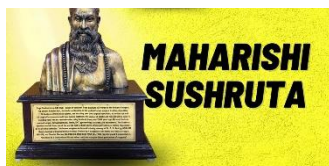


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#### WHO WAS MAHARISHI SUSHRUTA?



A bronze statue of Maharishi Sushruta, revered as the Father of Surgery, has been recently unveiled at the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in the United Kingdom.

- Sushruta, known as the “**father of Indian medicine**” and the “**father of surgery**”, was a pioneering figure in **ancient Indian medicine**.
- **For Sushruta**, the concept of **shalya tantra (surgical science)** was **all-encompassing**.
- His contributions have **influenced the field of surgery**, especially **cosmetic surgery** and medical practices within the global community.
- According to medical scholars, Sushruta lived and practiced medicine from **600 BC to 1000 BC**.
- Sushruta was believed to be the **disciple of the God of Ayurveda, Lord Dhanvanthri**.
- He taught and **practiced medicine** in the city of **Varanasi**.
- He is known for his pioneering operations and techniques and for his **influential treatise Sushruta-samhita**, the **main source of knowledge about surgery in ancient India**.
  - Though **composed over 2500 years ago**, it contains **detailed instructions on surgery and medicine**.
  - The Sushruta Samhita comprises 184 chapters. This extensive work lists more than **300 surgical procedures**.
  - It describes over **120 surgical instruments** and provides **details on various types of wounds, fractures, dislocations**, conditions, and their treatments.
  - The Sushruta-samhita also provides **details on toxicology, pediatrics, pharmacology**, and other branches of the traditional system of Indian medicine known as **Ayurveda**.
  - Furthermore, the text includes **descriptions of over 100 medicinal plants**, detailing their taste, usage, and effects.

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- Examples of some of his **groundbreaking operations** include **rhinoplasty** (the repairing or remaking of a nose), **removal of a dead fetus**, and **lithotomy** (surgical incision into hollow organs such as the urinary bladder to remove stones, or calculi).
- He also developed many unique and practical **techniques to dissect the human body and study its structure**.
- His systematized approach to surgery, with the use of **herbal anaesthetics** and **postoperative care**, laid the foundation for surgical practices.
- Sushruta's **emphasis on practical experience, dissection of cadavers**, and detailed documentation established standards that continue to **underpin surgical education today**.
- The influence of his detailing **surgical techniques and surgical instruments** extended beyond ancient India, **spreading to other parts of the world** and shaping the **development of reconstructive surgery, orthopaedics, ophthalmology**, and many more fields.

### NARCO-COORDINATION CENTRE



- The Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism was **established in 2016** for better coordination **between states and the Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- It has been further strengthened through a **four-tier system in 2019**.
- **Purpose:** To enhance **coordination between the States**, the Ministry of Home Affairs and concerned stakeholders in addressing the **challenge of the drug menace** in a holistic manner.
- It is designed to facilitate better communication, cooperation, and intelligence sharing among law enforcement and drug control agencies.
- **Structure of Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD):**
  - **Apex Level NCORD Committee:** It is headed by Union Home Secretary;

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- **Executive Level NCORD Committee:** It is headed by Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs;
- **State Level NCORD Committees:** It is headed by Chief Secretaries; and
- **District Level NCORD Committees:** It is headed by District Magistrates.
- **Initiatives of Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD):**
  - **Mission SPANDAN** – Partnership with spiritual institutions for awareness have emerged out of NCORD mechanism.
  - **MANAS Helpline:** A toll-free helpline called MANAS (Madak Padarth Nishedh Asuchna Kendra) with the number 1933 has been launched.

#### CASPIAN SEA



- It is the **world's largest water body** that is enclosed or bordered by land on all sides.
- **Location:** It is located between Asia and Europe.
- The sea's name derives from the ancient **Kaspi peoples**, who once lived in Transcaucasia to the west.
- **Basin:** It is an **endorheic basin** (drainage basin without an outflow).
- **Bordering countries:** It is bordered by **Russia and Azerbaijan** on the west, **Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan** on the north and east, and **Iran** on the south.
- The composition of the water of the Caspian Sea also varies from almost fresh in the northern parts of the lake to saltier southwards.
- **Water Source:** Three major rivers—the Volga, the Ural, and the Terek—empty into the Caspian from the north.
- **Cities on Caspian Sea:** Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, is the largest city on the Caspian. Another important city along the Caspian is Iran's Nowshahr.
- **Islands:** The largest are Chechen, Tyuleniy, Morskoy, Kulaly, Zhiloy, and Ogurchin.
- **Resources:** It is also known for its abundance of energy resources (oil and natural gas reserves in offshore fields and onshore on the coast of the sea).

### VENEZUELA'S SEISMIC DOUBLET: WHY THE TWIN EARTHQUAKES WERE SO CATASTROPHIC

#### Why in news?

Venezuela has been struck by two powerful earthquakes within 39 seconds of each other — a rare phenomenon called a seismic doublet. The first quake measured magnitude 7.2 and the second, stronger one measured magnitude 7.5.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) estimates the death toll at between 10,000 and 100,000, making it potentially Venezuela's deadliest natural disaster.

#### What Happened: The Two Earthquakes

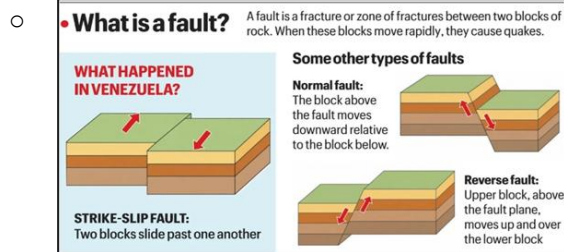
- The **first quake** (M 7.2) — classified by USGS as the foreshock — struck about 24 km from San Felipe in Yaracuy state, approximately 160 km west of Caracas.
- Just 39 seconds later, the **second quake** (M 7.5) — the mainshock — hit near Morón in neighbouring Carabobo state, about 168 km west of Caracas.
- The second earthquake was the **largest to strike** Venezuela or its coast since 1900.
- USGS noted that the sequence "likely indicates a **complex rupture interaction process**" — forming what seismologists call a **seismic doublet**.

#### What Is a Seismic Doublet?

- In a typical earthquake sequence, one large quake (the mainshock) is followed by progressively smaller aftershocks. A **doublet is fundamentally different**.
- A **seismic doublet** consists of two earthquakes of similar magnitude that originate from **distinct** but closely related fault ruptures and occur within a very short span — seconds, minutes, or at most a few hours — in close geographic proximity.
- Aftershocks result from **stress redistribution** caused by the mainshock and are typically one or more magnitudes smaller. Doublets are two separate rupture events happening in near-simultaneous succession.

### Why Is Venezuela Seismically Vulnerable?

- Venezuela lies along the boundary between the **Caribbean Plate** and the **South American Plate** — one of the most seismically active zones in northern South America.
- These two plates **slide horizontally** past each other along fault lines in a process called **strike-slip faulting**.
- The USGS confirmed that Venezuela's stronger mainshock resulted from shallow strike-slip faulting near this plate boundary.
- A fault is a fracture or zone of fractures between two blocks of rock. When these blocks move rapidly, they release energy as earthquakes.
- Three main fault types exist:



- Normal faults (where the upper block moves down),
- Reverse faults (where the upper block moves up and over), and

- Strike-slip faults (where two blocks slide horizontally past each other).
  - Venezuela's earthquakes result from the last type.
- **Historical Seismicity**
  - Venezuela has recorded approximately 1,000 earthquakes of magnitude 4.0 or above in the past decade alone.
  - Prior to this event, a series of earthquakes in Zulia state had reached magnitudes of 6.2 and 6.3.
  - The previous strongest recorded earthquake was the 1900 San Narciso earthquake (M 7.7), which killed at least 21 people and devastated parts of Caracas. The 2026 doublet is feared to be far deadlier.
  - Venezuela's neighbours — Mexico and Chile — lie along the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, a 40,000 km arc that hosts 75% of the world's volcanoes and generates 90% of the world's earthquakes.

### CCPA FINES FOOD BRANDS FOR MISLEADING LABELS WITH "100%" CLAIMS

- India's consumer protection framework is primarily governed by the **Consumer Protection Act, 2019**, which aims to protect consumers from unfair trade practices, misleading advertisements, and defective goods and services.
- A key institution under this law is the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), established to:
  - Protect consumer rights as a class,
  - Prevent unfair trade practices,
  - Take action against misleading advertisements,
  - Order recall or discontinuation of deceptive promotions.
- Under the law:
  - Section 2(28) defines a misleading advertisement as one that falsely describes a product, gives a false guarantee, or deliberately conceals important information.
  - Section 2(47) defines an unfair trade practice as making false representations about the standard, quality, quantity, or composition of goods.
- In the food sector, the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** also plays an important regulatory role.
- In an advisory issued in May last year, FSSAI warned that the increasing use of the term "100%" was likely to create a false impression of absolute purity or superiority, especially because the term is not specifically defined in its regulations.

#### Case 1: "100% Atta Bread"

- The CCPA took suo motu cognisance of advertisements by the company behind English Oven bread for products labelled "100% Atta Bread" and "100% Whole Wheat Bread."
- During proceedings, the company admitted that the bread actually contained 87% wheat flour (atta). It argued that the phrase "100%" was only meant to indicate that wheat flour was the sole grain source, with no refined flour or maida used.

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- The authority also noted that the combined use of “100% Whole Wheat Bread” and “Zero Maida” on the packaging created a cumulative and false impression that the bread was entirely whole wheat.

#### **Case 2: “100% Tender Coconut Water” and “100% Juice”**

- The CCPA also investigated Storiya’s “100% Tender Coconut Water” and various “100% Juice” claims, including pomegranate and mixed fruit variants.
- It found that the coconut water was not fresh from the fruit, but reconstituted from 9.6% coconut water concentrate. Likewise, the “100% Juice” variants were found to consist mostly of water, with fruit pulp or concentrate ranging only between 4% and 16%.
- The authority also objected to health-related statements on the company’s website, claiming that the coconut water “Combats Virus” and “Kills Fatigue”, finding them unsubstantiated.
- The company argued that FSSAI permits reconstitution of juices from concentrates and that the packaging carried a disclaimer on the back stating the product was “reconstituted.”
- The CCPA rejected this too, making an important distinction: a permitted manufacturing process does not automatically justify a marketing claim that gives a misleading impression.

#### **Significance**

- These orders are significant because they strengthen consumer protection in three important ways.
- First, they send a strong signal that front-of-pack claims matter, and companies cannot rely on hidden disclaimers or technical ingredient details to escape responsibility.
- Second, they clarify that regulatory compliance under one law does not excuse misleading conduct under another.
- Third, the decisions are likely to influence the wider food and beverage industry, where terms such as “100%,” “natural,” “pure,” and “healthy” are frequently used as marketing tools.

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#### PASSPORT IS NOT PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP - UNDERSTANDING INDIA'S LEGAL POSITION

- On Passport Seva Divas (June 24), the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) clarified that an Indian passport is **primarily a travel document** and not conclusive proof of citizenship.

#### Citizenship:

- A legal status, not a document:**
  - Articles 5–11 (Part II) of the Constitution and the Citizenship Act, 1955 govern acquisition and determination of Indian citizenship.
  - Citizenship is based on birth, descent, registration, naturalisation or incorporation of territory, not on possession of any particular document.
  - No law identifies a single universal document as definitive proof of Indian citizenship.
  - Government-issued documents only serve as **evidence supporting** the legal claim of citizenship.
- MHA's Parliamentary clarification (2020):**
  - In response to a Parliament question, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) clarified that Aadhaar, Passport, Voter ID, PAN Card and Birth Certificate are not legally designated as proof of citizenship.
  - Instead, citizenship is determined strictly according to the Citizenship Act, 1955 and related rules.

#### Why a Passport is Strong Evidence but Not Conclusive Proof?

- Legal position:**
  - A passport is issued only after the government is satisfied that the applicant is an Indian citizen.

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- However, it does not create citizenship and cannot conclusively establish citizenship if challenged before a court.
- **Section 20 of the Passports Act:**
  - It empowers the Central Government to issue a passport or travel document even to a **non-citizen** in exceptional cases where public interest so requires.
  - This provision has been used for stateless persons, certain Tibetan refugees, and Sri Lankan Tamil refugees requiring international travel.
- Thus, the law itself recognises that a passport is fundamentally a **travel document**, not an exclusive citizenship certificate.

#### India's Structural Gap:

- **No universal citizenship document:** A key issue highlighted by the controversy is that India has no universal citizenship certificate.
- **Current position:**
  - Citizens by registration or naturalisation receive formal citizenship certificates under Sections 5 and 6 of the Citizenship Act.
  - Citizens by birth, who constitute the overwhelming majority, receive no equivalent document.
  - As a result, citizenship is generally established through a combination of birth certificates, electoral rolls, school records, land records, passports, etc., rather than a single definitive credential.

#### Conclusion:

- The MEA's clarification reiterates a long-settled legal principle. However, the controversy also exposes a deeper **institutional challenge**—India possesses a comprehensive citizenship law but lacks a universal document.
- Experts emphasise the need for better **integration** of identity and citizenship databases while safeguarding constitutional rights.
- Such reforms would reduce dependence on fragmented documentary evidence and minimise disputes over citizenship.