

Daily Current Affairs



जनसक्ता



THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS



6
The Hindu



7
PIB, PR4 & Other newspaper



1
The Indian Express



0
Jansatta



1
Financial Express

Class24 App download

Class pdf

**10 Questions
test related to
this class**

RAILWAY COURSES

ALL CATEGORIES

ALP

COMPLETE SCIENCE SPECIAL RRB ALP & TECHNICIAN
For RRB ALP 2023

JOIN NOW

WWW.CLASS24.STUDY

GENERAL SCIENCE & BASIC SCIENCE & ENGG. RAILWAY EXAM

Features

- ✓ complete engineering Drawing
- ✓ complete general science
- ✓ MCQ's for each topics
- ✓ practice (theoretical & numerical)
- ✓ printable complete notes (pdf's)
- ✓ ncert exemplar
- ✓ 150+ hours video course

40% OFF

USE CODE: R40

RRB ALP/TECHNICIAN

FOR ALL ITI TRADE EXAM

COMPLETE TRADE THEORY ECLECTRICIAN

- ELECTRICIAN FIELD
- NUMERICAL SESSION
- PYQS
- HINDI+ ENGLISH NOTES
- RECORDED CLASSES
- REVISION / MODULE
- PRACTICE SESSION

₹899/- ₹799/-

USE CODE TRADE

RRB ALP/Technician
For All ITI Trade Exam

Complete Trade Theory Mechanical/Automobile

- Fitter/Welder/Turner
- Diesel/Heat Engine/rac
- Tractor Mechanic
- Numerical Session
- PYQS
- Hindi+English Notes
- Regular Live Classes

Extra Discount for Shubham Sir Batch Students

USE CODE TRADE

Course Fee: ₹899/- ₹799/-

RAILWAY COMPLETE BATCH

Features

- ✓ General Science by Shipra Ma'am
- ✓ Basic Science and Engg by Shubham Sir
- ✓ Maths by Umesh Sir
- ✓ Reasoning by Shubham Sir
- ✓ Theory of each and every chapter in detail
- ✓ Printable Notes
- ✓ MCQs
- ✓ 100 Free Test

60% OFF

USE CODE: D60

BASIC SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING COURSE (ALP / TECH) 2024

HINDI & ENGLISH CONTENT DOUBT SESSIONS

1. THEORY + PRACTISE PDF
2. NUMERICALS
3. ALL PHYSICS TOPIC
4. ENGG.TOPICS
5. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS
6. LITERACY & ENVIRONMENT
7. 350 QUESTIONS BOOKLET

30% OFF

USE CODE RRR30

RAILWAY GENERAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION BATCH 2024

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Previous Year Questions
- Numericals
- Top Expected Questions

CURRENT AFFAIRS

By Bhunesh Sir

- ✓ UPDATED CURRENT AFFAIRS
- ✓ COMPLETE 2 YEARS (2023 + 2024) CURRENT AFFAIRS
- ✓ COMPLETE NOTES (PDF)
- ✓ 360° DEGREE EXAMS COVERED

~~₹1999/-~~ ₹599/-

Offer Date

12 & 13 OCT.

USE CODE - B70



CLASS24

COMPLETE GK/GS COURSE

By Bhunesh Sir

- ✓ STATIC GK
- ✓ HISTORY
- ✓ POLITY
- ✓ GEOGRAPHY
- ✓ ECONOMICS
- ✓ SCIENCE



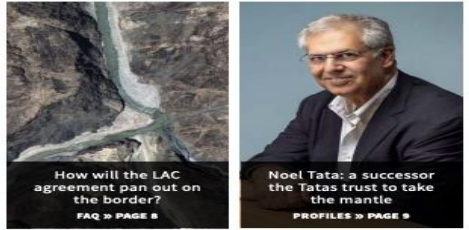
~~₹1999/-~~ ₹599/-

CALL FOR SUPPORT: +91-7414862047 USE CODE - B70

A LUXURIOUS REVIVAL Tales of the grand Indian royal hotel

The new generation of erstwhile royals harnesses digital-driven tourism landscape to revitalise their heritage properties

MAGAZINE » PAGE 1



How will the LAC agreement pan out on the border?
FAQ » PAGE 8

Noel Tata: a successor the Tatas trust to take the mantle
PROFILES » PAGE 9

Santner spins Kiwis to historic Test series win in India
SPORT » PAGE 13

INSIDE

BJP protecting Buch from PAC's queries: Congress

NEW DELHI The Congress on Saturday blamed the BJP for the absence of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch from a meeting of Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Thursday on the performance of the regulator. » PAGE 2

Stubble burning has decreased this year: Centre

NEW DELHI The incidents of stubble burning are 25% less in Punjab and 22% less in Haryana this year as against the 2023 figure, the Union government said after an inter-ministerial meeting chaired by Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan here on Saturday. » PAGE 3

U.S. approves sale of arms package to Taiwan

WASHINGTON The U.S. State Department on Friday approved a \$2 billion arms sale package for Taiwan, including surface-to-air missile systems and radar, a move that could provoke Beijing. The sale, which awaits approval by Congress, includes several anti-aircraft systems, totaling \$1.16 billion. » PAGE 12

Israel strikes targets in Iran; 4 soldiers killed

Targeted military facilities and missile factories in several regions, says Israel military | Iran confirms attacks, says strikes caused 'limited damage', insists on 'right and duty' to defend itself | Israel warns against any response; U.S., Britain tell Tehran not to further escalate the conflict

Agence France-Presse

TEHRAN Israel bombed military targets in Iran on Saturday, killing at least four soldiers, fulfilling a vow to avenge a missile barrage and stirring fears of a full-scale regional war in West Asia. Israel warned Iran would "pay a heavy price" if it responded to the strikes, and the U.S. and Britain both demanded Tehran not escalate the conflict further. The Islamic republic insisted it had the "right and the duty" to defend itself, while its Lebanese ally Hezbollah said it had tar-

getted a southern Israeli air-base and a northern intelligence base. Confirming the strikes after explosions echoed around Tehran, the Israeli military said it had hit Iranian missile factories and military facilities in several regions. The retaliatory strike has been completed and the mission was fulfilled, a military spokesperson added. Iran's military said on Saturday that only radar systems were damaged in pre-dawn Israeli strikes on Tehran and other provinces and said it was prioritising a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon. "A large number of missiles were intercept-



Deepening crisis: An Israeli Air Force plane prepares to depart from an unknown location to attack Iran on Saturday. AP

ed and enemy aircraft were prevented from entering the country's airspace," the statement said. "While reserving its le-

Netanyahu aimed at sending a clear message to Iran

The main purpose of the attack appeared to be sending a clear message to Tehran that Israel can reach anywhere in Iran, but at the same time, his decision to go for a limited attack shows signs of caution, which the Iranians might see as a result of their hybrid deterrence. » PAGE 12

gal and legitimate right to respond at the appropriate moment, Iran is prioritising the establishment of a lasting ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon," it added. Israel had vowed to retaliate after October 1, when Iran fired about 200 missiles in only the second ex-

er direct attack against its arch-foe. Most of these missiles were intercepted but one person was killed. Iran had said the attack was retaliation for the killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah as well as the assassination in Tehran of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh. The Israeli retaliation drew condemnation from Hamas, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria and Saudi Arabia, which warned against further escalation. Jordan stated that Israeli jets had not used its airspace. At roughly the same time as Israel struck targets in Iran, the Syrian state news agency SANA said an

Israeli air attack targeted military positions in central and southern Syria. The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, a loose network of pro-Iran factions, claimed responsibility before dawn on Saturday for a drone attack against a "military target" in northern Iraq. U.S. spokesperson Sean Savett said Israel's response to Iran was "an exercise in self-defence". He urged Iran to "cease its attacks on Israel so that this cycle of fighting can end without further escalation". "HOSTILITIES BENEFIT NONE" » PAGE 4

Harvest ritual



Old traditions: Tribal people celebrating Puthari, a local harvest festival, at Puthuvayal near Gudalur in Tamil Nadu on Saturday. The festival, jointly observed by local tribes of the Nilgiris, falls just before the paddy is ready for harvest. M. SURESHKANTH

No more long treks; tribal hamlet gets its first grocery store

The community-owned shop has been set up in Pudukadu village nestled within the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu; the store brings relief to people who struggled with sparse modes of transport and the threat of wild animals when traversing the forest to buy essential goods

S.P. Saravanan

RHODE For 35 tribal families in Pudukadu, a small hamlet nestled within the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR), the simple task of buying provisions involves an arduous trek of at least 15 kilometres, sometimes even 54 kilometres, Saturday was a red letter day for them, when a provision shop was opened within their village. Rights Education and Development Centre (READ), an NGO based in Sathyamangalam, has set up a community-owned store in the village to serve the people there. Located 18 kilometres from

Hasanur in the Talamalai Reserve Forest, the village is only accessible via a one-km mud road branching off from the Mavallam-Kottadai road. Most residents are daily-wage earners, while a few own plots of rain-fed land. As part of its participatory rural appraisal programme, the NGO engaged with the community to address six interlinked issues: health and household care, leadership, family and community cohesion, education, earnings, and finance. Families pointed out their difficulty in accessing stores in Arupalayam (15 km away), Talavadi (52 km), or Sathyamangalam (54 km),



Within reach: The grocery shop at Pudukadu village in Talavadi Hills of Erode district, Tamil Nadu. SFEAL/ARANGAN/DWT

seeking a shop within their own village. **Life-changing move** R. Arulamy, the councillor of Ward 6 of the panchayat, noted that only a few buses are available for the people to reach the shops in nearby towns, while they face the threat of wild animals when traversing the forest. Pudukadu resident G. Vignitha, 37, said that waiting for the bus to

reach Hasanur to buy provisions has been a time-consuming affair so far, often taking half-a-day for each trip to the shop. "Now, we can get essentials in our own village, which will bring a big change in our life," she said. READ director R. Karuppasamy told *The Hindu* that the difficulty in accessing essential commodities was a major constraint for these families. With the support of a foundation, it was decided to start a shop. "We took a few families and purchased essentials for ₹50,000 from a wholesale shop in Sathyamangalam," he said, adding that a resident would manage the shop

and keep the profits as income. The day-to-day sales will be monitored by the village development committee (VDC). Funds generated from sales will be used for repurchasing essential products, the director added. M. Ranjitham, 45, said that earlier, residents were forced to borrow money to purchase provisions in quantities and also spend more on transportation. "But now, we can buy whenever we need," she said. The NGO, with the support of the foundation, plans to open shops in four more habitations at Gethasal, Ittarai, and Mavattur. The initiative continues to face similar challenges.

ED probes Coldplay, Diljit concerts' ticket sales

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday conducted searches in Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur, Chandigarh, and Bhopal in connection with the illegal sale of tickets of Coldplay and Diljit Dosanjhi's concerts. "Both events generated immense excitement leading to official tickets getting sold out in just minutes, which led to black-market sale of tickets," the ED said. **FULL REPORT ON** » PAGE 2

Ministry asks social media firms to curb bomb hoax posts



Such threats have so far disrupted over 100 flights, both domestic and international, leading to delays or diversions. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau **NEW DELHI** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on Friday informed social media companies that it was their duty to curb posts raising threats to the safety of flights operating from India. "The scale of spread of such hoax bomb threats has been observed to be dangerously untrained due to the availability of the option of forwarding/ re-sharing/ re-posting/re-tweeting" on the social media platforms," the Ministry said in an advisory. Earlier this week, Ministry officials reportedly met with social media platforms, with an official criticising X in particular for "abetting" these threats. The companies said in a statement later that it was working to prevent these threats on its platform. Such threats have so far disrupted over 100 flights, both domestic and international, leading to delays or diversions. The issue has strained the aviation sector, which is gearing up for a busy festival season. The advisory doubles down on the Ministry's developing strategy for regulating social media firms. **MORE BOMB THREATS** » PAGE 5

Israel strikes targets in Iran; 4 soldiers killed

Targeted military facilities and missile factories in several regions, says Israel military

Iran confirms attacks, says strikes caused 'limited damage', insists on 'right and duty' to defend itself

Israel warns against any response; U.S., Britain tell Tehran not to further escalate the conflict

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Israel bombed military targets in Iran on Saturday, killing at least four soldiers, fulfilling a vow to avenge a missile barrage and stirring fears of a full-scale regional war in West Asia.

Israel warned Iran would "pay a heavy price" if it responded to the strikes, and the U.S. and Britain both demanded Tehran not escalate the conflict further.

The Islamic republic insisted it had the "right and the duty" to defend itself, while its Lebanese ally Hezbollah said it had tar-

geted a southern Israeli airbase and a northern intelligence base. Confirming the strikes after explosions echoed around Tehran, the Israel military said it had hit Iranian missile factories and military facilities in several regions.

The "retaliatory strike has been completed and the mission was fulfilled", a military spokesperson added.

Iran's military said on Saturday that only radar systems were damaged in pre-dawn Israeli strikes on Tehran and other provinces and said it was prioritising a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon. "A large number of missiles were intercept-



Deepening crisis: An Israeli Air Force plane prepares to depart from an unknown location to attack Iran on Saturday. AP

ed and enemy aircraft were prevented from entering the country's airspace," the statement said.

"While reserving its le-

gal and legitimate right to respond at the appropriate moment, Iran is prioritising the establishment of a lasting ceasefire in Gaza

Netanyahu aimed at sending a clear message to Iran

The main purpose of the attack appeared to be sending a clear message to Tehran that Israel can reach anywhere in Iran, but at the same time, his decision to go for a limited attack shows signs of caution, which the Iranians might see as a result of their hybrid deterrence. » PAGE 12

and Lebanon," it added.

Israel had vowed to retaliate after October 1, when Iran fired about 200 missiles in only the second ev-

er direct attack against its arch-foe. Most of those missiles were intercepted but one person was killed.

Iran had said the attack was retaliation for the killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah as well as the assassination in Tehran of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh.

The Israeli retaliation drew condemnation from Hamas, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, and Saudi Arabia, which warned against further escalation. Jordan stated that Israeli jets had not used its airspace.

At roughly the same time as Israel struck targets in Iran, the Syrian state news agency SANA said an

Israeli air attack targeted military positions in central and southern Syria.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, a loose network of pro-Iran factions, claimed responsibility before dawn on Saturday for a drone attack against a "military target" in northern Israel.

U.S. National Security Council spokesperson Sean Savett said Israel's response to Iran was "an exercise in self-defence".

He urged Iran to "cease its attacks on Israel so that this cycle of fighting can end without further escalation".

'HOSTILITIES BENEFIT NONE'
» PAGE 4



English: Israel conducted airstrikes targeting military facilities and missile factories in Iran, resulting in the death of four Iranian soldiers. This action was in retaliation for recent missile attacks by Iran.

हिंदी: इज़राइल ने ईरान में सैन्य ठिकानों और मिसाइल फैक्ट्रियों को निशाना बनाकर हवाई हमले किए, जिसमें ईरानी सैनिकों की मौत हुई। यह हमला हाल के ईरानी मिसाइल हमलों का प्रतिशोध था।

- **Israel's Warnings and Intentions**

- **English:** Israel warned Iran of severe consequences if it retaliated. The Israeli government stated that this action serves as a clear message, indicating Israel's capability to strike anywhere within Iran.
- **हिंदी:** इज़राइल ने ईरान को किसी भी प्रतिक्रिया पर गंभीर परिणाम भगतने की चेतावनी दी और कहा कि यह हमला यह दर्शाता है कि इज़राइल ईरान में कहीं भी हमला करने में सक्षम है।

• 3. Iran's Response and Retaliation Justification

- **English:** Iran claimed the strikes caused limited damage and emphasized its "right and duty" to defend itself. Hezbollah, a Lebanese ally of Iran, also responded by targeting Israeli airbases.
- **हिंदी:** ईरान ने दावा किया कि इन हमलों से केवल सीमित क्षति हुई है और अपने बचाव के अधिकार पर जोर दिया। ईरान के लेबनानी सहयोगी हिज़बुल्लाह ने भी इज़राइली एयरबेस को निशाना बनाया।

- **4. International Reactions**

- **English:** The U.S. and Britain urged Iran not to escalate the situation further. Middle Eastern countries like Saudi Arabia and Pakistan condemned Israel's actions, warning against a wider regional conflict.
- **हिंदी:** अमेरिका और ब्रिटेन ने ईरान से स्थिति को और न बढ़ाने की अपील की। सऊदी अरब और पाकिस्तान जैसे मध्य पूर्वी देशों ने इज़राइल की कार्रवाई की निंदा की।

- **Strategic Implications**

- **English:** Analysts suggest that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu aimed to demonstrate Israel's strength while limiting the strike to avoid a full-scale war. This shows the use of calibrated force to send a message.

- **हिंदी:** विश्लेषकों का मानना है कि इज़राइली प्रधानमंत्री नेतन्याह ने युद्ध की संभावना को टालते हुए अपनी ताकत दिखाने का प्रयास किया। इससे पता चलता है कि संदेश देने के लिए नियंत्रित बल का उपयोग किया गया।

- **6. Regional and Global Security Concerns**

- **English:** The escalation has raised fears of a larger conflict in West Asia, with potential impacts on global peace and stability. Countries worldwide are monitoring the situation closely.
- **हिंदी:** इस बढ़ती तनातनी ने पश्चिम एशिया में व्यापक संघर्ष की आशंका बढ़ा दी है, जिसका वैश्विक शांति और स्थिरता पर संभावित प्रभाव पड़ सकता है। दुनिया भर के देश स्थिति पर करीबी नजर रख रहे हैं।

IN BRIEF



Renovated terminal 1 of Jaipur airport inaugurated

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel Sharma inaugurated terminal 1 of the Jaipur international airport here on Saturday for arrival and departure of international flights exclusively.

Police inspector touches feet of Brij Bhushan, sparks row

After a video of a U.P. police inspector touching the feet of controversial former BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh went viral on Saturday, the Opposition targeted the BJP government.

Odisha govt. turns its focus on post-cyclone restoration

After successfully managing Cyclone Dana with zero-casualty goal, the Odisha government is now focused on restoration efforts following significant destruction to crops, damaged houses and public infrastructure.

TBSE president sparks major controversy after joining BJP

The president of the Tripura Board of Secondary Education (TBSE), Dharamojit Gan Chowdhury, has sparked a controversy by joining the BJP.

SUDOKU

Sudoku grid with numbers and empty cells. The grid is 9x9 with some numbers filled in and some empty cells indicated by dots.

A 9x9 grid for a 'yesterday's Sudoku' puzzle, with numbers 1-9 in various cells.

\$25-mn pandemic fund goes to curb 'zoonotic' diseases

The Union government has launched a project to improve animal health security in a partnership with the Asian Development Bank, World Bank and Food and Agriculture Organization

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Centre has started work on the \$25-million (€20) pandemic fund project to improve animal health security in India as part of an effort to improve the preparedness and response to pandemics.

The Centre said the project, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), would be implemented with the fund to be utilised by August 2026.



Strengthening infrastructure: The fund will be used to upgrade and expand animal health laboratories.

borne by the mosquito vectors Aedes stephensi and Aedes albopictus. "This pandemic fund project addressing human health through the lens of animal health would reduce the risk posed by a pathogen emerging from animal (domesticated or wildlife) and transmitting to the human population endangering their health, nutrition security, and livelihoods of vulnerable population (small-holding farmers, especially women)," Mr. Mitra said.

at high risk of emerging infectious diseases per the infectious diseases panel. "India scored low (42.8) on the Global Health Security Index with a high level of environmental risks and public health vulnerabilities. Sixty per cent of pathogens that cause human diseases come from domestic animals or wildlife, and 75% of emerging human pathogens are of animal origin," he said.

Downslide in India is a concern, says N. Ram

The Hindu Bureau Bhubaneswar

N. Ram, veteran journalist and former Editor-in-Chief of The Hindu, on Saturday expressed concern over the downslide in press freedom and the suppression of independent voices in India.

Addressing a conclave on "Opportunities and challenges in regional media" organised by the Editors' Guild of India (EGI), in association with the Press Club of Odisha, Mr. Ram said that after 2014, media freedom and independence in India had gone down further from 104 in 2004 to 159 in 2024 among 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index published annually by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).

Mischievous provocation and political propaganda: India slams Pak. at UNSC

Press Trust of India UNITED NATIONS

India slammed Pakistan's "mischievous provocation and political propaganda" during a Security Council meeting on Wednesday.



N. Ram

ing before the Supreme Court of India," he said. Mr. Ram is a petitioner in a case filed in the Supreme Court for an independent probe into the mass surveillance using Pegasus. "Shockingly, in the decade from 2014 to 2024, as many as 19 journalists have been murdered in connection with their work across India compared with 11 in the previous decade," he said.

EGE general secretary and senior journalist Rupen Banerjee, along with Tapan Kumar Mishra and Tanaya Fatma editors of the Oda dailies Sana and Sambad, respectively, deliberated on challenges being faced by Indian language media.

ED attaches ₹163-cr. assets in Bengal recruitment scam

The Hindu Bureau KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached properties estimated at ₹163.2 crore held in the name of Prasanna Kumar Roy, accused of being a "middleman" in the alleged illegal recruitment of Group C and D staff in State-run schools by officials of the West Bengal Central School Service Commission.

In its statement on Saturday, the ED described Mr. Roy as "the main middleman involved in the alleged collection of money and details from candidates."

Thousands of recruitments conducted by the panel in 2016 for teaching and non-teaching vacancies for Classes 9 to 12 were linked to the cash-for-school jobs recruitment "scam".

The prime accused, former West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee, was arrested in connection with recruitment irregularities in 2022.

The prime accused in the case, former West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee, was arrested in 2022

rious persons and by flouting the relevant Rules," the ED mentioned in its statement.

The ED attached five hotels and resorts, and immovable properties held by Mr. Roy, his wife, Kagal Soni Roy, and his company, Shree Durga Deakom Private Ltd. The five hotels and resorts are scattered across the State.

The ED had initiated the investigation on two FIRs registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 in the alleged illegal appointment of Group 'C' and 'D' employees.

Earlier, the CBI charge sheets in this matter revealed that a total of 3,832 Group C and D staff were allegedly recommended and/or appointed illegally by the officials of the commission, allegedly "in criminal conspiracy with others".

Protesting doctors hold meet at R.G. Kar Hospital, make fresh call for justice

The Hindu Bureau KOLKATA

After ending their 17-day hunger strike on October 21, the protesting junior doctors in West Bengal held a mass convention at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital on Saturday to voice their concern.

The doctors, who have been seeking justice for a trainee doctor who was raped and murdered at the hospital in August, said they would decide the future course of their agitation after consulting with stakeholders at the convention.

The convention featured talks, songs, and discussions that resonated with calls for justice. Civil society supporters of the doctors' protest came in with placards and banners seeking justice.

77-day fight Protesting doctor Aniket Mahato said they had been on a journey for justice over 77 days. He said, "In this journey, the call for justice has become broader. Everyone has found their own ways of protest."



Voicing concerns: A convention of junior doctors at R.G. Kar hospital on Saturday. DEBASIS BHADURI

This movement has shown that protests can be peaceful, unlike the government's belief.

"The CBI chargesheet against prime accused Sanjay Roy has had doctors of why the government was so eager to save a civic volunteer, and the motive behind the crime," said Mr. Mahato, who had participated in the fast.

In a counter press conference, a meeting organised by the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Association, alleged that its members had been victimised by the protesting doctors and families.

Anant Nath re-elected president of Editors' Guild

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Anant Nath, editor of The Caravan, was on Saturday declared elected unopposed president of the Editors' Guild of India for a second consecutive term.

Outlook's former editor-in-chief Ruben Banerjee and The Tribune's ex-senior associate editor K.V. Prasad were declared unopposed general secretary and treasurer, respectively, the Guild said in a press statement.

More than 30 flights receive bomb threats

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

As many as 33 flights received bomb threats on Saturday, according to sources. In 13 days, more than 300 flights by Indian carriers have received bomb threats. The IT Ministry has asked social media platforms to promptly disable access to misinformation as per IT rules.

NTA ex-chief Subodh Kumar Singh posted in Steel Ministry

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Subodh Kumar Singh, who was removed as the Director-General of the National Testing Agency in June, has been appointed Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser in the Steel Ministry, a Personnel Ministry order said on Saturday. He was ousted as NTA chief over alleged irregu-

larities in the conduct of the National Eligibility-Cum-Entrance Test and the National Eligibility Test.

Dell's Chief Electoral Officer P. Krishnamurthy will be the new Chairperson of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority. The country's first peace requires women's full, equal, meaningful, and safe participation at all levels of decision-making.

\$25-mn pandemic fund goes to curb 'zoonotic' diseases

The Union government has launched a project to improve animal health security in a partnership with the Asian Development Bank, World Bank and Food and Agriculture Organization

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has started work on the \$25-million G-20 pandemic fund project to improve animal health in India as part of an effort to improve the preparedness and response to pandemics.

Union Animal Husbandry Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh launched the project on Friday. It is designed to enhance the country's "animal health security" by upgrading and expanding animal health laboratories and developing laboratory networks. This will help curb zoonotic diseases.

The Centre said the project, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), would be implemented with the fund to be utilised by August 2026. Mr. Singh said the fund supported the existing initiatives of his department through enhancing disease surveillance, including genomic and environmental surveillance for early



Strengthening infrastructure: The fund will be used to upgrade and expand animal health laboratories. AP

warning, laboratory infrastructure development, and cross-border collaboration, and would create a more integrated system for monitoring and managing "zoonotic" diseases.

Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary of the Ministry, said the fund was designed to bolster animal health security and the initiative for pandemic preparedness and response marked a significant step towards building a resilient framework to safeguard the country.

Union Animal Husbandry Commissioner Abhijit Mitra said the country was

at high risk of emerging infections as per the infectious diseases index. "India scored low (42.8) on the Global Health Security Index with a high level of environmental risks and public health vulnerabilities. Sixty per cent of pathogens that cause human diseases come from domestic animals or wildlife, and 75% of emerging human pathogens are of animal origin," he said. Climate change was intensifying the risks and frequency of zoonotic disease in India, he said, citing the example of diseases

borne by the mosquito vectors *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*.

"This pandemic fund project addressing human health through the lens of animal health would reduce the risk posed by a pathogen emerging from animal (domesticated or wildlife) and transmitting to the human population endangering their health, nutrition security, and livelihoods of vulnerable population (small-holding farmers, especially women)," Mr. Mitra said.

The fund is aimed at developing human capacity-building initiatives to enhance the skills and capabilities of animal health human resources. It will also be used to upgrade data management systems, and enhancing analytics capabilities will enable better risk assessment, improved decision-making and more effective communication strategies related to animal health risks. The project hopes to strengthen institutional capacity at both national and regional levels by supporting the development of a disaster management framework for the livestock sector.

- **. Introduction of the Project**

- **English:** The Indian government has launched a \$25 million project funded by the G20 pandemic fund to improve animal health and prevent zoonotic diseases. This project is a collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, World Bank, and Food and Agriculture Organization.

- **हिंदी:** भारत सरकार ने 25 मिलियन डॉलर का एक प्रोजेक्ट शुरू किया है, जो जी20 महामारी फंड से वित्त पोषित है। इसका उद्देश्य पशु स्वास्थ्य में सुधार करना और जूनोटिक रोगों को रोकना है। यह प्रोजेक्ट एशियन डेवलपमेंट बैंक, वर्ल्ड बैंक और खाद्य और कृषि संगठन के साथ साझेदारी में है।

- **. Objectives of the Project**

- **English:** The project aims to strengthen India's animal health security by upgrading laboratory infrastructure and enhancing disease surveillance. It focuses on building a resilient framework for preventing pandemics originating from animals.

- **हिंदी:** इस प्रोजेक्ट का उद्देश्य भारत की पशु स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा को मजबूत करना है, जिसमें प्रयोगशाला बनियादी ढांचे को उन्नत करना और रोग निगरानी को बढ़ाना शामिल है। इसका फोकस पशुओं से उत्पन्न होने वाली महामारियों को रोकने के लिए एक सशक्त ढांचे का निर्माण करना है।

- **3. Scope and Implementation**

- **English:** Led by Union Animal Husbandry Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, the project will involve collaboration on disease monitoring and managing zoonotic threats. The project is expected to be fully operational by August 2026.
- **हिंदी:** केंद्रीय पशुपालन मंत्री राजीव रंजन सिंह के नेतृत्व में इस प्रोजेक्ट में रोग निगरानी और जूनोटिक खतरों को प्रबंधित करने में सहयोग शामिल होगा। यह प्रोजेक्ट अगस्त 2026 तक पूरी तरह से क्रियान्वित होने की उम्मीद है।

- **Focus on Emerging and High-Risk Diseases**

- **English:** India ranks low on the Global Health Security Index, with high vulnerability to zoonotic diseases, exacerbated by climate change. The project targets diseases transmitted by animals and vectors like *Aedes aegypti*.

- **हिंदी:** ग्लोबल हेल्थ सिक्योरिटी इंडेक्स पर भारत का रैंकिंग कम है और यह जूनोटिक रोगों के प्रति अधिक संवेदनशील है, जिसे जलवायु परिवर्तन ने और भी बढ़ा दिया है। यह प्रोजेक्ट पशुओं और मच्छरों जैसे एडीज एजिप्टी द्वारा फैलने वाले रोगों पर केंद्रित है।

- **5. Building Human Capacity and Enhancing Analytics**

- **English:** The project will also invest in human capacity-building, data management, and analytics to improve disease risk assessment and response strategies.

- **हिंदी:** यह प्रोजेक्ट मानव क्षमता निर्माण, डेटा प्रबंधन और विश्लेषण में भी निवेश करेगा ताकि रोग जोखिम मूल्यांकन और प्रतिक्रिया रणनीतियों में सुधार हो सके।

- **6. Expected Impact**

- **English:** The fund is anticipated to create a more integrated system to monitor zoonotic diseases, reduce public health vulnerabilities, and protect livelihoods, especially for vulnerable populations like smallholding farmers.
- **हिंदी:** इस फंड से उम्मीद है कि यह जूनोटिक रोगों की निगरानी के लिए एक अधिक एकीकृत प्रणाली बनाएगा, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य कमजोरियों को कम करेगा और विशेष रूप से छोटे किसानों जैसी संवेदनशील जनसंख्या की आजीविका की रक्षा करेगा।

OPINION
It is too early to tell
ACROSS THE AISLE, P CHIDAMBARAM



NEW DELHI
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026, 22 Pages, ₹12 (Printed ₹12, Digital ₹12)
DELIVERED FROM: AHMEDABAD, BENGALURU, CHANDIGARH, CHENNAI, HYDERABAD, KOCHI, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, PUNE

LEKTURE
CJI CALLS FOR BROADER AMBIT FOR FEDERALISM
'Federalism should be evaluated based on ability to foster democracy... equality, liberty' Page 15

VOL XXIII NO. 53 Follow us on Twitter & Facebook. App available on App Store & Play Store WWW.FINANCIALEXPRESS.COM



FINANCIAL EXPRESS ON SUNDAY **READ TO LEAD**

MIND & GAMES
Ancient cities found in mountains of C Asia
Discovery suggests trade routes along Silk Road were very complex Page 11



FOOTLOOSE
A DISNEY CRUISE IN ASIAN WATERS
Disney cruise line will set sail in Singapore next year Page 9

THE FESTIVE ISSUE

Diwali dressing
Know what's in trend to add some glamour & sparkle to your festive wardrobe Page 4

Diwali delivered
Brands are making a business of delivering the Diwali experience Page 5

Mithai meets chocolate
Indian-inspired flavours give sweet lovers the best of both worlds Page 7

Diwali and its avatars
How the festival means different things across the country Page 8

Jewellery buyers go gold lite this festive season

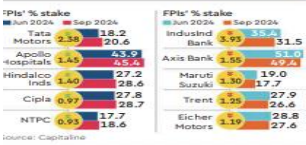
Demand for slim designs, low caratage due to high prices
VAISHALI DAR
New Delhi, October 26
WITH GOLD PRICED at ₹78,490/30 gm, and GenZ preferring lightweight jewellery, demand for low-carat gold is booming. No wonder, the government recently notified that 9-carat gold jewellery will also be hallmarked by end of the year.
Major players like Malabar Gold and Diamonds, Kalyan Jewellers, Mia by Tanishq and others are betting on lightweight jewellery this festive season. Mia by Tanishq has launched a new collection that is lightweight, versatile.
Candere by Kalyan Jewellers has seen surge for 14- & 18-carat options.
Malabar Gold and Diamonds has created sub-segments in lightweight jewellery.
Fortino has seen 25-30% rise in demand in past 3 years for intricate designs.
New 9-carat category will be game-changer, as per India Bullion and Jewellers Association.
PP Jewellers by Pawan Gupta has got many queries for 9-carat pieces.
Shyamala Ramanan, business head, Mia by Tanishq, said, "We have a slew of modular jewellery like earrings that transform into pendants or playful flat get rings. We continue to see a marked acceptance of 14-carat, which means we are able to give a wider spread of high-quality products at attractive price points. This combination of accessibility and affordability not only allows customers to experiment with collections but also encourages them to experiment with different styles."
Added Ramanan: "With potential plans for entry into quick commerce, the brand in the first half of the year has seen a growth of close to 50% compared to last year, both online and in-store."
Continued on Page 2

GLOBAL ECONOMY
Soft landing a possibility: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Washington, October 26
A SOFT-LANDING of the global economy, which has experienced tremendous stress over the past several years, is increasingly a possibility, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Friday.
Observing that better days are ahead primarily because of the coordinated action between countries and multilateral financial institutions, the finance minister at the same time sounded a note of caution that economies are not really picking up that much yet.
"The largest sense which prevailed in the two-day discussions, both of the (International Monetary Fund) and also of the World Bank, is that there will be a soft landing. The efforts by the Fund, the central banks and all institutions, governments have kept the inflation down for some meaningful period. Therefore, soft landing is increasingly a possibility," Sitharaman told a Washington DC-based think-tank.
"Then that reasonable growth numbers will come from even the advanced economies, certainly not in the negative area. And then the coordinated action between countries to manage any supply chain shocks that have been the character of the global economy in the last, let us say, at least two years, are being faced by countries with a lot more preparedness, and, therefore, is increasing a possibility," Sitharaman said during her appearance at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) think-tank.
"But with that said, all of us had to sound a note of caution because economies are not really picking up that much yet," she said.
Continued on Page 2

FPIs hike stake in 28 Nifty firms in Q2

IN THE JULY-September quarter, FPIs increased their stake in 28 out of 50 Nifty companies, while they reduced their stake in 21 firms within the index. However, their average holdings in Nifty 50 companies fell slightly, from 22.36% in the same quarter to 22.32% in the September quarter. This were net buyers of equity shares, purchasing \$10.7 billion (\$9,428 crore) worth of shares in July-September.
Compiled by Kishor Kadam



Das rejects idea to cut food from inflation target

AGENCIES
Washington, October 26
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Friday that eliminating food prices, which accounts for nearly half of India's consumer inflation basket, from inflation targets would amount to "not having a target". Speaking at a session at the Peterson Institute for International Economics forum in Washington, during the annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, Das said such a move would make no sense to normal consumers. "Targeting core inflation without food inflation will make no sense to the average citizen," he said, adding "it's the headline inflation that the common person understands and should remain that way."
The RBI governor had last week said a cut would be "very, very risky" right now, and reiterated Friday that he wanted to see price growth on a "durable descent" to the 4% target.
The prescription for inflation-mitigation food was floated in July by chief economic adviser V Anand S. Nageswaran, who argued that since interest rates can't control the prices of food, employing short-term monetary policy tools "to deal with inflation caused by supply constraints may be counter-productive".
That proposal has divided economists. Jayant Rana Varma, a former member of the RBI's rate panel, said there was no evidence that higher food costs are pushing up prices more broadly in the economy.
That proposal has divided economists. Jayant Rana Varma, a former member of the RBI's rate panel, said there was no evidence that higher food costs are pushing up prices more broadly in the economy.
Continued on Page 2

Maruti, Honda race to revive sedans

To launch new zire on Nov 11, Amaze in Jan
GRAM CHAUDHARY
New Delhi, October 26
AS THE PASSENGER VEHICLE market has decisively moved towards compact sports utility vehicles (SUVs), Maruti and Honda in India are trying the market by coming up with new launches in the 4-metre sedan category. Sources said while Maruti is pushing a new generation model of Dzire, Honda is coming with a new variant of Amaze.
While the new Dzire will be launched on November 11, the new Amaze is likely to be launched at the Bharat Mobility Show starting January 17-22. Analysts said that since new launches excite the market and bring footfalls to car dealerships, it remains to be seen whether the sedan segment gets a leg up with these two products.
Gaurav Vengal, associate director, light vehicle forecasting, S&P Global Mobility, told



PATANJALI
Celebrate Deepawali, Bhai Dooj, Chhath, and other festivals with Patanjali pure Cow Desi Ghee, Healthy Oils and other Satvik & nutritive products. Serve your children, family and other loved ones from the poison of adulteration while making Patanjali's Rashtia Sewa Yajna a success.

Desi Ghee available in the market generally contains animal fat and other dangerous adulterations. However, the Patanjali Cow Ghee is free from any animal fats, artificial flavours, colours and scent.

Mustard oils in the market may have been adulterated with cheap Palm Oil. Oils refined through chemical processes are not safe for health. Range of Patanjali oils gives nutrition to the mind and whole body and saves you from cholesterol and bad fats.

Biscuits containing carcinogen contents, Maida and Cholesterol are injurious to health. Bring home Patanjali spices and Patanjali Biscuits which are free from Maida and cholesterol.

Patanjali Honey is free from sugar and other adulterations. While the market is replete with adulterations, Patanjali Chyawanprash is made with the process defined by sages like Maharshi Chyawan, Maharshi Charak and Maharshi Sushrut.

Patanjali sweets, Dry Fruit gift hampers and various sweets prepared with pure Desi Ghee are available only at Patanjali Exclusive Stores. All other products are available at Patanjali Stores as well as the open market.

Shop Online: www.patanjalisurveyed.net | Customer Care Number: 1800184106
Order Patanjali Products Online from ORDER ME APP
Scan to know Patanjali Stores near you

REHABILITATION FOR WAYNAD
Landslide survivors to protest against delays
STATES » PAGE 3

NO RESPIRE
Air pollution in Delhi 10 times over WHO limit
NEWS » PAGE 4

HIGH ALERT IN U.P.
10 hotels in Lucknow receive bomb threats
NEWS » PAGE 4

CRITICAL PARTICIPATION
Private sector holds the key to the e-bus push
There are several areas where policy can help
EDITORIAL » PAGE 5

LEADING BY EXAMPLE
Skipper Devine keeps NZ alive in ODI series
SPORT » PAGE 16

INSIDE

Centre dismisses concerns over paddy storage
NEW DELHI CHANDIGARH
The Union government on Sunday dismissed reports of shortage of adequate storage space affecting paddy procurement in Punjab, terming them "misinformation" created with "vested interests" » PAGE 2

Report flags use of false cases to silence media
NEW DELHI
A new report from the World Association of News Publishers flags the growing trend of governments resorting to false charges of financial crimes to silence the press. It documents eight different cases of media under attack, including that of NewsClick » PAGE 4

PM cautions people against 'digital arrest'
NEW DELHI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday cautioned people against the "digital arrest" scare that defrauds victims of their hard-earned money. He urged schools and colleges to involve students in the campaign to spread awareness of the menace » PAGE 6

Political turmoil in Georgia after disputed polls
TBILISI
Georgia plunged into political turmoil on Sunday after the ruling party declared victory in parliamentary election declared by the opposition as "falsified". Official tallies from 99% of precincts showed the ruling Georgian Dream party winning 54.08% of the vote » PAGE 14

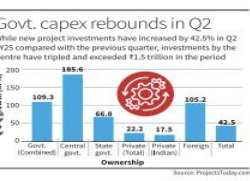
Israeli strikes kill 45 in Gaza as truce talks resume
RAMATHAN
Israeli military strikes killed at least 45 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip on Sunday, most of them in the north of the enclave, Palestinian health officials said, as efforts to secure a ceasefire in the more than year-long war resumed in Qatar.
The directors of the U.S. CIA and Israel's Mossad intelligence agency will meet with Qatar's Prime Minister on Sunday in Doha, an official briefed on the talks told Reuters.
The negotiations will see a short-term ceasefire and the release of some hostages being held by Hamas in exchange for Israel's release of Palestinian prisoners, the official said.
The talks aim at getting Israel and Hamas to agree

Q2 investments up 42.5%, capex recovers: data

New investments for second quarter at ₹9.21 lakh crore as States and Centre ramp up outlays; private investors step up but at a slower pace; Maharashtra tops the list with 661 projects; 1,093 government projects among the 2,684 new investments in the quarter; mega projects worth at least ₹1,000 crore increase to 173 from 132 in previous quarter

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI
Fresh investment plans bounced back strongly in the July-to-September quarter, with government capex recovering from a lull in the first quarter amid the Lok Sabha election and private investors stepping up albeit at a slower pace, lifting new project outlays to the second-highest level over the past year-and-a-half.
Overall investments jumped 42.5% in the second quarter (Q2) of 2024-25 to ₹9.21 lakh crore, relative to the April-to-June quarter of Q1, when new investment announcements halved on a sequential basis to ₹6.46 lakh crore. State administrations ramped up new outlays by 67% to nearly ₹2.62 lakh crore, outnumbering Central government capex plans which, however, re-

corded a sharper spike of 185.6% to hit around ₹1.54 lakh crore in Q2.
Private sector investments grew at a more sober pace of 22.2% but accounted for nearly 66% of the total investment tally, with foreign investors doubling their planned bets on the Indian market from Q1, to ₹54,259 crore in Q2. Domestic private capital recorded a 17.5% uptick in the value of new investment plans, accounting for ₹5.31 lakh crore of fresh outlays, as per data from Projects Today, which has been tracking new and on-going investment projects in the country since 2000.
Maharashtra tops
Among the States, Maharashtra remained the top draw for investors as was the case in Q1, with 661 projects worth ₹2.81 lakh crore.
Gujarat recovered from the fifth spot in Q1 to at-



tract the second-highest investment worth almost ₹1.39 lakh crore in Q2. Karnataka, with ₹97,740 crore of new projects, and Tamil Nadu (₹66,962 crore) came third and fourth in Q2, retaining ground from Q1, when they had dropped to the eighth and ninth positions, respectively.
The erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir made

Foreign investors withdraw ₹85,790 cr.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI
Foreign investors have continued selling in the Indian market, pulling out a massive ₹85,790 crore from equities in October due to Chinese stimulus measures, attractive stock valuations, and the elevated pricing of domestic equities.
The latest outflow came after a nine-month high investment of ₹57,274 crore in September
FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 4

ture plans. However, with a stable government reinstated at the Centre on June 9, the second quarter has witnessed an upsurge and new infrastructure investments by both the public and private sectors." Projects Today director and CEO Shashank Hegde told *The Hindu*.
Mining was the only sector to record a quarter-on-quarter contraction in fresh investment projects in Q2, with an 18.1% decline, while manufacturing outlays soared nearly 79% to over ₹2.22 lakh crore and new infrastructure projects jumped 49% to about ₹4.17 lakh crore. Electricity and irrigation projects rose 24.2% and 24.7%, respectively.
Of the 2,684 new investments announced in Q2, 1,093 were government

projects, while 1,591 were from the private sector. The Projects Today survey noted that the number of mega projects worth at least ₹1,000 crore, increased from 132 plans worth ₹4.02 lakh crore in Q1 to 173 projects worth ₹6.38 lakh crore in Q2, indicating improved confidence among project promoters.
"Ensuring timely implementation of announced projects is crucial for India to not only meet its higher growth aspirations but also generate much-needed employment opportunities," he underlined.

Rowing forward



In unison: Women compete in a boat race at the Dal Lake, in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir, on Sunday.

10 injured in stampede at overcrowded platform in Mumbai's Bandra station



The dust settles: Police personnel, passengers, and others at the Bandra railway station in Mumbai after a stampede on Sunday.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI
A stampede on an overcrowded platform at the Bandra railway station in Mumbai left at least 10 persons injured in the early hours of Sunday, officials said.
Western Railway officials said the incident occurred when passengers tried to board the train, leading to injuries. The injured were immediately taken to the Bandra Bhabha hospital. Vineet Abhishek, Western Railway's chief public relations officer, said.
Two critically injured passengers, identified as Indrajit Sahani, 19, and Noor Mohammad Shaikh, 18, were transferred to the S.B.M. hospital for treatment. According to the BMC officials, Mr. Noor sustained multiple injuries and required oxygen support.
Among the other injured passengers, five were taken to the Bandra Bhabha Hospital. The platform was jam-packed. There was no space to even stand. People were pushing each other to reach the train's doors. I got my foot stepped on by him in the crowd. Later, I got my hand crushed by him," Vikas Gupta, brother of Parmeshwar

works to serve the public. It is a serious concern when a lack of maintenance and neglect of public property lead to loss of lives."
Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said that over 25 major railway accidents had occurred in the country, claiming over 100 lives, since the Modi government came to power. He questioned, "What is the point of talking about bullet trains, Metro, and high-speed trains?"
Nationalist Congress Party (SP) president Jayant Patil and Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray criticised Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. Mr. Patil said, "Mr. Vaishnaw had time to come to Maharashtra for the BJP's election work and promotion, but had no time to visit the railway office and take cognizance of the incident."
After the incident, Western Railway placed restrictions on the sale of platform tickets at major stations in the Mumbai division till November 4 to manage crowding on platforms.

Israeli strikes kill 45 in Gaza as truce talks resume

to a halt in fighting for less than a month in the hope it would lead to a more permanent ceasefire.
There was no immediate comment from Hamas but a Palestinian official close to the mediation effort said: "I expect Hamas would listen to the new offers, but it remains determined that any agreement must end the war and get Israeli forces out of Gaza."
At least 41 of those killed on Sunday were in northern Gaza, where Israeli troops have returned to root out Hamas fighters who it says have regrouped there.
The negotiations will see a short-term ceasefire and the release of some hostages being held by Hamas in exchange for Israel's release of Palestinian prisoners, the official said.
The talks aim at getting Israel and Hamas to agree



Pushed to the corner: The site of an Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced people in Gaza City, Reuters

The Israeli military said it was looking into the report on the strike on the school.
Three local journalists were among those killed at the school in Shati.
The U.S., Qatar, and Egypt have been leading negotiations to bring an end to the war, which broke out after Hamas fighters stormed into southern Israel on October 7 last year, killing 1,200 people and taking more than 250 hostages, by Israeli troops.
Footage circulated on the Palestinian media, which Reuters could not immediately verify, showed people rushing to the bomb site to help evacuate the casualties. Bodies were scattered on the ground, while some carried wounded children in their arms before loading them in a vehicle.
IRAN PROMISES RESPONSE
» PAGE 14

IN BRIEF



Next mission is to give ₹1,000 per month to women: Mann

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday said that his next mission is to provide women with ₹1,000 every month. He was referring to AAP's poll promise before the 2022 Assembly poll. Mr. Mann said this while campaigning for Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate for the November 15 Assembly bypolls, Ishank Chhabbwal, in the Chhabbwal constituency in Hoshiarpur district. Seeing the presence of a number of women at the Chhabbwal gathering, the CM remarked that mothers and sisters come only to AAP rallies because they know that the AAP government cares about their needs.

U.P. investing over ₹77.5 cr for health care at Mahakulgaon

The U.P. government is investing over ₹77.5 crore to ensure the health and well-being of all devotees visiting the Mahakulgaon in Prayagraj, according to an official statement. The government has directed its officials to finalise by December 15 all health care preparations for the religious fair scheduled in January, the release said. The Health Department has established provisions for advanced medical services, including X-ray and MRI. With a capacity to handle up to 10 lakh outpatients and up to 1,000 in-patients, hi-tech temporary hospitals are being constructed, it said.

Grading civil servants on ability to attract investments is unfair: ex- U.P. Chief Secretary

Mr. Ranjan added as some districts close to Delhi like Ghazabad or Gautam Buddha Nagar have geographical advantage, law and order, implementation of government programmes and better socio-economic conditions. He said the decision may force officers to make a prime criteria for signing MoU of investment intent which may not transform into actual investment.

Family blocks road after man dies in police custody in Lucknow; SHO booked

UP police have become synonymous with brutality, says Priyanka Gandhi Vadra: BJP gov. should now change the name of 'police custody' to 'torture house': Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav

Mayank Kumar LUCKNOW

The death of a 32-year-old trader in police custody in Lucknow led to outrage on Sunday with the victim's family and residents blocking the main road leading to the houses of several Ministers are located, in the Uttar Pradesh capital demanding justice and compensation.



This is the second death in police custody in U.P. in a fortnight. Where the law keepers themselves are taking lives from whom should the public expect justice? Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, senior Congress leader said in a post on X.

Mr. Devi alleged that the police let off Aadesh as his uncle is a political leader. The police beat up Mohit so severely that he died in the lock-up. The district allowed him to meet him and later transported him to the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, where he was declared dead, she said.

Opposition parties targeted the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) saying that it was running a 'jungle raj' in Uttar Pradesh capital in the last 18 days. The government's policy on expert in changing names, should now change the name of 'police custody' to 'torture house'. Every demand of the victim's family should be met, she said.

Punjab: Union govt. dismisses concerns over paddy storage

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

The Centre on Sunday dismissed reports of storage space shortage affecting paddy procurement in Punjab, stating that "misinformation" created by "vested interests".

Union Food Minister Prahlad Joshi on Sunday asserted that creating adequate storage space remains the government's responsibility. "Some rumours are being spread. I want to clearly state that creating space is our responsibility. We will take care of that," Mr. Joshi said during a media briefing, accompanied by Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra and PCI Chairman Vanita Rattan Sharma.

Meanwhile, farmers protesting against "tardy" paddy procurement on Sunday evening decided to lift their blockade from national highways at four places in Punjab but said roadside sit-in would continue.



Farmers protesting against "tardy" paddy procurement, withdrew their protest after talks with ministers.

The "tardy" paddy procurement and lifting and other issues. On Sunday, a two-and-a-half-hour meeting was held between the farmers' representatives, with two Food and Civil Supplies Minister Lal Chand Kataru-chak and Agriculture Minister Gurmit Singh Khudiasar, after which the farmers announced lifting of the blockade.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders on Sunday met Punjab Governor Gurbachan Singh Chahal and submitted a memorandum alleging inefficiency on part of the Aam Aadmi Party government in the State for "tardy" paddy lifting.

Road blockade The farmers under the banner of किसान मोर्चा (Kisan Morcha) on Saturday held road blockades at a few places in the State for an indefinite period to protest

Absence of leaders at poll strategy meet in Karnataka irks Congress leadership

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

In view of the bye-elections to three Assembly constituencies in Channarayana, Shiggaon, and Sandur in Karnataka on November 13, the Congress on Sunday held a virtual meeting in the meeting anchored by Minister Siddaramaiah.

However, trying to downplay the absence, the Chief Minister said, "Many Ministers attended assembly constituency meeting. Their absence was likely because the election preparation is in progress." Sources said the Congress on Sunday questioned their readiness to take local leaders into confidence to ensure victory in the bye-election.



Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar at the strategy meeting held on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Police probing sexual harassment charges against IPS officer

Press Trust of India CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Police on Sunday said they have launched an inquiry after a letter surfaced on social media platforms accusing an IPS officer of sexually harassing some policewomen.

"A fact-finding inquiry has been initiated. The matter is under investigation," Hissar Range Additional DGP M Ravi Kiran said.

The ADGP told PTI over phone that the IPS officer against whom the allegations were levelled in the letter himself requested for an in-depth investigation in the matter.

"Their voices must have either been suppressed by now or are being stifled on social media on Friday, in which allegations of sexual harassment have been levelled against an IPS officer who is posted in a Haryana district. It has also been alleged

in the letter that two female police personnel from the district were also colluding with the IPS officer in the entire matter.

Women panel steps in Haryana: The Women Commission Chairman Bhanu Prakash said on Sunday they have written to the Director General of Police (DGP) to look into the entire matter.

Ms. Bhanu said the IPS officer facing allegations will also be summoned by the Commission. She also said the Commission urges the police women to come forward to give their account of what happened.

Investigator turned politician Vinesh Phogat denied the allegations, saying he was the guilty in the matter.

"The Congress MLA from Jullana said she has little hope that the "Haryana government or the Centre will do justice to these women of Haryana," she said.

Lungi-clad policeman punished for misbehaviour

Press Trust of India MADURAI (M.P.)

A sub-inspector of police was "fine attached" (taken off field duty as punishment) for a video of him in lungi while on duty and ill-treating a woman who had come to lodge a complaint, a police official said on Sunday.

Hata offence in-charge Sub-Inspector Brahman Patel, 50, has been "fine attached" after the video came to light, said Rewa Range Inspector General of Police Saket Pandey.

The Additional Superintendent of Police has launched an investigation into the incident at the out-post police station located around 50 km from the district headquarters, Mr. Pandey said, adding that First Information Report (FIR) has been registered based on the complaint of the woman.

In the viral video, Mr. Patel can be seen shouting at the woman, telling her "not to act smart", and then driving her away while another woman is seated on the floor before him at the outpost.

15 villages on alert as water released from dam in Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau TIRUVANNAMALAI

The Water Resources Department (WRD) has issued a flood alert to 15 villages along the banks of the Thenpennai River. 1,000 cusecs of water per second has been released from the Sathanur Dam in Tiruvannamalai.

The water level touched 114.5 feet, against the dam's total capacity of 119 feet, water from the dam was gradually released on Sunday, the third time since September this year.

Villages at the foot of Kalvarayan Hills, including Alipattur, Kattumannarkoil, Thattakudi, Mullakudi, and Paruthikulam received heavy spells of rain recently.

"Water from Sathanur Dam has been released to maintain its storage level at 114 feet, as per norms. Only in December this year can we store water to full capacity of 119 feet," K. Santhosh, Assistant Engineer (AE), WRD, Sathanur Dam, told The Hindu.

The dam, which maintains the dam, said the total inflow of 3,630 cusecs per second was due to water from three sources, namely Krishnagiri Reser-

voir Project (KRPP) Dam, waterbodies in Kalluvanan Hills, and the Pambur River in Jawadhi Hills.

These water sources, which are upstream of Sathanur Dam, have been receiving steady rain in recent weeks.

Sluice gates opened The dam's sluice gates - located eight km from the reservoir downstream - were opened to discharge water into the dam's left and right bank canals.

In his order, Tiruvannamalai Collector D. Bhaskara Pandian had told the residents of villages along the riverbank to relocate to safe places.

The panchayat and revenue officials, alerted by the police, were directed to take the measures required to shift residents of low-lying areas along the riverbank to safe places. Residents were warned against crossing the river.

Since its construction in 1958, this was the first time in many years that the dam was asked to retain the capacity to store water to the full capacity of 119 feet, which provides electricity to the district.

Meanwhile, Tata Power, which provides electricity to the area, said that the power supply was restored in around 92% of the

₹20 to charge phones, ₹300 to fill water tanks in cyclone-hit Odisha district

Press Trust of India BHADRAK

People in many villages in Sathanur Dam, have been receiving steady rain in recent weeks.

People are forced to pay ₹20 per hour for recharge of mobile phones, electricity and ₹300 to lift water to fill overhead tanks in houses, said Santilata Panda, sarpanch of Bishnur, panchayat of Bhadrak district.

In many houses and traders who have petrol and diesel-run generators to shift resistors and support staff are working closely with government agencies and local authorities, the company said in a statement.

Severe cyclonic storm Dana struck the eastern coast in the early hours of Friday, triggering torrential rain and high-speed winds that uprooted trees and electric poles and caused significant damage to infrastructure and crops in Odisha.

Navy personnel distribute food to cyclone-hit people at a village in Kendrapara district on Saturday.



Navy personnel distribute food to cyclone-hit people at a village in Kendrapara district on Saturday. PTI

Chief Secretary Manoj Abhishek said it has deployed additional teams to accelerate full restoration.

Engineers, linemen and support staff are working closely with government agencies and local authorities, the company said in a statement.

Aerial survey

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Sunday undertook an aerial survey of the areas affected by Cyclone Dana.

The survey was conducted in the early hours of Friday, triggering torrential rain and high-speed winds that uprooted trees and electric poles and caused significant damage to infrastructure and crops in Odisha.

Grading civil servants on ability to attract investments is unfair: ex- U.P. Chief Secretary

Mayank Kumar

LUCKNOW

Describing as ‘unfair’, the U.P. government decision on grading District Magistrates (DMs) and Divisional Commissioners based on performance in promoting investment and facilitating loans in their respective districts and including it in their Annual Confidential Report (ACR), former U.P. Chief Secretary Alok Ranjan on Sunday said that it

The U.P. govt. has decided to hold DMs and Commissioners accountable for boosting investments in the State

will put additional pressure on civil servants whose primary job is to look after law and order and administration in the district.

“To evaluate the DM or Commissioner on the basis

of investment received or making it as main criteria for evaluation will not be fair, as civil servant in districts perform multiple responsibilities like rural development scheme, law and order, implementation of government programmes for poor and marginalised. If investment promotion is made a prime criteria, officials may disregard basic job and divert their attention,” said Mr. Ranjan, a retired 1978 batch IAS officer

from the U.P Cadre.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Ranjan added as some districts close to Delhi like Ghaziabad or Gautam Buddha Nagar have geographical advantage for investment, uniform assessment of DMs across U.P. districts is not possible. He said the decision may force officers to run after investors for signing MoU of investment intent which may not transform into actual investment.

Manarashtra match: MVA names 259 candidates, UBT names 235

The ruling alliance, comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP, has yet to announce candidates for 53 seats and the Opposition MVA for 29 seats; the Assembly has 288 seats; candidate selection for a few seats creates ripples in NCP (SP), Shiv Sena (UBT)

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Nationalist Congress Party (Shri Chandra Pawar) and Congress on Sunday released candidate lists featuring nine and 14 names, respectively, for the November 20 Maharashtra Assembly election. Two of the names in the Congress list were replaced. With this, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance has so far announced 259 candidates.

The ruling Mahayuti alliance took the total number of candidates to 235, with the Shiv Sena naming 20 more candidates and the Ait Pawar-led MVA four more. The Assembly has 288 seats.

The Mahayuti, which includes the BJP, is yet to announce candidates for 53 seats and the MVA for 29 seats. The MVA has the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) as its constituents.

Meanwhile, candidate selection for a few constituencies has created ripples in the NCP (SP) and Shiv Sena (UBT). Mohan Jagtap's candidacy from Majalgaon has not gone down well with Shiv Sena's Aadakar, a former BJP leader who joined the NCP (SP).

In the Chinchwad, Bhoisar and Pimpri constituencies, Shiv Sena (UBT) workers are miffed at the nomination of NCP (SP) candidates for these seats and have refused to work for them.



Election fever: (left) Ahead of the Assembly election, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde addresses an election rally in Mumbai; Shiv Sena (UBT) Chief Uddhav Thackeray greets Shiv Sena (Shinde) leader Babanrao Gholap who joined the party in Mumbai, (right)



NCP third list: The Mr. Ajit Pawar-led NCP, which too had released its third list of candidates on Sunday, brought the total number of nominations by the party to 49.

While speaking to presspersons, Mr. Patil said, "Fahad is a well-educated young Muslim activist and people wanted us to give him a chance. So now, he will fight from Anushakti Nagar constituency."

The NCP (SP) tally: The NCP (SP)'s list has a mix of experienced leaders and young faces, including a Samajwadi Party (SP) leader who will contest as an NCP (SP) candidate.

The Congress released the fourth list of 12 candidates on Sunday, with several former MLAs. Former NCP leader Bhagirath Bhalki will contest from Pandharpur for the Congress.

The Congress released the fourth list of 12 candidates on Sunday, with several former MLAs. Former NCP leader Bhagirath Bhalki will contest from Pandharpur for the Congress.

Mahayuti used its powers to support corporate cronies

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday accused the ruling coalition government in Maharashtra of "brazen manipulation" of legal processes to push corporate cronies' interests ahead of the wellbeing of the people and forests of the State.



Jaipur Ramesh

pur rose up in protest against the AGEL's ₹7,000-crore Patagon Pumped Storage Project, the Congress leader said. The AGEL was approved for the ₹7,000-crore Patagon Pumped Storage Project of Adani Green Energy Ltd. was issued without holding public meetings and by selective interpretation of the rules.

Addressing a massive gathering of party workers at the first State-level conference of the TVK on Sunday, actor and founder of TVK Vijay during his party's first political conference at Vikravandi in Vilupuram district on Sunday.

M.P. Police probing social media post in ordnance factory case

Press Trust of India
JAMALPUR

The police on Sunday launched an investigation into a social media handle hailing Pakistan, accompanied by a video of Khannara area where a blast occurred in the ordnance factory in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district six days ago, an official said.

leavance of the message, and four lines written in English in connection with the Ordinance Factory Khannara explosion on October 22 that left two persons dead and 15 others injured.

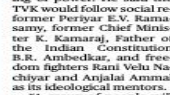
Zindabad' carrying video of Khannara area where a blast occurred in Ordinance Factory Khannara, a Senior Superintendent of Police Samar Verma said.

Former MP Shahabuddin's wife, son join RJD

Amrit Bhehari
PATNA

Hena Shahab, wife of the late Mohammad Shahabuddin, a former MP, politician, and her son Osama joined the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) in the presence of party supremo Lalu Prasad and Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav in Patna on Sunday.

Ever since Ms. Shahab contested the Lok Sabha election as an Independent candidate from Siwan, the



Actor and founder of TVK Vijay during his party's first political conference at Vikravandi in Vilupuram district on Sunday.

At the same time, he said, "Our next enemy, the political enemy, is a self-serving family group that is looting Tamil Nadu by invoking the names of Thanthai Periyar and Perarigan Anna, in the garb of the Dravida model."

He attacked parties, which he believed, took an anti-fascism position but had "underground dealings" with the same forces.

ing of power. He said the TVK would follow social reformer Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, former Chief Minister K. Kamaraj, Father of the Indian Constitution B.R. Ambedkar, and freedom fighters Kani Velu Nachiyar and Anjalai Ammal as its ideological mentors.

"A group of people will give us a lot of support if we say Periyar is our ideological mentor. We do not subscribe to his casteist principle. We are not against anyone's belief. Like Anna [former CM of Tamil Nadu] did in the democratic war [impending Tamil Nadu Assembly elections]. On that day, every voice of the people to TVK's symbols in all the 234 constituencies will be like a bomb."

He advocated for conducting a caste census and giving proportional representation in education and jobs.

He also expressed confidence that his party will emerge victorious with a clear majority in 2026. However, he also said his party is open to alliances with parties, which approach TVK, and sharing

"Troops will have to go to original base to attain de-escalation"

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Sunday said India and China had agreed to resume patrolling and disengagement in Depsang and Demchok, ending the stand-off in eastern Ladakh.

"Reached first phase": "At places where the tension was more, we decided not to patrol it. So, the current agreement will allow us to look at the next step and discuss how to manage the number of troops down and border management."



The current agreement will allow us to look at the next step and discuss how to manage the number of troops down and border management.

Jaishankar said, "Mumbai, the financial capital of India, has become a symbol of counter-terrorism global. Bhopal, the 'busybody' of India, should not be repeated and the country must take a strong stand against terrorism."

India's Nature Conservation Index rank 176, gov't slammed

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday took a swipe at the BJP government over India reportedly being ranked 176 out of 180 countries on the Nature Conservation Index. Adding, "Should the bona fides of Israel's Ben Gurion University that co-developed the index be also questioned?"

"There was no immediate reaction from the government on the reported ranking. Congress general secretary Jitendra Kumar Singh said, "Whenever India gets a very low rank on some global index or the other, the immediate response of the non-biological PM's drum-beaters and cheerleaders is to plot to defame India by agenda-driven 'busybody' NGOs."

Union govt. defends Aadhaar-based wage payment for workers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Rural Development Ministry, in a statement on Sunday, defended using the Aadhaar-based Payment System (ABPS) for workers, calling it a "major reform" that has improved efficiency, reducing delays in payments, and greater inclusion by curbing leakages.

been added, with net deletion of workers standing at 39.3 lakh.

The Ministry said that ABPS conversion was a major reform process, where benefits are credited directly into bank accounts based on the Aadhaar numbers of workers under the MGNREGS, doing away with several layers in the delivery process.

As on October 26, the Centre said that 13.1 crore active workers, out of 29.2 crore the total number of active workers, are eligible for ABPS.

"It is a fallacious argument that workers' demand for work is not registered if their accounts are not ABPS enabled, as their wages remain unpaid because of this reason. In fact, the Ministry is still pending States' request to be included into the ABPS. It has been requested to sensitize all banks to ensure timely crediting of wages to members of NREGS beneficiaries into NPCEI (National Payments Corporation of India) mapper," the Ministry said.

India's Nature Conservation Index rank 176, govt. slammed

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday took a swipe at the BJP government over India reportedly being ranked 176 out of 180 countries on the Nature Conservation Index. Adding, "Should the bona fides of Israel's Ben Gurion University that co-developed the index be also questioned."

There was no immediate reaction from the government on the reported ranking.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Whenever India gets a very low rank on some global index or the other, the immediate response of the non-biological PM's drumbeaters and cheerleaders is to attack the index itself as a plot to defame India by agenda-driven busybody NGOs." But what will be

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Whenever India gets a very low rank on some global index or the other, the immediate response of the non-biological PM's drumbeaters and cheerleaders is to attack the index itself as a plot to defame India by agenda-driven busybody NGOs." But what will be the response to the just-released Nature Conservation Index in which India ranks a miserable 176th out of 180 countries, he asked.

"This Index has been co-developed by Israel's Ben Gurion University. Will the bona fides of this university too be questioned?" Mr. Ramesh said.

India has scored low in the Global Nature Conservation Index, ranking 176 out of 180 countries. It is placed just above Kiribati which ranked 180, Turkey (179), Iraq (178) and Micronesia (177), according to reports.

-
- A New Conservation Benchmark
 - Launched in October 2024, the Nature Conservation Index serves as a comprehensive tool for measuring conservation performance across countries.
 - The NCI was developed by the Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in collaboration with BioDB.com, a non-profit organization that maintains global biodiversity data.

-
- The index evaluates nations based on four key indicators: land management, biodiversity threats, capacity and governance, and future conservation trends.

-
- India's Struggles: Land Use and Biodiversity Threats
 - India's low ranking is largely attributed to rising biodiversity threats and inadequate land management practices.
 - The nation has experienced a significant rate of land conversion, with 53% of its land repurposed for urban, industrial, or agricultural development.
 - This extensive land use transformation has heightened the need for sustainable land management techniques.
 - The index also flagged excessive fertilizer usage, with a sustainable nitrogen index of 0.77, warning of increasing soil pollution that threatens long-term soil health

-
- Marine conservation efforts also fell short, with only 0.2% of India's waterways under protection and none within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
 - While 7.5% of India's terrestrial land is designated as protected, the index emphasized that greater action is needed to safeguard marine ecosystems.



The opening of the island, known as Sindalah, comes ahead of a major investor forum in Riyadh. FILE PHOTO

Saudi Arabia opens resort island at futuristic mega-city

Agence France-Presse
RIVADH

Saudi Arabia's planned futuristic mega-city known as NEOM announced on Sunday the opening of its "first physical showcase": a luxury Red Sea island featuring restaurants, hotels, and yachting berths. The opening of the island, known as Sindalah, comes amid persistent doubts about NEOM's viability and ahead of a major investor forum sometimes referred to as "Davos in the Desert" which will begin in Riyadh on Tuesday.

"NEOM is committed to supporting the Kingdom's new era of luxury tourism, with the opening of Sindalah," chief executive Nadhmi al-Nasr said in a statement.

"NEOM's inaugural destination offers visitors a 'first glimpse' of what the future holds for our extensive portfolio of destinations and developments," Sindalah is "spread over 8.40,000 square metres" and will be set to receive "up to 2,400 guests per day by 2028", the statement said.

"NEOM is best known for The Line, twin mirror-encased 170-kilometre-long skyscrapers meant to extend inland from the coast," the statement said. Unveiling The Line in 2022, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said its population would exceed one million by 2030 before climbing to nine million by 2045.

Work on NEOM is progressing alongside other major development projects launched as part of Vision 2030, Prince Mohammed's bid to position the world's biggest crude exporter for an eventual post-oil future. In December, Finance Minister Mohammed bin Salman said officials had decided to push the timeframe for some major projects past 2030, without specifying which ones.

Two secretive Iranian military bases sustain damage from Israeli attack

Satellite photos show damage to a base experts in the past had linked to Iran's nuclear weapons programme and another base tied to its ballistic missile programme; damage could disrupt Iran's ability to manufacture new ballistic missiles to replenish its arsenal after the two attacks on Israel

Associated Press
DUBAI

An Israeli attack on Iran damaged facilities at a secretive military base southeast of the Iranian capital that experts in the past have linked to Tehran's nuclear weapons programme and at another base tied to its ballistic missile programme, satellite photos analysed on Sunday showed.

Some of the buildings damaged sat in Iran's Parchin military base, where the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) suspects Iran had in the past conducted tests of high explosives that could trigger a nuclear weapon. Iran long has insisted its nuclear programme is peaceful, though the IAEA, Western intelligence agencies, and others say Tehran had an active weapons programme up until 2003.

The other damage could be seen at the nearby Khojir military base, which analysts believe hides an underground tunnel system and missile production sites.

Iran's military has not acknowledged damage at either Khojir or Parchin from Israel's attack early on Saturday, though it has said the assault killed four Iranian soldiers working in the country's air defence systems.

Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Israeli military declined to comment.



Hit hard: Satellite image shows damaged buildings at Iran's Parchin military base on Sunday. AP

"Do not exaggerate" However, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday told an audience that Israel's attack "should not be exaggerated nor downplayed," while stopping short of calling for an immediate retaliatory strike. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu separately said on Sunday that Israel's strikes "severely harmed" Iran and that the barrage "achieved all its goals."

It remains unclear how many sites in total were targeted in the Israeli attack. Iranian officials have identified affected areas as being in Ilam, Khuzestan, and Tehran provinces.

Burned fields could be seen in satellite images from Planet Labs PBC around Iran's Tangeh Bijar natural gas production site in Ilam province on Saturday, though it was not immediately clear if it was related to the attack. The most telling damage could be seen in Planet Labs images of Parchin, some 40 kilometres south-east of downtown Tehran near the Mamula Dam. There, one structure appeared to be totally destroyed while others looked damaged in the attack.

At Khojir, some 20 kilometres away from downtown Tehran, damage could be seen on at least two structures in satellite images.

Iranians recently vented their rage at the status quo. Uruguay's electorate remains largely satisfied with the government's business-friendly policies and the economy's steady growth. The current centre-right President, Luis Lacalle Pou, enjoys a 50% approval rating. A constitutional term limits bar Mr. Lacalle Pou from running for a second consecutive term, the governing party's candidate is Alvaro Delgado, 55, a congressman and Mr. Lacalle Pou's former Chief of Staff who started his career as a lawmaker.

His main challenge is Yamandu Orsi, 57, a centre-left former Mayor and history teacher with humble roots from the Frente Amplio (or Broad Front) coalition, which governed for 15 years before Mr. Lacalle Pou's 2019 victory.

Analysts including Decker Eveleth at the Virginia-based think tank CNA, Joe Truman at the Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and former United Nations weapons inspector David Albright as well as other open-source experts, first identified the damage to the bases. The locations of the two bases correspond to videos showing Iranian air defence systems firing in the vicinity early on Saturday.

At Parchin, Albright's Institute for Science and International Security identified the destroyed building against a mountainside as "Taleghan 2." It said an archive of Iranian nuclear data earlier seized by Israel identified the building as housing "a smaller, elongated high explosive chamber and a flash X-ray system to examine small-scale

high explosive tests." Such tests may have included high explosives compressing a core of natural uranium, simulating the initiation of a nuclear explosive," a 2018 report by the institute says.

In a message posted on the social platform X early on Sunday, the institute added: "It is not certain whether Iran used uranium at 'Taleghan 2,' but it is possible it studied the compression of natural uranium hemispheres, which would explain its hasty and secretive renovation efforts following the IAEA's request to access Parchin in 2017."

It is unclear what, if any, equipment would have been inside of the "Taleghan 2" building early on Saturday. There were no Israeli strikes on Iran's oil industry, nor its nuclear enrichment sites or its nuclear power plant at Bushehr during the assault.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, who leads the IAEA, confirmed that on X, saying "Iran's nuclear facilities have not been impacted." "I call for prudence and restraint from actions that could jeopardise the safety and security of nuclear and other radioactive materials," he added.

Other buildings destroyed at Khojir and Parchin likely included a warehouse and other buildings used by Iran's industrial mixers to create the solid fuel needed for its extensive ballistic missile arsenal, Mr. Eveleth said.

In a statement issued immediately after the attack on Saturday, the Israeli military said it targeted "missile manufacturing facilities used to produce the missiles that were fired at the state of Israel over the last year."

Destroying such sites could greatly disrupt Iran's ability to manufacture new ballistic missiles to replenish its arsenal after the two attacks on Israel, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which oversees the country's ballistic missile programme, has been silent since Saturday's attack.

Iran's overall ballistic missile arsenal, which includes shorter-range missiles unable to reach Israel, was estimated to be "over 3,000" by Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, then-commander of the U.S. military's Central Command, in testimony to the U.S. Senate in 2022. In the time since, Iran has fired hundreds of the missiles in a series of attacks.

There have been no videos or photos posted to social media of missile parts or damage in civilian neighbourhoods following the recent attack – suggesting that the Israeli strikes were far more accurate than Iran's ballistic missile barrages targeting Israel in April and October. Israel relied on aircraft-fired missiles during its attack.

'Satisfied' electorate in 'stable' Uruguay to pick between two centrist leaders

Associated Press
MONTEVIDEO

The small South American nation of Uruguay is holding a remarkably civilised general election on Sunday that pits an incumbent conservative coalition against a moderate left-wing alliance in a country free from the political histrionics of other presidential contests around the world.

No one expects the outcome of the vote to herald drastic change in this nation of 3.4 million people, long heralded as a model democracy and island of stability in the region.

With the main parties in broad agreement on many issues, the campaign is being fought over voter concerns like child poverty and security.

Rising homicides and robberies represent the biggest concern for Uruguayan voters, even though the country is one of the region's safest.

"Boring but good?" "In a way, Uruguay has been boring, but boring in this sense is very good," said Juan Cruz Diaz, a political analyst who runs the



Uruguay's presidential candidate for the Frente Amplio (Broad Front) party, Yamandu Orsi, casts his vote on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

Cefeidas consultancy group in Buenos Aires. "We have seen so many dramatic changes in Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia and suddenly we face election in Uruguay in which there is a general consensus, there is stability."

While in neighbouring Brazil and Argentina, voters recently vented their rage at the status quo. Uruguay's electorate remains largely satisfied with the government's business-friendly policies and the economy's steady growth. The current centre-right President, Luis Lacalle Pou, enjoys a 50% approval rating. A constitutional term limits bar Mr. Lacalle Pou from running for a second consecutive term, the governing party's candidate is Alvaro Delgado, 55, a congressman and Mr. Lacalle Pou's former Chief of Staff who started his career as a lawmaker.

His main challenge is Yamandu Orsi, 57, a centre-left former Mayor and history teacher with humble roots from the Frente Amplio (or Broad Front) coalition, which governed for 15 years before Mr. Lacalle Pou's 2019 victory.

China's second-generation factory owners go digital to combat economic challenges

Agence France-Presse
NANTONG

Dressed in a pristine white knit top, Robyn Qiu cut an incongruous figure in her parents' dusty, hangar-like metal hardware factory in eastern China as she gestured excitedly while an assistant filmed her on a smartphone.

The 29-year-old is one of many second-generation factory owners fighting to elevate the country's manufacturing sector, pitting digital native against the rising costs and geopolitical tensions pushing clients abroad.

Ms. Qiu said she grew up with "the noise of machines running day and night", but working in ma-

ufacturing was not always her first choice. When Ms. Qiu was a child, her parents encouraged her to aim at a white-collar office job far from the dust and din of the factory floor.

"Even when they were starting the factory, their goal for me, their expectation for me is to really get a good education and get out of the cycle of farmers," Ms. Qiu said of her parents, who come from agricultural communities.

But after years spent working in consulting, the Yale-educated Ms. Qiu now focuses on her clients abroad. "This very strong responsibility to give 'back' to manufacturing," Ms. Qiu has set up a

marketing business that directly connects factories with foreign audiences, through videos posted on social media, which in China can only be accessed using a VPN.

Changing times It is a stark contrast from the way earlier generations conducted business, often through middlemen and at the mercy of major buyers.

In her videos, a cheerful Ms. Qiu speaks in fluent English as she narrates the busy street snacks in Shanghai or listing China's key manufacturing sectors while walking along a factory assembly line. Her parents, who founded the factory in the 1990s,



Different frames: Robyn Qiu being filmed in her metal parts factory in Nantong, in eastern China's Jiangsu province. AFP

were part of a massive wave of entrepreneurship that marked the first decade of China's reform and opening up, when the country transformed its rural world's factory into eventually, its second lar-

Celebrating the dead



Close connections: A man cleans the remains of a loved one at a cemetery as part of an ancient ritual ahead of the Day of the Dead celebration in the Mayan village of Pomuch, Campeche State, Mexico, on Saturday. AFP

gesting economy. However, rising wages in China and geopolitical tensions with trade partners including the United States have made it harder for the locations such as Cambodia and Bangladesh in-

creasingly attractive to clients. The Qius lost major customers in the 2010s after refusing an offer to move their production to Cambodia.

Flagging domestic demand in recent years has hurt the factory's export sector, with the official factory activity index in China contracting for five months in a row since May.

Ms. Qiu said she sees the factory in a pyramid of international brands at the top and raw material suppliers at the bottom. "China is in the middle," she said. "And now, 'either we go up or we will go down'."

Ms. Qiu said the reaction to her videos has been "amazing", with more than 1,500,000 users following her Instagram page.

Ms. Qiu said she sees the factory in a pyramid of international brands at the top and raw material suppliers at the bottom. "China is in the middle," she said. "And now, 'either we go up or we will go down'."

Ms. Qiu said she sees the factory in a pyramid of international brands at the top and raw material suppliers at the bottom. "China is in the middle," she said. "And now, 'either we go up or we will go down'."

Ms. Qiu said she sees the factory in a pyramid of international brands at the top and raw material suppliers at the bottom. "China is in the middle," she said. "And now, 'either we go up or we will go down'."

Ms. Qiu said she sees the factory in a pyramid of international brands at the top and raw material suppliers at the bottom. "China is in the middle," she said. "And now, 'either we go up or we will go down'."

Ms. Qiu said she sees the factory in a pyramid of international brands at the top and raw material suppliers at the bottom. "China is in the middle," she said. "And now, 'either we go up or we will go down'."

Ms. Qiu said she sees the factory in a pyramid of international brands at the top and raw material suppliers at the bottom. "China is in the middle," she said. "And now, 'either we go up or we will go down'."

Ms. Qiu said she sees the factory in a pyramid of international brands at the top and raw material suppliers at the bottom. "China is in the middle," she said. "And now, 'either we go up or we will go down'."

Two secretive Iranian military bases sustain damage from Israeli attack

Satellite photos show damage to a base experts in the past had linked to Iran's nuclear weapons programme and another base tied to its ballistic missile programme; damage could disrupt Iran's ability to manufacture new ballistic missiles to replenish its arsenal after the two attacks on Israel

Associated Press
DUBAI

An Israeli attack on Iran damaged facilities at a secretive military base southeast of the Iranian capital that experts in the past have linked to Tehran's nuclear weapons programme and at another base tied to its ballistic missile programme, satellite photos analysed on Sunday showed.

Some of the buildings damaged sat in Iran's Parchin military base, where the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) suspects Iran had in the past conducted tests of high explosives that could trigger a nuclear weapon. Iran long has insisted its nuclear programme is peaceful, though the IAEA, Western intelligence agencies, and others say Tehran had an active weapons programme up until 2003.

The other telling damage could be seen at the nearby Khojir military base, which analysts believe hides an underground tunnel system and missile production sites.

Iran's military has not acknowledged damage at either Khojir or Parchin from Israel's attack early on Saturday, though it has said the assault killed four Iranian soldiers working in the country's air defence systems.

Iran's mission to the United Nations did not imme-



Hit hard: Satellite image shows damaged buildings at Iran's Parchin military base on Sunday. AP

diately respond to a request for comment. The Israeli military declined to comment.

'Do not exaggerate'

However, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday told an audience that the Israeli attack "should not be exaggerated nor downplayed," while stopping short of calling for an immediate retaliatory strike. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu separately said on Sunday that Israel's strikes "severely harmed" Iran and that the barrage "achieved all its goals."

It remains unclear how many sites in total were targeted in the Israeli attack.

Iranian officials have identified affected areas as being in Ilam, Khuzestan,

and Tehran provinces. Burned fields could be seen in satellite images from Planet Labs PBC around Iran's Tange Bijar natural gas production site in Ilam province on Saturday, though it was not immediately clear if it was related to the attack.

The most telling damage could be seen in Planet Labs images of Parchin, some 40 kilometres south-east of downtown Tehran near the Mamalu Dam. There, one structure appeared to be totally destroyed while others looked damaged in the attack.

At Khojir, some 20 kilometres away from downtown Tehran, damage could be seen on at least two structures in satellite images.

Analysts including Deckert Eveleth at the Virginia-

based think tank CNA, Joe Truzman at the Washington-based Foundation for Defense of Democracies, and former United Nations weapon inspector David Albright, as well as other open-source experts, first identified the damage to the bases. The locations of the two bases correspond to videos showing Iranian air defence systems firing in the vicinity early on Saturday.

At Parchin, Albright's Institute for Science and International Security identified the destroyed building against a mountainside as "Taleghan 2." It said an archive of Iranian nuclear data earlier seized by Israel identified the building as housing "a smaller, elongated high explosive chamber and a flash X-ray system to examine small-scale

high explosive tests."

"Such tests may have included high explosives compressing a core of natural uranium, simulating the initiation of a nuclear explosive," a 2018 report by the institute says.

In a message posted on the social platform X early on Sunday, the institute added: "It is not certain whether Iran used uranium at 'Taleghan 2,' but it is possible it studied the compression of natural uranium hemispheres, which would explain its hasty and secretive renovation efforts following the IAEA's request to access Parchin in 2011."

It is unclear what, if any, equipment would have been inside of the "Taleghan 2" building early on Saturday. There were no Israeli strikes on Iran's oil industry, nor its nuclear enrichment sites or its nuclear power plant at Bushehr during the assault.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, who leads the IAEA, confirmed that on X, saying "Iran's nuclear facilities have not been impacted." "I call for prudence and restraint from actions that could jeopardise the safety and security of nuclear and other radioactive materials," he added.

Other buildings destroyed at Khojir and Parchin likely included a warehouse and other buildings where Iran used industrial mixers to create the solid fuel needed for its exten-

sive ballistic missile arsenal, Mr. Eveleth said.

In a statement issued immediately after the attack on Saturday, the Israeli military said it targeted "missile manufacturing facilities used to produce the missiles that Iran fired at the state of Israel over the last year."

Destroying such sites could greatly disrupt Iran's ability to manufacture new ballistic missiles to replenish its arsenal after the two attacks on Israel. Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which oversees the country's ballistic missile programme, has been silent since Saturday's attack.

Iran's overall ballistic missile arsenal, which includes shorter-range missiles unable to reach Israel, was estimated to be "over 3,000" by Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, then-commander of the U.S. military's Central Command, in testimony to the U.S. Senate in 2022. In the time since, Iran has fired hundreds of the missiles in a series of attacks.

There have been no videos or photos posted to social media of missile parts or damage in civilian neighbourhoods following the recent attack – suggesting that the Israeli strikes were far more accurate than Iran's ballistic missile barrages targeting Israel in April and October. Israel relied on aircraft-fired missiles during its attack.

-
- **English:** Israel launched an attack on two secret military bases in Iran, allegedly connected to its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Satellite photos revealed damage at these sites, which could hinder Iran's ability to replenish its missile arsenal.
 - **हिंदी:** इज़राइल ने ईरान में दो गुप्त सैन्य ठिकानों पर हमला किया, जो कथित तौर पर इसके परमाणु और बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल कार्यक्रमों से जुड़े हैं। उपग्रह तस्वीरों ने इन स्थलों पर क्षति का खुलासा किया है, जिससे ईरान की मिसाइल शस्त्रागार को पुनः संचित करने की क्षमता प्रभावित हो सकती है।

- **Details of the Targeted Sites**

- **English:** One of the targeted sites was Parchin military base, associated with nuclear weapons research. Another was a facility linked to ballistic missile development, where high explosives tests were suspected by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

- **हिंदी:** लक्षित स्थलों में से एक था पारचिन सैन्य अड्डा, जो परमाणु हथियार अनुसंधान से जुड़ा है। दूसरा स्थल बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल विकास से संबंधित एक सुविधा थी, जहाँ अंतरराष्ट्रीय परमाणु ऊर्जा एजेंसी (IAEA) द्वारा उच्च विस्फोटक परीक्षणों का संदेह था।

- **. Significance of the Damage**

- **English:** The damage could limit Iran's capacity to manufacture missiles used in its defense against external threats, thereby disrupting its strategic capabilities.
- **हिंदी:** क्षति से ईरान की मिसाइल निर्माण क्षमता पर असर पड़ सकता है, जो बाहरी खतरों के खिलाफ इसकी रक्षा में प्रयुक्त होती है, जिससे इसकी रणनीतिक क्षमताओं में व्यवधान उत्पन्न हो सकता है।

• 4. Iran's Response and International Reactions

- **English:** Iranian officials, including Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, accused Israel of exaggerating the incident while issuing a warning. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu emphasized that Israel would retaliate against Iran's missile attacks.
- **हिंदी:** ईरानी अधिकारियों, जिसमें अयातुल्ला अली खामेनेई शामिल हैं, ने इस घटना को बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर पेश करने का इज़राइल पर आरोप लगाया जबकि एक चेतावनी भी जारी की। इज़राइल के प्रधानमंत्री बेंजामिन नेतन्याह ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि इज़राइल ईरान के मिसाइल हमलों का बदला लेगा।

- **5. Implications for Global Security**

- **English:** The attack raised concerns about increased tensions in the region, with Iran likely to seek retaliatory measures. The situation has also garnered attention from global intelligence agencies.
- **हिंदी:** इस हमले ने क्षेत्र में बढ़ते तनाव के बारे में चिंताएं बढ़ा दी हैं, जिससे संभवतः ईरान प्रतिशोधी कदम उठाने की कोशिश करेगा। इस स्थिति ने वैश्विक खुफिया एजेंसियों का भी ध्यान आकर्षित किया है।



The opening of the island, known as Sindalah, comes ahead of a major investor forum in Riyadh. FILE PHOTO

Saudi Arabia opens resort island at futuristic mega-city

Agence France-Presse

RIYADH

Saudi Arabia's planned futuristic mega-city known as NEOM announced on Sunday the opening of its "first physical showcase": a luxury Red Sea island featuring restaurants, hotels, and yachting berths. The opening of the island, known as Sindalah, comes amid persistent doubts about NEOM's viability and ahead of a major investor forum sometimes referred to as "Davos in the Desert" which will begin in Riyadh on Tuesday.

"NEOM is committed to supporting the Kingdom's new era of luxury tourism, with the opening of Sindalah," chief executive Nadhmi al-Nasr said in a statement.

said in a statement.

"NEOM's inaugural destination offers visitors a 'first glimpse' of what the future holds for our extensive portfolio of destinations and developments." Sindalah is "spread over 8,40,000 square metres" and will be set to receive "up to 2,400 guests per day by 2028", the statement said.

NEOM is best known for The Line, twin mirror-encased 170-kilometre-long skyscrapers meant to extend inland from the coast.

Unveiling The Line in 2022, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said its population would exceed one million by 2030 before climbing to nine million by 2045.

Work on NEOM is progressing alongside other major development projects launched as part of Vision 2030, Prince Mohammed's bid to position the world's biggest crude exporter for an eventual post-oil future. In December, Finance Minister Mohammed al-Jadaan said officials had decided to push the timeframe for some major projects past 2030, without specifying which ones.

PhonePe banking on new revenue streams

NEW DELHI, MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024

IN THE NEWS

COP29: INDIA TO PUSH FOR MORE CLIMATE FUNDS

INDIA IS LIKELY to press for enhanced funding commitments by the rich world at the UN Climate Change Conference, or COP29, scheduled in Baku, Azerbaijan next month...

SLOWING URBAN DEMAND HURTS FMCG GROWTH

THE URBAN DEMAND for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) is slowing after months of sustained growth...

PM TO INAUGURATE FIRST PMT MILITARY AIRCRAFT FACTORY

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI and his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez will inaugurate India's first private military aircraft production plant in Vadodra in Gujarat on Monday...

EXPLAINER Why there's no exit to airline bomb hoaxes

Most startups fail to light up chip design segment

JATIN GROVER New Delhi, October 27

THE MAJORITY OF startups have failed to light up the chip design space. Of the roughly 60 proposals submitted to the ministry of electronics and IT (MeitY) by these companies to get the benefit of subsidies under the design-linked incentive (DLI) scheme, only 4 have been able to make it to the next stage...

MANUFACTURING PUSH

Government has set a target of \$500-bn electronics manufacturing. Semiconductor incentive scheme has outlay of ₹76,000cr & ₹2,000cr is reserved for design-linked incentives...

RENTALS SHOOT UP AS FIRMS, CONSULATES RETURN

Nariman Point gets a new lease of life

RASHAVENDRA KAMATH Mumbai, October 27

IT MAY NOT be the bustling central business district it once was but Nariman Point is getting a new lease of life. With a clutch of companies, law firms, foreign consulates and consultancies setting up their offices here, lease rentals have moved up...

Table with columns: Recent name, Building name, Area (in sq ft), Rentals. Rows include Express Towers, Nariman Bhawan, Hoechst House, Nairman Bhawan, CIS Specialty Chemicals.

Compare that with just 17,000 sq ft of leases that were closed out in 2023. This demand for workspaces has driven up rentals by 8-10% in the past one year...

Wary of 'bad IPO!' Swiggy again cuts valuation

ADITYA KALRA New Delhi, October 27

FOOD DELIVERY GIANT Swiggy has slashed its IPO valuation again, to \$11.3 billion, 29% below the initial goal of \$15 billion, as market volatility and the lacklustre debut of Hysindia India weigh on sentiment...

RETURN TO START CATCHING UP WITH VALUATIONS

WE EXPECT RETURNS ACROSS DEB EQUITY AND GOLD TO CONVERGE TO A NARROW RANGE. SHANKAR SHARMA, FOUNDER, GQANT INVESTECH. WE ARE IN FIFTH YEAR OF A BULL MARKET, SO A COOLING-OFF PERIOD IS DUE...IT MAY BE STARTING...

Market gurus see muted returns in Samvat 2081

Concern over earnings growth, weak demand & geopolitical conflicts

VIVEK KUMAR M & JOYDEEP GHOSH Mumbai, October 27

IF SAMVAT 2080 was for the most part all about swinging the bat in a typical T20 game, the new year starting this Friday is expected to be like a classic Test match where the scoring rate will slow down considerably...



ANDREW HOLLAND, CEO, AVENTUS CAPITAL ALTERNATE STRATEGIES. NILESH SHAH, MD, KOTAK MAHINDRA AMC. SANKARAN NAREN, ED AND CIO, ICICI PRUDENTIAL.

ALTHOUGH INDIA'S MACROSCOPIC ROBUST, CURRENT MARKET VALUATIONS ARE ELEVATED, DRIVEN BY OVERLY OPTIMISTIC DOMESTIC SENTIMENT.

Prudential, calls for a cautious investment approach as current market valuations are elevated, driven by overly optimistic domestic sentiment.

than ₹40 lakh crore of investor wealth wiped out. Shah says while India's long-term growth story is intact, green shoots in consumption as well as private investment don't seem to be sustaining...

Michelle Obama blasts Trump at Harris rally

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER & FACEBOOK. APP AVAILABLE ON APP STORE & PLAYSTORE WWW.FINANCIALEXPRESS.COM

Rising costs dent India Inc margins

424 select firms see revenues grow at just 6% in Q2FY25

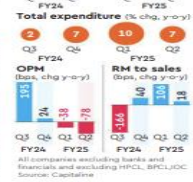
BY BUREAU New Delhi, October 27

THE INCREASE IN costs of a host of items, including commodity price spikes and rising employee expenses, has dented the operating margins of companies at a time when revenue growth has been muted.

For a group of 424 companies (excluding banks, financials and oil marketing companies) that have announced results for Q2FY25, revenues grew at a modest 6% year-on-year. At the same time, the total expenditure went up by 7% leading to a fall in operating margins of about 80 basis points (bps) y-o-y.

At Havells, employee costs increased by 26% y-o-y due to an increase in manpower and salary hikes while spends on advertising shot up by 53% y-o-y ahead of the festive season.

COST SIDE STORY



At Havells, employee costs increased by 26% y-o-y due to an increase in manpower and salary hikes while spends on advertising shot up by 53% y-o-y ahead of the festive season.

RESULTS REVIEW. A circular graphic with the text 'RESULTS REVIEW' and a small bar chart showing a downward trend.

Advertisement for Union Bank of India Diwali Delights for Everyone. Features Union Shakti loan, MSME Loan, and Education Loan. Includes a family photo and contact information.

SBI NAMED BEST BANK IN INDIA BY GLOBAL FINANCE MAGAZINE

STATE BANK OF India (SBI) was recognised as the Best Bank in India for 2024 by Global Finance Magazine of the US at its 31st Annual Best Bank Awards event held during the sidelines of Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank in Washington. SBI chairman CS Setty received the award.

● TATA-AIRBUS PLANT IN VADODARA FOR C295 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT

Modi, Sanchez to unveil first pvt facility for military aircraft today

PM and his Spanish counterpart to hold bilateral talks

SHUBHAJIT ROY
New Delhi, October 27

SPAIN'S PRIME MINISTER Pedro Sanchez is reaching Vadodara on Monday where he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold bilateral talks and inaugurate the Final Assembly Line (FAL) plant of the C295 medium-lift tactical transport aircraft for the Indian Air Force.

The Vadodara facility is India's first private military transport aircraft production plant, a partnership between Tata Advanced System Limited (TASL) and Airbus Defence and Space (Airbus DS).

Under the first 'Make in India' aerospace programme in the private sector, India is to acquire 56 C295 aircraft to replace the IAF's legacy Avro fleet.

Airbus is to deliver the first 16 aircraft in fly-away condition from its FAL in Seville, Spain. The remaining 40 air-



Of the 56 C295 aircraft being acquired for the IAF, 16 will be delivered from Spain. Of these, six have already arrived

REUTERS

craft will be manufactured and assembled by TASL at the Vadodara facility.

With a proven capability of operating from short or unprepared airstrips, the C295, sources said, is used for tactical transport of up to 71 troops or 50 paratroopers, and for logistic operations to locations that are not accessible to current heavier aircraft.

It can airdrop paratroopers

and loads, and can be used for casualty or medical evacuation (medevac), as demonstrated during the Covid-19 crisis, using either basic litters or mobile intensive care units (ICU) with life support equipment. The aircraft can perform special missions as well as disaster response and maritime patrol duties.

Sources said the ministry of defence and Airbus signed a

\$2.5 billion contract for the supply of 56 C295. The first of 16 aircraft was delivered to the IAF from Spain in September 2023—so far 6 aircraft have been delivered.

The FAL plant in Vadodara, sources said, will roll out the first Made-in-India C295 aircraft in 2026. The 56th aircraft is expected to be delivered to the IAF by 2031.

The first Make-in-India pro-

ject in aerospace in the private sector involves the full development of a complete industrial ecosystem: from manufacture to assembly, test and qualification, to delivery and maintenance of the complete lifecycle of the aircraft.

Apart from the Tatas, leading defence public sector units such as Bharat Electronics Ltd and Bharat Dynamics Ltd as well as private MSMEs will contribute to this programme, sources said.

At present, the only final assembly line for the C295 aircraft is located in Seville—it also produces the Airbus A400 aircraft. This is the first time Airbus will have a full production system in another country.

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, accompanied by his spouse Begona Gomez, will be on an official visit to India from October 28 to 30.

He will hold bilateral talks with Modi at the Laxmi Vilas Palace. This will be his first visit to India—the first by a Spanish PM after 18 years.

Modi and Sanchez have met several times on the sidelines of multilateral meetings.

-
- **English:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez will inaugurate India's first private facility for manufacturing military transport aircraft, the C295, in Vadodara, Gujarat. The plant is a collaboration between Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Airbus Defence and Space.
 - **हिंदी:** प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और स्पेन के प्रधानमंत्री पेद्रो सांचेज़ गुजरात के वडोदरा में सैन्य परिवहन विमान C295 के निर्माण के लिए भारत की पहली निजी सुविधा का उद्घाटन करेंगे। यह संयंत्र टाटा एडवांस्ड सिस्टम्स लिमिटेड (TASL) और एयरबस डिफेंस एंड स्पेस के बीच एक सहयोग है।

- **. Significance of C295 Aircraft**

- **English:** The C295 aircraft, which has a capability to carry 71 troops or 50 paratroopers, will replace the Indian Air Force's legacy Avro fleet. It is designed for tactical transport, logistics, and medevac operations, suitable for both short and unprepared airstrips.

- **हिंदी:** C295 विमान, जिसमें 71 सैनिकों या 50 पैराट्रूपर्स को ले जाने की क्षमता है, भारतीय वायुसेना के पुराने अवरो बेड़े की जगह लेगा। इसे सामरिक परिवहन, लॉजिस्टिक्स और चिकित्सा निकासी संचालन के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है, जो छोटी और बिना तैयार हवाई पट्टियों के लिए उपयुक्त है।

- **Details of the Contract**

- **English:** Airbus is set to supply 56 C295 aircraft under a \$2.5 billion contract. The first 16 units will be delivered from Spain, with the remaining 40 to be manufactured in Vadodara. The full delivery is expected by 2031.
- **हिंदी:** एयरबस \$2.5 बिलियन के अनबंध के तहत 56 C295 विमान प्रदान करेगा। पहले 16 विमान स्पेन से आएंगे, जबकि शेष 40 का निर्माण वडोदरा में किया जाएगा। पूरी आपूर्ति 2031 तक पूरी होने की उम्मीद है।

- **Strategic Importance of the Project**

- **English:** This project, under the 'Make in India' initiative, is the first full production line for the C295 outside Spain. It signifies India's advancement in the aerospace sector and promotes a comprehensive industrial ecosystem involving private and public sector entities.

- **हिंदी:** 'मेक इन इंडिया' पहल के तहत यह परियोजना स्पेन के बाहर C295 का पहला पूर्ण उत्पादन लाइन है। यह भारत की एयरोस्पेस क्षेत्र में प्रगति का प्रतीक है और इसमें निजी और सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की इकाइयों को शामिल कर एक व्यापक औद्योगिक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को बढ़ावा देता है।

- **Bilateral Engagements**

- **English:** Apart from inaugurating the facility, PM Modi and PM Sanchez will hold bilateral talks to strengthen defense and aerospace cooperation between India and Spain. This visit marks Sanchez's first official trip to India since taking office.
- **हिंदी:** संयंत्र के उद्घाटन के अलावा, प्रधानमंत्री मोदी और प्रधानमंत्री सांचेज़ भारत और स्पेन के बीच रक्षा और एयरोस्पेस सहयोग को मजबूत करने के लिए द्विपक्षीय वार्ता करेंगे। यह सांचेज़ की पदभार संभालने के बाद भारत की पहली आधिकारिक यात्रा है।

Minimum Diet Diversity Failure (MDDDF) in Indian States

—

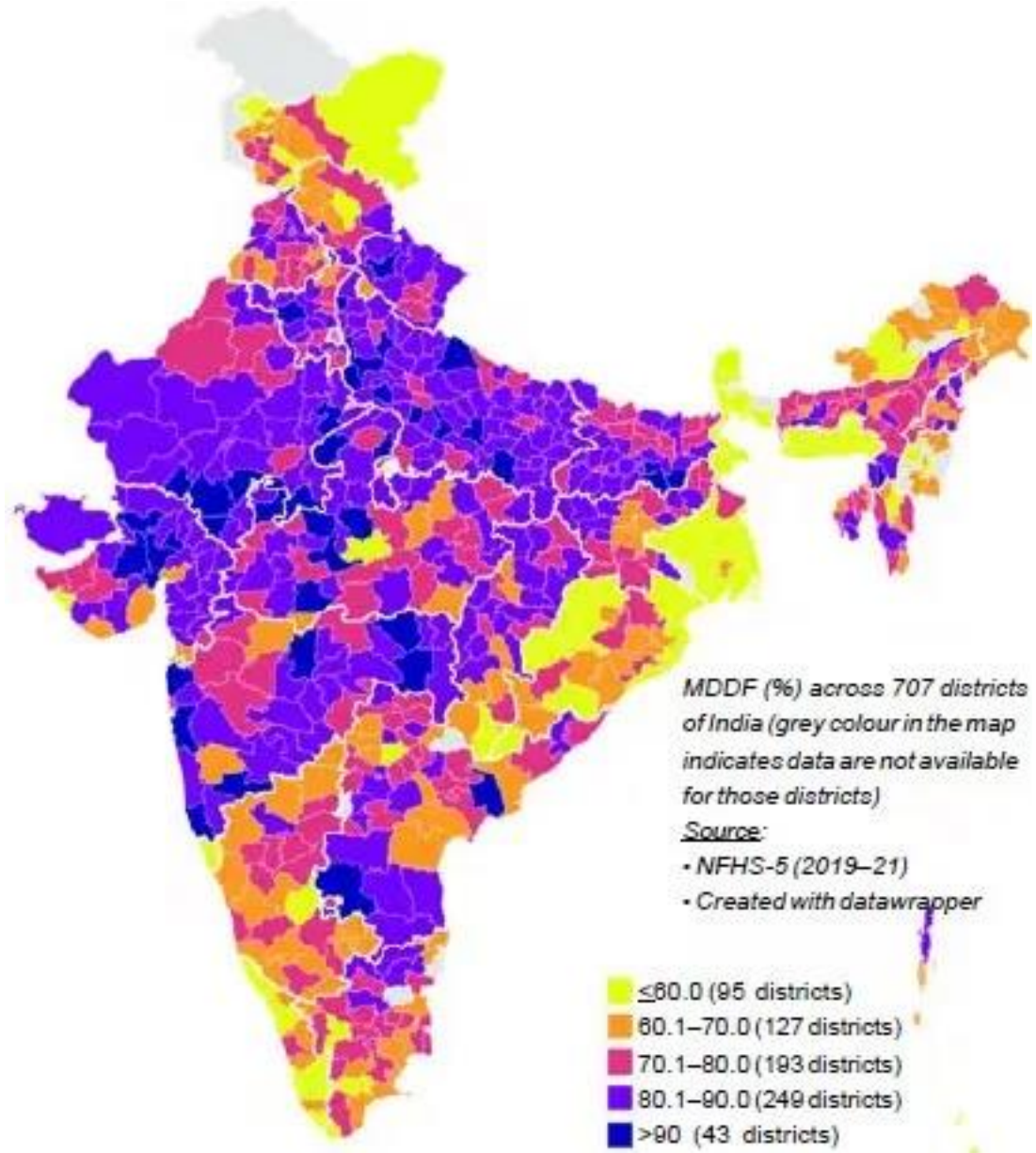
-
- The report was published in the National Medical Journal of India published by All India Institute of Medical Sciences.
 - **Minimum diet diversity**
 - Minimum dietary diversity is a reliable and widely used indicator approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) that reflects the access and consumption of diverse food groups and essential micronutrient availability to the children.
 - As per the WHO, nutrition-related factors lead to approximately 35 percent of child deaths and contribute to 11 per cent of the total disease burden globally.

- **Key Findings of recent report**

- **Data sources** : Scientists used National Family and Health Survey (NFHS) datasets from rounds 3, 4 and 5 to examine MDDF among children longitudinally, regionally and across population groups having diverse background characteristics.

- The NFHS surveys, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, provided representative data covering India. The MDDF rate declined from 87.4% in NFHS-3 (2005-06) to 77.1% in NFHS-5 (2019-21).

-
- **Prevalence of MDDF:** Despite a decline, eight Indian states, mainly in the north, central, and west, still have over 80% MDDF among children aged 6-23 months.



-
- Uttar Pradesh (86.1%), Rajasthan (85.1%), Gujarat (84%), Maharashtra (81.9%), and Madhya Pradesh (81.6%) are the highest.
 - **Regional Trends:** Central India had the highest MDDF (84.6%) as of 2019-21. Only 95 of the 707 districts analyzed showed MDDF prevalence below 60%, mainly in the south, east, northeast, and north.

-
- **Diet Diversity:** Consumption of food items within eight groups, including eggs, Vitamin A-rich foods, vegetables, and flesh foods, increased from NFHS-3 to NFHS-5.
 - **Factors Affecting MDDF:** Logistic modeling found higher MDDF among children of young, illiterate mothers, girls, poor households, anemic children, low birth-weight infants, and those lacking regular health checkups at anganwadis/ICDS centers.

United Nations Day

—

-
- United Nations Day is observed on October 24th each year.
 - **About United Nations Day**
 - The day marks the anniversary of the **United Nations Charter** coming into force in 1945.
 - The UN was established post-World War II to promote peace, security, and cooperation among countries.
 - The term “United Nations” was first coined by **Franklin D. Roosevelt** in the Declaration of the United Nations on January 1, 1942.

The organization started with 51 member states and has grown to 193.

The infographic consists of two main sections. The first section on the left features a large, light-orange arrow pointing to the right. Inside the arrow's tail is a solid orange circle containing the text 'The organization started with 51 member states and has grown to 193.' The second section on the right features a large, light-gray arrow pointing to the right. Inside its tail is a solid gray circle containing the text 'There are six official languages of the United Nation are as follows:'. To the right of this circle is a vertical list of six languages, each preceded by a black dot: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

There are six official languages of the United Nation are as follows:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- English
- French
- Russian
- Spanish

-
- The top **four contributors** are the United States, Japan, China and Germany.
 - **UN's Contribution to the World**
 - **Preventing Nuclear Proliferation: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** was established in **1957** as an autonomous organization within the **United Nations system**.

Maintaining Peace and Security:

Supporting Disarmament: UN support the disarmament efforts through –

- **The Chemical Weapons Convention-1997 The Mine-Ban Convention-1997, The Arms Trade Treaty-2014.**
- **UN peacekeepers forces** to implement disarmament agreements between warring parties.

-
- **Promoting Development:** The **Millennium Development Goals (MDG)** have served as a framework for raising living standards, human capabilities, and potential worldwide since 2000.
 - The **UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)** works in more than 150 countries, focusing primarily on child protection, immunization, girls' education, and emergency aid.
 - The **UN Development Programme (UNDP)** supports more than 4,800 projects to combat poverty, encourage good governance, deal with crises, and protect the environment.

-
- **Historic Architecture and Natural Sites Protection:** UNESCO has assisted **137 nations** in protecting historic, cultural, and natural sites. In order to protect cultural assets, cultural diversity, and exceptional natural and cultural places, it has negotiated international accords.
 - More than a thousand of these locations have been named **World Heritage Sites** due to their remarkable universal importance

-
- **Environment Protection:** Climate change is a global problem that demands a global solution. The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, which brings together 2,000 leading climate change scientists, issues comprehensive scientific assessments every 5-6 years.
 - **Initiative on Human Rights:** UN General Assembly adopted the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.**

Commitment to Reducing Inequality Index

—

-
- The Index is published by international non-governmental organisation Oxfam and Development Finance International (DFI), measuring **164 countries' commitment to reducing inequality**.
 - **About**
 - The **fifth edition** of the index ranked countries on their policies regarding **public services spending** (education, health and social protection), progressive taxation, and labour rights and wages .

-
- **The top performers:** These are all high-income countries, led by Norway, Canada, Australia, Germany and Finland.
 - **Labour policies:** These countries start from much lower wage inequality.
 - They have **high social spending and collect more tax revenue.**
 - **Belarus, Costa Rica and South Africa** are at the best-performing among the low- and middle-income countries.

- **The worst performers:** They are low- and lower middle-income countries, all situated in sub-Saharan Africa (South Sudan, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Central African Republic, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Burundi).
-



South Asian countries' ranking



Source: Oxfam and Development Finance International



SPICE 2000 Bomb

—

-
- Israel launched a SPICE 2000 bomb to destroy a building in Beirut.
 - **About SPICE Bomb**
 - The SPICE 2000 is a type of guided bomb, often referred to as a “smart bomb.”
 - It is made by Israel’s owned Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.

-
- SPICE bombs use advanced guidance systems to accurately target specific locations.
 - The system utilizes both GPS and electro-optical sensors to navigate and target specific locations.

World's 1st Global Ecosystem Atlas



-
- World's 1st global ecosystem atlas is unveiled at the 16th Conference of Parties (COP16) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
 - **About**
 - The tool, developed by the **Group on Earth Observations (GEO)**, is the first of its kind to focus on **mapping and monitoring ecosystems** around the world.
-



The Atlas combines **existing national ecosystem maps and fills in gaps** using advanced techniques, such as Earth observation, artificial intelligence and field data collections.

It is **open-source**, it would be freely accessible to all.

-
- It provides important information about the **health and risks facing various ecosystems**, which can help governments, businesses, financial institutions and local communities make better decisions for sustainable management.

The Mukaab: World's Largest Building



-
- Saudi Arabia has officially commenced construction of the Mukaab — if completed, it is set to become the world's largest structure.
 - **About**
 - Located in the capital city of Riyadh, this **400m cube-shaped building** will encompass a staggering two million square metres of floor space, equivalent to twenty times that of New York's iconic **Empire State Building**.

-
- The 'Mukaab' is part of the ambitious '**New Murabba**' project, which aims to revitalise downtown Riyadh and contribute significantly to the Kingdom's **Vision 2030 initiative**.
 - The Mukaab will be built using the modern **Najdi architectural style**, one of the most prevalent architectural patterns in Saudi Arabia.

Najdi architectural style combines three main factors:

the need to respond to the hot desert climate,

the need for privacy in residential buildings, and


the need to use locally available materials such as mud brick stone and wood.

New Disability Certificate Rules

—

-
- Recently, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of India introduced the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Amendment) Rules, 2024.
 - Changes in Certification Process: Authority Requirement:
 - Only a designated medical authority at the district level can issue disability certificates.

Colour-Coded UDID Cards: Color-coded Unique Disability Identity (UDID) cards—white, yellow, and blue—were introduced to indicate disability levels. Blue represents a disability level of 80% or higher.



Online-Only Applications: New norms make it mandatory to apply for the disability certificate online.



Extended Processing Time:

The issuance period for disability certificates has been extended from **one month to three months.**

Reapplication

Requirement: If no action is taken on a disability certificate application within **two years**, the applicant must **reapply.**

Word of the day

Usurp:

seize and take control without authority and possibly with force

Synonyms: steal, confiscate, occupy

Usage: *He tried to usurp the leader's position without permission.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/usurppro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ju:zɜ:rp/



CURRENT AFFAIRS

By Bhunesh Sir

- ✓ UPDATED CURRENT AFFAIRS
- ✓ COMPLETE 2 YEARS (2023 + 2024) CURRENT AFFAIRS
- ✓ COMPLETE NOTES (PDF)
- ✓ 360° DEGREE EXAMS COVERED

~~₹1999/-~~ ₹599/-

Offer Date

12 & 13 OCT.

USE CODE - B70

CALL FOR SUPPORT: +91-7414862047

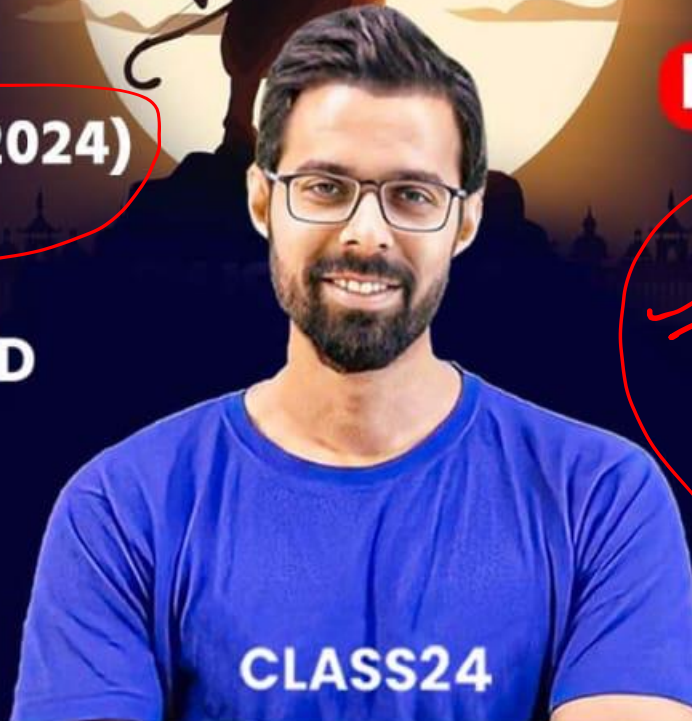
COMPLETE GK/GS COURSE

By Bhunesh Sir

- ✓ STATIC GK
- ✓ HISTORY
- ✓ POLITY
- ✓ GEOGRAPHY
- ✓ ECONOMICS
- ✓ SCIENCE

~~₹1999/-~~ ₹599/-

CLASS24



GK ✓

RAILWAY COURSES

ALL CATEGORIES

ALP

COMPLETE SCIENCE SPECIAL RRB ALP & TECHNICIAN
For RRB ALP 2023

JOIN NOW

WWW.CLASS24.STUDY

GENERAL SCIENCE & BASIC SCIENCE & ENGG. RAILWAY EXAM

Features

- ✓ complete engineering Drawing
- ✓ complete general science
- ✓ MCQ's for each topics
- ✓ practice (theoretical & numerical)
- ✓ printable complete notes (pdf's)
- ✓ ncert exemplar
- ✓ 150+ hours video course

40% OFF

USE CODE: R40

RRB ALP/TECHNICIAN

FOR ALL ITI TRADE EXAM

COMPLETE TRADE THEORY ECLECTRICIAN

- ELECTRICIAN FIELD
- NUMERICAL SESSION
- PYQS
- HINDI+ ENGLISH NOTES
- RECORDED CLASSES
- REVISION / MODULE
- PRACTICE SESSION

₹899/- ₹799/-

USE CODE TRADE

RRB ALP/Technician
For All ITI Trade Exam

Complete Trade Theory Mechanical/Automobile

- Fitter/Welder/Turner
- Diesel/Heat Engine/rac
- Tractor Mechanic
- Numerical Session
- PYQS
- Hindi+English Notes
- Regular Live Classes

रफ्तार Batch

Extra Discount for Shubham Sir Batch Students

Shubham Sir

USE CODE TRADE

Course Fee: ₹899/- ₹799/-

RAILWAY COMPLETE BATCH

Features

- ✓ General Science by Shipra Ma'am
- ✓ Basic Science and Engg by Shubham Sir
- ✓ Maths by Umesh Sir
- ✓ Reasoning by Shubham Sir
- ✓ Theory of each and every chapter in detail
- ✓ Printable Notes
- ✓ MCQs
- ✓ 100 Free Test

60% OFF

USE CODE: D60

BASIC SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING COURSE (ALP / TECH) 2024

HINDI & ENGLISH CONTENT DOUBT SESSIONS


1. THEORY + PRACTISE PDF
2. NUMERICALS
3. ALL PHYSICS TOPIC
4. ENGG.TOPICS
5. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS
- 6 LITERACY & ENVIRONMENT
7. 350 QUESTIONS BOOKLET

30%OFF

USE CODE RRR30

RAILWAY GENERAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION BATCH 2024

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Previous Year Questions
- Numericals
- Top Expected Questions

A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, with a blueish tint. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange horizontal bar and a cluster of small, glowing red dots of varying sizes.

Thank you
guys.
