

Headlines

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Hema committee report - Page No.4 , GS 2

Indus Water Treaty - Page No.10 , GS 1,2

Text and Context - Smart Cities Mission

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INSPIRING WORDS

"Fear kills more dreams
than failure ever will."

SUZY KASSEM

Trump declares end to U.S. citizenship by birth

Page No. 1, GS 2

Democratic-led States challenge order that could affect thousands of Indians in the U.S.; President also threatens 100% tariffs on BRICS countries if they attempt to move to 'non-dollar' transactions

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Shortly after being sworn in on Monday, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an Executive Order cancelling the provision of "citizenship by birth", which could directly affect thousands of Indian professionals working in the U.S. under H-1B and other temporary visas, who hoped to raise their families there.

Mr. Trump also said he planned to levy "100% taxes" on BRICS countries for attempting to move to "non-dollar" transactions, referring to the 10-nation grouping of emerging economies that includes India.

"As a BRICS nation, they'll have a 100% tariff if they so much as even think about doing what they



Signing spree: U.S. President Trump throws pens used to sign Executive Orders to the crowd in Washington on Monday. AP

thought, and therefore they will give it up immediately," he said, erroneously referring to Spain as a BRICS member.

In addition, Mr. Trump's plans to crack down on undocumented and illegal immigrants could hit about 7.25 lakh Indians, of which nearly 18,000 are already

on a "final list for removal" or deportations.

Move challenged

A coalition of 18 Democratic-led States along with the District of Columbia and city of San Francisco filed a lawsuit in federal court in Boston on Tuesday arguing that the Republican Presi-

dent's effort to end birthright citizenship was a flagrant violation of the U.S. Constitution.

As concerns grew in India over the announcements, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was set to meet incoming U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio to discuss priorities for the India-U.S. bilateral relationship and the Quad.

The one-on-one meeting, which would be Mr. Rubio's first with any foreign dignitary, was due to take place on Tuesday afternoon in Washington, following a meeting of the Quad Foreign Ministers.

CONTINUED ON

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INAUGURAL DRAMA

» **PAGE 6**

MORE REPORTS ON

» **PAGES 13 & 14**

Content.

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- **In addition, Mr. Trump’s plans to crack down on undocumented and illegal immigrants could hit about 7.25 lakh Indians, of which nearly 18,000 are already on a “final list for removal” or deportations.**

Fact

- **Eligible persons:** A person can become an Indian citizen if they were born in India, have Indian ancestors, or have lived in the country for a certain period.
- **Exception:** Illegal immigrants, on the other hand, are barred from obtaining Indian citizenship.
- An illegal migrant is a foreigner who enters the country without valid travel documents, such as a passport and visa, or who enters with valid documents but stays longer than allowed.
- **Constitutional provisions:** Citizenship is mentioned in the Constitution's Union List. This list is entirely within the purview of Parliament.
- Part II of the Indian Constitution deals with citizenship from Articles 5 to 11.
- However, the term “Citizen” has not been defined by the Constitution.
- **Single citizenship:** The Act does not permit dual citizenship or nationality.

Between January 1, 1950,
and January 1, 1987

Considered a citizen by birth.

On or after July 1, 1987

Considered an Indian citizen only if **either** of his/her parents is an Indian citizen at the time of birth.

On or after December 3,
2004

Considered an Indian citizen by birth if **one parent** is Indian and the other is not an illegal immigrant.

Note: If one of the parents is an **illegal immigrant**, the child born after 2004 will have to obtain Indian citizenship through other means than birth.





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Link

1. The Hindu Playlist -

[https://youtube.com/playlist?](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpuxPG4TUOR4VHsceopVQtj73aJ0idtpl)

[list=PLpuxPG4TUOR4VHsceopVQtj73aJ0idtpl](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpuxPG4TUOR4VHsceopVQtj73aJ0idtpl)

2. NCERT Playlist:-

[https://youtube.com/playlist?](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpuxPG4TUOR5Q3pN6ivhc77yZ6HY9v7Ad)

[list=PLpuxPG4TUOR5Q3pN6ivhc77yZ6HY9v7Ad](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpuxPG4TUOR5Q3pN6ivhc77yZ6HY9v7Ad)

3. PIB Weekly:- [https://youtube.com/playlist?](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpuxPG4TUOR59OtRNhFu)

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Description

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Prashant tiwari

Education

Educator at StudyIQ IAS

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Newspaper



Burning Issues



Practice



Motivation



Guidance



Reviews



PYQ

Nature's rhythms

Page No. I, GS 3



In sync: A pair of Olive Ridley turtles seen in the waters of the Bay of Bengal off Odisha coast ahead of their mass nesting. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Olive Ridley Turtles

- They are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.
- It gets its name from the olive green colouration of its carapace (shell).
- Scientific Name: *Lepidochelys olivacea*
- They are best known for their unique mass nesting, called Arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.

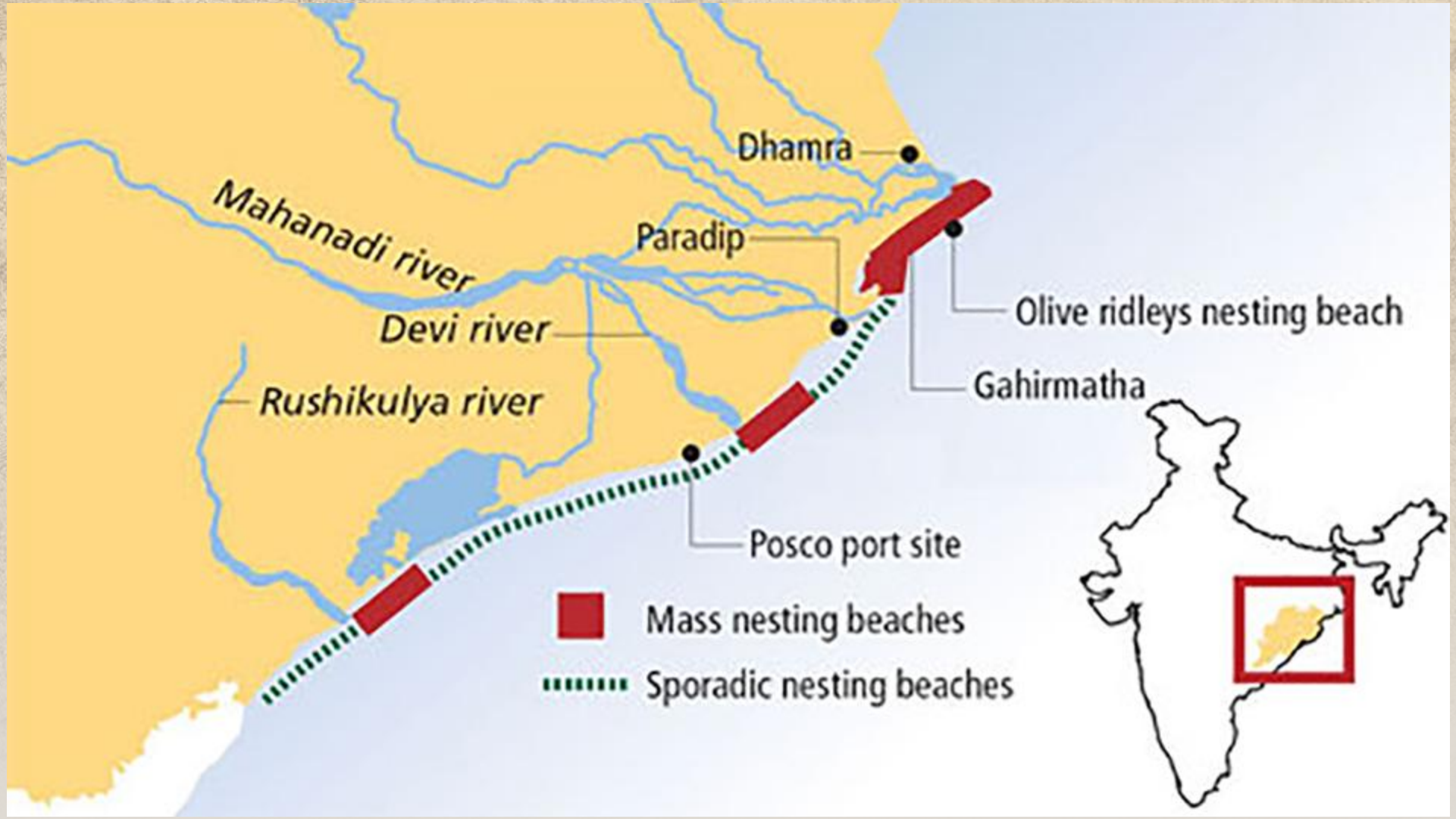
Distribution:

- They are mainly found in the warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian oceans.
- Odisha's Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary is known as the world's largest rookery (a colony of breeding animals) of sea turtles.

Content.

Conservation Status:

- **IUCN Red List: Vulnerable**
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule 1**
- **CITES: Appendix I**
- **These turtles are carnivores and get their name from their olive-coloured carapace.**
- **They are best known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.**
- **Operation Olivia: Every year, the Indian Coast Guard's "Operation Olivia", initiated in the early 1980s, helps protect Olive Ridley turtles as they congregate along the Odisha coast for breeding and nesting from November to December.**



Turtle Species



Loggerhead Sea Turtle

- Species of oceanic turtle
- Spend most of their life in saltwater and estuarine habitat
- IUCN status: **Vulnerable**

Leatherback Turtle

- The largest of the seven species of sea turtles
- Able to maintain high body temperature using metabolically generated heat
- IUCN status: **Critically Endangered**



Green Turtle

- Named after the greenish colour of their cartilage
- Found in tropical and subtropical waters
- IUCN Status: **Endangered**

Olive Ridley Turtle

- Smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles
- Carnivores
- They practice Unique Mass Nesting called Arribada
- IUCN Status: **Vulnerable**



#FewTurtleSpecies

Hema committee report: SC lauds those who gave statements before SIT

Page No. 4, GS 2

The top court, however, questioned how FIRs could be lodged in the cases of women who did not want to pursue the matter against their alleged perpetrators in the Malayalam film industry

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday acknowledged the courage of the women who had defied personal and professional costs to lodge complaints of sexual abuse in the Malayalam film industry, but said investigating agencies must also respect the women who wanted to remain silent.

A three-judge Bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sanjay Karol and Sandeep Mehta appreciated the women survivors and witnesses who opened up before the K. Hema Committee and later made statements before a State-appointed Special Investigation Team, leading to the registration of over 25 First Information Reports.

"Facing all odds, these women came forward," Justice Mehta observed.

However, the top court clarified that the SIT could not unilaterally register FIRs in the cases of women



Up in arms: Malayalam film fraternity members staging a protest in Thiruvananthapuram seeking security at the workplace. FILE PHOTO

who, after making statements before the Hema committee, did not want to pursue the matter or initiate criminal proceedings against their alleged perpetrators.

"How can you register a crime without evidence, without witnesses coming forward? We are just saying there is no requirement for registering a crime once the SIT finds there is no witness coming forward with her statement... But, on the other hand, wherev-

er witnesses come forward, the crime must be registered and proceeded according to the law," Justice Nath addressed the State, represented by senior advocate Ranjit Kumar and advocate Nishe Rajen Shonker.

The court was hearing a petition filed by film producer Sajimon Parayil, represented by senior advocate R. Basant and advocate A. Karthik, who claimed that the Kerala High Court had in October

last directed the SIT to register FIRs on each and every statement made by survivors/witnesses to the Hema Committee.

Mr. Parayil questioned the Kerala High Court's insistence on the registration of the FIRs despite the "disinclination" expressed by the victims themselves.

Mr. Basant said the High Court order and the prospect of being the target of a SIT probe must not be used to harass people. "That would be a travesty of justice," he submitted.

'Trying to stall probe'

The Kerala Women's Commission, represented by advocate Parvathi Menon, alleged Mr. Parayil was "indirectly trying to stall the probe." The women's panel submitted that the High Court's orders fell squarely under the parameters of the provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. The court reserved the petition for pronouncement of orders on January 27.

Content.

- **The Supreme Court on Tuesday acknowledged the courage of the women who had defied personal and professional costs to lodge complaints of sexual abuse in the Malayalam film industry, but said investigating agencies must also respect the women who wanted to remain silent.**
- **Hema committee report on the Malayalam film industry was released. It has revealed alarming instances of sexual abuse, gender discrimination, and inhuman treatment of women in the Malayalam film industry.**
- **It was led by retired Kerala High Court judge Justice K Hema, with members including veteran actor Sharada and retired IAS officer K B Valsala Kumari.**

- **Sexual Abuse:** It include unwanted physical advances even before commencing work, rape threats, code names for women who would agree to compromise among other shameful acts.
- **Casting Couch:** The report highlights the prevalence of the casting couch, where women are often forced to exchange sexual favours for job opportunities.
- **Directors and producers often coerce female actors into making compromises, with those who comply being termed "cooperating artists."**
- **Women were forced to work with abusers, resulting in significant emotional trauma.**
- **The casting couch is a euphemism for the practice of soliciting sexual favours from a job applicant in exchange for employment in the entertainment industry, primarily acting roles.**
- **Safety on Film Set:** Many female film workers frequently bring their parents or close relatives to the set due to fears of sexual demands and harassment.
- **Criminal Influence:** The report indicates that the Malayalam film industry is plagued by criminal influence.

Content.

- **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013:** This law mandates the establishment of Internal Complaints Committees (ICC) in workplaces to address complaints of sexual harassment.
- **Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000:** IT Act addresses the publication and transmission of obscene material in electronic form, which can include digital content in films.
- **Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) Act, 2012:** This act specifically protects children from sexual exploitation and abuse, including in the context of films.
- **Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA):** This act aims to prevent trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.

'Competent' to judge Indus Water Treaty dispute, says World Bank Neutral Expert

Page No. 10, GS I

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI

The Neutral Expert (NE) appointed under terms of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), 1960, decided that he was "competent" to decide on differences between India and Pakistan on the design of hydroelectric projects built on the Indus Treaty rivers. India, in a statement, on Tuesday "welcomed" the move.

The decision on January 7 by Michel Lino, the World Bank appointed NE, which was made public via a press release on Monday, however does not help resolve a demand by India in January 2023 to renegotiate the IWT but only keeps alive the differences between the two countries on the dispute resolution mechanism, laid out under

the terms of the treaty.

Last September, *The Hindu* had reported that India decided there would be no more meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC), made up of representatives of both countries until the IWT was renegotiated. The last meeting happened in Delhi in May 2022. Since January 2023, India has written four times to Pakistan to initiate talks on revising the treaty but is yet to receive a formal response.

Differing stance

The dispute resolution mechanism laid out under the terms of the IWT – as India interprets it – says that disputes must first attempt to be resolved by the PIC. If they do not succeed, the matter would be weighed by the World Bank-ap-



Work in progress on the Kishen Ganga Hydro Electric Power Project in North Kashmir district of Bandipora in 2012. NISSAR AHMAD

pointed Neutral Expert. If this fails too, the matter would be decided by a Court of Arbitration. However, while India has held that each step must be fully exhausted before both sides agree to moving on to the next step, Pakistan has moved on without waiting for India's concurrence.

Initially, both countries

seemed to agree on the World Bank appointing a "neutral expert". Pakistan in 2016 asked for a Court of Arbitration. The World Bank first ruled that having a neutral expert and court together could lead to "contradictory outcomes". However, in 2022, it facilitated the setting up of an expert as well as a chair-

man to the Court of Arbitration. India has refused to attend proceedings in the Court of Arbitration at The Hague. Pakistan has maintained that it is working within the terms of the treaty, whereas India says the treaty does not allow such parallel dispute mechanisms.

The press statement, issued on Tuesday, said that while the NE could under the terms of the treaty decide on technical disputes it did not invalidate the existing Court of Arbitration.

In the days ahead, Mr. Lino is expected to hear both India and Pakistan and decide on whether design parameters of the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects conform with the IWT.

(With inputs from Suhasini Haidar)

Content.

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Content.

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Content.

- **Indus Waters Treaty was signed on September 19, 1960, between India and Pakistan and was brokered by the World Bank.**
- **The treaty sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two sides on the use of the water of the Indus River and its five tributaries Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab.**
- **This means that 80% of the share of water went to Pakistan while leaving the rest 20% of water for use by India.**

The Indus Waters Treaty (IWT)

■ The distribution of waters of the Indus and its tributaries between India and Pakistan is governed by the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

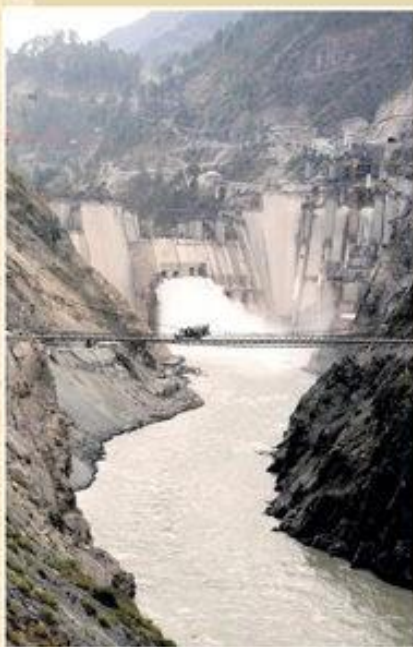
■ Was signed on Sept 19, 1960, between India, Pakistan and a representative of World Bank after eight years of negotiations.

■ Partition of India cut across the Indus river basin, which has the Indus river, plus five of its main tributaries.

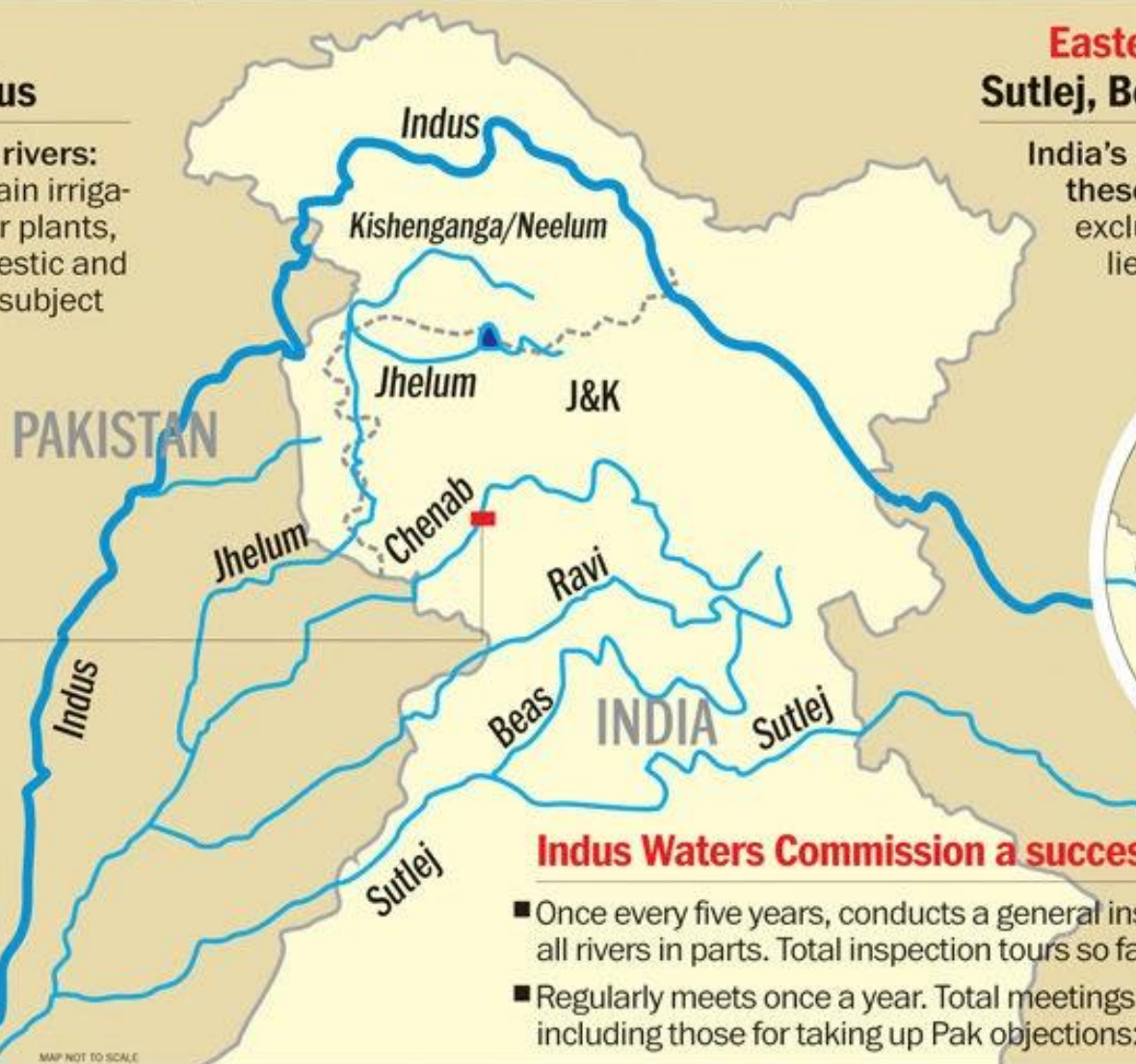
Western rivers

Chenab, Jhelum, Indus

India's rights over these rivers: Limited — can set up certain irrigation, run-of-the-river power plants, very limited storage, domestic and non-consumptive use, all subject to conditions



Baglihar dam on Chenab



Eastern rivers

Sutlej, Beas, Ravi

India's rights over these rivers: All exclusive rights lie with India.



Indus Waters Commission a success story

- Once every five years, conducts a general inspection of all rivers in parts. Total inspection tours so far: Over 100
- Regularly meets once a year. Total meetings thus far, including those for taking up Pak objections: Over 100

- **Pakal Dul and Lower Kalnai:** Pakal Dul Hydro Electric Project built on river Marusudar, a tributary of the Chenab. Lower Kalnai is developed on the Chenab.
- **Kishanganga Hydroelectric Project:** It is a run-of-the-river project located in J&K.
- **Pakistan objected to the project** arguing that it would affect the flow of the Kishanganga River (called the Neelum River in Pakistan).
- **In 2013, The Hague's Permanent Court of Arbitration (CoA) ruled** that India could divert all the water with certain conditions.
- **Ratle Hydroelectric Project:** It is a run-of-the-river hydroelectric power station on the Chenab River, in J&K.

What is the status of the Smart Cities Mission?

Why did the implementation of smart cities bypass local government and depend on Special Purpose Vehicles? What has happened to the mission in Shimla?

Tikender Singh Panwar

The story so far:

Almost a decade has passed since the Indian government announced the concept of “smart cities” as the new lighthouses of urbanisation. The June 2015 announcement of 100 smart cities aimed to create models of urban development. However, these lighthouses of urbanity have now been relegated to the annals of India’s urbanisation history.

What went wrong with smart cities?

The smart cities initiative was based on the Internet of Things (IoT), a framework that works well in advanced capitalist countries where basic utilities are already in place. In contrast, in India, where basic services are still out of reach for many, “smart cities” essentially mean providing fundamental amenities to residents. The

plan included two key components – pan-city proposals which includes IT-enabled services like mobility and waste management; and Area-Based Development (ABD) which was restricted to specific zones within a city, focusing on retrofitting, redevelopment, and greenfield projects. Additionally, governance of these projects bypassed local governments, relying instead on Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) registered under the Companies Act, and managed like private companies. City councils were excluded, based on the assumption that private company-like structures could deliver better results.

What happened in Shimla?

Shimla was not included in the initial list of smart cities. However, after legal challenges posed by Shimla in the Himachal Pradesh High Court, Shimla was also granted the smart city tag.

Shimla’s smart city plan adhered to guidelines, including pan-city initiatives and ABD projects. The city had proposed a mix of retrofit and redevelopment projects within ABD. The retrofit project had targeted improving city wide pedestrian crossings, vehicular mobility on circular roads, and three transport corridors in addition to underground ducting and parking provision. Additional features were also added that included eco-adventure tourism, and water security through storm water and spring water management. A total of 244 acres of land was supposed to be retrofitted. Redevelopment projects focused on Lower Bazar, Ganj Bazar, and Krishnanagar. The aim was to replace dilapidated, unsafe buildings with modern, resilient, earthquake-safe structures that could boost tourism.

The total estimated investment for Shimla was ₹2,906 crore, with funding

sources as follows – ₹897.80 crore from Public-Private Partnerships (PPP); ₹101.77 crore through municipal bonds; ₹205.57 crore from external borrowings; and ₹348.49 crore from State and Union government schemes, and the rest from other sources. However, as of now, according to the Smart City dashboard, only ₹707 crore (24% of the original budget) has been spent: ₹53 crore on completed projects and ₹654 crore on ongoing ones. The proposed PPP contribution has not yet materialised.

What has been the outcome?

None of the funds have been utilised for the redevelopment of the Lower Bazar, Middle Bazar, or Krishnanagar. Traffic congestion has worsened, and despite initial plans, non-motorised mobility remains neglected. Instead, funds were spent on flower pots worth ₹2 crore. Moreover, large, visually intrusive structures were erected for escalators that remain non-operational, obstructing Shimla’s iconic valley views.

As the Smart City Mission approaches its final chapter, the lessons are glaringly evident. Projects devoid of meaningful urban governance and public involvement, are bound to fail. With no ownership or accountability, the smart city vision has faded into oblivion.

Tikender Singh Panwar is a former deputy mayor of Shimla and Member, Kerala Urban Commission.

THE GIST

▼
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▼
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▼
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Content.

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- **The smart cities initiative was based on the Internet of Things (IoT), a framework that works well in advanced capitalist countries where basic utilities are already in place.**
- **In contrast, in India, where basic services are still out of reach for many, “smart cities” essentially mean providing fundamental amenities to residents.**
- **The plan included two key components — pan-city proposals which includes IT-enabled services like mobility and waste management; and Area-Based Development (ABD) which was restricted to specific zones within a city, focusing on retrofitting, redevelopment, and greenfield projects.**

Fact

- **Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).**
- **Valid Till: 31st March 2025**
- **Type: Centrally Sponsored Scheme**

Objectives:

- **Provide core infrastructure and decent quality of life**
- **Clean and sustainable environment**
- **Application of 'Smart' Solutions**
- **Sustainable and inclusive development**
- **Compact areas**
- **Replicable model**

SMART CITIES MISSION

About

- **Launched:** 2015
- **Nature:** Centrally Sponsored
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
- **Implemented through:** Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) at city level
- **Mission Deadline:** Extended to June 2024
- **Coverage:** Developing 100 selected cities as Smart Cities

Six Fundamental Principles

- Citizen at the core
- More from Less
- Cooperative and competitive federalism
- Integration, innovation & sustainability
- Technology as means, not the goal
- Convergence

SMART SOLUTIONS

E-Governance and Citizen Services

- Public Information, Grievance Redressal
- Electronic Service Delivery
- Citizen Engagement
- Citizens-City's Eyes and Ears
- Video Crime Monitoring



Energy Management

- Smart Meters & Management
- Renewable Sources of Energy
- Energy Efficient & Green Buildings



Waste Management

- Waste to Energy & fuel
- Waste to Compost
- Waste Water Treatment
- Recycling and Reduction of Waste



Urban Mobility

- Smart Parking
- Intelligent Traffic Management
- Integrated Multi-Modal Transport



Water Management

- Smart Meters & Management
- Leakage Identification, Preventive Maintenance
- Water Quality Monitoring



Others

- Tele-Medicine & Tele Education
- Incubation/Trade Facilitation Centers
- Skill Development Centers



■ 60% projects have been completed so far ■

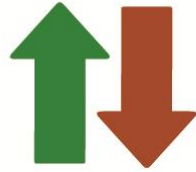
6 Fundamental Criteria

Community at the core



Communities at the core of planning and Implementation.

More from Less



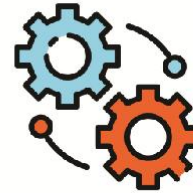
Ability to generate greater outcomes with the use of lesser resources.

Cooperative & Competitive Federalism



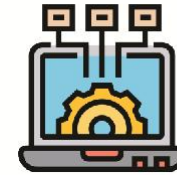
Cities selected through competition; flexibility to Implement projects.

Integration, Innovation, Sustainability



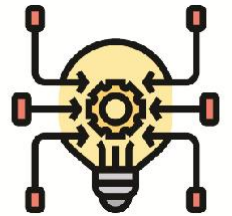
Innovating methods: integrated and sustainable solutions.

Technology as means, not the goal



Careful selection of technology, relevant to the context of cities.

Convergence



Sectorial and Financial Convergence.

City wide Smart Solutions

E-Governance and Citizen Services



- 1 Public Information, Grievance Redressal
- 2 Electronic Service Delivery
- 3 Citizen Engagement
- 4 Citizens - City's Eyes and Ears
- 5 Video Crime Monitoring

Waste Management



- 6 Waste to Energy & fuel
- 7 Waste to Compost
- 8 Waste Water to be Treated
- 9 Recycling and Reduction of C&D Waste

Water Management



- 10 Smart Meters & Management
- 11 Leakage Identification, Preventive Maint.
- 12 Water Quality Monitoring



Energy Management



- 13 Smart Meters & Management
- 14 Renewable Sources of Energy
- 15 Energy Efficient & Green Buildings

Urban Mobility



- 16 Smart Parking
- 17 Intelligent Traffic Management
- 18 Integrated Multi-Modal Transport

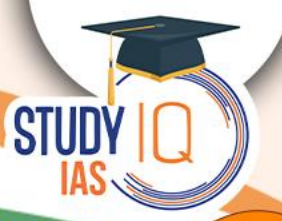
Others



- 19 Tele-Medicine & Tele Education
- 20 Incubation/Trade Facilitation Centers
- 21 Skill Development Centers

Cities may add any number of smart solutions to the area based developments to make government funds cost effective.





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Link

1. The Hindu Playlist -

[https://youtube.com/playlist?](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpuxPG4TUOR4VHsceopVQtj73aJ0idtpl)

[list=PLpuxPG4TUOR4VHsceopVQtj73aJ0idtpl](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpuxPG4TUOR4VHsceopVQtj73aJ0idtpl)

2. NCERT Playlist:-

[https://youtube.com/playlist?](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpuxPG4TUOR5Q3pN6ivhc77yZ6HY9v7Ad)

[list=PLpuxPG4TUOR5Q3pN6ivhc77yZ6HY9v7Ad](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpuxPG4TUOR5Q3pN6ivhc77yZ6HY9v7Ad)

3. PIB Weekly:- [https://youtube.com/playlist?](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpuxPG4TUOR59OtRNhFu)

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