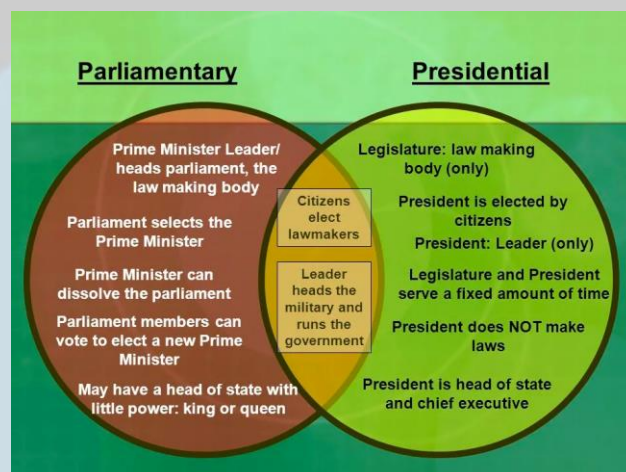


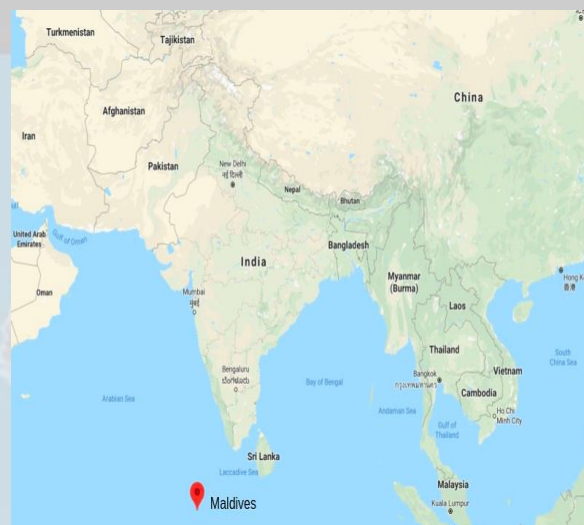
Presidential vs parliamentary system



Parliamentary system vs Presidential system	
<p>Parliamentary system is a system of government headed by PM. Democratic but may or may not be Republic.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Executive members are the members of legislature as well Prime minister is elected by the legislators, and pm is responsible to the legislature. PM's dependent on the pleasure of legislature. Dual executive. No strict separation of power. PM can dissolve the Legislature and legislature can remove the President. 	<p>Presidential system is Democratic and Republican form of government. headed by president.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> legislature and executive branch is different. President is directly elected and directly responsible to the people. Term of the president is fixed. Single executive. Separation of power is very strict. President can not dismiss the legislature and Legislature can not dismiss president easily.

Parliamentary	Presidential
<p>(1) In Parliamentary form of government the parliament or central legislatures is supreme.</p> <p>(2) Parliamentary systems of the government is based on the principles of collective leadership. The Council of ministers, having Prime Minister as its head is responsible to the Parliament.</p> <p>(3) Head of the government is usually known as Prime Minister.</p> <p>(4) The Prime Minister is the leader of the majority party (or of the group of the several political parties).</p> <p>(5) He is accountable to the legislature.</p> <p>(6) In a monarchy constitutional democracy the monarch may be head of the state. Example the Monarch of Britain. He is a ceremonial executive.</p> <p>(7) In a Parliamentary Republic form of Parliamentary government the President is nominal executive. For instance India is a Parliamentary Republic. President in India is a ceremonial executive.</p>	<p>(1) In Presidential form of government the President is real executive and he is the most powerful official of the country.</p> <p>(2) President is the head of the state. Generally he or she is elected directly therefore he is not responsible to the Congress or the Parliament in general.</p> <p>(3) President is also the head of the government.</p> <p>(4) The President is generally directly elected by the people.</p> <p>(5) He is not accountable to legislature.</p>

India - Maldives relation



What led to the 'India out' campaign during Solih's administration?

- The Maldives is a key maritime neighbours of India in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- The country's location holds significant strategic importance to India, especially amid China's growing engagements in the region.
- Although Maldives India ties have been mostly cordial over the years, there was a noticeable tilt towards China during the presidency of Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM) leader Abdulla Yameen from 2013 to 2018.

It was under Mr. Yameen that China included the Maldives as a part of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

- Bilateral ties improved when Ibrahim Mohamed Solih of the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) took over the reins from Mr. Yameen in 2018.
 - Aiming to reset ties with “one of its closest bilateral partners,” Mr. Solih adopted an ‘India first’ foreign policy to establish a closer relationship with India in the areas of defence, security and economics.
 - The growing proximity between New Delhi and Male and high level military exchanges sparked concern in certain quarters, leading to an ‘India out’ campaign spearheaded by the Opposition.
 - The critics of the Solih administration alleged that the government was compromising the sovereignty of the island nation and “allowing Indian boots on the ground.”
 - The Opposition sharpened its attack after the government signed the Uthuru Thila Falhu (UTF) deal with India in 2021 to jointly develop the National Defence Force Coast Guard Harbour.
 - The anti- India campaign emerged as the main poll plank in the 2023 presidential race under the leadership of former proChina Maldivian President Yameen.
 - The first signs of a shift in foreign policy emerged when the new Maldivian President skipped India and instead travelled to Turkiye in November on his first official visit.
 - The Ankara trip marked a departure from a long tradition of Maldivian heads visiting New Delhi first.
- Why did the decision to revoke the survey pact with India cause a stir in political circles?**
- The Muizzu government caused a stir in political and strategic circles with its decision to revoke a key 2019 agreement with India for conducting surveys in Maldivian waters.
 - The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for hydrographic surveying, signed during PM Modi’s state visit to the islands when President Ibrahim Solih was in power, backed the commitment of the two countries to maintain close cooperation in defence and maritime security.
 - Critics of the Solih government, however, had claimed that it harmed national security.

The Hindu

Tableau selection

- The Defence Ministry has finalised a rotational plan which will ensure that all States and Union Territories get a

chance to display their tableaux at the Republic Day parade within a three year cycle.

- This year, tableaux of 16 States/Union Territories (UT) were selected for the January 26 parade following an established process but the Opposition ruled Delhi, Punjab, Karnataka and West Bengal that were not qualified cried foul.
- Only around 15 or 16 tableaux from States/UTs are selected each year, and, obviously, all cannot be accommodated.
- Those States that have not been selected for the parade this year were invited to showcase their tableaux at the Bharat Parv from January 23 to 31 at the Red Fort.
- The new plan, that has been agreed to by 28 States, is aimed at giving everyone an equitable chance at participation.
- The Defence Ministry already has an elaborate screening mechanism for participants in the parade.
- A committee of distinguished persons drawn from various fields including Padma awardees was set up this year too that screened proposals from States and organisations.
- The Ministry of Culture had empanelled 30 agencies for design and fabrication of tableaux through an open selection process and States/UTs were advised to engage these agencies following appropriate procedure.
- While the marching contingents and military platforms at the parade showcase the nation's military might, the tableaux and the performances hold a lens to the country's cultural splendor and diversity.
- In the backdrop of controversies year after year, the new proposal of a rotational opportunity for each State/UT offers a fairer, more transparent mechanism.

How are tableaux selected?

- Republic Day celebrates India's adoption of the Constitution and transition to a democratic republic.
- The parade, led by the President in New Delhi, showcases military strength and cultural heritage, featuring tableaux from States, Union Territories, Ministries, and departments.
- The Ministry of Defence oversees parade coordination and preparations.
- This process includes the selection and shortlisting of tableaux.

Who makes the selection?

- The Ministry follows a standardized procedure for Republic Day parade tableau selection, inviting submissions months in advance based on a specified theme.
- Proposals undergo expert evaluation, including a basic assessment and a presentation of three dimensional models.
- Factors like visual appeal, theme alignment, and local resource use contribute to final selections.
- A State can pitch multiple proposals to the committee, but only one is chosen for the final parade.
- The Defence Ministry emphasizes time constraints for the limited number of tableaux.
- The Hindu

China-Maldives agreements-BRI, Global security initiative

- Two countries signed 20 key agreements, including one on tourism cooperation, and elevated their bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership.
- The two heads of state announced the elevation of bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Strategic

Cooperative Partnership. 20 key agreements were signed today between the Government of the Maldives and the Government of China

- The agreements signed included one tourism cooperation, disaster risk reduction, blue economy, strengthening investment in the digital economy and the Belt and Road Initiative.
- China will also provide grant assistance to the Maldives, but the amount was not disclosed.



China's major global initiatives

Program	Date proposed	Objectives/progress
Global Security Initiative	April 2022	Aims to safeguard peace and provide a China-led solution to international security challenges
Global Development Initiative	Sept. 2021	Seeks to help developing countries eradicate poverty, improve public health and reduce other inequalities; more than 50 countries and international organizations have expressed support
Belt and Road Initiative	Sept./Oct. 2013	Backing infrastructure projects across 149 participating countries such as Cambodia, Pakistan, Laos, Thailand

Source: Nikkei Asia research



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Core concepts and principles of the Global Security Initiative Concept Paper

Stay committed to:

- The vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security.
- Respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.
- Abiding by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.
- Taking the legitimate security concerns of all countries seriously.
- Peacefully resolving differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation.
- Maintaining security in both traditional and non-traditional domains.

The Hindu

Orion space Gravity 1

Blast off



Orienspace's Gravity-1, which is the most powerful rocket developed by a Chinese private company, takes off from a ship off the coast of Haiyang near Shandong province on Thursday. The rocket can send a payload of up to 6,500 kg into the low earth orbit. REUTERS

- **Orien Space's Gravity1, which is the most powerful rocket developed by a Chinese private company, takes off from a ship off the coast of Haiyang near Shandong province.**

The Hindu

Krčedinska Ada

Blocked off



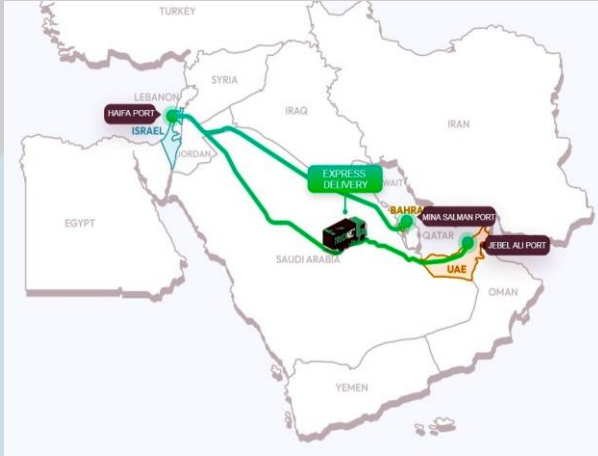
Finding a way: Serbian farmers rescue cattle stranded on the island of Krčedinska Ada in the Danube river on Wednesday. REUTERS

- **Island of Krčedin or Krčedinska Ada is a river island in Serbia. It is a river island, located on the left bank of the Danube. This island is located opposite the settlement of Krčedin, after which it got its name.**
- **It is an important part of the Special Nature Reserve "Koviljsko-Petrovaradinski rit".**

The Hindu

Alternative route to red sea





- While shippers face delays in sending cargo to Europe and vice versa due to the Red Sea crisis, Israeli logistics startup Trucknet has a solution move cargo by road between Dubai and the Adanirun Haifa port in Israel.
- Cargo will move through Saudi Arabia and Jordan to reach Haifa port and proceed to Europe by sea.
- Though the startup cannot match the high volume that is moved by sea, it has a solution to move emergency goods such as medicines. This means cargo from Mumbai or Mundra can be sent to Jebel Ali, from where it could be sent by road to Haifa, and then via ships to reach ports in Europe or the U.S.
- The Hindu

Cleanest city award 2023

- This year the cleanest city award showcased joint winners. Port city Surat bagged the top honours,

alongside Indore, who had conquered the top spot alone for 6 consecutive years.

- In the category of cities with a population of less than 1 lakh, Sasvad, Patan and Lonavala secured the top three spots. Mhow Cantonment Board in Madhya Pradesh was adjudged the Cleanest Cantonment Board.
- Varanasi and Prayagraj won the top two awards amongst the Cleanest Ganga Towns. Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh won the top three awards for Best Performing State.
- Chandigarh walked away with the award for the Best Safaimitra Surakshit Sheher. 110 awards were bestowed during the ceremony.
- “The theme for the year 2023 “Waste to Wealth” is an important topic to ponder upon.
- The G20 Leaders’ Delhi Declaration has committed to “enhance environmentally sound waste management and substantially reduce waste generation by 2030 and highlight the importance of zero waste initiatives.



All India Clean City Rank 1	Indore & Surat
All India Clean City Rank 3	Navi Mumbai
All India Clean City Rank 1 (Population < 1 Lakh)	Sasvad
All India Clean City Rank 2 (Population < 1 Lakh)	Patan
All India Clean City Rank 3 (Population < 1 Lakh)	Lonavala
Cleanest Cantonment Board	Mhow Cantonment Board
Best Safai Mitra Surakshit Sheher	Chandigarh
Cleanest Ganga Town Rank 1	Varanasi
Cleanest Ganga Town Rank 2	Prayagraj

The Hindu

Revised rules under Schedule M

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare late last week notified revised rules under Schedule M of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.
- The revision aims to ensure that the pharma sector recommits to the manufacture of safe, effective, and high-quality drugs in compliance with international quality standards, thus benefiting both patients and industry.
- This is a response to the backlash India has been receiving over reports of substandard medicine exports.
- Last year, the country felt intense global scrutiny after the World Health Organization (WHO) issued an alert about cough syrups being contaminated with diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol.
- These are considered toxic to humans and can prove fatal.
- The contamination was allegedly found in samples taken from a batch of cough syrup made by QP Pharma hem Ltd, based in Punjab. QP Pharma hem Ltd's manufacturing licence was suspended after cough syrup, linked to child deaths in Gambia and Uzbekistan, were found to be contaminated.
- Other cases of alleged contamination have also been reported from cough syrups made in India.
- The latest revision includes five new categories of drugs pharmaceutical products containing hazardous substances such as sex hormones, steroids (anabolic and androgenic), cytotoxic substances, biological products, and radiopharmaceuticals.
- It also has additional sections including the introduction of a pharmaceutical quality system (PQS), quality risk management (QRM), product quality review (PQR), qualification and validation of equipment, and a computerised storage system for all drug products.
- According to the notification, the manufacturer must assume responsibility for quality of pharmaceutical products to ensure that they are fit for use, comply with

requirements of the licence, and do not place patients at risk due to inadequate safety, quality or efficacy.

- Additionally, companies must market a finished product only after getting “satisfactory results” from tests of the ingredients and retain enough of the samples of intermediate and final products to allow repeated testing or verification of a batch.
- The linkage between manufacturing and product quality and the interdependence has been established.
- Also, observations from ongoing risk based inspections further emphasise the need for a relook at current Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) regulations and quality management systems being followed by pharmaceutical manufacturers.”
- Based on the above factors and to keep pace with fast changing manufacturing and quality domain, there was a need to revisit and revise the principles and concept of GMP mentioned in current Schedule M.
- The Hindu