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Where court failed in issue of foreign policy
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HARMANPREET SHINES
India cruises past Korea, meets China
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INSIDE



Trump escapes assassination bid at his golf course

FLORIDA
U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump was safe on Sunday after the Secret Service foiled what the FBI called an apparent assassination attempt while he was golfing in Florida. » PAGE 14

Filmmakers in Kerala to launch new association

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Revealing disagreements in the way the Malayalam film industry is being run, a group of filmmakers is set to form a new organisation, the Progressive Filmmakers' Association. » PAGE 3

BJP concedes chair of 4 House panels to Cong.

NEW DELHI
After prolonged negotiations, the Bharatiya Janata Party has conceded the chair of Standing Committees on External Affairs, Agriculture, Rural Development, and Education to the Congress. » PAGE 5

Pezhshkan vows to ensure women are not 'bothered'

TEHRAN
Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian vowed on Monday to ensure that morality police do not "bother" women, speaking on the second anniversary of Mahsa Amini's death in custody. » PAGE 16

Mamata drops officials, asks doctors to join duty

Protesters' representative says agreement reached on certain points, but disagreement remains on other issues; negotiations went on from 6 p.m. to midnight after doctors gave up demand to live-stream the proceedings; Chief Minister says talks were positive and no action will be taken against those who had participated in the protests

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

After a meeting with protesting doctors on Monday, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced that as demanded by them, Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Kumar Goyal, the Deputy Commissioner of Kolkata Police, North, and two senior officials of Health Department would be replaced. "We have agreed to remove the Director of Health Services and Director of Medical College. After the demand of doctors, the Commissioner of Kolkata Police has decided to step aside pending investigation," Ms. Banerjee said, stating that the talks were positive, she urged the doctors to return to work. She also said that no action would be taken against those who had participated in the protests over the past few weeks. The minutes signed by both parties said, "As regards their demands relating to action against Kolkata Police, the CP Kolkata Police and DC North will be transferred. As regards the health manpower, the present DME and DMS will be transferred." "On certain points, we reached an agreement, but disagreement remains on other points," a representative of the doctors said. Ms. Banerjee said the memorandum was signed by 42 representatives on the doctors' side and Chief



Prolonged protest: Junior doctors in front of Swasthya Bhawan in Kolkata on Monday. PTI

Secretary Manoj Pant on the part of the State government. The meeting started at 6 p.m. and lasted for almost four hours; the doctors emerged from the Chief Minister's residence just a few minutes before midnight.

The meeting came after four earlier attempts failed over the doctors' demands for live-streaming and the video recording of the discussions. While the doctors gave up the demand of the State government allowed them to bring along a couple of stenographers to the meeting with the Chief Minister.

SC hearing The meeting also comes ahead of the Supreme Court's likely hearing on Tuesday of the R.G. Kar rape and murder case. The apex court, in an earlier hearing on September 9, had urged the protesting doctors to resume duties. Earlier in the day, Mr. Pant invited junior doctors for the meeting, saying it was "the fifth and the final time we are reaching out to you for a meeting between the Chief Minister and the delegates".

The doctors, under the banner of West Bengal Junior Doctor's Forum, held a meeting and decided to join the discussions. The protesting junior doctors had been insisting on five-point demands which include the removal of Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal and senior officials of the State Health department as well as increased security and safety for doctors, and ending the 'threat culture' in the State-run hospitals. Since September 10, the doctors have shifted the protests from R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital to Swasthya Bhawan, where they have been camping under rain and inclement weather conditions.

Blue mountains



Rare weathers Neelakurinji, the flowers that give the Nilgiris its name, in full bloom after 12 years on the slopes of the mountain region in Udthagamandalam in Tamil Nadu on Monday. N. Srinivasan/AN

AAP to pick a new CM as Kejriwal prepares to quit

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is scheduled to tender his resignation, paving the way for the appointment of a new Chief Minister. Even as Aam Aadmi Party leaders have remained tight-lipped, there has been considerable speculation over who would take over as Chief Minister for the government. Former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia called on Mr. Kejriwal to discuss potential candidates, after which the party's political affairs committee (PAC) gathered for discussions. "Today, he [Mr. Kejriwal] called a meeting of the PAC, which was attended by senior leaders and all Ministers of the existing Cabinet. The Chief Minister talked one-to-one with all leaders who attended the meeting about the new Chief Minister and took their feedback," senior leader Saurabh Bharadwaj said. Monday's development followed Mr. Kejriwal announcing on Sunday his plan to resign as Chief Minister, less than 48 hours after the Supreme Court granted him bail in the Delhi liquor policy case.



Manish Sisodia arrives at Arvind Kejriwal's residence in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

Former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia called on Mr. Kejriwal to discuss potential candidates, after which the party's political affairs committee (PAC) gathered for discussions. "Today, he [Mr. Kejriwal] called a meeting of the PAC, which was attended by senior leaders and all Ministers of the existing Cabinet. The Chief Minister talked one-to-one with all leaders who attended the meeting about the new Chief Minister and took their feedback," senior leader Saurabh Bharadwaj said. Monday's development followed Mr. Kejriwal announcing on Sunday his plan to resign as Chief Minister, less than 48 hours after the Supreme Court granted him bail in the Delhi liquor policy case.

RISHY GAMBIR
» PAGE 5

After peace talks Dalits get entry to temple in Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Residents of Vazhudambadu Colony in Guindy-pondicherry taluk in Tiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu were able to enter the Arulmigu Pindari Ettiamman temple and offer prayers after it was unsealed and reopened on Monday. The villagers, mostly belonging to the Scheduled Castes, were denied entry last month after a caste Hindu conducted a Kumbhakarani ceremony. District Collector T. Prabhushankar, who led the villagers into the temple, said the dominant caste members were told that they must live in peace with all residents. "The disputes arose after the Adi Dravidians were not allowed to use the pathway to the temple by the caste Hindu group, since the lane actually belongs to the temple, we explained it to the residents

They were not allowed to use the pathway to the temple by persons of caste Hindu group

of both communities and they agreed to come to a compromise," he said. The temple was sealed on the day of the event to prevent any law and order issues. "FIR for discrimination" The villagers had surrounded the temple on that day as soon as the yagazala pujas were completed. Complaints have been preferred by both the communities against each other and a First Information Report (FIR) against the dominant community was registered for discrimination," he added. The temple was sealed twice earlier due to differences between the two communities. A resident,

who did not want to be named, said the temple would hopefully not be sealed again and people of all communities would continue to enjoy being able to worship inside the temple. "Trivallur district Assistant Commissioner (holding additional charge) of the HR&CE portfolio K. Chitra Devi said staff members had been posted at the temple to ensure that there was no discrimination and everyone was allowed inside the temple. A police posse has been stationed at the temple to ensure peace and the situation would continue to be monitored by the local police officials, she added. The Collector said plans were in place for work worth ₹73 lakh, including laying of cement concrete roads leading to the temple and both the burial grounds of the residential localities, and the construction of a shelter.

Campaigning ends for first phase of polls in J&K

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Campaigning ended on Monday for the first phase of the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly election, in which the stakes are high for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the National Conference. Besides the traditional rivals, the electoral battle features the BJP, Congress, CPDM, Independents backed by the banned Jamaat-e-Islami, and the Jammu and Kashmir Awami Ittehad Party, led by Sheikh Abdul Rashid, MP, also known as Engineer Rashid, who is out on bail. All the 16 segments of Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam in south Kashmir, which the PDP considers its bastion, will go to the polls in this



Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah addresses a public rally in Pulwama on Monday. ANI

president Mehbooba Mufti, who is contesting from Srigufwara-Bijbehara. "Bijbehara is not just a home to the Muftis but is our bastion. It will always remain so, I pledge to serve people not as a politician but as a daughter and a sister," Ms. Iltija said. She is pitted against Bashir Ahmad Veeri of the NC, who too has campaigned with vigour attracting sizeable crowds in his rallies. The PDP's Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, who spent 19 months in jail on charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, is

contesting from the Pulwama constituency. He is up against 11 candidates, including the NC's Mohammad Khalil Bhandi, a former PDP leader. Talat Majid Alee, who holds a Ph.D. in agriculture, is backed by the J&K. It is for the first time that the banned outfit is supporting independent candidates in an election. The CPDM's M.V. Tariqani is up against Jeiback candidate Syarif Ahmad Reshi in Kulgam, which is set to see a neck-to-neck fight. The NC-Congress combine is looking at these

elections as their potential chance to revive and expand in south Kashmir in the wake of several senior leaders leaving the PDP in the past few years and after the election. NC leader and former MP Hasnain Masoodi is contesting from Pampore and former Minister Sakaeena Masood from D.H. Pora. Senior Congress leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir is fighting the election from Dourai and is pitted against the PDP's Mohammad Ashraf Malik. For the first time, the BJP has fielded seven candidates in south Kashmir. The party is contesting from Rajpora, Shopian, Kottanag, Anantnag-43, Anantnag-44, Srigufwara-Bijbehara and Shangus-Anantnag. Quick Response Teams, Special Response Teams, and inter-district checkpoints have been made more effective to ensure seamless security," he said. "NO RETURN FOR TERRORISM" » PAGE 5

Text & Comment

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The percentage of independents in fray in Jammu & Kashmir

40 A total of 365 candidates have filed their nominations as independent candidates to contest the three-phase polls. This is the second-highest number of independents to contest the polls in J&K.

Bail granted to MPs linked to Pak's ex-PM Imran Khan

10 At least 30 people from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party — including 10 MPs — were remanded in custody last Tuesday, two days after they led a major rally in the capital, Islamabad.

Death toll due to Typhoon Yagi in South East Asian countries

400 Yagi battered Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand with powerful winds and a huge dump of rain over a week ago, triggering floods and landslides.

The amount of aid the U.S. will provide Bangladesh

202 In \$ million, USAID will provide a grant to Bangladesh for its three sectors: good governance, social, human, and economic opportunity, and resilience.

Deaths due to gang infighting in Mexico's cartel bastion

30 The fighting follows the arrest of Sinaloa Cartel co-founder Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, who claimed he had been delivered into custody against his will.

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Why is T.N.'s education funding on hold?

Why has Tamil Nadu not received its Samagra Shiksha funds for this year? What are the conditions attached to the release of Tamil Nadu's education funds? How does the National Education Policy 2020 affect funding? Why is the three-language formula a contentious issue?

EXPLAINER

Priscilla Jeebaraj

Tamil Nadu is yet to receive this year's funds from the Union government under the flagship education scheme Samagra Shiksha. According to the State government, the Centre has linked these funds to the complete implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which includes provisions that the State has opposed, including the contentious three-language formula. The impasse has come to a head over the last two weeks, with a public war of words between the Centre and State erupting on X.

What is Samagra Shiksha and why has Tamil Nadu not gotten funds under it? Samagra Shiksha is an integrated Centrally-sponsored scheme for school education from nursery till Class 12, with components for teacher training and salaries, special education, digital education, school infrastructure, administrative reform, vocational and sports education, with grants for textbooks, uniforms, and libraries, among others. The scheme's estimated outlay between 2021 and 2026 is ₹2.94 lakh crore, with the Centre and States contributing funds in a 60:40 ratio. For 2024-25, Tamil Nadu's allocation under the scheme amounts to ₹3,586 crore of which the Central share is ₹2,522 crore, with a first quarterly instalment of ₹573 crore, which has not yet arrived halfway through the financial year. In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin accused the Centre of imposing a prerequisite for the fund's disbursement, namely, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for another Centrally-sponsored education scheme called PM Schools for Rising India (PM Shri). This scheme, being run from 2022-2027, aims to create 14,500



In Sikkim: The State implements a two-language formula, making it mandatory for all students to study both Tamil and English throughout their school years.

model schools across the country to showcase the implementation of NEP 2020, and has a much smaller project cost of ₹27,360 crore. The Centre has sent at least 40 letters to Tamil Nadu from September 2022, asking the State to sign the MoU, which included an agreement to fully implement the NEP. In March 2024, the State gave an undertaking that it would do so, with PM Shri MoU was being linked to funding for the much larger Samagra Shiksha — the delayed third and fourth instalments from 2023-24, and the full funds for the current year. In July, the State signed a modified MoU, dropping the paragraph on NEP implementation, however, this was unacceptable to the Centre. In his August letter, Mr. Stalin noted that States which had signed the MoU had received the funds, and in a September post on X, accused the Centre of "denying funds to the best-performing States for refusing to bow to the NEP".

The Union Education department has taken umbrage at this implication. In response to an article by *The Hindu*, a Ministry spokesperson said it was "misleading" and "incorrect" to suggest any such "quid pro quo". However, the fact remains that Tamil Nadu has not signed the complete PM Shri MoU and has

not received Samagra Shiksha funds.

What is Tamil Nadu's problem with the NEP 2020? In a post on X, Mr. Mahesh said the State's objections "relate to specific elements like the three-language formula and curriculum changes", and noted that "Tamil Nadu is already implementing many acceptable aspects of NEP through its own initiatives". He also expressed linking the release of Samagra Shiksha funds to full NEP compliance "frustrates upon the State's constitutional autonomy in education". Tamil Nadu's draft State Education Policy (SEP), submitted in July, clearly indicates that the State wants to stick to the 5+3+2 curricular formula, rather than the NEP, which includes the pre-school years. The SEP also proposes five years as the age of entry to Class 1, as against six years in the NEP. The State wants undergraduate college admissions to be based on Class 11 and 12 marks, rather than a common entrance test as proposed by the NEP. The biggest hurdle, however, is the NEP's three-language formula.

Why does Tamil Nadu oppose the three-language formula? The NEP 2020 recommends the mother tongue or the local language as the

medium of instruction till Class 5 and says that all school students should be taught at least three languages, of which two must be native to India. This three-language formula recommendation has been in every NEP since 1968, and has been implemented in many States by teaching the local language, as well as English and Hindi, with Sanskrit also offered as an option, especially in Hindi-speaking States. Tamil Nadu has had a long-standing opposition to this formula, dating back to the 1950s to violent anti-Hindi riots in the late 1960s, to protests against NEP and Navodaya schools in 1986, there has been a consistent political consensus on the issue.

Instead, the State implements a two-language formula, making it mandatory for all students to study both Tamil and English throughout their school years, and they are free to choose Hindi or any other language as an optional third. "We embrace Tamil as a pillar of our identity while also ensuring future generations are equipped with English proficiency," Mr. Mahesh said in a recent post on X. NEP 2020 says that "there will be a greater flexibility in the three-language formula, and no language will be imposed on any State", indicating that it is not mandatory to include Hindi as one of the three languages. However, this would still allow students to choose Tamil as a third language, to be studied for just a few years in middle school.

All major political parties in Tamil Nadu have rejected this formula on principle. When Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan asked whether this "principled" stance against NEP meant that Tamil Nadu was opposing education in the mother tongue including Tamil, Mr. Mahesh responded that the State's policy has "always prioritised inclusive learning with Tamil as a cornerstone, while empowering students with knowledge in English".

THE GIST

Tamil Nadu hasn't received its Samagra Shiksha funds for the current year.

Tamil Nadu rejects the NEP's requirement for teaching three languages, preferring its own two-language formula.

The disagreement over NEP compliance has led to heightened tensions and a public exchange between Tamil Nadu and the Centre.

How do emergency provisions impact Centre-State relations?

What is the federal structure of governance in India? How do Articles 355 and 356 affect federalism?

Rangarajan R.

The recent spate of renewed violence in Manipur has once again triggered the discussion around Centre-State relations and the use of emergency provisions by the Centre.

What is our federal set-up? India is a federation with governments at the Centre and the States. The Seventh Schedule to the Indian Constitution distributes the power between the Union and States. Under this scheme, it is the domain of the State governments to maintain law and order in their respective States.

What are emergency provisions? The emergency provisions are provided in Part XVIII of the Constitution. Articles 355 and 356 deal primarily with the affairs of government in a State under this part. Article 355 imposes a duty on the Centre to protect every State from external aggression and internal disturbance. It

also specifies that the Centre should ensure that every State government operates according to the Constitution. Article 356 allows for the imposition of the President's rule if a State's government cannot function in accordance with constitutional provisions. While in the U.S. and Australia, federal government functions also involve protecting States, their constitutions do not contain provisions for removing State governments. Dr. Ambedkar explained the purpose of Article 355, keeping in mind the federal character of our polity, that if the Centre is to interfere in the State's administration under Article 356, it must be by or under some obligation which the Constitution imposes on the Centre. Hence, Article 355 was incorporated to check any arbitrary or unauthorised use of Article 356.

What have the courts ruled? Dr. Ambedkar again in the constituent Assembly wished that Articles 355 and 356 would never be called into operation and would remain a dead letter. However, it was a travesty of the Constitutional

principles and federalism that Article 356 was misused on several occasions over the years. The Centre has enjoyed majority in the States. Reasons varied from loss in Lok Sabha elections to deterioration of law and order in the States. It was only after the Supreme Court's categorical judgement in the S.R. Bommai case (1994) that such misuse was restricted. The court held that Article 356 could be imposed only in the event of a breakdown of constitutional machinery, as distinguished from an outright breakdown of law and order. It also held that the imposition of the President's rule is subject to judicial review and should not be misused for political reasons.

On the other hand, the scope of Article 355 has been widened by various Supreme Court rulings. In *State of Rajasthan Vs Union of India* (1977), the court had a narrow interpretation of Article 355 as justifying the employment of Article 356. However, in subsequent cases such as *Naga People's Movement of Human Rights Vs Union of India* (1998), *Sarbananda Sonowal Vs Union of India* (2005), and *H.S. Jain Vs Union of India*

(1997), the legal position with respect to Article 355 has shifted. The scope of actions under this article has been widened to permit all statutorily and constitutionally available actions by the Union to discharge its duties of protecting the State and ensuring that its governance is in accordance with the Constitution.

What are the suggestions? The Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations (1987), the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2002), and the Punchhi Commission on Centre-State Relations (2007) have all opined that Article 355 not only imposes a duty on the Union but also grants it the power to take necessary actions for the effective performance of that duty. Imposition of the President's rule under Article 356 must be used as a last resort in situations of utmost gravity and urgency. The situation in Manipur is an example of Large-scale violence against innocent civilians, from an attack on children, looting of ammunition from police armoury, drone and missile attacks targeting civilians cannot be subject to judicial review as just ordinary breakdown of law and order. Constitutional as well as political expediency, considering that the same party is in power at the Centre and the State, has resulted in Article 356 not being invoked. However, under Article 355, all possible instructions and actions should continue to be pursued to restore normalcy at the earliest. Rangarajan R. is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

India's federal system divides powers between the Union and State governments, with States responsible for maintaining law and order.

Articles 355 and 356 of the Constitution allow the Centre to intervene in States under certain conditions. Article 355 mandates the Centre to protect States from internal and external threats, while Article 356 permits the imposition of President's rule if a State's government fails to function according to the Constitution.

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EXPLAINER

Priscilla Jebaraj

The story so far:

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In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin accused the Centre of imposing a prerequisite for the fund's disbursement, namely, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for another Centrally-sponsored education scheme called PM Schools for Rising India (PM Shri). This scheme, being run from 2022-2027, aims to create 14,500



In limbo: The State implements a two-language formula, making it mandatory for all students to study both Tamil and English throughout their school years. PTI

model schools across the country to showcase the implementation of NEP 2020, and has a much smaller project cost of ₹27,360 crore. The Centre has sent at least 10 letters to Tamil Nadu from September 2022, asking the State to sign the MoU, which included an agreement to fully implement the NEP.

In March 2024, the State gave an undertaking that it would do so, with Tamil Nadu Education Minister Anbil Mahesh saying that this was because the PM Shri MoU was being linked to funding for the much larger Samagra Shiksha – the delayed third and fourth instalments from 2023-24, and the full funds for the current year. In July, the State signed a modified MoU, dropping the paragraph on NEP implementation, however, this was unacceptable to the Centre. In his August letter, Mr. Stalin noted that States which had signed the MoU had received the funds, and in a September post on X, accused the Centre of “denying funds to the best-performing States for refusing to bow to the NEP”.

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In a post on X, Mr. Mahesh said the State's objections “relate to specific elements like the three-language formula and curriculum changes”, and noted that “Tamil Nadu is already implementing many acceptable aspects of NEP through its own initiatives”. He also warned that linking the release of Samagra Shiksha funds to full NEP compliance “infringes upon the State's constitutional autonomy in education”.

Tamil Nadu's draft State Education Policy (SEP), submitted in July, clearly indicates that the State wants to stick to the 5+3+2+2 curricular formula, rather than the NEP, which includes the pre-school years. The SEP also proposes five years as the age of entry to Class 1, as against six years in the NEP. The State wants undergraduate college admissions to be based on Class 11 and 12 marks, rather than a common entrance test as proposed by the NEP. The biggest hurdle, however, is the NEP's three-language formula.

Why does Tamil Nadu oppose the three-language formula?

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medium of instruction till Class 5 and says that all school students should be taught at least three languages, of which two must be native to India. This three-language formula recommendation has been in every NEP since 1968, and has been implemented in many States by teaching the local language, as well as English and Hindi, with Sanskrit also offered as an option, especially in Hindi-speaking States.

Tamil Nadu has had a long-standing opposition to this formula, dating back to social movements in the pre-Independence era. From a widespread agitation against mandatory Hindi in the 1930s to violent anti-Hindi riots in the late 1960s, to protests against the NEP and Navodaya schools in 1986, there has been a consistent political consensus on the issue.

Instead, the State implements a two-language formula, making it mandatory for all students to study both Tamil and English throughout their school years, and they are free to choose Hindi or any other language as an optional third. “We embrace Tamil as a pillar of our identity while also ensuring future generations are equipped with English proficiency,” Mr. Mahesh said in a recent post on X.

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THE GIST

▼ Tamil Nadu hasn't received its Samagra Shiksha funds for the current year.

▼ Tamil Nadu rejects the NEP's requirement for teaching three languages, preferring its own two-language formula.

▼ The disagreement over NEP compliance has led to heightened tensions and a public exchange between Tamil Nadu and the Centre.

Tamil Nadu's Education Funding on Hold:



Tamil Nadu has not received this year's Samagra Shiksha funds from the Union Government.



The Centre linked the release of these funds to the state's compliance with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which Tamil Nadu opposes, particularly the three-language formula.

What is Samagra Shiksha?:


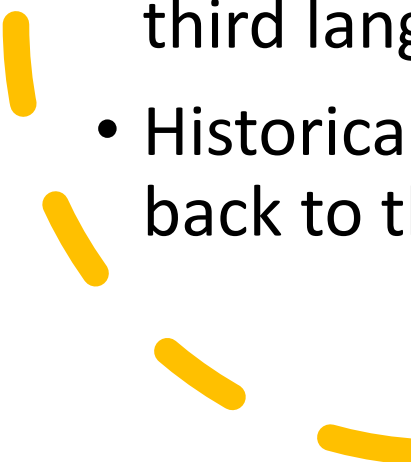
Samagra Shiksha is a centrally sponsored scheme to enhance school education with a focus on improving the quality of education.

The funding distribution is on a 60:40 basis between the Centre and the States.




- **Reasons for Non-Release of Funds:**

- The Centre demands that Tamil Nadu sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that fully implements the NEP 2020, including contentious areas like the three-language formula.
- The state government argues that this infringes upon its constitutional autonomy in education and has not complied with the Centre's demand.

- 
- **Tamil Nadu's Opposition to the NEP 2020:**
 - Tamil Nadu's major objection lies with the three-language formula, a part of the NEP.
 - The state has long supported a two-language formula, advocating for Tamil and English as mandatory subjects, and rejecting Hindi as a third language.
 - Historically, Tamil Nadu has resisted the imposition of Hindi, dating back to the anti-Hindi agitations in the mid-20th century.
- 



1. Political Implications:

1. The dispute over the NEP and its compliance has strained Centre-State relations, especially with regard to education funding.
 2. The issue of linguistic autonomy is significant for Tamil Nadu, which continues to champion the cause of protecting its language and educational policy decisions.
- 

- The 42nd Amendment Act was enacted in 1976, reorganizing the Seventh Amendment to ensure that the subjects of the State list such as education, forestry, wildlife and bird protection, the administration of justice, and weights and measures



- **With reference to the disagreement between Tamil Nadu and the Central Government regarding the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, consider the following statements:**

1. Tamil Nadu has historically supported the imposition of Hindi as a compulsory language in schools.
2. Tamil Nadu follows a two-language policy, advocating for Tamil and English as the only mandatory languages in schools.
3. The release of Samagra Shiksha funds to Tamil Nadu is contingent on the state's compliance with the NEP 2020.

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

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

InGovern raises concern over paper leaks by CCI



Whither secrecy: CCI had recently found that Amazon and Flipkart violated local competition laws. FILE PHOTO

Suresh P Iyengar
MUMBAI

In a letter written to Madhabi Puri Buch, Chairman, SEBI, InGovern said it is a matter of significant concern regarding the recent leak of confidential documents related to the ongoing antitrust investigations into Apple, Google, Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart by the Competition Commission of India.

While Apple, Google, Amazon and Flipkart are not India-listed companies, consequences of such breaches of confidentiality could extend far beyond these entities, affecting the broader ecosystem of ancillary companies that depend on them, many of whom are publicly traded companies, it said. In recent times, there seems to be an increased focus on technology companies in antitrust investigations, with similar leaks having occurred in high-profile cases involving global leaders such as Google and Apple. CCI has recently found U.S. e-commerce giant Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart violated local competition laws by giving preference to select sellers on their shopping websites.

In 2020, CCI ordered an investigation into Amazon and Flipkart for allegedly promoting certain sellers with which they had business arrangements and giving priority to certain listings.

In a 1,027-page report on Amazon and a separate 1,696-page report on Flipkart released last month, the CCI investigators said the two companies were found to have created an ecosystem where preferred sellers appeared higher in search results, elbowing out other sellers.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Seeking better 'treatment'



Medics on strike: Doctors demonstrate on the Römberg for higher salaries and better working conditions, in Frankfurt, Germany, on Monday. The Marburger Bund union had called 60,000 doctors at municipal hospitals across Germany to go on warning strikes after negotiations with the Federation of Municipal Employees' Associations failed to produce any results in the second round of negotiations. AP

Milei presents Budget, vowing austerity and setting up a fight

Associated Press
BUENOS AIRES

Libertarian President Javier Milei of Argentina presented the 2025 budget to Congress late Sunday, outlining policy priorities that reflected his key pledge to kill the country's chronic fiscal deficit and signaled a new phase of confrontation with lawmakers. In an unprecedented move, Mr. Milei personally pitched the budget to Congress instead of his economy minister, lambasting Argentina's history of macroeconomic mismanagement and promising to veto anything that compromised his tough fiscal policy. The president's budget proposal followed a week of political clashes in the legislature—where Mr. Milei controls less than 15% of the seats—over spending increases that the administration wants would derail its IMF-backed "zero deficit" budget. Opposition parties have sought to pass laws to raise salaries and pensions with inflation to help hard-hit Argentines cope with brutal austerity. "The cornerstone of this budget is the first truth of macroeconomics, a truth that for many years has been neglected in Argentina: that of zero deficit," Mr. Milei told lawmakers, facing a handful of empty seats as most of the hard-line opposition Peronist bloc, Unión por la Patria, skipped his address. "Matrasseros means cleaning up the balance sheet, deactivating the debt bomb that we inherited."



Saving grace: Milei has retained popular support by controlling monthly inflation, which fell to 4%.

It will fall to the opposition-dominated Congress, which controls the government, to approve or disprove the final budget. Mr. Milei's political isolation makes matters fraught, setting up weeks of negotiations with political rivals who insist on concessions. But Mr. Milei vowed that nothing would stop him from pressing on with austerity.

Goldman Sachs, Citigroup cut China's 2024 growth forecast to 4.7%

Reuters

Goldman Sachs and Citigroup have lowered their full-year projections for China's economic growth to 4.7%, after the world's second-largest economy's industrial output slowed to a five-month low in August. Weak economic activity in August has ramped up attention on China's slow economic recovery and highlighted the need for further stimulus measures to shore up demand. The faltering growth has prompted global brokerages to scale back their 2024 projections to below governments' target of around 5%. Goldman Sachs earlier expected full-year growth



Stimulus call: Weak growth has highlighted the need for stimulus measures to shore up demand. AP

for the economy at 4.9%, while Citigroup had forecast growth at 4.8%. China's industrial output in August expanded 4.5% year-on-year, slowing from the 5.1% pace in July and marking the slowest

growth since March, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed on Saturday. Retail sales—a key gauge of consumption—rose 2.1% in August, decelerating from a 2.7% increase in July

Why rate cuts by the U.S. Federal Reserve matter to world markets

When the U.S. Federal Reserve cuts interest rates on Wednesday, its first in four years, the move will resonate well beyond the United States: global investors and interest rate-setters are looking for a steer from the Federal Reserve and are pinning hopes on an economic soft landing

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters
LONDON

When the Federal Reserve delivers a widely-anticipated interest rate cut on Wednesday, its first in four years, the move will resonate well beyond the United States.

The size of a first move and the scale of overall easing remains open to debate, while a looming U.S. election is another complicating factor for global investors and ratesetters looking for a steer from the Fed and pinning hopes on an economic soft landing.

"We don't know yet what kind of cycle this is going to be—will it be like 1995 when there was just 75 bps of cuts or 2007-2008, when there was 500 bps," said Kenneth Brox, head of corporate research, FX and Rates at Societe Generale.

Here's a look at what is in focus for world markets:

Follow the leader
In spring, as U.S. inflation proved stickier than expected, investors questioned how far others such as the European Central Bank or the Bank of Canada could cut rates if the Fed stayed on hold this year before trying its currencies weakened too far, adding to price pressures.



Reprise at last: U.S. rate cuts finally starting comforts regions facing weaker economies than the United States. REUTERS

U.S. cuts finally starting comforts regions facing weaker economies. Traders added to bets for rate reductions by other central banks as Fed rate-cut expectations grew recently.

Yet they price fewer cuts in Europe than for the Fed, with the ECB and Bank of England sounding more vigilant around inflation.

Confidence in Fed cuts starting is a boon for bond markets globally that often move in lock step with Treasuries. U.S., German and British government bond yields are all set for their first quarterly fall since end-2023, when a Fed pivot was anticipated.

Breathing space
Lower U.S. rates could give emerging market central

banks more room for manoeuvre to ease themselves and support domestic growth.

Around half of the sample of 18 emerging markets tracked by Reuters have already started cutting rates in this cycle, front-running the Fed, with easing efforts concentrated in Latin America and emerging Europe. But volatility and un-

certainty around the U.S. Presidential election clouds the outlook.

"The U.S. election will be a major bearing on this because, depending on various fiscal policies, it really complicates the cutting cycle," said Trang Nguyen, global head of EM credit strategy at BNP Paribas. "We could see more idiosyncratic actions among central banks on the back of that."

Strong dollar reprise
Those economies hoping U.S. rate cuts will weaken the robust dollar further, lifting their currencies, may be disappointed.

JPMorgan notes the dollar has strengthened after a first Fed cut in three out of the last four cycles.

The dollar outlook will be driven largely by where U.S. rates are relative to others.

The safe-haven yen and Swiss franc could see their respective discounts to U.S. rates almost halve by end-2025, Reuters polls suggest, while sterling and the Australian dollar may only acquire a marginal yield advantage over the dollar. Unless the dollar becomes a real low-yielder, it will continue to hold its appeal among non-U.S. investors.

Asian economies, meanwhile, have led markets' front-running of U.S. cuts, with South Korea's won, Thailand's baht and Malaysian ringgit surging through July and August. China's yuan has wiped out year-to-date losses versus the greenback.

Rally on
A global equity rally, which faltered recently on growth concerns, could resume if U.S. rates boost economic activity and means recession is avoided.

World stocks tumbled in early August following weak U.S. jobs data. "You always have a wobbly market around the first cut because the market wonders why central banks are cutting rates," said Barclays head of European equity strategy Emmanuel Caillet.

"If you have a cut without a recession, which is the mid-cycle script, usual-

ly the markets tend to go back up," Cui said, adding that the bank favoured sectors benefiting from lower rates, such as real estate and utilities.

A U.S. soft landing should also play well in Asia, although the Nikkei has fallen more than 10% from July's record high on a rising yen and as Japan's rates rise.

Time to shine
In commodities, precious and base metals such as copper should benefit from Fed rate cuts, and for the latter the demand outlook and a soft landing are key.

Lower rates and a weaker dollar, reducing not just the opportunity cost of holding metals but also of buying them for those using other currencies, could fuel momentum.

"High rates have been a critical headwind to base metals, driving a significant negative physical demand distortion from destocking and weighing on capital intensive end-demand segments," said MUFG's Ehsan Khoman.

Precious metals could also gain. Gold, which typically has a negative relationship with yields, as most demand is for investment purposes, usually outperforms other metals during rate cuts. It is at record highs, but investors should be cautious, said the World Gold Council's John Reade.

amid extreme weather and a summer travel peak. Analysts had expected retail sales, which have been anemic all year, to grow 2.5%.

"We believe the risk that China will miss the 'around 5%' full-year GDP growth target is on the rise, and thus the urgency for more demand-side easing measures is also increasing," Goldman Sachs said in a note dated Sept. 15.

It maintained the country's 2025 GDP growth forecast at 4.3%. However, Citigroup on Sunday trimmed its 2024 year-end forecast for China's GDP growth to 4.2% from 4.5% due to a lack of major catalysts for domestic demand.

ing—which he says are necessary to restore market confidence in a country ravaged by one of the world's highest annual inflation rates—have racked up a fiscal surplus (0.4% of gross domestic product), something unseen in nearly two decades.

The austerity has also caused deep economic pain in Argentina, with nearly 60% of Argentines now living in poverty, up from 44% in December, according to the Catholic University of Salta. Mr. Milei has largely balanced the budget by cutting social transfers to provinces, removing energy and transport subsidies and holding wages and pensions steady despite inflation.

Mr. Milei warned that his fiscal shock therapy

was not going to be easy, but his administration is betting the worst has passed. Although annual inflation hovers around 237%, Mr. Milei has retained popular support by working to keep a lid on monthly inflation, which has dropped to 4% since a peak of 26% last December when he took office.

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KENNETH BROUX
Research head, Societe Generale

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- **Impact of Federal Reserve Rate Cuts:**

- The Federal Reserve's decision to cut interest rates is expected to affect global markets.
 - This is the first rate cut in four years and investors are anticipating signals for a soft economic landing.
- 




- **Global Implications:**

- Rate cuts by the Fed influence other central banks like the European Central Bank (ECB) and Bank of England (BoE), especially during economic downturns.
- A U.S. rate cut also impacts commodities like copper, precious metals, and currencies.




- **Effect on Dollar and Global Currencies:**

- A weaker dollar could benefit U.S. exporters and boost commodities priced in dollars, but also create losses for investors holding foreign currencies.
 - Currencies like the yen and Australian dollar may experience fluctuations based on U.S. economic policies.
- 



- **Market Response:**

- U.S. stocks, bonds, and foreign exchange markets are likely to rally following rate cuts.
 - There is a possibility of renewed inflation, which could complicate future monetary policies.
- 

- **With reference to the impact of U.S. Federal Reserve rate cuts on global markets, consider the following statements:**
 1. A rate cut by the U.S. Federal Reserve can lead to a weakening of the U.S. dollar, benefitting U.S. exporters.
 2. The Federal Reserve's rate cuts have no effect on commodity prices such as copper or precious metals.
 3. Central banks of other nations, like the European Central Bank, often align their monetary policies with the Federal Reserve during economic downturns.
- **Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**
 - (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 1 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2, and 3

LONDON

Ex-BBC anchor avoids jail over 'repugnant' images of children

Ex-BBC anchor Huw Edwards on Monday avoided jail at his sentencing over indecent pictures of children, capping a stunning fall from grace. The 63-year-old presenter was instead handed a six-month sentence, suspended for two years, meaning he will not serve any time in prison if he does not reoffend. AFP

Assassination bid thwarted at Trump's Florida golf course

Latest attempt on his life comes two months after he was shot at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, sustaining a minor injury to his right ear; suspect has been identified as a 58-year-old from Hawaii

Reuters

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was safe on Sunday after the Secret Service foiled what the FBI called an apparent assassination attempt while he was golfing on his course in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Several Secret Service agents fired on a gunman in bushes near the property line of the golf course after he was spotted a few hundred yards from where Mr. Trump was playing, law enforcement officials said.

The suspect left an AK-47-style assault rifle and other items at the scene and fled in a vehicle and



Minor scare: A police officer outside Trump International Golf Club after the apparent assassination attempt on Monday. AP

was later arrested. The apparent attempt on Mr. Trump's life came just two months after he was shot at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, sustaining a minor injury to his right ear.

"I would like to thank everyone for your concern and well wishes — It was certainly an interesting day," Mr. Trump said on social media late on Sunday.

CNN, Fox News and The

Seeking shelter



A resident pushes a woman in a wheelchair past a destroyed building following the floods in Ladek-Zdrój, southern Poland, on Monday. Flooding sparked by Storm Boris in central Europe has burst dams, knocked out power and killed at least 17 persons. AFP

Pak. police demolish minarets of worship place of Ahmadi group

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

The police allegedly demolished the minarets of a 40-year-old worship place of the minority Ahmadi community in Pakistan's Punjab province, the Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya Pakistan said on Monday.

The incident took place in Okara, Depalpur, about 130 kilometres from Lahore.

Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya Pakistan (JAP) official Amir Mahmood said on Monday that over a dozen policemen of the Punjab police demolished the minarets at the Ahmadi worship place in Subhan Shah.

Last year, at least 42 worship places of the minority group in Pakistan had come under attack.

"Under the supervision of the DSP, two police mobile vans arrived from the Depalpur Police Station, raided the Ahmadi worship place and demolished the minarets after cordoning off the area," he said and added that this worship place was constructed before 1984.

Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh of the Lahore High Court last year made it clear in his decision that

ROME

U.K. PM praises Italy's Meloni for reducing illegal migration



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer praised his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni on Monday for her efforts in reducing illegal migration. On his first visit to Italy since his centre-left Labour Party's landslide victory in July, Starmer expressed interest in the immigration policies of far-right leader Meloni. AFP

Time 'running out' to stop all-out Lebanon war: Gallant

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said on Monday that prospects were dimming for a halt in nearly a year of fighting with Hamas ally Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The Iran-backed Lebanese armed group has traded regular cross-border fire with Israeli forces since Hamas's October 7 attack sparked war in the Gaza Strip, in a campaign Hezbollah has said is in support of its Palestinian ally.

According to a statement from Mr. Gallant's office, the Israeli Minister told his U.S. counterpart, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, in a call that "the possibility for an agreed framework in the northern arena is running out as Hezbollah continues to tie

itself to Hamas." While repeated rounds of talks mediated by the U.S., Qatar and Egypt have sought a truce in Gaza, there have been no signs of progress in diplomacy aimed at halting the fighting between Hezbollah and Israel.

Hezbollah officials have said the group would stand down if a Gaza ceasefire is reached, while Israel in-

tervened in the Lebanese village of Huda on Monday. AFP

Tense border: Smoke billows from the site of an Israeli air strike since Hamas's October 7 attack.

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tervened in the Lebanese village of Huda on Monday. AFP

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tervened in the Lebanese village of Huda on Monday. AFP

FRANKFURT

Germany expands border control measures to curb migrant arrivals



Germany on Monday expanded border controls to the frontiers with all its nine neighbours in hopes of curbing the flow of irregular migrants. Federal police braved rains at road and highway crossings for spot checks of cars, buses and other vehicles, asking to see people's identity papers and checking the trunks of some cars. AFP

At least 18 killed in Israeli strikes across Gaza Strip

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Gaza rescuers and medicals said Israeli air strikes killed at least 18 people across the Palestinian territory overnight and on Monday morning, including 10 in an attack on a house.

The 10 were killed and 15 others were injured when an air strike hit the home of the al-Qassas family in the Muscat refugee camp in central Gaza.

Six Palestinians were killed in a similar air strike during the night on a house belonging to the Bassal family in Gaza City's Zeitun, a regular target of Israeli military raids. Two people were killed in another overnight strike in Rafah that targeted a house belonging to the Abu Shaar family.

Hezbollah officials have said the group would stand down if a Gaza ceasefire is reached, while Israel in-

Morality police will not 'bother' women, says Iran's Pezeshkian

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian vowed on Monday to use his power to enforce laws that morality police do not "bother" women, speaking on the second anniversary of Mahsa Amini's death in custody.

"Morality police were not supposed to confront (women). I will follow up to they don't bother them," Mr. Pezeshkian said during his first press conference in Iran since taking office in late July.

Mr. Pezeshkian's remarks came as the Islamic republic marked the anniversary of the September 2022 death of 22-year-old Iranian Kurd Mahsa Amini



Masoud Pezeshkian

in police custody.

Mr. Amini had been arrested for allegedly violating strict dress rules for women. Her death triggered months-long protests in Iran, with hundreds of people, including security personnel, killed in the unrest. Thousands of demonstrators were arrested.

Taliban have called off polio vaccination campaigns, says UN

Associated Press
DUBAI

The Taliban have suspended polio vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan, the UN said on Monday, it's a devastating setback for polio eradication, since the virus is one of the world's most infectious and any unvaccinated groups of children where the virus is spreading could undo years of progress.

Afghanistan is one of two countries in which the spread of the potentially fatal, paralyzing disease has never been stopped. The other is Pakistan. The Taliban's decision will likely have major repercussions for other countries in the region and beyond.

Militants target vaccination teams and police assigned to protect them, falsely claiming that the campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilize children.

As recently as August, the WHO reported that Afghanistan and Pakistan were continuing to implement an "intensive and synchronized campaign" to improve vaccination coverage in endemic zones and an effective and timely response to detections elsewhere.



Afghanistan is one of two countries in which the spread of the potentially fatal, paralyzing disease has never been stopped. AP

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Two prominent journalists of Bangladesh, known for their work in both print and TV, were arrested by the police on Monday morning in Mymensingh.

Editor of *Bhorer Kagoj* Shyamal Datta, and Muzammil Babu, Managing Director and Chief Editor of Ekator TV, one of the biggest TV channels in Dhaka, were surrounded by a mob who took them to a police station in the district, sources have informed. They were subsequently taken to Dhaka.

Mr. Datta is known for extensive coverage of In-

dia-Bangladesh relations and has in the past often courted controversy for his revealing reports and analyses. Similarly, the Muzammil Babu-led Ekator TV is known for its coverage of the South Asian scenario.

Both the journalists had visited India on June 21 during the state visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Dozens of journalists have had cases lodged against them in Bangladesh in recent weeks. Meanwhile, the arrests of Mr. Datta and Mr. Babu are believed to be related to some of the cases that pertain to the period of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. A source in Bangladesh

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Afghanistan is one of two countries in which the spread of the potentially fatal, paralysing disease has never been stopped. The other is Pakistan. The Taliban's decision will likely have major repercussions for other countries in the region and beyond. News of the suspension was relayed to UN agencies right before the September immunisation campaign was due to start. No reason was given for the suspension, and no one from the Taliban-controlled government was immediately available for comment.

A top official from the World Health Organization said it was aware of discussions to move away from house-to-house vaccinations and instead have immunizations in places like

mosques.

The WHO has confirmed 18 polio cases in Afghanistan this year, all but two in the south of the country. That's up from six cases in 2023.

"The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is aware of the recent policy discussions on shifting from house-to-house polio vaccination campaigns to site-to-site vaccination in parts of Afghanistan," said Dr. Hamid Jafari from the WHO. "Partners are in the process of discussing and understanding the scope and impact of any change in current policy."

Polio campaigns in neighboring Pakistan are regularly marred by violence. Militants target vaccination teams and police assigned to protect them, falsely claiming that the campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilize children.

As recently as August, the WHO reported that Afghanistan and Pakistan were continuing to implement an "intensive and synchronized campaign" focusing on improved vaccination coverage in endemic zones and an effective and timely response to detections elsewhere.



- **Polio Vaccination Campaign Suspended in Afghanistan:**

- The Taliban have suspended polio vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan, as reported by the United Nations.
- This move is a significant setback for global polio eradication efforts, as Afghanistan is one of the two countries where the virus remains uncontrolled (the other being Pakistan)

- **Potential Repercussions:**
- Unvaccinated children in Afghanistan could face heightened risk as polio is one of the world's most infectious diseases.
- The suspension could also impact surrounding regions and the global fight against polio.



WHO's Response:

The World Health Organization (WHO) is aware of discussions on shifting vaccination methods from house-to-house campaigns to site-based immunizations in mosques and other locations.

There have been 18 confirmed polio cases in Afghanistan in 2023, mostly in the southern regions.

Pakistan's Campaign:

Polio vaccination teams in neighboring Pakistan have been targeted by militants, leading to violence and deaths.

Misinformation falsely claims that vaccination efforts are part of a Western conspiracy.



1. Efforts to Synchronize Campaigns:

1. In August, WHO reported a coordinated campaign between Afghanistan and Pakistan to improve vaccination coverage in high-risk zones and respond to detections in real-time.



- **With reference to the recent suspension of polio vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan, consider the following statements:**

1. Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only two countries where polio has not been eradicated.

2. The suspension of polio vaccination campaigns was done by the World Health Organization.

3. Militants in Pakistan have often targeted polio vaccination teams.

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

- (a) 1 and 2 only

- (b) 1 and 3 only

- (c) 2 and 3 only

- (d) 1, 2, and 3



The Adygene glacier, one of the many glaciers housed by the Tian Shan mountain range, in Central Asia. AFP

Melting glaciers pose major threat to Central Asia

Agence France-Presse
ADYGENE GLACIER

Near a wooden hut high up in the Kyrgyz mountains, scientist Gulbara Omorova walked to a pile of grey rocks, remarking how the same spot was a glacier just a few years ago.

At an altitude of 4,000 metres, the 35-year-old researcher is surrounded by the giant peaks of the towering Tian Shan range that also stretches into China, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

The area is home to thousands of glaciers that are melting at an alarming rate in Central Asia, already hard-hit by climate change.

A glaciologist, Ms. Omorova is recording that process — worried about the future. She hiked six hours to get to the modest triangular-shaped hut that serves as a science station — almost up in the clouds.

"Right to 10 years ago you could see the glacier with snow," Ms. Omorova said. "But in the last three-to-four years, it has disappeared completely. There is no snow, no glacier," she said.

The effects of a warming planet have been particularly visible in Central Asia, which has seen a wave of extreme weather disasters. The melting of thousands of glaciers is a major threat to people in the landlocked region that already suffers from a shortage of water.

Acting as water towers, glaciers are crucial to the region's food security and vital freshwater reserves are now declining fast. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have stepped up efforts to draw attention to a looming catastrophe. Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov warned last year that forecasts show Central Asian glaciers "will halve by 2050 and disappear completely by 2100".

EU to name a new defence tsar, but doubts remain on the post's powers

The designated Defence Commissioner to be named under the European Commission makes it clear that the bloc, which doesn't have an army, is serious about rearming itself; the main focus of the new position would be overseeing efforts to try to bolster the continent's defence sector

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

Faced with Russia's war on Ukraine, European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen has promised to name a designated Defence Commissioner as a key part of her new top team.

The message is meant to be clear: Europe is serious about rearming.

But while the position was originally billed as central to the EU's ambitions, there are now major doubts over how much power it will actually have.

That has meant heavy weight EU member states no longer seem so keen to snaffle up the role, set to be unveiled as part of the bloc's new line-up in the coming days.

"The idea of creating a new position of an exclusive Defence Commissioner reflects the growing importance of defence for Europe today," Burkard Schmitt, defence and security director at industry association ASD, said.

"While the ambition behind this idea is commendable, the key question is what would it actually mean in practice?" said Mr. Schmitt, who was speaking in a personal capacity rather than for his organisation.

For now, European Commission President von der Leyen has been tight-lipped about what exactly the job would entail.



New challenges: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has been tight-lipped about what exactly the job of the new Defence Commissioner would entail. AFP PHOTO

One thing is sure — the new Defence Commissioner is not a sort of EU security director at industry association ASD, said.

The 27-nation bloc has no army of its own and is not planning to set up one any time soon.

Instead the main focus will be overseeing efforts to try to bolster the continent's defence sector.

During Ms. von der Leyen's first five years at the helm, the defence industry was part of a wide-ranging mandate overseen by powerful French Commissioner Thierry Breton —

who dramatically quit on Monday in a spat with Ms. von der Leyen.

Even before Mr. Breton's walkout, the defence brief was expected to be spun off to a dedicated new Commissioner.

Since Russia's tanks rolled into Ukraine in 2022, the defence push has become a major preoccupation in Europe.

Long way behind But after years of underinvestment, Europe has struggled to ratchet up on defence over the next

decade — the figures on the table at an EU level are far below that.

Convincing member states to spend chunks of their tightly guarded budgets on EU efforts will be a tough ask — as will getting them to open up their national producers to competition.

Lacking firepower And unless the new Commissioner has considerable funds to play with, their job risks lacking firepower. "Whether a dedicated Defence Commissioner will make a difference depends mainly on the budget allocated to that file," said Mr. Schmitt.

A defence budget of 100 billion would obviously have a bigger impact than a budget of 10 billion. Experts say that to increase the belt of the new job, Mr. von der Leyen could fold in other responsibilities.

Those may include cyber security, protecting critical infrastructure, space, or efforts to boost the ability to transport troops from one part of Europe to another.

"You can fatten out the portfolio beyond the perimeters that have been sketched out, that is not too difficult," said Camille Grand of the European Council on Foreign Relations.

But whoever takes the new job could face a challenge carving out their

niche in a turf war for influence in Brussels with some of the big names in the next Commission.

Looming on one side will likely be Paris's pick to replace Mr. Breton, current French Foreign Minister Stephane Sejourne.

On the other will be new foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas, whose role involves overseeing the bloc's security policy.

"It is up to the President of the Commission to properly define the role," said Guntram Wolf of the Bruegel think tank.

Plan B Diplomats say the questions swirling over the new job have seen EU powerhouses such as France and Poland switch their priorities to obtaining other positions — with defence now a fall-back option.

"I think it is a very attractive plan B for many," said one EU diplomat.

Despite the doubts over the role, analysts said that given growing threats in the world, and since the United States may continue to step back from Europe, the defence gig was likely to be a mainstay in future administrations.

It is possible that the job will become more important and more significant over time, said Jan Lesser, Brussels head at the German Marshall Fund think tank.

I do not see it as a transient experiment," he said.

Fast-aging society takes Japan's elderly population to record high

Agence France-Presse
TOKYO

The number of people in Japan aged 65 or older hit a record high of 36.25 million this year, government data showed, as the country contended with one of the world's fastest-aging societies.

The elderly now accounted for 29.3% of Japan's total population, also a new high, according to data released by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications on Sunday.

The Ministry said the proportion of elderly residents put Japan at the top of the list of 200 countries and regions with populations of over 1,000,000.

Italy, Portugal, Greece, Finland, Germany and Croatia represented Europe in the top 10 countries in the list, with rates of over 20%.

South Korea stood at 19.3% and China at 14.7%.

Japan is facing a steadily worsening population crisis, as its expanding elderly population leads to soaring medical and welfare costs, with a shrinking labour force to pay for it.

The country's overall population is set to fall by 5,500,000 to 124 million, according to previous government data.

Sunday's data showed that 9.4 million elderly people were employed in 2023, also a record.

They represent 13.5% of the total workforce — or one employee in seven.

The Japanese government has attempted to slow the decline and aging of its population without meaningful success.

Balancing act



Freedom march: Salvadoran military school cadets perform an acrobatic stunt as they take part in a military parade as part of celebration of independence of El Salvador in San Salvador on Sunday. AFP

Violence, threats hang over Trump-Harris race after turbulent weekend

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Kamala Harris and Donald Trump headed into a newly intense phase of the U.S. presidential campaign on Monday, with tensions heightened after a second apparent assassination attempt against the Republican former President.

The arrest on Sunday of a gunman on Donald Trump's Florida golf course came the same day as more bomb threats poured into Springfield, Ohio, a small Midwest towning its population without meaningful success.

against immigrants. But the dueling campaigns are set to march on with little interruption.

Vice President Harris, the Democratic nominee who will face Mr. Trump at the polls on November 5, said in a statement on Sunday that she was "disturbed by the possible assassination attempt" and "thankful that former President Trump is safe."

The same day as the apparent assassination attempt, Clark State College in Springfield announced it would hold classes outdoors this week after receiving bomb and shooting threats



Donald Trump watches a video of Vice President Kamala Harris during a campaign rally in Las Vegas on September 13. GETTY IMAGES

at the weekend. It was the fourth consecutive day of threats of bombings and other violence that have targeted the local city hall,

public schools and nearby college Wittenberg University, following racist rumours about local Haitian immigrants pushed by Re-

Stone-eaters that threaten Iran's ancient Persepolis

Agence France-Presse
PERSEPOLIS

Conservationists at Persepolis, Iran's most iconic ancient site, are waging a delicate battle against an unlikely adversary: tiny but persistent lichens eroding the millennia-old monuments.

The fight, which began years ago, is aimed at stopping the threat to the integrity of the site's structures and its intricate carvings from lichen.

Built in the 6th century BC by Darius I, Persepolis has withstood destruction, looting, earthquakes, fires and harsh weather.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979, Persepolis features colossal sculptures and intricate stone relief of ancient Persian kings, nobles and deities. But these have suf-



Eroding away: Ruins of the stone gates in Persepolis, Iran's most iconic ancient site. GETTY IMAGES

fered over the years from lichen.

"This is the most serious problem, especially for the carved stones," said Shahram Rahbar, a conservationist at the site. "If we do nothing, these organisms could reduce these relics to dust within 50 to 100 years," he said.

Red lichen marks are now etched into many of the ancient relics at Persepolis. The spread of lichens, which dissolve minerals and penetrate stone

surfaces, is driven by industrialisation, acid rain and the harsh desert climate, said lichenologist Mohammad Sohrabi.

Iran is home to more than 3,000 species of lichens, with 500 to 700 varieties growing on historical monuments, Mr. Sohrabi said, noting that some at Persepolis were over 1,700 years old.

"Many of Persepolis's intricate motifs have already been lost due to lichen activity," he said.

It was not clear what Mr. Trump hoped to gain by attacking Swift, although he may calculate that any publicity is better than none. He has been criticised,

Fast-ageing society takes Japan's elderly population to record high

Agence France-Presse

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60% sepsis deaths due to antibiotics overuse



Painful transitions need to be done: Chandrasekaran



Trump safe after new assassination attempt



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SENSEX: 82,988.81 ▲ 97.87/NIFTY: 25,383.75 ▲ 27.25/NIKKEI 225: 36,581.76 ▲ 251.51/HANG SENG: 17,422.12 ▲ 53.05/€: 83.89 ▲ 0.01/¥: 93.33 ▼ 0.26/BRENT: \$72.95 ▲ \$1.34/GOLD: ₹73,267 ▲ ₹506

IN THE NEWS

SEBI FAST-TRACKS CREDIT, TRADING OF BONUS SHARES

THE SECURITIES AND Exchange Board of India has decided to shorten the time taken for crediting and allowing the subsequent trading of bonus shares. Bonus shares will now be credited to investor accounts a day after the record date and will be available for trading on the second working day after the record date.

KALYANI GROUP JUNKS ALLEGATIONS ABOUT NEW WILL

NO POWER OF attorney was executed by the late Sulochana Kalyani in favour of her son Baba Kalyani, chairman of Kalyani Group, and he has nothing to do with any of the litigations that his mother had initiated during her lifetime, the group said on Monday, reports Geeta Nair. ■ PAGE 5

OVER 100 HELD AMID ONGOING SAMSUNG PROTEST

OVER 100 SAMSUNG Electronics workers were detained by the police on Monday, following a week-long protest over low wages and the demand for union recognition, reports Narayanan V. The detained workers were planning a march to the Kanchipuram collectorate to submit a memorandum. ■ PAGE 5

FE SPECIALS

ICICI Prudential Life: Targeting faster growth

The company sees growth potential in annuity & protection segments

INVESTOR, P9

Why GST isn't always good or simple

Categorising food articles into three groups — essential, convenient & luxury — would be better for GST purpose

EXPLAINER, P9

500 GW GREEN ENERGY TARGET BY 2030

Lenders pledge \$386-bn support for green energy

Reliance, Adani Group, Torrent, NTPC announce additional RE capacities

ARUNIMA BHARADWAJ New Delhi, September 16

INDIA'S PLAN to scale up its green energy capacity from a little over 200 giga watt (GW) now to 500 GW by 2030 got a shot in the arm on Monday with renewable energy minister Pradhan Joshi revealing that the sector is equipped with continued funding commitments to the tune of \$386 billion (₹3.45 lakh crore) from banks and financial institutions.

The minister's statement at the annual Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo in Gandhinagar was also greeted by massive renewable energy (RE) capacity addition plans unveiled by major Indian conglomerates such as Reliance, Adani and Torrent, besides state-run NTPC and green energy firms like ReNew.

"We received overwhelming commitments from states and Union Territories as well as from the developers, manufacturers and financial institutes to support our goal of 500 GW by 2030," Joshi said. He added that developers have committed an additional 570 GW of capacity addition, including 340 GW in solar modules, 240 GW in solar cells, 22 GW in wind turbines and 10 GW in electrolyzers. Among the states, Gujarat has pledged for the highest RE capacity addition of 128.6 GW by 2030.

Among companies, Reliance Industries has pledged to add 100 GW additional renewable

GREEN PUSH

Adani Group has pledged around ₹6 lakh cr while Torrent Power has committed \$64,000 crore

RECL has pledged additional financing of ₹6 lakh cr to provide push to RE integration followed by ₹5 lakh cr each by IREDA and SBI

Developers have committed an additional 570 GW of capacity addition, including 340 GW in solar modules

Reliance Industries has pledged to add 100 GW additional renewable capacity installation till 2030

capacity installation till 2030, including 20 GW per year of integrated solar PV, NTPC and ReNew have committed to add 41 GW and 40 GW of RE capacity respectively by 2030.

On its part, the Adani Group has pledged around ₹4.05 lakh crore investment in the green energy segment. Moreover, Adani Green Energy has committed 38.8 GW RE capacity by 2030.

Continued on Page 7

Facts have to be taken on board: FM on allegations against Buch

FM BUREAU New Delhi, September 16

FINANCE MINISTER NIRMALA Sitharaman on Monday said that "facts have to be taken on board" before commenting on allegations the Congress party has levelled against Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch. "I am not here to judge (Buch's responses to the allegations)," Sitharaman said at New Delhi's Chamber of Commerce.

"I think quite a few allegations are being answered by her and her husband...both of them are defending themselves, and putting out facts to contradict the allegations of the Congress party," Sitharaman said.

In the past week, the Congress party has made several allegations against the Sebi chairperson and her husband Dhaval Buch. The Congress has alleged that the former received payments from ICICI Bank while being a whole time member of the markets regulator since 2017, traded in listed securities while being in possession of price sensitive information; and invested in Chinese firms. However, Buch has termed some of these allegations as "defamatory, false, vexatious and highly malicious".

On small traders and retailers, the FM mentioned that it's important for the government to take care of them, not because they are 80% of the members, but as the country needs to support them. "If you are a small trader, pricing their business is getting affected, we will need to step in," she said. "The commerce and industry minister is seized of the matter," she added.

Continued on Page 7

Sebi says comments on staff withdrawn

AKSHATA GORDE Mumbai, September 16

THE SECURITIES AND Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Monday withdrew its earlier statements on external audit firm's comments for employee unrest. The statement on September 4 had caused significant outrage within the organisation with over 200 employees staging a silent protest outside the regulator's Mumbai headquarters at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) demanding retraction of the letter as well as chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch's resignation.

"The press release no. 20/2024 dated September 04, 2024, stands withdrawn. Employees have strongly condemned the unauthorised release of internal communication and have confirmed that concerns shall be addressed amicably through established internal channels," Sebi stated, adding that all employee-related matters are addressed through appropriate internal mechanisms.

The regulator said that following constructive discussions with representatives of all grades of officers, Sebi and its employees have reaffirmed that such issues are strictly internal and will be managed as per markets regulator's high standards of governance and within a time-bound framework.

Continued on Page 7

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Continued on Page 7

Bajaj Housing Finance lists at 114% premium

ANUPREKSHA JAIN Mumbai, September 16

BAJAJ HOUSING Finance made a spectacular listing on Monday at ₹130, which was 114% above the issue price of ₹70. Investor euphoria continued during the day as the stock hit the upper circuit at ₹165 — a premium of 135.7% — during its first trading session on the BSE. The listing gain was the highest among all initial public offerings of over ₹5,000 crore in the market.

The wholly owned subsidiary of Bajaj Finance garnered subscriptions worth ₹3.23 lakh crore for its ₹6,560-crore issue under the IPO.

BANKS CHASE QUICK BUCKS IN IPO RUSH

MIXED DAY FOR IPO INVESTORS

man of Bajaj Housing Finance, said the company has had strong performance in the backdrop of the economy and it can continue to grow strongly.

"If we look at the credit cycle in India, we expect a steady growth of 12-14% in the housing industry. And on the back of that, we are enthused that we can continue to grow," Bajaj said, adding that the company anticipates to have steady margins.

"Shareholders should expect a business that grows with high quality and a high level of corporate governance. Further, the demand for affordable housing is expected

Morningstar set to exit commodity & data verticals

VIVEK KUMAR M Mumbai, September 16

GLOBAL DATA AND research insights company Morningstar will soon exit from its commodities and energy data businesses, according to sources close to the development. The deal is expected to be done in India as most of the employees of these verticals work from here.

Canada-based ZEMA Global Data is likely to be the buyer. The deal will mark ZEMA's entry into India. The deal will be announced by the end of this month in India, the sources added. It was not clear whether the workforce will be retained entirely.

As of December end, Morningstar had 11,334 employees, according to its annual report. Roughly, 40% of these employees are in India.

"Commodities and energy data segment is a smaller part of Morningstar's overall business. Since most employees in this segment are based out of India, the deal is happening in India," one of the sources said.

Morningstar reported \$2 billion in revenue in 2023, with data and analytics division contributing around 17% to the topline. Its profit before taxes stood at \$174.1 million for the year.

Continued on Page 7

Startup funding hits a new low



Total funding* \$143 mn

30 rounds

THE DAMPENED funding environment which began two years ago continues, with the total funds raised by domestic startups in the first fortnight of September hitting the lowest so far in the current calendar year at \$143 million. It would be the lowest even if the same amount is raised in the remaining period of the month.

Source: Tracxn

Between Sept 1 - Sept 13, 2024

Continued on Page 7

Modi 3.0 sets a quick pace that braves coalition compulsions

As the new government completes 100 days on Tuesday, we take a look at the steps taken by it, and whether they signal policy priorities have shifted in the coalition regime

PRASANTA SAHU & PRIYANSH VERMA New Delhi, September 16

THE NARENDRA MODI 3.0 regime eased into top gear on Day One with the winding up period a new government usually requires. Even before the elections, substantial preparations had gone into the formulation of its immediate agenda, which has obviously helped.

On Monday, a day before his third government is set to complete 100 days in power, the prime minister said in Gandhinagar that the work done and measures taken in the period had highlighted its priorities. The period, he said, also gave a reflection of the speed and scale with which all sectors necessary for India's fast-paced development have been addressed.

There is no denying that a renewed, if not greater, focus on large scale and scale with which all sectors necessary for India's fast-paced development have been addressed.

80% of the gross domestic product required for achieving greater economic efficiency and faster growth, has been evident since the government assumed office on June 9. Abhis for green economy is in evidence, too. Steps have also been taken to widen the social security cover.

Budget 2024-25 underscored the government's commitment to fiscal consolidation and deep-caps budget at elevated levels, despite the resource constraints. The budget also unveiled the government's plan to boost employment, tacitly acknowledging "high unemployment" that was made a key election issue by the Opposition, despite the government's claim that 80 million jobs were generated between 2017-18 and 2021-22. These schemes, all in the form of support to employees, are aimed at boosting hir-

Turkey's bid to join BRICS



- Turkey's bid to join BRICS could be a political move to gain leverage in its stalled EU accession process or signal frustration with the EU.

- Benefits:

1. Increases Turkey's global influence.
2. Provides economic cooperation with emerging markets.
3. Strengthens Turkey's political leverage in EU negotiations.



Concerns:

Strains relations with the EU and NATO.

Undermines Turkey's credibility within Western alliances.

Risks diplomatic isolation from Western powers.



Topic**Information**


BRICS (founded: 2009; HQ: Shanghai) is an acronym for the grouping of the **world's leading emerging economies**, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (included in 2010)

Origin

The term “**BRIC**” was coined by the **British Economist Jim O’Neill in 2001** to describe the four emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.

Share of BRICS

BRICS brings together five of the largest developing countries, representing **41% of the global population, 24% of the global GDP, and 16% of the global trade** (By 2028, BRICS is expected to make **up 35 per cent of the global economy**)



Chairmanship	The chairmanship of the forum is rotated annually among the members, in accordance with the acronym B-R-I-C-S. South Africa is the chair for 2023.
Initiatives of BRICS	1. New Development Bank (NDB) 2. Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) 3. BRICS Payment System 4. Customs Agreements 5. Remote Sensing Satellite
New Initiative	BRICS is planning to launch its own “ new currency ” system , a major step towards de-dollarization (reducing dependence on the US dollar for trade)

Predecessor	BRIC (informal)
Formation	16 June 2009; 15 years ago
Founded at	Yekaterinburg, Russia (1st BRIC summit)
Type	Intergovernmental organization
Purpose	Political and economical
Fields	International Politics
Membership	9 member states [hide]
	 Brazil
	 Russia
	 India
	 China
	 South Africa
	 Iran
	 Egypt
	 Ethiopia
	 United Arab Emirates



- **Consider the following statements: (UPSC 2016)**

1. New Development Bank has been set up by APEC.


2. The headquarters of the New Development Bank is in Shanghai.

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



- (a) 1 only

- (b) 2 only



- (c) Both 1 and 2



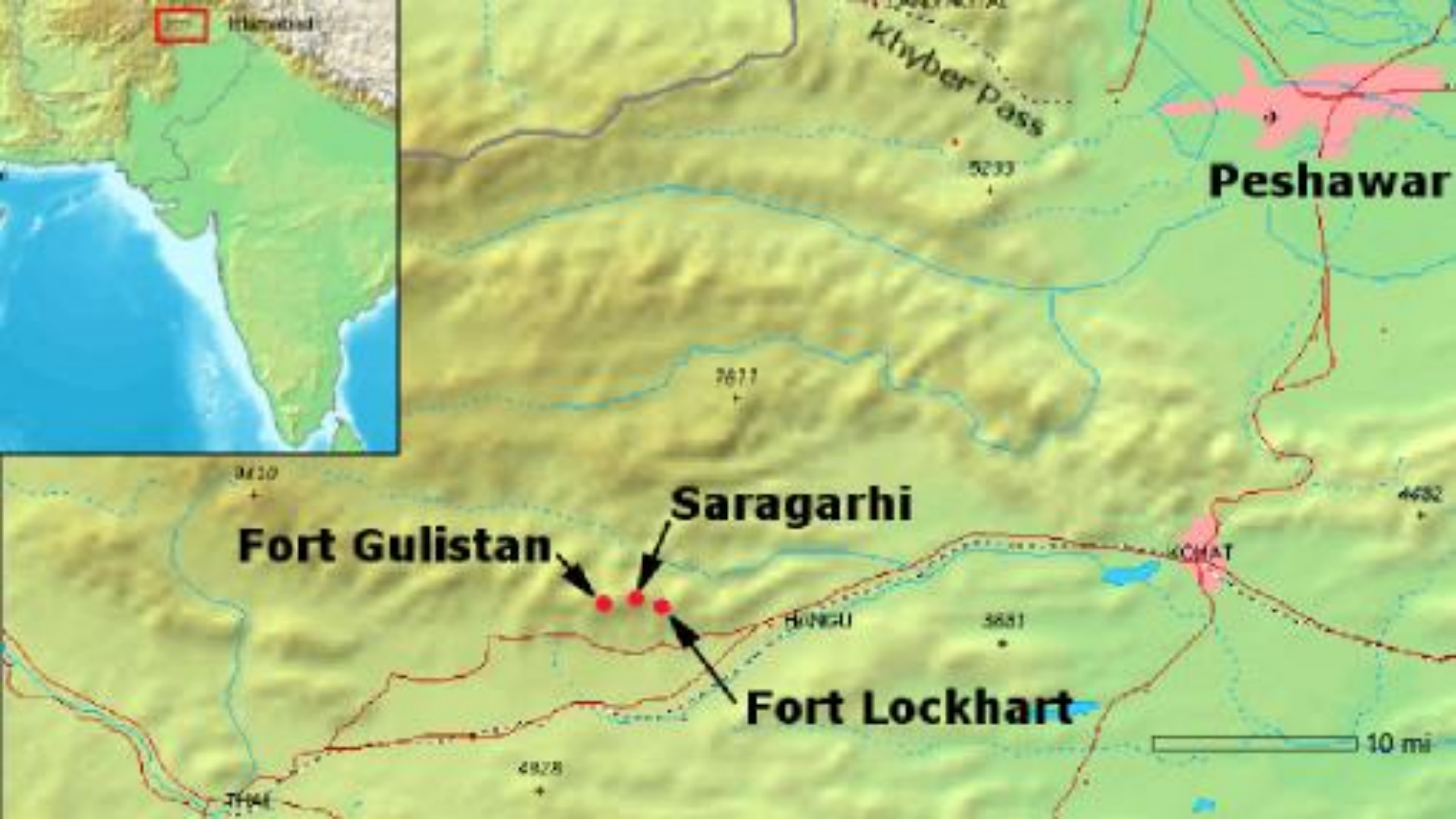
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2



127th Anniversary of the Battle of Saragarhi

- Recently, the 127th anniversary of the Battle of Saragarhi was observed on 12th September 2024.
- It is one of the greatest final defences in world military history. On 12th September 1897, 21 soldiers and a non-combatant (named Daad who did menial works) of the 36th Sikh Regiment (now 4th Sikh) fought against over 8,000 Afridi and Orakzai tribal militants in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), now in Pakistan.







THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 HAVE CAUSED THIS TABLE TO BE ERRECTED TO THE MEN
 OF THE TWENTY ONE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND
 MEN OF THE 36-(SIKH) REGIMENT OF INFANTRY
 WHOSE NAMES ARE ENGRAVED BELOW, AS A PERPETUAL
 RECORD OF THE HEROISM SHOWN BY THESE GALLANT
 SOLDIERS WHO DIED AT THEIR POSTS IN DEFENCE OF THE FORT
 OF SARAGARH ON THE 12-SEPTEMBER 1857, FIGHTING AGAINST
 OVERWHELMING NUMBERS, THUS PROVING THEIR LOYALTY
 AND DEVOTION TO THEIR SOVEREIGN, THE QUEEN EMPERESS OF
 INDIA AND CLOSURELY MAINTAINING THE REPUTATION OF THE
 SIKHS FOR UNFLINCHING COURAGE ON THE FIELDS OF BATTLE

105 HAVILDAR		ISHAN SINGH	
332	NAIK LAL SINGH	534	DEDDY NARAYAN SINGH
546	L-NAIK CHANDA SINGH	514	CURMUKH SINGH
1321	DEPOD SINGH	471	JIVAN SINGH
207	RAM SINGH	1733	CURMUKH SINGH
492	UTTAR SINGH	163	RAM SINGH
182	SAHD SINGH	1257	BHAIWAN SINGH
359	HIRA SINGH	1265	BHAIWAN SINGH
667	DAYA SINGH	1556	BUTA SINGH
760	JIVAN SINGH	1651	JIVAN SINGH
785	BHOLA SINGH	1221	XAND SINGH



- **The soldiers, led by Havildar Ishar Singh, fought valiantly for seven hours, killing 200 militants and injuring 600 others.**

-

Strategic Importance of Saragarhi:

Saragarhi was a communication tower located between Fort Lockhart and Fort Gulistan, two critical British forts in the NWFP. , originally built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh and later renamed by the British.

Losing this post meant isolating the forts, thereby making British troops and the families of British officers vulnerable to attack.

- **Honours for the Martyrs:**
- **Queen Victoria awarded the 21 dead soldiers the Indian Order of Merit (comparable with the Victoria Cross) for their bravery.**
 - **The British built an obelisk using burnt bricks from Saragarhi to honour the martyrs.**
 - **In 2017, the Punjab government declared 12th September as Saragarhi Day, a holiday to honour the sacrifice of the soldiers.**
 - **The Khyber Scouts regiment of the Pakistani army continues to honour the Saragarhi martyrs with a guard and salute at the memorial near Fort Lockhart.**





Hindi Diwas 2024





India celebrated Hindi Diwas on 14th September 2024, marking the 75th anniversary of Hindi's adoption as the official language of the country.



The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the completion of 75 years of Hindi as an official language.

- 
- On 14th September 1949, the Constituent Assembly designated Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of the Union of India.
 - The Munshi-Ayyangar formula, a compromise between K M Munshi and N Gopaldaswamy Ayyangar, resulted in Article 343 of the Constitution adopting Hindi in the Devanagari script as the official language of the Union, while allowing English to continue for official purposes for fifteen years.
- 

- 
- Articles Related to Hindi:
 - Article 210 states that the language to be used in the legislature can be the official language of the state, Hindi, or English.
 - Article 351 states that it shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language, to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India.
- 

A giant among 121 languages

CHART 1

GROWTH OF HINDI AS MOTHER TONGUE (% OF POPULATION)



CHART 2

MOTHER TONGUES BY SPEAKERS, 2011

Minimum 1 cr

Figures on the right are % of population

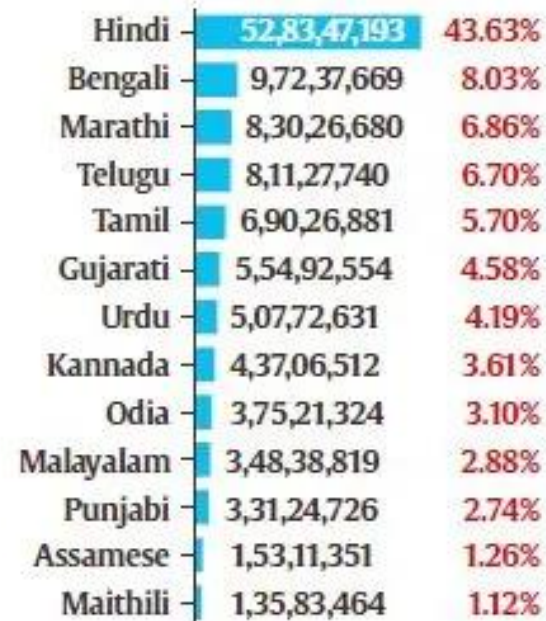
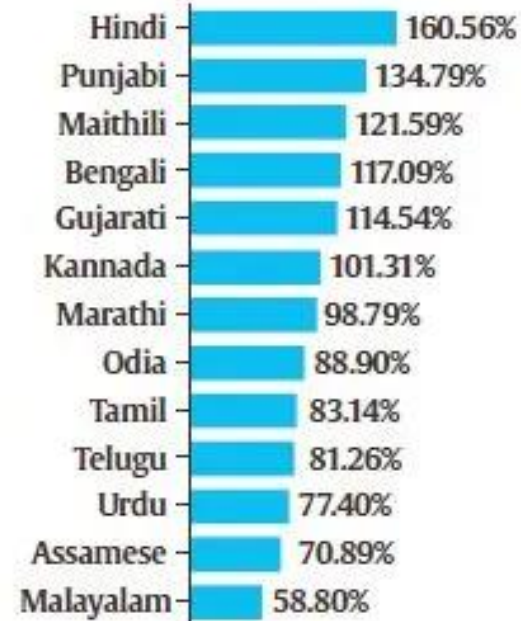


CHART 3


GROWTH OF HINDI vs OTHER MOTHER TONGUES, 1971-2011

% growth in number of speakers




Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya



- 
- Engineers' Day is observed on September 15 each year to celebrate the birth anniversary of **Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya**.

- **About Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya (1861–1962)**

- He was a renowned Indian engineer, statesman, and scholar. He played a pivotal role in **modernizing India's infrastructure** and is considered one of the nation's foremost engineers.
 - He developed a flood protection system for Hyderabad and designed automatic water floodgates at the Khadakwasla reservoir near Pune.
- 

Established Bangalore Agricultural University, University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering, etc.

He served as the **Diwan (Prime Minister)** of the princely state of **Mysore** from 1912 to 1918

He was conferred '**Knight Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire**' by the British in 1915 and conferred the **Bharat Ratna**, India's highest civilian award, in 1955.

Word of the day

Censorious:

Harshly critical or expressing censure

Synonyms: disapproving, condemning, complaining

Usage: *She was surprised by the censorious tone of the review.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/censoriouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /sɛn'sɔːriəs/



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- ✓ POLITY
- ✓ GEOGRAPHY
- ✓ ECONOMICS

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• **LIVE**
DOUBT SESSION



A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, with some in the foreground and others blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, creating a sense of appreciation and collective effort. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner of the image.

Thank you
guys.
