

BEO - 16 Aug



# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## NEWS OF 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> AUGUST

**Date - 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**Time - 8:30 am to 9:15 am**

**By Sujeet sir**



# Question No: 1

QNO

Consider the following statements with respect to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):

1. The UNHRC has 47 members elected for one-year terms. 2 year X
2. Members are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- ☒ B. 2 only
- C. Both
- D. None

# Question No: 2

Consider the following statements with respect to Eravikulam National Park:

- ~~1.~~ It is home to the largest population of Nilgiri Tahr.
- ~~2.~~ It is located in Tamil Nadu.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

- ~~A.~~ 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both
- D. None

# Question No: 3

Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1. Garuda Shakti – Maldives

~~2. Mitra Shakti – Sri Lanka~~

~~3. Ekuverin – Indonesia~~

✓ 4. Surya Kiran – Nepal

# Question No: 3

Choose the correct option:

a.1 and 4 only

b.1, 2, 3 and 4 ✗

c.2 and 4 only

d.1, 2 and 3 only ✗

# Question No: 4

CAG

Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

1 Aug. 20  
76

1. Article 148 of the Indian Constitution provides for the office of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

1. CAG holds office for a period of 6 years or up to the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

CAG → Narhari Rao

M.C. Selved

# Question No: 1

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- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- ☒ C. Both
- D. None



# Question No: 5

Which is 1st state in India to partner with Google India to provide learning tools for schools?

- A. Punjab
- ~~B. Maharashtra~~
- C. Haryana
- D. Odisha

# Defence Ministry to impose import embargo on 101 items

101

Aim is to boost indigenous production, says Rajnath Singh

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

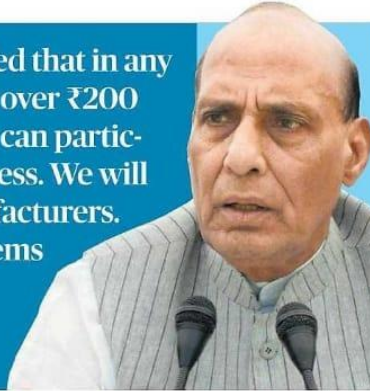
The Defence Ministry will “introduce import embargo on 101 items beyond given timeline to boost indigenisation of defence production”, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh announced through a series of tweets on Sunday.

Speaking at a function later in the day, he said the government intends to reach a turnover of \$25 billion through indigenously manufactured defence products and also expects to export products worth \$5 billion.

“Government has also decided that in any government contract over ₹200 crore, no foreign company can participate in the tendering process... We will help Indian defence manufacturers... This year ₹52,000 crore items [are] to be bought only from Indian

 The Centre has decided that in any government contract over ₹200 crore, no foreign company can participate in the tendering process. We will help Indian defence manufacturers. This year, ₹52,000 crore items will be bought only from Indian companies

RAJNATH SINGH, Defence Minister



companies,” Mr. Singh said in an online interaction.

“In his address to the nation on August 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will present the outline for a self-reliant India,” he added.

## LAC stand-off

The policy change comes in the wake of Chinese transgressions and the build-up along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh. China has refused to pull back from several areas, where it

has massed troops since May.

“The Ministry of Defence is now ready for a big push to #AtmanirbharBharat initiative... The Ministry has prepared a list of 101 items for which there would be an embargo on the import beyond the timeline indicated against them... This is a big step towards self-reliance in defence. #AtmanirbharBharat,” Mr. Singh tweeted.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8



# Loya jirga approves prisoner release

Of the 400 contentious Taliban militants to be freed, over 150 are on death row for serious crimes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
KABUL

The Afghan government and the Taliban are “on the verge of peace talks” after thousands of prominent Afghans approved the release of about 400 contentious militant prisoners, the head of Kabul’s peace council said on Sunday.

The prisoners’ fate has been a crucial hurdle in launching peace talks between the two warring sides, which had committed to completing a prisoner exchange before negotiations can start.

## Three-day meeting

The resolution was passed at the end of a three-day “loya jirga” – a traditional Afghan meeting of tribal elders sometimes held to decide on controversial issues. “In order to remove the hurdles for the start of peace talks, stopping bloodshed, and for the good of the public, the jirga approves the release of 400 prisoners as demanded



**A difficult trade-off:** Afghan President Ashraf Ghani holding up the resolution on the last day of the Loya Jirga in Kabul on Sunday. ■AP

by the Taliban,” jirga member Atefa Tayeb announced.

According to an official list seen by AFP, many of the inmates are accused of serious offences, including many involved in attacks that killed scores of Afghans and foreigners, with more than 150 of them on death row.

The jirga urged the government to give assurances to the population that the released prisoners would be

monitored and would not be allowed to return to the battlefield, adding that foreign fighters should be sent back to their respective countries.

It also demanded a “serious, immediate and lasting ceasefire” in the country.

“The decision of the loya jirga has removed the last excuse and obstacles on the way to peace talks. We are on the verge of peace talks,” said Abdullah Abdullah, who

is leading the government’s peace process and was appointed head of the loya jirga. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said he would sign a decree to release the prisoners on Sunday. “The Taliban should now demonstrate that they are not afraid of a nationwide ceasefire,” he said. The Afghan government has released almost 5,000 Taliban inmates, but authorities had baulked at

freeing the final prisoners demanded by the Taliban.

## High-profile attacks

The prisoners include 44 insurgents of particular concern to the United States and other countries for their role in “high-profile” attacks. Five are linked to the 2018 attack on the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul that killed 40 people, including 14 foreigners. A Taliban militant involved in the massive May 2017 truck bombing near the German embassy in Kabul is also on the list.

The family of French aid worker Bettina Goisard who was murdered in Afghanistan in 2003 said they would not accept the release of her killers, who are on the list. The decision has raised hopes for talks, however. “Based on the information I have, the intra-Afghan talks would begin within two to three days after the release of the 400 Taliban prisoners,” former President Hamid Karzai told the jirga.

Parl.  
Nat.  
Assembly  
शरीफ  
जिरी  
गिरा





INDIA'S FIRST  
**'KISAN RAIL'** FLAGGED OFF FROM  
MAHARASHTRA'S DEOLALI



→ Bihar

# UNESCO Recognises Venkataipur & Noliasahi of Odisha as 'Tsunami Ready'; India Becomes 1st Country in Indian Ocean Region to Receive the Honour



*Parts*



RECOGNISES  
TWO ODISHA VILLAGES AS  
TSUNAMI READY

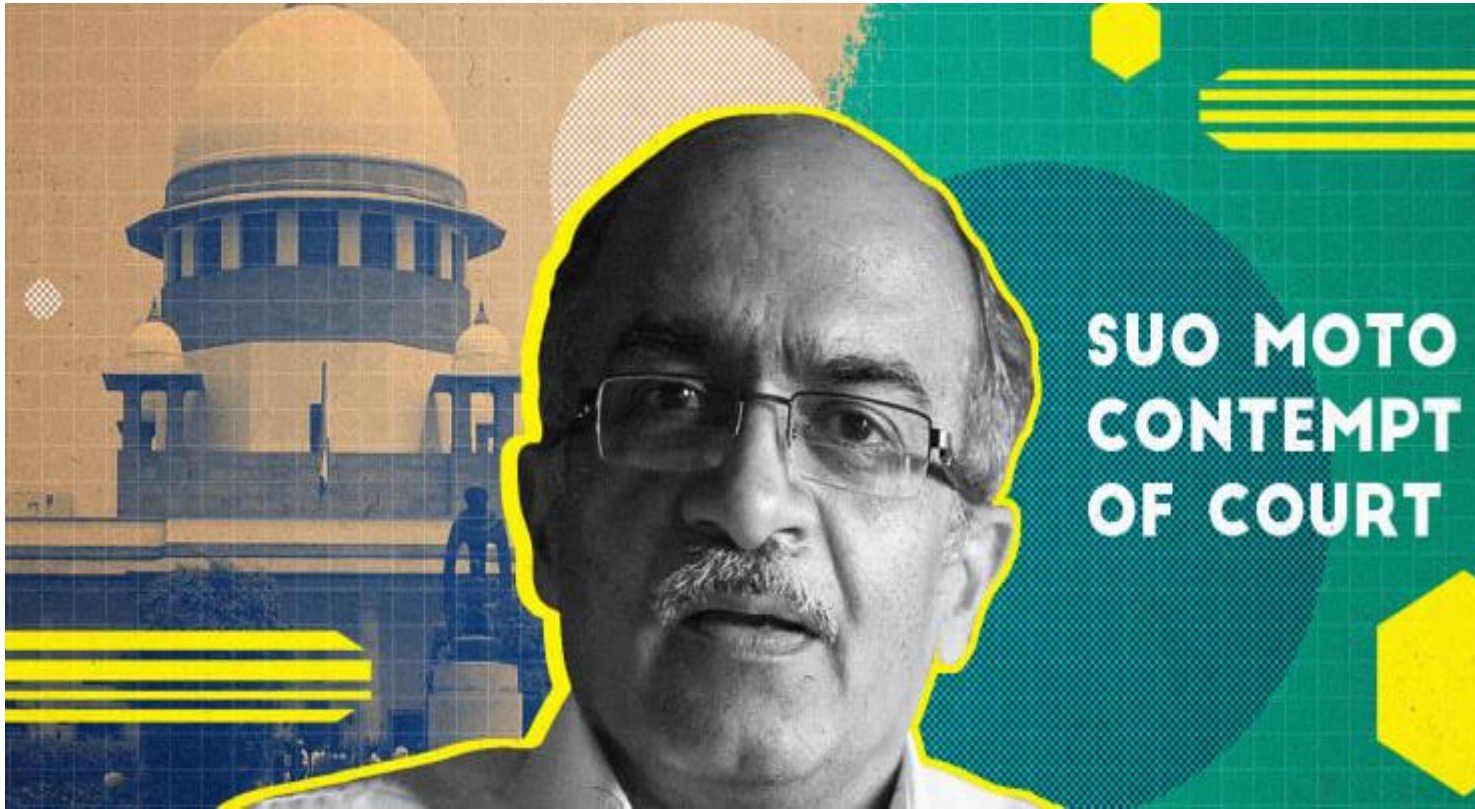
**Neena Rai** Authored the book titled **"Amazing Ayodhya"** will shed light on the history of Ayodhya





# SC to hear petition against contempt law on August 10

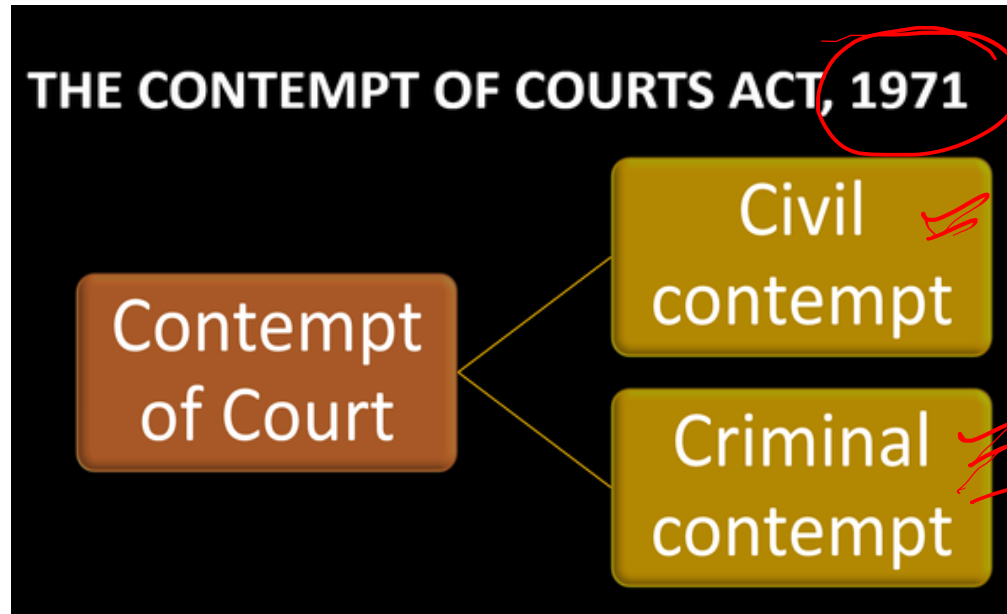
Art- 129



**Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a writ petition jointly filed by veteran journalists, along with advocate Prashant Bhushan, against the law of holding a person in contempt for ‘scandalising the court’.**



- CUAP*
- The petition has challenged the legality of Section 2(c)(i) of the Contempt of Court Act and the chilling effect it has on free speech and right to dissent. *value*
  - Section 2(c) (i) holds it is criminal contempt if a person publishes, by words spoken or written or by any other act, anything “which scandalises or tends to scandalise or lowers or tends to lower the authority of any court.”



यशविश्व खन्ना

- Civil contempt means willful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court or willful breach of an undertaking given to a court.
- Criminal contempt means the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representations, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which; scandalizes, prejudices or interferes the administration of justice in any other manner

**「CONTEMPT  
OF COURT」**



## 1. CONTEMPT OF COURT - POSITION UNDER INDIAN CONSTITUTION

- 1.ARTICLE 129 : Supreme Court to be a court of record -

The Supreme Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself.

- 2.ARTICLE 215 : High Courts to be courts of record - Every High Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself.

NOA

# Pompeo against vote for Cuba on Human Rights Council

*↳ medical diplomacy*



- **U.S. Secretary of State has urged UN members not to support Cuba's bid to join the organisation's Human Rights Council.**
- **He has accused Cuba of being a brutal dictatorship that traffics its own doctors under the guise of humanitarian missions and urged that no country should vote Cuba onto the council.**

2

- Cuba, which sat on the UNHRC in 2014-2016 and 2017-2019, has applied to fill one of the regional vacancies for 2021-2023.





## CUBA : FAST FACTS

Capital: Havana

Currency: Cuban Peso

Parliament: National Assembly of People's Power

**First Secretary of Communist Party:  
Raul Castro**



**President: Miguel Diaz**



# Cuba

- In 1959, Communist rebels under Fidel Castro overthrew the leader of Cuba and established a Communist government
- In 1961, the US government led a failed attempt to take Castro out of power it became known as the **Bay of Pigs Invasion**
- This led the Castro to allow Soviet Missiles to be put in to Cuba causing a massive standoff between the US and USSR known as the **Cuban Missile Crisis**

static GK





1962  
Cuba  
missile  
crisis



- **UNHRC** is a subsidiary of the General Assembly and the General Assembly elects the members of **UNHRC**.
- The Council is made of **47** Member States.

- The seats are distributed geographically and are awarded for a period of ~~three~~ years.
- Members are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.

**Seats are distributed as follows:**

- **African States: 13 seats**
- **Asia-Pacific States: 13 seats**
- **Latin American and Caribbean States: 8 seats**
- **Western European and other States: 7 seats**
- **Eastern European States: 6 seats**



# Policy prescription

Some key policy decisions of the Reserve Bank of India



■ **No extension**

announced  
on loan moratorium  
beyond August 31



■ Banks allowed  
to **restructure**  
stressed corporate and  
MSME loans



■ Relief to  
**individual**  
**borrowers** at banks'  
discretion



■ Borrowing limits  
against **gold** relaxed



■ Tenure can be  
extended upto two  
years for **personal loans**



■ **₹10,000 crore**  
support for  
NHB, NABARD

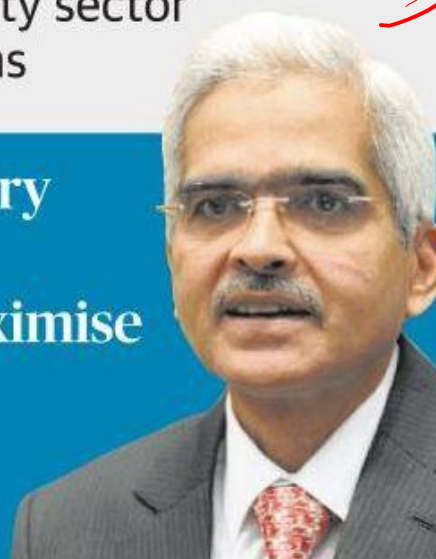


■ **Start-ups** included in  
priority sector  
lending norms



While space for further monetary  
policy action is available, it is  
important to use it judiciously to maximise  
the beneficial effects for underlying  
economic activity

SHAKTIKANTA DAS, RBI Governor



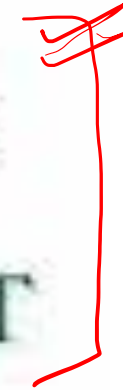
SAFALTA CLASS™  
An Initiative by अमर उजाला

RBI



**NABARD**

**NATIONAL BANK FOR  
AGRICULTURE AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**



- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Agency executive: ~~Harsh Kumar~~  
~~Bhanwala~~ (Chairperson)

Govinda Rajulu

Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted a Committee in 1979, under the **Chairmanship of Shri B. Sivaraman**, former member of Planning Commission.
- **Purpose:** Review the Arrangements for Institutional Credit for Agriculture and Rural Development (CRAFICARD)


- It resulted in foundation of NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) in 1982 as a statutory body under Parliamentary act-National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981.



**राष्ट्रीय  
आवास बैंक**  
**NATIONAL  
HOUSING BANK**



- NHB is an All India Financial Institution (AIFI), **set up in 1988**, under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.
- It is an apex agency established to operate as a principal agency to promote housing finance institutions

 NHAi

- **Managing Director: Sarada Kumar Hota**
- **Headquarters: New delhi**



# LANDSLIDE IN KERALA



**18 killed as landslide  
buries tea workers'  
quarters in Idukki**



# PROBLEM OF PLENTY

## Idukki dam

- > Height | 16768m (one of the highest arch dams in Asia)
- > Maximum permissible water level | 2,403ft
- > Current water level | 2,393ft (as on Saturday)
- > No of spillway shutters | Nil (Idukki, Cheruthoni & Kulamavu dams together form the reservoir. Five shutters of Cheruthoni will be opened to release water)

> Opened twice earlier |  
In 1981 and 1992

- > Time taken for water to reach Arabian sea | 6hrs
- > Areas to be affected (major points) | Released water will join Periyar through Cheruthoni river at Vallakayam. Then it will flow to lower Periyar dam, passing through Thadiyambadu, Karimban, Chelachuvadu, Keerithode, Pambala areas. Finally, it will reach Ernakulam (as shutters of lower dam are already opened) and empties into Arabian Sea

## Idukki Arch Dam

## Mullaperiyar Dam

## Mullaperiyar dam

- > Height | 53.6m (foundation)
- > Maximum permissible water level | 142ft

- > Current water level | 135.95ft (as on Saturday)
- > No of spillway shutters | 13
- > Time taken for water to reach Arabian sea | 9 hours (approx.)
- > Areas to be affected (major points) | Released water will flow through Upputhara, Chappath and Vallakkadavu areas to reach Idukki reservoir

## WARNING SIGNS



At 2,490ft  
Blue alert - Vigil



At 2,499ft  
Red alert - Very high vigil



At 2,495ft  
Orange alert - High vigil

Water is released when the level touches 2,400ft (considered safe level)

Arabian Sea

Illustration: Gireesh

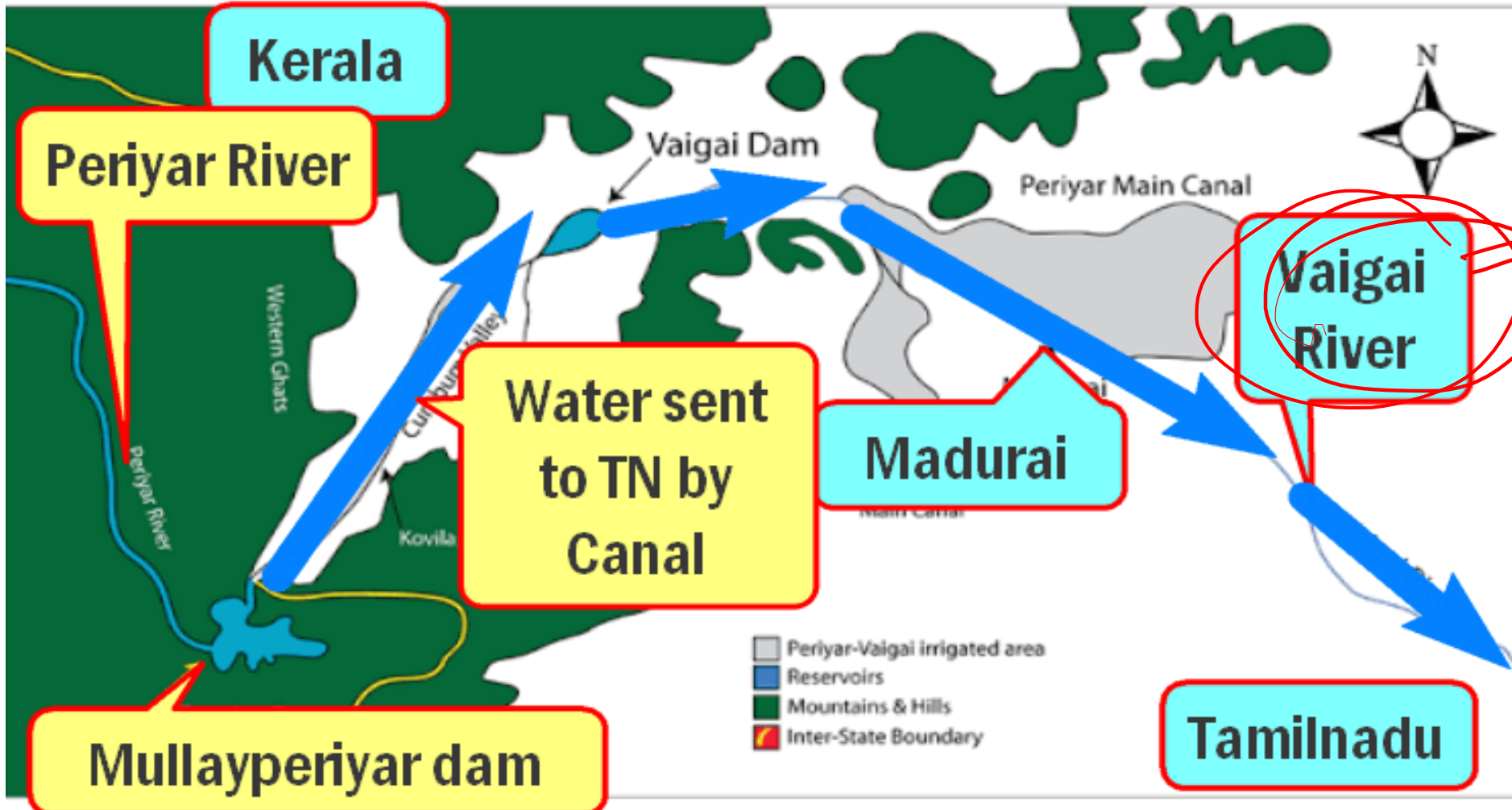
परिणाम

क्षेत्र (mm)



SAFALTA CLASS™  
An Initiative by अमर उजाला

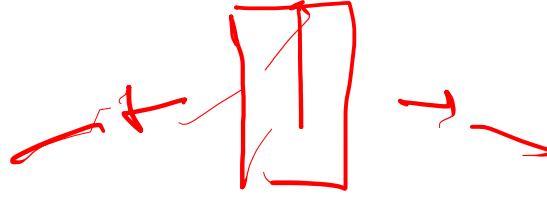
मल्लापेरियार  
Kerala  
+  
TN  
123





# Air India Flight IX-1344 crashes while landing





## Tabletop airports:

Tabletop airport is an airport located and built on top of a plateau or hilly surface, with one or both ends of the runway overlooking a drop.



## Tabletop airports in India:

1. Lengpui (Mizoram)
2. Shimla and Kullu (Himachal Pradesh)
3. Pakyong (Sikkim)
4. Mangaluru (Karnataka)
5. Kozhikode and Kannur (Kerala).

✓ गुरुदासपुर

Black Box  
लुक्कुर