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MK Yadav Sir

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LIVE MINT

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NON-CONVERTIBLE DEBENTURES

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Investors allege Muthoot mis-sold them Srei bonds

Shayan Ghosh
shayan.g@livemint.com
MUMBAI



About 49 people have come forward so far. HT

A clutch of retail investors has alleged that employees of Kerala-based Muthoot Group mis-sold them non-convertible debentures (NCDs) of Srei Equipment Finance Ltd, passing them off as bonds from a sister company. Srei Equipment is now under insolvency resolution, and the investors' funds are stuck.

About 49 people, several of them retirees who have transacted with Muthoot for a decade, have come forward so far, some of them approaching local police. *Mint* spoke to four such investors and a lawyer they have appointed to pursue their case legally. They said the 49 people together invested ₹10.2 crore in Srei Equipment bonds over 2017 and 2018.

Muthoot's employees claimed that Srei was a sister concern of Muthoot and effectively part of the Muthoot group while selling the NCDs, the investors said. They said they found out their money was in a Kolkata-based company only after the principal and interest were not paid after maturity, some as late as the end of end-2022, a year after Srei was admitted to insolvency.

Susan Mathew, an investor from New Delhi, said she first took a gold loan from Muthoot in 2009 and has been a customer ever since. In 2018, Mathew said she received a call from an employee telling her about an investment opportunity with high returns. "My husband and I together invested ₹34.7 lakh under the impression that we are investing in Muthoot," said Mathew, a 59-year-old retiree. When the amount was not credited to her bank account after the bonds matured, Mathew contacted Muthoot and was informed that her money was in Srei NCDs.

Mathew said she tried to meet top company executives in December 2022 but was told to wait a few months. Investors said they later found out about Srei's insolvency and have decided to gather as many affected people as possible to file a writ petition in the Kerala High Court.

"Neither promoters nor directors of Muthoot Finance or any of the companies within

TURN TO PAGE 6

Context: A clutch of retail investors has alleged that employees of Kerala-based Muthoot Group mis-sold them **non-convertible debentures (NCDs)** of Srei Equipment Finance Ltd, passing them off as bonds from a sister company.

- Srei Equipment is now under insolvency resolution, and the investors' funds are stuck.

Non-convertible debentures (NCDs)

- **About**: The debentures which **cannot be converted into shares** are called non-convertible debentures (or NCDs).
  - NCDs are **debentures with a feature of convertibility into shares** after a certain point of time at the discretion of the debenture holder.
    - Debentures are **one of the long-term financial instruments** issued by companies to borrow.
    - It is **different from "Share"** which is the capital (representing the ownership of the shareholders) of the company, but Debenture is the debt of the company. The income earned on shares is the dividend, but the income earned on debentures is interest.
- **Two types of NCDs-secured and unsecured:**
  - A secured NCD is **backed by the assets** of the company.
    - If the company fails to pay the obligation, the investor holding the debenture can claim that through liquidation of those assets.
  - Unsecured non-convertible debentures **have no backing** even if company defaults.

BUSINESS STANDARD

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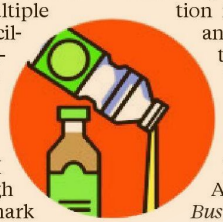
CERTIFICATION MARKS IN INDIA

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Some edible oils may not need Agmark: FSSAI draft

SANJEEB MUKHERJEE
New Delhi, 10 May

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has come out with a draft notification that proposes to do away with Agmark registration for edible oils sourced from multiple sources. This would facilitate ease of doing business and reduce the multiplicity of laws that govern the food sector. For such edible oils, only FSSAI licence will be enough and a separate Agmark registration won't be required, said industry players.



The draft notification was put out for public comments a few weeks ago for 60 days from its publication in the official gazette. The draft is called the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Amendment Regulations, 2023. The edible oil industry has wholeheartedly welcomed the draft.

"This notification suggesting to do away with Agmark registration is simplifying things and is good for the industry and country. We wholeheartedly welcome this move," BV Mehta, executive director of Solvent Extractors' Association (SEA) told *Business Standard*.

The FSSAI draft also aligns with the stated objective of one nation, one law. As for several food items, Agmark registration is not mandatory and FSSAI licence is considered a good enough benchmark for assessing quality of the product.

India's average annual consumption of edible oils is around 23 million tonnes, of which 10-11 million tonnes comes from domestic sources. The rest is imported. In this, the bulk of imported edible oils — roughly around 8 million tonnes per annum — is palm oil, while the remaining comprises soyoil and sunflower oil.

India first started importing edible oils in a big way in the 1990s. Since then, in the last 20 years (1990-91 to 2020-21), import has risen by over 160 per cent in volume terms. In value terms, it has risen from ₹7,000 crore to almost ₹1.17 trillion in 2020-21. In 2018-19, India imported its highest-ever volume of edible oils at 14.9 million tonnes.

Context: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has come out with a draft notification, **Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Amendment Regulations, 2023**, that proposes to do away with Agmark registration for edible oils sourced from multiple sources.

- For such edible oils, only **FSSAI licence** will be enough and a separate Agmark registration won´t be required.

AGMARK

- AGMARK is a **certification mark used for agricultural products** in India.
- The term agmark was coined by joining the words **'Ag' to mean agriculture and 'mark' for certification mark.**
- It assures conformity to set of standards approved by Government agency Directorate of Marketing and Inspection.
- It is legally enforced by **Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act of 1937 (amended in 1986).**
- The present **AGMARK standards cover quality guidelines for 205 different commodities** spanning variety of cereals, pulses, vegetable oils, essential oils, fruits & vegetables, and semi-processed products like vermicelli.

Other Certification Marks in India

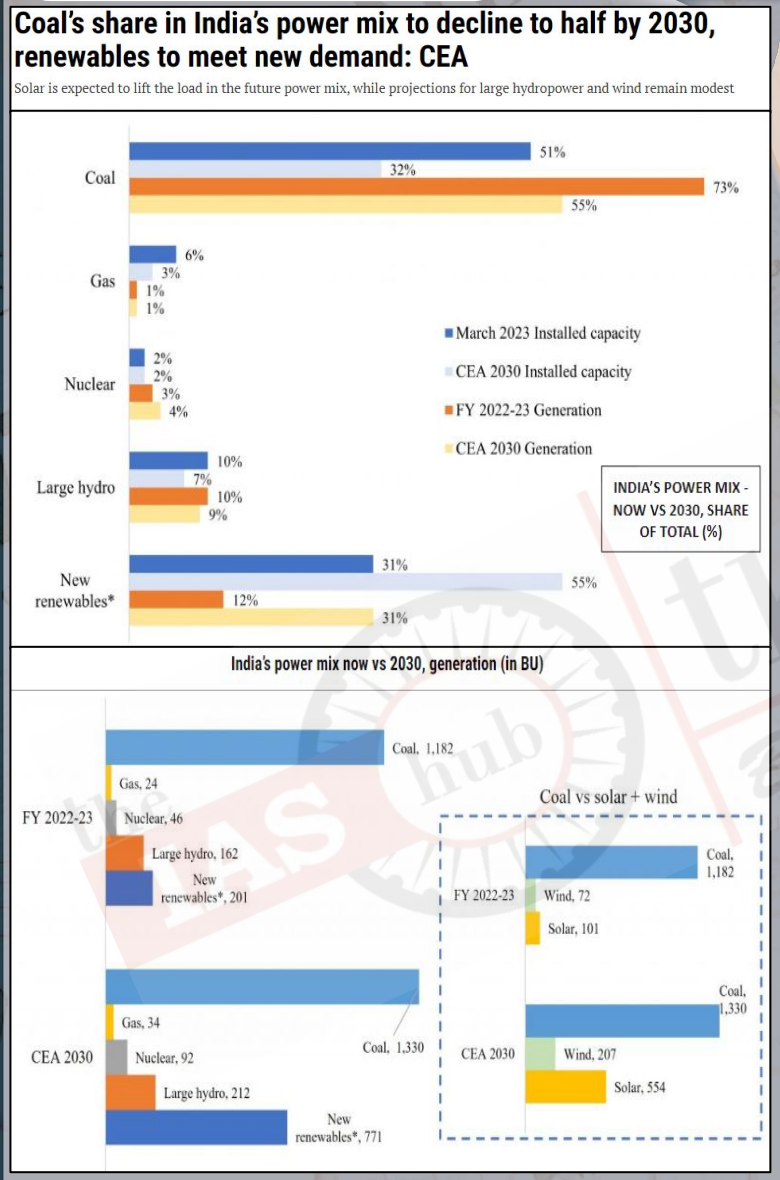
- **ISI Mark:** It is a certification mark used for **industrial products** in India.
  - This mark is **both mandatory and voluntary.**
- **Ecomark**: This mark is issued by the BIS to those products which conform to a set of standards aimed at **causing the least impact on the ecosystem.**
- **FPO mark:** It is **mandatory for all processed fruit products** sold in India, such as packaged fruit beverages, fruit jams, crushes and squashes, pickles, dehydrated fruit products, and fruit extracts, following the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006.
- **Non-Polluting Vehicle mark**: It is a **mandatory certification mark required on all new motor vehicles** sold in India.
- **Indian Organic certification**: It certifies that an **organic food product conforms** to the National Standards for Organic Products established in 2000.

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INDIA'S ENERGY MIX

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Infrastructure)



Context: In a new publication titled Report on **Optimal Generation Mix 2030 Version 2.0,** the Union Ministry of Power Central Electricity Authority (CEA) offers updated projections on what India's energy mix for the power sector could look like in 2030.

Key Points

- **India generated 73 per cent of its power from coal** in 2022-23; CEA expects this to go down to 55 per cent by 2030.
- The power sector contributes about **40 per cent of India's total greenhouse gas emissions.**
- **Power** capacity differs from generation:
  - **Capacity** is the maximum power a plant can produce and is expressed in watts (or gigawatts or megawatts).
  - **Generation** is the actual amount of power produced in one hour, expressed in watt-hours or billion units (BU).
- While the **share of coal is expected to reduce from 73 per cent** to 55 percent of power generation by 2030, coal power will rise in absolute terms between 2023 and 2030 - by 19 per cent in terms of capacity and by 13 per cent in terms of generation.
- In 2022-23, **India generated only 173 billion units (BU) from solar and wind energy** for its basic power needs - this will have to be ramped up significantly if hydrogen production is to be an added priority.

THE HINDU

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EXIT POLLS

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Polity & Governance)

Karnataka records 72.68% turnout in Assembly polls

After a fierce campaign by BJP, Congress and JD(S), polling percentage crosses the 2018 figure; Bengaluru records a low turnout of 54.51%; counting of votes for 224-member House on May 13

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Assembly election held on Wednesday passed off peacefully with a turnout of 72.68% as per provisional data at 11 p.m, surpassing the 72.36% recorded in 2018.

Predictably, Bengaluru's turnout in the 28 constituencies that come under it remained dismal at an estimated 54.51%, despite a campaign blitz by several national leaders of all parties, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and special drives by the Election Commission to enthuse urban voters.

In stark contrast to Bengaluru, its neighbouring districts with large rural pockets recorded a heavy turnout. Chikkaballapura recorded a turnout of 85.83%, followed by Ramanagara at 84.98%, Bengaluru Rural at 83.76% and Tumakuru at 83.49%.

After Bengaluru, Kalaburagi at 65.22%, Yadgiri at 66.66% and Raichur at 69.79% recorded a relatively lower turnout.

Polling for the 224 Assembly seats began on a slow note in the morning with about 8.21% of the votes polled in the first two hours. It gathered pace later in the day.

The State had witnessed a fierce campaign by the ruling BJP, the Congress and the Janata Dal(S). The counting of votes will be held on Saturday.

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Poll predictions

Exit polls, barring News Nation-CGS, predict Congress to be the single-largest party in the 224-member Karnataka Assembly, though there is also a likelihood of a hung House

Exit polls	BJP	Cong.	JD(S)	Others
Zee News-Matrize	79-94	103-118	25-33	2-5
Today's Chanakya	92±11	120±11	12±7	0±3
ABP News-CVoter	83-95	100-112	21-29	2-6
Times Now-ETG	85	113	23	3
Republic P-MARQ	85-100	94-108	23-31	2-6
Aaj Tak- Axis	62-80	122-140	20-25	0-3
India TV-CNX	80-90	110-120	20-24	1-3
TV 9-Bharatvansh-Polstrat	88-98	99-109	21-26	0-4
News Nation-CGS	114	86	21	3



Voting day: People queuing up to cast their vote at a primary school in the Mangaluru City South constituency on Wednesday. H.S. MANJUNATH

Context: As Polling for the **Karnataka Assembly elections** concluded, most of the exit polls gave the Congress a clear lead over the ruling BJP, with at least two pollsters predicting that it would win majority.

Exit polls

- **About**: An exit poll **asks voters (surveys can be conducted face to face or online)** which political party they are supporting after they have cast their votes in an election.
  - Unlike exit polls, which are post-voting polls/surveys, opinion polls are **held before the elections.**
- **Rules and regulations related to exit polls:**
  - In 1998, the Election Commission of India (ECI) issued guidelines under **Article 324 of the Constitution**, restricting media from publishing results of opinion and exit polls during a prohibited period.
  - In 1999, the SC stated that in the **absence of a statutory sanction,** the ECI cannot impose any guidelines prohibiting such polls.
  - The **inclusion of Section 126(A) in the Representation of the People Act, 1951**, in 2010 imposed restrictions only on exit polls.
    - **Section 126(A):** No person shall conduct any exit poll and publish or publicise its results through the print or electronic media, during such period as the ECI may notify in this regard.
  - Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be **punished with imprisonment** for a term up to 2 years/ a fine/ both.
  - Currently, **exit polls can be telecast** only after the conclusion of the last phase of the election.

ECONOMIC TIMES

Page 3

PMSIM

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - Social Justice)

ST Panel Objects to Merger of Schemes Under New Social Mission

Nidhi.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has objected to the contours of the newly conceived flagship mission - PM Social Inclusion Mission for Welfare of SCs and STs (PMSIM) - which will implement targeted schemes for the socially and economically backward Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The NCST has objected to the clubbing of two major programmes – Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC) and Scheduled Tribe Component (STC) – of the Centre under the new mission. So far, the two programmes were separate and required 41 Central ministries and departments to allocate at least population proportion of Budget outlay – which is 16.6% for Scheduled Castes and 8.6% for Scheduled Tribes – for targeted schemes. The new mission has put the two initiatives under one umbrella.

National Commission for STs has objected to the clubbing of two schemes for SCs and STs

According to sources, the NCST has conveyed to the government that the problems of SCs and STs are "distinctly different in nature and require separate strategies for identification of gaps and prevailing disparities as well as providing administrative arrangements and solutions thereof are also likely to be different for both categories". It recommended that separate guidelines and strategies be adopted for STs.

Under the new mission, the government has proposed to exempt the coal ministry, department of consumer affairs, ministry of mines and social justice and empowerment ministry from earmarking any budget for ST welfare schemes. The NCST has objected to the exemption and has sought justification for this.

- The new mission has **exempted the coal ministry,** department of consumer affairs and ministry of mines from earmarking any budget for SC and ST welfare schemes.
- **Road transport and highways ministry has been exempted** from earmarking funds for SC welfare schemes but will be required to allocate budget for ST schemes.
- **Every ministry will have a separate administrative mechanism** to monitor the implementation of schemes under the mission.
- An **additional secretary level officer** with a dedicated staff strength will be required to monitor the physical and financial progress of the ministry and report it periodically to the Niti Aayog.

Context: The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has objected to the contours of the newly conceived flagship mission - **PM Social Inclusion Mission for Welfare of SCs and STs (PMSIM)** -which will implement targeted schemes for the socially and economically backward Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

PM Social Inclusion Mission for Welfare of SCs and STs (PMSIM)

- The NCST has objected to the clubbing of two major programmes - **Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC) and Scheduled Tribe Component (STC)** - of the Centre under the new mission.
- So far, the **two programmes were separate** and required 41 Central ministries and departments to allocate at least population proportion of Budget outlay - which is 16. 6% for Scheduled Castes and 8. 6% for Scheduled Tribes - for targeted schemes.
- The new mission will be **a ₹2.5 lakh crore mission** which will directly fund schemes benefiting individuals belonging to SCs and STs (including scholarships and skilling programmes) and habitations in villages with over 50% SC and ST population.
- If a ministry is unable to utilise funds meant for SCs and STs in a year, the amount will **not lapse.**
- Instead, it will be **transferred to a separate fund** to be utilised by the ministries of tribal affairs and social justice for welfare programmes.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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PM to lay LIGO foundation stone today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MAY 10

A MONTH after his government granted the final clearance to the ambitious LIGO project, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Thursday remotely lay the foundation stone for the construction of the facility in Hingoli district in Maharashtra. Also, to mark the 25th anniversary of the 1998 nuclear tests, the Prime Minister would launch several projects of the atomic energy department.

LIGO, short for Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory that is meant to detect gravitational waves, is set to become the largest scientific facility in India. Two existing LIGO observatories in the United States detected gravitational waves for the first time in 2015, a feat that was acknowledged with the Nobel Prize two years later. Since then, two more similar detectors have come onboard, one in Italy and the other in Japan. LIGO India would be the fifth node of this network, and possibly the last.

The LIGO facility, which involves the construction of two 4-km long vacuum chambers in L-shape along with other structures, would come up at nearly 600 acres of land in Hingoli district, about 450 km east of Mumbai. The facility is set to become operational by 2030.

Along with LIGO, the Prime Minister would unveil several other nuclear energy related projects to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the 1998 tests. The anniversary is commemorated as National Technology Day every year.

A new Molybdenum-99 production facility in Mumbai and a Rare Earth Permanent magnet Plant in Visakhapatnam would be inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

The new magnet plant, which has been built inside an existing facility of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Visakhapatnam, would produce rare earth magnets like Samarium-Cobalt and Neodymium-Iron-Boron. These magnets are critical components for a variety of high technology products in telecommunications, electric vehicles, microelectronics, wind turbines, airplanes and also in weapons. As of now, the supply chains of these magnets are highly dependent on China. India plans to use locally sourced rare earth elements to produce these magnets.

The Molybdenum-99 production facility, located inside the main BARC complex in Mumbai, and the other projects to be launched by the Prime Minister are meant to use nuclear energy for health benefits. Molybdenum-99 is used in imaging procedures for early detection of cancer and heart diseases.

A National Hadron Beam Therapy Facility at Tata Memorial Centre, a radiological research unit, and a Women and Children Cancer Hospital, all in Navi Mumbai, and a Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Visakhapatnam are the other healthcare facilities to be inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

In addition, the Prime Minister would also lay the foundation stones for a cancer hospital in Jatni in Odisha and a new block at the Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai.

LIGO INDIA PROJECT

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

Context: A month after government granted the final clearance to the ambitious **LIGO project**, Prime Minister will remotely lay the foundation stone for the construction of the facility in Hingoli district in Maharashtra.

- Also, to mark the **25th anniversary of the 1998 nuclear tests**, the Prime Minister would launch several projects of the atomic energy department.

LIGO India Project

- **About**: LIGO-India will be an **advanced gravitational-wave observatory** to be located in Maharashtra, India, as part of a worldwide network.
  - It is envisaged as a **collaborative project between a consortium of Indian research institutions and the LIGO Laboratory** in the USA, along with its international partners.
- **Nodal Ministry**: It will be built by the **Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Science and Technology,** with a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Science Foundation, the US, along with several national and international research and academic institutions.
  - LIGO-India is a collaboration between the **LIGO Laboratory (operated by Caltech and MIT in the US) and three Institutes in India:** the Raja Ramanna Center for Advanced Technology (RRCAT, in Indore), the Institute for Plasma Research (IPR in Ahmedabad), and the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA, in Pune).
- **Significance**: The information gathered by LIGO India could be used in the field of **gravitation, relativity, astrophysics, cosmology, particle physics, and nuclear physics.**

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SVASTIK INITIATIVE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Sci & Tech)

CSIR-NIScPR organized a Meeting of the water & Environment Sub-Committee under SVASTIK initiative

Context: As a part of the national initiative for communicating India's scientifically validated traditional knowledge to the society branded as **SVASTIK (Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge),** CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR) hosted the first meeting of the Water, Ecology & Environment Sub-committee.

SVASTIK Initiative

- **Launched by**: **CSIR**-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR)
- **Objective**: To **conserve the practice of the right tradition, inculcate scientific temper of verifying tradition** in a scientific manner and instill confidence in citizens regarding the scientific value of our traditional knowledge/practices.
    - Various research organizations, higher education institutions, experts and NGOs have joined hands with SVASTIK to document and disseminate content on scientifically validated Indian traditional knowledge.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

- **About**: It was established by the Government of India in September 1942 as an **autonomous body.**
    - **Prime Minister of India** is the ex-officio president of CSIR.
- **Objectives**: It has emerged as the **largest research and development organisation in India.**
    - The research and development activities of CSIR include **aerospace engineering, structural engineering, ocean sciences, life sciences and healthcare including diagnostics, metallurgy, chemicals, mining, food, petroleum, leather, and environmental science.**
- **Nodal Ministry**: It is funded by the **Ministry of Science and Technology** and it operates as an autonomous body through the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
    - CSIR is also **among the world's largest publicly funded R&D organisation** which is pioneering sustained contribution to S&T human resource development in the country.

DTE

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LUDHIANA GAS LEAKAGE TRAGEDY

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Disaster Management)



Foul smell to neighbours dropping dead: What happened in the 15 minutes Giaspura residents had to escape a deadly gas

Locals said a lot more lives could have been saved had the ambulance carried away all the unconscious people together from the site, instead of in batches

NEXT NEWS >

By Rohini Krishnamurthy

Published: Wednesday 10 May 2023

Context: 11 people died due to a **gas leak in the Giaspura area of Ludhiana**, Punjab, while four people fell ill and were hospitalised.

- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has formed an eight-member fact-finding committee to look into the death of the people by taking suo motu cognisance of the matter based on media reports.

Key Points

- The autopsy reports suggested that the deaths were due to **"inhalation poisoning".**
- Forensic experts have suspected **Hydrogen Sulphide – a neurotoxic gas** – to be responsible for the tragedy.
- According to an expert - Probably some acidic waste was thrown into sewer which reacted with **methane, carbon monoxide and other sewerage gases to produce hydrogen sulphide.**
    - **Neurotoxins** are poisonous substances which can directly affect the nervous system.
        - These substances can disrupt or even kill neurons or nerve cells, which are important for transmitting and processing signals in the brain and other parts of the nervous system.
    - **Methane, hydrogen sulphide, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide** are common neurotoxic gases.
        - **Methane and carbon monoxide are odourless gases**, but hydrogen sulphide has a pungent odour and in higher concentration can be fatal for humans.
        - **Hydrogen sulphide** is so toxic that even one breath of it taken inside can kill a person.

Laws and Regulations related to Chemical Disaster Risk in India

- Bhopal Gas leak act, 1985
- The environment protection act, 1986
- Hazardous waste rules, 1989
- Manufacture, storage, and import of hazardous chemical rules, 1989
- Hazardous Waste (Management Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 1989
- The Public liability insurance act, 1991
- Chemical accidents rules, 1996
- National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997
- National Green tribunal, 2010

TIMES OF INDIA

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Santiniketan set to get Unesco World Heritage Site tag

Krishnendu Bandyopadhyay & Subhro Niyogi | TNN

Kolkata: A decade-long campaign to get Santiniketan recognised as a Unesco World Heritage Site looks set to finally pay off, with the International Council on Monuments and Sites, an international advisory body to the UN, recommending the inclusion of Rabindranath Tagore's "abode of peace" in the prestigious global list.

"Santiniketan has been nominated as the only living heritage university, where open-air classes are still held under the tree," said conservation architect Manish Chakraborty, who had joined restoration architect Abha Narain Lambah in shaping the dossier on Santiniketan for the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

ASI is the nodal authority for making nominations to Unesco and has sent the dossier on Santiniketan to the UN agency in Paris.

On Wednesday, Union cultural minister G Kishan Reddy tweeted the news of the recommendation, adding that a formal announcement was expected at the World Heritage Committee meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in September.

If Santiniketan's nomination is accepted, it will become India's 41st world heritage site and Bengal's third after Darjeeling Himalayan Railways and Sundarbans National Park.

The dossier on Santiniketan's nomination was first prepared in 2009 by Lambah and Chakraborti. But it was only in 2021 that ASI approached Lambah and asked her to submit the final dossier in 10 days. Speaking to **TOI**, Lambah said: "Santiniketan is the tangible realisation of an educational and artistic community's encounter with pan-Asian modernity".

Getty Images



Udayan, one of Tagore's residences in Santiniketan (above). Union culture minister G Kishan Reddy tweeted the news of the recommendation for the heritage tag on Wednesday, adding a formal announcement was expected in September

SANTINIKETAN

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

Context: A decade-long campaign to get **Santiniketan recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site** looks set to finally pay off, with the International Council on Monuments and Sites, an international advisory body to the UN, recommending the inclusion of **Rabindranath Tagore's "abode of peace"** in the prestigious global list.

- Santiniketan has been **nominated as the only living heritage university,** where open-air classes are still held under the tree.
- **ASI is the nodal authority** for making nominations to UNESCO and has sent the dossier on Santiniketan to the UN agency in Paris.

Santiniketan

- Shantiniketan is a **neighbourhood of Bolpur town in the Bolpur subdivision of Birbhum district in West Bengal**, India, approximately 152 km north of Kolkata.
- It was **established by Maharshi Debendranath Tagore**, and later expanded by his son, Rabindranath Tagore whose vision became what is now a university town with the creation of Visva-Bharati.
- **Debendranath, who was father of the Poet, Rabindranath,** was also known as Maharshi (which means one who is both saint and sage) was a leading figure of the Indian Renaissance.
- Until independence **Visva-Bharati** was a college. Soon after independence, the institution was given the status of a **central university in 1951** by an act of the Parliament.

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SHRINATHJI TEMPLE

(Syllabus: GS Paper 1 - Art & Culture)

PM performs darshan and pooja at Shrinathji Temple in Nathdwara, Rajasthan

Context: The Prime Minister performed pooja and darshan at the **Shrinathji Temple in Nathdwara, Rajasthan.**

- He also interacted with the temple priests and offered **'bhet puja' to Lord Shrinath.**

Shrinathji Temple

- Shrinathji Temple is a **Hindu temple dedicated to Shrinathji (Lord Krishna)** in Nathdwara.
- It is considered an **important pilgrimage centre by Vaishnavas.**
- The deity of the **Lord Krishna** according to the legend, is self-manifested from stone and emerged from the Govardhan Hills.
- The temple was built under the rule and protection of the then **Maharana Raj Singh of Mewar.**
- Shrinathji Temple is also known as **'Haveli of Shrinathji' (mansion).**
- The temple was built by **Goswami Damodar Das Bairagi** in 1672.
- The temple has been designed in the lines of **Nanda Maharaj (Krishna's father) temple,** in Vrindavan. Therefore, it is also known as Nanda Bhavan or Nandalaya (the House of Nanda).
- Structurally, a kalasha on the **shikhara marks the top of the temple**, on which seven flags are flown along with the Sudarshana Chakra.
    - The seven flags represent the **7 'houses' of Pushti Marg or Vallabh Sampradaya.**
- The temple has subsidiary temples dedicated to the **deity Madan Mohanji and Navneet Priyaji,** located in the main complex.

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