

'Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024'

Recently 'Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024' has been released, the number of unicorns in the country has decreased to 67 for the first time in four years.



Key point

- ❖ This index is compiled by the Hurun Research Institute. It includes unlisted companies established in the 2000s with a current valuation of \$1 billion.
- ❖ India still remains in third position globally in terms of unicorns. Edtech company Byjus has been out of the unicorn club.
- ❖ India's startup ecosystem has slowed down with the number of unicorns declining for the first time since 2017.
- ❖ However Indian founders have produced more offshore unicorns than any other country.
- ❖ Hurun's Unicorn Index in previous years had reported 68 unicorns in India in 2023 and 2022, 54 in 2021, and 21 unicorns in 2020 and 2019.
- ❖ Hoogewerf, chairman of the Hurun report, said that significantly all of the unicorns founded outside India were in the United States (95).

- ❖ City-wise, Bengaluru is at seventh position with 32 unicorns and Mumbai is at 19th position with 14 unicorns.
- ❖ Food delivery platform Swiggy and fantasy sports-focused Dream11 are India's most valuable unicorns, the report said. Their valuation is eight billion dollars. Razorpay is in second place with a valuation of \$7.5 billion. While Swiggy and Dream11 are ranked 83rd in the list prepared globally, Razorpay is ranked 94th.
- ❖ San Francisco with 190 unicorns, New York with 133 unicorns and Beijing with 78 unicorns were the leading unicorns in the world.
- ❖ Globally, ByteDance became the most valuable unicorn with a valuation of \$220 billion, followed by SpaceX (\$180 billion), OpenAI (\$100 billion), Ant Group (\$80 billion), Shein (\$65 billion).

Country	number of unicorns
America	703
China	240
India	67
UK	53
Germany	36

Coin stores in Phanigiri

Recently, the Department of Archeology and Museums has unearthed a hoard of coins at Phanigiri in Suryapet district of Telangana.



Key point

- ❖ The Department of Archeology and Museums has unearthed a coin hoard at Phanigiri in Suryapet district of Telangana.
- ❖ Lead coins have been found in the excavation which have an elephant on one side and the symbol of Ujjain on the other.
- ❖ According to archaeologists, these coins belong to the Ikshvaku period, which is between the 3rd century to the 4th century.
- ❖ Apart from this, stone beads, glass beads, fragments of conch shell bangles, plaster figures, broken limestone statues, a wheel of a toy cart, and earthen pots have also been found in the excavation.
- ❖ Mahastupa, semicircular chaityagriha, votive stupa, pillared congregation hall, vihara, platforms with stairs at different levels, octagonal stupa chaitya, 24-pillar mandapam and

circular chaitya have also been excavated.

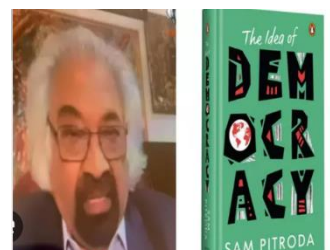
- ❖ The excavations also yielded a variety of cultural materials, including terracotta beads, Brahmi label inscriptions, and sacred relic coffin nails.

About Funigiri

- ❖ Phanigiri is a famous Buddhist site located 110 km from Hyderabad.
- ❖ The place takes its name from the shape of the hill, which appears to resemble the hood of a snake as the word Phani in Sanskrit means 'snake' and Giri means 'hill'.
- ❖ It is one of the important Buddhist monasteries strategically located on the Dakshinapath, the ancient trade route connecting the west and east coast of the Deccan.

Sam Pitroda's book The Idea of Democracy

Renowned author Sam Pitroda has written a new book titled 'The Idea of Democracy', which explores the current state of democracy and its potential challenges in countries like India and the United States. Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal and other eminent personalities from the literary world attended the book release program.



Key point

- ❖ During his conversation with Sibal, Pitroda discussed his reasons for writing such a book at a time when many countries are facing elections in 2024.
- ❖ Pitroda's book addresses the paradox of so-called democratic success as well as its liberal downfall.
- ❖ It provides a detailed analysis of the essence of democracy, its functioning, the values necessary to encapsulate it, and the forces and safeguards that can help preserve liberal democracy.
- ❖ The book aims to encourage dialogue, especially among youth, on the meaning of democracy and its role in its survival and prosperity in the coming era.
- ❖ Sam Pitroda is a globally recognized telecommunications inventor, entrepreneur, development thinker, and policymaker with over 50 years of experience in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and related global and national development.

Supreme Court expanded the scope of Articles 14 and 21

The Supreme Court recently, said that people have the right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change as recognized by Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution.



Key point

- ❖ A bench of Chief Justice Dr Dhananjay Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Mishra said that "the inability of disadvantaged communities to adapt to climate change or deal with its impacts violates the right to life as well as the right to equality "
- ❖ The Supreme Court observed that India has made significant commitments in global environmental protection, participating in agreements such as the **Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement**. These agreements aim to combat climate change through measures such as emissions reduction targets and international cooperation mechanisms.
- ❖ The UNFCCC outlines the collective responsibility of nations to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations and avoid dangerous interference with the climate system.
- ❖ **Article 48A** directs the State to protect and improve the environment, and **Article 51A(g)** imposes the duty on every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment. While these provisions are not directly enforceable, they underline the importance of environmental protection in the Constitution.

- ❖ The Supreme Court holds that constitutional rights such as the right to life (Article 21) and equality before law (Article 14) are interpreted to include the right to a clean environment and protection from the adverse effects of climate change.

Article 14: Right to equality

- ❖ No person shall be deprived of his life or liberty except according to procedure established by law, nor shall any person be deprived of equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws.

Article 21: Protection of life and personal liberty

- ❖ Article 21 of the Indian Constitution guarantees the fundamental right to the protection of life and personal liberty. It ensures certain safeguards against arbitrary deprivation of life and liberty.

India achieved the target of eliminating Kala Azar

India has achieved its target of eliminating visceral leishmaniasis, commonly known as kala-azar, according to data from the National Center for Vector Borne Disease Control (NCVBDC).



Key point

- ❖ India initially targeted to eliminate kala-azar by 2010, but due to persistent challenges, the target was extended to 2023.
- ❖ India had achieved the target of recording less than one case per 10,000 population in all blocks in 2023 in its efforts to eliminate Kala Azar – the second deadliest parasitic disease after malaria in the country.
- ❖ According to WHO, in 2020, India accounted for 18 percent of the global burden of kala-azar.
- ❖ The latest data from NCVBDC indicated India recorded only 520 cases of kala-azar across India in 2023, meeting the elimination criteria set by the World Health Organization (WHO), which makes eradication one of the fastest in any block in the country. Defines a case as having more than one report.

About Kala-azar

- ❖ It is a disease caused by the protozoan parasite Leishmania (a disease spread by the bite of sand fly).
- ❖ It grows slowly and mainly affects organs such as the spleen, liver, and bone marrow.

❖ In India, it is caused by *Leishmania donovani*. The term "kala-azar" means "black disease" caused by skin discoloration.

❖ Post-kala-azar dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL) occurs when the parasite affects skin cells. As a result, wounds occur on the skin.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Consider the following statements regarding 'Hurun Global Unicorn Stock 2024'

1. The US leads the unicorn list with 703 unicorns
2. India ranks third among 67 unicorns

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer- (c)

2. Consider the following statements in the context of 'excavation work done in Phanigiri'-

1. Lead coins have been found in the excavation which have an elephant on one side and the symbol of Ujjain on the other.
2. According to archaeologists, these coins belong to the Ikshvaku period, which is between the 3rd century to the 4th century.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (e) Only 1
- (f) Only 2
- (g) Both 1 and 2
- (h) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer- (c)

