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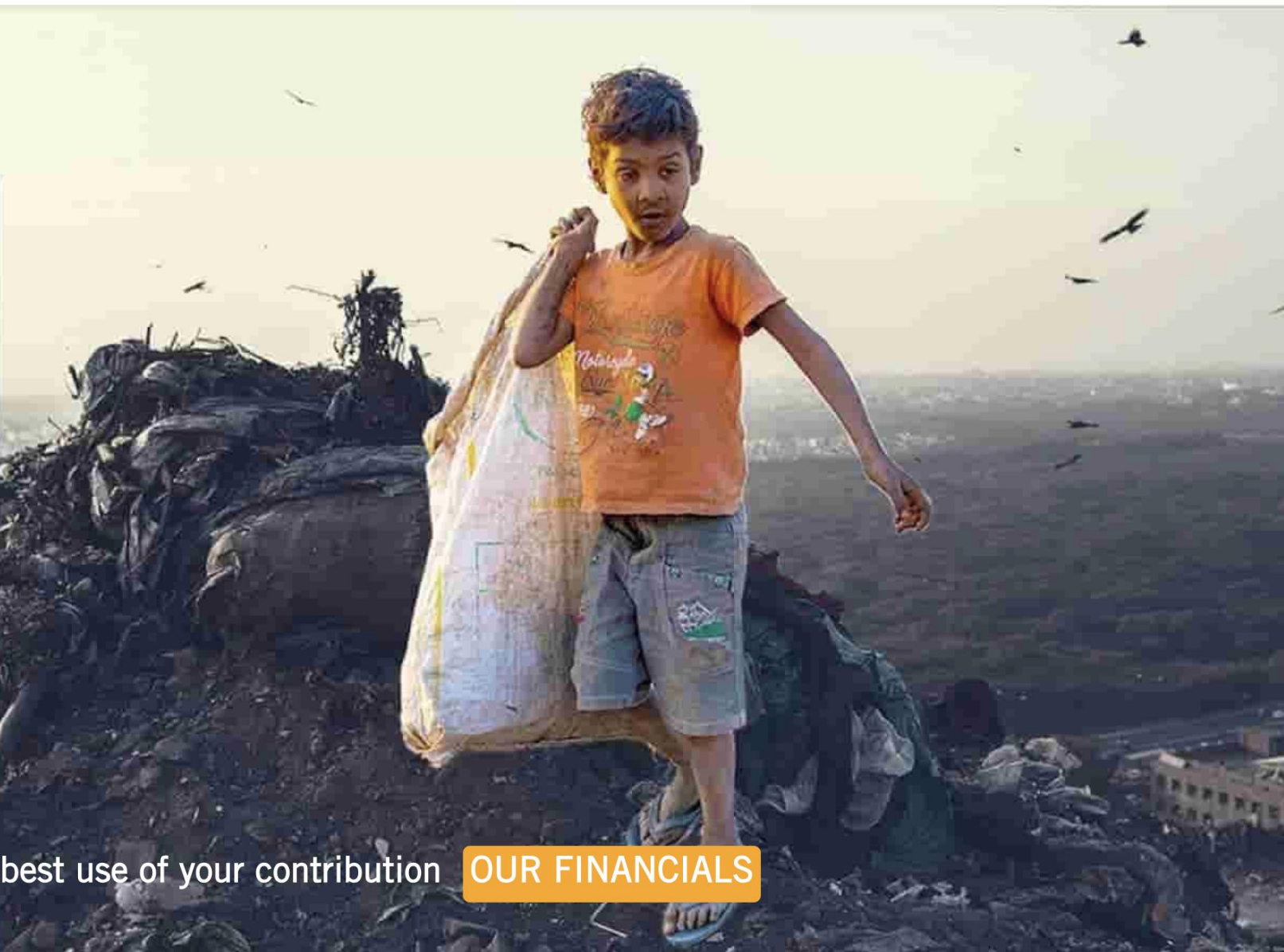
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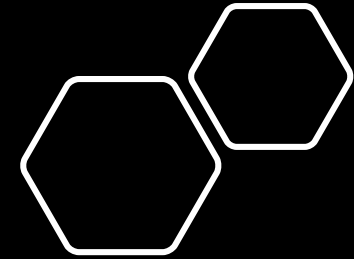
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RESERVATION HIKE
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NEWS » PAGE 4



SCO COUNCIL
Jayshankar
to step in for
India; Putin,
Xi to attend
NEWS » PAGE 6

CHENNAI
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister N.K. Stalin on Tuesday rejected the claim that there was an agreement between the Union and State governments over the ceding of Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka and criticised the Centre for not having taken steps to retrieve it. » PAGE 2

Five Naxals killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh

NARAYANPUR
Five Naxalites were killed in an encounter in Narayanpur of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday, the police said. The firefight took place in Aghyamad where a joint team of personnel was out on an anti-Naxal operation, a police official said. » PAGE 6

Israel pounds Gaza following evacuation order

GAZA STRIP
Israeli forces carried out deadly strikes on Tuesday on southern Gaza after issuing an evacuation order which a UN agency said would impact 2,50,000 Palestinians. A source said shelling killed eight persons and wounded more than 30 others. » PAGE 14

Beijing, Manila hold talks after stand-off

MANILA
China and the Philippines held a crucial meeting on Tuesday to ease tensions after their confrontation in the disputed South China Sea that sparked fears of a wider conflict that could involve Manila's ally, the U.S. » PAGE 14

Restore speech in full, Rahul tells Birla; says expunction is against democracy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hours after portions of his maiden speech as the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha were expunged, Rahul Gandhi urged to Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday, saying the action went "against the very tenets of parliamentary democracy".
Demanding that his remarks be restored to the official records of the Lok Sabha, Mr. Gandhi said BJP MP Anurag Thakur's speech was full of allegations and accusations that it was expunged. "With due respect to your good self, this selective expunction defies logic. I request that the remarks expunged from the proceedings be restored," he said.



SCIENCE
HINDENBURG VS SEBI
Firm denies claims on its Adani short bet
BUSINESS » PAGE 12

Stampede at prayer meet in U.P. kills 116

Over 200 persons were injured at a prayer meeting organised by self-styled godman Narayan Sakar Hari in Hathras; over 1 lakh people participated, though permission was granted for less than half that number. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath forms committee to investigate cause of the incident

Delhi
At least 116 people were killed and over 200 injured in a stampede at a religious event in Hathras district of Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday. Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh said seven of the dead were children, one was a man, and the rest were women.
Over 1.2 lakh people had converged for a *satsang* (prayer) meeting, titled "Mansav Mangal Milan Sankshiptam Samagamam", organised by self-styled godman Narayan Sakar Hari at Fulrai village in the Sikandra police station limits. Eyewitnesses said the police failed to control the crowd that went into a frenzy in an attempt to greet the godman at the end of the *satsang*. According to Sikandra Sub-divisional Magistrate Ravendra Kumar, the devotees also wanted to collect some soil from around his feet.
Heart-wrenching visuals shared by fellow participants showed bodies lying outside the post-mortem house, while kin of the deceased cried out for help. People were forced to carry those who had fainted to get help. No ambulance was available on the spot. The godman and his aides reportedly left the spot immediately after the stampede.
"Poor arrangements" "How can they allow such a big event to happen when there was no preparedness for any untoward incident," asked Sumit Kumar, an eyewitness. He blamed the administration for the poor arrangements.
At a community health care centre in Hathras, people started protesting when no doctor was available to attend to the injured.



BILATERAL TIES
France: India's steady partner in green growth
ADF Group has given over €4 bn since 2008
OPINION » PAGE 9



SHOCK EXIT
Bouzas Manciero ousts Vondrousova
SPORT » PAGE 16



Tragic loss: A child mourns the death of relatives who attended the event in Fulrai village, at a hospital in Sikandra Rao of Hathras district. PH

Videos showed people taking injured people and bodies in mini-lorries. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath formed a committee to investigate the cause.

Delhi
Ashish Kumar, District Magistrate, Hathras, said permission for the event was granted by the Sub-divisional Magistrate and rest of the arrangements were supposed to be done by the organisers. Initial investigation revealed that over double the permitted number of attendees reached the event.
Inspector-General of Police, Aligarh Range, Sha-

labh Mathur said 116 bodies were recovered so far among which 27 were sent to the Exah mortuary and the rest were in Hathras. "Bodies were sent to nearby places for post-mortem as we intend to hand over the bodies to their families as soon as possible," he said, adding that a First Information Report was being registered against the organisers.
Recalling the horror, Shakuntala, an eyewitness said, "Everyone was trying to rush out of the venue after the *satsang* ended. The fields near the event were swampy. People started falling in the mud swamp, one above the other."
The godman is also scheduled to hold a similar *satsang* in Agra from July 4 whose permission was denied by the authorities after Tuesday's incident.

RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 2 & 4

Nepal's largest parties strike deal to oust Prime Minister

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

Nepal's two largest parties have reached a deal on Monday night to form a new government to replace the ruling coalition led by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda.
The agreement, between Nepali Congress (NC) president Sher Bahadur Deuba and Communist Party of Nepal-United Marxist-Leninist (CPN-UML) chairman K.P. Sharma Oli, outlines ministerial division, provincial leadership roles and a rotation for the prime ministerial position.
The NC, the largest party in the 275-member House of Representatives, has 89 seats, while the CPN-UML has 78 seats. Prachanda's Maoist party has 32 seats.
WILL NOT QUIT: PRACHANDA » PAGE 14

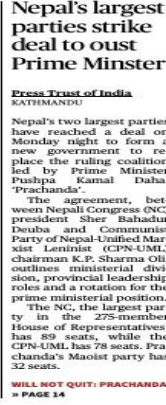
Modi says mandate is for continuity, terms Congress a 'parasite' on its allies

Subhansu K. Nair
NEW DELHI

In his first parliamentary address since taking oath as Prime Minister for the third time, Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that the Lok Sabha election results were a mandate for "stability and continuity". In an almost two-and-a-half hour speech delivered amid Opposition sloganeering in Manipur, Mr. Modi launched a blistering attack on the Congress, terming it a "parasite party" that only achieved its 99-seat tally by leaning on its allies.
He was speaking in the Lok Sabha during the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address to the joint sitting of Parliament. Without directly naming Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister singled him out, saying that on Monday, the House had witnessed "the wailing of a person with *maaf baadhi* (amblyopia), a pejorative term he used repeatedly through his speech. Underlining the Congress's defeat in the third consecutive Lok Sabha election, Mr. Modi pointed directly at Mr. Gandhi while saying, "You can't do it."
The Prime Minister used the opportunity to counter the Opposition's allegations during the election campaign that the BJP was trying to end reservations and being "anti-constitutional" and "anti-Nehru" by referring to the subject of reservation throughout the speech.

The Prime Minister directed his attack on the Congress, which he said has once again been given the mandate to sit in Opposition. "Instead of conceding defeat, they are being arrogant. They are trying to build a narrative that they have beaten us," he said.
Mr. Modi also spoke at length on "reservation" and the "constitution", two issues that dominated the 2024 election campaign. "Those who are dancing today holding the Constitution did not implement it in J&K. We had to break the wall of Article 370 to extend it to J&K," he said.
Before concluding his address, he finally broke his silence on the recent "paper leaks" and the NIEET controversy. Mr. Modi said that the government was working on a war footing to curb such incidents of leaked question papers, adding that those playing with the future of youngsters would not be spared.

OPPOSITION HITS BACK
» PAGE 5



Direct attack: Narendra Modi speaks during the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. PH

Through the ghats



Devoted procession: Worshippers carry the Dnyaneshwar Maharaj palanquin through the Dive Ghat near Pune on Tuesday. The procession will reach Pandharpur by July 17 to celebrate Ashadi Ekadashi. JOURNALIST VOICES

PM silent as Manipur faces 'civil war-like' crisis, says MP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi
Congress MP A. Bimol Akonjam made a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for remaining silent on Manipur, rocked by ethnic violence for the past one year.
In a speech in the Lok Sabha on Monday night, the Inner Manipur MP said there is a civil war-like situation in Manipur, "yet our Prime Minister has remained mute, not even a word". He also pointed to the absence of any reference to Manipur in President Droupadi Murmu's address to Parliament.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 5

Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha.
"I am, however, shocked to note the manner in which considerable portions of my speech have been simply taken off from the proceedings under the garb of expunction," he said.

Freedom of speech
"I am constrained to state that the portions expunged do not come under the ambit of Rule 380. What I sought to convey in the House is the ground reality and the factual position. Every member of the House who personifies the collective voice of people whom he or she represents has the freedom of speech as enshrined in Article 105 (1) of the Constitution of India," Mr. Gandhi said.



Concerned leaders: Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi made a scathing attack on the BJP on Monday. PH

In his speech on Monday, the Congress leader made a scathing attack against the BJP, questioning the Hindu credentials of its leaders and accusing the party of dividing people.
The Speaker removed 13 parts of Mr. Gandhi's speech from the records. Mr. Gandhi argued that while the Chair derived its power to expunge certain remarks from the proceedings of the House, the stipulation pertains only to words which have been specified in Rule 380 of the Rules of

LIST OF 10 MAJOR STAMPEDES AT TEMPLES, RELIGIOUS MEETS

January 1, 2022

At least 12 people died and over a dozen were injured in a stampede at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir triggered by a heavy rush of devotees

July 14, 2015

Twenty-seven pilgrims died and 20 were injured in a stampede at a major bathing spot on the Godavari river on the opening day of 'Pushkaram' festival in Andhra Pradesh's Rajahmundry

October 3, 2014

Thirty-two people were killed and 26 others injured in a stampede at Gandhi Maidan in Patna, shortly after the Dussehra celebrations

October 13, 2013

As many as 115 people were killed and over 100 injured in a stampede during 'Navaratri' near Ratangarh temple in Madhya Pradesh's Datia district. The stampede was triggered by rumours that a river bridge the devotees were crossing was about to collapse

Source: PTI



Devotees at the religious gathering where a stampede killed more than 100 of them in Hathras district, Uttar Pradesh, on Tuesday PTI

January 14, 2011

At least 104 Sabarimala devotees were killed and over 40 injured in a stampede when a jeep crashed into them in Kerala's Idukki district

March 4, 2010

At least 63 people were killed in a stampede at an ashram of Kripalu Maharaj in Pratapgarh in UP as people gathered to collect free clothes and food

September 30, 2008

Nearly 250 devotees were killed in a stampede triggered by rumours of a bomb blast at Chamunda Devi temple in Rajasthan's Jodhpur city

August 3, 2008

At least 162 were killed and 47 injured in a stampede triggered by rumours of rockslides at Naina Devi temple in Himachal Pradesh's Bilaspur district

January 25, 2005

Over 340 devotees were trampled to death during an annual pilgrimage to Mandhardevi temple in Maharashtra's Satara district

August 27, 2003

At least 39 people were killed and around 140 injured in a stampede during the holy bath at the Kumbh Mela in Maharashtra's Nashik district

IN BRIEF



Assam flood situation turns grim, death toll rises to 38

The flood situation in Assam turned grim on Tuesday affecting more than 11.34 lakh people across 28 districts...

IAF chief inaugurates weapon systems school in Hyderabad

Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chandharti on Tuesday inaugurated the newly established Weapon Systems School at Air Force Station, Begumpet, Hyderabad.

Woman cuts off man's genitals for refusing to marry her

A woman in Saran district of Bihar on Monday allegedly cut off the genitals of a man and flushed them down the toilet after he refused to marry her...

Five die, 30 fall ill at children's home; investigation ordered

At least five children have died and 30 more have fallen ill at a children's home in Madhya Pradesh's Indore in the past three days...

Five Naxals killed in Chhattisgarh, say police

Five Naxalites were killed in an encounter in Narayanpur district of Chhattisgarh on Tuesday, the police said.

The gangfight took place in a forest in Abujhmad, a hilly forest area, when a joint team of personnel from different security forces was out on an anti-Naxal operation...

The operation, involving personnel of the District Reserve Special Task Force, Border Security Force and Indo-Tibetan Border Police from different districts, was launched on Sunday, the police said.

138 dead so far With the latest incident, the number of Naxalites killed so far this year in separate encounters with the government in the State has risen to 138.

While ICG Maoists were gunned down in the Bastar division that comprises six districts, those for surface to Air and ranyanpur, two others were killed in Dhamtari district under the Raipur division.

Fact-check unit needed to protect people from fake news: Centre in Bombay HC

The petitioners have contended that the purpose of the FCU is to bring total censorship on anything that the government does not want people to know, discuss, debate, or question

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

Breaker judge Justice A.S. Chandurkar of the Bombay High Court on Tuesday continued hearing the arguments by the Union government in the petition filed by comedian Kunal Kamra and others challenging Rule 30(B)(iv) of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.



Many State governments have FCUs such as Kerala and Uttarakhnad... If we (the Union government) do not fact-check, it will be a dereliction of duty.

But there are several things that ought to have been taken down, but they have not been. We have written to YouTube but they have not taken it down citing their community guidelines.

Mr. Mehta said that a fake news about the Election Commission had floated on social media saying that the poll body would deduct ₹50 from the accounts of people who suffered during the election.



jection do the petitioners have here? The petitioners have contended that this will have a chilling effect on intermediaries who partner with intermediaries to flag false information.

Mr. Mehta said that a fake news about the Election Commission had floated on social media saying that the poll body would deduct ₹50 from the accounts of people who suffered during the election.

"It is a serious matter and can lead to serious consequences. What objection do the petitioners have here? The petitioners have contended that this will have a chilling effect on intermediaries who partner with intermediaries to flag false information.

Courts subservient only to the might of Constitution and no other authority: CJI

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Tuesday said courts should bow to the might of no authority other than the Constitution, and serve no one but litigants.

"The foundation of a court must be sound both in its structural and philosophical capacity. It must subservient to the Constitution and not to the might of any other authority."

The Chief Justice warned judges against delivering "rough, ready and handy justice", but to cherish the rule of law and procedural guarantees.



Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud at the foundation stone laying ceremony of court buildings in New Delhi.

Chief Justice Chandrachud said climate change could no longer be ignored, while referring to the intense heatwaves followed by deluge suffered by the national capital.

"This year, Delhi experienced the hottest recorded weather. We have experienced two heatwaves followed by record breaking rain in a single day. Our infrastructure must reflect the reality we live...

Advanced medium combat aircraft prototype expected to be ready by 2028-29

Dinakar Peri NEW DELHI

As the project for the design and development of the indigenous fifth generation fighter aircraft (FGFA), Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), makes progress, the Defence Ministry is working on a model for bringing in the private sector in a big way, which is important for timely execution of the project, according to officials.

The design of the AMCA is ready. The prototype is expected to roll out by 2028-29 and the production is expected to begin from 2029-33. The target is to have it ready for induction in 2034, a decade from project start, an official source said.

HC seeks CBI's response on Kejriwal's plea against arrest

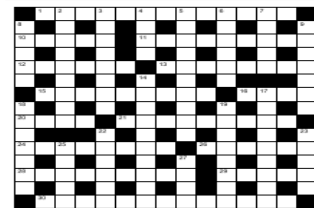
The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought response from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on a plea by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging his arrest in a corruption case related to the excise policy scam.

Justice Neena Bansal Krishna issued notice to the CBI and asked it to file its reply within seven days. The High Court posted the case for arguments on July 17.

The Aam Aadmi Party national convener has also challenged a June 26 order of the trial court, which remanded him in the CBI's custody for three days. The court had on June 29 extended Mr. Kejriwal's judicial custody till July 12, saying his name had surfaced as one of the main conspirators.

It had also remarked that his further custodial interrogation might be required as the investigation is under way. The CBI arrested Mr. Kejriwal on June 26 from the Tihar Jail, where he was remanded till July 3 in a related money laundering case being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate.

TH CROSSWORD 14217



- Across 1 Following Pythagoras' lead, peculiar nerd turned at ninety degrees (13) 2 Percentage of quota not fulfilled (5) 3 West Indies coming with extremely lauded ace - they don't need to get through qualification (4, 2) 4 Work from text site owned by us (6)

14217

- 13 Queen English's complicated, at times (8) 14 Line-up comes before kick-off, as time runs out in front of essentially tempestuous audience (9) 15 Dealing with love, silly (2, 2) 20 Female choir's reverberation (4) 21 Get shot by mistake while being the intended target? (3) 24 Dodgy check is caught in large helix upfront (8) 26 Deceitful U-turn awkwardly exposed leader (6) 28 Support side finally with new captain, as old as you and me! (8) 29 Intense performance about upper-class eccentricities, primarily (5) 30 Caution : Spinner's returning with power and will! (13)

SUDOKU

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

Sudoku solutions and difficulty ratings. Includes 'Solution to previous puzzle' and 'Solution to yesterday's Sudoku'. Difficulty ratings are shown as stars.

FAITH Aim is to establish dharma

The avatars of Lord Vishnu such as Matsya, Kurma and Varaha were for specific reasons and hence called Amshavathara. The manifestations of the Lord as Sri Rama and Sri Krishna were to establish dharma, protect righteous men and destroy unrighteous and impious (Parthivanya Sadbhram) and hence called Purnavathara (complete and total).

Dr. Sudha Seshaiah said in a discourse the state of enjoying the divine bliss is called Paramanandham. The sloka Vasudeva Satham devam says Sri Krishna's mother Devaki derives Paramanandham. Usually, a mother would be happy when giving birth to a child. But Devaki, while in prison, was afraid towards her brother Kamsa, who was eager to kill her yet-to-be-born eighth baby. How could she derive Paramanandham under such a precarious situation? Lord Krishna did not cry when He was born and He was a charioteer. Had done his duty of feeding, nursing and bathing the horses before leaving them in the stable and had not delegated to anyone.

TH CROSSWORD 14217



- Across 1 Following Pythagoras' lead, peculiar nerd turned at ninety degrees (13) 2 Percentage of quota not fulfilled (5) 3 West Indies coming with extremely lauded ace - they don't need to get through qualification (4, 2) 4 Work from text site owned by us (6)

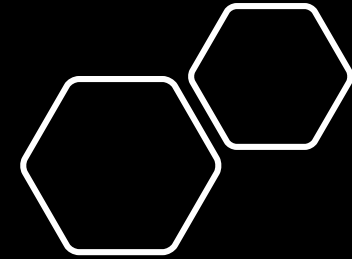
TH CROSSWORD 14217



- Across 1 Following Pythagoras' lead, peculiar nerd turned at ninety degrees (13) 2 Percentage of quota not fulfilled (5) 3 West Indies coming with extremely lauded ace - they don't need to get through qualification (4, 2) 4 Work from text site owned by us (6)

IAF chief inaugurates weapon systems school in Hyderabad

Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari on Tuesday inaugurated the newly established Weapon Systems School at Air Force Station, Begumpet, Hyderabad. This follows the approval for the creation of a new Weapon System branch in 2022. “The new branch will have four streams; flying stream to operate the weapons and systems in airborne platforms like the Sukhoi-30 MKI and C-130J; remote stream to operate remotely piloted aircraft; mission commanders and operators for Surface to Air and Surface-to-Surface weapon systems, and intelligence stream for handling space-based intelligence and imagery,” the IAF said.



Size	170,576 active personnel ^[1] 140,000 reserve personnel ^[2] Approx 1926+ aircraft ^{[3][4]}
Part of	 Indian Armed Forces
Headquarters	Integrated Defence Headquarters, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi
Motto(s)	<i>Nabhaḥ Spr̥śam̐ Dīptam</i> (ISO) transl. : "Touch the Sky with Glory" ^{[5][6][7]} (Taken from Bhagavad Gita) ^[8]
Colours	
March	Quick: <i>Dēśa Pukārē Jaba Saba Kō</i> (When the nation calls) Slow: <i>Vāyu Sēnā Nīśāna</i> (The Air Force Emblem)
Anniversaries	8 October (Air Force Day) ^{[9][10]}
Engagements	Notable operations [show]
Website	indianairforce.nic.in

Commanders

Commander-in-Chief	 President Droupadi Murmu
Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)	 General Anil Chauhan
Chief of the Air Staff (CAS)	 Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari
Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS)	 Air marshal Amar Preet Singh
Notable commanders	 Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh Air Chief Marshal Pratap Chandra Lal Air Marshal Subroto Mukherjee

Aircraft flown

Attack	Jaguar, Eitan, Harop
Electronic warfare	A-50E/I, DRDO AEW&CS
Fighter	Su-30MKI, Rafale, Tejas, MiG-29, Mirage 2000, MiG-21 HAL Tejas Mk2, HAL AMCA
Helicopter	CH-47 Chinook, Dhruv, Chetak, Cheetah, Mi-8, Mi-17, Mi-26, HAL IMRH
Attack helicopter	Prachand, Apache AH-64E, Mi-25/35, Rudra
Interceptor	MiG 21
Reconnaissance	Searcher II, Heron
Trainer	Hawk Mk 132, HJT-16 Kiran, Pilatus C-7 Mk II
Transport	C-130J, C-17 Globemaster III, CH-47F (I) Chinook, Il-76, An-32, HS 748, Do 228, EADS CASA C-295, Boeing 737, ERJ 135, Boeing 777
Tanker	Il-78 MKI



Inauguration: IAF chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari inaugurated the Weapon Systems School (WSS) at Begumpet, Hyderabad.



Purpose: The school offers specialised training for handling surface-to-air, surface-to-surface weapons, remotely piloted aircraft, and space-based intelligence.



Streams: Four specialised streams include flying, remote, mission commanders and operators, and intelligence.



Savings: Expected savings of ₹3,400 crore from reduced flying training expenses.



Training Duration: Six months of specialised training at WSS after initial training at NDA or AFA.



Graduation: First batch to graduate in December 2024.



Question: Which of the following streams is NOT offered at the newly inaugurated Weapon Systems School (WSS) of the Indian Air Force?



- a) Surface-to-air weapons training
- b) Space-based intelligence training
- c) Cybersecurity training
- d) Remote piloted aircraft training

Two vaccines that brought us to the brink of eradicating polio

While the poliovirus is today restricted to rural pockets of Afghanistan and Pakistan, it is beginning to reappear in big cities in these two countries thanks to vaccine hesitancy. The WHO's Global Polio Eradication Initiative is thus set to miss its deadline of eradicating polio by the end of 2024

Arun Panchapakesan

In 1948, microbiologists John F. Enders, Thomas Weller, and Frederick Robbins were trying to find a method to grow different viruses in cell cultures. In a routine experiment involving human muscle and skin cells, they decided to test one more virus along with the ones they were already testing, since a vial containing that virus was in their freezer. To their surprise, the virus proliferated and grew well with their method. Their work eventually solved one of the most important scientific problems of the time. They had just managed to find a way to grow the poliovirus in non-nerve cells.

A major roadblock
In the mid-20th century, researchers widely believed the poliovirus could only be grown in cultures of nerve cells. This misconception was propagated by their inability to infect rhesus macaques by the oral route, and only by directly injecting the virus into the nervous system. At the time, they didn't know the problem was with the poliovirus strains they were using.

The poliovirus has only one natural host — humans — and many of the early strains of the virus were isolated from humans and wouldn't infect non-human primates. Since scientists kept passing the virus through the brain tissues of macaques, it adapted to that mode of infection.

The inability to culture polio in non-nerve cells was a major roadblock to developing a polio vaccine. But thanks to Enders and his team, the poliovirus could now be mass-produced for vaccine research.

Eradication target missed
Polio eradication is one of the top priorities of the World Health Organisation (WHO). Since Africa was declared polio-free in August 2020, the wild poliovirus has been restricted to rural pockets of Afghanistan and Pakistan. But according to a recent report in Science, the virus is beginning to reappear in big cities in these two countries.

This reemergence is a result of vaccine hesitancy due to misinformation, conflict, poverty, and limited access to these isolated regions. The WHO's Global Polio Eradication Initiative is thus set to miss its deadline of eradicating polio by the end of 2024.

The initiative's failure in Afghanistan and Pakistan casts a long shadow on an otherwise remarkable achievement: polio having been eradicated everywhere else. This feat was driven by two vaccines, both



A health worker (right) administers polio vaccine drops to a child during a vaccination campaign in Karachi. AFP

invented within a year of each other. They are administered differently, provide distinct levels of protection, contain different components, and target different compartments of the immune system. Yet they both played equally invaluable roles in the global fight against polio.

The systemic and the mucosal
In late 1949, Enders received a letter requesting the starting material and the procedure his team had perfected to grow the poliovirus in culture. At the time, Enders & Co. were discussing their own future work. While his younger colleagues, Weller and Robbins, wanted to use the method to foray into vaccine research, Enders said such a job was ill-suited for basic science researchers like themselves. They handed over the sample and the procedure to the letter's author, the director of the Virus Research Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh, Jonas Salk.

Salk made the first successful vaccine for polio. He grew the virus using the method Enders and his team had developed, inactivated it by treating it with formaldehyde, and injected it into his test subjects. The fragments of the inactivated virus were able to induce immunity in their bodies. Importantly, since the vaccine was introduced into the muscle, it generated systemic immunity.

The immune system has two main parts: the systemic and the mucosal. The systemic component includes the blood, the brain, and all other organ systems. The mucosal component includes the



John F. Enders, Thomas Weller, and Frederick Robbins solved one of the most important scientific problems of their time. They managed to find a way to grow the poliovirus in non-nerve cells

inner linings of the digestive and respiratory systems, the urogenital tract, and the eyes. These regions are lined with mucous membranes that provide an additional layer of protection, as they frequently come into contact with the external environment.

Striking at ground zero
Soon after Salk made his inactivated polio vaccine (IPV), Albert Sabin developed another vaccine that contained live polio strains weakened by growing them serially in macaque cells, making them unfit for human infection. Since Sabin's vaccine contained live virus particles, it had to rely on its natural mode of infection and was therefore administered orally. This was the oral polio vaccine (OPV).

Since the OPV went into the stomach, it induced a powerful protective mucosal immune response right where the virus would have to begin its infection.

The OPV had multiple advantages over the IPV. First, the vaccine induced a protective response at the viral entry site — the gut — allowing it to provide a much

greater degree of protection relative to the IPV. Second, the OPV was administered orally and didn't require syringes or trained personnel for its administration.

A one-two punch
But there was a catch. Occasionally, the weakened virus in the OPV would revert, and do the very job it was designed to prevent: cause polio. On the other hand, the IPV, while being a less potent vaccine, contained inactivated virus particles and carried no risk of causing vaccine-induced polio.

The world has used both vaccines in the fight against polio. While some countries, such as Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland, relied exclusively on the IPV, most countries have used a combination of the two. The latter countries prefer the OPV for its superior protection and ease of administration. When the number of natural polio cases drops to zero, they switch to IPV for its enhanced safety.

Despite the many differences between the Salk and Sabin vaccines, they share one crucial feature that earned the WHO in its fight against polio: both Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin chose not to patent their vaccines. When asked who owned the patent on his vaccine, Salk famously replied: "Well, the people, I would say. There is no patent. Could you patent the sun?"

Arun Panchapakesan is an assistant professor at the Y.R. Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education, Chennai.

THE GIST

The inability to culture polio in non-nerve cells was a major roadblock to developing a polio vaccine. Enders and his team made it possible for the poliovirus to be mass-produced for vaccine research

Salk made the first successful vaccine using Enders' method to grow the virus. He inactivated the virus by treating it with formaldehyde, and injected it into his test subjects. The fragments of the inactivated virus were able to induce immunity

Albert Sabin developed the OPV that contained live polio strains weakened by growing them in macaque cells. Since Sabin's vaccine contained live virus particles, it had to rely on its natural mode of infection and was therefore administered orally

BIG SHOT



A pier at high tide after the passage of Hurricane Beryl in Oistins near Bridgetown, Barbados, on Monday. Hurricane Beryl brought devastating winds and heavy rain to several Caribbean islands on the day as the earliest ever Category 4 storm on record churned westward. AFP

QUESTION CORNER

How we grow taller at night

The Hindu Bureau

Q: Are we measurably taller in the morning than when we go to bed?

A1: We are all indeed taller in the morning.

There are two components to this. In a growing child, the growth hormone is secreted in pulses overnight. This acts through several intermediary steps to cause lengthening of the bones at the end plates (epiphyses). Accurate measurements of the forearm or lower leg using specialised apparatus or X-rays can record this night-time growth.

The most marked effect, however, which occurs even after growth has ceased, is caused by postural compression of the spine under the effect of gravity. This was recognised in mediaeval French folklore: it was common practice to apply for recruitment to the army first thing in the morning in order to appear taller. In 1724, Reverend Joseph Wasse from Aynho in Northamptonshire, U.K., measured a loss of up to 15 mm through the day. This was more marked in young and active labourers.

A2: Another factor concerns the inherent curvature of the spinal column. This has a convexity backwards in the thoracic or chest region, called a kyphosis, and a concavity in the lumbar region or base of the back called a lordosis. These



A pencil illustration of the vertebral column and the spinal cord. H.E. WITTESSLAAR, UNIVERSITEIT BRILLOTHAREN LEIDEN

curves vary with body weight and position. As a result, the spinal column tends to press downwards when in an upright position, altering these curvatures, and hence shortening the spinal length. When lying down, the reverse happens and the column lengthens again.

The combination of disc and curvature factors causes height change and is about 16 mm during the course of the day in the average adult.

For feedback and suggestions for Science, please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'

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A pencil illustration of the vertebral column and the spinal cord. H.G. WETSELAAR, UNIVERSITAIRE BIBLIOTHEKEN LEIDEN

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The combination of disc and curvature factors causes height change and is about 16 mm during the course of the day in the average adult.

For feedback and suggestions

for 'Science', please write to science@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Daily page'

Morning Height: We are measurably taller in the morning.

Growth Hormone: In children, growth hormone secreted at night causes bone lengthening.

Postural Compression: Height loss during the day is due to spinal compression from gravity.

Historical Recognition: Recognized in medieval French folklore; people applied to the army in the morning to appear taller.

Curvature Factors: The spine's natural curvatures change with body position and weight, affecting height.

Daily Height Change: Height can change by up to 16 mm during the day in adults.

Question: Which of the following is NOT a reason for height changes throughout the day?



- a) Growth hormone secretion in children
- b) Postural compression of the spine
- c) Natural curvature changes of the spine
- d) Increased bone density during the day

THE HAGUE

New Dutch PM sworn in 7 months after far-right party won elections



In Dick Schoof, the Netherlands has a different PM for the first time in 14 years as he swore in on Tuesday, more than seven months after elections dominated by a far-right, anti-immigration party.

SYDNEY

China builds new presidential palace in Pacific's Vanuatu



The government of cash-strapped Vanuatu will soon settle into a suite of new buildings funded by China, a move likely to reignite concerns about Beijing's reach in the South Pacific nation.

GENEVA

Russia violated international law by imprisoning WSJ reporter: UN



UN human rights experts say Russia violated international law by imprisoning Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich and should release him 'immediately'.

NEW YORK

Former New York Mayor Giuliani disbarred for 2020 election lies



Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani was disbarred on Tuesday for repeatedly making false statements about the 2020 presidential election lost by Donald Trump.

Nepali Congress, CPN-UML arrive at agreement to oust Prachanda as PM

Deuba's NC has 89 seats, while Oli's CPN-UML has 78, totalling 167 which exceeds the majority mark of 138 in the Lower House; Prachanda vows not to quit, will face vote of confidence instead, marking his fourth one since coming to power

Press Trust of India KATHMANDU

Embattled Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' has decided not to resign from the post despite an agreement reached between the country's largest parties — Nepali Congress and CPN-UML — to form a new coalition government.



Nepali Congress NC leader Sher Bahadur Deuba, centre, talks to CPN-UML's K.P. Sharma Oli in Kathmandu on Tuesday.

Prachanda, 69, a former guerrilla leader, has won four votes of confidence in parliament during his one-and-a-half-year term. The Nepali Congress, the largest party in the 275-member House of Representatives, has 89 seats at present, while the CPN-UML has 78 seats. Their combined strength of 167 is

sufficient for a majority of 138 seats in the lower House. Mr. Prachanda's Maoist party has 32 seats.

Rotating PM

According to the agreement, finalised between Nepal Congress President Sher Bahadur Deuba and Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) chairman K.P. Sharma Oli, the leaders will share the Prime Ministerial position on a rotation basis for the rest of the term of Parliament.

Nepal has had 13 governments in the last 16 years, indicating the fragile nature of the Himalayan nation's political system. Mr. Oli and Mr. Deuba agreed to form a new government, amend the constitution, and work out a power-sharing formula, which they reportedly shared with a few candidates, media reports said. The Ministers belonging to the CPN-UML in the Prachanda-led Cabinet are likely to resign en-masse, sources close to the CPN-UML said. Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Ravi Lamichane accused the Nepal Congress and the CPN-UML of forming the new alliance after the Prachanda-led coalition government started opening the files of corruption cases involving political leaders.

Beijing, Manila hold talks after maritime stand-off

Associated Press MANILA

China and the Philippines held a crucial meeting on Tuesday to ease escalating tensions following their worst confrontation in the disputed South China Sea that sparked fears of a wider conflict that could involve Manila's ally, the U.S.

There was no mention of any major agreement to try to prevent a repeat of the chaotic June 17 clash at Second Thomas Shoal that caused injuries to Filipino navy personnel and damaged two military boats.

Differences remain

The Chinese and Philippine delegations affirmed their commitment to de-escalate tensions without prejudice to their respective positions, "that the Philippines will



Cooling off: Theresa Lazaro and Chen Xiaodong shake hands during their South China Sea meeting in Manila.

Manila said in a statement late on Tuesday. "There was substantial progress on developing measures to manage the situation at sea, but significant differences remain."

Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Theresa Lazaro told her Chinese counterpart, Vice Foreign Minister Chen Xiaodong, "that the Philippines will

be relentless in protecting its interests and upholding its sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction" in the South China Sea. An agreement was signed to improve communications during emergencies at sea and both sides agreed to continue talks on enhancing ties between their coast guards but no details were provided.

Six passengers of turbulence-hit plane still in Brazil hospital

Agence France-Presse MONTEVIDEO

Six passengers among dozens injured in severe turbulence on a flight from Madrid remain hospitalised in Brazil, where their plane had to make an emergency landing. Air Europa said on Tuesday.

Of the rest, 303 have made it safely to their destinations. Of Montevideo more than a day after the rattling experience on Monday, it added.

The Uruguay-bound plane, a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner with 325 passengers on board, was diverted in the early morning hours of Monday to the airport of Natal in northeast Brazil after experiencing "severe turbulence," according to the airline. Forty passengers were

taken to hospitals and clinics in Natal for treatment of "abrasions and minor traumas". Air Europa said most of the injuries were "bruises and contusions." Brazilian authorities have said that nationals of Spain, Argentina, Uruguay, Israel, Bolivia and Germany were among the injured.

In May, a 73-year-old British man died and several other passengers and crew suffered skull, brain and spine injuries when a Singapore Airlines-operated Boeing 777 hit severe turbulence on a flight from London and was forced to make an emergency landing in Bangkok.

A week later, 12 people were injured during turbulence on a Qatar Airways Boeing 787-9 flight, from Doha to Ireland.

Swelling anger



Syrians attend the burial of a man killed during clashes with Turkish troops in Afrin in northern Syria on Tuesday. Four persons were killed after armed protesters and Turkish forces clashed in Syria's Ankara-controlled northwest on Monday.

Israel pounds Gaza following evacuation order which will affect 2.5 lakh residents

Agence France-Presse GAZA STRIP

Israeli forces carried out deadly strikes on Tuesday on southern Gaza and battled militants after issuing an evacuation order which a UN agency said would impact 2,50,000 Palestinians.

Witnesses reported intense bombing and shelling around Khan Younis, southern Gaza's main city, from which Israeli troops withdrew in early April after a devastating month-long battle.

A hospital source in the city said shelling killed



Displaced Palestinians from eastern areas of Khan Younis arrive in the main city on Tuesday.

eight persons and wounded more than 30 others. The "bombardment" came after a rocket barrage from southern Israel on Monday morning claimed by the militant group Islamic Jihad, which has fought also in Gaza.

Prosecutors in Trump hush money case not opposed to delaying his sentencing

Associated Press NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

Manhattan prosecutors said on Tuesday they would not oppose former U.S. President Donald Trump's request to delay the sentencing in his hush money trial as he seeks to have the conviction overturned following a Supreme Court ruling that granted broad immunity protections to Presidents.



office said they would be open to a two-week delay in the July 11 sentencing in order to file a response to Mr. Trump. "Although we believe defendant's arguments to be without merit, we do not oppose his re-

quest" to delay the sentencing pending determination of the motion, the prosecutors wrote. The letter came one day after Mr. Trump's attorney requested the judge delay the sentencing as he weighs the high court's decision and how it could influence the New York case.

Trump's argument The lawyers argue that the Supreme Court's decision confirmed a position the defence raised earlier in the case that prosecutors should have been precluded from introducing some evidence the Trump team

said constituted official presidential acts, according to the letter. If a delay is indeed granted, it would push a sentencing decision past the Republican National Convention, which will kick off in Milwaukee on July 15.

That means that Mr. Trump, now the presumptive GOP nominee, could become the Republican presidential candidate while it remains unknown what sentence he will face. Mr. Trump's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Norway arrests man over attempted spying for China

Agence France-Presse OSLO

Norway's security service on Tuesday said it arrested a Norwegian man suspected of trying to spy on behalf of China.

The suspect was detained on Monday at Oslo's international airport as he returned from China, Thomas Blom, a spokesman for the service's counter-espionage unit, told reporters.

An Oslo court placed him in four-week pre-trial detention with a ban on communicating with the outside, and with the first two weeks to be spent in isolation.

The security services have not provided details on what information the suspect might have provided to China.

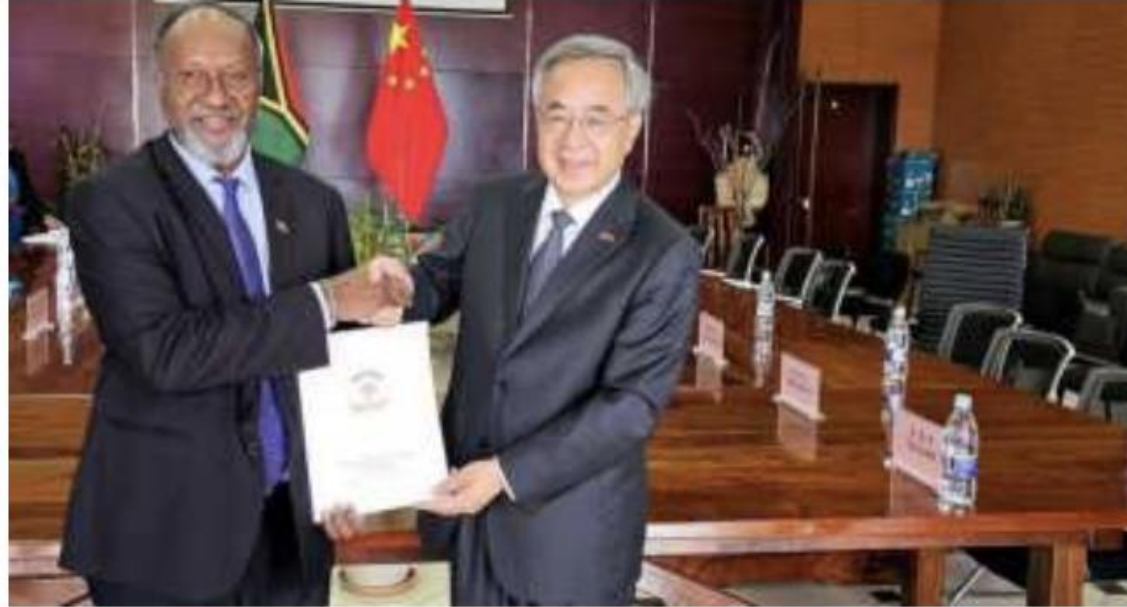
The suspect was politically active in a local branch of Norway's incumbent Labour Party.

A lawyer for the man, whose identity has not been revealed, said he denied the charges against him.

"He says he is innocent and that he is not an agent for China," the lawyer, Maria Dietrichson, said. He said he could not provide further details because of the sensitive nature of the accusations. The security services have not provided details on what information the suspect might have provided to China.

SYDNEY

China builds new presidential palace in Pacific's Vanuatu



iP

AFP


The government of cash-strapped Vanuatu will soon settle into a suite of new buildings funded by China, a move likely to reignite concerns about Beijing's reach in the South Pacific nation. At an official handover ceremony, Vanuatu Prime Minister Charlot Salwai announced the opening of the new presidential palace. AFP



Location: Vanuatu is a Melanesian archipelago in the South Pacific Ocean, located east of northern Australia, northeast of New Caledonia, and west of Fiji.



Islands: It comprises 83 islands, with 13 principal islands and numerous smaller ones, extending about 650 km north to south in a Y-shape.



Capital: Port-Vila, located on Efate Island in the Shefa province.

- 
- **History:**
 - **Colonial Era:** Vanuatu was known as the New Hebrides and was a jointly administered Anglo-French condominium.
 - **Independence:** The country gained independence on July 30, 1980, and was named the Republic of Vanuatu.



- **Government:**
- **Type:** Unitary parliamentary republic.
- **Head of State:** President Nikenike Vurobaravu.
- **Head of Government:** Prime Minister Charlot Salwai.
- **Administrative Divisions:** Vanuatu is divided into six provinces: Malampa, Penama, Sanma, Shefa, Tafea, and Torba.

- 
- **Demographics:**
 - **Population:** Approximately 332,600 (2024 estimate).
 - **Ethnic Groups:** Predominantly ni-Vanuatu (94%), with small percentages of Europeans, other Pacific Islanders, and Asians.
 - **Languages:** Official languages are Bislama, English, and French, with over 120 indigenous languages.
- 

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- **Economy:**
 - **Agriculture:** Main products include copra, coconuts, cocoa, coffee, taro, yams, and fruits.
 - **Exports:** Major exports are copra, beef, cocoa, timber, kava, and coffee.
 - **Tourism:** The country is known for its natural beauty and cultural festivals.
 - **Culture:**
 - **Festivals:** Notable festivals include the Pentecost Land Dive, Tanna Toka Dance, Rom dance of Ambrym, and Water Music custom festival.
- 

INITIAL REPORT SUGGESTS PEOPLE STUMBLED WHILE GATHERING SOIL PREACHER WALKED ON; CM ORDERS PROBE

At least 116 killed in stampede at Hathras religious gathering, most victims women

Satsang by local preacher had SDM permission but large crowd gathered: officials

DHEERAJ MISHRA & NEETIKA JHA
HATHRAS, JULY 2

A SATSANG by a local preacher in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras turned into the site of a tragedy as 116 people, almost all of them women, were killed in a stampede on Tuesday.

According to officials, the event in 'Phudra' village was addressed by Narayan Sakar Vishwa Hari aka Bhole Baba, who has been active in the region and adjoining districts for 27 years. A preliminary investigation points to a host of factors that led to the incident — thousands more than expected turning up at the satsang; many falling on the uneven surface while trying to collect soil the preacher had walked on before he left the venue; and healthcare facilities



A victim of the stampede at the district hospital in Hathras. *Abhinav Sahu* / FULL COVERAGE, P 7

struggling to keep pace with the rush of dead and injured.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh said after the uneven surface while trying to collect soil the preacher had walked on before he left the venue, and healthcare facilities

have been identified so far. No person is missing.

The chief minister (working for the preacher) had given an application that around 80,000 people will attend the programme. But many more arrived, breaching the limit. A huge

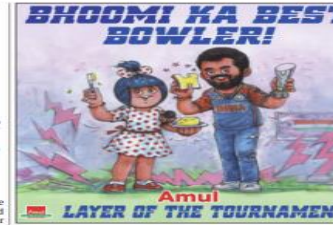
police force was deployed. I am told that people rushed to touch his feet, and tried to collect soil from where he walked, and a stampede took place. Many people fell in a nearby drain, he said. There were a total of 78

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, JULY 2

BEFORE HE became Narayan Sakar Vishwa Hari or Bhole Baba, the self-styled preacher who organised the satsang on Tuesday, he was Saraj Pal Singh, a constable with the Uttar Pradesh Police. Sources said Singh, 58, hails from a Dalit family in Bahadur Nagar village of Kanpur district, about 65 km from Hathras where the stampede occurred. After serving in the police force for about a decade, he left the job. His last posting was in Agra, said a police officer who visited Singh's village after the stampede. While the exact date is not known, Singh is reported to have left the police force some time in the 1990s. "He is married and does not have any children. After leaving the police force, he adopted the

name, Bhole Baba, while his wife is known as Mata Shree," said Zafar Ali, husband of Bahadur Nagar village pradhan, Najib Khanam. Ali said Singh's family was well-off, and he was the second of three brothers. While his elder brother died a few years ago, his younger brother, Babush, a farmer, still lives in the village with his family. "He built an ashram on his 30-high acre land in the village. People from other districts, and even states, would visit the ashram to seek his blessings; they were offered accommodation at the ashram," Ali said. According to him, Singh left the village about five years ago, suspecting a conspiracy against him. "He began his now residing in Rajasthan. Last year, he returned to the village and entrusted his property to a Trust. A manager oversees the affairs of the ashram," he said.



Works at Delhi CM house: On L-G order, 2 officers suspended, 5 others face action

Vigilance writes to CPWD, seeks ATR; show-cause notices went out last year

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

TWO DELHI officers have been suspended and action has been sought against another five said to have been involved in the construction and renovation of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence on Flag Staff Road, Civil Lines. In a letter to the Director General of the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) Tuesday, the Vigilance department of the Delhi government said Lt Governor VK Saxena has recommended action, from suspension to disciplinary proceedings, against five officers, since they have either retired or have transferred out of Delhi, and are under the jurisdiction of the CPWD. The two officers suspended are Executive Engineer Vinay Chaudhary and Assistant Engineer Rajat Kant. This is the first such action in the matter in which show-cause notices were sent to all seven officers a year ago. The matter of the renovation of the house was first raised officially last year when the Vigilance department raised questions regarding the expenditure and the procedure followed to undertake work.

While Kejriwal continues to be custody following his arrest in cases related to the Delhi excise policy, his family lives at the official residence. The area also includes the CM's camp office. The officers against whom action has been sought include two who have retired: A.K. Ahuja, then Principal Chief Engineer, and Shilpanath Dhara, then Executive Engineer (Central and New Division). Initiation of disciplinary proceedings for "major penalty" have been recommended against both. The other three officers are said Lt Governor VK Saxena has recommended action, from suspension to disciplinary proceedings, against five officers, since they have either retired or have transferred out of Delhi, and are under the jurisdiction of the CPWD. Reached for comment, Ahuja said, "I retired in September 2020 and the tender was floated in October. Work was awarded in December. There might be some error and I had no reply in the show-cause notice mentioned that I retired when work on this project started... It was mentioned in the notice sent to me that I recommended demolition of the structure but it was done by the Engineer-in-Chief, not me."

Ahishhek Raj said he would CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

REPLY TO DEBATE ON MOTION OF THANKS TO PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

PM on Rahul: Balak Buddhi... insults Hinduism; LoP's remarks expunged

Deletions on Hinduism, Agnipath, NEET: Rahul says truth will prevail



Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Lok Sabha, Tuesday. P7

Attacks Cong in over 2-hour speech amid Opp's Manipur chants

VIKAS PATHAK
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

MOURNING A scathing attack on the Congress a day after he and his party were targeted by the Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Lok Sabha Tuesday that his government had a clear mandate for stability and continuity with a third consecutive term in office while the Congress, like a "parasite" (parajiv) feeding on its allies for survival, remained in denial. Replying to the debate in the House on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, Modi, who spoke for over two hours amid Opposition chants of "Justice for Manipur" and "Bharat Jodo", accused the

Congress and its "entire ecosystem" of attempting to "look down upon, abuse and insult Hinduism" and of plotting a "conspiracy to falsely" claim Hindus were violent. Alleging that the Congress was trying to spread chaos in India and was deliberately abusing Hindus, the Prime Minister urged the Speaker to take strict action to "defend the dignity of the House" against what happened Monday, which was "a slap on the wisdom of our people and our great national traditions". This was a reference to Rahul Gandhi's speech in which he referred to Hinduism while attacking the BJP — remarks that were later expunged from the records (see accompanying report) — and prompted Modi to intervene. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

THE FIRST FACE-OFF

Both Government and Opposition seem to be still locked in campaign mode. Each should hit reset, refresh — and respect

IN PARLIAMENT

NET PAPER ROW: PERPETRATORS WILL NOT BE SPARED, PM TELLS HOUSE

KHARKE'S 'VARNA MINDEET' REMARK UPSETS DHIANKHAR



Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi in Lok Sabha, Tuesday.

by the treasury benches, which were expunged by Speaker Om Birla late Monday night.

The expunction move, which because public Tuesday, drew

Close to midnight, Cong Manipur MP's wake-up call to govt on its 'silence'

SUKRITA BARUAH
GUWAHATI, JULY 2

DAYS AFTER the Manipur crisis failed to find a place in the President's address to Parliament, newly elected Innes Manipur MP A Bimol Ajoikam late Monday came all guns blazing against the BJP-led NDA government for "ignoring" the strife-torn state. "Is this silence communicating to the people of the Northeast and particularly Manipur that you do not matter in the Indian



There's hurt, anger and pain, says A Bimol Ajoikam

State's scheme of things?" Ajoikam said, addressing the

REPORT, PAGE 7



BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNNY

EXPLAINED

GLOBAL ELECTIONS
IN IRAN PAGE 6

SHOW-CAUSE TO U.S. FIRM

Hindenburg denies Sebi claims on Adani short bet, names Kotak fund
Hindenburg neither client nor investor; Kotak Mahindra Bank

HINDENBURG DENIES SEBI CLAIMS ON ADANI SHORT BET, NAMES KOTAK FUND
HINDENBURG NEITHER CLIENT NOR INVESTOR; KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK

THE REPORT AND TRADE

THE JANUARY 2023 report by Hindenburg Research accused the Adani Group of stock manipulation and price rigging. The report led to cancellation of the follow-on public offer by Adani Enterprises Ltd. Sebi has alleged the report was "malicious" and sought to make profit.

Adani-led group had indulged in stock manipulation and accounting fraud, which the portfolio company had denied. The report was released prior to the January 2023 public offer of Adani Enterprises Ltd's (AEL) ₹3,000 crore follow-on public offer (FPO), which was later called off. The SEBI notice was issued to Hindenburg Research; Nathan Anderson, sole owner and holder member of Hindenburg; Hindenburg's client, Mark Kingdon, owner of Kingdon Capital, and his three entities.

Can you plan and fall in love, asks Bengal woman flogged in public

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SWEETI KUMARI

"Then ki bheebe chinta kora jee (can you plan and fall in love)?"

Days after a video came to light, showing a Trinamool Congress functionary flogging a 38-year-old woman at the centre of the

being beaten and humiliated in public behind her as long as she gets to "live life on her own terms."

The woman spoke to The Indian Express from a home where she is sequestered in Uttar Dinajpur. Outside, several policemen stand guard. The woman, who is married and has two children, said that five years ago, she fell in love with another man.

At first, they would meet in secret, she said. When her husband eventually found out, he asked her to leave home, and on June 27, she said she moved in

with the other man, who is 35 and also married.

"To many in the village, she said, it was not acceptable. On June 28, a "sathi sabha" or karni court was called, during which she was accused. TMC's Tajinal Islam alias JCB, showed up with a "clad in a black" shirt and holding a weapon that seemed custom-made to mete out public justice. It was Islam who led the assault, she said. Surrounded by a cross-section of men and the woman were flogged relentlessly, even as they writhed in pain on the ground and



Accused Tajinal Islam has been arrested. ANI

ANOTHER WOMAN BEATEN, KILLS SELF IN ANOTHER INCIDENT

Another woman reportedly died by suicide after she was allegedly beaten up by a group of people from her village over an alleged extramarital affair, in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal on June 29. Police said 16 persons have been arrested.

begged for mercy. The incident took place a month after she was thrown from the woman's home.

The woman said she had feared social "dishonourment" and so said "I am fine now, check on sathi sathi" (I am fine now, check on sathi sathi) in my home now, and I will not go back," she said. "I was kicked, beaten up and abused for falling in love, but perhaps it was because I broke social norms."

She said she has two children from her 18-year-old marriage. "They are grown up. Let me live my life as I wish, through the [law/justice] and

booked under charges of molestation and assault. "I don't know him, I didn't see him. Who hit me, I have no knowledge," the woman said. She is trying to put up a brave face. "I am fine now, check on sathi sathi" (I am fine now, check on sathi sathi) in my home now, and I will not go back," she said. "I was kicked, beaten up and abused for falling in love, but perhaps it was because I broke social norms."

She said she has two children from her 18-year-old marriage. "They are grown up. Let me live my life as I wish, through the [law/justice] and

then live life on my terms."

After the incident, she has become a political flashpoint in the state, the administration has instructed police to increase patrolling in rural areas and keep a check on sathi sathi (I am fine now, check on sathi sathi) in my home now, and I will not go back," she said. "I was kicked, beaten up and abused for falling in love, but perhaps it was because I broke social norms."

She said she has two children from her 18-year-old marriage. "They are grown up. Let me live my life as I wish, through the [law/justice] and

MIDNIGHT DRAMA IN KATHMANDU

Nepali Congress, CPN-UML strike deal to oust Prachanda, propose Oli as PM


PM says will not resign, to seek trust vote in Parliament

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, JULY 2

NEPAL TUESDAY woke up to a new political development that looked like a midnight coup against Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) with K P Sharma Oli, Prachanda's ally and chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist, all set to step into his shoes.

Prachanda put up a brave face and made it clear he will not resign following the withdrawal of support by CPN (UML) to his government and that he will seek a vote of confidence in Parliament.

Monday midnight, Oli and Nepali Congress chairman Sher Bahadur Deuba along with half a dozen leaders from their parties assembled at the President's secretariat where the CPN (UML) gave in writing that it had with-



PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda), K P Sharma Oli and Sher Bahadur Deuba

NUMBERS AGAINST RULING CPN(MC)

TOTAL MEMBERS IN NEPAL PARLIAMENT: 275

Nepali Congress	88
CPN(UML)	*79
Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre)	32
Rashtriya Swatantra party	21
Rastriya Prajatantra Party	14

*(including speaker)

(United Socialist-10, Janata Samajwadi (Ashok Rai)-7, JSP-5, Janamat-5, Nagarik Inmukti-4, Loktantrik Samajwadi Party-4 Janamorcha and Nepal Mazdoor Kisan party - one each, Independents-2)

138 seats in parliament
Simple majority

13 Nepal has had 13 governments in the last 16 years

03 Prachanda won three votes of confidence in Parliament during his one-and-a-half-year term

drawn its four-month-old support to the Prachanda-led government.

Deuba, 78, and Oli, 72, head of the two biggest parties, had decided to form a coalition govern-

ment, initially under the leadership of Oli, which will be headed by Deuba after 22 months.

Prime Minister Prachanda conveyed to President Ram Chandra Poudel that he would seek the vote of confidence in Parliament within a month.

Rashtriya Swatantra Party chief and Deputy PM Rabi Lamichhane accused the Nepali Congress and CPN-UML of forming the alliance after the Prachanda government started opening the files of corruption cases involving political leaders.

Prachanda, who heads Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre) that has 32 members in parliament, became Prime Minister in December 2022, initially with the support of the CPN (UML). A month after, Prachanda replaced CPN (UML) with Nepali Congress as a coalition partner, and then again roped in CPN (UML) in March, giving a rude shock to the Nepali Congress.

Oli was unhappy with the recent budget allocations. During their meeting on Monday Oli reportedly requested Prachanda to step down. Prachanda offered Oli the post of PM within the current ruling coalition, which the latter turned down, it said. **(WITHPTI)**

Largest Trade Partner:

India is Nepal's largest trade partner and the largest source of foreign investments.

Bilateral trade in 2018-19 was valued at INR 57,858 crore (US\$ 8.27 billion) **Trade Composition:**

Nepal's exports to India include agricultural products, textiles, and handicrafts.

India exports machinery, petroleum products, motor vehicles, and various consumer goods to Nepal .

Power Trade Agreement:

India and Nepal signed a long-term power trade agreement for the export of 10,000 MW of power from Nepal to India over the next decade

Development Assistance:

India provides significant development assistance to Nepal, focusing on infrastructure, health, education, and rural development

Post-earthquake reconstruction assistance includes a \$1 billion package, with both grants and concessional loans

- Consider the following statements regarding the trade relations between India and Nepal:
 1. India is the largest trade partner and source of foreign investments for Nepal.
 2. A long-term power trade agreement has been signed to export 10,000 MW of power from India to Nepal over the next decade.
 3. Nepal has signed multiple MoUs with India to enhance connectivity, including an electric rail link between Kathmandu and Raxaul.
 4. India provides significant development assistance to Nepal, focusing on infrastructure, health, education, and rural development.
- **Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**
- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1, 3, and 4 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

The background of the image is a dark, almost black, field filled with a dense array of vertical lines of varying heights and colors. The colors are primarily shades of green and purple, with some lines appearing as bright white or light blue. The lines are scattered across the entire frame, creating a textured, data-like appearance. In the center of this field, the text "National Statistics Day" is written in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

National Statistics Day

Recently, **National Statistics Day** was celebrated on **29th June 2024** marking the birth anniversary of **Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis**, a renowned Indian statistician and applied scientist.

The **theme** for Statistics Day 2024 is "**Use of Data for Decision-Making**".

This day has been celebrated **since 2007** to create **public awareness** of the **role and importance of statistics** in socio-economic planning and policy formulation for the development of the country.

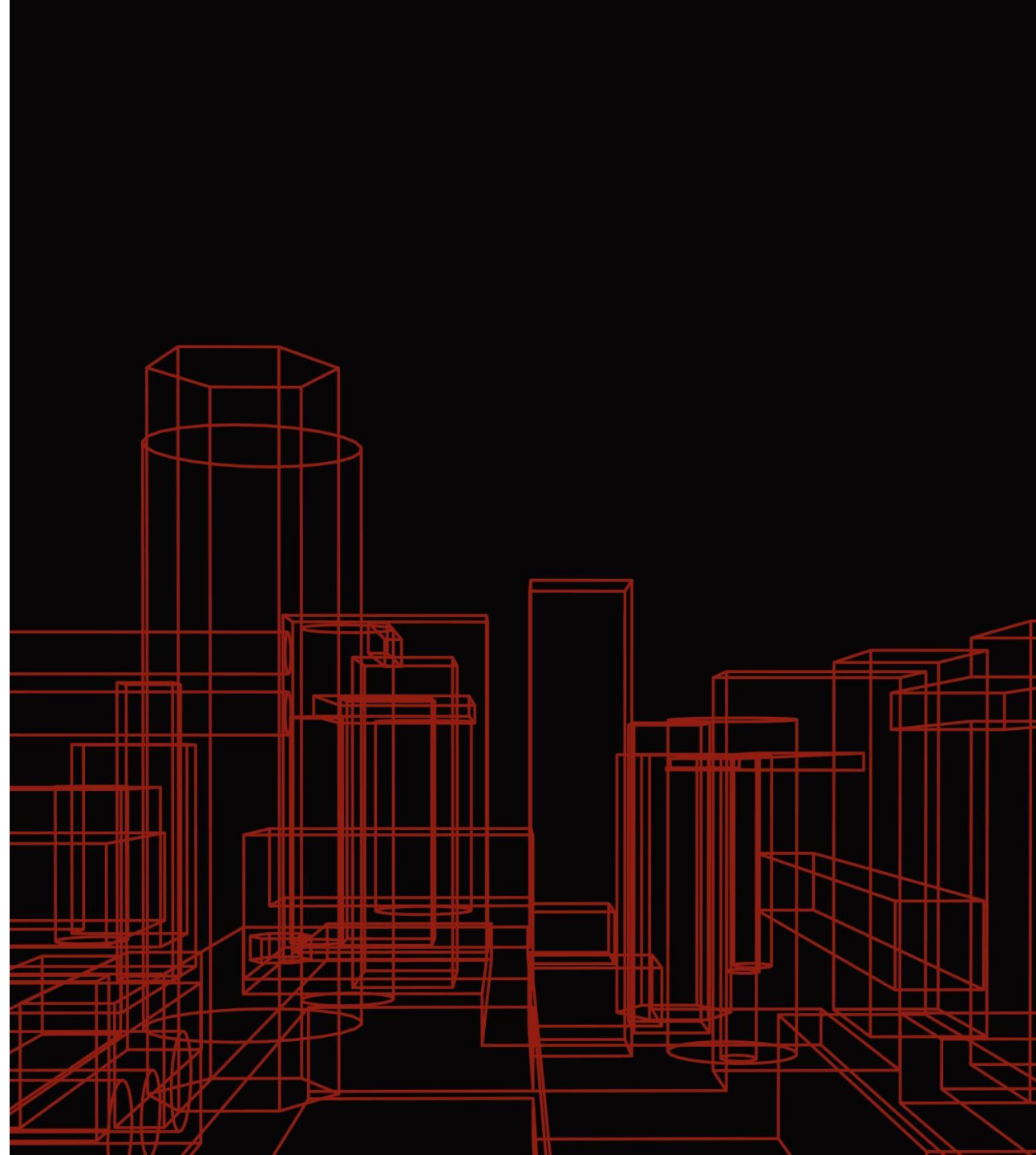
The e-Sankhyiki data portal and Central Data Repository were launched on this day.

Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis was known for pioneering the Mahalanobis distance and statistical measure.

He was a member of India's inaugural Planning Commission and was instrumental in establishing the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in 1931.

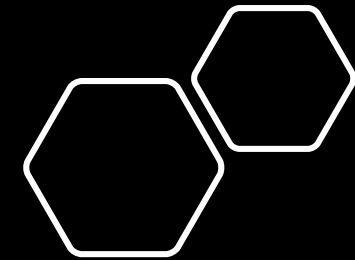
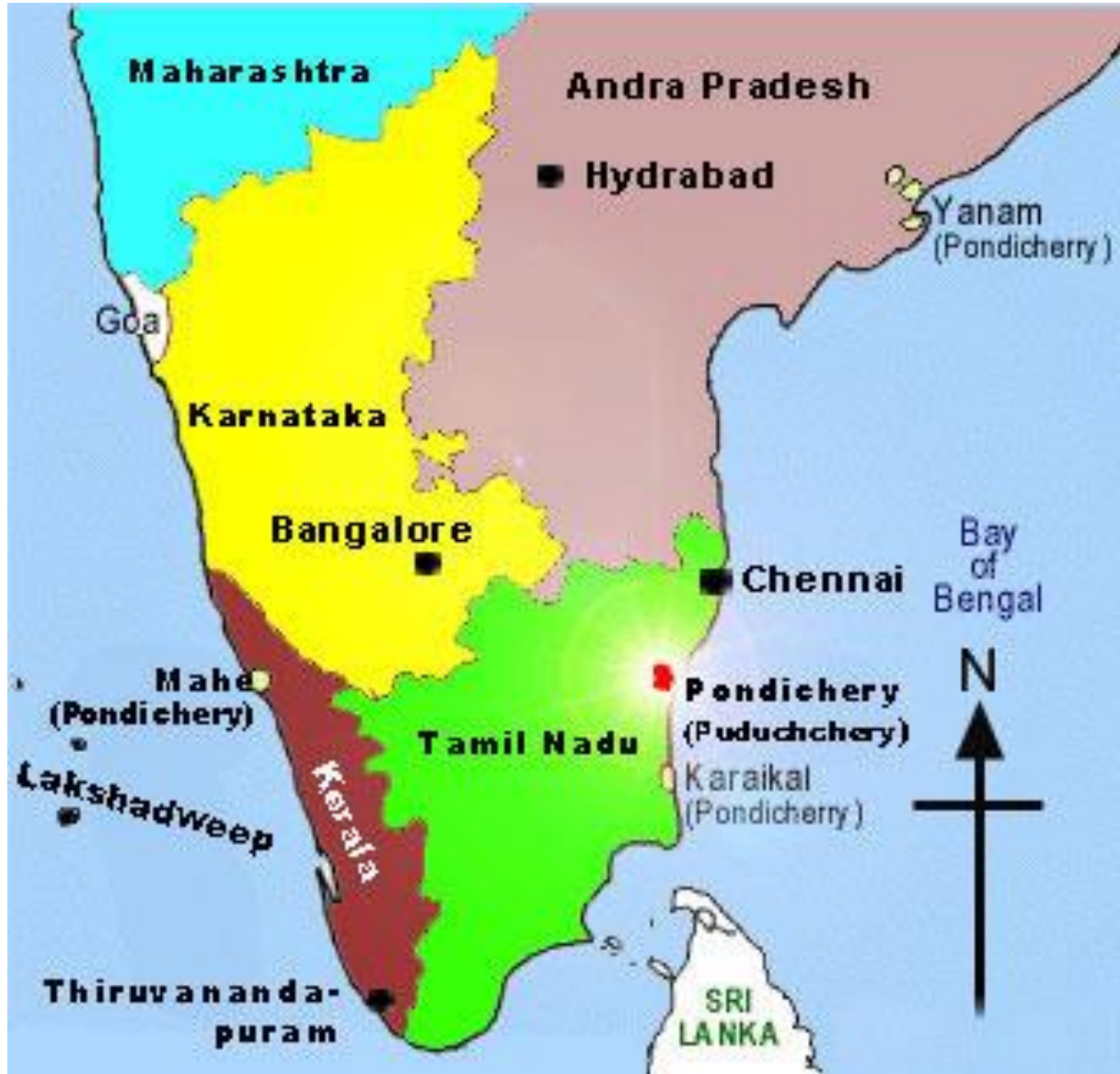
He was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan for his contribution to science. World Statistics Day is celebrated by the United Nations every 5 years on 20th October

Foundation Day of Puducherry



- Every year, the 1st July is marked as the foundation day of Puducherry as on this day the Government of Union Territories Act 1963 providing Puducherry with Legislative Assemblies and Council of Ministers came into force.

- **The present UT of Puducherry was formed in 1962 out of the four former colonies of French (Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam) India.**
- **The Puducherry and Karaikal regions are surrounded by the state of Tamilnadu while Mahe is surrounded by the state of Kerala and Yanam by the state of Andra Pradesh.**
- **To accommodate the diverse culture, due to its multi-state location, Puducherry has been recognized as a Union Territory.**



- Ancient History:
- Puducherry has a flourishing maritime history and excavations at Arikamedu show that Romans came here to trade in the 1st Century AD. In around the fourth century A.D.
- Puducherry area was part of the Pallava Kingdom of Kanchipuram after which Chola took over it.
- After short rule of Muslim rulers of the North, the Vijayanagar Empire took control of almost all the South of India which lasted till 1638, after which Sultan of Bijapur took control.

- **Colonial History:**
- **The foundation of modern Puducherry was laid in the year 1673 after the French East India Company successfully obtained firman (a permit) from the Qiladar of Valikondapurarm under the Sultan of Bijapur.**
- **Puducherry was captured by the Dutch in 1693 but was returned to the French company by the Treaty of Ryswick in 1699.**

- **In 1674, Francois Martin was appointed as the first Governor by the French East India Company which undertook the ambitious project to transform Pondicherry from a small fishing village into a flourishing port town.**
 - **Joseph Francis Dupleix got a high post at Pondicherry in 1720.**
- **After becoming Governor in 1674, Francois Martin developed it as a place of importance and as the stronghold of the French in India.**

- The Battle of Wandiwash (1760) which was the decisive battle of the Third Carnatic War was won by the English and Treaty of Peace of Paris (1763), that followed the war, restored to the French their factories in India (including Puducherry).
- Under Treaty of Peace of Paris (1763) Puducherry and Chandannagar were returned to France but they could only have trading activities in them.

- **However, Puducherry became officially an integral part of India after the French Parliament in Paris ratified the Treaty with India in 1963.**

- **Culture:**

- **Sri Aurobindo Ashram (a well planned town with Franco Tamil architecture) and Auroville (an experimental township) was an attempt to implement Sri Aurobindo's vision of new forms of individual and collective life, preparing the way towards a brighter future for the whole earth.**
- **Puducherry is an Indian Union Territory that offers a taste of France in India (due to its colonial history).**

• **With reference to Pondicherry (now Puducherry), consider the following statements: (2010)**

1. The first European power to occupy Pondicherry were the Portuguese.

2. The second European power to occupy Pondicherry were the French.

3. The English never occupied Pondicherry.

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

• **(a) 1 only**

• **(b) 2 and 3 only**

• **(c) 3 only**

• **(d) 1, 2 and 3**

GST Completes Seven Years



-
- As the Goods and Services Tax (GST) completes seven years in June 2024, the gross monthly collection reached Rs 1.74 lakh crore, marking a 7.7% increase compared to the previous year.
 - **About**
 - The **101st Amendment Act of 2016** paved the way for the introduction of GST and was implemented on **1 July 2027**, in India.
 - The GST taxpayer base has increased to **1.46 crore in April 2024** from 1.05 crore as of April 2018.

Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is a **constitutional body established under Article 279A** of the Indian Constitution through the **101st Amendment Act of 2016**.

The Union Finance Minister is the Chairperson of the GST Council.

-
- The GST Council makes recommendations to the Union and the States on key GST-related issues, including:
 - Taxes, cesses, and surcharges to be subsumed under GST
 - Goods and services to be subject to or exempt from GST
 - Model GST laws, principles of levy, and apportionment of IGST
 - Tax rates, thresholds, special provisions, and any other matter relating to GST

-

Salient Features of GST

One Nation, One Tax: GST brought uniformity in the tax structure across India, eliminating the cascading effect of taxes.

Destination-based Tax: GST is a destination-based tax, levied at each stage of the supply chain, from the manufacturer to the consumer.

Input Tax Credit (ITC)

Online Compliance: GST introduced an online portal, the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), for registration, filing of returns, payment of taxes, and other compliance-related activities.

Anti-Profiteering Measures: The government established the National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA) to monitor and ensure that businesses do not engage in unfair pricing practices and profiteering due to the implementation of GST.

Composition Scheme: The composition scheme is available for small taxpayers with a turnover below a prescribed limit . Under this scheme, businesses are required to pay a fixed percentage of their turnover as GST and have simplified compliance requirements.



Hurricane Beryl

FOX 35

HURRICANE BERYL

STORM TEAM

HISTORIC STORM

ADVISORY	LOCATION	WIND	MOVEMENT	PRESSURE
8:00PM	13.4°N 64.0°W	155 MPH	WNW 21 MPH	938 MB



-
- Hurricane Beryl has made landfall with floods in Barbados, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada.
 - **How do hurricanes form?**
 - Warm ocean water and humid, moist air are the two key components needed for hurricanes.
 - Warm seawater evaporates, releasing heat energy into the atmosphere.
 - The storm's winds become stronger as a result. Without it, hurricanes can't become stronger and will eventually die.

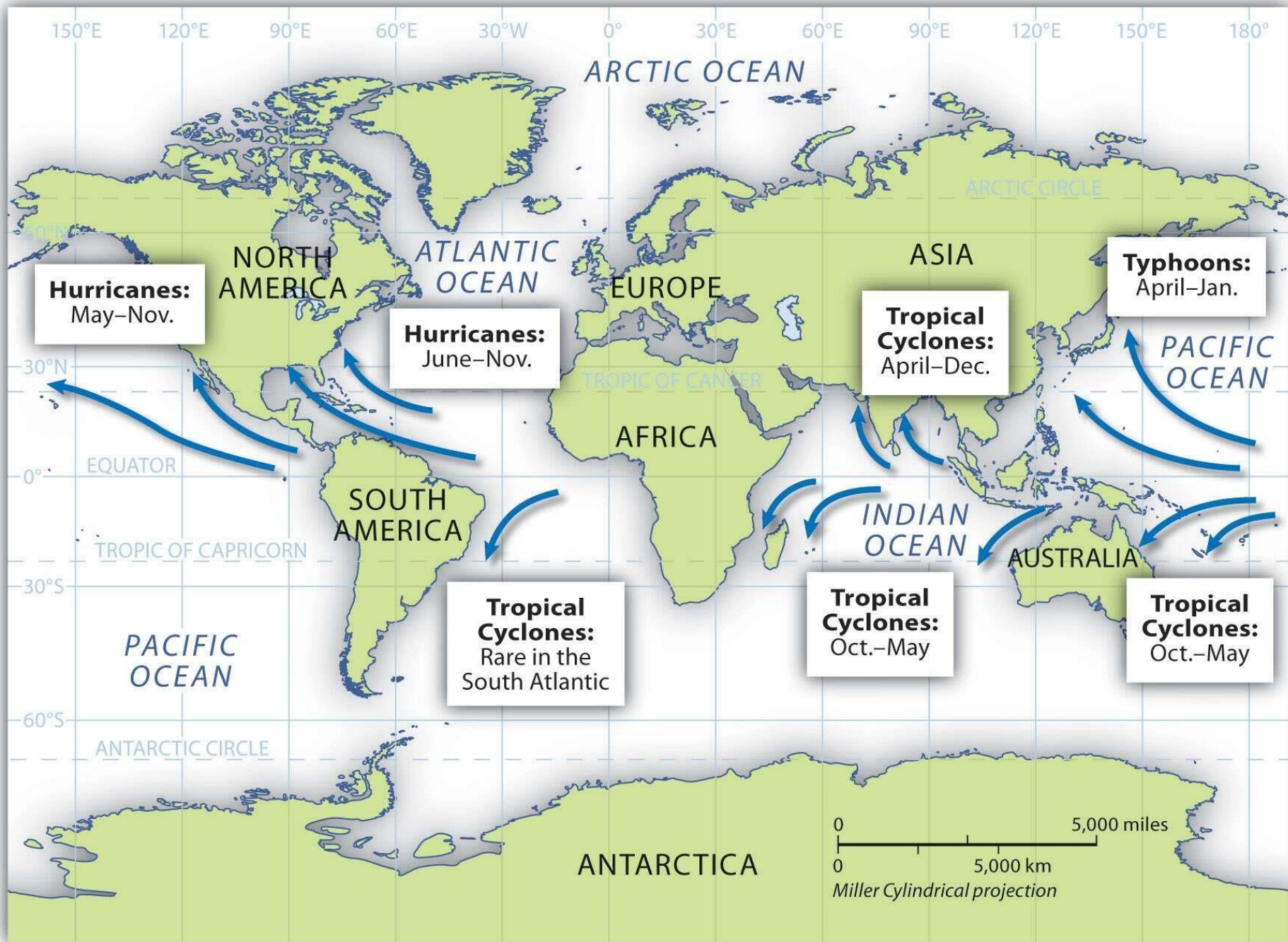


Fig: Distribution of cyclones in tropical regions.

TROPICAL CYCLONE NAMES

AROUND THE WORLD

CYCLONIC
STORM

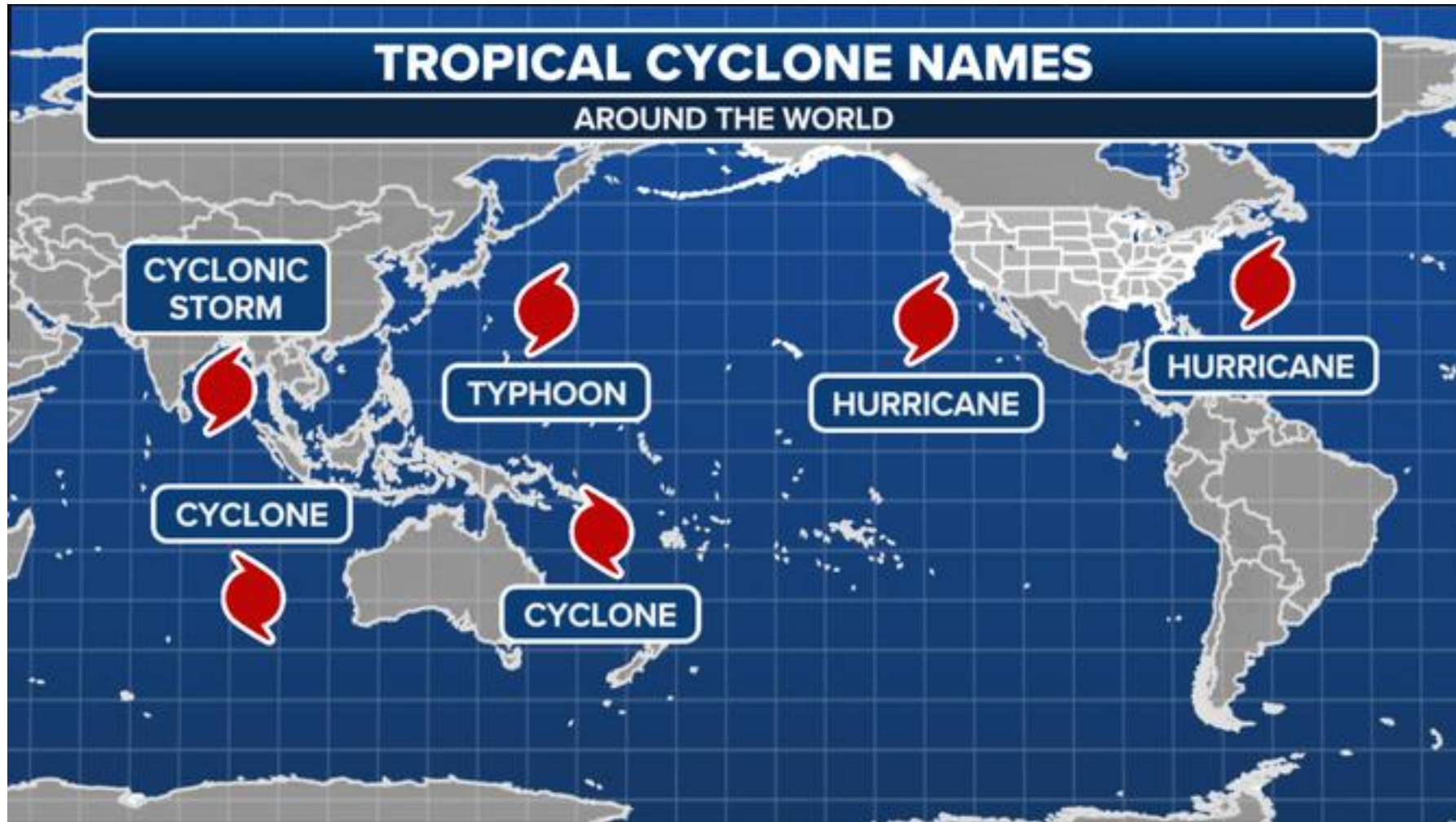
TYPHOON

HURRICANE

HURRICANE

CYCLONE

CYCLONE



- **Largest Ambulance Network:**
- Pakistan's Edhi Foundation operates the world's largest volunteer ambulance service. Founded by Abdul Sattar Edhi, the foundation provides a range of humanitarian services, including emergency medical aid, orphanages, and shelters for the homeless.





Word of the day

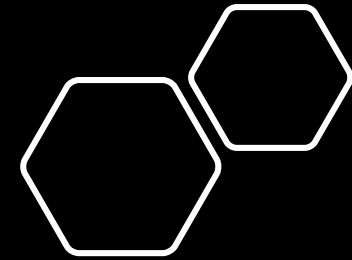
Truculent:

defiantly aggressive

Usage: It was a truculent speech against the new government.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/truculentpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈtɹʌkjʊlənt/



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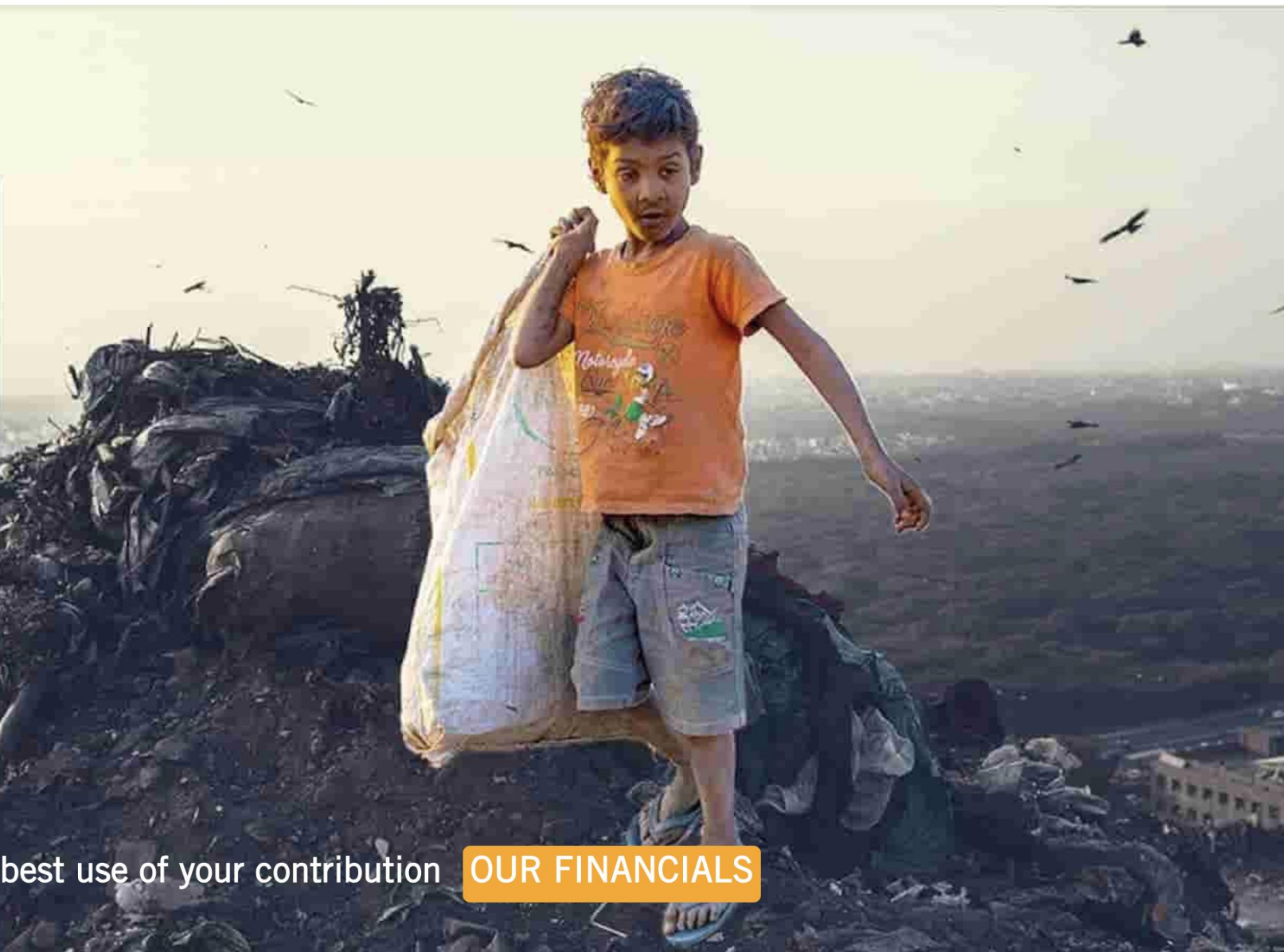
• **LIVE**
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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some wearing suits. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. An orange horizontal bar is located in the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

Thank you
guys.
