

21 January 2025

UK's Richest 10% Extracted Half Of Wealth From India During Colonialism: Oxfam

Key Points:

- ❖ Rights group Oxfam's latest report released on Monday said that the UK extracted \$64.82 trillion from colonial India between 1765 and 1900, and the richest 10 per cent of Britons earned \$33.8 trillion of this.
- ❖ Oxfam in its report "Takers, not Makers" said a significant number of the richest Britons can trace their wealth to compensation paid by the government to the richest enslavers while abolishing the racist system.
- ❖ The group said that the newly emergent middle class in the UK is the second biggest beneficiary of money extracted from colonial India for over 100 years. "After the richest 10 per cent, who received 52 per cent of this income, the new middle class received a further 32 per cent of income," Oxfam said.

Textiles and Drugs

- ❖ The group also blamed colonialism for destroying India's industrial output by implementing stringent protectionist policies against Asian textiles.
- ❖ "Besides, in 1750, the Indian subcontinent accounted for approximately 25 per cent of global industrial output. However, by 1900 this figure had precipitously declined to a mere 2 per cent," it noted.
- ❖ Oxfam also alleged that the Dutch and British colonial states were "drug pushers" who used opium trade to consolidate their rule over colonies.

Women involved in Virgin coconut oil production receiving specialised training in marketing, branding: PM Modi

Key Points:

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that women involved in the production of the Virgin coconut oil in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are being inducted into selfhelp groups, and they are receiving

specialised training in marketing and branding.

- ❖ The Prime Minister said that this is a significant step towards economically empowering our tribal communities. This comes after the Virgin coconut oil from the Nicobar district recently received the GI (Geographical Indication) tag.



Karnataka Clinch Vijay Hazare Trophy For Record 5th Time

Key Points:

- ❖ In the Vijay Hazare Trophy (VHT) 2024-25 final, Karnataka emerged victorious by 36 runs against Vidarbha on January 19, 2025, at the Kotambi Stadium in Vadodara. This win marks Karnataka's fifth Vijay Hazare Trophy title. The thrilling encounter saw Karnataka posting a commanding total and defending it successfully, despite a spirited fight from Vidarbha's batters.



World Economic Forum 2025

Key Points:

- ❖ The rich and powerful from across the world will assemble for five days beginning Monday (January 20, 2025) for the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2025.

- ❖ The annual confluence in Davos, Switzerland, brings the biggest names in the world from business to government to civil society to art and culture and a lot of others.
- ❖ India is sending its biggest-ever contingent this time, comprising five Union Ministers, three Chief Ministers and Ministers from several other States alongside nearly 100 CEOs and other leaders.



- ❖ The rich and powerful from across the world will assemble for five days beginning Monday (January 20, 2025) for the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2025.
- ❖ The annual confluence in Davos, Switzerland, brings the biggest names in the world from business to government to civil society to art and culture and a lot of others.
- ❖ India is sending its biggest-ever contingent this time, comprising five Union Ministers, three Chief Ministers and Ministers from several other States alongside nearly 100 CEOs and other leaders.
- ❖ Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will head the Indian delegation. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu Chief will also attend.
- ❖ “There will be a detailed discussion in the WEF Annual Meeting World Economic Forum about inclusive growth, investment in social, physical and digital infrastructure and democratising technology,” Vaishnaw said.

Who initiated the World Economic Forum (WEF)?

- ❖ German professor Klaus Schwab founded the WEF. He was a mechanical engineering graduate who then earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.
- ❖ From 1972 to 2003, Schwab was a professor of business policy at the University of Geneva. He founded WEF in 1971, originally known as the European Management Forum.
- ❖ It introduced the concept of “stakeholder capitalism.” According to Schwab, “It is a form of capitalism in which companies do not only optimize short-term profits for shareholders, but seek long term value creation, by taking into account the needs of all their stakeholders, and society at large.



- ❖ First, the basics. The WEF is an international nonprofit organization based in Geneva, Switzerland. It is most famous for hosting an annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, which gathers global leaders, policymakers, business executives, academics, and media representatives. One thing that stands out is the WEF's emphasis on being a platform for public-private cooperation.
- ❖ This is where it gets interesting. The idea is that governments, businesses, and civil society can achieve more by working together rather than in isolation.

- ❖ **But does this always work?** There's skepticism about whether the forum primarily serves the elite or genuinely advanced global solutions.

R.G. Kar rape and murder: Lifelong imprisonment for convict Sanjay Roy

Key Points:

- ❖ In a closely watched case, the Additional District and Sessions Court in Sealdah sentenced Sanjoy Roy to life imprisonment for the rape and murder of an on-duty doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital. While the prosecution demanded the death penalty, the court ruled otherwise, stating that the case did not meet a threshold for capital punishment. The CBI, victim's family and the Mamata Banerjee government had sought death penalty for the convict.
- ❖ Presiding judge Anirban Das explained his decision by noting that the crime, although heinous, did not qualify as a "rarest of the rare" case.
- ❖ The judge said that sentencing should rely on the evidence presented and pointed out that Sanjoy Roy had already provided extensive statements during his three-hour questioning by the lawyers.
- ❖ "The verdict would be based on the evidence presented," Justice Das had clarified before pronouncing the judgment.

Why life imprisonment?

- ❖ The judge said that sentencing should rely on the evidence presented and pointed out that Sanjoy Roy had already provided extensive statements during his three-hour questioning by the lawyers.
- ❖ “The verdict would be based on the evidence presented,” Justice Das had clarified before pronouncing the judgment. Sanjay Roy was convicted under Sections 64, 66, and 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya

Sanhita (BNS) for sexually assaulting and strangling Dr. Abhaya to death in August 2024.

- ❖ Roy, who was employed as a civic volunteer, exploited his position to commit the crime, shocking the medical fraternity and the public alike.

R.G. Kar case convict to be imprisoned for life

Court says it will be 'inappropriate to accede to prosecution's request for death' as case can't be classified as 'rarest of rare'; victims' parents refuse compensation ordered by the court, say they want justice; judge criticises role of hospital authorities, saying efforts were made to show the death as a suicide; convict says he is being falsely implicated

Shiv Sahay Singh
Muzurik Sam
Srirama Chatterjee
KOLKATA

A sessions court in Kolkata on Monday sentenced Roy, the convict in the 1992 murder of R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, to life imprisonment.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge, Anirban Dasgupta, said it was evident that the accused did not meet the strict criteria for being classified as "rarest of the rare" and it would be "inappropriate to accede to the prosecution's request for the penalty". In the 17-page judgment, the judge said that the case called for "carefully consider-

appropriate sentence" that balanced the gravity of the crime with the "principle of justice, rehabilitation and the preservation of life."

and the preservation of human dignity". He noted that the court must resist the temptation to bow to public pressure or emotional appeals. Counsel for the Central Bureau of Investigation and the family members of the victim had

"You will be in prison till the last day of your life," the judge told Roy while reading the order.

Judgment day: People wait in front of the Sealdah court for the sentence to be announced on Monday. (GANGASHI BHADRA)

The court noted that if the sentences will run concurrently, the court also held that the convict has the right to receive credit

The court said the victim's parents would get compensation of £10 lakhs for the death of the victim.

and ₹7 lakh for rape as per regulations of the National Legal Services Authority. However, the parents told the court that they did not want any compensation. "We only want justice for our daughter. Nothing else," the victim's father said in the court.

The court also criticised the rôle of the hospital authorities, and said that there were no doubts

"efforts were made to show the death as a suicidal one so that the hospital authority would not face an

Observing that the pain and suffering of the parents cannot be compensated with any amount of cash, the judge wrote in the order, "At the same time I think that as the death of the victim was

Before pronouncing the sentence, the court asked the convict would like to make a statement. "I have not done anything. I am being falsely implicated,"

the convict said. In the order, the court noted that the "accused got the scope to explain the circumstance—

Roy was arrested by the Kolkata police a day after the body of the doctor was found from a seminar room of the State-run facil-

'FAILURE OF CBI'
» PAGE 4

Fonio Millet

Key Points:

Fonio: The Miracle Grain

- ❖ Fonio, an ancient West African millet, is renowned for its **resilience to climate shocks**, ease of cultivation, and ability to thrive in poor soils with minimal water.
- ❖ Often termed a **miracle grain**, it is highly adaptable and offers significant **nutritional value**.
- ❖ Traditionally cultivated by the **Fulani tribes**, the largest nomadic tribe in Africa.
- ❖ **Highly versatile**, fonio can be used in salads, porridges, pasta, bread, or as a side dish.

Cultivation and Similarities with Indian Millets

- ❖ Fonio thrives in **arid and semi-arid regions** and requires **low water intake**.
- ❖ It shares similarities with Indian millets like **sikiya** and **raishan**.
- ❖ **Sikiya**, a preferred millet of the Baiga tribe, is cultivated in parts of **Madhya Pradesh**.
- ❖ **Challenges in Millet Production**
- ❖ The **profit-driven approach** among farmers is leading to a decline in millet cultivation.

- ❖ In **Odisha's Niyamgiri hills**, farmers are prioritizing **pineapple cultivation** for profit, sidelining traditional millet crops.

International Recognition

- ❖ The **United Nations declared 2023** as the **International Year of Millets**, highlighting their importance globally.

- ❖ **Demand for Frontier Nagaland Territory**

Background of Nagaland

- ❖ After **Independence in 1947**, the Naga territory remained part of **Assam**.
- ❖ Nagaland was recognized as a state on **1st December 1963** under the **State of Nagaland Act, 1962**.

Frontier Nagaland Territory (FNT)

- ❖ **About FNT**
- ❖ Proposed administrative region demanded by the **Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation (ENPO)**.
- ❖ Aims to address the **developmental imbalances** in six eastern districts of Nagaland:
- ❖ **Kiphire, Longleng, Mon, Noklak, Shamator, and Tuensang.**
- ❖ **Objective**
- ❖ To provide **executive, legislative, and financial autonomy** to these districts.
- ❖ Enables better governance and **focused resource allocation** to bridge the "development deficit."

Significance

- ❖ The region is home to **7 Naga tribes**:
- ❖ **Konyak, Khiamniungan, Chang, Sangtam, Tikhir, Phom, and Yimkhiong.**
- ❖ These tribes account for:
- ❖ **Over 30% of Nagaland's population.**
- ❖ **20 out of 60 legislative assembly seats** in the state.

Demand for Frontier Nagaland State

Key Points:

- ❖ The demand for a separate state for Eastern Nagaland was initiated in **2010**, led by the **ENPO**.

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has agreed to the ENPO's demand for **autonomy** in the proposed **Frontier Nagaland Territory (FNT)**.

Marburg Virus Disease Epidemic

Key Points:

- ❖ **Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) Outbreak:**
A suspected outbreak of MVD in Tanzania's Kagera region has raised alarm, resulting in 8 fatalities.

About Marburg Virus Disease (MVD)

- ❖ **Cause:** A deadly hemorrhagic fever caused by the **Marburg virus**.
- ❖ **Fatality Rate:** Extremely high, reaching up to **89%**, with no approved treatments available.

Symptoms:

- ❖ Severe fever
- ❖ Headache
- ❖ Vomiting blood
- ❖ Bleeding, resembling symptoms of the **Ebola virus**.

Transmission:

- ❖ Spread to humans from **fruit bats (Rousettus aegyptiacus)**.
- ❖ Transmitted through **direct contact** with bodily fluids of infected individuals.
- ❖ **Diagnosis:** Confirmed using tests like **RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction)**.

About Tanzania

- ❖ Formerly known as **Tanganyika**, it is the **largest country in East Africa**.
- ❖ Includes the islands of **Zanzibar, Pemba, and Mafia**.

Geographical Borders:

- ❖ Bordered by the **Indian Ocean** and **8 countries**.
- ❖ Surrounded by **3 of Africa's largest lakes**:
- ❖ **Lake Victoria** (world's 2nd largest freshwater lake).

- ❖ **Lake Tanganyika.**
- ❖ **Lake Nyasa.**



ISRO's Third Launch Complex

Key Points:

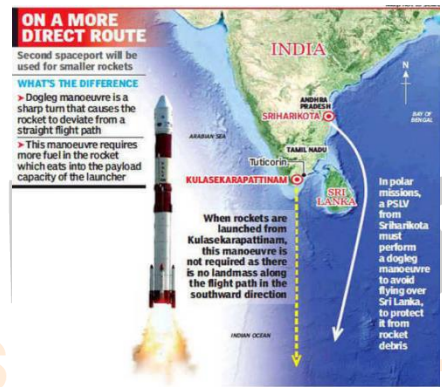
Future Vision of ISRO

- ❖ **Crewed Lunar Landing:** India aims to achieve a **crewed lunar landing by 2040.**
- ❖ **Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS):** Planned for **2035**, requiring heavier launch vehicles.
- ❖ The development of **heavier launch vehicles** necessitates additional launch pad infrastructure beyond the current facilities.
- ❖ **Third Launch Pad (TLP) at SDSC**
- ❖ Approved by the **Union Cabinet** at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)**, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Designed to handle spacecraft weighing up to **30,000 tonnes** in **low Earth orbit.**
- ❖ Supports **Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)**, **LVM3** vehicles with semi-cryogenic stages, and **scaled-up NGLV configurations.**
- ❖ **Existing Launch Pads**
- ❖ **First Launch Pad (FLP):**
- ❖ Primarily used for **PSLV launches.**
- ❖ Continues to support launches for **PSLV and SSLV.**

Second Launch Pad (SLP):

- ❖ Initially set up for **GSLV and LVM3.**

- ❖ Functions as a **backup for PSLV.**
- ❖ Achievements:
- ❖ Successfully launched the **Chandrayaan-3 mission.**
- ❖ Preparing for the **upcoming Gaganyaan missions.**
- ❖ **Second Rocket Launchport at Kulasekarapattinam**
- ❖ **Location:** Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ **Foundation Stone Laid: 2024.**
- ❖ Purpose:
- ❖ Dedicated to **commercial, on-demand, and small satellite (SSLV) launches.**
- ❖ Avoids the **dogleg manoeuvre over Sri Lanka.**



QS World Future Skills Rankings 2025

Key Points:

Why In News

- ❖ India ranks **25th** in the **QS World Future Skills Index 2025**, positioning it as a **"future skills contender".**
- ❖ The index evaluates countries' preparedness to meet the **evolving demands of the global job market.**
- ❖ **What is the QS World Future Skills Index?**
- ❖ **About**
- ❖ Developed by **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)**, the index ranks countries based on their readiness to meet global job market demands, focusing on **innovation, sustainability, and talent development.**

❖ Indicators

Skills Fit:

- ❖ Evaluates how well a country's **education systems align with employer demands**.

Academic Readiness:

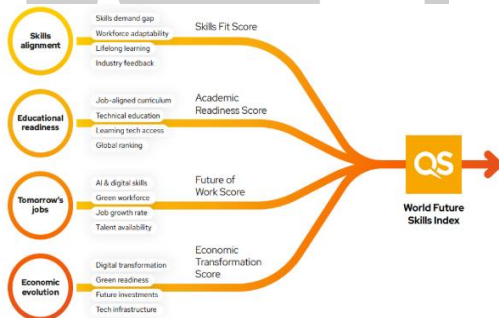
- ❖ Measures the capacity of higher education to equip students with **future-relevant skills** in fields like **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, digital technologies, and green industries.

Economic Transformation:

- ❖ Assesses adaptability to economic changes by examining the **interplay between education, workforce skills, and industrial growth**, with an emphasis on productivity, innovation, and sustainability.

Future of Work:

- ❖ Analyzes a country's **preparedness for future jobs**, focusing on adaptability to **technological and industrial changes**.



How Has India Performed in the QS World Future Skills Index 2025?

Future of Work

- ❖ **Rank:** 2nd globally, behind the US.
- ❖ Reflects India's **demand-driven readiness** for emerging job roles in AI, digital technologies, and green industries.

Academic Readiness

- ❖ **Rank:** 26th.
- ❖ Indicates **moderate alignment** between higher education and future job market demands.
- ❖ Highlights India's **emphasis on innovation and adaptability**, though further strengthening is required.

Skills Fit

- ❖ **Rank:** 37th, the **lowest among the top 30 countries**.
- ❖ Exposes significant gaps between the **workforce's skills** and **employer demands**, showcasing challenges in higher education's responsiveness to market needs.

Economic Transformation

- ❖ **Rank:** 40th.
- ❖ Highlights challenges in **innovation** and aligning **economic strategies** with workforce adaptability.

