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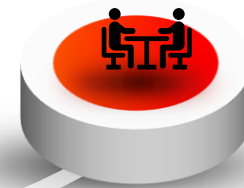
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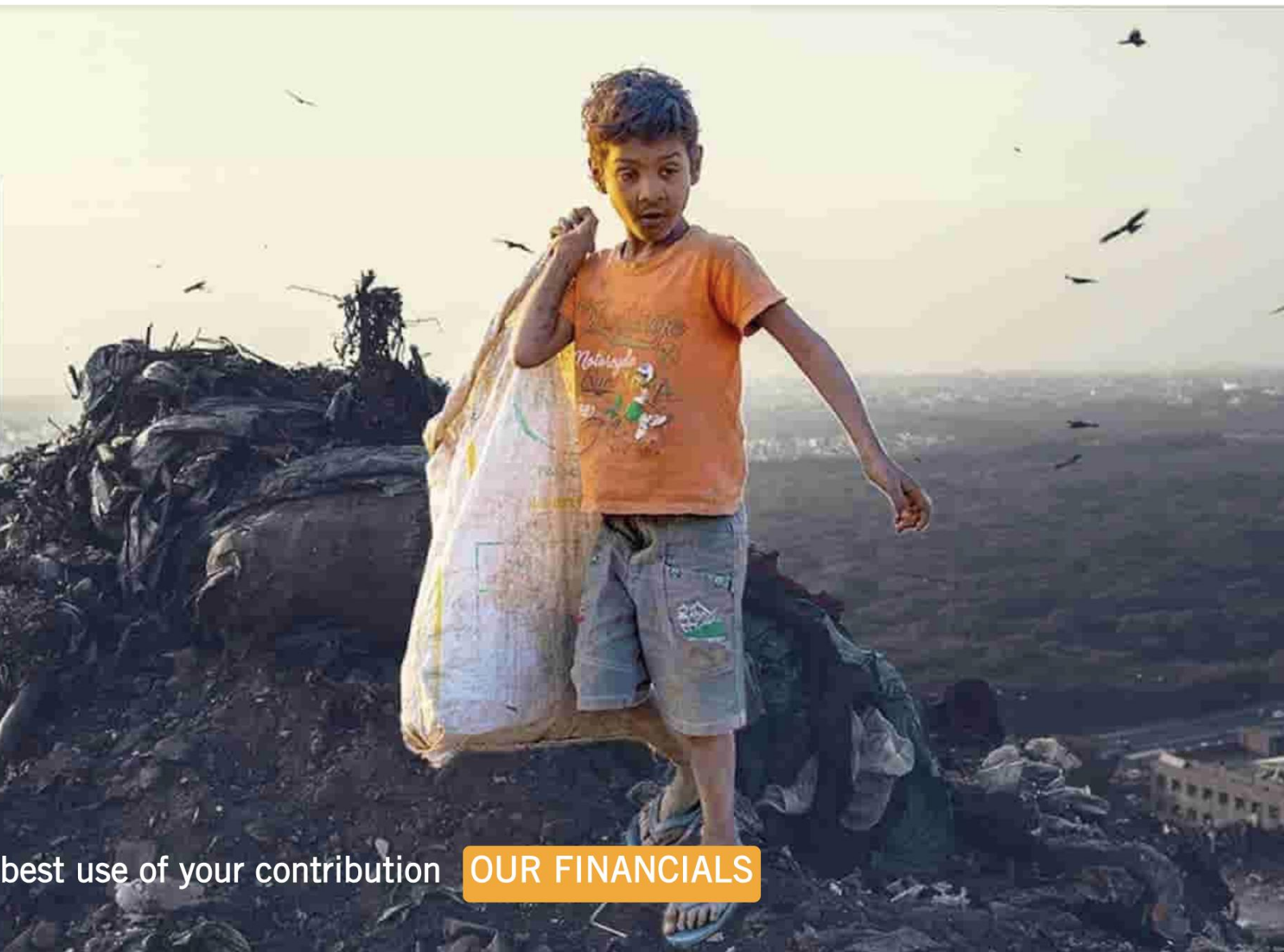
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Glacial lakes pose a threat



Moraine-dammed lakes on the rise in Himachal Pradesh and Trans Himalayan Region of Tibet

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T.V. Somanathan to be appointed as the new Cabinet Secretary

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Former Foreign Minister Natwar Singh dies at 95

NEWS » PAGE 5



How is Tim Walz the perfect foil to Kamala Harris?

PROFILES » PAGE 9

INSIDE

Police hold Kolkata doctor's murder



KOLKATA The Kolkata Police on Saturday arrested Sanjay Roy, a civic police volunteer in the alleged rape and murder of a doctor, a postgraduate trainee, at the R.G. Kar Medical College, which triggered massive protests across medical colleges in West Bengal. » PAGE 5

2 soldiers killed, four injured in gun battle in J&K

SRENAGAR Two soldiers were killed and four injured in an ongoing anti-militancy operation in south Kashmir's Anantnag, where a group of militants was engaged in a firefight with the security forces in a forest area on Saturday. Two civilians were injured in the crossfire, officials said. » PAGE 3

Bangladesh Chief Justice quits; Hindus seek safety

Resignations in judiciary follow ultimatum from students demanding exit of those loyal to Hasina's Awami League; key university heads also quit; thousands demonstrate on Dhaka for the second consecutive day demanding safety; interim govt. chief Yunus condemns attacks on minorities as 'heinous', urges students to protect people of all faiths

Rabul Alam
DHAKA

Bangladesh's Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan resigned on Saturday amid protests by students who demanded his resignation as well as a restructuring of the country's judiciary.

Two Appellate Division judges, Justice Mohammad Abu Zafar Siddique and Justice Kaushik Basu, also resigned, according to Supreme Court sources.

The students had given a two-hour ultimatum for the resignation of the Chief Justice and other justices of the Appellate Division, who they said were loyal to the Awami League.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor A.S.M. Maksud Kamal, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (STUST) Vice-Chancellor Farid Uddin Ahmed, and Bangla Academy Director-General Md Harun-Ur-Rashid Askari too stepped down from their posts on Saturday.

Thousands of protesters staged a demonstration in Dhaka for the second consecutive day, demanding safety. They warned that if

immediate steps were not taken to stop the persecution of Hindus, they would initiate continuous protest programmes.

Muhammad Yunus, chief adviser of the interim government, condemned the attacks on minorities, calling them "heinous" and urged students to protect all Hindu, Christian, and Buddhist families from harm.

"Are they [minorities] not the people of this country? You have been able to save some families," he asked during a session with students at Begum Rokeya University in Bangladesh on Saturday.

According to the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council and the Bangladesh Pula Uddjan Parishad, at least 203 incidents of attacks on minorities have occurred across 52 districts since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led government on August 5.

Cases withdrawn

The Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs decided to withdraw all cases filed between July 1 and August 5, which were perceived as attempts to suppress recent mass protests. Cases filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Cyber Security Act will also be withdrawn.

BANKER-TURNED-RULER

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Hope normalcy returns soon, says Nirmala

NEW DELHI

As the turmoil in Bangladesh sited firms invested there, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman expressed hope that the interim government will restore normalcy "sooner than later".

» PAGE 3

Legacy bearers



Warm welcome! The Indian men's hockey team arrived to a rousing reception in New Delhi on Saturday after winning a second consecutive bronze in Olympics. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA (REPORT ON PAGE 13)

SEBI chief had stake in funds tied to Adani report: Hindenburg Research

Vikas Dhoor
NEW DELHI

Almost 18 months after Hindenburg Research flagged allegations of malfeasance and stock price manipulation at the Adani group of companies, the U.S.-based short seller on Saturday alleged that the Chairperson of India's market regulator, in charge of probing these issues, herself had a stake in obscure offshore entities used in what it alleged was "the Adani money siphoning scandal".

Citing documents from a whistleblower, Hindenburg Research alleged that Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri

person authorised to operate the accounts", it alleged.

Account statement

It also cited an account statement dated February 26, 2018, addressed to what it alleged was Ms. Buch's private e-mail account.

It pegged the value of stock market regulator in a fund called "GDOF Cell 90 (IPEplus Fund 1)" under the aegis of Global Dynamic Opportunities Fund Ltd (GDOF), operated by HFC Global, at over \$8,72,000.

Ms. Buch, the report alleged, had written to India Infoline from the alleged private e-mail account a year earlier, stating that Mr. Buch would like to redeem 100% of the units they held in "GDOF, GDOF Cell 90, Hindenburg alleged, was the "exact same Mauritius-registered 'cell' of the fund found several layers deep in a convoluted structure, reportedly used by Vinod Adani", the brother of Gautam Adani named in its report into the Adani group.

Drawing a connection to the Supreme Court's finding that SEBI had "drawn a blank" in its investigations into who funded Adani's offshore shareholders, Hindenburg, which had recently got a show-cause notice from SEBI, remarked: "We find it unsurprising that SEBI was reluctant to follow a trail that may have led to its own chairperson."

Prime Minister visits Kerala, offers all possible aid for rehabilitation efforts in landslide-hit Wayanad

E.M. Manoj
KALPETTA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday that the Centre would provide all possible help in the relief and rehabilitation work in the landslides-hit areas of Wayanad in Kerala.

Chairing a review meeting of the affected villages and survivors, Mr. Modi said supporting the victims of the catastrophe was the need of the hour and funds would not be a constraint. The Centre would stand together with the Kerala government to help those who lost everything in the disaster, he said.

"This disaster in Wayanad is not an ordinary one. The dreams of thousands of families have been shattered. I have seen the situa-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits a landslide-affected area in Wayanad on Saturday. Union Minister Suresh Gopi is at left. Anil Kumar

"All the agencies of the Central government were mobilised immediately," he said.

"Not alone"

"I want to assure the families of the deceased that they are not alone. We are all standing with them. The State and Union governments will ensure that no work is hampered due to death of money," the Prime Minister added.

"I saw and experienced a disaster very closely around 47 years ago when a dam at Morbi in Gujarat was destroyed following heavy rain, and Morbi city was flooded. More than 2,500 people died in the catastrophe. I stayed there for about six months as a volunteer. I can understand these circumstances and I assure you that the country and the Govern-

93 killed in Israeli strike on Gaza school-turned-shelter

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

An Israeli air strike hit a school-turned-shelter in Gaza early on Saturday, killing at least 93 people, Palestinian health authorities said, in the deadliest strikes in the 10-month-old war between Israel and Hamas.

Hamas denounced the "dangerous escalation" in north Gaza, which came after international mediators invited the warring sides to resume talks towards a ceasefire and hostage-release deal.

Israeli military said at least 19 Palestinian militants were killed in the strike, which claimed 239 lives. Over 130 persons are still missing.

CENTRAL TEAM INSPECTION

» PAGE 2



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced people in Gaza City on Saturday. REUTERS

"an intelligence investigation".

The risks as it took "measures steps" to mitigate the risk as it "precisely struck Hamas terrorists operating within a Hamas command and control centre embedded in the At-Tabeen school".

The military has repeatedly made similar accusations after strikes on school shelters. Hamas has denied using schools and other civilian facilities for military aims.

Jordan's Foreign Ministry said the timing was an indication of Israel's efforts to "obstruct and thwart" the peace process, one of the mediators, called for an "urgent international investigation" into strikes on school shelters.

Bangladesh Chief Justice quits; Hindus seek safety

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Rabiul Alam

DHAKA

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Two Appellate Division judges, Justice Mohammad Abu Zafor Siddique and Justice Kashefa Hussain, also resigned, according to Supreme Court sources.

The students had given a two-hour ultimatum for the resignation of the Chief

Justice and other justices of the Appellate Division, who they said were loyal to the Awami League.

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Thousands of protesters staged a demonstration in Dhaka for the second consecutive day, demanding safety. They warned that if



Peace process: Head of the interim government, Muhammad Yunus visits the house of a slain protester in Rangpur on Saturday. AFP

immediate steps were not taken to stop the persecution of Hindus, they would initiate continuous protest

programmes.

Muhammad Yunus, chief adviser of the interim government, condemned

Hope normalcy returns soon, says Nirmala

NEW DELHI

As the turmoil in Bangladesh caused tension for Indian textile firms invested there, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman expressed hope that the interim government will restore normalcy "sooner than later." » **PAGE 3**

the attacks on minorities, calling them "heinous" and urged students to protect all Hindu, Christian,

and Buddhist families from harm.

"Are they [minorities] not the people of this country? You have been able to save the country; can't you save some families," he asked during a session with students at Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur on Saturday.

According to the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council and the Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad, at least 205 incidents of attacks on minorities have occurred across 52 districts since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-

led government on August 5.

Cases withdrawn

The Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs decided to withdraw all cases filed between July 1 and August 5, which were perceived as attempts to suppress recent mass protests. Cases filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Cyber Security Act will also be withdrawn.

BANKER-TURNED-RULER

» **PAGE 9**

MORE REPORTS

» **PAGE 12**



- **Resignation of Chief Justice:**

- Bangladesh's Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan resigned amid protests by students demanding his resignation and a restructuring of the judiciary. Two appellate division judges also resigned.

- **Student Protests:**

- 
- Thousands of students protested in Dhaka, demanding safety and immediate steps to stop the persecution of Hindus. They warned of continuous protests if their demands were not met.




- **Safety Concerns:**

- The interim government led by Muhammad Yunus condemned the attacks on minorities, calling them "heinous" and urged students to protect all people of different faiths, including Hindus, Christians, and Buddhists.




- **Withdrawal of Cases:**

- The Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs ministry decided to withdraw all cases filed between July 1 and August 5, which were perceived as attempts to suppress mass protests. Cases under the Anti-Terrorism Act and Cyber Security Act will also be withdrawn.
- 



1. International Concerns:

1. The unrest has caused tension for Indian textile firms in Bangladesh, with Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman expressing hope that the interim government will restore normalcy soon.
- 

SEBI chief had stake in funds tied to Adani report: Hindenburg Research

Vikas Dhoot

NEW DELHI

Almost 18 months after Hindenburg Research flagged allegations of malfeasance and stock price manipulation at the Adani group of companies, the U.S.-based short seller on Saturday alleged that the Chairperson of India's stock market regulator, in charge of probing these issues, herself had a stake in obscure offshore entities used in what it alleged was 'the Adani money siphoning scandal'.

Citing documents from a whistleblower, Hindenburg Research alleged that Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri



SEBI had issued a show-cause notice on Hindenburg.

Buch and her husband, Dhaval Buch, held stakes in offshore Bermuda and Mauritius funds through complex structures.

Weeks ahead of her appointment as a wholtime SEBI member in 2017, Mr. Buch had written to a Mauritius fund administrator to make him the "sole

person authorised to operate the accounts", it alleged.

Account statement

It also cited an account statement dated February 26, 2018, addressed to what it alleged was Ms. Buch's private e-mail account.

It pegged the value of their stake in a fund called "GDOF Cell 90 (IPEplus Fund 1)" under the aegis of Global Dynamic Opportunities Fund Ltd (GDOF), operated by IIFL Global, at over \$8,72,000.

Ms. Buch, the report alleged, had written to India Infoline from the alleged private e-mail account a day earlier, stating that Mr. Buch would like to redeem

100% of the units they held in GDOF. GDOF Cell 90, Hindenburg alleged, was the "exact same Mauritius-registered 'cell' of the fund found several layers deep in a convoluted structure, reportedly used by Vinod Adani", the brother of Gautam Adani named in its report into the Adani group.

Drawing a connection to the Supreme Court's finding that SEBI had "drawn a blank" in its investigations into who funded Adani's offshore shareholders, Hindenburg, which had recently got a show-cause notice from SEBI, remarked: "We find it unsurprising that SEBI was reluctant to follow a trail that may have led to its own chairperson."



Short Selling

['short 'se-lɪŋ]

Investment activity in which the investor borrows securities and sells them in the hopes of then purchasing the securities at a lower price in the future.

Hindenburg Research Allegations:



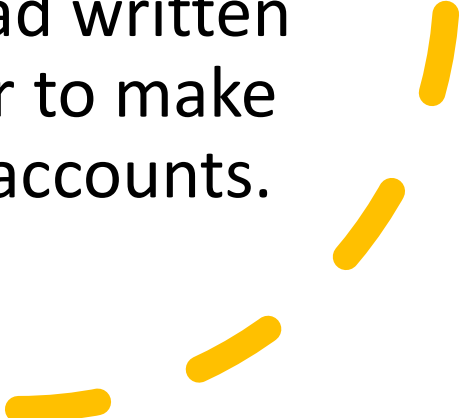
Hindenburg Research, a U.S.-based short seller, has accused the Chairperson of India's Securities and Exchange Board (SEBI), Madhabi Puri Buch, of having a stake in offshore entities tied to the Adani Group.



- **Whistleblower Documents:**

- The allegations stem from documents provided by a whistleblower, suggesting that Buch and her husband, Dhaval Buch, held stakes in offshore funds in Bermuda and Mauritius.

- **Offshore Fund Ties:**

- The report points out that weeks before Buch's appointment as a full-time SEBI member in 2017, her husband had written to a Mauritius fund administrator to make him the sole operator of certain accounts.
- 



- **Account Statements:**

- The account statements from 2018 indicate that the Buchs had a stake in a fund called "GDOF Cell 90 (IPEplus Fund 1)" under the Global Dynamic Opportunities Fund Ltd, with a value of over ₹8,72,000.




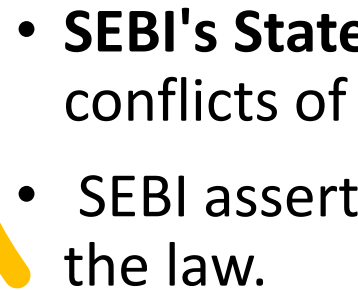
- **Connection to Adani Group:**


- The fund was allegedly linked to a structure used by Vinod Adani, brother of Gautam Adani, leading to questions about the neutrality of SEBI in its investigation of the Adani Group.

1. Response from Hindenburg:

1. Hindenburg found it unsurprising that SEBI was hesitant to follow the trail, which could have implicated its own Chairperson.




- 
- **Denial of Allegations:** SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband, Dhaval Buch, have denied the allegations made by Hindenburg Research, which claimed that they had a stake in an obscure offshore fund linked to the Adani Group.
 - They stated that their investments were fully transparent and made while they were private citizens living in Singapore.
 - **SEBI's Statement:** SEBI emphasized that it has robust mechanisms for addressing conflicts of interest, including a disclosure framework and recusal provisions.
 - SEBI asserted that the regulatory processes were followed in accordance with the law.
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- **Investor Advisory:** SEBI advised investors to remain calm and exercise due diligence before reacting to such reports.

Hindenburg's Response: Despite the denial, Hindenburg Research responded on social media, claiming that the clarification by the Buchs raised more questions and confirmed a "massive conflict of interest."

- 
- Hindenburg also criticized SEBI's handling of the situation, accusing it of not acting transparently.



- According to SEBI's statement, how does the organization address potential conflicts of interest involving its members?

1. By conducting independent investigations into each case

2. By following a disclosure framework and recusal provisions

3. By seeking external legal opinions on all conflicts

4. By issuing immediate public notices and suspensions





- What is the primary allegation made by Hindenburg Research against SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch?

1. She manipulated stock prices in favor of Adani Group.

2. She had a stake in offshore entities linked to the Adani Group.

3. She provided insider information to the Adani Group.

4. She obstructed the investigation against the Adani Group



IN BRIEF



Women's issues, development on NCP agenda: Ajit Pawar

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Saturday said women's welfare, development and poverty alleviation were the planks of his Nationalist Congress Party and asserted he was getting a good response from people regarding the same. Speaking to reporters after offering prayers at the Sai Baba temple in Shirdi, he sidestepped questions on his ally BJP's "ringleader of corruption" remarks on his uncle and Opposition leader Sharad Pawar, saying that his aim was to highlight welfare schemes announced in the State Assembly last month. ■

Committed to resolve Assam border dispute: Mizoram CM

Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Saturday said his government was committed towards resolving the State's border dispute with neighbouring Assam and ensuring peace along the boundary during his current term. "Several meetings have been held between the two States in the past, and the decisions mainly adhered to status quo, which was not the right step towards establishing lasting peace, but delaying the peace process and keeping the border dispute unsettled amicably," he said in a statement after a brief meeting with an Assam delegation, which paid him a courtesy call at his official residence in Aizawl on Saturday. ■

NIA arrests key accused in Sri Lankan trafficking case from T.N.

CHENNAI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested a key accused in Tamil Nadu in connection with a human trafficking case in Sri Lanka, which was operated by a Sri Lankan individual with links to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) terrorist organisation on Saturday. According to an NIA press release, Seenil Asirvatham was nabbed from Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu, three years after he had absconded. NIA investigations found that he, along with his associates, was involved in containing the trafficked victims in a boat in high seas before sending them to Mangalore by train, car and bikes for further confinement. The case was originally registered by the Mangaluru City Police after searches led to the rescue of 13 Sri Lankan nationals from traffickers in June 2021, the release stated. Following this, the NIA took over the investigation and re-registered the case. NIA investigations revealed one Sri Lankan, identified as Eesan and having previous links with the terror outfit LTTE, to be the kingpin in the racket. He had colluded with the accused to illegally bring 38 Sri Lankan nationals to various locations within Tamil Nadu after luring them with false promises, the release said.

"Besides the promise of helping them obtain legitimate documentation for migration to Canada, they were lured with employment opportunities," it said. NIA had charge-sheeted 10 accused, including three associates, during the October 2021 and January 2024. Further investigations are continuing for apprehending the remaining absconders, it said.

Centre-appointed team inspects relief works in flood-battered Wayanad

Inter-Ministerial team completes three-day visit to the disaster-hit region in Kerala; a total of 30 persons have been rescued, 520 persons evacuated and 112 bodies retrieved by the NDRF teams

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) constituted by the Union government to inspect relief works in flood-hit areas of Wayanad district in Kerala completed its three-day visit on Saturday. Until now, a total of 30 persons have been rescued, 520 persons evacuated and 112 bodies retrieved by NDRF rescue teams. "Released ₹1,200 crore" Data from the Home Ministry indicates that over the past five years, the Union government has released around ₹1,200 crore as the Centre's share in the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) out of the total fund of ₹1,780 crore. In a statement on April 1, the Kerala SDRF account had around ₹395 crore. The first instalment of the Central share of SDRF for the ongoing year of over ₹145.60 crore was released



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with a child affected by the recent landslide at AWS Hospital in Wayanad on Saturday. PTI

in advance on July 31," Ministry officials said. The Centre also released a sum of ₹445 crore for the State Disaster Mitigation Fund in the past five years. On July 30, due to incessant and heavy to extremely heavy rainfall, a major landslide occurred at Mundaikai, Chooramala, and Vellarimala villages in Wayanad.

The Union government immediately sprung into action through the deployment of over 1,200 rescuers of NDRF, Army, Air Force, Navy, Fire services, and Civil Defence, among others for rescue and relief operations at the incident site.

Medical support More than 100 ambulances along with doctors and other medical staff were deployed for medical support and treatment. The Indian Army also erected a 190-foot Bailey bridge in Wayanad, which has been crucial in facilitating the movement of heavy machinery and ambulances.

"Construction of this bridge was completed in just 71 hours, significantly enhancing the rescue operations by allowing heavy vehicles and machinery to be mobilised to rescue around 200 people who were stranded due to damage of the bridge," officials said.

Indian team's mobile app to reduce risk of diseases wins award

CHENNAI

An India-led global team of research scientists has won the Health Information Technology in Action award from Johns Hopkins Center for Digital Health and AI for their paper describing the effectiveness of their virtual reality mobile app administered to students to reduce risk of infectious diseases. A team of researchers and scientists led by inventor and serial deep-tech entrepreneur Bhargav Sri Prakash from FriendsLearn, along with Rema Padman from the Carnegie Mellon University Heinz College and Rahul Ladha from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, has won the Health Information Technology in Action award at the 14th Conference on Health IT and Analytics, for their peer-reviewed conference paper titled "Effect of AI Enabled, School Based, Mobile Health Gamelysp on Infectious Disease Knowledge", according to the release.

The team's work with 'digital vaccines' demonstrates the potential of lowering incidence of a wide range of pathologies. Mr. Sri Prakash said, "Our breakthrough with digital vaccines continues to pave new frontiers in showcasing the power of artificial intelligence in preventing disease for future generations around the world, safely, effectively, ethically and responsibly, which continues to be the impetus for our team of deep-tech engineers and scientists to continue." He explained, "A 11-week longitudinal trial was undertaken in partnership with Usha Striram at the Vocational Health and Hospital, Chennai, at the Panchayat Union Middle school (PUMS), a government school catering to underprivileged children

Yediyurappa takes on Siddaramaiah in political slugfest

MYSURU

"I may be 82, but I still have the strength to tour the State and fight to ensure your exit as Chief Minister," said veteran BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa further challenged Mr. Siddaramaiah to dissolve the Assembly and seek a fresh mandate. "If elections happen now, the BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) alliance will come to power by winning about 130 to 140 seats. The people are fed up with the misrule of the Congress government due to corruption at the highest levels and development works coming to a grinding halt," said the veteran leader.

programme here, said he would "not retire from politics as long as he lives" and added that he would fight your exit as Chief Minister," said veteran BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa further challenged Mr. Siddaramaiah to dissolve the Assembly and seek a fresh mandate. "If elections happen now, the BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) alliance will come to power by winning about 130 to 140 seats. The people are fed up with the misrule of the Congress government due to corruption at the highest levels and development works coming to a grinding halt," said the veteran leader.

Mahayuti ally meets Pawar, sets off talk of joining MVA

MUMBAI

Prabhu Janshakti Party (PPP) chief and former Minister Omprakash alias Bachchu Kadu on Saturday met Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar in a city sparking rumours about him joining the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly election. The visit came a day after the Mahayuti ally warned the ruling alliance of an election to be taken after the non-fulfilment of farmers' demands, including the implementation of Minimum Support Price. Following the meeting with Mr. Pawar, he said, "We discussed issues con-



cerning farmers, labourers, and persons with disabilities. The decision regarding quitting Mahayuti or staying with the alliance will be taken after September 17." The PPP leader, who aims to contest at least 20 of the total 288 Assembly seats in the upcoming polls, had also dealt an ultimatum to the State government, saying he would "come to Mumbai" if his demands regarding farmers' issues were not met. Mr. Kadu is an ally of the ruling Mahayuti-led NCP. He is also an ally of Manoj Jarange-Patil, Mr. Kadu has also given an ultimatum to the State government to fulfill his demands concerning farmers and persons with disability by September 5.

Neelakurinji that blooms once in 12 years included in Red List of threatened species

TRISSUR

Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*), the purplish flowering shrub which blooms once in 12 years has been included on the Red List of threatened species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The massive blooming of the flower is a huge tourist attraction. The latest global assessment confirms its threatened status in the Vulnerable (Criteria A2c) category of the IUCN. The massive blooming of the flower is a huge tourist attraction.



Purple beauty: Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) blooms in Siddikuli, Kerala. ARRANGEMENT

Shats Hornbill Foundation at the past research Department of Botany, MES Asram College, Kodungalloor, and reviewed by Aparna Warwe of the Western Ghats Plant Specialist Group. "The species was considered threatened but was not evaluated against IUCN global standards until this assessment. It is a wide distribution across the montane shola grassland ecosystems in the Western Ghats, its nature of blooming once in 12 years, and lack of ecological studies were the major hindrances to a comprehensive assessment," said Dr. Bachchan. The scientists, who have been studying the ecology and conservation of threatened species of the Western Ghats, are a part of the Global Red List assessment team. The threatened *Strobilanthes kunthiana* is an endemic shrub of three metres height, seen only in the high-altitude shola grassland ecosystems of five montane landscapes of southwest India at an elevation of 1,340-2,600 m. Known for their massive blooming, they impart pur-

Anganwadi workers take back eggs from children; suspended

KALABURGI

An Anganwadi worker and her assistant in Koppal taluk district of Karnataka have been placed under suspension after a video clip showed the latter taking back boiled eggs from children's plates. The worker Lakshmi and her assistant Shashirama Begum were attached to the Gundur Anganwadi in Karatagi taluk. The incident happened a week ago and the video clip went viral on Thursday. In the video, children in the Anganwadi with boiled eggs served on their plates, are seen reciting 'Kudam Nidra' and other prayers, and the workers were seen picking up the eggs from their plates after the completion of the prayer. The Anganwadi worker is also seen in the video.

PM's visit offers optimism for rehabilitation

Bilu Goyind
KOZHIKODE

The visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the landslide-devastated villages in Wayanad on Saturday to evaluate the relief and rehabilitation operations and connect with survivors gave a glimmer of hope to the Kerala government to initiate comprehensive rehabilitation in the region. Defying protocol, Mr. Modi also extended his visit to Wayanad by more than two hours over the scheduled time. While the CPIMD State leadership is yet to officially comment on Mr. Modi's visit, Minister for Tourism and Public Works P.A. Mohanandhi Riyas, who has been involved in the relief operations, reacted positively to the day's developments.

'Good decision' Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi thanked Mr. Modi for visiting Wayanad to personally take stock of the tragedy. "This is a good decision. I am confident that the Prime Minister sees the extent of the de-

The Prime Minister extended his visit to Wayanad by more than two hours

vastation first-hand, he will declare it a national disaster," he posted on X. BJP State president K. Surendran said Mr. Modi's visit was timely and impactful. "During this highly productive visit, he reassured us that funds will not be an issue and that the Central government will fully support Wayanad. We express our heartfelt gratitude for his unwavering affection for Kerala and for consistently standing with us in times of crisis."

However, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh took a dig at Mr. Modi in a post on X. "It is good that the non-biological PM is in Wayanad today. It was a devastating tragedy. After this, he is scheduled to visit Ukraine to stop the war once again. Hopefully, he will find the time and the inclination before then to also visit Manipal, which has been experiencing so much pain, anguish, and agony for over 15 months now," he said.

Indian team's mobile app to reduce risk of diseases wins award

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

An India-led global team of research scientists has won the Health Information Technology in Action award from Johns Hopkins Center for Digital Health and AI for their paper describing the effectiveness of a gamified virtual reality mobile app administered to students to reduce risk of infectious diseases.

A team of researchers and scientists led by inventor and serial deep-tech entrepreneur Bhargav Sri Prakash from FriendsLearn, along with Rema Padman from the Carnegie Mellon University Heinz College and Rahul Ladhania from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, has won the Health Information Technology in Action award at the 14th Conference on Health IT and Analytics, for their peer-reviewed conference paper titled "Effect of AI Enabled, School Based, Mobile Health Gameplay on Infectious Disease Knowledge", according to the release.



The app uses a game-based approach and virtual reality to convey information.

in Sriperumbudur, near Chennai. The study involved nearly 250 children in grades 1-8." The data showed that the app - fooya! - had managed to influence health learning among the children.

"Enhancing the health literacy of both children and adults is a public health challenge worldwide. Enabling this critical need via gamified digital therapeutic approaches requires large-scale experiments in the real world to generate strong evidence of benefit," said Prof. Padman. "This has motivated us to conduct several ran-

the release.

The team's work with 'digital vaccines' demonstrates the potential of lowering incidence of a wide range of pathologies. Mr. Sri Prakash said: "Our breakthrough with digital vaccines continues to pave new frontiers in showcasing the power of artificial intelligence in preventing disease for future generations around the world, safely, effectively, ethically and responsibly, which continues to be the motivation for our team of deep-tech engineers and scientists."

He explained: "A 11-week longitudinal trial was undertaken in partnership with Usha Sriram at the Voluntary Health Services Hospital, Chennai, at the Panchayat Union Middle School [PUMS], a government school catering to underprivileged children

as to conduct several randomised field trials in the U.S., India, Botswana and other countries. The significant and promising results continue to inspire us to pursue the research, development and deployment efforts for societal benefit".

First study

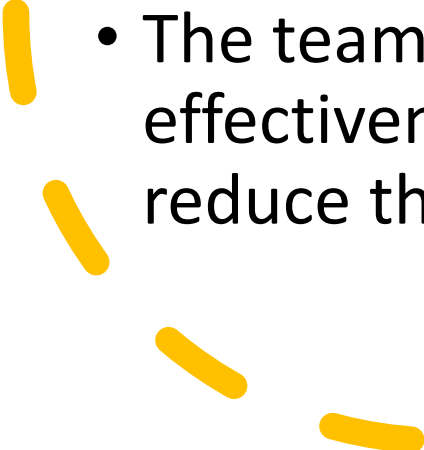
Dr. Ladhania added: "Based on the best-available knowledge, this is the first study which conducts a multi-month randomised trial to measure the effect of an AI-enabled educational mobile health game on students' knowledge in a low- and middle-income school setting. Our results showed that a mobile game that embeds implicit learning in the game mechanism can positively impact children's health learning outcomes and showed strong evidence for training students early on."



- **Award Recognition:**

- An India-led global team of researchers and scientists has won the Health Information Technology in Action award from Johns Hopkins Center for Digital Health and AI.

- **Research Study:**

- 
- The team was recognized for their research paper on the effectiveness of a gamified virtual reality mobile app designed to reduce the risk of infectious diseases among students.






- **Team Composition:**

- The research team includes inventor and deep-tech entrepreneur Bhargav Sri Prakash, along with members from various prestigious institutions like Carnegie Mellon University, Heinz College, and University of Michigan School of Public Health.



- **Study Details:**



- The study involved nearly 250 children in grades 1-8 from Sriperumbudur, near Chennai. The 11-week longitudinal trial was conducted in partnership with local health and educational institutions.
- 
- 
- 

Impact of the Mobile App:

- The data demonstrated that the mobile app had a significant impact on enhancing health literacy among children. The app uses a game-based approach to convey health information effectively.

Significance:

- The app's success highlights the potential of digital vaccines and AI-driven educational tools to prevent diseases. The research also marks a pioneering effort in using AI-enabled mobile health games in low- and middle-income school settings.

- 
- What is the main objective of the mobile app developed by the India-led global research team?
 - 1.To entertain students with virtual reality games.
 - 2.To reduce the risk of infectious diseases among students.
 - 3.To increase students' academic performance.
 - 4.To promote digital literacy among rural communities.
- 

Poor insurance, diagnostic access in rural areas: study

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

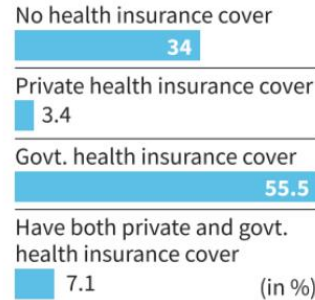
NEW DELHI

Only 50% the rural households have government health insurance, 34% lack any health insurance and 61% have no life insurance, revealed the State of Healthcare in Rural India, 2024 report released recently. This is coupled with limited access to diagnostic facilities and affordable medicines, further posing challenges, the survey undertaken by the non-government organisation Transform Rural India's Development Intelligence Unit.

The survey covered 5,389 rural households with an average size of 5.7 members and spanned 21 States including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh. Only 12.2% of these households have access to subsidised medicines from the Pradhan Mantri Jan

Inadequate protection

The survey found that a little over one in three of the 5,389 respondents in rural areas across 21 States did not have health insurance cover, for themselves or for those in their household



Source: State of Healthcare in Rural India, Transform Rural India

Aushadhi Kendras, while 21% lack a medical store in commutable distance, it says.


Only 39% of the respondents confirmed that there was a diagnostic facility within a commutable distance from their village to do blood tests or medical imaging. However, 90% of the respondents do not get a routine health check-up done unless a doctor suggests them to do so. Acces-

sibility to affordable medicine at government medical stores is a challenge for the rural population.

A total of 61% respondents had access within commutable distance from their village to a private medical store, whereas only 26% had access to a government medical store on the premises of a health facility that provides free medicines.



- **Study Background:**

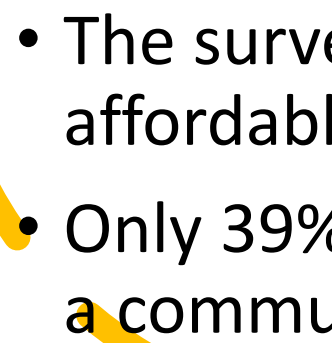
- The findings are from the "State of Healthcare in Rural India, 2024" report by Transform Rural India's Development Intelligence Unit.
 - The survey covered 5,389 rural households across 21 states, with an average household size of 5.7 members.
- 



- **Health Insurance Coverage:**

- Only 50% of rural households have government health insurance.
- 34% of rural households lack any health insurance, and 61% have no life insurance.

- **Limited Access to Healthcare:**

- 
- The survey highlights limited access to diagnostic facilities and affordable medicines in rural areas.
 - Only 39% of respondents confirmed having a diagnostic facility within a commutable distance from their village.



- **Challenges in Accessing Medicines:**

- 12.2% of households have access to subsidized medicines from the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras.
- 21% of households lack a medical store within a commutable distance.




- **Routine Health Check-Ups:**

- 90% of respondents do not get a routine health check-up done unless advised by a doctor.



1. Access to Medical Stores:

1. 61% of respondents have access to a private medical store within a commutable distance, while only 26% have access to a government medical store on the premises of a health facility that provides free medicines.
- 

- According to the "State of Healthcare in Rural India, 2024" report, what percentage of rural households lack any form of health insurance?

1.50%

2.34%

3.61%

4.12.2%

Hindutva group attacks Muslims in U.P. slum

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Falsely claiming that the residents of a Ghaziabad slum were Muslims, members of the Hindu Raksha Dal thrashed them, damaged their huts, and burnt their household items on Friday. The rioters lodged an FIR against the accused, and clarified that the victims were not Bangladeshis but Indians.

Hindu Raksha Dal president Pinky Chaudhary, along with 15 to 20 supporters, attacked slum dwellers near the Guldhar station, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Madhuvan Bapudham police station.

The FIR, based on a policeman's complaint, says Mr. Chaudhary and his supporters accused the

Videos of the attack show Chaudhary and his gang thrashing children and elderly people in the slum

Muslims in the slum of being Bangladeshis. They then abused them, pushed them around, and then shouted slogans, and broke three to four huts.

"I explained to them that the people of the Muslim community living in the slums are not Bangladeshis but they continued shouting slogans, fighting and manhandling the slum dwellers, due to which some people got injured during the fight and some slums were damaged," the FIR reads.

The videos of the attack, which went viral on social media, show Mr. Chaud-

hary and his gang thrashing children and elderly people in the slum. The victims also told the police that the accused never asked their nationality but only asked for their religion. A few families in the slum were Hindus, the witnesses said.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Abhishek Srivastava told *The Hindu* that the slum was built on freshhold land and contained about 10 to 15 houses. During investigation, it became clear that none of the people living there were Bangladeshis.

"Police have filed a *suo moto* FIR against Chaudhary and his 15 to 20 supporters under relevant sections for creating violence, causing hurt, and damaging property, among others," Mr. Srivastava added.

Hope Indian investments in Bangladesh are safe: Nirmala

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The unrest in Bangladesh has created some uncertainty for Indian textile firms' investments there, and the Indian government is hopeful that those investments will remain safe and the situation in the neighbouring country will return to normalcy soon, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday.

"I would say at this stage, I have had discussions and calls coming on the matter of our textile garment investments which are in Bangladesh, many of which come from



Ms. Sitharaman said. These investments, the Minister said, also boosted exports from Bangladesh, including shipments to India, because of the duty-free and liberal import quotas India offers for lower income and least developed countries.

Trade ties: India supplies 20%-25% of the yarn that Bangladesh uses for producing garments. REUTERS

free and liberal import quotas India offers for lower income and least developed countries. While the garments, fabrics and textiles sectors are seeing a "bit of uncertainty" because of the situation, the Minister said: "I hope that the investments are all safe... Other than that, at this stage, it is too early for me to see what kind of impact this situation in Bangladesh will have on our economy."

"I hope that the interim things sooner rather than later, so that both the people of Bangladesh and India can get back to normalcy," Sitharaman concluded.

Nitin Gadkari warns Punjab of terminating NH projects

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Expressing concern over the "prevailing law and order situation" in Punjab, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has cautioned Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann that eight severely affected highway projects in the State, estimated at ₹4,288 crore, would be terminated "if the situation does not improve."

Raising safety concerns of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) officers, contractors, and their staff, Mr. Gadkari said he had come to know of two untoward incidents that occurred on the Delhi-Katra expressway projects.

"In Jalandhar, the engineer of the Contractor was assaulted. Although FIR has been registered in this regard, strong action is required to be taken against the perpetrators. In Ludhiana District, the project was attacked by miscreants who also threatened the engineers to burn the project camp and their staff alive. However, FIR has still not been filed and the miscreants have not been arrested," he wrote.

Two soldiers killed, four injured in gun battle with militants in Anantnag

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Two soldiers were killed and four injured in an on-going anti-militancy operation in south Kashmir's Anantnag, where a group of militants was engaged in a gun battle with the security forces in a forest area on Saturday. "The encounter started in the Gagarmandu area of Anantnag District. Police and security forces are on the job," a police spokesperson said.

Two civilians were injured in the crossfire, officials said. The skirmish began when a group of terrorists opened fire at the search parties comprising Army troops, including para commandos, and the local police.

In the ensuing gun battle, six Army personnel and two civilians were injured. Officials said, adding the injured soldiers were soon taken to a nearby hospital where two died shortly after arrival. Meanwhile, J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha has handed over the appointment letter, on compassionate ground, to Renu Sharma, wife of Vijay



Security personnel during a military encounter in Anantnag district on Tuesday. PTI

Earlier in the day, the police released sketches of four militants spotted in the areas of *dhot* (munhments) of Bani, Malhar, and Sojohar of Kathua district. "A reward of ₹5 lakh is being offered for any actionable information leading to the capture or identification of each terrorist," a spokesperson said.

Deceased Kumar was driving the bus that was carrying pilgrims when militants opened fire at it in Reasi. Nine persons, including eight pilgrims, were killed in the attack. (With PTI inputs)

Veteran IAS officer TV. Somanathan appointed next Cabinet Secretary

Mahesh Langa
AHMEDABAD

The Union government on Saturday announced IAS officer TV. Somanathan as the Cabinet Secretary designate by appointing him as the Special Duty (OSD) in the Cabinet Secretariat. He will take over India's top bureaucratic position from August 30 when incumbent Rajiv Gauba's extended tenure ends.

A 1987-batch IAS officer of the Andhra cadre and Finance Secretary in his previous posting, the veteran bureaucrat has been moved from the Finance Ministry to the Cabinet Secretariat for two years.

This old-style bureaucrat, who prefers to be low profile, holds a Ph.D. in economics and has vast experience of working in key positions in the State and at the Centre. He was seen as the natural choice as the Cabinet Secretary, a top bureaucratic position serving as the nerve centre of Central administration.

There was nobody better than him to occupy the top post at the Centre," said Mr. Gauba, who had become one of the Bank's youngest Secretaries when he was appointed to the Budget Policy Group. Again in 2011, the World Bank sought his services,



TV. Somanathan

worked at the State level in Tamil Nadu as the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) as well as at Joint Secretary levels in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Finance. His journals and newspaper columns as Commissioner of Commercial Taxes and chief of the Chemical Metro Rail project, where he had achieved financial closure of the ambitious project.

Within a decade of his career in civil service, he joined the World Bank in Washington through the Young Professionals Program as Financial Economist and as the Regional Vice Presidency in 1996.

In 2000, he had become one of the Bank's youngest Secretaries when he was appointed to the Budget Policy Group. Again in 2011, the World Bank sought his services,

and he was deputed to serve as Director from 2011 to 2015. Very few IAS officers have such an illustrious curriculum vitae as Dr. Somanathan's because besides scoring the second rank in the 1987 batch, he is a qualified chartered accountant, cost accountant, and company secretary who has helped prepared budgets in the State and at the Centre.

Prolific writer Mr. Somanathan is also a prolific scholar. He has published dozens of papers and articles on economics in journals and newspapers on finance and public policy, and is the author of two books and chapters in several others.

Given his remarkable background in economics and his expertise in public finance and public policy, in Mumbai, he was seen as the ideal successor of Shaktikanta Das as RBI Governor later this year, while in Delhi, he was expected to be the Cabinet Secretary.

"I will say his appointment is an excellent choice because he is a very straightforward and professional kind of bureaucrat who will never get into any groupism or politicising and will focus on his job and deliver it," a serving Secretary at the Centre told *The Hindu*.

Congress calls for protection of minorities in Bangladesh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of the violence against Awaaz League activists, journalists, and religious and ethnic communities in Bangladesh, the Congress has called upon the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus to take "forceful steps" to deal with the situation.

"While noting that there have been influential voices within Bangladesh calling for the preservation of the country's multi-religious heritage, the Indian National Congress expresses its concern at reports of targeted attacks on minorities there and their properties and places of worship," Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

Poor insurance, diagnostic access in rural areas: study

Hindu Shahan Perappanadan
NEW DELHI

Only 50% of the rural households have government health insurance, 34% lack any health insurance and 63% have no life insurance, revealed the State of Healthcare in Rural India, 2024 report released recently. This is coupled with limited access to diagnostic facilities and affordable medicines, further posing challenges to the study undertaken by the non-government organisation Transform Rural India's Development Intelligence Unit.

The survey covered 5,389 rural households with an average size of 5.7 members and spanned 21 States including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh. Only 12.2% of these households have access to subsidised medicines from the Pradhan Mantri Jan

Inadequate protection

The survey found that a little over one in three of the 5,389 respondents in rural areas across 21 States did not have health insurance cover, for themselves or for those in their household



Source: State of Healthcare in Rural India, Transform Rural India

Aushadhi Kendras, while 21% lack a medical store in commutable distance, it says. Only 39% of the respondents confirmed that there was a diagnostic facility within a commutable distance from their village to do blood tests or medical imaging. However, 90% of the respondents do not get a routine health check-up done unless a doctor suggests them to do so. Access-

ibility to affordable medicines had access within their village to a private medical store, whereas only 26% had access to government medical stores on the premises of a health facility that provides free medicines.

Embassy says Russia no longer admitting Indians to its military for Ukraine war

Subhasini Haldar
NEW DELHI

Russia no longer admits Indians into its Army, the Russian Embassy disclosed in a statement, adding the Russian and Indian authorities are in "constant communication" to help discharge Indian nationals recruited for the war in Ukraine.

In the first such official statement, the Embassy is working with Indian officials on releasing the Indian recruits who want to withdraw from their contracts, the Russian Embassy in Delhi issued a press statement, where it condemned the "unfortunate instances of [Indian] casualties in the course of the special military operation in Ukraine."

"The agencies concerned in both countries work in close coordination for early identification and discharge of Indian nationals within a mutually satisfactory framework for military service in Russia," the Russian Em-



Caught in a bind: In March, seven Indians had released two videos seeking the Centre's help to return. FILE PHOTO

bassy said, adding that since April 2024, the Russian Defence Ministry had stopped taking in citizens from a "number of foreign countries, including India" into its military service.

All contractual obligations and due compensations were mutually agreed and filled in full measure, the statement added.

Hindenburg allegations: Cong slams SEBI chief

Rena Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday used the Latin phrase "*Quis Custodiet Ipsos*" or "who will guard the guards themselves" to take a swipe at SEBI chief Madhavi Buch, after U.S. stock seller Hindenburg levelled allegations against her.

Hindenburg has alleged that Ms. Buch and her husband had stakes in offshore funds used in the Adani money-siphoning case. Tagging the Hindenburg post on the allegations on X, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said, "*Quis Custodiet Ipsos*" - "Parliament was notified to sit till the evening of August 12th. Suddenly it got adjourned since the on the afternoon of August 9th itself. Now we know why."

Mr. Trivedi's question from Congress MPs Gaurav Gogoi and Adoor Prakash, Mr. Trivedi had said that total number of Indian officials who voluntarily joined forces abroad presently was not known.

Natwar Singh, former External Affairs Minister, dead

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

Former External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh passed away on Saturday at the age of 95. He was hospitalised for nearly two weeks in a clinic in Gurugram, outside New Delhi.

Mr. Singh served as the External Affairs Minister in 2004-05 in the Cabinet of former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in the UPA regime.

A prolific writer and chronicler, Singh started his career as an Indian Foreign Service officer in 1953 at the age of 22. He took early retirement in 1984 when he contested from Bharatpur in Rajasthan and became a Lok Sabha member. He served as the Minister of State for Steel in the Rajiv Gandhi government and subsequently became the Minister of State for External Affairs in 1986.

Apart from leading In-

dia's multilateral campaigns at that time, he participated in the Indian plans for bringing an "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" government at the end of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. He visited Rome and tried to open a dialogue with Afghan King Zahir Shah in the spring of 1988.

After joining the IFS on April 14, 1953 he was posted at South Block and the districts where he served for the next four years. At that young age, he served as a liaison officer for multiple delegations from China, Egypt and Indonesia that gave him an impression of the working of then President of Egypt Gamal Abdel Nasser, and Dr. Mohammad Hatta of Indonesia.

He subsequently served in multiple Indian missions including in London, where he worked under Indian High Commissioner



Natwar Singh, who started his career in the IFS at the age of 22, was a prolific writer and chronicler. SANDEEP SAXENA

Vijay Lakshmi Pandit and was attached to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) under Indira Gandhi in 1966. He served in Mrs. Gandhi's PMO till 1971 and served in Poland (1971-73) as the Indian Ambassador, and the United Kingdom where he was the Deputy High Commissioner when the Emergency was imposed in 1975.

He was India's High Commissioner to Pakistan between 1982 and 1984 when Mrs. Gandhi was in her last stint and is known to have interacted with the ruler of Pakistan General Zia ul Haq during that time on multiple occasions conveying India's discomfort about Pakistan's policy on the insurgency in Punjab.

He was bestowed the second highest civilian award Padma Vibhushan after he served as the head of the preparatory committee of the Non-Alignment Summit in New Delhi in 1983.

Singh had a spell of political exile after his former senior colleague P. V. Narasimha Rao became the Prime Minister after the 1991 general election. He had serious differences with Rao and ultimately became one of the founders of the All India Indira Congress.

He returned to power in 2004 when Dr. Manmohan Singh became the Prime Minister of the UPA-1 government but had to resign after the oil-for-food scandal broke out which indicated that people close to him, including his son, had benefited out of the payments. Singh resigned in March 2006 against the backdrop of that controversy, though he always

maintained that he had not gained personally from the payments.

As an author, he wrote a number of books including one on the Jat ruler of Bharatpur, Suraj Mal. He was a friend of Mulk Raj Anand, E.M. Forster and many other 20th century literary giants. He wrote several volumes after leaving office as the External Affairs Minister that recollect his diplomatic journeys from India to Zambia, Ethiopia, China, U.K., U.S.A. and Pakistan.

Singh is survived by his son Jagat Singh and wife Heminder Kumari Singh. Former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh is his brother-in-law.

His autobiography *One Life is Not Enough* was published in 2014. The book was launched in a packed event that was attended by several stalwarts including former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.



- **Death Announcement:**

- Former External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh passed away at the age of 95. He had been hospitalized for nearly two weeks in a clinic in Gurugram, near New Delhi.

- **Career Overview:**

- Natwar Singh served as External Affairs Minister in 2004-05 in the UPA government led by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.
 - His career began in the Indian Foreign Service (IFS) in 1953 at the age of 22. He held various significant diplomatic positions, including India's High Commissioner to Pakistan.
- 




- **Political Career:**

- Natwar Singh entered politics in 1984, winning a Lok Sabha seat from Bharatpur in Rajasthan. He held ministerial positions in the Rajiv Gandhi government and later became a founder of the All India Indira Congress after political differences with P.V. Narasimha Rao.
- He returned to power in 2004 but had to resign in 2005 due to the oil-for-food scandal.



- **Literary Contributions:**

- Natwar Singh was also a prolific writer, having authored several books, including an autobiography titled "One Life is Not Enough," published in 2014.
- 

• Which of the following roles did Natwar Singh hold during his career?

1.High Commissioner to Pakistan

2.Minister of State for Finance

3.Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs

4.Governor of Rajasthan

स्लीमहाईड स्वच्छता बढ़ाओ, तंदुरुस्ती बढ़े

स्लीमहाईड = पलश टैंक कहाँ..?

○ बड़ी तोड़फोड़ + दीवार को लीकेज से बचायें

जगह बचाये

Another medal for our Javelin

Amul Our silver lining!

INSIDE

BANGLADESH CHIEF JUSTICE RESIGNS AFTER ULTIMATUM BY PROTESTERS

VINESH MEDAL: CAS DEFERS DECISION UNTIL TUESDAY

PAGES 14, 17

Somanathan, who cleaned up finances of govt, is new Cabinet Secy

Somanathan is an IAS officer of 1987 batch

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

THE GOVERNMENT Saturday appointed a 1987-batch Tamil Nadu cadre IAS officer Somanathan as the next Cabinet Secretary of India. He will have a two-year tenure beginning August 10. He will take over the charge from Rajiv Gauba, a 1992-batch IAS officer, who has been the Cabinet Secretary since 2019. Somanathan, who is presently the Finance Secretary in charge of the Department of Expenditure, will be the officer on Special Duty in the Cabinet Secretariat till he takes over as the Cabinet Secretary. Somanathan has worked closely with N Karamchandi for three years from 2007 to 2019, when the latter was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. He had a ring side view of how the veteran

As police confirm rape, murder of Kolkata doctor, CM on back foot

SWEETY KUMARI, RAVIK BHATTACHARYA & ATHI MITRA

KOLKATA, AUGUST 10

THE RAPE and murder of a doctor inside a hospital run by the West Bengal government sent shockwaves across the state, with hundreds of doctors ceasing work, and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee saying that "if

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SAGAR RAJPUT

MUMBAI, AUGUST 10

ON A footpath outside Mumbai University Ground, a stone's throw and a world away from Wankhede Stadium, sat a motley crowd of tired adults with yawning faces around 5 pm on August 9. For the past few hours, these grandparents and fathers have been holding,

MADHABI PURI BUCH UNDER SCRUTINY; 'VALUE' OF STAKE \$8.7 LAKH

Sebi chief had stake in Adani offshore entities, hence didn't act: Hindenburg

Cong wants JPC to probe 'Adani mega scam', TMC says Sebi chair must quit

GEORGE MATHEW

MUMBAI, AUGUST 10

IN WHAT RAISES questions of conflict of interest related to the market regulator, the US-based Hindenburg Research on Saturday alleged that "it suspects SEBI's unwillingness to take meaningful action against suspect offshore shareholders in the

Adani Group may stem from SEBI Chairperson, Madhavi Puri Buch's complicity in using the exact same funds used by Vinod Adani, brother of Gautam Adani."

Madhavi Puri Buch became a Whole-time Member in the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in 2017 and its Chairperson in March 2022. This report by Hindenburg Research comes almost 18

months after it had first kicked up a political storm in January 2023, alleging the Adani Group of "brazen stock market manipulation" and "accounting fraud". The port-to-energy conglomerate had denied all these allegations; the Supreme Court had rejected the demand for a CBI or court-monitored probe. Continuing with the saga and quoting "whistleblower documents", Hindenburg Research has now claimed that the Sebi chairperson "had stake in obscure offshore entities used in the Adani money siphoning scandal." To date, SEBI has taken no action against other suspect Adani shareholders operated by

India Infoline: EM Resurgent Fund and Emerging India Focus Funds, it alleged.

When contacted, Sebi did not comment on the allegations raised by Hindenburg.

While Congress said these revelations only reinforced its demand for setting up a "joint parliamentary committee to investigate the full scope of the Adani mega scam", the Trinamool Congress said the Sebi chairperson must resign. "This raises fresh questions, about



Sebi chief Madhavi Buch

PM visits landslide-hit Wayanad, promises support to Kerala govt

SHAJU PHILIP & VIKAS PATHAK

MEPPADI (WAYANAD), AUGUST 10

AFTER TAKING stock of the devastation in landslide-hit Wayanad on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised complete support to Kerala government's rehabilitation efforts and that "working together would lead to good results".

Modi spent the day taking an aerial review of the area, walking along a completely flattened village, speaking to survivors, and holding review meetings with the Kerala government.

The landslides killed at least 229 people, while 130 are still missing and presumed dead.

Modi landed in Kannur airport at 11 am and flew to Wayanad by an air force helicopter, which then took him on an aerial tour of the landslide hit Meppadi panchayat. Accompanied by Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Union Minister of State Suresh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with a child affected by the landslides, at AWS Hospital in Wayanad on Saturday. PTI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with a child affected by the landslides, at AWS Hospital in Wayanad on Saturday. PTI

Another medal for our Javelin

Amul Our silver lining!

AFTER CABINET NO TO JUDGES' SUGGESTION

Court's SC/ST quota ruling a setback, Govt should act: Kharge

Calls for no change in quota policy, says Opp parties united on issue

ASAD REHMAN

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

A DAY after BJP's SC, ST MPs met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Cabinet turned down the Supreme Court's suggestion for exclusion of the creamy layer from the ambit of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe reservation, the Congress, in its first public remarks on the issue, said "You can create a Bill in a couple of hours. For this, you don't have time despite 10 days have passed."

Speaking to the media Saturday, Kharge, who is also Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, said: "I read that the Prime Minister has said that we will not touch it (reservation for SCs and STs)."

He said the Scheduled Caste Commission report passed through Baba Saheb Ambedkar's Poonacha, and that later, Pandit



Cong chief: You (Govt) can create a Bill in a few hours...

After 'fertilizer' & 'land', latest in CM Himanta's lexicon: 'Flood jihad'

SUKRITA BARUAH

GUWAHATI, AUGUST 10

AT A time when the Assam government is facing severe criticism for flood management in Guwahati, the state's Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has targeted a private university owned by a Bengali-origin Muslim, is waging "flood jihad".

On August 5, Guwahati had experienced flash flooding following a couple of hours of rain in the afternoon that had brought the city to a grinding halt.

Two days later, the Gauhati

High Court, while hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on the issue of waterlogging in the city, had rapped the Sarma-led government by a Bengali-origin Muslim.

Taking note of the "trauma faced by citizens of the Guwahati city", the High Court bench headed by Chief Justice Vijay Bhushan said that it is of the view that the "time has come to deal with



Assam CM targets university owned by a Muslim

Security forces in Anantnag district, Saturday. Shash Masood

Two soldiers killed, 2 civilians injured in Kashmir encounter

BASHAARAT MASOOD

SINGAR, AUGUST 10

TWO SOLDIERS were killed and another injured in a gunfight with militants in the forests of south Kashmir's Anantnag district Saturday, police sources said, in the latest in a series of incidents ahead of Assembly polls expected by the end of September.

Two civilians were also injured in the encounter, which erupted after a joint team of the J&K Police

and the Army launched a search operation in the dense mountainous forests of Anantnag area of Roknagar, which connects the Kashmir Valley to Kishtwar in Jammu division.

While the Srinagar-based Chinara Corps said two soldiers and two civilians were injured in the gunfight and were "evacuated for treatment", a senior police officer told the Indian Express those soldiers were wounded, of whom two succumbed.

Lakhs of patent orders by 'outsourced' staff null and void, says Law Ministry

RAVI DUTTA MISHRA & ANANTHAKRISHNAN G

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

IN WHAT PUTS a question mark on the legality of lakhs of patent and trademark orders passed in the last two years by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM), the Union Law Ministry

and an Additional Solicitor General (ASG) of India have opined that these orders are "legally unenforceable" as they were "made by outsourced employees in violation of the Trade Marks Act, 1999."

What has led to a chaos in the last two years by the rights in the patent body's decision to hire hundreds of employees

Footpath camps, crying babies: When 1.11 lakh women apply for 1,257 police posts

soothing and even bringing these restive children.

On a synthetic turf inside the ground, their mothers are competing with 1.11 lakh other women from all over Maharashtra for a mere 1,257 Mumbai Police constable posts that offer a monthly salary of Rs 30,000.

Of the 36,216 constables in July, Mumbai Police at present, 6,959 are women. Recruitment for women candidates, which have been on since July 19, are expected to end on August 14, an officer said. Trials start at 5 am and the last batch for the day

goes in around 2 pm. Each batch comprises 1,000 aspirants, an official said.

In July, leading to a "strangled-neck" situation, over 25,000 job seekers had turned up for 2,216 vacancies for the post of constables at Mumbai airport. Similar scenes were witnessed in Coimbatore. By the end of July, there were nearly 1,800 people turned up for 10 openings at a private company.

Among those competing in Mumbai University Ground is a 24-year-old who travelled over 250 km from Ahmednagar dis-



Candidates during the recruitment drive conducted by Mumbai Police. Ganesh Shrivastava

WOMEN CONSTABLE RECRUITMENTS

SALARY: Rs 30,000

AGE LIMIT: 28 years (open category), 33 years (reserved category)

POSTS: Constables, drivers, handsman and prison constables

APPLICANTS: Around 1.11 lakh from across state



INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1928



THE LAST OF THE Jewish matriarch Hallegua dies

CORRUPTION ALLEGATION
Tender to procure X-ray scanner under lens
NEWS » PAGE 4



KOLKATA DOCTOR'S MURDER

Protests rage across
medical colleges
NEWS » PAGE 6



PMIA CONUNDRUM

SC must clarify
on cases against
political parties
Criminal cases are
fraught with problems
EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

NUMERO UNO
Women hoopsters
help USA top tally
SPORT » PAGE 17

INSIDE



In Jharkhand, INDIA bloc begins seat-sharing talks

RANCHI
In the run-up to the Assembly election in Jharkhand, hard bargaining is on in the ruling Indian National Development, Inclusive Alliance over the seat-sharing formula in the State. » PAGE 5

Jaishankar concludes 3-day visit to Maldives

MALE
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Sunday concluded a crucial visit to Male, assuring the country's top leadership that Maldives remains a key partner of India in maintaining peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region. This was the first high-level trip to the atoll nation from New Delhi after President Mohamed Muizum assumed office. » PAGE 5



BJP upset by T.N.'s 'denial of permit for flag marches

CHENNAI
In the run-up to Independence Day, Tamil Nadu police have denied the BJP the permission to hold Tiranga Yatras (Tricolour marches) in the State. » PAGE 2

Crest gate of Tungbhadra reservoir washed away, alert issued as outflow set to increase

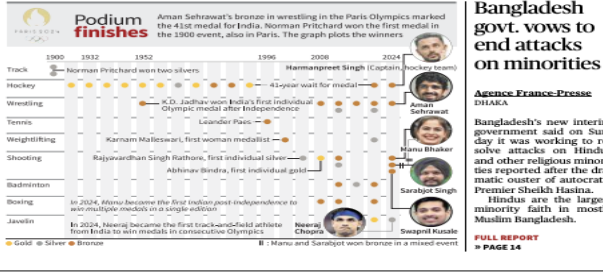
**The Hindu Bureau
KALABURGI**

A crest gate of the Tungbhadra reservoir, near Hospete, in Vijayanagara district of Karnataka, was washed away late on Saturday, raising fears of flooding downstream. The reservoir authorities immediately issued an alert asking people not to venture into the river downstream as the outflow may increase up to 2 lakh cusecs at any time. As the rain receded in the catchment areas, resulting in diminished inflow into the reservoir, the dam authorities on Saturday reduced the discharge to around 28,000 cusecs to maintain the full reservoir level (FRL) of 1,633 feet with a total storage of 105,788 tmcft. After the chain link of crest gate 19 was broken and the gate was washed



Emergency action The remaining 32 crest gates of the dam were opened to reduce the pressure on the broken gate. SIBHAN KAWAL
away in the current around 10.50 p.m., the remaining 32 crest gates were opened to reduce the pressure on the broken gate. The discharge gradually increased and reached one lakh cusecs by 11.30 p.m. Prohibitory orders were issued to prevent people from venturing along with the reservoir and the river's banks. Sources in the Irrigation Central Zone (Munirabad)

of Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Ltd. (KNNL) said the reservoir level increased to 2 lakh cusecs for the next four days to bring down the water level in the reservoir and start repair work immediately. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar rushed to the reservoir along with Minor Irrigation Minister N.S. Boseralli. Mr. Shivakumar said that water storage in the reservoir needed to be reduced to about 60 tmcft to take up repairs. **Inter-State project** "The reservoir was full with 105 tmcft of water when the incident happened at 10.50 p.m. on Saturday. The dam authorities immediately alerted the Ministers and departments concerned. Our expert team immediately rushed and assessed the situation. Experts from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have also arrived. At present, 98,000 cusecs of water is being released to the river by opening the remaining 32 gates. We need to bring down the water level to 60 tmcft to take up the repair s which may take at least four days," Mr. Shivakumar said. Since Tungbhadra is an inter-State project involving Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, he



Bangladesh govt. vows to end attacks on minorities

**Lalanda Mishra
Akhbari
MUMBAI**
Bangladesh's new interim government said on Sunday it was working to solve attacks on Hindus and other religious minorities reported after the dramatic ouster of autocratic Premier Sheikh Hasina. Hindus, the largest minority faith in mostly Muslim Bangladesh. **FULL REPORT** » PAGE 14

SEBI, Buch deny charges by Hindenburg; investors advised to remain calm

Denying allegations in the latest Hindenburg report, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Sunday advised investors to remain calm and exercise due diligence before reacting to such reports. SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her spouse Dhaival Buch denied the charges in the Hindenburg report, which said its overseas holding structure was 'fully transparent'. SEBI said in a statement: "Investors may also like to take note of the disclaimer in the report that states that readers should assume that Hindenburg Research may have short positions in the securities covered in the report." The capital market regulator denied the allegation that it had not taken any action against the Adani Group and made changes in the SEBI (REIT) Regulations, 2014 to benefit Blackstone. It said it claims that such regulations, changes to the way they are enforced, are not related to REITs but to favour one large multinational. Only allies and glomerates are beneficiaries. On the Hindenburg report seeking to question SEBI's actions in issuing show-cause notice to it on July 27, 2023, SEBI said: "The show-cause notice in question, alleging violation of securities laws by Hindenburg Research, has been issued by SEBI in the due process of the law." "The proceedings in this

SEBI, Buch deny charges by Hindenburg; investors advised to remain calm

matter, in addition to explaining the reasons for investing in that fund. "The decision to invest in this fund was because the Chief Investment Officer, Anil Ahuja, is Dhava's [Mr. Buch] childhood friend from school and IIT Delhi and, being an employee of Citibank, J.P. Morgan and 3i Group plc, had many decades of a strong investing career. The fact that these were the drivers of the investment decision is borne out by the fact that when, in 2018, Mr. Ahuja, left his position as CIO of the fund, we redeemed the investment in that fund," the couple said in the statement. They further said that as no point did the fund invest in instruments related to any company of Adani as disclosed by Mr. Ahuja. All regulators of SEBI were approved by its Board [and not by Chairperson] after extensive consultation with the regulators, they added. Reacting to Buch's rebuttal, Hindenburg on X said the clarification contains "admissions" and raises fresh questions and confirms a "massive conflict of interest". "Buch's response now confirms her investment in an obscure Bermuda/Mauritius fund structure, alongside money allegedly siphoned by Vinod Adani," the firm said. On Ms. Buch's remarks that her husband used the consulting entities, starting in 2019 to transact with unnamed "prominent clients in the Indian industry", it hints at those included clients SEBI is tasked with regulating.

Hindenburg report raises political storm

Congress seeks JPC probe into allegations by investment research firm against SEBI chief; BJP sees bid by global forces to halt India's progress; Rahul terms revelations against Buch 'explosive', and wonders why she had not resigned; he says it's slowly becoming crystal clear why Prime Minister is against a JPC investigating charges in this matter

**Delvesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI**
Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Sunday demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) inquiry into the charges against Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch in the latest Hindenburg report. The BJP dismissed the claims asserting that many global forces, with the help of the Congress "dynasty", were attempting to hinder India's progress. Even as Ms. Buch and her husband have denied the baseless allegations and insinuations made in the report, Mr. Gandhi, in a videographed statement, termed the revelations against her "explosive", wondering why she had not yet resigned. "New allegations have emerged, is

the Supreme Court going to look at this matter *suo motu* again," he asked. The Adani Group has described the report as "a recycling of discredited facts that have been thoroughly investigated, proven to be baseless and already dismissed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in January 2024". The U.S.-based short seller on Saturday had said that the Chief of India's stock market regulator, in charge of probing allegations against the Adani group of companies, herself had a stake in offshore entities linked to what it claimed was "the Adani money siphoning scandal". Mr. Gandhi on Sunday said there was a significant risk in the Indian stock market as the governing institution was "compromised". "A serious allegation against the Adani Group was illegal share ow-

nership and price manipulation using offshore funds. It has now emerged that the SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Buch and her husband had an interest in one of these funds... the savings of Indians are at risk. It is, therefore, imperative that this matter is investigated," he said. He asked if something were to go wrong and investors were to lose their hard-earned money, who would be responsible? "Is the Prime Minister of India responsible? Is Madhabi Buch responsible, or is Mr. Adani responsible?... it's slowly becoming crystal

clear why PM [Narendra] Modi is against a JPC looking into this matter," Mr. Gandhi said. Earlier, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the small and medium investors in the stock market needed to be protected, demanding a JPC inquiry. "Until then, concerns persist that PM Modi will continue to shield his ally, compromising India's constitutional institutions, painstakingly built over seven decades," he said on X. All India Professionals' Congress, chairman Praveen Chakravarty said the controversy highlighted

the need for technocrats and lateral entrants to responsible public positions to be ethically, legally, and optically above board. "Bodies such as the Economic Affairs Council to the Prime Minister also has several members that sit simultaneously hold private sector positions... the optics do not bode well even if all the members are capable individuals of the highest integrity," he said. Parties seek probe Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Sitaram Yechury also sought a JPC probe, while D. Raja of the Communist Party of India accused the BJP of serving only corporate interests to the benefit of India's "corrupt practices of their financial corporates". Mahua Moitra, Trinamool Congress MP, took to social media to demand the SEBI chief to several questions related to the

new report. Talking to the media, Rashtriya Janata Dal MP Manoj Kumar Jha said the report showed how the system in the country was rigged and efforts were made to hide the "corruption". "Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav also demanded an investigation. However, terming the latest Hindenburg report a smoking gun, BJP leader and former Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said it was an attack on SEBI by a foreign entity, which was in "an obvious partnership" with the Congress and had an ominous motive and goal. He said the move was meant for destabilising and discrediting one of the world's strongest financial systems and creating chaos in the world's fastest growing economy. I.e. India. Even as banks in US fall and stock markets collapse, Indian banks and markets continue to grow. I have said often and say again - many global forces with help of Congress dynasty want (to) slow down or trip up India's rise. We won't let them...," said the BJP leader.

RELATED REPORTS
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Hindenburg report raises political storm

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Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

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The BJP dismissed the claims asserting that many global forces, with the help of the Congress "dynasty", were attempting to hinder India's progress.

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RAHUL GANDHI
Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha

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Parties seek probe

Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Sitaram Yechury also sought a JPC probe, while D. Raja of the Communist Party of India accused the BJP of serving only corporate interests to the extent of protecting the "corrupt practices of their favoured corporates".

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On X, Mr. Chandrasekhar said "its classic Cong style innuendo & lies glued together with a few grains

of truth" and was aimed at discrediting the regulator, causing chaos and losses in the markets for investors, thus slowing down bullish sentiments.

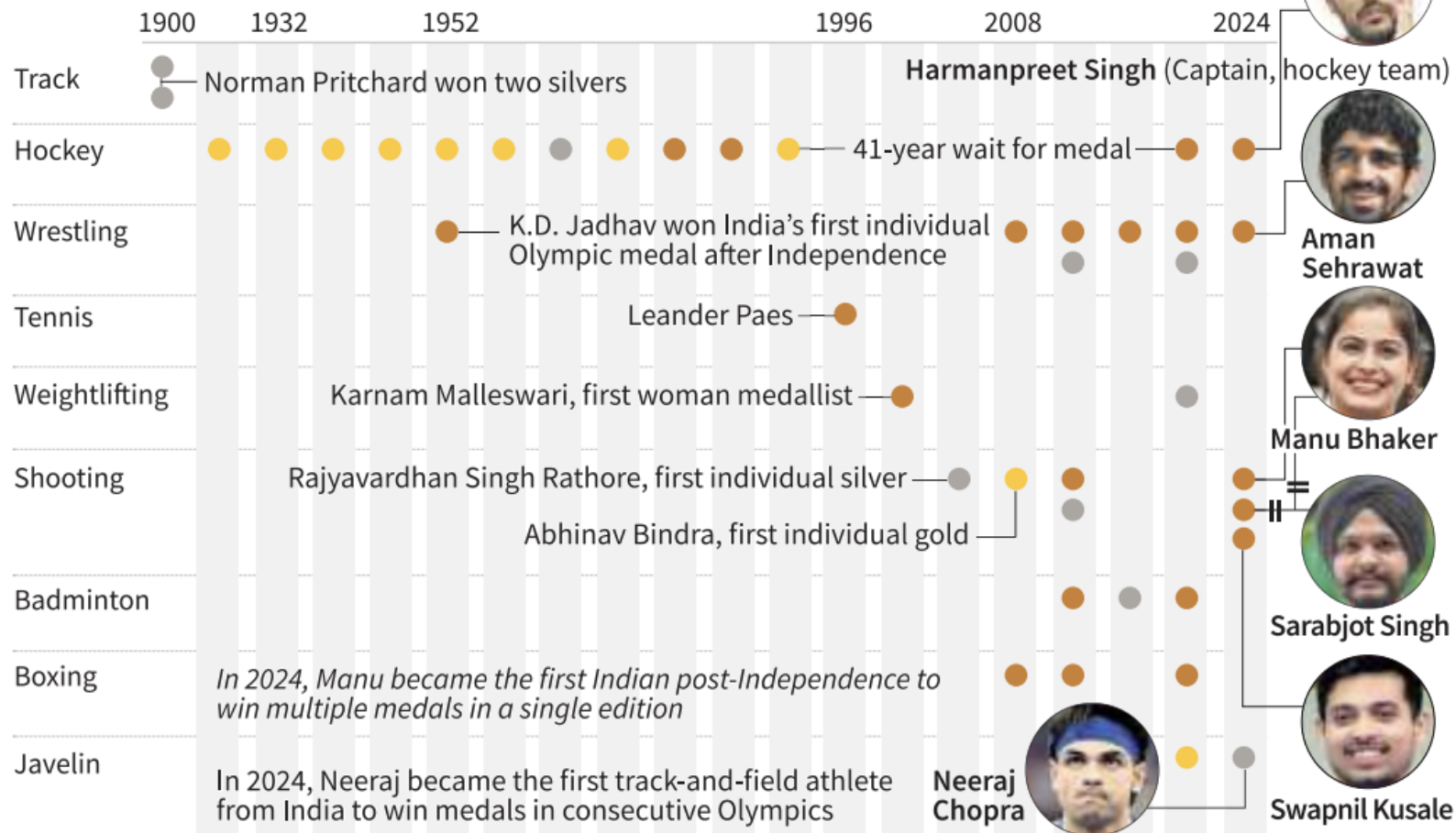
"India's financial sector has been rebuilt in last 10 years by @narendramodi -- from the shattered, crony lending PSU banks and 10% NPA legacy of UPA, insider trading Ponzi frauds like Sahara scam, to a vibrant financial system that is supplying equity and credit to the world's fastest growing economy i.e. India. Even as banks in US fail and stock markets collapse, Indian banks and markets continue to grow. I have said often and say again -- many global forces with help of Cong dynasty want (to) slow down or trip up India's rise. We won't let them...," said the BJP leader.

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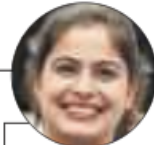
Podium finishes

Aman Sehrawat's bronze in wrestling in the Paris Olympics marked the 41st medal for India. Norman Pritchard won the first medal in the 1900 event, also in Paris. The graph plots the winners



● Gold ● Silver ● Bronze

|| : Manu and Sarabjot won bronze in a mixed event



IN BRIEF



Mamata urges Majhi to look into 'assault' on labourers

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday called up her Odisha counterpart Mohan Charan Majhi and requested him to look into alleged incidents of assault on labourers from the State there, a senior official said.

Activists in Sikkim protest against shooting of stray dog

Animal rights activists in Sikkim's capital Gangtok took out a rally on Sunday to protest the shooting of a stray dog almost a month ago. The dog was found dead with a wound on its chest on July 19.

PM Modi releases 109 high-yielding seed varieties

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday released 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient, and biofortified seed varieties of agricultural and horticultural crops, aiming to enhance farm productivity and farmers' income.

Biotechnologists detect difference in use of nitrogen by rice varieties

Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI

Biotechnologists at Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GSU) in New Delhi have discovered a wide variation among popular varieties of rice in India in their ability to use nitrogen. This knowledge can be used to develop newer varieties that use less nitrogen and are high-yielding.

Protests continue in Bengal over rape, murder of doctor

Kolkata Police Commissioner meets protesters, urges them not to believe in rumours; students can approach police with queries, he says; doctors' group calls for halt of elective services in hospitals

The Hindu Bureau

Protests continued to rage across medical colleges in West Bengal on Sunday over the alleged rape and murder of a woman doctor at the K.C. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, affecting services for the third consecutive day.

Hospitals in other districts joined the protests as well. Outpatient departments (OPDs) are not open on Sundays in State-run hospitals.

The body of a 31-year-old doctor was found on the third floor of the hospital on Friday. The post-mortem examination revealed that she had been sexually assaulted.

On Saturday, a civil police volunteer engaged the Kolkata Police was arrested for the crime and remanded in 14 days of police custody.

Under mounting pressure, the State government confirmed Sanjay Vashisth, the hospital's medical superintendent, Bulbul Mukhopadhyay, dean of student affairs, has been given the additional charge of hospital superintendent.

The resident doctors' association of the K.C. Kar Medical College and Hospital ceased work on emergency services, demanding a judicial inquiry and compensation for the family of the deceased.

Commissioner of Kolkata Police Vinay Kumar Goyal said, "We tried to address the query of the students. Today, the post-mortem report has been shared with the family as per guidelines of the Supreme Court."



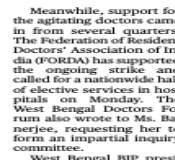
Doctors protesting at the K.C. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on Sunday. (SABITA BHAGAL)

Meanwhile, support for the agitating doctors came in from several quarters. The Doctors' Association of India (DOIDA) has supported the ongoing strike and called for a nationwide halt of elective services in hospitals on Monday.

The West Bengal Doctors' Forum, led by Dr. Banerjee, requesting her to form an impartial inquiry committee.

West Bengal BJP president and Union Minister Sulanku Majumdar wrote a letter to Union Health Minister J.P. Naidu, demanding investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

"I request you to send a team of people to investigate the matter and take immediate action to enforce stringent security measures to prevent installation of more CCTV cameras, the presence of adequate security personnel, and the restriction of unauthorized access to sensitive areas within medical institutions," he said in the letter.



Protesters at the K.C. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on Sunday. (SABITA BHAGAL)

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has removed a political cartoon from its Class 12 political science textbook, 'Politics in India since Independence', saying "it shows India in a negative light."

The cartoon in Chapter 8 - Recent Developments in Indian Politics - depicted political leaders from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 1999, and the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) in 2004 and 2009.

The cartoon by Ravishankar, originally published in the India Today magazine, had on display former Prime Ministers V.P. Singh (1990), Chandrababu Naidu (1996), I.K. Gujral (1997), and A.B. Vajpayee (1999) and a string of questions on the survival of their coalition governments and democracy.

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The cartoon depicted leaders from 1990 onwards, posing questions on survival of their governments.

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F&O norms proposed by SEBI to hit brokers, exchanges: reports

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Stock exchanges and brokers catering to retail traders, could be hit hard by the Securities and Exchange Board of India's proposed measures for futures & options (F&O) trading regulations, with market volumes slumping 10%-40%, according to reports.

If these measures are implemented, the number of investors could decrease. Discount brokers, who depend heavily on retail investors, are expected to be more affected than traditional full-service brokers.

IFIL Securities could see the highest impact from the withdrawal of weekly options (only one per exchange allowed) as index options account for 98% of the volumes. IFIL Securities expects the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to be more affected than the BSE because 60% of the NSE's revenue comes from options trading, compared with 40% for the BSE. It estimates that by 2026, the NSE's earnings could be reduced by 25-30% while the BSE's earnings could drop by 15%-18%.

According to a report by IIFIL, the proposed measures to reduce the number of weekly option contracts from 18 to six could impact around 35% of industry premium. However, if trading shifts to the remaining contracts, the overall impact can be reduced to 20-25%.

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The illustration has been replaced with two students conversing with each other. "Does that mean students will always have coalitions? Or are the national parties consolidate their positions again?" The other answers, "I am not worried about whether it is a single party or a coalition government. It is an answer to what you do. Does a coalition government involve more compromises? Can we not have bold and imaginative policies in a coalition?"

However, a decade later, India yet again has a coalition government at the Centre post the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

FAITH

Three steps to divinity

In the Bhagavad Gita, the verse, Samanyasya Indriya-graman sarvatra samabudhayaah, te pragyanvanti manasa sarva-buta-hite ratah, presents a three-step path to attain divinity, said Swami Mitrananda.

The first step, Samanyasya Indriya-gramam underscores mastering the control of one's senses. A person who achieves this mastery loses as the master of his environment, not a victim. Such an individual maintains a happy and balanced mind, whether surrounded by objects of desire or not. This control ensures one is not swayed by external circumstances, but remains steadfast in one's inner peace.

As Lord Krishna states in Chapter II, Agamapayino'nyas tams titikshaya bhavata, the temporary nature of happiness and distress should be patiently endured. The third step, Sarva-bhuta-hite ratah, signifies wishing well for all beings. A person who genuinely delights in the welfare of others and actively contributes to their development experiences true happiness through his selfless actions. This fosters a deep connection with others and enhances one's spiritual journey. Lord Krishna assures that those who cultivate these qualities - control of senses, mental balance and altruism - will attain Him. Te pragyanvanti manasa eva indicates that such a person ultimately achieves union with the Supreme and attains divinity.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Clues include: 1. Free European trip (4), 2. Air train (7), 3. Zee TV originally broadcast entertaining genre of music - set twinges it could get high on (10), 4. Lot of rich men losing margins (4), 5. Switzerland poet's always in high spirits (5), 6. Ready beef finally, light off, and a toy for company (9,4), 7. Toiler baked loaf (6), 8. 'Concentration Study Study!' say education heads (8), 9. Desiccated Spooner's ultimate delight (5), 10. They design pen tips (8).

Sudoku puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Clues include: 1. Ornate suit had diamonds installed (8), 2. Heart Frenchman's piercing cry for help (8), 3. Egg on clean plate at first polished off (4), 4. Serious member engrossed in reading tennis (2,7), 5. Lady wearing square watch - she is very finicky (8), 6. Stuff friend with Iranian bread (8), 7. Has everyone around tried soup for starters? (4), 8. Become inaudible...deaf? (4,3), 9. Plays a trick, and collapses in the auditorium (6), 10. Places for putting vegetables (6), 11. Upset, miserably, do you have to cry shrilly? (5).

Word search puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Clues include: 1. Cut word times in New Delhi (8), 2. Mishandled a vehicle - single's gutted (16), 3. Tally updated menu cost (8), 4. Wife reaches bury in time for Christmas (16), 5. Lawyer from Rhode Island is involved in trade (9), 6. Run in the early morning, becoming fatigued (5).

PM Modi releases 109 high-yielding seed varieties

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday released 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient, and biofortified seed varieties of agricultural and horticultural crops, aiming to enhance farm productivity and farmers' income.

Developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), these varieties span 61 crops, including 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops. The field crop varieties include cereals, millets, forage crops, oilseeds, pulses, sugarcane, cotton, and fiber crops.

For horticulture, the Prime Minister released new varieties of fruits, vegetables, plantation crops, tubers, spices, flowers, and medicinal plants.

Mr. Modi unveiled the seeds at three experimental agriculture plots at Delhi's Pusa Campus.

CACHE



GETTY IMAGES

What is the Google 'monopoly' antitrust case and how does it affect consumers?

When a monopoly comes into existence, rivals are forced out and the company with the most power is able to abuse customers because they have very few other options. The U.S. Department of Justice sought to establish that Google had a monopoly in the web search and advertising sectors

John Xavier,
Sahana Venugopal

The story so far: On August 5, Google lost a major antitrust case brought against it by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that sought to establish that the tech giant had a monopoly in the web search and advertising sectors. The 10-week-long bench trial that took place in September 2023 saw high-profile tech leaders, including Google CEO Sundar Pichai and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, testifying before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The lawsuit accused Google of using its dominant position in the search engine market to elbow out rivals and maintain monopoly. Its exclusive deals with handset makers were brought before the court as evidence. In the end, U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta ruled that Google was a monopolist.

What did the ruling state? According to the ruling, Google's search dominance was primarily achieved through a strategy of exclusive distribution agreements, or default distribution. This refers to the way Google entered into lucrative contracts with browser developers, mobile device manufacturers, and wireless carriers so that it was the first or default search engine that users of such services or new phones were given. Google pays for this privilege and has shelled out more than \$26 billion for it in 2021, per the court.

"After having carefully considered and

weighed the witness testimony and evidence, the court reaches the following conclusion: Google is a monopolist, and it has acted as one to maintain its monopoly. It has violated Section 2 of the Sherman Act, the ruling noted, referencing a U.S. law that views business monopoly or attempts at monopolising as an offence. Per the court, Google used its monopoly power in two markets: general search services and general search text ads. "Importantly, the court also finds that Google has exercised its monopoly power by charging supra-competitive prices for general search text ads. That conduct has allowed Google to earn monopoly profits," reported the filing. Furthermore, the court harshly criticised the way Google failed to preserve employee correspondence that could have served as evidence.

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In addition to this, Google will not be sanctioned for the way it failed to preserve employee chat messages, though the court warned it might not be so "lucky" in a future case. Interestingly, the judge observed that Google had brought out the "industry's highest quality search engine, which has earned Google the trust of hundreds of millions of daily users."

How do monopolistic practices harm consumer experience? Regulators around the world monitor businesses use technology in their countries, to prevent the concentration of power in the hands of a few entities. This ensures healthy competition in the market segment, so that all participants are striving to do better for their customers. When a monopoly comes into existence, however, rivals may be forced out of the market while the company with the most power is able to abuse customers because they have very few other options. Such companies also lose the incentive to keep improving the quality of their product.

The court ruling in the Google case even pointed to this as a risk factor. "Google's indifference to 9. In 2020, Google conducted a quality degradation study, which showed that it would not lose search revenue if it were to significantly reduce the quality of its search product," observed the filing. "The fact that Google makes product changes without concern that its users might go elsewhere is something only a firm with monopoly power could do."

What did the U.S. DOJ say? The U.S. DOJ hailed the ruling as a public victory for internet users in the U.S. "This victory against Google is an historic win for the American people," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland in a statement on the DOJ website. "No company — no matter how large or influential — is above the law. The Justice Department will continue to vigorously

enforce our antitrust laws."

Google is far from the only company in the regulator's line of vision. The U.S. DOJ is also reportedly teaming up with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to act against other large tech players on antitrust grounds, including Microsoft, OpenAI, and Nvidia, as per *The New York Times*.

What happens next? Google will be appealing the ruling. In the meantime, the court has asked both parties, Google and the Department of Justice, to find a remedy ahead of their meeting with Judge Mehta on September 9. The remedy, in this case, could range anywhere between breaking up Google to ordering the search giant to end its exclusive deals with mobile makers.

The former could fundamentally alter the dynamics of consumer digital business market as Google plays a key role by providing its platform to both individuals and businesses to interact. In the latter case, in terms of immediate effect, handset makers could lose billions of dollars they receive from Google to pre-load the company's search engine in the smartphone.

This hefty payment to smartphone makers, particularly Apple, is reminiscent of the company's strategy of innovating a rival search engine. Apple, during the hearing, had said that it will continue to use Google as its default search engine. Apart from this lawsuit, the Justice Department is set to go against Google in another antitrust trial that deals with the internet company's ad technology.



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

I was miffed that I was not invited to sing

Everybody in office seems disturbed. However, my colleagues are being very tight-lipped about it

S. Upendra

"You look happy! Does this mean that you've got your promotion?"
"I haven't heard anything about it."
"It's been more than a week. Hasn't your boss told you anything?"
"Nobody is talking. They're being very tight-lipped about the interview."
"Tight-lipped? Does it mean they're angry about something?"
"That's one of the meanings of the word. When you look at someone tight-lipped, you look at the individual with your lips pressed together."
"Something that people do when they're angry — keep their lips pressed together."
"Exactly!"

"How about this example? There's no point talking to Aditya right now. He's only giving tight-lipped replies."
"Great example. 'Tight-lipped' can also be used to mean not saying anything. When an individual remains tight-lipped about some matter, he remains silent about it."
"He's unwilling to give any information about the matter."
"Exactly! The Minister has remained tight-lipped about the cause of the accident."
"Nobody really knows much about Naveen. He's always been tight-lipped about his private life."

"Jai, on the other hand, is not tight-lipped at all."
"Tell me, does 'tight-lipped' and 'stiff upper lip' mean the same thing?"
"No, they don't! Someone who maintains a 'stiff upper lip', does not show or reveal his feelings."
"In other words, even when he is terribly upset, he keeps his cool."
"Exactly! A bad situation doesn't get the better of him."

"He is a very determined individual who doesn't allow his emotions."
"Here's an example. I thought Revathi would start crying after having lost in the final. But she kept a stiff upper lip."
"The CEO maintained a stiff upper lip even when the union representatives threatened to go on an indefinite strike."
"No matter what they say or do, keep a stiff upper lip. Don't let them get a sense of what you're really interested in."
"Aren't you angry that your colleagues are being tight-lipped about your promotion? After all, isn't it..."
"Well, I was a bit miffed, initially."
"Miffed? What does that mean?"

"Miffed is mostly used in informal contexts to mean annoyed — especially about the way a person behaves — the way he treats you."
"In other words, the person is not nice to you."
"His behaviour may be rather annoying. When you're miffed about something, you're only slightly angry about it — not very angry. The children were miffed when the school decided to cancel their visit to the zoo."

upendranky@gmail.com

Word of the day

Incinerate: become reduced to ashes; cause to undergo combustion
Synonym: burn
Usage: The paper incinerated quickly.
Pronunciation: bit.ly/incineratepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪnˈsɪnəreɪt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

THE DAILY QUIZ

On his 105th birth anniversary, a quiz on Vikram Sarabhai's life beyond ISRO

Yasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1
Name the national research institute Sarabhai founded in November 1947. In its first days, it operated out of his residence before eventually taking shape at the M.G. Science Institute in Ahmedabad.

QUESTION 2
In 1962, Sarabhai set up the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR), the body that later became ISRO. Which body oversaw space-related activities in India before INCOSPAR?

QUESTION 3
When Sarabhai was doing his PhD at the University of

Cambridge, who was his doctoral adviser? Likewise, name the ISRO chairman whose doctoral adviser Sarabhai was.

QUESTION 4
In the mid-1970s, a French aerospace company transferred its viking engine technology to India, where the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre used it to build the famous _____ engine. Fill in the blank. Hint: It is based on Sarabhai's full name.

QUESTION 5
Sarabhai's siblings X and Y were instrumental in establishing the National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad, based on 'The India Report' on industrial design in 1958. Name X and Y.



Visual question: What is the original name of this building and what is its connection to Sarabhai? LAKSHYO (CC BY-SA 4.0)

Questions and Answers to the August 9 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The name of the highest civilian award in Bangladesh. **Ans: The Swasthinata Padak (Independence Day Award)**

2. This river flows through Bangladesh and is known as the Padma in the country. **Ans: The Ganges River (Padma)**

3. The name of the traditional craft of Bangladesh where artisans create beautiful designs on textiles using a resist-dyeing technique. **Ans: Nakshi Kantha**

4. The Bangladesh festival that involves colourful boat races. **Ans: Noutka Raich**

5. The organisers of the "Concert for Bangladesh", on August 1, 1971, at Madison Square Garden in New York City. **Ans: George Harrison and Ravi Shankar**

6. The unique characteristic of the Grameen Bank's approach to lending is the concept of its borrowers. **Ans: The majority of its borrowers are women**

Visual: The UNESCO World Heritage site in Bangladesh which is famous for its intricate terracotta Hindu temples from the medieval period. **Ans: The Historic Mosque City of Bagerhat**

Early Bird: Seema Das

Please send in your answers to: dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

John Xavier
Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

On August 5, Google lost a major antitrust case brought against it by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that sought to establish that the tech giant had a monopoly in the web search and advertising sectors. The 10-week-long bench trial that took place in September 2023 saw high-profile tech leaders, including Google CEO Sundar Pichai and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, testifying before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The lawsuit accused Google of using its dominant position in the search engine market to elbow out rivals and maintain monopoly. Its exclusive deals with handset makers were brought before the court as evidence. In the end, U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta ruled that Google was a monopolist.

What did the ruling state?

According to the ruling, Google's search dominance was majorly achieved through a strategy of exclusive distribution agreements, or default distribution. This refers to the way Google entered into lucrative contracts with "browser developers, mobile device manufacturers, and wireless carriers" so that it was the first or default search engine that users of such services or new phones were given. Google pays for this privilege and has shelled out more than \$26 billion for it in 2021, per the court.

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weighed the witness testimony and evidence, the court reaches the following conclusion: Google is a monopolist, and it has acted as one to maintain its monopoly. It has violated Section 2 of the Sherman Act," the ruling noted, referencing a U.S. law that views business monopoly or attempts at monopolising as an offence. Per the court, Google used its monopoly power in two markets: general search services and general search text ads. "Importantly, the court also finds that Google has exercised its monopoly power by charging supra-competitive prices for general search text ads. That conduct has allowed Google to earn monopoly profits," reported the filing. Furthermore, the court harshly criticised the way Google failed to preserve employee correspondence that could have served as evidence.

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How do monopolistic practices harm consumer experience?

Regulators around the world monitor how businesses use technology in their countries, to prevent the concentration of power in the hands of a few entities. This ensures healthy competition in the market segment, so that all participants are striving to do better for their customers. When a monopoly comes into existence, however, rivals may be forced out of the market while the company with the most power is able to abuse customers because they have very few other options. Such companies also lose the incentive to keep improving the quality of their product.

The court ruling in the Google case even pointed to this as a risk factor.

"Google's indifference is unsurprising. In 2020, Google conducted a quality degradation study, which showed that it would not lose search revenue if it were to significantly reduce the quality of its search product," observed the filing, "the fact that Google makes product changes without concern that its users might go elsewhere is something only a firm with monopoly power could do."

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"This victory against Google is an historic win for the American people," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland in a statement on the DOJ website. "No company – no matter how large or influential – is above the law. The Justice Department will continue to vigorously

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This hefty payment to smartphone makers, particularly Apple, disincentivises them from innovating a rival search engine. Apple, during the hearing, had said that it will continue to use Google as its default search engine. Apart from this lawsuit, the Justice Department is set to go against Google in another antitrust trial that deals with the internet company's ad technology.

- **Google's Monopoly:** The court determined that Google is a monopolist in two markets:
 - general search services and
 - general search text ads.
- The monopoly was achieved through exclusive distribution agreements, where Google pays to ensure that its search engine is the default on various devices.

Court's Findings: While the court found Google guilty of maintaining a monopoly, it did not find Google guilty of having a monopoly in the search advertising market.

Google will not be sanctioned for failing to preserve certain employee chat messages.

- **Impact on Consumers:**

- The article discusses how monopolistic practices harm consumer experience by reducing competition and innovation. This is particularly important in technology markets where companies like Google hold significant market power.

DOJ's Stance: The DOJ hailed the ruling as a victory for internet users in the U.S., emphasizing that the law applies to all companies, regardless of size or influence.

What's Next: Google plans to appeal the ruling, and potential remedies could include breaking up Google or ending its exclusive deals with mobile makers.

- According to the article, what was one of the key reasons the court found Google to have maintained its monopoly?
 1. Google underpriced its services to drive out competitors.
 2. Google's search engine was the first to launch globally.
 3. Google used exclusive distribution agreements to become the default search engine.
 4. Google had superior technology that competitors could not match.

LEGEND

Brazil's Marta hints at retirement after finishing with a silver



Marta said on Saturday that defeat in the Olympic women's football final was likely her last for the "Brazilian" in the Olympic Games (yes) and probably in official competition. "Marta said after Brazil's 0-1 loss against USA, "I am not going to disappear from football. I am going to try to contribute somehow to this generation."

REDEMPTION

Taiwan's Lin claims 57kg Olympic boxing crown



Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting won her Paris Olympics women's boxing final on Saturday. A day after Algeria's Imane Khelif clinched gold at 66kg, Lin claimed the 57kg crown with a unanimous points decision win over Ireland's Julia Szeremetas at Roland Garros. It was Taiwan's second gold of the Games.

POWER-PACKED

Talakhadze clinches his third consecutive weightlifting gold



Lasha Talakhadze of Georgia won his third consecutive Olympic title in the heaviest weightlifting division, taking gold in the men's +102 kilograms on Saturday. Talakhadze won gold in the men's +102 kilograms at winning at >109 kilograms in Tokyo three years ago and >105 kilograms in 2016 at Rio de Janeiro.

RECOGNITION

Nadeem set to be honoured with Hilal-e-Imtiaz Award



Javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem is set to be honoured with the first-ever Imtiaz award by the Pakistan government, as is the second-highest civilian award given by the Government of Pakistan and Nadeem will get this award for his gold medal at the Paris Olympics.

A mixed bouquet of hits and near misses for India

It matched its second-best finish of six medals, achieved in London 2012, one less than that of Tokyo and the performance may make the decision makers at TOPS and MOC go in for a re-think



Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

Paris 2024 will be remembered for the six medals which brought joy to the Indians as well as the six fourth place finishes that resulted in heartbreaks.

A medal less than what was achieved in Tokyo may have restricted celebrations in the Indian camp, but the mixed bouquet of hits and near misses paints a promising picture of Indian sports.

Neeraj Chopra, Manu Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh, Swapnil Kusale, Aman Sehrawat and the Indian hockey team contributed to the six medals, including a silver and five bronze. India finished 71st on the medals tally while Tokyo's one gold, silver and four bronze had put in 48th. Shooters Manu (25m)



The highs: Manu, Sarabjot, Aman, Neeraj, Kusale and the Indian men's hockey team ensured glory for themselves and joy to all of India. ANI

sports pistol, Arjun Babuta (10m air rifle) and the mixed team pair of Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Maheshwari Chauhan (karate), the archery mixed team pair of Ankita Bhakat and B. Dhiraj, shuttler Lakshya Sen and weightlifter Mirabai Chanu missed podium

finishes by the smallest of margins. The quarterfinal losses of boxers Nishant Dev and Lovlina Borgohain, just a step away from securing a medal, added to the country's so-near-yet-so-far moments. The disqualification of

wrestler Vineesh Phogat after reaching the women's 50kg final was another huge blow to the country's aspirations. After wrestler Sushil Kumar and shooter P.V. Sindhu, Neeraj became the third Indian to claim two consecutive individual medals. Always a big event

for the Indian athletes, the Tokyo gold medalist managed his workload well. Despite some injury issues, Neeraj achieved his season best, 89.45m, which was close to his personal best 89.94m, to pick up a silver. The world champion needs to

get fitter to cross the much-awaited 90m mark. After their flop shows in 2016 and 2020, the Indian shooters bounced back. Following her Tokyo disappointment, pistol shooter Manu - who scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman shooter and

the first from the country to take two bronze medals in a Games (in 10m air pistol individual and mixed team with Sarabjot) - scripted a superb turnaround.

Kusale added another bronze in the 50m rifle 3-position event. Sehrawat, another prodigy of Delhi's famous Chhatrasal Stadium that produced wrestlers of the class of Sushil, Yogeshwar Dutt and Ravi Dahiya, gave a fine display to land India's solitary medal from wrestling.

Two-time World championships medalist Vineesh, dropping down to 50kg, gave the country reasons to celebrate by winning World and Olympic champion Yui Sasaki of Japan on her way to the final. But the joy was short-lived as the ace wrestler was overweight by 100gms during the weigh-in on the second morning ahead of her title clash.

She has appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against her disqualification and is claiming a silver for her efforts. Sports lovers will await CAS's decision, expected on Tuesday, to know whether the country manages to match its Tokyo medal tally.

The Indian hockey team showed consistency, despite the change in its coach about a year back, to retain its bronze medal. It delighted the crowd of Indians, who are emotionally attached to the sport for its rich history in the country.

It was a fitting farewell to seasoned goal-keeper P.R. Stepijeh.

The country matched its second-best finish of six medals, achieved in London 2012, and the performance, for which the central government spent hundreds of crores through the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) and Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) to provide full support to the athletes, may make the decision makers go in for a re-think.

To put the heart-breaking moments into perspective, they tell us the capability of the Indian athletes on the biggest stage.

These also underscore the necessity to continue with the all-round support to the athletes, which can be transformed into medals as the country aspires to bid for the 2036 Olympics. As Paris closed its third Games, India would do well to take a leaf out of France's book to transform itself as a sporting nation.

Kipyegon makes 1,500m history; USA underlines its dominance



What a show! The incredible Kipyegon completed a hat-trick, while Kerr won the high jump gold after a jump-off. AP & GETTY IMAGES

Agence France-Presse

PARIS

History-making Faith Kipyegon became the first woman to win three consecutive Olympic 1,500m titles as the United States bagged three more golds on Saturday to confirm its track and field dominance. "The final Olympic session at a packed 69,000-capacity Stade de France offered up another startling night of dramatic action. There was redemption for Jakob Ingebrigtsen in the 5,000m, while New Zealander Hamish Kerr won a jump-off for high jump gold. Kipyegon made history in spectacular style, the 30-year-old 2016 and 2020

champion producing a tactical masterpiece to take gold in a new Olympic record of 3min 51.29sec. It was another remarkable performance by Kipyegon, the reigning World champion and world record holder who can now arguably lay claim to being the greatest women's middle-distance runner in history. "It has been a week with a lot of emotions," said Kipyegon in reference to winning the 5,000m silver earlier in the week. "Tonight it is happiness and I am proud to win my third consecutive Olympic gold medal in the 1,500m." Kipyegon's teammate Emmanuel Wanyonyi made it two Kenyan golds on the night after he led

off world champion Marco Arop of Canada for victory in the men's 800m. In high jump, Kerr and American Shelby McEwen were locked on 2.36m at the end of regulation competition. But neither wanted to share and the pair went into a jump-off, the greatest world records in men and women's 4x400m relay teams to victory. "The women, who won in 3:15.27, narrowly missed out on breaking one of the oldest world records in athletics - the 3:15:17 set by the former Soviet Union in 1988. USA topped the athletics medals table with 14 golds, 11 silvers and nine bronzes. Kenya was second with four golds, two silvers and four bronzes.

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GOLDS

- ▶ Faith Kipyegon (Ken): Women's 1500m
- ▶ Hamish Kerr (NZ): Men's High Jump
- ▶ USA (Christopher Bailey, Vernon Norwood, Bryce Deadman, Rai Benjamin): Men's 4x400m Relay
- ▶ USA (Shaunier Little, Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone, Gabby Thomas, Alana Helms): Women's 4x400m Relay
- ▶ Wang Luyi & Wang Qiangyi (China): Artistic Swimming Duet Free Routine
- ▶ USA: Men's Basketball
- ▶ David Ahman & Jonathan Hellwig (Swe): Men's Beach Volleyball
- ▶ Lin Yu-ting (Tai): Boxing Women's 57kg
- ▶ Lydia Ko (NZ): Golf Women's Individual Stroke Play
- ▶ Sakura Motoki (Jpn): Wrestling Women's Freestyle 62kg
- ▶ Abdumalik Abdukozhev (Uzb): Boxing Men's 57kg
- ▶ Li Qian (Chi): Boxing Women's 75kg
- ▶ Bakhtodir Jalolov (Uzb): Boxing Men's 69kg
- ▶ Phil Wizard (Can): Breaking B-Bout
- ▶ China: Rhythmic Gymnastics Group All-Around
- ▶ China (Chen Meng, Wang Manyu, Sun Yingjia): Table Tennis Women's 4x400m relay teams to victory.
- ▶ Arisa Saitani (Jpn): Taekwondo Men's +80kg
- ▶ Athina Lazarin (Fra): Taekwondo Women's +67kg
- ▶ Lasha Talakhadze (Geo): Weightlifting Men's +102kg
- ▶ Sofrid Koanda (Nor): Weightlifting Women's 81kg
- ▶ Sifan Hassan (Ned): Athletics Women's Marathon
- ▶ Li Wenwen (Chi): Weightlifting Women's +81kg
- ▶ Kiyooka Kitano (Jpn): Wrestling



Laveysen... pedalling to three golds. GETTY IMAGES

Final medals table

Country	G	S	B	T
1 USA	40	44	42	126
2 China	40	27	24	91
3 Japan	20	17	15	52
4 Australia	18	19	15	52
5 France	16	26	22	64
6 Netherlands	15	7	12	34
7 Great Britain	14	22	25	65
8 Korea	13	9	10	32
9 Italy	12	13	15	40
10 Germany	12	13	8	33
11 India	6	1	5	12

- Men's Freestyle 61kg
- ▶ Akhmed Takhidov (Bri): Wrestling Men's Freestyle 97kg
- ▶ Raganaka Naka (Jpn): Wrestling Men's Freestyle 79kg
- ▶ Michelle Glynnis (Aus): Modern Pentathlon Women's Individual
- ▶ Italy: Volleyball Women
- ▶ Denmark: Football Men
- ▶ Henrik Laveysen (Ned): Cycling Track Men's Keirin
- ▶ Jennifer Valente (USA): Cycling Track Women's Omnium
- ▶ Ellisee Andrews (NZ): Cycling Track Women's Sprint
- ▶ Serbia: Water Polo Men
- ▶ USA: Basketball Women

India's pride






The chosen ones: Manu and Sreesesh snapped before leading Team India at the Closing Ceremony. ANI/ANNA

POSTCARD FROM PARIS

A gesture In a gesture to the contribution of journalists covering the sport, former India captain and Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey invited some of them over for lunch to celebrate the national hockey team's second consecutive bronze medal win in the Olympics. Tirkey, always warm towards the scribes that have followed him in his long career and even beyond it, underlined the importance of sports writers in the growth of the sport and requested everyone present to give their autographs on a piece of cloth, which he planned to frame in the HI office. A call from hockey great Dhanraj Pillay to acknowledge the role of journalists in popularising the sport made the occasion all the more special. The big sale With the Olympics drawing to a close, the organisers decided to offer huge discounts and as a result one could find long queues in front of the merchandising outlets with fans grabbing the opportunity to purchase the Paris 2024 products for their near and dear ones. — Y.B. Sarangi

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6	Netherlands	15	7	12	34
7	Great Britain	14	22	29	65
8	Korea	13	9	10	32
9	Italy	12	13	15	40
10	Germany	12	13	8	33
71	India	0	1	5	6



Winning over: Wizard had the crowd against him in the final, but he soon had them eating out of his hand. GETTY IMAGES

Canada's Wizard wins men's breaking title

Agence France-Presse

PARIS

Canada's B-Boy Phil Wizard won the inaugural Olympic men's breaking gold in Paris on Saturday, beating France's Dany Dann in the final.

Phil Wizard, whose real name is Philip Kim, triumphed, with B-Boy Vic-

tor of the US taking bronze.

The competition saw 16 dancers going head-to-head in a series of battles, starting with a pool stage before moving to a knock-out round.

The B-Boys showcased phenomenal athleticism and creativity, wowing the crowd at one of Paris' most elegant public spaces.

Haryana is now the unique State that guarantees purchase of all crops at MSP

Mhara Haryana Non-Stop Haryana

In the last 8 seasons, Rs. 1.12 lakh crore for crop purchase deposited directly into the accounts of farmers

Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana

‘Students brought her down because they felt stifled... but when Mujib’s statues were destroyed, we cried’

On the streets of Dhaka as regime changes: Protesters manage traffic, anti-Hasina writing on the wall



SHUBHAJI ROY
AUGUST 11
UNTIL, EXACTLY a week ago, Obhik, 19, was among the stu-

dents who hit the streets in protest against the then Sheikh Hasina government. Today, he is back on the road — this time as a student volunteer, supervising the traffic in the busy Shaahbag area, next to the Dhaka University campus.

If a week is a long time in politics, the last seven days in Dhaka mark a veritable change of era. Stunning speed has marked

the regime change: from Sheikh Hasina leaving the country to an interim government being put in place under Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus — to a new Chief Justice being sworn in Sunday.

“We got rid of the government, now we will have to take up the responsibilities. My feet hurt but it is our responsibility to serve the people,” says the sec-



Student volunteers manage the traffic at the Shaahbag Junction in Dhaka on Sunday. Shubhaji Roy

ond-year student of architecture, who suffered a fracture in his right arm facing lashcharge and teargas when he was on the other side of the picket lines.

It is the first day of the working week and roads are busy. Obhik says he’s been on traffic duty since 11 am, and was at his post till evening despite a dizziness.

Facing the wrath of the people for siding with the government and shooting at protesters, the police are not turning up for work. Last Sunday, more than 100

SAMMAN SEHRAWAT!
KUSTI AMIN CHUSTI LAYE



Shooter Manu Bhaker and hockey goalkeeper P R Sreejesh ahead of the closing ceremony of the 2024 Summer Olympics, in Paris on Sunday. **MORE REPORTS, P 17, 18**

Paris leaves India with a few smiles and many red flags



MHIR VASAVDA
PARIS, AUGUST 11

letes didn’t land on these shores as tourists. But they will still return with a lingering sense of disappointment.

The country’s Paris Olympics campaign ended with six medals — one silver and five bronze. There could be another, with an asterisk, as the Court of Arbitration for Sport is yet to pronounce its verdict in Vinesh Phogat’s plea for a silver. But there were also six agonising fourth-place finishes, more than ever, to mark the bitter-sweet campaign that ebbed as the Games progressed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

NEW HINDENBURG REPORT Sebi backs chief Buch: Disclosed, recused on conflict of interest

Investment made in 2015... we were private citizens: Madhabi, husband

HITESH VYAS & GEORGE MATHW
MUMBAI, AUGUST 11

A DAY AFTER the US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research made a series of allegations against Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, Sebi came out in Buch’s defence and said the regulator has adequate internal mechanisms to address issues related to conflict of interest, which include disclosure framework and provision for recusal.

Relevant disclosures required in terms of holdings of securities, and their transfers have been made by the Chairperson from time to time, SEBI said on Sunday. “Chairperson has also recused herself in matters in-



Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch. **PHOTO: ANIL KUMAR**

As Buch digs heels in, key query: Did she disclose fund linked to Adani?

SANDEEP SINGH, RITU SARIN & P VAIDYANATHAN IYER
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, AUG 11

volving potential conflicts of interest,” the regulator said, backing its Chairperson and advising investors to remain calm and exercise due diligence.

The SEBI press statement **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

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PAGE 15

Opp wants Buch to quit, JPC probe; bid to create economic chaos: BJP

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VIKAS PATHAK & ARUN JARADHANAN
NEW DELHI, CHENNAI, AUG 11

THE ALLEGATIONS levelled by US-based Hindenburg Research against SEBI chairperson Madhabi Buch triggered a political firestorm Sunday. While



Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge. **PHOTO: ANIL KUMAR**

Congress and the TMC demanded a JPC probe into the allegations, the BJP dismissed the charges and accused the Opposition of using its “connections abroad” to create “economic chaos.”

At the same time, BJP’s Tamil Nadu president K Annamalai took a more nuanced line, calling for a thorough probe and promising action if wrongdoing was found but asserting that Hindenburg had made **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

Dabbu, Rudra & a mango: How a children’s scuffle turned into murder case that dragged on for 40 yrs

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

AJOY SINHA KARPURAM & MANISH SAHU
NEW DELHI, GONDIA, AUGUST 11

DABBU HAD SPOTTED the mango. Rudra said it was his. On a hot April day back in 1984, two friends fought over the fallen mango near a field in Lorhiya Ghata village in Uttar Pradesh’s Gondia district. The fruit would go on to extract a steep price, re-



Rudra Pratap Singh stands near the mango tree where the fight broke out in 1984. (right) Brijesh Singh alias Dabbu at his home in Lorhiya Ghata village in UP’s Gondia. **PHOTO: SURESH**

sulting in a murder case that would drag on for 40 years and traverse the length of the Indian judiciary, from the lowest court all the way up to the Supreme Court.

On July 24, the Supreme Court converted the conviction of murder in the case to the less stringent culpable homicide. But by the time the ruling came, two of the accused — Rudra Pratap Singh’s father Ajoy Sinha and uncle Lalji Singh — had already been dead for more than a decade and the relationship between **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

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BHUPINDER SINGH
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PAGE 14

Day after J&K gunfight: Injured civilian dies, forces widen search ops

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 11

ONE OF the two civilians wounded in an encounter between security forces and militants in south Kashmir’s Anantnag district on Saturday succumbed to his injuries on Sunday, police said.

Two soldiers, identified as Havildar Deepak Kumar Yadav and Lance Naik Praveen Sharma, were killed on Saturday in the en-

counter that broke out after a joint team of the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Army launched a search operation in the mountainous forests of the Ahan Gadde area of Kokernag in Anantnag. The civilian who died Sunday was identified as Abdul Rashid Dar.

The security forces’ operation against the militants continued **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

RELATED REPORTS
PAGES 8, 9

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PAGE 12

The Edge of Nutrition 2024
FOOD FOR THOUGHT
FASTA PIZZA

HAPPIEST HEALTH
Senior Advisor, Nutrition, JEEPCO

24th August, 2024
9 AM Onwards
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How Centre's Clean Plant Programme plans to boost production of fruits

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

THE UNION CABINET on Friday approved the Clean Plant Programme (CPP), aimed at increasing the yield and productivity of horticulture crops in India.

First announced in Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's interim Budget speech in February 2023, the CPP is also targeted at enhancing the quality of fruit crops across the nation.

The Ministry of Agriculture has sought an allocation of Rs 1,765 crore for the programme. One half of this will be sourced from the budget of the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), while the other half will be in the form of a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

How will the CPP work?

The programme has three main components geared towards helping farmers ob-

tain virus-free, high-quality planting material (plants used for vegetative propagation) in order to increase crop yields and improve income opportunities. These are:

- Development of nine Clean Plant Centers (CPCs) which will provide disease diagnostics and therapeutics, create mother

plants to be sent to nurseries, and quarantine all domestic and imported planting materials intended for commercial propagation and distribution;

- Enhancement of infrastructure, including the development of large-scale nurseries to facilitate the efficient multiplication of clean planting material — the mother plants obtained from the CPCs will be multiplied in nurseries and distributed to farmers;

- Creation of regulatory and certification process to ensure thorough accountability and traceability in the production and sale of planting material.

What is the need for the CPP?

India is the second largest producer of

fruits and vegetables in the world after China. From 2013-14 to 2023-24, the area under horticulture crops has risen from 24 million

hectares to 28.63 million hectares, and production has increased from 277.4 million metric tonnes (mt) to 352 million mt.

India is also a major importer and exporter of fresh fruits. In the financial year 2023-24, India exported fresh fruits worth \$1.15 billion,

while it imported fruits worth \$2.73 billion. With the rising consumption of fruits in the country, demand has specifically increased for planting materials of foreign apples, and "exotics" such as avocado and blueberry.

According to sources, between 2018-20, the EXIM committee for import of planting material of fruit plants permitted the import of 21.44 lakh apple plants in 2018, which increased to 49.57 lakh in 2020. In 2018, permission was given to import only 1,000 avocado plants which increased to 26,500 in 2020. Similarly, permissions for the import of blueberry plants went up from 1.55 lakh in 2018 to 4.35 lakh in 2020.

At present, the process of importing plants is very cumbersome, with imported plants having to be kept in quarantine for two years. The CPCs will cut this period down to six months, and thus make it easier for farmers to access disease free and genuine planting material for horticultural crops in India.

The concept of CPCs is on the lines of projects in countries like the US, Israel, and the Netherlands.

NINE CITIES, NINE CLEAN PLANT CENTERS LINKED TO ICAR INSTITUTES

The CPCs will be established in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for specific horticulture crops. Each CPC will be linked to a different ICAR institute.

- IN PUNE, the CPC for grapes will be linked to the National Research Centre for Grapes, Pune

- IN BENGALURU, the CPC will cater to four crops — mango, guava, dragon fruit, and avocado — and be linked to the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru

- IN NAGPUR, a CPC for citrus fruits will be developed at the Central Citrus Research Institute, Nagpur

- IN BIKANER, another CPC for citrus fruits will be developed at the Central Institute of Arid Horticulture, Bikaner

- IN SRINAGAR, a CPC for temperate fruits — apple, almond, walnut, berries, etc. — will be developed at the Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), Srinagar

- IN MUKTESHWAR, another CPC for temperate fruits will be developed at the CITH's regional station in Mukteshwar

- IN SOLAPUR, a CPC for pomegranate will be linked to the National Research Center on Pomegranate, Solapur

- IN EAST INDIA, a CPC for tropical and subtropical plants will be developed in collaboration with to ICAR's East India Horticulture Centres in West Bengal and Jharkhand

- IN LUCKNOW, the Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture will develop a CPC for mango, guava, and litchi

**EXPLAINED
POLICY**

- The article discusses the Union Cabinet's approval of the Clean Plant Programme (CPP) aimed at increasing the yield and productivity of horticulture crops in India.

The program, announced in the interim Budget speech by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in February 2023, also focuses on enhancing the quality of fruit crops across the nation.

Budget Allocation:

The Ministry of Agriculture has sought an allocation of Rs 1,765 crore for the program.

Half of this will come from the budget of the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), and the other half from a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).



- **Programme Components:**

- Establishment of nine Clean Plant Centers (CPCs) linked with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes.
- The CPCs will provide disease diagnostics, create mother plants for commercial propagation, and quarantine all domestic and imported planting material.
- Enhancement of infrastructure to support large-scale nurseries and facilitate multiplication of clean planting material.

- **Locations of CPCs:**

- **Pune:** Grapes, linked to the National Research Centre for Grapes.
- **Bikaner:** Citrus fruits, linked to the Central Institute of Arid Horticulture.
- **Nagpur:** Citrus fruits, linked to the Central Citrus Research Institute.
- **Solapur:** Pomegranate, linked to the National Research Center on Pomegranate.
- **Srinagar and Mukteshwar:** Temperate fruits (apple, almond, walnut, etc.), linked to the Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture.

- **Bengaluru:** Mango, guava, dragon fruit, and avocado, linked to the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research. **Lucknow:** Mango, guava, and subtropical fruits, linked to the Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture. **East India:** Citrus and subtropical plants, in collaboration with ICAR's centers in West Bengal and Jharkhand.

1. Need for CPP:

1. India is the second-largest producer of fruits and vegetables globally, with an increasing area under horticulture crops.
2. The demand for planting materials for foreign fruits such as avocado and blueberry has risen, leading to increased imports.
3. Current processes for importing plants are cumbersome, with lengthy quarantine periods. The CPP aims to cut this period and facilitate easier access to disease-free and genuine planting material.

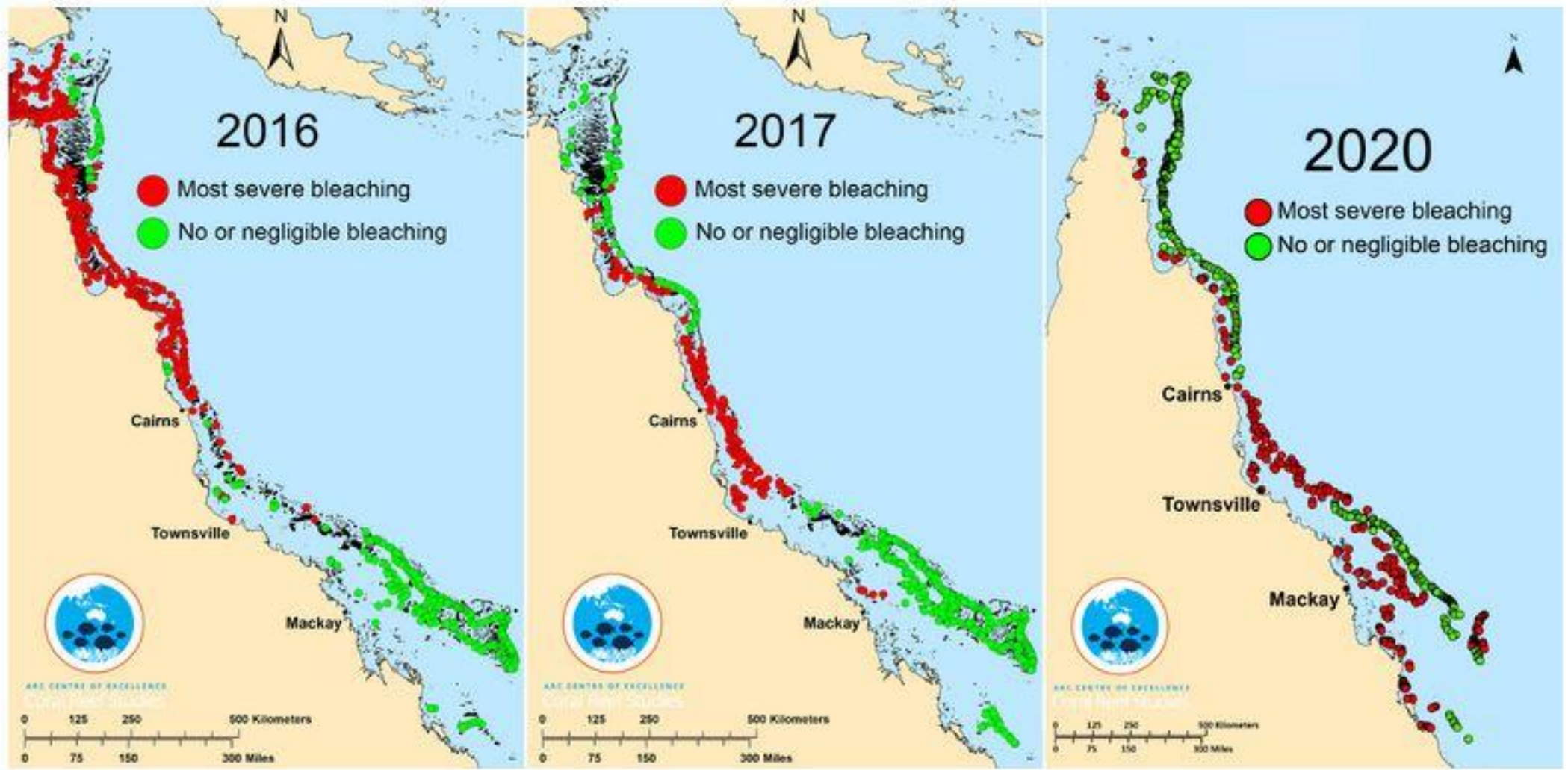
- What is one of the primary objectives of the Clean Plant Programme (CPP) as discussed in the article?
 - 1.To import more fruits from foreign countries to meet domestic demand.
 - 2.To establish a network of Clean Plant Centers (CPCs) across India to enhance the quality and yield of horticulture crops.
 - 3.To reduce the export of Indian fruits to increase domestic availability.
 - 4.To increase the area under horticulture crops by 50% in the next five years.

An underwater photograph showing clear blue water with sunlight filtering through the surface, creating a shimmering effect. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

Warming of Great Barrier Reef Waters







Mass bleaching events on the Great Barrier Reef in 2016, 2017 and 2020. (Credit: ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies)

(Rainforests of the seas)



About

- ✦ **Large underwater structures** – made of skeletons of **colonial marine invertebrates** 'coral' – individually called **polyp**
- ✦ **Symbiotic Relationship** with **algae** 'zooxanthellae' (responsible for beautiful colours of corals)
- ✦ Support over 25% of marine biodiversity

Hard Corals vs Soft Corals

- ✦ **Hard Corals** - Rigid skeleton made of **CaCO₃** - reef-building corals
- ✦ **Soft Corals** - Non reef-building

Great Barrier Reef (Australia)

- ✦ Largest Coral Reef in the World
- ✦ World Heritage Site (1981)
- ✦ Endures Mass Coral Bleaching



Corals in India

- ✦ Present in the areas of Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar, Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep Islands and Malvan



Significance

- ✦ Coral reefs **protect coastlines from storms/erosion**, provide jobs, offer opportunities for recreation
- ✦ Source of **food/medicines**

Threats

- ✦ **Natural:** Temperature, Sediment Deposition, Salinity, pH, etc.
- ✦ **Anthropogenic:** Mining, Bottom Fishing, Tourism, pollution, etc.

Coral Bleaching

- ✦ Corals under stress - expel algae – thus turning white (bleached)
- ✦ Bleached corals - not dead – but, more risk of starvation/disease



Initiatives to Protect Corals

Technology

- ✦ **Cyromesh:** Storage of the coral larvae at (-196°C) - Can be later reintroduced to the wild
- ✦ **Biorock:** Creating artificial reefs on which coral can grow rapidly



Global

- ✦ International Coral Reef Initiative
- ✦ The Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform







Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park



AREA
344,400 km²

LENGTH
2300 km long

70 million
football fields

Roughly the
same area as...



ITALY



JAPAN



GERMANY



MALAYSIA

3000



coral reefs

600



continental islands

1625



types of fish

133

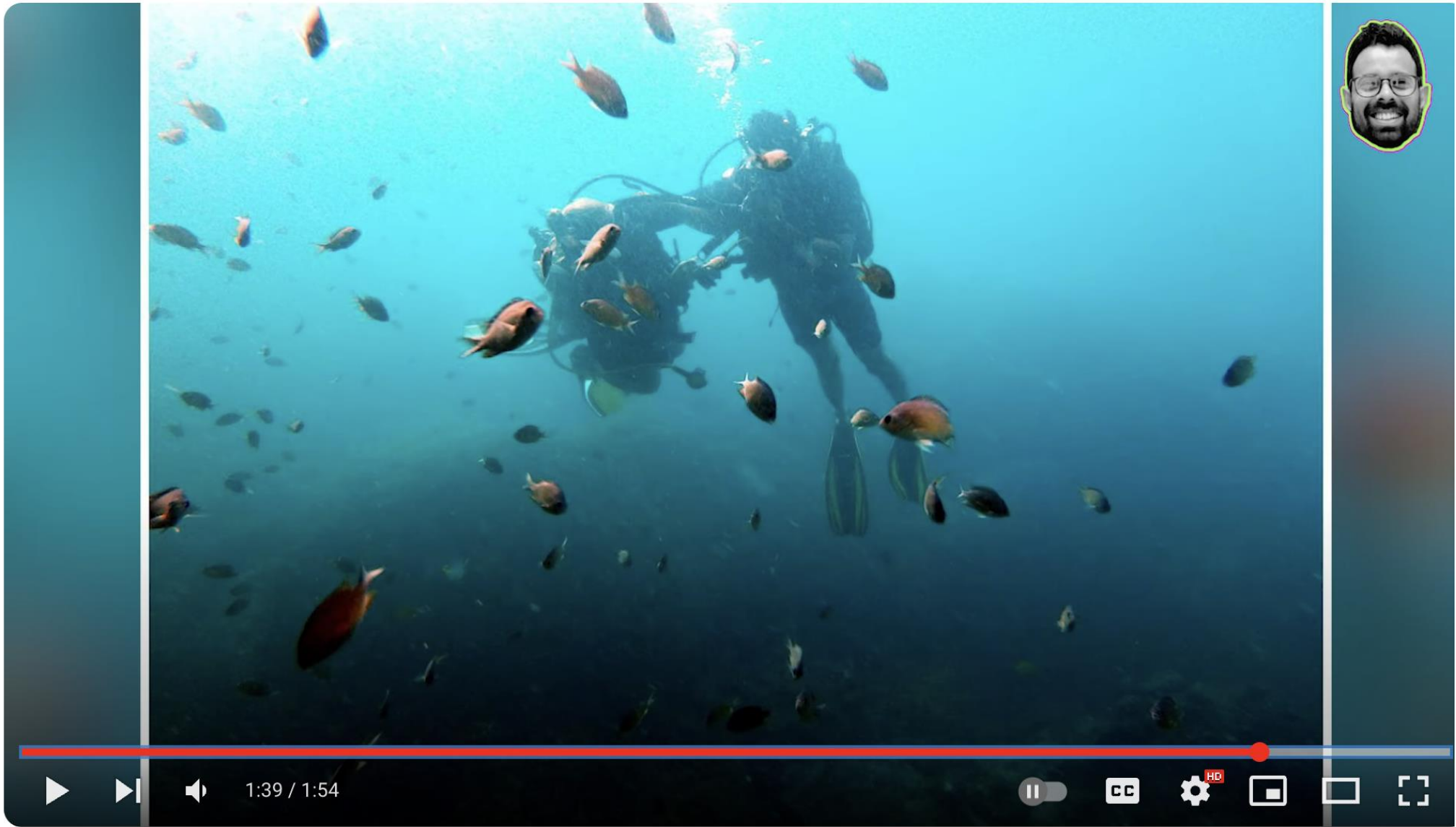


varieties of
sharks and rays

600



types of soft
and hard corals



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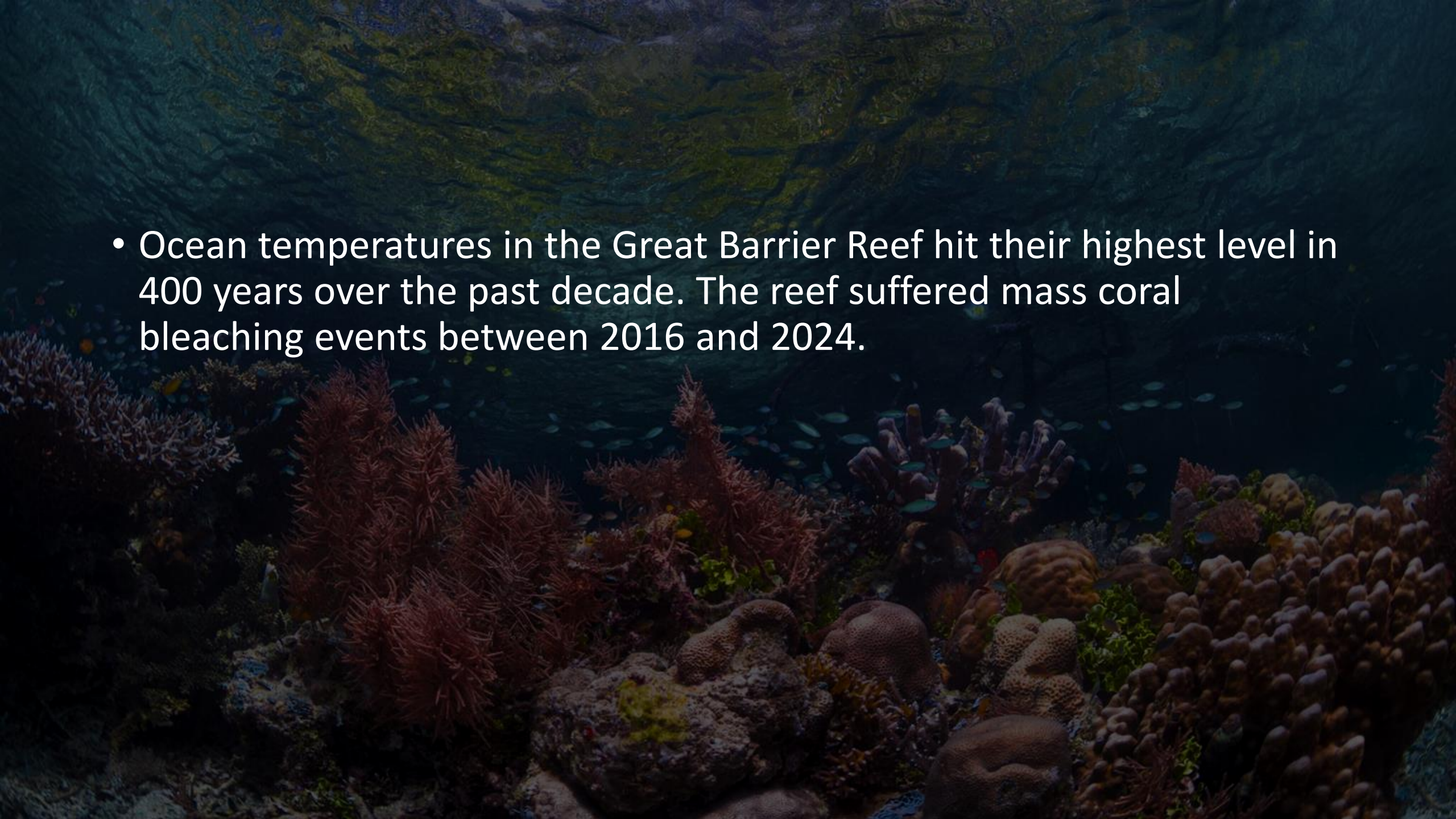
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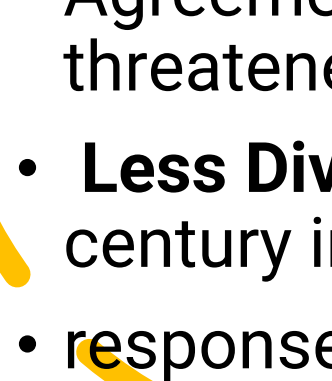
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- 
- An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The water is dark blue. In the foreground, there are various types of coral, including some that appear bleached (white and brown) and others that are still vibrant. Small fish are visible swimming in the water. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.
- Ocean temperatures in the Great Barrier Reef hit their highest level in 400 years over the past decade. The reef suffered mass coral bleaching events between 2016 and 2024.

- 
- Great Barrier Reef (GBR)
 - The GBR is the world's largest coral reef system. It's located in the Coral Sea
 - off the coast of **Queensland, Australia.**
 - It stretches across 2,300 km and is made up of around 3,000 individual reefs
 - and 900 islands. The GBR is home to 400 types of coral, and 1,500 species of fish.
 - It's also home to endangered species such as the dugong and the large green turtle.

- 
- The GBR is a UNESCO World Heritage site and was inscribed in 1981. Widespread mass bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef was first seen in 1998 and happened again in 2002, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2022 and 2024.
- 

- 
- What are the Research Findings?
 - **Coral Bleaching:** Aerial surveys of more than 300 reefs along **Australia's northeast coast** revealed bleaching in shallow waters, affecting two-thirds of the reef.
 - **Rising Threats:** Even if global warming is kept under the Paris Agreement's goal, 70% to 90% of corals across the globe could be threatened.
 - **Less Diversity:** Coral reefs have been evolving over the past quarter century in
 - response to bleaching events.
- 

- What are Coral Reefs?
- About:
- Coral reefs are marine ecosystems primarily composed of coral polyps that form symbiotic relationships with zooxanthellae, a photosynthetic algae.
- The zooxanthellae provide corals with nutrients and oxygen, while corals offer shelter. This mutualism is vital for the health and survival of coral reefecosystems.





- **Q.Consider the following statements: (2018)**

1. Most of the world's coral reefs are in tropical waters.
2. More than one-third of the world's coral reefs are located in the territories of
3. Australia, Indonesia and Philippines.
4. Coral reefs host far more number of animal phyla than those hosted by tropical
5. rainforests.

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

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

-



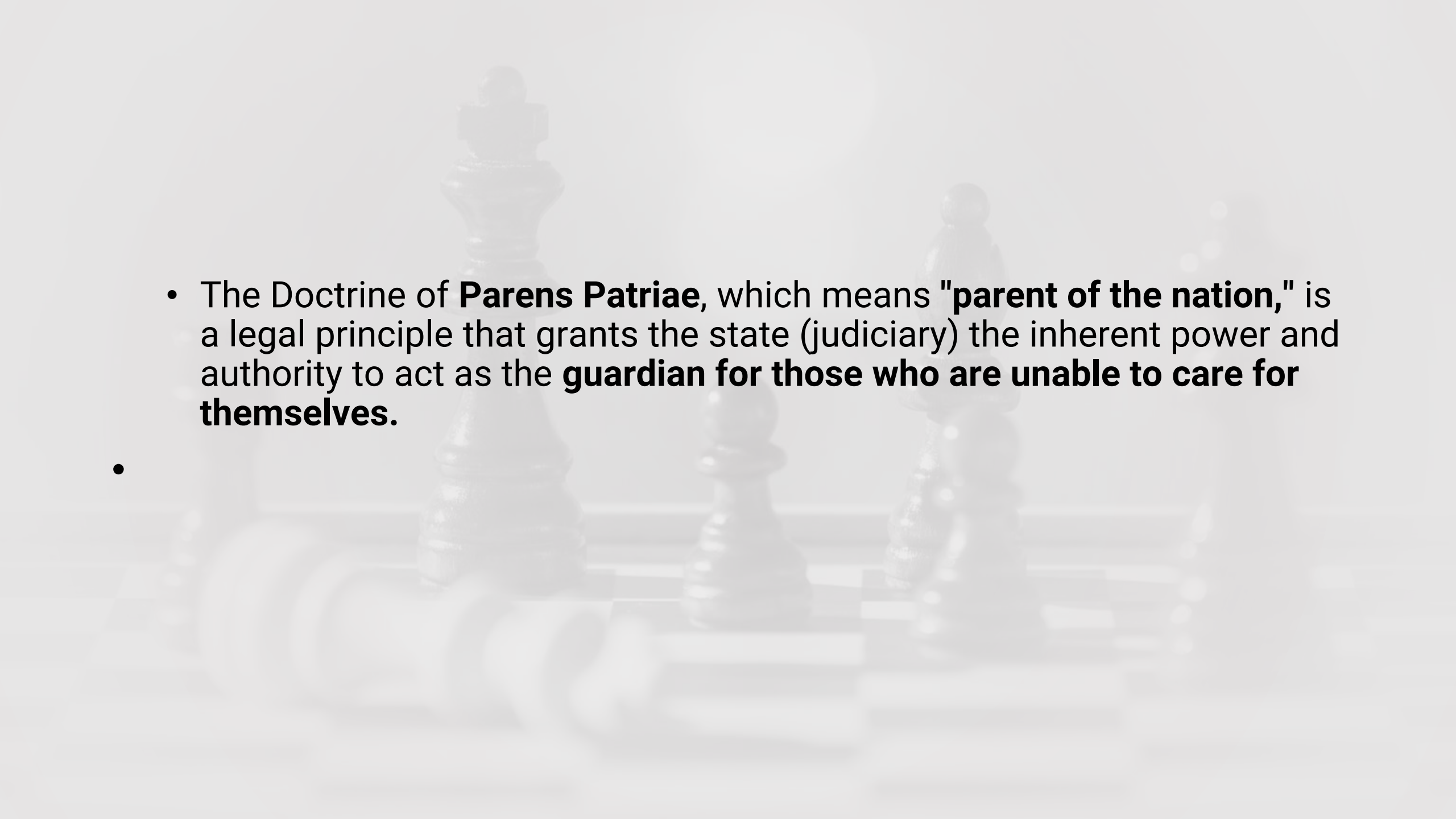


Idol in Temple Must be Treated as a
Living Person

- Recently, the Madras High Court observed that an idol is treated as a juristic personality in law during a case involving the closure of a temple for 10 years without customary pujas due to a dispute between the communities over the issue of Untouchability.

- The court emphasised the responsibility of the administration to prevent the illegal closure of temples and ensure adherence to worship rights.
- The Court recognized the **idol in a temple can hold property and engage in legal actions**. A temple must remain open for worship and customary rituals.


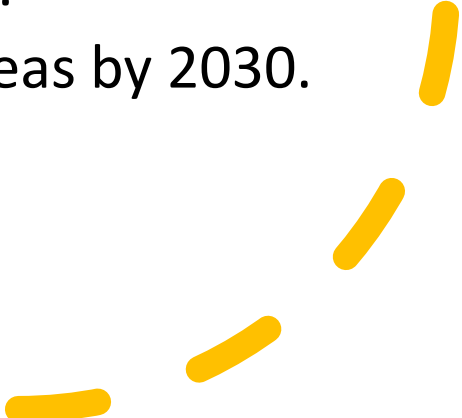
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- 
- The Doctrine of **Parens Patriae**, which means "**parent of the nation**," is a legal principle that grants the state (judiciary) the inherent power and authority to act as the **guardian for those who are unable to care for themselves**.

-



Landslide Early Warning Systems (LEWS) in India

- 
- India launched its first regional early warning system for rain-induced landslides
 - **About LEWS**
 - It is developed by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), and is designed to predict the likelihood of landslides based on rainfall data.
 - The **National Landslide Forecasting Centre** started by the GSI.
 - **Current Coverage:** Daily forecasts are provided for Kalimpong, Darjeeling, and the Nilgiris.
 - It will Extend coverage to other areas by 2030.
- 


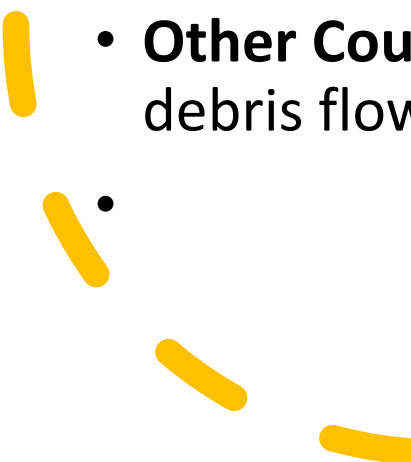
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Function

Prediction: Assess likelihood of landslides.

Dissemination: Share information to mitigate impacts.

Response: Enable timely action based on forecasts.

- 
- **Types:**
 - **Regional Systems:** Forecasts over larger areas but cannot pinpoint specific slopes.
 - **Slope-Specific Systems:** More detailed, targeting individual slopes.
 - **International Comparisons:**
 - **Hong Kong:** Effective communication through door-to-door campaigns.
 - **Other Countries:** Italy, the US, and Japan have developed advanced systems for debris flows.
- 

Word of the day

Incinerate:

become reduced to ashes; cause to undergo combustion

Synonym: burn

Usage: *The paper incinerated quickly.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/incineratepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪnˈsɪnəreɪt/



Fun fact

Fun fact



- **Olympic Medals:** The last Olympic gold medals that were made entirely out of gold were awarded in 1912. Today, gold medals are primarily made of silver and coated with about 6 grams of gold.

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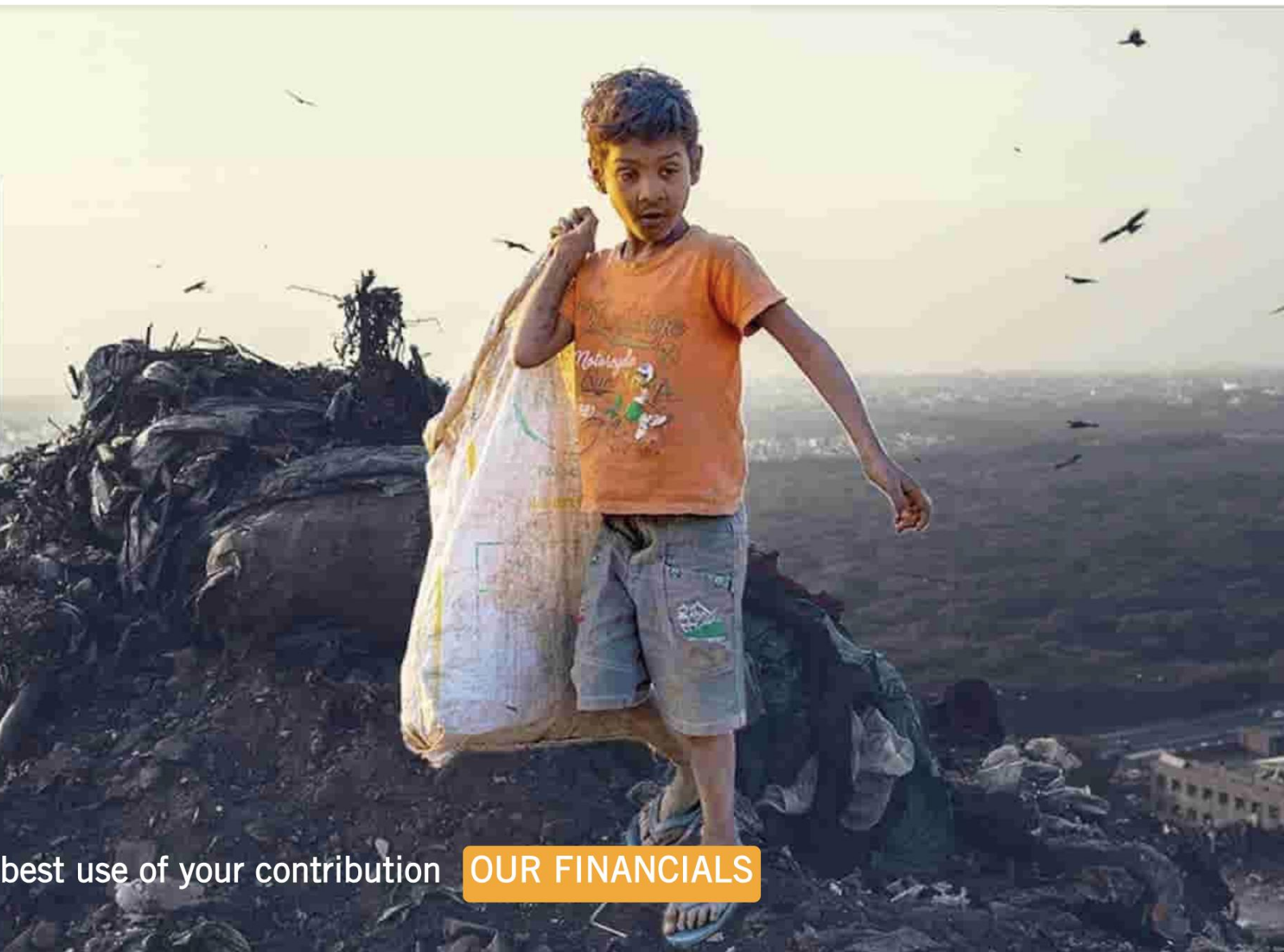
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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, with a blueish tint. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange horizontal bar and a cluster of small, glowing red dots of varying sizes.

Thank you
guys.
