

# Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता



The Indian EXPRESS

THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS



5  
The Hindu



2  
PIB, PR4 &  
Other  
newspaper



0  
The Indian  
Express



0  
Jansatta



0  
Financial  
Express

# Class24 App download

**Class pdf**

**10 Questions  
test related to  
this class**

# CURRENT AFFAIRS COURSE

- ✓ UPDATED CURRENT AFFAIRS (2023+2024)|
- ✓ COMPLETE NOTES(PDF)

# COMPLETE GK/GS COURSE

- ✓ STATIC GK
- ✓ HISTORY
- ✓ POLITY
- ✓ GEOGRAPHY
- ✓ ECONOMICS

USE CODE

**B60**

CALL FOR SUPPORT: +91-7414862047



**• LIVE DOUBT SESSION**





GIVE A CHILD THE GIFT OF EDUCATION TODAY

Join Hands



We make the best use of your contribution OUR FINANCIALS



Go Big, or Go  
Home.

Eliza Dushku



**EMERGENCY ANNIVERSARY**  
June 25 is 'Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas': Centre  
NEWS » PAGE 4



**RE-ELECTION BID**  
Biden faces more pressure  
WORLD » PAGE 12



**AFTER MODI-PUTIN MEET**  
Doval, Sullivan hold talks to further ties  
NEWS » PAGE 4



**HOME TO ETHNIC MINORITIES**  
Freedom and control in Xinjiang  
The emphasis on Chinese nationalism in province  
GROUND ZERO » PAGE 7



**LEGEND BIDS ADIEU**  
Anderson finishes his Test career on a high  
SPORT » PAGE 14

**INSIDE**



**SC slams Delhi L-G Saxena, govt. on felling of trees**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court on Wednesday found that more than 420 trees were felled in the Delhi ridge area after Lieutenant Governor of Delhi V.K. Saxena said that he had given his approval. » PAGE 2

**Centre broadens administrative role of J&K L-G**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Union Ministry of Home Affairs on Friday widened the ambit of the administrative role of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir by amending the Transaction of Business Rules to give the L-G more say in matters pertaining to public order. » PAGE 3

**GST Council reconstitutes reform panel**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has reconstituted a ministerial group tasked with identifying possible sources of revenue evasion, improving coordination between central and State authorities, and reviewing systems in place for indirect tax. » PAGE 11

**PTI 'eligible' for reserved seats in Pak. parliament**

**ISLAMABAD**  
Pakistan's Supreme Court ruled on Friday that jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party was eligible for over 20 reserved seats in the national legislature, putting pressure on the coalition government. » PAGE 12

**Prachanda loses trust vote in Nepal**

**Sanjeev Sateelnya**  
KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" on Friday lost his vote of confidence, leading to the fall of his one-and-a-half-year-old government.

Prachanda, 69, had sought a vote of confidence after his coalition partner, the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), on July 3 withdrew its support to the government. After Friday's vote, Speaker Devraj Ghimire announced that of the 288 parliamentarians present, 63 voted in the Prime Minister's favour while 194 voted against. One lawmaker abstained, in the 275-member Parliament.

President Ram Chandra Poudel on Friday called on parties to present a claim, latest by 5 p.m. Sunday, to form a new government. As per a deal reached between the Nepali Con-

**Supreme Court grants Kejriwal interim bail in excise policy case**

Relief from the top court in the ED case will not see the Delhi Chief Minister released from jail as he is under remand in a related CBI case; court leaves it to Kejriwal to take a call on stepping down from CM post in light of allegations against him

**Krishnadass Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday granted interim bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in money laundering charges linked to the excise policy case, but left him to take a call on whether he should now step down from office, in light of the allegations against him.

The relief would also not translate to an actual release from jail as Mr. Kejriwal was separately arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under the Prevention of Corruption Act in connection with the same case on June 25. He is currently under remand in the CBI case.

**Long haul**  
A timeline of the orders pronounced by courts following Kejriwal's arrest in the liquor policy case on March 21

**April 9:** Delhi High Court suspends Chief Minister's challenge against his arrest.  
**May 21:** The Supreme Court gives Arvind Kejriwal's appeal staying the bail.  
**June 20:** A Special Court grants Kejriwal bail.  
**June 21:** The High Court suspends Kejriwal's release and re-arrests him after ED's appeal.  
**June 28:** The High Court gives Arvind Kejriwal's appeal staying the bail.  
**July 13:** The Supreme Court grants Kejriwal interim bail.

stance was on May 10 during the Lok Sabha election. Justice Khanna said Mr. Kejriwal deserved interim bail. "Sacrosanct rights" His rights of life and liberty were "sacrosanct". He had been incarcerated for over 90 days. The court reiterated the same bail conditions imposed on Mr. Kejriwal in its May 10 interim order, including a bar on him from visiting the Chief Minister's office or signing official files.

The two-judge Bench asked a larger Bench to frame questions and decide bail conditions that could be imposed by courts in future in cases like that of Mr. Kejriwal, a Chief Minister in custody and facing money laundering charges.

The court also referred to a larger Bench questions raised by Mr. Kejriwal on whether an arrest under Section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) could be quashed on the ground that such an arrest was "needless" and unnecessary.

Mr. Kejriwal had argued that the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) had registered the case related to the now-scrapped excise policy back in August 2022 and only found it "needful and necessary" to arrest him nearly two years later on March 21, within a few days after the Model Code of Conduct came into force for the 2024 election.

"ED CANNOT ACT ON WHIMS" » PAGE 5

**Monsoon mayhem**



**Raging current:** Nagali Army troops during a rescue operation after a landslide swept two buses off a highway and plunged them into the tributary river in Chitwan, Nepal. At least 63 people, including 7 Indian nationals, are believed to be missing. (AP) (SPORT ON PAGE 14)

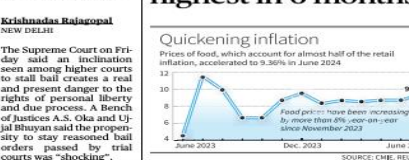
**Stay on bail should only be granted in rare cases: SC**

**Krishnadass Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Friday said an inclination toward higher courts to stall bail creates a real and present danger to the rights of personal liberty and due process. A Bench of Justices A.S. Okar and J. Lalit Bhuyan said the propensity to stay reasoned bail orders passed by trial courts was "shocking".

"Stay on bail should not be granted except in very rare and exceptional cases," Justice Okar said.

Full Report » PAGE 3

**June food inflation accelerates to 9.4%, highest in 6 months**



**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI  
it the eighth successive month of double-digit rise in prices.

Prices of pulses rose 16.3%, the thirteenth successive month of 10% inflation, while the price rise in fruits accelerated to 7.88%.

"Major worry" Crisil chief economist Dharmakirti Joshi termed the inflation in vegetables and foodgrains a major worry but hoped that the monsoon's progress should cool food inflation in coming months.

However, non-food inflation which eased for the seventh month in a row, rebounded due to the recent firming up in international freight costs, crude prices and telecom tariff hikes, he cautioned.

Personal care products continue to see high inflation of 8.2% due to increase in prices of products by manufacturers," Jagged Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabarwal said.

Another worry, he said, is that half of India's States have recorded an inflation rate above the national average of 5.1%, with Odisha seeing the highest uptick of 7.2%.

**Centralised hiring leads to cultural barriers in Eklavya schools**

unfamiliar with the local language and culture. Until last year, staff recruitment for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs' flagship Eklavya schools was done by the State authorities. In the 2023 Budget Session of Parliament, however, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the responsibility was being shifted to the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), which has now been given the task of staffing 36,000 positions in over 400 Eklavya schools across the country.

positions. However, given the new requirement of Hindi competency, a large number of selected candidates hail from Hindi-speaking States, many of whom now want transfers from their postings. Government sources said that NESTS will soon roll out a transfer policy, which is likely to be modelled on similar policy for the Jawahar Nava Vidyalayas (JNVs) and EMRSs. The examination was held on a similar policy, which is likely to be modelled on similar policy for the Jawahar Nava Vidyalayas (JNVs) and EMRSs.

ry for JNV and KV recruitment as well. Unlike in KV, however, where students hail from the country as they are often family members of Central government employees, most tribal students in Eklavya schools come from tribal areas. These communities have very specific contexts under which learning can be made conducive and it is the laws and regulations that have teachers who understand that context," said Aparna Choudhary, a social worker who runs the Delhi-based Karfa Initiative, which has worked with JNVs and EMRSs.

# Doval and Sullivan hold talks amid strain in ties over Russia

The conversation over a call comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Moscow; Sullivan had earlier warned that considering Russia as a long-term, reliable partner was a 'bad bet' as it would choose China over India if required

**Subhasini Halder**  
NEW DELHI

**A**mid a strain over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Moscow this week, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval spoke to his American counterpart Jake Sullivan on Friday evening, when they agreed to "work closely" to further advance bilateral ties. They also discussed the upcoming Quad Foreign Ministers meeting to be held later this month, and the leaders' summit, that could possibly be held later this year.

The conversation followed days of statements by the U.S. administration, expressing concerns about India's ties with Russia and the Modi-Putin meeting, as well as conversations between U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell and Foreign Secretary Vijay Khatia as well as U.S. State Department officials and India's acting Ambassador in Washington. On



Jake Sullivan and Ajit Doval held a discussion on strengthening bilateral ties, the Ministry of External Affairs said. FILE PHOTO.

Thursday, U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti had warned that the U.S. should not be "taken for granted", while Mr. Sullivan said in a television interview that India was placing a "bad bet" on Russia.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said that the two NSAs, who had met last in June in New Delhi, discussed a "wide range of issues of bilateral, regional and international concern" and up-

coming high-level engagements under the India-U.S.-Japan-Australia Quad framework. Sources told *The Hindu* that the Quad foreign ministers meeting was to be scheduled in Tokyo on July 29, after the ASEAN Foreign Ministers outreach meetings in Vientiane, Laos. The meeting has not been officially announced so far, and the MHA statement is the first sign that the Quad PM meeting has been confirmed for July. In addition,

India is due to host the Quad Leaders' summit in 2024, although that will depend on the U.S. elections in November.

### Global challenges

"The NSAs agreed to work closely to further advance India-U.S. relations, which are built on shared values and common strategic and security interests. They reiterated the need to work collectively to address global challenges to peace and security and further expand the Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership," the MHA statement said, but did not specify to the Russia visit, nor did it clarify who had initiated the jurisdiction. On Thursday, at the end of the NATO summit in Washington, where Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and leaders of Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea were also invited for what Mr. Sullivan called a "commitment to common defence" against adversaries

like Russia and China. Speaking to MSNBC Television, Mr. Sullivan had said that the U.S. had told every country, including India, that a "bet on Russia as a long-term, reliable partner is not a good bet". He warned that Russia was becoming a "junior partner" and shared values and would "side with China over India any day of the week". At least two U.S. news organisations, including the *Washington Post* and Bloomberg, also reported on a briefing by senior U.S. officials who said that the Biden administration had reached out through several channels to the Modi government, but felt "frustrated" by Mr. Modi's warm meetings with Mr. Putin. The officials quoted said that they had even asked that Mr. Modi reschedule his visit to avoid "deeply inappropriate" meetings coinciding with the NATO summit in Washington. They also noted that Mr. Putin as "isolated".

# 3 Railway employees suspended over train collision in Bengal

**Shihy Sabay Singh**  
KOLKATA

The inquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) into the accident involving the Kanchanjunga Express and a goods train in Darjeeling district of West Bengal on June 17 has reached completion and a final report is being awaited.

"The CRS has completed questioning and a final report is expected any time," a senior Railway official told *The Hindu*.

According to officials, three railway employees have been suspended. They are the Rangapali station superintendent, the signal technician at the section between Rangapali and Chhatrabhat, and the guard of the goods train that hit the Kanchanjunga Express.

Several questions were raised about the automatic signal system not working

### The Commissioner of Railway Safety has completed inquiry into the June 17 incident

and manual memos issued by the stationmaster of the Rangapali station to both trains. Three employees — the loco pilot of the goods train, a guard of the Kanchanjunga Express, and a railway Mail Services employee — were among the 10 people that died in the accident. One of the loco pilots of the goods train who survived the crash deposed before the CRS.

A senior Railway official said the suspension was not punishment but a step to take them off duty so they can be available for the inquiry. If after the completion of the inquiry they are found guilty then action will be taken against them," the official said.

# Centre amends rules to broaden the administrative role of J&K L-G

**Vijaya Singh**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Friday widened the ambit of the administrative role of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir by amending the Transaction of Business Rules. The amendments give the L-G more say in matters pertaining to police and public order, PFI



The amendments give the L-G of Jammu and Kashmir more say in matters pertaining to police and public order. PFI

Territories J&K and Ladakh, the latter without an assembly, J&K has been under Central rule since June 2018. The government has said that Statehood will be restored after Assembly elections are held. The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has ordered the Election Commission to conduct elections to J&K Assembly before September 30, 2024. On Friday, the MHA notified the amended Rules

"No proposal which requires the concurrence of the Finance Department with regard to 'Police', 'Public Order', 'All India Service' and 'Anti Corruption Bureau' to exercise the discretion of the Lieutenant Governor under the Act shall be submitted to the L-G.

All matters connected with Prisons, Directorate of Prosecution and Forensic Science Laboratory are also to be submitted to the L-G.

has been placed before the Lieutenant Governor through the Chief Secretary, the notification said. It added another provision that the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs shall submit the proposal for appointment of Advocate-General and other Law Officers to assist the Advocate-General in the court proceedings, for approval of the Lieutenant Governor through the Chief Secretary and the Chief Minister.

It said that any proposal regarding grant or refusal of prosecution sanction or filing of appeal shall be placed before the Lieutenant Governor through the Chief Secretary by the Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

All matters connected with Prisons, Directorate of Prosecution and Forensic Science Laboratory are also to be submitted to the L-G.

# Net tax receipts up 19.5%, corporate tax share at 36.6%

**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI

Growth in India's net direct tax collections slowed slightly to 19.54% by July 11, relative to a 21% rise recorded by June 17, with revenues hitting 57.74 lakh crore, the Income Tax department said on Friday.

Personal income tax (PIT) receipts constituted 60.2% of the net collections at 34.46 lakh crore, rising 21.8% year-on-year, while corporate taxes were up 18.6% to 10.62 lakh crore, reflecting a 12.5% growth.

With stock market trading volumes rising, receipts from the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) soared to 116,634 crore, 2.3 times the receipts at the same time last year, combined with STT receipts, net PIT collections were up 24.1%, almost twice the growth recorded in net corporate taxes.

By July 11, the IT department had issued 270,502 orders as refunds to taxpayers

# Bishops meet PM, ask him to ensure peace in Manipur

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

A delegation of bishops, representing the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), met Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Friday and urged him to ensure peace in Manipur. The bishops conveyed their apprehensions on the "rumours" that the restoration of Dalit tribals will be stopped and expressed concerns about the "increasing attacks" against Christians for alleged forced conversions.

CBCI president Andrews Thathath told reporters that the PM had conveyed to them that the government was taking all steps to ensure peace in Manipur. "He said it is an ethnic conflict and it does not have a communal colour," Mr. Thathath said, adding that they did not ask Mr. Modi to visit Manipur.

They also raised the issue of regulations under Foreign Contributions Regulation Act on NGOs. They said many Christians are facing undue challenges during the renewal of their FCRA registration.

Justice Oka said bail conditions set by the trial court were safeguard enough to prevent an accused from absconding or influencing witnesses.

Solicitor-General Tushar Prasad said that bail conditions work only as long as the accused remains within the jurisdiction of the court. There were cases in which the accused got bail and flew the coop to places which did not have an extradition treaty.

Mr. Mehta suggested that if the court in its judgment, could insist that High Courts give reasons while staying a bail order.

# Net tax receipts up 19.5%, corporate tax share at 36.6%

**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI

Growth in India's net direct tax collections slowed slightly to 19.54% by July 11, relative to a 21% rise recorded by June 17, with revenues hitting 57.74 lakh crore, the Income Tax department said on Friday.

Personal income tax (PIT) receipts constituted 60.2% of the net collections at 34.46 lakh crore, rising 21.8% year-on-year, while corporate taxes were up 18.6% to 10.62 lakh crore, reflecting a 12.5% growth.

With stock market trading volumes rising, receipts from the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) soared to 116,634 crore, 2.3 times the receipts at the same time last year, combined with STT receipts, net PIT collections were up 24.1%, almost twice the growth recorded in net corporate taxes.

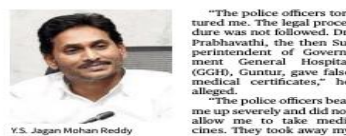
By July 11, the IT department had issued 270,502 orders as refunds to taxpayers

# Jagan Mohan Reddy, two IPS officers booked for former MP's 'custodial torture'

**Rajalaxmi Srinivas**  
VIJAYAWADA

The Nagarampalem Police of Guntur district have registered a case against YSRCP president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, two IPS officers P.V. Sunil Kumar and P. Seetharamanjayulu and others on charges of torturing former YSRCP Narsapuram MP K. Raghuram Krishna Reddy in 2021.

Mr. Raju quit the YSRCP and joined the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) ahead of the 2024 general election and won from Undi Assembly constituency. "Mr. Ramakrishna Raju lodged a police complaint, alleging that P.V. Sunil Kumar, then District Director of AP-CID, P. Seetharamanjayulu, then Additional D-G (Intelligence), and CID Additional Superintendent



of Police R. Vijay Paul tortured him in custody and denied him the right to pass word," the former MP alleged. The police registered cases against Mr. Reddy, Mr. Raju and his son Anand. An Additional Superintendent of Police, the then superintendent of the government hospital and the then Director of Prisons to its office in Guntur, alleging that he was subjected to third degree torture when he was in custody.

# NIA chargesheets 2 persons in IS terror conspiracy case

**Abhinav Deshpande**  
MUMBAI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday chargesheeted two persons, including a Libya-based terrorist, in the IS terror conspiracy case connected with the global terror network's model in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (Aurangabad).

The accused, Mohammed Zohab Khan, who was arrested by the agency in February following an extensive search across multiple locations, was chargesheeted by NIA along with another person, Mohammed Shoeb Khan, who had planned to fly to Afghanistan or Turkey after executing a series of terror attacks in India as part of the conspiracy, were also recruited vulnerable youth to carry out terror attacks at various locations across India, the agency said. The duo was booked

under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The NIA, in the chargesheet, has mentioned about international linkages in the conspiracy with involvement of foreign-based handlers of IS.

Investigations in the case had revealed a web of anti-India activities in the two accused. The agency found out that the two men had taken a 'bayath' (pledge of allegiance) towards the self-proclaimed Khalifa of IS.

The accused, who had planned to fly to Afghanistan or Turkey after executing a series of terror attacks in India as part of the conspiracy, were also recruited vulnerable youth to carry out terror attacks at various locations across India, the agency said. The duo was booked

# Video clip shows trainee IAS officer's mother brandishing gun and threatening farmer

**Shubhojit Banerjee**  
MUMBAI

A day after the Centre set up a panel to investigate trainee IAS officer Pooja Khedkar's mother's alleged brandishing of a gun and threatening a farmer, a video clip showing her mother brandishing a gun and threatening a farmer in a case of land dispute.

The video clip, said to be at least a year old, shows Ms. Pooja Khedkar's mother, Manorama Khedkar verbally browbeating a man, presumably a farmer, threatening to "teach her hand". The two-minute video shows Ms. Manorama, accompanied by bouncers, arguing about ownership of a plot of land in Mulshi tehsil with the farmer. The video was installed on a website for the promotion of the extremist and violent ideology of IS.

### Pune (Rural) Police have decided to investigate the clip, which is related to a land dispute

When farmers tried to lodge a complaint with police over Ms. Manorama Khedkar's behaviour, their applications allegedly went unheeded. However, with Ms. Khedkar's name now under the scanner, the Pune (Rural) Police have decided to probe the video clip and were ascertaining the facts of the case. While authorities said they would investigate if Ms. Manorama Khedkar has a licence to own a firearm, the matter is in court. To this, Ms. Manorama Khedkar is alleged warning the man not to "teach her the rules".

Meanwhile, the Mumbai Police have reported to the Maharashtra government that Pooja Khedkar had allegedly carried out a "teach her a lesson" on the day of the argument. The Mumbai Police have reported to the Maharashtra government that Pooja Khedkar had allegedly carried out a "teach her a lesson" on the day of the argument.



# Net tax receipts up 19.5%, corporate tax share at 36.6%

**Vikas Dhoot**

NEW DELHI

Growth in India's net direct tax collections slowed slightly to 19.54% by July 11, relative to a 21% rise recorded by June 17, with revenues hitting ₹5.74 lakh crore, the Income Tax department said on Friday.

Personal income tax (PIT) receipts constituted 60.2% of the net collections at ₹3.46 lakh crore, rising 21.4% year-on-year, while corporate taxes yielded 36.6% of net revenues at ₹2.1 lakh crore, reflecting a 12.5% growth.

With stock market trading volumes rising, receipts from the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) soared to ₹16,634 crore, 2.3 times the receipts at the same time last year. Combined with STT receipts, net PIT collections were up 24.1%, almost twice the growth recorded in net corporate taxes.

**By July 11, the I-T department had issued ₹70,902 crore as refunds to taxpayers**

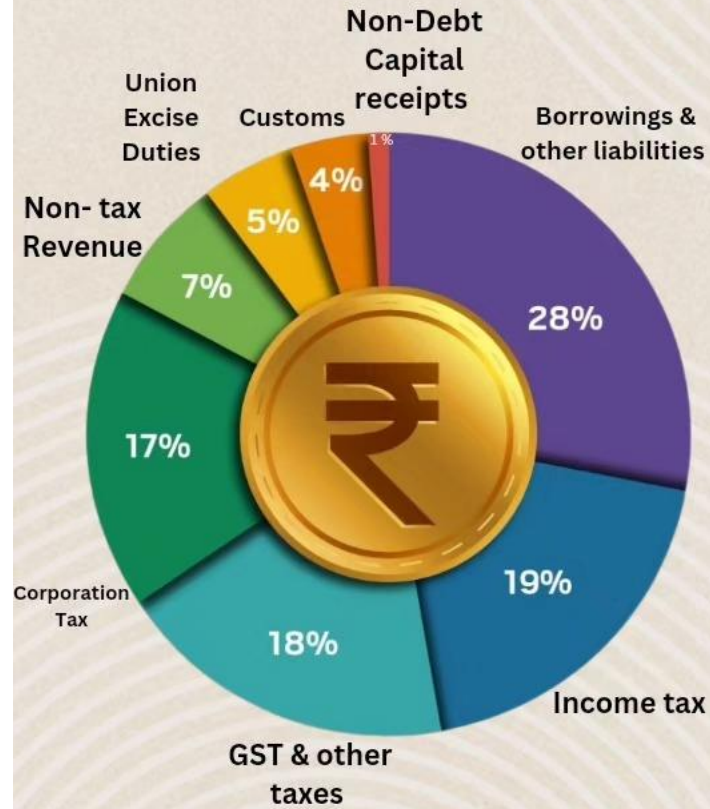
By July 11, the Income Tax department had issued ₹70,902 crore as refunds to taxpayers, 62.5% higher than a year ago. Corporate taxpayers received 77.7% of these refunds, while personal tax payers got about ₹15,826 crore back.

Prior to refunds, gross tax collections stood at a little over ₹6.45 lakh crore, marking a 23.2% growth. Of this, corporate tax receipts were up 20.4% while PIT and STT revenues were up 25.3%.

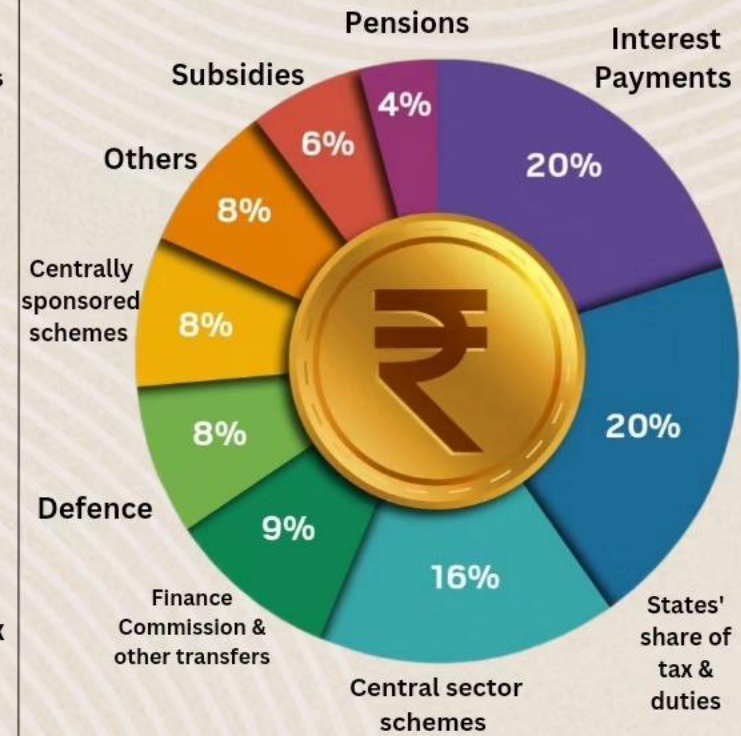
In 2023-24, net direct tax revenues had risen 17.7% to ₹19.58 lakh crore, with PIT's share rising to 53.3% from 50.06% in the previous year.

# Budget 2024

WHERE DOES THE ₹ COME FROM ?



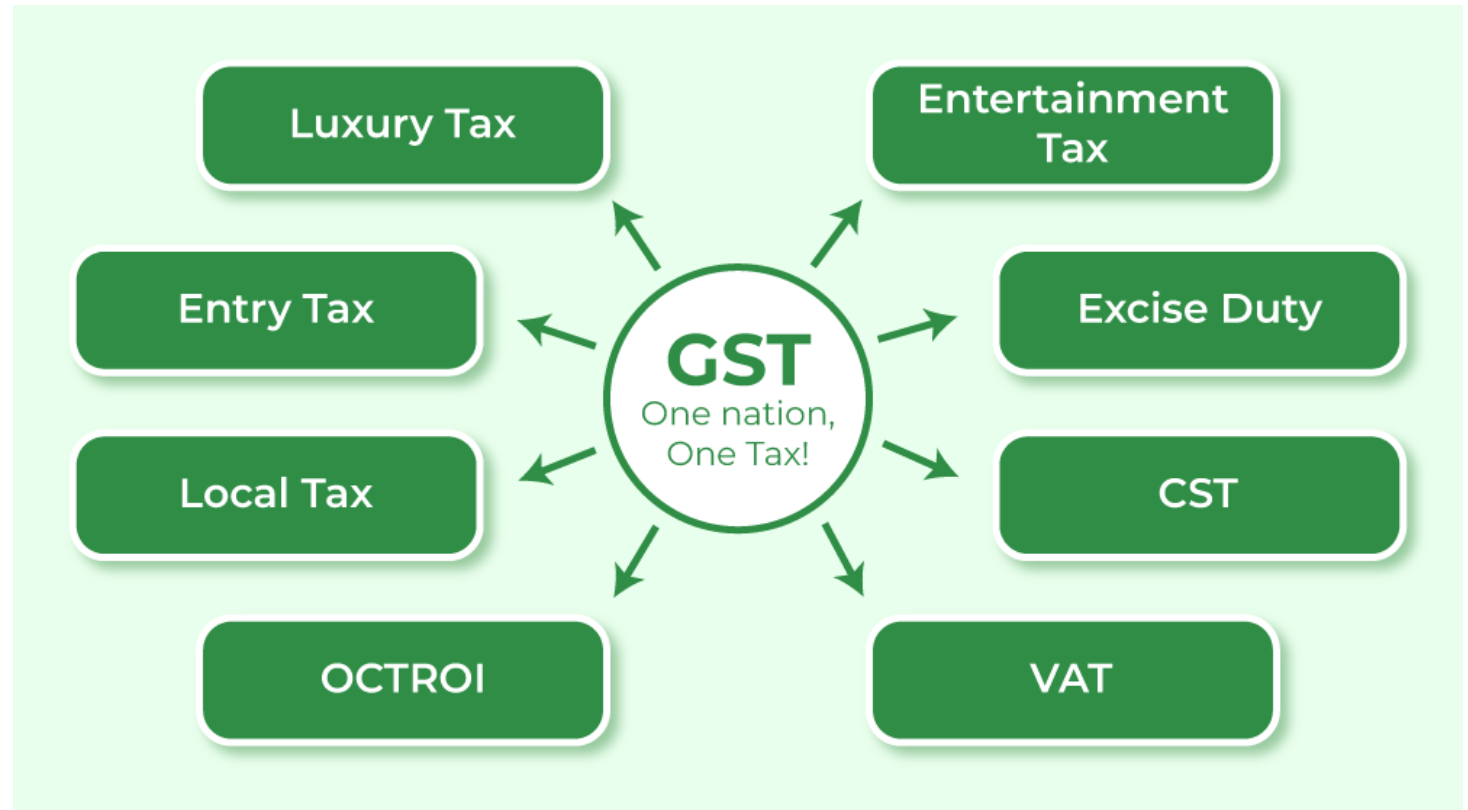
WHERE DOES THE ₹ GO ?



- **Examples of Direct Tax**

- **Examples of direct tax include Income tax, corporation tax, minimum alternate tax, capital gain tax, securities transaction tax, commodities transaction tax, alternate minimum tax, estate duty, wealth tax, gift tax, and fringe benefit tax.**


- **Examples of Indirect Tax**
- **Examples of Indirect tax include customs duty, sales tax, excise duty, service tax, value-added tax, and dividend distribution tax.**



Parameter	Direct Tax	Indirect Tax
Meaning	Levied directly on the individuals or corporations.	Levied on one entity but is passed on to the final consumer
Incidence	The incidence and impact of the direct tax fall on the same person.	The incidence and impact of the tax fall on different persons.
Nature	Progressive	Regressive
Administrative Cost	Higher	Lower
Tax Evasion	Possible	Not possible
Examples	Income Tax, Wealth Tax, and Corporation Tax.	Excise duty, VAT, entertainment tax, Customs Duty, GST



- **Net Direct Tax Collections / शुद्ध प्रत्यक्ष कर संग्रहण**

- Growth in India's net direct tax collections slowed to 19.54% by July 11, from a 21% rise recorded by June 17.
  - भारत में शुद्ध प्रत्यक्ष कर संग्रहण की वृद्धि 17 जून तक दर्ज की गई 21% वृद्धि से घटकर 11 जुलाई तक 19.54% रह गई।
- 

- **Yearly Comparisons / वार्षिक तुलना**

- In 2023-24, net direct tax revenues had risen 17.7% to ₹19.58 lakh crore, with PIT's share rising to 53.3% from 50.06% in the previous year.
- 2023-24 में, शुद्ध प्रत्यक्ष कर राजस्व 17.7% बढ़कर ₹19.58 लाख करोड़ हो गया, जिसमें PIT का हिस्सा पिछले वर्ष के 50.06% से बढ़कर 53.3% हो गया।

## Personal Income Tax (PIT) Receipts / व्यक्तिगत आय कर (PIT) प्राप्तियां

Constituted 60.2% of net collections at ₹3.46 lakh crore, rising 21.4% year-on-year.

शुद्ध संग्रहण का 60.2% हिस्सा ₹3.46 लाख करोड़ पर, साल दर साल 21.4% की वृद्धि।



- **Refunds Issued / जारी किए गए रिफंड**

- By July 11, the I-T department issued ₹70,902 crore as refunds, 62.5% higher than a year ago.

- 11 जुलाई तक, आई-टी विभाग ने ₹70,902 करोड़ के रिफंड जारी किए, जो एक साल पहले की तुलना में 62.5% अधिक है।

**IN BRIEF**

**New species of dogfish shark discovered in Kerala harbour**

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India have discovered a new species of deep-water dogfish shark, *Squalus hima*, from the Sathukulangara fishing harbour in Kerala. *Squalus* is a genus of dogfish sharks in the family Squalidae, commonly known as spurdogs, and are characterised by smooth dorsal fin spines. The discovery, made by a team of scientists led by scientist Binuosh K. K., was published in the journal *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*. The shark species from the genus *Squalus* and *Centropristis* are often exploited for their liver oil which is in high demand in pharmaceutical industry, Dr. Binuosh said.

**HC grants relief to Rahul in 2014 RSS defamation case**

The Bombay High Court on Friday granted relief to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a criminal defamation case filed in 2014 by Kashriya Swayamsevak Sangh (KSSS) worker Rajesh Kunte. He alleged that Mr. Gandhi had made a false and defamatory statement in an election rally, holding the RSS accountable for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. A single judge Bench of the High Court passed the order in a writ petition filed by Mr. Gandhi, challenging an order of the Bhamini magistrate who had directed Mr. Kunte to "belatedly" submit the transcript of the speech as additional evidence in the criminal defamation case.

**Patna HC grants CBI custody of 13 accused in NEET case**

The Patna High Court on Friday granted the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) the custody of 13 people arrested by the Patna police in connection with the NEET-UG paper leak case. The agency will now be in a position to question the accused in custody and also confront them with Rakesh Ranjan, alias Rocky, one of the key accused in the case. The CBI had sought the remand of the 13 accused but the application was earlier rejected by the Exclusive Magistrate, CBI, Patna. However, Justice Sanjay Kumar of the High Court stayed the order, considering the seriousness of the case.

**West Bengal moves SC against Governor for sitting on Bills**

West Bengal has moved the Supreme Court against the Governor for sitting on eight crucial Bills without giving any reasons for the delay. The State argued that the Governor's omission would "defeat and subvert" democratic good governance. The proposed laws include the West Bengal University Laws (Amendment) Bill; West Bengal University of Animal and Fishery Sciences (Amendment) Bill; West Bengal Private University Laws (Amendment) Bill; West Bengal Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Laws (Second Amendment) Bill; West Bengal University of Health Sciences (Amendment) Bill; Allah University (Amendment) Bill; West Bengal Town and Country Bill; and the West Bengal University Laws (Amendment) Bill.

**ED cannot make arrests under PMLA on a whim, says SC**

The judgment was based on a petition by Arvind Kejriwal. EDs power to arrest must be based on objective, fair consideration of material, says SC

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday held that the power to arrest conferred on the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cannot be exercised on a "whim and fancy" of officers of the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The court wondered if the ED even had a consistent, uniform and "one-size-for-all" policy on when they should arrest people. It said the ED's power to arrest must be based on objective and fair consideration of material against a person.

Under the PMLA, ED officers can arrest a person if they have reasons to believe, based on the material in their possession, that the individual is guilty. A Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta, in a judgment, said the power of arrest given to the ED officers under Section 19 of the PMLA was drastic and ran the risk of violating the right to life and liberty under article 21 of the Constitution.



The Bench said the power of arrest given to ED officers under the PMLA ran the risk of violating the right to life and liberty, Reuters

The judgment was based on a petition filed by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, challenging the validity of his arrest by the ED on money laundering charges. The court granted him interim bail.

Pulling out data on the ED cases from 2023, Justice Khanna, who authored the verdict, said 5,906 Enforcement Case Information Reports (ECIRs) were registered as of December 31, 2023. However, search was conducted in 531 ECIRs by issue of 4,254 search warrants. The number of ECIRs against former MPs, MLAs, and MLGs was 176. The number of persons arrested was 513 whereas the number of prosecution complaints filed is 1,142. "The data raises a number of questions," he noted. Highlighting that the PMLA allowed arrests on mere suspicion, Justice Khanna agreed with Mr. Kejriwal that an accused should be given in issue of the material which warrants. The number of ECIRs against former MPs, MLAs, and MLGs was 176. The number of persons arrested was 513 whereas the number of prosecution complaints filed is 1,142.

**Content determined by volunteer editors, says Wikipedia parent**

**Arcon Deep**  
NEW DELHI

The Wikimedia Foundation, the parent organisation of Wikipedia, has responded to a lawsuit filed by ANI International (ANI). ANI has sued the organisation, demanding ₹2 crore for what it said were defamatory allegations in the introduction section of its page on the online encyclopaedia, such as its alleged pro-government bias and tendency to cite misinformation.

"It has come to our attention via press reports that the Hon'ble Delhi High Court has issued a summons to the Wikimedia Foundation regarding a defamation case filed by ANI against the Foundation," it said in a statement. Highlighting that the Wikimedia Foundation generally does not add, edit or determine content published on Wikipedia, Wikipedia's content is volunteered by its global community of volunteers (also known as the "Wikimedia Community") who compile and share information on notable subjects.

The statement said it had not yet received any summons, and would determine the next steps when it did.



A news agency has sued Wikimedia for ₹2 crore.

The case pits, potentially for the first time in such a significant way, Wikipedia's volunteer-centric editorial norms against Indian regulations like the IT Rules, 2021, which require all loosely defined Internet "intermediaries" to take action against content online if it is, among other things, defamatory, and a court or government order is issued against them.

One of the main constraints in this case is that Wikipedia abstains from the kind of article-level control over its content that such regulations demand of online platforms, deferring instead to its vast network of volunteer editors. Having content run by volunteers opens the encyclopaedia up to such legal claims, while also risking vandalism. In 2022, for instance, then Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar called out the platform for derogatory remarks addressed to cricketer Arshdeep Singh's page.

**India shows good progress on SDGs: NITI Aayog report**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog on Friday released its fourth evaluation report of India's progress on the 16 sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 by all United Nations member countries, giving India a score of 71 out of 100, as compared to 57 in 2018.

"SDGs are directly linked to people's welfare, well-being and quality of life," B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, NITI Aayog's CEO, told prespersons at the report's launch. Health conditions have improved, he said, thanks to better public health and insurance coverage. Education was helped by high teacher-student ratio, teacher quality needed targeted interventions, Mr. Subrahmanyam added.

Income and gender inequality were the SDGs which have seen a drop in the score. The report noted a slight drop from 0.75 last year to 0.73 in the ratio of women's earnings compared to men.

The report's release comes ahead of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held under UN auspices in New York on July 18.

**'India-U.S. tech partnership will grow to hundreds of millions of dollars'**

**Nihal Dhillon**  
NEW DELHI

India and the United States are expected to dramatically ramp up funding and resources to hundreds of millions of dollars for a bilateral agreement around critical and emerging technologies in the coming years, a top U.S. official said after a June meeting between key political and industry leaders where there was a focus on reducing tech regulations, simplifying government processes between the two nations, and responsible development of artificial intelligence (AI).

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and his U.S. counterpart, Jake Sullivan, chaired the second meeting of the bilateral initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (CDET) at the end of June in Delhi with a



Sethuraman Panchanathan

focus on areas including AI, quantum computing, semiconductors, and wireless telecommunication, which have collectively been given a few million dollars of funding for research and scaling technologies so far.

The initiative was launched in January 2023 as a strategic partnership and drive technology and defence cooperation, and was announced by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden in May 2022.

Sethuraman Panchanathan, the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), an independent agency that has entered into a \$10-billion budget, helped lead the ICET bilateral meeting in Delhi and said that the U.S.-India dynamic would grow dramatically based on common principles, values, simple processes, and good ideas as the foundation.

"I understand the desire to have tens of millions of dollars of funding for research and scaling technologies in the future that is a natural expectation and our U.S.-India growth in tech is strengthening the U.S.-India strategic partnership, but that is based on far established partnership between entities that share common

constructs of working together," Mr. Panchanathan told *The Hindu*.

"People always like money up front, right? Nothing wrong with that. I am a firm believer that resource-rich good ideas and good partnerships. So as things scale, resources will be brought to the table on both sides," he said.

However, Mr. Panchanathan added that the key challenges remain: two governments and tech industry players primarily around processes, procedures, regulations, all of these things can be made simpler on both sides. We can have more productive, more seamless interactions. So that we're enabled to have a stronger partnership from industry to industry. That partnership was discussed during ICET."

**No controversial text will be included in DU syllabus, says Pradhan**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Friday that the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University (DU) had rejected the proposal to include anti-Sanskrit text *Manusmriti* in its undergraduate law courses.

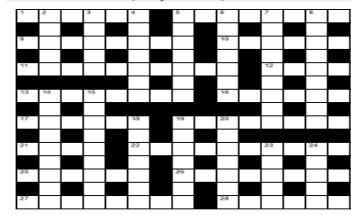
Mr. Pradhan said the Education Ministry was committed to upholding the true spirit and letter of the Constitution." Mr. Pradhan said.

"There is no question of including any controversial portion of any script..." he said. On Thursday, after it came to the notice of the Ministry that *Manusmriti* was proposed to be a part of the law course at the university, Mr. Pradhan had enquired about this and spoke to the Vice-

Chancellor. "He [Vice-Chancellor] assured me that some law faculty member had proposed changes in the defence chapter and that such a proposal had been received by the DU administration. However in the Academic Council meeting there was no endorsement of any such proposal. The V-C has rejected that proposal. The government is committed to upholding the true spirit and letter of the Constitution." Mr. Pradhan said.

The DU Academic Council for Academic Matters convened on Friday, and readings on *Manusmriti* were proposed to be included in the course material as part of efforts to introduce Indian perspectives in line with the National Education Policy, 2020.

**THE CROSSWORD** 14226  
(Set by Pooja Dutt)



- To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site, at <https://gprg-npcc-link.zippm.com>
- Sweet tele models helping to make flipped egg dish (8)
  - Fearless, much-loved but left out (6)
  - Impression originally found on sea shell, is lasting (6)
  - Spooner's lover could be a doctor (8)
  - School member is arrested between first of February and end of March (4)
  - Cocktail on a deck? (3,3,4)
  - Fussy or trimly neat (6)
  - Fresh, hot and extremely advanced (8)
  - First of eleven records describing sea to snobs (8)
  - International organization returns Biwandiya to a Papal Ambassador (6)
- Down:
- Ignoring boundaries she yells, "Jose! Jose!" (5)
  - Reveals from SWAG Estimates (5)
  - Reportedly spots a vacant loft, it can be used for preserving food (3,4)
  - Spooner exclaims, "Seey European in depression!" (7)
  - Plant covers position, it is surrounded (7)
  - A cream cranberry stolen by brother in law (one having two houses) (9)
  - Fancy church burying crime ages ago (4,5)
  - Tubular contractile fiber from unusually firm, oily top of body (9)
  - Bleed after declaring, "Tree earth is destroyed!" (4,5)
  - The French recipe takes wine from the south, basically stored in pantries (7)
  - Seminar about relics (7)
  - Raven is only devouring meat (7)
  - Pace working organ (5)
  - Jack in trouble, ignoring Charlie's symbolic form of communication from the east (5)

**SUDOKU**

9	4	1						
		4		9	3	2		
7	3		1			9		
8	6	3		9	5	4		
4			3	5	2			
3								
1	5	7		3	3	8		
		9						

**Solution to previous puzzle**

9	7	4	1	6	3	1	2	8
6	8	2	5	9	4	3	9	7
2	9	4	8	4	3	1	6	5
8	6	3	5	9	5	4	1	2
4	3	9	7	4	2	6	5	3
3	5	7	1	2	8	9	6	4
1	5	7	3	3	8	2	9	6
		9						

**FAITH**

**Lessons from Yoga Vasistha**

A number of enlightened souls found their calling at 16 years of age, including Rama, who manifested on earth as a royal in order to show mankind how to lead a dharmic way of life. When one reaches that state of inner stillness and detachment, forces will work together to elevate such a person to a higher level, said Sri Ramanacharan Tirtha Swami in a discourse on the ancient text *Yoga Vasistha*.

At 16, Rama's friends found him to be detached, sitting as still as a painting and focused on inner thoughts. At this juncture, sage Viswamithra, who arrived there, asked Rama what had been gnawing him like a rat working away at a hole. "What ails your *atmi* (mind)?"

A relieved Rama says, "You are my *bandhu*, only you can help me. I am weighed down by all the happenings in this world."

Viswamithra assures his fear, assuring Rama that there is a way to cross this bridge of *samsara*, preparing Rama to be initiated by guru Vasistha. The tightness in Rama's face leaves, like a peacock spreading its wings when rain is imminent. Rama, then in all humility, says he is an *agrsni*, seeking guidance, showing mankind the way to approach a guru.

Rama, a circus-spectator person who never displayed his emotions, further asks, "There is a churning of thoughts within me. What is the meaning of life? What is the use of a kingdom? My mind is like the embers within the bole of a tree. How can my mind find *sunyati*?"

The answer lies in looking inwards, in self-realisation. Only then can one find *nirvrti*.



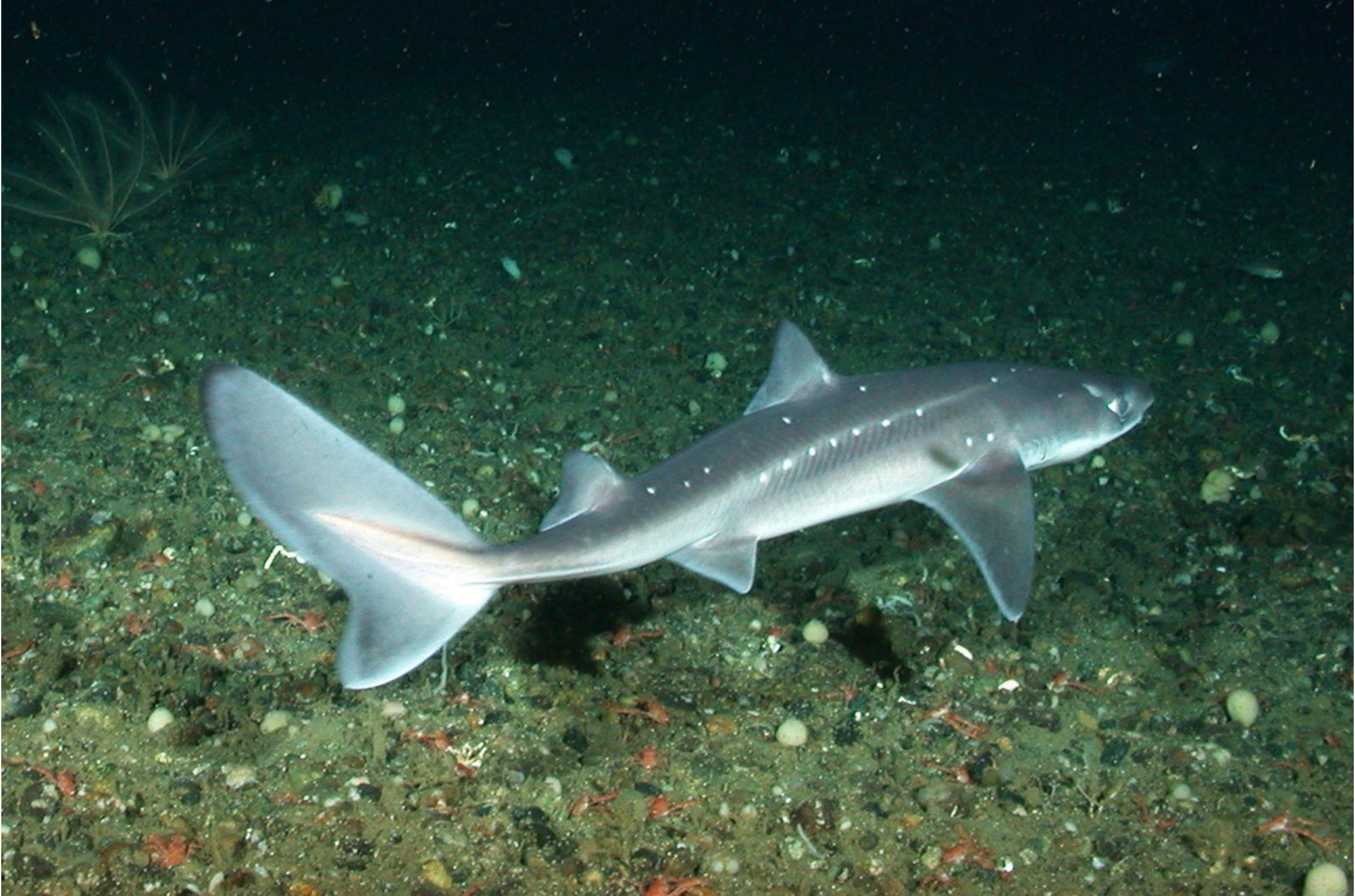
## New species of dogfish shark discovered in Kerala harbour

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India have discovered a new species of deep-water dogfish shark, *Squalus hima*, from the Sakthikulangara fishing harbour in Kerala.

*Squalus* is a genus of dogfish sharks in the family Squalidae, commonly known as spurdogs, and are characterised by smooth dorsal fin spines.

The discovery, made by a team of scientists led by scientist Bineesh K. K, was published in the journal *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*.

The shark species from the genus *Squalus* and *Centrophorus* are often exploited for their liver oil which is in high demand in pharmaceutical industry, Dr. Bineesh said.




## Habitat

These sharks enjoy shallow, coastal waters for the most part. Researchers have discovered them at depths of up to 3,000 feet below the surface. Rather than swimming in the open ocean, they prefer to hunt for food on the seafloor.

These sharks, unlike many other shark species, will travel into subarctic seas. They can be found in temperate and subarctic environments all around the world.



- **Dogfish Locations**

- This species can be found at the shores of any temperate or subarctic ocean on the planet. They can be found almost anywhere except the equator and the poles. They live along with South America's, Africa's, and Australia's southern shores.
  - Their range also includes the entire eastern North American coast, as well as southern Greenland. They can also be found along Europe's shores.
- 



- **Commercial Use**
- **Humans eat spiny dogfish in Europe, the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Venezuela, and Chile. England, France, Italy, the Benelux countries, and Germany are the main consumers of meat.**

-

# India shows good progress on SDGs: NITI Aayog report

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

NITI Aayog on Friday released its fourth evaluation report of India's progress on the 16 sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 by all United Nations member countries, giving India a score of 71 out of 100, as compared to 57 in 2018.

"SDGs are directly linked to people's welfare, well-being and quality of life," B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, NITI Aayog's CEO, told presspersons at the report's launch.

Health conditions have improved, he said, thanks to better public health and insurance coverage. Education was helped by high teacher-student ratios but teacher quality needed targeted interventions, Mr. Subrahmanyam added.

Income and gender inequality were the SDGs which have seen a drop in the score.

the score.

The report noted a slight drop from 0.75 last year to 0.73 in the ratio of women's earnings compared to men.

The report's release comes ahead of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to be held under UN auspices in New York on July 18.



INDIA'S OVERALL SDG SCORE IMPROVES TO 71 IN 2023-24 FROM 66 IN 2020-21

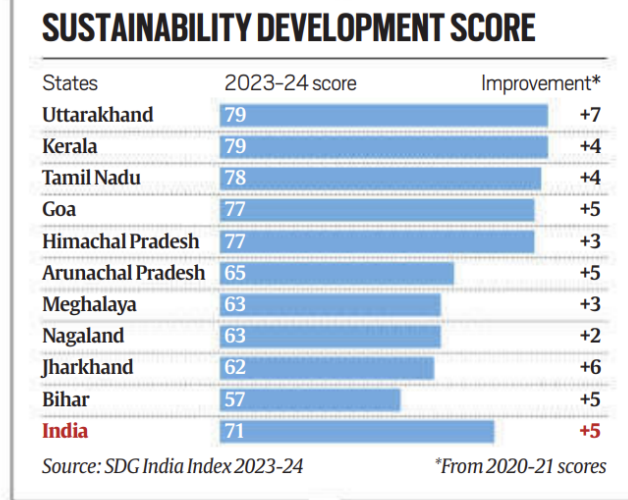
# Kerala, Uttarakhand top NITI Aayog's SDG India Index; Bihar worst performer

AGGAM WALIA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 12

UTTARAKHAND AND Kerala have taken the top spot among states in NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24, which assesses sustainable development across states on the basis of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Overall, India's SDG score improved to 71 points in 2023-24 from 66 points in 2020-21, supported by progress made in poverty reduction, economic growth, and climate action.

The SDG India Index, which evaluates progress made across 16 goals on a scale of 1 to 100, rated Kerala and Uttarakhand as the best performing states with a score of 79 points each, while Bihar emerged as a laggard with 57 points, followed by Jharkhand at 62 points. Compared to 2020-21 scores, which was the last time NITI Aayog published the index, Punjab, Manipur, West Bengal, and Assam recorded the highest increase of 8 points to 76, 72, 70, and 65 points respectively.

"Targeted intervention by the government has helped India achieve significant improvements across 16 goals set under the SDGs," NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam said after releasing the report. The SDGs are a set of interconnected global goals established by the United Nations to be achieved by 2030. The latest SDG India Index is in its fourth edition and relies on 113 indicators to as-



sess a state's performance.

Among goals, "No Poverty", "Decent Work and Economic Growth", and "Life on Land" recorded the highest increase in points across states from 2020-21 scores, while goals like "Gender Equality" and "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institution" saw the smallest increase in points. Notably, "Reduced Inequalities" was the only goal to record a reduction in points to 65 in 2022-23 from 67 in 2020-21. "Reduced Inequalities is the only SDG in which there is a marginal drop and this is also an area that shows you the distribution of wealth. So, you can see that in large parts of India, there are states where inequalities are high and I think it is linked to getting employment at the bottom of the pyramid," Subrahmanyam said.

"Inequality in India has not increased, it has reduced. There has been a contraction in the consumption gap between the richest 10 per cent and the bottom 10 per cent... You look at the number of taxpayers who have filed income tax returns, it has gone up dramatically in the last number of years. People in the lower tax slabs are going to the upper tax slab," Subrahmanyam said. He added that the Reduced Inequalities goal also includes gender inequality in terms of labour workforce participation. The Gender Equality goal received the lowest score of 49 points among all goals, recording a marginal increase of 1 point from 2020-21. "You will see the states which are not doing well have issues like the sex ratio at birth. There are states which are below



**EXPLAINED**  
**E** Addressing sustainable development

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** Goals are 17 global objectives set by the UN to address critical issues like poverty, inequality, and climate change by 2030. These goals are crucial for balancing economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection, to ensure a better world for current and future generations.

900 even now. So, that gets reflected here. You have other issues like women owning land, women owning assets, women in employment, women's labour force participation rate— that would be weaker. If there is one area of maximum concern, it is this," Subrahmanyam said.

In the latest report, the all-India score for the Zero Poverty goal recorded an increase of 8 points to 72. "Most of India has actually hit the issue of extreme poverty. You don't have people suffering from hunger and disease. Livelihoods are not an issue. Maybe their aspirations are there for higher and higher livelihoods, but basic survival is no longer an issue in most parts of India," Subrahmanyam said.



**FULL REPORT ON**  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

- 
- **Top Performers / शीर्ष प्रदर्शनकर्ता**
  - Uttarakhand and Kerala scored 79 points each, topping the SDG India Index for 2023-24.
  - उत्तराखंड और केरल ने प्रत्येक ने 79 अंक प्राप्त किए, 2023-24 के लिए SDG इंडिया इंडेक्स में शीर्ष स्थान पर रहे।
- 

## Overall Improvement / समग्र सुधार

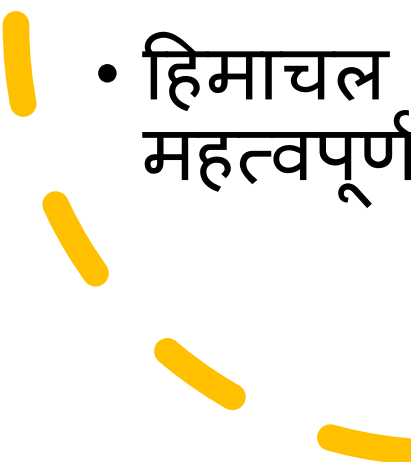
India's overall SDG score improved to 71 points in 2023-24 from 66 points in 2020-21.

भारत का समग्र SDG स्कोर 2023-24 में 66 अंकों से बढ़कर 71 अंक हो गया।

- 
- **Worst Performer / सबसे खराब प्रदर्शनकर्ता**
  - Bihar emerged as the worst performer with 57 points.
  - बिहार 57 अंकों के साथ सबसे खराब प्रदर्शनकर्ता के रूप में उभरा।
- 

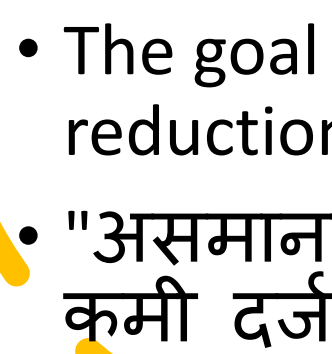




- **Other States / अन्य राज्य**

- Jharkhand scored 62 points, showing significant improvement.
  - झारखंड ने 62 अंक प्राप्त किए, जो महत्वपूर्ण सुधार दिखाते हैं।
  - Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Goa, and Arunachal Pradesh also showed significant improvement.
  - हिमाचल प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु, गोवा, और अरुणाचल प्रदेश ने भी महत्वपूर्ण सुधार दिखाया।
- 



- **Key Goals and Improvements / मुख्य लक्ष्य और सुधार**

- The highest increase in points was recorded for goals like “No Poverty”, “Decent Work and Economic Growth”, and “Life on Land”.
  - "गरीबी नहीं", "शिष्ट काम और आर्थिक विकास", और "भूमि पर जीवन" जैसे लक्ष्यों के लिए अंकों में सबसे अधिक वृद्धि दर्ज की गई।
  - The goal “Reduced Inequalities” was the only goal that recorded a reduction in points.
  - "असमानताओं को कम करना" एकमात्र ऐसा लक्ष्य था जिसमें अंकों में कमी दर्ज की गई।
- 



- 
- **Government Interventions / सरकारी हस्तक्षेप**
  - Targeted government interventions helped India achieve significant improvements across 16 goals.
  - लक्षित सरकारी हस्तक्षेपों ने भारत को 16 लक्ष्यों में महत्वपूर्ण सुधार हासिल करने में मदद की।
- 



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<b>1</b> NO POVERTY 	<b>2</b> ZERO HUNGER 	<b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	<b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION 	<b>5</b> GENDER EQUALITY 	<b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 
<b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	<b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	<b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	<b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	<b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	<b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 
<b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION 	<b>14</b> LIFE BELOW WATER 	<b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND 	<b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	<b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	



- 
- **Regional and Country Group Variations: Nordic countries lead in SDG achievement, with Finland (score 86.4) ranked first, followed by Sweden (85.7), Denmark (85.0), Germany (83.4), and France.**
- 

- 
- **What is the Performance of India in SDG Index?**
  - **Ranking:** India secured **109th** rank with the overall score of **64.0**.
  - **Status of SDG Targets:** Only around **30%** of **SDG** targets are on track or have been achieved.
    - There is limited progress in the other **40%** of the targets and in around **30%** of targets the situation is worsening.
  - **Average Performance of SDGs:** Highest performance is observed in achieving **SDG 1, SDG 4, SDG 12** and **SDG 13**.
- 

- 
- Consider the following statements regarding NITI Aayog's SDG India Index for 2023-24:

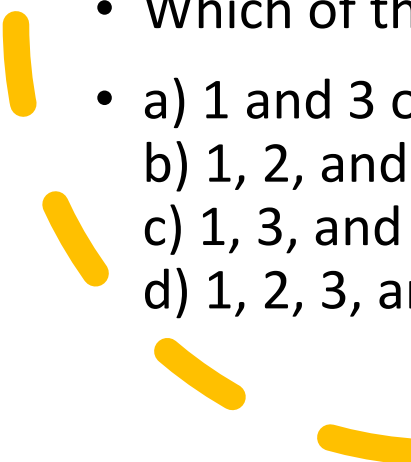
1. Uttarakhand and Kerala both scored 79 points, topping the index.

2. India's overall SDG score improved to 75 points in 2023-24 from 66 points in 2020-21.

3. Bihar was the worst performer with 57 points.

4. The goal "No Poverty" recorded a reduction in points.

- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 only
  - b) 1, 2, and 3 only
  - c) 1, 3, and 4 only
  - d) 1, 2, 3, and 4
- 

PARIS Amid parliamentary deadlock, PM vows to 'guard against' extremists



France's political parties scrambled Friday to break a parliamentary deadlock brought on by an inconclusive snap election, as the outgoing Prime Minister Gabriel Attal vowed that he would seek "to guard against any government" that included far-right National Rally (RN) or hard-left France Unbowed (LFI) ministers.

BERLIN Germany says it will not be intimidated by Russian threats



The German government said on Friday that it "won't be intimidated" by Russian attempts to undermine the country's support of Ukraine, but refused to comment on a report that Moscow planned to assassinate the chief executive of Rheinmetall, a leading defence company.

TOKYO Japan punishes defence officials for mishandling classified data



Japan's Defence Ministry announced disciplinary action on Friday against more than 200 senior officials and service members over mishandling of classified materials and other misconduct. Defence Minister Minoru Kihara apologised, saying the breach "significantly damaging to the public trust" for the Ministry.

MANILA Philippines will 'stand our ground' in South China Sea dispute: official



The Philippines will "stand our ground" in a dispute with Beijing over the South China Sea, a top security official said Friday. Tensions over the strategic waterway, a key passage for sea-borne trade, have soared in the past 18 months following a series of escalating confrontations between Philippine and Chinese ships.

More Democrats call on Biden to quit race after his news conference

At least 17 congressional Democrats have called for Biden to drop out at the conference, the President refers Kamala Harris as 'Vice President Trump', hours after introducing Ukrainian President Zelenskyy as 'President Putin' at the NATO summit

Reuters WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden faced more calls from fellow Democrats to abandon his reelection bid on Friday, following a news conference in which he delivered mangled responses but occasionally stumbled over his words.

It was unclear whether Mr. Biden's performance would convince doubters in his party that he is their best bet to defeat Republican Donald Trump in the November 5 election and serve another four-year term in the White House.

At least 17 congressional Democrats so far have



President Joe Biden speaks at a news conference following the NATO Summit in Washington.

called for him to drop out and allow the party to pick another standard-bearer, including some who announced their positions after the news conference on Thursday night.

Democrats are worried

Mr. Trump win the White House. "If I show up at the convention and everybody says they want someone else, that's the democratic process," Mr. Biden said, before shifting to the stage whisper he often uses for emphasis to add, "It's not gonna happen."

Biden's gaffes At one point, he referred to his Vice President, Kamala Harris, as "Vice President Trump". That came just hours after he introduced Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as "President Putin" at the NATO summit, drawing gasps from those in the room. Mr. Biden occasionally garbled his responses at

the news conference, yet he also delivered detailed assessments of global issues, including Ukraine's war with Russia and the Israeli-Gaza conflict.

Some Democrats were not reassured. "We must put forward the strongest candidate possible to confront the threat posed by Trump's promised MAGA authoritarianism. I no longer believe that Joe Biden," said Representative Jim Himes of Connecticut, who called on the President to end his campaign after the news conference.

A senior campaign official who spoke on condition of anonymity called the performance the "worst of all worlds."

Independent govt. must run post-war Gaza, says Hamas

Agence France-Presse GAZA CITY

Hamas is suggesting during ceasefire negotiations that an independent government of non-partisan figures run post-war Gaza and the Israeli-occupied West Bank, a member of the Palestinian Islamist movement's political bureau said on Friday.

"We proposed that a non-partisan national competency government manage Gaza and West Bank post-war", Hossam Badran said in a statement about the ongoing negotiations between Israel and Hamas with mediation from Qatar, Egypt, and the United States.

"The administration of Gaza after the war is a Palestinian internal matter without any external interference, and we will not discuss the day after the war in Gaza with any external parties", Mr. Badran added.

A Hamas official told AFP the proposal for a non-partisan government was "with the mediators".

The government will "manage the affairs of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in the initial phase after the war, pending the way for general elections" said the official, who did not want his name disclosed.

Mr. Badran's remarks came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demanded that Israel retain control of the Philadelphi corridor, Gaza territory along the border with Egypt. This is also in conflict with Hamas's position that Israel must withdraw from all Gaza territory after a ceasefire.

Imran Khan's PTI party 'eligible' for reserved seats in Pak. parliament

Reuters ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Supreme Court ruled on Friday that jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party was eligible for over 20 extra reserved seats in the national legislature, ramping up pressure on the country's weak coalition government.

Mr. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party candidates contested the February 8 election as independents after it was barred from the polls. They won the most seats but the election commission said independents were ineligible for the grant of 70 reserved seats.

As a political party, the



Historic victory: Supporters of Tehreek-e-Insaf party react after the Supreme Court verdict in Islamabad, Pakistan, on Friday.

meant for political parties only.

The commission had ordered the reserved seats instead to be distributed among other parties, mostly to those in the ruling coalition.

As a political party, the

served seats does not affect the parliamentary majority of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's coalition government.

Under Pakistan's election rules, parties are allocated 70 reserved seats - 60 for women, and 10 for non-Muslims - in proportion to the number of seats they win. This completes the National Assembly's total strength of 336 seats.

The decision does however bolster the political position of Khan's supporters, whose rallying cry has been that the election commission and a pro-military council had rigged the polls.

The granting of 23 re-

Threat from North Korea and China greater than ever: Japan

Agence France-Presse TOKYO

China and Russia's joint military activities around Japan are of "grave concern" and North Korea poses a greater threat than ever, Tokyo's Defence Ministry said Friday.

In its annual white paper, the Ministry outlined its stance on a range of issues, from tensions around Taiwan to the intensifying rivalry between China and the United States.

Repeated joint sorties by Chinese and Russian ships around Japan "are clearly hostile" and a demonstration of force against Japan and are a grave concern from the perspective of national se-

N. Korea which often conducts missile tests in Japan's direction, poses a more grave and imminent threat

NATO standard of two per cent of GDP by 2027, although the falling value of the yen may dent its purchasing power.

"Strategic challenge" This year's paper noted that Beijing has regularly sent ships to around 100 islands in the East China Sea - reiterating that China's military activities are "the greatest strategic challenge" to Japan and the world.

It seems China intends to make increased military activities around Taiwan a new normal for the region, said the paper, which also listed heightened defence risks associated with AI, cybersecurity, and disinformation.

Japan plans to double its defence spending to the

At least 63 persons missing after Nepal landslide sweeps two buses into river

Agence France-Presse BHARATPUR

At least 63 people were missing in Nepal on Friday after a landslide triggered by heavy monsoon rains swept two buses off a highway and plunged them into Trishuli river, authorities said. Dozens of search and rescue personnel are combing the site for survivors of the accident along a remote stretch of road in the central district of Chitwan.

District official Khimamanda Bhusal said that at least 66 people between the two buses could have escaped as they crashed into the



Searchers look for survivors in river Trishuli in Simlatar, Nepal, on Friday, at the site of a landslide.

Trishuli river and were now being treated in hospitals. "We are not sure of the total number because the buses could have picked up others on the road," Mr.

February 2023, the UML withdrew support in protest of Prachanda's decision to support the NC's Kam Chandra Poudel for the post of President. A year later, Prachanda ditched the NC to join hands with the UML again.

"His ouster was just a matter of time," said Jhalak Subedi, a left-leaning commentator. "Prachanda may be down but not out, as there are questions galore over the longevity of the NC-UML alliance."

OlI's return to power Two House dissolution moves had cost Mr. OlI his job in July 2022 after the Supreme Court ordered the appointment of Mr. Deuba as Prime Minister.

Mr. OlI had capitalised on India's reservations about the Constitution in 2015 and made nationalism his plank for the 2017 general elections. A merger decision between the UML and the Maoist Centre catapulted Mr. OlI into power as the leader of the largest party, controlling almost two-thirds majority in Parliament. During his speech in Parliament, Prachanda made scathing remarks against Mr. OlI and warned the NC of a possible dissolution attempt, reminding Mr. OlI's two dissolutions in 2020 and 2021.

Mr. Chandrakishore says Mr. OlI is a leader who can pull off more Machiavellian tricks than any other politician in Nepal. "Under OlI, or the UML-NC government for that matter, stability and issues of social justice, service delivery, development or people's concerns are unlikely to be the priority," he said.

"Rather, the danger is that the NC and the UML might take some regressive steps in the name of constitutional amendment of that year. But in

Ever since the Maoists laid down arms in 2006 after a decade-long war against the state, Prachanda, 69, has been at the centre of Nepal's politics. With the fall of his government in 2015, he joined hands with the UML to become Prime Minister in December 2022 general elections under an alliance with the NC.

Prachanda would lose the confidence of that year. But in

Prachanda concedes Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal said he was "deeply saddened" by the accident in a post on social media platform X.

"I direct all agencies of the government, including the home administration, to search for and effectively rescue the passengers," he said.

The accident took place before dawn along the Narayanghat-Mugling highway, around 100 kilometres (60 miles) west of the capital Kathmandu.

The accident took place before dawn along the Narayanghat-Mugling highway, around 100 kilometres (60 miles) west of the capital Kathmandu.

Prachanda concedes Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal said he was "deeply saddened" by the accident in a post on social media platform X.

"I direct all agencies of the government, including the home administration, to search for and effectively rescue the passengers," he said.

# More Democrats call on Biden to quit race after his news conference

At least 17 congressional Democrats have called for Biden to drop out; at the conference, the President refers Kamala Harris as 'Vice President Trump', hours after introducing Ukrainian President Zelenskyy as 'President Putin' at the NATO summit

**Reuters**  
WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden faced more calls from fellow Democrats to abandon his reelection bid on Friday, following a news conference in which he delivered nuanced responses but occasionally stumbled over his words.

It was unclear whether Mr. Biden's performance would convince doubters in his party that he is their best bet to defeat Republican Donald Trump in the November 5 election and serve another four-year term in the White House.

At least 17 congressional Democrats so far have



**Behind heavyweights:** President Joe Biden speaks at a news conference following the NATO Summit in Washington. AP

called for him to drop out and allow the party to pick another standard-bearer, including some who announced their positions after the news conference on Thursday night.

Democrats are worried

that Mr. Biden's low public approval ratings and growing concerns that he is too old for the job could cause them to lose seats in the House and Senate, leaving them with no grip on power in Washington should

Mr. Trump win the White House. "If I show up at the convention and everybody says they want someone else, that's the democratic process," Mr. Biden said, before shifting to the stage whisper he often uses for emphasis to add, "It's not gonna happen."

## **Biden's gaffes**

At one point, he referred to his Vice President, Kamala Harris, as "Vice President Trump". That came just hours after he introduced Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as "President Putin" at the NATO summit, drawing gasps from those in the room.

Mr. Biden occasionally garbled his responses at

the news conference, yet he also delivered detailed assessments of global issues, including Ukraine's war with Russia and the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Some Democrats were not reassured. "We must put forward the strongest candidate possible to confront the threat posed by Trump's promised MAGA authoritarianism. I no longer believe that is Joe Biden," said Representative Jim Himes of Connecticut, who called on the President to end his campaign after the news conference.

A senior campaign official who spoke on condition of anonymity called the performance the "worst of all worlds."

### IN ATTENDANCE

#### Rohit watches Alcaraz-Medvedev semifinal clash on Centre Court



India skipper Rohit Sharma attended the Wimbledon semifinal clash between Carlos Alcaraz and Daniil Medvedev on Friday. "Welcome to Wimbledon, Rohit Sharma," said the official X handle of Wimbledon while sharing the picture of the Team India skipper, Dinesh Karthik and his wife Dipika Pallikal also attended the match.

### DREAM RUN

#### Anderson signs off as the third highest wicket-taker in Tests



James Anderson bowed out of Tests with 704 wickets in 188 matches. Only spinners Muttiah Muralitharan (800) and Shane Warne (708) had more scalps. **Andy Kumble** (619), **Stuart Broad** (604), **Glenn McGrath** (563), **Nathan Lyon** (530), **Courtney Walsh** (519), **R. Ashwin** (516) and **Dale Steyn** (499) complete the top-10.

### OVERWHELMED

#### I am just proud of what I have achieved, says Anderson



James Anderson said he felt "really proud" after bringing down the curtain on a remarkable Test career. "It's been quite an amazing week. I've been overwhelmed with the reaction of the crowd and everyone around the ground, and the lads as well. I'm just proud of what I've achieved," Anderson told Sky Sports.

### HIGH PRAISE

#### 'He has just been an incredible inspiration to so many people'



England captain Ben Stokes hailed James Anderson. "He has just been an incredible inspiration to so many people... the amount of games and the amount of wickets he's taken are just absolutely phenomenal. Sometimes you can be lost for words but if you gave me 30 minutes I wouldn't be able to compliment him enough."

## Alcaraz overcomes the initial jitters, powers past Medvedev

The Spaniard gets into the groove after suffering a reverse in a topsy-turvy first set while the Russian hurts his chances with some ill-advised approaches and rank-bad volleying. Djokovic sweeps past Musetti, makes it a repeat of last year's final

### WIMBLEDON

N. Sudarshan

LONDON

Successful sporting careers depend on three things – talent, hard work and luck. That Carlos Alcaraz was talented was never in doubt. No one who doesn't work hard wins three Majors in a jiffy. And these last 10 days at Wimbledon have shown that he has some luck on his side too.

On Friday at the Centre Court, the 21-year-old first wobbled like he had all tournament, weathered a first-set storm from Daniil Medvedev before hitting a purple patch to win 6-7(0), 6-3, 6-4, 6-4. In a repeat of last year's final, the third seed will meet seven-time winner Novak Djokovic, who quelled Italian Lorenzo Musetti's challenge 6-4, 7-6(2), 6-4.

"I feel like I am not new anymore," defending champion Alcaraz said about being in the final. "I know how I'll feel before it and I will do the things I did last year. I hope it's going to be a good day for Spanish people."

That last sentence was in reference to Sunday's Euro final between Spain and England, and the Brits at the stadium duly rang in the boos. Alcaraz tried to over-explain but the truth was that he had already done enough to please the crowd with his tennis for a good part of the previous



ACING THE CHALLENGE: Once he settled down, Alcaraz was on top of his game. GETTY IMAGES

three hours.

The opening set was topsy-turvy, with Medvedev and Alcaraz breaking each other twice. The latter's penchant to play first-strike tennis did not always come off and his love affair with the drop shot had tragic endings. But what kept him in the set was his

excellent return game as he blocked or sliced many a monstrous serve from Medvedev back.

The Russian hurt his chances with some ill-advised approaches and rank-bad volleying, often holding the racquet like an axe. He also got away with a mild reprimand, a warn-

ing for "unsportsmanlike conduct". For seemingly swearing at the lady chair umpire.

In the tie-break, however, Medvedev's level lifted. The serve placement was better and his shot-making smarter as he raced to a 6-1 lead. A 120mph rocket second serve sealed the set in

### THE RESULTS

**Semifinals: Men:** 3-Alcaraz (Esp) bt 2-Medvedev (Rus) 6-7(1), 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.  
2-Djokovic (Ser) bt 25-Musetti (Ita) 6-4, 7-6(2), 6-4.

his favour. In the second, Medvedev's serve swayed. From 76%, his first-serve percentage dropped to 56. At 2-1, Alcaraz made the play, reeling off three winners, two on the forehand and one on the backhand, to break Medvedev. It was one-serve all not long after.

"I just tried different things," Alcaraz said. "Not to play long rallies, try drop shots and go often to the net. It was basically to try and not play a long game."

The third set was its best representation. The service that had deserted him returned and the hyper-extended forehand almost lost to a shoclose volley – found the right corners.

Alcaraz didn't dilute his fondness for the theatre by continuing to drop shot, but this time had a fair amount of success.

### Shoclose volley

The duo traded early breaks in the fourth. Alcaraz, though, was unruffled. He broke Medvedev in the seventh game, and held to 5-3 with a shoclose volley, that would have made the greatest grass-courtiers proud. Medvedev's shoes were dropped and he soon fledged off the court as a deflated man.

## Krejčíková and Paolini vie for their maiden Venus Rosewater Dish



UP FOR IT: Krejčíková or Paolini will become the eighth different singles champion at the All England Club in as many years. REUTERS

N. Sudarshan

LONDON

A fortnight ago, a Wimbledon women's singles final between Barbora Krejčíková and Jasmine Paolini would have been no tip-off for the former as she had just won the title on Centre Court by securing their maiden Venus Rosewater Dish and become the eighth different singles champion at the All England Club in as many years.

Both women come into the summit clash on the back of tough three-set wins. While Krejčíková blunted the big-hitting Elena Ysbakina's challenge 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, Paolini outlasted Donna Vekić 2-6, 6-4, 7-6(8) in an epic that lasted nearly three hours.

Krejčíková may have spent 44 minutes less on the court, but it was as difficult a win as Paolini's, for

the Czech was also in the doubles draw until late on Wednesday, losing a three-set quarterfinal with partner Laura Siegemund.

But Krejčíková and Paolini will be sufficiently rested ahead of the weekend final and it may be tempting to pick the former as the favourite simply because she has Slam-winning experience (French Open 2021) and has tasted title success on Centre Court by securing the doubles trophies in 2018 and 2022. Krejčíková's all-round skills will also stand her in good stead.

**Favour of the season** Paolini, however, has been the flavour of the season, and has impressed with her boundless energy. She started the year with just four main draw match wins at the Majors – three of them at the French Open – but has now reached not

one but two finals. If ever anyone needed an example of a sophomore act done well, Paolini's will qualify.

The 28-year-old Italian is also a smart operator on the court. She is fast across the turf, is blessed with explosive footwork and can both redirect pace and generate plenty of her own. She is gutsy and has a never-say-die attitude, facets that helped her immensely in the semifinal versus Vekić.

Krejčíková and Paolini have met once, way back in 2018 in the first-round qualifying at the Australian Open when neither player was fully formed. "It just shows it has been an unbelievable journey," Krejčíková told *Tennis Channel*. "We are the same age, grew up and played juniors together. So incredible to be playing in the Wimbledon final."

## England wallops WI in Anderson's farewell



UNFORGETTABLE MEMORY: Anderson walks through a guard of honour from both teams on his final Test appearance. GETTY IMAGES

### WI IN ENGLAND

Associated Press

LONDON

It's 704 wickets and out for Jimmy Anderson.

The most prolific fast bowler in Test history bowed out of international cricket by helping England complete a win by an innings and 114 runs over the West Indies at Lord's on Friday.

The 41-year-old Anderson's 188th and last Test ended with him taking

three for 32 in the West Indies' second innings as it was dismissed for 136 a little over an hour into the third day's play.

One of those wickets came on Friday, with Anderson enticing an edge behind off Joshua Da Silva with a delivery that seemed away. It was classic Anderson.

**The scores:** West Indies 121 & 136 in 47 overs (Gudakesh Motie 31 n.o., Anderson 3/32, Atkinson 5/61) lost to England 373.  
**Player of the Match:** Gus Atkinson.

## Anderson's loyalty was to the science of fast bowling

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

CHENNAI

There was a moment inside Lord's hallowed dressing room on Friday. The West Indies had just capitulated and the Englishmen were victors by an innings and 114 runs in the first Test. Inside the change-room, James Anderson was having a chat with Nasser Hussain, who was holding the Sky Sports microphone.

Conversation over, and then Hussain, not the type to reveal a softer emotion, said a thank-you and did a half-leap from his chair for an awkward sideways hug, and there was tremor in his voice.

The greatest athletes, while basking in all the adulation from their followers, always yearn for the respect of their peers.

This was Anderson's moment as Hussain was the great seamer's captain during his debut Test at Lord's in 2003. For 21 summers, the lad from Burnley,

steamed in, momentum harnessed, action precise and delivered balls that tempted and deceived the greatest of batters. In the process, Anderson became a weather-beaten man and even if the pace dropped, he was always asking questions.

**Staggering achievement** To play 188 Tests, finish third in the all-time wicket-taker's tally with 704 scalps and to still hold his place largely on merit and not on sentiment, speaks volumes about the skill-sets that Anderson possessed. His was a knife that sliced without a wobble while willow-wielders were not even aware of their death-rattle.

Anderson in tandem with Stuart Broad (604 Test wickets) was a great sight. Just like the West Indian Curtly Ambrose-Courtney Walsh combine, Anderson and Broad aged together. It is never easy being a fast bowler. Ankles, knees, back, shoulders and wrists

all endure a steady pounding and the body's bio-mechanics suffer multiple stress points.

To bowl at the highest level till 41 while the comforts of an air-conditioned commentary box beckoned for the last few years, must have been tough.

The reality though is that Anderson had to be nudged to leave as in his mind he was still good enough to deliver in whites.

To be placed behind Muttiah Muralitharan (800 Test wickets) and Shane Warne (708) and to have shouldered England's pace bowling over two decades, is a staggering achievement. Anderson competed hard and at times he could get abrasive, but his overall loyalty was to his Test cap and the science of fast bowling. (Riz2). Batters will have a sigh of relief for the next time they see being a Test, Anderson won't be there.



MAKING THE BALL TALK: Anderson kept probing the batters, thanks to his mastery in swinging the red cherry. REUTERS

### Anderson's Test journey

	M	WICKETS	AVERAGE	SR	5W/10W			
Overall	188	350	704	7/62	11/71	26.45	56.8	32/3
Home	106	202	438	7/62	11/71	24.41	52.3	24/3
Away	76	136	244	6/90	8/161	30.66	64.8	8/0
Neutral	6	12	22	4/17	6/59	25.54	58.9	0/0

# Anderson's loyalty was to the science of fast bowling

**K.C. Vijaya Kumar**

CHENNAI

There was a moment inside Lord's hallowed dressing room on Friday. The West Indies had just capitulated and the Englishmen were victors by an innings and 114 runs in the first Test. Inside the change-room, James Anderson was having a chat with Nasser Hussain, who was holding the *Sky Sports* microphone.

Conversation over, and then Hussain, not the type to reveal a softer emotion, said a thank-you and did a half-lean from his chair for an awkward sideways hug, and there was a tremor in his voice.

The greatest athletes, while basking in all the adulation from their followers, always yearn for the respect of their peers.

This was Anderson's moment as Hussain was the great seamer's captain during his debut Test at Lord's in 2003. For 21 summers, the lad from Burnley,

steamed in, momentum harnessed, action precise and delivered balls that tempted and deceived the greatest of batters. In the process, Anderson became a weather-beaten man and even if the pace dropped, he was always asking questions.

## Staggering achievement

To play 188 Tests, finish third in the all-time wicket-taker's tally with 704 scalps and to still hold his place largely on merit and not on sentiment, speaks volumes about the skill-sets that Anderson possessed. His was a knife that sliced without a murmur while willow-wielders were not even aware of their death-rattle.

Anderson in tandem with Stuart Broad (604 Test wickets) was a great sight. Just like the West Indian Curtly Ambrose-Courtney Walsh combine, Anderson and Broad aged together.

It is never easy being a fast bowler. Ankles, knees, back, shoulders and wrists

all endure a steady pounding and the body's bio-mechanics suffer multiple stress points.

To bowl at the highest level till 41 while the comforts of an air-conditioned commentary box beckoned for the last few years, must have been tough.

The reality though is that Anderson had to be nudged to leave as in his mind he was still good enough to deliver in whites.

To be placed behind Muttiah Muralitharan (800 Test wickets) and Shane Warne (708), and to have shouldered England's pace bowling over two decades, is a staggering achievement.

Anderson competed hard and at times he could get abrasive, but his overall loyalty was to his Test cap and the science of fast bowling. Rival batters will heave a sigh of relief for the next time they see England in a Test, Anderson won't be there.



**Making the ball talk:** Anderson kept probing the batters, thanks to his mastery in swinging the red cherry. REUTERS

## Anderson's Test journey

	M	Inns	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Avg	SR	5WI/10WM
Overall	188	350	704	7/42	11/71	26.45	56.8	32/3
Home	106	202	438	7/42	11/71	24.41	52.3	24/3
Away	76	136	244	6/40	8/161	30.66	64.8	8/0
Neutral	6	12	22	4/17	6/69	20.54	58.9	0/0

# Most wickets in career in Tests

## Most wickets



Player	Span	Mat	Inns	Balls	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	BBI	Ave	Econ	SR	4	5
<a href="#">M Muralidaran (ICC/SL)</a>	1992-2010	133	230	44039	7339.5	1794	18180	<b>800</b>	9/51	22.72	2.47	55.04	45	67
<a href="#">SK Warne (AUS)</a>	1992-2007	145	273	40705	6784.1	1761	17995	<b>708</b>	8/71	25.41	2.65	57.49	48	37
<a href="#">JM Anderson (ENG)</a>	2003-2024	188	350	40037	6672.5	1730	18627	<b>704</b>	7/42	26.45	2.79	56.87	32	32
<a href="#">A Kumble (IND)</a>	1990-2008	132	236	40850	6808.2	1576	18355	<b>619</b>	10/74	29.65	2.69	65.99	31	35
<a href="#">SCJ Broad (ENG)</a>	2007-2023	167	309	33698	5616.2	1304	16719	<b>604</b>	8/15	27.68	2.97	55.79	28	20
<a href="#">GD McGrath (AUS)</a>	1993-2007	124	243	29248	4874.4	1470	12186	<b>563</b>	8/24	21.64	2.49	51.95	28	29
<a href="#">NM Lyon (AUS)</a>	2011-2024	129	242	32761	5460.1	1044	16052	<b>530</b>	8/50	30.28	2.93	61.81	24	24
<a href="#">CA Walsh (WI)</a>	1984-2001	132	242	30019	5003.1	1144	12688	<b>519</b>	7/37	24.44	2.53	57.84	32	22
<a href="#">R Ashwin (IND)</a>	2011-2024	100	189	26166	4361.0	889	12255	<b>516</b>	7/59	23.75	2.81	50.70	25	36
<a href="#">DW Steyn (SA)</a>	2004-2019	93	171	18608	3101.2	660	10077	<b>439</b>	7/51	22.95	3.24	42.38	27	26
<a href="#">N Kapil Dev (IND)</a>	1978-1994	131	227	27740	4623.2	1060	12867	<b>434</b>	9/83	29.64	2.78	63.91	17	23











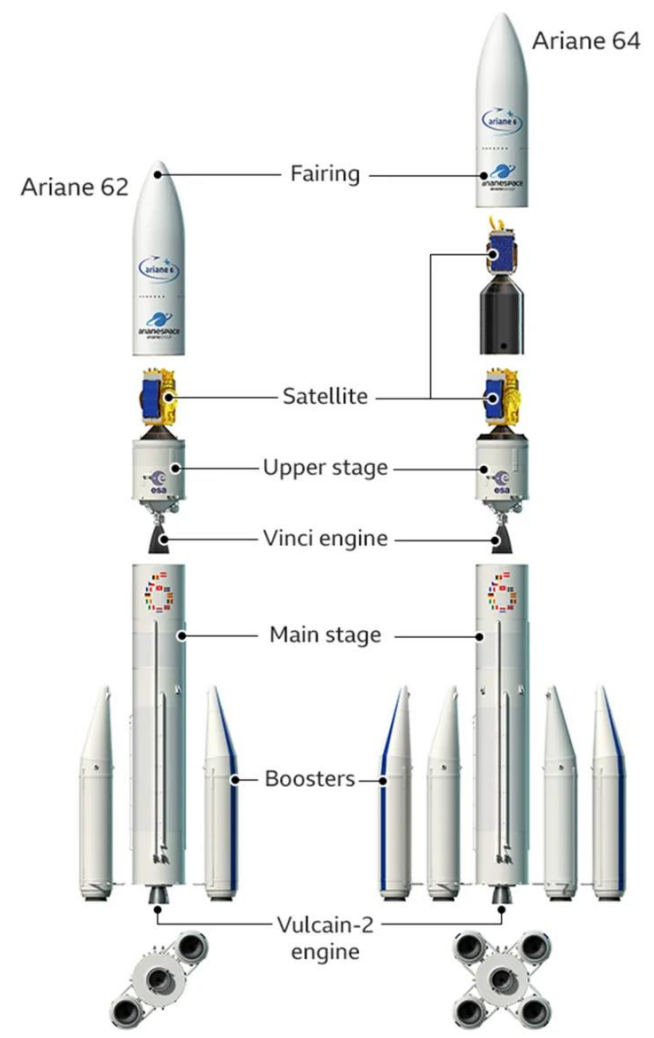
# Successful Launch of Ariane 6 Rocket

- 
- Recently, the European Space Agency (ESA) successfully launched the Ariane 6 rocket, for the first time, from French Guiana, marking Europe's return to independent space access after delays and setbacks.
  - It is the latest rocket in Europe's Ariane rocket series (taking over from Ariane 5) that can launch missions from low-Earth orbit and farther out into deep space.
- 

- 
- Ariane-5 Rocket has been used to launch ISRO's communication satellites like GSAT-11, GSAT-30, GSAT-31, ESA's Juice mission and NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).
  - This debut flight carried nine cubesats into orbit, including NASA's CubeSat Radio Interferometry Experiment (CURIE) and other satellites studying Earth's climate and weather.
- 

- 
- **The Vinci engine used in the upper stage is designed to restart repeatedly, allowing the operating agency to place payloads into several different orbits.**
  - **29 missions will be launched by Ariane 6 over the next several years and aims for up to 12 flights a year.**
- 

# Europe's new rocket: Ariane 6



**Ariane 62**

---

Height: From 56m  
Launch weight: 540 tonnes  
Payloads:  
To geostationary orbit:  
Up to 4,500kg  
To Low-Earth orbit:  
10,300kg

**Ariane 64**

---

Height: Up to 62m  
Launch weight: 870 tonnes  
Payloads:  
To geostationary orbit:  
Up to 11,500kg  
To Low-Earth orbit:  
21,600kg



# Makhana Cultivation

---



- *Makhana have become a popular 'super snack', with prices rising sharply in both domestic and international markets since 2019.*
- **About** - Foxnuts or Makhana is an aquatic crop traditionally grown in India.
- **Botanical Name-** Euryale ferox.
- **Common Names-** Fox nut, Gorgon nut, Phool Makhana.
- **Production-** Makhana, is mainly cultivated in the states of ***Bihar, West Bengal and Assam.***



- *Bihar is the leading producer of makhana accounting for more than **90%** of the total production of India. India contributes to **80%** of the world's demand*

---

**Climate-** Makhana is an aquatic crop and requires a warm, humid climate. It is typically cultivated in areas with temperatures ranging from **20°C to 35°C.**

---

**Soil-** It thrives in loamy and clayey soils with good water **retention capacity.** The pH of the soil should be between 5.5 to 7.5.



- **Nutritional value-** The crop is a good source of vegetarian ***protein***, at 10%, and contains five of the ***nine amino acids***.

- 



---

It is considered a 'super snack' because they are low in calories, rich in protein, and contain essential nutrients.

---

**Makhana Development Scheme-** The Bihar government runs the Makhana Development Scheme that gives a **75%** **subsidy** on the Suvarna Vaidehi variety of seeds, calculated at ₹97,000 per hectare.

- **Myth: Eating carrots improves your night vision.**
- **Reality:** While carrots are rich in vitamin A, which is essential for maintaining good vision, they do not improve night vision beyond normal levels. This myth originated during World War II to explain the British Royal Air Force's improved success in night battles, which was actually due to radar technology.

# CURRENT AFFAIRS COURSE

- ✓ UPDATED CURRENT AFFAIRS (2023+2024)|
- ✓ COMPLETE NOTES(PDF)

# COMPLETE GK/GS COURSE

- ✓ STATIC GK
- ✓ HISTORY
- ✓ POLITY
- ✓ GEOGRAPHY
- ✓ ECONOMICS

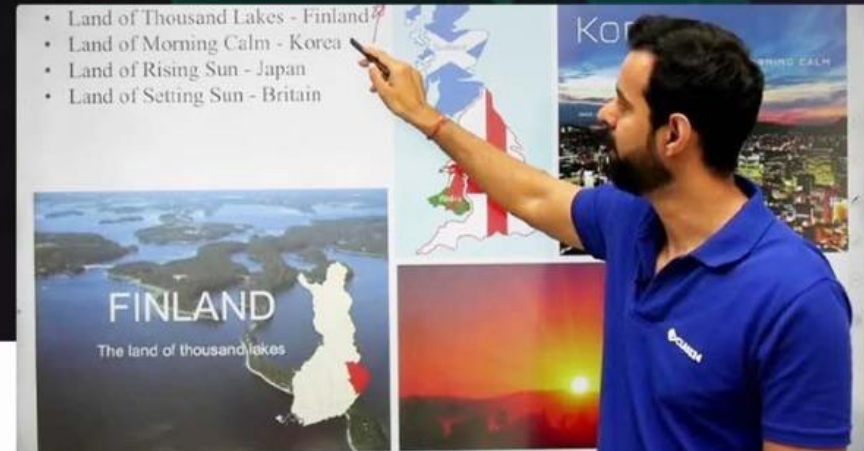
USE CODE

**B60**

CALL FOR SUPPORT: +91-7414862047



**• LIVE DOUBT SESSION**






GIVE A CHILD THE GIFT OF EDUCATION TODAY

Join Hands



We make the best use of your contribution OUR FINANCIALS

A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, with some wearing 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.

---