

# Daily Current Affairs



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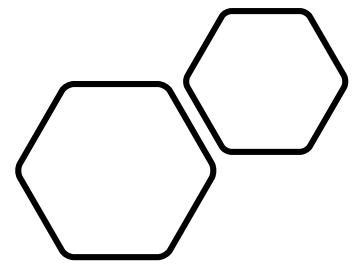
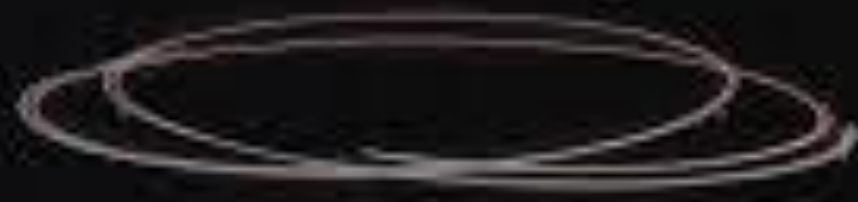
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PDF



10 MCQ QUIZ



Sometimes the universe  
tests you the most when  
you're close to a new  
chapter.





### Yunus govt. cancels passports of 22 officials

**EVIDENCE TAMPERING**  
SC go-ahead for trial against LDF MLA Raju

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### Modi lands in Guyana to a grand welcome

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### Clearing the air on Delhi's pollution crisis

Vehicles a bigger cause than stubble burning

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### Tennis great Nadal retires from the sport

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### INSIDE

#### India, China agree to rebuild mutual trust

NEW DELHI India and China on Wednesday agreed to work towards a road map for rebuilding mutual trust after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart Dong Jun met in Vienna. » PAGE 4

#### 55th IFFI kicks off with star-studded event in Goa

PANAJI The 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) kick-started with a star-studded opening ceremony at the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Panaji, Goa, on Wednesday. » PAGE 6

#### In Kyiv, Western embassies stern after attack threat

KYIV The Western embassies in Kyiv said that they would stay closed on Wednesday, with the U.S. delegation saying it had received a warning of a potentially significant Russian air attack on the Ukrainian capital. » PAGE 14

## At 65%, Maharashtra clocks better turnout than in 2019

Urban centres such as Mumbai and Thane register a low turnout; minor skirmishes reported in Beed; Naxalism-affected Gadchiroli logs 73.68%; wait begins for counting of votes on Saturday

**Abhinav Deshpande**  
MUMBAI

**M**aharashtra recorded a voter turnout of 65.11% in the single-phase Assembly election on Wednesday, as per provisional data from the Election Commission at 11.50 p.m. The turnout in the 2019 Assembly election was 61.6%.

While urban centres such as Mumbai and Thane recorded a low turnout, Naxalism-affected Gadchiroli district saw 73.68%.

Voters will decide the fate of 4,136 candidates contesting in 288 Assembly constituencies. Votes will be counted on November 23. Polling went off peacefully in the entire State, except for one or two incidents in Beed district in which there was some commotion in the polling stations as a result of which we had to replace the Chief Electoral Officer S. Chockalingam said.



Cricketer legend Sachin Tendulkar and family leaving a polling booth in Mumbai. EMMAKAL VASQUEZ

### 68.45% voter turnout in Jharkhand final phase

**Anit Bhehar**  
RANCHI

The second and final phase of the Jharkhand Assembly election concluded peacefully on Wednesday with a better voter turnout than in the first phase.

Polling was held for 38 seats in the second phase, which saw a turnout of 68.45%, as per provisional data from the Election Commission at 11.50 p.m. The first phase on November 13 recorded a turnout of 66.65%.

In contrast, the Left-Wing Extremism-affected Gadchiroli district recorded 73.68% turnout, Kolhapur 76.25%, and Bhandara 69.42%. In Nanded, where a video of the assault was released on social media which was followed by the vandalism of a polling booth in Ghatmandur, according to an official. The official reported that a group of people stormed the Ghatmandur polling booth, damaging furniture and throwing an IVM on the ground.

Despite extensive voter outreach and ease-of-voting measures carried out by the Election Commission of India (EC), urban centres like Mumbai and Thane reported low turnout on Wednesday. Mumbai City recorded a turnout of 52.07%, while Mumbai Suburban saw a slightly better 55.77%. Pune registered a polling rate of 61.05%, and Thane 56.05%.

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## Several exit polls project BJP-led alliances as winners in Maharashtra, Jharkhand

The Mahayuti 115-128 seats, with 37%-40% vote share, and between five and 14 49-59 seats to the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) and 17-27 seats to the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance.

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Several exit polls on Wednesday gave a clear edge to the BJP-led alliances in the Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, while some projected that the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition may emerge on top in Maharashtra.

In the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly, 145 is the majority mark, while it is 41 in the 81-member Jharkhand Assembly. The BJP-Shiv Sena-Nationalist Congress Party alliance is in power in Maharashtra, while the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) is ruling in Jharkhand.

In Maharashtra, the P. Marq exit polls predicted 137-157 seats, with 42% vote share, for the ruling Mahayuti alliance and 126-146 seats, with 41% vote share, for the MVA.

The Matrise exit poll predicted 150-170 seats, with 37%-40% vote share, for the Mahayuti, and 110-130 seats to the MVA, and 10-27 seats to others. According to Electoral Edge, the MVA is likely to win 150 seats and the Mahayuti 115 seats, while others could bag 20 seats. Pulse predicted that the Mahayuti could bag 175-186 seats for the Mahayuti, 69-121 seats for the MVA, and 10-27 seats for others, while Channakya Strategies said the Mahayuti could come back to power with 152-160 seats, and the MVA would get 130-138 seats.

The 145 seats in Maharashtra are divided into 100 seats by Lokpoll and 45 seats by the MVA 151-162 seats, with 43%-46% vote share, for the Mahayuti.

In Jharkhand, Axis My



## Calm returns, Imphal gets a five-hour curfew break

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI

A five-hour relaxation of curfew in three Imphal valley districts of Manipur on Wednesday saw people rushing to the markets to buy essentials.

Officials said the curfew was relaxed from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Imphal East, Imphal West, and Kachiching districts following a partial improvement in the law-and-order situation. It was imposed for an indefinite period on November 11, after mobs went on the rampage vandalising, burning, or looting the houses of some 15 MLAs, including Ministers.

The recovery of the bodies of three women and three children abducted by armed extremists from a relief camp during the attack on the CRPF and the State police in the Jiribam district on November 11. Ten extremists, who Kuki-Zo organisations claimed were "village volunteers", were killed in the gunfight

with the security forces. Reports from capital Imphal made the situation worse with people, while there were long queues at petrol pumps. Dwindling stocks, primarily because of blockades and attacks on goods trucks, was a factor behind the rush.

Mobile data services remained suspended in nine relief camps. The curfew, however, conditionally lifted, the suspension of mobile data services from the Imphal Valley, in the central part of the State, and Jiribam on the border

## Deadline looms for climate summit negotiators seeking a deal for funds

**Associated Press**  
BAKU

With time running out, negotiators at the United Nations annual climate talks, COP29, on Wednesday remained mired in the maze of a trillion-dollar money problem, turning to host Azerbaijan to lead the way to daylight with a promised map to be released in the dark of night.

Vulnerable nations are seeking \$1.3 trillion to deal with damage from climate change and to adapt to that change, including building their own clean-energy systems. Experts agree that at least \$1 trillion is called for, but both figures are far more than the developed world has so far offered.

After 10 days of talks, the host presidency of Diego Pacheco Balanza, the president of the G77 plus China coalition, said he was confident they will put in front of us, the text that will come out," Ms. Morgan said.

"Not enough" Aken Meyer of the European Union said the group was also hearing a figure of \$200 billion in negotiating corridors. That's not enough, he said. "Developed countries whose day at the talks is "circle... in as going around in circles."

Juan Pablo Hoffmeister of the Environmental Defense Fund said "the frustration is palpable" as time runs to run out.

Mr. Hoffmeister, a former negotiator for developing countries, said that while potential climate finance goals are finally out, it is still unclear how they will be delivered — loans or grants or other means. "We need to fix this over the next 72 hours," he said.

The summit concludes on November 22.

Italy's special envoy for climate change, Francesco Corvaro, said negotiations feel like they are moving in the right direction, but that he is likely going to take extra time to reach a deal. "I can't fail," he said. He stressed that Europe doesn't have the capacity to cover the cost of climate finance alone.

**RELATED REPORT**  
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## HC pauses Aircel-Maxis case trial

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday stayed the trial court proceedings against senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram in the Aircel-Maxis money laundering case being probed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), after the former Union Minister said the Central agency had not obtained the required sanction to prosecute him.

"Notice issued. Till the next date of hearing, the proceedings against the petitioner shall remain stayed," Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri ordered.

**FULL REPORT**  
» PAGE 4







# Planetary crisis puts children at risk: UNICEF report

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**  
NEW DELHI

The world is facing an unprecedented planetary crisis with nearly half the world's children – about one billion – living in countries that face high risk of climate and environmental hazards, said the UNICEF's State of the World's Children 2024 (SOWC-2024) report, released on Wednesday.

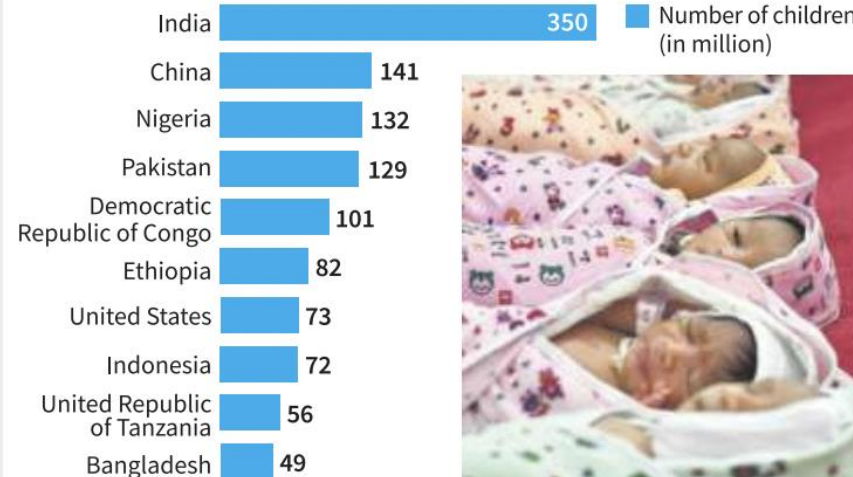
The report examines impact of three long-term global forces – demographic shifts, climate and environmental crises, and frontier technologies – which it claims will have a profound effect on children's lives between now and 2050.

The report notes that climate destabilisation, biodiversity collapse and widespread pollution threats are intensifying globally.

“Children are confront-

## Future of childhood

India and China will remain the two countries with the most children in the 2050s, even as the number of children will have dropped by about 106 million in India and by 203 million in China



Note: Countries which may have the largest number of children in the 2050s

SOURCE: THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 2024, UNICEF



ing a more unpredictable, hazardous environment than any previous generation,” it warns.

Explaining the adverse impact, UNICEF said that children's developing bodies are uniquely susceptible to these hazards.

From before their first breath, children's brains, lungs and immune systems are vulnerable to pollution and extreme weather. Air

pollution is especially harmful to children; its impact on their respiratory health and development can last a lifetime.

Rising temperatures increase mosquito populations, spreading diseases such as malaria, dengue and Zika. Floods contaminate water supplies, leading to waterborne diseases, which are a major cause of death for children under

five years of age. Extreme weather limits food production and access, increasing children's risk of food insecurity. Climate-related disasters can also cause feelings of helplessness, trauma and anxiety in children, the report notes.

“Since 2022, 400 million students around the world have experienced school closures due to ex-

treme weather. In addition to violating child rights, inhibiting learning stifles economic growth. Climate and environmental hazards also displace children from their homes,” the report states.

Additionally, it notes that by the 2050s, the global child population is projected to stabilise at around 2.3 billion. However, this global figure obscures regional shifts where while South Asia will remain one of the regions with the largest child populations, it will be joined by eastern and southern Africa, as well as western and Central Africa.

“These regions already struggle to meet children's basic needs, while also facing significant climate risks and lacking adequate digital infrastructure,” says the report adding that with fewer young dependents relative to workers, more

resources could be freed to support children and boost the economy.

On frontier technologies, the report notes that artificial intelligence, neurotechnology, next-generation renewable energy and vaccine breakthroughs could significantly improve childhood in the future.

“Digitalisation can empower children but it can also expose children to online risks, including sexual exploitation and abuse,” the report cautions.

It adds that over 95% of people in high-income countries are connected to the Internet, compared with barely 26% in low-income countries. Infrastructure limitations, high costs and permission barriers continue to impede progress. This digital exclusion threatens to exacerbate existing inequalities, especially in regions with rapidly growing child populations.

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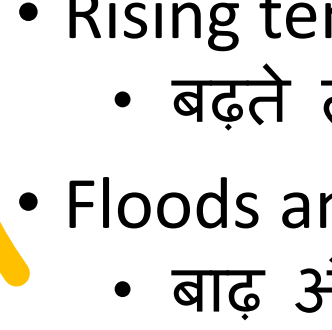
- **Key Findings | मुख्य निष्कर्ष**

- Nearly half the world's children (around 1 billion) live in countries facing high risks of climate and environmental hazards.
  - लगभग आधे विश्व के बच्चे (लगभग 1 बिलियन) ऐसे देशों में रहते हैं जो जलवायु और पर्यावरणीय खतरों का सामना कर रहे हैं।
- The report examines the impact of three major global forces:
  - Demographic shifts, climate changes, and frontier technologies.
  - जनसांख्यिकीय बदलाव, जलवायु परिवर्तन और प्रौद्योगिकी।






- **Children's Vulnerability | बच्चों की संवेदनशीलता**

- Pollution and extreme weather severely affect children's respiratory health, development, and immunity.
    - प्रदूषण और अत्यधिक मौसम बच्चों के श्वसन स्वास्थ्य, विकास और प्रतिरक्षा पर गंभीर प्रभाव डालते हैं।
  - Rising temperatures increase diseases like malaria, dengue, and Zika.
    - बढ़ते तापमान मलेरिया, डेंगू और जीका जैसी बीमारियों को बढ़ाते हैं।
  - Floods and contaminated water lead to waterborne diseases.
    - बाढ़ और दूषित पानी जलजनित बीमारियों को बढ़ाते हैं।
- 



## • Global Population Trends | वैश्विक जनसंख्या प्रवृत्तियां

- By 2050, the global child population will stabilize at around 2.3 billion.
    - 2050 तक, वैश्विक बाल जनसंख्या लगभग 2.3 बिलियन पर स्थिर हो जाएगी।
  - India and China will continue to have the largest child populations, but with declining numbers.
    - भारत और चीन में सबसे बड़ी बाल जनसंख्या बनी रहेगी, लेकिन संख्या घटेगी।
- 



## Educational Impact | शैक्षणिक प्रभाव

Since 2022, 400 million students globally have experienced school closures due to extreme weather.

- 2022 से, 400 मिलियन छात्रों को अत्यधिक मौसम के कारण स्कूल बंद का सामना करना पड़ा।

## Future Solutions | भविष्य के समाधान

Adoption of AI, renewable energy, and vaccine breakthroughs can improve child welfare.

- कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता, अक्षय ऊर्जा और वैक्सीन खोजों का उपयोग बच्चों के कल्याण में सुधार कर सकता है।

Digitalization is essential but comes with risks like online exploitation and inequality.

- डिजिटलीकरण महत्वपूर्ण है लेकिन इसमें ऑनलाइन शोषण और असमानता जैसे खतरे भी हैं।



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- **Regional Challenges | क्षेत्रीय चुनौतियां**

- South Asia, Eastern, and Central Africa face challenges in infrastructure and climate adaptation.
  - दक्षिण एशिया, पूर्वी और मध्य अफ्रीका को बुनियादी ढांचे और जलवायु अनुकूलन में चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है।

# Curtain goes up on IFFI with a star-studded inaugural

The nine-day festival will present over 180 international titles from 81 countries, which include premieres of 16 films in world, three in international, 43 in Asian, and 109 in Indian sections

**Bhuvanesh Chandar**

PANAJI

The 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) kick-started with a star-studded opening ceremony at the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Panaji, Goa, on Wednesday.

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, and Information and Broadcasting Secretary Sanjay Jaju inaugurated the nine-day festivities in the presence of Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, festival director Shekhar Kapur, and others.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Minister of State L. Murugan sent video messages.

The festivities began with a dance that paid tribute to India's pursuit of excellence in spirituality and for being the spiritual leader of the world.

Many prominent actors, producers, and filmmakers, including Nagarjuna Akkineni, Amala Akkineni, Jaideep Ahlawat, Boman Irani, Rajkummar Rao, R. Sarathkumar, Subash Ghai, Nithya Menen, Amar Kaushik, Jayam Ravi, Ran-deep Hooda, R.K. Selvama-



Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, actor Nagarjuna and filmmaker Shekhar Kapur during the 55th IFFI 2024 in Goa on Wednesday. PTI

ni, Chidananda S. Naik, Ishari K. Ganesh, and Pranita Subhash were felicitated.

## 'Power of stories'

Mr. Kapur spoke about the power of stories as a language of unity in a polarised world.

"Within nations and communities, we talk to each other through stories. Stories are how we communicate and understand each other," he said.

The event also saw Mr. Irani take the stage to pay tributes to some of India's greatest cinema legends – Mohammed Rafi, Tapan Sinha, Akkineni Nageswara Rao, and Raj Kapoor.

Special commemorative stamps, introduced by the Government of India to celebrate these legends, were unveiled.

Dr. Sawant said, "Ever since former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar brought IFFI to Goa, both IFFI and Goa have been synonymous. I am grateful for all the developments that have taken place in Goa since."

Through a video message, Mr. Vaishnaw said the IFFI had become an important milestone in the Indian film industry.

"We have a vibrant content economy, where people are coming up with some very innovative con-

tent showcasing the rich traditions, culture, heritage, language, literature and cuisines of India," he added.

Taking place across four venues, the 55th edition of the IFFI is set to continue till November 28.

This year, the festival has received 1,676 submissions from 101 countries. The nine-day festival will present over 180 international titles from 81 countries, which include 16 premieres in world, three in international, 43 in Asian, and 109 in Indian categories.

Notably, the organisers have included a segment this year to celebrate Goan films, under which 14 films will be screened.

The festival has chosen Australia as the country of focus this year to foster its collaboration with India through a memorandum of understanding between Screen Australia and the NFDC.

Celebrated Australian director Philip Noyce, best known for making iconic films such as *Patriot Games*, *Clear and Present Danger*, *Salt*, and *The Bone Collector*, is set to be presented with the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award.



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- **Event Highlights | मुख्य बातें**

- The 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) inaugurated in Panaji, Goa.
  - भारत का 55वां अंतरराष्ट्रीय फिल्म महोत्सव (IFFI) पणजी, गोवा में उद्घाटित।
- Opening ceremony held at Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium.
  - उद्घाटन समारोह डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी इनडोर स्टेडियम में आयोजित।
- Inaugurated by Goa CM Pramod Sawant, Secretary Sanjay Jaju, and other dignitaries.
  - गोवा के मुख्यमंत्री प्रमोद सावंत और सचिव संजय जाजू ने उद्घाटन किया।

- 
- **Film Participation | फिल्म सहभागिता**
  - Features 180+ international films from 81 countries.
    - 81 देशों की 180+ अंतरराष्ट्रीय फिल्मों प्रदर्शित।
  - Categories include:
    - 16 premieres in the World section.
      - वर्ल्ड सेक्शन में 16 प्रीमियर।
    - 3 in International Competition.
      - अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिता में 3 फिल्मों।
    - 43 in Asian Cinema.
      - एशियाई सिनेमा में 43 फिल्मों।
    - 109 Indian films.
      - भारतीय खंड में 109 फिल्मों।






- **Notable Highlights | उल्लेखनीय बातें**

- Lifetime Achievement Award to Australian director Philip Noyce.

- ऑस्ट्रेलियाई निर्देशक फिलिप नॉयस को लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट अवार्ड।

- Tribute to Indian cinema legends like Mohammed Rafi and Raj Kapoor.

- भारतीय सिनेमा के दिग्गजों जैसे मोहम्मद रफी और राज कपूर को श्रद्धांजलि।



## FINAL BOW

Nadal's stellar career ends as Spain loses to Netherlands in Davis Cup



Rafael Nadal's career in professional tennis came to an end on Tuesday as the Netherlands eliminated Spain in the Davis Cup quarterfinals with a 2-1 win. On Wednesday, three-time winner Germany eased into the semifinals with a 2-0 victory against Canada.

## UNUSUAL RAIN

WACA head curator doesn't expect Perth track to develop "snake cracks"



WACA head curator Isaac McDonald on Wednesday said the unusual rain in Perth has impacted the pitch preparation for the first Test of Border-Gavaskar Trophy and though he doesn't expect the surface to develop "snake cracks", there will still be plenty of bounce and carry.

## STEPPING IN

Daval replaces injured Khaleel in India reserve pacers' list



Left-arm seam bowler Yash Dayal has been added to India's reserve pacer's list after Khaleel Ahmed had to be sent back home due to an unspecified niggle. The medical team advised the Rajasthan left-arm seamer and hence it was decided that Dayal would fly in while Khaleel flew back home.

## THRILLING CONTESTS

Stalemate between Giants and Dabang; Titans edge Mumbai



Gujarat Giants and Dabang Delhi K.C. played out an exciting 39-39 tie in their Prokabaddi League match at the Noida Indoor Stadium on Wednesday. Pardeep Dahiya scored 20 points for the Giants, while Ashu Malik had a Super 10. In the second match, Telugu Titans pipped U Mumba 31-29.

# Rafael Nadal – serial winner, racquet-wielding philosopher and an invincible spirit

For two decades, the Spanish legend thrilled audiences all around the world and was part of two era-defining rivalries with fellow maestros Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic

TRIBUTE  
N. Sudarshan

Whenever a favourite sportsperson retires, there is a part of us that dies inside. It did when Sachin Tendulkar bid adieu and it did when Roger Federer waved goodbye. As Julian Barnes wrote in *Levi's of Life*, "What is taken away is greater than the sum of what was there. This may not be mathematically possible; but it is emotionally possible."

Rafael Nadal's exit from competitive tennis is sure to leave a similar feeling. For two decades, the Spaniard – winner of 22 Major, 92 Tour titles, a ludicrously high 14 French Opens, two Olympic Gold medals and five Davis Cups – did not just occupy the court but pervaded every inch of our collective minds. Now, this long-last-

ing love story will be a thing of the past. However, when fans look at Nadal's career in retrospect, its radiance in their memories would have swelled manifold. He first burst onto the scene as a 17-year-old in 2004 when Federer was the numero uno. While the Swiss' ethereal style of play had mesmerised the world, Nadal, with his more down-to-earth rugged artistry, carved out a niche.

His performances on the red dirt (63 trophies in all), and a game built on supreme athleticism and top-spin-heavy strokes may have stereotyped him as a warrior and a brat, but he was far from a one-surface master.

All-court excellence Nadal was adept on the Wimbledon grass courts, the US Open's high 14 French Opens, two Olympic Gold medals and five Davis Cups – did not just occupy the court but pervaded every inch of our collective minds. Now, this long-last-



Hard courts did trouble him, with the unforgiving surface causing significant wear and tear, from his back to both his hips, knees and all the way down to his toes. There was a time when he withdrew or retired from 11 of the 12 hard-

court events he entered. But that did not stop him from winning four US Opens to become the most successful men's player at Flushing Meadows in the 2010s. The vanquishing of Daniil Medvedev in the Australian Open final in 2022 with a miraculous



That Nadal could play for so long and so well was down to how he evolved

come-from-behind victory, after having spent the prior months contemplating re-

14 championships at the French Open, the most of any Grand Slam by a man or woman  
A Career Grand Slam, including four titles at the U.S. Open and two apiece at Wimbledon and the Australian Open  
Five years finishing at No. 1 (2005, 2010, 2013, 2017 and 2019)  
Two Olympic golds (Singles 2008, doubles 2016)  
At least one top-level title for 18 consecutive seasons from 2004 through 2022, tied with Djokovic  
10 clay-court titles, the most for a man in the Open era  
410 wins at ATP Masters 1000 events (led with Djokovic for the most)

turn because of a chronic foot injury, was arguably the Spaniard's greatest.

Always a student That Nadal could play for so long and so well was down to how he evolved. Locked in two era-defining

1,080-228 career record in four-level singles behind Jimmy Connors (1,274), Roger Federer (1,251) and Novak Djokovic (1,124)  
209 wins at No. 1 in the ATP rankings  
92 titles, the fifth among men in the Open era, trailing Connors (109), Federer (103), Ivan Lendl (94)  
I lost my first match in the Davis Cup, and I lost my last one. So we close the circles

rivalries with Federer and Novak Djokovic, he showed that there was always space to grow. He polished his serve, elevated clear and the dust settles, the backhand with a point-ending vesper.

All of which resulted in 912 consecutive weeks in

the top-10, 23 wins over World No. 1s, 17 years between his first Major and just – such a record. Along with Ken Rosewall and Pete Sampras, Nadal remains the only male to have won Slams in his teens, 20s and 30s. He got better with elapsed time.

A wholesome package But Nadal was more than just a tennis player. He was a racquet-wielding philosopher who valued effort over outcome, normalised self-doubt and nervousness, and relished pain. He had a polite word for everyone, threw no tantrums and didn't break a single racquet in anger.

Human memory, though, is a trickster. It hides the past and exaggerates the recent, like Nadal's struggles in the last two years. But when the clouds clear and the dust settles, light will only shine on his many incredible highs. It is his invincible spirit that will long endure.

## Important to put aside the pressure and make a name for ourselves: Morkel

INDIA IN AUS  
K.C. Vijaya Kumar  
PERTH

In a city suffused with warm sunlight and nippy air, and above all, the intangible tales about fast bowling, Morne Morkel stepped into the press-conference hall at the Optus Stadium here on Wednesday.

This grand venue may not have the history associated with the nearby WACA Ground which owned the tag of having the world's quickest pitch, but the new entrant's drop-in playing surface is expected to offer pace and bounce when the first Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy commences here on Friday.

It is a fact that Morkel, former South African pacer and current India bowling coach, is acutely conscious about. "Coming into this tour, we are probably under pressure, especially under our past performances. But it is important for us to put that aside and look forward."

the individual to formulate their plans," Morkel said. Asked about how he deals with young fast bowlers like Harshit Rana and Prasadhi Krishna, Morkel said: "It's great to have them and they add a lot of variation, especially Harshit, he bowls at a good pace, it's going to be fast, bouncy, and it's up to



Keep an eye on: Morkel hinted that all-rounder Nitish has a key role to play for India. GETTY IMAGES

for a reason, has the skill, the talent, and just has to keep working hard and knock that door down." Morkel also praised seamer Nitish Reddy: "He is one of the young guys who has got that sort of batting all-round ability. He will be a guy who can sort of hold one end up and he hits the bat a little bit harder than you think. In these conditions where there might be a little bit of seam movement, he will be a handy bowler, very accurate. It is a lovely opportunity for him to fill that all-rounder spot. He is a player you can keep your eye on in this series."

Leader With Jasprit Bumrah stepping in as skipper while Rohit Sharma is away on a paternity break, Morkel praised the Indian spearhead's leadership acumen: "Jasprit is a guy that immediately put his hand up and wanted that leadership role. He has been very successful here in the past. In the dressing room, he speaks well. And he hits the ball in hand, who will lead from the front." Morkel added that young batters can learn a lot from Virat Kohli, and equally the bowling coach expressed satisfaction over Mohammed Shami's return to First Class cricket in India, following a long injury lay-off.

## Decision on Gill to be taken on the morning of the Test, says bowling coach

K.C. Vijaya Kumar  
PERTH

Shubman Gill has been a quiet presence at the Indian team meet and amid speculation has centred around his left thumb injury, suffered during a match-simulation exercise at the WACA Ground here recently.

Gill was at the Optus Stadium on Wednesday while the venue geared up for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy's first Test from Friday. While it is understood that the decision remains a match-simulation exercise at the WACA Ground here recently.

## Speedster Hazlewood upbeat ahead of first Test

K.C. Vijaya Kumar  
PERTH

Josh Hazlewood seemed happy with the pitch on the morning of the first Test. "I love playing here in Perth, the wicket is always a nice one to bowl pace on, bouncy, perhaps a few cracks later in the game. The first Test of the summer is always exciting." The Australian is away on a tour in the lead-up to the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series commencing here on Friday.



Fingers crossed: Morkel said Gill's recovery from injury is being watched on a daily basis. GETTY IMAGES

proving every day, obviously he picked up a nasty blow in that warm-up game. I think with him it's going to be a day-to-day sort of process, fingers

back burner fairly quickly. I guess being out of India they might be able to relax a bit more and not be under the hype of a home Test. I think he will be hungry and ready to go."

Tackling Pant Asked about plans against Harshit Rana, Hazlewood replied: "With players like that you have always got a Plan A which is the top of off stump, then you have got Plan B and C if things go south and Harshit gets a roll."

With skipper and regular opener Rohit Sharma on a paternity break, the Indian team management is searching for alternatives and Gill's injury has thrown up a fresh challenge.

Other opener Who will partner Yashasvi Jaiswal atop the batting tree remains a question and equally the number three slot has to be sorted if Gill is ruled out on the morning of the game.

K.L. Rahul, Abhimanyu Easwaran and Devdutt Patil, now a part of the squad, are part of the mix, and all three had their batting stints at the nets on Wednesday.

Hazlewood, however, refused to read too much into India's 0-3 Test series loss against New Zealand. "Professionals players can put those losses on the



AS NADAL WALKS INTO THE SUNSET AFTER A GLITTERING CAREER, A LOOK AT THE ASTRONOMICAL NUMBERS THE SPANIARD BOASTS OF



**22**  
Grand Slams

**14** championships at the French Open, the most at any Grand Slam by a man or woman

- A career Grand Slam, including four titles at the U.S. Open and two apiece at Wimbledon and the Australian Open

- Five years finishing at No. 1 (2008, 2010, 2013, 2017 and 2019)

- Two Olympic golds (singles 2008, doubles 2016)

- At least one tour-level title for 19 consecutive seasons from 2004 through 2022, tied with Djokovic

**63** clay-court titles, the most for a man in the Open era

**410** wins at ATP Masters 1000 events (tied with Djokovic for the most)

**29-2** in Davis Cup singles play

**209** weeks at No. 1 in the ATP rankings

**92** titles, the fifth among men in the Open era, trailing Connors (109), Federer (103), Djokovic (99) and Ivan Lendl (94)

**1,080-228** career record in tour-level singles behind Jimmy Connors (1,274), Roger Federer (1,251) and Novak Djokovic (1,124)



I lost my first match in the Davis Cup, and I lost my last one. So we close the circle



## Looking forward to de-escalation, focus on cooperation: Rajnath to China counterpart

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

IN ANOTHER indication of India and China moving swiftly to repair ties following troop disengagement at two friction points along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart Dong Jun met in Laos capital Vientiane Wednesday where Singh said "we need to focus on cooperation rather than conflict".

Meeting Dong on the sidelines of the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus, Singh emphasised and looked forward to greater trust and confidence building between the two sides through de-escalation — an estimated 50,000 to 60,000 troops have been deployed on each side of the LAC in eastern Ladakh.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with China's Dong Jun in Vientiane, Laos. PTI

building between the two sides through de-escalation" — an estimated 50,000 to 60,000 troops have been deployed on each side of the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Biren intent not good, that's why crisis: MLAs who skipped NDA meet

SUKRITA BARUAH  
GUWAHATI, NOVEMBER 20

FOUR OF the legislators who skipped Monday's meeting of NDA MLAs called in Imphal by Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh have questioned the government behind it, dismissing it as an "image-building exercise" at a time that the state government is battling a crisis of confidence.

Pointing out that the stated agenda of the meeting was "to review the developing law and order situation in the state", a senior MLA of the ruling BJP said: "The



CM should have called a meeting with the Unified Command, including the DCT Security Advisor, the CRPF and Assam Rifles IGs, and the Chief Secretary. What is a meeting of MLAs supposed to achieve in this?"

The resolution passed at the meeting had "nothing to do with

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Maharashtra sees highest turnout in 30 yrs: victory sign, say both alliances

ALOK DESHPANDE & VIKAS PATHAK  
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, NOV 20

VOTERS CAME out in huge numbers in Maharashtra's battle of the alliances Wednesday where the turnout, according to data available at 11:45 pm, crossed 65.1 per cent — the first time since 1995 when the state witnessed a turnout of 71.69 per cent.

The turnout was way above the 61.39 per cent recorded in Maharashtra during the Lok Sabha elections this year, and the 61.4 per cent in the 2019 Assembly elections.

In Jharkhand, where the JMM-led alliance is battling the BJP-led NDA bloc, the turnout was 68.45 per cent. The rise in voter turnout in Maharashtra is being attributed to the fierce campaign undertaken by the ruling Mahayuti and Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), and could become a key factor in a close contest. During the Lok Sabha elections, the three

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



At a poll booth in Ghatkopar West Wednesday. The 10 seats in Mumbai city saw 52% turnout while Mumbai suburban's 26 seats recorded 56% until 11:30 pm. Sanjay/Anoop/Anoop/PTI

### WHAT THE POLLSTERS PREDICT

	Maharashtra (28S)			Jharkhand (81)		
Pollster	Mahayuti	MVA	Others	BJP+	JMM-INC	Others
JVC	150-167	107-125	13-14	40-44	30-40	1
ANI	-	-	-	17-27	49-59	0-2
Mintzer	150-170	110-130	8-10	42-47	25-30	1-4

## 5 cops suspended over complaints of stopping voters in western UP

MAULSHREE SETH  
LUCKNOW, NOVEMBER 20

FIVE UTTAR Pradesh policemen were placed under suspension Wednesday by the Election Commission following complaints that they were preventing voters from casting their ballots in Meerapur, in



A video grab of a policeman pointing a revolver during the bypoll in Meerapur, UP.

## Gahlot counters AAP: Did I-Day flag hoisting after Madam Kejriwal's nod

GAYATHRI MANI  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

SIX DAYS AFTER leaving the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and joining the BJP Delhi's former Home and Transport Minister Karan Gahlot said on Wednesday that he agreed to hoist the national flag on Independence Day — in



KARANSHI GAHLOT FORMER AAP MINISTER, NOW WITH BJP

## AQI REMAINS SEVERE Delhi moves to 50% work from home, asks pvt sector to follow

GRAP revised, makes it mandatory for schools to shut offline classes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

WITH THE Air Quality Index (AQI) remaining "severe" on Wednesday, the Delhi government announced work from home for 50 per cent of its staff, and also asked the private sector to take similar measures.

The Delhi government announced that all its departments and MCD offices will work at 50 per cent capacity while the remaining staff will work from home until curbs under the fourth stage of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) are lifted.

Addressing a press conference after a meeting with industry stakeholders, Delhi Environment Minister Copal Rai said: "Private offices in Delhi must switch to 50 per cent of their employees working from home." The Delhi government also advised private

VEHICULAR EMISSION, as per several studies, is among the biggest contributors to Delhi's toxic air. The aim behind the 50 per cent work from home move is to control vehicular emission by reducing vehicular movement and traffic congestion.

companies to arrange shuttle bus services and follow staggered office timings.

On Tuesday, the Gurgaon administration had issued an advisory urging private firms to follow 50 per cent work from home

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DELHI HIGH COURT RELIEF FOR CHIDAMBARAM IN AIRCEL-MAXIS CASE

INDIA, AUSTRALIA SEAL CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP, PUSH TRADE PACT PAGE 8



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19 November, 9 AM | 29 November, 5 PM

**GTB NAGAR, DELHI**  
12 November, 6 PM

**दिल्ली** 20 November, 8 AM

**5** DECEMBER  
BENGALURU

**16** DECEMBER  
JAIPUR

**11** NOVEMBER  
HYDERABAD

**3** DECEMBER  
JODHPUR

**5** DECEMBER  
LUCKNOW

**5** DECEMBER  
BHOPAL

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**16** DECEMBER  
जयपुर

**3** DECEMBER  
अहमदाबाद

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# Modi first Indian PM to visit Guyana in 56 years, signs 10 pacts to expand ties

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

INDIA AND Guyana on Wednesday sealed 10 agreements to strengthen cooperation in hydrocarbons, digital payment systems, pharmaceuticals, and defence after bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Guyanese President Mohamed Irfaan Ali.

Modi said Guyana will play an important role in India's energy security and a blueprint for long-term partnership in the sector will be prepared. "The visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Guyana after 56 years is an important milestone in our relations. I have had a deep personal bond with Guyana," he said while recalling his visit to the South American country about 24 years back.

The PM arrived last night from Brazil's Rio de Janeiro, where he attended the G20 summit. One of the MoUs will allow the deployment of India's UPI (Unified Payments Interface) digital payments system in Guyana. "We will continue to make efforts to increase our mutual trade and economic cooperation," Modi said.

Modi said India will continue to contribute to the capacity

building of Guyana's military through scholarships and training. "Close cooperation in the field of defence is a symbol of our deep mutual trust. I am happy that this year India has supplied two Dornier aircraft to Guyana."

Agreeing to expand cooperation in the agriculture sector, Modi said: "With the millet seeds provided by India last year, we were able to contribute to increasing the food security of Guyana..." India also agreed to set up a Jan Ausadhi Kendra in Guyana.

The two leaders also deliberated on regional and global issues. President Ali said Modi's visit to Guyana represents a significant milestone in enhancing cooperation between the two nations. He called Prime Minister Modi a "champion among leaders" for his impactful leadership and contribution to the developing world.

"Thank you very much... It is our greatest honour to have you here," Ali said during a joint press statement with Modi. He lauded Modi's governance style, noting its relevance and adoption in Guyana and other nations.

"You have shown the light to the developing world, and you have created development metrics and a framework that many are adopting in their own country. And much of it is relevant to us here in Guyana," he said.



## Modi First Indian PM to Visit Guyana in 56 Years, Signs 10 Pacts to Expand Ties

### Historical Visit | ऐतिहासिक दौरा

- PM Narendra Modi becomes the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Guyana in 56 years.
- पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी 56 वर्षों में गुयाना जाने वाले पहले भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री बने।
- Modi last visited Guyana 24 years ago as an individual.
- मोदी ने 24 साल पहले व्यक्तिगत रूप से गुयाना का दौरा किया था।



## Agreements Signed | समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर

10 agreements signed between India and Guyana to strengthen cooperation.

- भारत और गुयाना के बीच सहयोग मजबूत करने के लिए 10 समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर।

### Areas of cooperation:

- Hydrocarbons, digital payment systems, pharmaceuticals, defence.
  - हाइड्रोकार्बन, डिजिटल भुगतान प्रणाली, दवा और रक्षा।
- Agriculture sector and food security.
  - कृषि क्षेत्र और खाद्य सुरक्षा।

## Key Highlights | मुख्य बातें

Deployment of India's UPI system in Guyana.

- गुयाना में भारत के UPI प्रणाली का कार्यान्वयन।

Supply of two Dornier aircraft to Guyana for defence cooperation.

- गुयाना को रक्षा सहयोग के लिए दो डॉर्नियर विमान की आपूर्ति।

India to help build Guyana's military capacity through scholarships and training.

- भारत, छात्रवृत्ति और प्रशिक्षण के माध्यम से गुयाना की सैन्य क्षमता को मजबूत करेगा।

## Agriculture Cooperation | कृषि सहयोग

Expansion of food security through Indian millet seeds.

- भारतीय बाजरा बीजों के माध्यम से खाद्य सुरक्षा का विस्तार।

Agreement to set up a Jan Aushadhi Kendra in Guyana.

- गुयाना में जन औषधि केंद्र स्थापित करने पर सहमति।



## Global Significance | वैश्विक महत्व

Discussions on regional and global issues during talks.

- वार्ता के दौरान क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक मुद्दों पर चर्चा।

Guyanese President Mohamed Irfaan Ali called Modi a “champion among leaders.”

- गुयाना के राष्ट्रपति मोहम्मद इरफान अली ने मोदी को "नेताओं में चैंपियन" कहा।

Ali praised India's development framework adopted by other nations.

- अली ने अन्य देशों द्वारा अपनाए गए भारत के विकास ढांचे की प्रशंसा की।

**MODI, ALBANESE MEET ON G20 SIDELINES**

# India, Australia agree on tie-up in clean energy, push for trade pact

Will continue to support peace, stability in Indo-Pacific region together: PM

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 20

INDIA AND Australia agreed on an ambitious renewable energy partnership and looked forward to working towards a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement as PM Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese met on the sidelines of the G20 leaders' Summit in Brazil.

Strengthening ties in areas of defence and security, mobility, science and technology and education figured prominently during the second India-Australia annual conclave held late Tuesday. The two leaders also looked forward to a long-term vision of defence and security collaboration to enhance collective strength, contribute to both countries' security, and make an important contribution to regional peace and security, according to a joint statement.

The two PMs welcomed the launch of the Renewable Energy Partnership (REP) which would provide the framework for practical cooperation in priority areas such as solar energy, green hydrogen, energy storage, investments in related projects and allied areas, it said.



**PM Narendra Modi with his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese in Rio de Janeiro on Tuesday. PTI**

In his media statement after the Summit talks with Albanese, Modi said both sides will work on new possibilities of cooperation in areas like defence industry, critical minerals, renewable energy, ship building, space and sports.

With both sides keen to build on the momentum created by the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), which was signed in 2022, the two PMs welcomed further work towards an "ambitious, balanced and mutually beneficial" Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) to realise the full potential of the bilateral economic relationship, the joint statement said.

Modi said work will be done for a mutually beneficial CECA and that Albanese committed to protect the interests of the Indian community in Australia, especially Indian students. After the implementation of ECTA, our mutual trade has increased by 40% in the last two years, he said.

Modi also emphasised the need to resolve conflicts and tensions through dialogue and diplomacy. "We have been and will continue to support peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region together," he said.

The joint statement said that they expressed intent to "renew and strengthen the Joint Declaration on Defence and

Security Cooperation in 2025, to reflect ambition in both countries' elevated defence and security partnership and strategic convergence".

Modi said both India and Australia are also unanimous on the need for reform in global institutions. Modi said Albanese has accepted his invitation for the Quad summit to be held in India next year. "I am confident that in the times to come, the partnership between India and Australia will touch new heights and will become a force for the global good," he said.

According to the joint statement, the two leaders observed that 'Make in India' and 'Future Made in Australia' have complementarity and collaborative potential and could help create new jobs, unlock economic growth and secure our future prosperity in a changing world.


"The leaders called for greater two-way investments reflective of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and instructed officials to explore ways to realise greater synergies between the economies of both the countries," it said. Modi and Albanese reiterated their commitment to support an open, inclusive, stable, peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

- **Bilateral Progress:** Both Prime Ministers acknowledged significant progress in strengthening ties across sectors like climate change, renewable energy, trade, investment, defence, education, and people-to-people relations.





- **Economic Cooperation:**

- India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) is boosting trade and market access.
  - Work toward a more comprehensive Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) is underway.
  - The Australia-India Business Exchange (AIBX) programme extended for another four years to strengthen business connections.
- 



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## **Energy and Environment:**

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Launch of the India-Australia Renewable Energy Partnership (REP) for cooperation in solar PV, green hydrogen, energy storage, and renewable energy workforce development.

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Progress on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India's Khanij Bidesh Ltd. and Australia's Critical Minerals Office to advance critical minerals for clean energy

**Space Cooperation:** Growing space partnership with joint projects, such as support for Gaganyaan missions and the launch of Australian satellites on Indian vehicles in 2026.

**Defence and Security:** Renewal of Joint Declaration on Defence and Security in 2025, focusing on stronger collaboration.

**Parliamentary Cooperation:** Emphasis on continued inter-parliamentary cooperation as part of the strategic partnership.

**Education, People-to-People and Mobility:** Working Holiday Maker visa programme and MATES mobility scheme to enhance people-to-people ties and mobility of professionals.



- **Regional and Multilateral Cooperation:** Commitment to a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific, with shared interests in regional peace, stability, and sovereignty.
  - Support for Quad initiatives in health, security, infrastructure, and climate change.
  - Reinforcement of ASEAN centrality and cooperation under regional frameworks like the East Asia Summit and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.
  - Commitment to Indian Ocean cooperation, including Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), and support for Pacific island countries on climate, health, and education.

‘IMAGINING AN ACHIEVEMENT TO MAKE IT HAPPEN’

## ‘MANIFEST’ IS CAMBRIDGE WORD OF THE YEAR



The word “manifest”, which has evolved with its use by celebrities to mean imagining an achievement in the belief that doing so will make it more likely to happen, was on Wednesday revealed as the Word of the Year by Cambridge Dictionary. The dictionary noted the word had jumped from use in the self-help community and on social media to being widely used across mainstream media and beyond. **AP**


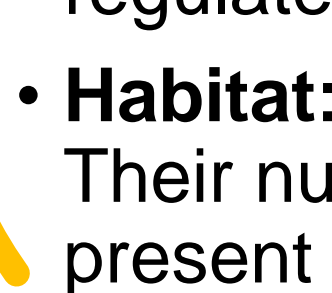
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# African Penguins





- 
- The African penguin became the first penguin species in the world to be listed as **critically endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.
  - **About: African penguins (Spheniscus demersus)**
  - It is one of the **smallest penguin species**, commonly referred to as “jackass” penguins due to their donkey-like braying calls. Males are generally slightly larger than their female counterparts.
- 

- 
- African penguins are **monogamous**, meaning they have one partner throughout their life.
  - **Characteristics:** African penguins can be recognized by the **pink patches** of skin above their eyes, which are used to regulate body temperature.
  - **Habitat:** They are found only in **Namibia and South Africa**. Their numbers have been **declining since the 1800s** and at present there are fewer than 20,000 birds left in the wild.
- 

- 
- **Threat:** Predators, such as Cape fur seals and kelp gulls, rising ocean temperatures, and lack of prey (small fish like sardines and anchovies).
  - **Protection:** They have been protected under South Africa's Sea Birds and Seals Protection Act since 1973 (and more recently under the Marine Threatened or Protected Species Regulations since 2017).
    - These laws and regulations ban the capture of penguins or their eggs and any intentional harm done to them.
- 



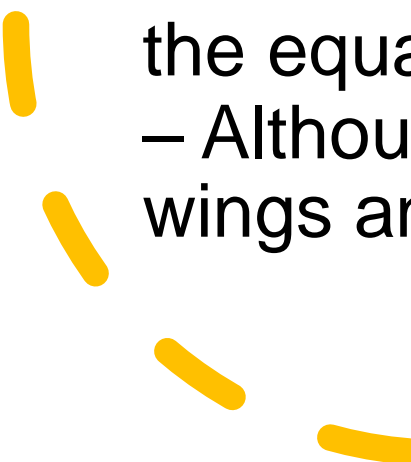


- **Do you know?**

- Penguins are a family of **17 to 19 species** of birds that live primarily in the Southern Hemisphere.


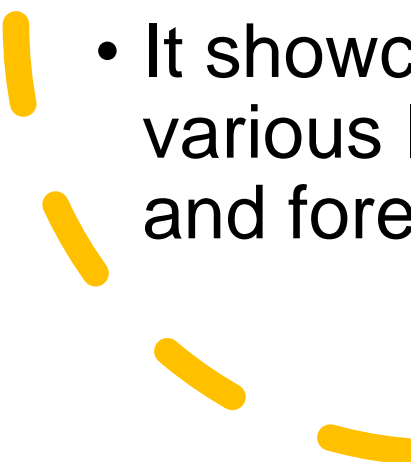
- They include the tiny blue penguins of Australia and New Zealand, the majestic emperor penguins of Antarctica, and the **Galápagos penguin** (the only penguin to be found north of the equator).



- Although penguins are birds, they have flippers instead of wings and are **unable to fly**.



# SANYUKT VIMOCHAN 2024'



- 
- The Indian Army successfully conducted the Sanyukt Vimochan 2024 in Gujarat.
  - **About SANYUKT VIMOCHAN 2024**
  - It is a Multilateral Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise
  - It showcased India's disaster response readiness and involved various Indian armed forces, disaster management agencies, and foreign delegations.
- 


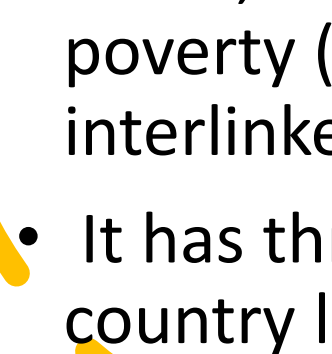
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- The exercise began with a **Table Top Exercise (TTX)**, simulating a cyclone scenario in Gujarat's coastal region.
  - The second day featured a **Multi-Agency Capability Demonstration at Porbandar's Chowpatty Beach**, where coordinated logistics, rapid response, and disaster management operations were practiced by the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and other agencies.
- 





Global Alliance Against Hunger and  
Poverty

- 
- Recently, a new Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty was launched at the G20 Leaders Summit in Brazil to eradicate poverty and hunger globally.
  - The alliance is an important step towards the implementation of the Deccan High-Level Principles on Food Security and Nutrition 2023, adopted at the G20 New Delhi Summit 2023.
- 

- 
- What are the Key Facts
  - About the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty?
  - About:
  - It is a voluntary coalition of governments, international organisations, NGOs, and other stakeholders working to eradicate hunger (SDG 2), poverty (SDG 1), reduce inequalities (SDG 10), and support other interlinked SDGs.
  - It has three pillars – knowledge, finance and knowledge– at the country level.
- 

## ALLIANCE OPERATION AT GLOBAL LEVEL— FORMING A WEB OF VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS FOR PARTNERSHIPS

### NATIONAL PILLAR

Domestic policy and programme implementation and/or direct country-to-country support and lesson sharing, South-South and trilateral cooperation.

STATEMENTS OF COMMITMENT  
Commit to implement and/or support others, share learnings



### FINANCIAL SUPPORT PILLAR

Multilateral funding. Official bilateral and multilateral assistance and development finance. Innovative financial mechanisms, climate funding, philanthropies, others.

STATEMENTS OF COMMITMENT  
Commit to support implementation



### KNOWLEDGE PILLAR

*Institutions for:*  
Technical assistance and cooperation, Capacity building, knowledge sharing.

STATEMENTS OF COMMITMENT  
Commit to support implementation



**GLOBAL  
ALLIANCE  
AGAINST  
HUNGER AND  
POVERTY**

**POLICY  
BASKET**



Improved alignment formed through fully voluntary commitments to implementation and/or support to implementation of nationally-owned policies among those in a curated reference basket of examples.



- 
- What is the Need for the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty?
  - Escalating Poverty and Hunger: In 2022, approximately 712 million people lived in extreme poverty—23 million more than in 2019—with the highest rates in the poorest countries.
  - In 2023, 733 million people faced hunger, and 148 million children under five suffered from stunting (low height-for-age).
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**.With reference to the ‘Global Alliance for ClimateSmart Agriculture (GACSA)’, which of the following statements is/are correct? (2018)**

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1. GACSA is an outcome of the Climate Summit held in Paris in 2015.

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2. Membership of GACSA does not create any binding obligations.

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3. India was instrumental in the creation of GACSA.

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**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

---

**(a)** 1 and 3 only

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**(b)** 2 only

---

**(c)** 2 and 3 only

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**(d)** 1, 2 and 3

---



- **Which of the following is/are the indicators/indicators used by IFPRI to compute the Global Hunger Index Report? (2016)**

- **1. Undernourishment**

- **2. Child stunting**

- **3. Child mortality**

- **Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- **(a) 1 only**

- **(b) 2 and 3 only**

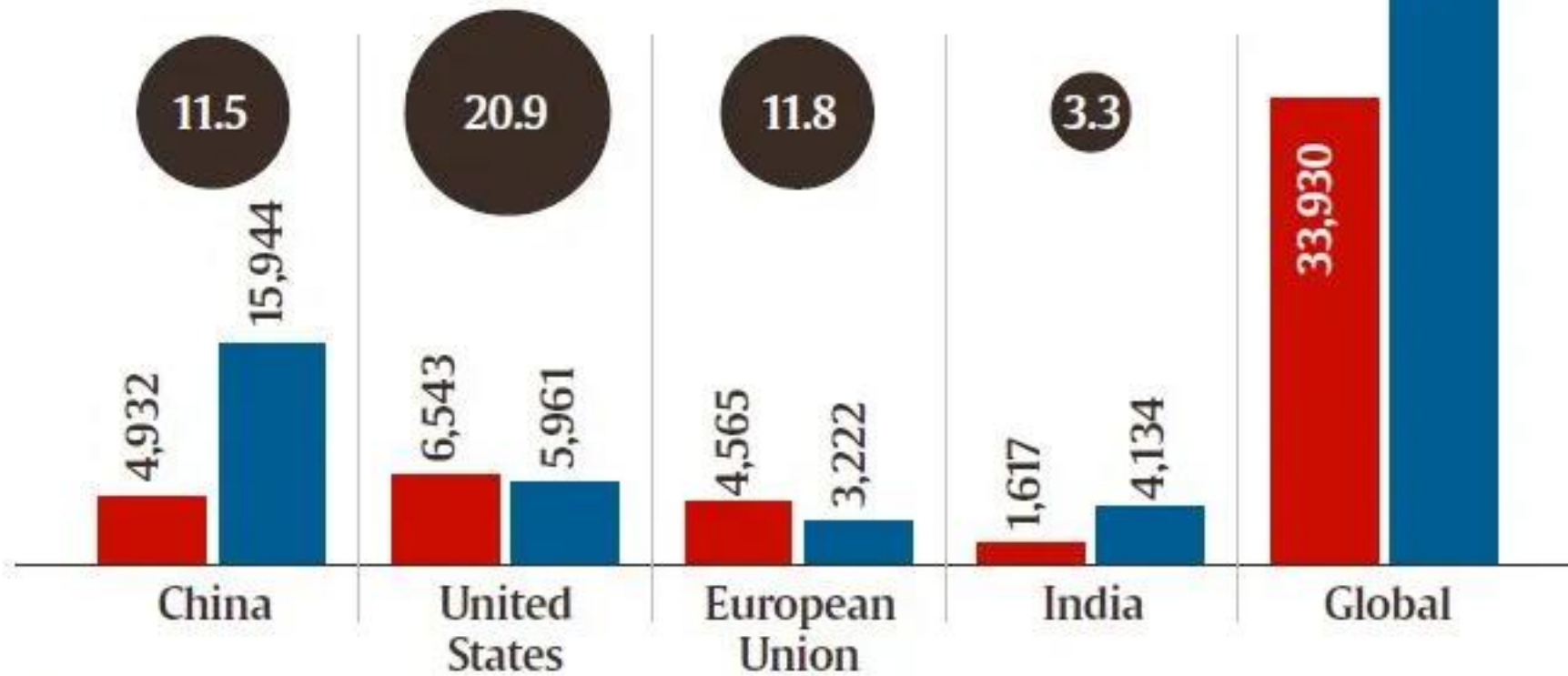
- **(c) 1, 2 and 3**

- **(d) 1 and 3 only**



## RISE OF CHINESE EMISSIONS BETWEEN 1993 & 2023

■ 1995 emissions (in MtCO<sub>2</sub> eq) ■ 2023 emissions (in MtCO<sub>2</sub> eq)  
■ Share in historical emissions in 2023 (%)





Source: Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research



A large, ornate silver trophy is the central focus, held by several hands from different people. The trophy has a highly reflective, faceted surface that catches the light, creating a shimmering effect. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of achievement and environmental stewardship.

# Green World Environment Award 2024

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- Coal India Limited (CIL), a leading state-owned coal mining corporation, has been conferred the 'Green World Environment Award 2024' in the CSR category.
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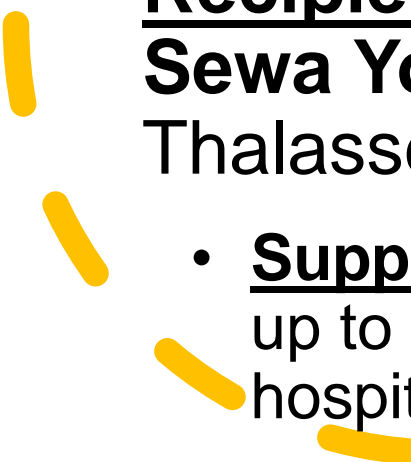




- **About Green World Environment Award:**

- **Award Significance:** Recognizes organizations for outstanding contributions to environmental sustainability and CSR initiatives globally.

- **Recipient:** Coal India Limited in 2024 for its **Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna**, which supports curative treatments for Thalassemia through Bone Marrow Transplants (BMT).

- **Support:** Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna provide financial assistance of up to ₹10 lakh provided for BMT operations across 17 partner hospitals.



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- **Presented by:** The Green Organisation at Kensington Palace, London.
  - **About The Green Organisation:**
  - **Founded:** 1994.
  - **Nature:** An independent, non-political, and non-profit group.
  - **Objective:** Recognizing, rewarding, and promoting environmental and CSR best practices worldwide
- 



# Word of the day

## **Snivel:**

whining in a tearful manner; the act of breathing heavily through the nose (as when the nose is congested);

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**Synonyms:** snuffle, sniffle

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**Usage:** *Snivelling comments about it will get us nowhere.*


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**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/snivelpro](http://newsth.live/snivelpro)

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**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /'snɪvəl/

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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 wearing suits. The background is blurred, showing more people and a window. The overall mood is celebratory and professional.

Thank you  
guys.

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