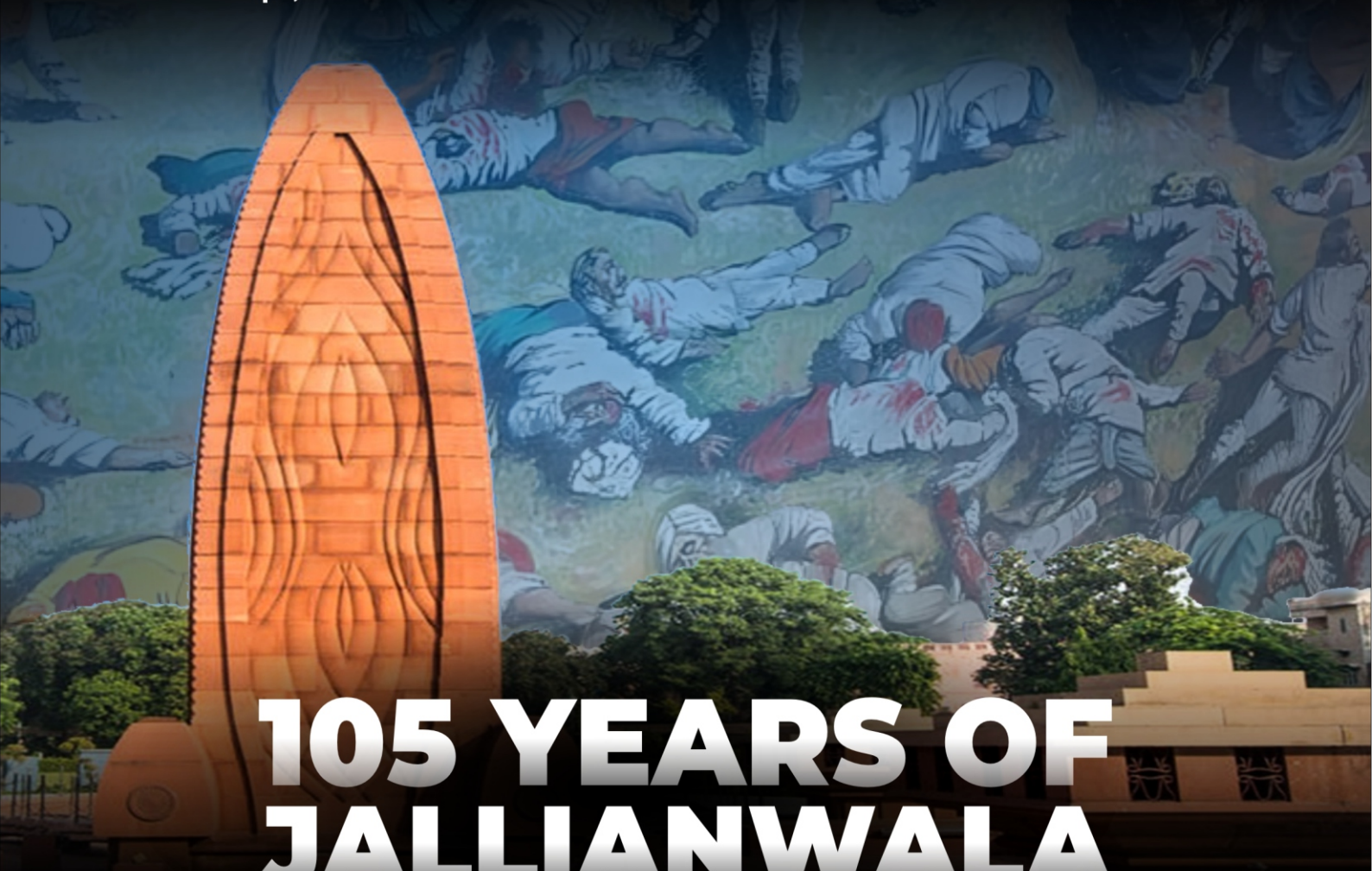


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# LawEx

01-15 Apr, 2024

ISSUE - 28



## 105 YEARS OF JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE



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## About Magazine

“LawEx” is a carefully curated set of Current Events designed specifically for CLAT aspirants. To take you one step closer to realizing your dream, “LawEx” provides a fortnightly overview of the most significant current events related to politics, economics, science and technology, & sports with a wide range of infographics to ensure a smoother learning experience and enhanced retention of information.

## Editor's Note

13th April 2024 marks 105 years of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. The Supreme Court on April 9 held that an election candidate has a right to privacy from voters and need not lay out every scrap of his or her personal life and possessions, past and present, as candidates also have their right to privacy. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that its PSLV-C58/XPoSat mission has practically left zero debris in earth's orbit. Iran launched a massive aerial attack on Israel recently in retaliation for April 1's suspected Israeli strike on its consulate in Damascus, Syria which killed 13 people. To know more, keep reading.

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## VAISHNAV BHATT

### Our Top Achiever

# AIR - 113th

## CLAT 2024

#### Q. Give us a brief intro about yourself, Vaishnav.

Ans. Hello, I'm Vaishnav and I secured AIR 113 in CLAT 2024. I completed my 10<sup>th</sup> standard in Delhi and have moved to Bangalore this year.

#### Q. When did you think about doing law?

Ans. I've had some very unpleasant experiences in life when I was staying in Delhi where my family and I had to suffer emotionally and financially and a major part of it was due to insufficient knowledge of the law and our rights. In this process I had to interact with some lawyers, and visit the court as well. These experiences made me want to pursue law as a profession as I found it interesting and also felt that having this knowledge would keep me safe and I would be able to help others as well who face similar situations due to insufficient knowledge.

#### Q. When did you seriously start preparing for CLAT?

Ans. I started my preparation in March 2023.

#### Q. What is the role of LawEx in your preparation?

Ans. LawEx helped me a lot with my preparation for CLAT. Their current affairs magazine and Maths YouTube videos are excellent and have been of great help. I also found their GK topic tests to be very useful.

#### Q. Do you think LawEx Lectures with sufficient reading and mock practice enough for CLAT?

Ans. I feel LawEx should increase the number of mock tests that they offer. Apart from this I think that they provide sufficient study material.

#### Q. What did you do for your subject-wise strategy?

Ans. My weak point was GK, so I gave it a bit more attention compared to the other subjects. For this I read The Hindu newspaper everyday for 1.5 hrs and focused on the editorial as that improved my vocabulary and helped improve my English as well. I allocated 4-5 hours for GK everyday. I gave 2 hours for legal reasoning. During this time I had not yet started giving mock tests. I watched LawEx's maths YouTube videos to improve my maths for around 30 minutes. A bulk of my preparation was focused on these 3 subjects. Apart from this I attempted around 60 mock tests, 20 of which were from LawEx and the rest I had to source from other test series.

#### Q. What was your highest and lowest score in mock tests?

Ans. My lowest score was 72 and my highest score was 96.25. On average my score was around 90 marks out of 120.

#### Q. How did you keep your confidence up when scoring low in mocks?

Ans. My performance in mocks was more or less pretty consistent throughout my preparation. So I did not face this issue.

#### Q. How to maintain mock scores?

Ans. In my opinion, analysing the mocks after attempting them is very important as it makes you understand what kind of mistakes you have made and helps you to improve upon them in the next mock. This will also make you understand your own weak points and which subject needs improvement. This will help you maintain and improve your score.

#### Q. How much GK is sufficient and how to revise it?

Ans. No amount of GK can be considered sufficient in my opinion. So I would suggest to find 2-3 sources which are of good quality like The Hindu newspaper and LawEx magazine which covers most of the topics which you need to know and for static GK you can purchase any book like A P Bharadwaj's Static GK book. I revised for GK by doing the topic tests multiple times.

#### Q. How many Mocks are sufficient for CLAT Preparation?

Ans. According to me at least 50 mock tests are required so that your speed along with accuracy improves and it doesn't make you feel anxious anymore as a calm mind will help you concentrate better and score more. Clat is a reading based exam and it can be quite draining especially in the last 30-35 minutes so practicing mocks is important here.

#### Q. What is your advice to CLAT Aspirants?

Ans. I would advise CLAT aspirants to give themselves at least one year for preparation and attempt 1-2 mock tests every week so that it doesn't drain you out. I made this mistake too by attempting around 60 mocks in 2 months. It is not feasible. CLAT is highly competitive and requires consistency and patience. As my English was at a decent level to begin with, I was somehow able to manage the stress. Also don't forget to take short breaks and have good sleep. Some books which I purchased for CLAT are A P Bharadwaj's Legal reasoning and A P Bharadwaj's static GK. Also practice 15-20 mocks on OMR printouts as well and try finishing your mocks in 115 minutes as this is the time you'll get in your actual examination. Best wishes to all of you.

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# QUICK BOOSTERS



## 105 YEARS OF JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE

### WHY IN NEWS?

- 13th April 2024 marks 105 years of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.

#### What is the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

- The Rowlatt Act (Black Act) was passed on March 10, 1919, authorizing the government to imprison or confine, without a trial, any person associated with seditious activities. This led to nationwide unrest.
- The Rowlatt Act was passed by the British to curb citizens' civil liberties. It created a climate of political unrest as people considered it to be unjust. There was also a threat of militant revolutionary movements gaining momentum across India, especially in Punjab and Bengal.
  - Mahatma Gandhi initiated Satyagraha to protest against the Rowlatt Act.
  - In Punjab, on 9th April 1919, two nationalist leaders, Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal, were arrested by the British officials without any provocation except that they had addressed protest meetings, and taken to some unknown destination.
  - To curb any future protest, the government put martial law in place and law and order in Punjab was handed over to Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer who imposed a curfew in Amritsar.
- On 13th April, Baisakhi day, a large crowd of people mostly from neighbouring villages, unaware of the prohibitory orders in Amritsar gathered in the Jallianwala Bagh.
  - These people were protesting peacefully against the Rowlatt Act 1919 and the arrest of two freedom fighters Satyapal and Saifuddin Kitchlew.
- Dyer and his armed forces entered the location, placed themselves on an elevated platform and opened fire on all those present without any warning.
  - They blocked the main entrance and fired indiscriminately on all those trying to flee from the other entrances. This led to widespread bloodshed and resulted in the death of 379 innocent Indians and over 1,000 injuries.
  - The casualty number which was reported by the Indian National Congress at the time was at least 1,000 killed and over 1,500 injured.
  - But it is precisely known that 1650 bullets were fired into the crowd.
- On October 14, 1919, the Disorders Inquiry Committee was formed to inquire about the massacre. It later came to be known as the Hunter Commission.
  - The Hunter Commission report, which came out in 1920, criticised both Dyer and the Panjab government at the time.
  - The court of inquiry ruled against him, relieving him of his command and forcing him to resign.
  - But he was given a grand reception on his arrival in England and was received like a war hero. He was even awarded £26,000 and a sword as a mark of honour for his “heroic deed”.
- As a mark of protest, noted litterateur and musician Rabindranath Tagore even renounced his Knighthood in protest.
  - Mahatma Gandhi also gave up the title of Kaiser-i-Hind, bestowed by the British for his work during the Boer War.
- As a consequence of the event and the resulting reactions across the country, the Government repealed the Rowlatt Act, the Press Act, and 22 other laws in March 1922.

- Udham Singh, who bore the name, Ram Mohammad Singh Azad, later assassinated Michael O'Dwyer, the Lieutenant-Governor who presided over the brutal British suppression of the 1919 protests in Punjab.
- Udham Singh was hanged in 1940 for his deed. (His ashes were returned to India in 1974.)





## LAW ON DISCLOSURE OF ASSETS

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Supreme Court on April 9 held that an election candidate has a right to privacy from voters and need not lay out every scrap of his or her personal life and possessions, past and present, as candidates also have their right to privacy.

### Court's Observation

- The Court said a candidate's choice to retain his privacy on matters which were of no concern to the voters or were irrelevant to his candidature for public office did not amount to a 'corrupt practice' under Section 123 of the Representation of People Act, 1951.
  - Such non-disclosure would not amount to a "defect of a substantial nature" under Section 36(4) of the 1951 Act.
- The judgment came in a petition filed by Arunachal Pradesh MLA Karikho Kri challenging a Gauhati High Court decision in July 2023 declaring his election to the 44-Tezu Assembly Constituency of Arunachal Pradesh void for not declaring three vehicles as his assets in his affidavit filed in the form appended to the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961.
  - Supreme Court said there was no need for a candidate to lay bare his entire life to the electorate.
    - It is not necessary to declare every item of moveable property, unless it is of such value as to be sizeable in itself, or will reflect upon his lifestyle and thus be of interest to the voter.
    - However, the court cautioned that there cannot be a straitjacket rule on this, and what omission is of a substantial character or will affect the outcome will depend on the facts of each case.

### The Law related to Disclosure

- In a landmark judgment on May 2, 2002, the Supreme Court observed that the requirement that prospective candidates will have to disclose their criminal antecedents, if any, their educational qualifications and their assets and liabilities, including those of their spouses and dependants, arose from.
  - The court ruled that the voters' right to information in a democracy is part of the citizens' right to express their opinions through their vote.
  - In June 2002, the ECI issued the rules to give effect to the judgment.
- However, the Central government tried to curtail the scope of these disclosures by an ordinance amending the Representation of the People Act, 1951, in August 2002. Later, it was replaced by an Act.
  - The amendments introduced Sections 33A (concerning disclosure of pending criminal cases), Section 33B (which effectively nullified the ECI's notification by saying no disclosure other than those prescribed in the Act is required) and Section 125A (penalty for failure to disclose or false disclosure).
- The Ordinance and, thereafter, the amending Act were challenged in court.
- The Supreme Court on March 13, 2003, struck down Section 33B and restored the disclosure requirements regarding assets and liabilities and educational qualifications.
- The ECI issued revised instructions and the format for disclosure based on the judgment.
- Section 125A of the RPA, 1951, prescribes a six-month prison term, or a fine, or both, for any candidate's failure to disclose the required information, or giving false information or concealing such information.







### What is the Right to Privacy?

- The Right to Privacy was not directly envisaged by the Constitution makers and as such does not find a mention in Part III of the Constitution relating to Fundamental Rights.
- The judiciary has deliberated upon the matter and has interpreted privacy from the very beginning.
- A nine-judge Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice, J.S. Khehar on 24th August 2017 gave a landmark decision on the Right to Privacy.
  - In the landmark decision of *K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India* (2017), the Supreme Court ruled that the Right to Privacy is "intrinsic to life and personal liberty" and is inherently protected under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution.
- In 2012, the SC took suo motu cognizance of the crackdown on sleeping anticorruption protesters camping at Ramlila Maidan led by Baba Ramdev.
  - Identifying the Right to Sleep as an aspect of the Right to Dignity and Privacy, the court refused to permit "illegitimate intrusion into a person's privacy as the right to privacy is implicit in the right to life and liberty".
- The Bombay High Court recently criticized the Enforcement Directorate for its practice of recording statements of persons summoned under section 50 of PMLA late at night, emphasizing the right to sleep as a basic human requirement.



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## PLEA FOR 100% EVM-VVPAT VERIFICATION

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Supreme Court disagreed with the idea of a return to paper ballots to restore the “little man's” confidence in the electoral process or implementing 100 per cent counting of Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips in Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.
  - In March 2023, the Association for Democratic Reforms filed a petition to cross-verify the tally from EVMs with VVPATs.

### What is a VVPAT Machine?

- The VVPAT machine is attached to the ballot unit of the EVM and provides visual verification for the vote cast by a voter by printing a slip of paper with the voter's choice on it.
  - This slip of paper, containing the candidate's serial number, name, and party symbol, is displayed in the machine behind a glass window, giving the voter seven seconds to verify her vote.
  - No voter can take the VVPAT slip back home, as it is later used to verify votes cast in five randomly selected polling booths.
- The idea of the VVPAT machine first emerged in 2010, when the Election Commission of India (EC), held a meeting with political parties to discuss how to make the EVM-based polling process more transparent.
- The VVPAT was used for the first time in all 21 polling stations of the Noksen Assembly constituency of Nagaland in 2013, after which the EC decided to introduce VVPATs in a phased manner.
  - By June 2017, there was 100% adoption of VVPATs.
- The 2019 General Elections were the first where EVMs were 100% backed by the VVPAT machine.

### Supreme Court on VVPAT

- The Supreme Court mandated VVPATs for transparent elections and compelling government funding for their implementation in *Subramanian Swamy vs Election Commission of India* (2013).
  - The Court ruled that “the paper trail is an indispensable requirement of free and fair elections,” and “the confidence of the voters in the EVM can be achieved only with the introduction of the paper trail.”
  - The judgment did not address questions of the “technical integrity” of EVMs.
- In February 2018, the EC mandated the counting of VVPAT slips of one randomly selected polling station per Assembly constituency.
  - This was increased to five polling stations per Assembly seat, following a Supreme Court judgment in April 2019 on a petition filed by TDP leader Chandrababu Naidu.

### A Brief History of EVMs in India

- The EVM was introduced on a trial basis in 1982 in the Assembly constituency of Paravur in Kerala.
  - They were deployed in all booths during the Assembly elections of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Puducherry and West Bengal in 2001.
- The Supreme Court in various judgments has upheld the validity of using EVMs in elections.
- In the 2004 general elections to the Lok Sabha, EVMs were used in all 543 constituencies.
- The anatomy of today's EVM includes at least one ballot unit, one control unit and one VVPAT.
- India-made EVMs have been imported to countries like Bhutan, Nepal and Namibia.

- In the first two general elections of 1952 and 1957, a separate box was placed for each candidate with their election symbol.
- Voters had to drop a blank ballot paper into the box of the candidate whom they wanted to vote for.
- Thereafter from the third election, the ballot paper with names of candidate and their symbols was introduced with voters putting a stamp on the candidate of their choice.



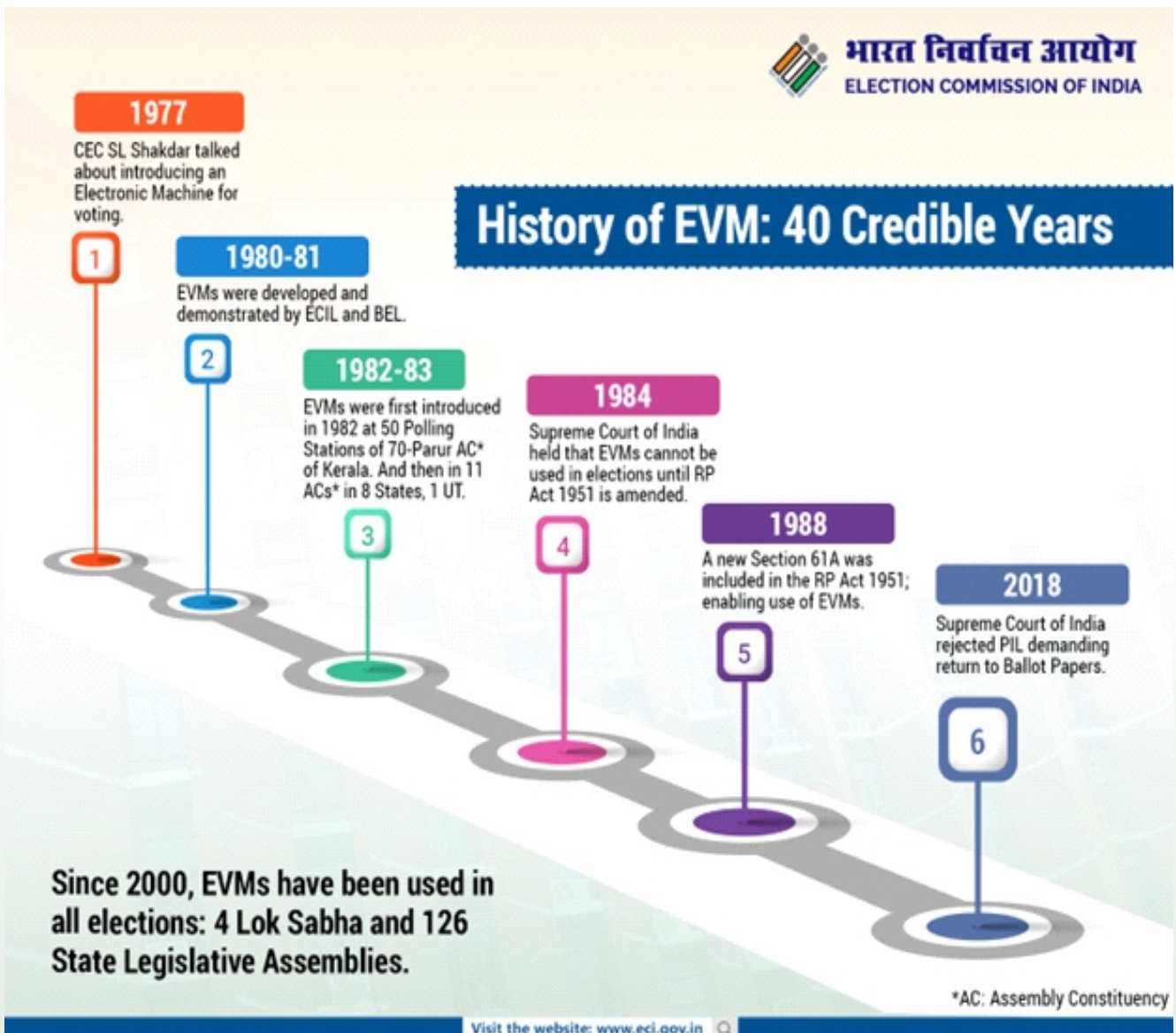
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## International Practices

- Many Western democracies continue to have paper ballots for their elections.
- Countries like England, France, The Netherlands and the U.S. have discontinued the use of EVMs, for national or federal elections, after trials in the last two decades.
- In Germany, the Supreme Court of the country declared the use of EVMs in elections as unconstitutional in 2009.
- Some countries like Brazil, however, use EVMs for their elections.
- Among our neighbours, Pakistan does not use EVMs.
  - Bangladesh experimented in a few constituencies in 2018 but reverted to paper ballots for the general elections in 2024.





## INDIA'S FIRST LOK SABHA ELECTION 1951-1952

### WHY IN NEWS?

- India is holding the world's biggest election starting this month, with nearly 1 billion people eligible to vote.
- The voting period for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, spread over 44 days, would be the second longest after the first parliamentary elections of 1951-52, which lasted for more than four months.

- The total number of days of the electoral process this time, from the announcement of the polls by the Election Commission to the counting of votes, is 82.
- Voting will take place in different parts of the country in seven phases: 19 April, 26 April, 7 May, 13 May, 20 May, 25 May and 1 June.
- The shortest voting period for a general election in the country was in 1980 and it was just four days.

### About First General Election

- The country's first general elections were held between October 25, 1951, and February 21, 1952, in 68 phases, the longest so far.
- A total of 4,500 seats went to polls in the first elections, 489 of these for the Lok Sabha from 401 constituencies and about 4,000 for State legislative assemblies.
- Ultimately, 17.32 crore voters from across the country (excluding J&K) were enrolled, and 45% were women.
  - This was the first time such a massive exercise of the universal adult franchise was undertaken, with 176 million electors above the age of 21 of whom 82% were unlettered.
- The voting age was brought to 18 through the Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Act, 1989.
- The core of what was to become the Election Commission of India was established in January 1950 and subsequently, Sukumar Sen was appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner in March 1950.
- The Parliament first passed the Representation of the People Act, 1950, which provided for the qualifications of voters and matters connected with the preparation and publication of electoral rolls.
- The Parliament also passed the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which detailed provisions pertaining to the qualification and disqualification of members from legislatures, election machinery, vote counting, election expenses, and so on.
- India's literacy rate in 1951 was only 18.33% led to the idea of using ballot boxes of different colours, each representing a candidate.
  - But this was not practical, and it was finally decided that there would be a separate ballot box for each candidate at all booths, with the candidate's election symbol on it.
  - The ballot papers were the size of a Re 1 currency note. They were pink in colour, with "Election Commission India" inscribed on them.
- They displayed a serial number with two letters of the alphabet denoting the state — BR for Bihar, AS for Assam, etc.
- The first to vote were the tehsils of Chini and Pangi in Himachal Pradesh, whose residents — a group of Buddhists — voted on 25 October 25, 1951, days before the winter snows shut off their valleys from the rest of the world.
- On December 10, 1951, voting began in the rest of the country with the Thiruvella and Trichur Lok Sabha constituencies of Travancore-Cochin (present-day Kerala) first to cast their vote.
- The ECI had granted 14 parties the status of 'national parties', and designated more than 50 parties as 'state parties'.
- After the elections, only the Congress, Praja Socialist Party (formed with the merger of the Socialist Party and KMPP), Communist Party of India (CPI), and BJS were able to retain their national party status.
- The first Lok Sabha also had multiple-member constituencies, a practice that was done away with in the elections of 1962.
- Under this, some constituencies returned two members — one from the general category, another from the SC or ST categories — and, in one constituency, all three categories returned one member each.
- The Congress won comfortably, securing 364 out of 489 seats in Parliament.
- For Parliament as a whole, Congress had polled 45% of the vote and won 74.4% of the seats.
- The CPI emerged as the runner-up in India's first general election.
- It contested 49 seats in the Lok Sabha polls and won 16, emerging as the second biggest party after the Congress, although it secured only 3.29% votes.

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## ISRO'S 'ZERO ORBITAL DEBRIS' MILESTONE

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that its PSLV-C58/XPoSat mission has practically left zero debris in earth's orbit.

### What is POEM?

- Developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) as an inexpensive space platform, the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) uses the fourth stage of a Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket as an orbital platform.
- Used for the first time in the PSLV-C53 mission in June 2022, ISRO had POEM orbit the earth as a stabilised platform to perform in-orbit scientific experiments with various payloads.
- The PSLV is a four-stage rocket where the first three spent stages fall back into the ocean, and the final stage (PS4) — after launching the satellite into orbit — ends up as space junk.
- The POEM initiative uses the spent final stage as a “stabilised platform to perform experiments.
- POEM has a dedicated Navigation Guidance and Control (NGC) system for attitude stabilisation, which stands for controlling the orientation of any aerospace vehicle within permitted limits.

- The Indian space agency first demonstrated the capability of using PS4 as an orbital platform in 2019 with the PSLV-C44 mission that injected Microsat-R and Kalamsat-V2 satellites into their designated orbits.
- After satellites were injected in the target orbits, the fourth stage was moved to a higher circular orbit of 443 km and was kept alive as an orbital platform for space-based experiments.

### POEM-3 Mission

- The PSLV-C58 Mission was accomplished on January 1, 2024.
- After deploying the XpoSat satellite in its desired orbit of 650 km, the fourth stage, now called PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3), was lowered to a 350 km high circular orbit.
  - The lower a satellite is in orbit around the earth, the more drag it experiences and the more energy it needs to expend to stay in orbit.
- POEM-3 was configured with a total of 9 different experimental payloads to carry out technology demonstrations and scientific experiments on the newly developed indigenous systems.
- By January 27, 2024, all of POEM-3's payload objectives were completed.
- On March 21, 2024, POEM-3 reentered the earth's atmosphere, meeting its fiery end.

### What is Space Debris ?

- Space debris in the low earth orbit (LEO) mainly comprises pieces of spacecraft, rockets, and defunct satellites, and the fragments of objects that have deteriorated explosively as a result of anti-satellite missile tests.
- The LEO extends from 100 km above the earth's surface up to 2000 km above. It includes satellites tracking intelligence data, encrypted communication, and navigation.
- This debris often flies around at high speeds of up to 27,000 kilometres per hour. Due to their sheer volume and momentum, they pose a risk to several space assets.
- Debris also exists, but in smaller volumes, in the geosynchronous orbit (GEO), which is 36,000 km above the earth's surface.
- Currently, there are 7,000 operational satellites orbiting the earth at different altitudes along with millions of pieces of space debris.
- The U.S. Space Command tracks and catalogues space debris larger than 10 centimetres in LEO and larger than 0.3-1 metres in GEO.
- According to ISRO's Space Situational Assessment Report 2022, the world placed 2,533 objects in space in 179 launches in 2022, up from 1860 objects in 135 launches in 2021.

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### Related Laws and Initiatives

- Currently, there are no international space laws pertaining to LEO debris.
  - However, most space-exploring nations abide by the Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines 2002 specified by the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC), which the U.N. endorsed in 2007.
- NASA instituted its Orbital Debris Program in 1979 to find ways to create less orbital debris and design equipment to track and remove existing debris.
  - Currently, the sixth U.S. Armed Forces wing, called the Space Force, tracks space debris and collisions in LEO.
- The European Space Agency (ESA) has adopted a 'Zero Debris charter,' which called for zero space debris by 2030.
- Japan also has a project, called the Commercial Removal of Debris Demonstration (CRD2), to tackle space junk.
- Apart from the POEM missions, ISRO has set up a Space Situational Awareness Control Centre to protect its high-value assets from close approaches and collisions with inactive satellites, pieces of orbiting objects, and even near-earth asteroids.
  - An Indian start-up named Manastu Space is working on technologies like in-space refuelling, de-orbiting of old satellites, and satellite life extension.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2022, four on-orbit break-up events occurred, contributing to most of the debris created that year:
  - March 2022: Intentional destruction of Russia's Cosmos 1048 in an anti-satellite test adding 1408 fragments of debris
  - July 2022: Break-up of the upper stage of Japanese H-2A while deploying the GOSAT-2 satellite adding 52 fragments of debris
  - November 2022: Accidental explosion of the upper stage of China's Yunhai-3 adding 533 pieces of debris
  - November 2022: Break up of the Japanese H-2A upper stage for the deployment of the GCOM satellite adding 30 pieces of debris
- A major contributor to the rising number of satellites is Space X, which is currently also building a large constellation of 12,000 satellites to provide internet services worldwide.
  - The project, named Starlink, has deployed satellites in 550 km, 540-570 km, and 335-345 km orbits and is expected to be completed by 2027.
  - SpaceX has also applied for a second generation of Starlink satellites comprising 30,000 LEO satellites.
- The number of space objects (debris or functional equipment) greater than 10 cm in size in LEO is expected to be about 60,000 by 2030, per ISRO estimates.
- Space debris also leads to two major risks – it creates unusable regions of the orbit due to excessive debris and leads to the 'Kessler syndrome' – the creation of more debris due to cascading collisions resulting from one collision.

# SPACE DEBRIS



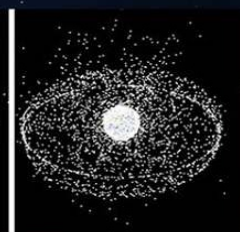
1957



2005



2018



2030??

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## CONTEST BETWEEN UNION & STATE : SC

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Supreme Court of India has expressed concern over a growing trend of States being compelled to approach it against the Centre.

### Background

- In February 2024, three southern states - Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu – held a protest against the central government alleging discrimination in the federal funds allocated to states.
- Though Andhra and Telangana largely stayed away from the protests in Delhi, they too have been raising concerns about financial devolution.

### Why are the Southern States Upset?

- Tamil Nadu** - The Tamil Nadu government accused the Centre in the Supreme Court of delaying the release of disaster relief funds to the tune of nearly ₹38,000 crore to help tide over the twin calamities of cyclone Michaung and unprecedented floods in the State's southern districts.
- Karnataka** - Karnataka requested financial relief of ₹18,171.44 crore under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) six months ago from the Centre to tide over a "grave humanitarian crisis."
  - The state argued that the action of the Central government in denying financial assistance to the State is ex facie violative of the fundamental rights of the people of Karnataka guaranteed under Articles 14 (right to equality), 21 (right to life) of the Constitution.

Funds for disaster relief are available to states from two sources — the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) and the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF). These funds were created with the enactment of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DMA), following the devastating tsunami of December 2004.

- Kerala** - Kerala filed a first-of-its-kind suit directly in the Supreme Court, blaming the Centre for arbitrarily interfering in its net borrowing limits, pushing the State to the brink of a financial emergency.

### Centre-State Relations

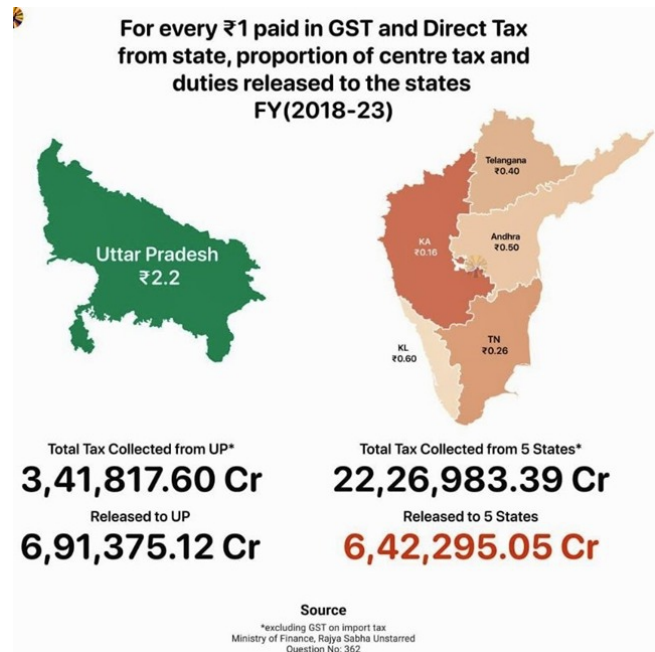
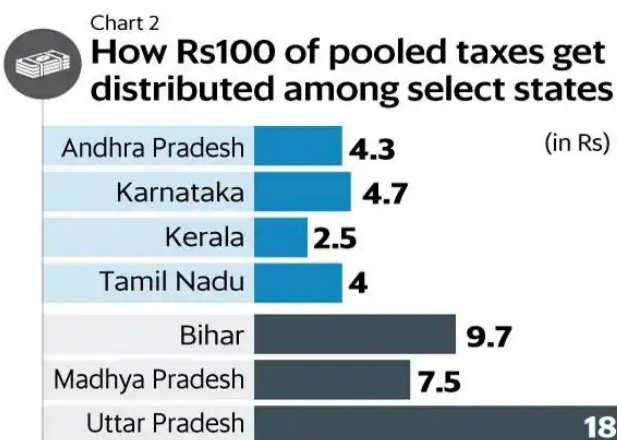
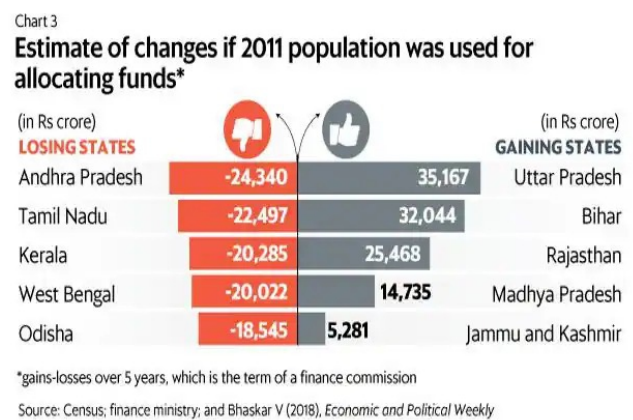
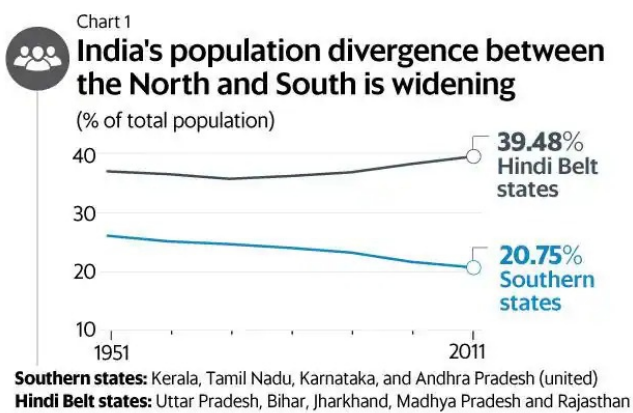
- The Constitution of India, being federal in structure, divides all powers (legislative, executive and financial) between the Centre and the states.
- The Centre-state relations can be studied under three heads - legislative relations, administrative relations and financial relations.
- Legislative Relations** - Articles 245 to 255 in Part XI of the Constitution deal with the legislative relations between the Centre and the states.
  - Parliament has overriding legislative powers over state legislatures.
  - Delineation of subjects in Union List, State List, and Concurrent List.
  - Parliament's residuary powers to legislate on any subject not mentioned in the lists.
- Administrative Relations** - Articles 256 to 263 in Part XI of the Constitution deal with the administrative relations between the Centre and the states.
  - States are required to follow laws made by the Parliament.
  - Concept of "cooperative federalism" in administrative matters.
  - Centre's power to give directions to states on certain matters.
- Financial Relations** - Articles 268 to 293 in Part XII of the Constitution deal with Centre-state financial relations.
  - Division of taxation powers between Centre and States.
  - Rules for imposing and sharing taxes.
  - Provisions for financial grants and resource transfers to States.

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- Article 293 of the Constitution permits States to borrow only from within the territory of India on a guarantee from the consolidated fund of the State and within such limits as outlined by the legislatures of each State.
  - The subject “Public Debt of the State” finds mention in Entry 43 of the State List of the Constitution and thus the Parliament cannot legislate or administer upon such matters.
  - The Government of India may make loans to States or provide guarantees, subject to conditions set by Parliament.
  - Pertinently, under Article 293(3), the State has to obtain the consent of the Centre to raise “any loan,” if “any part of the previous loan” extended by the Centre is outstanding.
- Article 131 of the Indian Constitution deals with the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. Under this jurisdiction, the SC directly hear and decides the disputes between -
  - Centre and one or more states; or
  - Centre & any state(s) on one side and one or more states on the other; or
  - Two or more states.







## QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS BY SUBJECT 2024

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Indian universities have shown notable advancement in the 2024 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) world university rankings by subject.
- The 2024 edition of the QS World University Rankings by Subject features 55 individual subjects across five broad subject areas. 1,559 institutions have been ranked across these subjects this year, with 64 universities debuting (i.e. having not been included in the 2023 edition).

### Key Findings

- Sixty-nine Indian universities made it to the rankings with 424 entries in the 2024 QS World University Rankings by Subject.
  - This marks a 19.4 per cent rise from the previous year's 355 entries.
- Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad has been ranked among the top 25 institutions globally for business and management studies.
  - IIM-Bangalore and IIM-Calcutta ranked among the top 50 institutions globally for business and management studies.
- Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), the highest-ranked university in India, ranked 20th position globally for development studies.
- The Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences in Chennai is another Indian institution among the top 25 globally for dentistry studies.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati has secured a global ranking of 51-70 in data science, and 51-100 in petroleum engineering.
- India stands as one of the world's most rapidly expanding research centres. From 2017 to 2022, its research output surged by an impressive 54 per cent.
- India is now the world's fourth-largest producer of research, generating 1.3 million academic papers in this period, trailing only behind China's 4.5 million, the United States' 4.4 million, and slightly less than the United Kingdom's 1.4 million
- In the 2024 QS World University Rankings by Subject, India is in the second spot in Asia in terms of the number of universities featured (69), trailing only mainland China (101), and holds the fourth position in the total number of ranked entries (454) after China (1,041), Japan (510) and South Korea (499).
- India faces challenges in securing citations in premier global journals, with only 15% of its research cited in top-tier journals between 2017 and 2021.

### QS World University Rankings 2024

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has achieved its highest rank ever (149th), breaking into the world's top 150 universities in the 2024 QS World University Ranking.
- This marks the first time in eight years that an Indian higher education institution has made it to the top 150 list, with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore previously achieving this feat in 2016 with a ranking of 147.
- In the 2024 edition, IISc fell 70 positions from 155th rank to 225. It now stands as the third-highest-ranked Indian institution, compared to being the best Indian institution last year.
- Similarly, IIT Delhi fell from 174 to 197, IIT Kanpur from 264 to 278 and IIT Madras from 250 to 285, among others.
- India has two more entries in the world's top 500 universities with the University of Delhi (ranked 407th) and Anna University (ranked 427th) making their debut in this tier.
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US topped the World University Ranking for the twelfth consecutive time this year, followed closely by UK's Cambridge University and Oxford University.
- The National University of Singapore (NUS) moved up three positions from Rank 11 last year to become the first Asian university to break into the top 10 club.

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## QS Asia University Rankings 2024

- The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) grabbed the top spot in India with the 40th position followed by IIT-Delhi at the 46th position and IIT-Madras at the 53rd position.
- Seven Indian institutions are among the top 100 in Asia, with five of them being Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), along with the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and Delhi University.
- With 148 universities in the ranking list, India also becomes the country in Asia with the highest number of universities being featured surpassing China with 133 and Japan with 96 universities.
- While India performs well in terms of research output and highly qualified faculty members with PhDs, it falls below the regional average in academic and employer reputation.
- India's research output has increased significantly, showing a 60% increase from 2018 to 2022, more than double the global average.
  - However, the growth gap with China is narrowing, with India catching up in terms of research output.
- Peking University secured the top spot for the second consecutive year, while the University of Hong Kong climbed to second place. The National University of Singapore (NUS) wrapped up the top three.

## QS RANKING 2024 (OVERALL)

Universities	Countries	2024 QS Rank	2023 QS Rank
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	US	1	1
University of Cambridge	UK	2	2
University of Oxford	UK	3	4
Harvard University	US	4	5
Stanford University	US	5	3
Imperial College London	UK	6	6
ETH Zurich	Switzerland	7	9
National University of Singapore	Singapore	8	11
University College London (UCL)	UK	9	8
University of California, Berkeley	US	10	27

## QS RANKING (INDIAN INSTITUTIONS)

National Rank	2024 Rank	2023 Rank	Institution Name
1	149	172	IIT, Bombay (IITB)
2	197	174	IIT, Delhi (IITD)
3	225	155	Indian Institute of Science
4	271	270	IIT, Kharagpur (IIT-KGP)
5	278	264	IIT, Kanpur (IITK)
6	285	250	IIT, Madras (IITM)
7	364	384	IIT, Guwahati (IITG)
8	369	369	IIT, Roorkee (IITR)
9	407	521-530	University of Delhi
10	427	551-560	Anna University

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## PETER HIGGS AND HIGGS BOSON PARTICLE

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Renowned British physicist Peter Higgs, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2013 for discovering "God Particle"- a theoretical process to explain the origins of mass in the universe- died at 94.

#### Key Points

- Peter Higgs discovered the existence of the God particle, which came to be known as the Higgs boson, in 1964.
- He theorized that there must be a sub-atomic particle of a certain dimension that would explain how other particles — and therefore all the stars and planets in the universe — acquired mass.
  - Without something like this particle, the set of equations physicists use to describe the world, known as the standard model, would not hold together.
  - Higgs' work helps scientists understand one of the most fundamental riddles of the universe: how the Big Bang created something out of nothing 13.8 billion years ago.
  - Without mass from the Higgs, particles could not clump together into the matter we interact with every day.
- His idea was validated by experiments almost 50 years later in 2012, at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland.
  - Scientists at CERN announced that they had finally found a Higgs boson using the Large Hadron Collider, the \$10 billion atom smasher in a 17-mile (27-kilometer) tunnel under the Swiss-French border.
- Higgs won the 2013 Nobel Prize in Physics for his work, alongside Francois Englert of Belgium, who independently came up with the same theory.

#### What is the Large Hadron Collider?

- The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) is a giant, complex machine built to study particles that are the smallest known building blocks of all things.
- The LHC is three things.
  - First, it is large — so large that it's the world's largest science experiment.
  - Second, it's a collider. It accelerates two beams of particles in opposite directions and smashes them head on.
  - Third, these particles are hadrons. Hadron is any member of a class of subatomic particles that are built from quarks and thus react through the agency of a strong force. The hadrons embrace mesons, baryons (e.g., protons, neutrons, and sigma particles), and their many resonances.
- The LHC, built by the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) between 1998 and 2008, is on the energy frontier of physics research, conducting experiments with highly energised particles.

- In 2018, CERN released the proposal for a 100-kilometre-circumference Future Circular Collider.
- Compared to the 13.6 trillion electronvolts energy level of LHC, the Future Circular Collider will work at energy levels of up to 100 trillion electronvolts.
- The Future Circular Collider is an even bigger machine aimed at ensuring the seamless continuation of the world's particle physics programme in the post-LHC era.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- The Higgs boson was dubbed the God Particle in the 1992 book "The God Particle: If the Universe is the Answer, What Is the Question?" by the physicist Dr. Leon Lederman.
  - The book discussed particle physics.
  - Most physicists would argue that the Higgs boson has nothing to do with God. Indeed, scientists typically rejected the name God Particle.
- India in 2016 became an associate member of the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN).
  - India was inducted as an 'Observer' at CERN in 2004.
- China in December 2023 launched the world's deepest and largest underground physics laboratory, the Deep Underground and Ultra-low Radiation Background Facility for Frontier Physics Experiments (DURF), located beneath Jinping Mountain in Sichuan Province.

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## MADRAS HIGH COURT

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Recently, the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court Bar Association (MMBA) restored the right of the Bench to hear all kinds of public interest litigation (PIL) petitions including those that concern issues related to the entire State, and not just the 13 districts under its territorial jurisdiction.

### Key Observations of the Court

- The First Division Bench of Chief Justice Sanjay V. Gangapurwala and Justice R. Hemalatha allowed a revision petition filed by MMBA and recalled a particular paragraph alone from a judicial order passed by the previous first Bench during former Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee's tenure on March 4, 2021.
  - While disposing of a PIL petition to safeguard the interests of temples all over the State, former Chief Justice Banerjee had written: "While it is appropriate to institute PILs pertaining to the districts covered by the Madurai Bench, when pan-State matters are the subject matter of any litigation, including PILs, they should be carried to the principal seat of the court."
- The Bench observed that the presidential notification issued in 2004 for the constitution of the Madurai Bench had not imposed any such restriction.
- Reference was made to a previous judgment (B. Stalin versus Registrar, 2012) where a Full Bench clarified the jurisdiction of the Madurai Bench.
  - The Full Bench too, had not imposed any restriction on the nature of PILs that could be filed and heard by the Madurai Bench though it recognised the power of the Chief Justice to transfer any case from from the principal seat to the Madurai Bench and vice-versa.
- While allowing the review petition, the Bench said, "to restrict the pan-State matters only at the principal seat would not be appropriate in view of the notification"

### High Courts in India

- Articles 214 to 231 in Part VI of the Constitution deal with the organisation, independence, jurisdiction, powers, procedures and so on of the High Courts.
  - Article 214 of the constitution of India provides that there shall be a High Court for each state.
- Section 51 of the States' Reorganisation Act, 1956 provides for setting up benches away from the principal seat.

### Concept of PIL

- The concept of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) originated and developed in the USA in the 1960s.
- In India, the PIL is a product of the judicial activism role of the Supreme Court.
  - It was introduced in the early 1980s. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer and Justice P.N. Bhagwati were the pioneers of the concept of PIL.
- The introduction of PIL in India was facilitated by the relaxation of the traditional rule of 'locus standi'.
  - According to this rule, only that person whose rights are infringed alone can move the court for the remedies, whereas, the PIL is an exception to this traditional rule.
- The Supreme Court has defined the PIL as "a legal action initiated in a court of law for the enforcement of public interest or general interest in which the public or a class of the community have pecuniary interest or some interest by which their legal rights or liabilities are affected."
  - Public interest litigation is not defined in any statute or in any act. It has been interpreted by judges to consider the intent of the public at large.
  - Some of the matters which are categorized as PIL are -
    - Bonded labour matters
    - Neglected children
    - Non-payment of minimum wages to workers and exploitation of casual workers
    - Petitions against police for refusing to register a case, harassment by police and death in police custody
    - Petitions against atrocities on women
    - Petitions pertaining to environmental pollution and disturbance of ecological balance
    - Petitions from riot-victims
    - Family pension





## SUPREME COURT ON PREVENTIVE DETENTION

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The Supreme Court recently held that advisory boards under draconian preventive detention laws should not behave like mere “rubber-stamping authorities” for the government, but act as safety valves which stand between the capricious use of power by the state and the right to personal liberty.

### Background

- The judgment came in an appeal filed by a man ordered by the Telangana police to be detained as a 'goonda' under the Telangana Prevention of Dangerous Activities Act, 1986.
- The police claimed the man was a threat to “public order”. He was a cause of panic and fear among women. The appellant was accused of making a habit of snatching the 'mangalsutras' of his victims in broad daylight.

### What is Preventive Detention?

- Preventive detention means the detention of a person without trial and conviction by a court.
  - Its purpose is not to punish a person for a past offence but to prevent him from committing an offence in the near future.
  - Thus, preventive detention is only a precautionary measure and based on suspicion.
- Detention is of two types, namely, punitive and preventive.
  - Punitive detention is to punish a person for an offence committed by him after trial and conviction in a court.
  - Preventive detention is when a person is held in police custody only on the basis of a suspicion that they would conduct a criminal act or cause harm to society.
- The detention of a person cannot exceed three months unless an advisory board reports sufficient cause for extended detention.
- Article 22 grants protection to persons who are arrested or detained.
  - The Article 22 has two parts—the first part deals with the cases of ordinary law and the second part deals with the cases of preventive detention law.
- Article 22 makes it mandatory for preventive detention laws to form advisory boards consisting of persons qualified to be High Court judges.
  - Under different laws, review boards must assess detention orders every three months to determine if there's enough reason for preventive detention.
  - They examine the evidence, request more information if needed, listen to the person detained, and then report if the detention was justified or not.

### Court's Observation

- The Court observed that it is unfair to deny someone his personal liberty on a mere hypothesis that he was likely to commit a crime, as in the past, which may adversely affect the maintenance of public order.
- The Court also said, that advisory boards, under the various laws, have to review detention orders every three months to see whether there was sufficient cause or not.
- The boards should consider material placed before them; call for further information; hear the detenu; and submit a report explaining whether or not detention was justified.
- The Court distinguished between 'public order' and 'law and order'.

- In Ram Manohar Lohia vs State of Bihar Case, 1965, the Supreme Court held that the problem of 'law and order' affected only a few individuals, but an issue of public order influenced the community or the public at large or even the country.
- The difference between 'law and order' and 'public order' lies in the degree and extent of their scope.
- In Ameena Begum Case (2023), the SC held that preventive detention is an exceptional measure meant for emergency situations and should not be used routinely.
- The objective of preventive detention is not to punish but to prevent anything prejudicial to the security of the state.
- In Ankul Chandra Pradhan Case (1997), the SC emphasised that the purpose of preventive detention is to prevent harm to the security of the state, rather than to impose punishment.

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## TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024

### WHY IN NEWS?

- The most recent total solar eclipse occurred on April 8, 2024, when the eclipse traversed North America, passing over Mexico, the United States, and Canada.
- This type of solar eclipse was a rare event for any particular spot.
- According to Royal Museums Greenwich, once a place on Earth witnesses a total solar eclipse, it will be about 400 years before that part sees the next one.

### What is a Solar Eclipse?

- A solar eclipse takes place when the Moon moves in the middle of Earth and the Sun.
- The Moon blocks the light of the Sun, either fully or partially, which casts a huge shadow on some parts of the world.
- There are four different types of solar eclipses, including total solar eclipse, annular solar eclipse, partial solar eclipse, and hybrid solar eclipse.
  1. **Total Solar Eclipse** - When the Moon blocks the Sun entirely, the areas in the centre of the Moon's shadow at the time witness a total solar eclipse.
    - The sky darkens and people who are in the path of a total solar eclipse can get a glimpse of the Sun's corona — the outer atmosphere — which is usually not visible due to the bright face of the Sun.
  2. **Annular Solar Eclipse** - When the Moon passes in front of the Sun but is at or near the farthest point from Earth, an annular solar eclipse occurs.
    - In this scenario, the Moon covers the Sun in such a way that only the periphery of the Sun remains visible — looking like a ring of fire.
  3. **Partial Solar Eclipse** - A partial solar eclipse takes place when the Moon blocks just a part of the Sun, giving it a crescent shape.
    - During both partial and annular eclipses, the regions outside the area covered by the Moon's umbra - the middle and the darkest part of the lunar shadow - will see a partial solar eclipse.
    - Partial solar eclipse is the most common type of solar eclipse.
  4. **Hybrid Solar Eclipse** - A hybrid solar eclipse - the rarest type of solar eclipse - is witnessed when an eclipse shifts between annular and total as the shadow of the Moon moves across the globe.
    - In this case, some parts of the world see a total solar eclipse, while others observe an annular solar eclipse.



### How often does a Solar Eclipse take place?

- A solar eclipse is witnessed only during the new moon — when the Moon and Sun are aligned on the same side of Earth.
  - A new moon occurs about 29.5 days because that is how long it takes the Moon to orbit Earth.
- This, however, does not mean that a solar eclipse happens every month.
  - It takes place only between two to five times annually.
  - It is because the Moon does not orbit Earth in the same plane as the Earth orbits the Sun.
- In fact, the Moon is tilted by about five degrees with respect to Earth.
  - As a result, most of the time when the Moon is in between the Sun and Earth, its shadow is either too high or too low to fall on the Earth.

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## IRAN-ISRAEL RELATIONS

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Iran launched a massive aerial attack on Israel recently in retaliation for April 1's suspected Israeli strike on its consulate in Damascus, Syria which killed 13 people.

### Key Points

- Iran's massive aerial attack marks the first direct strike by Iran on Israeli territory from Iranian soil. Iran called the attack Operation True Promise.
- Iran carried out the attacks in retaliation for a suspected Israeli strike that killed an Iranian military commander, Major General Mohammad Reza Zahedi, in Damascus on April 1. He was killed along with six other Iranian nationals, including another general.
- Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations has said that the Islamic Republic's military action is based on Article 51 of the UN Charter in response to the Israeli strike in Damascus.
  - Citing Article 51 of the UN Charter, which allows for legitimate defence, Iran defended its actions as warranted in the face of perceived threats.
- In response to Iran's attack, on April 19, some Western and pro-Israel media claimed that Israel struck Iranian nuclear facilities in Isfahan.
- Officially, Israel has not claimed the attack, while the US Secretary of State referred to them as "reported events".

### Iran-Israel Ties

- In 1948, the opposition of Arab states to Israel led to the first Arab-Israeli war. Iran was not a part of that conflict, and after Israel won, it established ties with the Jewish state. It was the second Muslim-majority country to do so after Turkey.
  - Iran was one of the first countries in the region to recognise Israel after its formation in 1948.
- The Pahlavi dynasty, under the Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, ruled Iran then.
  - It had US support, as did Israel, and the two countries maintained ties with each other, with Iran also selling oil to Israel amid its economic boycott by Arab states.
- It was only after 1979 that their diplomatic ties ended.
- A religious state was established in Iran after the Shah was overthrown in the 1979 Islamic Revolution.
  - The regime's view of Israel changed, and it was seen as an occupier of Palestinian land.
- Israel's Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khomeini termed Israel "Little Satan" and the United States the "Great Satan", seeing the two as parties interfering in the region.
- Iran also sought to grow its presence in the region, challenging the two major powers Saudi Arabia and Israel – both of whom were US allies.
- As a result, the ties between the countries worsened. While Israel and Iran have never engaged in direct military confrontation, both have attempted to inflict damage on the other through proxies and limited strategic attacks.

### Iran-Israel Ties after 1979

- In the early 2010s, Israel targeted several facilities and nuclear scientists in a bid to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons.
- In 2010, the US and Israel are believed to have developed Stuxnet, a malicious computer virus. Used to attack a uranium enrichment facility at Iran's Natanz nuclear site, it was the first publicly known cyberattack on industrial machinery.
- Iran, meanwhile, is seen as responsible for funding and supporting several militant groups in the region that are anti-Israel and anti-US, such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.





## AMBEDKAR JAYANTI 2024

### WHY IN NEWS?

- Ambedkar Jayanti, also known as Bhim Jayanti, is celebrated on April 14th every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and the first Law Minister of Independent India, and to honour his legacy.
- This day is also known as Equality Day, as the leader throughout his life advocated for equality and pushed for the fair treatment of all Indian citizens in the eyes of the law.

#### About Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is hailed as the Architect of the Indian Constitution due to his pivotal role in its drafting and formulation.
- As the chairman of the Constitution Drafting Committee, Ambedkar meticulously crafted the foundational document of independent India, incorporating principles of equality, justice, and democracy.
- His relentless crusade against social discrimination and his advocacy for the rights of the oppressed castes have been instrumental in shaping policies and social reforms in India.
- Dr. Ambedkar received India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna, in 1990 as a posthumous honour and the year 1990–1991 was proclaimed as the "Year of Social Justice."
- His efforts to advance the Hindu Code Bill demonstrated his dedication to increasing women's empowerment and gender equality in India.

- As the Law Minister in the newly formed government, Ambedkar embarked on drafting the Hindu Code Bill in 1950.
- The bill faced strong resistance from within the Congress party and the opposition, leading Nehru to delay its passage.
- In the end, Ambedkar resigned from the Cabinet in protest.
- But, starting in 1952, the same contents were adopted as four different Bills championed by Nehru himself — the Hindu Marriage Act (1955), Hindu Succession Act (1956), Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act (1956), and Hindu Adoptions and Maintenance Act (1956)— and the Hindu Code Bill became a reality in 1958.

- The Dalit movement in India was also spearheaded by Dr. Ambedkar.

- In March 1927, Babasaheb and his followers drank water from a community tank that was prohibited for them.
  - His first public act of defiance was the burning of Manusmriti in December 1927, which he got done by Gangadhar Nilkanth Sahasrabudhe, a Brahmin.
- The Mahad Satyagraha, which took place in 1927 in the town of Mahad in Maharashtra, India, stands as a seminal moment in history.
  - Led by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, this nonviolent protest marked a significant step towards achieving social justice, equality, and civil rights for the Dalit community in India.
- This was followed by the famous satyagraha at the Kalaram temple in Nashik in 1930.

#### A HUMBLE TRIBUTE TO DR. BR AMBEDKAR



I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved.

-Dr. BR Ambedkar

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#### STEPS TAKEN BY MODI GOVERNMENT TO EMPOWER WOMEN



Criminalized Triple Talaq  
Nearly 8 crore free LPG connections

Maternity leave hiked from 12 weeks to 26 weeks for govt and private employees

Free check-up for pregnant women

Over 10.28 crore toilets built in rural India to help women



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## DID YOU KNOW?

- In 1923, he set up the 'Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (Outcastes Welfare Association)', which was devoted to spreading education and culture amongst the downtrodden and started the Bahishkrit Bharat newspaper in 1927.
- In 1924, he started an Association for the welfare of the depressed classes.
- Dr. B. R. Ambedkar participated in all three Round Table Conferences.
- In 1932, he signed the Poona pact with Mahatma Gandhi, which abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes (Communal Award).
- In 1936, he formed the Independent Labour Party to safeguard the interests of the depressed classes.
- Chaitya Bhoomi is a memorial to B R Ambedkar, located in Mumbai.
- His works include –
  - **Journals** - Mooknayak, Bahishkrit Bharat, Samatha and Janata.
  - **Books** - "Annihilation of Caste", "Buddha or Karl Marx", "The Untouchable: Who are They and Why They Have Become Untouchables", "Buddha and His Dhamma" and "The Rise and Fall of Hindu Women."
  - **Organisations** - Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha, Independent Labour Party and Scheduled Castes Federation.
- In the constituent assembly debates, he described Article 32 as the "heart and soul" of the Constitution, without which it would be rendered meaningless.
  - Article 32 - Right to Constitutional Remedies - ensures the enforcement of Fundamental Rights enshrined in Part III of the Constitution, including the right to equality, life, and freedom from discrimination.
- On October 14, 1956, he embraced Buddhism along with many of his followers.
- India observes Mahaparinirvan Divas on December 6 in memory of Dr BR Ambedkar.

### SALIENTS FEATURES OF STATUE

# 125 ft

The height of  
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar  
statue

The pedestal  
height- **81 ft**

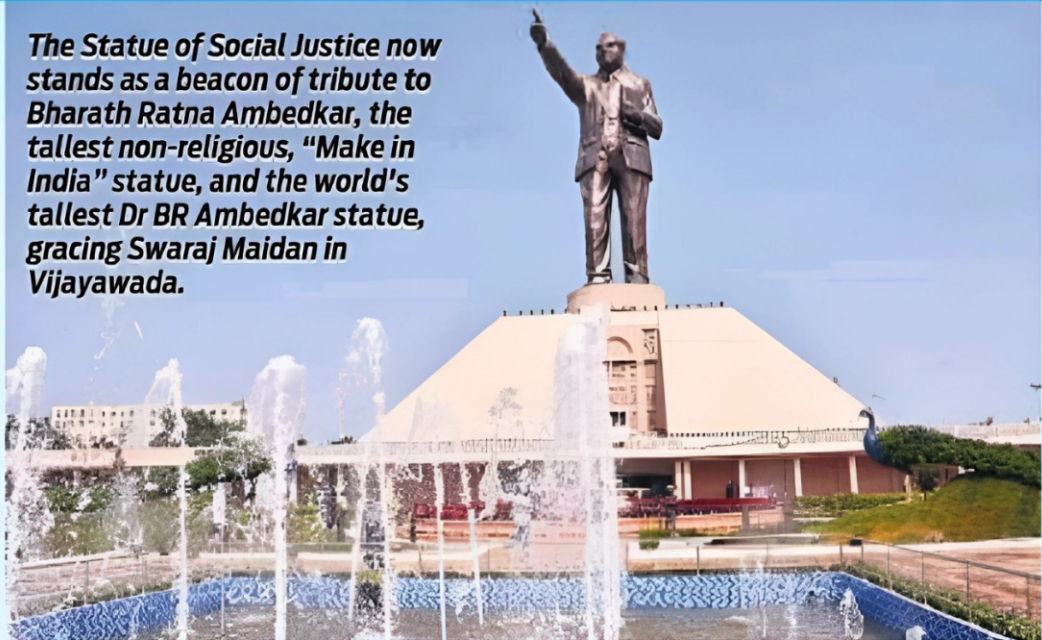
# 3.481 ft

The size of the  
pedestal

# 206 ft

Total height of the  
statue including the  
pedestal

*The Statue of Social Justice now stands as a beacon of tribute to Bharath Ratna Ambedkar, the tallest non-religious, "Make in India" statue, and the world's tallest Dr BR Ambedkar statue, gracing Swaraj Maidan in Vijayawada.*



A view of the 125-foot bronze statue of Dr.B.R.Ambedkar in Vijayawada. The Statue of Social Justice will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday (January 19).

-Pic: **Ch. Vijaya Bhaskar**

Pedestal  
built as G+2  
building

Pedestal designed as  
Kalachakra Maha  
Mandal of Buddhist  
Architecture.

Pedestal Building  
clad with Pink  
Sandstone from  
Rajasthan.

Pedestal of the  
statue is G+2 Isosceles  
Trapezium shaped  
RCC framed structure.

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## 40th ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION MEGHDOOT

### WHY IN NEWS?

- April 13, 2024, marked four decades since the Indian Army pre-empted Pakistan and occupied the Siachen Glacier on the Saltoro ridge, overlooking the Nubra valley in the Karakoram ranges.

### The Genesis of Operation Meghdoot

- In the 1970s and 1980s, Pakistan began allowing foreign mountaineering expeditions, resorting to cartographic aggression, to add credence to its claims.
  - Following intelligence inputs of imminent military action by Pakistan in early 1984, India moved to pre-empt it.
- Based on these recent reports, the Indian Army launched 'Operation Meghdoot' on April 13, 1984, to capture the 76.4 km-long glacier.
  - Although the operation began in 1984, IAF helicopters were already operating in the glacier with the first landing of a Cheetah helicopter in October 1978.
  - Later, about 300-odd troops were positioned on the strategically important peaks and passes of the glacier.
- In June 1987, Indian troops captured the Quaid post at 21,153 feet under Operation Rajiv.
  - The post was later renamed the Bana top, in honour of then Naib Subedar Bana Singh (later Subedar Major and Hony Captain) from 8-Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAK LI).
- From 1984 to 2003, both sides were exchanging fire regularly. The guns finally fell silent in 2003 after the ceasefire agreement along the LoC and the 110km long Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) in Siachen.
  - While the LoC has flared up on multiple occasions, a ceasefire along the AGPL has held since. Operation Meghdoot continues to this day, becoming the longest-continuing operation in the world.

### Strategic Importance

- Saltoro Ridge, dominated by the Indian Army, overlooks the Gilgit-Baltistan area of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- Indian military presence guards the routes leading to Ladakh from the eastern flank of the glacier that has access from the Depsang plains in Ladakh.
- The northern part of the glacier, ringed by very high peaks, dominates the Shaksgam valley, which is under Chinese control since Pakistan illegally ceded it in 1963.
- China's Karakoram Highway, part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, runs close by.
- The Saltoro Ridge, coupled with Siachen Glacier and Saser Ridge, is the most daunting geographical stretch. It also cleanly divides Gilgit-Baltistan and Aksai Chin in northern Ladakh.
- In the past 20 years, the unwarranted entry of the Chinese under the guise of road builders and dam builders means the area immediately west of Siachen now poses a collusive China and Pakistan threat.
- Also, the present crisis along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) would have been different if Pakistan's false claim line from Point NJ 9842 to Karakoram Pass was not challenged by India.

### Conflicting Claims

- Siachen, in the Balti language, means "land of roses" — 'Sia' is a kind of rose species that grows in the region and 'Chen' means "in abundance".
- However, it is known for being the world's highest and coldest battlefield. It sits at a very strategic location with Pakistan on the left and China on the right.
- Siachen is a legacy of the Partition between India and Pakistan. While the Line of Control (LoC) was delineated and accepted by both sides upto NJ-9842 as part of the 1972 Simla agreement, the glacier itself was left unmarked.
- India claims the area based on the Jammu and Kashmir Accession Agreement of 1947 and the Karachi Agreement of 1949, which define the ceasefire line beyond NJ-9842 as running "Northwards to the glaciers".
- On the other hand, Pakistan interprets it as 'North-Eastwards' to claim the area beyond the Saltoro Ridge and beyond Siachen as its own.
- This would give Pakistan direct connectivity to China as well as strategic oversight over the Ladakh region and the crucial Leh-Srinagar highway, posing a serious threat to India.

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## GREEN CREDIT PROGRAMME

### WHY IN NEWS?

- On April 12, the Environment Ministry issued guidelines on its Green Credit Programme (GCP), two months after it had prescribed rules governing the first initiative, afforestation. Modifying the rules, an official said, will prioritise the restoration of ecosystems over mere planting of trees.

### What is the Green Credit Programme?

- The GCP was officially unveiled in October 2023 and has its provenance in Mission Life, a principle frequently articulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Its goal is to lay an emphasis on sustainability, reduce waste and improve the natural environment.
- The GCP programme presents itself as an “innovative, market-based mechanism” to incentivise “voluntary actions” for environmental conservation.
  - Under this, individuals, organisations and companies — public and private — would be encouraged to invest in sectors ranging from afforestation, water conservation, stemming air pollution, waste management, and mangrove conservation and in return be eligible to receive 'green credits.'
- An autonomous body of the Ministry, the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), is in charge of administering the programme.
- In February, the Ministry prescribed the rules governing the first of these initiatives — afforestation.
- So far, ten States have identified parcels of degraded forest land, amounting to about 3,853 hectares, that will be available for individuals, groups, and public and private sector units to earn — and potentially trade — green credits.
  - As per the sources, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh alone account for up to 40% of the forest land made available.

### Green Credit Programme Activities

- Tree Plantation-based Green Credit - To promote activities for increasing the green cover across the country through tree plantation and related activities.
- Water-based Green Credit - To promote water conservation, water harvesting and water use efficiency/savings, including treatment and reuse of wastewater.
- Sustainable Agriculture-based Green Credit - To promote natural and regenerative agricultural practices and land restoration to improve productivity, soil health and nutritional value of food produced.
- Waste Management-based Green Credit - To promote sustainable and improved practices for waste management, including collection, segregation and treatment.
- Air Pollution Reduction based Green Credit - To promote measures for reducing air pollution and other pollution abatement activities.
- Mangrove Conservation and Restoration based Green Credit - To promote measures for conservation and restoration of mangroves.
- Ecomark-based Green Credit - To encourage manufacturers to obtain Ecomark labels for their goods and services.
- Sustainable building and infrastructure-based Green Credit - To encourage the construction of buildings and other infrastructure using sustainable technologies and materials.

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## **QUICK FACTS**

**CONTEMPORARY EVENTS OF  
SIGNIFICANCE FROM INDIA  
AND THE WORLD**



1. **National Maritime Day** is celebrated every year on April 5. The day is celebrated as a tribute to the seafarers and voyagers, who spent months at sea. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways first celebrated National Maritime Day in 1964. This year will mark the 61st National Maritime Day. The day is also observed as a tribute to the maiden voyage of the first Indian-owned ship, SS Loyalty, that set off on its journey from Mumbai to London on April 5, 1919.
2. In a first in Maharashtra, **Mumbai** is set to witness the installation of **210 artificial reefs** in the Arabian Sea, near Worli Koliwada. This is the second artificial reef deployment in the country — the first was in Pondicherry.
3. The **United States** government has tasked its space agency, NASA, with establishing a **standard time zone for the moon**, which will be known as **Coordinated Lunar Time (CLT)**. In layman's terms, we need a reliable "lunar time" earth-syncing system because lower gravity on the moon causes time to move slightly faster there than on Earth — by just 58.7 microseconds (there are 1 million microseconds in a single second) faster within every 24 Earth hours.
4. **Mount Etna**, the largest volcano in Europe, and among the world's most active and iconic volcanoes, has been sending up volcanic vortex rings, almost perfect rings of smoke into the air. The rings are a rare phenomenon that scientists refer to as volcanic vortex rings. Mount Etna, sometimes referred to simply as Etna, is an active volcano on the east coast of Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, lying just off the toe of the Italian "boot". Etna's peak is the highest in Italy south of the Alps, and it is Europe's largest and one of the most active volcanoes.
5. Tech giant **Apple** recently informed several users in India and 91 other countries that they were possible targets of a Pegasus-like "**mercenary spyware**" **attack** on their devices. In a threat notification email sent after midnight to users across the globe, Apple informed the targeted users that the mercenary spyware was "trying to remotely compromise" their iPhone.
6. An international team of researchers has just released the most comprehensive "**three-dimensional**" **map of the universe**, which, scientists hope, could reveal some clues about dark energy, the mysterious force that is believed to be causing the universe to expand uncontrollably.
7. The "**Mother of Dragons**" comet, officially named Comet 12P/Pons-Brooks, is making a rare appearance in the Northern Hemisphere skies. This unique "Halley-type" comet, completing its orbit around the sun every 71 years, is now visible after dusk, marking its first appearance since 1954.
8. India is one of the countries with the highest burden of viral hepatitis — an infection that causes liver inflammation, and damage and may lead to liver cancer — with 2.9 crore people living with Hepatitis B infection and 0.55 crore living with Hepatitis C infection, according to the **Global Hepatitis Report 2024** released by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
9. Recently, **South Africa** has decided to end captive breeding of lions (*Panthera leo*) due to concerns over trophy hunting and the use of lion bones in traditional Chinese medicine marks a significant shift in wildlife conservation.
10. The **Forest Department** and **Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Devasthanam (SLNSD)** at Ahobilam have imposed certain restrictions on visitors arriving at the shrine, which is composed of nine different temples, situated within the Nallamala forest. The restrictions have been imposed in the wake of the intense heatwave that can impact the movement of wild animals. To ensure the safety of animals, the department has already banned all forms of plastic such as sachets, water cups, tea cups and bottles, which will have to be deposited at the Cheethal base camp.
11. The Army has started the induction of control and reporting systems under '**Project Akashteer**' to bolster its air defence capabilities. Developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), the project is aimed at significantly enhancing the operational efficiency and integration of the Army's air defence mechanisms.
12. Recently, the '**Yoga Mahotsav**' was held in celebration of the **75-day countdown to the International Day of Yoga in Pune**. The participants performed Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) in complete rhythm and harmony with a mesmerising outcome. It was organised by the Ministry of Ayush. The United Nations declared 21st June as the International Day of Yoga in 2014.





13. Recently, **Kodaikanal Solar Observatory** celebrated its **125th birth anniversary**. Over the years, it has played a crucial role in advancing our understanding of solar activity and its impact on Earth's climate and space weather.
14. **South Korean** scientists have set a new world record using the Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research (KSTAR) device, an "**artificial Sun**" nuclear fusion reactor. The team generated plasma temperatures of 100 million degrees Celsius for 48 seconds during tests between December 2023 and February 2024. This temperature is seven times that of the Sun's core, which is 15 million degrees Celsius.
15. The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has introduced an innovative digital health assistant named **SARAH (Smart AI Resource Assistant for Health)**, marking a significant advancement in AI-powered health avatars. SARAH engages users in 8 languages on various health topics, accessible 24/7 on any device.
16. **India** is among the twelve countries responsible for 60 percent of the planet's mismanaged plastic waste though the fast-developing South Asian nation's per capita plastic waste production is among the lowest in the world, according to **the Plastic Overshoot Day report** by Swiss non-profit EA Earth Action. Each country has its own "Plastic Overshoot Day", determined by the amount of plastic waste generated and the country's capacity to manage it. India will reach its Plastic Overshoot Day on April 23.
17. **India's first military-grade** geospatial satellite manufactured in the **private sector** has been successfully launched and placed in orbit, with full functionality expected to be achieved within a few months. Built by **Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL)** at its Vemagal facility in Karnataka, the TSAT-1A was onboard the Bandwagon-1 mission launched by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket in Florida.



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# **QUICK FACTS**

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## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**



1. The Indian Army contingent departed for the **5th edition of India- Uzbekistan** joint military **Exercise DUSTLIK**. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 15th to 28th April 2024 at Termez, the Republic of Uzbekistan. Exercise DUSTLIK is a yearly event conducted alternatively in India and Uzbekistan. The last edition was conducted at Pithoragarh (India) in February 2023.
2. After Chabahar, **India** gained the rights to operate a **second overseas port, Sittwe, in Myanmar**. The Ministry of External Affairs has approved a proposal for India Ports Global (IPGL) to take over the operations of the entire port located on the Kaladan River. IPGL is a company 100 per cent owned by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
3. **India** rejected as senseless **China** renaming of some places in Arunachal Pradesh. The Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs released the fourth list of standardised geographical names in Zangnan, the Chinese name for Arunachal Pradesh, which Beijing claims as part of south Tibet. In April last year too, Beijing released the third list of standardised names of 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh. The first batch of the standardised names of six places in Arunachal Pradesh was released in 2017 while the second batch of 15 places was issued in 2021.
4. **Indian Coast Guard's Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) Samudra Paheredar** made a port of call at Muara, Brunei on April 9, as part of its ongoing overseas deployment to the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** countries. This deployment is part of the India ASEAN Initiative for Marine Pollution, announced by the government in 2022.
5. The **first semiconductor chip** from the new plant being set up by the Tata Group and Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC) in **Gujarat's Dholera**, will be ready to roll out by the end of 2026, according to Frank Huang, chairman of PSMC.
6. The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** observed **World Chagas Disease Day on April 14** to raise awareness about the often-overlooked illness. It is an infectious disease caused by a protozoan parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*. The disease has been named after Brazilian physician Carlos Chagas, who discovered it in 1909.
7. **India** ranked **number 10** in cybercrime, with frauds involving people making advance fee payments being the most common type, according to a new research '**World Cybercrime Index**' that surveyed cybercrime experts around the world. Russia topped the list and was followed by Ukraine, China, the US, Nigeria and Romania. North Korea was in the seventh position, while the UK and Brazil were in the eighth and ninth positions, respectively.
8. **India and the US** have decided to reactivate the **Indian Ocean Observing System (IndOOS)**, a network of 36 moored buoys on the high seas to collect high-resolution ocean and atmospheric data for weather forecasts. The moored buoys are part of the Research Moored Array for African-Asian-Australian Monsoon Analysis and Prediction (RAMA) programme that was born out of a collaboration between the Ministry of Earth Sciences and NOAA in 2008.
9. The **Indian Army** has received the **first batch of Iгла-S Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) from Russia**, part of a larger deal for 120 launchers and 400 missiles. These systems enhance the Army's Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) capabilities, particularly in high mountainous terrain along the northern border. The procurement includes domestic production in India, with one regiment already deploying the systems. This acquisition replaces outdated Iгла-1M systems and aligns with plans for future indigenous VSHORAD advancements.
10. On **7 April**, UNESCO commemorates the **International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda**, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2003. The date marks the beginning of the genocide perpetrated against members of the Tutsi minority by the Hutu extremist-led government. Within just over 100 days, more than 1 million Tutsi were systematically murdered. Moderate Hutu and others who opposed the massacres were also killed during this period.
11. Scientists in **Romania** successfully created the **world's most powerful laser light emission** - one-tenth of the power emanating from the Sun that is received on Earth. The laser, installed at a centre near the Romanian capital Bucharest, is operated by French company Thales.

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## **QUICK FACTS**

**ARTS & CULTURE AND HISTORICAL  
EVENTS OF CONTINUING SIGNIFICANCE**



1. Recently, **traditional Hindu New Year festivals** like Chaitra Sukladi (Celebrated in North India), Ugadi (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka), Gudi Padwa (Maharashtra and Goa), Cheti Chand (by Sindhi community), Navreh (Kashmiri Pandit community), and Sajibu Cheiraoba (Meitei Cheiraoba) were celebrated across India, fostering cultural unity and appreciation.
2. **Chandrayaan-3 mission team** was honoured with the prestigious 2024 John L 'Jack' Swigert Jr Award for space exploration. The John L "Jack" Swigert Jr Award for Space Exploration acknowledges exceptional achievements in space exploration by a company, space agency, or group of organizations. The award is a tribute to astronaut John L "Jack" Swigert Jr, who was part of the Apollo 13 lunar mission and played a vital role in NASA's safe return of the crew to Earth.



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**TEST ZONE**



## PASSAGE - 1

Sixty-nine Indian universities made it to the rankings with 424 entries in the 2024 QS World University Rankings by Subject. This marks a 19.4 per cent rise from the previous year's 355 entries. Interestingly, 72 per cent of the Indian entries this year are either new to the list, have shown improvement, or have maintained their positions, whereas a mere 18 per cent experienced a decline. Overall, India has demonstrated a significant 17 per cent year-on-year improvement.

The 12 Institutes of Eminence (IoE), which represent just a fraction of Indian universities, contribute 40 per cent of the country's total entries, amounting to 180. Furthermore, the IoE lead the way with 47 of the 69 top-100 Indian positions and 14 of the 21 positions across 55 academic disciplines and five faculty areas in the 14th edition of the rankings.

The most represented Indian universities in this edition of the rankings are the University of Delhi (30 entries), IIT Bombay (28 entries) and IIT Kharagpur (27 entries). IIT Madras this year had 22

entries, of which eight improved, six declined and four remained unchanged. IIT Delhi followed this at the fifth spot with 19 entries, of which 11 improved, three declined and three remained unchanged.

IIT Guwahati has been named as one of the world's top universities for the study of Data Science and Petroleum Engineering subjects, securing a global ranking of 51-70, and Petroleum Engineering, where it ranks 51-100 globally. Additionally, four of IIT Guwahati's subjects have witnessed an improvement in rank this year, including: Chemistry – From rank 301-250 last year to 251-300 this year; Biological Sciences – From rank 451-500 last year to 401-450 this year; Environmental Studies – From rank 301-350 last year to 201-250 this year; Economic & Econometrics – From rank 501-530 last year to 451-500 this year.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "JNU India's highest ranked university, 69 in top 500: QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024", The Indian Express]

**Q.1 Which of the following universities is India's highest-ranked university in the 2024 QS World University Rankings by Subject?**

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <b>A</b> University of Delhi                     | <b>C</b> Chandigarh University       |
| <b>B</b> National Law School of India University | <b>D</b> Jawaharlal Nehru University |

**Q.2 Which Indian Institute of Management (IIM) secured India's highest ranking for business and management studies in the 2024 QS World University Rankings by Subject?**

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>A</b> IIM Ahmedabad | <b>C</b> IIM-Calcutta  |
| <b>B</b> IIM-Bangalore | <b>D</b> IIM-Kozhikode |

**Q.3 Which Indian Institute secured the 24th spot globally in Dentistry and is the only Indian university to achieve a perfect score (100/100) in one of the QS indicators, namely the H Index?**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>A</b> All India Institute of Medical Science | <b>C</b> Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences      |
| <b>B</b> Indian Institute of Science            | <b>D</b> National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research |

**Q.4 In the 2024 QS World University Rankings by Subject, India is in the \_\_\_\_\_ spot in Asia in terms of the number of universities featured (69).**

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>A</b> First  | <b>C</b> Third  |
| <b>B</b> Second | <b>D</b> Fourth |

**Q.5 Which of the following IITs achieved its highest rank ever (149th), breaking into the world's top 150 universities in the 2024 QS World University Ranking?**

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>A</b> IIT Delhi  | <b>C</b> IIT Bombay |
| <b>B</b> IIT Madras | <b>D</b> IIT Kanpur |

Q.1 (D) Q.2 (A) Q.3 (C) Q.4 (B) Q.5 (C)

Answers

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## PASSAGE - 2

Ambedkar Jayanti, also known as Bhim Jayanti, is celebrated on '[1]' every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and the first Law Minister of Independent India, and to honour his legacy. The year 2024 marked his 134th birthday.

A significant figure in Indian history, Ambedkar was also a jurist, economist, politician, and social reformer who dedicated his life to eradicating social discrimination against untouchables (Dalits) and fighting for the rights of women and labour.

Often a public holiday across the country, this day is also known as Equality Day, as the leader throughout his life advocated for equality and pushed for the fair treatment of all Indian citizens in the eyes of the law.

Ambedkar was a strong advocate for uplifting the marginalised sections of society, especially the plight of Dalits in India, as it had deeply impacted him since his childhood. This is said to have motivated him to fight for their cause and strive for equality.

All of the country's leaders, including the Prime Minister and President, pay tribute to the statue of Ambedkar in Parliament. Additionally, educational institutions, government offices, and various organisations hold seminars, lectures, and other events to honour his memory and teachings, inspiring generations to continue his work towards an inclusive and equitable society.

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "When is Ambedkar Jayanti 2024? Know the date, history, and more", The Indian Express]

**Q.1** Which date has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>A</b> 14 April | <b>C</b> 14 May |
| <b>B</b> 13 April | <b>D</b> 13 May |

**Q.2** In \_\_\_\_\_, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar signed the Poona pact with Mahatma Gandhi, which abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes (Communal Award).

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| <b>A</b> 1929 | <b>C</b> 1931 |
| <b>B</b> 1930 | <b>D</b> 1932 |

**Q.3** Dr. B. R. Ambedkar participated in all three Round Table Conferences. When was the third Round Table Conference held?

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| <b>A</b> 1929 | <b>C</b> 1931 |
| <b>B</b> 1930 | <b>D</b> 1932 |

**Q.4** In the constituent assembly debates, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar described \_\_\_\_\_ as the "heart and soul" of the Constitution, without which it would be rendered meaningless.

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>A</b> Article 21 | <b>C</b> Article 32 |
| <b>B</b> Article 44 | <b>D</b> Article 19 |

**Q.5** The world's tallest Ambedkar statue, standing 206ft (125ft-tall statue erected on an 81ft podium) from the ground, was unveiled in January 2024 in –

- |                                     |                               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>A</b> Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh | <b>C</b> Bangalore, Karnataka |
| <b>B</b> Hyderabad, Telangana       | <b>D</b> Tamil Nadu, Chennai  |

Q.1 (A) Q.2 (D) Q.3 (D) Q.4 (C) Q.5 (A)  
Answers

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## PASSAGE - 3

Exactly 105 years ago, on [1], Brigadier-General Dyer ordered his troops to open fire on a large gathering of people in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar. While the British official report stated that 379 people were killed in the incident, some estimates put the death toll in the thousands.

According to many historians, this was a turning point in Indians' relationship with their British colonisers, and thus a pivotal moment in the course of India's struggle for independence.

After the passage of the draconian Rowlatt Act in March 1919, Punjab (like the rest of India) was on the boil. Protests spread across the province, and Michael O'Dwyer, then the Lieutenant Governor of Punjab, feared a large-scale resurrection — just like in 1857.

On April 10, the police fired at a crowd of protestors in Amritsar, killing several, and triggering riots. British people, both men and women, living in the city were attacked, as mobs went out of control.

O'Dwyer's fears were further flamed.

As historian Kim Wagner explained: "The spectre of 1857 turned riots into rebellion and nationalist agitation into anti-British conspiracies, where local unrest could easily assume the proportion of major political crises." (Amritsar 1919, 2019).

It is in this context that Reginald Dyer ordered the firing in Jallianwala Bagh on April 13, where thousands had gathered for the annual Baisakhi fair. The ghastly massacre, described by many like shooting a fish in a barrel, was "both retributive and pre-emptive: Dyer took revenge for the attacks on Europeans... but he also acted to prevent a much bigger outbreak that he believed to be imminent." (Wagner).

[Extracted, with edits and revisions, from: "How the Jallianwala Bagh massacre changed the course of India's freedom struggle", by Arjun Sengupta, The Indian Express]

**Q.1 Which date has been replaced with '[1]' in the passage above?**

- A** April 11, 1919
- B** April 12, 1919
- C** April 13, 1919
- D** April 14, 1919

**Q.2 What was the full name of General Dyer?**

- A** Reginald Murree Harry Dyer
- B** Reginald Royce Harry Dyer
- C** Reginald Edward Harry Dyer
- D** Reginald Coleman Harry Dyer

**Q.3 On October 14, 1919, the Disorders Inquiry Committee was formed to inquire about the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. It later came to be known as the –**

- A** Hunter Commission
- B** Sadler Commission
- C** Lee Commission
- D** Hartog Commission

**Q.4 Who was the British Prime Minister during the revolt of 1857?**

- A** William Ewart Gladstone
- B** Viscount Palmerston
- C** Winston Churchill
- D** Clement Attlee

**Q.5 As a mark of protest to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, who among the following renounced his Knighthood?**

- A** Mahatma Gandhi
- B** Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- C** Vinoba Bhave
- D** Rabindranath Tagore

Q.1 (C) Q.2 (C) Q.3 (A) Q.4 (B) Q.5 (D)

Answers

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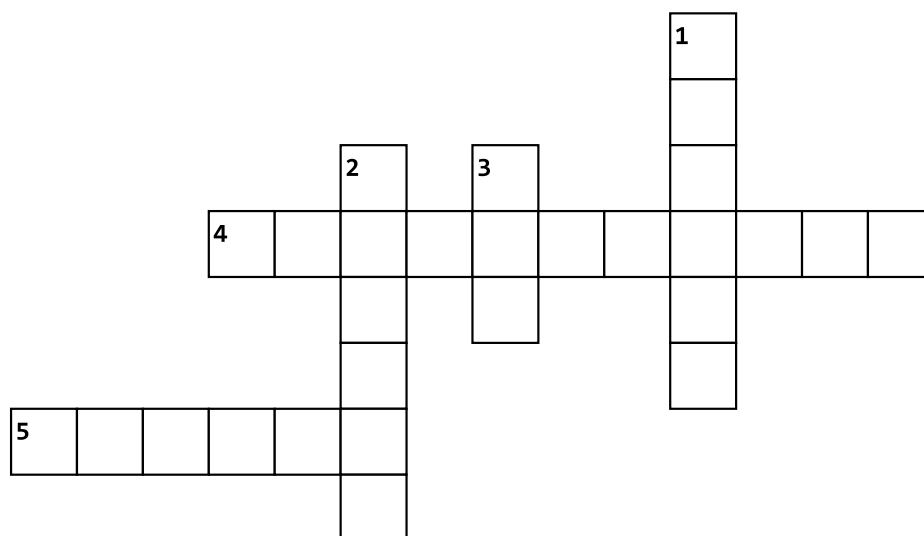
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## **CROSSWORD CORNER**



## CROSSWORD - 1



### Across

4. Country decided to end captive breeding of lions  
5. Largest volcano in Europe

### Down

1. National Maritime Day  
2. India's second artificial reefs installation in the coastal city  
3. Global Hepatitis Report 2024 released by

### Answers

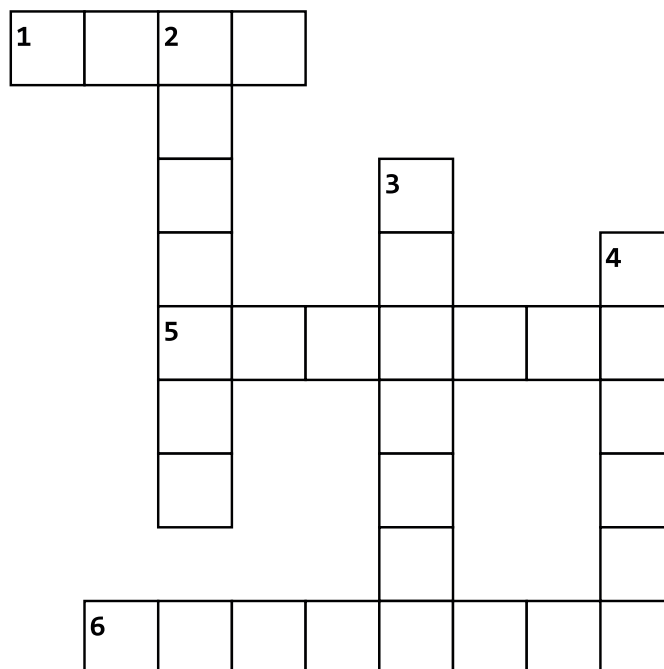
- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 3 | WHO          |
| 2 | Mumbai       |
| 1 | 5 April      |
| 4 | South Africa |
| 5 | Mt Etna      |







## CROSSWORD - 2



### Across

1. India's first semiconductor chip will be out by
5. Country created world's most powerful laser light
6. India- Uzbekistan joint military Exercise

### Down

2. India reached its Plastic Overshoot Day in 2024
3. World Chagas Disease Day
4. WHO's innovative digital health assistant

### Answers

6	DUSTLIK	3	14April
5	ROMANIA	2	23April
4	SARAH	1	2026

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