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सत्यमेव जयते



MK Yadav Sir

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LIVEMINT

India taps US to get pref market access back

Ravi Dutta Mishra
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NEW DELHI

India has sought restoration of the preferential access to the US market that was revoked by Washington in 2019.

India was the largest beneficiary of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) status in 2017, with $5.7 billion worth of imports into the US given duty-free status. About 2,000 products including auto parts and textile materials were allowed to enter the US duty-free.

"India highlighted its interest in restoration of its beneficiary status under the US Generalized System of Preferences program. The United States noted that this could be considered, as warranted, in relation to the eligibility criteria determined by the US Congress," according to a joint statement issued at the conclusion of the India-US Trade Policy Forum meeting co-chaired by commerce minister Piyush Goyal with US Trade Representative Katherine Tai. "The United States and India also exchanged views on potential targeted tariff reductions," said the statement. Bilateral trade between India and the US rose to $119.5 billion in 2021-22 from $80.5 billion in the previous year.

GSP STATUS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Context: India has sought restoration of the preferential access to the US market that was revoked by Washington in 2019.

- India was the largest beneficiary of the **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) status** in 2017, with $5.7 billion worth of imports into the US given duty-free status.

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) status

- **About**: A **preferential tariff system** that developed countries extend to developing countries.
  - It is the largest and oldest U.S. trade preference program. Established by the Trade Act of 1974, **GSP promotes economic development by eliminating duties** on thousands of products when imported from one of 120 designated beneficiary countries and territories.
  - It is an umbrella that **comprises the bulk of preferential schemes** granted by industrialized nations to developing countries.
  - It **involves reduced Most Favored Nations (MFN)** Tariffs or duty-free entry of eligible products exported by beneficiary countries to the markets of donor countries.
    - As per the **World Trade Organisation's (WTO) General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade's MFN principle**, each of the WTO member countries should "treat all the other members equally as 'most-favoured' trading partners."
    - According to the WTO, though the term **'MFN' "suggests special treatment,** it actually means nondiscrimination."
- **Origin**: GSP was instituted by the **United Nation Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** conference in 1971.
- **Countries that grant GSP preferences**: Currently **13 countries which grant GSP preferences** to developing and least developed countries: Australia, Belarus, Canada, the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America.

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INDIA-U.S. TRADE POLICY FORUM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

13th Ministerial-level meeting of the India-United States Trade Policy Forum (TPF) in Washington, DC

Context: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry visited Washington D.C. between 10-11 January 2023 to participate in the **13th Ministerial Meeting of the India-U.S. Trade Policy Forum.**

India-U.S Trade Policy Forum

- **About**: The Trade Policy Forum (TPF), a **premier forum to resolve trade and investment issues** between India and the United States
  - The TPF was established in July **2005** to discuss about trade and investment issues.
  - The **Minister of Commerce and Industry for India and the United States Trade Representative of the USA** are the co-chairs of the Trade Policy Forum.
- **The objective of the forum is to:**
  - **Facilitate trade and investment flows** between the two countries
  - **Develop and implement trade policies** through transparent procedures that comply with international obligations
  - **Foster a conducive environment** for technological collaboration and innovation
  - **Promote inclusive economic growth** and job creation in India and the US.
- **The India-US Trade Policy Forum has five focus groups:**
  - Agriculture
  - Investment
  - Innovation and Creativity (intellectual property rights)
  - Services
  - Tariff and Non-tariff barriers

BUSINESS STANDARD

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Banks seek exemptions on sovereign green bonds

BHASKAR DUTTA
Mumbai, 12 January

Banks have requested the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to exempt them from maintaining cash reserve ratio (CRR), statutory liquidity ratio (SLR), and priority sector lending requirement for subscribing to soverign green bonds to be floated in January and February.

Such exemptions are also available for infrastructure bonds.

In line with Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's FY23 Budget announcement, the RBI last week said it will auction a total of ₹16,000 crore of green bonds in two tranches on January 25 and February 9.

The request for such exemptions was part of the suggestions by the debt market participants to facilitate firm demand for sovereign green bonds.

Ways to create sustained appetite for these instruments among investors include potentially looking at rupee-denominated offshore green bonds, or 'masala' green bonds, as well as providing banks with certain incentives, such as increased weightage for liquidity coverage ratio, sources said.

Banks and insurance companies are among the largest investors in government bonds.

At a broad level, analysts have also for the last few months been citing certain exemptions, such as those associated with infrastructure bonds, to green bonds, in order to ensure healthy demand for these securities.

Infrastructure bonds are exempt from regulatory requirements such as CRR, SLR, and priority sector lending.

Market participants and the RBI have been discussing steps to ensure appeal of green bonds as these securities typically are issued at a premium to other kinds of debt — meaning that the rate of interest offered to investors is lower than other debt instruments.

Globally, green bonds are issued at a premium as the instruments, by design, are meant to facilitate access to cheaper capital for environmentally-friendly projects.

The first auction of sovereign green bonds on January 25 worth a total of ₹8,000 crore, including ₹4,000 crore worth of a five-year paper, and ₹4,000 crore worth of a 10-year paper may see firm demand from banks, dealers said.

"There seems to be a degree of enthusiasm from banks, particularly public sector lenders, for the first tranche of green bonds; the cutoffs could be close to where the current five-year and 10-year regular bonds are trading," a bond dealer at a bank said. On Thursday, the 10-year benchmark government bond closed at 7.29 per cent yield, while the five-year one settled at 7.14 per cent yield.

While the first auction may see good demand, shoring up sustained demand for these instruments would require creating a conducive environment, with special emphasis on overseas investors, market participants said.

"The problem, which is unknown right now, is the demand considering the premium, or as it is called, the 'greenium' for green bonds. We don't know who will pay that premium in India right now. There are dedicated funds, environmental funds, etc. but we don't think any of them are operating in this country and at this short notice to register them as FPIs, I don't think that is possible," a source said. "Maybe a masala bond can be considered, or dollar bond to directly access these funds which are sitting offshore, it will make it easier for them to invest. The socially conscious funds will get access through masala bonds to high yields. It also keeps the currency risk open," the source said.

An e-mail sent to the RBI did not receive a response by the time of going to press.

MARKET DEBUT

- In FY23 Budget, the government announced first-ever sale of green bonds
- Funds from green bonds aim at environmentally friendly projects
- RBI to auction a total of ₹16,000 crore of green bonds on Jan 25, Feb 9
- Banks request SLR, CRR, priority sector lending exemptions
- Lenders suggest issuance of masala green bonds to attract foreign investors



SOVEREIGN GREEN BONDS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Context: Banks have requested the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to exempt them from maintaining cash reserve ratio (CRR), statutory liquidity ratio (SLR), and priority sector lending requirement for subscribing to **sovereign green bonds** to be floated in January and February.

Sovereign green bonds

- **Green Bonds**: These are like any other debt instrument except for the fact that the **issuer of the green bond pledges to use its proceeds to finance projects** that will have a positive impact on the climate and environment.
- **Origin**: The first green bond was issued in 2007 by the **European Investment Bank**, the EU's lending arm.
  - This was followed a year later by the World Bank.
- **Different from standard bonds**: Standard bonds proceeds can be used for various purposes as per the choice of the issuer, whereas proceeds of green bonds are **earmarked for green projects or projects** that benefit the environment.
- **Issuer**: Green bonds can be **issued by countries, companies and multilateral organisations** to only fund projects that have positive impacts on the climate and environment and provide investors with fixed income payments.
- **Green Bonds vs Climate Bonds**
  - The term **'labelled' green bonds** refers to bonds marketed by the **issuer as 'green',** where the proceeds are for climate / green assets or projects.
  - **'Climate-themed bonds'** are represented by a broader category of bonds whose proceeds are for climate projects but that are **not labelled as green**. It is much wider than the 'labelled green bonds market'.
- **Budget 2022-23**: The Finance Minister in the Budget 2022 announced that the government proposes to **issue sovereign green bonds** to mobilise resources for green infrastructure.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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IDENTIFYING OF MINORITIES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)

24 STATES, 6 UTs SENT VIEWS: CENTRE TO SC

BJP-ruled states split over identification of religious minorities

Assam & Uttarakhand say states should decide; Gujarat, MP, Karnataka favour existing policy letting Centre decide

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G.
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

BJP-RULED GUJARAT, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh have favoured the current system of identifying and notifying minorities at the national level — which leaves out Hindus from the list of religious minorities — while the party's governments in Assam and Uttarakhand have opined that the unit of identification of minorities should be the state as laid down by Supreme Court in the 2002 landmark TM A Pai case.

The Centre has been holding consultations with various states and Union Territories in response to a petition by Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay that sought a direction to enforce the T M A Pai ruling so that Hindus in states where they are lesser in number get the minority tag.

In its affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court, the Centre said 24 states and 6 Union Territories have furnished their views. Four states – Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Jharkhand and 2 UTs – J&K and Lakshadweep, were yet to send their opinion.

While Gujarat said "we are comfortable with the present procedure of identifying minority communities", Madhya Pradesh said it "is of the opinion that existing provision will be followed". Karnataka said like the Centre, it, too, had declared Muslims, Christians, Buddhist, Jains, Sikhs and Parsis as minority communities following the recommendation of Karnataka State Minorities Commission and "in view of this, the stand of the state of Karnataka is status quo".

Maharashtra, where the BJP is in coalition with Shiv Sena, said the state had notified the six communities as religious minorities and those whose language is not Marathi are considered linguistic minorities. The state also favoured vesting the power to notify minorities remaining with the Centre.

Manipur while favouring state as the unit for determining religious minorities said "any religious group which constitutes less than 50% of the states population should be recognised as a religious minority group of the state".

Punjab said it had enacted The Punjab State Commission for Minorities Act, 2012 and declared Jains as a minority in April 2013. It said that "in India, different communities are in majority or minority in different provinces/states... Keeping in view the above as well as the peculiar geographical and social scenario of the state of Punjab, only the state government is in the position to better appreciate the interests, well being and problems of different sections/communities residing in the state".

Tamil Nadu, while admitting that the state has to be the unit as per T M A Pai case, put forth a caveat. It said in the 2005 Bal Patil case, a three-judge bench had "cautioned" about the likely adverse consequences of encouraging demands for minority status on the basis of religion. "In view of the above it is considered that even if the unit is considered to be the state, religious minorities status cannot be conferred merely based on the population in a particular state but it should also take into account factors such as the actual or probable deprivation of the religious, cultural and educational rights and their socio economic status...", it said.

Though BJP-ruled Goa and Tripura replied, but they did not answer the specific query.

Delhi's AAP government put forth the view that followers of Judaism and Bahaism residing in the national capital are a religious minority and it will have no objection if the central government gives them minority status. It said that followers of Hinduism are not the religious minority in the national capital territory of Delhi "but the central government may declare the 'migrated minority' status to the followers of Hinduism who are the religious minority in their origin state (ie. J&K, Ladakh etc) and residing in Delhi after migration from their home state".

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

EXPLAINED

Landmark ruling

IN THE 2002 T M A Pai case, the Supreme Court laid down that for the purposes of Article 30 — which deals with the rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions — religious and linguistic minorities will have to be identified at the state-level.

Context: Gujarat, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh have favoured the current system of identifying and notifying minorities at the national level while Assam and Uttarakhand have opined that the unit of **identification of minorities** should be the state as laid down by the Supreme Court in the 2002 landmark T M A Pai case.

Notification of minorities

- **Current status**: Currently, the only communities considered minorities are those that have received central government notification pursuant to section 2(c) of the NCM (National Commission for Minorities) Act, 1992.
  - **Notified minority community**: Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains.
- **T.M.A Pai case (2002):** SC held that linguistic and religious minorities must be identified at the state level rather than at the national level.

Constitutional Provisions for Minority

- **Article 29:** Protection of interests of minorities.
  - **Article 29(1):** This provides any section of the citizens residing in India having a distinct culture, language, or script, the **right to conserve their culture,** language and script.
  - **Article 29(2):** The State shall not deny admission into educational institutes maintained by it or those that receive aid from it to any person based only on race, religion, caste, language, or any of them.
  - However, the SC held that the scope of this article is not necessarily restricted to minorities only, as **use of the word 'section of citizens' in the Article includes minorities as well as the majority.**
- **Article 30**: Right of Minorities to Establish and Administer Educational Institutions.
  - **Article 30(1)**: All religious and linguistic minorities have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. (Read about Minority Protection in India in the linked article.)
  - **Article 30(2):** The State shall not, when granting aid to educational institutions, discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language.
  - The protection under **Article 30 is confined only to minorities** (religious or linguistic) and does not extend to any section of citizens (as under Article 29).
- **Article 350b (Inserted by 7th Constitutional (Amendment) Act 1956)**: Special Officer for linguistic minorities.
  - There shall be a Special Officer for linguistic minorities to be **appointed by the President**
  - It would be the duty of the Special Officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under the Constitution.

ECONOMIC TIMES
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EASTERN SECTOR OF LAC

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal Security)

Context: The situation along the border with China remains stable but unpredictable and a slight increase in PLA troops has been observed in the **eastern sector**, which is being countered by adequate deployments on the Indian side.

Eastern Sector of LAC

- **About**: Between **Arunachal Pradesh on the Indian side and the Tibet autonomous region** on the Chinese side. This sector generally follows the McMahon Line.
  - The LAC separates **Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory.**
- **Origin of Line of Actual Control:** The concept was introduced by Chinese premier Zhou Enlai in a **1959** letter to Jawaharlal Nehru as the "line up to which each side exercises actual control", but rejected by Nehru as being incoherent.
  - Subsequently the term came to refer to the line formed after the **1962 Sino-Indian War.**
- **3 sectors**: The LAC is generally divided into three sectors:
  - **Western sector:** Between **Ladakh on the Indian side and the Tibet and Xinjiang autonomous regions** on the Chinese side. This sector was the location of the 2020 **China–India skirmishes.**
  - **Middle sector**: Between **Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh** on the Indian side and the Tibet autonomous region on the Chinese side.
  - **Eastern sector:** Described above.
- **Current status**: The LAC is **different from the borders claimed by each country** in the Sino-Indian border dispute.
  - The Indian claims include the entire Aksai Chin region and the Chinese claims include Arunachal Pradesh.
  - These claims are not included in the **concept of "actual control".**
  - The term **"line of actual control"** originally referred only to the boundary in the western sector after the 1962 Sino-Indian War, but during the 1990s came to refer to the entire de facto border.

LAC STABLE BUT UNPREDICTABLE: ARMY CHIEF

Gen Pande Points to Uptick in PLA Along Eastern Border

Says adequate troops and reserves in place to deter adversary

Manu.Pubby@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The situation along the border with China remains stable but unpredictable and a slight increase in PLA troops has been observed in the eastern sector, which is being countered by adequate deployments on the Indian side, Army chief Gen Manoj Pande has said.

The senior officer said that additional PLA troops that had come for exercises along the border — which runs across Arunachal Pradesh — are yet to return to their permanent locations. The Army chief did not quantify the increase but said that adequate Indian deployments are in place.

"Without going into specifics, there has been a slight increase in troops of the other side who had come for training and have remained there. We have adequate forces available, deployed on the LAC as well as reserves. In terms of our preparedness and strength, we are well poised to meet any challenge," the Army chief said at his annual press conference ahead of Army Day.

'In terms of our preparedness and strength, we are well poised to meet any challenge'

The eastern sector has seen heightened Chinese activity over the past few months, which also resulted in a physical clash of troops in Tawang in December, with troops from both sides receiving minor injuries. Areas of concern include Yangtze in Tawang, the contentious Asaphila sector and the beefed up deployments at the Doklam plateau that borders Sikkim. Gen Pande said that a close watch is being kept on activities in Doklam.

On the larger border situation with China, the Army chief said that things remain under control and stable but unpredictable. He said that five of the seven flashpoints in Ladakh have been resolved and adequate force levels are present to deal with any scenario. He added that on the Line of Control with Pakistan, the ceasefire has been holding by and large and only 12 infiltration attempts were recorded in 2022.

Sharing details of infrastructure development along the China border, he said habitats have been made for over 55,000 soldiers and work is on to create alternate routes to access forward areas like Daulat Beg Oldie. He added that in the past three years, over ₹1,300 crore had been spent on creating infrastructure in the border areas.

On the upcoming budget, the Army chief said that the government has assured that requirements will be met. In the current financial year, the Army has spent 72% of its capital budget and is confident of spending the entire allocation before the year ends, he said, adding that if additional funds are required, they would be allocated.



NOT IN NEW DELHI

Army Day Fete Across States

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Army Day celebrations from this year have been moved out of the national capital and would be held at the various field commands in the country to facilitate deeper connection with civil society, said the Station Commander of the Southern Command on Thursday. – PTI

CEASEFIRE ON LOC

'On LoC, ceasefire has been holding by and large; only 12 infiltration attempts recorded in '22'

THE HINDU Page 13

GREATER TIPRALAND

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Internal Security)

TIPRA Motha makes poll alliance conditional on Greater Tipraland

Party chief Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma says he wants Constitutional safeguards for tribal community, as its language, socio-political ethos were under threat and delimitation scheduled for 2026 will further push it to the margins

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI



> The Congress leaders in the State who are resisting our demand are the first ones to join the BJP for grabbing power
>
> **PRADYOT BIKRAM MANIKYA DEBBARMA**
> TIPRA Motha chief

The demand for Greater Tipraland is non-negotiable and an alliance with any political party that can provide written assurance to support the demand will be considered, Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (or TIPRA Motha) chief Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

His comments come after CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said that the party was ready for an understanding with the Congress and the TIPRA Motha to defeat the BJP in the upcoming Assembly election in Tripura.

The Greater Tipraland includes the region under the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTADC) and 36 villages out of it, within the Tripura State boundaries. TIPRA Motha has demanded that this area be carved out as a State or a Union Territory.

Currently, Mr. Debbarma said, the TTADC receives 2% of the State Budget, while it has 40% of the State's population.

The Left has expressed support for Greater Tipraland. At a press conference in Agartala on Wednesday, CPI(M) State secretary Jitendra Chowdhury said the demand was within the Constitutional framework. But State Congress president Birajit Sinha has already ruled out any support for it.

"There can be no closed door conversation on this. Whoever wants to ally with us needs to give us in writing that they support our demand for Greater Tipraland. I cannot betray my people and the entire movement for short-term electoral gains," Mr. Debbarma said.

He added that tribal language, culture and socio-political ethos were under threat and delimitation scheduled for 2026 will further push the tribal population to the margins.

"Unlike the NSCN which is asking for Greater Nagaland, absorbing regions from different States, we are not asking to take away anything from any State. Ours is a Constitutional demand," he said.

He did not entirely rule out a tie-up with the BJP too. "I have been fighting them for the past four-and-a-half years. It was TIPRA Motha who stood up for the Muslims when mosques were burnt here. But if tomorrow they give to us in writing that they support our demand, we will ally with them. Forget BJP, I will ally with AIADMK and DMK too if they support my demand," Mr. Debbarma added.

He also emphasised that Tipra Motha was the only regional party in north-eastern India that was not a part of the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre.

"I don't have to prove my credentials to anyone. The Congress leaders in the State who are resisting our demand are the first ones to join the BJP for power. I believe making me Chief Minister or a Minister will not help my community. The question is not about power for me. I want Constitutional safeguard for my community," Mr. Debbarma said.

Context: The demand for Greater Tipraland is non negotiable and an alliance with any political party that can provide written assurance to support the demand will be considered, Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance (or TIPRA Motha) chief told.

Historical Background

- Tripura was a kingdom ruled by the Manikya dynasty from the late 13th century until the signing of the Instrument of Accession with the Indian government in 1949.
- In the intervening decades, ethnic conflict and insurgency gripped the state, which shares a nearly 860-km long boundary with Bangladesh.
- The joint forum has pointed out that the indigenous people have not only been reduced to a minority, but have also been dislodged from land reserved for them by the penultimate king of the Manikya dynasty Bir Bikram Kishore Debbarman.

Greater Tipraland

- **About**: A political party of Tripura is demanding a separate state of 'Greater Tipraland' for the indigenous communities of the north-eastern state.
- **Demand**: They want the Centre to carve out the separate state under Article 2 and 3 of the Constitution.
  - Among the 19 notified Scheduled Tribes in Tripura, Tripuris (aka Tipra and Tiprasas) are the largest.
  - According to the 2011 census, there are at least 5.92 lakh Tripuris in the state, followed by Bru or Reang (1.88 lakh) and Jamatias (83,000).
  - They are demanding a separate state not only for the indigenous people but also for all communities who live in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) area.
- **Objectives**: To secure the rights of indigenous communities in the state.

DTE JAN 13

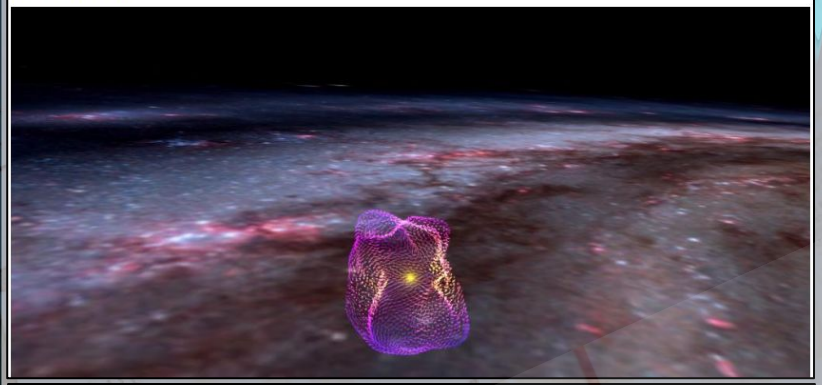
LOCAL BUBBLE

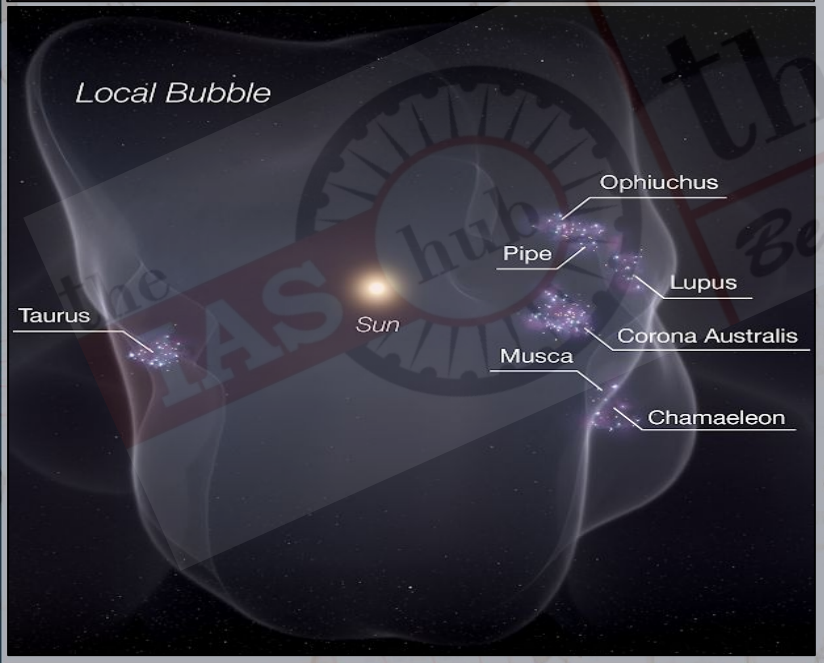
(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Bubble of secrets: Here's what the new 3D map of a gigantic cosmic cavity tells us about the universe

The 'Local Bubble' is a 1,000-light-year-wide cavity or a superbubble around the Sun

By Rohini Krishnamurthy
Published: Thursday 12 January 2023





Context: New research on a **giant cosmic cavity** that surrounds the solar system could reveal the universe's secrets, including questions about the origins of stars.

- Researchers from the Center for Astrophysics (CfA) | Harvard & Smithsonian have generated **a 3D magnetic map of the cavity called Local Bubble**.

Key Points

- The Local Bubble is **a 1,000-light-year-wide cavity or a superbubble.** Other superbubbles also exist in the **Milky Way**..
- Local Bubble is thought to have **originated from supernovae** roughly 14 million years ago.
  - **Supernova** is a cosmic explosion occurring when stars meet their end.
- **Star-forming region**s occur along the bubble's surface.
  - Superbubbles are comparable to holes in **swiss cheese.**
  - **Supernova explosions** blow holes in the cheese.
  - **New stars form** around these holes, according to previous research.
  - However, mechanisms powering the formation and expansion of the Local Bubble are not well-understood..
- There is little **information on how magnetic fields** likely impact the bubble and local star formation.
  - The team aimed to generate a magnetic map of the Local Bubble.
  - They used **Gaia and Planck** - space-based observatories launched by the European Space Agency (ESA).
  - **Gaia** was used to identify the location and local concentration of cosmic dust.
    - This helped them trace the boundaries of the Local Bubble.
  - **Planck** provided information on the magnetic alignment of cosmic dust.
    - This alignment can indicate the orientation of the magnetic field acting on the dust particles, allowing the researchers to generate a 3D magnetic field orientation on the surface of the Local Bubble.
- The **3D map is far from perfect,** the researchers acknowledged. They expect to improve its accuracy with technology and a clearer understanding of the Local Bubble.

DTE JAN 13

EBOLA DISEASE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)



Context: Uganda declared the end of the Ebola disease outbreak caused by Sudan ebolavirus on Jan 11, 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) said.

- The country managed to end the outbreak in less than four months after the first case was confirmed in central Mubende district September 20, 2022.

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)

- **About**: A rare and deadly **viral disease** in people and nonhuman primates.
  - Formerly known as **Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever.**
- **Origin**: The first cases were recorded in **Guinea** in December 2013. Later, the disease spread to neighbouring Liberia and Sierra Leone.
  - Three of its six strains - **Bundibugyo, Sudan and Zaire** - have historically been responsible for major outbreaks.
- **Causes**: It is caused by an infection with a **group of viruses** within the genus Ebolavirus:
  - Ebola virus (species Zaire ebolavirus)
  - Sudan virus (species Sudan ebolavirus)
  - Taï Forest virus (species Taï Forest ebolavirus, formerly Côte d'Ivoire ebolavirus)
  - Bundibugyo virus (species Bundibugyo ebolavirus)
  - Reston virus (species Reston ebolavirus)
  - Bombali virus (species Bombali ebolavirus)
- **Spread**: It is thought that **fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family** are natural Ebola virus hosts.
- **Transmission**: The virus is transmitted to **people from wild animals** and spreads through **human-to-human transmission** (through broken skin or mucous membranes).
- **Symptoms**: Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after contact with the virus, with an average of 8 to 10 days which include **Fever, Fatigue, Muscle pain, Body weakness, Headache, Sore throat, Vomiting, Diarrhoea,** Symptoms of impaired kidney and liver function, in some cases, both internal and external bleeding.
- **Treatment**: It can be **difficult to clinically distinguish EVD** from other infectious diseases such as malaria, typhoid fever and meningitis. Many symptoms of pregnancy and Ebola disease are also quite similar. Confirmation that symptoms are caused by Ebola virus infection are made using the following diagnostic methods:
  - Antibody-capture enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)
  - Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay
- **Vaccines**: The **Ervebo vaccine** has been shown to be effective in protecting people from the species Zaire ebolavirus
  - Two monoclonal antibodies **(Inmazeb and Ebanga)** were approved for the treatment of Zaire ebolavirus (Ebolavirus) infection in adults
  - **Remdesivir** was also tested as an Ebola treatment.

TIMES OF INDIA

Page 1

HOCKEY WORLD CUP 2023

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Sports)

INDIA LOOK TO END HOCKEY WORLD CUP MEDAL DROUGHT ON HOME TURF

For the first time since 1982, hosts India, ranked No. 6 in the world, will begin their hockey World Cup campaign as Olympic medallists. Buoyed by their Tokyo bronze-medal show, they will look to end a 47-yr medal drought at the 16-nation extravaganza. They will take on Spain (No. 8) in their opener in Odisha's Rourkela today



With a seating capacity of 20,000, Birsa Munda stadium is the 2nd biggest hockey ground in India after Chandigarh

Venues: **Bhubaneswar & Rourkela**

Participating Nations: **16**

Defending Champions: **Belgium**

INDIA'S PREVIOUS BEST PERFORMANCES:

1971: Third place
1973: Runners-up
1975: Winners
Last edition in 2018: Fifth

MOST SUCCESSFUL TEAMS:

Pakistan — **4-time** winners

Australia & Netherlands — **3-time** winners

- It is the **fourth time that India is hosting the event** after 1982, 2010 and 2018
- It is the **first time** that the **men's event is being hosted in two cities** – Rourkela and Bhubaneswar
- It is the seventh edition of the competition being held in Asia. **India, Pakistan and Malaysia have not won the WC at home.** Netherlands (in 1973 & 1998) and Germany (in 2006) are the only countries to have won the Cup as hosts
- **Birsa Munda hockey stadium** in Rourkela **will make its debut as a World Cup venue.** It is the second biggest hockey stadium in India after Chandigarh with a seating capacity of 20,000
- Two Argentina stars from the 2014 and 2018 World Cups, Gonzalo Peillat and Joaquin Menini, have switched countries and will be representing Germany and Spain, respectively

FULL COVERAGE: P 25

Context: For the first time since 1982, hosts India, ranked No. 6 in the world, will begin their hockey World Cup campaign as Olympic medallists.

Hockey World Cup

- **About**: The **15th edition International Hockey Federation (FIH) Hockey World Cup 2023** will be held in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela from January 13 to 29.
  - **Conceived jointly by India and Pakistan** as the premier standalone competition for hockey outside of the Olympics and approved by the International Hockey Federation in 1969, it still took 13 long years and four editions of the event to be held in the Indian subcontinent for the first time.
  - The tournament, which is **held every four years,** will feature 16 teams from around the world competing for the coveted title.
  - The tournament has a rich history, with **Pakistan being the most successful team with four titles,** followed by Netherlands and Australia with three titles each, and Germany with two titles.
  - India has only won the World Cup once, back in 1975.
- **Background**: While the **first edition in 1971** was allotted to Pakistan before being moved to Spain due to political and security issues, India was supposed to host in 1975 before governance issues forced it to be moved to Malaysia.
  - While **the initial editions were held every two years**, since 1982 the tournament has been held every four years, bisecting the Olympic cycle.
  - **Pakistan was the inaugural world Cup winner,** defeating Spain in 1971.
  - The **last world Cup hockey was played in 2018,** where Belgium was the winner by defeating the Netherlands.

PIB JAN 13

NATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

PM inaugurates 26th National Youth Festival in Hubbali, Karnataka

Context: The Prime Minister inaugurated the **26th National Youth Festival** in Hubbali, Karnataka.

- The programme is being held on **National Youth Day, which is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda,** to honour and cherish his ideals, teachings and contributions.
- The t**heme of the festival is 'Viksit Yuva - Viksit Bharat'** and it brings diverse cultures from all parts of the country on a common platform and unites the participants in the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

National Youth Festival (NYF)

- National Youth Festival is an **annual gathering of youth** with various activities including competitive ones.
- The festival has been **conducted since the year 1995.**
- It is celebrated to **commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.**
- The objective is to provide a platform to **bring the youth of the country together** in an attempt to provide them with the opportunity to showcase their talents in various activities.
- The festival is **organized by National Service Scheme (NSS) and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)** under the aegis of **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.**

National Youth Day

- National Youth Day (NYD) is held every year on **12th January** to observe the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- In **1984**, the Indian Government first declared to **celebrate the birthday of Swami Vivekananda as National Youth Day**. Since then the day has been celebrated as National Youth Day all over the country.
- In 1999, the United Nations decided to commemorate **International Youth Day every year on 12th August.**

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