

# Daily Current Affairs



**जनसत्ता**

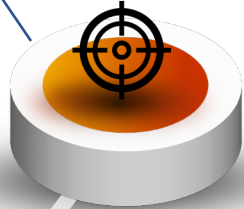


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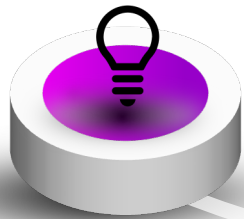


**10**  
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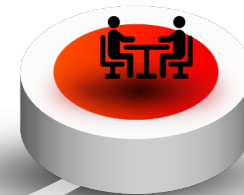


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**IN BRIEF**



**Rajeev Kamath**  
A day before the launch of the BJP's Parivartan Yatra in poll-bound Rajasthan, former CM Vasu Dev Sharma on Friday embarked on a temple tour. It was seen as a "desperate attempt" to assert himself in the run-up to the State Assembly election. » [Page 4](#)

**Bank fraud case: ED arrests Jet Airways founder**  
NEW DELHI  
The ED on Friday arrested Jet Airways (India) Limited's founder chairman Nagesh Jagdishrai Goyal in connection with an alleged loan fraud case. » [Page 10](#)

**Man found dead at Minister's residence; police recover pistol**  
LUCKNOW  
The body of a 30-year-old man was found at the residence of Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kanubhai Kishore on Friday in Lucknow. The deceased has been identified as Vinay Shrivastava, who died after being shot. A licensed pistol belonging to the Minister's son, Vikas Kishore, was recovered from the spot. The police have detained three persons and are questioning them about the sequence of events. The Union Minister said his son Vikas was not present in the house when the killing took place. "Police are investigating the matter and action will be taken. Those involved in the incident will not be spared. We are standing in support of family members of the deceased. He was a close friend of my son," Kishore said. The Uttar Pradesh police said Crime Branch teams have taken samples from the spot as part of their investigation.

# INDIA bloc resolves to hold seat-sharing talks

Opposition parties agree to hold talks in a 'spirit of give and take' and set up a campaign panel, amid the bonhomie at the Mumbai meeting, differences emerge over the issue of caste census

Sohana K. Nair  
MUMBAI

Setting the ball rolling, constituents of the INDIA bloc have resolved to initiate talks on seat-sharing arrangements "immediately" and to conclude them "at the earliest", though without setting a specific deadline. At the meeting held in Mumbai on Friday, they decided that the talks will be conducted in a "collaborative spirit of give and take". The meeting, the partners said, was held in an atmosphere of bonhomie but according to sources, differences emerged over the issue of caste census. The parties under INDIA (Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance) also announced the names of two committees



United front: (From left) T.R. Baalu, M.K. Stalin, Lalu Prasad, Rahul Gandhi, Sharad Pawar, and Uddhav Thackeray at the press conference after the INDIA meet in Mumbai on Friday. ENMANJAL YOGIE

a 14-member coordination and election strategy committee and a 19-member campaign committee, to be worked out with three political groups for social media (2 members), media (19), and research (1). "Conceding to the political reality, especially in States like Kerala, where seat sharing is not possible since two constituents, the

# Govt. panel to study simultaneous polls to LS, State Assemblies

The Union government on Friday said that a committee has been formed under the leadership of former President of India Ram Nath Kovind, to look into the feasibility of simultaneous elections to State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha.

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Friday said that a committee has been formed under the leadership of former President of India Ram Nath Kovind, to look into the feasibility of simultaneous elections to State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha. Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi declared that the committee has been constituted, and that one needed to await its report for any further news on the issue. While Mr. Joshi declared that the committee had been constituted, no official notification had been forthcoming from the government till late evening. No information was available on other members of the committee, except for the name of reference that they would be operating under. Right after news broke of



Ram Nath Kovind

the formation of such a committee, BJP president J.P. Nadra called on Mr. Kovind at his residence in New Delhi. "Right now, a committee has been constituted. A report of the committee will come out which will discuss its prospects. It will be discussed in public domain, but it will come in Parliament there will be discussion there too," Mr. Joshi said.

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RELATED REPORTS  
» PAGES 4 & 11



**Venugopal Kasturi**  
elected Chairman of Kasturi and Sorns Ltd.



Venugopal Kasturi has been elected Chairman of Kasturi and Sorns Ltd., the holding company of The Hindu Group Publishing Private Ltd (THGPP), the publishers of The Hindu, Businessline, Frontline and Sportstar. He was the founding Executive Editor of Businessline. Mr. Kasturi, the younger son of The Hindu's long-serving founder chairman Nagesh Jagdishrai Goyal, is also a director of KSL Media Ltd., Kasturi Estates Private Ltd., KSL Digital Ventures Ltd., Chennai International Centre, and Sporting Pastime India Ltd.

**COPPERNIFER  
Pension withdrawal norms to be eased**  
NEWS » [PAGE 10](#)

**KOTA TRAGEDY  
Walls of hope, tales of despair in coaching hub**  
Multiple pressures take a toll on students' mental health  
GROUND ZERO » [PAGE 9](#)

# SC student dies by suicide at IIT-Delhi hostel; second incident in 2 months

**Ishita Mishra**  
NEW DELHI  
A 21-year-old final-year B.Tech student at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, was found dead in his hostel room on Friday evening. The police said a police control room received a call at 8 p.m. reporting the death of Anil Kumar. Authorities at the institute could not be reached to confirm the incident. The Ambedkar Phase Periyar Student Circle, a student body on campus, said in a statement that "another SC [Scheduled Caste] student was found dead in Vindhyaachal hostel". Police said when they reached the spot they found the door of the student's room locked from inside. Officials of the fire department then broke the

# Governor vs govt.: fresh friction in West Bengal, Bihar

**Shiby Sahay Singh**  
Anil Bhattacharya  
KOLKATA/PATNA

Fresh discord surfaced between Governors and elected governments in the non-BJP ruled States of West Bengal and Bihar on Friday. While West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose decided to discharge the duties of interim vice-chancellors (V-Cs) of all universities where full-time V-Cs are yet to be appointed, the Raj Bhavan in Bihar asked V-Cs of State universities to take orders only from the Governor. "It is observed that the students of a few State universities, where the V-Cs posts are vacant, are facing difficulties in obtaining degree certificates and other documents. To provide them relief, the Governor in his capacity as the Chancellor has decided to discharge the duties of the V-Cs in these universities till



C.V. Ananda Bose



Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

ment, Education Minister Brajya Basu said a "dangerous situation" has developed as the Governor, without any consultation with the government and by-passing the Chief Minister, has appointed officiating V-Cs not only from the State but also from outside. He said the government would like to see the Raj Bhavan's approach as "unhelpful". "Since laws are for the people, we will take help of the laws," he said. In another move, the chief minister appointed Raj Kumar Kothari as the officiating V-C of the West

Bengal State University. None of the 31 State-run universities has a full-time V-C, and in most universities the Governor has appointed academicians as officiating V-Cs. A group of academicians, including former V-Cs, on Friday issued a statement that the Governor, who was also Chancellor of State universities, "seems to assume the 'in-in' role without any legal sanction. His most recent illogical and illegal announcement is not only bizarre but ominous". "Against autonomy" In Bihar, Robert L. Chongthu, Principal Secretary to the Governor, wrote to the V-Cs that obeying orders of the government had ordered the stopping of salaries of the university V-C and Pro-V-C for their alleged failure to inspect an institution in Jharkhand and for not attending a review meeting held by it.

# Onam season ends



Grand culmination: Artists perform Pulikali (tiger dance) in Thrissur on Friday, marking the end of Onam celebrations. K.K. NAJEEB

**Strained relations**  
Trouble has been brewing between Raj Bhavan and the Bihar government after Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, reversed an order of the Education Department to freeze bank accounts of two officials at Muzaffarpur's Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar Bihar University last month. The government had ordered the stopping of salaries of the university V-C and Pro-V-C for their alleged failure to inspect an institution in Jharkhand and for not attending a review meeting held by it.

# Govt. panel to study simultaneous polls to LS, State Assemblies

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The Union government on Friday said that a committee has been formed under the headship of former President of India Ram Nath Kovind, to look into the feasibility of simultaneous elections to State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha. Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi declared that the committee has been constituted, and that one needed to await its report for any further news on the issue.

While Mr. Joshi declared that the committee had been constituted, no official notification had been forthcoming from the government till late evening. No information was available on other members of the committee or the terms of reference that they would be operating under. Right after news broke of



Ram Nath Kovind

the formation of such a committee, BJP president J.P. Nadda called on Mr. Kovind at his residence in New Delhi.

“Right now, a committee has been constituted. A report of the committee will come out which will discuss its prospects. It will be discussed in public domain and when it will come in Parliament, there will be discussion there too,” Mr. Joshi said.

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**OPPOSITION RESPONSE**

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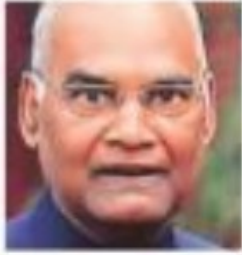
## Constitutional amendments needed

Quite apart from canvassing support from various political parties and stakeholders, holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and Assemblies would require at least five constitutional amendments and a large number of additional electronic voting machines and paper-trail machines. The five amendments in the Constitution would entail changes to Article 83 relating to the duration of Houses of Parliament, Article 85 relating to the dissolution of the Lok Sabha by the President, Article 172 relating to the duration of the State legislatures, Article 174 relating to dissolution of the State legislatures, and Article 356 relating to the imposition of President’s Rule in States.

A parliamentary panel had examined the issue of simultaneous elections in consultation with various stakeholders, including the Election Commission of India.

The matter now stands referred to the Law Commission for further examination to work out a “practicable road map and framework” for simultaneous elections, officials said.

CM



**RAM NATH KOVIND**  
Former President



**AMIT SHAH**  
Union Home Minister



**GHULAM NABI AZAD**  
Former Leader of Opp, RS



**N K SINGH**  
Ex-Chairman, 15th Finance Commission



**SUBHASH C KASHYAP**  
Ex-Secy Gen, Lok Sabha



**HARISH SALVE**  
Senior Advocate



**SANJAY KOTHARI**  
Former CVC




**ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY**  
Cong leader, LS





## KEY TASKS

- Propose amendments to Constitution and examine if these would need ratification by states

- Examine modalities of using single electoral roll and voter ID

- Examine logistics and manpower required, including EVMs, VVPATs

- 
- Simultaneous elections were held in the country during the first two decades after Independence up to 1967.
  - The dissolution of certain Assemblies in 1968 and 1969 followed by the dissolution of the Lok Sabha led to the disruption of the conduct of simultaneous elections.

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- आजादी के बाद पहले दो दशकों से लेकर 1967 तक देश में एक साथ चुनाव होते रहे।
  - 1968 और 1969 में कुछ विधानसभाओं के विघटन और उसके बाद लोकसभा के विघटन के कारण एक साथ चुनाव कराने में बाधा उत्पन्न हुई।



# Benefits of “one nation, one election”

Benefit	Description
<b>Reducing Election Expenditure</b>	Conducting all elections simultaneously <b>minimizes expenses</b> on logistics, security, and campaigning.
<b>Better Governance</b>	Simultaneous elections allow elected governments to <b>focus on governance</b> rather than preparing for the next election. It will help in <b>streamlining the election cycle to avoid policy disruptions</b> due to the <a href="#">Model Code of Conduct</a>
<b>Voter Convenience</b>	Ensures voters are <b>not subjected to multiple rounds of voting</b> , leading to <b>better turnout</b> and voter convenience.
<b>Reduced Security Concerns</b>	Conducting elections together <b>reduces overall security concerns</b> and enhances security setup across the country.
<b>Level Playing Field</b>	Provides a <b>level playing field for all parties and candidates</b> , promoting fairness and transparency in elections.
<b>Reduced Impact on Education</b>	Simultaneous elections <b>reduce the impact on the education sector</b> , as fewer teachers are involved in the electoral process.

# Challenges of “One Nation, One Election”:

Challenge	Description
<b>Constitutional Challenges</b>	Requires <b>constitutional amendments</b> , necessitating consensus among political parties and states, a complex and lengthy process.
<b>Anti-federal</b>	Assembly elections focus on <b>local issues</b> , and combining them with general elections may <b>overshadow regional narratives</b> .
<b>Logistical challenges</b>	Conducting all elections simultaneously <b>involves logistical arrangements</b> , security deployment, voter rolls, and polling booth management, leading to administrative difficulties.
	Need for approximately <b>30 lakh <a href="#">electronic voting machines</a></b> (EVMs) and voter-verified paper audit trail ( <a href="#">VVPAT</a> ) <b>machines</b>
<b>Possibility of Domination by National Parties</b>	Simultaneous <b>elections may favour national parties</b> with more resources, potentially marginalizing regional parties and issues.
<b>Impact on Democracy</b>	Voters may struggle to <b>engage with all issues simultaneously</b> , potentially leading to uninformed choices and undermining the democratic process.

## Entrenched provisions

Article 368 lists six parts of the Constitution that have an additional safeguard for amending them. These are:

1. Article 54 and 55, dealing with the election of the President of India.

2. Article 73 and 162, dealing with the extent of executive power of the Union and states.

3. Articles 124–147 and 214–231, which deal with powers of the Supreme Court and the High Courts

4. Article 245 to 255, dealing with the scheme of distribution of legislative, taxing, and administrative powers between the Union and the states.

5. Article 82-82, dealing with the representation of states in Parliament.

6. Article 368 itself.

## *Onam season ends*



**Grand culmination:** Artists perform Pulikkali (tiger dance) in Thrissur on Friday, marking the end of Onam celebrations. K.K. NAJEEB

# HC declares as null and void election of Prajwal Revanna

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday declared as null and void the election of Prajwal Revanna of Janata Dal (Secular) from Hassan Lok Sabha constituency in the general elections held in April-May 2019 for indulging in a series of corrupt practices during the poll process.

Meanwhile, the court also rejected the plea of A. Manju, who had then unsuccessfully contested the elections from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), to declare him as a returned candidate in place of Mr. Revanna.

The court said it could not declare Mr. Manju as the returned candidate as he too had indulged in corrupt practices, which were established from the materials provided by Mr. Revanna in his recrimination petition.

Justice K. Natarajan delivered the verdict while partly allowing the petitions filed in 2019 by Mr. Manju and one G. Devrajegowda, a voter from the Hassan parliamentary constituency.

**'Corrupt practices'** Mr. Revanna, one of the grandsons of IPS retired president and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and son of former Karnataka Minister H.D. Revanna, is the only MP from JD(S) in the Lok Sabha.

The court found that Mr. Revanna had indulged in at least a dozen types of dif-



Prajwal Revanna

ferent election corrupt practices as per the provisions of the Representation of Peoples Act, 1951.

Mr. Revanna, the court said, had given false information and false market value of some of the properties declared in the list of his assets and had concealed the actual balance in his bank account by declaring only ₹5.78 lakh as against the actual balance of ₹50 lakh as on the date of filing of his nomination. Also, he had suppressed ₹50 lakh loan, which was credited to his bank account, taken from Rajya Sabha member Kuppendra Reddy.

Mr. Revanna had not furnished the entire details of his assets, liabilities, and investments including the bank balances and most of the information given by him was wrong, the court held while also pointing out that he had failed to submit income-tax returns providing deep space communication services to the mission.

“ESA's global network of deep space tracking stations and use of internationally recognised technical standards allows us to

help our partners track, command and receive data from their spacecraft almost anywhere in the solar system,” said Kamesh Chellathurai, ESA service manager, and an ESA cross-support liaison officer for ISRO.

# India's first solar observatory mission to be launched today

Aditya-L1 mission payloads help to understand the problem of coronal heating, coronal mass ejection, flare activities, the dynamics of space weather, and the propagation of particles and fields

**Hemanth G.S.**  
CHENNAI

India's first solar observatory mission, named Aditya-L1, will be launched onboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 11.50 a.m. on Saturday.

On Friday, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) commenced the 23-hour 40-minute countdown for the launch of the Aditya-L1 mission.

Approximately sixty-three minutes after lift-off, the spacecraft separation is expected to take place as the PSLV will launch the Aditya-L1 spacecraft into a highly eccentric earth-orbit at around 12.53 p.m.



Historic event: The PSLV-C57 carrying Aditya-L1 stationed at the launch pad in Sriharikota on Friday. PTI

This PSLV-C57/Aditya-L1 mission can be counted as one of the longest missions involving ISRO's work-horse launch vehicle. However, the longest of the PSLV missions is still the 2016 PSLV-C35 mission which was completed two hours, 15 minutes and 33 seconds after lift-off.

Following the launch, Aditya-L1 will stay in earth-orbit for 16 days, during which it will undergo five manoeuvres to gain the necessary velocity for its journey.

**Long journey** “Subsequently, Aditya-L1 undergoes a Trans-Lagran-

gian insertion manoeuvre, marking the beginning of its 100-day trajectory to the destination, ISRO said.

Aditya-L1 will stay approximately 1.5 million km away from the earth, directed towards the sun; this is about 1% of the distance between the earth and the sun.

The Aditya-L1 payloads are expected to provide crucial information to understand the problem of coronal heating, coronal mass ejection, pre-flare and flare activities and their characteristics, dynamics of space separation, propagation of particles and fields etc.

The satellite placed in the halo orbit can continuously view the sun without any occultation or eclipse.

# European agency to support Aditya-L1

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

The European Space Agency (ESA) which had provided crucial support to ISRO to monitor the Chandrayaan-3's health, will also be supporting Aditya-L1, providing deep space communication services to the mission.

ESA's global network of deep space tracking stations and use of internationally recognised technical standards allows us to

**ESA provides support from its 35-metre deep space antennas over Australia, Spain and Argentina**

help our partners track, command and receive data from their spacecraft almost anywhere in the solar system,” said Kamesh Chellathurai, ESA service manager, and an ESA cross-support liaison officer for ISRO.

Mr. Chellathurai added that for the Aditya-L1 mission, ESA is providing support from all three of its 35-metre deep space antennas over Australia, Spain and Argentina, as well as support from the Kourou station in French Guiana and coordinated support from the Goochilly Earth Station in the UK.

ESA said that it was the main provider of ground station services for Aditya-L1. ESA stations will support the mission from be-

ginning to end: from the critical ‘Launch and Early Orbit Phase’, throughout the journey to L1, and then to send commands to and receive science data from Aditya-L1 for a couple of hours per day over the next two years of routine operations.

The space agency added that the order was placed in December 2022, and ISRO teams had worked together to evaluate and endorse ISRO's strategy for operating the Aditya-L1.

# Apex court expresses reservations about activist's house arrest

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday raised doubts about the reasonableness of its own order passed in November 2022, allowing 70-year-old activist Gautam Navlakha to be shifted out of Taloja jail into house arrest in a building atop a library in Navi Mumbai.

Mr. Navlakha is facing charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the Bhima Koregaon-Eklat Parishad case. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has accused him of having Maoist links.

A Bench led by Justice M.J. Sundeesh orally observed whether such an elaborate exception made for just one man would set a wrong precedent. The court directed the NIA to submit a report of his current medical condition and enquired about the progress made in the case.

**'Wrong precedent'** “Prima facie we have our reservations. But a lengthy order was passed without going into the merits of the case. This might set a wrong precedent... To facilitate this for one person...” Justice Sundeesh remarked orally.

Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju said the order was issued while in house arrest. He had been allowed to use a phone, not a smart phone, which the police personnel would stay with him. But she is not staying most of the time,” he said.



Gautam Navlakha

The law officer said Mr. Navlakha owed money to the State for the police protection given to him.

Senior advocate Nitya Ramakrishnan, for Mr. Navlakha, said the NIA could have him medically examined and this would confirm his statement. She said her client had already paid for the police guards.

On November 10 last year, a Bench of the apex court led by Justice (retired) K.M. Joseph had allowed Mr. Navlakha to be moved into house arrest while imposing strict police surveillance on his interactions and movements. Besides his health, the court had also pointed out the fact that Mr. Navlakha was in custody since October 2020.

He was asked to pay for the police guard and the CCTV cameras installed at the house arrest premises. He was prohibited from using a laptop or other communication devices while in house arrest. He had been allowed to use a phone, not a smart phone, which the police personnel would stay with him. But she is not staying most of the time,” he said.

# 3 accused acquitted in Kannur bomb blast case

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KOCCHI

Thadiyantevide Nazeer and two other accused in the Kannur bomb blast case were acquitted by Additional Sessions Judge IV on Friday as Kerala failed to issue sanction for prosecuting them under the CIA Act within the statutory time limit. They were also acquitted in the Explosive Substances Act as the prosecution failed to link them to the offence.

The prosecution case was that the accused members of a terrorist gang and organisation, installed a bomb near Jawahar Stadium in Kannur.

# Pocket rocket



Urban mobility: Engineering students of Presidency University unveiling a personal mobility eco-friendly scooter, for commuting in urban areas, in Bengaluru on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

# Amaravati R-5 zone: SC refuses to stay High Court order

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to immediately stay an Andhra Pradesh High Court order stopping the construction of houses in 50,000 plots allotted to people belonging to the economically weaker sections (EWS) in the R-5 zone of Amaravati, the State capital.

A Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna however issued notice on the petition filed by the Andhra Pradesh government. The court said it would consider the State government's plea for an interim stay of the operation of the High Court order of August 3 af-

ter studying the “lengthy and reasoned” decision. The Bench scheduled the case for hearing in November. “We will issue notice, but can't issue stay now...” The High Court order is lengthy and a reasoned order, Justice Khanna said.

On August 3, the HC had said that it “cannot be silent spectator if taxpayers' money is likely to be caught up in litigation. Hundreds of crores that was spent in the capital area in the form of building infrastructure is not being used. To permit further construction by utilising tax payers' money when the issue is pending before the court is a factor weighing heavily with this court.”

# First batch of elephants on their way to Mysuru for Jamboo Savari

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MYSURU

Gajapayana, the statey march of the caparisoned elephants from their jungle camps to the city of palaces to participate in the ensuing Dasara festivities, was set into motion at Veeranahosahalli Gate on the outskirts of Nagarahole. These elephants near Hassan in Karnataka on Friday.

The grand event signalled the countdown for the celebrations that commenced in October. Jamboo Savari, on the day of Vijayadashami marking the Dasara finale, is the most awaited event with lakhs of people witnessing the grand spectacle unfolding on the streets (Raja Marg) of Mysuru. The elephants led by Abhimanyu, the lead tusk that carries the 700-kilo golden howdah or ambari, received a grand welcome as Minister in charge of Mysuru district H.C. Mahadevappa and



Countdown begins: Dasara elephants starting their journey from the Veeranahosahalli gate near Nagarahole on Friday. M.A. SIDDHARTH

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre showered flowers on them after a puja and some rituals performed by the priests at around 9:45 a.m. before their customary march began. The elephants marched

# Election campaign reaches a feverish pitch in Puthuppally

**The Hindu Bureau**  
KOTTAYAM

Electioneering in Kerala's Puthuppally has reached a feverish pitch with a galaxy of leaders from all major parties taking part across the Assembly constituency.

Puthuppally this time is witnessing an unprecedented electoral night with every coalition having its tallest leader on the ground. After an overnight break, the candidates fielded by the three major coalition for the Assembly by-election, Chandy Oommen, Jaleel Thomas and G. Lijin Lal, have embarked on a vehicle tour across the constituency.

Aware that nothing



Congress leader A.K. Antony during a visit to the ancestral home of late Oommen Chandu on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

could be taken for granted in a battle of high stakes, LDF has visited Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan after a gap of just one day.

Congress, meanwhile, sought to match the rival front with a group of national leaders including

veteran leader A.K. Antony, who visited late Oommen Chandu's ancestral home.

BJP too has brought in its entire State leadership to the constituency, who highlighted Centre's various welfare policies.

# Pak. national, inlaws from Hyderabad arrested for forgery

**The Hindu Bureau**  
HYDERABAD

A 24-year-old Pakistani national and his in-laws were arrested on Thursday for illegally entering the country and for enrolling for Aadhaar by impersonation. Hyderabad DSP (South) P. Sai Chaitanya arrested them from Shaikhan at a conference on Friday.

Faiz Mohammed of Swat province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said he took the Nepal route to enter India in November 2022. His interest with Bahadurpura's Kishan Bagh in Hyderabad was with Fatma, whom he married while

they were in Sharjah. The couple also has a boy and is three years old now.

Mr. Chaitanya said Fatma's parents, Zabair Shah and Afzal Begum, who told him during the investigation, assured him that they would “manage to get the local (India) visa. He did not have a valid visa, but made arrangements from Shaikhan and Begum picked him up, managed the border officials, and brought him to the city.

The in-laws went further ahead and took their son-in-law to the Aadhaar centre in the name of haphur and registered his name, and with the birth certificate of his son, Mohd. Ghous.

# India's first solar observatory mission to be launched today

Aditya-L1 mission payloads help to understand the problem of coronal heating, coronal mass ejection, flare activities, the dynamics of space weather, and the propagation of particles and fields

**Hemanth C.S.**

CHENNAI

India's first solar observatory mission, named Aditya-L1, will be launched onboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 11.50 a.m. on Saturday.

On Friday, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) commenced the 23-hour 40-minute countdown for the launch of the Aditya-L1 mission.

Approximately sixty-three minutes after lift-off, the satellite separation is expected to take place as the PSLV will launch the Aditya-L1 spacecraft into a highly eccentric earth-bound orbit at around 12.53 p.m.



**Historic event:** The PSLV-C57 carrying Aditya-L1 stationed at the launch pad in Sriharikota on Friday. PTI

This PSLV-C57/Aditya-L1 mission can be counted as one of the longest missions involving ISRO's workhorse launch vehicle. However, the longest of the PSLV missions is still the 2016 PSLV-C35 mission which was completed two hours, 15 minutes and 33 seconds after lift-off.

Following the launch, Aditya-L1 will stay in earth-bound orbits for 16 days, during which it will undergo five manoeuvres to gain the necessary velocity for its journey.

## Long journey

"Subsequently, Aditya-L1 undergoes a Trans-Lagran-

gian1 insertion manoeuvre, marking the beginning of its 110-day trajectory to the destination," ISRO said.

Aditya-L1 will stay approximately 1.5 million km away from the earth, directed towards the sun; this is about 1% of the distance between the earth and the sun.

The Aditya L-1 payloads are expected to provide crucial information to understand the problem of coronal heating, coronal mass ejection, pre-flare and flare activities and their characteristics, dynamics of space weather, propagation of particles and fields etc.

The satellite placed in the halo orbit can continuously view the sun without any occultation or eclipse.

# European agency to support Aditya-L1

## The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

The European Space Agency (ESA) which had provided crucial support to ISRO to monitor the Chandrayaan-3's health, will also be supporting Aditya-L1, providing deep space communication services to the mission.

“ESA's global network of deep space tracking stations and use of internationally recognised technical standards allows us to

## ESA provides support from its 35-metre deep space antennas over Australia, Spain and Argentina

help our partners track, command and receive data from their spacecraft almost anywhere in the solar system,” said Ramesh Chellathurai, ESA service manager, and an ESA cross-support liaison officer for ISRO.

Mr. Chellathurai added that for the Aditya-L1 mission, ESA is providing support from all three of its 35-metre deep space antennas over Australia, Spain and Argentina, as well as support from the Kourou station in French Guiana and coordinated support from the Goonhilly Earth Station in the U.K.

ESA said that it was the main provider of ground station services for Aditya-L1. ESA stations will support the mission from be-

ginning to end: from the critical ‘Launch and Early Orbit Phase’, throughout the journey to L1, and then to send commands to and receive science data from Aditya-L1 for multiple hours per day over the next two years of routine operations.

The space agency added that from April to December 2022, ESA and ISRO teams had worked together intensively to evaluate ISRO's strategy for operating the Aditya-L1.

# Aditya-L1 lifts off to study the sun

ISRO's workhorse PSLV takes off from Sriharikota at 11.50 a.m.; in one of its longest flights, it launches the spacecraft in an orbit around earth

**Hemanth C.S.**  
SRIHARIKOTA

**I**ndia's first solar observatory mission – Aditya-L1 – was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Saturday.

The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), in its 59<sup>th</sup> flight with the Aditya-L1 on board, took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 11.50 a.m.

About 63 minutes after take-off, the separation from the satellite took place with the PSLV launching the Aditya-L1 spacecraft in a highly eccentric orbit around the earth at 12.53 p.m. This was among the longest flights of ISRO's workhorse launch vehicle in recent times.

Following the launch, Aditya-L1 will stay in orbit around the earth for 16 days, during which it will undergo five manoeuvres to gain the necessary velocity for its long journey towards the sun.

Subsequently, Aditya-L1 will undergo a Trans-Lagrangian1 insertion manoeuvre, marking the beginning of its 110-day trajectory to the destination around the L1 Lagrange point. Upon arrival at the L1 point, another manoeuvre binds Aditya-L1 to an



ISRO launches Aditya-L1 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Saturday. ANI

orbit around L1, a balanced gravitational location between the earth and the sun.

The spacecraft will perform orbital manoeuvres by using its Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) engine to reach L1.

Aditya-L1 will stay approximately 1.5 million km away from the earth, directed towards the sun, which is about 1% of the earth-sun distance.

**CONTINUED ON**  
**» PAGE 8**

Aditya-L1 has a mission life of five years during which its payloads are expected to provide the most crucial information to understand the problem of coronal heating; coronal mass ejection; pre-flare and flare activities and their characteristics; dynamics of space weather; and propagation of particles and fields.

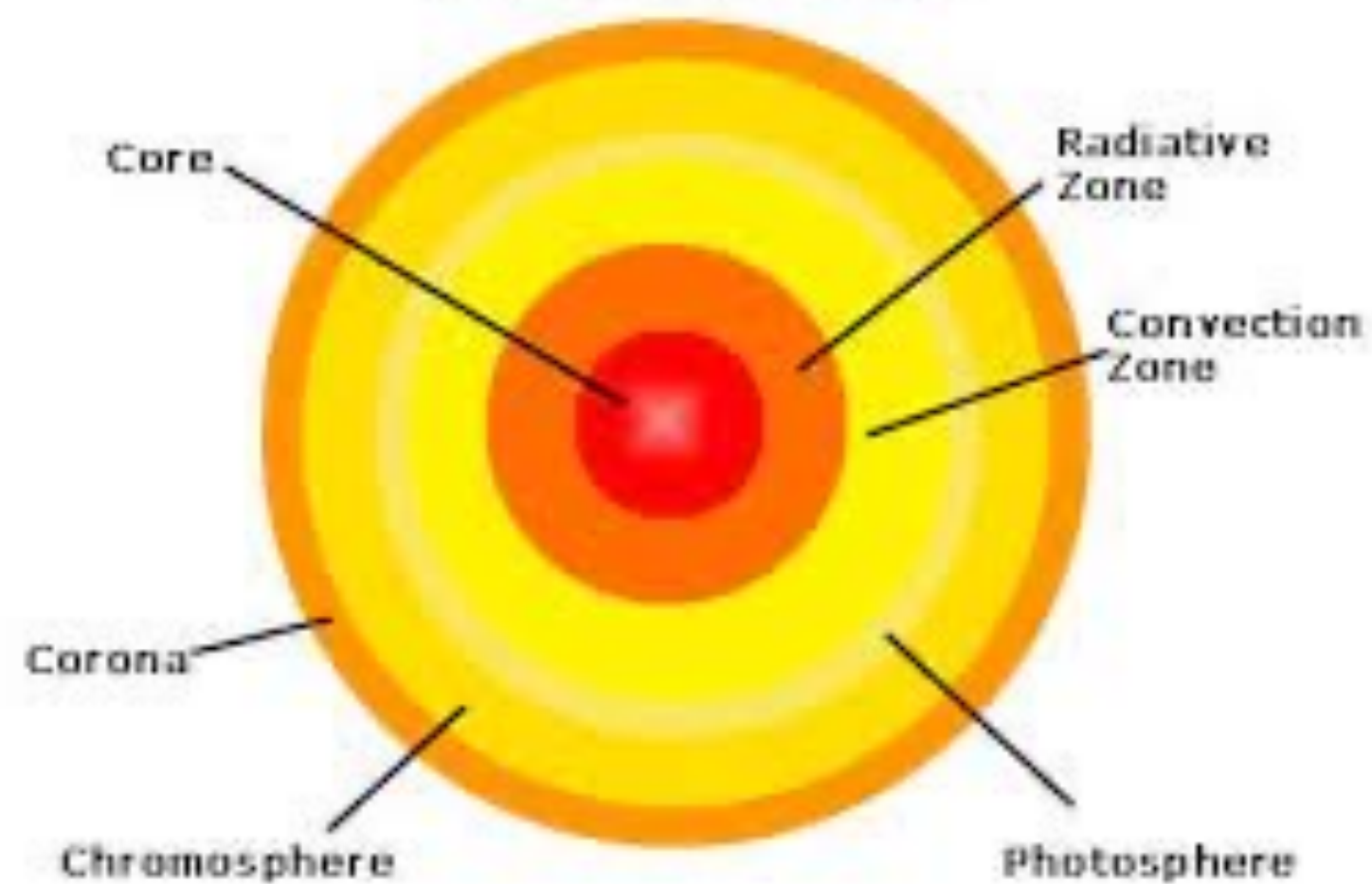
The seven payloads onboard Aditya-L1 are: Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC); Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT); Solar Low Energy X-ray Spectrometer (SoLEXS); High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS); Aditya Solar wind Particle Experiment (ASPEX); Plasma Analyser Package For Aditya (PAPA); and Advanced Tri-axial High Resolution Digital Magnetometers.

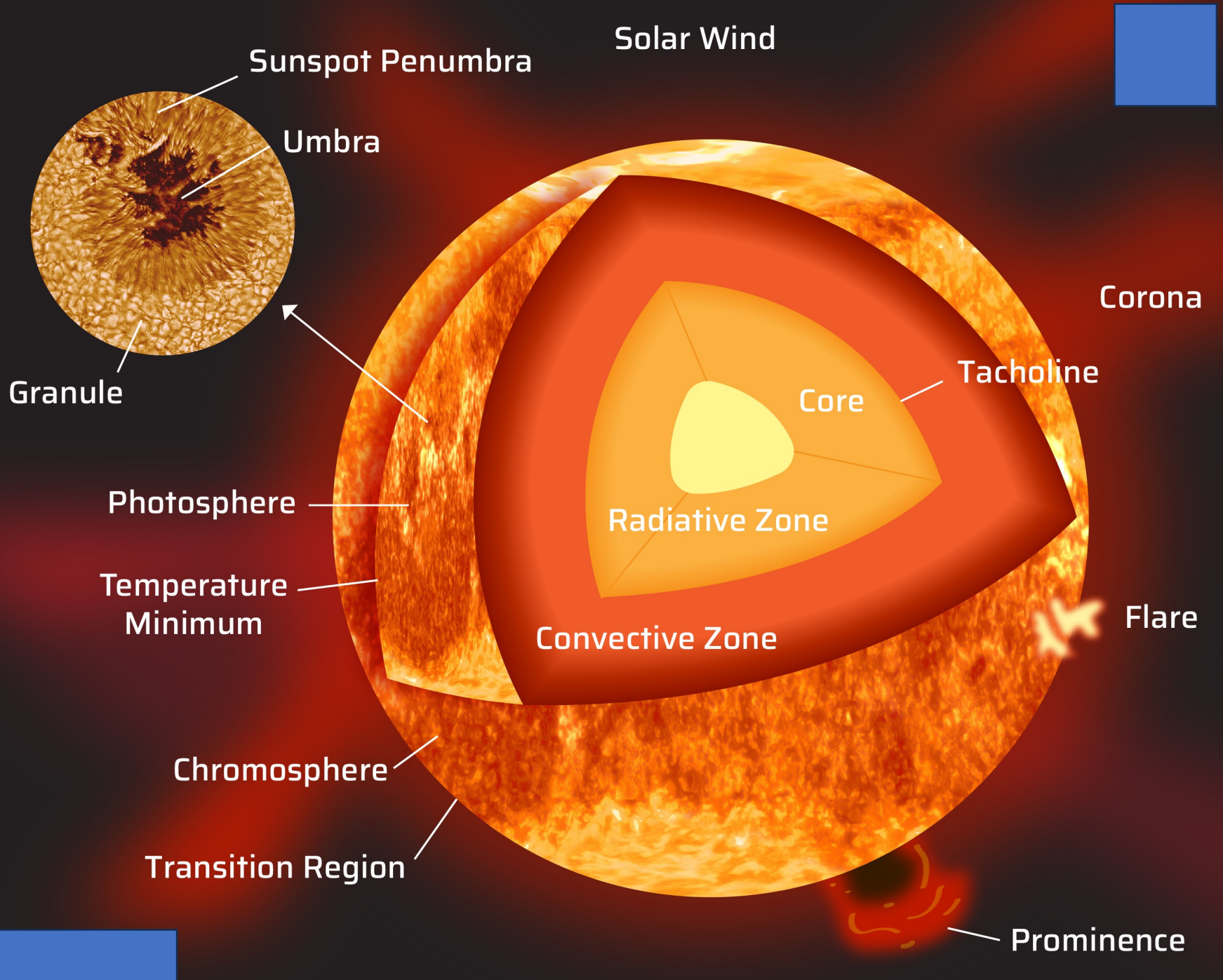
The solar panels on Aditya-L1 have been deployed and the spacecraft has started generating power. After the launch, ISRO Chairperson S. Somanath said, “The Aditya-L1 spacecraft has been injected in an elliptical orbit of 235 km by 19,500 km, which is as intended, very precisely by the PSLV. This is a very unique mission. From now, the Aditya-L1 will make its journey. After some manoeuvres, it will start its journey towards the L-1 point. It is a very long journey of almost 125 days.”

The first manoeuvre to raise its orbit is scheduled on Sunday, around 11.45 a.m.



## ANATOMY OF THE SUN





Sunspot Penumbra

Solar Wind

Umbra

Corona

Granule

Tacholine

Photosphere

Core

Temperature Minimum

Radiative Zone

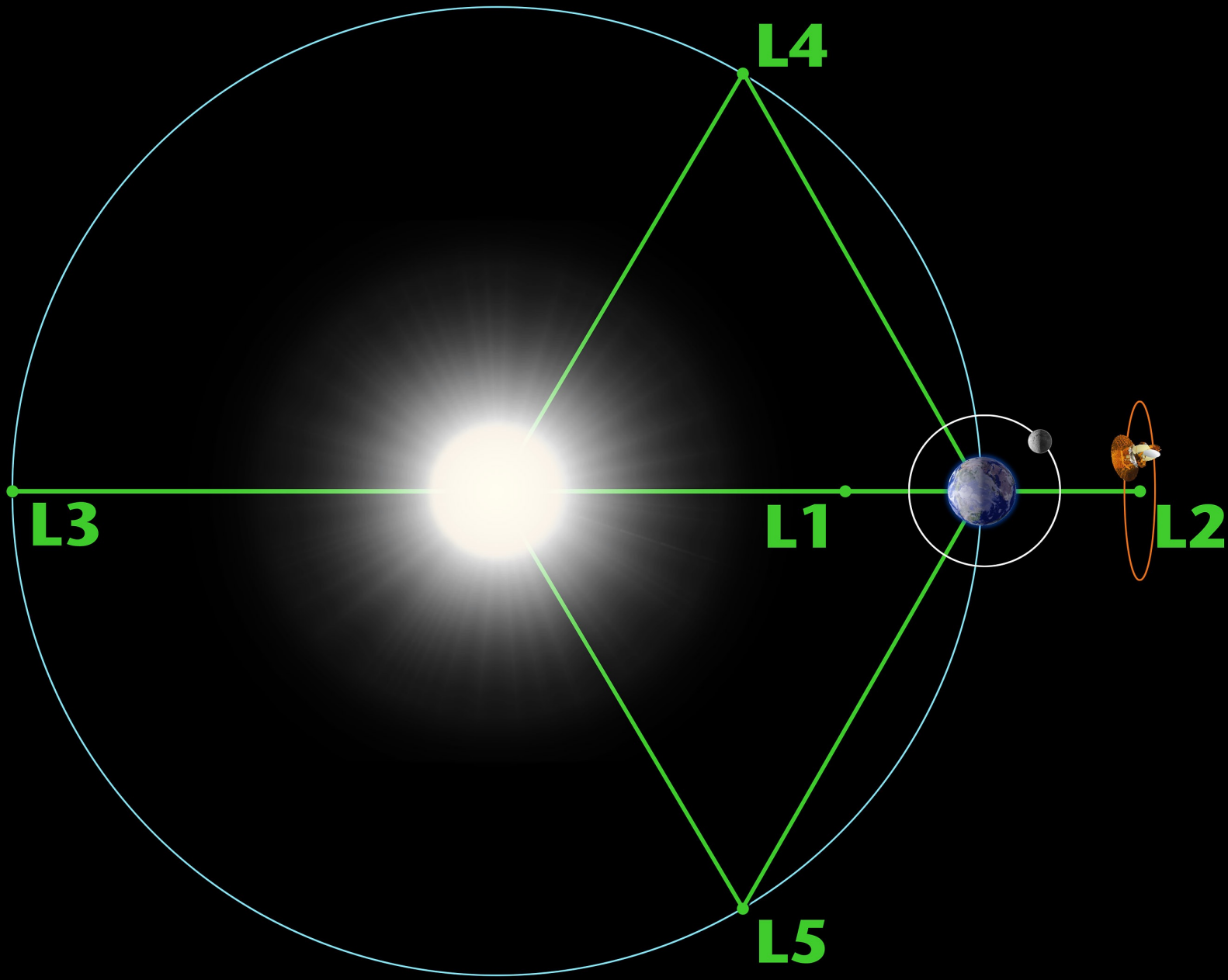
Convective Zone

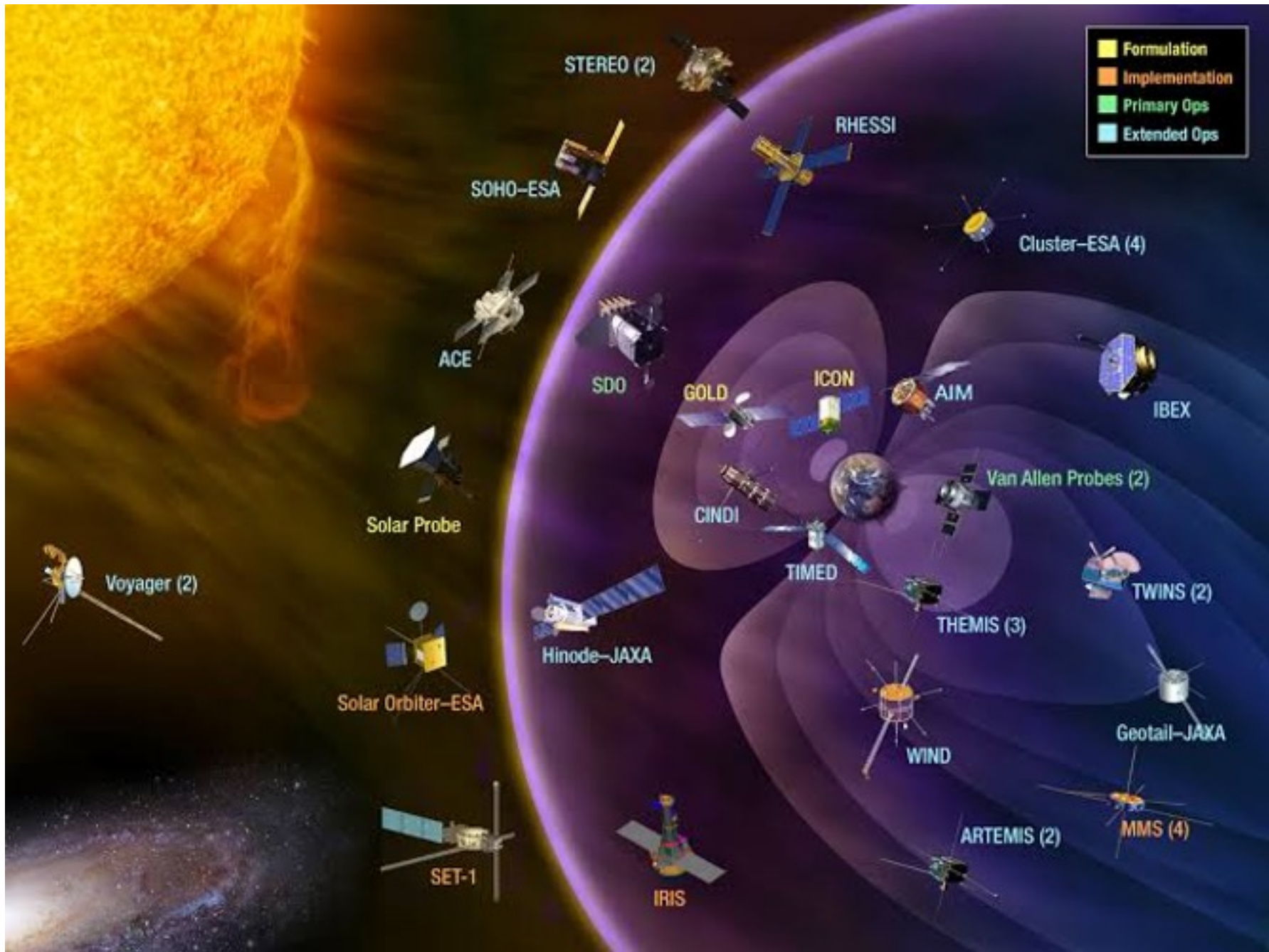
Flare

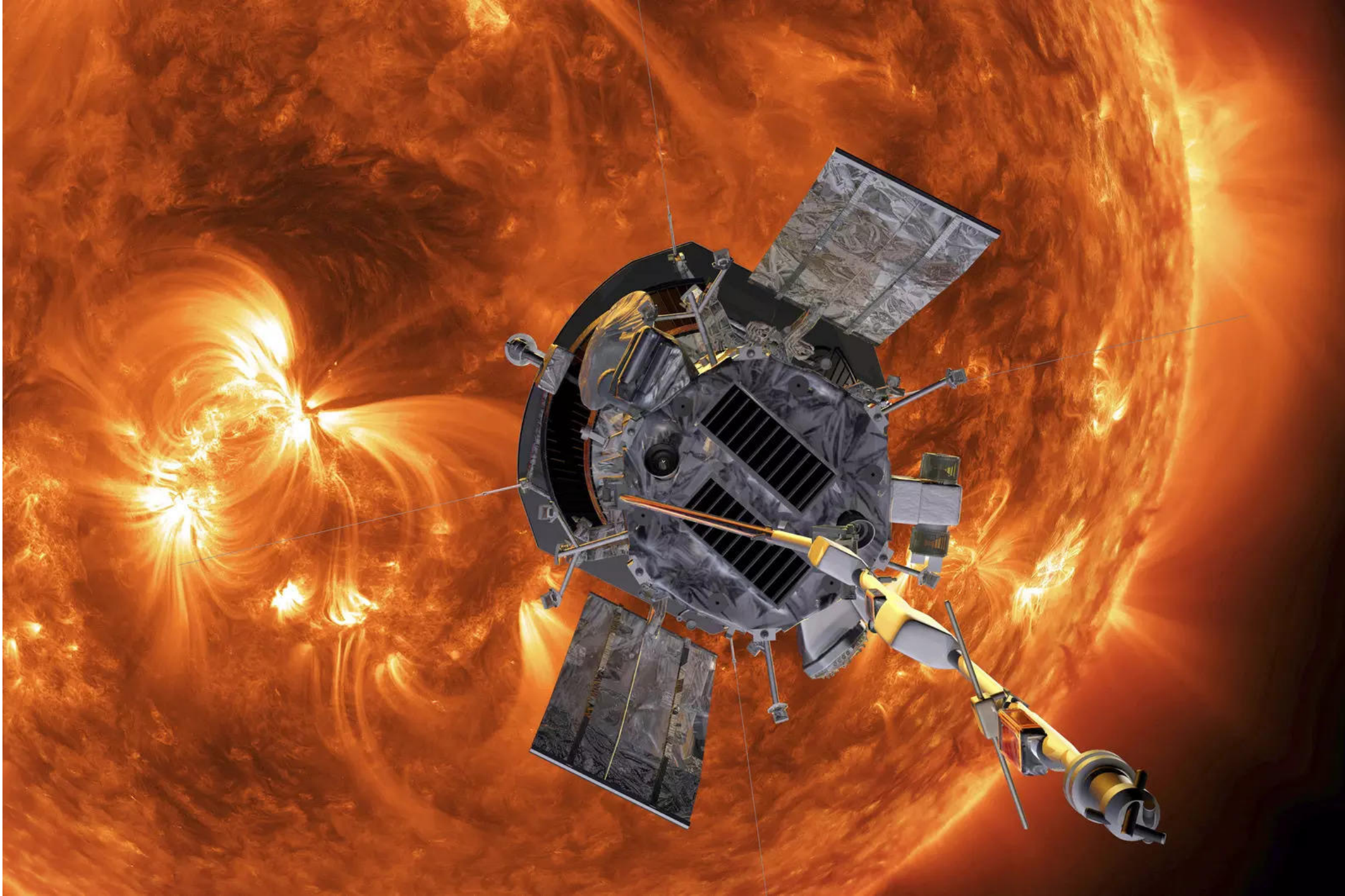
Chromosphere

Transition Region

Prominence







IN BRIEF



Indian Navy's stealth frigate Mahendragiri launched

The seventh and last stealth frigate of Project 17A, Mahendragiri, was launched on Friday by Sudesh Dhanekar, wife of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhanekar, at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL) in Mumbai.

Actor Madhavan to head Film & Television Institute of India

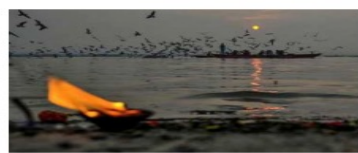
Actor R. Madhavan has been nominated as the president of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). "Heartfelt congratulations to @ActorMadhavan ji on being nominated as president of @FTIIOfficial and chairman of the governing council. I'm sure that your vast experience & strong ethics will enrich this institute, bring positive changes, & take it to a higher level. My best wishes for the same. Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur in a post on X (formerly 'Twitter') on Friday.

Seven years on, mission to clean the Ganga remains a work in progress

Treatment plants capable of treating just 20% of sewage spewing into the river set up so far; NMCG hopes to increase this to 33% by 2024 and 60% by 2026; Centre says it will only build capacity for 7000 MLD, States must set up the rest

Jacob Koshy, NEW DELHI

Seven years since the government unveiled its ambitious ₹20,000-crore National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), it has installed treatment plants capable of treating just 20% of the sewage estimated to be generated in the five major States that lie along the river. This is expected to increase to about 33% by 2024. According to the latest projections by senior officials in the NMCG, the treatment plants will be capable of treating 60% of sewage by December 2026.



The Centre has given approval for projects worth ₹37,396 crore, but only ₹14,745 crore has been released to the States, N.C. Koshy

The main objective of the Namami Gange mission is to ensure that no untreated sewage flows into the river. The estimate of 11,765 MLD is dynamic and also includes sewage that is generated within the State, but which doesn't necessarily flow into the river, it also isn't exact and is a projection based on expected population trends. NMCG Director-General G. Asok Kumar told The Hindu. "Other States are also working on their own in setting up plants and we

pleated. In the last financial year 2022-23, however, 1,455 MLD capacity was commissioned as there were problems with land acquisition. The Department of Environment, which prescribe all the steps necessary to execute a project, and the roles of agencies, Centre, State and the private contractors, needed revision, said Mr. Kumar. "States were under the impression that building treatment plants was entirely the Centre's responsibility. We are here to set up capacity worth 7,000 MLD, it should suffice, for now, to ensure no untreated sewage flows in the main stem of the river."

Picking up pace Projects to set up STPs and sewerage networks are at the forefront of the Namami Gange mission and account for about 80% of the overall project outlay. As of July 2023, STPs capable of treating 2,665 MLD have already been commissioned, and are now functional. From 2014, when the mission was first announced, the States are expected to set up plants and we

ter quality is now within prescribed limits of notified primary bathing water quality, an NMCG fact-sheet, viewed by The Hindu, noted.

More dolphins Mr. Pradhan said that a conspicuous sign of the improvement in water quality along the Ganga was the rise in dolphin population from 2,000 to about 4,000. "We are also seeing the presence of dolphins in new stretches of the river as well as in tributaries (of the Ganga). Fishermen are also reporting the increased presence of Indian catfish (a species that only thrives in clean water. So we have nature's verdict on river improvement," he added.

The typical parameters used by the Central Pollution Control Board — such as levels of dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand, and faecal coliform — vary widely along various stretches of the river. The NMCG is now working to develop a water quality index, on the lines of the air quality index, to be able to better communicate the river-water quality, he added.

NCERT given deemed-to-be university tag, says Pradhan

The Hindu Bureau, NEW DELHI

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been granted the deemed-to-be university status, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on the 63rd Foundation Day of the apex decision-making body for school education on Friday.

"NCERT on becoming a research university will offer opportunities for global collaborations and contributions to the global educational landscape," Mr. Pradhan said. "The deemed-to-be university status is an immense honour from the Institute of Science," he added.

Mr. Pradhan said that Jodhpur — a play-based learning-teaching material tailored for children in the age group of three to eight years developed by the NCERT — would benefit 10 crore children entering the play-based learning system in government or pre-primary sections of schools, leading up to Class 2.

Of brain development occurs by the age of eight, we need to ensure that content is made and adapted to the mother tongue, otherwise it will be of little use," he said.

From Magna Carta to Ashtadhyayi: artefacts to grace G-20 corridor

Sreeparna Chakrabarty, NEW DELHI

A copy of the Magna Carta, United Kingdom's famous charter of rights, a 15th-century bronze statue of Belvedere Apollo from Italy, and an 18th-century Fahusadded jar from China would be among the objects of cultural significance on display at the venue for the special Culture Corridor which would be set up at the venue of the G-20 summit in the national capital next week. India's contribution would be Pannini's Ashtadhyayi, the ancient text.

While these would be among the physical objects on display, there would also be a digital museum for which France has shared the iconic painting Mona Lisa, Germany the Gutenberg Bible and Mexico a statue of the deity

Children from void marriages entitled to parents' share in property, says SC

Krishnasudha Rajasolankar, NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday held that a child born of a void or voidable marriage inherits their parents' share in a joint Hindu family property governed by the Mitakshara law. A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, however, clarified that such a child would not be entitled to rights in or to the property of any other person in the family. A voidable marriage is one that is made invalid by the husband or wife through a decree. A void marriage is invalid at its very inception. The Mitakshara law of succession governing Hindu undivided families applies to the whole of India, except West Bengal and Assam.

Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said that the first step to inheritance for a child from a void or voidable marriage would be to ascertain their parent's exact share in the ancestral property. Notional partition This could be done by means of conducting a "notional partition" of the ancestral property and calculating how much of the property the parent would have got immediately before their death.

For the purpose of ascertaining the interest of a deceased Hindu Mitakshara coparcener (that is, a person who acquires a legal right to his ancestral property through birth in a Hindu Undivided Family), the law mandates the ascertainment of a state of affairs immediately prior to the death of the coparcener, namely, a partition of the coparcenary property between the deceased and the other members of the coparcenary." Chief Justice, who authored the judgment, observed. "When the share of the deceased in the property that would be allotted to him if a partition had taken place immediately before his death is ascertained, his heirs, including children who have been conferred with legitimacy, will be entitled to their shares in the property which would have been allotted to the deceased on the notional partition," the Chief Justice held.

Some countries are trying to hijack G-20 agenda, says Russia

Kalol Bhattacharyya, NEW DELHI

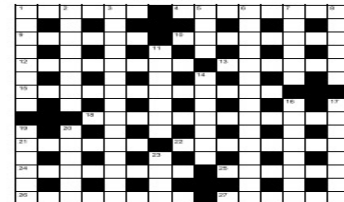
A week before the G-20 summit here, Russian Ambassador Denis Alipov on Friday came out strongly against western attempts to foreground the Ukraine crisis at the multilateral platform and said that political issues should not be raised in keeping with the tradition of G-20. He further said the language of the Bali Declaration 2022 that had mention of Ukraine issues will have to change when the G-20 countries meet. "Unfortunately, Indian Presidency in G-20 has experienced very strong pressure from some countries who in Russia's opinion hijacked the G-20's agenda making the Ukrainian crisis as one of the top issues. The G-20 should focus on economic issues and finance but since last



Denis Alipov

year it was decided by some members of the group to discuss political issues while in the G-20 something that we do not accept," Mr. Alipov said during an interaction with the media at the Foreign Correspondents Club (FCC). He said that even if majority of the members of the G-20 supported an item with a few like Russia standing away, then such an item should not be on the agenda of the G-20.

THE CROSSWORD 13960 (set by Arden)



To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site at: https://www.puzzle-book.in/

- 12 John's despatch said to be getting unscrewed (8)
13 Baby fattening? Get off, off! (6)
15 I am, say, now on edge (7,5)
18 Blessed men, natural to be advocating supreme papal authority (12)
21 Lese Majesty, time to argue (6)
22 One is better peeled and savoured after a meal (8)
24 Cross with first class travel (8)
25 Felt taking a short time with animal handler (6)
26 Salad, sell a salad in neat package (8)
27 A party the communist loved (6)
Down
3 Queensies, behold hiding among head hunter's trophies (8)
2 Study carried out by democrats overlooked (8)
3 Possibly false alarm, wry novel (3,5,2,4)
5 Cut outside length of shaft (4)
6 Saw that evasions is in order (8)
7 In the beginning brave, and not timid, a man turns chicken (6)
8 Terrible place to live, admit not rude (6)
11 Teach manoeuvre on area (7)
14 Proper European English? (7)
16 Whiskey that's drunk on energy! (4-4)
17 Game in fact not liked at all (8)
18 Saybe anaerobic, lost one tongue! (6)
20 Not more, a time to come up with a decorative piece (6)
23 Thought one was carrying fish (4)

SUDOKU grid with numbers and a solution key below it.

FAITH Greatness of Bhagavatam article text.

- Across
1 Coal is used at-home (6)
4 Is under arrest, carrying tin pot (8)
9 Make it hard for boy to state girl (6)
10 There is lot of foot tapping as the sergeant comes under fire (8)

Smritad Bhagavatam has answers to all our questions about Vedanta. If you compare nectar and Bhagavata Purana, nectar seems insignificant. People bathe in sacred rivers to get rid of their sins. But we just have to drink the nectar called Srirad Bhagavatam, for our sins will be wiped out, said Vahyapeer Ramachariar in a discourse.

Lord Krishna adores those who listen to a narration of Bhagavata Purana. Parakashit listened to a narration of Srirad Bhagavatam, and as a result, he attained moksha. The first shloka of Srirad Bhagavatam is a mangala shloka. Obedience is offered to Lord Krishna, who is the cause of our independence and dissolution. In Daya Sattva, Vedanta Desika says that during the deluge, cetanas are helpless and due to Daya Devi, the Lord gives the jivatmas bores, and makes them experience joy or sorrow, according to their karmas. This is so that eventually, they can reach Him. Such a merciful God gave us the Vedas. The Vedas do more good for us than even our parents, by showing us what is right and what is wrong. Vedas have two segments: procca mitama and uttra mitama. uttra mitama, uttra mitama sa shows us how to attain moksha. It is difficult to understand the Vedas, and the Ullhasas and Puranas must be studied to comprehend the Vedas. Srirad Bhagavatam helps us understand Vedantic truths.

# NCERT given deemed-to-be university tag, says Pradhan

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been granted the deemed-to-be university status, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on the 63rd Foundation Day of the apex decision-making body for school education on Friday.

“NCERT on becoming a research university will offer opportunities for global collaborations and contributions to the global educational landscape,” Mr. Pradhan said. “The deemed-to-be university status is on lines of Indian Institute of Science,” he added.

Mr. Pradhan said that *Jadui Pitara* – a play-based learning-teaching material tailored for children in the age group of three to eight years developed by the NCERT – would benefit 10 crore children entering the play-based learning system in *anganwadis* or pre-primary sections of schools, leading up to Class 2.

“As 80% of brain development occurs by the age of eight, we need to ensure that content is made and adapted to the mother tongue, otherwise it will be of little use,” he said.

# एन सी ई आर टी NCERT

<b>Motto</b>	<b>Sanskrit:</b> विद्यया अमृतमश्नुते
<b>Motto in English</b>	<i>Life eternal through learning</i>
<b>Type</b>	Autonomous body
<b>Established</b>	1961; 62 years ago
<b>Founder</b>	Government of India (Ministry of Education)
<b>Budget</b>	₹510 crore (US\$64 million) (FY2022–23 est.) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>President</b>	Dharmendra Pradhan (Minister of Education)
<b>Director</b>	Dr. Dinesh Prasad Saklani <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Location</b>	Sri Aurobindo Marg, Delhi, India
<b>Campus</b>	Urban
<b>Acronym</b>	NCERT



# Actor Madhavan to head Film & Television Institute of India

Actor R. Madhavan has been nominated as the president of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). “Heartiest congratulations to @ActorMadhavan ji on being nominated as president of @FTIIOfficial and chairman of the governing council. I’m sure that your vast experience & strong ethics will enrich this institute, bring positive changes, & take it to a higher level. My best wishes to you,” said Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur in a post on X (formerly Twitter) on Friday.

# Film and Television Institute of India



<b>Type</b>	Film school
<b>Established</b>	1960; 63 years ago
<b>Chairman</b>	<a href="#">R Madhavan<sup>[1]</sup></a>
<b>Director</b>	<a href="#">Bhupendra Kainthola, IIS<sup>[2]</sup></a>
<b>Location</b>	<a href="#">Pune, Maharashtra, India</a>

# Children from void marriages entitled to parents' share in property, says SC

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday held that a child born of a void or voidable marriage can inherit their parents' share in a joint Hindu family property governed by the Mitakshara law. A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, however, clarified that such a child would not be entitled to rights in or to the property of any other person in the family.

A voidable marriage is one that is made invalid by the husband or wife through a decree. A void marriage is invalid at its very inception.

The Mitakshara law of succession governing Hindu undivided families applies to the whole of India, except West Bengal and Assam.

Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said that the first

step to inheritance for a child from a void or voidable marriage would be to ascertain their parent's exact share in the ancestral property.

## **Notional partition**

This could be done by means of conducting a "notional partition" of the ancestral property and calculating how much of the property the parent would have got immediately before their death.

"For the purpose of ascertaining the interest of a deceased Hindu Mitakshara coparcener [that is, a person who acquires a legal right to his ancestral property through birth in a Hindu Undivided Family], the law mandates the assumption of a state of affairs immediately prior to the death of the coparcener, namely, a partition of the coparcenary property between the deceased and the other members of the

coparcenary," Chief Justice, who authored the judgment, observed.

"When the share of the deceased in the property that would be allotted to him if a partition had taken place immediately before his death is ascertained, his heirs, including children who have been conferred with legitimacy, will be entitled to their shares in the property which would have been allotted to the deceased on the notional partition," the Chief Justice held.

## **Governing inheritance**

The Chief Justice said that Section 16 of the Hindu Marriage Act has statutorily conferred legitimacy to children born out of void or voidable marriages.

He also pointed out that Section 16(3) of the Act stipulates that children from void and voidable marriages would have a right to their parents' pro-

perty. The court said that the intent of granting legitimacy to such children in the Hindu Marriage Act should also be reflected in the Hindu Succession Act, which governs inheritance. Children from void or voidable marriages come within the ambit of "legitimate kinship", and cannot be regarded as illegitimate by the Hindu Succession Act when it comes to inheritance.

It also noted that after the enactment of the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005, the share of a deceased person in a joint Hindu family governed by Mitakshara law can be devolved to his heirs by testamentary or intestate succession.

Prior to the amendment, the devolution was only through survivorship. Besides, the amendment gave equal rights of succession to women as well as men.

# Mitakshara School of Law

## History

Originated in ancient India; attributed to *Vijnaneshvara*, a 12th-century scholar

## Focus

Interpretation of *Yajnavalkya Smriti* in matters of family, property, and inheritance law

## Ancestral Property

Emphasis on joint family property and ancestral property rights

## Inheritance

Defines rules for succession and inheritance within Hindu families

## SINGAPORE

## Ex-deputy PM Shanmugaratnam elected Singapore President



Singapore's former deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam was elected President on Friday, comfortably securing victory in the city-state's first contested vote for the largely ceremonial position in more than a decade. He won 70.4% of the vote to win a six-year term. AFP

## COLOMBO

## Sri Lanka ends fuel rationing imposed during economic crisis



Energy Minister Kanchana Wijesekera said Sri Lanka will end the fuel rationing scheme imposed a year ago during the height of an unprecedented economic crisis, hinting at an improvement in the island nation's economy. Under the rationing system, registered consumers at filling stations were guaranteed a weekly quota. PTI

## COPENHAGEN

## In a retaliatory move, Denmark wants Russia to limit embassy staff



Denmark said that it had told Russia to reduce the number of staff at its Copenhagen embassy following Russian requests for visas for "intelligence officers". Denmark said the Russian mission would need to reduce its staff to match the level of the Danish embassy in Moscow, and that it had informed Russia's Ambassador. AFP

## AL-AQABA

## Israeli forces kill Palestinian man in raid on occupied West Bank



Israeli forces killed a Palestinian in the West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry said, as a surge of deadly violence in the occupied territory shows no signs of abating. The Ministry said Abdul Rahim Fayez Ghannam, 36, was "shot by live occupation (Israeli) fire in the head" in the village of Al-Aqaba in the northern West Bank. AFP

## Thailand King reduces former PM Thaksin's prison term to one year

The 74-year-old billionaire, who had returned from a 15-year-long exile, had applied for royal pardon over graft and abuse of office convictions; he was sent to jail last week immediately upon his return to the kingdom for the first time since 2008

Agence France-Presse  
BANGKOK

Thailand's jailed former Premier Thaksin Shinawatra had his prison sentence cut from eight years to one by the King on Friday, just days after he returned from a decade and a half in exile.

The move came a day after the billionaire ex-Prime Minister, 74, applied for a royal pardon over graft and abuse of office convictions amid widespread speculation about a backroom deal to allow him clemency.

**Unpleasant start**  
Mr. Thaksin, twice elected Prime Minister and ousted in a 2014 military coup, was sent to prison last week immediately after returning to the kingdom for the first time since 2008.

The partial pardon from



Sincere gratitude: Thaksin Shinawatra bows in homage to the King's portrait after landing in Bangkok on August 22. AFP

King Maha Vajiralongkorn was greeted by the official Royal Gazette, with the announcement pointing to his service to the country as Prime Minister.

"He is loyal to the institution of monarchy. When prosecuted, he respected the justice system," the court statement said, noting that Mr. Thaksin also suffers

numerous health problems. "His Majesty the King has granted him amnesty and reduced the sentence on Thaksin Shinawatra, to one year in prison, so that he could use his expertise and experience to develop the country's royalist and pro-military

establishment. Much of Thai politics over the last two decades has been coloured by the establishment's efforts to keep Mr. Thaksin and his allies out of power.

**Hero's welcome**  
His supporters gave him a hero's welcome on landing in Bangkok and his first public act was to prostrate himself in homage before a portrait of the king at the airport.

Hours later Mr. Thaksin was confirmed as Prime Minister by the party's first Premier since Mr. Thaksin's sister Yingluck was thrown out in a coup in 2014.

On his first night back in Thailand, Mr. Thaksin was moved from jail to a private hospital, with prison medical officers saying he needed close monitoring for various health problems, including heart trouble.

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## Attack on Russian airport launched from inside Russia

Agence France-Presse  
KYIV

Ukraine's military intelligence said on Friday that a recent drone attack on an airport in northwestern Russia which damaged several transport planes was carried out from within Russian territory.

The claim came as Kyiv said the police in the Capital were responding to bomb threats as children returned to classrooms for a second academic year since Russia's invasion.

The attack this week on Pskov airport some 700 kilometres from Ukraine marked the latest strike to rock Russian territory since Kyiv vowed to "turn" the conflict to Russia in July.

"The drones used to attack the 'Kresno' air base in Pskov were launched from Russia," Ukraine's intelligence chief Kyrylo Budanov said on social media Friday.

"Four Russian IL-76 military transport planes were hit as a result of the attack. Two were destroyed and two were seriously damaged," he added.

Mr. Budanov said the aircraft had been used by the Defence Ministry to transport troops and cargo.

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## Putin to host Erdogan amid bid to revive grain deal

Associated Press

Russian President Vladimir Putin will host Turkish leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan for talks next week, the Kremlin announced on Friday, just over six weeks after Moscow broke off a deal brokered by Ankara and the UN that allowed Ukrainian grain to reach world markets safely.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Mr. Putin and Mr. Erdogan would meet on Monday. The announcement ended weeks of speculation about when and where the two leaders might meet as international efforts continue to patch up the deal. The Grain Initiative, which got agrarian and other food to reach Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Ukraine and Russia are both major global suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other commodities that developing nations rely on.

## Four soldiers killed, three injured, in fresh clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan

Agence France-Presse  
YEREVAN

Four Armenian servicemen were killed and three Azerbaijan soldiers wounded on Friday, the two countries said, as they accused each other of engaging in a new round of clashes.

Tensions between Baku and Yerevan have escalated sharply in recent

months, as both sides accuse the other of cross-border attacks.

"As a result of an Azerbaijani provocation, four servicemen were killed and three wounded on the Armenian side," Armenia's Defence Ministry said, after earlier reporting two were killed.

The Ministry said earlier that Azerbaijan had fired at Armenian positions near

the town of Sotk, less than 10 km from the Azeri border.

**Drone strike**  
Azerbaijan said two of its soldiers were injured by an Armenian drone strike in the region of Kalbajar, on the other side of the border, while another soldier was injured in cross-border fire.

"We declare that all responsibility for the tension and its consequences lies with the military-political leadership of Armenia," Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry said.

The latest clashes mark another blow to achieving peace between the two Soviet republics, which have for decades been locked in a bitter dispute over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

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## Nepal rejects China's map, asks neighbours to respect boundaries set by its Parliament

Press Trust of India  
KATHMANDU

Nepal on Friday asked the international community to honour the political map endorsed by its parliament three years ago as it rejected China's new national map that shows territories the Himalayan nation considers its own as part of India.

China on Monday released a new map in which the Lipulekh, Kalapani and Lipulekh areas — Nepal considers its territories — were shown as part of India.

"Nepal stands firm and clear on its political and administrative map unanimously approved by Parliament in 2020," the Foreign Minister said in a statement.

The government unequivocally believes that this map must be respected by our neighbours as well as the international community," he said, adding that Nepal remains committed to resolving the

boundary matters through dialogues and diplomacy.

**Prachanda to follow up**  
Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" will also take up the matter pertaining to the country's newly issued map during his upcoming visit to China, a senior leader of the ruling coalition partner CPN-Maoist Centre said on Friday.

boundary matters through dialogues and diplomacy.

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## Sport

## Savita &amp; Co. seek to end Indian women's long wait for an Asian Games gold medal

## HOCKEY

## Ashwin Achal

The Indian women's hockey team's first and only gold medal at the Asian Games came in 1982.

Captain Savita Punia and her teammates will strive to end the long drought at Hangzhou later this month.

The side will take heart from some encouraging results in the recent past, having only narrowly missed out on a bronze medal at the Olympics, before going on to win the Women's FIH Hockey Nations Cup.

At the Asian Games, India is grouped with South Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, and Hong Kong. While

South Korea offers the toughest challenge, the players will guard against complacency when facing the other sides.

"In modern hockey, all teams have improved a lot. Every match is important. Yes, history shows that Korea, China, Japan, and India are the best teams in Asia. But we will not play the other teams with full focus," Savita said at the send-off ceremony hosted by Hockey India here.

Savita took lessons from Hockey India president and former India men's international Dilip Tirkey, who had stated earlier in the event that during his playing career, the national side suffered a great deal by taking things lightly against supposedly weaker units.



"As a senior player, I know that we have also made this mistake in the past. Every single match is important, no matter who

you face," Savita said.

In the last edition of the continental games, the Indian women's team was edged out 2-1 by Japan in the final.

Savita is desperate to go one better this time, but not at the cost of putting the younger players under pressure.

**One match at a time**  
The gold medal is our target. But we do not want to make the mistake of starting the tournament by talking about winning the gold. This puts a lot of pressure on young players. We will take it one match at a time," Savita said.

The team will open its Asian Games campaign against Singapore on September 27.

## TATA STEEL CHESS

## P.K. Ajith Kumar

Divya Deshmukh's dream continues at the National Library.

The 17-year-old moved into the sole lead of the women's rapid section of the Tata Steel chess tournament on Friday.

She is on 5.5 points from six rounds, she won all her games on day two, her victories being over Irina Krush and fellow-Indians B. Savitha Shri and Vanika Agrawal.

In fact, out of the six games she has played so far, she won five and drew the other. And she wasn't even in the original list of players.



Good going: Reigning World champion Wenjun has tallied four points to lie in the second spot. DEBASISH BHADRAJI

while against Savitha, it had more to do with my preparation. It was unfortunate that Vanika blundered her queen, though I had to bet on her position earlier."

With three rounds remaining, Divya has a lead of 1.5 points over her near-

with 3.5 points. Krush and defending champion Anna Ushenina of Ukraine are on 3 points.

K. Humpty finally posted a win, which came in her last game of the day, against Nino Batsiasvili of Georgia.

**The results (Indians unless specified):**  
Sixth round: Divya Deshmukh 5.5, Irina Krush 5.5, Polina Shuvalova 5.5, Savitha Shri 5.5, Vanika Agrawal 2.5, Polina Shuvalova 2.5, Irina Krush (USA) 2, Dronavalli Hanika 2.5, Drew with Ju Wenjun (China), Nino Batsiasvili (Georg), 1.5, lost to Koneru Humpy 2, B. Savitha Shri 2.5, drew with Anna Ushenina 3 (Ukr).

**Fifth round:** Savitha lost to Dronavalli Hanika, Ju Wenjun, Humpy, Batsiasvili, Krush and Vanika.

**Fourth round:** Divya bt Krush; Vanika lost to Ju; Shuvalova bt Humpy; Hanika drew with Ushenina; Batsiasvili lost to Savitha.

## SINGAPORE

# Ex-deputy PM Shanmugaratnam elected Singapore President



REUTERS

▲ Singapore's former deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam was elected President on Friday, comfortably securing victory in the city-state's first contested vote for the largely ceremonial position in more than a decade. He won 70.4% of the vote to win a six-year term. AFP



stnam

Bay of Bengal

Andaman Sea

Gulf of Thailand

South China Sea

Java Sea

Sulu Sea

Sulawesi Sea

Flores Sea

Philippine Sea

Banda Sea

Seram Sea

**THAILAND**

**VIETNAM**

**CAMBODIA**

**PHILIPPINES**

**MALAYSIA**

**SINGAPORE**  
Singapore

**INDONESIA**

**TIMOR-LESTE**

CHRISTMAS

Mueang Loei District\* Mueang Sakon Nakhon District

Yangon Rangoon

Kamphaeng Phet

Suphan Buri

Sisaket

Kanchanaburi\*

Chachoengsao

Bangkok

Chanthaburi\*

Prachuap Khiri Khan

Phnom Penh

Ho Chi Minh City

Saigon

Surat Thani

PARACEL ISLANDS

Luzon

Manila

Cebu

Davao

SPRATLY ISLANDS

BRUNEI

Borneo

Kuala Lumpur\*

Padang

Sumatra

Palembang

Lampung Tengah

Tanjungkarang-Telukbetung\*

Jakarta

Bogor

Bandung

Cirebon

Banyumas

Sleman

Surabaya

Bali

Lombok Timur

Ujung Pandang

Flores

Flores



**Capital** **Singapore** (city-state)<sup>[a]</sup>

 1°17′N  
103°50′E

**Largest planning area** by population **Bedok**<sup>[2]</sup>

**Official languages** English · Malay · Mandarin · Tamil

**National language** Malay

**Ethnic groups** (2020)<sup>[Note 1][b]</sup>  
74.3% Chinese  
13.5% Malay  
9.0% Indian  
3.2% other

**Religion** (2020)<sup>[c]</sup>  
31.1% Buddhism  
20.0% no religion  
18.9% Christianity  
15.6% Islam  
8.8% Taoism  
5.0% Hinduism  
0.6% other

**Government** Unitary dominant-party parliamentary republic

- **President** Halimah Yacob
- **Prime Minister** Lee Hsien Loong

**Legislature** Parliament

**Independence** from the **United Kingdom** and **Malaysia**

- **Self-governance** 3 June 1959
- **Malaysia Agreement** 16 September 1963
- **Proclamation of Singapore** 9 August 1965

**Area**

- **Total** 734.3 km<sup>2</sup> (283.5 sq mi)<sup>[5]</sup> (176th)

**Population**

- **2022 estimate** ▼ 5,637,000<sup>[d]</sup> (115th)
- **Density** 7,804/km<sup>2</sup> (20,212.3/sq mi) (2nd)

**GDP (PPP)** 2023 estimate

- **Total** ▲ \$793 billion<sup>[7]</sup> (31st)
- **Per capita** ▲ \$140,281<sup>[7]</sup> (2nd)

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**GDP (nominal)** 2023 estimate

- **Total** ▲ \$644 billion<sup>[7]</sup> (22nd)
- **Per capita** ▲ \$114,246<sup>[7]</sup> (2nd)

**Gini** (2017) — 45.9<sup>[8]</sup>  
medium

**HDI** (2021) ▲ 0.939<sup>[9]</sup>  
very high · 12th

**Currency** Singapore dollar (S\$) (SGD)



# China, Hong Kong brace for typhoon Saola: Flights scrapped, businesses shut

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**FARAH MASTER**

HONG KONG, SEPTEMBER 1

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The Asian financial hub of Hong Kong and the Chinese province of Guangdong cancelled hundreds of flights and evacuated nearly 800,000 people Friday as the imminent arrival of Typhoon Saola forced closures of businesses, schools and financial markets.

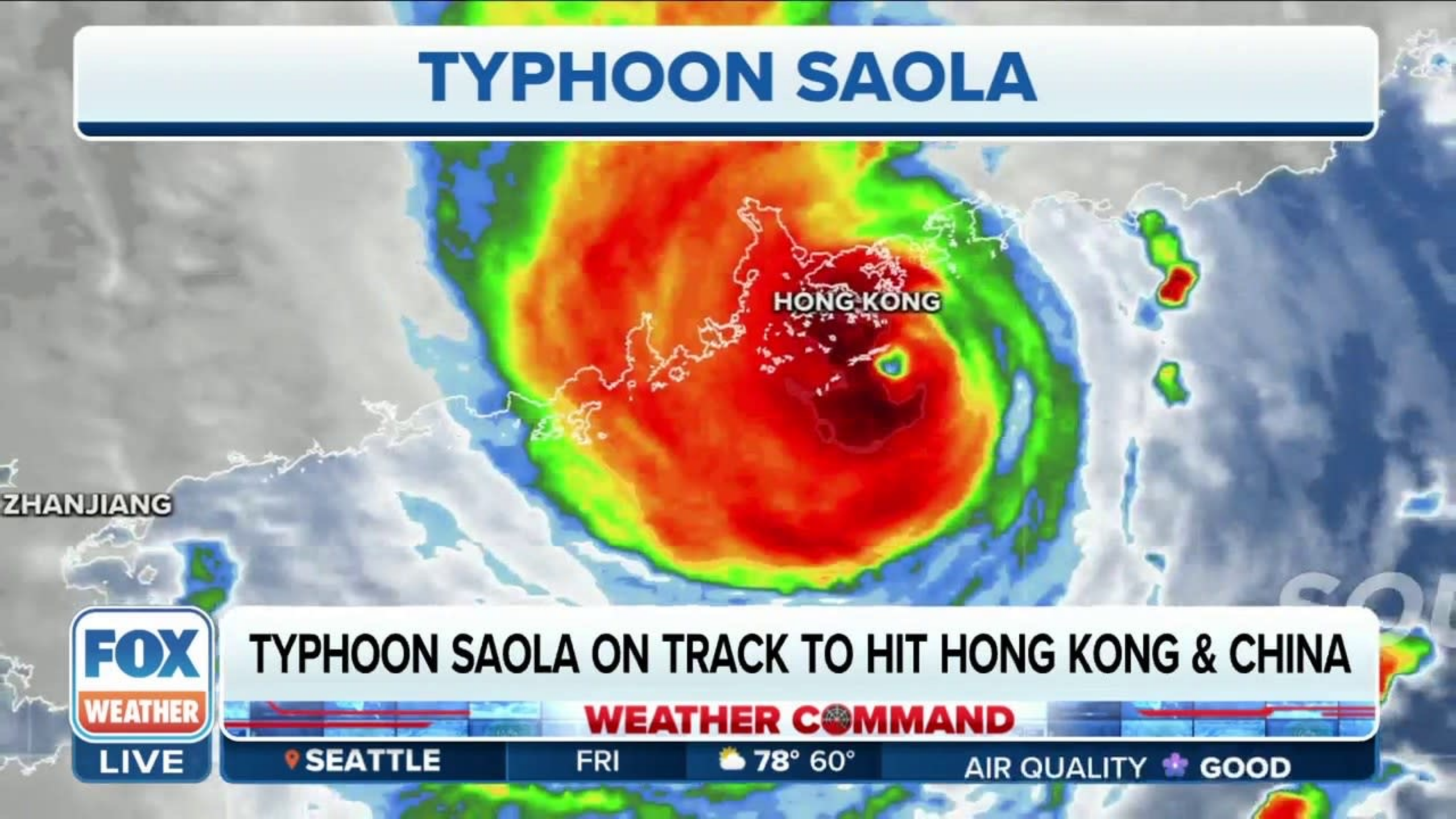
Packing winds of around 200 kph, the super typhoon could make landfall late on Friday or early on Saturday in Guangdong, and rate among the five strongest to hit the populous province since 1949, authorities have warned.

Across Guangdong, 785,155 people had been evacuated from high-risk areas, while 13 cities delayed the start of the school term on Friday following the summer break.

In Hong Kong, more than 300 people were stranded at the airport by the cancellation of about 460 flights as the city of 7.5 million people raised its hurricane warning to the highest level.

The weather will deteriorate rapidly as typhoon makes landfall, Hong Kong weather officials said, with chances of storm surges of about 10 feet higher than the normal tide and maximum water levels reaching a record. **REUTERS**

# TYPHOON SAOLA



ZHANJIANG

HONG KONG

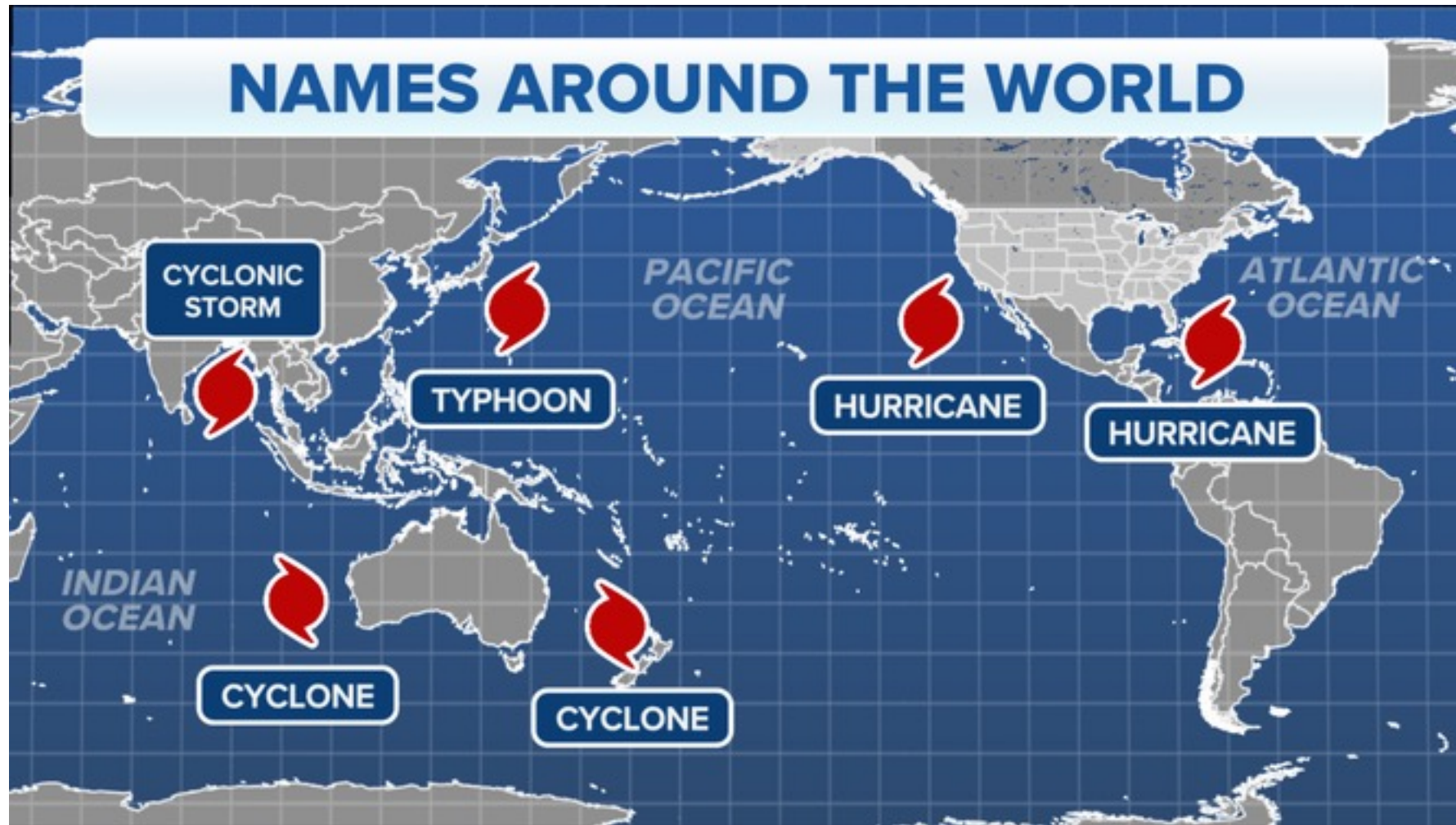
**FOX**  
WEATHER  
LIVE

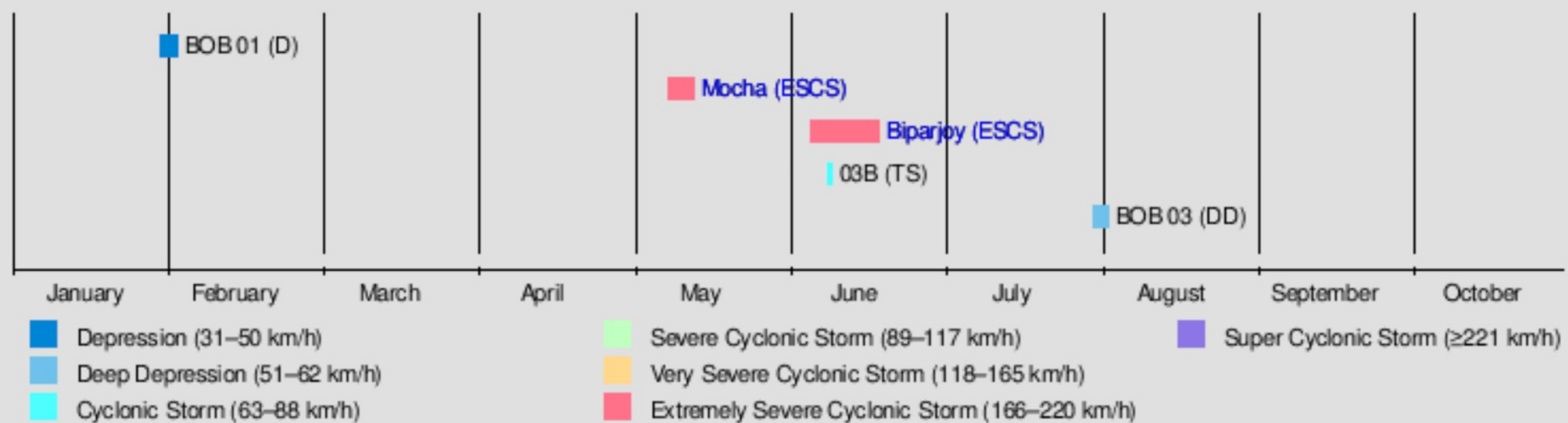
**TYPHOON SAOLA ON TRACK TO HIT HONG KONG & CHINA**

**WEATHER COMMAND**

SEATTLE      FRI      78° 60°      AIR QUALITY GOOD

# NAMES AROUND THE WORLD





COMBINED ENTITY TO HAVE 19% MARKET SHARE

# CCI clears runway for AI-Vistara merger

FE BUREAU

New Delhi, September 1

**IN A BIG** boost for Tata group's aviation plans, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Friday approved the merger of Vistara and Air India, subject to conditions.

The regulator's nod paves the way for the creation of an airline that will be a distant second to market leader Indigo Aviation, which had a share of 63.4% in July. However, Air India and Vistara, with a combined market share of 19.3%, could exploit synergies to raise that share meaningfully.

In a post on platform X, the regulator said: "CCI approves the merger of Tata SIA Airlines into Air India, and acquisition of certain shareholding by Singapore Airlines (SIA) in Air India subject to compliance of voluntary commitments offered by the parties."

The regulator's nod comes after intense scrutiny of the transaction. Media reports said the CCI had been concerned about market dominance that Air India would have and had

## TAKING OFF

■ CCI had been concerned about market dominance that Air India would have

■ Vistara and Air India have a combined fleet of around 225 aircraft

■ After merger, Singapore Airlines will hold 25.1% stake in new entity, while Tata Sons will hold the remaining 74.9%

■ Market leader IndiGo has a share of 63.4% as of July. Air India and Vistara have a combined share of 19.3%

■ Air India and SIA had said merger would not alter competitive landscape



issued a show cause notice to the company seeking a clarification on why the proposed merger with Vistara should not be probed for concerns over competitive clout.

Tata Sons and SIA had filed the merger application with the CCI in April, mentioning that the proposed merger of Vistara with Air India would not alter the competitive land-

scape or cause any adverse impact on competition in India.

Vistara and Air India both operate as full-service carriers and have a combined fleet of around 225 aircraft. However, in a jumbo deal, Air India has placed orders with Airbus and Boeing for around 470 planes.

Continued on Page 9

**d Drishti IAS**  
Karol Bagh, Delhi ☎ 8010-440-440

**GS Foundation**  
(Prelims + Mains) | Offline & Online  
Weekend Batch (Saturday & Sunday)  
9 September | 9:00 AM

**OPERATION SAJA**  
**Kumkhis save the day in Chittoor village**  
STATES » PAGE 6

**'ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION'**  
**Congress leader Adhir declines to join panel**  
NEWS » PAGE 9

**A DEEP DIVE**  
**The science behind Neeraj Chopra's skills**  
EXPLAINER » PAGE 14

MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES  
CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 7

## Aditya-L1 lifts off to study the sun

ISRO's workhorse PSLV takes off from Sriharikota at 11.50 a.m. in one of its longest flights, it launches the spacecraft in an orbit around earth

Hemant C.S. SEHARADA

India's first solar observatory mission — Aditya-L1 — was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Saturday. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), in its 59<sup>th</sup> flight with the Aditya-L1 on board, took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 11.50 a.m. About 63 minutes after take-off, the separation from the satellite took place with the PSLV launching the Aditya-L1 spacecraft in a highly eccentric orbit around the earth at 12.53 p.m. This was among the longest flights of ISRO's workhorse launch vehicle in recent times.

Following the launch, Aditya-L1 will stay in orbit around the earth for 16 days, during which it will undergo five manoeuvres to gain the necessary velocity for its long journey towards the sun.

Subsequently, Aditya-L1 will undergo a Trans-Lagrangian insertion manoeuvre, marking the beginning of its 10-day trajectory to the destination around the L1 Lagrange point. Upon arrival at the L1 point, another manoeuvre binds Aditya-L1 to an



ISRO launches Aditya-L1 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Saturday.

orbit around L1, a balanced gravitational location between the earth and the sun.

The spacecraft will perform orbital manoeuvres by using its Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) engine to reach L1.

Aditya-L1 will stay approximately 1.5 million km away from the earth, directed towards the sun, which is about 1% of the earth-sun distance.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Imphal's remaining Kuki families allege forcible eviction

Vijaya Singh NEW DELHI

The last of the Kuki-Zo people, who had stayed put in Imphal after ethnic violence erupted in Manipur on May 3, claimed they were forcibly evicted from their homes by security forces in the early hours of Saturday.

A defence source said the families were provided a safe passage from New Lambulane in Imphal East to Motbung in Senapati district on a special request by the civil administration. The source said the tribal people had stayed there for a long period and become "vulnerable targets".

Around 300 tribal Kuki-Zo families who had been living in the New Lambulane area, few kilometres from the Chief Minister's residence, gradually left after ethnic violence began on May 3, except for the families comprising 24 members who stayed back.



Around 300 Kuki-Zo families had left the area following violence.

S. Prim Vaiphei, 78, one among them, said, "We faced objections from all sides. The Meitei did not like our presence, the Kis also wanted us to leave. The security forces made requests time and again asking us to move to another location. However, late on Friday, they arrived at our door and asked us to immediately vacate the house."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

**G20** **DELHI POLICE** **SHANTI SEWA NYAYA** **75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**

**Welcomes G-20 DELEGATES**

**All markets across Delhi will remain open, except New Delhi district.** **Don't pay attention to rumors; cooperate in making this event a success.**

It's not a lockdown. Restrictions will be implemented from **8th September 2023 (05:00 AM) till 10th September 2023 (11:59 PM)**

Daily essential items such as **milk, vegetables, fruits, etc.**, will remain available. Metro services will be open. Markets will be open everywhere except in **New Delhi District**. Restrictions in few areas\*

**Avoid traveling to places falling within Regulated and Controlled zones**

**Controlled Area:** Entire New Delhi district is "Controlled Zone" from 0500 hrs on 08.09.2023 to 2300 hrs on 10.09.2023. Roadside residents, school/college vehicles and emergency vehicles will be allowed to travel on the road network.

- Vasant Marg (Noida Link Road—upto Pista Road)
- ITO
- Delhi Gate
- Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg (Kirti Bhawan Gurgaon Chowk)

**Controlled Zone-1\*\* will remain restricted from 5 am to 1 pm on 10.09.2023**

(All vehicles coming to New Delhi district from Gurgaon, Noida, Faridkot, Sonapat, Sonapat, Sonapat)

- ITO
- Vasant Marg (Noida Link Road—upto Pista Road)
- Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Delhi Gate
- Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg
- Maharaja Ranjit Singh Marg
- From Barakhamba - Trolley Intersection to Guru Nanak Chowk (on Chaman Lal Marg)
- Mahatma Gandhi Marg (near Meerut Expressway from Trolley to Kirti Bhawan Gate)
- Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg

**Controlled Area-1 will remain restricted from 5 am to 1 pm on 10.09.2023 at the following places.**

- New Delhi Railway Station from Ajmeri Gate Road
- Old Delhi Railway Station from Shyam Prasad Mukherjee (SPM) Road
- Shanti Van Chowk from Centa Colony
- RD from Vasant Marg
- Regulated Zone from Jawahar Lal Nehru (JLN) Road side Gurgaon Chowk from Metro Road side

**Regulated Zone:**

For G-20 Traffic related information login to <https://traffic.delhipolice.gov.in>  
**TRAFFIC WHATSAPP HELPLINE**  
**8750871493**



# Uday Kotak resigns as KMB chief 4 months ahead of tenure end

Kotak Mahindra Bank applies to RBI for approval of new MD and CEO effective January 1, 2024; deputy MD Dipak Gupta to act as interim chief

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

**U**day Kotak has resigned as Managing Director and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) with immediate effect, four months ahead of the end his tenure. The board, taking note of the development, has appointed joint managing director Dipak Gupta as interim MD and CEO.

“Uday Kotak has ceased to be the [MD & CEO] of the Bank, with effect from September 1, 2023 on account



**Order changeth:** Following his resignation as MD and CEO, Uday Kotak will now be non-executive director of the bank. REUTERS

of his resignation... and has become a non-executive director of the bank,” KMB said in a regulatory filing. The bank has applied

to the Reserve Bank for approval of one of two names it forwarded, for the position of MD and CEO, effective January 1, 2024.



<b>Founded</b>	1985; 38 years ago
<b>Founders</b>	<a href="#">Uday Kotak</a>
<b>Headquarters</b>	<a href="#">Mumbai, Maharashtra, India</a>
<b>Key people</b>	<a href="#">Uday Kotak</a> (non-executive director)
<b>Products</b>	<a href="#">Banking</a> , <a href="#">commodities</a> , <a href="#">credit cards</a> , <a href="#">equities trading</a> , <a href="#">insurance</a> , <a href="#">investment management</a> , <a href="#">mortgage loans</a> , <a href="#">mutual funds</a> , <a href="#">private equity</a> , <a href="#">risk management</a> , <a href="#">wealth management</a> , <a href="#">asset management</a>
<b>Revenue</b>	▲ ₹67,981.02 crore (US\$8.5 billion) <sup>[1]</sup> (2023)
<b>Operating income</b>	▲ ₹20,085.86 crore (US\$2.5 billion) <sup>[1]</sup> (2023)
<b>Net income</b>	▲ ₹14,925.01 crore (US\$1.9 billion) <sup>[1]</sup> (2023)
<b>AUM</b>	▲ ₹420,880 crore (US\$53 billion) (2023) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Total assets</b>	▲ ₹620,429.73 crore (US\$78 billion) <sup>[3]</sup> (2023)
<b>Total equity</b>	▲ ₹112,314.40 crore (US\$14 billion) <sup>[3]</sup> (2023)
<b>Number of employees</b>	100000+ (March 2023) <sup>[4]</sup>
<b>Subsidiaries</b>	<a href="#">Kotak Mahindra General Insurance</a> <a href="#">Kotak Life Insurance</a> <a href="#">Kotak Mahindra AMC</a> <a href="#">Kotak Securities</a> <sup>[5]</sup> <a href="#">Kotak Mahindra Prime</a>



## Measuring hunger across States

Despite being a major food producer with extensive food security schemes and the largest public distribution system in the world, India still grapples with significant levels of food insecurity, hunger, and child malnutrition. The Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2022, ranked India 107 among 121 countries, behind Nigeria (103) and Pakistan (99). The GHI provides a composite measurement and tracks undernourishment and hunger at the national level across three dimensions: calorie undernourishment, child malnutrition, and under-five mortality.

According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report of 2022, India is home to 224.3 million undernourished people. Disparities are evident among States. Leveraging sub-national data that encompasses the three dimensions of the GHI enables the development of an India-specific hunger index at the level of States and Union Territories. This index is a pivotal role in evaluating the extent of undernourishment at a more localised scale, which is critical for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals of eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

**The State Hunger Index**  
The GHI is computed using four indicators – the prevalence of calorie undernourishment; and of stunting, wasting, and mortality among children below the age of five; and under-five mortality rate. The State Hunger Index (SHI) is calculated using the same indicators except calorie undernourishment, which is replaced by body mass index (BMI) undernourishment among the working-age population, as data on calorie undernourishment are not available since 2012.

Data for stunting, wasting, and mortality among children below the age of five are sourced from the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5).



**Nandini Mishra**  
is a doctoral fellow at the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai

while the prevalence of BMI undernourishment is computed using NFHS-5 (2015-21) and Wave 1 of the Longitudinal Aging Study in India (2017-18). The calculation of the SHI score involves combining the normalised values of the four indicators using the techniques recommended by the GHI. The SHI scores range between 0 and 100, with higher scores indicating more hunger. Scores below 10 signify low hunger, 10-20 moderate, 20-30 serious, 30-40 alarming, and 50 or above extremely alarming.

In the SHI, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh scored 35, which places them in the 'alarming' category. Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra, and West Bengal all scored above the national average (29). The performance of these States resembles that of African nations such as Haiti, Niger, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. On the other hand, Kerala scored 12, and Sikkim, Puducherry, and Kerala all scored below 10. These States, along with Mizoram, Punjab, Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Tamil Nadu, fall under the 'moderate hunger' category. All the other States, which scored below the national average and above 20, have a problem of 'serious hunger'. No State falls under the 'low hunger' category. The impact of COVID-19 on the SHI is not captured here since post-pandemic estimates are not yet available.

In 2008, Purnima Menon, Anil Deolalikar, and Anjan Bhaskar made a comparable effort to grasp the variation in hunger at a subnational level using the then available methodology of computing GHI. Among the 17 States they assessed, Punjab led the list, with Kerala and Andhra Pradesh following closely as top performers. On the other hand, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, and Chhattisgarh were ranked as the least performing States. Over the last half a decade, India's GHI score has deteriorated

primarily due to the increasing prevalence of calorie undernourishment. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the proportion of the SHI score involves India has been escalating since 2017, reaching 16.3% in 2020, equivalent to the 2009 estimate. The Indian government has disputed these conclusions by raising concerns about the data and methodology used in calculating the GHI. However, it has not been able to provide empirical evidence to support its claims. Notably, no National Sample Survey (NSS) round on nutritional intake has been conducted by the government since 2011-12, which used to offer insights into the prevalence of calorie undernourishment at national and subnational levels. In the 78th round of the NSS conducted in 2020-21, four key questions were included to gauge household food insecurity. Unfortunately, information on these is missing from the NSS report.

**Facing the reality**  
While the GHI has faced significant criticism from experts regarding its conceptualisation, indicator selection, and aggregation methods, it does provide critical insight into the state of undernourishment and child nutrition. India ranks unfavourably in child wasting, performing worse than many low-income African nations. The NFHS-5 indicated that one-third of children under the age of five are stunted and underweight, while every fifth child suffers from wasting. Despite India's notable progress in alleviating extreme poverty over the last 15 years, as indicated by the recent National Multidimensional Poverty Index, challenges persist in addressing the disparity in food insecurity, hunger, and child malnutrition.

## The BJP's dilemma in Bihar

State BJP leaders have been caught on the back foot on the issue of caste census

### STATE OF PLAY

**Anarnath Tewary**  
anarnath.tewary@thehindu.co.in

The caste survey in Bihar, which was initiated by the Nitya Kumar government, has posed a dilemma to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The process of conducting the three-phase caste survey in the State began on January 7, 2023. Ahead of the meeting of the Opposition alliance in Mumbai recently, Mr. Kumar said that the caste survey has been completed and the results will be published soon.

The State BJP had initially supported the Bihar government's decision to conduct the survey 'on its own'. The Bihar legislature passed resolutions on February 18, 2019 and February 27, 2020 in favour of a caste census. An all-party delegation including BJP representatives, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 23, 2021 in New Delhi pressing for a nationwide caste aggregation methods.

However, in July 2023, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha that the Government of India had decided as a matter of policy not to implement a caste-wise population except for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. On August 1, the Bihar government secured relief when the Patna High Court dismissed all the petitions filed against the government's decision to conduct the caste survey. The High Court allowed with due compunction. On August 21, while hearing petitions against the Patna High

### Bihar

Court order, the Supreme Court asked Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta to file his response. Mr. Mehta told the Court that the State's survey has some 'irregularities' that necessitated an intervention by the Union government in the matter.

On August 28, the Union government filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court saying 'no other body is empowered to conduct the exercise of either census or any action akin to census'. However, it said that the way the Union government is 'opposing the caste survey in the Supreme Court reflects the BJP's desperation to keep the actual status of the Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, and other deprived sections of the society under the government's gross leaders, too, slammed the BJP for the 'glaring contradiction in its words and deeds over the issue.'

As the Supreme Court refused to put a stay on the Patna High Court order allowing the caste survey in Bihar, Mr. Kumar said that his government's decision has been vindicated while the BJP's plan to make the issue a poll plank has fallen flat. The Opposition by conducting the caste census. Another BJP leader said that the exercise would 'revive the "Mandal versus Kamandal" Backward Classes (Mandal) politics in the State again'. However, on August 28, BJP Rajya Sabha member Sushil Kumar Modi said, 'In the affidavit, the Centre clar-

ified that there was no confrontation between the Centre and the State government on the constitutional point of view. Stating the constitutional position in the apex court, the Centre clarified that the State was free to conduct the social and economic census.'

Leaders of the Rashtriya Janata Dal, Janata Dal (United) and Congress, which form the Grand Alliance in Bihar, have seized the opportunity to accuse the BJP of 'conspiring' against the caste survey through the 'backdoor', the court. RJD Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha alleged in Patna on August 27 that 'falling in its mission to stop the survey process, the PMO, later, itself jumped into the matter through the solicitor-general Tushar Mehta.' INC's leader and party spokesperson Neel Kamal said that the way the Union government is 'opposing the caste survey in the Supreme Court reflects the BJP's desperation to keep the actual status of the Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, and other deprived sections of the society under the government's gross leaders, too, slammed the BJP for the 'glaring contradiction in its words and deeds over the issue.'

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## The northern plains of India is the most polluted region

The average resident in the northern plains is on track to lose 8 years of life expectancy if current pollution levels persist

### DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Data from the Air Quality Index (AQI) shows that failure to meet the World Health Organization (WHO)'s guidelines on reducing PM2.5 (particulate matter) pollution to 5 µg/m3 would cut global life expectancy by 2.3 years. On a global basis, that means that ambient particulate pollution poses the world's greatest external risk to human health.

South Asia is at the centre of the crisis. According to AQI data from 2013 to 2021, particulate pollution in South Asia surged by 9.7%, which is estimated to reduce life expectancy in the region by an additional six months. Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, where 22.9% of the global population lives, are the most polluted countries in the world (Chart 1). In Bangladesh, the most polluted country in 2021, people potentially lost an average of 6.8 years of life due to air pollution not meeting WHO guidelines. In contrast, the average person from the U.S. lost just 3.6 months.

Notably, China stands out due to its success in reducing pollution by a staggering 42.3% from 2013 to 2021 and extending the average life expectancy of its population by 2.2 years. This reduction can be attributed to the country's policy initiatives to combat pollution in 2014.

In India, the second-most polluted country in the world in 2021, particulate pollution is the greatest threat to human health (Chart 2). Data reveal a further rise in PM2.5 pollution from 56.2 µg/m3 in 2020 to 58.7 µg/m3 in 2021, exceeding the WHO guidelines by more than 10 times. The average Indian resident is set to lose 5.3 years of life expectancy if WHO guidelines remain unmet. In contrast, cardiovascular diseases reduce the average Indian's life expectancy by about 4.5 years, while child and maternal malnutrition reduces it

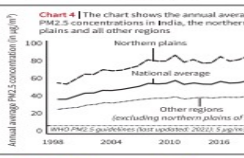
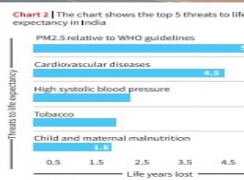
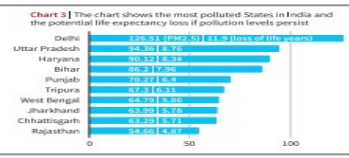
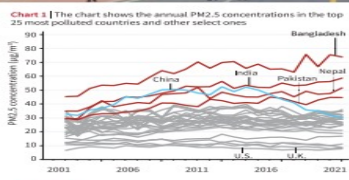
by 1.8 years. Chart 3 shows the most polluted States in India and the potential life expectancy loss if pollution levels do not meet WHO guidelines. In Delhi, the world's most polluted city, 18 million people could lose 11.9 years of life expectancy relative to the WHO guideline and 8.5 years if current pollution levels persist. The northern plains, home to over half a billion people and 48.9% of India's population, is the most polluted region. The northern plains include the States and Union Territories of Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. Chart 4 shows the annual average PM2.5 concentrations in India, the northern plains, and all other regions.

In the northern plains, the average resident is set to lose about 8 years of life expectancy if pollution levels persist and policies do not succeed in reducing pollution to levels as prescribed by the WHO. Pollution, once concentrated in the northern region, has spread to other parts of the country over the last two decades. For instance, in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, which have a combined population of 204.2 million, pollution has surged by 76.8% and 78.5%, respectively, since 2000, causing a loss of an additional 1.8 years to 2.3 years of life expectancy compared to 2000 levels.

AQI's life expectancy calculations are based on a pair of peer-reviewed studies, Chen et al. (2013) and Ebenman et al. (2017), co-authored by Michael Greenstone. These studies compared two metropolitan subgroups exposed to different levels of particulate air pollution. This method effectively isolated the impact of particulate air pollution from other health factors. Ebenman et al. found that sustained exposure to an additional 10 µg/m3 of PM2.5 reduces life expectancy by 0.98 years.

## Choking on air

The charts and data were sourced from the Air Quality Life Index Annual Update for 2023 published by Michael Greenstone and Christa Hasenkopf of the University of Chicago



### FROM THE ARCHIVES

## The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 4, 1973

## Govt. agrees to put off Cr. PC. debate

New Delhi, Sept. 3: The Lok Sabha today decided to post-pone consideration of the Code of Criminal Procedure Bill in the next session of Parliament. During the resumed debate on the Bill, several Opposition members, including Mr. A. E. Jayaprakash (Jan Sangh) and Mr. B. D. Limaye (SP) took exception to a move for the reconsideration of Clause 125 of the Cr.P.C., which had already been adopted by the House. Before the House could decide on the Government's move for a reconsideration of the clause, Mr. Ram Nivas Mirdha, Minister of State for Home Affairs said that the Government had no objection to taking up the Bill in the next session of Parliament. The Speaker, Mr. G.S. Ghillani announced that further discussion would be taken up at the next session. Earlier, as soon as the consideration of the 484 clauses of the Bill was completed, the House was proceeding to the third reading of the Bill, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. K. Raghuramiah moved that the discussions on the Bill be adjourned for an hour because the Government wanted to take a second look at Clause 125, which had already been passed. Clause 125 related to the maintenance of wives, children and parents in case of neglect. The League members had opposed it on the ground that it offended the Muslim personal law.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 4, 1923

## The earthquake catastrophe

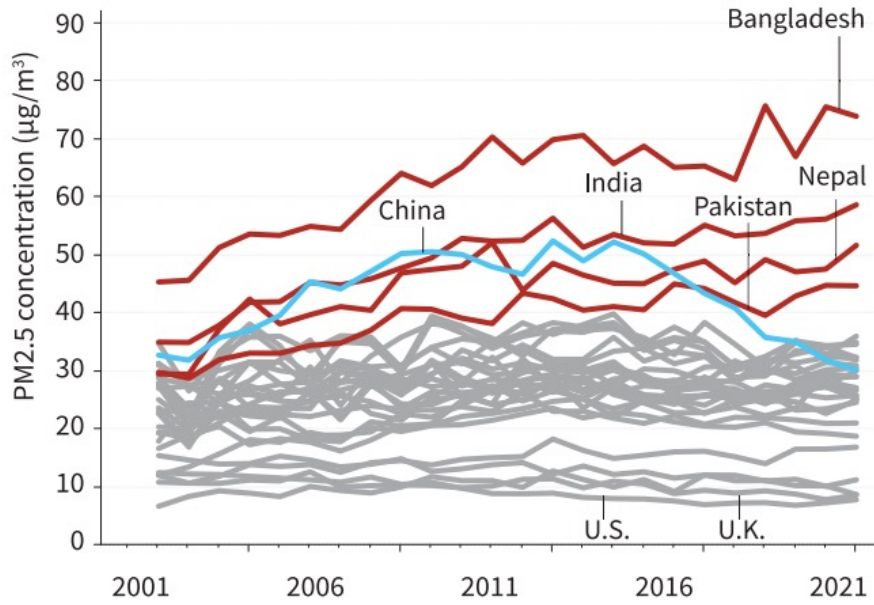
London, Sept. 3: An Osaka officer who flew over Tokyo and the stricken districts states the Imperial Palace is safe and only partially damaged. Tokyo is devastated except two wards and parts of two others. Nearly all concrete brick buildings have collapsed. The tidal wave flooded out one ward and not a single wave is visible in Amakusa. The Yokosuka Marine station appears entirely destroyed. The holiday resort, the sacred island of Ezo, and Kamakura district are submerged. The Airman says it was difficult to fly over the city owing to the intensity of the flames and suffocating smoke. No serious damage is reported at Nikko where the Emperor is staying. The Imperial Palace has been thrown open to refugees. There is no news of the safety of any of the legislative representatives, nor of any of the foreign residents in Tokyo.

# Choking on air

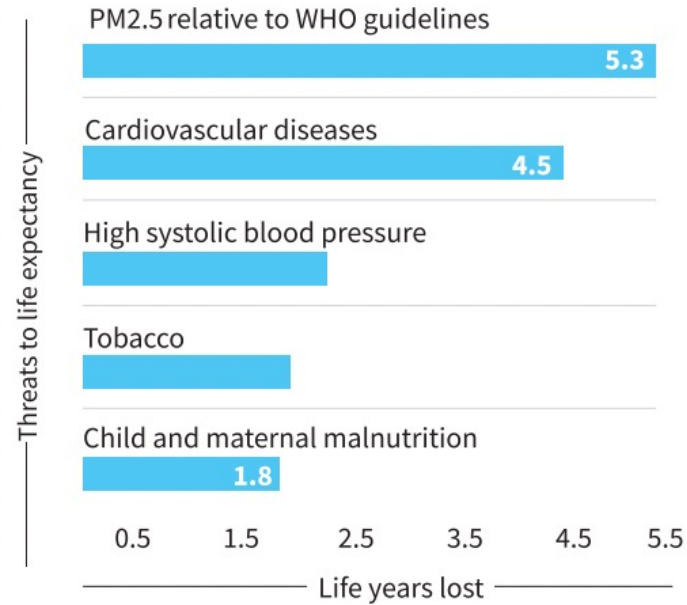
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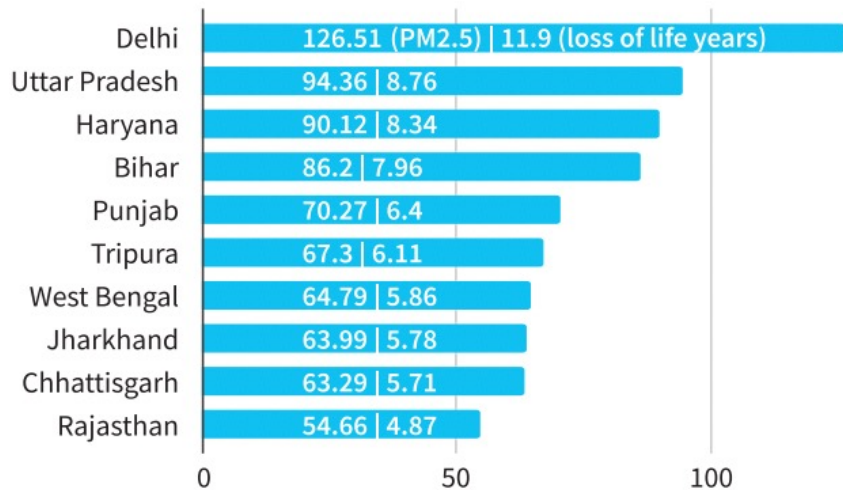
**Chart 1** | The chart shows the annual PM2.5 concentrations in the top 25 most polluted countries and other select ones



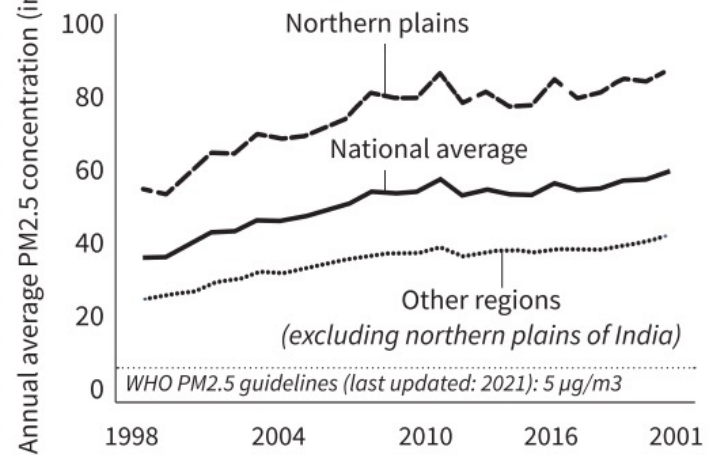
**Chart 2** | The chart shows the top 5 threats to life expectancy in India



**Chart 3** | The chart shows the most polluted States in India and the potential life expectancy loss if pollution levels persist



**Chart 4** | The chart shows the annual average PM2.5 concentrations in India, the northern plains and all other regions





## **LANDMARK**

# Match referee Srinath set to officiate in 250th ODI



▲ Javagal Srinath of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees will officiate in his 250th men's ODI in the Asia Cup match between India and Nepal in Pallekele on Monday. Srinath, who will become the fourth to reach the milestone after Ranjan Madugalle, Chris Broad and Jeff Crowe, said he was privileged to have officiated in so many games.

### BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



### EXPRESS NETWORK

**FIRST SET OF INFRA LOANS FOR TIER 2, TIER 3 CITIES TO BE DISBURSED SOON**

**J&K LECTURER SUSPENDED OVER ART 370 HEARING IN SC REINSTATED P 6, 7**

## Highways to health centres and railway stations: Smaller cities too dress up for G20

By DIVYAA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3

FOR YEARS, if someone had a cardiac episode in Khajuraho, the patient had to be rushed to the district hospital in Chhatrapur, 45 km away, for emergency medical attention. Not anymore. The local CHC in Khajuraho has state-of-the-art life-saving equipment now to deal with most medical emergencies.

With more than 250 meetings — ministerial and working group, among others — being held across 60 cities in the run-up to the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi on September 9, small-town India has had a makeover.

The Khajuraho CHC, for instance, now boasts a two-bed ventilator ICL, an OT equipped with an anaesthesia workstation, an ECG machine, defibrillator, 16 beds and two advanced life-support ambulances on standby, an official from the

## AHEAD OF G20, SAYS GLOBAL BODIES MUST RECOGNISE CHANGING REALITY

# Stable government with a decisive mandate reason for reforms, says PM

Warns against populism, irresponsible policies; says no room for casteism and communalism by 2047

By EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3

WITH JUST months to go for Lok Sabha elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday stressed on the twin aspects of "stability" and "decisive mandate", saying governments in the three decades before 2014 were unstable and, hence, unable to get much done. He said several reforms across sectors could be rolled out in the last nine years because of stability.

His remarks, in an interview

to news agency Press Trust of India, are politically significant given that the 28-party Opposition INDIA alliance is positioning itself as a challenger to the BJP in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections, pledging to fight the elections together and fielding one common candidate against the ruling party in as many seats as possible.

With key state elections round the corner, the Prime Minister also reminded the debate on the culture of freebies — last October, he had slammed it as the "revolt culture" — saying



New world order is taking shape post-Covid: Modi (P)

**EXPERTS OF PM'S INTERVIEW PAGE 6**

"financially irresponsible policies and populism may give political gains in the short term but will extract a great social and economic price in the long term".

Asserting that India's G20 Presidency has sown the seeds of confidence in the countries of the "so-called Third World", the Prime Minister said the international institutions need to recognise changing realities, expand their decision-making forums, resolute at their positions and ensure representation of voices that matter.

He said the "decisive man

## ISRO KA SUNMAAN!



## Aditya L1 healthy, spacecraft's first orbit-raising move successful: ISRO

Solar mission spacecraft's next manoeuvre will be early Tuesday

By ANONNA DUTT

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3

A DAY after it launched the Aditya-L1 spacecraft, the country's first mission to study the Sun, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) carried out the first orbit-raising manoeuvre Sunday.

Saying that the satellite is "healthy and operating nominally", the ISRO said the first Earth-bound manoeuvre has been "performed successfully" from ISRO's Bengaluru.

The new orbit attained is 245 km x 22,455 km" and the next manoeuvre, it said, is scheduled for 09:00 Hours IST on September 5.

The Aditya-L1 mission was launched from the Sriharikota spaceport shortly before noon on Sunday on board the PSLV orbit, 235 km x 39,500 km, an Indian launch vehicle.

Over the next few days, the spacecraft will continue to move

### EXPLAINED

Seven payloads, the task

THE OBSERVATORY-CLASS spacecraft is carrying seven payloads. The main objective of the mission is to get a deeper understanding of the Sun, and how its radiation, heat, flow of particles, and magnetic fields affect the Earth. Studying the Sun from space ensures that there are no distortions to the measurements that would be expected from Earth due to the atmosphere, magnetic field and dust particles.

around the Earth, progressively raising its orbit and gaining momentum, before embarking on

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



The Ghum railway station in West Bengal received a facelift in April 2023. (DWR)

## DELHI DRILL FOR G20

The Delhi Police held full dress rehearsals ahead of the September 9-10 G20 Summit, escorting caravans from different parts in the national capital, on Sunday. (Amit Mehta)

**RELATED REPORTS PAGES 4, 5, 6**

## Cricket on front foot as Olympics panel looks to include new sports

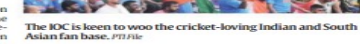
By MIHIR VASAVDA

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 3

CRICKET COULD soon begin a new innings of its own. It is among nine sports vying for a spot at the 2028 Olympics and is emerging as a front runner as the International Olympic Committee looks to tap into its die-hard fan base. The Indian Express has learnt.

The decision will be made on October 15-16, just after the World Cup marquee clash between India and Pakistan, when more than 100 IOC members vote in Mumbai to include new sports in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

The likelihood will be clear this week itself as the IOC's all-powerful Executive Board is due to meet in Lausanne, Switzerland on September 8. The Board, which includes IOC



The IOC is keen to woo the cricket-loving Indian and South Asian fan base. (PTI)

president Thomas Bach, will take a call on the sports programme for the LA Olympics and it will then be ratified during the IOC session in Mumbai.

The other sports fighting for a place in the Olympics are flag football, karate, kickboxing,

baseball-softball, lacrosse, breakdancing, squash and motorsports.

But Michael Payne, a former marketing and broadcast rights director of the IOC who is familiar with its inner workings after

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## INDIA bloc insulting our culture: Shah slams Stalin son's remarks against Sanatan Dharma

By HAMZA KHAN

JAIPIUR, SEPTEMBER 3

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Sunday lashed out at the INDIA coalition over DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin's remarks against Sanatan Dharma, accusing the Opposition bloc of insulting the country's culture, history and appeasement politics.

At the launch of BJP's second Parivaratan Sankalp Yatra in Rajasthan, Shah said in a rally in Durgapur: "I am seeing for two days that you (INDIA coalition) want power, but at what cost? For two days you are insulting this country's culture, history and Sanatan Dharma."

He said, "Two major parties of INDIA coalition, DMK and Congress, their senior leaders — one a son of a (former) Finance



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Udhayanidhi, son of TN CM M K Stalin. (A)

Minister and the other a Chief Minister's son — are saying that Sanatan Dharma should be ended. Tell me, are you ready to end Sanatan Dharma?"

On Saturday, alleging that Sanatan Dharma is against equality and social justice, Tamil Nadu's Health and Sports Minister Udhayanidhi — son of Chief Minister M K Stalin — said

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## 'More like abduction': Last Kuki-Zomis in Imphal locality say forced to evacuate

By SUKRITA BARIJAH

GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 3

IN THE four months since violence erupted in Manipur, thousands of people from the Kuki-Zomi community in Meitei-majority Imphal have left the city. However, a group of 24 Kuki-Zomis had stayed behind in their locality, which they kept guarded with jagged gates.

These 24 residents were evacuated from Imphal by security personnel soon after midnight on Saturday. Jimmy Thangthang, who was among them, alleged that the evacuation was forced and that it felt "more like an abduction".

## 'Spent most of my life fighting Amarmani. What's another 20 yrs?'

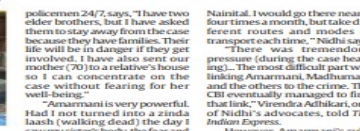
By MAULSHREE SETH

LAKHIMPUR KHERRI, SEPTEMBER 3

EVERYTHING is frozen in time inside the house in a narrow lane of Lakhimpur Kherr district's Nidhi. A tola — from the faded photographs of Madhurima Shukla to the now-carved photographs from kavi sammelans to shrinads, suitcases and newspaper related to her case, and her "twins" Nidhi Shukla's life. Sitting in her father's house, Nidhi, now in her early 40s, is reeling from a fresh blow — the "premature" release of politician

Amarmani Tripathi and his wife Madhurima under LP's 2018 remission policy. The couple were sentenced to life by a CBI court in 2007 for the murder of Madhurima who was allegedly in a relationship with Amarmani. The budding poet was shot dead at her Lakshmi residence on May 9, 2003.

"I was the first in the family to see Madhu after the shooting — her body was covered in blood. My hands turned bloody when I picked her up," says Nidhi. A Hindu, Amarmani and his wife are yet to leave the hospital. On her decision to pursue justice for her sister all by herself, Nidhi, who is guarded by two UP



Nidhi Shukla holds a photo of sister Madhurima, who was shot dead at her home in May 2003. (Maulshree Seth)

police men 24/7, says, "I have two elder brothers, but I have asked them to stay away from the case because they have families. Their life will be in danger if they get involved. I have also sent our mother (70) to a relative's house so I can concentrate on the case without fearing for her well-being."

"Amarmani is very powerful. Had I not turned into a zinda laash (walking dead) the day I saw my sister's body, the fear and paranoia would have killed me long ago. There have been threats and strangers trying to waylay me to scare me, but I never missed a single case hearing in Nainital. I would go there nearly four times a month, but take different routes and modes of transport each time," Nidhi says.

"There was tremendous pressure (during the case hearing) — the most difficult part was linking Amarmani, Madhurima and the others to the crime. The CBI eventually managed to find that link," Virendra Adhikari, one of Nidhi's advocates, told The Indian Express.

However, Amarmani's subsequent conviction failed to bring her peace of mind, says Nidhi. She would be filled with dread each year when August 15 (Independence Day) and January 26 (Republic Day) approached because "these days meant special remission to prisoners".



# Cricket on front foot as Olympics panel looks to include new sports

**MIHIR VASAVDA**

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 3

CRICKET COULD soon begin a new innings of its own. It is among nine sports vying for a spot at the 2028 Olympics and is emerging as a front runner as the International Olympic Committee looks to tap into its die-hard fan base, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The decision will be made on October 15-16, just after the World Cup marquee clash between India and Pakistan, when more than 100 IOC members vote in Mumbai to include new sports in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

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**The IOC is keen to woo the cricket-loving Indian and South Asian fan base.** *PTI File*

president Thomas Bach, will take a call on the sports programme for the LA Olympics and it will then be ratified during the IOC session in Mumbai.

The other sports fighting for a place in the Olympics are flag football, karate, kickboxing,

baseball-softball, lacrosse, breakdancing, squash and motorsport.

But Michael Payne, a former marketing and broadcast rights director of the IOC who is familiar with its inner workings after

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



## ADRENALINE RUSH

A farmer runs with his bulls during the Nangrani festival, a bull racing event, in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district on Sunday. *PTI*

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# G20: China top trader, India at the 9th slot

## CHINA IS THE TOP

Goods trader among G20 countries with exports and imports totalling \$6.1 trillion, followed by the US with \$4.6 trillion, Germany with \$1.9 trillion, Japan (\$1.6 trillion) and Netherlands (\$1.2 trillion). India is at the 9th slot, far behind the leaders.

Top services traders are the US (\$1.4 trillion), China (\$1.3 trillion), Germany (\$730 billion), UK (\$630 billion) and France (\$550 billion). As a trading bloc (Customs Union), the EU-27 is the largest trader in both goods and services among G20 members.

G20 represents 85% of the world's GDP, 75% of global merchandise trade, and two-thirds of the world's population. In commercial services their share of trade is 82.1%.

—MUKESH JAGOTA

## G20-KEY TRADERS

India is 9th in terms of total trade; EU, China USA hold top spots

G20 combined data for merchandise and services- CY2022 (\$ billion)

Countries	Exports	Imports	Total trade
<b>G20 ALL COUNTRIES</b>	<b>24,410</b>	<b>24,584</b>	<b>48,994</b>
EU 27	8,508	8,643	17,151
China	3,984	3,198	7,183
United States	2,994	3,939	6,933
Germany	2,067	2,019	4,086
France	961	1,106	2,067
UK	952	1,101	2,053
Japan	917	1,112	2,029
Korea	817	869	1,685
India	763	898	1,662
Italy	779	824	1,603
Canada	722	707	1,429
Mexico	626	668	1,294
Australia	464	356	821
Turkey	345	404	749
Brazil	374	352	726
Saudi Arabia	442	273	715
Indonesia	315	280	595
South Africa	136	130	266
Argentina	103	103	206

Source: OECD+World Bank databases



## INDIA'S TRADE WITH G20 COUNTRIES

■ Share of G20 nations in India's merchandise export is **64%** and import is **52.4%** for CY2022.

India's exports and imports with G20 countries-CY2022 (\$ bn)

Countries	Exports	Imports	Countries	Exports	Imports
US	91.0	38.4	Japan	6.5	13.9
EU	87.0	59.1	Canada	6.4	4.0
China	17.5	118.5	Russian Federation	2.9	34.0
UK	14.4	9.7	Argentina	1.8	4.5
Turkey	10.7	1.6	Indonesia	0.0	0.0
S Arabia	10.0	43.3	<b>Total G20 trade</b>	<b>289.8</b>	<b>377.5</b>
Brazil	9.6	6.3	<b>India total trade</b>	<b>453.2</b>	<b>720.2</b>
Korea, Rep.	8.9	18.9	<b>Share of G20</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>52.4</b>
S Africa	8.3	5.2			
Mexico	7.5	0.8			
Australia	7.3	19.2			

Source: World Bank, WTO

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Source: World Bank,WTO

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# 6th Rashtriya Poshan Maah



- 
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) is celebrating the 6th Rashtriya Poshan Maah throughout September 2023.

- महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय (MoWCD) पूरे सितंबर 2023 में छठा राष्ट्रीय पोषण माह मना रहा है।
- 

- Focus & Objective:

- The focus is on comprehensively addressing malnutrition using a life-cycle approach, which is a key component of Mission Poshan 2.0.
- The main objective is to raise awareness about critical life stages, including pregnancy, infancy, childhood, and adolescence, in order to promote better nutrition across India.

- फोकस एवं उद्देश्य:

- जीवन-चक्र दृष्टिकोण का उपयोग करके कुपोषण को व्यापक रूप से संबोधित करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया है, जो मिशन पोषण 2.0 का एक प्रमुख घटक है।
- मुख्य उद्देश्य पूरे भारत में बेहतर पोषण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए गर्भावस्था, शैशवावस्था, बचपन और किशोरावस्था सहित महत्वपूर्ण जीवन चरणों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाना है।



- **Theme:**

- **'Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat'** (Nutrition-rich India, Educated India, Empowered India), emphasising the importance of nutrition, education, and empowerment in **building a healthier and stronger country.**



- विषय:

- 'सपोषित भारत, साक्षर भारत, सशक्त भारत' (पोषण समृद्ध भारत, शिक्षित भारत, सशक्त भारत), एक स्वस्थ और मजबूत देश के निर्माण में पोषण, शिक्षा और सशक्तिकरण के महत्व पर जोर देता है।



## 2022's Progress:

- During 2022 Poshan Maah, **more than 170 million sensitization activities took place**, focusing on key themes related to nutrition.
- **Over 600 million activities have been conducted** as part of the **Jan Andolan movement during Poshan Pakhwadas** (March) and Poshan Maahs (September) each year.

## 2022 की प्रगति:

2022 पोषण माह के दौरान, पोषण से संबंधित प्रमुख विषयों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हुए 170 मिलियन से अधिक संवेदीकरण गतिविधियाँ हुईं।

प्रत्येक वर्ष पोषण पखवाड़ा (मार्च) और पोषण माह (सितंबर) के दौरान जन आंदोलन आंदोलन के हिस्से के रूप में 600 मिलियन से अधिक गतिविधियाँ आयोजित की गई हैं।

## Target Audience:

- It targets **pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls, and children** under 6 years of age.

## Poshan Tracker App:

- In 2021, the MoWCD **launched an application called Poshan Tracker.**
- As of February 2022, the **number of beneficiaries registered on Poshan Tracker:**


- लक्षित दर्शक:
- यह गर्भवती महिलाओं, स्तनपान कराने वाली माताओं, किशोर लड़कियों और 6 वर्ष से कम उम्र के बच्चों को लक्षित करता है।
- पोषण ट्रैकर ऐप:
- 2021 में, MoWCD ने पोषण ट्रैकर नामक एक एप्लिकेशन लॉन्च किया।
- फरवरी 2022 तक, पोषण ट्रैकर पर पंजीकृत लाभार्थियों की संख्या:

- **Which of the following are the objectives of 'National Nutrition Mission'? (2017)**

- 1.To create awareness relating to malnutrition among pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- 2.To reduce the incidence of anaemia among young children, adolescent girls and women.
- 3.To promote the consumption of millets, coarse cereals and unpolished rice.
- 4.To promote the consumption of poultry eggs.

- **Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- **(a)** 1 and 2 only
- **(b)** 1, 2 and 3 only
- **(c)** 1, 2 and 4 only
- **(d)** 3 and 4 only

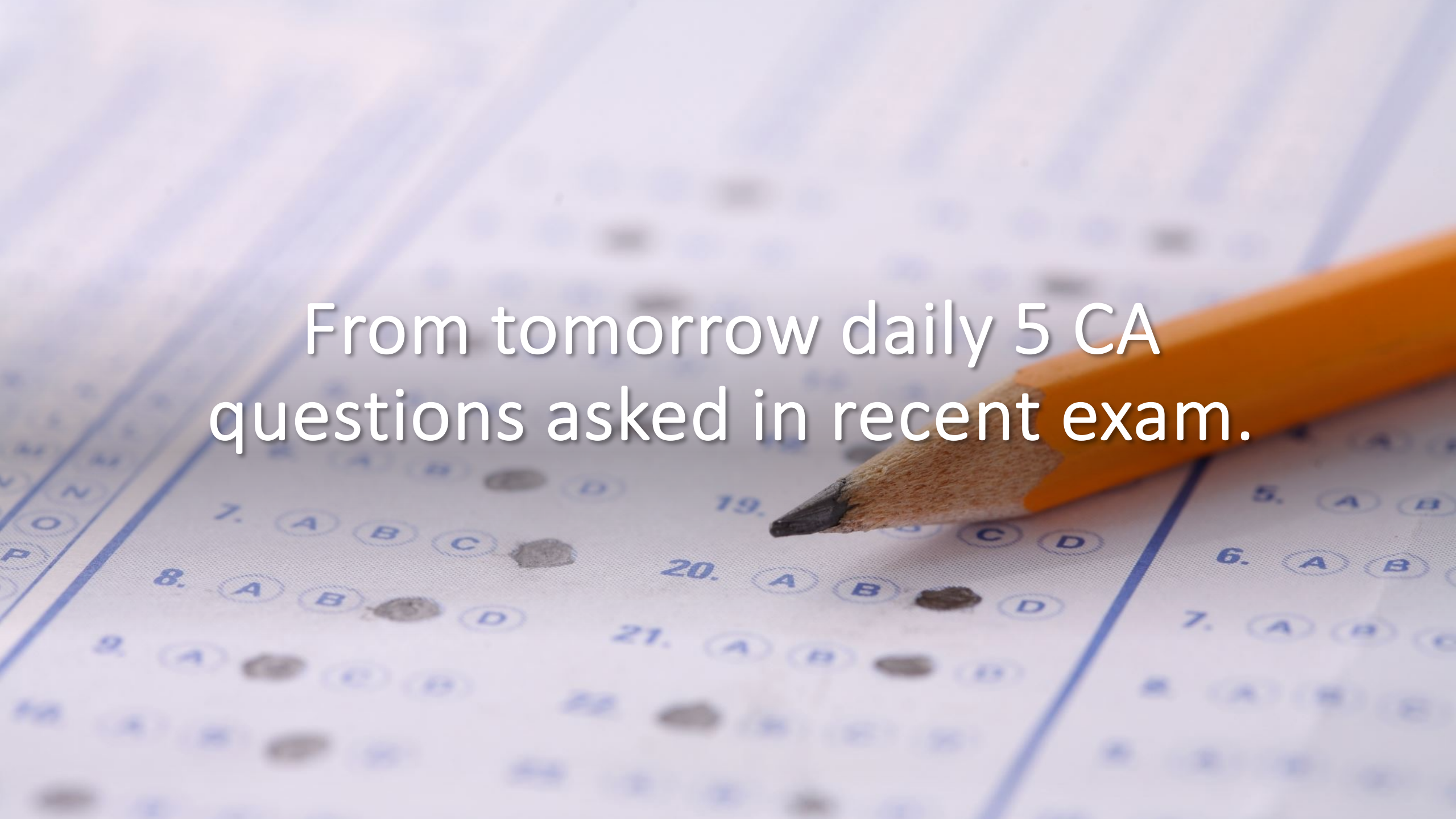


Largest indigenously developed N-  
plant unit begins operations  
Source: IE

- 
- The third unit of the indigenously developed 700-megawatt electric (MWe) nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP3) in Gujarat, India, has started operations at full capacity.
  - This marks a significant achievement in India's civilian nuclear program, as it is the country's first 700 MWe unit and represents a scale-up in technology.
  - भारत के गुजरात में काकरापार परमाणु ऊर्जा परियोजना (KAPP3) में स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित 700 मेगावाट इलेक्ट्रिक (MWe) परमाणु ऊर्जा रिएक्टर की तीसरी इकाई ने पूरी क्षमता पर परिचालन शुरू कर दिया है।
  - यह भारत के असैन्य परमाणु कार्यक्रम में एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है, क्योंकि यह देश की पहली 700 मेगावाट इकाई है और प्रौद्योगिकी में बड़े पैमाने पर वृद्धि का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है।

- The reactor uses Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) technology and is seen as a milestone in India's effort to expand its nuclear power capacity to 22,480 MWe by 2031.
- The reactor design also incorporates enhanced safety features, including a Passive Decay Heat Removal System.
- रिएक्टर प्रेशराइज्ड हेवी वॉटर रिएक्टर (पीएचडब्ल्यूआर) तकनीक का उपयोग करता है और इसे 2031 तक अपनी परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षमता को 22,480 मेगावाट तक विस्तारित करने के भारत के प्रयास में एक मील का पत्थर माना जाता है।
- रिएक्टर डिज़ाइन में निष्क्रिय क्षय ताप निष्कासन प्रणाली सहित उन्नत सुरक्षा सुविधाएँ भी शामिल हैं।

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