

# Daily Current Affairs



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**S3**

**HINDENBURG REPORT**  
‘Atmosphere of doubt’ is created: plea in SC  
NEWS > PAGE 5

**WAYNAD LANDSLIDES**  
**Experts assess safety of town**  
STATES > PAGE 2

**WANDE SHARAD COACHES**  
Railways cancels tender for 100 trains  
NEWS > PAGE 6

**GEOPOLITICS**  
**The shock-effects of South Asian turmoil**  
The lessons for India from neighbourhood  
EDITORIAL > PAGE 8

**VINESH'S APPEAL**  
CAS postpones decision to Aug. 16  
SPORT > PAGE 10



**INSIDE**  
**Malaysian PM Ibrahim set to visit New Delhi**

**NEW DELHI**  
Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim will visit New Delhi next week. The move is expected to strengthen India-Malaysia ties in trade and defence cooperation, and discuss major developments around the world. > PAGE 4

**Jagdebika Pal to head JPC to look at Waqf Bill**

**NEW DELHI**  
Jagdebika Pal, senior Lok Sabha member of the BJP, will head the Joint Parliamentary Committee formed to examine the contentious Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024. The joint panel will submit a report by the next session. > PAGE 3

**Flower vendor held for deadly temple stampede**

**PATNA**  
A day after the stampede at a temple in central Bihar in which seven persons died, the district police on Tuesday arrested the flower vendor who allegedly clashed with a group of devotees, leading to the stampede. > PAGE 2

**War crimes arc on the rise in Myanmar UN**

**GENEVA**  
Crimes against humanity and war crimes committed by the Myanmar military have “escalated at an alarming rate”, UN investigators warned on Tuesday, citing systematic torture, gang rapes and abuses against children. > PAGE 14

**CBI takes over probe into doctor’s murder**

Calcutta High Court transfers investigation observing that police have not made any significant progress; it accepts the fear of petitioners over delay in probe, says facts and circumstances of the case warranted appropriate orders without delay; court urges protesting doctors to call off their strike, says they have a pious obligation towards patients

**Shiv Sahay Singh**  
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday transferred the investigation into the rape and murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital here to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

A Division Bench of Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya said that *prima facie*, no significant progress had been made in the investigation. Following the High Court order, the CBI took over the case and a team of officers accompanied by forensic and medical experts will be in Kolkata on Wednesday and visit the scene of the crime.

“...The State police have been negligent in the place where the crime had been committed assumes extraordinary importance viz. it is in a government hospital”, the Division Bench noted in its order.

The court observed that it would be well-justified in making an observation that the administration was not with the victim or the family of the victim. The court noted that the facts and circumstances of the case warranted appropriate orders without further loss of time and because even after a lapse of five days there appears to be no significant progress in the investigation.

‘Justified to accept plea’  
“We would be well-justified in accepting the plea raised by the writ petitioners, more particularly, the parents of the victim that there is every possibility that the evidence will be destroyed and the witnesses will be influenced.”

The Court directed the police to hand over the case diary to the officer of CBI present in the court.



No let-ups: Protesters on the premises of R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital on Tuesday. REUTERS

The other records, CCTV footages, statements, if any and all material and matters concerning the case shall be handed over to the C.B.I. by 10:00 a.m. tomorrow”, the court added. The Bench urged the doctors to call off their strike. “We wish to observe that there is a pious obligation on the part of the doctors to treat their patients, more particularly the patients who come to government hospitals, who are not from the affluent strata of society”, the order said.

The doctors, however, continued their strike, even as they welcomed the High Court order. The doctors have set a Wednesday deadline for the completion of the investigation. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had earlier given a deadline for the Kolkata

**Post-mortem report reveals multiple injuries**

**KOLKATA**  
The post-mortem report revealed that the murdered doctor had bruises on different parts of her body. The report pointed to signs of sexual penetration, and referred to ‘brutal and smothering’ as the cause of death. The report pointed at 10 injuries, including bleeding from the vagina, both eyes, and the mouth. > PAGE 4

Police to crack the case by August 18, failing which she said she would transfer the case to the CBI.

During the proceedings in the court, the Chief Justice had asked why a murder case was not registered against the principal/assistant medical college at the outset and an unnatural death case was initiated at the police station and called it serious lapse, giving room for suspicion. “Under normal circumstances, a case of unnatural death is registered when there is no complaint. When the deceased victim was a doctor working in the hospital, it is rather surprising as the principal/assistant medical college did not lodge a formal complaint,” the Bench noted.

The Division Bench came down heavily on the principal of the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, Sandip Kumar Ghosh, and said that he could have lodged a complaint with the police since the death occurred within the hospital premises.

The court said that it was a clear dereliction of duty on the part of the principal and the officers under his command. Observing that Mr. Ghosh has been made a principal of another government medical college and hospital, the court said that it is not clear as to what the urgency in doing so is. The court also directed that he should be sent on leave until further directions.

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**Trial by fire**



**Pole position:** A member of the Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre, Belagavi, displays his molla bomb skills during a full dress rehearsal for the Independence Day celebrations at the Maneekshav Parade Grounds in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURUGU RAMAN

**Issuance of certificates for birth and death registration hit by glitch in CRS portal**



**Yashita Singh**  
Belagavi, Lakshmanpur  
NEW DELHI

The Civil Registration System (CRS), the Union government’s centralised portal to register births and deaths, has been facing glitches for the past four months, several State government officials have told *The Hindu*. The malfunction has led to delays in issuing birth and death registration certificates.

Under the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, all reported births and deaths in India from October 1, 2023 should be registered through crsorgov.in. So far, 23 States and six Union Territories have made the shift. Those such as Tamil Nadu which have their own portals, send the data to the Centre in real-time as mandated by the 2023 amendment.

The *Hindu* accessed an August letter by the Chief Registrar (Birth and Death) to the Registrar-General of India. Bihar migrated to the new portal on June 10. “Due to the revamped CRS portal being extremely slow, the CRs were not being generated in time and continuous display of error message on the page, there has been a huge backlog in all the registration units in the State”, the letter said.

Nagaland said, “Registrars are forced to face the ire of the people and public representatives. The glitches are leading to a loss of trust in the system, it added. There is a mismatch between 1,408

All reported births and deaths occurring from October 1, 2023 are to be digitally registered. FILE PHOTO

registration IDs in the State and those available on the portal, and despite informing the Registrar-General of India (RGI) multiple times, several districts remain on the ground. An official in Nagaland said sometimes they were not able to issue certificates for three days in a row.

“Nagaland migrated to the new portal on May 13. Since then, many complaints have been piling up. We have complained to the RGI office in Delhi. District authorities are not able to generate certificates”, an official said.

A district official in Chhattisgarh said that ever since the State started using the new portal in March this year, there appears to be teething problems with the system. The system often freezes up for hours while registering a birth or death, the official said.

A source in a Bihar district added that they have been facing problems in entering corrections into the system, which crashes every time an operator tries to make corrections. At Noida in Uttar Pradesh, the portal has been down for over a month.

A Union government official said thousands of certificates are being generated through the portal daily and as and when a State migrates to the new system, it may face minor issues due to the revamping of the system.

The digital birth certificates will be a single document to prove the date of birth for various services such as admission to educational institutions, government jobs, and marriage registration. The centralised database will also update the National Population Register (NPR). The NPR is the first step to the creation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), as per the Citizenship Act.

**Murder case filed against Hasina; concerns rise after her party calls for Dhaka rally tomorrow**

**Rahul Alam**  
DHAKA

A murder case against former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and six others was filed at the Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Court on Tuesday. The case pertains to the death of a grocery shop owner, Abu Sayeed, who was killed in police firing in Dhaka’s Mohammodpur area on July 19 during protests demanding reforms in the reservation system for government jobs.

This is the first case filed against Ms. Hasina since she resigned and left the country on August 5.

Amir Hamza Shati, a resident of Mohammodpur and a well-known activist, filed the case with Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury, “seeking justice for the killing of an innocent citizen”.

**CHARGE SHEET**  
Leaders of the Students Against Discrimination platform, which spear-headed mass protests against Ms. Hasina, demanded that the government file a case against Ms. Hasina and her associates in the International Crimes Tribunal for “killing students and civilians”. They also called for a ban on organisation-based student politics on all campuses, citing the Chhatra League’s involvement in “terrorist activities” at educational institutions.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) standing committee member Amir Khanur Rahman Chowdhury submitted a letter to the court on Tuesday, seeking investigation into mass killings during the 2023 anti-government protests.

According to sources close to Ms. Hasina, she is sure she will be acquitted. “We are confident that the government will not file a case against me”, she said.

“I am not afraid of anyone”, she said.

“We are confident that the government will not file a case against me”, she said.

“I am not afraid of anyone”, she said.



**Fiery spirits:** Students protest demanding a trial of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh's Dhaka on Tuesday. AP

# Issuance of certificates for birth and death registration hit by glitch in CRS portal

**Vijaita Singh**  
**Abhinay Lakshman**  
NEW DELHI

The Civil Registration System (CRS), the Union government's centralised portal to register births and deaths, has been facing glitches for the past four months, several State government officials have told *The Hindu*. The malfunction has led to delays in issuing birth and death registration certificates.

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*The Hindu* accessed an August 5 letter by the Chief Registrar (Birth and Death), Bihar, to the Registrar-General of India. Bihar migrated to the new portal on June 10. "Due to the revamped CRS portal being extremely slow, the OTPs not being generated in time and continuous display of error message on the page, there has been a huge backlog in all the registration units in the State," the letter said.

As a result, it said, the Registrars are forced to face the ire of the people and public representatives. The glitches are leading to disruption of the entire system, it added. There is a mismatch between 1,408



All reported births and deaths occurring from October 1, 2023 are to be digitally registered. FILE PHOTO

registration IDs in the State and those available on the portal, and despite informing the Registrar-General of India (RGI) multiple times, several difficulties remain on the ground.

An official in Nagaland said sometimes they were not able to issue certificates for three days in a row.

"Nagaland migrated to the new portal on May 13. Since then, many complaints have been piling up. We have complained to the RGI office in Delhi. District authorities are not able to generate certificates," an official said.

A district official in Chhattisgarh said that ever since the State started using the new portal in March this year, there "appears to be teething problems" with the system. The system often freezes up for hours while registering a birth or death, the official said.

A source in a Bihar dis-

trict added that they have been facing problems in entering corrections into the system, which crashes every time an operator tries to make corrections.

At Noida in Uttar Pradesh, the portal has been down for over a month.

A Union government official said thousands of certificates are being generated through the portal daily and as and when a State migrates to the new system, it may face minor issues due to the revamping of the system.

The digital birth certificates will be a single document to prove the date of birth for various services such as admission to educational institutions, government jobs, and marriage registration. The centralised database will also update the National Population Register (NPR). The NPR is the first step to the creation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC), as per the Citizenship Act.



- **Glitch in Civil Registration System (CRS) Portal**

- The CRS, a centralized portal by the Union government for registering births and deaths, has been experiencing glitches for the past four months.
- This malfunction has led to delays in issuing birth and death certificates across several states.

- **Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023**
- As per the 2023 amendment, all births and deaths from October 1, 2023, must be registered digitally through [crsorgi.gov.in](https://crsorgi.gov.in).
- 23 states and six Union Territories have migrated to this system.
- Some states like Tamil Nadu, with their own portals, still send data to the Centre in real-time.



## Issues Reported by States

Bihar: Migration to the new portal on June 10 has led to a backlog due to the slow system and frequent errors.

Nagaland: Migrated on May 13 and has faced issues such as the inability to issue certificates for days.

Chhattisgarh: Migration in March 2023 resulted in ongoing teething problems, with the system often freezing.

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- **Impact on Public Services**

- Public registrars face pressure due to the delays and glitches, leading to public dissatisfaction.
- Thousands of certificates are being generated daily, but minor issues persist due to the new system's implementation.
- In Noida, Uttar Pradesh, the portal has been down for over a month.





- **Future of Digital Birth Certificates**

- The digital birth certificate will serve as a single document for various purposes, including educational admission, employment, and marriage registration.
- The central database will also update the National Population Register (NPR).
- The NPR is part of the steps towards creating the National Register of Citizens (NRC) under the Citizenship Act.

- Consider the following statements regarding the recent developments in the Civil Registration System (CRS) in India:

1. The Civil Registration System (CRS) has been experiencing glitches, causing delays in issuing birth and death certificates.
2. As per the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, all reported births and deaths in India from October 1, 2023, must be digitally registered.
3. The digital birth certificates generated through the CRS portal will serve as a single document for purposes such as educational admission and marriage registration.

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



IN BRIEF

DRDO carries out flight test of long-range glide bomb

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Tuesday successfully carried out the maiden flight test of the long-range glide bomb (LRGB) Gaurav from a Su-30 MKI fighter jet of the Indian Air Force. The test was conducted off the coast of Odisha. Gaurav is an air launched 1,000 kg class glide bomb capable of hitting targets at long distance. After being launched, the glide bomb steers towards the target using highly accurate hybrid navigation scheme," the DRDO said in a statement. The LRGB has been designed and developed indigenously by the Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad. During the flight test, the glide bomb hit the target accurately at Long Wheeler's island with pinpoint precision, the DRDO said.

Run the news for people with hearing, speech disabilities: SC

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhat to take instructions from public broadcaster Prasar Bharati on having a special news bulletin at least once a day exclusively for persons with hearing and speech disabilities. To come with a positive response on this, Justice B.R. Gava addressed the law officer. Justice K.V. Viswanathan on the bench remarked that the court does not want to hear from the top court to get the initiative rolling. "You do not need to wait, you can implement this tomorrow," Justice Viswanathan told Ms. Bhat. The order followed a petition filed by NGO Sankot Foundation.

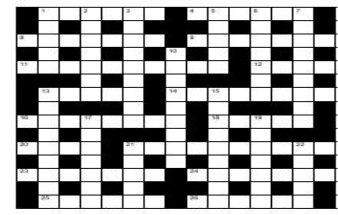
Kiren Rijju launches portal for Jyvo Parsi Scheme

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju on Tuesday launched the portal for the Jyvo Parsi Scheme, a demand sector scheme to arrest the population decline of the Parsi community in India. Emphasising the rich heritage and culture of the community, the Minister said the Parsi population is decreasing and this needs to be addressed.

He added that the government's intervention in the form of the Jyvo Parsi Scheme is expected to help the community in the future. "I request the eligible Parsi couples to avail the benefits of the scheme and help the government in building a stronger nation," said the Minister.

TH CROSSWORD 14253 (set by Binmo)



Across

- 1. Cellar's often hidden - employ passage (6)
4. Arranges bag wrapping piece of tape (6)
8. Circular showing Communist leader and revolutionary (7)
11. Recovering Communist finally lost passion for disorder (8)
12. Look while talking! Name one wild animal (3,7)
13. Shank flesh's not ready in the middle after flipping (4)

Plea against exclusion of provision for unnatural sex

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to make its stand clear on the exclusion of penal provisions for the offences of unnatural sex and sodomy from the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC). "Where is that provision? There has to be something. The question is that if it is not there, then is it an offence? If an offence is not there and if it is obliterated, then it is not an offence..." a Bench of Acting Chief Justice Manojh Kumar and Justice Tushar Kan Golela said.

The court said the legislature needs to take care of the issue of non-consensual unnatural sex. The court was hearing a petition by Ganaraya Gaidli, a lawyer who was appearing in person, seeking to address the "legal lacuna" resulting from the enactment of the BNS. The lawyer submitted that the BNS excludes any provision equivalent to Section 377 (unnatural offences) of the IPC, due to which every person, especially members of the LGBTQ community, will be affected. He also flagged alleged atrocities against those from the LGBTQ community.

Egg or sperm donor has no legal right on child: Bombay HC

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court held that merely donating eggs or sperm does not give legal entitlement to the donor to claim that he or she is the biological parent of the child.

Pronouncing the verdict that was reserved on August 2, a single-judge Bench of Justice Milind Jadhav dismissed the argument of a woman petitioner who had volunteered to donate her oocyte (eggs) to her sister and brother-in-law who could not conceive naturally, and said the sister had no legitimate right to claim that she was the biological parent of the twins.

The Bench was hearing a plea filed by a woman petitioner, who challenged a trial court order that refused to give her visitation rights and access to her twin daughters born through surrogacy. Appearing for the petitioner, advocate Ganesh Gole argued that since the twin girls are of growing age, the petitioner needs to



The Bench was hearing a plea challenging a trial court order that refused visitation rights.

be given visitation rights. "When the petitioner failed to conceive naturally, the couple contacted a gynaecologist who advised them to go for altruistic surrogacy through an egg donor and that when the petitioner approached her younger sister," the advocate said. Later, the husband left the petitioner, and started living with the sister.

2005 guidelines. The judge referred to the National Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART (Assisted Reproductive Technology) Clinics in India, enacted in 2005, and not-

ed. "The younger sister of petitioner can have no right whatsoever to intervene and claim to be the biological parent of the twin daughters as argued. The submissions on behalf of the oocyte donor is the biological mother stands rejected outrightly in view of the settled position in law on the basis of the guidelines and the Surrogacy Act enacted subsequently. The limited role of the younger sister is that of an oocyte donor, rather a voluntary donor and at the highest, she may qualify to be a genetic mother and nothing more, but by such qualification, she would have no intending legal right whatsoever to claim to be the biological mother of the twin daughters as the law clearly does not recognise so."

Justice Jadhav held that the lower court order that denied visitation rights to the petitioner was without proper application of mind. The court granted the petitioner visitation rights and access to the twin daughters.

SC closes contempt proceedings against Ramdev, Patanjali

Krishnadada Halagol NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday closed contempt proceedings against yoga guru Baba Ramdev, his close associate Acharya Balkrishna, and Patanjali Ayurved Ltd., the company they co-founded, for defying a court order to not publish misleading advertisements of their herbal products in violation of the Drugs and Magic Remedies Act, and making derogatory statements about other systems of medicine.

A Bench of Justices Himanshu Kohli and Abhinav Mani accepted the unconditional apology tendered by the respondents before the court and published in various regional and national dailies. However, the court noted that the "wisdom of tendering an unconditional apology had dawned belatedly on the yoga guru, his aide, and the company. Their first efforts were admitted in court and the initial publication of their apology in newspapers had been 'qualified'. But since then, the respondents had not acted together and had made sincere efforts to purge themselves.

Justice Kohli, who authored the judgment, said



Baba Ramdev

"any apology tendered by a party in contempt proceedings must be unconditional and unqualified."

Issues warning. The Bench cautioned the yoga guru and the two other contemnors that the consequences of their future breach of their undertakings to the court would have grave consequences for them. "In that eventuality, the sword of contempt that has now been returned to rest in its sheath, shall be sharpened as swiftly as these proceedings were originally initiated," Justice Kohli warned.

Centre opens application process for Haj 2025

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju on Tuesday opened the process for applying for the Haj pilgrimage in 2025 through the Haj Committee of India. For the first time, applications have been invited on the Haj Sudvitha App in addition to the website of the Haj Committee of India.

Briefing about the Haj, the Ministry said a quota of 1,75,025 has been allotted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to India for the pilgrimage next year. "The Government of India has been continuously striving to make the Haj pilgrimage easier for the Indians," the Ministry said in a communique.

As negotiations fail, Railways cancels tender for 100 Vande Bharat trains

Maitri Porochia NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways has cancelled a ₹30,000-crore tender given to the French engineering company Alstom to manufacture and maintain 100 aluminium-bodied Vande Bharat train sets for the next 35 years. The tender was awarded more than a year ago.

The tender was floated in June 2022, and the bids were opened in February 2023. Only Alstom, India and a consortium of the Swiss Company Stadler Rail and the Hyderabad-based Medha Servo Drives successfully submitted the bids. While Alstom quoted ₹150.9 crore per train, Medha quoted ₹145 crore. "Alstom's offer for the 100 aluminium electric multiple units (EMUs) was a very competitive offer



Aborted deal: French engineering company Alstom had won the bid to manufacture 100 aluminium body trains. (Hindustan Times)

While being the lowest bidder, Alstom worked on Indian Railways' request to further optimise its offer, and looks forward to any new tender that may come up in this space," the spokesperson said. At present, India uses train sets made from steel. Trains made from aluminium are better as they are lightweight, energy-efficient, and have better resale value.

Sudhanshu Mani, former general manager of Integral Coach Factory and creator of the Vande Bharat train, said this failed tender is the second unsuccessful attempt at initiating the manufacture of lightweight aluminium body trains. "The tender was floated in 2017-18, when ICF made a Train20 tender for manufacturing 20 such Vande Bharat train sets. But it did not materialise," Mr. Mani said. He added that by cancelling this tender, we are putting the project to manufacture aluminium body trains back by several years. "It is a retrograde step. The Indian Railways should have negotiated further and settled at a price," he said.

SUDOKU

9x9 grid for a Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Solution to previous puzzle

9x9 grid showing the solution to the previous Sudoku puzzle.

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9x9 grid showing the solution to yesterday's Sudoku puzzle.

FAITH

Sita tells Rama a story

Sita tells Rama a story when they are in the forest, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse. Sita mentions three negative traits a man can have. Of these, Sita says dishonesty is a trait Rama does not have. She also says that He never covets another man's wife. But there is another undesirable quality, which she says Rama must avoid! That is enmity with those who have not harmed Him. When the sages in Dandakaranya ask Rama to protect them from the asuras, Rama promises that He will do so. Sita objects to His killing the asuras who have not harmed Rama. Once a person starts wielding a weapon, killing becomes second nature to him, she points out.

Sage who wielded sword Sita narrates the story of a sage. Indra could not break the tapas of this sage. So, Indra, in the guise of a soldier, entrusted a sword to the sage, asking him to keep it safe till he returned. Indra did not return and the sage began to use the knife. He first cut down a banana tree, for no reason at all. He then moved to killing animals. Thus, the mere possession of a sword made a pious man a killer. A king may need to use weapons to protect his subjects. But now that Rama is in the forest, what is the need for weapons? Sita says Rama should not touch His weapons till they get back to Ayodhya. She is firm that Rama should not kill the asuras.

# Egg or sperm donor has no legal right on child: Bombay HC

Court allows woman to visit her twin daughters born through surrogacy; her sister had claimed she was the biological parent as she was the donor

**Purnima Sah**

MUMBAI

**T**he Bombay High Court on Tuesday held that merely donating eggs or sperm does not give legal entitlement to the donor to claim that he or she is the biological parent of the child.

Pronouncing the verdict that was reserved on August 2, a single-judge Bench of Justice Milind Jadhav dismissed the argument of a woman (petitioner's sister) who had volunteered to donate her oocyte (eggs) to her sister and brother-in-law who could not conceive naturally, and said the sister had no legitimate right to claim that she was the biological parent of the twins.

The Bench was hearing a plea filed by a woman (petitioner) who challenged a trial court order that refused to give her visitation rights and access to her twin daughters born through surrogacy.

Appearing for the petitioner, advocate Ganesh Gole argued that since the twin girls are of growing age, the petitioner needs to



The Bench was hearing a plea challenging a trial court order that refused visitation rights.

be given visitation rights. "When the petitioner failed to conceive naturally, the couple consulted a gynaecologist who advised them to go for altruistic surrogacy through an egg donor and that is when the petitioner approached her younger sister," the advocate said.

Later, the husband left the petitioner, took away the twins, and started living with the sister.

## **2005 guidelines**

The judge referred to the National Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART (Assisted Reproductive Technology) Clinics in India, enacted in 2005, and not-

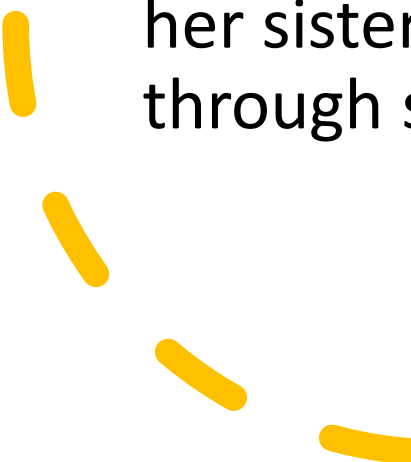
ed, "The younger sister of petitioner can have no right whatsoever to intervene and claim to be the biological mother of the twin daughters as argued. The submissions on behalf of the husband that his wife's younger sister being the oocyte donor is the biological mother stands rejected outrightly in view of the settled position in law on the basis of the guidelines and the Surrogacy Act enacted subsequently. The limited role of the younger sister of petitioner is that of an oocyte donor, rather a voluntary donor and at the highest, she may qualify to be a genetic mother and nothing more, but by such qualification, she would have no intending legal right whatsoever to claim to be the biological mother of the twin daughters as the law clearly does not recognise so."

Justice Jadhav held that the lower court order that denied visitation rights to the petitioner was without proper application of mind. The court granted the petitioner visitation rights and access to the twin daughters.





- **Bombay High Court Ruling on Egg or Sperm Donors**

- The Bombay High Court ruled that donating eggs or sperm does not give the donor any legal right to claim biological parenthood of the child.
  - The court dismissed the argument of a woman who donated eggs to her sister, claiming to be the biological mother of the twins born through surrogacy.
- 



- **Case Background**

- The petitioner, who had donated her eggs to her sister and brother-in-law, filed a plea for visitation rights to her twin daughters born through surrogacy.
- The twins were taken by the husband, and the petitioner sought legal recognition as their biological mother.

The background of the slide features a faint, grayscale image of classical architectural columns, likely from a courthouse or government building, creating a formal and legal atmosphere.

- **Legal Considerations**

- The court referred to the 2005 National Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision, and Regulation of ART (Assisted Reproductive Technology) Clinics in India.
- The guidelines and subsequent Surrogacy Act do not recognize egg or sperm donors as biological parents.
- The court emphasized that the donor's role is limited to being an oocyte (egg) donor and does not confer any legal rights to claim parenthood.



## **1. Court's Decision**

1. The court rejected the petitioner's claim to be the biological mother based on the settled legal position.
2. The lower court had earlier denied visitation rights to the petitioner based on a misinterpretation of the law.
3. The High Court corrected this and granted the petitioner visitation rights and access to her twin daughters.

- Consider the following statements regarding the legal status of egg or sperm donors in India:
  1. According to the Bombay High Court, donating eggs or sperm grants the donor the legal right to claim biological parenthood of the child.
  2. The 2005 National Guidelines for ART Clinics in India do not recognize egg or sperm donors as biological parents.
  3. The Bombay High Court granted visitation rights to a woman who donated her eggs to her sister for surrogacy.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
  - **a) 1 and 2 only**
  - **b) 2 and 3 only**
  - **c) 1 and 3 only**
  - **d) 1, 2, and 3**





# Kiren Rijiju launches portal for Jiyo Parsi Scheme

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday launched the portal for the Jiyo Parsi Scheme, a Central sector scheme to arrest the population decline of the Parsi community in India.

Emphasising the rich heritage and culture of the community, the Minister said the Parsi population is decreasing and this needs to be addressed.

He added that the government's intervention in the form of the Jiyo Parsi Scheme is expected to help the community in the future. "I request the eligible Parsi couples to avail the benefits of the scheme and help the government in building a stronger nation," said the Minister.

## Expanding contraceptive choices

A recent study published in the journal *Contraception* highlighted the potential role of Levonorgestrel 1.5mg for percutaneous use. Percutaneous contraception refers to methods used at the time of sex, such as condoms and diaphragm. This is a reminder that there is a need to diversify contraceptive choices and respond to the unique needs of women and girls. Data show that in India, the sale of oral emergency contraceptive pills (ECPs) is over 35 million annually, with a decadal compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 12%. This proves that women and their partners are choosing to manage their fertility as required.

**Emergency contraception**  
 Emergency contraception refers to methods of contraception that can be used to prevent pregnancy after sexual intercourse. These are recommended for use within five days of unprotected sex but are more effective the sooner they are used. ECPs prevent pregnancy by delaying or preventing ovulation.

The World Health Organization (WHO) states that all women, including those who cannot use hormonal contraceptive methods, can use ECPs safely and effectively. Due to the short-term nature of their use, there are no medical conditions that make ECPs unsafe for any woman. The WHO says there are no health risks with using emergency contraception. However, using an ECP is also a reminder to start using a regular contraceptive method in consultation with the healthcare provider because ECPs prevent pregnancy from acts of sex that took place only in the past five days; they will not prevent sex from pregnancy from acts of sex more than 24 hours after they take ECPs.

While the public sector remains to be the major source of family planning, specifically for female and male sterilisation, and long-acting reversible contraceptives including



**Meetha Gandhi**  
 Founder of Counterpoint Impact Advisory, a health and development consulting group

intra-uterine devices and post-partum intra-uterine devices, the private sector is the major source of oral contraceptive pills as well as ECP and barrier methods such as condoms. Reversible contraceptives place the decision in the hands of men and women, supporting their agency and reproductive autonomy to decide if they want to have children, when, and how many.

**A significant move**  
 Earlier this year, the government included a single-dose regimen of Levonorgestrel 1.5 mg pill in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM). This list is issued by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to make medicines available at affordable costs and assured quality based on the disease burden of the people. It is meant to promote rational use of medicines with focus on cost, safety, and efficacy. This move is significant because this is the preferred regimen for women using ECP and despite the annual sale of over 35 million tablets from private chemists and pharmacies, this was not price controlled.

While the two-dose regime of 0.75 mg tablets has been in the NLEM since the inclusion in 2015. The emergency contraceptive pill Levonorgestrel 0.75 mg tablet was included in the National Family Planning Programme in 2003 but was later replaced by Levonorgestrel 1.5 mg tablet to be made available free of cost across the public health system. The same pill in the private sector continued to be sold without a price control in the price range of ₹99-100. The two-tablet pack was price controlled at ₹22-53 per tablet by being in the NLEM. This has been a significant market disparity between what women pay and what was affordable.

India has reached replacement level of fertility, which means that the average number of children born per woman is such that the population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next

without migration. This has been a result of the government's efforts to prioritise expanding contraceptive choices, increasing access to quality counselling, contraceptive services, and a focus on education as a pathway to a good quality of life.

There continue to be variations in the demand for contraceptive access and family planning across various regions, and the focus on ensuring access to information and counselling about contraceptive choices and seamless access across public and private sector is critical. The total demand for family planning among currently married women age 15-49 years in India increased from 66% (2016-19 to 76% (2019-21). The unmet need for family planning decreased from 13% in 2015-16 to 9% in 2019-21. What this means is that while more women in India have expressed a desire to use a contraceptive to delay their first birth, spacing pregnancies, or not having anymore children, there are still 9% significantly more women in India who desire a contraceptive but don't currently have access for a range of reasons.

With research and technological advancements, contraceptive choices will continue to expand for men and women to respond to the unique needs for contraception. Policy makers need to continue to listen and respond to the needs of the woman and her partner across various life stages with critical decisions like these. This wider availability of the single-dose emergency contraceptive pill is an example of the government's response to the choices women are making. With the recent introduction of the subcutaneous injectable contraceptive with the opportunity to expand self-care use and what was affordable, the contraceptive implant in the national programme, and the single dose ECP, conscious efforts are being made to support women in making informed choices.

### STATE OF PLAY

S. Anandan

Nearly a fortnight after two landslides gouged out the face of the Vellimala hill in Wayanad's Meppadi panchayat, killing more than 230 people in the foothills, the search continues for the missing, estimated to be more than 130 people. This is a tragedy of epic proportions for Kerala, which has been battered by extreme weather events ever since the great flood of 2018. That year, 341 major landslides were reported in the State. Landslides have become a major hazard every monsoon since then, with Wayanad, Idukki, Malappuram, Kasaragod, and Kozhikode districts marked as, and proving to be, highly susceptible to deadly landslides. About 75 people died in overnight landslides at Kavalappara in Malappuram and Puthamala in Wayanad, situated six kilometres apart across the hills, in 2019. Puthamala is barely a few kilometres down the hill from the Chooramala and Munnurwadde wards of Meppadi panchayat, which bore the brunt of the landslides on July 30 this year.

As in 2019, the landslides this year were not triggered by extremely heavy rainfall: 527 mm of rain in 48 hours. It is evident now that there was inadequate early warning. But the role of anthropogenic factors in exacerbating the disaster can give "people-friendly" information such as probable rainfall intensity, wind shear, and the probability of extreme weather such as a drought. But this appears to be a tall order as Wayanad is not even have an adequate number of rain gauges.

The Kerala government embarked on a mission to rebuild the State the week of the 2018 flood. The post-disaster relief programme, which sanctioned a climate-resilient Kerala, which was to be built by mainstreaming integrated water resources, following an eco sen-



sitive and risk-informed land use and settlement approach, promoting community-based disaster management, and integrating disaster risk reduction plans across sectors with technology and innovation. However, implementation has been tardy.

The 'room for river' project for flood management in the plains has not made any headway. Affirmative action to enhance eco-sensitive land use, mainly a chimera, with the government bidding time and a vast majority of the people opposed to the idea of resettlement due to a deep distrust of the system. Unregulated constructions continue to be a menace on the fragile hills in Wayanad and Idukki, with the government bidding time and a vast majority of the people opposed to the idea of resettlement due to a deep distrust of the system. Unregulated constructions continue to be a menace on the fragile hills in Wayanad and Idukki, with the government bidding time and a vast majority of the people opposed to the idea of resettlement due to a deep distrust of the system.

While the disaster management plan should be frequently updated, experts point to the need to integrate these individual plans while preparing district disaster management plans. There is now a fairly sound 'radar' giving 'people-friendly' information such as probable rainfall intensity, wind shear, and the probability of extreme weather such as a drought. But this appears to be a tall order as Wayanad is not even have an adequate number of rain gauges.

But the government has

brought local bodies on board the disaster risk reduction matrix. As many as 260 local bodies were handbilled by the Kerala Institute of Local Administration in putting together panchayat-level disaster management plans after some laborious fieldwork. Each report contains the whole gamut of information pertaining to that panchayat. For instance, Meppadi, ravaged by the landslides in July, has published a report. To what extent this has been useful in fighting the disaster needs to be examined.

Nevertheless, the plan is sweeping in its coverage of the geomorphological features of the land, the people, the interventions on land, crops, safe routes, etc. It identifies the vulnerable spots and people, such as the differently abled, the bedridden, children, the aged, migrant workers, and those under palliative care. There are long lists of people to sound warnings and be the first responders in the event of a disaster. Officials say these panchayats have been given downscaled climate projection data and maps. For district officials to make sense of the downscaled climate project data and maps, there is a need to ground truth the same.

While the disaster management plan should be frequently updated, experts point to the need to integrate these individual plans while preparing district disaster management plans. There is now a fairly sound 'radar' giving 'people-friendly' information such as probable rainfall intensity, wind shear, and the probability of extreme weather such as a drought. But this appears to be a tall order as Wayanad is not even have an adequate number of rain gauges.

## At the 2024 Paris Olympics, age was not a limit

Athletes ranging from 11 to 65 years old competed in the Games. The youngest athletes in the majority of events were women

### DATA POINT

**Richie Lionell**  
 The Hindu Data Team

During the 2024 Summer Olympics, Cuban wrestler Mijail Lopez, 41, made history by becoming the first athlete to win five consecutive individual gold medals in the same event: the 130 kg Greco-Roman category. He was the oldest athlete to compete across all the wrestling events this year. He will be turning 42 next week.

The youngest athlete who participated in Paris was Zheng Haohao from China. She was 11 years old when she competed. She was born on the penultimate day of the 2012 London Olympics. She competed in the skateboarding category in which 46% of the participants were teenagers.

The youngest athlete in each of the 26 of the 40 sporting disciplines listed in the graph was a girl. These girls formed 66% of all the competitors who were teenagers. Teenage girls tended to compete in higher numbers in events such as artistic swimming and rhythmic gymnastics, in which they formed almost 50% of all competitors.

Although men formed the higher proportion of older participants, the oldest player listed to participate at the Paris Olympics was the equestrian dressage star representing Australia, Mary Hanna, who is a few months shy of turning 70. However, Hanna never got the chance to participate as she was listed as a reserve athlete.

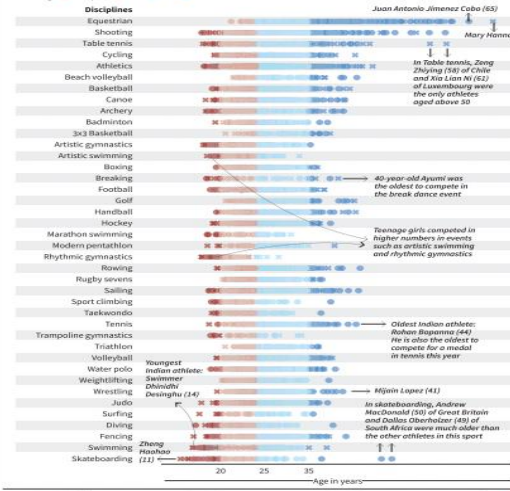
The oldest athlete to participate, 65-year-old Juan Antonio Jimenez Cobo, represented Spain in the equestrian event. Of the 251 athletes competing in the equestrian category, 117 of them (46%) were over the age of 40.

Other events that hosted older athletes were 3x3 basketball, of which 56% of athletes were in their thirties, and triathlon, of which 41% were in that age group.

## Age is just a number

Data for the chart were sourced from Olympics.com and was analysed by Richie Lionell of Hazalad Data.

Chart shows the age-wise distribution of the athletes who competed in various sporting disciplines at the Paris Olympics. 2024. Age: ● 11-19 years ● 20-25 ● 26-35 ● 35+. Gender: ● Men, ● Women



**Juan Antonio Jimenez Cobo (65)**  
 The oldest to compete in the break dance event



**Mijail Lopez (41)**  
 The oldest to compete in the tennis event



**Zheng Haohao (11)**  
 The youngest to compete in the skateboarding event.



**Mijail Lopez (41)**  
 The oldest to compete in the tennis event



**Mijail Lopez (41)**  
 The oldest to compete in the tennis event



**Mijail Lopez (41)**  
 The oldest to compete in the tennis event

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 14, 1974

### Ford may discard super secret diplomacy of Nixon regime

Washington, Aug 13: President Ford stressed yesterday that while the style of his conduct of diplomacy would differ from that of his predecessor, the content of his foreign policy would be the same as that of Mr. Nixon's. While declaring that he would continue to "support the outstanding foreign policy of President Nixon," he added that "it is my intention to deal openly with allies and adversaries." This suggested that Mr. Ford intended to discard the super secret diplomacy which was the hallmark of the Nixon Administration, a pattern of diplomacy which often alienated some of America's old friends even while it sought to gain new friends.

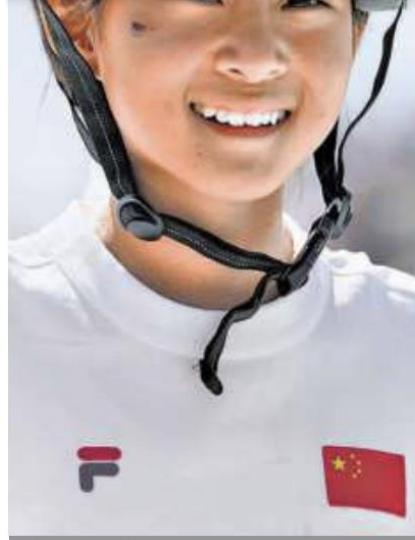
The underlying theme of Mr. Ford's address to a joint session of Congress last night, in relation to foreign affairs, was constancy and continuity. There would be continued collaboration with such loyal allies as Western Europe and Japan. There would be continued support for the "security, independence and development of our allies and friends in Asia." There would be continued efforts to reduce tensions with China and the Soviet Union and persistent attempts to bring about a durable settlement in West Asia. "To all nations including the non-aligned Mr. Ford pledged a continuity "in our dedication to the humane goals" — in particular, he said that he would seek an international structure of trade and finance which would reflect the interdependence of peoples.

### A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FROM THE AUGUST 13, 1924 ISSUE SINCE THERE WAS NO ISSUE ON AUGUST 14, 1924

### Danger of gold inflation

Warning to U.S. industrialists: A special cable to the "Statesman" dated London, August 9 says: Addressing an industrial conference at Massachusetts, Mr. O.W. Barron, editor of the "Wall Street Journal", declared that business men in America had an opportunity, such as they never had before, to perform legitimate business with the minimum of risk. "There is only one thing to be feared in this country," he said, "and that is gold inflation. We have the possibility of a gold inflation beyond our previous dreams, and with the costs of labour and commodities rising, and our industries expanding, business may topple with disastrous effects both to labour and to capital."





Zheng Haohao was 11 years old when she competed in the skateboarding event. AFP

#### Gender-split

- 60 countries had more female athletes compared to male ones
- 119 countries had more male athletes than female ones
- 27 countries had an equal number of male and female athletes

#### Age-split

- Skateboarding had competitors from almost all age groups: teens to 50-year-olds
- One in five swimmers was a teenager (179 out of 831)
- Nearly one in every four contestants in artistic swimming

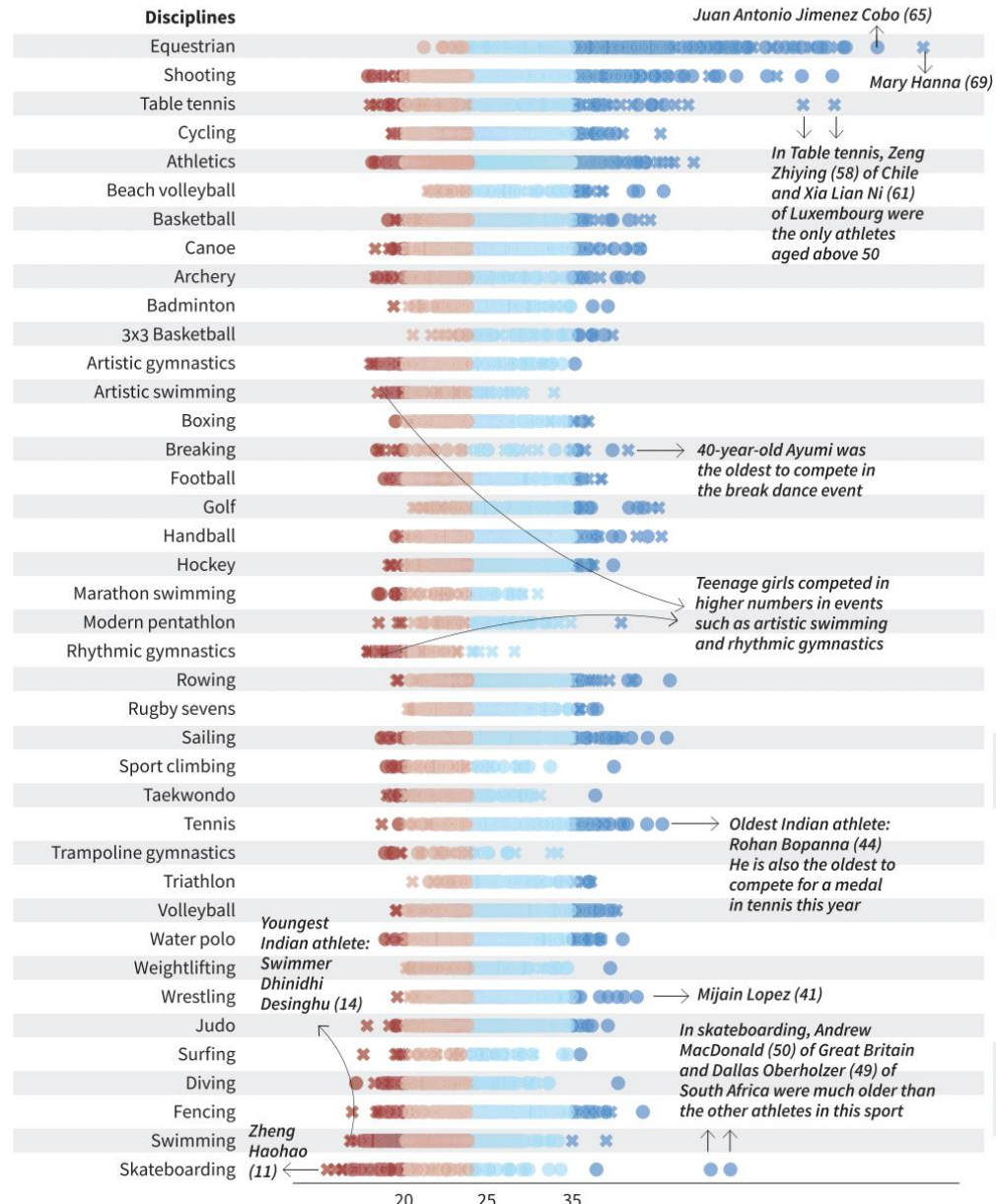
was a teenage girl (26 out of 106)

- There were more teenage boys (28) than girls (8) competing in football
- In 34 disciplines, there were more teenage girls than teenage boys
- In six disciplines, there were more teenage boys than teenage girls
- In eight disciplines, there were no teenage athletes
- 100 countries had more teenage girls than boys in their contingent
- 45 countries had no teenagers in their contingent

# Age is just a number

Data for the chart were sourced from Olympics.com and was analysed by Richie Lionell of Bezael Data

Chart shows the age-wise distribution of the athletes who competed in various sporting disciplines at the Paris Olympics 2024. Age: ● 11-19 years ● 20-25 ● 26-35 ● >35. Gender: ● Men, ✕ Women







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### BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



### JAIL IN UAPA CASE

#### 'M plot case: Jail rule, jail exception even in stringent law, says SC

NANTHAKRISHNAN G  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 13

CRANTING BAIL to a man charged under the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for renting out a room of his house to alleged cadres of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI) who were planning to carry out disturbances during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bihar in 2022, the apex court Tuesday said the principle "bails the rule and jail an exception" will apply even to statutes with stringent bail conditions.

The bench of Justices A S Okar and Augustine George Masih said, "When a case is made out of a grant of bail, the Courts should not have any hesitation in granting bail. The allegations of the prosecution may be very serious. But, the duty of the courts is to consider the case for grant of bail in accordance with the law. Bail is the rule and jail an exception" in a settled law, even in a case like the present one, where there are stringent conditions for the grant of bail in relevant statutes, the same rule holds good with only modification that the bail can be granted if the conditions in the statute are satisfied.

"The rule also means that once a case is made out for the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Assam CM gave it 'flood jihad' tag, N-E university gets national rank honour

UKRITA BARUAH  
GUWAHATI, AUGUST 13

HE MOOD at the University of Science and Technology Sibsahar was upbeat Tuesday. Earlier, the Ministry of Education had announced the national Institutional Ranking Annuity (NIR) 2024 and the institute had featured in the list of top 200 universities — the only private university from the

## Helping Wayanad: Girls broke their piggy bank, an elderly woman her surgery fund

'AGE 1 INCHOR

HAJU PHILIP  
TRIVANIPURAM,  
AUGUST 13

76-YEAR-OLD decided her pending surgery could wait. Her piggy bank vendor gave up his day's wings, two sisters agreed it was time to break their piggy bank — the aftermath of the July 30 landslide. Their re-

through the hills of the north Kerala district, killing nearly 231 people and washing away homes and property, contributions such as these have been pouring in from across the state into the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CM-DRF). Nearly 130 landslide victims are still missing.

Among those who contributed to the CM-DRF, Rs 110.55 crore, as of August 13 — are daily wage earners, students, widows and the elderly. Moved by the enormity of the tragedy and the consequences to the scale,



Students from Manipur, who study in Kerala, hand over a cheque of Rs 1 lakh as Wayanad relief contribution

## Delhi L-G rejects AAP choice, picks Gahlot to hoist Tricolour on I-Day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 13

IN A fresh tussle with the AAP government, Lieutenant Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena on Tuesday nominated Delhi Home Minister Kailash Gahlot to hoist the national flag in the Capital on Independence Day, days after Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Education Minister Atishi would take his place at the event.

Every year, the Delhi government's General Administration Department (GAD) organises Independence Day celebrations

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



USTM Chancellor Mahabub Hogue addresses students and faculty on Tuesday

## Air hostess who took taxi bike molested by rider in Chanakyapuri

ARNABJIT SUR  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 13

A 25-YEAR-OLD woman, who works as an air hostess, was allegedly molested by a rider of an app-based bike ride aggregator service in Chanakypuri area of New Delhi last week, police said on Tuesday.

The accused, identified as 35-year-old Jaiwari, was nabbed from Gurgaon within 12 hours of the incident. According to the police, he hailed from Anusaya in Uttar Pradesh and had been working with taxi bike service in Delhi for the past one year.

The incident took place around 11.45 pm on August 7. Around 11 pm, the woman booked a bike ride through inDrive to her home in Dwarika from Lakshmi Nagar, where she had come to meet a friend, the police said.

According to the woman, the bike rider reached her pickup spot within 15 minutes of booking the ride. When she reached the Simon Bolivar Marg near Buddha Jayanti Park around 11.45 pm, the bike rider tried to change the route even while looking at the map on his phone.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## ATTACKS WIDESPREAD, OVER 50 OF 64 DISTRICTS HIT: COMMUNITY LEADERS

# Reaching out to Bangla Hindus, Yunus visits temple, underlines equal rights

Dhaka's interim govt establishes hotline to report attacks on temples, churches, pagodas



SHUBHAJIT ROY  
DHAKA, AUGUST 13

WITH THE Hindu minority in Bangladesh facing attacks in the last week, after Sheikh Hasina resigned as Prime Minister and fled to India on August 5, Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus, who is heading the interim government, reached out on Tuesday with a visit to the Dhakeshwari Temple where he met community leaders and assured "justice" and "equal rights" for all.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Muhammad Yunus at the Dhakeshwari Temple in Dhaka.

## Govt should have spoken out against quota, met protesters, says Hasina son

RIKITA CHOPRA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 13

ADMITTING THAT mistakes were made in handling the student protests, Sajeeb Wazed Joy,

son of ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, told The Indian Express in an interview that the government should have engaged with the protesters from the very beginning and spoken out against the quota

much earlier.

"I believe our government should have spoken out against the quotas and met with the protesters from the beginning instead of leaving it to the courts,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Hasina seeks justice, calls for mourning on day father was killed

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
DHAKA, AUGUST 13

IN HER first public statement since her ouster on August 5, Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday set the stage for a possible confrontation in Dhaka, as she asked people to observe August 15 — the anniversary of the assassination of her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman — as "national mourning day" by placing wreaths at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum.

This came on a day when the interim government decided to cancel the national holiday on August 15. This decision was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## JUNIOR DOCTOR'S RAPE & MURDER



Students hold a protest at the R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata Tuesday.

## Unhappy with police probe, HC transfers Kolkata case to CBI

Pulls up authorities, hospital principal who quit to join another sent on leave

ATRI MITRA & RAJIB BHATTACHARYA  
KOLKATA, AUGUST 13

EXPRESSING DISPLEASURE over the handling of the case of the alleged rape and murder of a junior doctor at R G Kar Medical College and observing that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

cant progress in the investigation", the Calcutta High Court Tuesday transferred the probe from Kolkata Police to the CBI. A division bench, comprising Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam and Justice Binay Kumar Bhattacharya, said it would monitor the probe and the CBI would be required to submit a report to the court in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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# Starbucks CEO Narasimhan steps down, Chipotle's Niccol to take over

**REUTERS**

BENGALURU, AUGUST 13

STARBUCKS NAMED Chipotle Mexican Grill head Brian Niccol as its new CEO on Tuesday in a management shakeup as it tries to fend off pressures from activist investor Elliott Investment Management.

Niccol replaces Laxman Narasimhan, who officially took over as CEO in April last year and was poached from Lysol maker Reckitt to undertake a "reinvention" of the world's biggest coffee chain.

But Starbucks stock has continued to suffer, losing roughly 20 per cent of its value over the last five years when the broad-market S&P 500 has gained more than 80 per cent. In July, the company fell short of sales expectations due to weakening demand in the United States and China.

Starbucks stock was up 21 per cent in early trading on Tuesday and on track for its best day ever, erasing all of the losses for the year. Chipotle's shares were down 9 per cent.

Elliott, which owns a sizable stake, has been pressuring the



(L-R) Outgoing Starbucks CEO Laxman Narasimhan and new CEO Brian Niccol.

*Photo: X/LinkedIn*

company to improve its performance and stock price, proposing Starbucks expand its board and improve governance. Elliott's offer was reported to be part of an effort to allow Narasimhan to keep his job as CEO. When asked on CNBC if activist Elliott was consulted about the shakeup, Starbucks Board Chair Mellody Hobson said it had not been.

"We look forward to engaging with all of our shareholders about this new development," she said.

It is unclear what will happen with negotiations with Elliott.

Elliott Management did not respond to Reuters' request for comment. The activist hedge fund was seeking to add Jesse Cohn, an equity and managing partner in the firm, to the Starbucks board, Reuters reported Monday, citing sources.

In May, days after Starbucks cut its annual sales forecast, former CEO Howard Schultz wrote on his LinkedIn account that its U.S. operations were the "primary reason for its fall from grace," and that senior leaders need to spend more time with workers.

Niccol inherits several chal-

lenges at the coffee giant, which recently tweaked its model to focus on mobile pickup and delivery orders rather than cafes set up for long visits. In China, Starbucks has encountered competition from rivals discounting coffee prices, while its cafes in the Middle East have been subject to some pro-Palestinian boycotts amid the Israel-Hamas conflict.

"(Niccol is) going to turn the company around. It will be a little bit of a heavy lift for the first few quarters, but Niccol (has) proven what he can do at Chipotle," said Thomas Hayes, chairman at Great Hill Capital.

"This guy is a fixer and a doer and an executor," Hayes said.

Niccol joined Chipotle in 2018 from Taco Bell and has seen the company's annual sales more than double to nearly \$10 billion. In its most recent quarter, quarterly results topped Wall Street estimates on strong demand. Starbucks said Niccol will start in his new role on Sept. 9 and that CFO Rachel Ruggeri will serve as interim CEO until that time. Chipotle said its board had appointed Scott Boatwright, chief operating officer, as interim CEO.

## Starbucks CEO Transition

Starbucks announced that Laxman Narasimhan is stepping down as CEO.

Brian Niccol, former head of Chipotle Mexican Grill, has been named as the new CEO.

Narasimhan took over as CEO in April of the previous year and was previously with Lysol maker Reckitt.



## • **Challenges Faced by Starbucks**

- Starbucks has struggled with declining stock value, losing roughly 20% over the last five years.
- The broader market S&P 500 gained more than 80% during the same period.
- The decline is attributed to weakening demand in the United States and China.
- In China, Starbucks faces competition from rivals offering discounted coffee prices, while in the Middle East, its cafes have been subject to boycotts related to the Israel-Hamas conflict.



---

- **Role of Elliott Investment Management**


- Elliott Investment Management, an activist investor with a sizable stake in Starbucks, influenced the management shakeup.
- Elliott had earlier proposed expanding Starbucks's international presence and improving governance.
- Reports suggest that Elliott might have allowed Narasimhan to remain as CEO if specific conditions were met.

- **Brian Niccol's Background and Expectations**

- Niccol, who joined Chipotle in 2018 from Taco Bell, significantly boosted Chipotle's sales, reaching nearly \$10 billion annually.
- He is known as a "fixer and a doer," expected to bring the same energy to Starbucks.
- Starbucks has adjusted its model to focus more on mobile pickup and delivery, a strategy that Niccol might continue to refine.



## 1. Market Reactions and Future Outlook

1. Starbucks stock saw an initial 21% rise in early trading following the announcement, although it later erased all gains.
  2. Chipotle's shares fell by 2%.
  3. Starbucks plans to start its new fiscal year with Niccol at the helm, and CFO Rachel Ruggeri will serve as interim CEO until then.
- 



- Consider the following statements regarding the recent management changes at Starbucks:
  1. Laxman Narasimhan stepped down as Starbucks CEO, and Brian Niccol, formerly of Chipotle, has taken over.
  2. Starbucks stock has gained more than 80% over the last five years, in line with the broader market S&P 500.
  3. Elliott Investment Management played a significant role in the management shakeup at Starbucks.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
  - a) 1 and 2 only**
  - b) 2 and 3 only**
  - c) 1 and 3 only**
  - d) 1, 2, and 3**

# SIZE DOESN'T MATTER

## POPULATION



NEW ZEALAND  
5.3 million (10 Gold)

INDIA  
1.4 billion (0 Gold)



**AMONG THE** countries with a double-digit gold medal haul, New Zealand, with a population of just over 5.3 million, was the smallest. It finished 11th on the medal table with 10 gold and 20 overall, improving from 7 and 20 in Tokyo. Canoe Sprint and track cycling brought them multiple gold, in addition to men's high jump, canoe slalom, golf, rowing and rugby sevens. Of the top 10 finishers, South Korea sent just 144 competitors in 23 sports. And won a staggering 32 medals. That's a medal: participation ratio of 1:5. All other Top 10s, sent over 300 athletes.

Austria finished 36th on the medal table with two gold medals. Nothing



NZ's Hamish Kerr, high jump gold.

eye-catching there, one would think. Till one notices that both the gold medals the landlocked country clinched came in sailing, in men's kite and mixed dinghy events.

## CONTINGENT SIZE



SOUTH KOREA  
144 (32 Medals)

INDIA  
117 (6 Medals)



Lakshya Sen finished fourth.

## POSITION ON MEDAL TALLY

### BIGGEST CLIMBS

Country	Tokyo	Paris
Bahrain	77th	33rd
Kazakhstan	83th	43rd
Azerbaijan	67th	30th
Botswana	86th	55th
Romania	46th	23rd
Ukraine	44th	22nd
Ireland	39th	19th
Argentina	72nd	52nd

### BIGGEST FALLS

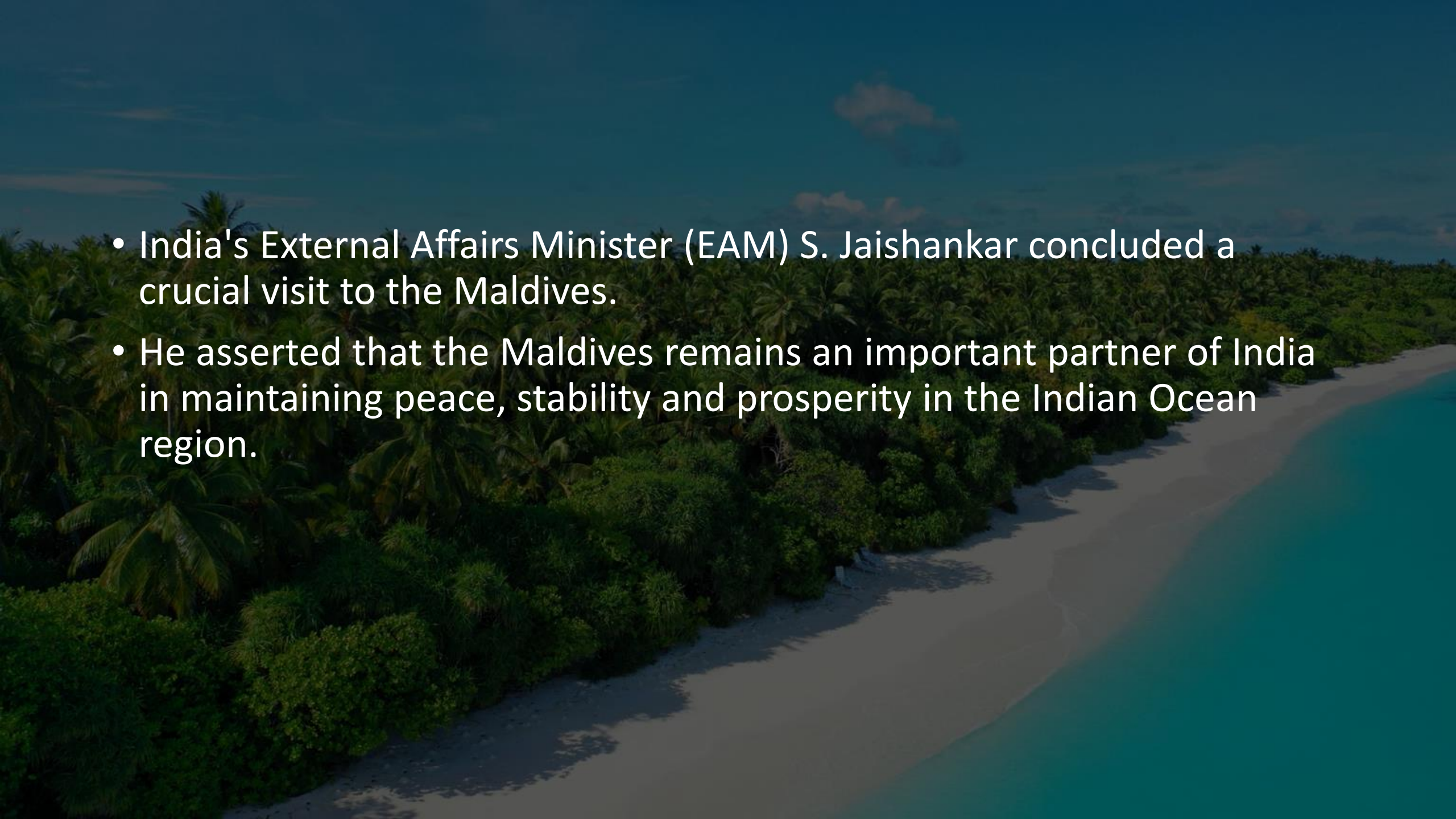
Country	Tokyo	Paris
Qatar	41st	84th
Slovakia	50th	84th
Kosovo	42nd	73rd
Turkey	35th	64th
Poland	17th	42nd
Switzerland	24th	48th
Jamaica	21st	44th
India	48th	71st



A tropical sunset scene with palm trees and a calm sea. The sky is a mix of blue, orange, and pink, with the sun low on the horizon. The water is dark blue with gentle waves, and the palm trees are silhouetted against the bright sky. The text "India's EAM Visit to Maldives" is overlaid in white.

# India's EAM Visit to Maldives



- 
- An aerial photograph of a tropical beach. The foreground shows a wide, white sandy beach that curves along the edge of a dense, lush green forest. The forest is composed of numerous palm trees and other tropical vegetation. The water is a clear, vibrant turquoise color, transitioning to a deeper blue further out. The sky is a deep, clear blue with a few wispy white clouds. The overall scene is serene and idyllic.
- India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar concluded a crucial visit to the Maldives.
  - He asserted that the Maldives remains an important partner of India in maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region.

What are the Key Outcomes of the Visit?

Water and Sewerage Network:

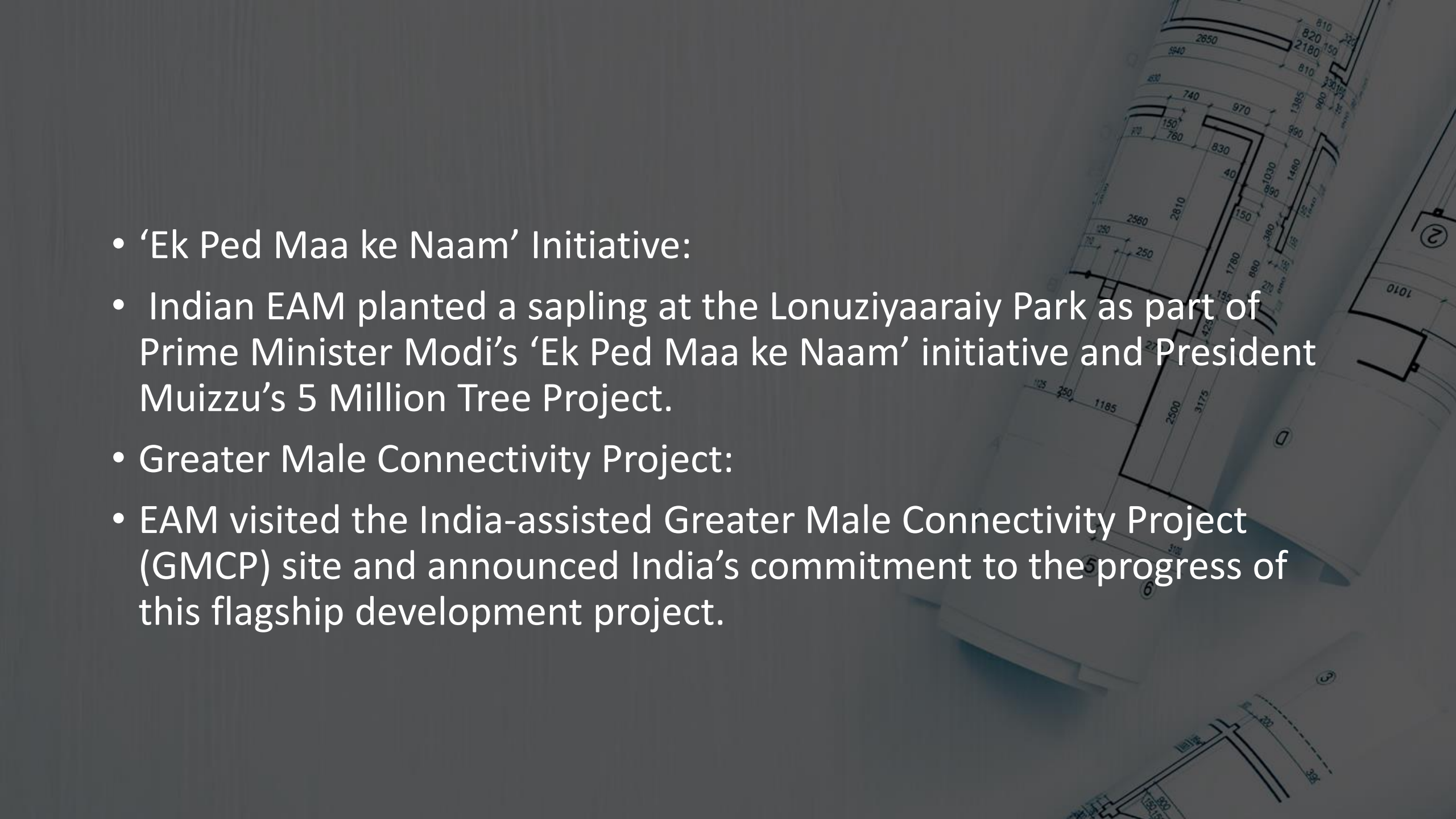
Mr Jaishankar and the Maldivian Foreign Minister jointly inaugurated India's Line of Credit (LoC) assisted project of water and sewerage network in 28 islands of Maldives.

Capacity Building:


A memorandum of Understanding on capacity building of additional 1,000 Maldivian civil servants in India was signed.

- Launch of UPI:
- Both countries agreed to the introduction of UPI in Maldives.
- Community Development Projects:
- Six High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) under grant assistance by India in the areas of mental health, special education, speech therapy and street lighting were jointly inaugurated.

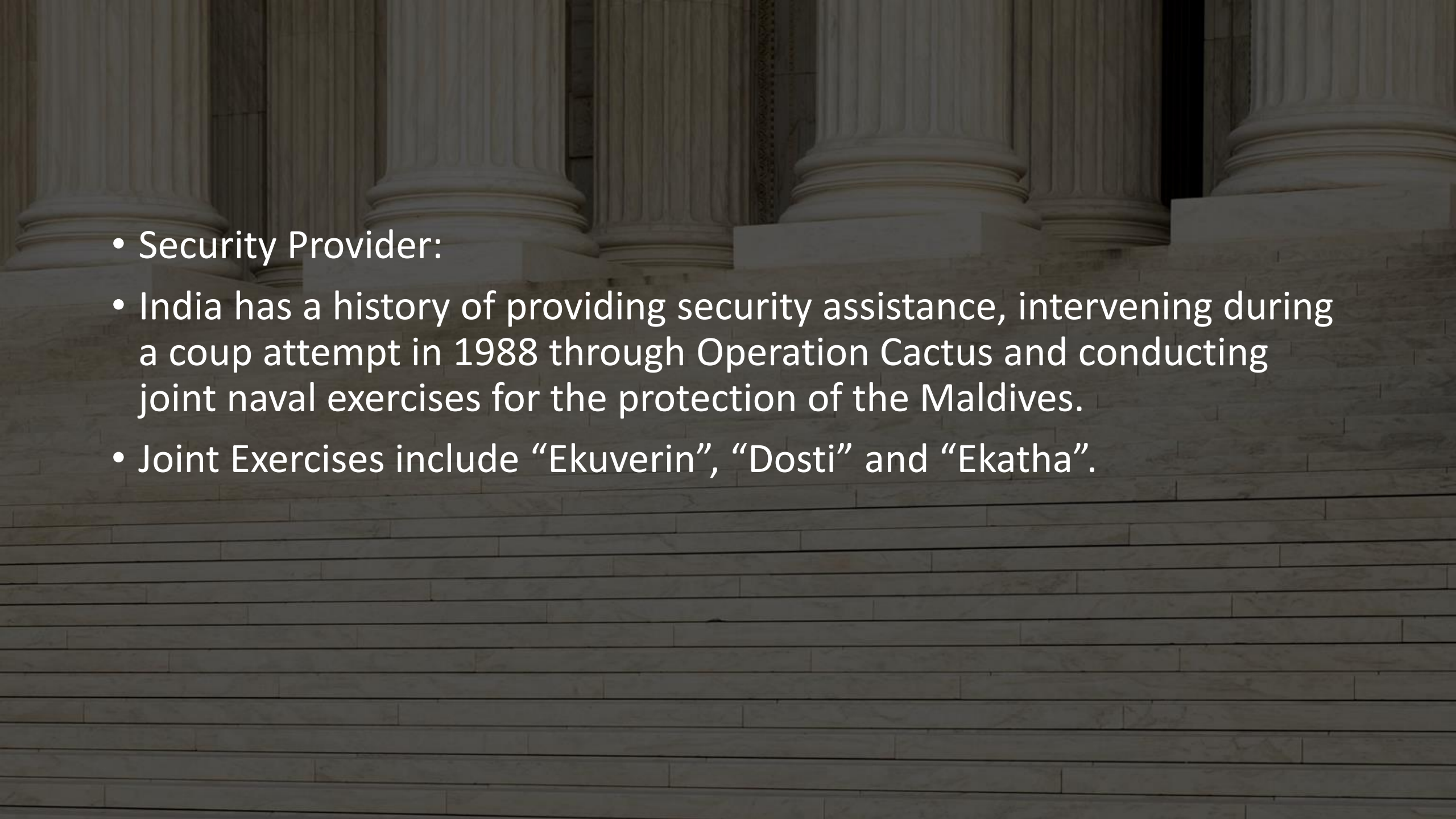


- 
- ‘Ek Ped Maa ke Naam’ Initiative:
  - Indian EAM planted a sapling at the Lonuziyaaraiy Park as part of Prime Minister Modi’s ‘Ek Ped Maa ke Naam’ initiative and President Muizzu’s 5 Million Tree Project.
  - Greater Male Connectivity Project:
  - EAM visited the India-assisted Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP) site and announced India’s commitment to the progress of this flagship development project.

- 
- **Infrastructure and Development Projects:** The handover of water supply and sewerage facilities on 28 islands in the Maldives, funded by India, demonstrates India's ongoing support for the country's development.
    - These projects enhance the local economy and highlight India's role in the **Maldives' prosperity**, marking key milestones in their bilateral relationship.

- 
- A front-facing view of a red and white fire truck parked in a fire station. The truck is positioned in front of two large, arched red fire doors. The truck's front features a prominent grille, headlights, and emergency lights on the roof. The number '3' is visible on the right side of the front panel. The scene is dimly lit, suggesting an indoor or shaded environment.
- Training 1000 Maldivian Civil Service Officers
  - India and Maldives renewed the **MoU** for the capacity building of **1000 Maldives civil services** officers during the period **2024-2029**.



- 
- The background of the slide features a dark, monochromatic image of classical architecture. The upper portion shows several fluted columns with papyrus capitals, set against a wall of rectangular bricks. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows, creating a sense of depth and grandeur.
- Security Provider:
  - India has a history of providing security assistance, intervening during a coup attempt in 1988 through Operation Cactus and conducting joint naval exercises for the protection of the Maldives.
  - Joint Exercises include “Ekuverin”, “Dosti” and “Ekatha”.

The background features a dark blue field with various colorful, rounded geometric shapes in shades of teal, purple, olive green, and brown, arranged in a dynamic, overlapping pattern.

# UNESCO Kalinga Prize for Popularisation of Science

The Ministry of Science and Technology (DST) has withdrawn its annual contribution to the UNESCO Kalinga Prize.

Former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has protested the withdrawal and requested the restoration of support.





- **About the UNESCO Kalinga Prize for Popularisation of Science**

- It was established in **1951** following a donation from Mr. Bijoyanand Patnaik, Founder and President of the Kalinga Foundation Trust.
- It is UNESCO's oldest prize.
- The prize winner is selected by UNESCO's Director-General on the recommendation of a five-member jury.



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The award is presented during the World Science Day celebrations in Budapest, alternating with India.

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**Eligibility:** Individuals, institutions, NGOs, or entities making significant contributions to science and technology communication.

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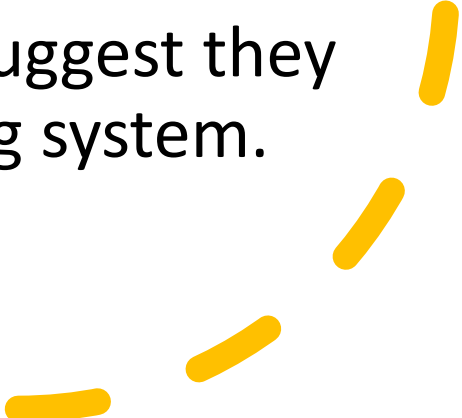
**Donors:** Kalinga Foundation Trust, Government of the State of Orissa, Government of India (Department of Science and Technology).

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**Award:** Cash prize of US\$40,000 and a Kalinga Chair with an additional US\$5,000, UNESCO-Albert Einstein silver medal.

# World's oldest calendar discovered in Turkey



- 
- Archaeologists at Göbekli Tepe, an ancient site in Turkey, have possibly discovered the world's oldest calendar, dating back nearly 13,000 years.
  - **About**
  - Göbekli Tepe, often referred to as the world's first temple, features a series of large stone pillars adorned with ornate carvings.
  - These carvings have long puzzled researchers, but recent studies suggest they represent an ancient timekeeping system.
- 

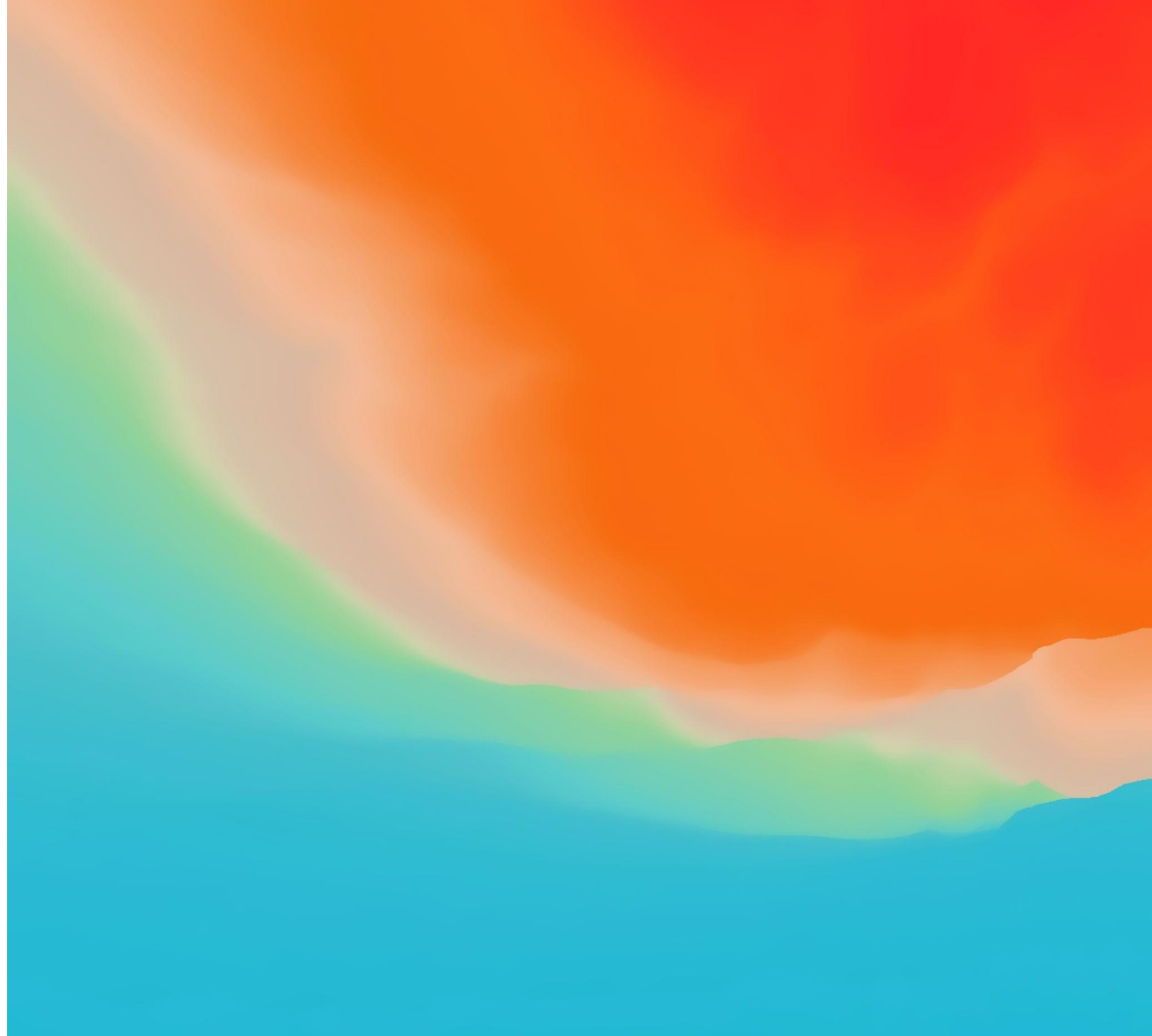


The carvings on the pillars include a series of V-shaped symbols, each representing a single day. By counting these symbols, researchers identified a calendar of 365 days, divided into 12 lunar months with an additional 11 days.



This system aligns closely with the modern solar calendar, indicating a sophisticated understanding of astronomy by the ancient people who created it long before the development of written language.

# Nagaland's DRTPS Initiative



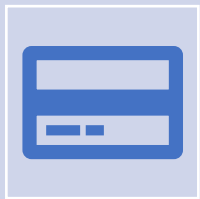




Nagaland became the **first state in India to adopt a Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS)** by signing an MoU with SBI General Insurance.



The insurance aims to protect critical infrastructure and reduce economic losses from extreme weather events over a **three-year period (2024-2027)**.



**Parametric insurance** provides a predefined payout when specific events, like **natural disasters**, occur, ensuring quick financial support and enhancing the **state's resilience**.

The significance of this initiative lies in its ability to enhance Nagaland's financial resilience and safeguard livelihoods against the increasing frequency of extreme weather events

. Providing quick payouts after disasters helps ensure rapid recovery and reduces economic losses, setting a precedent for disaster risk management in India.

A close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph of a pile of golden-brown grains, likely wheat or barley, spilling from a burlap sack. The grains are in motion, with some blurred in the foreground and others in sharp focus. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The text "Grain ATM" is centered in the middle of the image in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

Grain ATM





The WFP and the Government of Odisha launched **India's first 24/7 'Grain ATM,'** called **'Annapurti,'** in Bhubaneswar.



This initiative **allows Public Distribution System beneficiaries to access food grains anytime under the National Food Security Act.** The machine, which can dispense up to **50 kilograms of grain in five minutes** after biometric authentication, reduces waiting times by 70% and can be powered by solar panels.



This partnership aims to enhance food security across Odisha, providing consistent access to essential grains for all beneficiaries.

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# Word of the day

## **Iota:**

a tiny or scarcely detectable amount

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**Synonyms:** shred, scintilla, smidge, whit

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**Usage:** *There's not an iota of truth in what he says.*

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**Pronunciation:** [bit.ly/iotapro](https://bit.ly/iotapro)

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**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /aɪ'əʊtə/

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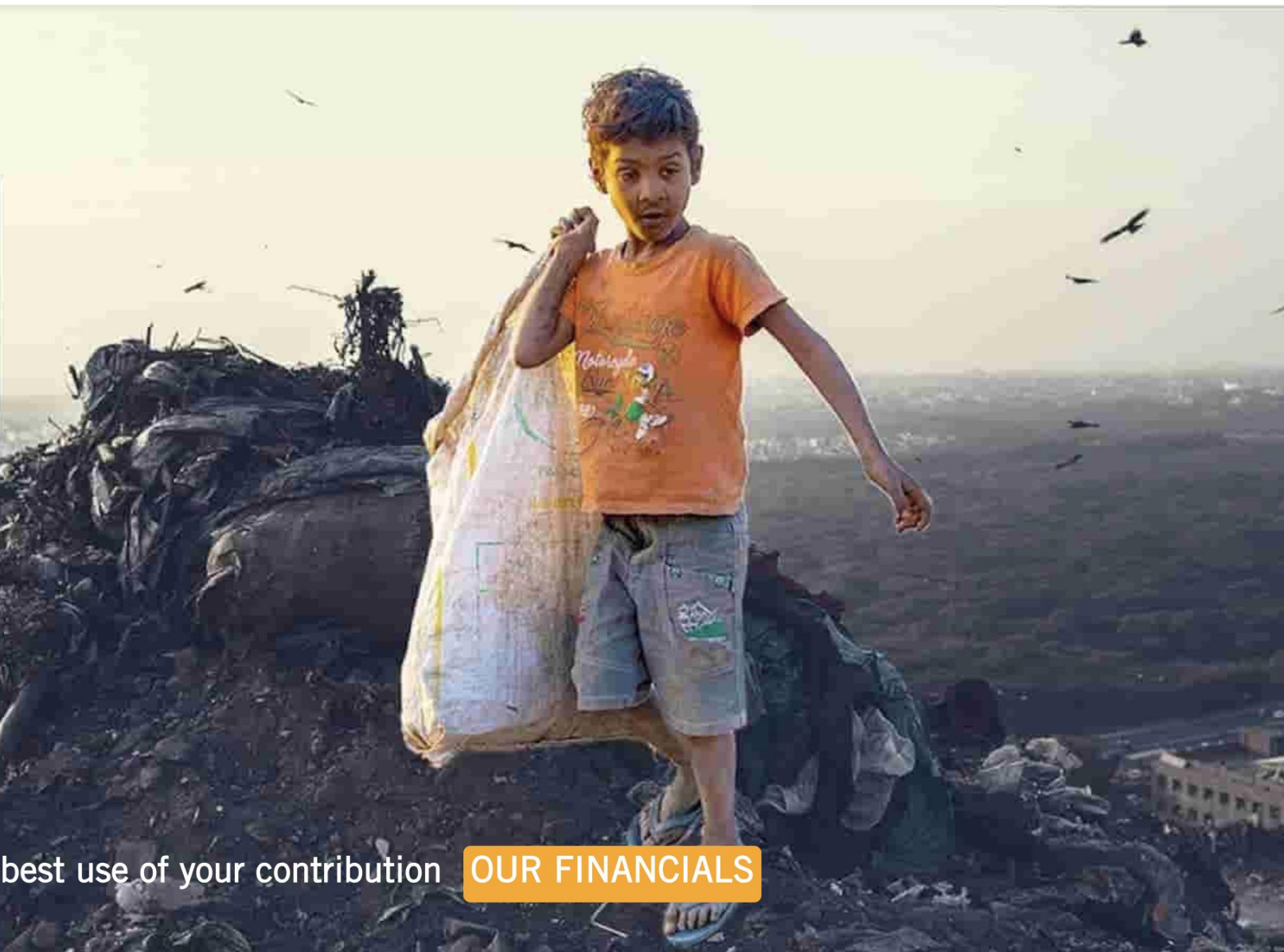







GIVE A CHILD THE GIFT OF EDUCATION TODAY

Join Hands



We make the best use of your contribution OUR FINANCIALS

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 soft and moody, with a blueish tint. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange horizontal bar and a cluster of small, glowing red dots of varying sizes.

Thank you  
guys.

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