

CURRENTLY - FROM NEWS TO NOTES

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

The Hindu & The Indian express

Headline	Source
SC questions if ED is overstepping in T.N. liquor-scam probe	The Hindu Page 1 Subject: Polity - Federalism
61 Maoists, including top leaders, lay down arms in Maharashtra	The Hindu Page 1 Subject: Internal Security - Left Wing Extremism

Headline	Source
How does Gaganyaan's vital crew escape system work?	The Hindu Page 10 Subject: Science & Technology - Space Missions
India to train border security force of Mongolia, says Modi	The Hindu Page 12 Subject: International Relations - India-Mongolia Relations
Madagascar Army seizes power after its President is impeached	The Hindu Page 14 Subject: International Relations - African Nations / Political Crisis
Karnataka announces 1 paid period leave every month for working women across all sectors	The Better India Online Subject: Ethics - Compassionate & Gender-sensitive Governance



SC questions if ED is overstepping in T.N. liquor-scam probe

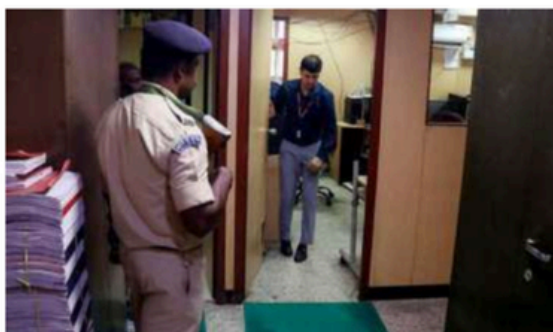
Court extends stay on the Central agency's investigation; CJI Gavai asks if federal structure is affected, and why local police can't look into the case

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Extending the stay on the Enforcement Directorate's probe into money laundering cases registered against the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC) in connection with an alleged liquor retail scam, the Supreme Court on Tuesday orally questioned whether the agency's probe encroached upon the State's authority to investigate offences.

Hearing petitions filed by TASMAC and the Tamil Nadu government, a Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice K. Vinod Chandran directed that the case be listed after the court pronounces its judgment on the review petitions challenging its 2022 ruling in *Vijay Madanlal Choudhary vs Union of India* case.

During the hearing, Chief Justice Gavai asked Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, appearing for the ED, "What happens to the federal structure? Would this not amount to



Enforcement Directorate officials conducting a raid at Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation headquarters in Chennai. FILE PHOTO

encroachment upon the State's right to investigate? Can't the local police look into the matter?"

In its 2022 verdict, the court had held that providing a copy of the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) to the accused is not mandatory in every instance. While TASMAC has argued that it was denied access to the ECIR in the present proceedings, the ED maintained that the ECIR is merely an "internal administrative document" and that no legal right exists for the accused to obtain a copy.

This marks the second occasion in six months that

the court has questioned the ED's conduct in the case. In a previous hearing on May 22, the Chief Justice had orally observed that the agency was "crossing all limits" while ordering an interim stay on its probe. The Madras High Court had earlier declined to grant such a stay.

Appearing for TASMAC, senior advocate Kapil Sibal submitted that the State Vigilance Department had already registered 47 FIRs relating to alleged irregularities between 2014 and 2021.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

SC questions if ED is overstepping in Tamil Nadu liquor-scam probe

Source: The Hindu, Page 1

GS Paper 2 - Polity (Federalism)

Why in News:

- SC questioned ED's role in the TN liquor scam, asking if it encroaches upon State police powers.
- CJI B.R. Gavai raised concern on federal structure and why local police can't probe.
- Case linked to TASMAC and review of 2022 SC verdict (*Vijay Madanlal Choudhary vs UOI*).

2022 SC Verdict - Vijay Madanlal Choudhary Case:

- Upheld validity of PMLA and ED's powers.
- Held ECIR is not equal to FIR; copy need not be shared with accused.
- ED's internal process valid, not bound by CrPC FIR rules.
- Criticism: Expanded ED powers; limited transparency & accountability.

ECIR (Enforcement Case Information Report):

- Internal document of ED (not an FIR).
- Purpose: Start money laundering probe.
- Disclosure: Not mandatory to accused (as per 2022 verdict).





61 Maoists, including top leaders, lay down arms in Maharashtra

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

In a blow to the Maoist movement in Maharashtra, 61 Maoists, including the prominent central committee member of the CPI (Maoist) Mallojula Venugopal Rao, alias, Bhupati, surrendered before the Maharashtra Police at Fodewada village in Bhamragad in the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday.

The 70-year-old Bhupati is known to be one of the brains behind the extremist movement. Those who surrendered include two State zonal committee members, 10 divisional committee members and cadres from Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.

The Maoists handed over 54 weapons, including seven AK47s, six SLRs and

six INSAS rifles. Bhupati's surrender comes months after his wife Tarakka, alias Vimala Sidam, also a Maoist leader, turned herself in. His sister-in-law had also surrendered.

A senior official told *The Hindu* that with Bhupati's surrender, "the core family of the Naxal movement" has ended and that it is a "major step in the elimination" of the insurgency.

"It has happened after four to five months of consistent efforts by the Maharashtra Police," the official said, adding that there was "stiff competition between police forces of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Telangana to secure the surrender of the most-dreaded Naxal leader."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

61 Maoists, including top leaders, lay down arms in Maharashtra

Source: The Hindu, Page 1

GS Paper 3 - Internal Security (Left-Wing Extremism)

Why in News

- 61 Maoists, including senior CPI (Maoist) central committee member Mallojula Venugopal Rao (Bhupati), surrendered before Maharashtra Police in Bhamragad, Gadchiroli district.
- Marks a major setback to Maoist insurgency in Maharashtra and adjoining Chhattisgarh.
- Surrender included top-level leaders, state and divisional committee members; 54 weapons (including AK-47s, SLRs, INSAS rifles) were handed over.
- Police described it as the end of the "core family of the Naxal movement."

Home Ministry's Target

- **Objective:** Eliminate Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) from India by March 2026.
- **Approach:** "Zero tolerance policy" with focus on security, development, and rehabilitation.

- **Key Actions:**

- **SAMADHAN doctrine - Smart leadership, Aggressive strategy, Motivation, Action, Development, Harnessing technology, and No access to financing.**
- **Strengthening of security infrastructure and intelligence coordination.**
- **Focus on surrender and rehabilitation policy to weaken Maoist leadership.**

How does Gaganyaan's vital crew escape system work?

Why is a Crew Escape System necessary for human space missions? How has the ISRO tested its CES?

Unnikrishnan Nair S.

The story so far:

The Gaganyaan mission aims to safely transport Indian astronauts to a low-earth orbit of around 400 km altitude using the human-rated LVM3 (HLVM3) rocket as the launch vehicle, and to return them safely. In human space missions, crew safety is more important than mission success. It is imperative that safety is addressed during all phases: launch pad, ascent, orbit, and descent.

What is the CES?

A dedicated Crew Escape System (CES) will be used during the initial part of the atmospheric phase of the Gaganyaan mission to ensure crew safety in the event of a contingency that jeopardises the mission. The CES is designed to rapidly separate the crew module, along with the crew, from a malfunctioning launch

vehicle, and move it to a safe distance in the least possible time. The atmospheric phase of flight is one of the most critical stages of the ascent, during which the rocket accelerates to hypersonic speeds – more than five times the speed of sound – and will be experiencing very high structural loads. The HLVM3 rocket is equipped with two powerful S200 solid-fuel boosters to lift off, and unlike liquid or cryogenic engines, solid motors cannot be shut down once they are ignited. Thus, the CES must extract the crew module with greater acceleration than the launch vehicle itself, and in minimal time. In the Gaganyaan mission, the CES could impart acceleration up to 10-times that of gravity. For a healthy human body, such high acceleration is tolerable for a few seconds if the crew is positioned correctly, with the acceleration acting perpendicular to the chest and the body pressed against the seat in a “child in cradle” orientation. Rocket systems are

more intricate than those of aircraft, with rocket reliability much lower than that of passenger aircraft. Nevertheless, the CES significantly improves crew survival probability through its heritage-based design, redundant systems, and robust mission planning.

What are different types?

The CES is classified into two types based on the way it extracts the crew module: (i) puller type – used in Gaganyaan, where the CES pulls the crew module away from the launch vehicle; (ii) pusher type – used in vehicles like SpaceX's Falcon 9, where the crew module is pushed away using compact, high-thrust liquid-fuel engines. Both systems have advantages and disadvantages, with the choice depending on propulsion technology and system integration aspects. Once the CES has moved the crew module a safe distance away from the failing vehicle, the module will be released and decelerated by a

multistage parachute system. This will reduce the module's velocity in steps, ensuring it splashes down safely in the sea without exceeding the crew's physiological limits upon impact. Typically, the crew will remain inside the module until splashdown. But during the Soviet Union's first human spaceflight, Yuri Gagarin ejected from the Vostok module at approximately 7 km altitude and parachuted safely to the ground.

The Integrated Vehicle Health Management system, which is a network of sensors, electronics, and software, will aid in taking a decision to activate the CES when a contingency arises. It will monitor all vital parameters of vehicle systems and crew health in real time.

Has it been tested?

The ISRO has developed a cost-effective, single-stage Test vehicle powered by the Vikas engine to validate the CES. The first successful test occurred in October 2023, during which the CES was activated when the Test vehicle reached transonic conditions – a critical phase in atmospheric flight when the velocity transitions from subsonic to supersonic. ISRO plans additional Test vehicle flights to simulate other critical ascent trajectory conditions. The CES is a cornerstone of the Gaganyaan programme and reflects ISRO's commitment to astronaut safety.

Unnikrishnan Nair S. is former director, VSSC; Founding Director, HSFC.

THE GIST

▼
A dedicated Crew Escape System (CES) will be used during the initial part of the atmospheric phase of the Gaganyaan mission to ensure crew safety in the event of a contingency that jeopardises the mission.

▼
The CES is classified into two types based on the way it extracts the crew module: (i) puller type – used in Gaganyaan, where the CES pulls the crew module away from the launch vehicle; (ii) pusher type – used in vehicles like SpaceX's Falcon 9.

▼
The ISRO has developed a cost-effective, single-stage Test vehicle powered by the Vikas engine to validate the CES.

How does Gaganyaan's vital crew escape system work?

Source: The Hindu, Page 10

GS Paper 3 - Science & Technology | Space Missions

Why in News:

- ISRO has developed and tested a cost-effective, single-stage test vehicle powered by the Vikas engine to validate the Crew Escape System (CES) for the Gaganyaan mission.
- The first successful CES test occurred in October 2023, marking a key milestone for India's first human spaceflight programme.

What is the Crew Escape System (CES)?

- A safety mechanism designed to save astronauts in case of any emergency during the initial phase of Gaganyaan's flight.
- The CES rapidly separates the crew module from the launch vehicle if a malfunction occurs, moving it to a safe distance.
- Ensures crew safety during ascent by minimizing risk from rocket failure or explosion.

How the CES Works:

- It uses powerful rocket motors to pull the crew module away from the launch vehicle.
- The system provides an acceleration up to 10 times that of gravity (10 g) to move the crew safely.
- After separation, the module descends using a multi-stage parachute system and lands safely in the sea.
- The system also includes Integrated Vehicle Health Management (IVHM) - a network of sensors and electronics that monitor health and activate escape if needed.

Types of Crew Escape Systems:

1. Puller Type (used in Gaganyaan)

- The CES pulls the crew module away from the launch vehicle using solid-fuel rockets.
- Simpler and lighter; preferred for solid-rocket-based vehicles like ISRO's HLV M3.

2. Pusher Type (used in SpaceX's Falcon 9)

- The module is pushed away using high-thrust liquid-fuel engines.
- More complex but reusable; suited for modern reusable spacecraft.

India to train border security force of Mongolia, says Modi

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

India will start a new programme to help in capacity building for the border security force of Mongolia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

Welcoming visiting Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa, Mr. Modi highlighted common Buddhist bonds between Mongolia and India. He announced that holy relics of two of Lord Buddha's leading disciples would travel to Mongolia next year. He also said that India would start issuing free e-visas for Mongolian citizens.

"Our defence and security cooperation is also steadily strengthening. We have launched several new initiatives, from training programmes to the appointment of a Defence Attaché at the Embassy. India



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa at a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

will also launch a new capacity-building programme for Mongolia's border security forces," Mr. Modi said.

Explaining the announcement, senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs said India and Mongolia already had joint defence exercises, saying, "They are interested and they see a lot of benefits of training with us."

Mr. Modi highlighted

common Buddhist links between India and Mongolia and said, "I am happy to announce that next year, the holy relics of two great disciples of Lord Buddha – Sariputra and Maudgalyayana – will be sent from India to Mongolia."

The two sides signed 10 MoUs covering areas such as immigration, cooperation, humanitarian aid, geology and mineral resources, and yoga.



India to train border security force of Mongolia, says Modi

Source: The Hindu, Page 12

GS Paper 2 - International Relations (India-Mongolia Relations)

Why in News:

- India announced a new capacity-building programme to train Mongolia's border security forces.
- During Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa's visit to India, PM Narendra Modi also :
 - Announced that holy relics of Lord Buddha's two disciples (Sariputta and Maudgalyayana) will be sent to Mongolia in 2026.
 - Declared free e-visas for Mongolian citizens.
 - Mentioned that India and Mongolia signed 10 MoUs covering immigration, humanitarian aid, cooperation, geology, mineral resources, and yoga.

Madagascar Army seizes power after its President is impeached

Agence France-Presse
ANTANANARIVO

An elite military unit that backed youth-led anti-government street protests said on Tuesday that it had taken power in Madagascar after the national assembly voted to impeach President Andry Rajoelina.

Mr. Rajoelina, who was in hiding reportedly out of the country, had refused growing demands to step down after demonstrations that started on September 25 won the backing of the CAPSAT military unit at the weekend.

CAPSAT commander Colonel Michael Randrianirina read out a statement at the presidential palace saying the unit would set up a governing committee composed of officers from the Army, gendarmerie and national police.

"Perhaps in time it will



Uncertain times: Members of the Madagascar CAPSAT military at the gates of the presidential palace in Antananarivo on Tuesday. AFP

include senior civilian advisers. It is this committee that will carry out the work of the presidency," Mr. Randrianirina said. "At the same time, after a few days, we will set up a civilian government," he said. "We have taken power," he confirmed afterwards.

Parliamentarians on Tuesday pushed ahead

with the impeachment vote despite Rajoelina's attempt to block it by issuing a decree hours earlier to dissolve the national assembly.

The impeachment vote passed with 130 votes in favour – well above the two-thirds constitutional threshold required in the 163-member chamber.

Madagascar Army seizes power after its President is impeached

Source: The Hindu, Page 14

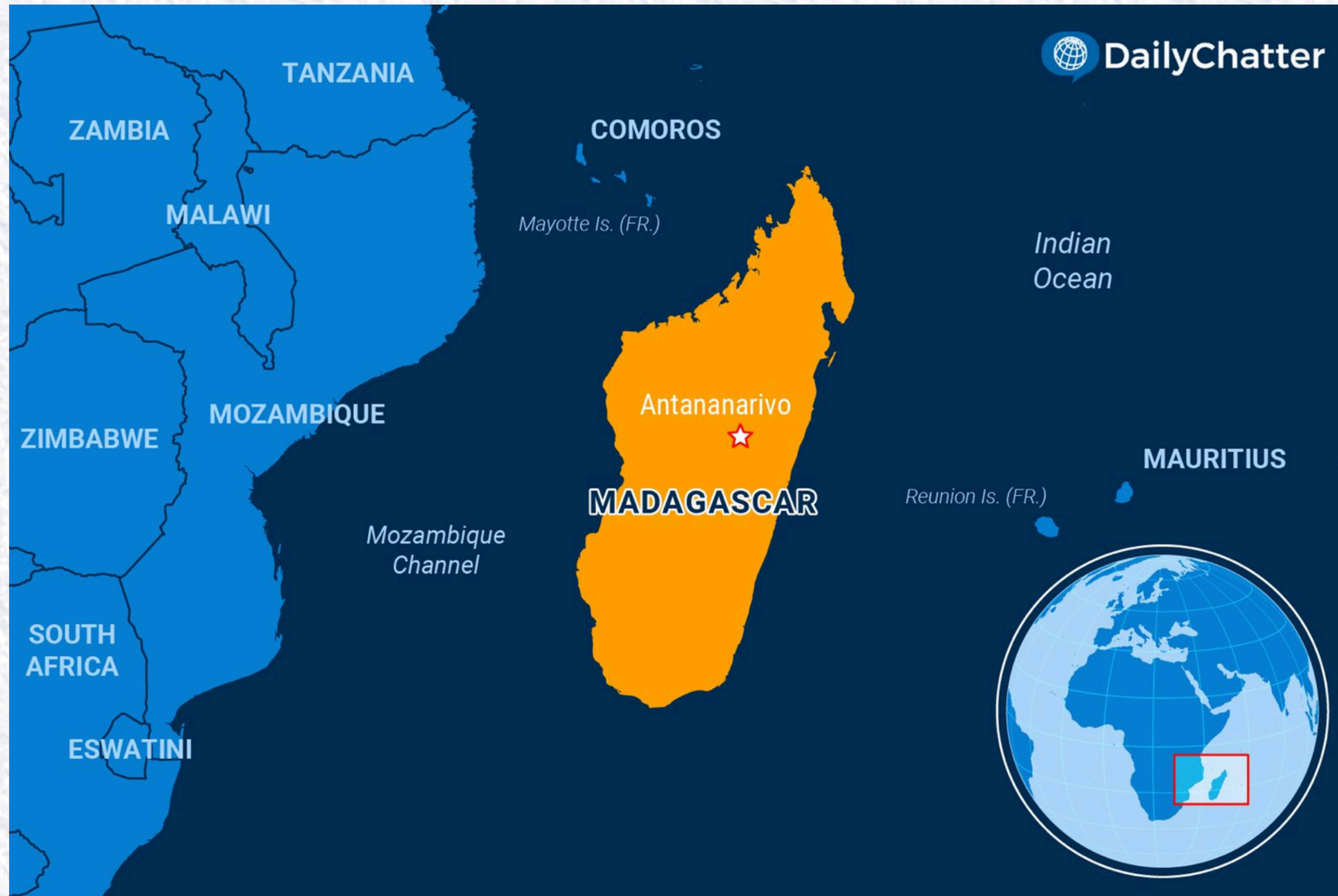
Section: African Nations | International Relations / World Affairs

Madagascar witnessed a military takeover following the impeachment of President Rajoelina, reflecting renewed political instability in African nations, a recurring challenge for democratic

In the recent years Chad, Guinea, Mali and Sudan caught the international attention for which one of the following reasons common to all of them?

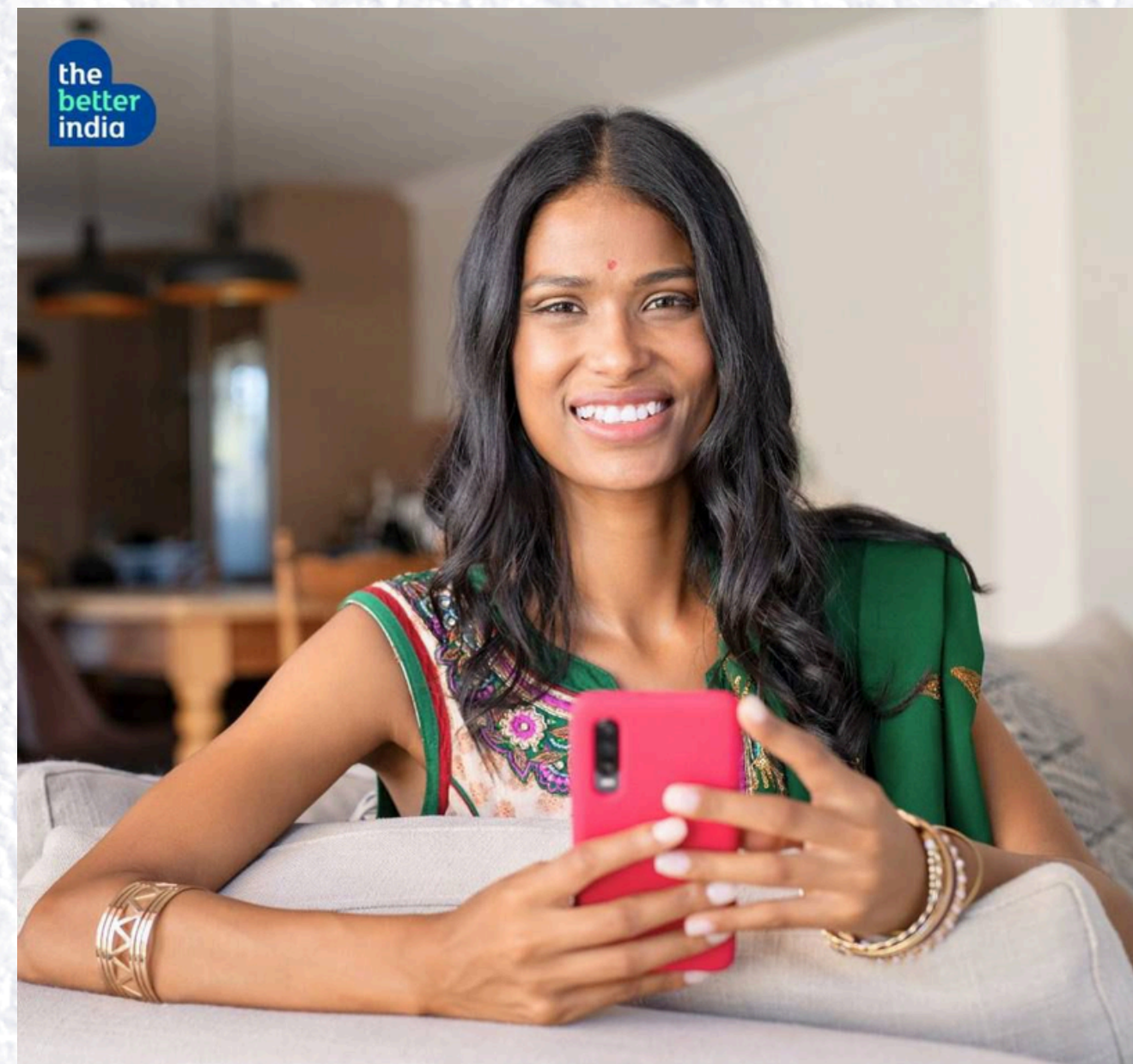
- (a) Discovery of rich deposits of rare earth elements
- (b) Establishment of Chinese military bases
- (c) Southward expansion of Sahara Desert
- (d) Successful coups

2023



Mains Enrichment

The Karnataka government's period leave policy is a strong example of compassionate, gender-sensitive, and ethical governance, showing how public policy can uphold human dignity and inclusivity in workplace ethics.



Karnataka Announces 1 Paid Period Leave Every Month (12 In A Year) For Working Women Across All Sectors