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IN BRIEF



Dera Sacha Sauda chief walks out of jail on 20-day parole

Dera Sacha Sauda chief and rape convict Gurmest Ram Rahim Singh on Wednesday walked out of Sunaria jail in Haryana's Rohtak after he was granted a 20-day parole. During his temporary release period, Singh will stay at Dera ashram in Barnawa in Uttar Pradesh's Bagpat. He came out of jail under tight security in the morning after his release on parole, an official said. The Haryana government has granted the parole to Singh while barring him from taking part in poll-related activities, making speeches and staying in the state during the period.

Bomb scare at railway stations in M.P., Rajasthan

Railway and police authorities in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan were on alert and security was tightened on Wednesday after a threat was received in Rajasthan to blow up various railway stations in the two states as well as Ujjain's famous Mahakaleswar Temple. However, no suspicious object was found anywhere. A handwritten letter, written in the name of Pakistan-based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad was received at Hamamgarh railway station.

3 killed as Mumbai-bound chopper crashes near Pune

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

Two pilots and an engineer were killed in a helicopter crash in the Bavdhan area of Maharashtra's Pune district on Wednesday.

The helicopter, an Agusta A109S Grand (VTETVV), was chartered to Delhi-based Heritage Aviation, took off from the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport and was headed for Juhu in Mumbai, an official said.

The helicopter crashed near the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory around 7 a.m.

NCP hired chopper
The chopper was scheduled to pick up Nationalist Congress Party State chief Sunil Tarkare from Mumbai.

Calling the incident unfortunate, Mr. Tarkare said, "The flight was booked by the party for travel to Raigad district for the election campaign."

Pimpri Chinchwad Police Commissioner, Vinay Kumar Choubey, told *The Hindu*, "The technician who was behind the crash is yet



As he shapes: The mangled remains of the crashed private helicopter that took off from Pune on Tuesday. ANI

to be ascertained, but as per primary information, this region experienced heavy fog this morning."

The deceased were identified as captain Girish Kumar Pillai, 53, a pilot from Andhra Pradesh, captain Paramjit Singh, 64, a pilot from Delhi, and captain Pratechand Bhandari, 56, an engineer from Navi Mumbai. The bodies were taken to Pune's Sion Hospital for autopsy.

"The chopper was heavily damaged. Our teams responded and the fire was controlled," Mr. Choubey said.

Locals informed the fire department about the crash following which four

2 women Navy officers begin voyage around the world

They will attempt to circumnavigate the globe on the 56-foot boat *Tarini*, covering 23,000 nautical miles over eight months; Navy chief Admiral Dilip Tripathi flags off the expedition from Goa

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Commander Dilna K. and Lieutenant Commander Roopa A. of the Indian Navy on Wednesday embarked on Goa on a challenging expedition to circumnavigate the globe, covering 23,000 nautical miles over 240 days.

The second edition of the Navika Sagar Parikrama was flagged off from Ocean Sailing Node, INS Mandwa, by Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi. The two women officer set sail on the *JNSV Tarini*.

The voyage will take the two women officers across four continents through three oceans and three challenging capes. "I am pleased to note that Navika Sagar Parikrama will contribute towards progressing national scientific research in collaboration with the National Institute of Oceanography for study on marine micro-



The journey will take the two women officers across four continents through three oceans and three challenging capes. PTI

plastics and ferrous content at the sea; Wildlife Institute of India for exploration on Mega Fauna or large sea mammals; Sagar Defence for their drones that promise eye-spectacular visuals of the voyage; and the Indian Research Laboratory towards providing customised precooked Indian meals so that our valiant warriors always feel at home," Admiral Tripathi

told the gathering. He also released a special chart commemorating the expedition on the occasion. It will unfold in five legs with stopovers at four ports for replenishment and maintenance. The five stops are Port Phillip, Australia; Fremantle, Lyttelton; New Zealand to Port Stanley, Falkland; Port Stanley to Cape Town, South Africa; and from Cape Town to Goa.

JNSV Tarini, a 56-foot sailing vessel built by Agnirius Shipyard Ltd., was inducted in the Indian Navy on February 18, 2017. The vessel has clocked more than 66,000 nautical miles (122,228 km) and participated in the first edition of Navika Sagar Parikrama in 2017, trans-oceanic expedition from Goa to Rio, Goa to Port Louis, and other significant expeditions.

The boat is equipped with advanced navigation, safety and communication equipment and has undergone necessary maintenance and equipment upgrade recently, the Navy said in a statement.

The officers with a sailing experience of 38,000 nautical miles (70,376 km) have trained vigorously for this epic voyage for more than three years. They have been trained on ocean sailing aspects of seamanship, meteorology, navigation, survival techniques and medicare at sea.

PM launches special welfare package for tribal villages

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched the Dharti Aaba Janajyoti Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, a package for basic scheme saturation in tribal-majority villages across 650 districts, at an event in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district, where he also laid the foundation stones for a host of other projects intended to benefit tribal people across the country.

The package, originally coined as the PM Janajyoti Utkarsh Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA), was cleared by the Union Cabinet last month as an umbrella package to implement existing schemes in 63,000 Scheduled Tribe-majority villages. There are 25 interventions planned worth ₹79,156 crore, to be spent over five years, has been

coined as the PM Janajyoti Utkarsh Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA), was cleared by the Union Cabinet last month as an umbrella package to implement existing schemes in 63,000 Scheduled Tribe-majority villages. There are 25 interventions planned worth ₹79,156 crore, to be spent over five years, has been cleared by the Union Cabinet. The Central share will be ₹66,333 crore and the share of respective States will be ₹22,823 crore.

200 major railway accidents took place in past five years, 351 people killed, show data

Maini Porocha
NEW DELHI

Over the past five years, 351 persons were killed and 970 injured in 200 consequential railway accidents, data shared by the Indian Railways from 17 railway zones reveal.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday, while inspecting the Kolkata-based PSU Brahmawati and Co, said that while 10 years ago there were 171 accidents per year, this had come down to 40 accidents now.

The Railways has disbursed ₹32 crore in compensation during the five years — 2019-20 to 2023-24. Of this amount, ₹26.83 crore had been given to the next of kin of those killed in train accidents and ₹7 crore to those who were injured.

The Railways defines a consequential train accident as one which has serious repercussions, including the loss of life, disruption of rail traffic,



Railways has given ₹22 crore in compensation during the five years — 2019-20 to 2023-24. PTI

and damage to railway property. The accidents can include derailments, collisions, fire, and so on.

The data was shared in response to a Right to Information query filed by RTI activist Vivek Singh.

As many as 297 persons were killed and 637 injured in 10 consequential accidents in the South Eastern Railway zone, including the Balasore triple-train tragedy in June last year.

The East Coast Railway zone saw 15 accidents that caused 20 deaths and 79 injuries. The most grievous of them was the Kanchan-

Resident doctors take out mega protest rally in Kolkata

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Healthcare workers took out a mega rally in Kolkata on Wednesday and unveiled a statue in memory of the doctor who was raped and killed at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9.

The bust, unveiled by junior and senior doctors in the morning, has been established outside the Platinum Jubilee building of the college and has been titled 'Abhaya' after the name given to the victim by the public.

Later in the day, healthcare workers, including members of multiple doctors' organisations, nurses' bodies, resident doctors as well as civil society groups, took to the streets in response to a call for a mega rally by the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front.

Thousands of people took part in the peaceful protest march from College Square to Esplanade in the afternoon, calling for justice to the victim, fulfilment of the demands on workplace safety, and re-

A bust was unveiled at R.G. Kar Medical College in memory of the doctor who was raped and killed.

medying the 'threat culture' prevalent at State-run hospitals.

The resident doctors on Tuesday announced resumption of the full-scale work agitation, alleging that the State government had failed to implement the directives issued by the Chief Secretary on September 19. The doctors had withdrawn the strike just 10 days ago.

Following the announcement of the fresh strike by the junior doctors, the Chief Secretary on Tuesday night issued two memorandums — one, announcing the formation of a State-level grievance redressal committee for healthcare workers, and another, announcing the reconstitution of the controversial patient welfare committees of different State-run medical colleges and hospitals.

AI cabin crew raise concerns about shared hotel rooms

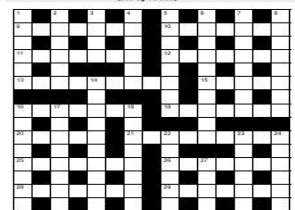
Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India's announcement that most of its cabin crew must share hotel rooms during layovers has sparked concern over their need for rest and privacy, especially during long-haul flights.

In a mail on Tuesday, the airline said cabin crew and "cabin seniors" will be assigned rooms on twin-sharing basis and only senior cabin crew such as "cabin managers" and "cabin executives" will be allotted single rooms. The policy will be effective from December 1 for all airlines in the group.

"With the merger of Air India and Vistara formalising, there is a need to harmonise these policies and employees of both the organisations," a spokesperson said in response to a query, adding that these were part of compensation and benefits announced that are "competitive and benchmarked to industry standards".

THE CROSSWORD 14296



Across

- Supporting glass or gas? (7)
- A laser bomb, acquiring new weapons? (7)
- Tear outside and tear inside, take top off the backside (4,3)
- Subject of eyes reportedly getting laser treatment? (7)
- Long time left in darkness, it's very bright (4,5)
- Covering the position or the direction? (5)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site at <https://www.thehindu.com/crossword>

- Very legitimate court? (7)
 - Green Party unhappy - no gap for spaceheps to return from space? (7)
 - With resistance to current, entropy rises (5)
 - Close call, wasted in anger perhaps (4,5)
 - Remain fixed on top of transmission tower? (7)
 - Slight lead, mostly in the back? (7)
 - One real shock for she was a first lady once? (7)
 - Accurate, gripping - ends in confusion and turmoil, roll slowly? (7)
- Down
- Open or unravel a cluster of genes which have a common promoter? (6)
 - Low houses, can be raised in this country (3)
 - Spiky, long one (6)
 - Old sailor goes up, getting promotion (3,6)
 - Container supply restricted ranging crime? (8)
 - Heat bundle, holding rope to bring (10)
 - Order is recent, without others knowing (2,6)
 - Essentially tall is considered powerful Goddess (6)
 - Explosive article in Sun reproduced, "drowning in the lakes" (1,10)
 - Promiscuous woman ready to embrace a US President once (8)
 - Death severity, men involved cried (8)
 - Trace of money and medicine, takes time (8)
 - Matches likely to interrupt commercials? (6)
 - That is fogged in captivity by tragic heroine (6)
 - Pull up and attend, evenly get burnt (6)
 - After the virus times of constant change (4)

SUDOKU

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

Solution to previous puzzle

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Incomparable couple

Kakasura, the demon in the form of a crow, was chased by the Brahmanstra, and he ran through all the worlds, but there was none to offer him refuge.

Finally, exhausted and having run out of all options, he fell at Rama's feet, said V.S. Karumakarachariar in a discourse. Rama spared his life.

The crow then said, "Kakaha" - "ka" means 'who', when we are referring to feminine gender, Kaha means 'who' in masculine gender. What Kakasura meant was - "Who can be like Her (Sita)? And Who can be like Him (Rama)?"

That is why crows caw and make the sound 'Kakaha'. The crow could see that Rama and Sita were an incomparable couple and the bird said it out loudly.

The Kakasura episode is very important, because it shows us the value of surrender.

When Hanuman meets Sita in Lanka, She narrates the Kakasura episode to him, which took place when Rama and Sita were in Chitrakuta. Kakasura had committed a sin by pecking at Her breast and hurting Her.

Normally, such a sin would have been punished with death, but because he fell at Rama's feet, the Lord forgave him.

But the rule was that once the Brahmanstra was put into use, it could not rest until it had hit its target.

So, Rama imagined that the punishment intended for the crow, and made the arrow blind the crow in one eye. The story also shows that if we incur the Lord's wrath, none can save us.

PM launches special welfare package for tribal villages

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday launched the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, a package for basic scheme saturation in tribal-majority villages across 550 districts, at an event in Jharkhand's Hazaribag district, where he also laid the foundation stones for a host of other projects intended to benefit tribal people across the country.

The package, originally coined as the PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM-JUGA), was cleared by the Union Cabinet last month as an umbrella package to implement existing schemes in 63,000 Scheduled Tribe-majority villages. There are 25 interventions planned under the package. An outlay of ₹79,156 crore, to be spent over five years, has been cleared by the Union Cabinet. The Central share will be ₹56,333 crore and the share of respective States will be ₹22,823 crore.

Abhiyan aims at saturation of more than 63,000 tribal majority villages in Aspirational Districts with a budget of Rs. 79,156 cr

Focus on 25 scheme interventions under the Abhiyan in the next 5 years, through coordinated efforts of 17 Ministries

PM also inaugurates 40 new Eklavya Schools and lays foundation stone of 25 schools, worth Rs. 2834 cr

PM further inaugurates and lays foundation stone of projects worth Rs. 1365 cr under PM-JANMAN; 1387 km roads, 120 Anganwadis, 250 Multi Purpose Centres and 10 school hostels to be built

200 major railway accidents took place in past five years, 351 people killed, show data

Maitri Porecha

NEW DELHI

Over the past five years, 351 persons were killed and 970 injured in 200 consequential railway accidents, data shared by the Indian Railways from 17 railway zones reveal.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday, while inspecting the Kolkata-based PSU Braithwaite and Co, said that while 10 years ago there were 171 accidents per year, this had come down to 40 accidents now.

The Railways has disbursed ₹32 crore in compensation during the five years – 2019-20 to 2023-24. Of this amount, ₹26.83 crore had been given to the next of kin of those killed in train accidents and ₹7 crore to those who were injured.

The Railways defines a consequential train accident as one which has serious repercussions, including injuries, loss of life, disruption of rail traffic,



Railways has given ₹32 crore in compensation during the five years — 2019-20 to 2023-24. PTI

and damage to railway property. The accidents can include derailments, collisions, fire, and so on.

The data was shared in response to a Right to Information query filed by RTI activist Vivek Pandey.

As many as 297 persons were killed and 637 injured in 10 consequential accidents in the South Eastern Railway zone, including the Balasore triple-train tragedy in June last year.

The East Coast Railway zone saw 15 accidents that caused 20 deaths and 79 injuries. The most grievous of them was the Kanchan-

junga Express accident in July this year that claimed 10 lives.

In Central Railway, there were 22 accidents, with one death and two injuries.

In Eastern Railway, there were 12 accidents, with one death and nine injuries, while East Central zone saw 18 accidents, with eight deaths and 33 injuries.

In the North Central zone, 21 accidents were reported that caused two deaths and 49 injuries, while the Northern Railway reported 25 accidents, with five deaths and five injuries.

The South Central Railway reported 12 accidents, with one death and 26 injuries, while the South East Central zone reported nine accidents, with three deaths and six injuries.

The North Eastern Railway, Konkan Railway, South Western Railway, and Southern Railway were among the safer zones with no casualties.

Railway Accidents in India (Past Five Years):

Between 2019-20 and 2023-24, 200 major railway accidents occurred, resulting in 351 deaths and 970 injuries.

The accidents included derailments, collisions, and fire-related incidents.



- **Zone-wise Data on Accidents:**


- **Central Railway:** 22 accidents, with 1 death and 2 injuries.

- **Eastern Railway:** 12 accidents, with 1 death and 9 injuries.

- **East Central Zone:** 18 accidents, 8 deaths, 33 injuries.

- **North Central Zone:** 21 accidents, 2 deaths, 49 injuries.

- **Northern Railway:** 25 accidents, 5 deaths, 5 injuries.



- **South Central Railway:** 12 accidents, 1 death, 26 injuries.

- **South East Central Zone:** 9 accidents, 3 deaths, 6 injuries.



- **South Eastern Railway:** 297 deaths and 637 injuries over 10 accidents, including the Balasore triple-train tragedy.



- **East Coast Railway:** 15 accidents, 20 deaths, 79 injuries.





Compensation Details:

Railways disbursed ₹32 crore in compensation from 2019-20 to 2023-24.

Of the total amount, ₹26.83 crore was given to the next of kin of those killed in train accidents, and ₹7 crore to the injured.



Reduction in Accidents:

The annual number of railway accidents has reduced from 171 per year a decade ago to 40 accidents per year now.


Zones with No Casualties:

North Eastern, Konkan, South Western, and Southern Railways reported no casualties during this period.

- 
- **Consider the following statements about railway accidents in India between 2019-20 and 2023-24:**

1. The Central Railway zone reported the highest number of deaths and injuries in the last five years.
2. The Railways has disbursed ₹32 crore in compensation for railway accidents during this period.
3. The South Eastern Railway zone witnessed 10 consequential accidents, including the Balasore triple-train tragedy.

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

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

China-Vietnam red diplomacy

Vietnamese President To Lam's recent visit to China aims to revive red connections and Mao-Zedong-Ho Chi Minh comradeship to strategically infuse political trust in the bilateral relationship. For a Beijing that is frustrated with the Western alliance, and the communist breeze from the South China Sea felt like a soothing balm. The visit comes against the backdrop of the U.S. and the Philippines wooing Vietnam to pressure and corner China in the South China Sea.

President Lam, after assuming the role of general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), strategically chose China as his first foreign visit destination, starting in Guangzhou, the birthplace of the CPV.

Unlike the Vietnam-U.S. relationship, where CPV actions are scrutinised for human rights violations and the American establishment's condescending attitudes toward the Vietnam political system, the Vietnam-China comradeship is mutually appreciative and supportive, barring territorial contestations.

'Shared future'
Vietnam and China also issued a joint statement, renewing their efforts to "strengthen the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries" and envisage building a Vietnam-China community with a shared future", given the overly antagonistic outer world.

The statement also underscored Xi Jinping's emphasis on giving Vietnam priority in China's neighbourhood diplomacy and supporting Vietnam's leadership upholding CPV leadership.

Mr. Lam also had a "working session" with the Central Party School of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in Beijing to learn from Chinese Communist Party experiences in combating corruption and economic development. He also addressed



Ravi Ranjan
Associate Professor of Chinese Studies, Department of East Asian Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Delhi

the meeting and appreciated the CPC's theoretical innovations and cadre training as integral to the Chinese governance model.

Mr. Lam was accompanied by six out of 15 members of the Politburo of CPV. This reflects the current National Party Congress, CPV leadership aspirations in replicating CPC successes in strengthening the legitimacy at home to get re-elected at the 14th Party Congress, scheduled for 2026. This is also concordant with the CPV leadership's ambition to build Vietnam into a socialist-oriented, high-income, developed country by 2045.

The joint statement emphasised the need for theoretical exchanges, experience sharing, and close cooperation between the CPV and CPC to advance socialism, highlighting their compatibility and cooperation. These alignments are being constructed to promote Chinese experiences as successful models for CPV and align with the socialist cause. Interestingly, during the Mao era, China agreed to transfer Bach Long Vi Island to Vietnam in 1957 because Beijing considered Hanoi a "comrade and brother", as Julia Lovell argues. But this bonhomie was rather short-lived with the China-Vietnam 1979 war. This system compatibility, therefore, does not necessarily exhibit the convergence of their worldviews or strategic interests.

Expanding partnerships
During the visit, Vietnam and China signed 14 agreements, ranging from connectivity and infrastructure to healthcare, customs media, etc., to further consolidate and expand strategic partnerships. In 2023, the bilateral trade between China and Vietnam was valued at \$171.9 billion. China remained Vietnam's largest import market in the first seven months of 2024, up 34.9% from the previous year, with an estimated turnover of \$73.2 billion. China was also Vietnam's second-largest export market in the same period, with an estimated turnover of \$33.38

billion, up 7.2%. China ranked fourth among countries investing in Vietnam in 2023 with \$4.47 billion, up 77% from the previous year, and investing in over 700 projects. With 29.7% of all new investments in Vietnam during the first seven months of 2024, Beijing is Vietnam's most active investment partner. These high-level visits and trade investment data invariably exhibit burgeoning political bonhomie, given Washington's apathy towards Hanoi and its growing economic dependence on Beijing. Territorial disputes over the Paracel Islands, trade deficits, and security worries prompted Hanoi to pursue Bamboo Diplomacy, as proposed by Nguyen Phu Trong, the late general secretary of the CPV. Vietnam is carefully manoeuvring in complex international and regional security theatres, softly 'hedging' with the U.S., India, Russia, and Japan to safeguard and maximise its strategic interests.

For Vietnam, India is a monastery for religious pilgrimage, given Buddhist civilisational connections, while China is a site for ideological pilgrimage. China is revitalising shared revolutionary history and ideological alliances for strategic collaboration.

New Delhi may harness cultural connections and a shared history of colonial resistance to enhance its extensive strategic partnership with Hanoi.

While China-Vietnam exchanges are often hindered by inherent irritants, the relationship between India and Vietnam is free of any obstacles and characterised by shared ambitions for a prosperous and multi-polar Asia. "Act East" policy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi aims to accelerate engagement with the region. By further deepening cultural and sustainable economic ties, Vietnam will be a driving force and natural partner for India in the Southeast to uphold a shared vision for regional stability and global order.

Telangana's path to clean land records

Govt. aims to resolve land issues by replacing the Dharani portal with Bhumatha

STATE OF PLAY

M. Rajeev
m.rajeev@thehindu.co.in

The Telangana State government is gearing up to address numerous complaints relating to land holdings, that are plaguing farmers since the launch of the ambitious integrated land record management systems in the form of the Dharani portal acclaimed as a stop solution for land-related issues.

A few months after coming to power, the Congress formed a committee of experts on land laws taking it with studying the lapses in the functioning of Dharani and suggesting remedial measures. The committee recommended that the portal be replaced entirely and a new portal Bhumatha should be put in place.

The committee headed by senior Congress leader M. Kodanda Reddy and comprising Nalbar professors and land law expert M. Sunil Kumar, former Chief Commissioner of Land Administration Raymond Peter, and others as members recommended repeal of the Telangana Rights in Land and Patta/Pasabooks Act 2020, popularly known as Record for Rights (RFR) Act. The entire protection of farmers' rights, it has prepared the framework for the new Act and put it in the public domain for the first time through the proposed legislation from all the stakeholders.

Sprees of problems
Launched in October 2020, the Dharani portal aimed to eliminate officials' discretionary powers at various levels and ensured a system-based approach. Ahead of the launch of Dharani, the govern-

Telangana

ment took up land records updation programme and collected data from 10,823 villages.

This data has become crucial as farmers get investment under Rythu Bandhu (farmers' investment support scheme), and other benefits. Given the importance of the data, the Dharani portal's functioning became crucial to the land rights of farmers and land owners. However, the situation at the field level was not as easy as the previous government projected.

The Dharani portal has brought along with it a spree of problems, such as farmers having possession of land without a patta (registered document), possessing patta without land or name in the records, and farmers' names being present in the records but without actual possession of either patta or land. There are instances where the entire survey numbers are missing from records making it difficult for farmers and officials to manage land records.

One of the major concerns about the previous Act was the grade rate of a grievance redressal mechanism and scope for making appeal to the authorities. Farmers with grievances had to pay fees seeking solutions to their problems, imposing a heavy burden. Since there was no grassroots-level grievance redressal mechanism, issues were escalated to

District Collectors and the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration.

Enactment of the new RFR Act has become necessary as the previous Act enacted by the BRS government in 2020, replacing the 1971 legislation, has faced charges that consistent failures and loopholes continue to affect land transactions in rural areas. "There is no provision for appeal in the previous Act denying farmers an opportunity to air their grievances," Mr. Kumar said.

The committee, accordingly, recommended that the government constitute a Land Governance Innovations and Legal Support Cell to assist it in taking up land governance reforms. In the medium term, it suggested a provision for receiving manual applications pertaining to grievances that could be hosted online subsequently with the application fee rationalised/exempted.

Interestingly, the committee suggested that services of village youth could be utilised for physical verification of lands, land records, and identification of problems, without land or name in the records, and farmers' names being present in the records but without actual possession of either patta or land. There are instances where the entire survey numbers are missing from records making it difficult for farmers and officials to manage land records.

The introduction of a new portal and the enactment of the new RFR Act apart, the government must ensure effective implementation at the field level failing which farmers will continue to face the problems they have been suffering for the past few years. It remains to be seen what mechanism the government will implement to avoid the recurrence of grievances.

The escalating Israel-Hezbollah conflict

Large-scale displacement and a peak in deaths have followed Israeli attacks on south Lebanon

DATA POINT

Godhashy Srinivasan
Gautam Nirmal Dashti

Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon, targeted at the Iran-supported Hezbollah, marked a dramatic escalation of the conflict that began last year following the attacks by Hamas inside the Jewish state. Prior to the missile and rocket attacks, Israeli covert agencies had targeted Hezbollah operatives by detonating pager and walkie-talkies. Hezbollah had also used rocket attacks on Israel following the latter's offensive in Gaza, which went on to kill over 40,000 Palestinians and displace almost the entire 2.3 million people of Gaza.

Map 1 shows all strikes in Lebanon by Israel and missile attacks by Hezbollah in Israel from October 2023, till September 26, 2024. It can be seen that the conflict occurred largely in the region around the border, which are the south and Nabatiyah Governorates of Lebanon, and Hazafra and Golan, occupied by Israel.

The Israeli strikes on September 23 were the deadliest in recent years. The single-day death toll of more than 500 is much higher than the monthly death tolls reported since 2018 in Lebanon (Chart 2). The UN authorities in Lebanon said that over 90,000 people have been newly displaced (Chart 3). The attacks have triggered a new wave of displacement in Lebanon's southern districts. Between September 24 and 26, thousands of people were displaced from districts along the border to the capital, Beirut, and surrounding areas (Map 4).

Five of the 12 UN refugee camps for Palestinians are in southern Lebanon (Map 5). The closest camp is roughly 16 km away from the border. More than 4,80,000 people were registered with the UN as of March 2023. In northern Israel, too, the war with Hezbollah has forced around 70,000 people out of their homes since last year.

Missiles and mayhem

The charts were sourced from the ACLED database, IOM UN Migration, and UNRWA



Chart 2: Monthly death tolls reported in Lebanon (2018-2024)

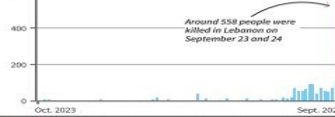
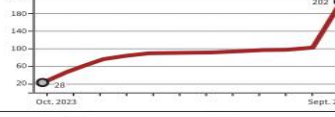
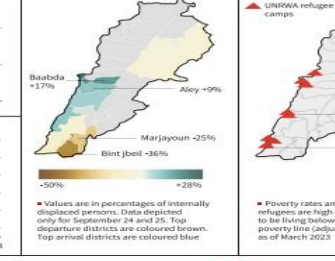


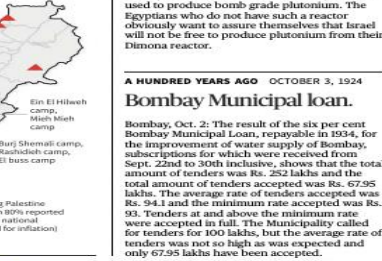
Chart 3: Internally displaced persons in Lebanon in thousands



Map 4: The map shows the top five districts in Lebanon by departure and arrival



Map 5: The map shows the UNRWA refugee camps



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu
FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 3, 1974

Atomic plants for Egypt, Israel: U.S. conditions

Washington, Oct. 2: The American promise to provide Egypt and Israel with atomic power plants is reported to be encountering difficulties because of disagreement between the three countries over the kind of safeguards which should be established to ensure that this nuclear materials transfer does not result in either Egypt or Israel going in for nuclear weapons.

The U.S. is now said to be insisting that Egypt and Israel should submit for international inspection not only the atomic plant and fuel that the U.S. has promised to supply them but also all plants and fissionable material which they may receive in future from other countries. Until now, as in the case of India, the U.S. has insisted on International Atomic Energy Agency inspection of plants and fuel which the U.S. itself had supplied. The U.S. now apparently wants to make sure that any country to which it supplies nuclear materials does not, under any circumstances, take up the production of atomic weapons. Egypt, it appears, is willing to agree to this new U.S. condition provided international inspection is restricted to "existing" nuclear facilities in both Israel and Egypt. Under such a provision, Israel would have to open up its already existing Dimona research reactor, which, like India's own CIRUS reactor, could be used to produce bomb grade plutonium. The Egyptians who do not have such a reactor obviously want to assure themselves that Israel will not be free to produce plutonium from their Dimona reactor.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 3, 1924

Bombay Municipal loan.

Bombay, Oct. 2: The result of the six per cent Bombay Municipal Loan, repayable in 1934, for the improvement of water supply of Bombay, subscriptions for which were received from Sept. 22nd to 30th inclusive, shows that the total amount of tenders was Rs. 252 lakhs and the total amount of tenders accepted was Rs. 67.95 lakhs. The average rate of tenders accepted was Rs. 94.1 and the minimum rate accepted was Rs. 90. Tenders at and above the minimum rate were accepted in full. The Municipality called for tenders for 100 lakhs, but the average rate of tenders was not so high as was expected and only 67.95 lakhs have been accepted.

Missiles and mayhem

The charts were sourced from the ACLED database, IOM UN Migration, and UNRWA



Chart 2: Monthly death tolls reported in Lebanon (2018-2024)

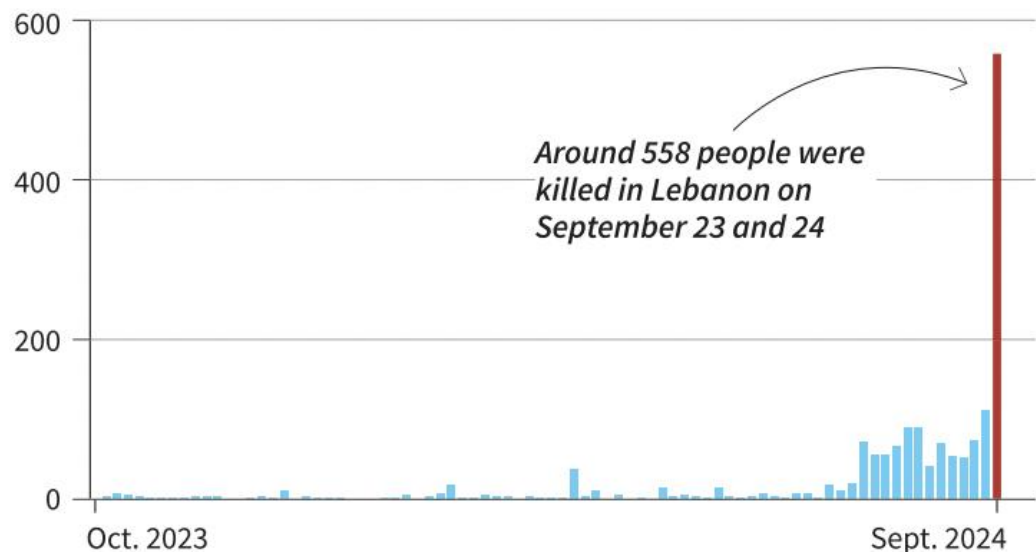
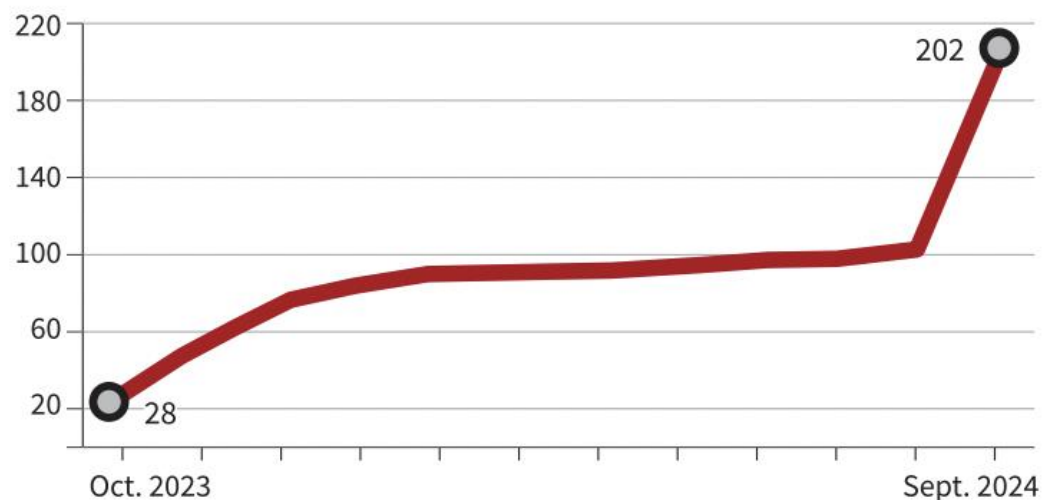
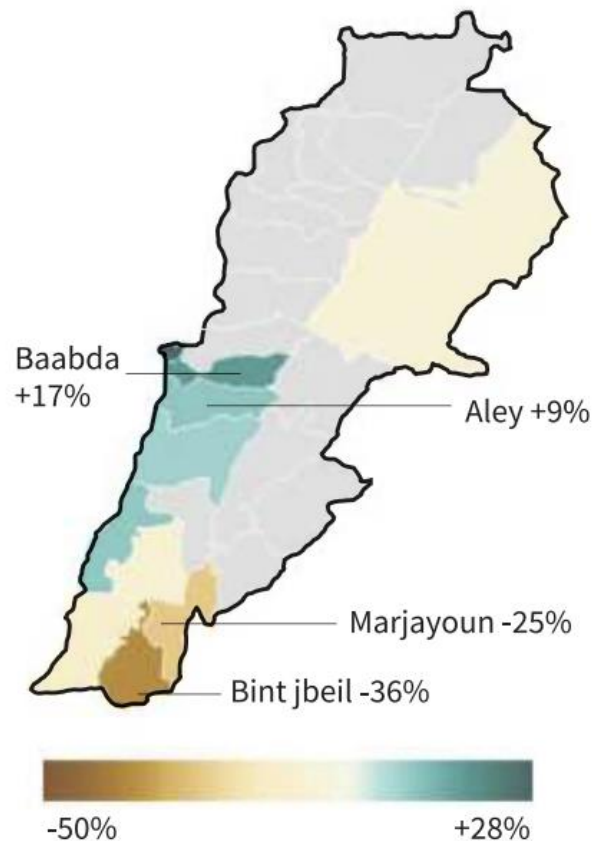


Chart 3: Internally displaced persons in Lebanon in thousands

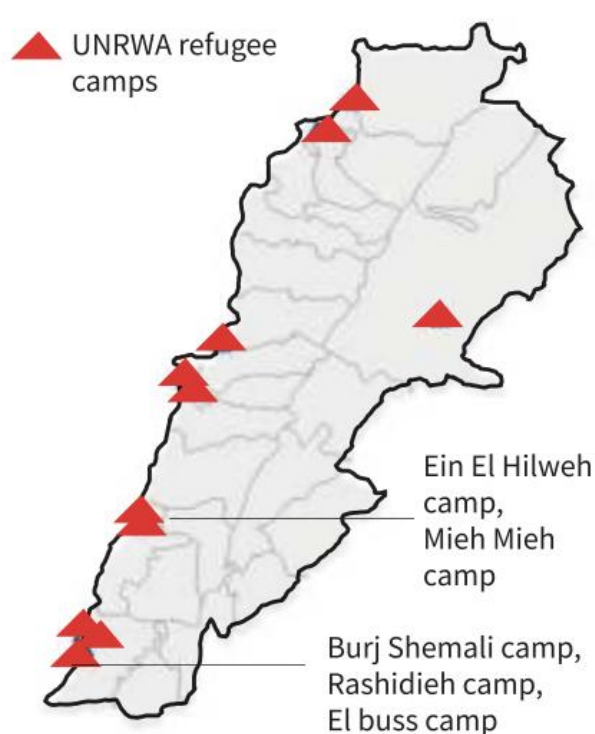


Map 4: The map shows the top five districts in Lebanon by departure and arrival



■ Values are in percentages of internally displaced persons. Data depicted only for September 24 and 25. Top departure districts are coloured brown. Top arrival districts are coloured blue

Map 5: The map shows the UNRWA refugee camps in Lebanon



■ Poverty rates among Palestine refugees are high with 80% reported to be living below the national poverty line (adjusted for inflation) as of March 2023

IN BRIEF



Divanshi, Mukesh win sports pistol gold in World juniors

Divanshi and Mukesh Nelavali clinched the women's and men's 25m sports pistol gold medals in the World junior shooting in Lima. **The results: Junior men: 25m sports pistol:** 1. Mukesh Nelavali 585, 2. Suraj Sharma 583, 3. Vidyayav Medhuselvay (Ind) 580, 10. Rajwanshi 575, 16. Parth Rana 566, 22. Pradyumn Singh 561. **Team:** 1. India 1729, 2. Poland 1726, 3. Italy 1712. **Senior men: 25m sports pistol:** 1. Divanshi 595 (577), 2. Cristina Magwan (Ita) 593 (585), 2. Victor Lindgren (Swe) 460.2 (586), 3. Jens Oestli (Nor) 447.4 (585), 7. Shounya Saini 406.8 (583), 9. Vedant Waghmare 583, 10. Parkash Brar 582. **Team:** 1. India 1758 (EWI), 2. Norway 1748, 3. Sweden 1746. **Junior women: 25m sports pistol:** 1. Divanshi 595 (577), 2. Cristina Magwan (Ita) 593 (585), 2. Heloise Faurie (Fra) 593 (578), 13. Tejswami 569, 22. Vibhuti Bhatia 565. **Team:** 1. India 1711.2, 2. Czech Republic 1696 (586), 3. Germany 1696 (586).

Sumit Nagal loses in the first round of Shanghai Masters

Sumit Nagal went down 6-3, 6-3 to Yibing Wu of China in the first round of the \$10,298,535 ATP Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai on Wednesday.

The results: \$10,298,535 ATP, Shanghai: First round: Yibing Wu (Chi) bt Sumit Nagal 6-3, 6-3. **\$120,950 Challenger, Wilmu, Spain: Doubles:** **Pre-quarterfinals:** Anushka Chandrasekar & Niki Pionchcha bt David Fischer (Aut) & David Hernandez (Esp) 6-2, 6-2; Jeevan Neduncheshaian & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Robin Bertrand & Benoit Paire (Fra) 7-6(5), 6-3. **\$25,000 ITF men, Kigali, Rwanda: First round:** Bharath Kumaran bt Mattias Southcombe (GBR) 6-1, 6-3; Max Houkes (Ned) bt Tyson Nandlal 6-2, 6-3; Sai Karan Reddy bt Adil Kalyanpur 6-1, 1-0 (retired); Paul Gazeau (Fra) bt Rishi Reddy 6-3, 7-5; Manuel Huerga (Esp) bt Kanan Singh 6-4, 7-6(5). **\$25,000 ITF women, Redding, USA: Doubles:** **Pre-quarterfinals:** Anya All & Bryn Cavetani (USA) w/o; Rutuja Bhosale & Irma Burge (USA) w/o; Alana Hines (Est) & Melany Kryvanj (Arg) bt Britney Chiu (USA) & Pratyusha Ramesh 6-0, 6-2. **\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: First round:** Vicky Van de Peer (Bel) bt Aadil Gupta 6-4, 6-3.

Sarfراز's double deflates Rol

The Mumbai batter hits an unbeaten 221 and has crucial stands with Kotian and Shardul, skipper Rahane misses century by a whisker



ANMOL KARHADKAR
LUCKNOW

Yash Dayal was effective in patches, Prashidh Krishna was at his quickest best. Mukesh Kumar was accurate as ever. And the spin duo did their best with the pitch not offering them anything. None of them — even a hot and humid day at the Bharat Ratna Shree Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium — could deter a determined Sarfaraz Khan.

The Mumbai batter took out the fizz out of a potent attack by plundering his fourth First Class double hundred — and the first for Mumbai in Irani Cup history — to take Mumbai to safety.

Riding on Sarfaraz's unbeaten 221 (276b, 25x4, 4x6) and useful contributions by Tanush Kotian and Shardul Kulkarni ended the second day's play at a commanding 536 for nine, having added 299 runs in 70 overs bowled during the day's play.

Sarfراز wasn't wild or whacky in his stroke play but his cheeky strokes and an amazing game-sense drove the Rol bowlers crazy.

Once Kotian — among the most reliable all-rounders on the domestic circuit — had helped him see off the second new ball,



Epic: Sarfaraz ensured the first double century by a Mumbai batter in Irani Cup history will be remembered for long. SANDEEP SAKENA

Sarfراز started rotating the strike regularly. Kotian drove with panache before being undone by a Prashidh Krishna slower-ball, bowled after getting forward short-leg in and managing to catch Kotian off-guard. But Shardul Thakur, batting at 10 due to a mild infection, gave Sarfaraz the much-needed support to surpass his double hundred.

Earlier in the morning, captain Ajinkya Rahane narrowly missed out on a hundred, with Dayal bowling a pitch-perfect short-ball that kissed Rahane's gloves on to Dhruv Jurel.

Mukesh then bowled a peach with the second

Sreejesh withdraws from HIL player auction



HOCKEY
Likhra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Having called it a day from international hockey, P.R. Sreejesh has now decided to withdraw from the upcoming Hockey India League Player Auction, making way for youngsters and focussing on coaching and a mentorship roles instead.

In an exclusive interaction with *The Hindu*, Sreejesh confirmed that he had written to Hockey India indicating his desire to step away from the field and groom the next generation of players. "After much thought I have decided to withdraw my name from the Player Auction for the Hockey India League," he wrote to HIL president Dilip Turkey on Wednesday.

"I was extremely touched by your gesture to host a retirement function for me after our return from Paris. Very few players have had the privilege to end their careers on such a high... Bowing down to the goal, accepting the win over Spain and celebrating with my teammates and managing to catch that moment in time will remain those memories to cherish forever."

Returning to the turf for 'One Last Dance' does not feel right now and I fear it would tamper with those memories and special moments. While a formal announcement is likely to be made soon, sources confirmed that his contract will be for an initial period of three years and will not be in conflict with his national duties.



Sreejesh. GETTY IMAGES

In the upcoming league as its Brand Ambassador. "The HIL, in its previous outing, helped develop an entire generation of Indian players and was the foundation that built India's international success over the last few years."

"I believe it will do the same this time around also and help give youngsters and a new crop of Indian players the exposure and experience to excel for the national team. I have achieved everything I ever dreamt of as a player and it will be unfair for me to continue playing now," Sreejesh told *The Hindu*.

His role with the HIL, notwithstanding the official designation, will encompass working closely with the team staff and the players through the HIL, supporting and advising the coaches and providing guidance. "It will be more of a mentorship role, using my experience to assist the team in every way possible," he told *The Hindu*.

While a formal announcement is likely to be made soon, sources confirmed that his contract will be for an initial period of three years and will not be in conflict with his national duties.

Delhi High Court rejects Manipur football teams' plea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has rejected pleas by two football teams from Manipur challenging the decision of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to relegate them from the I-League to the 2nd Division League for the 2024-25 season. The Tiddim Road Athletic Union (TRAU) Football Club, and North Eastern Re-Organising Cultural Association (NEROCA) Football Club, were relegated to lower league by AIFF, due to the clubs' positions at the bottom of the points table during the 2023-24 season.

The clubs said the "communal" distribution of Manipur significantly disrupted their tournament preparation, leading to the forced relocation of the clubs' home matches to another State by AIFF. The clubs said they made multiple requests to AIFF to reconsider the ve-

mas change. Their plea sought AIFF proceeded to shift the matches to Kalyani Stadium in Kolkata without adequately considering the impact on the players.

In response the clubs' plea, AIFF pointed out that the "Agreement to Participation" explicitly mandated the relegation of the lowest-performing teams of each season.

The court noted that as multiple requests to AIFF of the League, a total of 13

teams participate in a season and allowing only a single team beyond the pre-determined limit would trigger a cascade of logistical and financial challenges for the upcoming season.

"In light of these practical and financial constraints, AIFF is right in a position to accommodate the Petitioner Clubs into the I-League," the court concluded.

As per the present structure of the League, a total of 13

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As per the present structure of the League, a total of 13

Chaurasia clinches a thriller to stun second seed Manish

THE HINDU
Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Yash Chaurasia saved four match points and pulled off a stunner to defeat former champion Manish Sureshkumar 4-6, 7-6(5), 7-6(4) in the men's pre-quarterfinals of the Picta National tennis championship at the DLTA Complex on Wednesday.

Serving smart and hitting fluently on both the forehand and backhand, Chaurasia, who has been competing in the qualifying events of the international tournaments over the last three years, displayed significant skill to beat the crafty Manish.

After an underwhelming start, Chaurasia led 5-3 in the second set and he



Chaurasia, KAMESH SRINIVASAN

as Manish struggled to stay on his feet. In the quarterfinal, Chaurasia will play Rethin Pranas, the lucky loser who extended his run by defeating Ajay Malik for the loss of five games.

Top seed Vishnu Vardhan ranked one of the challenges from Bhicky Sangolli of Manipur in three sets, and will face another talent from Manipur, Bushy Babbar, who put out former champion V.M. Rajneesh for the loss of four games.

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India to host first kho kho World Cup next year

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) will host the first ever World Cup next year as the sport continues to push for greater international recognition. The week-long tournament, tentatively scheduled early next year in the national capital, will see participation from 24 countries with 16 men's and 16 women's teams each.

The KKFI is targeting 200 elite schools across 10 cities hoping to register at least 50 lakh players ahead of the World Cup.

Latham replaces Southie as NZ Test captain

Agence France-Presse
WELLINGTON

Tim Southie stood down as New Zealand captain on Wednesday in the wake of the heavy Test series defeat in Sri Lanka and will be replaced by Tom Latham.

Southie said it is "best for the team" that he focus on his contribution as a player and wished Latham well.

Opening batsman Latham, who has led the Black Caps in nine Tests, will take charge full-time on the three-Test tour of India starting in Bengaluru on October 16.

Dortmund, Manchester City and Barcelona post thumping wins

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Karim Adeyemi excelled as Borussia Dortmund ran riot against Celtic while Barcelona and Manchester City claimed their first wins in the restructured Champions League on Tuesday.

Adeyemi scored a first-half hat-trick as Dortmund routed Celtic 7-1 at home. Robert Lewandowski got Barcelona off the mark as the Spanish giant it eased to a 5-0 home win over Swiss team Young Boys and his former teammate Ilkay Gundogan got City off to a 4-0 win at Slovan Bratislava. Erling Haaland scored his 42nd goal for a league 4-1st Champions League game.

Mikel Arteta's Arsenal outclassed his former team Paris Saint-Germain in a 2-0 win as PSG coach Luis Enrique gambled on leaving Ousmane Dembelle out did not pay off. This season UEFA changed the structure of Europe's premier competition to add four more teams. The group stage was scrapped for a league system with each of the now 36 participating teams



Cry of joy: Dortmund's Adeyemi gives vent to his emotions after netting the first of his three goals Celtic on Tuesday. AFP

playing eight opponents once in a first phase of the competition.

There were more big wins on Tuesday with Inter Milan defeating Red Star Belgrade 4-0, and tournament debutant Brent north ending Salzburg 4-0 away for its second win in a row. Bayern Leverkusen defeated AC Milan 1-0 in Germany thanks a well-worked move finished by Victor Boniface, while Daniel Braganca scored late to earn Sporting Lisbon a 1-1 draw at PSV Eindhoven. Kaan Karimern's brilliant free kick was enough for Prague to draw 1-1 at Stuttgart.

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The results: RB Salzburg 0 lost to Brent 4 (Simu 24, 70, Camara 66, Pereira Lage 75), Stuttgart 1 (Muller 7) drew with Sparta Prague 1 (Karrenen 32), Inter Milan 4 (Caltanissetta 11, Arnautovic 59, Martinez 71, Taremi 81) pari to Red Star Belgrade 0, Borussia Dortmund 7 (Can 7) pen, Adeyemi 11, 25, 42, Guirassy 40 pen, 66, Nmecha 79) bt Celtic 1 (Mosedes 9), Barcelona 5 (Lewandowski 8, 51, Raphinha 24, Martinez 37, Camara 81) 3g; bt Young Boys 0; Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Boniface 51) bt AC Milan 0, Arsenal 2 (Havertz 20, Saka 35) bt Paris Saint-Germain 0, New Eindhoven 1 (Bergwiler 15) drew with Sporting Lisbon 1 (Braganca 40) bt Slovan Bratislava 0, Man City 4 (Gundogan 8, Foden 15, Haaland 58, Holesse 76),

BFC and MCFC play out goalless draw

ISL
SPORTS BUREAU

Bengaluru FC (BFC) maintained its position atop the ISL table after a nil-nil draw away to Mumbai City FC (MCFC) in Mumbai on Wednesday. BFC has 100 points from four games, one above Punjab FC, from the Blues will meet in the next fixture at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium Bengaluru on October 18.

The clean-sheet was BFC's fourth in a row, making it the first side to begin an ISL campaign thus. Stated his head coach, Renedy Singh rolled out an unchanged XI from the



Intense action: Bengaluru and Mumbai City players battle for possession. SHAMMIL TOSE



team that thrashed Mumbai Bagan Super Giant 3-0 on Saturday.

Into action to collect crosses from Prantao Fernandes and Vikram Sandhu. Gurpreet also made the first save of the game,

pushing Nikos Karelis' header away.

BFC's first effort came when Edgar Mendez was played through by Alberto Noguera only for the Spanish striker to see his effort saved by Prantao Lachemda. Mihir Venkatesh, and Mendez again, came close but Lachemda was solid.

MCFC had the best chance of the contest from a set-piece when Youssouf Niang's whipped take fell for Tiri only for the Spaniard's effort from point-blank range to cannon off the crossbar. BFC came close in the final moments when substitute N. Sivakarthi slipped away from his marker but put his shot off target.

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INTERNATIONAL P3
OpenAI raises \$6.5 bn at over \$150-bn valuation
 NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024
FINANCIAL EXPRESS
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COMPANIES P4
China's Leapmotor halts India EV plans
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INTERNATIONAL P5
Tesla misses estimates for Q3 deliveries
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IN THE NEWS

DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFERS SLOW IN FIRST HALF

THE CENTRAL TRANSFERRED assorted subsidies and so on worth ₹2.3 lakh crore to beneficiaries via direct benefit transfer (DBT) in H1 of the current fiscal, reflecting the slow pace of government spending due to the polls and late full budget presentation, reports Prasanta Sahu ■ PAGE 2

ANIL AMBANI'S RELIANCE FORAYS INTO BHUTAN

ANIL AMBANI-LED Reliance Group on Wednesday said it has forayed into the renewable energy sector in Bhutan and signed a pact with Druk Holding, the commercial and investment arm of the Royal Government of Bhutan, reports Raghavendra Kamath ■ PAGE 5

BROKERAGES RUSH TO IMPLEMENT SHIFT TO DIRECT PAYOUT

AS THE BROKING industry braces for another significant change from October 1A, firms are busy making back-end adjustments and software updates in preparation for the direct payout of securities, reports Akshata Gorde. The new regulation will have securities directly deposited from the clearing corporations into investors' demat accounts. ■ PAGE 4

FE SPECIALS



'Broad use cases will help drive AI PC adoption'
 Interview with Alex Cho, president, Personal Systems, HP Inc
 ■ EPE, P9



Can Sebi's new norms curb risks in F&O?
 The rules are a step in the right direction, but that is not enough to curb the retail investor's entry into derivatives, reports
 ■ EXPLAINER, P9

CRV TO RETURN \$275 MN IT HAS NOT YET SPENT FROM ITS STARTUP FUND TO INVESTORS

A Silicon Valley-based VC firm does something rare: Give money back

ERIN GRIFFITH
 San Francisco, October 2
VENTURE CAPITAL FIRMS raise money — lots of it — and invest it in startups in hopes of generating big returns. One thing they rarely do is give the money back. Yet that is what CRV, one of the industry's oldest firms, is planning. The firm will tell investors this week that it will return the \$275 million that has not yet been invested from its \$500 million Select fund, which is designed to back more mature startups.
 The reason, four of the firm's partners said in a joint interview that market conditions have changed for investors. They said that market conditions are too high relative to their potential for a payoff, the partners said.
 CRV's decision is part of a trend

BOOM & BUST
 CRV has not yet spent \$275 million from its \$500-million Select fund, meant to invest in startups.
 CRV is ploughing ahead with a fund for young start-ups and \$500 million for more mature companies. The firm said it needed more money to accommodate the bigger investment rounds, higher valuations and the fact that many startups are raising money for more than one round. But over the past year, CRV's partners realized that they were passing up lots of investment opportunities.

Four of the firm's partners said market conditions have changed for the worse.
 Valuations for startups are too high relative to their potential for a payoff, they said.
 This is the second time the VC firm has cut its fund size.
 For older, more mature companies for its Select Fund. The reason was the firm no longer wanted CRV to raise another Select fund.
 Here to generate the kind of returns that CRV's investors expect, many start-ups — far more than ever before — would have to wind up being worth \$10 billion or more. The data just doesn't support that," said Saar Gore, a partner at the firm. The firm has a long list of successful companies and big outcomes. "If CRV kept investing at current prices, Gore said, it would wind up with lower returns. So instead of returning more money to investors, the firm decided to cut the fund.
 The firm's decision to raise another \$1.1-billion main fund and is roughly two-thirds invested. The firm has signaled to its investors that its

OIL PRICES UP OVER 3% AS WEST ASIA TENSIONS ESCALATE

Iran-Israel war shadow looms large over India

Fresh push to already high logistics costs; another blow to trade

AGENCIES
 New Delhi, October 2
IRAN'S BIGGEST EVER military blow against Israel on Tuesday and the latter's threat of retaliation pushed up oil prices more than 3% on Wednesday on mounting concerns that West Asia tensions could escalate, potentially disrupting crude output from the region.
 Brent futures reached their highest in a month, leaping \$2.42, or 3.3%, to \$75.98 a barrel. Iran said early on Wednesday that its missile attack on Israel was overhasty further provocation, while Israel and the US promised to strike back against Tehran as fears of a wider war intensified. "This could include damaging or obliterating Iran's oil facilities," Tamas Varga of broker FVM told Reuters. Varga noted that a retaliation by Iran on oil facilities like in 2019 or see the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Any of these events would irrevocably send oil prices considerably higher, he said.
 Continued on Page 7
 ■ Related reports, Page 3 & 7



A woman holds her cat at the site of an Israeli airstrike in Beirut, Lebanon, on Wednesday.
 Oct 2 (at 6.30 pm IST)
BRENT CRUDE PRICES (\$/barrel)
 Brent futures reached their highest in a month, rising by \$2.42 to over \$75.
 An attack on Iran's oil infra may provoke Tehran to strike Saudi oil facilities.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mastering the art of getting things done

SHOBHANA SUBRAMANIAN
 New Delhi, October 2
GOING BY HOW he has made one of the toughest jobs in the country look easy, it's not surprising that Dinesh Khara's favourite book is *Execution: The Discipline of Getting Things Done* by Larry Bossidy and Ram Charan. The former State Bank of India (SBI) chairman was always a fan of the management stream, but after earning a degree at the Faculty of Management Studies of the Delhi School of Economics, he decided he would become a banker.
 Today, even after four years of his come out of India's biggest bank, Khara feels he has left in him. In particular, he misses not having spent enough time on data analytics at the bank because of the heavy daily workload, and would love to work with fintechs. The polls and pressures of running a big bank,
 Dinesh Khara, former chairman, SBI
 means Khara has had to "give up his sweet tooth" and his mother's *besan laddoos*. He keeps his diet simple: *dal, roti, sabzi* and of course, his favourite, *rajma chawal*.
 He attributes much of the capability needed to run India's biggest bank to in-house training or learning on the job. The varied experience across the country's many branches, he believes, prepares one to deal with all kinds of situations. He recalls his first posting in Jaipur in the days of manual ledgers and the "heavy savings bank counters" where he cut his teeth. In Bahalgarh, Haryana, where the SBI branch was the only pucca building, he had to fight a case even to ensure the station were not evicted from the premises. His most challenging stint was in Chhattisgarh, where he cut his teeth when the Naxal movement was at its peak.
 Continued on Page 7

MFs invest double that of FPIs in H1

Mutual funds pour in ₹1.92L cr, FPIs ₹83K cr

VIWEK KUMAR M
 Mumbai, October 2
WITH STOCK MARKETS giving handsome returns, mutual funds — aided by strong inflows from retail investors — pumped in nearly ₹2 lakh crore in the first six months of the financial year. In comparison, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) put in less than ₹1 lakh crore.
 Data from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) show that equity mutual funds invested ₹1.92 lakh crore till September 27 this fiscal, while FPIs invested ₹83,289 crore (approximately \$9.96 billion) in the same period.
 During this period, benchmark Sensex and Nifty returned 13% and 16%, respectively. The broader market indices performed even better as the BSE Smallcap index soared 32.4% and the BSE Midcap index rose 25.5%.
 "Strong flows have been an outcome of very strong fundamentals. Our fiscal deficit, current account situation, forex reserves, health of banks and corporate balance sheets, inflation, and GDP growth



Adani gets Maha nod for Dharavi project land

ADVAIT PALEPU
 October 2
THE MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT has approved the acquisition of 256 acres of salt-pan land in the north-east of Mumbai in a boost to the Adani Group's project to redevelop Dharavi, one of Asia's largest slums.
 The salt-pan land will be acquired from the central government and leased to the Dharavi Redevelopment Project, which is rehabilitating the 620-acre neighbourhood in the heart of the financial capital, according to a September 30 release from the state's cabinet.
 The Dharavi Redevelopment Project, in which the Adani Group holds an 80% stake along with the state government, is implementing the project. The land will be used to build low-cost and affordable housing for residents of Dharavi who will need to be relocated. A survey of the residents and businesses being done to determine who would be rehoused in Dharavi or relocated.
 Some residents of Dharavi are opposed to the project, saying they own the land. The state's largest opposition party has said it will scrap the agreement if voted power in the upcoming polls. — **BLOOMBERG**

New MPC may not cut rates on Oct 9

THE APPOINTMENT of three new members to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) monetary policy committee is unlikely to prompt an interest rate cut at next week's crucial policy meeting, economists said, reports Bloomberg.
 The government on Tuesday appointed the three new external members to the monetary policy committee, all well-known economists from the academic and finance world, who will join three RBI officials on the committee led by governor Shaktikanta Das. The MPC is scheduled to announce its next rate decision on October 9.
 ■ PAGE 6

NFRA seeks to enforce scalable audit system

Asks CA body to issue new quality management norms as 'standards'
MANU KASHKISH
 New Delhi, October 2
AFTER INSISTING ON upgraded standards of group audits, the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) may now put its teeth into a new dynamic system of quality management among audit firms. It has proposed that the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) make the proposed Standards on Quality Management (SQM) for auditors enforceable, rather than keeping them merely advisory in nature. "We are proposing that the SQMs should also be issued as "standards" as these are a critical foundation of audits. This would give them the required force of law so that companies can adhere to the standards strictly and improve audit quality," NFRA chairman Ajay Bhushan Pandey told FE.
 The ICAI had earlier floated a paper on SQMs, the modern version of the extant Standard on Quality Control (SQCs), which aren't mandatory in nature. The draft SQMs broadly mirror the ones in the advanced economies, including the US, take into account new realities in audit practice, lay increased emphasis on risk assessment, and envisage tailor-made, scalable audit systems. The shift from SQC to SQM has been taking place globally over the last few years. The NFRA's stance is consistent with its focus on raising the bar for the audit community, as was indicated in its revised Standard on Auditing 600 (ISA 600), which are aimed at improving the quality of group audits.
 Continued on Page 7
 ■ Q&A, Page 2

CRV TO RETURN \$275 MN IT HAS NOT YET SPENT FROM ITS STARTUP FUND TO INVESTORS

ERIN GRIFFITH
 San Francisco, October 2
VENTURE CAPITAL FIRMS raise money — lots of it — and invest it in startups in hopes of generating big returns. One thing they rarely do is give the money back. Yet that is what CRV, one of the industry's oldest firms, is planning. The firm will tell investors this week that it will return the \$275 million that has not yet been invested from its \$500 million Select fund, which is designed to back more mature startups.
 The reason, four of the firm's partners said in a joint interview that market conditions have changed for investors. They said that market conditions are too high relative to their potential for a payoff, the partners said.
 CRV's decision is part of a trend

OpenAI raises over \$6.5 bn

New funding values US giant at \$150 bn

BY SHIRIN GHAFFARY AND RACHEL METZ
October 2

OPENAI HAS COMPLETED a deal to raise over \$6.5 billion in new funding, giving the artificial intelligence company a more than \$150-billion valuation, and bolstering its efforts to build the world's leading generative AI technology.

The deal is one of the largest-ever private investments, and makes OpenAI one of the three largest venture-backed startups, alongside Elon Musk's SpaceX and TikTok owner ByteDance, according to people familiar with the matter who asked not to be identified discussing private information. The size of the investment underscores the tech industry's belief in the power of AI, and its appetite for the extremely costly research powering its advancement.

The funding round was led by Thrive Capital, the venture capital firm headed up by Josh



The deal is one of the largest-ever private investments, and makes OpenAI one of the three largest venture-backed startups, alongside SpaceX and ByteDance

Kushner, Bloomberg previously reported, along with other global investors.

The massive funding round follows a turbulent year for OpenAI. Last November, the company's board fired and then quickly rehired its chief executive officer Sam Altman.

BLOOMBERG

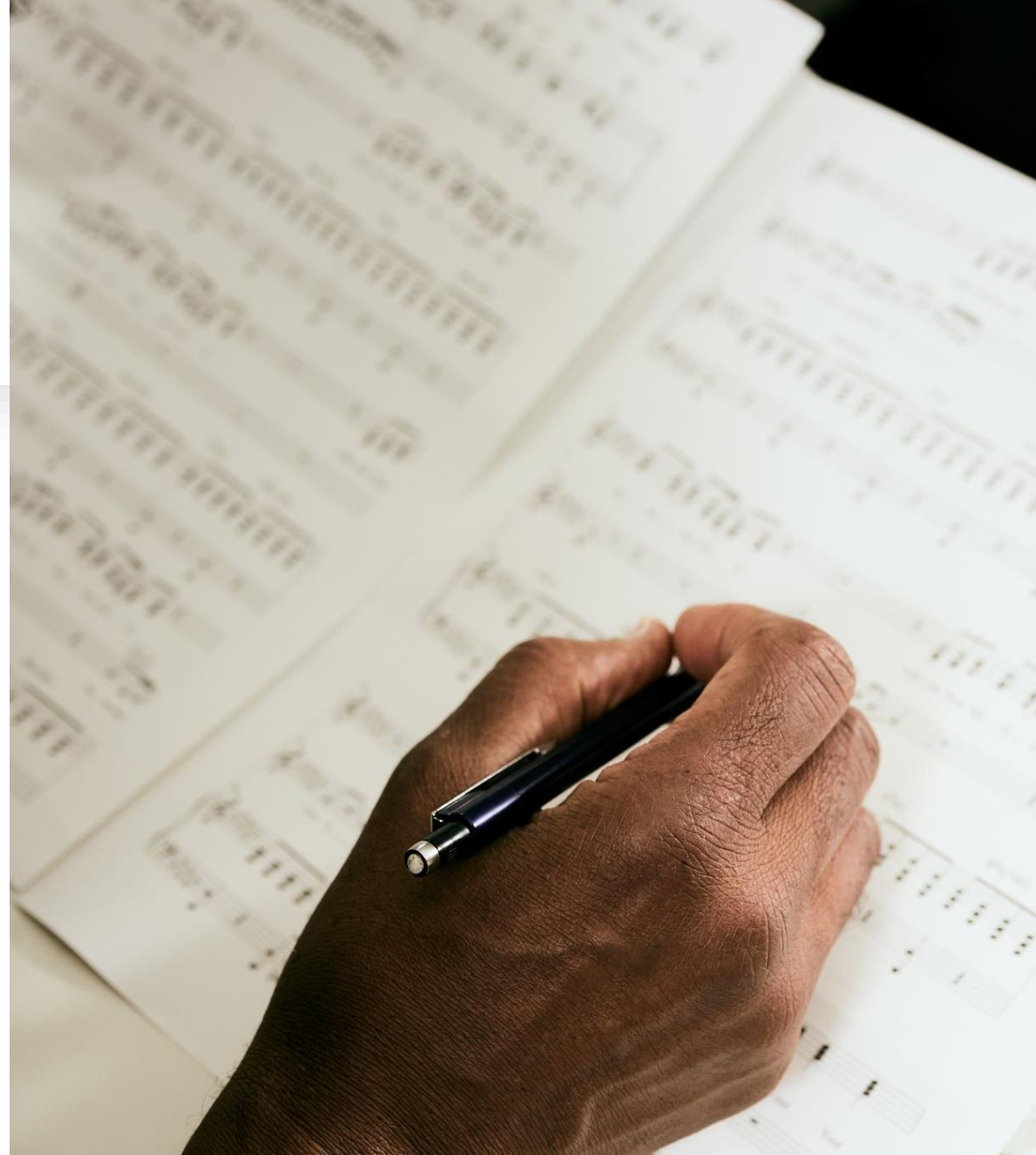


OpenAI

Company type	Private
Industry	Artificial intelligence
Founded	December 11, 2015; 8 years ago
Headquarters	San Francisco, California, U.S. ^[1]
Key people	Bret Taylor (chairman) Sam Altman (CEO) Greg Brockman (president) Sarah Friar (CFO) ^[2]
Products	OpenAI Five GPT-1 · 2 · 3 · 4 · 4o DALL·E OpenAI Codex ChatGPT SearchGPT Sora o1
Revenue	▲ US\$28 million ^[3] (2022)
Net income	▼ US\$−540 million ^[3] (2022)
Number of employees	c. 1,700 (2024) ^{[2][4]}

Fundamental Rights of the Indian Constitution:

- "Ek Fauji Ek Raja Chai Roz Piye"



Ek - Equality (Right to Equality: Articles 14-18)

Fauji - Freedom (Right to Freedom: Articles 19-22)

Ek - Exploitation (Right against Exploitation: Articles 23-24)

Raja - Religion (Right to Freedom of Religion: Articles 25-28)

Chai - Cultural (Cultural and Educational Rights: Articles 29-30)

Roz - Remedies (Right to Constitutional Remedies: Article 32)

Piye - Just for the rhyme, as a memory aid.

Explanation:

1. **Ek for Equality** (Articles 14-18)
2. **Fauji for Freedom** (Articles 19-22)
3. **Ek for Exploitation** (Articles 23-24)
4. **Raja for Religion** (Articles 25-28)
5. **Chai for Cultural and Educational Rights** (Articles 29-30)
6. **Roz for Remedies** (Article 32)


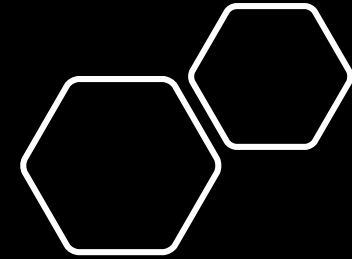
- 
- Fun fact

Image: MSU



Innovation

This *transparent solar panel* was developed by researchers at Michigan State University. The new technology can turn transparent surfaces, from building windows to cell phones, into solar collecting surfaces – without obstructing the view.



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- BASIC SMARTPHONE/LAPTOP/COMPUTER

HOW TO ENROL IN THIS COURSE



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Word of the day

Curtailment:

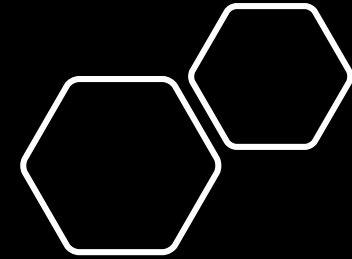
the temporal property of being cut short; the act of withholding or withdrawing some book or writing from publication or circulation; the reduction of expenditures in order to become financially stable


Synonyms: suppression, retrenchment, downsizing

Usage: *The curtailment of the freedom of entrepreneurs caused outrage.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/curtailmentpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kər'teɪlmənt/



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.
