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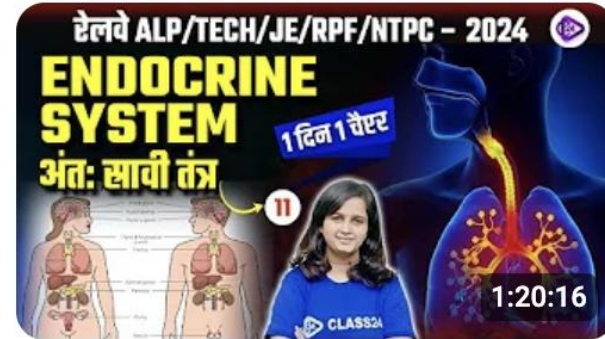
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Do good
for others.

It will
come back
in unexpected
ways.

TRIAL SOON
SC refuses to shift R.G. Kar case out of Bengal
NEWS > PAGE 4

CAQM ORDER
Stubble burning fines doubled
NEWS > PAGE 6

SRI LANKA POLS
Tamils need strong voice: Sumanthiran
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PARLEY
Addressing the issue of ageing population
Pro-natalist policies are not the way out
OPINION > PAGE 9

SOVI SERIES
India's young guns take on South Africa
SPORT > PAGE 16

INSIDE

Bedlam in J&K Assembly over resolution
SRINAGAR
A day after the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly passed a resolution on the restoration of special status, it witnessed scuffles, and adjournment, as BJP MLAs vociferously opposed the resolution moved by the ruling camp. > PAGE 4

Do not hesitate to invoke UAPA, Shah tells police
NEW DELHI
The police forces of the States should invoke the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) without hesitation when required, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday. > PAGE 4

Amazon, Flipkart under ED lens for FEMIA violation
NEW DELHI
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) searched 19 premises across five States linked to the main vendors of Amazon and Flipkart for suspected violation under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), an agency official said. > PAGE 12

Israel to deport family members of attackers
JERUSALEM
Israel's parliament passed a law on Thursday that would allow it to deport family members of Palestinian attackers, including Israeli citizens, to Gaza Strip or other locations. > PAGE 15

Cong. scared, copying our scheme: Shinde

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
NAGPUR
A day after the Congress announced its five guarantees for the Maharashtra Assembly election, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday accused it of "copying" the ruling Mahayuti coalition's popular scheme — the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana.
"The Congress is copying us because they are scared of us. They have nothing new to offer. So, in this election, they are making a false promise that of giving ₹3,000 to women," he told The Hindu during his campaign in Vidarbha.
Mr. Shinde also slammed the Shiv Sena (UBT)'s manifesto that promised a temple of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in each district.
"Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is the deity of Maharashtra. His temple is



in our hearts. But what Eknath Thackeray is doing is politicising Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj for electoral gains," he said.
Mr. Shinde also spoke on issues such as increase in the 50% reservation cap, caste-based census, the accusations of an unnatural death of Ajit Pawar, the impact of the split in parties, friendly fights, the trust of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, and the way ahead for the Mahayuti.
FULL INTERVIEW > PAGE 5

Supreme Court directs liquidation of debt-ridden Jet Airways as 'last resort'

Krishnasdas Rajasankar
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the liquidation of Jet Airways to commence as the "last viable resort" to protect the interests of the debt-ridden airline, its creditors, workers, and employees following the failure of a bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said speedily resolution, if not, time-bound liquidation, was essential to ensure that the assets of the beleaguered airline "did not get 'frittered away'".
Noting that time and speed were of the greatest essence to prevent further depreciation of the airline's assets, Justice J.R. Pawar, who authored the 169-page judgment, invoked the court's plenary powers under Article 142 of



the Constitution to direct the airline into liquidation in compliance with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) of 2016.
Peculiar circumstances
"In the peculiar and alarming circumstances as discussed in this judgment and also keeping in mind that almost five years have elapsed since the resolution plan was duly ap-



Grounded fleet The judgment was based on an appeal filed by the airline's creditors led by the State Bank of India. NLI/PW10
proved by the NCLAT (National Company Law Tribunal) and there being no progress worth the name, we are left with no other option..." Justice Pawar wrote.
The top court directed the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLAT), Mumbai to take appropriate steps for appointment of liquidator and all other necessary formalities for commence-

Many consular camps in Canada cancelled: India

Ministry of External Affairs says authorities in that country are not providing adequate security to diplomats and consular staff despite specific requests; Canada should bring those behind violence to justice, it adds; pro-Khalistani groups targeted a temple complex conducting a consular camp organised by Indian diplomats just days ago

Subhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI
Holding Canadian authorities responsible for failing to provide "adequate security" to Indian diplomats and consular staff, India on Thursday said it was cancelling a number of consular camps it had planned to help citizens of Indian origin with their documentation requirements.
The decision comes days after violent clashes broke out between pro-Khalistani groups that targeted a temple complex and the Indian-origin community at a consular camp organised by Indian diplomats in the Canadian city of Brampton.

of tensions between India and Canada, was condemned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who called the "cowardly attempts" to intimidate Indian diplomats "appalling" and slammed the attack on the Hindu Sabha Temple. "In view of the security agencies conveying their inability to provide minimum security protection to the community camp organisers, Consulate has decided to cancel some of the scheduled consular camps," said a social media post by the Indian government to "uphold the rule of law" and bring those who perpetrated the violence to justice.
"We had asked for security for our diplomats where the consular camp was to be held and those

Indian High Commission and consulates in Canada, some of the camps, mainly in the Toronto area were not provided adequate security.
The Indian consulate also shared visuals of two camps at a Sikh Centre and Hindu temple in Winnipeg, Manitoba, where over 600 certificates were processed on Wednesday.
"Rule of law" At a media briefing in Delhi, Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal called on the Canadian government to "uphold the rule of law" and bring those who perpetrated the violence to justice.
"We had asked for security for our diplomats where the consular camp was to be held and those



Strained ties The Indian High Commission in Ottawa. REUTERS
have not been provided by the Canadian side," he said.
In response to a question, Mr. Jaiswal said that over the last year or so, threats to Indian diplomats have increased, and the government has seen the "attacking, intimidating, harassing" of Indian diplomats.
He said the diplomats

need "life certificates" verified by the Indian consulates in order to process their pension payments for the next year.
The Canadian High Commission did not respond to the latest charges by the Ministry, that follow a rapid deterioration in bilateral relations, including the expulsion of each other's diplomats and the decision by India to bring back its High Commission to Canada, Sanjay Verma, who has been taken up by India with the Canadian government.
The consular camps are held regularly at the request of the Indian community in Vancouver, but are particularly crowded in November and December as many citizens

persons responsible for the violence after clashes at the temple premises "escalated well beyond what was acceptable".
Brampton City Mayor Patrick Brown also shared letters from both the Ontario Guardians Council condemning the violence by protesters at the temple, and the Hindu Sabha Temple statement suspending a priest for his alleged involvement in the counter-protests.
While Indo-Canadians or Canadians of Indian origin number 1.86 million or about 5% of the Canadian population overall, the numbers in Brampton are much larger, with about 180,000 people identifying as Indian-origin, representing about 28% of the city's population.

Lifeline in distress



Devotees congregate for Chhath Puja on the banks of the polluted Yamuna in Delhi on Thursday. SHUJIB SHENOAI/KASHIAN

Ruling bloc breaks apart in Germany

Associated Press
BERLIN
Germany's ruling coalition collapsed late on Wednesday when Chancellor Olaf Scholz fired Finance Minister Christian Lindner of the pro-business Free Democrats. Three ministers of the Free Democrats quit in response, leading to the downfall of the coalition.
Mr. Scholz said on Thursday that he would lead the country with a minority government, made up of six Social Democrats and the Greens until early next year, despite calls from early elections.
FULL REPORT > PAGE 14

We concede the election but not the fight: Harris

Sriram Lakshmanan
WASHINGTON DC
Hours after she lost the Presidential election to her Republican opponent Donald Trump, U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris conceded the election but urged her supporters to continue the "fight" and stay organised and engaged.
"My heart is full today... full of love for our country and full of resolve," said Ms. Harris, in an 11-minute speech, her voice shaking at times.
"I spoke with President-elect Trump and congratulated him on his victory. I also told him that we will help him and his team with their transition and that we will engage in a peaceful transfer of power," she said, speaking at her alma mater, Howard University in Washington DC.
"A fundamental principle of American democracy is that when we lose an election, we accept the results," she said, presumably making a veiled reference to Mr. Trump who did not concede the 2020 poll that he lost, instead mounting multiple legal challenges and delivering an incendiary speech that motivated his supporters to attack the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. (Although the 2016 Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton's supporters protested following her loss in the election against Mr. Trump, Ms. Clinton conceded the election on November 9, hours after that year's Electoral College vote.)
Ms. Harris also made references to personal loyalty — something Mr. Trump appeared to demand from bureaucrats and army officers during his first term. "At the same time, in



Kamala Harris speaking at Howard University in Washington DC. GETTY IMAGES

our nation, we owe loyalty not to a President or a party but to the Constitution of the United States. And loyalty to our conscience and to our God." Ms. Harris said. "My allegiance to all three is why I am here to say: While I concede this election, I do not concede the fight that fuelled this campaign," she said.
Ms. Harris consoled young people in the audience, some of whom were crying. "You have power," she said.
Uniting people
"This is not a time to throw up our hands. This is a time to roll up our sleeves," she added, urging people to stay organised and engaged. During her campaign, she spoke of wanting to unite people, drawing a contrast with Mr. Trump, who had made references to using the U.S. military against "the enemy within". Ms. Harris suggested that the "fight" would continue in the court room, in the public square, but also "in quieter ways" by "lifting people up" and by "looking in the face of a stranger and seeing a neighbour".
MORE REPORTS > PAGES 14 & 15

IN BRIEF



Foundation stone laid for P.V. Sindhu Badminton Centre

The groundbreaking event of the P.V. Sindhu Centre for Badminton and Sports Excellence was held in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. The Andhra Pradesh government had allocated three acres of land for the establishment of the sporting facility in Visakhapatnam in June 2023, during the tenure of then Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy. Ms. Sindhu performed the foundation stone-laying ceremony along with her parents.

Kerala court sentences 3 to life term in Kollam blast case

The Kollam Principal Sessions Court on Thursday awarded life imprisonment to the three accused in the 2016 Kollam Collectorate explosion case along with a fine of ₹50,000 each. The court found Abbas Ali, 31, Shamsoun Karim Raja, 33, and Dawood Sulaiman, 27, all residents of Madurai in Tamil Nadu, guilty. The three convicts were members of Base Movement, an outfit that allegedly supports Al-Qaeda. They had used an IED hidden in a coffin box to orchestrate a blast on the Kollam Collectorate premises. Though there were no casualties, one sustained injuries.

Telangana woman held after kidnap attempt in hospital

Askari Begum, 45, was arrested for trying to kidnap a newborn from the Government Maternity Hospital in Koth, Telangana. Probe revealed that the woman was a habitual offender involved in at least nine cases between 2014 and 2023. She was in the hospital to assist her daughter with her delivery. She was caught when she tried to kidnap a newborn of a woman, Rahnmatunissa Begum, from the labour room.

Bengaluru to get first digital population clock today

The Hindu Bureau
 BENGALURU

Bengaluru city's first digital population clock, which will display real-time estimates of the population of Karnataka and India, will be inaugurated at the Institute for Social and Economic Change on Friday.

The population clock, a project jointly taken up by ISEC and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, would update the estimated Karnataka's population every one minute to seconds and the country's population every two seconds. It has been set up to create awareness about population growth of the country.

Preliminary probe into Hema panel cases to be over by Dec.

The Kerala government responds to a public interest litigation petition in Special Division Bench of the HC; the court says it is trying to get different views, predominantly women's perspective

The Hindu Bureau
 KOCHI

The Kerala government on Thursday informed a Special Division Bench of the Kerala High Court that the preliminary inquiry being conducted under the close supervision of senior police officers in the cases following the K. Hema Committee report would be completed before December-end.

The submission was made in a progress report filed by the State government in response to a public interest litigation petition filed in connection with the committee report. The Bench comprising



Justice A.K. Jayasankaran Nambiar and Justice G.S. Sudha appointed Miha Sudhindran, lawyer, as amicus curiae to assist the court in the collection of suggestions from various stakeholders in the entertainment industry and other works on formulating an enactment. The court said it was trying to get different perspectives, predomi-

nantly the feminine perspective, "because that is something lacking in our laws."

Of the 26 FIRs registered in connection with the report, the survivors in five cases had expressed their unwillingness to go ahead with the proceedings. However, the team was still trying to collect some other evidence in these cases. In three cases, the survivors identified said the statements attributed to them were not theirs. They said they did not know anything about the incidents alleged in the statements. However, attempts were being made to call SIT to meet the actual survivors.

'Historical temples, lands declared waqf property without notice'

The Hindu Bureau
 HUBBALLI

Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, Jagdamba Pal, has said that what is happening in Karnataka with regard to the Waqf Board claiming ownership of various properties, including religious institutions, is a matter of concern and he will place the matter before the JPC.

Addressing presspersons after hearing grievances of farmers and BJP leaders here on Thursday, Mr. Pal said that he had received memoranda from various groups on even historical temples and lands that were cultivated for decades being declared as waqf property without issuing any notice.

'Mutations changed' "It is as if a drive is being carried out in Karnataka. Not only the properties are being declared as waqf property but also mutations are being changed that too without giving any notices. How is it possible? Who is responsible? Such steps cannot be

taken without the involvement of the administration," he said. Referring to the State government's announcement that notices would be withdrawn and that farmers would not be evicted, Mr. Pal said that the government had issued the statement, mutations had already been done in the land records, which was a matter of concern.

Mr. Pal said that after Tejavu Surya, a member of the JPC, brought to his notice the developments in Karnataka, he had come to hear the grievances of the

JPC chief says the committee will submit a report in the winter session

agrieved farmers. Mr. Pal said that around 70 representations from various groups and from the Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, and the fact-finding committee of the BJP.

Their representations were placed before the JPC and they would be called to appear before the

committee to air their grievances, Mr. Pal said. Apart from the developments in Karnataka, there were other contentious issues with regard to the waqf board, JPC members had visited Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and other places to hear the various stakeholders, including experts on the issue, board members and other authorities. JPC members were set to visit Guwahati, Patna, Kolkata and other places in the coming days, he said.

To a query on the whole programme of receiving re-

presentations being converted into a BJP event, Mr. Pal said that it was not so. Apart from BJP leaders several farmers' delegations and individuals had submitted memoranda on their grievances.

To another query that he should have met the farmers with all other members of JPC, he said that it was not necessary as he would be placing their representations before the JPC.

He said that the JPC would submit a comprehensive report in the winter session of Parliament.

Top court dismisses petitions seeking exemption for salaried nuns from paying income tax

The Hindu Bureau
 NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed 93 petitions from various missionaries to exempt salaried nuns from paying income tax. The missionaries had argued that nuns and priests enter a state of civil death when they take their vow of poverty and need not pay tax.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.V. Chandrachud, however, did not agree. The court said any person who receives a salary, whether a nun or not, has to pay tax. "The law is common for all... How can

you say it is not subject to TDS?" CJ asked.

"When an organisation pays a salary, whether it is retained by the person or paid elsewhere, either to the spouse or someone else, has nothing to do with taxability," the Chief Justice reasoned.

The missionaries had argued that the salaries are not used for the personal expenses of the nuns but go to the respective congregations. They had contended that nuns take the three sacred vows of obedience, chastity and poverty after undergoing rigorous training. They cannot own property and never marry. Nuns live ascetic

lives. The income they earn becomes that of their congregations, which submit tax returns, if necessary.

"Once a person takes the vow of poverty, she disowns all her earthly relationships with the natural family. She undergoes civil death. Even if the natural parents of a nun die intestate, the assets of the deceased parents do not devolve upon the nun," one of the petitions, filed by the Sister Superior of the Franciscan Missionary of St. Clare, had argued.

The various ecclesiastical orders had challenged a December 1, 2014, Income Tax Department directive.

Expert advice



Taking lessons: Experts from the U.S. and Canada visit the Polavaram Irrigation Project on the Godavari river in Eluru district of Andhra Pradesh. The State has sought assistance from foreign experts on the advice of the Central government. ANI

Priyanka greets poll rival, sets an example on political civility

Abdul Latheef Naha
 MALAPPURAM/PALAKKAD

United Democratic Front (UDF) candidate for the Palakkad Assembly byelection Rahul Mankootathil and his mentor Shyam Prambil, MP, perhaps get a lesson in political civility from Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress general secretary and UDF candidate for Wayanad Lok Sabha byelection.

Mr. Mankootathil and Mr. Parambil recently triggered a controversy by refusing to shake hands with P. Sarin, Left Democratic Front (LDF) candidate in Palakkad, when they met at a wedding reception, sending out a message of intense political rivalry.



Surprise move: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra greeting Sathyan Mokeri, her electoral opponent in Wayanad, on Thursday.

But Ms. Vadra, their national leader, surprised even LDF campaign managers at Erumamunda, when she stopped her vehicle to greet her electoral opponent Sathyan Mokeri at Erumamunda, near Nilambur, on Thursday. Ms. Vadra's convoy was heading towards Pothukal after her meeting at Akampadam when she saw Mr. Mokeri addressing an LDF election meeting at Erumamunda. She got out of the vehicle, walked up to Mr. Mokeri, and shook hands with him. Ms. Vadra said "all the best" to Mr. Mokeri before proceeding to her next meeting at Pothukal.

Now, spot the tiger wings at KIA's T2

The Hindu Bureau
 BENGALURU

The "terminal in a garden" at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru now boasts of "tiger wings".

This is the name of a unique vertical garden designed in collaboration with Patrick Blanc, a globally recognised botanist affiliated with the French National Centre for Scientific Research, which was unveiled at Terminal 2 here on Thursday.

The 30-foot-high, 160-foot-wide installation has two walls, each of 80 feet, boasting over 15,000 plants across 153 species, many native to Karnataka and the Western Ghats. "Utilising a soilless sys-



Green covers: Tiger wings, a vertical garden wall at Terminal 2 of Kempegowda International Airport. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tem with specialised felt imported from Germany, the garden's intricate design captures the strength and elegance of India's national animal, the tiger. Aparag plants trace the silhouettes of aeroplane wings, while vibrant red, orange, yellow, and white Isora flowers represent the tiger's signature pattern, a BIAL release said.

This is touted as Mr. Blanc's largest project in India. At the unveiling, he said, "I call this tiger wings because of the air-tight wings, while the tiger is a sacred animal in India," he added.

He added that the cost of the installation, BIAL officials said it came up to ₹20,000 per sq.m., which is inclusive.

coexist seamlessly. By employing specialised felt layers, we create an environment where plants thrive, just as they would in nature's crevices. This project transcends merely enhancing the visual landscape of the airport; it is a statement of our commitment to sustainable architecture."

The concept of "tiger wings" will come alive when the flowering begins, he said. "I call this tiger wings because of the air-tight wings, while the tiger is a sacred animal in India," he added.

He added that the cost of the installation, BIAL officials said it came up to ₹20,000 per sq.m., which is inclusive.

Green Line extension of Bengaluru Metro opens

The Hindu Bureau
 BENGALURU

After a prolonged wait, the much-anticipated Green Line extension of the Namma Metro, connecting Nagasandra and Madivara, is now open.

Officials said that the first metro train from Madivara departed on Thursday at 5 a.m., marking the beginning of the commercial operations on this new stretch.

The stretch is expected to bring significant relief to thousands of commuters along Tumakuru Road, which is a key arterial road that links Bengaluru to its northwestern suburbs.

+ Bengaluru to get first digital population clock today

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

Bengaluru city's first digital population clock, which will display real-time estimates of the population of Karnataka and India, will be inaugurated at the Institute for Social and Economic Change on Friday.

The population clock, a project jointly taken up by ISEC and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, would update the estimated Karnataka's population every one minute 10 seconds and the country's population every two seconds. It has been set up to create awareness about population growth of the country.

IN BRIEF

Delhi HC lets man procure Rushdie's Satanic Verses

The Delhi High Court has permitted a resident to lawfully procure the book 'The Satanic Verses' by Salman Rushdie...

Delegates from 32 countries attend Buddhism summit

Buddhist scholars and experts said at the First Asian Buddhist Summit in New Delhi that the Summit has reaffirmed India's commitment to the Buddhist legacy...

Air quality commission doubles fine on farmers for stubble burning

Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI

Following multiple raps by the Supreme Court for inadequately addressing stubble burning, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)...

less than two acres of farm-holding and was expected to pay ₹2,500 for each incidence...

The fines come even as farm fires in Punjab and Haryana show a declining trend...

Thus farmers who have

'Rules cannot change midway of public services recruitment'

Rules on recruitments to public services must be governed by fundamental rights of equality, says a Constitution Bench of top court; 'rules' mean eligibility criteria and selection procedure, it adds

Krishnamadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

A five-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud held on Thursday that the eligibility criteria, or the 'rules of the game'...

Eligibility criteria for being placed in the select list, notified at the commencement of the recruitment process, cannot be changed midway through the recruitment process...

The Constitution Bench, in the unanimous 44-page judgment, held that the law, rules and procedure governing recruitments to public services...



Criteria for being in select list cannot be changed midway unless extant rules or advertisement, which is not contrary to extant rules, so permits JUSTICE MANOJ MISRA

Instrumentalities could not arbitrarily deny appointment to a selected candidate.

Therefore, Justice Misra said, it would be the state's burden to justify the denial of appointment to a selected candidate.

However, the judge said a spot squandered away the benefits of eating millets results in decreasing the protein, dietary fibre, fat, mineral and phytochemical content...

Removing bran on millets reduces the benefits of eating them: study

Ramya Kannan CHENNAI

Removing the bran from millets results in decreasing the protein, dietary fibre, fat, mineral and phytochemical content in them while increasing the carbohydrate and amylose content...



Harvest time! Foxtail millets ready to be harvested at a farm at Thopanakkenpatti in Dindigul district. C. SARATHI/ANNA

Research Foundation (MDFRF), Chennai, and the Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad.

High in minerals

Millets are high in minerals such as calcium, iron, phosphorus, and potassium, and they are an excellent source of phytochemicals such as phenolic compounds...

Wikimedia denies receiving notice from Centre on content

Aruno Datta NEW DELHI

The Wikimedia Foundation has not received any notice from the Indian government on its content, a spokesperson for the non-profit said on Thursday.

On Tuesday, a government official said in a message to journalists that a notice was sent to the foundation, though no statement was issued through the Press Information Bureau...

The information and Broadcasting Ministry did not have any immediate comment on the non-response of its media.

The government's alleged notice was described as calling out a "small group having editorial control" on Wikipedia...

The unusual back-and-forth between the govern-

On Tuesday, a government official had said to journalists that a notice was sent to the foundation, though no statement was issued by PIB

ment and Wikipedia comes even as the Delhi High Court hears a suit by Asian News International.

The news agency is fighting a description in a Wikipedia article on it that characterises it as friendly to the government and a spreader of misinformation on its behalf.

The case and the conservative grievances with the supposed liberal slant of Wikipedia's editors have laid bare a key tension between India's growing regulation of online platforms and the online encyclopedia: what to do with a non-profit that as a policy does not interfere in content decisions by unpaid users.

Modi tells Trump that India looks to future ties

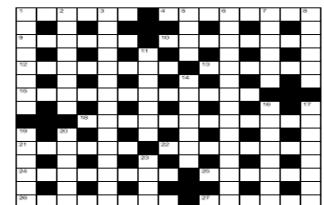
The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

India "celebrates" the U.S. election process, said the government on Thursday. Also, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told U.S. President-elect Donald Trump that India looks forward to future cooperation with the United States during his tenure.

During his call to Mr. Trump to congratulate him for his victory in the elections on Wednesday, Mr. Modi had recalled their memorable interactions during his first tenure (2014-2020), including two public rallies they had addressed together in Houston and Gandhinagar, according to a statement released on Thursday.

"As a fellow democracy, India celebrates this expression of people's mandate in the United States," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaishwal, speaking to journalists at the MEA's briefing on Thursday.

THE CROSSWORD 14325



To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site at: https://argopagez.in/argp

- 15 Praise remarkable life, mention later (12)
16 Vital service proving minimum amount required to start a project (8,4)
21 Novellet under pressure - remove (6)
22 Adaptable nature allows me to be able to work with numbers (8)
24 Milk supplier invites Henry and me home for some food (4,4)
25 Carot embracing Diana displaying partnership (10)
26 Students do look very impressive (5,3)
27 Empties everything, eats this and defecates (6)
Down
1 Prepared a feast, you could find it in the kitchen (4,4)
2 Leaders never get involved in plan that is substantial (8)
3 As if Mrs. Thatcher appointed Santa (9,9)
4 Firm sacked worker, he was the first (4)
5 Crumbing to parts, in other words ignoring (4,1,1)
7 A not invited in involving rowdies essentially, clever! (6)
8 Entering borders in advance - that's a great story (6)
9 Time to go in, beat the law (7)
10 Proud! Gather inside, eat (5,2)
11 Frequent flyers' pen, sign underneath (8)
12 Sprinkling of holy water presages reformation (8)
13 Heels for cold, one comes up to support intellectual property (8)
14 Leave in boat - running capital? (6)
15 Find half the record (4)

SUDOKU

9x9 grid for a Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Solution to previous puzzle
5 8 7 3 1 4 9 6 2
9 4 7 2 6 8 3 5 1
1 2 5 7 9 4 6 8 3
3 7 6 9 1 8 5 9 4
8 1 4 3 2 6 7 5 8
6 1 2 3 8 7 5 8 4 9
7 3 4 5 6 8 1 5 2 6
8 5 9 4 2 6 1 3 7

FAITH

Greatness of Rama nama

Yasoda told the story of Rama to Krishna when he was young. Markandeya Maharshi told Ramayana to Yudhishtira. Hanuman said the same to sage Bharadwaja and Bharatha before Rama's incarnation. Rama was all happy listening to His story narrated by Lava and Kusa. The apostle Kulasekara listened to Ramayana every day in his kingdom. The first literature formation is Sri Ramayana. What sage Valmiki had composed in about 24,000 verses in Sanskrit was compiled by poet Kambar in about 10,000 poems.

Trichy Sri Kalyanaram said in a discourse that people should not just stop reciting Sri Rama nama but also know its meaning and all the righteous deeds Rama had observed. There should be no complacency in the bhakti cult. Rama had never found fault with anyone for his tribulations. Rama told Sugreeva that when He was young, He had thrown a clay ball on the back of Manthara for fun sake, which resulted in untold suffering. He alerted Sugreeva not to commit any mistake. Rama led a pious life and changed all to follow the same.

'Rules cannot change midway of public services recruitment'

Rules on recruitments to public services must be governed by fundamental rights of equality, says a Constitution Bench of top court; 'rules' mean eligibility criteria and selection procedure, it adds

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A five-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud held on Thursday that the eligibility criteria, or the "rules of the game", for selection of candidates to public services could not be changed midway once the recruitment commenced.

"Eligibility criteria for being placed in the select list, notified at the commencement of the recruitment process, cannot be changed midway through the recruitment process unless the extant rules so permit, or the advertisement, which is not contrary to the extant rules, so permits," Justice Manoj Misra, who authored the judgment, concluded.


The Constitution Bench, in the unanimous 44-page judgment, held that the laws, rules and procedure governing recruitments to public services, both of the Union and the States, must



be governed by the overarching principles of the fundamental rights of equality and non-discrimination.

Even if the criteria has to be altered, the change will have to meet the requirements of Articles 14 (right to equality) and 16 (equal opportunity in public employment and non-discrimination) of the Constitution and satisfy the test of non-arbitrariness, the court underscored.

However, the judgment said a spot on the select list would not guarantee a candidate the indefeasible right to be appointed even if vacancies were available. However, on the other hand, the state or any of its

 Criteria for being in select list cannot be changed midway unless extant rules or advertisement, which is not contrary to extant rules, so permits

JUSTICE MANOJ MISRA
Supreme Court Judge

instrumentalities could not arbitrarily deny appointment to a selected candidate.

Therefore, Justice Misra said, it would be the state's burden to justify the denial of appointment to a selected candidate.

Justice Misra explained what "the rules of the game" meant.

"The 'game' is the process of selection and appointment. Courts have consistently frowned upon tinkering with the rules of the game once the recruitment process commences. This has crystallised into an oft-quoted legal phrase that 'the rules of the game must not be changed midway, or after the game has

been played,'" the judge said.

Two categories

The "rules" roughly fell into two categories – one which prescribes the eligibility criteria or the essential qualifications of the candidates seeking employment; and the other which stipulates the method and manner of making the selection from amongst the eligible candidates.

The court explained that a "recruitment process" began with the issuance of the advertisement calling for applications and ended with filling of the vacancies. The recruitment must follow the extant rules and adopt a procedure which was transparent, non-discriminatory, and non-arbitrary and had a rational nexus to the object sought to be achieved. The rules concerned were binding on the recruiting body both in terms of procedure and eligibility criteria.

Recruitment eligibility criteria or the “rules of the game” for selecting candidates cannot be altered once the recruitment process starts unless the existing rules or advertisement explicitly permit such a change.

सार्वजनिक सेवाओं के लिए चयन के नियम, एक बार भर्ती प्रक्रिया शुरू हो जाने के बाद, मौजूदा नियमों या विज्ञापन में स्पष्ट रूप से अनुमति न हो तो, बदले नहीं जा सकते हैं।

Any modifications must adhere to Articles 14 (right to equality) and 16 (equal opportunity in public employment) to ensure they pass the tests of non-arbitrariness.

किसी भी बदलाव को अनुच्छेद 14 (समानता का अधिकार) और अनुच्छेद 16 (सार्वजनिक रोजगार में समान अवसर) का पालन करना चाहिए ताकि वे अनियमितता के परीक्षण को पास कर सकें।

The court emphasized that the recruitment process begins with advertising for applicants and concludes with filling the vacancies, and this process must be fair, transparent, and adhere to the set rules.

अदालत ने जोर देकर कहा कि भर्ती प्रक्रिया विज्ञापन के साथ शुरू होती है और रिक्तियों को भरने के साथ समाप्त होती है, और यह प्रक्रिया निष्पक्ष, पारदर्शी और स्थापित नियमों का पालन करती होनी चाहिए।

- This ruling reinforces the need for consistency and fairness in public service recruitment processes.

Removing bran on millets reduces the benefits of eating them: study

Ramya Kannan

CHENNAI

Removing the bran from millets results in decreasing the protein, dietary fibre, fat, mineral and phytate content in them while increasing the carbohydrates and amylose content, a recent paper in the peer-reviewed journal *Nature Springer* has shown. This could squander away the benefits of eating millets.

The article, *Impact of debranning on the nutritional, cooking, microstructural characteristics of five Indian small millets*, by Shanmugam Shobana et al makes a case for consuming millets as whole grain without de-branning. “De-husked millets are nutritious and should be promoted in Indian diets to improve diet quality, de-branned millets are nutritionally inferior, can increase the glycemic load of Indian diets,” the authors say.

The study was conducted by the Madras Diabetes



Harvest time: Foxtail millets ready to be harvested at a farm at Thoopanaickenpatti in Dindigul district. G. KARTHIKEYAN

Research Foundation (MDRF), Chennai, and the Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad.

High in minerals

Millets are high in minerals such as calcium, iron, phosphorus, and potassium, and they are an excellent source of phytochemicals such as phenolic compounds when compared with other major cereals (rice, wheat, maize), conferring a range of health benefits such as anti-aging, anti-carcinogenic, anti-atherosclerogenic, an-

tibacterial, and antioxidant effects.

The Food and Agriculture Organization recognised 2023 as the International Year of Millets and the Indian government went all out to celebrate it.

Ms. Shobana says: “We did a small market survey in 2018, and found that millets, polished like white rice, were being sold in stores. There are differences between polished millets and whole grains, in terms of colour and texture, but if you are buying packaged products, it is

difficult to tell.” This particular study looked at the smaller millets – foxtail, little, kodo, barnyard, and proso.

But why are millets polished? Dr. Shobana explains that removing the bran and germ extends the shelf life of millets. Millet bran is rich in fats, and not removing it might reduce shelf life, as it could become rancid faster. De-branning will also reduce cooking time, make the grain softer and less chewy.

V. Mohan, president, Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, adds: “While millets have their advantages in terms of phytonutrients and protein intake, the type of millets available in the market are highly polished and consuming this results in a high glycemic index, which is not desirable. We should take efforts to make millets available as they originally were available in the country, so that they are of benefit to people with diabetes too.”

Study Findings on Removing Bran from Millets

Protein, Nutrient Loss

- *English:* Removing bran from millets decreases protein, dietary fiber, fat, minerals, and phytate content while increasing carbohydrates and amylose.
- *हिन्दी:* मिलेट्स से भूसी हटाने से प्रोटीन, आहार फाइबर, वसा, खनिज और फाइटेट की मात्रा कम हो जाती है, जबकि कार्बोहाइड्रेट और अमाइलोज़ की मात्रा बढ़ जाती है।

Loses all the Bran content when polished.

POLISHED



Very low fiber and loss of essential nutrients.

No distinctive colour & shape, easy to adulterate.

UNPOLISHED

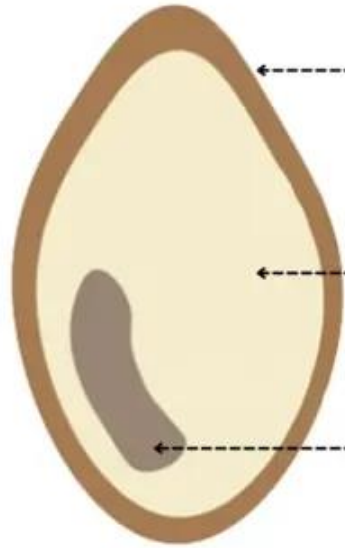


Only husk is removed, retaining bran.

Rich in fiber, phyto nutrients, antioxidants.

Distinctive colour & shape, prevents adulteration.

WHOLE GRAIN



BRAN LAYER

Fibre
Vitamins
Minerals
Phytonutrients

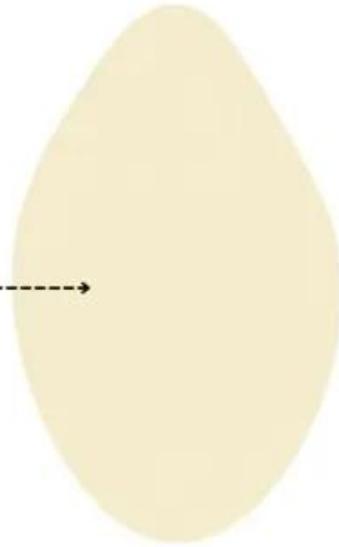
ENDOSPERM

Protein
Carbohydrates

GERM

Fatty Acids
Vitamins
Minerals
Phytonutrients

REFINED GRAIN



Health Benefits of Unpolished Millets

English: Unpolished millets retain higher nutritional value, helping manage the glycemic load, and should be promoted for better diet quality.

हिन्दी: बिना पॉलिश किए गए मिलेट्स उच्च पोषण मूल्य बनाए रखते हैं, ग्लाइसेमिक लोड को नियंत्रित करने में मदद करते हैं, और बेहतर आहार गुणवत्ता के लिए उन्हें बढ़ावा दिया जाना चाहिए।

- **High Nutrient Content**

- *English:* Millets are rich in calcium, iron, phosphorus, potassium, and various phyto-compounds, offering health benefits like anti-aging and anti-carcinogenic properties.

- *हिन्दी:* मिलेट्स में कैल्शियम, आयरन, फॉस्फोरस, पोटैशियम और विभिन्न फाइटो-कंपाउंड्स उच्च मात्रा में पाए जाते हैं, जो एंटी-एजिंग और कैंसर रोधी गुण प्रदान करते हैं।

Concerns About Polishing Millets

English: Polishing extends the shelf life but reduces nutritional value and can lead to higher glycemic index.

हिन्दी: मिलेट्स को पॉलिश करने से शेल्फ लाइफ बढ़ जाती है लेकिन पोषण मूल्य घटता है और ग्लाइसेमिक इंडेक्स बढ़ सकता है।

Recommendations for Consuming Millets



English: Efforts should be made to make unpolished millets available for their complete nutritional benefits.



हिन्दी: पूर्ण पोषण लाभों के लिए बिना पॉलिश किए मिलेट्स को उपलब्ध कराने के प्रयास किए जाने चाहिए।



Good trends: Deforestation fell by 30.6% in the year-to-year period beginning in August 2023. REUTERS

Brazil's Amazon deforestation down to lowest in 9 years

Agence France-Press
BRASILIA
The Brazilian Amazon experienced its smallest amount of yearly deforestation in nearly a decade, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's government reported on Wednesday, in line with its promise to combat forest loss.

Deforestation fell by 30.6% in the year-to-year period beginning in August 2023, according to the National Institute for Space Research (INPE).
During that time, 6,288 square kilometers of forest were destroyed, which INPE Director Gilvan Oliveira said was "the lowest result in the last nine years."

Over the last century, the Amazon rainforest — which covers nearly 40% of South America — has lost about 20% of its area to deforestation, due to the spread of agriculture and cattle ranching, logging and mining, and urban sprawl. Scientists warn that continued deforestation will put the Amazon on track to reach a point where it will emit more carbon than it absorbs, accelerating climate change. Lula has pledged to put a stop to illegal deforestation in the Amazon by 2030 but faces an uphill battle against vested interests.

In addition to the Amazon, the Cerrado, the most species-rich savanna in the world, which is located in central Brazil, was reduced by 25.7% or 8,174 square kilometers, INPE reported. The two different biomes were recently hit by historic drought and the subsequent spread of wildfires.

Mariana Napolitano, strategy director for the World Wildlife Fund in Brazil, called the latest data "good news" but stressed there was more work to be done.

China braces for tensions after Trump victory in U.S.

Associated Press
TAIPEI
The first time China faced Donald Trump in the White House, there was a trade war, a breach of protocol involving Taiwan's former leader, and a president-to-president "bro-mance" that turned sour.

Associated Press
TAIPEI

As President-elect Mr. Trump prepares to start his second term in office, China is bracing for unpredictability in its ties with the United States and renewed tensions over trade, technology, and Taiwan.



Tough ties: U.S. had imposed tariffs on more than \$360 billion of Chinese products during Trump's previous term in office. FILE PHOTO

Perhaps the biggest consequence for China — if Mr. Trump stays true to his campaign promise — is his threat to slap blanket 60% tariffs on all Chinese exports to the U.S.

Tariffs like that would be a blow to China's already unstable economy, which is suffering from high unemployment, a lengthy property slump, and government debt. A 60% duty on Chinese imports could shave off 2.5 percentage points, or about half, of China's projected economic growth, according to an analysis published earlier this year by UBS.

During Mr. Trump's previous term in office, the U.S. imposed tariffs on more than \$360 billion of Chinese products. That brought Beijing to the negotiating table, and in 2020

the two sides signed a trade deal in which China committed to improve intellectual property rights and buy an extra \$200 billion of American goods.

A research group a couple of years later showed China had bought essentially none of the goods it had promised. Outgoing President Joe Biden retained most of those tariffs and added fresh duties this year on imports including steel, solar cells, and electric vehicles.

Factoring into the trade talks could be Mr. Trump's appeals to Chinese President Xi Jinping to help negotiate a resolution to the Ukraine war, which Mr. Trump has boasted he will be able to do quickly, without saying how.

Mr. Trump previously sought Mr. Xi's help in dealing with North Korea's nuclear program. That dynamic could repeat itself, with Mr. Trump

weighing trade grievances against seeking China's support in global crises, according to Wang Huiqun, founder of the Beijing-based think tank Center for China and Globalization.

China is the largest trading partner of both Russia and Ukraine, Mr. Wang wrote in a recent commentary. "These close economic ties give China a unique opportunity to play a greater role in peace-making efforts."

Case of Taiwan
There is one scenario in which Mr. Trump has threatened to impose even higher tariffs — 150% to 200% — on Chinese goods: if China invades Taiwan, a self-ruled democracy that Beijing claims as its own.

The U.S. does not recognize Taiwan as a country, but it is its strongest backer and biggest arms provider. Mr. Trump angered Beijing in December 2016 by

taking a congratulatory call from Taiwan's then-President Tsai Ing-wen in a breach of diplomatic protocol. No U.S. President had spoken directly to a Taiwanese leader since Washington and Beijing established ties in 1979.

As for China's repeated threats to annex Taiwan, Mr. Trump told *The Wall Street Journal* last month that he would not have to use military force to prevent a blockade of Taiwan because Mr. Xi "respects me and he knows I'm (expletive) crazy."

During the campaign trail, Mr. Trump sometimes talked up his personal connection with Mr. Xi, which started exuberantly during his first term but soured over disputes about trade and the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But Mr. Trump has also said that Taiwan could pay the U.S. for defending it against China, likening the relationship to France. Taiwan spends about 2.2% of its gross domestic product on defence, and purchased hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of U.S. arms this year.

In a congratulatory message to Mr. Trump after his victory, Mr. Xi called for the U.S. and China to manage their differences and give each a new chance, according to Chinese state media. History has shown that both sides benefit from cooperation and lose from confrontation, Mr. Xi said.

'Special relationship' between U.K., U.S. could be a rocky one

Agence France-Press
LONDON

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has insisted that the U.K.-U.S. special relationship will "prosper" under U.S. President-elect Donald Trump but the Labour government has multiple reasons to fear the publisher's presidential comeback.

Possible trade wars, Labour Ministers' unflattering comments about Mr. Trump, and any role for Starmer-critic Elon Musk in Trump's administration, would make for a bumpy ride between the allies.

The U.K.'s "iron-clad" support for Ukraine in its war against Russia's invasion and "unwavering commitment" to the NATO military alliance are also likely to become major bones of contention, experts say.

Labour is historically close to the Democratic Party and several senior figures attended its convention in Chicago in July.

Last month, Mr. Trump accused Mr. Starmer's government of "blatant foreign interference" in the U.S. election over the visit.

Mr. Starmer made a first move late on Wednesday, phoning Mr. Trump to offer his congratulations as senior government figures played down earlier outspoken comments by Labour politicians.

But Richard Whitman, an international relations professor at the University of Kent, said the centre-left government in London will



Keir Starmer

be feeling "nervous" about Mr. Trump's return in Washington.

"Most of the broad parameters of British foreign policy are set by responding to what are the major preoccupations of the United States," he said, noting doubts over Mr. Trump's commitment to Ukraine and NATO.

Britain has been one of Ukraine's biggest financial and military backers since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022 and any shift in policy by Mr. Trump would leave the country in an unenviable position.

Simon Fraser, formerly the top civil servant in the U.K.'s Foreign Ministry, added that the U.K.-U.S. relationship could be complicated by Mr. Trump's approach to the European Union.

A trade war between Mr. Trump and the EU could shake the U.K. stock market in the middle, and global economic volatility would hamper it.

Mr. Starmer pledged to fire up Britain's flagging economy.

+ U.K. sanctions Russia-backed armed groups active in Africa

Agence France-Press
LONDON

The U.K. government on Thursday announced sanctions against three private mercenary groups operating in Africa with links to the Kremlin, including Wagner group's successor Africa Corps.

"These sanctions will bear down on Russian malign activity in Libya, Mali, and CAR (Central African Republic), exposing and combating Russia's illicit activity in Africa," a government statement said, announcing its latest package of measures against Russia.

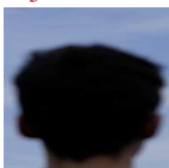
The U.K. government said the measures were the first direct sanctions against Africa Corps by a G7 country. Moscow was a key player in Africa during Soviet times and has been boosting its influence on the continent again in recent years.

Russian mercenaries from the Wagner group or its successor, Africa Corps, now support several African governments and Russian "advisors" work with local officials. The British sanctions come before Russia has a large gathering of African Foreign Ministers in Sochi, southern Russia, this weekend.

As well as Africa Corps, private military group Espadola and the Bears Brigade organisation are also being sanctioned.

London accused the three groups of "widespread human rights abuses" across the African continent, adding they had "threatened peace and security in Libya, Mali and the Central African Republic."

+ Sky is the limit



Moment of dare: A rider performs during a motocross show at a motorcycle fair in Rho on the outskirts of Milan, Italy, on Thursday. AP

Australia mulls mandating age limit of 16 for children to use social media

Associated Press
MELBOURNE

The Australian government announced on Thursday what it described as world-leading legislation that would institute an age limit of 16 years for children to start using social media, and hold platforms responsible for ensuring compliance.

"Social media is doing harm to our kids and I am calling time on it," Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said.

The legislation will be introduced in Parliament during its final two weeks in session this year, scheduled to begin on November 18. The age limit would take effect 12 months after

the law is passed, Mr. Albanese told presspersons. The platforms including X, TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook would need to use that year to work out how to exclude Australian children younger than 16.

"I have spoken to thousands of parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. They, like me, are worried sick about the safety of our kids online," Mr. Albanese said.

The proposal comes as governments around the world are wrestling with how to supervise youth's use of technologies like smartphones and social media.

Social media platforms would be penalised for breaching the age limit,



Age barrier: The proposal comes as governments around the world wrestle with how to supervise youth's use of technologies, but under-age children and their parents would not.

Onus on platforms
The onus will be on social media platforms to demonstrate they are taking reasonable steps to prevent

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Israel's parliament passed a law early on Thursday that would allow it to deport family members of Palestinian attackers, including the country's own citizens, to the war-ravaged Gaza Strip or other locations.

The law, which was championed by members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud party and his far-right allies, passed with a 61-41 vote, but legal experts said that any attempt to implement it would likely be vetoed or struck down by Israeli courts.

It would apply to Palestinian citizens of Israel and residents of occupied territories in Jerusalem who knew about attacks by their family members beforehand and



Benjamin Netanyahu

who "express support or identification with the act of terrorism."

They would be deported, either to the Gaza Strip or to another location, for a period of seven to 20 years.

The Israel-Hamas war is still raging in Gaza, where tens of thousands have been killed and most of the population has been internally displaced, often multiple times.

Israel passes law to deport kin of Palestinian attackers

It was unclear if it would apply in the occupied West Bank, where Israel already has a long-standing policy of demolishing the family homes of attackers. Palestinians have carried out scores of stabbings, shootings and car-rammings at attacks against Israelis in recent years.

Oded Feller, a legal adviser to the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, dismissed the law as "populist nonsense." He said it is unlikely to be applied, because there is no legal way for the Interior Ministry to send an Israeli citizen to another country or Gaza.

Palestinians living in Israel make up around 20% of the country's population. They have citizenship and the right to vote but face widespread discrimination.

comment on Thursday. TikTok declined to comment.

The Digital Industry Group Inc., an advocate for the digital industry in Australia, described the age limit as a "20th Century response to 21st Century challenges." "Rather than better places through bans, we need to take a balanced approach to create age-appropriate spaces, build digital literacy, and ensure that any use of children can use would be a simple and effective solution."

The main Opposition leader, Anthony Albanese, said he did not immediately respond to a request for

comment on Thursday. TikTok declined to comment. The Digital Industry Group Inc., an advocate for the digital industry in Australia, described the age limit as a "20th Century response to 21st Century challenges." "Rather than better places through bans, we need to take a balanced approach to create age-appropriate spaces, build digital literacy, and ensure that any use of children can use would be a simple and effective solution."

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Associated Press
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The proposal comes as governments around the world are wrestling with how to supervise youth’s use of technologies like smartphones and social media.

Social media platforms would be penalised for breaching the age limit,



Age barrier: The proposal comes as governments around the world wrestle with how to supervise youth’s use of technologies. AFP

but under-age children and their parents would not.

Onus on platforms

“The onus will be on social media platforms to demonstrate they are taking reasonable steps to prevent

access. The onus will not be on parents or youth,” Mr. Albanese said.

Antigone Davis, head of safety at Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, said the company would respect any age limitations

the government wants to introduce.

“However, what is missing is a deeper discussion on how we implement protections, otherwise we risk making ourselves feel better, like we have taken action, but teens and parents will not find themselves in a better place,” Ms. Davis said in a statement.

She added that stronger tools in app stores and operating systems for parents to control what apps their children can use would be a “simple and effective solution.”

The main Opposition party has also given in-principle support for an age limit at 16.

X did not immediately respond to a request for

comment on Thursday. TikTok declined to comment.

The Digital Industry Group Inc., an advocate for the digital industry in Australia, described the age limit as a “20th Century response to 21st Century challenges.” “Rather than blocking access through bans, we need to take a balanced approach to create age-appropriate spaces, build digital literacy, and protect young people from online harm,” its managing director Sunita Bose said in a statement.

More than 140 Australian and international academics with expertise in fields related to technology and child welfare signed an open letter to Mr. Albanese

last month opposing a social media age limit as “too blunt an instrument to address risks effectively.”

Jackie Hallan, a director at the youth mental health service ReachOut, opposed the ban. She said 73% of youth across Australia accessing mental health support did so through social media.

“We are uncomfortable with the ban. We think young people are likely to circumvent a ban and our concern is that it really drives the behaviour underground and then if things go wrong, youth are less likely to get support from parents and carers because they are worried about getting in trouble,” Ms. Hallan said.

Australia's Proposed Age Limit for Social Media Use

English: Australia plans to introduce legislation setting a minimum age of 16 for children to use social media platforms, holding the platforms responsible for ensuring compliance.

हिन्दी: ऑस्ट्रेलिया 16 वर्ष की आयु से कम बच्चों के सोशल मीडिया उपयोग पर रोक लगाने और प्लेटफॉर्म को अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए नया कानून लाने की योजना बना रहा है।

- **Government's Concern**

- *English:* Prime Minister Anthony Albanese emphasized the potential harm of social media on children, stating it was time to act.

- *हिन्दी:* प्रधानमंत्री एंथनी अल्बानीज़ ने बच्चों पर सोशल मीडिया के हानिकारक प्रभाव को लेकर चिंता जताई और इस पर कार्रवाई की आवश्यकता बताई



- **Details of the Legislation**

- *English:*

- The law will be discussed in Parliament starting November 18 and is expected to take effect 12 months after passing.
- Platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, and X would be required to work on measures to exclude children below 16.

- *हिन्दी:*

- कानून पर चर्चा 18 नवंबर से संसद में शुरू होगी और पारित होने के 12 महीने बाद प्रभावी होगा।
- टिक टॉक, इंस्टाग्राम, फेसबुक और X जैसे प्लेटफॉर्म को 16 वर्ष से कम उम्र के बच्चों को बाहर रखने के उपाय करने होंगे।

Onus on Social Media Platforms

English: Social media companies must demonstrate they are taking reasonable steps to prevent underage access.

हिन्दी: सोशल मीडिया कंपनियों को यह दिखाना होगा कि वे अवयस्कों की पहुंच को रोकने के लिए उचित कदम उठा रहे हैं।

- **Opposition to the Age Limit Proposal**

- *English:*

- Critics argue that a blanket ban may not address the deeper issue of safe online spaces for youth.
- Youth mental health organizations worry that bans could lead to secretive behavior and reluctance to seek help.

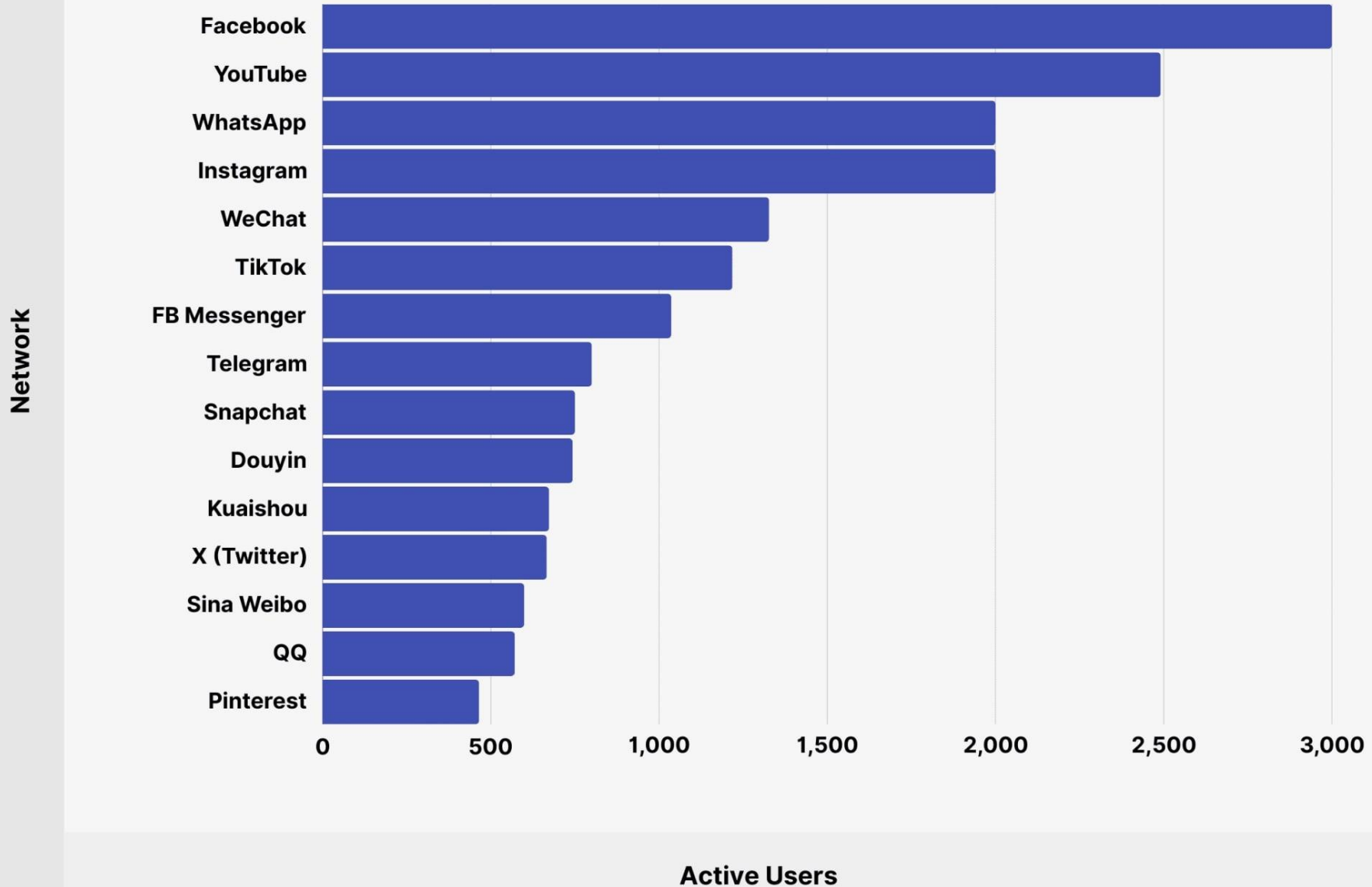
- *हिन्दी:*

- आलोचकों का मानना है कि इस प्रकार की रोक से युवा उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए सुरक्षित ऑनलाइन स्थान की समस्या हल नहीं हो पाएगी।
- युवा मानसिक स्वास्थ्य संगठनों ने चिंता व्यक्त की है कि प्रतिबंध के कारण गुप्त व्यवहार और सहायता माँगने में संकोच हो सकता है।

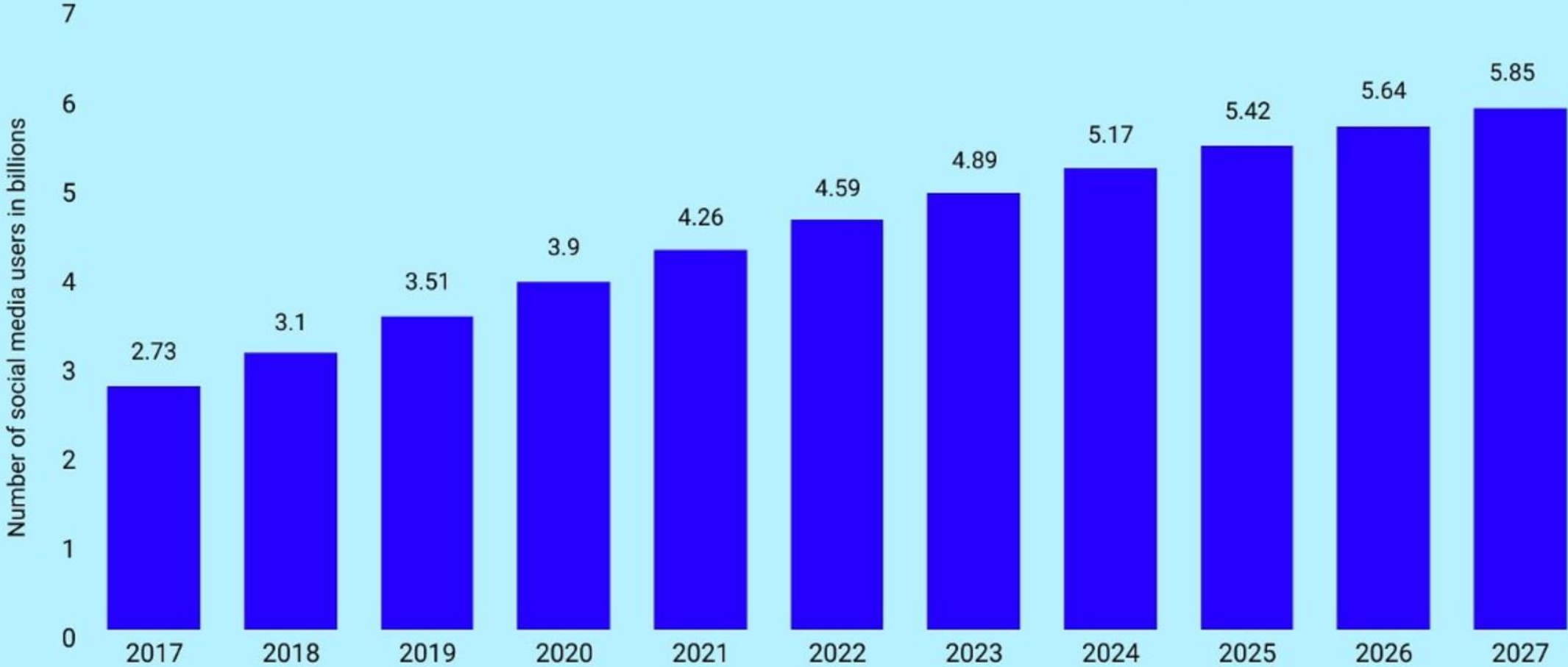
- **Additional Suggestions**

- *English*: Proposals for stronger parental control options and more digital literacy to protect young people were discussed.
- *हिन्दी*: माता-पिता के लिए मजबूत नियंत्रण विकल्प और युवाओं की सुरक्षा के लिए अधिक डिजिटल साक्षरता बढ़ाने पर सुझाव दिए गए।

Most Used Social Media Platforms Worldwide

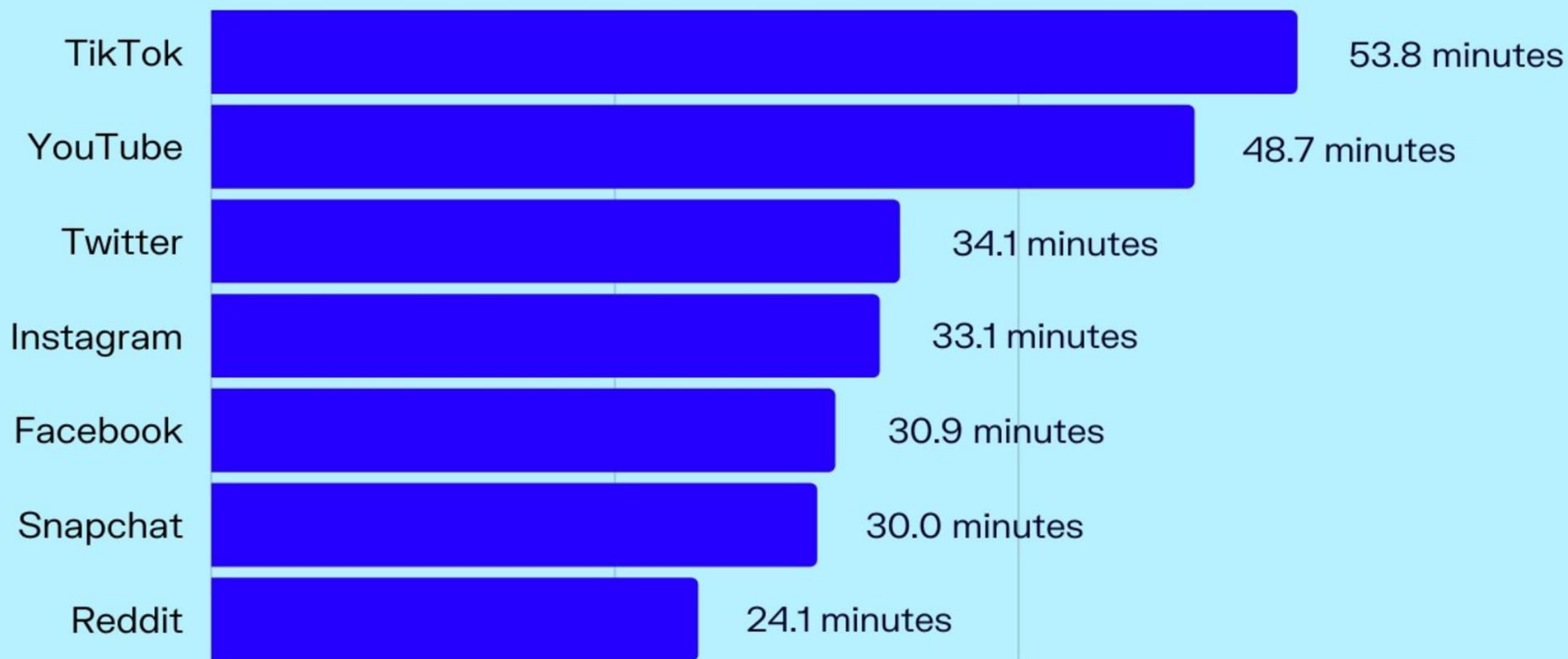


Global Social Media Users (2017 to 2027)



Source: Statista

Average Time Spent On Social Media in 2023 (by Platform)



Year	Minutes per day
2012	90 minutes
2013	95 minutes
2014	104 minutes
2015	111 minutes
2016	128 minutes
2017	134 minutes
2018	142 minutes
2019	145 minutes
2020	145 minutes
2021	145 minutes
2022	147 minutes
2023	151 minutes
2024	143 minutes

Countries	Daily time in hours.minutes
Brazil	3 hours 49 minutes
Nigeria	3 hours 44 minutes
Philippines	3 hours 38 minutes
South Africa	3 hours 34 minutes
Chile	3 hours 34 minutes
Kenya	3 hours 32 minutes
Columbia	3 hours 28 minutes
Ghana	3 hours 20 minutes
Indonesia	3 hours 14 minutes
Mexico	3 hours 10 minutes
Argentina	3 hours 8 minutes
Turkey	2 hours 56 minutes
Malaysia	2 hours 52 minutes
Saudi Arabia	2 hours 50 minutes
UAE	2 hours 44 minutes
Egypt	2 hours 40 minutes
Bulgaria	2 hours 38 minutes
Thailand	2 hours 35 minutes
India	2 hours 29 minutes

Most downloaded social media app worldwide 2024

YouTube is the most downloaded social media app worldwide. It has over 10 billion downloads on the Google Play Store which is currently the highest compared to any other other social media platform. Facebook is the second most downloaded social media app with more than 5 billion downloads on Play Store.

Here is a breakdown of the most downloaded social media app worldwide in 2024:

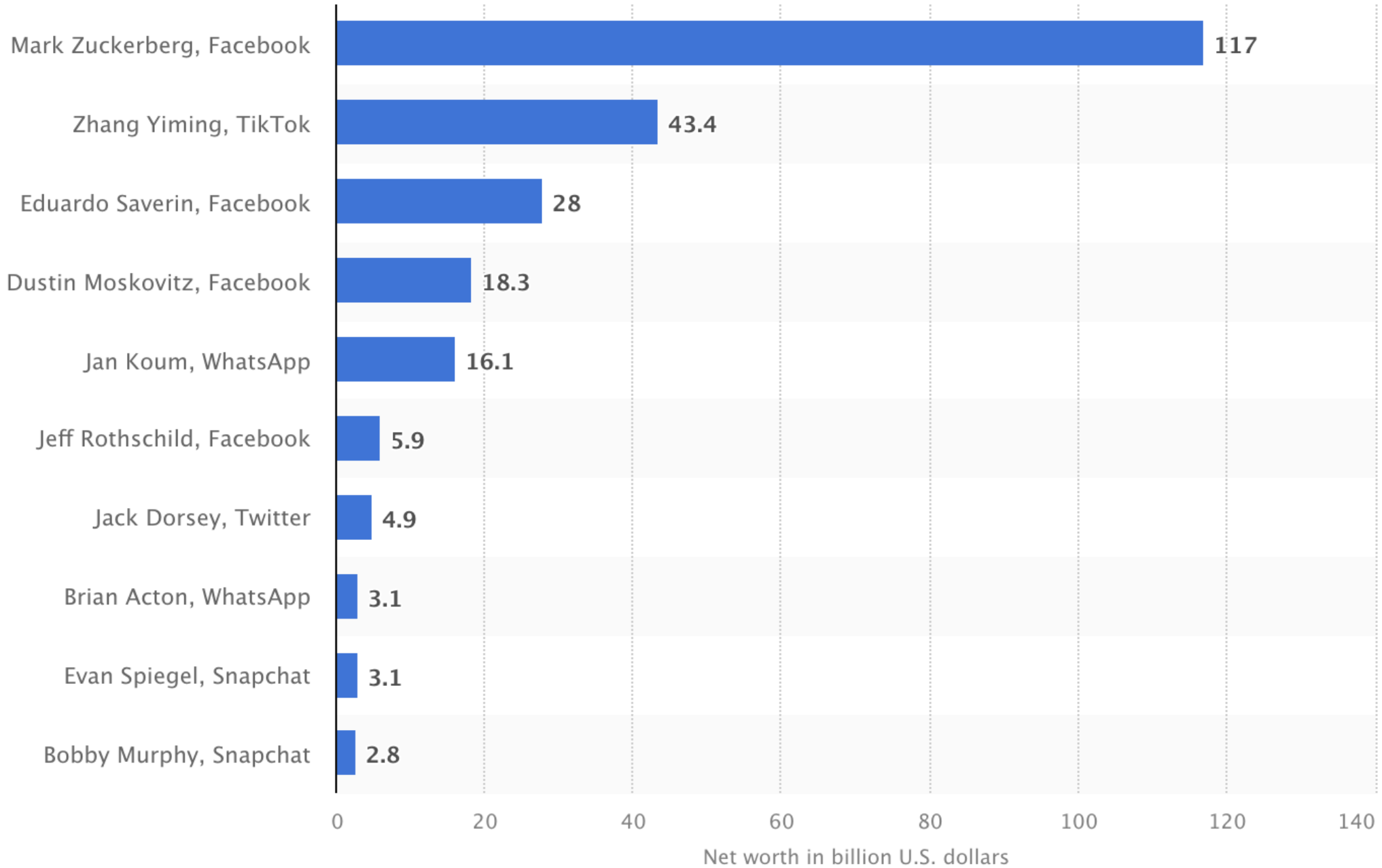
Social Media App	Number of downloads
YouTube	10 Billion +
Facebook	5 Billion +
Instagram	5 Billion +
WhatsApp	5 Billion +
Facebook Messenger	5 Billion +
TikTok	1 Billion +
X (Twitter)	1 Billion +
SnapChat	1 Billion +
Pinterest	1 Billion +
LinkedIn	1 Billion +
WeChat	100 Million +
Threads	100 Million +

Favorite Social Media Platform

16.6% of active social media users aged 16 to 64 stated Instagram as their “favorite” social media platform. Followed by WhatsApp in the second position by 16.3% and WeChat in the third position by 13.0%.

Below we have mentioned a table showcasing the favorite social media platforms of users worldwide:

Social Media Platform	Share of users
Instagram	16.6%
WhatsApp	16.3%
WeChat	13.0%
Facebook	12.7%
TikTok	7.9%
Douyin	6.7%
X (Twitter)	3.0%
Facebook Messenger	2.4%
Telegram	2.4%
Line	1.6%
Pinterest	1.5%
Kuaishou	1.5%
SnapChat	1.3%
Xiaohongshu	1%
Imessage	0.8%



/the social dilemma

OFFICIAL SELECTION 2020
sundance
Film Festival

Climate Change is Eating Shoreline
and some are trying to fix it. From coast
to coast.





NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024

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IN THE NEWS

INDUSTRY BODIES SEEK LOWER TAX FOR LLPs AT 25%

AS THE PRE-BUDGET exercise for FY26 gathers steam, industry bodies have sought reduction in the peak tax rate on partnerships/LLPs to 25% and lowering of tax on interest income from bank deposits, reports **fe Bureau**. ■ PAGE 2

URBAN SLOWDOWN WEIGHS ON FMCG MARKET IN Q2

THE FMCG MARKET saw a decline in both overall value and volume growth in Q2 versus the year-ago period as a slowdown in urban areas takes its toll on business. NielsenIQ said on Thursday, reports **Viveat Susan Pinto**. ■ PAGE 4

M&M TOPS STREET ESTIMATES IN Q2 ON SUV DEMAND

M&M ON THURSDAY posted a ₹5,841-crore net profit in the September quarter, beating Street estimates on the continued surge in demand and benign input costs, reports **Swaraj Baggonkar**. ■ PAGE 6

EXPLAINER Will India get to host the Olympics finally?

ALLEGED FDI RULES VIOLATION

ED raids offices of Amazon and Flipkart sellers

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, November 7

THE ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE (ED) on Thursday searched offices of some sellers operating on Amazon and Walmart-owned Flipkart for alleged violations of foreign investment norms and prevention of money laundering Act (PMLA).

Official sources said that searches took place at 19 locations in New Delhi, Gurugram, Panchkula, Hyderabad and Bengaluru. Some reports indicate that Appario Retail, Shreyash Retail, Darshita Retail and Ashiana Retail are some of the entities under the scanner. However, this could not be independently verified.

Sources said there are complaints that these sellers have been importing products from China by routing them through other locations by paying lesser import duties. There are also complaints regarding under-invoicing. A source said that since Chinese consignments are held for long at ports for security checks, several sellers route their products through some other locations for faster clearance.

When contacted, both Amazon and Flipkart declined to comment. Sources said that since the searches were made on sellers and not the e-commerce firms, they may not be aware of all the details.

Continued on Page 10

SC orders liquidation of Jet Airways

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR
Mumbai, November 7

THE SUPREME COURT on Thursday ordered the liquidation of Jet Airways, a little over five years after insolvency proceedings started against the carrier following its grounding in mid-2019.

The bench, comprising Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Justice J.B. Pandhwar and Justice Manoj Misra, set aside an order of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). The appellate tribunal had allowed the transfer of ownership of the airline to Janak Kalkroo Consortium (JKC), which had emerged as the successful resolution applicant (SRA).

Continued on Page 11

Trump trade fizzles out

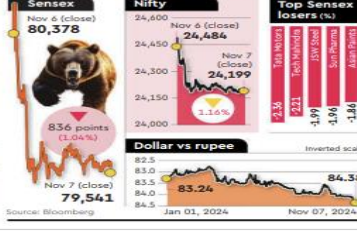
VIVEK KUMAR M
Mumbai, November 7

BENCHMARK INDICES fell on Thursday as initial euphoria around Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential elections fizzled out and caution settled in ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision as well as China's stimulus package announcement. The SENSEX slid 1% to 79,541.79 points and the NIFTY ended 1.2% lower at 24,199.35 points. With this, the indices erased almost entire gains seen on Wednesday post Trump's victory.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) continued to be sellers as a strong dollar under Trump regime may not bode well for the EM equities. FPIs pulled out ₹4,889 crore worth of shares on Thursday while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) pumped ₹1,787 crore into the market.

Continued on Page 11

MARKETS GIVE UP GAINS, RUPEE AT NEW LOW



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- 102% PAT YoY Increase

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KP Energy has recently received orders of **1 GW** hybrid capacity

KP Green Engineering has doubled production capacity to **1+ lakh MT/PA**

KP GROUP'S HALF YEARLY RESULTS

(KPI GREEN ENERGY LTD., KP ENERGY LTD. & KP GREEN ENGINEERING LTD.)

	HIFY25				HIFY24				GROWTH
	(₹ IN MILLION)	KPI GREEN ENERGY	KP ENERGY	KP GREEN ENG.	TOTAL	KPI GREEN ENERGY	KP ENERGY	KP GREEN ENG.	
REVENUE	7113	3372	2665	13150	4065	1848	1041	6954	89% ▲
PAT	1359	431	276	2066	680	234	111	1025	102% ▲

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This is an abridged representation of the unaudited consolidated results for the half yearly ended September 30, 2024 and is not for the purpose of legal compliance.

A Monk Who Trades

When I see you take the loans for and why don't you pay them back?

Why do you look so stressed?

I don't know how to pay back my loans!

I took loans to make bigger trades and profits in the financial markets. However, I made losses.

I thought only once get stressed!

My greed got the better of me!

Loans can help to grow, but they can also help to lose. You can consider the risk?

DID YOU KNOW?

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MCX INVESTOR PROTECTION FUND

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Scan the QR code

Strengthen portfolios like a trainer

See results by exploring physically-backed

GOLD ETFs

202.9	960
202.8	13 880
202.8	1000
202.9	33 000
202.9	2700
202.8	37 000
202.8	3800
202.9	45 000
202.9	45 000
202.9	7800
202.9	55 000
202.9	1000

Explore adding physically-backed Gold ETFs as an exercise for the perfect for the strengthening routine. It is one of the ways which can build a strong core for the portfolio by being a hedge against inflation, delivering effective diversification in periods of financial turmoil.

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Nadar remains most generous

SHIV NADAR, the founder of HCL Technologies, has once again emerged as the most generous Indian by becoming the biggest individual donor for philanthropic causes in FY24. Nadar's share in philanthropy increased 5% to ₹2,153 crore in FY24, much higher than the richest Indian Gautam Adani's ₹330 crore and

second-richest Mukesh Ambani's ₹407 crore, as per the **Edelgive-Hurun India Philanthropy List**. Among companies, **RELIANCE INDUSTRIES**, which donated ₹900 crore, has topped the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) list. It is followed by Naveen Jindal-led Jindal Steel and Power which allocated ₹228 crore.

THE TOP 5 IN THE EDELGIVE-HURUN INDIA PHILANTHROPY LIST 2024

Donation
% chg



1 SHIV NADAR & FAMILY
(Education)
Shiv Nadar Foundation

₹2,153 cr 5%

2 MUKESH AMBANI & FAMILY
(Admission for disadvantaged communities)
Reliance Foundation

₹407 cr 8%

3 BAJAJ FAMILY
(Education for Engineering)
Bajaj Group Trust

₹352 cr 33%

4 KM BIRLA & FAMILY
(Education) Aditya Birla
Capital Foundation

₹334 cr 17%

5 GAUTAM ADANI & FAMILY
(Education for remote villages) Adani Foundation

₹330 cr 16%

THE TOP 5 firms that spent CSR in excess of the mandatory commitment in value terms for FY24

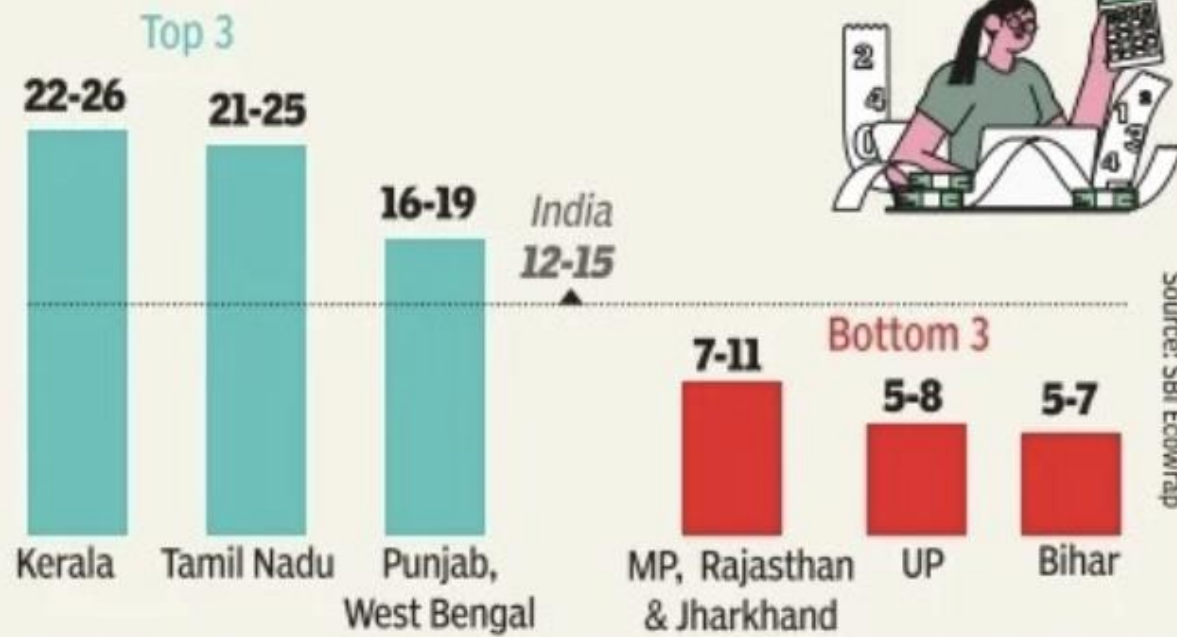


Rank	Company/ key person	Actual CSR (₹ cr)	Prescribed CSR (₹ cr)
1	Reliance Industries Mukesh Ambani & family	900	840
2	Jindal Steel and Power Naveen Jindal & family	228	177
3	Rungta Sons Nandlal Rungta & family	88	51
4	Yardi Software India Anant Madhukar Yardi	25	0.7
5	Vedanta Anil Agarwal & family	131	107

Kerala, TN have highest share of women taxpayers, Bihar, UP lowest

Women constitute approximately 15% of all individual tax filers in India. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and West Bengal have the highest share of women tax filers, while Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Jharkhand have the lowest



Women ITR filers (estimated range, %)



Source: SBI Ecowrap

Horn of Africa



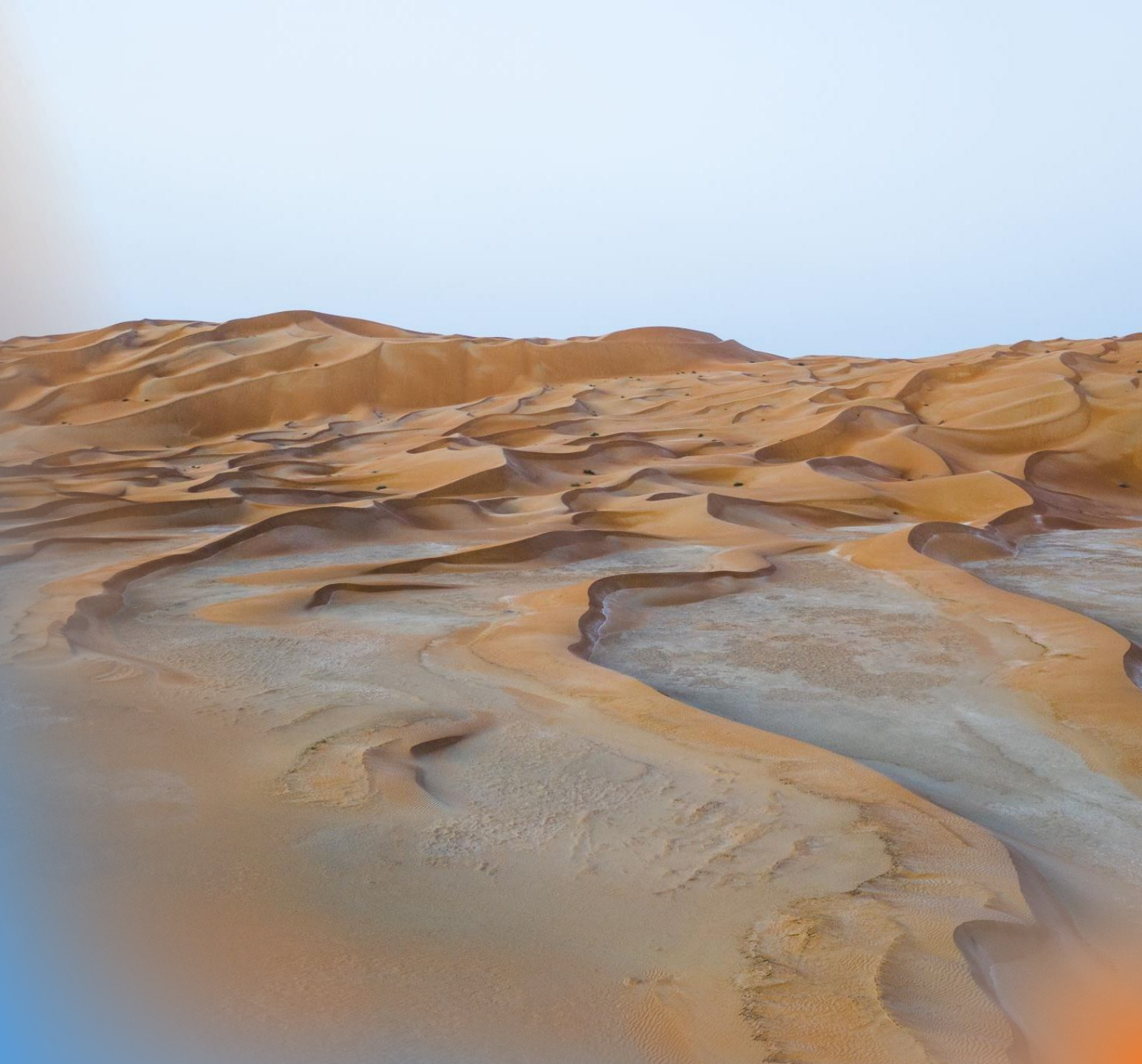
- 
- A UN report reveals that over 65 million people in the **Horn of Africa** are food insecure.
 - **About the Horn of Africa**
 - **Location:** It is a geographical region falling within the **horn-shaped** part of North Eastern Africa that comprises **four countries** — Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia
- 

The Horn of Africa



- There are also broader definitions, the most common of which include all the countries mentioned above, as well as parts or all of **Kenya, the Sudan and Uganda**.
- Part of the **Horn of Africa region** is also known as the **Somali peninsula**; this term is typically used when referring to lands of Somalia and eastern Ethiopia.





- **Geography and climate:** The Horn of Africa, almost equidistant from the Equator and the Tropic of Cancer, is an arid region.
 - Socotra is a small island off the coast of Somalia, in the Indian Ocean, that is considered to be part of Africa.
 - The Horn of Africa is a **UNESCO Biodiversity Hotspot**.

Union Cabinet Approved PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme





The Union Cabinet approved **PM Vidyalyaxmi**, which seeks to provide financial support to meritorious students in their pursuit of higher education.

The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** recommended expanding financial assistance to meritorious students across both public and private higher education institutions in India


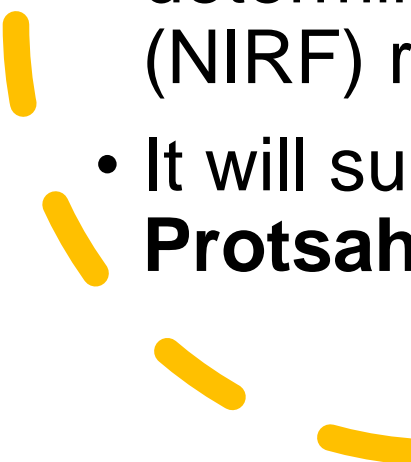
PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme



```
graph TD; A[PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme] --> B["The scheme is a Central Sector Scheme and facilitates the extension of education loans to students who get admission in the top 860 quality higher educational institutions (QHEIs) of the nation."]; B --> C["Benefits: For loans up to ₹7.5 lakh, the student will receive a credit guarantee of 75%, enabling banks to extend education loans to students."];
```

The scheme is a **Central Sector Scheme** and facilitates the extension of education loans to students who get admission in the **top 860 quality higher educational institutions (QHEIs)** of the nation.

Benefits: For loans up to **₹7.5 lakh**, the student will receive a credit guarantee of **75%**, enabling banks to extend education loans to students.

- 
- The scheme will provide for students with up to **Rs. 8 lakhs annual family income**, for **3% interest subvention** on loans up to **Rs 10 lakh**.
 - **The scheme will be applicable** to the QHEIs of the nation, as determined by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings, including all HEIs – government and private.
 - It will supplement **Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) Scheme**.
- 



TULIP

- The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment (SJE) launched '**TULIP**' (Traditional Artisans' Upliftment Livelihood Programme).

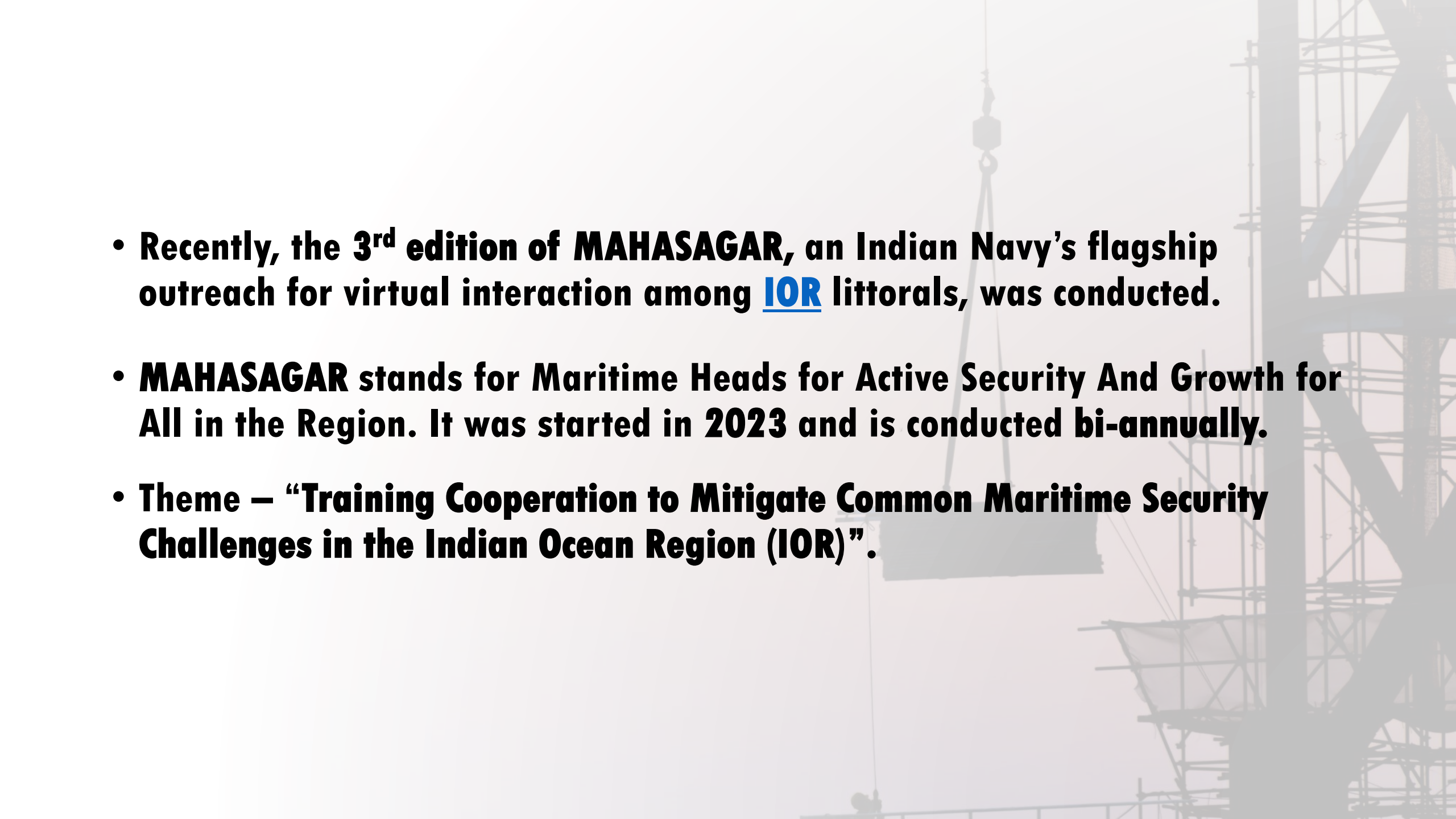


- **About**
- Under the TULIP brand, artisans from Scheduled Castes (SC), Other Backward Classes (OBC), sanitation workers, and persons with disabilities will have an **e-platform to market their products.**
- The goal of TULIP is to **empower marginalized artisans** by providing them with a platform for global exposure and sales of their products through e-marketing.
-



3rd Edition of MAHASAGAR



- 
- **Recently, the 3rd edition of MAHASAGAR, an Indian Navy's flagship outreach for virtual interaction among IOR littorals, was conducted.**
 - **MAHASAGAR stands for Maritime Heads for Active Security And Growth for All in the Region. It was started in 2023 and is conducted bi-annually.**
 - **Theme – “Training Cooperation to Mitigate Common Maritime Security Challenges in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)”.**

- The 3rd edition of MAHASAGAR was attended by IOR Littorals viz. Bangladesh, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.



Word of the day

Indolence:

inactivity resulting from a dislike of work

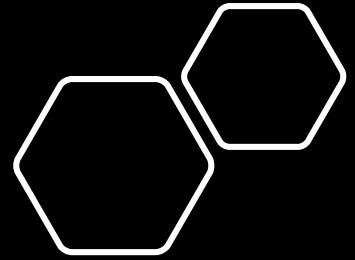
Synonym: laziness

Usage: *His failure is probably due to his own indolence.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/indolencepro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /'ɪndəl(ə)ns/, /'ɪndl̩(ə)ns/





RRB ALP/TECH/JE/ RPF/NTPC 2024 | GK by Bhunesh Sir | Modern...

Scheduled for 11/8/24, 9:00 AM

Notify me



RRB ALP/TECH/JE/ RPF 2024 | GK by Bhunesh Sir | Medieval History

Scheduled for 11/7/24, 9:00 AM

Notify me



7 Nov 2024 Current Affairs | Current Affairs Today | Daily Current Affair...

Scheduled for 11/7/24, 8:00 AM

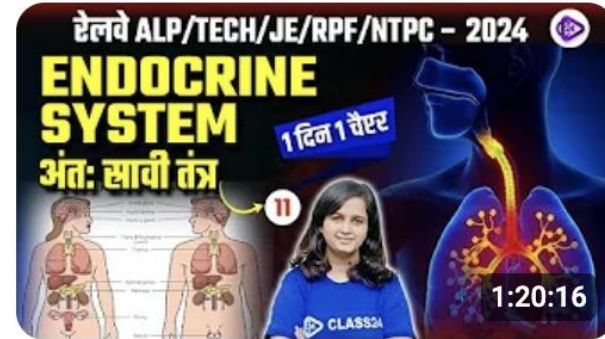
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A group of people are clapping in a dimly lit room. The focus is on the hands and forearms of several individuals, some in the foreground and some blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and moody, with a blueish tint. In the top left corner,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

Thank you
guys.
