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Skipper Gill, bowlers give India a 2-1 lead

INSIDE



Rajasthan budget gives boost to health, tourism

Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diva Kumari on Wednesday presented the State budget and annou new policies in sectors including urban develop and tourism. 30 PAGE 2

Keiriwal 'kingpin'. 'key conspirator' of excise case: ED

NEW DELHI
Delhi Chief Minister and AAP
national convener Arvind
Kejriwal was the "kingpin" and
"key conspirator" of the excise
policy "scam", the Enforcement Directorate said in its seventh

NGO working on rights issues loses FCRA recognition

NEW DELET

The Union Home Ministry on Wednesday cancelled the FCRA

Myanmar rebels seize town along road to China

Myanmar ethnic minority fighters said on Wednesday they had seized Naungcho, a town in the Northern Shan State along a key trade days of clashes in anothe

residents to evacuate

'West Bengal suit against CBI probes has merit'

Supreme Court finds an original suit filed by the State accusing the Centre of 'constitutional overreach' maintainable; plea raises 'questions concerning the wider ramifications of federalism, Bench observes, dismissing Centre's claim that the CBI is 'independent'; State says the agency acted on Centre's directions, registering 12 cases without consent

he Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the main-tainability of an original suit filed by West Bengal, which accuses the Centre of "constitutional over-reach" and violating federalism by unilaterally em-ploying the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) without the State's prior

A Rench of histices R R A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Sandeep Mehta refused to accept the Un-ion government's prelimin-ary objection that it was wrongly made a defendant in the suit as it did not con-trol the CBI, which was an

"independent agency".
"The very establishment,
exercise of powers, extension of jurisdiction, the superintendence of the DSPE
[Act], all vest with the Government of India," Justice

dict, said.
The court reminded the
Centre that the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act mandated the State's prior consent to a CBI probe within its juris diction.

"Vitally concerned'
The judgment noted that
the Union government was
"vitally concerned" with
the CBI, saying that this
was plainly evident from
the fact that only offences

Gavai, authoring the ver-

notified by the Centre could be investigated by the CBI under the DSPE Act, the statute which go-verns the premier probe agency.

Key takeaways



uper intendence of the entre will not relate to ne super intendence of westigation of a articular case

"Under Section 4 of the DSPE Act, except the of-fences under the Preven-tion of Corruption Act, the superintendence of the DSPE in all other matters

would west with the Cen-

would vest with the Cen-tral government," Justice Gavai noted. Justice Gavai, however, clarified that these obser-vations were only made to meet the preliminary ob jections raised by the Union government. They will no bearing on the me

The Bench set August I3 as the date for hearing framing issues with regard

framing issues with regard to West Bengal's suit. The Centre, representate Control of the Centre of

Supreme Court under Arti-Supreme Court under Arti-cle 131 of the Constitution exclusively deal with dis-putes involving the Union and the States, Mr. Mehta had reasoned. The law officer had pressed the court to dis-

miss the West Bengal suit on these preliminary grounds without going into its merits. However, the Bench on Wednesday said the suit raised "serious questions concerning the wider ramifications of

West Bengal, represent-ed by senior advocate Ka-pil Sibal, had made specific contentions that the CBI had acted on the Centre's directions. West Bengal had withdrawn its general

consent to CBI investiga-tions way back on Novem-ber 16, 2018. Nevertheless, the CBI, with the blessings of the Centre, had gone on to register 12 cases in West the State government's consent. This had prompt-ed the State to approach the top court with a suit, Mr. Sibal had explained.

Supreme Court is tackling a similar question of law related to the State of Tamil Nadu in the case of An mil Nadu in the case of An-kit Tiwari, an Enforcement Directorate officer against whom the Tamil Nadu Di-rectorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption had launched a criminal prose-cution for bribery.

Tragedy on Expressway



Discrimination and segregation in prisons on the basis of caste must end, says CJI

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday indicated its intention to ask the Union Home Ministry to inter-vene with the States to overhaul their prison ma-nuals and wipe out hardly acknowledged but existing practices of caste-based

Though States such as Uttar Pradesh denied caste-based discrimination within their prison walls, a Bench headed by Chief lustice of India D.Y. Chandra-chud read out portions from its prison documents, which use terms such as "scavenger class". At one point, Chief Jus-tice Chandrachud referred to a paragraph which said convicts serving simple imtice of India D.V. Chandra-

CM (IIII)

called on to perform me-nial or degrading duties unless they belonged to a class or community "ac-customed" to such work.

Ground reality
Senior advocate S. Muralid-har and advocate Prasanna
S., appearing for petition-er-journalist Sukanya Shantha, pointed out that in Madbya Pradesh, if a convict was a member of a denotified tribe. he or she denotified tribe, he or she would automatically be seen as a habitual criminal. "This ground reality has to be altered." Chief Justice Chandrachud remarked.

The court mooted in-volving the legal services authorities, at the district and State levels, to do pe-"scavenger class".

At one point, Chief Justice Chandrachud referred to a paragraph which sald convicts serving simple imprisonment would not be contrabled to the contrable of the contrable of

Mr. Muralidhar submit-

ted that centuries of caste discrimination continued

Labour segregated

son manuals in more than 10 States, including Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Od-isha, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala, conti-nued to have provisions that sanctioned discrimi-nation and forced labour-on the grounds of caste in prisons. son manuals in more than

not to have entered the pri-son walls, Mr. Muralidhar separate ward in prisons... Despite changes in the pri-sortium morals, care under criminations, care under the provisions in the pri-son maruals of the States senior lawyer senior lawyer senior lawyer and the prison than the prison of the prison prison and the prison senior lawyer was the prison of the priso

1951 had assigned Mehtars to the latrines while the Brahmins or "sufficiently high caste Hindu prisoners" were assigned to the "The separation of The-

vars, Nadars and Pallars who are allotted different sections in Palayamkottai sections in Palayamkottai Central Jail in Tamil Nadu provides a glaring instance of caste-based segregation of barracks," the petition noted.

entitled to maintenance under secular statute: SC

Divorced Muslim women

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday held that di-vorced Muslim women are entitled to maintenance under the "secular" Sec-tion 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The court agreed with amicus curiae, senior ad-vocate Gaurav Agrawal, that a remedy under the secular statutory provision of Section 125 of the Cr.PC cannot be foreclosed for di-vorced Muslim women by cannot be toder seed for invirtue of enactment of a
personal law remedy under the Muslim Women
der the Muslim Women
vorce) Act, 1986. A divorced Muslim woman is
entitled to all rights of
other equally situated women in the country.
A separate but control
Asgarathan and Augustine
Goerge Mash came on an
man challenging a Telangaman challenging a Telanga-

appeal filed by a Muslim man challenging a Telangana High Court decision upholding though modifying the property of the proper law and overrode the CrPC provision. He contended that a divorced Muslim wo-man's application for maintenance under Sec-tion 125 was not was not

Besides the court pointed out that Section 3 of the ed out that Section 3 of the 1986 Act requires a man to provide for a "reasonable and fair provision of main-tenance" to his divorced Muslim wife only during the iddat period. Once the iddat period expires, the

The choice is left to the Muslim woman to apply under Section 125 or the 1986 Act. Courts have to harmonious and purposive interpretation AUGUSTINE GOERGE MASIH

Men should share funds to empower their wives'

Justice B.V. Nagarathna of the Supreme Court, in an order on Wednesday, said men should share their financial resources with their 'homemaker' wives who did not have an personal law obligation to

income, to empower them. The judge made the observations in a separate opinion upholding a divorced Muslim women's right to maintenance.

personal law obligation to maintain the divorced Muslim woman ceases. On the other hand, Section 125 mandates a husband to provide monthly mainteprovide monthly mainte-nance to his divorced wife, irrespective of her faith. 'Any divorced wife who has not remarried is entit-led to maintenance by her ex-husband who has suffi-cient means but has ne-glected or refused to main-tenance with the con-tenance with the con-plex of the con-plex of the con-tenance with the c tain her," Justice Nagarathna pointed out.

Children's maintenance Further, the 1986 Act holds a Muslim man liable to pay his divorced wife mainte-nance for their children for only a period of two years from birth. Whereas Sec-tion 125 requires a husband to pay for their children till they attain the age of

majority.

Justice Masih, in his opinion, said Section 125 manifested the constitutional commitment towards spe-

cial measures to ensure a life of dignity for women at all stages of their lives, ir-respective of their faith.

Harmonious

Harmonious
He observed that Section
125 and the 1986 Act were
not at loggerheads with
each other. The 1986 Act
did not extinguish the right
of a divorced Muslim woman to seek maintenance
under Section 125. The
woman to seek maintenance
woman is a pobly for mainwoman to apply for main tenance either under Se tion 125 or the 1986 Act. If a to maintain herself, she could apply for mainte-nance under Section 125. If, on the other hand, she is able to take care of herself financially, she could very well seek maintenance un-der the 1986 Act till the ex-

Divorced Muslim women entitled to maintenance under secular statute: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday held that divorced Muslim women are entitled to maintenance under the "secular" Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The court agreed with amicus curiae, senior advocate Gaurav Agrawal, that a remedy under the secular statutory provision of Section 125 of the Cr.PC cannot be foreclosed for divorced Muslim women by virtue of enactment of a personal law remedy under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986. A divorced Muslim woman is entitled to all rights of maintenance available to other equally situated women in the country.

A separate but concurring judgment by a twojudge Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Augustine Goerge Masih came on an appeal filed by a Muslim man challenging a Telangana High Court decision upholding though modifying a Family Court order allowing his wife, whom he had divorced via triple talaa, interim maintenance under Section 125 of CrPC.

Mohd. Abdul Samad, in his appeal, said his wife had to exclusively take recourse under the 1986 Act rather than Section 125 CrPC. He had argued that the 1986 Act was a special law and overrode the CrPC provision. He contended that a divorced Muslim woman's application for maintenance under Section 125 was not maintainable.

Besides, the court pointed out that Section 3 of the 1986 Act requires a man to provide for a "reasonable and fair provision of maintenance" to his divorced Muslim wife only during the iddat period. Once the nifested the constitutional purposive interpretation,



The choice is left to the Muslim woman to apply for maintenance either under Section 125 or the 1986 Act. Courts have to give both laws a harmonious and purposive interpretation AUGUSTINE GOERGE MASIH

'Men should share funds to empower their wives'

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

Justice B.V. Nagarathna of the Supreme Court, in an order on Wednesday, said men should share their financial resources with their 'homemaker' wives who did not have an

independent source of income, to empower them. The judge made the observations in a separate opinion upholding a divorced Muslim women's right to maintenance.

FULL REPORT » PAGE 5

personal law obligation to maintain the divorced Muslim woman ceases, On the other hand, Section 125 mandates a husband to provide monthly maintenance to his divorced wife, irrespective of her faith. "Any divorced wife who has not remarried is entitled to maintenance by her ex-husband who has sufficient means but has neglected or refused to mainher," Justice Nagarathna pointed out.

Children's maintenance Further, the 1986 Act holds

a Muslim man liable to pay his divorced wife maintenance for their children for only a period of two years from birth. Whereas Section 125 requires a husband to pay for their children till they attain the age of majority.

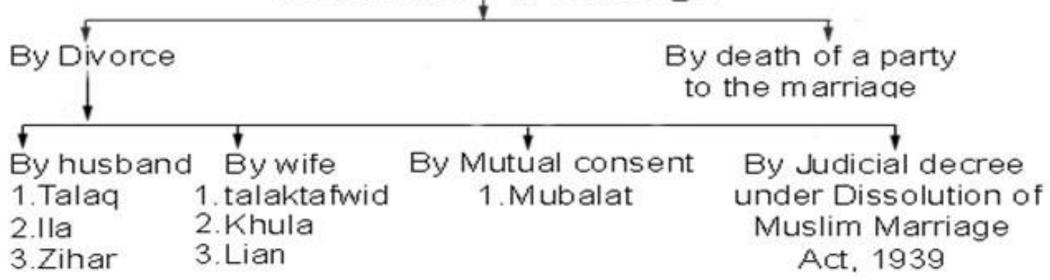
Justice Masih, in his opinion, said Section 125 maiddat period expires, the commitment towards spe- Justice Masih observed.

cial measures to ensure a life of dignity for women at all stages of their lives, irrespective of their faith.

Harmonious

He observed that Section 125 and the 1986 Act were not at loggerheads with each other. The 1986 Act did not extinguish the right of a divorced Muslim woman to seek maintenance under Section 125. The choice is left to the Muslim woman to apply for maintenance either under Section 125 or the 1986 Act. If a Muslim woman is unable to maintain herself, she could apply for maintenance under Section 125. If, on the other hand, she is able to take care of herself financially, she could very well seek maintenance under the 1986 Act till the expiry of the iddat period. Courts have to give both laws a harmonious and

Dissolution of marriage



Background / पृष्ठभूमि:

The Supreme Court held that divorced Muslim women are entitled to maintenance under the secular Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC).

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने फैसला सुनाया कि तलाकशुदा मुस्लिम महिलाएं आपराधिक प्रक्रिया संहिता (Cr.PC) की धर्मनिरपेक्ष धारा 125 के तहत भरण-पोषण की हकदार हैं।

• Court's Decision / कोर्ट का निर्णय:

- The court agreed with senior advocate Gaurav Agrawal that the remedy under Section 125 of the Cr.PC cannot be foreclosed for divorced Muslim women by the enactment of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986.
- कोर्ट ने वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता गौरव अग्रवाल से सहमति व्यक्त की कि मुस्लिम महिला (तलाक पर अधिकारों का संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1986 के लागू होने से तलाकशुदा मुस्लिम महिलाओं के लिए Cr.PC की धारा 125 के तहत उपाय को समाप्त नहीं किया जा सकता है।

A divorced Muslim woman is entitled to all rights of maintenance available to other equally situated women in the country.

एक तलाकशुदा मुस्लिम महिला देश की अन्य समान स्थिति वाली महिलाओं के लिए उपलब्ध सभी भरण-पोषण अधिकारों की हकदार है।

- Separate Opinion by Justice B.V. Nagarathna / न्यायमूर्ति बी.वी. नागरथना का अलग राय:
- Justice B.V. Nagarathna emphasized that men should share their financial resources with their homemaker wives to empower them.
- न्यायमूर्ति बी.वी. नागरथना ने जोर देकर कहा कि पुरुषों को अपनी गृहिणी पत्नियों के साथ अपनी वितीय संसाधनों को साझा करना चाहिए ताकि उन्हें सशक्त बनाया जा सके।

She pointed out that Section 125 mandates a husband to pay maintenance to his divorced wife, irrespective of her faith.

उन्होंने बताया कि धारा 125 एक पित को उसकी तलाकशुदा पत्नी को उसके धर्म की परवाह किए बिना भरण-पोषण का भुगतान करने के लिए अनिवार्य करती है।

Comparison with 1986 Act / 1986 अधिनियम की तुलना:

The 1986 Act requires a man to provide for a reasonable and fair provision of maintenance to his divorced Muslim wife only during the iddat period.

1986 अधिनियम एक व्यक्ति से अपेक्षा करता है कि वह अपनी तलाकशुदा मुस्लिम पत्नी को केवल इददत अवधि के दौरान उचित और निष्पक्ष भरण-पोषण प्रदान करे।

After the iddat period, the Muslim woman can seek maintenance under Section 125 if she is unable to maintain herself.

इद्दत अवधि के बाद, मुस्लिम महिला धारा 125 के तहत भरण-पोषण मांग सकती है यदि वह खुद को बनाए रखने में असमर्थ है।

- Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court's decision on maintenance for divorced Muslim women:
- 1. Divorced Muslim women are entitled to maintenance under Section 125 of the Cr.PC.
- 2. The 1986 Act requires a man to provide maintenance to his divorced Muslim wife only during the iddat period.
- 3. The Supreme Court ruled that divorced Muslim women can seek maintenance under both the 1986 Act and Section 125 of the Cr.PC, based on their choice.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3



ED summons YouTuber in money laundering case

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned YouTuber Siddharth Yadav alias Elvish Yadav on July 23 for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the suspected use of snake venor as a recreational drug in parties hosted by him, as a recreational drug in parties hosted by ham, official sources said on Wednesday. The central agency had registered the case in May this year and pressed charges under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after taking

Sikkim Police form SIT to find missing former State Minister

The Sikkim Police on Wednesday set up a Special The Sikkim Police on Wednesday set up a Special investigation Team (ST) to find 80-year-old former Minister Ram Chandra Poudyal who went cotopenarian politican has been reported be missing after he left home on Sunday morning. He had told his family that he would return by the afternoon on that day. The officer said a police toan has been reported to Siliguri in m. The neighbouring West Bengal to look for him. The missing former Minister's family members contacted all relatives and friends to locate him, but no information on his whereabouts could be found, the officer added. +==

Rajasthan budget gives boost to health sector, pledges more jobs

Deputy CM presents ₹4.95-lakh cr. budget with allocation of ₹15,000 cr. for providing tap water connections to 25 lakh rural households, announces new policies to 'fulfil BJP's promises'; party calls it 'welfare document', Oppn, terms it 'disappointing'

ajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Di-ya Kumari on Wednesday presented the State budget for 2024-25 and announced new policies and institutions in sectors such as finance, agriculture, ur-ban development, tou-rism, transport, and tech-driven economy.

Ms. Kumari, who holds ya Janata Party (BJP). She had earlier presented the vote-on-account (interim budget) for the first four months of the financial year on February 8

Key announcements in-clude allocation of ₹27,000 clude allocation of ₹27,000 crore for the health sector and ₹15,000 crore for pro-viding tap water connec-tions to 25 lakh rural hou-seholds. It also proposed the creation of four lakh jobs in five years, with a lower number of them or large number of them expected to come from re-forms, including promoting exports from the State. Ms. Kumari said steps

Key takeaways from the budget for 2024-25 presented by Deputy CM Diva Kumari in the Assembly

Creation of 4 lakh new jobs in the next five years

Reduction in VAT on CNG and piped atural gas from 14.5% to 10% Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma with his deputy Diya Kumari at a press confere ■ Subsidy of ₹2,500 per hectare to women's self help groups for agricultural works

2.08 lakh households, which currently lack electricity, to get domestic connections in 2 year

for fiscal management,

creation of "green infras-tructure", financing of pu-blic sector utilities, apres-highways will ensure spee-dy development and strengthen public welfare. The budget announced amnesty schemes for ener-gy, transport, value-added tax, mining, stamp, and ex-cise. It estimated revenue receipts of ₹2,64,461 crore, revenue expenditure of ₹2,90,219 crore, and fiscal deficit of ₹70,009 crore,

■ WiFi-enabled library which is 3.93% of the Gross

'\$350-billion economy' *\$350-billion economy¹ Amid repeated disruptions from the Opposition benches, the Deputy CM said the BJP government is committed to making the State a \$350-billion economy as part of the action plan for 'Developed Rajas-than @ 2047' which command the command of the comman than @ 2047', which com-prises 10 resolutions. The commitments include infrastructure development, social security, good gover-

nance, and investment

nce in Jaipur on Wednesday, PTI

promotion, she said.
Congress MLAs disrupted the speech several times seeking a clarification on the government's stand on the Old Pension Scheme, which was restored by the previous regime. Ms. Kumari said provi-sions for new tourism, sports, and data centre

policies, a proposed Bill for urban development, and a new board for promoting sustainable agriculture and the green budget – which

vestors in green infrastruc-ture – will help create new opportunities and bring prosperity to the people. The budget proposed providing electricity con-nections to two lakh households, ₹100 crore for construction of a corridor construction of a corridor at Khatu Shyam pilgrim centre in Sikar, formation of the Rajasthan Tourism Development Board, con-Development Board, con-struction of nine greenfield expressways, and free ta-blets with Internet for mer-itorious school students.

She said the BJP govern ment has taken steps to curb recruitment exam paper leaks, which occurred during the previous regime, and arrested over 100 people in the drive

100 people in the drive against the paper leak ma-fia since it came to power. The BP termed the bud-get a "welfare document" focusing on all sections of society, while the Opposi-tion called it "disappoint-ing" and "falling short of public expectations."

public expectations". CM Bhajan Lal Sharma said the budget presented a vision for the future and aimed at resolving major issues such as water and

at Shambhu border: HC

Press Trust of India

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday ordered the Haryana go-vernment to remove with-in a week the barricading set up at the Shambhu bor-der, near Ambaba, where der near Ambala where farmers have been camp-ing since February 13 when their 'Delhi Chalo' march

was stopped. The Haryana govern-The Haryana govern-ment had set up barricades at the Ambala-New Delhi national highway in Febru-ary when Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) had announced to move towards Delhi in support of various demands. arious demands. The directions came on

a bunch of petitions filed and against the blockade.

> Farmers call meeting have called a meeting on July 16 to discuss the

matter.

Speaking to media after
the bearing, Haryana Addi-tional Advocate General
Deepak Sabherwal said the
court has directed the Haryana government to re-move barricades within semove barricades within se-ven days. The order is to open the highway, Mr. Sab-herwal said.

BJP leader files defamation case against DMK official

The Hindu Bureau

BJP Tamil Nadu president K. Annamalai on Wednes-day filed a defamation case at the Saidapet court demanding a compensa-tion of ₹1 crore for remarks allegedly linking him with the Kallakurich hooch tragedy.

Addressing the media

ne said, "Mr. Bharathi, at a press conference on June 23, claimed that the hooch tragedy was a conspiracy hatched by me. Having un-derstood that the DMK's time is over in the State, he has been increasingly slanderou

He said that the amount would be used for esta-blishing a de-addiction centre in Kallakurichi.

"If the Chief Minister has the courage, he should reinstate the prosecution sanction for the Central hind the hooch tragedy,

Last year, the State go vernment withdrew its general consent to the CBI o probe cases in the State without its permission. "Why is the Chief Minister "Why is the Chief Minister impeding a CBI inquiry in-to the murder of BSP State president K. Armstrong, even when the DMK's al-

Hit-and-run case: Mihir Shah remanded in | Former AAP Minister Raai 7-day police custody; father loses Sena post Kumar Anand joins BJP

A court in Sewri on Wed-nesday remanded Mihir nesday remanded Mihir Shah, 24, the prime ac-cused in a hit-and-run case in Mumbai, in seven-day bear and seven-day Mr. Mihir was arrested from Virar on July 9, two days after he allegedly rammed his luxury car into a two-wheeler, killing the pillion rider, Enver Nakha wa, and leaving her hus-band, Pradeep, injured. The prosecution told

The prosecution told the court that the accused had changed his appea-rance to evade arrest. The court of the court of the sure from Opposition par-ties, Shiv Sena secretary Sanjay More issued a state-ment that the accused's father, Rajesh Shah, has been sacked from his post as deputy leader of the par-ty's Palghar unit on the orparty chief Eknath Shinde. The order did not menfrom the party's primary membership. He was ar-rested in connection with the case on July 7 and se-

tion to legal support. On the delay in remov-

ing Mr. Rajesh from his post, he said, "The govern-

Mihir Shah, the prime accused in the Mumbai hit-and-run case, being produced before a court in Sewri on Wednesday EMMANUM YOGINI

tion Mr. Rajesh's removal

ter's Relief Fund in addi-

ment will not support the ment will not support the guilty. We have taken ac-tion in this case. What is more important? Sacking him or providing support to the family and taking ac-tion against the accused?"

'Alterations' razed Meanwhile, the Brihan-mumbai Municipal Corporation demolished alleged unauthorised construction and alterations at Vice-Glo-bal Tapas Bar in Juhu, where Mr. Mihir allegedly

with the driver, Rairishi Biwith the driver, Rajrishi Bi-dawat, seated next to him. Mr. Bidawat was arrested on the day of the accident and is in police custody and in police custody. Excise Department had sealed the bar on the or-ders of the District Collec-tor for serving alcohol to those aged below 25. 'Bulldozer justice'

met his friends on the night of July 6, hours before the accident. He was

purportedly driving the car in an inebriated state

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and Worli legislator Aaditya Thackeray met the victim's family and demanded "bulldozer justice".

family and demanded "bulldozer justice". "In the Pune accident case there was leniency to-wards the accused due to political connections. The government should ensure that there is no leniency in this case as the accused is ty," NCP (SP) spokesperson Clyde Crasto said.

Former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Minister Raaj Kumar (AAP) Minister Raaj Kumar Anand, along with the par-ty's Chhatarpur MLA Kar-tar Singh Tamwar, Joined Several other AAP leaders, including city councillor Urned Singh Phogat and former AAP in-charge of Himachal Pradesh Ratnesh Gupta, aloo you sho e BIP. AAP now has 60 MLAs

in the 70-member Assemb-ly. The BJP's strength has ly. The Bip's strength has also reduced from eight to seven after Badarpur legis-lator Ramvir Singh Bidhuri got elected from the South

got elected from the South belhi Lok Sabha seat. Mr. Anand was disquali-fied after he quit AAP on April 10, alleging diversion of funds meant for Sche-duled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

He had also claimed that Dalits were not given adeq-uate representation in the party. He later joined the



Bahujan Samai Party and

Bahujan Samaj Party and fought the general election from New Delhi LS seat on its wimbo. The season was the season season with the season seas

Mr. Anand said, "When I was Minister, I realised that people were running around for their work, but care. Hence, I resigned. "
Responding to the development, AAP claimed that
Mr. Anand and Mr. Tanwar joined the BIP under pres ure from the Central

robe agencies.

"We had said earlier "We had said earlier that pressure is being mounted by Central inves-tigation agencies and that he [Anand] will soon join the Pin Had be good it the BJP. Had he gone di-rectly from AAP to the BJP, he would not have been able to abuse Arvind Kejri-wal," AAP said in a state-

ment.
It added that Mr.
Anand's leaving AAP and
then joining the BSP and
fighting the Lok Sabha
election to cut AAP's votes
was a plan hatched by the
BJP.

Regarding Mr. Tanwar, AAP claimed that ₹130 crore unaccounted cash was recovered from his house in an IT raid in 2016 and that "the BJP had kept the sword of the probe hanging over his head'

In a first, Bihar to induct three transgender sub-inspectors

For the first time in the State's history, three trans gender persons have cleared the recently concluded Bihar Police Subor

cluded Bihar Police Subor-dinate Services Commis-sion (BPSSC) exam and are-set to Join the police force and the police force The results of the exam-ination, which were an-nounced on Tuesday, saw 1,275 candidates making the cut from more than six lakh aspirants for the police posts. Of them, 822 are three belong to the 'third

gender' category. Manvi Madhu Kashyap, a transgender woman, was thrilled with the outcome. mily also had to suffer," the 23-year-old said, adding that she had to leave Bha-galpur, her hometown, and move to Patna for nine years to escape the societal pressure.

'Proud of my identity'
Two years ago, she under-went a surgery, causing her to lose out on several months of preparation for the examination. "My goal has always been to become a chill servant but Lebarred a civil servant, but I cleared this exam to don a police uniform and become selfindependent first," she told mediapersons in Patna. "Now, I feel proud of my identity. One must not complain about things like gender, but should instead

in 3 chicago 950 860 topo 5 kg Changai 600000 on baball of Turk Bills (GUINK Bill) 17h 5 dibor. Superb Mondath (Ren



Bunty Kumar from Muzaf-farpur – studied with Ms. Kashyap in the same coaching centre in Patna. "I initially faced a lot of difficulty in securing ad difficulty in securing ad-mission to a coaching insti-tute to prepare for the BPSSC. Most of them simp-ly refused to take me in be-cause of my transgender identity, but Guru Rahman found a place for me and yap said. "She [Ms. Kashyap] was determined to clear the ex-am, and her hard work fiam, and her hard work h-nally paid off. I am equally happy for the other two students, and very proud that all three transgender individuals from my coach-ing institute got selected," said their teacher, Mr. Rabmuse.

Rahman. Following a Patna High

Court judgment in 2021, the State government had asked the BPSSC to recruit persons of the third gender into the police services and activists in the State.
But the move to induct
transgender persons into
public service has been
lauded by many. "I feel
proud of Madhu and her
peers. The results will motivate other members of the Home Department. It had also filed an affidavit

Numbers challenged According to the latest State caste survey conducted in 2022, the transgen only 0,0006% of Bihar's population, with just 825

The numbers which The numbers, which present a sharp contrast from the 20II census that had pegged their number at 40,827 members, has been challenged by several

before a two-member Bench of the High Court, saying that it would post a sub-inspector and four constables from the catetivate other members of their community to achieve anything they want in life through hard work and dedication," said Patna-based transgender rights activist Reshma Pra-sad, who works for the waliffener of the commun. liftment of the commun-through her organisa-

tion Dostana Safar.
Meanwhile, Ms. Kash-yap said she hoped her achievement would trigger a change in her village. " police uniform and tell eve

Extend SC benefits to Christians: Kerala govt.

The Hindu Bureau

members of the communi-ty who converted to Chris-tianity over the years, Mi-nister for Welfare of scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes O.R.Kelu told the Assembly on

Wednesday. Currently, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Or

Who got what

Key takeaways from the budget for 2024-25 presented by Deputy CM Diya Kumari in the Assembly

- ₹15,000 crore for tap water connections to 25 lakh rural households
- ₹27,000 crore to health sector and launch of Rajasthan Digital Health Mission
- Creation of 4 lakh new jobs in the next five years
- Transformation of Rajasthan into a \$350-billion economy by 2047
- Reduction in VAT on CNG and piped natural gas from **14.5% to 10%**
- Subsidy of ₹2,500 per hectare to women's self help groups for agricultural works
- 2.08 lakh households, which currently lack electricity, to get domestic connections in 2 years



Rajasthan CM Bhajan Lal Sharma with his deputy Diya Kumari at a press conference in Jaipur on Wednesday. PTI

- Launch of new road projects worth ₹60,000 crore for highways, bypasses and infrastructure enhancement
- WiFi-enabled library

and co-working stations in selected urban bodies

■ 'Green budget' with the target of planting 7 crore trees and engaging 2,000 'Van Mitras'

Total Budget Allocation (कुल बजट आवंटन)

Deputy CM Diya Kumari presented a ₹4.95-lakh crore budget for the fiscal year 2024-25.

उपमुख्यमंत्री दीया कुमारी ने वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए ₹4.95 लाख करोड़ का बजट प्रस्त्त किया। Construction of a corridor at Khatu Shyam pilgrim centre in Sikar.

सीकर में खाटू श्याम तीर्थ केंद्र में एक गलियारे का निर्माण।

Estimated revenue receipts of ₹2,64,461 crore.

₹2,64,461 करोड़ के अनुमानित राजस्व प्राप्तियाँ।

- Consider the following statements regarding the Rajasthan Budget for 2024-25:
- 1. The budget allocation for the health sector is ₹15,000 crore.
- 2. The budget aims to create 14 lakh new jobs in the next five years.
- 3. Rajasthan aims to transform into a \$350-billion economy by 2047.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3



Locked in conflict

Governors and CMs must step back from a political confrontation

from a political confrontation

n calling for a report from the State government on the action taken against two police officers, West Bengal Governor CA. Ananda Bone has escalated the conflict between Raj Rhabot and the conflict between Raj Rhabot and the Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, about what he perceives as interested to the Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, about what he perceives as interested to the Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, about what he perceives as interested to the Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, about what he perceives as interested to the Commissioner, and Indira Mukherjee, a Deputy Commissioner of Police. The Governor is agrieved that they made remarks pertaining to an harassment that a Raj Bhavan employee had harassment had ha

central service officers, normally within the demain of the State governments when they are serving the State, can be initiated at the instance serving the State, can be instance at the instance of the Governor or the Union government is a circumstances surrounding the harassment com-plaint against him to argue that it is a "concocted allegation", "induced and facilitated" by the pol-ice. However, it may not be in anyone's interest to escalate such issues by asking for punitive action against officers. At a time when personal squab-bles and institutional conflicts between Gover-nors and Chief Ministers are on the rise, the devenors and Chief Ministers are on the rise, the deve-lopment is likely to be seen as one more stand-off involving the politicisation of Raj Bhavan by in-The two sides appear locked in perennial con-flict, mirroring the antagonism between the Centre and the State. There is the usual one over Centre and the State. There is the usual one over grant of assent to Bills, and a recent one involves the question who should administer the oath of office to newly elected legislators. And there is a defamation suit the Governor has filed against the Chief Minister. Constitutional functionaries should pall back from the brink before they are sucked into a political rabbit hole.

Even the odd jobs

Gig workers need a comprehensive national law on their employee status

national law on their employee status
or india's gig workers, who are increasing
on the edge of the unregulated labour
on the edge of the unregulated labour
pool, the Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers
(Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2024, offers a
ing them with the security of being employees.
When app-based gig work was introduced a demany shade of the security of the security of the employees
when app-based gig work was introduced a deapps, the absence of the word employee was actually seen as a positive; it supposedly offered a
and earn good money without being locked into a
and earn good money without being locked into a chance for 'partners' to retain their autonomy and earn good money without being locked into a contract with rigid timings. That illusion soon dissolved as incomes crashed and working hours status left workers at the mercy of the aggregator and all-powerful algorithms, in the absence of safety nets or governmental regulation. Despite this, the gig economy is growing. According to a NITI Agoog report, india had 77 lash gig workers at the beginning of the decade, and by 2029-30,

they are projected to account for 4.1% of income, and 6.7% of the non-agricultural workforce. A rights-based legislation, the draft Bill aims to prevent arbitrary dismissals, provide human grievance redress mechanisms, and to bring grievance redress mechanisms, and to bring grievance redress mechanisms, and to bring ments. It is a step up from the Union governments and the state of the provide grieval of the grieval of the provide grieval of the prevent arbitrary dismissals, provide human grievance redress mechanisms, and to bring

SM COM

India's demographic journey of hits and misses



s we observe World Population Day on July 1, there is writted blashed in the July 1, there is writted blashed in India's demographic journey over the India's demographic journey over the Nations established the day after Dr. K.C. proposed the concept of a 'World Population Day'. The world population had touched five blion in 1987 and challenges such as powery,

health and gender inequality were plaguing the world, developing countries in particular. The decades of the 1960s and 1970s were scary

as the global population was growing at a yearly rate of 2%. For India, there was a prediction of doom. This meant that widespread poverty, hunger and deaths were soon to follow in the next decades. However, despite the predictions the next decades told a different story altogethe Global fertility rates declined rapidly. Due to Global fertility rates declined rapidly. Due to improvements in living conditions and medical infrastructure, life expectancy increased. In India at present is below the replacement level. India's progress in many health parameters has been outstanding. There have been significant

outstanding. There have been significant reductions in maternal and child mortality. In 2015, the UN adopted the Sustainable nevelopment Goals (SEGO) with the resent period of the Control of the Contro

population dynamics.
India's population dynamics
Three components, namely fertility, mortality,
and migrarion, play a pivotal role in shaping
india's demographic landscape. India has made
land selection of the land landscape. India has made
According to the National Family Health Survey
(NPFIS)-5, India's total fertility rate (TFR)
decreased from 3-4 to 2 between 1992 and 2021,
decreased from 3-4 to 2 between 1992 and 2021,
there has been a significant drop in the mortality
rate as well. The average file expectancy of this,
India is experiencing a demographic shift,
towards an ageing population. According to the
2011 Census, individuals aged 60 years and above
figure is projected to rise up to 19.5% by 2050. But
what really do these changing dynamics signify?
India's population dynamics is intertwined
in fertility signifies a transition toward smaller
family norms. This can reduce the proportion of

fertility signifies a transition toward smaller family norms. This can reduce the proportion of demographic dividend—a period where the working-sage population is larger than the dependent population. India can harness the dependent population, India can harness the dependent population, India can harness the dependent population. India can harness the dependent population, India can harness the dependent population. The decline in mortality and increase in life expectancy are reflections of a transition of the dependent population and increased living



Paramita Majumdar

doctoral fellow population stu the Internation Institute for



independent researcher and a Legislative Assistan to Members of Parliament (LAMP) Fellow (2023-24), New Delhi

From pulling

back from the brink of a

demographic

year of 2030 for the

Development Goals, there is much to look at in the country

S. Ramasundaran retired Indian (IAS) officer and a United States-trained

of the average citizen which matters and ne macro-level population numbers

Sustainable

reach the target

disaster to striving to

standards. The issue of population ageing.

It is the investment of population ageing of the investment of the investmen

which is straggling, their notable absence from political representation and their unending plight within

sabotage India's path to 2030. With six years in hand to meet the

society are the silent issues which can

targets, India's road to 2030 crosses the path with its population dynamics

Population issues such as gender equality and socio-cultural divides cannot be ignored in the

journey to achieve SDGs. It is only with a thorough understanding that India will be able to

achieve a 'development' which is sustainable in

Its truest sense.

The country's SDG Journey
'Development' in the simplest way means
ensuring the basic requirements of food, shelter
and health for all. 'No Powerty, Zero Hunger and
swhich form the true of the control of the control
which form the core of 'development', India's
journey from the brink of a demographic disaster
striving towards the 2030 goal of 'leaving no
one behind' has seen a couple of hits and misses.
eradicating poverty. The proportion of the
population living below the powerty line reduced
from 45% to 10% between 1990 and 2019. The
Cuarantee Act (MGNNECA) that came into effect
in 2006 played a critical role in addressing rural
powerty. The Janani Suraksha Vojana of 2005 – its
only accentuated institutional deliveries but also
sawed poor families from hefty health
expenditures.

expenditures.

In his controversial book, The Population Bomb (1968), Paul R. Ehrlich raised serious questions about India's ability to feed its population in the years to come. With the Green Revolution, India averted a catastrophe. The proportion of the population suffering from hunger reduced from 18.3% in 2001 to 16.6% in 2021. However, India's nutrition picture is not completely rosy. India malnutrition. Though the Indian government malnutrition. Though the Indian government launched the Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for. Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Abhivaan in 2018, it will still require a miracle to

Abbiyaan in 2018, it will still require a miracle to fulfil the target of 'Zero Hunger' by 2030. Health is one sector in India where progress made has been remarkable. All the critical mortality indicators have seen steady declines The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) decreased.

from 384.4 in 2000 to 102.7 in 2020. The mortality rate for children under five reduced also reduced from 66.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000 to 25.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2001. Although India is still not near reaching

the targets, it seems to be on the right track. These achievements show that there has been a significant improvement in the quality and coverage of health care. Despite these achievements, India's

road towards 2030 is not easy. POPULATION
According to Oxfam, the top 10% of India's population holds 77% of the national wealth. If the fruits of

development are not equitably distributed and if development does not percolate to the poorest o the poor and the wealth scenario remains so skewed as it is now, 'sustainable development' can never be achieved in its truest sense. Absolute growth in GDP numbers has limited amounted growth in GDP interiors has mined 40% of the total wealth. Hunger and nutrition is another sector in crisis. In the Global Hunger another sector in crisis. In the Global Hunger Index (2023), India's rank was III out of I2S countries. In terms of nutrition, stunting, wasting and underweight among children below five years and ansemia among women pose serious shows that the country has a double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCD). This is a serious challenge for India which also combats the early onset of NCDs and the rising health needs of the didrys.

What needs looking lints
For India to achieve the SDGs, the changing
population dynamics has to be acknowledged
while forming policies. India needs to address
income inequality, harness its demographic
to the control of the control of the control
youth of India and address changing health
needs. NCDs, which incur high out-of-poudlet
expenditures, are catastrophic for some families
India needs a stronger safety net to save these
nutrition scenario should be set right by
strengthening programmes. This will require an strengthening programmes. This will require an increase in budgetary allocation for the health and nutrition sectors. Another, but often missed paradigm of this entire development discussion is gender equality. A gender equal approach and empowerment of vulnerable women can solve most issues and propel India's progress in the

SDGs.
India still has a long journey to cover in order to meet all the targets of the SDGs. This will require multi-sectoral collaboration and political will. India's progress in SDGs is directly will. India's progress in SDGs is directly and the court of the still progress in SDGs is directly and the court of progress lies in a better understanding of its population dynamics and addressing the issues.

A case of people versus population

uly II has been observed as World
Population Day since 1989 after the global
population crossed the five billion mark.

The projudation crossed the five billion mark.

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This writer wrote the article, "Naytha about
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daily on World Population Day (World and in this
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Population Day ("Borld and "Borld"), "Borld"
population Day page, July II, 1997) — when India
crossed the 100 crore mark. The article showed
of the West, that population growth would overtake
the West, that population growth would overtake
in the future. The aim of this article is to analyse
what has changed in 27 years. what has changed in 27 years.

Changes in India Let us look at some of the major socio-economic

changes in India over 27 years.

First, the population has grown 44% from 100 crore to 144 crore, but the annual growth rate of the population has fallen sharply – from nearly 2% to below 1%. This is because the number of births per woman (total fertility rate or TFR) has fallen from 3.4 to 2, just below the "replacen

Second, the per capita GDP of Indians grew six times, from \$400 to \$2,400. The average life spar of an Indian has increased from 61 years to 70

Third, Indians living below the

Third, Indians living below the multi-dimensional powerty line decreased from 43% to 11%. However, 11% of 144 crore is still a 178 to 11%. However, 11% of 144 crore is still a 178 to 15% to 1

and powerty reduction among Indian States is among the top priorities of the central and State governments and beyond the scope of this articl

Impact of climate change
But a far more serious issue facing the people of
India is the adverse effects of climate change
which do not recognise national boundaries. This
is where the population versus people dichotomy
emissions (advanced by developing countries)
wereas covering emissions (advanced to to the population versus people divergence. This is because the per capita consumption of both natural resources and manufactured products directly correlates with the per capita income of the people.

The Organisation for Economic

Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries with a per capita income of \$40,000 and a total population of I.39 billion, together produce and consume \$55.6 trillion worth of natural resources and manufactured goods. In comparison, India, with a per capita GDP of \$2,400 and a population of 1.44 billion, produces and I.44 billion, produces and consumes ju trillion worth of natural resources and manufactured goods. In other words, the OECD countries with a population slightly less than that of India consume nearly 16 times of what the whole of India consumes. This has been the of include nearly is times of what the major cause of global warming over the past few decades, resulting in unpredictable weather changes. In turn this has adversely affected the poor in developing nations more sewerely than the poor in developing nations more sewerely than bousing and civic infrastructure.

With 11% of its people still below the powerful line, india will continue to accord priority to measures, and rightly so. That responsibility tion measures, and rightly so. That responsibility lies majorly with the OECD countries, and now increasingly with China. Successive Indian governments have negotiated hard at global

forums on India's right to grow economically to alleviate poverty as early as possible.

Global South and growth
The Narendra Modi government has articulated
this even more forcefully by expanding the
this even more forcefully by expanding the
the G-20 New Delhi Declaration of September
2023: "In order to endeavour to decouple our
economic growth from environmental
degradation and enhance sustainable
degradation and enhance sustainable
including primary resource
consumption while supporting

consumption while supporting economic growth, we acknowledge the critical role played by circular economy, extended producer responsibility and resource efficiency

This is an explicit statement of intent to maintain the economic growth of the Global South nations, a term used for all developing nations as a group. India is looked upon by the nations of the Global South in their efforts to maintain economic growth in their espective nations as the first priority, followed by neasures to achieve net zero. India has fixed the year 2070 to achieve this, compared to the European Union's target of reaching net zero by 2050. But India would strive for zero poverty

within the next decade.

The next few decades will see developing The next few decades will see developing nations focusing on eradicating persistent poverty among their people rather than poverty among their people rather than very among their people rather than very experts' who have so far not been proved right. As Tamil poet C. Subramania Bharati said nearly 100 years ago, "Thani oravenuikku unavilial enii, adoes not have food to eat, we will destroy the world") So, it is the welfare of average client which matters and not population numbers at the macro level.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Russia visit The successful visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Moscow bolsters the fact that Russia still remains India's robust, special and privileged strategic partner. It would be prudent and

nsible if India strives to defuse the ongoing war in Ukraine by bringing the two sides to the negotiation table by using its acclaimed global image. M. Rishidev, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu

success from a foreign policy angle? Is foreign oolicy only about economi nterest? Is there no space for humanitarian and just concerns? India should have called a spade a spade,

which requires moral courage. India failed to play a lead role in strongly calling for the war to end. The world was watching the visit very closely. S.V. Venkatakrishni

It is of great concern that the spectrum of microbial

threats is widening. In the past two decades, India has seen a rise in outbreaks of emerging and re-emerging viral, bacterial, and other in a top scientific journal says that over half of known pathogenic diseases can be aggravated by climate

Dr. Biju C. Mathew, Thirtespanthapuram, Kerala

POPULATION in achieving sustainable

A case of people versus population

uly 11 has been observed as World Population Day since 1989 after the global population crossed the five billion mark. The population is now estimated to be 8.1 billion, with India as the most populous nation (1.44 billion), which is slightly more than China's.

This writer wrote the article, "Myths about Population Growth", which was published in this daily on World Population Day ('World Population Day' page, July 11, 1997) — when India crossed the 100 crore mark. The article showed how the doomsday predictions of Malthus, 200 years ago, or that of his present-day followers in the West, that population growth would overtake food production, never came true and never will in the future. The aim of this article is to analyse what has changed in 27 years.

Changes in India

Let us look at some of the major socio-economic changes in India over 27 years.

First, the population has grown 44% from 100 crore to 144 crore, but the annual growth rate of the population has fallen sharply – from nearly 2% to below 1%. This is because the number of births per woman (total fertility rate or TFR) has fallen from 3.4 to 2, just below the "replacement level" of 2.1.

Second, the per capita GDP of Indians grew six times, from \$400 to \$2,400. The average life span of an Indian has increased from 61 years to 70 years.

Third, Indians living below the multi-dimensional poverty line decreased from 43% to 11%. However, 11% of 144 crore is still a very large number of 16 crore people.

The 16 crore people below the poverty line are not distributed evenly across the country. Just four States, namely, Uttar Pradesh: (5.4 crore out of 23.6 crore), Bihar (4.2 crore out of 12.7 crore), Madhya Pradesh (2.52 crore out of 8.7 crore) and Jharkhand (1.1 crore out of 4 crore) account for 83% of the national total of people below the poverty line, while accounting for only 34 % of India's total population. How to address this persisting disparity in socio-economic growth



S. Ramasundaram

a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and a United States-trained demographer

It is the welfare of the average citizen which matters and not macro-level population numbers and poverty reduction among Indian States is among the top priorities of the central and State governments and beyond the scope of this article.

Impact of climate change

But a far more serious issue facing the people of India is the adverse effects of climate change which do not recognise national boundaries. This is where the population versus people dichotomy becomes apparent. The debate on historical emissions (advanced by developing countries) versus current emissions (advanced by the developed world) is closely linked to the population versus people divergence. This is because the per capita consumption of both natural resources and manufactured products directly correlates with the per capita income of the people.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries with a per capita income of \$40,000 and a total population of 1.39 billion, together produce and consume \$55.6 trillion worth of natural resources and manufactured goods. In comparison, India, with a per capita GDP of \$2,400 and a population of 1.44 billion, produces and consumes just \$3.5 trillion worth of natural resources and manufactured goods. In other words, the OECD countries with a population slightly less than that of India consume nearly 16 times of what the whole of India consumes. This has been the major cause of global warming over the past few decades, resulting in unpredictable weather changes. In turn this has adversely affected the poor in developing nations more severely than people in developed nations with much better housing and civic infrastructure.

With 11% of its people still below the poverty line, India will continue to accord priority to economic growth over climate change mitigation measures, and rightly so. That responsibility lies majorly with the OECD countries, and now increasingly with China. Successive Indian governments have negotiated hard at global

forums on India's right to grow economically to alleviate poverty as early as possible.

Global South and growth

The Narendra Modi government has articulated this even more forcefully by expanding the definition of the Circular Economy framework in the G-20 New Delhi Declaration of September 2023: "In order to endeavour to decouple our economic growth from environmental degradation and enhance sustainable

consumption and production, including primary resource consumption while supporting economic growth, we acknowledge the critical role played by circular economy, extended producer responsibility and resource efficiency in achieving sustainable development".

This is an explicit statement of intent to maintain the economic

growth of the Global South nations, a term used for all developing nations as a group. India is looked upon by the nations of the Global South in their efforts to maintain economic growth in their respective nations as the first priority, followed by measures to achieve net zero. India has fixed the year 2070 to achieve this, compared to the European Union's target of reaching net zero by 2050. But India would strive for zero poverty within the next decade.

The next few decades will see developing nations focusing on eradicating persistent poverty among their people rather than responding to population growth doomsday "experts" who have so far not been proved right. As Tamil poet C. Subramania Bharati said nearly 100 years ago, "Thani oruvanukku unavillai enil, inda jagatthinai azhithiduvom (even if one person does not have food to eat, we will destroy the world") So, it is the welfare of average citizen which matters and not population numbers at the macro level.

The views expressed are personal

• World Population Day / विश्व जनसंख्या दिवस:

- Observed since 1989 after the global population crossed the five billion mark.
- 1989 से मनाया जा रहा है जब वैश्विक जनसंख्या पांच अरब के आंकड़े को पार कर गई थी।
- The current global population is estimated to be 8.1 billion, with India as the most populous nation at 1.44 billion.
- वर्तमान वैश्विक जनसंख्या का अनुमान 8.1 अरब है, जिसमें भारत 1.44 अरब की जनसंख्या के साथ सबसे अधिक आबादी वाला देश है।

• Changes in India / भारत में बदलाव:

- Population has grown 44% from 100 crore to 144 crore, but the annual growth rate has fallen sharply to below 1%.
- जनसंख्या 100 करोड़ से बढ़कर 144 करोड़ हो गई है, लेकिन वार्षिक वृद्धि दर तेजी से घटकर 1% से कम हो गई है।
- Total fertility rate (TFR) has fallen from 3.4 to 2.1, below the replacement level.
- कुल प्रजनन दर (TFR) 3.4 से 2.1 तक गिर गई है, जो प्रतिस्थापन स्तर से कम है।

Per capita GDP has grown six times from \$400 to \$2,400.प्रति व्यक्ति GDP \$400 से \$2,400 तक छह गुना बढ़ गई है।

Average life span has increased from 61 years to 70 years.औसत जीवनकाल 61 वर्ष से बढ़कर 70 वर्ष हो गया है।

Multidimensional poverty line decreased from 43% to 11%, but 16 crore people are still below the poverty line.

बहुआयामी गरीबी रेखा 43% से घटकर 11% हो गई है, लेकिन 16 करोड़ लोग अभी भी गरीबी रेखा से नीचे हैं।

- Impact of Climate Change / जलवायु परिवर्तन का प्रभाव:
- The adverse effects of climate change highlight the population versus people dichotomy.
- जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रतिकल प्रभाव जनसंख्या बनाम लोगों की द्वैधता को उजागर करते हैं।
- OECD countries with high per capita income consume and produce more natural resources and manufactured goods compared to India.

- Global South and Growth / वैश्विक दक्षिण और विकास:
- India is seen as the leader of the Global South, aiming to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.
- भारत को वैश्विक दक्षिण का नेता माना जाता है, जिसका लक्ष्य आर्थिक विकास को पर्यावरणीय क्षरण से अलग करना है।
- India has fixed 2070 as the target for achieving net zero emissions, earlier than the European Union's target of 2050.
- भारत ने शुद्ध शून्य उत्सर्जन प्राप्त करने के लिए 2070 को लक्ष्य त्य किया है, जो यूरोपीय संघ के 2050 के लक्ष्य से पहले है।

- Consider the following statements regarding the socio-economic changes in India over the past 27 years:
- 1.India's population has grown from 100 crore to 144 crore, but the annual growth rate has fallen to below 1%.
- 2. The total fertility rate (TFR) in India has increased from 3.4 to 2.1, above the replacement level.
- 3. The per capita GDP of Indians grew six times, from \$400 to \$2,400, while the average life span increased from 61 years to 70 years.
- 4. The multidimensional poverty line in India decreased from 43% to 11%, but a significant number of people still remain below the poverty line.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 3 only
 - **b**) 2 and 4 only
 - c) 1, 3, and 4 only
 - d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

♦ The Indian **EXPRE**

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OPTIONAL SUBJECT CLASSES





AAP MLA joins BJP, says sad over Delhi condition and 'corruption'



Kartar Singh Tanwar, AAP MLA from

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

IN A fresh jolt to the Aam Aadm IN A fresh joir to the Aam Aadmi Party, its Chhatarpur MLA Kartar Singh Tanwar joined the BJP Wednesday along with four other party leaders. Delhi's former social welfare

inister Raai Kumar Anand who quit the AAP in April to join the BSP subsequently — and con-tested the Lok Sabha polls from New Delhi constituency — also oined the BIP.

Tanwar, a two-time AAP MLA who joined the party in 2014, said he was happy to be part of

said he was happy to be part of the BJP.

"I have been working in the social and political field for the social and political field for the very said looking at the situation in Delhi. I had joined the AAP with alot of hope, but the condi-tion of the city under the AAP in the last one year has changed for the worse due to corruption such

as liquor scams," he said.
"This party which was born out of a movement against corMODI IN VIENNA: FIRST VISIT BY INDIAN PM IN 41 YEARS

Day after Putin meet, PM underlines: Loss of innocent lives unacceptable

India, Austria hold bilateral talks: PM says blueprint for cooperation ready

SHUBHAJITROY

A DAY after he met Russian President Vladimir Putin, the President Vladimir Putin, the Russia-Utraine war continued to dominate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer in Vienna where he said "this is not a time for war", "problems cannot be solved on the battlefield" and "loss of innont lives, anywhere, is unac eptable". Modi's reiteration of the

statements, echoing what he said in Moscow, signals to the West that he has sent a clear CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

IN THE REAL PROPERTY.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi poses for a selfie with Austrian Federal Chancellor Karl Nehammer during his visit to the Federal Chancellery, in Vienna on Wednesday, AW

'concerns' on India-Russia relationship

SHUBHA-IIT BOY

IN THE wake of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's just-concluded visit to Russia, the US State Department, for the second day in a row, expressed "concerns about India's relationship with Russia". Saying that it "contin-ues" to express these concerns to India, the US confirmed that it India in the "past 24 hours" too. "We have been quite clear about our concerns about India's relationship with Russia. We

tion of, the right created under Section 125 of the CrPC," Justice

Nagaratha wrote.

Underlining the religion-neutral character of the provi-sion. Justice Masih said: "Numerous decisions of this court went on to state that

Muslim women can seek maintenance from husband under CrPC: SC

Provisions of 1986 Act do not restrict right under CrPC Section 125: Bench

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday ruled that all mar-ried and divorced women, in-cluding Muslim women illegally divorced by pronouncement of triple talaq", are entitled to claim maintenance from their husbands under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, "irrespective of her personal law".

In separate but concurring igments, a Bench of Justices B judgments, a Bench of Justices V Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih held that the right V Nagarathna and Augustine Coope Missih held that the right Coope Sets with held that the right course to Section 125 will not be eclipsed by the provisions of the section of the provision of the provision of the section of the sec

Reiterating its position

THE SUPREME court has Section 125 CrPC. EXPLAINED, PAGE 13

measure for social justice to pro-tect the weaker sections, irre-spective of applicable personal laws of the parties". The court said that "the right to seek maintenance under

Section 125 of CrPC, 1973, is invokable even during the suste-nance of marriage and thereby suld be in violation of Arti-

GOVT, NTA FILE AFFIDAVITS IN SC; COURT HEARING TODAY

Centre on NEET-UG: Data analytics Evidence was doctored, of results show no mass malpractice finds CBI investigation

ANANTHAKRISHNANG

DATA ANALYTICS of the NEET-UC 2024 results by III-Madras found "no abnormality" and show "that there is neither any indication of mass malipractice nor a localised set of candidates being benefitted leading to ab-normal scores", the Centre told the Supreme Court Wednesday.

On Monday, the court had sought to know whether it would be feasible to use data an-

Responding to this, the pertaining to the NEET-UG 2024
Centre, in its affidavit, said the examination was carried out by Centre, in its affidavit, said the Department of Higher Education had requested the Indian to undertake the escercise. "IIT-Madras was also requested to as-certain through data analytics, if there are any suspected cases who could have indulged in

wrongdoing and other red flags which indicate any aberration in the spread of top performers/ candidates. A set of parameters, which shall form the basis of the

examination was carried out by IT-Madrax, using parameters like marks distribution, city-wise tion and candidates spread over marks range." It said.

The analysis found that "the Delta shaped curve that is wit-bell-shaped curve that is wit-nessed in any largescale exami-nation, indicating no abnormal "City-wise and centre-wise

"City-wise and centre-wise analysis was done for two years (2023 and 2024) to find out if

UGC-NET 'paper leak':

RITIKA CHOPRA

UGC-NET paper leak has found that the "evidence", which led the Education Ministry to cancel the exam just a day after over 9 lakh candidates appeared for it n candidates appeared for it oss 317 cities on lune 18, was

On June 19, the Centre can-celed the exam crucial for entry-level teaching jobs and PhD ad-

"the integrity of the examination may have been compromised". may have been compromised."
The input was a screenshot of a UCC-NET paper circulating on on the exam day (June 18), with messages and comments sugesting it was leaked before the first session.

UGC-NET is held in two ses-

UGC-NET is held in two ses-sions; the first session was from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm and the sec-ond from 3 pm to 6 pm. The chatter on Telegram channels was detected by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the MHA, and relayed to the University Grants

The student, Aryan Anand, would have gotten away with it too, had it not been for an anony-

nous post by him on Reddit, and mother 19-year-old from

CHARGESHEET AGAINST KEJRIWAL, AAP **ED: Dealers were** arm-twisted for not paying kickbacks, targeted in Punjab

IN ITS first prosecution com-plaint against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in the Delhi excise policy case, the Enforcement Directorate has al-leged that the AAP convenor had a role in "arm-twisting whole-salers for not paying kickbacks". The complaint, akin to a

chargesheet, was filed by the ED in May. The Rouse Avenue Court took cognizance of the com-plaint, in which the AAP too has been made an accused, on



CM Keiriwal

nessmen who were not ready to "give kickbacks" were targeted in AAP-ruled Punjab. "...when certain wholesalers were not agreeing to give kick-backs to the AAP in Delhi their backs to the AAP in Delhi their Punjab," alleged the prosecutio

d biggest wholesaler in Delhi ich has stakes in Ms Deepa

AIIMS blood test offers Reddit confession, teen from Faridabad, tip-off: hope & help in early Alzheimer's diagnosis

ANKITA UPADHYAY

A SIMPLE blood test, developed by researchers and doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Science (AlIMS), New Delhi, may help in early diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease, a progres-

NCR, all between 50 and 75, at the memory clinic and geriatric departments of AlIMS to develop a blood screening test for early diagnosis of the disease and help

AT 1.03 pm on February 23,



How student who duped US varsity was caught

Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. Ichigh edu

At 16 years, a dream, a dream goal, and football history for Yamal

epaper,indianexpress.com

SANDIPG NEW DELHI, JULY 10

THE MATCH clock and the world

woodd soar into the half of fame of the genetes goals ever in the total ready the genetes goals ever in the total ready the goal ready. He is already the goal ready the sourcest for the goal of the goal ready to goal ready to goal ready the goal ready to goal ready to goal ready the goal ready to goal read conversing the period production of the control of

Lamine Yamal celebrates as Spain reach the Euro finals for

But somewhere, he is still a

star Somewhere, he is Still a child. Though he has been at Barcelona's famous youth acad-feels homesick. He talks to his parents Sheila, from Equatorial Guinea, and Mounir from Monoco, everyday. In the phone call before the match, his mother asked him what gift he wanted for his birthday. He replied: "You for his birthday. He replied: "You don't need to buy me any pre-ter learn. And last season, he was save himself abirthday present. He goal of unreal beauty.

A goal of unreal beauty.

In that moment, the face of a carried it to the school and the CONTINUEDON PAGE?

money from relatives and neigh bours to buy boots and take him to football trials. During one such trial, he caught the eye of Barcelona scouts. Eight years later, he caught the attention of the legendary Xavi Hernandez, then Barcelona manager. He the legendary Xavi Hernandez, then Barcelona manager. He needed just 10 minutes of watching him practice to invite him for training with the senior team. And but seems to the senior

town with about 120,000 inhab-

'Don't complain, push yourself': For Bihar's first trans SI, donning the uniform is a lifelong dream

SANTOSH SINGH

PATNA, JULY 10

FOR MADHU Kashyap, a 23-year-old trans woman from Bihar's Bhagalpur village, the road to being a sub-inspector in the state's provincial police force was fraught with difficulties. Apart from the obvious gender parity, she also had to contend with medical complications — a surgery she had two years ago meant she lost six months of preparation time, a setback that could have cost her a lifelong dream of donning the uniform.

Madhu is one of three trans people who cracked the Bihar Police Subordinate Selection Commission (BPSSC) exams to qualify for SI positions in the



Madhu Kashyap is one of 3 trans people who qualified for SI exams in the state

state — a first for Bihar's trans community.

Says Guru Rahman, a Patnabased educationist who coached her for the exams: "Madhu had also qualified the written test of the excise department's constable examination but could not appear for the medical test because of surgery complications. But she came back strong and we're proud of her achievement".

Of the 6,788 candidates who took the exams this year, 1,275 candidates — 822 men, 450 women and three trans people — qualified for SI positions. Of the successful candidates, 275 were from the scheduled Castes, 238 from EBC, 100 from OBC — including 87 women — 11 EWS and 16 from the scheduled tribes.

Apart from Madhu, two other 24-year-old trans people —Rohit Jha from Sitamarhi and Banty Kumar from Muzaffarpur — qualified for the exams. All three had taken coaching from Guru Rehman's coaching centre for the underprivileged.

For trans people like Madhu, the battle to break the glass ceiling was hard won. Says transgender activist Reshma Prasad: "It was only after a long legal battle that Patna High Court had directed the state government in February 2021 to ensure one SI and four constable positions in each Bihar district".

According to the Bihar caste survey conducted last year, there are 40,827 trans people in the state. Madhu, who routinely studied 6-8 hours a day to qualify for the police force, feels a great sense of pride in her achievement, which she sees as one more step towards closing the gender gap. "There is a lesson here — one mustn't complain about one's gender. Instead, push yourself," she says.

Drone with 25-kg payload tested at world's highest pass

MANAMAN SINGH CHHINA

CHANDIGARH, JULY 11

A BENGALURU-BASED firm has claimed to have successfully tested a 100-kg Max Take Off Weight (MTOW) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) at an altitude of 19,024 feet at Ladakh's Umling La pass, which also happens to be the highest motorable pass in the world.

MTOW includes the weight of the drone and the payload. The NewSpace Research and Technologies claimed to conducted the test flight on Tuesday.

Speaking to The Indian Express, the CEO of NewSpace, Sameer Joshi said the company has successfully demonstrated carriage of 25 kg of useful payload from the 5.800m high pass, with a radius of action greater than shown by the DJI FlyCart 30 drone of China at Mount Everest base camp in April 2024. During the flight testing in Ladakh, the NewSpace drone flew to an altitude of 6,200m, said Joshi, a former IAF fighter pilot.

Joshi claimed that this is a new world record at high altitude for a 100-kg MTOW class drone for High Altitude Operations. He said their product offers a great value for money



The team that carried out the test at Umling La Pass in Ladakh. Express

to support autonomous drone operations towards civilian and military use cases.

"It will especially give a huge boost to support logistics carriage, disaster and rescue events and medical relief in the higher regions of J&K, Uttarakhand, and the North Eastern states," he said.

The NewSpace drone can also augment the Ministry of Defence's air maintenance sorties at high altitude, offering a huge reduction in cost per hour of manned flights in region. A Cheetah helicopter can carry around 25-75 kg load at around same altitude with much more cost per sortie. With both China and India engaged in a stand-off in the higher reaches of the Himalayas, private companies in the two countries are engaging in competitive development of logistics drones.

Υ

• Test Details / परीक्षण विवरण:

- A Bengaluru-based firm, NewSpace Research and Technologies, successfully tested a 100-kg Max Take Off Weight (MTOW) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) at an altitude of 19,024 feet at Ladakh's Umling La pass.
- बेंगलुरु स्थित फर्म, न्यूस्पेस रिसर्च एंड टेक्नोलॉजीज ने लद्दाख के उवलिंग ला पास में 19,024 फीट की ऊंचाई पर 100-kg अधिकतम टेक ऑफ वेट (MTOW) वाले मानव रहित हवाई वाहन (UAV) का सफलतापूर्वक परीक्षण किया।

• Payload and Capabilities / पेलोड और क्षमताएँ:

- MTOW includes the weight of the drone and the payload. The company demonstrated the carriage of 25 kg of useful payload from the high pass.
- MTOW में ड्रोन और पेलोड का वजन शामिल है। कंपनी ने उच्च पास से 25 किलोग्राम उपयोगी पेलोड ले जाने का प्रदर्शन किया।

- The drone has a greater radius of action than the DJI FlyCart 30 drone of China.ड्रोन की क्रिया त्रिज्या चीन के DJI फ्लाईकार्ट 30 ड्रोन से अधिक है।
- During the flight testing in Ladakh, the drone flew to an altitude of 6,200 meters.लद्दाख में उड़ान परीक्षण के दौरान, ड्रोन 6,200 मीटर की ऊंचाई तक उड़ा।

- Impact and Use Cases / प्रभाव और उपयोग के मामले:
- The drone is designed to support autonomous drone operations towards civilian and military use cases.
- ड्रोन को नागरिक और सैन्य उपयोग के मामलों की ओर स्वायत ड्रोन संचालन का समर्थन करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है।
- It can support logistics carriage, disaster and rescue events, and medical relief in high-altitude regions like J&K, Uttarakhand, and the North Eastern states.
- यह J&K, उत्तराखंड और उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्यों जैसे उच्च ऊंचाई वाले क्षेत्रों में रसद परिवहन, आपदा और बचाव घंटनाओं और चिकित्सा राहत का समर्थन कर सकता है।

- The drone offers a great value for money for high altitude operations and can augment the Ministry of Defence's air maintenance sorties at high altitude.
- ड्रोन उच्च ऊंचाई संचालन के लिए पैसे के लिए बड़ा मूल्य प्रदान करता है और रक्षा मंत्रालय की उच्च ऊंचाई पर एयर मेंटेनेंस सॉर्टीज़ को बढ़ा सकता है।

- Consider the following statements regarding the recent drone test at Umling La pass:
- 1. The drone tested had a Max Take Off Weight (MTOW) of 100 kg and was tested at an altitude of 19,024 feet.
- 2. The drone demonstrated the carriage of 50 kg of useful payload from the high pass.
- 3. The testing firm is based in Bengaluru and the drone can be used for both civilian and military purposes.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 1 and 3 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3

Amazon hits climate goal early by 7 years

IVAN PENN & ELITAN July 10

AMAZON ANNOUNCED ON

Wednesday that effectively all of the electricity its operations used last year came from sources that did not produce greenhouse gas emissions. But some experts have criticised the method the company uses to make that determination as being too lenient.

In its announcement, Amazon said it had reached its goal of 100% clean energy seven years ahead of schedule. The company said it invested billions of dollars in more than 500 solar and wind projects to achieve its target. The energy generated by those projects is equivalent to electricity consumed by the company's data centers, corporate buildings, grocery stores and fulfillment centers in 27 countries.

But because the solar and wind farms do not all directly power Amazon's operations — most of that energy is sent to electricity grids that serve many businesses and homes — some

ACHIEVING SUSTAINABILITY TARGETS



- Amazon said it invested billions of dollars in more than 500 solar and wind projects to achieve its target
- Some experts have criticised the method the company uses to make that determination as being too lenient

critics say that the company's calculations can create a misleading impression of its effect on the climate.

The clean energy projects Amazon has invested in can produce enough electricity to power the equivalent of 7.6 million US homes, the company said. Amazon aims to reach netzero carbon emissions from all of its operations, including its delivery vans, planes and other means of transportation, by 2040. "We're really excited about, obviously, the goal that

we set five years ago and reaching it seven years early," said Kara Hurst, vice president of worldwide sustainability at Amazon.

Amazon and other tech companies have said for years that they aim to eliminate the planet-warming effect of their operations. But those promises have been called into question recently by the industry's decisions to invest heavily in artificial intelligence, which consumes vast amounts of electricity through its use of data centers.

Company type	Public	
Traded as	Nasdaq: AMZN ☑ Nasdaq-100 component DJIA component S&P 100 component S&P 500 component	
ISIN	US0231351067	
Industry	Conglomerate	
Founded	July 5, 1994; 30 years ago in Bellevue, Washington, U.S.	
Founder	Jeff Bezos	
Headquarters	Seattle, Washington and Arlington, Virginia, U.S.	
Area served	Worldwide	
Key people	Jeff Bezos (executive chairman) Andy Jassy (president and CEO)	
Products	Echo · Fire Tablet · Fire TV Fire OS · Kindle	
Services	Amazon.com Amazon Alexa Amazon Appstore Amazon Clinic Amazon Inspire Amazon Luna Amazon Music Amazon Pay Amazon Prime Amazon Prime Amazon Prime Video MGM+ One Medical Twitch Ring Amazon Web Services Amazon Robotics	

Revenue	▲ US\$574.8 billion (2023)	
Operating income	▲ US\$36.85 billion (2023)	
Net income	▲ US\$30.43 billion (2023)	
Total assets	▲ US\$527.9 billion (2023)	
Total equity	▲ US\$201.9 billion (2023)	
Owner	Jeff Bezos (9.8%)	
Number of employees	≈ 1,525,000 (2023)	

Subsidiaries	List	[hide
	A9.com	
	AbeBooks	
	Alexa Internet	
	Amazon.com	
	Amazon Air	
	Amazon Books	
	Amazon Fresh	
	Amazon Games	
	Amazon Lab126	
	Amazon Logistics	
	Amazon Pharmacy	
	Amazon Publishing	
	Amazon Robotics	
	Amazon MGM Studios	
	AWS	
	Audible	
	Blink	
	Body Labs	
	Book Depository	
	ComiXology	
	Eero LLC	
	Goodreads	
	Graphiq	
	IMDb	
	Kuiper Systems	
	PillPack	
	Ring	
	Souq.com	
	Twitch Interactive	
	Whole Foods Market	
	Woot	
	Zappos	
	Zoox	

• Achievement / उपलब्धि:

- Amazon announced that all the electricity its operations used last year came from sources that did not produce greenhouse gas emissions, reaching its goal of 100% clean energy seven years ahead of schedule.
- अमेज़न ने घोषणा की कि पिछले साल उसके संचालन द्वारा उपयोग की गई सारी बिजली ऐसे स्रोतों से आई थी जो ग्रीनहाउस गैस उत्सर्जन नहीं करते थे, और उसने अपनी 100% स्वच्छ ऊर्जा प्राप्त करने का लक्ष्य सात साल पहले ही हासिल कर लिया है।

• Investments / निवेश:

- Amazon invested billions of dollars in more than 500 solar and wind projects to achieve this target.
- इस लक्ष्य को हासिल करने के लिए अमेज़न ने 500 से अधिक सौर और पवन परियोजनाओं में अरबों डॉलर का निवेश किया।

- The energy generated by these projects is equivalent to the electricity consumed by Amazon's data centers, corporate buildings, grocery stores, and fulfillment centers in 27 countries.
- इन परियोजनाओं द्वारा उत्पन्न ऊर्जा अमेज़न के डेटा सेंटर, कॉर्पोरेट भवनों, किराने की दुकानों और 27 देशों में पूर्ति केंद्रों द्वारा उपभोग की गई बिजली के बराबर है।

• Criticism / आलोचना:

- Some experts have criticized the method Amazon uses to make this determination as being too lenient, claiming it can create a misleading impression of its effect on the climate.
- कुछ विशेषज्ञों ने इस निर्धारण को करने के लिए अमेज़न द्वारा उपयोग की जाने वाली विधि को बहुत नरम होने के रूप में आलोचना की है, यह दावा करते हुए कि इससे जलवायु पर इसके प्रभाव का एक भ्रामक प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।

- Most of the energy from solar and wind farms does not directly power Amazon's operations but is sent to electricity grids that serve many businesses and homes.
- अधिकांश सौर और पवन फार्मों से ऊर्जा सीधे अमेज़न के संचालन को शक्ति नहीं देती है, बल्कि इसे बिजली ग्रिड में भेजा जाता है जो कई व्यवसायों और घरों को सेवा प्रदान करते हैं।

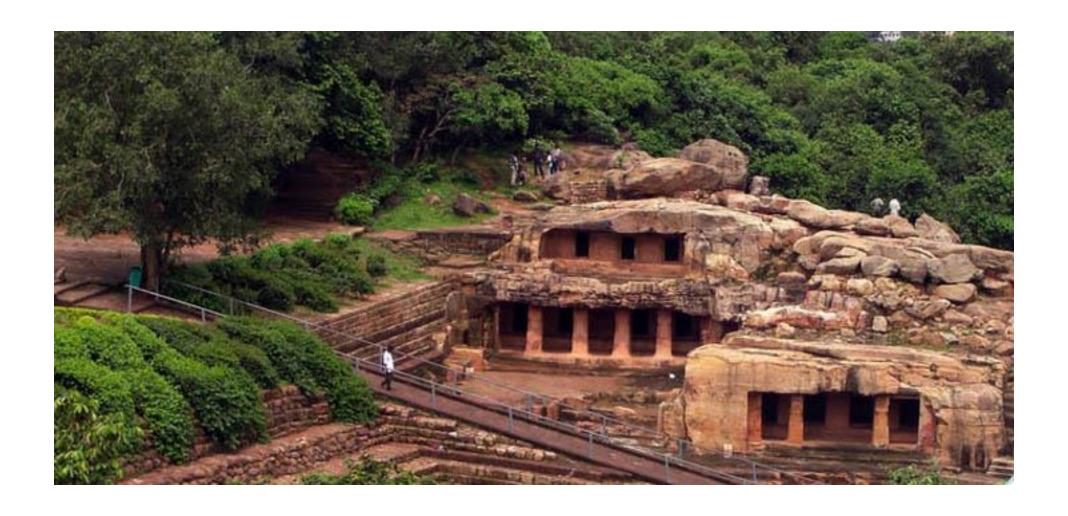
• Future Goals / भविष्य के लक्ष्य:

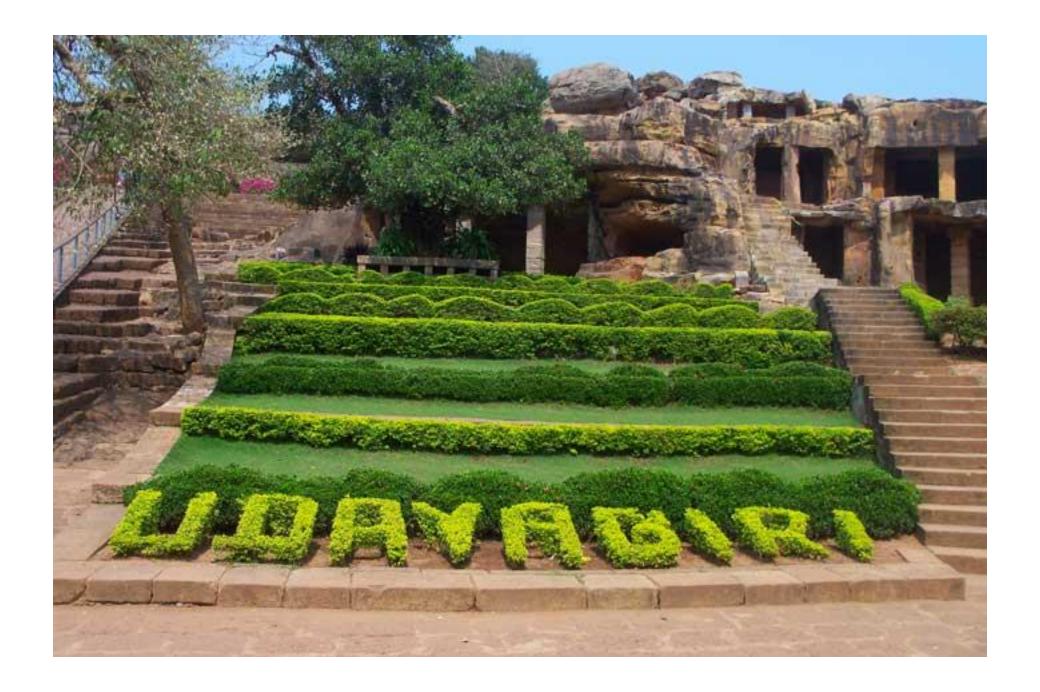
- Amazon aims to reach net-zero carbon emissions from all its operations by 2040, including its delivery vans, planes, and other means of transportation.
- अमेज़न का लक्ष्य 2040 तक अपने सभी संचालन से शृद्ध-शून्य कार्बन उत्सर्जन प्राप्त करना है, जिसमें उसके वितरण वैन, विमान और अन्य परिवहन के साधन शामिल हैं।

- Consider the following statements regarding Amazon's climate goal achievement:
- 1. Amazon achieved its goal of 100% clean energy seven years ahead of schedule.
- 2. The energy generated by Amazon's solar and wind projects directly powers all its operations.
- 3. Amazon aims to reach net-zero carbon emissions from all its operations by 2040.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3

Khandagiri & Udayagiri Caves







 President Droupadi Murmu, visited the Khandagiri and Udayagiri caves in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

About

 The rock cut caves were built around the 2nd century BC by King Kharavela of the Meghavahana dynasty.

- These were first discovered by British Officer Andrew Sterling in the 19th century AD.
- The caves were built for the Jain monks and offered them a place to stay and meditate.
- Originally there were around one hundred and seventeen caves built. However only thirty-three caves survive today.
 - Eighteen caves are located in the Udaygiri hill and fifteen in the Khandagiri hill.

- Major caves of Udaygiri caves
- Hathigumpha: or the elephant cave as it is known, bears the inscriptions of King Kharavela.
- Rani Gumpha: or the Queen cave; is a double storeyed structure with beautiful carvings.
- Ganesh Gumpha: the Ganesha Cave known for its carvings of Jain tirthankars and other sculptures.
- Vyaghra Gumpha: or the Tiger cave is so called because the entrance is shaped like the head of the tiger and the door shaped like a tiger's throat

- Major caves of Khandagiri caves
- Barabhuji Gumpha features the twelve armed Sasana Devi's facing each other along with Tirthankar sculptures.
- Trushula Gumpha: The twenty-four Jain Teerthankar's carved on the walls of the cave.
- Ambika Gumpha: The Yaksha and Yakshini of each Tirthankar is carved on the walls of the cave.

World's Oldest Cave Paintings





- Recently ,Scientists have discovered World's oldest cave paintings.
- Until now, the oldest-known cave painting was one at Leang Tedongnge cave, also in Sulawesi, from at least 45,500 years ago.

About the painting

- The cave painting was found on the ceiling of **Leang Karampuang cave** in the Maros-Pangkep region of South Sulawesi, Indonesia.
- It depicts three human-like figures interacting with a wild pig, painted in dark red pigment.

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- Scientists used a new dating method involving laser technology to date calcium carbonate crystals that formed over the painting.
 - The painting has been determined to be at least 51,200 years old, making it the oldest confidently dated cave art discovered.

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Zombie Startups

Zombie startups have become a common scenario today.

About Zombie startups

- Zombie startups are ventures that have failed to scale or achieve sustainable growth.
- They are characterized by stagnant growth and dwindling resources.
 - They may struggle to attract new investment or generate revenue, relying heavily on existing funds that diminish over time.

- They can distort market dynamics by occupying space and resources that could be allocated to more viable ventures, potentially slowing overall ecosystem growth.
- They may be a modern challenge, but with proactive measures and collective effort, they can serve as valuable lessons in the ongoing journey of entrepreneurial innovation.

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Birlestik-2024

 Recently, Central Asian countries have held 'Birlestik-2024', joint drills with land, naval and air forces, for the first time without regional powers Russia and China

- About the Birlestik-2024 Exercise (aka Union 2024)
- It is a joint military exercise, currently underway in the Mangistau region of Kazakhstan, involving the armed forces of several Central Asian countries, aiming to enhance cooperation, interoperability, and readiness.

It focuses on joint planning, tactical maneuvers, and coordination among the participating forces.

Participating Nations are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, while **Turkmenistan is absent**.

- The Caucasus country of Azerbaijan is also participating, while Russia, traditionally dominant in the area, is fighting in Ukraine.
- These countries regularly take part in drills with the two most influential major powers in this strategic region: with Russia as part of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation and with China as part of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Camcopter S-100

- India is set to enhance its naval capabilities through a deal with Austrian company Schiebel for their Camcopter S-100 unmanned aerial system (UAS).
- Features of Camcopter S-100:
- The system can operate in various extreme climates and has a high endurance, making it ideal for the Indian Ocean Region.
- The Indian Navy has begun using the S-100 for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) operations, which previously required manned helicopters.



The S-100, known for its <u>versatility and advanced technology</u>, operates with either aviation gasoline or kerosene and can function without GPS.



It <u>requires minimal space for launch and recovery</u>, making it suitable for deployment from various naval vessels.

Word of the day

Chockablock:

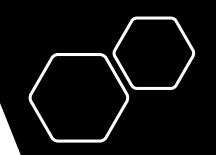
packed full to capacity

Synonyms: chock-full, cram full, crowded

Usage: The shelves were chockablock with books and papers.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/chockablockpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈtʃɒkəˌblɒk/



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