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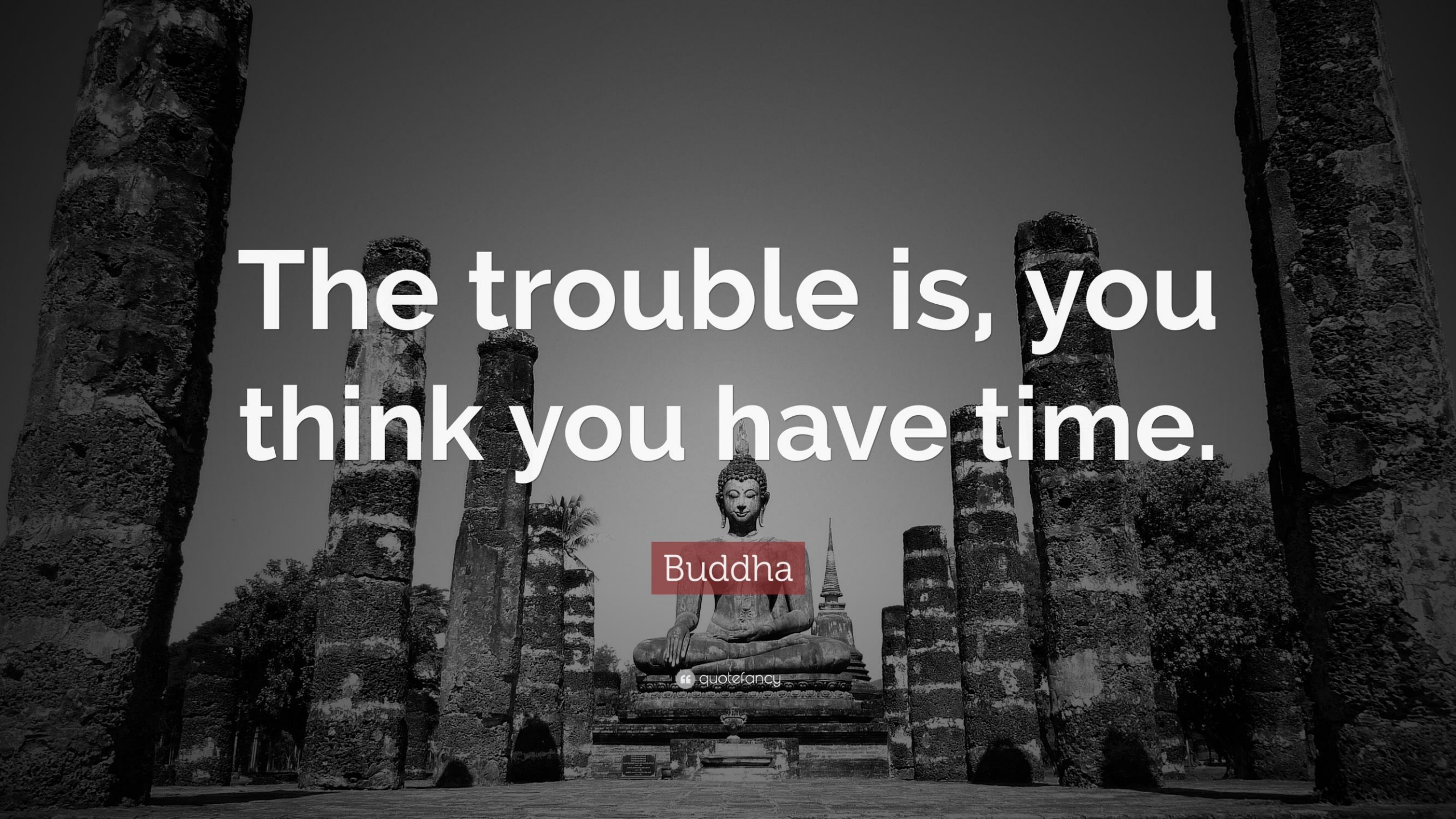


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**10 Questions
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The trouble is, you
think you have time.

Buddha

quote fancy



MINERAL LANDS
Can't review order on States' rights to tax: SC
NEWS » PAGE 5



ASSEMBLY ELECTION
Haryana votes today: 1,031 in the fray
NEWS » PAGE 4



FLARE-UP
Khamenei vows to keep fighting Israel
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GROUND ZERO » PAGE 7



DOMINANT SHOW
Mlaba sets up a big win for South Africa
SPORT » PAGE 14

INSIDE



Junior doctors in Bengal withdraw 'cease work'

KOLKATA
Protesting resident doctors in West Bengal on Friday decided to call off the full 'cease work' protest and resume duty from Saturday onwards. This comes after appeals by the State government and senior doctors to start work amid Durga Puja and the flood situation in the State. » PAGE 2

Chirag ready to 'contest alone' in Jharkhand

NEW DELHI
The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), a key partner of the ruling NDA at the Centre, is prepared to go solo in the Jharkhand Assembly election if seat negotiations with the BJP do not have desirable results, party chief and Union Minister Chirag Paswan told The Hindu on Friday. » PAGE 4

India lagging behind China in tech: IAF chief

NEW DELHI
India has lagged behind China in technology and the production rate of defence equipment, Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh said in an assessment of China, while stressing the need for ramping up domestic production of fighter jets by involving the private sector. » PAGE 5

Journalists can't be booked for criticising govt:

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday said criminal cases could not be slapped on mediapersons perceived as critical of the government while barring the Uttar Pradesh Police from taking coercive steps against a journalist for his article about a "casteist tilt" in appointment of officers. » PAGE 5

West urged to lift sanctions on Afghanistan

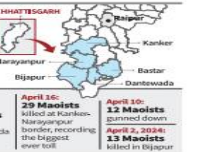
MOSCOW
Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov urged the West on Friday to lift sanctions on the Taliban-led Afghanistan and take "responsibility" for reconstruction efforts in the country. Taliban has been under Western sanctions for over two decades. » PAGE 12

28 Naxalites killed by security forces in Chhattisgarh gunfight

This is the second-highest tally of Naxal casualties in any operation in the State; the number of insurgents killed this year touches 185; one policeman injured in grenade blast in Bastar region; anti-Naxal operations surged since BJP came to power

Shubhamoy Sikdar RAIPUR
At least 28 Naxalites were killed by security forces in a gunfight in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region on Friday, according to the police. One policeman was injured in a grenade blast during the operations. The gunfight began around 1 p.m. in the Ahluju-mad area of Narayanpur district in the left-wing extremist-affected Bastar region. At 8 p.m., the police provided the final number of bodies recovered, after which Chief Minister Vishu Deo Sai congratulated the forces in a post on X. "In a fierce encounter between security forces and Naxalites in the border area of Narayanpur and Dantewada districts, reports suggest that 28 Naxal-

Red alert
Encounters between security forces and Maoists have become frequent this year. A look at the encounters since April this year.



ites have been killed. This major achievement by our brave soldiers is commendable. I salute their courage and indomitable spirit," Mr. Sai said.

Arms found
In a statement issued earlier in the day, the police said a joint team of security forces from Dantewada

and Narayanpur set out on an operation after receiving specific information about the presence of Naxalites in Ahluju-mad, a largely unsecured area in southern Bastar. The clash broke out around 1 p.m., after which firing continued at regular intervals. An AK-47 rifle, a Self Loading Rifle (SLR) and other

weapons were found at the site of encounter, the police said. After Friday's anti-Naxal operation - the second biggest in terms of casualties, inflicted by the State this year and in the conflict zone's history - the number of Naxalites killed by the forces this year has shot up to 185. There has been a surge in anti-Naxal operations since the new BJP government came to power in December 2023. Mr. Sai's post on X added: "Our fight to eliminate Naxalism will only end when we achieve complete success, and for this, our double-engine government is fully committed. The eradication of Naxalism from the State is our ultimate goal". In a media interaction, the Chief Minister applauded to the Naxalites to

Jaishankar will travel to Pakistan for SCO meeting

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will travel to Islamabad to attend the Heads of Government meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on October 15 and 16, the Centre announced on Friday.

The Ministry of External Affairs said Mr. Jaishankar's visit was "mainly" for the SCO grouping's meeting, given India's focus on "regional cooperation mechanisms". No bilateral meetings on the sidelines were held. The Ministry of External Affairs said Mr. Jaishankar's visit was "mainly" for the SCO grouping's meeting, given India's focus on "regional cooperation mechanisms". No bilateral meetings on the sidelines were held. The Ministry of External Affairs said Mr. Jaishankar's visit was "mainly" for the SCO grouping's meeting, given India's focus on "regional cooperation mechanisms". No bilateral meetings on the sidelines were held.

According to sources, it is also unclear whether Mr. Jaishankar will stay in Islamabad overnight, as he may return to New Delhi the same day. Mr. Jaishankar may arrive for the formal SCO meeting on October 16 and return to New Delhi the same day. Officials said the External Affairs Minister's visit was based on "reciprocity", given that despite bilateral tensions, Pakistan sent its then-Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto to attend the SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting in Goa in May 2023. It is also significant that

Voyage amid deluge



Rain tracks: A train passing by an area partially submerged in the floodwaters in Bihar's Darbhanga district on Friday. PTI

Tribal MLAs jump from Mantralaya in Maharashtra

Shuchit Maitha MUMBAI
A few tribal MLAs of the ruling Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra, including Deputy Speaker Narbhar Zivwal, jumped from the Mantralaya building in Mumbai, landing on safety nets on Friday. The MLAs were protesting against the government over the halt in hiring of students for State-level government jobs under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushik Scheme (PMKKS) in Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996.

SC sets up new SIT to probe Naidu's claim on Tirupati laddu

Krishnadas Rajaropal NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday constituted an "independent" five-member Special Investigation Team (SIT), with two Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officers in it, to replace the one formed by the Andhra Pradesh government to probe Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's allegation that contaminated ghee was used to prepare Tirupati laddus in the previous Yuvaana Sramika Yuthu Congress Party (YSRCP) regime. A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan said it did not want the ruling Telugu Desam Party of Mr. Naidu and the government of former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy to utilise the apex



Political row: The Bench said it didn't want the court to be utilised as a "political battleground" to trade allegations at each other.

court as a "political battleground" to trade allegations at each other. "We don't want any political drama. Fortunately, or unfortunately, both sides are warring groups," Justice Gavai remarked orally. In a September 30 hearing, the top court had remarked that "gods at least should be kept away from politics".

SC ropes Centre
On Friday, the court roped in the Centre saying it too should play a role in unearthing the truth about the allegations. Besides making the CBI a part of the probe, the Bench brought the enquiry direct under the supervision of the Central agency's Director. The court's move to give the CBI a larger role in the

FIR has the potential of hurting the sentiments of crores of people/devotees residing worldwide," the top court stressed. "Not negative remark" The court clarified that the formation of the independent SIT, which would also include two Andhra Pradesh Police officers and a retired Supreme Court judge or a former High Court Chief Justice for a despatch probe into the allegations of crores of people/devotees, and must not be seen as a negative remark on the State SIT. The probe would be based on an FIR that the instant order should not be construed as any reflection by the independence of the officers of the State government. We are entrusting this matter to

Sahasini Haidar NEW DELHI

In the first such visit in nearly a decade, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will travel to Islamabad to attend the Heads of Government meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on October 15 and 16, the Centre announced on Friday.

Minister pledges help to Sri Lanka

COLOMBO
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Friday met Sri Lanka's new President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, and pledged India's "full support" to the nation's economic recovery. » PAGE 4

Narendra Modi-led govt sending a delegation to attend the SAARC summit, but has refused to attend the SAARC

Mr. Jaishankar will be leading India's delegation to the SCO meeting. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaishankar told presspersons at a briefing, "As and when the programme develops, the visit develops, we will keep you informed," he said, when asked if there was any request from Pakistan for a bilateral meeting with its Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. According to sources, it is also unclear whether Mr. Jaishankar will stay in Islamabad overnight, as he may return to New Delhi the same day.

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Officials said the External Affairs Minister's visit was based on "reciprocity", given that despite bilateral tensions, Pakistan sent its then-Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto to attend the SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting in Goa in May 2023.

It is also significant that

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, for the Andhra Pradesh government, said there was "conclusive proof that lard was used in the ghee. He said the Chief Minister had been speaking on the completion of 100 days of government."

He was responding to the stern observations from the Bench in the previous hearing about the Chief Minister's supposed haste in calling a press conference. Mr. Rohatgi defended that the media had quoted Mr. Naidu out of context. Mr. Mehta submitted that if there was any element of truth in the allegations, it was unacceptable. "Devotees are spread all over the world. Food safety is also involved," he highlighted.

IN BRIEF



Emergency to go through the edits suggested by CBFC

Zee Entertainment Enterprises and Manikarnika Films Production House formed by actor and politician Kangana Ranaut on Friday sought 30 days to comply with the cuts, edits, and changes to the film Emergency suggested by the Central Board of Film Certification's (CBFC) revising committee, advocate Abhinav Chandrachud, representing the CBI, informed *The Hindu*. Once the makers of the film submit all the changes, the revising committee has suggested, the CBFC will not make any further delay and issue the certification for the film in two weeks time, Mr. Chandrachud told *The Hindu*.

NIA official held in Patna along with two middlemen

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), in coordination with the National Investigation Agency (NIA), arrested two middlemen and Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) Ajay Pratap Singh of the NIA, posted in Patna branch, on the allegations of obtaining undue advantages for granting favour in the investigation of an ongoing NIA case linked to former JDU MLCA Manorama Devi. The CBI on Thursday issued the official statement stating that the apprehensions were made after the CBI had tracked the two middlemen, closely associated with the accused official, accepting a bribe of ₹20 lakh. Mr. Ajay Pratap is an Income Tax official on deputation to the NIA.

WHO gives approval to first Mpxv diagnostic test

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In an important move to improve global access to Mpxv testing, the World Health Organization (WHO) has listed the first Mpxv in vitro diagnostic under its Emergency Use Listing procedure.

"The approval for emergency use of the Alinity m MPXV assay, manufactured by Abbott Molecular Inc, will be pivotal in expanding diagnostic capacity in countries facing Mpxv outbreaks, where the need for quick and accurate testing has risen sharply. Early diagnosis of Mpxv enables timely treatment and care, and control of the virus," the WHO said in a statement on Thursday.

The test enables detection of monkeypox virus (clade 1/ID) DNA from human skin lesion swabs.

Maldivian President to visit India next week

Kalol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu will pay a five-day visit to India from October 6 to 10. This will be the first state visit by Mr. Muizzu, who had earlier visited New Delhi to participate in the inaugurating ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 9.

"Maldives is India's key maritime neighbor in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and holds a special place in Prime Minister's vision of 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and India's Neighbourhood First Policy," the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

The Ministry said that during the visit, Mr. Muizzu will meet President Droupadi Murmu and hold delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi "on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest". Both sides are expected to sign a number of agreements during the visit.

President Muizzu is expected to visit Mumbai and Bengaluru, where he will participate in business events to promote commercial ties between the two countries. He will also visit the Taj Mahal.

Need to catch up with China on technology, says chief of Air Force

Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh stresses need for ramping up domestic production of fighter jets by involving the private sector

Dhanraj Paul

India has lagged behind China in technology and production rates of defence equipment, Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh said in an assessment of China, while stressing the need for ramping up domestic production of fighter jets by involving the private sector.

He said Russia had remained two to three years behind China in technology, and we may be not so good as of now, we have lagged... As far as production rates are concerned, we are way behind. We need to catch up

"We have done our analysis. We don't have a design to go offensive unconditionally. Only when we are pushed, we will do something... We have our plans in place. One thing I am aggressively saying is that we are training much better than them. We have a much better expertise than them. We get to know... we have to know how many different air forces they interact with and how many do we interact with. As far as human angle is



AIR CHIEF MARSHAL AMAR PREET SINGH

concerned, our people behind the machine are way ahead of them," he said at the annual press conference ahead of Air Force Day on October 8.

"As far as technology is concerned, we may be not so good as of now, we have lagged... As far as production rates are concerned, we are way behind. We need to catch up... We need to catch up over a period of time, it cannot happen overnight."

To a question on the capability of India's air defence network, the Air chief said the systems being procured could do similar functions as Israel's Iron Dome and other systems. "We have a combination of air defence systems

As far as production rates of defence equipment are concerned, we are way behind. We need to catch up

which are fairly competent," he said, noting that India being a very large country needed a large number of systems.

He said private players had to come in to ensure the criminal cases should not be slapped against the writer," a petition in India concerning law and order, Uttar Pradesh has exceeded in many fields at the national level under his leadership. Since he renounced worldly life, he no longer belongs to any caste; he is simply a common man.

The petition said a "journalist's duty is to serve the truth, to hold power accountable, and to inform the public without fear or favour."

Abhishek Upadhyay, represented by Anoop Prakash Awasthi, said the article said the Uttar Pradesh Police register a "frivolous" FIR against him under various provisions of law and order. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 152A (computer related offences) of the Information

Cases can't be lodged against journalists for criticising govt.: SC

Krishnadhas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said criminal cases could not be slapped on mediapersons perceived as critics of the government while barring the Uttar Pradesh Police from taking coercive steps against a journalist for his article about a "casteist tilt" in the deployment of officers occupying key positions in the Yogi Adityanath administration.

"In democratic nations, freedom to express one's views is respected. The rights of the journalists are protected under Article 19 (1)(a) of the Constitution. Merely because writings of a journalist are perceived as criticism of the government, criminal cases should not be slapped against the writer," a

petition in India concerning law and order, Uttar Pradesh has exceeded in many fields at the national level under his leadership. Since he renounced worldly life, he no longer belongs to any caste; he is simply a common man.

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TH CROSSWORD
(Set by Aron)

14 Views heard, choose a bartender's tool (?)
15 Against taking note - a severe learning disability (?)
16 A dagger mistakenly left in the car port (?)
17 Tended to walk over the sides (?)
18 Essentially dog and cat, dry broadcasting (2,3)
19 One with knowledge in a branch gets activation (?)
20 Club of sorts to spread things on grass (?)
21 His cook introduces American to a Japanese dish (?)
22 Drag maybe uniform during transit (5-8)
Down
1 Oriental guy had issue (?)
2 Furious about current charging (?)
3 Fish raised a stink (?)
4 Pause to have bread roll - one is a frequent flyer (?)
5 Extremely passive, one is quiet (?)
6 Music during a special event most even-handed (?)
7 No tip for the moment of reckoning (8,5)
8 Indian gang shuffling top cards in a game, repeatedly (5,3,5,3)
9 Crime committed as child sleep (?)
10 In addition school gets even break (?)
11 Mineral from a larger rock (?)
12 Abnormal rise in weight - checks whether it fits (5,2)
13 Deserves to be included for a rest (?)
14 Starts at nine, the reader enters a cave (?)

- Across**
1 Forfeits a part to weave carpet (4,1,5,3)
10 Rule for keeping some money with Mike (5)
11 Sweet finish, getting attention (9)
12 Soft rock - Abba's "Not born in change" (9)
13 Plant review - some of it timeless (5)

14298
To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site: <https://www.grameasy.com>

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SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

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

FAITH

Nature of Supreme Being

People cannot easily understand the nature of the Supreme Being (*Brahman*) with the help of the physical objects they see. Only through Vedas, Vedanta and Itihasa can His nature be understood.

Lord says in the Bhagavad Gita, "I am seated in the hearts of all. From Me are memory, knowledge and their removal, I am to be known from the Vedas." (*Goraxoyoche ahnam hrudhi - CI-15-Verse 15*).

Velukkudi Sri Krishnan Swamy said in a discourse that sage Veda Vyasa, in his "Brahma Sutra", says "Sastrayonihvar" - Sastras are the proven evidence to learn about Him.

An oft-repeated paradoxical question is why people are subject to testing times and various problems when the Vedas say God is ever compassionate and graceful. When all souls are His creations, and He resides in them, why should people have disparities about health, wealth, knowledge, and other matters? The simple answer quoted in the scriptures is that when people accept the Supreme Being as revealed by the Vedas, they can equally admire that He is graceful, which the same Vedas highlight as His magnificent quality.

The reason for the difference between various people is due to their Karma. Vedanta distinguishes between the physical body, the soul, and the Supreme Being. A person should avoid mistaking the physical body for the individual soul. Another point of caution is that a man should not think that the soul is independent. It is God's property and meant to render divine service to Him.

WHO gives approval to first Mpox diagnostic test

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

In an important move to improve global access to Mpox testing, the World Health Organization (WHO) has listed the first Mpox in vitro diagnostic under its Emergency Use Listing procedure.

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The test enables detection of monkeypox virus (clade I/II) DNA from human skin lesion swabs.

Monkeypox Virus

- Monkeypox virus is an **orthopoxvirus** (a genus of viruses to which **smallpox virus** also belongs).
- It is common in **Central** and **West Africa** and occasionally showed up elsewhere.
- The virus has been detected in squirrels, Gambian poached rats, dormice, and monkeys.

MONKEY POX

Monkeypox Virus Mpox

KEY POX OR MPOX ?

Monkeypox is a rare **Zoonotic Viral** disease belonging to the Orthopoxvirus genus in the Poxviridae family.



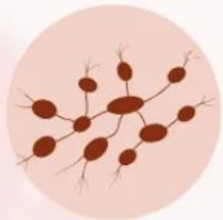
Zoonotic Diseases

(Disease that spreads from **animals to humans**)



The **Genus Orthopoxvirus** includes the **smallpox virus (variola)**, vaccinia virus, cowpox virus, and **Mpox (monkeypox) virus**.

SYMPTOMS OF MONKEYPOX VIRUS



Swollen glands
(**lymph nodes**)



Muscle Aches



Fever



Headache



Rash

Typically, **1-3 days** following the onset of fever, initially develop on the **face** before spreading to other areas of the body.

SPREAD OF MONKEYPOX VIRUS

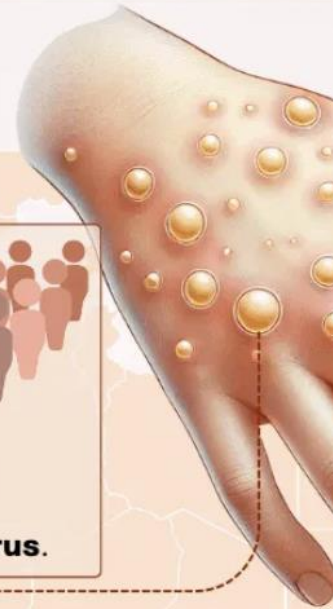


1958

Monkeypox was first discovered in animals in **Denmark** when two outbreaks occurred in **captive monkey colonies** kept for research purposes. Hence the name 'monkeypox'.

1970

The first case of the virus in **humans** was recorded in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** in a nine-year-old boy.



HOW DOES MONKEY VIRUS SPREAD?

VIA ANIMALS



Animal bite



Eating products made of infected animals



Direct contact with body fluid or rashes

VIA HUMANS



Direct contact
Rashes, **body fluids**, lesions.



Close exposure
Face-to-face, skin-to-skin, droplets



Prolonged contact
Over 4 hours.



Intimacy Kissing, **sex**, multiple partners risk.

Note:- A recent study found monkeypox virus DNA in **samples of semen**, saliva, urine, rectal swabs, and faeces at high viral loads. However, it is **not known** whether mpox can be spread through semen or vaginal fluids.

CLADES OF THE MPOX VIRUS

CLADE 1

- Clade I leads to more **severe disease and death** than Clade II.
- Clade Ib, a new offshoot of clade I virus, caused **unprecedented** human-to-human transmission in a short period and had been spreading through **sex**.

CLADE 2

- Clade II was behind the **global mpox outbreak in 2022**.



VACCINES AND MEDICATIONS OF MONKEYPOX

- Monkeypox typically resolves on its own within 2-4 weeks.
- For severe cases:
 - There is **no established cure** or treatment regime.
 - Several new therapies are being developed or are undergoing clinical trials.
- Treatment options to manage symptoms and prevent future outbreaks include:
 - Antivirals
 - Vaccinia Immune Globulin
 - **Smallpox Vaccine** (**MVA-BN vaccine**: Approved by the European Union, United States, Canada and others. **LC16 vaccine**: Approved by Japan, **OrthopoxVac**: Approved by Russia.)



- Monkeypox is a rare **viral infection** caused by the **monkeypox virus**.
- Mpox is a **zoonotic** infection (infections that spread from animals).
- **First discovered in 1958**, Monkeypox occurs primarily in **tropical rainforest areas** of central and west Africa and is occasionally exported to other regions.
- **Common symptoms:** Fever, muscle ache, rash and swollen lymph nodes, pus filled skin lesions. It may lead to a range of medical complications, causing even death (3-6% cases).
 - Monkeypox is usually a **self-limited disease** with the symptoms lasting from 2 to 4 weeks.
 - It is **less contagious** than **smallpox** and causes less severe illness.
- **Higher risk group:** Pregnant ladies, children and low immunity persons.

India, U.S. sign pact on critical minerals

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

With China dominating the critical minerals trade, India and the U.S. on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand and diversify critical minerals supply chains.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who signed the pact with his U.S. counterpart – Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo – said that the two nations were exploring a combined engagement with third countries as well.

“We believe it could be an engagement where third countries could become a source of capital, a source of technology, or a source of critical minerals, or could become markets,” the Commerce and Industry Minister said, pointing to opportunities in Africa and Latin America.

CRITICAL MINERALS

OUR GROWING DEPENDENCE ON CRITICAL MINERALS

WHAT ARE CRITICAL MINERALS?

Minerals deemed critical vary by country. The United States classifies **35 minerals** as critical because they are:

- essential to economic and national security,
- from vulnerable supply chains, or
- a key part of the manufacturing of a product. ¹

TOP INDUSTRIES THAT RELY ON CRITICAL MINERALS

- 1 Telecommunications and electronics
- 2 Energy
- 3 Defence
- 4 Aerospace
- 5 Transportation

2

CRITICAL MINERALS ARE EVERYWHERE



Lithium is used to create batteries.



Helium is used in MRIs.



Uranium is used in radiation therapy.



Potash is used in fertilizer.

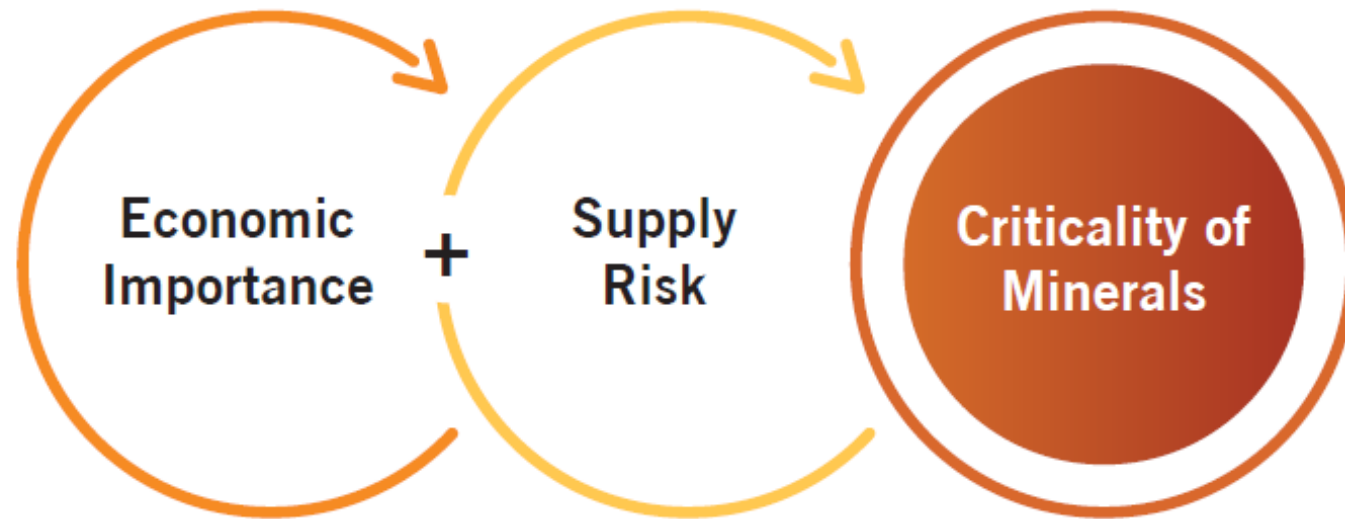


Indium is used to make LCD screens.



Strontium is used in fireworks.

3



Economic Importance

- Disruption Potential
- Substitutability Index (EI)
- GVA Multiplier Score
- Cross-Cutting Index (CCI)

Supply Risk

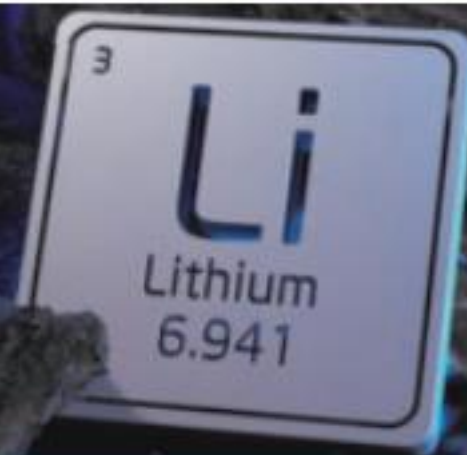
- Governance-Weighted Mineral Concentration
- End-of-life Recycling Rates (EOL-RR)
- Import Reliance (IR) and Self-Sufficiency (SS)
- Substitutability Index (SR)

CRITICAL MINERALS: INDIA'S NET IMPORT RELIANCE (2020)

Critical Mineral	%age	Major import sources
Lithium	100%	Chile, Russia, China, Ireland, Belgium
Cobalt	100%	China, Belgium, Netherlands, US, Japan
Nickel	100%	Sweden, China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines
Vanadium	100%	Kuwait, Germany, South Africa, Brazil, Thailand
Niobium	100%	Brazil, Australia, Canada, South Africa, Indonesia
Germanium	100%	China, South Africa, Australia, France, US
Rhenium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
Beryllium	100%	Russia, UK, Netherlands, South Africa, China
Tantalum	100%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
Strontium	100%	China, US, Russia, Estonia, Slovenia
Zirconium (zircon)	80%	Australia, Indonesia, South Africa, Malaysia, US
Graphite (natural)	60%	China, Madagascar, Mozambique, Vietnam, Tanzania
Manganese	50%	South Africa, Gabon, Australia, Brazil, China
Chromium	2.5%	South Africa, Mozambique, Oman, Switzerland, Turkey
Silicon	<1%	China, Malaysia, Norway, Bhutan, Netherlands

Source: 'Unlocking Australia-India Critical Minerals Partnership Potential', Australian Trade and Investment Commission, July 2021

HEAVY METAL



Critical minerals for which India is 100% import-dependent

Mineral	Major application
Lithium	Rechargeable batteries, ceramics
Cobalt	Rechargeable batteries and superalloy
Nickel	Stainless steel, superalloys, rechargeable batteries
Vanadium	Alloying agent for iron and steel, batteries
Niobium	Steel and superalloys, construction, transportation
Germanium	Fiber optics and night vision applications
Rhenium	Superalloys, aerospace and machinery use
Beryllium	Alloying agent in aerospace and defense industries
Tantalum	Electronic components, mostly capacitors and in superalloys
Strontium	Aluminium pigments and fillers, glass, magnets

Source: A report on *Unlocking Australia-India Critical Minerals Partnership Potential* by Australian Trade and Investment Commission, July 2021/ *Critical Minerals of India* report

Jaishankar set to visit Pakistan for SCO meet

NEW DELHI, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024



IN THE NEWS

RBI KEEPS ₹ BELOW 84/\$; FX RESERVES CROSS \$700 BN

THE RUPEE STAYED below the \$84 mark on Friday as the RBI stepped up its intervention in the foreign exchange market to stem its slide. The rupee closed almost flat at 83.9688 on Thursday. However, market participants fear that the escalation in the Iran-Israel tensions leading to a surge in crude oil prices could further pressure the rupee. The RBI intervention comes at a time when the country's foreign exchange reserves crossed \$700 billion for the first time on record, after climbing for seven straight weeks, on valuation gains and the central bank's dollar purchases. ■ PAGE 6

SEVICES PMI FALLS TO 10-MONTH LOW IN SEPTEMBER

INDIA'S SERVICES SECTOR activity fell to a 10-month low in September while still being in the expansion zone, the seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services Business Activity Index showed on Friday. The slowdown was triggered by a moderation in new businesses, initial contract sales and output growth. ■ PAGE 2

TITAN SEES 25% Y-O-Y GROWTH IN SEPT QUARTER

TITAN ON FRIDAY said it had registered a growth of about 25% year-on-year in the September quarter. The Bengaluru-headquartered company said a net 72 stores were added during the quarter, taking Titan's combined retail network presence to 5,171 stores. ■ PAGE 4

SEBI NOD TO JOIO FIN, BLACKROCK TO SET UP MF BIZ

THE SECURITIES AND Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has granted in-principle approval to Jio Financial Services and BlackRock to set up a mutual fund business as co-sponsors. Jio Financial Services and BlackRock had formed a joint venture 'Jio BlackRock' in July 2023 to enter the asset management space in India. ■ PAGE 6

FE SPECIALS

The MoI follows redoubled efforts by India to extract various critical minerals...

The Speed T4 bike review: The Triumph of Bajaj

Most features of Triumph motorcycles now available at a Bajaj price point. ■ PHOTOBANK, P9

WARS OFFER A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

Lower valuations for quality stocks create a good entry point. ■ PERSONAL FINANCE, P11

MOVE FOLLOWS PNB ACTION

'Aparatna' MTNL is now an NPA in SBI's books

URVI MALVANIA & SACHIN KUMAR, Mumbai, October 4

MAHANAGAR TELEPHONE NIGAM (MTNL), a Navratna company, has been declared a non-performing asset (NPA) by State Bank of India (SBI), the status was informed on the exchanges on Friday. This comes a month after Punjab National Bank (PNB) downgraded the loan accounts of the company, which provides services in Delhi and Mumbai, to the NPAs status on September 9. A few other public sector banks had earlier downgraded the firm. The total outstanding in SBI's account is ₹325.53 crore as at the end of the September quarter of the current fiscal, of which the amount overdue as on September 30 is ₹281.62 crore.

IN DIRE STRAITS

₹325.53 cr Punjab National Bank downgraded MTNL's loan accounts to NPA on Sept 9

₹281.62 cr of the ₹325.53-crore amount overdue as on Sept 30

₹30,141 cr MTNL's total debt as on March 30, 2024



to provide the status of the loan facility it has provided MTNL in light of media reports that the government will pay MTNL's dues and the department of telecommunications (DoT) claims that there will be no default in this matter. SBI also sought clarification on the land monetisation plan, which was earlier provided to it with granular details, along with year-wise cash flows.

Continued on Page 7

Worst weekly market fall in 2 yrs

MARKETS FAILED TO hold on to a relief rally on Friday as the benchmark indices fell sharply on the day's highs and closed with a decline of around 1%, registering their fifth consecutive session of losses, reports Vivek Kumar M. The rise in crude oil prices due to the escalating geopolitical risks and concerns over foreign funds preferring China over India continued to weigh on the investor sentiment. The Nifty and Sensex plunged nearly 5% each for the week, marking their worst week since June 2022. The volatile session on Friday saw the Sensex gyrate between 1,800 points and the Nifty slip below 25,000 points in intra-day trading. This wiped out investor wealth worth over ₹17 lakh crore on the BSE.

Weekly drop the worst since June 2022



Brent crude prices (\$ per barrel)



Will hit Israel energy, gas sites if attacked: Iran

IRAN WILL TARGET Israeli energy and gas installations if Israel attacks it, the semi-official Iranian news agency SNN quoted Revolutionary Guards deputy commander Ali Fadavi as saying on Friday, reports Reuters. "If the occupiers make such a mistake, we will target all their energy sources, installations and all refineries and gas fields," Fadavi said. Iran said it had targeted the intelligence headquarters of Hezbollah in Lebanon overnight and was assessing the damage on Friday after a series of strikes on senior figures in the group that Iran's supreme leader dismissed as counterproductive. The air attack on Beirut, part of a wide assault that has driven more than 1.2 million Lebanese from their homes, was reported to have targeted the potential successor to the leader of Hezbollah, assassinated by Israel a week ago. Hashem Safieddine's fate was unclear and neither Israel nor Hezbollah has offered any comment. ■ Related report on Page 3

Global investors discussing the 'Indian era': PM

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Friday said that India clearly is in a "sweet spot" today, giving ample and unique opportunities for the global investors. Speaking at the Kautilya Economic Conclave, Modi said: "Amid global uncertainties, we're discussing 'the Indian era'." This shows the confidence the world has on India today is different. ■ PAGE 2

Per capita income will rise by \$2,000 in 5 years, says FM

INDIA'S PER CAPITA income will rise by another \$2,000 in the next five years, from \$2,710 at present, as the upcoming decade will see "the steepest rise" in the living standards of the common people, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Friday. ■ PAGE 2

IPOC path clear as NSE settles case with Sebi

AKSHATA GORDE, Mumbai, October 4. IN A DEVELOPMENT that is likely to pave the way for the National Stock Exchange's (NSE) long-awaited initial public offering (IPOC), the exchange has settled a matter alleged misuse of its trading access point (TAP) by paying the markets regulator ₹643 crore. This comes close on the heels of the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi) decision to withdraw the charges against the NSE and its seven former employees, including Chitra Ramkrishna and Ravi Narain, in the decade-old co-location facility case, citing absence of evidence to support the allegations. In February 2023, the markets regulator had issued a show-cause notice to the exchange to file TAP matter, alleging that the stock exchange did not take active measures to prevent certain brokers from bypassing the access point system, which was used by brokers to maintain communications with the NSE's trading system. The regulator also alleged a delay in the appointment of a chief information officer by the NSE and non-compliance with cybersecurity regulations on failure to disclose vulnerabilities to its own cybersecurity panel. Along with the NSE, those who settled the case are Vikram Limaye, Umesh Jain, GM Shreyas Marayan Neelakantan, VE Narasimhan, Kamala K, Nilesh Tinaikar, R Nandakumar, and Mayur Sindhwani. The NSE paid the combined settlement amount on September 25 "without admitting or denying the findings of fact and conclusions of law, through a settlement order". The settlement amount was determined by a high-powered advisory committee and later approved by a panel of whole-time members, the order said. Eight of the applicants had undertaken a pro bono community service of 14 days during the year. ■ Continued on Page 7

India, US sign deal on critical minerals

MUKESH JAOGATA, New Delhi, October 4

IN A MOVE that will help the country address concerns about potential uncertainties over the availability of vital inputs for its manufacturing industries such as semiconductors, electric vehicles and solar modules, India on Friday signed a deal with the US to "expand and diversify critical mineral supply chains". The memorandum of understanding (MoU), signed during the sixth ministerial meeting of the US-India Commercial Dialogue in Washington in the presence of commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal and US secretary of commerce Gina Raimondo, aims to dovetail the two countries' complementary strengths in critical minerals and the technologies surrounding their extraction and processing. "The MoU centres around resilient semiconductor supply chains. It also covers sustainability and clean energy," Goyal said. The MoU follows redoubled efforts by India to extract various critical minerals...

THE MOU CENTRES AROUND RESILIENT SEMICONDUCTOR SUPPLY CHAINS

WE ARE ALSO TALKING WITH THE US TO WORK WITH THIRD COUNTRIES



Continued on Page 7

Apple widens India basket, to make all iPhone models here

FE BUREAU, New Delhi, October 4

APPLE ON FRIDAY announced that it has started manufacturing the entire iPhone 16 line up, including iPhone 16 Pro and iPhone 16 Pro Max, in India. The made-in-India iPhone 16 Pro and Pro Max will soon also be exported to select countries across the world. This comes close after the launch of iPhone 15 on September 16. The company is also planning to expand its retail presence in the country with more flagship retail stores in Bengaluru, Pune, Delhi, NCR, and Mumbai. Last year, it opened two flagship retail stores in the country - in Mumbai and Delhi. "Our stores are incredible places to experience the magic of Apple, and it's been wonderful to deepen our connection with our customers in India," said Delvinder Chahal, Apple's senior vice-president of retail. "We are excited to build our teams as we plan to open more stores in India, because we're inspired by the creativity and passion of our customers across this country," she added.

BIGGER BITE

Apple has now started manufacturing the entire iPhone 16 line up in India. Locally made iPhone 16 Pro & Pro Max to soon be available here and for export to select countries.

The US firm began making iPhones in India in 2017

Its contract partners in India include Foxconn, Pegatron & Tata Electronics. Apple's retail store expansion will help increase its market share, say analysts.

Apple, which has over 3,000 employees in India, began manufacturing iPhones in the country in 2017. The phones are manufactured here through its contract manufacturers Foxconn, Pegatron and Tata Electronics. Through its contract manufacturing partners, Apple is the biggest beneficiary of the country's production-linked incentives scheme for smartphones. According to IDC, Apple is expected to ship 12-12.5 million iPhones in India in 2024, a y-o-y growth of around 25% growth. For iPhones, the best performing model in the April-June quarter were the iPhone 15 series with a 36% market share, iPhone 14 series with a 36% share and iPhone 13 series with a 6% market share, according to IDC. ■ Continued on Page 7

'Navratna' MTNL is now an NPA in SBI's books

URVI MALYANIA & SACHIN KUMAR
Mumbai, October 4

MAHANAGAR TELEPHONE NIGAM (MTNL), a Navratna company, has been declared a non-performing asset (NPA) by State Bank of India (SBI), the state-run telco informed the exchanges on Friday. This comes a month after Punjab National Bank (PNB) downgraded the loan accounts of the company, which provides services in Delhi and Mumbai, to the NPA status on September 9. A few other public sector banks had earlier downgraded the firm.

The total outstanding in SBI's account is ₹325.53 crore as at the end of the September quarter of the current fiscal, of which the amount overdue as on September 30 is ₹281.62 crore.

"In order to regularise the account, this amount is due with immediate effect and to be paid immediately...Your attention is also drawn to the term that in case the overdue(s) are not so liquidated, a penal rate of interest is chargeable on such outstanding," SBI wrote to MTNL.

MTNL's total debt as on March 30, 2024, stood at ₹30,141 crore, of which PSBs, including SBI, Bank of India, PNB, Indian Overseas Bank, Union Bank of India, Punjab & Sind Bank, and UCO Bank have a total exposure of nearly ₹8,000 crore. The telco has defaulted on ₹519 crore in repayments to several lenders between June and August 2024.

Union Bank of India and Bank of India have already classified the debt owned by MTNL as an NPA. After SBI's move, other lenders such as Punjab & Sind Bank and UCO Bank are also likely to classify MTNL's debt as NPA.

Additionally, the bank asked the telco

IN DIRE STRAITS

₹325.53 cr

Total outstanding in SBI's account as at Sept quarter end

₹281.62 cr
of the ₹325.53-crore amount overdue as on Sept 30

₹30,141 cr

MTNL's total debt as on March 30, 2024

■ Punjab National Bank downgraded MTNL's loan accounts to NPA on Sept 9

■ Union Bank of India, Bank of India had earlier classified MTNL's debt as NPA



to provide the status of the loan facility it has provided MTNL in light of media reports that the government will pay MTNL's dues and the department of telecommunications' (DoT) claims that there will be no default in this matter.

SBI also sought clarification on the land monetisation plan, which was earlier provided to it with granular details, along with year-wise cash flows.

Continued on Page 7

Formerly	Bombay Telephone Limited
Company type	Subsidiary of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
Industry	Telecommunications
Founded	1 April 1986; 38 years ago ^[1]
Founder	Government of India
Headquarters	Mahanagar Doorsanchar Sadan, 9, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road , New Delhi , India ^[2]
Areas served	India Mauritius Nepal ^[3]
Key people	ROBERT J RAVI, ITS (Chairman & MD BSNL) ^[4]
Products	Wired and Wireless Broadband Digital television FTTH Fixed-line telephony Mobile telephony IPTV
Revenue	▼ ₹1,798.41 crore (US\$220 million) ^[5] (FY21)
Operating income	▼ ₹−2,451.79 crore (US\$−290 million) ^[5] (FY21)
Net income	▼ ₹−2,451.79 crore (US\$−290 million) ^[5] (FY21)
Total assets	▼ ₹13,350.75 crore (US\$1.6 billion) ^[5] (FY21)
Total equity	▼ ₹−16,039.88 crore (US\$−1.9 billion) ^[5] (FY21)

Owner	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (100%)
Number of employees	3,309 (As of Mar 2024)
Divisions	Mahanagar Telephone Mauritius Limited (MTML) ^[3]
Website	www.mtnl.in  mtnldelhi.in  mtnlmumbai.in 

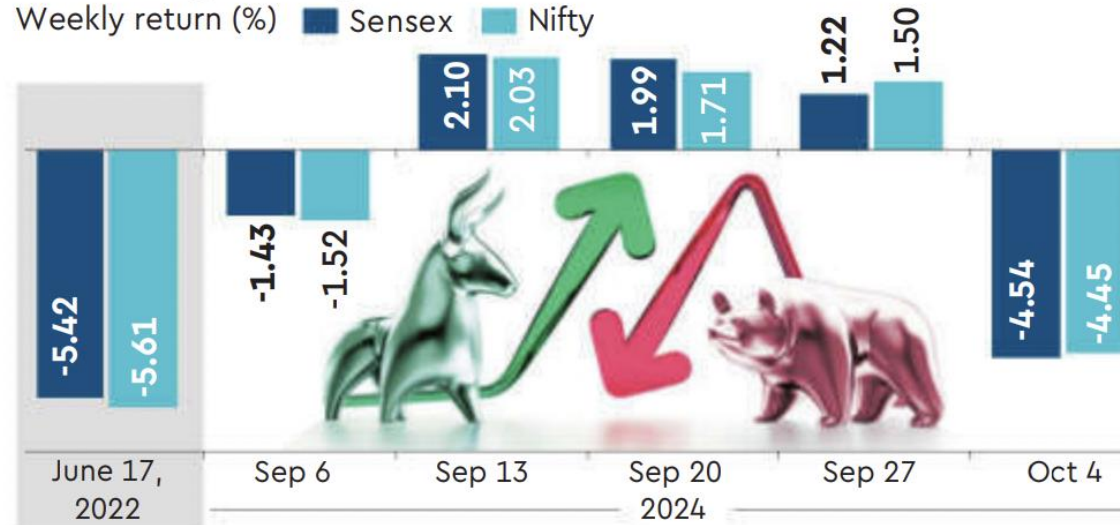
Worst weekly market fall in 2 yrs

MARKETS FAILED TO hold on to a relief rally on Friday as the benchmark indices fell sharply off the day's highs and closed with a decline of around 1%, registering their fifth consecutive session of losses, reports **Vivek Kumar M.**

The rise in crude oil prices due to the escalating geopolitical risks and concerns over foreign funds preferring China over India continued to weigh on the investor sentiment.

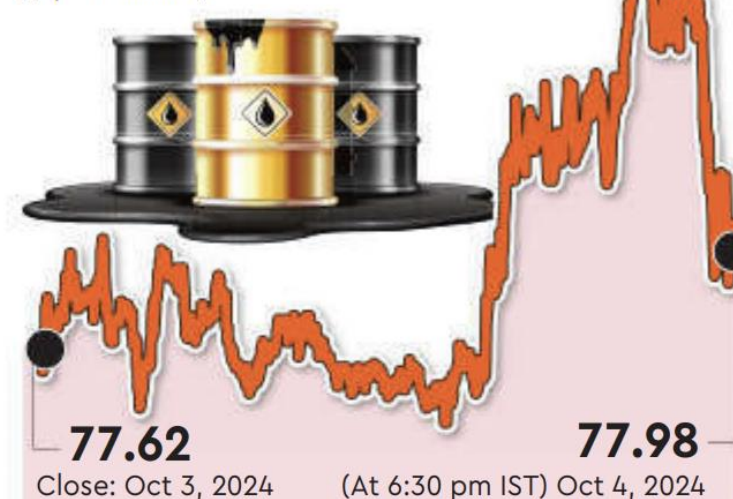
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Weekly drop the worst since June 2022



Brent crude prices

(\$ per barrel)





Top sectoral losers

- weekly (% loss*)





Five-Year Cruise Bharat Mission

- 
- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, launched the five-year Cruise Bharat Mission from Mumbai port.
 - **About**
 - **The mission aims** to excel India's vision to become a global hub for cruise tourism and promote the country as the leading global cruise destination.
 - **It includes** increasing sea cruise passengers from **0.5 million in Phase 1 to 1 million** and river cruise passengers from **0.5 million in Phase 1 to 1.5 million** by Phase 3.
- 

- It also includes developing 10 Sea Cruise Terminals, 100 River Cruise Terminals, and five Marinas under the mission.

-





- **Three Segments of Cruise Tourism**

- **Ocean & Harbour Cruise:** Includes ocean cruises, coastal and deep-sea excursions, as well as sailing and yachting trips from various harbors.

- **River & Inland Cruise:** Focuses on river and inland cruises, exploring canals, backwaters, creeks, and lakes.

- **Island Cruise:** Offers live-aboard excursions, boutique cruises to lesser-known locations, lighthouse tours, and inter-island cruises.





- **Significance of the Mission**

- **Promotion of Tourism:** The mission will transform India's maritime landscape and harness the potential of vast coastline and waterways through cruise tourism.

- **Economic Growth and Employment Generation:** It aims to boost cruise tourism in India to **1 million** passengers and create **400,000 jobs by 2029**.

- **Environmental Sustainability:** The mission also aims to develop eco-friendly tourism infrastructure by promoting cruises in rivers and coastal areas.



Italy and Switzerland Redrawing Their Alpine Border



- 
- Switzerland and Italy have agreed to redraw a part of their national boundary, as melting Alpine glaciers shift the historically defined frontier.

- **About**

- Switzerland and Italy have agreed to changes along the landmarks of **Plateau Rosa, the Carrel refuge, and the Gobba di Rollin.**

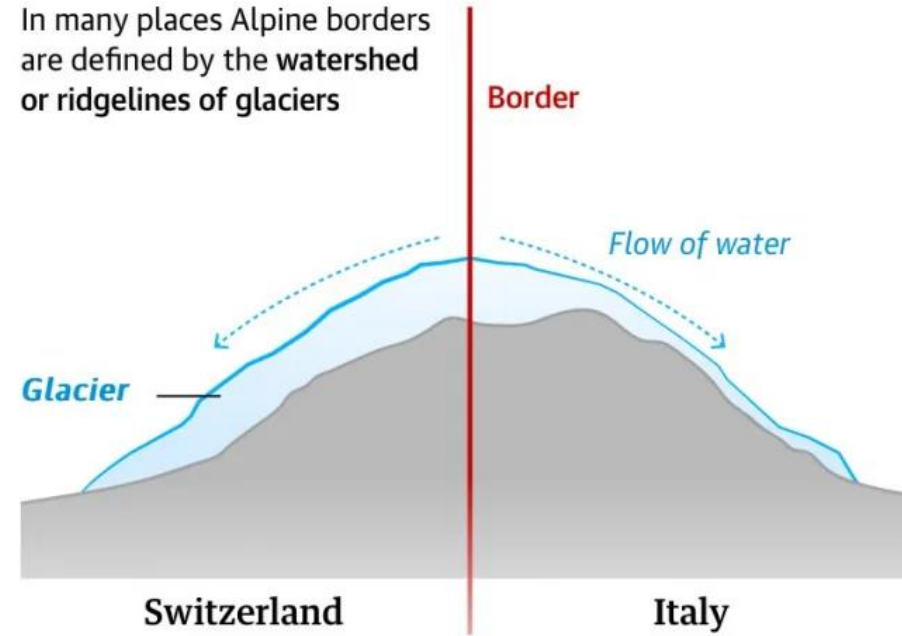


- In this area the **Zermatt region of Switzerland** meets the **Aosta valley of Italy**.
- The region is home to several **ski resorts** that fuel the economy of both countries.
-

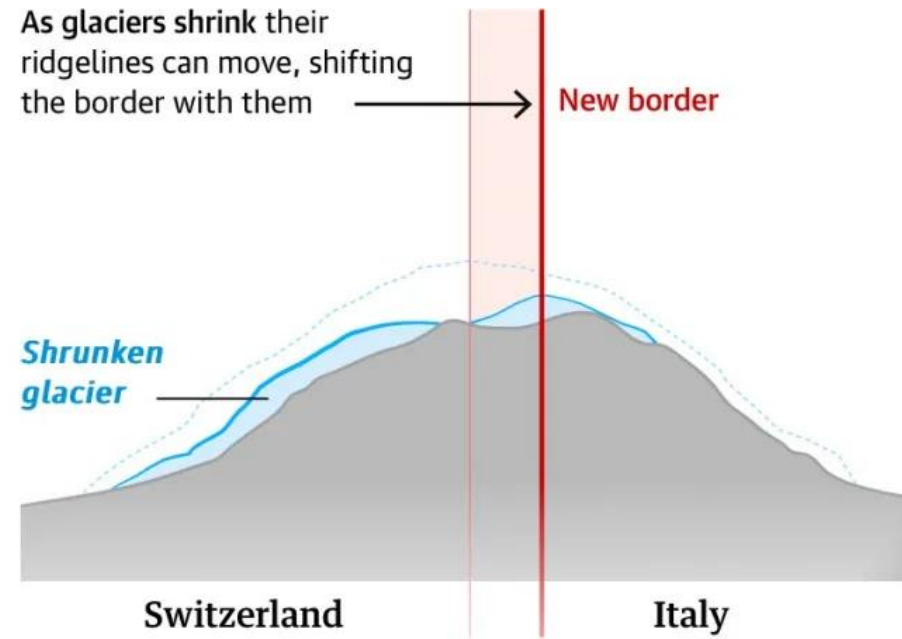


Redefining Alpine borders

In many places Alpine borders are defined by the watershed or ridgelines of glaciers



As glaciers shrink their ridgelines can move, shifting the border with them





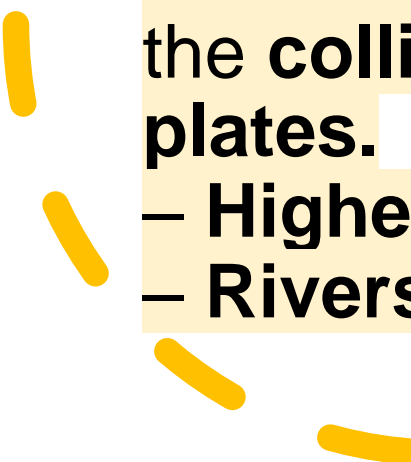
- **Alps Mountains**

- The Alps Mountains are one of the most significant mountain ranges in Europe, Stretching across eight countries—**France, Switzerland, Italy, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, and Slovenia.**

- The Alps were formed millions of years ago as a result of the **collision between the African and Eurasian tectonic plates.**


- **Highest Peak:** Mont Blanc

- **Rivers** like **Rhine, Rhone, and Po** originate in the Alps.



Akashteer Systems



- 
- In response to escalating global security concerns, the Indian Army has significantly boosted its air defence capabilities by acquiring **100 Akashteer Air Defence Control and Reporting Systems (ADCRS)**.
 - **About**
 - Developed by **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**
 - These systems will play a vital role in protecting India from aerial threats, including missile and rocket attacks.
 - Akashteer integrates radars, sensors, and communication technologies to provide a real-time battlefield view, allowing the military to swiftly detect, track, and neutralize aerial threats


Discontinuation of Kolkata's Tram Service











Recently, the West Bengal government has decided to discontinue Kolkata's tram service after 151 years of its introduction.



A small stretch from Maidan to the Esplanade will be retained for tram lovers as a heritage stretch.



- 
- **What are the Key Facts About Kolkata's Tram Service?**
 - **About Tram: A tram is an urban rail transit system consisting of railcars that transports people and goes along metal tracks in the road.**
 - **In Kolkata, initially it ran on metre gauge but after 1902 tracks were converted to standard gauge.**
- 

- 
- Beginning of Trams in Kolkata: The first horse-drawn trams in Kolkata began operating on 24th February 1873, covering a 3.9-km stretch between Sealdah and Armenian Ghat.
 - Calcutta Tramways Company was formed and registered in London in 1880.
- 

- 
- **Electrification and Expansion:**
 - **On 27th March 1902, Kolkata introduced its first electric tramcar from Esplanade to Kidderpore.**
 - **This was also Asia's first electric tram service.**
 - **In 1946, the tram was the first vehicle to cross the Howrah Bridge.**
 - **By the early 20th century, tram routes connected the city extensively, including the Howrah section via the Howrah Bridge.**
- 



- 
- Decline from the 1970s: The rise of cars and buses on Kolkata's narrow streets made trams cumbersome and contributed to traffic congestion.
 - Cultural Symbolism: It is depicted in Satyajit Ray's 1964 film 'Mahanagar' (The Big City) and other films like Apur Sansar reflecting Kolkata's cultural backdrop.
- 


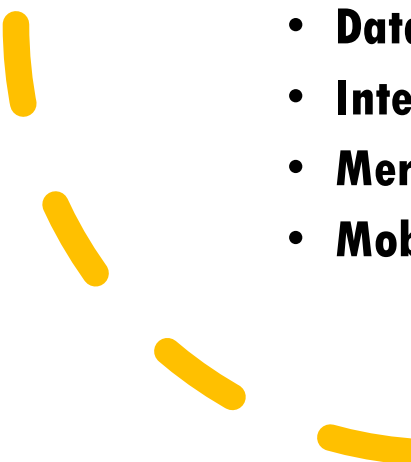
- 
- **Recognition:** In 2020, Kolkata introduced India's first electric tram library.
 - In 2023, Kolkata celebrated 150 years of tram services with a week-long event called "Tramjatra 2023".
 - **Trams in Other Indian Cities:** Trams started in Bombay in 1874, Madras in 1895, Delhi in 1904, Kanpur in 1914, and Poona in the early 20th century.
- 

- 
- They were **discontinued** in all Indian cities between **1933 and 1964**, except for **Kolkata**.
 - **Trams in Global Cities: Melbourne, Lisbon, San Francisco, Amsterdam, Zurich and Berlin** have well functioning tram service.
 - **Melbourne** has the **oldest operational tramways** in the world which started in **1885**.
- 

Anna Darpan



- 
- Recently, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has launched a digital transformation initiative to modernize its supply chain management system, known as 'Depot Online System', with the implementation of a new, microservices-based integrated supply chain management system named Anna Darpan.
- 


- 
- **Anna Darpan system:** It is designed with specific key objectives which are aligned with the strategic vision of the FCI leadership.
 - **The system aims to address and overcome the limitations present in the existing systems like:**
 - **Improved Efficiency and Productivity**
 - **Interactive and User-Friendly UI Design**
 - **Data-Driven Decision Making**
 - **Integration with Internal and External Systems**
 - **Merger of Existing Internal Systems**
 - **Mobile-First Approach**
- 


- **The system is being developed to streamline and improve supply chain operations and services at all levels.**
 - **It covers operations at Mandis, Mills, Depots (both owned and hired), as well as divisional, regional, zonal, and headquarters levels.**

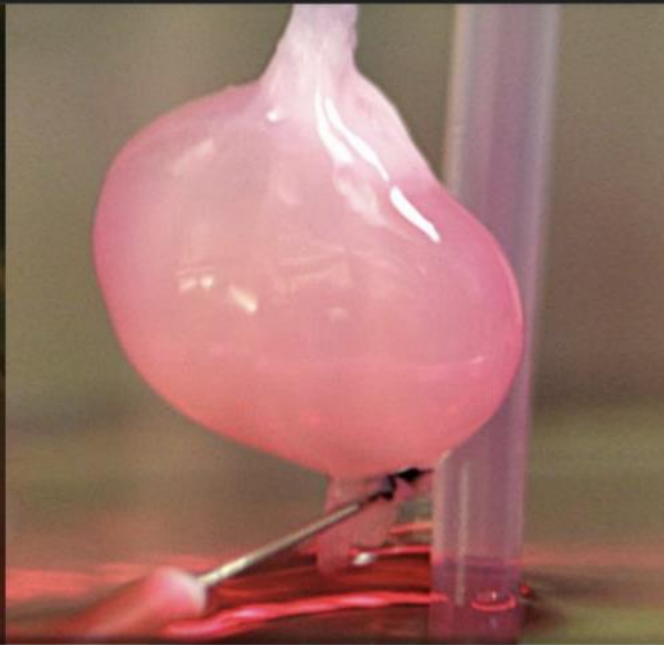




- **Food Corporation of India (FCI):**

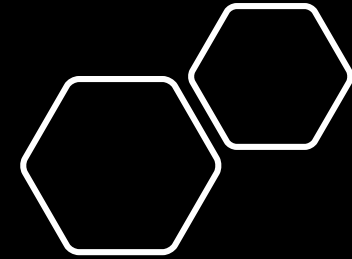
- **FCI is a Public Sector Undertaking, under the Department of Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.**
 - **It is a statutory body set up in 1965 under the Food Corporations Act 1964.**
 - **It has the primary duty to undertake purchase, store, move/transport, distribute and sell food grains and other foodstuffs.**
- 

- 
- Fun fact



““ Already from your own cells scientists can grow skin, cartilage, noses, blood vessels, bladders and windpipes. In the future, scientists will grow more complex organs, like livers and kidneys. The phrase '**organ failure**' will disappear. ””

- Michio Kaku



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- BASIC SMARTPHONE/LAPTOP/COMPUTER

HOW TO ENROL IN THIS COURSE



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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 wearing suits. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. The overall mood is celebratory and professional.

Thank you
guys.
