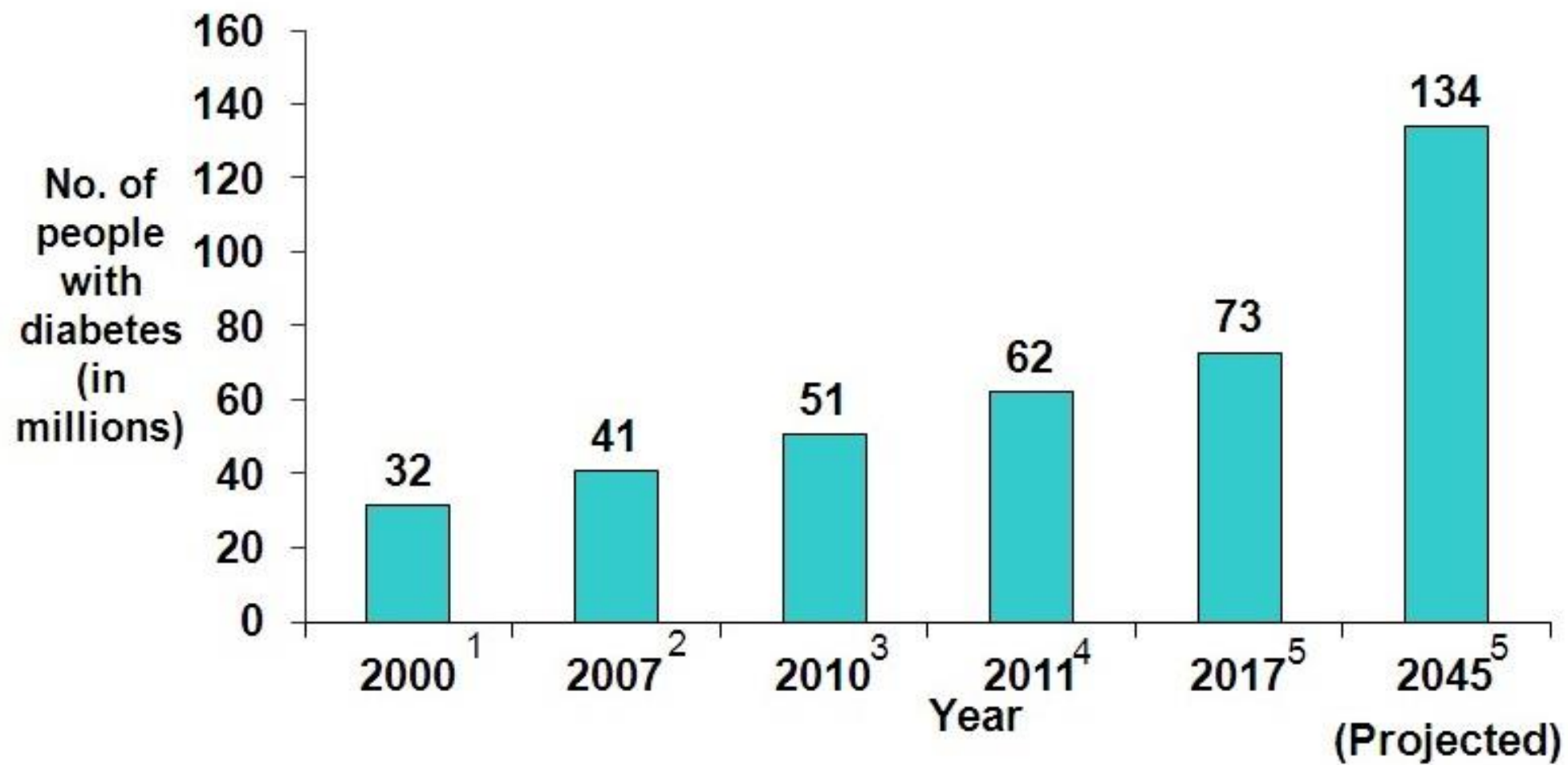


Finger Millet



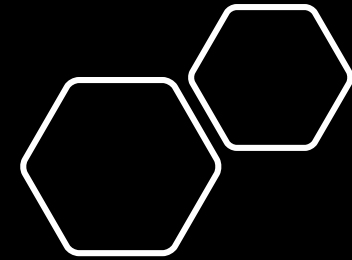
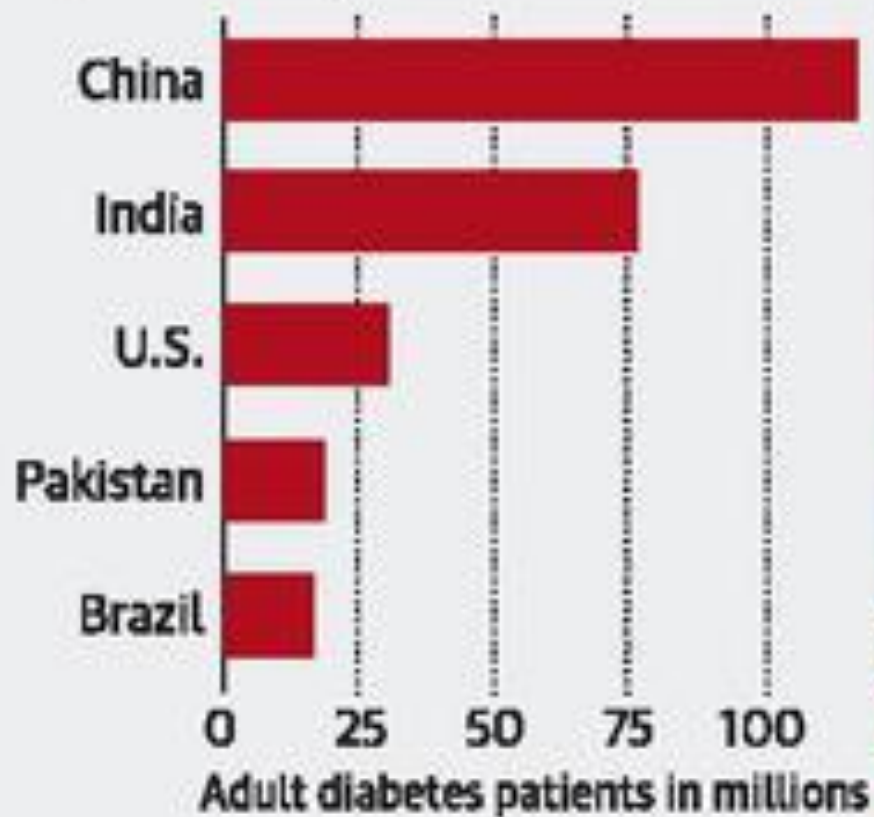
Flax seeds



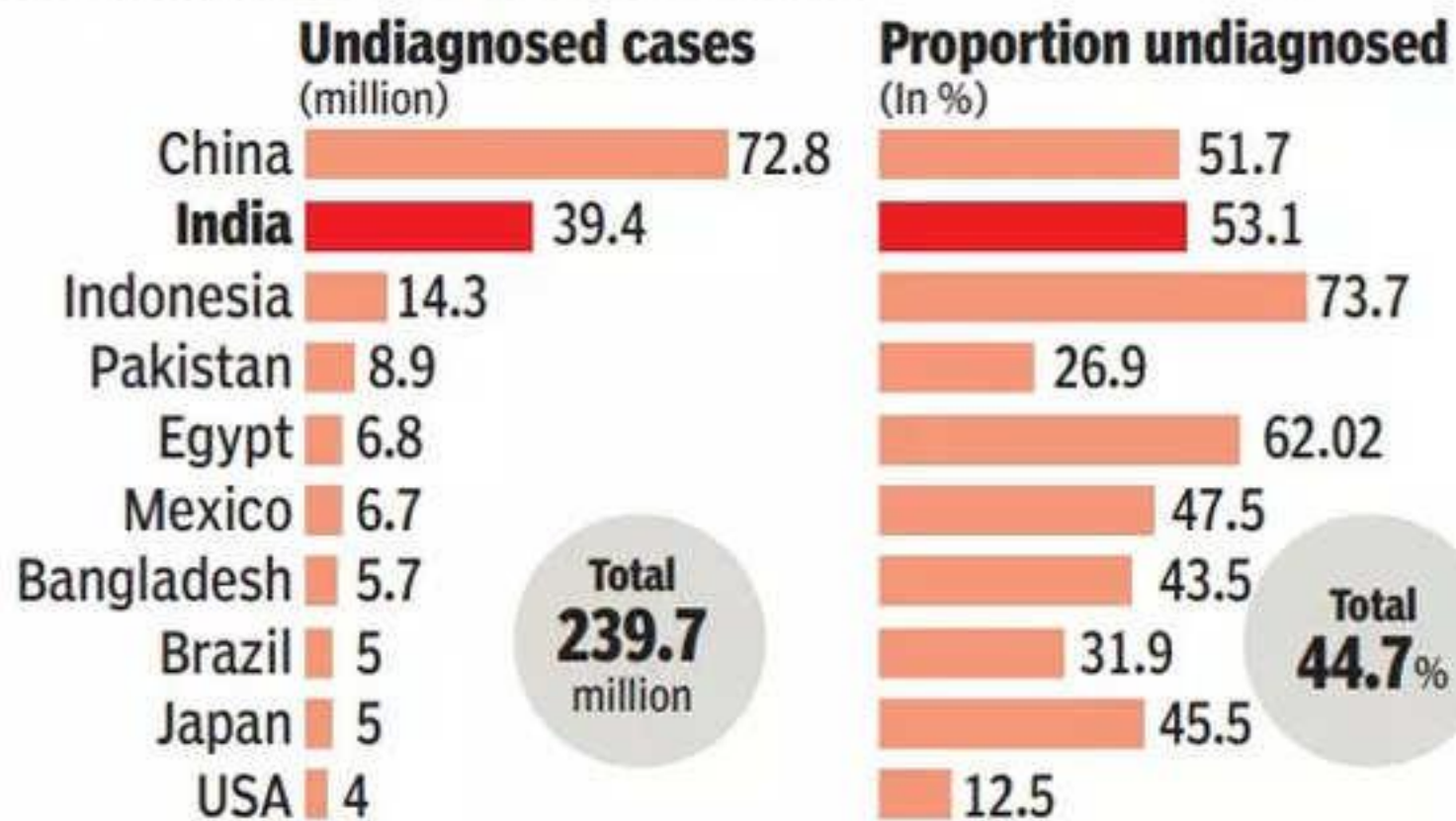


Not so sweet

India has the second-highest number of diabetes patients aged 20-79 years as of 2019

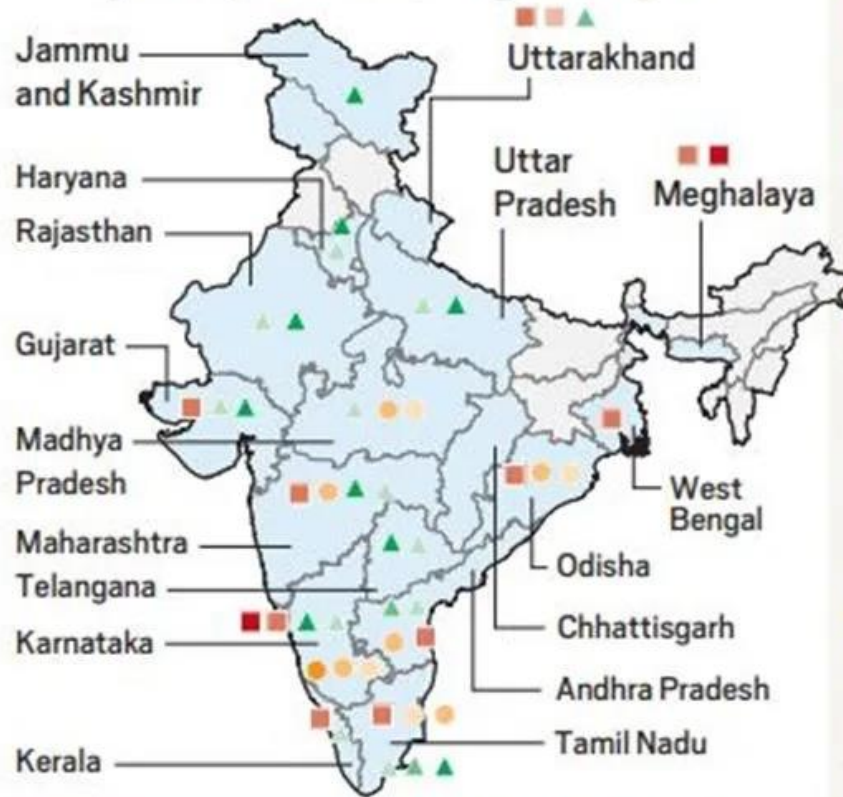


Almost half of diabetes cases undiagnosed worldwide



INDIA'S MILLETS MAP

Jowar is grown mainly in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu; bajra mainly in Rajasthan, UP, Haryana, Gujarat



JOWAR

4.24 mn ha area
4.78 mn tonnes production

BAJRA

7.75 mn ha area
10.86 mn tonnes production
(In 2020-21)

MILLETS GROWN IN

130 countries, traditional food for more than 500 million people

'NUTRI-CEREALS'

Govt has declared millets 'powerhouses of nutrition'.

-  Foxtail Millet
-  Finger Millet
-  Barnyard Millet
-  Browntop Millet
-  Little Millet
-  Kodo Millet
-  Pearl Millet
-  Proso Millet
-  Sorghum

Cochin Shipyard signs ship repair agreement with the U.S. Navy

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

As India and the U.S. look to expand cooperation in ship repair and maintenance to turn India into a regional hub, Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) became the third Indian shipyard to enter into a Master Shipyard Repair Agreement (MSRA) with the U.S., which will enable to repair U.S. Navy ships.

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L&T shipyard in Kattupalli near Chennai was the first Indian shipyard to sign the agreement in July last year. Last month, a U.K. naval ship arrived for the first time at Kattupalli for repairs.

“... The MSRA is a non-financial agreement and is



CSL became the third shipyard to enter into a pact with the U.S.

effective from April 5, 2024. This will facilitate repair of US Naval vessels under Military Sealift Command in CSL,” the entity said in a disclosure to stock exchanges, adding: “CSL has been qualified for entering into the MSRA after a detailed evaluation process and capability assessment by the US Navy - Military Sealift Command”.

Both India and the U.S. are quite keen on expanding cooperation in ship maintenance and repairs

as it benefits both countries, giving business and expertise to Indian shipyards while giving alternate options to the U.S. Navy for the smaller repairs of its ships without going faraway increasing their turnaround time and at a lesser cost.

In a joint statement issued after bilateral talks held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden in September last year, both sides recommitted to advancing India’s “emergence as a hub for the maintenance and repair” of forward-deployed U.S. Navy assets and other aircraft and vessels.

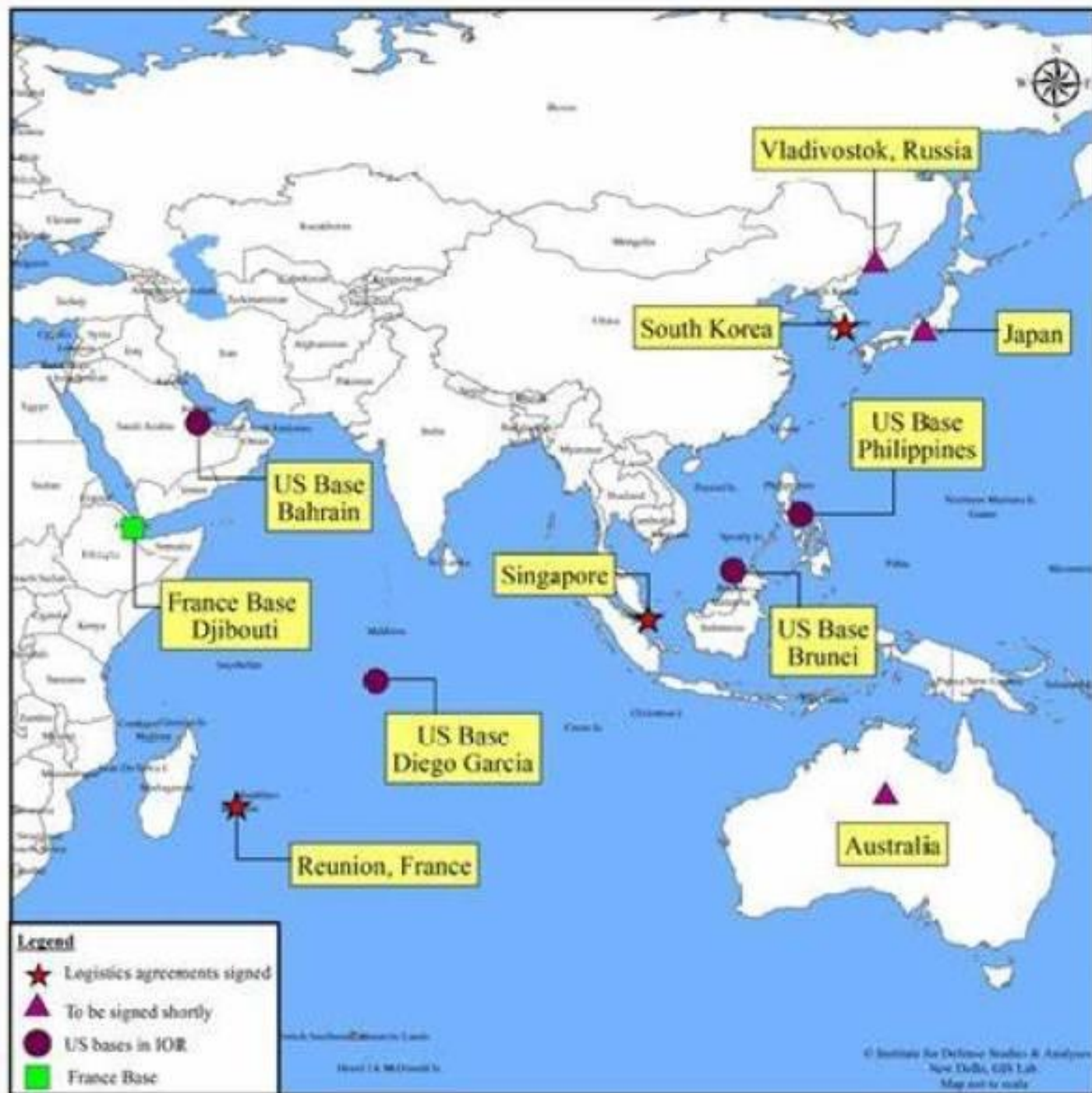
U.K. deploying its fleet

On March 26, the U.K.’s Littoral Response Group (LRG) arrived in Chennai as the first engagement of its deployment to the Indian Pacific region. The

U.K. High Commission said the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Argus and RFA Lyme Bay conducted maritime exercises with the Indian Navy as they entered the Arabian Sea and will undergo essential maintenance at L&T shipyard.

“The visit of LRG attests to the U.K.’s capability and commitment to the Indo-Pacific. The sight of Royal Navy ships undergoing essential maintenance at an Indian shipyard is yet another example of the India-UK Logistic Exchange Memorandum of Agreement in practice,” said Brigadier Nick Sawyer, Defence Advisor, British High Commission.

Following the completion of its maintenance in India, the LRG will operate in the Indo-Pacific to conduct training, exercises, and wider engagement with allies and partners, the statement added.



INDIA-US RELATIONSHIP OVERVIEW

The confluence of common factors like democratic values, Shared areas of Interests, Stand against terrorism makes India and US enjoy a comprehensive strategic partnership.



\$ 128.55 billion
Bilateral trade in
2022-23 (increase of
7.65% over 2021-22)



Largest Export destination
US is the major
export hub
for Indian goods.



3rd largest defence Supplier
US (~11%) is India's
3rd largest defence
supplier after
Russia (~45%)
and France (~29%)



\$28 billion
India maintains a
trade surplus with
the US

Defence ties



- ⊕ US recognized India as a **“Major Defence Partner”** in 2016.
- ⊕ US Defence agreements like
 - **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Association (LEMOA), 2016**
 - **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), 2018**
 - **Industrial Security Agreement 2019**
 - **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) 2020** are signed with India
- ⊕ Bilateral military exercises like **Yudh Abhyaas, Vajra prahar, Malabar, RIMPAC etc.** are conducted between the two countries.



People to People ties

- ⊕ Indian diaspora in US is around 4.9 Million and they form the **second largest immigrant group** in US after the Mexicans





INDIA - US TIES

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ACROSS SECTORS



TECHNOLOGY

- ▶ The Indo-US Quantum Coordination Mechanism
- ▶ A \$2-million grant programme for joint development of AI
- ▶ Jointly funded research projects on cybersecurity

DEFENCE

- ▶ Adoption of the Defense Industrial Cooperation Roadmap
- ▶ A defence acceleration platform for joint tech innovation

ENERGY TRANSITION

- ▶ An India-US multibillion-dollar investment fund for green tech
- ▶ India to co-lead multilateral Hydrogen Breakthrough Agenda to boost availability of low-carbon hydrogen globally

TRADE

- ▶ Mutual resolution of six WTO trade disputes
- ▶ India now part of the Minerals Security Partnership

SPACE

- ▶ Nasa, Isro to develop strategic framework for human spaceflight by the end of 2023

IMMIGRATION

- ▶ New US consulates in Bengaluru and Ahmedabad; an Indian consulate in Seattle

AVIATION

- ▶ Boeing to invest \$100 mn to train 31,000 pilots in India in 20 years

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Vistara op scale-down pushes up fares by 25% on key routes

SUKALP SHARMA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 8

JUST AHEAD of the peak summer travel season, with Vistara announcing a scale-down in operations by reducing 25-30 flights a day — or roughly 10 per cent of its operating capacity — the already high airfares have started climbing further, with some routes witnessing a steep jump. According to travel industry insiders, fares have surged by approximately 20-25 per cent across key routes such as Delhi-Goa, Delhi-Kochi, Delhi-Jaipur and Delhi-Srinagar.

Vistara faced significant disruptions last week, with several flight cancellations and delays after a number of its pilots called in sick ostensibly to voice discontent over a new pay structure, concerns about the carrier's imminent merger with Air India, and a rostering system that was allegedly stretching them to the limit.

As part of the mitigation measures, the Tata group airline announced over the weekend that it was reducing around 10 per cent of its operational capacity — mostly in its domestic network — to provide “much-needed resilience and buffer” in

Respite unlikely this month

WHILE VISTARA has not specified the duration for which the capacity cut is going to be in effect, it does appear that the respite would be in place at least till the end of April. Fares are likely to stay high on affected routes during this period.

THE RING

A total solar eclipse is seen from Mazatlan, Mexico, on Monday. The solar eclipse crossing North America darkened skies along a path through Mexico, the United States and Canada. Totality lasted up to 4 minutes, 28 seconds at certain spots. Reuters

OVER TWO YEARS OF RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Post-Ukraine, students chase MBBS dreams in Georgia, Serbia, Kyrgyzstan

Besides peace, cost of education in these countries is a deciding factor

ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA & DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL
TBILISI (GEORGIA), LUDHIANA, APRIL 8

THE SON of a dairy owner from Punjab and the daughter of a Chandigarh police personnel have never met. Yet, they were bound by similar circumstances: their dreams to study medicine in Ukraine were derailed due to the war with Russia, which has been on since February 24, 2022. What happened next? One, Anju, ended up transferring from his Ukrainian university to one in Georgia in November 2023 to complete his remaining five semesters. Chandigarh-based Shagun Rana, 19, a fresher, decided to pursue her MBBS degree from Serbia instead.

With the war showing no signs of ending even after two years, both evacuated medical students and new aspirants have started opting for “safer” but “affordable” countries like Kyrgyzstan in central Asia, Serbia in south-east Europe and the

transcontinental Georgia to continue their education. Even with expenses like tuition fee, visa, air tickets, house rent and food, students are pursuing an MBBS

OUT OF UKRAINE
18,000 INDIAN medical students were evacuated from Ukraine in 2022.

70% HAVE transferred to colleges in Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan as per estimates 2023 to complete his remaining five semesters.

20,000 STUDENTS (both transfers and new applicants) are enrolled in Georgia currently, up from just 8,000 in 2021, as per the Embassy of Georgia.

COST OF EDUCATION
UKRAINE \$4,000-6,000 (Rs 3-5 lakh)

SERBIA \$5,000-7,000 (Rs 3-4 lakh)

KYRGYZSTAN \$2,500-4,500 (Rs 3-4 lakh; 5-year course)

INDIA Rs 20 lakh (in a private college for 5.5 yrs)
Estimated annual fee for a 6-year MBBS degree

from these countries is cheaper than a private college in India. Visa, who went to Ukraine in 2019, was evacuated along with nearly 20,000 Indians, including

In UP's Nagina, BSP 'absent', SP 'silent', Dalits & Muslims look at Bhim Army

LALMANI VERMA
NAGINA (UP), APRIL 8

NEAR THE Ravidas Temple and statue of B R Ambedkar in Neerowadi Gaanwodi village in the Nagina Lok Sabha constituency on Saturday April 6, a small crowd is waiting for leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP-Kanshira) to arrive for a small meeting in support of party chief and candidate Chandrashekhar Azad.



Chandrashekhar Azad at a Valmiki community meeting in Najibabad area of Nagina. Lalmani Verma

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, APRIL 8

THE SUPREME COURT on Monday called on the Centre and state governments to refrain from a “contest”, and noted that various state governments were approaching the court to seek relief against the Centre in matters related to disbursement of funds.

The bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Khosla, hearing the Karnataka government's plea seeking a direction to the Centre to release financial assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for drought management.

“Let there not be a contest,” Justice Gavai remarked as Senior

Will continue to fight, CM Siddaramaiah



Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the state government, and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, traded charges.

The Karnataka government has accused the Centre of not providing financial assistance for drought management. Sibal told the bench that the rules require the Centre to take a final decision on providing NDRF assistance within a month of receiving the Inter-Ministerial Central Team

(IMCT) report. For Karnataka, this period expired in December 2023, but there was nothing forthcoming, he submitted.

Mehta said the matter could have been resolved if someone from the state had talked to the Centre instead of approaching the court. He also questioned the timing of the plea — before the Lok Sabha elections — and urged the court not to issue notice.

The court noted that many states were approaching it to seek relief against the Centre in matters related to disbursement of funds. Mehta responded: “I don't wish to say why, but this is a growing tendency.”

Mehta and Attorney General R Venkateshmani agreed to get

ED questions Kejriwal's private secy, AAP MLA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 8

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate Monday questioned Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's private secretary Bibhav Kumar and Aam Aadmi Party MLA Durgesh Pathak in the excise policy case.

According to sources, both have been questioned by the ED earlier too, and fresh questioning was carried out to record their statement as “new facts” had come to light in the case, filed under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. A source said that Kumar, who has been associated with the AAP since its inception, had “engaged close to the CM, was questioned about Kejriwal's “engagements”. His is one of five names that figure in the list of people allowed to visit Kejriwal in prison.

The ED had earlier alleged in

Timely intervention improved Manipur situation, says PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 8

IN HIS first comments on Manipur after the announcement of the Lok Sabha elections by the Election Commission, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that timely intervention of the Centre and efforts of the state government have led to a “marked improvement in the situation in the state”.

“We believe that it is our collective responsibility to deal with the situation sensitively. I have already spoken about this in Parliament. We have dedicated our best resources and administrative machinery to resolve the conflict,” the Prime Minister told The Assam Tribune newspaper.

“Because of the timely intervention of the Government of India and efforts made by the Government of Manipur, there has been a marked improvement in the situation of the state,” he said.

“Home Minister Amit Shah stayed in Manipur while the

COURT DENIES BAIL TO KAVITHA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 8

STATEMENT THAT everyone who makes allegations on social media can be jailed under the new law on Monday quashed the Madras High Court's decision to grant bail to YouTuber who was accused of making derogatory remarks about Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin.

“If before elections, we start putting behind bars everyone who makes allegations on YouTube, imagine how many

conflict was at its peak, holding 15-plus meetings with various stakeholders to help resolve the conflict. The central government has been consistently extending its support, as required by the state government,” Modi said.

“The process of relief and rehabilitation is ongoing. Remedial

SC RESTORES BAIL TO YOUTUBER

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 8

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SC quashes PMLA case against ex-IAS officer in Chhattisgarh 'liquor scam'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 8

THE SUPREME COURT on Monday quashed the money laundering case arising out of the alleged Rs 2,000-crore liquor scam in Chhattisgarh, in which former IAS officer Anil Tuteja and his son Yash Tuteja were among those probed by the Enforcement Director (ED).

The court said the offences they were charged with don't fall

in the schedule of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and hence there cannot be any “proceeds of crime” as defined by the Act.

“As there is no scheduled offence, there cannot be any proceeds of crime within the meaning of clause (a) of section 2 of PMLA. If there are no proceeds of crime, obviously offence under section 3 of PMLA is not made out,” said a bench of Justices S Dhaive and Ujjal Bhuyan.

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

EP UNNY
PALLADAM (TAMIL NADU), APRIL 8

IS THE BJP trying to pick up the thread that Kamraj lost? The legendary Congressman was the last non-Dravidian electoral icon in the state. Barring the very few in their late seventies, most Tamil voters wouldn't remember him. After the debacle in the 1987 Assembly polls where he himself lost, the Tamil Nadu Congress hasn't seen a matching vote catcher so far.

Since then, the state has been exercising its choice between the

BJP rides on Annamalai in bid to disrupt Dravidian play

BJP's Annamalai campaigns at Palladam. E P Unny

COIMBATORE LOK SABHA VOTE SHARE (%)



Dravidian parties or their alliances. Also every time, even in the heydays of Indira Gandhi, the campaign for even the Lok Sabha polls has been led by a regional Satrap — C N Annadurai, M Karunanidhi, M G Ramachandran, Jayalalithaa and now M K Stalin. Would this pattern get disrupted?

This time, there is a second national party in the picture and it is gaining a toehold. With no significant regional alliance to speak of, the BJP is projecting a new solo flier as leader, K Annamalai. His state unit president, Just into his fourth year in politics, having joined the BJP in

DECISION 2024



Sattai Durai Murugan
MADRAS (TAMIL NADU), APRIL 8

AGNIVER WITH E-MONTH TRAINING WON'T LAST AGAINST CHINESE: RAHUL

BEHIND WOES OF PARSIFAL RUPALA, KSHATRIYA LONGING FOR PAST

DMK candidate Ganapati P Rajkumar campaigns at Aravampalayam in Coimbatore constituency. E P Unny

DMK candidate Ganapati P Rajkumar campaigns at Aravampalayam in Coimbatore constituency. E P Unny

DMK candidate Ganapati P Rajkumar campaigns at Aravampalayam in Coimbatore constituency. E P Unny



THE RING

A total solar eclipse is seen from Mazatlan, Mexico, on Monday. The solar eclipse crossing North America darkened skies along a path through Mexico, the United States and Canada. Totality lasted up to 4 minutes, 28 seconds at certain spots. *Reuters*

North America's total solar eclipse begins at Mexican coast, millions chase rare event

REUTERS

MAZATLAN (MEXICO) APRIL 8

MILLIONS OF people across North America readied for a total solar eclipse on Monday - some gazing anxiously at wayward clouds - as the moon began creeping across the face of the sun in western Mexico before it blocks it out completely.

The total eclipse will be viewable along a path starting in western Mexico and then crossing through the United States and into Canada, and will last more than four minutes in some places.

The Mexican beachside resort town of Mazatlan was the first major viewing spot in North America. Thousands of people gathered along the coastal



People use special glasses to watch a total solar eclipse in Mazatlan, Mexico, on Monday. *Reuters*

promenade, setting themselves up in deck chairs with eclipse glasses as an orchestra played the "Star Wars" theme. Lourdes

Corro, 43, traveled 10 hours by car to get there.

"The last one I saw was when I was 9 years old," Corro said.

"There are a few clouds but we can still see the sun."

Eclipse fans are gathering in numerous places along the "path of totality".

In upstate New York, for instance, the total eclipse will occur shortly after 3 p.m. (1900 GMT). At the Frontier Town campground in North Hudson, New York, children ran around wearing eclipse T-shirts, while parents set up tables, chairs and beer coolers.

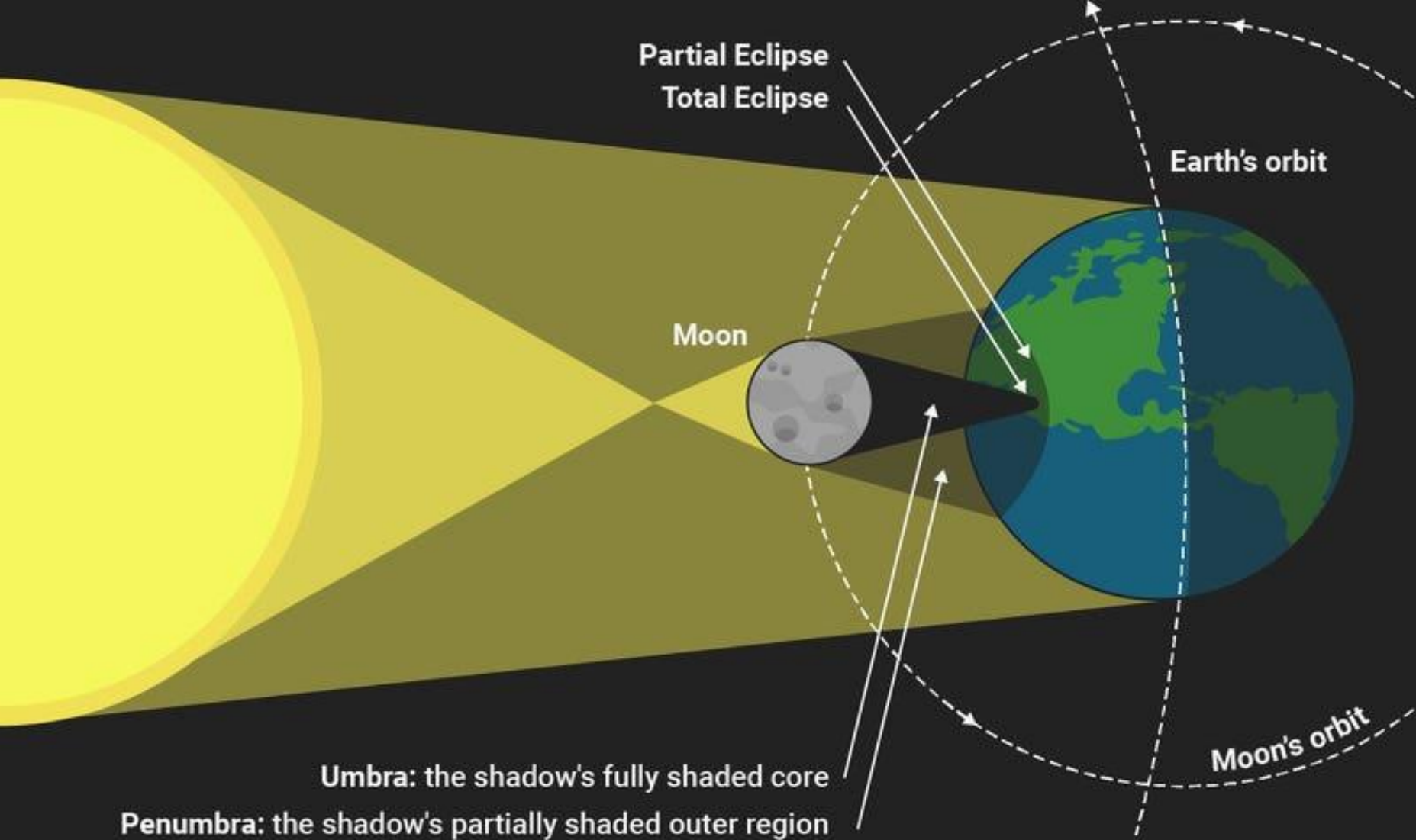
At up to 4 minutes and 28 seconds, this one will last longer than the total eclipse that streaked across parts of the United States in 2017, which clocked in at up to 2 minutes and 42 seconds.

According to NASA, opens new tab, total eclipses can last anywhere from 10 seconds to about 7-1/2 minutes.

Recently, a total solar eclipse will cross **North America**, passing over **Mexico**, the **United States**, and **Canada**.

Royal Museums Greenwich suggests that after a place on Earth experiences a total solar eclipse, it will take about **400 years** before that spot sees another one.

HOW A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE WORKS



Umbra: the shadow's fully shaded core
Penumbra: the shadow's partially shaded outer region

NOTE: not to scale

SOLAR ECLIPSE

Things to know about this astronomical event

TYPES OF SOLAR ECLIPSE



TOTAL

The Moon completely blocks off the Sun's rays and casts a shadow over the Earth



ANNULAR

The Moon covers the Sun fully but due to its relatively small size the outer ring of the Sun is completely visible from Earth. This is also known as the Ring of Fire



PARTIAL

The Moon covers a part of the Sun and casts only the outer part of its shadow, the penumbra, on Earth

HYBRID: A rare form of solar eclipse which changes from an annular to a total solar eclipse, and vice versa, along its path. During a Hybrid Solar Eclipse you could see any of the three forms of eclipses, depending on exactly where you stand

WHAT IS A SOLAR ECLIPSE?

During a Solar eclipse the Sun, Moon and Earth are in a straight line and the Moon comes between the Sun and Earth. This blocks the rays of the Sun from reaching the Earth causing a solar eclipse

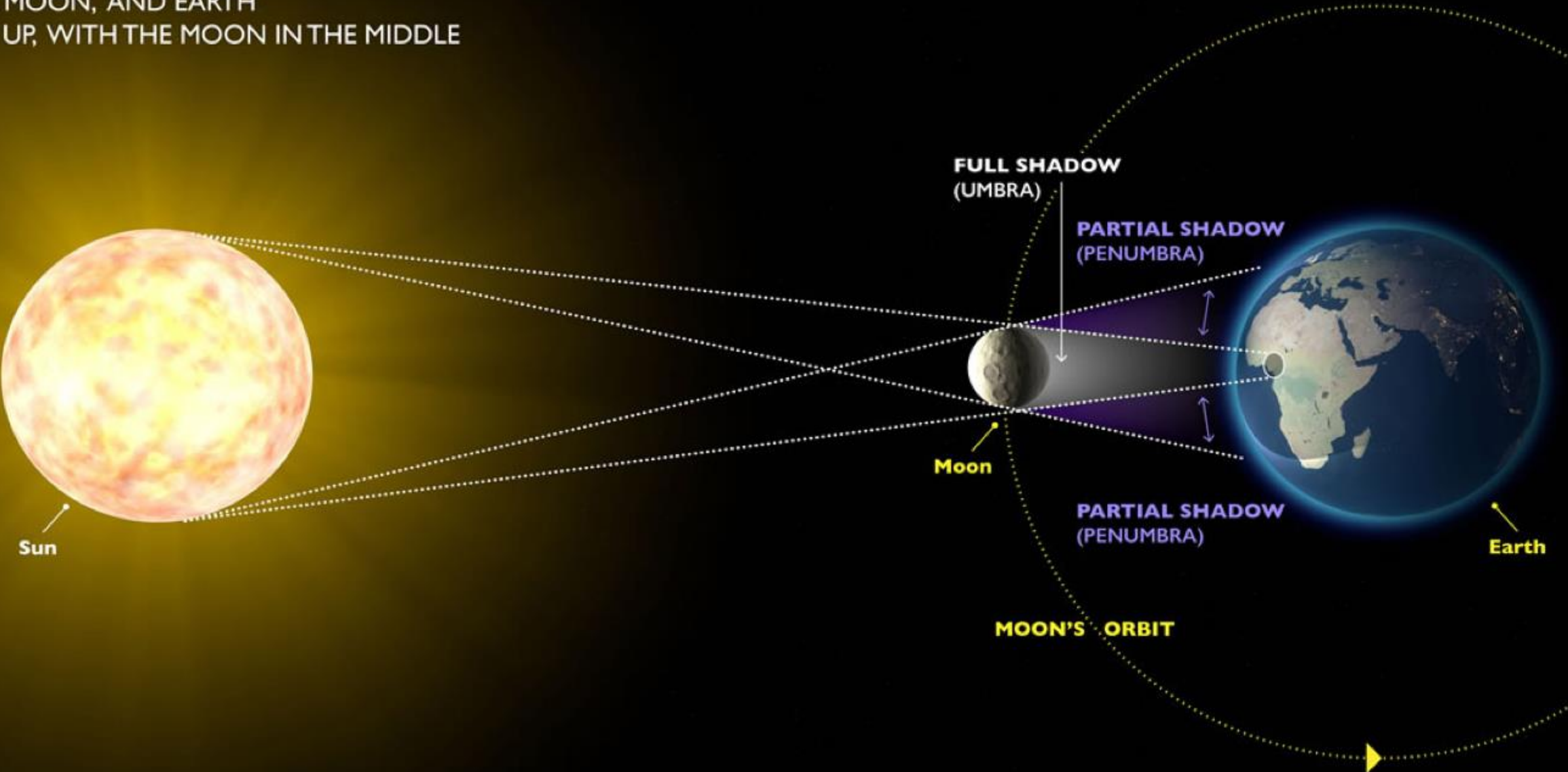
FACT

A solar eclipse usually occurs around two weeks prior or after a lunar eclipse

Source: timeanddate.com, news reports

SOLAR ECLIPSE

SUN, MOON, AND EARTH
LINE UP, WITH THE MOON IN THE MIDDLE

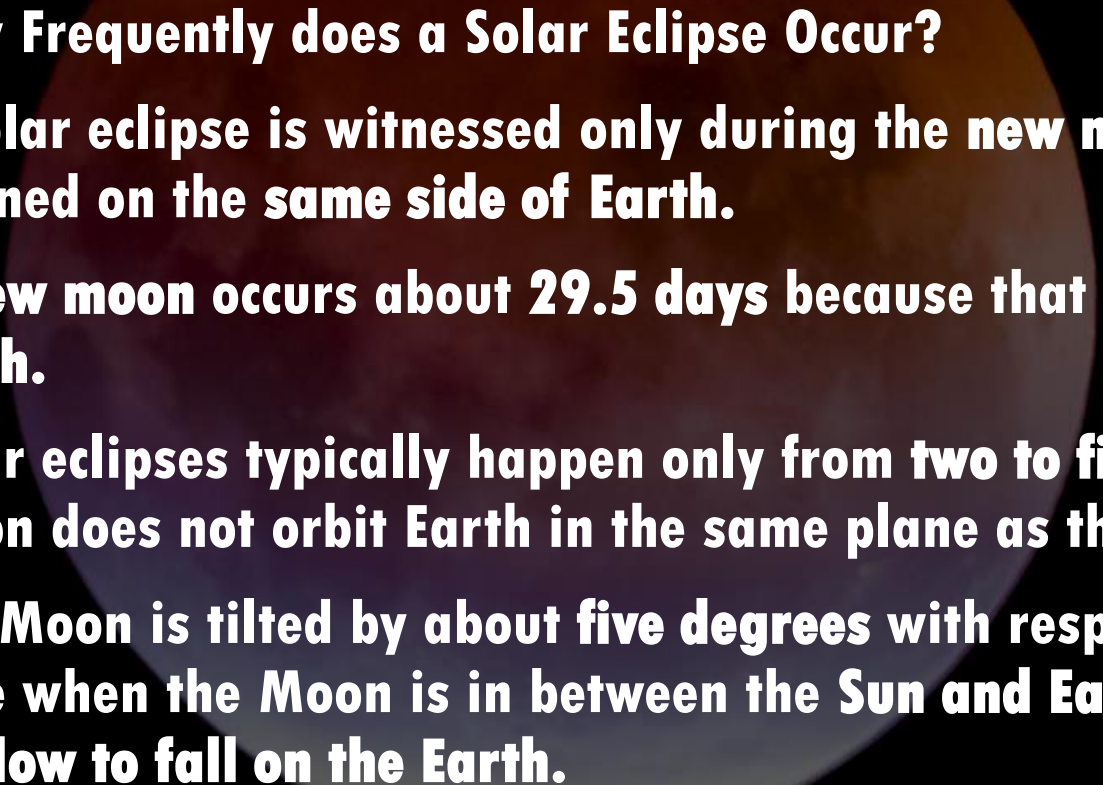




Types of Solar Eclipse:



There are four different types of solar eclipses, including **total solar eclipse, annual solar eclipse, partial solar eclipse, and hybrid solar eclipse.**

- 
- **How Frequently does a Solar Eclipse Occur?**
 - **A solar eclipse is witnessed only during the new moon when the Moon and Sun are aligned on the same side of Earth.**
 - **A new moon occurs about 29.5 days because that is how long it takes the Moon to orbit Earth.**
 - **Solar eclipses typically happen only from two to five times per year. It is because the Moon does not orbit Earth in the same plane as the Earth orbits the Sun.**
 - **The Moon is tilted by about five degrees with respect to Earth. As a result, most of the time when the Moon is in between the Sun and Earth, its shadow is either too high or too low to fall on the Earth.**

'Kanyadaan' not necessary under Hindu Marriage Act, says HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LUCKNOW, APRIL 8

THE ALLAHABAD High Court has held that 'kanyadaan' is not necessary for solemnisation of marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act, and only 'saptapadi' is an essential ceremony.

A bench of Justice Subhash Vidyarthi made the observation while hearing a revision petition filed by one Ashutosh Yadav, who had stated that his marriage under the Act mandated a 'kanyadaan' (giving away the bride) ceremony, which was not performed in his case.

In its order on March 22, the court said the Hindu Marriage Act merely provides for 'saptapadi' (seven pheras) as an essential ceremony of a marriage. Considering the overall circumstances, kanyadaan is not necessary for solemnisation of Hindu marriage, the court said. "Whether the ceremony of kanyadaan was performed or not, would not be essential for the just decision of the case and, therefore, a witness cannot be summoned under Section 311 CrPC for proving this fact."

Yadav had challenged an order passed by Lucknow additional sessions judge on March 6.

Will the pause on new highway toll rates hit collections?

For the first time, the annual revision in highway toll rates has been put on hold due to the general elections. As toll concessionaires stare at losses, **Mukesh Jagota** explains how user fees on national highways are calculated and under what circumstances they are compensated for their losses



2.59%
hike in toll rates
mandated for FY25
as part of the annual
revision plan

₹4,406 cr

average monthly
toll collection
during April-June
of FY24

₹53,289.41 cr

toll collection in the first
10 months of FY24
against ₹46,998 crore
in entire FY23

● Will publicly-funded highways be affected?

THERE ARE 855 user fee toll plazas, of which 675 are on publicly-funded highways and the rest are on road stretches operated by concessionaires under the Build Operate Transfer (BOT) mode. The order will impact both government-funded highways and privately-built ones. This loss would be equally shared by public-funded highways and those operated by concessionaires as stretches under BOT see more traffic though they have fewer toll plazas under them. However, not every highway would be impacted as an increase in toll rates on some stretches happens in July also.

● Calling for compensation

THE NATIONAL HIGHWAYS Builders' Federation (NHBF) has appealed to the NHAI for compensation. The highway operators have asked for cash compensation, adding that the Goods and Service Tax on that transaction should also be paid by the NHAI. The rules do provide for compensation when actual traffic on highway stretches is less than 90% of the projections. This compensation is in the form of an increase in the concession period of a highway. However, a pause in hikes would not make a big dent on collections, at least nowhere near the 10% mark when the compensation rules would kick in.

● How were earlier

● Why the annual revision is on hold

WITH THE GENERAL elections scheduled from April 19 to June 1, the model code of conduct came into effect from March 16. Amongst other things, the code bars the government from announcing policy decisions. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) asked for the Election Commission's approval to implement the scheduled annual revision in user fees or toll taxes on national highways

from April 1. The Commission quoted a provision of the code which bars any changes in power tariffs during elections, and asked the highways authority to maintain the status quo till the end of the elections.

The toll tax is the fee that vehicle drivers pay for crossing expressways, highways, tunnels, bridges, etc. The roads where toll tax is applicable are deemed toll tax roads and are under the purview of the NHAI.

● Estimated losses due to the delay

AS PART OF the annual revision exercise, the toll rates are slated to go up by 2.59% in FY25. According to some estimates, the losses due to the almost three-month hold on annual hikes would be around ₹100 crore a month. This assumption is based on the average toll collection of ₹4,500 crore a month. Average monthly toll collection of NHAI during April-June of FY24 was ₹4,406 crore.

However, the ₹100 crore monthly loss number may not be material when toll collections are averaging ₹5,300 crore a month. In April-January of FY24 toll collection on highways touched ₹53,289.41 crore, much higher than the ₹46,998 crore collected in FY23. With this spike in monthly collections, the toll collections in FY24 are likely to have surpassed ₹64,000 crore.

● How toll rates are calculated

TOLL FEES ARE calculated as per the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. Under the rules, base rates for fee per kilometre for every vehicle category using a highway of four or more lanes has been fixed at the 2007 prices. Increases are made on the base rate every year to adjust for Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation. In FY24 the toll rates had gone up by 5% and in

stretches happens in July also.

FY23 by 8-9%. In FY24 the toll rate for light motor vehicles and cars was ₹1.43 per km. On the expressways the toll rates are 1.25 times the user fee for a National Highway of four or more lanes. On two-lane highways, if the carriageway has been widened by at least 3 metres the toll is 60% of the four-lane rate. Bypasses costing over ₹10 crore (2007-08) are subject to a 1.5x multiplier.

● How were earlier losses adjusted?

HIGHWAY OPERATORS across the country had suffered losses in 2020 during the Covid pandemic lockdown. Later that year, farmers' protests in Delhi-NCR culminated in more than a year's seige on the highways leading to Delhi's borders. The government paid operating expenses in cash as compensation for the losses due to the lockdown as well as the farmers' protests. This pay-out was not very big as operating expenses are just a small fraction of the total toll collections.



financialexp.epapr.in



New Delhi





South Africa to End Captive Breeding of Lions



- Recently, South Africa has decided to end captive breeding of lions (*Panthera leo*) due to concerns over trophy hunting and the use of lion bones in traditional Chinese medicine marks a significant shift in wildlife conservation.

Subspecies: There are two subspecies of lions found in the wild. The African lion (*Panthera leo leo*) and the Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*).



African lions used to be spread across most of the African continent, but now are only found in sub-Saharan Africa, with 80% in eastern or southern Africa. Asiatic Lions are found at Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat, India.

Although both subspecies of lions look very similar, there are some differences. Male Asiatic lions tend to have darker, shorter manes compared to African Lions.

Additionally, both male and female Asiatic lions are smaller than African lions



African lion



Asiatic lion



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10:23

Entire lion family pride walking together and playing :)

2.6K views · Streamed 9 days ago 1.3x



0:26

Part 2 - 7 lioness killed buffalo

1.2K views · Streamed 11 days ago

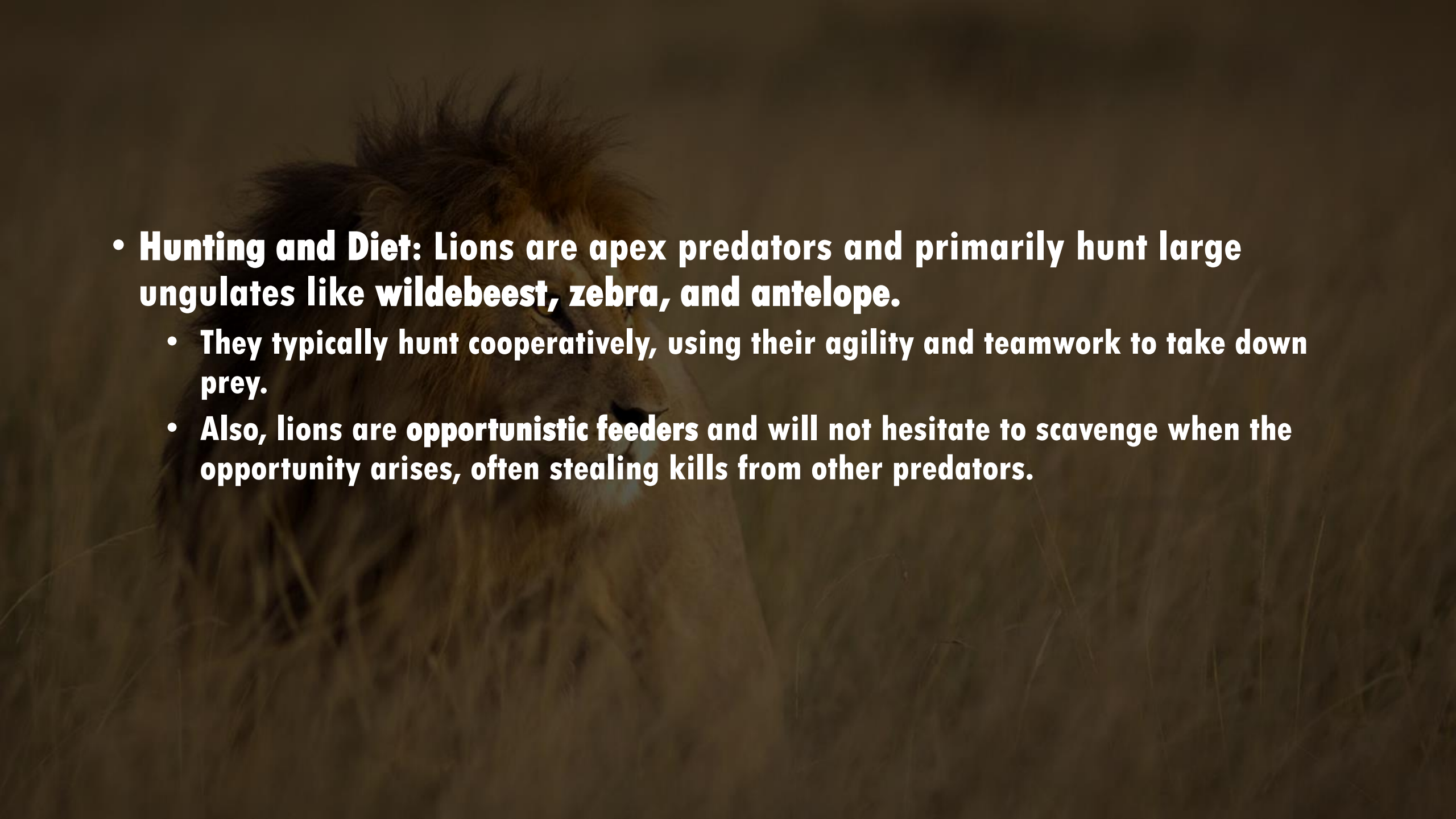
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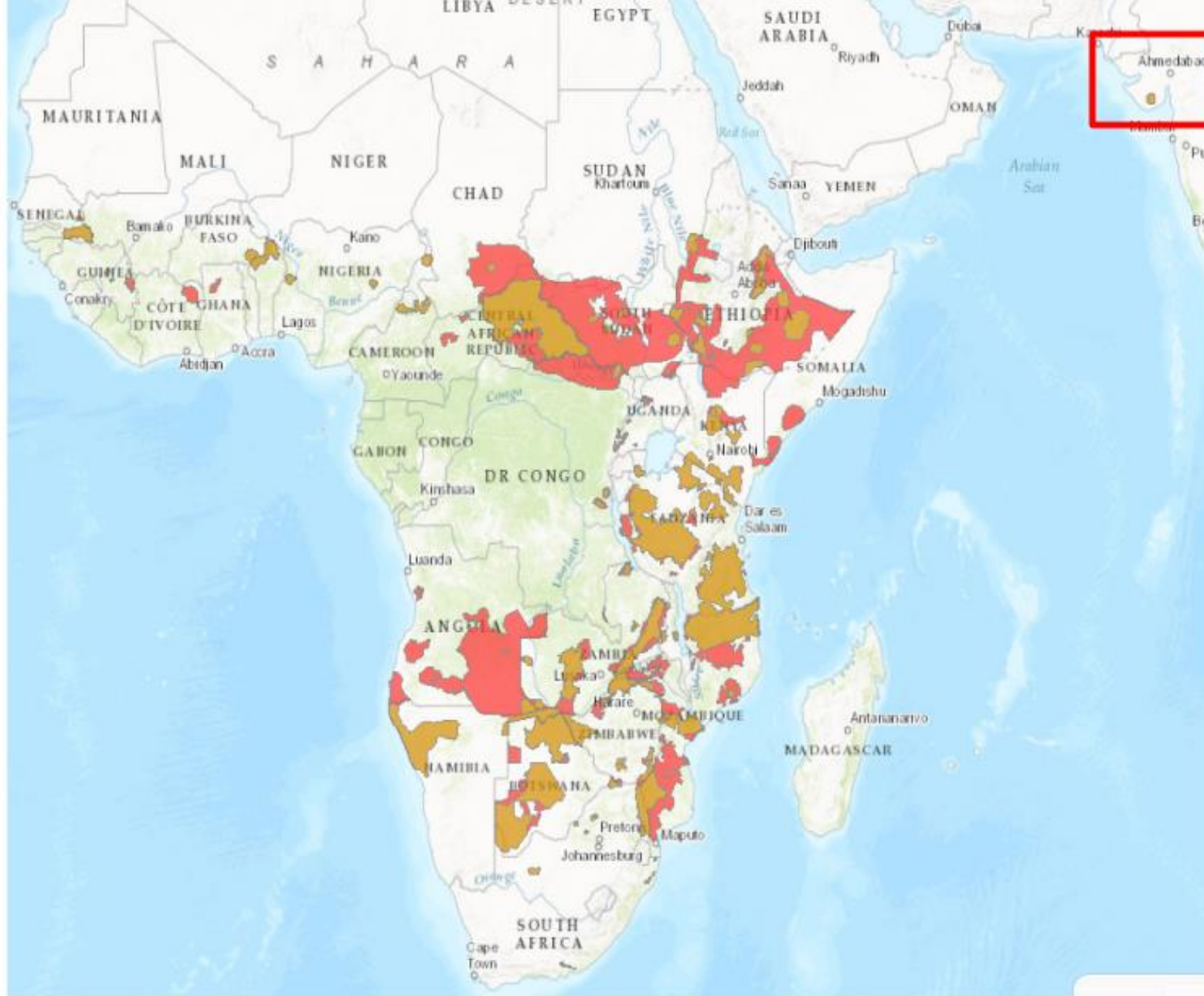


1:05

Live lion hunting at masai Mara Kenya

6.1K views · Streamed 11 days ago 3x

- 
- **Hunting and Diet: Lions are apex predators and primarily hunt large ungulates like wildebeest, zebra, and antelope.**
 - **They typically hunt cooperatively, using their agility and teamwork to take down prey.**
 - **Also, lions are opportunistic feeders and will not hesitate to scavenge when the opportunity arises, often stealing kills from other predators.**



Distribution Map Panthera Leo

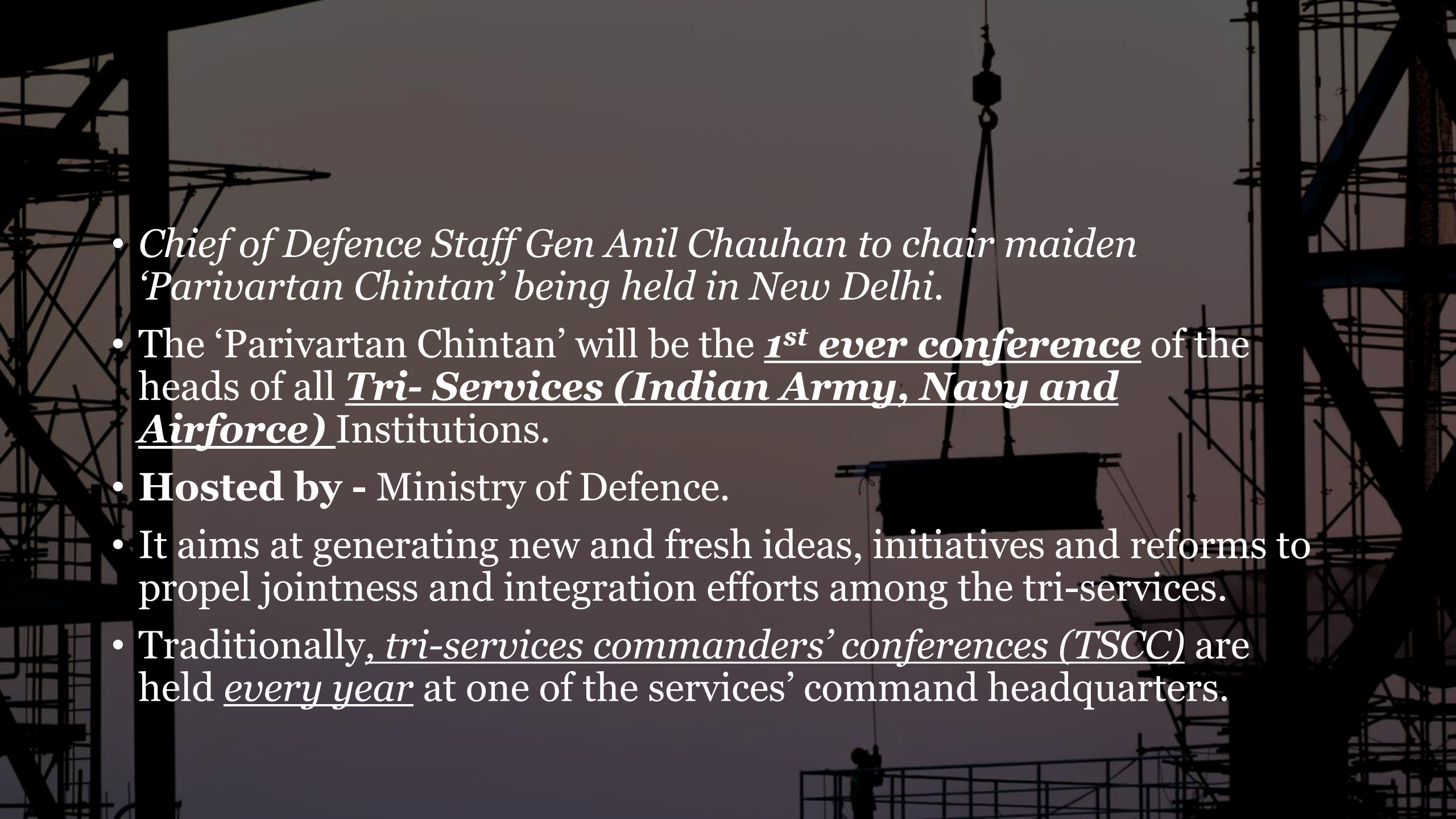






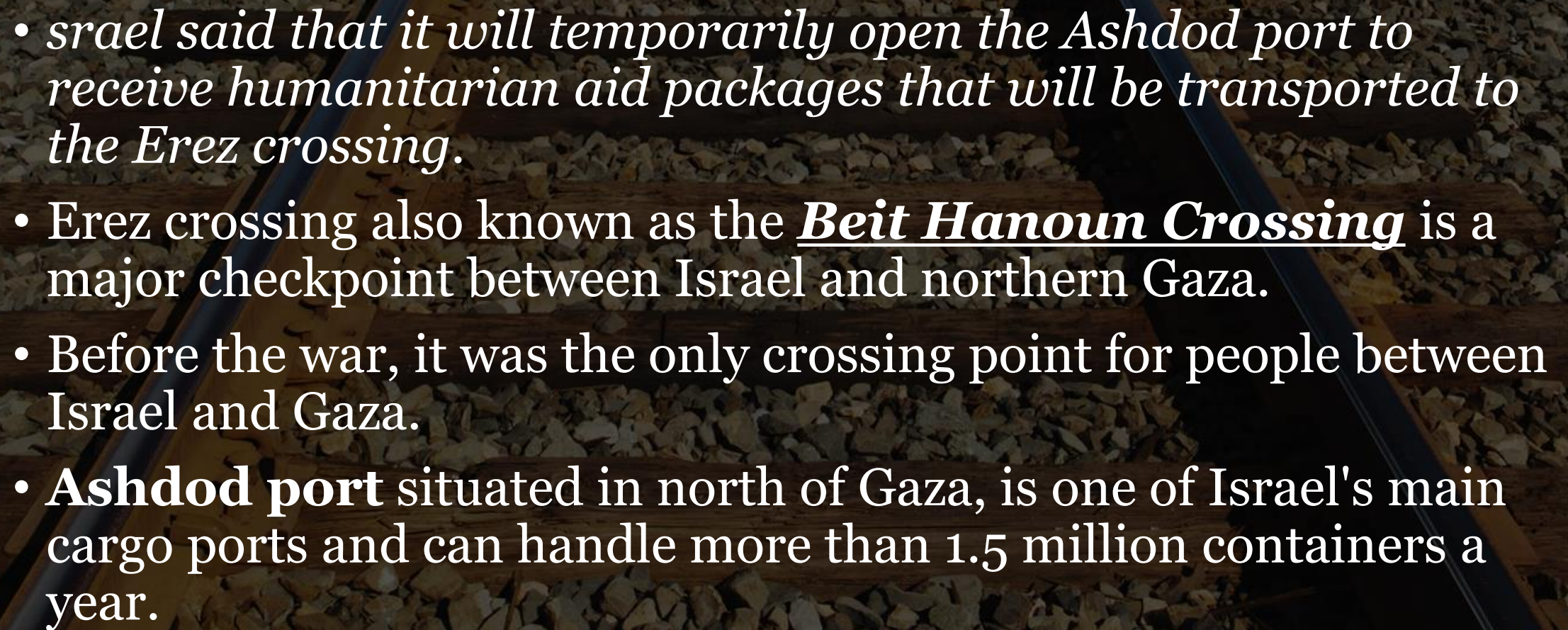


Parivartan Chintan

- 
- *Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan to chair maiden 'Parivartan Chintan' being held in New Delhi.*
 - The 'Parivartan Chintan' will be the 1st ever conference of the heads of all Tri- Services (Indian Army, Navy and Airforce) Institutions.
 - **Hosted by** - Ministry of Defence.
 - It aims at generating new and fresh ideas, initiatives and reforms to propel jointness and integration efforts among the tri-services.
 - Traditionally, tri-services commanders' conferences (TSCC) are held every year at one of the services' command headquarters.

The background of the image is a complex network of interconnected nodes and edges. The nodes are represented by small circles in various shades of grey, black, and light pink. The edges are thin, light grey lines connecting these nodes, creating a dense, web-like structure. The overall color palette is muted and professional.

Erez crossing

- 
- *Israel said that it will temporarily open the Ashdod port to receive humanitarian aid packages that will be transported to the Erez crossing.*
 - Erez crossing also known as the **Beit Hanoun Crossing** is a major checkpoint between Israel and northern Gaza.
 - Before the war, it was the only crossing point for people between Israel and Gaza.
 - **Ashdod port** situated in north of Gaza, is one of Israel's main cargo ports and can handle more than 1.5 million containers a year.





India has eliminated Kala-azar

-
- India has successfully achieved its target to **eliminate visceral leishmaniasis**, commonly known as kala-azar, according to data from the **National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC)**

-
- **It is a disease caused by the protozoan parasite Leishmania (transmitted by sandfly bites). It progresses slowly and primarily affects organs like the spleen, liver, and bone marrow.**
 - In India, it's caused by Leishmania donovani, with the term “kala-azar” meaning “black disease” due to skin discoloration.
 - **Post-Kala-azar Dermal Leishmaniasis (PKDL)** occurs when the parasite affects skin cells, resulting in dermal lesions.

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- Despite persistent challenges, India met its **elimination goal, initially set for 2010 but extended until 2023.**
 - Kala-azar has long been a health concern in states like Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh.
 - In 2023, India reported only 520 cases of kala-azar, meeting the elimination criteria defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).
 -

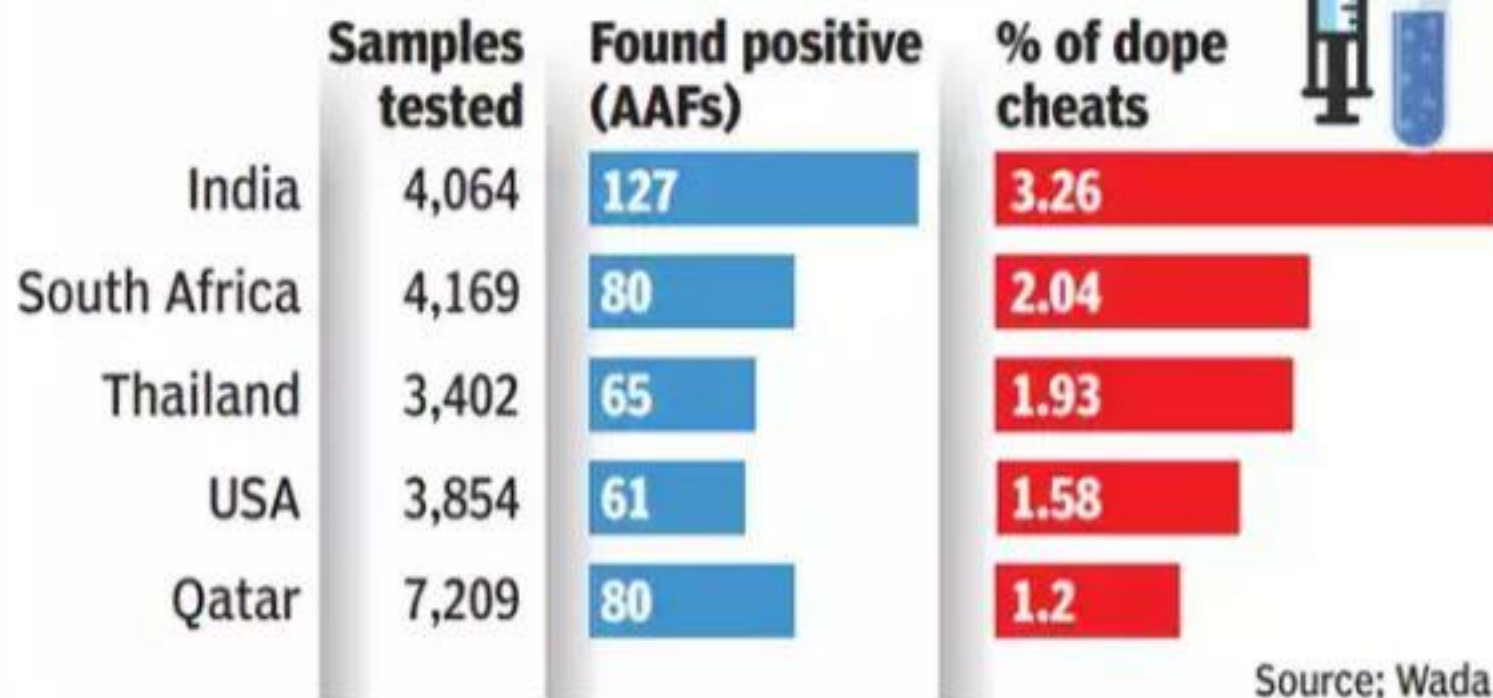
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- **The National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) started in 2003-04 to prevent and control diseases like Japanese Encephalitis (JE), Dengue, Kala-azar, Lymphatic Filariasis, Malaria, and Chikungunya**

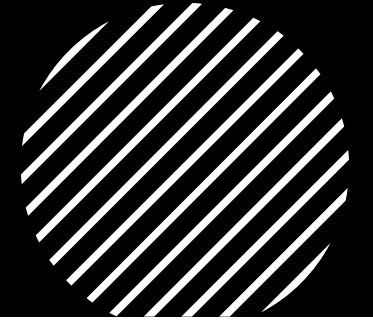
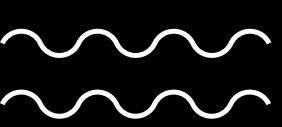
India Tops List of Doping Offenders in 2022

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- India has emerged as the country with the **highest percentage of doping offenders**, according to the **2022 testing figures** released by the **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)**.
 - **About**
 - **127 Indian Athletes** tested **positive** for banned substances, constituting **3.26 percent** of the sample size.
 - Following India, South Africa ranked second, followed by Bangkok's testing laboratory in third place. The United States and Qatar secured the fourth and fifth positions, respectively.

TOP 5 DOPE OFFENDERS

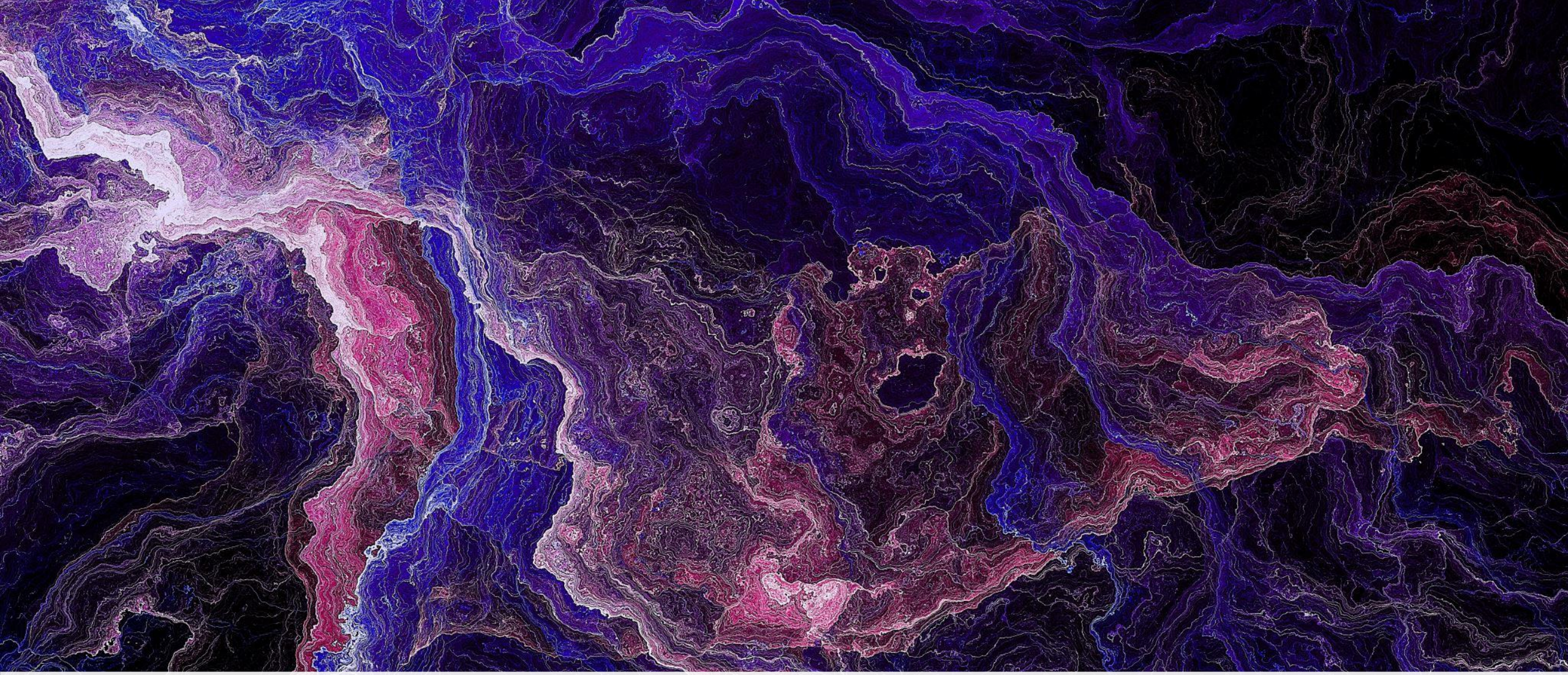




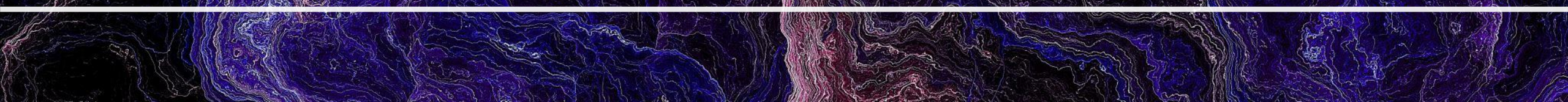
India's doping violations outnumber those of major sporting nations such as Russia, the United States, Italy, and France.

Doping and its Concerns

Doping refers to the practice of using banned chemical substances, known as **performance enhancing drugs (PEDs)**, by athletes.



Fun fact



COUNTRIES WITH THE MOST VEGETARIANS IN THE WORLD



	INDIA	42%
	ISRAEL	13%
	TAIWAN	12%
	ITALY	10%
	AUSTRALIA	9%
	GERMANY	9%
	UK	9%
	US	5-8%
	BRAZIL	8%
	IRELAND	6%
	AUSTRALIA	5%

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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, with some in the foreground and others blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, creating a sense of appreciation and collective effort. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner of the image.

Thank you
guys.
