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CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE

The paradox of India's woman politician

Be it veteran leader or newbie, there is the need to strike a balance between ambition and their identity as women

MAGAZINE » PAGE 1



Anura Dissanayake, Sri Lanka's symbol of change

PROFILES » PAGE 9

Two fights had a close shave over Mumbai skies, reveals probe

NEWS » PAGE 5

Rain washed out second day's play in Kanpur Test

SPORT » PAGE 13

Pakistan Prime Minister's criticism a travesty: India in UN

Sriram Lakshman
UNITED NATIONS

India on Friday termed Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's speech at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) a "travesty". It said there could be "no compact with terrorism" and warned that acts of terror would be met with consequences.

"This assembly regrettably witnessed a travesty this morning—a country run by the military, with a global reputation for terrorism, narcotics trade and transnational crime, has had the audacity to attack the world's largest democracy," UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in a statement on August 5, 2019.

In a segment on Islamophobia, Mr. Sharif had said the "most alarming manifestation of Islamophobia" was the "Hindu supremacist agenda" in India.

"It is ridiculous that a nation that committed genocide in 1971 and which persecutes its minorities relentlessly, even now, dares speak about Indian 'intolerances and phobias'," the Indian diplomat said, referring to the war for independence in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).

Mr. Mangalanandan said Pakistan's fingerprints were on many global terror incidents and that it had hosted Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden (who was killed by U.S. forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan, in 2011). "We know that Pakistan will seek to counter the truth with more lies. Repetition will change nothing," Mr. Mangalanandan said.

In its Right of Reply, Pakistan's response included suggestions that India was conducting "assassinations and attempted murders of political dissidents on North American soil", a reference to the alleged assassination plot against Khalistan separatist Gurbaj Singh Panjvali, in which the accused are Indian citizens.

The Pakistani Prime Minister had accused the government of conducting a



Bhavika Mangalanandan

Top Hezbollah leader Nasrallah killed in Israeli strike in Lebanon

Hassan Nasrallah has 'joined his fellow martyrs', says the group which vows to 'continue the holy war'; Israel's latest strike leaves six people dead and over 90 hurt in Beirut; strike based on years of tracking and 'real time information', says Israel

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Lebanon's Hezbollah group confirmed on Saturday that its leader and one of its founders, Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in an Israeli air strike in Beirut the previous day.

A statement said Nasrallah "has joined his fellow martyrs". Hezbollah vowed to "continue the holy war against the enemy and in support of Palestine".

Immediately after the official confirmation from Hezbollah, people started firing in the air in Beirut and other areas of the country, to mourn Nasrallah's death. Some were protesting that he was killed because of his support for the war in Gaza.

Niforushan, 58, who the U.S. identified as the deputy commander for operations on Friday, was killed Friday. Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported.

Friday's strikes reportedly killed six persons and injured 91 in Beirut. All Karki, the commander of Hezbollah's Southern Front, and other commanders were also killed, the Israeli military said.

Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani, an Israeli Army spokesperson, said the air strike was based on years of tracking Nasrallah's movements and "real time information" that made it viable.

The Palestinian militant group Hamas in a statement issued condolences to its ally, Hezbollah. Nasrallah frequently described launching rockets against northern Israel as a "support front" for Hamas and Palestinians in Gaza.

"Not the end" Israel's Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi, said on Saturday that the elimination of Nasrallah was "not the end of our job", indicating that more strikes were planned. Defense Minister Yoav Gallant called it "the most important targeted strike since the founding of the State of Israel". Israel has vowed to step up pressure on Hezbollah until it halts its attacks that have displaced tens of thousands of Israelis from communities near the Lebanese border.

NASSAR'S LEGACY
» PAGE 12
MORE REPORTS
» PAGES 5 & 8



Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah during a rare public appearance in Beirut's southern suburbs in 2015. REUTERS

Factory fire

Raging blaze: Smoke billows after a fire broke out in a chemical godown of the electronics component factory of Tata Electronics in Hosur, Tamil Nadu, on Saturday. (PTI/REUTERS/ANUPRA K)

With new scheme, many take a shine to rooftop solar

Jacob Koshy
Malavika Langa
NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD

The PM Muff Biji Solar Yojana, a ₹75,000-crore Centre-led scheme to install at least one crore rooftop solar installations (RTS) across India, is gaining popularity among beneficiaries. As of August 2024, Gujarat leads the States in terms of installed rooftop solar capacity with 1,058 MW.

FULL REPORT
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INSIDE

Junior doctors in Bengal to resume 'cease work'

KOLKATA
Junior doctors of West Bengal on Saturday night said that they would resume total 'cease work' in medical colleges across the State after the hearing of the R.C. Kar case in the Supreme Court. » PAGE 3

'Demolition of homes human rights violation'

NEW DELHI
UN Special Rapporteur Balakrishnan Rajagopal has told the Supreme Court that the State-driven arbitrary demolition of homes is an "aggravated form of human rights violation". » PAGE 3

Floods, landslides kill 59 people, injure 36 in Nepal

KATHMANDU
Floods and landslides caused by incessant rain killed at least 59 people and injured 36 others in Nepal, officials said on Saturday. Parts of Nepal have been inundated since Thursday. » PAGE 12

Udhayanidhi is T.N. Deputy CM; Senthilbalaji returns to Cabinet

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Cabinet reshuffle that Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has been promising since his return from the U.S. was announced on Saturday.

A late-night release from the Raj Bhavan confirmed the elevation of the DMK's Youth Wing secretary and Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Udhayanidhi Stalin, as Tamil Nadu's Deputy Chief Minister.

Senthilbalaji, who was recently raised to the release said Mr. Udhayanidhi will be "allotted the portfolio of Planning and Development, in addition to his existing portfolios". Mr. Udhayanidhi is the third person to serve as Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. His father was the first. Mr. Stalin occupied the seat on May 29, 2009, under the Chief Ministership of M. Karunanidhi.

Mr. Stalin has also reappointed that Mr. Senthilbalaji, Dr. Govil, Rajendran and S.M. Nasar be inducted into the Cabinet, which has been accepted by Governor R.N. Ravi.

THREE MINISTERS DROPPED
» PAGE 2



Udhayanidhi Stalin

BSF asking UIDAI to deactivate Aadhaar of undocumented migrants from Bangladesh

Vijaya Singh
NEW DELHI

In a first, the Border Security Force (BSF) is writing to the authorities to cancel Aadhaar registration of Bangladeshis nationals who are apprehended along the eastern border while entering or leaving the country, officials said.

After a suspect is apprehended, the BSF informs the police and writes to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to deactivate his or her Aadhaar registration, a BSF official said.

A senior BSF official said that in May, they apprehended a Bangladeshi national who had been living in Chennai for nine years. "He was caught while trying to leave the country. We found an Aadhaar card on him. After informing the police, we wrote to the UIDAI to deactivate the card. This is being done to break the nexus of human traffickers and touts," said the official.

There are instances when suspected illegal migrants are apprehended in the border areas and they are already in possession of identity documents, including Aadhaar.

On September 11, an affidavit filed by the Union Home Ministry in the Jharkhand High Court stated that "BSF is approaching the concerned civil authorities for cancellation of Aadhaar card, PAN card, in respect of apprehended Bangladeshi nationals and some of the Aadhaar cards have been cancelled by UIDAI".

The official added that to avoid long legal cases, they have also been pushing back illegal migrants in Bangladesh. "Registering a police case involves a long-drawn process. Even if convicted and already in possession of all sentence, the country may never accept the illegal migrants. If there are women and children, we convince the ICBT to take them back without registering any case here," said the official.

The official added that the measures have been in place since March-April this year, before political changes were witnessed in the neighbouring country in August.

From 2018 to 2023, nearly 18,000 Bangladeshi nationals were intercepted by the BSF along the border, while 3,732 persons were caught in 2023.

Till July 31 this year, 1,973 Bangladeshi nationals were apprehended.



This measure will help break the nexus of human traffickers and touts, says the BSF.

With new scheme, many take a shine to rooftop solar

Jacob Koshy

Mahesh Langa

NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD

The PM Muft Bijli Solar Yojana, a ₹75,000-crore, Centre-led scheme to install at least one crore rooftop solar installations (RTS) across India, is gaining popularity among beneficiaries . As of August 2024, Gujarat leads the States in terms of installed rooftop solar capacity with 4,195 MW.

With new ₹75,000-crore scheme, sun shines on rooftop solar installations

Jacob Koshy

Maresh Langa

NEW DELHI/AHMEDABAD

September 16 was a red-letter day for Jagshibhai Suthar, a resident of Gandhinagar in Gujarat. He had Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his rooftop admiring his newly installed solar installation.

“We have installed 3.24 kW (kilowatt) solar panels on the terrace and now our [electricity] bill has been reduced to zero. Additionally, I have received a credit of ₹248 in the bill,” he told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Suthar is a beneficiary of the PM Muft Bijli Solar Yojana (PMSY), a ₹75,000-crore, Centre-led scheme to install at least one crore rooftop solar installations (RTS) across India. The scheme is the latest iteration of a push by governments for at least two decades to coax more households to install such

RTS. Apart from encouraging use of fossil fuel-free electricity, more RTS means that fewer people are dependent on electricity distribution companies – which are in deep debt in many States – for their power needs.

The PMSY provides for a subsidy of 60% of the solar unit cost for systems up to 2 kW capacity and 40% of additional system costs for systems between 2 kW and 3 kW capacity. The subsidy has been capped at 3 kW capacity. At current benchmark prices, this means a ₹30,000 subsidy for a 1 kW system, ₹60,000 for 2 kW systems, and ₹78,000 for 3 kW systems or higher.

As of August 2024, Gujarat leads the States in terms of installed rooftop solar capacity with 4,195 MW, followed by Maharashtra at 2,487 MW, and Rajasthan at 1,269 MW.

The rest of the States all have installed capacity in

the triple-digits, with a cumulative national capacity of 13,889 MW.

PMSY beneficiaries are now a strong support base of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), a Union Minister said recently during a background briefing on the 100 days of the government.

No official estimates

There are no official estimates of the number of households with RTS in these States, but with average ratings of 3 kW or 5 kW per household the prime target of the PMSY, there are likely to be about 8 lakh to 13 lakh such households in Gujarat, 5 lakh to 8 lakh households in Maharashtra, and 4 lakh to 2.5 lakh households in Rajasthan.

The popularity of RTS in Gujarat received a major fillip in 2019 with the launch of the Surya Gujarat scheme that gave subsidies up to 40% for systems up



Self sufficient: The PMSY envisages RTS households as independent power producers.

to 3 kW, comparable to the current PMSY scheme. The State government has received nearly 13 lakh registrations over the past four to five months, officials said.

Indeed, even before the PMSY was launched in February 2024, Gujarat already had an installed RTS capacity of 3,455 MW in an estimated 7 lakh to 10 lakh households as of March 2024, according to data from the Ministry of New

and Renewable Energy.

“Gujarat has generally had a favourable environment for solar but following the announcement of the scheme, some surprising trends have emerged. As of June 2024, the maximum number of applications for the PMSY have come from Assam (2.23 lakh) followed by Gujarat (2.1 lakh) and Maharashtra (1.9 lakh). The direct push from the Prime Minister is a major reason for the

scheme’s popularity,” said Prabhakar Sharma, senior consultant at JMK Research, who tracks the renewable energy sector.

Problems persist

However, the promise of “zero electricity bills” is not a given for everyone.

“While firm data isn’t available, discussions with vendors – or companies that are installing RTS systems – suggest that nearly 90% of new applicants are availing loans to finance installations. Additionally, another feature was that applicants were opting to install 4 kW to 5 kW system, rather than the 3 kW which was subsidised. So anything above say, 300 units, will be charged,” Mr. Sharma said.

The PMSY envisages RTS households as independent power producers. Thus, all electricity generated from the RTS is connected to the grid. Unless

there is a battery back-up (which the scheme does not fund), a scheduled power cut by the distribution company will result in a power cut in RTS households too.

Along with installing an RTS, the State distribution company also installs a meter which calculates the household’s net power consumption. Any usage over 300 units is charged the applicable electricity rates, said Sanjay Kulkarni, who installs RTS systems in Pune. Consumption below 300 units will see consumers being paid by State at about ₹2 to ₹2.50 per unit.

“Some consumers do see zero bills in some months depending on usage but there are also fixed grid charges that must be paid. In India, accounting for changes in weather, availability of solar insolation varies and will influence consumption. However, over a year or two,

there will be a net gain in electricity bills,” Mr. Kulkarni added.

The major difference from previous versions of the scheme is a doubling of the subsidy on rooftop solar (from an earlier ₹14,500 per kW), loans made available at 7% to 9% interest, an online application system, and an anticipated improvement in service delivery. As the scheme is now envisaged, 12 public sector banks will offer a collateral-free loan to anyone with a viable roof and grid connectivity who wants to install an RTS. A 3 kW-hour system can generate up to 300 units a month, depending on available sunshine. Currently, an RTS costs about ₹50,000 per kW. A household can either pay the balance or take a loan. A vendor will appraise the site and then install the system along with an inverter and a smart meter.

PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

Cabinet approves scheme for installing rooftop solar and providing free electricity up to 300 units every month for One Crore households



- ❖ Total outlay of ₹ 75,021 crore
- ❖ Scheme provides a central financial assistance of
 - ₹ 30,000 subsidy for 1 kW system
 - ₹ 60,000 for 2 kW systems
 - ₹ 78,000 for 3 kW systems or higher

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

₹75000 crore scheme for 1 crore houses

KEY FEATURES OF THE SCHEME

Up to 300 units of
electricity per month

Up to ₹78000
subsidy

Loan at lower
interest rates

Easy enrollment
process




pmsuryaghar.gov.in
Login or scan QR code for registration



- **Introduction to the Solar Scheme**

- September 16 was significant for Jagshibhai Suthar, who installed 3.24 kW solar panels on his roof and reduced his electricity bill.

- 16 सितंबर जगशिभाई सथार के लिए महत्वपूर्ण था, जिन्होंने अपनी छत पर 3.24 kW सौर पैनल लगाए और अपनी बिजली का बिल कम कर दिया।






- **Pradhan Mantri Solar Yojana (PMSY)**


- Suthar is a beneficiary of the ₹75,000-crore Pradhan Mantri Mutf Bijli Solar Yojana (PMSY), aimed at installing rooftop solar systems.

- सथार ₹75,000 करोड़ की प्रधानमंत्री मुफ्त बिजली सोलर योजना (PMSY) के लाभार्थी हैं, जिसका उद्देश्य रूफटॉप सोलर सिस्टम स्थापित करना है।






• Subsidy Details

- The PMSY provides a 60% subsidy for systems up to 2 kW capacity and 40% for systems between 2 kW and 3 kW capacity.
 - PMSY 2 kW क्षमता तक के सिस्टम के लिए 60% सब्सिडी और 2 kW से 3 kW क्षमता के सिस्टम के लिए 40% सब्सिडी प्रदान करता है।
- 




- **Popularity in Different States**

- As of August 2024, Gujarat leads with 4,195 MW of installed rooftop solar capacity, followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan.
 - अगस्त 2024 तक, गुजरात 4,195 MW स्थापित रूफटॉप सोलर क्षमता के साथ सबसे आगे है, इसके बाद महाराष्ट्र और राजस्थान का स्थान है।
- 



- **Increase in Rooftop Solar Installations**

- PMSY has given a push to solar installations, with the number of RTS installations expected to rise significantly in coming years.
 - PMSY ने सोलर इंस्टॉलेशन में तेजी लाई है, और आने वाले वर्षों में RTS इंस्टॉलेशन की संख्या में महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि की उम्मीद है।
- 

1. Issues and Challenges

1. Despite the scheme, challenges such as financing and the actual promise of zero electricity bills remain, with 90% of applicants availing loans.
2. योजना के बावजूद, फाइनेंसिंग और शून्य बिजली बिलों के वादे जैसी चुनौतियाँ बनी हुई हैं, जिसमें 90% आवेदक ऋण का लाभ ले रहे हैं।

- What is the subsidy percentage provided by the Pradhan Mantri Mufb Bijli Solar Yojana (PMSY) for rooftop solar systems of up to 2 kW capacity?

2 kW क्षमता तक के रूफटॉप सोलर सिस्टम के लिए प्रधानमंत्री मुफ्त बिजली सोलर योजना (PMSY) द्वारा दी जाने वाली सब्सिडी प्रतिशत क्या है?

1.40%

2.50%

3.60%

4.70%



WHAT'S INSIDE



SPOTLIGHT, P5
The creative conundrum
India's artisans, weavers and even traders face unique challenges that often go unnoticed and cause them significant losses. Is formalising the creative economy the answer?

WORDS WORTHY, P4
Monumental measures
Tenets for an organisation to not just survive but also succeed

Sellers on Flipkart move court over CCI antitrust probe

REUTERS
New Delhi, September 28

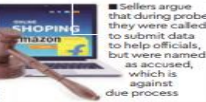
THREE ONLINE SELLERS operating on Walmart-owned Flipkart have sued antitrust watchdog Competition Commission of India (CCI) over an investigation which found they, Flipkart and rival Amazon breached competition laws, according to court filings seen by Reuters.

The filings come after antitrust investigations concluded in August found Amazon and Flipkart, some of their sellers and smartphone brands violated local competition laws by giving undue preference to select online sellers and prioritising certain listings, Reuters has reported.

In an effort to quash the critical proceedings, the three sellers on the platform made submissions in the Karnataka High Court to set aside the investigation report and put the process of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) on hold.

Lawsuits from sellers of Amazon and Flipkart can potentially delay the investigation process, which first started in 2020, and was triggered after brick-and-mortar retailers of the Confederation of All India Traders complained to the watchdog, Amazon and Flipkart deny any wrongdoing.

Three of Flipkart sellers—CIGFIL Retail, Wishery Online, Xonique



THEIR ARGUMENTS
Sellers argue that during probe they were called to submit data to help officials, but were named as accused, which is against due process

THE ALLEGED INVESTIGATION IS ARBITRARY, OPAQUE, UNFAIR, SELLERS ARGUE IN THREE SEPARATE COURT FILINGS

Ventures—in their lawsuits argue that during the investigation they were called to submit data to help officials, but were later named as accused, which is against due process, court papers show.

"The alleged investigation... is arbitrary, opaque, unfair," the sellers argued in three separate court filings, which will come up for hearing likely next week.

Continued on Page 2

25 years on, Ray's films integral to India's soft power

● From Brazil to Italy, restored titles to be shown at festivals, OTTs

FAIZAL KHAN
New Delhi, September 28

COME OCTOBER 3, film buffs in Brazil will be watching Indian films sitting in the comfort of their homes. In a first-ever major OTT release of Indian movies in South America, Brazil's biggest VOD (video on demand) platform is launching six Satyajit Ray films, all digitally restored for a modern-day audience. Two years after the celebration of

GLOBAL APPEAL
■ Churulata, Mahanagar, Nayak, Mahapurush, Kapurush, Jai Baba Felunath on VOD in Brazil from Oct 3

■ This will be followed by theatrical releases in Netherlands in November

Similar release is scheduled in Japan next spring

■ Brazil's Sao Paulo International Film Festival to have retrospective of Ray films from Oct 17-30

■ Cairo International Film Festival to screen Churulata, Nayak and Mahanagar in November

the Satyajit Ray birth centenary, countries that haven't been traditional markets for the neorealism master, like Brazil, are embracing his works with infectious enthusiasm. This year has already seen the VOD

launch of his films in Poland, Greece and even Indonesia and South Korea. The list of Ray films to be launched by Inmovision, a film distribution platform in Brazil, has some of his most works like *Churulata*, *Mahanagar* and *Nayak*—all made between 1963 and 1966. *Maahapurush*, *Kapurush* and *Jai Baba Felunath* complete the Brazil VOD package. "Satyajit Ray is a big name in countries like the United States,

United Kingdom and France," said Varsha Bansal, head of international sales at Kolkata-based RDB Entertainment, which holds the rights of all the six Ray films due for release in Brazil. "It is encouraging that his films are today released in countries where it was not possible to talk about Ray earlier," she added.

Clearly more than half a century after they were made, Satyajit Ray movies still rule India's soft power dynamics, evident by the fact that the Indian films currently scooping the global theatrical and festival circuit are not new releases from Bollywood or Tollywood, but old Ray movies, all restored from new reels.

Continued on Page 2

TO MAKE FOR GLOBAL MARKETS TOO

Tata puts ₹9,000-cr TN plant into motion

● First joint platform for next-gen cars by Tata Motors, JLR

NARAYANAN V
Ranipet, September 28

TATAMOTORS ON Saturday held the ground-breaking ceremony for its ₹9,000-crore manufacturing facility at Panapaklam in Ranipet district to manufacture next-generation vehicles for Tata Motors and its British subsidiary, Jaguar Land Rover (JLR). To serve both domestic and international markets, the plant will produce 250,000 vehicles annually at full capacity.

"This is more than just another factory. It will be a state-of-the-art facility producing high-end vehicles. And, for the first time, this plant will also develop a modern platform co-created by Tata Motors and JLR," said N Chandrababhan, chairman of Tata Sons, during the ceremony.

The new facility will not only create 2,000 direct jobs but also generate thousands of indirect opportunities in the local economy through its supplier ecosystem, Chandrababhan noted for the make-in-India push. Production will begin in phases and progressively ramp up to optimum capacity over the next five-seven years at the facility, which will utilise renewable energy for operations.

The groundbreaking ceremony



Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin with Tata Sons chairman N Chandrababhan during the foundation stone-laying ceremony on Saturday

HITTING THE ROAD
■ Manufacturing facility to produce 250,000 vehicles annually at full capacity

■ It will create 2,000 direct jobs, generate thousands of indirect opportunities

■ Production to begin in phases, ramp up to optimum capacity in 5-7 years

comes just six months after the Tata Group signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu government in March. "The pace at which we have moved will only accelerate in the coming days," Chandrababhan said. He said several Tata Group companies have been operating in Tamil Nadu and now "we now intend to build our advanced vehicle manufacturing plant here using cutting-edge manufacturing technology and world-class sustainability practices". He added, "Our endeavour will be to optimise capacity over the next five-seven years, in line with our focus towards greater empowerment of women, pointing out that their electronics facility in Hosur, Krishnagiri, employs 20,000 workers, of which over 15,000 are women.

Continued on Page 2

Ban on non-Basmati exports lifted

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, September 28

THE GOVERNMENT ON Saturday lifted the ban on non-Basmati white rice exports and imposed a minimum export price (MEP) of \$400/tonne on it, exempting the common export price (CEP) of \$400/tonne.

As per a directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) notification, exports of white rice come into immediate effect, just a fortnight after the MEP of Basmati rice was



removed, the government late on Friday had cut the export duty on parboiled rice to 10% from 20%.

To curb rise in prices and improve domestic supplies, the government had in September last year banned exports of white rice and subsequently had imposed a 20% export duty on it.

However, India had allowed white rice exports to meet the food security needs of many countries and on the basis of requests from their governments.

Continued on Page 2

Over ₹1.5 lakh-cr IPOs waiting to hit markets

AROUND 75 COMPANIES are set to raise over ₹1.5 lakh crore in upcoming fundraising efforts, as per Primedatabase.com. Of these, 22 companies that have already received approval from Sebi will raise over ₹60,000 crore. Meanwhile, the remaining 53 companies are awaiting Sebi's approval for raising an additional ₹95,000 crore. So far, in the current calendar year, 62 companies have successfully raised over ₹64,000 crore, marking the highest fundraising activity in the past three years.

Compiled by Kishor Kadam



Top 5 IPOs awaiting Sebi's approval



FIRE AT TAMIL NADU IPHONE COMPONENT PLANT, 10 INJURED

AT LEAST 10 people received medical treatment after a major fire on Saturday disrupted production at Tata Electronics plant in Hosur, Tamil Nadu. A statement said that the fire broke out in the latest to affect iPhone supply chain. Apple is looking to diversify beyond China and sees India as a key market.

HEZBOLLAH LEADER HASSAN KILLED IN ISRAELI AIR STRIKE

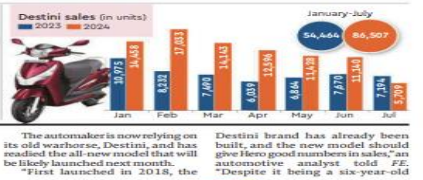
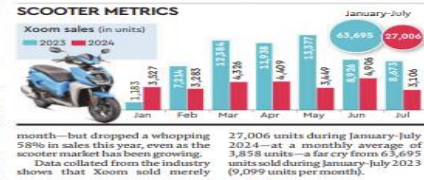
LEBANON'S HEZBOLLAH group confirmed on Saturday that its leader, Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut the previous day. A statement said Nasrallah "has joined his fellow martyrs." Hezbollah vowed to "continue the holy war against the enemy and in support of Palestine."

Hero rides on all-new Destini to take on Honda in 110-125cc race

● Readies to launch upgraded model as Xoom sales drop

VIKRAM CHAUDHARY
New Delhi, September 28

ROOM—HERO MOTORCORP'S high-profile scooter that was supposed to take on Honda Activa, TVS Jupiter and Suzuki Access, and give Hero a stronghold in the 110-125-cc segment—has failed to take off. Launched on January 30 last year, it sold well in the initial months—crossing 10,000 units per



month—but dropped a whopping 58% in sales this year, even as the scooter market has been growing. Data collected from the industry shows that Xoom sold merely 27,006 units during January-July 2024—at a monthly average of 4,501 units—far less than the 68,507 units sold during January-July 2023 (9,099 units per month).

The automaker's new relying on its old warhorse, Destini, and has modified the all-new model that will be likely launched next month. "First launched in 2018, the

product, sales of Destini have been going strong, and during January-July 2024 there was a surprising rate of 59%—much higher than the industry growth," the analyst added. During January-July 2024, Hero sold 86,507 units of Destini—far more than 54,464 units sold in January-July 2023. "A cause for concern, however, is that these two Hero scooters appear to be taking away sales from each other, instead of scooters from other manufacturers. During January-July 2024, both Xoom and Destini together sold 113,513, which is a slight drop from the 118,159 units both sold during January-July 2023," the analyst said. "Although sales of the third Hero scooter—Plea-

sure—have been growing, Xoom has been a disappointment." Another analyst said that Hero is still paying the price of not being able to ride the scooter wave that started with Honda Activa in the 2000s and then strengthened by the Jupiter and the Access. "Those days, the company focused a lot on its commuter motor-cycle offerings such as Splendor and Passion, and that investment is still paying off," he said.

Even today, Hero controls the commuter motorcycle market, but it hasn't been able to ready a 'hero' product that can salvage its scooter market share."

Continued on Page 2

UP launches Krishi Sakhi scheme to empower women

FE BUREAU


Lucknow, September 28

THE UTTAR PRADESH government has launched the 'Krishi Sakhi' scheme with the aim of promoting self-reliance among women by linking them to agricultural practices.

To date, 7,634 women have been trained under this programme, enabling them to enhance their economic status through the adoption of modern agricultural techniques. Krishi Sakhis are being chosen from self-help groups established in villages under the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission. Through the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, these women are being trained as para-professionals. The government has facilitated coordination between the selected Krishi Sakhis and various government departments to enhance their financial stability. These Sakhis are being trained to promote and expand initiatives from the Department of Agriculture, Horticulture Department, Silk Directorate, and Ground Water Department. Specific selection criteria have been established for the women, including an age range of 21 to 45 years and a demonstrated interest and experience in agricultural work.




- **Scheme Objective**

- The Uttar Pradesh government launched the 'Krishi Sakhi' scheme to promote self-reliance among women by linking them to agricultural practices.
 - उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने 'कृषि सखी' योजना शुरू की है, जिसका उद्देश्य महिलाओं को कृषि कार्यों से जोड़कर आत्मनिर्भरता को बढ़ावा देना है।
- 



- **Number of Women Trained**

- To date, 7,634 women have been trained under this programme to improve their economic status through modern agricultural techniques.


- अब तक इस कार्यक्रम के तहत 7,634 महिलाओं को आधुनिक कृषि तकनीकों के माध्यम से अपनी आर्थिक स्थिति में सुधार करने के लिए प्रशिक्षित किया गया है।
- 

- **Selection from Self-Help Groups**
- Krishi Sakhis are being chosen from self-help groups established in villages under the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission.
- कृषि सखियों का चयन उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन के तहत गांवों में स्थापित स्वयं सहायता समूहों से किया जा रहा है।





- **Training as Para-Professionals**

- Through the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, these women are being trained as para-professionals to enhance their financial stability.
 - दीनदयाल अंत्योदय योजना के माध्यम से, इन महिलाओं को अर्ध-व्यवसायिक रूप में प्रशिक्षित किया जा रहा है ताकि उनकी वित्तीय स्थिरता में वृद्धि हो सके।
- 

- **Coordination with Government Departments**

- The government has ensured coordination between Krishi Sakhis and various departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Silk Directorate, and Ground Water.
- सरकार ने कृषि, बागवानी, रेशम निदेशालय और भूजल जैसे विभिन्न विभागों और कृषि सखियों के बीच समन्वय सुनिश्चित किया है।

1. Eligibility Criteria

1. Women aged between 21 to 45 years with interest and experience in agricultural work are being selected for the scheme.
2. 21 से 45 वर्ष की आयु वाली महिलाएं जिनमें कृषि कार्यों में रुचि और अनुभव है, उन्हें योजना के लिए चुना जा रहा है।



- **What is the primary objective of the 'Krishi Sakhi' scheme launched by the Uttar Pradesh government?**

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा शुरू की गई 'कृषि सखी' योजना का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?

1. To promote modern farming techniques
आधुनिक कृषि तकनीकों को बढ़ावा देना
2. To empower women and promote self-reliance
महिलाओं को सशक्त बनाना और आत्मनिर्भरता को बढ़ावा देना
3. To increase agricultural production
कृषि उत्पादन को बढ़ाना
4. To provide financial aid to women farmers
महिला किसानों को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करना

How Indian economy became more global than China and US

In the 1970s when both India and China were closed economies, international trade was only 7.7% of India's and 4.8% of China's GDP. After the opening of the Chinese economy, the ratio saw a steady increase and crossed 64% by 2006. Since then because of China's growing domestic market, the ratio has decreased. India at present has a higher trade-to-GDP ratio than both US and China.



Chennai • Coimbatore • Bangalore • Bhopal • Hyderabad • Kolkata • Lucknow • Mysore • New Delhi • Patna • Ranchi • Thiruvananthapuram • Tiruchirappalli • Varanasi • Vijayawada • Mangalore • Thiruvallur • Madurai • Tiruppur • Kavaratti • Imphal • Dispur • Guwahati • Agartala • Jammu • Srinagar • Dehra Dun • Jaipur • Shimla • Chandigarh • Port Blair



ACCIDENT IN MADHYA PRADESH
9 killed as bus collides with truck in Maihar
NEWS » PAGE 6



CONGRESS ON NICOBAR PROJECT
"Govt. keen on causing ecological disaster"
NEWS » PAGE 4



RELENTLESS MONSOON
170 dead in Nepal floods after heavy rain
WORLD » PAGE 14



DATA POINT
What has Make in India achieved?
10 years later, growth has slowed to 5.5%
OPINION » PAGE 9



MONEY MATTERS
IPL caps earnings for overseas players
SPORT » PAGE 16

INSIDE

BJP expels eight leaders for going solo in Haryana
Former Haryana Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala and seven other Ipariya Janata Party (BJP) leaders were expelled from the party on Sunday evening after they decided to contest the Assembly poll as independent candidates. » PAGE 2

'Wrong incentives led to huge loss in Southern Railway'
Southern Railway has suffered a loss of ₹20.58 crore due to a series of wrong incentives, including wrong payment of overtime allowance and non-assessment of land, as per a CAG report. » PAGE 4

Wrong incentives led to huge loss in Southern Railway
Southern Railway has suffered a loss of ₹20.58 crore due to a series of wrong incentives, including wrong payment of overtime allowance and non-assessment of land, as per a CAG report. » PAGE 4

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Campaigning for last phase of J&K polls ends

JAMMU/SHRINAGAR
The campaigning for the final phase of polling in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election concluded on Sunday, with major political parties, engaging in fierce exchanges over critical issues, including Pakistan, Article 370, terrorism, and reservation. » PAGE 5

Navy chief visits Greece, discusses ways to boost ties

NEW DELHI
India and Greece discussed avenues for cross-training in niche technologies and advanced courses, as well as ways to strengthen strategic and operational ties, during Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi's just-concluded visit to Greece. » PAGE 5

Israel pounds Lebanon, 2 more Hezbollah leaders among dead

Hezbollah confirms death of Nabil Kaouk, a veteran member, and Ali Karaki, a senior commander, Sunday's strikes across Lebanon killed over 50 people, left dozens injured; Israel says at least 20 Hezbollah militants were killed in Friday's strike

Associated Press

Two days after taking out Hezbollah's chief Hassan Nasrallah, Israel continued its airstrikes on Lebanon well into Sunday evening and said it struck nearly 120 Hezbollah targets. Hours after the first wave of attacks, Israeli military announced it had killed Nabil Kaouk, the deputy head of Hezbollah's Central Command, in a strike on Saturday.

At least 24 people were killed in Israeli airstrikes that hit two adjacent buildings east of the southern city of Sidon, the Lebanese Health Ministry said. In Baalbek-Hermel, 21 people were killed and at least 47 injured. Four more died in a raid targeting Joub Jenin in the Bekaa area. The con-



Deadly strike: A building flattened by an overnight Israeli strike in Beirut's southern suburbs on Sunday. AP

secutive strikes on Sunday in Ain el-Duh, east of Sidon, were caught on camera by neighbours. Kaouk's death, making him the seventh senior Hezbollah leader slain in Israeli strikes in a little over a week. They include founding members who had

Israeli air strikes kill 11 persons across Gaza Strip

CAIRO
Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip have killed at least 11 Palestinians, health officials in the enclave said on Sunday. A school sheltering displaced Palestinians in Beit Lahya in the northern Gaza Strip was among buildings hit, Gaza media said. » PAGE 16

evaded death or detention for decades. Karaki was a veteran member of Hezbollah going back to the 1980s and served as the group's military commander in southern Lebanon during the 2006 war with Israel. He often appeared in local media, where he would com-

DATA POINT

What has Make in India achieved?
10 years later, growth has slowed to 5.5%
OPINION » PAGE 9

ISRAELI STRIKES YEMEN TOO » PAGE 14
ISRAEL'S PENETRATION » PAGE 15

'Opposition targets CPI(M) fearing loss of minority votes'

The allegations of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) colluding with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh are being levelled by the Opposition that it worries by the prospect of losing the minority vote bank to the Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala, said Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in an exclusive interview to *The Hindu*.

Not only the Opposition, Mr. Vijayan said both the RSS and Muslim extremist elements that want to sow divisions in the society and encourage communalism in Kerala are attacking the government. These allegations, he said, are also motivated by the discontent caused by police crackdown on the smuggling of gold and *hawala* money. At the same time, he said, the BJP's increased

vote share is a cause for worry. For that too, Mr. Vijayan held the Congress responsible. "The BJP won Thrissur, not because we lost ground, but because the Congress polled 86,065 fewer votes in 2024 in comparison to the 2019 general election. On the other hand, LDF's vote share had registered a small increase of 16,196 votes," he said.

Two abducted Manipur youth seek help from Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI
Two of three Meitei youth abducted by Kuki extremists on September 27 have appealed to Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh to save their lives.

Their appeal came through a video that surfaced on social media platforms early on Sunday. The release of the two youth. "Held a meeting with all the MLAs from both the ruling and Opposition parties at my Secretariat, today. Addressed the current situation in the State, particularly focusing on the rescue of the abducted of two innocent youths by Kuki militants," he posted on X. "We condemn such heinous acts and our government is working to secure the safe release of the victims," he added. Ningombam Johnson

Green goddess



Plants for puja: An environment-friendly puja pandal is being readied using a variety of plants and bamboo ahead of the Durga Puja festival, at Lalbagh Park in Kolkata, on Sunday. PTI

Skewed shares

The cost-to-benefit ratio (in %) of the workers engaged in cleaning of sewers and septic tanks across the country.



92% of workers cleaning urban sewers, septic tanks from SC, ST, OBC groups: survey

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI
In a first-of-its-kind attempt to enumerate people engaged in the hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks in India's cities and towns, government data gathered from over 3,000 urban local bodies in 29 States and Union Territories shows that 92.9% of the 38,000 workers profiled so far belong to Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), or other backward class (OBC) communities.

Of the profiled workers, 64.9% were SC, 14.7% were OBC, 8.3% were ST, and 8% were from the general category. Between 2019 and 2023, at least 377 people across the country have died from hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks, according to government data tabled in Parliament. The NAMASTE programme, a scheme to mechanise all sewer work and prevent deaths due to hazardous cleaning work. In 2023-24, this scheme was brought in to replace the Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS). The government's rationale is that manual scavenging as a practice has ended across the country and what needs to be fixed now is the hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. It draws this distinction based on a technical difference in how manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning are defined in the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act. The NAMASTE programme targets "workers directly associated with sewer and septic tank cleaning including drivers of desludging vehicles, helpers, machine operators and cleaners", the Ministry says. Its goal is to profile such workers in a nationwide enumeration exercise, give them safety training and equipment, and offer capital subsidies that could turn sewer and septic tank workers into "sanipreneurs", or sanitation entrepreneurs. Since the scheme began

than, and Jammu and Kashmir, have completed the profiling process, while the exercise is still under way in 17 States, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya, and West Bengal. Capital subsidies that have yet to begin the cleaning of sewers and septic tanks in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Odisha are running their own programme for, and not reporting data to the Centre under this programme.

State efforts
States such as Kerala and Karnataka are holding in-person, education, and communication (IEC) campaigns to profile workers. In Andhra Pradesh, ULBs are visiting

workers' homes and workplaces to profile them, the State data showing that around 30% of their profiling was done this year. By the end of the 2023-24 financial year, 31,099 SSWs had been validated, the Ministry's annual report said. Capital subsidies amounting to ₹2.26 crore have been given to 101 beneficiaries and their dependants for alternative self-employment projects, while 413 sanitation workers and dependants have received ₹40.6 crore for sanitation-related projects, the report said.

Under the previous SRMS scheme, the government had identified 58,098 manual scavengers till 2018. Since then, it has insisted that no other ma-

Wrong destination

Mr. Johnson Singh, who escaped from the abductors, said they relied on Google Maps but set their destination as Kethelhamnaba Kuki village instead of New Kethelhamnabi.

On Saturday, local people in Thoubal formed a Joint Action Committee and met district administration officials and demanded action to trace and rescue the two youths.

Wrong destination

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Of the profiled workers, 68.9% were SC, 14.7% were OBC, 8.3% were ST, and 8% were from the general category.

Between 2019 and 2023, at least 377 people across the country have died from hazardous cleaning of sew-

ers and septic tanks, according to government data tabled in Parliament.

Hazardous cleaning

The profiling of sewer and septic tank workers (SSWs) is being carried out by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as part of its NAMASTE programme, a scheme to mechanise all sewer work and prevent deaths due to hazardous cleaning work. In 2023-24, this scheme was brought in to replace the Self-Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS).

The Union government's rationale is that manual scavenging as a practice has ended across the country and what needs to be fixed now is the hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks. It draws

this distinction based on a technical difference in how manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning are defined in the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act.

The NAMASTE programme targets "workers directly associated with sewer and septic tank cleaning including drivers of desludging vehicles, helpers, machine operators and cleaners", the Ministry says.

Its goal is to profile such workers in a nationwide enumeration exercise, give them safety training and equipment, and offer capital subsidies that could turn sewer and septic tank workers into "sanipreneurs", or sanitation entrepreneurs.

Since the scheme began

Skewed shares

The caste-wise share (in %) of the workers engaged in cleaning of sewers and septic tanks across the country



a year ago, 3,326 urban local bodies (ULBs) have begun the process and profiled around 38,000 SSWs. So far, 283 ULBs have reported zero SSWs, and 2,364 ULBs have reported less than 10 SSWs each.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs estimates that there are 100 core sanitation workers for an urban population of five

lakh. Based on this, the government used decadal growth rates to estimate that as of 2021, there are likely to be one lakh SSWs employed by India's 4,800 ULBs. The NAMASTE programme intends to profile all SSWs across the country to create a central database.

Twelve States and UTs, including Kerala, Rajas-

than, and Jammu and Kashmir, have completed the profiling process, while the exercise is still under way in 17 States, including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya, and West Bengal are among the States that have yet to begin the profiling process. Tamil Nadu and Odisha are running their own programmes for SSWs, and are not reporting data to the Centre under this programme.

State efforts

States such as Kerala and Karnataka are holding information, education, and communication (IEC) campaigns to profile workers at special camps. In Andhra Pradesh, ULBs are visiting

workers' homes and workplaces to profile them, with State data showing that around 30% of their profiling was done this way.

By the end of the 2023-24 financial year, 31,999 SSWs had been validated, the Ministry's annual report said. Capital subsidies amounting to ₹2.26 crore have been given to 191 beneficiaries and their dependants for alternative self-employment projects, while 413 sanitation workers and dependants have received capital subsidies of ₹10.6 crore for sanitation-related projects, the report said.

Under the previous SRMS scheme, the government had identified 58,098 manual scavengers till 2018. Since then, it has insisted that no other ma-

nual scavengers have been identified, claiming that none of the 6,500-plus complaints reporting manual scavenging could be verified.

Of the identified manual scavengers, the government said it had data on the social categories of 43,797, showing that 97.2% of them were from SC communities. The share of STs, OBCs, and others were each around 1%.

Ministry records showed that all the 58,098 people identified as manual scavengers till 2018 had been given a one-time cash transfer of ₹40,000. While 18,880 of them had opted for skills training in alternative occupations, 2,051 had opted for loans under the scheme's subsidies to start alternative businesses as of 2022.

Skewed shares

The caste-wise share (in %) of the workers engaged in cleaning of sewers and septic tanks across the country

Scheduled Castes

68.9

Scheduled Tribes

8.3

Other Backward Classes

14.7

General

8

% of workers

Source: Government data tabled in Parliament




Survey Objective:

A government survey has identified that 91.9% of the 38,000 workers engaged in hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks belong to SC, ST, and OBC communities.

एक सरकारी सर्वेक्षण ने पाया है कि 38,000 खतरनाक सीवर और सैप्टिक टैंक सफाई करने वाले श्रमिकों में से 91.9% अनुसूचित जाति (SC), अनुसूचित जनजाति (ST) और अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग (OBC) समुदायों से हैं।



- **Hazardous Cleaning:**


- The NAMASTE programme aims to profile sewer and septic tank workers (SSWs) and mechanise all sewer work to prevent deaths due to hazardous cleaning.
 - NAMASTE कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य सीवर और सैप्टिक टैंक श्रमिकों (SSWs) का प्रोफाइल बनाना और खतरनाक सफाई के कारण होने वाली मौतों को रोकने के लिए सीवर कार्य को मशीनीकृत करना है।
- 

Death and Profiling of Workers:

Since 2019, 377 people have died from hazardous cleaning. As of the 2023-24 financial year, 31,999 SSWs have been validated, with financial subsidies provided for self-employment.




- **Caste Composition:**

- The survey showed that 68.9% of these workers are from Scheduled Castes, 14.7% are OBC, 8.3% are from Scheduled Tribes, and 8% are from the general category.
 - सर्वेक्षण में पाया गया कि इन श्रमिकों में से 68.9% अनुसूचित जातियों से, 14.7% OBC से, 8.3% अनुसूचित जनजातियों से, और 8% सामान्य वर्ग से हैं।
- 



- **State Efforts:**

- States like Kerala and Karnataka are running Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaigns to profile workers, while others like Tamil Nadu and Odisha have their own programmes.
 - केरल और कर्नाटक जैसे राज्य श्रमिकों का प्रोफाइल बनाने के लिए सचना, शिक्षा, और संचार (IEC) अभियान चला रहे हैं, जबकि तमिलनाडु और ओडिशा जैसे राज्यों के पास अपने कार्यक्रम हैं।
- 

- According to the survey, what percentage of sewer and septic tank workers come from SC, ST, and OBC communities?
सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार, सीवर और सैप्टिक टैंक सफाई करने वाले श्रमिकों में से कितने प्रतिशत SC, ST और OBC समुदायों से आते हैं?

1.68.9%

2.91.9%

3.83.6%

4.75.2%

Anvar goes all out against CPI(M) leadership

In public meeting in Nilambur, MLA calls Pinarayi 'a liar' and says his popularity waned and people now hate him; Anvar says he gave proof against ADGP's illegal wealth amassment, claiming RSS has done many things using the official; he reiterates SP Sujith Das was involved in gold smuggling

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

P. V. Anvar, Independent MLA of Nilambur, lashed out at the ruling CPI(M) at a massive rally convened to explain his stand on Sunday. "Nobody is anyone's slave. You will not get any more slaves in Kerala," he said, referring to the CPI(M).

Terming Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan a liar, Mr. Anvar said he had met Mr. Vijayan, who was a fatherly figure for him, for 37 minutes and not five minutes as claimed by the Chief Minister. "I sat with him for 37 minutes. My complaint had nine pages. I asked me everything and I told him everything I

knew," said Mr. Anvar. The Chief Minister had a halo around him which had brought in the Left Democratic Front (LDF) back to power in 2021, he said. "I told Mr. Vijayan that halo has vanished, and his graph has gone down to zero. People hate him now," he said.

'Land of lawlessness'
In an all-out attack on the CPI(M) leadership, Mr. Anvar asserted that he was not against the party and its cadre. He said the State had become a land of lawlessness and about one-fourth of the police force had been criminalised.

The role of ADGP M.R. Ajith Kumar in the disappearance of Mami, a real-



Left fights P.V. Anvar during a public meeting in Malappuram on Sunday against LDF government. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

tor in Kozhikode, should be investigated, he said. He said the Chief Minister ignored the solid pieces of evidence he had submitted to incriminate the ADGP. "I gave documented proof on Mr. Ajith's illegal wealth amassment. Nothing hap-

pened. The RSS has done many things in the State using Mr. Ajith," he said.

'Communal venom'
Reasserting the secular credentials of his family, Mr. Anvar said the State was plunging into a path-

etic condition where people were being branded by their names. "Believing in a religion is not communalism, but hating and opposing others is," he said. "They branded me communal just because I pray five times a day."

He said people like Shajan Scaria, editor of a YouTube channel, were spitting communal venom and trying to destroy the secular fabric of society with the support of those in power. The ADGP helped Mr. Scaria go scot-free after committing an 'anti-national' crime of tapping the police wireless system.

He said the police led by former SP Sujith Das were involved in a large gold smuggling racket centred

around Karipur airport. He described how the police were being bribed by their names. Mr. Das snatched a gold illegally brought in by carriers in compliance with the Customs at Karipur.

FIR against Anvar
The Kottayam Police registered a first information report against Mr. Anvar based on an illegal wiretapping complaint filed by a private citizen.

Mr. Anvar had triggered a political storm that caught Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's office (CMO) and law enforcement in its dead centre by broadcast-

ing a contemporaneous electronic recording of a mobile phone conversation with Mr. Sujith.

Karnataka plans to act on caste census report, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said his government will take steps to implement the caste census report in the coming days. Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the Atiruni Association of Backward Class Hostels here on Sunday, he said his earlier government had conducted the census to identify persons from the backward classes, who had been deprived of opportunities, and give them



Siddaramaiah, PTI

preferential treatment. The report of the census could not be implemented before the end of 2018, but the report had recently placed the report before the Cabinet and take steps to implement it," he said.

He pointed out that the implementation of the report was part of the Congress' principle.

He said caste census was part of the country's population census before 1931, adding that the caste-based data could not be gathered in 1941 as the World War had started.

Stating that deprived and poor must come to an end in 2018, but the report had recently placed the report before the Cabinet and take steps to implement it," he said.

YouTube channels booked for 'defaming' actor in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Police booked several Malayalam YouTube news channels, some focusing on the film industry, for allegedly broadcasting defamatory statements and videos against veteran actor and director Balachandran Menon.

The channels had petitioned Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and State DGP Shekh Daryesh Sahel on Saturday, stating that he was the target of a black-mail and defamation bid

by an actor and a person claiming to be her lawyer.

Mr. Menon stated that a person claiming to be the woman's lawyer had approached him seeking an amicable settlement as a condition for the woman not raising accusations of sexual exploitation against him on conventional and social media.

The channels threatened to file at least three criminal miscellaneous petitions against Mr. Menon in courts, seeking registration of FIRs on the charge of sexual assaulting the ac-

tor if the movie maker did not comply with the duo's demands.

In his complaint, Mr. Menon said that calls from various numbers beset him, and he stopped attending to the calls.

Subsequently, Mr. Menon said, the woman defamed him in interviews with several online news channels. The YouTube broadcasts went viral, causing the actor and his family intense distress.

The case registered under the IT Act and relevant sections of the IPC.

L-G should focus on curbing crime in Delhi: Bharadwaj

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi's ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Sunday slammed Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena over the crime situation, saying he should perform his primary duty of maintaining law and order in the city instead of "interfering" in works of its government.

Talking to X, AAP national convener and former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also hit out at Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the situation alleging that law and order in the city has "completely collapsed".

"There is a complete 'jungle raj'. People are feeling unsafe in the country's capital. Delhi's law and order comes under Amit Shah. He will have to take effective steps immediately," he said.

The L-G office did not offer a reaction to the allegations but the BJP, which rules at the Centre, accused AAP of trying to mislead people to escape anti-incumbency against its government ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls.

The L-G's criticism came in the wake of three firing cases reported in the city and earlier, when the police suspected that these were carried out to extort protection money from businessmen.

The vigilante law and order comes under the Union Home Ministry that manages it through the L-G. Delhi Urban Development Minister Saurabh



Saurabh Bharadwaj

Bharadwaj said Mr. Saxena "likes to interfere" in the works of the Public Works Department, which does not come under his jurisdiction.

"He does not have any interest in improving law and order that has gone from bad to worse, which is his primary duty," he said. The Minister claimed that thousands of Delhi residents have quietly paid money to gangsters.

"If you go to any businessman's party in Delhi, you will get to know that 80 out of 100 people present there have paid an extortion amount at one point of time," he added.

Escalation: BJP
Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor dismissed the accusations, saying the Minister is trying to mislead people by "exaggerating" three firing incidents related to law and order.

He said while it is necessary to even stop occasional incidents of "extortion money" from businessmen, the vigilante law and order comes under the Union Home Ministry that manages it through the L-G.

Delhi Urban Development Minister Saurabh



IN BRIEF



SIT starts investigation into ghee adulteration complaint

The SIT formed by the Andhra Pradesh government met in Tirupathi on Sunday to deliberate on the ghee adulteration controversy. The nine-member team, which had been set up with investigating the case pertaining to alleged adulteration of ghee used in making the Tirumala laddu prasadam, met at the police guest house. IGP Sarvasreshth Tripathi said the team was acting upon the case filed against Tamil Nadu-based AR Dairy Foods Private Limited, based on a complaint by the TTD, after formally taking it over from the jurisdictional police.

Leopard scare returns to Tirumala trekking route

After a brief respite, leopard scare continues to haunt the devotees trekking to Tirumala hills. A leopard was sighted near the control room on Sivarami trekking route late on Saturday night. Security guards got an alert after dogs continuously barked in the direction, which they later perceived to be due to the movement of a leopard. The security guards locked themselves in the control room and alerted the Forest Department. It may be recalled that a leopard killed a child belonging to a family trekking to Tirumala hills through the Alipiri route.

Landslide-prone areas of Wayanad to come under ESAs

The Kerala government would bring the landslide-prone areas of Wayanad under the Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) as a precautionary measure while finalising the list. The final list of ESAs, which may see a further reduction of land where curbs on development activities could be imposed, would be submitted to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change shortly. The National Centre for Earth Science Studies had identified the landslide-prone areas of Wayanad earlier.

Beach lessons



Learning skills: Youth playing football on the Shangumugham beach in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, on Sunday evening. NORMAL HARRISON

'Cauvery Aarti' to be held in Srirangapatna on October 3

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress government in Karnataka has decided to symbolically launch Cauvery Aarti on the lines of Ganga Aarti on October 3, the first day of the Dasara celebrations, at Srirangapatna in Mandya. The decision was taken after Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar held discussions with a delegation that visited Varanasi and Haridwar to study the manner in which the ritual is performed by the communities of the Ganga. "After construction of the permanent structures on Cauvery banks, the aarti will be done at least five days a week," said Congress MLC Dinesh Guligowda.

Glaciologist digs deep into permafrost to gauge future climate change disasters

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Possible collapse of permafrost, which are permanently frozen rock or soil formations, is an emerging climate change-induced issue in the upper reaches of the Himalayas. Glaciologist S.N. Remya from Kerala, who is part of this year India's Arctic Expedition, currently based at the Himadri research station in Norway, says that her work is aimed at identifying the probability of disasters due to the collapse and help provide early warnings to communities in places where buildings or other infrastructure have collapsed. "We still do not have proof whether permafrost will melt in some of the disasters in the Himalayas and it is so-



Understanding nature: Glaciologist S.N. Remya during her research as part of India's Arctic Expedition. SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

meanting that has to be studied," says Remya, from the Himadri station, hosted by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) on the international Arctic Research base in Ny-Alesund.

Data gaps
Underneath the surface in a rock glacier located closer to our station. We

HYDRAA not to raze houses till Deepavali

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Contrary to the fear created among people, there will not be any demolitions on the Musi river bed till all the identified residents are convinced to move to the double-bedroom houses allotted to them. At the same time, buildings belonging to the elite constructed illegally on lake beds in other parts of the city will be demolished.

So far, in the government said till Deepavali, there would be no demolition of residential structures falling under the Full Tank Lease (FTL) of lakes,

but illegal constructions engaged in business would not be spared.

The Intelligence Department is said to have presented a report to the government on the positive feedback of the erstwhile Disaster Response and Relief Protection Agency (HYDRAA), but political parties are trying to mix HYDRAA actions with Musi river bed evictions to confuse people and instil fear, it was also revealed a builders' lobby backing the agitation to fuel anger. "Some real estate lobbies are working behind the scenes, instilling fear among people," a senior official said.

ADGP probing 2007 mining case criminal, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Sunday called off ADGP as a "blackmailer" and "criminal". Speaking to mediapersons, he accused the Congress government of trying to protect itself by using such tainted officials. He also stated that he would submit documents related to the alleged illegal activities of the official to the Union Home Secretary. Mr. Chandrashekhar had said, "an accused, however high and mighty, will be in the company of a guard with a gun."

Glaciologist digs deep into permafrost to gauge future climate change disasters

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Possible collapse of permafrost, which are permanently frozen rock or soil formations, is an emerging climate change-induced issue in the upper reaches of the Himalayas. Glaciologist S.N. Remya from Kerala, who is part of this year India's Arctic Expedition, currently based at the Himadri research station in Norway, says that her work is aimed at identifying the probability of disasters due to the collapse and help provide early warnings to local communities.

"Soil or rock that remains frozen for at least two consecutive years is considered as permafrost. Underneath the surface, there would be regions of ice. Due to global warm-



Understanding nature: Glaciologist S.N. Remya during her research as part of India's Arctic Expedition. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ing, this layer of ice will melt leading to a permafrost thaw, causing fluctuations or collapse of the ground. There have been cases in Canada and other places where buildings or other infrastructure have collapsed. We still do not have proof whether permafrost had a role to play in some of the disasters in the Himalayas and it is so-

omething that has to be studied," says Remya, from the Himadri station, hosted by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) at the International Arctic Research base in Ny-Alesund.

Data gaps

"I have conducted studies in a rock glacier located closer to our station. We

still don't have much knowledge about permafrost in the Indian Himalayas. One of the reasons for the bursting of the South Lhonak glacial lake and flooding in Sikkim could have been this. There are a lot of data gaps, which have to be addressed. Once the study here is complete, we can use satellite imagery to map areas of similar topography in the Himalayas. The aim is to use the knowledge to create awareness among the local communities for early warnings and long-term infrastructure planning," she says.

One of the issues she faced during the research in the Arctic was the presence of polar bears. Due to this, she went to the field in the company of a guard with a gun.



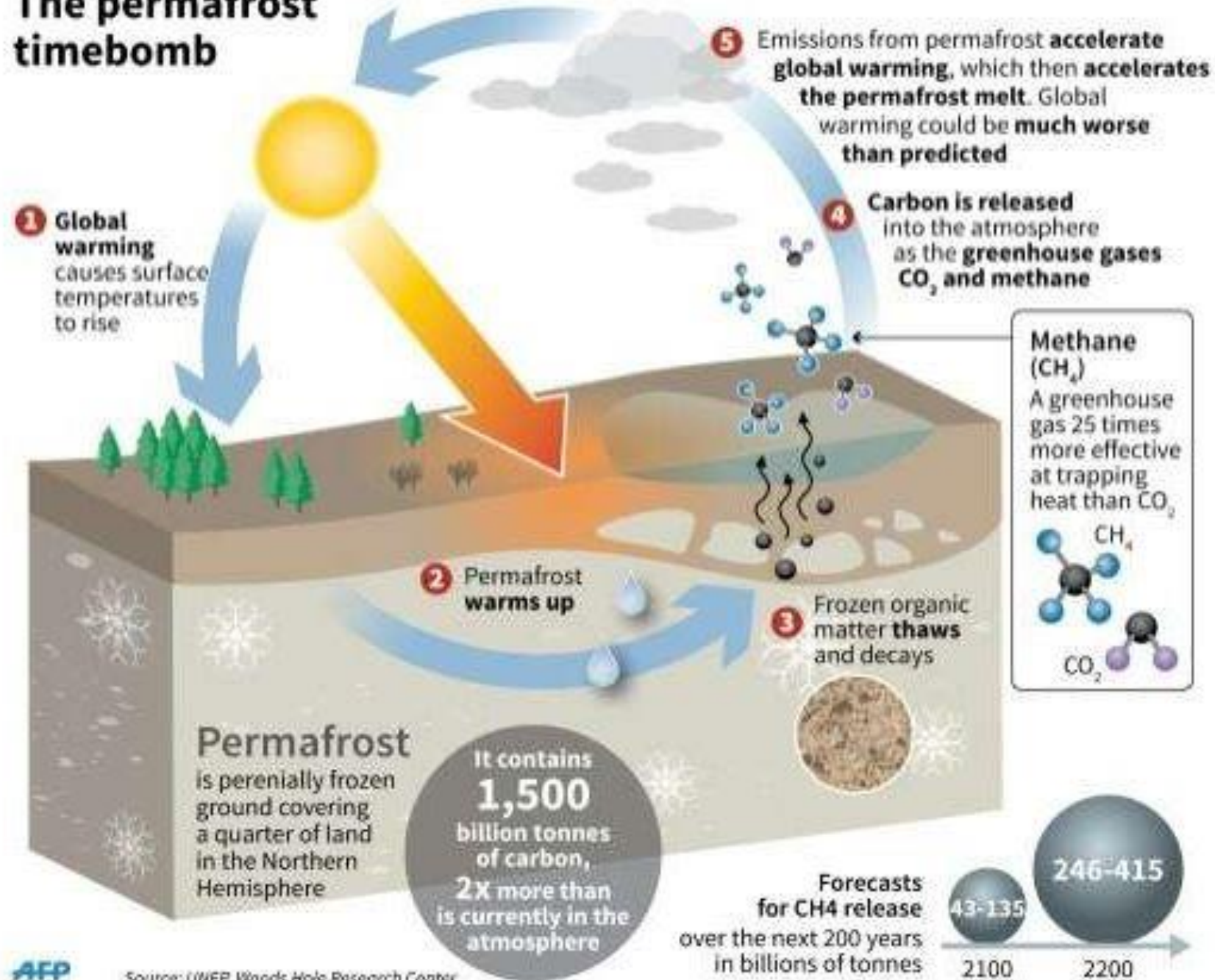


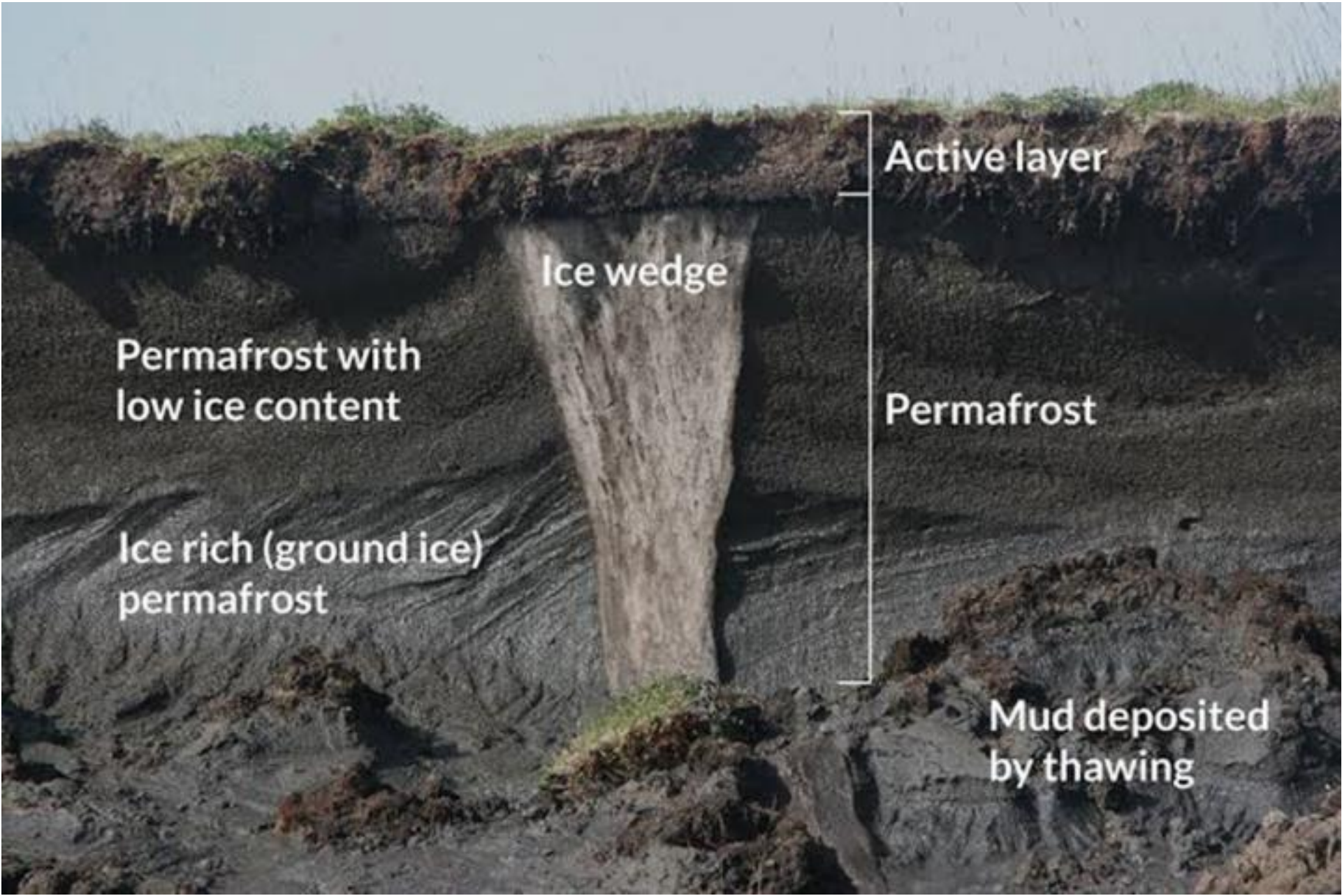
Himadri is India's first research station located at the International Arctic Research base in Norway.

India is the 11th country after Britain, Germany, France, Italy, China, Japan, South Korea, The Netherlands, Sweden and Norway to set up a permanent research station in Ny-Ålesund (Town in Oscar II Land on the island of Spitsbergen in Svalbard, Norway.)

It is located at a distance of 1,200 kilometres from the North Pole.

The permafrost timebomb





Active layer

Ice wedge

Permafrost with low ice content

Permafrost

Ice rich (ground ice) permafrost

Mud deposited by thawing




1. Himadri station was opened considering the sustained interest shown by Indian scientists in pursuing scientific studies in the Arctic.
2. The research station Himadri carries out studies in disciplines like Glaciology, Atmospheric sciences & Biological sciences, etc.
3. The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) (previously known as National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research – NCAOR) is a nodal agency that makes sure the availability of the requisite facilities at the Himadri.

-




- **Glaciologist Involved:**

- **S.N. Remya**, a glaciologist from Kerala, who is part of India's Arctic Expedition and currently based at **Himadri Research Station** in Norway, is conducting this research. Her work aims to predict potential disasters due to the collapse of permafrost and to provide early warnings to local communities.
- 




- **Permafrost Overview:**

- Permafrost is defined as soil or rock that remains frozen for at least two consecutive years.
 - Due to global warming, these frozen layers of ice could melt, leading to **permafrost thaw**, causing fluctuations and possible collapses, which may trigger disasters.
- 



- **Data Collection and Satellite Use:**

- Once sufficient data is gathered, satellite imagery will be used to map areas of similar topography in the **Himalayas** to create awareness for early warnings and long-term infrastructure planning in vulnerable regions.
- 

- **Challenges in the Arctic:**
- While working in the Arctic, one of the challenges faced by Remya was the presence of **polar bears**, forcing her to carry out fieldwork accompanied by a gun for protection.



• **Consider the following statements about permafrost research conducted by S.N. Remya:**

1. Permafrost refers to soil or rock that remains frozen for at least two consecutive years.
2. The bursting of the South Lhonak glacial lake in Sikkim is directly proven to be caused by permafrost collapse.
3. S.N. Remya is part of India's Arctic Expedition, conducting research based at Himadri Research Station in Norway.
4. One of the challenges faced during the research in the Arctic was the presence of polar bears.

• **Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1, 3, and 4 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) All of the above

HODEIDA
Four killed, 30 injured as Israel conducts air strikes on Yemen



Israeli air strikes on Yemen killed four people on Sunday and wounded more than 30, Hindu media reported. The Israeli military said it struck targets in the Iran-backed rebels' territory including Hodeida. It added that ambulance and rescue teams were still searching for missing people.

KYIV
At least 13 wounded in southern Ukraine in Russian air strikes



At least 13 people were wounded on Sunday in a series of Russian strikes on Zaporizhzhia in southern Ukraine, emergency services announced. The regional capital was hit by several "massive aerial strikes" at dawn, they said. Meanwhile, Russia's Defence Ministry claimed that it took the village of Makivka in Luhansk region.

ISLAMABAD
Separatists kill seven labourers in Pakistan's restive Balochistan



At least seven labourers from Punjab province were killed by separatists in Pakistan's restive Balochistan, police said on Sunday. The labourers from Multan were shot dead late on Saturday night when they were asleep in an under-construction house in the Khuda-e-Abad area of Panjgur town.

PUERTO DE LA ESTACA
Search resumes for 48 missing migrants off Spanish Canaries



Rescue teams on Sunday resumed searching for at least 48 migrants who went missing the day before when their boat overturned just as it was being rescued off Spain's Canary islands, killing at least nine people. Twenty-seven migrants were rescued after the boat, which had set out from Mauritania overturned off El Hierro.

China says it stands for Lebanon's sovereignty

Reuters SHANGHAI

China opposes any violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and "condemns all action that harms innocent civilians", China's Foreign Ministry said on its website on Sunday after an Israeli air strike on Beirut killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. Nasrallah's death is widely considered a significant blow to the Iran-aligned group as it reels from an escalating campaign of Israeli attacks. China urges all parties and especially Israel to immediately cool the situation and prevent the conflict from "getting out of control", the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. Separately, China also issued an advisory asking its citizens not to travel to Lebanon due to the intensification of the conflict. Those currently in the country are urged to evacuate or move to safer areas as soon as possible," the Chinese embassy said.

Air strikes by Israel kill 11 Palestinians in Gaza Strip

The Israeli military said it struck Hamas militants operating from a command centre embedded in a compound that previously served as Um Al-Fahm School. Hamas denies using civilians as cover

Reuters CAIRO

Israeli military strikes have killed at least 11 Palestinians, health officials in the enclave said on Sunday, as Israeli planes bombarded several northern, central and southern areas. A school sheltering displaced Palestinians in Beit Lahya in the northern Gaza Strip was among buildings hit, killing four people and wounding several others, Gaza medics said. The Israeli military said it struck Hamas militants operating from a command centre embedded in a compound that had previously served as Um Al-Fahm School. It accused Hamas of exploiting civilians currently in the location for military purposes. In another strike, three people were killed in a



War's toll: A school partially destroyed by Israeli strikes in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, amid the Israel-Hamas war.

house in Gaza City, medics said. Four others were killed in three separate air strikes in Nuseirat and Khan Younis in central and southern parts of the Gaza Strip. Israeli forces pursued their operations in Rafah, near the border with Egypt, and in Gaza City's suburb of Zeitoun, where they blew up several long-term residential buildings and civilian spaces in central Gaza, adding that they found several rooms and equipment used by Hamas for prolonged periods. Fighting and Israeli military activities in Gaza have declined in the past week as Israel escalated its military offensive against Iranian-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon, killing its leader Hassan Nasrallah in an air strike on Friday. The group announced Nasrallah's death on Saturday. Most of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have been displaced by the war, in which 41,500 Palestinians have been killed, according to Gaza health authorities. Israel and Hamas have been fighting since gunmen from the Palestinian militant group stormed into southern Israel on October 7, killing 1,200 people, blowing up several houses, according to residents and Hamas media.

170 killed as floods and landslides batter Nepal

Agence France-Presse KATHMANDU

Residents of Nepal's flood-hit capital returned to their mud-caked homes on Sunday to survey the wreckage of devastating floods that have killed at least 170 people across the Himalayan republic. Deadly rain-related floods and landslides are common across South Asia during the monsoon season from June to September, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency and severity. Entire neighbourhoods in Kathmandu were inundated over the weekend with flash floods reported in rivers coursing through the capital and extensive damage to highways connecting the city with the rest of Nepal. Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority said 170 people had been killed across the country with another 42 still missing. Home Ministry spokesperson Rishi Ram Tiwari



Desperate search: Rescue personnel work to retrieve the bodies of victims from a landslide in Dhadhing, Nepal, on Sunday.

said that bulldozers were being used to clear several highways that had been blocked by debris, cutting Kathmandu off from the rest of the country. "More than 3,000 people have been rescued," he added. At least 14 of those killed were aboard two buses and were buried alive when earth from a landslide careened into a highway south of Kathmandu. Dhadhing district chief Rajendra Dev Pandey said. The valley in which the capital sits recorded 240 millimetres of rain in the 24 hours to Saturday morning, the country's weather

U.S. strikes on Syria kill 37 'affiliated with extremist groups'

Associated Press

In Syria, 37 militants affiliated with the extremist Islamic State group and an al-Qaeda-linked group were killed in two strikes, the United States military said on Sunday. Two air strikes killed 28 militants. "The air strike will disrupt ISIS' capability to conduct operations against U.S. interests, as well as our allies and partners," the statement read. There are some 900 U.S. forces in Syria, along with an undisclosed number of contractors, mostly trying to prevent any comeback by the extremist Islamic State group.

strike from earlier this month on September 16, where they conducted a "large-scale air strike" on an Islamic State training camp in a remote undisclosed location in central Syria. That attack killed 28 militants. "The air strike will disrupt ISIS' capability to conduct operations against U.S. interests, as well as our allies and partners," the statement read. There are some 900 U.S. forces in Syria, along with an undisclosed number of contractors, mostly trying to prevent any comeback by the extremist Islamic State group.

Divided opinion



Rising nationalism: Demonstrators gather near a banner depicting Portuguese far-right party Chega's leader Andrea Ventura during a demonstration against "uncontrolled immigration" called by Chega in Lisbon on Sunday.

Bangladesh interim govt. should make way for a more efficient set-up: former BNP MP

Khalid Bhattacharjee NEW DELHI

With countrywide incidents of lynching of political activists from the deposed Awami League and growing violence in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the condition of Bangladesh under Prof. Muhammad Yunus-led interim government has turned "chummy", said a leading opposition member of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Former BNP member of Parliament, Rumeen Farhana, said the

law and order machinery in Bangladesh was not functioning and called upon the Yunus administration to make way for a "more efficient" set-up. "The interim government is not elected by the people and it is only an elected government that should give the reins to those who are more capable," Ms. Farhana had declared in a TV interview. The interim administration has launched six committees that are expected to come out with reports

suggesting reforms in various sectors. But the reform agenda of the government has been overshadowed by frequent reports of "mob justice" or lynching of activists of Awami League's student wing, looting and extortion of private entrepreneurs. Ms. Farhana said that the lack of strict policing against the perpetrators of such crimes had generated an impression that the police forces of Bangladesh were disinclined to act against them.

Hurricane Helene leaves at least 69 dead as losses of a lifetime devastate residents

Reuters NORTH CAROLINA

States across the Southeastern U.S. started a massive cleanup and recovery effort on Sunday after winds, rain and storm surges from Hurricane Helene, snuffed out power for millions. Destroyed roads and bridges, and caused catastrophic flooding from Florida to Virginia. The storm killed at least 69 people, according to state and local officials in South Carolina, Florida,



Resident inspects damage of his home after Hurricane Helene made landfall in Horseshoe Beach, Florida, on Saturday.

Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia. Officials feared still more bodies would be discovered. Damage estimates ranged from \$15 billion to more than \$100 billion, insurers and forecasters said over the weekend. Property damage and lost economic output will become clearer as officials assess the destruction. The storm has damaged water systems, communications and critical transportation routes across the region, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Army Corps of Engineers will start assessing damage to water systems on Sunday, FEMA said. Roughly 2.7 million customers remained without power on Sunday, a U.S. Energy Department official said.

Austria holds election with far-right bidding for a historic victory

Reuters VIENNA

Austrians elect a new Parliament on Sunday with the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) aiming to secure its first general election win in a neck-and-neck race with the ruling conservatives that has been dominated by economic worries and immigration. Having led opinion polls for months, the FPÖ's edge over the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) has shrunk to almost nothing as Chancellor Karl Nehammer casts himself as a statesman and depicts his rival, far-right FPÖ leader Herbert Kickl,



Karl Nehammer

as a toxic menace. An FPÖ victory would make Austria the latest EU country to register surging far-right support after gains in countries including the Netherlands, France and Germany.

Hurricane Helene leaves at least 69 dead as losses of a lifetime devastate residents

Reuters

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A resident inspects damages of his house after Hurricane Helene made landfall in Horseshoe Beach, Florida, on Saturday. AFP

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The difference between storms



Hurricanes, cyclones, and typhoons are all the same weather phenomenon – we just use different names for these storms in different places.

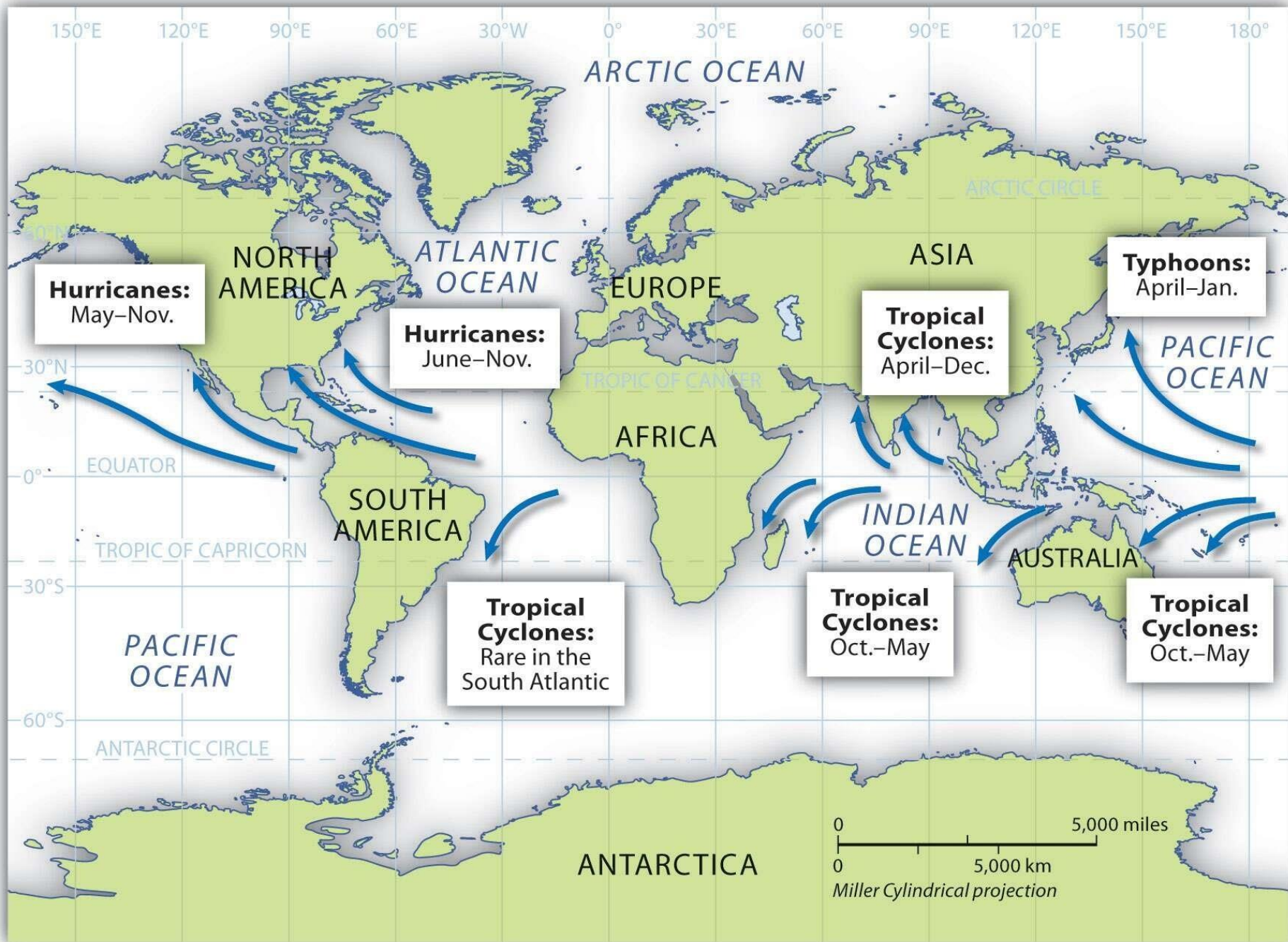
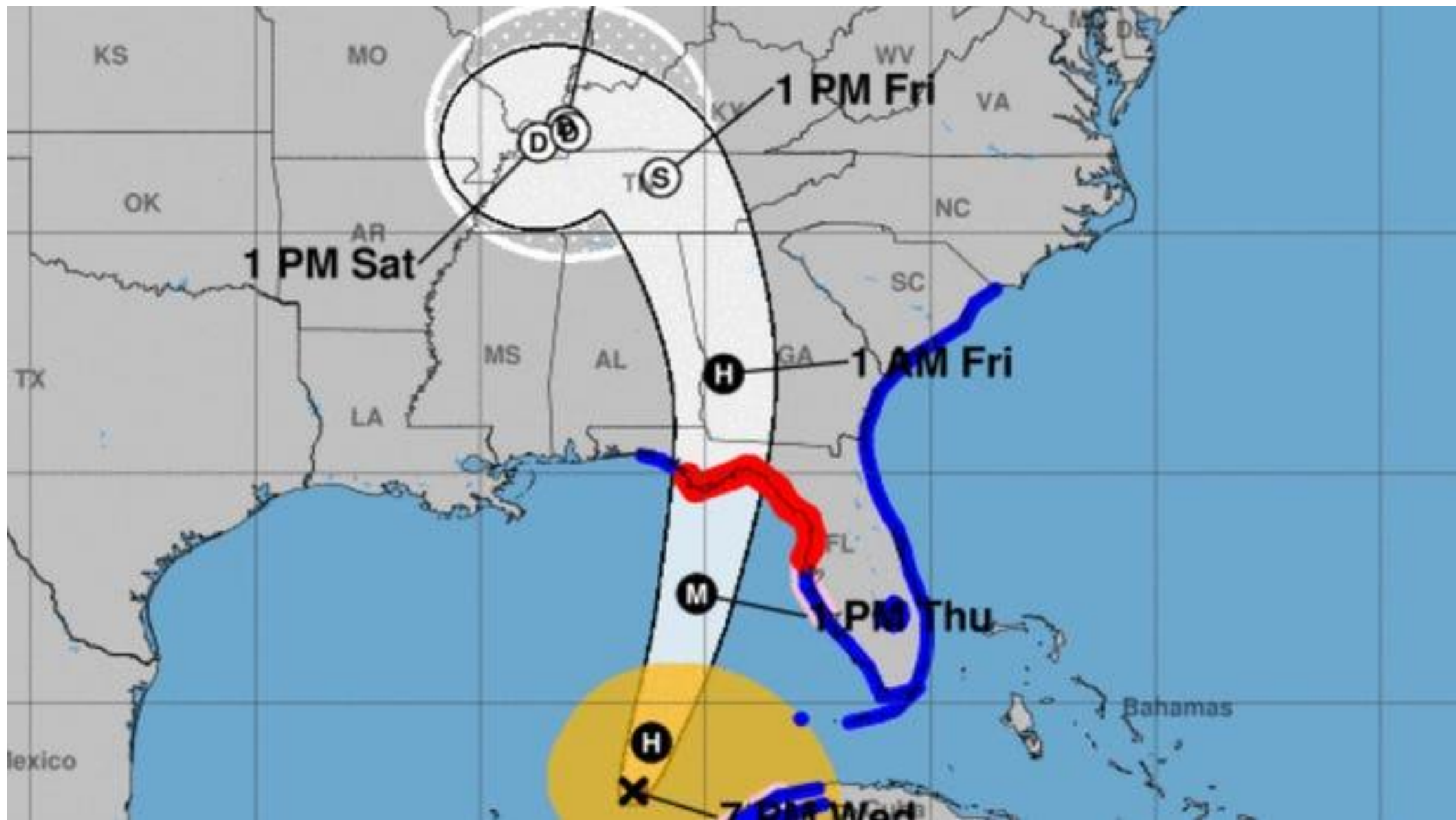


Fig: Distribution of cyclones in tropical regions.

How are hurricanes different from tornadoes?



	Hurricanes	Tornadoes
Where they form	Hurricanes form over warm water in the tropical oceans and develop best when far from the jet stream.	Tornadoes form over land and form within storms that are often very close to the jet stream
How big they are	Can be up to several hundred miles wide	Usually no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile wide
How long they last	Can last up to 3 weeks	Usually last no more than an hour
How strong the winds are	Usually less than 180 mph	The most severe ones can be up to 300 mph
Occurrences per year	An average of 10 tropical storms in the Atlantic Ocean	In the United States, 800-1000
Advance warning from forecasters	Several days	Usually no more than 15-30 minutes





**WEATHER
IMPACT**

HURRICANE HELENE

OBSERVED TRACK



IN THE NEWS

POST-INVESTMENT SCRUTINY OF FDI IN THE OFFING

THE GOVERNMENT IS considering an oversight mechanism for foreign direct investments (FDIs) flowing into the country, taking cues from similar systems in other countries that are high on global investors' radar, reports Mukesh Jagota. The proposal is at a "discussion stage" as a senior official says. PAGE 2

ENERGY FIRMS AIM TO MAKE CHEAPER GREEN HYDROGEN

AS GREEN HYDROGEN becomes the buzzword in renewable energy, companies such as Avasda, Hygemco, Therman and others are working on reducing its cost and make it more economical, reports Raghavendra Kamath, Geeta Nair & Arunima Bhargava. Reliance industries and Anil Group have already announced their plans to make green hydrogen cheaper. PAGE 4

MORE NEW-AGE CONSUMER FIRMS EYE EARLY LISTING

THE SUCCESS of Nykaa, Mamaearth and FaraCity in the stock market has made new-age consumer brands more optimistic about an initial public offering (IPO), reports S Shanthi. Around 5-6 direct-to-consumer and e-commerce brands are expected to list by the end of FY25. PAGE 4

GOVT TO REVAMP SCHEMES FOR SCs, STs, MINORITIES

THE NITI AAYOG has initiated a revamp of various centrally sponsored schemes under law & order and justice delivery to assess each scheme's relevance, effectiveness and sustainability, reports Fe Bureau. PAGE 2

BANKS SEE SURGE IN GOLD LOANS AS PRICES SOAR

WITH GOLD PRICES reaching record high levels, the demand for gold loans from banks has significantly risen in recent months, reports Sachin Kumar. Loans against gold jewellery increased nearly 40% in July and 31% in June this year, compared with 16% and 13% in the same months last year, as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data. PAGE 6

FE SPECIALS

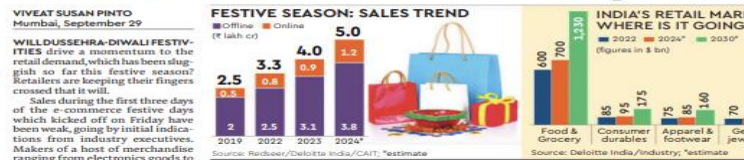
EXPLAINER, P4 The twists & turns in Netflix's India story While it has faced flak over some of its content, India is second largest market with over 10 million viewers

PERSONAL FINANCE, P7 Invest in business cycle funds to generate alpha Taking the IPO route in these thematic funds is better

WFE, P10 Freshers become lifeline for GCCs GCCs attract top talent with higher salaries, stability & skill growth

CONSUMER SPENDING LIKELY TO TOUCH ₹5 LAKH CRORE

Retailers live on hope for a late festive season push



Consumer spending is likely to touch ₹5 lakh crore this festive season. That's about 25% more than the spend of ₹4 lakh crore during the Dussehra-Diwali period last year, according to estimates by Deloitte and RedSeer and the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT). Of this, the online channel could turn in sales of around ₹1.1 lakh crore in terms of gross merchandise value during the festive season, according to estimates by CAIT.

Govt to modify IIP: More datasets & new base year

Panel will work on minimizing revisions in IIP numbers while maintaining integrity of data. Data from Annual Survey of Industries 2022-23 will be used for new factory output series.

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has constituted a technical advisory committee, headed by Mridul K Sagar, a former member of the monetary policy committee. Apart from aligning the base year of IIP with the proposed new base year of GDP...

Official notification, dated September 27, the Sagar committee shall deliberate on aligning the IIP's base year with that of the GDP. The committee told FE, "We will work on minimizing the frequent revisions in the IIP numbers, while maintaining the integrity of the data."

computation of the new factory output series, the members said. In June, the ministry constituted a 26-member committee to oversee the revision of the base year for national accounts. As many as 809 items are part of the extant IIP series with the base year of 2011-12, which are clubbed in 405 'item groups' pertaining to 'manufacturing' sector.

While many startups were reluctant to go offline as they felt it would be asset-heavy and expensive, they now realise that the economics eventually works out. As a Vikram Gupta, founder and managing partner, IvyCap Ventures, points out, there is a multiplier effect. "Also, there are many online models where different economics one can choose from, such as D2C (direct-to-consumer), company-operated, and POCO (franchisee-owned, company-operated) models," Gupta said.

New D2C firms make faster offline forays

Startups now make an offline foray in less than three years, as compared to 5-9 years earlier. Many believe offline stores help reach traditional consumers and establish credibility.

Fashion brand Smith, founded in 2019, already has 25 stores operational across Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, Dehradun and Mumbai. "By 2023, we plan to launch more than 40 stores," Siddharth Duggarwal, founder and CEO of Smith, told FE. Herby Angel, a D2C brand that manufactures ayurvedic products for babies, was founded just last year but already runs more than 1,300 retail stores across 13 states.

Small nuclear reactors get traction, pvt players chip in. ANIL SASI New Delhi, September 29. INDIA'S PLANS TO get into the manufacturing value chain of small modular reactors (SMRs) are yielding some positives with a handful of private players learnt to have shown interest in deploying these at their captive site. Since the talks are sensitive, sources said disclosing names may not be appropriate at this stage.

India's live entertainment economy booms, so does scalping

Demand for premium live entertainment surged 82% last year over 2022, according to a report by Statista. Demand for premium live entertainment surged 82% last year over 2022, according to a report by Statista.



Small investors want more IPO shares, get less

AT A TIME when applications from small investors for shares in initial public offerings (IPOs) have been skyrocketing, their share in allocations has actually fallen by more than 20%. Data from the National Stock Exchange (NSE) shows that retail investors have received a share of 19.6% in IPO share allocations as compared to 26.2% in FY24, with some of the bigger offerings allocating a larger share to qualified institutional buyers (QIBs).

According to Pranav Haldea, MD of PRIME Database Group, said the allocation for retail was lower "in the last 4-5 months, we have had more tech companies coming to the market."

According to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) regulations, issuers can allot a minimum of 3% of their IPO shares to retail investors only if they meet certain eligibility criteria, including net tangible assets of at least ₹3 crore and a net worth of at least ₹1 crore in each of the preceding three years, and an average operating profit of ₹25 crore during the preceding three years. If a company does not meet these criteria, then it has to allot a minimum of 75% of the IPO shares to QIBs, a maximum of 15% to non-institutional investors and 10% to retail investors.

Of the 26 companies that came to the primary market till August this year, 17 companies met Sebi's eligibility criteria. However, they only accounted for 39% of the total IPO consideration, according to NSE data. As a result, the share of QIBs in the IPO allocation has risen to 65.3% so far in FY25 as against 55.8% in FY24, the data showed.

Between April and August, these 26 companies mobilised ₹36,197 crore through their IPOs.

interaction with CEOs of 140 PLI beneficiary companies and 17 (special public procurement regime for PLI firms) was a good suggestion and these asked officials to examine it. We will examine whether we can have a similar map for these sectors to enable them to transition into Class I and Class II suppliers (sooner)."

A Class I supplier is one whose goods, services or works offered for procurement for PLI companies has local content of 50% or more. A Class II supplier is the one with the local content between 20 and 50%. "In government procurement, there might be few amendments required on a sectoral basis, rather than an overhaul. There are certain sectors in which the ecosystem takes time to develop. Initially the domestic value added is less and gradually it goes up," he said.

PHYUSH GOYAL, CO-CHIEF AND INDUSTRY MINISTER IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, A FEW AMENDMENTS REQUIRED ON A SECTORAL BASIS, RATHER THAN AN OVERHAUL

fully compliant with Indian law — as it is in all markets in which it operates. Tickets listed on Viagogo come from a range of sources including multinational event organisers, professional resellers, corporate ticket holders, season ticket holders, sponsors, and fans who simply can no longer attend an event."

Annit Gurbaxani, music journalist and co-founder of The Indian Musician, said that while it is arguably the first time that India is witnessing such clamour over concert tickets. "Obviously, there is a broken system when it applies to concerts. Live Nation, which promotes several big names in the industry, sees India as an exciting and growing market for live music. The success of Lollapalooza India (last year) and the recent Coldplay playalays highlight the untapped demand for live experiences. With nearly 20% of the world's population, we are focused on helping more international artists reach India, while also helping to expand the global popularity of Southeast Asian pop with audiences worldwide," the representative added.

A Swiss-based platform for Viagogo, was among the resellers of Coldplay tickets. A representative of Live Nation, a Swiss-based platform that acquires, secures, and regulated global marketplace that is open to all. Our platform

FALLING ALLOCATIONS



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Hunting For Happiness In A Material World



THE SPEAKING TREE

- Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche, speaking at the 'Spirit of Tibet' festival, explains that happiness is a mental attitude, not dependent on material possessions, which often lead to greed and a cycle of joy and sorrow.



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- True happiness comes from overcoming ignorance and negative emotions, such as fear, anxiety, and anger. Sustainable happiness is linked to inner peace, and Buddhists believe all sentient beings are equal, sharing the desire for happiness
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- He advocates overcoming anger with compassion and violence with love, emphasizing that self-control leads to freedom and understanding of oneself, which are crucial for true happiness.





Hike in Minimum Wages

- Recently, the Union government hiked central minimum wages for agricultural and industrial workers.
- The increase is made under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 which empowers both the central and state governments to fix, review, and revise the minimum wages.
- A minimum or floor wage represents the lowest remuneration that employers are legally required to pay their workers.

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- The government revises minimum wage rates twice a year.
 - These adjustments are linked to the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW).
 - CPI-IW measures the relative changes in retail prices of fixed basket of goods and services consumed by industrial workers over a period of time. The Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment, releases CPI-IW.
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WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

LIVING WAGE Takes into account basic expenses such as housing, food, clothing, education and healthcare, and standard of living

MINIMUM WAGE Based on labour productivity and skillsets

Living wages higher than minimum wages

WAGE FLOOR

₹176 a day

Current national wage floor, not revised since 2017

Not binding, so it's even less than that in a few states



₹375 a day


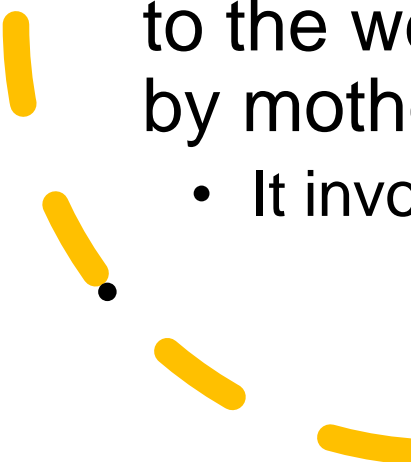
Wage floor proposed by Anoop Satpathy panel in 2019

Was put on backburner with outbreak of pandemic

New panel Firming up report to set wage floor

Jivitputrika Festival



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- Around 46 people, including 37 children, drowned while taking holy dip in rivers and ponds in several districts of Bihar during the 'Jivitputrika' festival.
 - **About**
 - **Jivitputrika Vrat (Jitiya Vrat)**, is a significant festival dedicated to the well-being and prosperity of children, observed primarily by mothers.
 - It involves women fasting and taking a **holy dip**.
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Region: It is celebrated in several states across India, including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Jharkhand, as well as Nepal.

Duration: This festival spans three days, taking place during the seventh to ninth lunar day of Krishna-Paksha in the month of Ashvin.


The celebration begins with Nahai-Khai, where mothers take a purifying bath and eat a nourishing meal.

Bharat 6G Alliance



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- The Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) presented detailed action plans for 6G technology development during a high-level meeting in Bengaluru.

- **About Bharat 6G Alliance**

- The Bharat 6G Alliance is a collaborative platform bringing together academia, industry, and government to build a comprehensive 6G ecosystem in India.
 - The Alliance focuses on research, development, and standardization of 6G technology, with the goal of making India a global leader in the emerging 6G landscape
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- **Bharat 6G Vision”**

- In 2023, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled India’s “Bharat 6G Vision,” aiming for the country to take a leading role in the design, development, and implementation of 6G technology by 2030.
- The Bharat 6G Vision is built on three core principles: affordability, sustainability, and ubiquity.
- It seeks to position India as a global leader in delivering innovative and cost-effective telecom solutions that benefit society.
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Word of the day

Illusory:


based on or having the nature of an illusion.

Usage: *His hopes would soon prove to be illusory.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/illusorypro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /ɪˈluːs(ə)ri/, /ɪˈluːz(ə)ri/

A group of people are shown in a dimly lit room, clapping their hands. The focus is on the hands in the foreground, which are raised and clapping. The background is blurred, showing other people also clapping. The overall mood is celebratory and appreciative.

Thank you
guys.
