

### Indian Chemical Council conferred with 2024 OPCW The Hague Award

#### Key Points:

- ❖ The Indian Chemical Council, an apex body representing the Indian chemical Industry, was conferred with the 2024 OPCW The Hague Award in a ceremony in the Hague, Netherlands, on 25 November 2024. The Director General of the Indian Chemical Council, D. Sothi Selvam, received the award.



#### 29th Session of the CSP of the OPCW

- ❖ The award was conferred on the Indian Chemical Council during the 29th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
- ❖ The 29th session of the CSP is being held from 25-29 November 2024 at the Hague, Netherlands.
- ❖ The Conference of the States Parties (CSP) meets annually at the Hague to oversee the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, promote the Convention's objectives, and review compliance with the treaty.
- ❖ The CSP includes all 193 countries that are members of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

#### About Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

- ❖ The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons was established in 1997 under the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

- ❖ The Chemical Weapons Convention was signed in 1992 and came into force in 1997.
- ❖ The Chemical Weapons Convention was adopted at the United Nations Conference on Disarmament held in Geneva, Switzerland, on September 3, 1992.
- ❖ The Chemical Weapons Convention is the first international treaty that seeks to eliminate a weapon of mass destruction.
- ❖ The convention completely prohibits production, stockpiling, transfer and use of chemical weapons in the world.
- ❖ The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons was established to implement the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- ❖ Members: 193 countries have signed and ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- ❖ As of date, Angola, South Sudan, Egypt and North Korea have not signed the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- ❖ Headquarters: The Hague, Netherlands.

#### Indian Chemical Council

- ❖ A group of Indian industrialists established the Indian Chemical Council in 1938 as the Indian Chemical Manufacturers Association.
- ❖ It is the apex national body of Indian companies in the business of Organic and inorganic Chemicals, Plastics, Petrochemicals, Petroleum Refineries, Dyestuffs and dye intermediates, Fertilizers, Pesticides, Specialty Chemicals, and Paints.
- ❖ Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ❖ Director General: D. Sothi Selvam

#### India Launches 'Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat' Campaign Against Child Marriage

- ❖ On 27 November 2024, the government of India launched the 'Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat' campaign to eradicate the social evil of child marriage.

- ❖ The government also unveiled the Child Marriage Free Bharat portal to support the campaign.
- ❖ The Campaign will be supervised by the Union Ministry of Child and Women Development. According to the government, it will continue until the social evil of child marriage is eradicated from the country.

#### **Who launched the Bal Vivah Mukh Bharat campaign?**

- ❖ The 'Bal Vivah Mukh Bharat' campaign was launched by the Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Annpurna Devi in New Delhi on 27 November 2024.
- ❖ The minister also unveiled the 'Child Marriage Free Bharat' portal. The portal will support the campaign's mission by raising public awareness against child marriage, preventing child marriage, and reporting incidents of child marriage.

#### **Focus of the Campaign**

- ❖ The campaign will focus on 130 districts of the country where the incidence of child marriage is very high. It will involve the concerned central and state government departments, district Child Marriage Prohibition Officers, civil society members and organisations and the media.

#### **Status of Child Marriage in India**

- ❖ Parliament has enacted the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 to prohibit child marriage, protect and provide relief to victims and enhance punishment for those who abet, promote or solemnise such marriage.
- ❖ The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 replaced the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929. According to the 2006 Act, child marriage refers to a marriage where the age of the groom (male) is less than 21 years or the age of the bride (girl) is less than 18 years.

#### **According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5, the status of Child marriage in India is as follows:**

- ❖ The percentage of girls getting married before age 18 declined from 47 per cent in 2005-06 to 27 per cent in 2015-2016.
- ❖ This means that 1 out of 5 girls get married before the age of 18.
- ❖ The maximum prevalence of child marriage is amongst Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, with 26 per cent of the girls getting married before the age of 18 years.
- ❖ Eight states-West Bengal, Bihar, Tripura Jharkhand, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana have a higher prevalence of child marriage than the national average.

#### **Divith Reddy: Under-8 World Cadets Chess Champion 2024**

- ❖ Eight-year-old Divith Reddy of Hyderabad, Telangana, has won the Under-8 World Cadets Chess Championship in Montesilvano, Italy. Divith, with a FIDE rating of 1784, started the Championships brilliantly by winning the first four of his matches. However, he lost his next two matches but bounced back to win his last five matches and the title.

#### **Does Rahul Gandhi have UK passport? Does India allow dual citizenship?**

- ❖ The controversy over Citizenship of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took a new turn on Monday when the Allahabad High Court directed the Ministry of Home Affairs to decide upon a petition questioning his Indian nationality by December 19, Bar and Bench reported. The petition has been filed by one S Vignesh Shishir. The petitioner has alleged that the person holds dual citizenship and is a citizen of the United

Kingdom as well, and the CBI should probe this matter

- ❖ The bench of Justices Attau Rahman Masoodi and Subhash Vidyarthi passed an interim order, enquiring from the MHA to inform the court about their decision by the next hearing.
- ❖ "The plea has been received by the Centre and is currently under process," said Deputy Solicitor General of India SB Pandey during the hearing. The case has now been adjourned till December 19, when the MHA is likely to report back to the court.
- ❖ The issue is not new. In 2022, a similar petition was filed by VSS Sarma, asking the British government for details regarding Rahul Gandhi's citizenship.
- ❖ While the British government had not yet responded, the issue gained momentum when Shishir brought it to the Indian courts. Shishir's PIL requests that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe the matter and demands action under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Passport Act.
- ❖ He also sought to cancel Gandhi's electoral certificate, citing direct communication from the UK government, which allegedly listed Gandhi as a British citizen.

### What Is Dual Citizenship?

- ❖ Dual citizenship refers to an individual holding legal citizenship in two or more countries simultaneously. This status allows individuals to:
- ❖ Hold passports from multiple nations.
- ❖ Enjoy equivalent legal and social rights.
- ❖ Participate in the political processes of both nations.
- ❖ Receive visa exemptions and employment rights in both countries.

### Is Dual Citizenship Allowed in India?

- ❖ No. India's Constitution does not permit dual citizenship. If an Indian citizen voluntarily acquires citizenship in another country, their Indian citizenship is automatically revoked.
- ❖ The Citizenship Act, 1955, governs citizenship laws in India. Section 9(2) outlines the procedure for investigating and determining questions of citizenship, a provision that has been invoked in cases like Gandhi's.

### Supreme Court: Misusing Religious Conversion for Reservation is Constitutional Fraud

- ❖ The Supreme Court has ruled that religious conversion undertaken solely to access reservation benefits, without genuine belief or adherence to the adopted religion, is a misuse of constitutional provisions and undermines the purpose of reservation policies. In a recent verdict, the court denied a Scheduled Caste (SC) certificate to a woman born as a Christian who claimed to be Hindu in her application for a government job in Puducherry. Upholding a Madras High Court order, the bench, comprising Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice R. Mahadevan, stated that such practices contradict the essence of reservation policies and amount to constitutional fraud.

ସୁପ୍ରିମକୋର୍ଟ ଏକ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ରାୟରେ କହିଛନ୍ତି ଯେ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣର ଲାଭ ପାଇବା ପାଇଁ ଧର୍ମ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ କରିବା ସାଧାରଣ ଲୋକଙ୍କ ଲାଭହୀନ ବିରୁଦ୍ଧ ଅଟେ। ଏଥିସହ ସୁପ୍ରିମକୋର୍ଟ ମାନ୍ଦ୍ରାସ ହାଇକୋର୍ଟଙ୍କ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତିକୁ କାଏମ ରଖିଛନ୍ତି। ମାନ୍ଦ୍ରାସ ହାଇକୋର୍ଟ ଜଣେ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ମହିଳାଙ୍କୁ ଏକ ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜାତି (ଏସ୍ଟି) ପ୍ରମାଣପତ୍ର ଦେବାକୁ ମନା କରିଥିଲେ। ଏହି ମହିଳା ପୁଡୁଚେରୀରେ ଅପର ଡିଭିଜନ୍ କ୍ଲକ୍ (ସୁପିରି) ଡାକିରି ପାଇଁ ଏସ୍ଟି ସାର୍ଟିଫିକେଟ୍ ଚାହୁଁଥିଲେ। ଏଥିପାଇଁ ସେ ନିଜକୁ ହିନ୍ଦୁ ବୋଲି ଘୋଷଣା କରିଥିଲେ।

କଞ୍ଚିସ ପକ୍ଷର ନିରାକ୍ଷ ଏବଂ କଞ୍ଚିସ ଆଇ. ମହାଦେବନଙ୍କ ନେତୃତ୍ୱରେ ଗଠିତବେଶ୍ଟ କହିଛନ୍ତି ଯେ ମହିଳା ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ଧର୍ମ ଅନୁସରଣ କରନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ନିୟମିତ ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚକୁ ଯାଆନ୍ତି। ଏହା ସତ୍ତ୍ୱେ ସେ ଏହି ଡାକିରି ପାଇଁ ଜଣେ ହିନ୍ଦୁ ଏବଂ ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଜାତିର ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ବୋଲି ଦାବି କରୁଛନ୍ତି। ଏହିପରି ଦୋଷରା ଦାବି ଠିକ୍ ନୁହେଁ।

- ❖ ବେଶ୍ଟ କହିଛନ୍ତି ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ଥିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଙ୍କୁ ଏସ୍ଟି ମାନ୍ୟତା ଦେବା କିନ୍ତୁ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପାଇଁ ନିଜକୁ ହିନ୍ଦୁ ବୋଲି ବର୍ଣ୍ଣନା କରିବା ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ବିରୁଦ୍ଧ ଅଟେ। ଏହା ସାଧାରଣ ପ୍ରତି ବିଶ୍ୱାସଯୋଗ୍ୟ ନୁହେଁ।

ଆଦାଲତ କହିଛନ୍ତି ଏହି ମାମଲା ଏକ ବଡ଼ ପ୍ରଶ୍ନ ସହିତ ଜଡ଼ିତ ଯେଉଁଥିରେ ଧର୍ମକୁ ଏସ୍ଟି / ଏସ୍ଟି ସଂରକ୍ଷଣର ଆଧାର କରିବା ପାଇଁ ସାଧାରଣକୃତା ଉପରେ ଶୁଣାଣି ଚାଲିଛି। ଏଥିରେ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ଏବଂ ମୁସଲମାନ ଦଳିତଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଦାବି କରାଯାଇଛି। ୧୯୫୦ର ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରପତିଙ୍କ ଆଦେଶ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ କେବଳ ହିନ୍ଦୁମାନେ ଏସ୍ଟି ମାନ୍ୟତା ପାଇପାରିବେ। ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପାଇଁ ଶିଖ୍ ଏବଂ ବୌଦ୍ଧଧର୍ମାମାନଙ୍କୁ ମଧ୍ୟ ହିନ୍ଦୁ ବୋଲି ବିବେଚନା କରାଯାଇଥାଏ। ୨୦୦୭ରେ, କଞ୍ଚିସ୍ ରଜନୀଥ ମିଶ୍ର ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ ଦଳିତ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ଏବଂ ମୁସଲମାନମାନଙ୍କୁ ଏସ୍ଟି ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିବାକୁ ପରାମର୍ଶ ଦେଇଥିଲେ।

କଞ୍ଚିସ ମହାଦେବନ କହିଛନ୍ତି ଯେ ଭାରତ ଏକ ଧର୍ମନିରପେକ୍ଷ ଦେଶ। ଧାରା ୨୫ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ, ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ନାଗରିକ ନିଜ ପସନ୍ଦର ଧର୍ମ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିବାର ଅଧିକାର ପାଇଛନ୍ତି। ଜଣେ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଅନ୍ୟ ଧର୍ମରେ ଯୋଗ ଦେଇଥାଏ ଯେତେବେଳେ ସେ ଏହାର ନୀତି ଏବଂ ଧାରଣା ସ୍ୱାଧୀନ ପ୍ରଭାବିତ ହୁଏ। କିନ୍ତୁ ଯଦି ଧାର୍ମିକ ଉପାନ୍ତର ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ କେବଳ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣର ଲାଭ ପାଇବା, ତେବେ ଏହାକୁ ଅନୁମତି ଦିଆଯାଇପାରିବ ନାହିଁ। ଏହିପରି ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପ୍ରଦାନ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ନୀତିର ସାମାଜିକ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟକୁ ବିଫଳ କରିବ।



ମାନ୍ୟତା ଦେବାକୁ ୨୪ ଡାକ୍ତରୀୟା ୨୦୨୩ର ଆଦେଶକୁ ଆବେଦନକାରୀ ସି ସେଲଭାରାଣି ତ୍ୟାଲେଜି କରିଥିଲେ। ହାଇକୋର୍ଟ ତାଙ୍କ ଆବେଦନକୁ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟାଖ୍ୟାନ କରିଥିଲେ। ସେଲଭାରାଣି କରିଥିଲେ ଯେ ସେ ହିନ୍ଦୁ ଧର୍ମକୁ ମାନନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ଭାଲୁଭାନ ଗାନ୍ଧି। ଏହି ଗାନ୍ଧି ୧୯୬୪ର ସମ୍ବିଧାନ (ପ୍ରତ୍ନତେରୀ) ଅନୁସୂଚିତ ଗାନ୍ଧି ଆଦେଶ ଅଧୀନରେ ଆସିଥାଏ। ତେଣୁ ସେ ଆଦି ଗାନ୍ଧିକୁ କୋଟା ଅଧୀନରେ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପାଇବାକୁ ହେବାପାଇଁ ସେଲଭାରାଣି ଯୁକ୍ତି କରିଥିଲେ, ସେ କହୁଛନ୍ତି ହିନ୍ଦୁ ଧର୍ମ ଅନୁସରଣ କରୁଛନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ମନ୍ଦିରକୁ ଯାଇ ହିନ୍ଦୁ ଦେବତାଙ୍କୁ ପୂଜା କରୁଛନ୍ତି।

ମହିବା ଜଣକ ଜଣେ ହିନ୍ଦୁ ପିତା ଏବଂ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ମାତାଙ୍କଠାରୁ ଜନ୍ମ ହୋଇଥିବା ଅନେକ ଡକ୍ଟ୍ରେମେଣ୍ଟ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ କୋର୍ଟରେ ପ୍ରମାଣ କରିବାକୁ ଚେଷ୍ଟା କରିଥିଲେ। ବିବାହ ପରେ ତାଙ୍କ ମା' ମଧ୍ୟ ହିନ୍ଦୁ ଧର୍ମ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଥିଲେ। ତାଙ୍କର ଜେଜେବାପା ଏବଂ ପରଜେଜେବାପାମାନେ ଭାଲୁଭାନ ଗାନ୍ଧି ଥିଲେ। ସେ ଆହୁରି ମଧ୍ୟ ଦାବି କରିଛନ୍ତି ଯେ ତାଙ୍କ ଶିକ୍ଷାଗତ ଜୀବନରେ ସେ ଏସ୍‌ସି ସମ୍ପ୍ରଦାୟର ବୋଲି ବିବେଚନା କରାଯାଇଥିଲେ। ତାଙ୍କର ସ୍ଥାନାନ୍ତର ପ୍ରମାଣପତ୍ର ମଧ୍ୟ ତାଙ୍କ ଗାନ୍ଧି ନିଶ୍ଚିତ କରିଛି। ତାଙ୍କ ବାପା ଏବଂ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀ ଏସ୍‌ସି ସାଙ୍ଗରେ ଥିଲେ।

ତେବେ ଏହି ଘଟଣାର ସମସ୍ତ ଅନୁଧ୍ୟାନ କରିବା ପରେ ବେଞ୍ଚ କହିଛନ୍ତି ଯେ ଗ୍ରାମ ପ୍ରଶାସନିକ ଅଧିକାରୀଙ୍କ ରିପୋର୍ଟ ଏବଂ ଡକ୍ଟ୍ରେମେଣ୍ଟ ପ୍ରମାଣ ସ୍ପଷ୍ଟ ଭାବରେ ଦର୍ଶାଇଛି ଯେ ତାଙ୍କ ପିତା ଏସ୍‌ସି ସମ୍ପ୍ରଦାୟର ଏବଂ ମାତା ଜଣେ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ। ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ଗାନ୍ଧିଙ୍କ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ସେମାନେ ବିବାହ କରିଥିଲେ। ଏହା ପରେ, ସେଲଭାରାଣିଙ୍କ ପିତା ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ଧର୍ମ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଥିଲେ।

ତାଙ୍କ ଭାଇ ୬ ମେ' ୧୯୮୯ରେ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ହୋଇଥିଲେ। ସେଲଭାରାଣି ୨୨ ନଭେମ୍ବର ୧୯୯୦ରେ ଜନ୍ମଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ପ୍ରତ୍ନତେରୀର ଭିଲିଆନୁରର କୋର୍ଟ୍‌ସ୍ ଶ୍ରୀଲନରେ ୬ ଡାକ୍ତରୀୟା ୧୯୯୧ରେ ସେ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ହୋଇଥିଲେ। ତେଣୁ, ଏହା ସ୍ପଷ୍ଟ ଯେ ସେଲଭାରାଣି ଜନ୍ମରୁ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ସେ ଏସ୍‌ସି ସାଙ୍ଗରେ ପାଇବାକୁ ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ନୁହେଁ।

ବେଞ୍ଚ କହିଛନ୍ତି ଯେ ଯଦି ସେଲଭାରାଣି ଏବଂ ତାଙ୍କ ପରିବାର ପ୍ରକୃତରେ ଧର୍ମ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ କରିବାକୁ ଚାହାନ୍ତି, ତେବେ ସେମାନେ କେବଳ ହିନ୍ଦୁ ବୋଲି କହିବା ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତେ ଏହାକୁ ପ୍ରମାଣ କରିବା ପାଇଁ କିଛି ଠୋକ୍ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିବା ଉଚିତ୍। ଧାର୍ମିକ ରୂପାନ୍ତରର ଗୋଟିଏ ଉପାୟ ହେଉଛି ଆଧ୍ୟାତ୍ମିକ ସମାଜ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ। ଏହି ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନକୁ ସର୍ବସାଧାରଣରେ ଘୋଷଣା କରାଯାଇପାରେ। ଏହା ସହିତ ସୁପ୍ରିମକୋର୍ଟ ମହିଳାଙ୍କ ଯୁକ୍ତିକୁ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟାଖ୍ୟାନ କରିଥିଲେ ଯେ ସେ ତିନି ମାସକୁ କମ୍ ବୟସରେ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ହୋଇଥିଲେ।

କୋର୍ଟ କହିଛନ୍ତି ଯେ ଏହି ଯୁକ୍ତି ଆମ ପାଇଁ ସଠିକ୍ ମନେହୁଏ ନାହିଁ କାରଣ ସେ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ପଞ୍ଜିକରଣକୁ ବାତିଲ କରିବାକୁ କୌଣସି ଉଦ୍ୟମ କରିନାହାନ୍ତି କିମ୍ବା ଏ ବାବଦରେ କୌଣସି ମାମଲା ତାଙ୍କର କରିନାହାନ୍ତି। ଅଦାଲତ କହିଛନ୍ତି, ଅନୁସରଣରୁ ଜଣାପଡିଛି ଯେ ତାଙ୍କ ପିତାମାତା ଭାରତୀୟ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ବିବାହ ଆଇନ, ୧୮୬୨ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ ବିବାହ କରିଥିଲେ।

ସେଲଭାରାଣି ଏବଂ ତାଙ୍କ ଭାଇ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ହୋଇଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ନିୟମିତ ଭାବରେ ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚରେ ଯୋଗ ଦେଇଥିଲେ। ସେ ପୁନର୍ବାର ହିନ୍ଦୁ ଧର୍ମ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଥିଲେ ବୋଲି କୌଣସି ପ୍ରମାଣ ନାହିଁ। ଅପରପକ୍ଷେ, ପ୍ରକୃତ କଥା ହେଉଛି ସେମାନେ ଏବେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଖ୍ରୀଷ୍ଟିଆନ ଧର୍ମ ପାଳନ କରୁଛନ୍ତି ବୋଲି କୋର୍ଟ କହିବା ସହିତ ଏହି ଆବେଦନକୁ ଖାରଜ କରିଛନ୍ତି।

❖

❖

❖

❖ The court remarked, “A dual claim, where an individual professes Christianity but identifies as Hindu solely to gain SC benefits, is untenable.

❖ Granting Scheduled Caste status to someone embracing Hinduism only for availing reservations undermines the very objective of the policy.”

❖ The appellant argued that she was born to a Hindu father and Christian mother, both of whom later practiced Hinduism. She claimed that her family belonged to the Valluvan caste, and her father and brother held SC certificates.

❖ However, the court found evidence that her father, originally from an SC community, had converted to Christianity. The appellant herself was baptized in 1991, shortly after her birth.

### Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das Prabhu Arrested In Bangladesh

❖ A petition was submitted to the Bangladesh high court on Wednesday seeking a ban on the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) amid escalating violence targeting the Hindu community.

❖ The petition also calls for imposing a state of emergency in Chittagong and Rangpur to prevent further unrest, as protests continue to grip both cities. The court asked attorney general Md Asaduzzaman to inform the court about the government's steps on Thursday, the report added.

ଆନ୍ତର୍ଜାତିକ କୃଷ୍ଣଚେତନା ସଙ୍ଘ ବା "International Society for Krishna Consciousness" (ISKCON) ବା ଭାଷନ ଏକ ଗୋଟିଆ ଚୈଷ୍ଟବ ଧାର୍ମିକ ସଙ୍ଘଠନ । ଏହା ହରେକୃଷ୍ଣ ଆନ୍ଦୋଳନ ନାମରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଖ୍ୟାତ । ଏ.ସି. ଭକ୍ତିଚେତନା ସ୍ବାମୀ ପ୍ରଭୁପାଦକଟ୍ଟାରା ଏହି ଧାର୍ମିକ ସଙ୍ଘଠନ ୧୯୬୬ ମସିହାରେ ଆମେରିକାର ନିଉୟର୍କଠାରେ ଜୁଲାଇ ୧୯୬୬ରେ ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାକାର କରିଥିଲେ ।

❖

❖ ISKCON's main headquarters is in Mayapur, West Bengal, India and it claims approximately 1 million members globally. The practice of mantra chanting and devotional singing, also known as Kirtan, is prominent in the ISKCON movement.

❖ The high court bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice Debasish Roy Chowdhury reportedly passed the order after a Supreme Court lawyer, Moniruzzaman, placed two newspaper reports on ISKCON before the bench. The high court has asked the government to take immediate measures to address the situation, which has raised concerns over the safety of religious minorities in the country.

❖ The unrest stems from the arrest of prominent Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das Prabhu on November 25 at the Dhaka airport. The monk, known for advocating the rights and security of religious minorities, has been charged with sedition and denied bail.

❖ Following his arrest, protests erupted across Bangladesh, with the Hindu community demanding his release. Demonstrations outside the Chittagong court turned violent, resulting in the death of a lawyer, allegedly at the hands of a mob.

❖ More than 20 people were injured in related clashes. Chinmoy Krishna Das Prabhu had reportedly organised several protests in recent months, calling attention to atrocities

against Hindus in Bangladesh and demanding stronger protections for the community.

- ❖ His detention has intensified fears among religious minorities, who view the charges as an attempt to silence dissent.

### Essar Group Chairman Shashi Ruia Passes Away

- ❖ Shashikant Ruia, co-founder and Chairman of Essar Group, passed away at 81 after a prolonged illness. Known for his visionary leadership, Ruia played a pivotal role in shaping India's corporate landscape and making Essar a global conglomerate.
- ❖ Shashikant Ruia, co-founder and Chairman of Essar Group, passed away at 81 after a prolonged illness. Known for his visionary leadership, Ruia played a pivotal role in shaping India's corporate landscape and making Essar a global conglomerate.
- ❖ His journey from a modest family business to establishing a world-class enterprise is a testament to his exceptional acumen, commitment to innovation, and dedication to philanthropy.



### India signs the Final Act of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty

- ❖ India has signed the final act of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty (DLT), reaffirming its commitment to fostering inclusive growth and ensuring equitable access to intellectual property protection. The DLT seeks to harmonise the procedural frameworks for industrial design protection, improving the efficiency and accessibility of

registration processes across multiple jurisdictions.

- ❖ After nearly two decades of negotiations, the member states of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) adopted the landmark Design Law Treaty during a diplomatic conference in Riyadh.
- ❖ According to the WIPO, the current draft text with the working title Design Law Treaty would make it significantly easier for designers, especially smaller-scale designers and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to register their work.



### Centre approves ₹1,115 crore to states for disaster mitigation, capacity building projects

- ❖ A high-level committee, headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has approved ₹1,000 crore for various disaster mitigation and capacity-building projects in 15 states.
- ❖ The committee also approved another project for training and capacity building of civil defence volunteers in all States and Union territories at a total outlay of ₹115.67 crore.
- ❖ A sum of ₹139 crore each was approved for Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, ₹100 crore for Maharashtra, ₹72 crore each for Karnataka and Kerala, ₹50 crore each for Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, and ₹378 crore for the eight Northeastern states — Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura.

- ❖ The committee, comprising Union ministers for finance and agriculture and the vice chairman of the NITI Aayog as members, considered the proposal to mitigate landslide risk in 15 states for funding from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF).
- ❖ Earlier, the committee approved Urban Flood Risk Mitigation Projects in seven cities at a total outlay of ₹3075.65 crore and Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) risk management projects in four states at a total outlay of ₹150 crore from the NDMF.

### 3rd India-Tanzania Joint Defence Cooperation Committee meeting held in Goa

- ❖ The third edition of the Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting between India and Tanzania took place in Goa. During the meeting, the two sides discussed a wide range of areas of cooperation, including growing training partnerships and service-to-service, maritime & defence industry collaboration.



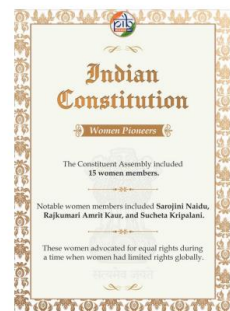
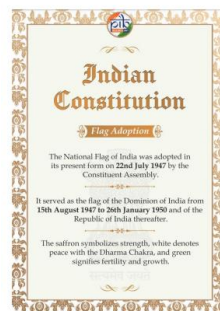
- ❖ The Indian delegation, led by Joint Secretary Shri Amitabh Prasad, included senior officials from the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces. The High Commissioner of India to Tanzania Shri Bishwadip Dey also attended the meeting.

The Tanzanian delegation was led by Land Forces Commander Maj Gen Fadhil Omary Nondo.

- ❖ The Tanzanian delegation will visit Goa Shipyard Ltd to get first-hand experience of India's capabilities in port development and shipbuilding. The delegation is also scheduled to visit INS Hansa and the National Institute of Hydrography in Goa.

### 26 November – World Sustainable Transport Day

- ❖ World Sustainable Transport Day is observed annually on November 26th, recognises the important role of safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all in supporting sustainable economic growth, improving the social welfare of people and enhancing international cooperation and trade among countries, the General Assembly decided, in its resolution A/RES/77/286 of May 2023 to declare 26 November as World Sustainable Transport Day.
- ❖ Sustainable transport — with its objectives of universal access, enhanced safety, reduced environmental and climate impact, improved resilience, and greater efficiency — is central to sustainable development.



○○○○

