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I am the greatest, I said that
even before I knew I was.

Muhammad Ali

FRESH START
Lok Sabha session from June 24 to July 3
NEWS » PAGE 5

MORE WORRY
Hezbollah fires rockets at Israel
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TWO MORE DIE
MEA upset as Russian Army recruits Indians
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DATA POINT
LS has lowest share of Muslim MPs in 60 years
Only 10 States/UTs have at least one Muslim MP
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ARSHDEEP SHINES
India gets past USA, moves into Super 8
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INSIDE
Firing reported at Moirangpuri in Manipur
NEW DELHI
Amid tensions simmering in Jirang district in western Manipur after a recent spate of violence, intermittent firing was reported in Moirangpuri area neighbouring Kangpokpi and Imphal East on Wednesday. Some Assam Rifles units were blocked by Meitei protesters. » PAGE 4

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Thursday as many as three petitions, including one led by the founder of an ethics firm, pertaining to the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for admission to other medical courses. » PAGE 6

NEW DELHI
The Indian Embassy in Kuwait has set up a helpline number (+965-65524945) that can be reached by phone and WhatsApp. Mr. Modi announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh to each of the families of the deceased Indian nationals. » PAGE 14

BHAKA
Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus and 13 others were indicted by a Bangladesh court on Wednesday on charges of embezzlement. He denied any involvement in corruption, telling prosecutors that he and his associates were being harassed. » PAGE 14

CRPF jawan, two militants killed in Jammu encounters
JAMMU
Two militants and a jawan from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) were killed and seven security personnel were injured in three encounters in Kathua and Doda districts of Jammu since Tuesday night. The region has seen four major militant attacks since Sunday, including the one that killed nine pilgrims in Baramulla district. One terrorist was killed on Tuesday and another in the region of Jammu on Wednesday. "The two were part of a newly infiltrated group," said Anand Jain, Additional Director-General of Police, Jammu. The deceased jawan was identified as Kabir Dasa of

40 Indians among 49 workers killed in Kuwait inferno

Over a dozen injured in apartment fire; most of the victims hail from Kerala; PM announces aid of ₹2 lakh, deports Minister for relief work

Kalid Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI
At least 49 persons, including 40 Indian citizens, were killed in a deadly fire that devastated an apartment complex in Kuwait's southern district of Al-Mangaf. Most of the Indian victims hail from Kerala. The fire that broke out in a kitchen in the apartment in Al Ahmadi Governorate early on Wednesday also left over a dozen injured, reported the Kuwait News Agency. Most of the deaths were due to smoke inhalation, Kuwaiti media said. Construction firm NPTC group had rented the building for its employees, reports said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi despatched Minister of State for External Affairs Kiritvardhan Singh to Kuwait to oversee the help being rendered to the injured and to bring back the mortal remains of the victims. Helpline launched The Indian Embassy in Kuwait has set up a helpline number (+965-65524945) that can be reached by phone and WhatsApp. Mr. Modi announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh to each of the families of the deceased Indian nationals. Mr. Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar expressed shock over the deaths. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi expressed "serious concern" over the living condition of Indians in the Gulf region. Indian Ambassador to Kuwait Adarsh Swalka visited the Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital where 11 workers were admitted. "Ten of them are expected to be released today and one in

hospital is reportedly stable," the Indian Embassy in Kuwait is closely monitoring the situation. Mr. Gandhi has expressed "deepest condolences" to the bereaved families. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan wrote to the External Affairs Minister seeking the Government's intervention. (MIDN inputs from PTI)

'APPALLING' CONDITIONS
» PAGE 4

Naidu is back as A.P. Chief Minister

Telegu Desam Party (TDP) national president N. Chandrababu Naidu was on Wednesday sworn in as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

This is his second stint as Chief Minister of the State post its bifurcation. He had served as the Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh for two terms. Governor S. Abdul Nazeer administered the oath of office to Mr. Naidu at Kesarapalle near Vijayawada. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Union Ministers J.P. Nadda, G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay, former Vice-President M. Venkiah Naidu, former Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, actors K. Chiranjeevi and Rajinikanth, and a host of VIPs attended the ceremony. YSRCP president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy did not turn up for the swearing-in. According to reports, Mr. Naidu tried to call Mr. Reddy over the phone to invite him for the ceremony. But he could not reach the YSRCP chief. Janasena Party president Pawan Kalyan was among the 24 MLAs from the NDA partners who took oath as Ministers. The NDA partners won 164 of the 175 Assembly seats in the elections, while the YSRCP won 11 seats. While the TDP won 135 assembly constituencies, the BJP and the BJP won 21 and eight Assembly seats respectively. Mr. Naidu allocated three berths to the BJP and one to the YSRCP. Cabinet formula Mr. Naidu adopted a formula to ensure that the NDA partners get their due share in the Cabinet. He selected one Minister for every seven seats with the

Majhi sworn in as Odisha's first BJP CM

Veteran BJP MLA Mohan Charan Majhi was sworn in as the 16th Chief Minister of Odisha on Wednesday.

In the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, their Cabinet colleagues and Chief Ministers of nine BJP-ruled States, Governor Raghunath Das administered the oath of office to Mr. Majhi, a four-time MLA from the Keonjhar Assembly constituency. Former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who was personally invited by Mr. Majhi in the morning, too attended the function. He is the third tribal Chief Minister to assume office after late Hemanand Biswal and Giridhar Gamsang, since Odisha became a separate State in 1956. K.V. Singh Deo, a six-time MLA from the "rattana" constituency, and

Prabhati Parida, Nimapara MLA, also took oath of office as Deputy Chief Ministers in the State's first BJP government. 16 Ministers Sixteen BJP MLAs were sworn in as Ministers. Of them, 11 Ministers, including Mr. Majhi and his two deputies, hold Cabinet ranks, while five are Ministers of State with independent charge. The new government has four Ministers from the tribal community; two of them are from the Scheduled Castes. Eight MLAs who were given Cabinet and independent charge are first-time legislators. Prabhati Parida, Sarosh Pujari, Prithviraj Harichandran, Bibhuti Bhanjan Jena and Krushna Chandra Sthapapatra were

made Cabinet Ministers. Pradeep Balasamanta, Gokula Chandra Mallick and Sampad Kumar Sahoo will discharge their duties as Ministers with independent charge. The Prime Minister flew down to Bhubaneswar after attending the swearing-in of Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Modi arrived at Janata Maidan, the venue of the swearing-in ceremony, from the Raj Bhavan with hundreds of people flanking the road.

Key attendees Chief Ministers Yogi Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh), Mohan Yadav (Madhya Pradesh), Bhupendra Patel Patel (Gujarat), Himanta Biswa Sarma (Assam), Vishnu Deo Sai (Chhattisgarh), Pushkar Singh Dhami (Uttarakhand), Bhajan Lal Sharma (Rajasthan), Pramod Sawant (Goa) and Manik Saha (Tripura) were present at the ceremony.

Food inflation accelerates in urban India

India's retail inflation slid to a one-year low of 4.75% in May. The CPI inflation stood at 4.83% in April.



Easing prices India's retail inflation slid to a one-year low of 4.75% in May. The CPI inflation stood at 4.83% in April. **Vegetable prices rise** Barring spices, where the food inflation rate cooled to 4.3%, the lowest level in at least two years, price pressures persisted for most food items. Vegetable prices rose 27.3% in May, while the inflation rate accelerated for cereals (8.7%), eggs (7.6%), fruits (6.7%) as well as pulses. With prices rising 17.4% in May, pulses have now completed a year of 10% inflation. Meat and fish prices went up 7.5% in May, easing the tad from 8.2% in April. Edible oil prices were down 6.7% from last year compared with a 9.4% dip in April. **Full report** » PAGE 5

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Prime Minister to attend G-7 outreach meet in Italy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to the Apulia region of Italy on Thursday to attend the G-7 outreach meet.

Mr. Modi will meet Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said at a briefing on Wednesday. Mr. Modi will discuss on specific questions with which other leaders he would hold bilateral meetings with. **Full report** » PAGE 5

Naidu is back as A.P. Chief Minister

G.V.R. Subba Rao

VIJAYAWADA

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president N. Chandrababu Naidu was on Wednesday sworn in as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

This is his second stint as Chief Minister of the State post its bifurcation. He had served as the Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh for two terms.

Governor S. Abdul Nazeer administered the oath of office to Mr. Naidu at Kesarapalle near Vijayawada. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Union Ministers J.P. Nadda, G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay, former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, former Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, actors K. Chiranjeevi and Rajinikanth, and a host of VVIPs attended the ceremony.

YSRCP president and former Chief Minister Y.S.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with N. Chandrababu Naidu and Pawan Kalyan at their swearing-in. K.V.S. GIRI

Jagan Mohan Reddy did not turn up for the swearing-in. According to reports, Mr. Naidu tried to call Mr. Reddy over the phone to invite him for the ceremony. But he could not reach the YSRCP chief.

Janasena Party president Pawan Kalyan was among the 24 MLAs from the NDA partners who took oath as Ministers.

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the YSRCP won 11 seats. While the TDP won 135 Assembly constituencies, the JSP and the BJP won 21 and eight Assembly seats respectively. Mr. Naidu allocated three berths to the JSP and one to the BJP.

Cabinet formula

Mr. Naidu adopted a formula to ensure that the NDA partners get their due share in the Cabinet. He selected one Minister for every seven seats won by the





alliance partners. As the JSP won 21 seats, it got three berths, while the BJP got one. The remaining were earmarked for the TDP. The Chief Minister will allocate the portfolios to his Cabinet colleagues soon. It is widely discussed in the political circles that Mr. Pawan Kalyan will be made Deputy Chief Minister with a key portfolio. The actor-turned-politician had played a key role in the formation of the alliance between the TDP and BJP.

Kolusu Parthasarathy, who switched loyalties from the YSRCP to the TDP before the elections, was taken into the Cabinet. N. Md Farooq, a senior leader who had served as a Minister earlier, was the lone minority face in the Cabinet.

The lone Minister from BJP was Satya Kumar Yadav a national secretary of the party.

DREAM COME TRUE

» PAGE 3

#	Portrait	Chief Minister (Lifespan) Constituency	Term of the office			Election (Assembly)	Party
			Term start	Term end	Duration		
1		Neelam Sanjiva Reddy (1913–1996) MLA for Srikalahasti	1 November 1956	11 January 1960	3 years, 71 days	1955 (1st)	Indian National Congress
2	 मोदरम संजीवय्या modaram Sanjeevalah	Damodaram Sanjivayya (1921–1972) MLA for Kurnool	11 January 1960	12 March 1962	2 years, 60 days	1957 (2nd)	
(1)		Neelam Sanjiva Reddy (1913–1996) MLA for Dhone	12 March 1962	21 February 1964	1 year, 346 days	1962 (3rd)	
3		Kasu Brahmananda Reddy (1909–1994) MLA for Narasaraopet	21 February 1964	30 September 1971	7 years, 221 days	1967 (4th)	

16		Nallari Kiran Kumar Reddy (born 1959) MLA for Pileru	25 November 2010	1 March 2014	3 years, 96 days			Kiran	E. S. L. Narasimhan
<i>President's rule imposed during the period (1 March 2014 – 7 June 2014)^{[a][b]}</i>									
(13)		Nara Chandrababu Naidu (born 1950) MLA for Kuppam	8 June 2014	30 May 2019	4 years, 356 days	2014 (14th)	Telugu Desam Party	Naidu III	E. S. L. Narasimhan
17		Yeduguri Sandinti Jagan Mohan Reddy (born 1972) MLA for Pulivendla	30 May 2019	11 June 2024	5 years, 13 days	2019 (15th)	YSR Congress Party	Jagan	E. S. L. Narasimhan
(13)		Nara Chandrababu Naidu (born 1950) MLA for Kuppam	12 June 2024	<i>Incumbent</i>	0 days	2024 (16th)	Telugu Desam Party	Naidu IV	S. Abdul Nazeer

#	Chief Minister	Party	Term of office	
			Longest continuous term	Total duration of chief ministership
1	Nara Chandrababu Naidu	TDP	8 years, 256 days	13 years, 245 days
2	Kasu Brahmananda Reddy	INC	7 years, 221 days	7 years, 221 days
3	Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao	TDP	5 years, 77 days	7 years, 195 days
4	Yeduguri Sandinti Rajasekhara Reddy	INC	5 years, 111 days	5 years, 111 days
5	Yeduguri Sandinti Jagan Mohan Reddy	YSRCP	5 years, 10 days	5 years, 10 days
6	Neelam Sanjiva Reddy	INC	3 years, 71 days	5 years, 51 days
7	Jalagam Vengala Rao	INC(R)	4 years, 86 days	4 years, 86 days
8	Marri Chenna Reddy	INC(I)	2 years, 218 days	3 years, 232 days
9	Nallari Kiran Kumar Reddy	INC	3 years, 96 days	3 years, 96 days
10	Kotla Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy	INC(I)	2 years, 64 days	2 years, 175 days
11	Damodaram Sanjeevaiah	INC	2 years, 60 days	2 years, 60 days
12	Nedurumalli Janardhana Reddy	INC(I)	1 year, 297 days	1 year, 297 days
13	Bezawada Gopala Reddy	INC	1 year, 214 days	1 year, 214 days
14	Tanguturi Anjaiah	INC(I)	1 year, 136 days	1 year, 136 days

Before was Bifurcation	United Andhra Pradesh <div>1 October 1953 (From Madras Presidency)</div>
Formation	1 November 1956 (Andhra Pradesh Day)
Capital	Amaravati
Largest city	Visakhapatnam
Government	
 • Body	Government of Andhra Pradesh
 • Chief minister	N. Chandrababu Naidu (TDP)
 • Deputy chief minister	Pawan Kalyan
 • Chief secretary	Neerabh Kumar Prasad, IAS ^[1]
State Legislature	Bicameral <div>Andhra Legislature</div>
 • Council	Andhra Sasana Mandali (58 seats)
 • Assembly	Andhra Sasana Sabha (175 seats)
National Parliament	Parliament of India
 • Rajya Sabha	11 seats
 • Lok Sabha	25 seats
High Court	Andhra Pradesh High Court
Area	
 • Total	162,970 km ² (62,920 sq mi)
 • Rank	7th
Elevation	269 m (883 ft)
Highest elevation (Arma Konda)	1,680 m (5,510 ft)

Population (2011) ▲ ^{[2][3]}	
 • Total	49,577,103
 • Rank	10th
 • Density	304/km ² (790/sq mi)
 • Urban	14,610,372
 • Rural	34,966,730
Demonym(s)	Andhrulu, Teluguvaaru
Language	
 • Official	Telugu
 • Additional official	Urdu ^{[4][5]}
 • Official script	Telugu script
GDP (Advance estimates)	
 • Total (2023–24)	▲ ₹1,449,501 crore (US\$170 billion) ^[6]
 • Per capita	▲ ₹219,518 (equivalent to ₹230,000 or US\$2,800 in 2023) ^[7]
Time zone	UTC+05:30 (IST)
ISO 3166 code	IN-AP
Vehicle registration	AP
HDI (2018)	▲ 0.649 Medium (27th)
Literacy (2011)	▲ 67.02% (31st)
Sex ratio (2011)	993 ♀ /1000 ♂ (20th)
Website	ap.gov.in ↗

Symbols of Andhra Pradesh



Emblem of Andhra Pradesh

Song	Maa Telugu Thalliki (To Our Mother Telugu)
Foundation day	Andhra Pradesh Day
Bird	Rose-ringed parakeet ^[8]
Flower	Jasmine
Fruit	Banginapalle Mango
Mammal	Blackbuck ^[8]

Majhi sworn in as Odisha's first BJP CM

Satyasundar Barik

BHUBANESWAR

Veteran BJP MLA Mohan Charan Majhi was sworn in as the 16th Chief Minister of Odisha on Wednesday.

In the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, their Cabinet colleagues and Chief Ministers of nine BJP-ruled States, Governor Raghubar Das administered the oath of office to Mr. Majhi, a four-time MLA from the Keonjhar Assembly constituency.

Former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who was personally invited by Mr. Majhi in the morning, too attended the function.

He is the third tribal Chief Minister to assume office after late Hemanand Biswal and Giridhar Gamang, since Odisha became a separate State in 1936.

K.V. Singh Deo, a six-time MLA from the Patnagarh constituency, and



Mohan Charan Majhi meeting former CM Naveen Patnaik at his home in Bhubaneswar to invite him to the swearing-in. ANI

Prabhati Parida, Nimapara MLA, also took oath of office as Deputy Chief Ministers in the State's first BJP government.

16 Ministers

Sixteen BJP MLAs were sworn in as Ministers. Of them, 11 Ministers, including Mr. Majhi and his two deputies, hold Cabinet ranks, while five are Ministers of State with indepen-

dent charge.

The new government has four Ministers from the tribal community; two of them are from the Scheduled Castes.

Eight MLAs who were given Cabinet and independent charge are first-time legislators. Prabhati Parida, Suresh Pujari, Prithviraj Harichandan, Bibhuti Bhushan Jena and Krushna Chandra Mohapatra were

made Cabinet Ministers.

Pradeep Balasamanta, Gokula Chandra Mallick and Sampad Kumar Swain will discharge their duties as Ministers with independent charge.

The Prime Minister flew down to Bhubaneswar after attending the swearing-in of Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Mr. Modi arrived at Janata Maidan, the venue of the swearing-in ceremony, from the Raj Bhavan with hundreds of people flanking the road.

Key attendees

Chief Ministers Yogi Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh), Mohan Yadav (Madhya Pradesh), Bhupendrabhai Patel (Gujarat), Himanta Biswa Sarma (Assam), Vishnu Deo Sai (Chhattisgarh), Pushkar Singh Dhami (Uttarakhand), Bhajan Lal Sharma (Rajasthan), Pramod Sawant (Goa) and Manik Saha (Tripura) were present at the ceremony.

IN BRIEF



Nepal seeks India's help to set up Jan Aushadhi Kendras

After Mauritius, now Nepal has approached India to set up Jan Aushadhi Kendras in their country, which would allow their citizens to benefit from low cost 'Made in India' generic medicines. The Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janashadhi Pariyojana is a Central government scheme under which quality generic medicines are made available at affordable prices via dedicated outlets called Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janashadhi Kendras (PMBJKs). India currently has over 10,000 PMBJKs across the country.

Heatwave grips south Bengal, school timings to be changed

Southern parts of West Bengal continued to reel under the ongoing heatwave with high humidity. In response, the State has asked all government and government-aided schools in south Bengal to change their timings so that students do not fall sick due to the extreme heat during the day. Primary and middle schools have been issued the same advisory. The government has said change in class timings would not affect mid-day meal services. The India Meteorological Department on Wednesday said rain may soon offer relief.

63 cases of use of unfair means, but no paper leak, says NTA

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Sixty-three cases of students using unfair means were reported in NEET-UG out of which 23 have been debarred for varying periods. National Testing Agency officials said on Wednesday, but reiterated that there has been no paper leak and the sanctity of the test has not been compromised. The result of the remaining 40 candidates, who were found using unfair means have been withheld, NTA Director-General Subodh Kumar Singh said. "A committee was constituted to put forward cases of use of unfair means," he said. On its recommendation, 12 candidates were debarred for three years, one for two years and two for one year, he said, adding that the total number of cases of usage of unfair means was 63.

SC to hear pleas challenging results of NEET-UG today

Delhi HC issues notice to NTA to respond to four petitions filed by candidates; Vacation Bench refuses to stay counselling process; testing agency to file a transfer petition to consolidate all pleas

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Thursday its plea to stay the NEET-UG results. The court is hearing on Thursday its plea to stay the NEET-UG results, including the one filed by the founder of edtech firm 'Physics Wallah', pertaining to the controversy-ridden National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test for admission to MBBS, BDS and other medical courses. The top court's updated list of business say a Vacation Bench comprising Justices Vikram Nath and Sanjeev Mehta will take up the petitions. Alakh Pandey, who has moved the court against alleged arbitrary award of grace marks by the National Testing Agency (NTA) to over 1,500 candidates. The top court has also listed for hearing the pleas filed by Abdullah Mohammed Faiz and Jaripiti

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

The national finale of the JSW Paints Futurescapes Painting Competition, 2024, held in association with The Hindu Young World, concluded with a valedictory function on Tuesday. The national winners in three categories were announced.

Winners The winners of the first three prizes in that order are as follows: Sub-Junior category: Yash Jain of Class 5, Hillwoods Academy, Preet Vihar, New Delhi; Adithi M. of Class 5, Vidhyodaya Public School, Udipi; and Amit Mukherjee of Class 3, Lions Calcutta Greater Vidyamandir, Kolkata. Junior category: Abinash D.T. of Class 8, Montfort School, Guindy, Chennai; Subhdeep Sinha of Class 8, Sri Kanya Vidyalaya, Cossipore, Kolkata; and Ridham of Class 8, Army Public School, Dhanur Cantonment, Patna. Senior category: Kavyashree K. of Class 10,

SBOA School and Junior College, Anna Nagar, Chennai; Alakananda T. of Class 11, RKM Higher Secondary School, Kanchanchery, Kozhikode; and Gouri Parvathy S. of Class 12, Bhavan's Adarsha Vidyalaya, Kakkannad, Kochi.

"We believe that India is to be a great country in the world going into the future, and this is possible if the people who are going to be building the future do great things. One of the best ways to connect with this future of India is by giving children an avenue to express themselves and bring out their ideas," said Sundaresan A.S., joint Managing Director and CEO, JSW Paints Pvt Ltd. "Children have a very different take on issues that affect the country. Some of these views are innovative and inspirational. We wanted our participants to have freedom to express themselves. It is our fervent hope that one day some of these ideas could be made into reality," said Anuradha Bose, Senior Vice-President (Marketing) at JSW Paints Pvt Ltd.



"At The Hindu, we believe in educating, engaging and enlightening children. Our constant endeavour is to give them the right information, the right narrative and the right content," said Sdhar Aramala, Vice-President (Sales & Distribution), The Hindu Group.

The competition, which began in February of this year, saw children from over 1,500 schools in the preliminary stage, the regional finale held in 30 states, and the national finale.

Topics From around 1.42 lakh entries from over 1,500 schools in the preliminary round, around 5,500 students made it to the regional finale, from which 90 qualified for the national finale.

Young artists make a splash at JSW Paints Futurescapes contest held in association with The Hindu Young World

The topics for the national finale were as follows: sub-junior category (Classes 3 to 5): "My colourful underwater birthday party" and "Beautiful totem with Incredible India"; junior category (Classes 6 to 8): "Colours of friendship with my favourite fictional character" and "Beautiful technology with Digital India"; senior category (classes 9 to 12): "Colours of passion: racing a race to Mars" and "Beautiful future in self-reliant India".

The first three winners in each category were awarded a prize money of ₹15,000, ₹10,000 and ₹5,000, respectively, along with a certificate and a trophy. Additionally, winners of seven consolation prizes in each category were awarded ₹2,000 each. All the national finalists were awarded a certificate of appreciation and a subscription to The Hindu Group's exclusive products from India. For the full list of winners, visit www.thehindu.com/results/jswpaints

Winners in all categories



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Study ranks India second in nitrous oxide emissions

India is the world's second largest source of nitrous oxide (N2O), a greenhouse gas that heats up the atmosphere far more than carbon dioxide. Nearly 18% of such global man-made emissions in 2020 were from India, topped only by China at 16%.

The major source of the emissions comes from fertilizer usage, according to a global assessment of N2O emissions published in the journal Earth System Science Data on Wednesday. In 2022, the concentration of atmospheric N2O reached about 25% above the levels seen before the industrial age. In comparison, the concentration of carbon dioxide was 417 parts per million in 2022. This means that the current level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is a record since 1980, more than that of nitrous oxide, making it a more significant concern, the bigger priority among countries trying to

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contain climate change. However, because nitrous oxide stays longer in the atmosphere and is rising rapidly, scientists in recent years have been warning that it must also be tackled with a greater sense of urgency. N2O emissions from human activities have increased by 40% (three million metric tonnes of N2O per year) in the past four decades, with growth rates between 2020 and 2022 higher than in any previous period since 1980, when reliable measurements began. Agricultural production using nitrogen fertilizers,

Monumental changes: The Taj Mahal on a clear day after rain washed away pollution in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

SANDEEP SAXENA

Such as ammonia, and animal manure, contributed 74% of the total anthropogenic N2O emissions in the last decade. N2O emissions from human activities, responsible for 6-8% of the effective radiative forcing of greenhouse gases, have added about 0.1 degree Celsius to current global warming. "This report on the nitrous oxide budget is timely and alarming. It is time India took this wake-up call seriously and changed cropping systems and production practices," said G.V. Ramanjaneyulu, director of the Centre of Sustainable Agriculture.

TH CROSSWORD 14200 (Set by KritiKroos) A crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

SUDOKU A 9x9 grid with some numbers filled in, and a solution to the previous puzzle provided below.

FAITH Serve guru, attain moksha Four aspects of our life are pre-programmed based on our deeds in our previous janma. These are owning land, finding a spouse, health and lastly, a guru. Why is it important to have a guru and serve him? Being devout and serving Him with dedication is not enough to attain moksha. That ultimate goal is achievable only through a guru, said P. Swaminathan in a discourse. Trukachchi Nambi, the venerated Vaishnavite saint, is a case in point. As one of the four sons of a merchant, he spent his share of inheritance in creating a flower garden at a place that is now known as Poomammallee. Every day, he would carry the fresh flowers from the mandaram to the presiding deity of Varadaraja Perumal temple in Kanchipuram. He found that the deity appeared to be awaiting and informed the priests. Perumal informed Nambi that only he could see him in such a state. Nambi sought and gained permission to fan the deity daily. The two also fell into the habit of conversing with each other. The legend of Nambi grew and an ordinary peasant fell at Nambi's feet, declared him as his guru and asked him to find out if God would offer him moksha. Without hesitation, Perumal said the peasant would be at his feet in Vaikuntam, since he had found a guru. When Nambi sought to know his own status, Perumal laughed and said, "You fanned me, I conversed. You did not serve Bhagavathas. Therefore, no moksha for you." Nambi subsequently served Trukottayar Nambi incognito and was duly awarded moksha by Perumal at the appropriate time.

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Study ranks India second in nitrous oxide emissions

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI

India is the world's second largest source of nitrous oxide (N₂O), a greenhouse gas that heats up the atmosphere far more than carbon dioxide. Nearly 11% of such global man-made emissions in 2020 were from India, topped only by China at 16%.

The major source of these emissions comes from fertilizer usage, according to a global assessment of N₂O emissions published in the journal *Earth System Science Data* on Wednesday.

In 2022, the concentration of atmospheric N₂O reached about 25% above the levels seen before the industrial age. In comparison, the concentration of carbon dioxide was 417 parts per million in 2022.

This means that the current level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is a thousand times more than that of nitrous oxide, making carbon dioxide reduction the bigger priority among countries trying to



Monumental change: The Taj Mahal on a clear day after rain washed away pollution in Agra, Uttar Pradesh. SANDEEP SAXENA

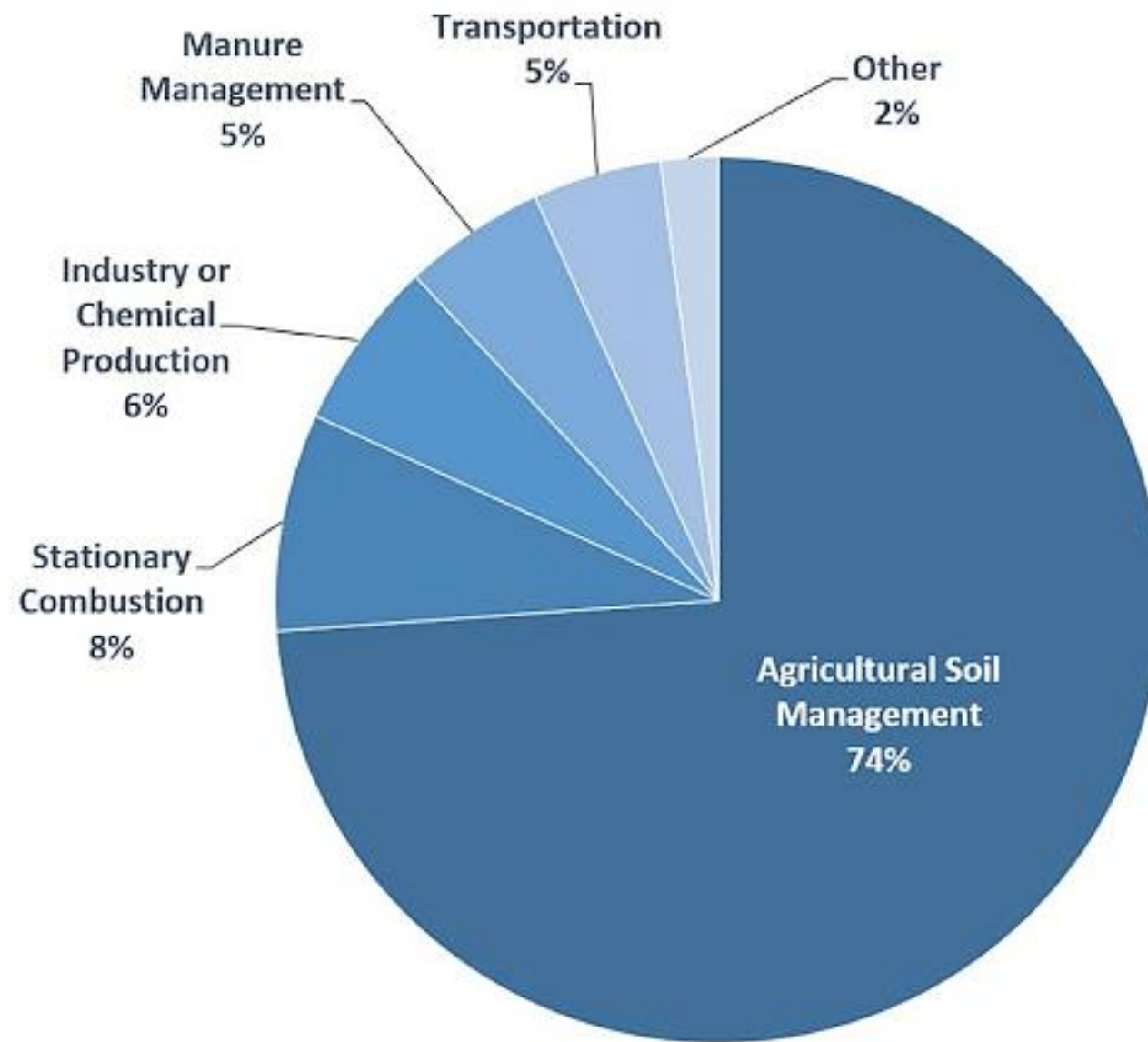
contain climate change. However, because nitrous oxide stays longer in the atmosphere and is rising rapidly, scientists in recent years have been warning that it must also be tackled with a greater sense of urgency.

N₂O emissions from human activities have increased by 40% (three million metric tonnes of N₂O per year) in the past four decades, with growth rates between 2020 and 2022 higher than in any previous period since 1980, when reliable measurements began.

Agricultural production using nitrogen fertilizers,

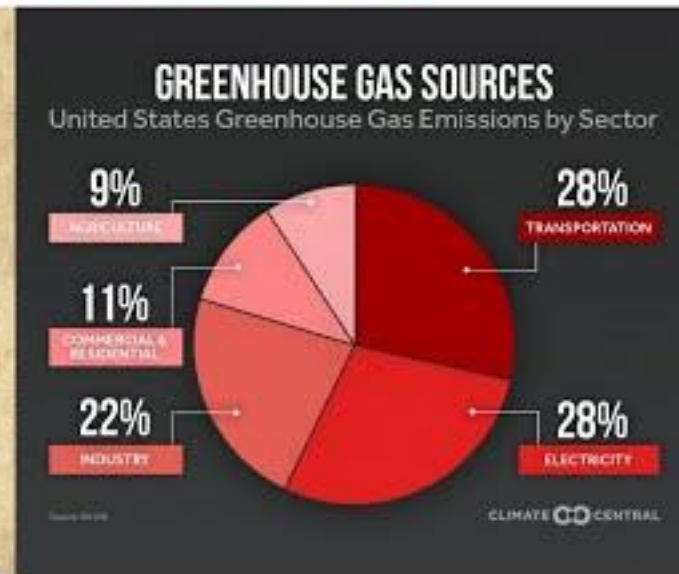
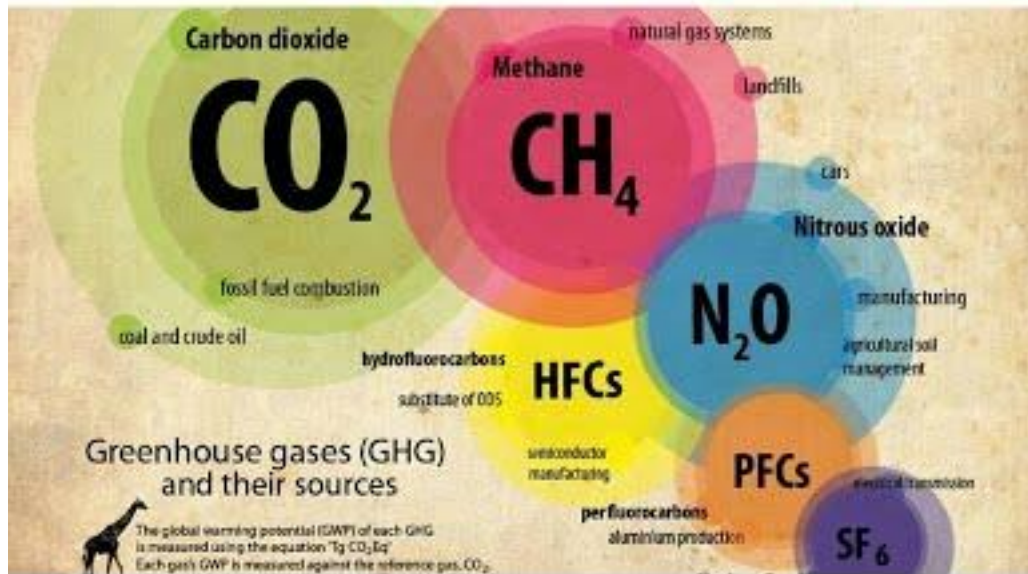
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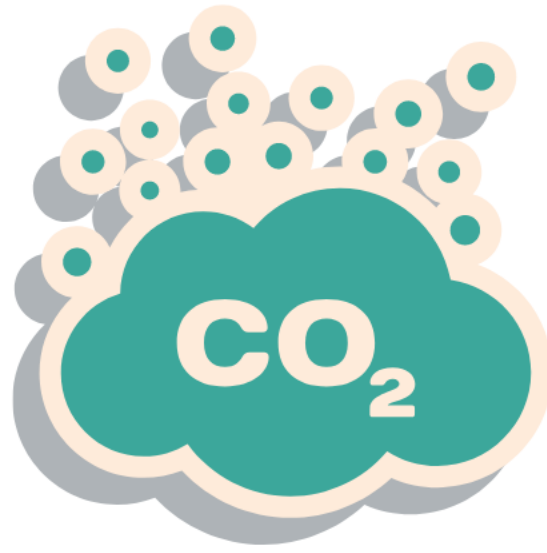
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2019). Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2017

GREENHOUSE GASES & THEIR SOURCES





Water Vapour



Carbon Dioxide

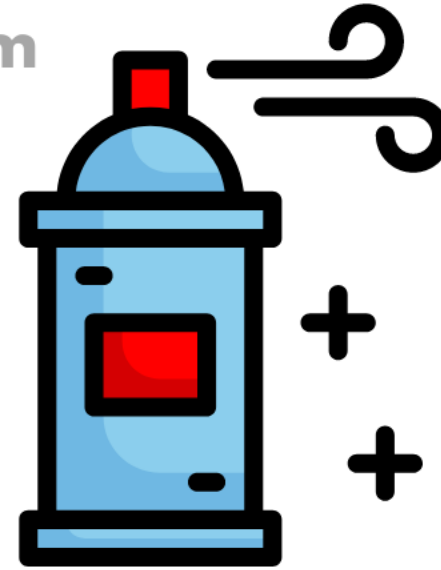
civilspedia.com



Methane

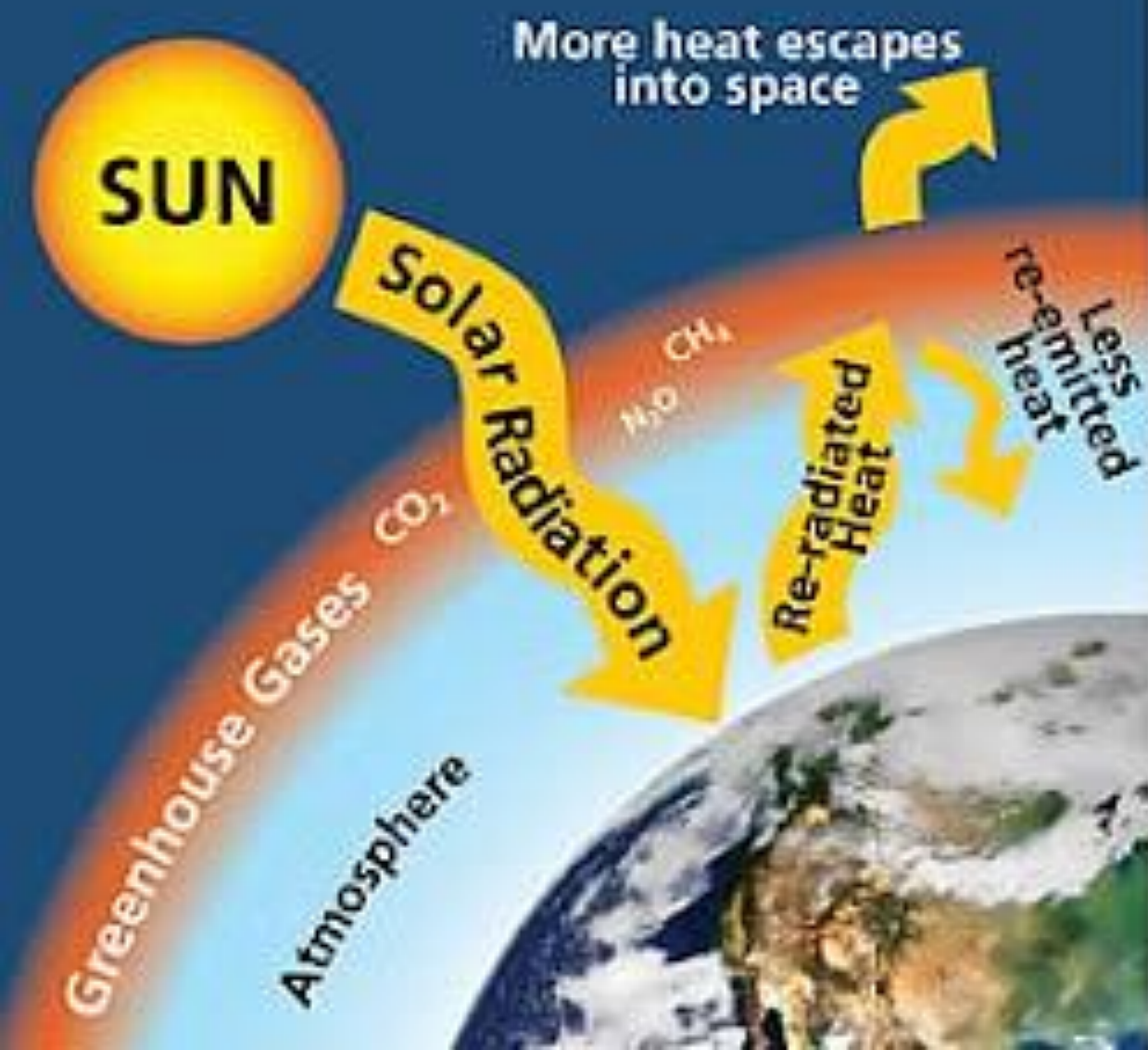


Nitrous Oxide

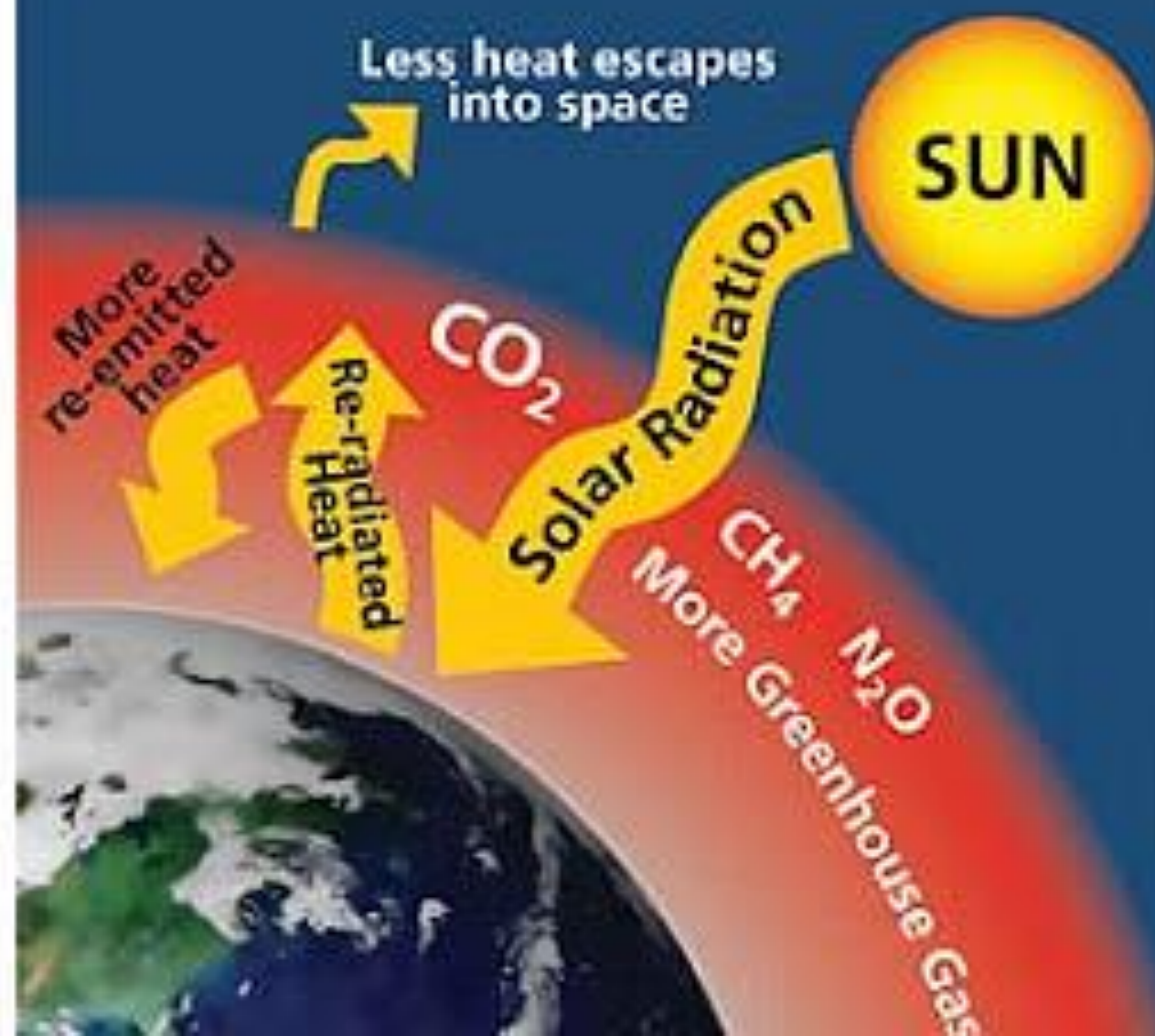


CFCs

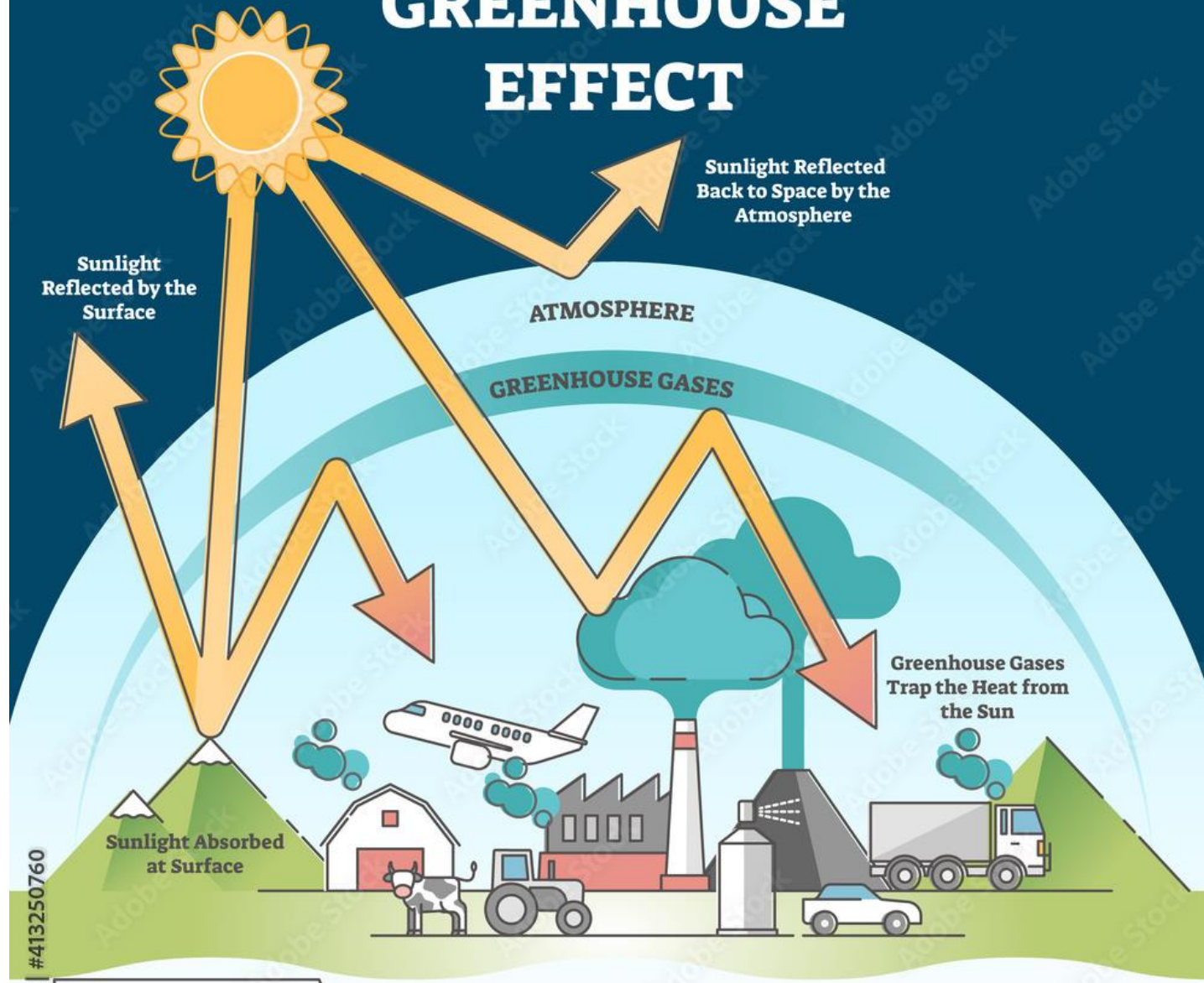
Natural Greenhouse Effect



Human Enhanced Greenhouse Effect



GREENHOUSE EFFECT



Adobe Stock #413250760

Human activities release Greenhouse gases

CFCs and HALOALKANE	METHANE	CARBON DIOXIDE	NITROUS OXIDE
Refrigerators	Cattle	Oil	Gasoline
Aerosols	Fertilizer	Coal	Agriculture

BEIJING

Former Navy captain who entered Taiwan acted on his own: China



A former Navy captain arrested in Taiwan for illegal entry was acting on his own accord and would be punished if returned to China, Beijing said on Wednesday. Taiwan's coast guard picked up the man on Sunday after his vessel collided with other boats on the Tamsui river, which flows from the self-ruled island's capital Taipei. AFP

Macron calls for moderates' unity to beat far right in polls

Associated Press PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday urged moderate politicians from the left and the right to regroup to defeat the far right in the upcoming national legislative elections he had called for after his party's crushing defeat in the European parliamentary vote.



Emmanuel Macron

A sombre-looking Mr. Macron addressed French voters for the first time since his stunning decision on Sunday to dissolve the National Assembly, France's lower House of parliament. His move triggered an early legislative election that will take place in two rounds on June 30 and July 7, three weeks after the far-right National Rally party of Marine Le Pen triumphed at the election for the European Union Parliament.

During a press conference on Wednesday, Mr. Macron said he decided on the risky move because he could not ignore the new political reality after pro-European party was handed a chastening defeat and garnered less than

DUBAI

Merchant ship hit in Red Sea off Yemen, says security firm Ambrey



A merchant ship issued a distress call after being struck in the Red Sea off Yemen, a security firm said on Wednesday, in what appeared to be the latest attack by Iran-backed Houthi rebels. The ship was hit about 68 nautical miles southwest of the rebel-held port city of Hodeida, maritime security firm Ambrey said. AFP

SEOUL

North Korea's Kim Jong-un hails Russia ties ahead of Putin's visit



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un hailed his country's ties with Russia, saying the two nations were "invincible comrades-in-arms", amid reports President Vladimir Putin will visit Pyongyang. Mr. Kim made a trip to meet Putin last year, with allegations that Pyongyang was shipping weapons to Moscow for use in Ukraine. AFP

BRUSSELS

EU threatens to increase tariffs on Chinese electric car imports



The European Union threatened on Wednesday to hike tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, escalating a trade dispute over Beijing's subsidies for the exports that Brussels worries is hurting domestic automakers. The European Commission's new tariffs would amount to additional duties of as much as 38%, up from the current 10%. AP

Hezbollah fires rockets at Israel to avenge senior commander's killing

About 160 projectiles were fired from southern Lebanon, making it one of the largest attacks since the fighting began; Hezbollah said it fired missiles and rockets at two military bases in retaliation for the killing of Taleb Sami Abdullah

Associated Press BEIRUT

Lebanon's Hezbollah fired a massive barrage of rockets into northern Israel on Wednesday to avenge the killing of a top commander, further escalating regional tensions as the fate of an internationally-backed plan for a ceasefire in Gaza hangs in the balance.



Scorched earth: An Israeli firefighter walks near smoke and fire following Hezbollah's strikes in Israel on Wednesday. REUTERS

The retaliatory attack came as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was in the region to push a ceasefire proposal with global support that has not been fully embraced by Israel or Hamas. The militant group

backed ally of Hamas, has traded fire with Israel nearly every day since the 8-month-long Israel-Hamas war began and says it will

only stop if there is a truce in Gaza. That has raised fears of an even more devastating regional conflagration.

Air raid sirens sounded across northern Israel, and about 160 projectiles were fired from southern Lebanon, making it one of the largest attacks since the fighting began. There were no immediate reports of casualties as some were intercepted while others ignited Israeli fires.

Hezbollah said it fired missiles and rockets at two military bases in retaliation for the killing of Taleb Sami Abdullah, 55, known with war began and says it will

Taleb, he is the most senior commander killed late on Tuesday since the fighting began eight months ago.

Israeli strikes Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon have killed over 400 people, most of them Hezbollah members, but the group also include more than 70 civilians and non-combatants. On the Israeli side, 15 soldiers and 10 civilians have been killed since the war in Gaza began.

Mr. Blinken, who is on his eighth visit to the region since the start of the war, headed to Qatar on Tuesday to follow up on the negotiations.

U.S. hopes to close gaps in Israel-Hamas truce talks

Agence France-Presse DOHA

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken vowed on Wednesday to keep pressing to seal a Gaza ceasefire deal, saying that not all Hamas demands were acceptable but voicing hope that gaps could be closed.

Consulting with key mediator Qatar, Mr. Blinken said Hamas could have given a "clear and simple yes" but voiced guarded hope for moving forward. Of the demands of Hamas, Mr. Blinken said "some of the changes are workable, some are not".

"We are determined to try to bridge the gaps. And I believe those gaps are bridgeable," he said.

Lloyd Austin is to host the event in Brussels. Representatives of nearly 90 countries and organisations, half from Europe, are to attend a Swiss-hosted Ukraine peace summit.

Russia keeps up its Ukraine attack despite diplomacy buzz

Associated Press KIVIV

Russian forces fired missiles and drones at Ukraine in a nighttime attack, officials said on

Wednesday, ahead of several days of intense diplomatic activity around the war.

Ukraine's air force said it shot down more than two dozen air targets, including cruise missiles, a Kinzhal

ballistic missile and Shahed drones. Several people were injured.

How best to stop Ukraine's efforts to stop Russia's invasion will be a central issue in international meetings in coming days.

Leaders of the Group of Seven rich democracies, including U.S. President Joe Biden, are due to gather on Thursday for their annual summit to discuss how to squeeze more money for Ukraine from

Russian assets frozen in their countries.

Also on Thursday, defence chiefs from the U.S., Europe and other nations hold their monthly meeting on Ukraine's security needs. U.S. Defence Secretary

Hong Kong cancels the passports of six activists based abroad

Associated Press HONG KONG

The Hong Kong government on Wednesday cancelled the passports of six overseas-based activists under the new national security law, stepping up its crackdown on dissidents who moved abroad.

Among them were former pro-democracy lawmaker Nathan Law, unionist Mung Siu-fat and activists Simon Cheng, Finn Lau, Johnny Fok and Tony Choi — all accused of endangering national security by activities in the southern Chinese city. The government said they have "abandoned" to the U.K.

Last year, police offered rewards of 1 million Hong Kong dollars (\$128,000) each for information leading to their arrests and drew sharp criticism from Western governments.

Authorities also banned anyone from providing funds or economic resources to the six, leasing properties to them or forming any joint venture with them, or risk a penalty of up to seven years in prison.

The government said it acted because the six were continuing to engage in activities that endanger national security, smearing the city and colluding with external forces.

Golden hour



People walk between trees in morning frost as the temperatures drop in the south of Johannesburg in South Africa on Wednesday. REUTERS

Pakistan hikes Defence Budget by nearly 15% in 2024-25

Press Trust of India ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Wednesday announced a nearly 15% hike in its defence spending and allocated Rs. 2,122 billion in the 2024-25 Budget, marking a significant increase from last year amidst strenuous efforts to secure a fresh loan from the IMF to meet the cash-strapped nation's external liabilities.

Pakistan govt. has set aside Rs. 2,122 billion this year while last year's figure was Rs. 1,804 billion

hammad Aurangzeb presented the Budget in the National Assembly, the lower House of Parliament, the first Budget of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) coalition government which came to power after the February 8 general elections.

Last year, the government allocated Rs. 1,804 billion for defence, which was higher than the Rs. 1,523 billion allocated the previous year.

Mr. Aurangzeb said the government set a 3.6% GDP growth target for the next year — higher than the 3.5% set for the outgoing year. The country however missed that target and

could only achieve 2.38% growth.

He said the total volume of the budget would be Rs. 18,877 billion and announced a Rs. 2,122 billion allocation for defence spending, reflecting a 14.98% increase.

Over Rs. 1,804 billion was budgeted for the fiscal year 2023-24, ending on June 30. The defence sector expenses are the second biggest component of the annual expenditure af-

ter the debt payments, which for the next year will be Rs. 9,700 billion and constitute the single biggest expense of the debt-trapped country.

The government also decided to provide a historic Rs. 1,500 billion Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) at the federal level and by adding the provincial component of the development budget, the net PSDP comes to a whopping Rs. 3,797 billion.

higher than the previous year. He said the non-tax revenue target of the government would be Rs. 3,587 billion.

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Bangladeshi Nobel Prize winner Yunus indicted in graft case

Reuters DHAKA

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus and 13 others were indicted by a Bangladesh court on Wednesday on charges of embezzlement of 252.2 million taka (\$2 million) from the workers' welfare fund of his telecoms company.

Mr. Yunus, 83, and his Grameen Bank won the 2006 Nobel Peace prize for work to lift millions out of poverty by granting tiny loans of under \$100 to the rural poor of Bangladesh, pioneering a global movement known as microcredit.

The prosecution accuses Mr. Yunus and the others of embezzling 252.2 million taka from the welfare fund of Grameen Telecom, which owns a 34.2% stake in Grameenphone, the country's largest mobile phone company and a subsidiary of Norway's telecom giant Telenor. They are also accused of money laundering.

Mr. Yunus denied any involvement in corruption, telling reporters that he and his coworkers were being harassed by the authorities.



Muhammad Yunus

strated the misappropriation of funds and the illegal money transfers abroad. The trial will begin on July 15, he said.

In January, Mr. Yunus was sentenced to six months in prison for violations of labour law, which he denied.

100 cases registered Although he is not in prison after securing bail in that case, Mr. Yunus faces more than 100 cases regarding the violations and graft accusations, which he said in an interview with Reuters last week was "very flimsy, made-up stories".

During the interview, Mr. Yunus said Bangladesh had turned into a "one-party" state as the ruling party stamps out political competition. The government denied his allegations on the cases and the style of rule. (\$1 = 117,0000 taka)

Golden hour



People walk between trees in morning frost as the temperatures drop in the south of Johannesburg in South Africa on Wednesday. REUTERS

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Special Judge Syed Arafat Hossain dismissed petitions seeking the charges to be dropped, saying the prosecution had demon-

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Muhammad Yunus

মুহাম্মদ ইউনুস



Yunus in 2013

Born 28 June 1940 (age 83)
Chittagong District, Bengal Province, British India (now Bangladesh)

Nationality Bangladeshi

Education University of Dhaka (BA, MA)
Vanderbilt University (PhD)

Occupation(s) Economist, Entrepreneur

Academic career

Institution University of Chittagong
Middle Tennessee State University
Glasgow Caledonian University

Field Microcredit theory
Development economics

School or tradition Microcredit
Social business

Contributions Grameen Bank
Microcredit
Social business

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Field Microcredit theory
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Social business

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Awards Nobel Peace Prize (2006)
Presidential Medal of Freedom (2009)
Congressional Gold Medal (2010)
Independence Award (1987)

Information [↗](#) at IDEAS / RePEc

Website <https://muhammadyunus.org/> [↗](#)

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Muhammad Yunus', written over a horizontal line.

Pakistan hikes Defence Budget by nearly 15% in 2024-25

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

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Finance Minister Mu-

CM

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ter the debt payments, which for the next year would be Rs. 9,700 billion and constitute the single biggest expense of the debt-trapped country.

Inflation target

He said the inflation target for the next fiscal year would be 12% while the budget deficit would be 6.9% of the GDP.

The Minister said the tax collection target would be Rs. 12,970 billion – 38%

higher than the previous year. He said the non-tax revenue target of the government would be Rs. 3,587 billion.

The government also decided to provide a historic Rs. 1,500 billion Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) at the federal level and by adding the provincial component of the development budget, the net PSDP comes to a whopping Rs. 3,797 billion.

As of April 2024, the top 10 countries with the highest military budgets were:

1. United States: \$916 billion
2. China: \$296 billion
3. Russia: \$109 billion
4. India: \$83.6 billion
5. Saudi Arabia: \$75.8 billion
6. United Kingdom: \$74.9 billion
7. Germany: \$66.8 billion
8. Ukraine: \$64.8 billion
9. France: \$61.3 billion
10. Japan: \$50.32 billion 

BUSINESS AS USUAL



President turns down mercy plea of Red Fort attack convict on death row



SC had dismissed Arif's review plea in 2022

DIVYAA NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

PRESIDENT DROUPADI Murmu has turned down the mercy petition of Mohammed Arif, alias Ashfaq, a Pakistani national and a member of the Lashkar-e-Taiba who was sentenced to death in the December 2000 Red Fort attack in which three Army personnel were killed.

According to Kashirajati Bhawan, the mercy petitioner of Arif, received on May 15, was turned down on May 27.

This is the second mercy plea rejected by President Murmu after she assumed office on July 25, 2022. In April 2023, the President rejected the mercy plea of Vasant Sampat Dupare, convicted of raping and killing a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PRIME MINISTER CONDOLES DEATHS, SAYS EMBASSY MONITORING

Around 40 Indian workers among 49 killed in Kuwait building blaze

Over 50 injured in fire incident; MoS set to leave for Gulf nation to oversee assistance

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

AT LEAST 40 people, around 40 of them Indians, died early Wednesday morning after a fire broke out in an apartment building where they were staying near Kuwait City.

The incident took place in the Mangaf area, south of Kuwait City, which is heavily populated with migrant workers. Around 200 workers were living in the six-storey building where the fire incident took place, according to local media reports.

Kuwait Times quoted Major General Eid Al-Owaidan, head of the interior ministry's General Department of Criminal Evidence, as saying, "Unfortunately, we received a report of a fire at exactly 6:00 am (0300 GMT) in the Mangaf area."

"As for the deaths in the building behind me, the number has exceeded 35 so far," he said, standing at the site. Kuwait's interior ministry later updated the toll to 49, and Indian officials said around 40 are Indians.

The Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Bandini Jaishwal said Minister of State Kirti Varadhan Singh will be leaving for Kuwait on Wednesday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



India's Ambassador to Kuwait Adarsh Swaikha visits one of the injured Indian workers in a hospital in Mangaf Wednesday. (Below) The six-storey building where the fire broke out. PPT



'He was to get his daughter admitted to college': Many livelihoods snuffed out

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUNE 12

A MECHANIC who became a supervisor, an electrician who learnt accountancy — those who perished in the Kuwait fire had worked their way up to a better life, so they could sustain their families back home in Kerala. Among them was 48-year-



old Vadakkottuvilayil Lukose, a supervisor with NRTC, group, which has IC Abraham, a businessman from Kerala.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Carpenters to delivery boys: Indians are in demand, living conditions poor

DIVYAA NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

CARPENTERS, MASONS, domestic workers, fabricators, drivers and even food delivery riders and courier delivery boys — to a very large extent, Kuwait depends on the Indian workforce.

With a million-strong diaspora and the largest expatriate community in Kuwait, Indians constitute 21 per cent of Kuwait's total population and 30 per cent of its total workforce.

According to the latest statistics released by the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI) of Kuwait, the population of Kuwait was 4,859 million (1,546 million citizens and 3.3 million expatriates) as of December 2023. Of this, labourers and workers comprised 61 per cent of the total population (almost three million) and 75 per cent of the country's total expatriate population. The Indian community remains the largest expatriate community in Kuwait and has already crossed the one million mark.

Often living in harsh conditions — cramped rooms in semi-constructed buildings or in labour camps like the one

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

FEEDBACK FROM INTERNAL SURVEY

On Armed Forces table: Let double the Agniveers stay back, train them longer

Lateral absorption of graduates as technical personnel being discussed

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

THE ARMED Forces are discussing possible tweaks to the Agniveer scheme for military recruitment including changes in the retention percentage of Agniveers from the current 25 per cent and increase in their training period.

This follows feedback from the these services — a survey was conducted recently — that flagged certain issues with the scheme. The Indian Express has learnt.

These changes, however, are not yet formal recommendations to the government. These are proposals that are still being discussed by the Armed Forces.

One of the changes to the scheme being discussed within the Army is increasing the retention percentage from the current 25 per cent to 60-70 per cent for



Currently, only 25% are retained after 4 years. PPT

regular troops and nearly 75 per cent for technical and specialist soldiers, including Special Forces. The feedback collated by the Army has indicated lack of cohesiveness and camaraderie among the Agniveers and a tendency to compete, and not collaborate, to get absorbed, leading to lack of trust between the Agniveers.

"This is not a desirable quality in the Armed Forces and 25 per cent to 60-70 per cent for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



T20 WORLD CUP: INDIA IN SUPER 8 AFTER 7-WICKET WIN OVER USA PAGE 21

Why Bihar, Andhra are unlikely to get special status, package instead

AANCHAL MAGAZINE NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS within the government suggest that the demand for special category status by the BJP's two key allies, TDP and JDU for Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, respectively, will be hard to meet since there are several states which may need a higher percentage of grants given their socio-economic and fiscal health.

One of the biggest benefits for states classified as a special category earlier was that 50 per cent of funds under centrally sponsored schemes was contributed by the Centre, with only 10 per cent being the state con-

EXPLAINED More funds, projects likely

IF NOT special category status, the BJP-led government may be willing to allocate extra funds to states for specific projects. For example, it may extend more loans to build Andhra's capital or even plan central projects in Amaravati.

tribution. For all other states, the split was 60:40 with the Centre contributing just 60 per cent.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Modi attends return of partner in Andhra, his own party's debut in adjoining Odisha

Naidu takes oath as CM fourth time with team of 24

SREENIVAS JANYALA HYDERABAD, JUNE 12

TELLUGU DESAM Party president N Chandrababu Naidu was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for the fourth term Wednesday at a ceremony at Caravansarovar Vijayawada that was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior leaders of NDA ally BJP.

Naidu, who won the recent Assembly election from his home turf Kuppam for the eighth consecutive time, took oath at 11:27 am. This was the second



PM Narendra Modi greets N Chandrababu Naidu after the latter was sworn-in as Andhra Pradesh CM Wednesday. PPT

time he took oath of office after bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. His previous two tenures were before the bifurcation.

Apart from the Prime Minister, the event was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president and Union Minister J P Nadda, along with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Majhi sworn in CM of first BJP govt in Odisha

SUJIT BISOI BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 12

ODISHA'S FIRST BJP Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi took oath of office Wednesday along with two Deputy Chief Ministers, eight cabinet ministers and five Ministers of State with independent charge at a grand swagat ceremony at Janata Maidan here.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, half a dozen Union Ministers and Chief Ministers of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

In first year of pass-fail policy in Delhi schools, 20 per cent of Class 8 students held back

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

ABHINAVYA HARIGOVIND NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

NEARLY 20 per cent of Class 8 students of Delhi government schools have been held back this year after failing to clear their exams held last month. This is the first set of detentions since the Delhi government announced last year that it was scrapping the no-detenstion policy, and bringing back the pass-fail system in Classes 5 and 8.

In response to a request filed



Delhi has scrapped its no-fail policy. PPT

under the Right to Information Act, the Delhi government's Directorate of Education (DOE) has said that 46,662 of the 2.34 lakh

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

AM/NS INDIA

ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India

REIMAGINEERING SOLAR ROOFS

#RE/MAGINEERING BHARAT

SMARTER STEELS BRIGHTER FUTURES

How SpaceX's Starship could revolutionise space travel & exploration

ALIND CHAUHAN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

ELON MUSK-owned SpaceX's Starship rocket accomplished its first fully successful test flight last week, with both its booster and spacecraft making a gentle splashdown after an hour-long sub-orbital space flight.

This was SpaceX's fourth attempt to launch the mammoth Starship. The Starship's booster (called Super Heavy) detached from the upper section (or the Starship spacecraft), to make a soft landing in the Gulf of Mexico. The spacecraft travelled half-way around the planet to make a controlled splashdown in the Indian Ocean.

The successful test flight brings SpaceX one step closer to its aim of building a fully and rapidly reusable rocket system. Once entirely operational, Starship can redefine space travel and exploration for the benefit of astronomy and planetary science.

What is Starship?

Starship is a two-stage heavy lift-off vehicle designed to carry crew or/and cargo to Earth orbit, the Moon, Mars, and beyond. Put together, the rocket system is nearly 120 metres tall (Qutub Minar is 72.5 m tall), making it the largest rocket ever flown.

The Super Heavy booster consists of 33 Raptor engines that can produce 74 meganewtons of thrust. NASA's biggest currently-operational rocket, the Space Launch System, generates 39 meganewtons off the pad.

These Raptor engines use a 3.6:1 ratio of liquid oxygen (the oxidiser, a chemical which reacts with the fuel to cause combustion) and liquid methane (the fuel).

The booster will be fully reusable, and capable of re-entering Earth's atmosphere after a mission to land at the launch site. The Starship spacecraft, comprising six Raptor engines and four landing fins, is also fully reusable.

How can Starship reduce the cost of space travel?

Starship aims to drastically bring down



Starship after launch. Reuters

the cost of space travel. Three main features will allow this.

■ Starship is eventually expected to be able to carry up to 150 tonnes of payload to low-Earth orbit, and at least 100 tonnes to

the Moon and Mars. This is more mass than humankind has collectively soft-landed on the lunar surface so far.

■ SpaceX is developing Starship's upper stage in such a way that it can be refuelled in Earth orbit by other Starships. In theory, this will allow it to operate like an aeroplane that can be refuelled and in the air quickly.

"With refuelling, spacecraft can instead be designed for increased payload capacity and more capable scientific instruments, thereby fundamentally increasing their value-generating potential," according to a report by *The Space Review*.

■ The rocket system is designed to be entirely and rapidly reusable. Unlike in the case of other launch systems, Starship's principal hardware elements are not discarded — either by being dropped in the ocean or allowed to burn up — but rather brought back to the ground so that they can be used again.

According to some estimates, Starship would deliver cargo up to 100 tonnes to Mars for just \$50 million. NASA's Space Shuttle, which was retired in 2011, used to cost \$1.5 billion to lift only about one-quarter of what

Starship will, and only into low Earth orbit, according to a report by *ABC News*.

How does this benefit science?

Over the years, the biggest hurdle to space exploration and the commercialisation of space travel has been the inability of launch vehicles to carry heavy payloads. This requires carrying lots of fuel (hence a bigger rocket), and is very expensive. Starship's capability to carry heavy payloads while being extremely cost-effective promises to change that.

It will enable scientists to launch much larger space telescopes, which could be built out of cheaper but heavier materials. They will also be able to send bigger equipment in future Moon and Mars missions, such as a full-sized drilling rig, which can drill up to a kilometre. This will give scientists unprecedented access to the interior of the Moon and Mars, where useful resources are believed to be present. The Apollo Missions, in contrast, were able to carry only small equipment to the Moon.

As Starship can return to Earth, it would also be able to bring back huge amounts of

samples from the Moon and planets, which could help scientists unlock many mysteries about our solar system and the origin of life.

The rocket system is central to NASA's Artemis program, which aims to put astronauts back on the Moon by 2030.

What are the challenges?

SpaceX needs to prove that Starship is safe and reliable, while keeping costs low, as per its promise. In the past, it has been a major challenge for space flight programmes — NASA's reusable Space Shuttle was much more expensive than expendable rockets, despite the latter not being reusable.

Although Starship has been more quickly developed in comparison to other launch vehicles, the progress has been slower than Musk envisioned. And it has come at a cost.

Last year, a *Reuters* investigation found that to rapidly build Starship, Musk endangered SpaceX workers in Texas and California. The news agency documented at least 600 previously unreported workplace injuries at SpaceX.

- **Successful Test Flight:**

- SpaceX's Starship completed its first fully successful test flight with both booster and spacecraft making a controlled splashdown.

- This was SpaceX's fourth attempt to launch the Starship.

- **Starship Specifications:**

- Starship is a two-stage heavy lift-off vehicle designed for crew and cargo missions to Earth orbit, the Moon, Mars, and beyond.

- The rocket system stands nearly 120 meters tall.

- The Super Heavy booster has 33 Raptor engines producing 74 meganewtons of thrust, making it the most powerful operational rocket.

Reusability and Cost Efficiency:

Starship aims to drastically reduce the cost of space travel with a reusable design.

It can carry up to 150 tonnes to low-Earth orbit and 100 tonnes to the Moon or Mars.

Designed to be refueled in orbit, increasing its payload capacity and scientific potential.

Technological Advancements:

Starship's hardware can be recovered and reused, unlike other launch systems.

Future capabilities include launching larger space telescopes and heavier equipment for Moon and Mars missions.



- **Benefits to Science and Exploration:**

- Potential to bring back significant amounts of samples from the Moon and other planets.
- Central to NASA's Artemis program, aiming to return astronauts to the Moon by 2030.

- **Challenges:**

- Proving Starship's safety and reliability while keeping costs low.
- Overcoming historical challenges faced by reusable rockets, such as high costs.
- Development has been slower and more expensive than anticipated, with safety concerns reported at SpaceX facilities.

Apple most valuable company again

Bengaluru: Apple once again became the world's most valuable company on Wednesday, dethroning Microsoft from the top spot, as the iPhone maker pushed ahead in a race to dominate artificial intelligence (AI) technology.

Its shares jumped nearly 4 per cent to a record \$215.04, giving it a market valuation of \$3.29 trillion. Microsoft's market capitalisation stood at \$3.24 trillion.

The stock surge comes as Nasdaq hit a record high on fresh signs of cooling inflation. Apple shares had added more than 7 per cent after it unveiled a range of AI-enabled features and software enhancements for its devices. **REUTERS**

Indian varsities ahead of global peers in UN sustainable goal focus

MANU KAUSHIK
New Delhi, June 12

INDIAN UNIVERSITIES SEEM to be doing better than their global counterparts when it comes to sustainability. The Times Higher Education's (THE) Impact Rankings 2024 reveals that India has the highest number of universities featured in this year's rankings – 105 – which is 46% higher than last year when just 72 Indian universities made it to the rankings.

The ranking, now in its sixth year, measures universities' contributions to the UN's SDGs (sustainable development goals) and assesses their commitment to sustainability across four broad areas: research, stewardship, outreach and teaching.

"They (Indian universities) are all standing up to be counted on delivering social and economic impact aligned to the UN's SDG. Coupled with this, Indian universities have managed some highly impressive achievements..." said Phil Baty, THE's chief global affairs officer.

A record number of 2,152 universities from 125 countries are assessed this year, which is a significant increase on last year where 1,705 universities were ranked, representing a 26% increase. As per the methodol-

Times Higher Education's Impact Rankings 2024

Rank		
2023	2024	Institution
1	1	Western Sydney University, Australia
2	2	University of Manchester, UK
5	2	University of Tasmania, Australia
9	4	Aalborg University, Denmark
7	5	RMIT University, Australia
52	81	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, India
301-400	101-200	JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, India
101-200	101-200	Lovely Professional University, India
301-400	101-200	Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India
101-200	101-200	Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences, India

ogy, the progress of the universities were measured for each of the individual 17 SDGs, and across the goals as a whole.

This year, India has one university in the overall top 100 with Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham coming joint 81st. Plus, there are five universities in the top 200, eight in the top 300 and 11 in the top 400 in the overall category.

On the individual SDGs, Indian universities have done even better. For instance, Mysuru-based JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research has topped the rankings in good health and well-being (an SDG). In another SDG (clean water and sanita-

tion), Chennai-based Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences has ranked 2nd. Similarly, universities like Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, and KIIT University have performed well in SDG-based rankings.



The rankings highlights that Punjab-based Lovely Professional University is the stand-out university in the country in the individual SDGs coming highest in four of them: decent work and economic growth, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, and life on land.



Pump and Dump Scheme

The image features a large, white, cylindrical industrial pipe structure supported by dark pillars, extending from the right side towards the center. The scene is set at sunset or dusk, with a warm orange and yellow sky. In the background, a large industrial facility, possibly a refinery or power plant, is visible with several tall chimneys emitting dark smoke. The facility is illuminated with numerous small lights, and its reflection is visible in the calm water in the foreground. The overall atmosphere is industrial and serene.

- Recently, the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has slapped a fine on 11 individuals for allegedly operating a 'pump and dump' scheme.
- A pump-and-dump scheme is a type of manipulation activity that involves artificially inflating the price of a stock through false and misleading information, only to sell the stock at the inflated price and leave investors with significant losses.





- 
- **A pump-and-dump scheme is a type of manipulation activity that involves artificially inflating the price of a stock through false and misleading information, only to sell the stock at the inflated price and leave investors with significant losses.**
 - **This manipulative tactic is particularly prevalent in the micro-cap and small-cap sectors, where companies often have limited public information and trading volumes are lower.**
- 

- 
- Under the SEBI guidelines, pump-and-dump schemes are completely banned. Participants in pump-and-dump manipulation can face severe legal penalties, including fines, disgorgement of profits, and imprisonment.
 - These schemes undermine confidence in the financial markets making legitimate investors wary of potential fraud
- 

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- **Pump and Dump scheme is different from Insider trading as there is no misuse of confidential information of company in pump and dump scheme.**
- 



Maitri Setu

- 
- The Maitri Setu, also known as the India-Bangladesh friendship bridge, is set to open by September, connecting India's landlocked Northeast to the Bay of Bengal.
- 





The bridge is 1.9 kilometres long and connects Sabroom in Tripura with Ramgarh in Bangladesh.


Maitri Setu is constructed over the Feni River, which acts as a boundary between India (in Tripura) and Bangladesh.

The name 'Maitri Setu' signifies the strengthening of bilateral relations and friendly ties between India and Bangladesh.

- 
- 
- **It is a pre-stressed concrete bridge with a single-span structure that facilitates smooth traffic and cargo flow.**
 - **The construction of the bridge has been supervised by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL).**
 - **NHIDCL is a government-owned company established in 2014 for the development & maintenance of National Highways & Strategic Roads of India. It operates as a nodal agency of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).**



- **Key Facts about Feni River**

- **It originates in the South Tripura district, passes through Sabroom town in India, and flows into Bangladesh before meeting the Bay of Bengal.**
 - **The river is 116 kilometres long from its source to the Bay of Bengal.**
 - **Some notable tributaries of the Feni River include the Muhuri River, Raidak River, Chandkhira River, Ryang River, and Kushiyara River.**
- 

- **With reference to river Teesta, consider the following statements: (2017)**

1. **The source of river Teesta is the same as that of Brahmaputra but it flows through Sikkim.**

2. **River Rangeet originates in Sikkim and it is a tributary of river Teesta.**

3. **River Teesta flows into Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh.**

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

- **(a) 1 and 3 only**

- **(b) 2 only**

- **(c) 2 and 3 only**

- **(d) 1, 2 and 3**

-

Ministry of Defence

JAPAN INDIA MARITIME EXERCISE – 24 (JIMEX – 24) COMMENCED AT YOKOSUKA JAPAN

Posted On: 11 JUN 2024 5:49PM by PIB Delhi


Indian Navy's indigenous Stealth Frigate INS Shivalik arrived at Yokosuka, Japan to participate in the bilateral Japan – India Maritime Exercise 2024 (JIMEX 24). **This is the eighth edition of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012.**

The ship was accorded a warm welcome by VAdm ITO Hiroshi, Commander JMSDF Yokosuka District & Ambassador Sibi George, Ambassador of India to Japan.

The exercise includes both harbour and sea phases. The harbour phase will comprise professional, sports and social interactions, after which the two navies will jointly hone their war fighting skills at sea and enhance their interoperability through complex multi-discipline operations in the surface, sub-surface and air domains.

The *IN* is being represented by INS Shivalik and the *JMSDF* is being represented by the Guided Missile Destroyer JS Yugiri. Integral helicopters from both navies will also participate in the joint exercise.

Having grown in scope and complexity over the years, JIMEX 24 provides an opportunity to learn from each other's best practices and facilitates operational interactions between *IN* and *JMSDF* to foster mutual cooperation and reaffirm their shared commitment towards maritime security in the Indo – Pacific.



Initiatives to foster innovation

Source: The Print

Context: NITI Aayog, under its Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), launched two initiatives, to foster innovation and sustainability in India.

Initiative	Description	Collaboration/Focus
AIM – ICDK Water Challenge 4.0	Tackles <u>critical water-related challenges</u> through innovative solutions	Collaboration with Innovation Centre Denmark (ICDK) at the Royal Danish Embassy in India
Innovations for You (5th Edition)	Coffee table book series featuring 60 entrepreneurs contributing to societal betterment through sustainable innovations	Focuses on SDG Entrepreneurs in India



सत्यमेव जयते


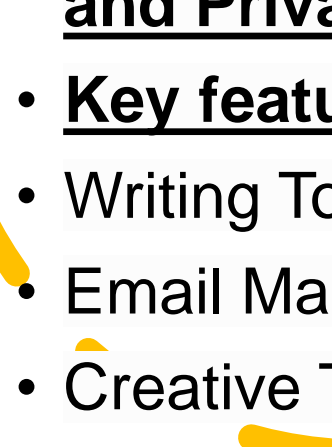
NITI Aayog



ATAL INNOVATION MISSION



Apple Intelligence

- 
- Apple introduced “**Apple Intelligence**,” a generative AI system integrated **into iPhones, iPads, and Macs via iOS 18, iPadOS 18, and macOS Sequoia.**
 - Apple Intelligence combines **generative AI with personal context to provide personalized, context-aware responses, enhancing user experience while prioritizing privacy through on-device processing and Private Cloud Compute.**
 - **Key features include:**
 - Writing Tools
 - Email Management
 - Creative Tools
 - Enhanced Siri
- 



SSC FOUNDATION BATCH



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

Thank you
guys.
