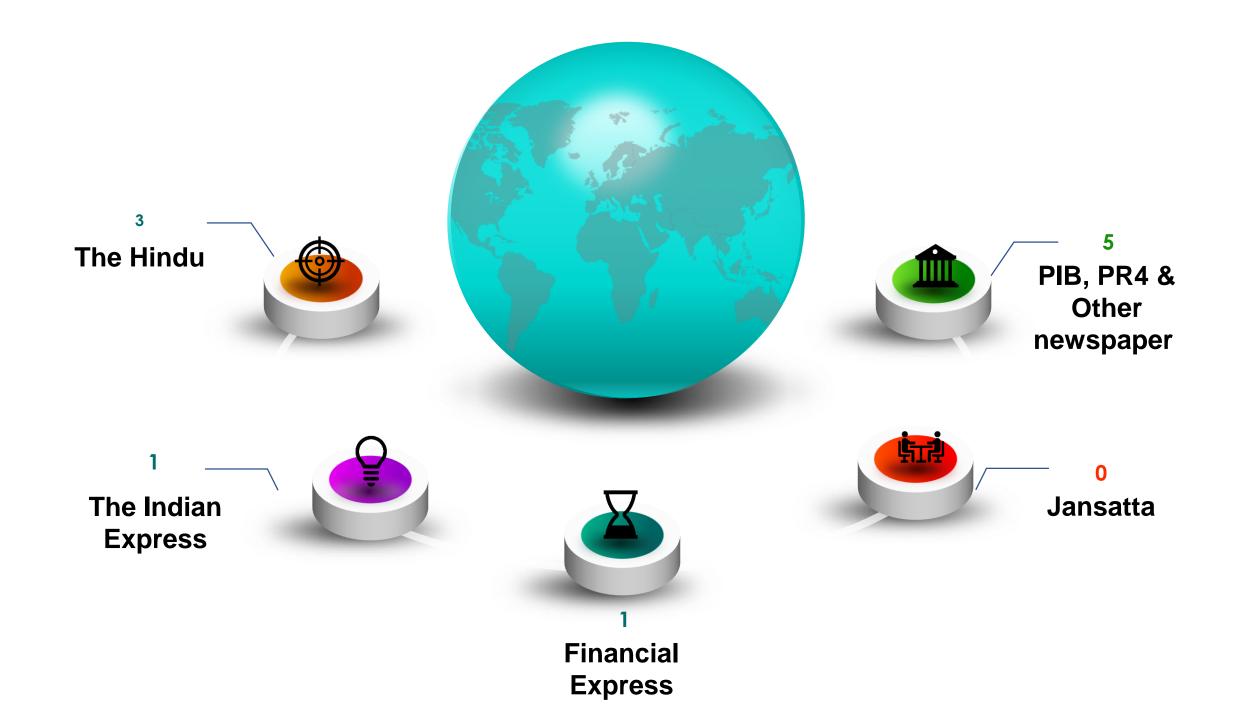
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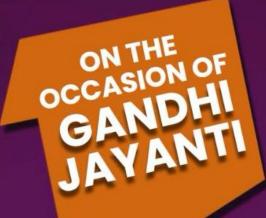








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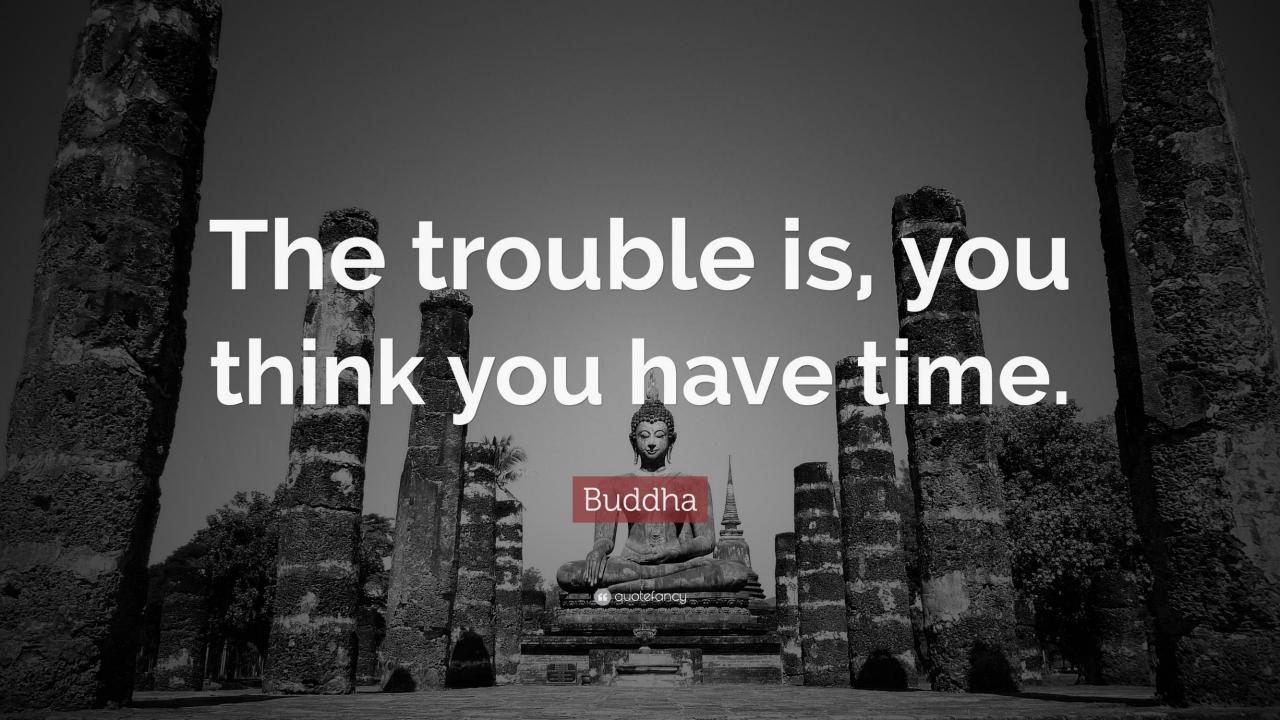


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Can't review order on States' rights to tax: SC





keep fighting Israel

The pre-dawn burglaries in Kerala How T.N.-Kerala police rounded up a gang of 7



Mlaba sets up a big win for South Africa

INSIDE



Junior doctors in Bengal withdraw

KOLKATA

NOLKATA
Protesting resident doctors in
West Bengal on Friday decided
to call off the full 'cases 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 in Jharkhand

NEW DELHI NEW DELIHI
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 i
seat negotiations with the BJP
do not have desirable results,

India lagging behind China in tech: IAF chief

NEW DEHLI

India has lagged behind China in technology and the production rate of defence chief Air Chief Marshal Ama 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 perceived as critical of the Littar Pradesh Police from ing coercive steps against a malist for his article about



West urged to lift sanctions on Afghanistan

Russia's Foreign Minister Serge 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 ouches 185; one policeman injured in grenade blast in Bastar region; anti-Naxal operations surged since BJP came to power

A t least 28 Naxalites were killed by se-curity forces in a

Curity forces in a gunfight in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region on Friday, according to the police.

One policeman was in-jured in a grenade blast during the operation.

The gunfight began around I p.m. in the Abujhard on the policeman around I p.m. in the Abujhard of the policeman around I p.m. in the befaving extremism affected Bastar region. At 8 b.m., the volice gion. At 8 p.m., the police provided the final number of bodies recovered, after which Chief Minister Vishnu 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, re-ports suggest that 28 Naxa-forces from Dantewada

Vovage amid deluge

Red alert April 10: 12 Maoists

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

Arms found

an operation after receiv-ing specific information about the presence of Nax-alites in Abujhmad, a large-ly unsurveyed area in ly unsurveyed area in southern Bastar. The clash broke out around I p.m., after which firing conti-nued at regular intervals. In a statement issued ear-lier in the day, the police An AK47 rifle, a Self Load-ing Rifle (SLR) and other

After Friday's anti-Naval operation – the second biggest in terms of casualties inflicted by the State this year and in the conflict zone's history – the num-ber of Naxals killed by the

ber of Naxals killed by the forces this year has shot up to 185.

There has been a surge in anti-Naxal operations since the new BJP govern-ment came to power in De-cember 2023. Mr. Sal's post on X added. "Our fight to on X added: "Our fight to eliminate Naxalism will on-ly end when we achieve complete success, and for this, our double-engine go-vernment is fully committed. The eradication of Naxalism from the State is our ultimate goal."

In a media interaction.

mainstream and reiterated Union Home Minister Amit Shah's assertion that Nax-alism would be eliminated from the State by March 2026.

2026.
The Opposition Congress in the State also congratulated the forces, with its spokesperson Sushil Anand Shukla claiming that the confidence building measures taken by the previous Congress government in the State had allowed the forces to set up their camps and gain a their camps and gain a foothold in Naxal areas. He also said there should not be any questions raised about the encounter by vil-lagers as has been the case in the past incidents

In a late-night release, the police said there was the possibility of recovery the Chief Minister ap-pealed to the Naxalites to

> Tribal MLAs jump from Mantralaya in

Maharashtra

A few tribal MLAs of the

ruling Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra, including De-

Mumbai, landing on safety

The MLAs were protest-The MLAs were protest-ing against the government over the halt in hiring of tribal students for State-le-vel government Jobs under the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) (PESA) Act, 1996.

Snehal Mutha MUMBAI

Jaishankar will travel to Pakistan for SCO meeting

Suhasini Haidar



vernment meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Or-ganisation (SCO) on Octob-r 15 and 16, the Centre an-mark of the Cooperation of the Hamilton of the Market of the Hamilton of the Cooperation me-chanisms, No bilateral meetings on the sidelines far it added thus far it added thus

far, it added. far, it added.

The last time an Indian
External Affairs Minister travelled to Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj in 2015 for the Heart of Asia confe-rence and bilateral talks.

rence and bilateral talks.

"Mr. Jaishankar will be leading India's delegation to the SCO meeting." MAA-wal told presspersons at a briefing. "As and when the programme develops, the wild develops, we will keep when asked if there was any request from Pakistan for a bilateral meeting with its Foreign Minister Ishaq is programmed talks.

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.

me 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 Exter-

Officials said the Exter-nal Affairs Minister's visit was based on "reciproci-ty", given that despite bi-lateral tensions, Pakistan had sent its then-Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto to attend the SCO Foreign Mi-victors, meeting it Co. in nisters' meeting in Goa in May 2023. It is also significant that



Minister pledges

the Narendra Modi-led go rence, but has rehused to attend the SAARC (South Asian Association for Re-gional Cooperation) sum-mit, due to be held in Pa-kistan since 2016. Responding to a ques-tion about the recent meet-ion between the new Pan

ing between the new Ban gladesh leader Muhammad Yunus and Pa

of the eight-nation SAARO

SAARC," said Mr. Jaiswai, referring to Pakistan's refu-sal to move forward on In-dia's suggestions for a Mo-tor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) and South Asian electricity grid initiatives. The invitation to the SOO meeting was sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by the Pakistan go-vernment last month.

process, the spokespersor alleged that it was Pakistar that was "stalling SAARC mot India.

"One particular country has a particular way of doing things, which is stalling SAARC," said Mr. Jaiswal,

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

The Supreme Court on Fri-day constituted an "inde-pendent" five-member Special Investigation Team (SIT), with two Central Bu-reau of Investigation (CBI) fficers in it, to replace the one formed by the Andhra radesh government to robe Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's alle gations that contaminated ghee was used to prepare ghee was used to prepare Tirupati laddus in the pre-vious Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) regime. A Bench of Justices B.R.

Gavai and K.V. Viswanath-an said it did not want the

court as a "political battle-ground" to trade allega-tions at each other. "We don't want any pol-itical drama. Fortunately or unfortunately, both

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-ly under the supervision of the Central agency's Director. orougnt the enquiry direct-ly under the supervision of the Central agency's Director.

The court's move to give the CBH a larger role in the Andhra Pradesh govern-

as a 'political battleground' to trade allegations at each other.

probe was despite Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, ap-pearing for the Centre, expressing confidence in the competency of the State's SIT. Mr. Mehta had submit-

mentl". He had, at the most, suggested having an officer of the Central government supervise the State SIT's probe.

But the Bench on Friday emphasised the gravity of the allegations of adulterated ghee used in the manufacture of the temple prasadom.

"The allegations in the

'Not negative remark' The court clarified that the formation of the indepen-

dent SIT, which would also include two Andhra Pra-desh Police officers and a representative of the Food Safety and Standards Auth ority of India (FSSAD, was a step taken to "assuage the feelings of crores of peo-ple/devotees" and must not be seen as a negative

not be seen as a negative remark on the State STI. "We clarify that the in-stant order should not be construed as any reflection on the independence or fairness of the officers of the STI constituted by the State government. We are entrusting this matter to an

independent agency only to assuage the feelings of crores of people/devotes to the court explained. The court disposed of petitions, including one filed by former Ralya Sab-ha member Dr. Subrama-tic court disposed of petitions, including one filed by former Ralya Sab-ha member Dr. Subrama-trection to constitute a

committee consisting of a retired Supreme Court judge or a former High Court Chief Justice for a "deeper probe into the allegations about the prepa-ration of prasadam" at the

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 complex

vious hearing about the Chief Minister's supposed

Trupati temple.

The probe would be based on an FIR that ghee supplied on July 6 and July 12 by the same supplier of the same supplier of the same supplier of the same supplier of the same of the sa



Emergency to go through the edits suggested by CBFC

Zee Entertainment Enterprises and Manikarnika Films Production House (owned 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 Abbinay Chandrachud representing the CBFC, 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 bra on the allegations of obtaining undue advantage for granting favour in the investigation of an ongoing NIA case linked to former JD(U) MLC Manorama Devi. The CBI on Thursday issued the official statement stating that the apprehensions official statement stating that the apprehensions were made after the CBI team trapped the middlemen, closely associated with the accused official, accepting a bribe of £20 lakh. Mr. Algay Pratap is an Income Tax official on deputation to the NIA.

Maldivian President to visit India next week

Kallol Bhattacheriee

Maldivian President Mo-hamed 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 swearing-in of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 9: "Maldives is India's key "Maldives is Ind

maritime neighbor in the Indian Ocean Region (JOR)
and holds a special place in
Prime Minister's vision of
Growth for All in the Region) and India's Neighbourhood Pirst Policy,"
the
External Affairs Ministry
The Ministry said that
during the visit, Mr. Muizzu will meet President
Droupadi Murmu and hold
Prime Minister Narendra
Prime Minister Narendra Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi "on bilateral, region-al 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 Bengaturu, where he will participate in business events to promote commercial tes between the two countries. He will also visit the Taj Mahal.

As far as human angle is

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



sign to go offensive unne-cessarily. Only when we are pushed, we will do so-

mething... We have our plans in place. One thing I

can positively say is that we are training much better than them. We have a

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

concerned, our people be-hind the machine are way ahead of them," he said at ahead of them," he said at the annual press confe-rence 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 produc-

tion rates are concerned, we are way behind. We need to catch up. That will happen over a period of time, it cannot happen overnight."

To a question on the

capability of India's air de-fence network, the Air chief said the systems bechief said the systems be-ing procured could do si-milar functions as Israel's Iron Dome and other sys-tems. "We have a combina-tion of air defence systems

S. Vijay Kumar

which are fairly compe-tent," he said, noting that India being a very large country needed a large numbers of systems. He said private players had to come in to ensure the numbers. "We can't keep relying on one agen-cy. Even HAL will have lim-trations." be said

itations," he said. Talking of the ground

dakh, the Air chief said it remained practically the same. Development of in-frastructure by China had frastructure by China had been "fairfy rapid". "We are also trying to catch up", he said, adding new airfields at Nyoma and oth-er areas were coming up and there were plans to utilise the civil infrastructure.

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

The Supreme Court on Fri-day said criminal cases could not be slapped on mediapersons perceived as critical of the government while barring the Uttar Pra-desh 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 admi-

"In democratic nations. rin democratic nations, freedom to express one's views is respected. The rights of the journalists are protected under Article 19 protected under Article 19 (1)(a) of the Constitution. Merely because writings of a journalist are perceived as criticism of the govern-ment, criminal cases should not be slapped against the writer," a Bench of Justices Hrishi-kesh Roy and S.V.N. Bhatti underscored in its judicial

Abhishek Upadhyay, represented by advocate Anoop Prakash Awasthi, said the article saw the Uttar Pradesh Police register "frivolous" FIR against a "frivolous" FIR against him under various provi-sions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 66 (computer-related of-fences) of the Information

Technology Act.
The journalist, in his petition, said the very prelude of the FIR *compares
of Uttar Pradesh as incarnation of God and hence
immune from any critical
analysis of the caste dynamics in his general
administration*.
Mr. Underhown saving.
Mr. Underhown saving.

Mr. Upadhyay saying, "Honorable Yogi Aditya nath Maharaj Ji is like an in carnation of God. The In

dian territory among all the Chief Ministers of va-rious States in India, none rious States in India, none even come close to Maha-raj ji in terms of popularity. Maharaj ji in terms of popularity. Maharaj ji has the highest number of followers on the social media platform X compared to any other Chief Minister in India. Since Maharaj ji became Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh has reached the top position in India concernposition in India concern many fields at the national level under his leadership. to any caste; he is simply a

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".

WHO gives approval to first Mpox diagnostic test

+ The Hindu Bureau

In an important move to improve global access to Mpox testing, the World Health Organization (WHO) has listed the first Listing procedure

gency use of the Alinity m Inc, will be pivotal in expanding diagnostic capaci-ty in countries facing Mpox outbreaks, where the need for quick and accurate testing has risen sharply. Early diagnosis of Mpox enables timely treatment and care.

SC dismisses pleas to review | e-Office system shutdown derails verdict upholding States' right to tax mines, quarries

The Hindu Bureau

A nine-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, in a major-ity decision, has refused to review its July 25 Judgment upholding the power of State legislatures to tax mineral-bearing lands and quarries. The review was decisionally and the state of the decision of the state of the decision of the state of the st It reached public domain

on Friday.

The majority led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud had ruled that the power to tax mineral lands and quarries was not the exclusive power of



continued to disagree with the majority view.

view. While the majority on the Bench dismissed the pleas of review by the Union government, Karna-taka Iron and Steel Manfacturers Association, and others, Justice Nagarathna found a case for review.

the review petitions, Jus-tice Nagarathna said they should be heard in open court and issued notice. The July 25 Judgment had freed the States from the restrictions of the found the States's liberty to tax mines and outerries a

tax mines and quarries a part of the federalist prinsources, the entire file movement and related communications in the ciples of governance.

"Any dilution in the tax-Railways came to a grind-ing halt after the e-Office ing powers of the State le-gislatures will necessarily Emergency and urgent files were handled manualimpact their ability to raise revenues... Fiscal federal-ism entails that the power of the States to levy taxes files were handled manual-ly during this period. Rail-ways is one of the many departments that had fully migrated to the platform. RailTel restored normal-

within the legislative do-main carved out to them found a case for review.

The majority declared "there is no error apparent on the face of the record. No case for review under Supermer Court Rules 2013 has been established". In her separate opinion on ment. and subject to the limita-tions laid down by the Con-stitution must be secured from unconstitutional in-terference by Parliament," Chief justice Chandrachud had laid down in the judg-

administrative work in Railways For about a week, routine administrative work was affected across Indian Rail-ways after National Infor-matics Centre's (NIC's) e-Office, a product of Rail'rel, crashed. According to official sources, the entire file

manually during this period.

system, is in operation in ways across the country and has onboarded 1.47 lakh users.

Down for 4-5 days Confirming that NIC e-Of-fice was down for four or way Chief Public Relations Officer M. Senthamil Sel-van said that urgent admi-nistrative files were dealt with manually during the down time. RailTel restored normal-cy on Friday, the sources said. NIC e-Office, a work-flow-based system that re-placed the existing manual handling of files with a more efficient electronic

fline did not affect passen-ger and freight train opera-tions as the Railways had tions as the Railways had an independent and dedi-cated IT infrastructure to run those services. "Rail-Tel is maintaining e-Office on behalf of the Ministry of Railways and Southern Railway is one of the us-ore." be said.

ers," he said. Railway officers said they had no idea why the systems went down. They did not want to comment on the security of backup

data stored in iCloud and whether it was fully acceswere restored. They said

The e-Office going of- age utilisation, the mesage utilisation, the mes-sage said. A top RaiTrel of-ficer heading the Southern Region did not respond to phone calls or email query sent by *The Hindu* seeking clarifications on the rea-

ware application deve loped by NIC, which is hosted at Tier-III Uptime at Secunderabad and Gu

ustomers. Besides the Railways. the application is also host-ing services for many go-vernment organisations, including Employees Pronior officials in the Zonal Railways in the middle of last week that the infracturure Issue persisted including Railway Board, remained unavailable.

The restoration process was dependent on the stor-limited (Wilay Jan diso on Richt), and so on. Imitted (Wilay Jan diso on.

diagnosis of Mpox enables timely treatment and care, and control of the virus," the WHG said in a state. The text enables detection of monkeypox virus (clade J/II) DNA from human skin lesion wabs.

1 Forfeits a part to weave carpet (4,1,5,3)

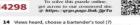
CM (IIII)

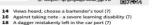
10 Rule for keeping some money with Mike (5) 11 Sweet finish, getting attention (9)

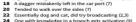
12 Soft rock - Abba's "Not born in change" (9)

TH GROSSWORD + 14298
To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site, and https://grop.orge.this.jp.Tu









24 One with knowledge in a branch gets activation (9) 26 Club of sorts to spread things on grass (9) 27 His cook introduces American to a Japanese dish (5) 28 Drag maybe uniform during transit (5-8)

Down
2 Oriental guy had issue (7)

4 Fish raised a stink (5) 5 Pause to have bread roll - one is a frequent flyer (9) Extremely passive, one is quiet (5)

Music during a special event - most even-handed (7)
No tip for the moment of reckoning (8,5) Indian gang shuffling top cards in a game, repeatedly

15 Crime committed as child slept (9) 17 In addition school gets even break (9) 19 Mineral from a larger rock (7)

21 Abnormal rise in weight - checks whether it fits (5,2) 23 Deserves to be included for a test (5)

SUDOKU



Nature of Supreme Being

People cannot easily understand the nature of the Supreme Being (Brahmam) with the help of the physical objects they see. Only through Vedas, Vedanta and Ithihas can lifs nature be understood.

It is nature be understood.

It is not be the beautiful and the beats of all. From Me are memory, knowledge and their removal. I am to be known from the Vedas." (Sarvasya cha dham hrudhi - CH-BS-Verse 150), said in a discourse that Vehakkud Sri Krishnan Swamy sutta", says "Sarirayongifusi" - Sastraya et un beat of the sarirayon said of the said o

nithvat" -Sastras are the proven evidence to learn about

am.

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 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

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.

"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 Mpox outbreaks, where the need for quick and accurate testing has risen sharply. Early diagnosis of Mpox 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 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.

M寒NKEY P寒X

Monkeypox Virus Mpox EY POX OR MPOX ?

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

SYMPTOMS OF MONKEYPOX VIRUS



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**.











Swollen glands Muscle Aches (lymph nodes)

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 with body fluid or animals



Direct contact rashes

VIA HUMANS



Direct contact Rashes, body fluids, lesions.



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



Intimacy Kissing, Prolonged sex, multiple contact Over 4 hours. 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 lb, a new offshoot of clade I virus, caused unprecedented humanto-human transmission in a short period and had been spreading through sex.

©PMF IAS

CLADE 2

 Clade II was behind the outbreak in 2022.

global mpox



VACCINES AND MEDICATONS 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.
- <u>Common symptoms:</u> 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.
- <u>Higher risk group:</u> Pregnant ladies, children and low immunity persons.

at 10-month low pace in Sept.

HSBC India Services PMI dropped from 60.9 in August to 57.7 in September; new export orders rise at slowest pace in 9 months, while output price hikes were at a two-and-a-half year low

Private sector activity grew



BMW introduces M4 CS car at ex-showroom price of ₹1.89 cr.

BMW Group India on Friday introduced the M4 CS, a performance car, at an ex-showroom price of tl.89 crore. The car will be available as a completely built-up model. Vikram Pawah, president and CEO, BMW Group India said, "The all-new BMW M4 CS continues the tradition of M special-edition models offering a distinctly sporty character along with motor racing DNA. This lel combines superlative perfor mited suitability for daily use."

Rupee logs its worst week in more than four months

The Indian Rupee (₹) ended nearly unchanged or Friday to cap its worst weekly performance in a little over four months, as equity outflows surger and crude oil prices rose due to a worsening of the Middle East conflict. Intervention by India's central bank limited losses, traders said. The rupee closed at 83.9725 against the U.S. dollar, almost flat compared with its close at 83.9675 in the previous session. The currency fell 0.3%

'Living standards to see steepest rise'

Press Trust of India

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said India would achieve near doubling of per capita in-

doubling of per capita in-come in the next five years and witness the steepest rise in living standards of the common man in com-structural reforms under-taken by the government in the last 10 years. Addressing the 3rd edi-tion of Kautilya Economic Conclave here, the Minis-75 years to reach a per cap-



Pacing down: For services firms, new business, global sales and output grows with the mildest rate last menth since late 2022, sources dia Services PMI [Purchasing Managers' indeed religon Managers' indeed religons More More Managers in Managers indeed religons in the mildes and output all rose at the slowest managers in the mildes and output all rose at the slowest mildes mildes and output all rose at the slowest mildes mildes and output all rose at the slowest mildes mild rowth in India's private sector activity slowed to a tenmonth low this September, as per the HSBC India as per the HSBC India Composite Output Index, which slipped from 60.7 in August to 58.3 last month, as factories and services players clocked a reduc-tion in momentum.

rates since late-2023.

and Ms. Tai had laid the groundwork for the next Trade Policy Forum, Mr.

Goyal said. Speaking to re-porters here at the end of a

responding to a question from The Hindu. The Minister said that

Weeds cause losses

worth ₹92,000 crore:

mist Pranjul Bhandari not-

Time is not right for GSP, social security totalisation, says Goval

Now is not the right time to get into a detailed negotia-tion around two important trade issues for India – a preferential trade pro-gramme with the U.S. and a corial security agree. With China dominating the critical minerals trade, In-dia and the U.S. on Priday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand and diversify criti-cal minerals supply chains. Commerce and Indus-try Minister Plyush Goyal. a social security agree-ment, according to Com-merce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. ter Piyush Goyal.

During his meeting with
U.S. Trade Representative
(USTR) Katherine Tai, he

Commerce and Indus-try Minister Piyush Goyal, who signed the pact with his U.S. counterpart – Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo – said that the two nations were explor-ing a combined engage-ment with third countries porters here at the end of a three-day visit to the U.S., Mr. Goyal said it was not the right time to discuss the issue as the U.S. was on the brink of an election. "Both these issues are not on the agenda right now, not on the agenda be-fore USTR or me," he said, responding to a question

While manufacturing

India, U.S.

sign pact

on critical

minerals

IMF projections, it will take only five years to add be only five years to add being achieved with declining inequality, as the Gini coefficient disconse in correct of capital, a source of critical minerals, or use of the choice of the correct of

'No rethink on FDI curbs in multi-brand retail'

There will be no rethink There will be no rethink on the FDI curbs in the multi-brand retail sector, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal asserted early Friday, noting that several U.S. investors had brought up the subject with him. "America has suffered

"America has suffered the consequences of Big Tech and large retailers and the interplay leading to the almost annihilation of Mom and Pop stores. You could afford it

the government would have to work with the Committee on Ways and Means of the U.S. Congress on the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) issue. seriously enough to solve it at that time, but maybe that's destined for another "It's sad that when it ac-

alternate avenues for people to do jobs in... That's a choice each country makes," he said. Referring to India's 100 million small retail stores, he said: "We believe that

they play a very important role and we want them to be integrated with technology and e-commerce, or get a chance to withstand to business practices of e-commerce companies but we are not looking at

Price Rise: veg. meals got 11% steeper in September

vegetarian meal shot up 11% in September as prices of onion, potato and tomadouble-digits, Crisil's food plate cost tracker showed suggesting that food infla tion may have gone up again last month. Retail inflation had risen

marginally to 3.65% in Au marginally to 3.65% in Au-gust, with food inflation ticking up to 5.7%. This was primarily due to prices for vegetables, the third-lar-gest constituent of the Con-

upticks, respectively.
The average cost of a vegetarian meal inched upgetarian meal inched upstate of the second of the seco

costs compared with last September. For non-vege-tarian meals, a 13% decline in broiler prices, which account for half the meal cost, provided some relief, bringing costs down 2%.

MARKETS

	sars.	CHANGE
Adami Enter	3310.65	-536
Adami Porto	1413.30	-11.70
Apello Hosp		
Asian Painne	2072 50	35.00
Asis Bank	1179.40	2.79
Belei Aeto	11774 40	73.00
Bein Finsery	1994 99	78.00
Dais Finance	7111 35	-533.64
Sharpt Disc	127.30	-1.9
Dharti Airbel	Team an	****
BPCL	340.75	4.64
Britannia Ind	6306.80	-11576
Ciota	1623.30	-33.24
Coal tivilia	407 DO	-5.11
Dr Reddys Lab		
Eigher Motors	4706.80	-75.79
Gracim led	7700,00	24.00
HCL Tech		
HOFC Bank	1077.05	74.76
HOTC Life	706.60	54.10
Here MoteCorp	2000.00	141.00
Hindalor	727.80	0.81
H nd Unitered	7646.75	44.0
ICICI Bank	1136.75	-35.64
Industrial Bank	1787.85	4.00
trifetos	1,502,85	-4.74
ITC.	503.55	0.74
19W Steel	1603 37	7.74
Fiction Earth:	1000.70	
Ketia Bank	1409.90	13.86
HEM	2017.45	177.00
Haruti Sugaki	2000 TE	41.00
Nostleted W	1000.75	76.00
HTPC	4996-35	-59.11
ONEC	430,45	-439
Powerfrid Corp.	200-35	2.0
Polisinos Ind		
SBI LEN	2179.89	40.76
State Bank	1,194,20	-7,40
Sheiger Finance	100,65	2,51
Sherare Finance Ltd.		
San Pharma	5556.30	33.20
TataConsumerPra-	1440.85	-0.44
dect.	2255	128
Tuta Motors	1150,40	-22.55
Tata Steel	550.75	5.05
Tata Steel TCS	266.75	-0.21
Toda Makindra	4053.35	29.54
Titan	5670.30	4.85
Tweet Lad.		

EXCHANGE RATES				
Indicative direct cates in p.in. on October 04		swampit yes		
CHRESPOR	TT BAT	TT 864		
US Dollar	49.77	84.00		
Euro	92.64	90.00		
British Pound	139.55	310.76		
Japanese Ven (100)	37.13	57.42		
Chinese Years	31.93	11.58		
Swiss France	85.43	04.70		
Singapore Dollar	64.56	64.61		
Caracian Dollar	61.00	49.65		
Halaysian Flingitt	39.63	19.94		
Aastrelien Doller	57.52	57.55		

Stock indices fall 1%

Cvient DLM acquires

Altek Electronics in

es falling about 1% due to end the week at 25,014,60

The Hindu Bureau

MOMBAI

The bearish sentiment
continued in the Indian
equity markets on Friday
with key benchmark indic23550 points, or 0.39%, to
23550 points, or 0.39%, to

Q2: HDFC Bank loan book grew 7%

Press Trust of India

Private sector HDFC Bank on Friday said the bank has registered a 7% rise in loans to ₹25.19 lakh crore in the second quarter of this fiscal. The credit book was ₹23.54 lakh crore as of Sep-tember 30 last war. During

tember 30 last year. During ber 30, 2024, the Bank securitised/assigned loans of 19,200 crore as a strategic initiative, it said in a regula-

initiative, it said in a regula-tory filing.

The Bank's average de-posits were ₹23.53 lakh crore for the September 2024 quarter, a growth of around 15.4% against around 15.4% against 220.38 lash crore for the September 2023 quarter, it said. The average Liquidity Coverage Ratio was around 127% for the quarter, said the lender that completed a merger with parent HDFC Ltd. last July. In its annual report for

The Modig government in its annual report for 2022-24, HDPC Bank may also of relations with the adaption of the source of lendings.

The Modig government is the CUSTRD look lighthing the source of lendings. The modification of the source of lendings.

The Modig government is the CUSTRD look lighthing the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the length of the source of lendings. The control of the source of lendings. The source of lendings and prepayment is a support of the source of lendings. The modification is a support of the source of lendings. The source of lendings are sourced to the source of lendings. The source of lendings are sourced to the source of lendings and prepayment is a support of lendings. The source of lendings are sourced to the source of lendings and prepayment is a support of lendings and proper lending and prepayment is a support of lendings and proper lending and prepayment is a support of lendings and proper lendings and proper lendings and proper lendings and proper lendings are sourced to the source of lendings and proper lendings

Goval shrugs off impact of Trump's import tariff proposal

Union Commerce and In-dustry Minister Plyush Goyal has said that India-U.S. trade relations would not be impacted by former U.S. President and Republi-can presidential candidate Donald Trump proposing a universal 20% import carif universal 20% import tariff for goods coming into the U.S., suggesting that it was campaign rhetoric. "I don't think comments made during an election determine our relations,"

Mr. Goyal said, during a press conference on Thurs-day evening in Washing-ton, DC at the end of his three-day visit to the U.S. Mr. Trump had pro-posed a 20% tariff on im-

ports into the U.S., with a higher rate of 60-100% on Chinese imports.

The Modi government

Weeds are causing crop productivity losses of ₹92,000 crore (\$11 billion) every year, as per a study commissioned by the Fedration of Seed Industry of ndia (FSII). India (FSID).

The collaborative study conducted by experts N.T. Yaduraju, M.R. Hegde and A.R. Sadananda has recommended deployment of new, technology-led weed control strategies to address the menace. FSII in its report startegies to address the menace. FSII in its report start, weed same the properties of the prope Union Minister Piyush Goyal with U.S. Commerce Secretar

partners* and "outstandpartners" and "outstand-ing" trade partner, with whom trade was expand-ing in every dimension. "And we deeply value this relationship," he said.

Defends tariff regime Mr. Goyal, defended In-dia's tariff regime in reference to remarks made by tive (USTR) Bob Lighthiz-



40-50% compared with

The study was conduct-ed taking the experiences in seven crops, including rice, wheat, maize, cotton, sugarcane, soybean, and mustard, from 30 districts

seed industry study

Weeds are a threat to crop production: FSII study, RAO GN

40-50% compared with traditional approaches. Indian Council of Agri-cultural Research's (CAR)-search and FSII released the report, titled "Weed Management — Emerging Challenges & Management ST — The average spends on weed control per acre vary from (3,700 to 47,900, the that beyond the issue of

that beyond the issue of

Lupin arm buys nine brands in South Africa

The Hindu Bureau

Lupin on Friday an-nounced that its South African subsidiary, Pharma Dynamics had acquired nine brands along with their associated trademarks, from the Medical Nutritional Institute SA (MNI) in South Africa. through a partnership deal with ImpiloVest, a South African investment firm.

African investment firm.

The company has not announced the transaction value. The acquired brands include AntaGolin, RyChol, NeuroVance, Skin-Vance, FlamLeve, Rheumalin, SleepVance, ImmunoVance, and OviVance. These products cater to a range of health issues such customer base. The acquisition adds a number of Fortune 500 as metabolic syndrome, in-sulin resistance, cognitive function, skin health, in-

\$29.2 million deal The acquisition adds

nufacturing company Cy-ient DLM has acquired the U.S. electronic manufac-U.S. electronic manufac-turing services provider Al-tek Electronics for \$29.2 million to expand their presence in the North American market, streng-then capabilities across key sectors and add stra-tegic clients and increase client proximity.

tek Electronics strengthens Cyient DLM's capability in these sectors and also brings onboard a diverse

clients to Cvient DLM's a release on Friday gagements with multiple

a number of Fortune 500 clients to Cvient DLM's portfolio and engages key clients

closer to our strategic cus tomers and significantly

strengthens our capabili-ties. Cylent DLM is not only broadening its reach into the medical, healthcare and industrial sectors. Altek Electronics' pro-ven track record with key industry leading clients will accelerate Cylent DLM's ability to deliver high-performance, reliable services across these secservices across these sec

and will be equal to an up front payment of \$23.4 mil

based on performance," Cyient DLM said.
"Joining forces with Cy-ient DLM opens new ave-mes for us to scale our op-erations and leverage their global resources and in-dustry expertise," Altek Electronics CEO David Alt-schuler said EO David Alt-schuler said EO David Alt-

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.

TOP INDUSTRIES THAT RELY ON CRITICAL MINERALS

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

CRITICAL MINERALS ARE EVERYWHERE



Lithium is used to create batteries.



Helium is used in MRIs.



Uranium is used in radiation therapy.



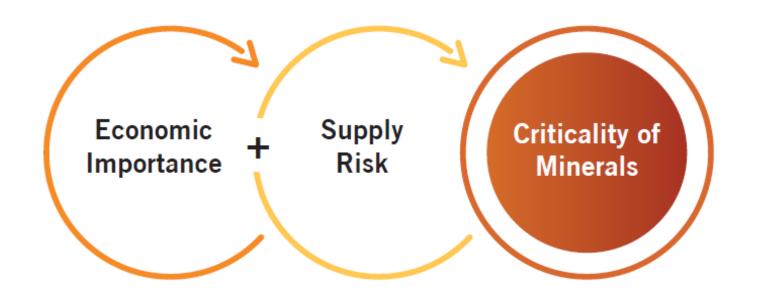
Potash is used in fertilizer.



Indium is used to make LCD screens.



Strontium is used in fireworks.



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



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
Stronium	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

FINANCIAL EXPR

IN THE NEWS

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



st time on record, after imbing for seven straight eeks, on valuation gains

INDIA'S SERVICES
SECTOR activity fell to a
10-month low in
September while still 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, international sales and output gowth.

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

TITAN ON FRIDAY and it it had registered growth of about the September quarter. The Bengaluru-headquartered company said a net 75 stores were added during the quarter, taking Titan's combined retail network presence to 171 stores PAGE 4

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



granted in-principle roval to Jio Financial Services nd BlackRock to set up a

FE SPECIALS



The Speed T4 bike review: The Triumph of Bajaj Most features of Triumph motorcycles now availal at a Bajaj price point.



Wars offer a window of opportunity

MOVE FOLLOWS PNB ACTION

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

URVI MALVANIA & SACHIN KUMAR

MAHANAGAR TELEPHONE NIGAM (MTNL), MAHANAGAR TELEPHONE NIGAM (MTNL), a Navatana company, has been declared; a Savatana company, has been declared; a formation of the savatana savatan

weeks, on valuation gains and the certal bank's collaboration and the certal bank's dollar purchases. **Brance ALS**

SERVICES PMI FALLS
TO 10-MONTH LOW
IN SEPTEMBER

NOUNS SERVICES

NOUNS S

drains to the term that in case the overdue(s) are not so liquidated, a penal rate of interest are not so liquidated, and the contraction of the c

already classified the debt owned by MTNL as

likely to classify MTNL's debt as NPA.

Additionally, the bank asked the telco

Continued on Page 7

IN DIRE STRAITS

₹325.53 CP
Total outstanding in SBP's account as at Sept quarter end end of the SBP's accounts as at Sept quarter end end of the SBP's loan accounts.

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

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

on Sept 9



to provide the status of the loan facility it has provided MTM. in light of media reports that the government will pay MTML'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

an NPA.After SBI's move, other lenders such as Punjab & Sind Bank and UCO Bank are also with year-wise cash flows.

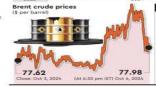
Worst weekly market fall in 2 yrs

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.

The Nifty and Sensex plunged nearly 5% each for the week, marking their worst week since June 2022. The volatile session 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. on the BSE.

Weekly drop the worst since June 2022 June 17, 2022 Sep 27





■ FULL REPORT ON PAGE 6

Will hit Israel energy, gas sites if attacked: Iran

IRAN WILL TARGET Israeli energy and gas fields, "Fadavi said: Meanwhile, Israel said it had tarment of the said of the said said it had tarment of the said the said the said the said thad tarment of the said th

India, US sign deal on critical minerals

MUKESH JAGOTA New Delhi, October 4

INAMOVE that will belp the coun-try address concerns about poten-tial uncertainties over the avail-ability of vital inputs for its sunrise manufacturing industries such as semiconductors, electric vehicles and solar modules, India on Friday signed a deal with the US to

"expand and diversify critical min-erals supply chains". erals supply chains."

The memorandum of under-standing (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 ical minerals and the technologies surrounding their extraction and processing. "The MoU centres around resilient semiconductor supply chains. It also veers around sustainability and clean energy,"

Goyal said.

The MoU follows redoubled efforts by India to extract various critical miner-

SUPPLY CHAINS WE ARE ALSO

TALKING WITH THE US TO WORK WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

discussing the 'Indian era': PM

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Fri-day said that India clearly is in a "sweet Mumbai, October 4

Priority areas of focus for the India-Ux agreement include identifying equip-include identifying equip-include identifying equip-include include inclu

Global investors IPO path clear as NSE settles case with Sebi

IN A DEVELOPMENT that is likely to pave INA DEVELOPMENT that is likely to pave the way for the National Stock Exchange's (NSE) long-awaited initial public offering (BPO), the exchange has settled a matter of (DPO), the sexhange has settled a matter of (DPO) statemen of its trading access point taken to the sexhange has been sexhanged to take the sexhanged by the sexhanged and taken to the sexhanged by the sexhanged securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi) decision to withdraw the charges against the NSE and its seven former

to dominate global supply chains of critical minerals. The curbs impose by Belling recently on exports of germanium, major imputs for semiconductor production, have buttressed this apparently seeks to preserve proprietary rights in the technology formanism. The curb of the India Park of the India Pa

The regulator also alleged a delay in the appointment of a chief information offiexploration of a chief information officyberaccurity regulations on fallure to disdiscussions of the control of th

The NSE paid the combined settlement Continued on Page 7

CASE FILES Sebi had earlier with drawn cha ■The NSE settled the case ₹643 cr

Shenoy & others



admitting or denying the findings of fact and conclusions of law, through a settle

PLANS TO OPEN 4 MORE RETAIL STORES

Apple widens India basket, to make all iPhone models here

financialexp.epapr.in

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

BIGGER BITE

The contract of the period of

tured here through its contract

year-on-year to \$1.3 billion in 2024 In 2023, iPhone shipments to retai outlets or carriers in India crossed 10

New Delhi

MOVE FOLLOWS PNB ACTION

'Navratna' 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 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 Continued on Page 7



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.

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)

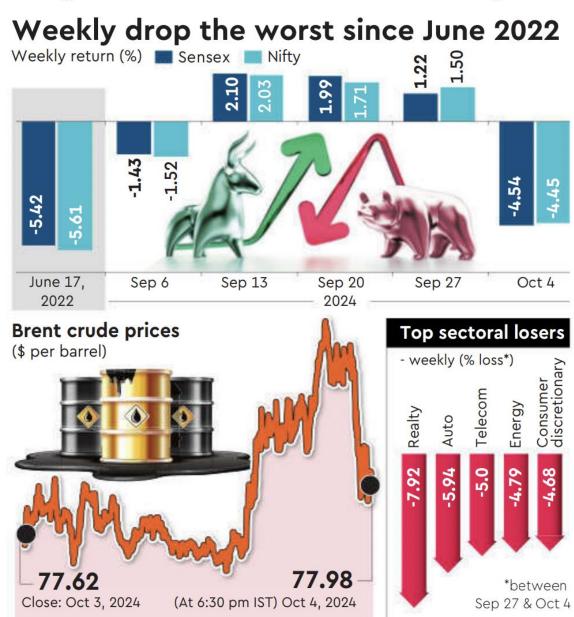
Owner	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (100%)
Number of employees	3,309 (As of Mar 2024)
Divisions	Mahanagar Telephone Mauritius Limited (MTML) ^[3]
Website	www.mtnl.in 🗗 mtnldelhi.in 🗗 mtnlmumbai.in 🗗

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.

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.



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 Border Flow of water Glacier **Switzerland** Italy As glaciers shrink their ridgelines can move, shifting New border the border with them Shrunken glacier Switzerland Italy

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



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O

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.

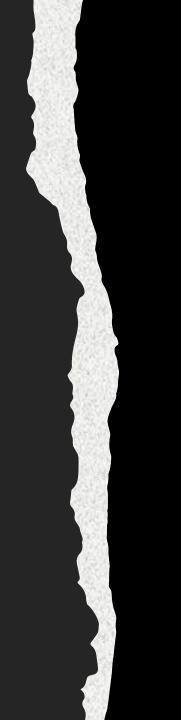
- Anna Darpan system: It is designed with specific key objectives which are aligned with the strategic vision of the FCI leadership.
 - The system aims to address and overcome the limitations present in the existing systems like:
 - Improved Efficiency and Productivity
 - Interactive and User-Friendly 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.



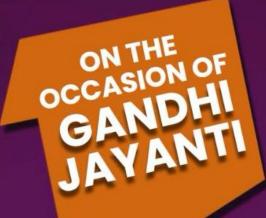
Fun fact



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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