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### INSIDE

## Ready to face any Israeli invasion, says Hezbollah

**REBUT** Hezbollah fighters are primed to confront any Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the group's deputy leader Naim Qassem said on Monday in his first public speech since Israeli strikes killed Hassan Nasrallah, its chief. He said Israel must achieve its goal. » PAGE 14

## Manipur govt. extends AFSPA in hill districts

**NEW DELHI** The Manipur government has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in the State for another six months, a September 26 notification said. Effective Tuesday, it will cover the hill districts of the State. » PAGE 4

## Keep gods away from politics, SC tells Naidu

Court chastises A.P. CM for making statements without proof, it says currently there is nothing to show animal fat was used in Tirupati laddus; SIT to halt the probe till next hearing on Oct. 3

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

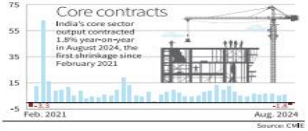
The Supreme Court on Monday said there is currently nothing to show that animal fat was used in the preparation of Tirupati laddus during the previous Yuvrajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) regime in Andhra Pradesh. The court said Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu should have "kept the gods away from politics" before rushing in to make public statements based on unproven facts that lard was used to prepare the laddus in the previous regime. A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.J. Somayaiah said Mr. Naidu behaved inappropriately for a high constitutional functionary to go public and make a statement which can affect the sentiments of scores of people. The Bench orally asked the SIT to "hold its hands" till October 3, the next day of hearing. It requested Solicitor General Toshar Mehta to assist the court in examining whether the SIT should continue or the probe ought to be transferred to an independent Central agency. Justice Viswanathan noted that test reports available in the public domain did not prima facie indicate the use of animal fat in the laddus. "As we stand today, there is nothing to show that the ghee used was contaminated," the judge said. Justice Gavai asked whether the samples sent for the tests were taken from the same ghee used for the preparation. "You should have at least kept the gods away from politics," Justice Gavai told the State, represented by senior advocate T.N. Srinivasan. The court referred to media reports quoting the Chief Executive Officer of the Tirumala Tirupati De-

## Core sectors' output tanks for first time in 42 months

Output levels in India's core sectors slipped to a nine-month low in August, even as year-on-year growth slipped 1.8%, marking the first contraction in three and a half years.

**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI

Output levels in India's core sectors slipped to a nine-month low in August, even as year-on-year growth slipped 1.8%, marking the first contraction in three and a half years. Six of eight infrastructure segments witnessed a year-on-year contraction in production, while fertilizers and steel output grew at a milder pace than July, when core sectors' output rose 6.2%. The 4.5% uptick in steel production was the slowest in 26 months. In absolute terms, electricity generation was at a five-month low in August, while refinery products were at a six-month low. Coal and electricity output recorded their first contraction in at least 13 months. Coal and electricity output declined 8.1% and 5%, respectively, in August. Cement production fell 3% to 35.4 million tonnes in nine months, while the second decline in three months. Fertilizer output grew 3.2%. The Index of Core Industries (ICI), which is a broader index of India's industrial output (IIP), stood at 155.8 in August, marking a third consecutive month of sequential decline, and was 4.2% below July level. In July, the ICI was up 6.4% on a year-on-year basis, with just two sectors reporting a contraction — crude oil and natural gas. Industrial output growth had been estimated at 4.8% in July, mildly higher than 4.7% recorded in June, but the core sectors' trends in August suggest that construction activity weakened in the second quarter of this year. Natural gas production shrank 3.6%, marking the second successive month of contraction. Crude oil output fell for the third straight month, with the pace of contraction deepening to 3.4%. 'GROWING QUICKLY' » PAGE 6



## Vaishnaw visits Japan to clear bullet train hurdles ahead of Modi's visit

**Mahesh Porecha**  
Subhasini Haider  
NEW DELHI

Senior officials led by Union Railway Minister Ashwin Vaishnaw undertook a three-day trip to Japan in September to resolve several problems that have resulted in a deadlock between India and Japan over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet project — Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train. Sources said, among the problems they discussed were Japan's insistence on Japanese vendors for the trains and signalling systems, and costing and timing estimates for project completion. Anil Kumar Khandealwar, Member (Infrastructure), Railway Board, and Vivek Kumar Gupta, Managing Director of the National High Speed Rail Corporation Ltd (NHSCR), accompanied Mr. Vaishnaw, sources said, as pressure to complete construction milestones grows ahead of Mr. Modi's visit to Tokyo for the annual summit later this year. Officials said that while the entire land acquisition in Gujarat and Maharashtra had been completed, and 215 km of viaduct of the total 508 km distance was completed, the deadlock over costs for supplying rolling stock, train sets and signalling systems still persists. "Japan which is providing all the technical sup-



Fast Rewards: The Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train is a pet project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. FILE PHOTO

ports and technology for running the bullet trains, is keen that the train sets and the signalling system be purchased from Japanese suppliers only, sources told The Hindu. According to Japan International Cooperation Agency loan conditions, only Japanese manufacturers such as Kawasaki and Hitachi can participate in the bid. The increase in the project's costing is becoming another issue. According to NHSCR, figures, an expenditure of up to ₹50,372 crore (unaudited) has already occurred between FY 2020-21 to FY 2023-24, against a total project budget of ₹1.08 lakh crore. "A majority of this cost has been spent in creating infrastructure for the bul-

let train like constructing the viaduct, girder casting and launching, laying rail level slabs and so on. This leaves increasingly small margin for spending on buying the train sets and setting up the signalling systems," officials said indicating that the project costs will further escalate. The train, built with Japanese technology and first launched exactly 60 years ago in Japan on October 1, 1964, will run at lightning speed, about 320 km/hour between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, covering the total distance in about three hours, and was due to begin operations in 2023. Earlier this year, Mr. Vaishnaw said a 50-km section between Surat and Bilimora was likely to begin operations in 2026 but officials say the latest issues could push the launch further. In addition, construction of a 21 km-long tunnel between Mumbai BKC and Shilphata, including a seven km undersea tunnel at Thane creek, which was awarded in May 2023, will take at least five years to complete. Top sources in the Ministry of Railways told The Hindu that discussions are still on for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) Corridor to receive Japanese Shinkansen trains as per the agreement between governments of India and Japan. Meanwhile, sources said that a decision on indigenous development of train sets running between 249 kmph to 280 kmph for standard gauge has been made by the Ministry. "Since there is no standard gauge track available on Indian Railway presently India uses broad gauge tracks," trials of standard gauge train set are planned to be undertaken in the Surat-Bilimora section of MAHSR, officials said. The bullet train project is very complex and technology-intensive. Timelines for the completion of the project can be reasonably ascertained only after completion of all associated works of civil structures, track, electrical, signalling and telecommunication and supply of train sets," an official said.

## Free range

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday came to the rescue of a student, the son of a daily wage earner and a member of a Scheduled Caste community, who missed admission to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) (Dhanbad) due to his inability to pay ₹17,500 as fees on time before the admission portal closed. "He is a brilliant student. No child seeking education should get back disappointed from the Supreme Court," Chief Justice Chandrachud, heading a three-judge Bench, said. The court exercised its extraordinary power under Article 142 to facilitate the admission. The court noted that Mr. Kumar had struggled against the odds to achieve his dream to study at an IIT. The family income was below the poverty line. He had studied in a higher secondary school at Mutafarnagar in Uttar Pradesh. He had lodged in to the admission portal on June 24 after his parents managed to collect ₹17,500. However, the portal closed by the time he could complete filling in his details. After his attempts to communicate his quandary with the exam authority IIT Madras, Mr. Kumar approached the Madras High Court through legal aid. The High Court advised him to appeal to the Supreme Court for relief. "Affirmatively, he is a talented student who belongs to a marginalised community and who has done everything to secure admission. Our power to do substantive justice under Article 142 is precisely for situations like this," the Chief Justice noted. "All the best," he wished Mr. Kumar at the end of the hearing. Mr. Kumar is one of three of India's top students studying in IIT Khargapur and NIT Hamirpur.

## SC reopens IIT doors for daily wage's son who could not pay fees on time

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday came to the rescue of a student, the son of a daily wage earner and a member of a Scheduled Caste community, who missed admission to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) (Dhanbad) due to his inability to pay ₹17,500 as fees on time before the admission portal closed. "He is a brilliant student. No child seeking education should get back disappointed from the Supreme Court," Chief Justice Chandrachud, heading a three-judge Bench, said. The court exercised its extraordinary power under Article 142 to facilitate the admission. The court noted that Mr. Kumar had struggled against the odds to achieve his dream to study at an IIT. The family income was below the poverty line. He had studied in a higher secondary school at Mutafarnagar in Uttar Pradesh. He had lodged in to the admission portal on June 24 after his parents managed to collect ₹17,500. However, the portal closed by the time he could complete filling in his details. After his attempts to communicate his quandary with the exam authority IIT Madras, Mr. Kumar approached the Madras High Court through legal aid. The High Court advised him to appeal to the Supreme Court for relief. "Affirmatively, he is a talented student who belongs to a marginalised community and who has done everything to secure admission. Our power to do substantive justice under Article 142 is precisely for situations like this," the Chief Justice noted. "All the best," he wished Mr. Kumar at the end of the hearing. Mr. Kumar is one of three of India's top students studying in IIT Khargapur and NIT Hamirpur.



Wild sets: One-horned rhinos grazing in the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Morigaon district of Assam on Monday. Assam's Kaziranga National Park and other wildlife sanctuaries are all set to welcome visitors for the new season from Tuesday. IIT/R/S/K/Kolkata

## Wild sets

One-horned rhinos grazing in the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Morigaon district of Assam on Monday. Assam's Kaziranga National Park and other wildlife sanctuaries are all set to welcome visitors for the new season from Tuesday. IIT/R/S/K/Kolkata

# Keep gods away from politics, SC tells Naidu

Court chastises A.P. CM for making statements without proof; it says currently there is nothing to show animal fat was used in Tirupati *laddus*; SIT to halt the probe till next hearing on Oct. 3

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**

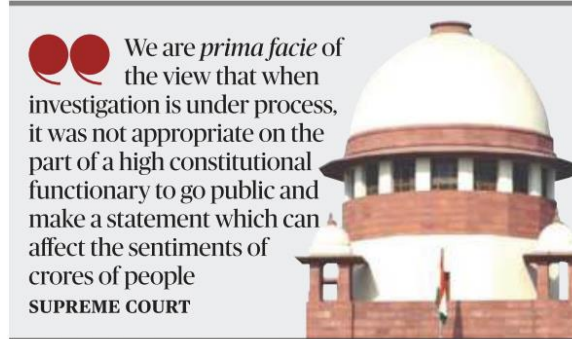
NEW DELHI

**T**he Supreme Court on Monday said there is currently nothing to show that animal fat was used in the preparation of Tirupati *laddus* during the previous Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) regime in Andhra Pradesh.

The court said Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu should have “kept the gods away from politics” before rushing in to make public statements based on unsure facts that lard was used to prepare the *laddus* in the previous regime.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan said Mr. Naidu behaved inappropriately for a high constitutional functionary.

The court pointed out that the Andhra Pradesh government had constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe allegations of contamination in the *prasadam* only on September 26. The FIR was lodged on September 25. Yet Mr. Naidu had rushed



to the media on September 18 without any proof.

“We are *prima facie* of the view that when investigation is under process, it was not appropriate on the part of a high constitutional functionary to go public and make a statement which can affect the sentiments of crores of people,” the court observed.

The Bench orally asked the SIT to “hold its hands” till October 3, the next day of hearing. It requested Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to assist the court in examining whether the SIT should continue or the probe ought to be transferred to an independent Central agency.

Justice Viswanathan

noted that test reports available in the public domain did not *prima facie* indicate the use of animal fat in the *laddus*. “As we stand today, there is nothing to show that the ghee used was contaminated,” the judge said.

Justice Gavai asked whether the samples sent for the tests were taken from the same ghee used for the *prasadam*. “You should have at least kept the gods away from politics,” Justice Gavai told the State, represented by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi.

The court referred to media reports quoting the Chief Executive Officer of the Tirumala Tirupati De-

vasthanam (TTD), which manages the famed temple, categorically denying any abuse of the ghee used in the *prasadam*.

“He said in fact that contaminated ghee was never used... 100%,” Justice Gavai said.

Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for TTD, said the *laddus* were not “tasting right” and complaints were getting more frequent. “Was the *laddus* which tasted wrong sent for testing then?” Justice Gavai asked Mr. Luthra, who promised to enquire on the point.

Mr. Rohatgi said the petitions, including one by a former Rajya Sabha Member, were not filed with *bona fide* intentions. They were only meant to attack the current State government.


The petitions have sought an independent inquiry into the allegations and the setting up of a regulatory mechanism for religious affairs and manufacture of the *prasadam*.

**TDP WELCOMES PROBE**

» PAGE 5



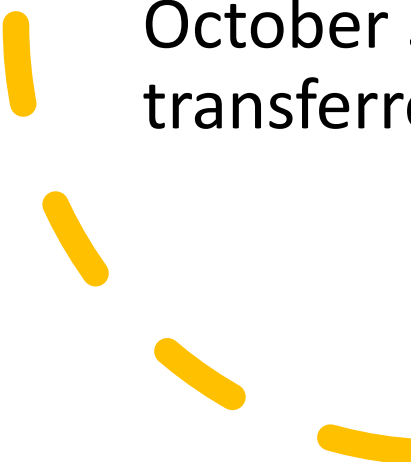
- **Supreme Court's View:**

- The SC stated that there was no evidence to support the claim that animal fat was used in the *laddus*.
  - The Court reprimanded the CM for making such statements without proof, especially given his role as a high constitutional functionary.
  - It emphasized the importance of separating religion from politics, urging that "gods should be kept away from politics."
- 






- **Special Investigation Team (SIT):**

- A SIT had been set up to investigate the claims of contamination in the *prasad* (holy offering) on September 26, following a First Information Report (FIR) filed on September 25.
  - The SC asked the SIT to "hold its hands" until the next hearing on October 3, 2024, and suggested that the investigation could be transferred to an independent Central agency.
- 





- **Justice Gavai's Remarks:**

- The SC Justices expressed their concern that public statements could hurt the sentiments of millions of devotees.
  - It was noted that test reports available did not support the claim of contamination, and Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) denied any wrongdoing.
- 

## Statements on *Laddus*:

Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, representing the TTD, mentioned that while some people complained about the taste of the *laddus*, the allegations of contamination were unfounded.

Justice Gavai questioned the intent behind sending the *laddus* for testing, implying it might have been politically motivated.

- 
- The SC urged a more cautious approach when dealing with sensitive religious matters and asked to halt the probe until further investigation.
- 

# Core sectors' output tanks for first time in 42 months

**Vikas Dhoot**  
NEW DELHI

Output levels in India's core sectors slipped to a nine-month low in August, even as year-on-year growth slipped 1.8%, marking the first contraction in three and a half years.

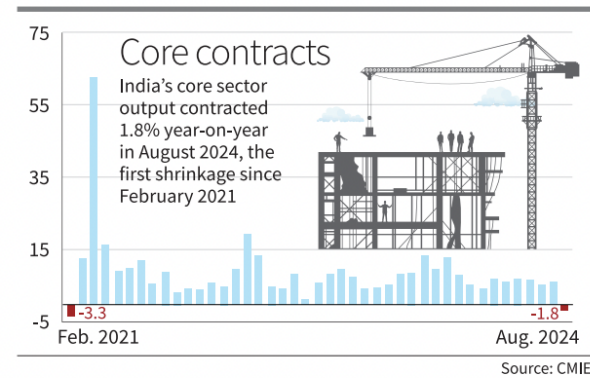
Six of eight infrastructure segments witnessed a year-on-year contraction in production, while fertilizers and steel output grew at a milder pace than July, when core sectors' output rose 6.1%. The 4.5% uptick in steel production was the slowest in 26 months.

In absolute terms, electricity generation was at a five-month low in August, while refinery products were at a six-month low. Coal and electricity output recorded their first contraction in at least 13 months.

Coal and electricity output declined 8.1% and 5%, respectively, in August.

Cement production fell 3%, the worst performance in nine months, while refinery products declined 1%, the second decline in three months. Fertilizer output grew 3.2%.

The Index of Core Industries (ICI), which constitutes about 40% of the broader index of India's industrial output (IIP), stood



at 155.8 in August, marking a third consecutive month of sequential decline, and was 4.2% below July levels. In July, the ICI was up 6.1% on a year-on-year basis, with just two sectors reporting a contraction – crude oil and natural gas.

Industrial output growth had been estimated at 4.8% in July, mildly higher than 4.7% recorded in June, but the core sectors' trends in August suggest weaker factory output levels in the month.

## 'Base effect of growth'

"The core sectors' performance has been skewed due to the base effect of 13.4% growth recorded last year," said Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis, who expects industrial output growth to be marginally positive in August at around 0.5%.

Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, who expects the IIP to have risen around 1% in August, reckoned that the late withdrawal of the monsoon may continue to weigh on core sectors' output in September.

## Weak activity


Ms. Nayar noted that the weak performance of cement and steel sectors during July and August suggests that construction activity weakened in the second quarter of this year.

Natural gas production shrank 3.6%, marking the second successive month of contraction. Crude oil output fell for the third straight month, with the pace of contraction deepening to 3.4%.



**'GROWING QUICKLY'**

» PAGE 6

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Weight (In percentage)</b>
Petroleum & Refinery production	28.04
Electricity generation	19.85
Steel production	17.92
Coal production	10.33
Crude Oil production	8.98
Natural Gas production	6.88
Cement production	5.37
Fertilizers production	2.63

- 
- The Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is prepared every month and released by the Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), and Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

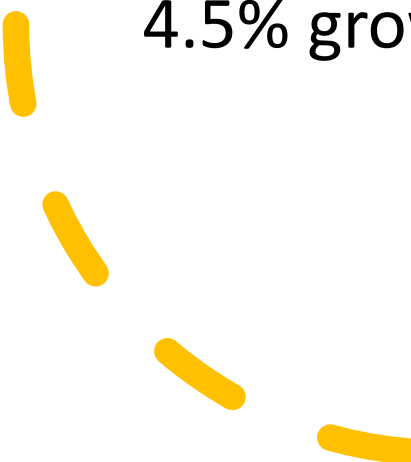
- 
- **The choice of the base year of ICI is according to the choice of base year for the IIP.**
    - **The base year in the current series of ICI is 2011-12.**


- 
- The article reports that India's core sector output contracted for the first time in 42 months, registering a 1.8% year-on-year decline in August 2024. This marks the first contraction since February 2021. Key points include:
- 





- **Contraction in Core Sectors:**

- Six out of eight infrastructure segments experienced a year-on-year contraction in production. These sectors include electricity, coal, refinery products, and cement.
  - Fertilizer and steel output grew, but at a slower pace than before. The 4.5% growth in steel production was the slowest in 26 months.
- 

- **Specific Sector Performance:**
  - Electricity generation dropped to a five-month low in August, while refinery products hit a six-month low.
  - Coal and electricity recorded their first contraction in over a year, with coal production declining by 8.1% and electricity by 5%.
  - Cement production shrank by 3%, the worst performance in nine months, while refinery products fell for the second consecutive month by 1.6%.
  - Fertilizer output increased by 3.2%.
- 



- **Index of Core Industries (ICI):**

- The ICI, which accounts for 40% of the broader Index of Industrial Production (IIP), stood at 155.8 in August, marking its third consecutive monthly decline. This was 4.2% lower than July's levels.



- **In the 'Index of Eight Core Industries', which one of the following is given the highest weight? (2015)**
- **(a) Coal production**
- **(b) Electricity generation**
- **(c) Fertilizer production**
- **(d) Steel production**



IN BRIEF



Centre to digitise more municipal services

The National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM), which aims to digitise municipal services across the country, would have new modules such as online booking of community centres and registration of properties, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said on Monday.

Operation Chakra-III: CBI arrests 26 cybercriminals

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested 26 accused persons from Pune, Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam, following a crackdown on a major cybercrime network at 32 locations. During the exercise, the CBI acted in on 170 suspects via four call centres.

PM speaks to Netanyahu over conflict in West Asia

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday spoke to Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and called for avoiding "regional escalation" of the West Asian conflict.

During the phone call that came three days after Israel killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in Lebanon, Mr. Modi called for Israel's fight against terrorism.

Spoke to Prime Minister Netanyahu about recent developments in West Asia. "Terrorism has no place in our world. It is crucial to prevent regional escalation and ensure the safe release of all hostages. India is committed to supporting efforts for an early restoration of peace and stability," Mr. Modi said in a message.

Israel has been carrying out air strikes in Lebanon, targeting Hezbollah members.

Bihar seeks NDRF teams; flood situation remains grim

The Hindu Bureau PATNA

The water level in rivers in Bihar receded on Monday, but the flood situation in 16 districts of the State remained grim.

The State government called in six more teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and Ranchi in Jharkhand. As many as 12 teams of the NDRF and 22 teams of the SDRF have already been deployed in flood-affected districts for relief and rescue operations.

The flood-affected people have been forced to take shelter either on embankments, national high-ways or treeps.

Out of six embankments which had been breached on Sunday, some have already been repaired and work is going on to repair others.

Water Resources Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary said, "Embankments on Kosi, Gandak, and Bagmati rivers are a role model for some places in Darbhanga, Sheohar, West Champaran, and Sitamarhi districts on Sunday.

Mithun Chakraborty to get Dadasaheb Phalke Award

It will be presented to the veteran actor during the 70th National Film Awards ceremony on Oct. 8, says Vaishnav. Prime Minister Modi calls him a 'cultural icon', who is admired across generations

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty named recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the government's highest recognition in the field of cinema, for the year 2022. It will be presented during the 70th National Film Awards ceremony on October 8.



Mithun Chakraborty has acted in more than 350 films across various Indian languages, giving diverse performances.

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnav made the announcement on X.

The Minister said, Mr. Chakraborty's journey from a young debutant with humble beginnings to a celebrated film icon embodied the spirit of hope and perseverance, proving that, with passion and dedication, one can achieve even the most ambitious goals.

Embankments on Kosi, Gandak, and Bagmati rivers are a role model for some places in Darbhanga, Sheohar, West Champaran, and Sitamarhi districts on Sunday.

Congratulating Mr. Chakraborty, who is also a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the actor was a "cultural icon" admired across generations.

Delighted that Shri Mithun Chakraborty had been conferred the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, recognising his unparalleled contributions to Indian cinema. He is a national icon, admired across generations for his versatile performances," Mr. Modi said in a post on X.

Mr. Chakraborty bagged the National Film Award for Best Actor in his first film, Mr.Govind (1976). An alumnus of the prestigious Film and Television Institute of India, Mr. Chakraborty's portrayal of a Santal rebel in the film by Mrinal Sen earned him national accolade.

He gained significant popularity in the 1980s with his role in Disco Dancer (1982), a film that became a major success both in India and internationally, establishing him as a dancing sensation.

His performance in Agneepath also won him the

Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1990. Later, he won two more National Film Awards for his work in Yashdar Katha (1992) and Swami Vivekananda (1998).

"Over his extensive career, Mithun has acted in more than 350 films across various Indian languages, including Hindi, Bengali, Odia, Bhojpuri, and Telugu. He is known for his diverse performances, ranging from action to drama and comedy, and has won several awards," the Ministry said.

"The Union Minister emphasised that Mithun is not only celebrated for his cinematic achievements but also for his dedication to social causes. He has been actively involved in various charitable initiatives aimed at education, healthcare, and supporting underprivileged communities, reflecting his commitment to 'giving back to society,' it said.

He was recently conferred the Padma Bhushan.

SC reprimands Delhi Forest Department over lack of response on green cover

Krishnadass Rajagopal NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court pulled up the Delhi government's Forest Department for not submitting comprehensive measures taken by it to enhance the green cover of the national capital, saying the attitude shows a "complete lack of interest" and "lacklustre" approach.

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Augustine George Masih ordered the Secretary, Forest Department, to file a personal affidavit on the next date of hearing on October 18.

On June 26, the Bench had taken serious note of the "illegal and high-handed acts of felling of trees" brought to its notice

Justice Oka said increasing the green cover of the capital was for the sake of the people

through a contempt petition filed against the Delhi Development Authority Chairperson. The contempt case concerned the felling of trees in the protected Delhi Ridge area, in which Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena's name had cropped up. Justice Oka had called the felling of the trees in the ridge area a "brazen act".

The contempt case was eventually transferred to the Chief Justice's Bench, where it is currently pending. On Monday the Delhi government sought an adjournment.

The Forest Secretary was bound to place on record the comprehensive measures taken to increase the green cover, and has not

done so for the past three months.

"There is either a complete lack of knowledge or somebody does not want this court to hear this matter also... There is something else in your approach. That is bludge and whiplash. What is this going on? Firstly, you do not do anything... you are not interested in doing anything," Justice Oka addressed the Delhi government counsel.

Justice Oka said increasing the green cover of the capital was for the sake of the people of the national capital.

"Complete lack of data" Amic curiae, senior advocate Gauri Krishnakumar and Anitha Shenoy, informed the court that there was a "complete lack of data" on the green cover from the government. Mr. Krishnakumar said the Forest Department had said a Working Plan for Delhi was under preparation.

Contrary to criticism, industrial sector is growing at a fast pace: NITI Aayog CEO

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

India's industrial sector is growing at a fast pace, NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam said on Monday while releasing the Annual Survey of Industries.

The report was released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the financial year 2022-23. Mr. Subrahmanyam said contrary to the criticism against the Centre, the manufacturing sector was growing at a fast pace and providing jobs.

"We have added 22 lakh jobs in 2022-23," he said. The report said the Gross Value Added (GVA) grew by 7.3% in current prices in 2022-23 over 2021-22.

"Increase in input was 24.4%, while output grew by 21.5% in the sector in 2022-23 over 2021-22," the report said.

The year 2022-23 witnessed a growth in industrial sector for majority of States. Delhi was under preparation.



A government report said that for 2022-23, the industrial sector witnessed a growth on major economic parameters.

capital, input, output, GVA, employment, and wages, and even surpassed the pre-pandemic level in absolute value terms. Asked about the recent Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) results that cited stagnation in labour force in the manufacturing sector, Mr. Subrahmanyam, including food processing sectors.

"PLFS is across the sectors. Contract labour is stagnant. This survey lar-

Release ₹10 cr. to AIIMS, Delhi HC tells Centre

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has refused to recall its order directing the Centre to release ₹10 crore to the AIIMS here to continue the treatment of 18 patients suffering from rare diseases.

Justice Pradip M. Singh said discontinuation of the treatment would have a negative repercussion on the patients' health.

"Under such circumstances, withholding the treatment of these 18 patients would be completely unjust and contrary to law as the same would have a debilitating effect on their general living condition and health," Justice Singh said.

The court said in its September 27 order if the amount was not released within three working days, the Joint Secretary of the Union Health Ministry would have to be present in the court on the next date of the hearing.

The Centre had sought to recall the September 18 order by which it directed to release ₹10 crore to AIIMS, Delhi to continue the treatment.

2021-22," the government said. The estimated number of persons engaged in this sector in 2022-23 has exceeded the pre-pandemic level by more than 22.14 lakh.

"Average emoluments also registered an increase over previous year. Average emoluments per persons engaged in this sector had gone up by 6.3% in 2022-23 in comparison to 2021-22," the report said.

Among the major States, in terms of GVA, Maharashtra ranked first in 2022-23, followed by Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Uttar Pradesh.

"The top five States taken together contributed more than 54% of the total manufacturing GVA of the country.

The top five States employing highest number of persons in this sector were Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka in ASI 2022-23. These States contributed about 59% of total manufacturing employment," the report added.

Crossword puzzle header: THE CROSSWORD 14294 (set by Sara)

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-15.

- 13 Remove hut (4)
14 Mark replaced by director in film shoot (4)
16 Regularly pick your cocoa plant (5)
18 Returning goods, mostly beds (4)
19 Spoke against wage (4)
21 Can add crushed anise on dressing (10)
23 Ignored source of smoke burning (8)
25 Hairy cultivating dry fruit (6)
26 Originally Ramayana scene broadcast in show (6)
27 Men guarding the Spanish places of worship (7)
Down
1 Often teems with democrat supporting grand party is impressed (8)
2 Lawyer at competition not classy (8)
3 Bottled fantastic wine (4)
4 Exact place with old name (4-2)
5 Caught rare boas, slithering snakes (6)
6 Open rift against angry papa (8)
7 Mother in Spain boarding train, perhaps (5)
12 Impatient child breaking one case of toy (5)
15 Struggle of cheat to move quickly, smuggling cocaine (8)
17 Curious criminal chasing drunk banon with maiden (8)
18 Hazy at first learning certain musical instrument (8)
20 Oriental gales started birds (6)
21 Fresh worker following short dog (6)
22 Some risk in scraping birds (5)
24 Decreate floor of ship (4)

SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 6, 7, 9, 2, 5, 4, 8, 1, 3, 8, 4, 9, 5, 6, 3, 5, 5, 6, 9, 6, 6, 1, 9, 9, 4, 9, 6, 8, 5, 2, 1, 6, 7, 1, 2.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★
Solution to previous puzzle
Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

FAITH Mother Earth as a cow

ParEEKSHIT was a just king and also one who adhered to the rules laid down for kings, said Valayapet Ramachariar in a discourse.

Whenever ParEEKSHIT went, he heard people talk about the glories of his ancestors, and also about Lord Krishna's marvellous deeds.

While ParEEKSHIT was proceeding in his ratha, he saw a cow and a one-legged bull. The bull was none other than Dharma deva himself. The cow was Mother Earth.

Dharma deva in the form of a bull once had four legs, but had lost one leg in each successive yuga and now in Kali yuga, he stood on only one leg. The cow looked sad. Dharma deva asked Bhooma Devi why she looked unhappy. Was she mourning the fact that fewer sacrifices were being performed? Was she worried because people did not have enough to eat? Was she worrying about destitute women and children? Was she unhappy over the violations of rules needed for order in society?

Lord Narayana had taken the Krishna avatara to rid Bhooma Devi of her burdens. Was His absence the cause of her sorrow?

Bhooma Devi replied that with the end of the Krishna avatara, the darkness of Kali began to spread all over the world. Krishna had reduced the Earth's burdens, and Bhooma Devi had been blessed to have His feet touch her. Having enjoyed His divine touch, who would not bemoan His departure, Bhooma Devi asked. When the bull and the cow were thus engaged in conversation, ParEEKSHIT arrived.

# Mithun Chakraborty to get Dadasaheb Phalke Award

It will be presented to the veteran actor during the 70th National Film Awards ceremony on Oct. 8, says Vaishnaw; Prime Minister Modi calls him a 'cultural icon', who is admired across generations

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

Veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty was on Monday named recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the government's highest recognition in the field of cinema, for the year 2022. It will be presented during the 70th National Film Awards ceremony on October 8.

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw made the announcement on X.

The Minister said Mr. Chakraborty's journey from a young man with humble beginnings to a celebrated film icon embodied the spirit of hope and perseverance, proving that, with passion and dedication, one can achieve even the most ambitious dreams. His dedication and hard work have made him a role model for aspiring actors and artists, he said.

Congratulating Mr. Chakraborty, who is also a



Mithun Chakraborty has acted in more than 350 films across various Indian languages, giving diverse performances. ANI

member of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the actor was a "cultural icon" admired across generations.

"Delighted that Shri Mithun Chakraborty Ji has been conferred the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, recognising his unparalleled contributions to Indian cinema. He is a cultural icon, admired across generations for his versatile performances," Mr. Modi said in a post on X.

Mr. Chakraborty bagged the National Film Award

for Best Actor in his first film, *Mrigayaa* (1976). An alumnus of the prestigious Film and Television Institute of India, Mr. Chakraborty's portrayal of a Santal rebel in the film by Mrinal Sen earned him national accolade.

He gained significant popularity in the 1980s with his role in *Disco Dancer* (1982), a film that became a major success both in India and internationally, establishing him as a dancing sensation.

His performance in *Agneepath* also won him the

Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor in 1990.

Later, he won two more National Film Awards for his work in *Tahader Katha* (1992) and *Swami Vivekananda* (1998).

"Over his extensive career, Mithun has acted in more than 350 films across various Indian languages, including Hindi, Bengali, Odia, Bhojpuri, and Telugu. He is known for his diverse performances, ranging from action to drama and comedy, and has won several awards," the Ministry said.

"The Union Minister emphasised that Mithun Da is not only celebrated for his cinematic achievements but also for his dedication to social causes. He has been actively involved in various charitable initiatives aimed at education, healthcare, and supporting underprivileged communities, reflecting his commitment to giving back to society," it said.

He was recently conferred the Padma Bhushan.

## Dadasaheb Phalke Award

National award for contributions to [Indian cinema](#)



The 2022 recipient: [Mithun Chakraborty](#)

**Awarded for** "Outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema"

**Sponsored by** [Directorate of Film Festivals](#)

**Reward(s)** Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus)  
Shawl  
₹1,000,000 (US\$12,000)

**First awarded** 1969; 52 years ago

**Last awarded** 2022

**Most recent winner** [Mithun Chakraborty](#)

### Highlights

**Total awarded** 54

**First winner** [Devika Rani](#)

2020  
(68th NFA)



Asha Parekh

Hindi

Debuted in *Maa* (1952) as a child artist, Asha Parekh is an Indian actress who works primarily in Hindi cinema where she is fondly called *Jubilee Girl*. In addition to acting, she has also directed various television series in the early ages of satellite television in India. She was also honoured with the **Padma Shri** (1992) by the **Government of India**. She was awarded for the year 2020, in 2022 due to COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>[87]</sup>

2021  
(69th NFA)



Waheeda  
Rehman





Hindi

Waheeda Rehman made her acting debut with the Telugu film *Rojulu Marayi* (1955). She has featured in the films *CID* (1956), *Pyaasa* (1957), *Kaagaz Ke Phool* (1959), *Chaudhvin Ka Chand* (1960), *Guide* (1965), *Khamoshi* (1969), *Reshma Aur Shera* (1971), *Phagun* (1973), *Kabhi Kabhie* (1976), *Chandni* (1989), *Lamhe* (1991), *Rang De Basanti* (2006), and *Delhi 6* (2009). Waheeda Rehman was conferred with the **Padma Shri** in 1972 and **Padma Bhushan** in 2011 by the **Government of India**. Waheeda Rehman was last seen in *Skater Girl* (2021).<sup>[88]</sup>



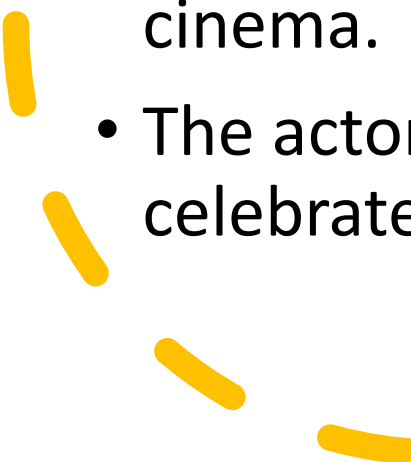


- **Mithun Chakraborty's Career:**

- Mithun Chakraborty began his career with the film *Mrigayaa* (1976), for which he won the National Film Award for Best Actor.
  - He gained widespread popularity in the 1980s with his role in *Disco Dancer* (1982), which made him a sensation in India and internationally.
  - Chakraborty has acted in over **350 films** in various languages, including Hindi, Bengali, Odia, Bhojpuri, and Telugu, and is known for his diverse performances across genres like action, drama, and comedy.
  - He has won numerous awards, including three **National Film Awards** and the **Padma Bhushan**.
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- 
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- 



- **Recognition and Statements:**

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting **Ashwini Vaishnaw** made the official announcement.
  - Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** called Mithun a "cultural icon" admired across generations and lauded his contributions to Indian cinema.
  - The actor's journey from humble beginnings to becoming an icon is celebrated, with emphasis on his dedication, passion, and versatility.
- 

- **Social Contributions:**

- Beyond cinema, Mithun Chakraborty has been active in social causes, participating in initiatives related to education, healthcare, and helping underprivileged communities.



**MOSCOW**  
**Russian forces claim capture of another village in east Ukraine**



Russia said on Monday its forces had captured the east Ukrainian village of Nelipivka, advancing in an area of the frontline where Kyiv claimed to have gained ground earlier this month. The Russian Defence Ministry said that its units had "actively liberated" the village of Nelipivka, using the Russian name for the village.

**Ready to confront any Israeli invasion in Lebanon: Hezbollah**

'We will choose a secretary-general for the party at the earliest opportunity, and we will fill the leadership positions on a permanent basis,' says the group's acting chief Naim Qassem; over 1,000 Lebanese were killed in Israeli strikes in two weeks

**BEIRUT**

Hezbollah fighters are primed to confront any Israeli ground invasion of Lebanon, the group's deputy leader Naim Qassem said on Monday in his first public speech since Israeli airstrikes killed its acting chief Hassan Nasrallah last week.

Israel will not achieve its goals, he said. "We will face any possibility and we are ready if the Israelis decide to enter by land and the resistance forces are ready for a ground engagement," he said in an address from an undisclosed location.

**REUTERS**



Intensive strikes: Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike in the southern Lebanese village of Kham on Monday.

He was speaking as Israeli air strikes on targets in Beirut and elsewhere in Lebanon continued, extending a two-week long wave of attacks that have killed several Hezbollah commanders but also killed about 1,000 Lebanese and forced one million to flee their homes, according to the Lebanese government.

"We will choose a secretary-general for the party at the earliest opportunity...and we will fill the leadership and positions on a permanent basis," Mr. Qassem said. He said Hezbollah's fighters had continued to fire rockets as deep as 150 km into Israeli territory and were ready to face any possible Israeli ground incursion. "What we are doing is the bare minimum...We know that the battle may be long," he said. "We will win as we won in the liberation of 2006 in the face of the Israeli enemy," he added.

Israel says it will do whatever it takes to return its citizens to evacuated communities on its northern border safely. It has not ruled out a ground invasion and its troops have been training

more equal Japan-U.S. security alliance, including joint management of U.S. bases in Japan and having Japanese "Self Defence Force bases in the United States.

The LDP has had a nearly unbroken tenure governing Japan since World War II. The party members may have seen Ishiba's more centrist views as crucial in pushing back challenges by the liberal-leaning opposition for the logistical convenience of those who have to prepare on relatively short notice. "I believe it is important to have the new administration get the public's judgment as soon as possible," Mr. Ishiba said.

He appointed former Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, who came in third in the party leadership race, to head the party's election task force. He is expected to name defence experts and his longtime confidantes Taisei Iwata as Foreign Minister and Gen Nakatani as defence chief once he takes office.

New proposals Mr. Ishiba has proposed an Asian version of the NATO military alliance and more discussion among regional partners about the use of the U.S. nuclear deterrence. He also suggested a

**WASHINGTON**  
**Biden approves \$567 million in defence assistance for Taiwan**



U.S. President Joe Biden on Sunday approved \$567 million in defence assistance for Taiwan, the White House said, as China ramps up political and military pressure on the self-ruled island. While the U.S. does not officially recognise Taiwan diplomatically, it is Taipei's key partner and major provider of weapons.

**RAMGARHAT**  
**Rwanda confirms eight deaths from Ebola-like Marburg virus**



Rwanda says eight people have died so far from the Ebola-like Marburg virus, just days after it declared an outbreak of the deadly hemorrhagic fever that has no authorised vaccine or treatment. The Marburg virus originates in fruit bats and spreads between people through close contact with the bodily fluids.

The elimination of Nasrallah is an important step, but it is not the final one. In order to ensure the return of Israel's northern communities, we will employ all of our capabilities, and this includes the northern border. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaan said Tehran would not let any of Israel's "criminal acts" go unanswered. He was referring to the killing of Nasrallah and an Iranian Guard deputy commander, Brigadier General Abbas Miloroushan, who died in the same strikes on Friday.

**KIGALI**  
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**BEIJING**  
**In national day speech, China's Xi calls for Taiwan reunification**



President Xi Jinping reiterated his call for China to "reunite" with Taiwan, the self-ruled island China claims as its own, during an address on the eve of national holiday celebrations. "Achieving complete national reunification is the common aspiration of the Chinese people," Mr. Xi said.

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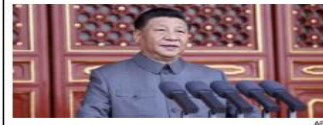
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**Japan's likely next leader plans to call election in October**

**Associated Press**

Shigeru Ishiba, the head of Japan's governing party, plans to call a parliamentary election to be held on October 27 after he is elected as Prime Minister on Tuesday.

Mr. Ishiba was chosen as the Liberal Democratic Party's leader on Friday and is assured to also succeed Fumio Kishida as Prime Minister because the party's coalition controls Parliament.

Mr. Ishiba mentioned the election date as he announced his top party leadership lineup on Monday ahead of forming his Cabinet. The plan is not official since he is not Prime Minister yet, but Mr. Ishiba said he mentioned the date early for the logistical convenience of those who have to prepare on relatively short notice. "I believe it is important to have the new administration get the public's judgment as soon as possible," Mr. Ishiba said.

He appointed former Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, who came in third in the party leadership race, to head the party's election task force. He is expected to name defence experts and his longtime confidantes Taisei Iwata as Foreign Minister and Gen Nakatani as defence chief once he takes office.

New proposals Mr. Ishiba has proposed an Asian version of the NATO military alliance and more discussion among regional partners about the use of the U.S. nuclear deterrence. He also suggested a

**Nepal surveys wreckage after deadly floods and landslides kill at least 200**

**Agence France-Press**

KATHMANDU Search and rescue teams in Nepal's capital picked through wrecked homes on Monday after waters receded from monsoon floods that killed at least 200 people around the Himalayan republic.

Deadly floods and landslides are common across south Asia during the monsoon season from June to September but experts say climate change is making them worse. Entire neighbourhoods in Kathmandu were inundated after the heaviest rains in more than two decades, with the capital temporarily cut off from the rest of Nepal after landslides blocked highways.

According to the latest figures, 200 have died and 127 are injured and 26 are still missing, Home Ministry spokesman Rishi Ram Thewal said. Police said at least 35 of those killed were buried alive when earth from a landslide careened into numerous people who had been stranded on the highways. Rescuers in knee-high rubber boots were using clear shovels to dig out survivors from the worst-hit riverside neighbourhoods around Kathmandu.

**Hurricane Helene leaves many missing in North Carolina**

**Reuters**

Emergency responders in North Carolina were racing on Monday to try to reach people who remain unaccounted for three days after Hurricane Helene ripped through the southern United States, killing more than 100 people, wiping out communications and leaving millions without power. In mountainous, hard-hit Buncombe County, which includes the city of Asheville, 35 people have been reported missing, a sheriff said at a news briefing on Monday. The county will begin distributing food and water later in the day to residents, after some supplies were airlifted to the area. "We don't have water and we do not have power across most of the county, and the roads are still incredibly dangerous," County Manager Avril Pinder said. Cellular phone service remained out in large swaths from Ohio through the Carolinas and into Florida. Some 2.1 million homes and businesses were without power at daybreak on Monday, according to the website Poweroutage.us. "The lack of communication is concerning," North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper said on Monday in an interview. "We know that there are people missing, and we know that there's going to be significant fatalities at the end of this and our prayers and our hearts go out to these families." Mr. Cooper, who said he had not heard from his son and daughter in 72 hours,

**Machado awarded top European rights prize**

**Agence France-Press**

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# Machado awarded top European rights prize

**Agence France-Presse**

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The award was received



Maria Corina Machado

on her behalf at Council of Europe headquarters in Strasbourg by her daughter Ana.



"I want to dedicate this recognition to the millions of Venezuelans who, every day, embody Havel's values and ideas," Ms. Machado, said in a video address.

Her movement had demonstrated "the victory of democrats over dictatorship", she said. , adding: "Today our struggle continues, because the truth persists until it prevails."



The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, commonly known as the Sakharov Prize, is an honorary award for individuals or groups who have dedicated their lives to the defence of human rights and freedom of thought.

Named after Russian scientist and dissident Andrei Sakharov, the prize was established in December 1988 by the European Parliament.

- 
- The first prize was awarded jointly to South African Nelson Mandela and Russian Anatoly Marchenko. The 1990 award was given to Aung San Suu Kyi, but she could not receive it until 2013 as a result of her political imprisonment in Burma.
- 

2021		<p>Alexei Navalny</p>	 Russia	<p>Opposition politician and anti-corruption activist</p>
2022		<p>The Ukrainian people</p>	 Ukraine	<p>Awarded to Ukrainians who are "protecting democracy, freedom and rule of law" following the <a href="#">2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine</a>.<sup>[40]</sup></p>
2023		<p>Mahsa Jina Amini †</p>	 Iran	<p><a href="#">Mahsa Amini's death</a> under suspicious circumstances led to <a href="#">widespread protests</a>, often under the slogan <a href="#">Woman, Life, Freedom</a>.<sup>[42]</sup></p>
		<p>Woman, Life, Freedom movement</p>		



HEAPING PRAISE India's aggressive package; joining the 300-club is special, says Morkel



Morne Morkel called Ravindra Jadeja a complete package after the all-rounder took his 300th Test wicket on Monday. "He bats, he bowls, he's a guy in your team that can make magic happen. There's always a guy you want on your team, and he's done that for many years. To join the 300 club is special."

DIFFERENT MINDSETS India's aggressive approach was a surprise, says Mehidy



Bangladesh all-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz said his team was surprised by India's aggressive approach on the fourth day. India scored at a brisk pace of more than eight runs per over in their first innings. "After 2-3 overs, we realised they were following their strategy. Their mindset was different, and we had a different way of thinking."

REMEDIAL ACTION Shukla defends the facilities at the Green Park Stadium



BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla defended the 80-year-old Green Park Stadium's facilities after poor drainage prevented play on day three despite no rain. He highlighted the stadium's heritage and said discussions were on to improve drainage, explaining that old technologies couldn't handle the heavy rain.

WISHLIST Fit-again Shardul ready to stake a claim for Australia tour



Staking a claim to being considered the pace-bowling all-rounder is definitely on Shardul Thakur's wish list by proving his fitness and hitting his peak in the next few weeks. "I am really looking forward to the upcoming tour of Australia. But yes, right now the focus is on the Iran Cup game and the first few Ranji games as well," he said.

Rohit's men throw down the gauntlet with a sensational batting display

The Indian top-order goes on the rampage, scoring at a breakneck speed and infusing life into a Test that lost two-and-a-half days of action

BANGLADESH IN INDIA S. Dinkar Ragav KANPUR

The mark of champion sides is that they make things happen and don't sit back hoping for the best. On Monday, the fourth day of the second Test at the Green Park Stadium, India showed how it was done and why it is the top-ranked team in the world.

Having lost the last two-and-a-half days due to rain and a wet outfield — only 35 overs were possible on the first day — it needed something remarkable from one side to try and force a result. Jasprit Bumrah laid the foundation in the morning, scalping three wickets on a placid pitch with a masterclass of seam bowling and reverse swing to restrict Bangladesh to 233.

For the visitors, overnight batter Virat Kohli and Mominul Haque went on to make a fine unbeaten 107 (19-4b, 17-4, 1x6), the 13th of his career.

But the contest turned on its head when the Indian batters took the bull by the horns, switching to T20 mode and unleashing carnage, much to the joy of a sell-out crowd.

The top-order raised four and six despite Najmul Hossain Shanto having six fielders on the ropes as the hosts moved into the lead in the 28th over.

Rest of India meets Mumbai in a battle of equals

IRANI CUP Amol Karhadkar LUCKNOW

Khaleel Ahmed gave Shardul Thakur a warm hug when they came across each other at the practice facility in the Bharat Ratna Shree Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium while Ajinkya Rahane and Ruturaj Gaikwad were involved in a candid chat on either side of the custom-ary captains' briefing with match officials.

However, the competitive side of the individuals and the groups will be on display as the inter-State season will kick off with the Z.R. Irani Cup. Beating a mighty Rest of India is considered to be the ultimate test for the Ranji champion side. It is the



Giving it his all: Jaiswal during the launchpad for India. SANDEEP SAKENA

Blistering pace

India, during the course of its breathtaking innings against Bangladesh, smashed many records, including a couple of its own

100: 10.1	200: 24.2
112: 11.1 (India vs West Indies, Port of Spain, 2023)	121: 11.1 (Australia vs Pakistan, Sydney, 2017)
150: 18.2	250: 30.1
123: 11.1 (India vs West Indies, Port of Spain, 2023)	133: 6.1 (England vs Pakistan, Rawalpindi, 2022)

PREVIOUS BEST: 4.2 England vs West Indies, Nottingham, 2024

cushion and opted for another go at the opposition. At stumps, Bangladesh finished on 26 for two in its second essay, facing an uphill task on the final day to keep a fired-up India at bay.

On the attack, Yashasvi Jaiswal (72) led the charge and signalled his intentions in the first over when he thrashed Hasan Mahmud for a hat-trick of boundaries, the pick be-

ing a pristine on-drive. And when Rohit lofted and pulled Khaled Ahmed for consecutive sixes off the first two balls he faced, it became evident what the plans were. In the blink of an eye, the home team raced to 51 for no loss in three overs — the fastest in Test history — as Rohit and Jaiswal swatted the Bangladesh bowlers all over the park.

Jaiswal was at his brutal best against the spinners, sweeping, cutting and driv-

ing to bring up his half-century off just 31 balls. Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli and K.L. Rahul (68) followed suit, striking at more than 100 and helping their side also record the quickest 100, 150, 200 and 250 in the longest format.

Beyond the team make-up, bigger selection battles will be on display, with an eye on a place to Australia. The squads: Rest of India: Ruturaj Gaikwad (Capt.), Ishan Kishan, Eshan Mani, Sudharshan, Devout Padikal, Shreyas Iyer (wk), Ishan Kishan (wk), Manav Suthar, Saravesh Jain, Prashant Mishra, Mukesh Kumar, Yash Dayal, Ricky Bhui, Shashwat Rawat, Kshaleel Ahmed and Rahul Shabar. Mumbai: Ajinkya Rahane (Capt.), Prithvi Shaw, Sarfaraz Khan, Ayush Mishra, Shreyas Iyer, Siddhesh Lad, Suryavansh Sheelge, Hardik Tenore (wk), Siddhant Mishra (wk), Shams Mudasir, Tanush Kotian, Harmanvir Singh, Shardul Thakur, Mohit Awashti, Mohammed Anees Khan and Royston Dias.

SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH — 1ST INNINGS Zakir Hasan c Jaiswal b Akash 0 (24b), Shadman Islam bow b Akash 24 (36b, 4x4), Mominul Haque (not out) 107 (29-4b, 17x4, 2x6), Najmul Hossain Shanto bow b Ashwin 31 (57b, 6x4), Muzaffiqur Rahim b Bumrah 11 (22b, 2x4), Litton Das c Rohit b Siraj 13 (30b, 3x4), Shakib Al Hasan (not out) 46 (17-2b, 2x4), Ashwin 9 (27b, 2x4), Mehidy Hasan Miraz c Gill b Bumrah 20 (42b, 4x4), Tajul Islam b Bumrah (8b, 1x4), Hasan Mahmud bow b Siraj 1 (6b), Khaled Ahmed c & b Jaiswal 4 (6b), Extras (b: 4, lb: 6, nb: 2), Total (In 74.2 overs): 233.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-26 (Zakir, 8.3 overs), 2-29 (Shadman, 10.1), 3-112 (Muzaffiqur, 40.2), 4-145 (Litton, 49.1), 5-176 (Shakib, 55.6), 7-224 (Mehidy, 68.4), 8-230 (Tajul, 71.1), 9-233 (Mominul, 72.2).

INDIA BOWLING Bumrah 18-7-60-3, Siraj 17-2-57-2, Ashwin 15-45-2, Akash 15-6-43-2, Jaiswal 9-2-28-1.

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS Yashasvi Jaiswal b Mahmud 72 (52b, 22x4, 2x6), Rohit Sharma b Mahmud 23 (26b, 3x4), Shubman Gill b Mahmud 39 (55b, 4x4, 1x6), Virat Kohli b Mahmud 107 (19-4b, 17-4, 1x6), Mominul Haque b Mahmud 10 (11b, 1x4).

INDIA BOWLING Bumrah 18-7-60-3, Siraj 17-2-57-2, Ashwin 15-45-2, Akash 15-6-43-2, Jaiswal 9-2-28-1.

reaching his fifty off just 33 deliveries. In the morning session, Bumrah knocked over overnight batter Muzaffiqur Rahim who shakily struck arms to a delivery that came in sharply from wide outside off-stump. Though the experienced Litton Das and Shakib Al Hasan threw their wickets away, while trying to take on the bowlers, Mominul was at his free-flowing best, playing his trademark cuts and pulls. He got to the three-fig-

ures mark in style, sweeping Ashwin to the square-leg fence. Jaiswal in 300-club Post lunch, Bumrah struck twice in two overs before Ravindra Jadeja closed out the innings taking a simple return catch to scalp his 300th Test wicket. On a pitch with variable bounce, which is also assisting the two-akers, Ashwin and Jadeja will fancy their chances of running the Bangladesh opposition.

INDIA BOWLING Bumrah 18-7-60-3, Siraj 17-2-57-2, Ashwin 15-45-2, Akash 15-6-43-2, Jaiswal 9-2-28-1.

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INDIA BOWLING Bumrah 18-7-60-3, Siraj 17-2-57-2, Ashwin 15-45-2, Akash 15-6-43-2, Jaiswal 9-2-28-1.

Waibhav sizzles as India under-19 makes strong reply in Youth Test

TARAN SHAHSTRY CHENNAI

On a hot and humid day, 13-year-old opener Vaibhav Suryavanshi (81) batting, 175, 83x, 2x6) hogged the spotlight with exquisite strokeplay to put India 149 in a dominant position at 103 for no loss against Australia 1-10 on Monday.

Earlier, India's bowlers led by leg-spinner Mohammed Ansaar (17-2-48-3) and pacers N. Samarth (13-4-49-3) and Yashasvi Rawat (10-1-50-2) dismissed Australia for 293 in its first innings.

After electing to bat, Australia made a decent start through its openers before left-arm spinner Aditya Singh removed Ashar Khan and Rohan Kanungo in the 11th over,



On the attack: Vaibhav was in top form. R. RAGU

trapping him in front. Australia suffered a mini-collapse just before lunch as it was dismissed to 121 for four. Enaan Ahmed-Zac Curtain, courtesy of a sharp low catch at silly point by Nitay Pandya, and Samarth had Oliver caught behind.

India got a double breakthrough in the second session as Enaan removed Australia skipper Simon Budge and Addison Sherin in quick succession.

However, Christian Howe (48, 85b, 6x4) and Aidan O'Connor (61, 70b, 7x4, 2x6) brought the visitors back into the contest with a 98-run seventh-wicket stand before Aditya dismissed Howe in the 64th over and O'Connor in the 66th.

Samarth cleaned up the tail before Vaibhav took over and asserted his authority as India made a blazing start. The scores: Australia 139 293 in 73.4 overs (Riley Kingall 53, Christian Howe 48, Aidan O'Connor 61, 70b, 7x4, 2x6) vs India 103 103 in 14 overs (Samarth 81 batting). Total: Australia.



**Giving it his all:** Jaiswal provided the launchpad for India. SANDEEP SAXENA

Blistering pace India, during the course of its breathtaking innings against Bangladesh, smashed many records, including a couple of its own



Fastest 50

**PREVIOUS BEST:**

**4.2**

**England vs West Indies,  
Nottingham and  
Birmingham, 2024**

**100: 10.1**

(12.2 India vs  
West Indies, Port  
of Spain, 2023)

**200: 24.2**

(28.1 Australia  
vs Pakistan,  
Sydney, 2017)

**150: 18.2**

(21.1 India vs  
West Indies, Port  
of Spain, 2023)

**250: 30.1**

(33.6 England  
vs Pakistan,  
Rawalpindi, 2022)

## MF LITE REGULATIONS ALSO GET BOARD NOD Sebi approves new asset class, faster rights issue

to green light to  
&O guidelines

KSHATA GORDE  
Mumbai, September 30

SEBI SECURITIES AND Exchange Board of India (Sebi), in its board meeting on Monday, approved a slew of measures, including the introduction of a new asset class, faster rights issue process, an ASBA-like facility for secondary market, and expanding the scope of insider trading for listed companies. However, the widely-anticipated futures and options guidelines did not get a green signal from the board members.

This was the first board meeting of the securities regulator after allegations were leveled against its chairman, Madhabi Puri Buch by US short-seller Hindenburg and its Opposition Congress. Sebi did not hold press briefings as has been the norm.

The regulator also cleared simplified compliance and eligibility requirements for investment advisers, and the Mutual funds Lite (MFLite) framework for fund

NEW ASSET CLASS

Ticket size of minimum ₹10 lakh

for high risk-takers in schemes called Investment Strategies

Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch

MF LITE REGULATIONS For AMC's launching only passive funds, even existing ones can give off passive schemes in a separate group company under same sponsor

TIGHTER INSIDER TRADING NORMS Adding more categories, including spouse, kids, parent of person & spouse, sibling and their kids

EASING NOMINATION From 3 to 10, simplifying process with minimum documentation

houses launching only passively managed schemes.

The new asset class, which will offer investment strategies, is aimed at higher risk investors to bridge the gap between mutual funds and portfolio management services (PMS). The minimum ticket size for this product will be ₹10 lakh.

The new product also aims to curtail the proliferation of unregistered and unauthorised investment schemes/entities, which often promise unrealistic high

returns and exploit investors' expectations for better yields, leading to potential financial risks," Sebi said in a press release.

In a move that will help listed companies quickly raise capital and make rights issues attractive over preferential issues, Sebi has shortened the timeline for a rights issue to only 23 working days from 317 days.

Continued on Page 7  
Other measures, Page 6

## BANKER OF THE YEAR V VAIDYANATHAN, MD & CEO, IDFC FIRST BANK Fortune favours the brave

SHOBHANA SUBRAMANIAN  
New Delhi, September 30

HE WANTED TO be a pilot, but became a banker instead first at Citibank and then at ICICI Bank. In 2010, he was bitten by the entrepreneurial bug and mortgaged his house to buy into a loss-making non-banking financial company.

Looking back, Vaidyanathan, 56, doesn't regret the big risk that he took giving up a good job and board seat at ICICI Bank to build a retail lending business. The MD and CEO of IDFC First Bank had always wanted to set up a bank, convinced that the scope for lending — especially



to small enterprises — was enormous. In fact, it took him just two sittings to finalise the merger of Capital First into IDFC Bank, and the regulator backed him. And although virtually all the top

private equity firms dismissed his plans as unrealistic, he soldiered on.

Despite the pandemic having disrupted business for a couple of years, the operations of IDFC First Bank are

now on a firm footing. In 2022-23, three rating agencies — Crisil, Ica and India Ratings — upgraded the bank's long-term credit rating to A+ (stable). Indeed, it was a standout year for the lender with profits soaring to ₹2,457 crore and delinquencies falling sharply. Critically, the bank was able to take up the share of retail deposits to 76%. The bank's market capitalisation more than doubled from ₹24,561 crore in April 2022 to ₹53,907 crore in March 2023.

Despite his formidable achievements, it isn't all work and no play.

Continued on Page 7

## IN THE NEWS

### POWER COMPANIES SPEED-DIAL BANGLA JOINT FOR DUES

FACED WITH MOUNTING dues from Bangladesh, Indian power firms have started discussions with the country's interim government and Power Development Board, report **Runima Bhattacharya & Anshavendra Kamath** ■ PAGE 2

### JET TAX GROWTH DROPS BELOW BUDGET ESTIMATE

THE CENTRE'S GROSS tax revenue in the first five months of FY25 stood at ₹13.3 trillion, 2% higher from same period last year, data showed. However, net receipts (after mandatory expenditure to states) grew at just 7%, against the budgeted growth rate of 11.5%, reports **Riyansh Verma** ■ PAGE 3

### IBI FLAGS LAPSES IN GOLD LOAN PRACTICES

IBI HAS UNCOVERED significant irregularities in the processing of loans against gold jewellery by supervisory entities, reports **Sachin Kumar**. The lapses were found after a recent review and on-site inspection. ■ PAGE 6

## OUTPUT GROWS 21.5% IN 2022-23

## Industrial survey shows sustained recovery, but wage growth sluggish

RIYANSH VERMA  
New Delhi, September 30

INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT GREW more than 4% in 2022-23 compared with 35% in 2021-22, indicating that the decline reported in the previous year due to the pandemic has been quickly offset, an annual survey of industries released by the Union statistics ministry on Monday showed.

However, at 7.3%, the growth in gross value added (GVA) by the industry in 2022-23 was much lower than 27% reported in the previous year, reflecting reduced reporting over the industry.

Additionally, the survey results showed net growth of 4.4% in worker per factory gain 7.9% in the previous year, reflecting net over-capitalisation as workers are picking up jobs growth is lagging behind.

Wages per worker also saw a slower rise of 5.5% in 2022-23 against a 10% increase in 2021-22. The reasons for the lower wage growth, according to Lakshya Chakraborty, professor at National Institute of Public

### IN A NUTSHELL



Finance and Policy, are not just cyclical but also structural in nature. "The cyclical factors are related to macroeconomic uncertainty and inflation. The structural factors require a deeper understanding in the context of India which relates to labour market dynamics itself," she said.

According to NRBhanumathy, director at Madras School of Economics, the lower growth rates in GVA, input and output in 2022-23 compared with the previous year are a consequence of base effect, which impacted the growth prints of FY21 and 2021-22, and normalised in 2022-23.

Continued on Page 7

## Sensex, Nifty down 1.5% on global fears

Escalating West Asia crisis, yen carry trade risks spook investors

VIVEK KUMAR M  
Mumbai, September 30

BENCHMARK INDICES HAD their worst day in nearly two months on Monday as concerns over yen carry trade and the escalating geopolitical crisis in West Asia spooked global investors.

Sensex tanked 1,272 points or 1.5% to close at 84,299.78, while the Nifty dropped 368 points or 1.4% to 25,810.85. Investor wealth declined by ₹3.28 trillion to ₹474.35 trillion on the BSE.

As per provisional data, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) sold shares worth ₹9,791.93 crore during the day, while domestic institutional investors bought ₹4,645.80 crore shares.

Reliance Industries (RIL) and private bank stocks were the biggest contributors to the fall in the key indices. While RIL, single-handedly contributed to around 23% of Sensex's fall, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank together contributed for another 35%.

Experts said global factors will play a more crucial role in market activity going ahead despite domestic events such as the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) policy meeting, regulatory changes, and earnings season.

"I don't see any big surprises when it comes to earnings and the market is expecting moderate numbers. More than corporate results, the global situation will be a bigger factor, espe-

cially with what is happening in West Asia and even on the Russia-Ukraine front. The uncertainty on account of these events plus the recent push to China post the recent government intervention is going to increasingly become bigger influences on the market," UR Bhat, co-founder of Alphamill Finest, said.

Meanwhile, Japan's Nikkei 225 index slumped nearly 2% on Monday after Shigeru Ishiba, who is perceived to be in favour of raising interest rates and Laiba, was elected the head of the country's ruling party.

Continued on Page 7

Corporate Partner: WORLD TRADE CENTER, HX Partner: HX, Starkey, Associate Partners: NVATI, FinStack, EY

## Tracking the macro indicators



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**BANKER OF THE YEAR**

**V VAIDYANATHAN, MD & CEO, IDFC FIRST BANK**

# Fortune favours the brave

**SHOBHANA SUBRAMANIAN**  
New Delhi, September 30

**HE WANTED TO** be a pilot, but became a banker instead — first at Citibank and then at ICICI Bank. In 2010, he was bitten by the entrepreneurial bug and mortgaged his house to buy into a loss-making non-banking financial company.

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INDIA RATING AND CREDIT REGISTRY  
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Presents

**FE** INDIA'S  
**BEST BANKS AWARDS**

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now on a firm footing. In 2022-23, three rating agencies — Crisil, Ica and India Ratings — upgraded the bank's long-term credit rating to AA+ (stable). Indeed, it was a standout year for the lender with profits soaring to ₹2,437 crore and delinquencies falling sharply. Critically, the bank was able to take up the share of retail deposits to 76%. The bank's market capitalisation more than doubled from ₹24,561 crore in April 2022 to ₹53,307 crore in March 2023.

Despite his formidable achievements, it isn't all work and no play.

**Continued on Page 7**

<b>Founded</b>	October 2015; 8 years ago
<b>Headquarters</b>	<a href="#">Mumbai, Maharashtra, India</a>
<b>Key people</b>	<a href="#">V. Vaidyanathan</a> (MD & CEO)
<b>Products</b>	<a href="#">Consumer banking</a> <a href="#">Credit cards</a> <a href="#">Home loans</a> <a href="#">Loans against property</a> <a href="#">Personal loans</a> <a href="#">Consumer Durable loans</a> <a href="#">Vehicle loans</a> <a href="#">Business loans</a> <a href="#">Micro Enterprise loans</a> <a href="#">Private banking</a> <a href="#">Wealth management</a> <a href="#">Investment banking</a> <a href="#">Corporate banking</a> <a href="#">Wholesale banking</a>
<b>Revenue</b>	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> ₹36,257 crore (US\$4.3 billion) (2024) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Operating income</b>	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> ₹6,239 crore (US\$750 million) (2024) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Net income</b>	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> ₹2,942 crore (US\$350 million) (2024) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Total assets</b>	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> ₹296,210 crore (US\$35 billion) (2024) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Total equity</b>	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> ₹25,145 crore (US\$3.0 billion) (2024) <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Number of employees</b>	20,222 (March 2020)
<b>Parent</b>	<a href="#">Infrastructure Development Finance Company</a>
<b>Subsidiaries</b>	<a href="#">IDFC FIRST Bharat</a>
<b>Capital ratio</b>	13.28% <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Rating</b>	<a href="#">CRISIL AA+/Stable</a> <sup>[3]</sup> <a href="#">Ind-Ra IND AA+/Stable</a> <sup>[4]</sup> <a href="#">CARE AA+/Stable (NCDs)</a> <sup>[5]</sup> <a href="#">Sustainalytics ESG Risk Rating Comprehensive 20.1</a>

# **AFTER 142 YEARS, UK'S LAST COAL PLANT SHUT**

BRITAIN'S LAST COAL-FIRED power plant is closing on Monday, ending 142 years of coal-generated electricity in the nation that sparked the Industrial Revolution. The Ratcliffe-on-Soar station in central England is finishing its final shift at midnight after more than half a century of turning coal into power.

## SC ASKS IIT TO ADMIT DALIT STUDENT WHO LOST SEAT AFTER FAILING TO PAY ₹17.5K FEE ON TIME

'Can't Allow A Young Talented Boy To Go Away,' Says SC, Invokes Extraordinary Power

➤ Petitioner **Atul Kumar** (18), who cracked **JEE Advanced** in his second and final attempt, approached National Commission for Scheduled Castes, J'khand Legal Services Authority and Madras HC after being denied admission. Then he moved SC as last resort



➤ Atul hails from a poor family of Titora village in UP's Muzaffarnagar district. Arranging ₹17,500 for his admission was a big ask. The villagers pooled in the money, but it was too late

➤ 'All the best! Achha kariye!' CJ Chandrachud, heading a 3-J bench, told Atul who was present in SC. He will study BTech (electrical



Atul Kumar's mother Rajesh Devi celebrates with neighbours at Titora village in UP's Muzaffarnagar district on Monday

engineering) at IIT-Dhanbad

➤ Atul told TOI, 'I thank God and SC for saving my future. My dream of becoming an

engineer feels within reach'. One of his brothers has done MTech (NIT Hamirpur); another studies at IIT-Kgp

“ The only thing that stopped him (Atul Kumar) was his inability to pay... We are of the view that the petitioner who belongs to a marginalised group and did all to secure admission should not be left in the lurch. The power of the Court under Article 142\* of the Constitution is to address such situations. We direct that the candidate be granted admission to IIT-Dhanbad... Let him be in the same batch to which he would have been... had the fees been paid (on time). A supernumerary seat should be created for him and no existing student disturbed in the process – Supreme Court

\*Article 142 empowers SC to pass orders and decrees to achieve 'complete justice'

# What Indians Borrow For

Desire to buy a house dominates loans taken for personal consumption in value terms. In volume, loans taken for smaller purchases—e.g. gadgets, appliances, credit card overruns—dominate debt portfolio of Indians. The 10x difference in value and volume of home loans points to large value of each loan

■ Loan as % of total in outstanding **value** ■ % of total active loan **volume**



Source: CRIF





# Reforming Bail Provisions

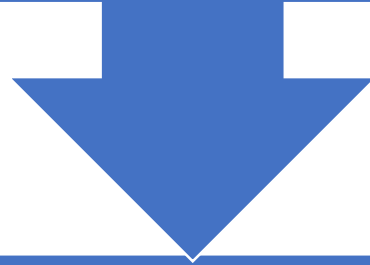




Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) disapproved of using the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 “as a tool” to prolong the incarceration of an accused.

It ruled that constitutional courts will not allow indefinite pretrial detention under the anti-money laundering law.

What are the Key Points of SC's Ruling on PMLA and Bail?




**No Arbitrary Detention:** Although there is a *prima facie* case against an accused, the court can rule in favour of his release due to the **prolonged detention** without a clear timeline for the trial.

Stringent provisions of the **PMLA, 2002**, especially **Section 45**, should not result in **arbitrary detention** of the accused.

- **According to Section 45 of the PMLA, 2002 bail can be granted to an accused in a money laundering case only if two conditions are satisfied.**
  - **The person has to prove in court that he or she is prima facie innocent of the offence.**
  - **The accused should be able to convince the judge s/he would not commit any offence while on bail.**



- **Bail Principles Affirmed:**
  - **The court reaffirmed the principle that “bail is the rule, and jail is the exception” in India’s criminal jurisprudence.**
    - **It was noted that the high threshold for bail under PMLA must not lead to an indefinite loss of personal liberty for the accused.**
- 

- Judicial Concerns on Delayed Trials:
- The ruling highlighted the intersection of delayed trials and harsh bail provisions under special laws like PMLA, 2002, or UAPA, 1967 and Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS).
- The expeditious disposal of trials is necessary and should be integrated into the interpretation of these laws.



What are the Concerns Regarding India's Bail System?



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graph TD; A[What are the Concerns Regarding India's Bail System?] --> B[High Proportion of Undertrials]; B --> C[Undermines Principle of 'Presumption of Innocence']; C --> D[Lack of Empirical Evidence]; D --> E[Challenges in Bail Adjudication:];
```

High Proportion of Undertrials

Undermines Principle of 'Presumption of Innocence

Lack of Empirical Evidence

Challenges in Bail Adjudication:

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**With reference to India, consider the following statements: (2021)**

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When a prisoner makes out a sufficient case, parole cannot be denied to such prisoner because it becomes a matter of his/her right.

---

State Governments have their own Prisoners Release on Parole Rules.

---

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

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**(a)** 1 only

---

**(b)** 2 only

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**(c)** Both 1 and 2

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**(d)** Neither 1 nor 2

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**World Rabies  
Day 2024**

- The World Rabies Day is observed annually on September 28 to promote reflection on past misconceptions surrounding this fatal disease, while also highlighting the continued efforts to advance vaccines and modern strategies for rabies prevention and control.

It is a viral, vaccine-preventable zoonotic disease.

It is caused by a Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) virus that is present in the saliva of a rabid animal (dog, cat, monkey, etc).

It is primarily transmitted to humans through bites from infected dogs, and despite being entirely preventable with timely vaccinations.

Once clinical symptoms appear, rabies is virtually 100% fatal. The death invariably occurs in four days to two weeks due to cardio-respiratory failure.

The incubation period varies from 2–3 months but may vary from 1 week to 1 year, or rarely even more.

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## What do we Need to Know About World Rabies Day (WRD)?

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About: It was first launched in 2007.

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It marks the death anniversary of Louis Pasteur, who developed the first rabies vaccine.

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Louis Pasteur was a French chemist, pharmacist, and microbiologist renowned for his discoveries of the principles of vaccination, microbial fermentation, and pasteurisation.

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The World Health Organisation (WHO) has set an ambitious goal to eliminate dog-mediated rabies by 2030.

- **Theme:**

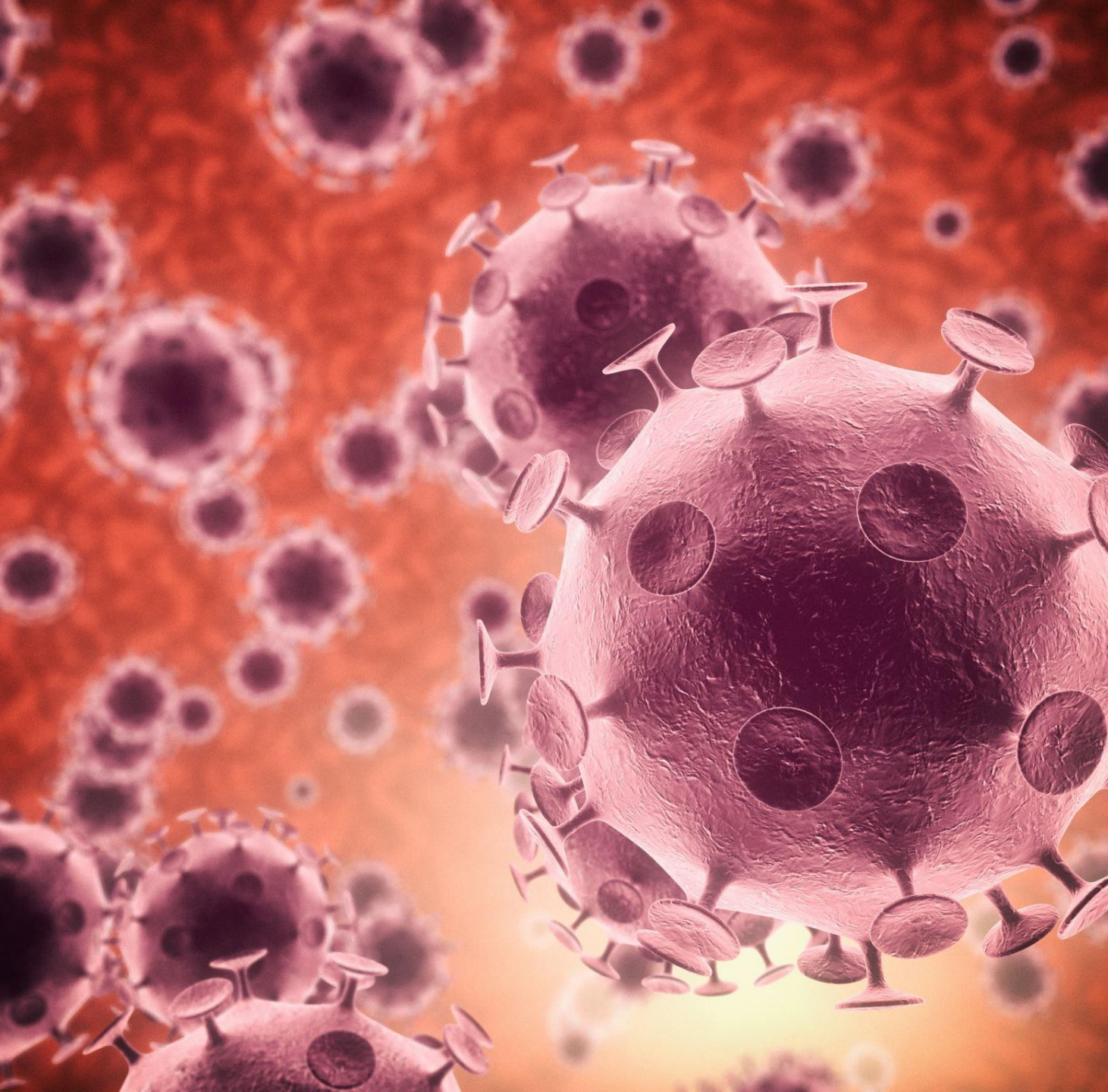
- **The theme for WRD 2024 is 'Breaking Rabies Boundaries'.**
- **It emphasises the One Health approach, which stresses the importance of collaboration between human health, animal health, and environmental sectors.**



## Rabies in India:

In 2021, rabies in India accounted for 59,000 deaths, constituting 35% of the global total, with 96% of these cases stemming from dog bites.

The economic burden of dog-mediated rabies in India was estimated at USD 8.6 billion. Newer rabies immunoglobulin (Rabies Ig) vaccines are used for rabies prevention.



# Marburg Viral Disease



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Many people have died in Rwanda following an outbreak of the **Marburg Viral Disease**.

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## About Marburg Viral Disease

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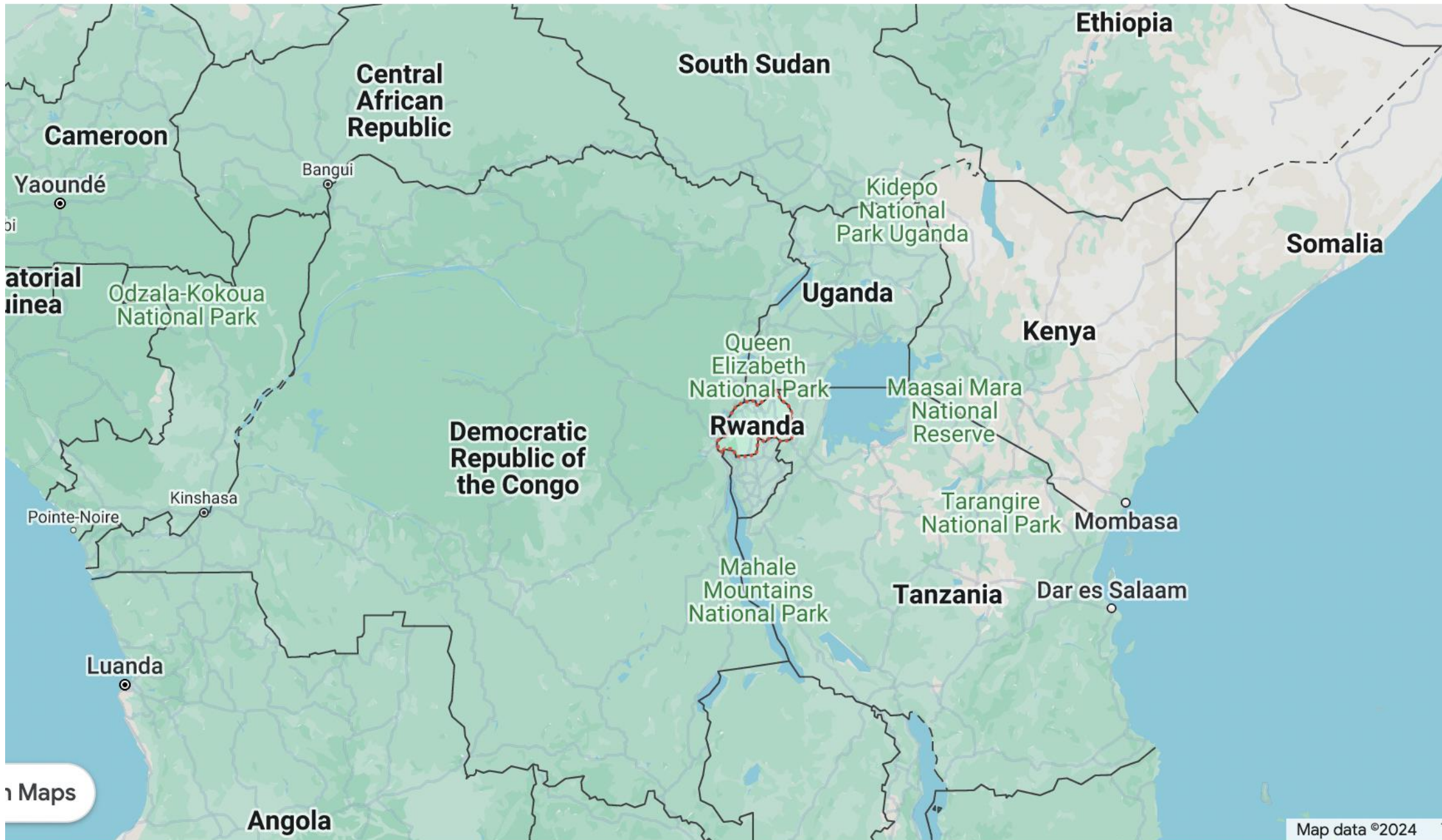
It is a severe, **highly infectious hemorrhagic fever** similar to Ebola belongs to the filovirus family.

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The natural host of the **Marburg virus is the African fruit bat**, which carries the pathogen. The virus can be transmitted from bats to primates, including humans.

The virus was first identified in 1967 in Marburg, Germany, after workers contracted it from infected green monkeys.

There are currently no approved vaccines or antiviral treatments.



<b>Capital</b> and largest city	Kigali  <span><span><span><span><span>1°56′38″S</span> <span>30°3′34″E</span></span></span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>﻿</span></span><span><span><span>1.94389°S 30.05944°E</span><span><span>﻿</span> / <span>-1.94389; 30.05944</span></span><span><span>﻿</span> (<span>-1.94389; 30.05944</span>)</span></span></span></span></span>
<b>Official languages</b>	Kinyarwanda English French Swahili
<b>Ethnic groups</b> (1994)	100% Banyarwanda <sup>[1]</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— 85% Hutu</li> <li>— 14% Tutsi</li> <li>— 1% Twa</li> </ul>
<b>Religion</b>	93.8% Christianity 3.0% no religion 2.2% Islam 1.0% other <sup>[2]</sup>
<b>Demonym(s)</b>	Rwandan · Rwandese
<b>Government</b>	Unitary presidential republic under an authoritarian dictatorship <sup>[3][4][5][6][7][8]</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President Paul Kagame</li> <li>• Prime Minister Édouard Ngirente</li> </ul>
<b>Legislature</b>	Parliament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upper house Senate</li> <li>• Lower house Chamber of Deputies</li> </ul>

<b>Population</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024 estimate 13,623,302<sup>[9]</sup> (76th)</li> <li>• Density 517/km<sup>2</sup> (1,339.0/sq mi) (22nd)</li> </ul>
<b>GDP (PPP)</b>	2023 estimate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total <span style="color: green;">▲</span> \$42.346 billion<sup>[10]</sup> (139th)</li> <li>• Per capita <span style="color: green;">▲</span> \$3,136<sup>[10]</sup> (165th)</li> </ul>
<b>GDP (nominal)</b>	2023 estimate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total <span style="color: green;">▲</span> \$13.927 billion<sup>[10]</sup> (129th)</li> <li>• Per capita <span style="color: green;">▲</span> \$1,031<sup>[10]</sup> (167th)</li> </ul>
<b>Gini</b> (2016)	43.7 <sup>[11]</sup> medium inequality
<b>HDI</b> (2022)	<span style="color: green;">▲</span> 0.548 <sup>[12]</sup> low (161st)
<b>Currency</b>	Rwandan franc (RWF)

# Kerala's 'RRR Champion' Initiative

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- Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the '**Waste to Wealth**' mantra and its success through the **Swachh Bharat Mission**, highlighting the importance of 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.'
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- **RRR Champion' Initiative**
  - The Prime Minister mentioned Mr. Subramanian, a 74-year-old from Kozhikode, Kerala, who has repaired over 23,000 chairs, making them reusable.
    - Mr. Subramanian is known as the '**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**' (RRR) **Champion** for his unique efforts.
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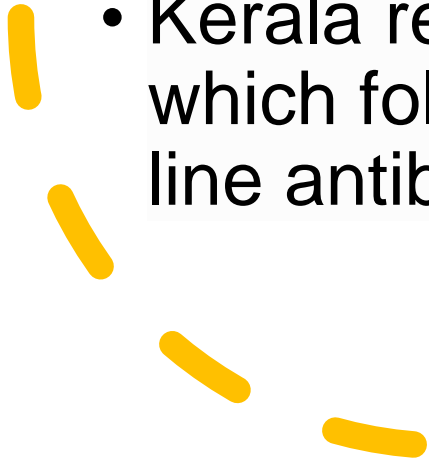
- His work can be seen in various offices such as Kozhikode Civil Station, PWD, LIC, and BSNL.
- The principles of **3R – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle** – have been an integral part of Indian culture.
- Preserving biodiversity, sustainable living and peaceful coexistence with nature have been the guiding philosophy of the Indian way of life and have always been part of the teachings of ancient scriptures



# Operation Amrith



- Kerala has taken a significant step in combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by launching Operation Amrith, enforcing the 2011 H1 rule to prohibit the over-the-counter (OTC) sale of antibiotics.
- **About Operation Amrith:**
- **Aim:** To curb the irrational use of antibiotics by banning their sale without a prescription, reducing the rise of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- **Launched by:** Kerala government in 2023.


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- **Features:** Strict enforcement of the 2011 H1 rule, which bans the OTC sale of all classes of antibiotics (first, second, and third-line) without a doctor's prescription.
  - Targeting pharmacies, hospitals, and other medical stores to ensure compliance.
  - Kerala remained committed to the 2011 rule, unlike other states which followed a modified 2013 rule allowing OTC sales of first-line antibiotics.
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- Focuses on antibiotic stewardship to prevent the misuse of antibiotics, thus mitigating the threat of AMR.

- **Targets:**

- To completely stop the OTC sale of antibiotics without prescriptions by the end of 2024.
- Achieve a sustained reduction in antibiotic misuse, which has already resulted in a ₹1,000 crore decline in sales.

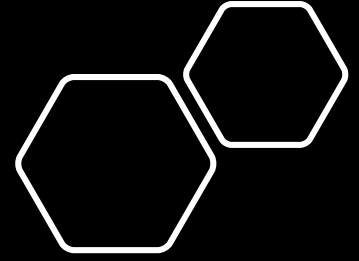
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- Fun fact



## Did You Know?

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**Sharks** have existed longer than **trees**



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# Word of the day

## **Feckless:**

not fit to assume responsibility; generally incompetent and ineffectual

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**Synonym:** inept

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**Usage:** *Those were feckless attempts to repair the plumbing.*

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**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/fecklesspro](http://newsth.live/fecklesspro)

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**International Phonetic**

**Alphabet:** /'fɛkləs/, /'fɛklɪs/

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

Thank you  
guys.

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