

PRAJYA

MONTHLY NEWS MAGAZINE FOR CHILDREN

ISSUE 10 JUNE 2022 Rs.85/-



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KVIC Turnover
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This lovely little verse in Sanskrit translates as follows:

जलम् जल स्थानगतिम्,
सर्वथा एव रक्षणीयम्।

**Water, lakes and waterway,
Protect we must in every way.**

जन्तूनां सुख जीवनं हेतु,
जलस्य रक्षणम् नूनं भवतु।

**For happiness of all living beings,
Conserve water in every way please.**

निर्मलं जलं संपादनीयम्,
जल संरक्षणम् अनिवार्यम्।

**Pure water is everyone's need,
Protection of water is essential indeed.**

अभोजनेन जीवितुम् भवेत्
बिना जलं तु सर्वं हि नश्येत्।

**Without food live we can,
But without water survive none can.**

किञ्चित् जलमपि पीतम्,
दाहं कष्टं करोति दूरम्।

**Drinking even a little water,
Drives the pain of thirst away.**

शुष्कं तपनं हाहाकारः,
जल संरक्षणम् परिहारकः॥

**Loss (of water) causes cries of horror,
Treasuring water is the way proper.**

One can never adequately capture the significant role that water plays in our lives nor the importance of water conservation. The Central government's mission of creating Amrit Sarovars by rejuvenating water bodies across the nation is a laudable and appropriate step in the right direction.

The phenomenal success of khadi is a happy development. Similarly, record collection of GST and FASTag toll are happy milestones indicating the expansion of digital payments. These ensure that more and more of the revenue can be utilised for developmental activities.

Read, reflect and revert with your thoughts and feelings.

We look forward to your support and suggestions.



- Editorial Team

Dear Readers,

There have been requests from quite a few readers for hard copies of Prajya. We understand that quite a high percentage of our young readers keep revisiting some articles, and a handy print version within reach induces one to read more often, highlight things and make notes. This also partly contributes to students spending less screen time. The Prajya team is happy to bring to you the issue in print.

However, there are few things that we want to be careful about:

- We don't want to print more than what is required and
- Keep the cost of the print version (plus postage) within reasonable limits.

Please note that the access to free online e-version will continue.

So, it will greatly help us if you could fill in the details in the link provided.

<http://bit.ly/Prajya>

Happy Reading !

Watch out for the Monthly Prajya Quiz online

[Visit <http://davchennai.org/publications/prajya-news-magazine/>](http://davchennai.org/publications/prajya-news-magazine/)



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TRADE & TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL with EU Launched



In response to rapid geopolitical changes, India and the European Union launched the first EU-India Trade and Technology Council. This marks the second such initiative for the European Union, which had already established an identical system with the United States of America last year. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's visited New Delhi on 24th April.

The Council will coordinate technical work, operationalise political decisions and ensure implementation and follow-up in areas essential to the sustainable progress of European and Indian economies.

Kum Kavya R



UK PM BORIS JOHNSON visits INDIA



British PM Boris Johnson came to India on a two-day visit. He began his trip on 21st April in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. During his brief stay he visited Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram. He was hosted by Gautam Adani to discuss business and investment opportunities.

On the second day, he and PM Modi held discussions to enhance trade partnerships, cyber security cooperation, counter-terrorist measures and other global topics of mutual concern. They also exchanged two memorandums of understanding (MoU) on the implementation of the India-UK Global Innovation Partnership and the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP).





PM'S EUROPE TOUR

PM Modi embarked on a 3-day Europe trip to Germany, Denmark and France from 2nd to 4th May. This trip involved meeting with various country leaders to boost ties in the areas of trade, energy and green technology. This visit amidst the Russia-Ukraine war has been extremely fruitful as it has strengthened India's ties with various European nations.

First, he met with Germany's Federal Chancellor, Olaf Scholz. They discussed the bilateral ties giving more importance to trade and cultural linkages.

Both the leaders co-chaired the 6th session of the Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC). They also signed several agreements on sustainable development under which India would receive USD 10.5 billion in assistance by 2030.

After this, PM Modi flew to Copenhagen, Denmark. He held productive talks with the Danish Prime Minister Mette Fredriksen. He also attended the second India-Nordic summit which focused on post-pandemic economic recovery, innovation and technology, renewable energy, global-security and India - Nordic cooperation in the Arctic region. Aside from the summit, he also held separate talks about maintaining bilateral ties with the prime ministers of Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Iceland and Norway.

After the summit, he attended the India-Denmark Business Forum and said that those who don't invest in India now will miss out on a great opportunity. Aside from the political leaders, PM also met with Queen Margrethe II of Denmark at the historic Amalienborg Palace

in Copenhagen. While meeting the Indian community in Denmark, he urged them to spread the information about Indian tourism and the cultural diversity our country has to offer.

The final leg of the PM's Europe trip was a brief visit to France. He received a warm welcome from the French President, Emmanuel Macron. He is one of the four French presidents who has been re-elected to serve a second term.

Both country leaders reaffirmed their commitment to prepare for the future together, especially in the areas of climate change, secure access to space, cyber security and defence related matters. They also launched various initiatives to connect the start-up ecosystems of both countries to improve trade and infrastructure.



Col Shashidhar M V (Retd)

CHINA's pact with SOLOMON ISLANDS

- what it means for INDIA

The decision, nicknamed 'The Switch', is said to have been one of the first major indications of China's expanding influence in the region.

On 31st March, Solomon Islands signed a wide-ranging security pact with China. Regional players such as Australia, New Zealand, and Micronesia have raised concerns about the possibility of China setting up a military base there to get a foothold in the South Pacific Ocean.

Where are Solomon Islands?

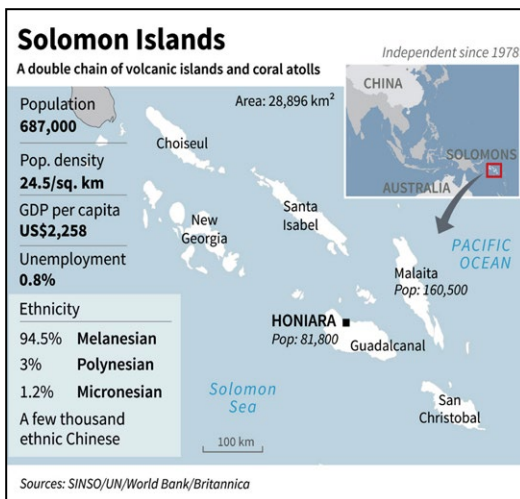
The Solomon Islands, an archipelago of hundreds of islands in the southern Pacific Ocean has been a politically volatile region at the centre of a long-running diplomatic power struggle between the West and China. Honiara, the capital has witnessed some of the fiercest battles of

World War II between the US and Japan. Between the late 1990s and early 2000s, the country was rife with ethnic unrest and military conflict between several armed groups, ultimately resulting in a coup. In 2003, a multinational Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI), led by Australia, was established. As part of the mission, troops were deployed from Australia and New Zealand; stability was restored.

China-Solomon Islands Security Agreement

The agreement "aims at enhancing social stability and long-term tranquility in the Islands". China and Solomon Islands will conduct cooperation in such areas





as protection and safety of citizens and property, maintenance of social order, natural disaster response etc.

Why is the deal raising worries?

There are genuine concerns about Sogavare’s growing proximity with China in recent years after he was re-elected prime minister in 2019 when he cut the country’s long-standing diplomatic relations with Taiwan in favour of China. The decision, nicknamed ‘The Switch’, is said to have been one of the first major indications of China’s expanding influence in the region, which was traditionally an ally of the US and Australia.

How does it affect India?

Foreign governments including India have raised concerns over the broadly worded language of the document highlighting - “other tasks” or “other law enforcement” or “needs”. Will China engage in aggressive manoeuvres as the addition of a “confidentiality clause” has cast an even larger shadow on the transparency of Beijing’s intentions?

The Solomon Islands are at a significant distance from India and even the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. China's advances in the region may not necessarily deter

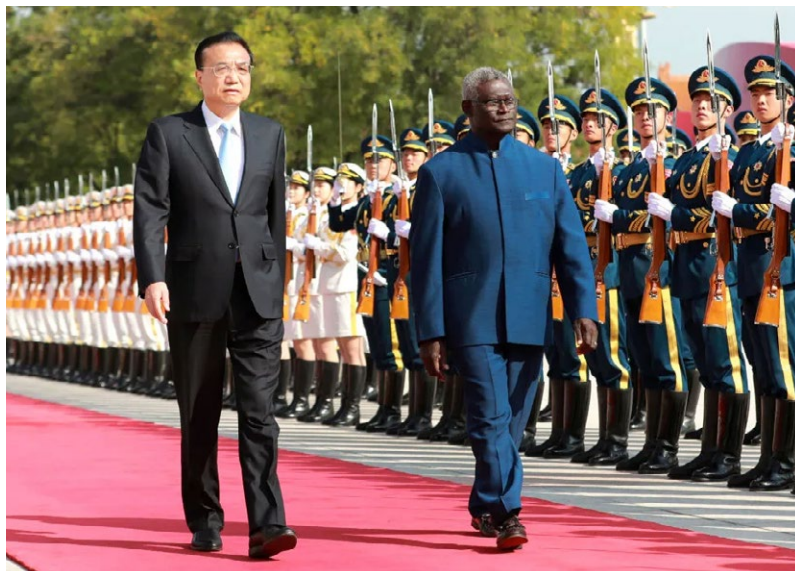
India; instead drive a wedge between China and the Western alliance as the sea lines of communications from the US to Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia can be cut by Chinese military forces based in the Solomons Islands. This is likely to disrupt Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) initiative (launched by USA on 23rd May 2022 of which India is an initial partner) and others on the anvil.

Conclusion

China’s fast-growing foothold within the Pacific Island Country (PIC) is of massive geo-strategic value and a growing concern for the US and its allies.

The fierce competition between the West and China has only escalated in the region recently, prompting the Western alliance to form AUKUS (Australia, UK and the USA) to counter China. With the new security agreement, China and its army have a foothold in the island nation which could be significant for blocking vital shipping lanes.

The agreement could also potentially help Beijing intervene whenever its foreign investments and diaspora face a regional threat.





Indonesia bans export of Palm Oil

The seeds of success sown when we can, with careful planning, turn potential threats into great opportunities, which is what government is working on.

Indonesia had in April 2022 announced a total ban on export of palm oil from that country in the wake of a severe shortage and skyrocketing prices. It is the world's largest producer of palm oil and accounts for 50% of the global supply. This situation is due to the ongoing Russia - Ukraine war.

This war has once more highlighted the fact that global events over which we have very little control can have debilitating effects on our economy.

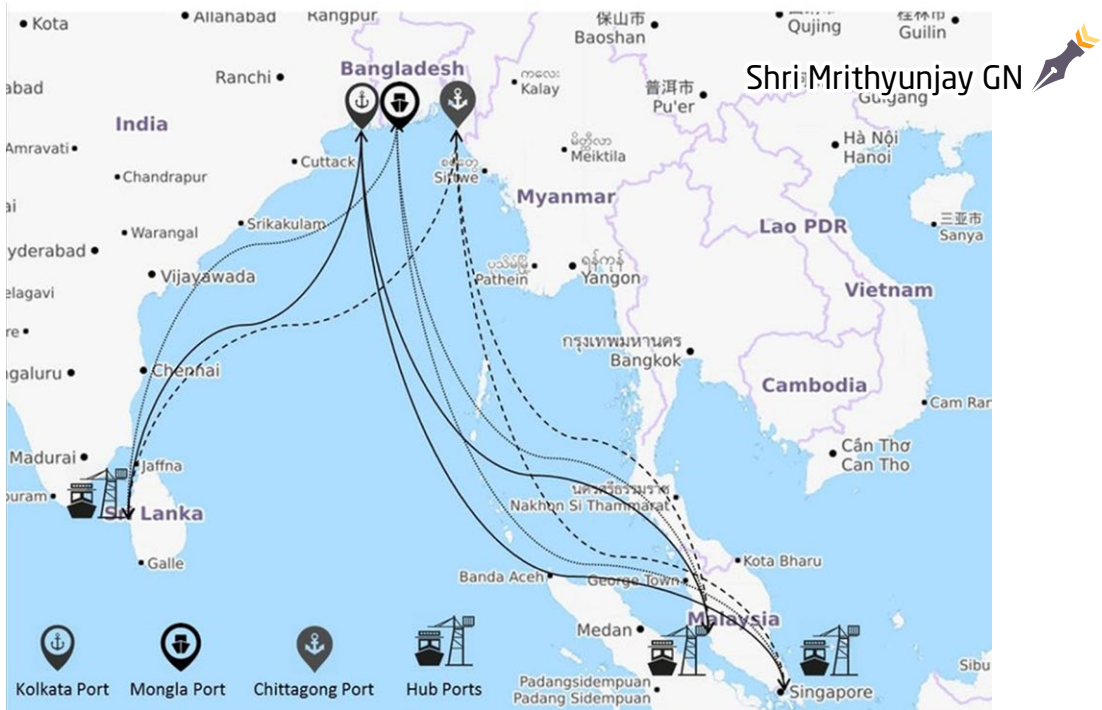
National Mission on oilseeds and oil palm, which is aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in edible oils, has said that the production of oilseeds has increased to 36.57 MT in 2020-21 from 27.5 MT in 2014-15. The area under oilseeds has also increased to 28.8 million hectares

from 25.6 million hectares during the period.

Over the last couple of years, the government of India has begun distributing oilseed mini-kits with high-yielding seeds of soyabean, groundnut and sesame. It distributed nearly 9.25 lakh mini-kits for last year's kharif sowing.

The global short supply of edible oil and its consequent effect on prices is expected to have a positive effect on our farmers motivating more of them to take to oil seed cultivation in the coming years.

The seeds of success sown when we can, with careful planning, turn potential threats into great opportunities, which is what government is working on.



Access to Chittagong Port Bangladesh and India strengthen ties

Access to Chittagong port can improve capacity and ease of transport of cargo through inland waterways and transcontinental shipments.

'Act East' policy is one of the most important policies of the Indian government in the last two terms which focuses on the development of the north-eastern parts of the country as a potential hub for international relations with countries to the east.

Following the External Affairs Minister S.Jaishankar's visit to Bangladesh in April, the Bangladesh government has extended an offer for India to use the Chittagong port. Located near the border of Bangladesh and Myanmar, Chittagong is a major port serving as a hub for east Asian trade. Ranked as the 58th busiest container port in the world and also

one of the oldest ports, it receives an estimated 100 million tonnes of cargo every year.

This offer to share the Chittagong port with India was extended by Bangladesh PM Sheik Hasina during discussion on various bilateral issues to improve and move on from the pandemic - induced disruptions.

This is particularly significant because Assam and Tripura will majorly benefit. It will make transportation of goods and logistics for shipping nationally and internationally much less cumbersome. This can improve capacity and ease of transport of cargo through inland waterways and transcontinental shipments.





ONGC - Equinor partnership for Clean Energy



On 26th April 2022 India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Norway's Equinor, the state-owned multinational energy company present in more than 30 countries.

ONGC and Equinor will collaborate in the field of upstream and midstream. They will also explore further options in low carbon fuel, renewables, Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) as well as Carbon Capture Utilization and Sequestration (CCUS) opportunities in India.



Oil and gas industry operations can be categorized as follows:

- ▶ **upstream** - exploration and production of raw crude oil and natural gas.
- ▶ **midstream** - processing, storing, transporting and marketing.
- ▶ **downstream** - refining of crude oil into gasoline, diesel, jet and other fuels.



CIA's First-ever Chief Technology Officer

The CIA is a civilian foreign intelligence service of the US government tasked with gathering, processing and analyzing national security information from around the world.

Nand Mulchandani of Indian origin has been appointed by the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), as their first ever Central Technology Officer (CTO). The CIA is a civilian foreign intelligence service of the US government tasked with gathering, processing and analyzing national security information from around the world, primarily through the use of human intelligence (HUMINT) and performing covert actions.

Nand Mulchandani studied at Bluebells School International in Delhi and studied Computer Science & Math at Cornell University. He went to Stanford for his masters' degree in Management. He also has a masters' degree in Public



Administration from Harvard. Nand Mulchandani most recently served as the CTO and acting director of the US Department of Defense's Joint Artificial Intelligence Center before joining the CIA. He was also the CEO of many start-up companies.



Interim Government in Sri Lanka



The Sri Lankan Government lifted the state of emergency on 21st May nearly two weeks after it was imposed.

Emergency was declared since it faced an unprecedented economic crisis and anti-government protests. This is the worst economic crisis faced by Sri Lanka since gaining independence from Britain in 1948.

A spiralling inflation rate of 40%, shortage of food, fuel, medicines and power supply, led to massive protests. The protestors

claim that the quality of the essential items was very poor though the prices were exponentially high. Adding to their woes was a plunging currency and depleted foreign currency reserves needed for payment towards imports.

This resulted in anti-government protests and unprecedented violence across the nation. The politicians were targeted - especially the Rajapaksa family for mishandling the economy post the pandemic and also cornering plum posts in the government.





The protestors claim that the quality of the essential items was very poor though the prices were exponentially high.

New York based ratings agency Fitch has downgraded debt-ridden Sri Lanka's sovereign rating to C.

PM Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned and Ranil Wickremesinghe took over for the 6th time as the prime minister. Also holding the finance portfolio, he will lead the talks with IMF for a loan programme.

A section of Sri Lankans has sought shelter in India to escape this critical situation. In the past also there have been refugee crisis in Tamil Nādu when the political situation was volatile.

India being a close ally of Sri Lanka has provided assistance on several fronts to the country in the last six months. These include USD

500 million oil line of credit; USD One billion lines of credit for essentials to be imported from India under negotiation; a currency swap of USD 400 million; deferral (postponement) of

USD 515 million under Asian Clearance Union; 40,000 MT of fuel on credit; 100,000 Rapid Antigen Test kits and supply of 1,000 tons of liquid medical oxygen. This timely help from India may rescue Sri Lanka and will strengthen bilateral cooperation and mutual trust.

A popular perception in Sri Lanka is that the “government sold everything to China and that is the biggest problem”. Will the new prime minister bring a change? Only time will tell.

Asian Clearing Union (ACU) is a multilateral payments arrangement that periodically offsets the debits and credits accumulated by each member against the others in the process of trade and other transactions. Multilateral clearing or payments arrangements facilitate the use of national currencies, and thus serve to relax the foreign exchange constraints of the members. India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan and Maldives are members.





India's new Chief of Army Staff

The head of the army is the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), who is a four-star general. The office of COAS was created through an Act of the Indian Parliament in 1955.

The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the armed forces of India. The professional head of our defense forces is called the Chief of the Defense Staff.

The head of the army is the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), who is a four-star general. The office of COAS was created through an Act of the Indian Parliament in 1955. An 'Appointments Committee' consisting of the Prime Minister, Minister of Home Affairs, and the Defence Minister has the responsibility of selecting the COAS.

General Manoj Pande assumed the office of the COAS on 1st May 2022. He was commissioned on 24th December 1982, in the

Corps of Engineers (The Bombay Sappers) of the Indian Army. During his long and illustrious service spanning over 39 years, he has served in command, staff, and instructional appointments. He has been felicitated with Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal.

General Manoj Pande paid a visit to the Ladakh region, a beautiful land with a rich cultural heritage and a region of strategic importance for the defence of the country. Indian army men are on constant vigil to safeguard from intruders, smugglers and drug traffickers. He was briefed on the security situation along the borders. He later had a meeting with the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Ladakh, RK Mathur.

Ajay Kumar Sood

– the new Principal Scientific Advisor

India's Nine National Missions in science and technology focus on Science for People and People for Science.

On 20th April 2022, Professor Ajay Kumar Sood was appointed as the 4th Principal Scientific Adviser to the GOI. Established in November 1999, the post was first held by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam. Prof Ajay Kumar is expected to provide pragmatic and objective advice to the prime minister and the cabinet of ministers on matters related to science and technology.

Areas of specific interest include **India's Nine National Missions in science and technology** with focus on Science for People and People for Science. These in turn include many important and growing frontiers such as artificial



सत्यमेव जयते

Office of Principal Scientific Adviser
to the
Government of India

intelligence and bio science for human health.

With extensive experience in various fields and his pioneering research findings on graphene and nanotechnology, Prof Ajay Kumar is expected to take these missions to new heights of success.





400th Prakash Parv of SRI GURU TEGH BAHADUR

The programme highlighted the teachings of Guru Tegh Bahadur who sacrificed his life to protect religion and human values.

Participating in the celebrations of the 400th Prakash Parv of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the 9th Sikh Guru at the Red Fort in New Delhi, PM Modi addressed the gathering and released a coin and postage stamp to commemorate the occasion. PM asserted, “Big powers have disappeared, big storms have calmed down, but India still stands immortal and is moving ahead. India has never posed a threat to any country or society. Even today we think for the welfare of the whole world. When we talk about a self-reliant India, we keep the progress of the whole world in front of that goal.” The programme highlighted the teachings of Guru Tegh Bahadur who sacrificed his life to protect religion and human values.



400 Rupees Coin

- ◆ The Red Fort was chosen as the venue as it was here in 1675, Aurangzeb ordered the execution of Guru Tegh Bahadur for supporting the religious freedom of Kashmiri Pandits. For the first time, it was illuminated on the occasion of Prakash Parv.
- ◆ A museum on the life of the guru has been built at the Red Fort.

NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICES DAY

21ST APRIL

Saluting the Steel Frame of India

Exemplary work done in five identified priority programmes were given awards for promoting excellence.

On the occasion of Civil Services Day observed on 21st April 2022, PM Modi conferred the Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi and addressed the civil servants.

Exemplary work done in the following five identified priority programmes were given awards for promoting excellence in:

- "Jan Bhagidari" or people's participation in **Poshan Abhiyan**
- Sports and wellness through **Khelo India**
- Digital payments and good governance in **PM Svanidhi Yojana**

- Holistic Development through **One District One Product** scheme
- Seamless, **end-to-end delivery of services** without human intervention.

PM greeted all the 'Karmayogis' and suggested that all the training academies can virtually share the process and experiences of the award winners on a weekly basis.

Secondly, from the award-winning projects, one scheme may be chosen for implementation among few districts and the experience of the same may be discussed in the next year's Civil Service Day.



Smt Shubha T R



Delhi Jal Board

NTPC - Delhi JAL BOARD convert WASTE into ENERGY

DO YOU KNOW ?

- In an STP, the sewage is taken through different steps (screening, grit removal, settling, filtering etc.) there by producing sludge and purified water.
- The accumulated residue at the end of the sewage treatment is called sludge or bio-solids. Solid sludge is collected and decomposed into manure or can be torrefied to produce energy. Bio-gas produced from solid sludge is used as fuel.
- **Torrefaction** is a thermo-chemical process that improves the properties of the biomass (renewable organic material) thereby converting it into char type (charred) material with increased energy density and high heating value for energy generation. Sludge treated through torrefaction process produces torrefied sludge.

National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd (NTPC), India's largest integrated energy company has come together with Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to convert sludge produced in sewage treatment plants into energy.



In Delhi-NCR alone, Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) produce up to 800 MT of sludge per day. Torrefied waste sludge was fired into NTPC's unit 4 boilers at Dadri for power generation. Firing sludge into the boiler will reduce net CO₂ emission as well as water and land pollution. It can help utilising the waste and converting it to energy in an eco-friendly manner. NTPC will have 60 GW capacity through renewable energy sources by 2032.





Assam Cancer Care Hospitals Now Operational

- Dibrugarh Cancer Centre
- Barpeta Cancer Centre
- Tezpur Cancer Centre
- Lakhimpur Cancer Centre
- Jorhat Cancer Centre
- Darrang Cancer Centre
- Kokrajhar Cancer Centre

- Equipped with latest technology
- Highly experienced Oncologists
- Oncology trained nurses



ASSAM A Cancer Care Hub

Assam Cancer Care Foundation, a joint venture between the government of Assam and Tata Trusts, is operating a project to build South Asia's largest affordable cancer care network with 17 hospitals spread across the state.

PM Modi visited Assam on 28th April 2022 for some key programmes in Diphu and Dibrugarh. He addressed the 'Peace, Unity and Development Rally' at Diphu in Karbi Anglong district.

He also laid the foundation stone for the veterinary college, degree college, agricultural college and 2950 Amrit Sarovar projects (mission to develop and rejuvenate water bodies). He later visited several cancer

hospitals and dedicated them to the nation.

At Dibrugarh, Assam Cancer Care Foundation, a joint venture between the government of Assam and Tata Trusts, is operating a project to build South Asia's largest affordable cancer care network with 17 hospitals spread across the state. Assam government is working tirelessly to make Guwahati the future medical hub.





Indigenous navigation system

'GAGAN'

GAGAN will modernize airspace, save fuel, reduce flight delays and improve overall flight safety.

In a major milestone in the history of India's aviation industry, Indigo became the first airline to land an aircraft using the indigenous navigation system GAGAN at the Kishangarh airport in Rajasthan.

The GPS-Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) provides vertical and lateral guidance when an aircraft is approaching a runway, with its precision extremely useful in smaller airports where the instrument landing system (ILS) has not been installed.

Using an ATR-72 aircraft, Indigo performed the tests along

with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) team on-board as part of initial GAGAN LPV (Localizer Performance with Vertical Guidance) flight trials. The procedure will be available for usage on commercial flights after the final approval by DGCA.

Developed jointly by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), GAGAN will modernize airspace, save fuel, reduce flight delays and improve overall flight safety.

All aircraft registered after the 1st of July 2021 are to be fitted with GAGAN equipment.



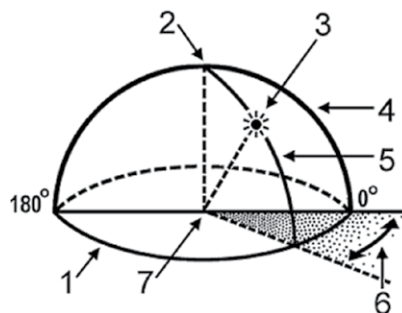


DO YOU KNOW ?

Instrument Landing System (ILS) is a standard International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) precision landing aid that is used to provide accurate azimuth and descent guidance signals for guidance to aircraft for landing on the runway under normal or adverse weather conditions.

Azimuth

1. an arc of the horizon measured between a fixed point (such as true north) and the vertical circle passing through the centre of an object usually in astronomy and navigation clockwise from the north point through 360 degrees.
2. horizontal direction expressed as the angular distance between the direction of a fixed point (such as the observer's heading) and the direction of the object.



1. horizon
2. zenith
3. star
4. meridian
5. vertical circle
6. azimuth
7. observer

Localizer performance with vertical guidance (LPV) are the highest precision GPS aviation instrument approach procedures currently available without specialized aircrew training requirements such as required navigation performance (RNP).

Required navigation performance (RNP) is a type of performance-based navigation (PBN) that allows an aircraft to fly a specific path between two 3D-defined points in space.



Open Network for Digital Commerce launched



With ONDC comes a lot more choice and transparency from the sellers thereby creating an environment where Indian made products and Indian owned business can profit from the same visibility that international companies receive.

Online Digital Marketplaces like Amazon, Flipkart and E-Bay began with the promise of providing competitive e-commerce models that would help small business owners who do not have the resources to compete with multi-million-dollar corporations. But as these companies have grown, their promises have not been kept.

To counter this and the influence these services have, GOI launched, on 29th April 2022, the pilot phase of its Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) in five cities, Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Shillong and Coimbatore.

Much like how Paytm was designed by Indian companies for

the Indian market to compete with international UPI applications, ONDC is also expected to do the same for smaller sellers, helping them compete with much larger companies.

ONDC as a platform will help with pricing, inventory management, delivery cost and discovery of products and services.

This means that customers will have a lot of freedom of choice and sellers will be able to bring their goods and services to more customers even if they do not have a large enough budget for advertisements.

Standardisation of operations such as cataloguing, inventory management and order fulfilment are all expected to be handled on the ONDC platform itself making it a seamless and hassle-free process for the customer and seller.

With this new platform, comes a lot more choice and transparency from the sellers thereby creating an environment where Indian made products and Indian owned business can profit from the same visibility that international companies receive. This will surely change the way we look at and approach our digital purchases henceforth.





Khadi exceeds ₹1 Lakh Crore *turn over*

Innovative schemes, creative marketing ideas and active support from various ministries have also added to the khadi's growth in recent years.

Members of Generation Next !!!

You may be pleasantly surprised by what I am about to tell you! The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises on Saturday said Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) clocked a massive turnover of ₹1.15 lakh crore, in FY 2021-22 which is unprecedented by any FMCG company in the country. This makes KVIC the only company in the country to have recorded a turnover of ₹1 lakh crore plus.

Looking at the performance in the last one year, the biggest impact can be seen in the khadi sector which has registered a growth of

43.20% from ₹3528 crore in 2020-21 to ₹5052 crore in 2021-22. In the last 8 years, i.e. from 2014-15, the production in the khadi sector in 2021-22 has increased by a whopping 191%, while the khadi sales have increased exponentially by 332%.

KVIC chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena attributed khadi's phenomenal growth to the constant support of the Prime Minister to promote khadi in the country. At the same time, innovative schemes, creative marketing ideas and active support from various ministries have also added to the khadi's growth in recent years.

Home Minister Shri Amit Shah recently launched the sale of khadi products in 107 central armed police forces canteens.

All the canteens of paramilitary forces across the country will soon begin selling khadi products like the national flag, cotton towels, ready made garments, honey, mustard oil, agarbatti, daliya, papad, pickles etc.

This achievement and further plans are one more step in the direction of AtmaNirbhar Bharat.

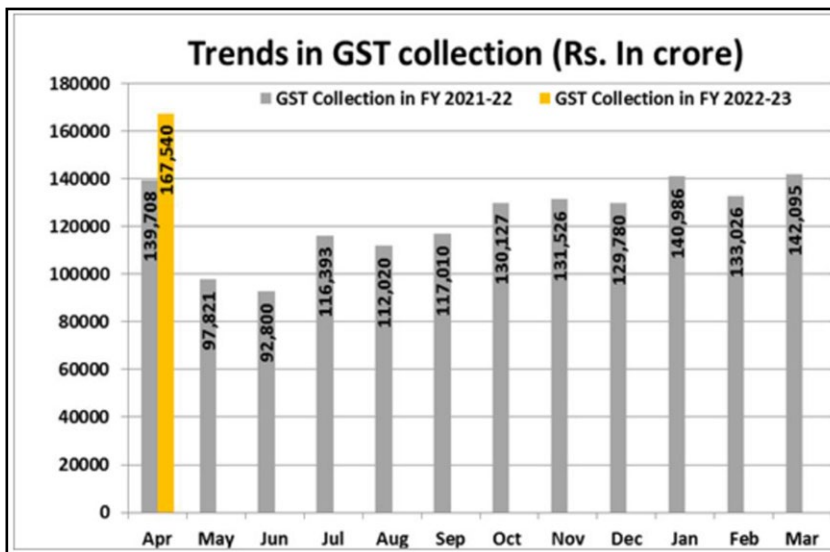




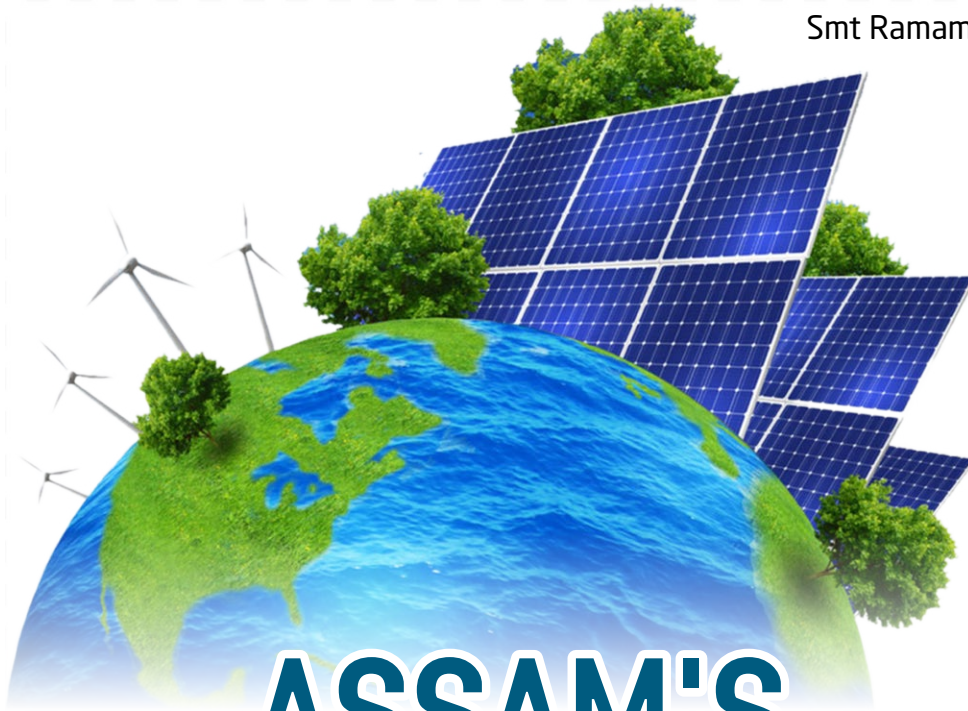
All-time high GST collections

The goods and services tax (GST) collections has hit an all-time high of ₹ 1.68 lakh crore in April 2022, which is a 20% increase from April 2021.

GST is an indirect tax levied on goods and services sold domestically for consumption. It is beneficial for integrating the economy and giving Indian products a better competition in the international market.



The finance ministry has attributed this growth in GST revenues to improved economic activities, recovery of business activity at a faster pace, better tax administration and improved enforcement action against tax evaders identified based on data analytics and artificial intelligence. **The record growth augurs well for the Indian government, especially at a time when inflation is high and there is global volatility due to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.**



ASSAM'S largest solar power plant

A 90 Megawatt solar plant has been commissioned by **Azure Power Global Ltd**, a leading independent sustainable energy solutions provider and power producer in India. It is the largest in Assam, developed across the

four districts of Udalguri, Kamrup, Nagaon and Cachar. The project was commissioned in phases; **the final phase of 25 MW** has been commissioned in Cachar.

Power generated by the plant is being supplied to Assam Power Distribution Company Limited under a long term 25-year PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) at a tariff of ₹3.34 per kWh.

The company has an operational capacity of over 2900 MW of high-performing renewable energy assets in India. This project would be a step forward in realising the vision of **transforming Assam into a sustainably developed state by 2030** as part of GOI's **Green India Mission**. Increased employment and revenue generation for the local population is guaranteed.





COLLECTION SHOWS

52% GROWTH

DO YOU KNOW

Over 54.6 lakh cars are enabled with FASTag and over 500 dedicated lanes are available on the national and state highways to make travelling hassle-free.

What is FASTag?

FASTag is a device that employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly while the vehicle is in motion. FASTag (RFID Tag) is affixed on the windscreen of the vehicle and it enables a customer to make the toll payments directly from the account which is linked to FASTag.

ADVANTAGES

- Savings on fuel and time since you don't have to stop at toll plaza.
- Tames corruption since no cash is handled.

- Safer and more secure payment system across the country.
- Digital system protects against crime and mishaps – vehicle details can be easily traced.

DISADVANTAGES

- System or network failure, technical glitches cause hardship to customers and toll operators.
- Since it is just a sticker it can easily get damaged.


The collections witnessed a steep increase in April 2022 given the hike in toll rates in the range of 8.4 %. Toll collection through FASTag rose to ₹38,084 crores in financial year 2022. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari informed that with FASTag system, the time taken by one vehicle to cross a fee plaza has come down to 47 seconds only. This has helped greatly reduce the waiting time at the toll plaza.

Data as of 4th May 2022 shows:

	April 2021	March 2022	April 2022
Number of transactions	164.32 million	270.41 million	265.98 million
Amount collected	₹ 2776.90 crores	₹ 4,095.30 crores	₹ 4,218.89 crores



Delimitation Commission

Shri Bharath 

New Delhi



The Delimitation Commission of Jammu and Kashmir

Delimitation is normally done to ensure equal representation for equal segments of the population and to have a fair division of geographical areas.

In March 2020 the Government Of India set up a commission to carry out the delimitation exercise in J&K and the four North Eastern states, based on the 2011 census.

The original time line set was one year, but later the government took the NE states out of the purview of this exercise for now, while extending the time line.

The commission was headed by Ranjana Prakash Desai, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India, Sushil Chandra, the Chief Election Commissioner of India (since retired) and K.K.Sharma the State election Commissioner of J&K. It also had five associate members who are MPs from J&K. The commission released its order on 5th May 2022. That has also been notified in the Gazette.

WHAT?

We know that elections are held regularly in India and those above 18 years are eligible to vote in their respective constituencies.

Delimitation is the process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies to represent changes in population. Post this exercise the number of constituencies and their boundaries may also get altered.

WHY?

Delimitation is normally done to ensure equal representation for equal segments of the population and to have a fair division of geographical areas. The overarching goal is “One Vote One Value”, which indicates that it is to be done after every census.





The commission met about 242 delegates and 1600 people through public hearings held at Jammu and Srinagar and took inputs from political leaders, social social organizations, common citizens and the media.

The parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every census and sets up a Delimitation Commission to carry this out. In the case of J&K the need arose as the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019 increased the number of seats in the assembly.

Prior to the abrogation of the special status to J&K, the delimitation of the parliamentary constituencies was governed by the Constitution of India and that of the Assembly constituencies by the Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People Act, 1957. But now both are governed by the Constitution of India.

HOW?

The commission undertook two visits to J&K and had wide

ranging consultations with all the stakeholders. The commission met about 242 delegates and 1600 people through public hearings held at Jammu and Srinagar.

It took inputs from political leaders, social organizations, common citizens and the media.

Given the huge differences in the aspirations of the people of J&K regions, arising out of geographical, cultural and religious factors, population density issues -differing very widely between 3436 /sq.km in the plains to 29/sq.km in the hilly areas, difficult connectivity between various districts and the fact that some border districts are always prone to shelling by the neighbouring country, the task was really daunting.

Key takeaways

a) For the first time six assembly seats in Jammu and three in Kashmir have now been reserved for the Scheduled Tribes (STs).

b) Six assembly seats have been added in Jammu and one in Kashmir. Jammu's seat share has now increased from 37 to 43 and that of Kashmir from 46 to 47. The total number of seats in the assembly has moved up from 83 to 90. Each parliamentary constituency has 18 assembly constituencies.

c) The commission has proposed the nomination of at least 2 people from the Kashmiri migrant population, one of whom should be a woman with voting rights (similar to the Puducherry assembly).

There has been opposition to this order from some quarters. However it appears that the commission has done a fair job in absorbing and factoring the competing claims to equitable exercise of democratic rights by people living in inequitable conditions. How it pans out remains to be seen.





RAILWAYS

THE vehicle for vehicles

Indian Railways is achieving new heights in transportation of automobiles with an increase in loading of automobiles from 429 rakes in 2013-14, to 1,595 rakes in 2019-20.

From time immemorial, Indian Railways has been one of the most dependable transportation modes for passengers and goods in terms of safety. It is more so on account of the fact that trains move fast and are in the least affected by vagaries of weather be it fog or rain. Rail transport is better organised when compared to other means of transport. It has definitive fixed routes and clear schedules. The services are certain and regular which helps in scheduling transportation of goods.

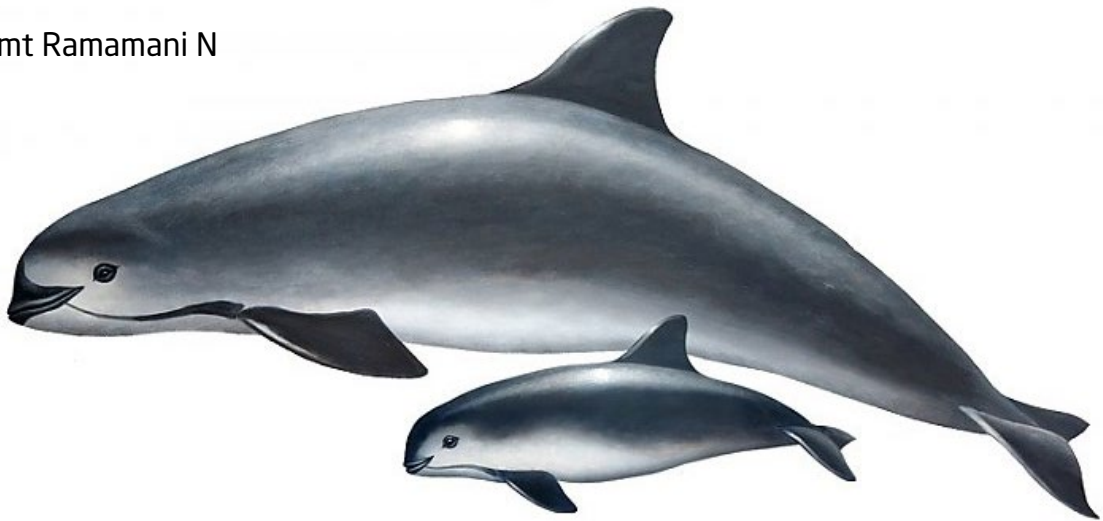
Indian Railways is achieving new heights in transportation of automobiles. There has been an increase in loading of automobiles from 429 rakes in 2013-14, to 1,595 rakes in 2019-20. With India expected to be the world's third largest automotive market in terms of volume by 2026, the potential is

huge and humongous.

Having sensed it, the Indian Railways has liberalised its automobile freight train operator (AFTO) policy in 2021, with the aim of attracting more interest from automobile companies. This allows private firms to fabricate and operate high speed, high capacity auto-wagon rakes on the railways network. Maruti Suzuki is the first auto manufacturer in the country to obtain an AFTO licence. Indian Automobile companies are finding this option viable and see merit in transporting finished goods by the rail route than sticking to the conventional model.

Rake (train) a line of coupled passenger coaches or freight wagons or rail cars (excluding the locomotive) that move together.





The endangered VAQUITA PORPOISE

DO YOU KNOW ?

- A **Cetacean** is an aquatic group of mammals commonly known as whales, dolphins and porpoises.
- Vaquitas mean “**little cow**” in Spanish.
- International **Save the Vaquita Day** is celebrated in July every year since 2018.

The vaquita, a species of porpoise is the smallest living cetacean. Discovered in 1958, it has become the most endangered with **just 10 numbers**. It has a black ring around each eye and black coloured lips. It is dark grey on the top with pale grey sides and a white underside with light grey markings. Newborns have darker colouration.



It feeds on small fish, crustaceans and cephalopods (*such as squid and octopuses*).

Vaquitas could be saved from extinction if illegal gillnet fishing ceases. Humans have a crucial role in restoring and preserving them.

Scientific Name	Phocoena sinus
Height	Average of 140 to 150 cms
Weight	120 pounds
Life Span	21 years
Habitat	Marine (Gulf of California)
Population	Only 10





Sudhakar Dalela



Naveen Srivastava

INDIA'S NEW AMBASSADORS

Countering Chinese influence

The latest appointment of Naveen Srivastava as ambassador to Kathmandu and Sudhakar Dalela as ambassador to Thimphu in May is seen as a strategic move.

To say that India and China have rocky diplomatic relations would be an understatement. With major disputes over Indian territory and their ties with Pakistan, Chinese influence against India has not shown any signs of diminishing and the Indian government continues to take steps to curb the same.

The latest appointment of Naveen Srivastava as ambassador to Kathmandu and Sudhakar Dalela as ambassador to Thimphu in May is seen as a strategic move to ensure that growing Chinese influence in the region is curbed.

Naveen Srivastava has extensive experience as a participant in conferences and talks between Indian and Chinese politicians and commanders and has also served

previously as India's Consul-General in Shanghai. Tasked with strengthening ties with Nepal against China, his experience with Chinese politics is expected to give India an edge in ensuring that Chinese influence does not erode Indo-Nepalese ties.

In Bhutan, Sudhakar Dalela's experience with international affairs in Washington and as desk-in-charge of Bhutan within the Ministry of External Affairs, is expected to give him the expertise necessary to further strengthen the significant ties that India has with Bhutan's royal household, senior politicians and military officials.

These appointments show the Indian government's conviction to stop China's predations in India and also its neighbourhood.



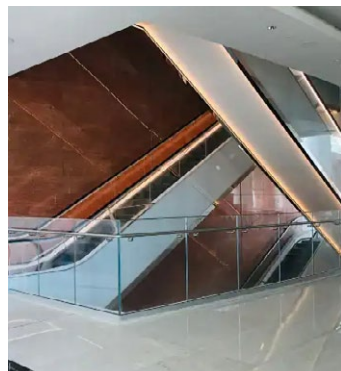
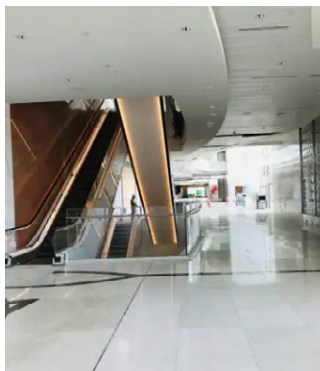
World's largest elevator

The world's largest elevator has been installed in Mumbai at Jio World Centre by KONE Elevators India, a global leader in the elevator and escalator industry.

It is a pure engineering marvel. Designed as a centre piece of the collaboration-focused design, it provides visitors a glimpse into the expansive world of JWC at Bandra Kurla Complex.

Features

- 25.78 sq. metres area; weighs 16 tons.
- Hoisted on 18 pulleys and 9 ropes for optimal safety.
- Can carry 200 people at a time.
- Unique four-panel glass door with glass walls offers panoramic views.
- Two info screens offer building news and updates.
- Travels between five floors at a speed of one metre per second with ornate, crystal-studded elegant interiors.





INDIA'S first locally made ELECTRIC BUS

Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) is a lot lower than the current generation of buses that are combustion engine-powered (ICE)

India's first indigenously developed electric bus EKA E9 was showcased recently.

Features

- 9-metre bus ; monocoque stainless steel chassis.
- Has front and rear air suspension.
- Motor offers a maximum energy of 200 KW.
- 2500 Nm torque with a "regenerative braking device."
- Low floor at a height of 650mm which makes it friendly for the aged and disabled. It also has a wheelchair ramp.
- Can carry 31 passengers.
- Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) is a lot lower than the current generation of buses that are

combustion engine-powered (ICE).

Chassis - the metal frame of a vehicle onto which the other parts fit.

Monocoque - an aircraft or vehicle structure in which the chassis is integral with the body.

Total cost of ownership (TCO) is an estimation of the expenses associated with purchasing, deploying, using and retiring a product or piece of equipment.

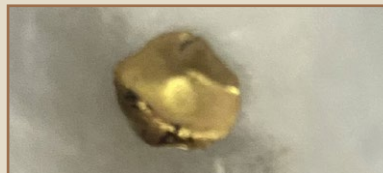
Regenerative braking uses an electric vehicle's motor as a generator to convert much of the kinetic energy lost (when decelerating) back into stored energy in the vehicle's battery.



5000-YEAR-OLD Jewellery Factory



A 5000-year-old jewellery factory was found by the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) in Rakhigarhi, Haryana. Rakhigarhi is one of the five known biggest townships of Indus valley



or Harappan civilization in the subcontinent.

Other four are **Harappa**, **Mohenjodaro** and **Ganveriwala** in Pakistan and **Dholavira** (Gujarat) in India. The ASI has been working on this site for the past 32 years.

The excavations have revealed a mature Harappan phase marked by town planning and mud-brick as well as burnt-brick houses with proper drainage systems.

The factory also shows that this town must have been an important trade centre. Copper and gold items were also found.

“ You can say that the people of Rakhigarhi were the ancestors of those of Hastinapur and from this the culture got development and momentum,” said Dr. Sanjay Manjul, Additional Director General of ASI.





PM-WANI *in* 100 RAILWAY STATIONS

RailTel has launched Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) - based access of its Public WiFi services across 100 major stations.

RailTel is also making a continuous effort in providing broadband internet connectivity to more and more rural areas as part of the Digital India mission.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Android users can connect to the WIFI network by downloading the WI-DOT app from the Google PlayStore.
- Connecting to WIFI using the app is easier than the existing one where Rail Wire Service Set Identifier is used.
- One time KYC to bypass OTP verification.
- Network covers 6,102 railway stations with 17,792 wifi hotspots.





DO YOU KNOW

- India with 16% of world population has 4% of the world's water.
- India's rank in per capita availability of potable water is 132.
- Nearly 70% of the world's fresh water is locked in ice sheets and the rest in underground aquifers, just 1% is available in the open bodies like rivers, ponds and lakes.

PM Modi launched Amrit Sarovar on 24th April 2022, with the aim of developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country. Altogether, it would lead to the creation of 50,000 water bodies of a size of about an acre or more.

This mission will involve the coordination of six Ministries/ Departments - Dept of Rural Development, Dept of Land Resources, Dept of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Dept of Water Resources, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate changes. Additionally, Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) are technical partners.

The mission works by refocusing on various schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi NREGS,

XV Finance Commission Grants, PMKSY sub schemes such as Watershed Development Component, Har Khet Ko Pani besides states' own schemes. It encourages mobilisation of citizen and non-government resources for supplementing these efforts.

So far, 12,241 sites have been finalised for construction of Amrit Sarovars by states/districts, out of which, work has started on 4,856 Amrit Sarovars.

India's first Amrit Sarovar at Rampur's Gram Panchayat Patwai (UP) was inaugurated by Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Jal Shakti Minister Swatantra Singh. A pond in Rampur was cleaned and revived in just a few weeks at a cost of ₹60 lakhs. The government will also develop greenery around the place.



Pandit

SHIV KUMAR SHARMA



DO YOU KNOW ?



Santoor is generally made of walnut wood and has 25 bridges. Each bridge has 4 strings, making for a total of 100 strings and was called Shatha Tantri Veena in ancient Sanskrit texts.

Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma (13.1.1938 – 10.5.2022), the santoor maestro who elevated the folk instrument to the status of sitar and sarod in Hindustani classical music through his work is no more. The J&K born master was also good at tabla. Sharma began learning santoor from his father Uma Dutt Sharma at the age of thirteen.

Career

- First public performance : In Mumbai (1955)
- Collaborated with Indian tabla player Zakir Hussain in many of his performances.
- Teamed up with Hariprasad Chaurasia and guitarist Brij Bhushan Kabra, produced the album Call of the Valley (1967)
- Composed the background music for one of the scenes in V. Shantaram's Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baje
- Collaborated with Chaurasia, composed music for Hindi

films, Silsila (1981), Faasle (1985), Chandni (1989), Lamhe (1991), and Darr (1993).

- Played tabla in the popular song "Mo Se Chhal Kiye Jaaye" in the 1965 film Guide.

Contribution to Indian culture

Many traditionalists criticised that the santoor was ill suited to Hindustani music. In response to the negative feedback, Sharma changed the arrangement and tuning of the strings and reworked his playing technique to produce a more-sustained sound that suggested the tone and flexibility of the human voice. As a result of his unflagging effort, Santoor has been shifted from a predominantly accompanying role in the Kashmiri Sufi music to a solo role in the Hindustani classical music. He also took Santoor to the global stage.

Awards

- **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** (1986)
- **Padma Shri** (1991)
- **Padma Bhushan** (2001)





Rajiv Kumar the new CEC

DO YOU KNOW

- **V.S. Ramadevi** was the first woman CEC of India.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) established in 1950 is an **autonomous constitutional entity** responsible for conducting elections at the national, state and district levels. The powers of the ECI are defined in **article 324** of the constitution.



Rajiv Kumar, an IAS officer from the Bihar / Jharkhand cadre, was appointed on 15th May 2022 as the 25th Chief Election Commissioner of India.

Born on 19th February 1960, he holds B.S.C, LL.B, PGDM and an MA in Public policy and sustainability.

He has more than 36 years of experience in various ministries at the Centre and State in the areas of social sector, environment and forests, human resources, finance and banking.



National DATA & ANALYTICS PLATFORM launched

New digital technologies and data analytics are rapidly changing lives, work and businesses.

We live in a data driven world, where big data is being generated by every digital process, systems, gadgets and sensors around us. Organizations and government agencies are adopting advanced data analytics strategy to derive real-time insights from these data. New digital technologies and data analytics are rapidly changing lives, work and businesses.

In the presence of Chief Economic Advisor to the GOI Anantha Nageswaran, senior officials from various ministries and state governments, academics, and researchers, Niti Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery launched



the platform on 13th May 2022 to "democratize" access to public government data by making it accessible, coherent, interactive, and available on a user-friendly platform.





35 million-year-old rare *SNAKE FOSSIL* discovered

DO YOU KNOW

- **Cretaceous Era-** the geographical period from 145 to 66 million years ago.
- **Gondwana** is an ancient super continent that broke up about 180 million years ago into the land masses we recognize today.

A Madtsoiidae snake fossil has been sighted from the molasse deposits of Ladakh, which indicates their survival in the subcontinent for much longer than previously assumed.

Madtsoiidae is an extinct family of medium-sized to gigantic snakes that first appeared during

the late Cretaceous period in the Gondwanan land masses.

According to the fossil record, the Madtsoiidae disappeared from most continents during the mid-Paleocene era (around 40 million years ago), with the exception of Australia where it survived till late Pleistocene (129,000 to 11,700 years ago).

Molasse refers to non-marine conglomerate, sandstone and shale produced from mountainous erosion and deposited in rivers and lakes.

This research was published in the Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology.





INS VAGSHEER

SUBMARINE LAUNCH

INS Vagsheer
is a diesel
- electric
submarine
capable of
advanced
warfare.

The Indian armed forces have always pushed the envelope in developing technologies and weapon systems to improve all branches of operation.

One such project undertaken by the Indian Navy is the P-75I Submarine project intended to oversee the development and deployment of 6 diesel-electric submarines capable of advanced warfare.

Vagsheer, named after the Sand Fish – a deadly deep-sea predator found in the Indian Ocean, is the

sixth submarine launched from the Mazagon docks of Mumbai on 20th April 2022. Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar IAS stated that Vagsheer will undergo rigorous sea trials for more than a year after which it is expected to be commissioned as a fully combat-worthy submarine.

With powerful defensive and offensive capabilities such as anti-ship, anti-submarine, anti-surface and land-attack warfare, Vagsheer is a testament to the success and the scope of the **Make in India** initiative.





7 BRAHMOS MISSILE TESTS in less than 4 months

DO YOU KNOW

BrahMos, a ramjet-powered supersonic cruise missile with a solid propellant booster, is among the fastest in the world.

Twenty years ago, the first BrahMos missile was tested. It has progressed into a critical element of India's protection. India has been conducting back-to-back tests of its various versions.

Highlights

19th April - Indian Navy tested the anti-ship version; IAF tested the air-launched variant from a Su-30 MKI fighter.

23rd March - The extended-range variant was tested from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

5th March - Indian Navy test-fired an extended-range land-attack missile from its stealth-guided missile destroyer INS Chennai.

18th February - INS Visakha patnam launched a missile in the Bay of Bengal.



2nd February - A missile from a ground-based launcher was tested.

20th January - A missile with increased indigenous content and improved performance was test-fired for its maximum range.

The launches aimed at testing new variants, new components added to increase the level of indigenous content in the missile and also the preparedness of the forces.





IFEP System for Indian Navy

DO YOU KNOW

IFEPS is an arrangement where gas turbines or diesel generators or both generate 3-phase electricity which is then used to power electric motors turning propellers or water jet impellers. It eliminates the need for clutches and reduces or eliminates the need for gearboxes.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has inked a pact with General Electric Power Conversion (GEP) for the development of **Integrated Full Electric Propulsion System** (IFEPS) for the Indian Navy.

With a deep understanding of naval requirements and standards, GEP claims to provide integrated solutions for design, integration, installation and life cycle support of electric propulsion systems. BHEL, a supplier of critical equipment and services in the defence and aerospace sector for over thirty years, is considered a perfect partner for this endeavour.



Indian Navy will benefit from this advanced technology that constitutes indigenous manufacture.





OneWeb - ISRO tie up for Satellite Launches

On 20th April, global satellite internet service provider OneWeb signed an agreement with the New Space India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to accelerate its satellite launch programme.

Headquartered in London, OneWeb is backed by Bharti Group led by Sunit Mittal and the United Kingdom government. The first launch with NSIL will be from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota in 2022. This will add to OneWeb's total of 428 satellites to build a global network that will deliver high-speed, low-latency (minimal delay) connectivity.





Minicoy Islands



Dadu is back from his long vacation.

Balu : How was your recent island trip, Dadu? I vaguely remember its name. [guessing] It is...

Dadu : Let me help you. It starts with the letter M and ends with Y; it is one of Lakshadweep's southern most island groups.

Balu : [Excitedly] Dadu, you remind me of my favourite "Dweep halwa," one of Lakshadweep's famous desserts. [After a few moments] Ahh...Minicoy Islands?!

Dadu : Exactly!

Balu : [Thrilled] Wow! Tell me more.

Dadu : Minicoy Island is the second largest island in Lakshadweep, 398 kilometres south-west; it is crescent-shaped and has one of the largest lagoons and one of the few inhabited island groups.

Balu : [Curiously] Anything unique?

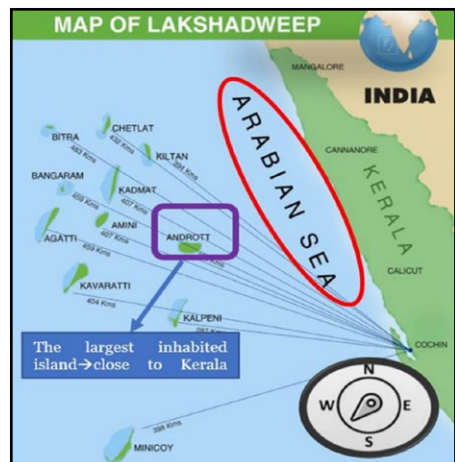
Dadu : The island's greatest draw is its array of villages, known as 'Avah.' There are ten villages on the island, each with its own internal organisation led by a chieftain. Each is headed by a male and a female mayor. Village assemblies and common feasts during festive occasions are conducted at the village house.

Balu : Fantastic! What about their art and culture?

Dadu : Minicoy was previously a part of the Maldives group of islands before being annexed by India.

Its culture and traditions are similar to those of the Maldives.

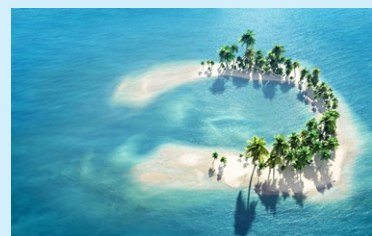
I also saw that every house had a beautifully furnished and painted wooden swing cot.



1,300-foot-tall lighthouse

Can You Recollect?

An atoll is a ring-shaped coral reef, island, or series of islets. An atoll surrounds a body of water called a lagoon. Sometimes, atolls and lagoons protect a central island.





They embellish finely engraved table tops and fishing boats in varied hues. Boat modelling is one of the handicrafts. The Jahadhoni (racing boat) is utilised for races, dignitary receptions, and the yearly picnic to

Viringili (islet).

Balu : Dadu, their main sources of income are fishing boats, country crafts and coconut tree products, right?

Dadu : Yes, and the tuna canning factory is the most thriving industry here.



Balu : [Excited] Dadu, what were the places you visited?

Dadu : We drove on a long journey through lush coconut groves and winding rural roads before visiting the 300-foot-tall lighthouse built by the British in 1885. One can swim and go for a beach walk here, which offers bathing huts and changing facilities. There were cottages available for us to stay in. Take a look at the photos.

Dance Forms



1. Lava



2. Thaara



3. Dandi



4. Bandiya



Population: 10447 (2014)



Villages: Bada, Aoumagu, Boduathiri, Rammedu, Sedivalu, Aloodi, Funhilol, Kudehi, Falessery and Kendiparty (from south to north).



Languages: Mahl, Malayalam Hindi and English



Area: 4.801 sq. km



Summer: 32.0 °C (89.6 °F)

Winter: 28.0 °C (82.4 °F)



Famous for: Primary water sports (kayaking, snorkelling, scuba diving) and exploring the vibrant coral reefs.

Things not to do: Picking up Corals is a punishable crime.



Religion: Islam



INDIAN ELECTION SYSTEM

Biggest Democracy in the World



Rajya Sabha is the upper house of the parliament with a total strength of 245 members and the term of each member is 6 years.

Introduction

India is a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic. Democracy runs like a golden thread in the social, economic and political fabric woven by the Constitution given by 'We, the People of India' unto ourselves.

The concept of democracy as visualised by the Constitution pre-supposes the representation of the people in Parliament and State legislatures by the method of election. The Constitution adopted a parliamentary form of government. Parliament consists of the President of India and the two Houses — Rajya Sabha (RS) and Lok Sabha (LS). India, being a Union of states, has separate state legislatures for each state.

The country has 543 parliamentary constituencies, each of which returns one MP to the Lok

Sabha. The Federal Democratic Republic of India has thirty six constituent units. All the twenty nine states and two of the seven Union Territories have their own assemblies - Vidhan Sabhas. The thirty one Assemblies have 4,120 constituencies.

Rajya Sabha is the upper house of the parliament with a total strength of 245 members and the term of each member is 6 years. RS is meant for the representation of states in the parliament and RS MPs are elected by the members of respective state assemblies/ Electoral college of UTs. One third members of RS retire every 2 years.

The party or coalition with a simple majority (273 seats) is invited to form a government. The MPs from the winning party or coalition elect their leader who then becomes the country's prime minister.



DO YOU KNOW ?

- ▶ In the first elections, GOI spent ₹0.60 on an elector whereas it touched ₹700 per voter in 2019.
- ▶ In 2019 for the first time female voter turnout equalled male voter turnout - 67 % – the highest ever, as well as the highest ever participation by women voters.

Independent Election Commission

Elections are conducted through a powerful and independent institution called the Election Commission of India (ECI). The ECI is a constitutional body which is autonomous and independent of the government. It enjoys independence like the judges of the Supreme Court of India. The Chief Election Commissioner of India (CEC) is appointed by the President, but after his appointment, the CEC is not answerable to the President or the government. It has been given wide powers to conduct free and fair elections. The government or the ruling party has no occasion to influence or pressurize the election commission.

Role of Election Commission

The Election Commission (EC) takes decisions on every aspect related to the election from the announcement of elections to the declaration of results. The EC supervises and controls the administration of elections. It checks and corrects any fault immediately. It implements the

code of conduct and punishes any candidate or party found guilty of any violation. During the election period, the EC acquires powers to order the government to follow settled guidelines to prevent use and misuse of governmental power to enhance its chances to win elections or to transfer some government officials. All the officers and staff of the government put on election duty work under the control of EC only.

As per latest publication dated 23rd September 2021 from EC, the total number of parties registered was 2858, with 8 national parties, 54 state parties and 2,797 unrecognised parties.

Acceptance of Election Outcome

The electoral outcomes in India are usually accepted as people's verdict by the defeated candidates or party. The result of election frequently changes the ruling government, which clearly illustrates that the elections in India



are free and fair. The ruling parties routinely lose elections in India, both at the national and state level. In fact, in every two out of the three elections held in the last fifteen years, the ruling party lost.

Elections

The first General Elections of India started on 25th October 1951 and continued till 21st February 1952. It was a landslide victory for the Indian National Congress and Jawaharlal Nehru became India's





Approximately 900 million voters – more than the combined population of the US and Europe – are eligible to participate in the world’s biggest electoral exercise.

first democratically elected prime minister. Out of a total population of 36 crore, about 17.32 crore were eligible to vote. There was a turnout of 45% in the first general elections.

The Indian voter ID card is an identity document issued by the EC to adult domiciles of India who have reached the age of 18, which primarily serves as an identity proof for Indian citizens while casting their ballot in the country's municipal, state and national elections. First introduced in 1993, it also serves as a proof of general identity, address and age. Electors will be able to download electronic versions of the Electors Photo Identity Cards (e-EPICs) from January 25 as EC is set to launch the programme during its National Voters Day celebrations.

Holding elections in world’s seventh largest nation by area and second most populous country is humongous and complex. Millions of poll workers, police and security personnel are deployed in cities, towns, villages and hamlets. They use planes, boats, trains, helicopters, elephants and camels and travel by foot to reach far flung voters, from the snow-capped Himalayan mountains in the north to tiny islands in the Arabian Sea to

the south, the desert in the west and the deep forests in the east.

The commission sets up a polling booth for a lone voter in the Gir forest (Gujarat), where lions roam. It also protected a polling station in Chhattisgarh by deploying a medical team to prevent a swarm of honeybees attacking voters.

Approximately 900 million voters – more than the combined population of the US and Europe– are eligible to participate in the world’s biggest electoral exercise. More than 11 million election officials, including security forces, will be deployed across more than one million polling stations to “conduct the biggest management event of any kind”.

Voting in India is conducted by electronic voting machines (EVM), which was first introduced in 1982. EVMs allow vote counting to be completed in three hours compared to manual counting, which could take 30 to 40 hours.

ECI has introduced several measures to ensure free and fair elections - digital cameras, videotaping of speeches and the use of wireless networks during the election process. **Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT)** machines are used along with EVMs at all polling stations after opposition parties questioned the EVMs’ accuracy. VVPAT allows the voter to cross-check the votes.

A thriving and vibrant electoral democracy has been India’s distinct and durable identity, long before it asserted itself as an economic, nuclear or IT major. Founded by a great Constitution, it has been nurtured by parliament, judiciary, political parties, media and above all by the people of India, with some distinct contribution from the Election Commission of India.



Environment & Climate Change

Use the given visual clues to find the answers:

<p>1. True/False? Most places on earth are warmer than they were 100 years ago.</p> 	<p>2. Where have some of the strongest and earliest impacts of global warming occurred?</p> 	<p>3. Which kind of pollution in the atmosphere can cool the planet by reducing the amount of solar radiation that reaches Earth's surface?</p> 				
<p>4. If you removed the atmosphere's natural greenhouse effect, and everything else stayed the same, Earth's temperature would be:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="216 1224 486 1425"> <thead> <tr> <th>BEFORE</th> <th>AFTER</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BEFORE	AFTER			<p>5. Which of the following gases does not trap heat?</p> 	<p>6. Which greenhouse gas is the main driver of Earth's current warming?</p> 
BEFORE	AFTER					
						
<p>7. How can extreme events like hurricanes, drought and wildfires impact energy infrastructure?</p> 	<p>8. Why are forests important for mitigating climate change?</p> 	<p>9. The most impactful action you can take to reduce your carbon footprint is:</p> 				

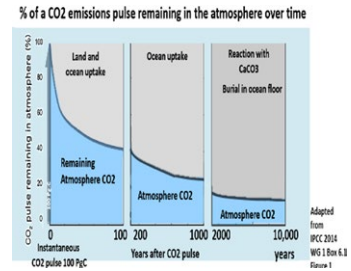
10. How are warming ocean temperatures impacting whales, fish and other marine mammals?



11. Which of the following activities contributes the most to carbon emissions globally?



12. How long does CO₂ remain in the atmosphere?



13. What is the leading cause of coral bleaching?



14. How fast do we need to stop burning fossil fuels to limit global temperature rise to 2 degrees C? (3.6 degrees F)



15. Which country is the world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide?



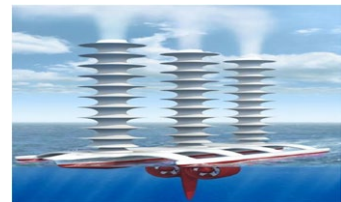
16. Reducing the amount of future climate change is called:



17. The most visually striking evidence of global warming is



18.is the artificial modification of Earth's climate systems through two primary ideologies, Solar Radiation Management (SRM) and Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR).



19. Which city will play host to the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26 in November?



20. Which landmark global conference was the FIRST major step towards a global agreement on greenhouse gas emissions reduction and the first to recognize the atmosphere as a natural resource?



21. India would phase out the production and consumption of the controlled ODS (ozone-depleting substances) within the time frame and limits specified in the



Answers on page 59





ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

*“We don’t inherit the earth from our ancestors;
we borrow it from our children.”*

Several treaties have been signed and multilateral discussions held on environmental protection.

Ancient Environmental Ethics And Evolution Of Law

Since the Vedic times, Indians have followed the principle of living in harmony with nature. In fact, Indian practices include worship of the five elements of nature or panchabhut has - earth (*pruthvi*), water (*jala*), fire (*agni*), wind (*vayu*) and space (*akasha*). Our scriptures also indicate immense respect for nature and the environment.

The Indian way also includes kindness towards other species and co-existence. This lifestyle of co-existence is very relevant and important as it is a major reason for the sustenance of Indian civilisation. This is mentioned in the Indian Constitution as well under the Directive Principles of State Policy [Article 48-A] and Fundamental

Duties [Article 51-A(g)], apart from other provisions.

Environmental protection and environmental law have been gaining importance globally. Several treaties have been signed and multilateral discussions held on environmental protection.

It is important for all of us to be aware of it as responsible citizens.

Sustainable Development

In the modern world, sustainable development forms the basis of preserving the environment.

UN definition: ‘the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.’

A fundamental principle of sustainable development, inter-generational equity pre-supposes the right of each generation of human beings to benefit from cultural and natural resources of the past generation as well as the obligation to preserve them for future generations.

The concept gained momentum since the 1987 Brundtland Commission Report titled 'Our Common Future.' Sustainable development addresses the dilemma between environmental welfare and economic growth.

Principles of Environmental Protection

1. Inter-Generational Equity

A fundamental principle of sustainable development, inter-generational equity pre-supposes the right of each generation of human beings to benefit from cultural and natural resources of the past generation as well as the obligation to preserve them for future generations. This emphasises on conservation of biodiversity and renewable sources.

2. Precautionary Principle

This means:

(a) The government and statutory authorities must anticipate, prevent and attack the causes of environmental degradation;

(b) Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation; and

(c) The burden of proof is on the actor or developer or industrialist to show that the actions are not environmentally harmful.

3. Polluter Pays Principle

Introduced by the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in 1972, this holds the polluter liable for the pollution caused to the environment. The polluter has to not only compensate the victims of pollution but also compensate for the restoration of the environmental degradation caused.

Case Study - Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum V. Union Of India (1996)

FACTS: This public interest petition was filed against pollution caused by the enormous discharge of untreated effluents by tanneries and other industries in Tamil Nadu.

PRINCIPLES: The Supreme Court held that the traditional concept of development and ecology being opposed to each other was no longer acceptable, and that the balance had to be found in 'Sustainable Development.'

It explained that the 'Precautionary Principle' and the 'Polluter Pays Principle' were essential features. These principles were part of the law of the land by the operation of Article 21 and Articles 47, 48A and 51A(g) of the Constitution.

DIRECTIONS: The Court directed that an authority should be constituted by the Central Government to determine the compensation to be recovered from the polluters for reversing the damaged environment after laying down a just and fair procedure and to direct the permanent closure or relocation of the industry in case it evaded or refused to pay the compensation. The authority was also empowered to frame schemes for reversing the damage caused.

Further, noting the importance of the matter, the Court further requested the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court to constitute a Special Bench called the 'Green Bench' to deal with this case and other environmental matters, as was being done in Calcutta, Madhya Pradesh and some other High Courts.





One PEPPER a day keeps infection at bay



Pepper was a coveted spice in ancient times for its culinary and medical importance.



It would be good to have a mortar and pestle on the table or in the place where we eat meals. Pepper can be ground and had as well. In all types of vegetable dishes, dal etc., adding a pinch of pepper will help to improve the taste and health.

Do you know that black pepper grows on trees? Yes, black pepper is the dried fruit of the tree called *Piper nigrum* which is indigenous to the Malabar coast in India.

It was a coveted spice in ancient times for its culinary and medical importance. In the time of Julius Caesar, the Roman Empire loved this spice and they paid in gold to buy it from India. So black pepper was termed as "Black Gold". Black pepper usage as a currency led to the popularity of the term 'peppercorn rent', which was basically a way of paying off rent in older times in various parts of the world.

Black pepper

- ◆ Treats chest congestions
- ◆ Relieves cough
- ◆ Prevents and helps manage respiratory infections
- ◆ Boosts immunity

In fact, taking at least one peppercorn a day in the form of a regular routine helps to keep infections away.



Pepper Tulsi Ginger Decoction for Cold and Cough

Step 1: Take a vessel with a cupful of water and add some ground Tulsi leaves.

Step 2: Add half a teaspoon black pepper and half a teaspoon chopped ginger together.

Step 3: Bring it to boil. To sweeten the concoction, add a teaspoon of honey. Drink this concoction lukewarm.

Black pepper is also enriched with vitamin C, which naturally boosts the immunity and works as an excellent antibiotic. It is best to crush the peppercorns for maximum benefits. It is also known to alleviate chest and nasal congestion.

Black pepper mixed with honey is a trusted tonic across Indian households as honey serves as a natural cough suppressant.





Hiware Bazar is a village in the Ahmednagar District of Maharashtra, India. When Popatrao Pawar became the Sarpanch in 1989, the village which receives less than 15 inches of rainfall a year was struggling with frequent droughts.

Unemployment, hunger, poverty, lack of quality education drove villagers to the nearby urban areas. Alcoholism and high crime rate were rampant. Popatrao Baguji Pawar transformed Hiware Bazar into the "green model village" and was awarded the 'Padma Shri' in 2020.

Secret of success

- Rainwater harvesting and watershed conservation and management programme.
- Planted lakhs of trees.
- Dug contour trenches to recharge groundwater.
- Abandoned water-intensive crops; focus on cattle farming.
- Banned alcohol, made HIV test mandatory before marriage.
- Turned it into a nearly mosquito - free area.
- Became the first Open Defecation Free village in 1992.

- Villagers started producing cash crops; per capita income increased from ₹800 to ₹30,000; Hiware Bazar became the village with the highest GDP in the entire country.
- Panchayat prepared their own 5-year plans for ecological regeneration.
- The gram sabha has the power to decide on wide range of issues, including identifying sites for water harvesting structures, sharing water and types of crops to be cultivated. The village voluntary body is its implementing arm.

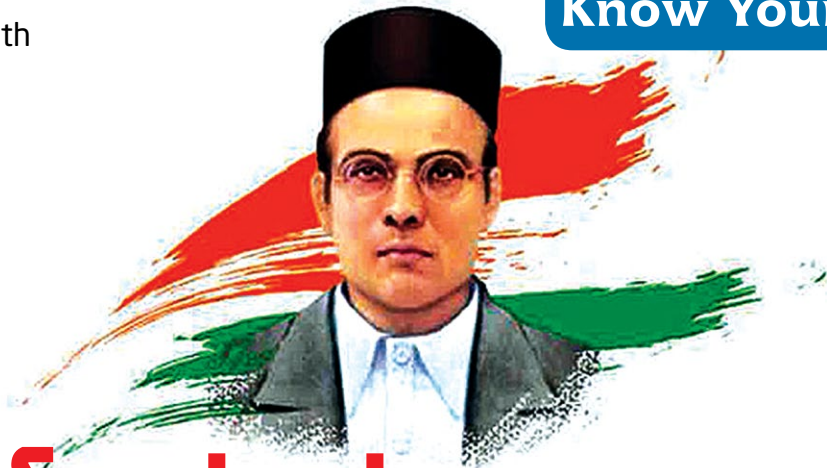
Hiware Bazaar is self-sufficient and a model for 'Community governance'.

Mr. Pawar's words ring true:

"If the planning happens in Delhi, and is implemented by some department or organisation, where is the community?"

"We solved problems that the world is facing now, over 25 years ago because we involved the community."





Swatantraya Veer Savarkar

At 21, he founded the Abhinav Bharat society along with his brother. The organization believed in armed revolution to attain independence.

Early Life

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar popularly known Veer Savarkar was born on 28th May 1883 in Bhagur, Maharashtra. His father Damaodarpant and mother Radhabai called him 'Tatya' affectionately. As a child Vinayak was domineering and enjoyed public adulation. He would move freely with the farmers who came home and would serve them refreshments, which was not normal in the households of Jagirdars.

Enrolled in a local government school at the age of six, he taught himself English apart from Marathi and Sanskrit. Every day after dinner his father would summon the entire family and study scriptures like Ramayana and Mahabharata, chronicles and heroic exploits of Shivaji, Rana Pratap and the Peshwas. There would be intense discussion on all these. He joined the Fergusson College Pune and later went to London for becoming a barrister. He married Yamuna in 1901.

Political Activism

Vinayak was an exceptional student all through. His nationalist political activities started during his high school days and he was very much sensitive to the happenings around. Even as a high school student he started writing articles to magazines and attended as many nationalist gatherings as he could. He was greatly inspired by Tilak's Ganapathi festivals and Shivaji Jayanthi festivals.

At 21, he founded the Abhinav Bharat society along with his brother. The organization believed in armed revolution to attain independence. He wrote many books and his book "**The Indian War on Independence**", on the 1857 rebellion was banned by the British, who portrayed it as a mere Sepoy Mutiny and not an independence struggle.

In 1910 he was arrested in London for his association with the revolutionary group India House and was extradited to India.

He underwent the worst kind of inhuman torture that none of the celebrated freedom fighters of India were subjected to.

On his way back, he made a daring attempt to escape but was unfortunately caught. He spent almost 14 years in prison, facing multiple trials, getting shifted across continents and suffering the most inhuman tortures in the cellular jail at the Andamans for over a decade. In 1921 he was shifted to the district jail in Ratnagiri and in 1923 to the Yerawada jail in Pune, before being released in 1924.

He resided in Ratnagiri until 1937 when he joined the Hindu Mahasabha that was fighting the cause of Hindu nationalism. He served as the president of the Mahasabha for seven years and in 1943 he retired to Bombay. Savarkar was accused in the assassination of Gandhiji, but he was honourably acquitted of all charges.

Hindutva and Society

In 1923 he wrote *Hindutva: Who is a Hindu?* giving expression to his idea of Hindutva. He is regarded as the father of Hindutva. His views on Hinduism and the society were very modern and radical. He advocated complete

eradication of the caste system much before Gandhi ji and Babasaheb Ambedkar. He called the exclusivity to the access of Vedic literature, restriction on choice of profession, untouchability, bar on crossing the seas, disallowing re-conversions, bar on inter-caste dining and bar on inter-caste marriages as the “seven shackles to the Hindu society”.

He was a liberal who was against all of these and ahead of his times. His concept of Hindu Rashtra was absolutely secular without any preferential treatment to any class of citizens. While he was fine with cow protection, he was against cow worship. He also spoke about modernization among Muslims for making a great Bharat.

Contentious Legacy

Veer Savarkar is probably the most maligned nationalist of India. He underwent the worst kind of inhuman torture that none of the celebrated freedom fighters of India were subjected to.

His advocacy of Hindutva was completely secular but unfortunately projected as communal and anti-minority to suit the masters of the day. He advocated total eradication of the caste system and campaigned to create a scientific temper among the people. But all such facts were suppressed and sacrificed at the altar of political power and ideological intolerance. Though he was acquitted by the court of all charges related to Gandhiji's assassination, the moral albatross hangs around his neck, even 56 years after his death.

On 1st February 1966, Savarkar renounced all medicines, food and water as he felt his life mission was over. He breathed his last on the 26th February. He called it *Atmaarpan*. His life indeed was an *arpan* to Bharat.

ANSWERS

of page 52 & 53

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. True | 11. Energy supply |
| 2. Northern latitudes (Alaska, Greenland & Siberia) | 12. CO ₂ remains in the atmosphere for up to 200 years or more. |
| 3. Aerosols | 13. Warm water |
| 4. 50 to 60°F (28 to 33°C) cooler | 14. We need to stop burning fossil fuels by 2040. |
| 5. Nitrogen | 15. China |
| 6. CO ₂ | 16. Mitigation |
| 7. Water shortages, power outages, higher electricity and gas prices | 17. Rapid melting of glacial ice on nearly every continent |
| 8. Forests serve as a sink in the carbon cycle | 18. Geo- engineering |
| 9. Eat a plant-based diet | 19. Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt |
| 10. Their migratory patterns are changing | 20. The 'Earth Summit' in Rio in 1992 |
| | 21. Montreal Protocol |



Kailasa Mandir

World's largest Monolithic structure

DO YOU KNOW ?

- The archaeologists had calculated that it would have taken more than a hundred years to finish the temple construction. However, in reality it took only 18 years to complete it.
- Mughal ruler Aurangzeb had made a strong attempt to vandalise the Kailasa Mandir but he failed and all he could do was a minor damage here and there, nothing to the main structure.

Aditi and Pranav visited Ajanta and Ellora caves during their summer vacation.

Travel Account of Aditi & Pranav #002

Place : Kailasa Temple, Cave 16, Ellora

Location: Aurangabad, Maharashtra

Details of the Kailasa Temple

- Carved out of a single rock and one of the 34 cave temples and monasteries of Ellora.
- A standalone, multi-storeyed temple complex, made to look like Mount Kailash.
- Houses several carved panels depicting scenes from Ramayana and Mahabharata.

- There are two *Dwajasthambams* (pillars with flag) in the courtyard.
- A notable sculpture is that of the Ravana attempting to lift Mount Kailasa.
- There are five detached shrines in the temple premises; three of these are dedicated to the river goddesses: Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati.

History

The construction was commissioned by King Krishna I, the 8th century Rashtrakuta king (Rn. 756 - 773 CE). Its architecture also shows traces of both Pallava and Chalukya styles and distinct sculptural designs. Hence scholars believe that the construction spanned the rule of several kings.



Major parts of the temple were completed during the reign of Krishna I, with some parts of the temple attributed to the later rulers.

Architectural wonder

- Known for its vertical excavation, the carvers started the work at the top of the original rock and moved downwards.
- Approximately 200,000 tons of rock was removed by hammer and chisel before the temple could take shape.
- Appears to have been based on Kailasa Temple of Kanchi.

- The deities at the entrance of the temple feature Shaivite and Vaishnavite sects on the right and left respectively.
- The courtyard is U-shaped and reveals a two-storey gateway.
- A shrine dedicated to Shiva is at the centre of the courtyard. It features a flat-roofed mandapa which is supported by 16 pillars.
- The Kailasa Mandir - truly an engineering marvel carved with only hammers and chisels leaves every traveller in awe.





Priyanka Mohite

First woman to scale five peaks
above 8000m



Priyanka Mohite from Satara in western Maharashtra has become the first Indian woman to climb five peaks above 8000 metres. The 30-year-old achieved the milestone after climbing Mount Kanchenjunga. Notably, she is also the first Indian woman to climb Annapurna 1 and Makalu.

Priyanka has been passionate about mountaineering since childhood. She started to scale mountains in the Sahyadri range of Maharashtra as a teenager. She climbed Bandarpunch, a mountain mass if in the Garhwal division of the Himalayas, Uttarakhand. She works for a pharmaceutical research company in Bengaluru.

Priyanka Mohite's aim is to continue with her goal of climbing all 14 mountains in the world that are above 8000 metres. All of these peaks are located within the Indian subcontinent with a majority being in Pakistan,



Her Feats

2022 Mt. Kanchenjunga (8,586m)



2021 Mt. Annapurna 1 (8,091m)



2019 Mt. Makalu (8,485m)



2018 Mt. Lhotse (8,516m)



2016 Mt. Kilimanjaro (5,895m)



2015 Mt. Mentosa (6,443m)



2013 Mt. Everest (8,849m)



2012 Mt. Bandarpunch (6,316m)

**MOUNTAINEER PRIYANKA MOHITE
HONOURED WITH
THE PRESTIGIOUS TENZING NORGAY
NATIONAL ADVENTURE AWARD**



China and Nepal. She reiterates that discipline is the key to a lot of things in life, but quite particularly mountaineering.

AWARDS

- In 2020, she also won the prestigious Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award.
- Shiv Chhatrapati State award for adventure sports for 2017-2018.

“You are only as strong as you allow yourself to be; never get discouraged, never give up because consistency and dedication is the key to success.”





Undeterred Patriotism

A telephonic conversation between a 40-year-old father Srikanta from Chennai and his 11-year-old daughter Annika.

First Call:

Daughter: Hello Papa, how are you doing in Tawang? Please tell me more about Tawang.

Father: I am fine dear. It was almost 10 hours' drive from Guwahati to Tawang. To enter Arunachal Pradesh, all Indian citizens need to get an Inner Line Permit (ILP). As Arunachal Pradesh is surrounded by our not-so-friendly neighbour on multiple sides, ILP is meant to monitor outsider movement in the state. Tawang is a district town situated at 10,000 feet above sea level. Today the

temperature is around 1°C

. Local people belong to the 'Monpa' tribe with a distinguishing culture.

Daughter: What's significant about it? What are you going to see?

Father: Tawang is the birth place of the 6th Dalai Lama and holds special importance in Tibetan Buddhism. However, due to its strategic location, proximity to trade passes and altitude, it bears huge national security and military significance.

Besides visiting monasteries I am here to pay my homage to two of my heroes Param Vir Chakra (PVC) Subedar Joginder Singh and Mahavir Chakra (MVC) Rifleman Jaswant Singh Rawat. I am going to visit Bum-La-Pass tomorrow and let's talk after that.

Second Call:

Daughter: Papa, tell me why did you go to Bum-La-Pass?

Father: Bum-La-Pass is a border pass between Tibet's Cona





County and us. China unlawfully occupied Tibet and attacked India in September 1962. This is the place where PVC Joginder Singh ji rests. His unit of the Sikh Regiment belonging from a country freed only for 15 years wearing 'keds'/canvas shoes and one single sweater eliminated hundreds of Chinese soldiers, if not thousands. His unit comprised 20 men, so it was a fight 1:10 or even more sometimes. I saw his bunker, where he exhibited strategic leadership to hold the Chinese for days.

Daughter: I am getting goosebumps, Papa. Tell me more.

Father: At 15,000 feet, thousands of kilometres away from Punjab, these brave Sikhs were making the ultimate sacrifice to protect us. Today we have motorable roads, the Army has made great facilities to host citizens of India at this frontier – yet most of the people need oxygen support here.

A healthy person running for 5 minutes would be gasping for breath. Subedar ji saw his unit dead, charged with his rifle and bayonet and killed more than 50 Chinese intruders.

He was shot a dozen times and had multiple injuries. Owing to his bravery, even the Chinese offered the best healthcare facilities to him. He neither accepted it nor took any food from the enemies and laid down his life.

Hope you are listening, Annika.

Daughter: (Sobbing)...Yes, I am.

Father: Never cry but always remember such brave sons were born in this motherland of ours.

I was fortunate to do 'Aarati' at the temple of PVC Joginder Singh ji. I sat there for some time with my gratitude and prayers. I am visiting Jaswantgarh and let's talk tomorrow evening.

Third Call:

Daughter: Where did you go next? You mentioned another brave son of our motherland...what was his name?

Father: Rifleman Jaswant Rawat was a real-life 'Bahubali', who killed at least 300 Chinese soldiers during the Battle of Nuranang in 1962. His post, now called Jaswantgarh, hosts a temple. As his fellow comrades from the 4 Garhwal unit made supreme sacrifices one after another - he single handedly kept changing positions and fired. Chinese troops thought there were many soldiers at the Indian post.

Owing to his tactics, the advancing Chinese army was held for 72 hours. This gave precious time for our Army to regroup, replenish the supply line and enhance logistical support.

Daughter: He is surely a 'Mahavir' and rightly bestowed with the prestigious Mahavir Chakra award.

Father: Absolutely! But not only that, he is still considered to serve the Indian Army even after death; he has been awarded promotions as if he is still serving. Such is the legacy of Jaswant Rawat ji. It gave me goosebumps to touch the glass boxes that host his uniform, shoes, and belongings.

Daughter: Papa, all the while I had been wondering why you went on the trip, now I know.

Father: Yes, my dear hadn't your school been open I would have





loved to bring you here. However, when you grow up, do visit such frontiers to get a glimpse of the bravery displayed by the Indian Defence forces. The reverence local people in Tawang have for PVC Joginder Singh or MVC Jaswant Rawat or the Indian Army is immense. They are my heroes because they believe and lived by the motto that **'you can take my life, but not take away my country'.**

Daughter: What are you bringing back home from this journey?

Father: Pride and bliss. I had never ever doubted the capabilities of the Indian Army. But this trip, I saw Army jawans guarding a bunker for months, where it snows in May and the sun starts setting by 1:30 PM. I found Army jawans and the Border Roads Organisation building roads with devotion where wild animals are abundant, rains daily and natural oxygen supply is inadequate. I witnessed the same sincerity by our Defence personnel while preparing Dosa and coffee for the tourists, as they guard the Line of Actual Control (LAC). No job is inferior to them.

This service attitude is what we the nation and especially young minds like you must carry on. That would be the best homage to brave patriots like PVC Joginder Singh, MVC Jaswant Rawat and others.

Daughter: One last word... can you please bring some soil back from there where such selflessness and patriotism were exhibited?

Father: Our motherland is gifted, and brave daughters and sons are everywhere in India. I'll surely bring the holy soil for you, my dear.

Daughter: Bharat Mata Ki Jai, Jai Hind !

Father: Jai Hind !

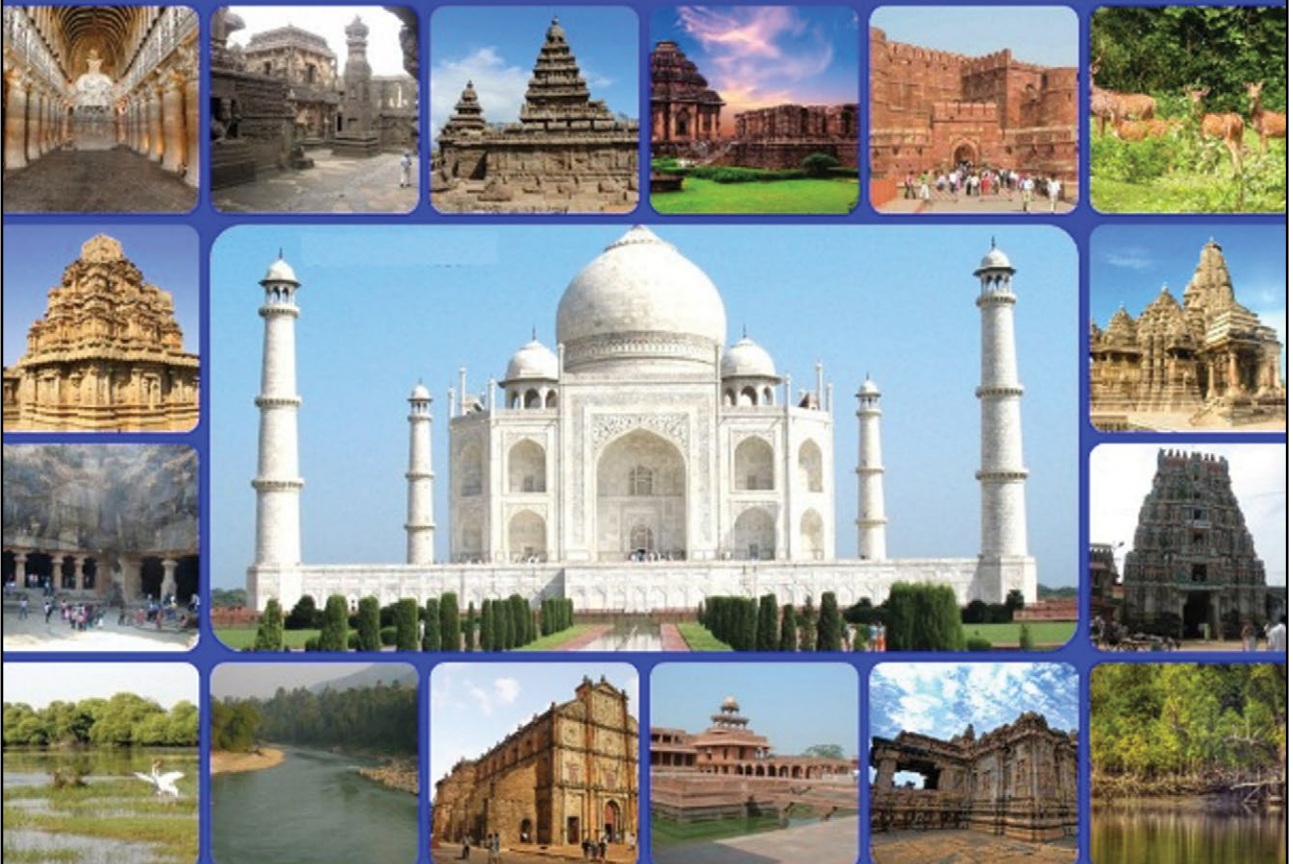


APRIL 18

WORLD HERITAGE DAY

Life without cultural and historical heritage
would be like a blank page

**Celebrate the World Heritage Day
by visiting a heritage site**



May 12 International Nurses Day

They Work for You



**Because of you,
we live in a happier &
healthier world**

❖ A nurse will always give us hope,
an angel with a stethoscope ❖

Thank you for constantly showing compassion to and care to those in need. You may not realise it, but your presence makes a significant difference to the lives of many people.