



Most Trusted Learning Platform



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Citizenship Amendment Act Rules

- The Government has notified Rules for The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), paving the way for the implementation of the CAA.
- It will benefit thousands of Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi, or Christian migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan who entered India before December 31, 2014, and seek citizenship of India.
- This group of people has been living in India illegally or on long-term visas (LTV).



Citizenship Amendment Act Rules

- Why this ACT & Its features?
- The CAA aims to give citizenship to the target group of migrants even if they do not have valid travel documents as mandated in The Citizenship Act, 1955.
- The CAA presumes that members of these communities who entered India faced religious persecution in these countries.
- The law has also cut the period of citizenship by naturalisation from 11 years to five.
- Under the CAA Rules, immigrants from these countries are only supposed to prove the country of their origin, their religion, the date of their entry into India, and the knowledge of an Indian language to apply for Indian citizenship.

Religious
Minority

Citizenship Amendment Act Rules

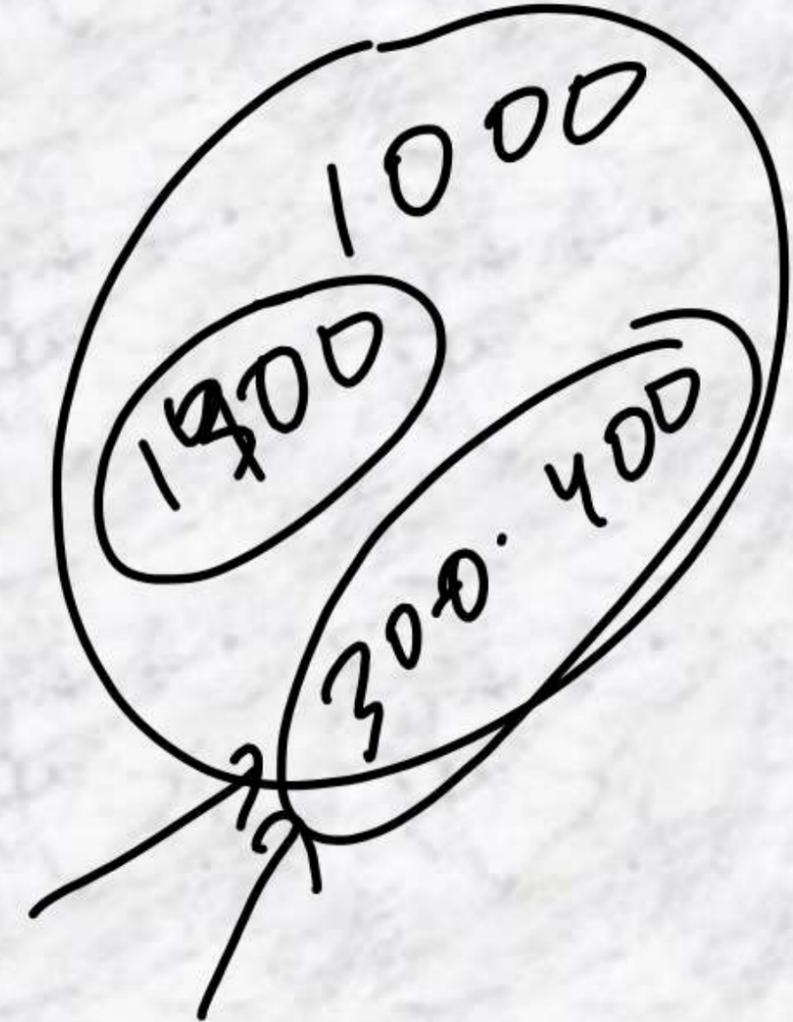
- Rules Eased
- The earlier essential requirement of a valid passport issued by Pakistan, Bangladesh, or Afghanistan, along with a copy of a valid Residential Permit of India, has been virtually done away with. (21)
- According to the CAA Rules, a birth or educational institution certificate, "Identity Document of any kind", "Any License or Certificate", "Land or tenancy records", or "Any other document" issued by these countries, which proves the applicant was their citizen, would serve as proof of citizenship of these countries.
- Any document that shows that "either of the parents or grandparents or great grandparents of the applicant is or had been a citizen of one of the three countries" is also acceptable.

Citizenship Amendment Act Rules

- **Rules Eased**
- **The requirement of a certificate from an educational institution, certifying that the applicant knows one of the languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, has also been done away with. Now, merely a declaration to that effect, and the ability to speak the language, will be enough**

Citizenship Amendment Act Rules

- **Process:**
- The citizenship applications were earlier made to the district collector — who is under the administrative control of the state government
- The new Rules provide for an Empowered Committee and a District Level Committee (DLC), to be instituted by the Centre, to receive and process the applications, which are to be submitted electronically.



Citizenship Amendment Act Rules

- Is it the first time?
- The first steps in this direction were taken back in 2002, when the state of Rajasthan requested then Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani to help resolve the difficulties faced by Pakistani Hindus trying to procure Indian visas and citizenship
- The Government in 2004 amended The Citizenship Rules to give district magistrates of certain border districts in Rajasthan and Gujarat the power to grant LTVs and citizenship to such migrants.



Citizenship Amendment Act Rules

- Is it the first time?
- In June 2010, the Ministry of Home Affairs asked states and Union Territories to consider cases for extension of LTVs of certain categories of Pakistani nationals without insisting on the validity of passports. The notification put the cut-off date at December 31, 2009.
- Hindus and Sikhs from Pakistan were eligible under this policy, apart from Pakistani women who were married to Indian nationals and were staying in India; widowed or divorced Indian women who were married to Pakistanis; and "cases involving extreme compassion

2014

India signs free trade deal with EFTA bloc

- **Context:** India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) recently signed a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).
- **Current Scenario:**
- India-EFTA two-way trade was USD 18.65 billion in 2022-23 compared to USD 27.23 billion in 2021-22.
- The trade deficit was USD 14.8 billion in the last fiscal.

What's EFTA?

It is an inter-governmental organization set up in 1960 to promote free trade and economic integration for the benefit of its four Member States.

EFTA countries comprising Switzerland, Iceland, Norway & Liechtenstein.

What's TEPA?

It's a modern trade agreement between India and EFTA countries.

India signs free trade deal with EFTA bloc

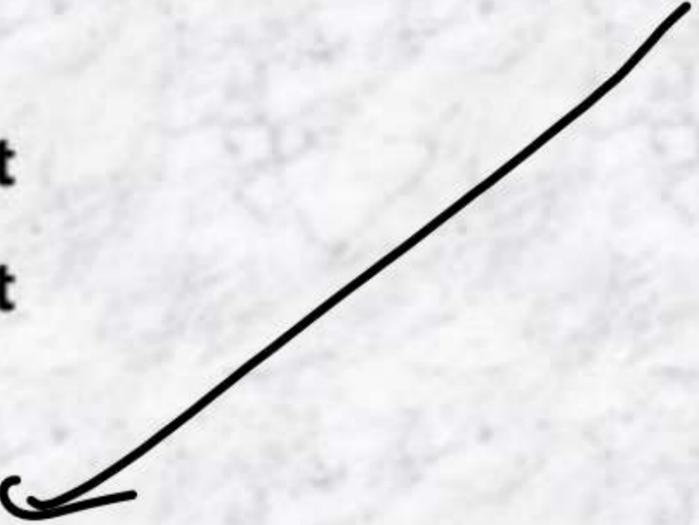
- **Key Highlights of the Agreement:**
- **EFTA has committed to increase investments by \$100 billion in India in the next 15 years, and to facilitate the generation of 1 million direct employment through such investments.**
- **Both sides offer tariff reductions on a wide range of products, opening up markets for each other.**
- **Sectors such as dairy, soya, coal and sensitive agricultural products are not covered under the deal.**

India signs free trade deal with EFTA bloc

- India offers access to its services sector, especially in IT, business, and education services.
- The agreement includes provisions for mutual recognition of professional services like nursing, chartered accountants, architects etc.
- It addresses concerns about intellectual property rights, ensuring a fair balance between protecting patents and promoting generic medicines.

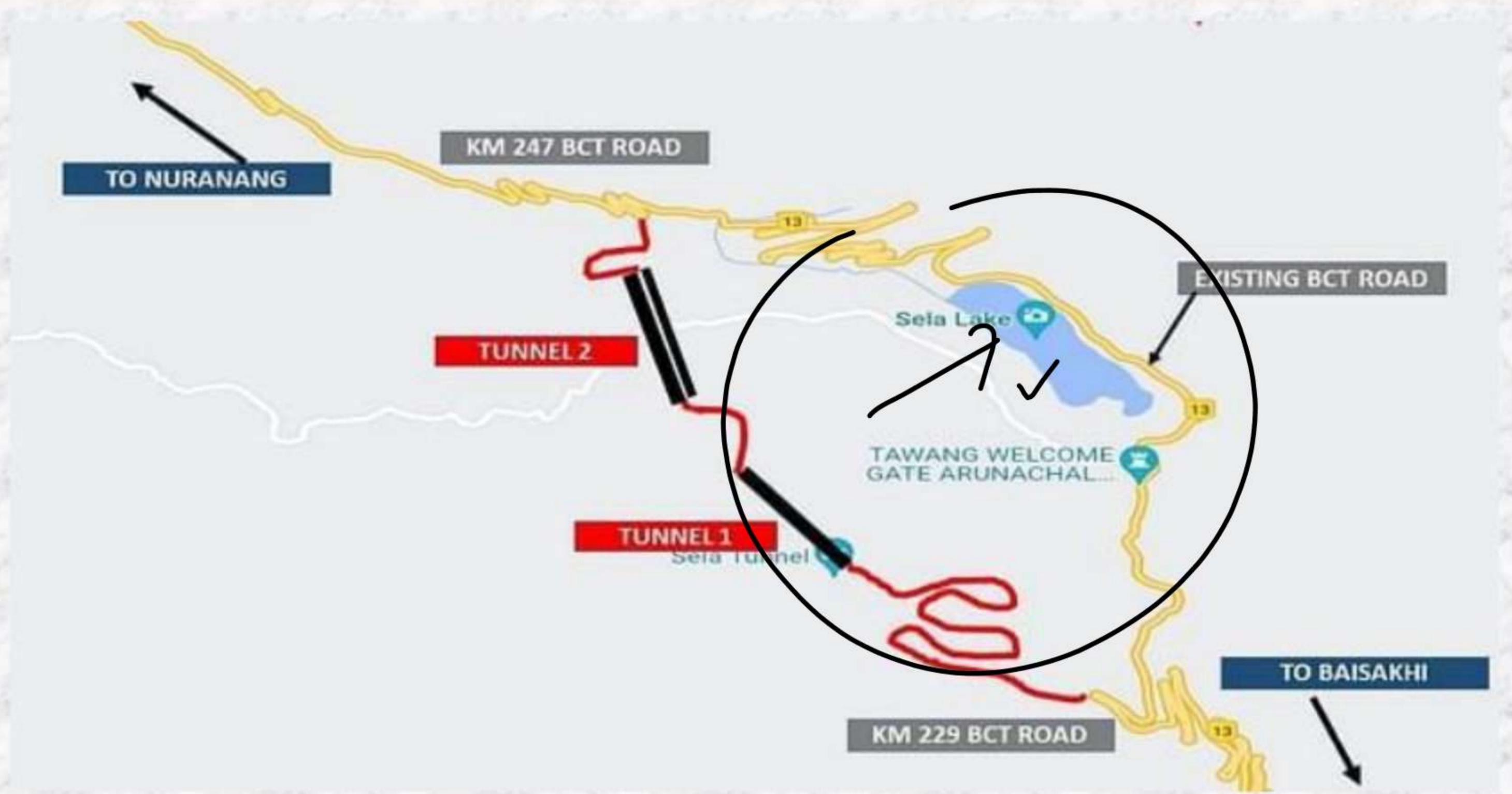


India signs free trade deal with EFTA bloc

- **Significance of the deal for India:**
 - **TEPA aims to simplify trade procedures and enhance market access for Indian and EFTA businesses.**
 - **It will give impetus to "Make in India" and Atmanirbhar Bharat by encouraging domestic manufacturing across various sectors.**
 - **The agreement focuses on various aspects like market access, rules of origin, trade facilitation, investment promotion, services, and intellectual property rights.**
 - **It opens doors for Indian companies to expand into EU markets through Switzerland.**
- 

India signs free trade deal with EFTA bloc

- **It also promotes Sustainable development, inclusive growth, social development and environmental protection.**
- **It promotes job creation and facilitates technology collaboration, particularly in sectors like infrastructure, healthcare, renewable energy, and innovation.**
- **Overall, TEPA is expected to boost trade and investment between India and EFTA countries, offering opportunities for economic growth and development.**



Sela Tunnel project inaugurated

- **Context:** The Prime Minister virtually dedicated to the nation the Sela Tunnel project during the Viksit Bharat Viksit North East program in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.
- **About Sela Tunnel:**
- The Sela tunnel project consists of two tunnels and a link road. It is the longest bi-lane tunnel above 13,000 feet in the world.
- The Sela Pass is the high-altitude mountain pass located in Tawang District.
- The pass has hardly any vegetation and is usually snow-covered all through the year.

Sela Tunnel project inaugurated

- **During winter temperature in the pass can go down to minus 10 degrees.**
- **This part of the Eastern Himalayan range is pretty special for the Buddhists, it is believed that about 101 lakes exist in and around Sela pass and each of these lakes has a huge religious significance for the Buddhist community.**
- **Very close to the Pass is the beautiful Sela Lake.**
- **The pass is open throughout the year.**
- **It was constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) under Project Vartak.**

Sela Tunnel project inaugurated

- **Significance:**
- **Strategic Importance:** The Sela Tunnel provides an all-weather route through the Himalayas, connecting Guwahati in Assam to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. This is crucial for military movement and logistics, especially considering the border dispute with China.
- **Improved Accessibility:** Previously, the Sela Pass remained closed for months due to heavy snowfall. The tunnel eliminates this barrier, allowing year-round access to Tawang and other border areas.

Sela Tunnel project inaugurated

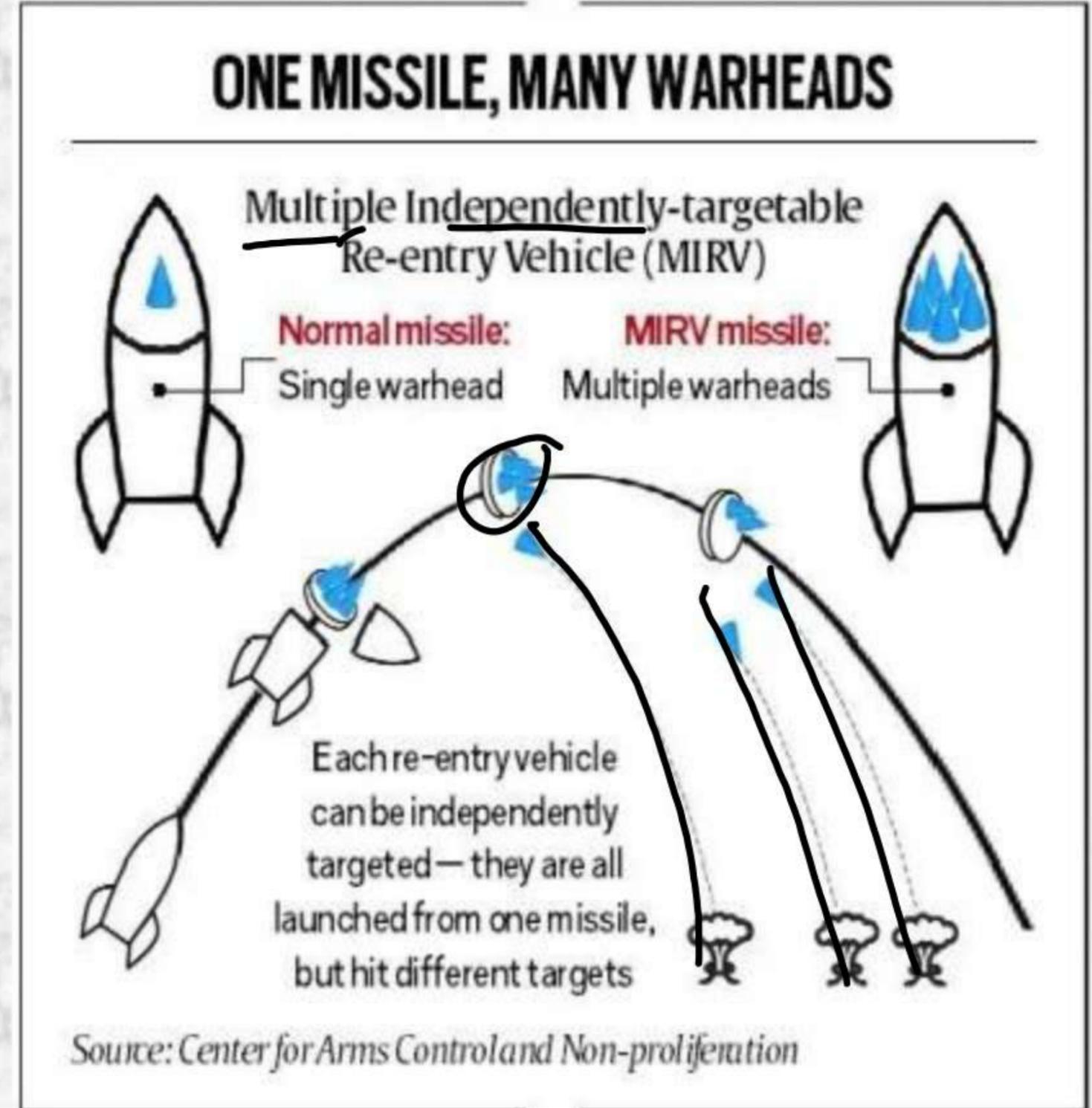
- **Significance:**
- **Socio-Economic Benefits:** Improved connectivity fosters economic development by enabling easier transportation of goods and services. It also promotes tourism in the region.
- **Faster Deployment:** The Sela Tunnel allows for quicker troop movement and deployment of resources in case of emergencies or security threats on the border. Heavy artillery guns can also be transported through the tunnel.

Sela Tunnel project inaugurated

- **Challenges:**
- **Difficult Terrain and Weather:** Building a tunnel at such a high altitude in challenging terrain and harsh weather conditions presented significant engineering hurdles.
- **Environmental Concerns:** Construction projects in the Himalayas can disrupt fragile ecosystems. Mitigating these environmental impacts requires careful planning and construction practices.
- **Cost and Time:** Constructing such a large-scale infrastructure project involves substantial costs and takes time to complete.
- **Conclusion:** The Sela Tunnel represents a significant advancement in Himalayan connectivity, offering strategic, economic, and social benefits.

Mission Divyastra

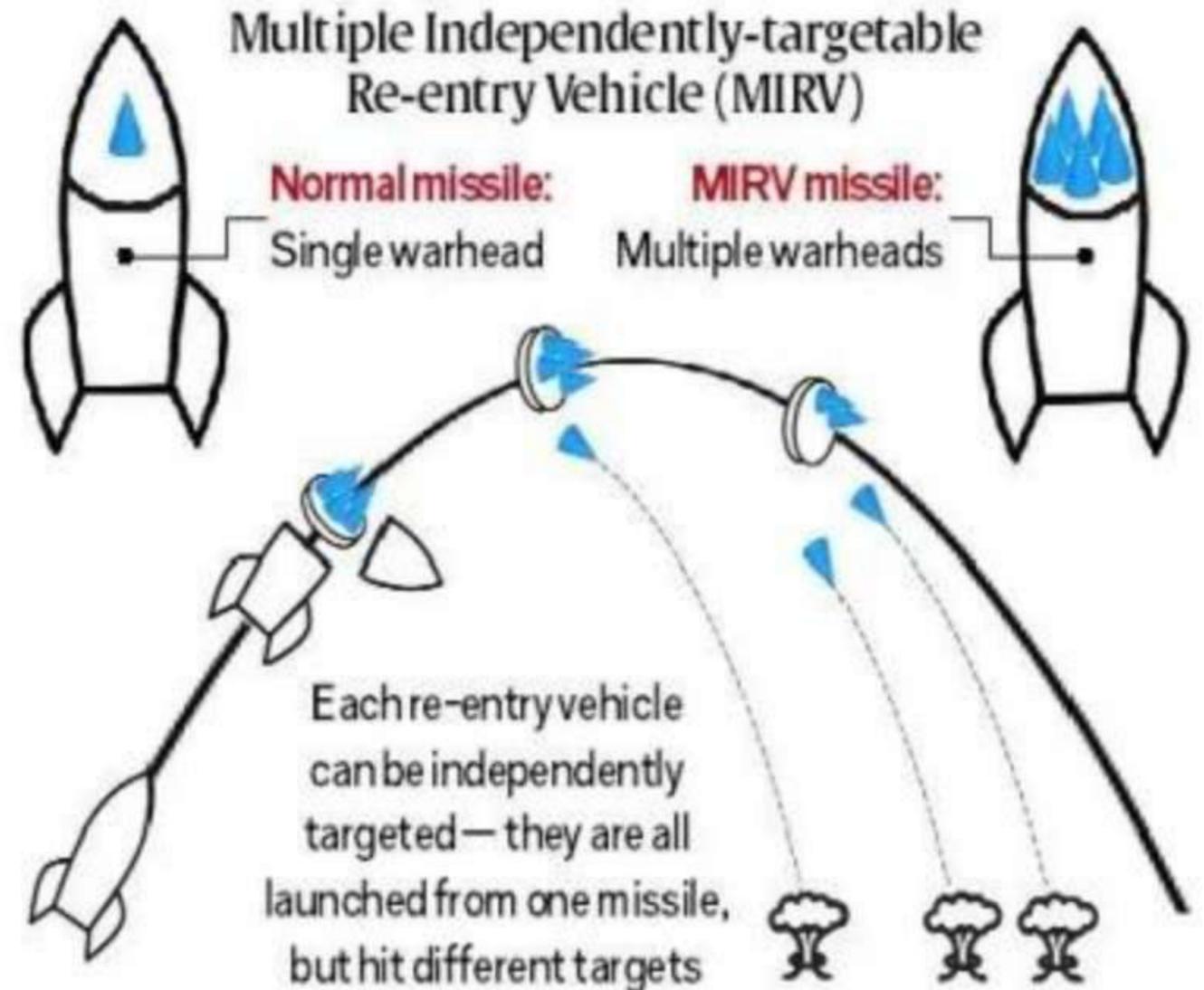
- **Context:** India successfully conducted the first test launch of its Agni-V ballistic missile equipped with MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle) technology.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under Mission Divyastra conducted the first successful flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with MIRV technology.



Mission Divyastra

- **About MIRV Technology**
- **In contrast to a traditional missile, which carries one warhead, MIRVs can carry multiple warheads which can be released from the missile at different speeds and in different directions, thus greatly enhancing the missile's destructive potential.**
- **After launch, these warheads separate during the final stages of flight and independently re-enter the atmosphere, targeting distinct locations.**

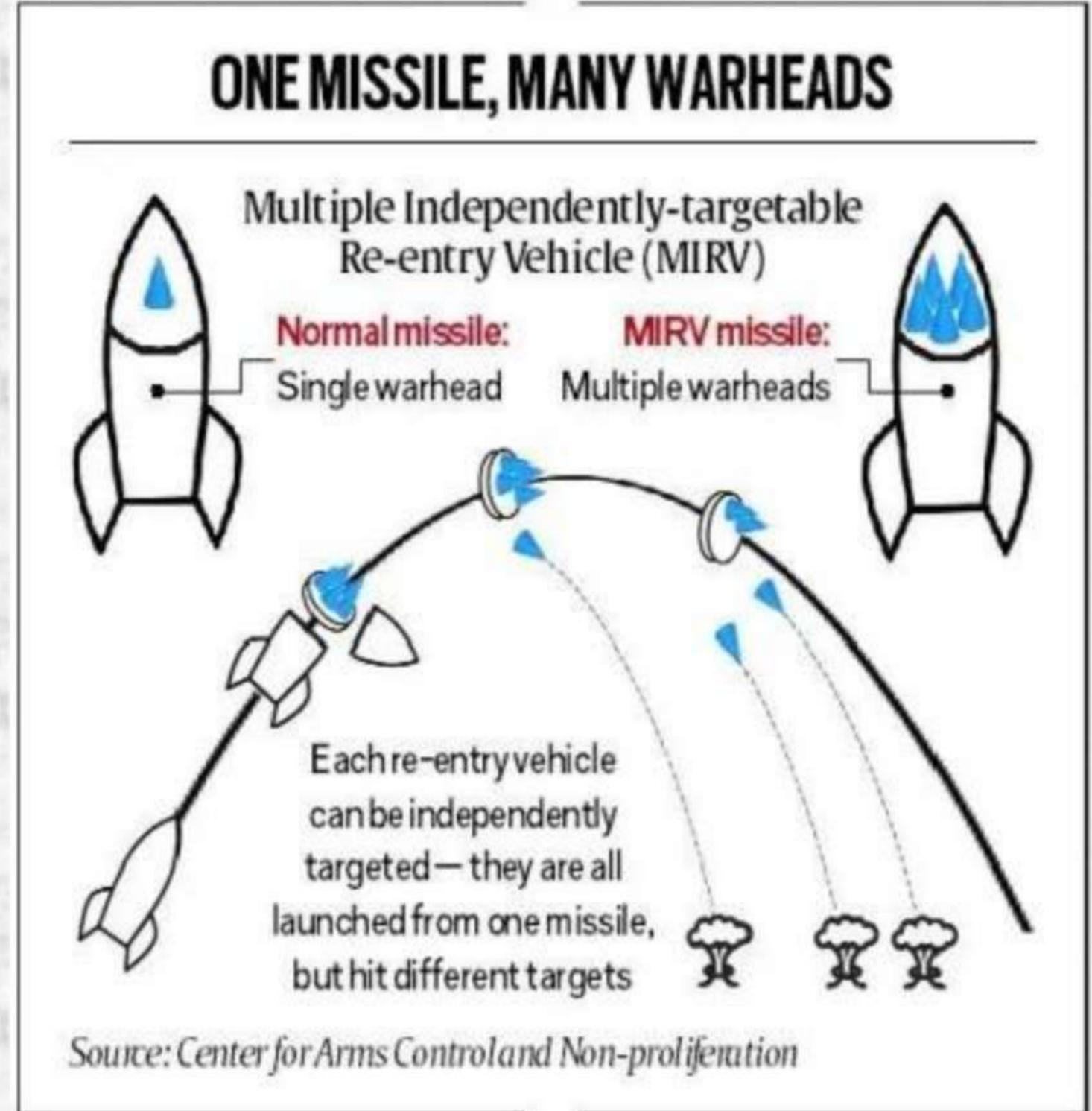
ONE MISSILE, MANY WARHEADS



Source: Center for Arms Control and Non-proliferation

Mission Divyastra

- The development of MIRV technology is also difficult as it requires the combination of large missiles, small warheads, accurate guidance, and a complex mechanism for releasing warheads sequentially during flight.
- Compared to MRV (Multiple Re-entry Vehicle) technology, MIRV offers the advantage of independent targeting capability.



Mission Divyastra

- Key Features of Agni-V
- Agni-V is an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) developed by DRDO
- It is the most advanced surface-to-surface missile in India's arsenal.
- Range: Exceeds 5,000 km, placing targets across Asia and parts of Europe within reach.
- Propulsion: Three-stage, solid-fueled engine for high thrust and operational simplicity, capable of carrying a 1.5-tonne nuclear warhead.

6000km



Mission Divyastra

- **Launch Platforms:** Road-mobile and canisterized, enabling greater mobility, launch flexibility, and weather protection.
- **Warhead:** Designed to carry nuclear warheads for strategic deterrence.
- **MIRV Capability:** With the success of Mission Divyastra, Agni V can carry multiple warheads from a single missile.

India's MIRV punch

India has joined select group of nations that have Multiple Independently Targeted Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology

Agni-5 missile uses a three-stage solid fuelled engine

5,000km range

USING MULTIPLE WARHEADS

- MIRVs can cause more destruction than missiles that carry single warhead.
- It will allow Agni-V to deliver multiple nuclear warheads against different targets across hundreds of kilometres

India completed its nuclear trial in 2018 when nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, INS Arihant, completed its first deterrence patrol

India's nuclear doctrine, promulgated in 2003, commits to a 'no first use' posture, with weapons to be used only in retaliation against a nuclear attack

Proud of our DRDO scientists for Mission Divyastra, the first flight test of indigenously developed Agni-5 missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology."
—NARENDRA MODI, Prime Minister



Atmospheric Research Testbed

- **Context:** Recently, the first phase of India's Atmospheric Research Testbed in Central India (ART-CI) was inaugurated at Silkheda in Sehore district, located about 50 km northwest of Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh.



Atmospheric Research Testbed

- What is the Atmospheric Research Testbed (ART)?
- The ART is an open-field, focused observational and analytical research programme at Silkheda.
- The facility aims to conduct ground-based observations of weather parameters like temperature, wind speeds, etc. and in-situ (on-site) observations of the transient synoptic systems – like low-pressure areas and depressions that form in the Bay of Bengal – during the southwest monsoon season from June to September.
- Studying these systems and their associated cloud parameters will be used to generate high volumes of data over a long period.
- It can then be compared with the existing weather models so that improvements can be made to obtain accurate rainfall predictions.

Atmospheric Research Testbed

- Why is having an Atmospheric Research Testbed important?
- **Agriculture Sector:** At present, 45% of India's labour force is employed in the agriculture sector. Much of Indian agriculture is rain-fed, as is cultivation along the Monsoon Core Zone (MCZ), which spans the central India region from Gujarat to West Bengal.
- Studies have correlated the all-India rainfall performance to the rainfall received over the central India region, highlighting its importance.
- Additionally, climate change is driving erratic rainfall patterns in the tropical regions, like India. It has also strengthened the low-pressure systems, which are aided by high temperatures. This results in very heavy rainfall recorded along their trajectory during the monsoons.

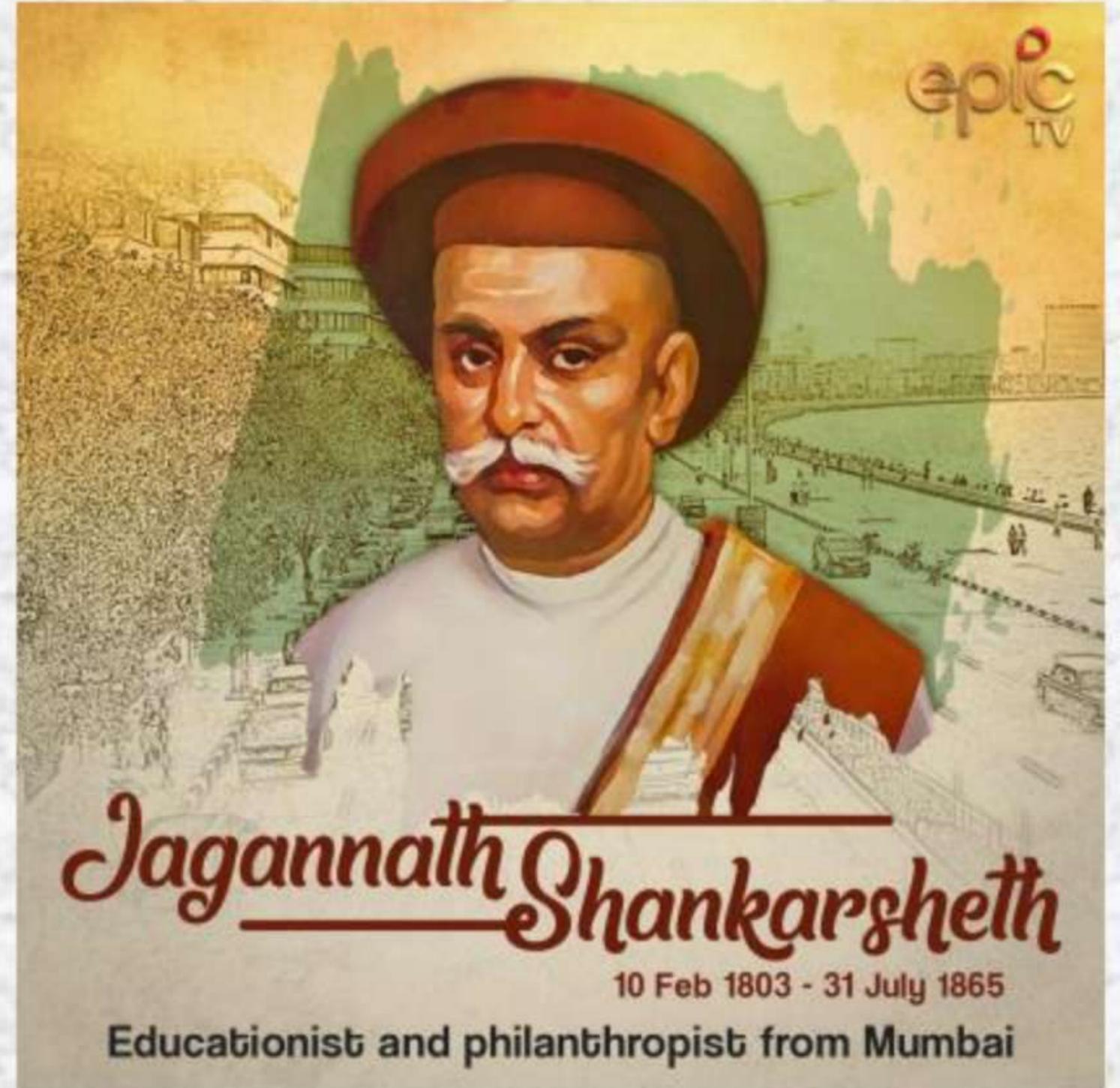
Atmospheric Research Testbed

- Why Madhya Pradesh?
- The ART has been established at Silkheda, a location that falls directly in line with the path of major rain-bearing synoptic systems. This will facilitate direct monitoring and tracking.
- Besides, the locality is pristine and free of anthropogenic and other pollutants, making it the best site in central India for setting up sensitive, high-end meteorological instruments and observatories for recording data.



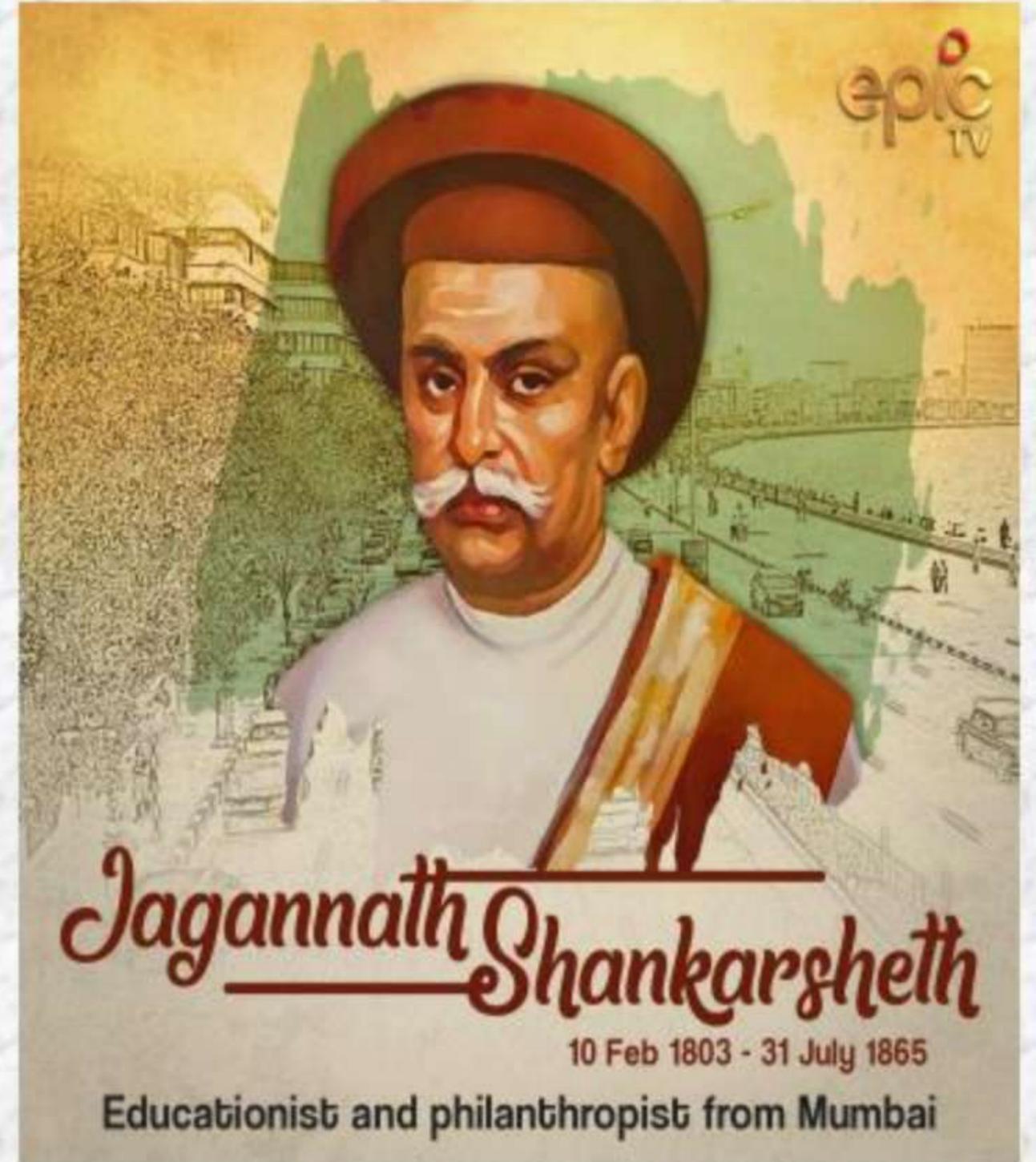
Nana Jagannath Shankarseth

- The Maharashtra cabinet decided to ask the Ministry of Railways to rename Mumbai Central Station after Nana Jagannath Shankarseth.
- All about Nana Jagannath Shankarseth
- He was a social reformer, educationist, and philanthropist born 1803-July 31, 1865)
- He is often described as the “architect” of Mumbai (then Bombay), who made extremely valuable contributions in terms of both ideas and money to multiple sectors, to lay a strong foundation for the city.



Nana Jagannath Shankarseth

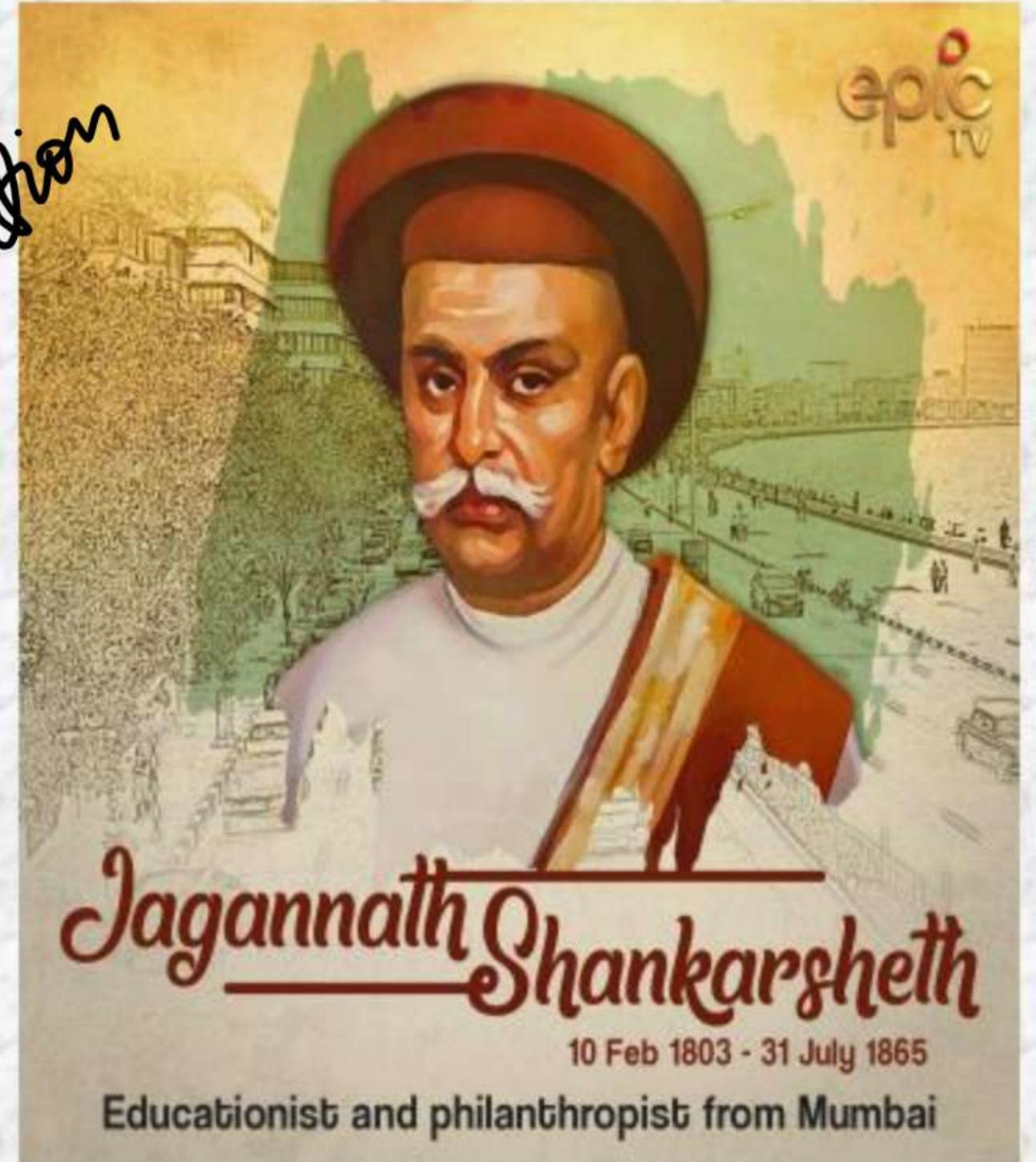
- Initially, he was running the family business at an early age after his father passed away in 1822.
- As a social reformer and community leader, Shankarseth earned the goodwill of both Indians and the British.
- He is also considered as a Sanskrit Scholar.
- He became the first Indian to be nominated to the Legislative Council of Bombay.
- He was also the first Indian member of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai.
- He was also one of the founding members of the Bombay Association, the first political organization in Mumbai, in 1852.



Nana Jagannath Shankarseth

- His Contribution:
- He donated land owned by his family for educational institutions.
- He founded the Native School of Bombay, which was renamed first as the Bombay Native Institution, and then as the Board of Education.
- Finally, this institution evolved into the prestigious Elphinstone College.
- He along with Sir Jamshetjee Jejeebhoy, Sir Robert Grant were instrumental in setting up Grant Medical College in Mumbai.

→ Pro toward women
Education



Nana Jagannath Shankarseth

- He along with Sir Jamshetjee Jejeebhoy was among the committee members who has given impetus to First Railway Project in India. The first train in India ran between Boribunder and Thane on April 16, 1853. The 34-km project undertaken by the Great Indian Peninsular Railway Company.



Ban on Chemicals

- Karnataka has banned the use of artificial colouring agents including **Rhodamine-B**, in cotton candy and **'gobi manchurian.'**
- Why it has been Banned?
- The Consumption of snacks containing these artificial colours may pose long-term health risks, including cancer
- There are two chemicals which are of concern – **Tartrazine** and **Rhodamine-B**. These are unsafe to use and **Rhodamine-B** is carcinogenic. Since they are found in cotton candy, it is alarming as children consume it.



Ban on Chemicals

- Rhodamine-B
- It is a chemical colour used in dyeing clothes, paper, leather, printing, and plastics. It is used to give red and pink colours.
- The dye is not fit for consumption and may lead to acute toxicity. Exposure to the chemical may also damage the eye and cause irritation in the respiratory tract.
- What is allowed? *ESSAI*
- The synthetic colours allowed include red from Ponceau 4R, Carmoisine, and Erythrosine; yellow from Tartrazine and Sunset Yellow FCF, blue from Indigo Carmine and Brilliant Blue FCF, and green from: Fast Green FCF.





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