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Parade

"We are all born so
beautiful. The greatest
tragedy is being
convinced we are not."

— Rupi Kaur



THE IDENTITY QUESTION
India's mosaic children
In a country with strong regional identities, domicile policies tend to have far-reaching consequences for those with mixed parentage or for migrants and the displaced
MAGAZINED PAGE 2



The return of the Islamist movement in Bangladesh
PROFILES > PAGE 9
PM bats for just and inclusive global governance
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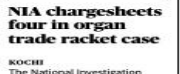
INSIDE



Sabarmati Express details in U.P.; no casualties
LUCKNOW
As many as 20 coaches of the Sabarmati Express train no. 19168 from Varanasi to Ahmedabad derailed between the Kanpur and Bhimesh stations in Uttar Pradesh early on Saturday morning after its engine struck an object on the tracks. No casualties or injuries have been reported. > PAGE 3



Nadda monitors monkeypox preparedness
NEW DELHI
With the World Health Organization declaring monkeypox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, a detailed review of the country's preparedness was taken up by the Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda in a meeting with senior officials on Saturday. > PAGE 5



NIA chargesheeted four in organ trade racket case
KOCHI
The National Investigation Agency on Saturday chargesheeted four accused in an international organ trade racket which was busted by the Kerala Police after a man returning from Iran was detained at the Cochin International Airport early this year. > PAGE 5

Governor gives nod to prosecute Karnataka CM

Emergency meet of State Cabinet says it is 'illegal, unconstitutional, against spirit of democracy'; Siddaramaiah rules out resignation, thanks Cabinet colleagues for 'complete solidarity'; Gehlot cites in his communication a 2004 ruling by a five-judge Supreme Court Bench related to Madhya Pradesh, seeks neutral, objective, and non-partisan probe

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU
Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot on Saturday sanctioned the investigation and prosecution of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in a case of alleged corruption in the allotment of land to his wife by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).
The sanction has been given based on petitions submitted by two Bengaluru-based social activists Pradeep Kumar S.P. and T.J. Abraham, and Mysuru-based social activists Snehamay Krishna. A six-page communication to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajnesh by the Governor's Secretariat on Saturday said that sanction has been given under Section 17A [for investigation] of the Prevention of Corrup-



Here seat: Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar addressing the media on Saturday. SHASHI SHEKHAR HASHWANI

tion Act, 1988, and Section 218 [for prosecution] of the Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Samithi, 2023, "for the commission of the alleged offences mentioned in the petitions."
Later on Saturday, Mr. Siddaramaiah chaired an emergency meeting of the State Cabinet, which unanimously condemned Mr. Gehlot's decision, terming it "illegal, unconstitutional and against the spirit of democracy and federalism" and decided to fight the case legally.
The Chief Minister ruled out his resignation and thanked his Cabinet colleagues for expressing complete solidarity with him.
In his communication, the Governor cited a 2004 ruling by a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court related to Madhya Pradesh. He said that the

BJP demands Siddaramaiah's resignation

NEW DELHI
The Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday sought the resignation of Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to ensure an "impartial and independent" probe into his alleged role in the MUDA site allotment scam. > PAGE 4

prima facie satisfied that the allegations and the supporting materials disclose commission of offences... I am satisfied that sanction can be accorded against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on the allegations," he said.
State Ministers and other Congress leaders accused the Governor of acting at the behest of the BJP leadership, accusing the

BJP of misusing the Raj Bhavan to destabilise the Congress government in Karnataka. The Opposition BJP and Janata Dal(S) hailed the Governor's decision, and reiterated their demand for Mr. Siddaramaiah to step down.
How events panned out
The Governor had issued a show-cause notice to Mr. Siddaramaiah on July 26, hours after the complaint was filed, asking why prosecution should not be permitted in the case of alleged irregularities in the distribution of sites in MUDA. On August 3, the Chief Minister replied, denying the allegations.
In the intervening period on August 1, the State Cabinet "strongly advised" Mr. Gehlot to reject the petition and withdraw the show-cause notice. The Chief Minister had recused

himself from the Cabinet meeting and authorised his deputy D.K. Shivakumar to chair the meeting of the Council of Ministers. The Deputy CM accused the Union government of attempting to destabilise a democratically elected government in Karnataka.
The Governor rejected this advice.
Mr. Siddaramaiah has been claiming that the MUDA had legally allotted 24 alternative residential sites to his wife Parvathi, in lieu of "illegally" taking over her land without any acquisition process. "Accepting the mistake," a MUDA committee allotted the alternative sites in 2021, at a time when the BJP was in power in Karnataka. The CM denied any role in the allotment of sites.
LEGALITY OF THE MOVE > PAGE 4

People's champion



Wrestler Vinesh Phogat breaks down as people welcome her at the New Delhi airport on Saturday. SHASHI SHEKHAR HASHWANI/REPORT ORG PAGE 131

IMA strike affects patients; association weighs Centre's plan for safety of doctors

Rindu Shajan Perappanadan

NEW DELHI
The Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry on Saturday requested agitating doctors to resume their duties "in the larger public interest" and assured them that a committee would be formed to "suggest all possible measures" for ensuring the safety of healthcare professionals.
Doctors across the country participated in a 24-hour strike called by the Indian Medical Association (IMA), which began at 6 a.m. on Saturday, to protest against the rape and murder of a resident doctor at K.J. Somaiya Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Khar, Mumbai, on Saturday.



Doctors, health workers protest in Kochi on Saturday. THILASH KAVRAT

The IMA has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that doctors, especially women, are vulnerable to violence because of the nature of the profession. "It is for the authorities to provide for the safety of doctors inside hospitals and campuses," it said while listing out demands including assured security and restricted duty hours. "We appeal to you for your intervention. This will give confidence to not only women doctors but also to every woman in the workplace. Sixty per cent of Indian doctors are women. All healthcare professionals deserve their due respect and safety at the workplace," the IMA said.
Earlier, the Ministry announced that "a committee will be formed to suggest all possible measures for ensuring the safety of healthcare professionals. Representatives of all sta-

Ukraine used U.S.-made rockets to strike Kursk: Russia

Reuters MOSCOW

Russia's Foreign Ministry said Ukraine had used Western rockets, likely U.S.-made HIMARS, to destroy a bridge over the Seym river in the Kursk region, killing volunteers trying to evacuate civilians.
"For the first time, the Kursk region was hit by Western-made rocket launchers, probably American HIMARS," Maria Zakharova, spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, said late on Friday on the Telegram messaging app.
"As a result of the attack on the bridge over the

Seym River in the Glushkovo district, it was completely destroyed, and volunteers who were assisting the evacuated civilian population were killed." Russia has accused the West of supporting and encouraging Ukraine's first ground offensive on Russian territory and said Kyiv's "terrorist invasion" would not change the course of the war.
The United States, which has said it cannot allow Russian President Vladimir Putin to win the war he launched in February 2022, so far deems the surprise incursion a protective move that justifies the use of U.S. weaponry, officials in Washington said.
Russia kept up its assault on Ukraine on Saturday even as Ukrainian forces pushed into Russia's Kursk border region.
Kursk on edge
Meanwhile, fighting continued in Russia's Kursk region, where Ukrainian troops have been deployed since Aug. 6 in a bid to divert the Kremlin's military focus away from the front line in Ukraine.

that injured two persons and also damaged cars and nearby buildings, said Ukraine's State Emergency Service. It said that the hit had involved an Iskander-X cruise missile and an aerial bomb.
Ukraine's air force also said it had shot down 14 Russian drones overnight, including over the Kyiv region.
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Kursk on edge
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IN BRIEF



Cancer medicines trigger radioactive alarm at airport

The Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport in Lucknow on Saturday afternoon faced a brief scare and panic after a radioactive alarm went off in the cargo area of Terminal 3. The airport authorities called the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force teams, and an area of roughly one kilometre radius was evacuated as a precautionary measure. Later, the shipment in question, which contained cancer medicines, was declared safe. The incident did not impact flight operations. "There were no casualties, and operations continued without disruption," said a statement from the Lucknow airport.

Air India cabin crew member assaulted at London hotel

An Air India cabin crew member was sexually assaulted at London on Thursday night after an intruder entered her hotel room. Air India sources said that the incident happened at Radisson Red Hotel in Heathrow, London, and added that the crew had on many occasions raised the issue of inadequate safety and being stalked on the premises. The survivor was taken to the hospital and is now on her way home to Mumbai, said airline sources. "We are providing all possible support to our colleagues, including professional counselling," the airline said. The matter is also being pursued with the local police and the hotel management.

Bring back Netaji's remains to India, demands his daughter

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's daughter Anita Bose Pfaff has joined other members of the Netaji family demanding that the mortal remains of the national hero be brought to the country. Ms. Bose Pfaff, in a statement shared during the 75th Independence Day, stated that it was time that the remains of one of India's greatest heroes of the freedom struggle be brought home. "For 79 years, Japan, especially three generations of head priests of Renkoji Temple in Tokyo, have provided a home for his mortal remains in exile," she said, noting that many Indians continue to remember Netaji with gratitude and affection after all these years.

VHP plans nationwide Dharm Sammelans in SC/ST clusters

In an attempt to strengthen its outreach to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities and to counter the Opposition's claims that the BJP wants to make changes to the Constitution, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) is set to organise 'Dharm Sammelans' (religious conferences) in SC/ST clusters and villages across the country. Many seers will visit and eat at Dalit homes as part of the campaign which is scheduled to start a month before Deepavali. A senior VHP leader told *The Hindu* that heads of various religious sects have been urged to visit slum areas. The Kashmiri Swamiji Sakshat Singh will also join the campaign at several places.

SUDOKU

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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Nadda monitors India's monkeypox preparedness

While there have been no reported cases of monkeypox in the country, the World Health Organization has declared the disease a Public Health Emergency of International Concern

Hindu Shan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

With the World Health Organization (WHO) declaring monkeypox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), a detailed review of developments related to monkeypox and preparedness for it was taken up by the Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda in a meeting with senior officials on Saturday.

"There are no reported cases of monkeypox in India as of date," the Ministry said.

Precautionary steps
"In the meeting chaired by the Union Health Minister, it was decided that as a matter of abundant caution, certain measures including sensitising the health units at all the airports, seaports, and ground crossings, readying the testing laboratories (in number), gearing up health facilities for detect-



At a meeting chaired by the Health Minister, it was decided to put in place precautionary measures immediately. ANI

ing, isolating and managing any case, etc. be immediately put in place," the Ministry said in a press release.

The Health Ministry said that monkeypox infections in certain countries have been reported lasting two to four weeks, and patients generally recover with supportive management. The transmission requires prolonged close contact with an infected person, and is

generally through the sexual route, direct contact with body lesion fluid, or contaminated clothing and linens.

The WHO had declared monkeypox as a PHEIC in July 2022, and subsequently revoked it in May 2023. Globally, since 2022, the WHO has reported 99,176 cases and 208 deaths due to monkeypox from 116 countries. Since the 2022 declaration by the WHO, a

Lok Sabha Speaker constitutes six new parliamentary panels

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla constituted six new parliamentary committees, including the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which keeps a close eye on government expenditure, to be headed by senior Congress leader C. Venugopal.

One of the three key financial committees tasked with keeping a watch on the government's accounts, is usually headed by a Lok Sabha member of the principal Opposition party. Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury headed the PAC for five years.

Before him, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge headed the PAC. Two other financial committees — the Estimates Committee and the Public Undertakings Committee — will be chaired by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders. In a bulletin issued on Friday, Sanjay Jaitlew was appointed Chairperson of the Committee on Esti-

ma made Chairperson of the Committee on Public Undertakings.

The Speaker has appointed Ganesh Singh Chairperson of the Committees on Welfare of Other Backward Classes, the bulletin said.

Faggun Singh Kulaste has been appointed Chairperson of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

All the above formed committees have a tenure of one year, and have members from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The Lok Sabha Speaker is yet to constitute the 24 departmentally related Standing Committees, covering under their jurisdiction all the Ministries and departments of the Government of India. The Economic Lok Sabha, the committees in the 18th Lok Sabha, formed since the general Election in June 2024, have taken shape mostly through consensus instead of election.

UPSC advertises lateral entry posts in Ministries; Opposition cries foul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Service Public Commission (UPSC) on Saturday issued an advertisement to recruit 45 joint secretaries, directors, and deputy secretaries across 24 Central Ministries through lateral entry on a contract basis or deputations, triggering allegations from Opposition leaders that the Centre was trying to bypass reservation policies.

"The advertisement is for the posts of 10 joint secretaries and 35 directors/deputy secretaries. These posts are required to be filled by September 17."

Responding to the development, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accused the BJP, which had formed a committee, 'covering under their jurisdiction', of launching a "double attack on reservation".

He asked if there was any reservation for the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) or the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in these lateral entry posts. "As part of a well-planned conspiracy, the



MALLIKARJUN KHARGE
Congress president

The BJP is deliberately making such recruitments so that SCs, STs and OBCs can be kept away from reservation.

BJP is deliberately making such recruitments in jobs that can be kept away from reservation. Secondly, the reservation scam in the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers in Uttar Pradesh has now been exposed by the High Court decision," Mr. Kharge said.

He said that in the latest election, the Prime Minister on the UP issue "It is necessary to fully implement the provisions of economic, social and political justice enshrined in the Constitution."

Unlike the previous Lok Sabha, the committees in the 18th Lok Sabha, formed since the general Election in June 2024, have taken shape mostly through consensus instead of election.

Opposition targets U.P. gov't. on teacher recruitment 'scam'

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh on Saturday targeted the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and accused it of engaging in "a scam" in the recruitment of 69,000 assistant teachers for the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers in the State.

The court set aside the selection lists issued on June 1, 2020, and January 5, 2022, and directed the State government to prepare a new list within three months in accordance with the rules.

"Ultimately, the 69,000-teacher recruitment also proved to be a victim of fraud and corruption. It was our demand that a new fair list be made, so that transparent and fair appointments can be possible and the education system in the State, which was disrupted during the BJP era, can come back on track," said Samajwadi Party (SP) president

Akhilesh Yadav. "We will keep a constant watch on the new list and will stand shoulder to shoulder with the candidates to ensure that no injustice is done to any candidate," he added.

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief and former chief minister Mayawati said the High Court's decision signifies that the BJP government has not done its work "honestly".

"The High Court's decision to cancel the selection list of 69,000 teacher candidates selected in 2019 in U.P. and order to prepare a new list within three months proves that the government has not done its work fairly and honestly. In this case, the victims, especially those from the reservation category, should get justice," Ms. Mayawati wrote on X.

A High Court Bench of Justice A.R. Maqsood and Justice Brijraj Singh declared the judgment while rejecting the application filed by candidates, challenging the decision of a single-judge Bench dated March 13, 2023.



der their noses. "People will not forgive those undetermining the rights of 90% of the population," said Mr. Yadav, noting that the lateral entry also affected EWS candidates adversely.

The government has asked "talented and motivated Indian nationals" to contribute towards nation-building" to apply, in addition to leaving the applications open to State/UT officers and employees from public sector undertakings. The appointment will be on contract basis for applicants from the private sector; other applicants will be posted on deputation. Directly recruited Central government employees are not eligible for these posts.

The lateral recruitment for joint secretaries, directors and deputy secretaries in the Central government was introduced in 2018. According to a Lok Sabha reply dated July 24, "SC" appointments have been made through lateral entry, of which 35 were from the private sector. Currently, 57 of these employees are still with their respective Ministries/departments.

Clever move: BJP
"If these 45 posts were filled through the traditional civil services examination, nearly half of them (22-23) would be reserved for SC, ST, and OBC candidates. By opting for lateral entry system, the government is effectively denying the reserved categories a rightful share in government in a very systematic, planned and clever move," he said in a post on X.

He said that in the latest election, the Prime Minister and leaders of the BJP's allies had claimed that no one could take away reservation from the marginalised, but their rights were now being looted from un-

Rise in militancy in J&K casts shadow over tourism

Ezeezada Ashiq
Srinagar

The growing militant footprint in the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir has cast a shadow over the border tourism that had picked up two years ago against the backdrop of a renewed ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan. The process to get passes for areas closer to the Line of Control (LoC) has now been made stringent again, and many areas in north Kashmir are now listed as no-go zones, officials sources said.

Several visitors and off-road riders heading for Keran — named among 12 off-beat tourist destinations to be promoted by the J&K government — failed to get permission to travel there this month, official sources said. The security forces

suspected movement of militants after three infiltrators were killed on July 14 close to the LoC in the Keran Sector of Kupwara.

The Lieutenant-Governor's administration had planned to promote Keran as a border tourist village as hundreds of tourists have showed interest in the destination since 2022. The high-altitude circuit — which connects Machil with Point 4040 with Zaminardi Gali and Bandipora in the general area — has also been closed for off-roads since this year.

Strict permit process
The process of police verifications of local tourists has also been made a must to visit the border areas of Kupwara. "Online permission can only be processed once the local police station of a visitor clears the name after a background check," the officer said.



Off limits: Keran, which is near the Line of Control, had attracted tourists for its high-altitude scenery and riverside views. FILE PHOTO

also been forthcoming in opening up more and more circuits close to the LoC to tourists in a gradual manner over the past two years.

Areas close to the LoC in north Kashmir had remained out-of-bounds for outsiders for more than 30 years. These pockets were raging battlefields between India and Pakistan. However, as the guns and cannons fell silent after a fresh ceasefire agreement in February 2021, tourists had started exploring these areas for the first time, with the Army relaxing the process of granting passes.

It had resulted in several local residents using their homes as hostels in the Machil and Keran sectors. The fresh wave of militancy, however, may reverse such signs of progress in the area.

Of late, visitors would often see military soldiers and take selfies on both sides of the river. Many viral videos last year showed tourists on the two sides of the river waving and whistling enthusiastically at each other. The Army has

also been forthcoming in opening up more and more circuits close to the LoC to tourists in a gradual manner over the past two years.

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UPSC advertises lateral entry posts in Ministries; Opposition cries foul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Service Public Commission (UPSC) on Saturday issued an advertisement to recruit 45 joint secretaries, directors, and deputy secretaries across 24 Central Ministries through lateral entry on a contract basis or deputation, triggering allegations from Opposition leaders that the Centre was trying to bypass reservation policies.

The advertisement is for the posts of 10 joint secretaries and 35 directors/deputy secretaries. The posts are required to be filled by September 17.

Responding to the development, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accused the BJP, which had “ripped apart the Constitution”, of launching a “double attack on reservation”. He asked if there was any reservation for the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) or the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in these lateral entry posts.

“As part of a well-planned conspiracy, the

 The BJP is deliberately making such recruitments so that SCs, STs and OBCs can be kept away from reservation

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE
Congress president

BJP is deliberately making such recruitments in jobs so that SC, ST, OBC categories can be kept away from reservation. Secondly, the reservation scam in the appointment of 69,000 assistant teachers in Uttar Pradesh has now been exposed by the High Court decision,” Mr. Kharge said in a post on X. He said that in March, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi had written to the Prime Minister on the U.P. issue.

“It is necessary to fully implement the provisions of economic, social and political justice enshrined in the Constitution of India. That is why the Congress party is demanding caste census for social justice,” said Mr. Kharge.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav also slammed the



Centre, terming the exercise a “cruel joke” on the country’s reservation system and the Constitution.

Clever move: RJD

“If these 45 posts were filled through the traditional civil services examination, nearly half of them (22-23) would be reserved for SC, ST, and OBC candidates. By opting for lateral entry system, the government is effectively denying these communities their rightful share in governance in a very systematic, planned and clever move,” he said in a post on X.

He said that in the latest election, the Prime Minister and leaders of the BJP’s allies had claimed that no one could take away reservation from the marginalised, but their rights were now being looted from un-


der their noses. “People will not forgive those undermining the rights of 90% of the population,” said Mr. Yadav, noting that lateral entry also affected EWS candidates adversely.

The government has asked “talented and motivated Indian nationals willing to contribute towards nation-building” to apply, in addition to leaving the applications open to State/UT officers and employees from public sector undertakings. The appointment will be on contract basis for applicants from the private sector; other applicants will be posted on deputation. Directly recruited Central government employees are not eligible for these posts.

The lateral recruitment for joint secretaries, directors and deputy secretaries in the Central government was introduced in 2018. According to a Lok Sabha reply dated July 24, so far 63 appointments have been made through lateral entry, of which 35 were from the private sector. Currently, 57 of these employees are still with their respective Ministries/departments.



- **UPSC Lateral Entry Advertisement:**

- The Union Service Public Commission (UPSC) issued an advertisement for 45 lateral entry posts in 24 Central Ministries, including 10 joint secretaries and 35 directors/deputy secretaries.
 - The posts are to be filled by September 17, 2024.
- 



- **Opposition's Allegations:**

- Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav accused the government of attempting to bypass reservation policies.
- Kharge claimed that the BJP was trying to undermine the rights of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), and the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) through lateral recruitment.

He criticized the government for allegedly depriving these communities of their rightful share in governance and accused the BJP of a "double attack" on the Constitution.

Arguments Against Lateral Entry:

The opposition argues that if these 45 posts were filled through the traditional civil services examination, many would have been reserved for SC, ST, and OBC candidates.

They assert that lateral entry is a method for the government to sidestep reservation rules and favor certain groups.



- **Government's Justification:**

- The government has defended the move, calling for "talented and motivated Indian nationals" from the private sector, State/UT officers, and public sector employees to contribute to nation-building.
- The appointment is on a contract basis, and current Central government employees are not eligible for these posts.

Background of Lateral Entry:

Lateral recruitment for joint secretaries, directors, and deputy secretaries in Central government began in 2018.


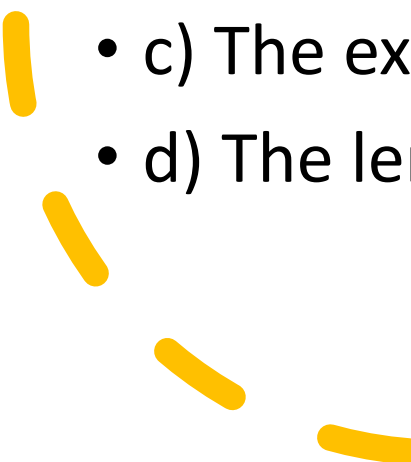
According to a Lok Sabha reply in July 2024, 63 appointments have been made through lateral entry, with 57 of these appointees still serving in their respective ministries.



1. Criticism and Public Sentiment:

1. The opposition views lateral entry as a method to undermine reservations, which they claim would adversely affect SC, ST, OBC, and EWS candidates.
2. They argue that the rights of marginalized groups are being ignored, and the lateral entry system is seen as a "cruel joke" on the country's reservation system.

2010	148	74	271	550	1043
2011	157	78	255	511	1001
2012	169	77	295	550	1091
2013	188	92	326	622	1228
2014	194	98	354	718	1364
2015	176	89	314	585	1164
2016	163	89	347	610	1209
2017	166	74	275	543	1058
2018	128	61	209	414	812
2019	129	67	251	397	927
2020	122	61	229	338	836
2021	105	60	203	308	749

- 
- What is the primary concern raised by opposition leaders regarding the UPSC's advertisement for lateral entry posts?
 - a) The high cost of recruitment.
 - b) The potential bypassing of reservation policies for SC, ST, OBC, and EWS candidates.
 - c) The exclusion of candidates from rural areas.
 - d) The length of the recruitment process.
- 

Harsher laws alone don't deter crimes against women: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

Stringent laws and punishments against rape may not be enough to fight rising crimes against women, the Supreme Court had warned the government in 2017. The court was confirming the death penalty of four men, accused of the gruesome gang-rape of a 23-year-old paramedic in a moving bus here in 2012.

The government of the day had reacted by constituting the Justice J.S. Verma Committee to make the law more stern and effective in future. The suggestions of the panel led to the enactment of Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 which brought in substantive as well as procedural reforms in the core areas of rape law.

In her separate opinion in the 2017 order, Justice R. Banumathi (now retired), said governments, employers and institutions “must take steps” to create awareness with regard to gender sensitisation and to respect women.

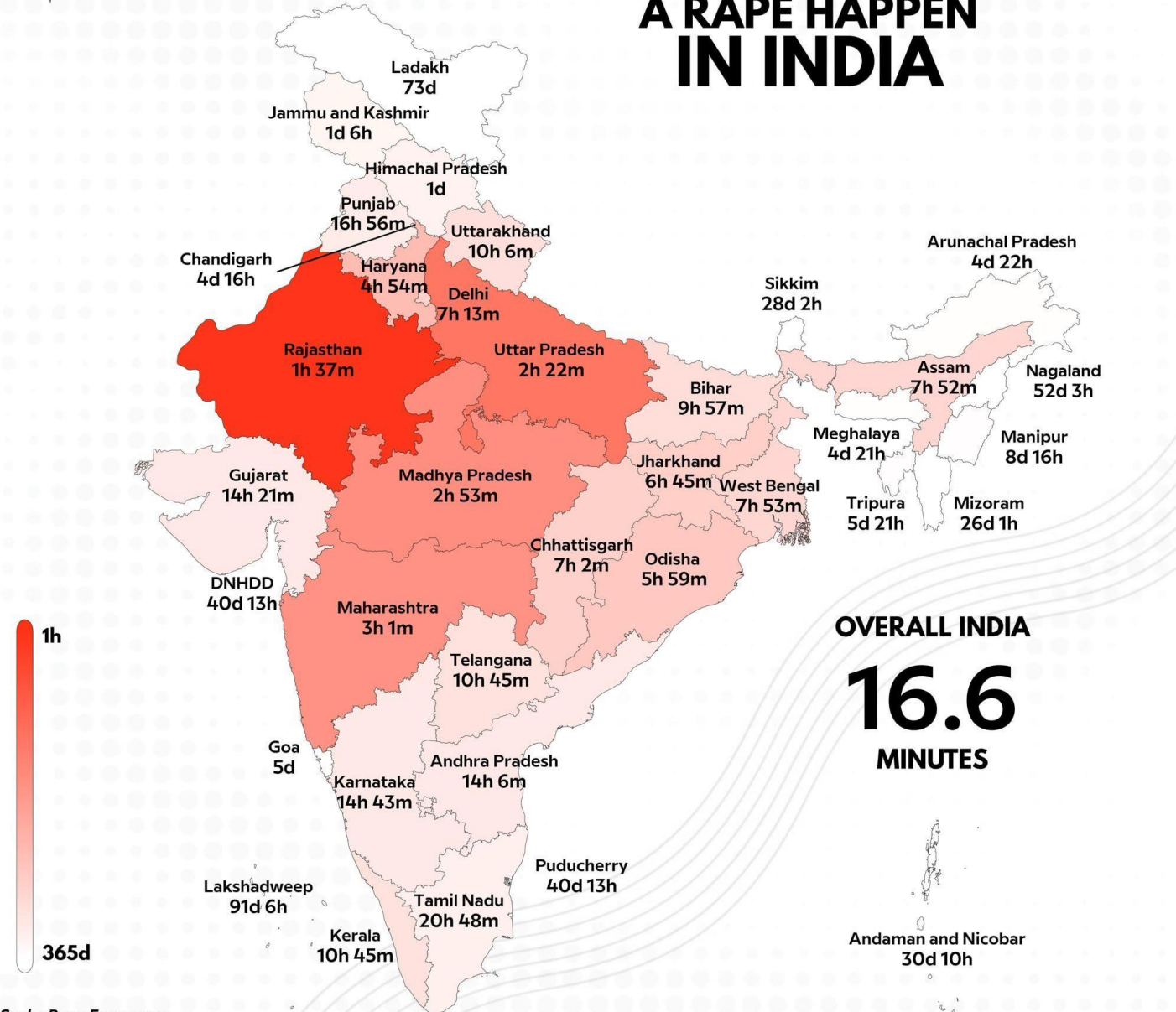
“Apart from effective implementation of the various legislation protecting

Change in mindset is needed to ensure gender justice, Justice Banumathi had said in 2017

women, change in the mindset of the society at large and creating awareness in the public on gender justice, would go a long way to combat violence against women,” She wrote. Attitudinal change and change in the mindset is needed to respect women and to ensure gender justice, she pointed out.

“On the practical side, few of the suggestions are worthwhile to be considered. Banners and placards in the public transport vehicles like autos, taxis and buses etc. must be ensured. Use of streetlights, illuminated bus stops and extra police patrol during odd hours must be ensured. Police/security guards must be posted at dark and lonely places like parks, streets etc. Mobile apps for immediate assistance of women should be introduced and effectively maintained,” she had flagged.

HOW OFTEN DOES A RAPE HAPPEN IN INDIA

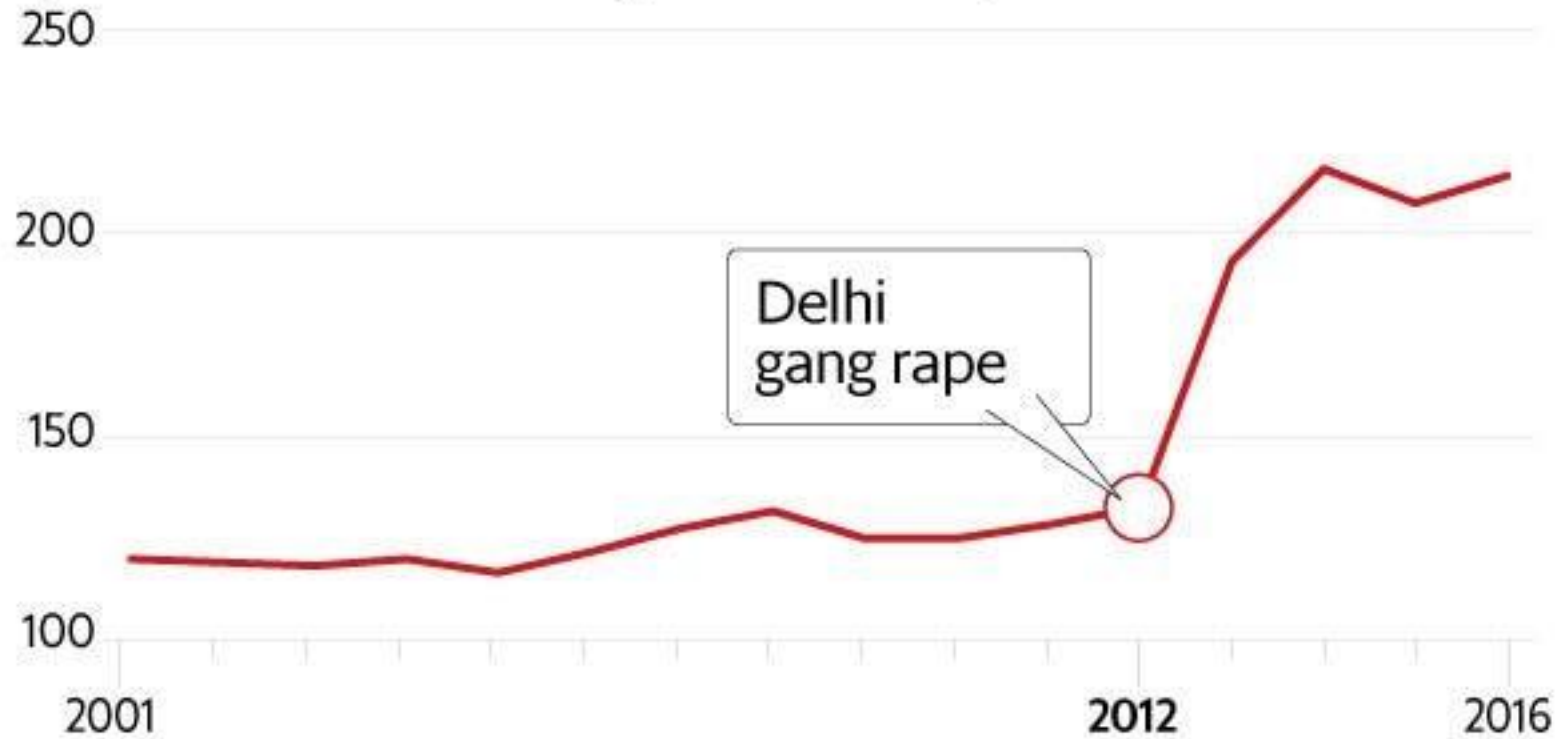


Scale: Rape Frequency
 Source: Crime in India - 2022
 National Crime Records Bureau, Govt. of India
 Areas in grey, if any indicate that data was not available for the Region.

Chart 3B

...Even as the reporting of sexual violence has increased, especially after 2012

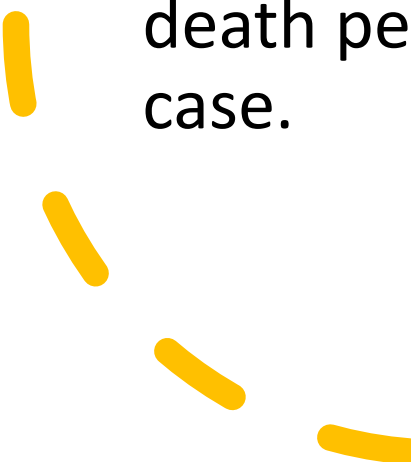
Reported rate of sexual violence (per million females)



Source: NCRB, Census



- **Supreme Court's Observation on Crimes Against Women:**

- The Supreme Court of India observed that stringent laws and harsher punishments alone may not be sufficient to deter crimes against women, including rape.
 - This observation was made in 2017 during the confirmation of the death penalty for four men convicted in the 2012 Delhi gang-rape case.
- 


Government's Response:

Following the 2012 incident, the government constituted the Justice J.S. Verma Committee to recommend reforms in the legal framework dealing with crimes against women.

The committee's recommendations led to the enactment of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013, which introduced substantial and procedural reforms in rape law.



- **Justice R. Banumathi's Opinion:**

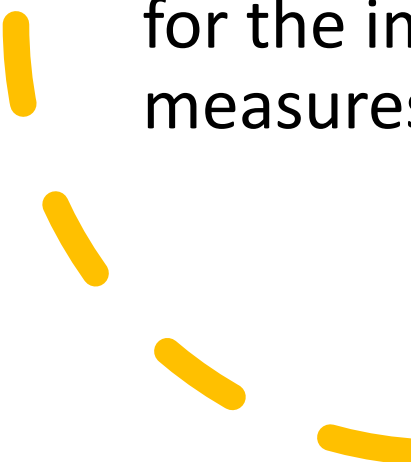
- In a separate opinion, Justice R. Banumathi emphasized that laws alone cannot ensure gender justice.
 - She highlighted the need for a change in societal mindset and greater public awareness regarding gender justice.
- 


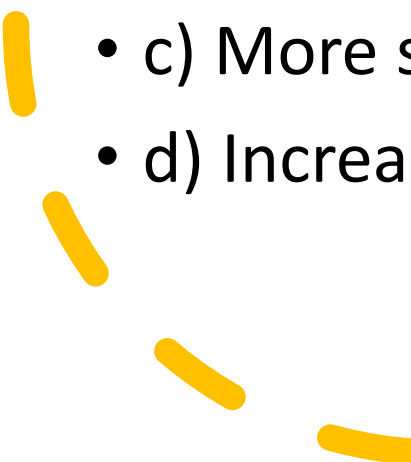
- **Recommendations for Ensuring Gender Justice:**

- Justice Banumathi suggested that governments, employers, and institutions should take steps to create awareness about gender sensitization and respect for women.
- Attitudinal change in society is necessary to combat violence against women.
- Practical measures like ensuring safety in public transport, better lighting in public spaces, extra police patrol during odd hours, and the use of mobile apps for immediate assistance were also recommended.



- **Importance of Implementation:**

- Justice Banumathi stressed the importance of effectively implementing existing legislation to protect women and ensure their safety.
 - She advocated for the introduction and maintenance of mobile apps for the immediate assistance of women, among other safety measures.
- 

- 
- What did Justice R. Banumathi emphasize as necessary to combat violence against women?
 - a) Harsher punishments for offenders.
 - b) A change in the societal mindset and increased public awareness about gender justice.
 - c) More stringent laws without the need for public awareness.
 - d) Increased economic opportunities for women
- 

IN BRIEF

JSW Cement files papers with SEBI for ₹4,000-crore IPO

JSW Cement Ltd. has filed Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI for its initial public offering (IPO) worth up to ₹4,000 crore. The IPO, with a face value of ₹10 each share, is a mix of fresh issue of shares of up to ₹2,000 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to ₹2,000 crore by selling shareholders. Out of the net proceeds of the fresh issue, JSW plans to deploy ₹800 crore to part-finance the cost of establishing a new integrated cement unit in Rajasthan.

Alcon, Aravind Eye unveil Global Centre of Excellence

Global leader in eye care Alcon International in association with Aravind Eye Care System unveiled 'India's first Global Centre of Excellence for Cataract Surgery Training' in Chennai. "It is the first dedicated centre to give comprehensive training in advanced cataract surgery procedure to ophthalmology residents," Alcon International President Rajkumar Narayanan told *The Hindu*. Going forward, Alcon is contemplating setting up such centres in South Africa and Latin America.

'Majority blue-collar jobs pay less than ₹20,000 per month'

Majority of blue-collar jobs in India pay within the salary range of ₹20,000 or less per month, suggesting a substantial portion of the workforce is grappling with financial strain, struggling to meet essential needs such as housing, healthcare and education, as per a report. More than 57.63% of blue-collar jobs fall within the salary range of ₹20,000 or less per month, indicating many workers earn close to the minimum wage, blue-collar recruitment platform WorkIndia said.

India needs to lift job growth via reforms: IMF's Gopinath

Economist moots a wide range of reforms to boost employment, but for women's safety, noting that country can't become a developed economy without adding more women in the workforce

Vikas Dhoor
NEW DELHI

India needs to improve the depth and quality of its education system to create an employable workforce, nurture effective institutions, including an efficient judiciary, to support development, and pursue reforms in its land and labour markets, in order to actualise its quest to become a developed country, International Monetary Fund (IMF) deputy managing director Gita Gopinath emphasised on Saturday.

Ms. Gopinath, who was in conversation with Fifteenth Finance Commission chief N.K. Singh at the Delhi School of Economics' diamond jubilee conference, also stressed that the country could aspire to attain "high income" status without lifting its women's labour force participation rate, which hovers at 35% in India, adding that ensuring women's safety was critical for this.

'Cut tariffs'

Noting that India's import tariff rates were higher than its peer economies, Ms. Gopinath said that besides implementing reforms, important, even if trade integration was being sought to meet essential needs such as housing, healthcare and education, as per a report. Lowering tariffs on the global site if India wanted to be an important player on the world stage and in global

Fund's recipe

IMF's Gita Gopinath says India needs to improve digital education system to create an employable workforce

Reforms in land, labour, markets essential to become a developed country
Economic upsurge implementing

supply chains, the IMF's senior official asserted.

While India's GDP growth had averaged 6-6.5% since the 2010s till the pandemic, its employment growth had been under 2% through this period, Ms. Gopinath pointed out. "So it is indeed the case... compared to other G20 emerging market economies, growth in India has been much less in terms of employment-driven, [and] much more intensive in terms of capital," she said.

Between now and 2030, India would have to create another 148 million additional jobs cumulatively over this period, she reckoned, calling for policies that do not penalise firms for hiring workers, and implementing reforms proposed in the Labour Codes cleared a few years ago by Parliament, through incentives for States.

On the general quality of the workforce and skill levels in India, Ms. Gopinath said the skill mis-

match in the workforce "is now a longstanding problem" that warrants urgent investments in revamping education and making sure that people have more years of, and better quality of, education. "It will not deliver results instantly. It will take time, but that absolutely needs fixing in general, and countries need to attack in the skills and the ability to reskill, so that workers who have to shift jobs can do so through some kind of unemployment insurance till they find a job."

"Singapore [rated as the most pro-growth for all] has most provided for all, but this program where it provides grants for lifelong learning, which is something that is needed in the long run, would instantly have new technologies and new kinds of things that we need to do. So you want to make sure you have a good complementing what automation brings along," Ms. Gopinath added.

"Corporate investment" "Public investment has been going strong. If you look at private investment by households in real estate, that's also going strong. But if you look at corporate investment, that is not doing as well as we would like for an economy that's growing at 7% annually, while IMF chief economist remarked.

With the advent of auto-

'Urgently need to plug \$4 tn financing gap to hasten pace on SDGs'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said that inadequate access to credit and financing was hindering developing countries from achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and under-scored the urgent need to address this \$4 trillion annual financing gap.

Addressing a Voice of Global South summit, Ms. Sitharaman said reports revealed that the implementation of many SDGs in developing economies was stagnating, with some indicators even regressing.

Citing a World Bank report, she noted that one in four developing countries was set to be poorer by the end of this year than they were before the pandemic. "Growth thus remains insufficient to drive progress in development and poverty reduction. To accelerate progress on SDGs, there is an urgent need to address the \$4 trillion financing gap," she stressed.

'Nissan India to treble export, sales by FY26'

Min Tejwani
BENGALURU

Nissan Motor has embarked upon a comprehensive market-expansion plan to treble local sales as well as exports from India by FY26, according to a top company official.

The Japanese auto major has also decided to scale up product portfolio for India, growing from a single car to two cars and five cars by FY 2026.

The lineup would include an 'affordable' electric SUV, he added. "This plan is backed by boost domestic sales to 1,00,000 units annually and increase exports to 1,00,000 units by FY26, that's a 3X growth," Saurabh Vatsa,

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With more graduates in workforce Tamil Nadu struggles with skills gap

JOB SCENARIO

Sanjay Vilayakumar
Sangeetha Kandavel
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu fares better than most States on employment metrics, but more must be done to tackle underemployment and gaps between skills and education, as the State produces the highest number of graduates in India.

While there is no accurate data to measure India's employment scenario, the periodic Labour force survey (PLFS) conducted by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation offers some insights.

The annual PLFS from July 2022 to June 2023 measures employment across States and union territories. Among the sample population, it considered the activity in which a person spent relatively long time during 365 days preceding the date of survey as the principal activity status, while the economic activity performed for 30 days or more, adding to the principal status was considered the subsidiary economic status.

Put together, the principal and subsidiary economic status, that is, Tamil Nadu's (TN) labour force participation rate (LFPR), which is the percentage of persons in the labour force — those working, or seeking or available to work — was 46%, compared with 42.4% nationally.

Under the principal subsidiary status, the percentage of employed persons, or Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in TN was 44%, compared with 41.1% nationally. The female



Graduate factory: Tamil Nadu's enrolment in higher education is almost double national average, according to a policy note.

WPR was 31.6%, higher than the 27% nationally. In TN, 31.6% earned a regular wage, compared with 20.9% nationally.

The unemployment rate among the educated, that is, those who have attained secondary level education, was 9.4% in TN, compared with 7.3% nationally. The unemployment rate among graduates was 16%, in the State, higher than 13.4% at the all India level, and the youth unemployment rate (15-29 yrs) was 17.5% for TN, significantly more than the nationwide 10%.

TN has the highest number of factories in India. More than 40% of factory employment was in Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Maharashtra combined, according to the Economic Survey 2023-24. But the growth between FY18 and FY22 was seen in states with a higher share of young population, which was 46%, compared with 42.4% nationally.

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and women, with women in regular jobs earning ₹12,969 against ₹17,476 for men in 2020-21. Mr. Kalayarasan also said TN must incentivise employment generation over capital investments.

'Incentivise labour'
Srivats Ram, Chairman, Confederation of Industry (CII), TN State Council said historically, industrial incentives incentivised employment generation. Capital or investment being deployed. But now this is shifting toward attracting labour intensive sectors like electronics, non-leather footwear, etc. he said.

Mr. Ram also warned of the skill gap among recent graduates, making them hard to be placed at jobs immediately. "The need for more training. Sometimes it is easy to train for necessary skills with one or two programmes. But it becomes challenging in segments where technology is changing rapidly," he added.

During the FT boom it was easy to get hired after graduation. But the industry had matured and net job additions had been coming down, amid a slowdown in the industry. While the number of global capability centres had grown, the employment for specific skills was not growing, he said.

The CII was also working with Anna University to update its curriculum. "The TN government's Nann Madhavan scheme was a good initiative for encouraging startups and incorporating internships.

Despite TN having the highest women workforce participation, Mr. Kalayarasan said wage discrimination must be addressed. He pointed to the monthly earnings gap between men

DGH boosting management of data to better handle E&P

Richa Mishra
HYDERABAD

To create more transparency in data mining and accessibility as well as preparing itself for monitoring all types of energy sources, and implementing reforms. But if you look at corporate investment, that is not doing as well as we would like for an economy that's growing at 7% annually, while IMF chief economist remarked.

At successive roadshows held by the DGH to attract exploration rounds, it has been found that investors would want a more liberal regime in terms and stability in doing the business here.

As a constant question to all the successive Director-Generals of DGH, the technical arm of the Ministry for Petroleum and Natural Gas that monitors exploration and production of oil and gas.

As per the existing rules, firms undertaking share buybacks are subject to 20% tax. It will be tax-free for shareholders.

However, from October 1, the entire amount received in 2024, starting from buybacks will be treated as dividend income from banks and issued according to come tax slabs. The requirement will be to disclose the new buyback tax is disproportionately higher than the capital gains tax of 20%, which apply when shares are sold to

Buybacks: India Inc races to beat tax changes from Oct 1

Suresh P. Iyengar
MUMBAI

It has been raining buyback offers from India Inc before the tax changes announced in the recent Union Budget take in from October 1.

In the budget, FM Nirmala Sitharaman shifted the Income Tax liability on share buybacks from companies to shareholders.

The board of 10 companies met after the Budget announcement and proposed buyback of shares worth ₹4,572 crore.

India's top tech pack with an offer of ₹2,640 crore followed by IMA Education. He added, IT sector companies, given their strong balance-sheets and predictably steady stock price movements, are sure to take advantage of the changing taxation scenario and likely to be at the forefront of share buybacks.

Satish Menon, ED, Geopri Financial Services, said the new rules will reduce non-retail investor participation in buybacks as the response will depend on individual tax slabs. However, he said, investors may respond positively for ongoing offers as they come at a premium due to the bullish market.

Narinder Wadhwa, MD & CEO, S&K Capital Services, said the new rules may see a wave of buyback in sectors such as IT, pharma, FMCG, and consumer goods. He added, "It is essential for investors to evaluate each buyback on its merits, considering the firm's financial health, the industry's growth prospects, and the overall market sentiment."

Shifting Govt 'can delay bill on digital competition'

K.R. Srivatsa
NEW DELHI

The finalisation of the much-anticipated Digital Competition Bill (DCB) may be delayed following the Centre's decision on Friday to move Manoj G. Pillai, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, to the Finance Ministry as Expenditure Secretary, say economic watchers.

Mr. Govil was at the helm of bringing the DCB to establish a competitive, and equitable digital market in India. His departure has created a vacuum on this front.

Delays likely
The new IT Secretary, Deepthi Gaur Mukerjee, would need time to familiarise herself with the intricacies of the Bill, delaying its finalisation, say economic watchers.

The DCB has been in the works for more than 18 months. The government expected the digital economy to touch \$1 trillion by 2025-26. The DCB was intended to address the regulatory challenges posed by the growing dominance of technology giants in India's digital market.

As Chairman of the 16-member Inter-Ministerial Committee on Digital Competition Law (ICDL), set up in 2023, Mr. Govil worked together with various stakeholders, from industry experts to legal professionals, to frame the DCB.

Mr. Govil played a leading role in completing the ICDL report, drafting the Bill and securing the CJI's approval for the report's recommendations and the Bill's proposal.

India needs to lift job growth via reforms: IMF's Gopinath

Economist moots a wide range of reforms to boost employment, bats for women's safety noting that country can't become a developed economy without adding more women in the workforce

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India needs to improve the depth and quality of its education system to create an employable workforce, nurture effective institutions, including an efficient judiciary, to support development, and pursue reforms in its land and labour markets, in order to actualise its quest to become a developed country, International Monetary Fund (IMF) deputy managing director Gita Gopinath emphasised on Saturday.

Ms. Gopinath, who was in conversation with Fifteenth Finance Commission chief N.K. Singh at the Delhi School of Economics' diamond jubilee conference, also stressed that no country could aspire to attain 'high-income' status without lifting its women's labour force participation rate, which hovers at 35% in India, adding that ensuring women's safety was critical for this.

'Cut tariffs'

Noting that India's import tariff rates were higher than its peer economies, Ms. Gopinath said that being open to trade was important, even if trade integration was being questioned in the current global environment. Lowering tariffs was a requisite if India wanted to be an important player on the world stage and in global



Fund's recipe

IMF's Gita Gopinath says India needs to improve depth, quality of its education system to create an employable workforce

■ 'Reforms in land, labour markets essential to become a developed country'

■ Economist urges implementing

reforms proposed in Labour Codes

■ India needs to create 60 million to 148 million additional jobs between now and 2030: Gopinath

supply chains, the fund's senior official asserted.

While India's GDP growth had averaged 6.6% since the 2010s till the pandemic, its employment growth had been under 2% through this period, Ms. Gopinath pointed out. "So it is indeed the case... compared to other G20 emerging market economies, growth in India has been much less in terms of employment-driven, [and] much more intensive in terms of capital," she said.

Between now and 2030, India would have to create anywhere between 60 million and 148 million additional jobs cumulatively over this period, she reckoned, calling for policies that do not penalise firms for hiring workers, and implementing reforms proposed in the Labour Codes cleared a few years ago by Parliament, through incentives for States.

On the general quality of the workforce and skill levels in India, Ms. Gopinath said the skill mis-

match in the workforce "is now a longstanding problem" that warrants urgent investments in revamping education and making sure that people have more years of, and better quality of education.

"It will not deliver results instantly. It will take time, but that absolutely needs fixing now. Otherwise, we are perennially stuck in the situation of a workforce that's not sufficiently skilled," she said, adding that "general corporate investment and private investment" also needed to rise.

'Corporate investment'

"Public investment has been going strong. If you look at private investment, by households in real estate, that's going strong. But if you look at corporate investment, that is not doing as well as it should be for an economy that's growing at 7%," the erstwhile IMF chief economist remarked.



With the advent of auto-

mation and Artificial Intelligence (AI) spurring worries about the future of work opportunities, the IMF official cited a study by the multilateral lender that looked at four indicators to assess 170 countries' preparedness for adapting with AI.

"India is at about an intermediate level of preparedness, somewhat slightly above the average for emerging markets and developing economies. But again, if you look within those indicators, the indicator on education and skilling levels of the workforce, that's the area where a lot more work is required for it to be able to adapt," she said.

Policies must "not inadvertently" tilt the playing field in favour of automation, and countries need to have social security nets and the ability to reskill, so that workers who have to shift jobs, can go through some kind of unemployment insurance till they find a job.

"Singapore [rated as the most prepared for AI], has this program where it provides grants for lifelong learning, which may be something that is needed in this world where you constantly have new technologies and new kinds of things that machines can do. So you want to make sure that your skills are complementing what automation brings along," Ms. Gopinath averred.

- 
- Main Challenges •
 - Inflation: Inflation is stabilizing but still needs careful management to avoid adverse economic effects. •
 - Geopolitical Tensions: Conflicts, particularly in the Middle East, could affect commodity prices, such as oil. •
 - Political Uncertainty: Numerous elections globally this year may bring policy uncertainty affecting growth.
 - • Medium-Term Growth: Projected global growth rates are weak compared to historical averages, necessitating structural reforms.
- 



Suggestions and Way Forward •



Encouraging corporate investment and flexible labour markets can aid broad-based growth and job creation. •



Improving ease of doing business and reducing trade restrictions are vital. •



Focus on education, skilling, and raising productivity in agriculture is essential for longterm growth



. • Improving macroeconomic and financial stability, and currency convertibility, benefits countries regardless of whether their currency becomes dominant.



VACANCIES IN BUREAUCRACY
'Lateral entry hiring is an anti-national step'
NEWS > PAGE 5



BILATERAL EXERCISE
Army's 'assault canine' joins drill
NEWS > PAGE 4



COLLAPSED AT AIRPORT
Indian Coast Guard chief Rakesh Pal dead
NEWS > PAGE 4



LABOUR MARKET
Migrant workers, the mainstay of States
However, there is not enough data on them
OPINION > PAGE 9

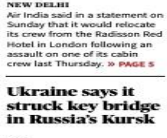


PERFECT START
Man City begins with a 2-0 win over Chelsea
SPORT > PAGE 16

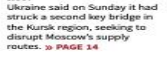
INSIDE



Air India shifts crew after assault in London hotel
NEW DELHI
Air India said in a statement on Sunday that it would relocate its crew from the Radisson Red Hotel in London following an assault on one of its cabin crew last Thursday. > PAGE 5



Ukraine says it struck key bridge in Russia's Kursk
KYIV
Ukraine said on Sunday it had struck a second key bridge in the Kursk region, seeking to disrupt Moscow's supply routes. > PAGE 14



Flying architects
Work of art: Baya weavers' nests hang precariously from branches in Anruli, Gujarat. > PAGE 20

SC intervenes in rape and murder of doctor

Top court takes suo motu cognisance of the incident; three-judge Bench headed by C.J.I to hear case tomorrow; protests continue after doctors' strike ends; IMA set to submit 'safety document' to the Union Health Ministry with road map to make healthcare institutes safe; over 70 Padma award-winning doctors appeal to PM for 'urgent intervention'

Krishnadas Rajaropal Hindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Sunday took suo motu cognisance of the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on August 9. A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud is scheduled to hear the case, instituted on the court's own motion, on Tuesday. The matter will be called for hearing on the top of the board of cases listed for the day before the Bench. The court's suo motu intervention follows an August 13 order of the Calcutta High Court seeking the investigation to



Up in arms Doctors take out a candle light protest march at Connaught Place in Delhi on Sunday. > PAGE 20

told *The Hindu*, the IMA will support the decision of the Resident Doctors' Association of Delhi to continue the agitation, if necessary. "They are the soldiers on the ground, and we will support them if they want to continue the agitation," he said.

Protests erupt near stadium in Kolkata

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA
Violent protests erupted near the Salt Lake stadium in Kolkata on Sunday as a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud is scheduled to hear the case, instituted on the court's own motion, on Tuesday. The matter will be called for hearing on the top of the board of cases listed for the day before the Bench. The court's suo motu intervention follows an August 13 order of the Calcutta High Court seeking the investigation to

ble measures for ensuring the safety of healthcare professionals. **More support** Extending their support to the agitating doctors, over 70 doctors who have been nominated with the Padma awards appealed to Prime

ing solidarity with the victim's family and extend our full support to the medical community, who are increasingly confronting such violence in the course of their work. The safety and dignity of healthcare professionals must be safeguarded with utmost priority," they said. In their letter, the doctors emphasised the need for law enforcement agencies to more rigorously apply current legal frameworks to protect healthcare professionals, severe and swift penalties to serve as a deterrent against such crimes, enhanced safety measures in hospitals and medical institutions and enactment and implementation of a special law for the protection of healthcare workers.



Work of art: Baya weavers' nests hang precariously from branches in Anruli, Gujarat. > PAGE 20

Malaysian PM arriving today; trade, strategic ties on agenda

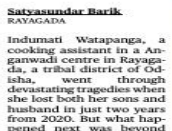


Suhasini Haider
Davesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI
Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim will land in Delhi on Monday on a three-day visit, where he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will sign a number of agreements and chart out a "multi-sectoral cooperation agenda" to enhance trade, strategic ties, and people-to-people links, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

However, officials sidestepped the issue of controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik, who is wanted by Indian investigative agencies on alleged charges of hate speech and money laundering, and whether India's demand that he be sent back would be raised during Mr. Ibrahim's visit. Asked at a briefing last week, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal did not confirm whether the issue

At the time, the government had announced that Indian and Malaysian officials would "stay in contact" regarding the "important issues", but Mr. Mahathir, who granted Mr. Naik permanent residency, ruled out India's request publicly. The provisional arrest request and extradition request against Mr. Naik, who moved to Malaysia in 2016, was sent by India to the Malaysian government in January 2018. Indian agencies had also failed to persuade Interpol to issue a Red Corner Notice against Mr. Naik despite three requests. The Interpol's adjudicating body found the evidence against Mr. Naik "not sufficient". Mr. Ibrahim had visited India in 2019 when he was part of Mr. Mahathir's ruling alliance. In an interview to *The Hindu* at the time, he had said that Malaysia needed "evidence" of Mr. Naik's guilt.

Fraudsters make the dead die twice in Rayagada



Satyasundar Barik
RAYAGADA
Indumati Watapanga, a cooking assistant in a tribal district of Odisha, went through devastating tragedies when she lost both her sons and husband in just two years from 2020. But what happened next was beyond anything she could have imagined.

Government records that had noted the deaths of her sons suddenly declared them alive again. This was not just a careless clerical error, but something far more sinister. Her two sons were found registered as construction workers with the Odisha Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (OBOWWB). Just two months after registration, these same records listed them as dead again. Indumati was not the only one caught in this surreal web. Susata Suna, a migrant labourer from Ambadola panchayat, had



Indumati Watapanga holds the photographs of her deceased sons at Mahuda village in Rayagada district of Odisha. > PAGE 20

been officially declared dead by the Government Railway Police of Vijayawada after she collapsed on the Alappuzha-Dhanbad Express on June 10, 2022. Yet, in a twist that seemed to defy the very laws of nature, Susata died a second time on November 27, 2023. This time, conveniently, 10 days after being registered with the Board. **Bizarre fraud** The list of the dead who came alive only to die again is long. This series of twists in the "lives" of the deceased, however, has

Jharkhand ex-CM Champai likely to quit JMM, join BJP



Anil Bhehari
PATNA
In the run-up to the Assembly election in Jharkhand, former Chief Minister and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader Champai Soren is likely to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In a post on X, Mr. Soren indicated that he will soon leave the JMM.

The buzz of his joining the BJP got stronger when he removed the 'JMM leader' tag from his X handle. On Sunday, he landed in Delhi and despite repeated questions from BJP leaders about his joining the BJP, Mr. Champai Soren stuck to a one-line answer

reports. Mr. Champai Soren has also reportedly removed the JMM flag from his ancestral house at Jilegora village in Serailela-Kharawan district of Jharkhand. Reacting to the reports, JMM Central Committee member and spokesperson Manoj Pandey told prespersoons in Ranchi, "Champai Soren has been associated with the party for a long time and the party has always given him a lot of respect. The party fully trusts him and is confident that he will not betray it." **'ALL OPTIONS OPEN'** > PAGE 4

IN BRIEF



10 killed, 27 injured as pickup van collides with bus in U.P.

Ten people were killed and at least 27 injured when a pickup van collided with a bus in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh on Sunday. The accident occurred on the Budaan-Meerut highway. Senior district officials reached the spot and rushed the injured to the district hospital. "A pickup vehicle was going towards Sambhal from Ghazabad. It met with an accident with a private bus. 21 injured have come to the district hospital for treatment," Bulandshahr District Magistrate Chandra Prakash Singh said. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expressed condolences on the deaths and instructed the district administration to carry out relief operations on a war footing.

PM monitors Mpox situation; directs more surveillance

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been continuously monitoring the Mpox situation with Principal Secretary P.K. Mishra directing that surveillance be enhanced and measures be taken for prompt detection of cases. He further directed that the testing laboratories network should be geared up for early diagnosis. At present, 32 labs are equipped for testing. In a release issued on Sunday, the Centre said that in the past one week, 100 more cases have been put in place and a meeting of experts was convened on August 12 to assess the risk.

Jaishankar calls on Kuwaiti PM, Crown Prince to discuss ties

Extra Trust of India
KUWAIT CITY

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Sunday called on Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Crown Prince Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaleed Al-Sabah and discussed ways to take bilateral ties to a higher level. Mr. Jaishankar arrived here on Sunday on a day-long visit.



S. Jaishankar with Kuwait Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

"Pleased to call on His Highness Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Conveyed the greetings of PM @narendramodi. Appreciated his perspectives on the deepening of India Kuwait ties. Valued his views in regard to further economic cooperation," Mr. Jaishankar said in a post on X.

He earlier called on Kuwait's Crown Prince and sought his insights on taking the bilateral ties to a

higher level. "India and Kuwait share centuries-old bonds of goodwill and friendship. Our contemporary partnership is expanding steadily. Thank him for his guidance and insights on taking our ties to a higher level," Mr. Jaishankar wrote.

The visit comes nearly two months after 45 Indians died in a devastating fire at a building in Kuwait.

Railways to adjust its clocks to maintain the right time

To develop a master clock system to replace manual timekeeping which does not help train operations and management and accident investigation; prototype to be ready by October 2

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI



The Railways will soon dispense with the method of stationmasters setting time on the instructions of section controllers.

In a first, the Indian Railways will develop a master clock system for synchronising time with the applications and systems across its network, with plans to demonstrate a prototype by Gandhi Jayanti. The necessity of keeping uniform time across all systems and applications involved in train operations arose following difficulties in accident investigations.

According to official sources, the Railways will soon dispense with its current manual method of stationmasters setting time on instructions of section controllers. The Railway Board had constituted a high-level committee to coordinate with the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), the Railways research arm, to finalise the architecture for the master clock system.

Under the existing system, Zonal Railways across the country use their own systems, sourcing time from different sources.

With the advent of technology, the need for time synchronisation arose not only for proper working of the system of train operations and management, but also for post-facto analysis of rail accidents.

Time mismatch
The sequence of events with accurate time is essential for the authorities investigating the circumstances that led to accidents. Mismatch in time recorded by the stationmaster, crew, data

Currently, Zonal Railways across India use various systems, sourcing time from different sources

loggers and inbuilt systems in the locomotive will lead to confusion on the probe. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary to have a master clock system which acts as a timing source for different applications and systems being used in the Indian Railways," a senior officer in the Southern Railway told *The Hindu* on Sunday.

Sourcing time
Officials said that the time for the master clock system would be sourced from Na-

tional Physical Laboratories. The high-level team, led by the Railway Board's Director for Telecommunications, will study the existing system of time synchronisation and its impact on various applications in terms of proper functioning and postincident analysis.

The team will finalise the architecture for the master clock system and the time dissemination for different functioning assets spread across various Zonal Railways, production units, workshops, and data centres. The RDSO has been asked to demonstrate a prototype for the master clock system and the synchronisation between different applications and systems by October 2, officials said.

FSSAI begins project on microplastic contamination

Extra Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched a project to assess microplastic contamination in food products and develop methods for its detection.

According to an official statement, the project was started in March. The aim is to develop and standardise analytical methods for detecting microplastics in various food products, as well as assess their prevalence and exposure levels in India.

"The primary objectives of the project include developing standard protocols for microplastic analysis, conducting intra- and inter-laboratory comparisons, and generating critical data on microplastic exposure levels among consumers," the FSSAI said.

12% of tested spice samples fail quality, safety standards

Reuters
HYDERABAD

Nearly 12% of Indian spice samples tested failed to meet quality and safety standards, data show.

Several countries had earlier taken steps over contamination risks in two popular Indian brands, MDH and Everest. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India conducted inspections, sampling and testing of mixed spice blends after Hong Kong suspended sales of some blends of the two brands in April over high levels of a pesticide.

Britain then tightened controls on spice imports from India, while New Zealand and the United States and Australia have said they were looking into issues related to the brands. MDH and Everest have said their products are safe for consumption. Their spices are among the most

474 of 4,054 samples tested between May and early July did not meet quality and safety parameters

popular in India, the biggest exporter, producer and consumer of spices in the world. The court dismissed the 2011 lawsuit filed by Burger King Corporation, represented by bankal Pabreja, which sought a permanent injunction against trademark infringement, along with monetary damages of ₹20 lakh, from the brand owners, Anabita and Shaopunika. The court noted that the Pune eater had been using the Burger

king name since 1991-92, while the U.S. company began operations in India only in 2014.

"Defendants have been using the trademark and their own shop name. They also sought ₹20 lakh in compensation for the harassment and intimidating calls they faced following the suit."

CCPA imposes fine on IAS coaching centre for misleading ad

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of ₹3 lakh on Sriram's IAS, a coaching institute, for publishing a misleading advertisement.

The institute, in its advertisement, had made claims of "200 plus selections in UPSC Civil Service Exam 2022" and "We are India's No.1 Prestigious IAS Coaching Institute".

Nidhi Khare, Chief Commissioner of CCPA, said in a statement that an advertisement should contain truthful and honest representation of facts by disclosing important information in such a manner that consumers are not misled. The institute's advertisement, she said, was "misleading and extremely hard to miss for consumers."

The institute's response to the CCPA, submitted in the form of 171 successful candidates against its claim of 200-

plus selections, was "misleading and extremely hard to miss for consumers." The institute's response to the CCPA, submitted in the form of 171 successful candidates against its claim of 200-

An advertisement should contain truthful and honest representation of facts, the CCPA said

were from different States under the MOU signed between the State Government and the Institute to provide free coaching. This fact was not disclosed in their advertisement, thereby deceiving consumers," the CCPA said in a release.

The CCPA observed that the total marks for the main exam and personality test are 1,750 and 275, respectively. "This contribution of Personality Test is 13.5% in the total marks. Majority of candidates had already cleared Preliminary and Mains examination by himself/herself, with no contribution of Sriram's IAS," it said.

Such false and misleading advertisement creates a huge impact on the consumers who are UPSC aspirants, the CCPA said, adding that the advertisement had violated the consumer's right to be informed to protect himself against unfair trade practice.

Pune's Burger King wins battle against fast-food giant

Abhinav Deshpande
MUMBAI



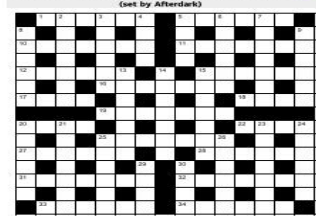
The American fast-food giant filed a suit in 2011 alleging trademark infringement.

fast-food restaurants in over 100 countries and U.S. territories. The court ruled that Burger King Corporation had "miserably failed" to demonstrate that the local eater had infringed on its trademark, adding that there was no evidence of customer confusion or actual damage caused to the company's business.

The plaintiff opposed the lawsuit, alleging it was filed with mala fide intentions to suppress legitimate businesses. They said that apart from the name, there was absolutely no similarity in the plaintiff's trademark and their own shop name. They also sought ₹20 lakh in compensation for the harassment and intimidating calls they faced following the suit.

However, the court refused to grant them monetary relief, citing lack of evidence beyond oral testimony to support their claims.

THE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Bugged Patrick to return to training by 1st of December (6)
 - 2 Watcher stalks attacks in the absence of hisper getting first siver (6)
 - 3 With director missing, there is difficulty in getting equipment (7)
 - 4 Copy is verbatim, if at embarrassing (5)
 - 5 Strange, former lover's book seen at Indian college (6)
 - 6 Went around left gate at the end and took off (6)
 - 7 Transporter berates after auditor takes engineer's place (7)
 - 8 Poses, is it? Fantastic (4)
 - 9 Work unit has returned, yard is overcast (4)

14257

- To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword app at <https://www.thehindu.com/links/crossword>
- 19 Examining the hollow wound (7)
 - 20 Basically silly joke was narrated (4)
 - 21 Singer arrived early at English club (4)
 - 22 First off, appeared confused and constructed something in haste (7)
 - 27 Games played after 1 seen in picture (6)
 - 28 Older Bengali reactor is over the moon (6)
 - 29 Investigate early at 10 AM in East End (7)
 - 32 A picture on the magazine at institute's almost new (7)
 - 33 Pointer is unnecessary after leaving ship (6)
 - 34 Steven lying, concealing calm (6)
- Down**
- 1 In despair, porters withheld in LaGuardia, say (7)
 - 2 Flowing river's name brought up (6)
 - 3 Powder and polish (4)
 - 4 Without skates, transported Swann's float (4)
 - 5 Manages government's user interface design elements superbly from the beginning (6)
 - 7 Preview shown in mobile van (7)
 - 8 Lady seen with stranger, primarily sleeping on bed linens (6)
 - 9 Toxic lady covouring with Edward (6)
 - 13 Say, shooters from Cameron face time at Sweden (7)
 - 14 Relative becomes different after following wingers from Shibbanewar (7)
 - 15 Small change for the poor without house (7)
 - 16 Lady maintains home on Sabbath and stands out (6)
 - 21 Ignorant peacockspeak at England overlooks a battle (7)
 - 23 Sign of politician forged after cop left (7)
 - 24 England's army chief and sailors embarked at either end to be received (6)
 - 25 Op-ed rewritten after receiving religious instruction in Times (6)
 - 26 Daughter's refusal uninitiated leads to argument (6)
 - 27 Over time, charge for party (4)
 - 28 Mass arrest, leader from east escapes (4)

SUDOKU

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

Solution to previous puzzle

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Gayathri Mantra's greatness

Among all the chants and slokas which devot Hindu follow, Gayathri Mantra is considered the mother of all mantras. This pre-eminent Mantra has many unique aspects associated with it, said Thirukudanthai Dr. Venkatasubramanian in a discourse.

The Gayathri Mantra is imparted to the young brahmacharyas as the pinnacle of the upanayanam ceremony. While all mantras are chanted while the chanter is observing upvās, Gayathri mantra is imparted after the child is fed in a ceremony known as Kumara Bhojanam. This is to establish that Gayathri Mantra, being mother of all mantras, cannot behold the child being hungry.

Another unique feature is that the father transmits the mantra to the child during the initiation, while all other mantras are always imparted by acharyas. The mantra starts with an invocation wherein the supremacy of the paramatma over jivatma is first acknowledged. Then the Lord, the Creator's, omnipotence is recognised as is the fact that He is the controller of all cosmic activity. Then the father evokes the luminance emanating from the Lord and beseeches that light to remove the darkness engulfing the mortal mind.

Darkness in this context is all the thoughts of materialistic pursuits and worldly desires which engulf one's mind and prevents the same from realising the presence of the Lord.

Chanting the Gayathri mantra regularly clears one's mind of negativity and undesirable thoughts and focuses the same on the luminance of the Lord.

CCPA imposes fine on IAS coaching centre for misleading ad

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of ₹3 lakh on Sriram's IAS, a coaching institute, for publishing a misleading advertisement.

The institute, in its advertisement, had made claims of "200 plus selections in UPSC Civil Service Exam 2022" and "We are India's No.1 Prestigious UPSC/IAS Coaching Institute".

Nidhi Khare, Chief Commissioner of CCPA, said in a statement that an advertisement should contain truthful and honest representation of facts by disclosing important information in such a manner that they were clear, prominent, and extremely hard to miss for consumers.

The institute, in its response to the CCPA, submitted the details of only 171 successful candidates against its claim of 200-plus selections.

"Out of these 171 candidates, 102 were from Free Interview Guidance Programme (IGP), 55 were from Free Test Series, nine were from GS Classroom course and five candidates

An advertisement should contain truthful and honest representation of facts, the CCPA said

were from different States under the MoU signed between the State Government and the Institute to provide free coaching. This fact was not disclosed in their advertisement, thereby deceiving consumers," the CCPA said in a release.

The CCPA observed that the total marks for the main exam and personality test are 1,750 and 275, respectively.

"Thus contribution of Personality Test is 13.5% in the total marks. Majority of candidates had already cleared Preliminary and Mains examination by himself/herself, with no contribution of Sriram's IAS," it said.

Such false and misleading advertisement creates a huge impact on the consumers who are UPSC aspirants, the CCPA said, adding that the advertisement had violated the consumer's right to be informed to protect himself against unfair trade practice.

Pune's Burger King wins battle against fast-food giant

Abhinay Deshpande

MUMBAI

After a 13-year-long legal battle, the U.S.-based fast-food giant Burger King Corporation has lost its case against a namesake eatery in Pune, with a commercial court dismissing the company's trademark infringement lawsuit.

District judge Sunil Vedpathak, in an August 16 order, said the city-based eatery Burger King was operational before the U.S. company entered the Indian market and that the latter failed to prove trademark infringement.

The court dismissed the 2011 lawsuit filed by Burger King Corporation, represented by Pankaj Pahuja, which sought a permanent injunction against trademark infringement, along with monetary damages of ₹20 lakh, from the eatery's owners, Anahita and Shaipoor Irani. The court noted that the Pune eatery had been using the 'Burger



The American fast-food giant had filed a suit in 2011 alleging trademark infringement.

King' name since 1991-92, while the U.S. company began operations in India only in 2014.

"Defendants have been using the trade name for their restaurant since about 1992. The pleadings put forth by the plaintiff are totally silent about how customers have been confused due to use of trademark Burger King by defendants to their restaurant," it said.

Founded in 1954, Burger King Corporation oversees a global network of 13,000

fast-food restaurants in over 100 countries and U.S. territories.

The court ruled that Burger King Corporation had "miserably failed" to demonstrate that the local eatery had infringed on its trademark, adding that there was no evidence of customer confusion or actual damage caused to the company's business.

The Irani family opposed the lawsuit, alleging it was filed with mala fide intentions to suppress legitimate businesses. They said that apart from the name, there was absolutely no similarity in the plaintiff's trademark and their own shop name. They also sought ₹20 lakh in compensation for the harassment and intimidating calls they faced following the suit.

However, the court refused to grant them monetary relief, citing lack of evidence beyond oral testimony to support their claims.

Defence Minister opens new Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Chennai

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a new Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) of the Coast Guard in Chennai on Sunday.

At the event, he also inaugurated two new Coast Guard units – the Regional Marine Pollution Response Centre (RMPRC) in Chennai and a Coast Guard Air Enclave in Puducherry – through video-conferencing.

The new MRCC would facilitate enhanced coordination for rescue of mariners and fishermen in distress at sea, a release said. It has been installed with the latest equipment for



Safety impetus: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh receiving the Guard of Honour by the Indian Coast Guard contingent on Sunday. PTI

distress monitoring through terrestrial and satellite systems, and has advanced communication systems, it added.

It would also serve as the nerve centre for coordinating all maritime res-

cue operations on the east coast of India and beyond, ensuring the safety and well-being of fishermen and mariners, the release added.

The RMPRC, based at the Chennai Port, is the

first-of-its-kind facility for coordinating response against marine pollution in the waters adjoining the coastal States in the Indian Ocean Region.

The Coast Guard Air Enclave in Puducherry would be equipped with Chetak and Advanced Light Helicopter Squadrons. Both these helicopters are indigenously built, and can carry out maritime patrol, search and rescue and other such missions from the land as well as Coast Guard ships patrolling at sea, it said.

State Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu; MPs Dayanidhi Maran and Kalanidhi Veeraswamy; and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Inauguration of Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC):

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated a new Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) of the Coast Guard in Chennai.

The MRCC is designed to enhance coordination for the rescue of mariners and fishermen in distress at sea, particularly along the east coast of India.

Two new Coast Guard units were also inaugurated: The Regional Marine Pollution Response Centre (RMPPRC) in Chennai.

A Coast Guard Air Enclave in Puducherry.

The inaugurations were conducted via video conferencing.

Features of the New Facilities:

The MRCC is equipped with the latest technology for distress monitoring through terrestrial and satellite systems.

It includes advanced communication systems and serves as the nerve center for coordinating all maritime rescue operations on the east coast of India.

The RMPPRC is a first-of-its-kind facility for coordinating responses against marine pollution in the Indian Ocean Region.

Coast Guard Air Enclave in Puducherry:

This unit is equipped with Chetak and Advanced Light Helicopter Squadrons, both indigenously built.

These helicopters are capable of carrying out maritime patrol, search and rescue, and other missions from both land and sea.

What is the primary purpose of the newly inaugurated Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Chennai?

a) To manage trade routes and cargo ships in the Indian Ocean.

b) To enhance coordination for the rescue of mariners and fishermen in distress along the east coast of India.

c) To oversee the construction of new ports and harbors in Tamil Nadu.

d) To regulate fishing activities in the Bay of Bengal.

Indian Coast Guard chief Rakesh Pal passes away

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Director-General of Indian Coast Guard Rakesh Pal passed away in Chennai on Sunday. He was 59.

The Coast Guard chief, who was in Chennai to take part in an official function scheduled to be attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, died after a cardiac arrest.

Mr. Pal reportedly collapsed at the Chennai airport while receiving Mr. Singh and was rushed to the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital around 3.30 p.m.

E. Theranirajan, Dean of the hospital, said efforts were made to revive Mr. Pal at the airport. "In the ambulance, he was put on defibrillator five times. But there was no pulse or blood pressure when he was brought to the hospital," Dr. Rajan said.

At the hospital, he was taken to the operation



Rajnath Singh and M.K. Stalin pay last respects to the late Coast Guard chief Rakesh Pal. PTI

theatre where doctors put him on inotropic medicines and his heart regained function, the dean said. Doctors found that the left anterior descending artery was fully occluded. After an angiogram, an angioplasty was performed.

Mr. Pal, however, developed a massive cardiac arrest and passed away at 7 p.m.

Condoling his death, the Defence Minister said,

"Deeply saddened at the untimely demise of Shri Rakesh Pal, DG, Indian Coast Guard in Chennai today. He was an able and committed officer under whose leadership ICG was making big strides in strengthening India's maritime security. My heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family."

Mr. Singh and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin visited the hospital and paid tributes.

Agency overview

Formed	18 August 1978
Employees	13,842 sanctioned strength (2018–19) ^[2]

Jurisdictional structure

Operations jurisdiction	India
Constituting instrument	The Coast Guard Act, 1978
Specialist jurisdiction	Coastal patrol, marine border protection, marine search and rescue.

Operational structure

Headquarters	Indian Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi
Agency executives	Vacant since 18 August 2024 ^[3] , Director General S Paramesh, PTM , TM , Additional Director General, Indian Coast Guard
Parent agency	Ministry of Defence











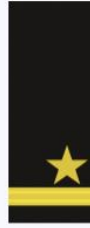

Facilities

Boats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 pollution control vessels• 25 offshore patrol vessels• 43 fast patrol vessels• 82 Patrol Boats• 28 Patrol Craft• 14 Hovercraft• 77 Aircraft• 06 Aux Barge
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Planes	77 aircraft ^[4]
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भारतीय सटरक्षक
INDIAN COAST GUARD

Rank group	General/flag officers				Senior officers				Junior officers		Officer cadet
 Indian Coast Guard ^[34] [V·T·E]											
	Director general	Additional director general	Inspector general	Deputy inspector general (3-year seniority)	Deputy inspector general	Commandant (Junior Grade)	Commandant (Junior Grade)	Deputy commandant	Assistant commandant	Assistant commandant (under probation)	Assistant commandant (after phase II)

Other ranks

Rank group	Junior commissioned officers			Non commissioned officers		Enlisted
 Indian Coast Guard ^[34] [V·T·E]						No insignia Navik Yantrik
	Pradhan Adhikari Pradhan Sahayak Engineer	Uttam Adhikari Uttam Sahayak Engineer	Adhikari Sahayak Engineer	Pradhan Navik Pradhan Yantrik	Uttam Navik Uttam Yantrik	

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNAY
In today's world, the only person who is not a politician is the politician's wife.



IDEA EXCHANGE

Data-centric decision-making is a must but caste data is tricky to capture
JAYANT CHAUDHARY
ILLUSTRATION BY UNION MINISTER
PAGE 12

EXPLAINED

POLICY
LATERAL ENTRY IN BUREAUCRACY P 11

TAKES SUO MOTU COGNIZANCE, DAYS AFTER HC SENDS CASE TO CBI SC steps in, lists Kolkata rape-murder, 'related issues' for hearing tomorrow

Matter listed before 3-judge bench presided by CJI D Y Chandrachud

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 18
DAYS AFTER the Calcutta High Court, expressing displeasure over the handling of the case relating to the alleged rape and murder of a junior doctor at the R G Kar Medical College in Kolkata, transferred the probe to the CBI, the Supreme Court has taken suo motu cognizance of the August 9 incident.

A three-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud will hear the matter Tuesday. The bench also comprises Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.
The supplementary cause list of the Supreme Court for August 20 shows "in re: alleged rape and murder incident at a junior doctor in R.G.Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata and related issues" listed for hearing before the bench, indicating that the court may also look into the acts of vandalism by a mob at the hospital on the night of August 14. On August 13, the High Court division bench of Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam and Justice



Supporters of rival football clubs East Bengal and Mohun Bagan at a protest in Kolkata. Purthi Paul

70 PADMA AWARDEE DOCTORS WRITE TO PM
70 Padma Awardees doctors wrote to PM Narendra Modi Sunday, asking him to personally intervene to address the "alarming situation" amidst the protest by doctors across the country. They also sought a special law for protection of healthcare workers. P 7

INSIDE

DURAND CUP MATCH CANCELLED OVER SECURITY ISSUES

GIRL RAPED ON BUS IN DEHRADUN, FIVE ARRESTED PAGE 7

Hiranmay Bhattacharyya, while expressing displeasure over the handling of the case and observing that "there appears to be no

Cracks in TMC: Its MP asks CBI to question top cop, gets police notice

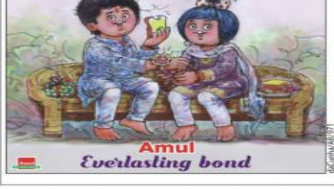
RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
KOLKATA, AUGUST 18



Shekhar Roy urged the CBI Sunday to conduct custodial interrogation of Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal and the college's former principal Sandip Ghosh. Within hours, the Kolkata police issued a notice to Roy, asking him to appear at the police headquarters in Lalbazar. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

REFLECTING THE unease and an apparent divide within the ruling TMC in West Bengal over the handling of the case and the murder of a junior doctor at the R G Kar Medical College and

Aaj bhaiya ko maska lagao!



JMM crisis: Champai says was humiliated, weighing options; Hemant targets BJP

His senior leader in Delhi, CM: 'Money such a thing that it doesn't take long'

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, AUGUST 18



Former Jharkhand CM Champai Soren at the Delhi airport on Sunday. P 7

THE JMM-LED ruling alliance in Jharkhand was grappling with a crisis Sunday after JMM senior leader and former Chief Minister Champai Soren, who reached Delhi amid speculation that he was ready to cross over to the BJP, said he had been "humiliated" by the BJP and was now left with three options — to retire, start a new party, or join another party.

His remarks drew a sharp response from Chief Minister Hemant Soren who accused the BJP of "poaching MLAs" and "dividing society". The JMM news agency quoted him saying in a Godda function that "money is such a thing that it doesn't take long for politicians to move here and there".

Hemant Soren, who returned to the post in July after being granted bail in an alleged money laundering case (Champai Soren had to step down as CM), claimed that the BJP had brought people from Gujarat, Assam and Maharashtra to "spread poison among the tribals, Dalits, backward classes and minorities and make them fight with each other", the PTI reported. He was quoted saying: "Forget about so-

GOVT & POLITICS

AS BJP WORKERS TARGET AJIT CONVOY, NCP ASKS FADNVA'S TO CLARIFY PAGE 6

city, these people work to break families and parties. They poach MLAs."
Champai Soren, in a post on X, claimed that on July 3, he was told that all his scheduled programmes were cancelled. "No one in the party to go to with his problems as the JMM's central executive meeting had not been held for years."
"I am counted among the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

J&K Police to MHA: Connectivity issues, enable Jio for new laws implementation



Issue was discussed in a meeting chaired by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla and attended by DGP R R Swain. P 11

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 18

FACING INTERNET connectivity issues in implementing the three new criminal laws, the Jammu and Kashmir Police has asked the Union Home Ministry to whitelist BSNL Jio so that it can be used in police stations across the Union Territory, The Indian Express has learnt.

The issue was discussed in a

Judiciary to police, institutions have to be rebuilt: Student leader now in interim govt

Govts come and go, India needs to maintain ties with our people: Nahid Islam

SHUBHA JYOTI ROY
DHAKA, AUGUST 18



Islam: 'Bangabandhu statues had become symbols of fascism'

UNDERLINING THAT rebuilding the country is a "big responsibility" and "rebuilding trust in the institution is also a critical responsibility", student leader Nahid Islam, who is the information and communications tech advisor in the interim Bangladesh government, has said they are working on a plan for "holistic reform of national institutions — judiciary, police, civilian bureaucracy among others."

This is the strongest signal yet from the Army-backed interim

government on revisiting the institutions packed with loyalists of Sheikh Hasina whose long rule as Prime Minister came to an end on August 5 when she fled to India.
In an interview to The Indian Express, 26-year-old Nahid Islam,

THE WORLD

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES REOPEN AFTER A MONTH PAGE 10

at Dhaka University, is one of the most articulate student leaders. Following Hasina's departure, was Islam who announced that Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus would head the interim government.

He said during Hasina's rule, institutional structures in the country had been "destroyed" due to "injustice and loot".
"So we have to reform them, and have to rebuild trust in those institutions... This is a big responsibility for us, and we are

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Despite red flags, ministry reimposed solar module list of domestic players

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW
AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

AGGARWALIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 18

DESPITE CONCERNS flagged at the highest levels in the government over market concentration and its potential to inflate

household electricity tariffs, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy reimposed its mandate requiring solar projects to source modules exclusively from a government-approved list of domestic manufacturers starting April 1.

Prior to the reimposition of the approved list of modules and Manufacturers (ALMM) order, former Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy R K Singh and the central public sector enterprise NTPC Ltd had explicitly flagged concerns among domestic manufacturers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS NETWORK



COAST GUARD DG RAHUL ATTACKS LATERAL ENTRY IN GOVT JOB JOBS PAGE 8, 5

"ANTI NATIONAL", RAHUL ATTACKS LATERAL ENTRY IN GOVT JOB JOBS PAGE 8, 5

THE WORLD

BLINKEN IN ISRAEL TO PUSH GAZA CEASEFIRE DEAL

PAK EX-ISI CHIEF WAS PART OF IMRAN'S PLOT PAGE 10

A derelict school still running — just to keep 7 kids from dropping out

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

ANISWARYA RAJ GURUGRAM, AUGUST 18

BEHIND THE iron gate lies a derelict building overrun by knee-high vegetation. Without even a board to announce its name, the only signs of life at Gurugram's Government Primary School Gopalpur Khera are its seven students who come past its faded tricolour gates each day, besides their sole teacher.

imum enrollment criteria of 20 students, this primary school, located around 1 km from Dwarika Expressway, has not been shut and continues to be a lifeline for its little learners.
Past the unkempt front yard with brown plastic chairs, see-through stairs that lead to the walls of the school. Barring one, its three other classrooms are locked. A peek inside the only open classroom reveals a sad state of affairs: three broken furniture, some kitchen utensils, a lawn mower, a carrom board, all trunks and a chinky television. The school has English textbooks, students are filthy and the kitchen



The verandah of the Govt Primary School in Gurugram's Gopalpur Khera functions as a 'classroom'. Aniswarya Raj

from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, all seven students are forced to join the school's verandah due to the lack of an active power connection.
Despite moving to Gurugram and this school from Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj just a year ago with his migrant parents, Divesh is the only student who wears a uniform here, multiplied and divide three-digit numbers, and also read sentences in English. Sitting next to him, besides his five other classmates, is a shy boy, 11, a student of Class 5, who has English textbook. The school's only teacher, Lalita Chawla, a guest teacher

who joined in July on a 45-day contract — on leave, substitute teacher Anil Kumar from the nearest primary school, around 2 km away, is covering for her. She said she would like to visit the verandah or brush off the ants swarming the "classroom", the children's thing one must do under the teacher's sits away from them, making himself available when the need arises.
Divesh tells The Indian Express, "Earlier, two classrooms were open and we would sit there. There were more children in school then. Now, since there is no power, we can't sit inside."
Though the student register

AI stewardess assaulted by intruder in hotel room near Heathrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 18

AN AIR India air hostess staying in a hotel near London Heathrow airport was assaulted by an intruder who entered her room late at night, according to sources. The incident took place earlier this week.

The air hostess, who sustained injuries, was rescued by police in adjacent rooms and her staff who responded to her cries for help, and the intruder was arrested.

The airline confirmed the incident, but did not elaborate on the nature of assault and injuries

sustained by the air hostess. The matter is being investigated by London police and Air India is working with it to "pursue the matter to the fullest extent of the law", the airline said.

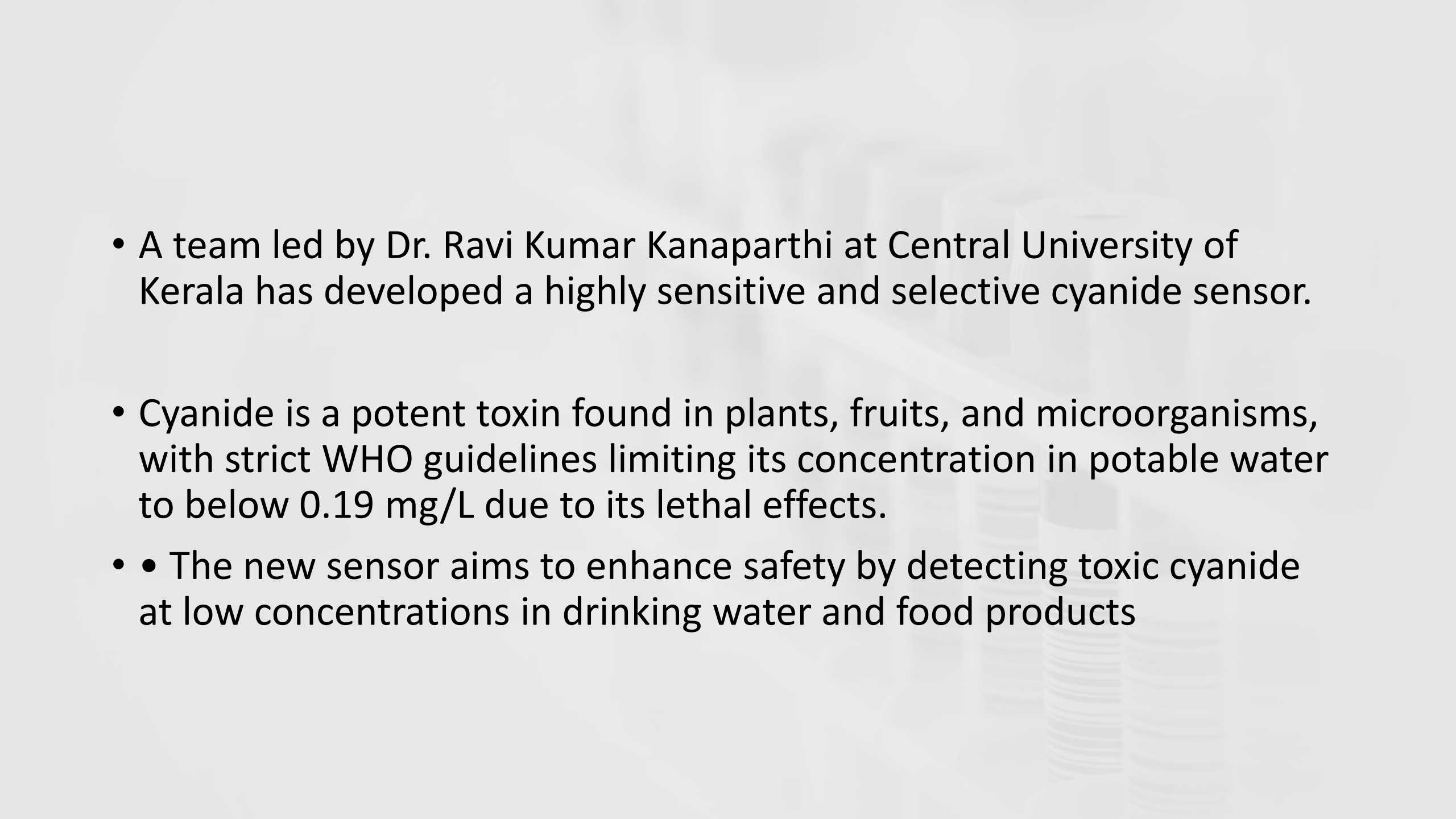
"Air India accords foremost priority to the safety, security and well-being of our crew and staff members. We are deeply anguished by an unlawful incident of intrusion at a hotel, operated by a major international chain, that affected one of our crew members," an Air India spokesperson said.

"We are providing all possible support to our colleague and her broader team, including

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



CYANIDE SENSOR

- 
- A team led by Dr. Ravi Kumar Kanaparthi at Central University of Kerala has developed a highly sensitive and selective cyanide sensor.
 - Cyanide is a potent toxin found in plants, fruits, and microorganisms, with strict WHO guidelines limiting its concentration in potable water to below 0.19 mg/L due to its lethal effects.
 - • The new sensor aims to enhance safety by detecting toxic cyanide at low concentrations in drinking water and food products

The new sensor material changes color from yellow to colorless upon detecting cyanide, providing a clear visual indication of its presence.

- The sensor specifically detects cyanide without interference from other ions, ensuring accuracy.

Navroz



- The Prime Minister of India conveyed his greetings on the occasion of Navroz, the Parsi New Year, celebrated with great enthusiasm, particularly in Maharashtra and Gujarat. This year, Navroz, will be celebrated on 16th August 2024.
- While globally observed in March, in India, the celebration occurs in July or August based on the Shahenshahi or Fasli calendar, which does not consider the leap year.

- Navroz meaning “new day”, is deeply rooted in Zoroastrianism, one of the oldest monotheistic religions, founded by Prophet Zoroaster in ancient Persia (modern-day Iran).
- The festival, named Jamshedi Navroz after the Persian King Jamshed. Parsi New Year celebration dates back 3000 years and was brought to India by Zoroastrians who migrated to Gujarat in the 7th century.

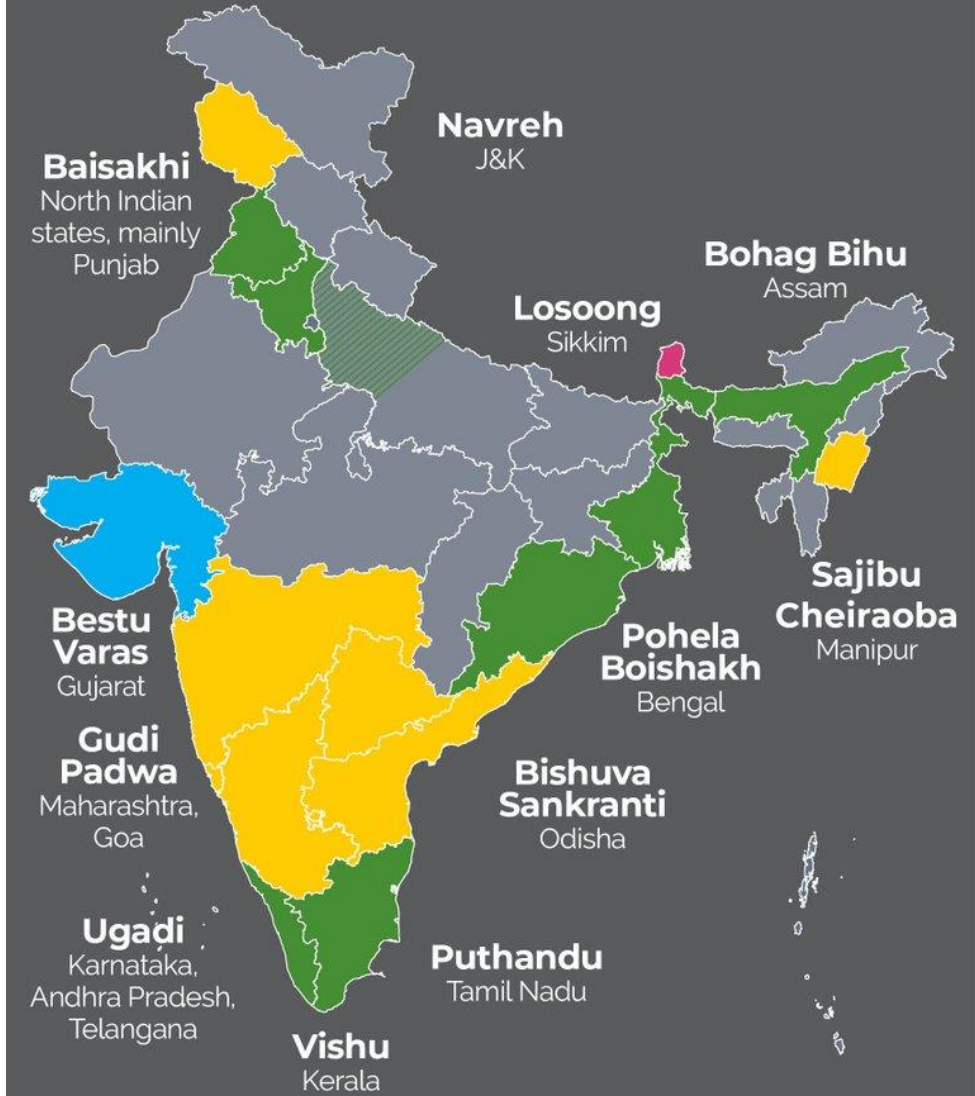
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- UNESCO inscribed Navroz on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2016, following an initial inscription in 2009.
- 

Existing Traditions of India Recognised by UNESCO

1.	Tradition of Vedic chanting, 2008	8.	Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir, India, 2012
2.	Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana, 2008	9.	Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur, 2013
3.	Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre, 2008	10.	Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab, India ,2014
4.	Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas, India, 2009	11.	Yoga, 2016
5.	Mudiyettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala, 2010	12.	Nowruz, 2016
6.	Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan, 2010	13.	Kumbh Mela, 2017
7.	Chhau dance, 2010	14.	Durga Puja in Kolkata, 2021

THE NEW YEAR MAP OF INDIA

New Year festivals in different regions of India



BHAVISHYA



- *Recently, the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare introduced 'Bhavishya'.*
- *It is a comprehensive online platform launched by the Government to facilitate the **pension sanction and payment process** for retiring central government employees.*
- *It is part of the **Digital India initiative**, aimed at enhancing pensioners' ease of living by ensuring timely and accurate disbursement of pensions.*
- *Bhavishya has been ranked 3rd best in NeSDA (National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment), 2021.*

Word of the day

Encumber:

restrict (someone or something) so as to make free movement difficult

Synonym: restrain

Usage: *These rules will encumber the people we are planning to help.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/encumberpro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ɪnˈkʌmbə(r)/, /ɛnˈkʌmbə(r)/

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• LIVE DOUBT SESSION



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. An orange horizontal bar is visible in the top left corner.

Thank you
guys.
