

# Daily Current Affairs



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**INSIDE**



**Delhi CM blames BJP-ruled States for pollution**

**NEW DELHI**  
Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Sunday held BJP-ruled Haryana and Uttar Pradesh responsible for the Capital's pollution, alleging that while they failed to switch to cleaner fuel, a spike in farms in the Yamuna amplified the problem. » PAGE 2

**Explosion near CRPF school; no casualties**

**NEW DELHI**  
An explosion was reported near a CRPF school in a market area in the Prashant Vihar locality of Rohini here on Sunday morning. The blast left the school wall, glass panes of several shops, and a car damaged. No one was reported injured. » PAGE 5

**Parliament can't remove judges: Bangladesh SC**

**DHAKA**  
Bangladesh's Supreme Court on Sunday reinstated the Supreme Judicial Council with authority to investigate allegations of judicial misconduct, while upholding a ruling which gave the power of removing judges to Parliament, as "illegal". » PAGE 14

**Pakistan caps Chief Justice's term at 3 years**

**ISLAMABAD**  
The Pakistan Senate on Sunday passed the controversial 26th Constitution Amendment Bill, capping Pakistan's Chief Justice's tenure for three years, amid opposition from jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party. » PAGE 14

**Militants gun down 7 in Kashmir, say officials**

Six workers from outside the Union Territory and a doctor are the victims, gunmen alighted near the camp site of a private company in Ganderbal in the evening and opened fire indiscriminately; attack comes two days after a non-local worker was killed in South Kashmir's Shopian; CM Abdullah, Union Home Minister Shah condemn the attack

**Peerzada Ashia SREINAGAR**  
Seven civilians — a local doctor and six workers from outside the Union Territory — were killed in a militant attack at a construction site in Ganderbal in central Kashmir on Sunday evening.  
Official sources said gunmen alighted near the camp site of a private company in the Ganganger area in the evening and opened fire indiscriminately. The strategic Z-Morch tunnel is being constructed and a highway widened in the area close to the tourist destination of Sotomarg.  
A police spokesman confirmed the death of three non-local workers.



Security forces cordon off the site of attack in Ganderbal district of Jammu & Kashmir on Sunday. PTI

Official sources, however, said the death toll touched seven by Sunday night as "four injured civilians died of injuries in a hospital".  
The deceased have been identified as Gurmeet Singh, a resident of Gurdaspur in Punjab, Dr. Shahnavaz, a resident of Budgam, Anil Kumar Shukla, Faheem Nazir, Shashi Abrol, Mohd Hanief, and Kaleem.  
A police spokesman said the area was cordoned off by the security forces after the attack. Initial reports suggested an INSAS automatic rifle was used to target the workers.  
The number of attackers could not be ascertained immediately. Official sources said senior police officers, including Inspector General of Police V.K. Birmahapatra, were in the area, reached the attack spot. Two days ago, a non-local worker was killed in south Kashmir's Shopian.

harshest response from our security forces... At this moment of immense grief, I extend my sincerest condolences to the families of the deceased. Praying for the speedy recovery of those injured.  
"Despicable acts" Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha also strongly condemned the heinous terrorist attack on civilians in Ganganger.  
"I assure the people that those behind this despicable act will not go unpunished. We have given full freedom to J&K Police, Army and Security forces," he said.  
Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah noted that those killed and injured were

working on a key infrastructure project in the area.  
"I strongly condemn this attack on unarmed innocent people and send my condolences to their loved ones," he said.  
Peoples Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti described the attack as a "senseless act of violence". Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra condoled the deaths and said killing innocent civilians and spreading violence and terror among the people were crimes against humanity.  
"The whole country is united against this... My deepest condolences to the bereaved families and I wish the injured a speedy recovery" she said in a post on X.  
(With inputs from PTI)

**Valley run**



International connect: J&K CM Omar Abdullah (number 1) joins nearly 1,700 runners from 13 nations at the Valley's first international marathon in Srinagar on Sunday. *www.thehindu.com* (PTI) » PAGE 2

**Bomb threats against civil aviation continue; 25 Sunday flights affected**

**Press Trust of India MUMBAI/NEW DELHI**

As many as 25 flights received bomb threats on Sunday, causing hardship to hundreds of passengers and forcing authorities to move aircraft to isolation bays at airports for detailed checks.  
On Saturday, more than 30 flights received bomb threats. This week, nearly 100 flights received threats, sending security agencies into a frenzy.  
Six flights each of IndiGo, Vistara, Air India, and Akasa Air, and at least one flight of Air India Express received the threats on Sunday, sources said.  
An IndiGo spokesperson said the airline was cognisant of a situation involving flights 6E 58 (Jeddah to Mumbai), 6E 87 (Kozhikode to Dammam), 6E 11 (Doha to Istanbul), 6E 17 (Mumbai to Istanbul), 6E 133 (Pune to Jodhpur) and



On their toes: Security personnel keep a watch after a flight made an emergency landing at the Jodhpur after a bomb hoax. PTI

6E 112 (Goa to Ahmedabad).  
Vistara said it got security threats for UK 25 (Delhi to Frankfurt), UK 106 (Singapore to Mumbai), UK 146 (Bali to Delhi), UK 116 (Singapore to Delhi), UK 110 (Singapore to Pune) and UK 107 (Mumbai to Singapore).  
"In line with the protocols, all relevant authorities were immediately notified, and security procedures, as directed by

cedures and thorough inspections of six aircraft, they have been released for operations," an Akasa Air spokesperson said in a statement.  
The sources also said there were threats for at least six Air India flights. There was no comment from the airline.  
An Air India Express flight IX-481 from Kochi to Dammam received the bomb threat and the flight landed safely at Dammam, the sources said.  
On Sunday, a handle on social media platform X that had issued bomb threats was blocked. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security held a meeting with representatives of airlines on Saturday.  
The Civil Aviation Ministry plans to put in place strict norms to prevent incidents of hoax bomb threats to airlines, including placing the perpetrators on the no-fly list.

**BJP retains 71 MLAs in list of 99 for Maharashtra Assembly polls**

**Purnima Sah MUMBAI**  
The BJP's first list of 99 candidates for the Maharashtra Assembly election features 71 incumbent MLAs, including Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis who is contesting from his home turf of Nagpur South West. BJP State president and MLC Chandrababhan Bawankule will return to contest the Kamthi Assembly seat which he had held for a decade till 2014.  
A majority of the candidates belong to the Other Backward Class (OBC), Marathi, and Advaita communities.  
There are 12 women, including Sreejaya Ashokrao Chavan, daughter of former

Maharashtra Chief Minister Ashok Chavan. She is making her electoral debut from the Bhokar constituency in Nanded district, which was represented by her father when he was with the Congress before switching loyalties to the BJP earlier this year.  
Of the 36 Assembly seats in Mumbai, the BJP has named 14 sitting MLAs as candidates. Parag Shah from Ghatkopar East, Bharti Lawkar from Versova, and Sunil Rane from Borivli have not made it to the first list. Another prominent name conspicuous by its absence in the list is Kam Satpute, the sitting Assembly Speaker.  
Mr. Satpute was the BJP's only Lok Sabha candi-



BJP State president and MLC Chandrababhan Bawankule and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis. FILE PHOTO

didate from western Maharashtra who lost this year's election.  
Mr. Bawankule is contesting in place of Kamthi's sitting MLA, Tejchand Sankar, who fell out of favour after calling the State's flagship scheme for women, the Ladki Behin Yojana, a gamble for votes.  
In 2019, Mr. Bawankule was dropped as a BJP candidate despite the fact that he had represented the Kamthi seat from 2004 to 2014. The decision had upset the "Tel community" that Mr. Bawankule belongs to, and had cost the BJP almost 12 seats in Vidarbha.  
The first list also includes Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar contesting from Colba, Girish Mah-

wad, wife of sitting MLA Ganpat Galkwad, from the Karjat East constituency while her husband remains in jail for allegedly shooting at a rival politician in a police station. Pratibha Pachpute is contesting instead of her husband Babanrao Pachpute, the sitting MLA from Srinagar in the Ahilyanagar district. In Pimpri-Chinchwad, the BJP has replaced sitting MLA Ashwini Jagtap with her brother-in-law Shankar Jagtap, the party chief in the area.  
An independent sitting MLA from Uran in Navi Mumbai, Mahesh Badhi, has also been included in the BJP's first list. Rahul Awade, son of former Congress leader Prakash Awade, is contesting as the

**Israel strikes Hezbollah HQ in Beirut; 87 killed in Gaza**

**BEIRUT/CAIRO**  
Israel said on Sunday that it had struck Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in the Lebanese capital Beirut, killing three Hezbollah commanders, while officials in Gaza said they were still trying to recover bodies from the rubble after an Israeli strike killed dozens.  
At least 87 people were dead or missing after the strike on Beit Lahya in Gaza late on Saturday.  
**FULL REPORT ON**  
» PAGE 14



# Militants gun down 7 in Kashmir, say officials

Six workers from outside the Union Territory and a doctor are the victims; gunmen alighted near the camp site of a private company in Ganderbal in the evening and opened fire indiscriminately; attack comes two days after a non-local worker was killed in South Kashmir's Shopian; CM Abdullah, Union Home Minister Shah condemn the attack

**Peerzada Ashiq**  
SRINAGAR

**S**even civilians – a local doctor and six workers from outside the Union Territory – were killed in a militant attack at a construction site in Ganderbal in central Kashmir on Sunday evening.

Official sources said gunmen alighted near the camp site of a private company in the Gangangeer area in the evening and opened fire indiscriminately. The strategic Z-Morh tunnel is being constructed and a highway widened in the area close to the tourist destination of Sonamarg.

A police spokesman confirmed the death of three non-local workers.

Official sources, however, said the death toll touched seven by Sunday night as “four injured civilians died of injuries in a hospital”.

The deceased have been identified as Gurmeet Singh, a resident of Gurdaspur in Punjab, Dr. Shah Nawaz, a resident of Budgam, Anil Kumar Shukla, Faheem Nazir, Shashi Abrol, Mohd Hanief, and Kaleem.

A police spokesman said the area was cordoned off by the security forces after the attack. Initial reports suggested an INSAS automatic rifle was used to target the workers.

The number of attackers could not be ascertained immediately. Official sources said senior police officers, including Inspector General of Police V.K. Bir-



Security forces cordon off the site of attack in Ganderbal district of Jammu & Kashmir on Sunday. PTI

di, reached the attack spot. Two days ago, a non-local worker was killed in south Kashmir's Shopian.

The fresh attack on non-locals was widely condemned in J&K. Union Home Minister

Amit Shah, in a post on X, said, “Those involved in this heinous act will not be spared and will face the

harshest response from our security forces ... At this moment of immense grief, I extend my sincerest condolences to the families of the deceased. Praying for the speedy recovery of those injured.”

## ‘Despicable acts’

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha also strongly condemned the heinous terrorist attack on civilians in Gagangeer.

“I assure the people that those behind this despicable act will not go unpunished. We have given full freedom to J&K Police, Army and Security forces,” he said.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah noted that those killed and injured were

working on a key infrastructure project in the area.

“I strongly condemn this attack on unarmed innocent people and send my condolences to their loved ones,” he said.

Peoples Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti described the attack as a “senseless act of violence”.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra condoled the deaths and said killing innocent civilians and spreading violence and terror among the people were crimes against humanity.

“The whole country is united against this... My deepest condolences to the bereaved families and I wish the injured a speedy recovery” she said in a post on X.

(With inputs from PTI)

## • Incident Overview | घटना का अवलोकन:

- Seven civilians, including six workers from outside the Union Territory and a local doctor, were killed in a militant attack at a construction site in Ganderbal, Kashmir.

कश्मीर के गांदरबल में एक निर्माण स्थल पर हुए आतंकवादी हमले में सात नागरिकों, जिनमें छह बाहरी श्रमिक और एक स्थानीय डॉक्टर शामिल थे, की हत्या कर दी गई।

- The attack occurred on Sunday evening at a private company's camp site in the Gagangir area, near the Z-Morh tunnel, which is under construction.

हमला रविवार शाम को गंगांगीर क्षेत्र में एक निजी कंपनी के शिविर स्थल पर हुआ, जो ज़-मोर्ह सुरंग के पास निर्माणाधीन है।

- **Details of the Attack | हमले का विवरण:**

- The militants opened fire indiscriminately, targeting workers at the camp.  
**आतंकवादियों ने शिविर पर अंधाधुंध गोलियाँ चलाईं, जिसका निशाना श्रमिक थे।**
- Three non-local workers were killed on the spot, while four others died later from injuries sustained during the attack.  
**तीन गैर-स्थानीय श्रमिकों की मौके पर ही मौत हो गई, जबकि चार अन्य ने अस्पताल में दम तोड़ दिया।**
- Security forces cordoned off the area, and initial reports suggest that INSAS automatic rifles were used.  
**सुरक्षा बलों ने तुरंत इलाके को घेर लिया, और प्रारंभिक रिपोर्टों के अनुसार हमले में इंसैस राइफल का उपयोग किया गया।**

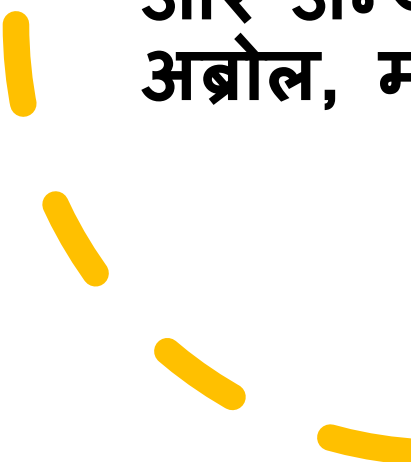




- **Victims Identified | पीड़ितों की पहचान:**

- The deceased include Gurmeet Singh from Punjab, Dr. Shahnawaz from Budgam, and other workers such as Anil Kumar Shukla, Faheem Nazir, Shashi Abrol, Mohd Hanief, and Kaleem.

मारे गए लोगों में पंजाब के गुरमीत सिंह, बडगाम के डॉ. शाहनवाज़, और अन्य श्रमिक जैसे अनिल कुमार शुकला, फ़हीम नज़ीर, शशि अब्रोल, मोहम्मद हनीफ़, और क़लीम शामिल हैं।



**IN BRIEF**



**12 of a family killed in bus-van collision in Dholpur district**

Eight children were among 12 of a family killed in a collision between a bus and a van in Dholpur district of Rajasthan on Sunday. The bus driver, one person was injured. Bari station house officer Shalabhari Meena said the sleeper bus headed for Jaipur hit the van on Saturday night. The deceased, residents of Kareem Gunvat colony, were returning from a wedding at Barauli village. Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief and announced an ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh from the PM's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of each of the deceased. The injured will be given ₹50,000. **PH**

**DIPAM asks staff not to trade in shares of state-owned firms**

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has asked its officials to refrain from trading in shares of public sector companies as they may be privy to market-sensitive information with regard to the state-owned companies, an official said in an order. It said that those joining the department would be required to declare their holding in public sector enterprises, and such shares could be liquidated by them after approval from authorities. The official said that while DIPAM is working towards maximising the value of PSSE shares, it should be clear that there is no way that price-sensitive information is being misused in any way. **PH**

**16th Century Copper plates discovered in Tiruvallur**

N. Sai Charan  
CHENNAI

A set of copper-plate inscriptions dating back to the 16th Century CE have been discovered at the Sri Singeeswarar temple at Mappuchuvillage in Tiruvallur district recently. The two leaves of the inscriptions, which are anti-submarine warfare plates were strung together using a ring that had the seal of the Vijayanagara Kingdom.

The official alerted the Epigraphy Division of the Archaeological Survey of India through the State Archaeology Department. K. Munirathnam Reddy, Director (Epigraphy), ASI, Mysore, said the inscription was written in Sanskrit and Nandinagari script. It was engraved in 1513 during the reign of King Krishnadevaraya. He said such inscriptions were valuable for recording history.

**Blast near CRPF school rocks Delhi's Rohini; no casualties**

An official says explosion was caused by an improvised crude bomb; forensic experts inspected and found a suspicious 'white powder' at the spot, which has been sent to the lab for examination

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

An explosion was reported near a CRPF school in a market area in the Prashant Vihar locality of Rohini here on Sunday morning. The blast left the school wall, glass panes of several shops, and a car damaged. No one was reported injured. The police are investigating. A senior Delhi Police officer said the blast was caused by an improvised crude bomb. The explosion was reported around 7.50 a.m. near the CRPF school in Sector-14 in Rohini. A bomb squad and a police forensic team, along with officials of the NIA, NDRF, CRPF, and NSG, rushed to the spot to ascertain the source of the explosion. The NSG, NIA, and Delhi Police have cordoned off the entire area, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Rohini) Amit Goel.

The Delhi Police are on high alert since it's a festival season. The Prashant Vihar police have registered a case under Section 326 (g) (Mischievous injury, inundation, fire or explosive substance) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), section 4 of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and Section 3 of Explosives Act, the DCP said. According to sources, the police have not ruled out a conspiracy angle. A purported video of the aftermath of the explosion, which surfaced on social media, showed thick white smoke emanating from the spot. Sources said there was a "chemical-like" odour. A team of forensic experts inspected the area



On high alert: National Security Guard personnel conduct an investigation at the site after a blast was reported at Prashant Vihar, near the CRPF school, in the Rohini area of New Delhi on Sunday. **PH**

and found a suspicious "white powder" at the spot, which has been sent to the laboratory for examination. Sources said it could be a mixture of ammonia and phosphite. The Delhi Police said they were collecting the mobile network users' data registered in the nearby towers to examine who were present near the spot when the explosion occurred. The team also dug a hole near the school's wall and collected soil samples. A source said the material

used in the blast resembled a powder used in a crude bomb, and said that there would be clarity only when a full report was received. The NSG commandos deployed robots to scan the entire area for explosive materials. Shashank, an eyewitness, said around 7.44 a.m., he heard a very loud noise. "The entire area was covered with smoke for at least 10 minutes. Glass panes of shops were shattered. We immediately alerted the police and the fire brigade," he said.

**Quad group of countries take part in back-to-back naval war games**

Dinakar Peri  
NEW DELHI

The Quad group of countries — India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S. — have held back-to-back naval war games, deepening interoperability and forging, in particular, their anti-submarine warfare skills. "Exercise Malabar" by the four countries concluded on Friday off the coast of Visakhapatnam. Earlier, they were part of the multilateral "Exercise Kakadu" hosted by the Royal Australian Navy from September 9 to 20.

"Exercise Malabar", held from October 8 to 18, as the "most comprehensive" of all editions so far. The harbour phase was held in Visakhapatnam, followed by the sea phase in the Bay of Bengal. "Malabar 2024" Sea Phase serves as a test-

ament to the commitment of participating nations towards enhancing understanding, collaboration and engagement in the maritime domain as the world grapples with increasingly complex maritime security challenges." The Indian Navy said in a statement on Saturday. "Exercise Malabar", which began in 1992 as a bilateral naval drill between India and the U.S., has evolved into a key multilateral event aimed at "enhancing interoperability, fostering mutual understanding, and addressing shared maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific region," it noted. Anti-submarine warfare and underwater domain awareness have emerged as major focus areas among the Quad partners as all of them have con-

cerns over the rapid expansion of the Chinese Navy and its increasing forays into the Indian Ocean Region. Units participated in complex and advanced exercises in the domains of surface, sub-surface, and air warfare. Major exercises included surface weapon firings, anti-air shoots, air defence exercises, anti-submarine warfare exercises, extensive operations of ship-borne helicopters, the Navy said.

**Exercise Kakadu** Exercise Kakadu brought together nearly 3,000 personnel from 30 nations, ships from 10 countries, and aircraft from five nations, all converging in the north Australian exercise area, underscoring Canberra's commitment to "regional maritime security and international partnerships".

**With a total 9.3 lakh new members, EPFO shows 9% growth in subscriber base**

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) had a net addition of 9.3 lakh members to its subscriber base in August. The payroll data, which was released here on Sunday, said that in August, the growth in subscriber base was 9.07% from that of August 2023. The Union Labour Ministry said in a release that this growth reflected increased employment opportunities and heightened awareness of employee benefits.

A total of 9.3 lakh new members were added in August 2024, representing an increase of 0.48% in new members among first-time job seekers, the Ministry said. Workers in the 18-25 age group constitute 59.26% of

**Odisha braces for Cyclone Dana's likely arrival on Thursday**

The Hindu Bureau  
BHUBANESWAR

Odisha has started preparing for a possible impact from Cyclone Dana in the coastal areas on Thursday, with the India Meteorological Department forecasting wind speeds to reach 100 to 120 kmph.

The IMD said an upper air cyclonic circulation lay over the north Andaman Sea on Sunday. "Under its influence, a low pressure area is very likely to form over the east-central Bay of Bengal and the adjoining north Andaman Sea during the next 24 hours. It is very likely to move west north-westwards and intensify into a depression by October 22 morning and into a cyclonic storm by October 23 over the east-central Bay of Bengal," it said. "Thereafter, it is very likely to move north-westwards and reach the northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha-Thane area for explosive materials."

**'Fully prepared'** The Odisha government has decided to deploy disaster response forces in the coastal districts.

The IMD has issued a yellow warning for Wednesday in the coastal districts such as Balasore,

Collectors have been asked to identify people in vulnerable pockets and shift them to shelters

Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, and Cuttack. A red warning has been issued for Thursday morning for Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Khordha, and Ganjam, where rainfall could range between 7 cm and 20 cm. Fishermen have begun moving their vessels to safer locations and have halted deep-sea fishing. "We are fully prepared to face the cyclone. People should not unnecessarily panic over cyclone prediction," said Suresh Pujari, State Revenue and Disaster Management Minister. The Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department warned unscrupulous traders against hoarding. The District Collectors have been asked to identify people living in vulnerable pockets and shift them to shelters. Women due to be delivered babies this week have been asked to move to hospitals.

Qatar has given the name Dana, meaning a beautiful, precious pearl in Arabic.

**Membership grows**

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation's August report shows a net addition of 9.3 lakh new members. In August 2024, an increase of 0.48% was seen.



the total new members added. "In addition, the net payroll data for the age group 18-25 for August 2024 is 8.06 lakh, this is in consonance with the earlier trend which indicates that most individuals joining the organised workforce are youth, primarily first-time job seekers," the Ministry said. Approximately 13.54 lakh members exited and subsequently re-joined the EPFO. Of the new members, around 2.53 lakh are women and the net female member addition during the month stood at around 3.79 lakh. Among the States, Maharashtra is leading by adding 20.59% of net members during the month.

CROSSWORD 14310 (Set by Afterdark)
Across: 9 Understand proper, that is to gain some scholarship (7); 11 Entertainment company at NCR takes over English Trust ultimately (7); 13 To live, heart should beat inside, so inspire (7); 13 Almost certain to give, that is give up (9)
Down: 15 Sleets at present aboard ship (5); 16 Skeptics can't be quiet, Complicated, most fed up (7); 18 Assembled with society, plan to meet journalist (7); 20 Wife finally leaves for a skillful tailor (5); 21 Casualties as car in front at distance crashes (9); 23 Intendives to get a vehicle? Nonsense scheme primarily (7); 24 Smoking some ports acceptable very strongly in Germany (7); 25 Test is old compound (7); 26 Enters hurriedly and takes a downpayment (7); 27 Deven; 1 Rates of crises is reduced in confusion (6); 2 Means chap's mere almost (6); 3 Number 4 is seen in fine clothing (4); 4 Analysed a cricket match with editor (6); 5 Cold people having beer? Good, chit first and serve (8); 6 Down? Rise and believe (10); 7 Publication selected and hired old team leader (backshot) (8); 8 Worried about deserts (8); 14 Choose metal, cycling to club for another type of music (10); 16 Looked for visit to store goods? No, the other way round (8); 17 Say, convener's from Switzerland, a pilot (8); 18 Shift sent for distribution by road (8); 22 Reproduced and stopped with fish (6); 23 Captured leaders of Norway and Italy and showed the way (6); 24 Observes contests where fellow is knocked out by Stokes (6); 27 Backing Tamil leader at stronghold (4)

SUDOKU
5 2 4
5 6 1 3
6 7 5 2
5 9 8 1 7 2
2 8 1 6 2
3 7 9 6
9 1 8
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★
SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
SOLUTION TO YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2
4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3
5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4
6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5
7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6
8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

FAITH
Karva Chauth significance
Observed by millions of married women, especially those hailing from the northern parts of the country, Karva Chauth is a significant event in the devotional and festival calendar, said Prof. Kumool Abhi, Celebrated on Chaturthi tithi of Krishna Paksha in the Karthik month, its significance lies in the belief of married women that prayers and fast ensures the longevity of their husbands. Elaborate rituals are part of the observance of Karva Chauth. Married women observe complete nirjala fast from sunrise to moonrise, after partaking of a pre-dawn meal, called sargi. Women congregate and listen to Karva Chauth kathas. The festival culminates with the sighting of the moon and offering water to the moon arghya using an earthen pot. The water is offered through a sieve as the moon rises and the fast is broken with water offered by the husband who is seen through the same sieve. The important kathas associated with the festival of Karva Chauth are those of Satyavan and Savitri, a woman who got her dead husband back to life from Yama, the God of death. Similarly, popular is the story of Karwa, who with her devotion, was able to get her husband back from the jaws of death. The most narrated legend is that of Queen Veeravalli, who fainted during her first Karva Chauth. Moved by her plight, her loving brothers installed a mirror on the peepal tree, creating an illusion of the moon. Veeravalli broke her fast and at the same time, news of her husband's death reached them. As she ran out in agony, Goddess Parvati appeared before her and advised her to fast again and pray with devotion, which she did. Seeing her dedication, Yama agreed to restore her husband back to life.

# Odisha braces for Cyclone Dana's likely arrival on Thursday

**The Hindu Bureau**

BHUBANESWAR

Odisha has started preparing for a possible impact from Cyclone Dana in the coastal areas on Thursday, with the India Meteorological Department forecasting wind speeds to reach 100 to 120 kmph.

The IMD said an upper air cyclonic circulation lay over the north Andaman Sea on Sunday. "Under its influence, a low pressure area is very likely to form over the east-central Bay of Bengal and the adjoining north Andaman Sea during the next 24 hours. It is very likely to move west north-westwards and intensify into a depression by October 22 morning and into a cyclonic storm by October 23 over the east-central Bay of Bengal," it said. "Thereafter, it is very likely to move northwestwards and reach the northwest Bay of Bengal off Odisha-West Bengal coasts by October 24 morning."

## **'Fully prepared'**

The Odisha government has decided to deploy disaster response forces in the coastal districts.

The IMD has issued a yellow warning for Wednesday in the coastal districts such as Balasore,

## **Collectors have been asked to identify people in vulnerable pockets and shift them to shelters**

Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, and Cuttack. A red warning has been sounded for Thursday morning for Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Khordha, and Ganjam, where rainfall could range between 7 cm and 20 cm.

Fishermen have begun moving their vessels to safer locations and have halted deep-sea fishing.

"We are fully prepared to face the cyclone. People should not unnecessarily panic over cyclone prediction," said Suresh Pujari, State Revenue and Disaster Management Minister. The Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department warned unscrupulous traders against hoarding. The District Collectors have been asked to identify people living in vulnerable pockets and shift them to shelters. Women due to be delivered of babies this week have been asked to move to hospitals.

Qatar has given the name Dana, meaning a beautiful, precious pearl in Arabic.







- **Cyclone Preparation | चक्रवात की तैयारी:**

- Odisha has started preparing for the possible impact of Cyclone Dana, expected to hit the coastal areas on Thursday.

**ओडिशा ने गुरुवार को तटीय क्षेत्रों में संभावित चक्रवात 'डाना' के प्रभाव के लिए तैयारी शुरू कर दी है।**

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted wind speeds of 100 to 120 km/h.

**भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (आईएमडी) ने 100 से 120 किमी प्रति घंटे की रफ्तार से हवाओं की भविष्यवाणी की है।**






- **Formation of Cyclone | चक्रवात का गठन:**

- An upper air cyclonic circulation over the North Andaman Sea is expected to create a low-pressure area, which will likely intensify into a depression by October 22 and develop into a cyclone by October 23.

उत्तर अंडमान सागर पर एक ऊपरी हवा का चक्रवाती संचरण निम्न दबाव क्षेत्र बनाने की संभावना है, जो 22 अक्टूबर तक अवसाद में बदल सकता है और 23 अक्टूबर तक चक्रवात में बदलने की संभावना है।








- **Cyclone Path | चक्रवात का मार्ग:**

- The cyclone is expected to move northwestward and may reach the coasts of Odisha and West Bengal by the morning of October 24.

**चक्रवात के उत्तर-पश्चिम की ओर बढ़ने और 24 अक्टूबर की सुबह तक ओडिशा और पश्चिम बंगाल के तटों तक पहुँचने की संभावना है।**





- **Government's Preparedness | सरकार की तैयारी:**

- The Odisha government has deployed disaster response forces in the coastal districts.

**ओडिशा सरकार ने तटीय जिलों में आपदा प्रतिक्रिया बलों की तैनाती की है।**

- 
- Fishermen have started moving their vessels to safer locations and have stopped deep-sea fishing.

**मछुआरों ने अपनी नावों को सुरक्षित स्थानों पर स्थानांतरित करना शुरू कर दिया है और गहरे समुद्र में मछली पकड़ना बंद कर दिया है।**






- **Warnings and Precautions | चेतावनी और एहतियात:**

- The IMD has issued a yellow warning for several coastal districts, including Balasore, Bhadrak, and Puri, on Wednesday.

**आईएमडी ने बुधवार को बालासोर, भद्रक, और पुरी सहित कई तटीय जिलों के लिए पीली चेतावनी जारी की है।**

- A red warning has been issued for heavy rainfall on Thursday for districts like Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Khordha, and Ganjam, with expected rainfall between 7 to 20 cm.

**गुरुवार को पुरी, जगतसिंहपुर, खर्दा, और गंजाम जैसे जिलों के लिए भारी बारिश की चेतावनी जारी की गई है, जहां 7 से 20 सेमी बारिश हो सकती है।**





## 1. Precautions Against Hoarding | जमाखोरी के खिलाफ चेतावनी:

1. The Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Department has warned traders against hoarding essential supplies.

खादय आपूर्ति और उपभोक्ता कल्याण विभाग ने व्यापारियों को जमाखोरी के खिलाफ चेतावनी दी है।

## 1.Cyclone Naming | चक्रवात का नामकरण:

1. The cyclone has been named "Dana" by Qatar, which means "beautiful, precious pearl" in Arabic.

कतर ने इस चक्रवात का नाम 'डाना' रखा है, जिसका अरबी में अर्थ है 'सुंदर, बहुमूल्य मोती'।

# Next & Content

THE HINDU

## NEWS IN NUMBERS

**Number of voter applications rejected in Chandrapur**

**6,853** A sub-divisional officer has lodged a police complaint after 6,853 applications were filed wrongly during online voter registration.

**The increase in India's automobile exports from April-September**

**14** In per cent. The overall exports in the April-September period stood at 25,28,248 units compared with 22,11,457 units in the year-ago period. Automobile exports declined 5.5% in FY24.

**Rice production damaged due to floods in Bangladesh**

**1.1** In million tonnes. The country's agriculture ministry said this year's flooding has resulted in a loss of rice production. The government has been struggling to stabilise food prices that have surged nearly 20%.

**Number of bomb hoax threats to Indian airlines last week**

**70** More than 70 fake bomb threats have been made against flights operated by multiple Indian airlines this week sparking fear among passengers. At least 30 hoax threats were made on Saturday alone.

**Number of Ukrainian drones shot down by Russia on Saturday**

**110** The ministry said air defences had intercepted 43 drones over the Kursk region. Another 27 drones were downed over the Lipetsk region.

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## Climate finance to develop emerging nations

Why are developing countries more vulnerable to climate change? How does the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change define climate finance? Why have the figures mentioned in the OECD report been called into question? Does India need climate financing?

### EXPLAINER

Arijun Dutt  
Gagan Sidhu

The story so far: The 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29) of the UNFCCC to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22 is expected to be a "finance COP" as key climate finance issues feature at the top of its agenda.

Are developing states more at risk? Economically developing countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change's effects. This is because of geographical factors and, because their economies rely more on sectors like agriculture, which are particularly sensitive to climate change.

Despite being among the most vulnerable, developing countries have contributed relatively little to the cumulative emissions that cause climate change. According to the sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, developed countries account for 57% of cumulative global emissions since 1850 despite hosting smaller populations than the developing world. Developing countries also face competing developmental needs, vowing their ability to take climate action by themselves. The 2009 Copenhagen Accord had developed countries commit to providing \$100 billion a year in climate finance to developing countries by 2020, later also made applicable through 2025. A new mobilisation target for the post-2025 period is on the agenda at COP29.

What is climate finance? The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate finance as "local, national, or transnational financing — drawn from public, private, and alternative sources — that seeks to support mitigation and



Block waters: A sunrise over the polluted waters of Yamuna laden with foam on October 17. AFP

adaptation actions addressing climate change." This specifies two aspects of climate finance: sources (public or private, and flowing either domestically or across borders) and end-uses (climate mitigation or adaptation). The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) publishes reports on climate finance flows from developed to developing countries. They cover flows from four sources, including international public finance and the private finance mobilised by it. International public climate finance is composed of commercial and concessional loans, grants, equity and other instruments. Loans typically constitute the largest share (69.4% in 2022), followed by grants (28%). However, developing countries and observers such as Oxfam have noted several shortcomings with the OECD's reports. They have argued they should represent

actual disbursements and not simply commitments to provide climate finance; that a flow should be new and additional and not simply a reclassification of existing aid; and that only grants, or grant-equivalents of concessional finance, should be counted, not finance provided on a commercial basis.

Who needs climate finance? Developing countries require external financing for climate action. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), 675 million people in the developing world didn't have access to electricity in 2021. Developing countries need to universalise access and increase electricity consumption.

Developing countries also have smaller domestic financial systems relative to their GDPs and face higher costs of capital. For instance, the cost of capital for solar photovoltaic and storage

technologies is about twice as high in developing economies than in developed ones, according to the IEA. Therefore, if developing countries are to balance development and climate action, external finance should be made available.

How much does India need? India has both short-term and long-term climate targets. By 2030, India aims to install 500 GW of generating capacity from non-fossil-fuel sources; five million metric tonnes per annum of green hydrogen (GH2) production capacity; and differentiated levels of penetration for various Electric Vehicle (EV) categories. The authors have estimated (as part of a co-authored report) that achieving 450 GW of renewable energy by 2030 will require an additional ₹6.8 lakh crore investment. For the National Green Hydrogen Mission, India's GH2 target will need ₹8 lakh crore. Consumers will also need to spend around ₹16 lakh crore to purchase EVs to achieve this vision. A long-term perspective reveals a greater requirement: ₹80 lakh crore in investments between 2020 and 2070 to achieve net-zero emissions.

What should the NCCG quantum be? Determining a new annual climate finance mobilisation target — called the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) — is a top priority. The NCQG should include flows that are (i) actual disbursements, not just commitments; (ii) new and additional (iii) public capital in the form of direct grants; and (iv) private capital that is mobilised by public capital. However, organically flowing private finance to developing countries should not be counted. An independent high-level expert group constituted by the presidencies of COP26 and COP27 has already determined that developing countries (excluding China) will require around \$1 trillion in external finance by 2030.

Arijun Dutt and Gagan Sidhu are, respectively, senior programme lead and director of the CEEW Centre for Energy Finance.

### THE GIST

Economically developing countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change's effects because of geographical factors that expose them to more climate risk.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate finance as "local, national, or transnational financing — drawn from public, private, and alternative sources — that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions addressing climate change."

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) publishes reports on climate finance flows from developed to developing countries.

## What does the new 'lady justice' statue signify?

What is the symbolism behind the change? How many cases are pending before courts in India?

Rangarajan R

The story so far: Last week, the Chief Justice of India unveiled the "new lady justice" statue in the Supreme Court premises that replaced the "original lady justice". The new statue is clothed in a saree, has the blindfold and holds scales on one hand and the Indian Constitution on the other.

What is the background? It is believed that the origin of the modern-day "lady justice" is Justitia, the goddess of justice in Roman mythology. "Lady justice" is depicted with a blindfold, scales, and a sword. The blindfold was added during the Renaissance period (14th century) probably as a satire on the corrupt state of legal systems with judicial institutions turning a blind eye. It was only during the enlightenment period (17th-18th century) that it was reinterpreted as representing impartiality. It signifies that justice should be

administered without bias regardless of wealth, power and social status. The scales represent balance. It emphasises that courts must weigh both sides of an argument before delivering a judgment. Finally, the sword symbolises the power and authority of the law, signifying that the law can both protect and punish.

Why the change? When the British established their control over India, they introduced their legal system. The hierarchy of courts from lower courts to the Supreme Court is a relic of the British system. It was during the British rule that the "lady justice" became a prominent symbol in India and was placed outside courtrooms.

The new statue is an attempt at decoloniality, with an aim to shed colonial symbols. The saree replacing the western attire brings the statue closer to Indian tradition. The removal of the blindfold and having eyes open is significant in the Indian context. It conveys that the law is not blind and it "sees" everyone equally.

More importantly our social diversity, the discrimination faced by underprivileged sections, constitutional provisions and laws made for their upliftment require a nuanced approach of "viewing" every case appropriately and delivering justice. The sword being replaced with the Constitution symbolises the supremacy of the Constitution and its value in our jurisprudence. The preserving of the scales goes on to show that the courts will continue weighing evidence impartially and hearing both sides before delivering its final judgment.

What urgent actions are needed? The Supreme Court last week dismissed a Public Interest Litigation which sought a time frame of three years for disposal of over five crore cases pending in all courts of the country. The Supreme Court held that while the demand was desirable, it is practically impossible considering the flood of litigation faced by the justice delivery system. However, justice delayed is justice denied and there are some

urgent actions needed in this regard with respect to the institution that delivers justice.

Firstly, the revised Memorandum of Procedure that deals with appointment of judges by the collegium has not been finalised for the past eight years. This needs to be finalised by the government and judiciary without any further delay to bring transparency and accountability to the process of appointment.

Secondly, the representation of backward classes, scheduled castes, schedule tribes, and religious minorities is less than 25% in the higher judiciary and women constitute less than 15%. The appointments to higher judiciary should be based on a priority basis by the country.

Third, the High Courts invariably operate at only 60-70% strength thereby contributing to the huge pendency of over 60 lakh cases at present. The government needs to appoint collegium recommendations for High Courts without dragging its feet. The vacancies in lower courts, where 4-6 crore cases are pending, should also be filled by the States without backlog. Finally, cases dealing with the constitutional validity of amendments/laws and individual liberty should be heard on a priority basis by the higher judiciary. These measures would ensure that the new symbol is not just symbolic but reflects the action taken for the delivery of fair and prompt justice.

Rangarajan R is a justice AS officer and author of "Polity Simplified". Views expressed are personal.

### THE GIST

The new statue is clothed in a saree, has shed the blindfold and holds scales on one hand and the Indian Constitution on the other.

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When the British established their control over India, they introduced their legal system. It was during the British rule that the original "lady justice" became a prominent symbol in India and was placed outside courtrooms.



# What does the new 'lady justice' statue signify?

What is the symbolism behind the change? How many cases are pending before courts in India?

**Rangarajan. R**

## The story so far:

Last week, the Chief Justice of India unveiled the 'new lady justice' statue in the Supreme Court premises that replaced the 'original lady justice'. The new statue is clothed in a saree, has shed the blindfold and holds scales on one hand and the Indian Constitution on the other.

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## Why the change?

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The new statue is an attempt at decoloniality, with an aim to shed colonial symbols. The saree replacing the western attire brings the statue closer to Indian tradition. The removal of the blindfold and having eyes open is significant in the Indian context. It conveys that the law is not blind and it 'sees' everyone equally.

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urgent actions needed in this regard with respect to the institution that delivers justice.

Firstly, the revised Memorandum of Procedure that deals with appointment of judges by the collegium has not been finalised for the past eight years. This needs to be finalised by the government and judiciary without any further delay to bring transparency and accountability to the process of appointment.

Secondly, the representation of backward classes, scheduled castes, schedule tribes, and religious minorities is less than 25% in the higher judiciary and women constitute less than 15%. The appointments to higher judiciary should reflect the social diversity of our country. Third, the High Courts invariably operate at only 60-70% strength thereby contributing to the huge pendency of over 60 lakh cases at present. The government needs to appoint collegium recommendations for High Courts without dragging its feet. The vacancies in lower courts, where 4.4 crore cases are pending, should also be filled by the States without backlog. Finally, cases dealing with the constitutional validity of amendments/laws and individual liberty should be heard on a priority basis by the higher judiciary. These measures would ensure that the new symbol is not just symbolic but reflects the actions taken for the delivery of fair and prompt justice.

*Rangarajan R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal.*

## THE GIST

▼ The new statue is clothed in a saree, has shed the blindfold and holds scales on one hand and the Indian Constitution on the other.

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- The Chief Justice of India recently unveiled a new statue of "Lady Justice" in the Supreme Court premises.

भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने हाल ही में सुप्रीम कोर्ट में नई 'लेडी जस्टिस' प्रतिमा का अनावरण किया।

- This new statue, unlike the original, wears a saree and holds the Indian Constitution in one hand, while the scales of justice are held in the other. The blindfold has been removed.

नई प्रतिमा साड़ी पहने है, एक हाथ में भारतीय संविधान और दूसरे में न्याय का तराजू थामे हुए है, जबकि आंखों पर पट्टी नहीं है।






- **Symbolism and Meaning | प्रतीकवाद और अर्थ:**

- The original Lady Justice was inspired by Roman mythology, representing impartiality with a blindfold and a sword. The new statue represents decolonialization and Indian traditions by shedding the blindfold and wearing a saree.

मूल 'लेडी जस्टिस' रोमन पौराणिक कथाओं से प्रेरित थी और अंधापन और तलवार से निष्पक्षता का प्रतिनिधित्व करती थी। नई प्रतिमा उपनिवेशवाद से मुक्ति और भारतीय परंपराओं का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है।






- **Why the Change? | बदलाव का कारण:**

- The new statue is seen as a step towards decolonization, moving away from British colonial symbols. The removal of the blindfold symbolizes that justice "sees" everything and is not blind.

नई प्रतिमा उपनिवेशवाद से मुक्ति की दिशा में एक कदम मानी जाती है, जो ब्रिटिश औपनिवेशिक प्रतीकों से दूर जा रही है। आंखों की पट्टी हटाना इस बात का प्रतीक है कि न्याय 'सब कुछ देखता' है और अंधा नहीं है।





- **Representation of Justice | न्याय का प्रतिनिधित्व:**

- The scales in the statue represent balance and fairness in judgment, ensuring that both sides of an argument are weighed equally before a final decision is made.

प्रतिमा में तराजू संतुलन और निष्पक्षता का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है, यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि अंतिम निर्णय से पहले दोनों पक्षों के तर्कों को बराबरी से तौला जाए।










- **Urgent Actions Needed in Indian Judiciary | भारतीय न्यायपालिका में जरूरी कदम:**

- There is a backlog of over 5 crore pending cases in Indian courts. The need for faster processing and more judges is critical.

**भारतीय अदालतों में 5 करोड़ से अधिक लंबित मामलों की समस्या है। तेजी से निपटान और अधिक न्यायाधीशों की आवश्यकता महत्वपूर्ण है।**



- 
- The representation of women and marginalized communities in higher judiciary is still below 25%, which needs to be addressed.  
उच्च न्यायपालिका में महिलाओं और हाशिए पर रहने वाले समुदायों का प्रतिनिधित्व अभी भी 25% से कम है, जिसे सुधारने की आवश्यकता है।
- 

## 1. Conclusion | निष्कर्ष:

1. The new Lady Justice statue is not just a symbolic change, but also a reminder of the need to ensure transparency, representation, and timely justice in the Indian judiciary.

नई लेडी जस्टिस प्रतिमा सिर्फ एक प्रतीकात्मक बदलाव नहीं है, बल्कि भारतीय न्यायपालिका में पारदर्शिता, प्रतिनिधित्व और समय पर न्याय सुनिश्चित करने की आवश्यकता की याद दिलाती है।



## Behind ITC restaurants' endurance



Class apart: ITC restaurants' success lies in the kid-glove attention. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chitra Narayanan

This month, ITC Maurya gave a taste of its seven-year-old progressive South Indian gastronomy brand Avartana to Delhiites as it opened the restaurant at its flagship hotel.

At the preview, the playful and magical food and cocktails blew away one's mind. For instance, the dessert — a raw mango pudding, served with an edible candle made with ghee, over which you crack a *pappadum* — is culinary artistry at its finest. The Delhi launch made it the fifth Avartana. The brand was unveiled at ITC Chola, Chennai, and subsequently at the hotel chain's Mumbai (ITC Maratha), Kolkata (ITC Royal Bengal) and Colombo (ITC Ratnadipa) properties. Earlier this year, ITC Maurya had grand celebrations for 45 years of Bukhara, the iconic restaurant that has been wowing the global food world with its minimalistic one-page menu, rustic setting, generous portions and no-cutlery (you are provided only if you ask) eccentricity.

It is also celebrating 35 years of Dum Pukht, the Awadhi cuisine brand with such lip-smacking fare that it has many industry leaders checking into the hotel simply to savour the slow-roasted delicacies. So, what's the secret behind creating such long-staying, winning restaurant brands?

The answer is surprisingly simple. Since the time of opening, none of ITC's iconic restaurant brands have changed their menu. And even when they have taken up operations in different cities, they have resisted the temptation to customise the menu for that particular city.

(The writer is with *The Hindu Businessline*)

# Cargo firms upsize for new e-com business, but competition is fierce

Logistics company Blue Dart says it covers over 56,000 locations and 19,000 pin codes, enabling it to reach the remotest parts of India; it plans to expand to more centres; Mumbai-headquartered Allcargo Gati is expanding its branch network and upgrading infrastructure and technology

NEWS ANALYSIS

Anesh Phadnis

As e-commerce grows by leaps and bounds, there is a surge in demand for logistics services. In line with this growth, cargo and logistics companies are investing in new facilities and processes to widen and streamline their operations.

The investments come amid an improved highway network in the country and a projected 7% GDP growth for FY25.

Mumbai-headquartered logistics company Allcargo Gati is expanding its branch network and upgrading infrastructure and technology. "Seven planned hubs have been operational in Farukh-nagar (Gurgaon), Nagpur, Guwahati, Bhiwandi (Mumbai), Bangalore, Indore and Hyderabad. Furthermore, we will expand facilities in Ahmedabad, Kolkata, and Pune," says Ketan Kulkarni, deputy managing director of Express and Supply Chain Pvt Ltd.

The company is also investing in fleet expansion, and additional sorting centres and warehouses. "These investments will scale up our operations and improve delivery speed and service efficiency," Kulkarni says. Other



Expensive business: Cost is a major worry for the logistics sector with rising prices of trucks seizes

initiatives include an overhaul of its enterprise research planning platform for precision in delivery, mid-mile efficiency and cross-docking processes (which involve transfer of inbound and outbound cargo with minimal wait at warehouses).

Most goods, including e-commerce shipments, parcels and small consignments are transported by road in India.

Home-grown logistics company Blue Dart says it covers over 56,000 locations and 19,000 pin codes, enabling it to reach even the remotest parts of the country. It plans to expand to more centres.

"Blue Dart recognises

the competitive nature of the freight business in India, particularly with a significant portion of e-commerce goods transported by road. To strengthen our market presence, we are investing in state-of-the-art infrastructure, including new facilities in key locations such as Guwahati (Assam) and Brijwasan (Delhi)," says Pablo Ciano, CEO of the e-commerce division of DHL.

"We recognise the competitive nature of freight business in India, with a large portion of e-com shipped by road infrastructure, including new facilities in key locations such as Guwahati (Assam) and Brijwasan (Delhi)," says Pablo Ciano, CEO of the e-commerce division of DHL. The German company that holds 75% stake in Blue Dart. The e-commerce division operates domestic parcel transport business in 20 countries, including India.

"Our investment in advanced technology and strategic partnerships, including with India Post's

## Gateway at Galathea Bay: the new major port can be a game changer

T.E. Raja Simhan

A quarter century after Kamarajar Port was named the country's 12th major port, the mega international container transshipment port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay in the Great Nicobar Island in the Bay of Bengal — has been notified as the 13th major port.

This paves the way for the development of the port, which could be a game changer for maritime trade in the region.

The ICTP, with a 20 metre natural draught, will be strategically located on the East-West international trade and shipping route in proximity to transshipment terminals like Singapore, Klang and Colombo.

found that a brush that contains natural bristles made of boar hair or horse hair provides me a luxurious close shave. These bristles create rich lather and are also very durable.

While Lea has constantly brought new technology into the shaving party, it has also stayed true to its heritage, retaining its classic shaving products in its portfolio. Most importantly, it has focussed on making products of the highest quality. Just like Bialetti moka pots, Lea shaving brushes are also priced at a premium over their peers.

Both these European brands can teach marketers a few simple but powerful lessons. First, developing a deep category expertise helps build sustained success for a brand.

nautical miles from Malacca Strait — the international shipping channel catering to about 35% of the annual global sea trade. Currently, nearly 75% of India's transshipped cargo is handled at overseas ports. Colombo, Singapore and Klang cumulatively handle more than 85% of this cargo, with 45% going to Colombo port. The ICTP can save Indian ports \$200-220 million each year in transshipment charges.

However, the port's development faces several challenges, since it is in an ecologically sensitive region.

As per a government source, "Consultants will have to plan without affect-

ing the region's eco-sensitivity. That is the mandate. They will accordingly seek proposals from contractors and implement these in a phased manner."

The ICTP is envisaged to be developed in four phases at an estimated cost of ₹41,000 crore. Phase 1 is expected to be commissioned in 2025 with a handling capacity of around 4 million TEUs, which will go up to 16 million TEUs in the final stage of development.

The estimated cost for phase 1 is ₹18,000 crore, which covers dredging, reclamation, construction of breakwaters, berths, storage areas and buildings among other things.

(The writer is with *The Hindu Businessline*)

### On a roll



New-gen vehicles: Employees are at work on the production line of the new Peugeot e-3008 and e-5008 electric car at the Stellantis factory in Sochaux, eastern France. The historic Peugeot factory, which is benefiting from the commercial success of its 3008 and 5008 electric and hybrid models, has planned to hire 450 temporary workers to speed up production. AP

## Brand expertise and heritage bubbling in a moka pot

Harish Ibat

When I visited Spain last month, my wife and daughter had only one ask of me: "Bring back a Bialetti moka pot." I searched for it in Madrid and found it at El Corte Ingles, the iconic Spanish department store on the edge of the busy and picturesque public square Puerta del Sol.

In the store's kitchenware section, I found a wide range of Bialetti coffee makers. There was the original moka pot made of aluminium, but also coffee makers for induction cook-tops. I could also see colourful moka pots designed by Bialetti in collaboration with Dolce & Gabbana, and others that had transparent glass, instead of aluminium for the

upper chamber, so you can see the coffee bubbling up. The sales assistant was emphatic in her support of Bialetti. "These moka pots will work beautifully for years," she said. When I asked about other brands, she said Bialetti was the Spanish department store on the edge of the busy and picturesque public square Puerta del Sol.

As I bought two moka pots, a question that struck me was: What makes this brand so sought after? I dug a little and discovered that Alfonso Bialetti, its founder, was born in 1919 in the hamlet of Omegna in Italy. In 1923, he came up with the brilliant idea of the moka pot, and since then, the company has stayed remarkably focused on the business of creating coffee makers. Over the years, it added to its



Enduring brands: A Bialetti Coffee shop in Como, Italy. GETTY IMAGES/STOCK

range the moka induction pots and espresso machines, but has stayed true to its core business, emphasising excellent quality and classic design over ever-

anything else. As a result, Bialetti is now seen as a category expert, and consumers are happy to pay a premium for a expertly made and classic design over ever-

by thought the Bialetti moka pot. I reported home and I launched into my next search — a good shaving brush made of natural bristles. I love shaving the old-

fashioned way, and have found that a brush that contains natural bristles made of boar hair or horse hair provides me a luxurious close shave. These bristles create rich lather and are also very durable.

While Lea has constantly brought new technology into the shaving party, it has also stayed true to its heritage, retaining its classic shaving products in its portfolio. Most importantly, it has focussed on making products of the highest quality. Just like Bialetti moka pots, Lea shaving brushes are also priced at a premium over their peers.

Both these European brands can teach marketers a few simple but powerful lessons. First, developing a deep category expertise helps build sustained success for a brand.

long. Reading up on the brand, I found that Lea is one of Spain's oldest companies and has been making shaving creams, soaps and brushes for over a century now.

While Lea has constantly brought new technology into the shaving party, it has also stayed true to its heritage, retaining its classic shaving products in its portfolio. Most importantly, it has focussed on making products of the highest quality. Just like Bialetti moka pots, Lea shaving brushes are also priced at a premium over their peers.

Both these European brands can teach marketers a few simple but powerful lessons. First, developing a deep category expertise helps build sustained success for a brand.

When a brand is perceived as an expert in its category, discerning consumers naturally begin respecting it and seeking its products. Second, brands can gain significant traction by staying true to their heritage, even as they launch contemporary ranges of products. Third, a combination of heritage, expertise and high quality is unbeatable.

I am now back home from Spain, feeling happy and reassured that it will be drinking very good coffee every day and following this through over their peers. (The writer is with *The Hindu Businessline*)



# Gateway at Galathea Bay: the new major port can be a game changer

**T.E. Raja Simhan**

A quarter century after Kamarajar Port was named the country's 12th major port, the mega international container transshipment port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay – in the Great Nicobar island in the Bay of Bengal – has been notified as the 13th major port.

This paves the way for the development of the port, which could prove a game changer for maritime trade in the region.

The ICTP, with a 20 metre natural draught, will be strategically located on the East-West international trade and shipping route in proximity to transshipment terminals like Singapore, Klang and Colombo.



It is also a part of the rapidly evolving Indo-Pacific geopolitical region. As a gateway to the region, it will capture transshipment cargo from Indian east coast ports, as also Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The Great Nicobar island, part of the Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar islands, is 40

nautical miles from Malacca Strait – the international shipping channel catering to about 35% of the annual global sea trade. Currently, nearly 75% of India's transshipped cargo is handled at overseas ports. Colombo, Singapore and Klang cumulatively handle more than 85% of this cargo, with 45% going to Colombo port. The ICTP can save Indian ports \$200-220 million each year in transshipment charges.

## **Eco-sensitive zone**

However, the port's development faces several challenges, since it is in an ecologically sensitive region.

As per a government source, "Consultants will have to plan without affect-

ing the region's eco-sensitivity. That is the mandate. They will accordingly seek proposals from contractors and implement these in a phased manner."

The ICTP is envisaged to be developed in four phases at an estimated cost of ₹41,000 crore. Phase 1 is expected to be commissioned in 2028 with a handling capacity of around 4 million TEUs, which will go up to 16 million TEUs in the final stage of development. The estimated cost for phase 1 is ₹18,000 crore, which covers dredging, reclamation, construction of breakwaters, berths, storage areas and buildings among other things.


*(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)*



- **Introduction:**

- A new international container transshipment port (ICTP) has been notified at Galathea Bay on the Great Nicobar Island, marking it as the 13th major port of India.

ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप के गैलाथिया बे में एक नया अंतरराष्ट्रीय कंटेनर ट्रांसशिपमेंट पोर्ट (ICTP) अधिसूचित किया गया है, जो इसे भारत का 13वां प्रमुख बंदरगाह बनाता है।










- **Strategic Importance:**

- Located near major transshipment terminals like Singapore and Colombo, this port has a 20-meter natural draught and is positioned on the East-West international trade route.

यह बंदरगाह 20 मीटर की प्राकृतिक गहराई के साथ सिंगापुर और कोलंबो जैसे प्रमुख ट्रांसशिपमेंट टर्मिनलों के पास स्थित है और पूर्व-पश्चिम अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार मार्ग पर स्थित है।





- **Cost Savings:**

- Currently, 75% of India's transshipped cargo is handled at overseas ports. The ICTP will help save \$200-220 million annually in transshipment charges.

**वर्तमान में, भारत का 75% ट्रांसशिपमेंट कार्गो विदेशी बंदरगाहों पर संभाला जाता है। यह बंदरगाह सालाना \$200-220 मिलियन की बचत करेगा।**



- **Phased Development:**

- The project will be developed in four phases at a cost of ₹41,000 crore. The first phase, expected to be completed by 2028, will have a capacity of 4 million TEUs, scaling up to 16 million TEUs in the final stage.

इस परियोजना को चार चरणों में ₹41,000 करोड़ की लागत से विकसित किया जाएगा। पहला चरण 2028 तक पूरा होने की उम्मीद है, जिसकी क्षमता 4 मिलियन TEUs होगी और अंतिम चरण में 16 मिलियन TEUs तक बढ़ाई जाएगी।

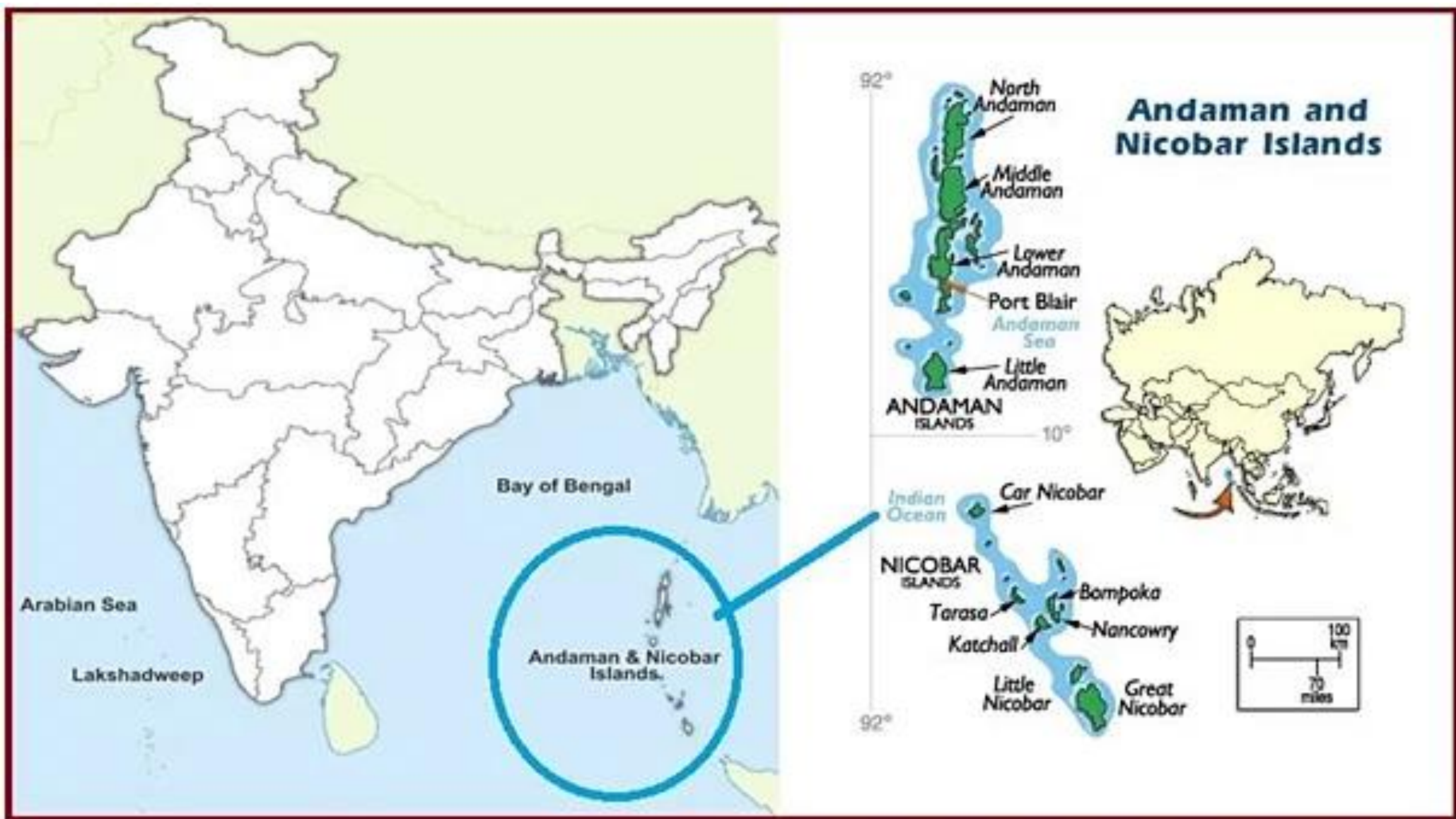


## 1. Eco-sensitive Challenges:

1. The port development faces challenges due to its location in an ecologically sensitive zone. Measures will be taken to ensure that the environmental impact is minimized.

बंदरगाह विकास को इसके पारिस्थितिकी रूप से संवेदनशील क्षेत्र में स्थित होने के कारण चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है। पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव को कम करने के उपाय किए जाएंगे।







worldatlas

72° E

ISLANDS



**Andaman Islands**

Saddle Peak  
North Andaman

Middle Andaman

Lower Andaman

Sentinel Island

**Port Blair**

Andaman Sea



11° N

Bay of Bengal

**Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

Little Andaman

100 mi  
100 km

Car Nicobar

Indian Ocean

**Nicobar Islands**

Bompoka

Tarasa

Nancowry

Katchall

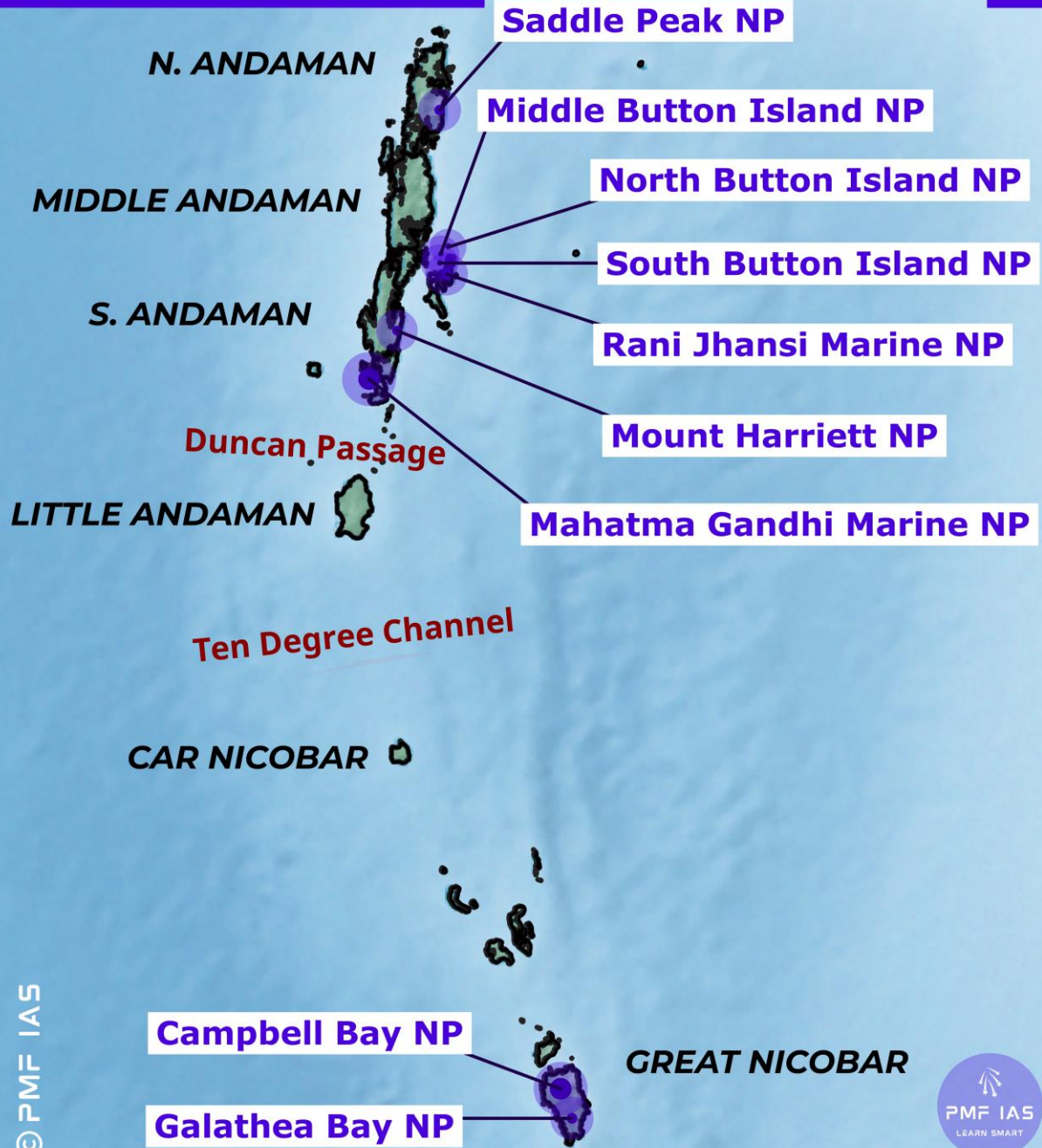
Little Nicobar

Great Nicobar

©GraphicMaps.com



# Andaman & Nicobar Is.



- **Highest Peaks:** Saddle Peak is the highest peak in North Andaman Island and Mount Thuillier is the highest peak in Great Nicobar Island.
- **New names:** Ross Island is renamed as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island; Neil Island as Shaheed Island; and Havelock Island as Swaraj Island.

## QUICK FACTS

6 aboriginal tribes are seen - Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa and Sentinelese are **Negrito** while Nicobarese and Shompen are **Mongoloid**.

Campbell Bay National Park, Galathea Bay National Park, Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park and Rani Jhansi Marine National Park are few important national parks.

Coco Islands are a small group of islands in the north eastern Bay of Bengal. They are part of Myanmar.



Ikea takes the small route to grow bigger

NEW DELHI, MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024

# FINANCIAL EXPRESS

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READ TO LEAD

## IN THE NEWS

### BOMB THREATS RECEIVED FOR 25 FLIGHTS

AS MANY AS 25 flights of Indian airlines got bomb threats on Sunday, causing hardships to thousands of passengers and forcing authorities to move scores of planes to isolation bays at airports for detailed checks, reports PTI. ■ PAGE 5

### COMPANIES MAKE A BEELINE FOR GREEN STORAGE CAPACITY

AS THE GOVERNMENT looks to set up 500 gigawatt (GW) of green capacity by 2030, a key challenge is to ensure its seamless access to the grid. Several private and public sector firms have lined up significant investments and set capacity targets in the space, reports Arunima Bharadwaj. ■ PAGE 2

### ISRAELI STRIKE IN GAZA LEAVES 87 DEAD OR MISSING

ISRAEL SAID IT had struck Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in the Lebanese capital Beirut on Sunday, while officials in Gaza said they were still trying to recover bodies from the rubble after an Israeli strike that killed dozens, reports Reuters. At least 87 people were dead or missing following the airstrike in northern Gaza. ■ PAGE 2

### TOTAL HEADCOUNT OF 6 TOP IT FIRMS DIPS 1% Y-O-Y IN Q2

THE COMBINED HEADCOUNT of the six top Indian IT firms dropped 0.6% year-on-year in the second quarter of the current fiscal, even as fresher hiring picked up resulting in 1.2% sequential growth, reports Urvi Mahanta. The total headcount for the September quarter was 1,622,007. ■ PAGE 4

### FE SPECIAL

#### How farmers can get better prices

Price deficit payment scheme has its origins in Madhya Pradesh's Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana ■ EXPLAINER, P6

## YOUTH HESITANT TO TAKE UP CONSTRUCTION JOBS

# L&T's free skill training offer for blue-collar workers goes abegging

MANU KAUSHIK New Delhi, October 20

CONSTRUCTION MAJOR LARSEN & TOUBRO (L&T), which had earlier talked about an acute shortage of engineers and skilled blue-collar workers at its sites hitting project implementation schedules, has since embarked on a plan to address the issue on its own by offering free training to willing persons. However, even this doesn't seem to work beyond a point, with at least one-fifth of seats lying vacant. L&T intends to give free training to 15,000 youth every year to help them hone their construction skills. The programme is funded out of the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) budget.

In June, L&T group chairman SN Subrahmanyan said that the firm was faced with a shortage of over 25,000-30,000 labourers and 20,000 engineers across its businesses. With its massive pipeline — the target is ₹9 lakh crore for the current financial year and 40% at

## OPERATING MARGINS OF 164 FIRMS SHRINK IN Q2

# Other income comes to early birds' rescue

FE BUREAU New Delhi, October 20

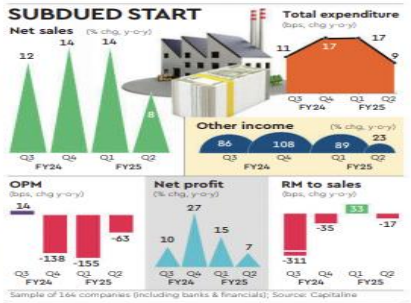
THE EARNINGS SEASON has got off to a subdued start, with virtually every heavy-weight disappointing the Street. Net profits of a sample of 164 companies (including banks and financials) were up 7% year-on-year on the back of an 8% rise in revenues. But net profits would have fallen but for a 23% jump in other income.

The across-the-board miss in estimates suggests the Street has been unable to gauge the extent of sluggishness in demand, whether for IT services or for consumer goods.

Among the management numbers have attributed to the indifferent numbers include muted consumer demand, elevated commodity prices and higher advertising and promotion spends amidst competitive intensity.

Also, some businesses were disrupted by heavy rains this season. Demand so far in the festive season has been weak. For the sample companies, operating margins have contracted 63 basis points (bps), from 14.2% to 13.6%.

At Avenue Supermart, operating growth in same-store sales (for stores that are of two years or older) decelerated to 5.5% from 9.1% in Q1FY25. The management attributed the deceleration to heightened



Sample of 164 companies (including banks & financials). Source: Capitaline

competition from quick-commerce companies. The subdued rise in revenues resulted in a contraction in the Ebitda earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation margin of 40 basis points and a muted 10.3% increase in operating profits. Nestle reported poor volumes which fell 2% and weak domestic

## Canada fund drops plan to sell IndoSpace JV stake

RAGHAVENDRA KAMATH Mumbai, October 20

CPP INVESTMENTS (CPIB), Canada's largest pension fund manager, has dropped its plans to sell stake in IndoSpace Core, its equal joint venture with IndoSpace, a developer of logistics parks promoted by Southeast Asia-focused Everstone Capital and US-based Realterm, people in the know said.

CPIB did not get the desired valuation from bidders, sources said. "Also, not many in the market want to buy just 50%. Most of the investors want to buy the whole stake," one of the sources added. Marquee global investors like the UAE's sovereign wealth fund Mubadala, Dutch pension fund APG, Canadian investor Oxford Properties, and Ivanhoe Cambridge, the real estate arm of Canadian pension fund CDPO, had put in bids to buy CPIB's 50% stake in IndoSpace Core. The deal was expected to be around \$700 million (\$5,810 crore) and CPIB had given the mandate to Morgan Stanley to run the sale process, sources said, adding the portfolio matured and CPIB was looking to exit its investment after holding it for six years. When contacted, the CPIB spokesperson declined to comment on the matter. IndoSpace Core was formed in 2017 to

focus on acquiring and developing modern logistics facilities in the country. CPIB initially committed about \$500 million in the venture. IndoSpace Core has 17 industrial and logistics parks, housed under 22 special purpose vehicles (SPVs), across five key markets of Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, NCR, and Pune.

When contacted, the CPIB spokesperson declined to comment on the matter. IndoSpace Core was formed in 2017 to

## REALITY CHECK

L&T faces shortage of 25,000-30,000 labourers and 20,000 engineers ■ It has a project pipeline of ₹9 lakh crore for this financial year ■ L&T runs nine construction skills training institutes

overseas sites — the manpower challenge continues to be serious. The lack of enough demand for construction site work is a reflection of the low labour force participation among the youth, which is the major bottleneck. The bottleneck is in terms of attracting people to join the training programme. The prob-

Formed in 2017, IndoSpace Core has 17 industrial and logistics parks

CPIB initially committed about \$500 mn in the joint venture

These institutes currently train about 12,000 labourers and as against total capacity of 15,000

The company spends about ₹65 crore every year on these institutes

lem is about mindset of the younger generation," Anup Salay, head (corporate strategy and special initiatives), L&T, told FE. Sometimes, inclement weather at construction sites becomes a deterrent. Also, some sites are at remote locations.

Continued on Page 5

'Have more children,' Andhra CM tells state residents

Boeing mulling asset sales to boost finances

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# Stars align for astrology startups in festive spell

## Engagements up 20-30% this year

S SHANTHI Bengaluru, October 20

STARS ARE SHINING for startups offering online astrology consultations this festive season. Engagements have surged 20-30% this year compared to the last one, as customers seek guidance for auspicious timings, rituals, events and financial planning for the year ahead. AI-powered astrology startup Astrofygi, for instance, has recorded a surge of 15% in consultations compared to the last festive season. Meena Kapoor, founder and managing director, Astrofygi, told FE. Similarly, temple services startup VAMA is seeing a 20-25% increase in new users, over 20%

## AUSPICIOUS TIME

Temple services startup VAMA registers 20-25% increase in new users ■ India's online astrology market, currently at \$102-106 mn, is expected to grow tenfold by FY30

their ventures, relationships, and finances with auspicious dates, leading to a significant increase in platform usage." Meena Kapoor, founder and managing director, Astrofygi, told FE. Similarly, temple services startup VAMA is seeing a 20-25% increase in new users, over 20%

## Capex target of Centre may fall short by ₹50K cr

WITH THE GENERAL election-induced slowdown on asset creation, spending continuing to weigh in, the Centre's capital expenditure may be lower by around ₹50,000 crore this fiscal against the target of ₹1.1 lakh crore, reports Prasanta Sahu. In the first five months of FY25, the Centre's capex was lower by around ₹73,000 crore compared with the year-ago period. ■ Page 2

## MD: HDFC Bank stares at slower credit growth

HDFC BANK'S CREDIT growth is expected to be slower than the banking sector growth rate in the current financial year. Its MD and CEO Sandeep Jagdishan said during an analyst call, reports Sachin Kumar. However, the bank's credit growth is expected to accelerate in the next financial year, likely matching with the banking system's growth rate, and may surpass it in FY27. ■ Page 6

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# 'Everyone knew': Sakshi Malik opens up about sex harassment in memoir

Details 2012  
Episode With  
BBSS In Almaty

Himanshi.Dhawan  
@timesofindia.com

Trouble had a way of finding me, writes retired wrestler Sakshi Malik in her memoir, 'Witness'. It found her at age 19 when fresh from winning gold at 2012 Asian Junior Championship at Kazakhstan's Almaty, Malik faced what she describes as one of the most traumatic experiences of her life.

In the autobiography, Malik, who became the first Indian women wrestler to win a bronze at Rio Olympics, writes that she was taken to wrestling federation chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's hotel room after her win on

pretext of speaking to her parents from Singh's mobile. She alleges, "Singh connected me to my parents. It seemed harmless. When I spoke to them telling them about my match and my medal, I remember thinking that perhaps nothing unsavoury might happen after all. But right after I ended the call, he tried to molest me while I was seated on his bed. I pushed him off and started to cry."

She alleges, "He stepped back after that. I think he realised that I wasn't going to go along with what he wanted. He started saying that he had put his arms around me 'papa jaise' (as a father would). But I knew that was not what it was. I ran out of his room all the way back to mine, weeping."

Malik and five other women wrestlers had staged a protest at Jantar Mantar in Jan 2023 accusing Singh of multiple incidents of sexual harassment. The wrestlers filed FIRs



Malik says fear & anxiety affected her performance at Junior World Championships a few months later

and in May this year, a Delhi court framed charges of sexual harassment, intimidation and outraging the modesty of women against Singh who is ex-Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief and six-time Lok Sabha MP. Singh has previously denied these allegations terming them a political conspiracy against him. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges in court. Singh did not respond to multiple calls and

messages asking for a response to Malik's charges.

In the memoir written with Jonathan Selvaraj, Malik says Singh made repeated calls urging her to "stay in his favour", offering facilities like protein supplements. Malik writes that she shared information about the Almaty incident with her camp roommate Anita Sheoran and her mother. "Although I didn't intend to spread the story, it did. Everyone knew what happened with me at Almaty. No one spoke out about it. Neither did I."

Malik says fear and anxiety affected her performance at 2012 Junior World Championships a few months later where she was a favourite after winning a bronze in the previous edition. She ended up in 17th place. This was not the only occasion when Malik had to face sexual harassment, she says. She was assaulted by a tuition teacher when she went to his home to

study. "I had been molested in my childhood too, but for a long time I could not tell my family about it as I thought it was my fault. My tuition teacher used to harass me. He would call me over to his place for classes at odd times and sometimes tried to touch me. I was scared to go for my tuition classes but I could never tell my mom. This continued for a long time and I kept quiet about it," she writes.


Malik finally opened up to her mother who was supportive of her. "My mother supported me not just during the incident with the tuition teacher but also when Singh started pursuing me. I tried to forget about what had happened at Almaty. That's what my parents advised me to do too. They told me to focus on my training and competition. It doesn't seem like much today, but I was grateful that I was allowed to continue to train, at least."



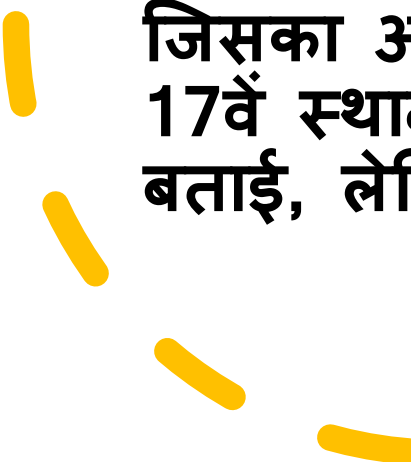
- In her memoir titled "Witness," retired wrestler Sakshi Malik reveals an incident from 2012, when she was 19 and had just won a gold medal at the Asian Junior Championship in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Malik describes it as one of the most traumatic experiences of her life.

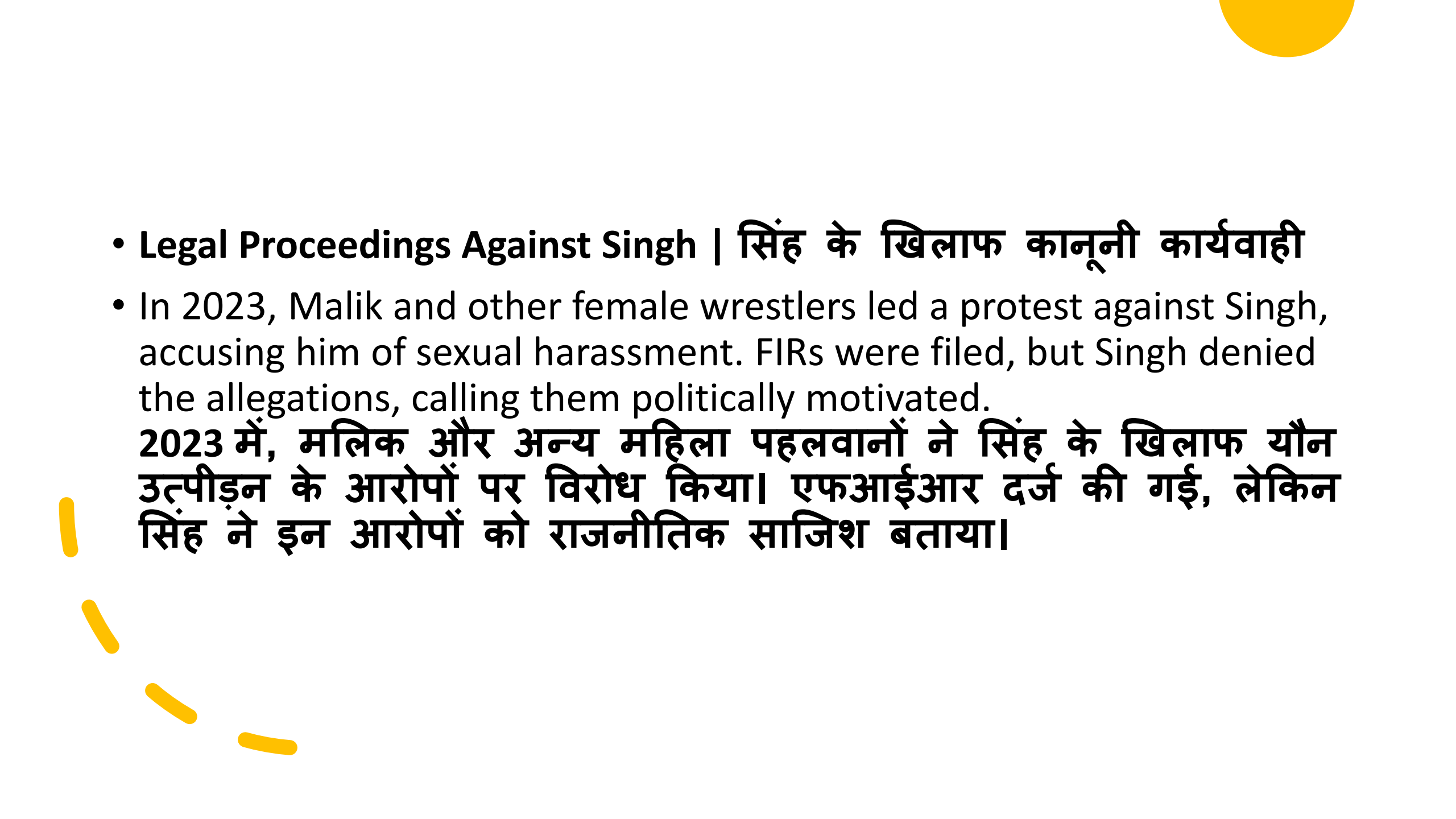
सक्शी मलिक ने अपने संस्मरण "विटनेस" में 2012 की एक घटना का खुलासा किया, जब वह 19 साल की थीं और अल्माटी, कजाखेस्तान में एशियाई जूनियर चैंपियनशिप में स्वर्ण पदक जीतकर आई थीं। इसे वह अपने जीवन की सबसे दर्दनाक घटनाओं में से एक बताती हैं।

- **Accusations Against Brij Bhushan Singh | बृजभूषण सिंह पर आरोप**
- Malik writes that she was taken to the room of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the then chief of the Wrestling Federation of India. Under the pretext of making a phone call, Singh allegedly tried to harass her. Malik managed to leave the room and ran back, feeling shaken.  
**मलिक लिखती हैं कि उन्हें भारतीय कश्ती महासंघ के तत्कालीन प्रमुख बृज भूषण शरण सिंह के कमरे में ले जाया गया था। सिंह ने फोन कॉल का बहाना बनाकर कथित तौर पर उनके साथ छेड़छाड़ की कोशिश की। मलिक किसी तरह कमरे से बाहर निकलकर वापस आ गईं।**

- 
- **Reaction and Suppression of Incident | घटना पर प्रतिक्रिया और दमन**
  - Malik states that the harassment left her anxious and fearful, affecting her performance in the Junior World Championships a few months later, where she finished 17th. She revealed the incident only to her roommate and mother at the time, but no one spoke out about it publicly.

मलिक कहती हैं कि इस उत्पीड़न के कारण उन्हें चिंता और भय हुआ, जिसका असर उनके प्रदर्शन पर पड़ा, और वह जूनियर वर्ल्ड चैंपियनशिप में 17वें स्थान पर रहीं। उन्होंने यह घटना केवल अपनी रूममेट और मां को बताई, लेकिन किसी ने इसे सार्वजनिक नहीं किया।




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- **Legal Proceedings Against Singh | सिंह के खिलाफ कानूनी कार्यवाही**
  - In 2023, Malik and other female wrestlers led a protest against Singh, accusing him of sexual harassment. FIRs were filed, but Singh denied the allegations, calling them politically motivated.  
2023 में, मलिक और अन्य महिला पहलवानों ने सिंह के खिलाफ यौन उत्पीड़न के आरोपों पर विरोध किया। एफआईआर दर्ज की गई, लेकिन सिंह ने इन आरोपों को राजनीतिक साजिश बताया।

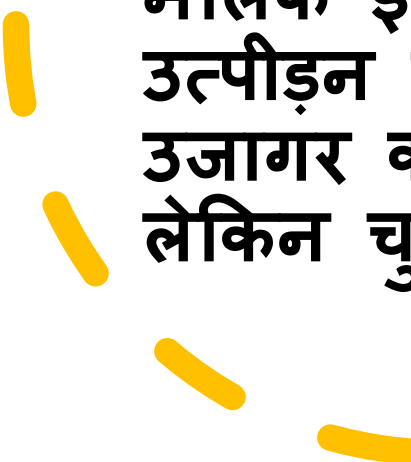


## • Past Harassment Experiences | पूर्व उत्पीड़न के अनुभव

- Malik also shares that she had faced harassment from her tuition teacher during her childhood, but she kept quiet about it for a long time, thinking it was her fault. Her mother supported her, advising her to focus on her training despite these incidents.

मलिक बताती हैं कि बचपन में भी उन्हें अपने ट्यूशन टीचर से उत्पीड़न का सामना करना पड़ा था, लेकिन वह इससे अपनी गलती मानकर लंबे समय तक चुप रहीं। उनकी मां ने उन्हें समर्थन दिया और कहा कि उन्हें अपनी ट्रेनिंग पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।

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- **Reflection on Harassment in Wrestling | कुश्ती में उत्पीड़न पर विचार**
  - Malik reflects that sexual harassment in the wrestling world is not uncommon. Her memoir highlights how this issue has been an undercurrent, with many people aware of such incidents but choosing to stay silent.



मलिक इस बात पर विचार करती हैं कि कुश्ती की दुनिया में यौन उत्पीड़न कोई असामान्य बात नहीं है। उनका संस्मरण इस मुद्दे को उजागर करता है कि कई लोग इस तरह की घटनाओं से अवगत थे, लेकिन चुप रहना पसंद करते थे।



**REMARK ON PM**  
**SC dismisses Kejriwal's plea in defamation case**  
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**AMI LAWSUIT**  
**Wikipedia takes down article after HC order**  
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**CAMPAIGN STOP**  
**Trump serves food at McDonald's restaurant**  
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**DATA POINT**  
**A well-off State that lags behind in social indices**  
Maharashtra presents a contrasting picture  
OPINION > PAGE 9



**KING OF AUSTIN**  
**Leclerc wins US GP, Verstappen third**  
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**INSIDE**



**JMM, RJD yet to reach consensus over seat-sharing**  
Despite hard bargaining between the Bahugana Janata Dal (BJD) and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) in Ranchi for the third consecutive day on Monday over seat-sharing for Jharkhand Assembly polls, both parties did not reach any consensus. > PAGE 5

**Aspirants protest in Prayagraj over UPSSC exams**  
Hundreds of aspirants on Monday protested outside the Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission (UPSSC) office in Prayagraj demanding conduct of the coming Review Officer/Assistant Review Officer and UPSSC examination in a single shift. > PAGE 2

**Doctors end fast after meeting with Bengal CM**  
The West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front has decided to call off its hunger strike after a meeting with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday. The resident doctors have been on a fast-unto-death over the K.G. Kar Hospital rape and murder. > PAGE 4

**SC to hear pleas against blocking BBC film in Jan.**  
The Supreme Court on Monday posted petitions challenging the Centre's decision to block the screening of a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) documentary series titled *India: The Modi Question* on the second week of January 2025. > PAGE 2

# India, China reach deal on easing LAC tensions

Both arrive at an agreement on patrolling arrangements and resolution of all remaining friction points, says Foreign Secretary; gone back to where the situation was in 2020, disengagement process completed, says Jaishankar; announcement comes a day before the BRICS summit which PM Modi and Chinese President Xi are scheduled to attend

**Subasini Halder**  
NEW DELHI  
India and China have reached an agreement on the "patrolling arrangements" and the resolution of the military stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Union government announced on Monday, in a breakthrough that officials told *The Hindu* include the remaining friction points of Demchok and Depsang.  
The announcement by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri came during a press briefing on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia for the BRICS summit on Tuesday. Chinese President Xi Jinping is scheduled to attend the event.  
"Over the last several weeks, Indian and Chinese diplomatic and military engagements have been in close contact with each

other in a variety of forums, and as a result of these discussions, agreement has been arrived at on patrolling arrangements along the LAC in the India-China border areas, leading to disengagement and a resolution of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020," Mr. Misri said, adding that the two sides would now take the "next steps" on this.  
A few hours later, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar confirmed the importance of the agreement on patrolling, which had come to a stop in 2020, after which the two sides accepted "buffer zones" in some areas of dispute that denied the militaries their normal patrolling routes.  
While the External Affairs Ministry did not give further details of the agreement, whether the "buffer zones" would continue to exist for patrolling

purposes, Mr. Misri said the two sides had "reached an agreement on the issues that were being discussed".  
"With that we have gone back to where the situation was in 2020. With that we can say the disengagement process with China has been diplomatically completed," Mr. Jaishankar said in an interview to the television channel NDTV.  
In the past, the government has said that disengagement would only constitute the beginning and that normalcy at the LAC would only follow after "disengagement and demilitarisation" of troops that China had amassed at the LAC, leading to counter-deployments by India.  
The timing of the announcement, just a day before the BRICS summit, indicates that a meeting between Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi, which has been speculated to take place, is now more likely to take place.  
"Although the two leaders met as many as 18 times between 2014 and 2020, the LAC remained uncompleted" only twice since the clashes in the Galwan Valley.  
Significantly, the Chinese government did not apologise or comment on the border agreement on Monday.  
**Possible meeting**  
Asked about a possible meeting between the leaders, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Lin Jian said they would inform "if anything comes up".  
Mr. Misri did not confirm a meeting between the leaders either, but said the government was discussing a number of bilateral meetings in Kazan, the venue of the BRICS summit.  
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## Riding the waves



Brewing storms: Fishermen off the Vishakhapatnam coast on Monday. They have been asked not to venture into the sea since a cyclonic storm Daru is expected to reach the landfall on Tuesday. **V. K. RAO/REUTERS REPORT/INP/4**

## Wangchuk ends fast after gov't. agrees to resume talks



Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and others from Ladakh ended their hunger strike on Monday following an invitation from Union Home Ministry to resume dialogue. The Ministry has agreed to convene a meeting of the high-powered committee on Monday. State for Home Nityanand Rai on December 3. Leth Apex Body, a civil society organisation, has been protesting for the last four years to demand Statehood for Leh and Kargi regions. **FULL REPORT ON > PAGE 4**

## 'Laws for minority institutions do not breach secularism'



**Krishnadas Rajagopal**  
NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Monday made a point that laws which regulate institutions run by religious or linguistic minorities, for that very reason alone, cannot be accused of breaching secularism. The oral observation by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, heading a three-judge Bench, was a brave challenge to a decision of the Allahabad High Court to strike down the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasah Education Act, 2004. The Act regulated madrasahs in the State. The High Court concluded that the law violated the principles of secularism. It had ordered the transfer of their students, especially those in recognised madrasahs to regular schools. Petitioners claimed in the top court that the verdict had affected the lives of nearly 17 lakh students spread across 16,000 madrasahs in Uttar Pradesh.  
"A law per se regulating an institution belonging to a particular community is not ipso facto (by the fact itself) offend the principle of secularism," the Chief Justice observed.  
The CJ referred to the Religious Institutions Act, 1954, in the same context, which provided for the "proper administration of religious institutions," and is there in all States from Andhra Pradesh to Tamil Nadu.  
The Chief Justice said a State had a right to legislate to improve the excellence of institutions of education. The court would resume the hearing on October 22.  
"It is within a State's vi-

# NIA begins probe into Kashmir attack; militants elusive

**Preezada Ashiq**  
SRINAGAR  
Militants who killed seven civilians and injured five others and set vehicles on fire on Sunday at the campsite of a private construction company in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir are yet to be traced. A team of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday began the probe into the brutal killings. Security agencies have launched a manhunt for the terrorists.  
Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha blamed Pakistan for the attacks that targeted the neighbouring country was frustrated by the successful and peaceful elections in Jammu and Kashmir, and people expressing their faith in democracy.  
Mr. Sinha said security

forces and the police had been given instructions to track down and eliminate the perpetrators.  
"I want to assure the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and the country, that we will soon track down these elements and punish them severely," he said.  
A statement attributed to the Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit, claimed responsibility for the attack. However, the police have not confirmed the veracity of the purported statement. TRF has targeted the construction site where a billion-dollar tunnel project, primarily intended for military transport, is underway.  
Official sources said the targeted killings of non-fo-

winter seasons. The attack left seven persons, including construction workers and a doctor, dead.  
**Shattered dreams**  
Hundreds of locals participated in the last rites of Dr. Shahinwar Dar, a resident of Budgam district. The killing has left the family shattered. "He was our lone bread earner. He wanted to see me as an IAS officer. All our dreams have shattered," Mohsin Dar, son of the deceased doctor, said. The victim's daughter was married off recently. Locals and relatives of the victims demanded action against the attackers.  
Mr. Sinha announced a relief of ₹6 lakh to the kin of the victims. An ex gratia of ₹2 lakh will be provided to the injured.  
Those injured in the attack included Inder Yadav, a labourer from Bihari; Madan Lal, an electrician from Kathua; Jammu; Musahib Ahmad, a mess helper from Preng; Kangam, Kashmir; Ishfaq Ahmad Bhat, a driver from Satapora, Ganderbal; and Jagtar Singh, a labourer from Kathua, Jammu.  
Senior Minister Haryat Farooq condemned the "Islamic terrorism" and deplores such inhuman acts. Every life is precious, and lives in this manner is extremely painful. The incident is a grim reminder of the unending cycle of violence and uncertainty that the people of the region have endured for decades," Mr. Farooq said. (With PTI inputs)

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It is within a State's vital interest. These are young children who come to madrasahs. They need a broad-based education... D.Y. CHANDRACHUD Chief Justice of India.  
Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy said the 2004 Act was a regulatory statute of the State of Uttar Pradesh. "The High Court conflated regulations with religious instructions and concluded the law violated secularism," Ms. Guruswamy submitted.  
The Chief Justice pointed out that Article 30 enabled minorities to establish and administer their institutions which were not entirely confined to teaching their religion. "There is no compulsion that a Buddhist institution should teach only Buddhism," the CJ remarked.  
Petitioner argued that the High Court had found that madrasahs violated Article 28 of the Constitution, which prohibited "religious instruction" in educational institutions fully funded by the State.  
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**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

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While the External Affairs Ministry did not give further details of the agreement, and whether the “buffer zones” would continue to exist for patrolling

## Run-up to resolution

The Indian and Chinese militaries have been locked in the stand-off along the Line of Actual Control since May 2020. India announced that it has reached agreements on patrolling and other issues

**June-July 2024:** Minister Jaishankar meets Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Almaty, Vientiane

**July-August:** Working mechanism of diplomats, military holds meetings in Delhi, Beijing

**September:** National Security Adviser Ajit Doval meets Wang Yi in St. Petersburg

**October:** Military commanders, diplomats meet at LAC points



**Major headway:** Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri made the announcement on the breakthrough during a press briefing on PM Narendra Modi’s visit to Russia on Tuesday. PTI

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Although the two leaders met as many as 18 times between 2014 and 2020, they have spoken publicly only twice since the clashes in the Galwan Valley.

Significantly, the Chinese government did not announce or comment on the border agreement on Monday.

## Possible meeting

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Mr. Misri did not confirm a meeting between the leaders either, but said the government was discussing a number of bilateral meetings in Kazan, the venue of the BRICS summit.

“[BRICS] is a multilateral event, though, of course, there is always a provision for bilateral meetings on the sidelines. We are currently looking into the overall programme of the Prime Minister. There are a number of requests for bi-

lateral meetings, and we will update you on the bilaterals as they evolve,” the Foreign Secretary said, not denying that a meeting with the Chinese leader was among those.

Mr. Misri, who was previously India’s Ambassador to China and likely a key part of the recent negotiations, did not give further details of the agreement between two sides.

He referred to the recent meetings that led to the breakthrough, including two meetings between Mr. Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in June-July, two meetings of the WMCC mechanism of diplomatic and military officials in July-August, followed by a meeting in September between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Mr. Wang.

**RELATED REPORTS ON**  
» PAGE 4



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- **Agreement on Patrolling Arrangements | गश्त की व्यवस्थाओं पर समझौता**

- India and China have reached an agreement on the "patrolling arrangements" and the resolution of the military standoff at the Line of Actual Control (LAC). This includes resolving the remaining friction points at Demchok and Depsang.

**भारत और चीन ने 'गश्त की व्यवस्थाओं' और वास्तविक नियंत्रण रेखा (एलएसी) पर सैन्य गतिरोध को सुलझाने के लिए समझौता किया है। इसमें देमचोक और देपसांग के शेष तनाव बिंदुओं को सुलझाना भी शामिल है।**

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- **Disengagement from Buffer Zones | बफर ज़ोन से सैनिकों को हटाना**

- According to Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, the disengagement process has been completed, restoring the situation to what it was in 2020. The two sides will now take further steps to ease tensions.

**विदेश सचिव विक्रम मिस्त्री के अनुसार, सैनिकों को बफर ज़ोन से हटाने की प्रक्रिया पूरी हो गई है, जिससे 2020 की स्थिति बहाल हो गई है। अब दोनों पक्ष तनाव को कम करने के लिए अगले कदम उठाएंगे।**

- **Talks and Diplomatic Efforts | वार्ता और कूटनीतिक प्रयास**
- The breakthrough comes after diplomatic and military negotiations between the two nations over the past year. Meetings between External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi were significant in resolving the issues.  
**यह सफलता पिछले एक साल में दोनों देशों के बीच कूटनीतिक और सैन्य वार्ताओं के बाद मिली है। विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर और चीनी विदेश मंत्री वांग यी के बीच हुई बैठकों ने इन मुद्दों को सुलझाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।**

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- **BRICS Summit and Possible Modi-Xi Meeting | ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन और मोदी-शी की संभावित बैठक**
  - The announcement comes a day before the BRICS summit in Russia, where Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to attend. There is speculation about a possible bilateral meeting between the two leaders.  
**यह घोषणा रूस में ब्रिक्स शिखर सम्मेलन से एक दिन पहले आई है, जहां भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और चीनी राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग के उपस्थित होने की संभावना है। दोनों नेताओं के बीच द्विपक्षीय बैठक की भी अटकलें हैं।**



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## 1. Resolution of Issues at the LAC | एलएसी पर मुद्दों का समाधान

1. The agreement aims to address the issues at the LAC that led to the standoff in 2020, with both sides resuming normal patrolling in the previously disputed buffer zones.

इस समझौते का उद्देश्य एलएसी पर 2020 में हुए गतिरोध के मुद्दों को हल करना है, और दोनों पक्ष अब सामान्य गश्त को फिर से शुरू करेंगे।





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India

News / India / Satellite pics show new Chinese settlement under construction near Pangong Lake

## Satellite pics show new Chinese settlement under construction near Pangong Lake

Satellite imagery accessed by India Today shows significant Chinese construction activity, 38 km from the 2020 standoff point, raising fresh concerns over border infrastructure.



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### In Short

- Chinese construction includes over 100 buildings, possibly for military use
- Settlement is 38 km from 2020 standoff point between India-China
- Strategic location behind peaks limits visibility, may serve as forward base

As India and China continue [diplomatic efforts to ease tensions](#) along the border, recent satellite imagery reviewed by India Today reveals the ongoing construction of a large Chinese settlement near the north bank of Pangong Tso Lake.

The settlement is located approximately 38 kilometres east of one of the [2020 standoff points between Indian and Chinese forces](#), though it lies outside India's territorial claims. Pangong Tso, the world's highest saltwater lake, straddles India, China-administered Tibet, and the disputed border between them.



## Wangchuk ends fast after Centre agrees to resume dialogue

Vijaya Singh  
NEW DELHI

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and others from Ladakh ended their hunger strike after 16 days on Monday following an invitation from the Union Home Ministry to resume dialogue.

The Ministry has agreed to convene a meeting of the high-powered committee led by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on December 3.

Cherry Dorjay Lakruk, chief of the Ladakh Buddhist Association and co-convenor of the Leh Apex Body, who is part of the committee, said, "We are not going back from the 'no point' agenda. Further talks will be held only around the four points."

The LAB, a civil society organisation along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance, has been protesting for the past four years to demand Statehood, inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution (tribal status for Ladakh), employment opportunities for local people and a Khasi Sabha seat and a Lok Sabha seat each for the Leh and Kargil regions. The protesters in various rounds of talks did not yield any results.

On the 16th day of our fast, we are happy to say that our main appeal has been solved. Joint Secretary, Home Ministry, handed a letter to me which says talks between apex bodies of Leh and Kargil with the



Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk breaks his hunger strike on Monday.

Central government will be resumed in December. We are hoping that both sides hold these talks in utmost cordiality and good faith. My main role was to facilitate these talks. I hope I do not have to see a hunger strike again," Mr. Wangchuk said after breaking the LAB, a civil society organisation along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance, has been protesting for the past four years to demand Statehood, inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution (tribal status for Ladakh), employment opportunities for local people and a Khasi Sabha seat and a Lok Sabha seat each for the Leh and Kargil regions. The protesters in various rounds of talks did not yield any results.

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'Eco degradation' Tsering Tanba (53), who retired from the Army in January, said he had been part of the climate march that started on September 1 from Leh and was among 150 people who were detained by the police as the contingent reached Delhi on September 30. "I have seen rapid melting of glaciers in my 22 years of service in Ladakh. My motivation to be part of the march and the hunger strike was to raise awareness about environmental degradation and get ourselves heard by the government," said Mr. Tanba, former subedar.

## LAB buffer zones may go; no clarity on de-escalation

Demchok is a disputed area where India and China have varying claims in the Charding La area. At Depsang, Chinese troops have been blocking Indian patrols from going beyond the Y-junction

Dinakar Peri  
NEW DELHI

The breakthrough achieved by India and China towards disengagement in eastern Ladakh comes after two years of stalemate over two remaining friction points, Depsang and Demchok.

Defence sources say patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in this sector will resume now. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar confirmed this, saying the understanding is that "we will be able to do patrolling which we were doing till 2020," he said.

Resumption of patrolling as it was in 2020 means that the buffer zones set up after disengagement from the friction points will be done in a coordinated manner to avoid potential face-offs and clashes.

"There are areas which, for various reasons after 2020, they have blocked us, so we had blocked them... We have reached an understanding which will allow the patrolling... Depsang, that is not the on-



Patrolling out: Since the Corps commander-level talks in 2020, the two sides have undertaken disengagement from five points.

ly place, there are other disputed areas in eastern Ladakh with each side having varying claims in the Charding La area. China set up tents on the Indian side of the LAC in 2017 and its presence expanded as the stand-off continued. However, China insists that these two issues predate the 2020 accord, while India stresses that the ingress in 2020 has to be revoked, which had caused a stalemate in the talks.

Earlier in the day, Foreign Secretary Vikram Miri said the two countries had reached an agreement for patrolling arrangements, leading to disengagement and resolution of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020. However, there is no movement yet on de-escalation of the thousands of troops deployed in eastern Ladakh since the stand-off began.

Demchok is one of the

which lies beyond the LAC. India last accessed the PPs in Depsang in January 2020, as reported by *The Hindu* in 2020.

Under agreed protocols, both sides undertake a banner drill when patrols come face to face as a way to prevent their escalation which involves both sides waving banners at each other and asserting their claim and then returning. China has been using this to block Indian patrols. As agreed by both sides during the initial phases of disengagement following the violent clash at Galwan in June 2020, the first step is disengagement from all friction areas, working out the patrolling norms and then de-escalation which is patrolling back the thousands of additional troops inducted along the LAC.

Since the Corps commander-level talks in 2020, the two sides have undertaken disengagement from five friction points - from Galwan, Depsang, Hot Springs area in August 2021 and PP15 in September 2022.

The last disengagement, from PP15, followed the 10th round of Corps Commander-level talks on July 17, 2022.

Patrols blocked At Depsang plains, Chinese troops have been blocking Indian patrols for some time from going beyond the Y-junction by deliberately facing off due to which the Indian Army has not been able to access the 107th round of Corps Commander-level talks on July 17, 2022.

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## Bengal doctors call off fast after meeting with Mamata

The Hindu Bureau  
KOLKATA

The West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front has decided to call off its hunger strike after a two-hour meeting with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday. The resident doctors have been on a fast-unto-death at Esplanade in the heart of Kolkata since October 5 over the R.G. Kar Hospital rape and murder.

More than half a dozen of the doctors had to be hospitalised after their health deteriorated. The development assumes significance as Ms. Banerjee for the past few days, had appealed to the doctors to withdraw the strike and come to the discussion table.

The parents of the victim, who visited the doctors on hunger strike, said that they did not want to lose another child like their firstborn. The doctors said many

Junior doctors addressing a press conference before meeting Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on Monday.

civil society groups had requested them to live up to the hunger strike and keep fighting for their demands. Debashis Halder, speaking on behalf of the junior doctors, said: "Respecting the request from the victims' parents and multiple requests made by the civil society, we are withdrawing the indefinite hunger strike. We have also decided to drop our plans to cease all medical services from tomorrow, October 22, which we had previously called for."

Earlier, the meeting between the doctors and the Chief Minister was held to set up a task force by March 2025. The doctors' two-hour discussion with the Chief Minister was held to set up a task force by March 2025. The doctors' two-hour discussion with the Chief Minister was held to set up a task force by March 2025.

## HC takes suo motu notice of alleged murder of woman

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Monday took suo motu notice of a mentioning made by a lawyer that a woman who had an inter-caste marriage was picked up by a gang from her residence at Vadapalani in Chennai and was later found hanging at Uthukottai in Tiruvallur district.

Appearing before the First Division Bench of Chief Justice K.R. Srikrishna and Justice Sentil Kumar Ramamoorthy, advocate R.

Dakshana Murthy said the couple, Narresh and N. Ramakshi, were residing in Chennai with their five-year-old child and an eight-month-old infant.

No FIR He claimed that a gang abducted the woman on October 19 and, the next day, she was found hanging at Uthukottai. The lawyer also alleged that the police were refusing to register a First Information Report (FIR), and that no post-mortem examination had been conducted so far.

## Secularism is a core part of the Constitution: SC

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said secularism is an indelible and core part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

The court made the oral observation while hearing a batch of petitions filed by former Rajya Sabha member Subramanian Swamy and others challenging the inclusion of the words "socialist" and "secular" in the Preamble to the Constitution.

This court has in a number of judgments held that secularism was always part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution. If one looks right to equality and

Press Trust of India  
SHIMLA

The demolition of three unauthorised storeys of the Sanjauli mosque in Shimla began on Monday after permission was granted by the Waqf Board, the president of the mosque's managing committee, Muhammad Latif, said.

The demolition started with the removal of the roof amid tight police security, Mr. Latif said.

The Board has granted the permission and allowed us to go ahead following which labourers started the work to open up the roof," he added.

After receiving the October 5 order of the Municipal Commissioner court directing the Waqf Board and president of Sanjauli Mosque Committee to demolish three storeys of the disputed structure, the same was communicated

to the Board which gave the go-ahead, he said.

According to the MC Court order, the Waqf Board and the president of the Sanjauli mosque have to demolish the unauthorised portion of the mosque in two months at their own cost. "Funding is the main issue, neither the public nor the government would give money to demolish the structure," and the mosque committee has to bear the expenses from its limited resources, Mr. Latif said.

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The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday cited party to dismiss a petition filed by former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging a defamation case registered against him in his comments on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's educational qualification.

A Bench headed by Justice Hrishikesh Roy said he had refused to entertain an identical petition filed by Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh, who is Mr. Kejriwal's co-respondent in the defamation case, in August and thus, cannot now take a different approach with the former Chief Minister's telecast, consistent," Justice Roy observed.

The court, however, did not look into the merits of the case and kept all the public discourse on Mr. Kejriwal to raise in the trial

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## PM's 2020 remarks weakened India's position: Congress

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Hours after the External Affairs Ministry announced a de-escalation in the disengagement process with China at the Line of Actual Control, the Congress on Monday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi by claiming that his 2020 remarks had "weakened India's position immeasurably".

The Opposition party at the Centre also said that Parliament was never allowed to discuss the LAC stand-off issue.

"While we await fuller details of the agreement reached between India and China, it is pertinent to know the terms of agreement in the border area, Mr. Owaisi said. "This should not be a repeat of what we witnessed in Doklam after 2017 where the PLA secretary's permanent presence in the area. Unless full details are made available, it is hard to be certain of the outcome."

"Manipur awaits" In a separate post, Mr. Ramesh also took a swipe at the Prime Minister a day before he leaves for the BRICS summit in Russia. He said, "Kazan certainly beckons but sadly Manipur still awaits."

The Congress has repeatedly urged Mr. Modi to visit violence-hit Manipur, stressing that it would help restore peace and normalcy there.

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the 190(a)," he asked.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the university, said the certificate in question was published on the varsity website. "It is in the habit of making reckless, defamatory statements and then regretting it later. It should be either circumspiced or stand by them," Mr. Mehta said.

Justice Roy, in a lighter vein, said, "Politicians are more adventurous... Unless they say it in a loud voice and loud manner, it is not irresponsible," Mr. Mehta intervened.

Mr. Singhvi said his arguments against the defamation case were reasonable and the other party had adopted a "high horse" attitude.

The court made it clear that it was dismissing the petition merely on the fact that it had to take a consistent approach in the case.

## Police suspect Khalistani link to Delhi blast

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police suspect a Khalistani link to the low-intensity blast that took place in Rohini on Sunday. The police have written to messaging app Telegram for details of a group that claimed responsibility for the explosion, sources said on Monday.

"The police have written to Telegram for details of the creator of the group Justice League Indian which the CCTV footage of the blast was shared with a Khalistan Zindabad watermark on it," a source said.

amended in December 1976 by the Indian Government to introduce secularism has been held as "secular". The phrase "unity of the nation" was replaced with "unity and integrity of the nation". The changes were made in the Preamble to the Constitution, the 42nd Amendment Amendment during the Emergency.

Originally, the text of the Preamble of the Indian Constitution was a "sovereign, democratic and secular" and "socialist" and "secular" were inserted between "sovereign" and "democratic".

The largest Bench in the history of the Supreme Court (3:3:3) in the *Kejriwal v. State of Haryana* case

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# Secularism is a core part of the Constitution: SC

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said secularism is an indelible and core part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

The court made the oral observation while hearing a batch of petitions filed by former Rajya Sabha member Subramanian Swamy and others challenging the inclusion of the words “socialist” and “secular” in the Preamble to the Constitution.

“This court has in a number of judgments held that secularism was always part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution. If one looks right to equality and

the word ‘fraternity’ used in the Constitution, there is a clear indication that secularism has been held as the core feature of the Constitution,” a Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar said.

Justice Khanna disagreed with the argument of the petitioners that the term “socialism” would curtail personal liberty and individualism.

“One should not take the meaning adopted in Western countries... Socialism can also mean that there should be equality of opportunity and the wealth of the country should be distributed equally,” Justice Khanna remarked.



Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, a petitioner, said he was not against the words “socialist, secular, and integrity” or their insertion in the Constitution but against the insertion of these words into the Preamble in 1976 and that too with a retrospective effect from November 26, 1949.

The Preamble was

amended in December 1976 by the Indira Gandhi government to introduce the words “socialist” and “secular”. The phrase “unity of the nation” was replaced with “unity and integrity of the nation”. The changes were made in the Preamble through the 42nd Constitution Amendment during the Emergency.

Originally, the text of the Preamble declared India as a “sovereign, democratic republic”. The words “socialist” and “secular” were inserted between “sovereign” and “democratic”.

The largest Bench in the history of the Supreme Court (13 judges) in the *Kesavananda Bharati* case

had held that the Preamble was an integral part of the Constitution, and was subject to the amending power of Parliament, provided the Basic Structure was not tinkered with.

Advocate Sriram Parakkat, appearing for CPI leader Binoy Viswam, said the 42nd amendment was indeed “infamous”. It had after all tried to reduce the power of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. “While subsequent amendments more or less restored the Constitution to what it was pre-1976, this change was made in the Preamble... that we are secular and socialist... was retained,” Mr. Parakkat submitted.

## • Supreme Court's Statement | सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का बयान

- The Supreme Court emphasized that secularism is an essential and indelible part of the Basic Structure of the Indian Constitution. The court made this oral observation while hearing petitions challenging the inclusion of the words "socialist" and "secular" in the Preamble of the Constitution.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने जोर देकर कहा कि धर्मनिरपेक्षता भारतीय संविधान की मूल संरचना का एक आवश्यक और अटूट हिस्सा है। कोर्ट ने यह मौखिक टिप्पणी उन याचिकाओं की सुनवाई के दौरान की जो संविधान की प्रस्तावना में "समाजवादी" और "धर्मनिरपेक्ष" शब्दों को शामिल किए जाने को चुनौती दे रही थीं।

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- **Justice Khanna's Remarks | न्यायमूर्ति खन्ना की टिप्पणी**

- Justice Sanjiv Khanna noted that secularism has always been a part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution. He agreed that the word "socialism" should not limit personal liberty or individualism, emphasizing the equality of opportunity and wealth distribution.

**न्यायमूर्ति संजीव खन्ना ने उल्लेख किया कि धर्मनिरपेक्षता हमेशा से संविधान की मूल संरचना का हिस्सा रही है। उन्होंने इस बात पर सहमति व्यक्त की कि "समाजवाद" शब्द व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता या व्यक्तिवाद को सीमित नहीं करना चाहिए, और समान अवसर और संपत्ति के वितरण पर जोर दिया।**



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- **Challenge by Subramanian Swamy | सुब्रमण्यम स्वामी द्वारा चुनौती**

- The petitioners, including former Rajya Sabha member Subramanian Swamy, argued that the insertion of the words “socialist” and “secular” in the Preamble through the 42nd Amendment during the Emergency in 1976 was problematic. The petitioners argued it curtailed personal liberty and individualism.

याचिकाकर्ताओं, जिनमें पूर्व राज्यसभा सदस्य सुब्रमण्यम स्वामी शामिल हैं, ने तर्क दिया कि आपातकाल के दौरान 1976 में 42वें संशोधन के माध्यम से प्रस्तावना में "समाजवादी" और "धर्मनिरपेक्ष" शब्दों को शामिल किया जाना समस्याग्रस्त था। याचिकाकर्ताओं ने तर्क दिया कि इससे व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता और व्यक्तिवाद पर रोक लगाई गई।

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- **Preamble and Amendments | प्रस्तावना और संशोधन**

- The original Preamble declared India as a "sovereign, democratic republic," and later, the words "socialist" and "secular" were inserted between "sovereign" and "democratic" by the 42nd Amendment. The court maintained that these amendments did not alter the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

मूल प्रस्तावना ने भारत को "संप्रभु, लोकतांत्रिक गणराज्य" घोषित किया था, और बाद में 42वें संशोधन द्वारा "समाजवादी" और "धर्मनिरपेक्ष" शब्दों को "संप्रभु" और "लोकतांत्रिक" के बीच में जोड़ा गया। अदालत ने माना कि इन संशोधनों से संविधान की मूल संरचना में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं हुआ।

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- **Infamous Amendment | बदनाम संशोधन**

- Advocate Sriram Parakkat, representing CPI leader Binoy Viswam, remarked that the 42nd Amendment was infamous for trying to reduce the power of the Supreme Court and High Courts. He added that the Amendment retained the statement that India is “secular and socialist.”

सीपीआई नेता बिनाय विश्वम का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे वकील श्रीराम परक्कट ने कहा कि 42वां संशोधन सर्वोच्च न्यायालय और उच्च न्यायालयों की शक्तियों को कम करने का प्रयास करने के लिए कख्यात था। उन्होंने कहा कि इस संशोधन ने यह बयान बरकरार रखा कि भारत "धर्मनिरपेक्ष और समाजवादी" है।

## Gist of 42<sup>nd</sup> amendment, 1976

- Added three new words i.e., **socialist, secular and integrity** in the Preamble.
- Added Fundamental Duties by the citizens (new **Part IV A**).
- Made the **president bound by the advice of the cabinet**.
- Provided for **administrative tribunals and tribunals** for other matters (Added Part XIV A).
- **Froze the seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative** assemblies on the basis of 1971 census till 2001 - Population Controlling Measure
- Made the constitutional amendments beyond judicial scrutiny.
- **Curtailed the power of judicial review** and writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and high courts.
- **Raised the tenure of Lok Sabha and state legislative** assemblies from 5 to 6 years.
- Provided that DPSP overrides Fundamental Rights.
- Added three new Directive Principles – **Article 39 and 39A, 43A and 48A**.
- Facilitated the proclamation of national emergency in a part of the territory of India.
- Extended the one-time **duration of the President's rule** in a state from 6 months to one year.
- Empowered the Centre to deploy its armed forces in any state to deal with a grave situation of law and order.
- Shifted **five subjects** from the state list to the concurrent list, viz, education, forests, protection of wild animals and birds, weights and measures and administration of justice, constitution and organisation of all courts except the Supreme Court and the high courts.
- Provided for the creation of the **All-India Judicial Service**.



KYIV

Austin announces \$400 million in military aid during Ukraine visit



U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin announced details of a \$400 million aid package for Ukraine during a visit to Kyiv, Austin urged the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged his Western allies to lift restrictions on the use of long-range weapons and as he pressed for an immediate invitation to join NATO. AP

LONDON

Yulia Navalnaya says she hopes to return to Russia and run for office



Yulia Navalnaya, the widow of late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, will return to Russia and run for political office once Vladimir Putin is no longer leader, she told the BBC. Navalnaya, whose husband died in an Arctic prison in unclear circumstances in February, also vowed to keep up her husband's work. AP

MALE

Muizzu introduces India's UPI payment service to boost economy



Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has taken "necessary steps" to introduce India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the archipelago nation. Mr. Muizzu on Sunday set up a consortium to introduce UPI in the country and appointed TradeNet Maldives Corporation Limited as its leading agency. PTI

ISTANBUL

Erdogan rival cleric Fethullah Gulen dies in exile in the U.S.



Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, who was accused by Turkey of organizing a failed 2013 coup, has died in exile in the United States aged 83, his movement said on Monday. Gulen, who had lived in the United States since 1999, was once a close ally of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan before the two became bitter enemies. AP

Gaza hospitals under fire as Israel steps up attacks

Reuters CAIRO

Israeli forces besieged hospitals and shelters for displaced people in the northern Gaza Strip on Monday as they stepped up their operations against Palestinian militants, residents and medics said. The UN Palestinian refugee agency said Israeli authorities were preventing humanitarian missions from reaching areas in the north of the enclave with critical supplies, including medicine and food. Israeli strikes hit al-Qard Al-Hassan branches in the cities of Nabatiyya and Tyre overnight, according to the official National News Agency. The Israeli military also said it struck about 200 Hezbollah targets in Lebanon over the past 24 hours. This included a Hezbollah bunker

Israel bombs institution accused of funding Hezbollah's operations

Al-Qard Al-Hassan is a Hezbollah-linked financial firm offering micro-credit in Lebanon where banking system collapsed five years ago; strikes mark an expansion of Israel's war as it seeks to degrade the militia's ability to fund operations

Agence France-Press BEIRUT

Israel conducted air strikes hitting a Lebanese association linked to Hezbollah, accusing it of funding the group's weapons, as it expanded the scope of its raids beyond military targets.



Scattered papers: Documents of al-Qard al-Hassan lie scattered on Monday at the site of an overnight Israeli airstrike in Beirut. AP

In southern Lebanon, Israeli strikes hit al-Qard Al-Hassan branches in the cities of Nabatiyya and Tyre overnight, according to the official National News Agency. The Israeli military also said it struck about 200 Hezbollah targets in Lebanon over the past 24 hours. This included a Hezbollah bunker

holding tens of millions of dollars worth of cash and gold. On Monday, the Israeli military said it had conducted a series of strikes

The strikes mark an expansion of Israel's nearly month-long war with Hezbollah, as it seeks to degrade the group's ability to fund operations.

Ways of support Israel accuses al-Qard Al-Hassan of funding "Hezbollah's terror activities, including the purchase of weapons and payments to militants.

Hezbollah built its loyal support base in Shita Muslim area of Lebanon by providing protection, health, education and financial services in a state long wracked by sectarianism and corruption.

Al-Qard Al-Hassan is a Hezbollah-linked financial

firm offering micro-credit in a country where the traditional banking system collapsed five years ago at the start of a crushing economic crisis.

It is sanctioned by the U.S., which accuses Hezbollah of using it as a cover to mask the group's financial activities and gain access to the international financial system.

Southern suburbs On Sunday, it strikes hit Beirut's southern suburbs, many of them targeting al-Qard Al-Hassan.

Other strikes hit al-Qard Al-Hassan branches in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley and in the country's south.

U.S., Canada ships sail through Taiwan Strait after China's war drills

Associated Press TAIPEI

The U.S. Navy, occasionally joined by ships from allied countries, regularly transits the sensitive waterway separating China from Taiwan, Germany sent two warships through the Strait last month to increase its defence engagement in the Asia-Pacific region.

The celebration of India's diversity and pluralism was marked by musical evenings, outdoor

uphold the principle of freedom of navigation for all countries.

The U.S. Navy, occasionally joined by ships from allied countries, regularly transits the sensitive waterway separating China from Taiwan, Germany sent two warships through the Strait last month to increase its defence engagement in the Asia-Pacific region.

The celebration of India's diversity and pluralism was marked by musical evenings, outdoor

In mega tourism event, Saudi Arabia celebrates Indian diversity, pluralism

Kallol Bhattacharjee RIYADH

Saudi Arabia conducted a fortnight-long celebration of Indian culture as part of the annual Riyadh Season festival here. The Indian segment of the Riyadh Season, a mega tourism event, was conceived as a branch of the Global Harmony Initiative of the Saudi government.

The celebration of India's diversity and pluralism was marked by musical evenings, outdoor

against "dozens of facilities and sites" used by Hezbollah in Beirut and southern Lebanon, including on branches of the financial institution.

The celebration was marked by musical evenings, outdoor

The celebration of India's diversity and pluralism was marked by musical evenings, outdoor

held at the Suwaidi Park was attended by large number of visitors. Saudi Arabia at present hosts around 2.4 million Indian workers. The Indian community in Saudi Arabia has grown over the years and is now second after Bangladesh which has the largest number of foreign workers in Saudi Arabia with nearly 2.7 million.

The Indian cultural festival came to an end on Sunday when Sreesanth was the star invitee of the Saudi government.

The underlying theme of this year's Riyadh Season was the pace of social and cultural changes that are sweeping Saudi Arabia's tradition-bound society.

The change in the Saudi society was reflected during the event with the widespread participation of Saudi women in various sports and in the

The correspondent is in Saudi Arabia on the invite of the Saudi government for the Riyadh Season 2024 festival

Indian Americans can be the margin of victory in key States in U.S.

Kamala Harris has a very deep connection to India, because her mother was from India; she still has family who live in India, she is tied to the culture, she understands it, she is bringing a lived experience that you cannot replicate just through understanding the country separately. From that perspective, she is going to be very qualified to build those relationships'

INTERVIEW Pramila Jayapal

Sriram Lakshman

The Hindu had a pulchritudinous interview with Chennai-born Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Pramila Jayapal, at a diaspora canvassing event for Kamala Harris in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania ahead of the U.S. presidential elections. Questions have been edited for readability.

As the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, what do you think is necessary for Kamala Harris to successfully bring together some Republicans who are

disappointed with Trump, moderates and progressives, if she is elected President?

I think she is already doing it. She has run an almost flawless campaign. She has been a remarkable voice for everyone in America to have a dignified moment. One thing about her that is so amazing is different people can see themselves in her in different ways. If you are middle class, you can see yourself in Kamala Harris. If you worked at a McDonald's, you can see yourself in Kamala Harris.

If you're an Indian American, you can see yourself in Kamala Harris. If you're a woman, you can see yourself in Kamala Harris. So I feel this is a really important moment. Obviously, it's close because of the Electoral College. The popular vote, we all ways win as Democrats,

but unfortunately, we have a system with the Electoral College where it comes down to a few key States, and Indian Americans can be the margin of victory in so many of these States.

What is your message to Arab Americans, many of whom are concerned about the position the Biden-Harris administration has taken on the Israel-Gaza conflict? Some may sit at home (i.e., not vote), some may vote for the Republican candidate Donald Trump.

I share the concerns of Arab Americans. I have been very vocal on the need for a cease fire. I have been very vocal on the need for us to use our leverage, including by saying that we will stop offensive military weapons to Israel if it does not stop using



those weapons on Gaza, and now on Lebanon. So I share their concerns. But what I have said to them is that don't forget that Donald Trump is the person who actually empowered (Benjamin) Netanyahu to expand settlements in the West Bank. Donald Trump's Ambassador to Israel (David Friedman), was actually the person who had monetary interest in expanding settlements. Under Donald Trump, the (U.S.) Embassy was moved

to Jerusalem. Donald Trump instituted the 'Muslim Ban'. So, I think what we have to do is think about how change is going to be a longer fight. Kamala Harris will provide (Benjamin) Netanyahu ground to be able to do that work.

Because Donald Trump is the one who established a unit in 2021 to denaturalise citizens. Indian Americans, Arab Americans, Muslim Americans, they need to think about how

we win this election for Kamala Harris, and then we can continue to work on the policies that we need to work on.

Do you think once the elections are over, and if she wins, she will be more hawkish with regard to Israel?

I don't know. I have spoken to her directly about this. I have said how important it is for us to enforce our domestic laws. You saw the letter that just came from Secretary Blinken and Secretary Austin on Sunday saying exactly that, that if Israel does not comply with a series of things - it that work.

They would be looking at enforcing our laws. I think we can't provide funding to American companies complying with international

humanitarian laws. Ms. Harris is more progressive than U.S. President Joe Biden. Mr. Biden also says his personal connections fuel and contribute to his win, she will be more hawkish with regard to Israel? How do you think these two factors will impact the U.S. approach to India, in the next few years, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in power?

Kamala Harris has a very deep connection to India, because her mother was from India. She still has family who live in India. She is tied to the culture. She understands it. She is bringing a lived experience that you cannot replicate just through understanding the country separately. From that perspective, she is going to be very qualified

to build those relationships. But also she has been the Vice President for four years. She has travelled around the world. She has met with world leaders, and I think she has been very involved in foreign affairs while working with President Biden. She will bring her own nationality, her own lived experiences, her own philosophies, but I think she is extraordinarily capable to be the next President of the United States, and I think, to restore the respect for the United States on the global stage. But don't forget that it's the United States that is the real power here, the person who sits in the Oval Office wields the power of the United States, and if we are lucky enough to elect Kamala Harris as the next President, I believe she will do that with tremendous dignity, grace and skill.

I love salt!: Trump serves french fries at McDonald's



New role: Donald Trump, left, uses a fryer as an employee looks on during a visit to a McDonald's store in Pennsylvania on Sunday. AP

Agence France-Press LANCASTER

Republican fast food enthusiast Donald Trump on Sunday donned a black-and-yellow apron over his white shirt and red tie to serve french fries at a McDonald's restaurant in Pennsylvania in the U.S.

The campaign stunt was intended as a job at opponent Kamala Harris, who says she worked at the fast-food franchise in her youth.

Mr. Trump has repeatedly said that Ms. Harris never worked at a McDonald's while in college, an experience she has spoken about on the campaign. As reporters and aides watched, an employee showed Mr. Trump how to dunk baskets of fries in oil, fry the fries and put them into boxes using a scoop. Mr. Trump, a well-known fan of fast food and a notorious germophobe, expressed amazement that he did not have to touch the fries with his hands. "It's clean, it's really

nice, you never touch 'em," he said. "I'll never forget this experience," he said, as he finished up the campaign stop meant to appeal to working-class voters. "It requires expertise, I'm going through the french fry stuff."

"I don't mind this job," he continued, at one point asking if customers ever ask for more salt.

"I love salt!" he exclaimed, also throwing some over his shoulder onto the floor, explaining that he is "superstitious."

Told by reporters that Sunday was also his opponent Ms. Harris's 60th birthday, Mr. Trump wished her a "happy birthday."

"I think I'll get her some flowers," he quipped. "Maybe I'll get her some fries."

A large crowd lined the street outside the restaurant in Feasterville-Trevose, which is part of Bucks County, a key swing voter area north of Philadelphia.

**MALE**

## Muizzu introduces India's UPI payment service to boost economy



THE HINDU

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has taken “necessary steps” to introduce India’s Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the archipelago nation. Mr. Muizzu on Sunday set up a consortium to introduce UPI in the country and appointed TradeNet Maldives Corporation Limited as its leading agency. PTI



# UPI GOES GLOBAL

## UPI Adoption and Use Case

**UK**  
To enhance cross-border payments using UPI IDs

**FRANCE**  
To allow UPI payments for students, tourists

**NEPAL**  
P2P, P2M, and cross-border payments made operational

**UAE**  
Cross-border UPI payments enabled

**OMAN**  
To allow digital remittances using RuPay cards and UPI

**BHUTAN**  
BHIM UPI QR-based payments enabled

**MALAYSIA**  
To facilitate remittance to beneficiary banks in India via UPI

**SINGAPORE**  
PayNow integrated with UPI for cross-border transactions

### OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES

UPI QR payments for countries like Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan

### OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Indian payment channels to be enabled in Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Switzerland





NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024

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## IN THE NEWS

### INDIA-CHINA PACT ON PATROLLING ALONG LAC

FOUR AND A-half years after Chinese incursions in eastern Ladakh triggered a military standoff along the Line of Actual Control and sent bilateral ties south, India & China have reached an agreement on patrolling arrangements in border areas. ■ P7

### RBI PAPER: GROWTH OUTLOOK BACKED BY DOMESTIC ENGINES

THE AGGREGATE DEMAND is poised to shrug off the temporary slowdown in momentum in the second quarter of FY25, as festival demand picks up pace and consumer confidence improves, RBI's October bulletin said on Monday. ■ P2

### FINANCIAL BIDS FOR IDBI BANK LIKELY IN Q4

THE FINANCIAL BIDS for strategic sale of IDBI Bank are expected in Q4 of the current fiscal, sources said, adding that the divestment process is moving phase-wise and is on track, reports Prasanta Sahu. ■ PAGE 2

### EXPLAINER: How SOP can help get better trade terms

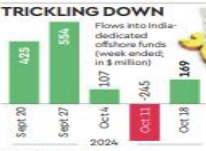
■ PAGE 9

## AMID RISING INVESTOR INTEREST IN CHINA India-focused funds see inflows dip in October

Avg weekly flows at \$138 mn, less than half of last 2 months

VIVEK KUMAR M  
Mumbai, October 21

WITH INVESTORS SHIFTING their focus to China, the momentum of flows into India-focused offshore funds has taken a sharp hit this month. Besides, weak domestic earnings growth also led global investors to rethink their short-term fund deployment strategy. The average weekly inflows into these funds in October have been \$138 million, less than half of the \$300 million per week seen in the previous two months, according to data from Elara Capital. "The momentum of flows into India-dedicated funds (flow as a % of free float market cap) has slowed down for the first time since 2022.



Flows into India-dedicated offshore funds (week ending, in \$ million)

■ Momentum of flows into India-dedicated funds declines for the first time since 2022

■ Stimulus measures, cheaper valuations making China attractive

■ Outflows from India may see further acceleration, say experts

### INSIDE: FPIs NET SELLERS IN GOVT DEBT FOR SECOND WEEK

■ PAGE 6

continued inflows into India despite high valuations. However, over the last few weeks, China has become an attractive proposition for several global investors on the back of stimulus measures announced by the government and relatively cheaper valuations compared to other emerging markets, particularly India.

Continued on Page 7

## UltraTech net profit down 36%, misses estimates

ADITYA BIRLA GROUP firm UltraTech Cement on Monday missed Street estimates on all the key fronts during the July-September quarter, primarily because of a slowdown in demand due to the monsoon and project delays which hit price realisations, reports Urvi Malvania. The company's net profit fell 36% y-o-y to ₹820 crore, while revenue from operations was down 2.4% to ₹15,635 crore. ■ Page 4

## Early-stage funding gap fuels rise of micro VCs

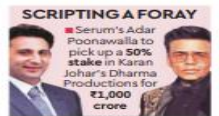
LEADING VENTURE CAPITAL (VC) firms are increasingly opting for safer investment bets, creating significant opportunities for micro VCs, reports S Shantini. These micro VCs are stepping in to fill the gap in pre-seed and seed investments, often considered too risky by traditional investors. The corpus size of these micro VCs has also grown significantly, reaching up to \$60 million from less than \$10 million just a few years ago. ■ Page 15

## Poonawalla's booster dose for Dharma

### Agreement values Karan Johar's firm at ₹2,000 crore

ALOKANANDA CHAKRABORTY  
New Delhi, October 21

SERUM INSTITUTE OF India CEO Adar Poonawalla will acquire a 50% stake in Karan Johar's Dharma Productions and Dharmatic Entertainment for ₹1,000 crore. The deal clinched by Poonawalla's Serene Entertainment in his personal capacity values the film and television production and distribution company at ₹2,000 crore. Johar will retain the ownership of the remaining 50%. For Serene, this deal offers a foothold in a ₹20,000 crore (2023; Statista) Indian film industry, while Dharma Productions gets crucial resources amid rising production costs. Unconfirmed reports earlier said that Johar was in talks with Reliance and Saregama for the stake sale. "The Indian film industry is moving through a phase wherein it's a winner-takes-all market, as large budget films account for 85-90% of Hindi box office in the post-Covid era. We believe this deal is a longer-term equity-led partnership, wherein Dharma will continue to invest in large budget films, given the capital raise," said Karan Taurani, senior analyst at Elara Capital.



■ Serum's Adar Poonawalla to pick up a 50% stake in Karan Johar's Dharma Productions for ₹1,000 crore

■ Film production firm's total revenue plunged 50% from ₹1,044 crore in FY23 to ₹520.20 crore in FY24

### SOUTHERN BONANZA



"India has seen exit/scale down by multiple global studios in the film content business in the past. The Serene-Dharma deal might trigger the entry of other large conglomerates with deep pockets in the film industry," Taurani added. Dharma has had partnerships with studios such as Disney and Zee in the past to produce Hindi films.

Continued on Page 7

## Tata Chem soars as buzz grows over Tata Sons IPO

FE BUREAU  
Mumbai, October 21

SHARES OF SOME Tata Group companies, especially Tata Chemicals, gained on Monday as speculation over the listing of Tata Sons drove hopes of value unlocking for investors. Tata Chemicals, which holds a 3% stake in Tata Sons, was one of the biggest gainers as it rose over 9%. It could be the biggest beneficiary of the value-unlocking exercise if there is an IPO. Earlier estimates by brokerage firm Spark Capital showed the Tata Chemicals' 3% stake in Tata Sons was worth around ₹19,850 crore or 80% of the market value of the company. Shares of Tata Investment Corp also rose more than 3%. A report by MoneyLife on Friday, based on an RTI reply by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), said that Tata Sons never sought an exemption from the mandatory listing requirement.

Continued on Page 7



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# Poonawalla's booster dose for Dharma

## Agreement values Karan Johar's firm at ₹2,000 crore

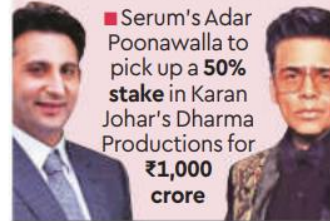
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## SCRIPTING A FORAY



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■ Film production firm's total revenue plunged 50% from ₹1,044 crore in FY23 to **₹520.20 crore** in FY24

## SOUTHERN BONANZA

Top 5 Sept releases (box office; ₹ cr)



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Dharma has had partnerships with studios such as Disney and Zee in the past to produce Hindi films.

Continued on Page 7

## Dharma Productions Pvt. Ltd.




<b>Trade name</b>	Dharma Productions
<b>Industry</b>	<a href="#">Entertainment</a>
<b>Founded</b>	1979 in <a href="#">Mumbai</a> , <a href="#">Maharashtra</a>
<b>Founder</b>	<a href="#">Yash Johar</a>
<b>Headquarters</b>	Mumbai, Maharashtra
<b>Key people</b>	Apoorva Mehta Hiroo Yash Johar <a href="#">Karan Johar</a>
<b>Products</b>	<a href="#">Film production</a> <a href="#">Film distribution</a> <a href="#">Television production</a> <a href="#">Streaming television</a> <a href="#">Music</a>
<b>Owner</b>	Karan Johar (50%) <a href="#">Serene Productions</a> (50%)
<b>Subsidiaries</b>	Dharmatic Entertainment Dharma 2.0 Dharma Cornerstone Agency DharmaShow Live TV & Movies








# 2nd Indian Lighthouse Festival

- 
- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, dedicated key maritime projects to the nation during the **2nd Indian Lighthouse Festival**.
  - **About**
  - The new **Kalwan reef Lighthouse** in Gujarat as well as **two projects in Odisha** were inaugurated.



-

- 
- The festival is organised by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW)**.
  - It is aimed to **explore the vast potential of lighthouse tourism** and strategies for preserving these maritime structures, **blending tourism development with heritage conservation**.
- 

- 
- Lighthouse tourism has been providing employment to many people and at the same time informing our next generations about the country's maritime history.
    - With an investment of Rs 60 crore, **75 iconic lighthouses across 9 coastal states** and **one union territory** have been developed.

- 







# European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI)

- 
- Switzerland has officially joined the European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI)
  - **About European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI)**
  - It is a collaborative project aimed at building a **unified air and missile defense system across Europe.**
  - The initiative was introduced by **German Chancellor Olaf Scholz** in August 2022, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- 

- The initiative facilitates better **coordination among European nations** regarding air defense and creates opportunities for shared resources and expertise. It will **strengthen NATO's integrated air and missile defence.**

-




# International Abhidhamma Divas



Recently, India's Prime Minister addressed a ceremony in celebration of International Abhidhamma Divas (IAD) and recognition of Pali as a classical language.

It was organised by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and the Ministry of Culture

- 
- **Story behind Abhidhamma: According to the Pali texts, Buddha preached the Abhidhamma first to the Gods of the Tavatimsa heaven, who were headed by his mother.**
    - **After having returned to the earth again, he conveyed the message to his disciple Sariputta.**

•



Abhidhamma Pitaka is a **detailed scholastic analysis** and summary of the Buddha's teachings in the **Suttas**. It deals with the **philosophy, doctrine, psychology, metaphysics, ethics, and epistemology** of Buddhism

The other remaining Pitakas of Tipitaka are **Vinaya Pitaka and Sutta Pitaka**.

Vinaya Pitaka is the monastic rules of conduct for monks and nuns of the Sangha.

Sutta Pitaka contains suttas (teachings/discourses) delivered by the Buddha and his close disciples



- **The Abhidharma Pitaka consists of seven different books.**
  - **Dhammasangani (Enumeration of Phenomena)**
  - **Vibhanga (Book of Treaties)**
  - **Dhatukatha (Discussion with Reference to the Elements)**
  - **Puggalapanatti (Description of Personality)**
  - **Kathavatthu (Points of Controversy)**
  - **Yamaka (Book of Pairs)**
  - **Patthana (Book of Relations)**

-

---

# Word of the day

## **Disseminate:**

cause to become widely known

---

**Synonyms:** spread, broadcast, diffuse, disperse, distribute, propagate, circulate

---

**Usage:** *The group leaders held the meeting to disseminate their findings.*

---

**Pronunciation:** newsth.live/  
disseminatepro

---

**International Phonetic  
Alphabet:** /dɪ'sɛmɪˌneɪt/

---

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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, with some wearing watches. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. An orange horizontal bar is located in the top left corner.

Thank you  
guys.

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