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A river cuts through rock,  
not because of its power, but  
because of its persistence.

Jim Watkins



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**End Indus Water Treaty with Pak, says BJP leader**

**NEW DELHI**  
With a 14-member delegation touring power projects in Jammu and Kashmir, BJP leader Devendra Singh Bhanu on Thursday sought the termination of Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan. » PAGE 5

**Rajya Sabha revokes AAP MP's suspension**

**NEW DELHI**  
Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdish Chhabra on Thursday announced the revocation of suspension of Aam Aadmi Party member Sarjoo Singh. He was suspended from July 24, 2023. » PAGE 5

**Sunak, Starmer clash in final pre-poll debate**

**LONDON**  
In a final pre-election debate on Wednesday night, U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer argued with each other on the cost of living, taxes and welfare, immigration and gender. » PAGE 14

**Former Chinese Ministers sacked from ruling party**

**BEIJING**  
China has expelled two former Defense Ministers from the ruling Communist Party over accusations of corruption that are likely to lead to sentences of life in prison. Both face prosecution under the People's Liberation Army. » PAGE 14

**Uttarakhand govt. to study risk posed by 13 glacial lakes during monsoon**

**Jalpa Jhira**  
**NEW DELHI**  
With the monsoon setting in, the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Department (USDMA) will do a vulnerability study of 13 glacial lakes, five of them in "high risk zone", from July. The study aims to provide data to help avoid calamities such as lake outbursts. Rajni Shukla, Secretary, USDMA, briefed reporters about the new lakes which were identified through satellite earlier this year. Mr. Shukla said the Himalayan glaciers were in danger from climate change, and continued checks were required to ensure safety. The lakes in Dharma, Laksarvaghata, and the Kutiya Valley in Pithoragarh district, and the Vasudhara Tal lake of the

**CBI arrests 2 in Patna for leak of NEET paper**

**Accused allegedly rented a play school where leaked papers were given to candidates on exam eve; CBI quizzes principal of Oasis School in Hazaribagh, finds possible link between NEET, UGC-NET leaks; the CBI finds that the school had been a centre for both the NEET-UG examination, held on May 5, and the UGC-NET conducted on June 18**

**Amit Bhelekar**  
**PATNA**  
In its first arrests from Patna in the NEET-UG paper leak case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) took two persons into custody on Thursday. According to the agency, the accused - Manish Prakash and Ashish Kumar - played a crucial role in arranging to rent the Leela Boys Hostel and Play School in Patna's Khenmichak locality, where the leaked question papers were allegedly distributed to candidates on the eve of the examination. The CBI also gained custody on Thursday of Rakesh Kumar, alias Chintu, and Shikesh Kumar, two accused who had been arrested by the Bihar Police's

Economic Affairs Unit which had been previously investigating the case. The Central agency brought them to its office in Patna for questioning after a medical check-up. On Wednesday, a special CBI court granted custody of them to the CBI till July 4. However, Mr. Prakash's wife Archana Kumar claimed that her husband had arranged to rent the Patna play school in good faith, and was unaware of the malpractice being carried out at the location. "He (Manish Prakash) is never involved in such things; in fact he is engaged in social work. I think he is falsely arrested by the CBI," Mr. Kumar said. "He just arranged the house for a few students but was not aware of what

**SC, Delhi HC seek NTA response on NEET petitions**  
**NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court and the Delhi High Court on Thursday sought the National Testing Agency's (NTA) response on separate petitions alleging taking grievances with respect to the updating of the opt-out mark recognition sheets by the agency prior to the announcement of the results and out-of-syllabus questions in NEET UG 2024. » PAGE 8

**NEET-UG exam, held on May 5, and the UGC-NET exam held on June 18.**  
Given that the Oasis School was already under scanner in the NEET paper leak case, agency sources asked how the NTA had selected the school as a centre for the UGC-NET exams as well. On Wednesday, the CBI had questioned the NTA bank officials and the courier company responsible for transporting NEET question papers. Three days ago, in conversation with The Hindu, Mr. Haque had admitted that the box and envelope containing the NEET question papers had been cut to open by itself at 1.15 p.m. on the day. The box was not open, and so the courier house had been opened using a cutter.

**Unrelenting waves**



**Defences breached:** Huge waves break over gentle hills along a section of the Kerala coast to reach sea in surmount which causes flooding, at Kannamaly in Kochi on Thursday. (THE HINDU)

**Chargesheet filed against Yediyurappa in POCSCO case**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
**BENGALURU**  
The Criminal Investigation Department filed a chargesheet against BJP leader and former Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, charging him under Section 8 (sexual assault) of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and Section 354A (sexual harassment) and 324 (offering gift or restoration of property in consideration of secret or false attestation of the Indian Penal Code, on Thursday. The chargesheet lists 79 individuals as witnesses, including the minor who has been the victim in the case. **FULL REPORT » PAGE 3**

**President flags NEET, mentions Emergency in her Parliament speech**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
**NEW DELHI**  
In her first address to Parliament since the Lok Sabha election results were announced, President Droupadi Murmu asked MPs to rise above "partisan politics" with regard to the row over "paper leaks" in examinations for medical college admissions and government recruitment. The Union government is "fully committed" to investigating the issues and punishing the guilty, she said. "The recent irregularities and paper leaks are being dealt with strongly and the government's focus is on improving the exam process," the President said, as Opposition MPs raised several other issues which she said were of concern, including the Emergency imposed by the Congress-led government in 1975, terming it "the biggest and darkest chapter of direct attack on the Constitution". "Today is 27th June. The imposition of Emergency on 25th June, 1975, was the biggest and darkest chapter of direct attack on the Constitution. The entire country felt outraged. But the country emerged victorious over such unconstitutional forces as the traditions of the Republic lie at the heart of our identity," she said amid table clapping by the treasury benches and protests by the Opposition. BJP's counterattack. The President's reference to the Emergency came a day after Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla read out a statement condemning it on the floor of the House, to mark its 49th anniversary. In a letter to Mr. Birla, Congress general secretary and MP, K.C. Veeramani, termed his statement as a "grave matter, impacting upon the very credibility of the institution of Parliament". Many Opposition MPs held copies of the Constitution while affirming their oath as members, after an election campaign claiming that the BJP's slogan asking voters for a "brave majority" of "400 party seats" was a precursor to "grave matter, impacting upon the very credibility of the institution of Parliament". Mr. Murmu also spoke out in robust defence of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) used in elections across the country. In a counter-demand for a return to paper ballots by a section of the Opposition, she reminded MPs of the days when ballot boxes could be tampered with. "We all remember those times when ballot papers were used and had to be sealed. To ensure the sanctity of the electoral process, it was decided to use EVMs," she said. When Mr. Murmu said that the government had been eager to promote peace and prosperity in the north eastern states, the Opposition benches erupted with questions on Manipur.

**SC, Delhi HC seek NTA response on NEET petitions**

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**BEIJING**  
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# Jaishankar urges Myanmar for safety of Indian projects

Kallol Bhattacharjee  
NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met with Myanmar's Foreign Minister U. Than Shwe on Wednesday as the latter travelled through Delhi on his way to Tehran for the 19th Asia Cooperation Dialogue.

The meeting acquires significance as it materialised in the backdrop of the fast deteriorating security scenario in Myanmar where the military rulers are facing a tough resistance from the ethnic Armed Organisations.

"Discussed our deep concern at the impact of continuing violence and instability in Myanmar on the border and urged for engaging all stakeholders in addressing this situation. Particularly flagged illegal narcotics, arms smuggling and trafficking in personae as priority challenges," said the External Affairs Minister after the meeting.

The Ministry of External Affairs is yet to share further details about the meeting but indicating heightened concern about the



S. Jaishankar

safety requirements for the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, Mr. Jaishankar said. He pressed for credible security protection for our ongoing projects in the country.

Mr. Jaishankar also offered to help Myanmar "in any manner" during the border and urged for a return to the path of "democratic transition" in Myanmar.

Mr. U. Than Shwe is in Tehran at present where he met with counterparts from Thailand, Nepal, Iraq, and Qatar among others, Myanmar's international leaders with Thailand, Bangladesh, India and China in recent months have come under the control of EAOs.

# India and U.S. in talks for Stryker infantry vehicles

Deals for MQ-9B unmanned aerial vehicles and GE-414 jet engines are making progress along with defence industrial collaborations under the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology

Dinkar Peri  
NEW DELHI

India has expressed interest in co-producing Stryker infantry vehicles and it is in "relatively" early stages of talks with the U.S. on the Stryker and the Javelin anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs), says the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt M. Campbell.

At the same time, deals for MQ-9B unmanned aerial vehicles and GE-414 jet engines are making progress along with defence industrial collaborations under the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (CET) framework.

Discussions on Stryker have been going on for several months now, and officials said the deal could potentially see local manufacture of several hundred variants of the vehicle under license with some capabilities of the Indian Army, including one with Javelin mounted on them.

However, several defence officials expressed



The deal on Stryker could potentially see local manufacture of variants under license with some customisations for the Army

reservations on going for Stryker given that several such vehicles have been developed and demonstrated by Indian companies in recent years.

"We've had some discussions around the co-production of Javelin and Stryker. We're exploring a number of avenues for local co-production and engagement around technological areas where we could collaborate together on development more generally in I&D."

Mr. Campbell was speaking in a virtual briefing on Wednesday at the second India U.S. ICET dialogue that was chaired by the two National Security Advisors last week.

The U.S. has in the past demonstrated both Stryker as well as Javelin for the Indian Army during bilateral exercises. Javelin was extensively evaluated by the Indian Army, though the deal did not go through.

On the MQ-9B deal, Mr. Campbell noted that the letter of offer and acceptance was delivered to India in early March, and they are awaiting signals to move forward.

"General Atomics is negotiating details of the sale with the Ministry of Defence and we are prepared, obviously, to work with them in addressing any outstanding questions," he stated.

The deal is in advanced stages and expected to go for approval by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in the next few months. Similarly, the deal for license manufacture of the GE-414 engines by Hindustan Aero Engines (HAE) to power the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) MkII is also in advanced stages.

# Plea in Supreme Court seeks stay on implementation of three new criminal laws

Krishnakumar Rajasekhar  
NEW DELHI

A petition was moved in the Supreme Court on Thursday seeking a stay on the implementation and operation of three new criminal laws. Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, scheduled to come into effect from July 1.

The writ petition filed by Anjali Patel and Chhaya Mishra, represented by advocate Sanjeev Malhotra and Kumar Siddharth, has urged the court to constitute an expert committee immediately to assess viability of the three new laws which overhaul the criminal procedure and justice system and replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.PC) and the In-

**The plea highlights that the three laws were passed without detailed debate or effective discussion**

Indian Evidence Act.

The plea highlighted that the three laws were passed without detailed debate or effective discussion in Parliament at a large number of Members from the Opposition were suspended.

"The passing of the Bills in Parliament was irregular as many Members of Parliament were suspended. There was very little people's participation in the passage of the Bills," the petition submitted.

The petition, extensive by content to reports in *The Hindu* about the suspension of 146 Opposition MPs from Parliament. It

quoted representations from the Tamil Nadu and West Bengal Chief Ministers to the Home Minister, objecting to the new laws.

It contended that the new laws were antiquated and anti-bail, and even "inhuman" at some points such as the revival of handcuffs during arrest and provided executive powers to the police.

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which replaces the IPC, does not define terms such as "gang" and "mobile organised crime groups".

The Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita, which replaces the Cr.PC, allows 15 days of police custody, either to be taken all at once or in a staggered manner. The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, which takes over from the Evidence Act, has classified electronic records as primary evidence.

# Modern solutions



Beating the heat: Traffic police personnel wear special issue helmets with inbuilt air cooling units in Lucknow on Thursday. The State of Uttar Pradesh has experienced extreme temperatures this summer, resulting in dozens of deaths on a single day.

# Manipur BJP chief meets Amit Shah for solution to conflict

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The chief of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Manipur met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Thursday seeking "immediate attention to bring permanent solution and tranquillity to the State".

A. Sharda Devi met Mr. Shah for "an extensive discussion on the current situation in Manipur". Her three-year tenure as party president ended on Thursday.

Meanwhile, a state government programme to be presided over by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in Imphal on Friday June 28 for the distribution of benefits under various existing schemes and announcements of new schemes was cancelled at the eleventh hour as the state government has been postponed to the first week of July.

Mr. Singh posted on X late Thursday evening, "Covered a meeting with the existing MLAs to deliberate on the current situation



A. Sharda Devi

in Manipur". Mr. Devi said in a post on X, "Conveyed the people's aspirations and urged immediate attention to bring permanent solution and tranquillity to the State, while appreciating the ongoing efforts. Additionally, highlighted the need for resetting IDPs' directionally displaced persons and providing maximum support for smooth rehabilitation. He assured that the Centre is aware of the delicate situation on the ground and committed to upholding the people's aspirations."

The meeting comes days after Mr. Singh reviewed the security situation with state government officials in Imphal, on June 17.

# Land grab case: Eknath Khadse files special plea

The Hindu Bureau  
MUMBAI

NCP (SP) leader Eknath Khadse, his wife Mandakini, and son-in-law Girish Chaudhari on Thursday moved a special court in Mumbai against the charges in an alleged 2016 money laundering case related to a land deal in Pune district of Maharashtra.

Advocate Soopnil Ambekar filed these applications before special judge R.N. Rohade who was hearing cases of Ministers and political leaders.

Accepting the application, the special court has asked the FBI for a report on the appeal of the accused in the case.

Mr. Khadse stepped down from the BJP in 2016 after he was accused of involvement in misappropriation of ministerial position to buy government land in Bhosari near Pune.

# In a U-turn, Mamata says eviction of hawkers is not the goal of West Bengal government

Shikha Sahay Shukla  
MUMBAI, 2024  
KOLKATA

After two days of action against encroachments on footpaths by hawkers, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made a U-turn on Thursday, saying hawker eviction was not the goal of her government.

Ms. Banerjee, who addressed a review meeting on encroachment by hawkers with senior officials and Ministers of the State government, constituted a committee to conduct a survey and submit a report to her office within 15 days.

A month's time "We are not going for hawker eviction immediately. Since they (the hawkers) have built up one month's time, we should complete our work in one month," the Chief Minister said.



Pushing away: Hawkers remove encroachments after the police carried out an anti-encroachment drive in Kolkata on Tuesday (reporter's photo)

come or tender anyone unemployed. Millions run their business in the streets. There will be no eviction of hawkers during this period, the hawkers have to clear the footpaths," the Chief Minister said at the meeting.

The Trinamool Congress chairperson blamed political leaders and poli-

the anti-encroachment drive by the police and civic authorities following the Chief Minister's warning on illegal encroachment.

The police said the demolition of the party office was done based on a Calcutta High Court order, adding that the office was illegally constructed on land belonging to the Kolkata Port Trust. However, the exact contents of the order are not known.

A scuffle broke out between police and BJP workers, with some demanding a halt to the demolition. Some of the workers were detained by the police.

Shaktiman Ghosh, leader of street vendor unions, said that the party office was built on a plot of land belonging to the Kolkata Port Trust. However, the exact contents of the order are not known.

The Chief Minister said at the meeting that the party office was built on a plot of land belonging to the Kolkata Port Trust. However, the exact contents of the order are not known.

# Mamata says women don't feel safe in Raj Bhavan amid row over MLAs' swearing-in

Shikha Sahay Shukla  
MUMBAI

Amid the row over the venue for the swearing-in ceremony of two newly elected Trinamool Congress MLAs, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said women "are not feeling safe" in the Raj Bhavan and Government House.

Ms. Banerjee had no right to delay the oath-taking ceremony of her MLAs.

"Why must everyone go to the Raj Bhavan? The Governor can authorise the speaker or the Deputy Speaker, or an attorney-at-law to conduct the ceremony in the Assembly building. Women are not feeling safe to visit Raj Bhavan due to recent incidents reported there," Ms. Banerjee said.

The Chief Minister was alluding to the case of harassment levelled against



Mamata Banerjee

the Governor by a woman staff member of the Raj Bhavan in May.

Two MLAs, Sayantika Banerjee and Rajat Bhattacharya, elected from the Barabagar and Bhagwanga constituencies in the recent assembly elections, had not been sworn in. The Governor has been demanding that the Governor should call the oath-taking ceremony in the Assembly. The Raj Bhavan had invited them to the Governor's house for the oath-taking

ceremony, but they did not show up.

On Thursday, the MLAs held protests in the Assembly for the second consecutive day. On Wednesday, the Governor refused to hold the swearing-in in the Assembly and left for New Delhi.

State Government The Chief Minister broke her silence on the issue that has been festering for the past several weeks in May. "Nearly a month has passed but my MLAs are unable to take oath. The Governor is obstructing them from doing so. It is the people who have elected them, not the Governor. He cannot deny them the right to take oath," she said.

# India and U.S. in talks for Stryker infantry vehicles

Deals for MQ-9B unmanned aerial vehicles and GE-414 jet engines are making progress along with defence industrial collaborations under the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology

**Dinakar Peri**  
NEW DELHI

India has expressed interest in co-producing the Stryker infantry vehicles and it is in “relatively” early stages of talks with the U.S. on the Stryker and the Javelin anti-tank guided missiles (ATGM), says the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt M. Campbell.

At the same time, deals for MQ-9B unmanned aerial vehicles and GE-414 jet engines are making progress along with defence industrial collaborations under the initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) framework.

Discussions on Stryker have been going on for several months now, and officials said the deal could potentially see local manufacture of several hundred variants of the vehicle under licence with some customisations for the Indian Army, including one with Javelin mounted on them.

However, several defence officials expressed



The deal on Stryker could potentially see local manufacture of variants under licence with some customisations for the Army. AP

reservations on going for Stryker given that several such vehicles have been developed and demonstrated by Indian companies in recent years.

## Early stages

“India has expressed an interest in the co-production of Stryker, and I think we’re still in relatively early stages and the U.S. Army plans to demonstrate the capabilities of the Stryker to the Indian Army at an early opportunity,” Mr. Campbell stated.

“We’ve had some discussions around the co-production of Javelin and Stryker. We’re exploring a number of avenues for both co-production and engagement around technological areas where we could collaborate together on development more generally in R&D.”

Mr. Campbell was speaking in a virtual briefing on Wednesday on the second India-U.S. iCET dialogue that was chaired by the two National Security Advisers last week.

The U.S. has in the past demonstrated both Stryker as well as Javelin for the Indian Army during bilateral exercises. Javelin was extensively evaluated by the Indian Army, though the deal did not go through.

On the MQ-9B deal, Mr. Campbell noted that the letter of offer and acceptance was delivered to India in early March, and they are awaiting signature to move forward.

“General Atomics is negotiating details of the sale with the Ministry of Defence and we are prepared, obviously, to work with them in addressing any outstanding questions,” he stated.

The deal is in advanced stages and expected to go for approval by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in the next few months. Similarly, the deal for licence manufacture of the GE-414 engines by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) to power the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk1A is also in advanced stages.

India is interested in co-producing Stryker infantry vehicles with the U.S. Talks are in the early stages

.Discussions include the Javelin anti-tank guided missiles (ATGM).

The U.S. has previously demonstrated both Stryker and Javelin to the Indian Army.

Javelin was extensively evaluated by the Indian Army, but the deal did not go through.

The deal on Stryker could involve local manufacture of several hundred variants under license.

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Customisations for the Indian Army, including integration with Javelin, are part of the discussions.

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The MQ-9B unmanned aerial vehicle deal is also progressing.

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GE-414 jet engine deals are under discussion as well.

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These deals are part of the Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) framework.

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The letter of offer and acceptance for MQ-9B was delivered to India in early March.

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The parties are awaiting signatures to move forward with the MQ-9B deal.

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General Atomics is negotiating details with the Ministry of Defence for MQ-9B.

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U.S. and India are exploring co-production and technological collaboration for Javelin and Stryker.



The GE-414 engines will be manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL).



GE-414 engines are to power the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1A.



The India-U.S. iCET dialogue is chaired by the two National Security Advisors.

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Which of the following statements is correct regarding the recent defense discussions between India and the U.S.?

- 
- A) India has declined the offer to co-produce Stryker infantry vehicles.
  - B) The Javelin anti-tank guided missiles have already been integrated into the Indian Army.
  - C) The U.S. and India are in early stages of talks for co-producing Stryker infantry vehicles and Javelin anti-tank guided missiles.
  - D) The MQ-9B unmanned aerial vehicle deal has been canceled.



**COLOMBO**  
Sri Lanka calls on Russia to discharge its citizens from Army



Sri Lanka has asked Russia to allow its former soldiers fighting in Moscow's war against Ukraine to return home voluntarily. An official said on Thursday. An official delegation held two days of talks in Moscow this week where it called for compensation for 13 Sri Lankans killed in fighting. Colombo's Foreign Ministry said.

**YANGON**  
Former Myanmar President Sein makes a rare trip to China



Former Myanmar President U Nu has departed for an official visit to China on Thursday, Beijing's state news agency said, on his first foreign trip since the military seized power three years ago. Former President Sein, 79, ruled Myanmar from 2013 to 2018 as the reformist President of a quasi-civilian government.

**MOSCOW**  
Russia sent 10,000 naturalised citizens to fight in Ukraine: official



Russia has sent around 10,000 naturalised citizens to fight in Ukraine, a top official said on Thursday. The head of Russia's investigative Committee said that Russia was tracking down 50 migrants who had received Russian citizenship but were not registering with military authorities.

**WASHINGTON**  
U.S. Supreme Court allows emergency abortions in Idaho



The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on Thursday to permit - for now - abortions to be performed in Idaho when pregnant women are facing medical emergencies. Following the 2022 abortion ruling, a series of states including Idaho enacted Republican-backed laws imposing bans on abortions.

**Bolivian general arrested after failed coup attempt**

Led by Army chief Juan José Zúñiga, troops stormed the government palace, but quickly retreated after President Arce sacked the rebel general, everything is now under control, says a Minister

Associated Press

Led by a top general vowing to "restore democracy", armoured vehicles rumbled the doors of Bolivia's government palace on Wednesday in what the President called a coup attempt. Then quite retreated - the latest crisis in the South American country facing a political battle and an economic crisis.



Bolivia's now-disarmed Army chief Gen. Juan José Zúñiga being escorted by policemen following his arrest on Wednesday.

Within hours, the nation of 12 million people saw a rapidly moving scenario in which the troops seemed to take control of the government of President Luis Arce. He vowed to stand firm and named a new Army chief, General Juan José Zúñiga, after the military general opened an investigation. Government Minister Carlos Mesa said that in addition to military units, former navy Vice Adm. Juan Arce Salvador was taken into custody.

The government said on Thursday that 17 people, including soldiers and retired military personnel and civilians, have been arrested in the case.

"What was this group's goal? Their goal was to overturn the democratically elected authority," Mr. Mesa said in a statement. "The incident was met with a wave of outrage by other regional leaders, including the organization of American States, Chilean President Gabriel Boric, leader of Bolivian leaders, and former Honduran...

**Kenya police fire rubber bullets, tear gas at protest**

Agence France-Presse

Kenyan police fired rubber bullets and tear gas at demonstrators in Nairobi on Thursday, as protesters returned to the streets despite President William Ruto scrapping contentious tax hikes after deadly clashes.

The protesters - led largely by young Kenyans caught the authorities off-guard, as Ruto's government insisted on a tough line on the street and calling for dialogue. Dozens of protesters gathered in Nairobi's central business district, with soldiers deployed and police in anti-riot gear blocking access along roads leading to Mr. Ruto's office at State House and Parliament, according to witnesses. Officers fired rubber bullets and tear gas at small groups of protesters and arrested at least seven people, with scuffles erupting as some demonstrators threw stones at police.

**Two former Chinese Defence Ministers sacked from party**

Associated Press

China has expelled two former Defence Ministers from the ruling Communist Party over accusations of corruption that are likely to lead to sentences of life in prison.

The Defence Ministry on Thursday said Li Shuangfu had abused his authority to enrich himself by taking bribes in exchange for granting favours in military and party discipline. Mr. Li's predecessor, Wei Pengfei, was also accused on similar charges.

Such charges have been levied in the past against many military leaders under the rule of President and party leader Xi Jinping, who also heads the military as chairman of the Central Military Commission and has made a crackdown on corruption a hallmark of his rule since taking power more than a decade ago. Mr. Li is being investigated and arrested at his residence, the official Xinhua news agency reported on Thursday. He was removed



Li Shuangfu

from office in October 2023 after disappearing from public view for almost two months.

Mr. Wei was placed under investigation in September and was suspected of "seriously violating political and organisational discipline by helping others gain improper benefits in personnel arrangements," Xinhua reported. He was found to have accepted "huge amounts of money and valuables in return, constituting the serious crime of taking bribes," Xinhua said, adding that he had "lost his faith and loyalty and contaminated the political environment of the military, bringing enormous damage to the Party's cause, the development of nation-

al defence and the armed forces, as well as the image of senior officials". Both face prosecution under the justice system run by the People's Liberation Army, the military wing of the Communist Party.

Insiders have alleged a widespread purge of officers suspected of conspiring with outside forces or simply being insufficiently loyal to Mr. Xi. High-ranking officers occupy an elevated position in Chinese politics and can command extensive privileges.

In its statement, the Ministry gave no details of the allegations against Mr. Li, other than saying that his alleged crimes were "exceptionally pernicious" and that they posed "an enormous danger". Mr. Li spent most of his career as a specialist in the missile and procurement branches, and was under travel and financial sanctions from the U.S. over the purchase of Russian and contrary hardware at the time he was dismissed in September. Mr. Li was replaced in December by Admiral Dong Jun.

**Can send Lebanon 'to Stone Age': Israel**

Agence France-Presse

WASHINGTON

Israel launched air strikes on Gaza on Thursday after warning Hezbollah, Hamas's ally in Lebanon, to avoid a large-scale war that would send the neighbouring country "back to the Stone Age".

Defence Minister Yoav Gallant made the comment during a visit to Washington, where he discussed the Gaza war, long-standing efforts toward a truce, and ways to avoid a full regional conflagration.

U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin told Mr. Gallant this week that a war

with Hezbollah could have "terrible consequences for the West Asia".

UN humanitarian coordinator Martin Griffiths warned that Lebanon was "the flashpoint beyond all boundaries".

In the latest clashes on Wednesday, Lebanese media reported about 10 Israeli strikes near the border with Syria. Hezbollah claimed six attacks against Israeli military positions.

A U.S. official in Washington was engaged in "fairly intensive conversations" with Israel, Lebanon and other actors and believed that the crisis sought a "major escalation".

**Flying colours**



Parade by the elite French Air and Space Force's elite acrobatic flying team 'Patrouille de France' release trails of blue, white and red smoke, representing the French national flag's colours in Versailles, on Wednesday, during a rehearsal.

**Sunak, Starmer clash in final pre-election debate on tax and borders**

Seems Lakshman

LONDON

In a final and noisy pre-election debate on Monday night, U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer argued loudly with each other on the cost of living, taxes and welfare, immigration and gender.

The Prime Minister, in danger of losing his second (Yorkshire) seat, repeatedly warned voters on the 78-minute debate not to "surrender" to Labour on various fronts. Mr. Sunak's Conservative Party has been in power for 14

years, and has lagged behind Labour in opinion polls by around 30 points. Following the pandemic, Britons have seen four consecutive Prime Ministers, including public opinion (such as the National Health Service) and a cost of living crisis.

On immigration, Mr. Starmer attacked the Prime Minister for the impracticality of the government's plan to deport migrants with failed asylum claims to Rwanda. Mr. Sunak argued that opposition leader did not have a plan and that it would be impractical to return undocumented migrants to countries like Iran and Afghanistan.

women-only spaces. Mr. Starmer accused the Tories of splitting people on a number of issues, as he continued to press against transportation. Both candidates attempted to sidestep questions on handling Britain's trading relationship with the EU. Pressed on the issue, Mr. Starmer said he would give a better deal with the EU, as he pushed back against Mr. Sunak's accusation that a better deal came with the free movement of EU citizens across the "biological sea" but differed on the legal instruments required to achieve



Keir Starmer and Rishi Sunak take part in the pre-election debate, in Nottingham, Britain on Wednesday.

**Sudanese face 'acute food insecurity': IPC**

Agence France-Presse

PORT SUUDAN

More than half of Sudan's population is facing high levels of "acute food insecurity", a situation exacerbated by the war, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, it said.

Sudan has been gripped by war since April 2023, when fighting erupted between forces loyal to army chief Abdel Fattah el-Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) led by his former de-

puty Mohamed Hamdan Daglo.

The conflict in the northeast African country of 48 million has killed tens of thousands, displaced millions and triggered one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

"Fourteen months into the conflict, Sudan is facing the worst levels of acute food insecurity," the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, has recorded in the report said.

It further cited "highly dysfunctional health services, water contamination and poor sanitation and hygiene conditions".

**Sunak, Starmer clash in final pre-election debate on tax and borders**

Mr. Starmer also has low popularity. During Wednesday's debate, both candidates accused the other of making empty promises. "Are you too ready to throw away the job that we've got?" asked Prime Minister of our great country," Robert Blackstock, a senior citizen in the audience, asked. "I get the frustrations, but I don't think the choice, allow me to finish the job I've started," Mr. Sunak said as he suggested he would protect pensions from tax and "secure" borders. The debate fuelled hope has been beaten out of them," Mr. Starmer said,

arguing that Britons felt worse off now than they were 14 years ago when the Conservative came to power. He talked about the "working class" background and bringing a sense of service to politics. Following the debate, Mr. Blackstock and his wife disappeared with the answer both candidates had provided. "I was a person who was in the middle stage, that is going to project out," said Blackstock. "That's what we want," he said.

# Bolivian general arrested after failed coup attempt

Led by Army chief Juan José Zúñiga, troops stormed the government palace, but quickly retreated after President Arce sacked the rebel general; 'everything is now under control,' says a Minister

**Associated Press**

LA PAZ

Led by a top general vowing to “restore democracy”, armoured vehicles rammed the doors of Bolivia’s government palace on Wednesday in what the President called a coup attempt, then quickly retreated – the latest crisis in the South American country facing a political battle and an economic crisis.

Within hours, the nation of 12 million people saw a rapidly moving scenario in which the troops seemed to take control of the government of President Luis Arce. He vowed to stand firm and named a new Army commander, who immediately ordered the troops to stand down.

Soon the soldiers pulled back, along with a line of military vehicles, ending the rebellion after just three hours. Hundreds of Mr. Arce’s supporters then



Bolivia’s now-dismissed Army chief Gen. Juan Jose Zuniga being escorted by policemen following his arrest on Wednesday. REUTERS

rushed the square outside the palace, waving Bolivian flags, singing the national anthem and cheering.

The soldiers’ retreat was followed by the arrest of Army chief Gen. Juan José Zúñiga, after the Attorney General opened an investigation. Government Minister Eduardo del Castillo said that in addition to Gen. Zúñiga, former navy Vice Adm. Juan Arnez Salvador was taken into custody.

The government said on Thursday that 17 people, including active and retired military personnel and civilians have been arrested in the case.

“What was this group’s goal? Their goal was to overturn the democratically elected authority,” Mr. del Castillo told presspersons.

## Under control

Late on Wednesday, Defence Minister Edmundo Novillo said “everything is

now under control”. Surrounded by the new military chiefs appointed by Mr. Arce, Mr. Novillo said Bolivia lived a “failed coup”.

The apparent coup attempt came as the country has faced months of tensions and political fights between Mr. Arce and his one-time ally, former leftist president Evo Morales, over control of the ruling party. The clashes have paralysed the government’s efforts to deal with the economic crisis.

Mr. Zúñiga referenced that paralysis during the rebellion, telling reporters the military was tired of the infighting and was seeking “to restore democracy”.

The incident was met with a wave of outrage by other regional leaders, including the Organisation of American States, Chilean President Gabriel Boric, leader of Honduras, and former Bolivian leaders.



VENEZUELA

ATLANTIC  
OCEAN

COLOMBIA

ECUADOR

BRAZIL

PERU

BOLIVIA

★ LA PAZ

PACIFIC  
OCEAN

CHILE

PARAGUAY

ARGENTINA

URUGUAY



<b>Capital</b>	Sucre <sup>[b]</sup>
<b>Administrative center</b>	La Paz <sup>[b]</sup>
<b>Largest city</b>	Santa Cruz de la Sierra 🌐 17°48′S 63°10′W
<b>Official languages</b>	Spanish Quechua Aymara Guarani Other Indigenous languages
<b>Ethnic groups</b> (2009 <sup>[4]</sup> )	68% Mestizo (mixed White and Indigenous) 20% Indigenous 5% White 2% Choio 1% Black 1% other 3% unspecified
<b>Religion</b> (2020) <sup>[5]</sup>	92.8% Christianity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>└ 81.4% Catholicism</li> <li>└ 11.4% other Christian</li> </ul> 6.5% no religion 0.7% other
<b>Demonym(s)</b>	Bolivian
<b>Government</b>	Unitary presidential republic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President</li> <li>• Vice President</li> <li>• President of the Senate</li> <li>• President of the Chamber of Deputies</li> </ul>	Luis Arce David Choquehuanca Andrónico Rodríguez Israel Huaytari <sup>[6]</sup>

<b>Independence</b> from Spain	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Declared</li> <li>• Recognized</li> <li>• Current constitution</li> </ul>	6 August 1825 21 July 1847 7 February 2009
<b>Area</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total</li> <li>• Water (%)</li> </ul>	1,098,581 km <sup>2</sup> (424,164 sq mi) (27th) 1.29
<b>Population</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 estimate</li> <li>• Density</li> </ul>	12,186,079 <sup>[7]</sup> (79th) 10.4/km <sup>2</sup> (26.9/sq mi) (224th)
<b>GDP (PPP)</b>	2023 estimate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total</li> <li>• Per capita</li> </ul>	▲ \$125.428 billion <sup>[8]</sup> (94th) ▲ \$10,340 <sup>[8]</sup> (120th)
<b>GDP (nominal)</b>	2023 estimate
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total</li> <li>• Per capita</li> </ul>	▲ \$46.796 billion <sup>[8]</sup> (96th) ▲ \$3,857 <sup>[8]</sup> (126th)
<b>Gini</b> (2019)	▼ 41.6 <sup>[9]</sup> medium
<b>HDI</b> (2022)	▼ 0.698 <sup>[10]</sup> medium (120th)
<b>Currency</b>	Boliviano (BOB)

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A top Bolivian general led an attempted coup to "restore democracy." Armored vehicles rammed the doors of Bolivia's government palace.

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The President called it a coup attempt, leading to a rapid government response.

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The nation of 12 million people saw a fast-moving scenario.

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Troops took control of the government of President Luis Arce.

The general was quickly dismissed by President Arce.

The soldiers were ordered to stand down and a new Army commander was named.

Troops withdrew, forming a line of military vehicles.

The rebellion ended within hours of the President's response. Hundreds of Arce's supporters rallied outside the palace.

They sang the national anthem and cheered the soldiers' retreat.


Army Chief Gen. Juan José Zúñiga was arrested. Former Navy Vice Adm. Juan Arnez Salvador was also taken into custody.



The Attorney General opened an investigation.



Government Minister Eduardo del Castillo confirmed the arrests.



17 people, including active and retired military personnel and civilians, have been arrested.




The goal of the coup was to overthrow the democratically elected authority.



The country has faced months of tensions and political fights.



President Arce's former ally, Evo Morales, was involved in the political clashes.



The incident was condemned by other regional leaders and international organizations.

---

Which of the following statements is correct regarding the recent coup attempt in Bolivia?

- 
- A) The coup attempt was led by former President Evo Morales.
  - B) The goal of the coup was to support the current President Luis Arce.
  - C) The coup attempt was led by General Juan José Zúñiga aiming to "restore democracy."
  - D) The rebellion succeeded in overthrowing President Luis Arce.

**Five lines** Employees dry silkworm cocoons at a silk production facility in Khatolgaron, Uzbekistan. AP

### Uzbekistan tries to put fresh spin on its stalling silk industry

**AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
BUKHARA**

In the shade of an almond tree in Nurafshon, south of the capital Tashkent, Zubayda Pardayeva began the age-old and laborious traditional process of turning cocoons into silk that Uzbekistan wants to overhaul. With her expert fingers honed by 30 years of labour, Ms. Pardayeva delicately removed the white silkworm cocoons from bushy dried mulberry branches.

The silk industry — an ancestral tradition in the Central Asian country which is the world's third biggest producer — is state-controlled and unprofitable. This is the result of decades of Communist economic planning until 1991, followed by a quarter of a century of isolation under former leader Islam Karimov. "The silk industry is run using methods borrowed from the Soviet past, with farmers forced to grow cocoons, particularly those who already have mulberry plantations," Uzbek economist Yuliy Yunusov said.

While forced labour in cotton fields has been abolished by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the United States still bans imports of Uzbek silkworm cocoons on grounds of the "use of forced labour in their production".

But there are reasons to "hope for change" in Uzbekistan's growth strategy, Mr. Yunusov said. He has ordered that it be reformed from 2025 to introduce market mechanisms, so we hope to see a revolutionary transition," Mr. Yunusov said.

Mr. Mirziyoyev wants to make the silk sector one of the country's major employers by 2027.

### Japan mogul sues govt. over 'hostage justice' system

**AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
TOKYO**

The ex-chairman of a major Japanese publishing house who was indicted over bribery allegations linked to the Tokyo Olympics sued the government on Thursday over its so-called "hostage justice" attention system.

"Hostage justice" — referring to suspects being held at length — allows suspects to be detained for up to 23 days per charge. Mr. Yasuoka said, arrests are common and bail requests are often denied under the Japanese system, which Human Rights Watch criticised in a report last year.

"Shigehiko Kadokawa, the former chair of Kadokawa Corporation was arrested and indicted in 2022 on bribery charges.

Prosecutors accused him of paying around 69 million yen to Harayuki Takahashi, a former Tokyo Olympics board member.

The 60-year-old publishing mogul was released on bail in April last year after more than seven months in detention. He said three other bail requests were denied during that time.

Mr. Kadokawa filed a civil lawsuit on Thursday against the government for illegal detention and interrogation. The suit "is related to my Tokyo Olympics case, but about the human rights treatment I experienced at the detention centre," he told prosecutors on Thursday.

He also plans to file a complaint with the UN Human Rights Commission. "We will argue that this hostage justice situation violates various human rights and violates international laws of human rights," Kadokawa's lawyer Hiroaki Murayama said.

# In Myanmar, killing of monk likely to undermine military's ties with clergy

The killing of Bhaddanta Munindarbhivamsa, a retired member of the State Sangha Maha-nayaka Committee, the monastic organisation overseeing the Buddhist clergy, drew outrage, especially because the military government first lied and blamed it on resistance fighters opposed to Army rule.

**Associated Press  
BANGKOK**

Hundreds of people in Myanmar on Thursday attended the funeral of a senior monk who was fatally shot by soldiers in an incident that could undermine the cosy relationship that the country's military government has tried to maintain with its Buddhist clergy.

The body of 78-year-old monk Bhaddanta Munindarbhivamsa was carried on a vehicle in the design of a Korawak barge — an ornate vessel with a golden image of a mythical bird at its bow. Hundreds of monks from a temple in the city of Bago, where it had been kept for the past week for mourners to pay their respects.

The monk's death was announced by more than a hundred other vehicles and a long procession of monks and devotees to a newly built pyre at a cemetery on the outskirts of the city for cremation.

Buddhist clergy are increasingly influential in Myanmar, an overwhelmingly Buddhist nation in which the religion is deeply entwined with tradition and culture.

The killing of Bhaddanta Munindarbhivamsa, a retired member of the State Sangha Maha-nayaka Committee, the monastic or-



Last seen in a crowd of clergy and devotees attend the cremation of the Buddhist monk Bhaddanta Munindarbhivamsa, who was shot dead by soldiers last week, in Bago, Myanmar on Thursday. AP

ganisation overseeing the Buddhist clergy, drew outrage, especially because the military government initially lied and blamed it on resistance fighters opposed to army rule.

Monks' military justice came to power in February 2021 after the army ousted the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi.

After security forces used deadly force to suppress non-violent protests, armed resistance arose and the country is now in a civil war.

The military, which likes to portray itself as the guar-

antee of Buddhism, has worked hard to keep the clergy on its side to try to bolster its legitimacy, devoting resources to construction and repair of religious structures and donating money and gifts to monasteries and senior monks.

State media earlier this month published the head of the military government, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, donating 10 million to senior monks in the State Sangha Maha-nayaka Committee.

Historically, monks played major roles in resistance to British colonial rule in Myanmar, and in more recent times, pro-military government monks have taken part in protests against the 2021 takeover, and some have allied themselves with armed resistance forces.

Bhaddanta Munindarbhivamsa, who had been serving as the abbot of a monastery in Bago where hundreds of young monks from around the country come to learn Buddhist scriptures, was travelling in a car in the central region when it was fired upon by soldiers on a truck.

However, state-run MRTV television announced that night that the monk had died in an explosion of a landmine planted by a local unit of the People's Defence Force, which is the loosely organised armed resistance movement opposed to military rule. That explanation was abandoned the next day when another monk who had been travelling in the car announced details of the incident to monks and devotees at the monastery in Bago.

Gen. Min said an investigation of the incident by high-ranking officials had begun and that the military government would continue to serve the interests of the Buddhist religion by working together with monks.

The military government's efforts to win support among senior clergy outside the army's long-standing alliance with right-wing monks who share their ultra-nationalist views and have their own followers who can be relied for political action.

The monk who was killed was one of several senior clergy members who have publicly denounced the army's 2021 seizure of power.

He and other monks signed a protest letter that was posted on Facebook a few days after the takeover that accused the army of destroying the country's development and the hopes of its youth. The letter has resurfaced since his death and has circulated widely on social media.

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### Multiple-warhead missile test success, says N. Korea

**AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
SEOUL**

North Korea successfully tested its multiple-warhead missile capability, state media said on Thursday, while dozens more trash-laden balloons sent by Pyongyang landed in the South.

Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points in Seoul, with the state ramping up weapons testing while bombarding the warheads with balloons full of trash it says are in retaliation to similar missiles sent northwards by activists in the South.

North Korea claimed it had "successfully conducted a 'protracted full' in-flight cruise control test of individual mobile warheads", the state-run Korean Cen-

tral News Agency (KCNA) said. The "separated mobile warheads were guided correctly to the three coordinate targets" during the test carried out on Wednesday, it said.

"The test is aimed at securing the MRV capability," KCNA added, referring to multiple independently targetable reentry vehicle technology — the ability to

fire multiple warheads on a single ballistic missile. South Korea's military had an earlier test of a hypersonic missile but that the launch ended in a mid-air explosion.

More smoke than usual appeared to emanate from the missile, raising the possibility of combustion issues, a South Korean military official said.

### Up in flames



Burned to ashes: A firefighter combats the blaze after illegal drugs were set off during a destruction ceremony to mark the UN's International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Yorgon, Myanmar on Wednesday. AP

### Russian troops set their eyes on Ukraine's once-peaceful town of Toretsk

**AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
TORRETSK**

Struggled to hold positions that had been under their control for months. Like her mother and grandfather, the 63-year-old was born and raised in Toretsk, the married couple's son was born and buried in the town after succumbing to an illness.

Then, suddenly, the Russian assaults began, and life in the town, some 40 kilometres north of Donetsk city, deteriorated drastically.

As rockets and air strikes started raining down on shaken residents this month, Ms. Poroshyna and her neighbours sheltered in basements, emerging between barrages to assist with the damage. The father and eldest child died near Ms. Poroshyna's home, Ukrainian forces



Shant town: A street residential building in the Ukrainian town of Toretsk on Tuesday. AP

1,400-kilometre front line. Kyiv said the Russian onslaught came following a "protracted lull" in fighting. But the Kremlin is determined to capture the entire Donetsk region, which it claims is part of Russia.

where around 12,000 regular people lived regular lives.

"It was a good town, small, compact and always clean. A lot of people stayed here and got married. My son was born and buried in the town after succumbing to an illness."

When Russian forces invaded in 2022 that changed everything. The town went, then gas, then heating. Ms. Poroshyna remembers. "But it was okay. We survived somehow," she said. "People got used to everything, even this."

After a spate of fresh attacks, the Donetsk Governor, Denis Pushilin, the notorious founder of the Kremlin's secret police. Ms. Poroshyna's husband Oleksandr described it as a quiet industrial settlement — minus before ground, roses above and

broken city," she said.

Charred Soviet-era housing blocks stood empty by Russian bombardments of Toretsk. Shelling echoes throughout the empty streets. Black smoke rises over the horizon.

Important to survive "Now the most important thing is human life, to survive," she said. "To save even the memory of relatives. It is so painful when you can't go to the cemetery."

Certain mistakes were made. The enemy advanced and used them to their advantage. "The defensive lines outside the city don't mean anything," he added, pointing out that Russia had captured other towns buttressed by such installations.

## *Up in flames*



**Burned to ashes:** A firefighter controls the blaze after illegal drugs were set afire during a destruction ceremony to mark the UN's International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Yangon, Myanmar on Wednesday. AFP

This day was established in December 1987 by the United Nations General Assembly, to raise awareness about the global fight against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking.

**Dec. 1987**

**2024**

The theme for 2024 was “The evidence is clear: invest in prevention”.

The illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and their abuse is an international problem and as per the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), around 269 million people worldwide used drugs in 2018.

Established in 1997, UNODC acts as the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention globally.



Blinken: Rise in rate speech, aaws against conversion in India a concern

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken

HYVAAA NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

RELEASED: THE 2023 Report on International Religious Freedom...

ADDRESS TO JOINT SITTING OF PARLIAMENT

Mandate for strong & decisive govt, historic steps this Budget: President

'Emergency darkest chapter of direct attack on Constitution'

VIKAS PATHAK NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

UNDERLINING that the Lok Sabha election mandate was for a "strong and decisive government"...

Reflecting the views of the new government to her address to the joint sitting of Parliament...



President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Nirv Rajor in Parliament, THURSDAY

IN 1998, 2019, 2024

LS will have Dy Speaker, talks soon to decide if post with NDA or Opp

LIJ MATHW NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THE 16TH Lok Sabha will have a Deputy Speaker, a move in the government said Thursday...

that the next five years would build on the previous ten. Without referring to allies, the speaker flagged the "clear majority" to the government...

THE 16TH Lok Sabha will have a Deputy Speaker, a move in the government said Thursday...

'SEXUAL ASSAULT OF MINOR GIRL'

Karnataka CID files chargesheet against ex-CM Yediyurappa under POCSO Act

APURVA VISHWANATH NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THE CRIMINAL Investigation Department (CID) of the Karnataka Police on Thursday filed a chargesheet against former chief minister and actor BJP leader B S Yediyurappa...



Former Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa

in a police complaint filed on March 14. The actor's mother alleged that the incident occurred when she and her daughter...

Need to probe if Delhi ex-education director got wife a teacher job on forged papers: CBI

GAYATHRI MANI NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation has sought permission from the Delhi Chief Secretary to "investigate" a senior IAS officer for allegedly assisting his wife for the post of a teaching assistant...

Director (Education), in a criminal conspiracy with the office bearers of Management of Schools run by the Delhi Tamil Educational Association (DTEA)...

Shift from past: Chouhan to hold meetings with state farm ministers from July 1

HARIKISHAN SHARMA NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

IAA departure from the BJP's last two governments, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Choudhanry will hold regular meetings with state agriculture ministers...

Shift from past: Chouhan to hold meetings with state farm ministers from July 1

HARIKISHAN SHARMA NEW DELHI, JUNE 27

IAA departure from the BJP's last two governments, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Choudhanry will hold regular meetings with state agriculture ministers...



Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Choudhanry

to state farm sectors. The state ministers have been asked to prepare PowerPoint presentations and share their views and suggestions on the situation of farmers and agriculture in their states...

in the first round on July 1, the agriculture ministers will seek the Centre's support for promoting rural farming, distress issues related to energy, irrigation and cold chain storage for farm produce...

By the state government. He said the state government would also seek the Centre's support for promoting rural farming, distress issues related to energy, irrigation and cold chain storage for farm produce...

EXPLAINED ECONOMY CASE FOR A FOOD BUFFER POLICY

The government has decided to introduce a food buffer policy to ensure food security...

More police powers, denigrating Satyagraha, names in Hindi: Karnataka objects in its report to Centre

URBAN PARASHAR KARUN JANKAR/ANANDHAN ENIGAL/SRI CHENNAI

ROME FARMING: The three new laws in Hindi, not making any gender neutral, harassing and humiliating women...

More police powers, denigrating Satyagraha, names in Hindi: Karnataka objects in its report to Centre

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ROME FARMING: The three new laws in Hindi, not making any gender neutral, harassing and humiliating women...



wanted to the Home Ministry. While critical law, including all...

ministers included in the Indian Penal Code, is part of the Concurrent List under the Constitution, since law and order is a state subject, states will play a key role in the implementation of the new Bharatiya...

NET PAPER 'LEAK', INDIA BOO TO SEEK DISCUSSION IN PARLIAMENT CBI ARRESTS TWO FROM PATNA

Tracked from UK, how a sticky GPS device under Haryana INLD chief's car led to his murder

PAGE 1 VIKTOR

ALKRISHN PRASADH SRINAGAR, JUNE 27

INMAB: witness during an interrogation in Mexico this year...



MIA Nade Singh Rathore had not initially assumed. He was pursued closely inside late 2019 in Haryana's Bahadurgarh on February 20...



The spot where Nade Singh Rathore was gunned down in Haryana's Bahadurgarh on February 20, 2019. (Dainik Jharkhand)

submitted in a CBI court in Pune (Maharashtra) on May 20. According to the chargesheet, Kapil, one of India's most wanted gangsters who is currently suspected to be hiding in the UAE, allegedly tracked Rathore's vehicle for days before his murder with the help of a trackable GPS device that was attached magnetically to his Toyota Fortuner's steering wheel...

SANDIP UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS ROLLING FOR UGC 25. List of courses including B.Tech, M.Tech, MBA, and various engineering and management programs.

# TN to get new international airport in Hosur town

**ARUN JANARDHANAN**  
CHENNAI, JUNE 27

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister M K Stalin announced a new international airport in Hosur – an industrial border town hardly 40 kms away from Bangalore. The announcement, made under Rule 110 in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on Thursday, is to build an airport in 2,000 acres of land and is designed to handle 30 million passengers annually.

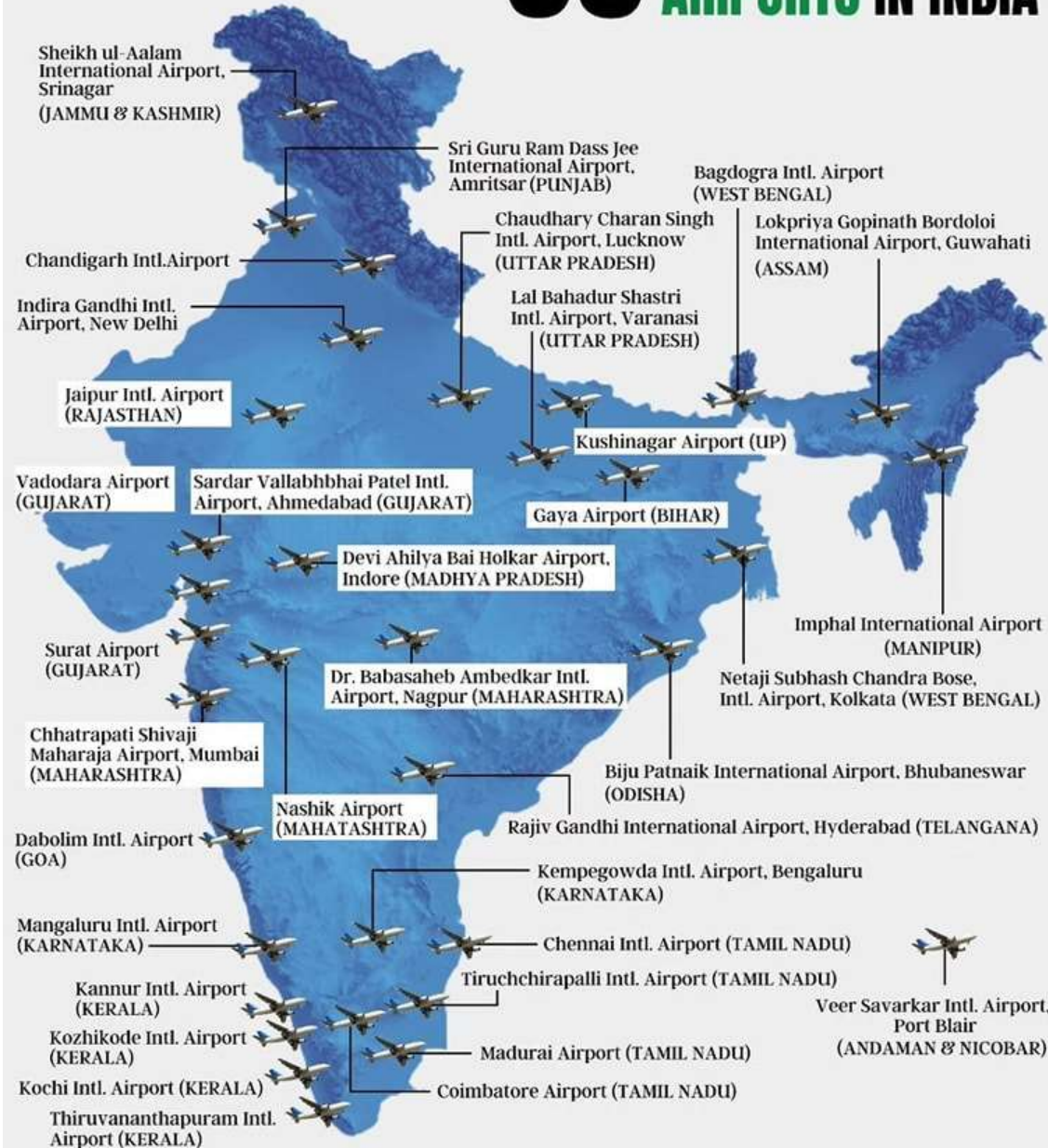
The ambitious project is part of the state's goal of transforming Hosur into a major economic development hub. Chief Minister Stalin said that the airport would facilitate the socio-economic development of the state's Hosur, Krishnagiri, and Dharmapuri regions.

"Since the establishment of our Dravidian model governance, Tamil Nadu has been advancing in all sectors," said Stalin, adding that the state is implementing various long-term plans to transform Hosur into a major economic development hub by developing modern infrastructure.

Calling the announcement a "monumental step forward for the region", Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa said: "This project will greatly enhance connectivity and stimulate economic growth, benefiting not only Hosur but also neighbouring districts such as Dharmapuri and Salem, while also providing a significant boost to various parts of Bengaluru".

J. Jeyaranjan, vice-chairperson of the State Planning Commission, said the airport will enhance the region's connectivity and attract investments.

# 35 INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS IN INDIA







Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced a new international airport in Hosur.



Hosur is an industrial border town 40 km away from Bangalore. The announcement was made under Rule 110 in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.



The airport will be built on 2,000 acres of land.



The airport is designed to handle 30 million passengers annually.

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The project aims to transform Hosur into a major economic development hub.

---

The airport will facilitate the socio-economic development of Hosur, Krishnagiri, and Dharmapuri regions.

---

The development is part of the state's long-term plans under Dravidian model governance.

---

Tamil Nadu has been advancing in various sectors under this governance model.

---

The state is implementing various long-term plans to modernize infrastructure.

---

Industries Minister T.R.B. Rajaa called the announcement a monumental step forward for the region.

---

The project will enhance connectivity and stimulate economic growth.

---

It will benefit not only Hosur but also neighboring districts like Dharmapuri and Salem.

---

The project will provide a significant boost to parts of Bangalore.

---

The airport is expected to attract investments to the region.

J. Jeyaranjan, vice-chairperson of the State Planning Commission, emphasized the importance of connectivity.

The airport is a key part of developing modern infrastructure in Tamil Nadu.

The new airport will help in socio-economic development and investment attraction.

The project is aligned with Tamil Nadu's goal of comprehensive development.

The airport will serve as a significant infrastructure project to boost regional growth.

---

Which of the following statements is correct regarding the new international airport announced in Hosur by Tamil Nadu?

- 
- A) The airport will be built on 1,000 acres of land.
  - B) The project is part of Tamil Nadu's short-term economic plans.
  - C) The airport is designed to handle 30 million passengers annually.
  - D) The announcement was made under Rule 120 in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

# 'LARGER ACADEMIC INTEREST': BEHIND BOMBAY HC'S HIJAB BAN DECISION

OMKAR GOKHALE

MUMBAI, JUNE 27

THE BOMBAY High Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea by nine students of Chembur's N G Acharya & D K Marathe College challenging the institute's dress code banning *hijab*, and held that the decision was "in larger academic interest".

It relied on and expressed "full agreement" with the 2022 judgment of the full Bench of the Karnataka High Court that had validated the state government's *hijab* ban in government colleges.

## Contention on the dress code

The Chembur college issued a new dress code in May this year, which would be implemented in the academic year beginning June. This followed controversy last August, when several junior college girls wearing *hijab* were denied entry for alleged non-compliance with the prescribed uniform.

The new dress code stated that *burqa*, *niqab*, *hijab*, or any religious identifiers such as badges, caps, or stoles will not be permitted inside the college. The dress code prescribed half- and full-sleeved shirts with trousers for boys, and "any Indian/ western non-revealing dress" for girls.

Nine aggrieved women students approached the HC, terming the college's instructions "arbitrary and discriminatory".

## Bombay HC judgment

A division Bench of Justices Atul S Chandurkar and Rajesh S Patil held that the dress code issued by the college was in "larger academic interest", and "[did] not suffer from infirmity so as to violate provisions of Article 19(1)(a) and Article 25 of the Constitution".

"The object behind issuing the same is that the dress of a student should not reveal his/ her religion, which is a step towards ensuring that the students focus on gaining knowledge and education which is in their larger interest," the Bench stated.

The Bench also rejected the argument that the "donning of a *hijab* or *niqab* is an essential religious practice of petitioners", saying that except for the English translations of *Kanz-ul-Iman* and *Saman Abu Dawud*, there was no material placed to support the claim.

The Bench held that since the instructions issued were "applicable to all students irrespective of their caste, creed, religion or language", they did not violate UGC guidelines. It added that a student attending an institution to advance their academic career cannot seek to impose her rights against the 'larger rights' of the college in maintaining discipline on its premises.

## Order of the Karnataka HC

Justice Chandurkar, who authored the judgment, expressed "full agreement" with the view taken by the full Bench of the Karnataka High Court in 2022, which stated that the "prescription of a dress code is intended to achieve uniformity amongst students...so as to maintain discipline and avoid disclosure of one's religion".

The HC had held that "the dress code when prescribed for all students was intended to treat them as one homogeneous class so as to serve constitutional secularism".

This verdict is under challenge at the Supreme Court. In October 2022, a two-judge Bench delivered a split verdict, and the case has now been referred to a larger Bench. The Bombay HC verdict too is likely to be contested before the SC.

# SpaceX gets \$843-mn deal to help discard ISS

JOEY ROULETTE  
Washington, June 27

**NASA AWARDED SPACEX** \$843 million to build a vehicle capable of pushing the International Space Station (ISS) into Earth's atmosphere for its planned destruction around 2030, it said on Wednesday, a task originally meant for Russia's thrusters.

Under its new NASA contract, SpaceX will build what the space agency called the US Deorbit Vehicle to deorbit the space station and avoid risks to populated areas, with NASA taking ownership of the craft and handling deorbiting operation.

The football field-sized research lab, led primarily by the United States and Russia, has been continuously staffed with government astronauts during its some 24 years of operation, but its aging components have led NASA and its foreign partners to set 2030 as a planned retirement date.

The US, Japan, Canada and the countries under the European Space Agency have committed to the space station partnership through 2030, while Russia has agreed to remain a partner through 2028, the date through which the Russian space agency Roscosmos believes its hardware can last.

The scientific cooperation

## DEORBITING SPACE STATION



■ SpaceX will build a vehicle to deorbit the space station and avoid risks to populated areas

■ The space station's aging components have led NASA and its foreign partners to set 2030 as a planned retirement date

## SpaceX to be valued at \$210 billion

**SPACEX WILL SELL** insider shares at \$112 apiece in a tender offer, a higher-than-expected price that boosts the value of Elon Musk's space and satellite company closer to \$210 billion, said people known to the matter. The company was last valued at \$180 billion in a transaction in December,

Bloomberg News reported. The world's second-most valuable startup decided to price its current tender offer at higher than the \$200 billion valuation that was discussed last month, due to significant investor demand, the people said, who declined to be identified. **BLOOMBERG**

aboard ISS has survived years of geopolitical strife on Earth, including Russia's war in Ukraine that has ended nearly all other cooperative ties with the Western world.

Holding the US-Russian alliance together is largely a technical interdependency in which Russian thrusters main-

tain the station's orbital altitude and US solar arrays keep its power running.

The US deorbit plan was accelerated in recent years as the White House and other government entities pressured NASA to make contingency plans amid souring relations with Russia. **REUTERS**

NASA awarded SpaceX an \$843 million contract to build a vehicle for deorbiting the International Space Station (ISS).

The ISS is planned to be deorbited around 2030.

The deorbiting task was originally intended for Russia's thrusters.

SpaceX will build the US Deorbit Vehicle to ensure the ISS's controlled descent into Earth's atmosphere.



The vehicle aims to avoid risks to populated areas during the ISS deorbiting.

The ISS has aging components, prompting the planned retirement.

The ISS is a football field-sized research lab staffed continuously by government astronauts for 24 years.

The US, Japan, Canada, and European Space Agency partners have committed to the ISS through 2030.

Russia has agreed to remain a partner until 2028.





US-Russia cooperation on the ISS has survived geopolitical strife, including the Ukraine war.

The US deorbit plan has been accelerated by pressure from the White House and other government entities.

SpaceX's new contract involves NASA taking ownership of the craft and handling deorbiting operations.

SpaceX will sell insider shares at \$112 each, boosting its valuation to \$210 billion.

- 
- The company's previous valuation was \$180 billion in December.
  - Significant investor demand has driven up SpaceX's valuation.
  - The US-Russian alliance is maintained by technical interdependency.
  - Russian thrusters maintain the ISS's orbital altitude.
  - US solar arrays provide power to the ISS.
  - The partnership has been crucial despite geopolitical tensions.
  - The deorbiting vehicle is part of broader contingency plans amid strained US-Russia relations.
- 

---

Which of the following statements is correct regarding NASA's recent contract with SpaceX?

- 
- A) The contract is worth \$1 billion and aims to extend the ISS's operational life.
  - B) SpaceX will build a vehicle to push the ISS into Earth's atmosphere for its planned destruction.
  - C) The ISS will be deorbited using only US thrusters originally designed for this purpose.
  - D) The deorbiting task is set to be completed by 2025.

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India and South Africa eye World Cup glory  
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INSIDE



**CB-CID petitions for custody of hoosh accused**

**KALLARURICH**  
The Crime Branch Criminal Investigation Department led a petition before a local court in Kallakuchi on Friday, seeking custody of it of the hoosh, who have been arrested so far in connection with the hoosh tragedy. » PAGE 5

**Adityanath asked to look into 'caste bias' in govt. posts**

**NEW DELHI**  
Union Minister Anantya Patel has written to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, alleging bias in appointments of other backward classes, Schedule Caste, Schedule Tribe candidates for government posts in the State. » PAGE 5

**Manipur figures in NDA's 100-day plan, says Biren**

**IMPHAL**  
The Centre has started having "positive discussions" on the conflict in Manipur and it is a "great achievement" that resolution of the crisis is part of the 100-day plan of the NDA government, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said. » PAGE 5

**Reform world governance system, says Xi**

**BEIJING**  
The Global South should actively participate in reforming and developing the global governance system and make it more balanced and effective, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Friday. » PAGE 13

**The Hindu Bureau**

**NEW DELHI**  
The row over alleged irregularities in the conduct of the NEET examination rocked both Houses of Parliament on Friday, with the Lok Sabha being adjourned for the day after Speaker Om Birla dissolved the House.  
Through the Rajya Sabha started the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address to Parliament, there were dramatic moments as Congress MP Phakar Devi Nertam insisted in the House while protesting against Opposition MPs. They were demanding a discussion on the exam under Rule 267.  
In a rare instance, the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Rajya Sabha

# Canopy collapse at Delhi airport leaves one dead

Accident also left six people injured; the structure over Terminal 1's forecourt collapsed on waiting cars, leaving four damaged; hundreds of flights cancelled; police register a case of criminal negligence; Ministry of Civil Aviation asks all airports to conduct a thorough inspection of the structural strength of their buildings within two to five days

**Jagriti Chandra**  
SANGHVI, TOWARD  
NEW DELHI

**I**n one person died and six were injured when the canopy over the forecourt at Terminal 1 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport collapsed on cars following heavy rain in New Delhi on Friday. At least four cars were damaged. Flights arriving and departing from the terminal were cancelled and the police registered a case of criminal negligence.

The deceased was a cab driver, the police said. The airport was privatised in 2006. As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD), parts of Delhi near the airport recorded a massive 228.1 mm of rainfall in the previous 24 hours. The rain was an all-time record for rainfall in a single day in June for Delhi.



Sanghvi: A portion of the roof at Delhi airport's Terminal-1 collapsed amid heavy rain on Friday. PTI

ITF team to probe  
The Ministry of Civil Aviation has assigned a team from the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi to examine the cause of the collapse, and has also asked all airports to conduct a thorough inspection of the structural strength of their buildings within two to five days.

"Since it was raining, it was difficult to understand what had happened. People, mostly cab drivers, started running around while the cabs were on the road. I too was running when a piece of the roof fell on my head," said Santosh Kumar Yadav, a private cab driver, who sustained head injuries in the incident.

The incident happened around 5 a.m. outside the departure section of T1, which is a two-storey building with arrivals on the ground floor and departures on the first floor. The departure section of T1 was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi in March 2024. However, Minister of Civil Aviation Ramnath Kovind said that the forecourt area was not part of the terminal building. As a result of the incident, IndiGo cancelled 15 flights and SpiceJet cancelled eight flights. The airlines announced free refunds for affected passengers. IndiGo will move its T1 flights to T2 until the team from ITF Delhi completes its investigation of the collapse and T1 is reopened.

**4 killed as Delhi records 228 mm rainfall in 24 hrs**  
**NEW DELHI**  
Four people died and several were injured as the southwest monsoon arrived in the national capital bringing with it 228 mm of rainfall in a span of 24 hours, mostly concentrated between 3 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. on Friday. This is the highest rainfall recorded in a 24-hour period in Delhi in June since 1956. The downpour left several arterial roads congested causing traffic jams. » PAGE 4

**4 killed as Delhi records 228 mm rainfall in 24 hrs**  
The Delhi Police registered a case under Section 304A (causing death by negligence) and 357 (causing harm by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) against unknown persons.

**Opposition slams Govt.**  
» PAGE 4

## Pilgrims' progress



Under watch: A Jagan stands guard as the first batch of pilgrims for the annual Amarnath Yatra arrives amid tight security, at Bhatil in Ganderbal district of south Kashmir on Friday. PTI

Under watch: A Jagan stands guard as the first batch of pilgrims for the annual Amarnath Yatra arrives amid tight security, at Bhatil in Ganderbal district of south Kashmir on Friday. PTI



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## Core sector output growth slowed down to 6.3% in May

**Vikas Dhant**  
NEW DELHI  
Output growth in India's eight core infrastructure sectors eased to 6.3% in May, from April's 6.7% pace, with a double-digit fall in coal and electricity production offsetting non-traditions in these sectors, including cement and fertilisers.  
Sequentially, the index of Core Industries (CIC) rose 3.7% from April's levels.  
Electricity generation rose year-on-year at a seven-month high pace of 12.8%, while coal production grew 10.2%.

## Soren gets bail; HC says 'not guilty of offence as alleged'

**Ami Bhaskar**  
PATNA  
The Jharkhand High Court granted bail to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Friday in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam.  
In the court order, Justice Ronjan Mukhopadhyay said that "there is reason to believe that petitioner is not guilty of the offence as alleged", thus satisfying a condition for bail under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.  
The court had reserved its order on June 13, after hearing arguments from Mr. Soren's advocate and Additional Solicitor-General (ASG) N. Raju appearing for the Enforcement Directorate (ED).  
After the completion of bail formalities, Mr. Soren stepped out of the Birs Munda Central Jail around 4 p.m. Accompanied by his wife Kalpana Maurya Soren, he went directly to the office of his attorney, Anand Soren, where he was met by supporters carrying his picture and shouting slogans in his support.  
The Director of Prisons, Hemant Soren, had been arrested on the basis of false and concocted stories.  
"I am out of jail after five months. The five months time for the people of Jharkhand and tribals must be worrying. The entire nation knows for what reason I was sent to jail. However, finally the court has pronounced the judgement. I respect the court, but sometimes it troubles me the way attempts are being made to suppress the voices of politicians, writers, journalists, social workers in a systematic way," Mr. Soren told the media in Ranchi. He asserted that he had been put behind bars on the basis of false and concocted stories.  
"Will fight"  
"Many people like me are in jail. Even the Delhi CM is in jail, and to get justice, it takes a long time. However, who are working in their field with honesty are being troubled. I will keep fighting for the cause of the people and the tribals. My release is a message not only for the State but for the country that a conspiracy was hatched against me," Mr. Soren said.  
The Director of Mr. Soren's release is also crucial as the State leads for an Assembly election this November.

# Uproar in Parliament as Opposition raises NEET-UG issue

and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge was seen walking into the well of the House. Expressing his anguish over this, Chairman Jagdeep Thakur said this was the first time in history that the LoP had come into the well of the House, a charge promptly refuted by Congress chief whip Jayaprakash Narayan.  
In the Lok Sabha, LoP Bahadur Ghosh also raised the issue of NEET, soon after Mr. Birla read out the obituary of 13 former MPs. "We wanted to send a joint message to the students of India from the Opposition and the government side that we consider this important and to respect the students, we will have a dedicated discussion on NEET," he said.  
"The chair did not permit him to make a long speech, urging him to speak about

members that they could raise the issue of NEET during the debate on the Motion of Thanks.  
With Opposition members unwilling to relax their demand for a discussion on NEET, the House was adjourned until noon, only to see similar scenes when it reassembled. Mr. Birla said certain norms of Parliament have to be followed and committees have to be formed.  
NEET is not part of the Budget, including Congress members from Tamil Nadu, Manipal, Jagan and Jayaprakash Narayan had moved adjournment motions in the Lok Sabha over the recent leaks of question papers of the NEET-UG and UGC-NET exams.  
The Rajya Sabha also

witnessed high drama and sharp exchanges between the Opposition and Treasurer in the House. The Opposition had to be adjourned twice over the NEET protests.  
The entire Opposition, including the BJP Janata Dal (JD) which is not part of the NDA bloc, walked out in protest that the Rajya Sabha was not immediately adjourned despite Mr. Nertam's warning in the well of the House.  
Rajya Sabha chairman Mr. Dhanishwar said it was the "first time in history" that the LoP had entered the well of the House, "forming it the 'worst sacrifice' that could be committed for this temple of democracy."

**CHH arrests school principal in Jharkhand**  
**PATNA**  
A day after arresting two from Patna in the NEET UG paper leak case, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested Oshin School principal Ashmit Kumar in Jharkhand on Friday. » PAGE 5

**Opposition walkout**  
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**Rahul Flays Govt.**  
» PAGE 5

**Opposition slams Govt.**  
» PAGE 4

# Core sector output growth slowed down to 6.3% in May

**Vikas Dhoot**

NEW DELHI

Output growth in India's eight core infrastructure sectors eased to 6.3% in May, from April's 6.7% pace, with a double-digit rise in coal and electricity production offsetting contractions in three sectors, including cement and fertilizers.

Sequentially, the Index of Core Industries (ICI) rose 3.7% from April's levels.

Electricity generation rose year-on-year at a seven-month high pace of 12.8%, while coal production grew 10.2%.

# NTA announces fresh dates for UGC-NET, 2 other examinations

**Press Trust of India**

NEW DELHI

The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Friday night announced the new dates of cancelled and postponed examinations, including the UGC-NET, amid a raging row over alleged irregularities in their conduct.

The UGC-NET, which was cancelled a day after being conducted on June 18, will now be held from August 21 to September 4.

The examination was cancelled after the Education Ministry received inputs that the integrity of the exam was compromised.

**'Leaked on Darknet'**

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had said the question paper was leaked on the Darknet and circulated on the Telegram app.

In a shift from the earlier pattern, the exam was conducted in offline mode

**The exam was cancelled after the Centre said that the integrity of the exam was compromised**

this time and on a single day. However, the rescheduled exam will now be conducted according to the earlier pattern of computer-based test (CBT) that will be spread across a fortnight.

The CSIR UGC-NET, which was postponed as a preemptive measure, will be conducted from July 25 to July 27.

The National Common Entrance Test (NCET) for admission to the four-year Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) in select Central and State Universities or institutions, including the IITs, the NITs, the RIEs, and government colleges, which was postponed hours before its schedule on June 12, is now planned for July 10.



Left: White canopy damaged after a canopy collapsed at Delhi airport's Terminal 3. Inset: Heavy rains began across north India since the Capital on Friday. (Inset: Anshu) Photo: Anshu

TAXI DRIVER KILLED, 8 INJURED, HIGHEST SINGLE-DAY RAINFALL IN 88 YEARS

## Canopy crash at airport kills one, derails air services as Capital sinks under record rain

Key stretches clogged, I-G asks why deslting of drains was delayed

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BY ANSHU

A 170-ft driver was killed and eight people injured, as the canopy of Terminal 3 at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport collapsed, plunging the 1.8-km-long, 100-ft-wide structure into the terminal building. The incident occurred on the morning of August 25, the heaviest rain in the capital since August 2002.

Higher rains also resulted in the loss of life and property in other parts of the city. The impact of the rain was felt in the form of landslides, power outages and waterlogging. The rain was the heaviest in the capital since August 2002.

Higher rains also resulted in the loss of life and property in other parts of the city. The impact of the rain was felt in the form of landslides, power outages and waterlogging. The rain was the heaviest in the capital since August 2002.

Probe ordered, structural checks at other airports too

The Department of Airports (DOA) has ordered a probe into the collapse of the canopy at Terminal 3 at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport. The probe will also cover other airports in the country.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**PMLA CASE AGAINST JMM LEADER**

## Bail for Soren after five months, High Court says reasons to believe not guilty



Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Harender Singh Soren after his bail. In Ranchi on Friday.

**ANDHRA PRASH**  
BY ANSHU

The Jharkhand High Court has granted bail to former Chief Minister Harender Singh Soren after five months of detention. The court said there are reasons to believe Soren is not guilty.

The court said there are reasons to believe Soren is not guilty. It also said that Soren's detention was not justified.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Uproar over NEET in Lok Sabha as Govt, Opp face off

Opp demands NEET discussion first, Speaker says after Motion of Thanks

**NEW DELHI**  
BY ANSHU

The Lok Sabha was in a state of uproar today as the Government and the Opposition faced off over the National Eligibility Test (NEET). The Opposition demanded that the Government discuss NEET before moving the Motion of Thanks.

## Aakrosh over unfilled quota jobs going to general: Anupriya to Yogi

**LALMUNGERA**  
BY ANSHU

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed his disappointment over the fact that quota jobs are being filled by general candidates. He said this is a major issue for the people of Bihar.

## Prajwal cases: Police get forensic verification of digital evidence

**MUMBAI**  
BY ANSHU

Police have started forensic verification of digital evidence in the Prajwal case. This is a crucial step in the investigation.

## After meeting Manipur CM, 7 MLAs land in Delhi to press for 'solution'

**DELHI**  
BY ANSHU

Seven Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from Manipur have landed in Delhi to press for a solution to the ongoing issues in the state.

## Democrats press panic button as Biden falters, his age in harsh glare

**WASHINGTON**  
BY ANSHU

Democrats are pressing the panic button as Joe Biden's age and health concerns become a major issue. They are worried about his ability to lead the country.

## Champion or Choker? World will judge tonight — that's not fair

**CHANDERPRASAD**  
BY ANSHU

It's important to keep calm and composed. The world will judge tonight. That's not fair.



**DELHI**  
BY ANSHU

It's important to keep calm and composed. The world will judge tonight. That's not fair.



## STATE BUDGET AHEAD OF ASSEMBLY POLLS

# Maharashtra announces own 'Ladli Bahin' scheme, sops for OBCs, EWS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, JUNE 28

AHEAD OF the Assembly elections later this year, the Maharashtra Government announced a slew of populist measure in its Budget on Friday – from monthly allowances for women to stipends for unemployed youth; tuition fees for girls from OBC and EWS households to benefits for farmers; three free LPG cylinders per year for eligible families to tax cuts on fuel in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

In February, Deputy Chief Minister and State Finance Minister Ajit Pawar had presented an interim budget for 2024-25 in view of the Lok



Ajit Pawar arrives to present the Budget. *Deepak Joshi*

Yojana. The estimated annual expenditure for the scheme is Rs 46,000 crore.

The government also proposed to offer three free LPG cylinders to some households annually under the 'Mukhya

The scheme, expected to benefit about 2.05 lakh girls, will start from the 2024-25 academic year and cost the state exchequer about Rs 2,000 crore annually.

For the unemployed youth, the government announced a skill

### KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Chief Minister Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana



₹1,500 in bank accounts of eligible women

in 21-60 age group every month beginning July 2024

#### Free higher education for girls

Govt to reimburse 100% tuition, exam fees to girls from OBC, EWS categories with annual family income of up to ₹8 lakh

#### Chief Minister Annapurna Yojana



Three LPG cylinders free of cost to a

family in a year

#### Chief Minister Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana

₹10,000 monthly stipend to 10 lakh interns

#### Chief Minister Baliraja Vij Savlat Yojana

Govt to waive electricity bills for agri pumps for 44.06 lakh farmers

## INDIA IN JPM BOND INDEX

# Stage set for multi-billion dollar inflows

SACHIN KUMAR  
Mumbai, June 28

**IN A HISTORIC** moment, Indian government securities were included in JPMorgan Chase's emerging markets bond index on Friday, setting the stage for multi-billion-dollar inflows. The entry of government securities

**INSIDE**  
**Debt to be cheaper on inclusion**  
PAGE 6

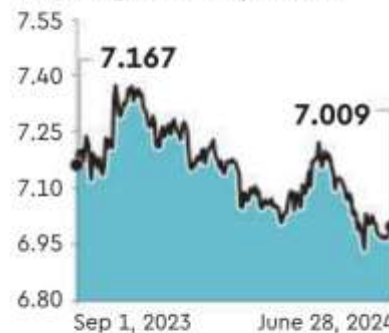
may attract around \$30-billion inflows over the next 10 months from global bond investors, according to analysts. Foreign investors have already poured more than \$11 billion into index-eligible bonds since the inclusion decision was announced in September last year.

"Foreign holdings of India bonds have been on the lower side till now and hence the index inclusion event could be a watershed moment for sovereign markets," Aditya Bagree, head markets, Citi - India & Indian Subcontinent, told *FE*. "This development coupled with the strong macro-outlook for the country has bought



### RUSH HOUR

10-year govt bond yield (%)



Source: Bloomberg

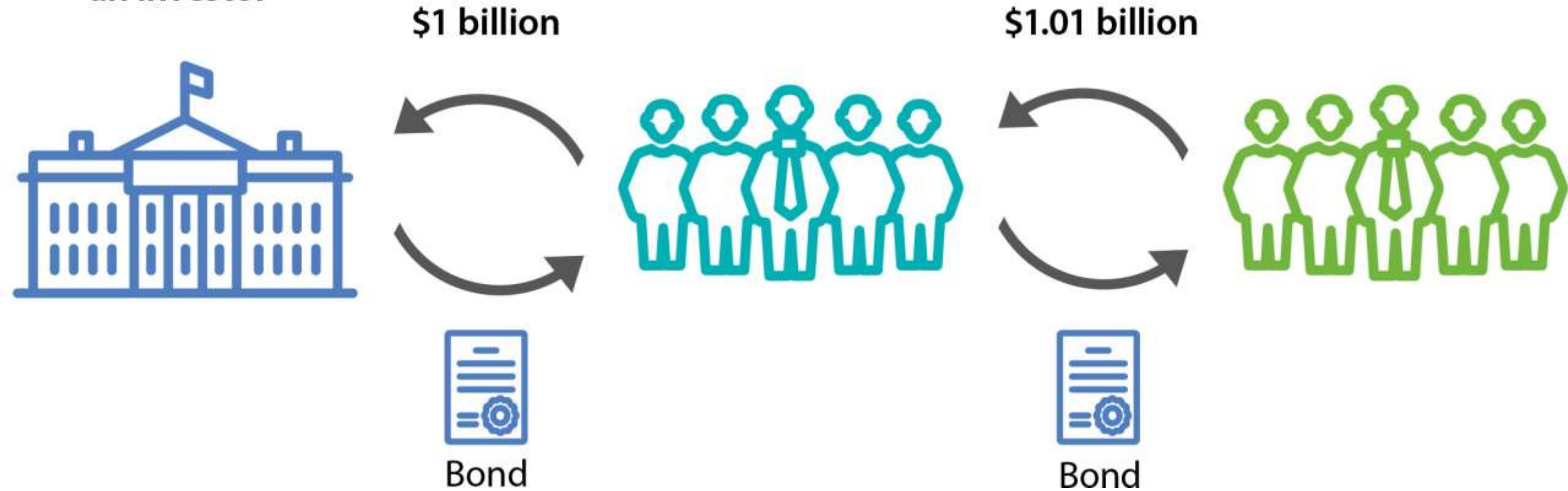
India's bond market to the attention of global investors and makes a strong case for overseas investors to increase overall allocation to India fixed income markets," he said.

Continued on Page 7

# Illustrative Example of a Government Bond

**1** Government issues a bond, which is purchased by an investor

**2** The bond may then be traded with other investors



# Government Bond



## Government Bond

- Governments take loans from the public by issuing bonds;
- In return, the investors earn interest income;
- Upon maturity, investors also earn back the principal.



Public



Government

Money



WallStreetMojo

JPMorgan's Global Bond Index Emerging Markets Index (GBI-EM) starts with a 1% weightage for India.

The weightage will increase by 1% each month over 10 months.

India is considered a strong diversification option with good macros and a stable currency.

Expected foreign inflows are \$2-3 billion per month.

Inflows are likely to accelerate once the US cuts rates. India is the 25th market included in the index since June 2005.

India is the largest entrant in the index since China in 2020.

Bond yields are expected to ease due to increased fund flows.

The 10-year bond yields fell about 20 basis points since the announcement.

The inclusion of Indian government bonds indicates growing investor confidence.

Foreign inflows will reduce the government's dependence on domestic investors.

---

It will incentivize banks to provide more capital to businesses.

---

Bloomberg announced that Indian government bonds will be included in its EM Local Currency Government Index starting January 31, 2025.

---

Investors have increased exposure to longer-dated securities.

---

Global funds have been adding exposure in the 10-30 year segment.

---

Which of the following statements is correct regarding India's inclusion in JPMorgan's Global Bond Index Emerging Markets Index (GBI-EM)?

- 
- A) India will have a fixed 1% weightage in the index.
  - B) The inclusion of Indian bonds is expected to decrease foreign inflows.
  - C) Indian government bonds will also be included in Bloomberg's EM Local Currency Government Index from January 31, 2025.
  - D) Bond yields are expected to increase due to this inclusion.



# RIL first Indian company to cross ₹21-trn market cap

## SHARES OF RELIANCE

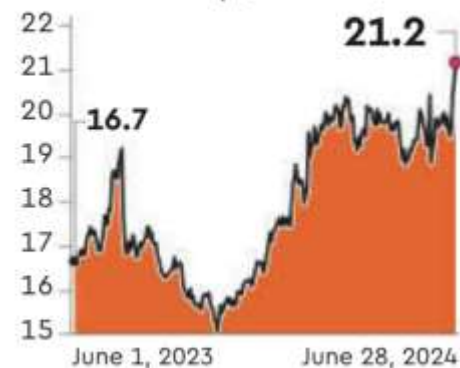
Industries climbed over 2% on Friday, taking its market valuation above the ₹21-trillion mark, the first Indian company to achieve the milestone. The m-cap jumped by ₹47,777.57 crore to ₹21,18,951.20 crore. So far this year, RIL shares have risen 21.16% on the BSE. A further

upside of 15% is expected with the highest target price of ₹3,580 set by global brokerage house

Jefferies. The foreign brokerage has tweaked Reliance's EBITDA estimates for FY25 and FY26 by 0% and 1% to reflect Jio's revised numbers, maintaining a 'buy' rating on the stock, reports **Akshata Gorde.**



RIL market cap (in ₹ trillion)



RIL market cap milestones (Mcap ₹ trillion)



- As of June 2024, Reliance Industries (RIL) has a market capitalization of \$254.28 billion, making it the 39th most valuable company in the world by market cap.
- Market capitalization, or market cap, is the total market value of a publicly traded company's outstanding shares and is often used to measure a company's worth

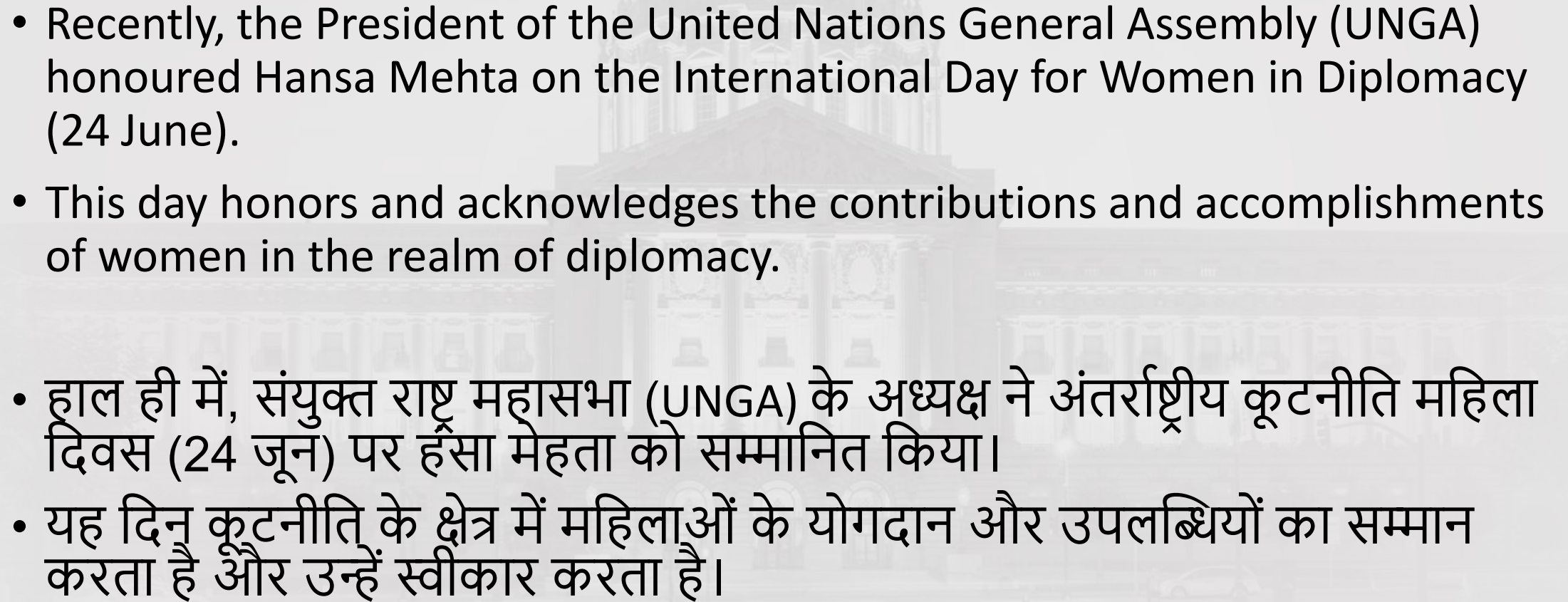
As of June 24, 2024, the top 10 companies in the world by market cap were:


- Microsoft: \$3.342 trillion
- Apple: \$3.181 trillion
- Nvidia: \$3.181 trillion
- Alphabet (Google): \$2.222 trillion
- Saudi Arabian Oil: \$1.87 trillion
- Berkshire Hathaway: \$875.59 billion
- Eli Lilly and Company: \$724.16 billion
- Tesla, Inc.: \$558.42 billion
- Walmart Inc.: \$484.13 billion
- Mastercard Incorporated: \$437.77 billion 

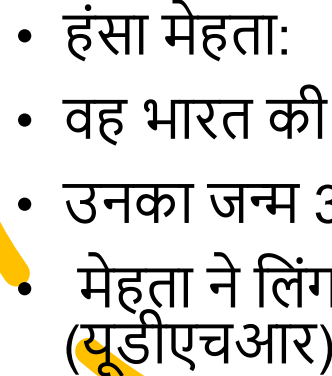
The background features a dark green field with a pattern of yellow and purple dots and lines. The dots are arranged in a somewhat circular, radial pattern, with larger dots in the center and smaller ones towards the edges. The lines are thin and connect the dots, creating a network-like structure. The overall effect is a vibrant, abstract design.

# Honours to India's Hansa Mehta



- 
- Recently, the President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) honoured Hansa Mehta on the International Day for Women in Diplomacy (24 June).
  - This day honors and acknowledges the contributions and accomplishments of women in the realm of diplomacy.
  - हाल ही में, संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा (UNGA) के अध्यक्ष ने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कूटनीति महिला दिवस (24 जून) पर हंसा मेहता को सम्मानित किया।
  - यह दिन कूटनीति के क्षेत्र में महिलाओं के योगदान और उपलब्धियों का सम्मान करता है और उन्हें स्वीकार करता है।


- 
- Hansa Mehta:
  - She was a prominent Indian scholar, educator, social reformer, writer and diplomat from India.
  - She was born on 3rd July 1897 and was a champion of women's rights.
  - Mehta played a pivotal role in revising the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) to include gender-inclusive language.


- 
- हंसा मेहता:
  - वह भारत की एक प्रमुख भारतीय विद्वान, शिक्षिका, समाज सुधारक, लेखिका और राजनयिक थीं।
  - उनका जन्म 3 जुलाई 1897 को हुआ था और वह महिला अधिकारों की समर्थक थीं।
  - मेहता ने लिंग-समावेशी भाषा को शामिल करने के लिए मानव अधिकारों की सार्वभौमिक घोषणा (यूडीएचआर) को संशोधित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।

- She successfully changed the phrase, “All men are born free and equal,” to “All human beings are born free and equal” in Article 1 of the UDHR.
- As the President of All India Women's Conference (AIWC) in 1946, she led the drafting of the "Indian Women's Charter of Rights", which demanded gender equality, civil rights and justice for women in India.

- उन्होंने यूडीएचआर के अनुच्छेद 1 में वाक्यांश, "सभी मनुष्य स्वतंत्र और समान पैदा होते हैं" को सफलतापूर्वक "सभी मनुष्य स्वतंत्र और समान पैदा होते हैं" में बदल दिया।
- 1946 में अखिल भारतीय महिला सम्मेलन (एआईडब्ल्यूसी) के अध्यक्ष के रूप में, उन्होंने "भारतीय महिला अधिकार चार्टर" के प्रारूपण का नेतृत्व किया, जिसने भारत में महिलाओं के लिए लैंगिक समानता, नागरिक अधिकार और न्याय की मांग की।








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- She was also part of the Constituent Assembly of India, a member of its Advisory Committee and sub-Committee on Fundamental Rights.
  - She was the only other female delegate, apart from Eleanor Roosevelt to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.


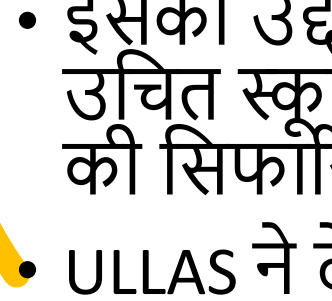
- 
- वह भारत की संविधान सभा का हिस्सा, इसकी सलाहकार समिति और मौलिक अधिकारों पर उप-समिति की सदस्य भी थीं।
  - संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार आयोग में एलेनोर रूज़वेल्ट के अलावा वह एकमात्र अन्य महिला प्रतिनिधि थीं।



**Ladakh Achieves Full  
Functional Literacy**

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- Recently the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh has been declared to achieve Full Functional Literacy under the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram after having achieved over 97% literacy.
  - Functional literacy refers to a person's ability to effectively engage in activities that require reading, writing and calculation for personal and community development.
  - हाल ही में केंद्र शासित प्रदेश (यूटी) लद्दाख को 97% से अधिक साक्षरता हासिल करने के बाद उल्लस-नव भारत साक्षरता कार्यक्रम के तहत पूर्ण कार्यात्मक साक्षरता हासिल करने की घोषणा की गई है।
  - कार्यात्मक साक्षरता से तात्पर्य किसी व्यक्ति की उन गतिविधियों में प्रभावी ढंग से संलग्न होने की क्षमता से है जिनमें व्यक्तिगत और सामुदायिक विकास के लिए पढ़ने, लिखने और गणना की आवश्यकता होती है।
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- **Basic literacy** focuses majorly on the acquisition of **3Rs, i.e. reading, writing and arithmetic skills.**
  - **ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram or New India Literacy Programme (NILP):**
  - **ULLAS (Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society)** is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented from **2022-2027.**
  - बुनियादी साक्षरता मुख्य रूप से 3R, यानी पढ़ने, लिखने और अंकगणित कौशल के अधिग्रहण पर केंद्रित है।
  - उल्लस-नव भारत साक्षरता कार्यक्रम या न्यू इंडिया साक्षरता कार्यक्रम (एनआईएलपी):
  - ULLAS (समाज में सभी के लिए आजीवन सीखने को समझना) एक केंद्र प्रायोजित योजना है जिसे 2022-2027 तक लागू किया गया है।

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- It aims to empower adults aged 15 years and above who could not receive proper schooling. It aligns with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
  - ULLAS has benefitted more than 77 lakhs people across the country.
  - इसका उद्देश्य 15 वर्ष और उससे अधिक आयु के वयस्कों को सशक्त बनाना है जो उचित स्कूली शिक्षा प्राप्त नहीं कर सके। यह राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (एनईपी) 2020 की सिफारिशों के अनुरूप है।
  - ULLAS ने देश भर में 77 लाख से अधिक लोगों को लाभान्वित किया है।
- 



- The 5 Components of ULLAS Scheme:

- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, Critical Life Skills, Basic Education, Vocational Skills, and Continuing Education.

- Other Government Initiatives

- Related to Education:

- National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning.



- Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

- PRAGYATA



- Mid Day Meal Scheme

- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao



- PM SHRI Schools



# GI Tag for Dodol



Dodol, a rich, **caramel-like dessert from Goa**, is being considered for a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** by the state government to standardize its recipe and preserve its cultural identity.

डोडोल, गोवा की एक समृद्ध कारमेल जैसी मिठाई है, जिसकी रेसिपी को मानकीकृत करने और इसकी सांस्कृतिक पहचान को संरक्षित करने के लिए राज्य सरकार द्वारा भौगोलिक संकेत (जीआई) टैग के लिए विचार किया जा रहा है।



- **About GI Tag**

- A Geographical Indication (GI) is a label used on products that come from a specific place, highlighting qualities or reputation linked to that location. Internationally, GI is recognized as part of **Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)** under agreements like the **WTO's TRIPS Agreement, Paris Convention, Madrid Agreement, and Lisbon Agreement.**

- जीआई टैग के बारे में


- भौगोलिक संकेत (जीआई) एक लेबल है जो किसी विशिष्ट स्थान से आने वाले उत्पादों पर इस्तेमाल किया जाता है, जो उस स्थान से जुड़े गुणों या प्रतिष्ठा को उजागर करता है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर, जीआई को डब्ल्यूटीओ के टिप्स समझौते, पेरिस कन्वेंशन, मैड्रिड समझौते और लिस्बन समझौते जैसे समझौतों के तहत बौद्धिक संपदा अधिकार (आईपीआर) के हिस्से के रूप में मान्यता प्राप्त है।


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- In India, GI registration is managed by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999**.
  - It is overseen by the Registrar of Geographical Indications (RGI) and applies to agricultural, natural, or manufactured goods. This registration provides legal protection for 10 years, which can be renewed

- भारत में, जीआई पंजीकरण का प्रबंधन वस्तुओं के भौगोलिक संकेत (पंजीकरण और संरक्षण) अधिनियम 1999 द्वारा किया जाता है।
- इसकी देखरेख भौगोलिक संकेत रजिस्टार (आरजीआई) द्वारा की जाती है और यह कृषि, प्राकृतिक या निर्मित वस्तुओं पर लागू होता है। यह पंजीकरण 10 वर्षों के लिए कानूनी सुरक्षा प्रदान करता है, जिसे नवीनीकृत किया जा सकता है



# Joint Session of Parliament

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- Recently, the President of India addressed the Joint Sitting Of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in Parliament.
  - **About**
  - The President's Address to the Joint Session of Parliament is a significant event in India's democratic process.
  - It marks the beginning of the Parliamentary Session and outlines the Government's Policies, Legislative Agenda, Achievements, and Future Plans.

- हाल ही में भारत के राष्ट्रपति ने संसद में लोकसभा और राज्यसभा की संयुक्त बैठक को संबोधित किया।
  - के बारे में
  - संसद के संयुक्त सत्र में राष्ट्रपति का अभिभाषण भारत की लोकतांत्रिक प्रक्रिया में एक महत्वपूर्ण घटना है।
  - यह संसदीय सत्र की शुरुआत का प्रतीक है और सरकार की नीतियों, विधायी एजेंडा, उपलब्धियों और भविष्य की योजनाओं की रूपरेखा तैयार करता है।
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- **Historical Background**

- In the **United Kingdom**, the tradition of the monarch addressing the Parliament began in the 16th century.
- In the **United States**, President Gorge Washington addressed Congress for the first time in 1790.

- ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि

- यूनाइटेड किंगडम में, सम्राट द्वारा संसद को संबोधित करने की परंपरा 16वीं शताब्दी में शुरू हुई।
- संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में, राष्ट्रपति गॉर्ज वाशिंगटन ने 1790 में पहली बार कांग्रेस को संबोधित किया।

- **Evolution in India** -In India, the practice of the President addressing Parliament was established after the promulgation of the **Government of India Act in 1919**.
- Between 1947 and 1950, there was no address to the Constituent Assembly (Legislative).
- After the Constitution of India came into force, President Rajendra Prasad addressed members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha for the first time on January 31, 1950.

- भारत में विकास - भारत में, राष्ट्रपति द्वारा संसद को संबोधित करने की प्रथा 1919 में भारत सरकार अधिनियम की घोषणा के बाद स्थापित की गई थी।
- 1947 से 1950 के बीच संविधान सभा (विधानसभा) को कोई संबोधन नहीं हुआ।
- भारत का संविधान लागू होने के बाद राष्ट्रपति राजेंद्र प्रसाद ने 31 जनवरी 1950 को पहली बार लोकसभा और राज्यसभा के सदस्यों को संबोधित किया।

- **Article 87** provides two instances when the President specially addresses both Houses of Parliament.
- The President of India addresses both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha at the beginning of the **first Session after each general election** when the reconstituted lower house meets for the first time.
- The President also addresses both the houses at the beginning of the first session of each year.

- अनुच्छेद 87 दो उदाहरण प्रदान करता है जब राष्ट्रपति विशेष रूप से संसद के दोनों सदनों को संबोधित करते हैं।
- भारत के राष्ट्रपति प्रत्येक आम चुनाव के बाद पहले सत्र की शुरुआत में राज्यसभा और लोकसभा दोनों को संबोधित करते हैं जब पुनर्गठित निचले सदन की पहली बैठक होती है।
- राष्ट्रपति प्रत्येक वर्ष के प्रथम सत्र की शुरुआत में दोनों सदनों को संबोधित भी करते हैं।

# Cohabitation in France





- After 22 years, there is a real chance that the **phenomena of cohabitation can be seen in the Polity of France.**
  - **About**
  - After two rounds of polling, France will elect **a new National Assembly.**
  - For the first time in 22 years, there is a real possibility that the President and the Prime Minister, leader of the National Assembly, **will not be from the same party.**
- 
- 22 वर्षों के बाद, इस बात की वास्तविक संभावना है कि फ्रांस की राजनीति में सहवास की घटना देखी जा सकती है।
  - के बारे में
  - दो दौर के मतदान के बाद, फ्रांस एक नई नेशनल असेंबली का चुनाव करेगा।
  - 22 वर्षों में पहली बार, इस बात की वास्तविक संभावना है कि राष्ट्रपति और प्रधान मंत्री, नेशनल असेंबली के नेता, एक ही पार्टी से नहीं होंगे।

- 
- In the cohabitation system, the French legislature is **dominated by a coalition/party opposing the President.**
    - In such instances, the President is obliged to appoint a leader from the opposing party as Prime Minister, who enjoys the support of a parliamentary majority.
  - सहवास प्रणाली में, फ्रांसीसी विधायिका पर राष्ट्रपति का विरोध करने वाले गठबंधन/पार्टी का वर्चस्व होता है।
  - ऐसे मामलों में, राष्ट्रपति विरोधी दल के एक नेता को प्रधान मंत्री के रूप में नियुक्त करने के लिए बाध्य है, जिसे संसदीय बहुमत का समर्थन प्राप्त है।

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- **Cohabitation has only occurred thrice ever since France transitioned into the Fifth Republic.**
  - **Fifth Republic:** The current political regime, called the Fifth Republic, first came into effect in **1958**, replacing the former parliamentary republic system.
    - The French President has been directly elected by popular vote, while the Prime Minister is the leader of the largest party/coalition in the National Assembly.
  - फ्रांस के पांचवें गणतंत्र में परिवर्तित होने के बाद से सहवास केवल तीन बार हुआ है।
  - पांचवां गणतंत्र: वर्तमान राजनीतिक शासन, जिसे पांचवां गणतंत्र कहा जाता है, पहली बार 1958 में लागू हुआ, जिसने पूर्व संसदीय गणतंत्र प्रणाली की जगह ली।
  - फ्रांसीसी राष्ट्रपति को सीधे लोकप्रिय वोट द्वारा चुना गया है, जबकि प्रधान मंत्री नेशनल असेंबली में सबसे बड़ी पार्टी/गठबंधन का नेता है।

# Paraguay Becomes Member of International Solar Alliance



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- Paraguay has become the **100th member** of the International Solar Alliance.
  - **About**
  - **India and France jointly launched** the International Solar Alliance (ISA) during 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** held in Paris in 2015.

- पैराग्वे अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सौर गठबंधन का 100वां सदस्य बन गया है।
- के बारे में
- भारत और फ्रांस ने संयुक्त रूप से 2015 में पेरिस में आयोजित जलवायु परिवर्तन पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र फ्रेमवर्क कन्वेंशन (यएनुएफसीसीसी) के 21वें कॉन्फ्रेंस ऑफ पार्टिज़ (सीओपी21) के दौरान अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सौर गठबंधन (आईएसए) लॉन्च किया।

- 
- **The ISA aims** to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through the rapid and massive deployment of solar energy.
  - **Members:** At present, **119 countries** are signatories to the ISA Framework Agreement, of which **100 countries** have submitted the necessary instruments of ratification to become full members of the ISA.
  - आईएसए का लक्ष्य सौर ऊर्जा की तीव्र और बड़े पैमाने पर तैनाती के माध्यम से पेरिस जलवायु समझौते के कार्यान्वयन में योगदान देना है।
  - सदस्य: वर्तमान में 119 देश आईएसए फ्रेमवर्क समझौते पर हस्ताक्षरकर्ता हैं। जिनमें से 100 देशों ने आईएसए के पूर्ण सदस्य बनने के लिए अनुसमर्थन के आवश्यक दस्तावेज जमा कर दिए हैं।

# Exercise HOPEX



- 
- The Indian Air Force's (IAF) Rafale fighter jets are currently in Egypt for Ex- HOPEX. Earlier, IAF concluded the 'Red Flag' exercise ay Alaska.

- **About**

- Exercise HOPEX is a joint military exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Egyptian Air Force.

- भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF) के राफेल लड़ाकू जेट वर्तमान में Ex- HOPEX के लिए मिस्र में हैं। इससे पहले, भारतीय वायुसेना ने अलास्का में 'रेड फ्लैग' अभ्यास का समापन किया।

- के बारे में

- व्यायाम HOPEX भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF) और मिस्र वायु सेना के बीच एक संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास है।



- 
- The aim of this exercise is to promote bilateral and regional cooperation, which is a symbol of the long-standing relations between the two countries.
  - The C-17 Globemaster and IL-78 tankers are participating in the exercise. The location of the exercise is Egypt.
  - इस अभ्यास का उद्देश्य द्विपक्षीय और क्षेत्रीय सहयोग को बढ़ावा देना है, जो दोनों देशों के बीच लंबे समय से चले आ रहे संबंधों का प्रतीक है।
  - अभ्यास में सी-17 ग्लोबमास्टर और आईएल-78 टैंकर भाग ले रहे हैं। अभ्यास का स्थान मिस्र है।

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# Word of the day

## **Abjure:**

Formally reject or disavow a formerly held belief, usually under pressure

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**Synonyms:** renounce, deny, drop

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**Usage:** *She abjured her political beliefs.*

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**Pronunciation:** [bit.ly/abjurepro](http://bit.ly/abjurepro)

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**International Phonetic**

**Alphabet:** /əb' dʒʊə/

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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 focused on the clapping action. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner of the image.

Thank you  
guys.

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