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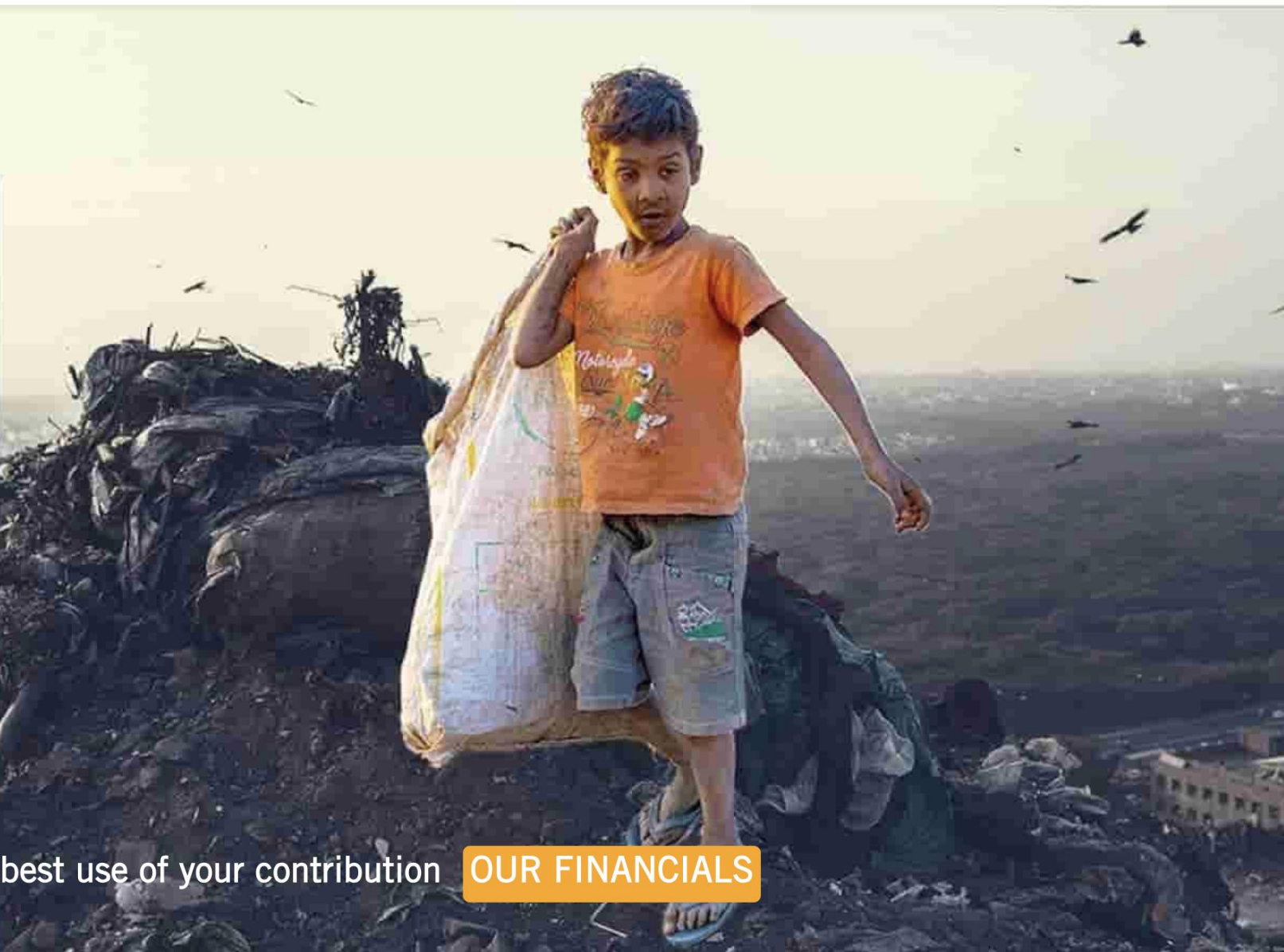
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DEEP DIVE

In the interest of the small fry



Does India's culinary heritage hold the key to 'sustainable' seafood?

MAGAZINE PAGE 1



Nobel laureate backs India's pursuit for a neutrino lab

SCIENCE PAGE 10



Krejčíkova pips Paolini in thrilling final

SPORT PAGE 13

INSIDE

Israeli strike targeting Hamas leader kills 90

GAZA STRIP

Israeli said it targeted Hamas's shadowy military commander Mohammed Deif in a strike in southern Gaza Strip that killed at least 90 people, half of them women and children, Israeli officials confirmed that Deif and a second commander, Rafa Salama, were the targets of the strike. » PAGE 12

Migrant workers in Meghalaya face continued assault

GAUWAHATI

Six labourers working on the Shillong-Umiam Road in Meghalaya were assaulted by youth wearing masks on Friday as members of pressure groups demanding implementation of the British-era Inner Line Permit system continued to attack migrant workers in the State. » PAGE 3

Cong. leader gets spyware attack alert from Apple

NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal on Saturday put out a notice from Apple informing him that a "targeted spyware attack" had been detected on his iPhone. The notification said that he was sent a similar notification earlier and this was another attack against his device. » PAGE 4

INDIA bloc wins 10 seats in Assembly bypolls

Congress, Trinamool win four seats each while the BJP bags two of the 13 seats in contention

AAP trounces sitting MLA who had defected to the BJP from the party in Punjab's Jalandhar West

Independent candidate beats JD(U) and RJD in Bihar's Rupauli while DMK wins in Vikravandi

Sreedarna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

INDIA bloc parties won 10 out of 13 Assembly seats where bypolls were held, while the BJP managed to wrest only two, the Election Commission declared on Saturday. The results of the July 10 Assembly bypolls, which were held just over a month after the Lok Sabha election, were encouraging for the Opposition coalition, which had restricted the BJP to 240 seats in the Lok Sabha.

While the Congress and Trinamool Congress won four seats each, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), and an Independent won one seat each.

The best news for the Congress came from Himachal Pradesh, where it won two constituencies — Dehra and Nalagarh — while only Hamirpur went to the BJP.

With this, the Congress has returned to its original strength of 40 MLAs in the State.

Relief for Congress

The bypoll in Himachal Pradesh had been necessitated after three independents withdrew support to the Congress and joined the BJP.

The position of Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu was further strengthened with his wife Kamlesh Thakur winning from Dehra. There was also

Poll triumph

Here is the list of winners of by-elections in 13 Assembly constituencies in seven States

Constituency	State	Winner	Constituency	State	Winner
Raiganj	West Bengal	Trinamool	Dehra	Himachal Pradesh	Congress
Ranaghat Dakshin	West Bengal	Trinamool	Matnagar	Himachal Pradesh	BJP
Bagha	West Bengal	Trinamool	Hamirpur	Himachal Pradesh	BJP
Mandakata	West Bengal	Trinamool	Amarwara	Madhya Pradesh	BJP
Manglaur	Uttarakhand	Congress	Vikravandi	Tamil Nadu	DMK
Badrinath	Uttarakhand	Congress	Jalandhar West	Punjab	AAP
			Rupauli	Bihar	Independent

Clear mandate: Trinamool Congress supporters celebrate the party's victory in Ranaghat Dakshin constituency, PTI

The party also wrested the Manglaur seat in Uttarakhand from the Bahujan Samaj Party.

In West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress continued to reign supreme, wresting three seats from BJP, namely Raiganj, Ranaghat Dakshin, and Bagda. In all three seats, BJP MLAs had switched sides.

The Trinamool also retained the Mandakata seat.

It was revenge time for the AAP in Punjab where it trounced Jalandhar West's sitting MLA Sheetal Angural, who had defected to the BJP. He was defeated by the AAP's Mohinder Bhagat, who had incidentally been her BJP rival in 2022.

In the Rupauli seat in Bihar, Independent Shankar Singh pulled off an upset win.

Solace for BJP

The BJP got some solace from the Amarwara seat in Madhya Pradesh, where Kamlesh Pratap Shah, who had switched sides to the BJP, won a tough contest against Congress candidate Dheeran Sah Sukharam Das Irasat.

In Tamil Nadu, the DMK sealed its dominance with its candidate in the Vikravandi seat Anniyur Siva emerging victorious.

MORE SEEDS
» PAGE 2 & 4

A grey, drizzly day



Imminent showers: Monsoon clouds hover over the rocky terrain at the World Heritage Site in Hampi, Karnataka. K. BHASKAR PRASAD

good news for the Congress in Uttarakhand, with the party retaining the Badrinath seat. The sitting MLA from the seat Rajendra Singh Bhandari, who had defected to the ruling BJP, was defeated by the Congress's Lakshapri Singh Butola.

Italian police free 33 Indian farm workers from 'slavery'

Reuters
ROME

Italian police said on Saturday they had freed 33 Indian farm labourers from slave-like working conditions in the northern Verona Province and seized almost €300,000 (about \$4.5 crore) from their two alleged abusers.

about exploitation is in the spotlight in Italy following an accident in June in which an Indian fruit picker died after his arm was severed by machinery.

In the latest case, police said the alleged gangmasters, also from India, brought fellow nationals to Italy on seasonal work per-

just €4 (about \$60) per hour, which was entirely locked from them until they settled all their debts, police said, describing their treatment as "slavery". Some were asked to continue working for free to pay an additional €13,000 (about \$12 lakh) for a permanent work permit, which, in reality, would have never been given to them," the police statement said.

The alleged abusers were charged with crimes connected to slavery and labour exploitation, while the victims will be offered protection, work opportunities and legal residency papers, the police said.

Members of the Indian community in Italy seek justice for the Indian worker who died in an accident in June. AP

Indian man among 3 dead in Nepal twin bus tragedy

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

The body of a 40-year-old Indian national working in Nepal was among three corpses recovered by rescuers on Saturday from the wreckage of two buses that were swept by a mudslide into a rain-swollen river with more than 50 passengers on Friday.

The two buses carrying 54 passengers, including seven Indians, were missing in Trishuli in the landslides in Chitwan district on Friday.

Three people swam to safety.

The first body from the buses was recovered in the morning 50 km away from the accident site. The deceased was identified as Rishi Pal Shahi from India, police said.

personnel carry out a search operation for survivors of the tragedy near Simtal on Saturday. AP

were identified as Santosh Thakur, Surendra Sah, Adit Miyaan, Sunil, Shahnavaj Alam, and Amar.

More than 500 security personnel, including from the Nepal Army and Nepal Police, along with deep divers were mobilised for the search operation, the police said.

Chance discovery of treasure pot sparks frenzy

An 18th-century vessel with gold and silver coins found by labourers digging a rainwater pit in Kannur district; police cordon off the site to keep possible fortune-seekers at bay; Archaeology Department may conduct excavations at the site

C.P. Saji
KANNUR

The chance discovery of a pot containing 18th-century gold and silver coins, and other period artefacts has suddenly elevated the profile of the sleepy village of Cherungal in Kannur district of Kerala.

Captivated by news of buried treasure, scores of people, possibly including fortune-seekers, are making a beeline for the leafy suburb dotted with rubber plantations.

The excitement generated by the news of the find has prompted the police to cordon off the spot for possible future excavations by the State Archaeology Department.

A group of local women labourers engaged in digging a rainwater harvesting pit for the Parappal Government School on Friday were the first to experience the exhilaration of discovering the buried treasure.

"Strange object" The homemakers, all beneficiaries of the rural employment guarantee scheme, said they approached the "strange object" with trepidation.

Some feared sorcery and wondered if the pot contained dark magic artefacts. Others worried the orb-shaped object could be an unexploded crude bomb, often used to settle political scores in

passed down generations and were integral to local folklore.

K. Krishna Raj, the officer-in-charge of the Pazhassi Raja Archaeological Museum in Kozhikode, said the locality rarely yielded historical collections and the riches could be some individual or family fortune.

Raja noted that the coins bore the hallmarks of late 18th century, with some displaying Indo-French and Kannur Ali Raja markings.

The bead necklaces appeared to be from the same era in ancient temple groves. He noted that local myths about 'moolla bhandari' or secreted assets were

Hidden fortunes: The 18th-century gold and silver coins found in a pot in Cherungal in Kannur district of Kerala. ARCHAEOL

Kannur. Nevertheless, their fear turned into excitement when they discovered the pot held a fortune from the past.

Vijayakumar Nambodiri, a

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MORE REPORTS

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IN BRIEF



Yogi Adityanath inaugurates Uttar Pradesh Mango Festival

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Friday in Lucknow that the state is exporting 40 tonnes of mangoes to Japan and Malaysia. He was inaugurating the Uttar Pradesh Mango Festival at Awadh Shilp Gram. "Uttar Pradesh will export 40 tonnes of mangoes to Japan and Malaysia this year. For the first time in 60 years, the famous Dussehri mangoes from Lucknow are also being exported to the United States," Mr. Adityanath said. "While the price of Dussehri mangoes in India ranges between ₹60 and ₹100 per kilogram, their price in the U.S. market has risen to ₹300 per kilogram," the Chief Minister added.

Navi Mumbai airport to be operational by March 2025

The new international airport in Navi Mumbai will be operational from March 2025, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said on Saturday. The airport, which is currently under construction, has been named after the Peasants and Workers Party of India leader Dinkar Bhaurao Patil. The Maharashtra government gave its nod in July 2022. Union Civil Aviation Minister K. Ramnath Naidu and Mr. Mohol reviewed the progress on July 13 by visiting the site in Navi Mumbai. Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Mohol said, "The airport will be operational in March 2025. The construction progress is as per schedule."

India to host a summit for entertainment sector in Nov.

India will host the first World Audiovisual and Entertainment Summit in November alongside the International Film Festival of India in Goa, with Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw promising to strengthen the ecosystem for the protection of intellectual property rights in the media and entertainment sector. Mr. Vaishnaw and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Saturday made the announcement of the first World Audiovisual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in Goa from November 20 to 24. "IP rights hold huge value in the media and entertainment sector. We will be strengthening the ecosystem for protecting IP rights," Mr. Vaishnaw said in his address.

Cybercrimes can derail development, says Dhankhar

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Saturday cautioned that cybercrimes can derail a nation's development, and called for a convergence of efforts and institutions to deal with the threat. He called for a need to further educate people to protect data to prevent them from falling victims of cybercrimes. Addressing a conference on cybercrimes, Mr. Dhankhar felt that there was a need to extend legal aid to victims of cybercrimes as they could have lost all their finances to cybercriminals. Referring to the growth of the country's economy, he said "derailment can take place when we are not prepared for such kind of crimes, such kind of incursions".

SUDOKU

			5		4			
	2	4			9	1	8	7
1			3		4	5	7	
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

Mumbai will be made global fintech capital, Maharashtra economic powerhouse: PM

In his maiden visit to the State after Lok Sabha polls, Modi calls Opposition parties 'enemies' of development; he says efforts are on to improve Mumbai's connectivity with neighbouring areas

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

In his maiden visit to Maharashtra after the Lok Sabha election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday laid foundation stones and inaugurated multiple public projects estimated at ₹29,596 crore, and said he aimed to make Mumbai the world's capital in financial technology and Maharashtra the leading State in tourism.

Later in the evening, he inaugurated the Indian Newspaper Society Towers in the Bandra Kurla Complex area.

"I aim to use Maharashtra's power to transform it into an economic powerhouse of the world. Want to make Mumbai [the] global fintech capital," Mr. Modi said, adding that he also wants Maharashtra to scale the top of the tourism charts. "There are two most magnificent forts of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, a thick Konkani coastline and the entire Sahyadri mountain range. There is immense potential to explore medical and conference tourism.

Emphasising the tourism sector while addressing media owners and senior management at another event, he asked



Narendra Modi with Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais, CM Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis during the inauguration of development projects in Mumbai on Saturday.

the media industry to have coordinated efforts to boost tourism in every State.

He took a jibe at the Opposition parties by calling them "enemies" of development, and reiterated the National Democratic Alliance's resolve for Vileshwar in the next 25 years. "It is our goal that the quality of life improves for all. We are attempting to improve connectivity of Mumbai with the neighbouring areas... A decade ago, the metro line was limited to 8 km, which now is a network of 80 km and work is going on to create another 200 km," he said. A decade ago, the Mum-

bai Metro was a single line of 11.4 km. Now, a metro rail network of 46.5 km is operational and 166.57 km is under various stages of construction.

"Media plays a crucial role in showing the correct path to the nation. It will play a crucial role in making India 'Vileshwar' in the next 25 years. Media also makes people aware of their strength and their rights... and its natural role is to create discourse... The media is not just a mute spectator of the conditions of the country, all of you peo-

ple of the media play an important role in changing the conditions and giving direction to the country. Today India is in such a period when its journey of the next 25 years is very important. For India to become developed in the next 25 years, the role of newspapers and magazines is equally big."

He laid the foundation stones for the Thane-Borivli (₹16,600 crore) and the Goregaon-Mulund (₹6,300 crore) twin tunnels to be executed by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) and Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), respectively.

Villages along China border to get 4G, tourist circuits, all-weather roads, says Home Ministry

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

At a high-level meeting here on Saturday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the implementation of the "Vibrant Villages Programme", which aims to develop infrastructure and open up villages to tourists along the China border.

Mr. Shah said that the Union government was committed to the all-round development of the border villages, and stressed the need to provide employment opportunities to the local people and increase connectivity with villages to prevent migration.

Under the programme, 136 border villages are being provided connectivity



Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviews the implementation of 'Vibrant Villages Programme' at a meeting in New Delhi.

through 113 all-weather road projects at a cost of ₹2,420 crore, a Home Ministry statement said.

Work is being done to develop tourist circuits to bring vibrancy to these villages and promote tourism. In this endeavour, ca-

capacity building and tourism-related infrastructure was being developed in coordination with the Tourism Ministry. The programme is in the process of being integrated with the Prime Minister's Gati Shakti monitoring.

Senior Home Ministry officers, including the Union Home Secretary, the Secretary, Border Management and Director-General, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, attended the meeting.

6,000 events have been organised in these border villages, which include 4,000 service-delivery and awareness camps. More than 600 projects have been sanctioned by the government for employment generation. During the meeting, Mr. Shah laid emphasis on review of the level at regular intervals to dispose of pending issues.

He said the Central Armed Police Forces and other security forces should encourage purchase of local agricultural and handicraft products through cooperatives. He said the health-care facilities of these forces should be regularly made available to benefit the residents of nearby villages.

Bangladesh team explores Kolkata port for transshipment

Moyaric Som KOLKATA

A 13-member delegation from Bangladesh visited the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port here on Tuesday and Friday to explore possibilities of transshipment cargo through ports located on India's east coast. The team also visited the Haldia Dock Complex in Purba Medinipur district on July 10.

The delegation was led by S.M. Mostafa Kamal, Joint Secretary, Bangladesh Shipping Ministry, and was accompanied by various stakeholders and representatives from other key Ministries and ports of Bangladesh. The visit was in accordance with what was discussed at the India-Bangladesh Shipping Secretaries-level talks in Dhaka last December.

The port authorities said the focal point of the discussions was the various trade facility advantages that Bangladesh exporters could gain from the transshipment of export-bound cargo to third countries through the port. They highlighted the strategic proximity to Bangladesh and the advantage of the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route in strengthening trade relations between the two countries and boosting export and import trade. The delegation was given a demonstration of the

The team discussed trade facility advantages for Bangladeshi exporters

infrastructure of the Kolkata Dock System and the Haldia Dock Complex and was told about the scope for handling containerised cargo for third-country export from Bangladesh. In the discussions, port authorities spoke about the future plans for development of the dock and a public-private partnership model.

Talks were also held on matters such as introducing direct voyage services between the port and China, planned vessel movement between the India-Bangladesh Shipping Secretaries-level talks in Dhaka last December. The port authorities said the focal point of the discussions was the various trade facility advantages that Bangladesh exporters could gain from the transshipment of export-bound cargo to third countries through the port. They highlighted the strategic proximity to Bangladesh and the advantage of the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route in strengthening trade relations between the two countries and boosting export and import trade.

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Chandipura virus: four children die in Gujarat

The Hindu Bureau AHMEDABAD

Four children died and two are under treatment for suspected infection by Chandipura virus, which causes encephalitis, in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat. The two children are being treated at the civil hospital in the district.

The authorities have sent the samples of the children who are undergoing the treatment, to the National Institute of Virology for confirmation. Chandipura virus is a rare and potentially deadly pathogen that causes fever, flu-like symptoms, and acute encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

6 lakh fake pollution-trading certificates unearthed in 3 States

Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 2023 had unearthed more than six lakh fake pollution-trading certificates during audits at four plastic-recycling companies in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka, documents show.

Multiple sources from the Environment Ministry and from the plastic waste recycling industry confirmed to *The Hindu* that the potential number of fake certificates could be manifold as these were only physically verified for recycling the claimed quantity, sources said.

Between 2022 and 2023, the latest year for which in-

formation is available, there were about 18,000 companies that use plastic packaging and were registered with the CPCB which manages the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme, as either producers, importers or brand-owners. They had a collective target of recycling about 3.3 million tonnes, with the Ministry data suggesting that on average, more than 85% of the target was met.

The Plastic Waste Management Rules mandate all companies that use plastic packaging to register with the CPCB. Not complying with these targets can invite fines.

These certificates, or EPR certificates, are used by thousands of companies that use plastic packaging in some form for business operations and are legally obliged to either en-



According to a report by the CPCB this May, nearly 3.7 million tonnes worth of certificates were generated. FILE PHOTO

sure that a prescribed percentage of the plastic used annually is collected and recycled, or that they buy enough certificates to make good on their targets. The mandated targets change every year.

In 2022-23, for instance, companies were expected to recycle 70% of the plastic generated in the previous two financial years. For

differing obligations, the exact number of certificates they buy from recyclers is not clear.

While 6,00,000 fake EPRs were bought by packaging companies as part of meeting their obligations, it is unclear who bought these certificates as the break-up is not publicly available.

The details vary, but the basic pattern in how recyclers produced fake certificates is similar. The four recycling companies, Enviro India Pvt. Ltd (Gurgaon), Shakti Plastics Industries (Maharashtra), Techno Recycling India Pvt. Ltd and Asha Recyclecan Pvt. Ltd, were hauled up for claiming to have generated many more EPR certificates than the installed capacity of their plants. The malpractice came to light after the CPCB conducted physical checks on

their premises.

Certificates generated by recycling companies are considered legitimate only if the recyclers are actually able to sell the recycled plastic. In the case of these companies, they were unable to establish proof of these sales to the visiting CPCB officials.

The Maharashtra Pollution Control Board has on March 2024, ordered Techno to shut down following violations. *The Hindu* could not confirm if the other companies have similar orders. A typical notice, for instance to Techno, said: "The Unit has generated EPR certificates of the order of 97,200 tonnes and transferred certificates of 88,200... quantities mentioned in the invoices are fallacious and very high compared to the declared production capacity..."



Yogi Adityanath inaugurates Uttar Pradesh Mango Festival

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Friday in Lucknow that the State would be exporting 40 tonnes of mangoes to Japan and Malaysia. He was inaugurating the Uttar Pradesh Mango Festival at Awadh Shilp Gram. “Uttar Pradesh will export 40 tonnes of mangoes to Japan and Malaysia this year. For the first time in 160 years, the famous Dussehri mangoes from Lucknow are also being exported to the United States,” Mr. Adityanath said. “While the price of Dussehri mangoes in India ranges between ₹60 and ₹100 per kilogram, their price in the U.S. market has risen to ₹900 per kilogram,” the Chief Minister added.

India ranks first among world's mango producing countries accounting for about 50% of the world's mango production.

Other major mango producing countries include China, Thailand, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Indonesia, Brazil, Nigeria and Egypt. India's share is around 52% of world production i.e. 12 million tonnes as against world's production of 23 million tonnes (2002-03).

Last year, **India exported 28,000 MT** of mangoes and earned about 48 million dollars!

Nowadays, mango trees are planted in **Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha and West Bengal**, with fruits from each state having their own special tastes

Uttar Pradesh is the largest mango producing state in India.

- Second **Andra Pradesh 18%**, Then **karnataka 14%**
- **Why is mango called the king of fruits?**
- Mango not only offers **superb taste**, but is also the **healthiest of fruits**
- One mango fruit offers **more Vitamins A, B, C, E and K, and metal compounds (Mg, Cu, K), and more antioxidants than the other fruits.**
- While some of these health benefits are available in several other fruits, mango leads the rest since **it has the highest levels of vitamins, minerals, and fibre content.** Hence the kingdom.



MANGO TYPES AND INDIAN STATES THEY ARE POPULARLY FOUND



ALPHONSO/ HAPUS
MAHARASHTRA



DASHERI
UTTAR PRADESH



KESAR
GUJARAT



LANGDA
UTTAR PRADESH



TOTAPURI
KARNATAKA



BADAM
KARNATAKA



CHAUNSA
UTTAR PRADESH

BUENOS AIRES
Argentina President declares Hamas a 'terrorist organisation'



Argentina has declared the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas an "international terrorist organization" over its October 7 assault on Israel and an "extensive history" of attacks, the presidency announced. President Javier Milei had visited Israel in February, where he lauded Hamas's attack on the Holocaust. AP

ISLAMABAD
Pakistan says its \$7 billion relief package will be last deal from IMF



The International Monetary Fund agreed to loan Pakistan \$7 billion to bolster its economy, with Islamabad pledging it would be the last time it relied on relief from the lender. Pakistan agreed to the deal — its 24th IMF payout since 1958 — in exchange for unpopular reforms, including widening its chronically low tax base. AP

MOSCOW
Russian oil depot catches fire following Ukrainian drone attack



An oil depot caught fire on Saturday in Russia's Rostov region after a Ukrainian drone attack. "After a drone attack, a fire broke out in a petrol refinery in the Tsimlyansky district," he said, adding that there were no casualties. He later said the fire, which was hundreds of kilometers from the front line, had been extinguished. AP

SEOUL
N. Korea threatens to boost nuclear arsenal after U.S.-South Korea deal



North Korea threatened to boost its nuclear fighting capability and the U.S. and South Korea say "an unimaginably harsh price" as it slammed its rivals' new defence guidelines. North Korea said the U.S.-South Korea guidelines betrayed "their sinister intention to step up preparations for a nuclear war against" North Korea. AP

Massive Israeli strike in Gaza leaves 90 dead, 300 injured

Israel claims to have targeted Mohammed Deif, the shadowy chief of Hamas's military wing and an architect of the Oct. 7 attack; the strike lands inside the Israeli-designated safe zone of Muwassi

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Israel said it targeted Hamas's shadowy military commander in a massive strike in the southern Gaza Strip that killed at least 90 people, half of them women and children. It was not immediately known whether Mohammed Deif was among the dead. But Israeli officials confirmed that he and second-in-command, Rafiq Salama, were the targets.

Talks may derail Deif is believed to be the chief architect of the October 7 attack that killed some 1,200 people in



Tall case: The debris following an Israeli military strike on the Muwassi area near the city of Khan Younis on Saturday. AP

southern Israel and triggered the Israel-Hamas war. He has topped Israel's most wanted list for years and is believed to have escaped multiple Israeli assassination attempts in the

past. His potential killing threatens to derail cease-fire talks and would be seen as a major Israeli victory in the nine-month campaign. Hamas rejected the

claim. "This is not the first time that the occupation has claimed to target Palestinian leaders, and their lies were later proven to be false," the group said in a post on X.

The Gaza Health Ministry said at least 300 others were injured in the attack and that many of the injured and dead were taken to nearby Nasser Hospital.

Witnesses said the strike landed inside Muwassi, the Israeli-designated safe zone that stretches from northern Rafah to Khan Younis. The coastal strip is where hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians have fled to in search of safety, sheltering mostly in makeshift tents.

Russian warships arrive in China for joint naval exercises

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Two Russian warships have arrived in the southern Chinese port city of Zhanjiang to take part in joint naval exercises, the Russian Defence Ministry said on Saturday.

China and Russia have greatly reinforced ties since the start of the Russian offensive in Ukraine that began in 2022.

Their common goal is also to reduce the role of the U.S. and the West on the international

"A detachment of vessels from the Pacific fleet will take part in the joint naval exercise — Interaction Maritime 2024," the Ministry announced on Telegram.

First phase The first phase will take place from Monday-Wednesday and involve anti-air and anti-submarine attacks along with Chinese planes specialised in anti-submarine warfare, the ministry said.

Last year, a similar naval exercise took place off Alaska.

Training ground



A U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer trains a dog to detect narcotics in a simulated mail room at a government training facility for drug-sniffing dogs who work to combat the transit of fentanyl and other drugs, in Front Royal, Virginia on Saturday. AP

Exiled Tibetan leaders welcome Biden's assent to Resolve Tibet Act

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

The leadership of the Central Tibetan Administration in exile has welcomed Presidential assent to the Resolve Tibet Act in the U.S. Welcoming President Joe Biden's signature on the Act, Sikyong Pabsol Tsering has vowed to campaign for the Tibetan cause through "non-violent means".

The approval of the Resolve Tibet Act by the U.S. President drew a strong response from Beijing, which argued that the law "grossly interfered in China's domestic affairs". "Please accept heartfelt prayers of gratitude from the Tibetan people, especially those inside occupied Tibet, who will rejoice in the renewed hope and inspiration that today's victory brings to their hea-

dent Biden signed the text of the Resolve Tibet Act on July 12. Biden's presidential assent, U.S. Congressman Jim McGovern said, the new law "helps the U.S. counter misinformation from the People's Republic of China and support the rights of Tibetans".

The Act, which was passed by the House in February and the Senate in May, enhances U.S. support for Tibet and promotes dialogue between China and the Dalai Lama for a peaceful solution. Citing the U.S. counter misinformation from the People's Republic of China and support the rights of Tibetans, the CTA observed that the U.S. law de-

clares the officials of the Chinese government as well as the Communist Party of China are often "historically inaccurate" while arguing about China's claims over Tibet. The CTA further said that the act will "actively combat disinformation propagated by the Government of the Peo-



The Act enhances U.S. support for Tibet and promotes dialogue between China and the Dalai Lama for a peaceful solution. CTA

ple's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party concerning Tibet, including falsehoods about the historical background of Tibet, its people, and its institutions, including those associated with the Dalai Lama."

In response, Beijing has "firmly" opposed the presidential approval. Citing a spokesperson, a Xinhua report said the act "violated the U.S. government's long-held position and

significant step forward in solidifying the U.S.'s stance on Tibet's historical status and its commitment to a lasting, negotiated solution to the Tibet-China conflict through non-violent means based on international law."

The visit by the seven-member U.S. lawmakers team led by Representative Michael McCaul had drawn a strong protest from Beijing. The delegation had started the visit by meeting with Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama ahead of his 89th birthday which was celebrated worldwide by the Tibetan diaspora on 6 July. The adoption of the Resolve Tibet Act and the visit of the bipartisan delegation of U.S. lawmakers to Tibet "sent a severely wrong signal to the 'Tibet independence' forces."

Citing a spokesperson, a Xinhua report said the act "violated the U.S. government's long-held position and

the next Dalai Lama would be reincarnated inside the People's Republic of China while others including former Tibetan Sikyong Dr. Lobsang Sangay have been arguing that there are historical precedents of past Dalai Lamas being reincarnated outside contemporary China like Mongolia and Taiwan in India. During the visit, Michael McCaul, who is also the Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, had spoken of Chinese interference in the "accession of the Dalai Lama" and warned that the "U.S. will not let that happen."

India had refused to get drawn into some of the strong remarks that the U.S. lawmakers had made in public during their visit to Dharamshala. However, the U.S. lawmakers were hosted at an official dinner by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and later met Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Beijing representatives have been claiming that

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran's president-elect Masoud Pezeshkian said he looks forward to improved relations with European nations, even though he accused them of reneging on commitments to mitigate the impact of U.S. sanctions.

Mr. Pezeshkian won a run-off election against ultra-conservative former nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili last week.

The 69-year-old has called for "constructive relations" with Western countries to get Iran out of its isolation, and favours reviving the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and global powers.

The U.S. withdrew from the accord in 2018, reimposing sanctions, which led Iran to gradually re-



Iran's president-elect Masoud Pezeshkian waves to supporters during the 2025 nuclear deal between Iran and global powers. AP

duce its commitment to the terms of the deal. The agreement aimed to curb nuclear activity, which Tehran maintains is for peaceful purposes.

In an article published late on Friday in the English-language Tehran Times newspaper, Mr. Pezeshkian said that after the U.S. pullout from the 2015

logue with European countries to set our relations on the right path, based on principles of mutual respect and equal footing." He said the two sides could explore "numerous areas of cooperation" if the Europeans "set aside self-arrogated moral supremacy coupled with manufactured crises that have plagued our relations for so long."

European Union spokeswoman Nabila Massrall had earlier congratulated Mr. Pezeshkian on his election, saying the 27-member bloc was "ready to engage with the new government in line with EU policy of critical engagement."

The death of ultra-conservative president Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash necessitated the July 6 election, which was not due until 2025.

Imran may be freed as court acquits him, wife in marriage case

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani court on July 13 overturned the conviction of Imran Khan and his wife in the case of the couple's alleged 2018 unlawful marriage case, removing the last known hurdle in the way of his release nearly a year after he was jailed, lawyers said.

Imran Khan, one of Mr. Khan's lawyers, said the court announced the verdict in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, where the former Premier is being held.

The acquittal comes two weeks after another appeals court upheld the February 5 conviction and sentence of Mr. Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi. The court in its brief order said if the couple is not wanted in any other case, they should be released.

Ms. Bibi is Mr. Khan's third wife and a spiritual healer. She was previously married to a man who claimed that they divorced in November 2017, less than three months before she married Mr. Khan. Islamic law, as upheld by Pakistan, requires a three-month waiting period before a new marriage.

Ms. Bibi has said they divorced in August 2017 and the couple insisted during the trial that they did not violate the waiting period. The government would respond to the court order. Authorities have registered multiple cases against Mr. Khan since 2022 when he was ousted from power. Ms. Bibi's acquittal is a vote of no-confidence in the Parliament. The latest development



Imran Khan

came a day after Pakistan's Supreme Court ordered that the party of Mr. Khan was improperly denied at least 20 seats in parliament.

Mr. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party was previously excluded from a system that gives parties extra seats reserved for women and minorities in the National Assembly, or lower house of the Parliament. Though the verdict was a major political win for Mr. Khan, it would not put his party in a position to oust the government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who came into power following a February 8 election that Mr. Khan allies say was rigged.

Mr. Khan has been embroiled in more than 150 legal cases, including inciting violence, since his arrest in May 2023. During nationwide riots that followed that, Mr. Khan's supporters attacked the military and government buildings.

The violence subsided only when Mr. Khan was released by the Supreme Court. Mr. Khan was again arrested in early August 2023 after a court handed him a three-year jail sentence for corruption. Since then, Mr. Khan has been given bail by different courts in all the cases in which he has been convicted.

+ Russian warships arrive in China for joint naval exercises

Agence France-Presse

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First phase

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Last year, a similar naval exercise took place off Alaska.

ONE AND TWO
Krejcikova joins the elite list of French-Wimbledon champions



Krejcikova, the 2021 Roland-Garros champion, is one of six women in the Open era (since 1968) to secure their first Wimbledon titles at the French Open and Wimbledon. The others are Evonne Coolidge (1974), Chris Evert (1974), Garbine Muguruza (2016 and '17), Simona Halep (2018 and '19) and Ash Barty (2019 and '21).

CHIN UP
I have to remember today is still a good day, says Paolini



Jasmine Paolini has now lost two Grand Slam finals back to back after coming off second best at the French Open last month. "I'm a little bit sad but I try to keep smiling. I have to remember today is still a good day," said Paolini, who had never won a grass-court match in her career until last month.

BRIGHT FUTURE
Alcaraz will win many more Slams, hopefully not on Sunday: Djokovic



Novak Djokovic has backed Carlos Alcaraz to rack up more Grand Slam titles, but the first hopes that Alcaraz will win when they clash in a blockbuster Wimbledon final on Sunday. "He is going to win many more Grand Slams, but hopefully in two days not this one," Djokovic said.

ROYAL TOUCH
Princess of Wales set to watch the Wimbledon men's final



The Princess of Wales is set to attend the Wimbledon men's final on Sunday in a rare public appearance after cancer diagnosis. Kensington Palace confirmed on Saturday that Kate, wife of heir to the throne Prince William, will be in the Royal Box on Centre Court to watch defending champion Carlos Alcaraz play Novak Djokovic.

Ice-cool Krejcikova aces Paolini test to win tennis' holy grail

The Czech defeats the Italian at the same Centre Court where her late mentor Novotna hoisted the Venus Rosewater Dish 26 summers ago



Towards tennis nirvana: Krejcikova let two match-points slip before a huge serve into the ad-court sealed the tie. GETTY IMAGES

N. Sudarshan
LONDON

Heading into the Wimbledon final, Barbora Krejcikova was a seven-time major doubles champion, the 2021 French Open singles winner and an Olympic gold medalist. She had even completed the career slam in doubles, winning each of the four big titles at least once.

But tennis nirvana, it appears, doesn't quite touch those who are yet to triumph in singles at the historic All England Club. On Saturday, Krejcikova achieved this crowning glory by defeating Italy's Jasmine Paolini 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 at the same Centre Court where her late mentor Jana Novotna hoisted the Venus Rosewater Dish 26 summers ago.

"It's unreal what just happened," the Czech star said on court. "Definitely the best day of my career and my life. Jasmine played great, but in the end I was the lucky one."

Management gurus will say that luck arises when preparation meets opportunity and on the day Krejcikova was a tad better at this. The 28-year-old played a superb first set, disappeared in the second before cracking open the contest at 3-3 in the third and holding her nerve during the tense home stretch. Paolini was in form, having reached the French Open final a month ago, and someone whom the SW19 populace had instinctively warmed up to as they would with a hushed piece of art.

But Krejcikova struck them into silence by breaking Paolini in the very first game. She landed 90% of her first serves, won 80% of all service points and a majority on the return.

Virtuoso artist
The six seed hit with power and precision, changed direction at will and painted the lines like a virtuoso artist.

In the second, however, Paolini came out swinging.

Four errors into the net for the second game handed the 28-year-old a crucial break and a teehold. Another break in the eighth game levelled matters and gave Paolini a chance to serve ahead in the third.

"Nobody is going to believe that I won Wimbledon... I still can't believe it," insisted Krejcikova. "The first match here was three hours and 15 minutes and I won 7-5 in the third. I didn't have a good season and it is unbelievable that I am standing here with this trophy."

The 28-year-old said none of her dreams would have materialised if not for the mentorship of Novotna. "After I finished juniors, I didn't know whether to go professional or into education. She told me that I had potential to be a champion."

"Before she passed away (2017) she asked me

'Novotna told me that I had the potential to be a champion'

N. Sudarshan
LONDON

Wimbledon and the Czech Republic seem to have a special relationship. Four women representing the country have won Grand Slam singles titles and all four have triumphed at SW19, with Barbora Krejcikova joining Jana Novotna (1980), Petra Kvitova (2011 and 2014) and Marketa Vondrousova (2023).

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"Before she passed away (2017) she asked me

to win a Slam and I achieved that (French Open 2021). I never thought I would also win the same trophy as Jana did. It is very emotional to see me on the [honours] board next to her."

Krejcikova, who is set to re-enter the WTA top-10 on Monday, said it was Novotna who kindled in her the love for Wimbledon.

"When I was 12, I wrote that I would like to win the French Open. Things shifted when I actually met Jana and when she was telling me all the stories about Wimbledon, the grass, how difficult it was for her to win and how emotional she was when she made it.

"Since then, I saw Wimbledon as the biggest tournament in the world. I think she will be proud."

For Jasmine Paolini, Saturday's finalist, there was a silver lining even in defeat.

"As a kid, looking at Wimbledon on TV, I remember cheering for (Roger) Federer. To now be here is great and it has been a beautiful two weeks."



Win-Miss Krejcikova and Paolini made it an exciting finale with a memorable battle. AP



Titanic clash: Alcaraz will do everything he can to deny Djokovic a record-extending 25th Major. GETTY IMAGES

Zestful Alcaraz stands in the way of a resilient Djokovic

N. Sudarshan
LONDON

On June 5, when Novak Djokovic had a surgery on his right knee to mend a torn meniscus, Wimbledon seemed as distant as the moon. The Olympic Games, which starts on July 26 in Paris, seemed a realistic target, for he has long coveted singles gold which his famed rivals Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray both have.

Less than six weeks since going under the surgeon's scalpel, the 37-year-old is in the Wimbledon final for a 10th time — a record 37th in Slams overall — with the opportunity to equal Roger Federer's eight singles crowns at the All England Club and secure a record-extending 25th Major.

In his way is Spain's Carlos Alcaraz, who beat the Serb over five fantastic sets in the 2023 final and has since added 2024 Roland-Garros — his third Grand

Slam title — to establish himself as the next generation's *numero uno*. Djokovic, after defeating Lorenzo Musetti in the semifinals, even called Alcaraz "one of the greatest 21-year-olds ever."

Cat-and-mouse final
Djokovic is humility personified and mostly liberal in his praise. On court, though, he is a ruthless machine. His form has improved through the tournament and such is his confidence that he is back sliding with ease and swift by changing direction on the slippery laws. The fact that Alcaraz has not been at his best points to a cat-and-mouse final.

"I try not to think that I'm the defending champion," Alcaraz insisted. "I go into every match thinking I have chances to lose. I know how it is playing Djokovic and I know what I have to do. I'm sure he knows what he has to do. I'm ready to take that

challenge."

For Djokovic, the match comes as a crucial time. He has lost his last three matches against top-10 players, twice to Jannik Sinner and Casper Ruud. And he has not won a title since beating Sinner last November at the ATP Tour Finals.

"History is on the line," Djokovic said. "Roger holds eight Wimbledon [and] I hold seven. Also, a potential 25th Grand Slam. It serves as great motivation, but it's also a lot of pressure. (But) every time I step on the court, even though I'm 37 and competing with the 21-year-olds, I expect myself to win."

In 2021, when the summer clashes of Euro and Wimbledon were on the same day, it was bitter-sweet for the Italians as Djokovic beat Matteo Berrettini before the footballers salvaged the day. Come Sunday, the Spaniards will want the cake and eat it, too.

Jaiswal and Gill's masterclass secures Men in Blue a series victory

INDIA IN ZIMBABWE

Agence France Press
HARARE

Yashasvi Jaiswal and captain Shubman Gill thrashed Zimbabwe's bowlers to all parts of the Harare Sports Club on Saturday to secure a 10-wicket win in the fourth T20I and with it claim the series.

Chasing Zimbabwe's 152 for seven, India cruised home with 28 balls to spare to take a 3-1 lead in the five-match series.

The left-handed Jaiswal hammered 53 not out off 53 balls and was named

Player-of-the-Match while Gill made 58 not out off 39 deliveries.

"Chasing was something we talked about," Gill said at the post-match presentation. "We couldn't do it in the first game so it was good to get it done."

Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza said he had thought after his team's innings that 160 was a par score but admitted: "The Sharma and Shivam Dube. India again opened to field only four specialist bowlers, including new cap Tushar Deshpande, who claimed the wicket of Raza while conceding 30 runs in three overs.

nating the next three matches. Although Raza hit 46 off 28 balls, Zimbabwe was unable to capitalise fully on its first good start of the series.

Wesley Madhevere (25) and Tadiwanashe Marumani (32) put on 63 for the first wicket after Zimbabwe was sent in to bat.

But the openers fell in successive overs to part-time bowlers Abhishek Sharma and Shivam Dube. India again opened to field only four specialist bowlers, including new cap Tushar Deshpande, who claimed the wicket of Raza while conceding 30 runs in three overs.

SCOREBOARD

ZIMBABWE
Wesley Madhevere c Rinku b Dube 25 (24), 46*, Tadiwanashe Marumani c Rinku b Abhishek 32 (21), 34*, Brian Bennett c Jaiswal b Washington 9 (24), Sikandar Raza c Gill b Deshpande 46 (28), 24*, 24*, Johnathan Campbell run out 3 (20), Ryan Miers c & b Rahalet 12 (33), Clive Mazarire c Rinku b Khaled 7 (26), Zavi Faraz Akram (not out) 4 (20), Madhevere 5 (6), 3-52 (Bennett, 12.4), 4-91 (Campbell, 14.4), 5-141 (Raza, 18.3), 6-147 (Miers, 19.1), 7-152 (Mazire, 19.6).

INDIA BOWLING
Khaled 4-0-32.2, Deshpande

3-0-30-1, Bishop 4-0-22-0, Washington 0-0-22-1, Abhishek 3-0-20-1, Dube 2-0-11-1.

INDIA
Yashasvi Jaiswal (not out) 53 (53), 23*, 24*, Shubman Gill (not out) 58 (39), 44*, 24*, Extras (w-5), 51 total (50 no runs in 35.2 overs), 152.

ZIMBABWE BOWLING
Ngarava 3-0-27-0, Mazarabani 3-0-25-0, Chata 2-0-23-0, Akram 4-0-41-0, Raza 2-0-24-0, Bennett 1-0-36-0.

Test India, Pakt: Jaiswal, India won by 10 wickets with 28 balls remaining to take an unassailable 3-1 lead in five-match series.



Unstoppable: Jaiswal's knock left the bowlers clueless. XHR/CCI

Ice-cool Krejcikova aces Paolini test to win tennis' holy grail

The Czech defeats the Italian at the same Centre Court where her late mentor Novotna hoisted the Venus Rosewater Dish 26 summers ago



Towards tennis nirvana: Krejčíková let two match-points slip before a huge serve into the ad-court sealed the tie. GETTY IMAGES

N. Sudarshan
LONDON

Heading into the Wimbledon final, Barbora Krejčíková

Management gurus will say that luck arises when preparation meets opportunity and on the day Krejčíková was a tad better at this. The 28-year-old

Four errors into the net from Krejčíková in the second game handed the 28-year-old a crucial break and a toehold. Another break in the eighth game

Official website [↗](#)

Founded	1877; 147 years ago
Editions	137 (2024)
Location	London England, United Kingdom
Venue	All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club Worple Road (1877–1921) Church Road (since 1922)
Surface	Grass outdoors ^[a]
Prize money	£44,700,000 (2023) ^[1]

Men's

Draw	S (128Q) / 64D (16Q) ^[b]
Current champions	Carlos Alcaraz (singles) Harri Heliövaara Henry Patten (doubles)
Most singles titles	Roger Federer (8)
Most doubles titles	Todd Woodbridge (9)

Women's

Draw	S (128Q) / 64D (16Q)
Current champions	Barbora Krejčíková (singles) Kateřina Siniaková Taylor Townsend (doubles)
Most singles titles	Martina Navratilova (9)
Most doubles titles	Elizabeth Ryan (12)

स्वच्छता बढ़ाओ, तंदुरुस्ती बढ़े

स्लीमहाईड पलश टैंक कहाँ..?

बड़ी तोड़फोड़ + दीवार को लीकेज से बचायें

जगह बचाये

MUMBAI VISIT: INAUGURATES PROJECTS WORTH OVER ₹29,000 CR

PM Modi hits back at Opp: More jobs as pace of infra projects stepped up

PM: Aim to make state a financial powerhouse of world, Mumbai fintech capital

MUMBAI, JULY 13

NAYONIKA BOSE

COUNTERING THE Opposition's attack on rising unemployment Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who inaugurated projects worth over Rs 29,000 crore in Mumbai on Saturday, said that every infrastructure project leads to job creation, and the increased pace of infrastructure development has led to increased employment generation.

This was Modi's first visit to the city since his re-election last



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, Governor Ramesh Bais and Deputy CMs Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar in Mumbai on Saturday.

month. Among other projects, he laid the foundation stone for two underground twin tunnel projects.

With the construction of every bridge, road or manufacturing of railway coaches, someone gets a job. With the increasing pace of infrastructure development, employment generation is also increasing, and with higher investment, these opportunities will increase further," he said.

Saying that Maharashtra has propagated cultural, social and

national consciousness in the country, Modi added: "We have to remember that goodwill (saudharan) and harmony (samardh) are intrinsic to the path to prosperity (samraddhi)".

Accusing the Opposition of creating a false narrative, he cited a recent report released by the Reserve Bank of India which said almost 8 crore jobs had been created in the last three-four years.

"With these projects which are worth about Rs 30,000 crore, employment opportunities will also be created in Maharashtra. Only two-three months back, the Central Government's three-year plan for the development of the port project, which is close to over Rs 76,000 crore, will create employment opportunities for over 10 lakh people," he said.

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal saw the

BYPOLLS IN SEVEN STATES

INDIA bloc takes 10 of 13 Assembly seats, BJP gets 2 TMC sweep in Bengal; Bihar seat goes to Independent

ASAD REHMAN
 NEW DELHI, JULY 13

IN THE first big electoral battle after the Lok Sabha poll results last month, the INDIA bloc parties, which contested separately in West Bengal and Punjab, gained five seats to win 10 of the 13 Assembly seats across seven states before by-polls were held. The BJP, on the other hand, won just two seats, down from three, while ally JDU lost its seat in Bihar to an Independent.

In the bypoll results on Saturday, only one of the three outgoing Independent MLAs who contested as BJP candidates this time, retained his seat in Haryana Pradesh.

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal saw the

THE WINNERS

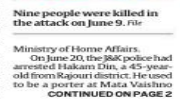
CONSTITUENCY	CANDIDATE	VOTE SHARE
WEST BENGAL (TMC retains majority, wrests the seat from BJP)		
Kaigai	Kristina Kalyani, TMC	57.97% (+21.39)
Rangghat Dakshin	Mukul Mani Adhikari, TMC	55.08% (+12.57)
Bagda	Madhusarna Thakur, TMC	55.04% (+10.1)
Manabada	Sugul Pandey, TMC	71.65% (+20.83)
HIMACHAL PRADESH (Seats were with Independents who joined BJP)		
Dehra	Kamlesh Thakur, Cong	57.94% (+26.38)
Hansi	Ashish Sharma, BJP	51.23% (+27.98)
Nalagarh	Hardeep Singh Bawa, Cong	46.43% (+19.58)
UTTARAKHAND (Cong retains Badrinath, wrests Manglaur from BSP)		
Badrinath	LalBahadur Singh Butola, Cong	58.93% (+4.05)
Manglaur	Qazi Md. Nizamuddin, Cong	57.51% (+14.1)
BIHAR (Singh was with P last time and got 24% votes, wrests seat from JDU)		
Rispat	Shankar Singh, Ind	39.97%
TAMIL NADU (DMK retains seat)		
Vikravandi	Anusiyar Siva, DMK	63.22% (+14.81)
PUNJAB (AAP retains seat)		
Malinder Baghat, AAP	Malinder Baghat, AAP	58.39% (+24.66)
MADHYA PRADESH (BSP retains seat he fought last time from Cong)		
Amarwara	Kamlesh Pratap Shah, BJP	40.84% (+3.54)

Reasi attackers paid local cattle trader for logistics, finds probe

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
 NEW DELHI, JULY 13

SHORTLY AFTER attacking a bus ferrying pilgrims to Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi on June 9, killing nine people, three terrorists from Pakistan gave Rs 5,000 to a local resident for the logistical support he provided, it is learnt. With his help, central agencies have now prepared sketches of two more attackers.

Investigation into the case had been transferred from the Jammu and Kashmir police to the National Investigation Agency, on the directions of the



Nine people were killed in the attack on June 9. It

MTNL on the brink of debt default, knocks on Govt door for funds

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & SOUMYI ARENDRA BARKI
 NEW DELHI, JULY 13

STATE-OWNED Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has sought funds from the government since it does not have sufficient means to pay interest on its debt obligations.

With the date for paying interest on a part of debt due a week later on July 20 and more interest payments to be made in coming months, any further delay may force lenders to invoke the sovereign guarantee accompanying the debt raised by the company.

A section in the government

Managing long-term debt

ONE OF the options MTNL had to ensure was an asset-liability plan for each of its units. But of the Rs 17,500 crore target fixed in 2019, it has monetised assets to the tune of only Rs 1,500-1,600 crore.

is concerned since most MTNL debt is backed by a sovereign

Army looking at '360-degree' appraisal with inputs from peers, subordinates

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
 NEW DELHI, JULY 13

SEEKING TO bring in a more comprehensive process to assess the performance of its personnel, the Army is learnt to be considering the '360-degree appraisal' method which would include inputs from peers and subordinates too.

This is likely to be on the lines of the appraisal method learnt to be employed by the central government to assess the performance of civil servants, including officers from the All India Services and other Group A services, for empanment to the post of joint secretary and above.

Senior officials said the issue was discussed at the Army Commanders' Conference in

As MP doubles down on cattle smuggling, officials busy with arrests and demolitions

ANAND MOHAN SODHI
 NEW DELHI, JULY 13

MADHYA PRADESH has declared 2024 as Gatawasht Raksha Varsh (Bovine Protection Year). While the state government has doubled down on efforts to confiscate vehicles used in cattle smuggling, tripled the budget for cow protection and directed senior officers in every district to clamp down on cow slaughter.

Since Mohan Yadav took over as Chief Minister six months ago, the BJP government has made evident that cow protection and crackdown on cattle smuggling are among its top priorities, forcing an already stretched government machinery — the district administration, police and prosecution — to march up to the task.

From January to June this year, police arrested 1,651 people in 731 cases related to illegal cattle transport in the state; the corresponding period last year saw 212 cases and around 400



MP CM Mohan Yadav had directed state officials to take strict action on illegal transportation of cows.

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Kashmir (02/07)	Shimla Manali (08/07)	Jaipur (09/07)	Delhi (10/07)	Goa (11/07)	Chennai (12/07)
8 Days - Aug 17	8 Days - Aug 17	8 Days - Aug 17	8 Days - Aug 17	8 Days - Aug 17	8 Days - Aug 17
₹49,900	₹49,900	₹49,900	₹49,900	₹49,900	₹49,900
Sikkim Darjeeling Gangtok (07/08)	Rajasthan Jaipur (08/08)	Madhya Pradesh (09/08)	Andhra Pradesh (10/08)	Tamil Nadu (11/08)	Kerala (12/08)
6 Days - Aug 1	8 Days - Aug 1	8 Days - Aug 1	8 Days - Aug 1	8 Days - Aug 1	8 Days - Aug 1
₹42,000	₹42,000	₹42,000	₹42,000	₹42,000	₹42,000
Bhubaneswar Puri (08/09)	Kerala (09/09)	Nepal (10/09)	Bhutan (11/09)	Sri Lanka (12/09)	Japan (01/10)
8 Days - Aug 16	8 Days - Aug 16	8 Days - Aug 16	8 Days - Aug 16	8 Days - Aug 16	8 Days - Aug 16
₹55,000	₹55,000	₹55,000	₹55,000	₹55,000	₹55,000
Singapore Malaysia (08/10)	Singapore Thailand (09/10)	Vietnam Cambodia (10/10)	Vietnam (11/10)	Japan (12/10)	Europe (01/11)
10 Days - Aug 17	10 Days - Aug 17	10 Days - Aug 17	10 Days - Aug 17	10 Days - Aug 17	10 Days - Aug 17
₹1,10,000	₹1,10,000	₹1,10,000	₹1,10,000	₹1,10,000	₹1,10,000
Australia (08/11)	Dubai Abu Dhabi (09/11)	Europe (10/11)	Europe (11/11)	Europe (12/11)	Europe (01/12)
7 Days - Oct 8	15 Days - Aug 25	15 Days - Sept 1	15 Days - Sept 1	15 Days - Sept 1	15 Days - Sept 1
₹75,000	₹75,000	₹75,000	₹75,000	₹75,000	₹75,000

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Trump survives assassination bid at rally

Former U.S. President shot at during a rally in Pennsylvania; FBI identifies 20-year-old shooter, U.S. Secret Service says he was shot down; one rally attendee killed and two other spectators injured in the incident; U.S. President Joe Biden appeals for 'unity' and orders an independent security review of the lead-up to the attack

Reuters

BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

Former U.S. President Donald Trump was shot at during a campaign rally on Saturday after a major security lapse, an attack that will likely reshape this year's presidential race.

Mr. Trump, 78, had just begun a campaign speech in Butler, Pennsylvania, about 50 km north of Pittsburgh, when shots rang out, hitting the former President's right ear and streaking his face with blood.

"Fight! Fight! Fight!" Mr. Trump mouthed to supporters, pumping his fist, as Secret Service agents rushed him away. His campaign said he was doing well.

Attacker identified

The FBI identified 20-year-old Thomas Matthew



Close shave: Donald Trump is surrounded by U.S. Secret Service agents after a bullet struck him in the ear on Saturday. AP

Crooks of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, as the suspect. He was a registered Republican, according to

state voter records and had made a \$15 donation to a Democratic political action committee at the age of 17.

He was fatally shot at by Secret Service agents, the agency said, after he opened fire from the roof

of a building about 140 metres from the stage where Mr. Trump was speaking.

U.S. President Joe Biden on Sunday appealed for the country to "unite as one nation" and said he was ordering an independent security review of the lead-up to the attack.

Mr. Biden delivered brief remarks from the White House after receiving a briefing on the investigation in the Situation Room. He said he has directed the probe to be "thorough and swift," and asked the country not to "make assumptions" about the perpetrator's motives or affiliations.

Gun recovered

An AR-15-style semiautomatic rifle used in the shooting was recovered near the shooter's body, according to sources.

Authorities identified a rally attendee who was shot and killed as Corey Comperatore, 50, of Sarver, Pennsylvania, who Pennsylvania Governor Josh Sha-

piro told reporters was killed when he dove on top of his family to protect them from the hail of bullets. At least two other spectators were injured.

Law enforcement officials said they had not yet identified a motive for the attack.

The shooting occurred less than four months before the November 5 election, when Mr. Trump faces an election rematch with Democratic President Joe Biden. Most opinion polls including those by Reuters/Ipsos show the two locked in a close contest.

Mr. Trump said he will be travelling to Milwaukee for GOP convention on Sunday afternoon after the assassination attempt.

MODI DECRIES ATTACK

» PAGE 5

RELATED REPORTS

» PAGE 14

Four US Presidents, one candidate were assassinated. Seven survived attempts.

ASSASSINATED



1865
Abraham Lincoln
16th President



1881
James Garfield
20th President



1901
William McKinley
25th President



1963
John F. Kennedy
35th President



1968
Robert F. Kennedy
candidate



1912
Theodore Roosevelt
candidate



1933
Franklin Roosevelt
32nd President



1972
George Wallace
candidate



1975
Gerald Ford
38th President



1981
Ronald Reagan
40th President



1994
Bill Clinton
42nd president



2005
George W. Bush
43rd president

ATTEMPTED KILLINGS

Treasury of Jagannath temple in Puri opened after 46 years

As per a 1978 inventory, the *Ratna Bhandar* has 128.38 kg of gold and 221.53 kg of silver ornaments; the ornaments in the outer chamber were shifted to a strongroom; in 1805, an inventory had documented only 64 pieces of jewellery

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

After 46 years of legal battles, controversies, and debates, the *Ratna Bhandar*, or sacred treasury, of the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri was opened on Sunday.

"In accordance with the divine will of Lord Shree Jagannath, the *Ratna Bhandar* was opened today after 46 long years. I sincerely hope for the success of this monumental endeavour," Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said on X.

The process took over four hours. Arabinda Kumar Padhee, chief administrator of the temple, said, "We have opened both chambers. Since the locks of the inner chamber of *Ratna Bhandar* could not be opened, they had to be broken. We followed all the standard operating procedures given to us."

"We have shifted ornaments of the outer chamber to a temporary strongroom inside the temple complex. Subsequently, we have sealed the strongroom. Though we saw almira and trunks containing jewellery in the inner chamber, the ornaments could not be shifted to another temporary strong-



Long wait: Special boxes being brought to the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri ahead of the reopening of the *Ratna Bhandar* on Sunday. ANI

room due to paucity of time," said Mr. Padhee.

"On another designated day, the remaining work will be completed. Inventory of the inner chamber's jewellery will be compiled at the same place following its renovation," he added.

The work began at 1.28 p.m. on Sunday. After a series of rituals, two different teams entered the temple to oversee the opening of the sacred chambers. They were joined by snake catchers, a medical team, and disaster response personnel.

As per the inventory last made in 1978, the *Ratna*

Bhandar comprising *Bahar Bhandar* (outer chamber) and *Bhitar Bhandar* (inner chamber) has a total of 454 gold articles with a net weight of 12,838 *Bharis* (128.38 kg) and 293 silver articles weighing 22,153 *Bharis* (221.53 kg).

These chambers contain the jewels of the three sibling deities – Lord Balabhadra, Lord Jagannath, and Devi Subhadra.

More than 200 years ago, in 1805, an inventory documented only 64 pieces of jewellery in the *Ratna Bhandar*. By 1952, the Srimandir Record of Rights listed 150 gold ornaments

in the *Bahar Bhandar*, along with 180 pieces of gold and 146 silver items. A decade later, in 1962, an inventory revealed 602 ornaments. However, in 1967, verification accounted for only 433 items.

In 2008, the Archaeological Survey of India, following instructions from the Orissa High Court, performed a structural inspection of the *Ratna Bhandar* but could not enter the inner chamber.

For some reason, during its 24 years of rule, the Naveen Patnaik government had not made any attempts to open the *Ratna Bhandar*

although concerns were raised about its structural stability and safety of ornaments. Public interest litigation pleas were filed in the Orissa High Court seeking the opening of the *Ratna Bhandar*. The High Court had also issued notice to the State government seeking its status.

The BJP had made the opening of the *Ratna Bhandar* a major poll plank in the 2024 elections. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also made promises about the opening of the *Ratna Bhandar* during election campaigning.

On July 4, a month after the declaration of the Lok Sabha election results, the Majhi government constituted a high-level committee under the chairmanship of former Orissa High Court judge Justice Biswanath Rath (retd.) to supervise the process of cataloguing the valuables. The BJP government had dissolved a similar committee constituted under the chairmanship of former Supreme Court Judge Justice Arijit Pasayat.

The committee decided to open the *Ratna Bhandar* on Sunday and suggested different standard operating procedures and cataloguing of ornaments and safety of valuables.

The precious ornaments of sibling deities, **Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Goddess Subhadra**, given by devotees and erstwhile kings over centuries, are stored in the Ratna Bhandar of the **12th century shrine**.

The Ratna Bhandar consists of two chambers: the **Bhitar Bhandar (inner chamber)** and the **Bahara Bhandar (outer chamber)**.

- While the outer chamber is opened regularly to fetch ornaments for the deities during important rituals and festivals, the inner chamber has not been opened in the past **38 years**.

Demands for Opening the Ratna Bhandar:

The demand to open the Ratna Bhandar has gained momentum due to concerns over the chamber's structural integrity.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the custodian of the temple, requisitioned the chamber for repair and conservation due to apprehensions of cracks in its walls, which could endanger the priceless ornaments stored within.

Jagannath Temple

It was constructed by a famous king of Ganga Dynasty Ananta Varman Chodaganga Deva dating back to 12th century. It is known as the “White Pagoda” and one of the four pilgrimage sites of Char Dham Pilgrimage.

It is also called as ‘**Yamanika Tirtha**’ where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the **power of ‘Yama’, the god of death**, has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.

Associated Major Festivals: Snana Yatra, Netrotsava, **Rath Yatra**, Sayan Ekadasi.

Event and Process / घटना और प्रक्रिया

After 46 years, the Ratna Bhandar (sacred treasury) of the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri was opened.

46 वर्षों के बाद, पुरी के श्री जगन्नाथ मंदिर के रत्न भंडार (पवित्र खजाना) को खोला गया।

The process took over four hours, involving several rituals and the movement of ornaments to a temporary storeroom.

प्रक्रिया में चार घंटे से अधिक का समय लगा, जिसमें कई अनुष्ठान और आभूषणों को एक अस्थायी स्टोररूम में स्थानांतरित करना शामिल था।

Inventory Details / सूची का विवरण

As per the 1978 inventory, the Ratna Bhandar has 128.38 kg of gold and 221.53 kg of silver ornaments.

1978 की सूची के अनुसार, रत्न भंडार में 128.38 किलोग्राम सोने और 221.53 किलोग्राम चांदी के आभूषण हैं।

The inner chamber contains 454 gold articles and 293 silver articles, while the outer chamber has 180 pieces of gold and 146 silver items.

भीतरी कक्ष में 454 सोने के लेख और 293 चांदी के लेख हैं, जबकि बाहरी कक्ष में 180 सोने के टुकड़े और 146 चांदी के आइटम हैं।

Historical Context / ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ

In 1805, an inventory documented only 64 pieces of jewelry.

1805 में, एक सूची ने केवल 64 गहनों के टुकड़ों को दर्ज किया।

In 1962, an inventory revealed 602 ornaments, but verification in 1967 accounted for only 433 items.

1962 में, एक सूची ने 602 गहनों का खुलासा किया, लेकिन 1967 में सत्यापन में केवल 433 आइटम शामिल थे।

- **Concerns and Controversies / चिंताएँ और विवाद**
- Concerns were raised about the structural stability and safety of the ornaments.
- आभूषणों की संरचनात्मक स्थिरता और सुरक्षा के बारे में चिंताएँ उठाई गईं।
- Public interest litigation and political promises also surrounded the opening of the Ratna Bhandar.
- सार्वजनिक हित याचिका और राजनीतिक वादे भी रत्न भंडार के खुलने के आसपास थे।
- The High Court and other authorities have been involved in the decision-making process.
- उच्च न्यायालय और अन्य प्राधिकरण निर्णय लेने की प्रक्रिया में शामिल रहे हैं।

- Consider the following statements regarding the recent opening of the Ratna Bhandar at the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri:

1. The Ratna Bhandar was opened after 46 years.
2. The inventory from 1978 documented 128.38 kg of gold and 221.53 kg of silver ornaments.
3. The High Court had issued a notice to the State government seeking the status of the Ratna Bhandar.

- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 - a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3

IN BRIEF



Modi crosses milestone of 100 million followers on X

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has crossed the milestone of 100 million followers on the social media platform X. His X handle recorded a sharp increase of about 30 million followers in the past three years. The Prime Minister has more followers than some active athletes in the world, such as Virat Kohli (64.1 million), footballer Neymar Jr. (63.6 million), and basketball player LeBron James (52.9 million). On YouTube and Instagram, he has nearly 25 million subscribers and over 91 million followers, respectively. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has about 26.4 million followers on X.

3 militants killed in 'Operation Dhanush' near LoC, says Army

Three unidentified militants have been killed in an ongoing anti-militancy operation near the Line of Control (LoC) in Kheran Sector, says the Army spokesman. "Three terrorists have been eliminated in the ongoing anti-infiltration operation on the LoC in Kheran Sector, along with recovery of weapons and other war-like stores," an Army spokesman said. This comes at a time when militant attacks on security forces have increased in the Jammu region. The Army said the anti-militancy drive in Kupwara, which is named 'Operation Dhanush', is aimed at countering the infiltration bids from across the LoC to send militants into the Kashmir Valley.

When trees and trade flourished along the southern Silk Route

Shih-Sakya Singh
KOLKATA

A recent publication by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) documents the flora and landscapes of one of the oldest trading routes of South Asia — the Silk Route, meandering through Kalingpong and Sikkim in the eastern Himalayas and going to Lhasa in Tibet.

The book, "A Southern Silk Route: Sikkim and Kalingpong Wild Flower and Landscapes, not only documents 1,137 flowering plants, a host of butterflies, insects, birds, and mammals but also the historical significance of the route and the link between botany and politics of the region.

A key flowering plant documented in the publication and found along the Silk Route is the Windanare palm (*Trachycarpus latisectus*). It is a wild palm



The Windanare palm was a key flowering tree found along the route. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

manuscripts, are also among the important flora found along the route.

Scientists involved in the publication have documented several such species along the 210 km route from Siliguri in Darjeeling to Kalingpong, Nathu La, and Gangtok.

Rajiv Gogoi, the lead author of the book and head of the Sikkim Himalayan Regional Centre, said the idea for the book came while working on an environmental impact assessment of a road in Sikkim.

"We realised that it was the road which was used in ancient times as the Silk Route. The trade between medieval Bengal and Lhasa was carried out along multiple routes, and the shortest of all these routes from India to Lhasa was the one through Sikkim and Kalingpong. The merchandise reached Tamluk (now Tamluk) port in Bengal and was relayed through

sea route to Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia, and the far East," Mr. Gogoi said.

The publication also throws light on the history of botany in the country by highlighting the contributions of British botanist J.D. Hooker.

He studied the flora of Sikkim as early as in 1848 and his major contributions include the discovery of 32 species of rhododendrons in the State.

"The botanic history of Sikkim is also connected with the politics of the region as these botanists opened Sikkim, a little-known Himalayan Kingdom, to the world. Later, in 1903-04, Col. Francis Younghusband led the first expedition to conquer Tibet by any European Army along the same route," said J.D. Franklin Benjamin, another author of the BSI publication.

Three die of asphyxiation at illegal coal mine in Gujarat

It is the fourth such incident reported this year and 10 people had lost their lives; the police in Surendranagar district have registered a case against four, including a BJP panchayat member

Mahesh Lanke
AHMEDABAD

Three labourers died of asphyxiation inside an illegal coal mine in Surendranagar district of Gujarat on Saturday.

It is the fourth such incident reported this year in which a total of 10 people had lost their lives while digging for low-grade coal in illegal mines found in several parts of the district. The coal is used to fuel factories in the State and elsewhere.

The deceased have been identified as Lakshman Dabhi, 35, Khodabhai Makodi, 42, and Yitran Keraliya, 35. They were working in a mine near Bhet village in Thangadh taluka without helmets, masks, or other safety equipment, said officials.

The police have registered a case of culpable homicide not amounting to murder against four people, but are yet to make any arrests.

Kalpesh Parmar, a BJP taluka panchayat member, and Khinji Saradiya, whose wife is a district



The FIR said the accused failed to provide essential safety gear to the labourers, who died after inhaling toxic gas in the mine. AFP

panchayat member of the BJP, are among the accused.

The first information report (FIR) said the accused failed to provide essential safety gear to the labourers, who died after inhaling toxic gas in the mine.

In February, three workers had died after inhaling toxic gas that emanated after a blast triggered by gaslatin sticks during an illegal mining operation in the district. As per the details, the workers were digging a pit for an illegal coal mine in Depwara village. All of them had died from Rajastha-

than. In January, three labourers died after being buried due to unstable soil conditions, while one labourer died last month.

The first information report (FIR) said the accused failed to provide essential safety gear to the labourers, who died after inhaling toxic gas in the mine.

"There have been frequent incidents of deaths in Surendranagar district where illegal mining of coal is rampant with involvement of local politicians of the ruling party," Gujarat Congress spokesman Manish Doshi said. On Sunday, AAP leaders held a press conference in Surendranagar, demanding strict action against those responsible for running illegal mines in the district.

"We had launched a special movement against such mining operations and as many as 2,100 such mines were closed and mining wells were completely buried. But it seems, so many of them have been reopened," Mr. Sampat told *The Hindu*, adding

that "the local administration takes this issue very seriously."

Revenue and police officials in the district are silent about the involvement of local politicians of the ruling party but privately admit about the nexus between the mining operators and local politicians.

"We had launched a special movement against such mining operations and as many as 2,100 such mines were closed and mining wells were completely buried. But it seems, so many of them have been reopened," Mr. Sampat told *The Hindu*, adding

A celebration of indigenous seeds sows change in the farm landscape

Muhmmad Iqbal
JAIPUR

A popular movement to preserve indigenous seed varieties — many on the verge of extinction — were facilitated by other tribal rights groups, such as Kriks Evum Advaiti Swaraj Sangathan, Gram Swaraj Samiti, Saksham Samooch and Baal Swaraj.

Mr. Joshi said the indigenous seed varieties, which are "inherently compatible" with the local farming conditions and were economically practical and environmentally more sustainable.

Over 50 indigenous seed varieties were displayed at the *Beef Utsav* events, catalogued as *Beef Utsav* forms part of our campaign to promote the use of seeds matching their local environment and presenting it as a practice that can be replicated elsewhere," Jayesh Joshi, secretary of the Banawara

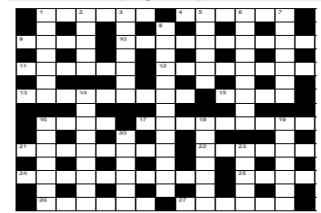
based voluntary group Vaagdhar, said.

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based voluntary group Vaagdhar, said.

THE CROSSWORD



Across

1. Somehow let our America for competition (6)
4. Grain stalks found on road? trusted beyond recognition basically (6)
9. Plan to apply rule upfront (4)
10. Manage bills to purchase small batteries essentially (10)
11. Say, in Tamil Nadu we can find a bar (6)

12227

12. Dealer of special beers has money to buy article (9)
13. A period of discharge is reversed with double force and speed essentially (4,5)
15. Vehicles' velocity? A nanosecond (4)
16. At that time, he was in Tennessee (4)
17. Producers have endless stock at leading store (9)
21. Deeply motivated to maintain demand subdued (4-4)
24. Father let mother, perhaps... (6)
25. ...get undergarments with money, say that is, at stores offering 50% discount (10)
28. Instrument found in plant (4)
28. Marine creature has power reportedly (6)
27. Grow-up areas are almost uninterested to be in talks lacking substance (6)

Downs

1. Star featuring in Tamil falls short to create huge waves (7)
2. Yes, we devotees are surrounding Him? Borg, say (5)
3. Salaried person backs Latin student (7)
5. Bonefish provided at mess (6)
6. Heliper's foot, is primarily torturing worker (9)
7. Notices as cocooned wife swings (7)
8. Perhaps upmarket means Disneyland, say (9,4)
14. Meel for a side along with white of eggs (9)
15. On display in far, selenium diode at the front (7)
19. Athletes change side in champions (7)
20. Small dog? Say it eats first (6)
23. BIMARU rally showcase counts (5)

SUDOKU



Solution to previous puzzle

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

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site at <https://www.thehindu.com>. (Text by Afterdark)

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Azhwar nonpareil

Rishab tower over ordinary mortals like a mountain as they are able to rise over earthly concerns and focus on God. However, rising tall above all of them are the azhwars, the Vaishnava saints since God himself identified them and through their guides devotees to realising Him, said Tirukudamurai Dr. Venkatesh in a discourse.

Among the azhwars, Periazhwar is hailed as a nonpareil for many reasons. Born as Vishnu Chitrar in Sriviliputtur in the Tamil month of Ani, under the Swati star, he was graced by the sight of Perumal and Thayar on the skies of the street he was walking. An average devotee would seek riches or relief from poverty or ill health. Even evildoers might seek moksha, if Perumal were to appear in front of them. However, this azhwar was more worried over evil eyes falling on the divine entourage, and sought to protect them from the same. He immediately sang, "*Palandru Pallandu*" rendering a protective shield as it were, and seeking nothing for himself.

A staunch devotee with overflowing bhakti and love as Manavala Mamalingai summed it, Periazhwar re-lived every moment of Lord Krishna's life, celebrating as though He were his own child; in his works.

Considered to be an aspect of Garuda, Periazhwar has delineated the pancha samkaras to be followed by a Vaishnavite. These include tattooing conch and chakra on one's shoulders; the correct way to sport twelve tirumalaams with attendant shlokas; mantras upasana; fourthly, under *dashya namam*, he offers guidance on how to name one's progeny with His various names.



Modi crosses milestone of 100 million followers on X

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has crossed the milestone of 100 million followers on the social media platform X. His X handle recorded a sharp increase of about 30 million followers in the past three years. The Prime Minister has more followers than some active athletes in the world, such as Virat Kohli (64.1 million), footballer Neymar Jr. (63.6 million), and basketball player LeBron James (52.9 million). On YouTube and Instagram, he has nearly 25 million subscribers and over 91 million followers, respectively. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has about 26.4 million followers on X.

twitter users in india



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2024

Top 10

State wise

Today

By country

By age

How many

Leading countries based on number of X (formerly Twitter) users as of April 2024 (in millions)

Characteristic

Audience in millions

India

25.45

Indonesia

24.85

United Kingdom

24.3

Brazil

21.48

9 more rows • 29 Apr 2024

3 militants killed in 'Operation Dhanush' near LoC, says Army

Three unidentified militants have been killed in an ongoing anti-militancy operation near the Line of Control (LoC) in north Kashmir's Kupwara on Sunday. "Three terrorists have been eliminated in the ongoing anti-infiltration operation on the LoC in Keran Sector, along with recovery of weapons and other war-like stores," an Army spokesperson said. This comes at a time when militant attacks on security forces have increased in the Jammu region. The Army said the anti-militancy drive in Kupwara, which is named 'Operation Dhanush', is aimed at countering the infiltration bids from across the LoC to send militants into the Kashmir Valley.

IN ELITE CLUB
Alcaraz becomes sixth player to do the French-Wimbledon double



GETTY IMAGES

Carlos Alcaraz became the sixth player in the Open era to perform the French Open-Wimbledon double in the same year. The others to do it were Rod Laver, Bjorn Borg, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic. The 21-year-old Alcaraz is the youngest to achieve the feat.

TOO GOOD
He had it all, I tried to push him but it wasn't meant to be: Djokovic



AFP

Novak Djokovic tore his meniscus at Roland-Garros on June 3 and had an operation in Paris two days later. The Serb was handy at his best on Sunday. "Especially in the first couple of sets, the level of tennis wasn't really up to par on my side. He had it all today. I tried to push him but it wasn't meant to be," said Djokovic.

MOST BEAUTIFUL TROPHY
'When I was 11 or 12, I said my dream was to win Wimbledon'



GETTY IMAGES

Alcaraz was ecstatic after winning his second straight Wimbledon title. "Honestly, it is a dream for me winning this trophy. I did an interview when I was 11 or 12 and I said my dream was to win Wimbledon. For me, this is the most beautiful tournament, the most beautiful court and the most beautiful trophy," said Alcaraz.

CONTENT AND PROUD
'After what I have been through the last four-five weeks, I am satisfied'



GETTY IMAGES

Despite the loss, Djokovic was content. "I have to be very proud. After what I have been through in the last four-five weeks, I am very satisfied. Wimbledon is always my favourite and I remind myself sometimes how surreal it is to be here. Every single time it feels like the first time. It was a child living my childhood dream once again."

Magical Alcaraz leaves Djokovic spellbound

The 21-year-old Spaniard plays one of the matches of his life to cruise past the Serb and defend his title at SW19; the 37-year-old manages to win just 10 games in the summit clash

WIMBLEDON

N. Sudarshan
LONDON

Lightning never strikes twice. Definitely not in Novak Djokovic's tennis career one would think. But it did on Centre Court on Sunday as Carlos Alcaraz played celestial tennis to vanquish the Serb 6-2, 6-2, 7-6(4) for a second straight time in the Wimbledon final.

The 10 games Djokovic won were slightly better than the seven he managed against Rafael Nadal in the 2020 French Open, his worst in Major finals. But it was a beat-down like no other as Alcaraz reduced him to a relic by handing him his first straight sets defeat in a completed match at SW19 since the 2013 final versus Andy Murray.

Short of breath

Just over five weeks ago, Djokovic had had to undergo to repair a torn meniscus. Though he did not appear in any physical discomfort, he was often short of breath. It would, however, be a disservice to Alcaraz's excellence to cite the inju-

ry. For the 21-year-old played one of the matches of his life to secure his fourth Grand Slam title and complete the coveted French Open-Wimbledon double.

"I am not going to consider myself a great champion yet," Alcaraz declared. "Not like them," he said, pointing to Djokovic.

The evidence, though, was to the contrary.

The only time Djokovic's tennis matched Alcaraz's was in the 13-minute opening game that had seven deuces and finished with an Alcaraz break of serve. For the rest of the contest, the 37-year-old 24-time Slam winner looked like an aged novice lost for words.

Alcaraz won the first 6-2, showing none of the nerves he had in last year's final when he lost it 1-6. The serves were big and pin-point, the groundstrokes powerful and sharply angled, and his favourite drop shot was encrypted in plain sight.

The forehand was especially mesmerising, for it was so accurate that it seemed like Alcaraz was controlling it with a string. The Spaniard's blindingly brilliant athleticism, which



King Carlos: Alcaraz ruled the day with a dazzling display, hardly putting a foot wrong and overpowering Djokovic in straight sets. AP

helped him to many a ball that was on the verge of being swallowed by the court, left Djokovic exasperated.

The second set played out similarly, just that the early break came rather easily, helped by two high-quality blocked returns from Alcaraz and a Djokovic volley gone awry. The missed volley was a recurring theme for the Serb, completely undoing his

play to many a ball that was on the verge of being swallowed by the court, left Djokovic exasperated.

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Patten and Heliovaara's fairytale from crunching numbers to winning tie-breakers

N. Sudarshan
LONDON

As far as sporting fairytale goes, Henry Patten's and Henri Heliovaara's will rank high up.

The Brit and the Finn, who teamed up only in April and were competing in just their second Major as a pair, won the Wimbledon men's doubles crown late on Saturday with a nerve-wracking 6-7(7), 7-6(8), 7-6(9) victory over the accomplished Australian duo of Max Purcell and Jordan Thompson.

Dream run
Patten and Heliovaara dumped out three top-10 seeds en route and saved three championship points against Purcell and Thompson, the 15th seeds. Scratch doubles pairs that find quick success abound in tennis. But what makes the Patten-Heliovaara combine remarkable is that they had hardly played the sport full time.

Patten, 28, had never won a main draw match at SW19 and the longest he had stayed at the Wimbledon park area was while working for IBM in 2016 and '17 collecting stats on the many outside courts.

"My first job at Wimbledon was to collect statistics for IBM. I was there for two years. I was a main draw match at SW19 and the longest he had stayed at the Wimbledon park area was while working for IBM in 2016 and '17 collecting stats on the many outside courts.



It's over! Heliovaara and Patten won the Wimbledon men's doubles crown after a thrilling finale. GETTY IMAGES

don was I going the stats for IBM, which I guess got me familiar with the grounds," Patten said after the triumph. "It might have given me some advantage. I don't know."

The better job
It was basically a summer job for two weeks. It paid pretty well, but it was hard work. Don't get me wrong, I'm quite glad I'm playing now instead of doing the stats."

Heliovaara, 35, might have won the 2023 US Open mixed doubles title,

but he had quit playing tennis. "I think this [Wimbledon doubles win] gives me better feelings. Excel sheets in an office can't compare to this. I never thought I'd be here and it would be this good."

It stopped playing when I was 23," he said. "I won one match in singles qualification at Wimbledon and I am very proud of that. After I finished my first career, I worked at the airport with my wife there. I studied. I worked as a management consultant, at

Samson and Mukesh help Men In Blue sign off with a win and a 4-1 scoreline

INDIA IN ZIMBABWE

Press Trust of India
HARARE

Sanju Samson's well-crafted fifty and Mukesh Kumar's disciplined spell helped India wind up its Zimbabwe tour with a comprehensive 42-run victory in the fifth and final T20I here on Sunday.

With this win, India clinched the series 4-1.

Samson's (58, 45R) was central to India's healthy 167 for six along with Shivam Dube's flashy 26 (12).

Doing their bit
Mukesh (four for 22), Shivam Dube (one for 25) and Washington Sundar (one for seven) did their job, bundling out Zimbabwe for 125 in 18.3 overs.

FALL OF WICKETS
Yashasvi Jaiswal b Raza 12 (58, 2x6), Shubman Gill c Raza b Ngarava 13 (46, 2x6), Abhishek Sharma c Madande b Muzarabani 14 (12, 1x1, 1x6), Sanju Samson c Marumani b Muzarabani 58 (60, 1x4, 4x6), Raviyan Prasad c Ngarava b Mavura 22 (24b, 2x6), Shivam Dube run out 26 (12b, 2x4, 2x6), Rinu Singh (not out) 11 (8b, 2x6), Washington Sundar (not out) 1 (2b), Extras (B+A, w-5, nb-1): 10. Total (for six wickets in 20 overs): 167.

THE RESULTS
Doubles: Men: Heliovaara (F#) & Patten (58) bt 15-Thompson & Purcell (A#) 6-7(7), 7-6(8), 7-6(9). Women: 4-Townsend (USA) & Simkova (Cze) bt 2-Dabrowski (Can) & Rowcliffe (NZ) 7-6(8), 7-6(1).



Saviour: Samson's experience came in handy as he bailed India out of trouble. AP

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Yashasvi Jaiswal b Raza 12 (58, 2x6), Shubman Gill c Raza b Ngarava 13 (46, 2x6), Abhishek Sharma c Madande b Muzarabani 14 (12, 1x1, 1x6), Sanju Samson c Marumani b Muzarabani 58 (60, 1x4, 4x6), Raviyan Prasad c Ngarava b Mavura 22 (24b, 2x6), Shivam Dube run out 26 (12b, 2x4, 2x6), Rinu Singh (not out) 11 (8b, 2x6), Washington Sundar (not out) 1 (2b), Extras (B+A, w-5, nb-1): 10. Total (for six wickets in 20 overs): 167.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-13 (Jaiswal, 0 overs), 2-38 (Abhishek, 3.5), 3-40 (Gill, 4.6), 4-105 (Prasad, 14.2), 5-125 (Samson, 17.3), 6-153 (Dube, 19.1).

INDIA BOWLING
Raza 4-0-27-1, Ngarava 4-0-29-1, Akram 4-0-36-0, Muzarabani 4-0-19-2, Mavura 4-0-39-1.

ZIMBABWE
Wesley Madhevere b Mukesh 0 (2b), Tadiwanashe Marumani (w b Washington 27 (24b, 5x4), Brian Bennett c Dube b Mukesh 12 (8b, 2x4), Dion Myers c Abhishek b Dube 34 (22b, 4x4), Sikandar Raza run out 8 (22b), Johannes Campbell c Deshpande b Dube 4 (7b), Clive Madande c Samson b Abhishek 1 (4b), Faraz Akram c Samson b Mukesh 27 (18b, 2x4), Muzarabani (not out) 2 (2b),

INDIA BOWLING
Mukesh 3-3-0-22-4, Deshpande 3-0-25-1, Gill 1-0-19-2, Washington 2-0-7-1, Abhishek 3-0-20-1, Dube 4-0-25-2.

TEAS: Zimbabwe vs India - 4-0-25-2.

POW: Dube, P#S: Washington. India won by 42 runs to clinch five-match series 4-1.

Richard Ngarava b Mukesh 0 (24b), Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-4, nb-2): 9. Total (in 18.3 overs): 125.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-1 (Madhevere, 0.3), 2-15 (Bennett, 2.3), 3-59 (Marumani, 8.2), 4-85 (Myers, 12.4), 5-87 (Raza, 13.4), 6-90 (Campbell, 14.1), 7-94 (Madande, 15.1), 8-120 (Mavura, 17.5), 9-123 (Akram, 18.2).

which came in a cartwheel of four wickets for nine runs. Mukesh, who bagged

his career-best T20 figures, fittingly ended Zimbabwe's innings going through the gate of Richard Ngarava.

Magical Alcaraz leaves Djokovic spellbound

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WIMBLEDON

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King Carlos: Alcaraz ruled the day with a dazzling display, hardly putting a foot wrong and overpowering Djokovic in straight sets. AP

40-0. He seemed rattled on the third when a fan cried out mid-rally while he was about to hit a swing volley into the open court. The ball sailed out and, in a flash, Djokovic had stretched the set to a tie-breaker.

The seven-time Wimbledon winner has managed many a jail-break in these parts, the most vivid being the 2019 final after being two match-points down to Roger Federer.

Astonishing drop shot

But Alcaraz quickly refocused and rediscovered his best tennis – a zipping forehand winner, a breathtaking pick up and an astonishing drop shot from mid-court highlighting the tie-breaker. A return error from Djokovic on the fourth match-point sent the Spaniard into seventh heaven.

"I was inferior on the court," Djokovic admitted. "He played every single shot better. I don't think I could have done much

Country (sports)	 Spain
Residence	Villena , Alicante, Spain
Born	5 May 2003 (age 21) El Palmar , Murcia , Spain
Height	1.83 m (6 ft 0 in) ^[1]
Turned pro	2018
Plays	Right-handed (two-handed backhand)
Coach	Juan Carlos Ferrero
Prize money	US\$34,187,185 ^[2] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9th all-time leader in earnings

Singles

Career record	188–49
Career titles	15
Highest ranking	No. 1 (12 September 2022)
Current ranking	No. 3 (24 June 2024) ^[3]

Grand Slam singles results

Australian Open	QF (2024)
French Open	W (2024)
Wimbledon	W (2023 , 2024)
US Open	W (2022)

Other tournaments

Tour Finals	SF (2023)
--------------------	-----------------------------

Doubles

Career record	3–3
Career titles	0
Highest ranking	No. 519 (9 May 2022)

Titles per tournament [[edit](#)]

#	Australian Open	#	French Open	#	Wimbledon	#	US Open	
10	 Novak Djokovic	14	 Rafael Nadal	8	 Roger Federer		 Jimmy Connors	
6	 Roger Federer	6	 Björn Borg	7	 Pete Sampras	5	 Pete Sampras	
4	 Andre Agassi	3	 Ivan Lendl	5	 Novak Djokovic	4	 Roger Federer	
3	 Mats Wilander		 Mats Wilander		3		 Björn Borg	 John McEnroe
2	 Ken Rosewall		 Gustavo Kuerten	2	 Jan Kodeš	3	 John McEnroe	3
	 John Newcombe	 Novak Djokovic	 Jim Courier		 Boris Becker		 Novak Djokovic	
	 Guillermo Vilas	 Jan Kodeš	2		 Jim Courier	 Rod Laver	 Ivan Lendl	
	 /  Johan Kriek	 Jim Courier		 Sergi Bruguera	2	 John Newcombe	 Stefan Edberg	
	 Stefan Edberg	 Sergi Bruguera	 Jimmy Connors	 Andre Agassi				
	 Ivan Lendl		 Stefan Edberg	 Patrick Rafter				
	 Boris Becker		 Rafael Nadal					
	 Jim Courier		 Andy Murray					
	 Pete Sampras							
	 Rafael Nadal							

FBI PROBES SHOOTING, QUESTIONS ON HOW SHOOTER REACHED SO CLOSE

'SICK, NO PLACE FOR THIS VIOLENCE,' SAYS BIDEN AS HE SPEAKS TO TRUMP

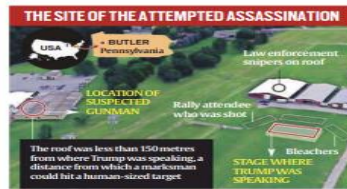
FOUR MONTHS TO POLLS, ATTACK DEEPENS POLITICAL FAULTLINES

United Shock of America

'Fight,' says injured Donald Trump after he survives assassination bid



Donald Trump, with blood on his face, raises his fist as Secret Service agents escort him away from the rally stage in Butler, Pennsylvania after the assassination attempt on Saturday. (Evan Vucci/AP)



The New York Times, satellite image by GoogleEarth

God alone stopped unthinkable from happening: Trump

Secret Service kills gunman; one rally attendee dead, two critical

JULIE CARR SMYTH, JILL COLVIN, COLLEEN LONG & MICHAEL BALSAMO
BUTLER (PENNSYLVANIA), JULY 14

ON THE heels of an apparent attempt to kill him, former US President Donald Trump called Sunday for unity and resilience as shocked leaders across the political divide recalled from the shooting that left him wounded but "fine" and the gunman and a rally attendee dead, two critical

DIPLIN
E Fears of violence as polls near

THE ATTACK drew new attention to concerns about political violence in a deeply polarised US less than four months before the presidential election. It could alter the tenor and security posture at the Republican National Convention, which begins Monday in Milwaukee. Organisers said the convention would proceed as planned.

I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin," Trump wrote on his social media site. "Much bleeding took place."
In a subsequent post Sunday, he said "it was God alone who prevented the unthinkable from happening".
In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand United, and show our True Character as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win," his post said.
The FBI early Sunday identified the shooter as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel

Shooter, 20, on rooftop barely 150 m away, used father's gun

Bomb-making materials found in his vehicle, home

MICHAEL BIESECKER & ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
WASHINGTON, JULY 14

LAW ENFORCEMENT officials were working Sunday to learn more about the 20-year-old Pennsylvania man who they say tried to assassinate former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally and to determine



The body of suspect Thomas Crooks on a rooftop near the stage what drove him to open fire. Authorities identified Thomas Matthew Crooks of

MORE INSIDE
THE EDITORIAL PAGE

TAKING AIM AT DEMOCRACY
Both Republicans and Democrats should pull their bases from the brink, the world is watching

UNMAID IN AMERICA
BY AMITABH MATTOO
PAGE 10

WORLD
SHOOTING UPENDS WHITE HOUSE RACE, PLUNGES U.S. INTO UNCERTAINTY
FULL COVERAGE

PM: No place for violence in politics; condemn in strongest terms, says Rahul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 14

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Sunday joined a host of world leaders in condemning the assassination attempt on former US president Donald Trump, saying violence has no place in politics and democracies.
"Deeply concerned by the attack on my friend, former President Donald Trump, I strongly condemn the incident. Violence has no place in politics

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNY



AFTER ANNOUNCING SAMVIDHAAN HATYA DIWAS

Govt to mark 75 yrs of Constitution in bid to counter Opp

Extensive campaign being planned

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, JULY 14

"This year marks the 75 years of the Constituent Assembly adopting the Constitution of India. The idea is to create awareness about what the Constitution stands for, the Assembly debates, and how the government has taken steps to strengthen it," a source told The Indian Express.
The nodal ministry for the campaign will be the Ministry of Culture that, in 2022-23 led a similar campaign, named Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, to mark 75 years of Independence. While the latest campaign's details are being chalked out, government

A highway rescue act, a turtle with patched-up shell — and now a wait

PAGE 1 ANCHOR
UPASIKA SINGHAL
NEW DELHI, JULY 14

"LOOK, SHE'S burrowing deeper into the mud... she's preparing to lay eggs soon. Turtles bury their eggs deep in the mud," says Vikendra Sharma in a high-pitched whisper, barely able to conceal his excitement.
For the last few days, the turtle, lying in a large green tub in Sharma's forest, has been recuperating from a recent accident that left it shattered. As Sharma gently moves the foliage, letting in a stream of light, the turtle pulls back into its shell.
Around 12:30 pm on July 8, Sharma, a former physics teacher, was on his way home to



Former physics teacher Vikendra Sharma who rescued the turtle; and (right) a post-surgery X-ray of the turtle that shows its eyes. (Ashi Jha/IGN, Express)



Budauan from a gau raksha samiteen in Ahmedabad when he got a call about a turtle in distress on the highway between Budauan and Bareilly. The caller had found an Indian Flapshell turtle (*Lissemys punctata*), a species that's categorised as 'vulnerable' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) red list of wildlife species.
The turtle's shell had cracked open, leaving a gaping wound in the area right around its neck — it didn't look like it would make it alive. What followed were

ROLE OF KUKI MILITANTS SUSPECTED

Ambush in Manipur's Jiribam: CRPF man killed, 2 police personnel injured

SUKRITA BARUAH & JIMMY LEIVON
GUWAHATI, IMPHAL, JULY 14

A CENTRAL Reserve Police Force (CRPF) man was killed and two Manipur police personnel were injured when they were "ambushed" Sunday, around six kilometres from the centre of Jiribam town.
Police and the Manipur government said "suspected Kuki militants" were behind the ambush.
The CRPF jawan who was shot dead was identified as Ajay Kumar (34), a native of Bihar. His body was taken for post-mortem to the Sikhar Medical College and Hospital. His killing comes around three months af-

ter two CRPF personnel were killed in a blast at a CRPF outpost in Bishnupur district.
The two wounded police personnel received public injuries and are reported to be stable. Jiribam district has been tense since the outbreak of violence and arson there on June 6 this year.
According to police, the area where the incident took place, between Soging Rai village and Mongbung Meitei village, had been tense following heavy firing on Thursday, after which police had recovered arms and ammunition.
Jiribam Superintendent of Police Prashant Singh said a team of CRPF and police had been sent to Mongbung on Sunday morning to "check the deployment there".

How weight-loss drugs work

Weight loss drug tirzepatide, marketed by US pharma giant Eli Lilly as Zepbound, is on the cusp of getting regulatory approval in India. The development of obesity drugs has been game changing in recent years

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, JULY 14

THE DEVELOPMENT of various weight loss drugs has been a game changer for obesity treatment in recent years, especially in the US and Europe. But these drugs are yet to be commercially available in India, with pending regulatory clearances and high demand abroad delaying their arrival in the country.

But this might soon change. Last week, in a first, an expert committee of India's drug regulator gave the green light to the drug tirzepatide. Following a review of this recommendation, the drug will be given final approval by the regulator, allowing its manufacturer, Eli Lilly, to launch the product in the Indian market.

Diabetes drug for weight loss

In 2017, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Danish pharma giant Novo Nordisk's Ozempic, with the active ingredient semaglutide, to manage type 2 diabetes. Soon, doctors in the US saw an interesting side-effect — weight loss.

They started prescribing Ozempic off-label (the practice of prescribing a drug for a different purpose than what has been approved) to treat obesity. A social media frenzy followed, with influencers flooding TikTok and Instagram with posts about their dramatic weight loss transformations, all courtesy Ozempic.

This made Novo Nordisk explore semaglutide as a weight loss drug for people without diabetes. In 2021, the company released Wegovy, a semaglutide injection, as an FDA-approved obesity treatment. The key difference between Ozempic and Wegovy: the maximum approved dose of semaglutide is slightly higher with Wegovy than Ozempic. Currently, there is a global shortage of both drugs amid soaring demand.

In November 2023, Eli Lilly, another US pharma major, got FDA approval for the drug Zepbound to treat obesity. This came just over a year after its type 2 diabetes medication, Mounjaro, was launched. Like Ozempic, Mounjaro too led to weight loss among users, and began to see rampant off-label use. Zepbound and Mounjaro contain tirzepatide

IF PRESCRIBED ZEPBOUND, TELL YOUR DOCTOR...

■ Other medical conditions, specifically with respect to your kidneys, pancreas, and stomach

■ History of diabetic retinopathy, a diabetes-related complication which impacts the eyes

■ Other diabetes medications you are taking, including insulin or sulfonylureas

■ If you are pregnant, planning to



become pregnant, breastfeeding, or planning to breastfeed

■ Other prescription medicines, over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, or herbal supplements you have been taking, or were taking in the recent past

as the active ingredient. Both face shortages in the global market.

Semaglutide vs tirzepatide

The FDA has approved Wegovy (semaglutide) and Zepbound (tirzepatide) for chronic weight management in adults. These drugs can be prescribed to those who are obese (with a body mass index of over 30), or overweight (with a BMI between 27 and 30), and have at least one other health condition related to their weight (such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or type 2 diabetes).

Both are administered as under-the-skin injections, and are intended to be used alongside a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity. The dosage is increased gradually, reaching a maximum dosage of 2.4 mg for semaglutide and 15 mg for tirzepatide. This does not, however, mean that the latter is 'stronger' than the former.

Semaglutide and tirzepatide are polypeptides, small proteins that boost the levels of naturally-occurring hormones in the body, including that of glucagon-like-peptide 1 (GLP-1), which control weight through the brain and digestive tract.

Higher GLP-1 levels, released in the gut, spark a reaction by stimulating neurons that alter gut function, leading to a sense of fullness. This process also taps into a brain mechanism that lights up neural pathways, triggering the sensation of satiety — the feeling of

being satisfied and having had enough to eat.

They also help manage glucose levels, making them an effective treatment for diabetes.

Semaglutide only targets GLP-1 receptors. On the other hand, tirzepatide also boosts a second hormone: glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP). The GIP also regulates weight through receptors in brain and fat cells. Eli Lilly claims that the combined action of GLP-1 and GIP enhance each other's effects.

Promising global trials

Global trials for Zepbound have yielded promising results. The phase three trials involved 2,539 participants, each randomised to receive either a placebo or one of three doses of tirzepatide: 5 mg, 10 mg, or 15 mg.

Over the course of 72 weeks, those on the 5 mg dose lost 15% of their body weight on average, while the 10 mg group shed 19.5%. The 15 mg group achieved a remarkable 20.9% weight reduction — this translates to someone weighing 75 kg shedding more than 15 kg. About 91% of individuals on the 15 mg dose achieved a weight loss of at least 5%. In stark contrast, the placebo group had an average weight reduction of only 3.1%.

This sustained weight reduction was accompanied by improvements in all prespecified cardiometabolic measures.

Zepbound got regulatory clearance in India based on data from these trials, in which Indians took part as well. But the

aforementioned expert committee has imposed a crucial rider — the company will have to conduct a phase IV, post-marketing surveillance trial to scrutinise side effects that might have been missed in previous trials, and the drug's efficacy among India's diverse population.

Some side effects of the drug

According to the company, Zepbound's most common side effects include nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting, constipation, abdominal pain, indigestion, injection-site reactions, fatigue, allergic reactions, belching, hair loss, and heartburn.

Eli Lilly specifically highlights the risk of thyroid tumours, including thyroid cancer. "Watch for possible symptoms, such as a lump or swelling in the neck, hoarseness, trouble swallowing, or shortness of breath," the manufacturer says. Individuals cannot use Zepbound if they, or any family members, have ever had medullary thyroid carcinoma (MTC), a type of thyroid cancer, or Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2 (MEN2), a rare, inherited disorder that affects the endocrine glands.

Zepbound is a prescription medicine. It cannot — and should not — be used for cosmetic weight loss.

Weight back if drug is stopped

Obesity drugs are also not one-time miracle solutions for weight loss — data from trials indicate that these drugs need to continue to be taken for their weight loss and other effects to last.

In Wegovy's STEP 1 extension trial with 327 participants, those using Wegovy for 68 weeks achieved a remarkable average weight loss of 17.3%, compared to just 2.0% for those on a placebo. But after stopping the medication, by week 120, Wegovy users had regained most of their weight — effectively seeing an average weight loss of only 5.6% compared to 0.1% for the placebo group. Improvements in heart and metabolic health seen during the treatment period also tended to revert to baseline levels once the treatment was stopped.

At the end of the day, obesity is a complex, chronic, and progressive disease which has to be managed throughout one's life.

Development and Approval / विकास और अनुमोदन

The weight loss drug tirzepatide, marketed as Zepbound by Eli Lilly, is close to getting regulatory approval in India.

वज़न घटाने वाली दवा तिरज़ेपाटाइड, जिसे एलि लिली द्वारा ज़ेपबाउंड के रूप में विपणन किया गया है, भारत में नियामक अनुमोदन प्राप्त करने के करीब है।

In 2017, the FDA approved Ozempic, a drug containing semaglutide, for type 2 diabetes, which also showed weight-loss effects.

2017 में, एफडीए ने टाइप 2 मधुमेह के लिए सेमाग्लूटाइड युक्त दवा ओज़ेम्पिक को मंजूरी दी, जिसने वजन घटाने के प्रभाव भी दिखाए।

Following its success, Novo Nordisk introduced Wegovy, a semaglutide injection for weight loss.

इसके सफल होने के बाद, नोवो नोर्डिस्क ने वजन घटाने के लिए सेमाग्लूटाइड इंजेक्शन वेगोवी पेश किया।

Semaglutide vs Tirzepatide / सेमाग्लूटाइड बनाम तिरज़ेपाटाइड

Both drugs work by mimicking the hormone GLP-1, which regulates appetite.

दोनों दवाएं जीएलपी-1 हार्मोन की नकल करके काम करती हैं, जो भूख को नियंत्रित करता है।

Tirzepatide targets two hormones, GLP-1 and GIP, enhancing its efficacy.

तिरज़ेपाटाइड दो हार्मोन, जीएलपी-1 और जीआईपी को लक्षित करता है, जिससे इसकी प्रभावशीलता बढ़ जाती है।

Tirzepatide has shown a higher average weight loss compared to semaglutide in clinical trials.

क्लिनिकल परीक्षाओं में तिरज़ेपाटाइड ने सेमाग्लूटाइड की तुलना में उच्च औसत वजन घटाने को दिखाया है।

Promising Global Trials / आशाजनक वैश्विक परीक्षण

Clinical trials of Zepbound show significant weight loss among participants, with up to 21% reduction in body weight.

ज़ेपबाउंड के क्लिनिकल परीक्षणों में प्रतिभागियों के बीच महत्वपूर्ण वजन घटाव दिखाया गया है, जिसमें शरीर के वजन में 21% तक की कमी आई है।

Participants on the highest dose of tirzepatide lost 20.9% of their weight on average.

तिरज़ेपाटाइड की उच्चतम खुराक लेने वाले प्रतिभागियों ने औसतन 20.9% वजन घटाया।

Potential Side Effects / संभावित दुष्प्रभाव

Common side effects include nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, and constipation.

आम दुष्प्रभावों में मतली, दस्त, उल्टी और कब्ज शामिल हैं।

Serious but less common side effects include pancreatitis and thyroid tumors.

गंभीर लेकिन कम सामान्य दुष्प्रभावों में अग्नाशयशोथ और थायरॉयड ट्यूमर शामिल हैं।

Market and Future Prospects / बाजार और भविष्य की संभावनाएं

The high demand and global shortages highlight the drug's potential.

उच्च मांग और वैश्विक कमी दवा की क्षमता को दर्शाते हैं।

Post-marketing surveillance is required to monitor any missed effects in previous trials.

पिछले परीक्षणों में छूटे किसी भी प्रभाव की निगरानी के लिए पोस्ट-मार्केटिंग निगरानी की आवश्यकता है।

- Consider the following statements regarding the weight loss drug tirzepatide:
 1. Tirzepatide targets only the GLP-1 hormone to regulate appetite.
 2. Clinical trials have shown tirzepatide to be more effective in weight loss than semaglutide.
 3. Common side effects of tirzepatide include nausea and diarrhea.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
 - a) 1 only
 - b) 2 and 3 only
 - c) 1 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2, and 3

A hand in a light-colored shirt sleeve points to a specific location on a complex, multi-colored network map. The map features a dense web of lines in various colors (blue, orange, red, green, purple) connecting numerous nodes, suggesting a transportation or infrastructure network. The background is dark, and the map is brightly lit, creating a high-contrast scene. An orange horizontal bar is visible in the top left corner.

India's Ambitious Airport Expansion Plan

India plans to double its number of operational airports to 300 by 2047, driven by an eightfold increase in passenger traffic.

This ambitious expansion involves developing existing airstrips and constructing new airports across the country.

भारत ने यात्री यातायात में आठ गुना वृद्धि के कारण 2047 तक अपने परिचालन हवाई अड्डों की संख्या को दोगुना करके 300 करने की योजना बनाई है।

इस महत्वाकांक्षी विस्तार में मौजूदा हवाई पट्टियों का विकास और देश भर में नए हवाई अड्डों का निर्माण शामिल है।



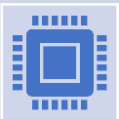
What are the Factors Driving this Expansion?



Development of Existing Airstrips:



The Airports Authority of India (AAI) plans to develop 70 airstrips into airports capable of handling narrow-body aircraft like A320 or B737.



Existing airstrips at Mandavi (Gujarat), Sultanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Tura (Meghalaya), and Chhindwara (Madhya Pradesh) can be upgraded for small aircraft.



Nearly 40 airstrips are slated for development to accommodate smaller aircraft.

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- इस विस्तार को चलाने वाले कारक क्या हैं?
 - मौजूदा हवाई पट्टियों का विकास:
 - भारतीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण (एएआई) 70 हवाई पट्टियों को ए320 या बी737 जैसे छोटे आकार के विमानों को संभालने में सक्षम हवाई अड्डों के रूप में विकसित करने की योजना बना रहा है।
 - मंडावी (गुजरात), सुल्तानपुर (उत्तर प्रदेश), तुरा (मेघालय) और छिंदवाड़ा (मध्य प्रदेश) में मौजूदा हवाई पट्टियों को छोटे विमानों के लिए उन्नत किया जा सकता है।
 - छोटे विमानों को समायोजित करने के लिए लगभग 40 हवाई पट्टियों का विकास किया जाना है।

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- **New airports will be built if existing airstrips cannot be developed or if there is no civilian airport within 50 km.**
 - **New greenfield airports may be constructed in Kota (Rajasthan), Parandur (Tamil Nadu), Kottayam (Kerala), Puri (Odisha), Purandar (Maharashtra), Car Nicobar, and Minicoy (Andaman and Nicobar Islands).**

- यदि मौजूदा हवाई पट्टियों का विकास नहीं किया जा सकता है या यदि 50 किमी के भीतर कोई नागरिक हवाई अड्डा नहीं है तो नए हवाई अड्डे बनाए जाएंगे।
- कोटा (राजस्थान), परंदूर (तमिलनाडु), कोट्टायम (केरल), पुरी (ओडिशा), परंदर (महाराष्ट्र), कार निकोबार और मिनिकोय (अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह) में नए ग्रीनफील्ड हवाई अड्डों का निर्माण किया जा सकता है।

Passenger Growth

(In Millions)





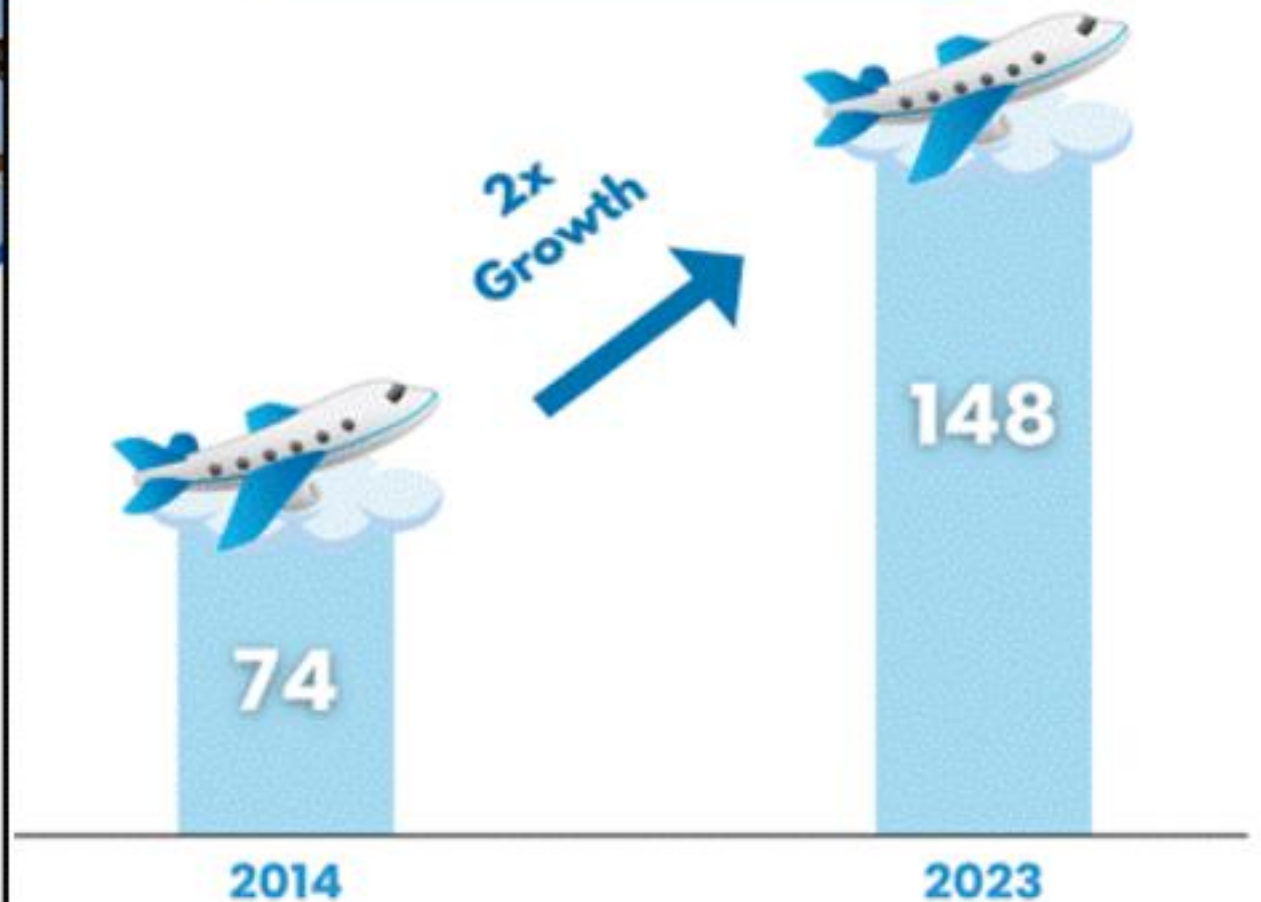
RCS-UDAN

Regional Connectivity Scheme - *Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik*

- **₹4500 crore** allocated for airport development; ₹3751 crore utilized so far.
- **517 RCS routes** connect **76 airports**, including 9 heliports & 2 water aerodromes.
- More than **1.30 crore people** have availed of the benefits of the scheme.



Number of Airports in India



THE UNSTOPPABLE RISE OF INDIA'S MIDDLE CLASS

AVERAGE INCOME OF
MIDDLE CLASS
(WEIGHTED MEAN)

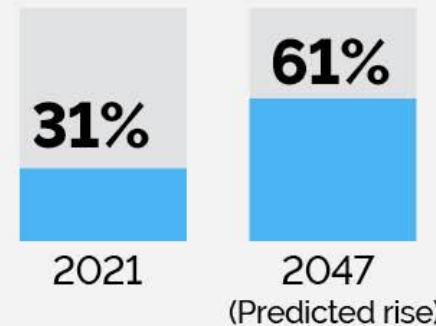


FUTURE OF
MIDDLE CLASS

Average Income
to Rise to
50 lakh by 2047



MIDDLE CLASS'S SHARE
IN POPULATION



Push for Hybrid Electric Vehicles

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- **Recently, the state government of Uttar Pradesh announced the waiver of registration fees for strong hybrid and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (EVs).**
 - **This move aligns Uttar Pradesh with Tamil Nadu and Chandigarh, which also offer incentives to promote cleaner alternatives to petrol and diesel vehicles.**

- हाल ही में, उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य सरकार ने मजबूत हाइब्रिड और प्लग-इन हाइब्रिड इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों (ईवी) के लिए पंजीकरण शुल्क में छूट की घोषणा की।
- यह कदम उत्तर प्रदेश को तमिलनाडु और चंडीगढ़ के साथ जोड़ता है, जो पेट्रोल और डीजल वाहनों के लिए स्वच्छ विकल्पों को बढ़ावा देने के लिए प्रोत्साहन भी प्रदान करता है।

- **What is a Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV)?**

- **About Electric Vehicle:**

- **An Electric Vehicle (EV) is defined as a vehicle that can be powered by an electric motor that draws electricity from a battery and is capable of being charged from an external source.**

- हाइब्रिड इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (HEV) क्या है?

- इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन के बारे में:

- इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (ईवी) को एक ऐसे वाहन के रूप में परिभाषित किया जाता है जिसे इलेक्ट्रिक मोटर द्वारा संचालित किया जा सकता है जो बैटरी से बिजली खींचता है और बाहरी स्रोत से चार्ज करने में सक्षम होता है।

Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV): These are **fully powered by electricity**. These are more efficient compared to hybrid and plug-in hybrids.

Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV): Electric energy for EVs is produced from **chemical energy**. For Example, a Hydrogen FCEV.

Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV): It is also called **Strong Hybrid EV**. The vehicle uses **both the internal combustion (usually petrol) engine and the battery-powered motor powertrain**.

- बैटरी इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (बीईवी): ये पूरी तरह से बिजली से संचालित होते हैं। ये हाइब्रिड और प्लग-इन हाइब्रिड की तुलना में अधिक कुशल हैं।
- ईंधन सेल इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (एफसीईवी): ईवी के लिए विद्युत ऊर्जा रासायनिक ऊर्जा से उत्पन्न होती है। उदाहरण के लिए, एक हाइड्रोजन एफसीईवी।
- हाइब्रिड इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (HEV): इसे स्टॉन्ग हाइब्रिड EV भी कहा जाता है। वाहन आंतरिक दहन (आमतौर पर पेट्रोल) इंजन और बैटरी चालित मोटर पावरट्रेन दोनों का उपयोग करता है।

-
- **Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV):**
 - These use **both** an **internal combustion engine** and a **battery charged from an external socket (they have a plug)**. Vehicle's battery can be **charged with an external electricity source only** and not by engine.
 - PHEVs are more efficient than HEVs but less efficient than BEVs.

प्लग-इन हाइब्रिड इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (पीएचईवी):

इनमें आंतरिक दहन इंजन और बाहरी सॉकेट से चार्ज की गई बैटरी (इनमें एक प्लग होता है) दोनों का उपयोग होता है। वाहन की बैटरी को केवल बाहरी बिजली स्रोत से चार्ज किया जा सकता है, इंजन से नहीं।

पीएचईवी, एचईवी की तुलना में अधिक कुशल हैं लेकिन बीईवी की तुलना में कम कुशल हैं।

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- **In February 2023, the Tamil Nadu government announced incentives in the form of road tax, registration, and permit fee exemptions for strong hybrids.**
 - **The Chandigarh administration also offers road tax rebate on strong hybrid vehicles priced below Rs 20 lakh.**
-
- फरवरी 2023 में, तमिलनाडु सरकार ने मजबूत संकरों के लिए सड़क कर, पंजीकरण और परमिट शुल्क में छूट के रूप में प्रोत्साहन की घोषणा की।
 - चंडीगढ़ प्रशासन 20 लाख रुपये से कम कीमत वाले मजबूत हाइब्रिड वाहनों पर रोड टैक्स में छूट भी प्रदान करता है।

Advantages & Disadvantages of
Electric Vehicles



ADVANTAGES

DISADVANTAGES



Doesn't depend on fossil fuels for your commutation



Priced 30-40% higher than their regular counterparts



Electric vehicles are known for their **always-on power delivery**



Charging infrastructure not adequate



Electric vehicles **are silent operators**



Driving range offered by battery technology is **not adequate**



Running on electricity means **good bye to exhaust gases**. Say hello to clean air!



Battery packs that power them are **highly susceptible to wear & tear and expensive**

National Gopal Ratna Award 2024

The Department of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has been conferring the National Gopal Ratna Award every year with the objective of encouraging the Milk stakeholders.

In the field of livestock and dairy sector, the National Gopal Ratna Award is one of the highest National Awards.

मत्स्य पालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग दुग्ध हितधारकों को प्रोत्साहित करने के उद्देश्य से हर साल राष्ट्रीय गोपाल रत्न पुरस्कार प्रदान करता रहा है।

पशुधन और डेयरी क्षेत्र में, राष्ट्रीय गोपाल रत्न पुरस्कार सर्वोच्च राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कारों में से एक है।

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- **The Award is conferred into the following categories:**
 - **Best Dairy farmer rearing Indigenous Cattle/buffalo breeds**
 - **Best Dairy Cooperative Society (DCS)/Milk Producer Company (MPC)/ Dairy Farmer Producer Organization (FPO).**
 - **Best Artificial Insemination Technician (AIT).**
 - यह पुरस्कार निम्नलिखित श्रेणियों में प्रदान किया जाता है:
 - स्वदेशी मवेशी/भैंस नस्ल का पालन करने वाला सर्वश्रेष्ठ डेयरी किसान
 - सर्वश्रेष्ठ डेयरी सहकारी समिति (डीसीएस)/दुग्ध उत्पादक कंपनी (एमपीसी)/डेयरी किसान उत्पादक संगठन (एफपीओ)।
 - सर्वश्रेष्ठ कृत्रिम गर्भाधान तकनीशियन (एआईटी)।

-
- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has been conferring the National Gopal Ratna Award every year since 2021, under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM).
 - The RGM was launched in December 2014, with a view to conserve and develop indigenous bovine breeds in a scientific manner.

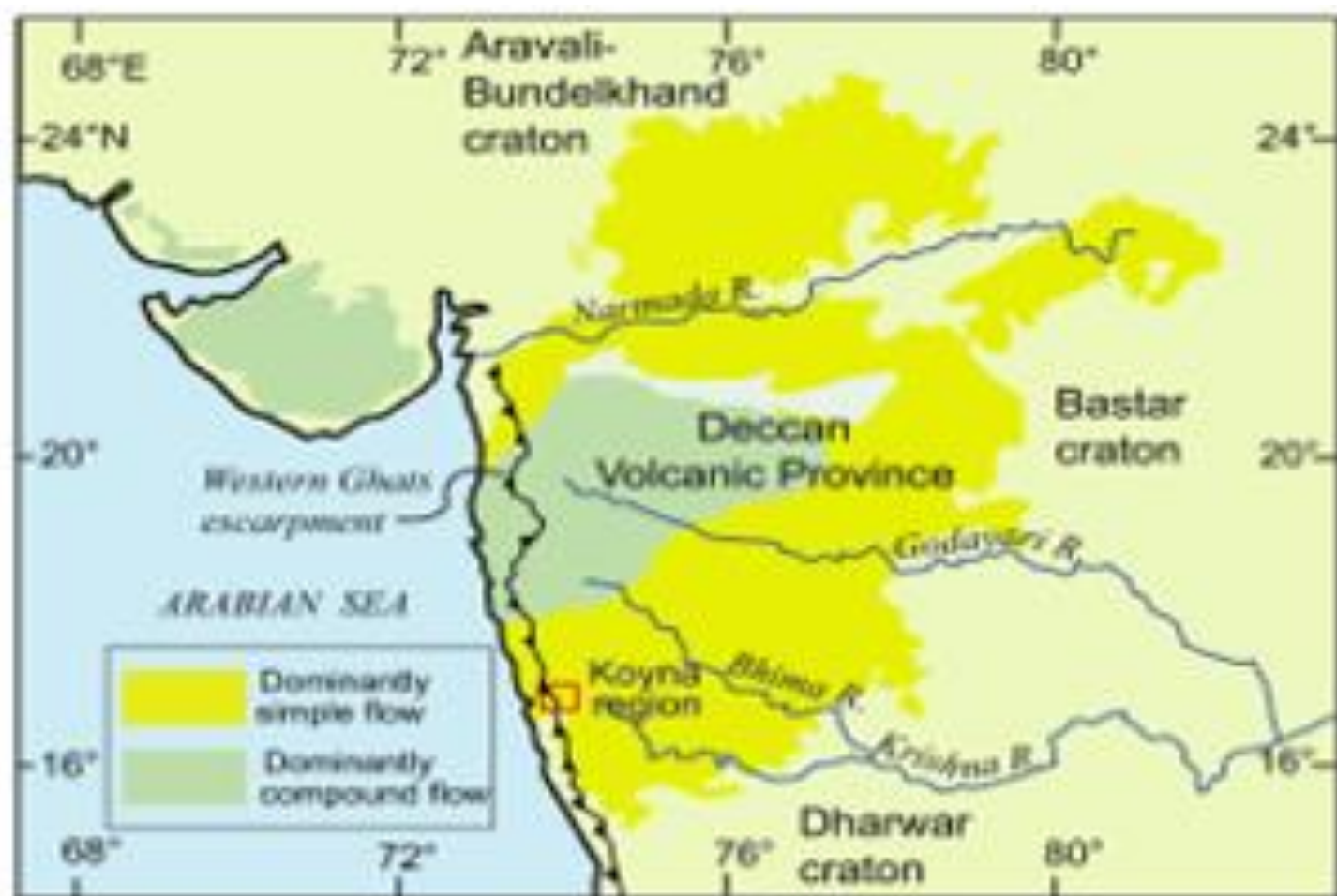
- पशुपालन और डेयरी विभाग राष्ट्रीय गोकुल मिशन (आरजीएम) के तहत 2021 से हर साल राष्ट्रीय गोपाल रत्न पुरस्कार प्रदान कर रहा है।
- आरजीएम को वैज्ञानिक तरीके से स्वदेशी गोजातीय नस्लों के संरक्षण और विकास के उद्देश्य से दिसंबर 2014 में लॉन्च किया गया था।

India's Mission to Drill a 6-km Deep Hole in Koyna, Maharashtra




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- Recently, the **Union Ministry of Earth Science** decided scientific **deep drilling in the Koyna region** of Maharashtra, aiming for an indispensable progress in the earth sciences.
 - **About the Koyna-Warna Region: A Seismic Hotspot**
 - It is a region nestled in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra, and has been prone to earthquakes.
 - Since the impoundment of the **Shivaji Sagar Lake (better known as the Koyna Dam)** in 1962, this area has experienced **recurrent seismic activity**.

-
- द्वाल द्वी में केंडीय पथुी वलजान मंत्रालय ने पथुी वलजान में अपरलदर्य पगतल के उदुदेश्य से महाराष्ट्र के कोयना क्षेत्र में वैज्ञानलक गहरी ड्रललंग का नलरुणय ललया।
 - कोयना-वार्ना क्षेत्र के बारे में: एक भूकंपीय हॉटस्पॉट
 - यह महाराष्ट्र के पशलचमी घाट में बसा एक क्षेत्र है, और भूकंप का खतरा बना हुआ है।
 - 1962 में शलवाल्नी मागर द्वील (लललमे कोयना बांध के नाम से जाना जाता है) के बंद होने के बाद से, इस क्षेत्र में बार-बार भूकंपीय गतलवलधल का अनुभव हुआ है।



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- **India's Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL)**
 - It was established by the **Union Ministry of Earth Sciences** in **Karad, Maharashtra.**
 - It aims to **execute India's sole scientific deep-drilling program**, currently working on their ambitious goal, i.e. drill down to a depth of 6 kilometers (that's roughly 3.7 miles) in the **Koyna-Warna region.**
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- भारत की बोरहोल भूभौतिकी अनुसंधान प्रयोगशाला (बीजीआरएल)
 - इसकी स्थापना केंद्रीय पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय द्वारा कराड, महाराष्ट्र में की गई थी।
 - हमका लक्ष्य भारत के एकमात्र वैज्ञानिक दीप-दिलिंग कार्यक्रम को क्रियान्वित करना है जो वर्तमान में अपने महत्वाकांक्षी लक्ष्य पर काम कर रहा है यानी कोयना-वार्ना क्षेत्र में 6 किलोमीटर (लगभग 3.7 मील) की गहराई तक ड्रिल करना।



NASA's CHAPEA project

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- **NASA's CHAPEA project involved four volunteers living in a simulated Mars habitat for a year to study the challenges of long-duration missions to Mars.**
 - The mission, **part of NASA's Crew Health and Performance Exploration Analog (CHAPEA)**, was the **first of three planned simulations.**

- नासा की CHAPEA परियोजना में मंगल ग्रह पर लंबी अवधि के मिशन की चुनौतियों का अध्ययन करने के लिए एक वर्ष के लिए एक नकली मंगल निवास स्थान में रहने वाले चार स्वयंसेवक शामिल थे।
- मिशन, नासा के क्रू हेल्थ एंड परफॉर्मेंस एक्सप्लोरेशन एनालॉग (CHAPEA) का हिस्सा, तीन नियोजित सिमुलेशन में से पहला था।

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- The habitat, called "**Mars Dune Alpha**," was a 1,700 sq ft 3D-printed structure at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, designed to **replicate Martian conditions, including a backdrop of red, rocky cliffs and simulated Martian soil.**
 - The crew experienced conditions similar to those on Mars, **including spacewalks in "Marswalks" suits, growing vegetables, and dealing with communication delays, limited resources, and prolonged isolation.**
 - निवास स्थान, जिसे "मार्स ड्यून अल्फा" कहा जाता है, ह्यूस्टन, टेक्सास में जॉनसन स्पेस सेंटर में 1,700 वर्ग फुट की 3डी-मुद्रित संरचना थी, जिसे लाल, चट्टानी चट्टानों और नकली मंगल ग्रह की मिट्टी की पृष्ठभूमि सहित मंगल ग्रह की स्थितियों को दोहराने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया था।
 - चालक दल ने मंगल ग्रह के समान परिस्थितियों का अनुभव किया, जिसमें "मार्सवॉक" सूट में स्पेसवॉक, सब्जियां उगाना और संचार में देरी, सीमित साधनों और लंबे समय तक अलगाव से निपटना शामिल था।

Word of the day

Ungainly:

lacking grace in movement or posture; difficult to handle especially because of shape

Synonyms: gawky, clumsy, awkward

Usage: *While turtles look ungainly on land, in water they are very agile.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/ungainlypro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ʌn'geɪnli/

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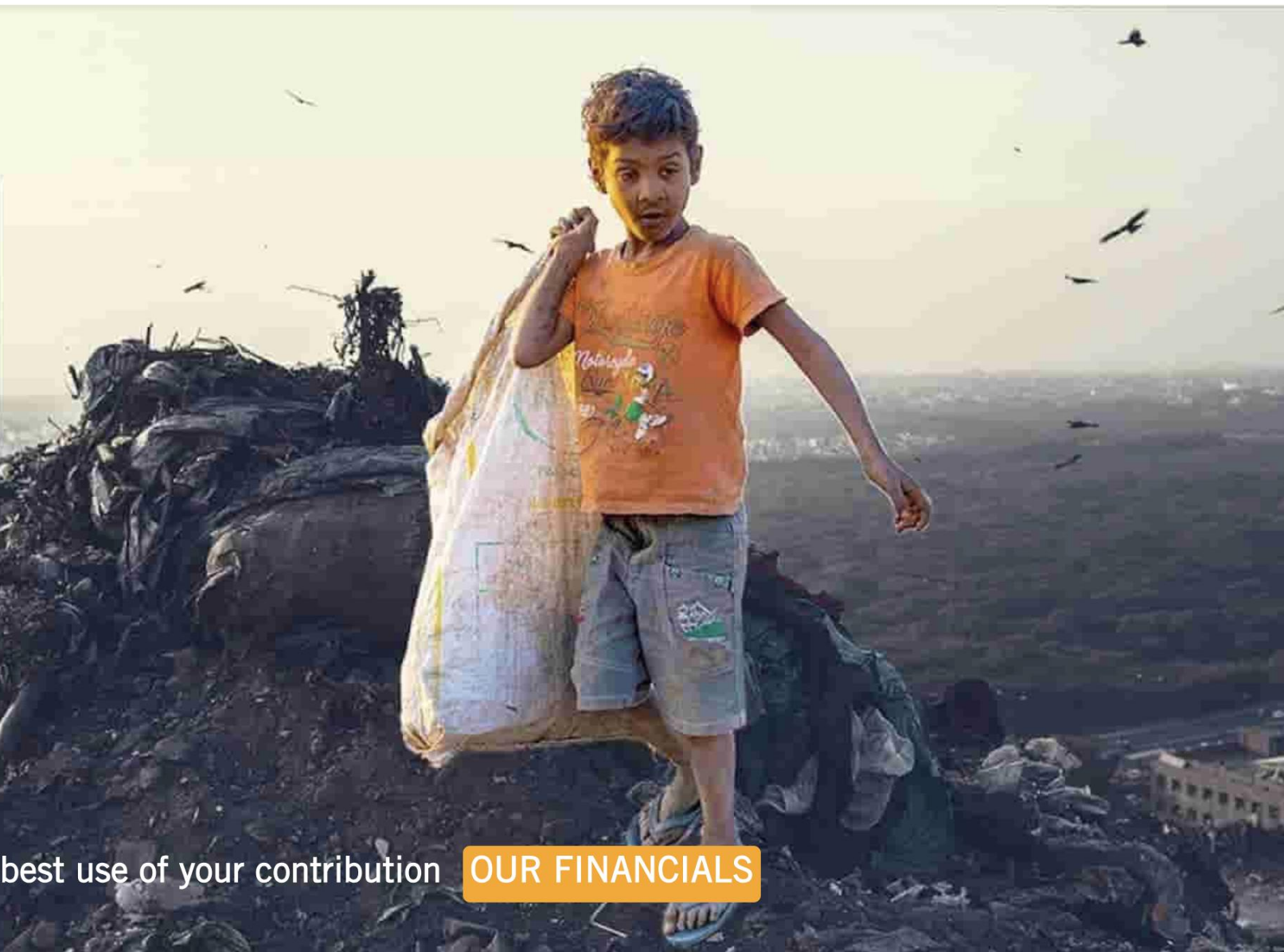
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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, with some in the foreground and others blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, creating a sense of appreciation and collective effort. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner.

Thank you
guys.
