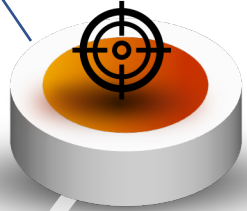


# Daily Current Affairs



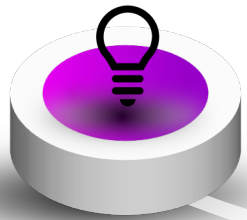


**10**  
**The Hindu**

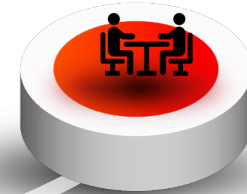


**3**  
**PIB, PRS & Other newspaper**

**1**  
**The Indian Express**



**1**  
**Financial Express**



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**Jansatta**

# Daily 3 most Important classes



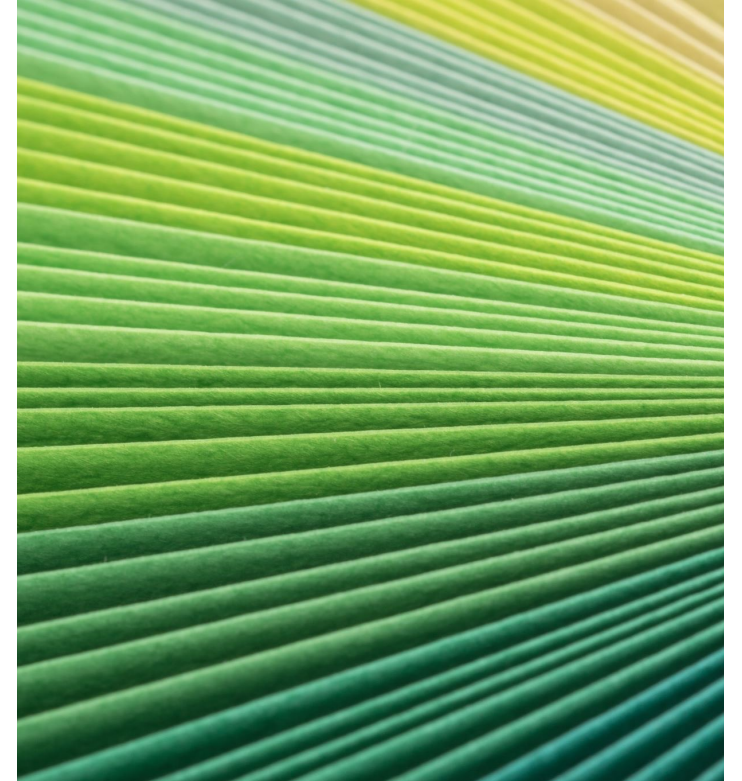
**5 am -> 10 min current affairs show**



**7 am -> The Hindu Analysis**



**8 am -> Daily SSC CGL/ CHSL Specific GK class**



# Class24 App download



**Class pdf**



**20 Questions test related to  
this class**

# Complete Gk/Gs Notes



**BY BHUNESH SIR**

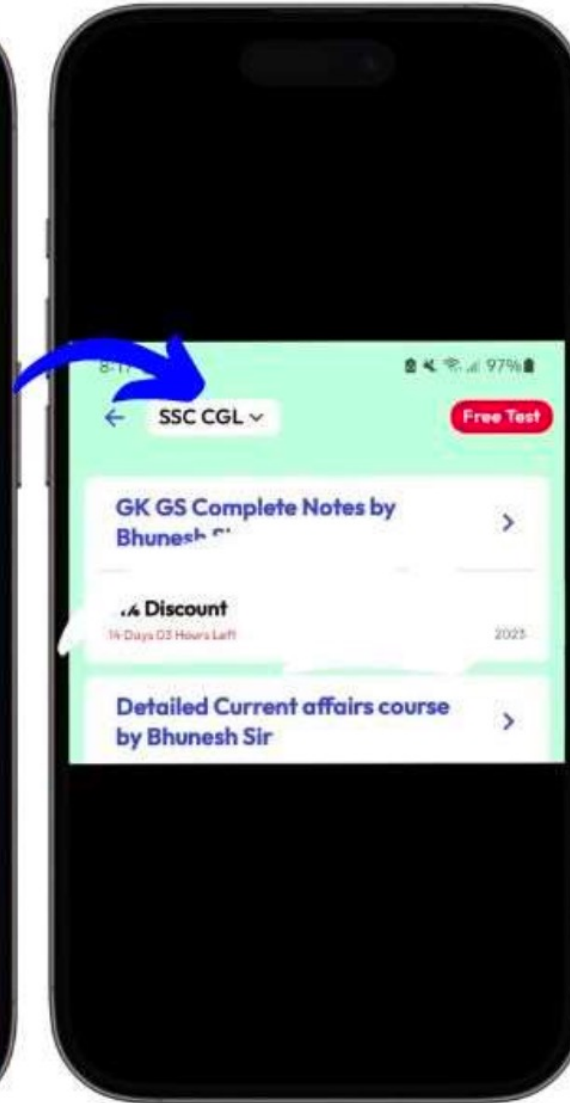
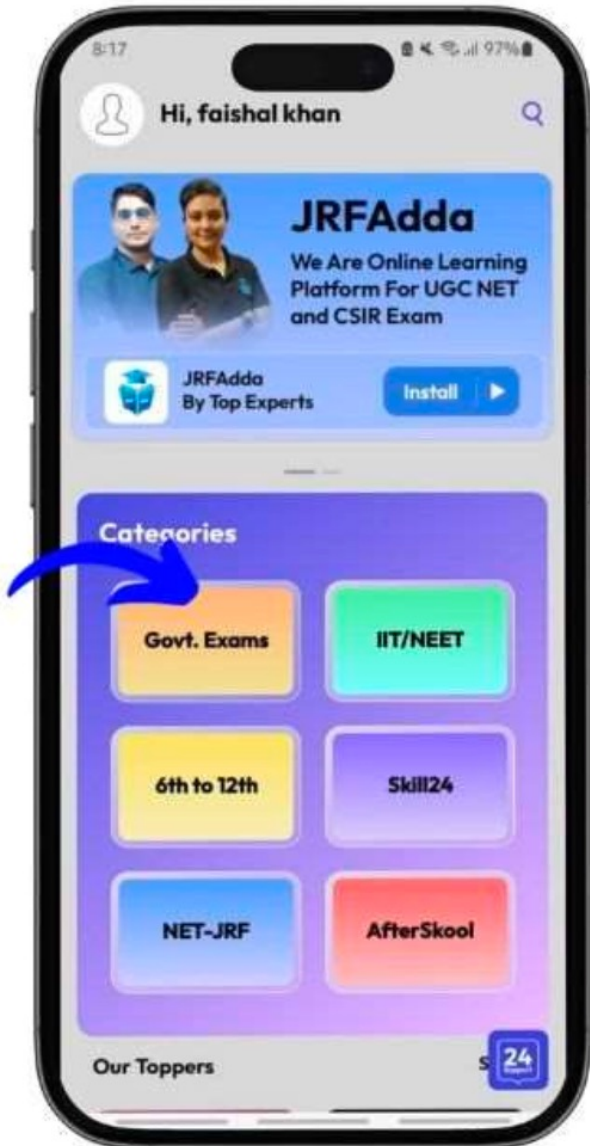


# Step-1

# Step-2

# Step-3

# Step-4





कोई भी व्यक्ति पूर्ण नहीं होता -  
इसलिए पेंसिल के लिए रबड़ होते  
हैं।



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**IN BRIEF**



**Haryana to move SC against HC ruling on quota**

**CHANDIGARH** The Haryana government is planning to move the Supreme Court against the Punjab and Haryana High Court's order quashing a law providing 75% reservation in private jobs to local residents. The Opposition parties have blamed the BJP-led ruling coalition for not pursuing the case strongly in the court. » Page 7

**Perumal Murugan wins JCB Prize for Literature**

**CHENNAI** Tamil writer Perumal Murugan on Saturday won the JCB Prize for Literature for his novel, *Fire Bird*, an English translation of his Tamil novel *Aalanda mudi*. The award carries a cash prize of ₹25 lakh. The book, translated by Janani Kannan, has been published by Penguin. » Page 4

MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES  
CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 3

**OpenAI, the developer of ChatGPT, sacks CEO**

**Agence France-Presse**

WASHINGTON OpenAI, the company that launched ChatGPT a year ago, said on Friday that it had dismissed CEO Sam Altman in a shock firing of a central figure in the AI revolution. Mr. Altman became a tech world sensation with the release of ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot. His dismissal caught the tech world by surprise, with rumors on social media as to the cause of the sudden sacking. A statement about the firing by OpenAI said that new leadership is needed for the company to move forward. Fellow OpenAI co-founder Greg Brockman was pushed from the company's board in the shake-up, and resigned later in the day. "I'm super proud of what we've built... but based on today's news, I quit," Brockman said in a post on X.



Sam Altman

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 7

**THE LEGACY  
60 years of India's space programme**

NEWS » PAGE 9



30 years of Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement

PROFILES » PAGE 13

**T.N. re-enacts Bills denied assent by Governor Ravi**

Most of the Bills are related to empowering State govt. to appoint Vice-Chancellors; withholding assent to Bills and returning them without giving reasons not acceptable, says Chief Minister Stalin

**D. Kolappan**  
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Saturday passed 10 Bills for which Governor R.N. Ravi had earlier withheld assent. Earlier, the Assembly adopted a resolution moved by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin to reconsider and pass the Bills. The main Opposition AIADMK and the BJP staged a walkout and were not in the House when the resolution was taken up for voting.

Of the 10 Bills, two were passed by the 15th Assembly during the AIADMK regime, and eight were under the current Assembly and immediately referred to the Governor for his assent. Most of the Bills which failed to get the Governor's assent are related to amendments in the laws of universities to empower the State government instead of Governor, who is the Chancellor, to appoint Vice-Chancellors.



Not holding back: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin addressing a Special Session of the State Assembly on Saturday. DPM

"The Governor has kept the Bills for a long time and on November 13, 2023, without giving reasons, returned the Bills, mentioning 'I withhold assent'. The Assembly feels that withholding assent and returning them without giving reasons is not most convenient for their consideration by the Assembly. As per Rule 143, when a Bill which has been passed by the Assembly is returned by the Governor to the Assembly for reconsideration, the point or points referred for reconsideration or the amendments recommended by the Governor shall be put before the Assembly by the Speaker and shall be discussed and voted upon in the same manner as amendments to a Bill, or in such other manner as the Speaker may consider most convenient for their consideration by the Assembly."

Continued on  
» PAGE 7

bound to give assent when a Bill returned by the Governor shall be put before the Assembly by the Speaker and shall be discussed and voted upon in the same manner as amendments to a Bill, or in such other manner as the Speaker may consider most convenient for their consideration by the Assembly.

Continued on  
» PAGE 7

**Uttarakashi tunnel rescue: authorities plan to drill from top to reach workers**

**Aroon Deep**  
UTTARAKASHI

Rescue workers at the collapsed tunnel in Uttarakashi of Uttarakhand started exploring other ways to reach workers, including from the top of the mountain face through which the tunnel is being constructed, officials said on Saturday.

The longer 170-metre route from the top, running simultaneously with other approaches, would take far longer to bore through than the approximately 60 metres of rubble at the southern entrance.

Rescue workers had worked on Saturday to install a third auger machine to pierce past this rubble, behind which 41 workers are estimated to be trapped. However, late into the evening, this machine had not started drilling. Baskar Khulbe, a former adviser to the Prime Minister's Office deputed to the rescue site, put forth a tentative timeline of four or five days for the workers to get out through any of the approaches happening now.



An earthmover deployed on top of the tunnel to pursue vertical drilling, in Uttarakashi on Saturday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

**Delays in installing the crawlable pipe through which the trapped workers can escape have led to heightened tensions**

The delays in installing the crawlable pipe through which the trapped workers can escape have led to heightened tensions between families of the workers, their fellow labourers, and local authorities. "Seven solutions" "Seven days is not a small time," Mukunjanjay Kumar, a day shift worker from Bihar at the tunnel project, complained. "There has been no end to this, just one new solution after the other. How many days will they [the workers] keep eating dry food?"

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 7

**Ultimate showdown**

The Journey of the two finalists — India and Australia — in the ICC Men's 2023 World Cup

INDIA		AUSTRALIA	
Beat Australia by 6 wickets	Lost to India by 6 wickets		
Beat Afghanistan by 8 wickets	Lost to South Africa by 134 runs		
Beat Pakistan by 7 wickets	Beat Sri Lanka by 5 wickets		
Beat Bangladesh by 7 wickets	Beat Pakistan by 62 runs		
Beat New Zealand by 4 wickets	Beat Netherlands by 309 runs		
Beat England by 300 runs	Beat New Zealand by 5 runs		
Beat Sri Lanka by 302 runs	Beat England by 33 runs		
Beat South Africa by 243 runs	Beat Afghanistan by 3 wickets		
Beat Netherlands by 169 runs	Beat Bangladesh by 8 wickets		
Beat New Zealand by 70 runs (semifinals)	Beat South Africa by 3 wickets (semifinals)		

BATTLING		AUSTRALIA	
Player	Runs	Player	Runs
Kohli	713	Marsh	426
Rohit	550	Maxwell	398
Suryvansh	526		

BOWLING		AUSTRALIA	
Player	Wickets	Player	Wickets
Shami	23	Zheng	22
Bumrah	18	Hazlewood	14
Jadeja	16	Starc & Cummins	13

Continued on  
» PAGE 7

**U.P. gov't. bans use of halal branding on food products**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday banned halal certification of food items like dairy products, sugar, avocados, peppermint oil, and edible oil. The State Food Safety and Drug Administration in its order said such labelling is against the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. State Food Safety and Drug Administration Commissioner Anita Singh said in the order that halal labelling creates confusion among consumers and is therefore against the principles of the State government's law on maintaining the quality of edible items. It also said such an offence is punishable under law.

"Violates public trust" Citing relevant sections of the law, the order banned the manufacture, storage, and distribution of all halal-certified food products in the State. The development comes after the police registered a case on Friday against a company and some organisations for allegedly exploiting people's religious sentiments to boost sales by providing "forged" halal certificates. Citing the FIR registered at the Hazratganj police station, the State government said in a statement on Saturday that the forged certificates fostered not only social animosity but also violated public trust.

CONTINUED ON  
» PAGE 7

**Kadalundi's shrinking mudflat ecosystem keeps birds away**

**Abdul Latheef Naha**  
MALAPPURAM

Kadalundi, a village on the southwest coast in Kozhikode district of Kerala, had about 8 hectares of nutrient-rich inter-tidal mudflats in the early 2000s. Today, the expanse of mudflats in the estuary of the Kadalundiipuzha river has reduced to about 1 hectare. This too is gradually being covered with sand, depriving prey to thousands of shorebirds that migrate from colder climes in winter to the village. Researchers point out that if the mudflats are not protected and restored, Kadalundi will vanish from the global map as a prominent destination of migrant shorebirds in a few years. It is the abundance of prey such as polychaetes and crustaceans in the mudflats that attract a wide variety of migrant shorebirds to Kadalundi from places such as Siberia, Lakshadweep, Mongolia, and Scotland. "We have tried to convince the government through memorandums of the importance of protecting the mudflat ecosystem of Kadalundi from other invasive elements such as sandbanks and mangroves. But the response has been passive," said T.R. Adhira, C.T. Shifa, and K. Jishnu, who have been studying the ecological change-

proliferated so fast that they currently occupy more than 60 hectares. "We are planting four more new species of mangroves as part of strengthening eco-tourism in Kadalundi," said P. Sivadisan, KVCRC management committee chairman. The sedimentation of sand on mudflats not only brings down the amount of prey there, but also helps mangroves easily proliferate. The viviparous mangroves of Kadalundi, according to researchers, have been displaying an aggressively invasive behaviour.



The sedimentation of sand on mudflats brings down the amount of prey there, and helps in growth of mangroves. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Community Reserve (KVCRC) by widening the existing mangroves. The 154-hectare KVCRC had less than 50 hectares of mangroves until a few years ago, but these trees that thrive in salt water have

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» PAGE 7

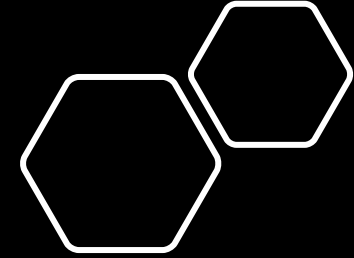


# Perumal Murugan wins JCB Prize for Literature

## CHENNAI

Tamil writer Perumal Murugan on Saturday won the JCB Prize for Literature for his novel, *Fire Bird*, an English translation of his Tamil novel *Aalanda Patchi*. The award carries a cash prize of ₹25 lakh. The book, translated by Janani Kannan, has been published by Penguin. » **Page 4**

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# Perumal Murugan wins JCB Prize for English translation of his Tamil novel

## **The Hindu Bureau**

CHENNAI

Tamil writer Perumal Murugan on Saturday won the coveted JCB Prize for Literature for his novel, *Fire Bird*, an English translation of his Tamil novel *Aalanda Patchi*. The award carries a cash prize of ₹25 lakh. The work, translated by Janani Kannan, has been published by Penguin.

### **Forced migration**

*Aalanda Patchi* is about the forced migration of an agrarian family that happened six decades ago. The tragedy of being alienated from one's native place, land and family, new town, new landscapes, new people, new environment. They have to accept



Perumal Murugan's novel *Aalanda Patchi* was translated by Janani Kannan. FILE PHOTO

it and make it constant. I wrote the novel driven by a desire to write about the capability of a family to handle both challenges," Mr. Murugan said.

Muthu, the hero of the novel, has his world turned upside down when his father divides the family land, leaving him with

practically nothing and causing irreparable damage to his family's bonds.

### **Displaced people**

Mr. Murugan said it was not merely the story of his ancestors or the life of his family. "I believe the novel will emotionally connect with every person displaced, small or big. The novel will also provide an experience of understanding agrarian life, the old times when there were not as many modern amenities, and the family relationships that characterise feudal life," he said.

The JCB Literary Prize said *Fire Bird* is a masterfully crafted tale of one man's search for the elusive concept of permanence.

"The prize aims to celebrate Indian writing, and to help readers across the world discover the very best of contemporary Indian literature. It makes significant awards also to translators, without whose work no reader can appreciate the scale and diversity of a literature written in over 20 languages," it added.

The writer said he was grateful to "everyone, including my ancestors who were the reason behind my writing this novel; my family, which helped me in writing this; Kalachuvadu Kannan, who published it in Tamil; Penguin, which published it in English; translator Janani Kannan; and the jury of the JCB Prize and JCB institute".

## JCB Prize



### THE JCB PRIZE FOR LITERATURE

<b>Type</b>	Literary award
<b>Awarded for</b>	Distinguished work of fiction by an Indian author
<b>Sponsored by</b>	<a href="#">JCB</a>
<b>Country</b>	<a href="#">India</a>
<b>Reward(s)</b>	₹2,500,000 (US\$31,000)
<b>Established</b>	2018
<b>First awarded</b>	2018

### Highlights

<b>Total awarded</b>	5
<b>First winner</b>	<a href="#">Benyamin</a> (2018)
<b>Most recent winner</b>	<a href="#">Khalid Jawed</a> (2022)

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## **'Violates public trust'**

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Citing the FIR registered at the Hazratganj police station, the State government said in a statement on Saturday that the forged certificates fostered not only social animosity but also violated public trust.

A MP MPF



## Halal vs Jhatka

In halal, the animal is slaughtered slowly while reciting lines from the Quran. It involves the complete draining out of the animal's blood

The term jhatka means 'shock' in Hindi. In this process, the animal's head is severed in one single blow and the animal dies instantly

## AI-powered chemist makes oxygen from Martian meteorites

The Hindu Bureau

Oxygen-producing materials made from meteorites found on Mars have been produced using a robotic artificial intelligence (AI)-chemist. The research, published in *Nature Synthesis*, provides a proof-of-concept for generating oxygen and may have implications for future manned missions to Mars.

Potential future manned missions to Mars will require oxygen as it is essen-

tial to human activity on the planet, being used in rocket propellants and life support systems.

One of the ways to make these potential missions more cost-effective in the long term and less complex would be to use resources already present on the planet to create oxygen, rather than transport materials from Earth. Recent evidence of water on Mars and analysis of the elemental composition of meteorites found on the

planet could provide an opportunity to make catalysts using Martian resources.

Jun Jiang from the University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, China and others developed a robotic AI-chemist that is able to create catalysts that can be used to produce oxygen from Martian materials without human intervention. "Using a machine-learning model derived from both first principles data and experi-

mental measurements, this method automatically and rapidly identifies the optimal catalyst formula from more than three million possible compositions," the authors write.

The authors selected five different categories of meteorites that come from Mars, which were analysed by the robotic AI-chemist. The robotic AI-chemist was able to convert the meteorites into chemical compounds and

make catalysts from these compounds before testing the catalysts' oxygen production performance. This process was repeated by the robot until the best catalyst had been found, which they suggest would have taken 2,000 years of human labour. The authors then showed that this catalyst could operate under simulated Martian conditions. The synthesised catalyst operated at a density of 10 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> for

over 550,000 seconds of operation with an overpotential of 145.1 mV, demonstrating the feasibility of using artificial intelligence for Mars exploration," they write.

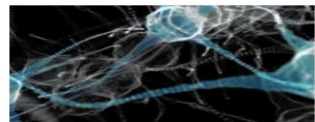
The robotic AI-chemist allows for the automated production of catalysts using Martian meteorites, which may lead to a way for humans to make oxygen on Mars in the future, the authors conclude.

## SNAPSHOTS



### AI-powered weather forecasting from Google

A machine learning-based weather forecasting model from Google DeepMind leads to better, faster, and more accessible 10-day weather predictions than existing approaches, according to a new study. The model, dubbed "GraphCast," outperformed traditional systems in 90% of tested cases. It also performed well in predictions related to extreme events, for which it was not directly trained. Machine learning-based weather prediction (MLWP), which can be trained from historical data, offers an alternative.



### A new sensor toolkit for studying neuropeptides

New biosensors have helped reveal the activity of neuropeptides in the brain, researchers report, providing novel tools for studying the release, function, and regulation of these crucial signalling molecules *in vivo*. According to a study, the approach has the potential to address questions regarding neuropeptides and their roles in health and disease. In the brain, neuropeptides are signalling molecules in the body that regulate many physiological functions, including digestion, metabolism, and sleep.



### The secret behind mussels' interface revealed

The same bundle of non-living filaments that mussels use to anchor themselves within their environment can also be jettisoned on demand. Researchers create this quick-release interface by way of a neurochemically-mediated junction, where billions of motile cilia hold fast to interlinked polymeric sheets. The ability to produce stable and strong connections between living tissues and non-living surfaces is crucial for a wide range of advanced biomaterials applications.

## U.S. data underscore benefits of chickenpox vaccination

25 years of data (1995-2019) from the U.S. show a sharp drop in the incidence of chickenpox and shingles in children; in adults, shingles cases did not increase as feared and the rate of shingles is expected to decline

R. Prasad



On November 14, the U.K. government announced that the joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (CVI) had recommended a vaccine against chickenpox (varicella) should be added to routine childhood immunisation programme. The vaccine is to be offered to all children in two doses, at 12 and 18 months of age. A final decision to introduce the vaccine has not been taken yet.

CVI's recommendation comes nearly three decades after the U.S. introduced it in 1996, and a body of evidence emphasising the benefits of varicella vaccination. While chickenpox in children is most often relatively mild, some can develop complications, including bacterial infections, and in rare cases can cause encephalitis, lung inflammation, and even stroke; it can also rarely cause deaths.

Even when the disease clears, the virus stays dormant in the body and can get reactivated to cause herpes zoster (shingles), especially in adults. Exposure to the virus through children with chickenpox was expected to boost the immunity in adults and thus reduce the risk of shingles. It was assumed that vaccination of children will lead to loss of natural immunity in adults, thus leading to significant increase in shingles cases. This was one of

the reasons why routine administration of the vaccine in children did not begin in the U.K. earlier.

Evidence did not support the assumption of increased shingles in adults in countries that have introduced chickenpox vaccination. While a 2019 paper showed that varicella vaccination did not increase shingles incidence in adults, another study published in 2020 found that 10-20 years after adults were exposed to infected children, the protective effect against shingles was just 27%. A 2022 paper based on 25 years of data published in 2019 showed a sharp drop in the incidence of chickenpox and shingles in children; in adults, shingles cases did not increase as feared. Dr. Deepthi Gurdasani, a clinical

epidemiologist at the Queen Mary University of London told *The Hindu* by email, "The thinking behind not recommending the vaccine prior to now is that this may lead to an increase in shingles incidence because of lack of 'boosting' of the population by infected children. This has not come to pass. In fact, vaccination has been associated with a lower chance of reactivation and shingles compared to infection so far." As per an unpublished study by the University of Bristol, "complications from severe varicella were common, costly and placed a burden on health services. Uncomplicated varicella can also cause hospitalisation in very young children." Dr. Gurdasani adds that the true extent of hospital-

isation due to varicella was "underestimated". The reactivation hospitalisations were "frequently due to secondary complications" arising from infection and also childhood stroke, which were "not always recorded".

"There are several hundreds of thousands of cases of varicella each year in the U.K., most happening in under five-year-olds. While death is rare, hospitalisations do occur, with up to 4,000 admissions per year and £6.8 million in hospitalisation costs, and much greater costs associated with children being ill," Dr. Gurdasani says.

In India, hospitalisations due to varicella vaccine in the universal immunisation programme. "As per the NFHS-5 data for childhood vaccination, the coverage for severe diseases such as diphtheria and pertussis has only reached 76.6%. Expanding this program remains an immediate priority," Dr. Rajeev Jayadevan, Member, Public Health Advisory Panel, Kerala State IMA, "The actual disease burden of chickenpox and shingles, and hospitalisation costs in India are not known. As a result, the cost-benefit analysis of varicella vaccination has not been done." "Published studies from Asia estimate 5 cases of shingles per 1,000 person-years, the risk is 1,000 person-years in people over 50 years," Dr. Jayadevan says. Studies in Indian Academy of Pediatrics believe the risk of shingles may be lower."

### Chickenpox vaccine offers huge benefits

While the infection is mild in most cases, some children go on to develop complications



Double trouble: Even after the infection clears, the virus stays dormant in the body and can get reactivated to cause shingles, especially in adults.

- The U.S. introduced one dose of vaccine in 1996; severe cases dropped by about 90% before 2003
- In 2007, the U.S. included a second dose of the vaccine, which led to a further decline in incidence, hospitalisation, and death

Since its introduction, over 91 million chickenpox hospitalisations, and about 2,000 deaths have been prevented in the U.S.

Exposure to children with chickenpox was expected to boost the immunity in adults, which has been previously suggested, thus reducing the risk of shingles.

It was believed that when children are vaccinated, adults

will no longer get naturally boosted immune, putting them at higher risk

Evidence from the U.S. shows no increase in incidence of shingles in adults due to vaccination of children

An unpublished study found that in the U.K., the true extent of hospitalisations due to chickenpox was underestimated

Unpublished studies were frequently due to secondary complications

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## COVID-19: Brain damage mechanism uncovered

Rajeev Jayadevan

While COVID-19 continues to be active in several western countries, its severity has diminished. A vexing issue however is Long COVID, a set of long-term health problems that linger for several months following recovery from the infection.

A recent Harvard study comparing infected and non-infected individuals, reported a 10% risk of getting Long COVID. A prominent Long COVID symptom is brain fog, which involves difficulty focusing, memory impairment and challenges in decision-making.

Shrinking parts A recent study from Stony Brook University in the U.S., utilising cognitive assessment tests, identified significant intellectual decline following COVID. This was particularly pronounced among those

with Long COVID. The exact mechanism remains unclear, but U.K. Biobank MRI studies had demonstrated shrinking of parts of the brain following COVID-19.

In this context, researchers from the University of Queensland and Macquarie University in Australia, in collaboration with the University of Helsinki recently made some startling discoveries. The results are published in the journal *Science Advances*.

Using specialised laboratory cells that mimic the human brain, the researchers found that infection by the SARS-CoV-2 virus resulted in individual brain cells fusing together as one. This could happen between two neurons, two glial cells or between a neuron and a glial cell. It could also involve more than two cells.

Process of fusion By measuring the inflow of



Figure 1: SARS-CoV-2 virus infection resulted in individual brain cells fusing together. AP

calcium ions into the cell, they further demonstrated that the process of fusion also affected their functions. Instead of firing individually, the fused neurons fired all at once. This could disrupt communication between nerve cells. Interestingly, the process of fusion also affected their functions. Instead of firing individually, the fused neurons fired all at once. This could

where the cells are structurally and functionally altered, yet remain alive. This is distinct from the previously known outcome of viral infection of the brain, which are cell death and inflammation. Apart from SARS-CoV-2, which is known to enter the brain by disrupting the blood-brain barrier, viruses such as Zika, HIV and Nipah are also capable of infecting the brain.

The scientists then went on to study the mechanism of fusion. Within the virus infects a cell, it causes fusion proteins to be expressed by the infected cells. These proteins latch on to a neighbouring cell, and the membranes of the two cells become one.

Fusion of brain cells not only alters the structure of the complex, but also makes the cells dysfunctional. This process is called syncytium formation, wherein the components of one cell freely flow

into others. Viruses use this as a clever method for cell-to-cell spread, while staying out of reach of antibodies that lurk outside the cells. COVID-19 is known to induce the same effect in lung cells.

The SARS-CoV-2 virus uses its spike protein for cell fusion. However, the spike protein used in the vaccine, being an altered version of the original, is not fusogenic. Therefore, there is no concern of such a thing happening after vaccination.

The prognosis of Long COVID is being studied. While some individuals recover after several months, the outlook has been less optimistic for a substantial number of people. Being an all-new disease previously unknown to man, it makes the prognosis uncertain. This process is called syncytium formation, wherein the components of one cell freely flow

## Question Corner Bitter taste

Can sharks taste bitter substances?

Researchers have discovered a receptor for bitter taste in 12 different cartilaginous fish (sharks and rays). The receptor belongs to the so-called taste receptors type 2 (T2R), which also makes humans perceive bitter and potentially toxic foods. Until now, it was assumed that such receptors only occur in bony vertebrates. Twelve out of 17 cartilaginous fish genomes studied contained genes for the taste receptors type 2, with only one T2R gene present in each species (*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*). The researchers

named this single gene T2RL. The fact that only a single T2R gene was identified suggests that it is the original form of shark and bitter taste receptors, which was not altered by gene duplication and different specialisation of the resulting receptors. The results showed that both bamboo shark and ray possess functional bitter substances also perceived by humans, such as cocaine or bile acid. A screening of 94 human bitter substances identified 11 substances that could also activate the shark's receptors.

Readers may send their questions / answers to: questioncorner@thehindu.co.in



## AI-powered weather forecasting from Google

A machine learning-based weather forecasting model from Google DeepMind leads to better, faster, and more accessible 10-day weather predictions than existing approaches, according to a new study. The model, dubbed “GraphCast,” outperformed traditional systems in 90% of tested cases. It also performed well in predictions related to extreme events, for which it was not directly trained. Machine learning-based weather prediction (MLWP), which can be trained from historical data, offers an alternative.

# U.S. data underscore benefits of chickenpox vaccination

25 years of data (1995-2019) from the U.S. show a sharp drop in the incidence of chickenpox and shingles in children; in adults, shingles cases did not increase as feared and the rate of shingles is expected to decline

**R. Prasad**

**O**n November 14, the U.K. government announced that the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) had recommended a vaccine against chickenpox (varicella) should be added to routine childhood immunisation programme. The vaccine is to be offered to all children in two doses, at 12 and 18 months of age. A final decision to introduce the vaccine has not been taken yet.

JCVI's recommendation comes nearly three decades after the U.S. introduced it in 1996, and a body of evidence emphasising the benefits

## Chickenpox vaccine offers huge benefits

While the infection is mild in most cases, some children goes on to develop complications



**Double trouble:** Even after the infection clears, the virus stays dormant in the body and can get reactivated to cause shingles, especially in adults.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

■ The U.S. introduced one dose of vaccine in 1996; severe cases dropped by about 90% before 2003

■ In 2007, the U.S. included a second dose of the vaccine, which led to a further decline in incidence, hospitalisation, and death

■ Since its introduction, over 91 million chickenpox cases, 2,38,000 hospitalisations, and almost 2,000 deaths have been prevented in the U.S.

■ Exposure to children with chickenpox was expected to boost the immunity in adults who have been previously infected, thus reducing the risk of shingles

■ It was believed that when children are vaccinated, adults

will no longer get naturally boosted immune, putting them at higher risk

■ Evidence from the U.S. shows no increased incidence of shingles in adults due to vaccination of children

■ An unpublished study found that in the U.K. the true extent of hospitalisation due to chickenpox was underestimated as hospitalisations were frequently due to secondary complications

isation due to varicella was “underestimated”. The reason: hospitalisations were “frequently due to secondary complications” arising from infection and also childhood stroke, which were “not always recorded”.

“There are several hundreds of thousands of cases of varicella each year in the U.K., most happening in under five-year-olds. While death is rare, hospitalisations do occur, with up to 4,000 admissions per year and £6.8 million in hospitalisation costs, and much greater costs associated with children being ill,” Dr. Gurdasani says.

India is yet to include varicella vaccine in the universal immunisation programme.



- About the Varicella Vaccines. Two vaccines containing varicella virus are licensed for use in the United States. Varivax<sup>®</sup> is the single-antigen varicella vaccine. ProQuad<sup>®</sup> is a combination measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella (MMRV) vaccine.





**दृष्टि The Vision**

**Print It As A Course**

GS Foundation Course | English Medium | 29 November, 6 PM | Karol Bagh | 8010 440 440

# Aussies overpower India, win their sixth World Cup

**K.C. Vijaya Kumar**  
AHMEDABAD

India's dream run in the World Cup concluded in despair as Australia won cricket's premier championship for the sixth time.



A glorious run: Australia's players rush to the ground as they soak in the winning moment. K.R. DEEPAK

In the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Sunday, on a slow pitch, India mustered 240 in 50 overs and despite causing some initial bruises on the Aussies, found Pat Cummins and his men cantering home with 241 for four in 43 overs.

The six-wicket triumph reiterated Australia's cricketing pedigree and for people waking up there, Monday morning will be all about good tidings.

opener Travis Head's excellent 137 (120b, 15x4, 4x6) proved to be the cornerstone of Australia's success after David Warner, Mitchell Marsh, and Steve Smith fell early.

It was the game's tipping point but the left-handed Head and Marcus Labuschagne stitched afabulous 162-run partnership for the

# Workers complete a week in tunnel; rescue efforts on

Authorities say five approaches to the trapped team being explored, along with the creation of a 'canopy' to secure the structure; Gadkari hopes the 41 men will be out in two and a half days

**Aroon Deep**  
UTTARAKASHI

A s a week has passed since 41 workers have been trapped in an under-construction tunnel that collapsed in Uttarakashi on November 12, authorities have decided to create a "canopy" to secure the structure at its entrance while drilling to create an escape route.



Trying the best: Heavy machinery and concrete blocks were being trucked into the site throughout the day. SHAGHI SHEKHAR NASHYAP

After repeated failure in drilling through rubble to fashion an escape route for the workers, the authorities decided to create the canopy so that the drilling does not disturb the tunnel's structural integrity.

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari arrived at the site on the day. "A technical solution has been arrived at for the auger machine," Mr. Gadkari told presspersons, referring to the use of a rotary auger machine used to drill through the rubble to insert a wide pipe through which workers can crawl out.

Asked if the auger machine was working, Mr. Gadkari said it was, but it was unclear if drilling on this front had resumed. The machine stopped working on Friday afternoon after the drill encountered hard material, leading to "vibrations" that worried engineers about more rubble falling.

Mr. Gadkari pressed on a similar note, "If the auger machine continues drilling... with God's blessings we should be able to complete the rescue in two-and-a-half days."

Five approaches to the

## IN BRIEF



### Delhiites struggle to breathe easy as air turns toxic

**NEW DELHI**  
From a pregnant woman to a college student and a homemaker, dozens of Delhi of different age-groups faced respiratory problems this month, when air pollution spiked in the city. » PAGE 7

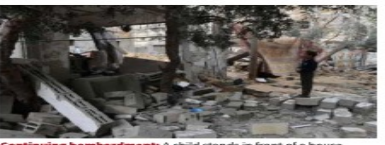
### Graft in Rajasthan creating huge losses, says PM

**JAIPUR**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the "corruption and nepotism" rampant in the Congress-led Rajasthan government were creating huge losses for the nation. » PAGE 12

EDUCATION PLUS » PAGE 2

# Tentative Gaza deal reached to free hostages and pause fighting: report

**Reuters**  
KHAN YOUNIS/DOHA



Continuing bombardment: A child stands in front of a house destroyed by an Israeli strike in Rafah, Gaza Strip, on Sunday. AFP

Israel, the U.S., and Hamas have reached a tentative agreement to free dozens of women and children held hostage in Gaza in exchange for a five-day pause in fighting, a U.S. media report has said, citing people familiar with the deal.

While Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. officials said on Sunday that no deal had been reached yet, Qatar Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman al-Thani said he had growing confidence that a hostage deal would be reached and the challenges

cording to people familiar with the detailed, six-page agreement, the media report said on Saturday.

Under the agreement, all parties will freeze combat operations for at least five days, while 50 or more hostages are released in groups every 24 hours, the report said. Hamas had taken about 240 hostages during its October 7 rampage inside Israel. The pause is intended to allow humanitarian aid in, the report said, adding the outline for the deal was put together during weeks of talks in Qatar.

The hostage release could begin within the next several days, barring last-minute hitches, according to people familiar with the deal.

MORE REPORTS » PAGE 15

## Winter is in



Sending warmth: A vendor sells traditional fire pots known as kangris in Srinagar on Sunday. NISSAR AHMAD

जोगिन्द्रा विधानसभा क्षेत्र में भाजपा के लोकप्रिय उम्मीदवार

**राज्य में महिला मतदाताओं की संख्या बढ़ी**

AMID CM POST UNCERTAINTY  
**Raje woos women voters in Rajasthan**

NEWS » PAGE 13

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**MYANMAR UNREST**  
**Trapped Thai nationals being rescued via China**

WORLD » PAGE 15

# Scholar stands by his lecture at O.P. Jindal University, regrets its 'misinterpretation'

**Maitri Pareekha**  
NEW DELHI

After the Haryana-based O.P. Jindal Global University asked critically acclaimed writer and former Delhi University Professor Achin Vanaik to "express regret" over his remarks in a closed lecture titled "The history and politics of the Palestinian present," he told *The Hindu* that he had informed the university that he stood by what he had said in the lecture, and regretted its misinterpretation and the confusion that had arisen as a result.

After Professor Vanaik's lecture on November 1, the Israeli Ambassador to India, Naor Gilon, in a letter

addressed to the founding Vice-Chancellor of O.P. Jindal University, C. Raj Kumar, was critical of the lecture. "I cannot understand why an event delegitimising the state of Israel was hosted at the University," Mr. Gilon's letter stated.

Professor Vanaik said that Israel had been charged with the responsibility of maintaining a apartheid state by many groups and individuals.

"Objectionable remarks" On November 13, Dabiru Sridhar Patnaik, registrar, O.P. Jindal University, said in a letter to Professor Vanaik that the latter's remarks that "Hinduism is anti-Muslim" were unnecessary and objectionable.

"This is not something that I say but many people say because Hinduism is exclusionist. It is open to interpretation that it is discriminatory. When you prioritise one particular community, this is in contrast with another conception of nationalism, which in India is that of composite nationalism," Prof. Vanaik said.

Mr. Patnaik, in his letter, also said: "Your remarks about motivation of suicide bombers and terrorists intended to explain that they are more determined to die for their cause than to kill came across as an expression of sympathy towards them instead of unalloyed condemnation of the violence and death caused by them."

Prof. Vanaik said there had been a large turnout at the lecture; many had recorded and posted parts of it online. "The idea that I am pro-terrorist is absolute nonsense. My words were absolutely taken out of context," he said.

"I would want to clarify here that I do consider Hamas's action as a terrorist action and criticise it. But terrorism is something that individuals, groups, and apparatus of states also carry out and one must be universal and impartial in condemning terrorism to matter who the agents are. It should be understood as a reference to a means or a method," he added.

# Kerala files affidavit against Governor

**K.S. Sudhi**  
KOCCHI

The Kerala government has filed an additional affidavit to strengthen its case in the Supreme Court against Governor Arif Mohammed Khan for delaying legislation on passed by the Assembly.

On Monday, the Supreme Court will consider the State government's writ petition and a special leave petition seeking to issue directives to the Governor to decide on the Bills. Kerala's case is that the Governor has violated his constitutional mandate by refusing to act according to Article 200 of the Constitution, which has charted

out the course of action for a Governor on Bills passed by an Assembly.

The additional affidavit includes nearly 15 correspondences between the Chief Minister and the Governor to counter the argument of the latter that the Chief Minister had shirked his constitutional duty to brief the head of the State. Mr. Khan had said that the Chief Minister had not been visiting the Raj Bhavan to brief him and was instead assigning the task to Ministers and officials.

Seven Bills have been pending with the Governor.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

# Aussies overpower India, win their sixth World Cup

**K.C. Vijaya Kumar**  
AHMEDABAD

India's dream run in the World Cup concluded in despair as Australia won cricket's premier championship for the sixth time.

In the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium here on Sunday, on a slow pitch, India mustered 240 in 50 overs and despite causing some initial bruises on the Aussies, found Pat Cummins and his men cantering home with 241 for four in 43 overs.

The six-wicket triumph reiterated Australia's cricketing pedigree and for people waking up there, Monday morning will be all about good tidings.

Opener Travis Head's excellent 137 (120b, 15x4, 4x6) proved to be the cornerstone of Australia's success after David Warner, Mitchell Marsh, and Steve Smith fell early.

It was the game's tipping point but left-handed Head and Marnus Labuschagne stitched a fabulous 192-run partnership for the



**A glorious run:** Australia's players rush to the ground as they soak in the winning moment. K.R DEEPAK

fourth-wicket to ensure Australia stayed ahead.

## Tight lines

The final, watched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi towards the end, had started rather well for India as captain Rohit Sharma hit a brisk 47 and Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul scored half-centuries.

However, the other batters struggled as the Australians bowled tight lines, fielded with alacrity and

kept prising out wickets.

As a grim night wore on, the Men in Blue found their World Cup dreams in tatters.

Having won 10 games on the trot, Rohit's men had stepped in as the favourites to wrest the title. But Australia had other ideas and India has to rest content with the World Cups won in 1983 and 2011.

**MORE REPORTS**  
» PAGES 17, 18 & 19

## Honours Board

1975	West Indies
1979	West Indies
1983	India
1987	Australia
1992	Pakistan
1996	Sri Lanka
1999	Australia
2003	Australia
2007	Australia
2011	India
2015	Australia
2019	England
<b>2023</b>	<b>Australia</b>

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# Hundreds in World Cup finals

The batters who made centuries in the summit clash of the World Cup

102	Clive Lloyd (WI)	vs Australia	1975	Lord's
138 n.o.	Vivian Richards (WI)	vs England	1979	Lord's
107 n.o.	Aravinda de Silva (SL)	vs Australia	1996	Lahore
140 n.o.	Ricky Ponting (Aus)	vs India	2003	Johannesburg
149	Adam Gilchrist (Aus)	vs Sri Lanka	2007	Bridgetown
103 n.o.	Mahela Jayawardene (SL)	vs India	2011	Mumbai
<b>137</b>	<b>Travis Head (Aus)</b>	<b>vs India</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Ahmedabad</b>



## ICC MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP INDIA 2023

<b>Dates</b>	5 October – 19 November 2023
<b>Administrator(s)</b>	<a href="#">International Cricket Council</a>
<b>Cricket format</b>	<a href="#">One Day International (ODI)</a>
<b>Tournament format(s)</b>	<a href="#">Round-robin</a> and <a href="#">knockout</a>
<b>Host(s)</b>	India
<b>Champions</b>	 <a href="#">Australia</a> (6th title)
<b>Runners-up</b>	 <a href="#">India</a>
<b>Participants</b>	10
<b>Matches</b>	48
<b>Player of the series</b>	 <a href="#">Virat Kohli</a>
<b>Most runs</b>	 <a href="#">Virat Kohli</a> (765)
<b>Most wickets</b>	 <a href="#">Mohammed Shami</a> (24)

Means of qualification	Date	Venue	Berths	Qualified
Host nation	—	—	1	 <a href="#">India</a>
<a href="#">ICC Super League</a>	30 July 2020 – 14 May 2023	Various	7	 <a href="#">Afghanistan</a>  <a href="#">Australia</a>  <a href="#">Bangladesh</a>  <a href="#">England</a>  <a href="#">New Zealand</a>  <a href="#">Pakistan</a>  <a href="#">South Africa</a>
<a href="#">Qualifier</a>	18 June 2023 – 9 July 2023	Zimbabwe	2	 <a href="#">Sri Lanka</a>  <a href="#">Netherlands</a>
<b>Total</b>			<b>10</b>	



2023 Cricket World Cup venues





- The oldest player of the tournament was Dutch player [Wesley Barresi](#), who was 39 years old, while the youngest was Afghan spinner [Noor Ahmad](#), who was 18



BRS, BJP, AIMIM are together, says Priyanka

The Hindu Bureau HYDERABAD

The dance in the Oscar-winning Telugu song Naatu Naatu reminds people of Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS), All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) combine who were dancing together like the actors in the song while trying to deny their association, said Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi.



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

Ms. Vadra said AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi supports the BRS in Telangana, and the BRS supports the BJP in the Centre. A vote for the BJP is a vote for the BRS, she added. Stating that allegations

BRS leaders trying to instil fear in people, says Revanth

Telangana agitation was for self-respect and self-administration, and not power, says TPCG leader, and adds that the current regime has to be ousted from office if the State has to be saved

The Hindu Bureau HYDERABAD

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president A. Revanth Reddy has said that Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leaders, including Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Naidu, Ministers K.T. Rama Rao and T. Harish Rao remind him of Seemandhra leaders from the erstwhile combined Andhra Pradesh who treated Telangana people as slaves.

The current regime does not realise that people of the State want self-respect apart from a fair share of water, funds and jobs, and is trying to instil fear among them, just like



Political saviour Revanth Reddy speaking at a 'meet the press' programme in Hyderabad on Sunday. G. HANAN/HT

Seemandhra leaders did. Mr. Reddy, who was speaking at a 'meet the press' programme organised by the journalists Adhyayana Vedika at a city hotel, said the Telangana agitation was for self-respect and self-administration, and not power. The

Assam CM triggers 'name game' for baby giraffe in zoo



The first giraffe born at the Guwahati Zoo. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has triggered a game of suggesting names for a giraffe born in the Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden, also known as the Guwahati Zoo.

Taking to X on Sunday, he announced the birth of a female calf born to Vijay, a male giraffe brought from Mysore in 2019, and Vijaya the female from Patna in 2022.

The giraffes were brought under an animal exchange programme. "Happy to share that the Assam State Zoo has been blessed with a cute baby Giraffe just three days ago. Any suggestions for naming the newborn?" Dr Sarma wrote, sharing two photos of the calf. He did not mention the calf's gender.

The netizens flooded his handle with names to choose from. "Babukon, if it is a male, triggered a game of suggesting names for a giraffe born in the Assam State Zoo cum Botanical Garden, also known as the Guwahati Zoo."

A fourth suggested that the calf be named after the player of the match of Sunday's cricket World Cup final. Zoo's Divisional Forest Officer Ashwin Kumar said the birth of the calf was special since a giraffe had been born in Assam for the first time. "The baby is healthy and so is the mother," he said.

"Name it after CM"

Yet another user suggested that the calf be named after the Chief Minister as "you are cute too, sir".

A fourth suggested that the calf be named after the player of the match of Sunday's cricket World Cup final.

Zoo's Divisional Forest Officer Ashwin Kumar said the birth of the calf was special since a giraffe had been born in Assam for the first time. "The baby is healthy and so is the mother," he said.

My aim is to bring BJP back to power, says Vijayendra

The Hindu Bureau MYSURU

The newly appointed president of BJP's State unit B.Y. Vijayendra said his aim is to not only win all the 28 seats in Karnataka during the coming Lok Sabha elections, but also ensure the return of the BJP to power in the State after the next Assembly elections.

Mr. Vijayendra, who began a visit to Mandya and Mysuru districts on Sunday, said all efforts will be made to convert Karnataka into BJP's fortress.

Woman, infant charred to death after stepping on live wire on footpath

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

In a tragic incident, a 23-year-old woman, identified as Soundarya, and her nine-month-old baby were charred to death when they stepped on a live wire lying unattended on the footpath near Hope Farm in Bengaluru's Kadugodi police station limits early on Sunday.



The spot where the woman and her child were electrocuted near Hope Farm in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

By the time people rushed to their help, they were charred to death. The Kadugodi police have registered an FIR against five Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) of-

officials charging them with causing death due to negligence. Based on a complaint filed by Santosh Kumar, Soundarya's husband, the police charged Sriram, Executive Engineer; Chethan S., Assistant Engineer; Subramanya T., Assistant Executive Engineer; Rajanna, Junior Engineer; and Man-

junath, station operator.

The accident has again raised the issue of safety of pedestrians. Bengaluru Central MP P.C. Mohan said, "The electrocution at Hope Farm Junction, where a young woman lost her life, is heart-breaking and highlights the urgency for Bescom to adopt preventive measures. A heightened sense of responsibility from Bescom is crucial in averting such incidents and ensuring a safer environment."

Whistleblower, a citizen's group, demanded strict action against erring officials.

Massive turnout at Kerala government's public outreach event as complaints pour in

The Hindu Bureau KASARAGOD

The second day of the Navakerala Sadas, the Kerala government's public outreach programme, witnessed an enthusiastic response from people in four constituencies - Kasaragod, Kanhangad, Udumala, and Thiruvananthapuram.



Navakerala Sadas witnessing huge participation, at Nayanamoola Stadium in Kasaragod on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The venues were filled with people from diverse backgrounds, which included a notable presence of women and children. Before the event even commenced the complain counters were operational, addressing a large number of public grievances. The issues raised in-

cluded concerns about housing schemes, welfare programmes and disputes, and road development.

Special provisions were made to streamline the

IUML leader's presence at Navakerala Sadas sparks row

N.A. Aboobacker, a member of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) announced that no United State council and an industry leader would participate in the government's outreach programme. The IUML has later on disowned Mr. Aboobacker for attending the event.

Central government. He said communal forces were attempting to disrupt unity and stressed the importance of democratic alternatives in the face of internal divisions.

complaint filing process. At the Nayanamoola Chengannur, the IUML leader's presence at the Kasaragod constituency was registered at the complaint counters. In Udumala, officials received 3,733 complaints.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan emphasised the collective need to face challenges, alleging financial pressures from the

Kerala to expand farming of GI-tagged Onattukara sesame

The Hindu Bureau ALAPPUZZHA

Efforts are being made to expand the cultivation of geographical indication (GI)-tagged Onattukara sesame in Alappuzha district of Kerala.

Authorities have announced an incentive scheme for growing sesame on fields and homesteads in the Thekkkara Gram Panchayat. The Government of Kerala has provided a financial assistance of 540 for a cent of land would be given to farmers for cultivating sesame.

The project, which was launched recently, is a joint initiative involving the lo-



A sesame field in Onattukara region. FILE PHOTO

cal Krishi Bhavan, Onattukara Vikasana Agency (OVA), Onattukara Regional Agricultural Research Station (ORARS), Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kayankulam, and Mavelikara Thekkkara panchayats.

Mr. Mohankumar said seeds would be distributed from the Thekkkara Krishi Bhavan and the sesame produced under the scheme would be procured by the OVA at market price. "Individuals, farming collectives, ashrae groups, ashrae-bashree groups, ashrae groups, and joint liability groups can apply for incentives for cultivation," said the panchayat president.

The Onattukara sesame is currently grown on around 600 hectares spread across 43 local bodies in the three districts of Alappuzha, Kollam and Pathanamthitta.

An analysis by Kerala Agricultural University revealed that sesame grown in the region contains high levels of Vitamin E and antioxidants.

Yellow alert issued for six districts in Kerala today

The Hindu Bureau THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The northeast monsoon is likely to intensify further for a brief period over Kerala triggered by twin cyclonic circulations over the Bay of Bengal.

According to a bulletin issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Sunday, an upper air cyclonic circulation lies over the Coromandel area, extending up to 1.5 km above mean sea level (MSL) while another cyclonic circulation lies over the southeast Bay of Bengal between 3.1 km and 5.8 km above mean sea level (MSL).

The twin system is likely to trigger thunderstorms

isolated heavy rain is likely to occur in Kollam, Alappuzha, Idukki, Kottayam, Ernakulam and Pathanamthitta.

with lightning accompanied by gusty wind across the State for the next five days especially in central and southern Kerala. A yellow alert has been issued for six districts - Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Idukki - on Monday. The lowest level of rainfall of 6 cm in 24 hours on Sunday.

Storage in Cauvery basin reservoirs dips to nearly half their gross capacity

The Hindu Bureau MYSURU

The water level in the four major reservoirs in Karnataka's Cauvery basin has dipped to nearly half of their cumulative gross capacity. The unexpected collapse in the unfolding crisis in the weeks ahead. The available quantum should not only meet the drinking water requirements of major towns and cities, including Bengaluru and Mysuru, but should last till the onset of the monsoon next year, which is sometime in June. The cumulative storage in Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) Kabinli, Hemavathi, and Harang was 58.07 thousand million cubic ft (tmcf) as on Saturday as



Scary picture: The water level at the Krishnaraja Sagar was hovering at 100 ft on Sunday. FILE PHOTO

against the gross capacity of 114.57 tmcf or 51.56% of the storage capacity. The storage position in the reservoirs during the corresponding period last year was 100.69 tmcf. It has recorded a 26% rainfall deficiency during the southwest monsoon season, the northeast monsoon pattern shows a 33% deficiency in the interior Karnataka. Though the region is not a major beneficiary of northeast monsoon, it has received seven times normal quantum that could have increased moisture

index and helped recharge groundwater level to an extent and reduced the dependence on dam.

As against the normal rainfall of 178 mm for the period October 1 to November 19, the region recorded 124 mm. The cumulative deficiency since June 1 is now 28%, according to Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre.

But with respect to other districts that include Channarayana, Banashankari, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban, Tumakuru, Davangere, Chitradurga, and Bengaluru Urban, the rainfall was 26% to 55%, which will help in averting drought conditions in the State.

Let caste survey be comprehensive, say various A.P. leaders

The Hindu Bureau SRIKALAHASTI

Representatives of the Backward Classes (BC), Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) associations have appealed to the Andhra Pradesh government to ensure that the caste survey proposed to be undertaken from November 27 to December 3, is comprehensive.

The socio-economic conditions of the people of these communities should also be collated, as caste data alone will not serve any purpose, they maintain. Desam Party (TDP) BC Sadhikara Committee convener and Kalin-

ga Vysya community State Secretary president B. Govindarajulu told The Hindu on Sunday that one week was not sufficient for collecting the relevant data and that it could lead to injustice to the community. National Backward Classes Welfare Association State Secretary Dr. Devabhusanam said that the survey teams must interact with leaders of the communities in the villages to get accurate information.

Meanwhile, Srikalahasti District Collector M. Narayana Dasam Party (TDP) BC Sadhikara Committee convener and Kalin-

# Kerala to expand farming of GI-tagged Onattukara sesame

**The Hindu Bureau**

ALAPPUZHA

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A sesame field in Onattukara region. FILE PHOTO

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## From Page One



Preparations for vertical drilling under way in Uttarakashi as rescue work continues on Sunday. PTI

## Workers complete a week in tunnel

Sixty metres of rubble stand between the trapped workers and the rescuers.

Rescue workers' plans for vertical drilling include a six-inch wide opening to provide workers more advanced supplies, and a wider opening worked on by the ONGC, which will serve as an alternative escape route. A four-inch pipe is already being used to give these trapped water, food, vitamin supplements, medicine, and antidepressants, Mr. Jain said. A second such pipe is being built. Mr. Chaudhari said, "I would like to say clearly to... workers and their families: don't be anxious." Mr. Jain said, "This may take time, but the work will definitely happen."

## Kerala files affidavit against Governor

The Governor had said that he was not a rubber stamp and the administration should not expect him to sign Bills without applying his mind. He had also alleged that the government had not answered some of his queries on the Bills.

On its part, the government has included in the affidavit one of its replies to the Governor which stated that he had no authority to seek explanations from officials on the Bills passed by the legislature. The Governor has refused to clear some Bills for which he had given assent when introduced as Ordinances.

## SC to hear Tamil Nadu, Kerala petitions against their Governors today

Kerala had accused Khan of acting in ways that defeat the rights of people by withholding the passage of Bills; the Chief Justice had said that it was time Governors did a bit of 'soul-searching'

Krishnanadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

The Tamil Nadu government on Monday is likely to inform the Supreme Court of its Legislative Assembly's re-adoption of 10 crucial Bills returned by Governor R.N. Ravi without "assigning any reasons" and after sitting on them for months together. The State of Kerala is prepared to take on its Governor Arif Mohammed Khan in the apex court for delaying key Bills, some dating back almost two years.

Kerala has accused the Governor of acting in ways that "defeat the rights of the people" by withholding the passage of Bills on issues ranging from public health and higher education to the Lokayukta.

Tamil Nadu, represented by senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, P. Wilson and advocate Sabarish Sahasramanian, and Kerala, represented by senior advocate K.K. Venugopal and advocate C.K. Sasi, are among other non-BJP ruled states which have ta-



Why should parties be made to approach the SC for the Governors to act? We are a democracy in operation since the birth of the Constitution

Justice D.V. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India

ken their Governors to court. A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.V. Chandrachud is scheduled to hear both States, back-to-back, on Sunday.

On November 6, the Chief Justice had sent a strong message to the Governors, saying it was time they did a bit of "soul-searching".

"Why should parties be made to approach the Supreme Court for the Governors to act? We are a democracy in operation since the birth of the Constitution. These are matters to be sorted out between the Governors and Chief Ministers," Chief Justice Chandrachud had said. The court was hearing Punjab's plea against the delay

caused by its Governor, Banwarilal Purohit.

"The Governors should not be oblivious of the fact that they are not elected by the people," the Chief Justice had noted.

Tamil Nadu had accused Mr. Ravi of acting like a "political rival" rather than a constitutional statesman by creating a "constitutional deadlock" and inexplicably delaying or even failing to consider and assent to the Bills. The State had argued that the Governor was stymieing day-to-day governance in a way which was threatening to bring administration in the State to a grinding halt a "serious concern" for the people's welfare.

The court had issued formal notice to the Union of India through the Home

Ministry to respond to Tamil Nadu. It had also asked the Attorney-General of India, or the Solicitor-General of India to be present in court on Monday.

The court has already highlighted that Article 200 of the Constitution mandates the Governor to act "as soon as possible" when Bills are presented to him for declaration of assent. Kerala has moved the Supreme Court twice separately against the Governor's inaction.

The State has highlighted that the arbitrary show of lack of urgency by the Governor violated the fundamental right to life of the people of Kerala.

"The conduct of the Governor... keeping Bills pending for long and indefinite periods of time is manifestly arbitrary and also violates Article 14 (right to equality) of the Constitution. Additionally, it defeats the rights of the people of the State of Kerala under Article 21, by denying them the right to health and welfare legislation enacted by the State Assembly," the petition said.

## IMA, nurses' association honoured with Indra Gandhi Peace Prize

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Indra Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, 2022 was, on Sunday, jointly awarded to the Indian Medical Association and the Trained Nurses Association of India as representatives of the COVID-19 warriors in the country.

Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari presented the award to Sharad Kumar Agarwal, president, Indian Medical Association, and Roy K. George, president, Trained Nurses Association of India.

Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, who heads the Indra Gandhi Memorial Trust, said the award was



Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, with Dr. Sharad Kumar Agarwal and Dr. Roy K. George. ANI

for every doctor, nurse, paramedic and *karamechhari* for their selfless services, unflinching dedication and perseverance.

Ms. Gandhi said the award, instituted in the name of one of the most re-

markable leaders of the 20th century, aims to honour women, men and institutions that have done exemplary work.

"The prize endeavours to promote the causes that India/ herself cham-

plioned and worked for in her astonishing career," she said.

She added that the life of Indra Gandhi will stand out for her tremendous ability to fight against odds.

"Be it her political career where she challenged orthodoxy to introduce equity oriented, pro-poor policies; be it her fight to defeat hunger in an international environment that disdained self respecting sovereign states; be it her extraordinary work to quell divisive tendencies in India; be it her unparalleled role in the creation of a new nation to honour people's aspirations... she was a valiant crusader of people's causes," she said.

## BJP, Trinamool argue over death of woman in Bengal; State Minister says it is her fate

Shilpa Sahay Singh  
KOLKATA

The death of an ailing woman, who was refused an ambulance service in Malda district of West Bengal due to bad roads and was carried to a health facility on a bamboo cot, had triggered a political row with both the Trinamool Congress and the BJP blaming each other.

The tragic incident occurred at Madangola village in Malda district on November 17, when the 25-year-old woman died while being taken to a hospital on a bamboo cot (*chor-poo*). Her family members and local people said ambulances and vehicles refused to enter her village due to the poor condition of road.

Videos of the ailing woman, Mamani Roy, being carried by a group of peo-

Mamata Banerjee should stop worrying about saffron and focus on providing basic services to the people of Bengal

ple on the bamboo cot went viral on social media, putting the ruling Trinamool Congress in a tight spot. The Opposition tabulated, Kartick Roy, said he had taken his wife on a cot since ambulance drivers refused to come to the village. The Opposition targeted the Trinamool over the issue. The incident was also a part of the Trinamool government in the State's Budget card this year had announced a new scheme called "Ras-

tashree" for construction of rural roads. The fund allocated for the scheme was ₹3,000 crore.

BJP leader Amit Malviya said, "Mamata Banerjee should stop worrying about the saffron and focus on providing basic services to the people of West Bengal. Expecting her to provide them dignity and respectability is far-fetched." Mr. Malviya said on X (formerly Twitter).

The Trinamool Siddiquilal Chowdhury said, "She did not die because of bad roads. Death was her fate." CP(M) leader Shukh Chakraborty said, "Newspapers will say, because of fate, thousands of job seekers are sitting on the road and not owing to job scans."

The Trinamool said repair of rural roads was not being done because funds under the PMGSY were withheld by the Centre.

## Legal experts divided on self-regulation provisions in draft broadcasting Bill

Devesh K. Pandey  
NEW DELHI

The proposed provisions in the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulatory) Bill, 2023, pertaining to self-regulation by broadcasters and broadcasting network operators have elicited diverse views from experts.

"It is heartening to see a proposal for a self-regulatory mechanism in the first instance — which appears to be very similar to the original proposal under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. This will accord a greater sense of responsibility, accountability for broadcasters and broadcasting networks in relation to the content made available by them to the general public," Shreya Suri said.

However, Ms. Suri expressed surprise over some of the details given in



Experts say the Bill will bring sense of responsibility and accountability for broadcasters. The Bill itself, which involve intimidation to the government, and making public the personal data of members of an internal certification body, the Content Advisory Committee (CAC), particularly against the backdrop of the Digital Personal Data Protection legislation, "which was a warner at the law firm Industlaw, said.

Ms. Suri said while that might have been well-in-

tended in terms of encouraging responsibility being taken for content, it was posted across different media, such mandatory disclosures could also potentially put the individuals personal risk of harm and injury, depending on the content being approved by them.

"Particularly considering the sensitivities of a very diverse audience and the fact that audiences do tend to react when certain content is sensationalised, it is with without valid reasons," she said, adding that the draft Bill was currently open for comments from the public and would likely undergo some changes following stakeholder feedback. "This particular aspect will hopefully merit some reconsideration as well," Ms. Suri said.

She said that in terms of the self-regulatory organisations (SRO) stepping up

## IAF chief stresses need to invest in new technologies

The Hindu Bureau  
BENGALURU

Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari on Sunday stressed the need for investing in new and disruptive technologies. Speaking at a session on aerospace and defence in the Synergia Conclave 2023, the Indian Air Force (IAF) chief said, "It is imperative that we invest in new and disruptive technologies and identify innovative solutions for their applications in the aerospace domain."

Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari said that for this to happen it would require a joint and consolidated effort on the part of all stakeholders.

"It will require a joint and consolidated effort on the part of all stakeholders, including defence PSUs, private industries, academia, and all others to facilitate the process of aligning technologies that will enable our armed forces to emerge victorious in any future conflict," he said.

The IAF chief said Artificial Intelligence (AI) might not replace human ingenuity and technological innovations could ensure effective and sustainable use of the flexibility of machinery, and effective combat for winning strategies.



V.R. Chaudhari

"Technologies can be applied in terms of stealth, self-healing structures, powerful health monitoring and diagnostics systems, and more efficient engines. Therefore, AI and machine learning can facilitate improvements within the aerospace and defence sector," the IAF chief said.

On the applications of disruptive technologies, he said conventional knowledge would lead to incremental change but the innovative use of converging technology would lead to exponential change.

He said the conversions of technologies, rather than traditional technologies, had proven to be game changers on the battlefield today.

## Braving pollution



Holy dips: Devotees offer prayers to Lord Surya on the occasion of Chhath Puja in Noida on Sunday. Several devotees gathered on the banks of the heavily polluted Yamuna to celebrate the festival. PTI/ANUPAM PUSHPAK

## All 22 T.N. fishermen detained by SL Navy freed

L. Srikrishna  
RAMESWARAM

The Sri Lankan government has released 22 Indian fishermen, having from Rameswaram, who were detained on Saturday by its Navy on charges of poaching. Two country boats belonging to the fishermen, which had been seized, have also been released. Kayappan, president, country boat fishermen association, told journalists here, on Sunday.

According to him, a delegation of fishermen met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday and briefed her about the incident. She spoke with the External Affairs Secretary in New Delhi and the Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, and the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture to get the fishermen and their boats freed.

# IMA, nurses' association honoured with Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

**The Hindu Bureau**

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pioned and worked for in her astonishing career,” she said.

She added that the life of Indira Gandhi will stand out for her tremendous ability to fight against odds.

“Be it her political career where she challenged orthodoxy to introduce equity oriented, pro-poor policies; be it her fight to defeat hunger in an international environment that disliked self respecting sovereign states; be it her extraordinary work to quell divisive tendencies in India; be it her unparalleled role in the creation of a new nation to honour people’s aspirations – she was a valiant crusader of people’s causes,” she said.

## Indira Gandhi



Gandhi in 1983

### 3rd Prime Minister of India

#### In office

14 January 1980 – 31 October 1984

**President** [N. Sanjiva Reddy](#)  
[Zail Singh](#)

**Preceded by** [Charan Singh](#)

**Succeeded by** [Rajiv Gandhi](#)

#### In office

24 January 1966 – 24 March 1977

**President** [Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan](#)  
[Zakir Husain](#)  
[V. V. Giri](#)  
[Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed](#)  
[B. D. Jatti](#) (*Acting*)

**Deputy** [Morarji Desai](#)  
(13 March 1967 –  
16 July 1969)

**Deputy** [Morarji Desai](#)  
(13 March 1967 –  
16 July 1969)

**Preceded by** [Lal Bahadur Shastri](#)<sup>[a]</sup>

**Succeeded by** [Morarji Desai](#)

### Minister of External Affairs

#### In office

9 March 1984 – 31 October 1984

**Preceded by** [P. V. Narasimha Rao](#)

**Succeeded by** [Rajiv Gandhi](#)

#### In office

22 August 1967 – 14 March 1969

**Preceded by** [M. C. Chagla](#)

**Succeeded by** [Dinesh Singh](#)

### Minister of Defence

#### In office

14 January 1980 – 15 January 1982

**Preceded by** [Chidambaram Subramaniam](#)

**Succeeded by** [R. Venkataraman](#)

#### In office

30 November 1975 – 20 December 1975

**Preceded by** [Swaran Singh](#)

**Succeeded by** [Bansi Lal](#)

### Minister of Home Affairs

#### In office

27 June 1970 – 4 February 1973

**Preceded by** [Yashwantrao Chavan](#)

**Succeeded by** [Uma Shankar Dikshit](#)

### Minister of Finance

#### In office

17 July 1969 – 27 June 1970

**Preceded by** [Morarji Desai](#)

**Succeeded by** [Yashwantrao Chavan](#)

### Minister of Information and Broadcasting

#### In office

9 June 1964 – 24 January 1966

**Prime Minister** [Lal Bahadur Shastri](#)

**Preceded by** [Satya Narayan Sinha](#)

**Succeeded by** [Kodardas Kalidas Shah](#)

### President of the Indian National Congress

#### In office

1959

**Preceded by** [U. N. Dhebar](#)

**Succeeded by** [Neelam Sanjiva Reddy](#)

### President of the Indian National Congress (I)

#### In office

1978–1984

**Preceded by** [Devakanta Barua](#) *as INC (R)*

**Succeeded by** [Rajiv Gandhi](#)

### Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha

#### In office

1980–1984

**Preceded by** [Mallikarjun Mudiraj](#)

**Succeeded by** [P. Manik Reddy](#)

**Constituency** [Medak](#)

#### In office

1978–1980

<b>Constituency</b>	<a href="#">Chikmagalur</a>
	<b>In office</b>
	1967–1977
<b>Constituency</b>	<a href="#">Raebareli</a>
	<b>Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha</b>
	<b>In office</b>
	1964–1967
<b>Constituency</b>	<a href="#">Uttar Pradesh</a>
	<b>Personal details</b>
<b>Born</b>	<p>Indira Priyadarshini Nehru</p> <p>19 November 1917</p> <p><a href="#">Allahabad, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, British India</a></p> <p>(present-day <a href="#">Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, India</a>)</p>
<b>Died</b>	<p>31 October 1984 (aged 66)</p> <p><a href="#">New Delhi, Delhi, India</a></p>
<b>Manner of death</b>	<a href="#">Assassination</a>
<b>Monuments</b>	<a href="#">Shakti sthal</a>
<b>Political party</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Indian National Congress</a> (1938 – 1969)</li> <li><a href="#">Congress (R)</a> (1969 – 1978)</li> <li><a href="#">Congress (I)</a> (1978 – 1984)</li> </ul>
<b>Spouse</b>	<p><a href="#">Feroze Gandhi</a></p> <p>(m. 1942; died 1960)</p>
<b>Children</b>	<p><a href="#">Rajiv Gandhi</a> (son)</p> <p><a href="#">Sanjay Gandhi</a> (son)</p>
<b>Parent(s)</b>	<p><a href="#">Jawaharlal Nehru</a> (father)</p> <p><a href="#">Kamala Nehru</a> (mother)</p>

## State honours

Decoration		Country	Date	Note
	<b>Bharat Ratna</b>	 India	1971	The highest civilian honour of India.
	<b>Lenin Peace Prize</b>	 Soviet Union	1985	It was awarded by a panel appointed by the Soviet government.
	<b>Bangladesh Freedom Honour</b>	 Bangladesh	2011	The highest honour of Bangladesh awarded to foreign dignitaries.

The Indira Gandhi Prize, or the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize, also known as Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development, is the prestigious award accorded annually by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust

To individuals or organisations in recognition of creative efforts toward promoting international peace, development and a new international economic order; ensuring that scientific discoveries are used for the larger good of humanity, and enlarging the scope of freedom.

The prize carries a cash award of 2.5 million Indian rupees and a citation.



IN BRIEF



**PUCI condemns FIR against 13 persons at prayer gathering**

The Maharashtra unit of the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCI) has condemned the lodging of a criminal case by the Mumbai Police against 13 persons — all members of the minority community — in connection with a prayer gathering on the occasion of Children's Day to commemorate children killed in Palestine. In a statement issued on Sunday, the PUCI said a First Information Report (FIR) was lodged by the Juhu Police under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Maharashtra Police Act (MPA) against 13 individuals, 11 of them students, and 14 for alleged violation of prohibitory orders.

**Cong. rally to pay tributes to deceased farm law protesters**

Rajya Sabha member Deshpande Hooda said on Sunday that the Congress would hold a 'Kisan-Majdoor Aakrosh' rally in Haryana's Sirsa on December 17 in memory of those farmers who lost their lives during the year-long agitation against the now repealed farm laws. Addressing a press conference in Sirsa, Mr. Hooda said farmers are feeling let down as the promises made to them by the Centre remain unfulfilled. "There is anger among farmers that the government has not yet implemented the agreement that was reached between the government and farmer organisations two years ago. The government is working to strangle democracy in the country," Mr. Hooda said.

**2 suspected Maoists arrested in West Bengal**

The Hindu Bureau  
KOLKATA

The Special Task Force (STF) of the Kolkata Police has arrested two suspected members of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) from Suti in Murshidabad district. Arrested on Saturday, the two were produced before a city court on Sunday and sent to police custody till November 30. Those arrested, according to the STF, were active members of the banned terrorist organisation CPI(Maoist).

"During searches, some documents related to Maoist activities, one 7.65 mm pistol loaded with six rounds of cartridges, and ₹40,000 were recovered from the possession of accused Pratik Bhowmik," a press statement by the STF said.

The STF said the accused were wanted in FIRs filed earlier and had been booked under Sections 21, 121A, 122, 123, and 120B of the Indian Penal Code and 16, 17, 18, 18A, and 20 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Over the past few years, there have been no active efforts by the Maoists in the State. The Trinamool Congress government claims it has brought Maoist activities to a complete halt.

**'77 Indian military personnel in Maldives, pacts reviewed'**

More than 100 agreements signed with New Delhi are under review by the island's new govt, and President Muizzu has initiated efforts to expel all Indian troops, says a Maldivian official

Press Trust of India  
MALDIVES

There are 77 Indian military personnel in the Maldives and the new government here is reviewing more than 100 agreements signed with New Delhi, a senior Maldivian official said on Sunday, a day after President Mohamed Muizzu formally requested India to withdraw its troops from the island nation.

At a press conference here, the Undersecretary for Public Policy of the Presidential Office, Mohamed Firuzul Abdul Khaleel, said the new administration had established that there are 77 Indian military personnel in the Maldives.

There were 24 Indian military personnel to manage the first helicopter, 25 to manage the Dornier aircraft, and 26 to manage the second helicopter, and two more for maintenance and engineering, Mr. Firuzul was quoted as saying by the Maldivian media. He said that President Mohamed Muizzu had officially requested the Indian government to have their military personnel removed from the Maldives. The Maldives is one of



During a meeting with Union Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju, President Mohamed Muizzu officially requested the Indian government to have their military personnel removed from the Maldives. ANI

India's key maritime neighbours in the strategic Indian Ocean Region and the overall bilateral ties, including in areas of defence and security, have moved on an upward trajectory under the government of Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. During a meeting with Union Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju here on Saturday, Mr. Muizzu officially requested the Indian government to have their military personnel removed from the Maldives. Mr. Rijiju called on Mr.

Muizzu at his office, a day after attending the Maldivian leader's inauguration ceremony. Mr. Muizzu had built his presidential campaign around the promise of expelling Indian military personnel from the Maldives. He also said he would review the agreements between Maldives and India, and disclose its contents where possible. Mr. Firuzul said the former administration of Mr. Solih signed over 100

agreements with India, and that the new administration is reviewing them. Sun.mv.com reported. The agreements in question include the Uttar Pradesh (UP) agreement and other defence agreements, the report said. Soon after the oath-taking on Friday, President Muizzu asserted that he was firmly committed to ensuring that his country remains "free" of any "foreign military presence" to preserve its independence and sovereignty.

**Punjab police register 932 FIRs over farm fires**

Press Trust of India  
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Police have registered 932 FIRs against farmers for burning crop residue since November 8 while a fine of ₹1.67 crore has been imposed in 7,405 cases, a senior official said on Sunday. According to the Special Director-General of Police Arpit Shukla, red entries were made in the revenue records of 348 farmers for stubble burning.

He said concerted efforts by the Punjab Police to prevent stubble burning have yielded significant results as cases of farm fire fell "drastically" over the last two days.

On Sunday and Saturday, the State recorded 740 and 637 farm fire cases respectively. Paddy straw burning in Punjab and Haryana is considered one of the reasons behind the alarming rise in air pollution in the national capital in November. The 24-hour average AQI of Delhi, recorded at 4 p.m. every day, was 319 on Saturday, 405 on Friday, and 415 on Thursday. In many parts of Haryana and Punjab, air quality indices remained in 'very poor' and 'poor' categories.

**Modi has 'stolen' Congress's guarantees to face elections in five States: D.K. Shivakumar**

The Hindu Bureau  
BENGALURU

Stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "stolen" the guarantees offered by the Congress to face the elections in five States, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that the BJP-Janata Dal (Secular) will withdraw the guarantees if votes are cast in their favour in the Lok Sabha elections. He also announced that a committee will be set up on November 28 to study the implementation of the guarantee schemes. "Both the BJP and the JD (S) had opposed the guarantees. The two parties will bring law to withdraw the guarantees. People should be made aware of their anti-people stance," the Deputy Chief Minister



D.K. Shivakumar

said at KPCC office here during the birthday celebration of former Prime Minister the late Indira Gandhi on Sunday. Stating that the fifth guarantee of financial assistance to unemployed graduates will be rolled out in December, he said: "The Congress will neither withdraw the guarantees nor reduce it. Mr. Modi has stolen the guarantees. People should be made aware of their anti-people stance," the Deputy Chief Minister

**Animation film on Ahom warrior chosen for IFFI 2023**

Rahul Karmakar  
GUWAHATI

A 19-minute-long animation film on an iconic Ahom general warrior and directed by an Indian Police Service officer in Assam has been selected for the Indian Panorama section of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2023 to be held in Goa.

*Lachit: The Warrior*, the film showcasing the heroics of Lachit Borphukan, was shown at the 15th Jaipur International Film Festival, the 6th South Asian Short Film Festival in Kolkata, the Kollywood International Film Festival in Chennai, and the Newborn Short Film Festival in Berlin.

"The film traces the genesis of the military commander's ancestry, his charismatic personality, his dexterous skills in diplomacy and naval warfare, physical prowess, unmatched valour, and most importantly, his resolute sense of patriotism," writer-director Partha Sarathi Mahanta, the Deputy Inspector-General (Administration) of Police, Guwahati, said. Produced by Mira Mahanta and Indrani Sarathi, the film was screened and awarded at 10 film festivals in India and abroad this year.

They include the 15th Jaipur International Film Festival, the 6th South Asian Short Film Festival in Kolkata, the Kollywood International Film Festival in Chennai, and the Newborn Short Film Festival in Berlin.

**Nadajibir Notebook, a deep dive into India's rivers, wins literary award in West Bengal**

Shiv Sahay Singh  
KOLKATA

A book on the rivers of India was recently honoured with a well-known literary award in West Bengal. *Nadajibir Notebook* (Notebook on Rivers), a book in Bengali by writer and river scientist Supratim Karmakar, published in 2022, was honoured with the Nantia Chattopadhyay Sahitya Samman 2023 on November 18 at the Bangla Akademi in Kolkata.

The book deals with issues concerning the rivers of India, their ecology, and the steps that can be taken for their rejuvenation.

"From rivers such as the Ajoy and Anjana to Alokamati, Chandrabati, the book deals with the rivers of the region. There are references to the Ganga,



Supratim Karmakar (right) with the award. *senewest.com*

construction of dams, hydro-power projects, and erosion along rivers banks. Running to 775 pages, the book contains maps, photographs, and charts dealing with the ecology of rivers as well as the lives of the people dwelling on the banks. Mr. Karmakar has authored about half-a-dozen books on rivers. His latest socio-ecology of the region, *Jalanagi Passer Britanno* ("Stories at the bank of Jalanagi"), published in 2018, and *Jagadhaty Upe Sandhane* ("In search of the origins of Goddess Jagadhatri"), published in 2021. "Nadajibir Notebook is an important work as far as the science of rivers is concerned," the citation of the award reads, including the

**CROSSWORD 14024**  
(set by Dr. X)



To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site at <https://crs.puzzlepage.link/jpr/>

- 14 Writes a musical score, enthralled by revolutionary sunset at Ontario (7)
  - 16 Means as girl stimulates (7)
  - 17 Consider mushroom recipe for diner's inauguration (7)
  - 19 Wine with Latin blaise on vacation resulting in bloomer (7)
  - 21 Depression from twist of fate (4)
  - 22 Love is strong, inspired husband to change (10)
  - 23 Move suggestive of hurricane perhaps (9)
  - 26 Paramour and lady on screen, going topless (5)
  - 27 Be quiet about incident with associate in fat lettering ecstasy (7,6)
- Down**
- 2 Erroneous account checked by officer at centre later (7)
  - 3 Death resulting from abuse of nicotine, essentially toxic over time (10)
  - 4 Organizer goes to control revolting brutes (5)
  - 5 Plant in Dutch field, surrounded by loose hay (5)
  - 6 New labourer passing primarily pungent gas (4)
  - 7 Fragrant roots from old hills, across river (7)
  - 8 Pioneer, he worked with initiators of Manhattan Project (11)
  - 10 Building new empires to conquer earth in computer game (11)
  - 12 Sausage is fresh, having small amount with everyone in retreat (10)
  - 15 Herb in special fruit punch (9)
  - 18 Find rope perhaps to restrain scoundrel (7)
  - 20 Reveal criminal smuggling heroin in French city (2,5)
  - 23 See 1 Across
  - 24 Overwhelmed by nausea, chest pain (4)

**SUDOKU**

1	3		6	9	5			
	8				1			6
		7	3					
	8	5						3
9		8		6	8	2		
					7	3		
8	1				2			
	6	2	1		7	9		

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	5	1	4	7	2	3	8	6
4	3	7	8	9	5	6	2	1
2	6	8	3	9	1	5	4	7
5	9	6	3	9	5	5	6	7
3	2	6	9	8	4	1	7	5
6	7	1	4	3	8	5	2	9
3	2	6	9	8	4	1	7	5
1	4	8	6	9	7	2	5	3

**FAITH**  
The Gita shows the path

At Kurukshetra, Krishna strategically places the chariot before Arjuna's teacher Dronacharya and his beloved grandfather Bhishma, in order to make Arjuna realise his debilitating familial attachment that would have come in the way of confronting his dear ones. Krishna's intelligent manoeuvre triggered Arjuna's breakdown and initiated the discourse of the Bhagavad Gita, making Arjuna a fit warrior to fight and win the battle, said Swami Mitrananda in a lecture.

Arjuna expressed his desire to take one good look at those who were gathered against him to please the evil-minded sons of Dhritrashtra. Krishna shatters his arrangement by making him realise it is not only the evil-minded who decorate the enemy lines, but also the people he deeply cherishes. "Paschatatya" witness, says Krishna, "these kurus gathered together." Krishna's authoritative instructions to Arjuna show how complicated our mortal existence is, with a minimal perspective we get entrenched in everything we encounter. The Kaurava and Pandava forces represent the lower and higher tendencies within us. Without a discerning intellect, it is difficult to tell one from the other. A weak mind will always succumb to the veer or force of the lower tendencies.

# *Nadajibir Notebook*, a deep dive into India's rivers, wins literary award in West Bengal

**Shiv Sahay Singh**

KOLKATA

A book on the rivers of India was recently honoured with a well-known literary award in West Bengal. *Nadajibir Notebook* ('Notebook on Rivers'), a book in Bengali by writer and river scientist Supratim Karmakar, published in 2022, was honoured with the Namita Chattopadhyay Sahitya Samman 2023 on November 18 at the Bangla Akademi in Kolkata. The book deals with issues concerning the rivers of India, their ecology, and the steps that can be taken for their rejuvenation.

"From rivers such as the Ajoy and Anjana to Alokanda and Ichamati, the book deals with the rivers of the region. There are references to the Ganga,



Supratim Karmakar (right) with the award. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Churni and Teesta and also to some rivers that have been lost," Mr. Karmakar told *The Hindu*. The writer expressed happiness over the recognition, and pointed out that this was the first time a non-fiction book had been honoured with the literary award.

The book deals with several issues, including the

construction of dams, hydel power projects, and erosion along rivers banks. Running to 175 pages, the book contains maps, photographs, and charts dealing with the ecology of rivers as well as the lives of the people dwelling on their banks.

Mr. Karmakar has authored about half-a-dozen books on rivers and the related socio-ecology of the region. His famous works include *Jalanagi Paarer Britanto* ('Stories on the bank of Jalangi'), published in 2018, and *Jagadhatri Utsa Sandhane* ('In search of the origins of Goddess Jagadhatri'), published in 2021.

"*Nadjibi Notebook* is an important work as far as the science of rivers is concerned," the citation of the award reads.



**SAN SALVADOR**

## Nicaraguan Sheynnis Palacios wins crown at Miss Universe 2023



GETTY IMAGES

▲ Nicaragua's Sheynnis Palacios was crowned Miss Universe 2023 on Saturday at the 72nd edition of the pageant, held this year in El Salvador. Palacios, 23, received the crown and sash from her predecessor, R'Bonney Gabriel from the United States. Miss India Shweta Sharda had made it to the list of top 20 contestants. AFP

Three – Miss Universe crowns  
(1994 • 2000 • 2021)

1994

One – Miss Earth crown

2010

1994

Six – Miss World crowns  
(1966 • 1994 • 1997 • 1999 • 2000 • 2017)



- The representatives to these pageants are chosen from the pageants [Miss Diva](#) (Miss Universe), [Femina Miss India](#) (Miss World), [Glamanand Supermodel India](#) (Miss International) and, [Miss Divine Beauty](#) (Miss Earth) respectively.

# These are moments you'll always remember: Cummins

It has been a big year for everyone; our team has been here in India for Tests, played the Ashes, won the World Test Championship and to top it off with this is just huge, says the Australian skipper

## ODI WORLD CUP

Shayan Acharya  
AHMEDABAD

With a broad smile on his face and a medal hanging around his neck, Pat Cummins kept the World Cup trophy on the dais before addressing the media on Sunday.

Captain Cummins seemed happy to have silenced the home crowd, something that he had said on the eve of the big clash.

"It's huge. I think that's the pinnacle of international cricket — winning an ODI World Cup, especially over here in India, in front of a crowd like this," he said.

Coming into the tournament after a disappointing series against South Africa, Australia lost its first two games before putting its campaign back on track. And once it gained momentum, there was no looking back.

"It has been a big year for everyone. Our cricket team has been here in India (for Tests), played the Ashes, won the World Test Championship and to top it off with this is just huge... these are the moments that you will remember for the

rest of your life," Cummins said. Amid debate over the future and relevance of the 50-over format, Cummins had no hesitation in admitting that things couldn't get better than this. "You only get a shot at it every four years. Even if you have a 10-year career, you might only get two chances at it. And yeah, it's just the whole cricket world stops with this World Cup. So, it doesn't get any better."

The skipper heaped praise on Head for his superb show.

"Travis was phenomenal. A lot of credit should also go to Andrew McDonald and George Bailey, the selectors, to take a punt. He (Head) had a broken finger, a broken hand for half the tournament, but to keep him in the squad was a huge risk. And the medical team were fantastic to get him into a place where he could perform," Cummins said.

"Trav, the player we have seen in Test cricket, epitomises everything I want out of a cricket team. He plays with a smile, he puts the pressure right back onto the opposition and he's just great fun to be around," Cummins said. "I couldn't be happier for Trav."



Turning points: Head and Labuschagne played with composure after Australia stuttered early while Suryakumar struggled to get going. K.R. DEEPAK



## Recognising excellence



Well played! Virat Kohli, who scored 765 runs, receiving the 'Player of the Tournament' award from Roger Binny. K.R. DEEPAK

## Pro-Palestine pitch invader apprehended by security

Sports Bureau  
AHMEDABAD

In a security breach during the World Cup final, an Australian national — invading a white tee supporting Palestine and red shorts — invaded the pitch and tried hugging Virat Kohli before he was apprehended by security authorities at the Narendra Modi stadium on Sunday.

The incident occurred during the 14th over of the Indian innings when the invader, Wen Johnson, crossed the fence and ran towards Kohli. He wore the Palestine flag as a mask and had a clear message on his shirt, 'Stop Bombing Palestine'.

Johnson was shoed away before the security personnel rushed to the scene. The 24-year-old was later detained by Ahmed-



Making a statement! Wen Johnson wore the Palestine flag as a mask and had a clear message on his shirt: 'Stop Bombing Palestine'. VJAY SONEJI

abad City Police and was taken to the Chandkheda Police station for questioning.

This, however, is not the first case of pitch invasion in this edition of the tournament. When India and Australia squared off at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai in a league game last month, social media influencer and serial pitch invader Daniel Jarvis, aka Jarvo, was apprehended by security authorities.

Jarvo entered the ground wearing India colours before the start of the match and was escorted by security personnel, following which the ICC banned him from attending further matches in the World Cup. He was later deported.

However, questions were raised on how he gained access to the VIP area and breached multiple security layers to enter the field of play.

## I wasn't invited for the final: Kapil Dev

Press Trust of India  
AHMEDABAD

Former India captain Kapil Dev on Sunday claimed that he was not invited to the World Cup final between the hosts and Australia here.

Kapil, who led India to its maiden ODI World Cup title in 1983, said he wanted to travel for the game with the rest of his teammates.

"I wasn't invited there. They didn't call me so I did not go. As simple as that. I wanted the whole '83 team to be there with me but I guess due to the fact that it's such a big event and people are so busy handling responsibilities, sometimes they forget," Kapil told ANI News.

Among other former In-



Kapil with the 1983 World Cup. GETTY IMAGES

dia captains who were present at the Narendra Modi Stadium were Sourav Ganguly, who was invited in the capacity of a former BCCI president, inviting past presidents and officials is a BCCI norm.

## Djokovic routs Sinner to win record seventh Finals crown

### ATP FINALS

Agencies  
TURIN

A ruthless Novak Djokovic destroyed home favourite Jannik Sinner to win the ATP Finals title for a record seventh time on Sunday, adding yet another milestone to his incredible career.

The 36-year-old Serb, who lost to home favourite Sinner earlier in the week in the group stage, exacted revenge with a sublime display to claim a 6-3, 6-3 victory.

A sell-out crowd in Turin's Pala Alpitour had hoped to hear the 22-year-old Sinner to the biggest title of his career but Djokovic was simply in a different league.

Djokovic had outclassed Carlos Alcaraz 6-3, 6-2 in the semifinals on Saturday to reach his ninth ATP Finals.

The Serb's win concludes a year in which he won three of the four



Wesell! Djokovic lets out a celebratory scream after his triumph. AP

Grand Slam titles and seized back the top spot after Alcaraz's worryingly for the chasing pack he will head into 2024 looking as dominant as ever.

**Ram-Salisbury reign**  
Earlier in the day, Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury retained their doubles title as they cruised to a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Marcelo Zeballos and Horacio Zeballos.

The U.S. Open champions kept hold of their

### LAS VEGAS GP

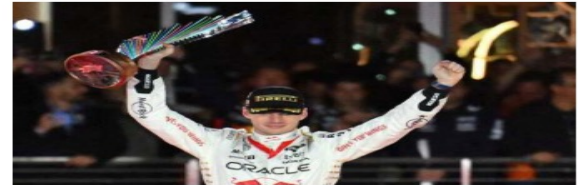
Agence France-Presse  
LAS VEGAS

World champion Max Verstappen claimed the 18th win of his record-breaking season, with victory in a thrilling Las Vegas Grand Prix on Saturday.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc overtook Red Bull's Sergio Perez on the last lap to grab second place ahead of the Mexican with French driver Esteban Ocon of Alpine finishing fourth.

Verstappen had been highly critical of the return of Formula One to Vegas after a 41-year absence but as he drove past the finish line he celebrated with a chorus of Elvis Presley's 'Wow Love Me Like You Do' on the radio.

The grid was packed with a host of celebrities from the world of music, sport and entertainment as memories of the embarrassment of the opening practice session on Thursday being stopped early



Dominant! Verstappen celebrates after notching up yet another victory. AP

due to a loose water valve on the track, faded.

Verstappen, starting second on the grid, grabbed the lead in the first turn of the opening lap but was penalised five seconds for pushing Leclerc wide in a close touch and was able to get the lead back, overtaking Verstappen on lap 16.

The Dutchman won by 2.070 over Leclerc but had to work for his victory in what was the latest starting race in F1 history.

Verstappen had to serve his penalty in the pit, leaving him plenty of work to do to regain his lead and

when Leclerc went into the pits on lap 22, Perez took over at the front.

Leclerc and Perez fought for the lead but Verstappen was ominously gaining ground and after he passed Perez he then made his decisive move on lap 37.

From then on, Verstappen never looked back, Leclerc slipping into third spot after he out-braked himself and allowed Perez to fly by.

But there was one more twist in the tale as Leclerc brilliantly moved past Perez to grab second place. Perez clinched a second-place finish in the driver standings.

The final race of the season comes next weekend at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

**The results:** 1. Verstappen (Red Bull) 1hr 29min 8.289sec, 2. Leclerc (Ferrari) +2.070sec, 3. Perez (Red Bull) 2.241, 4. Ocon (Alpine) 18.665, 5. Stroll (Mercedes) 20.067, 6. Sainz (Ferrari) 20.834, 7. Hamilton (Mercedes) 21.755, 8. Russell (Mercedes) 23.091, 9. Alonso (Aston Martin) 25.964, 10. Piastri (McLaren) 29.496, 11. Gasly (Alpine) 34.270, 12. Albon (AlphaTauri) 48.525, 13. Magnussen (Haas) 44.825, 14. Ricciardo (AlphaTauri) 48.525, 15. Guanyu (Alfa Romeo) 50.162, 16. Sargeant (Williams) 50.982, 17. Bottas (Alfa Romeo) 50.982, 18. Hulkenberg (Haas) 50.982, 19. Norris (McLaren), Hulkenberg (Haas), Tsunoda (AlphaTauri)

**The standings (top five):**  
Drivers: 1. Verstappen 540 pts., 2. Perez 273, 3. Hamilton 232, 4. Sainz 169, 5. Ricciardo 169  
Constructors: 1. Red Bull 822 pts., 2. Mercedes 392, 3. Ferrari 385, 4. McLaren 284, 5. Aston Martin 273.

A-NO-02

# Djokovic routs Sinner to win record seventh Finals crown

## ATP FINALS

### Agencies

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**Yesss!** Djokovic lets out a celebratory scream after his triumph. AP

Grand Slam titles and seized back the top spot from Alcaraz and worryingly for the chasing pack he will head into 2024 looking as dominant as ever.

### **Ram-Salisbury reign**

Earlier in the day, Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury retained their doubles title as they cruised to a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos.

The U.S. Open champions kept hold of their

crown with a near-perfect campaign in Turin, going unbeaten in their five matches.

American Ram and Briton Salisbury took their winning streak at the season-ending tournament to 10 matches after also sweeping to last year's title undefeated.

### **The results (final):**

**Singles:** Novak Djokovic bt Jannik Sinner 6-3, 6-3.

**Doubles:** Rajeev Ram & Joe Salisbury bt Marcel Granollers & Horacio Zeballos 6-3, 6-4.



## ATP Finals



### Tournament information

<b>Founded</b>	1970; 53 years ago
<b>Location</b>	<a href="#">Turin, Italy (2021–25)</a>
<b>Venue</b>	<a href="#">Pala Alpitour</a>
<b>Category</b>	Year-end Championships
<b>Surface</b>	<a href="#">Hard (indoor)</a>
<b>Draw</b>	8 Singles / 8 Doubles
<b>Prize money</b>	<a href="#">US\$15,000,000 (2023)</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://nittoatpfinals.com">nittoatpfinals.com</a> <a href="#">↗</a>

### Current champions (2023)

<b>Singles</b>	 <a href="#">Novak Djokovic</a>
<b>Doubles</b>	 <a href="#">Rajeev Ram</a>
	 <a href="#">Joe Salisbury</a>

# The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE  
SINCE 1932

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 20 PAGES

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**AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION - PART I**  
**Fraud loan apps run amok as Govt, RBI, tech platforms silent on who's the monitor**

**SOUMYARENDRA BARIK**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

**BHARAT SINGH**, a resident of the eastern village of Ghosi in Uttar Pradesh, borrowed Rs 15,000 for his sister's wedding through a loan app he came across on Instagram called UnicashX.

There was little guidance if this was a genuine lender. Instagram didn't raise a red flag and nor did the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Singh didn't suspect much since the app claimed it was backed by a non-banking

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**PART 2**

**For Rs 300, get fake IDs, call logs, contacts' list to fool fraud loan apps**

**HOW ILLEGAL LOAN APPS TRAP PEOPLE**

**FLOOD SOCIAL** media with ads, falsely tout links with NBFCs, promise quick loans despite low credit score

**APPEALS** permission to access contacts, SMS history, gallery

**ADVERTISED INTEREST** rates are low, but agents ask for much more money

**AGENTS SEND** abusive messages to contacts, including morphed pics

**FEARING SHAME**, people pay up more than owed, don't come out in public

**WE WILL REMEMBER THIS YEAR FOR A LONG, long time. This pips it all: Cummins**

**TRAVIS HEAD IS PLAYER OF THE MATCH, Virat Kohli named Player of the Tournament**

**WE KNOW THAT WE WERE NOT GOOD ENOUGH on the day. But proud of the team: Rohit**

## Head Breaks Hearts



**(Left)** Australia's Travis Head celebrates his century, an innings key to his team's victory; **(above)** a disappointed Indian team after a review upheld a not-out decision in favour of Marnus Labuschagne when his partnership with Head had crossed 100.

### Australianism: Keeping best for last, a team resolved to win — and won

**SANDIP G**  
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 19

**THE 52,453-STRONG** crowd had begun to file out of the massive stands. The predominant colour of the day, blue, gradually faded out, barring the empty fluorescent orange seats. A brooding silence descended on the largest cricket stadium in the world. The only sound was that of breaking hearts and the applause from Australia's dug-out as they inched closer to their sixth World Cup title — perhaps the most unprecedented of them all.

The departure of Travis Head, for a stellar 137 off 120 balls, evoked little applause.



**PM Narendra Modi with Australian Deputy PM Richard Marles after handing the World Cup to Pat Cummins. Nirmal Harindran**

A ball later, Glenn Maxwell would belt the winning runs

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**BUSINESS AS USUAL**  
By UNNY



### How unbeaten India lost to a plan and some homework

**SRIRAM VEERA**  
AHMEDABAD, NOVEMBER 19

**FOR 40** nights since their first against Australia in Chennai India strode like the invincible but would stumble on the 4 night to a tame defeat. The def could be put down to Australians that always p wails on big er ments or just l back. There will a billion post-mortems of l loss, around India, in the com days but there are enough cri eting reasons to ponder.

At the core of every Wo Cup final chatter will be an acknowledgment that India, on final day of the tournament

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**Har din ko apna sab kuch dena hai zindagi ki SIP**

**Zindagi ke liye SIP**

**EXPLAINED ECONOMICS**

# The other oil imports

With over 60 per cent of its consumption requirements being met through imports, which could rise further, India has reasons to worry about vegetable oils going the petroleum products way

TABLE 1

## INDIA'S EDIBLE OIL IMPORTS

Oil Year (Nov-Oct)	Quantity (million tonnes)	Value in (₹cr)	Value in US\$ billion
2013-14	11.62	60,750	9.95
2014-15	14.42	62,862	9.65
2015-16	14.57	69,780	10.4
2016-17	15.08	75,125	11.55
2017-18	14.51	66,942	9.3
2018-19	14.91	62,933	9
2019-20	13.18	71,625	9.95
2020-21	13.13	117,225	15.6
2021-22	14.03	156,800	19.6
2022-23	16.47	138,424	16.65

Table 2 shows **Edible oil production from domestic sources** (lakh tonnes)

\*Includes oil from rapeseed cake and toria; \*\*Includes cottonseed cake oil; @Includes groundnut cake oil;

@@Includes sunflowerseed cake oil.

TABLE 2

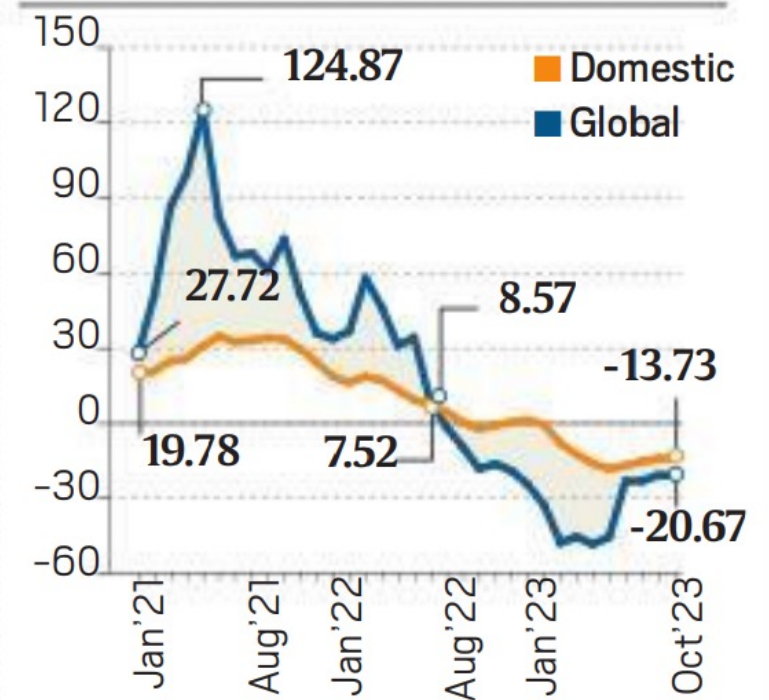
## EDIBLE OIL PRODUCTION

	2013-14	2022-23
Mustard*	22.72	39.8
Soyabean	14.03	18.53
Cottonseed**	14.74	12.44
Rice Bran	9.3	11
Groundnut@	6.75	9.91
Copra/Coconut	4.55	3.9
Palm	1.1	3.5
Maize Germ	0.5	1.5
Sesame	1.13	1.06
Sunflower@@	2.43	1.03
Others	0.77	0.68
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78.02</b>	<b>103.35</b>

Source: The Solvent Extractors' Association of India.

CHART

## VEGETABLE OILS INFLATION: DOMESTIC vs. GLOBAL



Source: Domestic inflation based on Consumer Price Index for 'Oils and Fats' and Global inflation based on FAO's 'Vegetable Oils' price index.

The 16.5 million tonnes of edible oil imports in 2022-23 included palm (9.8 million tonnes; from Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand), soyabean (3.7 million tonnes; from Argentina and Brazil) and sunflower (3 million tonnes; from Russia, Ukraine and Argentina). The bulk of imports comprise crude oils. Like crude petroleum, these are shipped in tankers and processed in giant refineries. Refining involves de-gumming (removing gums, waxes and other impurities), neutralisation (removing free fatty acids), bleaching (removing colour) and de-odourisation (removing volatile compounds).

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## THIS WORD MEANS

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### BDS MOVEMENT

A Palestinian-led non-violent campaign against Israel, linked to Hoskote's resignation from Documenta 16

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**RISHIKA SINGH**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 19

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DAYS AFTER Indian poet and curator Ranjit Hoskote resigned from the Finding Committee for Documenta 16, the 2027 edition of one of the world's most prestigious art exhibitions held in Germany, all members of the committee quit Friday.

Hoskote resigned after an article published in a German newspaper recently accused him of "anti-Semitism" and sympathising with the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement.



**A BDS protest in Melbourne, Australia.** *Wikimedia Commons*

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### **What is the BDS movement?**

Launched in 2005 by more than 170 Palestinian groups, the campaign aims to garner support for Palestinian people's rights. On its website, BDS describes itself as an "inclusive, anti-racist human rights movement that is opposed on principle to all forms of discrimination, including anti-semitism and Islamophobia."

The movement urges "nonviolent pressure on Israel until it complies with international law" to meet three of its demands. First, end Israeli occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza, and the Syrian Golan Heights. Second, recognise the full fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel. Third, allow Palestinian refugees to return to their homes.

### **What does it do?**

BDS says its boycott campaigns involve pressuring entities to withdraw their support for Israel's government, the sporting, cultural and academic institutions associated with it, and "from all Israeli and international companies engaged in violations of Palestinian human rights." Sanctions campaigns "pressure governments to fulfill their legal obligations to end Israeli apartheid", and demand suspension of Israel's membership from international fora such as UN and FIFA.

### **What has Israeli govt said about BDS?**

In 2014, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu linked BDS to anti-

semitism. "I think the most eerie thing, the most disgraceful thing is to have people on the soil of Europe talking about the boycott of Jews," he said. "The founders of the BDS movement...want to see the end of the Jewish state... And I think it's important that the boycotters must be exposed for what they are. They're classical antisemites in modern garb. And I think we have to fight them," he added.

BDS responded to the allegations by saying that criticism of Israel's "violations of international law" should not be confused with anti-Semitism. "Israel is a state, not a person. Everyone has the right to criticise the unjust actions of a state," its website pointed out.

### **Has BDS affected Israel's economy?**

In recent years, a few brands and celebrities have refused to continue working in Israel or perform there as part of tours. These include the US ice cream brand Ben and Jerry's and Pink Floyd member Roger Waters.


But many such boycotts also flow from a longstanding policy of Arab states to boycott Israel. Whether they were driven by this newer movement is difficult to assess. BDS acknowledges this on its website, saying, "Of course, support for Israel remains deeply entrenched, but the BDS movement is showing that it can become a hugely powerful tool in ending Western support for Israeli apartheid and settler colonialism."



# NATO Suspends CFE Treaty Amid Russian Withdrawal



- 
- Recently, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) has announced the formal suspension of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), a key Cold War-Era Security Treaty in response to Russia's pullout from the deal.



What is the Background of Russia's Pullout from CFE?

About CFE Treaty:

The CFE Treaty, signed in 1990 and fully ratified in 1992, aimed to prevent massing of conventional armed forces by NATO and Warsaw Pact countries near mutual borders during the Cold War.

**2007**

Russia's Withdrawal: Russia had suspended its participation in the CFE Treaty in 2007 and formally announced its intention to withdraw in 2015.

The recent move to finalise the withdrawal came after the Russian President signed a bill denouncing the treaty in May 2023.

**May 2023**

A complex network diagram with nodes of varying sizes and colors (black, purple, grey) connected by thin lines, set against a dark grey background. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some larger nodes acting as hubs. The lines are thin and grey, creating a web-like structure.

# Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Awards

## What is Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP)?

### Included Awards:

- **Vigyan Ratna Awards:** These awards will recognise lifetime achievements & contributions made in any field of science and technology.
- **Vigyan Shri Awards:** These awards will recognise distinguished contributions to any field of science and technology.



**Vigyan Team Awards:** These awards are to be given to a team comprising three or more scientists/researchers/innovators who have made an exceptional contribution working in a team in any field of science and technology.



**Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB):** These awards are the highest multidisciplinary science awards in India for the young scientists (maximum 45 years).

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# Complete Gk/Gs Notes



**BY BHUNESH SIR**



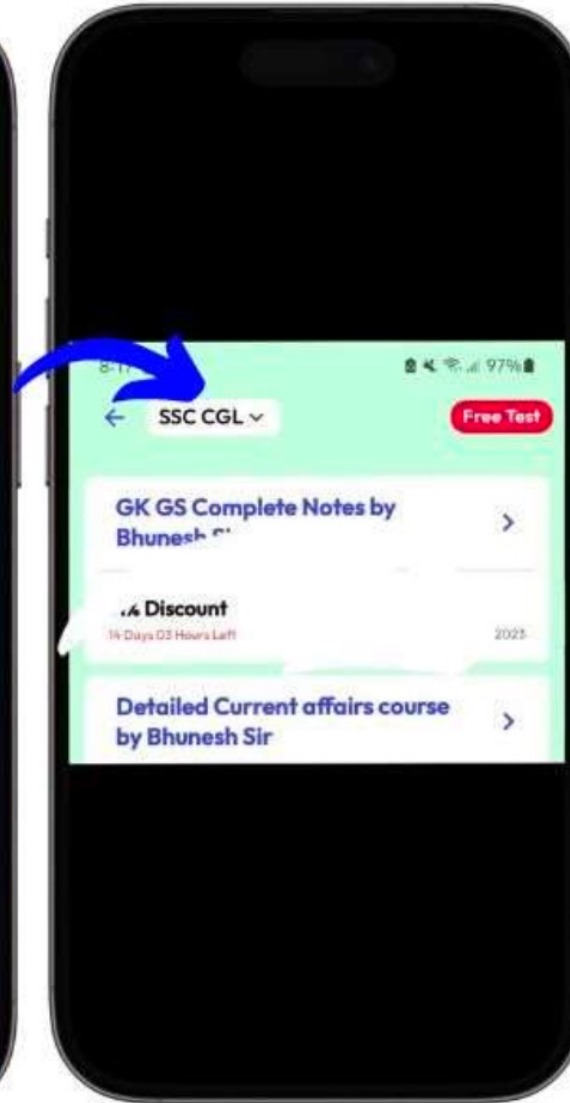
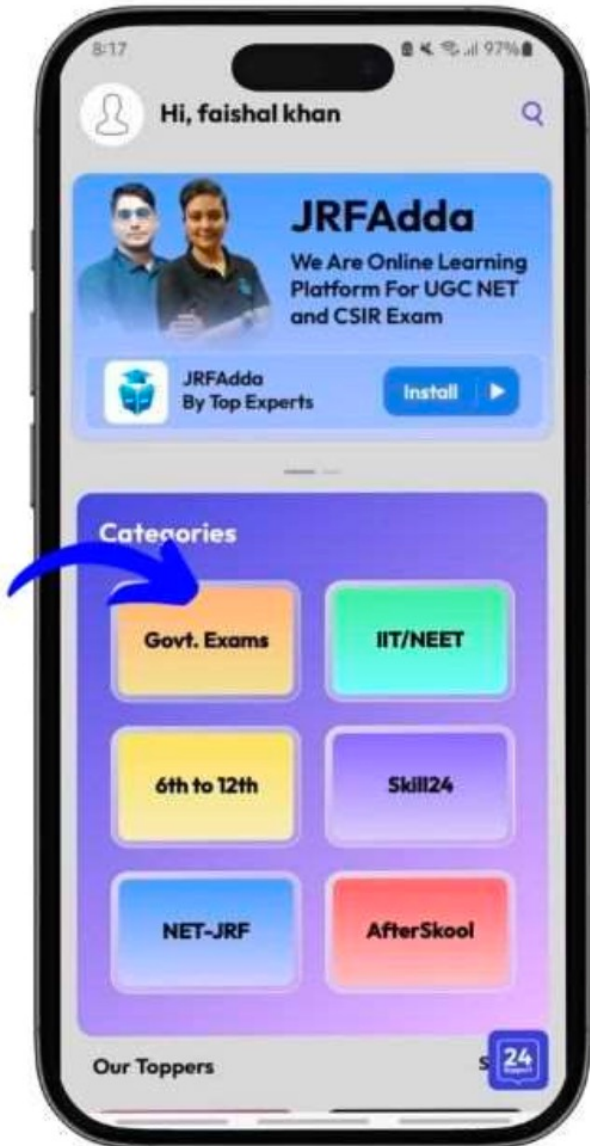



# Step-1

# Step-2

# Step-3

# Step-4



A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, with some wearing suits. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. The overall mood is celebratory and professional.

Thank you  
guys.

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