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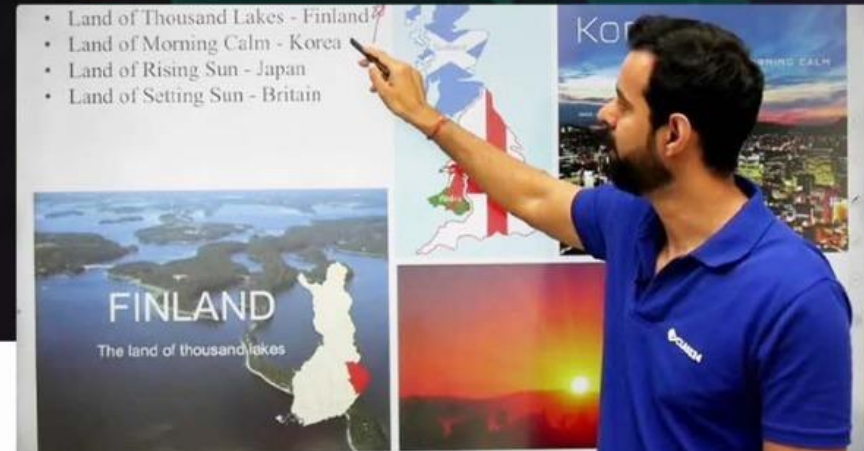
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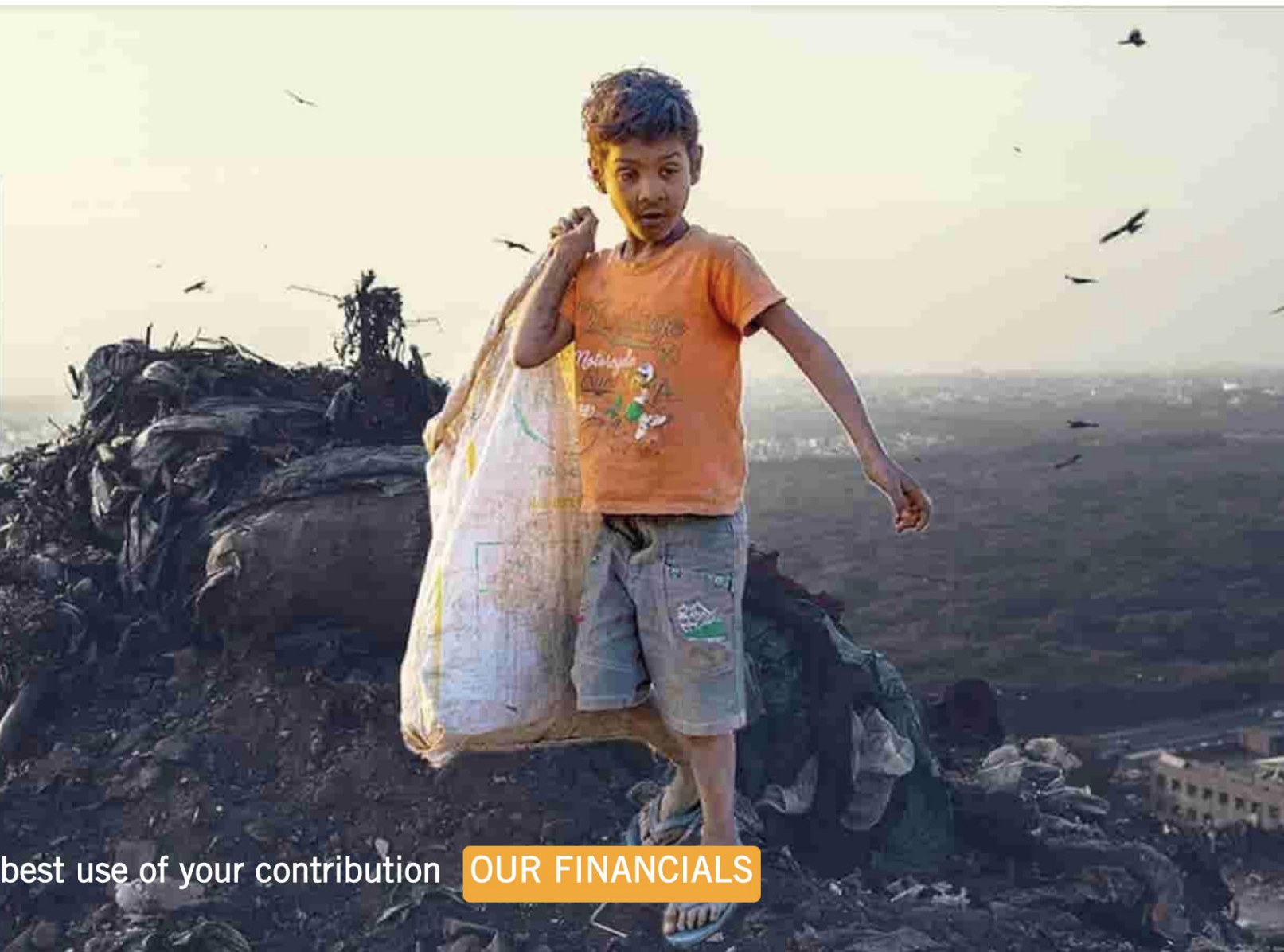




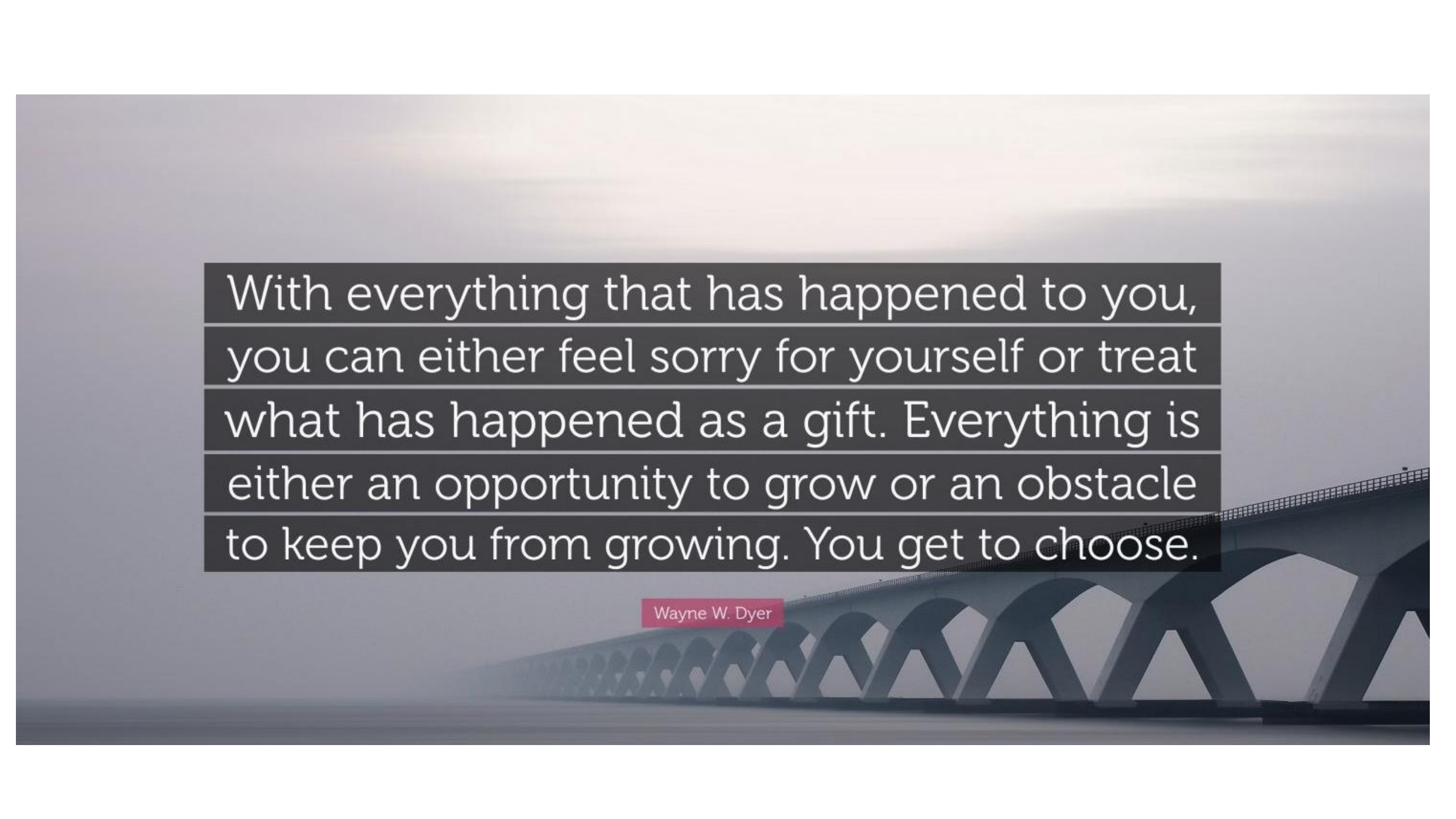
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Wayne W. Dyer



**IN TROUBLE**  
**UPSC files forgery case against Pujja Khedkar**  
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**Reconsider 'nameplate' diktat, say BJP's allies**  
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**MEET ROW**  
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**RASH DRIVING**  
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**EASY WIN**  
**Bowlers day out as India beats Pakistan**  
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**INSIDE**

**Modi 'lying' about 8 crore new jobs, says Congress**  
NEW DELHI  
Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "rubbing salt into the wounds" of the youth with his claim that "eight crore new jobs" were created. » PAGE 3

**HC stays Khan's move for V-C selection panel**  
KOCHI  
The Kerala High Court on Friday stayed Governor Arif Mohammed Khan's decision to constitute search-cum-selection committees for selecting Vice Chancellors of the University of Kerala and Mahatma Gandhi University. » PAGE 3

**3,000 more Army troops deployed in Jammu area**  
NEW DELHI  
Around 3,000 Army troops and 400 to 500 special forces personnel have been inducted into the Jammu area around a week ago, defence sources said on Friday. This is in addition to the Central Armed Police Forces deployed in the area. » PAGE 5

**Houthi drone hits Tel Aviv; 1 killed and 10 wounded**  
TEL AVIV  
An Iranian-made drone sent by Yemen's Houthis rebels struck Tel Aviv on Friday, leaving one person dead and at least 10 wounded in the country's first lethal strike into Israel. The spokesperson for the Houthis, Yahya Saree, claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement on X. » PAGE 12

**Microsoft update flaw triggers worldwide chaos**

Faulty update by CrowdStrike, a Texas-based cybersecurity firm, causes outages for millions

Digital systems in aviation, banking, hospitals, TV channels and telecommunications collapse

Flights around the world and in India delayed for hours or cancelled; passengers stuck

**A** faulty update knocked out several Windows computers and servers around the world on Friday, sending them through a boot loop featuring a so-called blue screen of death, disrupting aviation, banking, telecommunications, hospitals, TV channels and other companies around the world. The update was part of the Falcon endpoint threat detection and response product developed by CrowdStrike, a Texas-based cybersecurity firm. Flights were briefly grounded in the United States, with airports reeling under a state-of-emergency that airports were facing issues due to downtime affecting a departure control system developed

usually at airports serving Bengaluru, Chennai, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram and Mumbai, among others, leaving handwritten boarding passes as blue error screens took over flight information display boards. Many flights were delayed for hours or cancelled, with Indigo alone cancelling at least 283 trips on Friday and Saturday. Other airlines such as Akasa Air, SpiceJet, Vistara, Air India, and Air India Express did not provide details of their cancellations. The issues began at 3.30 a.m. and hit Indian airports and airlines when their systems received the faulty update. Bangalore International Airport Ltd said in a statement that airports were facing issues due to downtime affecting a departure control system developed

two hours, according to a source. Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said the National Informatics Centre was not impacted. **Recovery process** While CrowdStrike has withdrawn the faulty update and says it has issued a fix, network and IT administrators have had to manually execute a manual four-step recovery process to fix affected systems, as computers and servers need to boot completely to download the fixed software. The Indian Computer Emergency Team (CERT-In) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology shares these steps in an advisory in the afternoon. Mr. Vaishnaw said the government was "continuously" engaging with Microsoft, and that CERT-In was talking to chief information security officers at various critical infrastructure entities. "All impacted entities are working to bring up their systems," Mr. Vaishnaw said. Maruti Suzuki India Ltd said in a stock filing that "production/despatch operations were briefly halted" in the firm, but that they had fixed the bug internally. CrowdStrike CEO George Kurtz told a U.S. news channel that he was "deeply sorry" about the disruptions and said the firm would extend support to impacted customers. Microsoft said in a statement that it is "actively supporting customers to assist in their recovery."

**Putting out to sea**

Trainers from King Fahd Naval Academy of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces during their afloat training course at the First Training Squadron of the Indian Navy in Kochi, Kerala. Seventy-six Saudi Naval cadets completed their course. PH

**'EPFO's IT systems are dysfunctional, crash-prone'**

**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI  
The IT systems of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), are in a virtual logjam, and efforts to flag software and hardware deficiencies triggering incessant crashes over the past two and a half years have been ignored by its top brass, its officers conveyed to Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday. Seeking the Minister's immediate attention, the EPFO Officers' Association has cautioned that a "continued denial" of the problem will only exacerbate the situation and hinder remedial efforts. **FULL REPORT** » PAGE 11

**Bangladesh unrest: 105 dead, TV news off air, jail stormed**

**Raging fury:** A foot overbridge set on fire in Dhaka on Thursday. AFP  
**Agence France-Presse Reuters**  
Bangladesh on Friday announced the imposition of a curfew and the deployment of military forces after the police failed to quell days of deadly unrest that has spread throughout the country. At least 105 people have been killed in this week's violent student protests against quotas for government jobs. According to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, at least 52 people were killed in the capital city on Friday. Television news channels were off the air and telecommunications were widely disrupted on the day. Protesters stormed a jail in the central district of Narshingdi and freed the inmates before setting it on fire, as the police struggled to quell unrest, with huge rallies in Dhaka despite a ban on public gatherings. "We have banned all rallies, processions and public gatherings in Dhaka today," police chief Habbibur Rahman said, adding the move was necessary to ensure "public safety". He did not stop another round of confrontations between police and protesters around the sprawling gateway of 20 million people, despite an internet shut-

**Accepting nomination, Trump lays out populist agenda**

**Associated Press MILWAUKEE**  
Donald Trump, sombre and bandaged, accepted the GOP presidential nomination on Thursday at the Republican National Convention in a speech that described in detail the assassination attempt that could have ended his life just five days earlier before laying out a sweeping populist agenda, particularly on immigration. **Recalls shooting** The 78-year-old former President, known best for his bombast and aggressive rhetoric, began his acceptance speech with a softer and deeply personal message that drew directly from his brush with death.

moment by moment, the crowd listening in silence, Mr. Trump described standing on stage in Butler, Pennsylvania, with his head turned to look at a chart on display when he felt something hit his ear. He raised his hand to his head and saw immediately that it was covered in blood. "If I had not moved my head at that very last instant, the assassin's bullet would have perfectly hit its mark," Mr. Trump said. "And I would not be here tonight. We would not be together." Mr. Trump's address, the longest convention speech in modern history at just under 93 minutes, concluded with a massive four-day Republican pep

"I am running to be President for all of America, not half of America, because there is no victory in winning for half of America." Mr. Trump also outlined an agenda led by what he promises would be the largest deportation operation in U.S. history. He repeatedly accused people crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally of staging an "invasion". Additionally, he teased new tariffs on trade and an "America first" foreign policy. Mr. Trump also falsely suggested Democrats had cheated during the 2020 election he lost and suggested "we must not criminalise dissent or demonise political disagreement," even as Mr. Trump has long called for prosecu-

tions of his opponents. He did not mention abortion rights, an issue that has bedeviled Republicans ever since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federally guaranteed right to abortion two years ago, nor did he mention the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, in which Mr. Trump supporters tried to stop the certification of his loss to Democrat Joe Biden. Mr. Trump has long referred to the people jailed for the riot as "hostages." Mr. Trump barely mentioned Mr. Biden, often referring only to the "current administration."



# Microsoft update flaw triggers worldwide chaos

Faulty update by CrowdStrike, a Texas-based cybersecurity firm, causes outages for millions

Digital systems in aviation, banking, hospitals, TV channels and telecommunications collapse

Flights around the world and in India delayed for hours or cancelled; passengers stuck

**Aroon Deep**  
NEW DELHI

A faulty update knocked out several Windows computers and servers around the world on Friday, sending them through a boot loop featuring a so-called blue screen of death, disrupting aviation, banking, telecommunications, hospitals, TV channels and other companies around the world.

The update was part of the Falcon endpoint threat detection and response product developed by CrowdStrike, a Texas-based cybersecurity firm.

Flights were briefly grounded in the United States, with airports reeling under a complete collapse of their digital systems around the world. In India, airlines started checking passengers in ma-

nually at airports serving Bengaluru, Chennai, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram and Mumbai, among others, issuing handwritten boarding passes as blue error screens took over flight information display boards.

Many flights were delayed for hours or cancelled, with IndiGo alone cancelling at least 283 trips on Friday and Saturday. Other airlines such as Akasa Air, SpiceJet, Vistara, Air India, and Air India Express did not provide details of their cancellations. The issues began at 3.30 a.m. and hit Indian airports and airlines when their systems received the faulty update.

Bangalore International Airport Ltd said in a statement that airports were facing issues due to downtime affecting a departure control system developed



**In a freeze:** Passengers wait at Mumbai airport terminal as services were hit on Friday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

by the firm Navitaire.

Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu urged airlines to accommodate affected passengers with food and water during the delays.

Airlines were able to implement the fix to some extent and restore digitised boarding procedures. However, airline executives warned that the disruption would “cascade” over sub-

sequent days, due to planes reaching late for subsequent flights.

The Union government’s eOffice suite for processing files and paperwork was also impacted for

two hours, according to a source.

Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said the National Informatics Centre was not impacted.

## Recovery process

While CrowdStrike has withdrawn the faulty update and says it has issued a fix, network and IT administrators have had to manually execute a manual four-step recovery process to fix affected systems, as computers and servers need to boot completely to download the fixed software.

The Indian Computer Emergency Team (CERT-in) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology shared these steps in an advisory in the afternoon.

Mr. Vaishnaw said the government was “contin-

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Maruti Suzuki India Ltd said in a stock filing that “production/despatch operations were briefly halted” in the firm, but that they had fixed the bug internally.

CrowdStrike CEO George Kurtz told a U.S. news channel that he was “deeply sorry” about the disruptions and said the firm would extend support to impacted customers. Microsoft said in a statement that it is “actively supporting customers to assist in their recovery.”

## OUTAGE EXPLAINED

» PAGE 4



# Windows outage: How a faulty software update hit businesses globally

**SOUMYARENDRA BARIK**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

A MAJOR disruption in Microsoft Corp's cloud services caused service disruptions to a number of businesses around the world, including in India.

## What caused the outage?

Microsoft said that a preliminary cause for the disruption was a configuration change "in a portion of [its] Azure backend workloads", which resulted in connectivity failures that affected Microsoft 365 services dependent on these connections. Azure is Microsoft's cloud computing platform.

At the heart of the issue was a software update issued by US cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike for Windows systems, which ended up malfunctioning and caused system

downtimes. The issue was specific to Falcon, one of the company's main software products, which is deeply embedded with the Windows operating system. Major corporations across the world use software developed by CrowdStrike, which is why all their systems faced the outage at the same time.

In cybersecurity parlance, Falcon is described as "endpoint detection and response" (EDR) software. It is a complex software, but its basic job is to monitor activity on computers on which it is installed, and constantly scan them for any potential threats such as malware. All major businesses around the world, including several Fortune 500 companies, are understood to use the service.

To carry out its job, Falcon first gets access to deep details of a system. This includes, among other things, the communications that computers are sending over the internet, what programs they are running,

and the files that are being opened.

In that sense, Falcon is a 'privileged software' given its deep rooted integration at the operating system level. Since a number of businesses use systems which run on Windows, Falcon is deeply embedded within those systems — this was the major reason why a faulty code in the Falcon update primarily impacted Windows PCs.

## Which sectors in India were the most impacted by the outage?

In India, the impact of the outage was most pronounced in the aviation sector. Hundreds of flights were delayed, and several cancelled, as airline operators found their systems inoperational, forcing them to switch to manual processes.

Indigo said that its systems "across the network" were impacted by the issue with

Microsoft Azure, "which has resulted in increased wait times at our contact centres and airports". Akasa Air temporarily suspended online services, like booking and check-in, and reverted to manual operations. Air India Express said the outage had impacted its airport operations, as well those of multiple airlines and airports globally. Spicejet said that it was facing "a technical issue in providing updates on flight disruptions".

The Ministry of Civil Aviation, in collaboration with the Airports Authority of India, implemented manual backup systems to maintain operational continuity. Extra staff was deployed to assist passengers, and address their concerns, the ministry said.

The aviation sector saw major disruptions worldwide. Major US carriers like Delta, United, and American Airlines had flights

grounded by authorities. Airlines in Europe and the Asia-Pacific also reported disruptions.

In India, at least ten banks and NBFCs faced minor disruptions, which have either been resolved or are being resolved, the Reserve Bank of India said. It added that overall, the financial sector in India remained insulated from the global outage since critical systems of most banks were not in the cloud, and only a few banks are using the CrowdStrike tool.

Unlike the London Stock Exchange, the BSE was not impacted due to the Microsoft issue. "Our operations are running normal," a spokesperson for the stock exchange said.

A number of Windows PC-users were also greeted with the infamous 'blue screen of death', where their systems simply did not start up beyond a blue screen displaying an error message. According to Microsoft, a Windows device displays blue screen er-

rors if the operating system has encountered a serious problem that has forced it to shut down or restart unexpectedly.

## How has the government responded to the outage?

Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) was in touch with Microsoft, which in turn was working with impacted entities.

India's nodal cyber agency, Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In) also issued an advisory regarding workarounds to the issue. Vaishnaw said that Cert-In was coordinating with chief information security officers of critical infrastructure entities. "All impacted entities are working to bring up their systems. In many cases, systems are partially up," Vaishnaw said. He clarified that the National Informatics Centre's (NIC's) operations were not impacted.

**EXPLAINED  
TECH**

**Cause:** A configuration change in Microsoft's Azure backend workloads led to connectivity failures affecting Microsoft 365 services globally.

**Specific Issue:** The faulty software update was issued by CrowdStrike for Windows systems, causing system downtimes.

**कारण:** Microsoft के Azure बैकेंड वर्कलोड्स में कॉन्फिगरेशन परिवर्तन से Microsoft 365 सेवाओं में कनेक्टिविटी विफलताएँ हुईं।

**विशिष्ट समस्या:** CrowdStrike द्वारा जारी किए गए विंडोज सिस्टम के लिए त्रुटिपूर्ण सॉफ्टवेयर अपडेट ने सिस्टम डाउनटाइम का कारण बना।



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**Falcon Software:** The specific software product involved was Falcon, an endpoint detection and response (EDR) software by CrowdStrike.

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**Error Display:** Systems faced "blue screen of death" errors due to the faulty update.

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**फाल्कन सॉफ्टवेयर:** शामिल विशिष्ट सॉफ्टवेयर उत्पाद था फाल्कन, एक एंडपॉइंट डिटेक्शन और रिस्पॉंस (EDR) सॉफ्टवेयर CrowdStrike द्वारा।

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**त्रुटि प्रदर्शन:** सिस्टम को त्रुटिपूर्ण अपडेट के कारण "ब्लू स्क्रीन ऑफ डेथ" त्रुटियों का सामना करना पड़ा।

- **Incident Overview:**
- **Faulty Update Impact:** A faulty update from CrowdStrike caused widespread disruptions globally, affecting Windows computers and servers.
- **Disruption Areas:** The disruptions impacted aviation, banking, telecommunications, hospitals, TV channels, and other sectors.
- **घटना का अवलोकन:**
- **अपडेट का प्रभाव:** क्राउडस्ट्राइक के दोषपूर्ण अपडेट ने वैश्विक स्तर पर विंडोज कंप्यूटरों और सर्वरों को प्रभावित किया।
- **विघटन क्षेत्र:** इसने विमानन, बैंकिंग, दूरसंचार, अस्पताल, टीवी चैनलों और अन्य क्षेत्रों को प्रभावित किया।



- **Specific Effects:**
- **Aviation Impact:** Flights were grounded in the United States and disrupted in major Indian airports such as Bengaluru, Chennai, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, and Mumbai.
- **Delay and Cancellations:** Many flights were delayed or canceled, including over 283 trips by IndiGo alone.
- **विशिष्ट प्रभाव:**
- **विमानन पर प्रभाव:** संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में उड़ानें रद्द कर दी गईं और भारत के प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों जैसे बेंगलुरु, चेन्नई, नई दिल्ली, हैदराबाद, कोच्चि, तिरुवनंतपुरम और मुंबई में बाधित हुईं।
- **विलंब और रद्दीकरण:** कई उड़ानें विलंबित या रद्द कर दी गईं, जिसमें अकेले इंडिगो की 283 से अधिक यात्राएं शामिल हैं।

- 
- **Recovery Process:**
  - **CrowdStrike's Action:** CrowdStrike withdrew the faulty update and issued a fix. IT administrators had to execute a manual recovery process.
  - **Government Response:** The Indian government monitored the situation and coordinated with critical infrastructure entities to ensure system recovery.

- **पुनर्प्राप्ति प्रक्रिया:**
- **क्राउडस्ट्राइक की कार्रवाई:** क्राउडस्ट्राइक ने दोषपूर्ण अपडेट वापस ले लिया और एक समाधान जारी किया। आईटी प्रशासकों को मैनुअल पुनर्प्राप्ति प्रक्रिया का पालन करना पड़ा।
- **सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया:** भारतीय सरकार ने स्थिति की निगरानी की और सिस्टम पुनर्प्राप्ति सुनिश्चित करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण बुनियादी ढांचा संस्थाओं के साथ समन्वय किया।

- 
- **Broader Impact:**
  - **Global Reach:** The update issue affected systems worldwide, causing operational halts in various sectors.
  - **Public Response:** Passengers and customers faced delays and disruptions, with efforts made to mitigate the impact on services.
  - **व्यापक प्रभाव:**
  - **वैश्विक पहुंच:** अपडेट समस्या ने वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रणालियों को प्रभावित किया, जिससे विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में संचालन ठप हो गया।
  - **सार्वजनिक प्रतिक्रिया:** यात्रियों और ग्राहकों को विलंब और बाधाओं का सामना करना पड़ा, और सेवाओं पर प्रभाव को कम करने के प्रयास किए गए।



# Bangladesh unrest: 105 dead, TV news off air, jail stormed



**Raging fury:** A foot overbridge set on fire in Dhaka on Thursday. AFP

**Agence France-Presse**

**Reuters**

DHAKA

Bangladesh on Friday announced the imposition of a curfew and the deployment of military forces after the police failed to quell days of deadly unrest that has spread throughout the country.

At least 105 people have been killed in this week's violent student protests against quotas for government jobs. According to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, at least 52 people were killed in the capital city on Friday. Television news channels were off the air and telecommunications were widely disrupted on the day.

Protesters stormed a jail in the central district of Narsingdi and freed the inmates before setting it on fire, as the police struggled to quell unrest, with huge rallies in Dhaka despite a ban on public gatherings.

"We have banned all rallies, processions and public gatherings in Dhaka today," police chief Habibur Rahman said, adding the move was necessary to ensure "public safety". That did not stop another round of confrontations between police and protesters around the sprawling megalopolis of 20 million people, despite an Internet shut-

down aimed at frustrating the organisation of rallies.

"Our protest will continue," said Sarwar Tushar, who joined a march in the capital and sustained minor injuries. "We want the immediate resignation of [Prime Minister] Sheikh Hasina. The government is responsible for the killings."

**'Destructive activities'**

Dhaka's police force earlier said the protesters had on Thursday torched, vandalised and carried out "destructive activities" on numerous police and government offices. Among them was the Dhaka headquarters of state broadcaster Bangladesh Television, which remains offline after hundreds of students set fire to a building.


"About 100 policemen were injured in the clashes yesterday," Dhaka Metropolitan Police spokesman Faruk Hossain said.




The police had arrested Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed, the joint secretary of the main Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Near-daily marches this month have called for an end to a quota system that reserves more than half of civil service posts for specific groups.

**MORE REPORTS**

» PAGE 3

- 
- **Overview of Unrest:**
  - **Trigger:** Violent student protests against quotas for government jobs.
  - **Deaths:** At least 105 people killed, including 52 in Dhaka.
  - **Curfew and Military Deployment:** Imposed to control the situation.

- 
- 
- 
- **1. अशांति का अवलोकन:**
  - **ट्रिगर:** सरकारी नौकरियों के कोटा के खिलाफ हिंसक छात्र विरोध।
  - **मृत्यु:** कम से कम 105 लोग मारे गए, जिनमें से 52 ढाका में।
  - **कर्फ्यू और सैन्य तैनाती:** स्थिति को नियंत्रित करने के लिए लगाया गया।



- **. Impact on Communication:**

- **TV News and Telecommunications:** Disrupted, with news channels off air.


- **Public Gatherings:** Ban on rallies, processions, and public gatherings in Dhaka.



- **2. संचार पर प्रभाव:**

- **टीवी समाचार और दूरसंचार:** बाधित, समाचार चैनल बंद।

- **सार्वजनिक सभाएँ:** ढाका में रैलियों, जुलूसों और सार्वजनिक सभाओं पर प्रतिबंध।





- **. Violent Actions:**

- **Jail Storming:** Protesters stormed a jail in Narsingdi, freeing inmates and setting it on fire.

- **Destructive Activities:** Protesters torched and vandalized police and government offices.





- **3. हिंसक क्रियाएँ:**

- **जेल पर हमला:** नर्सिंगदी में प्रदर्शनकारियों ने जेल पर हमला किया, कैदियों को रिहा किया और आग लगा दी।

- **विनाशकारी गतिविधियाँ:** प्रदर्शनकारियों ने पुलिस और सरकारी कार्यालयों में आगजनी और तोड़फोड़ की।

- **Government and Police Response:**
- **Enforcement of Public Safety:** Measures taken to ensure public safety and control the unrest.
- **Arrests:** Key leaders of the protests, including Ruhul Kabir Rizvi Ahmed, arrested.
- **4. सरकार और पुलिस की प्रतिक्रिया:**
- **सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा की प्रवर्तन:** सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने और अशांति को नियंत्रित करने के उपाय।
- **गिरफ्तारी:** प्रदर्शन के प्रमुख नेताओं, जिनमें रूहुल कबीर रिजवी अहमद शामिल हैं, की गिरफ्तारी।



- 
- **Ongoing Protests:**
  - **Continued Protests:** Despite the curfew and ban, protests continued in Dhaka.
  - **Demands:** Protesters demand the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.
  - **5. चल रहे विरोध:**
  - **जारी विरोध:** कर्फ्यू और प्रतिबंध के बावजूद, ढाका में विरोध जारी।
  - **मांग:** प्रदर्शनकारी प्रधानमंत्री शेख हसीना के इस्तीफे की मांग कर रहे हैं।
- 
- 
- 

IN BRIEF

Paytm parent's April-June quarter loss widens to ₹840 crore

Fintech firm One97 Communications, which owns Paytm, on Friday said its loss widened to ₹840 crore in the quarter ended June 30. The company had posted a loss of ₹358.4 crore in the same period a year earlier, according to a regulatory filing by the company. The consolidated revenue of Paytm declined 33.48% to ₹1,639.1 crore during the reported quarter, from ₹2,464.2 crore in the same period a year earlier, according to the filing.

Tata Motors introduces Sport utility coupe Curvy

Tata Motors Ltd. unveiled Tata Curvy, an SUV coupe in ICE and EV formats. The product will be introduced in the market on August 7, the firm said. Shailesh Chandra, MD, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd., and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd., said, "Curvy is at the forefront of our multi-powertrain strategy with options across petrol, diesel and electric powertrains. With the Curvy, we address a wide variety of needs of the mid-SUV customers."

Power OTC platform New Age to unveil new products in FY25

New Age Markets in Electricity, an over the counter (OTC) platform for power, is hopeful of having 25 power distribution firms on board by the end of 2024-2025 fiscal. Ashish Shrivastava, VP (Business Operations) at The Hindu 13 State utilities were registered on the platform for the power swapping in the first half of the current year. The OTC would unveil buy/sell service next month and hoped to have 100 power traders registered for this product during FY25.

EPFO's systems are dysfunctional and crash-prone

Deficiencies triggering incessant crashes in the past two-and-a-half years ignored by top brass, officials tell Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya

Vikas Dhoot  
NEW DELHI

The IT systems of the employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), are in a virtual logjam, and efforts to flag software and hardware deficiencies triggering incessant crashes over the past two and a half years have been ignored by its top brass, its officers conveyed to Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday. Seeking the minister's immediate attention on the "escalating frustrations" with EPFO's crisscrossing IT systems that make it a challenge for staffers to process millions of workers' PF and pension claims, the EPFO officers' Association has cautioned that a "continued denial" of the problem will only exacerbate the situation and hinder remedial efforts.

"Over the past 30 months, we have consistently brought to the attention of the CPFC [Central PF Commissioners] the on-going critical issues affecting the EPFO's IT infrastructure. This engagement was undertaken with the expectation of prompt redressal. Unfortunately, our concerns have been met with a consistent lack of acknowledgment," the association has written in a missive to the minister



Tough govt: Field offices resort to extraordinary measures to settle claims when there is a lower load on the system. FILE PHOTO

reviewed by The Hindu.

"The situation has now turned grave with officers and offices reporting serious system deficiencies on a daily basis... In recent times, the software has exhibited significant instability, characterised by recurring outages. Over the past several weeks, the application's performance deteriorated markedly, manifesting in frequent system slowdowns, involuntary user logouts and complete system failures," the association said.

"Formidable challenge" Moving a comprehensive evaluation of EPFO's application software by leading industry experts and an urgent overhaul of IT systems, its staffers said the current state of affairs has made it a "formidable challenge" for most EPFO officers. "Settlement process would be exponentially delayed if not accompanied by a fully functional software system," the EPFO association said.

RIL Q1 PAT declines 4% to ₹17,448 crore

The Hindu Bureau  
MUMBAI

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) reported first-quarter consolidated net profit declined 4% to ₹17,448 crore from the year earlier, on a higher depreciation.

"Consolidated revenue for the quarter ended June 30, 2024 increased 11.2% YoY to ₹2,57,823 crore led by higher oil prices and volumes in O2C (Oil to Chemicals) and oil and gas segments with steady

manoeuvres on basis of claims settled within 10 days.

"The exigency of a comprehensive overhaul of the EPFO's IT systems has been apparent for quite some time now. Despite this critical need, the implementation of such an overhaul has been repeatedly postponed for reasons that remain obscure," the officers' body lamented, pointing to the rapid technological system shifts undertaken by the Income Tax department, for instance.

"This discrepancy suggests a systemic failure to acknowledge the gravity of the situation," it added. Field offices have resorted to extraordinary measures, including weekend and holiday operations, to speed up claims processing.

Field offices have resorted to extraordinary measures, including weekend and holiday operations, to speed up claims processing. The current state of affairs has made it a "formidable challenge" for most EPFO officers.

crise as against ₹1,16,281 crore as of March 31, 2024. Its Platforms reported net profit for the June quarter grew 11.7% YoY to ₹5,698 crore.

"Better subscriber mix" The average revenue per user (ARPU) came in at ₹181.7 with a better subscriber mix, promotional 5G traffic being offered on an unlimited basis to subscribers and not charged separately, RIL said.

Reliance Retail reported gross revenue of ₹75,615 crore, up 8.1% YoY. Its quarterly EBITDA at ₹5,664 crore was a 10.5% YoY growth, led by an increase in footfalls and expansion of store footprint, besides streamlining operations.

Wipro Q1 net rises 4.6%, revenue slides 4%

The Hindu Bureau  
BENGALURU

Tech major Wipro on Friday reported a 4.6% rise in net profit to ₹2,260 crore for the June, while revenue declined 3.79% to ₹24,940 crore.

IT services revenue was ₹22,940 crore, a decline of 1.2% QoQ and a decline of 5.5% YoY. Q1 saw large deal bookings of ₹1,200 crore while overall Total Contract Value was at ₹3.3 billion.

Wipro said, "Our top accounts including all pending offers growth, accompanied by growth in Americas 1, BFSI and the financial services

and insurance) and consumer sectors."

"On Q2 guidance, we said the firm expects IT services revenue to range between ₹2,200 million to ₹2,652 million - a guidance of 0.1% to 1% in constant currency."

Palla in his comment said discretionary spending continued to be muted, but he was optimistic about growth returning in Q2.

Wipro said it hired 3000 freshers in Q1 and plans to onboard 800 in Q2. "We are more than ready to begin more this fiscal. "We are currently to be ready when growth returns," said chief HR officer Saurabh Govil.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

Table with 3 columns: Sector, % Change, % Change. Rows include Sensex, Nifty, and Gold.

5IFTY 50

Table with 3 columns: Stock Name, Price, Change. Lists various stocks like Adani Ports, Apollo Hospitals, etc.

EXCHANGE RATES

Table with 3 columns: Currency, Rate, % Change. Lists rates for USD, EUR, GBP, etc.

Elevating India's capital goods for a global electronics revolution

BUDGET IN FOCUS

Pankaj Mohindroo

In the early days of the Industrial Revolution, a single invention changed the world: the steam engine. This powered factories, drove progress and transformed economies. The steam engine symbolised a nation's ability to innovate, produce, and lead.

Today, India stands at similar crossroads. As the world's fastest-growing major economy, India's electronics industry, especially in electronics manufacturing, is a key driver of growth. The industrial countries of East Asia did not invest in machinery by chance. The investments were driven by export-oriented strategies and demands of international competition. To seize this moment, we must harness the same spirit of innovation that fuelled the Industrial Revolution.



Today, India stands at similar crossroads. As the world's fastest-growing major economy, India's electronics industry, especially in electronics manufacturing, is a key driver of growth.

Developing unique, cutting-edge solutions that serve domestic and global markets. This demands a significant investment in research and development, supported by policies that encourage innovation and protect intellectual property rights.

Meeting domestic demand and targeting the export markets are both essential. At home, there is an urgent need to close the gap between demand and supply of capital goods. By bolstering our manufacturing infrastructure, we can reduce dependency on imports and ensure a steady supply of high-quality equipment for local consumption. As India aims to increase its electronics production by five times, the demand for advanced manufacturing technologies will also surge, necessitating a robust domestic supply chain.

ufacturing markets and build capabilities essential for electronics and high-tech manufacturing. The CMTI can partner industry leaders and academic institutions to foster innovation, streamline production processes and enhance overall competitiveness of Indian manufacturers.

India's robust IPR protection, offering a secure environment where new ideas can thrive. Promoting strong R&D ecosystems, we can develop indigenous technologies that not only meet international standards but also set new benchmarks in quality and efficiency.

Globally, the aim is to position Indian firms as formidable competitors. This needs a strategic approach, including understanding international market dynamics, adhering to international quality standards and building a reputation for excellence. The government's initiatives can't India produce firms that rival the likes of ASML, a Dutch giant known for advanced machinery? Creating such an Indian champion involves many critical steps.

Investing in education and training to equip workforce with technical and soft skills is equally vital. Strong collaboration between industry and academia can foster research aligns with industrial needs, leading to breakthrough technologies and processes. Additionally, government policies must support the growth of the capital-goods industry by providing incentives for R&D, facilitating ease of doing business, and ensuring a stable regulatory environment.

As the world moves towards sustainable manufacturing practices, India must adopt eco-friendly technologies and processes, enhancing our global competitiveness and positioning India as a responsible manufacturing hub. Embracing digital technologies such as AI, IoT, and big data can revolutionise manufacturing processes, making them more efficient and cost-effective.

Addressing technology and skill gaps is also critical for India's ambitions in the electronics sector. Joint ventures with global leading firms can facilitate knowledge and technology transfer, while government programmes can attract skilled diaspora and foreign experts can build domestic capabilities. Establishing a roadmap for the electronics sector, with clear targets and milestones, is essential for progress.

Reducing the cost of capital can enable Indian manufacturers to invest more in technology and innovation, making them more competitive globally. Pankaj Mohindroo is the Chairman of India Cellular & Electronics Association, the country's apex industry body for electronics with a vision to make India a global hub for electronics manufacturing and exports. Kapil Gupta, Associate Director, ICKA, has contributed to this article.

Agriculture exports slide 3% to \$5.88 bn in Q1 FY25

Amli Sen  
NEW DELHI

Agriculture exports in the first quarter of the current fiscal declined 3% over a year to \$5.88 billion owing to a ban on rice exports. The Red Sea crisis impacting freight cost, fall in global prices of major export ban on rice, according to the government.

The decline in overall exports of agriculture products is mainly due to a dip in exports of regulated items as exports of non-regulated items have increased 3% to \$5.38 billion, as per figures shared by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). These include basmati rice; buffalo, sheep and goat meat; fresh and processed vegetables & fruits; pulses; dairy products; alcoholic beverages; poultry products and floriculture.

The draft giant known for rice exports rose by 13% to \$1.03 billion but non-basmati rice exports fell 23% to \$918.83 million. The country's apex industry body for electronics with a vision to make India a global hub for electronics manufacturing and exports. Kapil Gupta, Associate Director, ICKA, has contributed to this article.

India plans to enter into carbon crediting mechanism with Japan

Abhishek Law  
NEW DELHI

India is looking to enter into a carbon trading and crediting mechanism with Japan.

The two countries plan to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation for setting up a Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) with emission-reduction credits being shared as per a letter note prepared in July and reviewed by business.

Under the mechanism, carbon credits will be "allocated through a trading process" and there will be a "registry to track these credits, systems as per the Memorandum of Cooperation for setting up a Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) with emission-reduction credits being shared as per a letter note prepared in July and reviewed by business."

The proposal will "boost job creation by attracting investments in low-carbon and green technologies". There will also be any financial implications, market for them. "A draft Cabinet Note has been prepared by the MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) for the signing of MoC. (Memorandum of Cooperation) between Government of India and the Government of Japan in consultation with the concerned ministries... and

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Green move: The proposal will boost job creation via investments in carbon and clean technologies. CITY IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

MEA," as per office memorandum of one of the Ministries said. The JCM will facilitate diffusion of leading decarbonising technologies, equipment, machinery and services, systems and infrastructure, implementation of mitigation actions.

The draft (Cabinet note) has approval of the Environment Minister.

Bilateral ties "The JCM will be formed under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement. As per the draft Memorandum of Cooperation, the mechanism will be implemented in accordance with "relevant domestic laws and regulation" in these respective countries.

A joint committee will develop rules and guidelines required for implementation of the JCM that cover project cycle procedures, methodologies, the credit design and verification, monitoring and designation of third-party entities among others. "Decisions by the Joint Committee on registration of the project, crediting mechanism, sharing of credits, issuance of credits, and other related matters on the

JCM are made with prior confirmation of the Government of India, unless otherwise specified," one of the provisions stated.

Emission cuts Both governments "mutually recognise that part of JCM credits issued from emission reductions and removals may be towards the achievement of Japan's nationally determined contribution and rest of the said JCM credits may contribute to the achievement of India's nationally determined contribution (NDC)."

Each government can authorise part of JCM credits for international mitigation purposes too. The two countries will confirm registration of a project prior to a decision by the joint committee, while the percentage of credit allocation will also be decided by the joint committee.

The MoC (draft) also mentions Japan will facilitate the transfer of technology, finance and capacity building in respect of new technologies for the joint crediting mechanism. (The writer is with The Hindu businessline)



# India plans to enter into carbon crediting mechanism with Japan

**Abhishek Law**  
NEW DELHI

India is looking to enter into a carbon trading and carbon credit adjustment mechanism with Japan.

The two countries plan to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation for setting up a Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) with emission-reduction credits being shared, as per Cabinet note prepared in July and reviewed by *businessline*.

Under the mechanism, carbon credits will be 'allocated through a structured process' and there will be a 'registry to track these credits,' as per the note.

Projects will be taken up only when they are cleared through a Joint Committee, and both governments will notify these credits issued based on the submitted reports. The credits will be allocated to the respective registries of India and Japan, and can subsequently be used towards the Nationally Determined Contribution (a climate action plan to cut emissions and adapt to climate impact) of both countries.

The proposal will "boost job creation by attracting investments in low-carbon and clean technologies". There will also be any financial implication of such a project.

"A draft Cabinet Note has been prepared ..... authorising the MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change) for the signing of MoC (Memorandum of Cooperation) between Government of India and the Government of Japan in consultation with the con-



**Green move:** The proposal will boost job creation via investments in low-carbon and clean technologies. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

MEA," as per office memorandum of one of the Ministries said. The JCM will facilitate diffusion of leading decarbonising technologies, equipment, machinery, products, systems and infrastructure, implementation of mitigation actions, among others.

The draft (Cabinet note) has approval of the Environment Minister.

## **Bilateral ties**

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JCM are made with prior confirmation of the Government of Japan and Government of India, unless otherwise specified," one of the provisions stated.

## **Emission cuts**


Both governments "mutually recognise that part of JCM credits issued from emission reductions and removals may be towards the achievement of Japan's nationally determined contribution and rest of the said JCM credits may contribute to the achievement of India's nationally determined contribution" while ensuring double counting is avoided.





Each government can authorise part of JCM credits for international mitigation purposes too.

The two countries will confirm registration of a project prior to a decision by the joint committee; while the percentage of credit allocation will also be decided.

The MoC (draft) also mentions Japan will facilitate the transfer of technology, finance and capacity building in respect of new technologies for the joint crediting mechanism.

(The writer is with The

- 
- **Carbon Credit Mechanism:** India and Japan plan to enter into a carbon trading and carbon credit adjustment mechanism.
  - **Memorandum of Cooperation:** A memorandum of cooperation (MoC) will be signed for setting up a Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM).

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- 
- **कार्बन क्रेडिट तंत्र:** भारत और जापान कार्बन ट्रेडिंग और कार्बन क्रेडिट समायोजन तंत्र में प्रवेश करने की योजना बना रहे हैं।
  - **सहयोग ज्ञापन:** एक संयुक्त क्रेडिटिंग तंत्र (JCM) की स्थापना के लिए एक सहयोग ज्ञापन (MoC) पर हस्ताक्षर किए जाएंगे।

- **Mutual Recognition:** Both governments recognize that part of JCM credits from emission reductions may contribute to Japan's and India's nationally determined contributions.
- **Regulation Compliance:** The mechanism will be implemented in accordance with relevant domestic laws and regulations.
- **4. उत्सर्जन में कटौती:**
- **पारस्परिक मान्यता:** दोनों सरकारें मानती हैं कि उत्सर्जन में कटौती से JCM क्रेडिट का एक हिस्सा जापान और भारत के राष्ट्रीय रूप से निर्धारित योगदान में योगदान दे सकता है।
- **नियम अनुपालन:** तंत्र को प्रासंगिक घरेलू कानूनों और विनियमों के अनुसार लागू किया जाएगा।



# INDIA'S CLIMATE TARGETS: EXISTING AND NEW

Target (for 2030)	Existing: First NDC (2015)	New: Updated NDC (2022)	Progress
Emission intensity reduction	33-35 per cent from 2005 levels	45 per cent from 2005 levels	24 per cent reduction achieved in 2016 itself. Estimated to have reached 30 per cent
Share of non-fossil fuels in installed electricity capacity	40 per cent	50 per cent	41.5 per cent achieved by the end of June this year
Carbon sink	Creation of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of additional sink through afforestation	Same as earlier	Not clear.

## TARGETS FOR PARIS AGREEMENT



### INDIA

Emission intensity of GDP **33-35%** below 2005 levels by 2030, Power capacity to be 40% non fossil fuel based

Source: uefcc.int



### CHINA

Emission intensity of GDP **60-65%** below 2005 levels by 2030. Peak emissions around 2030. Non-fossil fuel to be 20% of primary energy consumption by 2030



### USA

Absolute emissions **26-28%** below 2005 levels by 2025



### EU (28)

Absolute emissions **40%** below 1990 levels by 2030

- 
- Consider the following statements regarding the carbon crediting mechanism between India and Japan:

1. The Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) will be established under the Paris Agreement.

2. The carbon credits issued will be used only for Japan's nationally determined contribution.

3. Both governments will mutually recognize JCM credits from emission reductions.




- 
- 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





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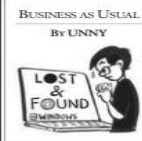
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COMMENCES IN JULY, 2024



**Woman alleges CEO of firm promoted by Jindal 'groped' her on flight**

**ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND & AGGAM WALIA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

A WOMAN has alleged that a top executive of a firm with links to Navneet Jindal-pernotated entities "groped" her while they were on a flight from Kolkata to Abu Dhabi. In response to her allegations, which she shared on X, MP and Jindal Steel chairman Navneet Jindal said he has ordered his team to investigate the matter. The accused, identified by the woman as Dinesh Kumar

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Global tech outage hits many sectors, aviation bears brunt in India

**SOUMYARENDRA BARIK**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

MANUAL CHECK-INS at airports leading to serpentine queues, handwritten boarding passes, delayed and cancelled flights, and the dead blue screen on Windows computers—a disruption in a major cybersecurity software tied to the Windows operating system and cloud service brought the world to a virtual halt on Friday. Thousands of businesses across multiple geographies, spanning sectors such as aviation,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**EXPLAINED** Faulty software update

THE TECHNICAL downtime seemed to partly emanate from a faulty software update by US cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike. The issue was specific to Falcon, one of its software products, embedded with Windows operating system.

EXPLAINED, PAGE 19

## COMPLAINT AGAINST BENGAL GOVERNOR SC to look at immunity to Governors under Art 361

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

THE SUPREME Court on Friday agreed to examine the question of immunity to Governors from any kind of criminal prosecution, granted under Article 361 of the Constitution. The Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud,

West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose

was hearing a plea filed by a contractual woman employee of West Bengal Raj Bhawan, who has alleged sexual harassment

by Governor C.V. Ananda Bose. "The petition raises the issue as regards the interpretation of Clause (2) of Article 361, more particularly when criminal proceedings would be instituted in terms of the governing provisions of law," the Bench, which included justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Set for launch, now on hold: Tale of two books by former Army Chief

Publishers say MoD/Army officials called the books back for clearance

**RITU SARIN & AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

ONE FORMER Army Chief's book is hanging fire for more than six months, another former Army Chief's book, set to be launched on August 2, has been put on hold, as the two publishers wait to hear from the Ministry of Defence.

Gen Naravane's Four Stars of Destiny; (right) Gen Vij's Alone in the Ring

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Now, Haridwar cops ask eateries on kanwar route to display owner name

**AVANEESH MISHRA**  
DEHRADUN, JULY 19

EVEN AS some BJP allies have questioned the order by the police in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, directing eateries—including roadside carts—including roadsides carts—falling on the kanwar yatra route to display the names of their owners,

**EXPRESS NETWORK**

**'RAJNITHI AISI HAI': ON THE GROUND IN MUZAFFARNAGAR**

**ALLY, MINISTER CHIRAG PASWAN CRITICISES MOVE** P 18

police in Uttarakhnad's Haridwar also issued similar directions on Friday. Both Uttarakhnad and Uttar Pradesh are BJP-ruled states. While the BJP has defended the order, allies DDUJ, BLD and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) as well as senior BJP leader Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## REFERS TO 'SABKA SAATH' COMMENT BJP minority chief slams Suvendu: 'New to party'

**VIKAS PATHAK**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 19

THE NATIONAL president of the BJP Minority Morcha, Jamal Siddiqui, has dismissed the comments of the party's West Bengal leader Suvendu Athikari, who

said the BJP should dissolve its minority wing. Speaking to The Indian Express, Siddiqui also said that for the BJP, "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" remains an important guiding principle, contrary to what Athikari said. "Maybe

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## UPSC files FIR against IAS trainee: Faked ID

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
PUNE, JULY 19

THE UNION Public Service Commission (UPSC) said Friday that it has registered an FIR against IAS probationer Pooja Khedkar for allegedly "faking her identity to fraudulently avail attempts beyond permissible limit" in the civil services examination. The Commission has

Khedkar has also been issued a showcause notice

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**117** FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATIONS TRUSTED TODAY TRANSFORMING TOMORROW

On our 117<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day, we celebrate the journey of evolution, growth and enduring trust over a century of relentless service. 'Trusted Today, Transforming Tomorrow' signifies our ongoing promise to uphold trust and reliability, while pursuing transformative initiatives through innovative means to meet the changing needs of tomorrow's banking. Today, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who played a crucial role in our journey: our dedicated team, loyal customers, investors, partners, reliable vendors and all other stakeholders. Your continued support, empowers us to embrace change and set new standards. Together, let's redefine banking and shape a promising future where trust and transformation, always go hand in hand.

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# Assam's 700-yr-old Moidams to be considered for World Heritage List

**DIVYAA**

NEW DELHI, JULY 19

THE 700-YEAR-OLD mound-burial system of the Ahom dynasty — the Moidams from Assam — will be considered for nomination on the World Heritage List next week during the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) in New Delhi on Sunday. If the nomination comes through, it will become the first cultural site on the prestigious list from the northeastern region.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 46th session of WHC, which is being



**The Moidams in Assam.** *File*

held in India for the first time. The event, to be held at Bharat Mandapam from July 21 to 31, brings together culture ministers, representatives and stakeholders from around the world to discuss the preservation of shared cultural, natural and mixed heritage.

The nomination dossier for the Moidams was sent more

than a decade ago and is presently on the tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is the first step towards the monument becoming a part of the final list.

It is among 28 sites proposed for inscription on the List, to be examined according to category: natural, mixed and cultural.

Besides, the committee will also discuss the state of conservation of the 124 sites already inscribed on the World Heritage List, 57 of which are also on the list of World Heritage in Danger.

Till date, the World Heritage Committee has inscribed 1,199 sites in 168 countries on the list. India has 44 of its sites on the list.





# WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR BRAIN WHEN YOU CONSUME MAGIC MUSHROOMS?

TAKING PSILOCYBIN, the hallucinogenic compound found in magic mushrooms, temporarily resets entire networks of neurons in the brain that are responsible for controlling a person's sense of time and self, according to a new study.

Most of these changes last for a few hours, but one key link between different parts of the brain remains disrupted for weeks, the study said.

The analysis, "Psilocybin desynchronises the human brain", was published in the journal *Nature* on Wednesday.

The findings could give insights into why psilocybin might have a therapeutic effect on some neurological conditions. The compound is one of several psychedelic drugs, including LSD, ketamine and MDMA, that are being investigated as therapies for conditions such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Despite several previous studies, researchers still do not fully understand the mechanism that underlies their therapeutic effects.

## How was the study carried out?

For the study, the researchers tracked activity in the brains of seven healthy adults before, during, and after they took a high dose of psilocybin. The researchers used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to obtain images of blood-flow changes in different parts of the brain — a proxy used to measure how groups of neurons across the brain communicate with one another.

They then compared these fMRI scans with images of the same participants' brains when they did not take any drug or when they took a stimulant.

## What are the findings?

The researchers found that psilocybin caused groups of neurons that normally fire together to become desynchronised. These effects were localised to a group of brain regions called the default mode network, which is usually active when the brain is at 'wakeful rest' — for example, during daydreaming — rather than focusing on a task. Most of the neurons in this network seemed to get back in sync once the acute effects of the drug had worn off.

However, the communication between the default mode network and a brain region called the anterior hippocampus — which is involved in creating our senses of space, time, and self — was diminished for weeks.

The researchers also found that a mental exercise called 'grounding', which is commonly used in psychedelic therapy to dampen the unpleasant effects of a drug by diverting the recipient's attention to their surroundings, diminished psilocybin's effects on the brain. This suggests that there could be a neurological signal that grounding techniques can influence.

Although the findings cannot show what precisely causes the potential therapeutic benefit of psilocybin, they offer tantalising clues, according to Brian Mathur, a systems neuroscientist at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore and co-author of the study.

"It's possible psilocybin is directly causing" the brain-network changes, he says — or perhaps it is creating a psychedelic experience that in turn causes parts of the brain to behave differently.

**NATURE**



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- **Psilocybin Effects:** Psilocybin, the hallucinogenic compound in magic mushrooms, resets networks of neurons in the brain.
  - **Duration:** Most changes last for a few hours, but some disruptions last for weeks.
  - **साइलोसाइबिन प्रभाव:** जादूई मशरूम में पाया जाने वाला मतिभ्रमकारी यौगिक साइलोसाइबिन मस्तिष्क में न्यूरोन्स के नेटवर्क को पुनः सेट करता है।
  - **अवधि:** अधिकांश परिवर्तन कुछ घंटों तक रहते हैं, लेकिन कुछ व्यवधान हफ्तों तक बने रहते हैं।

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- **Neuron Desynchronization:** Psilocybin causes neurons that normally fire together to become desynchronized.
  - **Default Mode Network:** This effect is localized to the default mode network, active during wakeful rest.
  - **Communication Disruption:** Communication between the default mode network and the anterior hippocampus remains disrupted for weeks.
  - **Grounding Exercise:** Grounding exercises diminish psilocybin's effects, suggesting a neurological signal that grounding techniques can influence.

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- **न्यूराॅन विसंक्रमण:** साइलोसाइबिन सामान्यतः एक साथ आग लगने वाले न्यूराॅन्स को विसंक्रमित कर देता है
  - **डिफॉल्ट मोड नेटवर्क:** यह प्रभाव डिफॉल्ट मोड नेटवर्क में स्थानीयकृत होता है, जो जागृत आराम के दौरान सक्रिय रहता है।
  - **संचार व्यवधान:** डिफॉल्ट मोड नेटवर्क और पूर्वकाल हिप्पोकैम्पस के बीच संचार हफ्तों तक बाधित रहता है।
  - **ग्राउंडिंग अभ्यास:** ग्राउंडिंग अभ्यास साइलोसाइबिन के प्रभावों को कम करता है, जिससे संकेत मिलता है कि ग्राउंडिंग तकनीकें एक न्यूरोलॉजिकल संकेत को प्रभावित कर सकती हैं।

- **Participants:** Researchers tracked brain activity of seven healthy adults before, during, and after taking a high dose of psilocybin.
- **fMRI Scans:** Functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) was used to track blood flow changes in the brain.
- **Comparison:** fMRI scans were compared with images of the participants' brains when they took no drug or a stimulant.

- **प्रतिभागी:** शोधकर्ताओं ने सात स्वस्थ वयस्कों के मस्तिष्क की गतिविधि को साइलोसाइबिन की उच्च खुराक लेने से पहले, दौरान और बाद में ट्रैक किया।
- **fMRI स्कैन:** मस्तिष्क में रक्त प्रवाह परिवर्तनों को ट्रैक करने के लिए कार्यात्मक चुंबकीय अनुनाद इमेजिंग (fMRI) का उपयोग किया गया।
- **तुलना:** fMRI स्कैन की तुलना प्रतिभागियों के मस्तिष्क की छवियों से की गई जब उन्होंने कोई दवा या उत्तेजक नहीं लिया।



- **Potential Benefits and Unknowns:**

- **Therapeutic Insights:** Findings offer insights into potential therapeutic effects for conditions like depression and PTSD.

- **Unclear Mechanisms:** Despite several studies, the exact mechanism underlying therapeutic effects remains unclear.

- **चिकित्सीय अंतर्दृष्टि:** निष्कर्षों से अवसाद और PTSD जैसी स्थितियों के लिए संभावित चिकित्सीय प्रभावों की अंतर्दृष्टि मिलती है।

- **अस्पष्ट तंत्र:** कई अध्ययनों के बावजूद, चिकित्सीय प्रभावों के अंतर्निहित तंत्र स्पष्ट नहीं हैं।

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- Consider the following statements regarding the effects of psilocybin, found in magic mushrooms, on the brain:

1. Psilocybin causes neurons that normally fire together to become desynchronized.

2. The communication between the default mode network and the anterior hippocampus is enhanced for weeks after psilocybin intake.

3. Grounding exercises can diminish the effects of psilocybin on the brain.


- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only

- b) 1 and 3 only

- c) 2 and 3 only

- d) 1, 2, and 3







# Bangladesh deploys Army as unrest toll rises to 133

Soldiers patrol deserted streets as curfew imposed against student-led protests across the country; Internet shutdown continues, text message services off; media organisations remain inaccessible

Reuters  
Agence France-Presse  
DHAKA

Soldiers patrolled the streets of the Bangladesh capital Dhaka on Saturday, setting up roadblocks during a curfew imposed in response to student-led protests against government job quotas that have killed at least 133 people this week.

Internet and text message services have been suspended since Thursday, cutting the nation off as police cracked down on protesters who defied a ban on public gatherings.

Overseas telephone calls mostly failed to connect while the websites of Bangladesh-based media organisations did not update and their social media accounts remained inactive. "The army has been deployed nationwide to control the law and order situation," armed forces spokesperson Shahdat Hossain said.

The curfew was eased for two hours from noon on Saturday to allow people to shop for supplies and complete other chores. Local media reported that it will last until 10 a.m. on Sunday, when the government will assess the situation and decide the next course of action.

In addition to the deaths, the clashes have injured thousands, according to hospitals across Bangladesh. The Dhaka Medical College Hospital received 27 bodies between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday.

Streets in Dhaka were al-



Widespread mayhem: Army personnel patrol the streets in Dhaka on Saturday. AFP

most deserted at daybreak, with troops on foot and in armoured personnel carriers patrolling the sprawling megacity of 20 million.

But thousands returned to the streets later in the day in the residential neighbourhood of Rampura, with police firing at the crowd and wounding at least one person. "Our backs are to the wall," protester Nazrul Islam, 52 said at the scene. "There's anarchy going on in the country... They are shooting at people like birds."

Reuters TV footage showed armed soldiers surveying roads littered with stones and debris as shops remained shuttered. Trees and barricades were uprooted on streets where charred vehicles stood. Young men played football on a deserted road during the relaxation of the curfew.

PROBE SOUGHT  
» PAGE 12

## 978 Indian students safely evacuated

Kallol Bhattacharjee  
NEW DELHI

Since the beginning of the clashes between students and security forces in Bangladesh, India has evacuated 978 nationals who were studying in various institutions in Bangladesh, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has said.

The evacuation is part of security measures that the Indian officials in the High Commission in Dhaka are taking to ensure the safety of around 8,000 Indian students.

An MEA press note has informed that Indian officials are also assisting students from Nepal and Bhutan to leave Bangladesh as educational institutions have shut indefinitely in view of the ongoing clashes.

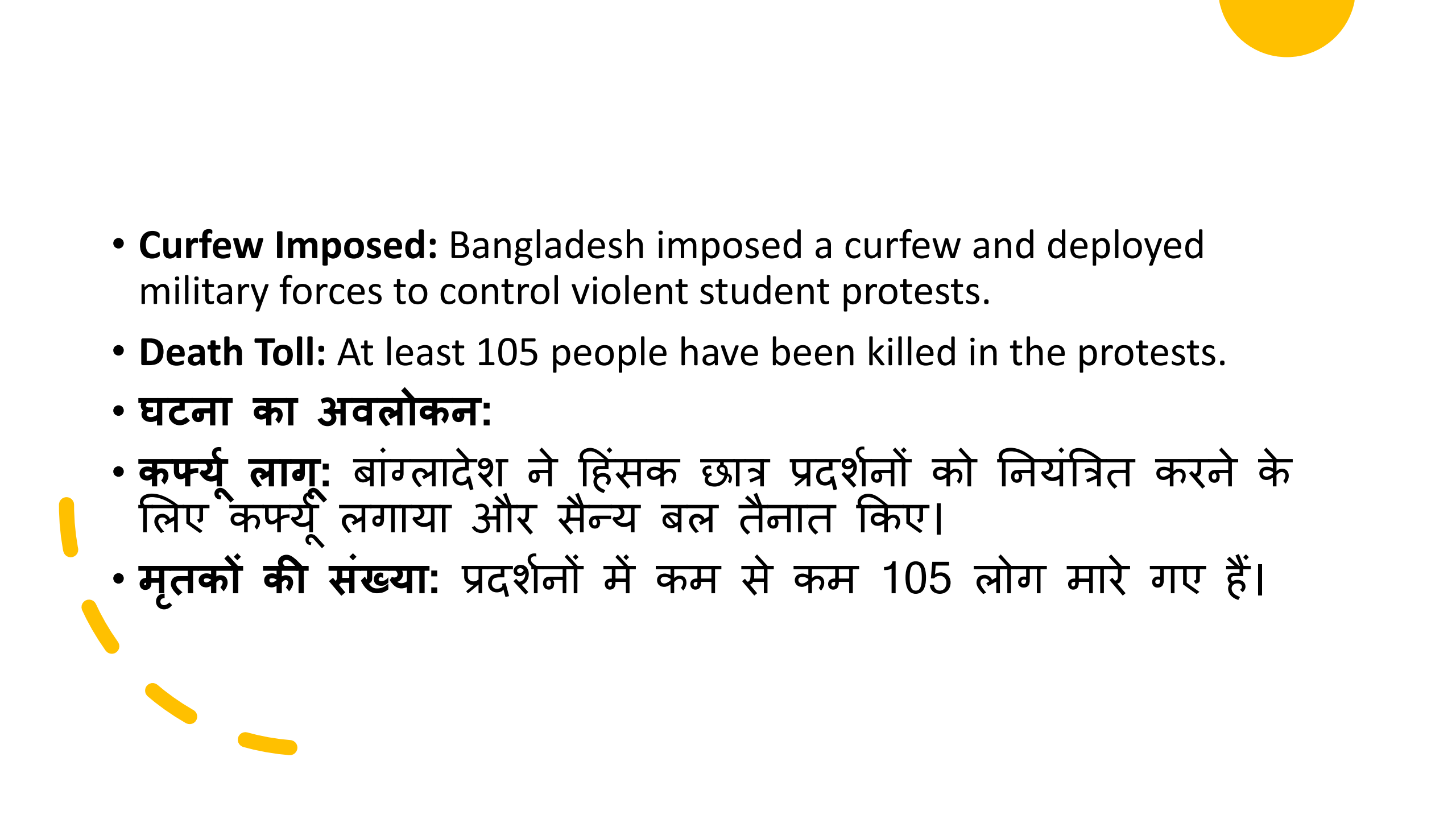
Indian officials are coordinating with airline companies and law enforcement officials in the violence-hit country to evacuate Indian nationals from Dhaka and Chittagong airports.

### Security arrangements

"Security escorts have also been arranged, where necessary, for their travel by road during repatriation through select land ports," the MEA said in the press note. Officials said more students were crossing through land ports on Saturday evening.

The U.S. State Department has announced that the "situation is extremely volatile and unpredictable" adding that the "U.S. Embassy Dhaka continues to offer only limited services at this time".



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- **Curfew Imposed:** Bangladesh imposed a curfew and deployed military forces to control violent student protests.
  - **Death Toll:** At least 105 people have been killed in the protests.
  - **घटना का अवलोकन:**
  - **कर्फ्यू लागू:** बांग्लादेश ने हिंसक छात्र प्रदर्शनों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए कर्फ्यू लगाया और सैन्य बल तैनात किए।
  - **मृतकों की संख्या:** प्रदर्शनों में कम से कम 105 लोग मारे गए हैं।

# Airline systems working normally after global IT outage, says Aviation Minister

**Press Trust of India**

MUMBAI

Airline systems across airports, which were impacted by a global IT outage on Friday, have started working normally, Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu said on Saturday.

The Ministry is constantly monitoring the operations at airports and airlines to ensure travel readjustments and refunds are taken care of, he added. "Since 3 a.m. (Saturday), airline systems across airports have started working normally. Flight operations are going smoothly now," Mr. Naidu said in a statement.

On Friday, in one of the biggest-ever IT outages, an



**Taking off:** Flight services were back to normal on Saturday after a day of chaos due to the outage. VELANKANNI RAJ. B

update of a product offered by global cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike triggered problems with Microsoft's Windows operating system across the planet, hitting operations at financial sector companies

and airlines while hospital operations got postponed and some television channels went off air.

Airports across the country witnessed chaotic scenes after the online passenger booking, reserva-

tion and boarding systems turned to manual mode due to the outage, resulting in higher passenger handling processing time and consequently hundreds of flights were delayed and many cancelled.

The reservation and check-in systems of most of the airlines, including IndiGo, SpiceJet, Akasa and Air India Express, are now operational, according to a source.

"Online printing (Digi Yatra) is convenient, which wasn't happening yesterday. Everything's fine today. Flights are on time. What happened yesterday was a network issue. No one can do anything about that," said a passenger at the Delhi airport.



**IN BRIEF**



**Mizo woman who killed a tiger with an axe dies at 72**

A woman who became a household name in Mizoram after killing a tiger in self-defence in 1978, died on Friday after battling cancer for several months. Zadingi, believed to be the only woman in India to have struck a tiger down with an axe, was 72. Reports in July 1978 said the tiger attacked her when she had gone to a jungle near Buaipul, her home in central Mizoram's Lunglei district, with her companions to collect firewood. Zadingi, 24 years old and three months pregnant then, became a local icon of bravery and her feat was recognised by the President of India in 1980. Tigers have rarely been sighted in Mizoram since the 1980s.

**Woman killed in balcony collapse during Mumbai rain**

Incassant rain in Mumbai on Saturday caused a woman's death when a pipe in a residential building's balcony collapsed at Rubina Manzil on Grant Road. The incident occurred at 11 a.m. when the balconies of the ground, second, third, and fourth floors of the building collapsed partially. A total of 13 persons were rescued by the Mumbai Fire Brigade. Earlier in June, Maharashtra Housing and Urban Development Authority officials had declared the apartment building as dangerous, and notice for habitation. The authority had also issued notice to the residents to move out.

**India to consider providing \$1,500 crore to Bhutan**

India has agreed to consider providing \$1,500 crore to Bhutan as part of an economic stimulus programme in the next 18 months, the two governments said on Saturday at the end of Foreign Secretary Vikram Mirji's visit and his wide-ranging talks with the Himalayan nation's leadership. Mr. Mirji reviewed the implementation modalities and cooperation in diverse areas of the India-Bhutan development partnership with his Bhutanese counterpart Aum Pem Choden. He also called on Bhutanese Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay and Foreign Affairs Minister D.N. Dharmagyal.

**BSF officer, jawan die from extreme heat during patrol**

A Border Security Force officer and a jawan died during patrol due to extreme heat exposure at the Haranti Nallah creek area along the India-Pakistan international front in Gujarat. Official sources said on Saturday. The incident, in which Assistant Commandant Vishwadeo and Head Constable Dayal Ram are stated to have suffered a heat stroke and dehydration, took place on Friday along the border, the sources said. The officer belonged to the 59th battalion of the BSF. The two were undertaking a 'zero line' patrol when they collapsed. The two BSF men were rushed to a health facility in Bhanaj, but could not be saved, the sources added.

**SUDOKU**

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

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

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

**Solution to today's Sudoku**

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

**Centre rejects study that claims 5.3 lakh excess deaths during pandemic**

The report, published in the academic journal *Science Advances*, is gross and misleading; the study fails to acknowledge India's robust Civil Registration System, says Union Health Ministry

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Saturday dismissed a study reporting a higher number of deaths in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic in India.

In a statement, the Ministry said the study, published in *Science Advances*, is a peer-reviewed scientific journal published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was based on untenable and unacceptable estimates.

"It is strongly asserted that an excess mortality of about 11.9 lakh deaths reported in the *Science Advances* paper in 2020 over the previous year is a gross and misleading overestimate. It is noteworthy that excess mortality during the pandemic means an increase in deaths due to all causes, and cannot be equated with deaths that were directly caused by COVID-19," the Ministry said.

The paper said excess mortality was greater in women and in the younger age groups (particularly 0-



The Centre cites a rising trend of death registration and a larger population base in the following year.

19). The Ministry, however, said data on about 5.3 lakh recorded deaths due to the novel coronavirus, as well as research data from cohorts and registries, consistently shows a higher mortality due to the virus in men than women (2:1) and in older age groups (several fold higher in persons above 60 than in the 0-15 age group). The inconsistent and unexplainable results in the published paper further reduced any confidence in its claims.

"The study is erroneous and the methodology followed by the authors has critical flaws, the claims are inconsistent and unexplainable. The all-cause excess mortality in 2020 compared with the previous year in India is markedly fewer than the 11.9 lakh deaths reported in the *Science Advances* paper," it said.

While the authors claim to follow standard methodology of analysing the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), there are critical flaws in methodology, it said. The most important flaw is that the authors have taken a subset of households included in the NFHS-5 survey between January and April 2023, compared mortality in these households in 2020 with 2019, and extrapolated the results to the entire country, it said.

"The NFHS sample is representative of the country only when it is considered

as a whole. The 23% of households included in this analysis from parts of 14 states cannot be considered representative of the country," the Ministry said.

The paper erroneously argues for the need for such analyses claiming that the vital registration system in low and middle-income countries including India is weak, it said. But the Civil Registration System in India is highly robust and captures over 99% of deaths. This reporting has constantly improved from 78% in 2015 to over 99% in 2020, it said.

Data from this system shows death registration has increased by 4.74 lakh in 2020 from 2019. There was a similar increase of 4.86 lakh and 6.9 lakh in 2018 and 2019 over the respective previous years. Notably, excess deaths in a year in the CRS are not attributable to the pandemic. Excess number is also due to an increasing trend in death registration since it was 92% in 2019 and a larger population base in the succeeding year.

**Union govt. reviews AES, Chandipura virus situation**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Health Ministry on Friday reviewed the situation in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh after the States reported cases of Chandipura virus and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES).

A total of 78 AES cases have been reported. Of these, 28 have resulted in death. The Centre said on Saturday it will deploy a multi-disciplinary team from the National Centre for Disease Control, Indian Council of Medical Research and Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying to Gujarat with recommendations into the cases.

**Muslims back in Purolo, with wounds of a hounding over a kidnap that never happened**

**Shikha Mishra**  
NEW DELHI

Dozens of Muslim residents in Purolo in Uttarakhand district of Uttarakhand after communal tensions broke out in the town in June last year have returned. But they say the shock and pain, inflicted by tensions after two men were arrested for allegedly abducting a minor Hindu girl, remains.

Life will never be the same, they add. Many of their friends and relatives did not follow their path and have moved out of the town for good. Almost a year ago, after rumours of the abduction spread, the police arrested Ubaid Khan and Jitendra



Security forces deployed in Purolo on June 15, 2023 following tensions over a fake report of an abduction of a minor girl.

Saini, a Hindu. They remained in jail for several days but were acquitted by a court in Uttarakhand in May this year. The girl had informed the court that she was not abducted, and the police had instructed her to make the allegation in her earlier statement.

"The girl told the court

**CPCB plans to check violations in plastic waste trading regime**

**Jacob Koshy**  
NEW DELHI

The Central Pollution Control Board has begun a national audit of nearly 800 plastic-waste recyclers across the country. The *Hindu* has learnt, after it emerged that four firms in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat had issued nearly 6,00,000 fake certificates under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programme.

The EPR scheme mandates businesses that use plastic packaging material to recycle a certain percentage of the plastic used in the previous two years. On July 14, the Board had carried a report on the issue and on the chances of many more fake certificates having been generated.

Separately, the Board has also filed a complaint with the Delhi Police against unknown "hackers", for having allegedly stolen several thousand credits from its online portal. The Delhi Police is said to have lodged a first information report (FIR) and is investigating the matter.

A senior official of the CPCB, who declined to be identified, explained that fake certificates were a recurring problem because this was the first full year since the scheme was implemented and that there could have been a "lack of clarity" among re-

**The Board has filed a complaint with the Delhi Police against unknown hackers for theft of EPR credits**

cyclers on the mechanics of the scheme.

"This is a paradigm shift. All these years, companies had no mandatory targets and were alien to the concept of an online tracking system. It showed how many certificates were generated and traded. While we are aware of the problem, it is akin to — say the early years of implementing GST (Goods and Services Tax) or filing income tax returns online. We will be keeping a track of EPR filings by companies and in case of suspicious filings, we will be keeping a hawk's eye. Errant companies will face heavy fines," the official told *The Hindu*.

The official said an investigation has been on since last October. In the meantime, security features of the EPR-trading platform have been enhanced which required a major overhaul of the portal. Only after the investigation will it be clear how many companies traded in stolen certificates. The fines on the guilty would be worth "hundreds of crores," the official said, though recovering these sums is usually a long-drawn process.

duction a case of "Love Jihad", fringe right-wing outfits stuck posters on shops owned by Muslims, asking them to leave the town or face the consequences.

While the Muslim community in Purolo tries to pick up the pieces, Mr. Ubaid is still in a state of shock, says one of his relatives. "His family had a furniture shop in Purolo which they had to sell hastily. They couldn't even get 20% of the value of the shop and its stock, says one of his relatives. "His brother had to run from pillar to post to fight his case and now, the town is trying to set up another business for him in Bihar in Uttar Pradesh," he said.

Mr. Saini too has moved to Bihar, says his advocate S.P. Nautiyal.

has since moved to Vikas Nagar, 110 km away. "The rally taken out by my own Hindu friends against my community will haunt me forever," Mr. Sahil says.

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**Compressed three-in-one social science book for Class 6**

**Maitri Parecha**  
NEW DELHI

The new social science textbook for Class 6 is a heavily truncated amalgamation of what was earlier three separate books for history, geography, and civics published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

Students in Classes 3 and 6 are getting new textbooks. Class 6 students will get a single social science text with three chapters: *India and Beyond*. The *Hindu* had earlier reported that the National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee was considering merging three books into one. The heavily truncated new social science book has two chapters: *India, that is Bharat* dedicated to a discussion of the etymology of the term Bharat, citing

references from ancient Indian texts such as the Mahabharata and the Vishnu Purana. Citing the Mahabharata, it says: "Interestingly, it lists many regions such as Kashmir (or at least today's Kashmir), Kurukshetra (parts of Haryana today), Vanga (parts of Bengal), Pragjyotish (today's Assam), Kerala (more or less today's Kerala), and 'on." The text features many Sanskrit terms along with their meanings, marked with over letters to encourage the correct pronunciation of Sanskrit words.

**Truncated content**  
The new textbook is structured around five themes. The first comprises 34 pages dedicated to geography and has two chapters: *Oceans and continents*, and *Landforms and life*, which starts with a quote from the Atharva Veda. Con-

cepts such as measuring longitude and latitude of the globe have been culled from the current version. The total pages dedicated to geography have been brought down from 48 to 34. The second and third chapters, "History of the past" and "Our cultural traditions" consist of 46 pages with five chapters of history. These have been heavily cut from the 10 chapters in the older NCERT text. Chapter 4 is titled *Timeline and sources*

of history, while Chapter 5 is about the origins of the term Bharat. Chapter 6 on *The beginning of Indian civilisation* starts with a quote from the late B.B. Lal, a former Archaeological Survey of India chief who had led excavations at the Bahri Madjid site in the mid-1970s to 10 years ago, however, he said there were temple pillars based at the site. He also studied the Indus Valley and the epics Ramayana and Mahabharata, and is

quoted in the book referring to the Harappan civilisation as the Indus-Sarasavi or Sindhu-Sarasavi in fact. The chapter emphasises Dholavira, a Harappan site in Gujarat, and uses a cover image of the north gate leading to Mehrgarh, the earliest of the old textbook, the cover featured a picture of Mohenjodaro. Both the old and new textbooks contain references to Hindu texts as well as to Buddhism and Jainism, given that Class 6 students are studying the monolithic temples of India. What has been culled drastically is the detailed exploration of the kingdoms of ancient India, the four chapters of the old book that have been deleted from the new. This includes accounts of the kingdoms of Ashoka and Chandragupta Maurya, including the role of Chanakya and his Ar-

thashastra, as well as the dynasties of the Guptas, Pallavas and Chalukyas, and the works of Kalidasa. In fact, the only mention of King Ashoka in the entire book is a single word in Chapter 4's timeline.

A chapter in the old book on *Villages, towns and trade*, about the tools, coins, irrigation, crafts, and trade of the period had been truncated. References to the famous pillar at the Qutub Minar site at Mehrauli have been dropped, along with mentions of the Sanchi Stupa, the monolithic temples of Mahabalipuram, and the Ajanta paintings. "We have tried to keep the text to a minimum by focusing on the 'big ideas'... NCERT Director Dinesh Saklani writes in the introductory chapter of the new textbook.



# Centre rejects study that claims 11.9 lakh excess deaths during pandemic

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"It is strongly asserted that an excess mortality of about 11.9 lakh deaths reported in the *Science Advances* paper in 2020 over the previous year is a gross and misleading overestimate. It is noteworthy that excess mortality during the pandemic means an increase in deaths due to all causes, and cannot be equated with deaths that were directly caused by COVID-19," the Ministry said.

The paper said excess mortality was greater in women and in the younger age groups (particularly 0-



The Centre cites a rising trend of death registration and a larger population base in the following year. PTI

19). The Ministry, however, said data on about 5.3 lakh recorded deaths due to the novel coronavirus, as well as research data from cohorts and registries, consistently showed higher mortality due to the virus in men than women (2:1) and in older age groups (several fold higher in persons above 60 than in the 0-15 age group). The inconsistent and unexplainable results in the published paper further reduced any confidence in its claims.

"The study is erroneous and the methodology followed by the authors has critical flaws; the claims are inconsistent and unexplainable. The all-cause excess mortality in 2020 compared with the pre-

vious year in India is markedly fewer than the 11.9 lakh deaths reported in the *Science Advances* paper," it said.

While the authors claim to follow standard methodology of analysing the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), there are critical flaws in methodology, it said. The most important flaw is that the authors have taken a subset of households included in the NFHS-5 survey between January and April 2021, compared mortality in these households in 2020 with 2019, and extrapolated the results to the entire country, it said.

"The NFHS sample is representative of the country only when it is considered

as a whole. The 23% of households included in this analysis from parts of 14 States cannot be considered representative of the country," the Ministry said.

The paper erroneously argues for the need for such analyses claiming that the vital registration system in low and middle income countries including India is weak, it said. But the Civil Registration System in India is highly robust and captures over 99% of deaths. This reporting has constantly increased from 75% in 2015 to over 99% in 2020, it said.

Data from this system shows death registration has increased by 4.74 lakh in 2020 from 2019. There was a similar increase of 4.86 lakh and 6.9 lakh in death registration in 2018 and 2019 over the respective previous years. Notably, all excess deaths in a year in the CRS are not attributable to the pandemic. Excess number is also due to an increasing trend of death registration in CRS (it was 92% in 2019) and a larger population base in the succeeding year.

In 109 centres, share of high scorers is 3 times over national avg; 60 in Sikar, Kota

## NEET IN NUMBERS

**4,750**

Total centres

**23,33,162**

Total students

**CITIES WITH HIGHEST NO. OF 650+ SCORERS**

City	No. of students
------	-----------------

Sikar	2,037
Jaipur	1,681
New Delhi	1,326
Kota	1,066
Patna	744
Kottayam	544
Bengaluru Urban	525
Lucknow	459
Kozhikode	456
Malappuram	449



## SCORECARD

A score of over 600 was enough to land a seat in a govt college in 2023

Marks	Students	*% share
Above 700	2,321	0.10
Above 650	30,204	1.29
Above 600	81,550	3.50
Above 550	1,42,114	6.09
Above 500	2,10,162	9.01

(\* of total students) All figures approx



- 
- **Study Dismissal:** The Union Health Ministry dismissed a study claiming higher deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.
  - **Report's Publication:** The study was published in Science Advances, a peer-reviewed journal by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
  - **Ministry's Statement:** The Ministry called the study's estimates "untenable and unacceptable."
- 

- **अध्ययन खारिज:** केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने 2020 में COVID-19 महामारी के दौरान अधिक मौतों का दावा करने वाले अध्ययन को खारिज कर दिया।
- **रिपोर्ट का प्रकाशन:** यह अध्ययन अमेरिकन एसोसिएशन फॉर द एडवांसमेंट ऑफ साइंस द्वारा प्रकाशित पीयर-रिव्यू जर्नल साइंस एडवांसेस में प्रकाशित हुआ था।
- **मंत्रालय का बयान:** मंत्रालय ने अध्ययन के अनुमानों को "अस्वीकार्य और अविश्वसनीय" बताया।

- **Excess Mortality Claim:** The study reported an excess mortality of 11.9 lakh deaths in 2020.
- **Flaws Highlighted:** The Ministry pointed out critical flaws in the study's methodology, calling the claims gross and misleading.
- **Data Analysis:** The Ministry argued that the study did not consider India's robust Civil Registration System (CRS) and other data sources.

- **अतिरिक्त मृत्यु दर का दावा:** अध्ययन में 2020 में 11.9 लाख मौतों की अधिकता का दावा किया गया था।
- **त्रुटियों को उजागर करना:** मंत्रालय ने अध्ययन की कार्यप्रणाली में गंभीर खामियों की ओर इशारा किया और दावों को भ्रामक और गलत बताया।
- **डेटा विश्लेषण:** मंत्रालय ने तर्क दिया कि अध्ययन ने भारत की मजबूत नागरिक पंजीकरण प्रणाली (CRS) और अन्य डेटा स्रोतों पर विचार नहीं किया।

- 
- **COVID-19 Deaths:** The Ministry reported about 5.3 lakh recorded deaths due to the novel coronavirus.
  - **CRS Data:** Consistent data from hospitals and registries showed a lower mortality rate than claimed.
  - **Death Registration Increase:** The report highlighted the increase in death registration in CRS from 75% in 2015 to 99% in 2020.

- **COVID-19 मौतें:** मंत्रालय ने उपन्यास कोरोनावायरस के कारण लगभग 5.3 लाख दर्ज मौतों की सूचना दी।
- **CRS डेटा:** अस्पतालों और रजिस्ट्रियों से प्राप्त निरंतर डेटा ने दावा की गई मृत्यु दर से कम दिखाया।
- **मृत्यु पंजीकरण में वृद्धि:** रिपोर्ट में 2015 में CRS में मृत्यु पंजीकरण में 75% से 2020 में 99% तक की वृद्धि को उजागर किया गया।



- 
- **Sample Size and Representation:** The Ministry criticized the NFHS-5 survey for its small and non-representative sample size.
  - **Extrapolation Issues:** The Ministry argued that the extrapolation of results from a small sample to the entire country was flawed.
  - **नमूना आकार और प्रतिनिधित्व:** मंत्रालय ने NFHS-5 सर्वेक्षण को इसके छोटे और गैर-प्रतिनिधि नमूना आकार के लिए आलोचना की।
  - **बहिर्वेशन के मुद्दे:** मंत्रालय ने तर्क दिया कि छोटे नमूने से पूरे देश के लिए परिणामों का बहिर्वेशन दौषपूर्ण था।



## Mizo woman who killed a tiger with an axe dies at 72

A woman who became a household name in Mizoram after killing a tiger in self-defence in 1978, died on Friday after battling cancer for several months. Zadingi, believed to be the only woman in India to have struck a tiger down with an axe, was 72. Reports in July 1978 said the tiger attacked her when she had gone to a jungle near Buarpui, her home in central Mizoram's Lunglei district, with her companions to collect firewood. Zadingi, 24 years old and three months pregnant then, became a local icon of bravery and her feat was recognised by the President of India in 1980. Tigers have rarely been sighted in Mizoram since the 1980s.

IN BRIEF



India archery, rowing teams check in at Games Village

Gagan Narang, India's Chef-de-Mission for the archery and rowing contingents were the first from the country to check in at the Games Village...



Preparations for the Olympics move up a gear

Preparations for the Paris Olympics stepped up a gear on Saturday as security teams scoured the banks of the Seine ahead of next Friday's Opening Ceremony...

Tyler Adams to miss start of Premier League season

United States captain Tyler Adams will miss the start of the Premier League season while he recovers from back surgery...

Indian girls assured of last-eight spot

India boys defeated Brazil 3-0 to top the three-team Group F with a clean slate on Friday in the team event of World junior squash championships...

Indian results: Boys (Group-F): beat Brazil 3-0... Girls (Group-D): beat Brazil 3-0...

I want to compete freely and win the best tournament of my life: Tarundeep

The 40-year-old archer, who is an integral part of the Paris-bound men's side, is focused on getting the process right in his fourth Olympics



Target in sight: Tarundeep said he will not let the thought of winning a medal deter his attention...

process is essential. "We are working on getting the best version of ourselves that day. When the medal comes to the mind, then the problem starts somewhere...

"It is all about how you took the competition. Did you compete with medals in mind? Or did you want to show your best version there?"

Tarundeep, whose contemporaries have turned coaches, elaborates on his quest for an Olympic medal. "Getting a medal will be the ultimate satisfaction of my career."

"The mistakes I made, because of which I did not get the medal, whatever it is - be it stress, tension or thinking about the medal - I am not letting that happen this time. I tell myself that I don't

want to take a big mountain on my head. I want to compete freely and win the best tournament of my life, the best Olympics," said Tarundeep...

Momentum 2024 has been a good calendar year for the three and they want to continue with the momentum.

"It has been the best year so far. In the beginning, we won the Asia Cup first-leg gold medal. In the World Cup Stage 1, we won the gold (beating powerhouse Korea). In the next two World Cup stages, we performed very well. We got good scores even though we could not win medals. We were able to achieve our goal. It is all a milestone for us. We are 100 per cent on the right track," asserted Tarundeep.

Marquez succeeds Stimac as Indian men's team head coach

FOOTBALL

Amalabha Das Sharma KOLKATA

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) named Mariano Marquez, the FC Goa gaffer, as the senior men's national side's head coach for the next three years.

The decision was made in the federation's executive committee meeting to find the next coach after the departure of Igor Stimac, whose contract was terminated after the Indian team failed to make it to the third round of the 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers.

Marquez's name was selected from a panel of 20 shortlisted candidates who had initially applied for the job. The seasoned Spanish coach was preferred for his knowledge of the Indian ecosystem.

Marquez is regarded as one of the best coaches in the ISL as he helped Hyderabad FC win the trophy in 2022 while playing a big role in developing Indian players, many of whom are now part of the National squad.



Hands full: Marquez will continue to coach FC Goa simultaneously till the end of the season in 2025. FILE PHOTO: EMMAJUAL YOON

Association secretary Anil Kumar Prabhakaran as the new secretary general of the AIFF. This means that the acting general secretary M. Sanyanarayan will be continuing in his previous role as the assistant secretary.

The AIFF executive committee also decided to defer the relegation process in the Indian Super League by another season.

According to the roadmap presented by AIFF to the Asian Football Confederation, the relegation process was supposed to start in the ISL by the 2024-25 season.

Indumathi and Chhange get AIFF Player of the Year Awards

Sports Bureau NEW DELHI

Indumathi Kathiresan and Lalhansanga Chhange took home top honours while Khalid Jamil was recognised for his coaching credentials as the All India Football Federation (AIFF) named its annual awards after a gap of seven years on Friday night.

Apart from Chhange and Indumathi, the other individual award winners were Khalid Jamil (Best Men's Coach), Sukla Dutta (Best Women's Coach), David Lalhansanga (Promising Men's Player), Neha (Promising Women's Player), Ramachandran Venkatesh (Best Referee) and Ujjal Halder (Best Assistant Referee).

Indumathi, named the Women's Player of the Year, is the first from Tamil Nadu to win the award. With back-to-back Indian Women's League titles with different clubs - Gokulam FC and Odisha FC - the midfielder has been key to the national team's performance as well over the past few years.

On a roll Chhange became only the individual award to win the top award more than once after being named Player of the Year for the second straight time. The 2023-24 ISL winner scored 11 goals with assists for Mumbai City FC and was the highest scoring Indian in the ISL, besides scoring against Qatar during the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers in June.

Lalhansanga and 18-year old Neha were named Premier Players of the year respectively while Jamil was recognised for leading Jamshedpur FC to its first-ever semifinal at the Kalinga Super Cup despite taking charge of the club only mid-season. The event was attended by Sports Minister Mansukh Mandavdya and all AIFF officials among others.

List of awardees: Player of the Year: Men: Lalhansanga Chhange; Women: Indumathi Kathiresan.

Premising Player of the Year: Men: David Lalhansanga; Women: Neha. Coach of the Year: Men: Khalid Jamil; Women: Sukla Dutta.



Recognition: Indumathi receives her award from Sports Minister Mansukh Mandavdya, right; Khalid was named the Men's Coach of the Year. AIFF

Akhil cashes in on Pariat's mistake in Formula 2000 race

Sports Bureau CHENNAI

Akhil Agarwal was handed a victory in the marquee MRP Formula 2000 race following India Pariat's disqualification in the third round of the MRF MASC FMSIC Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024 here on Saturday.

Pariat took the chequered flag but was penalised for a jump start and "failure to comply with a drive-through penalty". The penalty moved Akhil to P1, while Chetan Surinendran and Tarun Athwal were placed second and third, respectively.

Meanwhile, starting from pole, Biran Pithavalla (Team N1 Racing) enjoyed a trouble-free run and was the lone finisher in the Indian Touring Cars race with his rivals, Ananth



Views Vijayaraj, winner of the Formula LG 1300 race.

Indian Touring Cars (Race-1): 1. Biran Pithavalla (Team N1 Racing) (1:50:30.329). Note: Only one finisher.

Indian Junior Touring Cars (Race-1): 1. Harim Shabir (Team Performance Racing) (1:52:32.392); 2. Tega Srinivas (Team Performance Racing) (1:56:39.514); 3. Yug Athiya (Team N1 Racing) (1:56:50.132).

Super Stock (Race-1): 1. Justin Singh (Redline Racing India) (1:56:19.923); 2. Angad Matharoo (1:56:35.377); 3. Balu Prasad (DTS Racing) (1:56:55.968).

MRF Saloons (Toyota Etios) (Race-1): 1. Kesara Gadge (Redline Racing India) (1:50:27.736); 2. Diane Pundole (Redline Racing India) (1:56:25.522); 3. Kalim Iqbal (Redline Racing India) (1:56:54.554).

Snooker legend Rardon passes away

Former world champion Ray Rardon, the coal miner who dominated snooker in the 1970s, passed away on Friday aged 91.

Welshman Rardon had previously been diagnosed with cancer. Rardon won six world titles between 1970 and 1978, earning an MBE in 1985. He retired in 1991 at the age of 58.



Chugging on: It will be Nadal's first final since the 2022 French Open. AFP

Nadal reaches Bastad Open final

Rafael Nadal reached his first final since the 2022 French Open by rallying to defeat Duje Ajdukovic 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 at the clay-court Norda Open on Saturday. A day after his four-hour quarter-final victory, the 22-time Grand Slam cham-

pion was again tested to the limit by Ajdukovic, the world No. 10, who had won just two Tour-level matches before this week. Nadal will play Portuguese seventh seed Nuno Borges or Argentina's Thiago Agustín Tirante on Sunday as he goes in search of the 33rd singles title of his career.

Sahaja loses thriller in singles; makes the doubles final

TENNIS

Sahaja Yamalappalli missed three match points and lost 5-7, 6-2, 7-6(6) to Iryna Shymanovich in the quarter-final of the \$60,000 ITF women's tennis tournament at Evansville (USA). Sahaja led 5-1 in the third set, and later had three match points at 6-2 in the tie-breaker, but her opponent won the next five points to emerge victorious in a contest that lasted three hours and eight minutes. Sahaja, however, made the doubles final with Hiroko Kurota of Japan.

In Portugal in partnership with Arianna Hartono.

The results: \$742,350 ATP, Newport: Doubles: Semifinals: Robert Cash & James Tracy (USA) bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & Arjun Kadre 6-4, 6-3. \$15,000 ITF men, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand: Semifinals: Ari Navasiratornboon (Tha) bt Vishnu Varadhan 6-2, 6-4. Doubles: Final: Francis Alcayaga (Phi) & Maximus Jones (Tha) bt Adil Kanyanpur & Vishnu 2-6, 7-5, (10-8). \$60,000 ITF women, Evansville: Quarterfinals: Partho Doublies: Semifinals: Arianna Hartono (Ned) & Prarthana Thombare bt Evdolina Lavdovick & Ekaterina Yashina 6-7(8), 6-1, (10-9). \$60,000 ITF women, Evansville: Quarterfinals: Iryna Shymanovich bt Sahaja Yamalappalli 7-6, 6-2, 7-6(6). Doubles: Semifinals: Hiroko Kurota (Jpn) & Sahaja bt Sophie Chang & Catherine Harrison (USA) 6-4, 6-3.



# Marquez succeeds Stimac as Indian men's team head coach

## FOOTBALL

**Amitabha Das Sharma**

KOLKATA

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) named Manolo Marquez, the FC Goa gaffer, as the senior men's National side's head coach for the next three years.

The decision was made in the federation's executive committee meeting to find the next coach after the departure of Igor Stimac, whose contract was terminated after the Indian team failed to make it to the third round of the 2026 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers.

Marquez's name was selected from a panel of 20 shortlisted candidates who had initially applied for the job. The seasoned Spanish coach was preferred for his knowledge of the Indian ecosystem.

Marquez is regarded as one of the best coaches in the ISL as he helped Hyderabad FC win the trophy in 2022 while playing a big role in developing Indian players, many of whom are now part of the National squad.

With the federation forced to economise owing to a financial crunch, the executive committee



**Hands full:** Marquez will continue to coach FC Goa simultaneously till the end of the season in 2025. FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

tasked its president, Kalyan Chaubey, to negotiate the salary with Marquez.

While deciding on the appointment of Marquez for three years, the AIFF also accepted the option of allowing the Spaniard to coach FC Goa simultaneously till the end of the season in 2025.

"The AIFF, FC Goa, and Mr. Marquez will collaborate closely to ensure there is minimal impact between the two jobs and strive to achieve the best possible results for all involved," the AIFF president said in a statement.

The AIFF executive committee also decided to appoint the Kerala Football

Association secretary Anilkumar Prabhakaran as the new secretary general of the AIFF.

This means that the acting general secretary M. Sathyanarayan will be continuing in his previous role as the assistant secretary.

### Relegation put off

The AIFF executive committee also decided to defer the relegation process in the Indian Super League by another season.

According to the roadmap presented by AIFF to the Asian Football Confederation, the relegation process was supposed to start in the ISL by the 2024-25 season.

# Indumathi and Chhangte get AIFF Player of the Year Awards

## **Sports Bureau**

NEW DELHI

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Apart from Chhangte and Indumathi, the other individual award winners were Khalid Jamil (Best Men's Coach), Sukla Dutta (Best Women's Coach), David Lalhlansanga (Promising Men's Player), Neha (Promising Women's Player), Ramachandran Venkatesh (Best Referee) and Ujjal Halder (Best Assistant Referee).

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mathi, named the Women's Player of the Year, is the first from Tamil Nadu to win the award. With back-to-back Indian Women's League titles with different clubs – Gokulam FC and Odisha FC – the midfielder has been key to the national team's performances as well over the past few years.

### **On a roll**

Chhangte became only the fifth player to win the top award more than once after being named Player of the Year for the second straight time. The 2023-24 ISL winner scored 11 goals with assists for Mumbai City FC and was the highest scoring Indian in the ISL, besides scoring against Qatar during the FIFA World Cup Qualifiers in June.

Lalhlansanga and 18-year old Neha were named promising players of the year respectively while Jamil was recognised for leading Jamshedpur FC to its first-ever semifinal at the Kalinga Super Cup despite taking charge of the club only mid-season. The event was attended by Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and all AIFF officials among others.

### **List of awardees: Player of the Year:**

**Men:** Lallianzuala Chhangte; **Women:** Indumathi Kathiresan.

### **Promising Player of the Year:**

**Men:** David Lalhlansanga; **Women:** Neha.

### **Coach of the Year: Men:**

Khalid Jamil; **Women:** Sukla Dutta.

### **Referee of the Year:**

Ramachandran Venkatesh;

### **Assistant Referee of the Year:**

Ujjal Halder.



**Recognition:** Indumathi receives her award from Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, *right:* Khalid was named the Men's Coach of the Year. AIFF





From Seat to Stage  
 How the equation between stars and fans has changed in the South  
 FOUR-PAGE PULLOUT

**INSIDE**  
**INVITES CAN'T ASK QUESTIONS: AJIT TO SHARAD AT MEETING**  
**KERALA: 14-YR-OLD BOY TESTS POSITIVE FOR NIPAH VIRUS**  
 PAGES 8, 11

**4 yrs after life sentence for murder, former BJP MLA set for early release**



Ex-BJP MLA Uday Bhan Karwariya was caught in the 1996 murder of SP MLA Jawahar Yadav (right).

**MANISH SAHU**  
 LUCKNOW, JULY 20

OVER FOUR years after a court in Uttar Pradesh sentenced former BJP MLA Uday Bhan Karwariya to life imprisonment for the 1996 murder of a Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA, the state government has ordered his premature release, with Governor Anandiben Patel approving his mercy petition, officials said.

The decision was based on recommendations by the Prayagraj SSP, the District Magistrate and a mercy petition committee — as well as Uday Bhan's "good conduct" in jail — the July 19 order stated. It also said that Uday Bhan had spent eight years, nine months, and eleven days in jail as of July 30, 2023, and that he could be released if no other case was pending against him.

The decision comes around a year after the state government ordered the remission of the life terms being served by former minister Anarama Tripathi and his wife Madhumani Tripathi in a murder case.

On November 4, 2019, a Prayagraj court sentenced Uday Bhan (55), his brothers Suraj

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 11**

**BEHIND PSMC-TATA VENTURE**

**Chip dreams: As Taipei takes a short step forward, Delhi assures a smooth long road**

**ANIL SASI**  
 TAIPEI, NEW DELHI, JULY 20

THAT TAIWAN and India ought to be strategic partners, especially in chip fabrication, has steadily reformed in Taipei City and New Delhi. Taiwan is an undisputed world leader and India is keen to make late inroads in this domain. On the ground, however, the partnership faces chal-



Security forces in Dhaka on Saturday, amid a curfew in response to protests against government job quotas. Reuters

**Delhi cautious as Dhaka in siege, over 100 killed in anti-reservation protests**

Around 1,000 Indians return, ruling Awami League blames Opp

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
 NEW DELHI, JULY 20

WITH MORE than 100 killed as protests against job quotas convulse Bangladesh and hold Dhaka in siege, New Delhi has been cautious not to comment on what it calls an "internal" matter. Amid curfew and an internet shutdown imposed by the Sheikh Hasina government, the Indian mission in Bangladesh has facilitated the return of 978

Indians — 778 through land borders and another 200-odd through flights, the Ministry of External Affairs said Saturday. The first batch of 245 Indians returned Friday night and the mission is in touch with more than 4,000 Indian students remaining. The protests in Bangladesh against the quota for freedom fighters' families in government jobs has escalated over the last week, since Hasina's statement on July 14 — "If the grandchildren of the freedom fighters don't get

quota benefits, should the grandchildren of Razakars get the benefit" — sparked outrage among young protesters in the country. The bone of contention is the 30 per cent quota reserved for families of Bangladesh freedom fighters in the country's government jobs. Protesters say these are

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**MUMBAI HOARDING COLLAPSE CHARGESHEET**

**Faced pressure from Commissioner to clear hoarding, say two GRP officials**

**MUHAMMAD THAYER**  
 MUMBAI, JULY 20

TWO GOVERNMENT Railway Police (GRP) officials, including its in-charge law officer, have alleged that the then GRP Commissioner, Qaiser Khalid, put pressure on them to give a favourable opinion on the Chhatrapati hoarding, which collapsed on May 13 killing 17 people.

Nikam, who signed the approval for the hoarding, has alleged that Khalid said he should be transferred to the control room to give an adverse opinion. While signing the file, Nikam, in written remarks, indicated that he was doing so as per Khalid's orders.

The land on which the Chhatrapati petrol pump and the hoarding stood was given to the GRP — which reports to the state government — for police welfare by the state welfare and housing

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

**SHIRSAT — FORM part of the 3,299-page chargesheet filed by the Mumbai Police.**

**BEHIND PSMC-TATA VENTURE**

**Chip dreams: As Taipei takes a short step forward, Delhi assures a smooth long road**

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 TAIPEI, NEW DELHI, JULY 20

THAT TAIWAN and India ought to be strategic partners, especially in chip fabrication, has steadily reformed in Taipei City and New Delhi. Taiwan is an undisputed world leader and India is keen to make late inroads in this domain. On the ground, however, the partnership faces chal-

lenges even as there's a shared sense of strategic alignment. Despite a strong nudge by former President Tsai Ing-wen to Taiwan's chip fabrication giants to consider investing in India, there's only one company that has stepped up — Hsinchu-based Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp or PSMC, one of Taiwan's smaller chip-makers that fabricates logic

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



Hsinchu Science Park, the hub of chip making in Taiwan.

**From the city of diamonds in Gujarat, two table tennis players set sights on Paris Olympics gold**

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**ANIL DIAS**  
 SURAT, JULY 20

NOTHING ABOUT Surat screams sport. Around the railway station, one can overhear people talking about balls and bats in markets before stock markets open. As one drives further into the city, past the textile mills and the bazaars full of sparkling diamond shops, two young men in their city



Harmee Desai (left) and Manav Thakkar. Anil Dias

tennis at the age of six, Surat didn't have any sporting clubs and the only TT table was at St Xavier's School, near the bus stop.

Luckily for him, his father Rajat loved the game, which he had played at the university level. Harmee was introduced to TT by his father. "There was a British club where I grew up. 24 Harmee will compete in the singles event and will also be part of the team event at the competition with Manav. Though both are from Surat, their road to Paris couldn't have been more different. When Harmee took up table

**SC TO HEAR MATTER ON MONDAY**

**City-wise NEET results show 3.5% students got over 600 out of 720**

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**NEET IN NUMBERS**

<b>4,750</b>	<b>23,33,162</b>	<b>CITIES WITH HIGHEST NO. OF 650+ SCORERS</b>
<b>SCORECARD</b>	<b>Total students</b>	<b>City</b>
A score of over 600 was enough to land a seat in a govt college in 2023		<b>No. of students</b>
<b>Score</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>Score</b>
Above 700	2,321	0-10
Above 650	30,204	1-29
Above 600	81,550	3-50
Above 550	1,44,184	61-80
Above 500	2,10,162	91-101

(\* of total students; All figures approx)

**RITIKA CHOPRA & HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
 NEW DELHI, JULY 20

COMPLYING WITH THE Supreme Court's directions, the National Testing Agency (NTA) Saturday released individual scores of nearly 23.5 lakh candidates who appeared for the NEET-UG 2024 examination. The exams ran into a controversy after reports of question paper leak. Of the total candidates, a little over 81,000 candidates (or 3.48 per cent) scored 600 and above out of 720 marks in the examination

**CBT NABS NT GRAD, 2 MBBS STUDENTS**  
 PAGE 5

**SOCIAL SCIENCE TEXTBOOK FOR CLASS 6**

**Harappan society is 'Sindhu-Sarasvati civilisation' in NCERT's new textbook**

**ABHINAV HARI GOVIND**  
 NEW DELHI, JULY 20

FROM REFERRING to the Harappan civilisation as the 'Sindhu-Sarasvati' and 'Indus-Sarasvati' civilisation, to multiple mentions of the 'Sarasvati' river, including referring to the NDA one of the reasons for the decline

**Poor scrutiny of invigilators, unsafe internet link: Panel flags gaps in exams**

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL**  
 NEW DELHI, JULY 20

OUTSOURCING EXAMS to private labs which don't use "safe" internet connections, use of personal hotspots to download question papers, no proper scrutiny of invigilators, some exam centres located in secluded areas — these are some of the concerns raised by a committee set up to identify shortcomings in testing procedures in the wake of the NEET-UG row. This committee, comprising officials of the National Forensic Sciences University, National Testing Agency (NTA) and "specialised cyber related departments", is separate from the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

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# UPSC chairperson Manoj Soni quits post, cites personal reasons

**LEENA MISRA**

NEW DELHI, JULY 20

UNION PUBLIC Service Commission (UPSC) Chairperson Dr Manoj Soni has resigned from the top post five years before his tenure that would end in 2029, citing “personal reasons”.

Soni, 59, an alumnus of Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara confirmed to *The Indian Express* Saturday that he had resigned from the UPSC as chairperson. The resignation comes at a time when the commission has booked a criminal case against probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar for faking her identity to avail attempts in the civil services examination.

PTI quoted sources as saying that Soni’s resignation is “not in any way connected to controversies and allegations surrounding the UPSC after probationary IAS officer Puja Khedkar issue”.

Considered close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Soni



UPSC  
Chairperson  
Manoj Soni

took over as a member of the Commission on June 28, 2017 and took oath as chairperson on May 16, 2023.

He has served as vice-chancellor of the Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Gujarat for two terms from August 1, 2009 to July 31, 2015, and one term as VC of his alma mater The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda from April 2005 to April 2008.

A student of Political Science, Soni taught International Relations at Sardar Patel University Vallabh Vidyanagar between 1991 and 2016. His doctoral research is on the “Post-Cold War International Systemic Transition and Indo-U.S. Relations” under his guide Prof Harbans Patel of SPU, completed in 1995.

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- **About the Public Service Commissions in India**

- According to the **Article-315** of the Constitution, there shall be a **Public Service Commission for the Union and for each State**.
- **Joint State Public Service Commission:** Parliament may by law provide for the appointment of a Joint State Public Service Commission to serve the needs of those States.

- भारत में लोक सेवा आयोगों के बारे में
- संविधान के अनुच्छेद-315 के अनुसार, संघ और प्रत्येक राज्य के लिए एक लोक सेवा आयोग होगा।
- संयुक्त राज्य लोक सेवा आयोग: संसद कानून द्वारा उन राज्यों की जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए एक संयुक्त राज्य लोक सेवा आयोग की नियुक्ति का प्रावधान कर सकती है।

- 
- **Two or more States** may agree that there shall be one Public Service Commission for that group of States, and if a resolution to that effect is passed by the House or, where there are two Houses, by each House of the Legislature of each of those States.
  - The **Public Service Commission for the Union**, if requested to do so by the Governor of a State, may, with the approval of the President, agree to serve all or any of the needs of the State.

- तो या तो से अधिक राज्य दम बात पर सहमत हो सकते हैं कि राज्यों के दम समूह के लिए एक लोक सेवा आयोग होगा और यदि दम भाग्य का एक पञ्जाब मतलब तबारा पारित किया जाता है या जहां दो सदन हैं, उनमें से प्रत्येक के विधानमंडल के प्रत्येक सदन द्वारा पारित किया जाता है। राज्य.
- मंत्र के लिए लोक सेवा आयोग यदि किसी राज्य के राज्यपाल तबारा ऐसा करने का अनुरोध किया जाता है तो राष्ट्रपति की मंजूरी के साथ, राज्य की सभी या किसी भी ज़रूरत को पूरा करने के लिए सहमत हो सकता है।



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- **Appointment and Term of Office (Article-316)**

- The Chairman and other members of a Public Service Commission shall be appointed, in the case of the **Union Commission or a Joint Commission, by the President**, and in the case of a **State Commission**, by the **Governor of the State**.

- नियुक्ति एवं कार्यकाल (अनुच्छेद-316)

- लोक सेवा आयोग के अध्यक्ष और अन्य सदस्यों की नियुक्ति, संघ आयोग या संयुक्त आयोग के मामले में, राष्ट्रपति द्वारा और राज्य आयोग के मामले में, राज्य के राज्यपाल द्वारा की जाएगी।

A member shall hold office for a **term of six years** from the date on which he enters upon his office or until he attains, in the case of the **Union Commission**, the age of **sixty-five years**, and in the case of a **State Commission or a Joint Commission**, the age of **sixty-two years**, whichever is earlier.



A person who holds office as a member of a Public Service Commission shall, on the expiration of his term of office, **be ineligible for reappointment to that office**

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एक सदस्य अपने कार्यालय में प्रवेश करने की तारीख से छह साल की अवधि के लिए या जब तक वह संघ आयोग के मामले में पैंसठ वर्ष की आयु प्राप्त नहीं कर लेता, और राज्य आयोग के मामले में पद पर बना रहेगा। या संयुक्त आयोग, बासठ वर्ष की आयु, जो भी पहले हो।

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एक व्यक्ति जो लोक सेवा आयोग के सदस्य के रूप में पद धारण करता है, अपने कार्यकाल की समाप्ति पर, उस कार्यालय में पुनर्नियुक्ति के लिए अयोग्य होगा





**SAVINGS SCHEMES**  
**PPF returns continue to be low, says RBI**  
NEWS > PAGE 4



**GARMENT SECTOR**  
**Report flags high duties affecting exports**  
NEWS > PAGE 4



**STICKING TOGETHER**  
**Akhilesh attends Trinamool event**  
NEWS > PAGE 5



**COUNTERING UNEMPLOYMENT**  
**The need to focus on female employment**  
*It can improve overall family income, welfare*  
EDITORIAL > PAGE 8



**COMFORTABLE WIN**  
**India close to securing semifinal berth**  
SPORT > PAGE 16

INSIDE



**Karnataka Cabinet likely to discuss quota Bill**  
BENGALURU: The Karnataka Cabinet meeting on Monday is likely to begin discussing the proposed legislation to reserve jobs for local people in the private sector. > PAGE 3

**Missing driver untraced six days after landslide**  
BENGALURU: Residents of Kannadikall in Kozhikode district on Sunday took out a protest march seeking urgent steps to rescue Adin, a lorry driver missing for six days after a landslide at Ankola in Karnataka. > PAGE 3

**Hearing of NEET case today; more petitions filed**  
NEW DELHI: After the National Testing Agency released the NEET-UG scores, an intervention application was led by the SC, requesting a retest for nearly 3.5 lakh top scorers. The court is slated to hear the matter on Monday. > PAGE 6

**Houthi pledge 'huge' response to Israeli strike**  
HOEDEIDA: Yemen's Houthi rebels on Sunday promised a "huge" retaliation against Israel following a deadly strike on the port of Hodeida. Israel bombed the Palestinian territory of Yemen and Lebanon in response to attacks from Iran-backed militant groups. > PAGE 14

# Biden drops out of race, endorses Kamala Harris

The 81-year-old President says the decision, which comes amid escalating pressure from Democratic allies, was made in the best interest of the party and country; adds that he will complete the remainder of the term; lawmakers had expressed to him their doubts whether he could convince voters of his ability to handle the job for another term

**Associated Press**  
WASHINGTON  
U.S. President Joe Biden dropped out of the 2024 race for the White House on Sunday, ending his bid for reelection following a disastrous debate with Donald Trump that raised doubts about his fitness for office under four months before the election. Mr. Biden said he was endorsing Vice-President Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee for the 2024 election.  
The decision comes after ten days of escalating pressure from Mr. Biden's Democratic allies to step aside following the June 27 debate, in which the 81-year-old President trailed off, often gave nonsensical answers and failed to call out the former President's many falsehoods.  
Mr. Biden plans to serve out the remainder of his term in office, which ends on January 20, 2025.  
"It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President. And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term," Mr. Biden wrote in a letter posted on X.  
Mr. Biden's decision came as he has been isolating at his Delaware beach house after being diagnosed with COVID-19 last week, huddling with a shrinking circle of close confidants and family members about his political future. He said he would address the nation later this week to provide "details" about his decision.  
The White House confirmed the authenticity of



Passing the baton: U.S. President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris at the White House. AP

the letter.  
The announcement is the latest jolt to a campaign for the White House that both political parties see as the most consequential election in generations, coming just days after the attempted assassination of Mr. Trump at a Pennsylvania rally.  
**Closest parallel**  
A party's presumptive presidential nominee has never stepped out of the race

so close to the election. The closest parallel would be President Lyndon Johnson who, besieged by the Vietnam War, announced in March 1968 that he would not seek another term.  
The decision marks a swift and stunning end to Mr. Biden's 82 years in electoral politics, as donors, lawmakers and even aides expressed to him their doubts whether he could convince voters of his ability to handle the job for another four years.  
Mr. Biden won the vast majority of delegates and every nominating contest but one, which would have made his nomination a formality. In 2020, Mr. Biden pitched himself as a transitional figure who wanted to be a bridge to a new generation of leaders. But once he secured the job he spent decades struggling to attain, he was reluctant to part with it. Mr. Biden was once asked whether any other Democrat could beat Trump. "Probably 50 of them," Mr. Biden replied. "No, I'm not the only one who can defeat him, but I will defeat him."

Mr. Biden is already the country's oldest President and had insisted repeatedly that he was up for the challenge of another campaign and another term, telling voters all they had to was "watch me". And watch him they did.  
**Debate performance**  
His poor debate performance prompted a cascade of anxiety from Democrats and donors who said publicly what some had said privately for months, that they did not think he was up to the job for four more years.  
Concerns over President Biden's age have dogged him since he announced he was running for reelection.  
A majority also doubt his mental capability to be President.  
**BULLET FOR DEMOCRACY**  
> PAGE 14

## Herders' homecoming



On the move: A Kutchi Rabari camel herder returning to Kutchi in Gujarat with her animals after the district got good rainfall. VLAR SOBE II

## Bangladesh government jobs quota scaled back by Supreme Court after deadly unrest

**Associated Press**  
DHAHA  
The Bangladesh Supreme Court on Sunday scaled back a controversial quota system for government job applicants.  
The move comes as a partial victory for student protesters after days of nationwide unrest and deadly clashes that left at least 155 people dead.  
"We welcome the Supreme Court verdict," a spokesperson for Students Against Discrimination, the main group responsible for organising the protests, said on condition of anonymity.  
"But we will not call off our protests until the government issues an order reflecting our demands."  
The Supreme Court's Appellate Division dismissed a lower court order that had reinstated the quotas, directing that 93% of government jobs would be open to candidates on merit. Students have been demanding an end to a quota that reserved 30% of go-

vernment jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in Bangladesh's War of Independence in 1971. The government last month said it in 2018 following mass student protests, but in June, Bangladesh's High Court reinstated the quotas, setting off a new round of protests.  
The ruling curtailed the number of reserved jobs, from 56% of all positions to 7%, and brought down the veterans' quota from 30% to 5%. The remaining 2% will be set aside for members of ethnic minorities, transgender community, and people with disability.  
**'Historic decision'**  
The Supreme Court was due to decide next month on the legality of the reintroduced scheme but brought forward its verdict as civil strife intensified.  
It decided that the lower Bench's order last month to reintroduce the scheme was "illegal", Bangladesh Attorney General A.M. Aminuddin said.  
Shah Monjurul Haque, a lawyer representing some student groups, called the court's decision historic. He said it was a start to reforming the problematic quota system. "Everyone should abide by the verdict. I urge all protesters to return to their homes," Mr. Haque said.  
Law Minister Anisul Haq of the ruling Awami League party also welcomed the court's decision and said it was "well thought of."  
Soldiers patrolled cities across the country ahead of the Supreme Court hearing, even as Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said the stay-at-home order will be relaxed from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.  
**'BENGAL WILL GIVE SHELTER'**  
> PAGE 4

## Govt. facing stormy session over fiat on Kanwar Yatra, terror

**Sobhana K. Nair**  
NEW DELHI  
The first all-party meeting of the Jharkhand Sahba held on Sunday on the eve of the start of the Budget Session of Parliament saw both allies and rivals of the NDA coming up with a long wish list for the Union government.  
The Opposition demanded a discussion on the Uttar Pradesh government's order to display nameplates at entries on the Kanwar Yatra route, the rising number of terror cases in Jammu, internal strife in Manipur, and irregularities in NEET and other competitive exams.  
The NDA allies — the TDP (JDU) and BJP (Ram Vilas) — demanded financial aid for Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.  
In a break from the past, the BJP extended invitations to smaller parties, including many with just one member.  
Parliamentary Affairs Minister Rishi Ja said his party did not believe in segregation of society on religious or caste lines, and urged the Uttar Pradesh government to revisit the order.  
**RELATED REPORTS**  
> PAGE 5

## 14-year-old Kerala boy dies of Nipah infection

**The Hindu Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
The Nipah virus claimed the life of a 14-year-old boy from Malappuram district of Kerala on Sunday. The resurgence of the infection, which often spreads from fruit bats to humans and other animals, has prompted the State government to impose containment measures in at least two panchayats in the district.  
Kerala Health Minister Veena George said the teenager died at the Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode, while under intensive medical care. She attributed the cause of death to a massive cardiac arrest.  
A previous Nipah outbreak in Malappuram and Kozhikode claimed 17 lives in 2018.  
The Pune-based National Institute of Virology confirmed that the teenager had Nipah virus infection.  
At least three of the boy's relatives are under surveillance at the hospital, and four others who interacted with him are under observation at the Government Medical College Hospital at Manjeri in Malappuram, Ms. George said.  
She said that those in the high-risk contact category did not show any symptoms of infection. At least seven samples had tested negative. The Minister counselled the public against panicking, and said the situation was under control.  
The government has stepped up containment measures in Malappuram with District Collector V.R. Vinod declaring masks and social distancing mandatory till further notice.



Forum for debate: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Congress leader Jairam Ramesh during the meeting on Sunday. RV MOORFIV



# Biden drops out of race, endorses Kamala Harris

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The decision comes after escalating pressure from Mr. Biden's Democratic allies to step aside following the June 27 debate, in which the 81-year-old President trailed off, often gave nonsensical answers and failed to call out the former President's many falsehoods.

Mr. Biden plans to serve out the remainder of his

term in office, which ends on January 20, 2025.

"It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President. And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term," Mr. Biden wrote in a letter posted on X.

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**Passing the baton:** U.S. President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris at the White House. AFP

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**BULLET FOR DEMOCRACY**

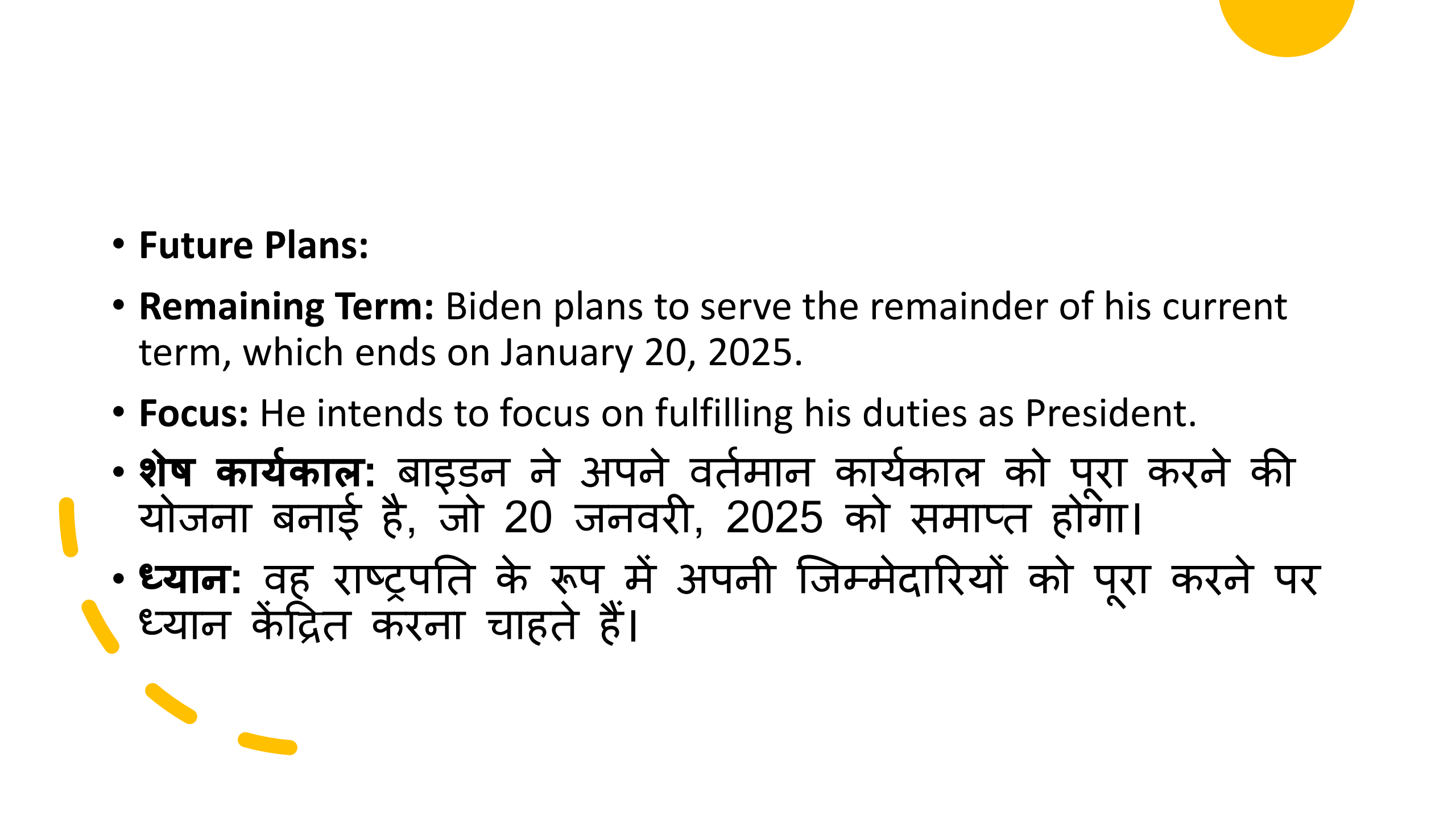
» PAGE 14

- 
- **Announcement:** President Joe Biden announces he will not run for re-election in 2024.
  - **Reason:** Pressure from Democratic allies and doubts about his ability to handle another term.
  - **Endorsement:** Biden endorses Vice-President Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee.
  - **घोषणा:** राष्ट्रपति जो बाइडन ने घोषणा की कि वह 2024 के चुनाव में पुनः चुनाव नहीं लड़ेंगे।
  - **कारण:** डेमोक्रेटिक सहयोगियों का दबाव और उनके दूसरे कार्यकाल को संभालने की क्षमता पर संदेह।
  - **समर्थन:** बाइडन ने उपराष्ट्रपति कमला हैरिस का डेमोक्रेटिक उम्मीदवार के रूप में समर्थन किया।



- **Health and Debate Performance:** Concerns about Biden's health and his poor performance in a debate with Donald Trump.
- **Political Impact:** The decision impacts the Democratic Party and its election strategy.
- **स्वास्थ्य और बहस प्रदर्शन:** बाइडन के स्वास्थ्य और डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के साथ बहस में उनके खराब प्रदर्शन पर चिंता।
- **राजनीतिक प्रभाव:** इस निर्णय का डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी और इसकी चुनावी रणनीति पर प्रभाव।

- **Historical Parallel:**
- **Comparison:** The decision is compared to President Lyndon Johnson's 1968 announcement not to seek another term.
- **3. ऐतिहासिक समानता:**
- **तुलना:** इस निर्णय की तुलना राष्ट्रपति लिंडन जॉनसन की 1968 में दूसरे कार्यकाल के लिए नहीं लड़ने की घोषणा से की गई है।

- 
- **Future Plans:**
  - **Remaining Term:** Biden plans to serve the remainder of his current term, which ends on January 20, 2025.
  - **Focus:** He intends to focus on fulfilling his duties as President.
  - **शेष कार्यकाल:** बाइडन ने अपने वर्तमान कार्यकाल को पूरा करने की योजना बनाई है, जो 20 जनवरी, 2025 को समाप्त होगा।
  - **ध्यान:** वह राष्ट्रपति के रूप में अपनी जिम्मेदारियों को पूरा करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहते हैं।



## IN BRIEF

**3 killed, 8 injured in landslide on Kedarnath trekking route**

Three devotees died and eight others were injured in a landslide on the Kedarnath Dham trekking route in Uttarakhand's Rudrapur district on Sunday, officials said. Rudrapur District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh Rajwar said the incident happened at around 7:30 a.m. near Chitriana area on the Garukand-Kedarnath trekking route when the devotees were hit by heavy stones and debris falling down from the hills. The State Disaster Response Force and disaster management teams reached the spot and started a search and rescue operation, he said.

**Kanwariyas attack parking lot staff with swords; 4 arrested**

Four Kanwariyas from Haryana were arrested in New Tehri of Uttarakhand for allegedly attacking a parking lot employee with swords following an argument over parking fee, police said on Sunday. The employee suffered serious injury to his head in the incident that took place on Saturday evening in the Janaki Puri parking lot near the Neelkanth temple. The accused had kept their tractor-trolley there, Muni ki Reti police station-in-charge Ritesh Shah said. He said after visiting the temple, where the Kanwariyas reached the parking lot, Balam Singh Bisht, Ajay and Subhash asked for parking fee. There was an argument and the accused attacked Mr. Bisht with swords, the officer said.

**Jharkhand CM offers ₹2-crore aid to flood-affected Assam**

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday that Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has offered ₹2 crore as aid to the flood-affected people of this northeastern State. Mr. Sarma thanked Mr. Soren and the people of Jharkhand for the gesture. "Hon'ble CM of Jharkhand, Hemant Soren, has graciously offered ₹2 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund of Assam to aid flood-affected people," Mr. Sarma posted on X. "On behalf of the people of Assam, I deeply appreciate the generosity of the kind hearted Chief Minister of Jharkhand," the Hon'ble Chief Minister," he added. At least 113 people have been killed in the flood, landslides, lightning and storms in the State so far. More than 1.30 lakh people in 10 districts continued to remain affected.

**BJP, L-G conspiring to kill CM Arvind Kejriwal, says AAP**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI  
Capt. Supreetha C.T.

**Mysuru's Capt. Supreetha Ist woman officer at Siachen**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
MYSURU

Captain Supreetha C.T., from Mysuru, has become the first woman officer from the Corps of Army Air Defence, to be operationally deployed at Siachen Glacier. "Breaking Barriers...Challenging Frontiers...Captain Supreetha C.T. joins the league of 85000 Warriors. With her enduring strength & determination, she is now operationally deployed at the world's highest battlefield Siachen," she said in a post on X by the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGIPI) - Indian Army. Capt. Supreetha joined the Indian Army as a Lieutenant in 2021 and had been posted in the Army Air Defence after undergoing training at Chennai.

**B.P. will better post poll results, MVA Aarangezban club': Shah**

Addressing party workers in Pune, Union Minister terms Sharad Pawar 'godfather of corruption', kick-starts his campaign for Maharashtra Assembly election; NCP (SP) says BJP has 'legitimised graft by incorporating tainted leaders into its fold'

**Ateeq Shaikh**  
MUMBAI

In his first campaign visit to Maharashtra ahead of the Assembly poll, Union Minister Amit Shah attacked all three constituents of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) while addressing party workers in Pune on Sunday.

He termed the alliance the "Aarangezban fan club" and said Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray was its leader. He also called Congress leader Rajendra Prasad Mehergaonkar an arrogant and alleged that NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar was the "godfather of corruption".

"Uddhav Thackeray is sitting with those who sought clemency for 1993 blasts - convict Yakub Meemon," he said, adding that Mr. Thackeray had joined hands with those who had given the messenger of



Battle-ready: Union Home Minister Amit Shah being felicitated by BJP leaders in Pune on Sunday.

peace away to the central preacher Zakir Naik and served bribe to 26/11 Mumbai terror attack convict Ajmal Kasab. "He should be ashamed of sitting with these people," Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh in 2016 had called Mr. Naik as "a messenger of peace". During the terror attack trial, Special Public Prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam had said Kasab was

served bribery, jail authorities, and later Mr. Nikam himself, denied the claim. Mr. Shah also reminded the gathering that the MVA failed to rename Aarangezban as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj when it had been in power in the State. Attacking Mr. Pawar, the BJP leader said he "instrumentalised corruption and yet [is] calling us corrupt". "I am asking Sharad Pawar what have you given to

government has been elected in the State, Marathas got reservation. When Sharad Pawar's party came to power, Marathas lost the quota. It was during his regime, the case was lost in court," he said.

"NCP (SP) cleansed" Mr. Shah's charges, NCP (SP) leader Jayant Patil said people know which leaders are most corrupt. "The corrupt ones have joined forces with the BJP, making our party the cleanest." Party spokesperson Clyde Crasto said it is the BJP that has "legitimised" corruption by incorporating tainted leaders into its fold. "They accuse political leaders of corruption, and then once those who they accuse join BJP, they are all given a clean chit. This is not washing the machine process," he said.

On the Maratha reservation issue, he said only the BJP can wash the machine vileged. "Whenever a BJP

**Valmiki 'scam': Siddaramaiah finding it difficult to defend his govt. against graft charges'**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BANGALORE

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has been engaged in all sorts of exercises to deflect himself following allegations of corruption against his government," said Union Minister for Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy at Hassan in Karnataka on Sunday. Speaking to media, Mr. Kumaraswamy said the CM could not defend himself during the debate in the legislature session. "The entrusted five Ministers of the Cabinet to address the media before he could give his reply in the session. Be-

lieves that, he gave interviews to the media as an exercise before facing the session. All these exercises show that he is finding it difficult to defend his government," he said. Corruption issue Referring to the alleged corruption in the Maharashtra scheduled at almost Development Corporation, Mr. Kumaraswamy said the issue would not have come out if (officer) Chandrashekhar had not committed suicide. "Whether it is misuse of ₹87 crore, ₹94 crore, or even ₹90 it is corruption. Now, the government has taken a decision to transfer money from all corporations to the treasury. I had made this suggestion in 2017 itself!"

Further, Mr. Kumaraswamy said the CM had made 21 fresh charges against BJP leaders. Mr. Siddaramaiah had been CM for five years. Later, he worked as the Leader of the Opposition. Now, he raised some of the issues related to 2010-11. What was he doing all these years?" he questioned.

**Two women partially buried during dispute on road construction**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BHOWAL

Two women were partially buried under a pile of gravel and injured, he said, adding that the women were discharged from a hospital after treatment. "We have filed a case under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) against Nyaya Sanhita (NS) and arrested one person in the case," he said. Raising the issues of contaminated drinking water, poor drainage and damaged roads, the incident has also gone viral. The officer, however, said that it was not clear whether the unloading of the construction material was intentional. A probe was on to ascertain this, he added.

They were buried under a pile of gravel and injured, he said, adding that the women were discharged from a hospital after treatment. "We have filed a case under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) against Nyaya Sanhita (NS) and arrested one person in the case," he said. Raising the issues of contaminated drinking water, poor drainage and damaged roads, the incident has also gone viral. The officer, however, said that it was not clear whether the unloading of the construction material was intentional. A probe was on to ascertain this, he added.

**In another cyberscam, 77-year-old woman cheated of ₹1.2 crore in Bengaluru**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Posing as officials of the telecom and the Mumbai Crime Branch, cyber fraudsters intimidated a 77-year-old woman for almost 20 days before swindling a total of ₹1.2 crore. Lakshmi Shivakumar, a resident of R.T. Nagar, filed a complaint with the North Division Cyber Crime police recently, based on which the police have taken up a case against the woman.

The L-G was trying to get the CM out of office by "deliberately" spreading the rumour that he had blood sugar levels dropping to dangerous levels 26 times between June 3 and July 7. It was only after the accusation. Delhi BJP chief Virendra Saxena accused the Chief Minister of "deliberately" spreading the rumour that he had blood sugar levels dropping to dangerous levels 26 times between June 3 and July 7. It was only after the accusation. Delhi BJP chief Virendra Saxena accused the Chief Minister of "deliberately" spreading the rumour that he had blood sugar levels dropping to dangerous levels 26 times between June 3 and July 7. It was only after the accusation.

They threatened to arrest her if she did not cooperating with the investigation. The duo even showed a copy of a FIR and an arrest warrant issued by the Supreme Court, she said. Ms. Shivakumar shared her details, following which Ms. Shivakumar transferred ₹1,28,70,000 from her account citing that she had a bank account details after completing the investigation, said complainant. After waiting for the completion of investigation, Ms. Shivakumar tried to contact them but the accused were not reachable. She discussed it with her family and friends who subsequently demanded that she avoid the scam and asked her to approach the police.

The caller also informed her that she had been scammed and asked her to verification, failing which

**Dravidar Kazhagam launches platform to counter superstitions**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
CHENNAI

The Dravidar Kazhagam (DK), a social organisation founded by Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, launched the Periyar Vision OTT platform on Sunday in the presence of Thoodukudi MP K. Kamalakar, actor Sathyaaraj, artist Trosky Marudhu, DK vice-president Kallipoo Gundran and president K. Veeramani.

The OTT platform features content on various issues, including superstitions with religion, interviews with prominent political leaders and other programmes aimed at disseminating Periyar's ideology. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said that the launch of the platform would address the need of today's times, adding that the Dravidan movement had consistently been at the forefront of using various media and artistic forms to disseminate Periyar's principles across the world. "In such a situation, I am happy that we have taken the same technology (to spread ideas of social justice, self-respect and rationalism)," she added.



Congress leader Deepender Hooda in Rewari on Sunday.

**'BJP using probe agencies to silence Cong. leaders'**

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GURUGRAM

Holding *padayatra* in parts of south Haryana on Sunday as part of Congress' "Haryana Maange Hissab" campaign ahead of the Assembly polls, party's Rohit Lok Sabha MP Deepender Hooda accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government of unleashing Central Investigating agencies after the Congress leaders to silence them.

Walking through the streets in Rewari's Bawal, Mr. Hooda, accompanied by local Congress leaders, including Raj Babbar and Rewari MLA Chiranjeev Rao, said the investigating agencies such as Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had launched a parallel drive against Congress leaders at the behest of the BJP government ever since his party had kicked-off the accountability campaign in Haryana. "The BJP government should not be under the misconception that Congress will stop asking questions," he stated.

His remarks came a day after the ED arrested Haryana Congress MP S. Sander Panwar in an "illegal" money-laundering case on Saturday. Raising the issues of contaminated drinking water, poor drainage and damaged roads, the incident has also gone viral. The officer, however, said that it was not clear whether the unloading of the construction material was intentional. A probe was on to ascertain this, he added.

**The OTT platform named after reform leader Periyar aims at spreading his ideology of justice**

and the proliferation of social media, Periyar Vision OTT is being launched as the world's first OTT platform dedicated to social justice, aimed at reaching young people with Periyar's principles," he said. Ms. Kamalakar said that Periyar had spoken about many issues, including superstitions, and that the fact that every woman was under pressure to learn to cook and not to have an ambition. "Even today, women choosing to break bread but Periyar had already spoken about women choosing to break bread to a wider audience. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said that the launch of the platform would address the need of today's times, adding that the Dravidan movement had consistently been at the forefront of using various media and artistic forms to disseminate Periyar's principles across the world. "In such a situation, I am happy that we have taken the same technology (to spread ideas of social justice, self-respect and rationalism)," she added.



Capt. Supreetha C.T.

## Mysuru's Capt. Supreetha 1st woman officer at Siachen

### **The Hindu Bureau**

MYSURU

Captain Supreetha C.T., from Mysuru, has become the first woman officer from the Corps of Army Air Defence, to be operationally deployed at Siachen Glacier.

“Breaking Barriers....Conquering Challenges.....Captain Supreetha C T joins the league of #SiachenWarriors. With her enduring strength & determination, she is now operationally deployed at the world's highest battlefield #Siachen,” said a post on X by the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG PI) - Indian Army.

Capt. Supreetha joined the Indian Army as a Lieutenant in 2021 and had been posted in the Army Air Defence after undergoing training at Chennai.



# Bar on govt. servants from associating with RSS lifted: Jairam

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Union government, through a fresh office memorandum, has removed a 58-year-old bar on government servants from associating with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its activities, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said here on Sunday.

Mr. Ramesh posted on X a photo grab of a purported order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on July 9. It referred to the earlier memoranda issued on November 30, 1966, July 28, 1970 and October 28, 1980 on the subject, stating that those instructions were reviewed and it was decided to remove the restriction of "Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (R.S.S.)" from the impugned memoranda.

**'Liable to action'**  
The 1966 document stated, "As certain doubts have been raised about the government's policy with respect to the membership of and participation in the activities of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the Jamaat-e-Islami by government servants, it is clarified that government

have always held the activities of these two organisations to be of such a nature that participation in them by government servants would attract the Central Civil Services Conduct Rules."

"Any government servant, who is a member of or is otherwise associated with the aforesaid organisations or with their activities is liable to disciplinary action," it had said.

**Relations, bureaucracy**  
In his post, the Congress leader said: "Sardar Patel had banned the RSS in February 1948 following Gandhiji's assassination. Subsequently, the ban was withdrawn on assurances of good behaviour. Even after this the RSS never flew the Tiranga in Nagpur in February 1948 following Gandhiji's assassination. Subsequently, the ban was imposed - and rightly so - on government employees taking part in RSS activities. In June 2024, the relations between the self-anointed non-biological Hindu and the government's policy with respect to the membership of and participation in the activities of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the Jamaat-e-Islami by government servants, it is clarified that government

# India's garment export with woese self-inflicted: report

At \$14.5 billion, exports from the job-intensive sector were lower in 2023-24 than a decade earlier, owing to barriers on raw material imports and difficult customs, trade procedures, says think tank

Vikas Dhoot  
NEW DELHI

Exports from India's garment sector, which have been losing ground to rivals such as Vietnam and Bangladesh and were lower than the 2013-14 levels last year, have been denied more by the country's high duties and barriers on raw material imports along with difficult customs and trade procedures, rather than other nations' competitive strengths, a research report has flagged.

The report said, "Exports from Vietnam have grown nearly 82% to hit \$23.4 billion while that of Bangladesh has grown nearly 70% to hit \$43.8 billion. China exported about \$114 billion of garments in the same year, nearly a decade earlier."

A protection-linked incentive (PLD) scheme for textiles launched by the Centre in 2023 has failed to



The report pointed out that recent quality control orders have complicated the process of bringing in essential raw materials. AP

gain traction with investors and needs significant modifications to be effective, the think tank, Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), has noted in a report titled "How Complex Procedures, Import Restrictions and Domestic Incentives are Holding Back India's Garment Exports".

The report has also raised concerns about a steady rise in India's garment and textiles imports in recent years, which had grown to almost \$9.2 billion in the calendar year 2023. It warned that this tally could rise faster if the

report is not arrested, as it has led to a loss of money" on the part of the domestic industry. The report, based on industry surveys, says that the "high cost of raw materials, lack of quality control, and the process of bringing in essential raw material. This is pushing up costs for exporters who have to rely on price options from domestic firms who dominate the market for raw materials like polyester staple fibre and viscose staple fibre."

"This scenario forces exporters to use expensive and unreliable suppliers, making Indian garments overpriced," it explains.

Moreover, the procedures laid down by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade and Customs are archaic, requiring exporters to meticulously account for every square centimetre of imported fabric, buttons, and zippers, ensuring these are used in the final product. For instance, around 300 students are returning to Bangladesh from India, from where they had secured jobs in various sectors. The report said, mooting a comprehensive overhaul to change the status quo.

# Bengal will open its doors to people from Bangladesh: Mamata

The Hindu Bureau  
KOLKATA

Expressing solidarity with the people of strife-torn Bangladesh, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday said the state would open its doors to people in distress from the neighbouring country.

"It should not be speaking on the affairs of Bangladesh that is a sovereign nation and whatever needs to be said on the issue is a subject matter for the Centre. But I can tell you this, if helpless people come knocking on the doors of Bengal, we will surely provide them shelter," Ms. Banerjee said at the Trinamool Congress's Martyr's Day rally.

She highlighted a UN resolution that asks governments to accommodate refugees in regions adjacent to those facing turmoil.

"Hundreds of students are returning to West Bengal from Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. I have asked our State administration to render all help and assistance to these returnees. For instance, around 300 students are returning to Bengal today [Sunday] and most of them left for their respective destinations."



Mamata Banerjee

safely 35 of them, however, needed help and we provided them with basic amenities and facilitation assistance to get a passport."

Ms. Banerjee said in a series of posts on social media platform X. The Border Security Force (BSF), a state-aided force, in a statement, said that over the past four days, 1,062 students are returning to Bengal from three Land Customs stations in Ghosladanga, Gede, and Maladipur, and the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Pundrabhanga.

Of the 1,062 students, 901 are Indians, and the remaining are students from Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. BSF South Bengal Frontier's spokesperson and Deputy Inspector-General ASB Prajapati confirmed that the BSF is in touch with the Border Guard Bangladesh and has set up special assistance at the ICP and ICPS.

# Sustainable solutions by Rajasthan tribes make a mark at UN forum

Mohammed Iqbal  
MUMBAI

The solutions offered by indigenous tribal communities in Rajasthan to global challenges, and their role in the execution of policies were highlighted at the High-Level Political Forum (HLFP) on Sustainable Development at the United Nations headquarters in New York over the weekend.

The forum was held under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with the theme "Reinforcing the 2030 agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions". A ministerial declaration adopted at the forum called for renewed impetus to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Indigenous solutions**  
ECOSOC president Paula Narvaez said the ministerial declaration had reinforced the urgency of implementing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Tribal women farmers in Rajasthan pledge to protect traditional practices to advance the 2030 agenda for SDGs. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

not only meet their own needs but also contribute to broader societal goals," said secretary of the Banwara-based voluntary group Vaagdhara, Jayesh Joshi.

Mr. Joshi said these practices would not only fulfil their own aspirations, providing them with sustainable and resilient solutions, but would also help address the issues of poverty, inequality and vulnerability, in order to potentially advance the 2030 agenda for SDGs. "Drawing from the principles of swaraj, we aim to foster a lifestyle and cultural values that lead to self-sufficiency," Mr. Joshi said.

These practices have helped tribal communities reduce their dependence on the market and survive during the difficult phases, including the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21. Mr. Joshi said since the global community was facing an unprecedented crisis, including climate change and its socio-economic consequences, the other challenges of economic inequality and environmental degradation would only aggravate in the near future. The tribals in Rajasthan had adopted an innovative approach guided by sustainable and resilient solutions, he added.

Mr. Joshi said these practices would not only fulfil their own aspirations, providing them with sustainable and resilient solutions, but would also help address the issues of poverty, inequality and vulnerability, in order to potentially advance the 2030 agenda for SDGs. "Drawing from the principles of swaraj, we aim to foster a lifestyle and cultural values that lead to self-sufficiency," Mr. Joshi said.

He said the tribal farmers had taken a pledge at these events to save indigenous practices and use them in their regular agricultural

# 'Nitish repeatedly raised Bagmati river flooding concerns with Nepal ex-PM'

Nistula Hebbar  
NEW DELHI

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has "repeatedly" raised concerns about the annual flooding of the Bagmati river with multiple leaders from Nepal, including former Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', a senior leader of the Janata Dal (J) in India.

The Bagmati, which is currently in spate, is one of the major cross-border rivers that flow through the plains of Bihar, carrying a large amount of water from the upper reaches of the Himalayas in Nepal.

"While there are long-standing relationships between the socialist leadership in India and Nepal's leadership, this is one issue where nothing has moved. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has raised this issue repeatedly with many leaders, including former Prime Minister of Nepal Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', the source said.

He said the tribal farmers had taken a pledge at these events to save indigenous practices and use them in their regular agricultural

har districts of Darbhanga, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Muzaffargarh, and Khatwa, before meeting the river Karna in Samitpur. New course  
In the past, the river had a different course, draining directly into the Ganges. But it is the new course that has created the flooding problem, he added. The worst flood it caused in 2007 was not the problem that has continued to recur, leaving the state government in a bind for some way to resolve the issue. The senior JDU leader but the problem has continued to recur, leaving the state government in a bind for some way to resolve the issue.

Nepal has recently undergone a political change

# PPF returns still languishing lower than formula-based rates, says RBI

Vikas Dhoot  
NEW DELHI

The interest rates offered by the Union government on two of India's most popular small savings schemes, including the COVID-19 relief - the Public Provident Fund (PPF) and five-year recurring deposits - continue to languish below the rates they should have earned as per a formula-based system adopted since April 2016, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has indicated.

The PPF rate has been static at 7.1% since April 2020. The return on the five-year deposits, which had been frozen at 5.8% from April 2020 to March 2023, had been hiked gradually over the first three quarters of 2023-24, taking it to 6.7% by last October.

At the time, the RBI had reckoned that the returns on the PPF were 41 basis points (bps) lower than their formula-based rates, while the five-year RD was 21 bps lower, for the October to December 2023 quarter (saving point equals 0.01%).

The formula for quarterly resets of small savings

of guard and Prachanda has been replaced as Prime Minister by Khatwa Prasad Sharma Oli, who is yet to meet with the Indian interlocutors.

Bihar has been urging the government to create the infrastructure needed to prevent flooding, including the construction of a dam. But it is the new course that has created the flooding problem, he added. The worst flood it caused in 2007 was not the problem that has continued to recur, leaving the state government in a bind for some way to resolve the issue.

Nepal has recently undergone a political change



rates, mooted by a panel led by former RBI Deputy Governor Shyamala Gopinath, hiked them to secondary market yields on government securities of comparable maturities over a three-month period prior to each quarter.

The PPF rate was last hiked in October 2018, when it was pegged at 8% by the 2019 Lok Sabha election. The government reduced the rate to 7.9% from July 2019, and slashed it further to 7.1% at the onset of 2020, while the five-year RD was 21 bps lower, for the October to December 2023 quarter (saving point equals 0.01%).

The formula for quarterly resets of small savings

government announced a hike in rates on most small savings schemes for six successive quarters, culminating in the January to March 2024 quarter, when the returns on the Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme (SSAS) were raised from 8% to 8.2%, and the three-year time deposit from 7% to 7.1%.

While there have been no changes in rates since the PPF rate has been excluded from the ambit of all these hikes.

The Finance Ministry has generally defended the gap between the formula-based rate and the PPF rate. "The SSAS rate was frozen at 6.8% from April 2020 to March 2023, but was raised to 8% last April and 8.2% from this January.

# Haryana suspends Internet, bulk SMS for 24 hours in Nuh

Press Trust of India  
CHANDIGARH

The Haryana government on Sunday beefed up security arrangements for the suspension of mobile internet and bulk SMS services in Nuh district for 24 hours ahead of the Braj Mandali festival. The move was marred by violence last year.

Two home guards were killed and at least 15 others were injured last year. Around 2,500 police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed in the district, the police said.

# Heavy rain pounds Maharashtra's coastal belt; flights diverted

The Hindu Bureau  
MUMBAI

Several low-lying areas in Mumbai, Thane, Navi Mumbai were inundated due to the incessant rain. Multiple areas in Nand, Maharashtra, had multiple heavy rain in the Mumbai and Nand regions on Sunday.

The forecast is similar for Raigad and Ratnagiri on Monday and Tuesday. At least 15 flights had to be diverted from Mumbai because of the weather.

Emergency services are on high alert in Maharashtra's coastal belt following heavy rain in the Mumbai and Nand regions on Sunday.

The forecast is similar for Raigad and Ratnagiri on Monday and Tuesday. At least 15 flights had to be diverted from Mumbai because of the weather.

# Bar on govt. servants from associating with RSS lifted: Jairam

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NEW DELHI

The Union government, through a fresh office memorandum, has removed a 58-year-old bar on government servants from associating with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its activities, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said here on Sunday.

Mr. Ramesh posted on X a photo grab of a purported order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on July 9. It referred to the earlier memoranda issued on November 30, 1966, July 28, 1970 and October 28, 1980 on the subject, stating that those instructions were reviewed and it was decided to remove the restriction of "Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (R.S.S.)" from the impugned memoranda.



# Sustainable solutions by Rajasthan tribes make a mark at UN forum

**Mohammed Iqbal**  
JAIPUR

The solutions offered by indigenous tribal communities in Rajasthan to global challenges, and their role in the execution of policies were highlighted at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development at the United Nations headquarters in New York over the weekend.

The forum was held under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) with the theme, “Reinforcing the 2030 agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”. A ministerial declaration adopted at the forum called for renewed impetus to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Indigenous solutions

ECOSOC president Paula Narvaez said the ministerial declaration had reinforced the urgency of implementing the 2030 agenda for sustainable de-



Tribal women farmers in Rajasthan pledge to protect traditional practices to advance the 2030 agenda for SDGs. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

velopment, while the UN body would continue to make multilateral efforts to fulfil the promise to “leave no one behind” in the implementation of SDGs. Experts addressing the forum underlined the significance of acknowledging indigenous communities for their solutions in the context of biodiversity and ecosystems.

The indigenous communities should be globally engaged in the formulation of strategies, which could offer vital insights into sustainable development through traditional practices, the experts said.

“Indigenous solutions

not only meet their own needs but also contribute to broader sustainability goals,” said secretary of the Banswara-based voluntary group Vaagdhara, Jayesh Joshi.


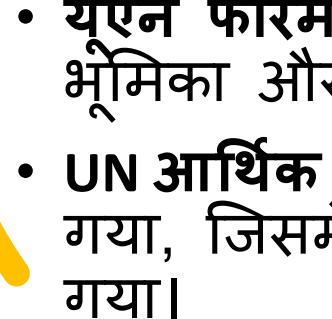
Vaagdhara, working on the tribal livelihood issues in southern Rajasthan, recently organised over 90 events as part of its movement for preservation of indigenous seed varieties to restore links between crop diversity and climate resilience.


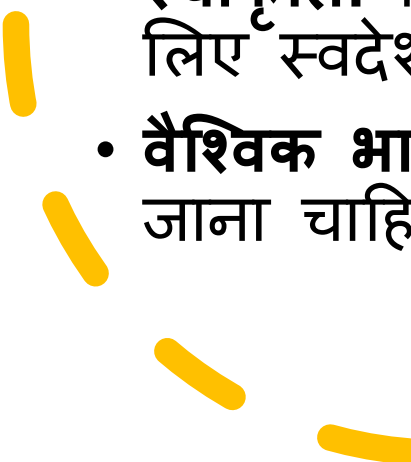
He said the tribal farmers had taken a pledge at these events to save indigenous seeds and use them in their regular agricultural

practice.



These practices have helped tribal communities reduce their dependence on the market and survive during the difficult phases, including the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21. Mr. Joshi said since the global community was facing an unprecedented crisis, including climate change and its socio-economic consequences, the other challenges of economic inequality and environmental degradation would only aggravate in the near future. The tribals in Rajasthan had adopted an innovative approach guided by sustainable and resilient solutions, he added.


Mr. Joshi said these practices would not only fulfil their own aspirations, providing them with sustainable and resilient solutions, but would also help address the issues of poverty, inequality and vulnerability, in order to potentially advance the 2030 agenda for SDGs. “Drawing from the principles of *swaraj* (sovereignty), tribals’ lifestyle and cultural values have led to self-sufficiency,” Mr. Joshi said.

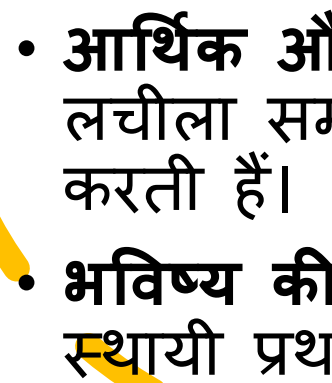
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- **Highlight at UN Forum:** The role of Rajasthan's tribal communities in global challenges and policy execution was discussed at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development.
  - **UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):** The forum was held under ECOSOC, with a focus on reinforcing the 2030 agenda and eradicating poverty.
  - **यूएन फोरम में प्रमुखता:** राजस्थान की जनजातीय समुदायों की वैश्विक चुनौतियों में भूमिका और नीति क्रियान्वयन पर उच्च-स्तरीय राजनीतिक मंच (HLPF) में चर्चा की गई।
  - **UN आर्थिक और सामाजिक परिषद (ECOSOC):** फोरम ECOSOC के अंतर्गत आयोजित किया गया, जिसमें 2030 एजेंडा को मजबूत करने और गरीबी उन्मूलन पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया।
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- **Acknowledgment:** Experts highlighted the importance of recognizing indigenous communities for their contributions to biodiversity and ecosystems.
  - **Global Engagement:** Indigenous communities should be involved in sustainable development strategies.
  - **स्वीकृति:** विशेषज्ञों ने जैव विविधता और पारिस्थितिक तंत्र में उनके योगदान के लिए स्वदेशी समुदायों की पहचान के महत्व को रेखांकित किया।
  - **वैश्विक भागीदारी:** स्वदेशी समुदायों को सतत विकास रणनीतियों में शामिल किया जाना चाहिए।
- 



- 
- **Traditional Practices:** Traditional practices have helped tribal communities reduce market dependence and survive challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - **Broad Sustainability Goals:** These practices contribute to broader sustainability goals, addressing issues like climate change and economic inequality.
  - **पारंपरिक प्रथाएं:** पारंपरिक प्रथाओं ने जनजातीय समुदायों को बाजार निर्भरता कम करने और COVID-19 महामारी जैसी चुनौतियों से निपटने में मदद की है।
  - **विस्तृत स्थिरता लक्ष्य:** ये प्रथाएं व्यापक स्थिरता लक्ष्यों में योगदान देती हैं, जैसे जलवायु परिवर्तन और आर्थिक असमानता के मुद्दों का समाधान करना।
- 

- 
- **Economic and Social Benefits:** These practices provide tribal communities with sustainable and resilient solutions, addressing poverty, inequality, and vulnerability.
  - **Future Prospects:** The global community needs to adopt sustainable practices to tackle ongoing crises.

- 
- **आर्थिक और सामाजिक लाभ:** ये प्रथाएं जनजातीय समुदायों को सतत और लचीला समाधान प्रदान करती हैं, गरीबी, असमानता और भेद्यता का समाधान करती हैं।
  - **भविष्य की संभावनाएं:** वैश्विक समुदाय को चल रहे संकटों से निपटने के लिए स्थायी प्रथाओं को अपनाने की आवश्यकता है।

- 
- Consider the following statements regarding the sustainable solutions presented by Rajasthan tribes at the UN forum:

1. The forum was held under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

2. The practices highlighted by the tribes focus on biodiversity and ecosystem restoration.

3. These practices are aimed at addressing only economic inequality and not environmental issues.

- 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





**BUSINESS AS USUAL**  
By UNNY  
In the recent, 2024 Lok Sabha election, the Opposition...

**Kerala teen who tested positive for Nipah dies**

**SHAJU PHILIP & ANONNA DUTT**  
TRIVANANTHAPURAM, NEW DELHI, JULY 21

A 14-YEAR-OLD boy from Kerala's Malappuram, who had tested positive for the Nipah virus, died at the government Medical College Hospital in Kozhikode on Sunday.  
According to state Health Department officials, he had developed a fever 10 days ago, and on Friday, was put on ventilator support at a private hospital in Kozhikode.  
On Saturday, after the National Institute of Virology in Pune confirmed that the boy had tested positive for the Nipah virus, he was moved to the Medical College Hospital.  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**EXPRESS NETWORK**



**3 DEAD, 8 INJURED IN KERNATH LANDSLIDE** PAGE 9

## Bangladesh SC scales back govt jobs quota that led to protests, killings

**JULHAS ALAM & SHEKH SAALIQ**  
DHAKA, NEW DELHI, JULY 21

BANGLADESH'S TOP court on Sunday scaled back a controversial quota system for government job applicants, in a partial victory for student protesters after days of nationwide unrest and deadly clashes between police and demonstrators that have killed scores of people.  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## AT ALL-PARTY MEET, RAJNATH URGES OPP TO AVOID HOUSE DISRUPTIONS

# Budget session begins: BJP faces Kanwar row heat, allies' special status demands

As Opp demands debate on key issues, Paswan joins JDU special status chorus

**LIZ MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

AT THE all-party meeting convened by the BJP-led NDA government on the eve of the Budget session of Parliament, the BJP appeared to have got a taste of the coalition politics with its allies, as well as erstwhile friendly parties raising various demands and a renewed Opposition asking the government to adopt a "new approach" in both the Houses.  
The crucial three-week session starting Monday is taking place against the backdrop of a changed political landscape in the wake of a fractured verdict in the recent Lok Sabha polls that did not give the BJP a major...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Union Ministers and Opposition MPs at the all-party meeting in New Delhi, Sunday. Anir Mishra

**E** The task ahead  
WITH KEYN ally JDU and fence-sitters YSRCP and BJP — who are crucial to government in Rajya Sabha — reiterating their special status demands, the Budget will generate huge political interest. NDA's floor managers will have to police order in Uttar Pradesh, asking for the Kanwar Yatra route to display names of...

## Kanwar order: Jayant says not well thought out, Praful calls for its withdrawal

**ASAD REHMAN**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

TWO DAYS after J.P. (Ram Vilas) leader and Union minister Chag Patwari opposed the police order in Uttar Pradesh asking for the Kanwar Yatra route to display names of...

## SC to hear plea against Kanwar route order today

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

THE SUPREME Court will take up for hearing on Monday a plea challenging the orders in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh asking enteries and stalls on the Kanwar Yatra route to display names of their owners.  
The plea filed by NGO Association of Protection of Civil Rights (APCR) has been listed before a bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and S.V.N. Bharti.  
Two more petitions have also been filed in the apex court challenging the move in the two states. While the plea by political commentator Apoorv Anand and the one by Justice as President for the court's intervention to ask Biden then posted a subse-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## FIRST U.S. PRESIDENT IN 56 YRS TO OPT OUT

# Biden drops out of White House race, endorses V-P Kamala Harris

Move under pressure from Democrats after debate disaster against Trump

**PETER BAKER**  
WASHINGTON, JULY 21

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden on Sunday abruptly abandoned his campaign for a second term under intense pressure from fellow Democrats and threw his support to Vice President Kamala Harris to lead their party in a dramatic last-minute bid to stop former President Donald Trump from returning to the White House.  
"It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President," he said in a letter posted on social media. "And while it has been my intention to seek re-election, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term."  
Biden then posted a subse-



"It's time to come together and beat Trump": Biden

quent online message endorsing Harris. "My very first decision as the party nominee in 2020 was to pick Kamala Harris as my...  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

RELATED REPORTS  
THE WORLD, PAGE 12

## TURNOVER UP 4 TIMES IN 2 YEARS

# F&Os surge hurt capital formation, growth; a major concern: SEBI, RBI

**SANDEEP SINGH**  
MUMBAI, JULY 21

FINANCIAL MARKET regulators Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are worried that the surging volumes in futures and options have started impinging on capital formation and thus pose a systemic risk to India's economic growth.

"Two years ago, when retail investors flooded the F&O segment, we worried about losses to them, and restricted our action to educating them, warning them. Indeed, nine out of 10 investors were losing money as we subsequently found out. From a micro concern of retail investor losses, it has grown to be a macro problem in just two years; household savings are finding their way into F&Os, it is threatening to hurt cap-

ital formation, investment and growth," said a source close to regulatory decision making, who did not wish to be named.  
Futures and options are derivative contracts that derive their value from underlying assets that include stocks, commodities, currencies etc. Based on their expectation of future price movement, investors enter into a contract to buy or sell the...  
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Ph.D. Admissions Open

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- Institutional Fellowship upto ₹32,000/ Month**  
for merit position holders in the entrance examination
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The meritorious full time scholars may get this grant based on their research credentials\*\*

\*Eligible candidates will be selected by university/department as per norms.  
\*\*Eligible candidates with strong academic qualifications, research experience, doctorate or their equivalent degree (with a preference for candidates who have earned a gold medal), are eligible for the PhD entrance examination and may receive fee position.



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## Over 2 yrs after Pune man goes missing, his family see reunion hopes — in an ad

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**CHANDAN HAYGUDE & ATIKH RASHID**  
PUNE, JULY 21

DNYANESHWAR VISHNU Tambe's family have not seen or heard of him since the 63-year-old left his home in Pune's Shirur taluka in December 2021. Two days ago, their hopes of meeting him again were rekindled after, according to them, he appeared in an advertisement on the Instagram account of the ruling Shiv...



Dnyaneshwar Tambe and (right) the ad with his photo, according to his family.

Sena. The 'Mahayuti' government in Maharashtra, which, apart from Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, comprises the BJP and the NCP (Ajit Pawar), last week launched the 'Mahayuti Yojana', which provides a subsidy of up to Rs. 30,000 to senior citizens for pilgrimage to prominent religious destinations in the state and outside. With Assembly elections due later this year, the state government and CM Shinde's party have been aggressively publicising the scheme. It was one such advertisement that took Tambe's son, Bharat, by surprise on Thursday. He says a friend sent him a screenshot of a WhatsApp status someone on his contacts list had posted. "I saw the screenshot and couldn't believe it. It was my father in the ad of the Teerth Darshan Yojana," said Bharat, who runs an eatery in Shikrapur. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**IDEA EXCHANGE**  
"Many things that cause ageing may have evolved as mechanisms to prevent cancer"  
**VENKI RAMAKRISHNAN**  
BIOLOGIST  
PAGE 14



**PATENT APPROVALS TO FOREIGN ENTITIES AMONG HIGHEST IN WORLD**

# Indian patent applicants lead in FY24, foreigners dominate final clearances

**RAVIDUTTA MISHRA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 21

DRIVEN BY increased applications in sectors such as chemicals, pharma, computer science and information technology, domestic patent applications in FY24 have for the first time outpaced foreign applicants, even though foreign entities maintain a dominant share of patents granted in India, at nearly two-thirds of the overall applications cleared, an analysis of Indian patent data has shown.

Patent approvals, an indicator of research and development (R&D) activity by companies and firms, continue to be skewed in favour of foreign entities with global IT majors such as Qualcomm Inc., Samsung Electronic, Huawei Technologies and Apple taking top spots, edging out Indian companies, Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks (CGPDTM) data showed. The skew in final patents granted too has narrowed, though foreign entities still account for over 70 per cent of the final patent clearances.

Trade policy experts said that the wide gap between domestic and foreign patent holders reflects the inefficiencies in India's R&D capabilities that are exploited by foreign companies often by pre-empting entry of potential domestic competition in the fast-growing Indian consumer market. Lower R&D activity, economists said, results from weak private investments and stagnant government spending. This has resulted in Indian manufacturing depending on imported machinery, parts, and foreign technicians to fulfil export orders.

## Foreign patents in India among highest globally

Global comparisons bear this out. Patents approved for non-resident Indians and entities stood at 74.46 per cent in 2022, which is among the highest in any major economy globally. The

### PATENT APPLICATIONS IN INDIA

	Indian applicants	Foreign applicants	% of foreign applicants
2022-23	43,301	39,519	47%
2021-22	29,508	36,932	55%
2020-21	24,326	34,167	58%
2019-20	20,843	35,625	63%
2018-19	17,005	33,654	66%

### PATENT APPROVALS BY INDIA

	Indian patentee	Foreign patentee	% of foreigners holding patents
2022-23	9,239	24,895	72%
2021-22	6,397	23,676	78%
2020-21	5,629	22,756	80%
2019-20	4,003	20,933	83%
2018-19	2,511	12,772	83%

Source: Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks (CGPDTM)



World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) data showed that the comparable number in the case of China stood at 12.87 per cent. Notably, India has a trade deficit with 8 out of the top 10 trade partners. India's imports in FY24 from China alone crossed \$100 billion.

WIPO data showed that the countries with high spending on R&D had a lower share of foreign patent approvals. For instance, the share was as low as 22.98 per cent for Japan and 26.61 per cent for the Republic of Korea. Japanese and Korean products also hold a dominant position in smartphone and automobile sales in India.

The foreign domination in patent approvals in the European Patent Office stood at 54.83 per cent, Germany at 40.97 per cent and the US at 56.11 per cent. India is the fifth largest economy in the world as per gross domestic product (GDP) data after the US, China, Germany and Japan and aims to become the third largest economy in the next 5 years. Experts pointed out that the rise in foreign patents in India has been fueled by Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, which is a source of 90 per cent of the patents filed by foreign entities.

"India had no compulsion to join PCT in 1998 but India joined the treaty. Around 142 countries are members of PCT and it provides great ease for a multinational company to file patents in

multiple countries simultaneously. MNCs target big markets for expansion and India opened the floodgates by joining PCT," KM Gopakumar, legal advisor, Third World Network said.

## Domestic patent applications rising

Domestic patent applications, however, have been steadily increasing since FY19, bridging the wide gap between domestic and foreign applicants. The patent application of residents in the total request to the patent office rose from 34 per cent in FY19 to 53 per cent in FY24, as per data released by the Office of the CGPDTM.

However, rising applications have not yet translated into approvals as foreigners' share in total patent approval continues to be above 70 per cent for nearly a decade. Experts said that one of the key reasons has been the quality of patent applications as well as the patent ecosystem in the country.

Gopakumar said that the quality of patent approval considered sacred in economies driven by research and innovation suffers from a lower number of patent examiners in the country. The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) examiners in India as per WIPO stands at 597 who approved over 1 lakh patents last year. Whereas, the EU has deployed 3,982 examiners, Germany 821 and the US over 8,000 examiners. "In 2022 India was 6th worldwide in terms of

patent grants wherein a total of 30,490 patents were granted, with 72 per cent awarded to non-residents. It is noteworthy that this trend is reflective of the fact that patents often come with a built-in time lag due to various procedural timeliness. In simpler words, patents granted today often stem from applications filed 4-5 years prior," a government official said.

"Until half a decade ago foreign entities dominated the patent filings in India leading to a majority of grants going to them. This trend witnessed a dynamic shift since 2020. In the 2022-2023 period, total patent filings by residents was around 53 per cent whereas in 2023-24 this figure increased to 55 per cent and this shift is likely to be reflected in future patent grants, depending on the merit of their application as per patentability according to Indian Patent Act 1970 as amended," the official said.

## Stagnation in India's R&D spending

India's spending on research and development as a percentage of GDP has stagnated over the years. R&D spending as a percentage of GDP is lower than the levels of 0.83 per cent seen in 2008, the highest in the last two decades. The comparable number has slipped by 0.65 per cent in 2022 as per World Bank data. This is much lower than the global average of 2.62 per cent.

Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) professor Biswajit Dhar said

that India's R&D intensity has stagnated over the years and does not augur well for the industrial growth which is highly dependent on Chinese imports. "One of the reasons for China's manufacturing success was innovation which complemented its capacity building. Foreign firms cornering a big chunk of patents would not only increase India's tech dependence but also increase foreign exchange outgo," Dhar added. Notably, New Delhi's R&D spending is lower than the top economies which are also the biggest source of patent applications in India. While neighbouring China spends 2.43 per cent of its GDP, for South Korea it stands at 4.93 per cent. In Thailand the number stands at 1.21 per cent, European Union 2.21 per cent and the United States 3.46 per cent. India's former chief statistician TCA Anant said that lower R&D spending is also a reflection of the weaker private investment climate in the country.

"As far as companies are concerned, corporate investments are also low right now. Patents will come down the cycle, once corporate investments are high then R&D investments will pick up. But initially, companies will try to expand capacity with readily available technology. Research is a long-term investment. We were close to China in the 1980s but since then we have lost ground to China. Chinese universities have ramped up research," Anant said.

- **Patenting criteria in India**

Patent is granted on new invention provided the following criteria

#1. novelty

#2. inventive step

#3. industrial application

- **Novelty** :- the invention should not have been published in India or elsewhere
- **Inventive step** :- means a feature of an invention that involves technical advancement as compared to the existing knowledge or having economic significance or both and that makes the invention not obvious to a person skilled in the art
- **Industrial application** :- capable of being used.



**1. Patent Search**



**2. Filing Patent  
Registration Application**



**3. Preparation Of  
Patentability Report**



**4. Review Of Application**



**5. Issuance Of Patent  
Registration Certificate**

## PATENT APPLICATIONS IN INDIA


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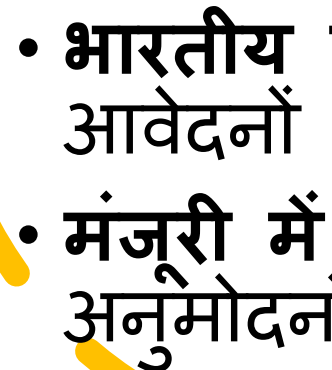
## PATENT APPROVALS BY INDIA

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Source: Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks (CGPDTM)

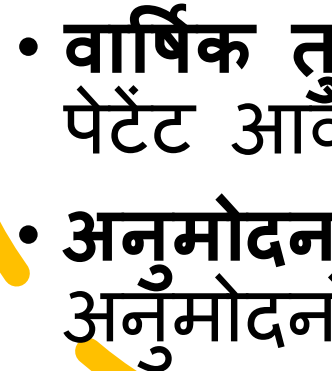


- 
- **Indian Patent Surge:** For the first time, Indian applicants have outpaced foreign applicants in FY24 in patent applications.
  - **Foreign Dominance in Approvals:** Despite the surge in applications, foreign entities still dominate the final patent approvals.

- 
- **भारतीय पेटेंट वृद्धि:** FY24 में पहली बार, भारतीय आवेदकों ने पेटेंट आवेदनों में विदेशी आवेदकों को पीछे छोड़ दिया है।
  - **मंजूरी में विदेशी प्रभुत्व:** आवेदनों में वृद्धि के बावजूद, अंतिम पेटेंट अनुमोदनों में अभी भी विदेशी इकाइयाँ हावी हैं।



- 
- **Yearly Comparison:** Detailed data showing the number of patent applications by Indian and foreign applicants over recent years.
  - **Approval Rates:** Comparison of patent approvals granted to Indian and foreign applicants.

- 
- **वार्षिक तुलना:** हाल के वर्षों में भारतीय और विदेशी आवेदकों द्वारा पेटेंट आवेदनों की संख्या का विस्तृत डेटा।
  - **अनुमोदन दरें:** भारतीय और विदेशी आवेदकों को दिए गए पेटेंट अनुमोदनों की तुलना।

- **Factors Influencing Trends:**
- **R&D Activity:** Increased research and development activities by Indian companies.
- **Foreign Dominance Reasons:** Foreign companies' dominance in approvals due to established R&D capabilities and procedural efficiencies.
- **रुझानों को प्रभावित करने वाले कारक:**
- **आरएंडडी गतिविधि:** भारतीय कंपनियों द्वारा अनुसंधान और विकास गतिविधियों में वृद्धि।
- **विदेशी प्रभुत्व के कारण:** स्थापित आरएंडडी क्षमताओं और प्रक्रियात्मक दक्षताओं के कारण अनुमोदनों में विदेशी कंपनियों का प्रभुत्व।

- Consider the following statements regarding patent applications and approvals in India for FY24:
  1. For the first time, Indian applicants have outpaced foreign applicants in the number of patent applications.
  2. Despite the increase in applications by Indian entities, foreign entities still dominate the final patent approvals.
  3. The stagnation in India's R&D spending has contributed to the dominance of foreign entities in patent approvals.
- 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



# Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)

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- The Union Government plans to increase the **upper limit of the short-term crop loans** under the **Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)** from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.
- **About MISS**
- The interest subvention scheme for farmers aims at **providing short term credit to farmers at subsidised interest rate.**
- The policy came into force with effect from Kharif **2006-07**. The scheme is being implemented for the year **2022-23 to 2024-25.**

- 
- केंद्र सरकार संशोधित ब्याज सहायता योजना (एमआईएसएस) के तहत अल्पकालिक फसल ऋण की ऊपरी सीमा को 3 लाख रुपये से बढ़ाकर 5 लाख रुपये करने की योजना बना रही है।
  - मिस के बारे में
  - किसानों के लिए ब्याज सहायता योजना का उद्देश्य किसानों को रियायती ब्याज दर पर अल्पकालिक ऋण प्रदान करना है।
  - यह नीति खरीफ 2006-07 से लागू हुई। यह योजना वर्ष 2022-23 से 2024-25 तक के लिए क्रियान्वित की जा रही है।



- 
- **The interest subvention will be given to** Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Private Sector Banks, Small Finance Banks, Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on use of own funds and to NABARD for refinance to RRBs and Cooperative Banks.
  - The scheme is being **implemented by NABARD and RBI.**
  - सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों (पीएसबी), निजी क्षेत्र के बैंकों, लघु वित्त बैंकों, सहकारी बैंकों और क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों (आरआरबी) को स्वयं के धन के उपयोग पर और आरआरबी और सहकारी बैंकों को पुनर्वित्त के लिए नाबार्ड को ब्याज छूट दी जाएगी।
  - यह योजना नाबार्ड और आरबीआई द्वारा कार्यान्वित की जा रही है।

- 
- **Eligibility:** Farmers, individuals/ Joint borrowers who are owner cultivator; Tenant farmers, oral lessees & sharecroppers
  - Self Help Groups (SHGs) or Joint Liability Groups (JLG)s of farmers including sharecroppers etc
  - पात्रता: किसान, व्यक्ति/संयुक्त उधारकर्ता जो मालिक कृषक हैं; किरायेदार किसान, मौखिक पट्टेदार और बटाईदार
  - स्वयं सहायता समूह (एसएचजी) या बटाईदारों आदि सहित किसानों के संयुक्त देयता समूह (जेएलजी)

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- **How does it Work?**

- Farmers engaged in Agriculture and other allied activities can acquire Kisan Credit Card loans up to **Rs 3 lakh at a benchmark rate of 9%**.
- However, the Centre provides **2% interest subvention** on the benchmark rate, bringing down the effective rate of interest to **7 percent**.
- An additional **3% concession** for prompt and timely repayment further reduces it to 4% per year.

- यह कैसे काम करता है?

- कृषि और अन्य संबन्ध गतिविधियों में लगे किसान 9% की बेंचमार्क दर पर 3 लाख रुपये तक किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड ऋण प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।
- हालाँकि केंद्र बेंचमार्क दर पर 2% ब्याज छूट प्रदान करता है, जिससे ब्याज की प्रभावी दर 7 प्रतिशत तक कम हो जाती है।
- शीघ्र और समय पर पुनर्भुगतान के लिए अतिरिक्त 3% रियायत इसे प्रति वर्ष 4% तक कम कर देती है।



An aerial photograph of a vast body of water, likely the ocean, showing a prominent white wake or channel cutting through the deep blue surface. The water's texture is highly detailed with ripples and small waves. The text is centered over the image.

# Ivory Coast Joined the United Nations Water Convention



- Ivory Coast joined the United Nations Water Convention, becoming the 10th African nation to do so.
  - About
  - Ivory Coast shares eight transboundary river basins (Black Volta, Bia, Tanoe, Comoe, Niger, Sassandra, Cavally et Nuon) with six of its neighbours, which include Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.
- 
- आइवरी कोस्ट संयुक्त राष्ट्र जल सम्मेलन में शामिल हो गया, ऐसा करने वाला 10वां अफ्रीकी देश बन गया।
  - के बारे में
  - आइवरी कोस्ट अपने छह पड़ोसियों के साथ आठ मीमा पाए नदी बेसिन (ब्लैक वोल्टा बिया टैनो कोमो नादज़र समंडा कैवली एट नुओन) साझा करता है, जिसमें घाना, बुर्किना फासो, माली, गिनी, लाइबेरिया और सिएरा लियोन शामिल हैं।

- 
- Among these, the **Niger basin**, which is the **continent's third-longest river** and **traverses nine countries** (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria), is **one of Africa's most vulnerable regions to climate change**.

- इनमें से, नाइजर बेसिन, जो महाद्वीप की तीसरी सबसे लंबी नदी है और नौ देशों (बेनिन, बुर्किना फासो, कैमरून, चाड, आइवरी कोस्ट, गिनी, माली, नाइजर और नाइजीरिया) से होकर गुजरती है, अफ्रीका के सबसे संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों में से एक है। जलवायु परिवर्तन।



Mali

Burkina  
Faso

Guinea

**Côte  
d'Ivoire**

Ghana

Yamoussoukro ★

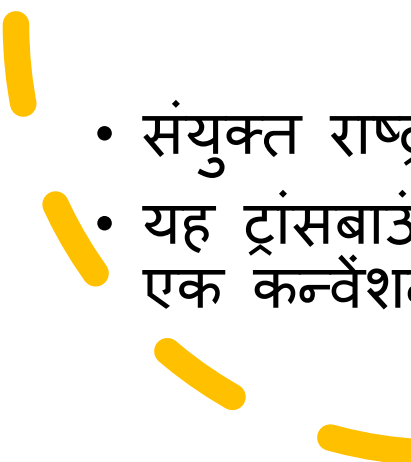
Liberia

Abidjan ●

*Gulf of Guinea*



- 
- **United Nations Water Convention**
  - It is a **1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes**, known as the 1992 UN Water Convention.

- 
- संयुक्त राष्ट्र जल सम्मेलन
  - यह ट्रांसबाउंड्री वॉटरकोर्स और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय झीलों के संरक्षण और उपयोग पर 1992 का एक कन्वेंशन है, जिसे 1992 संयुक्त राष्ट्र जल कन्वेंशन के रूप में जाना जाता है।

- 
- It has **53 member countries**.
  - The Convention obliges Riparian Parties to prevent, control and reduce transboundary impact, use transboundary waters in a reasonable and equitable way and ensure their sustainable management.

- इसमें 53 सदस्य देश हैं।
- कन्वेंशन रिपेरियन पार्टियों को सीमा पार प्रभाव को रोकने, नियंत्रित करने और कम करने, उचित और न्यायसंगत तरीके से सीमा पार जल का उपयोग करने और उनके स्थायी प्रबंधन को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए बाध्य करता है।



A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a dense field of green wheat or barley. The stalks are vibrant green and appear to be blowing in the wind, creating a sense of movement. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a vast field. The overall lighting is bright and natural, highlighting the texture of the grain.

# Green Revolution in Maize

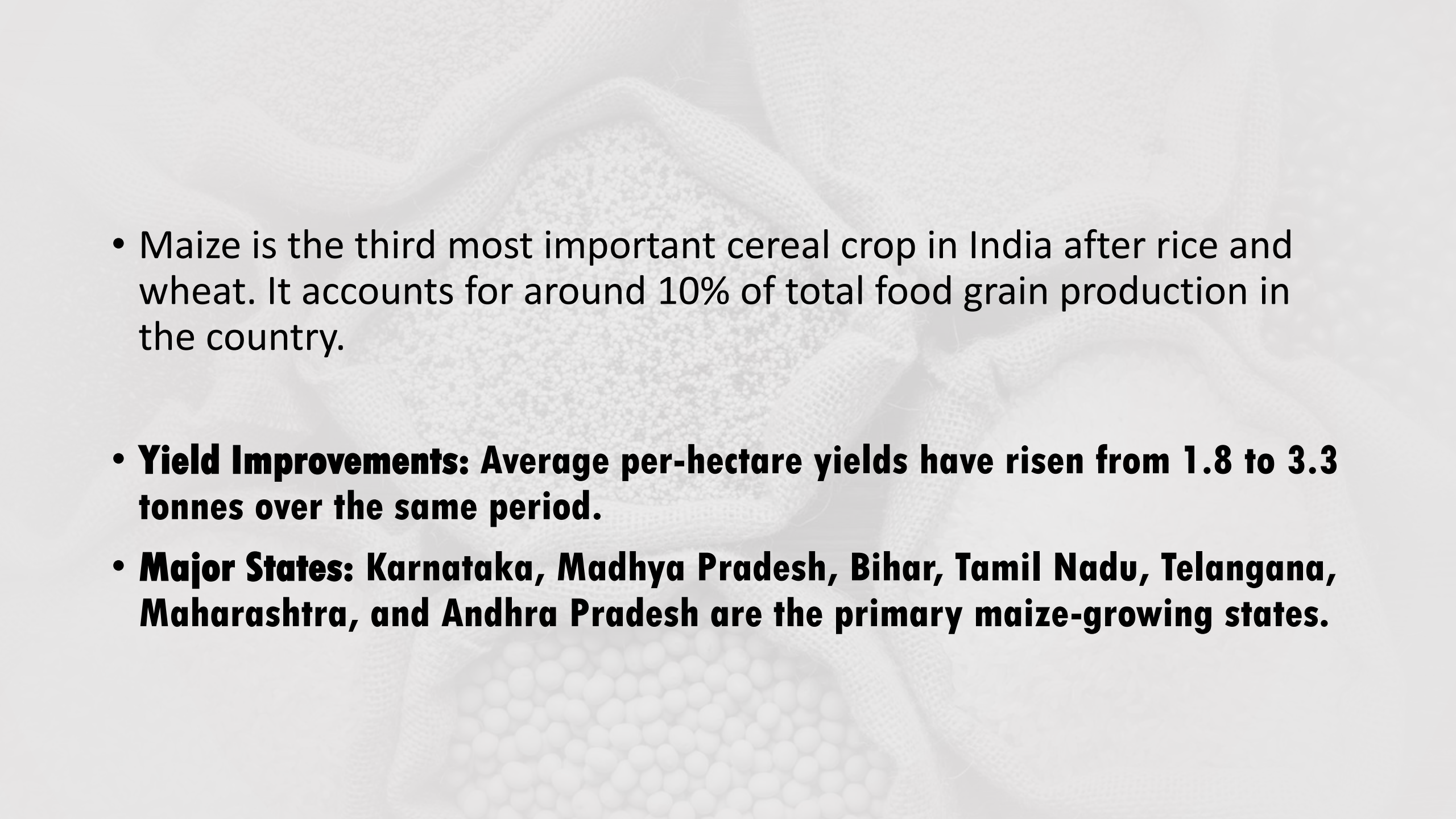


- 
- Recently, India's maize industry has undergone a remarkable transformation, evolving from a basic feed crop to a crucial component in the fuel and industrial sectors.
  - This shift is indicative of a broader green revolution, echoing the historic advances made in wheat and rice but with a modern twist driven largely by private-sector innovations.
  - हाल ही में, भारत के मक्का उद्योग में एक उल्लेखनीय परिवर्तन आया है, जो एक बनियादी चारा फसल से ईंधन और औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में एक महत्वपूर्ण घटक के रूप में विकसित हुआ है।
  - यह बदलाव एक व्यापक हरित क्रांति का संकेत है, जो गेहूं और चावल में हुई ऐतिहासिक प्रगति की प्रतिध्वनि है, लेकिन एक आधुनिक मौड़ के साथ जो बड़े पैमाने पर निजी क्षेत्र के नवाचारों से प्रेरित है।

- What is the Current State of Maize Production in India?
- Tripling Production:
- Since 1999-2000, India's maize production has more than tripled, increasing from 11.5 million tonnes to over 35 million tonnes annually, with average per-hectare yields also rising from 1.8 to 3.3 tonnes.
- As per APEDA, India is the fifth largest maize producer, accounting for 2.59% of global production in 2020.

- भारत में मक्का उत्पादन की वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है?
- ट्रिपलिंग उत्पादन:
- 1999-2000 के बाद से, भारत का मक्का उत्पादन तीन गुना से अधिक हो गया है, जो 11.5 मिलियन टन से बढ़कर 35 मिलियन टन सालाना से अधिक हो गया है, साथ ही प्रति हेक्टेयर औसत पैदावार भी 1.8 से 3.3 टन तक बढ़ गई है।
- एपीडा के अनुसार, भारत पांचवां सबसे बड़ा मक्का उत्पादक है, जो 2020 में वैश्विक उत्पादन का 2.59% है।



- 
- Maize is the third most important cereal crop in India after rice and wheat. It accounts for around 10% of total food grain production in the country.
  - **Yield Improvements:** Average per-hectare yields have risen from 1.8 to 3.3 tonnes over the same period.
  - **Major States:** Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Andhra Pradesh are the primary maize-growing states.

- चावल और गेहूं के बाद मक्का भारत में तीसरी सबसे महत्वपूर्ण अनाज की फसल है। यह देश के कुल खाद्यान्न उत्पादन का लगभग 10% है।
- उपज में सुधार: इसी अवधि में प्रति हेक्टेयर औसत पैदावार 1.8 से बढ़कर 3.3 टन हो गई है।
- प्रमुख राज्य: कर्नाटक, मध्य प्रदेश, बिहार, तमिलनाडु, तेलंगाना, महाराष्ट्र और आंध्र प्रदेश प्राथमिक मक्का उगाने वाले राज्य हैं।

- 
- **Year-Round Cultivation:** Maize is grown throughout the year, predominantly as a Kharif crop( 85% of the maize cultivation area is during this season).
  - **Export Volume:** India exported 3,453,680.58 MT of maize worth Rs. 8,987.13 crores in 2022-23.
    - **Major Export Destinations:** Bangladesh, Vietnam, Nepal, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka are key markets for Indian maize.

- साल भर खेती: मक्का पूरे साल उगाया जाता है, मुख्य रूप से खरीफ़ फसल के रूप में (मक्का की खेती का 85% क्षेत्र इसी मौसम के दौरान होता है)।
- निर्यात मात्रा: भारत ने रु. मूल्य का 3,453,680.58 मीट्रिक टन मक्का निर्यात किया। 2022-23 में 8,987.13 करोड़।
- प्रमुख निर्यात स्थल: बांग्लादेश, वियतनाम, नेपाल, मलेशिया और श्रीलंका भारतीय मक्का के प्रमुख बाजार हैं।



- 
- **Major Uses: Approximately 60% of maize is used as feed for poultry and livestock, while only about 20% is directly consumed by humans.**
  - **Maize is a primary energy source in livestock feed, with 55-65% of broiler feed and 15-20% of cattle feed comprising maize.**
  - **Starch and Ethanol: Maize grains, containing 68-72% starch, are used in industries such as textiles, paper, and pharmaceuticals.**

- प्रमुख उपयोग: लगभग 60% मक्के का उपयोग मुर्गी और पशुओं के चारे के रूप में किया जाता है, जबकि लगभग 20% ही सीधे मनुष्यों द्वारा खाया जाता है।
- पशुधन आहार में मक्का एक प्राथमिक ऊर्जा स्रोत है, जिसमें 55-65% ब्रॉयलर फ़ीड और 15-20% मवेशी फ़ीड में मक्का शामिल है।
- स्टार्च और इथेनॉल: 68-72% स्टार्च वाले मक्के के दानों का उपयोग कपड़ा, कागज और फार्मास्यूटिकल्स जैसे उद्योगों में किया जाता है।

- **Innovations in Maize Cultivation:**

- **The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has bred India's first "waxy" maize hybrid (AQWH-4) with high *amylopectin starch content*, making it better suited for ethanol production.**
- **The starch in maize is a mixture of two polymers, comprising glucose molecules bonded together in a *straight chain (amylose) and in branched form (amylopectin)*.**

- मक्के की खेती में नवाचार:

- भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान (IARI) ने उच्च एमाइलोपेक्टिन स्टार्च सामग्री के साथ भारत का पहला "मोमी" मक्का संकर (AQWH-4) तैयार किया है, जो इसे इथेनॉल उत्पादन के लिए बेहतर अनुकूल बनाता है।
- मक्के में स्टार्च दो पॉलिमर का मिश्रण होता है, जिसमें ग्लूकोज अणु एक सीधी श्रृंखला (एमाइलोज़) और शाखित रूप (एमाइलोपेक्टिन) में एक साथ बंधे होते हैं।

- 
- Green Revolution
  - It was led by Norman Borlaug in the 1960s, resulted in the development of High Yielding Varieties (HYVs) of wheat and led to him winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970.
  - In India, M.S. Swaminathan played a key role in the Green Revolution, which significantly increased food grain production, especially wheat and rice.
- 
- हरित क्रांति
  - 1960 के दशक में इसका नेतृत्व नॉर्मन बोरलॉग ने किया था, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप गेहूं की उच्च उपज वाली किस्मों (HYVs) का विकास हुआ और उन्हें 1970 में नोबेल शांति पुरस्कार जीतने में मदद मिली।
  - भारत में एम.एस. स्वामीनाथन ने हरित क्रांति में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई, जिससे खाद्यान्न उत्पादन, विशेषकर गेहूं और चावल में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई।



# Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) Program

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Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) program is set to get a fresh boost as the Paris Olympics draws near.

पेरिस ओलंपिक नजदीक आते ही खेलो इंडिया राइजिंग टैलेंट आइडेंटिफिकेशन (कीर्ति) कार्यक्रम को नए सिरे से बढ़ावा मिलने वाला है।

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- **About KIRTI**

- KIRTI (Khelo India Rising Talent Identification) aims to develop an **integrated talent identification architecture based on modern ICT tools** and global best practices.
- It seeks to streamline the process of grassroots talent identification on a single platform.

- कीर्ति के बारे में

- कीर्ति (खेलो इंडिया राइजिंग टैलेंट आइडेंटिफिकेशन) का लक्ष्य आधुनिक आईसीटी उपकरणों और वैश्विक सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं के आधार पर एक एकीकृत प्रतिभा पहचान वास्तुकला विकसित करना है।
- इसका उद्देश्य एक ही मंच पर जमीनी स्तर की प्रतिभा की पहचान की प्रक्रिया को सुव्यवस्थित करना है।



The program is set to revolutionize the landscape of Indian sports by focusing on two primary objectives:

- Identifying sports talent from across the nation,
- Using sports to combat drug addiction and excessive gadget use among school **children aged 9 to 18.**

The programme aligns with the nation's aspiration to become a **top 10 sports nation by 2036** and among the **top five by 2047.**



- 
- यह कार्यक्रम दो प्राथमिक उद्देश्यों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करके भारतीय खेलों के परिदृश्य में क्रांति लाने के लिए तैयार है:
  - देश भर से खेल प्रतिभाओं की पहचान करना,
  - 9 से 18 वर्ष की आयु के स्कूली बच्चों में नशीली दवाओं की लत और गैजेट के अत्यधिक उपयोग से निपटने के लिए खेलों का उपयोग करना।
  - यह कार्यक्रम 2036 तक शीर्ष 10 खेल राष्ट्र बनने और 2047 तक शीर्ष पांच में शामिल होने की देश की आकांक्षा के अनुरूप है।





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# Word of the day

## **Nonplus:**

be a mystery or bewildering to

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**Synonyms:** vex, stupefy, baffle, bewilder, dumbfound, perplex, puzzle, flummox, mystify

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**Usage:** *I was nonplussed by his admiration of me.*

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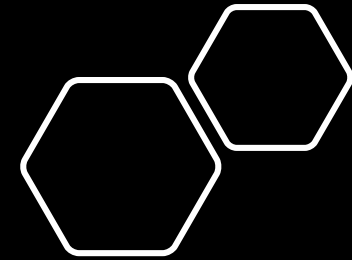
**Pronunciation:** [bit.ly/nonpluspro](http://bit.ly/nonpluspro)

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**International Phonetic**

**Alphabet:** /nɒnˈplʌs/

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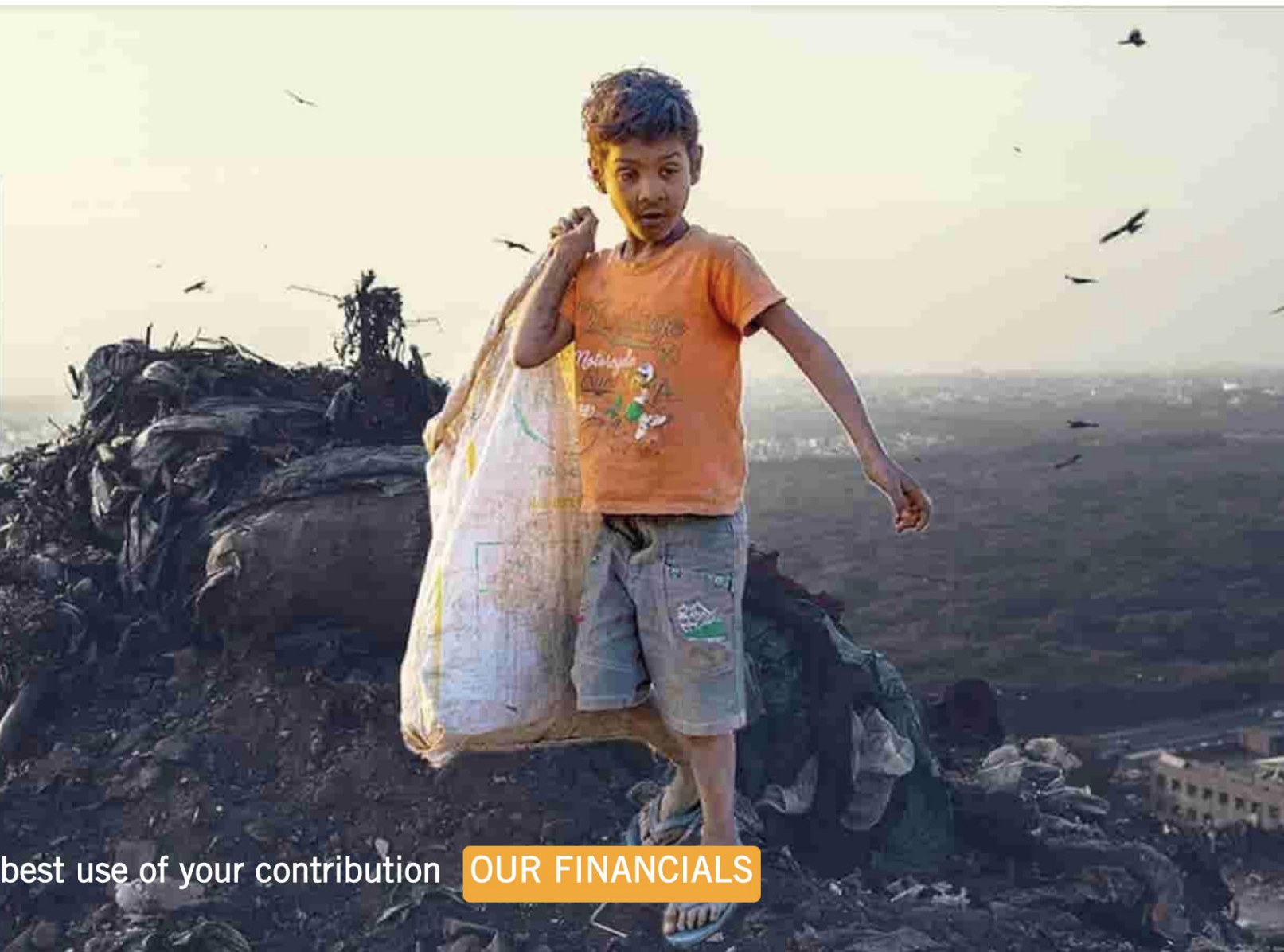





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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some wearing suits. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. The overall mood is celebratory and professional.

Thank you  
guys.

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