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A farewell, a death, and a political row A suicide sparks rage, becomes a poll issue JND ZERO » PAGE 7



Santner has India in a spin in Pune Test SPORT » PAGE 14



Zeeshan Siddique named in NCP's second list

led by Deputy Chief Minister Ailt Pawar on Friday released Ajit Pawar on Friday released its second list of seven candidates for the Maharashtri Assembly election. With this, the party has announced 45 candidates. 39 PAGE 4

Workers' names erased from MGNREGS rolls

NEW DELHI

een April and Septembe 84.8 lakh workers registered under the Mahatma Gandhi under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) were removed from the programme. At the same time, 45.4 lakh new workers were added. 39 PAGE 5

ISRO DRT ink deal to conduct experiments

NEW DELHI The Indian Space Researc Organisation (ISRO) and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) have inked an agreement to design and conduct experiments, which will then be integrated into the forthcoming Bharativa Antariksh Station, India's proposed indigenous space station. to PAGE 5

Owners of Dali ship agree to pay \$102 million

CHENNAI
Grace Ocean Private Ltd and
Synergy Marine Private Ltd,
Singapore-based owner and
manager of the ship Dail that
collided into the Francis Scott
Key bridge in Baltimore in
March this year, have agreed to
pay nearly \$102 million to
resolve a chil claim. 39 PAGE 12

India, China to take up 'coordinated patrolling'

Agreement limited to Depsang and Demchok,

Chinese patrols will be allowed at Yangste in Arunachal Pradesh 'as before', says official

Patrols to be spaced in such a manner that there would be no face-offs between two sides

ndia and China would undertake "coordinated patrolling" in Dep-sang and Demchok along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh to avoid face-offs, as disen-gagement in both areas was expected to be comwas expected to be com-pleted by October 29, Ar-my sources said. They ad-ded that the patrols were set to resume by the "morth-order official source, it had been agreed that Chinese patrols would be allowed in Yangse, Aruna-chal Pradesh "as before and the company of the com-chal Pradesh as before army sources said the disengagement was ex-

disengagement was ex-pected to be completed by October 29, with a return to the pre-April 2020 situa-tion, and patrols resuming after that.

after that.

"A general framework agreement was concluded first at the diplomatic level and subsequently, a detailed agreement outlining the modalities of disen-



trolling was concluded at the Corps Commander le-vel on Monday," the sourc-es said on Friday.

The current agreement

pertained to only Depsang and Demchok, the two re-maining friction points, they said.

they said.

The deal would restore
the ground status to one
that existed before April
2020, they stressed. The
agreement, in principle,
meant that the Indian Army would be able to res-

ume patrols up to the Pa-trolling Points (PP) 10, 11, IIA, I2, and I3 in the Deps-nag area, which it last man-aged to access in January

2020.
The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has been blocking Indian patrols from going beyond the people of the People of

the source said.

Yangtse in Tawang was
one of the identified disputed areas between the
two countries and the PLA
patrols there were unusually big as compared to
other areas, said the offi-

It's unclear if 'buffer zones' will continue

Suhasini Haidar NEW DELHI

As the disengag As the disengagement process begins at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), experts and former diplomats called for full diplomats called for full "transparency" on the contours of the resolution. In particular, questions were being asked about whether "buffer zones"

cial. The area had witnessed consistent trans-gressions since 2011 with one transgression reported every year during summer

'Long-drawn one' Army sources denied any "quid pro quo" in other sectors, including Aruna-chal Pradesh, in order to

set up in eastern Ladakh since 2020 would be

At least two senior At least two senior officials privy to the ground situation said that the "buffer zones" would not be included in the current patrolling

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 3

LAC. However, the agree-ment also meant that there was no resumption of pa-trols yet in the other fric-tion points from where disengagement had already been undertaken and the buffer zones set up as part of the agreement contiof the agreement conti-nued to remain in place. These areas included Gal-wan, north and south Banks of Pangong Tso, PPIS & PPITA in the Gogra Hot Springs area. Adequate measures

coordinated by both sides," sources said, stating that there would be regular interactions at various le-vels on the ground in all sectors to build confidence sectors to build confidence and avoid any flare-up of tensions. Army sources al-so acknowledged that the de-induction process was a long-drawn one and would take time. "Discussions re-garding resuming patrols at other friction areas are under way. There are talks going on in all sectors along the LAC." Foreign Secretary Vik-ram Misti clarified earlier

were being taken to ensure that troops did not come face to face and avoid face-offs. "Patrols will be spaced in such a manner that there would be no

face-offs. Patrols will be

that they were focused or "disengagement first, and discussions on de-escalation and de-induction will happen at the appropriate

While patrols may sym White patross may sym-bolically resume soon, with winter about to set in, the area would be closed for a few months, putting a



In the cyclone's wake



Tidying up: NDRF personnel clearing uprooted trees at Basudevpur in Bhadrak district hours after Cyclone Dana made landfall in Odisha, with no loss of life or property, BISWARANJAN ROUT (REPORT: PAGE 5)

Two soldiers, two porters killed in J&K; operation on

Peerzada Ashiq

tants, who ambushed an Army vehicle and killed two soldiers and two Army porters in north Kashmir's Baramulla on Thursday evening, continued for the second day on Friday. A spokesperson said terro-rists from Pakistan, with a view to distrust neace in view to disrupt peace in Kashmir, targeted an Army column in the general area of Butapathri, Baramulla. Ocial sources said armour-piercing bullets were again used by the attackers.

Modi discusses Gaza, Ukraine conflicts with

German Chancellor

Kallol Bhattacheriee

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chan-cellor Olaf Scholz dis-cussed the conflicts in Ukcussed the conflicts in Uk-raine and Gaza in a meeting on Friday. Mr. Mo-di reiterated India's desire to find a solution to the

crises.

"The ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia are a matter of concern for both nations. India has always been of the view that war cannot be a solution to problems. India is ready to make every possible con-tribution for the restoration of peace," said Mr. Mo-di at the end of official-level dialogue with the visiting German guests at Hydera-bad House. The discussion was part of the 7th Intergo-vernmental Consultations

between the two nations. The discussion between the two sides came days af-ter Mr. Modi's return from the 16th BRICS summit, where he had spoken in support of doing everyth-ing necessary to ensure peace in Russia and Uk-

raine. His remarks were elaborated later by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, who hinted that the Indian side had briefed the German Chancellor about the substance of the recent

substance of the recent conversations that Mr. Mo-dl had with President Volo-dymyr Zelenskyy of Uk-raine and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. "The Prime Minister shared with the Chancellor his impressions from his meetings and interactions in recent months with leaders from both Russia and Ukraine and the steps that India has been taking on all sides of the conflicts and some of the ideas that different actors have been talking about," Mr. Misri

Mr Migri omnhagigad that "India is not neutral" in the Ukrainian conflict. "India remains on the side of peace," he said. The re-marks indicated continuity in India's engagement with the main actors in the Uk-rainian conflict.

SC to examine plea to do away with 'VIP treatment' in temples

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine a plea to scrap the levy of 'VIP entry charges' and according of "preferential, selective and special treat-ment" to a certain class of people in temples while thousands of devotees, including senior citizens, women, children and persons with disabilities, wait for hours in queues for

darshan.

A Bench of Justices San-jiv Khanna and Sanjay Ku-mar decided to list the peti-tion filed by Vijay Kishor Goswami and said the term 'VIP' or 'Very Important

law.

Usually, those who could afford to pay exorbitant amounts got to sail through while others unable to pay suffered long hours of deprivation to exercise their right to were ercise their right to wor-ship. The petition termed it

'Violation of rights'

Mr. Goswami, represented Ghonkrokta and Akash Vashishtha, said the arbi-trary practice and discrim-ination solely on the basis of how deep a person's pocket was amounted to the violation of the funda-mental rights to equality,

okrokta and Akash

dignity, and right to freely practise religion.

The petition said people of all castes, communities, classes, and sections of section of section of sections of s

charge/VIP entry practises.
The plea has also sought
the constitution of a national-level board with a
"multi-tier structural and
functional framework for
the redressal of comtures and public places of sanctity. The Union go-vernment, through the Mi-nistries of Culture and Tourism and various States including Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pra-desh, Gujarat, Uttar Pra-desh, Uttarakhand, Haryaplaints, grievances, issues and concerns of citizens re-lated to the functioning na, Assam and Jharkhand have been arraigned as res-

and practices of temples and/or other religious structures or public places of sanctity, across the have been arraigned as res-pondents in the petition.
The petition said that with the growth of reli-gious tourism and con-struction of new temples such as the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and the expan-sion of several others, ma-ny Durga Shakitpeeths and Jyottlingas (Shakitpeeths and Jyottlingas (Shakitpeeths and Inght "Imitative" this VIP

of sanctity, across the country."
It has also sought the framing of standard operating procedures to regulate and manage the entry of devotees and visitors into temples, religious structures, or public places of sanctity.

India, China to take up 'coordinated patrolling'

Agreement limited to Depsang and Demchok, with disengagement to be completed this month

Chinese patrols will be allowed at Yangste in Arunachal Pradesh 'as before', says official

Patrols to be spaced in such a manner that there would be no face-offs between two sides

Dinakar Peri Vijaita Singh

NEW DELHI

ndia and China would undertake "coordinated patrolling" in Depsang and Demchok along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh to avoid face-offs, as disengagement in both areas was expected to be completed by October 29, Army sources said. They added that the patrols were set to resume by the "month-end".

As per an official source, it had been agreed that Chinese patrols would be allowed in Yangste, Arunachal Pradesh "as before and not be blocked".

Army sources said the disengagement was expected to be completed by October 29, with a return to the pre-April 2020 situation, and patrols resuming after that.

"A general framework agreement was concluded first at the diplomatic level and subsequently, a detailed agreement outlining the modalities of disengagement as well the pa-



Work begins: Disengagement is expected to be completed by October 29, say sources. FILE PHOTO

trolling was concluded at the Corps Commander level on Monday," the sources said on Friday.

The current agreement pertained to only Depsang and Demchok, the two remaining friction points, they said.

The deal would restore the ground status to one that existed before April 2020, they stressed. The agreement, in principle, meant that the Indian Army would be able to resume patrols up to the Patrolling Points (PP) 10, 11, 11A, 12, and 13 in the Depsnag area, which it last managed to access in January 2020.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has been blocking Indian patrols from going beyond the Y-junction in the strategic Depsang plains.

Other than eastern Ladakh, the latest disengagement plan also included the Yangtse in Arunachal

Pradesh, where Chinese patrols would be allowed, an official source said. "There is an understanding that Chinese patrols will be allowed in Yangste like before and their movement will not be blocked". the source said.

Yangtse in Tawang was one of the identified disputed areas between the two countries and the PLA patrols there were unusually big as compared to other areas, said the offizones' will continue Suhasini Haidar since 2020 would be NEW DELHI

It's unclear if 'buffer

As the disengagement process begins at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), experts and former diplomats called for full "transparency" on the contours of the resolution. In particular, questions were being asked about whether "buffer zones"

set up in eastern Ladakh abolished.

At least two senior officials privy to the ground situation said that the "buffer zones" would not be included in the current patrolling arrangement.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 3

cial. The area had witnessed consistent transgressions since 2011 with one transgression reported every year during summer months.

'Long-drawn one'

Army sources denied any "quid pro quo" in other sectors, including Arunachal Pradesh, in order to arrive at this agreement, stating that this was a standalone arrangement while talks were on all along the

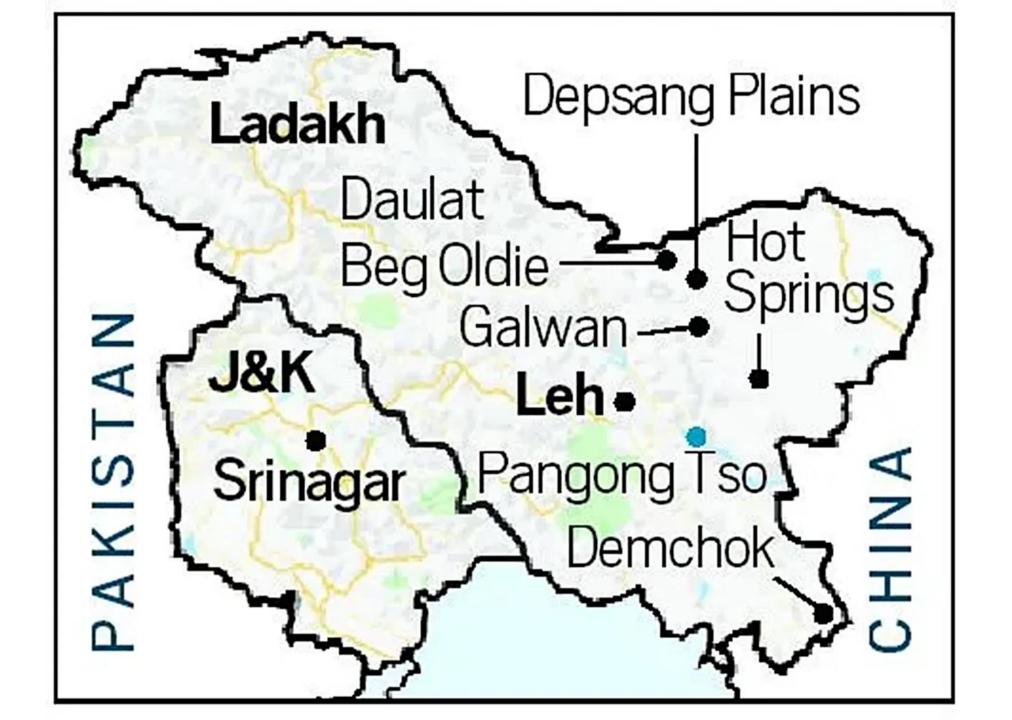
LAC. However, the agreement also meant that there was no resumption of patrols yet in the other friction points from where disengagement had already been undertaken and the buffer zones set up as part of the agreement continued to remain in place. These areas included Galwan, north and south Banks of Pangong Tso, PP15 & PP17A in the Gogra Hot Springs area.

> Adequate measures

were being taken to ensure that troops did not come face to face and avoid faceoffs. "Patrols will be spaced in such a manner that there would be no face-offs. Patrols will be coordinated by both sides," sources said, stating that there would be regular interactions at various levels on the ground in all sectors to build confidence and avoid any flare-up of tensions. Army sources also acknowledged that the de-induction process was a long-drawn one and would take time. "Discussions regarding resuming patrols at other friction areas are under way. There are talks going on in all sectors along the LAC."

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misti clarified earlier that they were focused on "disengagement first, and discussions on de-escalation and de-induction will happen at the appropriate time".

While patrols may symbolically resume soon, with winter about to set in, the area would be closed for a few months, putting a pause on patrols.



Disengagement at Key Points:

English: India and China agreed to conduct "coordinated patrolling" in areas of Despang and Demchok in Eastern Ladakh as part of a disengagement process, which is expected to be completed by October 29.

हिंदी: भारत और चीन ने पूर्वी लद्दाख के देपसांग और देमचोक क्षेत्रों में "समन्वित गश्त" करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की है, जो अक्टूबर 29 तक पूरी होनी अपेक्षित है।

Restoration of April 2020 Status:

English: The agreement aims to restore the status of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) to pre-April 2020 conditions, allowing Indian forces to patrol up to previously blocked points.

हिंदी: इस समझौते का उद्देश्य एलएसी को अप्रैल 2020 से पहले की स्थिति में बहाल करना है, जिससे भारतीय सेना को पहले अवरुद्ध बिंदुओं तक गश्त करने की अनुमति मिल सके।

- Buffer Zones and Regular Patrols:
- **English:** Officials stated that buffer zones set in Eastern Ladakh since 2020 might be removed. Patrols will be arranged to avoid direct faceoffs between the two forces.
- हिंदी: अधिकारियों ने कहा कि पूर्वी लददाख में 2020 से बनाए गए बफर जोन हटाए जा सकते हैं। दोनों सेनाओं के बीच टकराव से बचने के लिए गश्त की योजना बनाई जाएगी।

Long-term Approach to De-induction:

English: The de-induction process is acknowledged as a long-drawn one that would require confidence-building measures to avoid any future escalations.

हिंदी: निष्कासन प्रक्रिया को एक लंबी प्रक्रिया के रूप में माना गया है, जिसमें किसी भी भविष्य की वृद्धि से बचने के लिए विश्वास निर्माण उपायों की आवश्यकता होगी।

- Areas Excluded from Agreement:
- **English:** Specific areas like the north and south banks of Pangong Tso, Gogra Hot Springs, and Galwan are not included in the current disengagement terms, indicating a standalone approach to these regions.
- हिंदी: पैंगोंग त्सो की उत्तरी और दक्षिणी तट, गोगरा हॉट स्प्रिंग्स और गलवान जैसे क्षेत्र वर्तमान समझौते में शामिल नहीं हैं, जो इन क्षेत्रों के लिए एक अलग दृष्टिकोण को दर्शाता है।

SC to examine plea to do away with 'VIP treatment' in temples

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine a plea to scrap the levy of 'VIP entry charges' and according of "preferential, selective and special treatment" to a certain class of people in temples while thousands of devotees, including senior citizens, women, children and persons with disabilities, wait for hours in queues for darshan.

A Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar decided to list the petition filed by Vijay Kishor Goswami and said the term 'VIP' or 'Very Important Person' was not defined in law.

Usually, those who could afford to pay exorbitant amounts got to sail through while others unable to pay suffered long hours of deprivation to exercise their right to worship. The petition termed it "VIP culture".

'Violation of rights'

Mr. Goswami, represented by advocates Sarthak Ghonkrokta and Akash Vashishtha, said the arbitrary practice and discrimination solely on the basis of how deep a person's pocket was amounted to the violation of the fundamental rights to equality,



Right to worship: The plea seeks standard operating procedures to regulate entry in temples. FILE PHOTO

dignity, and right to freely practise religion.

The petition said people of all castes, communities, classes, and sections of society should be treated equally and provided a fair and equal opportunity to pray and get darshan in all temples, religious structures and public places of sanctity. The Union government, through the Ministries of Culture and Tourism and various States including Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Assam and Jharkhand have been arraigned as respondents in the petition.

The petition said that with the growth of religious tourism and construction of new temples such as the Ram Temple in Ayodhya and the expansion of several others, many Durga Shaktipeeths and Jyotirlingas (Shiva temples) might "imitate" this VIP

charge/VIP entry practises.

The plea has also sought the constitution of a national-level board with a "multi-tier structural and functional framework for the redressal of complaints, grievances, issues and concerns of citizens related to the functioning and practices of temples and/or other religious structures or public places of sanctity, across the country".

It has also sought the framing of standard operating procedures to regulate and manage the entry of devotees and visitors into temples, religious structures, or public places of sanctity.

Petition Filed:

- **English:** A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking to end the "VIP culture" in temples, which allows certain people to pay for quicker access, while regular devotees, including seniors, women, and children, wait in long queues.
- हिंदी: सुप्रीम कोर्ट में एक याचिका दायर की गई है जिसमें मंदिरों में "वीआईपी संस्कृति" को समाप्त करने की मांग की गई है, जिससे कुछ लोगों को जल्दी प्रवेश के लिए भुगतान करने का अवसर मिलता है, जबिक आम भक्तों को लंबी कतारों में प्रतीक्षा करनी पड़ती है।

- Arguments Against VIP Culture:
- **English:** The petition argues that the VIP culture violates fundamental rights to equality, dignity, and freedom of religion by discriminating based on one's ability to pay.
- हिंदी: याचिका में तर्क दिया गया है कि वीआईपी संस्कृति समानता, गरिमा और धार्मिक स्वतंत्रता के मौलिक अधिकारों का उल्लंघन करती है, क्योंकि यह भुगतान की क्षमता के आधार पर भेदभाव करती है।

Petition's Demands:

- **English:** The plea demands a national-level board to handle complaints about temple practices and suggests creating SOPs to regulate temple entry.
- हिंदी: याचिका में मंदिर प्रथाओं पर शिकायतों को संभालने के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय-स्तरीय बोर्ड की मांग की गई है और मंदिर प्रवेश को नियमित करने के लिए एसओपी बनाने का सुझाव दिया गया है।

Concerns Raised:

- English: The petition also warns that the rise in religious tourism and the construction of new temples could perpetuate VIP practices unless regulated.
- हिंदी: याचिका में यह भी चेतावनी दी गई है कि धार्मिक पर्यटन में वृद्धि और नए मंदिरों का निर्माण वीआईपी प्रथाओं को स्थायी बना सकता है यदि इसे नियमित नहीं किया गया।



1.Court's Action:

- **1. English:** A bench led by Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar agreed to examine the plea.
- 2. हिंदी: न्यायमूर्ति संजीव खन्ना और संजय कुमार की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने याचिका की जांच करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।

Centre failed to establish peace in J&K: Rahul Gandhi

Press Trust of India

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday slammed the Union government at the Centre over the recent terror attack in I&K, saving its policies had completely failed to establish security and demanded that it should immediately take accountability as well as ensure the safety of Army news of the martyrdom of our brave soldiers in the cowardly attack on an Ar-my vehicle in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir, is ex-tremely saddening. Two porters also lost their lives n the attack. I pay my tripress my deepest condo-lences to the bereaved

The policies of the NDA

government at the Centre have completely failed to establish security and peace in Jammu and Kash-mir, he said.

"Contrary to their claims, the reality is that the State is living under the shadow of danger due to continuous terrorist activities, attacks on our soldiers and targeted killings of civi-lians," the Leader of Oppo-sition in Lok Sabha said.

Army reassessing strategy to tackle terrorism in Kashmir

Counter-insurgency operation continues at Baramulla after two soldiers and two porters were

n operation against n operation against militants, who am-bushed an Army vehicle and killed two soldiers and two Army por-ters in north Kashmir's Ba-

ters in north Kashmir's Ba-ramulla on Thursday evening, continued for the second day on Friday. An Army spokesperson said terrorists from Pakis-tan, with a view to disrupt peace and stability in Kash-lumn in a cowardly man-ner in the general area of ner in the general area of Butapathri, Baramulla. Official sources said ar-

mour-piercing bullets were again used by the attackers who have remained at

"On being fired upon, the alert troops swiftly and resolutely retaliated the resolutely retailated the fire, forcing the terrorists to retreat leaving behind a weapon and rucksack. They escaped into dense foliage, exploiting a nala [stream] and fading light. Regrettably, two brave indian Army soldiers succumbed to the injuries succession of the Srinagar-based Army spokes-person said.



Kaisar Ahmad Shah at Wanigam in Anantnag district, IMRAN NISSAI

of Uri, Baramulla

"It is evident that Pakis

tani terrorists are targeting

Kashmiri locals to evoke

fear and terror in the Val

ley, which is progressing

ley, which is progressing towards peace and stabili-ty. The only ideology these terrorists espouse is of the reign of terror in Valley," the Army said.

Fresh strategy The Army is mulling the re-orientation of its counterinsurgency operations in J&K after a series of attacks from "highly trained" mili-tants this year, especially

were identified as Rifleman Kaisar Ahmad Shah from Anantnag district and Rifleman Jeevan Singh from

fleman Jeevan Singh from Haryana's Sirsa district. The spokesman said the actions of the soldiers from causing any further damage and demonstrated unwavering courage and centre and demonstrated unwavering courage and che national security and counter inimical agenda of Pakistan-abetted terrorism in Kashmir-in Kashmir-ter specification of the courage of the two slain porters as Zahoor

two slain porters as Zahoor Ahmad Mir, a resident of Boniyar, and Mushtaq Ah-

operandi of the terrorists, the support they are likely to be getting from across the border and we are creating a strategy to tackle this," Lieutenant-General M.V. Suchindra Kumar. General Officer, Com-manding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command

National Conference president Farooq Abdullah targeted Pakistan for the uptick in militant attacks in Kashmir shmir. "If they [Pakistan] think

they can achieve anything with this, they are only destroying themselves and us. J&K will never be part of Pakistan, J&K chose India in 1947. Such actions are detrimental to all Mus lims and the broader community in Kashmir," Mr. Abdullah said.

He, however, called for "a peaceful resolution to prevent further harm to a present further harm to the region's people and economy. "Don't they see the regions of Ukraine, Sy-ria and Palestine? Violence has led to large-scale de-vastation. If attacks continue, we will continue to confront them. God will-ing, we will defeat them," he added.

SC bars Gujarat government from allocating Gir Somnath land to third party for now

The Supreme Court on Fri-day barred the Gujarat go-wernment from transferring to any third party, land in Gir Somnath district, where the local Mus-

attrictures are reingrous out illegally.

A Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai said the land should remain with the government till the vember II. The court however did not entertain a request made by Auliya-e-Deen Committee for interim relief of status quo demolitions.

The committee said the lands were Waqf property It argued that nine Muslim religious places of worship graveyards and hutments, some of which were pro-tected monuments, were pro-tected monuments, were razed by the authorities in spite of successive Su-preeme Court orders on September 17 and October 1 freezing "illegal demoli-tions" of a communal or re-tributive nature across the control of the country of the control of the country of country of

country.

The petition filed by the committee argued that the

The Bench said the with the govt, till the next date of hearing

not even given an oppor-tunity to remove their per-sonal effects. The petition said the Muslim places of tending over SS acres had been existing for over a century. The land was al-lotted to Muslim communi-ty by the erstwhile prince-ly State of Junagadh for a "The lands were being used as qabrastanigranot even given an oppor-

used as qabrastan/gra veyard since time imme morial and there were a least five dargahs, masjid and one eidgaah, i.e., in all seven Muslim places of worship and two places of worship and two other such Muslim places of worship allotted by sa-nad [deed]. That is, in all, nine such Muslim places of worship along with several other graves/qabars," the petition samilities said the notices were issued on the nine relicious structures by

nine religious structures by the authorities on Septem-They sought the suo motu

entries, dating from 1947, on the possession and exis-tence of these religious structures.
The petition said the committee had sought

time to file the docume "The representatives of the committee were de tained at the office of the and September 28 at 5 a.m. and demolitions of all the and demolitions of all the nine religious places were carried out along with the other graves and hutments without letting the persons concerned remove their belongings including reli-gious scriptures and holy bender "the nestricy noted." books," the petition noted

Solicitor-General Tush-ar Mehta, for the Gujarat government, said the peti-tion was part of a "narrative-building" exercise. The land belonged to the government, he argued. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for the committee,

Sibal, for the committee, said, "the reason given for the demolition is that the lands were near the Ara-bian Sea and therefore, near a waterbody. Protect-ed monuments were razed to the ground. Can your Lordships imagina?" Mr. Lordships imagine?" Mr. Sibal submitted. The court, meanwhile, said the proceedings pend-

ing in the State High Court

'Buffer zones' may not come under patrolling agreement, say officials

Days after South Block an nounced a breakthrough in India-China border talks, and as the disengagement process begins on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), experts and former diplomats called for full "transparency" on the contours of the resolution.

contours of the resolution. In particular, questions were being asked about whether "buffer zones" set up in eastern Ladakh since 2020 would be abolished.

The temporary demiliarised zones or buffer zones were set up to ease the tense situation at five friction points on the LAC where India and China had agreed to disengagement between February 2021 and September 2022. These were in the Galwan valley, the northern bank of Pangong Tso, and the Kailash Range on the southern bank, where Indian troops gave up man-ning positions on the



PP15 in the Hot Springs

area. "It appears that the buff-

"It appears that the buff-er zones created are not being revisited in the agreement. Therefore, the statement by the govern-ment that we will see a return to the situations prior to 2020 standoff is a contradiction," said former Ambassador to China Ash-ok Kantha. "My concern is that we have lowered the that we have lowered the bar in terms of disengage-ment, or at the very least the government is stating that disengagement has been completed, prema-turely," he added.

Friction point: Indian and Chinese defence personnel disengage

The MEA did not res-pond to requests for com-ment on whether the buff-er zones would remain.

No clarity
The confusion over the
buffer zones, said experts,
related to the original
statements made about the
"breakthrough", which
was announced on October. 21, two dawn about of o er 21, two days ahead of a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping. The same day, Ex-ternal Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said the two sides had been negotiating

quality" were painkillers. antifungals and diabetes drugs. They included sam-ples of metronidazole (Hin-

ples of metronidazole (Hin-dustan Antibiotics), oxyto-cin (Pushkar Pharma) and metformin hydrochloride (Swiss Biotech Parenter-als), paracetamol (Innova Captab Limitech, pantopra-zole (Alkem Health) and ci-profloxacin (Cadila Pharmaceuticals). Dr. Raghuvanshi said that als soon as reports of

the standoff since 2020.
"We reached an agreement
on patrolling and with that
we have gone back to where the situation was in 2020," Mr. Jaishankar told a TV channel, adding "We can say that the disengagement process with China has been completed.

"There seems to be no clarity on whether the buffer zones will continue to exist or will be abol-ished," said Manoj Joshi, ished," said Manoj Joshi, Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foun-dation and author of the book, Understanding the India-China Border. "The emphasis is on patrolling arrangements agreed to, so we need to know whether the patrolling will be al-lowed in the buffer zones as well," he added.

"A return to 'business as usual' will be ill-advised at present because the struc present because the struc-tural problems remain un-resolved," Mr. Kantha told The Hindu. "Peace and tranquillity in border pro-cess remains incomplete. We shouldn't let our guard down," he added.

Why no joint statement from India and China, ask House panel members

Members of the Parliamen ary Standing Committee on External Affairs grilled Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Friday, asking him to explain why there was dia and China on the "disengagement" at the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, which was announced by the Indian go-vernment earlier this week. The committee is headed by senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor.

At a media briefing on Tuesday, Mr. Misri had said that Indian and Chinese dislomatic and military ne-Ladakh, which was an

plomatic and military ne-gotiators had arrived at an agreement on "patrolling arrangements" along the LAC, leading to "disen-gagement" and a "resolu-tion of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh later attributed the agreement to the power of dialogue, and sources have confirmed that disengagement has be-



Vikram Misri said on Friday that though joint statements were

gun at two remaining fric-tion points on the LAC. However, the govern-ments of India and China have not issued any join statement on any such agreement, leading to the MPs' queries. According to sources, Mr. Misri respond-ed to the Parliamentary committee's members by saying that joint statements are not often offered in such situations, but em in such situations, but em-phasising that the two go-vernments are committed to the agreement. A mem-ber, speaking anonymous-ly, said that Mr. Misri had

fears on possible "grey areas" in the agreement.

Gaza conflict Though members were eager to ask questions on China, the panel's agenda for the day was the Israel-Palestine conflict. Mr. Mis ri, it is learnt, spoke exten-sively on the subject, focusing on the implications of the Iran-Israel stand-off, especially for the nine milespecially for the nancial lion Indians living in West

There were a barrage of

asked Mr. Misri to explain India's stand on Palestine, especially in view of more than a dozen instances of abstention at the UN on pro-Palestine resolutions. He was also asked to give details about India's expor of arms to Israel. Accord ing to sources, one men ber commented that the arms exports show India's wards the bloodshed in Ga wards the bloodshed in Ga-za. Mr. Misri reportedly responded by saying that Indian firms have joint ven-ture with defence manu-facturers in Israel, and that India only supplies arms compressed.

components.

A BJP MP also asked the Foreign Secretary to give comparative details of India's economic interests in Israel and Palestine. There are 30,000 Indians living in Israel and Mr. Misri informed the panel that, or er the last year since the outbreak of the conflict, nearly 9,000 Indian cor

21st livestock census begins. one lakh staff roped in

The Hindu Bureau

The Centre has launched the 21st livestock census, the 21st livestock census, the five-yearly exercise of counting the country's liv-estock, here on Friday. Un-ion Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh said the census plays a key role in obsenior relivies there as shaping policies that en-sure the sustainable growth of the country's liv-

estock sector. One lakh field officials and veterinarians or paraveterinarians are engaged in this exercise, which will be conducted over a span of four or five months

DGCI finds 49 drug samples are not of standard quality

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

India's drugs regulator on Friday directed manufac-Friday directed manufac-turers of 49 medicines to recall their products after samples were found to be "not of standard quality". Also, action has been in-titated to book the makers of four spurious drugs. so four spurious drugs. al of India (DCGI) Rajeer slineh Raghuyanshi said.

Singh Raghuvanshi said, "The four samples of drugs

Physicist, IISc ex-professor Rohini Godbole passes away

Padma Shri recipient and pioneer of particle physics in India, Professor Rohini Godbole, passed away in

Godbole, passed away in Pune on Friday. In a condolence note, the Indian Institute of Science (IISC) said: "With great sadness, we deeply mourn the passing of Prof. Rohimi Godbole. She passed away peacefully early this morning in her sleep. In addition to being a great scientist, she was a titled from the read to the work of the mark to the mark to me in, the piet up to the mark to me in, the piet up to the mark tome in the piet up to the



She won many acco-lades and awards, includ-ing the Padma Shri, Ordre national du Mérite from



France, among others. She did her M.Sc in IIT-Bombay and received the silver medal. She complet-ed her Ph.D. from the State

"After serving on the fa culty of the University of Bombay, she joined the IISc in November 1995. She

IISC in November 1995. She retired as a full professor from the institute in July 2018 but continued her research activities at the Centre for High Energy Physics (CHEP) till date," the IISC said.

"While she has ventured into various sub-branches

into various sub-branches of the field, the main focus of her research remained collider physics, in particu-lar top and Higgs physics. She was a champion for fu-University of New York, Stony Brook, in 1979. She ture colliders, in particular the ILC and its variants,"

Centre to relaunch mission to preserve ancient manuscripts

Sreeparna Chakrabarty

The Union Ministry of Cul-The Union Ministry of Cul-ture is set to "revive and re-launch" the National Mis-sion for Manuscripts (NMM) and is mulling the formation of an autono-mous body to help pre-serve ancient texts in India.

Presently, NMM is a part of the Indira Gandhi Na-tional Centre for Arts. The new body, likely to be named the National Manu-scripts Authority, will be der the Ministry, sources told The Hindu.

meeting chaired by Culture Shekhawat on October 14 to discuss the way forward

of NMM's achievements since its establishment in 2003, Mr. Singh told The Hindu. Mr. Singh told The Hindu. Mr. Singh told The date metadata of 52 lakh manuscripts has been prepared and roughly over 3 lakh titles have been digitised, he said. However, only one-third of them

that over the past 21 years it had undertaken preven tive and curative co The Ministry had held a tion of 9 crore folios.

Centre to relaunch mission to preserve ancient manuscripts

Sreeparna Chakrabarty NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Culture is set to "revive and relaunch" the National Mission for Manuscripts (NMM) and is mulling the formation of an autonomous body to help preserve ancient texts in India.

Presently, NMM is a part of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts. The new body, likely to be named the National Manuscripts Authority, will be an autonomous entity under the Ministry, sources told *The Hindu*.

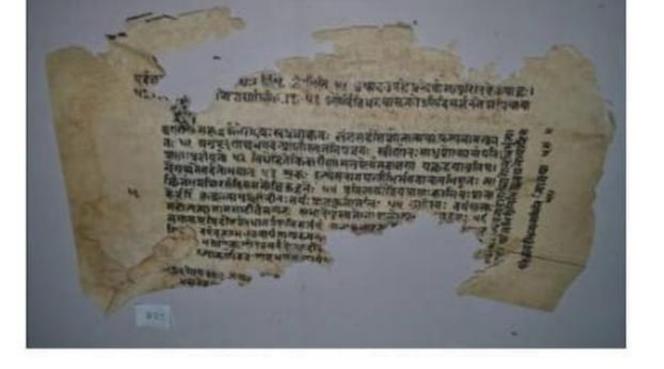
The Ministry had held a

meeting chaired by Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on October 14 to discuss the way forward.

The meeting took stock of NMM's achievements since its establishment in 2003, Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

The NMM stated that till date metadata of 52 lakh manuscripts has been prepared and roughly over 3 lakh titles have been digitised, he said. However, only one-third of them have been uploaded.

The NMM also stated that over the past 21 years, it had undertaken preventive and curative conservation of 9 crore folios.









• The National Mission for Manuscripts was **established in 2003**, by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India.

Objective:

• The key objectives of the National Mission for Manuscripts are documentation, conservation, digitization, and online dissemination of the manuscript heritage of India.

- To achieve this mandate, the mission has established more than 100 Manuscripts Resource Centres and Manuscripts Conservation Centres all over India.
- India possesses an estimated ten million manuscripts, probably the largest collection in the world. These cover a variety of themes, textures and aesthetics, scripts, languages, calligraphies, illuminations, and illustrations.

Manuscript:

A manuscript is a handwritten composition on paper, bark, cloth, metal, palm leaf, or any other material dating back at least seventy-five years that has significant scientific, historical, or aesthetic value.

 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 defines an "Ancient Monument" any structure, erection or monument, or any tumulus or place of interment, or any cave,rocksculpture, inscription or monolith which is of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than 100 years.

- Who among the following Mughal Emperors shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscripts to album and individual portrait? (2019)
- (a) Humayun
- **(b)** Akbar
- (c) Jahangir
- 👉 (d) Shah Jahan

- . Recently, the manuscripts of which one of the following have been included in the UNESCO's Memory of World Register? (2008)
- (a) Abhidhamma Pitaka
- (b) Mahabharata
- (c) Ramayana
- <mark>、 (d)</mark> Rig-Veda

Saturday, October 26, 2024

Business

INBRIEF



Healthify raises fresh funds from Khosla Ventures, others

Healthify, an AI-powered health and fitness app, on Friday announced the closure of a \$45 million round, led by existing investor Khosla Ventures and LeapFrog Investments with new participation from Claypood Capital, family office of healthcare entrepreneur, Dr. Ranjan Pai. The funding came as Healthify accelerates its global expansion, with a keen focus on entering the U.S. market and advancing its AI capabilities, the firm

Cholamandalam Investment net rises 26% in Q2 to ₹963 cr.

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. 5963 crore. Total revenue from operations increased to \$6,227 crore from \$4,435 crore. Disbursements increased 13% to \$24,314 crore while net income grew 37% to \$2,338 crore. Net interest margin improved to 7.5% from 7.4% and business assests under management increased 33% to \$1,64,642 crore, the company said.

Opal Bidco, C&DR acquire 26% stake in Sanofi Consumer

Sanofi Consumer Health Care India Ltd., the pharmaceutical company that makes Combifiam among other consumer drugs, announced the sale of 26% of its equity shares to Opal Bidco SAS Clayton, Dubilier & Rice Fund, according to a Exchange Board of India, Sanofi plans to sell 59.87.962 equity shares for ₹4.982.05 a piece

Bear grip: Sensex dives below 80.000

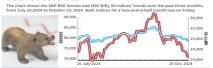
Markets plunge to a two-and-half month low; Mid and Smallcap stocks worst hit; Indian indices fell on all days of this week reeling under selling pressure from foreign investors, weak Q2 results from most corporates, and rising US treasury yields

bout a month since they peaked, intock market indices slumped to a two-and-half month low on Friday, with the S&P BSE Sensex sliding the Set? BSR Sensex stituing below the 80,000 mark, reflecting a 7.5% plunge from its all-time high of 85,836.12 points attained on September 26. While the Sensex fell 663 points or 0.83% to end

at 79,402 points on Friday, he NSE Nifty-50 index, fell 218.60 points, or 0.90%, to 24,180.80 points. "Nifty ended on a weak

note at a near two-and-ahalf month low despite the

Dalal Street Blues



the fifth cornectative session," said beeals leasn, that the Mity, reflecting than the Mity, reflecting such a MIFC Securities. "While cash market volumes rose compared to the previous the forted.

At the BSE, the midcap

smallcap benchmark dropped 2.44%. "Indian markets have

BPCL O2 net slides

rates and rising treasury yields in the U.S," Mr. Jasa-ni said. The Sensex stocks Industrid Bank (18,56%) M&M (3.93%), L&T (3.35%) NTPC (3.13%), Adami Ports (2.79%) and Tata Stee which fell 2.15%

which fell 2.15%.
"It was a challenging week for investors and traders as markets saw a broadbased sell-off on all days, with the Nithy closing down over 2.65%, slipping below 24,200 after two weeks of consolidation," said Rajesh Bhosale, equity technical analyst. Angel

fallen on all days of the week reeling under FPI selling pressure, weak Q2 sharply declined over the

	FRIDAY	% CHRISE
	79,492	
S Dollar	84.98	-0.00
leld	90,050	-1.41
trent eil	75.66	2.34

s	NIFTY 50			
9		PRICE	CHANGE	
	Adani Enter	2693.45	-136.75	
٠	Arleni Perts	1715.77	-25.70	
	Apello Hesa	5544.85	-9.38	
s	Asian Paints	2959.00	-24.00	
1	Anis Bunk	1189.15	22.06	
	Bajaj Auto			
	Bajaj Finsery			
3	Bajaj Finance	6900.15	-130.75	
2	Ohasat Elec	272.35	1.00	
1	Sharti Airtel			
3	BPOL	395.38	-25.15	
i	Britannia Ind	5669.41	\$7.06	
	Cipla	1489.95	-2.46	
5	Coal India	461.15	-25.15	
	Dr Reddys Lab	5504.73	-65.00	
5	Eicher Mators	4591.60	-36.96	
•	Grasina lind	2615.31	-51.50	
	HCL Tech	1852.35	7.45	
	HDFC Bank			
y I	HEFC LIFE	799.45	-5.46	
1	Here MatoCarp			
-	Hindalon	676.75	-31.99	
-	Hind Unilever	2528.05	22.95	
	I CICI Bank	1355.45	2.76	
	Industrid Bank	1041.68	-238.45	
	Terfosys	1882.05	-1.50	
2	ITC	452.33	20.68	
9	JSW Steel	543.65	-34.25	
	Hotak Bank			
	LST	3325.48	-135.25	
	HMM	2720.85	-185.58	
	Maruti Supuki			
- 1				
	NTPC			
	OMOC PowerSrid Core	254.05	-5.05	
	Reliance Ind			
	S8I Life State Bank	1606.75	-38.55	
- 1	State Bank	780.95	-13.68	
	Shrivam Finance Ud.			
	Sun Pharma	3092.65	-132.45	
	TataCansumerCro-	2000.40	11.56	
	TataConsumerPro- duct		22.00	
	Tata Motoro			
4	Tata Motors	664.33	-25.TE	
1	Tata Steel	145.88	-5.12	
	Tics Tech Mahindra	1775.45	3.65	
	Tigen	4100.45	-23.30	

ndicative direct rates in repees a unit except p.m. on October 15							
CURRENCY	TTRUT	TT SELL					
US Dollar	55.88	84.20					
Euro	50.82	20.17					
British Pound	139.95	109.37					
Japanese Ven (100)	55.25	55.46					
Chinese Years	11.77	13.82					
Swits Franc	96.77	97.15					
Singapore Dollar	63.54	63.79					
Canadian Dollar	60.58	68.81					

IndiGo swings to ₹986 cr. loss in Q2 on grounded fleet, cost

Jagriti Chandra NEW DELHI

IndiGo on Friday reported a net loss of ₹986 crore for the quarter ended Septem

the quarter ended September, breaking a seven-quar-ber, breaking a seven-quar-ter streak of profits.

The airline reported a profit of 7188 crore in the year-earlier period and a profit of 72,728 crore in the first quarter of FY25.

In a statement CFO Pie-

In a statement, CEO Pie-ter Elbers said the results were impacted by head-winds related to aircraft grounding and fuel costs in a quarter that traditionally

its platform and Mr. Kan-

nan gave an undertaking that the messages con-cerned would be removed

or blocked immediately or

receipt of e-mails from the insurance company.

'Furnish IP addresses' The judge made it clear that Telegram Messenger must also furnish the IP ad-

dresses from which such contentious data gets shared on its platform

since the insurance com

The airline has 79 air-craft of the A320 family grounded because of is-sues involving Pratt and the beginning of the next fi-Whitney engines.

nancial year, said its CFO Gaurav Negi. The airline

72% to ₹2,397 crore

The Hindu Bureau

Bharat Petroleum Corpora-tion Ltd. (BPCL) secondquarter net profit plunged quarter net profit plunged 72% year-on-year to 82,397.23 crore on account of weak refining margins. Gross Refining Margin (GRM) stood at \$4.41 a bar-rel compared with \$18.49 a barrel a year earlier.

Revenue for the quarter ended September 30 grew a tad to ₹1,17,951.69 crore from ₹1,16,594.25 crore. The firm's debt-equity ra-However, Indigo expects the figure of aircraft has a fleet of 410 aircraft.

However, Indigo expects the figure of aircraft has a fleet of 410 aircraft.

O.28, compared with 0.32 quarter last year.

with 9.35 MMT in the same

Amid tepid Q2 outcomes, quick

Data leak: HC directs Telegram to pull down contentious data on receipt of Star Health's e-mails

Mohamed Imranullah S.

The Madras High Court on The Madras High Court on Friday made a minor mod-ification to an order passed by it on September 24 res-training Telegram Messen-ger from allowing its plat-form to be used by unethical hackers to share or sell sensitive customer data allegetly stylen from data allegedly stolen from and Allied Insurance Com-

Justice K. Kumaresh Baafter advocate Thrivambak l. Kannan, representing Te-legram FZ LLC, told the court it would be difficult for the messaging service provider to prevent the



platform, but the conten-tious data could be blocked as and when it was brought to the notice of his client by Star Health Insurance. Senior counsel Krishna

Senior counset in ristina Against unknown inschers sow hog est identified by the name of Xenzen and so agreed that his client would send e-mails to Tele gram whenever they came across instances of the sen stribe data being shared on platforms, by two weeks.

funded, the Finance Minis

try said in a statement. A

JSW Steel Q2 net profit plunges 84% to ₹439 crore

The Hindu Bureau

JSW Steel reported Q2 con-solidated net profit JSW Steel reported Q2 con-solidated net profit plunged 84% to ₹439 crore from ₹2,760 crore in the year-earlier period. Gross sales income for the quarter fell 11% to ₹39,104 crore as compared with ₹43,834 crore in the same period last year.

same period last year.

Consolidated crude
steel production for the quarter stood at 6.77 mil-lion tonnes, up 7% YoY. Ca-pacity utilisation of Indian

pany had filed the civil suit against unknown hackers too who get identified by operations improved 91% operations improved 91% during the quarter, the company said in a filing. "Steel sales for the quar-ter stood at 6.13 million tonnes, lower by 3% YoY," the company said.

commerce delivers for FMCG firms Meenakshi Verma Ambwani NEW DELHI E-commerce, led by quick-

commerce, has emerged as the fastest growth channel for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies in Q2 of FY25.

in Q2 of FY2S.

Companies such as Parle Products, Nestle India,
Adani Wilmar and Tata
Consumer Products said
they had been witnessing
robust growth on the ecommerce channel.

oommerce channel.
At the same time, digital platforms are fuelling preniumisation trends in the are consistently growing

mates released

mates released by NielsenIQ. Krishnarao Buddha, se-nor category head, Parle Products, told business-line, "In Q2 FY25, the FMCG industry witnessed strong double-digit growth on the online channel which is primarily being driven by quick commerce nearly twice as fast as their non-premium counter-parts, as per latest esti-

butes about 4-5%, of which nearly 1.5-2 % is now com-

nearly 1.52 % is now com-ing from quick commerce platforms," he said. In its Q2 presentation to investors, Adami Wilmar said revenue from "alter-nate" channels increased at a strong double-digit pace, with revenue over the past I2 months exceed-ing \$3,000 crore. Earlier this week. Su-Earlier this week, Su-

resh Narayanan, chairman and MD, Nestle India, not-

India's coking coal imports

the first half of 2024-25

growth and even modern trade is seeing some slowdown.

"This is because the dependability of consumers on quick commerce in the top cities is rising. For us, training from quick-commerce thannels."

In an earnings call, Tata e-commerce clocked 50% growth. "And in e-com merce, we saw quick com

merce, we saw quick com-merce come in very, very strongly," the firm said. Meanwhile, a report re-leased by NielsenIQ noted that premium FMCG brands are consistently growing twice as fast as their non-premium coun-terparts. Nearly 50% of e-commerce sales stem from ed: "In Q2 FY25, e-com-merce channel grew by 38% (the highest in the last Hindu businessline)

BoB net rises 23% in Q2 to ₹5,237 crore on income

lender said on Friday.

Net interest income rose 7.3% to ₹11.622 crore. Global net interest margin came in at 3.1% against

lender said in a statement.



Nirmala Sitharaman

loans will be enhanced to try said in a statement. A nontrication in this regard 2D labt from the current control of the current current control of the current current control of the current cur

Mudra Yojana to ₹20 lakh specifically beneficial to upcoming entrepreneurs facilitating their growth and expansion. The move is in alignment with the go-

vernment's commitmen in fostering a robust entre preneurial ecosystem.

As per the notification issued in this regard, the new category of Tarun Plus is for loans above ₹10 lakh and up to ₹20 lakh and would be available to en-trepreneurs who have

Govt. doubles loan limit under | Rane Brake Lining net rises 15% in Q2 surged to a six-year high in to ₹11 crore

The Hindu Bureau

Rane Brake Lining Ltd. said its standalone net profit for the September quarter in-creased by 15% year-onthe current fiscal (April -September) were at a six-year-high at 29.6 million year to ₹11 crore. Revenue from operations increased by 10% to tonne (mt) with shipments from Russia witnessing a maker of brake linings and substantial rise of ove 200% during this period.

loans will be enhanced to trepreneurs who have 200 ladh from the current 200 ladh from the curre disc pads said.



vantage of discounted sup-plies of coking coal from Russia. However, they have reduced sourcing from Australia. India is the second-largest producer o crude steel and the largest

Govt. doubles loan limit under Mudra Yojana to ₹20 lakh

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

The government has doubled the loan limit under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) to ₹20 lakh to promote entrepreneurship in the country.

This increase aspires to further the overall objective of the Mudra Scheme which is funding the unfunded, the Finance Ministry said in a statement. A notification in this regard was issued on Thursday.

As announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on July 23 in the Union Budget 2024-25, the limit under the PMMY has been enhanced.

"The limit of Mudra



Nirmala Sitharaman

loans will be enhanced to ₹20 lakh from the current ₹10 lakh for those entrepreneurs who have availed and successfully repaid previous loans under the 'Tarun category', Ms. Sitharaman said while presenting the Budget.

This enhancement is

specifically beneficial to upcoming entrepreneurs facilitating their growth and expansion. The move is in alignment with the government's commitment in fostering a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem.

As per the notification issued in this regard, the new category of Tarun Plus is for loans above ₹10 lakh and up to ₹20 lakh and would be available to entrepreneurs who have availed and successfully repaid previous loans under the Tarun category.

The guarantee coverage of PMMY loans for amounts up to ₹20 lakh will be provided under the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU).

English: The loan limit under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana has been doubled to ₹20 lakh to support entrepreneurship in India, as per a recent notification from the Finance Ministry.

हिंदी: प्रधानमंत्री मुद्रा योजना के तहत ऋण सीमा को बढ़ाकर ₹20 लाख कर दिया गया है ताकि भारत में उद्यमिता को समर्थन मिल सके, जैसा कि वित्त मंत्रालय की हालिया अधिसूचना में बताया गया है।

- Objective of the Increase:
- **English:** The purpose of this enhancement is to promote the overall goals of the Mudra Scheme, which aims to provide funding to those without access to formal finance.
- हिंदी: इस वृद्धि का उद्देश्य मुद्रा योजना के समग्र लक्ष्यों को बढ़ावा देना है, जिसका उद्देश्य औपचारिक वित्त तक पहुंच न रखने वालों को वित्तपोषण प्रदान करना है।

- New Category "Tarun Plus":
- English: The new "Tarun Plus" category offers loans between ₹10 lakh and ₹20 lakh, specifically for entrepreneurs who have previously availed loans under the "Tarun" category and have successfully repaid them.
- हिंदी: नया "तरुण प्लस" श्रेणी ₹10 लाख से ₹20 लाख तक के ऋण प्रदान करती है, विशेष रूप से उन उद्यमियों के लिए जिन्होंने पहले "तरुण" श्रेणी के तहत ऋण लिया था और उसे सफलतापूर्वक चुकाया है।

1. Guarantee Coverage:

- **1. English:** For loans up to ₹20 lakh, guarantee coverage will be provided through the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU).
- 2. हिंदी: ₹20 लाख तक के ऋणों के लिए, क्रेडिट गारंटी फंड फॉर माइक्रो यूनिट्स (CGFMU) के माध्यम से गारंटी कवरेज प्रदान किया जाएगा।

MUDRA JOBS*

No. of loans for new business 19,396 (20.6%)
No. of loans for existing business 74,979 (79.4%)

NEW JOBS FROM MUDRA LOAN

 Shishu
 73,91,974 (65.99%)

 Kishor
 21,11,134 (18.85%)

 Tarun
 16,96,872 (15.15%)

Total 1,11,99,980

INCREASE BY EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY

	Shishu	Kishor	Tarun	Total
Self employed/ owners	43,64,088	6,25,575	1,16,803	51,06,466 (45.59%)
Employees/ hired workers	30,27,886	14,85,559	15,80,069	60,93,514 (54.41%)

Shishu: loans up to Rs 50,000; Kishor: Rs 50,000-5 lakh; Tarun: Rs 5 lakh - 10 lakh *Sample beneficiaries who took loans

FINANCIAL EXPR

SENSEX: 79,402.29 ▼ 662.87 NIFTY: 24,180.80 ▼ 218.60 NIKKEI 225: 37,913.92 ▼ 229.37 HANG SENG: 20,590.15 ▲ 100.53 ₹/\$: 84.08 ▼ 0.01 ₹/€: 91.01 ▼ 0.23 BRENT: \$75.47 ▲ \$1.09 GOLD: ₹77,422 ▼ ₹375

NEWS

NO FTA IF EU INSISTS ON ADDING DAIRY SECTOR: GOYAL



UNION'S insistence on preferential market access to India's \$132-billion dairy sector could

derail progress on its proposed TA with India, commerce & ndustry minister Plyush Goyal raid on Friday, reports Mukesh Jagota. ■ PAGE 2

KENYAN COURT SUSPENDS \$736-MN ADANI POWER DEAL



between a state

stility and Adani Energy Solutions to build and operate power infrastructure including transmission lines, reports Reuters. An agreement on his was signed earlier his month. ■ PAGES

SPICEJET SETTLES 4 DISPUTES IN JUST OVER A MONTH



said it has settled a \$4.5-million dispute with Shannon Engine Support for an aggregate sum of \$2 million. This is the ourth such settlement n just over a month, reports Raghav Aggarwal. ■ PAGE 4

SPICEJET ON FRIDAY

OCTOBER WEALTH EROSION WORST IN A MONTH

Fall season: ₹37 lakh cr lost

Nifty down 6.3%

AFTER GAINING OVER ₹87 lakh crore in the first half of the financial year, stock market investors have seen their wealth erode by 43% or ₹37 lakh crore in October - the

monthly market cap loss was in March 2020, when the panic over the Covid pandemic saw investors
lose as much as ₹33.4 lakh crore.
The Sensex and the Nifty have lakh crore (\$5.2 trillion).

fallen 5.8% and 6.3%, respectively, this month, while the broader market indices have seen a sharper cut of up to 9%. At the end of Friday, the market capitalisation of



point mark for the first time in over two months. The 30-stock index fell 0.8% to 79,402.29 points

The persistent selling saw the

"The correction was overdue | Foreign portfolio investors |
Sensex close below the 80,000- because the fundamentals are not | (FPIs) have led the sell-off by dumpsupporting. The April-June earnings ing stocks worth \$9.5 billion were mixed. Now, the September (₹79,363 crore) so far in October.

IndiGo dives into loss after 2 years

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR Mumbai, October 25

INDIGO PARENT INTERGLOBE Aviation on Friday reported a surprise loss of ₹987 crore at the consolidated level for the September quarter, weighed down by fuel expenses and growing aircraft rentals. This was the company's first quarterly loss

in two years.

The country's biggest airline, same quarter last year. controlling 63% of the domestic passenger traffic, had reported a net profit of ₹189 crore for the 7134 crore.

REPORT CARD



A Bloomberg estimate had which made up

WE HAVE NOW TURNED AIRCRAFT GROUNDINGS 16,970



maintenance costs, which con-

maintenance costs, which con-tributed 15%, increased 30%. Consolidated revenue from operations grew by 14% y-o-y to ₹16,970 crore, but was lower than the ₹17,254 crore estimated

JSW Steel's PAT

REVELATIONS FROM TATA'S BIOGRAPHY

Mistry's British education blinded me: Ratan Tata

TATA

IVINDER GILL

education blinded me. I naively on the board of several large on the board of several large hought that the DNA of a person with such an impressive education would be different, commented Ratan Tata on why he chose Mistry to head the Tata when the selection panel failed to the such such such as the control of the such such as the control of the board of several large hought on the board of several large hought on the board of several large hought of the board of the bo

empire. He also regretted issuing an ultimatum to the committee selecting his successor that he "would walk out or December 28, 2012", which, he said, put avoidable pressure on the committee, and the committee, and was the chief reason for the panel to "act in haste", resulting in Mistry's selection.

Ratan Tata also regretted staying away from the selection process, admitting his approach compromised the Group's clean

was reportedly acquired by HarperCollins for a record Continued on Page 7

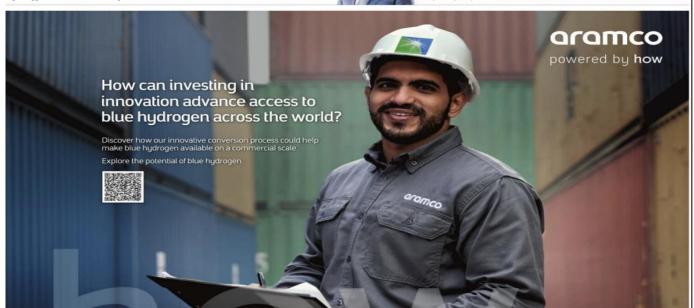
for a non-fiction work, in 2022. The author, Thomas Mathew, is "CYRUS MISTRY'S BRITISH a retired bureaucrat who serves

to zero in on a suit-able candidate, and upon examining a paper put forth by Mistry on 'key suc-cess factors in man-aging the Tata Group', ended up interviewing and choosing him for the

choosing him for the chair man's post.
However, things started unravelling fast, and the book

ammitting ins apprisant to the selection had been image and reputation for fair year idealistic.

These revelations, and more, and play. The book describes in detail now there were apprehensions that is biography, Ratan Tata. A Life, by Thomas Mathew, released by HarperCollins India on Firlday. on Friday. could cause problems for the
The authorised biography
Tata name.



Nvidia pips Apple as the world's most valuable firm

NOEL RANDEWICH & SRUTHI SHANKAR October 25

NVIDIA DETHRONED APPLE

as the world's most valuable company on Friday, following a record-setting rally in the stock powered by an insatiable demand for its new supercomputing AI chips.

Nvidia's stock market value briefly touched \$3.53 trillion, while that of Apple was \$3.52 trillion, according to data from LSEG.

In June, Nvidia briefly became the world's most valuable company, before it was overtaken by Microsoft and Apple. The tech trio's market capitalisations have been neck-and-neck for several months. Microsoft's market value stood at \$3.20 trillion.

Nvidia's stock has risen about 18% so far in October,

with a string of gains coming after OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, announced a funding round of \$6.6 billion. Nvidia provides chips used to trainso-called foundation models such as OpenAI's GPT-4.

"More companies are now embracing artificial intelligence in their everyday tasks and demand remains strong for Nvidia chips," said Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell.

"It is certainly in a sweet spot and so long as we avoid a big economic downturn in the United States, there is a feeling that companies will continue to invest heavily in AI capabilities, creating a healthy tailwind for Nvidia."

Nvidia's shares hit a record high on Tuesday, building on a rally from last week when TSMC, the world's largest contract chipmaker, posted a fore-



cast-beating 54% jump in quarterly profit driven by soaring demand for chips used in AI.

The next big test will be when Nvidia reports third-quarter results in November.

Nvidia in August forecast third-quarter revenue of \$32.5 billion, plus or minus 2%, compared with the current average analyst expectation of \$32.90 billion, according to data compiled by LSEG.

Morgan Stanley analyst Joseph Moore said in a note dated October 10 that he remains "very bullish" about the company longer term, but the recent rally "raises the bar for earnings somewhat".

After a meeting with Nvidia's CEO Jensen Huang, Moore noted the ramp up in production of its next-generation Blackwell chips appeared to be "quite strong" and are booked out for 12 months. The stock came under pressure in August after Nvidia confirmed reports that the production of Blackwell chips was delayed until the fourth quarter.

Shares of Nvidia, Apple and Microsoft have an outsized influence on the richly valued technology sector as well as the broader US stock market, with the trio accounting for about a fifth of the S&P 500 index's weightage. Frenzy around the prospects of AI, expectations that the US Federal Reserve will considerably bring down interest rates, and most recently, an upbeat start to the

earnings season, have pushed the benchmark S&P 500 to an all-time high last week.

Nvidia's massive gains have helped boost the stock's appeal for option traders and the company's options are among the most traded on any given day in recent months, according to data from options analytics provider Trade Alert.

The stock has surged nearly 190% so farthis year as a boom in generative AI prompted the company to issue a series of blowout forecasts.

"The question is whether the revenue stream will last for a long time and will be driven by the emotion of investors rather than by any ability to prove or disprove the thesis that AI is overdone," said Rick Meckler, partner at Cherry Lane Investments, a family investment office in New Vernon, New Jersey. —REUTERS

Nvidia's Rise in Valuation:

English: Nvidia overtook Apple to become the world's most valuable company with a market cap briefly hitting \$3.53 trillion, while Apple was at \$3.52 trillion.

हिंदी: Nvidia ने Apple को पीछे छोड़ते हुए \$3.53 ट्रिलियन मार्केट कैप के साथ दुनिया की सबसे मूल्यवान कंपनी बन गई, जबकि Apple \$3.52 ट्रिलियन पर थी।

- Demand for AI Chips:
- **English:** Nvidia's rise was fueled by high demand for its advanced Al chips, especially after OpenAI's recent \$6.6 billion funding round to power technologies like ChatGPT.
- हिंदी: Nvidia की बढ़त उसके उन्नत AI चिप्स की उच्च मांग से प्रेरित थी, विशेष रूप से OpenAI के \$6.6 बिलियन के हालिया फंडिंग राउंड के बाद।

- Significance of AI in Business:
- English: Al's integration into everyday tasks and industries has made companies prioritize investments in Nvidia's Al technology.
- हिंदी: दैनिक कार्यों और उद्योगों में AI के एकीकरण ने कंपनियों को Nvidia की AI तकनीक में निवेश को प्राथमिकता दी है।



- Nvidia's Stock Performance:
- **English:** Nvidia's stock rose by approximately 190% this year, bolstered by the booming AI market and expectations for its upcoming quarterly results.
- हिंदी: Nvidia का स्टॉक इस साल लगभग 190% बढ़ गया है, AI बाजार में उछाल और आगामी तिमाही परिणामों की अपेक्षाओं के कारण।

Future Outlook:

English: Nvidia's sustained position will depend on whether investor enthusiasm around AI translates into long-term revenue.

हिंदी: Nvidia की स्थायी स्थिति इस पर निर्भर करेगी कि क्या AI के प्रति निवेशकों का उत्साह दीर्घकालिक राजस्व में बदलता है।



- The Emissions Gap Report, an annual publication of the UN Environment Programme, has been released.
- About
- It is UNEP's spotlight report launched annually in advance of the annual Climate negotiations.
- It tracks the gap between where global emissions are heading with current country commitments and where they ought to be to limit warming to 1.5°C

Each edition explores ways to bridge the emissions gap.

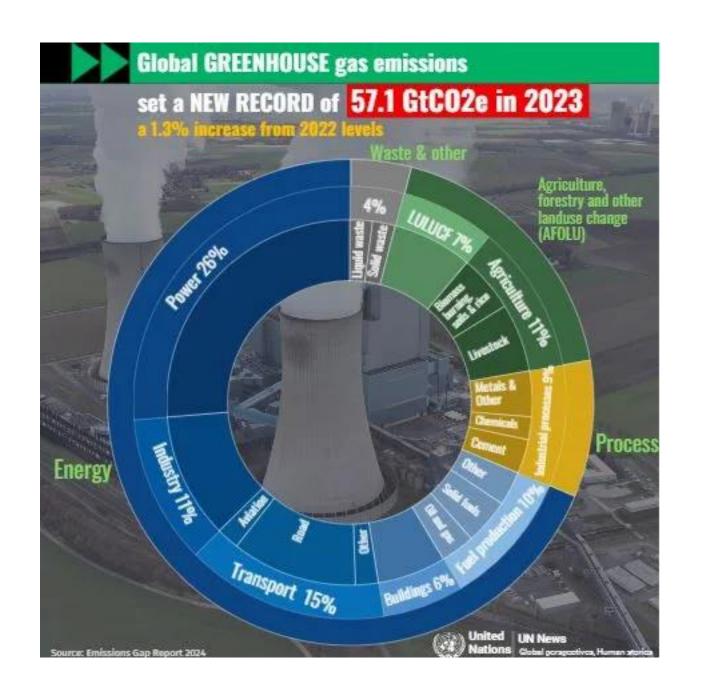
The report assessed countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which they are required to update every five years, to determine how much the world might warm if these plans were fully implemented.

- About The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)
 - It is the leading environmental authority in the United Nations system established in 1972.
 - The UN Environment Assembly is the policy-making organ of UNEP.
 - Headquarter: Nairobi, Kenya.
 - Major Reports: Global Environment Outlook, The Rise of Environmental
 Crime Report, Actions on Air Quality, Frontiers Report, Adaptation Gap Report.

- Major Findings
- 1.5 Degree Target: It warned that the Paris Agreement objective of keeping global rise in temperatures to within 1.5 degree Celsius would be gone within a few years.
 - The bare minimum required to keep the 1.5 degree target in sight was 42 percent reduction. The reductions must increase to 57 percent by 2035 to keep the target alive.

- Global emissions in 2023 was 1.3 percent higher than the previous year.
 - Greenhouse gas emissions of China and India, two of the top three emitters, grew by 5.2 percent and 6.1 percent respectively.
- Future Predictions: Current climate actions, even in the most optimistic scenario, could reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by only 10 percent by 2030 on 2019 levels.

- The 2 degree Celsius threshold would be in danger of being breached, unless countries dramatically scale up their climate actions to reduce global emissions in two years.
- Without dramatic cuts to greenhouse gas emissions, the world could face an inevitable 3.1°C temperature rise.



- India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) Goals
- India seeks to achieve following targets by 2030:
 - Emission Reduction: India aims to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 45% by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.
 - Renewable Energy: The country seeks to achieve 50% of its energy needs from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, with a target of installing 500 GW of renewable energy capacity.
 - Carbon Sink: India plans to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent through afforestation and reforestation efforts.

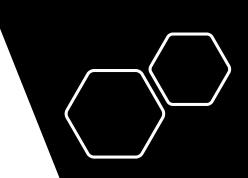
Discovery of Two New Cities in Uzbekistan on the Silk Route

 Archaeologists have found the remains of two medieval cities, Tugunbulak and Tashbulak, in the mountains of eastern Uzbekistan on the Silk Route.

About

- Traditionally, the Silk Route was associated with plains and river valleys, believed to be the most accessible paths for trade.
- However, these new cities in elevated parts of Uzbekistan suggest that traders also traversed more mountainous regions.





What is the Silk Route?

- The Silk Route, also known as the Silk Road, was an ancient network of trade routes that connected the **East (mainly China)** to the West (Europe and the Mediterranean).

- Spanning over 6,000
 kilometers, the route facilitated
 the trade of goods, especially
 silk, along with spices, precious
 metals, ceramics, and other
 valuable items.
 - It played a crucial role in the cultural, economic, and political exchange between civilizations over centuries.



World Polio Day



 Every year October 24 is observed as World Polio Day, established by Rotary International, to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop the vaccine against the disease in the 1950s.

- About: Poliomyelitis (polio)
- It is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus that invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours.
- Transmission: Through person-to-person spread mainly through the faecal-oral route or, less frequently, by a common vehicle (e.g. contaminated water or food) and multiplies in the intestine.

Vulnerability: Mainly children under 5 years of age. However, anyone of any age who is unvaccinated can contract the disease.

Symptoms: Fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness of the neck and pain in the limbs.

Prevention and cure: There is **no cure** for polio, it can only be prevented. There are **two vaccines available**: oral polio vaccine and inactivated polio vaccine.

Do you know?

India was certified **polio-free in March 2014** and continues to be so. In January 2011, India reported its last polio case, in West Bengal's Howrah.

According to the World Health Organisation, **Pakistan and Afghanistan** are the only countries in the world where polio remains endemic.

India's Expenditure on Education: UNESCO Report

According to a UNESCO report, India's expenditure on education surpasses that of countries like China and Japan.

Status and Findings

India allocated approximately **4.1% to 4.6% of its GDP for education**, aligning with the UN Education 2030 Framework for Action, which recommends a range of 4% to 6%.

India's government expenditure on education fluctuated between 13.5% and 17.2% of total public expenditure, meeting the Education 2030 target of 15-20%.

The **global average** of public expenditure on education declined from 13.2% in 2010 to 12.5% in 2020, with further decreases noted post-COVID-19.

Comparison:

- Reports from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics highlight that India's investment is stable compared to a global decline in average education investment.
- India invests more in education than many neighboring countries in Central and Southern Asia, which typically allocate around 4-6% of GDP.

- Countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan are falling behind in education expenditure.
- Among Central and Southern Asian countries, India's education expenditure is only lower than Bhutan (7.5%), Kazakhstan (7.2%), Maldives (4.7%), Tajikistan (5.7%), and Uzbekistan (5.2%).

•

SIMBEX 2024

• The 31st edition of the Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) began in the Eastern Naval Command at Visakhapatnam.

About

 SIMBEX, which began as 'Exercise Lion King' in 1994, holds the distinction of being the longest continuous naval exercise that the Indian Navy has with any other country.

•

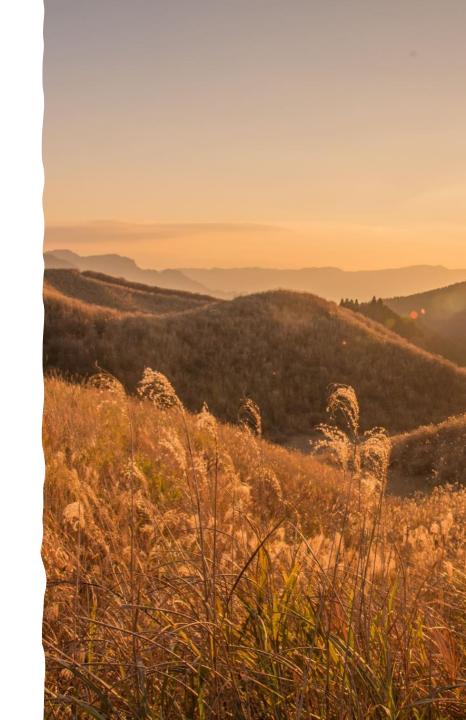
SIMBEX 2024 will be conducted in **two phases** – the Harbour Phase at Visakhapatnam and the Sea Phase in the Bay of Bengal.

This year's edition aims to further strengthen the strategic partnership between India and Singapore by enhancing interoperability, improving maritime domain awareness, and fostering cooperation to address common maritime challenges.

Do you know?

The Singapore Army and Indian Army conduct bilateral exercises **Bold Kurukshetra** and **Agni Warrior**.

Hwange National Park



Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe's largest wildlife reserve, recently became the center of attention due to the discovery of three poached lions.

About Hwange National Park:

<u>Location:</u> Situated in northwest Zimbabwe, near the main road between Bulawayo and Victoria Falls.

<u>Size:</u> Covers approximately 14,600 sq. km, making it the largest natural reserve in Zimbabwe.

History: Established in 1928; formerly known as Wankie Game Reserve.

• <u>Wildlife:</u> Home to over 100 mammal species and 400 bird species, including 19 large herbivores and eight large carnivores. It houses half of Zimbabwe's elephant population (around 50,000) and over 500 lions.

Conservation efforts:

- Part of the Kavango-Zambezi Trans frontier Conservation Area (KAZA) involving five Southern African nations.
- Use of drones and other technologies to combat poaching.



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