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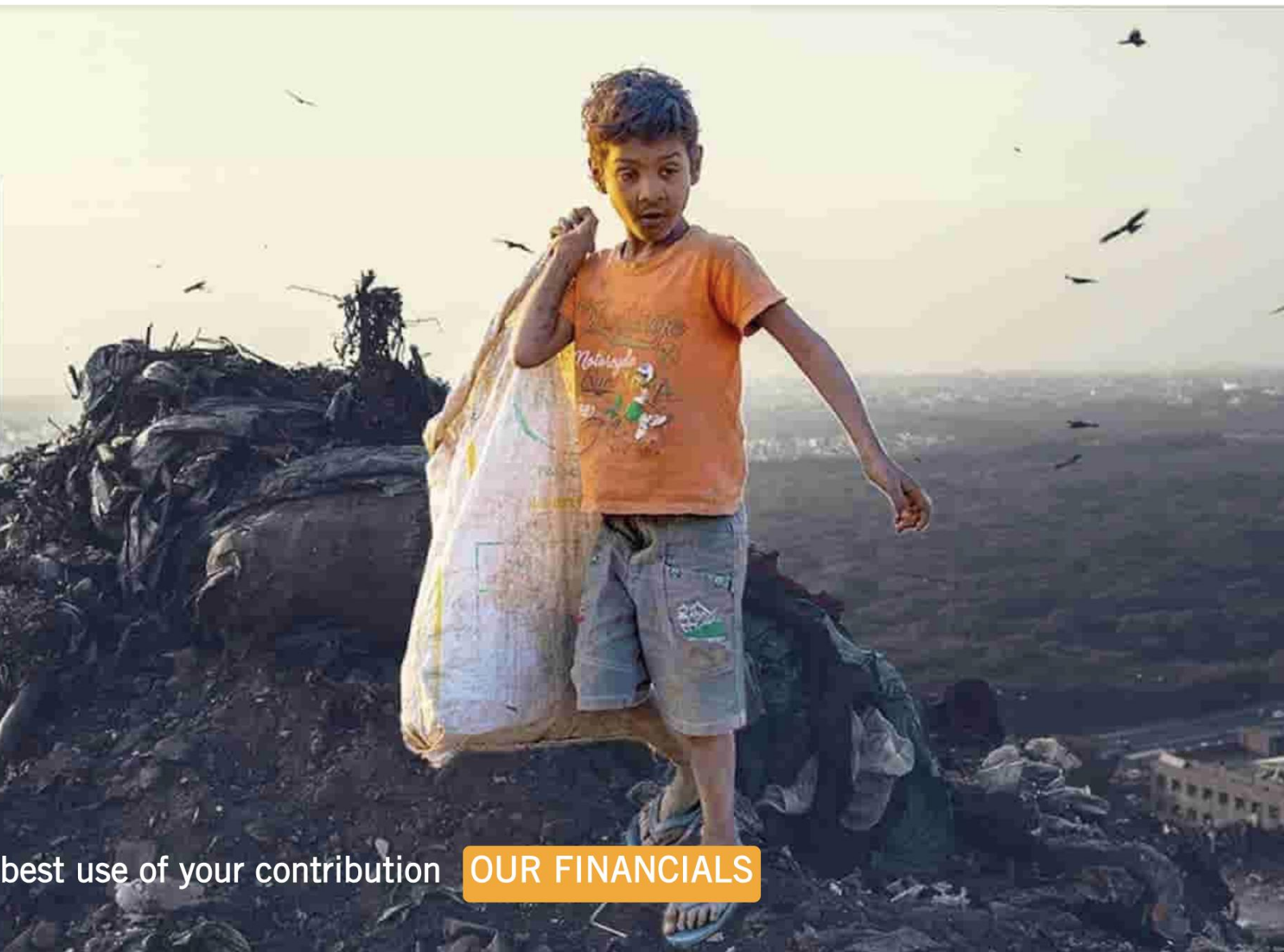
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GST collections cross
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Lakshya moves into
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**NEARBY
Jharkhand BJP
MLAs suspended
for 'hooliganism'**
As many as 18 BJP MLAs were suspended by Jharkhand Speaker for indulging in "hooliganism" in the Assembly on Thursday, after protesting against eviction of party MLAs by marshals of the Assembly on Wednesday. » PAGE 2

**Railways to add
2,500 general
coaches: Minister**
NEW DELHI
Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Thursday that the national transporter would add nearly 2,500 general coaches in the coming months. Apart from this, nearly 10,000 general coaches would be made in the foreseeable future, he said. » PAGE 5

**Shahi Idgah HC
rejects Muslim
side's petition**
NEW DELHI
The Allahabad High Court on Thursday dismissed the plea led by Mathura-based Shahi Idgah mosque committee, challenging maintainability of 28 lawsuits seeking removal of the mosque from the complex which it shares with the Katra Khasab Dev temple. » PAGE 8

**Israel says Hamas
military chief
killed in July hit**
JERUSALEM
A day after Hamas and Iran proxies said they had killed movement's chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, Israel said on Thursday that Hamas military chief Ismail Haniyeh was killed in an air strike in Gaza Strip in July. » PAGE 14

States can sub-classify SCs for quotas: top court

Seven-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court holds that sub-categorisation within a class is a constitutional requirement to secure substantive equality. If the social position of the constituents is not comparable, says apprehensions of 'potential political tinkering' cannot obviate constitutional need for acknowledging inequality among SCs

Krishnadas Rajarajapal
NEW DELHI
In a 6:1 majority judgment on Thursday, a seven-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, held that the States have the right to sub-classify Scheduled Castes notified in the Presidential List to provide them more preferential treatment in public employment and education.
Referring to how a nine-judge Bench in the *Jindra Sawhney* case had held it constitutional to classify the backward class into the backward class into "backward" and the "more backward", Chief Justice Chandrachud said the same principle would apply to the SCs.
"The principle of sub-classification will be applicable to Scheduled Castes if the social position of the constituent groups is not comparable... Sub-categorisation within a class is a constitutional requirement to secure substantive equality," he said.
He, however, remained silent on introducing the creamy layer principle to the SCs and STs.
"Creamy layer principle" Four of the seven judges on the Bench separately said the government should extend the "creamy layer" principle to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Why sub-classification?
Here are the salient points of the Supreme Court judgment:
• Scheduled Castes are not an "indivisible monolith".
• They are composed of heterogeneous groups of castes, sub-castes and tribes with varying degrees of backwardness.
• The States can further classify them on the basis of their social position.
• States have to produce data to produce a sub-class required for affirmative treatment.
• The principle of differentiation and classification is a basic feature of the Constitution.
• The State must evolve a policy for identifying the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category. It was necessary to exclude affluent individuals or families from the benefits of reservation and make room for the underprivileged within these classes.
• "The State must evolve a policy for identifying the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so as to exclude them from the benefits of affirmative action. In my view, only this and this alone can achieve the real equality as enshrined under the Constitution..."

Can a child of IAS/IPS or civil service officers be equated with a child of an disadvantaged member belonging to Scheduled Castes, residing in a gram panchayat/zilla parishad school in a village? Justice B.R. Gopal asked.
The view was backed by Justices Vikram Nath, Pankaj Mishra and Satish Chandra Sharma.
Chief Justice Chandrachud's joint opinion with Justice Mishra that it was constitutionally permissible for the States to sub-classify groups among Scheduled Castes was backed by four other judges. Justice Gopal opined that the unequals have to be treated equally to bring "real equality".
"It is the duty of the State to give preferential treatment to the backward class of citizens who are not adequately represented," Justice Gopal said.
Justice Bela Trivedi reminded the lower benches on the Bench, saying the States did not have the power to tinker with the Presidential List of Scheduled Castes.
The Constitution Bench judgment followed a reference made to the seven-judge Bench in 2020 to examine the constitutionality of the Tamil Nadu Arundhati Reservation Act, 2009 and the Punjab Scheduled Castes (Reservation in Services) Act, 2006.
Chief Justice Chandrachud traced the power of these States to sub-classify the Scheduled Castes for the purpose of affirmative action, including reservations, to Articles 15(4) [prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, caste, etc.] and 16(5) [equal opportunity in public employment] of the Constitution.
The court agreed that apprehensions of "potential political tinkering" by parties in power in States to expand vote banks cannot obviate the constitutional need for acknowledging and remedying inter se inequality among Scheduled Castes.
"EVOLVE POLICY" » PAGE 4

**Swapnil guns down third
shooting medal for India**
On target: It was Swapnil Kusale's turn on Thursday to win a shooting medal in Paris after Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh. He won a bronze in the 50-metre rifle three positions event. SITU RAJ KUNWAR



Jonathan Sotnyar
PARIS
Swapnil Kusale had an Olympic debut to remember, winning a bronze — India's third medal of the Games — in the men's 50m rifle three position event on Thursday.
The 29-year-old from Kambhawali was lying in fifth place at the end of the kneeling and prone segments of the event. He would then find his rhythm in the standing position even as those around him lost theirs. Jon Herman Hegg of Norway, who was in the lead at the start of the series, fell behind him and Kusale held on to take a career-defining medal behind Serhiy Kulsh of Ukraine and Liu Yulian of China.
FULL REPORT » PAGE 16

No one left alive in Wayanad disaster zone, Army informs Chief Minister
E.M. Manoj
WAYANAD
The teams engaged in rescue and search operations in a landslide-hit Chooralmala in Wayanad have recovered 189 bodies — 85 men, 76 women and 27 children — and 100 body parts from various locations, the Revenue Department said. The gender of a deceased is yet to be identified.
All those stranded in the area have been evacuated and shifted to hospitals and relief camps. Major General V.T. Mathew, Sub-area General Officer Commanding, Kerala and Karnataka, who is coordinating the Army's rescue operations, said.
Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan visited the site and interacted with the officials of the Central forces. At an all-party meeting chaired by Mr. Vijayan, the rescue team carried children to safety with the help of



NDRF and Fire and Rescue personnel searching for bodies at Chooralmala in Wayanad on Thursday. THULASI NARAYAN
where that no one was left alive in the disaster zone.
The Army completed the construction of a Bailey bridge linking Mundakkal and Chooralmala on Thursday.
Forest officials rescued several families stranded in a cave deep inside a forest following the landslide near Attamalla. Braving heavy rain, the rescue team carried children to safety with the help of
ropes. As many as 234 individuals rescued from the disaster zone were shifted to various hospitals.
Relentless effort
The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority and other agencies are working relentlessly to speed up rescue operations and provide relief to those in need, despite the inclement weather.
Unconfirmed reports

Above-normal rain in August, La Nina could intensify September precipitation, says IMD
Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI
Amid rain-triggered landslides killing over 200 people in Wayanad of Kerala and intense spells battering Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast above-normal rain in August and September.
August, the second rainiest monsoon month, is expected to receive normal rainfall, and September more rainfall than the average 17 cm every year. The IMD forecast of an "above-normal second half" of the monsoon comes true.
"The rainfall averaged over the entire country from August to September is likely to be above normal



An autorickshaw struggles to negotiate a waterlogged road amid heavy rain in New Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP
of 106% of the Long Period Average (LPA). The agency said in a statement on Thursday.
In recent years, rainfall has been increasing in September and this could damage standing crops, as was observed in Madhya Pradesh two years ago, when heavy rain in September damaged the soya bean crop.
"Our weather models suggest that La Nina or La Nina-like conditions are likely to develop towards the end of August. So this

ed surplus rain, or over 30% of what is usual, in line with the IMD's forecast in July. IMD's reported heavy or very heavy rainfall (defined as 10 cm or more, the IMD data suggested.
Indications that Kerala would receive very heavy rain were beginning July 29, Mr. Mohapatra said. "We issued an orange alert to authorities to take preparatory action. States should wait for a red alert, following that on July 30 early morning we issued a red alert," he said.
Similarly, Delhi which saw scattered showers of intense rain on Wednesday evening had received orange alerts two days in advance, he added.

T.N. fisherman dies in bid to evade arrest by Lanka navy
Meera Sriyanvan
L. Srikrishna
COLOMBO/RAMESWARAM
An Indian fisherman from Tamil Nadu died early on Thursday after his fishing boat capsized in Sri Lanka waters while resisting arrest by a Sri Lankan Navy patrol vessel, authorities said in Colombo.
While a search operation is under way to find another fisherman, the Sri Lankan Navy arrested two other fishermen from the capsized boat.
India summoned a senior Sri Lankan diplomat in New Delhi to register its strong protest over the incident, while leaders of the fishing community in Rameswaram demanded that the government regis-

Two fishermen held by the Sri Lankan Navy, search operation on to find another fisherman
ter a murder case against Sri Lankan Navy personnel, he said.
Confirming the development, Sri Lankan Navy spokesperson Captain Gayan Wickramasooriya told *The Hindu* that the fishermen had resisted the "aggressive manoeuvres" when the Navy patrol units attempted to apprehend their boat on charges of illegal fishing in Sri Lankan waters.
"There were 10 to 15 Indian trawlers early this morning. When our patrol boat tried capturing one, the fishermen on board tried to escape. Their boat capsized, and the four fishermen fell into the sea. One was seriously injured and taken to a hospital in Pungudutuvai of Jaffna peninsula, where he died. One more fisherman is missing and two were rescued early and are in our custody," he said.
The two fishermen in custody were taken to Kankesanthurai for further investigation, according to the fishing community at Rameswaram.
Indian Consulate Officials in Jaffna have been instructed to immediately rush to Kankesanthurai and extend all possible assistance to the fishermen and their families.

States can sub-classify SCs for quotas: top court

Seven-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court holds that sub-categorisation within a class is a constitutional requirement to secure substantive equality, if the social position of the constituents is not comparable; says apprehensions of 'potential political tinkering' cannot obviate constitutional need for acknowledging inequality among SCs

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

In a 6:1 majority judgment on Thursday, a seven-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, held that the States have the right to sub-classify Scheduled Castes notified in the Presidential List to provide them more preferential treatment in public employment and education.

Referring to how a nine-judge Bench in the *Indra Sawhney* case had held it constitutional to classify the backward class into "backward" and the "more backward", Chief Justice Chandrachud said the

same principle would apply to the SCs.

"The principle of sub-classification will be applicable to Scheduled Castes if the social position of the constituents among the castes/groups is not comparable... Sub-categorisation within a class is a constitutional requirement to secure substantive equality," he said.

He, however, remained silent on introducing the creamy layer principle to the SCs and STs.

'Creamy layer principle'

Four of the seven judges on the Bench separately said the government should extend the "creamy layer principle" to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Why sub-classification?

Here are the salient points of the Supreme Court judgment:

- Scheduled Castes are not an 'indivisible monolith' classify them, if there is a rational principle for differentiation and if the rational principle has a nexus with the purpose of sub-classification
- They are composed of heterogeneous groups of castes, races or tribes with varying degrees of backwardness
- States have to produce data to support their claim that a sub-class required more beneficial treatment
- The States can further



Tribes, as in the case of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category. It was necessary to exclude affluent individuals or families from the benefits of reservation and make room for the underprivileged within these classes, they said.

"The State must evolve a

policy for identifying the creamy layer even from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so as to exclude them from the benefit of affirmative action. In my view, only this and this alone can achieve the real equality as enshrined under the Constitution...

Can a child of IAS/IPS or civil service officers be equated with a child of a disadvantaged member belonging to Scheduled Castes, studying in a gram panchayat/zilla parishad school in a village," Justice B.R. Gavai asked.

The view was backed by Justices Vikram Nath, Pan- kaj Mithal and Satish Chand- ra Sharma.

Chief Justice Chandrachud's joint opinion with Justice Misra that it was constitutionally permissible for the States to sub-classify groups among Scheduled Castes was backed by four other judges. Justice Gavai opined that the unequals have to be treated unequally to bring "real equality".

"It is the duty of the State to give preferential treatment to the backward class of citizens who are not adequately represented," Justice Gavai said.

Justice Bela Trivedi remained the lone dissenter on the Bench, saying the States did not have the power to tinker with the Presidential List of Scheduled Castes.

The Constitution Bench judgment followed a reference made to the seven-judge Bench in 2020 to examine the constitutionality of the Tamil Nadu Arunthathiyars Reservation Act, 2009 and the Punjab Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes (Reservation in Services) Act, 2006.

Chief Justice Chandrachud

traced the power of these States to sub-classify the Scheduled Castes for the purpose of affirmative action, including reservations, to Articles 15(4) [prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, caste, etc] and 16(5) [equal opportunity in public employment] of the Constitution.

The court agreed that apprehensions of "potential political tinkering" by parties in power in States to expand vote banks cannot obviate the constitutional need for acknowledging and remedying *inter se* inequality among Scheduled Castes.

'EVOLVE POLICY'

» PAGE 4

Supreme Court Verdict / सुप्रीम कोर्ट का फैसला:

A seven-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court ruled in a 6:1 majority that states can sub-classify Scheduled Castes (SCs) for more preferential treatment in public employment and education.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट की सात-न्यायाधीशों वाली संविधान पीठ ने 6:1 के बहुमत से निर्णय दिया कि राज्य अनुसूचित जातियों (SCs) को सार्वजनिक रोजगार और शिक्षा में अधिक प्राथमिकता देने के लिए उपवर्गीकृत कर सकते हैं।

- **Reason for Sub-Classification / उपवर्गीकरण का कारण:**

- The court stated that Scheduled Castes are not a monolithic group and consist of heterogeneous groups with varying degrees of backwardness. Sub-categorization is needed to achieve substantive equality.
- कोर्ट ने कहा कि अनसूचित जातियाँ एक समान समूह नहीं हैं और इनमें भिन्न-भिन्न स्तरों की पिछड़ेपन वाली विभिन्न समूह हैं। वास्तविक समानता प्राप्त करने के लिए उपवर्गीकरण की आवश्यकता है।

- **Creamy Layer Concept / क्रीमी लेयर का सिद्धांत:**
- Four judges on the bench suggested applying the "creamy layer" principle to SCs to exclude affluent individuals from reservation benefits.
- बेंच के चार न्यायाधीशों ने SCs पर "क्रीमी लेयर" सिद्धांत लागू करने का सुझाव दिया ताकि समृद्ध व्यक्तियों को आरक्षण लाभों से बाहर किया जा सके।

- **Dissenting Opinion / असहमति मत:**

- Justice Bela Trivedi was the lone dissenter, arguing that states do not have the power to alter the Presidential List of Scheduled Castes.
- न्यायमूर्ति बेला त्रिवेदी ने असहमति व्यक्त की, तर्क देते हुए कि राज्यों के पास अनुसूचित जातियों की राष्ट्रपति सूची को बदलने का अधिकार नहीं है।

- **Constitutional References / संवैधानिक संदर्भ:**

- The judgment referenced the Indra Sawhney case and Articles 15(4) and 16(5) to support its stance on affirmative action for backward classes.
- निर्णय ने इंद्रा साहनी मामले और अनुच्छेद 15(4) और 16(5) का उल्लेख करके पिछड़े वर्गों के लिए सकारात्मक कार्रवाई पर अपने रुख का समर्थन किया।

1.Potential Political Impact / संभावित राजनीतिक प्रभाव:

1. The court cautioned against potential political misuse of sub-classification for vote bank politics but stated it shouldn't prevent necessary constitutional reforms.
2. कोर्ट ने वोट बैंक राजनीति के लिए उपवर्गीकरण के संभावित राजनीतिक दुरुपयोग के प्रति चेतावनी दी, लेकिन कहा कि यह आवश्यक संवैधानिक सुधारों को नहीं रोकना चाहिए।

- Which of the following statements is true regarding the Supreme Court's decision on sub-classifying Scheduled Castes (SCs)?

- निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा कथन अनुसूचित जातियों (SCs) के उपवर्गीकरण पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय के संबंध में सही है?

1. The Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the creamy layer principle should be applied to SCs.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सर्वसम्मति से निर्णय दिया कि SCs पर क्रीमी लेयर सिद्धांत लागू किया जाना चाहिए।

2. Justice Bela Trivedi supported the decision to allow states to sub-classify SCs.

न्यायमति बेला त्रिवेदी ने राज्यों को SCs को उपवर्गीकृत करने की अनुमति देने के निर्णय का समर्थन किया।

3. The decision emphasized that Scheduled Castes are a homogeneous group with equal degrees of backwardness.

निर्णय ने जोर देकर कहा कि अनुसूचित जातियाँ एक समान समूह हैं जिनमें पिछड़ेपन की समान डिग्री है।

4. The court stated that sub-classification within Scheduled Castes is necessary for achieving substantive equality.

कोर्ट ने कहा कि वास्तविक समानता प्राप्त करने के लिए अनुसूचित जातियों के भीतर उपवर्गीकरण आवश्यक है।

Swapnil guns down third shooting medal for India



On target: It was Swapnil Kusale's turn on Thursday to win a shooting medal in Paris after Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh. He won a bronze in the 50-metre rifle three positions event. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Jonathan Selvaraj

PARIS

Swapnil Kusale had an Olympic debut to remember, winning a bronze – India's third medal of the Games – in the men's 50m rifle three position event on Thursday.

The 29-year-old from Kambalwadi was lying in fifth place at the end of the kneeling and prone segments of the event. He would then find his rhythm in the standing position even as those around him lost theirs. Jon Herman Hegg of Norway, who

was in the lead at the start of the series, fell behind him and Kusale held on to take a career-defining medal behind Serhiy Kulish of Ukraine and Liu Yukun of China.

FULL REPORT

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Personal information

Native name स्वप्नील कुसळे

Nationality Indian

Born 6 August 1995 (age 28)^[1]
Kambalwadi, [Kolhapur district](#),
[Maharashtra](#), India^[2]

Years active 2012–present

Sport

Sport [Shooting](#)

Coached by Deepali Deshpande

Medal record [hide]

Men's shooting

Representing India

Event	1st	2nd	3rd
Olympic Games	-	-	1
World Shooting Championships	-	-	1
World Cup	1	-	-
Asian Games	1	-	-
Asian Shooting Championships	1	1	-
Commonwealth Championships	-	-	1
Total	3	1	3

Olympic Games



B 2024 Paris 50 m rifle 3 positions

World Championships

B 2022 Cairo 50 m rifle 3 positions
team

World Cup

G 2021 New Delhi 50 m rifle 3 positions
team

IN BRIEF



Lt-Gen. Sadhna Saxena Nair is DG, Medical Services of Army

Lieutenant-General Sadhna Saxena Nair assumed the office of Director General, Medical Services (Army) on Thursday, becoming the first woman to be appointed to this position. Prior to this, she was the first woman to hold the post of DG Hospital Services (Armed Forces) on promotion to the rank of Air Marshal. Lieutenant-General Nair graduated from the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune and was commissioned into the Army Medical Corps in December 1985. She is also the first woman Principal Medical Officer of Western Air Command, and Training Command, Indian Air Force. She was nominated as an expert member of the Kausthubh Committee for drafting part of the medical education component of the National Education Policy.

Air India cancels flights to Tel Aviv amid Israel-Iran tensions

Air India cancelled its flights to and from Tel Aviv on Thursday amid rising tensions between Israel and Iran which have led to several global airlines suspending operations to Ben Gurion Airport. Air India said that passengers with confirmed bookings on the two flights will be provided a one-time waiver on rebooking and cancellations charges. Germany's Lufthansa and another airline from the region, the International Air Lines, have cancelled all passenger and cargo flights to and from Tel Aviv with immediate effect till August 8. They have also extended a suspension of flights to the Lebanese capital of Beirut till August 12.

People protest over conflict, displacement in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The police in Manipur's capital Imphal fired tear gas shells to restore order after a rally on Thursday by people displaced by the 16-month-long ethnic conflict in the State turned violent. About 100 inmates of the Aizawl relief camp in Imphal had taken out a rally demanding the rehabilitation of those displaced by the clashes between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo people, and a resolution of the ethnic conflict. Local students set in among students of a school in the area when the protest turned violent. The protesters were mostly from the India-Myanmar border town of Moreh who were displaced in the early days of the conflict in 2023.

States can directly buy rice from FCI, says Food Minister

They need not take part in e-auction for buying additional stock, Centre brings 16 more items under price monitoring system, launches app

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi announced here on Thursday that State governments can directly purchase rice from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) under the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) from Thursday without participating in e-auction.

According to the Centre, the decision was taken to reduce the huge surplus stocks ahead of the procurement after this kharif season.

Mr. Joshi said if the States wanted to procure more rice over the stipulated 1.5 lakh crore per annum, they could procure it for ₹2,500 per quintal (including transportation cost), instead of the earlier rate of ₹2,900 per quintal. The Centre will directly offer rice to the States under the scheme as seasonal.

Speaking on the PMGKAN, Mr. Joshi main-



The decision was taken by the Centre to reduce the surplus stocks ahead of the procurement after the kharif season. **SHRUTI**

tained that the Centre would continue to provide foodgrains to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries over a period of five years with effect from January 1, 2024, with an estimated 1.8 lakh crore borne by the Centre. He said the Centre has successfully completed all three phases of replacing custom-milled rice with fortified rice in every scheme of the government.

Vegetable prices
On the increasing prices of vegetables, he said the scheme was seasonal. Tomato price was stabilising, and the Centre had

Allahabad HC rejects plea by Shahi Idgah mosque committee

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday dismissed the plea filed by Mathura-based Shahi Idgah mosque committee. Challenging maintainability of 18 lawyers seeking removal of the mosque from the 13.37-acre complex, which it shares with the Karna Kabir Dev temple.

The court observed that the Places of Worship Act does not define "religious character" and to attract provisions of this Act, the religious character of a place of worship must be determined.

A main suit pertaining to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah mosque dispute remains pending in the court. It was filed by Hindu worshippers who believe that Lord Krishna was born at the complex in Mathura. These petitioners maintain that the mosque was built on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, after demolishing a Hindu temple.

Hearing the batch of cases, the High Court had last year ordered a survey of the mosque by a three-member team, which was stayed by the Supreme Court earlier this month. Rejecting the Muslim side's plea in which the

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI



A view of Shahi Idgah mosque and Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple in Mathura. **PI**

Hindu side's lawsuits were challenged citing the Places of Worship Act, 1950, the Limitation Act, 1963, and the Specific Relief Act, 1963, the Bench of Justice Mayank Kumar Jain said all suits filed in the matter in the past two decades were maintainable, paving the way for trial.

The court noted that in the present proceedings, the question of religious character is a mixed question of facts and law. "This court is of the opinion that the religious character of the suit property cannot be determined at this stage, it can only be decided by framing issues on the basis of the pleadings of the parties and after taking oral and documentary evidence to be led during the trial," the court said.

The mosque committee had argued that the Hindu plaintiffs had already admitted that a compromise was made between the two parties in 1958.

Court grants bail to driver in IAS centre flooding case

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Stating that he was "implicated due to overenthusiasm", a Delhi court on Thursday granted bail to Manoj Kataria, the SUV driver arrested in a case related to the drowning of three civil services aspirants inside the basement of their coaching centre in the Rajendra Nagar area last week.

"...In continuation to the reply to the previous bail application moved by the accused in the lower court, it is submitted that, during further investigation, it has transpired that the ingredients of Section 105 BNS are, at this stage, not being sufficiently established," the court noted. The Delhi police's reply in the matter, the police had further said that Section 105 of the BNS can be better assessed when the expert team from IT-Delhi visits the spot and post inspection, submits its findings.

"From the perusal of the record, it appears that he was implicated due to over-enthusiasm while he has been charged for the offence under Section 105 of BNS, 2023 (Section 304 IPC) which is non-bailable as per schedule I of the BNS, 2023," the court noted.

CRPF to replace 2 battalions of Assam Rifles in Manipur; Kuki-Zo groups oppose move

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) will set to replace two battalions of the Assam Rifles in the hill districts of Charaichandpur and Kangpokpi in violence-hit Manipur, a government official told *The Hindu*. Around 2,000 personnel of the oldest paramilitary force will be moved to the Jaintia region that has seen a spate of terror attacks since 2021 after two decades of relative peace. Tribal groups have opposed the move. The Kuki Students' Organisation (KSZO) said that "Assam Rifles are not from effort and dedication won the hearts and minds of the hill people". Over once ethnic violence erupted in

Vijaya Singh
NEW DELHI

Around 2,000 personnel will be moved to areas that has seen a spate of terror attacks since 2021 after two decades of peace.

the State on May 3, 2023, the deployment of the Assam Rifles in vulnerable areas has been a bone of contention between the tribal Kuki-Zo people and the Meitei civil society groups and legislators have alleged that in many "sensitive areas", the Assam Rifles had been replaced with CRPF. A senior government official said, "Only two battalions, one posted in Charaichandpur and the other in Kangpokpi districts, are being replaced with CRPF. The infrastructure of AR (Assam Rifles) will be retained by incoming units."

made subsidised tomato available at ₹60 a kg without the use of price stabilisation fund. He said the 4.0 version of the Price Monitoring System (PMS) mobile app on which prices of 22 commodities were monitored. We are now adding 16 more commodities," he added. The 16 food items are bajra (whole), jowar (whole), ragi (whole), suji (whole), maida (whole), besan, ghee, butter (pasteurised), brinjal, egg, black pepper, coriander, cumin seed, red chillies, turmeric powder and bananas.

Punitive tax on imported laboratory chemicals removed after furore

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

In a relief to scientists and researchers across the country, the Finance Ministry has clarified that all imported "laboratory chemicals", except denatured ethanol, will be taxed at 10% instead of 50% as first proposed in the Union Budget on July 21.

Imported laboratory chemicals are a critical component of research in every domain of science. They include reagents and enzymes that are usually extremely specific and not mass-produced, making them expensive and a significant overhead on the budget that scientists get for planning their research.

The Customs Department defines laboratory

chemicals as "all chemicals, organic or inorganic, whether or not chemically defined, imported in packaging not exceeding 500 g or 500 millilitres and which can be identified with reference to the purity, making or other features to show them to be meant for use solely as laboratory chemicals".

Seek clarification
The *Hindu* reported this week, several scientists wrote to funding agencies such as the Ministry of Science and Technology, asking for clarification on the new rate and even, if the Budget documents had actually made a mis-



Imported laboratory chemicals include reagents and enzymes that are not mass produced.

to avoid the customs duty of 50%. There are broadly two kinds of ethanol, ethanol, of varying grades, sourced from grain and used in the manufacture of alcohol, and denatured ethanol, which is ethanol mixed with additives and unfit for consumption. The latter also comes in grades but is used in laboratories and in commercial applications. Scientists told *The Hindu* that denatured alcohol is made by several local manufacturers and does not need to be imported. However, the Finance Ministry notification also states that any laboratory chemical imported need to be accompanied by a letter from the Ministry had held its rates allegedly to rein in imports of ethanol that were being brought in as "laboratory chemicals".

TH CROSSWORD 14243 (set by Arden)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
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Across

- 1 Perhaps teach English to a Goddess (8)
- 4 Contract for a short dress wearing attractive girl (8)
- 10 "Damages the garden soil", did you say? It just wears out (3,4)
- 11 Part of the successful Pope's court (5)
- 12 Forgetfulness - crazy since the morning before (7)

Down

- 1 Language expert - he is on support, it's arranged (8)
- 2 Sorting out each length covering news agency (7)
- 3 Walk around - confident it's highly valued (9)
- 5 Cross boundary rope, interesting - both sides come again! (3,4,5)
- 6 Old empire still preserved (5)
- 7 Indian serial made on this subject (7)
- 8 Vehicle for those who are late (5)
- 9 Check there and whole thing becomes yellow (7-7)
- 16 Sergio's gone finally, full of beans (9)
- 17 Start with a drop of alcoholing meals (8)
- 19 Not on the usual route - that's strange (7)
- 21 Story about one doctor and one pair of drums (7)
- 22 Foot not set right, as is possible (4,2)
- 24 Number from top to bottom levels (5)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

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

FAITH

Acquisition of knowledge

Manik had been blessed with the ability to think. This is a great boon. But it is a faculty that has to be sharpened through reading, said Malayaman in a discourse.

Wealth that we acquire can be lost due to natural calamities, or it can be stolen from us. But what we read always remains with us, in times of joy and in times of sorrow. Thisvallavar tells us that unlike the things that we call wealth, education is true wealth. It is wealth that is never destroyed.

In another verse, Thisvallavar says a learned man notices that the world is happy because he is well read. And this serves as an impetus for him to read more. There are two

Types of knowledge
types of knowledge - that which we need for managing daily life, and spiritual knowledge. Thisvallavar says there was a time when he had not understood the meaning of Self. When he did, his previous state of ignorance vanished. In another verse he is Thisvallavar. Thisvallavar says as long as a man has no self-realisation, he gets caught in worldly life.

Once he understands the nature of the *atma*, he acquires divinity. Thus, while we need to acquire knowledge that helps us tackle the everyday problems of life, and to make a living, this alone is not enough.

For the aims to attain liberation, one must also pay attention to spiritual knowledge. Learning and reading must continue throughout life and must not be time bound.

Punitive tax on imported laboratory chemicals removed after furore

Jacob Koshy

NEW DELHI

In a relief to scientists and researchers across the country, the Finance Ministry has clarified that all imported 'laboratory chemicals', except denatured ethanol, will be taxed at 10% instead of 150% as was first proposed in the Union Budget on July 23.

Imported laboratory chemicals are a critical component of research in nearly every domain of science. They include reagents and enzymes that are usually extremely specific and not mass-produced, making them expensive and a significant overhead on the budget that scientists get for planning their research.

The Customs Department defines laboratory

chemicals as "all chemicals, organic or inorganic, whether or not chemically defined, imported in packings not exceeding 500 gm or 500 millilitres and which can be identified with reference to the purity, makings or other features to show them to be meant for use solely as laboratory chemicals".

Seek clarification

As *The Hindu* reported this week, several scientists went into a tizzy after companies that supply these chemicals informed them they would now have to pay 1.5 times the usual rate for their goods. Senior scientists wrote to funding agencies such as the Ministry of Science and Technology, asking for clarification on the new rate and even, if the Budget documents, had actually made a mis-



Imported laboratory chemicals include reagents and enzymes that are not mass produced.

print by writing 150% instead of 15%.

As it emerged, this wasn't a misprint. The Customs Department had hiked its rates allegedly to rein in imports of ethanol that were being brought in as 'laboratory chemicals'

to avoid the customs duty of 150%. There are broadly two kinds of ethanol. Ethanol, of varying grades, sourced from grain and used in the manufacture of alcohol, and, denatured ethanol, which is ethanol mixed with additives and unfit for consumption. The latter also comes in grades but is used in laboratories and in commercial applications.

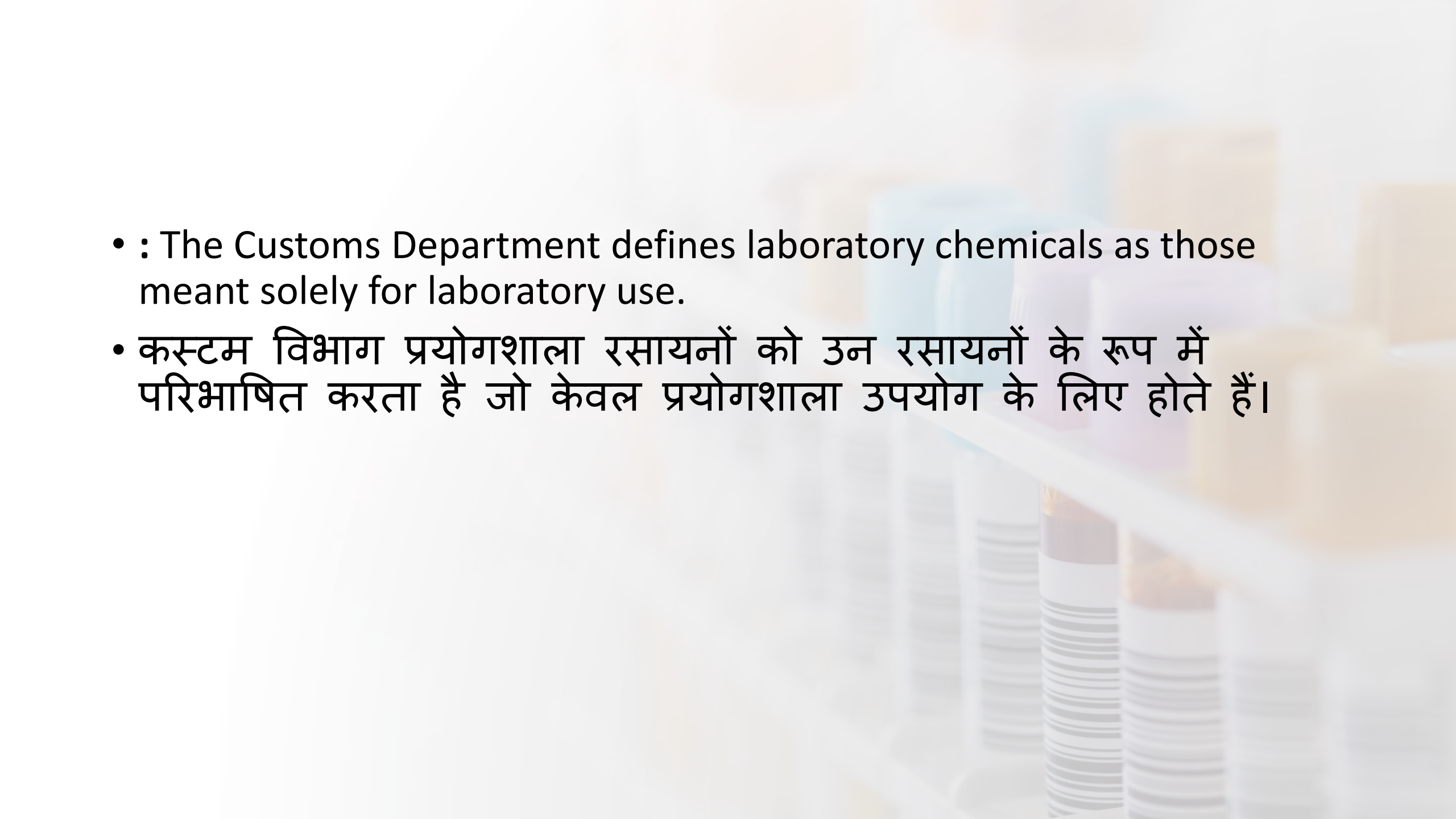
Scientists told *The Hindu* that denatured alcohol is made by several local manufacturers and does not need to be imported.

However, the Finance Ministry notification also states that any laboratory chemical imported needs to be accompanied by a letter that says the goods will only be used in a laboratory and for research and not further traded for commercial gains.

- Punitive tax on imported laboratory chemicals removed after furore.
- प्रयोगशाला रसायनों पर आयातित कर हटाया गया।
- **Introduction / परिचय:**
- The Finance Ministry has clarified that all imported 'laboratory chemicals,' except denatured ethanol, will now be taxed at 10% instead of the previously proposed 150%.
- वित्त मंत्रालय ने स्पष्ट किया है कि सभी आयातित 'प्रयोगशाला रसायनों' पर अब 10% कर लगेगा, जबकि पहले 150% प्रस्तावित था, सिवाय विकृत इथेनॉल के।

Imported laboratory chemicals are critical for research across various scientific domains, being specific, expensive, and not mass-produced.

आयातित प्रयोगशाला रसायन विभिन्न वैज्ञानिक क्षेत्रों में अनुसंधान के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं, जो विशिष्ट, महंगे और बड़े पैमाने पर उत्पादित नहीं होते।

- 
- : The Customs Department defines laboratory chemicals as those meant solely for laboratory use.
 - कस्टम विभाग प्रयोगशाला रसायनों को उन रसायनों के रूप में परिभाषित करता है जो केवल प्रयोगशाला उपयोग के लिए होते हैं।

Types of Ethanol / इथेनॉल के प्रकार:

Two types of ethanol are mentioned: one for alcohol manufacturing and denatured ethanol for lab use.

इथेनॉल के दो प्रकार का उल्लेख किया गया है: एक शराब निर्माण के लिए और दूसरा प्रयोगशाला उपयोग के लिए विकृत इथेनॉल।

- **Which of the following statements about the recent changes in the customs duty on imported laboratory chemicals is true?**

1. The Finance Ministry reduced the customs duty from 150% to 10% for all imported laboratory chemicals.

2. Denatured ethanol is exempt from the 10% customs duty.

3. Imported laboratory chemicals require documentation confirming they are solely for laboratory use.

4. The increased customs duty was a misprint that was corrected by the Finance Ministry.

(a) Only 1 and 3 are correct.

केवल 1 और 3 सही हैं।

- (b) Only 2 and 4 are correct.

केवल 2 और 4 सही हैं।

- (c) Only 1, 2, and 3 are correct.

केवल 1, 2, और 3 सही हैं।

- (d) Only 3 and 4 are correct.

केवल 3 और 4 सही हैं।

IN BRIEF

NMDC's iron ore output slid 11%, sales rose over 5% in July

Mining major NMDC reported iron ore production slid 11% to 2.17 million tonne in July...

Sun Pharma Q1 net rises 29% on cut in raw material cost

Sun Pharma reported Q1 net profit grew 29% to ₹2,878.94 crore from ₹2,232.05 crore in the year-earlier period...

Repro Home Finance Q1 net profit rises 18% to ₹105 crore

Repro Home Finance Ltd's standalone net profit for the June quarter rose 18% to ₹105 crore...

India's per capita income to hit a quarter of U.S. levels in 75 years

India may be the fastest growing major economy, but it will take 75 years for its per capita income to reach a quarter of U.S. income levels...

GST receipts growth rallies to 10.3%, July kitty 3rd-highest ever

Net receipts rise 14.4% with revenue from imports outpacing domestic transactions; refunds record a sharp decline; 14 States underperform

Vikas Dhoot NEW DELHI

India's gross goods and services tax (GST) collections crossed ₹1.82 lakh crore to hit the third-highest monthly level in July...

Strong showing

Gross GST collections hit their third-highest monthly level in July to cross the ₹1.82 lakh crore mark...

Domestic GST refunds slid 34.1% in July while export-related GST refunds rose 1.4%...

from domestic transactions were 8.9% higher, as many as 17 states clocked a contraction...

Nasscom slams GST notice to Infosys

Nasscom on Thursday questioned the logic of a ₹2,000-crore GST notice to Infosys...

The issue at hand involves the applicability of GST through the reverse charge mechanism...

Tube Investments Q1 net rises 5% to ₹154 cr.

Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TID) reported first-quarter net profit rose 5% to ₹154 crore...

Total revenue from operations rose 10% to ₹1,960 crore, with revenue from engineering and metal forming divisions climbing...

Consolidated revenue from operations was ₹4,578 crore against ₹3,898 crore. Net profit rose to ₹314 crore from ₹284 crore.

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PMI signals factory activity eased in July

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Growth in new orders and output eased slightly at Indian factories in July, even as firms raised selling prices at the fastest pace in almost 11 years...

The seasonally adjusted PMI inched down to 58.1 in July from June's 58.3.

The continuous increase in the output price index, driven by input and labour cost pressure, may signal further inflationary

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

Nasscom on Thursday questioned the logic of a ₹2,000-crore GST notice to Infosys...

The issue at hand involves the applicability of GST through the reverse charge mechanism...

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MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

Table with 3 columns: Service, Increase, % Change. Includes US Dollar, Euro, and Brent oil.

NIFTY 50

Table with 3 columns: Stock Name, Price, Change. Lists various stocks like Adani Enterprises, Tata Motors, etc.

Table with 3 columns: Stock Name, Price, Change. Lists various stocks like Infosys, TCS, etc.

Table with 3 columns: Stock Name, Price, Change. Lists various stocks like Reliance, ITC, etc.

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Products, strategies driving MRF's growth journey: CMD

N. Anand CHENNAI

Following the disturbance to commercial shipping in the Red Sea, tyre major MRF is taking necessary steps to continue its growth journey driven by products and strategies...

The disturbance to commercial shipping in the Red Sea is a challenge both for imports of essential raw materials and exports. Given this situation, MRF will take necessary steps to continue its growth journey...

stability imposed by the government. He also said that during 2023-24 raw material prices remained favourable...

As a result, MRF was able to avoid any price increases. In fact, MRF also gave a price reduction in its star product in the truck tyre range...

Asserting that the Indian economy was expected to carry the momentum of the pre-virus year, he said the raw material prices had started increasing steeply in recent months...

RITES posts muted performance in Q1, eyes faster execution of orders, says MD

Maitri Porocha NEW DELHI

Railway PSU RITES posted muted performance in the first quarter of FY24-25 compared with the year-earlier period...

Also, at ₹5 crore, the export segment has shown a sharp decline in the first quarter of FY24-25 compared with the year-earlier period...

Tata Motors Q1 net soars 74% to ₹5,566 cr., revenue up 6%

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

Tata Motors Ltd. reported first-quarter consolidated net profit grew 74% from the year-earlier period to ₹5,566 crore...

Consolidated revenue from operations rose 6% to ₹57,498 crore, with revenue from engineering and metal forming divisions climbing...

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Maruti leads drop in July dealer sales of carmakers

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

India's top three carmakers by sales, on Thursday, reported a drop in car sales to domestic dealers in July as pent-up demand from last year began to taper off...

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'India's per capita income to hit a quarter of U.S. levels in 75 years'

Vikas Dhoot

NEW DELHI

India may be the fastest growing major economy, but it will take 75 years for its per capita income to reach a quarter of U.S. income levels if current trends continue, the World Bank warned on Thursday, identifying it as one of 100-odd countries including China that face the risk of falling into the "middle income trap".

The World Bank made a reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to turn India into a developed economy by 2047, "the centennial of independence" in its 'World Development Report 2024'. While governments

in India and other nations hope to accomplish the transition from a middle-income economy, like Korea, the multilateral lender said "it would be fair to conclude that it would be a miracle if today's middle-income economies manage to do in 50 years what Korea did in just 25."

'Driving in first gear'

Noting that many middle-income countries still use a playbook from the last century, relying mainly on policies designed to expand investment, World Bank group chief economist Indermit Gill posited that it was like "driving a car just in first gear and trying to make it go faster".

"If they stick with the

old playbook, most developing countries will lose the race to create reasonably prosperous societies by the middle of this century. At current trends, it will take China more than 10 years just to reach one-quarter of U.S. income per capita, Indonesia nearly 70 years, and India 75 years," Mr. Gill cautioned.

Nations such as China, India, Brazil, and South Africa face serious obstacles in efforts to become high-income countries, reckoned the World Bank, concluding that countries growing wealthier usually hit a "trap" at about 10% of annual U.S. GDP per person. This is currently the equivalent of \$8,000 today, or the middle of the

range of what the Bank classifies as "middle-income" countries.

By 2023, 108 countries were classified as middle-income, each with annual GDP per capita in the range of \$1,136 to \$13,845. Home to six billion people or 75% of the global population, with two out of every three persons living in extreme poverty, these countries generate more than 40% of global GDP.

Emphasising that the road ahead poses even stiffer challenges such as rapidly ageing populations and the difficulty of expediting economic progress without fouling the environment, Mr. Gill mooted a fresh approach to escape the 'middle-income trap'.

S. No.	Country Name	Continent	GDP (USD Billion)*	GDP Per Capita (USD thousand)*
1	United States	America	28,783	85.37
2	China	Asia	18,536	13.14
3	Germany	Europe	4,590	54.29
4	Japan	Asia	4,112	33.14
5	India	Asia	3,942	2.73
6	United Kingdom	Europe	3,502	51.07
7	France	Europe	3,132	47.36
8	Brazil	America	2,333	11.35
9	Italy	Europe	2,332	39.58
10	Canada	America	2,242	54.87

Year	GDP Growth (%)	Annual Change
2013	6.39%	0.93%
2014	7.41%	1.02%
2015	8.00%	0.59%
2016	8.26%	0.26%
2017	6.80%	-1.46%
2018	6.45%	-0.34%
2019	3.74%	-2.72%
2020	-6.60%	-10.33%
2021	8.68%	15.28%
2022	7%	1.68%
2023	8.2%	1.2%
2024	8.2%	0%

Country	Continent	GDP-PPP per capita (in USD)
Luxembourg	Europe	140,312
Ireland	Europe	117,988
Switzerland	Europe	110,251
Norway	Europe	102,465
Singapore	Asia	91,733
Iceland	Europe	87,875
Qatar	Asia	84,906
United States	North America	83,066
Denmark	Europe	72,940
Macao SAR	Asia	70,135

- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India's per capita GDP in 2024 is estimated to be \$2,731, which ranks it 136th in the world. However, when using purchasing power parity (PPP), India's per capita GDP is estimated to be \$10,123, which ranks it 125th in the world.

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- : According to the World Bank, India, despite being the fastest-growing major economy, will take 75 years to achieve a per capita income level that is a quarter of the U.S. This is based on current trends.
- : विश्व बैंक के अनुसार, भारत, जो सबसे तेजी से बढ़ती प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्था है, को अमेरिका के स्तर के एक-चौथाई प्रति व्यक्ति आय तक पहुँचने में 75 साल लगेंगे। यह वर्तमान प्रवृत्तियों पर आधारित है।

- India is among the 100 countries, including China, at risk of falling into the "middle-income trap," where nations struggle to transition from middle-income to high-income status.
- भारत 100 देशों में शामिल है, जिसमें चीन भी शामिल है, जो "मध्यम-आय के जाल" में फँसने के जोखिम में है, जहाँ देश मध्यम-आय से उच्च-आय की स्थिति में परिवर्तन करने में संघर्ष करते हैं।

- **Comparison with Korea / कोरिया की तुलना:**

- The World Bank highlights that achieving what Korea did in 25 years would be a miracle for today's middle-income countries.
- विश्व बैंक ने उल्लेख किया कि कोरिया ने जो 25 वर्षों में हासिल किया, उसे आज के मध्यम-आय वाले देशों के लिए एक चमत्कार माना जाएगा।

- **Economic Challenges / आर्थिक चुनौतियाँ:**
- Challenges include rapidly aging populations, environmental concerns, and reliance on outdated economic models.
- चुनौतियों में तेजी से बढ़ती उम्र वाली आबादी, पर्यावरणीय चिंताएँ, और पुराने आर्थिक मॉडलों पर निर्भरता शामिल है।

- **Middle-Income Classification / मध्यम-आय वर्गीकरण:**

- By 2023, 108 countries, representing 75% of the global population, were classified as middle-income, with GDP per capita ranging from \$1,136 to \$13,845.
- 2023 तक, 108 देशों, जो वैश्विक आबादी का 75% प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं, को मध्यम-आय वर्गीकृत किया गया था, जिसकी प्रति व्यक्ति GDP \$1,136 से \$13,845 तक थी।

- Which of the following statements accurately describes the World Bank's projection for India's economic future?
 - निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा कथन भारत के आर्थिक भविष्य के लिए विश्व बैंक के अनुमान को सही ढंग से दर्शाता है?
1. India is expected to achieve a per capita income level equal to the U.S. in 50 years.
भारत से उम्मीद की जाती है कि वह 50 वर्षों में अमेरिका के बराबर प्रति व्यक्ति आय स्तर हासिल कर लेगा।
 2. The World Bank identifies India as one of the countries at risk of falling into the middle-income trap.
विश्व बैंक भारत को उन देशों में से एक के रूप में पहचानता है जो मध्यम-आय के जाल में फँसने के जोखिम में हैं।
 3. By 2023, India was classified as a high-income country by the World Bank.
2023 तक, भारत को विश्व बैंक द्वारा उच्च-आय वाले देश के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया गया था।
 4. The World Bank believes that India will surpass the U.S. in economic growth within the next decade.
विश्व बैंक का मानना है कि भारत अगले दशक के भीतर आर्थिक विकास में अमेरिका से आगे निकल जाएगा।



Net cast wider: Japan plans to hunt 59 fin whales this year, a decision criticised by Australia's government. AFP

Japan gives nod to hunt second largest animal, fin whale

Agence France-Press
TOKYO

Japan has expanded its commercial whaling to include fin whales, the second largest animal species on the planet, a decision criticised by Australia's government on Thursday.

One of only three countries to hunt whales commercially, along with Norway and Iceland, Japan added fin whales to a catch list that already includes minke, Bryde's and sei whales.

"Essentially, our rationale is that there are sufficient resources" of fin whales, a fisheries agency official said on Thursday of the plan to hunt 59 of them this year.

A panel of experts commissioned by the Agriculture Ministry said in June that Japanese fishermen should be able to hunt fin whales.

Agriculture Minister Tetsushi Sakamoto at the time called whales "an important food resource". In whales are deemed "vulnerable" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Japan's decision, mooted by authorities for months but only made official on Wednesday, has alarmed animal rights activists.

Australia is "deeply disappointed", Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek said in a statement. "Australia is opposed to all commercial whaling and urges all countries to end this practice," she said.

It comes as international drama surrounds prominent anti-whaling activist Paul Watson, who was arrested in Greenland last month.

Mr. Watson, the 73-year-old American-Canadian founder of the activist group Sea Shepherd, was detained under an international arrest warrant issued by Tokyo.

Iran, Hezbollah have no room for error in calibrating response to fatal strikes

The strikes in Beirut and Tehran, one claimed by Israel and the other attributed to it, killing the political chief of the Palestinian militant group Hamas and a commander of the Lebanese militia Hezbollah along with civilians, have brought West Asia to the brink of a regional war, say analysts

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Two back-to-back strikes in Beirut and Tehran, both attributed to Israel and targeting high-ranking figures in Hamas and Hezbollah, have left Hezbollah and Iran in a quandary.

Analysts agreed that both strikes hit too close to home to pass without a response, and were serious security breaches for Iran and Hezbollah. Calibrating that response to restore deterrence without sparking an even more damaging escalation may be the most delicate balancing act in nearly a year of testing on the brink of a regional war.

Tuesday's rare strike in Beirut's southern suburbs killed a top Hezbollah commander who Israel said was responsible for a missile strike on a football field in the town of Majdal Shamra in the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights, killing 12 children and teenagers. Hezbollah has denied responsibility for the attack.

While the target of the strike in Beirut was a military figure, it hit a densely populated urban neighbourhood on the outskirts of the capital where Hezbollah has many of its offices, killing at least five civilians and wounding dozens more.

Less than 12 hours later, the Palestinian militant



Battered region: Iranian protesters wave flags of Iran, Palestine and Hezbollah in a demonstration to condemn the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on Wednesday. AP

group Hamas — a Hezbollah ally also backed by Iran — announced that the chief of its political bureau, Ismail Haniyeh, had been killed in an Israeli airstrike in Tehran, where he was attending the inauguration of the new Iranian President.

Israel has neither claimed nor denied responsibility for that strike, which comes nearly 10 months into the brutal war in Gaza sparked by Hamas's deadly October 7 attack on Israel. It also coincides with another push by mediators to close a ceasefire and hostage-exchange deal.

Israel has far into the war, and a Hezbollah commander is the target. Hezbollah has responded, and if they don't, this would be a new rule: Killing civilians on the is-

rael side would lead to targeting of the Beirut suburbs, he said. "Hezbollah cannot afford this." In order to establish deterrence after Tuesday's strike, Mr. Ali said, "Hezbollah would need to respond beyond its now-limited geographical scope of operations. They need to strike deeper in Israeli territories, and this brings with it great risks."

Andreas Krieg, a military analyst and senior lecturer in security studies at King's College London, agreed that Hezbollah will feel the need to carry out a significant retaliatory strike.

"I think Hezbollah has been hit much more where it hurts" than Iran, he said. "In the Israeli-Hezbollah confron-

tion, this is a major escalation whereby Hezbollah has to respond adequately" to restore deterrence.

However, the militant group will probably hit a significant military target rather than a civilian target, he said, and will most likely try to calibrate the attack to cause only material damage to limit further escalation.

Nabih Awada, a Lebanese political and military analyst close to the Iranian-backed "axis of resistance" who spent a decade in Israeli prisons along with some of the current Hamas leaders, said Hezbollah and Iran risked plunging into a war after Israel hit an Iranian consular building in Damascus, killing two Iranian generals. Iran retaliated with an unprecedented direct strike on Israel. At that time, diplomatic efforts managed to contain the escalation.

But the assassination of Haniyeh took place on Iranian soil, embarrassing Tehran and making clear

that Israel can easily hit targets there.

While some analysts believe that will be mitigated by the fact the target was not an Iranian figure, Iranian officials have vowed a harsh response.

Mr. Krieg said that Haniyeh's death was "damaging reputationally" for Iran and "humiliating" because it showed that Tehran was unable to protect high-profile visitors.

"His death has no strategic implications for Iran other than it being a slap in the face because you are the host and your guest was killed while you were on watch," he said. "Nomi Bar-Yaacov, an associate fellow in the International Security Programme at Chatham House, said Iran might turn to its proxies to retaliate. 'They have got their people, training, arming, planning everywhere, and they can reach anywhere in the world,' she said. 'It is a pivotal moment in this conflict. I do not think we have been in as difficult a moment in this conflict, given that we have seen what Iran is capable of in April,' Ms. Bar-Yaacov said."

If the response to the strikes does not cause Israeli casualties, a wider war could still be avoided, Mr. Ali said. But, he added, "We are in the territory of two many 'ifs' to avoid a war, and this does not bode well."

U.S. leader to move against President's immunity

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer was set to introduce legislation on Thursday reaffirming that Presidents do not have immunity for criminal actions, an attempt to reverse the Supreme Court's landmark decision last month.

Mr. Schumer's No Kings Act would attempt to invalidate the court's decision by declaring that Presidents are not immune from criminal law and clarifying that Congress, not the Supreme Court, determines to whom federal criminal law is applied.

The court's conservative majority decided July 1 that Presidents have broad immunity from criminal prosecution for actions taken within their official duties.

Red-letter day



Poles light flares in Warsaw during a rally to mark the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising against Nazi occupiers on Thursday. AFP

Mohammed Deif, the shadowy commander of Hamas's Gaza networks

Stanley Johny

On October 7, 2023, when Hamas militants were carrying out a deadly attack in Israel, Mohammed Deif called the attack "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood" and to all day, the people claim their revolution," Deif, the head of Hamas's military wing Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, said in the speech that was released by Hamas on the same day.

Deif has been attacked [Q] worshippers and desecrated Al-Aqsa [Mosque], and he has previously warned them. The enemy desecrating Al-Aqsa and dared to harm the Prophet's path," he

said, referring to Islam's third holiest place of worship that is located in Jerusalem. "Hundreds have been martyred and injured this year due to the occupation's crimes... We have decided to put an end to all of the occupation's crimes. The time is over for them [Israel] to continue to act without accountability. Thus, we announce the 'Al-Aqsa Flood' operation," he declared.

At least 1,200 people were killed in the Hamas attack. Israel declared war on the organization on the same day, and has been waging a disastrous war on Gaza ever since, killing at least 39,000 Palestinians.

Israel's leadership also said Hamas leaders were "dead men walking". On July 15, Israel targeted Deif in an air strike on a compound in the outskirts of Khan Younis in southern Gaza. On Thursday, a day after it killed Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas's political chief, the Israeli military announced that it believed Deif was killed in an air strike. Hamas is yet to confirm its commander's death.

Deif had been Israel's kill list at least since the early 2000s. In 2002, he lost an eye in an Israeli strike. In 2006, Israel struck a building in which Hamas leaders had assembled. The attack seriously



Mohammed Deif, right, was the head of Hamas's Qassam Brigades since 2002 and has injured a lot of people among supporters, militants

injured Deif, but he survived. He was hit again in August 2014, after an initial ceasefire was announced following weeks of fighting, Israel carried out an airstrike targeting him. The attack killed Deif's wife and two chil-

drun, but he escaped again. The escapes earned him the nickname among the Palestinians, "the cat with nine lives". Born in Khan Younis, Gaza, in the 1950s, Deif, whose real name was Mohammed Diab Ibrahim al-Masri, was an active member of the Muslim Brotherhood and when Hamas was founded, after the first intifada broke out in 1987, Deif joined the new Islamist movement with zeal and vigour. During the intifada protests, he was briefly arrested by the Israelis. Deif rose through Hamas's ranks quickly. In 2002, at the height of the second intifada, he was appointed commander of the Qassam Brigades.

Named after Izz ad-Din al-Qassam, an Islamic preacher who led violent attacks against British colonialists and Zionist settlers in historic Palestine,

Drone 'geeks' help Ukraine pilot its way in battlefield

Agence France-Press
CHASIV YAR

Once a vibrant industrial hub, Chasiv Yar in Ukraine's east has been transformed into a smouldering wreck of mostly deserted streets and empty buildings.

Before Russia's invasion, it was home to around 12,000 people, but is now largely abandoned save for soldiers and a small number of civilians. Now, requests for ammunition of artillery and the buzz of a drone zipping across the sky. Surrounding it is a team of hand-picked specialists, to pilot and repair the swarm of drones and jam or hack into those belonging to the enemy. "If you look on them, they're all over, but they've killed more Russians than the most muscular commander," said Anwar of his



A Ukrainian soldier with a drone near Chasiv Yar. GETTY IMAGES

chess." "The geeks are asked on footage beamed from the swarms of combat drones flying over the town. Surrounding Anwar is a team of hand-picked specialists, to pilot and repair the swarm of drones and jam or hack into those belonging to the enemy. "If you look on them, they're all over, but they've killed more Russians than the most muscular commander," said Anwar of his

comrades. "The geeks are asked on footage beamed from the swarms of combat drones flying over the town. Surrounding Anwar is a team of hand-picked specialists, to pilot and repair the swarm of drones and jam or hack into those belonging to the enemy. "If you look on them, they're all over, but they've killed more Russians than the most muscular commander," said Anwar of his

As Moscow's troops close in on the town's suburbs, outgunned Ukrainian troops have turned to the drones to slow their enemy's advance.

For Kiev's army, which has suffered ammunition shortages and a critical lack of manpower, the drones have become a crucial line of defence.

Hamas, Deif enjoyed a cult status.

"Deif is the decision-maker in Hamas... He believes every day they continue to fight is another achievement for them," Gen. Gloria Eiland, a former Israeli National Security Adviser, once said. During the 2014 Gaza war, Deif issued an audio message. "The Zionist entity will not know security unless the Palestinian people live in peace," he said. For Hamas, his words made its rule book, which was evident on the October 7 attack. If Israel's claim that Deif was killed in the July 13 strike is true, that is a heavy blow to Hamas.

When Hamas emerged as a popular organisation within the Palestinian territories and showed signs of moderation and willingness to contest elections, the focus shifted from terror tactics to building a semi-conventional military command structure. Among the supporters of

Japan gives nod to hunt second largest animal, fin whale

Agence France-Presse

TOKYO

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"Essentially, our rationale is that there are sufficient resources" of fin whales, a fisheries agency official said on Thursday of the plan to hunt 59 of them this year.

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Agriculture Minister Tetsushi Sakamoto at the time called whales "an important food resource".

Fin whales are deemed "vulnerable" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Japan's decision, mooted by authorities for months but only made official on Wednesday, has alarmed animal rights activists.

Australia is "deeply disappointed", Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek said in a statement.

"Australia is opposed to all commercial whaling and urges all countries to end this practice," she said.

It comes as international drama surrounds prominent anti-whaling activist Paul Watson, who was arrested in Greenland last month.

Mr. Watson, the 73-year-old American-Canadian founder of the activist group Sea Shepherd, was detained under an international arrest warrant issued by Tokyo.

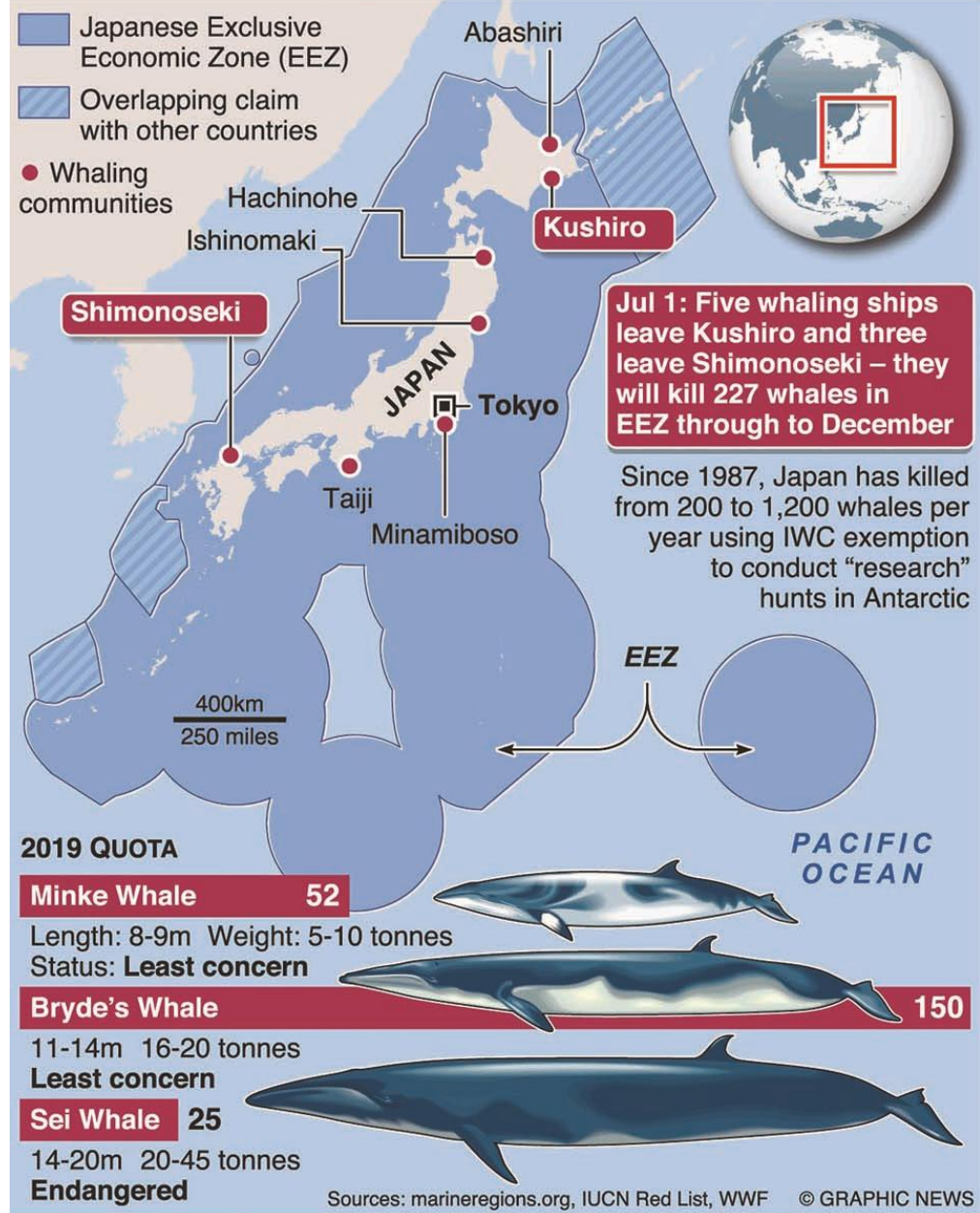


千葉県第五十一純友丸 南房総市

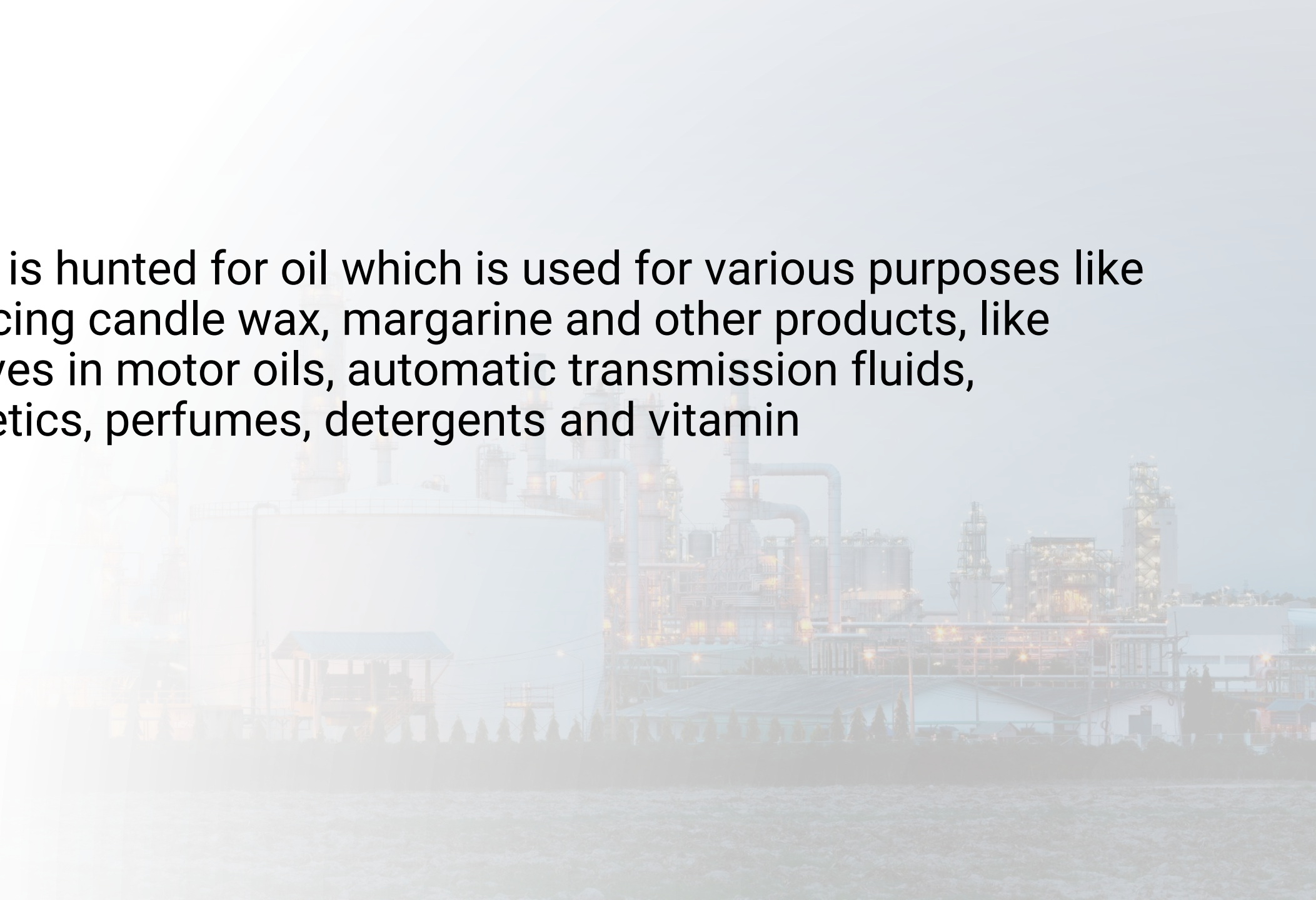


Japan resumes commercial whaling

Japan has resumed commercial hunting for the first time in more than three decades, following Tokyo's controversial decision to withdraw from the International Whaling Commission (IWC)



- Whale is hunted for oil which is used for various purposes like producing candle wax, margarine and other products, like additives in motor oils, automatic transmission fluids, cosmetics, perfumes, detergents and vitamin



- **International Whaling Commission (IWC)**
- IWC is an **Inter-governmental Organisation** whose purpose is the conservation of whales and the management of whaling.
- The legal framework of the IWC is the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling which was established in 1946.
- The commission is the pre-eminent global body responsible for the conservation and management of whales and leads international efforts to tackle the growing range of threats to whales globally, including by-catch, ship strikes, entanglement, noise, and whaling.
- **India** is a member of IWC.

IN THE NEWS

AT ₹1.82 TRN, GST COLLECTIONS UP 10.3% ON YEAR

GROSS GST COLLECTIONS in July rose 10.3% on year to ₹1.82 trillion, official data released on Thursday showed, reports **Pejmanh Verma**. In June, the collections stood at ₹1.74 trillion. ■ **PAGE 2**

INDIA, VIETNAM PLAN TO DOUBLE BILATERAL TRADE

INDIA AND VIETNAM on Thursday announced to double their bilateral trade and investment in 5-5 years, reports **Mukesh Jagota**. India extended a \$300 million line of credit to Vietnam for maritime security. ■ **PAGE 2**

'ABOVE NORMAL' RAINS IN 2ND HALF OF MONSOON: IMD

THE COUNTRY is likely to receive "above normal" rainfall in the second half of the monsoon season after an uneven distribution of precipitation in the first phase, IMD said, reports **Sandip Das**. ■ **PAGE 3**

BIJU'S DENIES ANY ROUND-TRIPPING TO REPAY BCCI DUES

BIJU'S PROMOTERS ON Thursday told a court they do not intend to repay BCCI's dues, denying allegations of round-tripping. ■ **PAGE 3**

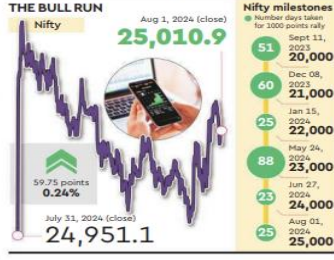
FE SPECIAL

Pitfalls of moment marketing

When does it work, and when does it end in a disaster. ■ **BRANDWAGON, PP**

FED SIGNAL CHARGES UP BULLS

Nifty@25,000, Sensex scales a fresh peak



VIVEK KUMAR R Mumbai, August 1
THE BULL CHARGE in Indian equities continued on Thursday with the benchmark Nifty crossing the 25,000 mark and the Sensex touching a record high. Investors were enthused by prospects of a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve, relatively benign crude oil prices and some good results in what has been a lacklustre earnings season. The Nifty ended the day 0.2% higher at 25,010.90 points. The Sensex reached a key milestone of 82,000 points during the day, before closing off the high at 81,867.55 points, 0.2% higher than the previous close. At ₹5.7 trillion, India's market

Demerger of Adani's food, FMCG biz gets board nod

VIVEAT SUSAN PINTO Mumbai, August 1
ADANI ENTERPRISES (AEL), THE flagship firm of the energy-to-airports Adani Group, on Thursday said that its board had approved the demerger of its food and fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) businesses. These verticals will now merge into Adani Wilmar. The move will see the promoter stake fall in Adani Wilmar in line with Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) guidelines, sector analysts said. AEL, which holds a 43.94% stake in Adani Wilmar through promoter entity Adani Commodities, will transfer the stake to existing public shareholders of Adani Wilmar in a scheme of arrangement that will see AEL shareholders receiving 25.1 shares of Adani Wilmar for every 500 shares held by them. The record date of the transaction is yet to be announced. ■ **Continued on Page 7**

M&M targets product, revenue leadership in all areas: Shah

In talks with VW for lithium-ion battery unit

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR & RISHI RAJ Mumbai, August 1

IN THE HIGHLY competitive automotive sector, Mahindra & Mahindra's focus will be on achieving leadership in revenue market share and product quality, rather than being a price warrior. "It is SUVs, electric vehicles, or two-wheelers, this is our guiding principle," Anish Shah, managing CEO and managing director, Mahindra Group, told FE in an interview on Thursday. M&M is already the market leader in terms of revenue in the sports utility vehicle (SUV) segment and is confident of achieving the position in the EV segment in the

IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

M&M is already the market leader in terms of revenue in the sports utility vehicle (SUV) segment and is confident of achieving the position in the EV segment in the



"The firm is focused on a very specific segment of two-wheelers and has got strong brands. The company is confident of achieving the position in the electric vehicle segment in the near future. The company will pursue a similar strategy in the emerging segment of electric vehicles. Revenue market share is very important for us because it will translate into the bottom line. We are confident we will take leadership in this (EV) space also," Shah said. He said India is still in the early stages of a shift towards EVs and

DELIVERING HIGH-QUALITY PRODUCTS IS IMPORTANT. WE HAVE FOUND THAT THERE ARE MANY CUSTOMERS WHO WANT A HIGH-END VERSION OF A PARTICULAR MODEL. THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EVs THAT ARE IN THE MARKET TODAY AND THE BORN ELECTRIC MODELS THAT WILL START TO ROLL OUT SOON.

Continued on Page 7

Nasscom defends IT firms as more GST notices loom

PRYANSH VERMA & PADMINI DHIRUVAJ

New Delhi/Bengaluru, August 1

THE GOODS AND services tax (GST) authorities may send tax notices to more information technology (IT) companies, citing non-payment of taxes on services received by them from their overseas branches, sources privy to the matter said. This follows Infosys receiving a writ petition to more information technology (IT) companies, citing non-payment of taxes on services received by them from their overseas branches, sources privy to the matter said. This follows Infosys receiving a writ petition to more information technology (IT) companies, citing non-payment of taxes on services received by them from their overseas branches, sources privy to the matter said.

LOOMING THREATS

Industry body Nasscom says this is an 'industry-wide issue, and multiple companies are facing avoidable litigation. Industry feels it has a strong case against such notices and cites favourable court rulings in similar cases. On July 30, the DGGI issued a "pre-show cause" notice to Infosys stating that the company has not paid GST under "reverse-charge mechanism" (RCM) on import of services, received from its overseas branches, for the period between July 2017 and 2021-22. Industry body Nasscom said

this is an "industry-wide issue, and multiple companies are facing avoidable litigation, uncertainty, concerns from investors and customers". This indicates that a few firms other than Infosys might have received tax notices on similar grounds, but it could not be verified immediately. ■ **Continued on Page 7**

Govt may not float fresh sovereign gold bonds

PRASANTA SAHU

New Delhi, August 1

WITH THE COST of financing fiscal deficit through sovereign gold bonds (SGBs) reaching unsustainable levels, the Centre may not call on when to get for fresh issuance of SGBs in September. The move follows the sharp cuts in the Budget, which made the policy of discounting physical gold holding and impeding issuance, sources said. In the Budget presented on July 23, the government lowered the gross SGB issuances to ₹18,200 crore from ₹29,638 crore in the

necessary. This would be done also keeping in mind the fact that the policy should benefit both the investors and the government. "A holistic decision has to be taken going forward. It is not a social security scheme," the official said. The Centre's cost of borrowing through dated securities is 7-8% per annum and up to 8.2% through various small savings schemes whereas the cost of borrowing the SGBs is around 13.75% for the Sovereign Gold Bond 2016-17 Series I maturing later this week (going by the current price of gold). ■ **Continued on Page 7**

RBI GIVES 'FIT AND PROPER' CLEARANCE

Fairfax, Emirates NBD and Kotak in IDBI Bank shortlist

SIDDHI NAYAK & NIKUNJ OHRI

Mumbai/New Delhi, August 1

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) has completed its review of potential bidders for a majority stake in IDBI Bank, approving Fairfax Financial Holdings, Emirates NBD and Kotak Mahindra Bank as bidders, three sources aware of the development said on Thursday. The Indian government, which owns 45.48% in IDBI Bank and state-owned Life Insurance Corp of India which holds 49.24%, together plan to sell 60.7% of the lender. The sale process was first announced in 2022. The sources did not wish to be identified as the discussions are not public. The finance ministry, RBI, Fairfax Financial Holdings, Emirates NBD and Kotak Mahindra Bank did not immediately reply to email seeking comments. The bidders are talking to the Indian government and will get access to IDBI Bank's private data after evaluation, one of the sources said. Reuters had earlier reported interested buyers include Emirates



NBD and Canadian billionaire Prem Watsa. Toronto-based Fairfax India Holdings is backed by Canadian billionaire Prem Watsa and invests in public as well as private equity securities and debt instruments in India. Emirates NBD Group offers financial services with operations in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), India and Saudi Arabia, among others. The government would likely open bids for the lender before the end of the financial year, Tuhin Kanita Pandey, the country's secretary responsible for the stake sale, had said last week. "We are expecting a communication from RBI (on fit and proper assessment of shortlisted bidder). I believe we will get it soon. Then, we move on to the due-diligence stage and the share purchase agreement has to be negotiated." ■ **REUTERS**

RESULTS CORNER

Tata Motors net profit zooms 74% in Q1FY25

TATA MOTORS ON Thursday reported 74% year-on-year jump in net profit during the three months to June, driven by superior mix, lower interest flow, favourable currency, and commodity movements. Its net profit at the consolidated level stood at ₹5,566 crore, which beat the Bloomberg consensus estimate of ₹5,310 crore. Its consolidated revenue grew by 6% y-o-y to ₹1,07,316 crore, which was above Street estimates. ■ **PAGE 4**

ITC Q1 net flat; revenue rises 7.5% to ₹20K cr

CIGARETTES-TO-HOTELS MAJOR ITC ON Thursday saw its June quarter net profit come below Street estimates amid muted demand and high commodity prices. The Kolkata-based major reported Q1FY25 net profit of ₹5,092 crore at a consolidated level, which was flat versus last year. Bloomberg consensus estimates had pegged net profit at ₹5,451 crore for the period. The company's revenue rose 7.5% year-on-year. ■ **PAGE 5**

Zomato profit jumps multifold to ₹253 crore

ZOMATO ON THURSDAY reported a consolidated net profit of ₹253 crore in the first quarter of FY25, as compared to ₹1 crore in the year-ago period and ₹175 crore a quarter ago (Q4FY24). Zomato's revenue from operations rose 7.4% year-on-year to ₹4,206 crore from ₹2,416 crore a year ago. This is the fifth straight quarter the food delivery company has registered profit. It turned profitable for the first time in the first quarter of FY24. ■ **PAGE 4**

A Monk Who Trades



Does it offer high leverage? How many trades per day? Higher leverage means more risk. Big? I had to look for a good one. Greedy trading is a reasonable option. Exercise caution and do not indulge in dabba trading as it is illegal.

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MCX INVESTOR PROTECTION FUND

Nats 2.0



- 
- The Union Minister for Education launched the **National Apprenticeship and Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 Portal** in New Delhi.
 - ₹100 crore in stipends were disbursed to apprentices via the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.
- 



- **About NATS 2.0 portal**

- It is developed in-house by the Ministry of Education with AICTE and BoATs/BoPT support.
- It manages apprenticeship lifecycle activities including student registration, vacancy advertisements, applications, contract creation, certification, and stipend disbursement.

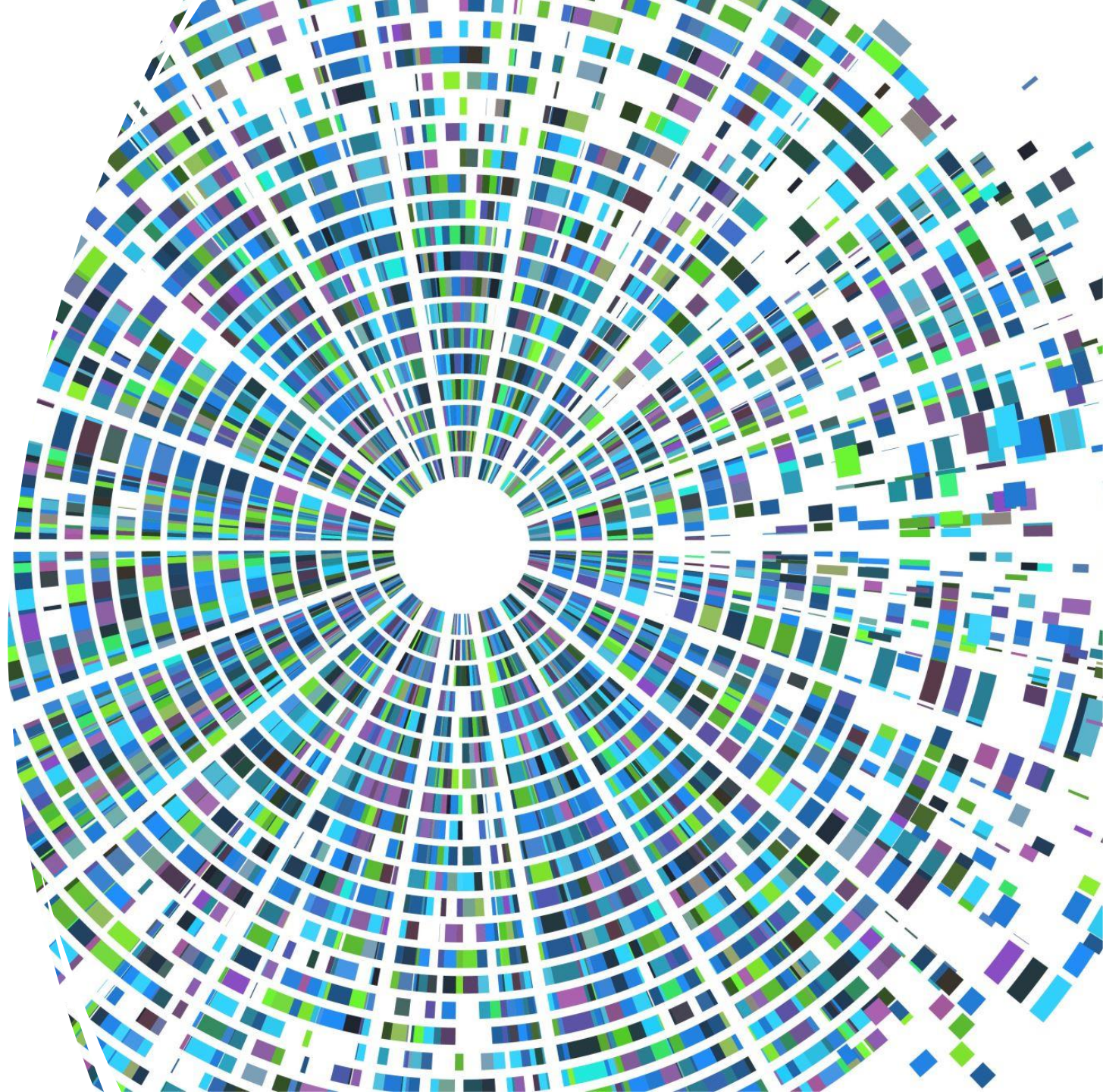
It aligns with the government's focus on enhancing skilling and improving youth employability.

Apprenticeship Sectors: The apprentices are being trained in various sectors including IT/ITes, manufacturing, and automobiles.

Do you know ?

- **National Apprenticeship Training Scheme(NATS)** is one of the flagship programmes of Government of India for Skilling Indian Youth in Trade disciplines.
- The National Apprenticeship Training Scheme under the provisions of the Apprentices Act, 1961 amended in 1973; offers Graduate, Diploma students and Vocational certificate holders; a practical, hands-on On-the-Job-Training (OJT) based skilling opportunities with duration ranging from 6 months to 1 year.

Ideas4LiFE portal



Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change,
launched the Ideas4LiFE portal at IIT Delhi.


The portal invites innovative ideas to promote environment-
friendly behaviours and lifestyles, encouraging students,
researchers, faculty, and innovators to contribute.

The Ideas4LiFE initiative supports Mission LiFE's seven themes: saving water, saving energy, reducing waste and e-waste, rejecting single-use plastics, adopting sustainable food systems, and healthy lifestyles.

The initiative is supported by educational institutions and partners like UNICEF YuWaah.

Global Water Tech Summit – 2024

- 
- The Central Water Commission (CWC) has been awarded the GEEF Global WaterTech Award for 'Water Department of the Year' at the Global Water Tech Summit 2024, hosted by the Global Energy and Environment Foundation (GEEF).
 - This award acknowledges significant achievements in the water sector, focusing on innovation, technology, conservation, and sustainable development.
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- The CWC was recognized for its crucial role in hydro-meteorological data collection, flood forecasting, reservoir storage monitoring, water quality monitoring, coastal area management, appraisal and monitoring of water resources projects, and resolving inter-state water issues.

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Report on Currency and Finance 2023- 24





Released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Theme “India’s Digital Revolution.”

Key Findings:

Digital Economy: Grew **2.5 times faster** than the physical economy, now 15% of global GDP. In India, it’s **10% of GDP, expected to be 20% by 2026.**



Growth Factors: High internet penetration, low data cost, highest mobile data consumption, and a large startup ecosystem.

Global Rankings: India leads in biometric identification (Aadhaar) and real-time payment volumes.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI): DPI is expanding globally through the MOSIP program and linking UPI with other nations' systems like Singapore's PayNow.



Social Welfare: DPI has helped bridge economic inequalities, lifting 415 million people from poverty between 2005-2021 (UNDP, 2023).

Challenges: Consumer complaints about digital payments make up 47% of RBI ombudsman cases. **Data breach** costs in India rose to **\$2.18 million** in 2023, and misleading digital designs manipulate users.

Suggestions: **Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs)**: Promote ethics in FinTech; **Scaling Cyber Infrastructure**: Improve security for rising transactions; **Data Localization**: Regulate storage of critical data within India.

Substantive

English Definition:

Substantive (adjective) refers to something that is real and meaningful, having a firm basis in reality and therefore important, meaningful, or considerable.

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

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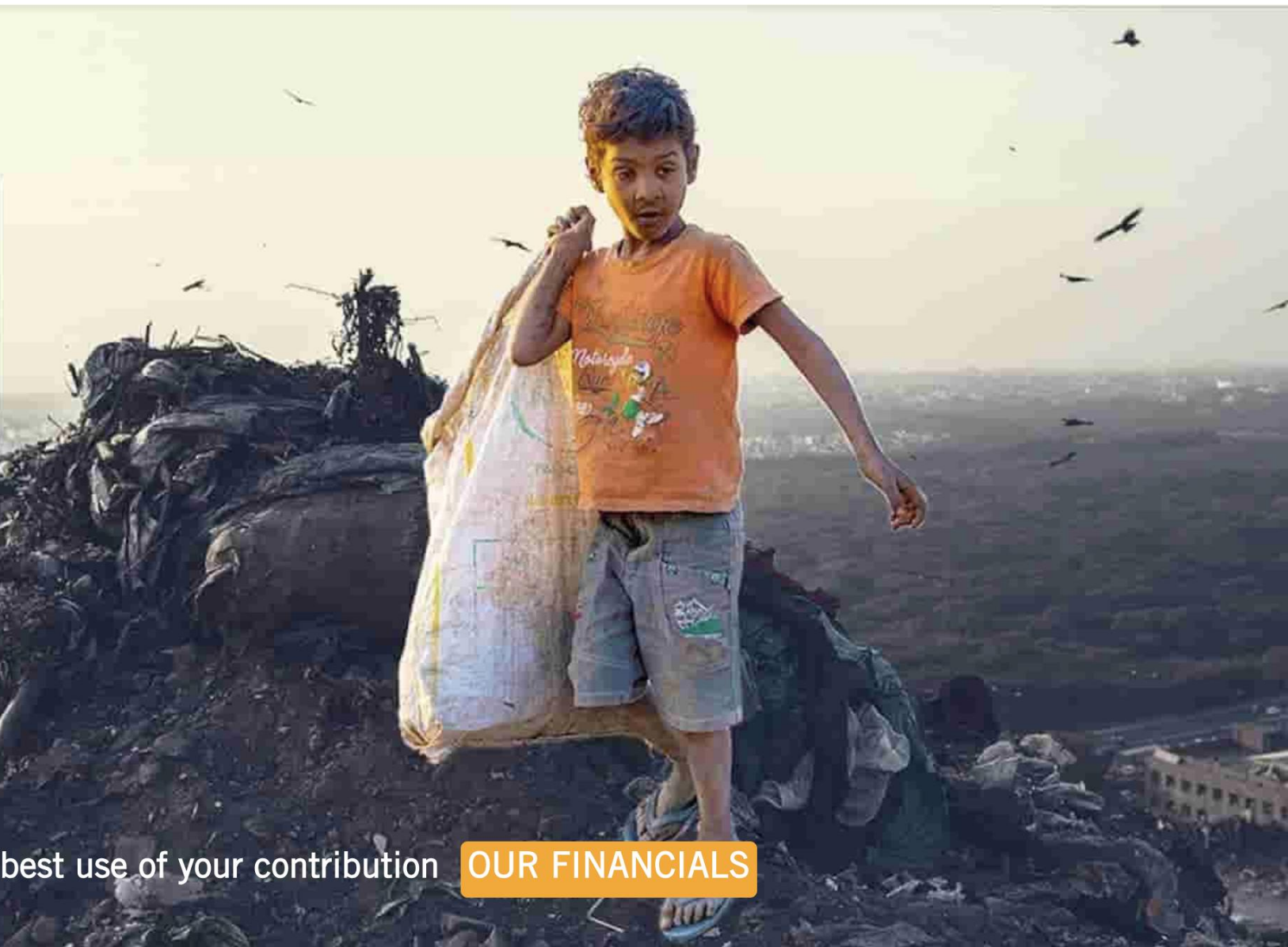
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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is low, creating a warm and intimate atmosphere. There are some red dots and an orange bar in the top left corner, likely part of a graphic design.

Thank you
guys.
