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It's better to be a lion for a day than a sheep all your life.

Elizabeth Kenny





SPORT > PAGE 13

At NITI meet, PM calls for States' participation







MAGAZINE» PAGE 1

At least 30 killed in Israeli airstrike on Gaza school

from Assam away GUWAHATI Tourism in Meghalaya took a hit on Friday after members of

Meghalaya's Hynniewtrep National Youth Federation, a

pressure group, turned away Assam-registered private and commercial vehicles from and com strategic locations leading to

popular tourist spots, follow a drive against 'illegal immigrants' . » PAGE 3

GNLF issues BJP 'ultimatum' to form Gorkhaland KOLKATA
The Gorkha National Liberation
Front on Saturday gave an
ufitimatum to the BJP to settle
issues of Gurkhas, including
the creation of a separate
State, by April S, 2025. The call
comes gifts the Union Minister.

comes after the Union Minist of State for Development of

that north Bengal be included

DEIR AL-BALAH Israeli airstrikes hit a school being used by displaced Palestinians in central Gaza on Saturday, killing at least 30 people, several children amo them, as the country's

negotiators prepared to meet international medi Meghalaya group turns vehicles

Narendra Modi, chairing the Governing Council meeting of the NTTI Aayog, says 'Viksit Bharat 2047', or developed India, is the ambition of all Indians and that States can play an active role in achieving this; West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the only Opposition leader to attend the meeting, walks out saying she was 'not allowed' to speak

olitical fault lines that emerged after the Lok Sabha election deepened in the first NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting on Saturday with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the lone leader of the Opposition bloc to attend the meeting, storming out say-ing she was "not allowed"

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Ms. Banerjee left the meeting even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his speech that the dream of a "Viksit Bharat 2047" (developed India) can be achieved only through the combined ef-

forts of all States. "Viksit Bharat 2047 is

the ambition of every In-dian. States can play an ac-tive role in achieving this aim as they are directly connected with the peo-ple," the Prime Minister, who chaired the ninth Governing Council meeting of the body, said. Ms. Banerjee said she came out "boycotting the meeting". "Chandrababu Naidu

(Andhra Pradesh Chief Mi-(Andhra Pradesh Chief Mi-nister) was given 20 mi-nutes to speak. The Chief Ministers of Assam, Goa, Chhattisgarh spoke for 10 to 12 minutes. I was stopped from speaking af-ter just five minutes. This is unfair. From the Opposi-



tion side, I was the only one here. I attended the meeting because coopera-tive federalism should be strengthened," the Trina-mool chief told the media. "They have stopped all

welfare projects for Bengal and deprived the State of its rightful Awas Yojana and rural roads scheme. They also stopped the food subsidy. We are deprived of funds worth ₹1.71 lakh

Congress seeks more domestic investments

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his NITI Aayog speech that focussed o getting more international investments, the Congress on Saturday said the country first needs domestic investments. >> PAGE 4

crore. This Budget has nothing but zero. Imme-diately after I said this, the mic was switched off," she said.

PIB Fact check unit posted on X that the claim was "misleading". "The clock only showed that her speaking time was over. Even the bell was not rung to mark it," it said. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said every Chief Minister was gi ven the allotted time and that was displayed on the screen which was kept be-fore every table.

'Unfortunate claim' 'Unfortunate claim'
"She said in the media that her mic was turned off. That is completely false. It's unfortunate that the Chief Minister of West Ben-gal Mamata Banerjee has claimed that her mic was switched off, which is not

than again build a narra-tive based on falsehood," Ms. Sitharaman said. The meeting was attend-

ed by representatives of 26 States and Union Territo-ries and those from 10 were absent, B.V.R. Sub-rahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog, told the media. All Opposition-ruled States ex-cept West Bengal were

He said the agenda for He said the agenda for the meeting was 'Viksit Bharat' and Prime Minister Modi observed that the vi-sion of developed India can be realised through de-veloped States and that the aspiration should reach the grassroots level.

Shoring up



An upgrade: Work on the installation of a vertical central span is in progress on the new Pamban bridge in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. The new bridge with single railway line will replace the old Pamban rail bridge built in 1914, L. BALACHANDAR

Soldier, Pak. infiltrator killed near LoC in J&K's Kupwara

The Hindu Bureau

An Army soldier and a Pa-Listanal infiltrator were killed in a gunfight that fol-lowed an attack on an Ar-my post close to the Line of the common state of the common state of Kashmir's Kupwara district on Saturday morning. An Army spokesperson said a group of two to three of bad weather and poor visibility along the LoC in Machil Sector and "fired from close proximity", set from close proximity", set from close proximity. infiltrator

from close proximity".

"The alert troops responded vigorously and in the ensuing exchange of

fire, one Pakistani intruder was killed. Weapons, am-



Exchange of fire: Security personnel during an operation in Kupwara in north Kashmir on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

munition and war-like stores were recovered. The identity and affiliation of the Pakistani national is be-ing ascertained," the Army said.

The deceased soldier was identified as Rifleman

Mohit Rathour. "Chinar Warriors salute his im-mense valour and sacrif-ice, and stand in solidarity with the bereaved family," the Army said. Another soldier who was injured is stable.

Environmentalists alarmed as Himachal witnesses gradual snowfall pattern shift

Vikas Vasudeva

Himachal Pradesh has not only witnessed a reducing snow cover over the years, but also a gradual shift in snowfall occurrence pat-tern from winter months towards early summer months, raising concern surrounding clin bility in the ecologically fragile Himalayas.

fragile Himalayas.

The decrease in the snow cover during the peak winter months of December and January is escember and January is especially worrisome and adming as it uniformatical to the second of the secon



the Beas in Himachal Pra-

the Beas in Himachal Pra-desh have witnessed an ov-erall decrease of 12.72% in area under snow in 2023-24 winters in comparison to 2022-25. The study conducted using Advanced Wide Field Sensor (AWIPS) satellite da-ta, also points out that dur-

ing 2023-24, the early win-ter months of October-November were characterised by a decrease in snow cover area except the Ravi basin, which showed a marginal increase in the area under snow in October

Negative trend Similarly, the peak winter months of December-Janu-

ary saw a negative trend in ary saw a negative trend in the area under snow. Nota-bly, during the late winter months of February and March, the trend was posi-March, the trend was posi-tive with an increase in the area under snow in all ba-sins against last year. In fact, during April the snow cover area increased due to fresh snowfall in the early summer on higher mountain reaches in all the basins.

Planning is under way for a visit by Prime Minister Na-rendra Modi to Ukraine, likely on August 23, for what would be his first trip to the war-torn country, official and diplomatic sources confirmed. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had reacted sharplenskyy had reacted snarp-ly to Mr. Modi's visit to Moscow earlier this month, even as India as-serted its "freedom of choice" and "strategic au-tonomy" on foreign relations.

relations.
"It is quite possible that [the visit] could be on August 23," one official in the know said, while another said that the modalities are being worked out.

Dinakar Peri

Modi likely to visit Ukraine on August 23,

modalities being worked out, say officials

Officials from the Minis-Officials from the Minis-try of External Affairs de-clined to comment on the proposed visit.

Diplomatic sources said that "nothing is confirmed at present".

Noting the great interest shout the "external vicie"

Ukraine, the spokesperson of the Ukraine Embassy in India Volodymyr Prytula said that at this stage, there will be "no additional in-formation" on the issue. "When we have the official information to share, I will about the "potential visit" communicate immediate-of the Prime Minister to ly," he said in response to

Reports about the im-pending visit come after weeks of bitter criticism of Mr. Modi's visit to Russia on July 8 and 9 that coin-cided with a major Russian missile attack against Ukrainian targets, including a children's hospital in Kyiv.

Senior U.S. officials, includ ing National Security Advi-sor Jake Sullivan, called Mr. Modi's visit a "disappointsor Jake Sullivan, called Mr.
Modi's visit a "disappointment" in terms of "symbolism and timing". Since
then, it is understood that
creal steps to limit the damage from the visit, engaging several Western
diplomats on the issue,
and even indicating that a
visit by Mr. Modi to Kyir
could be on the cards.

At NITI meet, PM calls for States' participation

Narendra Modi, chairing the Governing Council meeting of the NITI Aayog, says 'Viksit Bharat 2047', or developed India, is the ambition of all Indians and that States can play an active role in achieving this; West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the only Opposition leader to attend the meeting, walks out saying she was 'not allowed' to speak

Sreeparna Chakrabarty NEW DELHI

olitical fault lines that emerged after the Lok Sabha election deepened in the first NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting on Saturday with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the lone leader of the Opposition bloc to attend the meeting, storming out saying she was "not allowed" to speak.

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"Viksit Bharat 2047 is the ambition of every Indian. States can play an active role in achieving this aim as they are directly connected with the people," the Prime Minister, who chaired the ninth Governing Council meeting of the body, said.

Ms. Banerjee said she came out "boycotting the meeting".

"Chandrababu Naidu (Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister) was given 20 minutes to speak. The Chief Ministers of Assam, Goa, Chhattisgarh spoke for 10 to 12 minutes. I was stopped from speaking after just five minutes. This is unfair. From the Opposi-



Way forward: Prime Minister Narendra Modi chairs the 9th NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting in New Delhi on Saturday. ANI

tion side, I was the only one here. I attended the meeting because cooperative federalism should be strengthened," the Trinamool chief told the media.

"They have stopped all

welfare projects for Bengal and deprived the State of its rightful Awas Yojana and rural roads scheme. They also stopped the food subsidy. We are deprived of funds worth ₹1.71 lakh

Congress seeks more domestic investments

NEW DELHI

Targeting Prime Minister
Narendra Modi over his NITI
Aayog speech that focussed on
getting more international
investments, the Congress
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first needs domestic
investments. » PAGE 4

crore. This Budget has nothing but zero. Immediately after I said this, the mic was switched off," she said.

The government hit back quickly. The official

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Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said every Chief Minister was given the allotted time and that was displayed on the screen which was kept before every table.

'Unfortunate claim'

"She said in the media that her mic was turned off. That is completely false. It's unfortunate that the Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee has claimed that her mic was switched off, which is not true. She should speak the truth behind this rather than again build a narrative based on falsehood," Ms. Sitharaman said.

The meeting was attended by representatives of 26 States and Union Territories and those from 10 were absent, B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO of NITI Aayog, told the media. All Opposition-ruled States except West Bengal were absent.

He said the agenda for the meeting was 'Viksit Bharat' and Prime Minister Modi observed that the vision of developed India can be realised through developed States and that the aspiration should reach the grassroots level.



Government Agency overview

Formed 1 January 2015; 9 years

ago

Preceding Planning Commission

Government

Agency

Jurisdiction Government of India

Headquarters New Delhi

Annual budget ₹400.65 crores (US\$48+

million) (2020–21)^[1] including Ministry of

Planning

Government

Agency

executives

Narendra Modi,

Chairperson

Suman Bery, Vice

Chairperson

B. V. R. Subrahmanyam,

CEO

Parent Ministry of Planning

Government

Agency

• The NITI Aayog (lit. 'Policy Commission'; abbreviation for National Institution for Transforming India) serves as the apex public policy think tank of the Government of India, and the nodal agency tasked with catalyzing economic development, and fostering cooperative federalism and moving away from bargaining federalism through the involvement of State Governments of India in the economic policymaking process using a bottom-up approach.

• Its initiatives include "15-year road map", "7year vision, strategy, and action plan", AMRUT, Digital India, Atal Innovation Mission, Medical Education Reform, agriculture reforms (Model Land Leasing Law, Reforms of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee Act, Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index for ranking states), Indices Measuring States'

Performance in Health, Education and Water Management, Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Rationalization of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Skill Development, Task Forces on Agriculture and up of Poverty, and Transforming India Lecture Series.

 A Governing Council composed of Chief Ministers of all the States and Union territories with Legislatures and lieutenant governors of Union Territories (except Delhi and Puducherry





- Ex-Officio Members: Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitaraman and Arjun Munda. [21]
- Special Invitees: Nitin Gadkari, Piyush Goyal, Virendra Kumar, Ashwini Vaishnaw and Rao Inderjit Singh.^[21]
- Full-time Members: V. K. Saraswat (former DRDO Chief), Ramesh Chand (Agriculture Expert)^[22] and V. K. Paul (Public Health expert),^[23] Arvind Virmani (Economist).
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO): B. V. R. Subrahmanyam^[24]
- Governing Council: All Chief Ministers of States (including Delhi and Puducherry), Lieutenant Governors of all other UTs^[25]

- 1.NITI Aayog is the premier policy think tank of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs.
- 2.It replaced the Planning Commission of India in 2015.
- 3. The Prime Minister of India is the Chairperson of NITI Aayog.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 1 and 2 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 1, 2 and 3

Environmentalists alarmed as Himachal witnesses gradual snowfall pattern shift

Vikas Vasudeva

CHANDIGARH

Himachal Pradesh has not only witnessed a reducing snow cover over the years, but also a gradual shift in snowfall occurrence pattern from winter months towards early summer months, raising concern surrounding climate variability in the ecologically fragile Himalayas.

The decrease in the snow cover during the peak winter months of December and January is especially worrisome and alarming as it could affect the water availability during summer as the snow that occurs during these peak winters sustains for a long time and enhances the discharge dependability of the major river basins



Alarming signs: The decrease in the snow cover during December and January could affect the water availability during summer. PTI

during summer.

A study conducted by the Centre on Climate Change of Himachal Pradesh Council for Science Technology-Environment (HIMCOSTE) has revealed that all the major river basins including the Satluj, the Ravi, the Chenab and the Beas in Himachal Pradesh have witnessed an overall decrease of 12.72% in area under snow in 2023-24 winters in comparison to 2022-23.

The study conducted using Advanced Wide Field Sensor (AWiFS) satellite data, also points out that during 2023-24, the early winter months of October-November were characterised by a decrease in snow cover area except the Ravi basin, which showed a marginal increase in the area under snow in October.

Negative trend

Similarly, the peak winter months of December-January saw a negative trend in the area under snow. Notably, during the late winter months of February and March, the trend was positive with an increase in the area under snow in all basins against last year.

In fact, during April the snow cover area increased due to fresh snowfall in the early summer on higher mountain reaches in all the basins. Himachal Pradesh has witnessed a reducing snow cover over the years (हिमाचल प्रदेश में बर्फ की परत कम हो रही है).

There is a gradual shift in snowfall occurrence from winter months to early summer months (बर्फबारी का समय सर्दियों से प्रारंभिक गर्मियों की ओर बढ़ रहा है).

Impact on Environment (पर्यावरण पर प्रभाव)

Ecological Concerns (पारिस्थितिक चिंता)

- Climate variability in the fragile Himalayas is raising concern (नाजुक हिमालय में जलवायु परिवर्तन चिंता बढ़ा रहा है).
- Decrease in snow cover during peak winter months (सर्दियों के चरम महीनों में बर्फ की परत में कमी).

HIMCOSTE Study (HIMCOSTE अध्ययन) Conducted by Centre on Climate Change of Himachal Pradesh Council for Science Technology-Environment (हिमाचल प्रदेश विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी परिषद के जलवायु परिवर्तन केंद्र द्वारा किया गया).

Major river basins like Satluj, Ravi, Chenab, and Beas have seen a decrease in snow cover by 12.72% in 2023-24 winters compared to 2022-23 (मुख्य नदी घाटियों जैसे सतलुज, रावी, चेनाब और ब्यास में 2023-24 की सर्दियों में बर्फ की परत में 12.72% की कमी).

Early Winter Months (प्रारंभिक सर्दियों के महीने)October-November saw a decrease in snow cover area except Ravi basin (अक्टूबर-नवंबर में बर्फ की परत में कमी देखी गई, सिवाय रावी बेसिन के).

Peak Winter Months (चरम सर्दियों के महीने) December-January showed a negative trend in snow cover area (दिसंबर-जनवरी में बर्फ की परत में नकारात्मक रुझान दिखा).

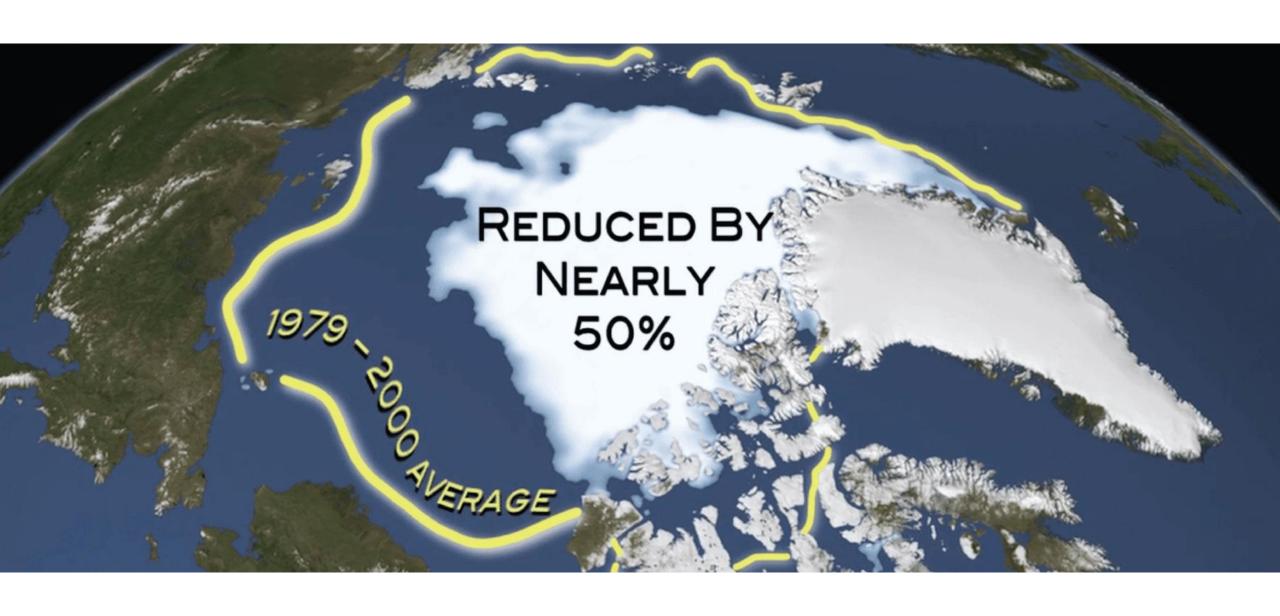
Late Winter Months (देर सर्दियों के महीने)

• February-March showed an increase in snow cover area (फरवरी-मार्च में बर्फ की परत में वृद्धि देखी गई).

Early Summer Months (प्रारंभिक गर्मियों के महीने)

• April saw an increase in snow cover due to fresh snowfall in higher mountain reaches (अप्रैल में ऊंचे पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में नई बर्फबारी के कारण बर्फ की परत में वृद्धि देखी गई).





 Cryosphere is an all-encompassing term that refers to that part of the Earth's surface where water is in solid form, including sea ice, frozen lake, frozen river, snow cover, glaciers, polar ice caps, ice sheets, and permafrost.

- Importance of Glaciers
- Source of freshwater: Glaciers hold three fourth of the world's freshwater supply. Water from glaciers sustains large population across the globe.
- Increase albedo: Glacial regions reflect sunrays, thereby reducing temperatures of cryosphere. This prevents ice from melting.
- Hydropower generation: Freshwater from glaciers is responsible for giving rise to rapidly flowing rivers that can be harnessed to generate hydropower.
- Irrigation: Water from glaciers has been used to irrigate crops in high elevation regions of the world, especially in Ladakh.
- Sea water rise: The key to keep sea levels constant is by preventing melting of glacial ice.

- Important Glaciers in India
- Siachen glacier: Located near Karakoram rage. It feeds the Nubra River, which ultimately joins Indus.
- Gangotri glacier: Located in Garhwal Himalayas, the glacier is the source of Bhagirathi River, which is the mother stream of the Ganges.
- Zemu glacier: Located near Kanchenjunga Mountain. It feeds the Teesta River.
- Milam glacier: It is located in Kumaon Himalayas. It feeds the Goriganga, which is a tributary of Kali River.
- Bara Shigri glacier: It is located in Pir Panjal Range. It feeds the Chandra River, which is one part of Chandrabhaga River (Chenab).

- Bara Shigri glacier: It is located in Pir Panjal Range. It feeds the Chandra River, which is one part of Chandrabhaga River (Chenab).
- Biafo Gyang glacier: Located in Karakoram Range of Gilgit-Baltistan, this glacier gives rise to Shigar River, which is a tributary of Indus.
- Pindari glacier: It is south of Nanda Devi Peak. It feeds the Pindar River, which ultimately joins the Ganges.
- Machoi glacier: Located in Ladakh, it is a source for rivers such as Sind and Dras, which flow into the Indus.

- Glaciers in News
- Thwaites glacier (Doomsday glacier): Antarctica
- Chorabari glacier: Mandakini river basin, Uttarakhand
- Lambert glacier: Antarctica
- Vatnajökull Glacier: Iceland
- Mendenhall glacier: Alaska.

- Consider the following statements regarding the snowfall pattern shift in Himachal Pradesh:
- 1. Himachal Pradesh has witnessed a reducing snow cover over the years.
- 2. The peak winter months of December-January have shown an increase in the snow cover area.
- 3. The study by HIMCOSTE revealed that all major river basins in Himachal Pradesh have witnessed a decrease in snow cover by 12.72% in 2023-24 winters compared to 2022-23.
- 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

Myanmar PM, Doval discuss stability of border region

Press Trust of India

Myanmar Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlain has met National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and discussed measures

and discussed measures for forging peace and sta-bility in the border region. Mr. Doval was in Myan-mar to lead the Indian demar to lead the Indian de-legation at the 4th annual meeting of the security chiefs of the Bay of Bengal vision of the Bay of Bengal Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). Aung Hlaing, the Chair-man of the State Adminis-tration Council, received Mr. Doval at his office on

two nations, the political progress of Myanmar, preparations to hold a free and fair multiparty demo cratic general election, and res for forging peace and stability in the border region, The Global New region, The Global New Light of Myanmar, a go-vernment-owned new-

spaper reported. strives to forge peace and stability in the border region of India, the paper said.

The two nations share a

1,643-km-long border which passes through Miz-oram, Manipur, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.

Meghalaya groups turn away vehicles from outside State

Tourism industry hit; hoteliers claim 30% cancellation of bookings as the pressure groups target Assam-registered private, commercial vehicles; the police put an end to the activities and arrest 10

ourism in Megha-laya took a hit after a pressure group turned away Assam-regis-tered private and commer-cial vehicles from strategic

transporters from outside the State operate. The checking of passen-

the checking of passen-gers followed a drive by two other such organisa-tions – the Khasi Students' Union and the Federation of Khasi Jaintia Garo Peo-ple – against migrant la-bourers or "illegal immigrants" employed in the State without "work per-mit". Over the past few days, the drive saw more than 2,500 labourers exit Meghalaya.
"The incident led to a

30% drop in hotel accom-modation bookings on Fri-day and about 35% today [Saturday], although we feared it would go down by 50%. Thankfully, the



Members of the Khasi Students' Union had earlier this month set up their own 'inner line permit' check gate to deny entry to 'outsiders'. FACEBOOK/KSU

Shillong Hotels president said. He also said members of the federation and all other stakeholders in the tourism industry apolo-gised to the tourists for the ordeal they had to undergo, and assured them that such incidents would not happen again.

Organisations such as the Tour Operators' Asso-ciation of Meghalaya, ho-wever, foresaw "tough days" ahead as a series of incidents in the State - peran idents in the State – per-ceived to be anti-outsiders coincided with an advi-sory by the United States for its citizens to avoid tra-

counts had contacted CSIR headquarters and pursued a matter related to the allo

cation of about ₹7 crore for the expenditure incurred by NEIST towards pur-chase of the equipment to

be supplied by the compa-ny in question. "Thereafter, the ac-

cused controller of store

& purchase (bribe receiver) and accused finance and

and accused mance and accounts officer allegedly discussed among them-selves their share of bribe as ₹7 lakh and ₹2 lakh,"

sides Manipur in the

rtheast. "It took us many years to build up the tourism footfall that Meghalaya en-joys today. Friday's incident has undone much of our hard work," the asso-ciation's president, Banhum Blah said.

Superintendent of Police of the East Khasi Hills district, said 10 members of the HNYF were arrested af ter a suo motu case was registered against them for unlawful activities, "Police personnel will be posted in

Minister also in charge of the Home Ministry, con-demned the HYNF and asked it not to cross the

line. "We will not allow such things to happen again," he said, admitting

that members of the organ isation caught the gov ment by surprise by going The actions of the pressure groups are related to the demand to implement the Meghalaya Residents' Safety and Security Act and the British-era inner line permit, which are deemed protective shields for indigenous communi-

to travel to ISS in mission with NASA Press Trust of India ISRO has signed

Gaganyaan astronaut

One of the four astronauts undergoing training for the Gaganyaan mission will travel to the International Space Station as part of a collaborative effort with NASA, Union Minister Ji-tendra Singh has informed the Lok Sabha.

the Lok Sabha.

In a written reply, Mr.
Singh said NASA has identified Axiom Space, a private
entity, while the ISRO had
signed a space flight agreement with the U.S. firm for
the joint mission to the International Space Station
(ISS).

(ISS).

During Prime Minister
Narendra Modi's visit to
the U.S. last year, President
toe Biden announced that India and the U.S. were collaborating to send an In-

India's Astronaut Selec-tion Board had picked four of test pilots from the In-dian Air Force for the Gaga-nyaan mission, India's first manned space mission planned to take place next year. "All four astronauts have undergone training uts are undergoing training at the ISRO's As-tronauts Training Facility (ATF) in Bengahuru for the Gaganyaan Mission." Mr.

agreement with the U.S. firm for the

Singh said.

Singh said.

The Minister said two out of three semesters of the Gagnyarri training programme have been completed while independent training simulators and static mock-up simulators have been realised.

Sharing an update on the

Gaganyaan mission, Mr. Singh said ground testing of propulsion systems stag-es, including solid, liquid and cryogenic, towards hu-man rating of the launch vehicle has been complet-ed. Design and realisation of five types of crew escape system solid motors has

been completed, he said. The Union Minister said static testing of all five types of solid motors too has been completed. Also, the first Test Vehicle mission (TV-DI) for perfor-mance validation of crew escape system and parachute deployment has been successfully accom-plished, he added.

He said characteridsa-tion of the Thermal Protec-

14% of Indians signed up on DigiLocker: most in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau NEW DEL341

Delhi has the highest pro-portion of Aadhaar-linked DigiLocker sign-ups in In-dia, with an estimated 29.38% of the population signed up on the service, according to an analysis o data released by the go vernment, read with an es

trieve other personal docu college degrees, vehicle re

formation Technology of Friday in response to a Ra

Ladakh has the poores ries, with only 5,403 of ar ated 3.05 lakh popu registered on Dig

CBI arrests scientist, three others for corruption in + purchase of equipment

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested a principal scientist and a controller of stores and purchase of CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST) in Assam's Jorhat and two others for their involvement in corruption in the

software.
The agency has arrested principal scientist Prasenjit Manna, controller of stores with the second principal scientist Prasenjit Manna, controller of stores werna, Kangkan Kashyap, director of Delhi-based KKK Technologies Private Limited, and his brother Angkan Borpujari, a resitions pertain to the award of a contract and passing of a bill for supply of the

role of other public

*Undue favours'
According to the CBI, the
accused public servants
were involved in corrupt
and illegal activities of obtaining undue advantage
from different private parties in lieu of extending undue favours in the matter

Allegations pertain contract for supply of spectrophotometer and its software

mined. Abhay Sakhare. CSIR-NEIST finance and accounts officer, Rama Shan-kar Sharma, posted as con-troller of finance and accounts at the institute, and Jatin Kalita, senior principal scientist, Centre for Infectious Disease in CSIR-NEIST, are under the

Pawar responds to Shah's 'godfather of corruption' remark

The Hindu Bureau

Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Friday responded to BJP leader Amit Shah's "god-father of corruption" remark by recalling the Un-ion Home Minister's days of externment from Gujarat. "It's strange that a per-son who misused the law and was externed from and was externed from Gujarat by the Supreme Court is India's Home Mi-nister now," said the Rajya Sabha member, while ad-

Sabha member, while ad-dressing a gathering at Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. Mr. Shah, during a cam-paign speech on July 21, had accused Mr. Pawar of the structure likely and the second had accused Mr. Pawar of institutionalising graft and branded the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) the 'Auran-gazeb Fan Club'. Mr. Pawar was referring to when Mr. Shah was in-vestigated for his role in the 2005 Sohrabuddin Sheikh fake encounter

as ₹7 lakh and ₹2 lakh," said the agency, adding that the accused senior principal scientist had al-leged as a scientist had a part of the scientist had a constant for a bribe. Following a tip-off, the €BI laid a trap and arrested the two public servants while they were receiving ₹7 lakh on Friday. The di-



Sharad Pawar

case. Talking to medianer sons on Saturday, Mr. Pa-war also questioned the timing of the Mahayuti go-vernment's Ladki Bahin vernment's Ladki Bahin (Adorable Sister) and Lad-ka Bhau (Adorable Broth-er) schemes launched ahead of the Assembly polls.

C"There is no money in

C"There is no money in the State treasury. One or two instalments will be gi-ven prior to the election but who will pay the next instalment," he asked. He touched upon the Maratha quota issue, and sought as immediate only

sought an immediate solu-tion from the government.

Shah should shed his ego. set up cross-LoC advisory committee to aid J&K: Mufti +

The Hindu Bureau SRINAGAR

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president and form-er J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday asked the Centre to work towards constituting a cross-Line of Control (LoC) advisory committee bet-ween J&K and Pakistan-oc-cupied Kashmir (P-K).

"Home Minister Amit Shah keeps talking about bringing back that part of Kashmir (Pakistan-occuform a committee of the re-presentatives of this Kash-mir and that Kashmir, and bring us together. We will sit together twice a year and discuss the issues we face," Ms. Mufti said. She was addressing par-

ty workers in Srinagar on the 25th foundation day of the party.



Asia, Ms. Mufti said the iron-hand policy had failed to achieve anything in Kashmir and there was a Rashmir and there was a need for dialogue and reneed for dialogue and recharacteristic and reshah should put his egosaide and facilitate a meeting of representatives ofsaides. Former Prime Minister Atal Bithari Valpayee did,
she recalled. his tenure,
she asked the Union
the achievements made by
adopting an iron-hand polty in 1845. "What has been

er) Waheed Para, who was jailed on terrorism charg-es, received 2,00,000 votes. The government thinks it has eliminated the PDP but look at the turnor for this PDP foundation day. PDP is not finished, she said.

She also criticised the Centre over the spurt in militancy in J&K. "Foreign Jammu kill and then

universities," she said.

Ms. Mufti said no one
was happy in J&K and La

SC to hear tomorrow ED's plea challenging bail to Hemant Soren

Press Trust of India

scheduled to hear on Monday an Enforcement Direc-torate (ED) plea challeng-ing the Barkhand High Court's order granting ball Court's order granting ball Soren in a money lemder-ing case linked to an al-leged land scam. A Bench of Justices B.R. Cavai and K.V. Viswanath-an is scheduled to hear the answer of the second of the second conder.

president of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), had

shortly before the ED ar-rested him on January 31. After coming out of jail on bail, he took oath as the The Central agency, op-posing Mr. Soren's bail plea, had alleged that he misused his position as the Chief Minister to "unlaw-land in the Bargain area in Ranchi.

Ranchi.

Earlier, during the hearing in the High Court, the ED's counsel had argued that if Mr. Soren was released on bail, he might commit a similar offence and referred to cover. and referred to cases against ED officers in the SC/ST police station. Appaji Reddem

Trade between India and Australia is on a great trajectory owing to the recently floated free trade agreement — Economic ConAgreement — Economic ConAgreement (ECTA) — and exports from India to Australia have gone up subtralia have gone up subtralia have gone up subtralia have gone up subtralia from India to Australia Commissioner Children ConGreen said on Saturday.

He also said that Australia ConGreen said on Saturday in Conpossibilities in building Amaravati as Andria Pradesh's capital city.

Speaking to Tralia Conhard Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu in Amaravati, Mr. Green said,

dia's exports to the world
dia's exports to the world Trade between India and

Opportunities in India Mr. Green was visiting Am-aravati to congratulate Mr. Naidu on his landmark vic-tory. The visit was also visced to emboring days

have gone up by about 37% but in the same period, In-dia's exports of goods to Australia were up by 66%, nearly twice as much." The signing of the ECTA has resulted in a 77% utili-

sation rate by traders and sation rate by traders and key sectors in the last four months of this year; Indian exports of apparel report-edly went up more than 20%, iron and steel by 25% and agriculture exports by 30%.

aimed at exploring deve-lopment opportunities in Amaravati.
"We can talk about a

India-Australia trade pact yielding great results, says envoy

gaging – education, agri-culture, water manage-the control of the control of the chain etc. You may know, Canberra, the capital of Australia, was developed from three sheep farms, or most beautiful capitals in the world. I'll be listening very carefully to what number of sectors where Australia has interest in en-

Australia was also fo-cused on export of clean coal, critical minerals for green hydrogen, green bat-tery manufacture, green steel, iron ore and solar pa-nels needed for rooftops, he said. "Mr. Modi wants

vice sectors. The Indian community constituted over one million of the 26 million population of Australia. "It's the fastestralia. "It's the fastestrowing community in concountry. Last year, over 1,00,000 visas were issued to people from India," he said, He also wished for the diaapora to play a positive role in bilateral ties.

Russian-Ukraine war Commenting on the geo-political scenario, Mr. Green said that Russia's in-

over ten million roofs with solar panels across the country, which is a huge opportunity for Australia," Mr. Green said. He lauded the contribu-Council (UNSC)

"Russia has signed mul tiple treaties with Ukraine tion of the Indian diaspora in Australia in the fields of to protect its territorial in-tegrity. Rules based world IT, business and other ser-vice sectors. The Indian countries. So, what Russia has done in Ukraine is for us unconscionable and we will continue our strong so Ukraine," he atressed. When asked about India accessing cheaper oil from Russia, he said it was a bilateral arrangement between the two countries.

and part of traditional rela

Gaganyaan astronaut to travel to ISS in mission with NASA

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

One of the four astronauts undergoing training for the Gaganyaan mission will travel to the International Space Station as part of a collaborative effort with NASA, Union Minister Jitendra Singh has informed the Lok Sabha.

In a written reply, Mr. Singh said NASA has identified Axiom Space, a private entity, while the ISRO had signed a space flight agreement with the U.S. firm for the joint mission to the International Space Station (ISS).

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. last year, President Joe Biden announced that India and the U.S. were collaborating to send an Indian astronaut to the ISS in 2024.

India's Astronaut Selection Board had picked four astronauts from the group of test pilots from the Indian Air Force for the Gaganyaan mission, India's first manned space mission planned to take place next year. "All four astronauts have undergone training on a spaceflight basic module in Russia. Currently, astronauts are undergoing training at the ISRO's Astronauts Training Facility (ATF) in Bengaluru for the Gaganyaan Mission," Mr. ISRO has signed a space flight agreement with the U.S. firm for the joint mission

Singh said.

The Minister said two out of three semesters of the Gaganyatri training programme have been completed while independent training simulators and static mock-up simulators have been realised.

Mission update

Sharing an update on the Gaganyaan mission, Mr. Singh said ground testing of propulsion systems stages, including solid, liquid and cryogenic, towards human rating of the launch vehicle has been completed. Design and realisation of five types of crew escape system solid motors has been completed, he said.

The Union Minister said static testing of all five types of solid motors too has been completed. Also, the first Test Vehicle mission (TV-D1) for performance validation of crew escape system and parachute deployment has been successfully accomplished, he added.

He said characteridsation of the Thermal Protection System was also complete.

GAGANYAAN MISSION

INDIA'S FIRST MANNED FLIGHT TO SPACE

The project was first approved by PM Narendra Modi on August 15, 2018.

It will send the three member crew to space for at least seven days by 2024–25.

ISRO hopes to deploy its biggest rocket, GSLV MK III, for this project.

It would be one of the cheapest manned spaceflights in the world, with the estimated cost of not more than Rs 10000 crore.

India plans to call its astronauts "Vyomnauts" since 'Vyom' in Sanskrit means 'Space'.



The space agency hopes to launch the first mission within 40 months from the date of approval.

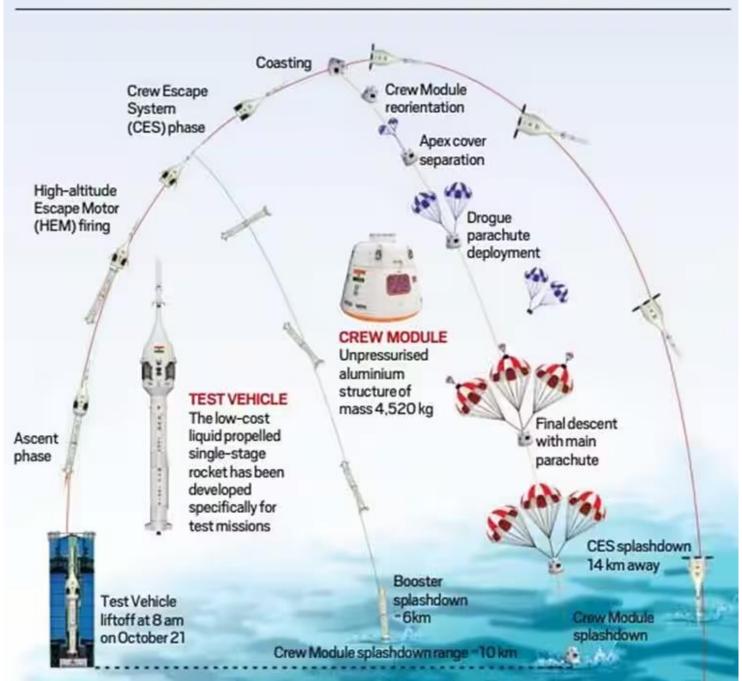
India will become fourth country after Russia, US and China to send humans to space.



Gaganyaan Mission Crew Module: Habitat of Astronaut 3577 **+3296** Service Module: Does SRO on-orbit servicing **Orbital Module**

Human Rated Launch Vehicle (GSLV MKIII derived)

TEST VEHICLE ABORT DEMONSTRATION MISSION PROFILE



- International Space Station (अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन) One of the four astronauts undergoing training for the Gaganyaan mission will travel to the ISS as part of a collaborative effort with NASA (गगनयान मिशन के चार अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों में से एक NASA के साथ सहयोगात्मक प्रयास के हिस्से के रूप में ISS की यात्रा करेगा).
- ISRO has signed a space flight agreement with Axiom Space for the joint mission to the ISS (ISRO ने Axiom Space के साथ ISS के संयुक्त मिशन के लिए अंतरिक्ष उड़ान समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं).

- Astronaut Selection (अंतिरक्ष यात्री चयन)Four astronauts were selected from test pilots of the Indian Air Force (भारतीय वायुसेना के परीक्षण पायलटों से चार अंतिरक्ष यात्रियों का चयन किया गया).
- Training Locations (प्रशिक्षण स्थल)Basic spaceflight training in Russia (रूस में बुनियादी अंतरिक्ष उड़ान प्रशिक्षण).
- Current training at ISRO's Astronauts Training Facility (ATF) in Bengaluru (वर्तमान में बेंगलुरु में ISRO के अंतरिक्ष यात्री प्रशिक्षण सुविधा (ATF) में प्रशिक्षण).

- Consider the following statements regarding the Gaganyaan mission:
- 1. One of the four astronauts undergoing training for the Gaganyaan mission will travel to the International Space Station as part of a collaborative effort with NASA.
- 2.ISRO has signed a space flight agreement with NASA for the joint mission to the ISS.
- 3. The ground testing of propulsion systems stages towards human rating of the launch vehicle has been completed.
- 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



President appoints Governors in 9 States NEWS » PAGE 5



UltraTech UltraTech Cement to

acquire India Cements

Care models for mental illness. Support measures require a radical shift ITORIAL » PAGE 8



Nikhat overcomes Kloetzer's challenge



over pleas on his 'unopposed' win

AHMEDABAD The Gujarat High Court issued summons to the Bharatiya Janata Party MP from the Surat Jahata Party me from the John.
Lok Sabha constituency,
Mukesh Dalal, over two
petitions challenging his
uncontested victory. » PAGE 5

CUET-UG results announced after a month's delay

NEW DELHI The National Testing Agency on Sunday declared the results of the Common University Entrance Test for undergraduate courses, which were expected to be declared on June 30. » PAGE 6

Venezuela polls amid warning of bloodbath

CARACAS

President Nicolar Madura or a

Israel vows to hit back hard' after 12 killed in attack

MAJDAL SHAMS Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant on Sunday vowed to "hit the enemy hard" after rocket fired from Lebanon killed 12 in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, raising fears the war will spread. » PAGE 14

Manu's historic bronze opens India's medal hunt

The 22-year-old is the first Indian woman shooter to be on the Olympic podium as she wins medal in the IOm air pistol event; she will now compete in IOm pistol mixed team and 25m pistol events

hree years ago, Ma-nu Bhaker broke down in tears at the campaign at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics where she finished medalless across

finished medalless across three events.
On Sundaysar-Old, who sometime to sometime at her second Olympics, wiped away the sometime though the conclusion of the women's 10m air pistol event where she won a bronze medal, opening India's mediciount at the Paris 2024.

The I-T Departmen

had specified that

the certificate may be required only in

through a 2004 notifica-tion, had specified that the certificate may be required

case of serious



final in third place, Manu hit the ground running. Of the 22 shots she took, just 7

Games.

The medal was also the first won by an indian woman shooter.

After qualifying for the

Spiritual sojourn



Two arrested day after three IAS aspirants drown in Delhi coaching centre basement

Samridhi Tewari NEW DELHI

A day after three Civil Services aspirants drowned in the basement of a private coaching centre, the Delhi Police on Sunday arrested its coordinator and the building owner, and booked them for culpable homicide. The accused have been sent to judicial

custody for 14 days.

The deceased have been identified as Shreya Yadav, identified as Shreya Yadav, 25, from Uttar Pradesh; Ta-nya Soni, 25, a resident of Telangana; and Nevin Dal-vin, 28, from Kerala, the police said. Senior police officers said the basement was

said the basement was around eight feet below ground level and more than 20 students were pre-sent inside it on Saturday evening. While the basement gate was closed, it got damaged after water gushed in at high pressure,

said Rau's IAS Study Circle had been running a library in the basement in violation of the law.

"It was told that a drain passing in the front of the building burst, and like a flash flood, water entered the basement and the stu-dents got trapped," Ms. Oberoi told presspersons. She and an official of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, however, said none of the other buildings next to the centre had faced flooding.

flooding.

Later, the Corporation said in a statement, "The so-called bursting of drainage outside the coaching centre is not conclusive and the matter is under

investigation." ficer said.
Since morning, students from coaching institutes from coaching investigation."



centre in New Delhi, where three people do

have been protesting against the negligence that caused the deaths. The Mayor ordered "im-mediate" action against all coaching centres running commercial activities in sealed three basements op-erating illegally in the Ra-jinder Nagar area on Sunday evening, an official statement said.

day eventing, an official Holding placards saying "Old Rajimder Nagar is not safe", students said such a happen. Many flagged the issues of poor drainage systems and frequent water logging most be basements. The students of the policy of of the

duce the documents re-quired to run a library in the basement. HThe FIR

cide), 106(1) (death of any person by doing any rash or negligent act not

amounting to culpable homicide), 115(2) (punish-

Not all require tax clearance certificate to go abroad: govt.

Press Trust of India

After outrage over a Union Budget proposal making it mandatory to get tax clea-rance certificates for going abroad, the government on Sunday said only those accused of financial irregu-larities or having huge tax arrears needed them.

"The proposed amend-ment does not require all the residents to obtain the tax clearance certificate." the Finance Ministry said in a statement. The Ministry, in the Finance Bill, has rence of the Black Mor sed to add the refe-Act. 2015, to the list of Acts

Centre scraps auction of three critical mineral blocks

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

The Centre has scrapped the auction of three critical mineral blocks notified un-der a third round of sales as there were fewer bid-ders than expected. The auction is part of the Centre's push towards self-reliance in critical mineral

only in case of serious fi-nancial irregularities and supplies.
The blocks are the Salalinvestigation of cases un-der the Income Tax or Wealth Tax Act requiring a person's presence and leading to the likely raising Haimna lithium, titanium and bauxite block in Jammu and Kashmir, Muskaniya-Gareriatola-Barwari po-tash block in Jharkhand of a tax demand, or if a per-son has direct-tax arrears and Kurunjakulam gra-phite block in Tamil Nadu. "The auction was annulled son has direct-tax arrears exceeding ₹10 lakh, which

exceeding t(0 lakh, which always not been stayed, and as the required number of as the required number of as the required number of the person could be asked to get the certificate only after recording the reasons and pal Chief Commissioner of Income-tax or Chief Commissioner of Income-tax or the Commissioner of Income-tax or the Commissioner of Income-tax or the Commissioner of the

The government is confi-dent of launching the schemes in the Prime Mi-nister's package for em-ployment and skilling, which were announced in last week's Budget, within this financial year. That in-cludes the internship pro-south in 500 top compa-nies, whose design details

We have tried to make sure employment-linked in entive schemes is, as far as possible, wide spread, and not tried o make technological T.V. SOMANATHAN

that the government did not want to exclude such

people. "We don't want to leave

out the services or any sec-tor from possible incentivi-sation if it will create jobs.

New job schemes to kick off soon: Somanathan

nies, whose design details will be worked out in con-sultation with the industry, Finance Secretary T.V. So-manathan said. limit of ₹1 lakh per month was aimed at keeping the schemes sector-neutral. "I agree ₹1 lakh is high, "We expect all of these schemes to start off within

this financial year... We have tried to make sure the but it is not so if you are trying to cover the hiring of
people with sophisticated
skills, or knowledge of Al
IArtificial Intelligence," he
said, adding that the
jobs in areas under threat
from the advent of technologies like Al.
Referring to the recent
tendency of large tech
companies to deler joining
companies to deler joining
Secretary said that it was but it is not so if you are try coverage of the employ-ment-linked incentive schemes is, as far as possi-ble, widespread, and not tried to make technologi-scheme A and C are for all industries, Scheme B is for mamufacturing jobs," Mr. Somanathan told The Hindu.

He also said that the de-cision to incentivise hiring

rage of the employ

'Centre will deliver on promises to A.P., Bihar'

delivering on its promise to help develop Andhra Pradesh's capital by

The Centre is confident of

external financing, and arrange funds for capex in Bihar, Finance Secretary T.V. Somanathan says.

some of these industries, even fresh hires get more than ₹50,000 to ₹60,000. But we have capped our outgo so the incentive is strongest for those earning ₹25,000," the official

noted. 'Nothing to lose'

sation if it will create jobs. We don't want to focus only on employees who draw up to ₹25,000 a month. You can pay the employee call outgo is limited to the ₹25,000 level, but even 24% of that works out to 12% of a ₹50,000 salary, which is still a substantial subsidy," he emphasised "We don't know where." 'Nothing to lose'
The new scheme to facili-tate internships for youth
in the age bracket of 21 to
24 years has no connection
with the Pradhan Mantri
Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0
announced in the Union
Budget for 2023-24, and
will be administered by the

fairs, not the Ministry of Skill Development, Mr. So-manathan underlined.

scheme is voluntary and will not require firms to in-vest funds from their own corporate social responsi-bility (CSR) spends, com-bined with government re-sources. "We are also open to the company doing the skilling through companies in the backward or forward supply chains, if they can't do it themselves." Mr. So-manathan underlined.

Manu's historic bronze opens India's medal hunt

The 22-year-old is the first Indian woman shooter to be on the Olympic podium as she wins medal in the 10m air pistol event; she will now compete in 10m pistol mixed team and 25m pistol events

Jonathan Selvaraj PARIS

hree years ago, Manu Bhaker broke down in tears at the conclusion of a dismal campaign at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics where she finished medalless across three events.

On Sunday at Chateauroux, the 22-year-old, who is competing at her second Olympics, wiped away tears from her eyes once again. This time though they were of joy following the conclusion of the women's 10m air pistol event where she won a bronze medal, opening India's medal count at the Paris 2024 Games.

The medal was also the first won by an Indian woman shooter.

After qualifying for the



The trailblazer: Manu Bhaker celebrates with her bronze medal in women's 10 metre air pistol at the Paris Olympics, in the Chateauroux shooting range, on Sunday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

final in third place, Manu hit the ground running. Of the 22 shots she took, just 7 were in the '9' ring.

She was never out of medal contention and was in silver medal place until her final shot of the competition where she was pipped by the narrowest of margins – 0.1 – by South Korea's Kim Yeji.

Another Korean Ye Jin Oh took gold.

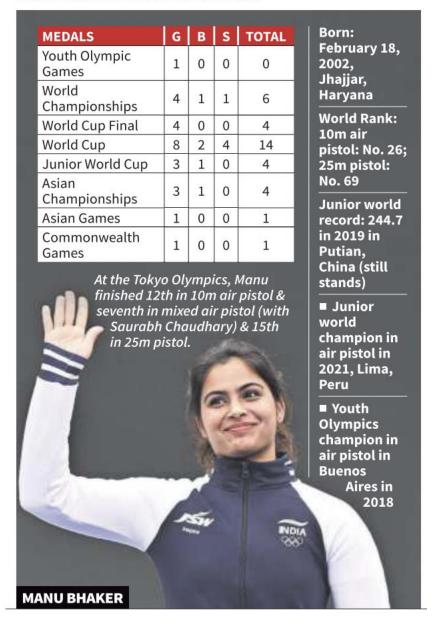
Manu isn't done just yet. She will also be competing in the women's 10m pistol mixed team event on Monday and the women's 25m pistol events later in the competition.

MORE REPORTS

» PAGE 16

Redemption arc

From the disappointment of Tokyo to the delight of Paris, life has come a full circle for Manu Bhaker.



basement; complaint filed a month ago

Almost a month before tra-gedy struck at Rau's IAS Study Circle, a student of the institute had filed a complaint with the Delhi government about a classroom being run "illegally" from the building's

basement.

In the complaint filed on June 26 on a public grienormal public griepublic griestrative Reforms Department, the student said the
classes were being run
objection certificate" from
he authorities concerned.

The student also alleged
to the authorities concerned about it, he was
call in the Municipal Corcial in the Municipal Cor-

cial in the Municipal Cor-poration of Delhi (MCD) is "being paid money" to with the violation. "This is an example of corruption in the MCD. Please take strict action grainet hig LIPSC coaching institutes putting students' lives at risk by holding

trapped inside the flooded basement of the institute highlighted the crumbling sidered to be a hub of

coaching institutes. Reenu Rawat, a 24-year-old defence services aspirant from Harvana's Rewari, said most coaching institutes have opened libraries in their basements, which

get flooded when it rains.
"This issue is not limited "This issue is not limited to coaching institutes, many people are running paying guest facilities in basements. On Saturday, when it rained, sewage entered our room, which is inside a basement," Ms. Rawat said. Pranit, 2l, a UPSC aspirant, said basements lack

rant, said basements lack emergency exit points and proper ventilation. "We have left our families and hub of coaching institutes. A student died last week in Patel Nagar, All politicians said action will be taken. and now, three more stu-dents have died. This is dis-

IAS coaching held in | Dreams nipped in the bud, say kin of dead IAS aspirants

Students came from afar to utilise the better coaching facilities in the national capital, they say, but

arents and relatives struggled to come to terms with the sudden death of three Civil Services aspirants who drowned in the basement

drowned in the basement of a private coaching centre in the Old Rajinder Ragar area of Delhi after it rain on Saturday evening. Several students staged a protest on Sunday in front of the building house from the building house after the death of Shreya Yaday. 25, from Uttar Pradesh; Tanya Soni, 25, a resident of Telangana, and Nevin Dalvin, 28, from Kersen Charles and Pradical Several Pradesh Several Ragara and Nevin Dalvin, 28, from Kersen Several Ragara Several Rag government negligence, an angry protester said.

Fear gripped Dharmen-dra Yadav, a professor at an engineering college in Gha-ziabad, as he watched the ziabad, as he watched the events unfolding on TV on Saturday. When frantic calls to his niece, Shreya, went unanswered, he rushed to the Old Rajinder Nagar area, with the search tragically ending at the mortuary of the Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hosginohar Lohia (RML) Hosgin



tal. Shreva had completed the B.Sc. degree in agricul-ture from a college in Uttar Pradesh. Her father, a farmer, struggled to pay her fees and the extended family pooled in money for her UPSC coaching, her

her UPSC coaching, ner uncle said.

"We sent her to Delhi and not Lucknow or Alla-habad because of the envi-ronment. We thought the facilities here are better,

The Hindu Bureau

Mongolia on Saturday. The

Indian Army contingent in-cludes 40 personnel from a battalion of the Madras

Regiment. The exercise has around

430 participants from 23

glish. But look at what we have now? Everything we dreamed of is gone. Who will take respo

he asked.
Shreya's elder brother is
pursuing MA in journalism, while her younger
brother is in Class 8.
Nevin was pursuing a
Ph.D. in arts and aesthetics
from Jawaharlal Nehru University and was also a

UPSC aspirant. He was staying near his university and had gone to the library at the institute on Saturda evening, a relative said. His father is a retired Deputy Superintendent of Police in Kerala and his mother a ge-

Kerala and his mother a ge-ography professor.

Tanya Soni had joined the coaching centre less than two months ago. Her father works in Telangana. She has two siblings.

For many, harrowing memories of narrow escape from death

Traumatised students who were inside the library in the basement of the priv-ate coaching institute in Delhi that flooded on Saturday evening shared harrowing accounts of their

narrow escape.
They recalled how they were gasping for air and climbed on top of tables and chairs to protect them-selves from the rising

water.

A 20-year-old student said she had left the basement of Rau's IAS Study Circle to eat, and just minutes later, it was flooded

with water.
Around 30 students
were in the library at the

ime, she said. "I can never forget how my friends were gasping for air. They were struggling as the water was dir-ty. I remember a student crying because his sister was trapped inside," she

Another student said

year-old student said.
"Since the glass door broke, we also got cuts. The students sitting near the door were able to es cape. Those who were sit ting at the back of the room found it difficult to escape and eventually drowned. I don't know how I was able to save myself," the studen

"We were scared" A 22-year-old student from Assam said, "The signal was weak, so we were not able to make phone calls. We just sat on top of tables and chairs for hours, as cued slowly. All of us were scared."

asked us to leave as the li brary shuts around 7 p.m When we reached near the was so much that in m merged. It was difficult to the flow of water" he said

UltraTech to acquire India Cements; buy 32.72% stake

Press Trust of India

Aditya Birla Group flagship Aditya Birla Group flagship company UltraTech Ce-ment will acquire a 32.72% stake in India Cements from promoters and their associates for ₹3,954 crore to expand its footprint in the highly competitive and fast-growing southern ce-ment market, particularly Tamil Nadu.

Besides, UltraTech has also announced a ₹3,142.35-crore open offer to acquire another 26% share of India Cements Ltd. from its shareholders.

announcement This announcement comes a month after Adani Group, the second largest cement maker announced the acquisition of Hydera-bad-based Penna Cement for 10,422 crore, which will add It million tonness will add It million tonness its capacity to 93 MTPA.

With an installed capac-

cement, UltraTech Cement leads the Indian cement industry. The company has



UltraTech Cement aims to be one of the largest cement companies in the world.

companies in the world and and has set a target for 200 MTPA.

200 MTPA.

The Board of the Aditya
Birla firm approved the acquisition of 32.7.2% stake
from promoters and their
scheen, and their
schee

Srinivasan, Rupa Guru-nath, and S.K. Asokh Baa-laje – and a 4.3% share

from Sri Saradha Logistics After the completion o the ₹3,954-crore deal, Ul traTech's stake in India Ce traTech's stake in India Ce-ments will increase to over 55%, mandating it to go for the open offer as per the SEBI regulations.

The Board of UltraTech has also approved an "open offer for up to 8.05 crore equity shares repre-crore equity shares repre-

crore equity shares repre-senting 26% of the equity share capital of the Target, at a price of ₹390 per equi-ty share from the public shareholders of Target".

the filing said. The price offered by UltraTech is 4.1% higher than

traTech is 4.3% higher than the India Cements share closing price of \$374.60 on Friday. If fully subscribed, the India Cements of the India UltraTech \$3,442.35 crore. In June, UltraTech ac-quired 23% of India Ce-ments. It acquired Damani group's stake in India Ce-deals estimated at around deals estimated at around deals estimated at around ₹1,900 crore.

States, and the United Kingdom. "On 27 July, Ambassa-dor Atul Malhari Gotsurve dor Atul Malhari Gotsurve participated in the inaugu-ral ceremony of the 21st multinational military Ex. Attention of the 21st He welcomed Indian troops from Madras Regi-ment to Mongolia and con-veyed his best wishes for the exercise," the Indian Embassy in Mongola said



The exercise has around 430 participants from 23 countries China, Japan, and Türkiye.

contingent

countries, including Aus-tralia, Canada, China, Ja-pan, Türkiye, the United diers are also part of the In-dian contingent.
"Alm of Exercise Khaan

"Alm of Exercise Khaan Quest is to prepare Indian armed forces for peace-keeping missions while op-erating in a multinational environment, " the Army said in a statement issued

Army contingent in

Mongolia for 21st

The Hindu Bureau Prime Minister Narendra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged pe-ople to encourage the In-dian athletes participating in the Paris Olympics, stat-ing that the grand sporting event gave players a chance to hoist the Trico-terness the model of the Price

lour on the world stage. In his Mann Ki Baat ad-dress, Mr. Modi also congratulated the Indian stu-dents who bagged four gold and one silver medal in the International Mathematics Olympiad. He inte racted with the students, who shared their expe-

who shared their experiences and insights.
In order to address the many states of the states of the

part in Paris Olympics: Modi as a UNESCO World Herit- arashtra or the hand block

Cheer Indian athletes taking

Modi mentions PARI Modi mentions PARI
The Prime Minister also
mentioned Project PARI,
saying it was becoming a
great medium to bring
emerging artists on one
platform to popularise public art. "You must have seen that beautiful paint-ings are made on the road-sides, on walls, in underpasses. These artefacts are made by the same artists who are associated with

PARI...." be said. Appreciating the efforts of over 250 women of Haruana's Robtak who are as sociated with the han-dloom industry, Mr. Modi said. "...They decided to said, "...They decided to join the UNNATI self help group and received train-dyeing. These women who spread the magic of co-lours on clothes are earn-order of the self of the day...Be it Sambalpuri saree of Odisha, Mahesh-wari saree of M.P. [Madhya Pradesh]. Pathani of Mah-

prints of Vidarbha, Bhuti-ko shawis and wooller clothes of Himachal or Kaciothes of Himachal or Kash-ni shawks of Jammu & Kash-mir, the work of handloom artisans is spread across every corner of the coun-try... On August 7, we will celebrate the National Han-

dloom Day, "he said. The Prime Minister also talked about the 'Tiger Day' observed on July 29 every year the world over. Referring to the 'Kulhad Band Panchayat' campaign

in Rajasthan's Rantham-bore, he said the local communities had taken an oath that they would not not this one decision, the forests here are becoming green once again, and a ing created for tigers. Indoba-Andhari Tiger Renone of the main habitats on tigers. The local communities here, especially Gond ken rapid strides towards ken rapid strides towards sco-tourism, he added. communities had taken ar

Culture Ministry to host 3-day museum conclave in Delhi

Press Trust of India

Curators, administrators of museums, and domain experts will gather next week in Delhi for a three-day conclave to foster collabo and the States for the proposed 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum' project.

The State Museum Con

er 5,000 years. The mu-seum – to be housed in the North Block and South Block in the capital – will be spread over 1,54,000 sq. m., making it the lar-gest museum in the world.

"This three-day gather-ing aims to foster collaboration among State mu-seums and the Central government in realising Prime Minister Narendra

The State Museum Con-clave, to be hosted by the Ministry of Culture, will be Wigeen Sharat Museum; where the 46th session of the UNESCO World Herri-age Committee is currently to the William of the Ministry said in a statement. The upcoming Yuge will also be held with experts from the William of the William of the William of the will have eight the matic segments telling the motive of motive and the will be supported to the will be the will be supported to the will be supported to the will be the will be supported to the will b

Cargo carrier structurally stable and | Bring back Netaji's operational after fire: Coast Guard

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

(ICG) has deployed five ships, two helicopters, and one Dornier aircraft for rescue operations over 10 days after m.v. Maersk Frankfurt, a Panamanian flag cargo carrier, reported

a major fire on July 19 The owners of the vessel have contracted a special have contracted a special-ised salvage agency to take over firefighting efforts and for further disposal of the vessel while salvors and ocean-going tugs have al-ready been roped in, the ICG said on Sunday. The fire broke our around 80 nautical miles west of Goa, with the ICG laust file resolutions of the ICG laust file resolutions.

'Operation



"Further, ICG special-ised reliation response team is on standby since the commencement of op-erations, in coordination with stakeholders, to effect with stakeholders, to effect likely event of oil spill. Ho-wever, ICG's pollution pre-ventive stance has ensured that no risk exists to the coastal areas of Karnataka from the fire onboard MV Maersk Frankfurt," the ICG said in a statement. Infrared imagery has re-vealed reduction in hot-spots and smouldering is primarily restricted to "Bay 18 starboard side", it added.

The ICG ships are un dertaking boundary cool ing efforts and extinguish ing sporadic minor flame that erupt from time to time due to the initial in cineration of sealed con-tainers, it said. More than 1,200 kg of dry chemical powder has been air-dropped at the area of fire so far. Of the 21 foreign crew, one Filipino national is missing, while others are safe and in good health, the ICG said. "The vessel is

the ICG said. "The vessel is structurally stable and re-mains operational."

The structural structural structural struc-meetings with Director-General, Shipping, the State administration, sta-keholders, ports, salvage and structural structural structural management to review the progress and find an early end to the crisis.

remains from Japan: grandnephew to PM

The grandnephew of free-dom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Chandra Kumar Bose, on Sunday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bring back the "mortal remain of Netaii" from the Renkoii temple in Japan by August

"Efforts must be made to bring the mortal re-mains of an immortal Hero to his home country-india, the land he liberated. My the land he liberated. My bring back the mortal re-mains of Netaji from Ren-koji to India by 18 August 2024," Mr. Bose wrote in a letter to Mr. Medi. Letter to Mr. Medi. "Efforts must be made

perative that a final state-ment is made from the Go-vernment of India, so that false narratives about the Liberator of India are laid

to rest," he said. Mr. Bose, a former vice BIP and now convener of The Open Platform for Ne-taji, told The Hindu that it

lence over the demands to bring Netaji's remains to the country. "Netaji's daughter Anita Bose Pfaff has also raised the demand for bringing Netaji's remains to India. I have been also raising the

UltraTech to acquire India Cements; buy 32.72% stake

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Aditya Birla Group flagship company UltraTech Cement will acquire a 32.72% stake in India Cements from promoters and their associates for ₹3,954 crore to expand its footprint in the highly competitive and fast-growing southern cement market, particularly Tamil Nadu.

Besides, UltraTech has also announced a ₹3,142.35-crore open offer to acquire another 26% share of India Cements Ltd. from its shareholders.

This announcement comes a month after Adani Group, the second largest cement maker announced the acquisition of Hyderabad-based Penna Cement for ₹10,422 crore, which will add 14 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), taking its capacity to 93 MTPA.

With an installed capacity of 154.86 MTPA of grey cement, UltraTech Cement leads the Indian cement industry. The company has



UltraTech Cement aims to be one of the largest cement companies in the world.

an ambition to become one of the largest cement companies in the world and and has set a target for 200 MTPA.

The Board of the Aditya Birla firm approved the acquisition of 32.72% stake from promoters and their associates at ₹390 per share, according to a regulatory filing from UltraTech on Sunday.

It has entered into share purchase agreements for a 28.42% stake from promoters – N. Srinivasan, Chitra Srinivasan, Rupa Gurunath, and S.K. Asokh Baalaje – and a 4.3% share

from Sri Saradha Logistics.

After the completion of the ₹3,954-crore deal, UltraTech's stake in India Cements will increase to over 55%, mandating it to go for the open offer as per the SEBI regulations.

The Board of UltraTech has also approved an "open offer for up to 8.05 crore equity shares representing 26% of the equity share capital of the Target, at a price of ₹390 per equity share from the public shareholders of Target", the filing said.

The price offered by UltraTech is 4.1% higher than the India Cements share closing price of ₹374.60 on Friday. If fully subscribed, the open offer would cost UltraTech ₹3,142.35 crore.

In June, UltraTech acquired 23% of India Cements. It acquired Damani group's stake in India Cements through two block deals estimated at around ₹1,900 crore.

MARKET LEAD

» PAGE 13

Army contingent in Mongolia for 21st Khaan Quest exercise

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

An Indian contingent is part of the 21st edition of Khaan Quest, a multinational peacekeeping exercise, which commenced in Mongolia on Saturday. The Indian Army contingent includes 40 personnel from a battalion of the Madras Regiment.

The exercise has around 430 participants from 23 countries, including Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Türkiye, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

"On 27 July, Ambassador Atul Malhari Gotsurve participated in the inaugural ceremony of the 21st multinational military Exercise Khaan Quest-2024. He welcomed Indian troops from Madras Regiment to Mongolia and conveyed his best wishes for the exercise," the Indian Embassy in Mongolia said in a post on X.



The exercise has around 430 participants from 23 countries, including Australia, Canada, China, Japan, and Türkiye.

The exercise is scheduled to run from July 27 to August 9. One woman officer and two women soldiers are also part of the Indian contingent.

"Aim of Exercise Khaan Quest is to prepare Indian armed forces for peace-keeping missions while operating in a multinational environment," the Army said in a statement issued as the contingent departed.

Desert Cyclone	India – UAE	Rajasthan, India	2nd Jan – 15th Jan 2024
Ex Cyclone-I	India – Egypt	Anshas, Egypt	22nd Jan – 1st Feb 2024
Ex Khanjar	India – Kyrgyzstan	Himachal Pradesh, India	22nd Jan – 3rd Feb 2024
'SADA TANSEEQ'	India – Saudi Arabia	Rajasthan, India	29th Jan – 10th Feb 2024
Dharma Guardian	India – Japan	Rajasthan, India	25th Feb – 9th Mar 2024
Samudra Laksmana	India – Malaysia	Visakhapatnam, India	28th Feb – 2nd Mar 2024
Tiger Triumph	India – USA	Kakinada, India	18th Mar – 31st Mar 2024
Ex LAMITIYE – 2024	India – Seychelles	Seychelles	18th Mar – 27th Mar 2024
Ex DUSTLIK – 2024	India – Uzbekistan	Termez, Uzbekistan	15th Apr – 28th Apr 2024
Exercise Cyber Suraksha	India	_	20th May – 24th May 2024
Military Exercise SHAKTI	India – France	Umroi, Meghalaya, India	13th May – 26th May 2024

Culture Ministry to host 3-day museum conclave in Delhi

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Curators, administrators of museums, and domain experts will gather next week in Delhi for a three-day conclave to foster collaboration between the Centre and the States for the proposed 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum' project.

The State Museum Conclave, to be hosted by the Ministry of Culture, will be held from August 1 to 3 at the Bharat Mandapam, where the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee is currently under way.

The upcoming Yuge Yugeen Bharat National museum will have eight thematic segments telling the story of India spanning ov-

er 5,000 years. The museum – to be housed in the North Block and South Block in the capital – will be spread over 1,54,000 sq. m., making it the largest museum in the world.

"This three-day gathering aims to foster collaboration among State museums and the Central government in realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for the 'Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum' that aims to exemplify global best practices," the Ministry said in a statement.

Master classes will also be held with experts from India and abroad on various topics such as global best practices in conservation, fine arts handling, curation and museum management, officials said.



- It will be constructed in Delhi's North and South Blocks. It would contain 950 rooms distributed over a basement and three stories, covering a 1.17 lakh square metre space.
- The eight sections will cover ancient Indian knowledge, the mediaeval era, the transitional period between the mediaeval and modern eras, modern India, colonial control, the freedom movement, and the 100 years starting in 1947.

- The foundation stone of the existing Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum building was laid by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, on May 12, 1955.
- The Kartavya Path, formerly known as Rajpath, is a ceremonial axis stretching from India Gate to Raisina Hill.
- With the completion of the Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum,
 India will boast an extraordinary cultural heritage showcase befitting its rich history and traditions.

The current national museum, which is located on Janpath, will be replaced with the Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum.

As part of the project, the rich collections from the present National Museum building will be transferred to the North and South Block buildings, becoming.

'The trajectory of the road is downhill in terms of debt to GDP'

Budget has steps to trigger consumption, but they are not in the nature of direct cash transfers, says Finance Secretary TV. Somanathan; for Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, funds for some projects will be only through concessional multilateral loans, which could be from World Bank, Asian Development Bank, JICA, AIIB... any of these institutions, which extend assistance to India anyway, he adds

INTERVIEW

T.V. Somanathan

Vikas Dhoot

he Centre is confi-dent of delivering on its Budget pro-mise to arrange external financing for infrastructure development projects in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, Finance Secretary TV. So-Finance Secretary T.V. So-manathan said in an inter-view with The Hindu. He al-so elaborated on measures to rein in food inflation and spur consumption. Edited

firms to hire is a rise in demand and capacity utilisation levels. Economists feel the

Well, there is a moderate tax cut for the salaried class mainly, but also for others to a less extent. There is a continued push on capital investment. There is a big push on schemes like the PM Gram Sadak Yojana [rural roads], the Awas Yojana [housing], both rural and urban. both rural and urbain. These are big spenders in rural areas and there is a big expansion with the big expansion with the more habitations. This is spending in rural areas by rural people who are em-ployed in these roles. So, there is quite a big trust there. Similarly, the three crore new houses coming nature of direct cash transfers. They are consumption measures that

act through creation of By the way, the employment incentives, when paid, will also result in some consumption. So it is through consumption through some desirable objective rather than consumption through just transfer of cash, for the sake of consumption.

What about measures to rein in food inflation, that has been spiking overall price rise?



Whatever can be done on done. There is one impor-tant point which has not tant point which has not been very much highlight-ed in the Budget – a sub-stantial provision for the distribution of the with the highest ever allo-cation (tl0,000 crore). We intend to use this more ag-gressively on the procure-ment of pulses and oil-seeds, building up an

adequate buffer stock in years of low prices, and then releasing it at times of high prices. This is an initiative to stabilise food prices, particularly on pulses and oilseeds. And

in the production of these

For Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, you have provided funds for some projects, and promised to arrange funds for others... These will be only through

concessional multilateral loans, which could be from the World Bank, Asian De velopment Bank, IICA, Al-IB... any of these institu-tions, which considerably extend assistance to India anyway. They will lend to the Government of India. the Government of India, and the Gol will on-lend to the States, just as with any multilaterally-funded pro-jects in States. The banks are willing, and we will be able to tie it up. Building of a contral is very much an

infrastructure activity. We have not discussed [any in-terest subvention for the States] yet.

The Budget pivots from targeting the fiscal deficit after 2025-26, to a focus on the debt-to-GDP ratio. Would this entail a goal like reaching 40% of GDP over time?

It may not necessarily be 40%. We are saying it will decline gradually, how far and how fast, we are yet to determine, but it will be on a declining path. So, after 2025-26, when

So, after 2025-26, when we will be below 4.5% of GDP and that is a commit-ment, the intention is that it will be below 4.5% defi-nitely. But what will be the deficit will also depend on how much we need to keep

the debt going down. Should the debt go down by x% and when should it reach what level, those are reach what level, those are yet to be determined. So, the deficit will be under 4.5%, but it doesn't neces-sarily mean it would be 3% of GDP. And we can afford more than 3%, and still keep the debt declining steady. So that is the change of approach.

Will we have a road map view each year?

Biren meets PM to discuss the situation in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Sunday, the first such meeting between them since ethnic violence erupted in the State more than 14 months ago, sourc

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Mi nister Rainath Singh were Mr. Singh, who is in Del-

hi for the past two days, earlier met the Prime Mi-nister during two group meetings. The meeting lasted around 20 minutes. "The meeting ended on a posi-

tive note," another source People in Manipur as well as the Opposition par-

ties have questioned the PM's silence over the Mani-The meeting comes on a

day when Manipur Gover-nor Anusuiya Uikey was removed and newly appoint-ed Governor of Assam, Lakshman Prasad Acharya

In midnight reshuffle, President appoints six new Governors

BJP veteran Om Mathur has been appointed Governor of Sikkim, and former IAS officer K. Kailashnathan Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry

resident Droupadi Murmu appointed six new Governors and reshuffled three othere a Rachtranati Rhavan ommunique has said.
The communi

The communique was issued past Saturday midnight.

BJP veteran Om Mathur has been appointed Gover-nor of Sikkim, and Mani-pur Governor Anusulya Ul-key has been replaced by Latchman. Lakshman Prasad Acharya, who has been moved from Sikkim to As-

sam and given additional charge of Manipur. Mr. Mathur's appoint-ment comes amid speculation that he is a contender

Another significant appointment is that of former IAS officer K. Kailashnath-



the Chief Minister of Gujarat – as the Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry. On June 30, Mr. Kailashnathan stepped down as the Chief Principal Secretary to the Gujarat Chief Minister.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan Lieutenant Said the In-

communique said the incumbent Governor of Assam, Gulab Chand Kataria, will now be the new Gover will now be the new Gover-nor of Punjab as Banwari-lal Purohit's resignation has been accepted. He has also been appointed Admi-nistrator of the Union Ter-

was also holding additiona charge of Telangana, has been appointed Governor of Maharashtra.

Former Union Ministe Former Union Minister for Labour and Employ-ment Santosh Kumar Harlband Governor, while former Deputy Chief Mi-nister of Tripura Jishmu Telangana Governor. A former Lok Saba-men Deka, has been ap-pointed Governor of Chhattisgarh, while a form-from Mysore in Karnataka,

from Mysore in Karnataka C.H. Vijayashankar, will be the Meghalaya Governor. In Rajasthan, a BJP leader from Maharashtra, Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde, has been appointed Governor to succeed Kalraj Mishra.

to succeed Kalraj Mishra.
"The above appointments will take effect from
the dates they will assume
charge of their respective
offices," a statement said.

challenging his 'unopposed win'

HC summons Surat MP over pleas

'Capital gains is the fastest growing income class, can be taxed higher'

Capital gains is the fastest growing income class in In-dia; it deserves to be taxed at a higher rate, on the grounds of raising reve-nues for the government and equity and fairness, Fi-nance Secretary T.V. Soma-nathan said on Sundaly. In a conversation with Raghuvir Srinivasan, Edi-

Raghuvir Srinivasan, Edi-tor, Bizinessilne, at a post-budget discussion, Mr. So-manathan said the in-stances are superiorized by three factors. The "primary motivation" was to sim-plify the tax structure. Ear-lier, there were varied rates and different periods of holding the assets. Now, in response to calls for simpli-fication, the structure has are 12.5% for all long term are 12.5% for all long-term capital gains and the dura-tion for qualifying for longterm is one year for listed

The second motivation. he said, was to raise reve-nues. In this context, he observed that 'capital



Ltd., at a post-Budget discussion by Businessline. BUOY GHOSH

ing asset class in the coun-

ing asset class in the coun-try. "India needs taxation— we have to gather taxes at moderate rates," he said. Finally, stressing that it was his personal opinion and not necessarily that of the government, Mr. Soma-rican transfer and the said. Finally, and the said of the said. capital gains because a concessional rate of tax on capital gains is unfair to those who earn incomes through other means. The Finance Secretary

said capital gains taxes in India, even after the recent hike, were much lower than those in developed countries. As an example, he mentioned that Canada taxes capital gains at half the applicable rate, whereas most other countries have a flat rate. He admit-ted that there was a justifi-cation for capital gains tax-es to be lower than applicable rates because capital gains occur inter-mittently and could push tax bracket in the year it tax bracket in the year it occurs. But, what the low-er rate should be, is a mat-ter of the respective go-vernment's decision. The Indian government has de cided that long-term capi

tal gains tax should be 12.5% and short-term 20%. He also said that the country should get used to paying taxes at moderate rates, and said: "Our tax-

some amount of reasona ble taxes on capital gains". On the real estate front he said the decision to re-move "indexation" (taking into account the effect of inflation while calculating capital gains) would bene-fit the taxpayer, noting that if the capital gains arising out of a real estate transac-tion were to be higher than 10%, the 12.5% rate of tax. without indexation, would be better than the previous 20% with indexation.

gains taxes on asset classes such as securities was to raise revenues, for real es tate gains, no revenue

Describing the 12.5 per cent rate as "liberal", be cent rate as "liberai", he said a person who makes capital gains on real estate has the option of avoiding a tax liability by reinvesting the gain in another proper-ty or buying capital gains bonds

Ajit Pawar to launch 'Jan Samman Yatra' ahead of election

Press Trust of India

Smarting under the embar-rassing defeat in the recent Lok Sabha election, Na-tionalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar is set to launch a mass outreach programme to pre-pare the ground for the up-coming Maharashtra coming Maha Assembly election.

"The Jan Sammam Yatra to be led by Ajit Pawar will be rolled out from Nashik," NCP's Maharashtra unit president Sunil Tatkare said on Sunday.

said on Sunday.
Addressing NCP workers in Nashik, Mr. Tatkare credited Mr. Pawar for introducing welfare projects of El lakh crore for women, youths, and farmers in the State.

Interestingly, Mr. Tat-kare said senior NCP lead-ers Chhagan Bhujbal, a

Yatra will traverse all 288 Assembly constituencies

sembly election. "Ajit*dada* (as Mr. Pawa 'Ajtadad (as Mr. Pawar is popularly known in Mah-arashtra) has been doing effective political work for the last 35 years. His opponents are trying to defame him and other leaders of the NCP. We should work to defeat these attempts. It was Ajit Pawar who brought the Maha Vikas Aghadi government to the ground by announcing va-rious projects," the NCP state president added.

state president added.

Being a finance minister, Ajit Pawar has struck a
balance between fiscal
prudence and welfare
schemes, he said. The Ajit
Pawar-led Yatra will traverse all 288 Assembly constituencies commencing from Nashik, he added.

Press Trust of India

The Guiarat High Court has The Gujarat High Court has issued summons to the Bharatiya Janata Party MP from the Surat Lok Sabha constituency, Mukesh Dalal, over two petitions challenging his uncontested sixtone

The court of Justice J.C. Doshi issued summons to Mr. Dalal, directing him to respond by August 9, after the matter came up for hearing on July 25, the lawyer for petitioners P.S. Champaneri said on

Mr. Dalal was declared the winner on April 22, the last date for withdrawal of nominations, after Con-gress pick Nilesh Kumbbagress pick Nilesh Kumbha-ni's nomination was reject-ed and other candidates withdrew from the race. The remaining 25 Lok Sabha seats in Gujarat went to poll on May 7 in the third phase of general elec-tions. Including Surat, BJP won 25 seats in the State,

The petitioners have challenged the legality and validity of the decision of the Surat Collector and re-

Mukesh Dalal receives the 'certificate of election' after hi unopposed victory in Surat's Lok Sabha seat on April 22. FILE PHOTO

with Congress bagging

turning officer to reject Mr. Kumbhani's nomination.

Kumbhani's nomination.
The two petitions, filed
by four voters from the Surat Parliamentary Constituency who are also Congress members,
questioned the decision of
the returning officer to reject Mr. Kumbhani's form
under the provisions of

Section 36 of the Representation of the People Act. concerning scrutiny of the nomination forms.

The petitioners have claimed that Mr. Kumbhani's three proposers, who later denied having signed his nomination papers, had declared in an applica-tion before the deputy col-lector that they would be signing as proposers on his nomination form. They had done so while applying for the certificate de-claring them voters of the

same constituency, a pre condition for proposers.

Furthermore, the verifi-cation of signatures is not a cation of signatures is not a Collector's job, the peti-tioners contended, stress-ing that the Congress, be-ing a national party, doesn't have any shortage of proposers for its candi-dates in a given

constituency.

Mr. Dalal became the first candidate in the last 12 years to win a Lok Sabha contest unopposed. His was the first victory for the BJP in the recently concluded general elections whose results were declared on time 4.

District Collector and election officer Saurabh Pardhi handed the certifi-cate of election to Mr. Dalal cate of election to Mr. Dalal in the last hour of the with the last hour of the with the hour of the with the hour of the with the hour of the hour of

SP appoints Mata Pandey as Leader of the Opposition

The Hindu Bureau LUCKNOW

The Samaiwadi Party (SP) on Sunday appointed se-ven-time MLA Mata Prasad Pandey as the Leader of day before the beginning of the Uttar Pradesh assembly session. The 81-year-old Brah-

min leader represents the Itwa Assembly constituency in Siddharthnagar dis trict. He has served as Speaker of the Uttar Pra desh Assembly twice, in desh Assembly twice, in-cluding between 2012-2017, and was elected for the first time in the 1980 Assembly election.



The appointment of a Brahmin leader to a key post holds significance as the SP continues its efforts to strengthen its base among the Backwards, Da on its PDA [Pichada, Dalit on its PDA [Pichada, Dalit, and Alpasankhyak] plank. "Mata Prasad Ji, is a loyal soldier of socialist ideolo-gy. He has more than five gy. He has more than five decades of experience in active politics and has been elected MLA several times. He is the right choice for the post of Lead-er of Opposition," said Ra-jendra Choudhary, SP's chief spokesperson to The Hindu.

In midnight reshuffle, President appoints six new Governors

BJP veteran Om Mathur has been appointed Governor of Sikkim, and former IAS officer K. Kailashnathan Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

resident Droupadi Murmu appointed six new Governors and reshuffled three others, a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique has said.

The communique was issued past Saturday midnight.

BJP veteran Om Mathur has been appointed Governor of Sikkim, and Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey has been replaced by Lakshman Prasad Acharya, who has been moved from Sikkim to Assam and given additional charge of Manipur.

Mr. Mathur's appointment comes amid speculation that he is a contender for the post of BJP president.

Another significant appointment is that of former IAS officer K. Kailashnathan – a close aide of PM Narendra Modi when he was



Om Mathur

the Chief Minister of Gujarat – as the Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry. On June 30, Mr. Kailashnathan stepped down as the Chief Principal Secretary to the Gujarat Chief Minister.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan communique said the incumbent Governor of Assam, Gulab Chand Kataria, will now be the new Governor of Punjab as Banwarilal Purohit's resignation has been accepted. He has also been appointed Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Jharkhand Governor C.P. Radhakrishnan, who was also holding additional charge of Telangana, has been appointed Governor of Maharashtra.

Former Union Minister for Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar will be the new Jharkhand Governor, while former Deputy Chief Minister of Tripura Jishnu Dev Varma will be the new Telangana Governor.

A former Lok Sabha member from Assam, Ramen Deka, has been appointed Governor of Chhattisgarh, while a former Lok Sabha member from Mysore in Karnataka, C.H. Vijayashankar, will be the Meghalaya Governor. In Rajasthan, a BJP leader from Maharashtra, Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde, has been appointed Governor to succeed Kalraj Mishra.

"The above appointments will take effect from the dates they will assume charge of their respective offices," a statement said.

Text&Context

THE MOS HINDU -

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of Indian sportswomen who won Olympic medals

Manu Bhaker becomes the first Indian markswoman to secure an olympic medal, ending a 12-year drought in medals for shooting, with the most recent win being from shooter Vijay Kumar in the 2012 London Olympics. Funds raised by the Harris campaign for the U.S. electoral race

in \$ million. This amount was raised in president Kamala Harris' candidacy earned enough delegates to become the presumptive nominee. m

The points deducted from Canada women's soccer team

FIFA dished out several FIFA dished out several punishments to the Canadian womens' soccer team. Two assistant coaches were caught using drones to spy on opponent New Zealand's practices before their opening game. by Coal India Ltd to boost output

Coal India Ltd is advancing projects with a capacity of 886 million tonne per year and a sanctioned capital of ₹1,33,576 crore. The company has set a target of 1 billion tonne of production by 2025-26. pm

The projects advanced The smuggled foreign cigarettes seized in Mumbai

in lakh. The Special Intelligence and Investigation Branch seized the cigarettes with an estimated value of 46.5 crore from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Mumbai. en

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On reservations and the OBC creamy layer

What were the recommendations of the Mandal Commission? What is the criteria for exclusion of the 'creamy layer' of the Other Backward Class? Is the concentration of reservation benefits a concern? What can done for a more equitable distribution?

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan. R

The story so far: he allotment of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) to Puja Khedkar as an Other Backward Class (OBC) Non-Creamy Layer (NCL) candidate coupled with multiple disabilities has raised issues surrounding the creamy layer in OBC reservation.

What is the history of reservation? What is the history of reservation? Articles 15 and 16 guarantee equality to all citizens in any policy of the government and public employment respectively. In order to achieve social justice, they also enable special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes or OBC, educationally backward classes or OBC, Scheduled Castes (SC) and ST and Scheduled Tribes (ST). Reservations for SC and ST are fixed at 15% and 7.5% respectively, in jobs, educational institutions and public level. It was in 1990, when V. P. Singh was Prime Minister, that 27% reservation for OBC was implemented in central government employment based on Machanistics and the School of the Company recommendations. Subsequently in 2005, reservation was enabled for OBC, SC and ST in educational institutions including

private institutions. In 2019, 10% reservation was enabled for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among the unreserved category.

What is the creamy layer? What is the creamy layer? The 27% reservation for OBC was upheld by the Supreme Court in the *Indra* Sawhney case (1992). It opined that caste is a determinant of class in the Indian is a determinant of class in the Indian context. However, in order to uphold the basic structure of equality, it fixed a cap of 50% for reservation unless there are exceptional circumstances. The court also provided for exclusion of creamy layer from OBC.



The criteria for identifying a person as part of the creamy layer is based on t recommendations of the Justice Ram Nandan Prasad Committee (1993). It is determined by the position/income of an applicant's parents alone. The criteria for elonging to creamy layer is parental income, excluding income from salary and agricultural income, being more than ₹8 lakh in each year in the last three onsecutive financial years. Further, the consecutive financial years. Further, the following categories of applicants are also considered as belonging to croamy layer; considered as belonging to croamy layer; government service (centre or State) as Group A/Class I officer or parents, both of whom entered as Group B/Class II officers of the order of the parents employed in a managerial position in PSUs; (c) either of the parents holding constitutional posts.

The recent controversy has raised issues surrounding the inadequacies in the process. There are allegations that some persons with disabilities in central government jobs. There are also allegations of applicants and their parent adopting strategies to get around the creamy layer exclusion like gitting of strategies to get around the screen proplicant's or his/her spouse's ince the applicant's or his/her spouse's income is not considered for such exclusion. Another contentious issue relates to concentration of reservation benefits. The Rohini Commission, that

applicants manage to obtain NCL or EWS certificate through dubious means. The same may also be true with respect to disability certificates in order to take benefit of the 4% of seats reserved for

was set up for providing recommendation on sub-categorisation among OBC castes, and seats in educational institutions have been garnered by just around 25% of the OBC castes/who-castes at the contral level. OBC category had communities under the OBC category had communities under the OBC category had communities under the OBC category with the OBC category and the OBC category and the OBC category as well. There is neither any exclusion besed on the OBC category as well. There is neither any exclusion besed on the OBC category as well. There is neither any exclusion based on the OBC category in the OBC category is well. The reservation at present stands at 60%, including the reservation for EWS. Articles 15 and 16 guarantee

What can be the way forward?
The foremost requirement is to plug the loopholes in the issue of NCL, EWS and disability certificates. There must be eligible applicants obtain these benefits. The vacancies for reserved communities should be filled without backlogs. Sub-categorisation of reservation may be essential to address reservation may be essential to the under representation or non-representation of various communities. Similarly, creamy layer communices. Similarly, creamy sayer exclusion in SC and ST category, at least for children of Group I/Class A government officials may be considered. These are sensitive matters in which for

percentage of reservation is required. It is pertinent to note that as per government replies in Parliament, 40-50% of seats

eserved for OBC, SC and ST in the central

These are sensitive matters in which for every argument in favour of such a proposal, there are valid counter arguments that can be advanced. Nevertheless, a discussion should begin on these aspects with all stakeholders to implement them. This would ensure that implement them. This would ensure tha benefits of reservation reach the more marginalised among underprivileged in successive generations. Rangarajan. R is a former IAS officer and author of Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.

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What is South Africa's new law on climate change?

What are the features of the law? Does India have an omnibus legislation on climate change?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far: The story so far:

outh Africa's President, Cyril Ramaphosa, signed into law a piece of legislation that will impose mandatory curbs on the emissions from large, fossil-fuel heavy industries and, require climate-adaptate plans from towns and villages. The esident said this would enable South President said this would enable South Africa to meet its emissions reduction commitments under the Paris agreement.

What is the significance of this law? The Climate Change Bill was approved by South Africa's National Assembly last ember. South Africa relies on coal as its primary fuel source for electricity peration and is one of the world's top 15 tenhouse gas (GHG) emitters. cording to an official estimate, net emissions in 2017 were estimated at 512 emissions in 2017 were estimated at 512 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO2e), an increase of 14% from 2000. In 2022, this fell to 405 Mt

CO2e, a 3% fall from 2021, according to Statista. It is unclear if these numbers are strictly comparable and if the fall was in mission and the strictly of the strictly of the number of the strictly of the strictly of the sector represents roughly 80% of gross emissions, with energy industries (-60%) and transport (-12%). Being an economy which is dependent on agriculture and western pressure to accelerate its. Western pressure to accelerate its transition away from fossil fuel.

What steps has South Africa taken? Every country submits Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), which are time-bound commitments to lower submissions, South Africa submitted its first consistency. South Africa submitted its first supdated NDC in 2021. The updated NDC commits to 31% reduction and a fixed target for GHG emissions levels of 398-810 MtCO2e by 2020,

emissions levels of 398-510 MtCO2e by 2025, and 350-420 MtCO2e by 2030. The NDC outlines an approach for a just transition," or the sustainable movement to jobs away from fossil-fuel

dependent industries – to achieve targets, focusing on agriculture, forestry and other land use, energy, industrial processes and before the second of the s Presidential Climate Commission released its Just Transition Framework in 2022, which aims to inform policy making at the nexus of climate and development to enable deep, just transformational shifts. These were the actions that preceded the signing of the Climate Change Bill.

What about India? What about indiar India does not have a comprehensive legislation on climate change. Priyanka Chaturvedi, the Rajya Sabha parliamentarian, had moved a Private Member's Bill, called the Council on Climate Change Bill, most recently in 2022. This proposed setting up a Council,

advising the Union government on all matters related to climate change but there has been no significant movement on this so far. However, climate change features in multiple Acts and subordinate legislation. These include the Environmental Protection Act. Forest Conservation Act, Energy Conservation Act, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act among others.

Are these enough?
In April this year, the Supreme Court
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THE GIST

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Text&Context

THE MOON HINDU

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on sub-categorisation among OBC castes has estimated that 97% of reserved jobs and seats in educational institutions have been garnered by just around 25% of the OBC castes/sub-castes at the central level. Close to 1,000 of around 2,600 communities under the OBC category had zero representation in Jobs and educational institutes. Similar issue of

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Act Water (Prevention and Control of Are these enough?

In April this year, the Supreme Court ruled that citizens have a "right against the adverse effects of climate change," and referred to the fact that India did not have an omnibus legislation on climate change. "Describe Constitutional"

change. "Despite Constitutional guarantees that give the citizens equality before the law and right to life and personal liberty, it was now necessary, in the Court's view, to explicitly link the impact of climate change as something which impedes these rights of liberty, life and equality." Prior to the UN Conference of Parties in Dubai last year, India communicated that the intensity of its energy emissions had reduced by 33% from 2005-2019, II years ahead of target. It also committed to revising its emission If also committed to revising its emissions intensity to 45% by 2030 in the updated set of NDC. Emission intensity refers to the total amount of GHG emitted for every the total amount of GHG emitted for ev unit increase of GDP, It is different from

THE CIST

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Are these enough?

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THE GIST



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- South Africa's New Climate Change Law (दक्षिण अफ्रीका का नया जलवायु परिवर्तन कानून)
- Key Features (मुख्य विशेषताएँ)
 - Imposes mandatory curbs on emissions from large, fossil-fuel heavy industries (बड़े, जीवाश्म-ईंधन आधारित उद्योगों से उत्सर्जन पर अनिवार्य प्रतिबंध लगाता है).
 - Requires climate-adaptation plans from towns and villages (शहरों और गांवों से जलवायु-अनुक्लन योजनाएँ आवश्यक हैं).

- Significance (महत्व) Aims to meet emissions reduction commitments under the Paris agreement (पेरिस समझौते के तहत उत्सर्जन में कमी की प्रतिबद्धताओं को पूरा करने का लक्ष्य).
- South Africa is one of the world's top 15 GHG emitters, heavily relying on coal for electricity generation (दक्षिण अफ्रीका दुनिया के शीर्ष 15 GHG उत्सर्जकों में से एक है, जो बिजली उत्पादन के लिए कोयले पर अत्यधिक निर्भर है).

Nationally Determined Contributions (राष्ट्रीय रूप से निर्धारित योगदान)Submitted first NDC in 2016 and updated in 2021 (पहला NDC 2016 में और अपडेट 2021 में प्रस्तुत किया).

2021

2025

Targets 31% reduction and aims for 398-510 MtCO2e by 2025, and 350-420 MtCO2e by 2030 (31% कमी का लक्ष्य और 2025 तक 398-510 MtCO2e और 2030 तक 350-420 MtCO2e का लक्ष्य).

• Financial Requirements (वित्तीय आवश्यकताएँ)

• Requires \$8 billion per year by 2030 to meet targets (लक्ष्म्यों को पूरा करने के लिए 2030 तक प्रति वर्ष \$8 बिलियन की आवश्यकता).

- Current Legislation (वर्तमान कान्न) India does not have a comprehensive climate change law (भारत के पास एक व्यापक जलवायु परिवर्तन कानून नहीं है).
- Various acts like Environmental Protection Act, Forest Conservation Act, etc., address climate change issues (पर्यावरण संरक्षण अधिनियम, वन संरक्षण अधिनियम, आदि जैसे विभिन्न अधिनियम जलवायु परिवर्तन मुद्दों को संबोधित करते हैं).

1. Recent Developments (हाल के विकास)

1. Supreme Court ruling on right against adverse effects of climate change (जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रतिकूल प्रभावों के खिलाफ अधिकार पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट का फैसला).

- Consider the following statements regarding South Africa's new climate change law:
- 1. The law imposes mandatory curbs on emissions from large, fossil-fuel heavy industries.
- 2. It requires climate-adaptation plans from towns and villages.
- 3. South Africa aims to reduce its GHG emissions by 50% by 2030 under the new law.
- 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

Jharkhand MLAs
Disqualified under Antidefection Law



- The Jharkhand Assembly Speaker's Tribunal disqualified two legislators under the anti-defection law.
- About Anti-Defection Law
- Background and Need: The defections of legislators during the 1960s and 70s from their parent parties created political instability in many States, bringing down elected governments.

 Therefore, to ensure the stability of elected governments, The 52nd constitutional amendment introduced the 'anti-defection' law through the Tenth Schedule in 1985.

- **Provisions:** It disqualifies a legislator if they voluntarily give up their party membership or violate the party whip on voting.
 - The law applies to both Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) and state legislatures.
 - The Speaker or Chairman of the House decides on disqualification based on petitions filed by other members.



- Exceptions: Defections are allowed if one-third of the members of a party decide to split and form a new party.
- Legislators can switch parties without disqualification if their original party merges with another party.

Objectives

• Preventing Political Instability: By reducing the frequency of defections, the law has helped in creating more stable governments, allowing for smoother governance.



- Ensuring Accountability: It holds legislators accountable for their commitment to the party that elected them, thereby reinforcing their responsibility towards the electorate.
- **Promoting Party Discipline:** By discouraging defections, the law helps maintain internal discipline within political parties, ensuring cohesive functioning.

Supreme Court Observations

- The Supreme Court clarified that the anti-defection law applies even if a faction splits from a political party and manages to cobble up a majority within the party itself.
 - This means that a group of legislators, whether in the majority or minority, cannot escape the provisions of the Tenth Schedule by claiming to belong to the same party.

 The Speaker or Chairperson's decision is final, it is subject to judicial review by the courts, ensuring that the process remains fair and just.

Impact of Oil Spills on Environment

 Recently, the Typhoon Gaemi has wreaked havoc across Taiwan, the Philippines and parts of southeastern China, resultant heavy rains led to the sinking of the oil tanker laden with 1.4 million litres of oil, in Manila Bay.

•

- Understanding Oil Spills
- Oil spills occur when **crude oil or refined petroleum** products are **released into the environment**, typically due to accidents during **transportation**, **offshore drilling**, **or tanker mishaps**.
- These spills can have both immediate and long-term consequences for ecosystems and human communities.

- as their by-products heavier fuels used by large ships such as bunker fuel or oily refuse of any kind.
 - Gasoline, for instance, is worse than crude oil because it's lighter and more toxic.

- Types of Oil Spills
- Major Incidents: These are more severe and often result from pipeline breaks, tanker accidents (sinking or running aground), or drilling mishaps. The consequences of major spills can be felt for decades.
- Minor Spills: These occur during routine operations, such as when oil spills from a ship during refuelling.

International Incidence	Indian incidents
 Venezuela: In 2020 oil leakage from the El Palito refinery in Venezuela. Japanese ship MV Wakashio carrying fuel oil split into two parts near Blue Bay Marine Park in south-east Mauritius. Russia: Arctic (Norilsk diesel fuel spill) Oil Spill. Santa Barbara spill off California (1969), where over four million gallons of oil were 	 Chennai 2017: Two ships collided off Kamarajar Port Limited's (KPL) harbour and resulted in a major oil spill disaster. Sundarban 2014: Oil spill in Sela River, Bangladesh created an environmental concern for India too. ONGC Uran Plant leaked oil in the Arabian Sea in 2013. Mumbai coast: In 2010 two ships collided
released.	

causing the 800 tonnes of the oil spill.

Related Environmental Impacts

Marine Life and Habitats:

• **Physical Effects:** Oil coats the surface of the water, reducing sunlight penetration. This disrupts photosynthesis and affects marine plants like algae and seagrass.

Chemical Effects: Toxic components in oil harm fish, shellfish, and other aquatic organisms. These toxins can accumulate in the food chain.

Birds and Mammals: Oil can kill surface-dwelling animals and birds by poisoning or suffocation. It also affects buoyancy and natural waterproofing, making animals vulnerable.

Coastal and Marine Environments:

- Recovery Time: Coastal and marine ecosystems can take several decades to recover from oil pollution. Even after visible signs disappear, lingering effects persist.
- Mangroves and Wetlands: These sensitive habitats suffer from oil contamination, affecting their ability to support biodiversity.

Economic Impact:

- **Fisheries:** Oil spills disrupt fishing activities, leading to economic losses for coastal communities.
- Tourism: Contaminated beaches and water discourage tourism, impacting local economies.



- Measures to Address Oil Spills
- Prevention: Strict regulations for oil tankers, pipelines, and offshore platforms; Improved safety protocols during oil transport and extraction.
- Response and Cleanup: Rapid containment and recovery of spilled oil; Use of booms, skimmers, and dispersants; Natural processes (such as microbial degradation) play a role in breaking down oil.

- Control Measures for Oil Spills
- Bioremediation: It refers to the use of specific microorganisms to remove any toxic or harmful substances
- The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI) has developed Oil Zapper Bacteria which can degrade the oil quickly.





Oil Booms: They are temporary floating barriers used to contain marine spills, protect the environment, and assist in recovery.



Using Dispersants: Dispersal agents are chemicals that are sprayed upon the spill with the help of aircraft and boats, which aid the natural breakdown of oil components

First Ever 'Cultural Property Agreement' Between India and US



• India and the United States of America signed the first ever 'Cultural Property Agreement' to prevent and curb the illicit trafficking of antiquities from India to the USA.



- About Cultural Property Agreement (CPA)
- It was Initiated in 2022 and formalized through diplomatic notes and discussions, with support from the NGO 'Antiquity Coalition.'
- It is aligned with the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, to which both countries are States party.

Gender Equality in Sports



• With the <u>Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games</u>, history will be made as an <u>equal number of men and women compete</u>, marking the largest gender-equal sporting event.

 As per recently released, UNESCO's Sport and Gender Equality Game Plan

- Key Observations:
- 1. Sexual Abuse: 21% of women athletes and 11% of men reported childhood sexual abuse in sports.
- 2.<u>High Dropout:</u> 49% of girls drop out of sports during adolescence, 6 times higher than boys, due to lack of role models, safety concerns, lack of confidence, and negative body image.

- 1.<u>Inequality:</u> No women in the top <u>50 highest-paid athletes</u>.
- 2.Leadership: Only 30% of major sports federations were chaired by women in 2023.



- Suggested Actions:
- 1. <u>Use sports media to change attitudes</u> and address gender inequalities.
- 2. Promote gender equality in sports leadership and decision-making.
- 3. Develop gender-responsive infrastructure and budgeting.
- 4.End all forms of gender-based violence in sports.



Omnibus (समग्र):

- Meaning: Comprising several items.
- Sentence: India does not have an omnibus legislation on climate change.

CURRENT AFFAIRS COURSE

- **UPDATED CURRENT AFFAIRS (2023+2024)**
- **©COMPLETE NOTES(PDF)**

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