

# Daily Current Affairs



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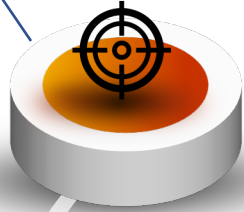


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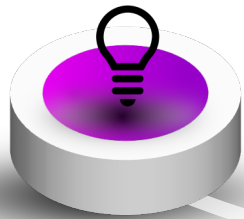
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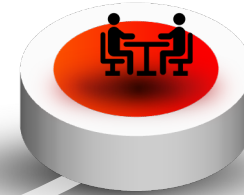
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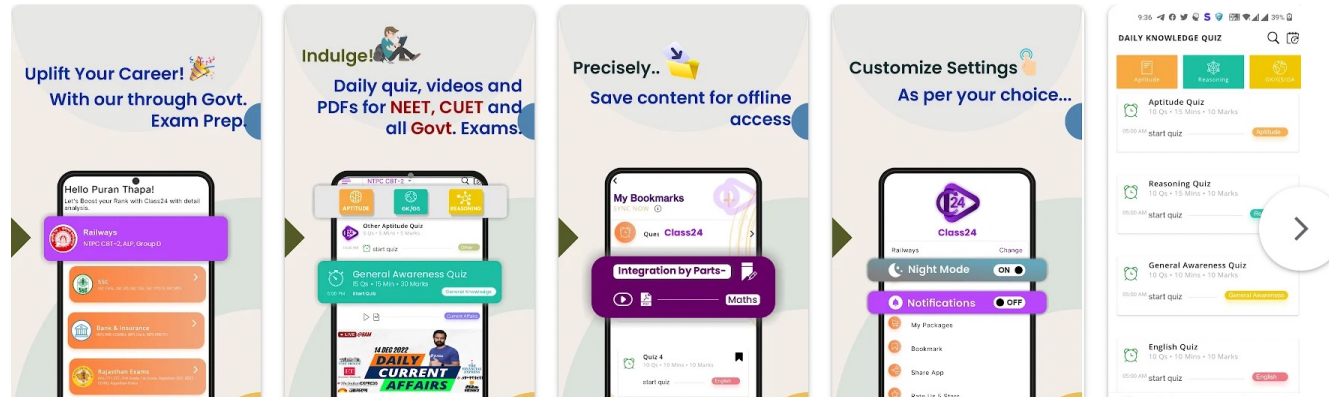
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### IN BRIEF



**Congress first list has Gehlot, Pilot; BJP names Rajee**

#### JAIPIER

The Congress in Rajasthan on Saturday announced its first list of candidates for 33 of the 200 seats for the Assembly poll. The BJP declared 63 candidates in its second list, fielding former CM Vasundhara Rajee from Jhalrapatan. » Page 8

**Lok Sabha MP's login ID used in Dubai: Dubai**

#### NEW DELHI

BJP MP Nishkant Dubey, without naming Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, said on Saturday that an MP's login ID for the Lok Sabha was opened from Dubai while the lawmaker was in India. » Page 8

**Nitish clears the air on teaming up with BJP again**

#### PATNA

Rubbishing claims that he would team up with the BJP again, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar expressed his disappointment with the way the media had misinterpreted his statement regarding the party. » Page 8

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CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 5



## Gaganyaan test flight successful

Recouping from setbacks, it simulates an abort situation to demonstrate a crew escape system; Navy recovers crew module from Bay of Bengal

#### Hemanth C.S.

SRIHARIKOTA

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully completed its first test flight to demonstrate a crew escape system for the Gaganyaan mission that aims at putting humans in space, after twice rescheduling the flight due to bad weather and then temporarily delaying the launch just five seconds before scheduled lift-off on Saturday due to an anomaly in the system. The Test Vehicle Abort Mission 1 (TV-D1) flight was meant to simulate an abort situation, and demonstrate the system to safely carry the crew module out of the vehicle in case of emergencies.

**Delay before launch**  
Though it was scheduled to lift off at 8 a.m. on Saturday, it was rescheduled for 8.30 a.m., when the mission director initiated the automatic launch sequence, with the lift-off again rescheduled for 8.45 a.m. However, just five seconds before lift-off, the launch was put on hold as the engine ignition did not happen nominally. "The engine ignition has to happen in the nominal course. What has happened is the onboard computer, which is doing the function, has withheld the launch in view of the anomaly observed," ISRO chairman S. Somanath said.

ISRO scientists and engineers at Sriharikota quickly corrected all anomalies and sprang back to launch the TV-D1 at 10 a.m. After the test vehicle lifted off from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, it ticked off all the boxes for ISRO to declare that the TV-D1 test flight had been accomplished, and the crew escape system



The test flight of Gaganyaan lifts off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre on Saturday. PTI

(CES) had performed as intended. The Indian Navy then recovered the crew module after it touched down in the Bay of Bengal, and brought it to Chennai port to hand it over to the ISRO. After the successful launch, the ISRO chairman announced that the first unmanned Gaganyaan vehicle mission would take place in the beginning of 2024.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 7

## Integrate caste census with decadal census: Stalin

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting his intervention to integrate the caste census with the national decadal census.

In his letter, Mr. Stalin said Bihar had conducted a caste-based survey and a few more States had announced similar measures. He, however, argued that though these State-specific initiatives and their data outcomes were useful in providing insights into society and its needs, they lacked the advantage of nationwide comparability of inputs and processes.

The CM said these initiatives lacked "the statutory stamp without a Legislative backing for such data collection" since the census, as a subject, was in the Union list of the Constitution. Hence, we are of the considered view that only a statutory census of India, with critical caste-related data inputs, would be able to provide an appropriate platform for upholding social justice," he said.

Mr. Stalin said only such an integrated census at the national level could provide "comprehensive and reliable data on the caste composition of society and its reflection on the socio-economic indicators".

## Sharif returns to Pak. ahead of 2024 poll



Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif signing a legal document after his arrival at the Islamabad airport on Saturday. AFP

Associated Press  
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif returned home on Saturday, ending four years of self-imposed exile in London as he seeks to win the support of voters in the general election due in January. The 73-year-old leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is expected to face tough competition from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, the party of his main rival and former Prime Minister, Imran Khan, who is now in jail for corruption.

Speaking to supporters in Lahore later, Sharif said he wished to put the country on the path of growth, maintain good relations with neighbours, and find solutions to issues, including Kashmir. Sharif stepped down as Prime Minister in 2017 after he was disqualified for life from holding public office, following an investigation into his family's wealth after the 2016 Panama Papers leak.

Later, an anti-corruption court sentenced him to 10 years in jail on graft charges. During Sharif's jail term, Khan allowed Sharif to travel abroad for treatment after he complained of chest pain. Sharif later prolonged his stay in London. In 2020, an anti-graft court in Islamabad issued a warrant for his arrest after he failed to return home. On Thursday, the Supreme Court granted him protection from arrest till October 24 in the cases, clearing the way for his return. At Islamabad's airport on Saturday, legal advisers and senior members of the PML-N gave the party leader a warm welcome.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 7

## Trucks carrying aid enter Gaza from Egypt

Agence France-Presse  
RAFAH

The first aid trucks arrived in the war-torn Gaza Strip from Egypt on Saturday, bringing humanitarian relief to the Hamas-controlled Palestinian enclave.

AFP journalists on Saturday saw 20 trucks from the Egyptian Red Crescent, which is responsible for delivering aid from various UN agencies, pass through the Rafah border crossing from Egypt into Gaza. The crossing — the only one in

to Gaza not controlled by Israel — closed again after the trucks passed. The lorries had been waiting for days on the Egyptian side after Israel agreed to allow aid to enter following the United States' request.

UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said the convoy "must not be the last" and that the delivery would start "a sustainable effort to provide essential supplies" to Gaza.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 7



Relief incoming: People on the Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing watch as a convoy of lorries carrying humanitarian aid crosses to the Gaza Strip on Saturday. AFP

## A 'dreadful' return flight for Indian pilots overseas

Many pilots who had lost their jobs abroad during COVID-19 and were looking to return have found that obtaining a new Indian licence or renewing a lapsed one could take several months; they rue paperwork affecting potential opportunities

Jayrithi Chandran  
NEW DELHI

After nearly 15 years of flying for a global major in the United States, Vijay Mathew (name changed to protect privacy) found himself without a job in August 2020. The airline had all its foreign pilots as COVID-19 brought air travel to a standstill. He decided to return to his homeland and obtain an Indian licence. Three years on, he still does not have an Indian flying

permit. In July, his original employer offered him his job back. "I had to swallow my pride and return," he says. He still wants to be in India, where the aviation industry is expanding at almost 10% over the last decade, 2.5 times the global average.

Indian pilots working for foreign carriers say they would like to be closer home, despite a higher salary and perks abroad. They remember the discrimination they faced because of their foreign nationality, in the



The Indian aviation industry is expanding at almost 10% over the past decade. AFP

Civil Aviation (DGCA) exams can take up to a year. Many have found it easier to obtain a permit for another country and shift from countries such as Singapore to Qatar.

The concerns come at a time when 970 aircraft have been ordered by Air India and IndiGo, reviving the loss of pilot shortage in the country. Air India CEO Campbell Wilson has appealed to Indian pilots globally to consider a career in the airline, while also starting to recruit expats. Boeing has

estimated that India will need 31,000 pilots in the next 20 years, or nearly 1,500 pilots every year. When Mr. Mathew arrived in India in September 2020, he started the process to obtain a licence from the DGCA. He first needed to get his Class 10 and 12 marksheet verified from the Kerala Board of Public Examination to be eligible for a "computer number" to appear for the exams.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 7

## NGT pulls up Punjab, Delhi over bad air, violation of GRAP norms

Jahita Mishra  
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notices to officials in Punjab and Delhi over the deteriorating air quality in the National Capital Region and neighbouring States.

Notices were issued to various officials, including the Punjab Chief Secretary over a rise in farm fires in the State, and to the Delhi Chief Secretary over violations of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), under which stricter measures are taken to reduce air pollution during winter.

**Taking cognisance**  
An NGT Bench, while taking cognisance of a report on Punjab published in the next 20 years, or nearly 1,500 pilots every year. When Mr. Mathew arrived in India in September 2020, he started the process to obtain a licence from the DGCA. He first needed to get his Class 10 and 12 marksheet verified from the Kerala Board of Public Examination to be eligible for a "computer number" to appear for the exams.

**PLANS YET TO TAKE OFF**  
» PAGE 2



From Page One Fit to width

# Project Udbhava to tap indigenous military knowledge

The project aims at integrating ancient wisdom with modern military pedagogy through interdisciplinary research, workshops and leadership seminars; it will also facilitate emergence of under-explored theories related to strategic thinking

## Gaganyaan test flight successful

"I am very happy to announce the successful accomplishment of the TV-DI mission. The purpose of this mission was to demonstrate the Crew Escape System for the Gaganyaan program through a test vehicle demonstration in which the vehicle went up to a Mach number which is the speed of sound, slightly above it, and initiated an abort condition for the CES to function," Mr. Somanath said. "The CES took the crew module away from the vehicle, and subsequent operations into the crew module separation of the crew escape system, all the parachutes opening and touch down at the sea at the required velocity has been very well accomplished and we have confirmation of the data for all of this," he added.

## Sharif returns to Pak, ahead of election

He then flew to Lahore, where he addressed a huge rally at the iconic Minar-i-Pakistan. Speaking to supporters, he said he has no desire to seek revenge but wishes to end the country's tough economic conditions and put it back on the path of growth.

He noted that if Pakistan had been run on his 1990 economic model, not a single person would have been unemployed, and there would have been no poverty. "But today, the conditions are so bad that one has to think they can't feed their children or pay electricity bills," he said. "Is this what you wanted me? We were making Pakistan an Asian Tiger, we want to take Pakistan to 2.0."

**Kashmir finds mention in speech**  
"We need to begin a new journey. We need to decide on how we will get our lost position back, how we will have to run on double speed, how we will have to break the begging bowl forever, how we will have to stand on our feet... how we will have to make a strong foreign policy and create good relations with the world, even on Kashmir solution," he said.

Without naming India, he said: "We cannot progress by fighting neighbours. We have to introduce effective foreign policy, maintaining good relations with our neighbours as without this the country cannot progress."  
His return comes as Pakistan struggles with a deepening political turmoil and one of its worst economic crises.

Last month, Sharif claimed that the country's former Army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa and spy chief Fakh Hameed orchestrated his ouster in 2017. (With PTI inputs)

## Trucks carrying aid enter Gaza from Egypt

UN chief Antonio Guterres warned Friday that the aid was "the difference between life and death" for many Gazans, more than one million of whom have been displaced. "Much more" aid needs to be sent, he said, to a peace summit in Egypt on Saturday.

**'Reeling in pain'**  
Israel's military campaign against Hamas has levelled entire city blocks in Gaza, killing more than 4,500 Palestinians, mostly civilians, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry. Israeli troops are massed at the border ahead of an expected ground invasion.

As international tensions soar, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi was hosting a peace summit in Cairo on Saturday attended by regional and some Western leaders.

Egypt, historically a key mediator between Hamas and Israel has called to restart long-frozen peace talks.

But diplomatic efforts to end the violence have made little headway with Hamas and its enemy Iran, a supporter of Hamas and other armed groups, among those absent from the Cairo talks.

In Gaza, Israeli jets continued the relentless bombing campaign, with the military saying it hit more than 100 Hamas targets overnight. Almost half of Gaza's residents have been displaced, according to the United Nations.

## A 'dreadful' return flight for Indian pilots

He appeared for two exams in November and December and cleared them. Next, instead of appearing for a radio telephony exam, he decided to seek a temporary conversion of his foreign license for radio skills to an Indian one. But his foreign permit too lapsed in March 2021. Before he resumed the procedure towards the end of 2022, he also had to finish 20 hours of flying at a school over three weeks. This cost him 68-9 lakh.

Not only is it easier for an Indian pilot to work overseas, in some cases it is no more easier for a foreign pilot to work in India, pilots point out. Under the Foreign Aircraft Temporary Authorisation (FATA), the DGCA recognises the license and ratings issued by any country that is a member of the UN's International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for three months to a year. Out of the 10,000 pilots in India, 67 were foreign nationals according to government data in Parliament in March.

**Dinakar Perri**

**A**n ambitious effort for the integration of India's ancient strategic acumen with the contemporary military domain and development of an indigenous strategic vocabulary rooted in India's "philosophy and culture" was launched under Project Udbhava, by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday.

The project's objective is to synthesise ancient wisdom with contemporary military practices into a unique and holistic approach to address modern security challenges, said Lt. Gen. Tarun Kumar Aich, Deputy Chief of the Army Staff (Strategy), giving an overview.

**'Strategic thinking'**  
The project involves a collaboration between the Army and the United Service Institution of India (USI), a defence services think tank which has trained senior officers of the first Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF) being organised by the USI.

"It aims to effectively integrate ancient wisdom with modern military pedagogy through interdisciplinary research, workshops and leadership seminars... it will facilitate emergence of previously under-explored thoughts and theories related to strategic thinking, air-craft and warfare, foster deeper understanding and contribute to enriching military training curricula," Lt. Gen. Aich said.

"Going forward, a series of events and workshops will be held on various facets of our strategic culture and culminate in January next year, with a publication, to document and institutionalise such knowledge."

Elaborating, he said an initiative in this research



**Honouring legacy:** Rajnath Singh during the inauguration of the Indian Military Heritage Festival in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

was earlier taken by the Army Training Command, which after delving into the ancient Indian treatises such as *Arthashastra* by Chanakya and *Nitisara* by Kamandakia and the Mahabharata, compiled the "compendium of 75 strategies".

Similarly, The College of Defence Management conducted a study to establish linkages between Indian culture and art of strategic thinking and these will also provide valuable inputs for the project, he said.

**Ancient military system**  
The primary deliverables of Project Udbhava are to

develop an understanding of ancient Indian military systems and indigenous strategic military culture through the study of evolution of Indian military system and strategic thought; educate junior military leaders and inform senior military commanders and academia about the theories, concepts and teachings available in classical texts; and facilitating the creation of a knowledge pool for scholars and defence personnel for further studies, which will create an understanding of the relevance of these findings in a contemporary context, the Army said.

Reports and papers prepared during various seminars, workshops, and panel discussions will serve as a base for creating valuable publications for wider dissemination and further research.

The objective of the IMHF is to acquire eminent thought leaders with the dynamics of comprehensive national security, special emphasis on India's strategic culture, military heritage, education, institutionalisation of security forces and Amanambharat Bharat (self-reliant India), according to the USI.

## 188 policemen died in line of duty over the past year, says Amit Shah

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Over the past year, 188 policemen died in the line of duty while ensuring security and law and order in the country, Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, Mr. Shah paid tribute to 36,250 policemen who had sacrificed their lives for the country's internal security since Independence.

"Of all the personnel serving the country, policemen have the toughest duty, be it day or night, winter or summer, festival or regular day. Policemen do not get a chance to celebrate festivals with their families. All our police forces spend the golden years of their lives away from their families on the country's long land border and protect the country through their bravery and sacrifices," the Home Minister



**Setsna salutes:** Widows and family members of policemen paying tribute during the Police Commemoration Day parade in Bhopal on Saturday. A.M. FIMB04

said. He added that over the past decade, terrorism, militant attacks, and ethnic violence had reduced by 68% from their apex in the golden years of the efforts of the police.

**Legal reform**  
The three criminal laws in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution of India, he said. Noting that the Prime Minister had laid

emphasis on ending the pendency of cases in courts, Nasiruddin expressed confidence that the country would be successful in bringing the criminal justice system through the Police Technology Mission, the three new laws, and the Intoperable Criminal Justice System.

## DoPT asks senior officers to promote and advertise nine years of gov't. achievements

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union government has asked all departments to nominate officers to act as *Rath Yatra* heralds or special officers, who will be expected to advertise and promote the achievements of the government over the past nine years. The promotion Commission asked how civil servants could be asked to do such pre-political propaganda for the government's achievements. The officers, including those from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), will showcase the achieve-

**The officers, including those from the IAS, will promote the achievements of the government**

ments of the government up to the panchayat-level as part of a *Viksit Bharat* *Rath Yatra*, which will run from November 20 to January 25, 2024.

In the October 17 letter, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) and the Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Minister Welfare, said that the *Yatra* was for "dissemi-

nating information, awareness and extending services at Gram Panchayat level". The officers nominated for the planning, execution, monitoring of the *Rath Yatra*, the government has decided to deploy Joint Secretaries, Directors, and Deputy Secretaries as *Rath Yatra* heralds and special officers. One such letter, which was sent to the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, was shared by Congress leader Pawan Khera on X.

## CBI books one person for cheating U.S. citizen

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked a person for his alleged involvement in cyber-enabled fraud. He has also seized various cryptocurrencies valued at about \$30,000 (around ₹77 crore) from different crypto-wallets.

The accused has been identified as Ramavar Shishai, who operated under the pseudonym James Carlson. It is alleged that he contacted a U.S. citizen over phone, introducing himself as a representative of the fraud department of a multinational company and falsely informing the victim that someone had been trying to order a computer using the victim's account.

The accused induced the victim to withdraw cash from his bank accounts and deposit the same in the form of Bitcoins with RockcoCoin ATM wallet.

The victim ended up withdrawing \$30,000 (around ₹1.08 crore) from his bank accounts on different dates and deposited the same in the Bitcoin address provided by the accused. The funds were misappropriated by the accused. The CBI received inputs from the FBI.

## Ahead of election, BJP supporter shot dead in Chhattisgarh

**The Hindu Bureau**  
RAIPUR

In poll-bound Chhattisgarh, a BJP worker was shot dead by unidentified assailants in the Nabal-safected Mohla-Mampur-Amabagar Chowki district on Friday. The party termed the murder a political crime.

The BJP has asked the Election Commission to take cognisance of the police failure to provide security to party workers in the State. On Saturday, BJP leader Raman Singh, along with Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, visited the slain party worker's village and met the bereaved family.

Mr. Singh said the slain BJP worker had received death threats over his role in organising the Goddess Durga amid Navaratri festival.

In a press statement, the BJP said that the murder should be treated as a crime when the victim, Birju Taram, was returning from a public meeting addressed by Mr. Singh. Mohla-Mampur is one of the 20 constituencies which will go to the polls on November 7 in the first phase of the two-phase assembly election.

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party member Shradh Pawar said that the late Dr. Ambedkar's contributions were not restricted to the Constitution as the leader had also taken crucial and futuristic decisions on water and power.

Dr. Ambedkar deserves credit for preserving parliamentary democracy in the country. He is best remembered for speaking at an event to commemorate the 100 years of his book *The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution*.

"The current generation is only aware of his contribution as the chairman of the drafting committee of the Constitution. He also took crucial decisions on how to use water and build its infrastructure."



**Shradh Pawar with MP and writer Kumar Ketkar during a discussion in Mumbai on Saturday. PTI**

# Army's Project Udbhav to tap indigenous military knowledge

The project aims at integrating ancient wisdom with modern military pedagogy through interdisciplinary research, workshops and leadership seminars; it will also facilitate emergence of under-explored theories related to strategic thinking

**Dinakar Peri**  
NEW DELHI

**A**n ambitious effort for the integration of India's "ancient strategic acumen" into the contemporary military domain and develop an "indigenous strategic vocabulary", rooted in India's "philosophy and culture", was launched under Pro-



develop an understanding of ancient military system and indigenous strategic military culture through the study of evolution of Indian military system and strategic thoughts; educating junior military leaders and informing senior military commanders and academia about the theories concepts and teachings available in classical texts;

Lt.Gen. Aich said that ancient Indian knowledge system was rooted in a 5,000-year-old civilisational legacy, which has attached great value to knowledge, with a large body of intellectual texts, world's largest collection of manuscripts, thinkers and schools in so many domains of knowledge.

To begin with, it is es-

ary military practices, forging a unique and holistic approach to address modern security challenges, said Lt. Gen. Tarun Kumar Aich, Deputy Chief of the Army Staff (Strategy), giving an overview.

### **‘Strategic thinking’**

Project Udbhav, a collaboration between the Army and the United Service Institution of India (USI), a defence services think tank, was launched at the first Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF) being organised by the USI.

“It aims to effectively integrate ancient wisdom with modern military pedagogy through interdis-

iplinary research, workshops and leadership seminars... It will facilitate emergence of previously under-explored thoughts and theories related to strategic thinking, statecraft and warfare, foster deeper understanding and contribute to enriching military training curricula,” Lt.Gen. Aich said.

“Going forward, a series of events and workshops will dwell on various facets of our strategic culture and culminate in January next year, with a publication, to document and institutionalise such knowledge.”

Elaborating, he said an initiative in this research

was earlier taken by the Army Training Command, which after delving into the ancient Indian treatises such as *Arthashastra* by Chanakya and *Nitisara* by Kamandaki and the *Mahabharata*, compiled the “compendium of 75 stratagems”.

Similarly, the College of Defence Management conducted a study to establish linkages between Indian culture and art of strategic thinking and these will also provide valuable inputs for the project, he said.

### **Ancient military system**

The primary deliverables of Project Udbhav are to

vance of these findings in a contemporary context, the Army said.

Reports and papers prepared during various seminars, workshops, and panel discussions will serve as a base for creating valuable publications for wider dissemination and further references.

The objective of the IMHF is to acquaint future thought leaders with the dynamics of comprehensive national security with special emphasis on India’s strategic culture, military heritage, education, modernisation of security forces and *Atmanirbhar Bharat* (self-reliant India), according to the USI.

ability in the modern day, he said.

In this regard, the Deputy Chief said works such as Chanakya’s *Arthashastra* underscored the importance of strategic alliances and diplomacy, aligning with modern military practices such as international cooperation and soft power projection. “Similarly, the wisdom of *Thirukkural*, the classical Tamil text authored by Thiruvalluvar, the Tamil philosopher, advocates ethical conduct in all endeavours, including warfare. This aligns with modern military codes of ethics of just war and principles of the Geneva Convention.”



## **Haldiram's**

According to the data by US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), more than half the snacks that have been taken off the shelves in the last five months were of Indian make. The US FDA recently reported that wafers, cookies and biscuits from one of India's biggest sweets and snacks manufacturer contains poisonous and adulterated content. They said that the products are "filthy, putrid or decomposed-otherwise unfit".

When questions were raised at the Indian food regulators for not keeping a proper check, a vice President at Haldiram's explained the discrepancy. He said that food safety standards differed from one country to another. It was in December last year that the FDA first detected amounts of pesticide in the snacks imported from India. It has refused to import Haldiram's snacks ever since.

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Nawaz Sharif with brother Shehbaz and daughter Maryam in Lahore Saturday

## Nawaz returns to Pak after 4 yrs in exile

**M ZULQERNAIN & SAJJAD HUSSAIN**  
LAHORE, ISLAMABAD, OCTOBER 21

FOUR YEARS after going into self-imposed exile in the UK, former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif returned home on a special flight Saturday as he looks to lead his party into the general elections expected in January and secure a record fourth term as PM.

The 73-year-old Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief arrived in Islamabad from Dubai on a chartered plane named 'Umeed-e-Pakistan' at around 1:30 pm local time. In the evening, he held a massive rally at the Minar-i-Pakistan in Lahore where he spoke of the country's dire economic condition and vowed to work towards its development.

"I have no wish for revenge. Nawaz Sharif only wishes for the well-being of the people," said Sharif, whose return comes after the jailing of his arch rival, former prime minister Imran Khan.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## IGNITION GLITCH DELAYS LAUNCH, NAVY COLLECTS CREW MODULE

# Launch to splashdown, ISRO clears key step to human space mission

Very happy that team could detect anomaly, rectify so quick, says ISRO chief

**JOHNSONTA**  
BENGALURU, OCTOBER 21

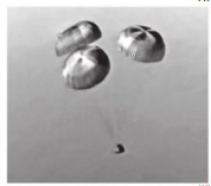
SETTING THE stage for its planned mission, Gaganyaan, to take Indian astronauts into space by 2024, the Indian Space Research Organisation successfully carried out Saturday, after overcoming a technical glitch, a crucial test of the crew escape system.

The launch of the mission, Flight Test Vehicle Abort Mission (TV-D1), scheduled for 8 am, was delayed due to weather factors and a snag in the rocket's ignition detected at 8:45 am put the mission on hold. However, scientists quickly identified and corrected the "anomaly" and return to the launchpad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota for a launch at 10 am.

The Test Vehicle, a rocket developed by ISRO to test various aspects in its first human space mission Gaganyaan in a two-year time frame, launched smoothly. And culminated with a perfect execution of the abort mission with the crew escape system separating from the rocket at an altitude of approximately 17 km. Gaganyaan aims to send hu-



(Clockwise, from above) The Gaganyaan test flight lifts off at 10 am; 9 minutes later, the crew module separates from the rocket at an altitude of 16.9 km before parachuting down to the Bay of Bengal; it is retrieved by the Navy, 10 km off the coast of Sriharikota.



mans into space on a Low Earth Orbit of 400 km for three days and bring them safely back to the Earth.

The crew module made a successful splashdown in the Bay of Bengal around 10 km from the coast of Sriharikota at the programmed velocity and in the nominal time of a little over nine minutes after lift-off. "This launch takes us one

step closer to realising India's first human space flight program, Gaganyaan. My best wishes to our scientists at ISRO," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X.

The crew module was recovered by the Indian Navy using a dedicated vessel and diving team later in the day. "The Crew Module in the safe hands of our diannavy," ISRO said on social

## US, UK back Canada on diplomatic presence, ask India to cooperate in Nijjar investigation

**DRVYA**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

A DAY after Canada announced the departure of its 41 diplomats and their family members from India, the US and UK backed Ottawa's contention that Delhi's action for seeking diplomatic parity went against the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

In their respective statements Saturday on the development, the US and UK backed Canada, underlining that diplomats are required to be on the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**EXPLAINED**  
**Five Eyes: The pool, leads**

US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand make the Five Eyes and pool intelligence. Last month, David Cohen, US envoy to Canada, told a Canadian TV channel that "shared intelligence among Five Eyes partners... helped lead Canada" to make the statements that Trudeau made on the Nijjar killing.

## MAN ARRESTED

### Body in chains is of Swiss woman killed by Delhi man, say police

**ARNABJIT SUR**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

A DAY after a woman's decomposing body — with burn marks and chained limbs — was found in a West Delhi locality, police identified her as Nina Berger, a 30-year-old Swiss national who they suspect was lured to the country, tortured and killed by a businessman she refused to marry.

Police Saturday arrested a gents tone dealer, Gurpreet, a Jalandhar resident, after tracking down a second-hand car in which he killed the woman, DCP (West) Vichitra Veer said.

Police said Gurpreet met Berger around three years ago when he went to Switzerland to meet a relative. The two had kept in touch since then.

"The two became close through a common friend circle," Gurpreet asked her to marry him, but she said she was already in a relationship. This

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Rajasthan: Gehlot, Pilot in Cong 1st list; boost for Raje in BJP's 2nd list

**HAMZA KHAN & DEEP MUKHERJEE**  
JAIPUR, OCTOBER 21

ALMOST TWO weeks after the Rajasthan Assembly elections were announced, the Congress Saturday finally announced a first list of 33 candidates including Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his rival Sachin Pilot.

The BJP, meanwhile, played it safe with its second list of candidates after its first list sidelined several established

names. Its 83 names declared Saturday include Vasundhara Raje from her constituency Bhukrapatan and many of her key loyalists.

While there were expectations that the BJP might field some more Union ministers to beef up its chances in the close Rajasthan race — after having done so in Madhya Pradesh — none figured in the second list.

For Congress, with seat talks reportedly stuck due to divisions in the state unit, the

### THE WORLD



**AID TRUCKS BEGIN ROLLING INTO GAZA VIA EGYPT BORDER**  
PAGE 10  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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# India's US food exports refusal rate 7 times higher than China's

MDH Spices leads with 10 per cent shipments refused over salmonella contamination; nearly 4 per cent Nestle India shipments refused, mostly due to "filthy" noodles

**AGGAM WALIA**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 21

A TOTAL of 3,925 human food export shipments from India were refused entry at US customs in the last four years, as per data available with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Of these, 953 shipments (24 per cent) were refused entry for being "filthy" and 786 shipments (20 per cent) were refused for containing salmonella, a bacteria that causes severe stomach infections. The most frequent product categories to face entry refusals were spices, vitamins, minerals and proteins, bakery products, and seafood products.

Food imports from India, Mexico, and China saw the highest number of refusals between October 2019 and September 2023, which corresponds to the latest four US federal fiscal years. A total of 5,374 food export shipments from Mexico were refused, followed by 3,925 shipments from India, and 2,340 shipments from China. India's food exports refusal rate, which refers to the percentage of shipments refused out of all food export shipments



Refusal of food export shipments from India has seen a downward trend in the last decade. *File*

sent, however, stood at 0.15 per cent during this period, seven times China's rate of 0.022 per cent and six times Mexico's rate of 0.025 per cent.

Incidentally, refusal of food export shipments from India has seen a downward trend in the last decade in absolute terms, from a peak of 1,591 refusals in 2015 to 1,033 refusals in 2023. A study by the US Department of Agriculture published in 2022, however, did attest to the fact that between 2002 and 2019, India had the most pathogen-related violations with 5,115 food import refusals out of over 22,000 pathogen and toxin

violations that were identified, a share of 22.9 per cent. Mexico came in second with a 13.9 per cent share followed by Vietnam with an 8.6 per cent share.

"Even though Mexico had the most refusals in 2008 and 2011, shipments from India were denied more frequently than those from other countries over the entire study period (between 2002 and 2019). These violations were primarily from Salmonella contamination," the study noted.

MDH Spices, which generated a revenue of Rs 1,759 crore in FY22, saw a refusal rate of 9.95 per cent for all human food shipments

exported to the US between October 2019 and September 2023, which corresponds to the latest four US federal fiscal years. In other words, 62 out of 623 food export shipments sent by MDH to the US were refused entry.

As per FDA's data, the charges against all 62 shipments, which were spices related products, include that of salmonella contamination. FDA's Charge 9, which concerns adulteration, makes shipments "subject to refusal of admission... in that it appears to contain Salmonella, a poisonous and deleterious substance which may render it injurious to health" was applied to all 62 shipments exported by MDH which were refused entry. According to FDA's procedures, if a shipment is refused entry, the importer can either destroy it or export it out of the US. FDA does not share data on what happens to shipments once they are refused entry.

MDH's export shipments to the US fell consistently, from 172 in 2020 to 101 in 2023. However, the refusal rate increased to 15 per cent in 2023 from 11.3 per cent in 2020. FDA also physically inspected MDH's manufacturing plant in January 2022, during

which it noted that the "plant did not have adequate sanitary facilities and accommodations." It also observed that the plant's "equipment and utensils were not designed and constructed to be adequately cleaned or maintained to protect against contamination." MDH did not respond to a detailed questionnaire despite multiple reminders.

Nestle India's refusal rate in the latest four US federal fiscal years stood at 3.7 per cent, a total of 110 shipments out of 2965 shipments exported to the US. Majority of Nestle's refused shipments were of noodles and related products. The most frequent charge levelled against Nestle's refused shipments was of the products consisting "in whole or in part of a filthy, putrid, or decomposed substance or be otherwise unfit for food."

The second and third most frequent charges were related to the misbranding of nutritional labels and ingredients information. There is no record of inspections conducted by the FDA at Nestle India's plants during the said time period.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# RBI approves Ashok Vaswani's appointment as Kotak MD & CEO

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 21

PRIVATE SECTOR bank Kotak Mahindra Bank on Saturday said it has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval for the appointment of veteran banker Ashok Vaswani as the Managing Director (MD) and CEO of the bank.

The appointment of Vaswani is for a period of three years, with effect from the date of taking charge, which will not be later than January 1, 2024, the bank said in a press release.

Currently, Vaswani is President of Pagaya Technologies Ltd - a US-Israeli AI Fintech.

He was Chief Executive Officer of Barclays Bank, UK and subsequently CEO of their Global Consumer, Private, Corporate and Payments businesses and Member of the Group Executive Committee.

Earlier, he was CEO Citigroup Asia Pacific and Member of the Citigroup Global Operating & Management Committees.

CEO until December 31, 2023.

"I thank the Board for entrusting me with the responsibility of leading Kotak Mahindra Bank's journey to the next phase of growth. I am excited and honoured to carry forward the legacy of Uday who has built this world-class institution. With our proven leadership team, we will take the Bank to new heights," Vaswani said.

"We will ensure that Kotak Mahindra Bank plays a meaningful role in India's journey to being one of the top 3 economies in the world in the next 5 years, delivering shareholder value. At a personal level, I am delighted to come back home," he said.

In the quarter ended September, the bank's net profit grew 24 per cent to Rs 3,191 crore from Rs 2,581 crore in the same quarter of FY2023. Net interest income (NII) increased by 23 per cent to Rs 6,297 crore from Rs 5,099 crore. Net interest margin (NIM) stood at 5.22 per cent. Gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) declined to 1.72 per cent from 2.08 per cent. Net

<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>	<p><a href="#">Uday Kotak</a> (non-executive director)</p> <p><a href="#">Dipak Gupta</a> (MD &amp; CEO) (Interim)</p>
<b>Products</b>	<a href="#">Banking, commodities, credit cards, equities trading, insurance, investment management, mortgage loans, mutual funds, private equity, risk management, wealth management, 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>	<p><a href="#">Kotak Mahindra General Insurance</a></p> <p><a href="#">Kotak Life Insurance</a></p> <p><a href="#">Kotak Mahindra AMC</a></p> <p><a href="#">Kotak Securities</a><sup>[5]</sup></p> <p><a href="#">Kotak Mahindra Prime</a></p>





No issues available Delhi for this date: 2023-10

### The Hindu ePaper - Important Alert



Dear Reader,

There will be no issue of The Hindu ePaper editions dated 24/10/23 on account of Ayudha Pooja.

Best regards,  
ePaper Team  
The Hindu Group

**The wizard of spin and the keeper of Indian cricket's conscience**

**SADEEP DWIVEDI**  
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 23

BISHAN SINGH Bedi had a habit of making early morning calls. It would mostly be about cricket, and things that had kept him up all night. Not known to suffer foibles or be easily impressed, Bedi set high standards for cricketers, players and administrators. A wily left-arm spinner on the field but a straight-talking, cricket-romantic off it, Bedi truly believed that cricket was a sacred island that needed to be governed by the principles of a fair play and meritocracy.

Monday, after a prolonged illness and hospitalisation, Bedi, 77, passed away. He is survived by wife Anju, son Anagad and daughter Neha. With his demise, India has lost a cricketing giant, a voice of wisdom, and the game's well-wisher.

For the last two years, wife Anju had been a pillar of strength, staying by Bedi's side during the recovery and rehabilitation phase. "The game is never over until the last ball is bowled," the doctors would keep telling me, Bishan would say, "she would say, 'the game is never over until the last ball is bowled'." Bedi sat in a wheelchair, nodding his head.

After suffering a heart attack and brain stroke two years back, Bedi had recently undergone a knee surgery. On



Bagged 266 wickets at an average of 28.71 in Tests. ANI

**Centre clears voluntary retirement of Odisha CM's aide Pandian**



**V K Pandian** is a 2000-batch IAS officer

**SUJIT BISOI**  
BHUBANESWAR, OCTOBER 23

THE CENTRE on Monday approved the voluntary retirement of 2000-batch Odisha cadre IAS officer V K Pandian, who has been serving as private secretary to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) sent a communication in regard to the additional chief secretary of Odisha's general administration department.

"In reference to letter... dated 20.10.2023 from Government of Odisha on the above-mentioned subject, I am directed to convey the approval of the competent authority for acceptance of voluntary retirement of Shri V Karthikeya Pandian, IAS (OD 2000) under Rule 162A of All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement benefits) Rules, 1958 with waiver of the notice period as recommended by the State Government," said the DoPT communication.

Pandian, who has been holding the post since 2011 and wielded considerable influence in Odisha's corridors of power, is yet to announce his plans for the future.

In recent months, the officer had come under attack from the opposition parties in Odisha for his style of functioning, especially his whirling tour of the state during the state helpline. The Opposition BJP and Congress had accused Pandian of violating service rules.

He also faced criticism from some leaders of the ruling BJP

**In Maharashtra, both Deputy Chief Ministers support caste survey, cite Maratha quota**

**ALOK DESHPANDE**  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23

THE MAHARASHTRA government led by Sena (Shinde), BJP and Ajit Pawar's NCP has strongly supported a caste survey in the state. On Monday, the state's two Deputy CMs — Devendra Fadnis of the BJP and Ajit Pawar — spoke in favour of a caste survey in the state similar to Bihar's, but one which



Deputy CMs Devendra Fadnis, Ajit Pawar stands the scrutiny of courts. "We have to decide a methodology to avoid the condition cre-

ated in Bihar after the results of the caste census there." Fadnis told reporters in Nagpur. He said the government wants to give reservation to Marathas in such a way that the decision survives in the courts. His views are in variance to the party's other well-stated opposition to caste surveys.

At present, Maharashtra offers 62 per cent reservation in government jobs and educational institutions; this includes 10 per cent for the economically weaker sections (EWS).

**Retired teacher, his ex-students keep Bengal village school alive**

**RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATRI MITRA**  
MUMBAI, OCTOBER 23

WELL INTO his 70s and a decade into retirement, Dwijendra Nath Ghosh refuses to withdraw from his duties as a teacher. Every day, from 10 am to 4 pm, Ghosh sets out from his home to do a job that nobody pays him for — teach at Basantapur Junior High School in Basantapur village of West Bengal's Purba Bardhaman district. Had it not been for Dwijendra's tireless efforts, the

Located in Jamalpur block of the district, the upper primary school was established in 2014 after Dwijendra wrote to the state government for years, requesting that a school be opened in Basantapur village. The school is managed by an 11-member committee, which Dwijendra is also a part of. If this school shuts down, the 140 students — 81 boys and 59 girls — will have to travel several kilometres to attend a high school in another village.

"In 2014, the government had appointed four 'guest teachers' and all of them retired in February this year. Since then, the government has appointed



Dwijendra Nath Ghosh, 75, with his former students who teach for free. PANKAJ

**Preparing for ground invasion... three circles of failure (on Oct 7): IDF**

**'Largest recruiting of reservists in the history of the IDF is on... Hamas needs to be destroyed as a terror entity'**

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
JERUSALEM, OCTOBER 23

THE ISRAELI Defence Forces (IDF) is preparing for a ground invasion which will aim to destroy Hamas as a "terrorist entity" and ensure that Gaza isn't used as a "staging ground" for attacks, the Israeli military's international spokesperson, Lt Col (reservist) Peter Lerner, told The Indian Express Monday. The invasion, he said, is contingent on the "operational superiority" and the government's decision to go ahead.

In an exclusive interview to The Indian Express from the Tel Aviv headquarters of IDF Lerner said that the "top priority" was the freedom of at least 222 Israeli hostages even as he identified "three circles of failure" behind the October 7 attacks: intelligence failure, the collapse of the physical barrier and insufficient defence forces on the ground.



People help evacuate a Palestinian woman following Israeli airstrikes in her neighbourhood in Gaza City on Monday. AP

It's been more than two weeks since the October 7 attacks, the Israeli air forces have conducted air strikes in Gaza. What's the objective? The objective continues to be... to destroy Hamas as a terrorist government, a terrorist entity and a terrorist military. We are dismantling their apparatus, including striking against its leadership and making sure that they can never utilize the Gaza Strip as a staging ground for attacks against Israel again.

We have conducted thousands of strikes, just over 200 in the last 24 hours. That's representative of the last two weeks... They are in a state of disarray. They have huge command and control problems because we are striking their infrastructure. Their leadership has no idea what is going on, and the individual terrorists are being pursued, attacked and killed.

There have been concerns on... to destroy Hamas as a terrorist government, a terrorist entity and a terrorist military. We are dismantling their apparatus, including striking against its leadership and making sure that they can never utilize the Gaza Strip as a staging ground for attacks against Israel again.

**Kerala board bans RSS activities on temple premises, Sangh blames CPM**

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
TRIPUNJAVANTHAPURAM, OCTOBER 23

TAKING THE cue from a recent High Court verdict, the Kerala government-run Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) has banned the RSS and other organisations with "extreme ideologies" from operating on the premises of temples run by the board.

The RSS has come out against the board's directive, which it claims is part of a CPM bid to take control of the day-to-day affairs of temples in Kerala.

**5 boards, 3,000 temples**

KERALA HAS five state-run autonomous Devaswom (temple) boards, which together manage over 3,000 temples — Travancore Devaswom Board (1,250 temples), Cochin board (406), Malabar board (1,377), Guruvayur board (11), Koodalmanikyam board (12).

**Maharaja's new clothes: Scindia remoulds as 'karyakarta'**

**LIZ MATHEW**  
SHIVPURI, PICHHORE (MP), OCTOBER 23

"Aap log zara side pe baithiye, I do not need any security. Protecting my son-in-law (Jyotiraditya Scindia) is my duty, and my security lies in their hands," Jyotiraditya Scindia tells his security personnel as he walks through a group of BJP booth presidents, who cheer loudly at his acknowledged presence by the senior leader and Union minister.



Jyotiraditya Scindia with party workers in Pichhore. LIZ MATHEW

**Retired teacher, his ex-students keep Bengal village school alive**

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**INTERNATIONAL SPOKESPERSON INTERVIEW**

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**Business as Usual**

**By UNNY**

Good time to go to Chhatra to major universities before test case makes list for practices.



**Haryana Home Minister Orders Suspension of 372 Police Officers**

**P13**

royal demeanour had a place in the old-worldly Congress, there is little patience for it in the new BJP. In an interview with The Indian Express recently, Scindia insisted that "the BJP has not been home".

Observers say they could not have imagined the Scindia of old getting off the stage to talk to workers, ask personally if they had what they needed, such as voters' list or even party ID cards, before exhorting them to ensure the party's victory in

**Retired teacher, his ex-students keep Bengal village school alive**

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DEAL VALUED PEGGED AT \$10 BILLION

# Reliance close to buying Disney's India operations

VIVEAT SUSAN PINTO  
Mumbai, October 23

**MUKESH AMBANI'S RELIANCE** Industries (RIL) is nearing a deal for a 51% stake in Walt Disney's India business, Disney Star, as it looks to consolidate its position as the top player in the domestic media and entertainment (M&E) market, persons in the know said. The move comes as rivals Sony and Zee are likely to merge despite delays, implying that the domestic M&E market may see a duopoly with the Reliance combine on one side and Sony-Zee on the other side.

While the Sony-Zee merged entity has been valued at \$10 billion, the Disney Star acquisition by Reliance could also be valued at \$10 billion, sources said. Disney Star may hold on to a minority stake in the firm.

Reliance-backed Viacom18, which is the media and entertainment arm of the group, declined comment on the issue. Disney Star did not respond when contacted.

The deal may be announced as early as next month, sources said. Talks of a possible sale of Disney Star have been doing the rounds since July after the US-based Walt Disney Company indicated it was weighing

## DISRUPTING MARKET

■ With proposed Sony-Zee merger, **Reliance-Disney** move implies a duopoly in media & entertainment

■ Ambani bagged IPL digital rights for **\$2.7 bn** in 2022, and later Warner Bros Discovery's HBO content — both previously with Disney



■ Disney Star has since struggled with sliding subscriber numbers

# DISNEY-FOX BRAND MASHUP

Disney

21ST CENTURY FOX (1)

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TATA | sky (30%)

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(1) Represents key assets being acquired



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# PepsiCo ropes in Dhoni as Lay's brand ambassador

**BINDU D MENON**

New Delhi, October 23

**PEPSICO-OWNED LAY'S CHIPS** has roped in Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador. The former Indian cricket team captain will feature in its latest campaign – No Lay's, No Game – to tap into the ongoing cricket fever.

“The brand is excited to reunite with the beloved cricketer, MS Dhoni, as the face of Lay's, solidifying the deep bond between the brand and our cricket-obsessed nation. We are confident that this dynamic partnership and ‘No Lay's, No Game’ campaign will continue to deliver joy to consumers,” Saumya Rathor, category lead – Potato Chips, PepsiCo India, said. Dhoni was associated with the Lay's brand for 11 years pre-



viously. PepsiCo had signed him in 2005 and ended ties with him in 2016.

The 'No Lay's No Game' global campaign is a platform launched by Lay's to celebrate its long-standing partnership with sporting events. The company said that it is harnessing

Dhoni's universal appeal and iconicity.

Launched in 1995 in India, Lay's is one of the marquee brands from PepsiCo India, which reportedly has an over 50% share in the organised potato wafers category, as per available industry data.



# China To Curb Exports Of Graphite Material

- Recently, China, the world's top graphite producer ( around 65%) and exporter, has decided to curb exports of key battery material.
- The curbs are similar to those in place since 1st August, 2023 for two chip-making metals, gallium and germanium which pushed up prices outside of the country.
- हाल ही में, दुनिया के शीर्ष ग्रेफाइट उत्पादक (लगभग 65%) और निर्यातक चीन ने प्रमुख बैटरी सामग्री के निर्यात पर अंकुश लगाने का फैसला किया है।
- ये प्रतिबंध दो चिप बनाने वाली धातुओं, गैलियम और जर्मैनियम पर 1 अगस्त, 2023 से लागू प्रतिबंधों के समान हैं, जिन्होंने देश के बाहर कीमतों को बढ़ा दिया है।



- This move is aimed at protecting China's national security and controlling supplies of critical minerals in response to challenges over its global manufacturing dominance.
- Graphite, Cobalt, Nickel etc are important critical minerals as reflected in Mineral Security Partnership which India is not part of.
- इस कदम का उद्देश्य चीन की राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा की रक्षा करना और उसके वैश्विक विनिर्माण प्रभुत्व पर चुनौतियों के जवाब में महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों की आपूर्ति को नियंत्रित करना है।
- ग्रेफाइट, कोबाल्ट, निकेल आदि महत्वपूर्ण महत्वपूर्ण खनिज हैं जैसा कि खनिज सुरक्षा साझेदारी में दर्शाया गया है जिसका भारत हिस्सा नहीं है।

- It also becomes important for major Electric vehicles (EVs) manufacturers across the world and also India due to its National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) where Graphite is a key component.
- यह दुनिया भर के प्रमुख इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (ईवी) निर्माताओं और भारत के राष्ट्रीय इलेक्ट्रिक मोबिलिटी मिशन प्लान (एनईएमएमपी) के कारण भी महत्वपूर्ण हो जाता है, जहां ग्रेफाइट एक प्रमुख घटक है।



- What is Graphite?

- **About:**

- Graphite is a naturally occurring mineral composed of carbon. It is **one of the three crystalline forms of carbon**, with the other two being diamond and amorphous carbon (such as charcoal or carbon black).

- ग्रेफाइट क्या है?

- के बारे में:

- ग्रेफाइट एक प्राकृतिक रूप से पाया जाने वाला खनिज है जो कार्बन से बना है। यह कार्बन के तीन क्रिस्टलीय रूपों में से एक है, अन्य दो हीरे और अनाकार कार्बन (जैसे चारकोल या कार्बन ब्लैक) हैं।



- **Properties:**

- Graphite is a **good conductor of both electricity and heat**. It is used in the production of electrodes for batteries and in the electronics industry.

- **Applications:**

- Graphite is commonly known for its use in pencils. **The "lead" in pencils is actually a mixture of graphite and clay.**
- Other applications include **crucibles, foundry facings, polishes, arc lamps, batteries, brushes for electric motors, and cores of nuclear reactors.**



- गुण:

- ग्रेफाइट बिजली और गर्मी दोनों का अच्छा संचालक है। इसका उपयोग बैटरी के लिए इलेक्ट्रोड के उत्पादन और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स उद्योग में किया जाता है।

- अनुप्रयोग:

- ग्रेफाइट आमतौर पर पेंसिल में उपयोग के लिए जाना जाता है। पेंसिल में "सीसा" वास्तव में ग्रेफाइट और मिट्टी का मिश्रण है।

- अन्य अनुप्रयोगों में क्रिसिबल, फाउंड्री फेसिंग, पॉलिश, आर्क लैंप, बैटरी, इलेक्ट्रिक मोटर के लिए ब्रश और परमाणु रिएक्टरों के कोर शामिल हैं।

- **Global Reserves:**

- China produces two-thirds of the world's graphite, but compared to global reserves, the Asian country is not the only option.
- According to the United States Geological Survey, **Turkey (27.3%) and Brazil (22.4%) together own half of the world's natural graphite resources. China comes third, sitting on 16%, followed by Madagascar (7.9%)**

- वैश्विक भंडार:

- चीन दुनिया का दो-तिहाई ग्रेफाइट पैदा करता है, लेकिन वैश्विक भंडार की तुलना में एशियाई देश एकमात्र विकल्प नहीं है।
- संयुक्त राज्य भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार, तुर्की (27.3%) और ब्राज़ील (22.4%) मिलकर दुनिया के आधे प्राकृतिक ग्रेफाइट संसाधनों के मालिक हैं। चीन 16% के साथ तीसरे स्थान पर है, उसके बाद मडागास्कर (7.9%) है।

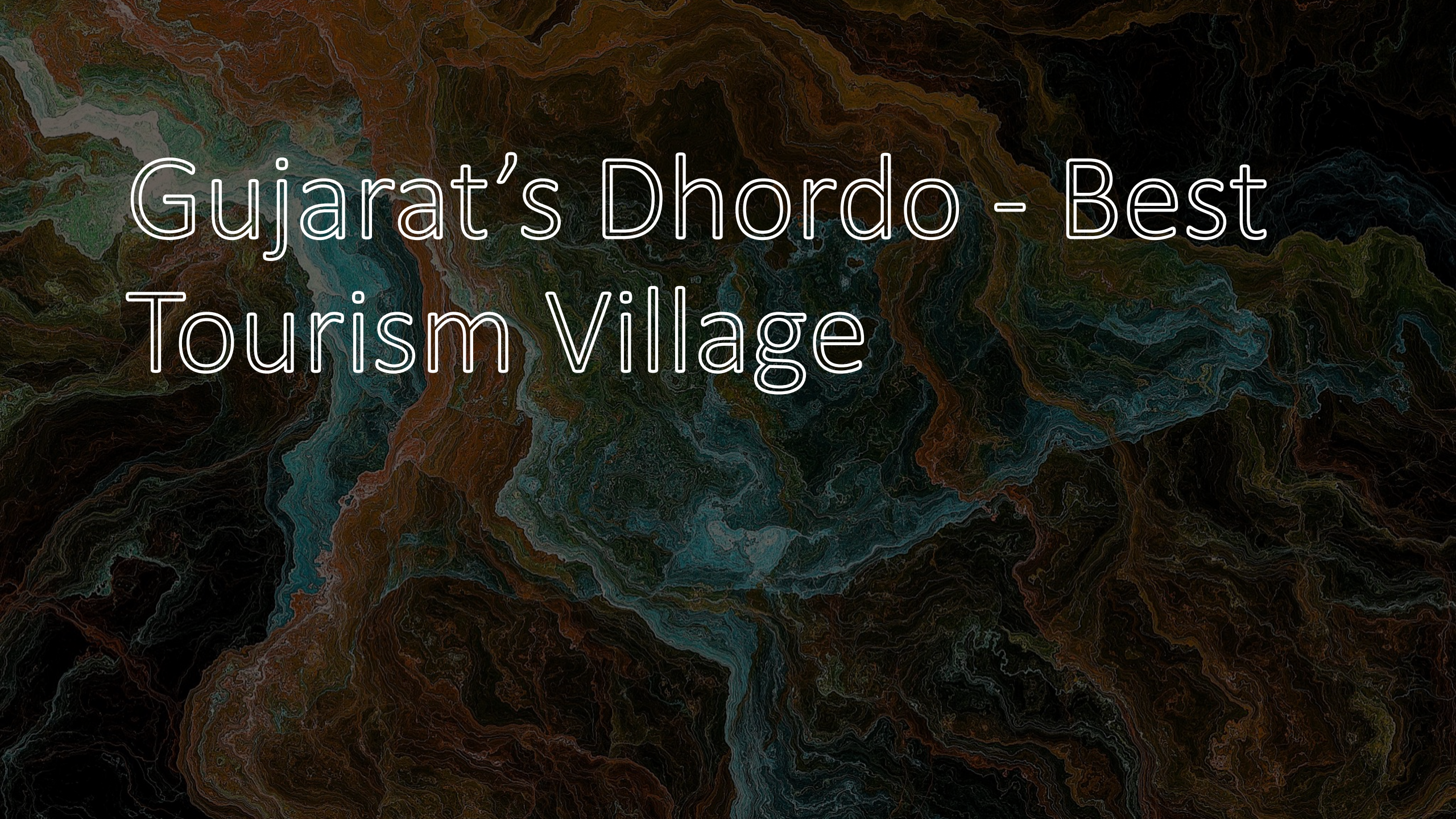
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- 
- **Recently, there has been a concern over the short supply of a group of elements called 'rare earth metals'. Why? (2012)**

1. China, which is the largest producer of these elements, has imposed some restrictions on their export.
2. Other than China, Australia, Canada and Chile, these elements are not found in any country.
3. Rare earth metals are essential for the manufacture of various kinds of electronic items and there is a growing demand for these elements.

- **Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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



# Gujarat's Dhordo - Best Tourism Village



- 
- Dhordo has been conferred the prestigious title of Best Tourism Village by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).
  - Dhordo received this title at the Best Tourism Village - 2023 award ceremony organized by the UNWTO at Samarkand in Uzbekistan.
  - The village has become a popular tourist destination due to its rich cultural heritage, handicrafts, and the famous Rann Utsav.
  - धोर्दो को संयुक्त राष्ट्र विश्व पर्यटन संगठन (यूएनडब्ल्यूटीओ) द्वारा सर्वश्रेष्ठ पर्यटन गाँव का प्रतिष्ठित खिताब प्रदान किया गया है।
  - उज्बेकिस्तान के समरकंद में यूएनडब्ल्यूटीओ द्वारा आयोजित बेस्ट टूरिज्म विलेज-2023 पुरस्कार समारोह में धोर्दो को यह खिताब मिला।
  - यह गाँव अपनी समृद्ध सांस्कृतिक विरासत, हस्तशिल्प और प्रसिद्ध रण उत्सव के कारण एक लोकप्रिय पर्यटन स्थल बन गया है।

- 
- The UNWTO awards the title of "Best Tourism Village" to villages that meet certain criteria.
  - The criteria include promoting sustainable tourism, preserving local culture and heritage, providing a safe and welcoming environment for tourists, and offering unique experiences to visitors.
  - यूएनडब्ल्यूटीओ कुछ मानदंडों को पूरा करने वाले गांवों को "सर्वश्रेष्ठ पर्यटन गांव" की खिताब देता है।
  - मानदंडों में स्थायी पर्यटन को बढ़ावा देना, स्थानीय संस्कृति और विरासत को संरक्षित करना, पर्यटकों के लिए एक सुरक्षित और स्वागत योग्य वातावरण प्रदान करना और आगंतुकों को अद्वितीय अनुभव प्रदान करना शामिल है।

Army to start phasing  
out Cheetah, Chetak  
helicopters from 2027

- In November 2021, the Defence Acquisition Council approved the procurement of 12 limited series production (LSP) variants of the LUH at a cost of around ₹1,500 crore, six each for the Army and the Air Force.
- The choppers have been designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), but the project was delayed due to issues with the autopilot.

नवंबर 2021 में, रक्षा अधिग्रहण परिषद ने लगभग ₹1,500 करोड़ की लागत से LUH के 12 सीमित श्रृंखला उत्पादन (एलएसपी) वेरिएंट की खरीद को मंजूरी दी, सेना और वायु सेना के लिए छह-छह।

हेलिकॉप्टरों को हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड (एचएएल) द्वारा डिजाइन और विकसित किया गया है, लेकिन ऑटोपायलट के मुद्दों के कारण परियोजना में देरी हुई।

- 
- The Army currently has 190 Cheetah, Chetak, and Cheetal helicopters of the original 246.
  - Of these, at any given time, around 25 are at the HAL for maintenance, which is a deficiency of around 37% in this segment, the source said.
  - Close to 130 of the 190 choppers are between 30 and 50 years old.

- 
- सेना के पास वर्तमान में मूल 246 की तुलना में 190 चीता, चेतक और चीतल हेलीकॉप्टर हैं।
  - सूत्र ने कहा, इनमें से किसी भी समय, लगभग 25 रखरखाव के लिए एचएएल में हैं, जो इस खंड में लगभग 37% की कमी है।
  - 190 में से करीब 130 हेलिकॉप्टर 30 से 50 साल पुराने हैं।



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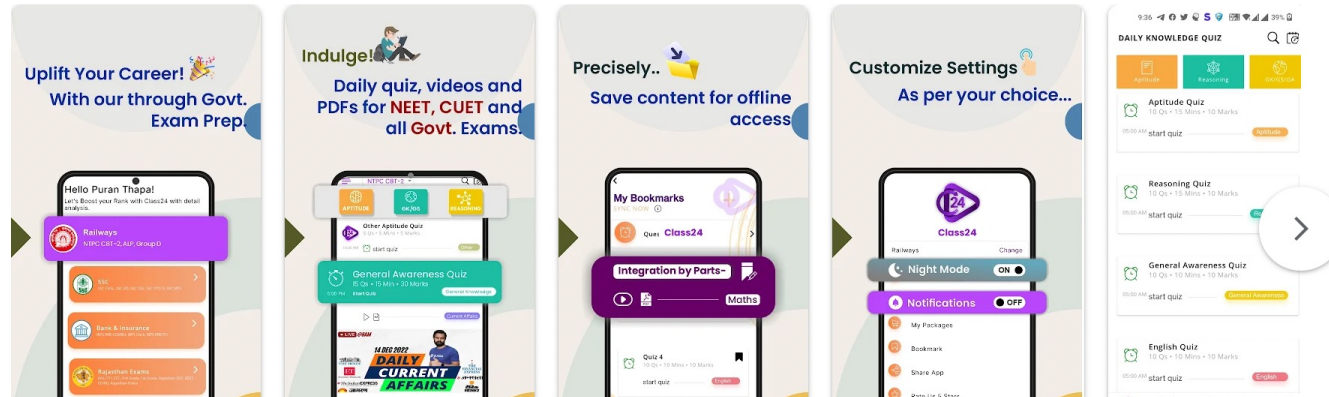
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