

Remittance denotes a sum of money sent by one party to another. These days, the term typically describes the money sent by someone working abroad to their family back home. With 20% of India's emigrants in the U.S. and the U.K., "the structural shift in qualifications and destinations has accelerated growth in remittances tied to high salaried jobs, especially in services". A report by the World Bank predicts that growth in remittances will fall to 2% in 2023 as the GDP growth in high income countries continues to slow, eroding migrants' wage gains. For South Asia as a whole, the growth in remittances is expected to fall from 3.5% in 2022 to 0.7% in 2023.

The G20 forum was established in 1999 by the Finance Ministers and central bank governors of seven countries after a meeting in Washington DC. During its presidency, India plans on showcasing its philosophies of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (one earth, one family, one future), and LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) through the theme and the logo of the event. India's presidency also comes as many countries witness inflation and recession trends, compounded by the Russia-Ukraine war and the standoff between the European Union and Russia.

Supreme Court on Thursday suggested a less cumbersome and even "out-of-the-box" thinking, including roping in senior lawyers to act as ad hoc judges in High Courts, to meet the rising tide of pendency. A Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said senior advocates in High Courts may not be willing to give up their lucrative legal practices permanently, but may be interested in joining the Bench as ad hoc judges under Article 224A of the Constitution for a limited period of about two years.

Field trials of the transgenic mustard variety, Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11 (DMH-11), revealed them to be higher yielding and they did not deter the pollination habits of honeybees, Union Science Minister Jitendra Singh said in the Rajya Sabha in a written response to a query. The DMH-11 had recently been approved by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) for cultivation in farmer fields, as a precursor to commercial cultivation.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Thursday said it had issued a notice to the Chief Secretary of the Uttar Pradesh government seeking an independent inquiry into the incident

### SIX DECADES OLD MAHARASHTRA-KARNATAKA INTER-STATE BORDER DISPUTE FLARES UP AGAIN

1. Boundary dispute between two states traces its origin to reorganisation of states along linguistic lines via State Reorganisation Act, 1956. Since its creation in 1960, Maharashtra has been demanding 865 villages from five districts of Karnataka (Belagavi, Karwar, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi and Bidar) where Marathi-speaking people are in majority.
2. In 1967, Mahajan Commission, constituted by Centre, rejected Maharashtra's claim over Belagavi (then Belgaum) and recommended transferring some of villages to Maharashtra and others to Karnataka. Report was rejected by Maharashtra and Maharashtra challenged State Reorganisation Act, 1956 under Article 131 of Constitution (original Jurisdiction of SC) in 2004.
3. Karnataka has resorted to Article 3 of Constitution i.e., only Parliament has power to decide borders of states. Belagavi is currently part of Karnataka. Demarcation of boundaries have resulted in interstate border disputes in around 11 states and 1 Union Territories. For example, Andhra Pradesh-Odisha, Haryana-Himachal Pradesh, UT of Ladakh-Himachal Pradesh, etc.
4. **Centre's stand:** Such disputes can be resolved only with cooperation of States concerned wherein Centre acts only as a facilitator for amicable settlement of the dispute.

### UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION (UGC) FORMS PANEL TO WORK ON TEXTBOOKS IN INDIAN LANGUAGES

1. Panel will prepare the roadmap to introduce undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Regional Languages (RL) in disciplines including commerce, humanities, and science across the country. UGC also held a meeting with international publishers for bringing out textbooks for undergraduate courses in Indian languages and has set a timeline of 6-12 months for the same.
2. Benefits of higher education in regional languages Narrow the divide in access to higher education between marginalized and privileged. Enhance students' understanding and empower them. Equip students to solve local problems with a global mindset.
3. **Challenges with regional languages**-Availability of textbooks and scholarly literature, translating technical terms verbatim in RL, Availability of faculty for regional-medium courses, Sharpening India's language divide.
4. **Initiatives to promote regional languages**-National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 stresses the use of regional languages in higher education. All India Council of Technical Education has brought out engineering textbooks in 12 RL. Launch of first set of first year M.B.B.S. books in Hindi in Madhya Pradesh. Bar Council of India formed a panel for translating legal books in RL.

### INDIA WILL PROVIDE STRONGER VOICE TO THE ISSUES OF INTEREST OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH: EXTERNAL AFFAIR MINISTER(EAM)

1. Global south refers to countries in Asia, Africa and South America while Global North refers to countries like US, Canada, Russia, and Australia. India aspires to become a bridge between North and South by building deep partnerships with US and Europe.
2. **Commonalities of Global South Countries**-Economically, they are largely similar in terms of wealth, education, healthcare, etc. Historically, they have history of colonization and faces exclusion from prominent international organizations (United Nations Security Council). Also, they face greater impact of global uncertainties such as Climate Change, Covid-19 etc.
3. Challenges before India in voicing for Global South No single shared agenda of Global South, Threat of downgrading new forum (like BRICS) that are built to promote multipolar world, Power competition with China, US and others, May compromises with idea of Vasudhaiva kutumbakam.
4. **India's initiatives for Global South**-Raise Global South apprehensions on climate action, climate justice and clean

of a transwoman teacher being terminated by a private school in Lakhimpur-Kheri district allegedly because of her gender identity. The NCW said in a statement that it had taken cognisance of media reports about her termination.

11,000 number of “matters” pending before the Supreme Court for over 10 years, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijju informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. In the 25 High Courts, 8.77 lakh civil and 3.74 lakh criminal cases are pending for more than 10 years, he said citing data from the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG).

17 % of newly elected Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) councillors who face criminal cases against them, while another 8% “serious” cases, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms. The Association for Democratic Reforms and Delhi Election Watch analysed the self-sworn affidavits of 248 winning candidates in the MCD elections.

4,766 kilometres of national highways whose construction were completed by November 2022, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways informed Parliament. The Ministry has the target of constructing 12,200 kms of national highways during 2022-23 under the Bharatmala Pariyojana.

131 number of civilians massacred in DR Congo by M23 rebels last month, according to a preliminary probe into the killings, the UN mission in the country said. They also committed two dozen rapes. The group has denied any responsibility, blaming “stray bullets” for the deaths of eight civilians.

Minister of New and Renewable Energy R.K. Singh introduced the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. The Minister stated that the non-fossil fuel capacity was 42% of the total energy generation. To address the transition to clean energy, the Bill had been brought, he said.

energy transition with initiatives like International Solar Alliance. Delivered 16 crore Covid-19 vaccines to 96 countries (under Vaccine Maitri) and raised demand for temporary suspension of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) on vaccines in WTO.

### RAZORPAY BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST PAYMENT GATEWAY TO SUPPORT CREDIT CARDS ON UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE (UPI)

1. Razorpay in partnership with Axis Bank announced its readiness to support Credit Card Transactions on UPI. Earlier, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the linking of RuPay credit cards to BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) UPI app. BHIM is a payment app that allows simple, easy and quick transactions through UPI.
2. **Benefits:** No need to carry credit cards for payments, strengthen digital payments and boost India's credit penetration. Currently, only 6% Indians have access to credit card. In a similar development, RBI will introduce ‘single-block-and-multiple debits’ feature on UPI platform. Under this, customer will create payment mandate against a merchant by blocking funds in their bank account for specific purposes which can be debited, whenever needed.
3. **Benefits:** Improve ease of making payments for online shopping, build trust among consumers etc. RBI also announced an expansion of Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to include all payments and collections.
4. BBPS is a one-stop ecosystem for all recurring bills with multiple features (see image). UPI is a real-time payment system, launched in 2016 by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It links multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application.

### MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (MOEFCC) INTRODUCED WILDLIFE PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022 IN RAJYA SABHA

1. **Bill seeks to amend Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** to strengthen protection for endangered species and enhance punishment for illegal trade in wildlife. It aims to increase species protected under law and implement Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
2. **Key highlights of bill-Rationalizing Schedules from 6 to 4:** Specially protected animals (2), plants (1), new schedule for specimens under CITES and removes schedule for vermin species. Obligations under CITES: Central Government to designate Management Authority (grant export/import permits for trade) and Scientific Authority (advise on aspects related to impact on survival of specimens being traded).
3. **Invasive Alien Species (IAS):** Empowers central government to regulate or prohibit import, trade, possession or proliferation of IAS. Control of Sanctuaries: Entrusts Chief Wildlife Warden (CWW) to control, manage and maintain all sanctuaries in a state.
4. **Conservation Reserves (CR):** Empowering centre as well along with state governments to declare areas adjacent to national parks and sanctuaries as a CR. Surrender of captive animals: Provides for any person to voluntarily surrender any captive animals or animal products to CWW.
5. CITES is an international agreement between governments to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of species. It entered into force in 1975. Currently, there are 184 Parties including India.



*“Before demanding from life,  
you must invest.”*

**DR. KHAN**  
(KSG)