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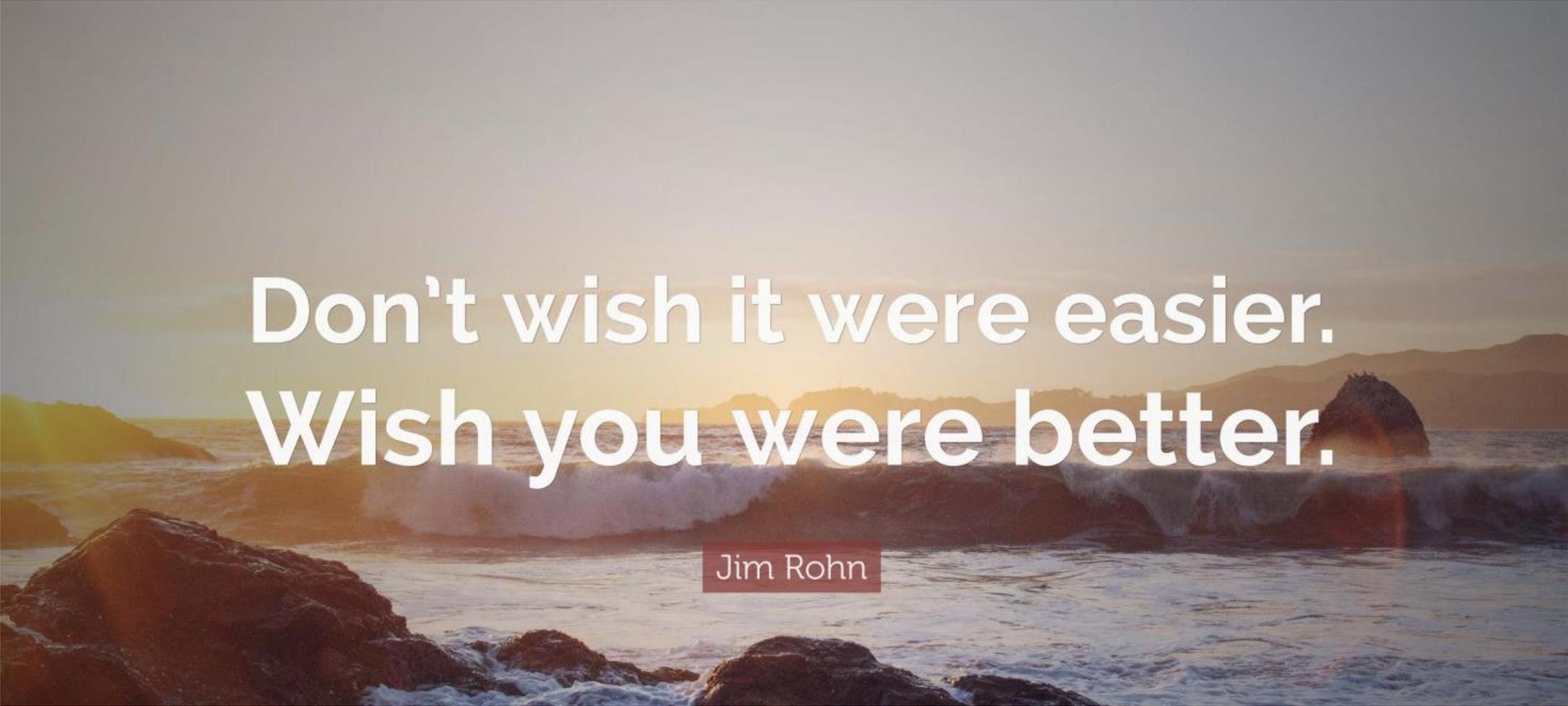
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**IRREGULARITIES IN MEET**  
**Congress demands SC-monitored probe**  
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**NINTH MONTH**  
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**Biden apologises to Ukraine President**  
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**Why the BJP underperformed in Uttar Pradesh**  
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**EPIC ENCOUNTER**  
**Alcaraz pips Sinner in a five-set thriller**  
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### INSIDE



**Not invited to India meetings, says RLP chief**

**JAIPIUR**  
Rashmiya Loktantrik Party (RLP) chief Hanuman Berawal, on Friday expressed his displeasure at being "ignored" by the NDA bloc, saying he was not invited to attend the meetings. » PAGE 2

**Prajwal's mother gets bail, appears before the SIT**

**BENGALURU**  
Bhavani Revanna, mother of a rape accused Prajwal Revanna, former Hassan MP, appeared before the Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Friday after the Karnataka High Court granted interim anticipatory bail to her. » PAGE 7

**200 evacuated from Manipur's Jiribam district**

**NEW DELHI**  
About 200 civilians were evacuated from their homes in Jiribam district of Manipur and moved to a camp for internally displaced persons over the last two days after violence broke out in the wake of local forces discovering the body of a Meitei man who had gone missing weeks ago. » PAGE 6

**Chargesheet filed in Parliament breach case**

**NEW DELHI**  
Almost six months after six people were jailed under terror charges for breaching the security at the new Parliament building, the Delhi Police have filed a chargesheet against six suspects in a city court on Friday. No political party has been named in chargesheet, said an official. » PAGE 6

## President invites Modi to form new govt.; swearing-in tomorrow

NDA Parliamentary Party elects Modi as its leader, allies hand over letters of support to President, evoking the spirit of a national government, Modi says he will strive to ensure consensus in all decisions in his third successive term as the PM

**Nistala Hebbar**  
**NEW DELHI**  
President Droupadi Murmu on Friday formally invited Narendra Modi to form the next government, and begin his third successive term as Prime Minister, after the National Democratic Alliance's Parliamentary Party elected him as its leader. The new government will be sworn in on Sunday.



Above all: Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays respect to the Constitution at the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting on Friday. PTI

Earlier in the day, leaders of NDA parties, including Chandrababu Naidu of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Nishik Kumar of the Janata Dal (U), and Maharashtra's Shiv Sena Chief Minister Eknath Shinde met the President and handed over their letters of support to the new government.

At the meeting of the NDA parliamentary party held at the Central Hall of the old Parliament House, Mr. Modi evoked the spirit of a coalition government, stressing that he would strive to ensure *sarvaman*, or consensus, in all the decisions of his new government. "Governments will be made on the basis of numbers, but the country is run on consensus," Mr. Modi said, asserting that

other senior leaders, including the BJP's Nihal Gadhkar and Amit Shah, Mr. Naidu, Mr. Kumar, Mr. Shinde, Chirag Paswan of the Lok Janshakti Party, and Pawan Kalyan of the Janasena.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Modi said that mutual trust was at the core of this alliance, which is committed to the principle of *sarv pantha sambhaw* (all sects are equal). Claiming that NDA partners were all known for good governance, he noted that the alliance was forming a government at the Centre at a time when its members were also in power in 22 States.

Mr. Modi said that his swearing-in ceremony would be held on June 9, alongside his new Council of Ministers and promised that, as in the past, the new government too would serve the people.

The swearing-in ceremony will be attended by the leaders of neighbouring countries, including Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, and Nepal's Prime Minister Pushpa Kumar Dahal "Prachanda".

**UPWARD REVISION**  
On Friday, the RBI revised the GDP growth projection for FY25, to 7.2% from 7%.



**Lalendu Mishra**  
**MUMBAI**  
The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%.

The decision, taken at the MPC's meeting, marks the eighth time in a row that the repo rate has been put on hold to keep the focus on battling high inflation.

The MPC has revised its GDP growth forecast upwards from the earlier 7% estimate to 7.2% for the financial year 2024-2025. It has also decided to renege on its earlier target of accommodation to ensure that inflation does not accelerate, while supporting growth.

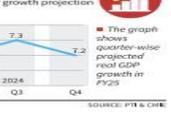
**Divided MPC**  
Mr. Das, along with MPC members Shashank Bhide, Rajiv Ranjan, and Michael Debaratra Patra, were divided on the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% and to remain focused on the withdrawal of accommodation, while their colleagues Ashima Goyal and Jayanth R. Varma voted to reduce the policy repo rate by 25 basis points and for a change in stance to neutral.

"There were signs of a more divided policy committee, with one additional member voting for a softening in stance, as well as policy direction. The majority retained their cautious stance to guide inflation towards the 4% target on a durable basis, despite recent signs of disinflation," said Kashika Rao, Executive Director and Senior Economist, DSS Group, commenting on the decision.

According to the MPC, high frequency indicators of domestic activity are showing resilience in 2024-25. The south-west monsoon is expected to be above normal, which augurs well for agriculture and rural demand, but headwinds from geopolitical tensions, volatility in international commodity prices, and geoeconomic fragmentation pose risks to the outlook.

## RBI keeps repo rate unchanged, raises GDP forecast to 7.2%

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### Splash of colour



Picture-perfect: Rainbows light up the Bengaluru sky following rain on Friday evening. K. MURALI KUMAR

### Two cattle transporters lynched in Chhattisgarh



Shubhomov Sikdar, RAIPUR

Two cattle transporters were killed and another was injured after allegedly being attacked by a mob at Arang near the Chhattisgarh capital of Raipur in the early hours of Friday.

The deceased were identified as Guddu Khan and Chand Miya Khan. The injured, Suddhu Quarebi, has been admitted to a hospital. All three are from Uttar Pradesh.

A senior police officer said the incident took place between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. when they were heading towards Raipur from Mahasamund district.

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## Four Maharashtra medical students drown in Russia's Volkhov river

**Purnima Sah**  
**MUMBAI**  
Four medical students from Maharashtra studying at Yaroslavl-the-Wise Novgorod State University in Russia drowned in the Volkhov river. The External Affairs Ministry said the unfortunate incident took place while the students were on an outing in Veliky Novgorod city.

The fifth member of the group, a girl student, survived and is undergoing medical care. All the students were in the 18-20 age group. The local emergency services in Russia have recovered two bodies and are searching for two more.

## 'Statues in Parliament relocated to deny Opposition a place to protest'

**The Hindu Bureau**  
**NEW DELHI**  
The statues of Mahatma Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar and Chhatrapati Shivaji, among others, have been relocated within the Parliament complex to ensure that Opposition parties cannot stage a protest, the Congress alleged on Friday.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh, in a post on X, said that such "stunts" cannot save Narendra Modi's "unstable government from falling". Mr. Ramesh also dismissed the Lok Sabha secretary's explanation for relocating the statues as "wholly bogus" and said that it was a unilateral move, carried out without consulting any political party.

On Thursday, the Lok Sabha Secretariat said that the statues were being relocated to a specially designated area within the complex so that it would be convenient for visitors to see them.

"For this reason, all these statues are being respectfully installed in a grand 'Prerna Sthal' in Parliament House," it said. "This 'Prerna Sthal' is being developed in such a way that the visitors coming to visit the Parliament complex view the statues of these great persons conveniently and get inspired by their life experiences," the statement said.

# RBI keeps repo rate unchanged, raises GDP forecast to 7.2%

## Upward revision

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SOURCE: PTI & CMIE

### **Lalatendu Mishra**

MUMBAI

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The decision, taken at the MPC's meeting, marks the eighth time in a row that the policy rate has been put on hold to keep the focus on battling high inflation.

The MPC, with one additional member voting for a softening in stance as well as policy direction. The majority retained their cautious stance to guide inflation towards the 4% target on a durable basis, despite recent signs of disinflation," said Radhika Rao, Executive Director and Senior Economist, DBS Bank, commenting on the decision.

According to the MPC, high frequency indicators

The MPC has revised its GDP growth forecast upwards from the earlier 7% estimate to 7.2% for the financial year 2024-2025.

It has also decided to remain focused on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation does not accelerate, while supporting growth.

"These decisions are in consonance with the objective of achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4% within a band of +/- 2% while supporting growth," RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said after the meeting.

### **Divided MPC**

Mr. Das, along with MPC members Shashanka Bhide, Rajiv Ranjan, and Michael Debabrata Patra voted to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5% and to remain focused on the withdrawal of accommodation, while their colleagues Ashima Goyal and Jayanth R. Varma voted to reduce the policy repo rate by 25 basis points and for a change in stance to neutral.

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of domestic activity are showing resilience in 2024-25. The south-west monsoon is expected to be above normal, which augurs well for agriculture and rural demand, but headwinds from geopolitical tensions, volatility in international commodity prices, and geoeconomic fragmentation pose risks to the outlook

Taking various factors into consideration, real GDP growth for 2024-25 was projected at 7.2% as compared with the earlier projection of 7%, with the first quarter (Q1) growth estimate at 7.3%; Q2 at 7.2%; Q3 at 7.3%; and Q4 at 7.2%. The risks are evenly balanced.

Emphasising that inflation has seen sequential moderation since February 2024, albeit in a narrow range from 5.1% in February to 4.8% in April 2024, the RBI Governor said that food inflation, however, remains elevated due to persistence of inflation pressures in vegetables, pulses, cereals, and spices.

**'AUGURS WELL'**

» PAGE 11

## 1. Current Rates

Policy Rates	
Policy Repo Rate	: 6.50%
Standing Deposit Facility Rate	: 6.25%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	: 6.75%
Bank Rate	: 6.75%
Fixed Reverse Repo Rate	: 3.35%

## Exchange Rates

INR / 1 USD : 83.4257

INR / 1 GBP : 106.6631

INR / 1 EUR : 90.8439

INR / 100 JPY : 53.7200

(As at 1.30pm of June 07, 2024)

(Source : FBIL)

Arch

## Reserve Ratios

CRR : 4.50%

SLR : 18.00%



# NHAI floats EoI for satellite-based tolling

**Jagriti Chandra**

NEW DELHI

The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has invited expressions of interest for the implementation of a satellite-based electronic toll collection system.

Interested parties must have an average annual turnover of ₹1,000 crore over the last three financial years or the equivalent in foreign currency, and an experience of 10 years in electronic toll collection.

The winning entity will have to develop a geo-referenced map and a toll charging software for the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS).

In its tender document,



the NHAI said that it plans to implement the GNSS-based electronic toll collection system alongside RFID based Fastags currently being used by vehicles.

Each toll plaza will have two or more dedicated lanes for GNSS-ready vehicles, where barriers will remain open to ensure free flow of vehicles. The lanes will have advanced readers to identify GNSS vehicles.

## FRONT-END

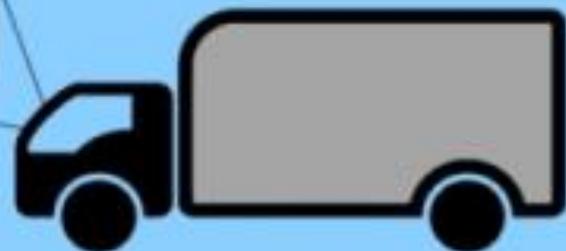


GNSS

OBU



Tolled Vehicle



Cellular Network



OBU Proxy



GNSS Signals



Vehicle Position  
(via OBU)



GSM



Server Hardware

## BACK-END

Toll System  
Back Office



Graphics © GNSS Consulting

The proposed system will use the **global navigation satellite system**, including **India's own GAGAN (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) satellite** navigation system, which has an accuracy of about 10 metres. **An on-board unit (OBU) will be installed** in the vehicles to facilitate accurate mapping and toll calculation.



The system will use **digital image processing and software algorithms** to log the coordinates of the entire length of the country's national highways, assign toll rates, and calculate the toll amount based on the distance travelled by each vehicle.

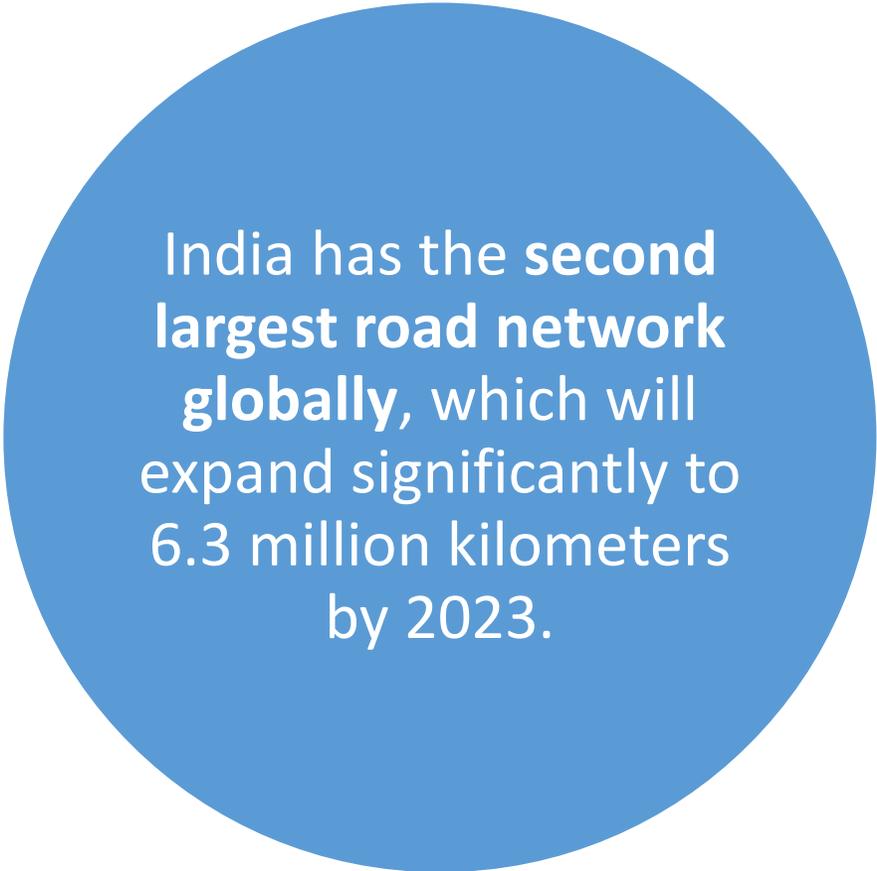
**FASTags, the radio frequency identification-based toll collection system that was made mandatory by the government on February 16, 2021, will continue to work with the new satellite-based system.**



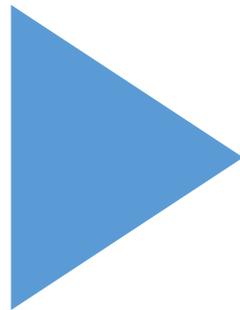
It is expected that **OBU**s will **complement rather than replace FASTags**, thereby reducing operating costs and increasing efficiency.

- **The satellite-based toll collection system offers several advantages:**

1. Elimination of toll plazas, reducing congestion and streamlining the collection process
2. Dynamic pricing adjustments to optimize revenue collection
3. Flexibility to implement tolling on all road categories
4. Addressing issues related to traffic diversion and toll evasion



India has the **second largest road network globally**, which will expand significantly to 6.3 million kilometers by 2023.



The country's National Highways, accounting for **approximately 2%** of the overall road network, carrying over 40% of the total traffic.

STAYING GROUNDED Our focus would be on playing India now: USA skipper Monank



USA skipper Monank Patel is certain that the epochal T20 World Cup win over Pakistan will open "many doors" for the USA in the IPL. He wants to keep emotions in check and focus on the next assignment against India. "I am happy with the win against Pakistan. Our focus would be on playing against India now," Monank said.

TIME TO INTROSPECT Babar admits that Pakistan took things 'a little lightly' against USA



Stunned by USA in the T20 World Cup, an upset Pakistan captain Babar Azam placed onus on his side as guilty of taking things "a little lightly" and failed to come good in any department. "When you play a team to a tournament, you do the best preparation. When you play a team like this, you tend to take things a little lightly," he said.

WELL PREPARED Will leave no stone unturned in ensuring safety: Nassau officials



All measures — including increased patrol and inter-departmental coordination — will be in place to ensure the safety of the high-profile ICC Men's T20 World Cup India-Pakistan clash on Sunday at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, Nassau. Nassau officials said.

TOP EFFORT Skipper Berrington guides Scotland past Namibia



Richie Berrington hit an unbeaten 47 to guide Scotland to a security defeat over Namibia in its T20 WC game in Barbados. The scores: Namibia 155/9 in 20 overs (Erasmus 52, Green 28, Wheel 3/33) lost to Scotland 157/5 in 18.3 overs (Berrington 47 n.o., Leask 35). Tests: Namibia, P.M.; Leask.

A self-assured Hardik bodes well for India

The all-rounder hit the ground running with a three-wicket haul against Ireland; the Mumbai Indians skipper says he is happy to start the tournament on a good note

T20 WORLD CUP

Ashwin Achal NEW YORK

Hardik Pandya has had it tough in the last few months. Troubles began when his move from Gujarat Titans to Mumbai Indians for IPL 2024 did not go down well with MI fans.

The all-rounder, who was lauded as an astute skipper for taking GT to the IPL title in 2022, had replaced fan favourite Rohit Sharma at the helm. Supporters made their displeasure known, booing Hardik during matches.

The noise is bound to have affected Hardik, who performed poorly with bat and ball in the tournament.

There were fears that Hardik's slump would continue when he wore the national jersey at the T20 World Cup. His spot as all-rounder was especially crucial to the team balance.

Much to the relief of Indian fans, Hardik delivered with the ball in the opening game against Ireland here. The pitch no doubt aided



Vital cog: Hardik being in form — after a tough IPL 2024 — is crucial for team balance. K.R. DEEPAK

him, but Hardik did his part by landing it consistently in the right areas. His first scalp came with a classic inswinger which forced Lorcan Tucker. A hint of away swing next up proved too good for Curtis Campher.

Mark Adair fell soon after, giving Hardik satisfying returns of three for 27

The early stage of the comeback was complete. The tough times in IPL 2024 forced Hardik to introspect.

"I'm very happy to start on a good note. Everything falls into place for people who work hard."

"I had to spend time within myself and identify who I was," Hardik, told

Deepta. India batting coach Vikram Rathour was pleased to have a fit-and-prim Hardik ready for duty.

"Hardik looked really good. He's been bowling really well. He looks fit enough to go through four overs, and he's been bowling with pace and some accuracy," Rathour said.

Mental scars will remain for Pakistan after USA game: Sidhu



Caustic walk: Sidhu, Balaji and Harbhajan share their views ahead of Sunday's India-Pakistan clash. K.R. DEEPAK

Ashwin Achal NEW YORK

Former international cricketer Navot Singh Sidhu believes that India holds the edge over Pakistan in their ICC Men's T20 World Cup clash which will be held here on Sunday.

"On their day, Pakistan can beat the best in the world. But there are other factors to consider. Pakistan has lost to the USA. The mental scars will remain," former India batter Sidhu said in a "Press Room" initiative, hosted by Star Sports.

"Pakistan will also have to adjust to conditions at this venue (Nassau County

International Cricket Stadium). The Indian team has already played two matches here (including the warm-up game), but Pakistan is yet to play here. Adjusting to this track will not be easy. There are undulations on this pitch which will play on the mind of batters," Sidhu said.

The 60-year-old did not agree with the view that the tricky New York pitch is a poor advertisement for cricket in the USA. "This is the first time that we are seeing the ball bounce and not the bat. So what are you complaining about? This is the real test. Take it as a challenge," said Sidhu.

Netravalkar living the dream as the toast of the cricket world

Amol Karhadkar



Serious business: Netravalkar has been combining two dreams — even after relocating to USA to study at Cornell University. GETTY IMAGES

He has won India's blues, albeit in an Under-19 World Cup, with K.L. Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Harshal Patel and Jaydev Unadkat as his teammates. He has proudly adorned the Lion's Crest — the famed Mumbai cricket logo — in all three formats. He has played with Yuvraj Singh, against Virat Kohli and Rahul Dravid and has the likes of Rahul and Joe Root in his illustrious list of dismissals.

He is also a software developer for an IT giant, based in California. Saurabh Netravalkar has been combining two dreams, even after relocating to USA to pursue academics at the prestigious Cornell University in 2018.

On Thursday night, Netravalkar emerged the toast of the cricket world, starring in the co-host's stunning victory against former champion Pakistan to set the T20 World Cup alight. If his figures of 4-18-2 had been instrumental in restricting Pakistan to 159 for seven up front, Netravalkar — the left-arm pacer — came back to defend 18 runs in the Super Over, conceding 13 to complete a dream that he had cherished for a long time.



Serious business: Netravalkar has been combining two dreams — even after relocating to USA to study at Cornell University. GETTY IMAGES

Netravalkar and his colleagues had been eyeing such performance for the last couple of years. "Do not consider us as also-rans. We are seriously targeting making the Super Eight's first up and then we'll take it from there."

While a majority of Indian representation in USA's team is dominated by a group of professional cricketers who have relocated to further their cricket career, Netravalkar — being from the slightly older generation — is an exception.

In fact, when he boarded a flight from Mumbai for his master's nine years ago, he had not even packed his

Alcaraz outduels Sinner to reach French Open final

Associated Press PARIS



Carlos Alcaraz reached his first French Open final by beating Jannik Sinner 2-6, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 on Friday, making the 21-year-old from Spain the youngest man to reach a Grand Slam title match on three surfaces.

Alcaraz won the U.S. Open in 2022 on hard courts, Wimbledon in 2023 on grass and now will play for the championship on the red clay at Roland Garros.

Sinner entered the semifinals with a 13-0 record in Grand Slam play in 2024 after winning the Australian Open in January. But the 22-year-old Italian also showed flashes of academic excellence.

Against Sinner, Alcaraz kept falling behind and kept turning things around. Sinner's physical issues that required multiple on-site hour car drives at the start of his stint in the USA are worth it now that I am playing the World Cup. I wanted to play for India. Nevertheless, I will be playing against India," he says.

Canada holds its nerve, shocks Ireland



Gordon. AP

Canada won its first T20 World Cup match when it stunned Ireland by 12 runs in a Group-A game on Friday. Defending a score of 137, the non-test nation bowled and fielded well to hold Ireland to 125 for seven.

Ireland collapsed spectacularly to 59 for six and needed 64 runs from five overs for a win. George Dockrell and Mark Adair reduced the target to 17 off the last six balls. But Canada's Jeremy Gordon held his nerve, conceding just three runs and dismissing Adair with the second ball of the 20th over.

The scores: Canada 137/7 in 20 overs (Gordon 49, Moya 37, Young 2/32, McCarthy 2/20) Ireland 125/7 in 20 overs (Dockrell 30 n.o., Adair 24, Gordon 2/16, Hejblum 2/10). Tests: Ireland, P.M.; Kirtan.

England needs to fire on all cylinders against Australia



Barling to go: Starc, who had an IPL to remember, will look to deliver big against arch-rival England. GETTY IMAGES

Every sport thrives on rivalries and such competitions become the lifeblood of the game. Australia versus England is one of them. A new chapter in this rivalry is set to be written at the Kensington Oval on Saturday when the two clash in a Group-B game.

England bowler Mark Wood has already said that the meeting with Australia is "huge" after his team's wobble against Scotland. On the other hand, Australia registered a 39-run win over Oman in its opener.

The key match-up on Saturday will be the one between Travis Head and the pace duo of Wood and Josh Archer. Head, who has a scintillating IPL campaign with Sunrisers Hyderabad where he even smashed a 39-ball hundred, has shown that he has the ability to treat all deliveries with equal disdain. Since the left-hander tends to stay leg-side of the ball, the England skipper could look to bowl slightly full on a leg-stump line with protection at the square-leg and long-on during the Powerplay. This strategy — there could also be a midwicket fielder as a catching option for mistimed shots — could prove effective. Wood and Archer could also vary the pace on

full deliveries to disrupt Head's rhythm. Jos Buttler's side is packed with power-hitters from one to eight. The make-up of the top three Phil Salt will open and Will Jacks will walk in at No. 3 — will allow the England skipper to be watchful at the

start before testing off. Given the bvey of right-handers in the English ranks, Australia might consider playing left-arm spinner Ashton Agar. The match will be played on a fresh pitch which is expected to favour the batters.

Today's matches

Table with 4 columns: Match, Time, and Teams. Includes matches like Guyana vs Bangladesh, Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan, New Zealand vs Afghanistan, Barbados vs England, and Netherlands vs South Africa.

Full details of today's matches including teams and times.

# Netravalkar living the dream as the toast of the cricket world

**Amol Karhadkar**

He has worn India's blues, albeit in an Under-19 World Cup, with K.L. Rahul, Mayank Agarwal, Harshal Patel and Jaydev Unadkat as his teammates. He has proudly adorned the Lion's Crest – the famed Mumbai cricket logo – in all three formats. He has played with Yuvraj Singh, against Virat Kohli and Rahul Dravid and has the likes of Rahul and Joe Root in his illustrious list of dismissals.

He is also a software developer for an IT giant, based in California.

Saurabh Netravalkar has been combining two dreams, even after relocating to USA to pursue academics at the prestigious Cornell University in 2015.

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**Serious business:** Netravalkar has been combining two dreams – even after relocating to USA to study at Cornell University. GETTY IMAGES

Netravalkar and his colleagues had been eyeing such performance for the last couple of years. “Do not consider us as also-rans. We are seriously targeting making the Super Eights first up and then we’ll take it from there,” Netravalkar had told *The Hindu* last month.

While a majority of Indian representation in USA's team is dominated by a group of professional cricketers who have relocated to further their cricket career, Netravalkar – being from the slightly older generation – is an exception.

In fact, when he boarded a flight from Mumbai for his master's nine years ago, he had not even packed his

cricketing kit.

With playing international cricket for India continually becoming a distant dream, Netravalkar – an IT engineer – chose to keep cricket behind and prioritise academics.

“I never thought I would be able to play competitive cricket again when I came here for masters but I started working and came to California, I was introduced to the weekend league culture and the cricket bug bit me harder. All those six- or eight-hour car drives at the start of my stint in the USA are worth it now that I am playing the World Cup. I wanted to play for India but nevertheless, I will be playing against India,” he says.

BUSINESS AS USUAL By UNNY



Voters gave a message to all, right from the top to bottom, says Venkaiah

Win or lose, working for poor, values bigger issues, he tells IRMA graduates

RTI SHARMA AHMEDABAD, JUNE 7

FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT M Venkaiah Naidu said today that millions who voted in the Lok Sabha elections "gave a message to all, right from the top to bottom".

Addressing graduating students of the Institute of Rural Management, Ahmedabad, as chief guest at its 43rd convocation, Naidu said, "We have seen that India proved to be a great democracy in the recent election. Millions of people voted peacefully. Whatever change they wanted to make, they have brought it peacefully. They gave a message to all, right from the top to bottom. There is a message in the election, and I hope that people understand the message. Political parties, at times, may win or lose—that is not the issue. The values, work for the downtrodden, take care of the oppressed, suppressed and depressed people, Gandhiji's Anandya, Ambedkar's Anyodaya—taking care of the poorest of the poor—that should be top of our mind," he said.

Speaking at the Prime Minister's residence, Naidu said...

Alert after man tries to register Mauritius mission's Rs 200-cr Delhi plot in his name

DAMINI NATH NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

A PLOT estimated to be worth Rs 200 crore-plus in Delhi's posh diplomatic enclave of Chanakya Park, allotted to the Mauritius High Commission decades ago but never used, was almost illegally registered in the name of a man who walked into the New Delhi sub-registrar's office last month.

Except for quick-thinking officials who caught the potential scam, the simply-dressed elderly man, who called himself Tilak Singh, walked into the sub-registrar's office last month, armed with a conveyance deed from the Land and Development

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SANDIP NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

THIS WASN'T Pakistan losing to India B, it was Pakistan losing to India H-1B. That is what the popular take on Friday at Dallas where USA shocked one-time world champions Pakistan in a nail-biting Super Over finish in a group stage match of the World Test Championship. With 120 wickets, many as six cricketers of Indian descent, most of them past temporary H-1-B visas that allow companies to hire overseas employees, featuring in the historic win, the joke would be a hit in the immigrant community.

SWEARING-IN 7.15 PM SUNDAY at Rashtrapati Bhavan

Modi stakes claim to form govt, says consensus needed to run the country

He is appointed PM-designate by President after NDA unanimously elects him leader

LIZ MATHEW & VIKAS PATHAK NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

AFTER THE NDA Parliamentary Party unanimously elected him as its leader, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Droupadi Murmu on Friday and staked claim to form the government.

Heading a coalition in which the BJP for the first time under his leadership, lacks majority, Modi, who will be sworn in as Prime Minister for a third consecutive term at a ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan at 7:15 pm Sunday, said, "We need a majority to form the government, but there should be consensus to run the country".

Describing the NDA as an "organic alliance" for which "the seed was sown" by its leaders three decades ago and "nurtured by people with trust", he said it will strive to ensure unanimity in all decisions of the government. Addressing the NDA meeting before leaders headed to Rashtrapati Bhavan, Modi said, "I assure the people of the country that the majority they gave us to run the government, it will be our effort that we will strive towards consensus and leave no stone unturned towards taking the country forward. Later, emerging from Rashtrapati Bhavan, he told reporters, "The NDA, under the mandate and the road ahead in terms that were conciliatory signalling a reaching out to states and to parties across the aisle."

Addressing the elected MPs...



Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi pays respects to the Constitution at the NDA meeting in New Delhi on Friday. (PTI)

Before the oath, the reachout — to allies, states, Opposition

VIKAS PATHAK NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

SHORT OF a majority and needing the support of his allies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Friday framed the mandate and the road ahead in terms that were conciliatory signalling a reaching out to states and to parties across the aisle.

Addressing the elected MPs of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) Friday, including BJP Chief Ministers and Deputy CMs, Modi described the NDA as a "30-year-old", "organic," alliance, and underlined that it had run successful governments for three terms during this period. He also stressed that the NDA mirrored "India's diversity", mentioning different social groups.

Muizzu likely to attend swearing-in, first trip since slide in relations

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

ON THE first day of his third term in office on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to meet visiting foreign leaders who will come for the swearing-in ceremony Sunday. The most significant among them will be Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu if he chooses to attend the ceremony, despite the setback in bilateral ties.



Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu

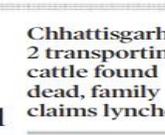
A Maldives government official told The Indian Express that President Muizzu is expected to attend the ceremony, despite the setback in bilateral ties.

Continued on page 2

Amid allegations of sabotage, UP debacle sends shocked BJP back to drawing board

BHUPENDRA PANDEY & LALMANI VERMA LUCKNOW, NEW DELHI, JUNE 7

THE DERAIL in UP, which shocked the BJP and comeled to its loss of majority in Lok Sabha, has sent the party and its leaders, including Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, back to the drawing board. The roles of BJP state and central leaders will also be under the scanner as the party undertakes an exercise to review the results.



CM Yogi Adityanath at the NDA meet in New Delhi. (PTI)

Mumukshu has been growing within the BJP ranks ever since the party managed just 33 seats in the state out of 80, down from 62 last time and finishing behind the SP's 37. Adityanath is learnt to have got the go-ahead for the review from the leadership during his two-day trip to New Delhi. He reached the Capital Thursday evening and had a meeting with senior leaders including party president P Nadda. After attending the NDA Parliamentary Party meeting in Friday, Adityanath was said to have returned to Lucknow on Saturday.



Nosthush Kenjige (left) celebrates with Saurabh Netravalkar during the T20 World Cup match against Pakistan. (PTI)

Chhattisgarh: 2 transporting cattle found dead, family claims lynched

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU LUCKNOW, JUNE 7

TWO MEN transporting cattle were found dead after allegedly being chased by unidentified people in Chhattisgarh's Raipur district early Friday, police said. While police said the men were killed on rocks below a bridge, the family of one of the men alleged they had been lynched.

A third person who was with them was found with injuries and has been hospitalised, police said. The dead have been identified as Guddu Khan, 35, and Chand Shekhar, 23, and the injured as Saddam Qureshi, 23. Qureshi and Chand were cousins and residents of Saharapur district in Uttar Pradesh, while...



Ravi Bhattacharya at the party office at Barasur, Purba Medinipur. (PTI)

Fearful, BJP workers in Bengal take shelter away from home: 'It's that season every poll'

RAVIBHATTACHARYA & TRIPATHI SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, KOLKATA, JUNE 7

SITTING ON one of a dozen beds laid out on the third floor of the BJP office in West Bengal's Purba Medinipur, Ravi Bhattacharya said, "It's that season every poll."

Others like him took shelter at the party office. Amid allegations of post-poll violence in West Bengal, hundreds of BJP workers have left their homes and villages after the election, and for many, this is not the first time—they did the same after the 2021 Assembly polls, and the 2023 panchayat polls.



BJP workers at the party office at Barasur, Purba Medinipur. (PTI)

High food inflation, RBI retains rate at 6.5%; ups FY25 GDP forecast to 7.2%

HITESHVYAS MUMBAI, JUNE 7

THE RESERVE Bank of India Friday left the repo rate—the rate at which it lends to banks—unchanged at 6.5 per cent on concerns over rise in food inflation, and revised upwards the real gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection for 2024-25 to 7.2 per cent. The central bank retained the FY25 consumer price index based inflation (CPI) projection at 4.5 per cent but indicated that it will fall below 4 per cent during the July-September quarter.

The members of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee which met over the last three days decided to leave the policy rate at 6.5 per cent for the eighth consecutive time. However, a growing divergence in views within the MPC was visible this time with two external members—Ashima Goyal and Jayanth R Varma—voting to reduce the pol-

SENSEX, NIFTY TOUCH RECORD HIGHS, SURGE OVER 2% PAGE 15

Equity

Rate cut or not

There is growing divergence within the RBI monetary policy committee on the need for lowering interest rates. Two of the six MPC members sought a 25 basis point cut, and also a change in policy stance from "with-drawn/accommoda-tion" to "neutral".

Continued on page 15

Pak thought it was playing USA, turned out to be Team India H-1B

Almost everyone had a role in scripting a historic day for American cricket. The flipside of joy spilled as far as Delhi and Mumbai. Anand in Gujarat and Chikkamagaluru in Karnataka. The stories are diverse. The Super Over hero, Saurabh Netravalkar, had packed his bags from Mumbai to San Francisco for higher studies. Then he was back in Mumbai for hero Monank Patel (50 off 28 balls) who had represented the US during a torrid phase during the pandemic. In 2016, he flew to Houston, where he had been playing league cricket. Netravalkar, whose last-ball four tied the game, was born in Ontario, Canada, but shifted to the US during a torrid phase during the pandemic. In 2016, he flew to Houston, where he had been playing league cricket. Netravalkar, whose last-ball four tied the game, was born in Ontario, Canada, but shifted to the US during a torrid phase during the pandemic. In 2016, he flew to Houston, where he had been playing league cricket.

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## TCS launches Gen AI platform WisdomNext

*New Delhi:* Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on Friday launched a Gen AI platform WisdomNext that aggregates multiple generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) into a single interface and enables companies to adopt next gen technology rapidly at scale, lower costs and within regulatory framework. **PTI**

## Sebi receives The Asian Banker award

*Mumbai:* The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has received the Best Conduct of Business Regulator in Asia Pacific award by The Asian Banker in Hong Kong. "This authority has been instrumental in enhancing the regulatory framework for securities markets in the country, focusing on transparency, fairness, and investor protection," The Asian Banker said. In 2021, T+1 settlement was introduced in a phased manner, which was fully implemented from January 2023. The move has provided investors with faster access to their funds following trade execution and settlement, it said. The award was received by Kamlesh Chandra Varshney, Whole Time Member, Sebi. **ENS**

# Vellayan Subbiah is EY World Entrepreneur of the year

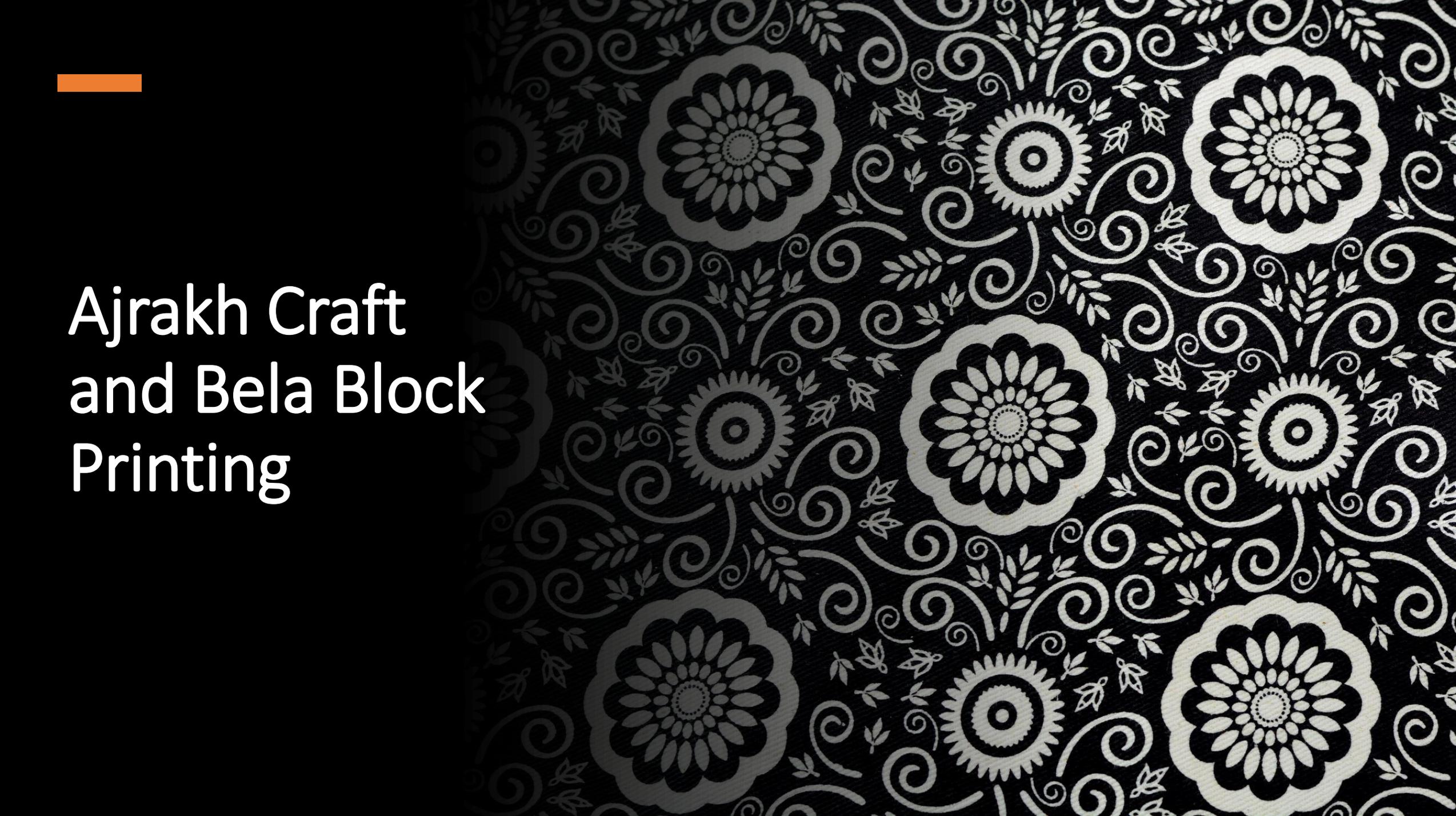
**VELLAYAN SUBBIAH, EXECUTIVE** vice-chairman of Tube Investments of India (TII) and chairman of Cholamandalam Investment and Finance, has been named the EY World Entrepreneur of the year 2024.

Subbiah is the fourth Indian to receive this coveted award. India has become the only country among EY regions to win the global entrepreneurship award four times. The previous three winners from India are NR Narayana Murthy, Uday Kotak and Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw.

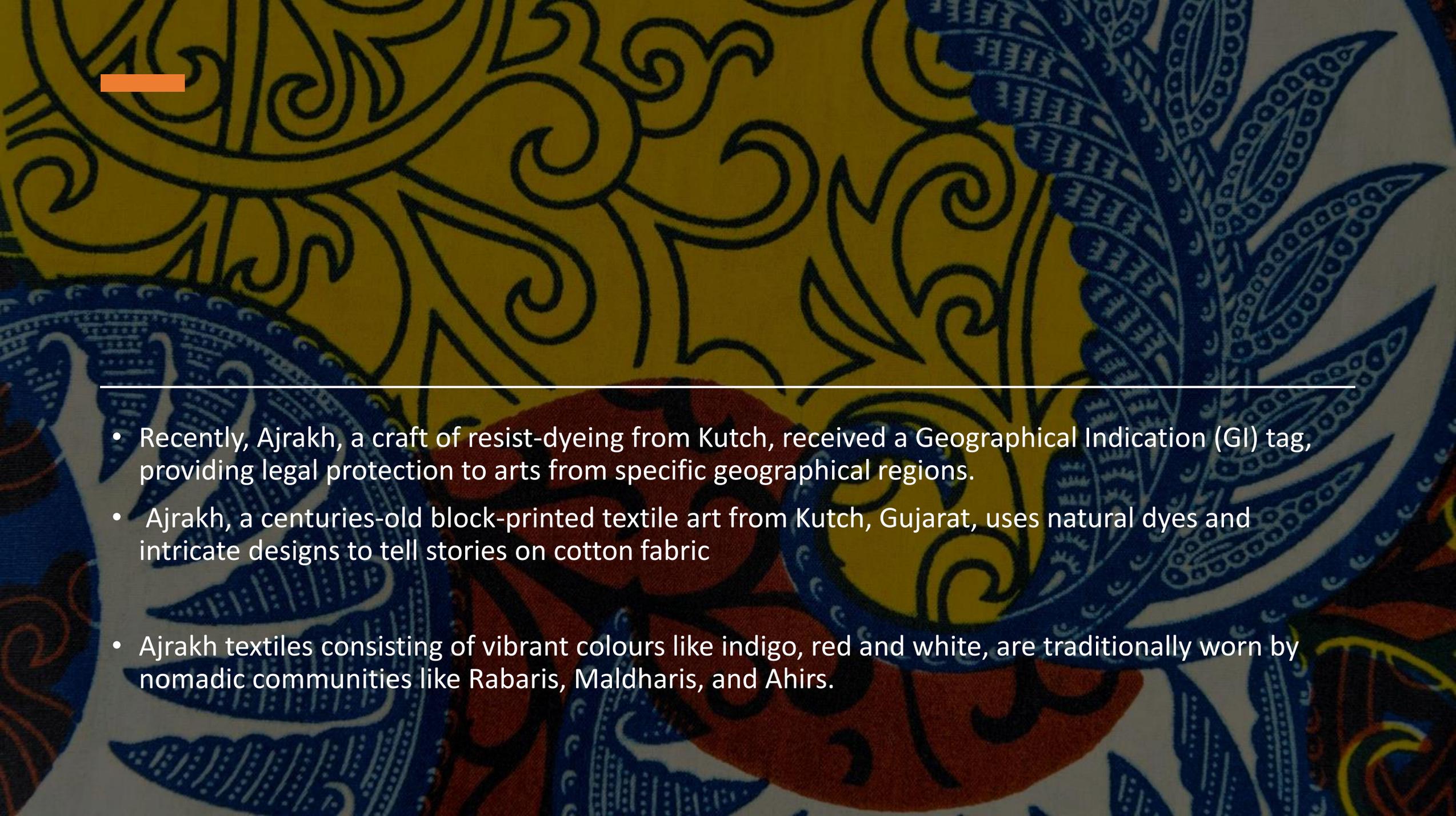
He was earlier awarded the EY Entrepreneur of the Year for India in 2023.

Vellayan began his career as an engineer and then a strategic consultant.

Vellayan successfully navigated Chola through the fallout of a troubled partnership amid a global recession, ultimately becoming the company's chairman and growing its market capitalisation 60x over the course his tenure. **FE BUREAU**



# Ajrakh Craft and Bela Block Printing

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- Recently, Ajrakh, a craft of resist-dyeing from Kutch, received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, providing legal protection to arts from specific geographical regions.
  - Ajrakh, a centuries-old block-printed textile art from Kutch, Gujarat, uses natural dyes and intricate designs to tell stories on cotton fabric
  - Ajrakh textiles consisting of vibrant colours like indigo, red and white, are traditionally worn by nomadic communities like Rabaris, Maldharis, and Ahirs.

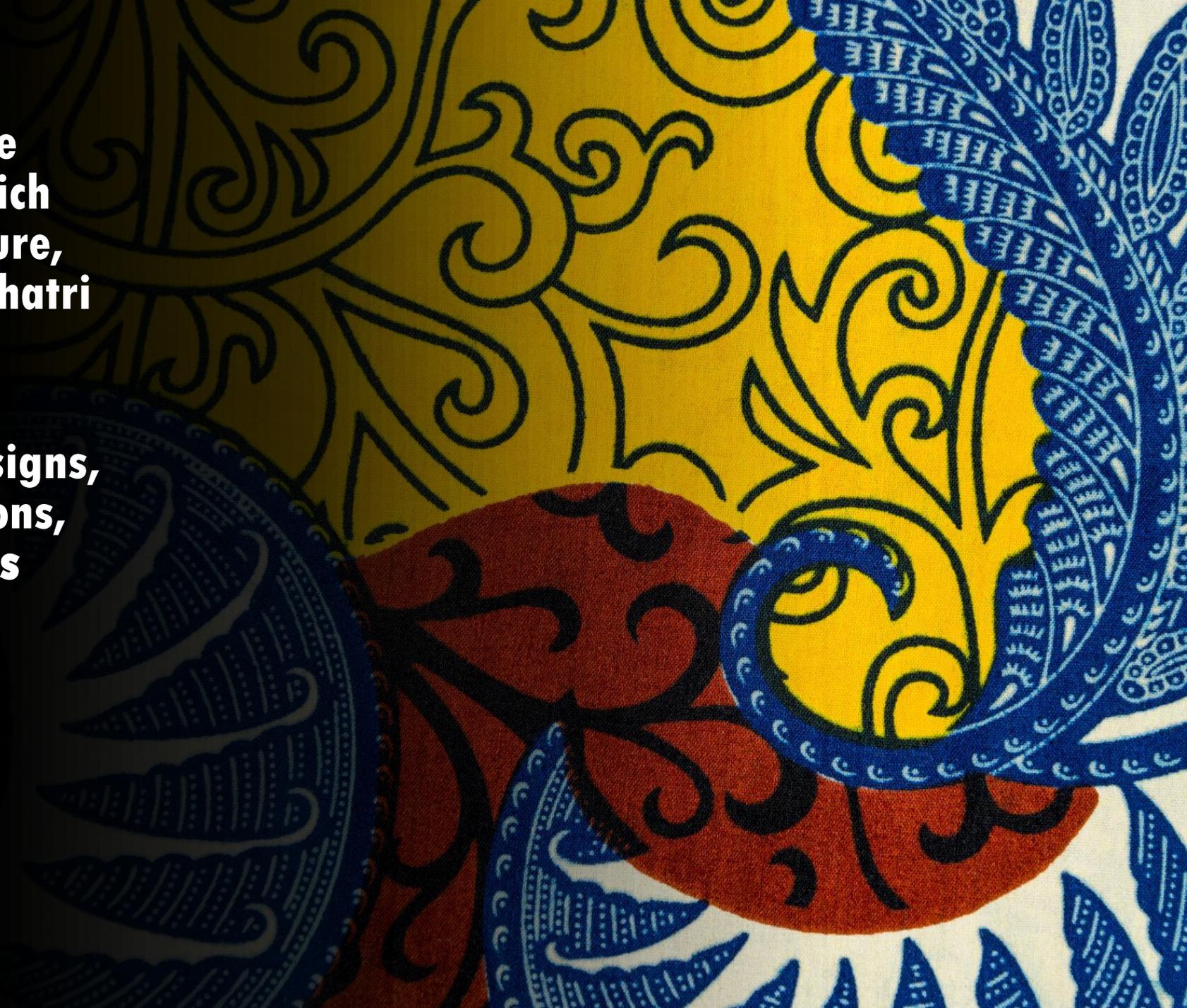
- **Bela Block Printing:**

- **It is another craft from the same region of Kutch, which is lesser-known and obscure, mainly practised by the Khatri community.**

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- **It is a traditional textile art known for its bold designs, striking colour combinations, and graphic motifs such as elephants and horses on textured fabrics.**

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# System for Pension Administration Raksha (SPARSH)

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- **Recently, the Defence Accounts Department (DAD) of the Ministry of Defence has signed MoUs with several banks to onboard them as SPARSH Service Centres.**
  - **This will provide last-mile connectivity to pensioners, especially in remote areas.**
  - **Through these centres, defence pensioners can update their profile, register grievances, digital annual identification, data verification, and access detailed information regarding their monthly pension.**

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- **System for Pension Administration Raksha (SPARSH):**

- **It is an integrated web-based system for the automation of sanctions and disbursement of defence pensions.**
- **This web-based system processes pension claims and credits pensions directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without relying on any external intermediary.**
- **It focuses on efficiency, responsiveness, and transparency.**

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# Nata Pratha

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- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has expressed serious concern over a practice known as 'Nata Pratha'.
  - **What is Nata Pratha?**
  - It is a social evil comparable to modern forms of prostitution.
  - Under 'Nata Pratha' practice, girls in some communities are **sold by their own families** either on a stamp paper or otherwise in the name of marriage, having no legal sanctity, in rural areas of **Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.**
  -

- This practice undermines the well-being, rights, and potential of minors & could lead to gender-based violence and discrimination.
- **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)**
- It is a statutory body, established under the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), **1993**.
- It is responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights, defined by the act as **Rights Relating to Life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual** guaranteed by the constitution or embodied in the international covenants and enforceable by courts in India.
-

**New Ramsar Sites:  
Nagi and Nakti  
Wetlands**

Recently, the **Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries of Bihar**, have been recognised as **wetlands of international importance** under the Ramsar Convention.

## About the Nagi and Nakti Wetlands

These **man-made wetlands** are located in the **Jamui district of Bihar**, nestled in the **Jhajha forest range**.

These are designated as **bird sanctuaries in 1984** for their importance as wintering habitats for **several migratory species**.



Over 20,000 birds congregate here during the winter months, including one of the largest congregations of **red-crested pochard (*Netta rufina*)** on the Indo-Gangetic plain.



The **Nagi Bird Sanctuary** hosts one of the largest congregations of **bar-headed geese (*Anser Indicus*)** on the Indo-Gangetic plain.



The wetlands and their fringes provide **habitat for over 75 bird species, 33 fish, and 12 aquatic plants**, and support globally threatened species, including the endangered **Indian elephant (*Elephas Maximus Indicus*)** and a **vulnerable native catfish (*Wallago Attu*)**.

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- **Recognition under the Ramsar Convention**

- The **Ramsar Convention** (adopted in **1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar**) is an international treaty aimed at conserving wetlands.

- It provides a framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources across its 172-member countries including India.

- Currently, the **highest number** of such sites is in the **UK (175)** followed by **Mexico (144)**.

- a. It places **India joint third with China** in terms of the number of such 'Ramsar Sites'.

- b. With the inclusion of Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries, the total number of such wetlands in **India has risen to 82**.

# Biopharmaceutical Alliance

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- Recently, the **Biopharmaceutical Alliance** was launched during the Bio International Convention 2024 held in San Diego, US.

- **About the Biopharmaceutical Alliance**

- It was launched in response to the **drug supply shortages** experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic by **India, South Korea, US, Japan, and European Union (EU)**.

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- It aims to put **joint efforts** into building a **resilient supply chain** and to address the challenges of **drug supply shortages** in the bio-pharmaceutical sector.
  - The **participants** emphasised the importance of a reliable and sustainable supply chain and agreed to coordinate the respective **countries' bio policies, regulations, and research and development support measures.**



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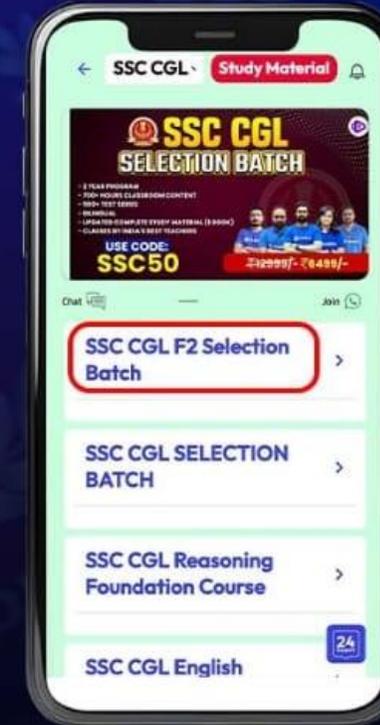
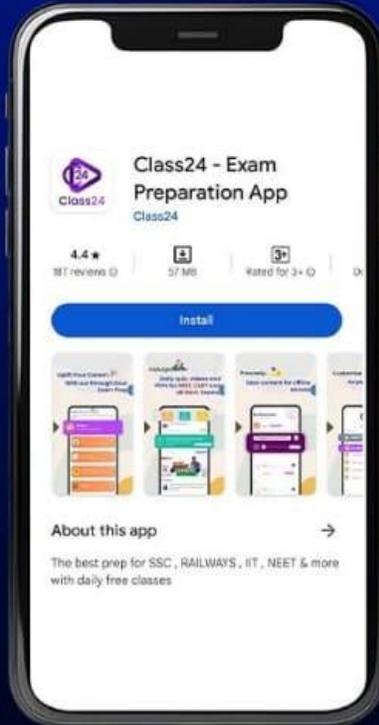
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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, with some wearing watches. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner.

Thank you  
guys.

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