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Israel hits Gaza as Hamas halts talks
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WPI inflation rose to 3.36% in June
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Spain caps fantastic run with Euro crown
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INSIDE

Body of sanitation worker recovered after 46 hours
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Forty-six hours after a sanitation worker went missing in the Amalappuzha Canal in the Kerala capital, his body was recovered downstream on Monday morning. **• PAGE 8**

Russia set to deliver 2 stealth frigates soon
NEW DELHI
After a series of delays due to COVID-19, the war in Ukraine and Western sanctions, two stealth frigates in Russia under construction for the Indian Navy are set to be delivered from September. **• PAGE 8**

ICAR to release 323 new varieties of 56 crops today
NEW DELHI
The Indian Council of Agricultural Research will announce the release of 323 varieties of 56 crops, including cereals, oilseeds, forage crops, and sugar cane, at a summit here on Tuesday as part of its 100th foundation day. **• PAGE 8**

Pune Police book controversial IAS officer's parents
PUNE
The Pune Police have filed an FIR against the mother of the controversial IAS politician Pujan Bhandare in a land dispute case after a video showed her allegedly threatening a farmer with a gun. **• PAGE 8**

SC to look into use of Money Bills to pass laws

Chief Justice Chandrachud says appeals challenging the use of Money Bills by the Centre to pass contentious amendments in Parliament will be listed when he forms Constitution Benches; a Money Bill is restricted only to specified financial matters; Justice Chandrachud had delivered a dissenting opinion in 2021, overruled by the majority

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI
Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday agreed to list petitions challenging the Money Bill route taken by the Centre to pass contentious amendments in the Parliament.
"I will list when I form Constitution Benches; the Chief Justice addressed senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who made an oral submission on behalf of the petitioners, including Rajya Sabha MP Jayaprakash Narayan.
"The Money Bill question was referred to a seven-judge bench in November 2019 by a five-judge bench headed by Chief Justice

The contentious route
Some of the legislations passed as Money Bills in the Parliament include:
• Amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act
• The Finance Act of 2011
• Auditor Act, 2016
A Money Bill is a financial legislation that contains provisions exclusively related to revenue, taxation, government expenditure, and borrowing.
legal questions concerning amendments made from 2015 onwards in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) through Money Bills, giving the Enforcement Directorate almost blanket powers of arrest, raids, etc. Though the court had upheld the legality of the PMLA amendments, it left the question whether the amendments could have been passed as Money Bills to the seven-judge bench.
Similarly, the case also raises questions about the

Cong. welcomes court's decision
NEW DELHI
The Congress on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court agreeing to consider a submission to review its 2017 judgment in *Shreeya Chaudhary Narayan v. Union of India* after the appointments to alter the appointments to 19 key judicial positions of passage of laws as Money Bills. **• PAGE 8**
The question of passage of laws after dressing them up as Money Bills had come up in the Aadhaar case too. However, the top court had, in a majority verdict in 2021, refused to review its 2018 judgment in *K. Suresh Kumar v. Union of India*, which upheld the validity of the Aadhaar Act and its certification as a Money Bill.
Justice Chandrachud (as he was then) had delivered a dissenting opinion on the

Festive fervour



Devotees join a chariot of the Shree Jagannath Temple on the last day of the nine-day Bath Yatra festival at Puri in Odisha. **SHREYAS KISHOR**

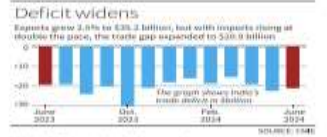
Authorities hunt for clues as motive behind attack on Trump remains elusive

Associated Press WASHINGTON/MIAMI
Investigators were hunting for any clues about what may have driven Thomas Matthew Crooks, the 20-year-old man who tried to assassinate former President Donald Trump, to carry out Saturday's attack. The FBI said they were investigating it as a potential act of domestic terrorism, but the absence of a clear ideological motive led conspiracy theories to flourish.
Crooks first came to law enforcement's attention at Sunday's rally when officers noticed him acting strangely outside the campaign event.
The tip sparked a frantic search by officers, who were unable to find him before he managed to get on a road where he opened fire.
Biden's address
"I urge everyone — everyone, please — make assumptions about his motive or his affiliations," President Joe Biden said in remarks on Sunday from the White House. "Let the FBI do their job, and their partner agencies do their job." Biden said that this investigation by the FBI and other agencies had found no threatening comments on social media accounts or in interviews. The Secret Service rushed the president to a secure location as presidential nominee of the stage, his face smeared with blood.
Mr. Trump said on social media that he was "in the shooting, but not

Judge dismisses criminal case against Trump
Reuters WASHINGTON
A U.S. judge on Monday dismissed the criminal case against Donald Trump, dealing the former President another major legal victory as he seeks a return to the White House. Florida-based U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon ruled that Special Counsel Jack Smith, who is leading the prosecution, was unlawfully appointed to his role. **FULL REPORT • PAGE 14**
He said he was in "great spirits" ahead of his arrival on Sunday in Milwaukee for the Republican National Convention.
Two spectators were critically injured, while a former fire chief in the area, Corey Compton, was killed.
At the Republican Party convention that began in Columbus, Ohio, Mr. Trump will announce his choice for a running mate, having cited as front-runners Ohio U.S. Senator J.D. Vance, Florida U.S. Senator Marco Rubio and North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum.
"This is a chance to bring the whole world together. The speech will be

Imports continue to outpace growing exports; trade deficit widens by 9.4%

Nikhil Dhoti NEW DELHI
India's merchandise exports grew for the third straight month in June, rising 2.58% to \$26.2 billion, but the import bill climbed by a faster 3% to \$36.2 billion, widening the trade deficit by 9.4% from a year ago, as per quick trade estimates released by the Commerce Ministry on Monday.
Commerce Secretary Sushil Mathwal said that total merchandise and services exports have hit a record high of \$26.5 billion in the first quarter of 2024-25, surpassing the previous high of \$19.7 billion recorded in 2022-23. While services exports numbers for the last month will be released by the Central bank, the Ministry has pegged the number at \$20.3 billion, a 0.9% higher than a year ago.
Noting that global growth is looking up and inflation is trending down, Mr. Mathwal said that if global growth continues to rise, India could well cross \$60 billion of total exports this year. "So that is a good takeaway from the quarterly figures, which gives us optimism," the secretary said. He added that the government is focusing on six key sectors and 201 countries to boost exports.
Total exports
Total exports stood at a record high of \$27.2 billion in 2023-24, 0.42% over the previous year. Exports will have to rise 2.8% through this year to hit the \$60 billion target, but as officials acknowledged, there are "many ifs and buts" in the mix, including financing geopolitical risks.
This June's goods exports and imports were the second highest in 10 years, not only to the \$42.3 billion of exports and \$64.2 billion of imports recorded in June 2022, Mr. Mathwal said. The major growth drivers were engineering and electronics goods, up 10.3% and 16.9%, respectively, as well as drugs and pharmaceuticals (6.8%), chemicals (3.7%), and coffee (up 10%), the top trade official said.
Worryingly, petroleum exports slumped 15.3% in January-June 2024, June to \$5.5 billion, while imports rose 19.6% to \$18.05 billion.
However, this marked an improvement in the deficit which peaked at \$12.2 billion in May. Quantico Research economists said in a research note.



India, Russia have doubled rupee-rouble payments'
Sushant Bahadur NEW DELHI/MOSCOW
India and Russia have doubled their payments in national currencies (rupee-rouble) since last year despite sanctions by the U.S. and European Union, says Russia's state-controlled and largest bank, Sberbank, that handles a majority of payments for Indian exports to Russia, even as rupee deposits by Indian corporates have increased multi-fold in 2024.
In January-June 2024, the volume of payments processed doubled from the January-June 2023 amount, according to the figures shared by Sberbank.
FULL REPORT • PAGE 4

SC to look into use of Money Bills to pass laws

Chief Justice Chandrachud says appeals challenging the use of Money Bills by the Centre to pass contentious amendments in Parliament will be listed when he forms Constitution Benches; a Money Bill is restricted only to specified financial matters; Justice Chandrachud had delivered a dissenting opinion in 2021, overruled by the majority

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Monday agreed to list petitions challenging the Money Bill route taken by the Centre to pass contentious amendments in the Parliament.

"I will list when I form Constitution Benches," the Chief Justice addressed senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who made an oral mentioning on behalf of the petitioners, including Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh.

The Money Bill question was referred to a seven-judge Bench in November 2019 by a five-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice

Ranjan Gogoi in the case of Rojer Mathew vs. South Indian Bank Ltd. The cardinal issue is whether such amendments could be passed as a Money Bill, circumventing the Rajya Sabha, in violation of Article 110 of the Constitution.

The provisions

A Money Bill is deemed to contain only provisions dealing with all or any of the matters under clauses (a) to (g) of Article 110(1), largely including the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Fund of India and taxation.

In other words, a Money Bill is restricted only to the specified financial matters.

The reference includes

The contentious route

Some of the legislations passed as Money Bills in the Parliament include:

- Amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act
- The Finance Act of 2017
- Aadhaar Act, 2016



A Money Bill is a financial legislation that contains provisions exclusively related to revenue, taxation, government expenditures, and borrowing

legal questions concerning amendments made from 2015 onwards in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) through Money Bills, giving the Enforcement Directorate almost blanket powers of arrest, raids, etc. Though the

court had upheld the legality of the PMLA amendments, it left the question whether the amendments could have been passed as Money Bills to the seven-judge Bench.

Similarly, the case also raises questions about the

Cong. welcomes court's decision

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court agreeing to consider a submission for setting up a Constitution Bench to hear pleas challenging the validity of passage of laws as Money Bills. » PAGE 5

passage of the Finance Act of 2017 as a Money Bill to alter the appointments to 19 key judicial tribunals.

Mr. Ramesh, a petitioner in this case, had argued that the 2017 Act was deliberately categorised as a Money Bill to "extend exec-

utive control over these institutions (tribunals) by altering the composition of the selection committees and vastly downgrading the qualifications and experience required to staff these bodies".

The question of passage of laws after dressing them up as Money Bills had come up in the Aadhaar case too. However, the top court had, in a majority verdict in 2021, refused to review its 2018 judgment (K. Puttaswamy case) upholding the validity of the Aadhaar Act and its certification as a Money Bill.

Justice Chandrachud (as he was then) had delivered a dissenting opinion on the

Review Bench in 2021. The two questions before the Review Bench had been whether the Lok Sabha Speaker's decision to declare the proposed Aadhaar law as a Money Bill was "final". The second, whether the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 was correctly certified as a 'Money Bill' under Article 110(1) of the Constitution.

Justice Chandrachud, in his dissent, had said the Review Bench ought to wait till the seven-judge Bench decided the larger questions on the Money Bill in the Rojer Mathew reference. But the majority had disagreed with him.

CRITERIA FOR BEING A MONEY BILL

Article 110 of the Constitution defines the Money Bill

Money Bills are those Bills which contain "only" provisions dealing with all or any of the matters specified in **Article 110 sub-clauses**:

➤ Imposition, abolition, remission, alteration, regulation of any tax

➤ Regulation of borrowing of money or the giving of any guarantee by govt

➤ Custody of the Consolidated Fund or the Contingency Fund of India, the payment of moneys into or the withdrawal of moneys from any such fund



➤ Appropriation of moneys out of Consolidated Fund of India

➤ Declaring of any expense to be expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India or the increasing of the amount of any such expenditure

➤ Receipt of money on account of Consolidated Fund of India or Public Account of India or the custody or issue of such money or the audit of the accounts of the Union or of a State

A Bill which has any provision other than money provision (as mentioned in sub-clauses) is not a Money Bill

Constitution gives power to the Lok Sabha Speaker to take a final call if any question arises whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not

Speaker's decision is final and cannot be challenged in any court of law

RS has limited powers with respect to Money Bills

Lok Sabha has supreme power in terms of Money Bills

BASIS FOR COMPARISON	MONEY BILL	FINANCE BILL
Meaning	A bill is said to be money bill which exclusively deals with the matters prescribed in article 110 of the constitution.	All the bills, which deals with the provisions concerning revenue and expenditure.
Form	Government Bill	Ordinary Bill
Introduction	Lok Sabha only.	Category A bills are introduced in Lok Sabha while Category B bills can be introduced in any of the two houses.
Approval	Prior approval of President or Government is required.	Prior approval of President is required.
Certification	Certified by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.	Not certified by the Speaker.
Rajya Sabha	The power of Rajya Sabha is restricted.	Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha has equal powers.
Joint Sitting	No provision of joint sitting.	Provisions are there regarding joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Money and Financial Bill

	Money Bills	Financial Bill (I)	Financial Bill (II)
Initiated at	Only in Lok Sabha	Only in Lok Sabh	Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha
Introduced by	Only by a Minister	Only by a Minister	Minister
Role of Upper House	Return with or without recommendations within a maximum period of 14 days.	Can reject or amend the bill.	Can reject or amend the bill.
Role of Speaker	Authority to endorse a bill as a Money bill.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Purpose of the bill	Matters under Article 110	Matters under Article 110 and general legislation.	Expenditure from Consolidated Fund of India, but except matters under Art 110.
Majority required	Simple Majority	Simple Majority	Simple Majority
Role of President	Prior permission is required for introduction. President can give assent or withhold but cannot return.	Prior permission is required for introduction. Can either give or withhold assent or return the bill for reconsideration.	Prior permission is not required for introduction. Can either give or withhold assent or return the bill for reconsideration.
Deadlock	Not Applicable	Join sitting	Joint Sitting



- **Challenge to Money Bills / मनी बिलों की चुनौती**

- Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud, has agreed to list petitions challenging the use of Money Bills by the Centre to pass contentious amendments.
- भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश डी.वाई. चंद्रचूड़ ने विवादास्पद संशोधनों को पास करने के लिए केंद्र द्वारा मनी बिलों के उपयोग को चुनौती देने वाली याचिकाओं को सूचीबद्ध करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की है।

- **Scope of Money Bills / मनी बिलों का क्षेत्र**



- A Money Bill is restricted only to specified financial matters, as defined in Article 110(1) of the Constitution.
- मनी बिल को केवल वित्तीय मामलों तक सीमित किया गया है, जैसा कि संविधान के अनुच्छेद 110(1) में परिभाषित किया गया है।
- It includes provisions related to the appropriation of money from the Consolidated Fund of India and taxation.
- इसमें भारत की संचित निधि से धन की विनियोग और कराधान से संबंधित प्रावधान शामिल हैं।

- **Contentious Use Cases / विवादास्पद उपयोग के मामले**
- Examples include the Aadhaar Act, 2016, Finance Act, 2017, and amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
- उदाहरणों में आधार अधिनियम, 2016, वित्त अधिनियम, 2017 और मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग अधिनियम (पीएमएलए) की रोकथाम में संशोधन शामिल हैं।

- 
- The Finance Act of 2017, categorised as a Money Bill, altered the appointments to 19 key judicial tribunals.
 - 2017 के वित्त अधिनियम को मनी बिल के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया गया, जिससे 19 प्रमुख न्यायिक अधिकरणों में नियुक्तियों में बदलाव किया गया।
- 

- **Judicial Review and Opinions / न्यायिक समीक्षा और राय**

- The question of whether such amendments could be passed as a Money Bill was referred to a seven-judge Bench in 2019.
- क्या ऐसे संशोधन मनी बिल के रूप में पारित किए जा सकते हैं, इस सवाल को 2019 में सात-न्यायाधीशों की पीठ को भेजा गया था।

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1. Justice Chandrachud had delivered a dissenting opinion on the validity of the Aadhaar Act as a Money Bill in 2021.
 2. न्यायमूर्ति चंद्रचूड़ ने 2021 में आधार अधिनियम की वैधता पर मनी बिल के रूप में असहमति व्यक्त की थी।

-
- Consider the following statements regarding Money Bills in India:

1. A Money Bill can include provisions dealing with all or any of the matters listed under clauses (a) to (g) of Article 110(1).
2. The Finance Act of 2017, passed as a Money Bill, involved amendments to 19 key judicial tribunals.
3. The decision to declare a Bill as a Money Bill is final and cannot be challenged in the Supreme Court.

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

'India and Russia have doubled rupee-ruble payments in 2024'

According to figures shared by Russia's state-controlled Sberbank, the number of transactions has also increased despite Western sanctions, businessmen push for Indian manufacturers to look towards Moscow and counter China's inroads

Suhassini Haldar
NEW DELHI/MOSCOW

India and Russia have doubled their payments in national currencies (rupee-ruble) since last year, despite sanctions by the U.S. and European Union, says Russia's state-controlled and largest bank, Sberbank, that handles a majority of payments for Indian exporters to Russia. Rupee deposits by Indian corporates have also increased multiple in 2024.

According to figures shared by Sberbank, in January-June 2024, the volume of payments processed doubled from the January-June 2023 amount, and the number of transactions Sberbank handled increased by 60% in the first half of 2024. While Sberbank has reported a decline in India since 2020, sanctions were imposed by the U.S. in the immediate aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, and then by the European

Union in July 2022. The surge may rise further after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Moscow last week, economists and Indian businessmen working in Russia hope, warning that in the absence of the Indian rupee, Chinese businesses and the yuan would continue to benefit from the "vacuum" created by the exit of Western companies. "We are witnessing an increase in trust towards the rupee from our clients. Today, not only have rupee-denominated current accounts become a reality, but also rupee deposits which Indian firms are showing great interest in, since the beginning of the year, the volume of corporate deposits in rupees has increased by 60%," Sberbank spokesperson told. The Hindu in response to queries about potential growth areas, adding that the rupee is now "readily convertible" in Russia, and that Sberbank has set up a "Sberpa" for more businesses given the



Meets to make Sberbank says it is witnessing an increase in trust towards the Indian rupee from its clients. (Hindu)

\$500 billion trade target by 2030 set by Mr. Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin during the visit. "Prime Minister Modi's journey to Moscow was very important because it was the first visit at a time when economic cooperation between the two countries has come to a qualitatively new level," said Laxita Kothib, Head of India Studies at the 2023-24 ICVA Institute for Emerging Market Studies, at Manoj Kumar School of Management. "Secure payment mechanisms, insurance and logistics are among the most important areas to focus on," she added, listing auto and aviation companies, chemicals, microelectronics, consumer electronics, machinery, medical devices and agricultural products as sectors in which Indian companies should consider expanding to Russia.

According to a growing number of Indian businessmen, the government must move quickly as China has taken more advantage of the sanctions to fill the space vacated by most by all Western brands, and already has bilateral trade of \$240 billion, which is more evenly balanced. At present, even Indian companies are being forced to consider payments in the Chinese yuan, they say. "I think sanctions have created new opportunities, and China has gained a lot compared to India. Of course, the Indian government has been very positive about (trade with Russia), but something it has not been achieved on the same scale as China," explained Sukrit Sharan, a 31-year-old student in a postgraduate program in a joint venture between international institutes for advanced space technologies (IAAT) and Indian firm Millennium Aerodynamics. "That produces 'hybrid aerobots'," Indian businessmen should come and venture into the market, they should fill the void created in such action affecting the welfare of farmers in the region," he said.

'Condemnable act' Sberbank refused to release Tamil Nadu's share of water to Karnataka. "Indian businessmen should come and venture into the market, they should fill the void created in such action affecting the welfare of farmers in the region," he said.

T.N. govt. to hold all-party meet on Cauvery dispute

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Monday condemned the Karnataka government for releasing water in the Cauvery, due to the State of Tamil Nadu. He has also called for an all-party (dialogue) meeting at the Secretariat in Chennai on July 16, to decide on future course of action.

The Tamil Nadu government has also written to Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) urging it to implement the direction of the Cauvery Water Regulatory Commission (CWRWC) to Karnataka to release 1 km³ of water in the Cauvery in Tamil Nadu, as among the most important areas to focus on," she added, listing auto and aviation companies, chemicals, microelectronics, consumer electronics, machinery, medical devices and agricultural products as sectors in which Indian companies should consider expanding to Russia.



Farmers in trouble! Reports say Bilgeerchi recorded a flow of only around 4,000 cusecs at 4 p.m. on Monday. (Hindu)

Tamil Nadu Minister for Water Resources Duraimayyan would chair the all-party (those represented in the TN legislature) meeting on the Secretariat campus in Chennai at 11 a.m. on July 16 to discuss the future course of action, Mr. Stalin said. "The meeting would also get inputs from legal experts on the issue. As on July 15, the total water storage in four major reservoirs of Karnataka stood at 75,566 tmc. Mr. Stalin pointed out and further cited reports of the India Meteorological Department that predicted seasonal rain. "The water storage in Mettur dam is merely 12,908 tmc. In this situation, Karnataka refusing to release water as per the direction of the CWRWC is an act against the farmers of Tamil Nadu," he said.

Vikram Misri takes over as India's 35th Foreign Secretary

Kalid Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Vikram Misri, a 1988-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service, took charge as the 35th Foreign Secretary on Monday. Mr. Misri, who served as a Deputy National Security Adviser before the current assignment, served in China during the 2020 Sino-Indian conflict and is also known for his role in resolving the conflict between Myanmar where he served as India's Ambassador from 2016 to 2018. He has taken over from Vinay Mohan Khosla.

The 1984 batch diplomat has served in multiple Indian missions in locations such as Brussels, Tunis, Islamabad, Washington DC, Moscow and the United Arab Emirates. He served as Indian envoy to Spain in 2014.



Vikram Misri

In the current circumstances, Mr. Misri will be expected to provide leadership to the Government of India in dealing with the dynamic global situation by the Israeli-Palestine crisis, the continuing war in Ukraine and the upcoming U.S. election. "Congratulations. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri as he assumes his new responsibility today. Wish him a productive and successful tenure," External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in a social media post.

Brishji Sati, the spokesperson of the Uttarakhand government in Uttarakhand, said that the government in Uttarakhand is caught in the grip of a political crisis. The priest community in the State, which is also the largest community (land of the gods), is up in arms. "As human beings, we are not allowed to symbolically in the name of the gods, the foundation stone of which was laid by Prashant Maharaj Singh Dhami last week. At a time when the State is gearing for an Assembly election in Kedarnath, the loss of the priest, who are at the heart of the economy, may prove costly for the BJP."

Two stealth frigates being built in Russia set to be delivered soon

Dinakar Perri
NEW DELHI

After a series of delays, two stealth frigates under construction in Russia for the Indian Navy are set to be delivered from September. All other ships ordered were delayed due to COVID-19, the war in Ukraine and Western sanctions.

"First ship *Tusha* is ready for acceptance by the Indian Navy and is scheduled to be delivered by September. The commissioning will be held in Russia earlier this month," a defence official in the know said. "The second ship *Jugal* is expected to be delivered by February 2025."

Agreement for frigates In October 2016, India and Russia signed an inter-governmental agreement for the four stealth frigates, two directly imported and



Naval advances: The basic structures of two frigates in Russia were set to be delivered to India. (Hindu)

two to be manufactured by Goa Shipyard Ltd. (GSL). A \$1-billion deal was subsequently signed for

YSR Cong. leaders looted resources of A.P., says Naidu

M. Suresh Babu
AMARAVATHI

The land, sand, mines, minerals and forest resources suffered illegal exploitation due to the corrupt practices of the YSR Congress Party leaders in Andhra Pradesh, during the last five years, alleged Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. He was releasing the fourth White Paper, in a series of seven, on a press conference held at Secretariat, Varadachari, in Guntur district on Monday. Mr. Naidu said in the White Paper on "Natural resources, land, mines & minerals and forest resources" that 1.75 lakh acres of land worth Rs.5,76 crore were grabbed during the tenure of the former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan

Priests in Uttarakhand miffed over construction of Kedarnath temple in Delhi

India Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Uttarakhand is caught in the grip of a political crisis. The priest community in the State, which is also the largest community (land of the gods), is up in arms. "As human beings, we are not allowed to symbolically in the name of the gods, the foundation stone of which was laid by Prashant Maharaj Singh Dhami last week. At a time when the State is gearing for an Assembly election in Kedarnath, the loss of the priest, who are at the heart of the economy, may prove costly for the BJP."

Existing structure at M.P.'s Bhojshala complex was built using remains of temple: ASI

India Bureau
NEW DELHI

The existing structure at the Bhojshala complex in Bhopal district of Madhya Pradesh was constructed using the remains of a temple that existed earlier at the site, said the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in its scientific survey report, which was submitted to the Indian Branch of the Madhya Pradesh High Court on Sunday. The court had in March asked the ASI to undertake a scientific survey of the Bhojshala Temple-Kamal Mandira complex. The ASI said that based on the survey, conducted over a period of three months using technologies such as ground-penetrating radar and from archaeological remains situated during the investigation, the pre-existing structure "can be dated to the Pratihara (dynasty) period." "Art and architecture of the pillars and plaques in colonnades suggest that they were probably part of a temple. For their reuse in the existing structure, B-

Delhi Police submit chargesheet in 2023 security breach case

Deepa Prasad
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Monday filed a supplementary chargesheet before a court here in connection with the Parliament security breach last year on the anniversary of the 2001 terror attack. The police filed the chargesheet before Additional Sessions Judge Harshdeep Kaur after obtaining the requisite sanctions to prosecute all the accused under the strict Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The judge noted the submission and listed the matter for arguments on cognisance for August 2. The court also extended the judicial custody of all accused persons till the same date. Special Public Prosecutor Akhlesh Prasad Singh apprised the court that cer-

tain forensic reports are awaited, and will be submitted very soon. Earlier on June 7, the judge filed an approximately 1,000-page chargesheet against all identified persons: Manoj Kumar, Anil Kumar, Manoj Kumar, Sagar Sharma, and Neelam Anand. The judge security breach on the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament terror attack, two persons jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery during Zero Hour, released yellow gas from containers and shouted slogans before being overpowered by the MP's.

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Two stealth frigates being built in Russia set to be delivered soon

Dinakar Peri

NEW DELHI

After a series of delays, two stealth frigates under construction in Russia for the Indian Navy are set to be delivered from September. Construction and deliveries were delayed due to COVID-19, the war in Ukraine and Western sanctions.

“First ship *Tushil* is ready for acceptance by the Indian Navy and is scheduled to be delivered by September. The commissioning crew reached Russia earlier this month,” a defence official in the know said. “The second ship *Tamal* is expected to be delivered by February 2025.”

Agreement for frigates

In October 2016, India and Russia signed an inter-governmental agreement for the four stealth frigates, two directly imported and



Naval advances: The basic structures of two frigates in Russia were lying at the Yantar shipyard in Russia. PIB

two to be manufactured by Goa Shipyard Ltd. (GSL).

A \$1-billion deal was subsequently signed for

the two frigates under direct purchase. In November 2018, the GSL signed a \$500-million deal with Ro-

soboronexport of Russia for material, design and specialist assistance to locally manufacture the two frigates, and in January 2019, the contract was signed between the Indian Defence Ministry and the GSL. All the ships are powered by engines from Zorya-Mashproekt of Ukraine.

Schedule to be followed

As per schedule, the GSL is scheduled to deliver the first ship in 2026 and the second one six months later. “Construction at GSL is progressing and the launch of the first ship would take place in the next couple of months,” a defence source said. The basic structures of two frigates in Russia were lying at the Yantar shipyard in Russia which are now being finished. The Indian Navy already operates six of these frigates weighing around 4,000 tonnes each.

- Stealth frigate Vindhyagiri is the sixth vessel rolled out as part of the Project 17A Frigate.
- The five other ships – INS Nilgiri, Udaygiri, Himgiri, Taragiri, and Dunagiri – were launched between 2019 and 2022.

- **Features**

- The P17A ships are guided missile frigates.
- They are 149 metres long, with a displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes and a speed of 28 knots.
- These ships are capable of neutralising threats in all three dimensions of air, surface and sub-surface.

-

Project 17 Alpha frigates (P-17A) were launched by the Indian Navy in 2019.


- Project 17A Frigates are the **follow-on class of the Project 17 (Shivalik Class) Frigates**, with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems.

The project was launched by the defence forces of India to construct a series of stealth guided-missile frigates.

These frigates are currently being constructed by two companies - **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL)** and **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**.




- **Delivery Schedule / डिलीवरी शेड्यूल**

- Two stealth frigates under construction in Russia for the Indian Navy are set to be delivered from September.
 - भारतीय नौसेना के लिए रूस में निर्माणाधीन दो स्टील्थ फ्रिगेट्स को सितंबर से डिलीवर किया जाएगा।
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- The first ship, Tushil, is ready for acceptance by the Indian Navy and is scheduled to be delivered by September.
 - पहला जहाज, तुशील, भारतीय नौसेना द्वारा स्वीकृति के लिए तैयार है और इसे सितंबर तक डिलीवर किया जाएगा।
 - The second ship, Tamal, is expected to be delivered by February 2025.
 - दूसरा जहाज, तमाल, फरवरी 2025 तक डिलीवर किए जाने की उम्मीद है।





- **Construction Delays / निर्माण में देरी**

- Construction and deliveries were delayed due to COVID-19, the war in Ukraine, and Western sanctions.
 - निर्माण और डिलीवरी में COVID-19, यूक्रेन युद्ध और पश्चिमी प्रतिबंधों के कारण देरी हुई।
- 

- **Agreement for Frigates / फ्रिगेट्स के लिए समझौता**

- In October 2016, India and Russia signed an inter-governmental agreement for four stealth frigates.

- अक्टूबर 2016 में, भारत और रूस ने चार स्टील्थ फ्रिगेट्स के लिए एक अंतर-सरकारी समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

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- Two frigates were to be manufactured by Goa Shipyard Ltd. (GSL).
 - दो फ्रिगेट्स का निर्माण गोवा शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड (जीएसएल) द्वारा किया जाना था।
 - A \$1-billion deal was signed for the two frigates under direct purchase in January 2019.
 - जनवरी 2019 में दो फ्रिगेट्स की सीधी खरीद के लिए \$1 बिलियन का सौदा हुआ।
- 

1. Construction Progress / निर्माण की प्रगति

1. Construction at GSL is progressing, and the launch of the first ship is expected in the next couple of months.
2. जीएसएल में निर्माण प्रगति पर है, और पहले जहाज का प्रक्षेपण अगले कुछ महीनों में होने की उम्मीद है।
3. The Indian Navy already operates six of these frigates weighing around 4,000 tonnes each.
4. भारतीय नौसेना पहले से ही लगभग 4,000 टन वजन वाले इन फ्रिगेट्स में से छह का संचालन करती है।




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- Consider the following statements regarding the stealth frigates being built in Russia for the Indian Navy:

1. The first ship, Tushil, is scheduled to be delivered by September 2023.

2. The construction of these frigates was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

3. The agreement for the frigates was signed between India and Russia in October 2019.

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

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

BUILDING BLOCKS



Inside the brain: Researchers inject gel under the electroencephalography (EEG) cap at the Technische Universität München (TUM) in Garching near Munich in 2014. REUTERS

100 years of EEG: how does it work and what is its significance?

This year marks the centenary of the first human EEG, produced by German physiologist Hans Berger. EEG measures electrical activity in the brain generated by neurons. In research, scientists use EEG for neuroscience, cognitive psychology, neurolinguistics etc

Vandanan Muthiah

The EEG is a marvel of physics and neurobiology that opens a simple window into the human brain. This window is often small and yet it reveals so much. But not least it is the wonder that it reveals anything at all without having to break open the skull first. This year is the centenary of the first human EEG, produced by German physiologist Hans Berger.

How was the EEG invented? Berger's feat was preceded by incremental but significant advances across Europe from the late 19th century. In 1875, British physician Richard Caton reported evidence of electrical activity in the brains of monkeys and rabbits. Fifteen years on, his Polish peer Adolf Beck found evidence of fluctuating activity in the brains of dogs and rabbits when he stimulated their senses. In 1912, Vladimir Pravdich-Neminsky produced the first mammalian EEG, of a dog's brain. Berger succeeded him in 1924 with the human counterpart. He is also credited with inventing the EEG, naming it, and introducing its utility to clinical settings.

What is an EEG? EEG stands for electroencephalography. 'Electro' pertains to electricity; 'encephaly' refers to the brain; and 'graphy' is a suffix meaning to show or to represent. Neurons in the brain perform various functions by moving electrically charged particles such as ions. The movement of these particles gives rise to electrical activity that a health worker can use as an EEG test to visualise. Researchers have also been able to relate data obtained from an EEG with different levels and modes of brain activity, and use it to distinguish reliably between

normal and abnormal states. EEG is not an uncommon diagnostic test in clinical settings. Among other applications, it is the reference standard – that is, the best test available – to diagnose epilepsy. An EEG test can also reveal the effects of anaesthesia, sleeping patterns, neurological activity during a coma, and viability of oxygen. EEG can also confirm brain death, one of the two legally recognised forms of death in India.

In research, scientists use EEG for neuroscience, cognitive psychology, neurolinguistics, neuromarketing studies and to develop brain-computer interfaces.

What is volume conduction? EEG measures electrical activity in the brain generated by neurons. During an EEG test, a health worker will place electrodes on your scalp. There are many layers of skin, fluid, and bone between the electrode and the neurons. When a neuron produces electrical activity, charged particles will move through all these media before reaching the electrode, and will be reflected, refracted, scattered, etc. en route.

Volume conduction refers to the movement of electrical activity through this three-dimensional volume. It also stands for the fact that the electrical activity is produced in one place whereas the detectors that detect it are located at some distance. The raw data collected by the electrodes will first need to be corrected for the effects of volume conduction, and then for noise in the data arising from faulty electrodes and incidental physiological activity (such as blinking or muscle activity). A clinician usually interprets the processed data.

How does an EEG test work? The neurons that make up the human brain are constantly exchanging atoms,

molecules, proteins, etc. with their surroundings. Sometimes neurons will push ions out into the space between neurons. Since ions of the same charge repel each other, this 'ionian' can push away other ions, which push away even other ions, and so on.

When a large number of neurons start this cascade at the same time, a (relatively) big wave of electrical activity flows through the brain. The electrodes on the scalp are made of metal and track the changes in voltage as the waves move past them, creating an electroencephalogram.

Where are the electrodes placed? You can place them anywhere, but if you're comparing notes with a scientist or want to follow clinical standards, you should follow the International 10-20 System.

In this system, the distance between two adjacent electrodes is either 10% or 20% of the total distance between two points on the head along which electrodes are being placed.

Four common points of reference are the nasion (the depression between the eyes, just above the bridge of the nose) and the inion (the crest at the back of the skull going front to back, and from tragus to tragus going side to side). (The tragus is the small flap-like projection on the outer ear; you push it in to shut your ears when there's a loud noise.)

What does and doesn't EEG show? The changes in voltage recorded at the electrodes are transmitted to a computer, which plots the readings on a graph with voltage on one axis and time passed on another. Health workers are typically interested in two types of data in the graphs: the voltage (measured in millivolts of a volt) and the frequency of

the variations (measured in hertz). They will also factor in, among other things, the location of the neurons responsible for the electrical activity recorded by the test (for example, in the neocortex or the allocortex, the two types of cortex of the cerebral cortex).

EEG is better than other diagnostic devices at tracking relatively rapid electrical activity in the brain. In the order of milliseconds, on the downside, it is biased towards electrical signals generated closer to the surface of the cortex, and significantly so towards currents generated by neurons' dendrites and against those generated by the axons. The process to pinpoint where some electrical activity originated within the brain, or result in some electrical data, is also less than straightforward.

To overcome these and other challenges, researchers have used EEG together with other tests, like magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and have developed sophisticated data acquisition, processing, and reconstruction methods.

Are EEGs affordable? Aside from its neurological and diagnostic abilities, an EEG setup is also relatively simple and cost-effective.

The equipment involved doesn't take up much space, doesn't emit high-energy radiation or sounds, doesn't confine patients to small spaces (like MRI), is non-invasive, and is portable (the invasive version of EEG is called electrocorticography, or ECoG).

Similarly, aside from the diagnostic downside, setting up an EEG test requires time – including applying a gel on the person's head and plotting the electrodes in precise locations according to the 10-20 System – and its readings can be affected if the person has as much as thicker hair.

Please send in your answers to rajagopalan@hindu.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump survived an assassination attempt during a rally in Pennsylvania. A quiz on other leaders who have survived such attempts

Radhika Sarathnam

QUESTION 1

This leader once alleged that the U.S. wanted to invade his government. He was the first Prime Minister in his country to be removed from office through a no-confidence motion. What is the name of this man who is now in jail?

QUESTION 2

This President was shot in the early 1900s. The bullet penetrated through a copy of his speech and his speech came out before getting lodged in his chest. As he was not sloughing blood, he continued giving his speech. He carried the bullet with him for the rest of his life. Who is he?

QUESTION 3

This leader survived at least four assassination attempts. The fear that he

would be assassinated apparently kept his ministerial colleague, who later became Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, up at night. How does this leader's leadership, whose rivalry and differences in style shaped an independent nation's trajectory?

QUESTION 4

This leader was giving a speech at a military exercise when he was assassinated. He was accused of undermining democracy and violating human rights in a country in the grip of an economic crisis. A few years ago, his country celebrated its 75th anniversary and two 'national assemblies' who is he?

QUESTION 5

This leader's mother was the world's first woman Prime Minister. This leader was newly killed by a suicide bomber. Who is this leader?



Visual question: Four bullets a day, a hotel bomb nearly claimed the life of this British Prime Minister and other ministers. Name this leader and the name of the hotel.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The place where India made its ODI debut. Ans: India made its debut in Leeds against England. The home team won by four wickets.

2. One of the two batters who scored a half-century in the match. Ans: Virat Kohli (50)

3. These two players a figure in the match would lift the Prudential World Cup nine years later. Ans: Sunil Gavaskar and Madan Lal

4. The two members of the famed 'Iron Guard' who played in the match. Ans: Bishan Singh Bedi and S. Venkatarangiah

5. The lone Englishman to make his first appearance during the match. Ans: Robin Jackman

6. India's first secretary in the 1976 Prudential World Cup against a team which is not a regular international team now. Ans: East Africa

7. India has played the most number of matches against this team. Ans: Sri Lanka

Visual: Name the Englishman. Ans: John Edrich

Early Birds: Smrati Guly, Eshini Jagdish Godara

Saahin Kumar Pandey, K. N. Vinayashankar

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Jargon (K. K. Shiroor, Mysore)."

"A couple of years ago, I discussed this at great length. I will explain it once again briefly. Jargon is 'technical or specialised words used by a particular group of people and difficult for others to understand'. A linguist when talking to a fellow linguist might refer to the sound 'p' as a voiceless, bilabial, plosive. While this may make no sense to the layman, the fellow linguist will immediately understand what the other is trying to say. Every professional group has its own jargon. You have medical jargon, legal jargon, commercial jargon, etc. Jargon serves a purpose when it is addressed to specialists as the specialised vocabulary used will be more economical and precise than non-technical vocabulary. It should be confined to 'the sectional vocabulary of a science, art, class, sect, trade or profession'. Here is an example: – The relocatable machine program is turned into an executable, absolute machine code by the linker, CLINK, which also merges the user's program with previously compiled program files (such as the Standard C function library) if necessary." While many of us may not understand what the author is trying to say, it won't be a problem for a person who is in the field of computing. Jargon is normally used by people who belong to a particular professional group. It is used when there is no one around or when they write articles for professional journals. But one thing that people should avoid is using jargon when talking to or writing for the layman. It shouldn't be used for showing off one's knowledge. Unfortunately, this is what is happening nowadays. People are resorting to jargon in order to impress or confuse others. And this is the reason why the word has acquired a negative connotation of late. Nowadays jargon is used by most people to refer to various kinds of verbal fuzziness. We have different kinds of jargon like jargonese, jargonisms, officianese, sociologues, officianese in the special language written by bureaucrats for bureaucratic jargon has come to mean speech or writing full of long, unfamiliar or roundabout words or phrases? It is also marked by abstractness and purloinity."

"Unrequited career (K. S. Ray, New Delhi).
"A chequered career is a career marked by periods of good and bad fortune. It is not uniformly good or bad. Please note the spelling of 'career'. 'Career' is different from 'career'. 'Career' means 'profession or occupation'. 'Career' means 'a person or thing that carries'."

"Educational (K. K. Nair, Nagpur).
"Educationalist" or "educationalist" is a specialist in education. In American English, 'educationalist' is a term of disparagement for a stereotypically middle-headed educational theorist whose dubious ideas have contributed greatly in the writer's view – to the downfall of American education. When you write to an American educator don't tell him he is a great educationalist."

Published in *The Hindu* on September 8, 1992

Word of the day

Nebulous
lacking definite form or limits; lacking definition or definite content

Synonyms: cloudy, unfixed

Usage: She reported his death giving nebulous details.

Pronunciation: /nɪˈbʊləs/

International Phonetic Alphabet: /nɪbʊləs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to lettersto@hindu.com with the subject 'Text & Context'



Inside the brain: Researchers inject gel under the electroencephalography (EEG) cap at the Technische Universitaet Muenchen (TUM) in Garching near Munich in 2014. REUTERS

100 years of EEG: how does it work and what is its significance?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The EEG is a marvel of physics and neurobiology that opens a simple window into the human brain. This window is often small and yet it reveals so much. But not least is the wonder that it reveals anything at all without having to break open the skull first. This year is the centenary of the first human EEG, produced by German physiologist Hans Berger.

How was the EEG invented?

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- **Introduction to EEG**

- **What is EEG?**

- A method to measure electrical activity in the brain.
 - Used in clinical settings to diagnose epilepsy, monitor neurological activity during coma, anesthesia, and assess brain death.
- 



• **Invention of EEG:**

- Richard Caton (1875): Early evidence of electrical activity in animal brains.
 - Adolf Beck (late 19th century): Recorded brain activity in dogs and rabbits.
 - Vladimir Pravdich-Neminsky (1912): First mammalian EEG (dog's brain).
 - Hans Berger (1924): Invented the first human EEG, contributing significantly to its clinical utility.
- 



- **Volume Conduction:**

- Refers to the movement of electrical activity through the brain's three-dimensional structure.


- During EEG tests, electrodes placed on the scalp detect electrical activity generated by neurons.



- Collected data is processed to correct for volume conduction and noise.



- **Electrode Placement:**

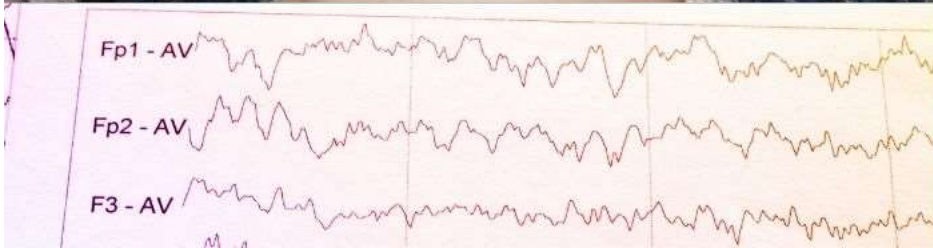
- Electrodes can be placed according to the International 10-20 System, ensuring standardization.
 - Common reference points include the nasion,inion, and tragi.
- 

Benefits and Limitations



Advantages:

- Non-invasive, cost-effective, portable, and provides rapid results.
- No high-energy radiation or loud noises like MRI.
- Useful for diagnosing epilepsy, studying brain function, and researching cognitive psychology and neuromarketing.



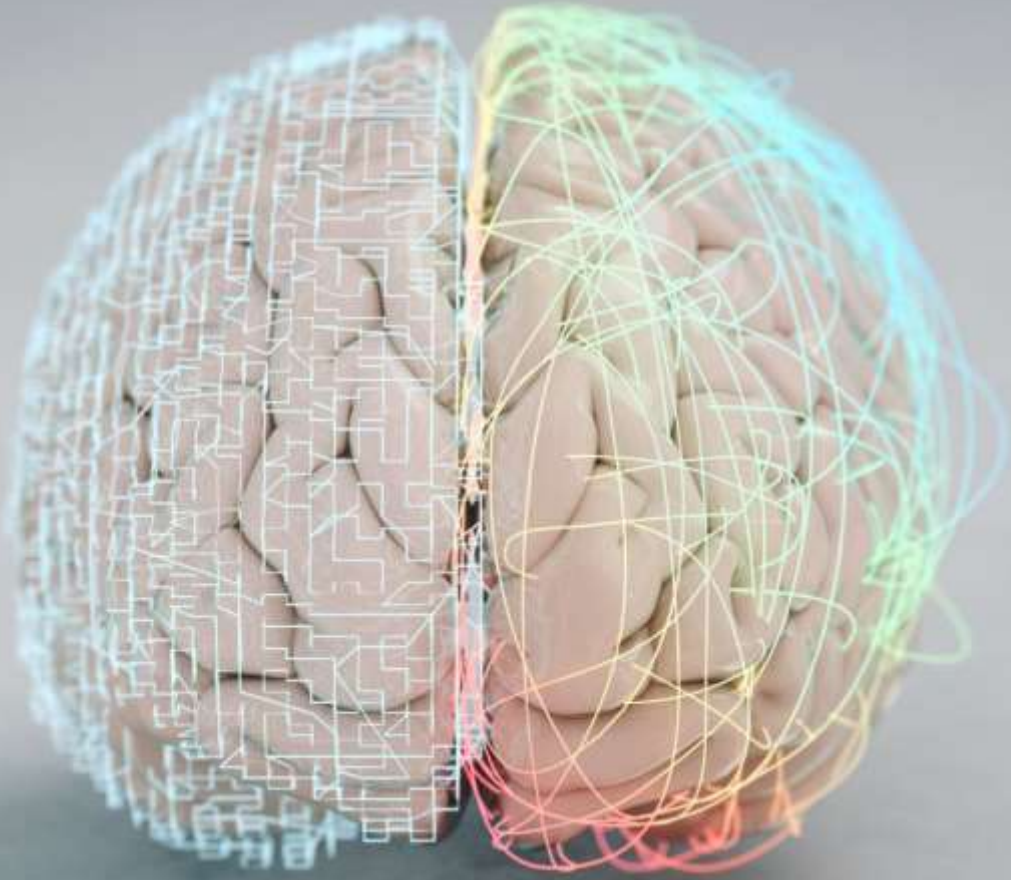
EEG Test helps to detect-

- Seizure disorders like epilepsy
- Sleep disorders
- Dementia
- Head injury and concussion
- Encephalitis



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- **Limitations:**
- Biased towards detecting electrical signals from the cortex.
- Difficult to pinpoint the exact origin of electrical activity within the brain.

Table 1 Electrophysiological Signals

Signal	Biological source	Average amplitude	Frequency
Electrocardiogram (ECG)	Heart	1-5 mV	0.05-100 Hz
Electroencephalogram (EEG)	Brain	10-50 μ V	0-150 Hz
Electromyogram (EMG)	Muscles	0.1-1 mV	40-3000 Hz
Electrooculogram (EOG)	Eyeball	0.05-3.5 mV	0-125 Hz

SOLED BACKING
Spain players always believed in me, says coach de la Fuente



Spain coach Luis de la Fuente thanked his players for delivering a record fourth European Championship, saying they always believed in him. de la Fuente replaced Luis Enrique, and many doubted if he had the experience or quality to bring out a decade-long trophy drought. "I was sure my players believed in me... they have been infallible."

OPEN FOR DISCUSSION
Now is not the time to decide on my England future: Southgate



Gareth Southgate is leaving his future as England manager open for now after his team's loss to Spain in the Euro 2024 final. "I don't think now is a good time to make a decision like that. I'm going to talk to the right people," Southgate told British broadcaster ITV after the final. "It's just not for now."

FULL OF SURPRISES
Scaloni hails Argentina for a hat-trick of major triumphs



Argentina's win over Colombia in the Copa America final on Sunday meant that he became the first South American team to win three straight major titles after the 2021 Copa America and 2022 World Cup. "I don't know if it makes an era, but it's true that this team never ceases to surprise," Scaloni said.

KEYTECH BROKEN
The delay to the final affected us, says Colombia gaffer Lorenzo



Colombia coach Hector Lorenzo said his team had been impacted by the delayed start to the Copa America final. "We had a very good build-up to the game but then some unusual situations started to happen," he said referring to the 40-minute delay in the match caused by snow and security problems at the stadium.

Spain and Argentina crowned continental kings

While the *La Bata* defeat England, thanks to Oyarzabal's late goal in Berlin, Messi & Co. defend their title on the back of Lautaro Martinez's 112th-minute strike in Miami



Champion mentality: Messi's injury did not deter Argentina as it retained the title.



Champion mentality: Messi's injury did not deter Argentina as it retained the title.

EURO 2024
+ **Agence France Presse**
BERLIN

Substitute Mikel Oyarzabal scored a dramatic late winner as Spain triumphed in Sunday's Euro 2024 final, beating England 2-1 to confirm its re-emergence as a force on the international stage. England had been dreaming of winning a first title in almost six decades and it looked as if it could be its night as Spain lost influential midfielder Rodri to injury at half-time.

Not Spain alone though, off to take the lead within two minutes of the restart through Nico Williams, who was set up by his fellow star winger, Lamine Yamal.

England came from behind as it has done so often at this Euros, substitute Cole Palmer driving in the equaliser on 73 minutes, moments after entering the fray.

But its resurgence in the game was cut short when Oyarzabal, the head scorer, fired forward, turned in a cross in the 86th minute to

hand Spain a record fourth European Championship crown, and a third in the last five editions.

Omar's vital clearance: Spain then held on, although only after a vital clearance off the line from Dani Olmo to deny Marc Cucurell.

It previously won in 1964, 2008 and 2012, the last two titles coming either side of its triumph at the 2012 World Cup during the golden era of Navi Hernandez, Xabi Alonso and Andres Iniesta.

Whether this generation...

Whether this genera...

tion, led by the brilliant Villarreal playing here a day after his 17th birthday, manage to repeat the achievements of that magnificent side remains to be seen, but Spain's was a fitting victory.

Spain has been the best team over the last month in Germany and was not intimidated by the atmosphere at the Olympiastadion, where the majority of the crowd were given over to England's cause.

After the agony of its defeat on penalties to Italy three years ago, England is the first side to lose back-

to-back Euro finals. The result (final): Spain 2 (Williams 47, Oyarzabal 86) vs England 1 (Palmer 73).

Goal (11): Spain became the first country to clinch four Euro crowns (1964, 2008, 2012, 2024), breaking goal-scoring records in the process. The Spaniards won seven successive matches in this edition, the first time a team has done it without needing a penalty shoot-out. Spain scored 10 goals, breaking the record it set at Euro 2020 and France's tournament high of 14 in 1984.

Evolutionary Spain: In a match that started 1 hour, 22 minutes late because of crowd trouble at the Etihad Stadium, Argentina won its third straight major title following the 2021 Copa America and 2022 World Cup and qualified Spain, which won the 2008 and 2012 European Championships

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COPA AMERICA
+ **Associated Press**
MIAMI

Argentina won its second straight Copa America championship, overcoming Lionel Messi's second-half leg injury to beat Colombia 1-0 on Sunday, thanks to Lautaro Martinez's 112th-minute goal. Messi appeared to sustain a non-contact injury while running and falling in the 64th minute and covered his face with his hands as he sat on the bench and sobbed.

Lautaro Martinez later ran to that bench to hug his captain after the goal that propelled Argentina to its record 10th Copa title.

around the 2010 World Cup. Argentina also stopped Colombia's 29-game unbeaten streak dating to a February 2022 loss to the Albiceleste.

Lautaro Martinez entered in the 57th minute and scored from Giovanni Lo Celso's perfect through pass.

Just inside the penalty area, Lautaro Martinez sent a right-foot shot through the upturned arms of sliding goalkeeper Camilo Vargas for his 20th international goal, his tournament-high fifth.

Making his 39th and possibly last Copa America appearance at age 37, Messi had one goal in the tournament. He went down after an ankle was stepped on in the first half but returned to the game.

Colombia was more aggressive and forced goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez to make four saves in the first half, but Argentina began to dominate more in the second.

Fagullazzo thought he scored in the 75th minute but was ruled offside. Nicolas Gonzalez, who replaced Messi, was stopped by Vargas in the sixth minute.

Numerous players lost their footing during the second half of Sunday's summit clash.

The game was heavily watered with sprinklers following the half-time performance by Colombian pop star Shakira, which caused an extended half-time break.

The result (final): Argentina 1 (Lautaro Martinez 112) vs Colombia 0.

Euro final loss will hurt for a long time: England's Kane

Agence France Presse
BERLIN

England captain Harry Kane said Sunday's Euro 2024 final loss to Spain, the "Three Lions' second successive defeat in the tournament's game, will "hurt for a long time".

England lost the Euro 2020 final on penalties to Italy at Wembley. Speaking with ITV, the England captain, who was substituted after 60 minutes, said the latest major tournament heartbreak after Spain's late winner was "tough to take".



Kane's men could only walk past the Euro trophy. AFP/ITV/REUTERS

Top strikers, overall strikes: George Horne (left), Jamal Musiala (center), Cole Palmer (right), Juan Fernandez (far right), Harry Kane (far right) scored three goals each. There were 17 goals in the 2024 edition at an average of 2.30 per match.

"We've been coming from behind all tournament, we've got it in the locker. We didn't take the next step and win it," Kane said. "The second half was better and we got the goal. We got caught with a cross and that's the final."

Di Maria realises dream, bids golden goodbye



Argentina's superstar Angel Di Maria bids emotional after playing his final game for the country. AFP

Agence France Presse
MIAMI

Argentina winger Angel Di Maria said Sunday's Copa America triumph over Colombia was the perfect ending to his career with the national team.

The 36-year-old winger had announced in November that he would retire from international duty after the tournament. "I dreamt it, that's why I said it was the last Copa America and it ended here. I dreamt that I would reach the final, I dreamt that I would win it, that I would retire like this," he said.

Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni took Di Maria off in the final minutes of extra-time, ensuring he received a huge farewell from the team's fans which his eyes showed he was moved by.

Beautiful feelings: "I have so many beautiful feelings... I am eternally grateful to this generation. They gave me everything, they made me achieve what I wanted so much."

Di Maria, had been part of a generation with Lionel Messi which won the Olympics in 2008 but then struggled. For silverware, missing out to the final stage of tournaments to the frustration of the nation.

But the "Triple Crown", which also hands the Argentine a record 10th Copa, confirms Lionel Scaloni's team's place in among the greats of South American football.

Argentina's titles: 1921, 1925, 1927, 1928, 1937, 1941, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1962, 1963, 2021 and 2024. Two tournaments were held in 1980, when Argentina was the South American National Teams tournament was renamed Copa America in 1975.

Spain and Argentina crowned continental kings

While the *La Roja* defeat England, thanks to Oyarzabal's late goal in Berlin, Messi & Co. defend their title on the back of Lautaro Martinez's 112th-minute strike in Miami



Dominant force: Morata's men remained unbeaten in their remarkable journey. GETTY IMAGES



Champion mentality: Messi's injury did not deter Argentina as it retained the title. AFP

EURO 2024

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

hand Spain a record fourth European Championship crown, and a third in the last five editions.

Olmo's vital clearance

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COPA AMERICA

Associated Press
MIAMI

around the 2010 World Cup.

Argentina also stopped Colombia's 28-game unbeaten streak dating to a February 2022 loss to the

ment-high fifth.

Making his 39th and possibly last Copa America appearance at age 37, Messi had one goal in the tournament. He went down af-

offside. Nicolas Gonzalez, who replaced Messi, was stopped by Vargas in the 95th minute.

Numerous players lost their footing during the ca-

Confederation ↕	Championship ↕	Editions ↕	Inaugural edition ↕	Teams ↕	Most titles		Current champions	
					Team(s)	Title(s)	Team	Edition ↕
AFC	AFC Asian Cup	18	1956	24	 Japan	4	 Qatar	2023
CAF	Africa Cup of Nations	34	1957	24	 Egypt	7	 Ivory Coast	2023
	African Nations Championship	7	2009	16	 DR Congo  Morocco	2	 Senegal	2022
CONCACAF	CONCACAF Gold Cup	17	1963	16	 Mexico	12	 Mexico	2023
	CONCACAF Nations League	3	2019–20	41	 United States	3	 United States	2023–24
CONMEBOL	Copa América	48	1916	10	 Argentina	16	 Argentina	2024
OFC	OFC Men's Nations Cup	10	1973	8	 New Zealand	6	 New Zealand	2024
UEFA	UEFA European Championship	17	1960	24	 Spain	4	 Spain	2024
	UEFA Nations League	3	2018–19	55	 France  Portugal  Spain	1	 Spain	2022–23

Return on foreign currency assets doubles in two years

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, JULY 15

WITH INTEREST rates rising in the US and other developed countries amid high inflation, the return, or the interest earned, on India's foreign currency assets doubled to 4.21 per cent during the fiscal ended March 2024 from 2.11 per cent in March 2022, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said.

The foreign currency assets comprise of multi-currency assets that are held in multi-asset portfolios. The total value of securities in FCA was \$468.98 billion as of March 31, 2024. This means on a 4.21 per cent return, RBI would have earned over \$19 billion as interest income. The rate of return on FCA was 3.73 per cent in FY23 and 2.1 per cent in FY21 and 2.65 per cent in FY20, the RBI said in its reply to the RTI application filed by *The Indian Express*.

The US Federal Reserve hiked the effective federal funds rate (EFFR) to 5.33 per cent in the last two years, which is higher than the long-term average of 4.61 per cent. The EFFR is the interest rate set by the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) for banks to borrow money from each other. The US Federal Reserve sets an upper and lower limit for the EFFR and aims to keep it within that range by adjusting the target range for the federal funds rate. The current target range is 5.25 per cent to 5.5 per cent.

CD (certificate of deposit) rates offered by US banks are in the range of 5.2 per cent. On the other hand, the RBI's main policy rate - Repo rate - is currently 6.5 per cent. State Bank of India (SBI)

RETURN ON FCA

Year	Return (%)
2019-20	2.65
2020-21	2.10
2021-22	2.11
2022-23	3.73
2023-24	4.21

Source: RBI

offers an interest rate of 7 per cent on two-year deposits, at least 200 basis points higher than the US banks.

As of July 11, 2024, the annual inflation rate in the US was 3 per cent for the 12 months ended in June, down from the previous rate increase of 3.3 per cent. This is

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

lower than the long-term average of 3.28 per cent. After adjusting for inflation, the return on FCA is positive for the RBI.

Meanwhile, the RBI reduced the gold kept in safe custody with the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) by around 50 tonnes to 387.26 metric tonnes during FY24. The RBI apparently reduced the gold held abroad due to the high cost involved. "The information cannot be provided as it falls under the category of information which is exempted under Section 8(1)(c) of

the Right to Information Act 2005," the RBI said in its RTI reply when sought the cost of keeping gold in safe custody abroad.

As at end-March 2024, the Reserve Bank held 822.10 metric tonnes of gold, of which 408.31 metric tonnes were held domestically. While 387.26 metric tonnes of gold were kept in safe custody with the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), 26.53 metric tonnes were held in the form of gold deposits.

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari had earlier pitched for formulating a policy for using the RBI's rising foreign exchange reserves for funding road projects, saying the country needs low-cost finance for such infrastructure projects. However, the RBI has the mandate to invest up to \$5 billion in the bonds issued by the India Infrastructure Finance Company (UK) Limited. As at end of March 2024, the amount invested in such bonds stood at \$932 million.

As at end-March 2024, out of the total FCA of \$ 570.95 billion, \$ 468.99 billion was invested in securities, \$62.17 billion was deposited with other central banks and the BIS and the balance \$ 39.79 billion comprised deposits with commercial banks overseas. With the objective of exploring new strategies and products in reserve management while diversifying the portfolio, a small portion of the reserves is being managed by external asset managers. The investments made by the external asset managers are governed by the permissible activities as per the RBI Act, 2024.

Interest Rate Rise and Impact:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported that returns on India's foreign currency assets (FCA) doubled to 4.21% in March 2024, up from 2.11% in March 2022.

This rise is due to increasing interest rates in the US and other developed countries amid high inflation.

Composition of FCA:


FCA includes multi-currency asset portfolios.

The total value of FCA securities was \$468.98 billion as of March 31, 2024.

The RBI earned over \$19 billion in interest income at a 4.21% return rate




- **US Federal Reserve's Role:**

- The effective federal funds rate (EFFR) was increased to 5.33% over two years.
 - The EFFR influences the rate banks charge each other for borrowing.
- 



- **Investments and Returns:**

- The RBI invests FCA in bonds and other securities, such as those issued by the Indian Infrastructure Finance Company (UK) Limited.
 - As of March 2024, FCA's total was \$570.95 billion, including \$468.99 billion in securities, \$62.17 billion in deposits with central banks, and \$39.79 billion in commercial bank deposits.
- 

Gold Holdings:


The RBI held 822.10 metric tonnes of gold, with 387.26 tonnes in safe custody abroad.

Policy Recommendations:

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari proposed using the rising FCA reserves to fund road projects due to the need for low-cost finance.

- Consider the following statements regarding the return on India's foreign currency assets (FCA):
 1. The return on FCA doubled to 4.21% in March 2024 from 2.11% in March 2022.
 2. The total value of FCA securities was \$570.95 billion as of March 31, 2024.
 3. The effective federal funds rate (EFFR) was raised to 5.33% over two years.
- 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

Kharchi Puja

- 
- Recently, **Kharchi Puja**, which is observed annually on the **Shukla Ashtami day** of the lunar month of **Ashadha**, was celebrated.
 - During the Puja day, the 14 gods are ceremonially taken by the royal priests known as "**Chantai**" to the river "**Saidra**" for bathing in its holy waters, after which they are reverently returned to the temple.
 - Throughout the festival, the Tripuri people not only venerate their **14 deities** but also pay homage to the earth.
-

- **History:** Although the festival has its roots in tribal customs, it is now celebrated by both **tribal and nontribal** communities in Tripura.
- According to belief, **Tripura Sundari**, the Mother Goddess and **guardian deity of Tripura**, menstruates during June also called as **Ambubachi**. There is a widespread belief that the Earth becomes impure during her menstruation.



Puja Khedkar Controversy



- Puja Khedkar, a probationary IAS officer, is in controversy over her alleged misuse of power as a civil servant.
- **About**
- Similarly controversy, regarding Abhishek Singh, 2010 batch former IAS officer for allegedly using a fake disability certificate to qualify for the exam came into picture.
- These incidents not only raise question marks on the selection process of recruitment agencies but also ponder on the need to overhaul the selection process.
-

Ethical Issues

Abuse of Power and Privilege

Integrity and Honesty:

Nepotism and Undue Influence

Accountability and Transparency

Public Trust and Confidenc

Puja Khedkar has no major physical disability: Doctors

Trainee IAS officer is 7% disabled, minimum 40% needed to avail benefits, says YCM hospital dean

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS

PUNE, JULY 15

THE MEDICAL board at Pimpri's Yashwantrao Chavan Memorial Hospital certified that Puja Khedkar, the controversial trainee IAS officer, has 7 per cent locomotor disability. "In effect, this does not mean any major physical disability. The benchmark to avail of benefits is 40 per cent disability," Dr Rajendra Wabale, Dean, YCM hospital told The Indian Express.

Dr Wabale said that on August 24, 2022, Puja Manorama Dilip Khedkar was a case of locomotor disability.

Benchmark

"The diagnosis in her case is an old ACL tear with left knee instability. She has 7 per cent permanent disability in relation to her left lower limb as per the guidelines," the YCM hospital's disability certificate (a copy of which is with The Indian Express) stated. The diagnosis was given by Dr Milind Lokhande as part of the medical board team's assessment.

Dr Nagnath Yempalle, civil surgeon at Pune's District Hospital told The Indian Express that once the certification is generated by a hospital, the application 'auto cancelled' at their facility.

In Pune, 9 centres including Sassoon General Hospital, District Hospital, YCM

Hospital, Kamala Nehru Hospital and others, are assigned to carry out assessments to certify a person's condition, after which disability certificates are generated.

The district civil surgeon in Ahmednagar told the press on Sunday, that the then medical boards of the hospital had issued Khedkar a visual disability certificate in 2018 and a mental disability certificate in 2021, respectively. Also, the then board had issued her a combined certificate for medical disabilities in 2021.

In 2022, however, Khedkar had sought disability certificates from YCM and District Hospital.


Areas of disability

There are 5 major areas where disability certificates are issued - locomotor, visual, hearing, mental (dyslexia and others) and blood disorders (like haemophilia, thalassaemia). There are another 21 subsets of disabilities under the five categories and accordingly the applications are processed. Once the application is submitted online the candidate then selects his/her preference of hospital where tests are carried out and accordingly certificates of disability are issued.

Since our system showed that Khedkar has already been issued 7 per cent locomotor disability by YCM hospital, the application got auto cancelled at District hospital (Aundh)Pune," Dr Yempalle added.



Debate on Menstrual Leave Policy



- The Supreme Court's recent comment that a **mandatory menstrual leave policy might be counterproductive highlights** the complexity of this issue. The court urged the Centre to create a model policy, considering potential misuse and ensuring it doesn't hinder women's workforce participation.
-

- **What is a Menstrual leave?**
- It is a type of leave **where a woman may have the option to take paid or unpaid leave** from her employment if she is menstruating and is unable to go to work because of this. According to a study, **out of the 40% of women** who are part of the labour force **20% experience a condition called dysmenorrhea** that causes pain during menstruation.

Menstrual Leave in Other Countries

Taiwan and Zambia: Have policies but face implementation challenges.

Spain: Introduced paid menstrual leave in 2023, with low uptake due to complex processes and fear of discrimination.

Indonesia: Offers two-day leave, seldom used due to required medical examinations.



DID YOU KNOW?

Strawberries are not true berries, but bananas are? Botanically speaking, a berry is defined as a fleshy fruit that develops from a single ovary and contains seeds on the inside. While strawberries have their seeds on the outside, the real surprise is that bananas, which are often considered a typical fruit, are actually classified as berries!

Word of the day

Nebulous:

lacking definite form or limits; lacking definition or definite content

Synonyms: cloudy, unfixed

Usage: *She rejected his draft giving nebulous reasons.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/nebulouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈneɪbjʊləs/

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

Thank you
guys.
