



# DAILY PT POINTERS

15<sup>th</sup> March , 2024



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu / AIR – IR



India World Opinion Sports e-Paper

GIFT A S

HOME / NEWS / INDIA

## PM holds talks with Bhutanese counterpart; Modi to travel to Bhutan next week

During their meeting, Prime Minister Tobgay thanked Modi for his “steadfast support to Bhutan”

March 14, 2024 10:43 pm | Updated March 15, 2024 01:40 am IST – New Delhi

THE HINDU BUREAU



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### News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Bhutan next week, announced the visiting Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay after the two leaders met in Delhi.

### India-Bhutan Relations

- The basic framework of India-Bhutan relations is the **Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation** signed in 1949 and renewed in 2007.
- **Formal diplomatic relations** were established in **1968**.

### Economic Ties

- The India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade, Commerce, and Transit was first signed in 1972 and was revised for the fifth time in 2016, establishing a free trade regime between the two countries.
- **India is Bhutan's top trading partner** accounting for about 80% of Bhutan's overall trade, with the balance of trade in India's favour.
- There are also plans for the first **India-Bhutan rail link**, a 57-km line connecting **Kokrajhar and Gelephu**, where Bhutan plans to build an international airport.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## The Hindu – Health

### *Why govts. are seeing red on Rhodamine B in street food*

The Hindu Bureau

On February 17, Tamil Nadu banned the sale of cotton candy or candy floss after analysis confirmed the presence of Rhodamine-B, an industrial dye, in samples lifted from stalls in Chennai. Since then, the Karnataka government has banned the use of harmful colouring agents in cotton candy and “Gobi Manchurian”, while Andhra Pradesh has begun lifting samples for analysis.

Rhodamine-B is a textile dye, and its use in food has a huge impact on health. Meenakshi Bajaj, dietician, Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital, explains: “Rhodamine-B is a fluorescent dye used in cosmetics, textile and leather industries. It gives you brilliant pinks, greens and blues. Unfortunately, it is used as a food colouring agent not only in cotton candy but also in the preparation of sweets, various manchurian items and pakodas and in the preparation of sauces for Chinese food.”

### News

- The Karnataka government has prohibited the usage of **Rhodamine B** in 'gobi manchurian' and 'cotton candy'.
- Earlier, the Tamil Nadu government has also banned the sale and production of cotton candy in the state due to the presence of **Rhodamine-B** in it.

### What is Rhodamine-B?

- It is a water-soluble chemical, commonly used for dyeing in the textile, paper, leather, and paint industry. It is known for its bright pink colouration.
- It is also used as a food additive in the manufacturing, packaging, and sale of various food items.

### Harmful Effects

- According to studies, even if consumed in small quantities, the chemical is highly **toxic and carcinogenic**.
- If consumed regularly, it can cause severe **damage to the cerebellum tissue** in the brain and to the brainstem that connects the brain to the spinal cord.

### Regulation

- As per the **Food Safety Standards Act, 2006**, preparation, packaging, importing, selling, and serving food items with Rhodamine-B in wedding ceremonies and other public events is a punishable offense.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



## The Hindu – Environment



India World Opinion Sports e-Paper

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HOME / NEWS / INDIA

### Tamil Nadu tops illegal trade in shark body parts

Fins constituted about 80% of the shark-derived products seized, according to an analysis by TRAFFIC and WWF-India

March 15, 2024 01:45 am | Updated 09:23 am IST - GUWAHATI

THE HINDU BUREAU



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#### News

- The TRAFFIC and WWF-India released a report titled ‘**Netted in illegal wildlife trade: Sharks of India**’.

#### About

- **TRAFFIC:** Trade Records Analysis of Flora and Fauna in Commerce.
- It analysed the data from 2010 to 2022.

#### Major Findings

- **Tamil Nadu** accounted for **almost 65%** of the illegal trade in shark body parts.
- Karnataka, Gujarat, Kerala, and Maharashtra follow Tamil Nadu in that order in illegal shark trade.
- The products were exported to Singapore, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Sri Lanka, and mainland China.
- The demand for **shark fins and meat** is a major driver of global shark fishery.

#### Sharks in India

- Over 160 shark species are reported in India and only 26 sharks have been given the highest protection status under the Wild Life (Protection) Act of 1972 by listing them in Schedules I and II.

The Hindu: International issues

## The flaring conflict in eastern Congo | Explained



### News

- Recent clashes in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have triggered global alarm and exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in the region.

### About

- Violent clashes between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) army and Rwandan-backed **M23 Tutsi-led rebels** in eastern Congo have killed scores and displaced hundreds of thousands of people.
- The March 23 Movement, or M23, is one of 120 insurgent groups active in the eastern region of Congo.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## The Hindu: International issues



### Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

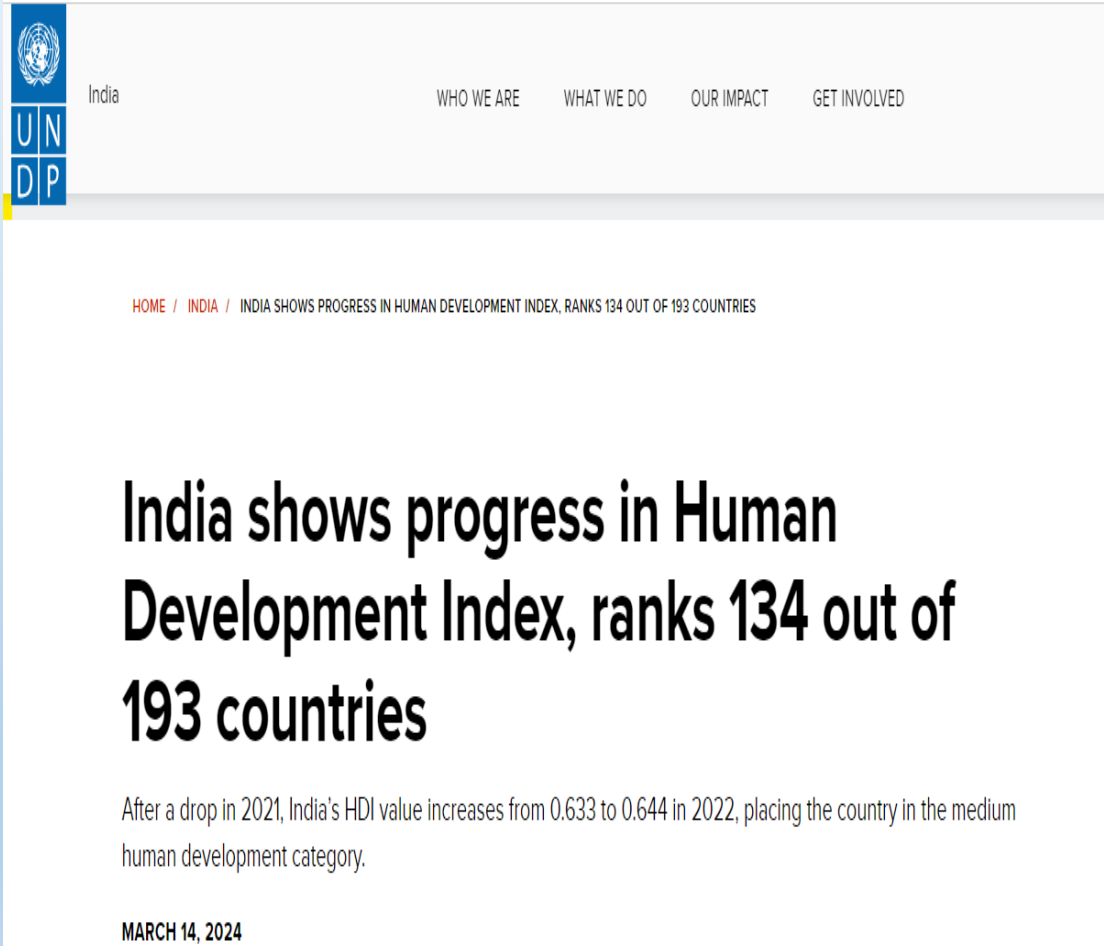
- The DRC is the second largest country in Africa.
- The country is bordered by the Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, (across Lake Tanganyika), Zambia, Angola, the Cabinda exclave of Angola, and the Atlantic Ocean.
- The Congo River, is the country's main drainage system.

### Congo River

- The river rises in the high **Katanga plateaus** and flows north and then south in a great arc, **crossing the Equator twice.**

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## UNDP– Economy



The screenshot shows the UNDP India website. At the top left is the UNDP logo. To its right is the word "India". Further right are navigation links: "WHO WE ARE", "WHAT WE DO", "OUR IMPACT", and "GET INVOLVED". Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: "HOME / INDIA / INDIA SHOWS PROGRESS IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX, RANKS 134 OUT OF 193 COUNTRIES". The main headline reads: "India shows progress in Human Development Index, ranks 134 out of 193 countries". Below the headline is a sub-headline: "After a drop in 2021, India's HDI value increases from 0.633 to 0.644 in 2022, placing the country in the medium human development category." At the bottom left, the date "MARCH 14, 2024" is displayed.



### News

- The United Nations Development Programme has released the **Human Development Report 2023-24**.

### Human Development Index (HDI)

- The HDI is a composite index computed based on three parameters – life expectancy, education, and gross national income (GNI) per capita.

### Major Findings

**India:** India has been ranked 134th out of 193 countries.

After a drop in 2021, India's HDI value has increased placing the country in the medium human development category.

**India's Neighbours:** Sri Lanka has been ranked at 78, while China is ranked 75, both categorised under the High Human Development category.

- Bhutan stands at 125 and Bangladesh is in the 129th position.
- Nepal (146) and Pakistan (164) have been ranked lower than India.

**Top Ranked:** Switzerland has been ranked number one.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

IE/TH/AIR: Governance

## Ratification by states: What it will take to make One Nation One Election panel's view legally tenable



### News

- The high-level committee **headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind** has recommended simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies as the first step and hold municipal and panchayat polls within 100 days of the general election in the next phase.

### About

- The panel has recommended amendments to **Article 83** (duration of Houses of Parliament) and **Article 172** (duration of State legislatures) of the Constitution.
- This constitutional amendment **will not need ratification** by the States.

### Ratification by States

- The panel recommended suitable amendments to the; **Article 324A** of the Constitution to allow simultaneous elections in panchayats and municipalities; and
- **Article 325** to allow the Election Commission of India (ECI), in consultation with State election authorities, to prepare a common electoral roll and voter ID cards.
- Both these constitutional amendments **would require ratification by the States.**