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9
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6
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**Any fool can know. The
point is to understand.**

Albert Einstein

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INSIDE

Houses, police outposts torched in Manipur

NEW DELHI Suspected militants torched nearly 30 houses and two police outposts in Manipur's Jiribam district on Saturday. A forest outpost too was set afire by suspected militants early on Saturday, said Chief Minister N. Biren Singh. » PAGE 4



Crackdown sees dismissal of four govt. staff in J&K

SREINAGAR A crackdown by security agencies in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday resulted in the termination of services of four government employees and the suspension of a schoolteacher. » PAGE 4



Pakistan, China agree to upgrade trade corridor

ISLAMABAD Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chinese President Xi Jinping in their meeting have affirmed consensus on the upgradation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor in the second phase. » PAGE 12

210 Palestinians killed in strikes; 4 hostages rescued

Reuters/ALBAMA, CAIRO

Over 200 Palestinians were killed in airstrikes in Gaza on Saturday, according to Hamas officials, in one of the bloodiest Israeli assaults of the war. Israeli forces rescued four hostages held by Hamas since October in a raid in the same area.

It was not immediately clear if the hostage rescue and the Israeli air assault were part of the same operation but both sides wounded, after Hamas-run Gaza. The Hamas-run government media office said the



CWC asks Rahul to be Leader of Opposition in LS

Rahul Gandhi says he will decide 'very soon', party president Kharge urges him to 'abide' by the resolution and take up the responsibility; panel lauds party's performance in the polls, forms committees to study below-par results in some States; Congress Parliamentary Party meeting held at Samvidhan Sadan re-elects Sonia Gandhi as chairperson

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) unanimously adopted a resolution on Saturday asking Rahul Gandhi to become the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the 16th Lok Sabha.

Taking note of the sentiments expressed at the party's highest decision-making body, Mr. Gandhi said he would think it over and decide "very soon". Party president Mallikarjun Kharge urged him to "abide" by the CWC's formal resolution and take up the responsibility.

The Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) comprising the newly-elected Lok Sabha members and other Rajya Sabha members also met later at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan and re-elected Sonia Gandhi

as the chairperson after her name was proposed by Mr. Kharge.

The CWC praised the party's Lok Sabha performance under adverse conditions, but the party decided to set up separate committees in States, including party-ruled Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Telangana, to find out why the performance was below expectations and what could be done to correct the situation.

Mr. Gandhi said she did not expect to see any change in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "substance and style of governance". "That is why, as members of the CPP, we have a special obligation to be watchful, vigilant and proactive in holding him and his new NDA government accountable."

The main resolution of the CWC congratulated the people for "voting so po-



First step: Congress leaders coming out after attending the CWC meeting in New Delhi on Saturday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

wertfully to preserve democracy, protect the Constitution and enhance social and economic justice". "The verdict of the people is not just a political loss but a personal and moral defeat for the Prime Minister who sought the mandate in his name and ran a campaign anchored in lies, hate, prejudice, divisiveness and extreme bigotry," the resolution read.

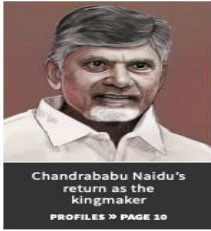
In its resolution, the CWC noted that the people of the country had placed the party firmly on the path of revival but challenges still remain. "The people of India have spoken. It is now up to us to build on it. We must and will," read the CWC resolution.

The resolution also highlighted Mr. Gandhi's contribution, especially



Why did several exit polls go off the mark?

FAQ » PAGE 09



Chandrababu Naidu's return as the kingmaker

PROFILES » PAGE 10



India to cross swords with Pakistan in Sunday blockbuster

SPORT » PAGE 13

'INDIA bloc should function cohesively'

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Calling the people's mandate in the Lok Sabha polls a "decisive rejection" of the politics of "divisiveness and hatred", Congress president

momentum generated by the results. Senior leader Digvijaya Singh was the first to move a motion but several others joined in to make it a chorus. Lok Sabha member Gaurav Gogoi said Mr. Gandhi would be a powerful voice for the 235 Opposition members in the Lower House. Party leader Parag Singh Bajwa said that as LoP, Mr. Gandhi

could force the government to deliver on some of the guarantees like scrapping the Agriveter scheme, making minimum support price (MSP) for farmers a legal right and cornering the government over the provisions of the Constitution. Launching her brother's determination, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra told the CWC that Mr. Gandhi had unflinching faith in Congress's ability to bounce back.

Reflecting on the results, Mr. Gandhi said those who had to leave have done so and those who remain with the party are the real "warriors of democracy". He also praised the party's campaign and communication strategy that allowed the Congress to fight the elections on its own turf instead of reacting to the BJP.

Modi's coalition Ministry to assume office today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi is all set to be sworn in with his Council of Ministers for a third successive term — a feat achieved only by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru — though as the head of a coalition government. Massive preparations are under way for the ceremony to be held on Sunday evening at the Rashtrapati Bhavan forecourt. Over 9,000 invitees are expected to attend the ceremony — from heads of neighbouring states to labourers who worked on the Central Vista construction in New Delhi.

FULL REPORT » PAGE 5



New chapter: Preparations underway for the swearing-in of the new government, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Saturday. PPT

NTA sets up panel on NEET allegations; rules out a re-test

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Testing Agency (NTA) has constituted a high-powered committee headed by a former Union Public Service (UPSC) Chairperson to look into the grievances around the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), 2024, the results of which were announced on June 4.

Several students and political parties have demanded a re-test alleging a question paper leak in Bihar and opposing grant of grace marks. "Illogically high" scores and an unexpected number of full marks (720/720). Concerns were also raised about the presence of eight high-scoring from one centre in Haryana.

Report in a week NTA Director-General Subodh Kumar Singh ruled out a re-test, adding that the grievances pertain to only 1,600 students out of the 23 lakh candidates who took the entrance test for admission to medical colleges. The committee will submit its report in a week. Following this, the NTA would take time-bound action, which would not affect the results of other marks. Mr. Singh said it was based on questions attempted by the candidates in a said time frame. "The maximum score after grace mark was 720, the lowest was 20, it depended on the candidates." Denying reports of paper leak and availability of question papers online, Mr. Singh said, "Question papers were shared on social media around 10 p.m., two hours after the exam had started."

Media baron Ramoji Rao passes away

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Media baron and founder of the Eenadu group, Ramoji Rao passed away on Saturday at a private hospital in Hyderabad while undergoing treatment.

FULL REPORT » PAGE 2

death toll had risen to at least 210 Palestinians with many more wounded, after medics and health officials gave earlier tolls of up to 100 dead. There was no immediate confirmation of the highest figure from Gaza's Health Ministry. The ministry did not say

how many of the fatalities were combatants. Hamas gunmen had taken around 250 hostages back to Gaza on October 7 after the attacks that triggered Israel's ongoing war on Gaza. There are 116 hostages now left in the coastal enclave, according to Israel.

Deir al-Balah but many bodies were still lying in the streets, including around the market district, Ziad and other residents said. Nuseirat, a historic Palestinian refugee camp, has been subjected to heavy Israeli bombing during the war and there has also been fierce ground fighting in its eastern areas. "The Gaza war shows no signs of slowing even as Israel's Chief ally the United States presses for a ceasefire and a deal that would free the remaining hostages held by Hamas in exchange for releases of Palestinians imprisoned in Israel."

'HIDING CAPTIVES' » PAGE 12

CWC asks Rahul to be Leader of Opposition in LS

Rahul Gandhi says he will decide 'very soon', party president Kharge urges him to 'abide' by the resolution and take up the responsibility; panel lauds party's performance in the polls, forms committees to study below-par results in some States; Congress Parliamentary Party meeting held at Samvidhan Sadan re-elects Sonia Gandhi as chairperson

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Taking note of the sentiments expressed at the party's highest decision-making body, Mr. Gandhi said he would think it over and decide "very soon". Party president Mallikarjun Kharge urged him to "abide" by the CWC's formal resolution and take up the responsibility.

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hi as the chairperson after her name was proposed by Mr. Kharge.

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'INDIA bloc should function cohesively'

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NEW DELHI

Calling the people's mandate in the Lok Sabha polls a "decisive rejection" of the politics of "divisiveness and hatred", Congress president

Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday stressed that the INDIA bloc would "function cohesively and collectively both in Parliament and outside".

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 5

how the Bharat Jodo Yatra and the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra became "historic turning points in our nation's politics and instilled hope and confidence in lakhs of our workers and crores of our voters".

Inside the closed-door meeting of the extended CWC, most members argued that Mr. Gandhi needed to take up the LoP position to build on the

momentum generated by the results.

Senior leader Digvijaya Singh was the first to move a motion but several others joined in to make it a chorus. Lok Sabha member Gaurav Gogoi said Mr. Gandhi would be a powerful voice for the 235 Opposition members in the Lower House. Party leader Partap Singh Bajwa said that as LoP, Mr. Gandhi

could force the government to deliver on some of the guarantees like scrapping the Agniveer scheme, making minimum support price (MSP) for farmers a legal right and cornering the government over the provisions of the Constitution.

Lauding her brother's determination, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra told the CWC that Mr. Gandhi had unflinching faith in Congress's ability to bounce back.

Reflecting on the results, Mr. Gandhi said those who had to leave have done so and those who remain with the party the real "warriors of democracy". He also praised the party's campaign and communication strategy that allowed the Congress to fight the elections on its own turf instead of reacting to the BJP.

No.	Portrait	Name	Constituency	Tenure			Lok Sabha	Prime Minister	Party
1		Ram Subhag Singh	Buxar	17 December 1969	27 December 1970	1 year, 10 days	4th	Indira Gandhi	Indian National Congress (O)
–	–	<i>Vacant</i>		27 December 1970	30 June 1977		5th		No official opposition
2		Yashwantrao Chavan	Satara	1 July 1977	11 April 1978	284 days	6th	Morarji Desai	Indian National Congress
3		C. M. Stephen	Idukki	12 April 1978	9 July 1979	1 year, 88 days			
(2)		Yashwantrao Chavan	Satara	10 July 1979	28 July 1979	18 days			
4		Jagjivan Ram	Sasaram	29 July 1979	22 August 1979	24 days		Charan Singh	Janata Party

–	–	<i>Vacant</i>		22 August 1979	31 December 1984		7th	Indira Gandhi	No official opposition ^[2]
				31 December 1984	18 December 1989		8th	Rajiv Gandhi	
5		Rajiv Gandhi	Amethi	18 December 1989	23 December 1990	1 year, 5 days	9th	VP Singh	Indian National Congress
6		L. K. Advani	New Delhi	24 December 1990	13 March 1991	2 years, 214 days		Chandra Shekhar	Bharatiya Janata Party
	Gandhinagar		21 June 1991	26 July 1993					
7		Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Lucknow	21 July 1993	10 May 1996	2 years, 289 days	10th	P. V. Narasimha Rao	
8		P. V. Narasimha Rao	Berhampur	16 May 1996	31 May 1996	15 days	11th	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Indian National Congress
(7)		Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Lucknow	1 June 1996	4 December 1997	1 year, 186 days		Deve Gowda IK Gujral	Bharatiya Janata Party

9		Sharad Pawar	Baramati	19 March 1998	26 April 1999	1 year, 38 days	12th	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Indian National Congress
10		Sonia Gandhi	Amethi	31 October 1999	6 February 2004	4 years, 98 days	13th		
(6)		L. K. Advani	Gandhinagar	21 May 2004	18 May 2009	4 years, 362 days	14th	Manmohan Singh	Bharatiya Janata Party
11		Sushma Swaraj	Vidisha	21 December 2009	19 May 2014	4 years, 149 days	15th		
–	–	<i>Vacant</i>		20 May 2014	29 May 2019		16th		No official opposition ^{[2][3]}
				30 May 2019	9 June 2024		17th		
12		Rahul Gandhi	Wayanad & Rae Bareli	9 June 2024	<i>Incumbent</i>	0 days	18th	Narendra Modi	Indian National Congress

List of leaders of the opposition by length of term

No. ↕	Name ↕	Party ↕	Length of term	
			Longest continuous term ↕	Total years of opposition-ship
1	Lal Krishna Advani	BJP	4 years, 361 days	7 years, 322 days
2	Sushma Swaraj	BJP	4 years, 148 days	4 years, 148 days
3	Sonia Gandhi	INC	4 years, 116 days	4 years, 116 days
4	Atal Bihari Vajpayee	BJP	2 years, 289 days	3 years, 110 days
5	C. M. Stephen	INC	1 year, 89 days	1 year, 89 days
6	Sharadchandra Pawar	INC	1 year, 38 days	1 year, 38 days
7	Yashwantrao Chavan	INC	1 year, 20 days	1 year, 38 days
8	Ram Subhag Singh	INC(O)	1 year, 10 days	1 year, 10 days
9	Rajiv Gandhi	INC	1 year, 6 days	1 year, 6 days
10	Jagjivan Ram	JP	25 days	25 days
11	P. V. Narasimha Rao	INC	16 days	16 days

Bill to raise women's legal marriage age lapses in LS

With the dissolution of the 17th Lok Sabha, a Bill that aimed to bring uniformity in the age of marriage for men and women has lapsed. The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2021 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports. The Bill aimed to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, to increase the minimum age of marriage of women to 21 years. Under the 2006 Act, a person married below the minimum age may apply for annulment within two years of attaining majority (i.e., before 20 years of age). The Bill increases this to five years (i.e., 23 years of age). PTI

The Current Laws:

For Hindus, The Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, sets 18 years as the minimum age of marriage for the bride and 21 years as the minimum age for the groom.

In Islam, the marriage of a minor who has attained puberty is considered valid.

The Special Marriage Act, 1954 and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 also prescribe 18 and 21 years as the minimum age of consent for marriage for women and men respectively.

According to the NFHS-5, **23%** (47% in NFHS-3 and 27% in NFHS-4) of women between the age of 20 and 24 were married before 18 years of age.

In India, the practice of child marriage was **first legally prohibited** through the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (legal age G = 14 years and B = 18 years)

This Act was amended in **1978** to increase the minimum age to 18 years for females, and 21 years for men.

In 2020, the central government set up a task force (Chairperson: **Ms Jaya Jaitly**) to examine the correlation between the age of marriage and the mother, and the child's health.

The Committee suggested increasing the age of marriage for females to **21**.

TO OVERRIDE ALL OTHER LAWS & CUSTOMS

➤ Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021

proposes to raise legal age for women to marry from 18 to 21, on a par with men

➤ Seeks to amend other laws for uniformity in age of marriage

– Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872; Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936; Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937; Special Marriage Act, 1954.



Hindu Marriage Act, 1955;
Foreign Marriage Act, 1969

➤ Anyone married before the age of 21 can seek annulment up to 5 years instead of the current 2 from the time of attaining majority

➤ Amendments to override all other laws, customs, usage or practice

➤ Bill to come into force 2 years from the date it receives President's assent

₹2,000 hike in annual honorarium paid to farmers in Rajasthan

The Hindu Bureau

JAIPUR

After the Bharatiya Janata Party's dismal performance in the Lok Sabha election in Rajasthan, the State government on Saturday announced an increase in the annual honorarium paid to farmers under the Union government's Kisan Samman Nidhi.

With the BJP-ruled State government now contributing ₹2,000, the amount given to each farm household has been enhanced from ₹6,000 to ₹8,000 per year. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma said the BJP go-

vernment was moving forward with the resolve of farmers' uplift.

"The State government is committed to ensuring all-round development of farmers," Mr. Sharma said in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

Rajasthan Finance Minister Diya Kumari had stated the government's intention to fulfil the promise while presenting the vote-on-account in the Assembly on February 8.

The BJP government's announcement was seen as an attempt to mollify farmers ahead of the upcoming local body and panchayat polls in the State.

INTERIM
BUDGET
2019 - 20



Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)



Direct income support of ₹6,000 p.a
for farmers, effective 01.12.2018



To benefit 12 cr small and marginal farmer
families having cultivable land upto 2 ha

Direct transfer into the bank accounts
in three equal instalments



First installment upto 31.03.2019,
to be paid this year itself



₹75,000 cr in outlay for 2019-20 and
₹20,000 cr in RE 2018-19

PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI SCHEME

- ◉ Central Sector scheme.
- ◉ 100% funding from Government of India
- ◉ Operational from 1.12.2018.
- ◉ Income support of Rs.6000/- per year
- ◉ Direct Bank Transfer benefits
- ◉ Family of Husband, Wife and a minor Children
- ◉ Generate income of the Small and Marginal Farmers
- ◉ Established Project Monitoring Unit

Kolkata-based filmmaker's *Mehroon* wins laurels at KASHISH film festival

Shrabana Chatterjee

KOLKATA

The short film *Mehroon*, directed by Abu Sohel Khondekar, has won laurels at the KASHISH International Film Festival in Mumbai.

After the film's screening at Liberty Cinema in Mumbai on May 19, Khondekar, 34, a Kolkata-based queer filmmaker, won the Special Jury Mention for the Riyad Wadia Award for best emerging Indian filmmaker. She had won the KASHISH QDrishti Film Grant of ₹2.5 lakh in 2023 to make the film.

Mehroon was highly appreciated by the audience at the screening. The film-



A poster of the silent short film *Mehroon*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

maker remained in anticipation that much of the movie would fall through the cracks as there was no

narration, and the audience had to figure out the story on their own without verbal cues.

However, the movie received a great response from the audience and the jury. With much praise pouring in, Khondekar said, "It was a dream to see my own film on 35 mm and have an audience appreciate it and clap for it."

She said the thought to title the film, *Mehroon*, came from Mehroon Nissa, the wife of the Mughal emperor Jahangir, often described as the real force that ran his empire. The titular character in the movie, Anirban Mandal at birth, chooses the name

Mehroon, as a symbolic break from the Brahminical conservatism to give herself a completely new identity. Her journey is traced through the silent yet impactful frames of the movie.

Khondekar said, "The film's story was born out of the necessity to create something with the bare minimum. I believe we as the trans community can't wait for the larger Indian mass to accept us and then come out." After the success at KASHISH, *Mehroon* has been nominated to the Chennai International Queer Film Festival, where it will be screened in a month or two.

COMMANDER Swachata Badhao, Tandrusti Badhe
Slimhide 5 YEARS
 Slim Hide Flush Tank Kahan...? Space Saving
 Badi Todfod + Deewaar Ko Leakage Se Bachayen



RAMOJI RAO, WHO REVOLUTIONISED MEDIA INDUSTRY, DIES AT 87 PAGE 8

Finance to states, depts: Use arbitration only in disputes under ₹10 crore

APURVA VISHWANATH NEW DELHI, JUNE 8

UNDERLINING THAT the arbitration processes are expensive and time-consuming, and that there are "perceptions of wrong-doing including collusion" about arbitrators, the Union Finance Ministry has recommended restricting arbitration clauses in government contracts to disputes of less than ₹10 crore.

"Arbitration as a method of dispute resolution should not be routinely or automatically included in procurement contracts/tenders, especially in large contracts," said a June 3 office memorandum by the Department of Expenditure's Procurement Policy Division.

THE MEMORANDUM has been circulated to all ministries in the government of India, including the departments of public enterprises and financial services, and to all states as well.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE WORLD

ISRAEL RESCUES 4 HOSTAGES IN GAZA, AIRSTRIKES KILL 210 PAGE 10

SPORT

SUNDAY SHOWDOWN: INDIA TAKE ON PAK PAGE 15

TALKS CONTINUE ON portfolios for allies | **SHIVRAJ, KHATTAR, BOMMAL, DEB: Former CMs may get new roles** | **BJP-RSS LEADERS DISCUSS way ahead on party leadership**

Taking oath today



Preparations at Rashtrapati Bhavan Saturday for the swearing in of Narendra Modi as Prime Minister. (1)

Stage set, Modi to send list of ministers before oath-taking ceremony

LIZ MATHEW & JATIN ANAND NEW DELHI, JUNE 8

PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE Narendra Modi, set to take oath for the third consecutive term Sunday as the head of an NDA government, is expected to hand over the list of Ministers in his council a few hours ahead of the swearing-in ceremony, scheduled for 7.15 pm at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The BJP, 32 seats below the majority mark, will need the support of its allies, especially Telugu Desam Party and Janata Dal (United). Indeed, top BJP

Hasina arrives; Muizzu confirms visit, says ties in right direction

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, JUNE 8

BANGLADESH Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in Delhi Saturday, being the first of the seven foreign leaders to reach India to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi for his third term. Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu also confirmed his visit as he accepted the invitation, which was personally delivered by the Indian High Commissioner in Male.

UCC, delimitation and quota: Day before, TDP flags 'discussion' points

BJP stand on removing Muslim quota is if it's on its own, not in coalition: Lokesh

GREENIVAS JANAYAL HYDERABAD, JUNE 8

THE TELUGU Desam Party will ensure that decisions on contentious issues such as delimitation and the Uniform Civil Code are not taken unilaterally, nor would the reservation of any community be taken away, party leader and N Chandrababu Naidu's son N Lokesh Naidu has told The Indian Express.



Speaking at a day before the new government is sworn-in, with TDP as the NDA's second largest constituent with 16 MP, Lokesh, speaking about the 4 per cent Muslim reservation in his state, said the community has nothing to worry about.

Parliament will no longer be muzzled and stifled: Sonia



(From left) Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Mallikarjun Kharge, KC Venugopal and Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on Saturday. (ANI/Metron)

ASAD REHMAN NEW DELHI, JUNE 8

AS THE Narendra Modi government prepares to begin its third term, senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi Saturday launched a strong attack on it, and said that a stronger Opposition now means Parliament will no longer "be muzzled and stifled as it has been over the past 10 years".

Addressing party MPs after her re-election as the Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson, Sonia said, "No longer can and should Parliament be bulldozed like it has been for a decade now. No longer will the writ of the ruling establishment be permitted to disrupt Parliament, whimsically mistreat members or push through legislation without due regard to the people's interests."

She asked the newly elected Congress MPs to "be watchful, vigilant and proactive" in holding the Prime Minister and his new government "accountable".

Asserting their new numbers

SONIA GANDHI's remarks underline the Congress's resolve to play the role of an aggressive Opposition, challenging the government every step of the way in Parliament. However, the composition of which will be completely different this time given that the BJP does not have majority on its own.

As Naveen bows out, selfies and a pep talk to leaders: 'Will be around for you'

the video, Patnaik asks BJD workers to own the work the BJD government did and not be "ashamed" of the loss.

As Patnaik bows out after an unprecedented 24-year reign as Chief Minister, amid swirling questions about the future of the party and its leadership, the 77-year-old has been gracious in defeat.

Over the last few days since the BJD's loss, Patnaik has been meeting a steady stream of party candidates — both winners and those who lost — gamely posing with them for selfies, "motivating them not to get discouraged" and assuring them that he would be around for them.

"The (former) CM told us what the government has done in 24 years and motivated us to keep working. He said he would be there for us and lead us from the front. He has given us directions on what to do and what not to do," BJD's organisational secretary Prasad Prakash Das told The Indian Express after his meeting with Patnaik.

Of the 147 seats in the Odisha Assembly, the BJP won 78, reducing the BJD to 51, down from the



BJD chief Naveen Patnaik addresses party leaders on Thursday. (ANI/Express/Outlook)

113 seats it won in 2019. Patnaik first lost from Kantabanjhi, his first loss since his electoral debut in 1997, while registering a narrow win in Hinglji.

24 years ago, Patnaik's former private secretary and confidant V K Pandian, the Tamil Nadu-born ex-IAS officer who became the focal point of the BJD's attack this election, was absent from the proceedings. Considered to be Patnaik's "shadow" for the last couple of years, the former civil servant had been missing in action since the election results, not accompanying the former

UStounding victory



Amul We back winners!

Centre and state are not meeting public expectations, admits Manipur CM Biren

'Central forces must actively help state'

RITIKA CHOPRA NEW DELHI, JUNE 8

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT the state and the Centre have not met the "expectations" of the public in Manipur, state Chief Minister Biren Singh said this was reflected in the BJP's defeat there in the just concluded Lok Sabha elections. Accepting responsibility for that defeat — Congress won both seats — he said, in an interview to The Indian Express, that it was time for him to work with "even more conviction."

This was the first election that Singh and the BJP faced after the ethnic violence broke out in the state a year ago in May 2023. The



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW
 N BIREN SINGH MANIPUR CHIEF MINISTER

Inner Manipur constituency was won by Congress's Angomcha Biren Akoljam, a professor from Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, who defeated his BJP rival, the Chief Minister reserved.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Manipur's Jiribam on edge as mob torches houses, govt offices

Over 230 people in district flee homes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE IMPHAL, JUNE 8

ETHNIC TENSIONS escalated in Manipur's Jiribam district, bordering Assam, on Saturday after a mob of armed miscreants torched several houses and some government offices, including two police outposts and a forest beat office.

Over 230 people from Mongbung, Lamia Khurem, and surrounding villages fled their homes and are currently taking



Security forces evacuate residents from Jiribam. (Express)

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SUJIT BISOIYI BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 8

HOURS AFTER offering his resignation following his party's defeat in the recently concluded Assembly polls, a video of Biju Janata Dal president Naveen Patnaik appeared on social media in which the outgoing chief minister is heard addressing a small group of party workers. In

Indian Navy gets first woman helicopter pilot

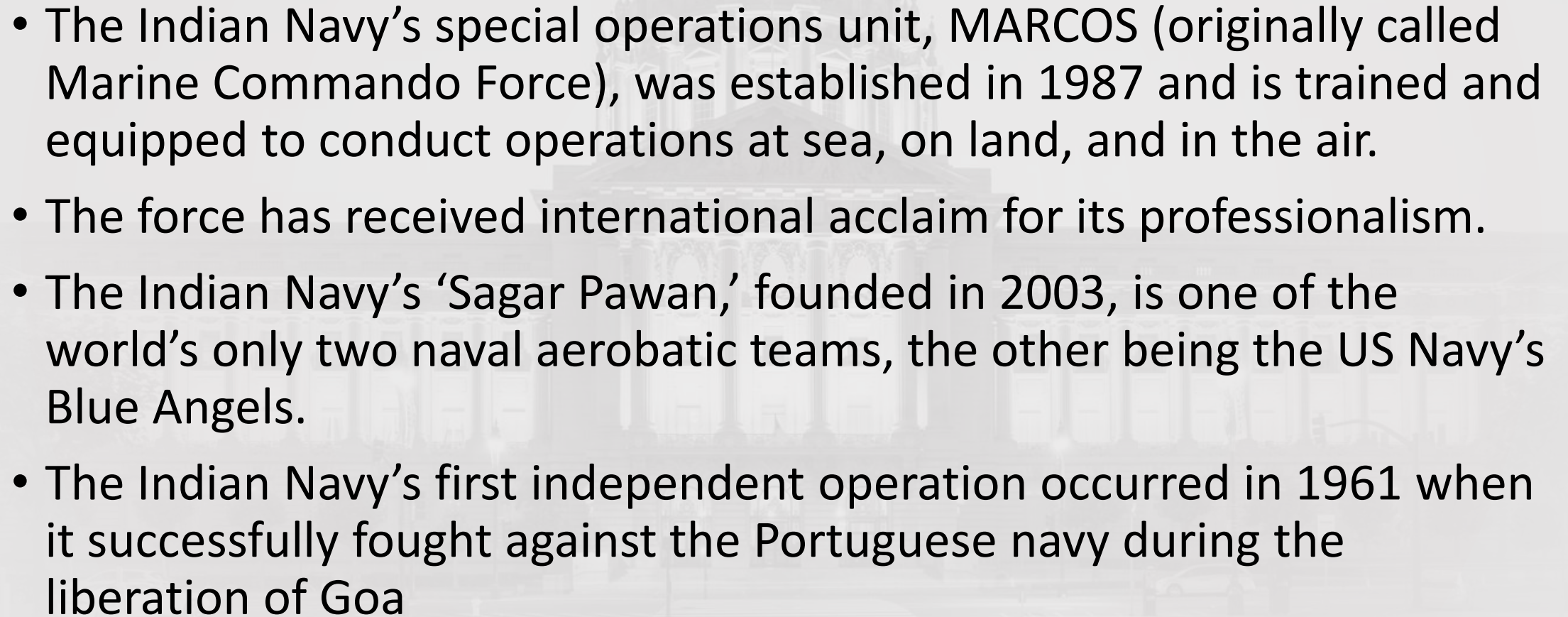
New Delhi: Sub-Lieutenant Anamika B Rajeev has become the Navy's first woman helicopter pilot after she received the prestigious "Golden Wings" following completion of training at a naval air station in Tamil Nadu's Arakkonam.


Lt Jamyang Tsewang, the first commissioned naval officer from Ladakh, also successfully graduated as a qualified helicopter pilot, according to the Indian Navy.

Sub-Lt Rajeev and Lt Tsewang were among 21 officers awarded the "Golden Wings" following the successful culmination of an intensive 22-week training programme, encompassing rigorous flying and ground training at the Indian Naval Air Squadron 561, the alma mater of all helicopter pilots of the Indian Navy, it said.

PTI

- The Indian Navy is currently the world's seventh-strongest maritime force, trailing only the United States, Russia, China, Japan, the United Kingdom, and France. As of June 2019, the force had 150 submarines and ships, 300 aircraft, and 67,252 active and 55,000 reserve personnel.
- The anti-ship cruise missile BrahMos of the Indian Navy is the world's fastest operational system in its class.
- The range of the missile system has recently been increased from 298 km to nearly 450 km by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)


- 
- The Indian Navy's special operations unit, MARCOS (originally called Marine Commando Force), was established in 1987 and is trained and equipped to conduct operations at sea, on land, and in the air.
 - The force has received international acclaim for its professionalism.
 - The Indian Navy's 'Sagar Pawan,' founded in 2003, is one of the world's only two naval aerobatic teams, the other being the US Navy's Blue Angels.
 - The Indian Navy's first independent operation occurred in 1961 when it successfully fought against the Portuguese navy during the liberation of Goa


Anniversaries	Navy Day : 4 December	
Operational fleet	as of January 2024	[show]
Engagements	Major wars and Operations	[show]
Website	indiannavy.nic.in 	

Commanders




Commander-in-Chief  [President Droupadi Murmu](#)

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)  [General Anil Chauhan](#)

Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)  [Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi](#)

Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS)  [Krishna Swaminathan](#)

Notable commanders

-  [Admiral S. M. Nanda](#)
-  [Admiral Sourendra Nath Kohli](#)
-  [Admiral Ram Dass Katari](#)

Consumption inequality in India falls, says report

PRIYANSH VERMA

New Delhi, June 8

INEQUALITY IN INDIA in terms of consumption across households has declined in the past decade, reveals the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23. As per the report, released by the statistics ministry on Friday, the Gini coefficient – an index to measure inequality – fell in both rural and urban households in 2022-23 from its level in 2011-12.

As per the survey, the Gini coefficient fell to 0.266 in 2022-23 from 0.283 in 2011-12, for rural households; and for urban ones, it fell to 0.314 from 0.363. The index is one of the most widely used measures of income inequality across the world. The Gini coef-

ficient score lies between 0 and 1, where complete equality would result in a score of zero and complete inequality would result in 1.

The figure stated above for households, however, depicts the state of consumption inequality, and not income inequality. Therefore, to say that the fall in Gini coefficient in HCES 2022-23, also means a fall in income inequality across households may not be correct, say economists.

"Income and consumption could be the same for the lowest strata of the society. The low wage earners, on a monthly basis, usually use their entire income for consumption, but that's not the case for high wage earners," said NR Bhanumurthy, vice chancellor, Bengaluru's BASE University.

Iga Swiatek wins third title at Ronald Garros in straight sets

IGA SWIATEK WON her third consecutive French Open championship and fourth in five years by defeating Jasmine Paolini 6-2, 6-1 in the final on Saturday. The top-seeded Swiatek trailed 2-1 early in Court Philippe Chatrier before taking the next 10 games to claim the opening set and go up 5-0 in the second. She stretched her winning streak at Roland Garros to 21 matches and her career record at the place is now 35-2.

The 23-year-old from Poland is the first woman with three trophies in a row in Paris since Justine Henin from 2005 to 2007. Swiatek also won the French Open in 2020 and the US Open in 2022 and is now 5-0 in major finals. The 12th-seeded Paolini, a 28-year-old from Italy,



was appearing in a Slam final for the first time. She had never been past the second round at one of the four most important tennis tournaments until getting to the fourth round at the Australian Open in January.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

A historic first for Alcaraz at Roland Garros

FRENCH OPEN

Associated Press
PARIS

Carlos Alcaraz came back to defeat Alexander Zverev 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 on Sunday and win the French Open for his third Grand Slam title.

Alcaraz is a 21-year-old from Spain who grew up watching countryman Rafael Nadal win trophy after trophy at Roland Garros – a record 14 in all – and now has eclipsed Nadal as the youngest man to collect Major championships on three surfaces. Nadal was about a year and a half older when he did it.

Sunday's victory – in which he trailed two sets to one, just as he had in the semifinals against Jannik Sinner on Friday – allowed Alcaraz to add the clay-court championship at Ro-

The new king of clay



Alcaraz

1 Alcaraz is the first man in the Open era to win his first three Majors on three different surfaces (US Open 2022 on hard court, Wimbledon 2023 on grass and French Open 2024 on clay)

2 Since 2000, the 21-year-old is only the second man to win the French Open title before turning 22. Rafael Nadal did it from 2005 to 07

3 Alcaraz won his third straight Grand Slam final and extended his record to 3-0

5 He is the fifth active male player with three or more Slam titles after Novak Djokovic (24), Nadal (22), Andy Murray (3) and Stan Wawrinka (3)

7 Alcaraz is the seventh man to win a Grand Slam on all three surfaces after Nadal, Mats Wilander, Jimmy Connors, Roger Federer, Djokovic and Andre Agassi

7 The Spaniard is the seventh man in the Open era to win his first three Major finals after Gustavo Kuerten, Stefan Edberg, Bjorn Borg, Federer, Connors and Wawrinka

8 Alcaraz is the eighth Spanish man to win at Roland Garros after Nadal, Manuel Santana (pre-Open era), Andres Gimeno, Sergi Bruguera, Carlos Moya, Albert Costa, Juan Carlos Ferrero (Alcaraz's current coach who won the title in 2003, a month after Alcaraz was born)

8 Alcaraz ended French Open's eight-year wait for a first-time men's champion

21 Alcaraz is the youngest man to win Grand Slam titles on all three surfaces at the age of 21

21 Alcaraz is also the youngest man to win three different Slams at the age of 21, eclipsing Connors' record (22 years 7 days)

COMPILED BY NIHIT SACHDEVA

THE RESULTS

Finals: Men: 3-Alcaraz (Esp) bt 4-Zverev (Ger) 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2.

Women: Doubles: 5-Siniakova (Cze) & Gauff (USA) bt 11-Errani & Paolini (Ita) 7-6(5), 6-3.

stands – which he would do on a handful of occasions – and double-faulting, trying a so-so drop shot that led to an easy winner for Zverev, then missing a backhand.

Let's just say they won't be putting those initial 10 minutes in the Louvre. A lot of the 4-hour, 19-minute match was patchy, littered with unforced errors.

Alcaraz managed to come out strong in the fourth set, grabbing 16 of the first 21 points to move out to a 4-0 edge, including one brilliant, sliding, down-the-line forehand passing winner that he ce-

2024 French Open

Date	26 May – 9 June 2024
Edition	123rd
Category	94th Grand Slam
Draw	128S / 64D / 32X
Prize money	€ 53,478,000 ^[1]
Surface	Clay
Location	Paris (XVI^e), France
Venue	Roland Garros Stadium

2023 Champions

Men's singles

 [Novak Djokovic](#)

Champions

Women's singles

 [Iga Świątek](#)

Men's doubles

 [Marcelo Arévalo](#) /  [Mate Pavić](#)

Women's doubles

 [Coco Gauff](#) /  [Kateřina Siniaková](#)

Mixed doubles

 [Laura Siegemund](#) /  [Édouard Roger-Vasselin](#)

72-member NDA Ministry takes oath of office

61 Ministers are from the BJP and 11, including five Cabinet Ministers, are from alliance partners

27 Ministers from the OBCs, 10 from the SCs, five from STs and five from minority communities

24 States get representation; 43 Ministers are third-term MPs, and five are former CMs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi took the oath of office as Prime Minister for a third successive term on Sunday, along with 71 other members of his Council of Ministers, at a ceremony held at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The new Ministry comprises 30 Cabinet Ministers, five Ministers of State with Independent Charge and 36 Ministers of State.

The team appears to be a mix of old and new. Sixty-one Ministers are from the BJP and 11 from its partners in the National Democratic Alliance.

Five leaders of the allies – former Karnataka Chief Minister and Janata Dal(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy; former Bihar Chief Minister and Hindustan Awam Morcha leader Jitan Ram Manjhi; Lok Janshakti Party leader Chirag Pas-



Begin again: President Droupadi Murmu with the newly sworn-in Ministers at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday. R.V. MOORTHY

wan; Ram Mohan Naidu of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP); and Rajeev Ranjan Singh “Lallan” of the Janata Dal(U) – have been given Cabinet berths.

Jayant Chaudhary of the Rashtriya Lok Dal and Pratap Rao Jadhav of the Shiv

Sena Shinde faction have been appointed Ministers of State (Independent charge). Anupriya Patel of the Apna Dal, Ram Nath Thakur of the Janata Dal (U), Chandrashekhar Pemasani of the TDP and Ram Das Athawale of the

Republican Party of India, have been made Ministers of State. The All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) did not receive any representation.

The Ministers are drawn from 24 States, including the BJP’s lone and first-ev-

er Lok Sabha member from Kerala, Suresh Gopi. The choices also reflect caste and community representation with 27 Ministers belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBC), 10 to the Scheduled Castes (SC), five to the Scheduled

Tribes (ST) and five to minority communities.

At least 10 Ministers who have been in the government for the past 10 years have made a repeat entry into the government, including Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman, Piyush Goyal, Giriraj Singh and Kiren Rijiju. The NDA government appears to be aiming at emphasising continuity and experience, with 43 Ministers being third-term MPs, and 39 having been Union Ministers before.

Former Chief Ministers too found a good representation with Shivraj Singh Chouhan from Madhya Pradesh, Manohar Lal from Haryana and Sarbajit Sonowal from Assam, apart from Mr. Majhi and Mr. Kumaraswamy, being sworn in.

Community representation and the upcoming Assembly polls in Maharashtra, Haryana and

Jharkhand were also kept in mind. In Haryana, the inclusion of Mr. Khattar, considered a close associate of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, six-time Lok Sabha member Rao Inderjit Singh and senior Gurjar leader Krishan Pal Gurjaris connected to the BJP’s focus to retain its grip over non-Jat vote bank in the agrarian State ahead of the Assembly election later this year.

No senior OBC leader (the BJP’s core vote base in the State) from Maharashtra features in the Ministry.

Another big lesson of the mandate was drawn from the BJP’s disappointing performance in the crucial State of Uttar Pradesh. Here, with nine inclusions, the focus was on continuity and getting the caste equation right to make up for the losses.

MORE REPORTS
» PAGES 2, 3 & 5

IN BRIEF



Munnar grocery shop comes under elephant attack again

A small grocery shop at Chokkanad estate under Kanan Devan Hills Plantation, around 4 km from Munnar town in Kerala's Idukki district, is a major attraction for wild elephants. Wild elephants have raided the shop over twenty times in recent times. On Saturday night a herd of six wild elephants raided the shop on Saturday night, according to the shop owner, K.P. Punayavel. "One of the tusked destroyed the shop window and took a bundle of soap powder sachets. The shop had been attacked by wild elephants over 20 times from 2008 onwards," he said.

Illegal mining, policemen run over by tractor in U.P., Bihar

A constable was run over by a tractor allegedly belonging to the 'sand mafia' in Nawabganj of U.P., the police said on Sunday. The incident took place when constable Rohit Kumar went to Nagla Chandan area on a tip-off about illegal sand mining. Kumar was rushed to a hospital but died during treatment. In a similar incident in Bihar's Aurangabad district, a constable was run over by a tractor illegally transporting sand, police said. The deceased, identified as Deepak Kumar (29), was on duty to check illegal sand mining when the incident took place at Musapur Khatra village. A manhunt has been launched to apprehend the driver, police said.

Assam Rajya Sabha member Margherita a surprise pick in Modi-led NDA govt.

Rahul Karmakar
NEW DELHI

The return of Assam's Sarbananda Sonowal and Anandachand Prasad's Kiren Rijiju to the NDA government at the Centre was more or less expected. Margherita, the third face in the Narendra Modi-led government and a Rajya Sabha member from Assam, has been a surprise package. All are Bharatiya Janata Party parliamentarians. Mr. Sonowal and Mr. Rijiju are among 13 elected from the parliamentary seats across the Northeast comprising

eight States and 25 Lok Sabha constituencies. The 49-year-old Mr. Margherita is from Margherita, an industrial town in eastern Assam's Tinsukia district, a part of the Dibrugarh Lok Sabha seat. His original name is Pabitra Gogoi, but he uses the town's name as his surname. He was a cultural activist specialising in film-making before joining the BJP in 2014, a watershed year for the party in Assam. Elected as a Rajya Sabha member in 2022, Mr. Margherita is also the political secretary to Chief

Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. It is believed that Mr. Margherita's induction into the Modi Ministry is the BJP's strategy to counter the impact of the perceived Congress resurgence in eastern Assam after the victory of Gaurav Gogoi from the Jorhat constituency. Eastern Assam largely comprises the districts of Jorhat, and Kaziranga Lok Sabha seats. Like Mr. Gogoi, Mr. Margherita is an Ahom, a critically potent community in eastern Assam, along with the Ahoms or "tea tribes". Together, they dic-

tate the fate of 49 Assembly segments in the three eastern Assam constituencies and the adjoining ones across northern and central Assam. Strategic move The BJP has been winning most of these Assembly seats since 2016 but Mr. Gogoi's electoral win—despite Dr. Sarma and his time focusing their energy and party resources on Jorhat—has been interpreted as a sign that the Ahoms and the Adivasis could be dislodged with the BJP ahead of the crucial 2026 Assembly polls.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Janata Dal (Secular) has found representation in the Union Cabinet for the first time since it was formed in 1999 as a part of a breakaway group from the alliance led by the leader of the JD(S), H.D. Deve Gowda, became Prime Minister in 1996. The party had joined as an undivided Janata Dal. The two-time Chief Minister and JD(S) State president H.D. Kumaraswamy, who recorded a stunning victory in Mandya in the Vokkaliga heartland, was the ninth person among

the Cabinet Ministers to be sworn in Sunday, considering his seniority. He was sworn in before many other Ministers who had served in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first term. He was the first among leaders from the most of the six former BJP Ministers to be sworn in. The other Cabinet Ministers from Karnataka had joined as Minister for Coal, Law and Parliamentary Affairs in the previous government, was the 17th in the order. The alliance with the JD(S) is credited to have helped the BJP win at least eight Lok Sabha seats

Amid NEET row, Rahul promises support to students

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi hit out at Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi on Sunday over the NEET-UG medical entrance row, saying the alleged "irregularities" in the examination have devastated more than 24 lakh students even before he takes oath for a new term in office.

Mr. Gandhi assured students in the country that he would become their voice in Parliament and strongly raised the issue for them to their future. Amid allegations of inflation of marks in the NEET-UG medical entrance exam, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Saturday that the Education Ministry has set up a four-member panel to review the grace marks awarded to more than 1,000 candidates.

In a post in Hindi on X, Mr. Gandhi said, "Narendra Modi has not even taken oath yet and the irregularities in the NEET exam has devastated more than 24 lakh students and their families". Six students from a single exam centre topped the exam with maximum marks, while



many got such marks which are technically impossible, but the government continued to deny the possibility of paper leak, the former Congress chief said.

"Plan to deal with leaks" He said the Congress had made a robust plan to deal with this 'paper leak industry' running in connivance with the education mafia and the government machinery.

"We had pledged in our manifesto to give students 'freedom from paper leak' by making a law," he said. The NTA has denied any irregularities and said the changes made in the NEET textbooks and grace marks for losing time at the examination centres were some of the reasons behind the students scoring higher marks.

With HDK in Cabinet, JD(S) gets Central berth for the first time since its formation

The Hindu Bureau
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in the South Karnataka region. Mr. Kumaraswamy has a considerable political influence on the dominant BJP community in the Old Mysore region. Rajiv Ramji (Gulab Singh) of the Janata Dal (United), an important and the biggest ally of the BJP with 12 seats in the Lok Sabha, has others in the 13th place while Ram Mohan Naidu of the TDP, who is the largest ally of the BJP with 16 seats in the Lok Sabha, was 16th in the order. Mr. Kumaraswamy took oath in English and swore "in the name of god". As he

walked to take the oath, a few in the crowd raised slogans hailing him. Mr. Kumaraswamy's family members and host of JD(S) leaders and former legislators were also in Delhi to witness the event. Mr. Kumaraswamy was among the six former Chief Ministers to be sworn in as Ministers. The others are Rajnath Singh (U.P.), Sarbananda Sonowal (Assam), Chibbaraj Singh Chaudhary (Madhya Pradesh), Manohar Lal Khattar (Haryana), and Jitan Ram Reddy (Bihar). In fact, Mr. Modi is also the former Chief Minister of Gujarat.

First-time MP from East Delhi Harsh Malhotra joins Modi govt. as Union MoS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

East Delhi Lok Sabha MP Harsh Malhotra was on Sunday sworn-in as a Union Minister of State in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Malhotra, 58, a first-time MP, was picked as the BJP candidate from the East Delhi constituency after the party dropped its sitting MP Gautam Gambhir. He defeated Aam Aadmi Party candidate Kuldeep Kumar in the constituency. According to BJP sources, names of West Delhi MP Kamaljeet Beharwal and North East Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari were also discussed for the position.

A source said Mr. Tiwari's name was dropped considering heavy presence of leaders from the Purvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in the Union Council of Ministers. The name of Bansuri Swaraj, a first-time MP and

T.R. Baalu becomes second MP from T.N. to win seven LS polls

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

By winning from the Sripurambadi constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, DMK treasurer T.R. Baalu has become the second MP to enter the Lower House of Parliament for the seventh time from Tamil Nadu.

Balu first entered the Lok Sabha by winning in the Chennai South constituency in 1992, but an unsuccessful attempt in 1996, when he was testing from the same seat. He won in this constituency in 1998, 1999, and 2004 elections. However, after the delimitation of constituencies, he switched to the Sripurambadi constituency in 2009 and registered his fifth electoral success in the election there.

Hailing from Mannargudi (present-day Tirunelveli district), Mr. Baalu contested from the Thanjavur seat in the 1999 polls but candidates lost in 2014. In 2019, he entered the Lok

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N. Sai Charan
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NDA government will not last long, says T.N. Congress leader

The Hindu Bureau
MADURAI

With the BJP's inherent differences with its allies Telugu Desam Party and Janata Dal (United) on issues such as reservation for the Muslims and caste-based census, the new National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre, will not last long, said Congress leader E.V.K.S. Elangovan.

Interacting with journalists in Madurai on Sunday, he said the only issue in which the BJP and the two alliance parties could mutually agree was on distribution of funds. "On basic ideologies like reservation for Muslims and caste-based census, BJP leader N. Chandrababu Naidu and JDU leader Nitish Kumar cannot afford to strike a compromise with the BJP. Otherwise, the victory which they have tasted in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections (AP) in their States will soon 'disappear'. They have realised it. Both have

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A sculpture by sand artist Sudarshan Pattnaik at Puri beach on Saturday.

seeking support for the party. The Prime Minister has been effusive in his praise for the party's performance in the State. In the first National Democratic Alliance (NDA) meeting after the results, he said the swearing-in ceremony, said senior BJP leader Jatin Mohanty.

The roadshow will be followed by the oath-taking ceremony, which was earlier held on Monday. While campaigning, Mr. Modi held similar roadshows in the State capital,

role, is no longer in the race following his induction into the Union Cabinet.

Some members of the State BJP suggest that a recently elected Member of Parliament might be appointed to head the government. However, the BJP faces a complex challenge. It has fallen 32 seats short of a majority in the Lok Sabha. This shortfall has made it difficult for the party to assign one of its MPs for the post.

Odisha BJP president Manmohan Sanal is reportedly being considered as a potential contender. However, his electoral defeat from the Chandbali Assembly constituency goes against him. Other potential candidates include former State unit presidents K.V. Singh and Suresh Pujari. MLA-elect Mohan Majhi and Rabi Naik are also seen as contenders.

The party might place its bets on one of the seasoned tribal leaders.

T.R. Baalu becomes second MP from T.N. to win seven LS polls

N. Sai Charan
CHENNAI

By winning from the Sriperumbudur constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha election, DMK treasurer T.R. Baalu has become the second MP to enter the Lower House of Parliament for the seventh time from Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Baalu first entered the Lok Sabha by winning in the Chennai South constituency in 1996, after an unsuccessful attempt in the 1991 election while contesting from the same seat. He won in this constituency in the 1998, 1999, and 2004 elections. However, after the delimitation of constituencies in 2008, he switched to the Sriperumbudur constituency in 2009 and registered his fifth electoral success in the election that year.

Hailing from Mannargudi (present-day Tiruvarur district), Mr. Baalu contested from the Thanjavur seat in 2014 and lost (all DMK candidates lost in 2014). In 2019, he entered the Lok



T.R. Baalu

Sabha again by winning in the Sriperumbudur constituency. He also served as a Rajya Sabha member between 1986 and 1992.

Congress veteran P. Chidambaram was the first person to have entered Lok Sabha seven times from Tamil Nadu. His debut was in 1984 when he won in the Sivaganga. His success from this seat continued in the 1989 and 1991 elections as a Congress candidate, and in the 1996 and 1998 elections on a Tamil Manila Congress (Moo-panar) ticket. After a defeat in the 1999 polls, he bounced back with wins in 2004 and 2009.

Home > Business > Education > Health > Technology > Environment > Sports > Entertainment > Opinion > Travel > Lifestyle > Culture > Photo

STRENGTHENING TIES
Jaisankar meets visiting dignitaries
NEWS > PAGE 4

NEARI BUS ATTACK
Probe agencies suspect LeT's involvement
NEWS > PAGE 4

GAZA CEASEFIRE
Blinken in West Asia to push for talks
WORLD > PAGE 14

LONG-STANDING DEMAND
Why India needs a third aircraft carrier
Building IAC-2 will fulfil the Navy's requirement
OPINION > PAGE 9

CLOSE CONTACT
South Africa pulls off an exciting win
SPORT > PAGE 16

INSIDE
Close to the heart

Ex-MP Prajwal remanded in judicial custody
BENGALURU
A Bengaluru court on Monday remanded rape accused former MP Prajwal Resanna in 14-day judicial custody. The SIT did not seek further custody of him. Three separate cases have been registered against Mr. Prajwal. > PAGE 3

Five arrested for stabbing two BJP workers
BANGALURU
Five persons were arrested on Monday on charges of stabbing two BJP workers on Sunday night. The police said the BJP workers raised slogans in front of the Boliyar Masjid, which could have been the target of the attack. > PAGE 3

ISRO releases images captured by Aditya-L1
BENGALURU
The Indian Space Research Organisation on Monday released six images of the sun and its activities taken by the payload aboard India's maiden solar mission, Aditya-L1, during the solar storm, which occurred in May. > PAGE 6

Sudanese militia loots Darfur's main hospital
CAIRO
A paramilitary group fighting Sudan's military for over a year, fired shots and looted a main hospital in Darfur, forcing its closure. It was not immediately clear if there were casualties from the attack on South Hospital. > PAGE 14

No change at the helm in key Union Ministries

PM signals continuity while allocating portfolios a day after new NDA Ministry assumed charge | Amit Shah retains Home, Rajnath Singh Defence, Nirmala Finance, and Jaisankar External Affairs | Gadkari, Sonowal, and Vaishnav continue to head important infrastructure Ministries

PM signals continuity while allocating portfolios a day after new NDA Ministry assumed charge

Amit Shah retains Home, Rajnath Singh Defence, Nirmala Finance, and Jaisankar External Affairs

Gadkari, Sonowal, and Vaishnav continue to head important infrastructure Ministries

Pattern of continuity, with Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' holding the portfolio of Panchayati Raj, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry.

H.D. Kumaraswamy of the Janata Dal (S) got the portfolio of Heavy Industries and Steel.

At a time when calls for a caste census are being raised both from outside and within the NDA government, Virender Kumar has been retained with the Social Justice portfolio.

With the Lok Sabha seeing a far bigger contingent of Opposition MPs, Arunachal Pradesh MP Kiren Rijji has been made Minister for Parliamentary Affairs.

Mr. Modi, who now needs the support of allies to lead the National Development and Infrastructure Ministries largely unchanged.

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Precious drops: Women drink from a tap in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on Monday as the country grapples with a severe heatwave. Parts of North India have been gripped by a heatwave since mid-May, with temperatures soaring over 45 degrees Celsius. AFP

Advance security convoy of Manipur CM attacked

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI
An advance security convoy of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh was ambushed by unidentified miscreants in Kangpokpi district on Monday, leaving two police personnel injured, police said.
The convoy was on its way to violence-hit Jiribam to assess security situation ahead of Mr. Singh's visit.
"Highly condemnable" Mr. Singh, who reached Imphal on Monday after the attack, said the incident was a "direct attack on the people of the State".
"It is very unfortunate and highly condemnable. It's an attack on the Chief Minister, which means a direct attack on the people of the State. The State government has to do something... we will take a decision," Mr. Singh said.
A police official said a combing operation had been launched by joint security forces.
Jiribam district has been affected by violence for the past one week.



Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh visiting the injured security personnel in a hospital in Imphal on Monday. screenshot

Centrists humbled, far-right surges as 4-day European Union polls end

Associated Press
BRUSSELS
A four-day election has shaken the foundations of the European Union (EU), with the far-right rocking ruling parties in France and Germany, the bloc's traditional driving forces.
French President Emmanuel Macron called snap national elections after Marine Le Pen's National Rally humbled his pro-European centrists in the polls. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Social Democrats also suffered as the extreme-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) snatched off seats to make massive gains.
In Italy, the party of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, which has neo-fascist roots, won more than 28% of the national vote for the EU Assembly, which would make it a key player in forming future alliances.
Green and pro-business liberal groups suffered heavily, but mainstay reformations held their ground, with the centre-right European People's Party (EPP) remaining the biggest bloc at around 15%.
Mr. Scholz's ruling Social Democrats recorded their worst post-Second World War result in a nationwide vote, with 13.9%. AfD finished second with around 15.9%. Germany's Opposition centre-right Union bloc took 30% of the vote.
Biggest bloc
The centre-right EPP is projected to win 131 seats in the EU assembly and remains by far the biggest group. The EPP garnered a few more seats, but Parliament is also expanding from 705 seats in 2019 to 720 seats this year, so the increase was marginal. The second-biggest bloc, the centre-left Socialists and Democrats, lost some ground but with 135 seats comfortably snags its place.
MACRON CALLS SNAP POLLS
> PAGE 14



Winds of change: Marine Le Pen's National Rally trounced French President Emmanuel Macron's centrists in the election. AFP

Migrant workers in Manipur provided security, says Biren

Vibha Singh
NEW DELHI
Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said his government was providing security to nearly 4,000 migrant labourers working at various construction sites in the State.
In an interview with The Hindu, Mr. Singh said the security of the labourers from Bihar and Jharkhand was a priority.
"There was no security at the place where the last time it happened. We have warned people that next time if any such incident happens, then they will be engaged legally. There are 4,000 workers engaged in highway construction and railway projects, but we are providing security at these locations. Earlier, some agencies request for security, we are ready to provide that also," the Chief Minister said.
Mr. Singh said that it was true that extortion had increased in the past year, but the message was clear that the "rule of law" must prevail.
"The cases of extortions have increased but the police are doing combing operations. Many are being booked under the National Security Act. Nobody will be spared," he said.
The Chief Minister said he hoped the new government at the Centre would consider the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the State. He said the baseline for the NRC should be 1961 and illegal migrants should be detected and deported. The Manipur government had earlier sent a recommendation to the Centre to implement the NRC.

Several take refuge in Assam after fresh violence

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI
More than a year after the ethnic conflict in Manipur drove some 12,000 people to Mizoram, hundreds of victims of renewed violence have taken refuge in Assam.
Officials in southern Assam's Barak Valley said more than 600 people, including women and children, have fled Jiribam district of Manipur to seek shelter in Cachar of Assam. Local MLA, Kausik Raj said no formal camps have been set up for the displaced and efforts were on to hold peace meetings with diverse communities in the area.
FULL REPORT
> PAGE 4

Taking CHARGE

Cabinet Ministers
and their portfolios



■ **NARENDRA MODI:** Prime Minister and also in-charge of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; all important policy issues; and all other portfolios not allocated to any Minister

■ **Rajnath Singh:** Defence

■ **Amit Shah:** Home Affairs; and Cooperation

■ **Nitin Gadkari:** Road Transport and Highways

■ **J.P. Nadda:** Health and Family Welfare; and Chemicals and Fertilizers

■ **Shivraj Singh Chouhan:** Agriculture & Farmers Welfare; and Rural Development

■ **Nirmala Sitharaman:** Finance; and Corporate Affairs

■ **S. Jaishankar:** External Affairs

■ **Manohar Lal:** Housing and Urban Affairs; and Power

■ **H.D. Kumaraswamy:** Heavy Industries; and Steel

■ **Piyush Goyal:** Commerce and Industry

■ **Dharmendra Pradhan:** Education

■ **Jitan Ram Manjhi:** Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

■ **Rajiv Ranjan Singh:** Panchayati Raj; and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying

■ **Sarbananda Sonowal:** Ports, Shipping & Waterways

■ **Virendra Kumar:** Social Justice and Empowerment

■ **K. Rammohan Naidu:** Civil Aviation

■ **Pralhad Joshi:** Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; and New and Renewable Energy.

■ **Jual Oram:** Tribal Affairs

■ **Giriraj Singh:** Textiles

■ **Ashwini Vaishnaw:** Railways; Information and Broadcasting; and Electronics and Information Technology

■ **Jyotiraditya Scindia:** Communications; and Development of North Eastern Region

■ **Bhupender Yadav:** Environment, Forest and Climate Change

■ **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat:** Culture; Tourism

■ **Annpurna Devi:** Women and Child Development

■ **Kiren Rijiju:** Parliamentary Affairs; and Minority Affairs

■ **Hardeep Singh Puri:** Petroleum and Natural Gas

■ **Mansukh Mandaviya:** Labour and Employment; and Youth Affairs and Sports

■ **G. Kishan Reddy:** Coal; and Mines

■ **Chirag Paswan:** Food Processing Industries

■ **C.R. Patil:** Jal Shakti



Prem Singh Tamang sworn in as Chief Minister of Sikkim

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) supremo Prem Singh Tamang on Monday took oath as the Chief Minister of the Himalayan State for the second consecutive term. The 56-year-old politician was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya at a function held in Paljor Stadium in Gangtok. Eleven other Ministers also took oath along with him. Thousands of SKM supporters turned up to witness the swearing-in ceremony. The stadium erupted in loud sounds of firecrackers as Mr. Tamang was sworn in. The bursting of firecrackers is otherwise prohibited in Sikkim. PTI

Before was	Kingdom of Sikkim
Admission to union	16 May 1975
Capital and largest city	Gangtok
Districts	6
Government <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Body• Governor• Chief minister</div>	Government of Sikkim Lakshman Acharya Prem Singh Tamang (SKM)
State Legislature <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assembly</div>	Unicameral Sikkim Legislative Assembly (32 seats)
National Parliament <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rajya Sabha• Lok Sabha</div>	Parliament of India 1 seat 1 seat
High Court	Sikkim High Court
Area <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total• Rank</div>	7,096 km ² (2,740 sq mi) 27th
Dimensions <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Length• Width</div>	116 km (72 mi) 65 km (40 mi)
Elevation Highest elevation (Kangchenjunga ^[1])	1,650 m (5,410 ft) 8,586 m (28,169 ft)
Lowest elevation (border with West Bengal ^[2])	280 m (920 ft)
Population (2011) ^[3] <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total• Rank• Density• Urban• Rural</div>	▲ 610,577 32nd 86/km ² (220/sq mi) 25.15% 74.85%

Language <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official• Additional official</div>	Nepali · Sikkimese · Lepcha · English [4][5] Gurung · Limbu · Magar · Mukhia · Newari · Rai · Sherpa · Tamang
GDP <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total (2023-24)• Rank• Per capita</div>	▲ ₹47,000 crore (US\$6.0 billion) 29th ▲ ₹541,544 (US\$6,500)
Time zone	UTC+05:30 (IST)
ISO 3166 code	IN-SK
Vehicle registration	SK
HDI (2019)	▲ 0.764 Very High (10th)
Literacy (2011)	▲ 81.42% (13th)
Sex ratio (2011)	890 ♀/1000 ♂ (10th)
Website	www.sikkim.gov.in ↗
Symbols of Sikkim	
<div><p>Emblem of Sikkim</p></div>	
Bird	Blood pheasant ^[6]
Fish	Copper Mahseer ^[7]
Flower	Noble dendrobium ^{[8][9]}
Mammal	Red panda
Tree	Rhododendron

MOSCOW

Russian troops claim capture of village in southeastern Ukraine



Russia on Monday claimed the capture of a village in the south of the eastern Donetsk region. The Defence Ministry said its troops "continued to advance in the depths of the enemy's defence and liberated Starmolaiskoye" (Staromolaiskoye in Ukrainian), located southwest of the Russian-held city of Donetsk. AFP

N. Korea sends more balloons as Kim's sister issues warning

Agence France-Press
SEOUL

North Korea has sent hundreds more trash-carrying balloons toward South Korea, Seoul's military said on Monday, after Kim Jong-un's powerful sister warned of further responses if the South keeps up its "psychological warfare".

Mr. Kim's sister Kim Yo Jong said South Korea would "suffer a bitter embarrassment of picking up waste paper without return and it will be its daily work".

She slammed the Pyongyang activists' leaders as "psychological warfare" and warned that unless Seoul stopped them and called off the leaders in broadcasts, the North would hit back.

BLANTYRE

Military plane carrying Malawi's Vice-President goes missing



A military plane carrying Malawi's Vice-President and nine others went missing on Monday and a search is under way. The plane carrying 53-year-old Sando Chitima left the nation's capital, Lilongwe, at 9.17 a.m. but failed to land as scheduled around 45 minutes later at Mzuzu Airport, about 370 km to the north. AFP

TOKYO

Tighter rules for deporting failed asylum seekers take effect in Japan



Japanese laws making it easier for the country to deport failed asylum seekers took effect on Monday. The world's fourth largest economy has long been criticised for the low number of asylum applications it accepts. Last year refugee status was granted to a record 303 people, mostly from Afghanistan. AFP

GOMA

Militants aligned to Islamic State kill dozens in eastern Congo



Militants allied with the IS group in eastern Congo killed at least 41 people in North Kivu province, the national government said on Monday, as residents wondered why security forces were not protecting them. The attacks were carried out by Allied Democratic Forces militants in the villages of Masala, Mahihi and Keru. AFP

Blinken in West Asia to push for Gaza ceasefire as Israeli troops advance

Both Israel and Hamas doubled down on headline positions that have scuppered all previous attempts to end the fighting in Gaza Strip, Prime Minister Netanyahu says not ready to stop the war without achieving the goal of 'eliminating' Hamas

Reuters
CAIRO

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrived in West Asia on Monday hoping to deliver the ceasefire that President Joe Biden proposed last month, in an all-out push by Washington to secure an end to the Gaza war.

Meeting with Sisi The top U.S. diplomat met Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in Cairo and was due to meet Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his defence chief in Israel later in the day. Ahead of his trip, Israel and Hamas both doubled



Tough choices Antony Blinken speaks to reporters at the Cairo airport after meeting the Egyptian President on Monday. AFP

down on headline positions that have scuppered all previous attempts to end the fighting, while Israel has pressed on with assaults in central and

southern Gaza, among the bloodiest of the war.

"We are committed to total victory," Mr. Netanyahu said in a statement released by his office, quoting remarks he made on Sunday to relatives of Israelis killed in Gaza.

"What is the main dispute? It is over Hamas' demand... that we commit to stopping the war without achieving our goals of eliminating Hamas... I am not prepared to do so."

Hamas's message Hamas, for its part, said Washington must push its ally Israel to halt the fighting. "We call upon the U.S. administration to put pressure on the occupation to stop the war on Gaza, and the Hamas movement is ready to deal positively with any initiative that secures an end to the war,"

senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said ahead of Mr. Blinken's arrival.

Ninth month of war The war has now entered its ninth month, since Hamas-led fighters killed 1,200 people and took some 250 others hostage in a rampage through southern Israel. In response, Israel launched an assault on the Gaza Strip that has killed more than 37,000 Palestinians and reduced most of the enclave to wasteland.

Palestinian officials said 40 more bodies arrived in hospitals over the past 24 hours. Thousands more dead are believed buried under rubble.

Sudan paramilitary group loots a main hospital in Darfur

Associated Press
CAIRO

The notorious Rapid Support Forces paramilitary group, fighting Sudan's military for over a year, fired shots and looted a main hospital in the western region of Darfur, forcing its closure, an international aid group said.

The RSF, attacked the South Hospital in al-Fasher, the capital city of North Darfur province on Sunday, opening fire on medical staff and patients, Doctors Without Borders said in a statement.

Images published by local media showed abandoned wards and corridors at the hospital, with patient beds and other medical equipment damaged and blood stains on the floor. Local news outlets also reported that the military managed to kick RSF fighters out of the hospital.

10 patients present At the time of the attack, there were 10 patients and a reduced medical crew as the aid group and the Sudanese Health Ministry had begun evacuating patients and transferring medical services last week to other facilities, the aid



The RSF attacked the South Hospital in al-Fasher in North Darfur on Sunday, opening fire on medical staff and patients. FILE PHOTO

'Slow-burn'



A view of the eruption site of the volcano near Grindavik in Iceland on Monday. A volcano in southwestern Iceland has been erupting and spewing red lava close to the coastal town of Grindavik. AP

Australia PM calls for calm after attack on U.S. consulate office

Associated Press
SYDNEY

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese urged activists on both sides of the Israel-Palestinian debate to "turn the heat down" after the U.S. Consulate in Sydney was vandalised on Monday.

Smashing holes Surveillance video showed a person wearing a dark hoodie using a small sledgehammer to smash nine holes in the reinforced glass windows of the building in North Sydney after 3 a.m., a police statement said.

Two inverted red triangles, seen by some as a symbol of Palestinian resistance but by others as supporting Hamas, were also painted on the front of the building.

"I just reiterate my call to turn the heat down and measures such as painting the U.S. consulate do nothing to advance the cause of those who have committed what is, of course, a crime to damage property," Mr. Albanese told reporters.

India welcomes Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia joining BRICS

Press Trust of India
MOSCOW

India on Monday welcomed Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia joining the BRICS as its representatives attended for the first time a key meeting of the grouping hosted by Russia.

Senior diplomat Damma Ravi led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nizhny Novgorod, in western Russia.



United front: India's BRICS Sherpa Damma Ravi, left, and Foreign Ministers of member countries at the meeting in Russia. REUTERS

The meeting on Monday was the first ministerial meeting following BRICS expansion in 2023 when Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE joined Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa as full-fledged BRICS members.

The ministers reiterated their commitment to multilateralism and upholding the international law, including the Purposes and Principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations (UN) as its indispensable cornerstone, and the central role of the UN in an international system in which sovereign states cooperate to maintain international peace and security, advance sustainable development, ensure the promotion and protection of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. They voiced their support for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more democratic, representative, effective and efficient.

Sicram Lakshman

French President Emmanuel Macron dissolved the country's National Assembly and ordered fresh polls following gains France's far right made in the European Parliamentary elections.

The centre-right President's Renaissance party and its allies suffered heavy losses in the European Parliamentary elections, losing 15.2% of the vote for French seats, against the far right Rassemblement National's (RN) provisional 31.5%.

Far right parties together won 40% of the available seats.

Mr. Macron, who has three years left in office and cannot seek a third term, said he had heard the people's concerns and would answer them, noting that he was not in the race for the presidency in 2027.

Need of the hour "France needs a clear majority to act in serenity and harmony," Mr. Macron said in a video address as he announced the move, which is a huge gamble for the president.

Currently, Mr. Macron's party, which has 100 members in the 577-seat lower legislative chamber or National Assembly, governs as part of a centrist coalition of 245. RN has 88 seats.

Demagogues and nationalists on the rise is bad for our nation, it's bad for Europe, and it's bad for the place of France in Europe and in the world," he said.

The pro-Europe President said he could not act



Emmanuel Macron

like "nothing had happened" in the European elections) and that there was a "feverish tone" to the national discourse in recent times.

Some French politicians welcomed Mr. Macron's decision, while others were dismayed, and many were surprised. RN's parliamentary leader Marine Le Pen welcomed Mr. Macron's decision and said her party would take power if the French voted for them.

The stock market in Paris fell at opening on Monday morning, with the CAC 40 index dropping 2.4%.

"This is a very dangerous game to play with democracy and the institutions. I am flabbergasted," Raphael Glucksmann, a politician from the Socialist Party said, as per news agency Reuters.

Bardella's role Mr. Le Pen's deputy, Jordan Bardella, a 28-year-old with over a million TikTok followers, has been tapped by Ms. Le Pen to be Prime Minister if RN wins the Assembly elections. Part of his role is to try and move the party away from its fascist, anti-Muslim and anti-Semitic roots under Ms. Le Pen's father, Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Yet, Mr. Bardella, whose mother comes from Italy, continues to warn that French culture is under attack as it is being "submerged" by migrants.

India welcomes Egypt, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia joining BRICS

Press Trust of India

MOSCOW

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Senior diplomat Dammu Ravi led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nizhny Novgorod, in western Russia.

"A significant meeting in the format of expanded BRICS family. India wholeheartedly welcomes the new membership," the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Randhir Jaiswal said.



United front: India's BRICS Sherpa Dammu Ravi, left, and Foreign Ministers of member countries at the meeting in Russia. REUTERS

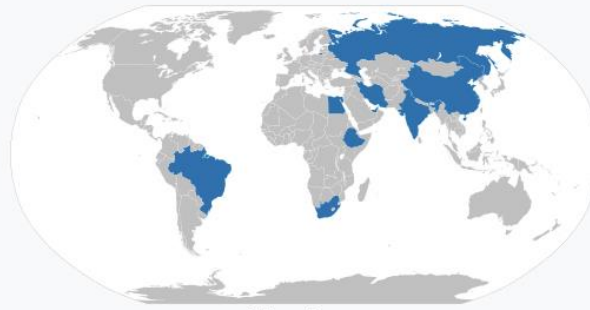
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members.

Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations) in MEA, led the Indian delegation at the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nizhny Novgorod, it said.

The ministers reiterated their commitment to mul-

tilateralism and upholding the international law, including the Purposes and Principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations (UN) as its indispensable cornerstone, and the central role of the UN in an international system in which sovereign states cooperate to maintain international peace and security, advance sustainable development, ensure the promotion and protection of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. They voiced their support for a comprehensive reform of the UN, including its Security Council, with a view to making it more democratic, representative, effective and efficient.



Map key:

 Member states

Abbreviation	BRICS
Named after	Founder member states' initials (in English)
Predecessor	BRIC (informal)
Formation	16 June 2009; 14 years ago
Founded at	Yekaterinburg, Russia (1st BRIC summit)
Type	Intergovernmental organization
Purpose	Political and economical
Fields	International politics
Membership	9 member states [hide]

 [Brazil](#)

 [Russia](#)

 [India](#)

 [China](#)

 [South Africa](#)

 [Iran](#)

 [Egypt](#)

 [Ethiopia](#)

 [United Arab Emirates](#)

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GOYAL, PURI, VAISHNAW, PRADHAN retain their portfolios

AVIATION TO MSME TO INDUSTRY for allies TDP, JDU, JDS, HAM, LJP

FIRST CABINET MEET APPROVES proposals for rural housing, farms

Continew

THE CABINET, NDA III

PRIME MINISTER
Narendra Modi
Personnel, Public Relations and Pensions, Atomic Energy, Space, all important policy issues, and all other portfolios not allocated to any minister

CABINET MINISTERS

- Rajnath Singh**, Defence
- Anne Shah**, Home Affairs, Cooperation
- Nitin Gadkari**, Road Transport and Highways
- J.P. Nadda**, Health & Family Welfare, Chemicals & Fertilisers
- Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development
- Nirmala Sitharaman**, Finance, Corporate Affairs
- S. Jaishankar**, External Affairs
- Manohar Lal**, Housing & Urban Affairs, Power
- H.D. Kumaraswamy**, Heavy Industries, Steel
- Piyush Goyal**, Commerce and Industry
- Dharmendra Pradhan**, Education
- Jitan Ram Manjhi**, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- Rajyashree Singh**, Panchayati Raj, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
- Sarbananda Sonowal**, Ports, Shipping & Waterways
- Vineeta Kumar**, Social Justice and Empowerment
- K. Ramchandra Naidu**, Civil Aviation
- Prabhad Joshi**, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, New and Renewable Energy
- Jai Chavan**, Tribal Affairs
- Giriraj Singh**, Textiles
- Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics and Information Technology
- Jyotiraditya Scindia**, Communications, Development of North Eastern Region
- Bhupinder Yadav**, Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Dejandra Singh Shekhawat**, Culture, Tourism
- Ampurna Devi**, Women and Child Development
- Kiren Rijju**, Parliamentary Affairs, Minority Affairs
- Hardeep Singh Puri**, Petroleum and Natural Gas
- Mansukh Mandavkar**, Labour and Employment, Youth Affairs and Sports
- G.Kishan Reddy**, Coal Mines
- Chirag Paswan**, Food Processing Industries
- C.R. Paatil**, Jal Shakti



Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs his first Cabinet meeting at the start of his third term in New Delhi, Monday. **PAGE 2**

Big 4 of Cabinet Committee on Security among 15 in Council who retain portfolios

LIZ MATHEW & MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

CONTINING the work done in the second term with a refresh rather than a reboot — this is the key signal from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Council of Ministers as their portfolios were announced Monday evening, a day after the NDA government took oath for the third term.

Given the political imperatives of a coalition in which the BJP fell short of a majority in Lok Sabha, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said Monday that at true sevak (one who serves the people) does not have "shankar" (arrogance) and works without causing any hurt to others. Referring to the bitter poll campaign, he said "decorum was not

True sevak never arrogant, decorum not kept in polls, flags RSS chief Bhagwat

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

IN FIRST public remarks on the outcome of the elections in which the BJP fell short of a majority in Lok Sabha, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said Monday that at true sevak (one who serves the people) does not have "shankar" (arrogance) and works without causing any hurt to others. Referring to the bitter poll campaign, he said "decorum was not

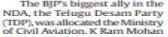


As CM, he changed the face of MP fields

Among allies, TDP gets Aviation, Chirag Food Processing, JDU Fisheries

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

THE BJP-LED NDA government on Monday allocated the ministries of Steel, Civil Aviation, Food Processing, Industries, MSME, and Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, to its allies from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.



Under his watch, MP became India's second largest producer

In Shivraj, agriculture gets wealth of his MP work experience



Under his watch, MP became India's second largest producer

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNAY

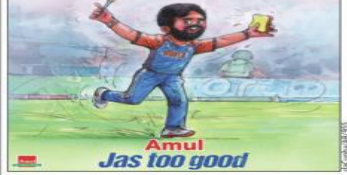


Chirag's, Sir, on the internet experience



Under his watch, MP became India's second largest producer

New Yorkers, Bouncers & Slower Ones!



PM says security and peace key as Nawaz sends hope message

SHUBHAJITROY
NEW DELHI, JUNE 10

A DAY after the NDA government's council of ministers were sworn in, Pakistan's top leader and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who heads the ruling PML(N), reached out to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said that the BJP's "success in recent elections reflects the confidence of the people in your leadership."

"Let us replace hate with hope and seize the opportunity to shape the destiny of our people of South Asia," he posted on X.

Modi replied in about two hours, saying that "the people of India have always stood for peace, security and progressive ideas."



Modi replied to wishes from Pak PM Shehbaz Sharif and PML(N) chief Nawaz Sharif

and that "advancing the well-being and security of our people shall always remain our priority". His emphasis on "security" is a message to Nawaz that counter-terrorist is a top priority. Earlier, Nawaz Sharif's younger son, continued on PAGE 2

Pretended to be dead until militants left: Survivors recount Reasi horror

ARUN SHARMA
SEASIDE, JUNE 10

FROM PARENTS mourning the loss of their children to people who lay still and pretended to be dead to escape the gunman's fire, the survivors of Sunday's terror attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district were struggling to recover from the shock.



Army personnel conduct a search operation in Reasi district of J&K Monday

book a bus Sunday morning to Shiv Khori — a revered shrine of Lord Shiva near Ransoo in Pooni tehsil. It was on their way back from Shiv Khori to Katra that their bus was targeted by militants.

In Andhra Pradesh, a regime change brings a ghost city back to life

GREENIVAS JANYALA
AMARAVATI, JUNE 10

THE HUM of bulldozers and the chatter of construction workers are some-what signs of a ghost city coming back to life. Even before Telugu Desam Party chief N Chandrababu Naidu takes oath as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, wheels are in motion to revive his dream project of the Amaravati capital city, with architects and engineers on the ground saying they have re-

Finishing touches are being given to the buildings in Amaravati

AMARAVATI, JUNE 10

ceived directions to that end. "We are clearing the weeds and the vegetation, around

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- 90000+ Sharda Group alumni worldwide.

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- Medical / Dental
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Mahatma Gandhi and Satyagraha



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- On June 7, 1893 MK Gandhi was thrown off a train's first-class compartment at the Pietermaritzburg railway station in **South Africa** that triggered **Gandhi's first act of civil disobedience, or satyagraha.**



- **Birth of Satyagraha**

- The term '**Satyagraha**' was coined by **Gandhi** during his time in **South Africa** to distinguish his movement from others under the name '**passive resistance**'.

- Derived from '**satya**' (**truth**) and '**agraha**' (**insistence**), Satyagraha translates to '**truth-force**' or '**soul-force**'.
- Unlike passive resistance, which could include violence and was seen as a weapon of the weak, Satyagraha was a method of **nonviolent protest** that could be pursued only by the strongest and completely excluded violence.

Global Impact of Satyagraha

The **principles of Satyagraha** were central to India's struggle for freedom, from the **Non-Cooperation Movement (1919-22)** to the **Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-34)**, to the **Quit India Movement (1942)**.

These principles then went on to influence other movements for justice globally, from Martin Luther King Jr's Civil Rights Movement in the United States, to Nelson Mandela's struggle against apartheid.

TRISHNA Mission

-
- Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) provided details on the **Indo-French Thermal Infrared Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment (TRISHNA) Mission.**

About the TRISHNA Mission

It is a collaborative endeavour between the **ISRO** and the **French National Space Agency CNES**.

It is engineered to deliver high spatial and high temporal resolution monitoring of Earth's surface temperature, emissivity, biophysical and radiation variables for surface energy budgeting at regional to global scale.

- **Objectives of the Mission**

- Detailed **monitoring of the energy and water budgets** of the continental biosphere for quantifying terrestrial water stress and water use and high-resolution observation of water quality and dynamics in coastal and inland waters.
- It addresses **critical water and food security** challenges, focusing on the impacts of human-induced climate change and efficient water resource management through evapotranspiration monitoring.

It also aims to help in a **comprehensive assessment of urban heat islands, detection of thermal anomalies** linked to volcanic activity and geothermal resources, and precise **monitoring of snow-melt runoff and glacier dynamics**.

It aims to provide valuable data on **aerosol optical depth, atmospheric water vapour, and cloud cover**.

For **climate monitoring**, it aims to track key indicators such as *droughts, permafrost changes, and evapotranspiration rates*.



State of the Ocean Report 2024

- **The UNESCO State of Ocean Report 2024**, initiated by the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO)** during the **2022 United Nations Ocean Conference**, serves as a comprehensive overview of the ocean's current condition.
- Its primary aim is to **track the progress of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030)** and inspire efforts towards ensuring a sustainable future for our oceans.

Initially **introduced in 2022**, the report enlisted insights from over **100 marine science experts, covering critical topics** such as ocean acidification, pollution, and tsunami warnings.

Released **annually on World Oceans Day (June 8)**, each edition of the report aligns with the **seven goals of the UN Ocean Decade**, aiming to foster global collaboration and action for the protection and preservation of our oceans.

- **Key Findings of the Report:**

1. **Ocean Warming**: Rate doubled in 20 years; 2023 saw a significant increase; Hotspots above 2°C in the Mediterranean, Tropical Atlantic Ocean, and Southern Oceans
2. **Rising sea level**: Sea levels rising, with **ocean heat absorption contributing 40%**; Accelerated ice mass loss from Greenland and West Antarctica
3. **Declining Oxygen Levels**: **The** Ocean lost 2% oxygen since the 1960s; coastal areas are heavily impacted.; Rising acidity threatens coastal species' survival.

Blue Carbon and MPAs: Marine forests are crucial for carbon absorption; Marine Protected Areas protect biodiversity; However, many countries lack marine forest conservation in their plans.

Acidification: Ocean absorbs 25% of annual anthropogenic CO₂; Reduces seawater pH (ocean acidification); Expected to increase by over 100% by the century's end.

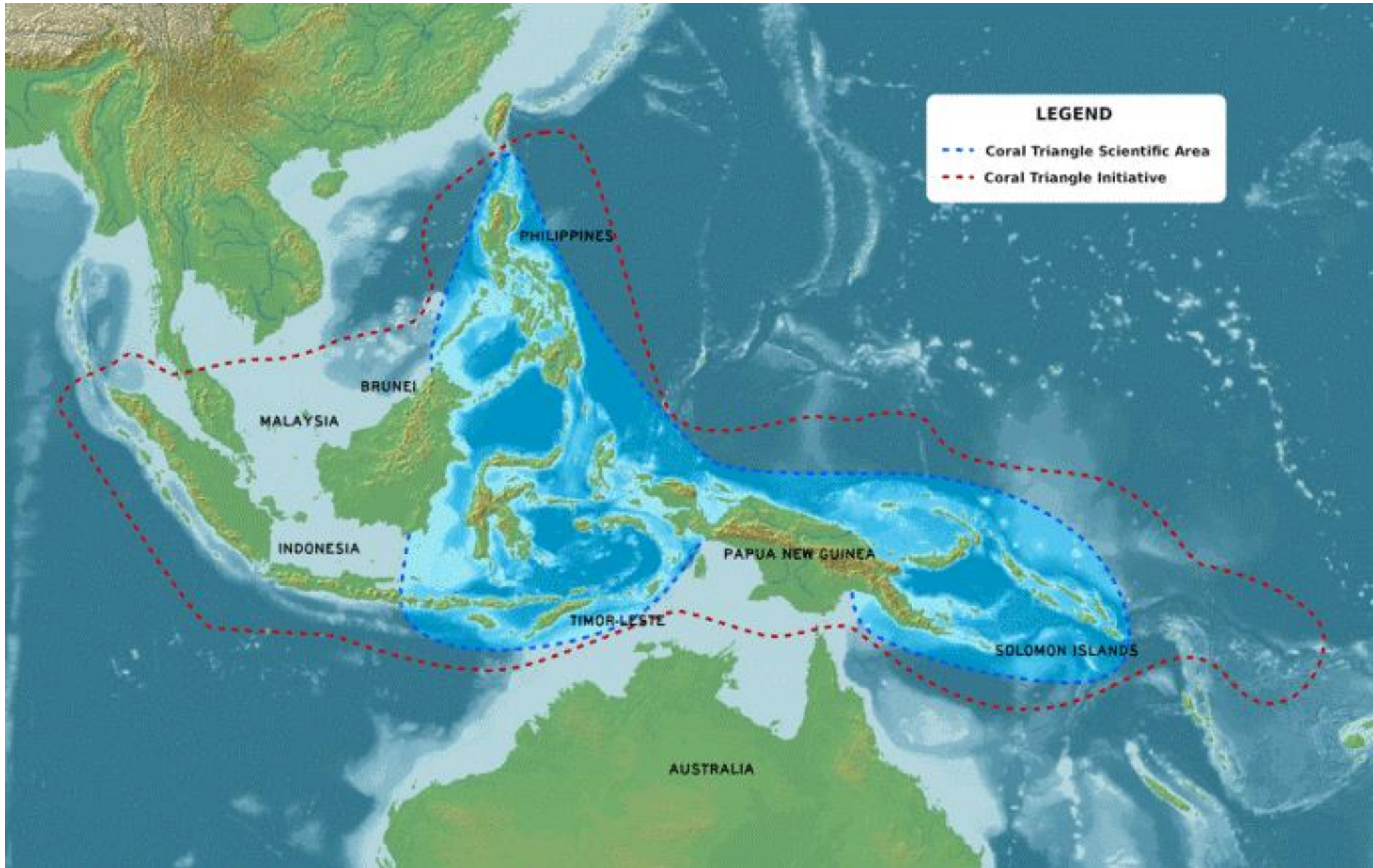
- **Initiatives for Ocean Protection:**

1. **BBNJ (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) Treaty (2023):** Also known as the Treaty of the High Seas, aims to conserve and sustainably use marine biological diversity beyond national jurisdiction.
2. **Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR) Technologies:** Capture CO₂ from the air and store it durably.
3. **Marine Biodiversity:** The UN 2030 Agenda emphasizes marine biodiversity protection for sustainable food security.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework aims to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030.

Creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPA):

50% of catalogued marine species are found in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), covering 9% of the ocean.



Non-Permanent Members of the UNSC

Pakistan, Panama, Somalia, Denmark, and Greece have been elected as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for a two-year term starting in 2025.

This marks Pakistan's 8th term as a non-permanent member. India has been elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council 8 times, the last being 2021-2022.

WHAT IS THE UNSC?

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

It is
One
of the six main
organs of the United
Nations



**Permanent
headquarter**
At the UN
Headquarters in
New York
City



**Primary
responsibility**
To maintain
international
**peace and
security**



Location
Church House,
Westminster,
London



First session
Held on
17 Jan, 1946



Cabinet Committees

Once the Union Cabinet is sworn in and ministerial portfolios are allocated, the next step would be the formation of the high-profile Cabinet committees.

About Cabinet committees

The Prime Minister sets up Cabinet committees with selected members of the Cabinet and assigns specific functions to these committees.

The Prime Minister may change the numbers of committees, and modify the functions assigned to them.

Composition : The membership of each committee varies from three to eight. Usually, only Cabinet ministers are members of these committees.

Types : There are eight Cabinet committees at present — the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth, Cabinet Committee on Security, Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Employment & Skill Development, and Cabinet Committee on Accommodation.

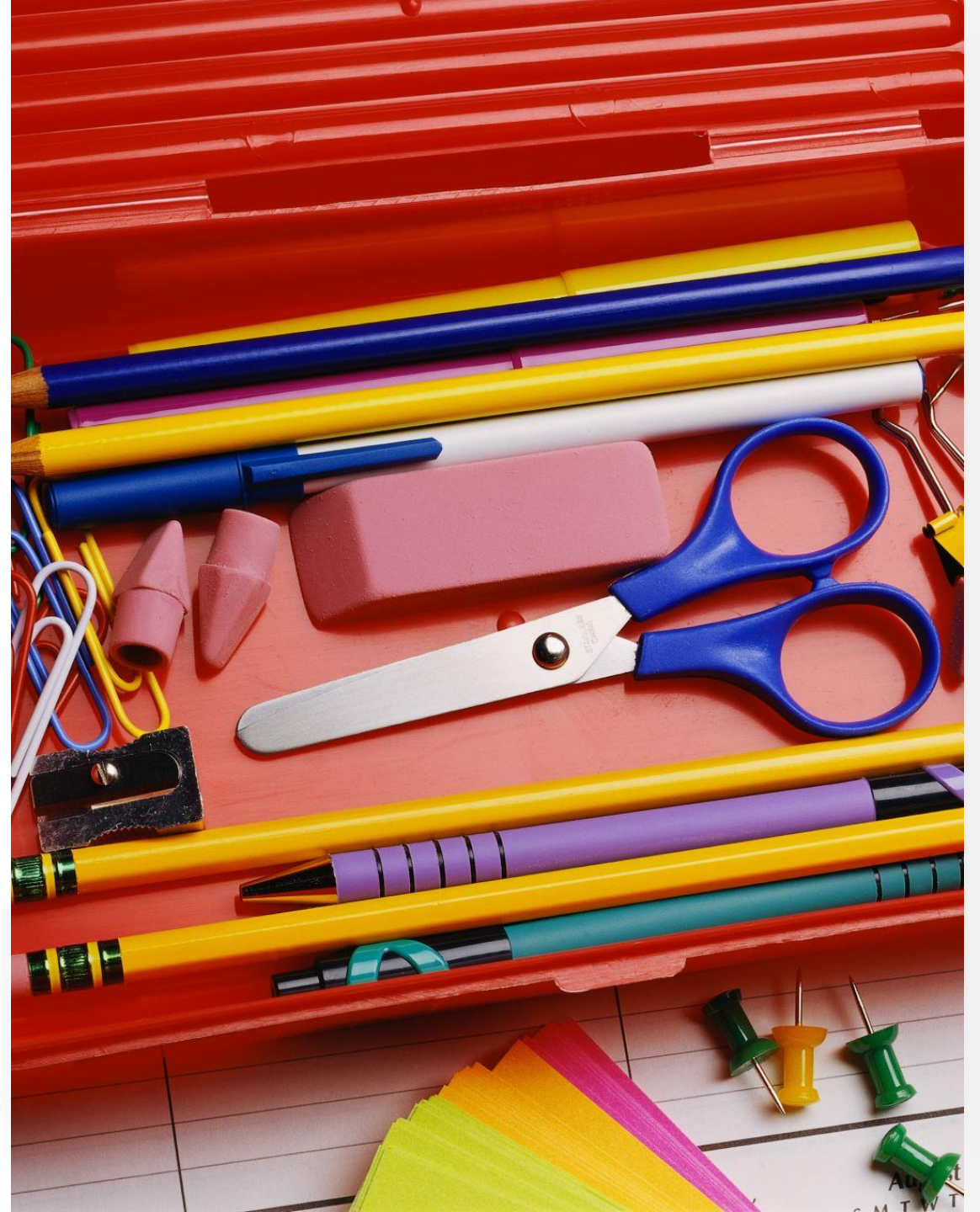
- The committees on investment and employment were innovations introduced by the Modi government in 2019.
- All committees except the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation and Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs are headed by the PM.
- **Functions :** The committees resolve issues and formulate proposals for the consideration of the Cabinet and take decisions on matters assigned to them.
 - The Cabinet is empowered to review such decisions.



- The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 and the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961, facilitating smooth transaction of business in Ministries/ Departments of the Government.
 - This Secretariat provides Secretarial assistance to the **Cabinet and its Committees.**



UNESCO's New Tools for Greening Education





- UNESCO has launched the **Greening Curriculum Guidance (GCG) and Green School Quality Standards (GSQS)** under the **Greening Education Partnership**.
- **More about the initiative:**
 1. **Goal:** Greening at least **50% of schools globally by 2030** through the Greening Education Partnership.
 2. **Target Audience:** Policy-makers, education ministries, educators, learners, and communities.

Launched a New GCG: A practical manual outlining climate education, detailing learning outcomes, and guiding countries to integrate environmental topics into curricula.

Launched a New GSQS: Sets minimum requirements for creating green schools through an action-oriented approach.

Pillars of Green Education:

Greening Schools: Ensure schools achieve green accreditation.

Greening Curriculum: Integrate climate education into all levels of education.

Greening Teacher Training: Build school capacities for climate education.

Greening Communities: Enhance community resilience through learning centres.

What is the Greening Education Partnership?

The Greening Education Partnership is a global initiative comprising 80 member states, aiming to tackle the climate crisis through education.

It focuses on equipping learners with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes necessary to address climate change and promote sustainable development.

The partnership emphasizes greening schools, integrating climate education into curricula, enhancing teacher training, and strengthening community resilience

Issues with the School Greening?

50% of countries surveyed by UNESCO lack climate change in their curricula.

70% of young people cannot explain climate disruption.



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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, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, with a blueish tint. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange horizontal bar.

Thank you
guys.
