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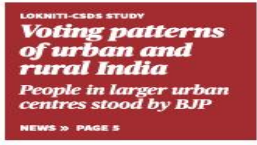
DELHI IN CRISIS  
SC orders release of water from Himachal States » PAGE 2



CONFERENCE OF PARTIES  
Azerbaijan to host 29th climate meet  
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UTTARAKHAND TRAGEDY  
Bodies of four more trekkers recovered  
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Voting patterns of urban and rural India  
People in larger urban centres stood by BJP  
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INDIA'S TALLESMAN  
Chhetri bids adieu after a stellar career  
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**INSIDE**  
**'Norwegian firms showing lot of interest in India'**  
COPENHAGEN  
Norwegian businesses are showing a lot of interest in India and a manifold increase in cooperation between the two countries is expected in the next 10 years, May-Elin Steiner, Ambassador of Norway to India, said on Thursday. » PAGE 7

**Report says India 'second-biggest threat' to Canada**  
NEW DELHI  
A parliamentary committee report in Canada has described India as the second biggest foreign threat to the country's democracy. The revelations of the report added to the negative state of the bilateral relations between the two countries. » PAGE 8

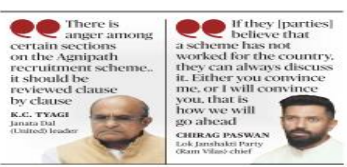
**Food price rise likely sped up in May; cost tracker**  
NEW DELHI  
Food inflation may have hardened in May, as average cost of home-cooked meal rose 5%, to hit a four-month high. Tomato, onion and potato prices surged about 40%, while inflation in rice and pulses held firm, CRISIL food-costs tracker shows. » PAGE 10

**Militia groups' attack on Syrian village kills 100**  
CAIRO  
At least 100 persons were killed and dozens were injured after the paramilitary Raïst Support Forces attacked a village in Gzeira province in Sudan on Wednesday, officials said. Women, children, and the elderly were among the victims in the attacks. » PAGE 12

# Conduct caste survey, review Agnipath scheme: JD(U to BJP

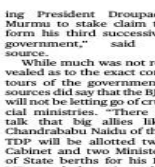
Remove shortcomings of the short-term recruitment scheme for armed forces, says party leader Tyagi; LJP (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan says the scheme has not worked; NDA parliamentary party meeting today; Modi to take oath on June 9

**Nistala Hebbar**  
**Sobhana K. Naik**  
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Amid meetings being held by National Democratic Alliance partners to form a government, two allies of the BJP said on Thursday that the new government should review the Agnipath scheme for short-term recruitments to the armed forces.  
Janata Dal(U) leader K.C. Tyagi told *The Hindu* that "there is anger among certain sections on the Agnipath scheme. Our party wants those shortcomings removed." He said that even Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had not refused a review when asked about the scheme during the polls. "The Agnipath scheme should be re-



K.C. TYAGI  
Janata Dal (United) leader

viewed clause by clause," the JD(U) leader said. Mr. Tyagi also said that on the issue of a caste census already undertaken by the Bihar government led by the JD(U) last year, "there is no party that can now refuse to conduct a caste survey. Bihar has shown the path. Prime Minister Narendra Modi too didn't oppose it in all-party delegation. Caste-based census is the call of the hour. We will pursue it."



CHIRAG PASWAN  
Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief

where Chief Ministers of the BJP-ruled States, along with all MPs, will be present. Mr. Modi will be taking oath of office on June 9. "A resolution, electing Prime Minister Modi as the leader of the NDA parliamentary party will be passed in that meeting, after which he will be meet-

## March into the past



Enthusiasts don Second World War-era attire of the U.S. forces and parade along the Utah Beach in France on Thursday to mark the 80th anniversary of the launch of 'Operation Overlord' by the allied forces in Normandy which turned tide of the war. AFP/GETTY (OPPOSITE PAGE 12)

## NEET aspirants call for re-test alleging discrepancies

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI  
Citing widespread irregularities in how the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to medical colleges was conducted, a section of aspirants on Thursday wrote to the National Testing Agency (NTA) and the Union government, requesting a re-examination. They highlighted an alleged question paper leak in Bihar, hidden grace marks, "illogically high" scores, an unexpected number of full scores, and very high cut-off scores.

FULL REPORT » PAGE 9

## Ajit holds emergency meetings; Fadnavis rushes to New Delhi

Expected success of the overall performance of our coalition in the State and at the Centre has not been up to expectation either... no MLA from our side is going anywhere," Mr. Tatkare said. He was responding to a question by Sharda Pawar faction MLA Rohit Pawar, who said that 16-18 MLAs of the Agit faction were in touch with the NCP (SP).



Shommojit Banerjee  
PUNJAB

Amid the crisis engulfing the ruling Mahayuti coalition in Maharashtra following its rout in the Lok Sabha election, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar summoned emergency meetings of his National Congress Party (NCP) faction leaders on Thursday. BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who had offered to quit the post, reached Delhi to meet the BJP top brass.

A flurry of meetings were held by Mr. Ajit at his residence in Mumbai, to take stock of the party's disastrous poll performance. The meetings took place amid swirling rumours that several legislators of Mr. Ajit's faction were reportedly in touch with the rival NCP (SP) faction headed by his uncle Sharda Pawar, which scored a stunning victory in the election proving to his nephew that the electorate had rejected the manner in which Mr. Ajit split the NCP to align with the BJP last year.

Stressing that "not even a single MLA will go over to Sharda Pawar's side", NCP (Ajit faction) State chief Sunil Tatkare claimed instead that some legislators from the Sharda Pawar-led faction were reportedly in touch with his party. "The core group meeting took stock of our performance in the Lok Sabha election. While we have not been able to secure the

FULL REPORT » PAGE 6

## Gaza hospital says 37 killed in strike on UN school; Israel flags militant presence

**Agence France-Press**  
GAZA STRIP  
A Gaza hospital said at least 37 people were killed in an Israeli strike on Thursday on a UN-run school that the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) alleged housed a " Hamas compound".  
The raid came after U.S., Qatari and Egyptian mediators resumed talks aimed at securing a truce and hostage-prisoner swap in the nearly eight-month war triggered by Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel.  
The military said it had "eliminated" several militants in a "precise strike on a Hamas compound embedded inside an UNRWA school" just before 2 a.m.

## Rahul calls June 4 stock market crash a 'scam'; demands parliamentary probe

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI  
Alleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were "directly involved" in the June 4 stock market crash that "wiped out" ₹30 lakh crore of investor wealth, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Thursday demanded a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) investigation.  
At a press conference at the Congress headquarters, Mr. Gandhi referred to the June 4 crash as "the biggest stock market scam" one that pushed up the markets after "fake" exit polls, saw a record transaction on June 3 and then crashed a day later when the votes were counted.  
"We want to ask a few questions: why did the PM and Home Minister invest in the stock markets? Is it their job to give investment



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi on Thursday. (AP/WIDE WORLD)

is the connection between the BJP, the fake exit pollsters, and the dubious foreign investors, who invested one day before the exit polls were announced and made huge profits? We demand a JPC (probe) into this," he said.  
"Fake exit polls" He said Mr. Shah advised people to "buy shares before June 4" on May 13 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, on May 15, asserted that the stock market "will break all records on June 4". He asserted that the top BJP leadership was aware that the exit polls were "fake".  
"BASELESS ALLEGATIONS" » PAGE 6

# Conduct caste survey, review Agnipath scheme: JD(U) to BJP

Remove shortcomings of the short-term recruitment scheme for armed forces, says party leader Tyagi; LJP (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan says the scheme has not worked; NDA parliamentary party meeting today; Modi to take oath on June 9

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viewed clause by clause,” the JD(U) leader said.

Mr. Tyagi also said that on the issue of a caste census already undertaken by the Bihar government led by the JD(U) last year, “there is no party that can now refuse to conduct a caste survey. Bihar has shown the path. Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi too didn’t oppose it in all-party delegation. Caste-based census is the call of the hour. We will pursue it.”

## ‘No preconditions’

Mr. Tyagi said his party had no preconditions in forming the government.

Another ally in the NDA, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan also said the Agnipath scheme should be reviewed at the appropriate time. “It is too early to

There is anger among certain sections on the Agnipath recruitment scheme.. it should be reviewed clause by clause

**K.C. TYAGI**  
Janata Dal  
(United) leader



If they [parties] believe that a scheme has not worked for the country, they can always discuss it. Either you convince me, or I will convince you, that is how we will go ahead

**CHIRAG PASWAN**  
Lok Janshakti Party  
(Ram Vilas) chief



comment on issues like this. Every party has its own agenda and concerns, and they have equal right to voice them... Either you convince me, or I will convince you, that is how we will go ahead,” he said.

The NDA’s parliamentary party meeting will be held on Friday morning

where Chief Ministers of the BJP-ruled States, along with all MPs, will be present. Mr. Modi will be taking oath of office on June 9.

“A resolution electing Prime Minister Modi as the leader of the NDA parliamentary party will be passed in that meeting, after which he will be meet-

ing President Droupadi Murmu to stake claim to form his third successive government,” said a source.

While much was not revealed as to the exact contours of the government, sources did say that the BJP will not be letting go of crucial ministries. “There is talk that big allies like Chandrababu Naidu of the TDP will be allotted two Cabinet and two Minister of State berths for his 16 MPs, and there is a demand for three Ministries from the JD(U),” added a source. The BJP is unlikely to give up its claim on the Lok Sabha Speaker’s position either, in a House that is much more tightly held than before.

**RELATED REPORTS**  
» PAGES 2,3 & 7



# 65.79% turnout in 2024 Lok Sabha election, says EC

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The just-concluded Lok Sabha election saw a total voter turnout of 65.79%, the Election Commission (EC) said on Thursday. The turnout in the 2019 election was 67.4%.

The poll panel also said the final figures for 2024 could change as these did not include postal ballots. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar had said earlier that a total of 64 crore voters had exercised their franchise.

Lakshadweep recorded the highest voter turnout at 84%, followed by Assam at 81%. The lowest turnout was recorded in Bihar at 56.19%, Uttar Pradesh (56.92%) and Mizoram (56.87%) were the other low turnout States.

The EC said the overall voter turnout for the seventh phase was 63.88%.

Mr. Kumar, along with

Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, met President Droupadi Murmu and submitted the list of MPs elected to the 18th Lok Sabha.

"A copy of the notification issued by the Election Commission of India, in terms of Section 73 of the Representation of People's Act, 1951, containing the names of the Members elected to the House of the People following the General Elections to the 18th Lok Sabha, was submitted by them to the President," a Kashtrapati Bhavan communique said.

Once the list of MPs is handed over to the President, the formal process to constitute the Lok Sabha will begin.

Narendra Modi is set to take oath on June 9 for a third consecutive term after the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won a majority.

# Rahul's allegations of stock market scam 'baseless': BJP

Foreign investors bought stocks at a high price and sold at low price, domestic traders only benefited from it and did not incur losses, says Prayush Goyal refuting the Cong. leader's claims

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI



BJP leader Prayush Goyal addresses a press conference at the party headquarters, in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

BJP leader Prayush Goyal termed as "baseless" Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's allegations of a stock market "scam" based on the exit polls done by various survey agencies and his demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the matter.

At a press conference held at the BJP's national headquarters in New Delhi, Mr. Goyal went into great detail refuting specific allegations made by Mr. Gandhi.

"In April and May, when the market was rising, foreigners sold in the market and Indian investors took advantage of it and bought it. The benefit of this rise in the last two months has

been received by Indian investors. The day the exit poll came, foreigners bought at high prices and Indian investors sold at high prices and took profit," he said.

Noting that foreign investors had bought stocks worth ₹6,850 crore in India at high prices and In-

"So foreigners bought at a high price and sold at a low price. Indian investors sold at a high price and bought at a low price. In a way, Indian investors earned even in this period. It began at 11 a.m. at the Congress headquarters on Saturday.

"The purchase and sale of what matters. And foreigners incurred losses in that. Indian investors have benefited. So retail investors bought it with the belief that the Modi government was returning.

# NHRC seeks report on Nata Pratha practice

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued notice on Thursday to the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development and the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat to submit a report on a practice known as *Nata Pratha*. The girls in some communities of these States are sold either on stamp paper or otherwise in the name of illegal or child marriage, mostly by their own families.

Given the immoral consequences, the Commission has called for its eradication and abolition.

The States have been directed to submit a report on measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard within eight weeks.

It suggested that individuals involved in forcing women into *Nata Pratha* must be prosecuted under laws relating to human trafficking.

# Cooperation with India to see manifold increase, says Norwegian Ambassador

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

Norwegian businesses are showing a lot of interest in India and a manifold increase in cooperation between the two countries is expected in the next 10 years, May-Elin Stener, Ambassador of Norway to India, said on Thursday.

In an interaction with journalists of *The Hindu* in Chennai, while responding to a question on the role of Norway in the recently signed trade pact between India and the four-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA) bloc, Ms. Stener said, "We expect a manifold increase in cooperation between Norway and India over the next 10 years."

Norwegian businesses are showing a lot of interest in India. EFTA is the fifth-largest and fastest-growing economy in the world. The treaty has immense importance because the Western busi-

nesses also feel secure and confident about the work for them to operate within."

She said Norway will contribute a lot in terms of promoting investments in India.

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# Cong. to hold CWC meet tomorrow to discuss poll results

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) will meet on Saturday to discuss the Lok Sabha results and the future course of action. The meeting will be chaired by party president Mallikarjun Kharge and will begin at 11 a.m. at the Congress headquarters on Saturday.

The party has put up its best performance in the past decade, winning 99 of the 328 seats it contested as part of the INDIA bloc. In 2019, its tally was 52, which was not enough to win the official position of the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha.

With the Leader of the Opposition's office assured, a section of the party wants former Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to assume that position. The issue could be

A section of the party wants Rahul Gandhi to assume the position of Leader of Opposition

raised in the meeting of the CWC — the highest decision-making body of the party.

There may be a discussion on which of the two seats Mr. Gandhi should retain for political reasons. He had won from two constituencies, Wayanad in Kerala and Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh.

Top Congress leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, and Piyush Goyal, Yashoda, besides other leaders would participate in the deliberations.

The party is also hosting a dinner for all its newly elected MPs on Saturday evening.

# Trinamool Congress not satisfied with 'wait and watch' policy of INDIA bloc

Sobhana K. Nair NEW DELHI

The Trinamool Congress is not wholly satisfied with the INDIA bloc's strategy of taking the "appropriate steps" at the "appropriate time", arguing that the Opposition does not have the luxury of sitting around for the next five years. Lobbying for more votes for their position, Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Thursday met Sambalpur State BJP president Akhilesh Yadav in Delhi and flew to Mumbai to meet Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray.

The two meetings, some days after the INDIA bloc meeting where it was resolved that the bloc, while remaining vigilant, will wait and watch, will be a meeting, according to sources, Mr. Banerjee had suggested that the resolution should include a sentence categorically stating



(From left) Derek O'Brien, Ram Gopal Yadav, Akhilesh Yadav, in New Delhi. ANI

that the bloc will keep the doors open for N. Chandrababu Naidu's BJP and Nitish Kumar's JD(U). But this suggestion was rejected, as many felt that the bloc need not spell it out.

Mr. Banerjee had also said that three BJP MPs were in touch with his party and could change sides.

"Modi's BJP ran the government for the last 25 years. He and his government have been REJECTED," Trinamool's Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien said.

# 'Modi has said he is open to all suggestions'

It is not easy for an alliance to come back to power for a third time, introspection on why it failed to achieve the 400-seat target will have to wait till government formation, says the LJP(RV) chief, alleging that the Opposition ran a false campaign on reservation, he says it won't work all the time

INTERVIEW Chirag Paswan NEW DELHI

Sobhana K. Nair NEW DELHI

With the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) set to begin its third consecutive term, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) president Chirag Paswan speaks about the election results, coalition politics and his expectations from the government. Edited excerpts:

The LJP(RV) had a 100% strike rate, winning all seats it fought, but your ally, the BJP, fell short of the 370-plus target. It set this time. What do you think went wrong for the party?

At times, you set such high goals for yourself that if you fall short, people start

asking questions. It is not easy for a government to come back to power for a third time. This has happened only for the second time in seven decades, with a Prime Minister returning for a third consecutive term. The alliance will need to introspect on why it did not reach the 400-seat target. But this exercise has to wait till government formation. I am not sure if I should say this on record. But in Wednesday's meeting of NDA allies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that he is open to all suggestions and that this platform is open for all discussions. I am confident that in the 2029 election, we will achieve the 400-seat target.

But the Opposition claims that this is a mandate against Mr. Modi and a defeat for his arrogant style of governance. Your thoughts.



Calling someone arrogant is not a crime. It is a crime to step in to deride them. Anyone who has met our Prime Minister knows that he is the most humble person, who is easily available and open to suggestions. Illustrates that the Prime Minister heard and responded to us.

One of the key narratives of the 2024 election was that "reservation" was in danger. Your comments.

We always had a space in the NDA. In 2018, following

The Opposition ran a false narrative. I believe those raising such doubts are the ones who do not trust Babubhai B.K. Ambedkar's vision.

The Constitution is indestructible. It is not a joke. No one can end reservation. In 2015 too, the Opposition played on this fear in Bihar, but such false conspiracy theories will not work every time. Why would the Prime Minister, who has worked for 25 years under this Constitution, take any step to destroy it?

What is your party's stand on the Uniform Civil Code, which many expect Mr. Modi to push for in his third term?

It is too early to comment on the UCC, there is no need to rush. We need to understand India is a country of plurality and diversity. To bring all these varied cultural identities under

one umbrella is a gigantic task. For example, in Uttar Pradesh, where the State government has implemented the Uniform Civil Code, people have been exempted. The problem is that the UCC is only seen through the communal perspective and ends up being treated as a divisive issue. We forget that there are various regional variations in Hinduism too.

In the end, the UCC will be adopted only through a consensus within the alliance. We will discuss it every ally's suggestions and addressing their apprehensions.

Do you think the Vajpayee model of NDA should be followed with a convener and organised structure of consultations?

# Independent MP from Sangli extends support to Congress

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Vishal Patil, Independent MP-elect from the Sangli constituency in Maharashtra, met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday and extended his unconditional support to the party in a formal letter.

Mr. Patil also met Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and former party chief Rahul Gandhi at their official residence.

Asked when he would formally join the Congress, Mr. Patil said, "Once you get elected as an Independent, you extend support but there are some technical difficulties in joining. After consulting experts, I will do whatever I can do for the road ahead."

Pappu Yadav, who won the support of the elected MP from Sangli, Shri Vishal Patil (@patilvishal) to the Congress party."



Vishal Patil

"This is a truly fitting move which takes the legacy of Congress stalwart Santalada Patil ji forward," All India Congress Committee general secretary K.C. Venugopal said on X.



# 65.79% turnout in 2024 Lok Sabha election, says EC

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

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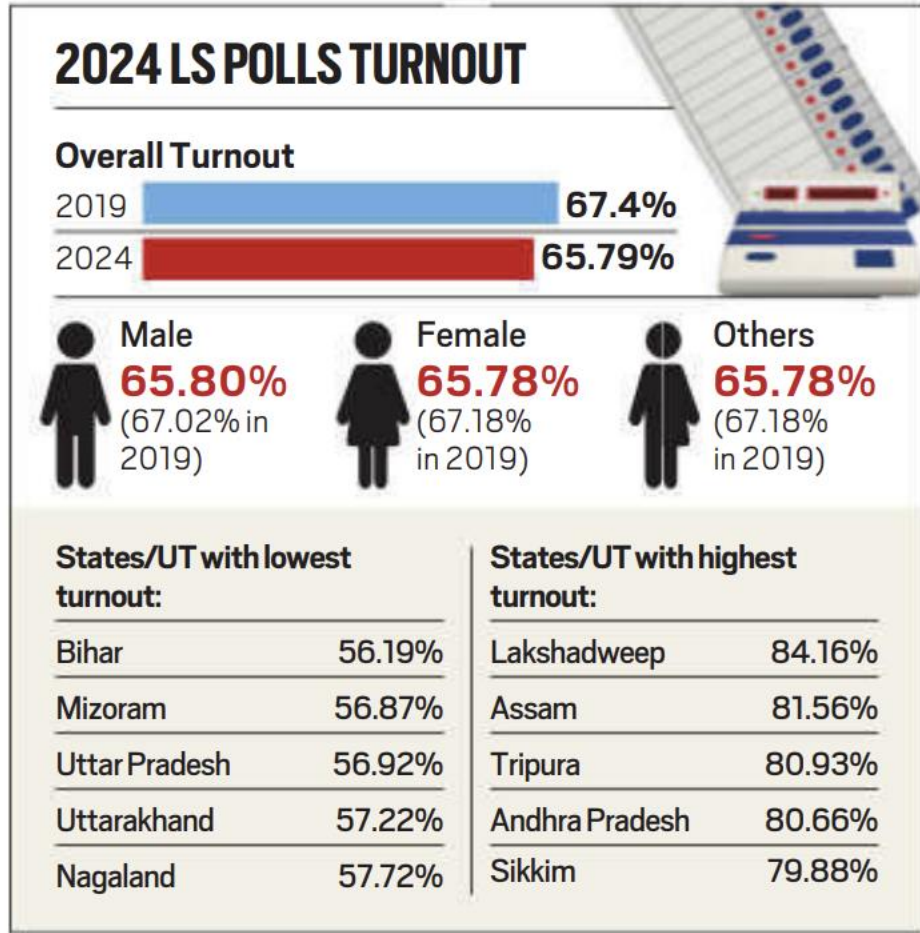
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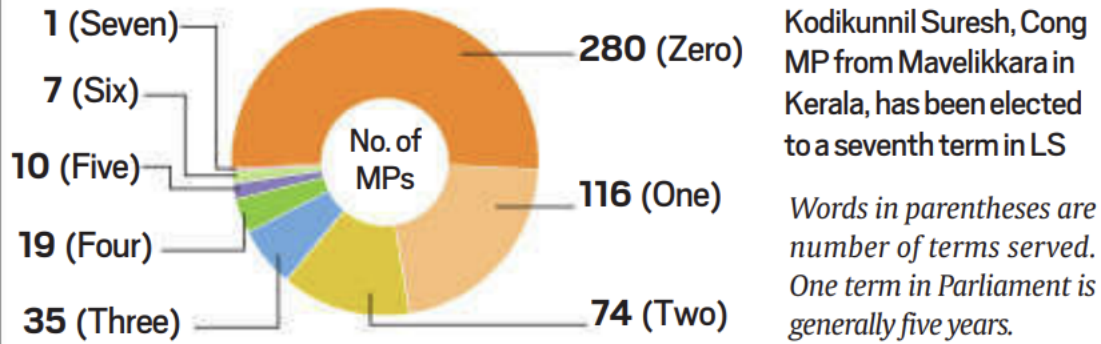
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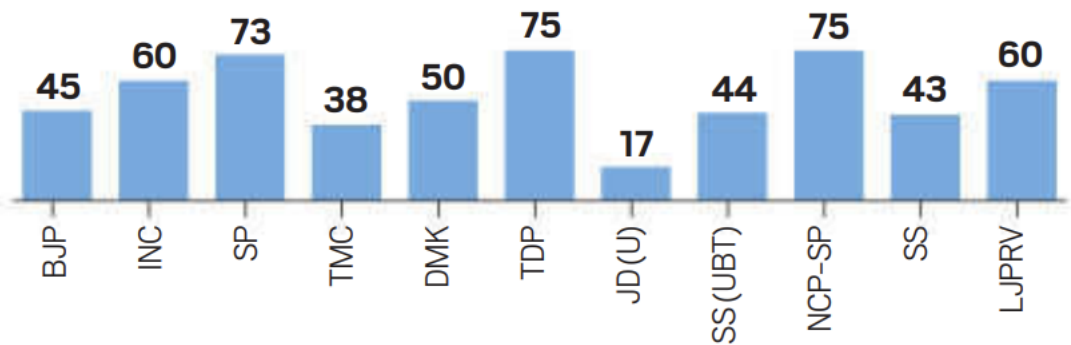


# Profile of the 543: How new Lok Sabha looks by age, professions

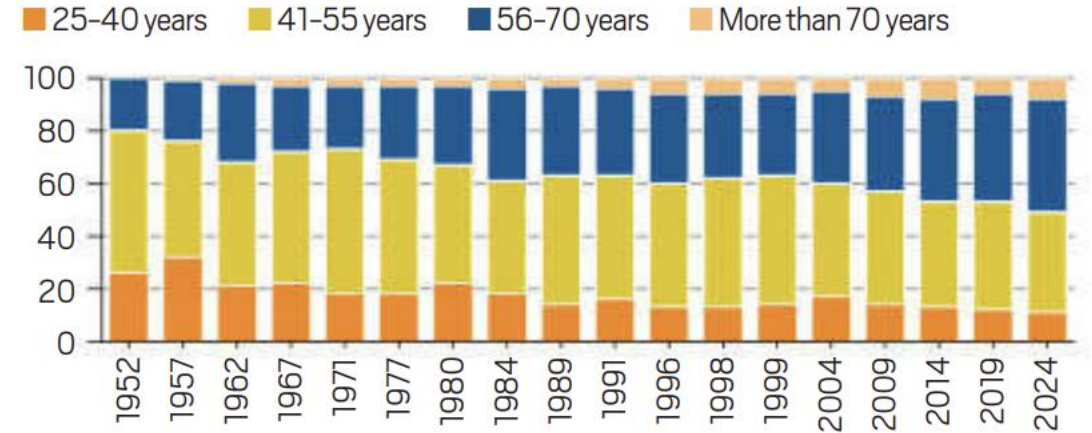
## LS TERMS SERVED: 52% OF ALL MPs ARE FIRST-TIMERS



## % FIRST-TIMERS BY PARTY: 3 OUT OF 4 TDP, NCP-SP MPs

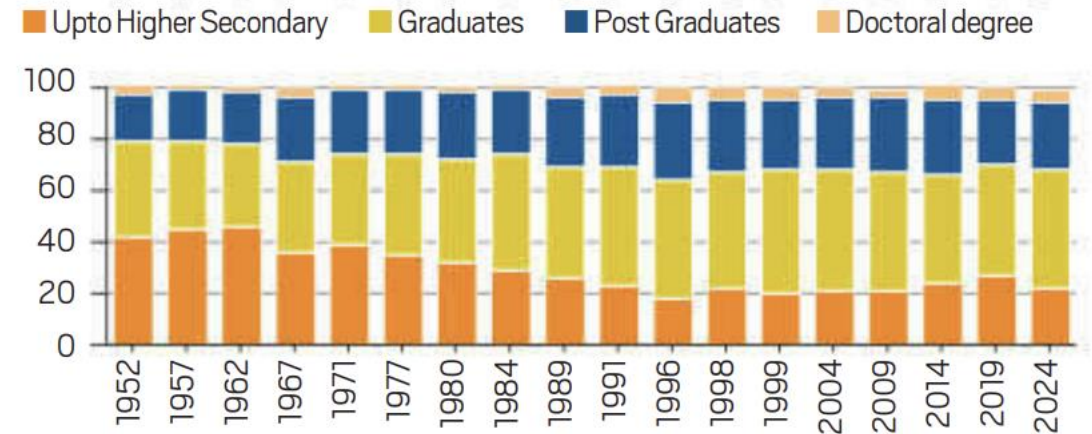


## AGE PROFILE OF LS: PARLIAMENT IS GETTING OLDER



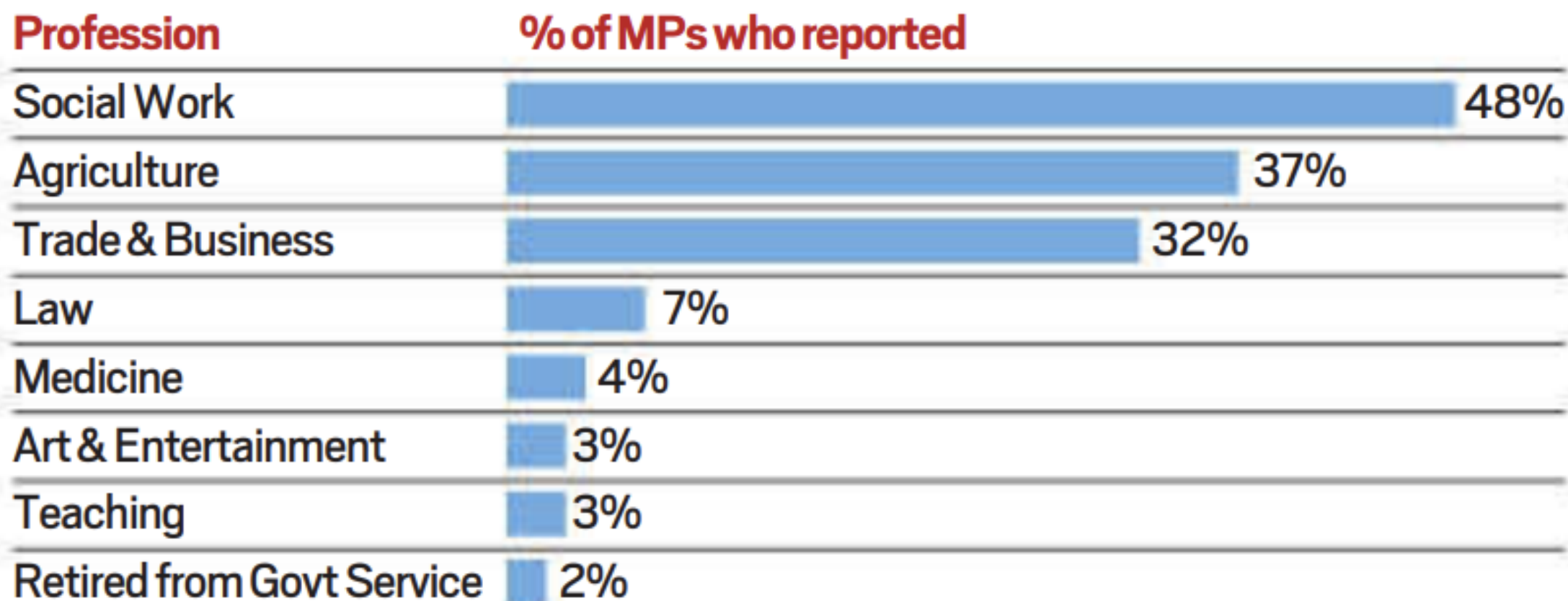
Average age of MPs in 18th Lok Sabha is 56 years. Only 11% of MPs are 40 or younger.

## EDUCATION PROFILE: ALMOST 80% MPs ARE GRADUATES



5% of MPs in 18th Lok Sabha have doctoral degrees. Among them are three women MPs.

## PROFESSIONS: FARMERS & SOCIAL WORKERS DOMINATE



*Candidates can report more than 1 profession in their affidavit*

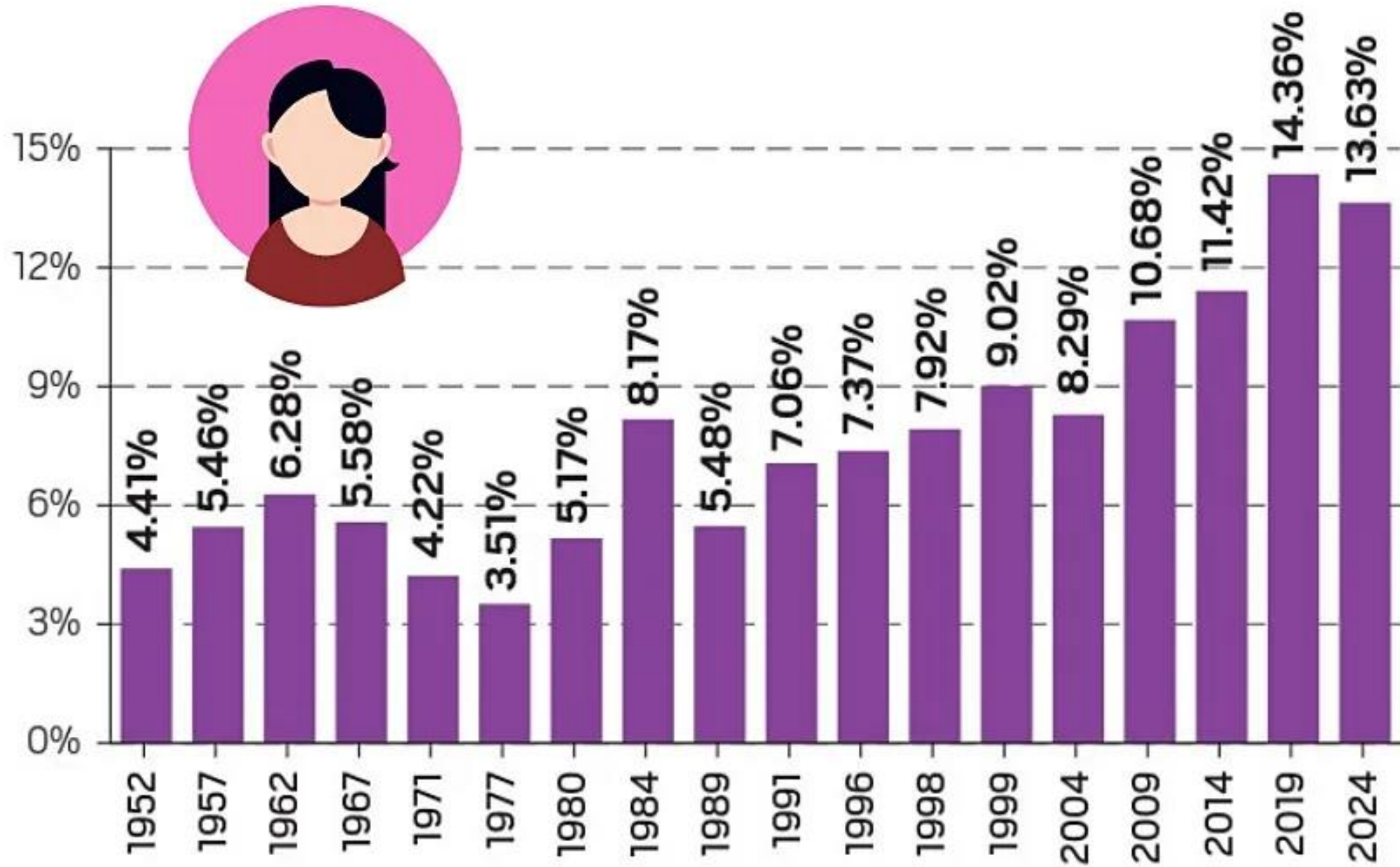
70% of MPs in 2014 had a job in the public sector, 40% had a job in the private sector



India has elected 74 women MPs to Lok Sabha in the 2024 general election four less than in 2019 and 52 more than in India's first elections in 1952.

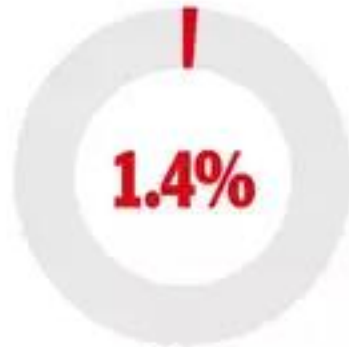
These 74 women make just 13.63% of the elected strength of the Lower House compared to 46% of MPs in South Africa, 35% in the UK, and 29% in the US. Indira Gandhi has been India's first and only woman Prime Minister.

# CHANGE IN WOMEN'S STRENGTH IN LOK SABHA OVER THE YEARS





## STATE NOTA PERCENTAGE



2014



2019



2024

### TOP 5 THIS YEAR

	NOTA	Total voters	Percentage
DINDIGUL	22,120	11,43,196	1.93%
SRIPERUMBUDUR	26,450	14,35,243	1.84%
TENKASI	17,165	10,31,961	1.66%
TIRUPPUR	17,737	11,35,998	1.56%
CHENNAI CENTRAL	11,163	7,28,614	1.53%

**Notable Reforms by  
Previous Coalition  
Governments:P V  
Narasimha Rao  
Government (1991-1996)**

**Deve Gowda  
Government (June 1996-  
April 1997):  
Dream Budget**

**Atal Bihari Vajpayee  
Government (March  
1998-May 2004):**

**Fiscal Responsibility &  
Budget Management  
(FRBM) Act:**

**Manmohan Singh  
Government (2004-  
2014):**

**Rights Based Reforms:**



IN BRIEF



Statues shifted on Parliament premises; Cong. slams move

Statues of Mahatma Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, Chhatrapati Shivaji and others have been removed from their original place on the Parliament premises and shifted to a lawn near the old building as part of a landscaping exercise, a move that drew criticism from the Congress on Thursday. All the statues are now at the same place...

FIR lodged over medical student's remarks on Prophet

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Thursday lodged a first information report (FIR) against a medical student for allegedly posting "blasphemous" content against Prophet Muhammad at the Government Medical College, Srinagar. The post evoked protests on the college campus.

NIA arrests terror accused in Imphal for 'waging war'

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday arrested another accused from Imphal Airport in the case it had registered in July last year related to an alleged transnational conspiracy by terror outfits based in Myanmar and Bangladesh to "wage war" against the Government of India by exploiting the current ethnic unrest in Manipur.

China protests PM's comment on closer ties with Taiwan

China on Thursday protested over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comment that he looked forward to having closer ties with Taiwan and insisted that New Delhi should resist the Taiwan authorities' "political calculations". China views Taiwan as a rebel province that must be reunified with the mainland.

Pro-Khalistan slogans raised at Golden Temple

The Hindu Bureau CHANDIGARH

Slogans favouring Khalistan (Governor's state for Sikhs) were raised on the premises of the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar on Thursday during the 60th anniversary of Operation Bluestar.

Most commercial establishments and educational institutions remained closed in the city amid a call for an "Amritsar shutdown" by radical Sikh outfits to commemorate the day.

Supporters and activists of Dal Khalsa, and Sikh hardliners led by the radical Sikh leader and president of the Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar), Simranjit Singh Mann, raised slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" during the congregation of Sikh devotees.

Giani Ragbir Singh, chief priest of the Akal Takht, the highest Sikh temporal seat, raised the issue of Bandi Sikhs (Sikh prisoners who had completed their terms), saying that not releasing them is an unfair treatment of the Sikhs by the Union government.

Bengal post-poll clash victims can file complaints with DGP-IC

Court says they can submit complaints by email, and seeks report from the police chief after 10 days; violence was reported across several districts with BJP and CPI(M) supporters facing assault

Sikh Sahay Singh

Expressing concern over post-poll violence in West Bengal, the Calcutta High Court on Thursday issued a directive allowing the affected people to submit complaints to the State's Director-General of Police (DGP) by email.

A Division Bench comprising Justices Kaushal Chanda and Apurba Sinha Roy directed that any person who was a witness to, or was a victim of, any post-poll violence could directly lodge a complaint with the DGP.

The court was hearing a petition filed seeking directions to the police in the wake of alleged post-poll violence.

The court said the police station concerned should register an FIR immediately if the complaint revealed a cognisable offence. The Bench added that FIRs would be uploaded immediately on the website of the West Bengal Police, which, along with



Tense times: Security personnel and local people during a clash on the day of the final phase of polls in North 24 Parganas district. (PI)

Central forces, would, if necessary, work together to protect the life and property of the citizens. Emphasising the State's responsibility to prevent recurrence of such incidents, the court directed the DGP to file a report after 10 days about the number of complaints filed and steps taken.

BJP workers in fear Hundreds of Bharatiya Janata Party supporters have taken shelter in different

offices of the party, alleging that they were attacked by supporters of the ruling Trinamool Congress.

"I have come to meet the affected people in the area. Tonight, I am travelling to Delhi and will speak to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and request him to extend the duration of the presence of Central forces in the State," said Mr. Manjharu.

Violence was reported in North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas districts of the State, along with certain districts of north Bengal. A section of central forces deployed in the State for the Lok Sabha election will stay on till June 16 to contain post-poll violence.

Leader of the Opposition in West Bengal, Mr. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, urged Governor C.V. Ananda Bose to visit violence-affected areas. The Trinamool Congress has won 29 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in West Bengal, restricting the BJP to 12.

Kangana 'slapped' by CISF constable at airport

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Kangana Ranaut, BJP MP from Union Territory of Himachal Pradesh, alleged on Thursday that she was slapped by a woman constable of the Central Industrial Security Force as she was passing through the Chandigarh airport.

The constable has been suspended from duty. Ms. Ranaut posted on X: "The incident occurred at the Chandigarh airport during the security check. As I went through the security check, the lady CISF officer from adjacent cabin approached me and hit me on the face and abused me. I asked her why did she do it, to which she replied that she supported the farmers' protest. While I am safe, my concern is that how shall we handle the ongoing terrorism in Punjab."

Several farmer outfits have alleged that she had made derogatory remarks against farmers during the 2020-21 protest. The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee demanded an unbiased investigation to find out if Ms. Ranaut made provocative remarks at the airport.

Months after six persons were jailed for terror charges for allegedly breaching the security of the new Parliament building, the Delhi Police are all set to file charges against the suspects in a city court on Friday. Delhi Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena accorded sanction to prosecute a preacher who was murdered by the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

On December 13, 2023, two of the six accused jumped into the Well of the Lok Sabha activating colour spray canisters hidden in their shoes. The accused, who allegedly breached the Parliament security to protest against the government's handling of issues such as unemployment and farmers' crisis, have been in jail for the past six months as police sought extensions to file the chargesheet.

Parliament breach: Delhi police to file chargesheet

Vijalita Singh NEW DELHI

NEET aspirants allege discrepancies, urge NTA to hold re-test

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Citing widespread irregularities in how the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to medical colleges was conducted, a section of aspirants on Thursday wrote to the National Testing Agency (NTA) and the Union government, requesting for a re-examination.

They highlighted an alleged question paper leak in Bihar, hidden grade marks, "illogically high scores, an unexpected number of full scores, and very high cut-off scores. Over 2,000 persons have signed the petition. "We, the undersigned students and concerned citizens of India, are writing to bring to your immediate attention the serious irregularities and discrepancies observed in the recently conducted NEET examination. Our future and the integrity of the education system are at stake, and we cannot remain silent about these issues," it said.

"Many students received different marks on their score sheets compared to their OMR sheets. These discrepancies were not due to grace marks." Aspirants have also pointed out that the mid-term revision of syllabus added further confusion and unfairness to the examination process.

While students have demanded a re-examination, the NTA in a statement has denied the integrity of the exam has not been compromised. However, it has also said that the NTA had registered cases against impersonators, where action against "unfair means cases" has been taken according to the existing rules, including the cancellation of candidature.

The NTA has not commented on students' grievances of mismatch between OMR sheet scores and the final result score they received.

India is now 'second-biggest foreign threat' to Canadian democracy, says report

Kallid Bhattacharjee NEW DELHI

A parliamentary committee report in Canada has described India as the second-biggest foreign threat to the country's democracy. The revelations of the report added to the negative state of the bilateral relations between the two countries, which have been caught in a diplomatic spat since the June 2023 killing of a pro-Khalistan ideologue in Surrey, British Columbia.

"India emerged as the second-most significant foreign interference threat to Canada's democratic institutions and processes," said the existing rules, including the cancellation of candidature. The report said that the "slowly increased" but at the same time the restriction has become expand-



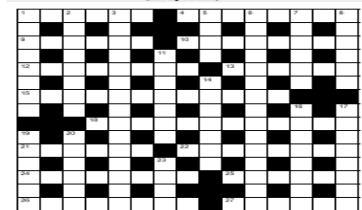
India has alleged that Canada has allowed space of operation to pro-Khalistan elements.

ed. "It became clear during the period of this review that its efforts had extended beyond countering what it perceived as pro-Khalistani efforts in Canada to include interfering in Canadian democratic processes and institutions, including through the targeting of Canadian politicians, ethnic media and Indo-Canadian ethnic communities," the report said, while describing China as the topmost foreign threat to Canada's democracy.

While such threat assessments are part of the Canadian government's practice, the focus has increasingly shifted to China and India in recent years. Canada and India have seen heated diplomatic exchange since the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18, 2023, which led to the suspension of pro-Khalistan preacher who was murdered by the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Subsequently, in September, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had said Nijjar was murdered by "agents of the Government of India". Following this, India had put a pause on issuing visas to Canadian citizens. Earlier this year, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service had pointed fingers at foreign countries, including India, for being involved in the election process of Canada. The Centre had denied that allegation.

TH CROSSWORD 14195 (set by Arden)



- Across 1 Helps to follow extremely powerful material (6) 4 Somehow bear with it, need to return to the city (8) 5 Sea creatures order, regularly seen with a head gear (6) 10 He is on top of the bridge on a small ship (8) 12 Journalistic order, not just satirical (8)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site @ https://qrps.page.link/HPTn

- 13 Greek and German shrine (6) 15 Fail to invite a tenant farmer (4,1,7) 18 Best to back hundred and one (6,2,4) 21 Come back to a distiller (6) 22 Generate fancy drink (5,3) 24 Show off food with fire (8) 25 Run around parts of London, it's a swindle (6) 26 Shepherd stories, half of them have copy (8) 27 See obstruction in the button hole (6) Down 1 Royalty gets 50% over land (8) 2 Byzantine fort with guns all around - examples of creativity (3,5) 3 Copy link for a card game (9,6) 4 Tribal men guard one that beats (4) 6 Recovered glory incorporating last of the exotic dance (5,2,8) 7 Close to the country manor (6) 8 Slender direction pointer (6) 11 He waves a flag and on one of three of them (7) 14 Somehow press got the identity of these black widows (7) 16 Day time, it's money city (8) 17 A day spent in modest surroundings is immoral (8) 19 Language bill, teacher allowed without copy (6) 20 Even boot strap, what a capital! (6) 23 Industrial action exposed the capital (4)

SUDOKU

A 9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers filled in. The grid is: 4 9 2 6 1 3 8 7 5; 5 3 8 4 2 7 6 1 9; 8 3 1 6 2 3 2 4 7; 6 2 3 6 1 4 9 7 8; 3 7 2 7 5 1 6 8 4; 9 3 2 6 1 3 8 7 5; 4 7 5 1 9 3 2 6 8; 1 8 7 2 9 5 3 3 6; 3 8 6 2 4 1 5 9 4; 5 9 7 3 6 2 4 8 1; 1 6 9 4 8 9 7 6 2; 8 2 9 3 7 6 4 1 5.

Additional puzzles including a 10x10 grid and a 15x15 grid, along with a difficulty rating of 3 stars.

FAITH Parental affection

Lakshmana asks Sumantra to tell Dasaratha that his son Lakshmana does not respect him. Rama is everything to him - brother, father and all relatives.

Dasaratha is relieved to hear this, said Velukkudi Krishnan in a discourse. He feels that of his four sons Lakshmana is the best.

Dasaratha's favourite son is Rama. Naturally, anyone who cares for Rama becomes dear to him. Rama reciprocates Lakshmana's affection.

After Dasaratha's death, Rama says that he does not feel he has lost his father, for in Lakshmana he sees a caring parent. Sumitra's words to Lakshmana match his mood and desire. She tells Lakshmana that he should go happily to the forest. She urges him to look upon Sita as his mother. Rama must be seen as his father.

So, both Dasaratha and Sumitra wanted Lakshmana to see everyone in Rama. And this is as it should be, for is not the Lord the parent of everyone in this world? Arjuna is stumped when the Lord shows him His Visvarupa. Who is equal to Krishna, he asks.

In the next sloka, Arjuna regrets the way he took liberties with Krishna. A parent forgives his child for his mistakes. Likewise, Arjuna wants Krishna to forgive him. Arjuna had treated him like an ordinary playmate. He had ordered Krishna around. It is only now that he knows that Krishna has no beginning or end.

Arjuna prays that Krishna being the parent of the whole world must look upon his mistakes kindly, and forgive him.

# India is now ‘second-biggest foreign threat’ to Canadian democracy, says report

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**

NEW DELHI

A parliamentary committee report in Canada has described India as the second-biggest foreign threat to the country’s democracy. The revelations of the report added to the negative state of the bilateral relations between the two countries, which have been caught in a diplomatic spat since the June 2023 killing of a pro-Khalistan ideologue in Surrey, British Columbia.

“India emerged as the second-most significant foreign interference threat to Canada’s democratic institutions and processes,” said the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians report.

It stated that alleged interference by India has “slowly increased” but at the same time the operation has become expand-



India has alleged that Canada has allowed space of operation to pro-Khalistan elements.

ed. “It became clear during the period of this review that its efforts had extended beyond countering what it perceived as pro-Khalistani efforts in Canada to include interfering in Canadian democratic processes and institutions, including through the targeting of Canadian politicians, ethnic media and Indo-Canadian ethnocultural communities,” the report said, while describing China as the topmost foreign threat

to Canada’s democracy.

While such threat assessment is part of the Canadian government’s practices, the focus has increasingly shifted to China and India in recent years. India and Canada have seen heated diplomatic exchange since the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar on June 18, 2023, when the pro-Khalistan preacher was murdered by unknown assailants in Surrey.

Subsequently, in September, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had said Nijjar was murdered by “agents of the Government of India”. Following this, India had put a pause on issuing visas to Canadian citizens. Earlier this year, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service had pointed fingers at foreign countries, including India, for being involved in the election process of Canada. The Centre had denied that allegation.



**IN BRIEF**

**IOB opens exclusive branch for start-ups in Chennai**

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) said it had opened its maiden, exclusive start-up branch in Chennai aimed at providing "bespoke financial services and robust support to budding entrepreneurs and emerging enterprises". MD & CEO Ajay Kumar Srivastava inaugurated the branch on Anna Salai. On Thursday, the public sector lender unveiled an "IOB Start-up current account" and a credit scheme "IOB Pragati" for financing start-ups, and on boarded 35 start-ups.

**Quality control norms relaxed for import of polyester fibre**

Textile and garment exporters importing polyester and viscose fibres under Advance Authorisation, Export Oriented Unit, and Special Economic Zone schemes have been exempted from the mandatory quality control order (QCO). However, the export obligation period for such imports is restricted to 180 days from the date of clearance of import consignments in respect of QCO exemption, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said in a notification on Thursday.

**TVS Srichakra rolls out steel-belted radial tyres**

TVS Srichakra Ltd., the makers of TVS Eurogrip tyres, announced the introduction of steel-belted agro industrial radial tyres at The Tire Cologne 2024 fair held in Cologne, Germany, from June 4-6. This is the first such product in this segment designed for use predominantly in telescopic handlers, compact wheel loaders and backhoe loaders engaged in both agricultural and industrial applications, the tyre manufacturer said in a statement.

**NCLT gives approval for Vistara, Air India merger**

Jagriti Chandra  
NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the merger of Vistara with Air India (AI) allowing nine months for the dissolution of the former. Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd. will hold 73.38% stake in the merged entity and Singapore Airlines 25.1%. The balance 1.52% will be held by SHIGAP Trustee Ltd. on behalf of Air India Employee Settlement Trust.

"Capacity expansion" TII CPO A.N. Meeypappan said \$500 crore would be set aside for building capabilities in the engineering as well as metal part to AI.

**'India HNWI's wealth rises to \$1,446 billion'**

The Hindu Bureau  
BENGALURU

The number of high net-worth individuals (HNWIs) in India rose 12.2% in 2023 vs 2022, bringing the total number of HNWIs to 3,589 million, as per The Capgemini Research Institute's World Wealth Report 2024. The financial wealth of India's HNWIs rose 12.4% in 2023 to \$1,445.7 billion. Market buoyancy in 2023 sparked a \$3.8 billion increase in the country's HNWI's wealth. Among the best performers in the APAC region were India and Australia, which recorded HNWI wealth growth of 12.4% and 7.9%, and HNWI population growth of 12.2% and 7.8%,

**'Food price rise likely sped up in May'**

CRISIL's food plate cost tracker finds vegetarian meal costs surged 9% year-on-year last month compared with the 8% gain in April, when official retail food inflation was 8.7%. Cost of a non-vegetarian thali dropped 7% as broiler prices declined 16%

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Food inflation may have hardened in May, as the average cost of a home-cooked vegetarian meal rose 9% compared with April's 8%, to hit a four-month high. Tomato, onion and potato prices surged about 40%, while inflation in rice and pulses held firm, CRISIL's food costs tracker shows.

Faced inflation, as measured by the official retail price rise gauge — the Consumer Price Index (CPI), had sped to a four-month high of 8.7% in April from

**Veg thali dearer**

Food inflation may have hardened in May, as the average cost of a home-cooked veg thali quickened to a four-month high

- Tomato, onion and potato prices surged about 40%, while rice, pulses inflation held firm.
- CRISIL's food costs tracker shows non-veg thali was at the second-highest level in 5 months at ₹52.9.
- Vegetarian meals cost an average of ₹27.8 per person in May

8.5% in March, with rural consumers witnessing a sharper uptick of 8.75%. Overall retail inflation stood at 4.83% in April. The National Statistical Of-

ffer stood at the second-highest level in five months at ₹52.9. Vegetarian meals cost an average of ₹27.8 per person in May, up slightly from ₹27.4 in April, the CRISIL Market Intelligence and Analytics Real Time Rate report reckoned.

Tomato gains so far. There was a price rise of 39%, 47% and 43% in tomato, potato and onion respectively, reflecting a slight softening in tomato inflation, which was 40% in April. Potato and onion prices rose faster than the 38% and 40% recorded in the previous month.

Prices for rice, which makes 13% of a vegetarian meal cost, and pulses, which account for another 9%, rose 13% and 21%, respectively, in May. Gramin, chilli and vegetable oil prices fell 37%, 25% and 8%, respectively, offsetting the spikes in other components of a vegetarian meal.

**'Local air passenger traffic rose 5.1% in May'**

Press Trust of India  
MUMBAI

Domestic air-passenger traffic grew 5.1% year-on-year to an estimated 138.5 million in May and was significantly higher by about 14% than pre-COVID levels, credit ratings agency ICRA said on Thursday.

ICRA also said the outlook for the Indian aviation industry is stable amid continued recovery in domestic and international air-passenger traffic with a relatively stable cost environment and expectations of the trend continuing in FY2025.

The airlines' capacity deployment in the previous month increased 6%

year-on-year and about 2% higher in April 2024. According to the agency, the domestic air-passenger traffic for FY24 was about 154 million, with a year-on-year growth of about 13%. It thus surpassed the pre-COVID levels of about 142 million in FY2020, the ratings agency said.

**ECB cuts interest rates even as inflation fight is far from over**

Reuters  
FRANKFURT

The European Central Bank went ahead with its first interest rate cut since 2019 on Thursday, citing progress in tackling inflation even as it acknowledged the fight was far from over.

ECB said it expected inflation to average 2.2% in 2025, up from a previous estimate of 2% and meaning it had locked in the start of a major ECB easing cycle only a few weeks ago, not as it appears more uncertain due to signs that inflation may prove sticky, as it has in the United States.

Cutting its deposit rate to 3.75% from a record-high 4.0%, the ECB gave no indication whether that would be followed by a further easing in July. "We are not pre-committing to a particular rate path," ECB President Christine Lagarde told a press conference. "Despite the progress over recent quarters, domestic price pressures remain strong as wage growth is elevated, and inflation is likely to stay above target well into next year," she added.

**'Tube Investments to set aside ₹500-cr. capex for core business'**

N. Anand  
CHENNAI

Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TII) will be setting aside ₹500 crore for capex on its core business in FY25, while its subsidiary TII Clean Mobility Pvt. Ltd., (TICMPL) will allocate ₹477 crore in the EV space, said a top company executive.

"We'll be investing close to ₹500 crore in this financial year for the TII core business," Executive Vice Chairman Velayuthan Subbiah said during an analysts call.

"Capacity expansion" TII CPO A.N. Meeypappan said ₹500 crore would be set aside for building capabilities in the engineering as well as metal part to AI.

mobility is concerned, TICMPL plans to set aside ₹72 crore for e-three wheelers, ₹31 crore for e-trucks, ₹277 crore for small commercial vehicles (SCVs) business, ₹71 crore for medium and heavy commercial vehicle (M&HCV) business and some marginal investments in several R&D efforts, said MD K.K. Paul.

Talking about the company's production plans, he said the e-3W plant had the capacity to manufacture 75,000 units. Capacity would be augmented to manufacturing about 50,000 SCVs and 25,000 tractors. Yet another line would be added for M&HCV trucks, taking the total capacity to about ₹500, he added.

**Regulator SEBI expands promoter definition for IPO-bound companies**

Ashley Coutinho  
MUMBAI

The exchanges have expanded the promoter definition for companies applying the market for an initial public offering, said two people in the know.

According to current SEBI regulations, the definition of someone who controls the affairs of the company or can appoint the majority of directors or is named in the articles of incorporation. Earlier, founders holding 25% were deemed as promoters by virtue of having negative control and the power to block special resolution.

For the past year or so, SEBI has been insisting that founders of IPO-bound companies holding 10% or more classify themselves as promoters. SEBI has yet to introduce a consultation paper or any amending regulations to put this view into practice, according to experts.

What norms say The new guidelines now go a step further by saying founders collectively holding 10% will also be promoters if they or their immediate relatives (KMP) or a director in the company. Even the immediate relative of the promoter will be classified as a promoter if she/he is on the company board or a KMP. So, if one of the promoters who hold 10% or more in the company, either directly or indirectly, will also be deemed promoters.

**SEBI issues framework for surveillance lapse penalty**

K. Ram Kumar  
MUMBAI

SEBI came out with a framework on "framework of incentives" for market infrastructure institutions (MIIs) that would impose a penalty ranging from ₹1 lakh to ₹1 crore for each instance of surveillance lapse during the financial year.

The penalty for each instance of lapse will vary from ₹1 lakh (if annual revenue of MIIs is less than ₹500 crore) to ₹25 lakh (if annual revenue is greater than ₹1,000 crore).

The new framework will be applicable from July 2024. "The general objective of surveillance by MIIs is to monitor the market to detect and deter manipulation or abusive trading, that affects the integrity of the market and to provide information that supports the regulator's enforcement actions," SEBI said.

**MARKETS**

**MARKET WATCH**

	RETRADING	% CHANGE
Sensex	75,875	0.93
Nifty 50	8,124	0.40
BSE Midcap	73,263	0.69
BSE Small cap	7,984	0.30

**NIFTY 50**

	PRICE	% CHG
Adani Group	1,339.85	1.28
Adani Power	262.00	27.50
Adani Ports	227.00	28.60
Amba	1,370.55	35.25
Axis Bank	777.00	92.20
Bajaj Finance	1,020.45	65.15
Bajaj Services	1,020.45	65.15
BPCL	384.25	7.08
Infosys	1,489.45	7.82
ICICI	1,477.80	29.80
ICICI Bank	475.80	12.44
Infosys	1,489.45	83.80
Indus Towers	1,489.45	83.80
ITC	1,489.45	83.80
KPIA	1,489.45	83.80
Larsen & Toubro	1,489.45	83.80
Maruti Suzuki	1,489.45	83.80
ONGC	1,489.45	83.80
Power Grid Corp	1,489.45	83.80
Reliance Ind	1,489.45	83.80
SBI	1,489.45	83.80
State Bank	1,489.45	83.80
Sun Pharma	1,489.45	83.80
TCS	1,489.45	83.80
Tata Consumer	1,489.45	83.80
Tata Steel	1,489.45	83.80
Tata Textiles	1,489.45	83.80
Tata Motors	1,489.45	83.80
United Bank	1,489.45	83.80
Wipro	1,489.45	83.80

**EXCHANGE RATES**

	BUY	SELL
US Dollar	83.20	83.20
Japan	60.57	60.57
UK Pound	75.26	75.26
Switzerland	75.26	75.26
Singapore Dollar	61.88	61.88
Malaysia Ringgit	37.78	37.78
Hong Kong Dollar	80.50	80.50

# 'India must spend up to \$385 bn for RE goal'

**Reuters**

BENGALURU

India will have to invest as much as \$385 billion to meet its target of 500 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy (RE) by 2030, but coal will remain a key source of electricity generation for the next decade, Moody's Ratings said.

India, a major greenhouse gas emitter, said it aims to ramp up non-fossil fuel capacity set by 50 GW each year to help meet 500 GW target. It missed its target of 175 GW by 2022.

Moody's, however, estimates an annual capacity addition of about 44 GW will help achieve the goal.




For that, India will have to spend \$190 billion to



\$215 billion on capacity over the next six to seven years and another \$150 billion to \$170 billion for transmission and distribution, the credit ratings agency estimates.

India's strong policy support boosted the RE share to about 43% in its power capacity mix in fiscal 2023-24, attracting private investments.





# Renewable energy in India

**Present status** of India with respect to renewable energy

**103.05GW**

Share of Renewable energy in electricity installed capacity

**38.27%**

Share of Renewable energy in electricity installed capacity

**26.96%**

Share of electric energy generated by renewable sources

## Renewable Energy target of India



Become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2070



Produce **500 GW** from renewable energy by **2030** and **175 GW** by **2022**



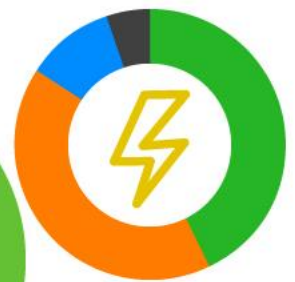
Produce **100 GW** from solar energy by **2022**

## Break-up of the total energy installed from different renewable sources



**4<sup>th</sup>**

India's position in the world with respect to overall renewable energy capacity

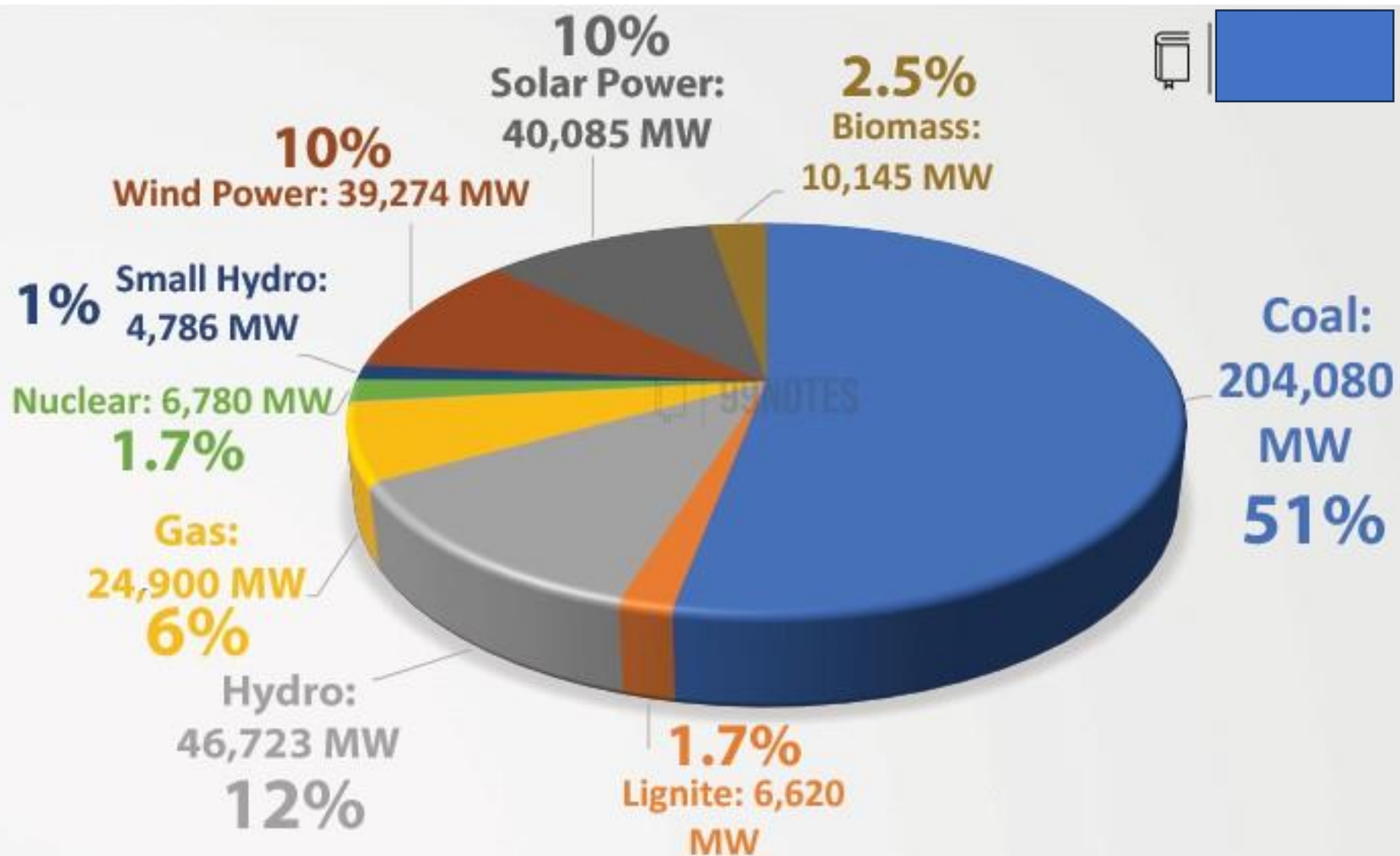


**4.79GW**  
Small Hydro Power

**41.09GW**  
Solar Energy

**39.44GW**  
Wind Energy

**10.34GW**  
Biomass



**Installed Energy Generation Capacity in India**





# RENEWABLE ENERGY



## MARKET SIZE

Installed Renewable Energy Capacity^ (in GW)



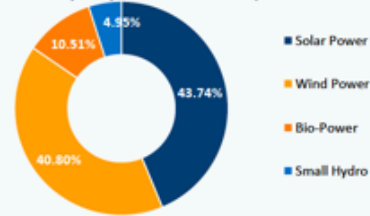
As of July 2021, India had 96.96 GW of renewable energy capacity, and represents 25.2% of the overall installed power capacity, providing a great opportunity for the expansion of green data centres.

Note: ^ - Includes wind, solar, bio power and small hydro; \*Until June 2021



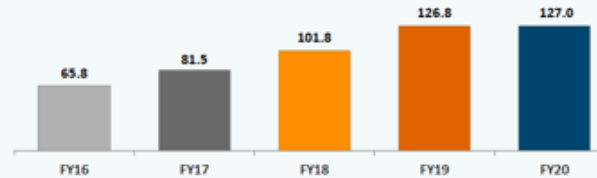
## SECTOR COMPOSITION

Installed Capacity for Different RES (as of June 2021) (GW)



## KEY TRENDS

Electricity Generation from RES (billion unit)



## GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



Green Energy Corridor



Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy



Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects



## ADVANTAGE INDIA

- Robust demand:** In June 2021, Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi stated that renewable energy capacity in India increased by 250% between 2014 and 2021 and the country ranks among the top five globally in terms of installed renewable energy capacity.
- Competitive advantage:** India ranked third on the EY Renewable Energy Country Attractive Index. As per the British Business Energy, India ranks third on renewable energy investments and plans. India was ranked fourth in wind power, fifth in solar power and fourth in renewable power installed capacity, as of 2020.
- Policy support:** In July 2021, to encourage rooftop solar (RTS) throughout the country, notably in rural regions, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy plans to undertake Rooftop Solar Programme Phase II, which aims to install RTS capacity of 4,000 MW in the residential sector by 2022 with a provision of subsidy.
- Increasing Investments:** Non-conventional energy sector received FDI inflow of US\$ 10.02 billion between April 2000 and March 2021.

### KYIV Ukraine destroys Russian tugboat in Crimea: military intelligence



Ukrainian forces destroyed a Russian tugboat on the coast of the Moscow-annexed Crimean peninsula early on Thursday, Kyiv's GUR military intelligence said. Greyscale footage published by the GUR showed what appeared to be a drone quickly approaching a ship on a body of water before the connection is lost. **AP**

### TEHRAN 30 held in raid by Iran police on 'satanist' gathering, say state media



Iranian authorities have arrested 30 people suspected of belonging to a "satanist network" at an event with "alcoholic drinks", a local media, Fars news agency, reported on Thursday. A total of 18 men and 12 women were arrested at a gathering in the northern province of Mazandaran, the agency reported. **AP**

### BERLIN Olaf Scholz backs deportation of 'criminals' after policeman killed



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Thursday that "serious criminals" should be deported, even if they come from Syria or Afghanistan after an Afghan asylum seeker stabbed a police officer to death. He also said glorifying acts of terror was "against all our values", and could in future be punished with deportation. **AP**

### YEMEN 18 killed in clashes between Yemen government forces and Houthis



At least 18 combatants have been killed in battles between Yemeni government forces and Iran-backed Houthi rebels in the country's southwest, military officials said on Thursday. The attack came despite a lull in fighting that has largely held since the expiry of a six-month truce brokered by the United Nations in April 2022. **AP**

## Spain to join South Africa's Gaza case at top UN court

'We want peace to return to Gaza,' says Spanish Foreign Minister; Mexico, Colombia, Nicaragua, Libya, and the Palestinians waiting for the ICJ to grant approval to their requests to join the case

Associated Press  
BARCELONA

Spain became the first European country to ask a United Nations court for permission to join South Africa's case accusing Israel of genocide in Gaza.

South Africa filed its case with the International Court of Justice late last year. It alleged that Israel was breaching the genocide convention in its military assault that has laid waste to large swaths of Gaza. The court has ordered Israel to immediately halt its military offensive in the southern Gaza city of Rafah but stopped short of ordering a cease-fire for the enclave. Israel has not



Latest move: Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares holds a press conference at his Ministry headquarters in Madrid. **AP**

complied and shows no sign of doing so. "We take the decision to support the ongoing military operation in Gaza," Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Albares said in Madrid. "We want peace to return to Gaza and the Middle East, and for that to happen we must

all support the court," said the south of Wad-al-Noura, clashing with the Sudanese army. "Our forces will not stand idly by in the face of any movements or gatherings by the enemy and will work to pursue and defeat the enemy," said the RSF in its statement. The war between the RSF and the Sudanese army has wrecked the country as clashes spread across multiple cities and pushed its population to the brink of famine. More than 14,000 people have been killed and thousands have been wounded. Hundreds of thousands have been displaced.

Hammas triggered by its deadly October 7 attacks in southern Israel. Once admitted to the case, Spain would be able to make written submissions and speak at public hearings. Spain's request is the latest move by the government of Socialist Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez to support peacemaking efforts in Gaza. Spain, Ireland, and Norway formally recognised a Palestinian state on May 28. While Mr. Sanchez has condemned the attacks by Hamas and joined demands for the return of the remaining Israeli hostages, he has not shied away from the diplomatic backlash from Israel. His backing of the Palestinians is generally supported in Spain.

### Soldier killed in Hezbollah drone strike, says Israel

Agence France-Presse  
JERUSALEM

The Israeli military said on Thursday a soldier had been killed in a drone strike launched by Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah group, the latest fatality in months of border clashes.

Staff Sergeant Refael Kauders "fell fighting in the north" on Wednesday, the military said on its website. In a briefing to reporters, military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Peter Lerner said Kauders, 39, was killed in a Hezbollah drone attack that struck the northern Israeli town of Hurfa. "It has devastating result, of course, of a soldier killed," Mr. Lerner said.

The *Times of Israel* newspaper reported that the attack also left nine troops wounded.

## Zelenskyy attends D-Day events, seeks Western aid to check Russia's invasion

Associated Press  
KHARKIV

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy joined world leaders in France on Thursday to commemorate the D-Day invasion and seek more Western help even as his forces battled to stave off a Russian onslaught near the eastern city of Kharkiv in Europe's biggest conflict since World War II.

Mr. Zelenskyy and his wife, Olena, attended the 80th anniversary events in Normandy with U.S. President Joe Biden and European leaders who have supported Kyiv's efforts in the war, now in its third year. He will meet with French officials in Paris on Friday.

Ukraine is fighting to hock a recent Russian push in eastern areas, in-



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his wife Olena arrive at the international ceremony in Normandy on Thursday. **AP**

cluding the border regions of Kharkiv and Donetsk. The offensive seeks to exploit Kyiv's shortages of ammunition and troops along the roughly 1,000-kilometer front line.

Ukraine has framed the conflict as a clash between Western democratic freedom and Russian tyranny. Russia says it is defending

itself against a menacing eastward expansion of the NATO military alliance. Overnight, Ukrainian forces struck an oil refinery along the roughly 1,000-kilometer front line. Ukraine has framed the conflict as a clash between Western democratic freedom and Russian tyranny. Russia says it is defending

## 100 killed in militia group's attack on Sudan village

Associated Press  
CAIRO

At least 100 persons were killed and dozens were injured after the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces attacked a village in Gezira province in Sudan on Wednesday, officials said. Women, children, and the elderly were among the victims in the attacks by the Rapid Support Forces on Wad al-Noura village in Gezira, Mini Arko Minawi, the governor of Darfur province, said on X.

A grassroots group set up to protect residents in Wad Madani, the capital city of Gezira, said late Wednesday on social media that the paramilitary force, which has been fighting the Sudanese army for over a year, used heavy artillery to besiege and attack the village.

The Madani Resistance Committee, which has been threatened and attacked by the RSF in the

**The war between the Sudanese army and RSF has wrecked the country and pushed its population to the brink of famine**

past, accused the paramilitaries of looting Wad al-Noura in the midst of the attacks which it said started Wednesday morning. The RSF claimed in December that it had seized control of Wad Madani, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) southeast of the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, and a haven for hundreds of thousands of people displaced by fighting.

**Residents displaced**  
The resistance committee said the RSF invaded the village, displacing residents, including women and children, to other parts of the district of al-Managil.

The Sudanese transi-

tion government in a statement on its Telegram channel condemned the attacks and called for the international community to hold the RSF accountable.

"The paramilitary group said it attacked three camps west, north and south of Wad-al Noura, clashing with the Sudanese army. "Our forces will not stand idly by in the face of any movements or gatherings by the enemy and will work to pursue and defeat the enemy," said the RSF in its statement.

The war between the RSF and the Sudanese army has wrecked the country as clashes spread across multiple cities and pushed its population to the brink of famine. More than 14,000 people have been killed and thousands have been wounded. Hundreds of thousands have been displaced.

### Space journey



Mission success: The United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket with Boeing's CST-100 Starliner spacecraft launches from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, carrying veteran astronauts Barry Wilmore and Sunita Williams to the International Space Station. **AP**

### 'First fatal human case of H5N2 bird flu identified'

Agence France-Presse  
GENEVA

The World Health Organization said on Wednesday a person in Mexico had died in the first confirmed human case globally of infection with the H5N2 variant of bird flu.

The patient, who died on April 24 after developing fever, shortness of breath, diarrhoea, and nausea, had "no history of exposure to poultry or other animals", and "multiple underlying medical conditions", the WHO said.

Mexican health authorities reported the confirmed case of human infection with the virus to the UN health body on May 23, after a 59-year-old was taken to hospital in Mexico City. The WHO said the case was the "first laboratory-confirmed human case of infection with an influenza A(H5N2) virus reported globally".

The source of exposure to the virus was unknown, although cases of H5N2 have been reported in poultry in the country.

According to the UN health body, H5N2 cases affected poultry in the state of Michoacan in Mexico, with other outbreaks identified in the State of Mexico. But it has established a link between the human case and the poultry infections was so far impossible, estimating the risk to people as "low".

A different variant of bird flu, H5N1, has been spreading for weeks among dairy cow herds in the United States, with a small number of cases reported among humans.

## Climate conference in November to emphasize 'peace' and 'truce'

Jacob P. Koslow  
BAKU

The annual climate conference to be held here in November will lay particular stress on "peace" and "truce" to enable countries to focus on climate solutions amid ongoing conflicts, a top adviser to the Azerbaijan government said at a media briefing this week.

The 29th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP) — as the climate con-

ference is called — is set to open in Baku, Azerbaijan, on November 11, and concluded in the 28th edition in Dubai such as a firm commitment to "transition away from the use of fossil fuels... in a just, orderly and equitable manner, and accelerating action in this critical decade, to achieve net zero by 2050."

The choice of Azerbaijan as the host means that it will preside over COP-29 proceedings and try to steer countries into agreeing consensus on address-



A view of Dubai's Expo City, the venue where the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP-28 was held. **FILE PHOTO**

ing the climate crisis. Most countries have agreed on the urgency of the problem

by the end of century. A "long-standing criticism and a matter of deep division between developed and developing countries is that a 2009 commitment by developed countries to mobilise \$100 billion a year between 2020 and 2025 for developing countries has only been partially realised. A major item that is expected to be firm up in 2024 is to decide a new annual target above \$100 billion and agreement on whether

these will be in the form of grants or loans. However, deliberating on all these would require an atmosphere of peace. "We are now seeing that geopolitically the world is in a Cold War-like situation," said Hikmet Hajiyev, top adviser to Azerbaijan President, Ilham Aliyev. "The world is divided but Azerbaijan's position is that the climate issue is something different. Countries can be on different sides on geopolitical mat-

ters but climate affects everybody and needs an inclusive process. So, we are proposing a COP-truce. During the COP (meeting), all cannons should stop." He said this in reference to the Russia-Ukraine war. Mr. Hajiyev said he had sounded out the UN on this and as an example he highlighted the recent cessation of hostilities between Azerbaijan and Armenia. (The writer was part of a South-Asia media delegation invited to Azerbaijan)



## *Space journey*



**Mission success:** The United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket with Boeing's CST-100 Starliner spacecraft launches from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, carrying veteran astronauts Barry Wilmore and Sunita Williams to the International Space Station. AFP



Atlas V is an expendable launch system and the fifth major version in the Atlas launch vehicle family.

Originally designed by Lockheed Martin, now being operated by United Launch Alliance (ULA), a joint venture between Lockheed Martin and Boeing.


It is used for DoD (Department. Of Defense), NASA, and Commercial payloads.

It is America's longest-serving active rocket.

- The mission, heading to the **International Space Station**, aims to establish the **U.S.** with **two operational spacecraft** for **astronaut launches** if successful.

- 



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- **Dragon capsule of SpaceX:**
  - **The Dragon spacecraft is capable of carrying up to 7 passengers to and from Earth orbit, and beyond.**
  - **It is the only spacecraft currently flying that is capable of returning significant amounts of cargo to Earth, and is the first private spacecraft to take humans to the space station.**



-



## Soyuz spacecraft of Russia:

It is a series of spacecraft which has been **in service since the 1960s**. It was designed for the **Soviet space program** by the **Korolev Design Bureau (now Energia)**.

The Soyuz succeeded the **Voskhod spacecraft** and was originally built as part of the **Soviet crewed lunar programs**.

It is launched on a **Soyuz rocket** from the **Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan**.

- **What is Boeing Starliner?**
- **The Boeing Starliner is a spacecraft designed to transport astronauts to space.**
- **It includes a crew capsule, where astronauts reside and which can withstand reentry to Earth, and a service module equipped with life support systems and engines.**
- **While the crew capsule is reusable, the service module is not.**
- **It is more than 4 m wide and can house up to seven astronauts. It can be fit atop an Atlas V rocket.**



- **Purpose:**

- To transport astronauts to and from the **International Space Station (ISS)**, serving as an **alternative to SpaceX's Dragon capsule and Russia's Soyuz**, which were the **only means of transport after NASA's Space Shuttle program ended in 2011.**



# Climate conference in November to emphasise ‘peace’ and ‘truce’

**Jacob P. Koshy**  
BAKU

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A view of Dubai's Expo City, the venue where the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP-28 was held. FILE PHOTO

ing the climate crisis. Most countries have agreed on the urgency of the problem

and the need to keep temperatures from rising 1.5C above pre-industrial levels

by the end of century.

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- COPs are gatherings held within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a multinational treaty established in 1992.
- These meetings, denoted by the acronym COP, serve as the official sessions of the Conference of the Parties.
- During these sessions, participating countries (Parties) evaluate global endeavors aligned with the primary goal of the Paris Agreement, aiming to restrict global warming to approximately 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels.



# UNFCCC

Conference of Parties (COP)

- **Supreme decision-making body** of UNFCCC
- **Meets every year** (unless the Parties decide otherwise)
- Meets in **Bonn**, the Secretariat (unless a Party offers to host the session)
- First COP – held in **Berlin**, Germany (1995)

## COPs and Their Major Outcomes

### COP 3 (1997)

Kyoto, Japan

Adopted **Kyoto Protocol** (legally binded developed countries to **reduce emission targets**)

### COP 7 (2001)

Marrakech, Morocco

**Marrakech Accords** signed (set stage for **ratification of Kyoto Protocol**)

### COP 8 (2002)

New Delhi, India



- **Delhi Declaration** (development needs of the poorest countries)
- **Technology transfer** for climate change (CC) mitigation)

### COP 15 (2009)

Copenhagen, Denmark

Developed countries pledged **up to \$30 billion in fast-start finance** (for 2010-12)

### COP 14 (2008)

Poznan, Poland

- **Adaptation Fund under Kyoto Protocol** launched
- **Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer**

### COP 13 (2007)

Bali, Indonesia

**Bali Road Map and Bali action plan** (on shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing)



## COP 16 (2010)

Cancun, Mexico

- **Cancun Agreements** (assist developing nations in dealing with CC)
- Established: **Green Climate Fund**

## COP 18 (2012)

Doha, Qatar

**Doha Amendment to Kyoto Protocol** (reducing GHG emissions by 18% compared to 1990 levels)

## COP 19 (2013)

Warsaw, Poland

- **Warsaw Framework for REDD Plus**
- **Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage**

## COP 24 (2018)

Katowice, Poland

**Rulebook for Paris Agreement** (actions to be taken as per NDCs)

## COP 21 (2015)

Paris, France

- **Paris Agreement** (global temp. well below 2°C above pre-industrial times)
- **Climate finance** by rich countries
- **yearly \$100bn funding pledge** by rich countries)

## COP 26 (2021)

Glasgow, UK

- India announced **Net Zero Targets 2070**
- India called for "phase-down" of coal-based power
- **Glasgow Breakthrough Agenda** (by 41 countries + India)



### BUSINESS AS USUAL



## China objects after Taiwan congratulates Modi who says thank you

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

THE CHINESE Foreign Ministry, which congratulated Narendra Modi, the BJP and NDA on their election victory, has protested the exchange of messages between Taiwan President Lai Ching-te and Modi on the poll outcome.

On Wednesday, Lai, who was elected Taiwan's President last month, in a post on X, said: "My sincere congratulations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his election victory. We look forward to enhancing the fast-growing #Taiwan-India partnerships, expanding our collaboration on trade, technology & other sectors to contribute to peace & prosperity in the #IndoPacific."

Replying to the message, Modi said: "Thank you @Chingtai for your warm message. I look forward to closer ties as we work towards mutually beneficial economic and technological partnership."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## MODI, NDA PARTNERS TO MEET PRESIDENT TODAY, STAKE CLAIM

# Swearing-in ceremony Sunday on Govt formation, berths intensify

RSS and BJP hold talks, 'share views on poll outcome'

LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

AMID HECTIC parleys on the composition of the incoming Union Council of Ministers led by Narendra Modi, the BJP leadership held a meeting Thursday with senior RSS functionaries including Arun Kumar who is the interface between the party and the Sangh.

The meeting, two days after the BJP lost majority in Lok Sabha following a decade of single-party dominance at the Centre, took place on the day the BJP leadership was huddled in talks to work out a formula for Cabinet formation and negotiations on the nature and participation of partners in the coalition government.

Modi is expected to be sworn in as Prime Minister for a third consecutive term on Sunday evening. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe and India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr. Jaishankar, are also expected to attend the ceremony to which over 8,000 dignitaries have been invited.

Spread over 217 sq km of land, the Amaravati city was TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu's pet project which had taken shape in 2015, barely a



President Droupadi Murmu receives the list of newly elected members to the 18th Lok Sabha from Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Gyanesh Kumar and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu in New Delhi, Thursday. PTI

## Chandrababu back, so is his dream project for Amaravati

NIKHILA HENRY  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

WALKING INTO any small-time real estate agent's office in Tullur village in Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh, one would see on the wall a map — the detailed master plan of the Amaravati capital city.

Spread over 217 sq km of land, the Amaravati city was TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu's pet project which had taken shape in 2015, barely a



TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu meets his newly elected party MPs in Vijayawada on Thursday. PTI

## After Agnipath faces poll fire, ally JDU says 'remove flaws', Chirag agrees



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's JDU ally J.P. Chirag Paswan have asked for a review

DEEPTI TIWARY & SANTOSH SINGH  
NEW DELHI, PATNA, JUNE 6

THE JDU on Thursday added review of the Agnipath defence recruitment scheme to its list of expectations from the new NDA government, apart from four ministerial berths. The party may also push for its long-standing demand of special status for Bihar, now that it is set to be apart of the government at the Centre.

Asked about the JDU's remarks regarding Agnipath, another NDA ally, Chirag Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party (Rajnirahi), told NDTV in an interview: "Prime Minister (Narendra Modi) has said the platform is open for discussions. I believe

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## 'PM, Shah and media house': Rahul demands JPC investigation into market-poll crash link

BJP's Piyush Goyal: Markets mature, retail investors benefited the most

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

SENIOR CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi on Thursday demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the sudden surge of share prices after the exit polls and their plummeting on election results day, and alleged Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Anshu Shah had a role in what he claimed was the 'biggest scam' in the history of



Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Thursday. Anil Sharma

## TMC and Uddhav Sena ask Akhilesh to reach out to Naidu and Nitish

MANOJ CG  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

THE INDIA bloc may have decided to wait and watch developments unfolding in the NDA camp and "take appropriate steps at the appropriate time", but some parties in the Opposition alliance, particularly the TMC and Shiv Sena (Utt), and to some extent the AAP, are pushing hard for exploring options to shore up the bloc numbers to checkmate the BJP



TMC's Abhishek Banerjee with SP's Akhilesh Yadav in New Delhi, Thursday. PTI

### ROPING IN STATES FOR LAND, LABOUR

## Coalition opens space for dialogue, makes tough reforms feasible: CEA

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 6

WILL A reduced mandate for the third consecutive NDA government, set to take oath in two days, curb its reform instincts? Fitch Ratings Thursday said broad policy continuity is expected but with "coalition politics and a weakened mandate" there could be greater reform challenges. Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran, however, thinks otherwise.



Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran

"This actually makes some of the difficult reforms more feasible incrementally if it opens up

space for dialogue," Nageswaran told The Indian Express. During the previous two states, the NDA government faltered on big-ticket reforms not having evolved the requisite consensus — and pushed the ball back to the states.

This happened in the case of land reforms, initiated early in the tenure of the first NDA government. In its second term, labour reforms got stalled due to an inadequate number of states pushing through the requisite

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## CISF constable 'slaps' Kanganana at airport, says mocked mother at farm protest



Rana was elected to Lok Sabha from Mandi

JAGDEEP SINGH DEEP & RAAKHI JAGGA  
CHANDIGARH, JUNE 6

ACTOR KANGANANA Rana, who recently won the Mandi Lok Sabha seat on a BJP ticket, was allegedly slapped by a woman constable of the CISF at the security area of Chandigarh airport.

Afterwards, the CISF constable, Kulvinder Kaur, suggested her actions were linked to a statement Rana had made about women joining the farmers' protest. In a video, Kaur can be heard purportedly saying, "Tere bhayon dya the me JDU-JDU nipe ke tere baithi baithi pe? Meri ma baithi the vahar pe jab tere bhayon dya the? Ohe had given a statement that women had joined the farm protests for its 100. Was she there? My mother was sitting there."

Her comments are ostensibly CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### THE VERDICT 2024

224 seats with 50%+ vote share in 2019, BJP tally now down to 156

SUJIT BISOI  
BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 6

UNCERTAINTY OVER a popular healthcare scheme launched by the Narendra Patra-led government in 2018, which the BJP had promised to replace with the Centre's Ayushman Bharat Yojana, if it came to power in Odisha, has led to complaints of empanelled private hospitals turning away pa-

## Uncertainty over Odisha popular medical scheme as BJP says will end it

SUJIT BISOI  
BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 6

UNCERTAINTY OVER a popular healthcare scheme launched by the Narendra Patra-led government in 2018, which the BJP had promised to replace with the Centre's Ayushman Bharat Yojana, if it came to power in Odisha, has led to complaints of empanelled private hospitals turning away pa-

tients within days of a change of guard in the state.

Confirming the complaints, the state Health Department has issued a clarification that the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) continues to be in force even as sources in Raj Bhawan said Governor Rangshankar Das has asked state Chief Secretary P K Jena to take appropriate measures to remove the confusion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## 71-year-old Karnataka woman mountaineer among 9 who died in Uttarakhand blizzard

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

JOHNSON TA & KIRAN PARASHAR  
BENGALURU, DEHRADUN, JUNE 6

ONE OF Karnataka's oldest women trekkers, a member of the Karnataka Mountaineering Association (KMA), for over three decades, was among nine persons who died after their trekking expedition to Sabstra



Rescued trekkers being brought to Dehradun, Wednesday. PTI

Tal in Uttarakhand was hit by a blizzard Tuesday afternoon. While 71-year-old Asha Sudhakar died, her husband S Sudhakar, also 71, survived the blizzard.

Usha Ramalax, one of Karnataka's first women mountaineers, said Asha "She was a part of my expedition to Kabeer. She has undergone training. We have to wait for the details.

The 83-year-old, who is the founder of the KMA, said that while the trekkers on the expedition to Sabstra Tal were part

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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epaper.indianexpress.com





SpaceX's Starship launches for a test flight from Boca Chica, Texas, Thursday. *SpaceX*

## SpaceX's Starship survives return to Earth, achieves landing test

**REUTERS**  
TEXAS, JUNE 6

SPACEX'S STARSHIP rocket survived a fiery, hypersonic return from space and achieved a breakthrough landing demonstration in the Indian Ocean on Thursday, completing a full test mission around the globe on the rocket's fourth try.

Starship's controlled plunge into the Indian Ocean just 65 minutes after launching from Texas capped the latest advance in the company's test-to-failure rocket

development campaign, a multi-billion-dollar effort by Elon Musk's space company to build a reusable satellite launcher and moon lander. The three previous test missions ended with Starship blowing up or disintegrating.

The two-stage, nearly 400-foot (120-meter) tall rocket system, consisting of the Starship vessel mounted atop its towering Super Heavy rocket booster, blasted off from the company's Starbase launch site near Boca Chica Village in South Texas, sending powerful shockwaves rippling through the Gulf Coast's morning

fog. Super Heavy detached from the Starship upper stage at an altitude of 74 km, as Starship ignited its own engines to ascend further toward space. Meanwhile, Super Heavy returned to the Gulf of Mexico and nailed a soft splash-down, demonstrating a touchdown that would otherwise be on land. In space, a SpaceX live stream showed Starship coasting around 16,000 miles per hour at roughly 200 km in altitude as it made its way toward the Indian Ocean for a return to Earth, setting up for a key demonstration in its reusable design.



# Nvidia pips Apple as second most valuable firm

NVIDIA WAS ALREADY the world's most valuable semiconductor firm. Now, it has become the first computer-chip company ever to hit \$3 trillion in market capitalisation, overtaking Apple to become the world's second most valuable company. The last time Nvidia was worth more than Apple was in 2002, five years before the first iPhone was released. At the time, both companies were worth less than \$10 billion each.

Rank	Name	Market cap (in \$ tn)
1	Microsoft	3.15
2 ▲	Nvidia	3.05
3 ▼	Apple	3.01
4	Alphabet (Google)	2.19
5	Amazon	1.89
6	Saudi Aramco	1.83
7	Meta Platforms (Facebook)	1.26

Source: [www.companiesmarketcap.com](http://www.companiesmarketcap.com)






# Exchange Traded Funds

- 
- Hong Kong has launched Asia's first Spot Bitcoin and Ether Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) in a step toward becoming a Virtual Asset Investment Hub of the Region.
  - Bitcoin is the world's first and most well-known Cryptocurrency. Cryptocurrency is a type of digital or virtual currency that uses cryptography for security and operates on decentralised networks based on blockchain technology.
- 



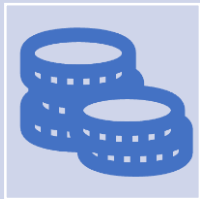
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- **Spot Bitcoin** refers to the **immediate purchase or sale of Bitcoin at the current market price.**
    - It involves **real-time transactions** where buyers and sellers exchange Bitcoin for **fiat currency** (such as US dollars) or other cryptocurrencies.

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Exchange-traded funds (ETFs) are investment funds that are traded on stock exchanges, much like individual stocks.




They are designed to track the performance of a particular index, commodity, currency, or a mix of asset classes.



ETFs offer investors a way to diversify their portfolios without having to buy individual securities.



An aerial photograph of a large parking lot filled with numerous blue and white hydrogen buses. The buses are arranged in several rows, with some parked in pairs and others in single rows. The parking lot is paved and has yellow markings. In the background, there is a road with several cars parked along the side. The overall scene is a well-organized fleet of modern, eco-friendly vehicles.

# Indian Army Received Hydrogen Buses



Recently, the Indian Army has collaborated with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for demonstration trials of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus technology.

The Indian Army also received its first Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus, marking stride towards cleaner and greener transport solutions.

Bus has a seating capacity of 37 passengers and a mileage of 250-300 km on a 30 kg onboard Hydrogen fuel tank.



- Earlier, on 21st March 2023, the Indian Army became the first government entity to sign an MoU with NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd for installation of Green Hydrogen based Microgrid Power Plants along the Northern Borders.
- Hydrogen fuel cell technology provides a clean and efficient solution. It generates electricity through a reaction between hydrogen gas and oxygen, with water vapour as the sole byproduct.





# Demand for Special Category Status





The talks over special category status for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh have once again gained momentum after Lok Sabha elections.

### **About Special Category Status**



It is a classification granted by the Centre to assist the development of States that face geographical or socio-economic disadvantages.

It was introduced in 1969 on the recommendation of the fifth Finance Commission (FC).

It was aimed at providing certain states with additional support to overcome geographical and infrastructural handicaps.

**Factors are considered before granting SCS includes**

- Hilly and difficult terrain
- Low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population
- Strategic location along international borders
- Economic and infrastructural backwardness and
- Non-viable nature of state finances.

- 
- **States Covered :** In 1969, three States — **Jammu & Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland** — were granted the SCS.
    - Subsequently, eight more States including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand were given the SCS by the erstwhile National Development Council.
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- The SCS States used to receive grants based on the **Gadgil-Mukherjee formula**, which earmarked **nearly 30% of the total central assistance** for States to the SCS States.
  - However, after the abolition of the Planning Commission and the recommendations of the 14th and 15th FC, this assistance to SCS States has been subsumed in an increased devolution of the divisible pool funds for all States (**increased to 41% in the 15th FC from 32%**).

- 
- Additionally, in the SCS States, the **Centre-State funding of centrally sponsored schemes** is divided in the ratio of **90:10**, far more favourable than the 60:40 or 80:20 splits for the general category States.
  - **Other benefits** : SCS states enjoy special industrial incentives such as Income-tax exemptions, custom duty waivers, reduced excise duty, corporate tax exemption for a certain period, concessions and exemptions relating to GST, and lower state and central taxes.

# India to Join First 'high-altitude platform'





India is on course to join a **very select club of countries that have their own long-flight, High-Altitude Platforms (HAP).**



**What is HAP?**



HAP is an **unmanned aerial vehicle**. The HAP typically **operates at a height of 18-20 km above earth**, clearing all air traffic and weather, and is equipped to stay up there for longer periods than drones.



- The HAP that NAL is developing is being **designed to stay airborne for 90 days**.
- **Application: Surveillance, imaging the earth below, for both civilian and strategic purposes.**
- **Satellite vs HAPs:** A satellite can be packed with **far more capabilities** and can stay up there for years — so **HAPs won't replace satellites** but will complement them.
  - A satellite does not need to be powered for its orbital flight — it does this by gravity. But a **HAP needs some propulsion system**, with on-board energy generation capability.



- **Significance**
- HAPs are the most effective communication and Surveillance tools due to the **longest possible mission in the atmosphere** and the **highest available altitude** after the satellites.
- Beside being the **lower cost alternatives** to the last ones HAPs can offer several other important advantages, like **multiple use, possibility to maintain or upgrade the mission payload**.
- HAPs use similar to space vehicles approaches such as **solar energy use and state of the art technologies** and materials capable to withstand challenges of the near space.



A group of people are holding a large, ornate silver trophy cup. The cup is highly reflective and features a complex, faceted design. The background is a clear blue sky. The text "UN's WSIS 2024 PRIZE 'Champion' Award" is overlaid in white on the image.

UN's WSIS 2024 PRIZE 'Champion'  
Award

- Recently, the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) won the **UN's WSIS 2024 'Champion' Award for Mobile-Enabled Disaster Resilience** through Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting.



- 
- The **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20 Forum 2024**, conducted by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** in Geneva, Switzerland, and **co-organised with UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD.**
- 





# SSC FOUNDATION BATCH



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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. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner.

Thank you  
guys.

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