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Breathe. It's just a bad day, not a bad life.



'Madrasas unfit to give proper education' NEWS » PAGE 6





India's strong strides at the Chess Olvmpiad The team is second only to the U.S. in ELO rating ION » PAGE 9



India drubs Malaysia, climbs to the top

INSIDE



Uneasy calm in Manipur a day after clashes

GUWAHATI

An uneasy calm prevailed in Manipur on Wednesday, a day after protesters clashed with security personnel on the treets of Imphal leaving mon than 50 students injured. Then ere no reports of violence either in the Imphal Valley or in the peripheral hills. >> PAGE 4

Cong. promises five guarantees. Statehood in J&K

Announcing "five guarantees" for Jammu and Kashmir at an election rally in Anantnag on said the party "will not only strive for J&K's Statehood bu also restore the bicameral House system" . » PAGE 5

Everyone aged 70 and over to get health coverage

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 and above

U.K. sanctions Russian 'shadow fleet' of tankers

The U.K. government, on Wednesday, announced sanctions on a "shadow flee of 10 Russian oil tankers that it has alleged were circumventing Western oil sanctions. » PAGE 14

Protesters demand meeting in the presence of CM to be telecast live on news channels; State Health Minister questions if the doctors are being guided by politics, asks them to resume duty; representative for WBJDF says demands are clear and conducive to an open and productive discussion and adds there is no political colour in the demands

West Bengal Minister of State for Health Chandri-ma Bhattacharya asked if the doctors were guided by politics, and wondered if they wanted justice for the rape and murder of the re-sident doctors at the R.C. he impasse bet-ween protesting re-sident doctors and the West Bengal govern-ment over resumption of duty in public medical insident doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital. Responding to the Mistitutions continued for the second day on Wednesday, with the former setting fresh conditions for hold-

nister's charge, a represen-tative of the West Bengal Junior Doctor's Front (WBJDF), Kinjal Nanda, said, "There is no political colour in this demand. An coiour in this demand. An open mind is a subjective choice. We believe our de-mands are conductive to an open and productive dis-cussion. Our demands are clear."

than 30 representatives be allowed at the State Secre-tariat for a meeting to be for the state of the state of the Chief Minister Manuata Ba-neriee and televised live on news channels. Manoj Chief Secretory Manoj Chief Secretory Manoj Chief Secretory Chief was disheartened with the response of the junior doc-tors setting conditions for talks, which did not result open mind. Chief Secretary's email The conditions were set in response to an email by Mr. Pant on Wednesday, urging the doctors to res-ume duty immediately in adherence to a Supreme



Kolkata doctors set fresh terms, continue stir

Firm on stance: Junior doctors on the second day of the sit-in protest at Swasthya Bhawan in Kolkata

Court appeal to them to re-turn to work by 5 p.m. on

aesday. "It is important to take a serious note that the com-mon people have been de-prived of your vital servic-es... It is expected that

good sense will prevail and you will resume duties im-mediately in compliance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order," he said.

The email included a fresh invitation to a delegation of 12-15 junior doctors

tor a discussion at the Se-cretariat at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

At a press conference la-ter in the evening, Ms. Bhattacharya joined Mr. Pant in saying that as law-abiding citizens, everyone

should adhere to the Su-preme Court order. Asked if the State government would take action, the Minister said people would come to know when the

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandra-chud had on Monday said that doctors cannot re-main oblivious to the needs of the community they are intended to serve and appealed them to re-turn to work by 5 p.m. on Tuesday.
"But if they fresident

"But if they [resident doctors] do not start work, we will not be able to res-train the State from taking action, because that is en-tirely within its jurisdic-tion," it had said.

vernment and doctors, thousands of junior doc-tors continued the demonstration outside Swasthya of the Health Department, on Wednesday. Parents of the rape and murder vic-tim had also visited the

lin addition to their ear-lier demands, they also sought the resignation of the Principal Secretary, Health, as well as the Director of Health Services and Director of Medical Education.

On Tuesday, Ms. Bhatta-charya had said Chief Mi-nister Banerjee was wait-

nister Banerjee was wait-ing for a meeting with the doctors till 7.30 p.m. "Last evening, we found out from the media that the Chief Minister was waiting to meet us at the State Secretariat. We want

Wet blanket

ing talks. They included the demand that no fewer than 30 representatives be



Centre withdraws nod for eve drops over 'false' claims

MEDITANANTHADIDAM

The Central Drugs Stan-dard Control Organisation has suspended permission given to the Mumbai-based ENTOD Pharmaceuticals to manufacture and mar-ket its eye drops which it said can both the central said can help those with presbyopia do without reading glasses. In a notification on Tuesday, the CDSCO said

permission was suspended as the company's claim was likely to mislead the public, and had violated provisions of the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019. The permis-

Rules, 2019. The permission given on August 6 was "for the treatment of peebopopia in adults", and it would challenge the support of the supp media reports on the pro-duct launch went viral and "public imagination led to an unusual escalation for which ENTOD Pharma-

which ENTOD Pharma-ceuticals is not responsible". He also said the Drugs Controller-General of India approval was based on a valid controlled clinical trial in 234 patients. The trial, he said, was

The trial, he said, was successful in showing effi-cacy and safety of the eye drops in patients with presbyopia. The pharmaceutical firm had issued a press re-lease about its Prest'u eye drops, developed to re-duce dependence on read-



The pharma firm had claimed the PresVu Eye Drops would help people with presbyopia do away with reading glasses. GETTY IMAGES

ing glasses for individuals affected by prealyopia, as affected by prealyopia, as condition typically seen in those over the age of 40. It was the first DGGI-approved proprietary prescription register of the proprietary prescription and the proprietary prescription distribution and the proprietary approach the proprietary and the proprietary prescription and the proprietary and the proprietary prescription and the proprietary prescription and proprietary prescription and prescription and proprietary prescription and prescription an too at an affordable price".

Alarms sounded Following widespread in-terest, multiple ophthal-mologists began sounding a cautionary alarm and the company was asked for an explanation for its "unethi-cal and false representacal and false representa-tion of facts." Ophthalmol-ogists pointed out that the active ingredient used in the eye drops, pilocarpine, to treat another eye condi-tion, glaucoma, but had since been replaced with newer, better drugs. They pointed out that the use of pilocarpine could cause several side effects.

known to cause some dis-comfort to the eye and also because we have better drugs available in the mar-ket for glaucoma. The mio-sis or constriction of the pupils induced by pilocar-pin helps people to see ob-incts clear to them better. pin helps people to see ob-jects close to them better and is, at best, only a tem-porary solution for pres-byopia," said Sreeni Edak-hion, an ophthalmic surgeon based in Thalas-sery, Kerala. He said the All India Ophthalmological Society had now constituted an experts' group to dis cuss the possible adverse effects of the newly marketed drug and to frame guidelines for the public Babu K.V., an ophthal-

"We do not use pilocar

pine anymore as it is known to cause some dis-

mologist and public health activist, has written to the Union Health Minister stat TÖD Pharmaceuticals was a gross violation of Section 3 (d) of the Drugs and Mag-ic Remedies (Objectiona-ble Advertisement) Act, 1954, which specifically prohibits the advertise-ment of diseases and disor-ders of the optical system.

The Congress's approach is in sync with the Narendra Modi government on ma-jor foreign policy issues, including India's relationship with the U.S.; no talks with Pakistan unless the flow of terrorism is stopped; and the rise of extremist ele-ments in Bangladesh and Israel, the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi Gandhi, who con-

cluded his four-day trip to the U.S., made these obser-

the U.S., made these obser-vations during an interac-tion with presspersons at the prestigious National Press Club at Washington. While Mr. Gandhi talked of continuity in foreign pol-icy issues, he was sharp in his criticism of the Modi covernment's handling of government's handling of the border face-off with

CM (CM)

nese troops occupying land the size of Delhi in La-dakh. I think that's a disas-ter. Media does not like to write about it," he said. "How would America react if a neighbour occupied 4,000 square kilometres of your territory? Would any President be able to get away with saying that he has handled that well?"

Position on Pakistan

However, he endorsed the government's position on Pakistan. "We are not go-thered to be a superior of the con-rying out terror acts in our country. We are just not go-ing to accopt it. And until are going to be problems between us," he said. Asked if the Kashmir Issue Askan nations away from a dialogue, Mr. Gandhi re-plied in the negative. However, he endorsed the

Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi during an interaction with the media

"I don't see Mr. Modi is

Modi wilted under Chinese pressure, says Rahul

"I don't see Mr. Modi is fighting back, his party's difficulty in fighting the dections with "frozen promoted the first party much from what he's doing," he said, indicating a bi-partitian approach to Covering a wide spectrum of topics, the Opposition leader also talked to the order of the fighting back his party's

at the National Press Club in Washington, U.S. on Wednesday. PTI have meetings," he said. But the Opposition lead-er made it clear that the er made it clear that the fight for democracy was In-dia's internal fight. "The fight for democracy in In-dia is an Indian fight. With dia is an Indian tight. With all due respect, it has noth-ing to do with anybody else. It's our problem. And we will take care of it. We will make sure that democ-racy is secure," he said.

'HURTING SENTIMENTS'
* PAGE 4

frozen. I don't know any democracy where that has happened. Maybe that type of thing happened in Syria or used to happen in traq. But we literally sat during our election and

spoke to our treasurer and he says, well, we have no money. Now, you can have a resilient voter. You still

need to run campaigns. You still need to have con-

versations. You still need to

Kolkata doctors set fresh terms, continue stir

Protesters demand meeting in the presence of CM to be telecast live on news channels; State Health Minister questions if the doctors are being guided by politics, asks them to resume duty; representative for WBJDF says demands are clear and conducive to an open and productive discussion and adds there is no political colour in the demands

Moyurie Som Shrabana Chatterjee KOLKATA

he impasse between protesting resident doctors and the West Bengal government over resumption of duty in public medical institutions continued for the second day on Wednesday, with the former setting fresh conditions for holding talks. They included the demand that no fewer than 30 representatives be allowed at the State Secretariat for a meeting to be held in the presence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and televised live on news channels.

Chief Secretary Manoj Pant said the government was disheartened with the response of the junior doctors setting conditions for talks, which did not result in a discussion with an open mind. West Bengal Minister of State for Health Chandrima Bhattacharya asked if the doctors were guided by politics, and wondered if they wanted justice for the rape and murder of the resident doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital.

Responding to the Minister's charge, a representative of the West Bengal Junior Doctor's Front (WBJDF), Kinjal Nanda, said, "There is no political colour in this demand. An open mind is a subjective choice. We believe our demands are conducive to an open and productive discussion. Our demands are clear."

Chief Secretary's email

The conditions were set in response to an email by Mr. Pant on Wednesday, urging the doctors to resume duty immediately in adherence to a Supreme



Firm on stance: Junior doctors on the second day of the sit-in protest at Swasthya Bhawan in Kolkata on Wednesday. PTI

Court appeal to them to return to work by 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

"It is important to take a serious note that the common people have been deprived of your vital services... It is expected that good sense will prevail and you will resume duties immediately in compliance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order," he said.

The email included a fresh invitation to a delegation of 12-15 junior doctors

for a discussion at the Secretariat at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.

At a press conference later in the evening, Ms. Bhattacharya joined Mr. Pant in saying that as lawabiding citizens, everyone

should adhere to the Supreme Court order. Asked if the State government would take action, the Minister said people would come to know when the government acted.

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud had on Monday said that doctors cannot remain oblivious to the needs of the community they are intended to serve and appealed them to return to work by 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

"But if they [resident doctors] do not start work, we will not be able to restrain the State from taking action, because that is entirely within its jurisdiction," it had said.

Amid the ongoing slugfest between the State government and doctors, thousands of junior doctors continued the demonstration outside Swasthya Bhavan, the headquarters of the Health Department, on Wednesday. Parents of the rape and murder victim had also visited the protest site.

In addition to their earlier demands, they also sought the resignation of the Principal Secretary, Health, as well as the Director of Health Services and Director of Medical Education.

On Tuesday, Ms. Bhattacharya had said Chief Minister Banerjee was waiting for a meeting with the doctors till 7.30 p.m.

"Last evening, we found out from the media that the Chief Minister was waiting to meet us at the State Secretariat. We want to make it clear that in the email we received from the Health Secretary, there was no mention of the Chief Minister waiting for us," Dr. Nanda had clarified.

Protest and Impasse

The deadlock between protesting resident doctors and the West Bengal government over the resumption of duty in public medical institutions continued for a second day.

Doctors set fresh conditions for talks, including that no fewer than 30 representatives be allowed to meet with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the meeting be televised live.

State Health Minister's Remarks

State Health Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya questioned if the doctors were guided by politics and reminded them of the need for justice for the rape and murder of a resident doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College.

The doctors denied any political motivation and insisted their demands were conducive to open and productive discussions.

Chief Secretary's Appeal

Chief Secretary Manoj Pant expressed disappointment with the doctors' refusal to engage in talks with an open mind.

The Chief Secretary sent an email urging the doctors to resume duty in adherence to the Supreme Court's order, which directed doctors to return to work by 5 p.m.

Demands and Resignations

The protesting doctors added demands, including the resignation of the Principal Secretary, Health, and the Director of Medical Services.

Parents of the deceased doctor also visited the protest site, adding support to the ongoing demonstrations.

INBRIDE



Delhi HC seeks NADA's stand on Bajrang Punia's plea

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the National Anti-Doping Agency to respond to a National Anti-Doping Agency to respond to a County of the National Anti-Doping Agency to respond to a county of the National Agency of the Na counset said a disciplinary paner had been constituted and it was looking into the issue.Mr. Punia's counsel pressed for an interim relief citing the upcoming Senior World Wrestling Championships in Albania. However, the court said no formal application had been filed for the

Cabinet gives nod for building 62,000 km of rural roads

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the proposal of the Ministry of Rural Development of the Ministry of the Polymer of the Ministry of the Minis rural road construction programme has been provided with a total outlay of ₹70,125 crore, of which the central share is ₹49,087.50 crore and States' share is ₹21,037.50 crore. PMGSY-IV road alignment planning will be undertaken through the PM Gati Shakti portal. ***

Madrasas 'unfit' for proper education, NCPCR tells SC

Including a few NCERT books in the curriculum is a mere guise in the name of imparting education and does not ensure that children are receiving formal and quality education, it says

Krishnadas Rajagopal

he National Com-mission for Protect-con of Child Rights of Child Rights rights protection body in the country, has told the Supreme Court that ma-drasas are 'unsuitable or unfit' places for children to receive' proper educa-

tion".

The NCPCR, represented by senior advocate Swarupama Chaturvedi and
advocate Abhaid Parikh, made the submission is response to petitions chal-lenging an Allahabad High Court judgment which Court Judgment which struck down the Uttar Pra-desh Board of Madrasa

Education Act, 2004.
The commission said
the textbooks in madrasas the textbooks in madrasas "profess supremacy of Is-lam". "Merely teaching a few NCERT books in the few NCERT books in the in the name of imparting education and does not en-sure that the children are receiving formal and quali-ty education," it argued. dissues of curriculum, elizi-

issues of curriculum, eligi-bility of teachers, opaque funding, violation of land laws, and failure to provide children a holistic environ-ment as problems associated with madrasas.



opaque funding, and others. SUSHIL KUMAR VERNI

mosphere and improved opportunities for growth," the commission said. It said children from

faiths other than Islam were also studying in ma-drasas in Bihar, Madhya

drasas in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Ut-tar Pradesh, and Uttarak-hand, Providing Islamic re-ligious education to non-Muslims was a viola-tion of Article 28(3) of the

tion of Article 28(3) of the Constitution, which upholds the right against forced participation in reli-gent and the constitution or worship.

The High Court had or-dered the transfer of ma-drasa students to regular schools. The top court stayed the implementation

of the High Court decision in April. On Wednesday, a three-judge Bench headed

by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said the

dependent on the conventional methods used in learning Koran and other religious texts. The 'scanty and unregularised' work-ing in madrasas creates a haywire system which just stands alone on the con-

stands alone on the conventional ground of religion," it said.

In a side of the side of mental right to a good edu-cation by failing to provide

up for a detailed hearing

Taking Uttar Pradesh's ase, the NCPCR drew the case, the NCPCR drew the court's attention to the Darui Uloom Deoband Madrass founded in Deoband in Saharampur district.
"According to the information available the Deoband Madrass fanned out across South Asia and has also set up seminaries, or

also set up seminaries, or madrasas, teaching an aus-tere version of Islam, par-ticularly along the Pakis-tan-Afghanistan border... it has also been alleged by Taliban extremists groups to have been influenced by the religious and political ideologies of Darul Uloom Deoband Madrasa... the Deoband Madrasa issues Deoband Madrasa issues fatwas online as well as of-fline and has a very strict and conservative interpre-tation of Sharia, as evi-roughly 2,50,000 fatwas which restrict followers in terms of fatth, life, and ma-ny other aspects," the NCPCR submitted.

NCPCR submitted.

"Though madrasas dot
the country, only States
such as Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan,
Uttarakhand have Madrasa
Boards, Larger, wither, of Boards, Large number of children attend madrasas that are either unrecog-nised or unmapped," the commission observed.

Hindu, Muslim groups urge people to

send views on Waaf Bill to House panel +

Cabinet approves health cover for all aged 70 and above

chaired by Prime Minister
Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved health
coverage to all senior citirespective of income under the Ayushman Bharat
Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya
Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
This will benefit nearly
4.5 crore families with six

crore senior citizens by providing ₹5 lakh free health insurance cover on a family basis.

New card

This scheme was one of the promises made in the BJP manifesto. With this approval, per-

sons aged 70 and above, ir-respective of their socio-economic status, will be eligible to get the benefits under the AB PM-IAY. ior citi-

The eligible senior citi-zens will be issued a new distinct card under the

scheme.
Senior citizens belonging to families aiready covered under the AB PMJAV
up cover up to £5 lakh per year for themselves (which they do not have to share with other members of the family who are below the age of 70). Senior citizens

All other senior citizens aged 70 and above will get a cover up to ₹5 lakh per year on a family basis. Se-nior citizens who are alrea-



Thursday, September 12, 2024

schemes such as the Cen-tral Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) and Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) may either choose their ex-isting scheme or opt for AB

It has been clarified that senior citizens aged 70 and senior citizens aged 70 and above who are under priv-ate health insurance poli-cies or Employees' State Insurance scheme will be eligible to get benefits un-der the AB PM-JAY.

der the AB PM-JAY is the "The AB PM-JAY is the world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme, which provides health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secon-dary and tertiary care hos-pitalisation to ₹5 cross inpitalisation to 55 crore in-dividuals corresponding to 12.34 crore families," the Union government said in

a release. The expansion of cover to persons aged 70 and above was announced by Mr. Modi in April.

Centre gives clearance for 'Mission

The Hindu Bureau

The Union Cabinet ap-proved 'Mission Mausam' on Wednesday with an out-lay of ₹2,000 crore over

two years.

The Ministry of Earth
Sciences will be the nodal
body implementing the
mission. The aim of the programme will be to bol ster research and development, and capacity in atmospheric sciences, weather surveillance, mo-delling, forecasting, and

Critical elements of Mission Mausam will include deploying next-generation radars and satellite sys-

Centre to nudge banks to fund green energy projects

To help meet India's ₹30 trillion funding require-ments for installing 500 GW of non-fossil fuel ca-pacity by 2030, the Minis-try of New and Renewable Energy is in talks with fi-



said at a press briefing on Wednesday. Such a "shapath patra"

would be given by develop-ers, manufacturers and private equity investors, he

expected to give firm com-

prayers as a platform to reach out, while Hindu groups are spreading the spandals, evening prayers at temples, and resident welfare associations. Maulana Khalid Rash-eed Firangi Mahali, a mem-ber of the AldPLB, said With just two days left for

submitting suggestions to Parliament's Joint Commit-tee on Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024, Muslim and Hin-du organisations have in-tensified campaigns to en-sure that people send their feedback that a QR code had been uploaded on the website of the organisation which can be scanned by people to Organisations such as the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the All India Muslim Personal Law Board are sharing Google forms on social media and messagget a pre-drafted message on the objections to the Waqf Bill.

"We made a call to peoing platforms to encourage people to submit their ple to use our QR code to send suggestions to the tee through Friday committee through Friday prayers on September 6 and six lakh people used it within two hours," said Mr. Mahali. He added that till 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 82,70,231 mails had been sent to the committee.

'For and against'

"For and against" The pre-drafted message of the AIMPLB says that the Bill should be "rejected completely". It says the proposed provisions indi-cate that the Bill has been designed to remove Waqf properties from their sta-tus as Waqf and to dimin-ish the control of mutawallis (caretakers). It says the Bill violates the freedom of religion granted by the

A similar appeal to re-ject the Bill was also made by Zakir Abdul Karim Naik, a religious leader who is abroad.

Reacting to the call of Mr. Naik, Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju took

to X and said that people should not mislead inno-cent Muslims. A pre-drafted letter is al-so being charged on What

has a reference to Tiru-chendurai village in Tamil Nadu, which has a 1,500-year-old Hindu temple that was claimed as Waqf property. It points out how a survey of Waqf properties is done using taxpayers' money but no civil courts in the country can pass an order on Waqf disputes.

Vinod Bansal, spokes-person of the VHP, said the organisation was discuss-

Mausam'

nancial institutions, public and private sector banks, urging them to commit a portion of their loans to re-

portion of their toans to re-newable energy projects. At the forthcoming Re-Invest summit, scheduled in Gandhinagar next week, all major banks and finanitutions will be givcial institutions will be giv-ing "shapath patra" (pro-missory notes) about their proposed loans or funding plans in the renewable energy sector, Union Mi-nister for New and Renew-

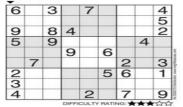


able Energy Pralhad Joshi

expected to give firm com-mitments. Only with the participation of banks and industry can India hope to attract finance to facilitate the renewable energy sec-tor," said Mr. Joshi.

Prime Minister Naren-dra Modi is scheduled to

SHINDSDEAN



FAITH

Steely resolve of Mahabali

In His avataras like Matsya and Kurma, Lord Vishnu slayed the rakshasas who were His foes. But in the Vamana ava-tar, He spared King Mahabali, grandson of Prahlada, be-cause Lord Narasimha assured Prahlada that He would

so handsome.

Had the Lord thought, He would have descended as a celibate straightaway, but He chose to be born as the son to sage Kashyana and his wife Adhithi and cherished folwing religious procedures. The difference between 'dharma' and 'dhana' is that in

the former, charity is given without expecting anything in return, while in the latter, it is given with anticipation. In the sacrificial performance of king Mahabali, the Lord ap

The king asked Him what He wanted and the dwarf said red just three feet of space. The king pr

give the same.

Subracharya, the king's guru, ascertained the true identity of the alm-seeker and tried to prevent the king from The gurus said telling lies in times of danger is not a sin, and so he wanted the king to tell God that he told a lie and lies are to the command and said telling lies would plunge a person into danger and fulfilled his promise.



- Showman fighting over primaries (1 Hide son with relatives (4)

CM (IIII

rea at nome in London when Mafla boss drops in to gray (6) Chess expert acting lame to sacrifice (8) Ready to accommodate adult wanting length adjusted to look stylish (3,1,4) 26 Authority to wield overwhelming power (6)

Say Magellan's notice delivered to king securing passage cost (8)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link.jjpTn

Objects laid getting rid of Yankee cracksmen (in the US) (4)

20 Stuff intercepted by port ends in Germany breaking coded message (10)

22 Feel at home in London when Mafia boss drops in to pray (6)

- Customer is one who exploits? (4) "Evesore" from retinopathy intermittently agitates cast (3.1.6.5)
- Usual practice, insurance covers and settles (8)
- 13 Sense to check plugs to brand electrical equipment (10) 17 Spillers conceding runs, sadly including good fielders (3,5) 19 Society journal with a new catchobrase (6)
- 24 Chaps taking one look (4)

Cabinet approves health cover for all aged 70 and above

Bindu Shajan Perappadan NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved health coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 and above irrespective of income under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

This will benefit nearly 4.5 crore families with six crore senior citizens by providing ₹5 lakh free health insurance cover on a family basis.

New card

This scheme was one of the promises made in the BJP manifesto.

With this approval, persons aged 70 and above, irrespective of their socioeconomic status, will be eligible to get the benefits under the AB PM-JAY.

The eligible senior citizens will be issued a new distinct card under the scheme.

Senior citizens belonging to families already covered under the AB PM-JAY will get an additional topup cover up to ₹5 lakh per year for themselves (which they do not have to share with other members of the family who are below the age of 70).

All other senior citizens aged 70 and above will get a cover up to ₹5 lakh per year on a family basis. Senior citizens who are already getting benefits of other



Eligible senior citizens will get a new distinct card under Ayushman Bharat scheme.

public health insurance schemes such as the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), and Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) may either choose their existing scheme or opt for AB PM-JAY.

It has been clarified that senior citizens aged 70 and above who are under private health insurance policies or Employees' State Insurance scheme will be eligible to get benefits under the AB PM-JAY.

"The AB PM-JAY is the world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme, which provides health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to 55 crore individuals corresponding to 12.34 crore families," the Union government said in a release.

The expansion of cover to persons aged 70 and above was announced by Mr. Modi in April.

Cabinet Decision

• The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved health coverage for all senior citizens aged 70 and above under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

Beneficiaries

- This decision will benefit approximately 4.5 crore families, covering six crore senior citizens.
- The scheme provides ₹5 lakh of free health insurance per family per year.

New Card

 Senior citizens aged 70 and above will receive a new distinct card under the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

Additional Benefits

- Senior citizens already covered under AB PM-JAY will receive an additional ₹5 lakh cover for themselves, not shared with family members below 70.
- Other senior citizens aged 70+ will get ₹5 lakh per year for family-based coverage.

Existing Schemes

 Senior citizens under other health schemes (CGHS, ECHS, CAPF) can choose to either continue with their existing schemes or opt for AB PM-JAY.

World's Largest Health Assurance Scheme

 The AB PM-JAY is recognized as the world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme, covering 55 crore people and providing ₹5 lakh per family per year.

- Consider the following statements regarding the recent health cover initiative under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY):
- 1. All senior citizens aged 70 and above are eligible for a ₹5 lakh free health insurance cover irrespective of their socioeconomic status.
- 2. Senior citizens already covered under AB PM-JAY will get an additional top-up cover of ₹5 lakh per year, separate from the family coverage.
- 3. The scheme allows senior citizens under other health schemes like CGHS and ECHS to opt for both their existing scheme and AB PM-JAY simultaneously.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

Centre gives clearance for 'Mission Mausam'

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet approved 'Mission Mausam' on Wednesday with an outlay of ₹2,000 crore over two years.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences will be the nodal body implementing the mission. The aim of the programme will be to bolster research and development, and capacity in atmospheric sciences, weather surveillance, modelling, forecasting, and management.

Critical elements of Mission Mausam will include deploying next-generation radars and satellite systems.

build on its initial

kilometres to seek treatment kilometres to seek treatment. Further, coverage of several vaccinations, which reduce the frequency of infections and improve the quality of life for patients, remains poor.

The Mission can build on its in successes by tackling some of these challenges. First, it is important to reduce the stigma

Awareness should be raised

through targeted media

related to the disease and build trust in public health institutions

campaigns to bust specific myths (which vary by region and tribe). For this, India could draw from its

chances of sickle cell trait carriers

concealing their carrier status may also reduce, which would in turn

experience in tackling polio and HIV. With reduced stigma, the

India's sickle cell challenge

ast year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Anaernia Elimination Mission to eliminate sickle cell disease as a public health problem by 2047, from Shahdol, Madlaya Pradesh, Mr. Modi has seen this debilitating condition from close quarters during his term as Chief Minister of Gujarar, where sickle cell disease is a major public badth cover in Tubis article. health concern. In this article, we highlight the many opportunities to build on this momentum.

Challenges in India

With over a million people affected with sickle cell disease, India bears the world's second largest burden of this condition. A majority of the patients are concentrated in the tribal helt

Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra.
Sickle cell disease is caused by a genetic abnormality: If both rait, the child has significant chances of eing born with the disease. While healthy individuals have disease, the control of the contr or sickle-like shape. The lifespan of these patients is significantly shortened (to about 40 years) and their quality of life is curtailed due to the range of health complications caused by sickle cells, including sickle cell pain, swelling, and damage to vital organs. In addition to health organs. In addition to heaith issues, patients also suffer from the social stigma that is attached to this disease. They can sometimes be deemed "genetically inferior" and ostracised. Some of them are told that this disease is

sickle cell disease, India bears the world's second in 2023, the Central government's



Vaidyanathan Rohini



With over a

million peopl affected with

Secretary of National Alliance of Sickle Cell

Among other efforts, a large-scale screening programme is underway nationwide. Hydroxyurea, a vital medicine for treating sickle cell disease, been included in the essential medicines list; this has increased access to it. While lip detect and treat sickle cell disease, the treat was the contract of t there are still many challenges.
Our estimates suggest that only 18% of the people affected by sickle cell disease in India are receiving consistent treatment.
This is because patients drop out

at all stages of treatment: while getting screened for the disease, while getting diagnosed, while starting treatment, and while trying to adhere to treatment The largest drops occur at the diagnosis and treatment

adherence stages. Getting a correct diagnosis is a challer correct diagnosis is a challenge as many people hesitate to seks support due to the stigma associated with the condition. The condition of the

also reduce, which would in turn lead to fewer women giving hirt to children with the condition. Other missed and diagnosis delayed, there could be increasing screening for newborns. This pay-off and would especially be effective in areas where the condition is endemic. patients get tested. The second big drop is around adherence support must be available close to patients, in the nearest health and wellness treatment adherence. No permanent cure is available for permanent cure is available is sickle cell disease. Ongoing research in gene therapy is promising, but will be unaffordable for most of the centres. For complications, interdisciplinary centres of excellence at the district/division levels should be made operational. affected population even when it becomes available. At present, Fourth, ensuring that all known patients receive approved vaccines will be crucial; this may require relatively inexpensive drugs such as hydroxyurea are effective for most patients if administered with right change in a dreapment of the patients and convenient supply of medicines, along with adherence support (such as that provided to sometimes go out of stock. Patients have also said that they need to travel long distances to a patient of the patients in the patients and the patients and the patients are also said that they need to travel long distances to are in central India, a healthcare professional noted that patients relatively inexpensive drugs such

will be crucia; this may require catch-up vaccination programms Fifth, health in tribal areas should be operationally strengthened by factoring in conditions unique to these areas. Healthcare should also be attenuated funded.

Healthcare should also be adequately funded. Finally, research should be conducted to better understand the disease and its pathways in India, and to develop new treatments. Philanthropists and members of civil society must play a catalytic role, and work with the Central and State governments.

The multi-agency war against corruption

The perception in Telangana is that the government is tackling graft head-on

Telangana

reated a shift in perception

The Anti-Corruption Bu-eau, which is tasked with

Serish Nanisetti

here is a perception in Telangana that the Congress government is doing its best to stamp out

corruption. In the aftermath of the 2023 Assembly elections that saw the end of the decade-long rule of the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS), corruption was identified as a source of disenchantment among voters. A CSDS-Lokniti post-poll study indicated that corruption had emerged as a prominent source of dissatisfaction. Re-

source of dissatisfaction. Re-cognising this, the Congress government has shown that it.

First, the Telangana Drugs
Control Administration con-ducted raids on medical and practitioners of fake med-cine. The Inspections showed icine. The Inspections showed in the Congress of the Congress of the channels through which they are coming into the State. The department released a steady the malpractices and high-the malpractices and high-the malpractices and highthe malpractices and high-lighted how these medicines and practitioners pose threats to health. The government shut down factories and charged practitioners under

relevant sections of the law. Then, teams of the Com-missioner of Food Safety start-ed visiting restaurants, cafes, missioner of Food Safety start-ed visiting restaurants, cafes, hostels, and cloud kitchens. The outcomes of the inspec-tions were shared on social media with the names of well-known restaurants and their shortcomings.

Shortcomings.

Until now, these two departments had been accused of not doing their job or looking the other way. By cleaning up two key industries where

checking graft in the official machinery, also began nab bing officials who were taking bribes. The previous BRS go-vernment had a business-friendly air about it. The TSfriendly air about It. The TS-IMASS (Telangana State Indus-trial Project Approval and Self-Certification System) assured time-bound Clearances for the Self-Certification System) assured to the Self-Certification System) Building Permission Approval and Self-Certification System) provided instant approval for residential plots up to 78 to 7 metres in height. The apto 7 metres in height. The ap-provals came thick and fast, and corruption crept in.

As a result of the Anti-Cor-ruption Bureau's efforts, a bu-reaucrat who had assets of more than ₹100 crore was more than ₹100 crore was nabbed in January. Another was caught with ₹6 crore. An additional collector of Ranga-reddy district was caught tak-ing a bribe of ₹8 lakh. The im-pact of the photos of cash on

pact of the photos of cash on social media has helped shape the positive narrative about the government.

In July, the Revanth Reddy government constituted the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA), Armed with a broad range of powers from broad range of powers from demolitions on government land to relief and rescue oper-ations, the organisation quick-

ly started using earthmovers to level encroachment on lake beds and buffer zones. It de-molished a 30,000 sq ft conmolished a 30,000 sq ft con-vention hall that is partly owned by Telugu actor, Akki-neni Nagarjuna, in the upscale Madhapur area. HYDRAA offi-cials said that the hall was built in the buffer zone of a lake and proved it with a 2014 map showing the encroach-ment. They also razed properties belonging to a Congress leader, a Bharatiya Janata Par-ty leader, and leaders of the All India Majlis Ittehadul-eleaders were detained for short while while the demoli ions were carried out.
Of these four agencies in

Of these four agencies in-volved in the fight against cor-ruption, three are headed by Indian Police Service officers and one by an Indian Adminis-trative Service officer. While political parties and other sta-keholders are searching for "an agenda" for this multi-agency, multi-pronged attack on corruption, the people are proposed to the search of the proposed of the search of the search of the proposed of the search of the sea prospective buyers who did not think twice about the locaion are now circumspect. Go vernment officials who be-lieved that everything was business-as-usual are equally guarded as some of them have been booked in criminal cases for malfeasance.

for malfeasance.

The government's initiative, which affects people in Telangana, is a welcome change, especially since the fight against graft in india general properties of the properties of stodgy paperwork remains the norm in bureaucracy?

India's increasing competitiveness at the Chess Olympiad

The current team in the Open event in Budapest is India's strongest ever and second only to the U.S. in ELO ratings

s the 45th Chess Olympiad is being held in Budapest, we look at historical per-formances in the Open section of the most prestigious event of team chess. India has been participating in the biennial event since 1956 and has played in every Olympiad since 1980. The Olympiad was dominated by the erstwhile Soviet Union, which won 18 gold medals Russia and the U.S. have won six gold medals each, while India has

got two bronze medals, in 2014 and 2022 (Table I).

In Budapest, India's team comprising Grandmasters Arjun Errival Company of the Company of

gold in 2022, scoring 8 points in II games for a points per game (ppg) score of 0.82. Among all the score of 0.82. Among all the players who played a substantive number, the Soviet great, Mikhall Tal, remains the best performer with 0.81 ppg in 101 games, followed by former world champion Anatoly Karpov (Table 4).

For India, GM Krishnan Sasiki-

For India, GM Krishnan Sasiki-ran has been a warhorse, scoring 0.62 points per game in 113 games, while talisman V. Anand played 87 games (0.66 ppg) (Chart 5). Rafiq Khan scored 0.69 ppg in 29 games and won India's first medal, a sil-ver, in the Malta Olympiad in 1980.

In terms of performance ELO rating that captures the level of competition, Vidit Gujrathi leads with 2698.7 ELO points among Indians who played at least 30 games

The gathering Indian storm

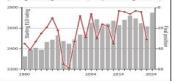
professional noted that patients travel for more than 200

	Nation			Bronze	
1	Soviet Union	18	- 3	0	19
2	U.S.	6	- 6	8	20
3	Russia	6	- 3	3	12
4	Hungary	3	-7.	2	12
-5	Armenia	3	1	3	7
6	Ukraine	2	2	3	У.
.7	China	2	1	0	31
100					60.
20	India.	n	. 0	2	2

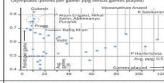
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Table 2: Average E	LO ratings for teams		sectio	n i

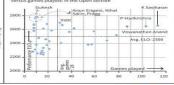
	Average ELO	
U.S.	2757	Process of the same
India	2753	
China	2724	40000
Uzbekistan	2690	
Netherlands	2682	
Norway	2670	100
Germany	2667	ASSESS C
England	2665	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR
Hungary	2663	Rafiq Khan won India's fir
Iran	2659	medal, a silver, in the Mal Olympiad in 1980





1	Mikhail Tal (USSR)	101	0.81
2	Anatoly Karpov (Russia)	68	0.80
3	Tigran Petrosian (USSR)	129	0.80
4	Isaac Kashdan (U.S.)	79	0.80
5	Vasily Smyslov (USSR)	113	0.80
6	David Bronstein (USSR)	49	0.80
7	Garry Kasparov (Russia)	82	0.79
8	A Alekhine (France)	72	0.78
9	Matulović (Yugoslavia)	78	0.77
10	Paul Keres (Estonia)	141	0.76





Washington, Sept. II: Prime Minister Bhutto of Pakistan apparently intends to cite India's the property of the Pakistan in Pakistan in Pakistan in Pakistan, lifting the existing U.S. ban supplies to Pakistan, lifting the existing U.S. ban corresponders of the Washington Post, Mr., Bhutto has said that by "swallowing up" Sikkin, India has given new credibity to Pakistan's demands for U.S. military assistance. He has indicated that the arms aid issue would be raised when the Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger visits Islamabad late next month in the course of his tour of capitals in the subcontinent. The Post correspondent writes that though Dr. Kissinger and other senior U.S. officials haw Dr. Rissinger and other senior U.S. omciais have disagreed with Mr. Bhutto's contention that the U.S. has a commitment to rearm Pakistan (as a fellow member of CENTO) "knowledgeable tellow member of CENTO) "Knowledgeable sources" have told him that Mr. Bhutrò's appeals for U.S. arms are getting "serious consideration" in Washington. (This runs contrary to the assurances reportedly received by the Indian Ambassador here from Dr. Klasinger in recent Ambassador here from Dr. Klasinger in recent the U.S. has not intention of getting involved in an arms race in the sub-confinent.

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Mindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 12, 1974 Bhutto cites Sikkim to get

U.S. arms aid

the sub-continent).

Mr. Bhutto, who ever since May has been trying to use India's explosion of an underground nuclear device as an excuse to extract arms from the U.S., told his American. nterviewer: "Kissinger ought to consider Sikkir when he comes here. But this must be something he does on his own. I can't keep telling him what India's intentions are, showing teiling him what india's intentions are, showing him the maps. We stand vindicated by our analysis. Half of our country is gone. Half of Kashmir is gone. They (India) marched into Goa. They have gone nuclear. And now they have wallowed up Sikkim."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 12, 1924

Rains in East Rajputana

Bombay, Sept. II: A communique from the General Traffic Manager, B.B. and C.I. Railway heavy rain in East Rajpurana, the B.B. and C.I. Railway between Bayana and Pingora on the Nagada-Mutra section and between Bandikui and Bharatpur on the metre gauge section has been considerably ravaged by floods.

The gathering Indian storm

Data for Chess Olympiads were sourced from olimpbase.org

Table 1: Historical performance in the Chess Olympiad (Open)

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Soviet Union	18	1	0	19
2	U.S.	6	6	8	20
3	Russia	6	3	3	12
4	Hungary	3	7	2	12
5	Armenia	3	1	3	7
6	Ukraine	2	2	3	7
7	China	2	1	0	3
20	India	0	0	2	2

Table 2: Average ELO ratings for teams in the Open section in the Budapest Olympiad being held currently

Country	Average ELO		
U.S.	2757		
India	2753		
China	2724		
Uzbekistan	2690		
Netherlands	2682		
Norway	2670		
Germany	2667		
England	2665		
Hungary	2663		
Iran	2659		



Rafiq Khan won India's first medal, a silver, in the Malta Olympiad in 1980

Table 4: Best individual performers across Olympiads (Open)

Rank	Player	Games	Points per game
1	Mikhail Tal (USSR)	101	0.81
2	Anatoly Karpov (Russia)	68	0.80
3	Tigran Petrosian (USSR)	129	0.80
4	Isaac Kashdan (U.S.)	79	0.80
5	Vasily Smyslov (USSR)	113	0.80
6	David Bronstein (USSR)	49	0.80
7	Garry Kasparov (Russia)	82	0.79
8	A Alekhine (France)	72	0.78
9	Matulović (Yugoslavia)	78	0.77
10	Paul Keres (Estonia)	141	0.76

Chart 5: Indians who played in the Open section in Chess Olympiads (points per game: ppg versus games played)

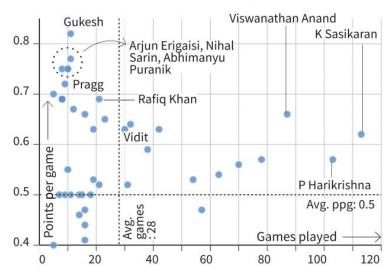


Chart 3: India's performance in Chess Olympiads since 1980 (starting ELO rating in left axis ____, final position in right axis ____)

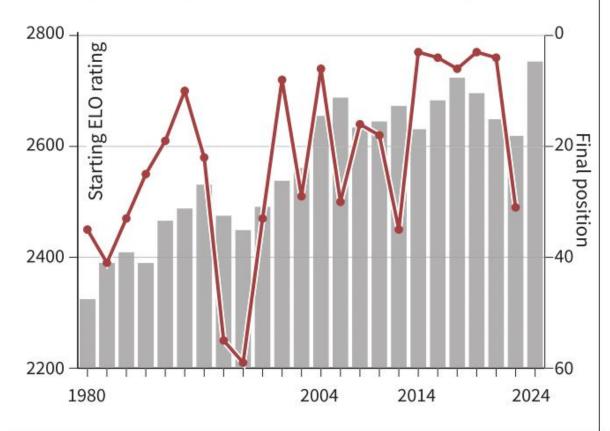
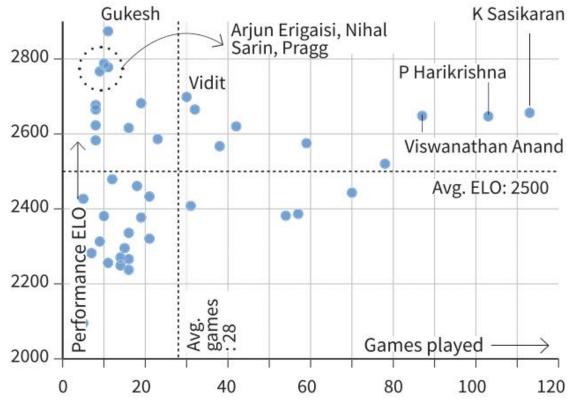


Chart 6: Indians at the Chess Olympiad (performance ELO ratings versus games played) in the Open section



Iranian President Pezeshkian deepens Iraq ties on maiden trip



Islamist Opposition party tops Jordan polls, but shy of majority



ts in the kingdom's parliament, tripling its representation in use. The Islamic Action Front, the political offshoot of the Mu

Mexico becomes first country to approve popular election of judges



Pop singer Taylor Swift endorses Kamala Harris for U.S. President



In southern Sri Lanka, a chant for change in this poll season

Those who seek continuity see President Ranil Wickremesinghe as a preferred choice, while

uddhika Dissa-nayake says she share think so hard before an feet party that our fami-ly backed for generations, it was an easy choice," says the middle-aged voter in Kurunegala district, in Sri Kurunegala district, in Sri Province. With hardly a formight left for the island fortnight left for the island nation's crucial presiden tial election, she is unde

Her dilemma is not uncommon among Sri Lan-kan voters gearing up for the September 21 contest. Over the past five years, the country's political landscape and economic path have altered

landscape and economic path have altered drastically.

In the eight presidential,
in the eight presidential,
the presceding this,
the country's two major political camps – the centre-left Sri Lanka Free-centre-right United Nation-al Party (UNP), or their pol-tical offshoots – fielded a cambility of the country of the cambility of the country of the ravigating one, woters are anyigating one, woters are

navigating a more complex electoral field with three

main contestants.
Incumbent Ranil Wick-remesinghe, who replaced ousted President Gotabaya Rajapaksa through a parliamentary vote, is running as an independent candidate. His two foremost challengers, Sajith Premadasa and Anura Kumara Dissa-Anura Rumara Dissa-nayake, are in opposition. "We must think hard and choose carefully," Ms. Dis-sanayake says. "Whoever is elected must wipe out cor-ruption that is rampant, and rebuild our economy."



Dire straits: Over the past five years, Sri Lanka's political landscape and economic path have altered drastically. MEERA SRIMINASAN

triggered a mass uprising that not only protested shortages and power cuts, but emphatically rejected the old, "corrupt" political order they despised. The agitating citizens demand-

ed "system change".

Chant for change It is that chant for change that has now evolved as the chief election logic guiding many Sri Lankan voters. many Sri Lankan voters.

'In 2022, when people chased away the Rajapak-sas, they showed they have a summer of the result of the summer of the result of the

Lanka's economic recov-ery and debt treatment policies, but Ms. Mihirani sees the crisis persisting in her home. "The cost of liv-ing is unbearable. My son is sitting for his school final

is sitting for his school final exam, we cannot afford private tultion or transport for him."

The last time economic concerns dominated a na-tional election in Sri Lanka was in 1977, before the rag-ing ethnic conflict took centre stage. Cashing in on

mavo Bandaranaike's policies of import substitution and food rationing, J.R. Jayewardene defeated her

in a landslide. Nearly half a century la-ter, President Wickremesinghe, who is Mr. Jayewar-dene's nephew, is seeking a mandate to take forward

a mandate to take forward his government's ongoing economic reform agenda, while the programme of the programme had beinging in some fiscal stability, critics point to the ballity, critics point to the ballity, critics point to the like the programme had beinging in the sike Ms. Militaruit's once formidable Rajapaksa surname hardly figures in the costeat of the coming electrons of the contract of the coming electrons of the programme hardly figures in the tasks, but

tants are in the race, but the real contest is limited to three candidates.

Some, particularly in Colombo, see value in con-tinuity if Mr. Wickremesinghe wins, while those de-cidedly voting for change are divided between Mr. Premadasa and Mr. Dissa-Premadasa and Mr. Dissa-nayake. "Although Mr. Pre-madasa comes from an es-tablished political party, he has never had the chance to lead the coun-

try." says Fathima Rinosha try," says Fathima Rinosha, making a case for a known, even if untested, leader. Mr. Premadasa is also seen as a preferred candi-

seen as a preferred candi-date in the hill country among Malaiyaha Tamii woters, including on the tea southern voters, who have troubling memories of the armed insurrections led by Mr. Dissanayake's party (the Janatha Vinukthi Pe-ter St. Seem more comforts-89, seem more comforts-89, seem more comforta ble with Mr. Premadasa observes Kurunegala-based women's rights acti-

vist Sumika Perera.
All the same, some vo-ters say Mr. Premadasa does not represent a clean break from the old political system that they are tired of. He was with the UNI

of. He was with the UNP
before breaking away to
lead the Samagi Jana Balawagaya (SJB). "Ranil and
Sajith are two sides of other
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same is the only leader who can weed out corruption and bring about change. He is not part of that corrupt

political class." The buoyant endorsement of supporters has made Mr. Dissanayake a frontrunner in the contest, even as Mr. Premadasa even as Mr. Premadasa steadily acquires support through poll alliances, es-pecially with representa-tives of ethnic minorities. However, even voters know it is premature to be certain about anyone's vic-tory in an electorate as fragmented.

U.K. government imposes sanctions on 10 ships from Russia's 'shadow fleet'

The U.K. government, on Wednesday, announced sanctions on a "shadow fleet" of 10 Russian oil tankers that it has alleged were circumventing Western oil sanctions.
The announcement coincided with a trip to Ky-

coincided with a trip to ky-iv by U.K. Foreign Secre-tary David Lammy and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who is on a trip to Burope. The announce-ment comes on the heels of Tuesday's sanctions an-nouncement from the U.K. France and Germany, who announced curbs on Iran Russia, Prance and Remany, who announced curbs on Iran Russia, Prance and Remany, who Russia, Prance and Remany, who

assia. The EU and Group of Seven countries, including the U.K., are among those who have participated in



U.S.-led sanctions on Rus-sian oil, with petroleum being a critical source of funding for Russia's war with Ukraine. The G-7 instituted a price cap of \$60 per barrel of Russian oil in December 2022. Wednesday's sanctions

bring the total number of ships on the U.K.'s pro-scribed list to 25. The tank-

ers will not be allowed to dock at U.K. ports. "Putin's war machine is funded by a dark and illicit economic system that this

government is committed to destabilising," Mr. Lammy said. Three of the vessels on the new sanctions list, Ni-kolay Zuyev, NS Asia and Zaliv Aniva, have, between them, transported more than \$5 billion of Russian oil since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

"Russia has been forced to spend over \$8 billion amassing this shadow fleet. But with sanctioned tankers loitering and unable to load oil, we are deter-mined to make Putin's in-

mined to make Putin's in-vestment an expensive misstep for the Kremlin," Mr. Lammy added. India is one of the top purchasers of oil from Rus-sia, a move New Delhi has defended on grounds of national interest and mar-ket dynamics. The issue was discussed by Prime Mr. Librabinan president Valo-Ukrainian President Volo dymyr Zelenskyy on Mr. Modi's visit to Kyiv in Au-gust, when the Ukrainian President had urged India to stop purchases from

Nature's wrath



Harris gets under Trump's skin, elicits angry responses in presidential debate

Agence France-Presse

Kamala Harris put Donald Trump on the defensive in a fiery televised debate on Tuesday, getting under her rival's skin as they battled for a breakthrough in an agonisingly close U.S. pre-sidential election. The Democrat baited the "ex-reme" Republican into ingry responses on issues

treeme* Republican into angry responses on issues ranging from abortion to angry response on issues ranging from abortion to response to the state of the state o

wards that the ABC News-CM CO

phia was his "best debate" but snap polls and com-mentators said Ms. Harris had won, with her campaign quickly challenging him to a second debate in

October. With less than two With less than two months until election day, Ms. Harris was under pres-sure to deliver in front of an audience of tens of mil-lions after her sudden rise

lions after her sudden rise to the top of the Democrat-ic ticket in place of U.S. President Joe Biden. Ms. Harris started on the front foot by surprising Mr. Trump by approaching him to shake his hand be-fers the first property.

him to shake his hand be-fore they took to their lec-terns – and then kept the upper hand.

Mr. Trump repeatedly raised his voice as he hit back at the Vice-President on immigration and the



economy, branding her a "Marxist" and blaming her for what he said were the

failings of President Joe Bi-den's administration. Ms. Harris responded by

Trump presidency - and saying: "We're not going saying: back."

'Bunch of lies' One of their most inte looking on in amusement before declaring that she represents a fresh start af-ter the "mess" of the ed individual States to make their own policy. Ms. Harris said he was telling a The rivals also clashed on foreign policy, with Mr. Harris telling Mr. Trump "bunch of lies" and called that Russian President Vla his policies "insulting to the women of America." dimir Putin would "eat you for lunch" when it came to the war in Ukraine and that world leaders were "laugh-

the women of America."

Another jarring clash
came as Mr. Trump doudented refusal to accept
loosing to Mr. Biden in the
company of the company of the
mocking his catchphrase
ing to overturn the result.

Ms. Harris responded by
mocking his catchphrase
that Mr. Trump had been
that Mr. Trump had been
that Mr. Trump had been
that dr. Trump had been
that of the mocracy.

The former prosecutor
pointed out that Mr.
called him "extreme" and

world leaders were "laugh-ing" at him. Mr. Trump-shot back by accusing Ms. Harris of being weak on the being weak on the being weak on "hated larael". But Ms. Harris, who spent five days intensively preparing for the debate, repeatedly managed to ger-jabbing insults and meandering invective. She elicited an angry response when mocked rallies, one of his favorite rallies, one of his favorite called him "extreme" and said it is "a tragedy" that throughout his career he had used "race to divide rallies, one of his favorite topics, saying that atten-dees were leaving early out of "exhaustion and

Mr. Trump repeatedly attacked Ms. Harris on mi-gration, but she also managed to make him lose his cool on what should have been a winning topic.

He ended up talking at length about a debunked conspiracy theory that Hai-tian immigrants have been tian immigrants have been cating local people's pet cats and dogs in Ohio – before being corrected by the fore being corrected by the have said this didn't happen.

Mr. Bidon said the star-fixed obease, "was not conclude the said the star-fixed obease," was not seen close", in a post on X. The last presidential debate in jume had resulted in a crushing victory for Mr. Illwered a catastrophic per-lived or a catastrophic per-lived or a catastrophic per-

livered a catastrophic per-formance that ended up dooming his reelection and campaign.

Gaza rescuers say 10 killed in Israeli strike on school

Agence France-Presse GAZA STRIP

An Israeli air strike on Wednesday hit a central Gaza school, with the Hamas-run territory's civil de fence agency reporting 10 killed in the facility turned

killed in the facility turned displacement shelter and the military saying it had targeted militarits. I brasel has struck several parallel facility of the months, saying Palestinian militarits were hiding among displaced civilians, charges denied by Harnas Charges denied by Harnas Charges denied by Harnas tral Gaza's Nuseirat, alrea-dy hit several times during the war, was struck again

on Wednesday.

MEXICO CITY

Mexico becomes first country to approve popular election of judges



REUTERS

Mexico became the world's first country to allow voters to elect judges at all levels, after protesters invaded the Upper House and suspended debate on the issue. Outgoing President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador had pushed hard for the reform and criticised the current judicial system for serving the interests of the elite. AFP

THE HINDU



Brazil's Lula visits Amazon as fire 'pandemic' rages

Agence France-Presse

Brazil President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva announced new measures on Tuesday to allevia drought in the Brazilian Amazon, as his government faces mounting pressure to combat a "pai demic" of fires

ment faces mounting pressure to combat a "pan-demic" of fires.

Brazil has been parched by a historic drought that experts link to climate change, sparking fires that have spread more easily and produced cloud of smoke that have reached neighbouring Uru-

guay and Argentina.

The country's Supreme Court has ordered im mediate government action to contain what it has called a "fire pandemic", which is also threaten-ing to destroy the biodiversity-rich wetland sancing to destroy the biodiversity-rich weitand sanc-tuary of Pantanal. "We take the need to combat drought, deforestation, fires, very seriously," Lula said in the northern State of Amazonas. Accompanied by several Ministers, the Presi-

accompanied by sever of Ministers, the President visited riverside communities living in the world's largest rainforest, which are suffering from the worst drought in 70 years to Brazil. The isolated communities for navigation, food and water supply. The Beazillan government announced dredging works on the Amazon River and other With more than 5,000 active fire outbreaks on Tuesday, Brazil accounted for 70% of the areas at from the National Institute of Space Research (IN-PE) published by official media. So far this year, some 6.7 million hectares have burned in the Brazil according to official figures.

Afghanistan set to begin work on TAPI pipeline

The SIO-billion natural gas pipeline traversing Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India is the most significant development project for Taliban authorities since they seized power in 2021

Agence France-Presse

Wednesday that on a Stobillion gas pipe-line traversing South Asia as officials joined dignitar-ies in neighbouring Turk-menistan to celebrate its completion on that side of the border. Progress on the TAPI pi-

Progress on the TAPI pi-peline – running through Turkmenistan, Alghanis-has been repeatedly de-layed because of security issues in conflict-avaged Agreement of the security from today the opera-tions will start on Alghanis-tan's soil, 'Tailban govern-tan's soil, 'Tailban govern-'Tailban govern-'Ta

At the border ceremony in Islim Cheshma in Turk

in Isilm Cheshma in Turkmenistan, officials on both
sides, including Afghan
hund, halled the project.
"This project will benefit not only the economies
of the countries participating but also the countries
of the whole region," the
President of Turkmenistan

President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedow said in a video broadcast live at the ceremony. However, the termination of the which is still not fully fund-ed—is unlikely to be oper-ational for another decade. In the Afghan border province of Herat, a public



holiday was declared to mark the occasion, with posters celebrating the project plastered around the capital of the same

The pipeline will see around 33 billion cubic metres of natural gas each year extracted from the Galkynysh gas field in the south-east Turkmenistan.

Turkmenistan.
It will be pumped the will be pumped as a well be pumped the pu

also benefit from lucrative transit fees of around \$500 million per year, according to Afghan media.

side began in 2015 and was initially scheduled to start in Afghanistan in 2018, but has been repeatedly de-layed. Stumbling blocks

Stumbling blocks
India's commitment to the
pipeline has also previous
by been questioned over its
relationship with Pakistan
and easy access to figuified
natural gas markets, which
are seen as potential stumbling blocks.

Tailban authorities since
they seized power in 2021.

the foreign-backed govern-

ment.
The pipeline gives the government, which is not officially recognised by any nation, a strategic role in regional cooperation bet-ween Central Asia and South Asia, which is facing huge energy deficits.

Afghanistan, although still under economic and financial sanctions from the nancial sanctions from the West, is currently trying to relaunch ambitious pro-jects, particularly in ener-gent particularly in ener-gent from the end of July, Af-ghanistan and China offi-cially relaunched a major copper-extraction project gest known deposit, near gest known deposit, near

Blinken, Lammy visit Kyiv as Ukraine seeks to hit deep in Russia

U.S. Secretary of State An-tony Blinken and British Foreign Secretary David Lammy arrived in Kylv on a as Ukraine presses the West to allow it to use longrange missiles against

The top diplomats reached the Ukrainian cap-ital by train from Poland hours after the U.S. presi-dential debate during which Vice President Ka-

which Vice President Ka-mala Harris and former President Trump sparred over the war in Ukraine. Mr. Blinken traveled Mr. Blinken traveled Cused Iran of providing Russia with Fath-360 short-range ballistic missiles, calling the move a "dra-matic escalation" of the

var. For months, Ukraine as been requesting approval to use long-range wea-pons from the U.S. and Western allies to strike targets in Russia, and is ex-pected to press harder gi-ven Russia's latest reported weapons acquisition

"We hope that long-range equipment for strikes on the territory of our enemy will be reached and we will have it," Ukrai-nian Prime Minister Denys nian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal told Mr. Lammy. "We hope for your help and support in this issue." Mr. Shmyhal described the meeting with Mr. Lam-my in Kylv as "intense" but gave no other details in the post on his Telegram Al a news conference on



Antony Blinken, right, and

Tuesday, Mr. Shmyhal said that "if we are allowed to destroy military targets or weapons prepared by the enemy for attacks on Uk-raine, it would certainly civilians, our people, and our children...We are work-ing towards this and will continue to push for it ev-ery day." that "if we are allowed to

'Ensure safety' Referring to the missiles from Iran, he added: "Russia's use of weapons from its terrorist allies to strike at Ukraine continues their genocidal war and terro-rism on our territory. We must be able to respond to such terrorism in kind by destroying military targets on their territory to ensure greater safety for our citizens."

The diplomats' visit

HRW urges Latin American countries to boost protection for Haitians, Venezuelans

Human Rights Watch (HRW) on Wednesday called on Latin American government of the state of the st work, access to health care and education in South American host countries, forcing them to increasing-ly seek asylum in the Unit-

In a report describing the situation of Haitian and Venezuelan migrants Venezuelan migrants, HRW said that "limited" in-

HRW report said that 'limited' integration policies are forcing vulnerable people to head to the U.S.

nerable people to head to the U.S. every month. To reach the U.S. border, ma-ny make a long, dangerous journey that includes crossing the Darien Gap, a roadless swath of jungle between Colombia and Pa-nama. The groom used on nama. The group urged go-vernments to implement a "region-wide protection regime that would grant all regime that would grant all Venezuelans and Haitians legal status for a fixed but renewable term of adeq-uate duration," even if they may not qualify for refugee status under domestic law.

The report also calls for governments to eliminate barriers that hinder the in-tegration of migrants and refugees, including legisla-tion that prevents people from getting work permits, while they seek asylum in other countries.

American governments have made commendable efforts to receive migrants and asylum seekers, efforts to regularise migration in the region have often fallen short due to restrictive timelines, complex proce dures, onerous documen requirements, and admi requirements, and admi-nistrative delays," said the report, which reviewed asylum policies in coun-tries including Panama, Colombia, Brazil, Peru and Chile.

Beyond the limelight



U.S.-Russia battle to influence Africa plays out in Central African Republic

Associated Press

Hours after late Russian mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin rebelled against his country's top military biggest client in Africa pan-icked, turning for help to his foe in the West

his foe in the West.
Officials from Central
African Republic, where
some 1,500 of Prigozhin's
shadowy Wagner Group
mercenaries were stationed, wrote a letter that
tioned, wrote a letter that
to a letter that
to a state of the state of the state
of the state of the state of the state
to discuss collaboration.

day Prigozhin launched the armed rebellion, the letter sparked a series of

private meetings, culmi-nating in a deal with the African nation and Bancroft Global Development That sparked backlash from Russian mercenaries, according to a dozen diple

The tensions in Central African Republic are a win Arrican keptonic are a win-dow into a larger battle playing out across the con-tinent as Moscow and Washington vie for in-

The Russian mercenar-The Russian mercenar-ies – using success in stav-ing off rebels in this impo-verished nation as a model for expansion – have long been accused by local peo-ple and rights groups of stripping natural resources such as minerals and timber and are linked to the torture and death of civi-lians. In the wake of Prigozhin's rebellion and suspi cious death in a plan calibrating their Africa operations.

The U.S., which has been largely disengaged from the region for years, is attempting to maintain a

themselves from the mer-cenaries.

"If the U.S. cannot re-gain a foothold, it could give Russia greater eco-nomic and political lever-age," said Samuel Ramani of the Royal United Services institute, a defence and security think tank. "If



Bouquets laid at a statue of Russian mercenaries as a tribute to Wagner leader Prigozhin in Bangui, Central African Republic. AP

Russia loses Central Afri-can Republic, its flagship model on the continent, there could be a domino effect in other countries." In recent years, Russia has emerged as the securi-

growing number of govern-

Moscow aggressively ex-panded its military cooper-ation by using mercenaries like Wagner, who have op-erated in at least half a do-

protecting African leaders and in some cases helping fight rebels and extremists Human rights concerns

They are also plagued by their human rights record. Two years ago in Mali, Wagner and the army were accused of executing about 300 men – some suspected of being Islamist ext ed of being Islamist extre-mists, but most civilians— in what Human Rights Watch called the worst sin-gle atrocky reported in the atrocky reported in the armed conflict. After Prigozhin's death, Russia moved quickly to take control of Wagner's assets, and the Defence Mi-assets, and the Defence Mi-

try and its military intelli-gence arm have taken a more direct role in Africa operations, deploying more official detachments

from its army.
Russia is trying to re-brand the mercenaries, creating Africa Corps, a pa-

creating Africa Corps, a par-rallel group that could ab-sorb Wagner, said John in Central African Repu-blic, it's still unclear how much sway the Russian state has with the mercen-many and embedded in so-ciety, brewing beer and visiting markets. Still, they largely keep to themselves, with faces covered and nistry told countries where with faces covered and Wagner operated that it driving in unmarked cars.

Australian anti-war activists clash with police

Anti-war protesters in Aus-

in the city of Melbourne.

Protesters hurled botles, rocks and horse manure, a police statement
sales with liquid irritars,
some of which were identified as acid, police said.

Police retaliated with
penner suray, flash distracsuray, flash distrac-

pepper spray, flash distrac tion devices and rubber bullets. At least 24 officers required medical treat-ment. Police arrested 39 protesters for offences such as assault, arson and blocking roadways. such as assault, arson and blocking roadways. Around 1,800 police offic-ers have been deployed to a Melbourne convention centre where the Land Forces international Land Forces international Land pefence Exposition is tak-ing place through Friday mational co-convenor las-national co-convenor las-

for the protest violence. "They used serious weapons on peace activists that should be banned for that should be banned for use on demonstrators, in-cluding pepper spray, which is classified as a chemical weapon," Ms. Duff said in a statement.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese called on protesters to show respect for police. called on protesters to show respect for police. "People have a right to protest peacefully, but you don't say you're opposed to defence equipment by Mr. Albanese told Seven Network television. The organizer of the biennial convention, AM-DA Foundation, said it protester activity.

Afghanistan set to begin work on TAPI pipeline

The \$10-billion natural gas pipeline traversing Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India is the most significant development project for Taliban authorities since they seized power in 2021

Agence France-Presse

ISLIM CHESHMA

fghanistan said on Wednesday that work would begin on a \$10-billion gas pipeline traversing South Asia as officials joined dignitaries in neighbouring Turkmenistan to celebrate its completion on that side of the border.

Progress on the TAPI pipeline – running through Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India – has been repeatedly delayed because of security issues in conflict-ravaged Afghanistan.

"From today the operations will start on Afghanistan's soil," Taliban government spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said in comments broadcast by Afghan state television.

At the border ceremony in Islim Cheshma in Turkmenistan, officials on both sides, including Afghan Prime Minister Hassan Akhund, hailed the project.

"This project will benefit not only the economies of the countries participating but also the countries of the whole region," the President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedow said in a video broadcast live at the ceremony.

However, experts warned that the project – which is still not fully funded – is unlikely to be operational for another decade.

In the Afghan border province of Herat, a public



Slow progress: Work on the pipeline has been delayed by security issues in Afghanistan. FILE PHOTO

holiday was declared to mark the occasion, with posters celebrating the project plastered around the capital of the same name.

The pipeline will see around 33 billion cubic metres of natural gas each year extracted from the Galkynysh gas field in the south-east of Turkmenistan.

It will be pumped through a 1,800-kilometre pipeline traversing Afghanistan, including Herat and Kandahar in the south, before crossing into restive Balochistan province in Pakistan and ending in Fazilka in Punjab of India.

Pakistan and India will each purchase 42% of the gas deliveries, and Afghanistan 16%, while Kabul will also benefit from lucrative transit fees of around \$500 million per year, according to Afghan media.

Work on the Turkmen side began in 2015 and was initially scheduled to start in Afghanistan in 2018, but has been repeatedly delayed.

Stumbling blocks

India's commitment to the pipeline has also previously been questioned over its relationship with Pakistan and easy access to liquified natural gas markets, which are seen as potential stumbling blocks.

It is the most significant development project for Taliban authorities since they seized power in 2021, ending their two decadelong insurgency against the foreign-backed government.

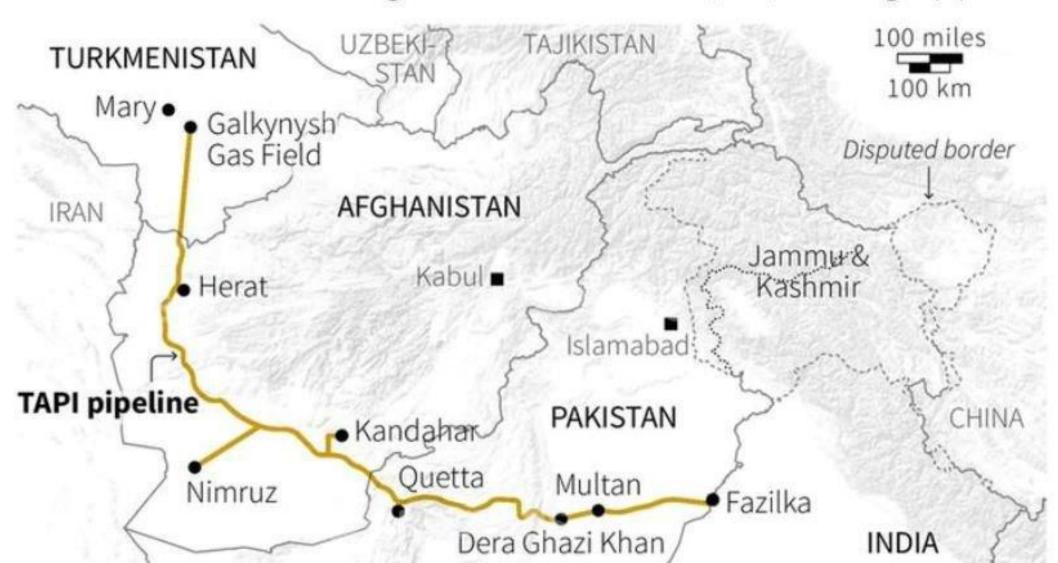
The pipeline gives the government, which is not officially recognised by any nation, a strategic role in regional cooperation between Central Asia and South Asia, which is facing huge energy deficits.

Afghanistan, although still under economic and financial sanctions from the West, is currently trying to relaunch ambitious projects, particularly in energy, mines and infrastructure.

At the end of July, Afghanistan and China officially relaunched a major copper-extraction project in the world's second-largest known deposit, near Kabul, which had been bogged down since 2008.

Trans-Afghanistan pipeline

Route of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) natural gas pipeline



- The TAPI pipeline is a major infrastructure project designed to transport natural gas from the Galkynysh gas field in Turkmenistan through Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India.
- The pipeline will span approximately 1,814-kilometres and is expected to deliver around 33 billion cubic metres (BCM) of natural gas annually.
- It will supply gas to Afghanistan (5%), Pakistan (47.5%), and India (47.5%) during its 30-year operational period.

- The pipeline is also known as the 'Peace Pipeline' due to its potential to foster regional cooperation and stability.
- The project's origins trace back to the 1990s, with significant progress made in 2003, supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- India joined the initiative in 2008, marking a major milestone in its development.

• The pipeline is expected to transport 33 billion cubic meters of gas annually from the Galkynysh gas field in Turkmenistan.

Significance of the Project:

- The pipeline is crucial for regional cooperation between Central Asia and South Asia.
- Afghanistan will benefit from \$500 million per year in transit fees.
- The project has the potential to support economic growth in the region, particularly for Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India.

Security and Operational Challenges:

- Progress on the pipeline has been delayed due to security issues in Afghanistan and the region's political instability.
- Experts warn that the project may not become operational for another decade due to these delays and lack of funding.
- The Taliban government is not recognized internationally, complicating foreign-backed projects like TAPI.

Pipeline Route and Distribution:

- The 1,800-kilometer pipeline will pass through Afghanistan's Herat and Kandahar provinces, cross into Pakistan's Balochistan province, and end in Fazilka, Punjab (India).
- Pakistan and India will each purchase 42% of the gas delivered, while Afghanistan will take 16%.

Strategic Importance:

- Afghanistan, struggling under economic sanctions, views TAPI as a key project for infrastructure and energy sector growth.
- India's commitment to the pipeline has faced challenges due to its relationship with Pakistan and access to natural gas markets.

International Relations:

- The project marks a significant development effort by the Taliban since coming to power in 2021.
- In July, Afghanistan and China also relaunched a copper-extraction project, showing continued efforts to boost economic ties and energy projects.

- With reference to the TAPI pipeline project, consider the following statements:
- 1. The pipeline will transport natural gas from Pakistan to Turkmenistan.
- 2. Afghanistan will earn significant transit fees from the TAPI pipeline.
- 3. The project has been delayed due to security and financial issues in Afghanistan.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

In fierce debate, Harris baits a defensive Trump

NEWS

CABINET NOD TO A HOST OF SCHEMES AND PROJECTS

PM-E Drive, PM-E Bus PMJAY: ₹5-lakh coverage

■ ₹12,461-crore outlay

or hydel power capacity ■ ₹2,000-crore 'Mission Mausam' to boost forecasts

 Fourth leg of rural road scheme with ₹70K-cr outlay REPORTS ON PAGE 2

BAJAJ HOUSING FINANCE BREAKS IPO RECORDS

WITH STRONG DEM-AND from both institu

Bajaj Housing Finance's IPO has proken all records after getting pids of over ₹3.2 lakh crore, eports Kishor Kadam. ■ PAGE 6

BANGLADESH GOVT TO SCRUTINISE ADANI POWER DEAL

THE INTERIM GOVER-NMENT of Bangladesh, led by Muhammad Yunus, is set to scruti-ise Indian businesses, including he Adani Group which exports ower from its Jharkhand unit rts Shubhajit Roy. ■ P20



'Today's CFO needs to be a strategist & a tech specialist'

Interview with Vijay Padmanabhan, CFO, UST EFE. P9



Will Apple's big bet on AI pay off?

but the Al features will be available only in October

TO CREATE 6 MILLION JOBS

Electronics sector to touch \$500 bn by 2030, says PM

Tata Steel inks £500-mn

grant deal with UK govt

Right time to invest in India, Modi tells semicon companies

JATIN GROVER New Delhi, September 11

PRESENTING A BULLISH outlook of the coun-PRESENTING A BULLISH outlook of the coun-try's electronics sector on the back of several initiatives rolled out to promote domestic which was a several property of the sector will grow to touch \$500 billion by the end of the decade, creating 6 million jobs. He further said the gov-ernment's goal is to ensure that 100% elec-tronics manufacturing

OINSIDE tronics manufacturing happens in the country. Currently, India's electronics sector is valued to the country of the co SCHEME IN
3-4 MONTHS: Delivering the inauat around \$155 billion.

VAISHNAW

FAGEA

NOP TO
INVEST \$1 BN
IN INDIA

FAGEA

FAGEA

The result of the result of

when the chips are down, you can be to n India.

The Prime Minister's observations come at a time when the smartphone PU scheme has emerged as the most successful one, attracting global majors such as Apple, which is manufacturing iPhones in India through its contract manufacturers.

Funding support for £1.25-bn Port Talbot green steel project

TATA STEEL HAS signed a £500-million grant funding agreement with the UK government to help speed up the £1.25-bil-lion green steel project at the Port Talbot

steelworks factory.

The project involves replacing the blast furnaces with electric arc furnace and is

YOUARFIN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME. THE CHIPS ARE NEVER DOWN CENTURY INDIA

WORKFORCE OF 85,000 TECHNICIANS, **ENGINEERS** AND EXPERTS

PREPARING

A SEMICON

L&T arm to set up \$300-mn project

L&T SEMICONDUCTOR, A subsidiary of e

LAT SEMICONDUCTOR, A subsidiary of engi-neering and construction major L&T, will invest around \$ 300 million over the next project in India.

The company will get into designing the chipa and make it production-ready, which can be chipa made make it production-ready which can the company will get into designing the chipa and make it production-ready which can be company to the company of the company the control of the company of the company of the this blooking at 1.5 such chip design products by the end of this year and start sales in 2027, Sandeep Kumar, head of L&T Semiconductor Technologies, said on Mondy, a Page 4

FORWARD

Port Talbot project involves replacing blast furnaces with electric arc

TATA STEEL expected to be made redundant

TATA

FE BUREAU Mumbai, September 11

delist MTNL, says govt

PRASANTA SAHU New Delhi, September 11

THE GOVERNMENT HAS noplans to THE GOVERNMENT HAS no plans to delist the shares of the ailing Mahanagar Telephone Nigam (MTNL), a senior government official told FE on Wednesday, adding that reports to the contrary are incorrect.

reports to the contrary are incorrect.
The comment came in the wake
the comment came in the wake
price in less than a year, presumably
because investors bet on the stock,
in anticipation of delisting. This followed reports of an earlier plan of
cover exports of an earlier plan of
making company with Bharat Sanchar Nigam (ISNL).

After the merger plan was
After the merger plan was
approved a service agreement with

furnaces with electric are furnace and is especied to help reduce the UKE industrial control of the Table of

Board of India (Sebi) allows compa-nies to delist using a fixed price mechanism and the stock's weighted average price is a deter-minant in the process.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT: SUSHIL AGARWAL

When numbers become a passion

THREE-AND-A-HALF decades of managing money for the \$66-billion Aditya Birla Group can be a tough job, but with the state of the state o Uttarakhand

burly of the cor-porate world. But that's still in the realm of "fantasy", as he doesn't intend to let that hap-Agarwal, who is an Aditya Birria Group Bfor, hawing joon after complet-ing his chartered accountance way back in 1988, has overseen many complex transactions, mergers and acquisitions, including the restructuring of Al Nuvo

and more recently, the ₹20,000-crore and more recently, the ₹20,000-crore fundraise by Vodafone Idea. The toughest deal so far, be says, has been the ₹20,000-crore mop-up by Vodafone Idea, a transaction done in dif-ficult times for the company which took Award win

prise to his family.











Samsung to lay off 10% No plan to of workforce in India

Job cuts across businesses as slowdown hits Korean major

New Delhi, September 11

SOUTH KOREAN CONSUMER electronics SOUTH KOREAN CONSUMER electronics and appliances major Samsung is laying and appliances major Samsung is laying unit, which constitute nearly 10% of its workforce in the country, industry sources said.

The layoffs are happening across sales, the layoffs are happening across sales, and the layoffs are happening across sales, the layoffs are happened to be layoff and some part of the global restructuring plans and contain costs, in India, Samsung has about 2,000 people of the layoffs are sales and layoffs and layoffs are sales and layo

dropped, the MTML board recently approved a service agreement with BSML for a period of I Oyears, under MTML for a period of I Oyears, under management agency for the former.

"Trobably, some people want to paid the proper service agreement people want to paid the proper service agreement people want to paid the proper service agreement people want to paid the proper service and the layoffs are not only hap-service and the layoffs are not only hap-service and the layoffs are not only hap-service and the layoffs are not proper service and the layoffs are not proper service and the layoffs are not attributed to a slowdown in the chip business, increasing the layoffs and the layoffs are not allowed to a slowdown in the company's rumoured delisting.

The decision to make BSML the company's rumoured and the layoffs are not only hap-service to a slowdown in the company's rumoured delisting.

The decision to make BSML the company is the decision to make BSML the commise globally.

The decision to make BSML the company is the property of the prop In India, Samsung has about 2,000 peoin insua, sambuig has about 2,000 peo-ple across said the layoffs are not only hap-pening in India but across Samsung's opera-tions globally. The layoffs can be attributed to a slowdown in its chip business, increas-ing competition in the smartphone business in India, as well as a possible slowdown in the

MFs turn to large-cap Ford in talks with

are going back to the basics, that is, invest in good large-cap companies with solid manage-ments. Many new fund offers (NFOs) in recent months are focussed on large-cap stocks at reasonable valuations since the broader mar-

16.16 20.52

9.16

7.39

24%

12.9%

Tamil Nadu govt

FORD MOTOR HELD talks with the Tamil Nac FORDMOTORHELD talks with the Tamil Nadio government to explore producing vehicles for export, chief minister MK Stalin said, poten-tally signalling the US carmaker could restart production in India after exiting the country three years ago, reports Reuters. It stopped pro-ducing cars in India for domestic sale in 2021 and pulled the plug on exports in 2022.

Corporate India's top 6 go long on profit, short on jobs

824,389 824,344

India Inc's biggest companies have shown a steady growth in profit and revenue, but that cheer is missing in employee addition. A four-part series looks at the reasons for this jobless growth



JOYDEEP GHOSH Mumbai, September 11

LISTED ENTITIES OF India Inc's top six groups are closing in fast on a significant groups are closing in fast on a significant capitalisation (799.2 lakh crore as of September 10). They have been growing steadily in key metrics like revenues and profits as well. In FY24, the revenues of these groups grew 7.3%, profits by an impressive 22.3%, and market capitalisa-impressive 22.3% and market capitalisa-

tion by an astounding 43.8%. But their headcount growth, at -0.2%, is flat. India Inc's top six groups that con-stitute 69 listed companies employed 1.74





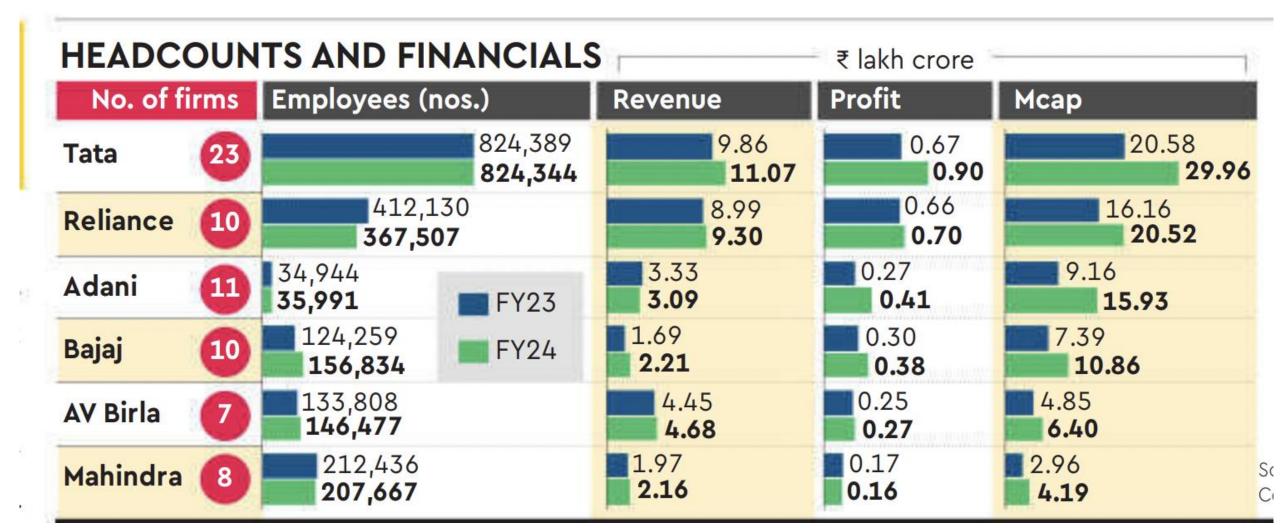
million people in FY33, which marginally delipped to 1.73 million in FY42, according to the biggest employers at 82.4,00.0, but delipped to 1.73 million in FY42, according to the feel headed count growth is flat. The late collated from annual reports, Captor of the control of the feel and the collated from the control of the collated from the collated financialexp.epapr.in

0.27

0.30



Event number among the top sin groups in India; each of the rest have at least 15,000 comployees each. The number three group by market capitalisation—the group's total con-longer of the control of the control of the con-longer of the control of the control of the con-longer of the control of the control of the con-trol of the control of the control of the control of the con-trol of the control of the control of the control of the con-trol of the control of the control of the control of the con-trol of the control of the



Bank of Baroda chief eco-nomist Madan Sabnavis said that the earliest point for a policy shift may not arise before December, as the central bank will look for inflation to stay low on

a durable basis.

On a month-on-month basis, the CPI was flat in

August, while the Consum-er Food Price Index de-

clined 0.44%. However, the

rural food price index de-clined just 0.25% while ur-

ban food prices dropped 0.9% on a sequential basis.

The prices of fruits rose 6.5%, while inflation in

eggs rose to 7.14% from 6.8% in July. Cereals pro-vided some relief, with in-

flation easing from over 8%

highest pay scale







18 killed in Israel strike on Gaza shelter

Should India adopt Universal Basic Income? Idea gains traction amid shortage of jobs ON » PAGE 9



INSIDE



Doval discusses border stand-off with Wang Vi

NEW DELHI Doval met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Russia on Thursday with focus on an early resolution of the lingering border stand-off. They also exchanged views on the global situations, said MEA. » PAGE 6

Kerala ADGP appears before police chief

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Kerala Additional Director General of Police, Law and Order, M.R. Ajith Kumar, appeared before State Police Chief Shaik Darvesh Saheb here on Thursday to counter the accusations such as "clandestine" meetings with top Rashtriya Swayameevak Sangh leaders. » PAGE 3

Kashmir issue is our priority not polls: AIP chief

Engineer Rashid, MP and Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) chief, on Thursday said "the Kashmir issue and not elections is his party's top agenda", as he addressed his first public rally

day ago, > PAGE 5

in north Kashmir's Delina afte his release from Tihar Jail a Blinken ends his Ukraine-focused three-nation trip

WARSAW
U.S. Secretary of State Antony
Blinken wrapped up a
three-nation, Ukraine-focused
European tour in Poland on
Thursday after hearing
repeated appeals from the
Ukrainian officials to use
Western simpled waspears

Retail inflation stays under 4%, but vegetable prices up again

 $\underline{Tomato\ prices\ eased,\ but\ rural\ food\ inflation\ surpassed\ 6\%\ economists\ expect\ the\ inflation\ pace\ to\ pick\ up\ from\ this\ month\ as\ the\ base\ effect\ fades;\ rural\ consumers\ feel\ the\ pinch\ more;\ Bihar\ clocked\ the\ sharpest\ inflation\ at\ 6.62\%$

ndia's retail inflation stayed under the Re-serve Bank of India's median target of 4% for the second successive month in August, even as it inched from an upwardly revised 3.6% in July. August's infla-tion pace is the secondlowest in five years.
The base effect from last

The base effect from last year, when retail prices rose 6.8% in August, helped keep inflation growth in check yet again, but food inflation quickened from July's 13-month low of 5.4% to 5.7%, and low of 5.4% to 5.7%, and crossed the 6% mark in ru-ral India. Overall, rural in-flation stayed elevated compared with that faced by urban consumers, ris-

by urban consumers, ris-ing marginally from 4.1% in July to 4.16%, while urban inflation stood at 3.14% in August.

Tomatoes reported the sharpest drop in prices, which declined 47.9% year-on-year, and 28.8% on a month-on-month basis. The National Statistical Of-fice said that India's food

Marginally faster India's retail inflation

to 3.65% in August from a revised 3.6% in July. It stayed under the Reserve Bank of India's target of 4% for the secon

inflation for August was the second lowest since lune

2023. Desnite the resnite in to-Despite the respite in to-mato prices, vegetables in-flation shot back into dou-ble-digits to hit 16.7% after the price of spices fell 4.4% from last August, but pulses inflation stayed firm at 13.6%, marking the 18th straight month of 10%-plus price rise.

Inflation to spike Economists reckoned the pace of price rise would re-surge from this month, as the beneficial base effects

was up 5% last September. The central bank had estimated an average inflation of 4.4% in the July-to-Sepof 4.4% in the July-to-Septhe first two months averaging just 3.6%, that
would mean an inflation
month, which may be unlikely, economists said,
on the prospects for nearterm interest rate cuts.
The property of the seppickup in the consumer
price inflation to around
4.8% in September, and ated an average inflation

would dissipate - the Con-

sumer Price Index (CPI)

range between 4.4% and 4.7% in the second half of 2024-25," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar. She expressed wariness about expressed wariness about the impact of above nor-mal rainfall and the deve-lopment of La Nina condi-tions which could pose

flation easing from over 8% to 7.3% in August. Inflation in personal care and effective for the flation of the tions which could pose upside risks to the food in-flation trajectory in the near term.

With India's GDP growth undershooting the RBI's estimate of 7.1% in the first quarter, Ms. Nayar said that a change in the monetary policy stance could not be entirely ruled out in October. However,

Communist veteran Sitaram Yechury passes away at 72

Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury passed away at the All India Insti-tute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here on Thursday. He was 72.

Mr. Yechury was admit-ted to the hospital on Au-gust 19 with "pneumonia-like" symptoms and had been on respiratory sup-port for the past few days. Mr. Yechury was serving his third term as CPI(M) general secretary, a post to which he was elected in

2015. In one of his last video messages from the hospital room, Mr. Yechury paid tri-bute to former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee on August 22. In an emotional farewell message to the former CM who had passed away a few days before, Mr. Yechury said: "It's most unfortunate that I had to convect from AliMS to convey feelings, emotions and revolutionary Lal Salaam to Buddho Da."

Big blow, says CPI(M)
Tributes poured from
across the political spec-



trum for Mr. Yechury, a two-term Rajya Sabha MP. The CPI(M) Polit Bureau in a statement said that his crucial juncture in our na for the CPI(M) and a grie vous loss for the Left, de mocratic and secular

forces".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi too echoed the

search as per his wishes

Beyond the horizon



Five States seek fair share of tax, cap on cess

A conclave of Finance Mi-nisters of five States ruled by BJP rivals, organised here on Thursday by the Kerala government as the Kerala government as the 16th Finance Commission 16th Finance Commission has started its work, expressed concern over the growing imbalance in Centre-State fiscal relations. It demanded a fair and equitable division of resources to the States, capping of the cesses and surcharges collected by the tablishing at meet to "penalising" tates that perform well.

ed a raise in the States' share in the divisible pool from 41% to 50% and a re-duction in the number of "one-size-fits-all" Centrally sponsored schemes. They

and surcharges be capped so that anything above the limit gets routed to the digurating the con-

clave. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the Finance Commission should factor in the rising strend in surcharges and cosses when drafting its recasses when drafting its reasonal casses have shown a rising trend and now combined the cross and casses have shown a rising trend and now combined the cross that the cross the cross that the cros

mand for a higher share for States in the taxes collect-ed by the Union has "continued relevance", he said. The commis

jayan said, has the task of "delicately balancing" the interests of the States with interests of the States with low per capita income but a larger share of popula-tion and others that have achieved the aims of the National Population Policy, 10076.

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Mimarka called for a recali-bration of the bration of the Centre-States balance of power to ensure a truly federal system. Tamil Nadu Finance Mi-

Restive doctors refuse to meet Bengal CM Mamata without livestreaming

Shiv Sahay Singh

In a dramatic standoff at the West Bengal State Se-cretariat on Thursday, striking resident doctors from State van bemittel ar striking resident doctors from State-rum hospitals ar-rived for talks with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee but then refused to enter the auditorium as the go-vernment would not allow them to livestream the

transparency, but the go-vernment insisted that since the protest was trig-gered by the rape and mur-der of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, which is a sub judice matter, the meeting could not be streamed or elecast live.

Ms. Banerjee waited for about two hours at the Na-banna Sabhaghar, or Se-cretariat, and then left after addressing presspersons. "I tried my best to sit with junior doc-

best to sit with junior doc-tors. I waited three days with my highest officials, "the Chief Minister said," the Chief Minister said, the con-use her power under the Essential Services Mainte-nance Act to force the prot-strike, but instead ap-pealed to the junior doc-tors to resume work, She noted that 27 people had died over the past month, died over the past month,

out of the seven lakh pa-tients who had been de-nied treatment due to the strike. Claiming that those protesting do not want jus-tice, but "want her chair", she said she would not hes-itate to resign if it was in the interest of the people.

the interest of the people.

Seeking transparency.
The doctors said lives treaming the meeting streaming the meeting sparency. "We have not made any unjustified description of the protest site at Swassenith and the part of the protest site at Swassenith and the



them to join the meeting

After the Chief Minister left the Secretariat, the

Communist veteran Sitaram Yechury passes away at 72

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

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Mr. Yechury was serving his third term as CPI(M) general secretary, a post to which he was elected in 2015.

In one of his last video messages from the hospital room, Mr. Yechury paid tribute to former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee on August 22. In an emotional farewell message to the former CM who had passed away a few days before, Mr. Yechury said: "It's most unfortunate that I had to connect from AIIMS to convey my feelings, emotions and revolutionary Lal Salaam to Buddho Da."

Big blow, says CPI(M)

Tributes poured from across the political spec-



Sitaram Yechury

trum for Mr. Yechury, a two-term Rajya Sabha MP. The CPI(M) Polit Bureau in a statement said that his untimely demise at "this crucial juncture in our national politics is a big blow for the CPI(M) and a grievous loss for the Left, democratic and secular forces".

Prime Minister Narendra Modi too echoed the sentiment and said Mr. Yechury was known for his ability to "connect across the political spectrum."

The body will be kept at the CPI(M) headquarters in Delhi between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on September 14 for the public to pay homage. The body will then be donated to the AIIMS for research as per his wishes.

RELATED REPORTS

» PAGE 5

Sitaram Yechury's Passing:

- Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary, Sitaram Yechury, passed away at AIIMS, New Delhi, at the age of 72.
- He was admitted to the hospital on August 19, with pneumonia-like symptoms and had been on respiratory support.
- Mr. Yechury was serving his third term as CPI(M) general secretary, a position he held since 2015.

Tributes to Yechury:

- In one of his last video messages from the hospital, Yechury paid tribute to former West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, who had recently passed away.
- Yechury expressed his sorrow in an emotional farewell message, using the revolutionary greeting "Lal Salaam."

- With reference to Sitaram Yechury, consider the following statements:
- 1.He was serving his first term as CPI(M) general secretary at the time of his death.
- 2. Yechury's body will be donated to AIIMS for research as per his wishes.
- 3.He served as a two-term Rajya Sabha MP.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, and 3

Dhankhar targets Rahul Gandhi over remarks in U.S

In an apparent criticism of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi over his statements in the U.S., Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday said every Indian abroad should be an am-bassador of the nation and

bassador of the nation and nothing could be more condemnable than op-joining forces with the ene-mies of the nation.

Mr. Gandhi's statements on the Sikh community and the issue of reserva-tion, his criticism of the RSS, meetings with U.S. Congresswoman Ilhan Omar and Bangladeshi journalist Mushfigul Fazal, and the support he got from Gurpatwant Singh Pannun have triggered sharp reactions from the BJP and the Centre.

BJP and the Centre.

"I am pained and dis-turbed that some people in position have just no idea of Bharat. They have no idea of Constitution, no idea of our national inter-est. I am sure your heart must be bleeding at what you see. If we are true Bhartiyas, if we believe in our pation we will never our nation, we will never side with the enemies of the nation, "Mr. Dhankhar

'Mission Mausam' to boost radar network to seed, tweak clouds

The ₹2,000-crore Mission Mausam that the Cabinet cleared on Wednesday in-volves a major upgrade of the forecasting infrastruc search into better under

modification.

In the first tranche of the mission until 2026, the modal body executing the exercise, hopes to proceed to the modal body executing the exercise, hopes to proceed the modal body executing the exercise and 15 radio-sondes. These are instructional exercise the exer

can mean more accurate and precise rain-forecasts. "We will also be setting up a cloud-simulation cloud and control of the con MoES, said at a press conference on Thursday. Doing so would enable

with private partners to have multiple weaponry lines as well as multiple production lines," Mr. Chaudhari said. "That is

the way we can catch up

vith our requirements an be able to export to other nations as well," he said.

While recommending PPP

give away the awards. The awards will be given

across six categories: So-cial Transformation, Digi-

tal Transformation, Finar cial Transformation



tione" such as seeding tions" such as seeding clouds and tweaking them to control the rainfall from them. "Suppressing rain-fall from a dense cloud is easier than increasing rain-fall. There are some experi-ments globally to modify clouds and make them less prone to lightning. So we hope to be able to conduct such experiments, under-stand the physics with more precision and build on this knowledge," he

on this knowledge," he added.
India's size and geographical variability means your wery widely. However there aren't enough weather radars to capture this variability. In the United States there are 160 radars or one for every 154 kilometre, India currently has 39 or about one for every 432 km, according to data ted at the briefing.

Manipur govt. lifts Internet ban partially in five districts

Mobile data services continue to be suspended; students' group urges Modi to break his silence and visit the State: miscreants torch healthcare centre in Jiribam: curfew on in three districts

ment on Thursday conditionally withdrew the ban on broad-band Internet services band Internet services from five districts of a relatively calm Imphal Valley, but violence returned to liribam district borde

ribam district bordering Assam.

The Home Department, in an order, said broad-band services had been restored as the Internet ban affected offices and institutions, people working from home, health facili-ties, refuelling centres, and other online-based citizencentric services

centric services.
Internet services were
suspended in Imphal East,
Imphal West, Kakching,
Thoubal, and Bishnupur
rive districts comprising
the Imphal Valley almost at
the centre of Manipur – on
September 10 after prot
durined violent. The protesters demanded resolution
of the ongoing ethnic vioof the ongoing ethnic vio-lence apart from the resignation of the State's security adviser, Kuldiep Singh, and Director-General of Police (DGP) Rajiv Singh



for failing to protect the lives and properties of the

people. Mobile Internet servic-Mobile Internet services, however, continued to be suspended. The indefitricts - Imphal East, Imphal West, and Thoubal imposed oir Thesday contimay be a suspended over the Maripur Police said also people had been arrestprehended over the violent protests in the past few days. "Necessary legal proagainst them?" an officer against them?" an officer

against them," an officer said. While the Imphal Val-ley was more or less calm, the action shifted to Jiri

creants torching a primary health centre early on Thursday morning. Nobody was at the healthcare centre when the incident happened. There were reports of a

gunfight in the same dis-trict but the details were not available.

not available.

Meanwhile, the North
East Students' Organisation (NESO) urged Prime
Minister Narendra Modi to
visit Manipur to assess the ground situation personal-ly and provide security to people, especially women and children, from both warring communities

the highest levels of go ernment. The failure to address the conflict not on y undermines the stability of Manipur but also poses and security of the er Northeast region," the NE-SO said in a statement, urging the Prime Minister ing the Prime Minister to break his silence on the sit-uation in the BJP-ruled State. Stating that the people of Manipur want concrete actions to resolve the con-flict, the NESO sought the

constitution of a high-level peace committee involving representatives from all communities to facilitate lasting and peaceful resolution.

"The escalation of vio-"The escalation of vio-lence, including reports of drone and missile strikes, has further exacerbated the already fragile situa-tion. Such tactics not only intensify the devastation but also deepen the divide between communities between communities, making the prospect of peace even more elusive,* the umbrella organisation of various students' bodies

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

The observations in public

A 16-point document on judicial values was

adopted by SC in 1997

platform with Mamata, says Governor

announced a social boycott of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for the governjustice to people and oper

proprieties". The Raj Bhavan said the The Raj Bhavan said the Governor will not share any public platform with the Chief Minister. The Go-vernor will also take proac-tive steps against Ms. Ba-nerjee for violating constitutional provisions. onstitutional provision

The CBI on Thursday ques tioned Trinamool Con-gress MLA Sudipto Roy in and murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical Col-

lege and Hospital in Kolkata. Dr. Roy, who is presi-dent of the West Bengal

dent of the West Bengal Medical Council and holds charge of the R.G. Kar Patient's Welfare Committee, was questioned at his residence in north Kolkata.

The MLA from Srirampur said he cooperated with the officials. The CBI searched Dr. Roy's house and his nursing home for more than 30 minutes. more than 90 minutes.

Need to increase LCA production to meet demand: IAF chief

Dinakar Peri

As the Indian Air Force (IAF) awaits deliveries of the indigenous Light Com-bat Aircraft (LCA)-MkIA and India markets the fighter for exports, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari has said there is Chaudhari has said there is the issue of matching up production capability with requirements. Mr. Chaud-hari was addressing a press conference at the closing of Tarang Shakti, a multilateral air exercise, in Jodhpur on Thursday.

Rajnath Singh termed the exercise an effort to streng-then cooperation, coordi-nation and trust with

partner countries.
"Our present orders of 83 LCA-MkIAs, which will 83 LCA-MklAs, which will be followed up with 97 more, will definitely take a few years to fructify. The way forward is to diversify the production lines, have more public-private part-nerships or joint ventures.

India, China resumption of flight services

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

A Chinese delegation met Union Civil Aviation Minis ter K. Rammohan Naidu and discussed the resump-

rence on Aviation. Howev-er, the posts from his X handle and the Ministry's official handle were later deleted. The conference was held on Wednesday and Thursday.

or joint ventures, he said Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) should take the lead in any model evolved. strengthening civil aviation cooperation between the two countries, especially promoting the early re-sumption of passenger flights between us," read the post on X by Mr. Naidu that was later removed. evolved.

In February 2021, the Defence Ministry had signed a ₹48,000 crore deal with HAL for 83 LCA-MklA, a fighter more capable than the current LCA-MKI in service.

PM's visit to CJI's house for Ganesh puja sparks row

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud's residence on Wed-nesday, where he partici-pated in Ganesh puja, has triggered a political war of words. The Opposition said the visit had compromised the

visit had compromised the constitutionally mandated separation between the judiciary and the execu-tive, but the BJP hit back, terming the criticism hatred for Hinduism.

Shiv Sena UBT leader and MP Sanjay Raut slammed the Prime Minis-ter, linking his visit to the

delay in the hearing of some key cases and to the allegedly selective suo mo-

allegedly selective suo mo-tu actions of the top court.
"Our case of Maharash-tra – the hearing is going.
Chandrachud, so we have chandrachud, so we have doubt if we will get justice because PM is the other party in the case. Will Chief Justice Chandrachud be able to give us justice in

Sixth edition of *The Hindu businessline* Air taxis will

and discussed the resump-tion of flights between the two countries after a gap of more than four years. Mr. Naidu posted about a meeting held on the side-lines of the second Asia Pacific Ministerial Confe-

"This morning..., I had a courtesy meeting with the Chinese delegation led by Mr. Song Zhiyong to ex change views regarding strengthening civil aviation



such a situation? We are getting dates after dates and an illegal government is going on functioning here," he said.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal, who is a Lok Sabha MP from Mumbai, counmy from southeast coun-tered Mr. Raut's criticism. In a statement, he "strong-ly condemn[ed] the Oppo-sition leaders for their shameful attack on Hindu sentiments and our festiv-als, which we proudly colelyste" shameful attack on Finals, sentiments and our festiv-als, which we proudly celebrate". "Lokmanya Tilak ji had started saarvajanik (pu-

'Shameful attack'

blic) Ganesh Utsav in 1893 to bring together all nation-alists to fight in the freedom struggle. Indians, ev-ery Maharashtrian, proudly celebrates Ganesh Utsav; some families for ov-

for and within the legal fraternity about the pro-priety of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's video-graphed visit to the resi-dence of Chief Justice of In-dia D.V. Chandrachud to er 100 years have been in viting their friends and well-wishers to join in the prayers for removing vigh-ng (obstacles) from their na (obstacles) from their life and bringing sukh (hap-piness). The Opposition's myopic vision is obsessed with appeasement politics and their hatred towards Hindus is once more out in the open. The people of India D.Y. Chandrachud to participate in Ganesh puja are grounded in a 16-point document on judicial va-lues adopted in a Full Court Meeting of the Su-preme Court on May 7, dia will never forgive the

1997.
The document called the "Restatement of Values of Judicial Life" is an illus-Opposition for attacking high constitutional author-ities like the PM and CJI for performing Ganesh puja," he said. rative, and not exhaustive guide of what is expected of Supreme Court and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis also termed the Opposition reaction High Court judges.
"The behaviour Opposition reaction "hatred against Hindutva". He said former Chief Jus-tice K.G. Balakrishnan had gone to the then-PM's resi-dence for an liftar party, and that nobody had ob-jected at that time.

conduct of members of the conduct of members of the higher judiciary must reaf-firm the people's faith in the impartiality of the judi-ciary. Accordingly, any act of a judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court, whether in official or personal capacity, which erodes the credibility of this perception has to be avoided," the very first te-net of the document reads. It recommends a judge to practise "a degree of

to practise "a degree of aloofness consistent with the dignity of his office". "Every judge must at all times be conscious that he is under the public gaze and there should be no act or omission by him which is unbecoming of the high office he occupies and the public esseem in which the office he occupies and the public esseem in which the office he occupies and the public esseem in which the office he occupies and the public esseem in which the occupies and the public esseem in the occupies and the public esseem in the occupies and the occupies and the occupies the occupies and th

ment cautions. The Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reorms, of which advocate Prashant Bhushan is an of-fice-bearer, said the established practices of judicial conduct place an emphasis on maintaining public con-

the interaction between high constitutional functionaries.

"As then CJI M.N. Venka-tachaliah put it to former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, the relationship bet-ween the judiciary and ex-

The document is an illustrative, and not exhaustive, guide of Supreme Court and

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who is also the Suman of great integrity "The issue is not the indivi-

Jaising said: "Chief Justice of India has compromised

from the Executive."
Senior advocate Manan
Kumar Mishra, Bar Council
of India chairperson, ho
wever said this was merely
a social, religious function

not cordial, and cordiality between court and govern ment has no place in our constitutional scheme of checks and balances. The judiciary..., which holds judiciary..., which nosis the responsibility of safe-guarding the Constitution and ensuring justice with-out fear or favour, must be seen as entirely indepen-dent from the Executive

preme Court Bar Associa-tion president, said the Chief Justice of India was a dual; the issue is what such a video clip has on the minds of the people... If there is gossip around it, it is not fair on the instituis not fair on the institu-tion. You should not lend yourself to a situation, to be in a situation where pe-ople can gossip about the institution and start specu-lating. My religion and my way of expressing in the way of expressing in the context of my beliefs is a private matter," he said.

the separation of powers between the Executive and ludiciary. The SCBA must played compromise of in-dependence of the CJI from the Executive."

and would not affect any Supreme Court judgments.

Satellite-based toll system likely from 2025: official

The Hindu Bureau

A satellite-based toll sys-tem for highways will be rolled out in the first quar-ter of 2025, said a senior of-ficial of the Ministry of Road Transport and

Highways. The Indian Highways Management Company Li-mited is preparing bids for toll chargers, said Anurag Jain, Secretary, MoRTH.

Jain, Secretary, MoRTH.
The government envisages a hybrid toll mechanism so that toll booths can
track vehicles fitted with
an onboard unit for receiving signals from the Global
Navigation Satellite System
and radio frequency identification-based Fastags.

The Hindu Bureau SASTRA The sixth edition of The Hindu businessline Chan-gemaker Awards, which celebrates individuals and CHANGE

awards === organisations that have brought change in society, will be held in New Delhi OSBI on Friday. Union Finance Minister

ry process that other awards have gone through and is given to an achiever in the field of education. ad is given a the field of education. Over 950 nominations received from the puwere received from the pu-blic and readers. They were evaluated by The Hin-du businessline along with knowledge partners De-loitte and Ashoka. The cial Transformation, Young Changemaker, Icon-ic Changemaker, and Changemaker of the Year. There is a new category this year called the Chair-person's Award. This award is not part of the ju-

shortlisted nominations were then independently

validated by Niiti Consult-ing, the validation partner. The winners from among the validated nomi-nees were chosen by an in-dependent jury headed by R. Seshasayee, chairman,

Changemaker Awards to be held today

Asian Paints. Other mem-bers of the jury were Lakshmi Narayanan, former vice-chairman, Cogni zant; Suchitra Ella, co-founder and managing difounder and management of the sector, Bharat Biotech International; N.S. Nappieme Court; Supriya Sa-, Additional Chief cretary, Department of

Changemaker Awards are presented by SASTRA Un-tiversity as the presenting SBI (State Bank of India). The event is also support-ed by associate partners: LIC (LIFE Insurance Corpo-ration of India), J&K Bank, NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation), Un-ion Bank of India, NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation), ES SAR, Punjab & Sind Bank SAR, Punjab & Sind Bank, Swelect Energy, and Indian Bank. Casagrand is the realty partner, while Forti-net is the cybersecurity partner. NDTV 2437 is the TV partner. Anand Prakash is the giff partner. The awards ceremony The awards ceremony of the partner. nu, Additional Chief secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamil National Covernment of Tamily National C

Air taxis will soon be "a reality in India", Prime Mi-nister Narendra Modi said while addressing a confe-rence of civil aviation Ministers in the Asia Pacific "The day is not far when

travel by air taxi will be a reality," Mr. Modi said at the second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Cinisterial Conference on Ci-vil Aviation which is being hosted in India in collabo-ration with the UN's avia-tion watchdog, the Inter-national Civil Aviation Organization. The confe-rence concluded on Thurs-

be a reality

says Modi

in India soon,

day with the adoption of the Delhi Declaration.

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NEW DELHI

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Businesses warn Yellen on US Steel sale



Agence France-Presse

statio: Jayanesee and American business groups have unject U.S. Treasury Secretary Jame Vullen not to succumb to political pressure when reviewing Nippon Steel's proposed acquisition of United States Steel. The \$14.9 billion takeover, opposition from both Presidential candidates (Application of the Proposition from both Presidential candidates (Kamala Harris and Donald Trump.)
U.S Steel warned last week it could shut its

Pennsylvania headquarters and factories if the deal is blocked, after reports said incumbent Joe

deat is blocked, after reports and incumbent Joe Biden plans to stop the sale. Ms. Yellen is chair of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), which is reviewing the transaction. The Japan Business Federation — the country's

largest business group – wrote to Ms. Yellen along with the United States Council for

along with the United States Council for International Business, the Washington-based Global Business Alliance and others. "There have been persistent attempts recently to politicise the committee's work from across the politicis spectrum, allowing politicis to undermine the clear and narrow statutory mandate of national security," they said.

"We fear this political pressure may be unduly influencing the outcome of the CFIUS review" which is "putting the US economy and workers at risk", warned the letter dated Wednesday and released to journalists on Thursday.

"America's investment climate will be severely tarnished if such political interference prevails."

Dark patterns pose a growing concern in India's digital landscape

In India's rapidly expanding e-commerce landscape, the practices undermine consumer trust and pose significant risks to the sector; globally. egulatory bodies are acting against such practices; India's initiatives are crucial steps in protecting consumers from unfair practices

COMMENT

Dharmender Ihamb

n recent years, as the digital landscape con-tinues to expand, websites and apps have be-come integral to daily lives. come integral to daily lives. However, a troubling trend has emerged alongside this growth: Dark patterns. The are used to manipulate us-ers into making decisions they might not otherwise make, such as signing up sharing personal informa-tion. By exploiting human psychology and clever de-companies at the excense companies at the expense of consumers. This issue is particularly

pressing within India's rapidly-growing e-commerce sector, expected to reach a sector, expected to reach a market size of 350 billion by 2030. The growth is dri-ven by increased Internet and smartphone penetraand smartphone penetra-tion, with about 936.16 mil-lion Internet subscribers and 350 million mature on-line users actively engaging in transactions.

As online shopping be-comes more prevident

comes more prevalent, dark patterns are increas-ingly used to manipulate user decisions, exploiting the surge in digital activity. Common dark patterns include creating a false sense of urgency to rush users into making purchas-es, hiding subscription



cancellations deep within websites, and using confusing language to mislead users. The tactics are un-ethical and undermine the ethical and undermine the integrity of the design process, leading to practices
into over genuine longterm user engagement.
The practices fail under
protection over engagement
protection Act, 2019.
Respectively of the protection of
protection Act, 2019.
Respectively of
Respectively

vention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023' under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, identifying 13 common dark patterns prevalent in e-com applica-tions and websites.

Businesses have to adopt a user-first approach by regularly reviewing and improving interfaces to remove these

Beyond specific guide-lines, there have been sig-nificant developments in the international space to regulate dark patterns. In the European Union, regu-lations such as the Digital Services Act (DSA), General Data Protection Regula-tion (GDPR) and the Unfair Commercial Practices Di-rective (UCPD) address the concerns. In the United States, various States have

damaging the reputation of businesses, leading to low-er customer loyalty, higher turnover, and negative word-of-mouth, ultimately hurting the firm's brand and competitiveness.

Moreover, regulatory
bodies are increasingly fo-

cusing on dark patterns cusing on dark patterns under consumer protec-tion laws. Companies that continue to use these prac-tices could face fines, legal actions, and damage to reputation, which could threaten market position.

Addressing this needs col-lective effort from stake-holders. Businesses need to adopt a user-first approach by regularly re-viewing and improving interfaces to remove the terfaces to remove the patterns. This focus on transparency clients can easily under-stand and use services with clear information on

Ethical challenges
Dark patterns pose a significant ethical challenge by
manipulating consumer
behaviour, undermining
tonomy. The tactics exploit
psychological tendencies,
leading users to actions
that benefit firms rather
than fostering fairness. By
using misleading informafusing navigation, dark patfusing navigation, dark patwith clear information on subscription terms, easy options to opt out and can-did instructions for can-celling services. Educating designers and developers on ethical design practices is essen-tial for responsible innova-tion. By incorporating eth-ics into design training and professional development we can ensure designers consider the broader im-pact of the work. This ap-proach encourages the creation of interfaces that are clear and functional. Regulators are essential

in safeguarding consumers by establishing and enforcing guidelines that pro mote ethical design such as pliance, and regular audits. User advocacy groups complement the efforts by educating

about their rights, helping identify and report dark patterns and collaborating with businesses to uphold against potential dark pat terns, thereby increasing gating digital platforms.

Conclusion

In India's rapidly expand scape, the practices under

scape, the practices under-mine consumer trust and pose significant risks to the sector. Globally, regulatory between the consumer pro-such practices. India's initiatives, in-cluding the Consumer Pro-tection (E-commerce) Rules, 2020, and new gui-protecting consumers from protecting consumers from

unfair practices. By enforcing strict regulations and promoting ethi-cal design, India is posi-tioning itself as a global leader in fostering fair digi-

tal practices.
(The writer is Partner,
Grant Thornton Bharat)

+ Growth concerns



Battle hardened: European Central Bank (ECB) President Christine Lagarde addresses a press conference on the European's monetary policy, at the central bank's headquarters in Frankfurt. The ECB lowered its deposit rate by 25 basis points to 3.50% as inflation is now within striking distance of its 2% target. APP

Brazil's hydropower faces risk from drying river basins, spur inflation

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters SAO PAULO

Soil moisture in Brazil's main river basins used for hydropower generation has fallen to nearly two-de cade lows, data collected by the London Stock Exby the London Stock Ex-change Group shows, threatening a prolonged impact from a serious drought even after rains return.

Tropical rains feeding Regulis yeast network of the

Brazil's vast network of riv-ers typically allow hydropower plants to generate around two-thirds of Brazil's electricity but years of weak rainfall have hurt the sector, pushing up energy



combat dark patterns, in-cluding the California Pri-vacy Rights Act, the Con-

necticut Data Privacy Act.

fusing navigation, dark pat-

terns break the expectation of honest inte-ractions, making it hard for

users to make informed choices. This not only harms users but also risks

and Colorado Privacy Act.

Ethical challenges

costs and stoking inflation that has led economists to forecast a fresh round of interest rate hiles.

If the stoke it is a fresh round of interest rate hiles.

If seasonal rains arrive next month as expected, hydroelectric reservoirs may be slow to fill because so much moisture will be abmach moisture will be ab-

sorbed by the soil.

The Paranaiba, Grande and Tocantins hydroelec-

tric basins, stretching across southeast, center-west and north Brazil, make up a large part of the sector's capacity. LSEG da-ta shows they hit the low-September since 2005. Claudio Vallejos,

LSEG analyst, said the parched soil is a troubling result of a decade with just result of a decade with just one year bringing rainfall above the long-term aver-age. The worst effects of the current drought have hit run-of-the-river genera-tors, including the partial shutdown of the Sento Apshutdown of the Santo An-tonio plant in northern Brazil, one of the largest in

the country. Brazilian grid operator ONS has struggled to oper-ate the system at peak load tion of expensive thermoe-lectric plants in recent

Growing wind and solar capacity in the north and northeast has offered un even relief as transmission bottlenecks led ONS to cap

bottlemecks led ONS to cap how much power it takes from those generators. Sergio Romani, chief sa Sergio Romani, chief Romani, chief sa Romani, chief sa Romani, chief sa Romani, chief sa Romani, said electricity prices will remain high un-Banco Daycoval has also forecast 12-month inflation could end the year around could end the year around flag' levels instead of falling to the cheapest 'green flag' tartifs by December.

Russia facing stagflation threat as war effort slows growth

Agence France-Presse

Prices for bread have jumped so much over the last few years that Russian pensioner Oleg Ivanovich sometimes has to go

But the 67-year-old says he doesn't mind having to make sacrifices for the sake of Russia's military offensive on Ukraine. "We'll bear with it.

"We'll bear with it.
When the special military
operation ends, prices will
return to normal," he told
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official Russlan term for
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the official came in at a little
over 9% in August – is just
one of the economic hea-

daches Russia is grappling with as it has increasingly

militarised its economy since ordering troops into Ukraine in February 2022. Moscow has funnelled billions of dollars to its army, soldiers, their families and weapons makers to sustain its military campaign – a spending splurge that helped it defy Western hopes that sanctions would push it into eco-

But after warning for months that the ec-

months that the economy was overheating, the country's Central Bank has lately started mentioning the possibility of another, possibility of another,



'De-modernising' Stagflation – a period of low or stagnant growth ac-companied by high infla-

Kremlin, which has until now navigated the eco-nomic fallout from the con-flict in Ukraine better than most believed possible. Moscow has increased pow, a Russian professor at the Barcelona School of Economics, told AFP. "There is a high proba-bility of a stagflation scena-rio in 2025 and the years after Event a correspongovernment spending by almost 50% since sending after. It's not a certainty, but high likelihood," he

troops into Ukraine, push added. That could leave the ing up growth and wages Unemployment is at a central bank - which said record low and consume confidence is its highest in 15 years. But an exodus of skilled and unskilled workers - who fled mobilisation created millions of unfilled vacancies. Sanctions on Western technology have also hit productivity and damaged supply chains. "In the long-term these demographic factors and technological issues will result in very low econom-ic growth." Ruben Enikolo-

last week it saw "signs of slowing economic activi-ty," and that inflation had "reached its peak" - with few options.
It has already raised in-

It has already raised in-terest rates to 18%.

Some analysts expect they could reach 20% be-fore the end of the year – the same as at the start of the conflict, when rates were hiked rates in an emergency session to avert a financial crisis and bank run after the West imposed tary spending – which he

hamstrings many private businesses, further thwart-ing growth in parts of the economy not connected to the army.

on Friday will be closely watched for signs of whether the regulator thinks further tightening is

'Vicious Circle'

Maxim Bouev, a professor at Moscow's New Econom-ic School, said Russia is ic School, said Russia is trapped in a "vicious circle of inflation and military Keynesianism. The stimu-lus goes to war, the rest of the economy gets rising prices". Russian President Vladi-

spillovers are enough to offset the costs.

grading, it is de-modernis-ing," said Vladislav Inozemtsev, co-founder of the Center for Analysis and Strategies in Europe a Rus

puts at "above 8% of GDP"

– as a great resource that
can drive growth.

But many have doubts
about whether the positive

sia-focused think tank "They are switching to Soviet models, Soviet stan-dards, Soviet approaches. Technological advances are non-existent... and de-velopment is very res-trained," he added. Many experts say the system is unsustainable ov-er the long-term but see no short-term economic pres-

short-term economic pres-sure that could hamper Russia's military capacity.

Russia facing stagflation threat as war effort slows growth

Agence France-Presse

MOSCOW

Prices for bread have jumped so much over the last few years that Russian pensioner Oleg Ivanovich sometimes has to go without.

But the 67-year-old says he doesn't mind having to make sacrifices for the sake of Russia's military offensive on Ukraine.

"We'll bear with it. When the special military operation ends, prices will return to normal," he told AFP in Moscow, using the official Russian term for the offensive.

Surging prices – annual inflation came in at a little over 9% in August – is just one of the economic headaches Russia is grappling with as it has increasingly

militarised its economy since ordering troops into Ukraine in February 2022.

Moscow has funnelled billions of dollars to its army, soldiers, their families and weapons makers to sustain its military campaign – a spending splurge that helped it defy Western hopes that sanctions would push it into economic collapse.

But after warning for months that the economy was overheating, the country's Central Bank has lately started mentioning the possibility of another, possibly more challenging development: stagflation.

"The shortage of (labour) resources may lead to a situation where economic growth slows down, despite all the efforts to stimulate demand, with all



Expensive war: Some analysts expect interest rates could reach 20% before the end of the year. AFP

that stimulus accelerating inflation," Central Bank Governor Elvira Nabiullina said over the summer.

"In essence, this is a stagflation scenario, which can only be stopped at the cost of a deep recession," she warned.

'De-modernising'

Stagflation – a period of low or stagnant growth accompanied by high inflation – would present a fresh headache for the now navigated the economic fallout from the conflict in Ukraine better than most believed possible. Moscow has increased

Kremlin, which has until

Moscow has increased government spending by almost 50% since sending troops into Ukraine, pushing up growth and wages.

Unemployment is at a record low and consumer confidence is its highest in 15 years. But an exodus of skilled and unskilled workers – who fled mobilisation or joined the army – has created millions of unfilled vacancies. Sanctions on Western technology have also hit productivity and damaged supply chains.

"In the long-term these demographic factors and technological issues will result in very low economic growth," Ruben Enikolopov, a Russian professor at the Barcelona School of Economics, told AFP.

"There is a high probability of a stagflation scenario in 2025 and the years after. It's not a certainty, but high likelihood," he added.

That could leave the central bank – which said last week it saw "signs of slowing economic activity," and that inflation had "reached its peak" – with few options.

It has already raised interest rates to 18%.

Some analysts expect they could reach 20% before the end of the year – the same as at the start of the conflict, when rates were hiked rates in an emergency session to avert a financial crisis and bank run after the West imposed sanctions.

That cost of borrowing hamstrings many private businesses, further thwarting growth in parts of the economy not connected to the army.

A rate-setting meeting on Friday will be closely watched for signs of whether the regulator thinks further tightening is needed.

'Vicious Circle'

Maxim Bouev, a professor at Moscow's New Economic School, said Russia is trapped in a "vicious circle of inflation and military Keynesianism. The stimulus goes to war, the rest of the economy gets rising prices".

Russian President Vladimir Putin has hailed military spending – which he puts at "above 8% of GDP" -- as a great resource that can drive growth.

But many have doubts about whether the positive spillovers are enough to offset the costs.

"The economy is degrading, it is de-modernising," said Vladislav Inozemtsev, co-founder of the Center for Analysis and Strategies in Europe, a Russia-focused think tank.

"They are switching to Soviet models, Soviet standards, Soviet approaches. Technological advances are non-existent ... and development is very restrained," he added.

Many experts say the system is unsustainable over the long-term but see no short-term economic pressure that could hamper Russia's military capacity.

CM C

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A IN-X

Stagflation Threat in Russia:

- Russia faces a looming risk of stagflation due to surging prices and slowing growth, linked to its ongoing war effort in Ukraine.
- Stagflation is a scenario where the economy experiences stagnant growth coupled with high inflation, a serious economic concern.



- Rising Inflation and Economic Challenges:
- Prices, especially for basic goods like bread, have skyrocketed.
- Annual inflation reached over 9% in August, creating economic strain for citizens like pensioners.

Government Military Spending:

- The Russian government increased military spending by 50% since the conflict in Ukraine began, which has fueled growth but also caused inflation.
- The spending spree has helped sustain Russia's military campaign but may have long-term economic consequences.
- Labour Shortages and Economic Strain:
- Russia is facing labour shortages due to mobilisation and the exodus of skilled workers.
- This shortage hampers productivity and economic growth.

Economic De-modernisation:

- Experts warn that Russia's economy is degrading, reverting to Soviet models and standards, which limits technological advancement and economic development.
- Technological sanctions imposed by Western countries have further exacerbated supply chain issues.
- Interest Rates and Monetary Policy:
- The Central Bank of Russia has raised interest rates to 18%, with the possibility of further increases to control inflation, but at the risk of deepening economic recession.
- Some analysts expect interest rates to reach 20% before the end of the year.

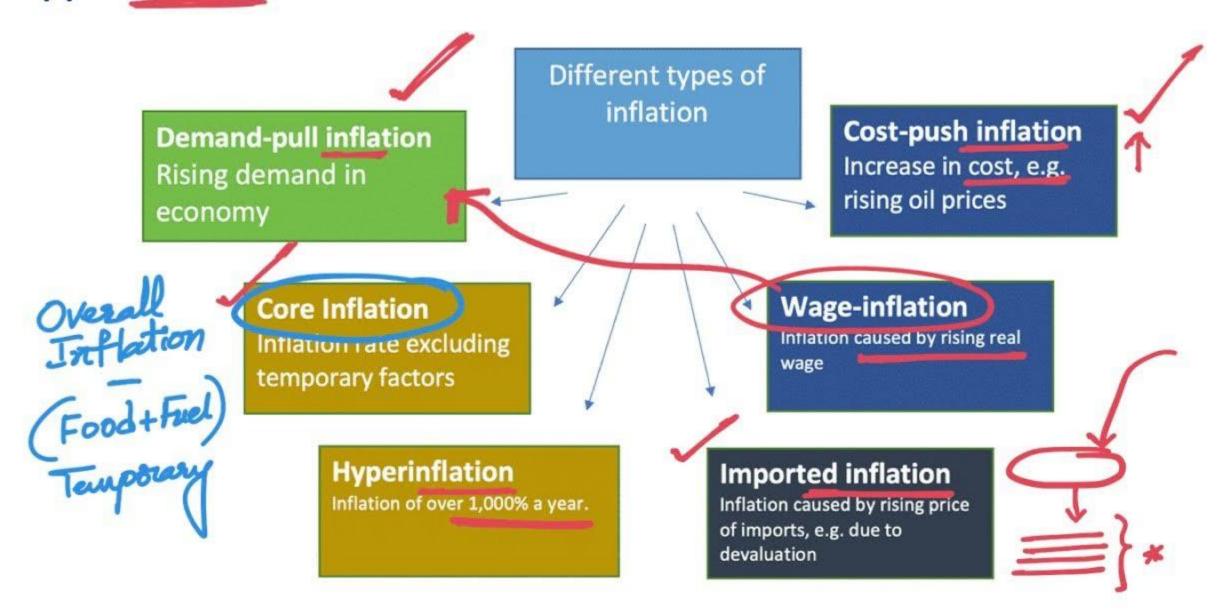
1.Long-Term Impact:

1. Despite these economic challenges, experts see no short-term economic pressure that would impact Russia's military capability, though the long-term sustainability of this economic model remains in doubt.



Types of Inflation





- With reference to the current economic situation in Russia, consider the following statements:
- 1. Stagflation is a condition marked by both high inflation and high economic growth.
- 2. The Russian government increased military spending by 50% since the conflict with Ukraine started.
- 3. The Russian Central Bank has raised interest rates to 18% to control inflation.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2, and 3

INBRIEF



Head and Zampa star as Australia downs England

Travis Head scored a valuable 59 and leg-spinner Adam Zampa took two cheap wickets as Australia defeated England by 28 runs in the first T20 International at Southampton on Wednesday

The scores: Australia 179 in 19.3 overs (Head 59, Livingstone 3/22) bt England 151 in 19.2 overs (Abbott 3/28).



Rashid returns to Afghanistan squad for SA ODI series

Rashid Khan has been included in the Afghanistan squad for the three-match one-day series against South Africa. The matches will be played on September 18, 20 and 22 at the Sharjah Stadium, which will become the first ground in the world to host 250 ODIs.

The squad: Hashmatullah Shahidi (capt.), Rahmat Shah, Rahmanullah Garbar, Irram Alikeli, Abdol Malia, Risa Hassan, Gulbadin Nahi, Rashid Khan, Nenggyalia Kharota, Alian Gulbadin Nahi, Rashid Khan, Nenggyalia Kharota, Alian Mohammad Ghazarifar, Fazalhag Farcoqi, Bifal Sami, Naveed Zadran, and Fareed Ahmad.

Google is the title sponsor for World chess championship

Google is the title sponsor of the World chess championship match between Ding Liren and D. Gukesh, beginning in Singapore on November 23. FIDE's CEO Emily Sutovsky said the game's governing body was thrilled to partner with

Google. "It is a milestone for our sport," he said "This collaboration brings a new dimension to the competition, blending the tradition of chess with the innovation of Al. The partnership is set to elevate the visibility of the World Chess Championship, taking the broadcast of the event to the next level and attracting new audiences

Indian challenge ends in Hong Kong Open badminton

Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand fought hard before going down It-21,20-22 to Liu Sheng and Decrease of the Control of the Hong Kong Open Decrease of the Hong Kong Open badminton on Thursday. Later, Malaysia's Gob Soon Huat and Lai Shevon Jemie of Malaysia got the better of Sumeeth Reddy and Sikki Reddy 21-11, 22-20 in mixed doubles pre-quarterfinals.

Tharun in the last eight of Vietnam Super 100

Tharun Mannepalli defeated Finland's Joakim Oldorff 21-7, 23-21 to enter the quarterfinals at the Vietnam Super 100 tournament in Ho Chi Minh City on Thursday. In mixed doubles, top-seeded City on Thursday. In mixed doubles, top-seeded sathish Kumar Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath Yu-En 21-18, 21-11, while sixth-seeded Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto scored a 21-9, 21-7 win over compatriots Bokka Navaneeth and Ritika Thaleer. The other Indians in the fray made their



Arsenal manager Arteta signs new contract till 2027





Paralympians meet PM, Indian Oil announces scholarships at felicitation

Javelin thrower Sumit dedicates his gold to Modi; IOC to introduce medical insurance and sports kits for para-athletes as part of its commitment

Sports Bureau

aving bettered its own previous best medal haul at the Paris Paralympics, the PCI is confident of inching clos-er to 50 medals at the 2028

insisted on Thursday that the country's para sport-spersons will better their

the country's para sport-spersons will better their tally and get at least 40-50 India went from 19 medals in Tokyo to 29 at Paris. "I want to thank eve-base to the proper to the special country of the country of the arbitrary of the country of the arbitrary of the country of the every of the country of the country of the presentation of the country of the country of the very of the country of the country of the country of the presentation of the country of the cou

will only motivate them to do better. I am confident that in LA 2028 we will on-ly get better from here.

PCI president's promise
"I promise everyone on behalf of the athletes that we
will win at least 40 to 50
medals in the next edition," Jhajharia sald during
a function hosted by the indian Oil Corporation along
with PCI here.

IOC had signed an MoU IOC had signed an MoU
with the PCI in October last
year as part of its Road to
Paralympics 2024 proport for para-athletes at
the Asian Para Games and
the World Para Shooting
Championships, besides
Paris.

WGG ministry secreDEAG ministry

tary Pankaj Jain, emphasis-

athletes from oil compa-nies, announced that In-dian Oil would be introduc-ing monthly scholarships, medical insurance and aports kits for para-athletes as part of its commitment. It was a busy day for the Paralympians who mender Prime Minister Namendra Prime Minister Namendra interacted with him, thank-ing him for constant en-

ing him for constant en-couragement and support.

"The way you have accepted and supported para-ra-thletes is unprecedent-ed," high jumper Sharak kernel and supported parabel in the parabel i

Blockbuster MBSG-MCFC duel to kick off a new season

ISL-II

The 11th season of Indian Super League will premier with a contest featuring two of the league's most proficient sides – Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) and Mumbai City FC and M (MCFC).

There cannot be a better way to start the long sea-son as MBSG, the ISL Shield winner, launches its title defence against the ISL Cup winner, the Islan-

Dominant
The two heavyweights
have dominated the title
duels in three of the last
four seasons, with MBSG
and MCFC winning the
Shield and Cup among
themselves in the last two
seasons.

easons. MCFC bagged a double (both League Shield and the Cup) in the 2020-21 season beating league-debu-tant MBSG (formerly ATK Mohun Bagan).



In the 2022-23 season, MCPC won the Shield be-fore MBSG bagged the Cup. The ownership order was reversed in the last season. In head-to-head, MCPC has dominated the duel, winning seven out of 10 meetings.

MBSG recorded its first win in the final League fix-ture (on April 15 at Salt Lake Stadium) of the pre-

vious season to win its mai-den shield in front of its supporters. Both sides have under-gone a lot of transforma-tion in the pre-season transfers, with each having a number of new names joining the squad.

It now remains to be seen how the revamped squads help the two main-tain their supremacy this

MCFC bagged a double (Leagu Shield and Cup) in the 2020-21 eason beating league-debu ABSG (formerly ATK Mohun

season, with an incremen in number of participants. Mohammedan Sporting makes its debut this season to make it a 13-team affair while Kolkata becomes the most notable city in the league, getting its third team on the roster.

East Bengal FC, which has been finishing in the bottom half of the table in the past four seasons, will be looking to make a better finish with a new look

NorthEast United FC. Odisha FC, Jamshedpur FC Odisha FC, Jamshedpur FC and Punjab FC complete the line-up from the north and east while Bengaluru FC, Chennalyin FC, FC Goa, Kerala Blasters FC and Hyderabad FC bring in the challenge from the south and west to make it a truly pan-indian affair.

Friday's match:

On top: Railways' Bikram won the men's 200m butterfly

Tamil Nadu men set 4x100m National meet medley relay record

NATIONAL AQUATICS

Sports Bureau MANGALURU

Nithik Nathella, Danush Suresh, Benedicton Rohit and Adhithya Dinesh created a National meet record for Tamil Nadu by clocking 3:45.66s in the men's 4x100m medley relay in the 77th Senior National aquatic championships on Thursday.

Railways' Bikram Changmai (2:02.76s) won the men's 200m butterfly. The results: Winners: Men: 1,500m freestyle: Ancesh

Gowda (Kar) 16:06.11s. 50m freestyle: Mibir Ambre (Mah) 22:66s. 50m backstroke: Alash Maril (Kar) 26:24s. 200m. (Kar) 26:24s. 200m. (Kar) 26:24s. 200m. (Kar) 26:24s. 200m. (Kar) 26:25s. 76s. 4x. 200m. medisey: Tamil Nadu (Nithik Nathella, Danush Suresh, Benedicton Rohk, Adhithya Dinesh) 3:45:66s (NMR), Old: Services Sports Control Board 3:47:225s.

Women: 800m freestyle: Vritti Agarwal (Tel) 9:16.14s. 50m freestyle: Mahi Swetraj (Bih) 26.85s. 50m backstroke: 26.85s. 50m backstroke: Soubrity Mondal (Ben) 30.14s. 200m butterfly: Hashika Ramachandra (Kar) 2:22.16s. 4x100m medley: Odisha (Pratyasa Ray, Mannata Mishra, Shristi Upadhyaya, Sonia Patel) 4:27.90s.

Unnathi bags the gold in 100m hurdles with a new meet mark

ATHLETICS

Unnathi Aiyappa won the women's 100m hurdles quite comfortably in a re-cord time of 13.93s in the South Asian junior athlet-

South Asian Junior athlet-ics meet here on Thursday, though her time here was the way the season of the season of heat of 13.66 set in Dubai this year and she wasn't happy with semorable ex-perience for two other In-dians, who created new meet records with their first in men's discus, heav-ing the sphere to a distance of SS.64m while Anisha fin-of SS.64m while Anisha fin-discus with a throw of 49.91m. inst in men's desch, stead-ment of \$5.64m while Audhan fin-ished on top in women's discus with a throw of 49.91m. I am not at my peak due to travelling. I had come directly from the



medals out of 10 on offer. World juniors in Peru," Un-nathi said. The results (Indians, unless otherwise mentioned): otherwise mentioned): Men: 110m hurdles: 1 W.P. Sandun Koshala (SL) 14.06, 2. Nayan Pradip Sarde 14.14, 3. E.

Vishwa Tharuka Hariharan 14.27 400m: 1. Jay Kumar 46.86s, 2. J. Omel Shashintha (SU 47.17.3. P Omel Shashintha (SL) 47.17, 3. P. Abiram 47.4%, Iong jump 1. R.C. Jithin A/juman 7.61m, 2. Mohd. Arta Sasid 7.4.1, 3. Duvrage 1. Sharak Khan 8.25.065, 2. Mohit Choudhay 8.27.61, 3. B.K. Ajaya (Nep) 9:08.91, discuss: 1. Ritik 55.64m (NR), QR. Saschin, 64.44, Ranchi, 2013), 2. Raman 51, 22, 3. W.C. Diluk, Onbarrar (SL) 39.24.

Women: 100mH: 1. Unnathi Aiyappa 13.93s (NMR, OR: S. Kumari, 14.19, Colombo, 2018), 2 Kumari, 1.4.19, Colombo, 2018), 2. Sabita Toppo 13.96, 3. P.G. Miyuni Sidasna (SL) 15.32; 400m: 1. Neeru Pathak 54.50, 2. Sandra Mol Sabu 54.82, 3. K. Takshima Nuhansa (SL) 55.27; 3000m: 1. Prachi Arkush 9:57.26s, 2. Shilpa Dihora 10.04.23, 3. T.K.G. Dulanji (SL) 10.39.39; **long jump**: 1. Prathiksha Yamuna 5.79m, 2. S.N. Lakshanya 5.75, 3. H.R. Dhananjaya (SL) 5.73; Discus: 1. Anisha 49.91m (NMR, OR: A. Bajwa, 48.60m, Colombo, 2018), 2. Amanat Kamboj 48.38, 3. J.H. Gauranganie (SL) 37.95.

Neerai and Sable to spearhead the Indian challenge in season finale

DIAMOND LEAGUE

Press Trust of India

Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will have lofty expectations to live up to, while for steeplechaser Avinash Sable, it would be Avinash Sable, it would be an opportunity to make up for a disappointing show at most of the control of the con for a disappointing show at the Paris Olympics, when the the star-studded Dia-begins in Brussels on Fri-day. The showpiece will be held over row days for the tures top athletes from al continents, including at continents, including at continents, including at continents, including and continents, including and continents, including and continents of the continents of the Olympic medallists, who will fight it out in 32 disciplines.

holder Armand Duplantis, American sprint queen Sha'Carri Richardson, and superstar hurdler Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone are among the big names who will light up the King Bau-douin Stadium.

National record-holding 3,000m steeplechaser Sa-ble, after finishing IIth in ble, after mishing in a Paris, will be in action on Friday in his maiden ap

Google is the title sponsor for World chess championship

Google is the title sponsor of the World chess championship match between Ding Liren and D. Gukesh, beginning in Singapore on November 23. FIDE's CEO Emily Sutovsky said the game's governing body was thrilled to partner with Google. "It is a milestone for our sport," he said. "This collaboration brings a new dimension to the competition, blending the tradition of chess with the innovation of AI. The partnership is set to elevate the visibility of the World Chess Championship, taking the broadcast of the event to the next level and attracting new audiences globally."

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SENSEX: 82,962.71 ▲ 1439.55 NIFTY: 25,388.90 ▲ 470.45 NIKKEI 225; 36,833.27 ▲ 1213.50 HANG SENG: 17,240.39 ▲ 131.68 ₹/\$: 83.98 ↔ 0.00 ₹/€: 92.50 ▲ 0.23 BRENT: \$71.50 ▲ \$0.89 GOLD: ₹71,543 ▼ ₹155

SENSEX TOPS 83K INTRA-DAY, │ ■ INVESTOR WEALTH JUMPS NIFTY CLOSES AT NEW HIGH

₹6.6 LAKH CR TO HIT RECORD

Late charge by bulls

VIVEK KUMAR M

Mumbai, September 12

A SHARP UPSVING during last-hour trading, aided by flows from foreign investors, helped the benchmark indices record their biggest single-day gains in three months on Thursday, Both the last single single

scord ₹467.4 lakh crore or \$>.6 trillion. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs)bought hares worth ₹7,695 crore, according to rovisional data, to clock one of their iggest single-day purchases in recent seeks. Meanwhile, domestic institutional restors sold ₹1,800 crore of shares.

westors sold \$1,800 crore of shares.

"The market has basically given outsized aims, only partly because of FPI buying. While FPI buying took the market a bit tigher... alot of call writers got caught on the wrong foot. They had to unwind their short

SCALING FRESH PEAKS 25,388 83,116 Milestones Days taken for 1,000 points ra 24,918 1.89% 82.962 Ø 80,000 10 10 18 81,000 Top sectoral gainers (%) Motal 3.05 82,000 Sept 12 83,000 2.61

2.06 Power 2.02

Auto 1.99

pened suddenly, and it was the expiryday for weekly options on the Nifty," UR Bhat, co-founder of Alphaniti Fintech, said.

Sept 11 (close) 81,523

founder of Alphanis Finitech, said.

There has been aggressive call writing at the control of th

topped the 83,000-mark 29 days after surpassing 82,000 points on August 1 This was a slower 1,000-point rally for the

Yes Bank stake sale

NEWS CPI(M) VETERAN SITARAM YECHURY



INTHE

SECRETARY Sitaram Yechury, one of the key architects of coalition politics

ace the mid-90s, died on

RBI CANCELS T-BILL **AUCTIONS FOR** REST OF SEPT

RBI HAS CANCELLED the ren ng treasury bill auctions for the 25, reports **Bloomberg**. The gov-ernment cut its borrowings via T-bills by about ₹50,000 crore in the

hits RBI roadblock ■ SMBC

Regulator unwilling to BREATHES HIS LAST let a foreign institution own a majority stake

> ANUPREKSHA JAIN Mumbai, September 12

THE PROPOSED STAKE sale of Yes Bank has hit a regulatory roadblock as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is not comfortable giving a major-ity stake to a foreign financial institution, a

ny stass to a ndeepin mancian institution, as source close to the development said. Earlier source close to the development said. Earlier would go through in the last quarter of FY25. Japanese lender Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp (SMBC) and Dubai-based Emirates NBD have shown keen interest in acquiring a majority stake of over 53% in Yes Bank. Sumitomo Mitsui is a unit of itomo Mitsui Financial Group, Japan's

ond-biggest bank. SMBC has been directly negotiating with nth, scheduled for Sept 18 and temports **Bloomber**. The government cut its borrowings via T-b by about \$50,000 crore in the interested in acquiring a 5196 stake in Yes

BIDDER INTEREST

interest in picking over 51% stake in Yes Bank

YES BANK Emirates
NBD has also

in direct

the bank licensing norms, promoters should reduce their stake to 26% within 15 years of starting operations.

Due to this stand-off, sources said, the board members of State Bank of India (SBI) are yet to take up the stake sale proposal as there is no clarity on the timeline. On Thursday, Yes Bank's shares closed 1.7% lower at ₹23.43 on the BSE.

Ashwini Vaishnaw to give away FE CFO awards today

FE BUREAU Mumbai, September 12

UNION MINISTER FOR elec-UNION MINISTER FOR elec-tronics and IT, information & broadcasting and railways the FE CFO Awards at a gitter-day evening (today). The awards, now in their seventh year, will be presented to 14 outstanding individuals and institutions in recognition of their pioneering work. Applauding the winners will be the who's who of the

ve the who's who of the intry's corporate sector. Vaishnaw, one of the important scriptwriters of the country's growth important scriptwriters of the country's growth story, will also participate in a fireside chat to share his vision for a new India and explain the blueprint to take elec-tronics manufactur-ing and the Indian Railways to the next evel of growth. Vaishnaw has several firsts to his credit





SHARMA founder, iSPIRT

ments, Big Tech and other stake-holders. Under his stewardship, the ₹76,000-crore domestic poloted a Personal Data
the \$\tilde{V}_{0}(0)U^{-}-crore domestic
before the first which
for recreation shift which
for version and also
Vaishnaw has also been responsible. The final literation
in Act, which not only frames
and much greater accepand much greater accepand what hat is in sync with the
Continued on Page 7

Continued on Page 7

time, clearly demarcated the areas where spectrum needs to be auctioned and where it can be allocated administratively. For several years now, Financial Express has been recognising the efforts of chief financial officers (CFOs), acknowledging their contribu-tion to the India Ine growth to the India Ine growth

group CFO, Aditya Birla Group will get the award for Lifetim will get the award for Lifetime
Achievement, Stinivasan
Vaidyanathan, CFO, HDFC Bank,
has been adjudged the CFO of
the Year by an external jury led by
Keki Mistry, former vice-chairman and CEO, HDFC Ltd.

refex NIB Nuvama Deloitte

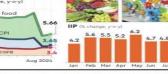
Inflation up a tad, IIP growth rises

FE BUREAU New Delhi, September 12

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) rose marginally to 3.65% on year in August from 3.6% in July due to a mild weakening of the highly favourable base effect and

of the highly favourable base effect and stickiness of cereal prices, even as overall price pressures did not change sequen-table. The properties of the control of the Though the latest retail inflation print was slightly higher than most analysts expected, 22 inflation is still expected to as much as 40 basis points. Core inflation remained flat at 3.4% in August, but may move up in the coming months. The overall outlook for the agriculture

sector has improved due to a good mon-soon and improved kharif sowing. However, challenges remain due to the uneven distribution of rainfall and likelihood of heavy rains in some regions during the har-vesting season hitting crop yields. Separately, another set of data showed the index of industrial production grew at DATA WATCH 12 6.83 (% change, y-o-y) 10 2 9.94 Aug 2023



strong investments. But the data on use-based categories showed consumption remained weak, particularly in rural India. Consumer durables growth eased to

4.8% annually in July, against 4.7% in June sumer non-durables growth fell to (-)4.4% The cumulative industrial output growth in April-July still stood at a healthy 5.2% though there are signs of a moderation is industrial activity in the second quarter.

FIRMS GEAR UP TO CASH IN ON HIGH FESTIVE DEMAND

Curated items, high discounts in quick-commerce carts soon

S SHANTHI Bengaluru, September 12

TO CASHIN on the upcoming festival season, quick commerce firms are adding high-demand categories to their carts. Items such as kitchen appliances, personal care as well as high-value electronic items, perfumes, value electronic items, perfumes, handbags, and curated gift packs, fig-ure on this list, company executives told FE. Besides the expansion of carts, adiscount war is also on the cards. Zepto is collaborating closely with

and the companies of th

what we are going to offer, Chandan in the next three days. It is also focus in the ment three days. It is also focus in the ment three days. It is also focus in the ment three days. It is also focus in the state of the state

10-300%

FESTIVE OFFERS 10,000 43 cities Blinkit recently launched in Kochi, Vijayawada, Bathinda, Haridwar and Bareilly, plans to reach more cities soon

adding a range of electronic items
before Diwali, starting with iPhones
in the next three days, it is also focus-

Scan to stay an Informed Investor website.

Unlock the wealth of knowledge at the SEBI investor website.

Unlock the wealth of knowledge at the SEBI investor website.

A Monk Who Trades

may come down PETROLEUM SECRETARY Pankaj Jain on Thursday said fuel retailers would consider cutting petrol and diesel prices cutting petrol and diesel prices if crude oil prices remained also said the country wants oil producers. He are group OPEC there are countries such as India where fuel demand is rising. OPEC - last week agreed to delay a planned oil output increase for October and November. ##06E2

PAYTM WILL FOCUS on achieving profit after tax (PAT), instead of focusing on the operational profit before the

operational profit before the employee stock option (ESOP), founder and CEOVipy Shekhar Addressing the 24th annual general addressing the 24th annual general ent of Paytm, Sharms asid the company will also focus on its core payments business.

Oil secy: Petrol prices | Will focus on PAT, core | Buybacks rise ahead payments biz: Sharma of change in rules



Union Home Minister Amit Shah Re-elected as Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language (PCOL) Union Home Minister Amit Shah has been <u>unanimously re-elected as</u> Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language.



He emphasized the <u>need for Hindi to complement rather than compete with</u> <u>regional languages</u>, aiming to enhance its acceptance across India. The goal is to have <u>all government systems operate in Indian languages by 2047</u>.



The Eighth Schedule of the Constitution includes 22 languages: Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili, and Dogri.



Initially, 14 languages were included. Sindhi was added by the 21st Amendment Act (1967), Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali by the 71st Amendment Act (1992), and Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali by the 92nd Amendment Act (2003), effective from 2004.

About PCOL

- 1.Constitution: Established in 1976 under Section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, to oversee the adoption of Hindi for official purposes.
- 2.Membership: Comprises 30 members (20 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha), elected via proportional representation by single transferable vote.
- **3.Functions:** Reviews the progress of Hindi usage for official purposes and submits recommendations to the President.

Indigenous Mpox Detection RT-PCR kit Developed

Recently, India has developed an indigenous Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) testing kit for detecting Mpox (previously known as monkeypox).

These kits are developed by Siemens Healthcare, Transasia Diagnostics, and JITM C Genes which are approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

The new RT-PCR kits provide results in 40 minutes, compared to traditional methods, which take one to two hours.

These RT-PCR kits ensure detection across both clade I and clade II variants.

Mpox: Mpox is a viral illness caused by the monkeypox virus. It has two distinct variants namely clade I and clade II.

It was first discovered in humans in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mpox spreads through close contact like skin-to-skin, mouth-to-mouth, or mouth-to-skin interactions, as well as face-to-face contact (talking).

WHO declared Mpox, a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) twice, the first time in May 2022 and the second time in August 2024.

The first Mpox cases were reported in India in 2022.

Analysis of Public Accounts
Committee (PAC)



- The newly constituted Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has taken a proactive step by selecting 161 subjects for review, including five key areas like banking reforms and energy transition, mainly based on CAG reports.
- Headed by Congress MP K.C. Venugopal, the PAC aims to scrutinize the government's expenditure beyond formalities, focusing on its effectiveness and integrity.
- This oversight is crucial given the allegations of crony capitalism and lack of accountability in recent years.

Aspect	Details
Role	Audits government revenue and expenditure, examining C&AG audit reports after being presented in Parliament.
Assistance	Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) assists in investigations.
Function	Ensures government spending is within the scope of Parliament's grants.
Genesis	Established in 1921, became a Parliamentary Committee under the Speaker's control in 1950.
Membership	22 members (15 from Lok Sabha, 7 from Rajya Sabha), elected annually.
Chairperson	Appointed from Lok Sabha, traditionally from the Opposition since 1967-68.
Exclusions	Ministers are not members; if a member is appointed a Minister, they must vacate their seat.
Key Functions	 Scrutinizes government accounts and C&AG reports. Reviews legality, authority, and prudence of expenditure.

- 1.With reference to the Parliament of India, which of the following Parliamentary Committees scrutinizes and reports to the House whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules, by-laws, etc., conferred by the Constitution or delegated by the Parliament are being properly exercised by the Executive within the scope of such delegation? (UPSC 2018)
- (a) Committee on Government Assurances
 - (b) Committee on Subordinate Legislation
 - (c) Rules Committee
 - (d) Business Advisory Committee

National Florence Nightingale Awards 2024



- The President of India has conferred the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2024 to Nurses at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
- National Florence Nightingale Awards
- The Award was instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the year 1973.
- This award is given as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the nurses and nursing professionals to society.
- Each **award consists** of a Certificate of Merit, Cash Award of Rs.1,00,000/- and a medal.

Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

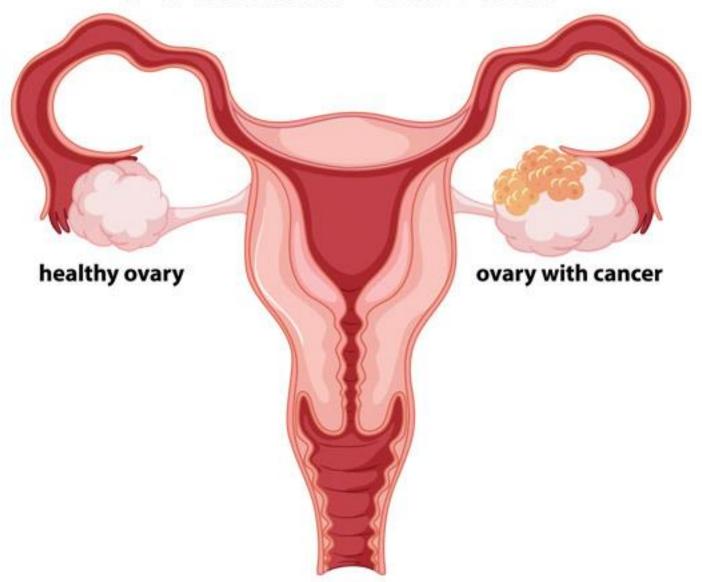
- The American Association for Cancer Research, the world's oldest and largest professional organization dedicated to cancer research, has recognized September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.
- This month is dedicated to raising awareness about this deadly gynecological cancer.
- National Cancer Awareness Day is celebrated in India on 7th November every year to raise awareness about cancer and encourage early detection

What are the Key Facts Related to Ovarian Cancer?

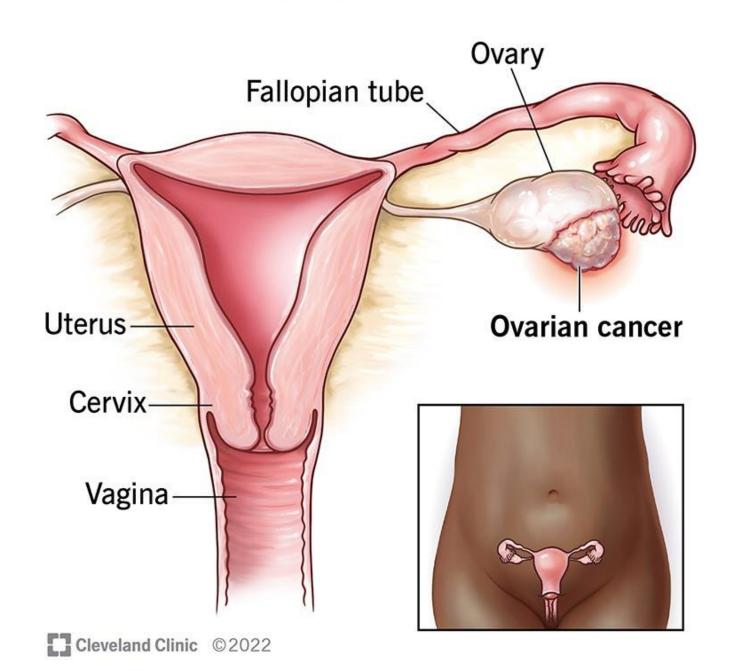
About:

- Ovarian cancer is a cancerous tumor that forms in the tissues of an ovary. The
 ovaries are a pair of female reproductive glands that make eggs and female
 hormones.
- Cancer is a disease in which abnormal cells in the body grow out of control and form a tumor.

Ovarian Cancer



Ovarian Cancer



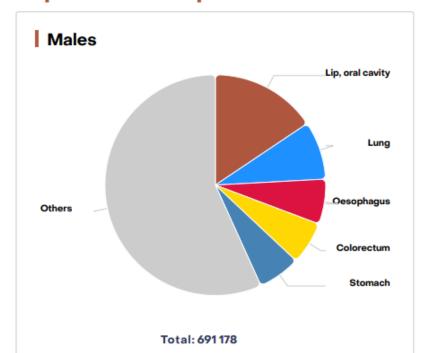
- Epidemiology: Ovarian cancer contributes to 6.6% of all women's cancers in India. The disease is particularly problematic due to late diagnosis, which significantly impacts survival rates.
 - In India, ovarian cancer ranks among the top 3 cancers (after breast and cervix cancer) affecting women.
 - In 2022, India reported 47,333 new ovarian cancer cases and 32,978 deaths.

- Screening Challenges: Unlike breast or cervical cancer, there are no effective screening tests for ovarian cancer.
 - The CA125 blood test, while useful for monitoring diagnosed cases, is not recommended for routine screening due to its limited specificity and potential for false positives.
 - The CA 125 test measures a **blood protein** to diagnose or monitor ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal cancer.

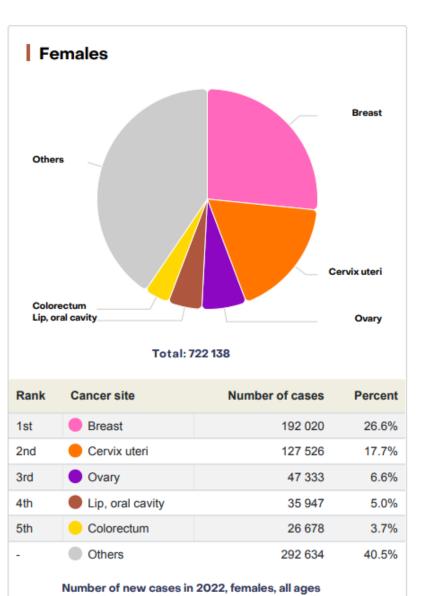
- Reducing Risk: Genetic counseling is crucial for women with a family history or genetic mutation (BRCA1/BRCA2) linked to ovarian or breast cancer, providing tailored guidance on risk management and preventive measures.
- A diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and antioxidants may help reduce ovarian cancer risk.

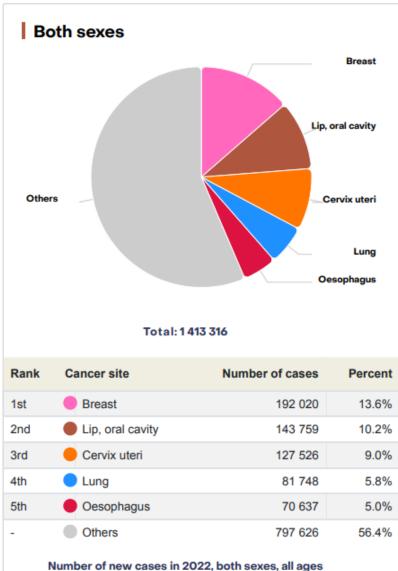
- Maintaining a healthy weight through diet and exercise may lower the risk.
- Regular gynecological check-ups can help monitor reproductive health and detect potential issues early.

Top 5 most frequent cancers**



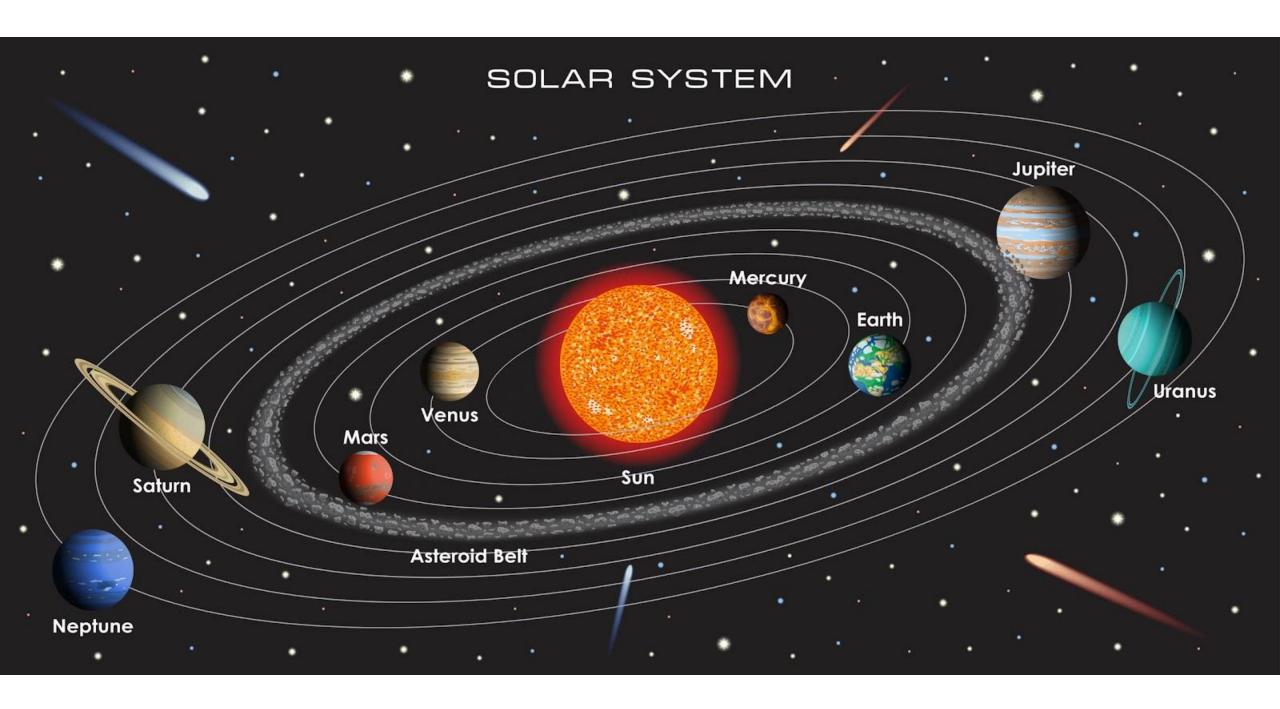
Rank	Cancer site	Number of cases	Percent
1st	Lip, oral cavity	107 812	15.6%
2nd	Lung	58 970	8.5%
3rd	Oesophagus	45 608	6.6%
4th	Colorectum	43 360	6.3%
5th	Stomach	43 060	6.2%
-	Others	392 368	56.8%
Number of new cases in 2022, males, all ages			





- With reference to the treatment of cancerous tumours, a tool called cyberknife has been making the news. In this context, which one of the following statements is not correct? (2010)
- (a) It is a robotic image guided system
- (b) It delivers an extremely precise dose of radiation
- (c) It has the capability of achieving sub-millimetre accuracy
- (d) It can map the spread of tumour in the body





- Saturn's rings will briefly disappear in March 2025 due to their alignment with Earth, making them appear edge-on from earth.
- This optical phenomenon occurs every 13 to 15 years, with the last occurrence in 2009.
- Saturn takes about 29.4 Earth years to complete one orbit around the Sun and is tilted at an angle of 26.73 degrees so rings appear to change orientation. In March 2025, only the edges of the rings will be visible, reflecting minimal light.

- Saturn's rings span about 282,000 kilometers in width but are incredibly thin, measuring just 10 to 30 meters thick.
- The planet has 7 primary rings. Each ring orbits Saturn at different speeds.
- If laid edge-to-edge, Saturn's ring system could stretch the distance between Earth and the Moon.
- As per NASA, Saturn has the highest number of moons (146) in the solar system. Like Jupiter, Saturn is a gaseous planet primarily composed of hydrogen and helium.

- Missions to Saturn: Pioneer 11, Voyager 1, and Voyager 2, Cassini spacecraft.
- NASA estimates that Saturn's rings will permanently disappear in the coming 300 million years due to "ring rain," a process that drains water from the rings at a rapid rate.



Vocab of the day

Word of the day

Piffle:

trivial nonsense; speak (about unimportant matters) rapidly and incessantly

Synonyms: balderdash, fiddle-faddle, chatter, clack, gabble, gibber, blabber, tattle, twaddle, prattle

Usage: His story is complete piffle.

Pronunciation: bit.ly/pifflepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈpɪf.əl/

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