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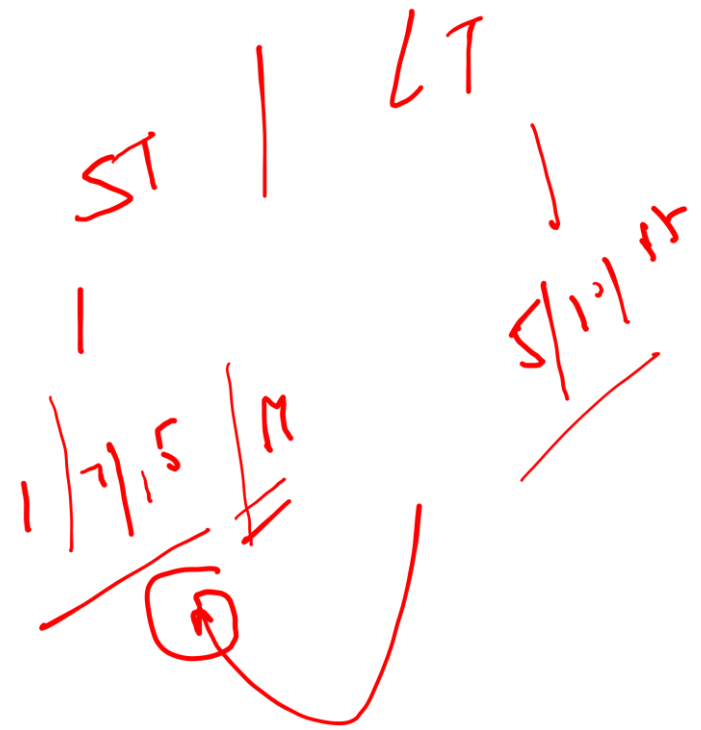
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Delhi court grants bail to AAP leader
NEW DELHI
After 18 months in jail in connection with a money laundering case, senior Aam Aadmi Party leader and former Minister in Delhi government, Sayedur-Raza Khan, was granted bail on Friday. » PAGE 3

Modi to attend BRICS summit in Russia next week

NEW DELHI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Russia from October 22 and 23 for the BRICS Summit, and is expected to hold bilateral meetings with the BRICS member countries, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday. » PAGE 3

Bihar hooch tragedy: 10 more die, toll hits 35

PATNA
Ten more people died in the hooch tragedy in Bihar's Saran and Saran districts on Friday, taking the death toll to 35, officials said. Senior police officials said that as many as 99 persons, have been arrested. » PAGE 3

N. Korean troops 'aiding Russia in Ukraine war'

SEOUL
South Korean intelligence has found that North Korea has dispatched 12,000 troops including special operation forces to support Russia's war against Ukraine, news reports said on Friday. » PAGE 12

U.S. charges Indian for plot to murder Pannun

Vikash Yadav has been charged with a murder-hire plot, along with Nikhil Gupta. Indian probe team visiting Washington DC confirms he is 'no longer' employed with the Indian government. It will be relentless in holding accountable anyone who seeks to harm and silence American citizen, says the U.S. justice department in a statement

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC
An Indian citizen, Vikash Yadav, has been charged with directing a plot to murder pro-Khalistan activist and Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) chief Gurbajwant Singh Pannun in New York last year.

A U.S. citizen, Pannun is an India-designated terrorist. Mr. Yadav was identified this far as "CC-1" in the original indictment related to the murder-hire plot, filed by the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) in 2023.

Another Indian, Nikhil Gupta, was charged last year and is currently being detained in Brooklyn, following his arrest in the

Czech Republic last year. India-based Mr. Yadav, it is alleged, had recruited Mr. Gupta to find a hitman and have Pannun killed.

The charges against Mr. Yadav were announced on Thursday by the DoJ, two days after an Indian investigating team visited Washington DC. State Department Spokesperson Matt Miller said the Indian team confirmed that Mr. Yadav was "no longer" employed by the Indian government.

18-page indictment
Mr. Yadav was charged in a second superseding indictment unsealed on Thursday in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. The 18-page second indictment in-

cludes a picture of Mr. Yadav in Army fatigues, as per the DoJ. "The justice Department will be relentless in holding accountable any person - regardless of their position or proximity to power - who seeks to harm and silence American citizens," said Attorney-General Merrick B. Garland.

clades a picture of Mr. Yadav in Army fatigues, as per the DoJ.

"The justice Department will be relentless in holding accountable any person - regardless of their position or proximity to power - who seeks to harm and silence Ameri-

can citizens," said Attorney-General Merrick B. Garland.

"The FBI will not tolerate acts of violence or other efforts to retaliate against those residing in the U.S. for exercising their constitutionally protected rights," FBI Director Christopher Wray said.

A "Wanted by the FBI" notice was issued on Thursday, which said that Mr. Yadav was born in Pratapnagar, Harayana, and used "Amanat" as an alias while communicating with his co-conspirator, another Indian national, to facilitate the plot.

"Yadav allegedly provided information, such as the victim's residential addresses, phone numbers,

and other identifying information, to the Indian national in furtherance of the plot," the notice said.

Full throttle



Wroom wroom: A tourist ventures into the Dal lake on a water scooter, one of Srinagar's popular watersport attractions. (ANI/ANASSAR)

'Alteration' of State anthem sets off spat between CM and T.N. Governor

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI
Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi on Friday accused Chief Minister M.K. Stalin of making a "racist remark" against him after the latter wondered if he was the "Governor" or an "Aryan".

Mr. Stalin had made the remark following a distorted rendition of the State anthem without the reference to the glory of "Dravida" land, at a function of DD Chennai in which Mr. Ravi participated.

"Hon'ble Chief Minister Thiru. @mkstalin has issued a regrettable tweet this evening in which he made a racist remark against me and levelled a false allegation of showing disrespect to Tamil Nadu Vaazhthu," Mr. Stalin said in a post on social media.

Mr. Stalin had made the remark following a distorted rendition of the State anthem without the reference to the glory of "Dravida" land, at a function of DD Chennai in which Mr. Ravi participated.

Uddhav's Sena refuses to hold seat-sharing talks with Maharashtra Congress president

Yinava Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI
Seat-sharing talks have hit a roadblock in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in Maharashtra as the Shiv Sena (UBT) has refused to hold discussions with Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole, informed sources told the Hindu.

After the step has been communicated to the party high command, the Congress Maharashtra in-charge, Ramesh Chennithala, is slated to meet Sena UBT chief Uddhav Thackeray at his residence on Saturday to pacify him.

J&K Cabinet resolution presses for Statehood

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR
The Jammu & Kashmir Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, passed a resolution calling for the restoration of statehood to the Union Territory, sources said.

However, the Opposition parties criticised the move, as the resolution has been away from the "goalpost of Article 370".

USA Citizen

U.S. charges Indian for plot to murder Pannun

Vikash Yadav has been charged with a murder-for-hire plot, along with Nikhil Gupta; Indian probe team visiting Washington DC confirms he is 'no longer' employed with the Indian government; 'it will be relentless in holding accountable anyone who seeks to harm and silence American citizen,' says the U.S. justice department in a statement

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An Indian citizen, Vikash Yadav, has been charged with directing a plot to murder pro-Khalistan activist and Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in New York last year.

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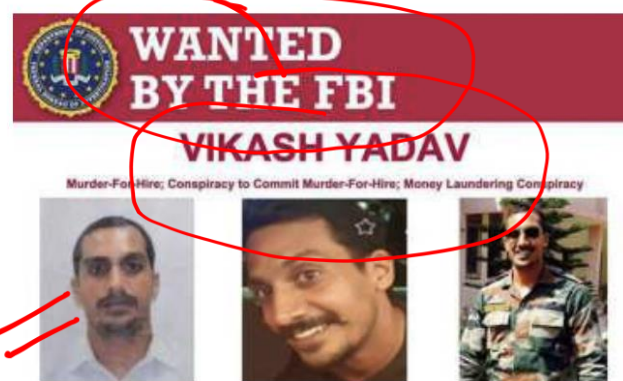
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The lookout notice issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for Vikash Yadav. REUTERS

cludes a picture of Mr. Yadav in Army fatigues.

Mr. Yadav was "employed by the Government of India's Cabinet Secretariat, which houses India's foreign intelligence service, the Research and Analysis Wing", during the

period relevant to the case, as per the DoJ.

"The Justice Department will be relentless in holding accountable any person – regardless of their position or proximity to power – who seeks to harm and silence Ameri-

can citizens," said Attorney-General Merrick B. Garland.

"The FBI will not tolerate acts of violence or other efforts to retaliate against those residing in the U.S. for exercising their constitutionally protected rights," FBI Director Christopher Wray said.

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"Yadav allegedly provided information, such as the victim's residential addresses, phone numbers,

and other identifying information, to the Indian national in furtherance of the plot," the notice said.

"Today's charges are a grave example of the increase in lethal plotting and other forms of violent transnational repression targeting diaspora communities in the United States," Assistant Attorney General Matthew G. Olsen said, as he warned "governments around the world" who may be plotting such acts that the U.S. would disrupt them and hold the perpetrators accountable.

The MEA declined to comment on the second indictment. Despite repeated requests for information, the government did

not confirm whether the U.S. has now requested Mr. Yadav's extradition.

The DoJ announcement comes at the end of a week that saw India-Canada ties nose-dive over Ottawa's allegations that Indian government agents were behind acts of violence, including homicides and extortion, across Canada. Central to the trouble between India and Canada was the slaying of a Khalistani separatist, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in June 2023 in Canada. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had said Canada had intelligence that Indian government agents were behind the killing. India has continued to strongly reject the Canadian accusations.

- **Details of the Accusation / आरोप का विवरण:**

- Vikash Yadav, an Indian citizen, has been charged with directing a plot to murder Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a pro-Khalistani activist and leader of the Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) organization, in New York last year. The U.S. government has identified Pannun as a designated terrorist under Indian law.
- विकाश यादव, एक भारतीय नागरिक, पर पिछले साल न्यूयॉर्क में गरपतवंत सिंह पन्नू की हत्या की साजिश का निर्देशन करने का आरोप लगाया गया है। पन्नू खालिस्तानी समर्थक कार्यकर्ता और सिख्स फॉर जस्टिस (SFJ) संगठन के नेता हैं। पन्नू को भारत के कानून के तहत आतंकवादी के रूप में नामित किया गया है।

- **Involvement of Nikhil Gupta / निखिल गुप्ता की भागीदारी:**
- Another individual, Nikhil Gupta, who was charged last year, is currently in ~~detention~~ in Brooklyn. Yadav allegedly recruited Gupta to help find a hitman to execute the plot.
- एक अन्य व्यक्ति, निखिल गुप्ता, जिन्हें पिछले साल आरोपित किया गया था, वर्तमान में ब्रुकलिन में हिरासत में हैं। आरोप है कि यादव ने इस साजिश को अंजाम देने के लिए हत्यारे की तलाश में गुप्ता की मदद ली थी।

- **18-page Indictment / 18-पृष्ठ का अभियोग पत्र:**
- The indictment against Yadav was unsealed in a U.S. District Court and details his involvement in the plot. The document mentions that Yadav provided information about Pannun's address and personal details.
- यादव के खिलाफ अभियोग पत्र एक अमेरिकी जिला अदालत में खोला गया, जिसमें साजिश में उनकी भागीदारी का विवरण दिया गया है। दस्तावेज़ में कहा गया है कि यादव ने पन्नू के पते और व्यक्तिगत विवरण की जानकारी दी थी।

- **Response from U.S. Authorities / अमेरिकी अधिकारियों की प्रतिक्रिया:**
- The FBI issued a 'Wanted' notice for Vikash Yadav, warning that the U.S. will be relentless in holding accountable anyone who seeks to harm American citizens.
- एफबीआई ने विकाश यादव के खिलाफ 'वांटेड' नोटिस जारी किया, जिसमें कहा गया कि अमेरिका अपने नागरिकों को नुकसान पहुंचाने की कोशिश करने वाले किसी भी व्यक्ति को जवाबदेह ठहराने में कोई कसर नहीं छोड़ेगा।

- **Context of India-U.S. Relations / भारत-अमेरिका संबंधों का संदर्भ:**
- This announcement comes amidst strained relations between India and Canada over allegations regarding Indian involvement in violent acts, including the murder of pro-Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada. India has strongly denied the allegations.
- यह घोषणा भारत और कनाडा के बीच तनावपूर्ण संबंधों के बीच आई है, जहां भारत पर खालिस्तानी अलगाववादी हरदीप सिंह निज्जर की हत्या सहित हिंसक कृत्यों में शामिल होने के आरोप लगाए गए थे। भारत ने इन आरोपों को दृढ़ता से खारिज किया है।

SC closes habeas corpus case against Isha Foundation

Krishnadas Balagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday closed habeas corpus proceedings initiated by a 30-year-old man accused of the Isha Foundation, founded by Jaggi Vasudev alias Sadhguru, of holding his two daughters, aged 42 and 39, captive.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud terminated the proceedings, which began in the Madras High Court and reached the top court, by noting that the two women had personally assured the court in a video conference that they were living in the Isha Foundation as monks of their own free will. The women had conveyed the same thing to a Tamil Nadu Police team which had talked to them separately.

"You have to accept the fact that they are 42 and 39... You cannot control their lives... We cannot be parents... Inter-personal relationships between parents and grown-up children are never to be governed by le-

gal suits, injunctions, and actions, you have to gain their confidence. They are not mines in a custody battle," the Chief Justice addressed the father who was present in the courtroom with his counsel.

"These proceedings are not to be used to malign individuals and institutions... The moment we tend to elaborate on anything wider in today's times there are handles used by third parties to malign..." the Chief Justice said orally.

Relying on the Supreme Court's judgment in the Manish Sisodia case, which set a precedent regarding the right to a speedy trial, Special Judge Vishal Gogre of the Rouse Avenue Court said that Mr. Jain had remained in jail for a long time, when the trial in the matter was yet to begin, let alone conclude.

Deni court grants bail to AAP leader Satyendar Jain

The court, while relying on SC judgment in Sisodia case, granted the relief citing 'delay in trial' and 'long incarceration'; bail is only a part of judicial process and not a guarantee of acquittal, says BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



AAP leader Satyendar Jain being produced before the Rouse Avenue Court in a money laundering case in New Delhi on Friday.

After 18 months in jail in connection with a money laundering case, senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former Minister in the Delhi government, Satyendar Jain, was granted bail by a court here on Friday.

Relying on the Supreme Court's judgment in the Manish Sisodia case, which set a precedent regarding the right to a speedy trial, Special Judge Vishal Gogre of the Rouse Avenue Court said that Mr. Jain had remained in jail for a long time, when the trial in the matter was yet to begin, let alone conclude.

"Considering the delay in trial and long incarceration of 18 months, and the fact that trial will take long to start, let alone conclude, the court granted bail to the accused in favourably suited for the relief," the court said while granting him relief on submission of a bail

bond of ₹50,000 with two sureties of like amount. Speaking to presspersons while coming out of the courtroom, Mr. Jain said, "Satyendra Jayate Truth Alone Triumphant". Mr. Jain was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in May 2022, as the Central agency had accused him of engaging in a series of crimes worth ₹4.8 crore through four schemes allegedly linked to him. He remained in Tri-

by keeping him in further custody.

Mr. Jain was welcomed by senior AAP leaders including Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh when he walked out of Tihar Jail. He claimed that he was arrested to stop the developmental work being done by the Delhi government and that the party would complete all work for the people of Delhi.

Attacking the BJP, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal alleged that Mr. Jain's only fault was providing free healthcare to the people of Delhi through mobile clinics. The "Modi government" put him behind bars to stop these services. He said he would continue to work for the people of Delhi through mobile clinics. He also mentioned that he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in May 2022, as the Central agency had accused him of engaging in a series of crimes worth ₹4.8 crore through four schemes allegedly linked to him. He remained in Tri-

Modi to visit Russia next week to take part in BRICS summit

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a visit to Russia on October 22 and 23 to attend the BRICS Summit, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Friday. The PM is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from BRICS member countries and invited leaders on the sidelines. The big question is if Mr. Modi will hold a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, on which official sources said there is "no clarity" as yet.

"BRICS respects civilizational diversity and offers a platform for mutually beneficial dialogue free from pressure, double standards or interference in domestic affairs," Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday, adding that it was natural for the grouping to expand one year's focus of BRICS was its expansion, and "we have done that quite effectively by Centre for Global India Insights and India

Writes Network. Starting from the geopolitical and practical relevance of BRICS grouping was growing," he said. It promoted the agenda of the global south.

The envoy added that when it comes to BRICS membership, the aspiring countries should be "economically ambitious" and "not pose illegitimate sanctions on other countries". He also called for an alternative to the SWIFT system used for global payments from which Russia is expelled after the beginning of war in Ukraine.

BRICS is pushing for greater use of national currencies in international trade and offers a platform for mutually beneficial dialogue free from pressure, double standards or interference in domestic affairs," Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday, adding that it was natural for the grouping to expand one year's focus of BRICS was its expansion, and "we have done that quite effectively by Centre for Global India Insights and India

House panel to discuss readiness to deal with 'non-kinetic warfare'

Dinakar Peri
Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Indian armed forces' preparedness to deal with "hybrid warfare" is one of the 17 subjects that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence has narrowed down for deliberations for the year.

According to informed sources, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, a member of the committee, spoke extensively on the growing danger of "non-kinetic warfare" citing the examples of ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Israel-Palestine conflicts, where these methods have been deployed. He contended that the future warfare would be fought using these tools

and urged chairman and BJP MP Radha Mohan Singh, at the committee's first meeting on October 15, to ensure that the parliamentary panel closely investigates the Army's preparedness to face these threats.

Several other members concurred with the view, citing the recent Russian paper blasts in Lebanon, which is an example of a non-kinetic warfare, as per the Lok Sabha Bulletin

Non-kinetic warfare goes beyond the usual military tactics and can involve electronic and information warfare. REUTERS

dated October 16, "preparedness of the armed forces in terms of hybrid warfare" including cyber, kinetic and non-kinetic warfare, "artificial intelligence capabilities," is listed among the 17 subjects that the panel will discuss.

Kinetic warfare typically means military employing a range of weapons. Non-kinetic warfare is an evolving concept, it goes beyond the usual military tactics and can involve electronic warfare, cyber, information, psychological and economic among others. Importantly, it can involve non-military stakeholders too. With technological progress, many believe that the non-kinetic warfare can turn out to be a far more dangerous adversary than the traditional

methods and conflicts may be won by non-kinetic means even before a bullet is fired, for example, massive cyber or malware attack on critical infrastructure of a country such as power grids and hospitals can cripple a nation. Such cyberattacks have been seen globally.

In the domain of counter-drone technologies, the armed forces have been looking to induct a range of kinetic and non-kinetic solutions to neutralise drones and drone swarms, which have emerged as a major disruption in warfare as seen in Ukraine. While kinetic options are to physically shoot and destroy the drones, non-kinetic options are jamming them or taking control of their operation, using laser or electro-magnetic waves

to disrupt their operations. The House panel will also assess the "strategic operational preparedness of the defence forces in view of the current international security scenario, including border security," which will involve reviewing the prolonged stand-off on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China.

Indigenous production Among other topics, the panel will be reviewing "indigenous defence production," resettlement policies, healthcare facilities and services for ex-servicemen" and "assessment of merit of kin policy in the armed forces."

Last month, under an initiative pushed by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff conducted a first of its kind tri-services "future warfare" course for Major Generals to Majors and their equivalent level officers from other services. It is intended to acquaint the officers with the operational and technological aspects of modern warfare.

ED visits MUDA office in Karnataka, gathers details on site allotment 'scam'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A team of officials from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) visited the Mysuru Urban Development authority (MUDA) office here on Friday and began gathering information on the alleged scam pertaining to allotment of residential sites under the controversial 50:50 scheme.

The ED had earlier filed an enforcement case information report against Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others after the Lokayukta registered a complaint against him, wife Parvathi and two others in the allotment of 14 residential sites to her by MUDA.

The ED officials, accompanied by armed personnel from the central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), arrived at the MUDA office and were closeted with senior officials of the authority, including its Commissioner A.N. Raghunandan. MUDA secretary Prasad Kumar, who confirmed the visit of the ED team, said the MUDA officials would cooperate with the



Security personnel outside the MUDA office, which was visited by a team from the ED, in Mysuru on Friday.

Malikarajuna Swamy that were given to Ms. Parvathi. It was the acquisition of this plot of land by MUDA that entitled Ms. Parvathi to 14 residential sites in compensation under the 50:50 ratio scheme.

The ED officials also visited the Mysuru taluk office and perused the documents. The officials were escorted by a team of armed CRPF personnel.

According to sources, the officials had sought documents pertaining to original records of the land owned by Mr. Devaraju before it was sold to Mr. Malikarajuna.

PM to launch National Learning Week today

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the 'Karmayogi Saptah' - National Learning Week on Saturday, with the exercise seeking to impart fresh impetus towards individual and organisational capacity development for civil servants, his office said.

It noted that the 'Mission Karmayogi' was launched in September 2020, and has made substantial progress since then. It envisions a future-ready civil service rooted in Indian ethos with a global perspective, it added.

The National Learning Week (NLW) will be the largest event of its kind. It aims to create a "One Government" message, align everyone with national goals, and promote lifelong learning, a statement said. During national learning week, each "karmayogi" will commit to achieving a target of at least four hours of competency-linked learning. The participants may complete the targeted hours through individual role-based modules on IGCOT, and webinars (public lectures/policy master classes).

'Pernicious forces maligning India's human rights record'

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

India continues to feed more than 850 million people since the COVID-19 pandemic with free rations irrespective of colour, caste and class, said Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar while speaking at the 21st foundation day of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday. He said those who talk of India's hunger situation need to reflect upon themselves.

Mr. Dhankhar appreciated the country's human rights record and termed it "unmatched." "Bharat is way ahead of other nations when it

forces" working to malign India's human rights record unfairly, domestically and internationally. "Every citizen of the country has to be a champion of human rights and ensure nobody manipulates them financially," he said.

NHRC acting Chairperson, Vijaya Bharathi Sayasath, said that respect for individual dignity is central to the Indian ethos, rooted in ancient texts such as the Vedas and the Gita. As a civilisational custodian of human rights, the country's rich cultural tapestry showcases its strength diversity, she said.

comes to preservation of minorities, marginalised and vulnerable sections of society," he said while highlighting the country's "extraordinary role as civilisational custodian of human rights." The Vice-President cautioned against "pernicious

The Hindu to host webinar on the use of AI in education

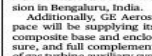
The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hindu will host a webinar on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in education at 5 p.m. on Saturday (October 19), with a focus on tips, tools, and ethical guidelines that students, teachers, parents, and education policy makers should keep in mind.

The webinar will be hosted by the experts who engage with webinar participants and answer their queries on how best to use AI tools on tips, tools, and ethical guidelines that students, teachers, parents, and education policy makers should keep in mind. The panel features Arun Tangirala, a professor at the Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and AI at IIT-Madras, and S. Anand, CEO at Gramer, a data analytics company with a focus on generative AI so-

lutions. Registration for the webinar can be done at [newshub/ivp/zag](https://www.thehindu.com/webinar), or through the QR code.

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GE marine engines chosen to power Navy's missile vessels

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Engine manufacturer General Electric announced that its LM2500 marine engine has been chosen to power Indian Navy's Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMV) by the Defence Shipyard Limited.

The panel features Arun Tangirala, a professor at the Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and AI at IIT-Madras, and S. Anand, CEO at Gramer, a data analytics company with a focus on generative AI solutions. Registration for the webinar can be done at [newshub/ivp/zag](https://www.thehindu.com/webinar), or through the QR code. The experts will engage with webinar participants and answer their queries on how best to use AI tools on tips, tools, and ethical guidelines that students, teachers, parents, and education policy makers should keep in mind. The panel features Arun Tangirala, a professor at the Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and AI at IIT-Madras, and S. Anand, CEO at Gramer, a data analytics company with a focus on generative AI so-

GE said in a statement. The LM2500 gas turbine engine is a reliable choice to make the ideal choice for the NGMV mission requirements." GE and our collaboration with HAL to deliver this contract by the Defence Ministry for the construction of six NGMV for the Indian Navy and deliveries are scheduled to commence from March 2027. After constructing the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier *INS Vikram*, Cochin Shipyard is now building eight anti-submarine warfare shallow water crafts for the Navy, which are under various stages of construction.

Modi to visit Russia next week to take part in BRICS summit

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a visit to Russia on October 22 and 23 to attend the BRICS Summit, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Friday. The PM is also “expected to hold bilateral meetings with his counterparts from BRICS member countries and invited leaders” on the sidelines. The big question is if Mr. Modi will hold a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, on which official sources said there is “no clarity” as yet.

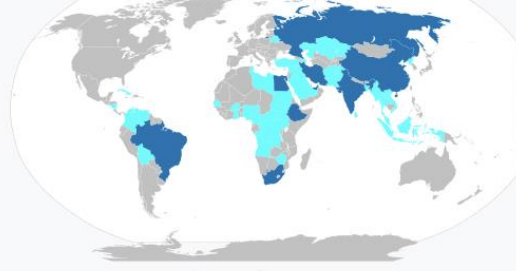
“BRICS respects civilizational diversity and offers a platform for mutually beneficial dialogue free from pressure, double standards or interference in domestic affairs,” Russian envoy in India Denis Alipov said on Friday, adding that it was natural for the grouping to expand one way or another. He was speaking at an online conference on BRICS organised by Centre for Global India Insights and India

Writes Network. Stating that the “geopolitical and practical relevance of BRICS grouping was growing”, he said it promoted the agenda of the global south.

The envoy added that when it comes to BRICS membership, the aspiring countries should be “economically ambitious” and “oppose illegitimate sanctions”. He also called for an alternative to the SWIFT system used for global payments from which Russia was expelled after the beginning of war in Ukraine.

Member countries have been pushing for greater use of national currencies for trade among themselves. Diplomatic sources said this was a priority for Russia while ruling out the possibility of a common BRICS currency.

Addressing the conference, South Africa’s High Commissioner-designate to India Anil Sooklal said last year’s focus of BRICS was its expansion, and “we have done that quite effectively bringing the global south to the table”.



Map key:

Member states

Prospective member states

Abbreviation	BRICS
Named after	Founder member states' initials (in English)
Predecessor	BRIC (informal)
Formation	16 June 2009; 15 years ago
Founded at	Yekaterinburg, Russia (1st BRIC summit) ==
Type	Intergovernmental organization
Purpose	Political and economical
Fields	International Politics
Membership	9 member states [hide]

Brazil

Russia

India

China

South Africa

Iran

Egypt

Ethiopia

United Arab Emirates

2009

BRIC

9

Newly

Industries

Neil

2010-11

Coin

NS

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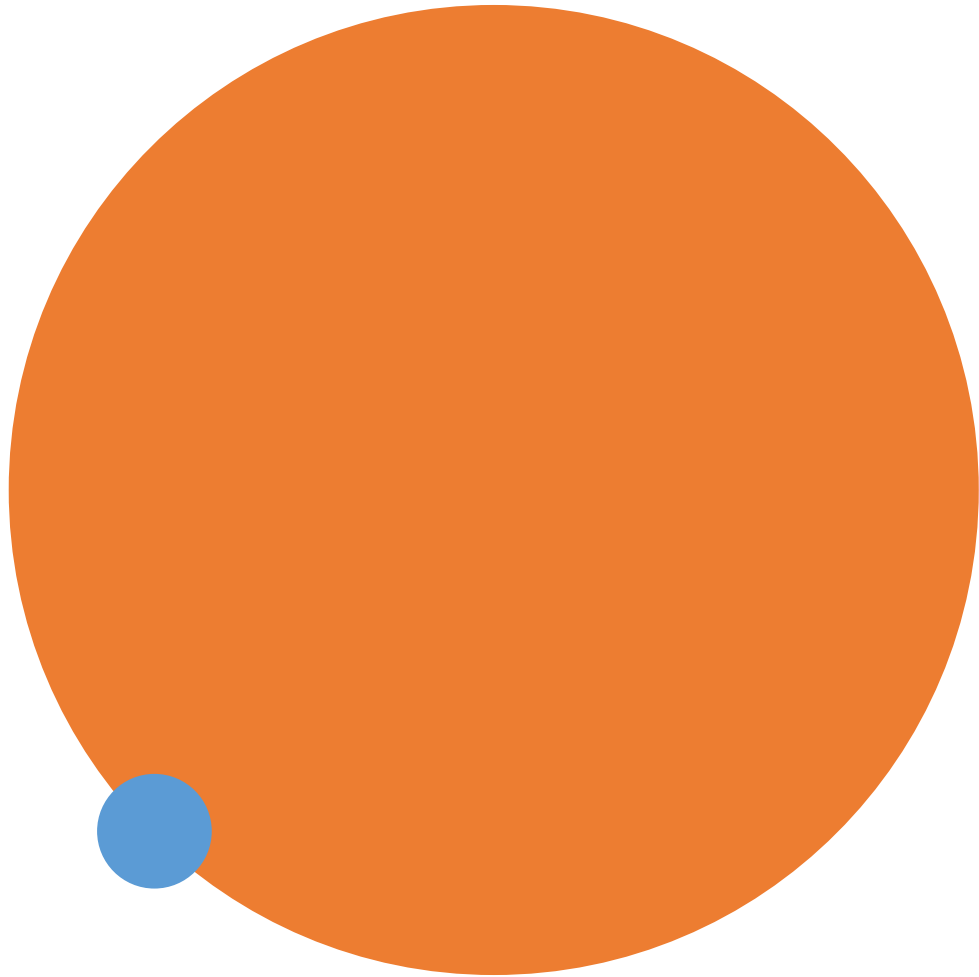
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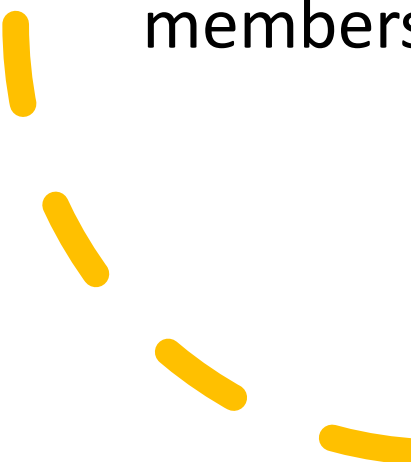
Modi's Visit to Russia for BRICS Summit:

PM Modi will be in **Russia** from **October 22-23, 2024**, to attend the **BRICS Summit**.

Bilateral meetings with **BRICS member countries** are expected during the visit.




- **Meeting with Xi Jinping Unclear:**
- Official sources have indicated that it is still unclear if **PM Modi** will hold a meeting with **Chinese President Xi Jinping** during the summit.

- 
- **BRICS Focus on Civilizational Diversity:**
 - The **BRICS grouping** promotes **civilizational diversity** and provides a platform for **mutual dialogue**, as emphasized by **Russian envoy Denis Alipov**.
 - The grouping aims to expand and enhance cooperation between its members without external interference in their domestic affairs.
- 




- **BRICS Members and Geopolitical Relevance:**

- The geopolitical relevance of BRICS is growing, promoting the **global south's** agenda.
 - Discussions have been held on establishing alternatives to the **SWIFT** payment system after Russia was expelled from it following the war in Ukraine.
- 



- **Expansion and Currency Use:**

- BRICS countries have been pushing for increased use of **national currencies** for trade among themselves.
 - Although there is no plan for a **common BRICS currency**, the focus remains on strengthening the economic framework of the group.
- 

GE marine engines chosen to power Navy's missile vessels

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Engine manufacturer General Electric announced that its LM2500 marine engines have been chosen to power Indian Navy's Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMV) being built by Cochin Shipyard Limited.

Six LM2500 marine gas turbine engine kits will be delivered by GE Aerospace for assembly and test by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Industrial and Marine Gas Turbine Division in Bengaluru, India.

Additionally, GE Aerospace will be supplying its composite base and enclosure, and full complement of gas turbine auxiliary sys-

tems, GE said in a statement.

"The LM2500 gas turbine's proven power and reliability make it the ideal choice for the NGMV mission. We are proud to continue our collaboration with HAL to deliver this critical technology for India's maritime defense," said Amy Gowder, GE Aerospace Defense & Systems President and CEO, in the statement.

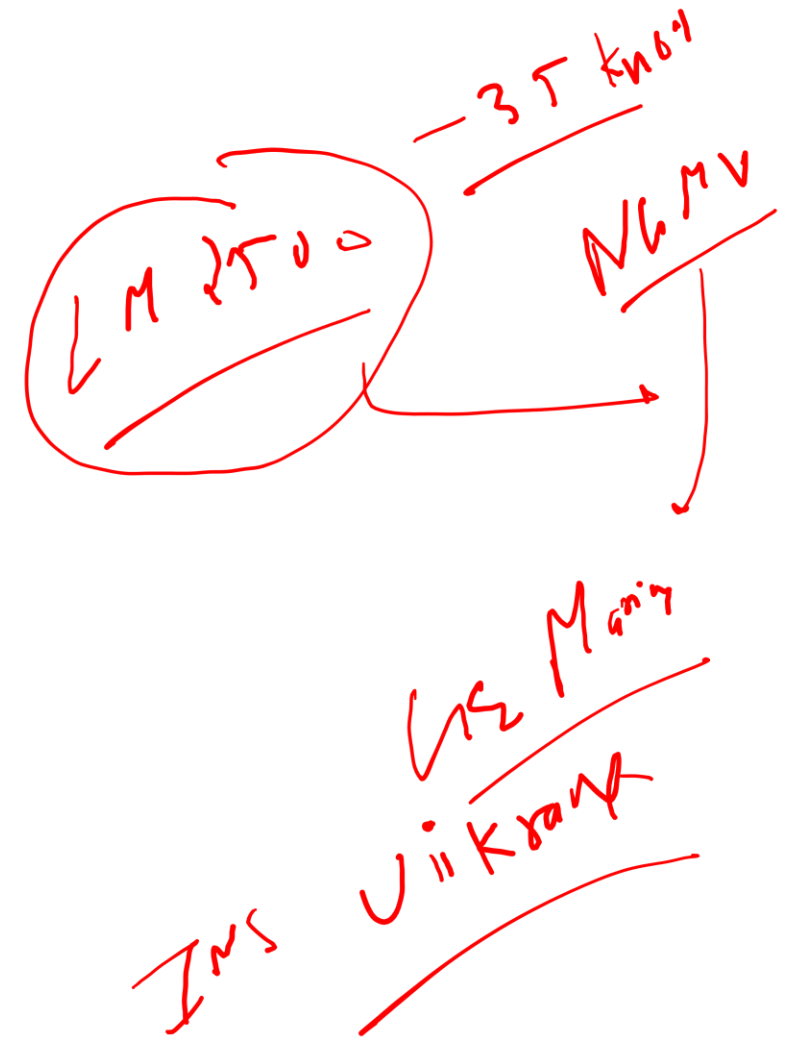
New design



The statement noted that the NGMV is a new design for the Indian Navy that will reach a maximum speed of 35 knots and carry an impressive array of anti-surface weapons and

the core of the NGMV propulsion system is the "LM2500, a marine gas turbine engineered to unleash superior power while meeting stealth requirements".

Cochin Shipyard was awarded a ₹9,805 crore contract by the Defence Ministry for the construction of six NGMVs for the Indian Navy and deliveries are scheduled to commence from March 2027.

After constructing the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier *INS Vikrant*, Cochin Shipyard is now building eight anti-submarine warfare shallow water crafts for the Navy, which are under various stages of construction.



- 
- **LM2500 Marine Engines for NGMVs:**
 - **Six LM2500 gas turbine engines** will be delivered by GE Aerospace to power the NGMVs.
 - The engines will be assembled and tested by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** in Bengaluru.
- 

The background of the slide features a large, faded image of a GE LM2500 gas turbine engine. The engine is shown from a perspective that highlights its complex, multi-stage compressor and turbine sections, with various circular and rectangular components visible. The overall tone is light gray, making the engine details subtle but clearly identifiable.

- **Engine Specifications:**

- The **LM2500** is known for its **proven power and reliability**, making it an ideal choice for the missile vessels.
- GE Aerospace is also providing the **composite base and enclosure** along with the complete **gas turbine auxiliary systems**.

Design and Capabilities of NGMVs:

The NGMV is a new design for the **Indian Navy**, with a maximum speed of **35 knots**.

The vessels will be equipped with a variety of **anti-surface weapons** and **advanced warfare systems**.

Cochin Shipyard Contract:

Cochin Shipyard was awarded a **₹9,805 crore** contract by the Defence Ministry for building six NGMVs.

Deliveries of these missile vessels are expected to begin from **March 2027**.

The background of the slide is a faded, grayscale image of a shipyard. A large crane is visible at the top, with its hook and cables suspended. Below the crane, a large, rectangular component is being lifted. In the lower part of the image, a person is standing on a platform or deck, looking up at the crane. The overall scene is industrial and focused on ship construction.

- **Cochin Shipyard's Role:**

- After the successful construction of India's **first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant**, Cochin Shipyard is now building **eight anti-submarine warfare shallow crafts** for the Indian Navy, which are at various stages of completion.

UGC's draft guidelines for academic leaders inspired by 'traditional wisdom'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved the draft guidelines for institutional leadership development for higher education institutions (HEIs). The draft takes inspiration from the traditional wisdom of *kaal, sthan, and patra* (time, era/context, and the actor) to nurture leadership in academic institutions.

Commenting on the draft, UGC Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar said nurturing and promoting leadership within HEIs was essential for navigating the complexities of running them. He added that the draft offered a comprehensive framework to develop the next generation of academic leaders. "These guidelines emphasise the im-



The guidelines stress on personal and institutional development for leadership.

portance of both personal and institutional development to foster effective leadership," Mr. Kumar said.

Key areas addressed include the blend of artistry and science in leadership, underscoring the need for mentorship, continuous learning, and a deep understanding of the unique dynamics within each institution. According to the

draft, leadership must balance administrative responsibilities with encouraging innovation, inclusivity, and industry collaboration.

The guidelines encourage institutions to develop tailored leadership programmes that meet local and national challenges, focusing on skill development, strategic visioning, and adaptive leadership. The effort is in line with the National Education Policy, 2020 and highlights the need to prepare faculty for leadership roles to adapt to new educational structures, such as multidisciplinary approaches, autonomy, and introducing an academic bank of credits.

The guidelines recommend a holistic approach by integrating leadership systems with personal development.



The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has introduced **draft guidelines** for institutional leadership development in **higher education institutions (HEIs)**.

These guidelines draw inspiration from **traditional wisdom** — specifically the concepts of **kaal (time)**, **sthan (context/era)**, and **patra (the actor)** — to help nurture academic leaders.



- **Objective:**

- The draft aims to develop the next generation of academic leaders by providing a **comprehensive framework** that focuses on both **personal and institutional development**.
- 

Leadership Development:

UGC Chairman **M. Jagadesh Kumar** highlighted that nurturing leadership within HEIs is crucial for navigating their complexities.

The guidelines stress the importance of balancing **administrative responsibilities** with fostering **innovation, inclusivity, and industry collaboration**.


Key Areas of Focus:

The guidelines promote a **blend of artistry and science** in leadership, underscoring the need for:

- **Mentorship.**
- **Continuous learning.**
- **Understanding unique institutional dynamics.**



- **Alignment with NEP 2020:**

- The effort aligns with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, emphasizing the need to prepare faculty for leadership roles in response to new **multidisciplinary educational structures**. It also encourages adaptive leadership and **strategic visioning**.
- 



1. Holistic Leadership:

1. A **holistic approach** is recommended, integrating leadership with **personal development** to foster effective leadership systems that respond to both **local and national challenges**.



Russia flaunts its doomsday weapons amid rising tensions with NATO states

Since Putin came to power in 2000, the Kremlin has worked to upgrade the Soviet-built components of the triad; the U.S. estimates that Russia has between 1,000 and 2,000 non-strategic nuclear weapons intended for use on the battlefield that are far less powerful than the strategic warheads



Show of strength: A Varys intercontinental ballistic missile is test-fired as part of Russia's nuclear drills from a launch site in Plesetsk, northwestern Russia. FILE PHOTO

As this year has seen President Vladimir Putin repeatedly brandish the nuclear sword, reminding everyone that Russia has the world's largest atomic arsenal to try to deter the West from ramping up support for Ukraine.

He ordered his military to hold drills involving battlefield nuclear weapons with ally Belarus.

He announced Russia will start producing ground-based intermediate range missiles that were outlawed by a now-defunct U.S.-Soviet treaty in 1987.

And last month, he lowered the threshold for unleashing his arsenal by revising the country's nuclear doctrine.

Mr. Putin is relying on those thousands of warheads and hundreds of missiles as an enormous doomsday machine to offset NATO's massive edge in conventional weapons to discourage what he sees as threats to Russia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Federation of American Scientists estimated this year that Russia has an inventory totalling 5,580 nuclear weapons, including deployed nuclear warheads.

That's about 88% of the world's nuclear weapons. Like the U.S., Russia has

a nuclear triad of ground-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, long-range bombers and ICBM-armed submarines.

Since Mr. Putin came to power in 2000, the Kremlin has worked to upgrade the Soviet-built components of the triad, replacing hundreds of new land-based missiles, commissioning new nuclear submarines and modernising nuclear-capable bombers.

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Russia still relies on Soviet-built Tu-95 and Tu-160

ICBMs and recently began deploying the heavy, slow-bassed Sarmat ICBMs — designated "Satan II" missiles in the West — to gradually replace about 40 Soviet-built R-36M missiles. Sarmat has had only one known successful test, and reportedly suffered a massive explosion during an abortive test last month.

The navy commissioned seven new Borei-class atomic-powered submarines, each with 16 Bulava nuclear-tipped missiles, and plans to build five more. They are intended to form the core of the triad's naval component alongside a few Soviet-era nuclear subs still operating.

Russia still relies on Soviet-built Tu-95 and Tu-160

strategic bombers carrying nuclear-tipped cruise missiles. Moscow has restarted production of the super-sonic Tu-160 that was halted after the 1991 Soviet collapse, aiming to build aircraft with new engines and reportedly suffered a massive explosion during an abortive test last month.

Russia has high-precision ground-launched ICBMs that can be fitted with

either a conventional or nuclear warhead. The Air Force has a fleet of MIG-31 fighter jets that can carry hypersonic Kinzhal missile, which can be equipped with a nuclear or conventional version of both Iskander and Kinzhal against Ukraine.

As part of the Kremlin's nuclear messaging, Russia and ally Belarus held drills to train their troops with the battlefield nuclear weapons in May, shortly after Mr. Putin began his fifth term.

Moscow and Washington have relied for decades on nuclear deterrence under the concept of mutual assured destruction based on the assumption that an overwhelming retaliation would discourage either from launching an attack.

Nuclear doctrine
Russia's nuclear doctrine adopted in 2020 envisaged using such ultimate weapons in response to a nuclear strike or an attack with conventional weapons that threatens "the very existence of the Russian state."

Moscow hawks criticized that document as too aggressive, but Mr. Putin urged Mr. Putin to toughen it. Last month, he warned the U.S. and NATO allies that allowing Ukraine to

use Western-supplied long-range weapons, for strikes deep inside Russia would put NATO at war with his country.

He reinforced the message by announcing a new version of the nuclear doctrine that considers a conventional attack on Russia by a non-nuclear nation as supported by a nuclear power to be a joint attack on his country — a claim harming to the U.S. and other allies of Kyiv.

Mr. Putin also declared that his revised document envisions possible nuclear strikes on use in case of a major attack on his country. He also open to a potential nuclear response to any aerial assault — an ambiguity intended to deter the West.

Even as U.S.-Russian tensions soared to their highest point since the Cold War amid fighting in Ukraine, Washington has urged Moscow to resume dialogue on nuclear arms control. Mr. Putin rejected the offer.

Russian hawks are calling for a resumption of nuclear tests to demonstrate Moscow's readiness to use its atomic arsenal and force the West to limit aid for Kyiv.

Mr. Putin said Russia could resume testing if the U.S. does so first, a move that would end a global ban in place after the demise of the USSR.

From Siberia to the Sahara: Huskies conquer Mauritania

Agence France-Presse
NOUAKCHOTT

As dusk fell on the edge of Nouakchott, Kayo the husky left a trail of paw prints in the warm Sahara sand, an incongruous yet increasingly familiar sight in Mauritania.

Traditionally bred as sled dogs in the far north of Siberia, huskies have become a popular pet in the northwest African state — where temperatures regularly soar to 40 degrees Celsius.

"I thought he might have problems with the heat, but that's not the case," said Kayo's owner Ahmed Mahan.

While the sweltering heat is not ideal for the Arctic breed, huskies have a great capacity to adapt, said Hela Rokhani of France's Animal Protection Society (SPA). The dogs have two layers of fur which act as a thermal regulator, protecting them from the cold as well as the heat, she explained. They renew their coats twice a year and automatically adapt their fur to the climate, she added. "A husky in Siberia will therefore moult differently in Mauritania," she explained, while stressing Mauritania was not their natural habitat. "You have to remain vigilant and take precautions: give them fresh water and shade at certain times of the day," Ms. Rokhani said.

Amadou Mboji, a dog trainer specialised in selling and training huskies to the climate, added that huskies were on the rise.

In Nouakchott, a canine specialist and secretary general of Mauritania's veterinary association, said the number of huskies had increased over the last 10 years. But there are no reliable official statistics.

Macron blasts media over reporting of Israel remarks

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday faced accusations of seeking to reduce the media to mere re-producing press releases after blaming journalists for distorted reporting of his remarks.

A visibly furious Mr. Macron late on Thursday began his press conference after an EU summit in Brussels with remarks against those who he accused of "distorting remarks made in closed-door cabinet meeting and showing a 'lack of professionalism' in their work.

The remarks attributed to Mr. Macron that he needed to adhere to UN resolutions in its campaigns in Lebanon and Gaza as the state was created by the world body angered Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu but also sparked strong reactions in France.

His comments were quoted by two participants who spoke to AFP after the meeting and asked not to be named.

Mr. Netanyahu accused Mr. Macron of a "distressing distortion of history" and "disrespect" towards France, the speaker of the upper House Senate, Gerard Larcher, said he was "astounded" by the remarks and said the president of showing his "ignorance" of history.

"I must tell you how astonished I was to read so many comments on comments, reactions to remarks that I made without seeking to know what exactly I said," Mr. Macron "I believe I say enough about the situation in the Middle East not to need a ventriloquist".

Swift response



A woman tries to protect a store against the flooding of the river La Nive in Bayonne, south-western France, on Thursday. France's weather authority placed six departments south of the city of Lyon on a orange alert on Friday. AFP

Women priests secretly ordained in the shadow of the Vatican

Agence France-Presse
ROME

On a barge on Rome's River Tiber, a stone's throw from the Vatican, Loan Rocher was "ordained" in a secret ceremony in defiance of the Catholic Church's ban on women deacons and priests.

Dressed in a white robe with a rainbow stole, the 68-year-old Frenchwoman acknowledged her ordination was unauthorised by the Vatican, where a month-long summit on the future of the Church concludes next week.

No matter, said Rocher, who is transgender. "They've been repeating the same message for 2,000 years — women are inferior, subordinate, invisible. It's okay. We've waited long enough, so I'm doing it now," Rocher said.

Thursday's ceremony in three languages, organised with the utmost discretion in the presence of around 50 faithful from several countries, followed the same liturgy as an official mass, with readings from the Bible, singing and Communion.

Yet it was illegal in the eyes of the Church. Even more, canonical law says the six ordinations — three priests and three deacons, including Rocher and another transgender person — should all be excluded from the Catholic community, along with the ceremony's other participants. Such excommunication would be an unjustified sanction, according to the U.S. "bishop" Bridget Mary Meehan.



She belongs to the group organising the event, which says it has performed 270 ordinations of women in 4 countries since its creation in 2002. "For 22 years, we have worked hard to create a more inclusive, loving church where LGBTQ, divorced and remarried (as people) — everyone — is welcomed at the table. No-one is excluded," said Meehan. On the upper deck of the barge, candidates committed to "serving the people of God before an altar decorated with candles and two crosses in God's name."

Then one by one, the members of the congregation laid their hands on the heads of the newly ordained to bless them. In recent weeks, feminist associations have multiplied initiatives to put pressure on the ongoing Synod, which began in 2021 and is due to end this month. The groups — occasionally supported by theologians — condemn the way women are marginalised by the patriarchal system. They demand the Church's parishes around the world. The agenda of the Synod summit in October 2023 included a proposal to admit women as deacons, ministers who can celebrate baptisms, marriages and funerals but not retrograde.

Biden meets European allies as the possibility of another Trump term looms over

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

Even in Germany, it's hard for President Joe Biden to escape the topic of Donald Trump.

The U.S. President meets Friday with European allies for closed-door conversations about Russia's war in Ukraine and the conflict in the West. Biden is hoping to pass on to Vice President Kamala Harris, and Democratic nominee, Mr. Trump, the Republican, has an appetite for tariffing key U.S. security partners. He's expressed concern about the security of Ukraine, refusing to say during a presidential debate if he wants



U.S. President Joe Biden with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier in Berlin.

the U.S. ally to win his war against Russia. He's voiced doubts about coming to the defence of NATO members if they come under attack.

Speaking aboard Air Force One on the way to Berlin, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan rejected the notion that Mr. Biden wanted to "Trump-proof" U.S. foreign policy. But Mr. Sullivan's stated goals seem designed to thwart efforts by a potential Trump administration to stop military aid to Ukraine after more than two years of fighting.

What President Biden can do is what he's done for four years, which is lay out his vision of America's place in the world and point the way forward based on what he thinks are in America's national security interests and the interests of our close allies," Mr. Sullivan said.

Beyond that, he can't speak for anyone else and doesn't intend to. Mr. Trump has said his approach will help the U.S. economy and prevent foreign countries from taking advantage of the U.S. He remains confident that if he were still President, Russia would never have invaded Ukraine in 2022 and Hamas would never have attacked Israel in 2023.

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Russia flaunts its doomsday weapons amid rising tensions with NATO states

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Associated Press

This year has seen President Vladimir Putin repeatedly brandish the nuclear sword, reminding everyone that Russia has the world's largest atomic arsenal to try to deter the West from ramping up support for Ukraine.

He ordered his military to hold drills involving battlefield nuclear weapons with ally Belarus.

He announced Russia will start producing ground-based intermediate range missiles that were outlawed by a now-defunct U.S.-Soviet treaty in 1987.

And last month, he lowered the threshold for unleashing his arsenal by revising the country's nuclear doctrine.

Mr. Putin is relying on those thousands of warheads and hundreds of missiles as an enormous doomsday machine to offset NATO's massive edge in conventional weapons to discourage what he sees as threats to Russia's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Federation of American Scientists estimated this year that Russia has an inventory totalling 5,580 deployed and non-deployed nuclear warheads. That's about 88% of the world's nuclear weapons.

Like the U.S., Russia has



Show of strength: A Yars intercontinental ballistic missile is test-fired as part of Russia's nuclear drills from a launch site in Plesetsk, northwestern Russia. FILE PHOTO

a nuclear triad of ground-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, long-range bombers and ICBM-armed submarines.

Since Mr. Putin came to power in 2000, the Kremlin has worked to upgrade the Soviet-built components of the triad, deploying hundreds of new land-based missiles, commissioning new nuclear submarines and modernising nuclear-capable bombers. Russia's effort to revamp its nuclear forces has helped prompt the U.S. to launch a costly modernisation of its arsenal.

'Satan II' missiles

Russia has re-equipped its land-based strategic missile forces with mobile Yars

ICBMs and recently began deploying the heavy, silo-based Sarmat ICBMs – designated “Satan II” missiles in the West – to gradually replace about 40 Soviet-built R-36M missiles. Sarmat has had only one known successful test, and reportedly suffered a massive explosion during an abortive test last month.

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Russia still relies on Soviet-built Tu-95 and Tu-160

strategic bombers carrying nuclear-tipped cruise missiles. Moscow has restarted production of the supersonic Tu-160 that was halted after the 1991 Soviet collapse, aiming to build several dozen modernised aircraft with new engines and avionics.

The U.S. estimates that Russia has between 1,000 and 2,000 non-strategic, or tactical, nuclear weapons intended for use on the battlefield that typically are far less powerful than the strategic warheads capable of destroying entire cities.

Russia has high-precision ground-launched Iskander missiles with a range of up to 500 km, which can be fitted with

either a conventional or a nuclear warhead.

The Air Force has a fleet of MiG-31 fighter jets that carry a hypersonic Kinzhal missile, which can be equipped with a nuclear or conventional warhead. Russia has widely used conventional versions of both Iskander and Kinzhal against Ukraine.

As part of the Kremlin's nuclear messaging, Russia and ally Belarus held drills to train their troops with the battlefield nuclear weapons in May, shortly after Mr. Putin began his fifth term.

Moscow and Washington have relied for decades on nuclear deterrence under the concept of mutually assured destruction based on the assumption that an overwhelming retaliation would discourage either side from launching an attack.

Nuclear doctrine

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Last month, he warned the U.S. and NATO allies that allowing Ukraine to

use Western-supplied longer-range weapons for strikes deep inside Russia would put NATO at war with his country.



He reinforced the message by announcing a new version of the nuclear doctrine that considers a conventional attack on Russia by a non-nuclear nation that is supported by a nuclear power to be a joint attack on his country – a clear warning to the U.S. and other allies of Kyiv.

Mr. Putin also declared the revised document envisages possible nuclear weapons use in case of a massive air attack, holding the door open to a potential nuclear response to any aerial assault – an ambiguity intended to deter the West.

Even as U.S.-Russian tensions soared to their highest point since the Cold War amid fighting in Ukraine, Washington has urged Moscow to resume dialogue on nuclear arms control. Mr. Putin rejected the offer.

Russian hawks are calling for a resumption of nuclear tests to demonstrate Moscow's readiness to use its atomic arsenal and force the West to limit aid for Kyiv.

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- 
- **Russia's Nuclear Posture:**
 - President ~~Vladimir~~ **Putin** has repeatedly reminded the world of Russia's nuclear capability, the largest in the world, as a deterrent against support for **Ukraine**.
- 

- Russia is expected to start producing **ground-based intermediate-range missiles**, previously banned under the now-defunct **U.S.-Soviet treaty** of 1987.
- Russia has both **strategic** and **non-strategic nuclear weapons**, with estimates of having between **1,000 and 2,000 non-strategic nuclear weapons** designed for battlefield use.

- **Upgraded Nuclear Capabilities:**
- Since **Putin** took power in 2000, Russia has focused on upgrading **Soviet-built components** of its nuclear triad, which includes land-based missiles, submarines, and **ICBM-armed submarines**.
- Recent upgrades include deployment of the **Sarmat ICBMs** (also known as **Satan II missiles**) capable of carrying multiple nuclear warheads.



- **Strategic Bombers and Missile Development:**
- Russia continues the production of **supersonic Tu-160 bombers** and **hypersonic Kinzhal missiles**, which are capable of carrying both **nuclear** and **conventional warheads**.
- Drills involving **tactical nuclear weapons** have been conducted with Russia's ally, **Belarus**.


Nuclear Doctrine:

Putin reaffirmed a new **nuclear doctrine**, which considers the use of nuclear weapons in retaliation for any **conventional attack** supported by a **nuclear nation**.

The doctrine also includes the possibility of using nuclear weapons in response to a **massive conventional attack**.



- **Tensions with NATO:**

- As tensions rise, **Washington** has urged Moscow to return to **dialogue on nuclear arms control**. However, Russia has rejected further talks at this stage.
 - Western nations, particularly the **U.S.**, view Russia's nuclear threats as a tactic to **limit support for Ukraine**.
- 

- **Doomsday Weapons and Global Threats:**
- Russia's **doomsday weapons** include missiles that could destroy entire cities and threats to its territorial integrity.
- Russia's deployment of **tactical nuclear weapons** and recent upgrades to missile systems have escalated global concerns about the potential for a broader nuclear conflict.



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READ TO LEAD



IN THE NEWS

RBI LIFTS CURBS ON FINANCIAL PRODUCTS

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) has lifted restrictions placed on JM Financial products, the company said via a stock exchange filing late on Friday. ■ PAGE 8

GOLD SHINES BRIGHT, PRICES JUDGES ₹80K

GOLD PRICES HIT a record high of ₹79,900 per 10 gram on Friday, rising by ₹50 on strong festive season demand, according to the All India Sarafa Association. ■ PAGE 6

GOVT MULLS TARIFF CUTS IN GREEN HYDROGEN PUSH

THE GOVERNMENT IS considering cuts to tariffs on imports of machinery needed to manufacture green hydrogen in push to become a major hub or the cleaner fuel. ■ PAGE 2

BASE PRICE MUST BE CUT TOO: TELCOS

Govt may halve spectrum lease tenure to 10 yrs

Technology gets obsolete over current 20-year period, say officials

JATIN GROVER
New Delhi, October 18

THE DEPARTMENT OF telecommunications (DoT) is considering reducing the tenure of spectrum leased to telecom operators through auctions to 10 years from the current 20 years.

This is being evaluated as the life cycle of technology is getting shorter and the value of spectrum getting eroded over a longer period, resulting in operators not being able to realise its full value, officials said. If the proposal is finalised, it will be implemented in future auctions.

Telecom industry sources, however, said that in case the tenure is cut, the government needs to bring down the reserve price as well.

The first auctions in the country happened in 2010 for 3G spectrum through which the government mopped up over ₹1 lakh crore. Today, 3G technology is dead with operators shutting down these services and moving on to 4G and 5G, making 3G spectrum valueless.

Usually, in such cases, there is a process to re-farm the spectrum. This means that if the same spectrum can be used for, say 4G services, operators will have to pay the auction-determined prices for it, after a 4G auction to use it for these services. "So, the economic value of spectrum will be better realised if it's sold for lesser number of

KEEPING IT SHORT

First auctions happened in 2010 for 3G spectrum through which govt mopped up over ₹1 lakh crore

3G spectrum now valueless with operators shutting down services to move on to 4G and 5G

In case of re-farming, telcos have to pay auction-determined prices for same spectrum after a 4G auction

So, a shorter time period will help in better price realisation for telcos, officials point out.

years," an official said. The officials also pointed out that on a yearly basis, telecom operators are spending anywhere around 15-40% of their adjusted gross revenue (AGR) on spectrum-related payments. This includes yearly investments on spectrum auctions and the payments for the spectrum acquired in the previous auctions.

Continued on Page 7

Vedanta to invest another ₹1 lakh crore in Odisha

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, October 18

METAL AND MINING major Vedanta on Friday announced an investment of ₹1 lakh crore in Odisha to set up an alumina refinery and an aluminium plant in the state. The Anil Agarwal-led group has already invested ₹1 lakh crore across assets in the state.

The new investment will be in setting up a 6-million tonne per annum (MTPA) alumina refinery and a 3 MTPA green aluminium plant, a statement from Vedanta said.

It will create 200,000 jobs in the state and help Odisha achieve its goal of becoming a \$200-billion economy by 2030, it added.

Vedanta chairman Anil Agarwal met Odisha chief minister Mohan Charan Mahi earlier during the day in Mumbai. Mahi is in the financial capital for a road show to be held on Saturday, ahead of an investor summit in Odisha in January 2025.

Commenting on the new investment commitment, Agarwal said Odisha has always played an important role in Vedanta's growth and affirmed the company's commitment to drive large-scale industrialisation in the state.

The new investment will create "massive industrial complex" for downstream industries, the statement said, adding that there are hundreds of applications for aluminium including in the auto, power, construction and railways sectors.

As per the statement, demand for aluminium — a metal of the future — is likely to double by 2030.

Continued on Page 7

Rate cut at this point risky, premature: Das

ANUP ROY & PREETI SONI
October 18

RESERVE BANK OF India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday said an interest rate cut at this stage would be "very, very risky" and he's in no hurry to join the wave of easing by global policymakers.

While inflation is expected to moderate, there are "significant risks" to the outlook, Das told Bloomberg at the India Credit Forum in Mumbai. Inflation and growth dynamics are well-balanced, he said, but policymakers need to remain vigilant about price pressures.

RBI has kept its key interest rate unchanged for almost two years, though it signalled last week that it may be preparing to ease after changing its policy stance to "neutral". That comes as central banks around the world follow the US Federal Reserve in reducing interest rates, with Thailand the latest to surprise with a cut this week.

Responding to a question about global central banks easing, Das said "we will not miss the party, we don't want to join any party".

Bonds extended losses after his comments, with the 10-year yields rising as much as 4 basis points — the most in two weeks — to 6.82%.

₹4K-cr deal: JSW Steel to buy thyssenkrupp Electrical Steel via JV

JSW STEEL ON Friday said it has entered into a share purchase agreement for the purchase of 100% equity shares in thyssenkrupp Electrical Steel India for ₹4,051.4 crore through a 50:50 joint venture with Tokyo-headquartered JFE Steel Corp. The acquisition will take place through Joquare Electrical Steel Nashik, a subsidiary of JSW JFE Electrical Steel, the Sajjan Jindal-led company said. ■ Page 4



"WE WILL NOT MISS THE PARTY, WE DON'T WANT TO JOIN ANY PARTY" RBI GOVERNOR SHAKTIKANTA DAS on rate cuts by global central banks

Das pushed back against some analyst views that RBI was "behind the curve" in cutting rates. Market expectations were aligned with the central bank actions, he said, citing last week's policy decision that was predicted by most economists.

"The governor's comments show rate cuts may not happen before February, or it may get even delayed if actual inflation does not align with the target," said Gaurav Kapur, chief economist at IndusInd Bank.

Continued on Page 7

Kotak Bank to buy StanChart's ₹4K-cr personal loan book

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK on Friday announced that it will buy Standard Chartered Bank's personal loan business in India, a move that will help the country's fourth-largest private bank to strengthen its position in the affluent customer segment, reports Sachin Kumar. StanChart's personal loan book in India had an outstanding balance of ₹4,100 crore as of September 30. ■ Page 6

How can investing in innovation lower heavy industry emissions?

Discover how building one of the world's largest carbon capture hubs to capture up to 11 million tons of carbon p.a. by 2035 could help create a roadmap for other industries to lower their carbon emissions.

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Article with title: Drill time

KEEPING KALA-AZAR AWAY

India gears to apply for certification from WHO

After two years of maintaining case load under 1 in 10,000, India needs one more year under its belt to be eligible

NEWS PAGE 5

Redesigned programmes can improve TB treatment
SCIENCE PAGE 10

What are the stress factors for Indian Railways?
FAQ PAGE 8

Sarfraz and Pant steal the show on fourth day of first Test
SPORT PAGE 13

INSIDE

Job aspirants in Telangana march to Secretariat

HYDERABAD Hundreds of Group 1 job aspirants in Telangana marched to the Secretariat on Saturday. The main demand was postponement of the Group-1 exam scheduled to begin from October 21 after the Telangana High Court disposed of petitions over the past few days. **» PAGE 3**

West Bengal CM reaches out to striking doctors

KOLKATA West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday reached out to striking doctors, and urged them to withdraw their fast-unto-death. The CM reached out to the doctors on the 15th day of the hunger strike through the top officials of the West Bengal government. **» PAGE 5**

Power grid fault plunges Cuba into darkness

HAVANA Cuba's electrical grid went down on Friday after one of the major power plants failed, a day after a massive blackout swept across the Caribbean island and with no estimate for when service will be restored. Various calls seeking to clarify the extent of the blackout were not answered. **» PAGE 12**

INDIA bloc divides seats for Jharkhand polls

JMM, Congress lay claim to 70 of 81 seats RID and Left parties express strong dissatisfaction after being left to split the remaining 11 seats; RID urges Chief Minister Soren to reconsider the decision; INDIA bloc taking this election very seriously, scrutinising every detail to present a united front against the BJP despite the internal friction, says Soren

Amit Bhehari
PATNA

The INDIA (Indian National Inclusive, Developmental Alliance) bloc on Saturday announced the sharing of seats for the Jharkhand Assembly election among the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), the Congress, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), and the Left parties.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren, accompanied by Jharkhand Congress in-charge Chhatu Ahmad Mir in Ranchi, announced that the JMM and the Congress would share 70 seats between them, and the RJD and Left parties would split the remaining 11.

"Every political party is preparing for the Assembly election, and people are not going to the polls. Who will contest how many seats. We, the INDIA bloc, have taken this election seriously, and every aspect is being scrutinised. In this

election, the Left parties are also a part of our alliance," Mr. Soren said. "At present, we have only decided on the number of seats. Other information regarding exact seats will be shared soon. I cannot share much information because some of our partners are not present right now," he said.

'Unilateral decision'
The RJD expressed dissatisfaction over the seat-sharing, terming it a "unilateral decision". The Left parties, too, expressed strong disapproval of the seat-sharing formula.

In 2019 Assembly election, the JMM contested in 43 seats and won 30; the Congress contested in 31 seats and won 16; and the RJD contested in seven seats but won only one. With the merger of the Marxist Coordination Committee (MCC) into the Communist Party of India-Marxist-Leninist (CPI-ML),



Hemant Soren with Chhatu Ahmad Mir, Tejashwi Yadav and other leaders during a meeting to discuss seat-sharing.

the Left party, a part of the INDIA bloc in Jharkhand, had demanded more seats. The Bagodar seat is currently represented by the CPI (ML)'s Vinod Kumar Singh, who supports Mr. Soren's government.

Sources said the CPI-ML was eyeing the Dhanwar, Bagodar, Nisra, Sindi, and Janua seats, where the party held a support base. Similarly, the RJD was eyeing Manika, Bhawanpur, Garhwa, Jamua, Jirumudi,

EC orders State govt. to remove Acting DGP

RANCHI Ahead of Jharkhand polls, the Election Commission on Saturday directed the State to remove Acting Director-General of Police Anand Gupta from the post with immediate effect. The move was based on a "history" of complaints against him. **» PAGE 3**

ha MP Manoj Jha told media persons in Ranchi. "We were runners-up on five seats. The rest of our alliance partners may not have been runners-up in percentage terms on that many seats. With a heavy heart, I must say that a unilateral decision was taken. The number of coalition members is given to us. This is not according to the announcement without consulting the other allies. This is not the way to take

forward the alliance," he said. "We will do what we will have to do," Mr. Bhattacharya said, when asked if his party would go solo. CPI general secretary D. K. Jha, who was also in Ranchi, said the seat-sharing arrangement should be "reasonable". "Leaving 11 seats for the Left parties and the RJD to share is arbitrary. Let us see if the two parties are willing to be more accommodative," he said.

On Friday, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) announced its seat-sharing arrangements, with the BJP keeping 68 seats, the All Jharkhand Students Union (AJSU) contesting 10 seats, the Janata Dal United (JD-U) in two seats, and the Chirag Paswan led Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas (LJP-RV) in one seat. (With inputs from Sobhana K. Nair)

EC orders State govt. to remove Acting DGP

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Drill time



Ships ahoy: The US Navy's Arleigh Burke-class warship and guided-missile destroyer, USS Dewey, during a joint naval exercise, MALABAR 2021, which concluded in Visakhapatnam on Friday. SPOICAI ANSAG/ANI

J&K L-G clears resolution to restore Statehood

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has cleared a resolution passed by the Omar Abdullah Cabinet urging the Centre to restore the Statehood to the Union Territory, officials said on Saturday. The Cabinet passed a unanimous resolution for restoration of Statehood in its original form, the government spokesperson said.

FULL REPORT ON PAGE 3

20 bomb threats in a day; security regulator meets CEOs of airlines

Jacriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

On a day when 20 bomb threats were issued to multiple airlines, the aviation security regulator, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), held a meeting with CEOs of various airlines to discuss ways to minimise disruptions from bomb hoaxes.

Saturday marked the sixth consecutive day of airlines receiving such threats.

"The meeting discussed ways to strike a balance between keeping the skies safe as well as to ensure minimum inconvenience to passengers and airlines," said a senior official of the Union Home Ministry. While most of the threats were made on a note warning of a bomb on a flight, one was issued by the Udaipur-Mumbai Vistara flight. More than 50 such threats have been issued since Monday. Air India CEO Campbell Wilson, Air India Express CEO Alok Singh and Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan attended the meeting with Director-General of BCAS Zulfikar Hasan. Indigo and Akasa Air sent their representatives. The BCAS official has met chief security officers of many airlines and ground handling agencies in the past few days. "We have been able to ensure that no flight is diverted or delayed because



A note warning of a bomb was found in the lavatory of the Udaipur-Mumbai Vistara flight.

of these threats," the MHA official said. The official added that each threat is analysed thoroughly, following which a decision is taken to allow the flight to continue to its destination. Only 10% of the flights were subjected to secondary checks upon the aircraft's arrival at its destination, which included searching the plane and frisking passengers.

Among the 20 flights that got bomb threats on Saturday, six were Vistara flights and seven of Indigo. Some flights on international routes were either delayed or diverted. These included Vistara's Mumbai to Colombo flight, which was taken to extreme care on arriving at its destination, delaying its 4 p.m. return to Mumbai by more than five hours. On Friday, Vistara's Delhi to London flight was diverted to Frankfurt.

Drone targets Netanyahu's house; Israeli strikes kill 50 in Gaza

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

The Israeli government said a drone targeted the Prime Minister's house on Saturday, though there were no casualties, as Iran's Supreme Leader vowed Hamas would renew its fight following the killing of the mastermind of last year's deadly October 7 attack.

Strens walked in Israeli warning of incoming fire from Lebanon. The military said dozens of missiles were launched. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the drone targeted his house in

the Mediterranean coastal town of Caesarea, though neither he nor his wife were home.

The barrage comes as Israel considers its expected response to an Iranian attack earlier this month and presses its offensives against Hamas militants in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

In September, Yemen's Houthis rebuffed a launched a ballistic missile toward Ben Gurion Airport when Mr. Netanyahu's plane was landing. The missile was intercepted. In the northern city of Kiryat Ata, sirens blared as people ran for cover and



Swift response: Israeli security forces conduct off a road near Benjamin Netanyahu's house in Caesarea in Israel on Saturday.

intercepted missiles exploded in the sky. One rocket landed in the area and precursors reported seeing burned cars and a damaged building, Itzik Bilit, commander for the Haifa area, said nine people were lightly injured. The Israeli fire service

also said it was battling several blazes resulting from missiles in the Shtolmi area. Israel's war with Lebanon's Hezbollah has intensified in recent weeks. Hezbollah said on Friday that it planned to launch a new phase of fighting by sending more guided missiles and exploding drones into Israel.

Fresh warning
On Saturday, Israel's military issued fresh evacuation warnings for two buildings in Beirut's southern suburb of Harat Hrik. Israel has issued near-daily warnings for people to leave buildings and villages

BLAME ON HEZBOLLAH PAGE 12

IN BRIEF



Ahead of PM's visit, over 500 hoardings put up in Varanasi

Over 500 hoardings have been put up across Varanasi, the Lok Sabha constituency of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ahead of his visit to the city on Sunday. One of the prominent hoardings, put up by BJP Yuva Morcha district president Aman Sonkar, shows Mr. Modi with 10 hands, each representing various government schemes such as Swachh Bharat Mission, Jan Dhan Yojna, and "Make in India". It has become a topic of discussion among people after it was put in the Lanka, Chitaur and Saranath areas of the city. Mr. Sonkar said that the hoarding reflects the Prime Minister's commitment to development and the welfare of the people.

Adversaries could 'weaponise' tools, tech: Defence Minister

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday called upon Indian military leaders to think critically to gain a "strategic advantage" in today's ever-evolving geopolitical landscape, and said there was a need to stay prepared to tackle possibility of adversaries "weaponising" tools and technologies. "From drones and autonomous vehicles to artificial intelligence and quantum computing, the technologies shaping modern warfare are evolving at a breath-taking pace. Our officers must understand these technologies and be able to harness them," he said in his address at a convocation ceremony of the National Defence College in New Delhi.

President concludes first visit to three African countries

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday left for home after wrapping up her three-nation visit to Algeria, Mauritania and Malawi, establishing new benchmarks in India-Africa relations. It was the first visit by an Indian Head of State to the three African nations. Ms. Murmu finished her visit in Malawi, where she held a "productive" discussion with her Malawian counterpart Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera on ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in various fields, including agriculture, mining, tourism and energy. Ms. Murmu's three-nation visit is reflective of India's "deep desire" to strengthen its partnership with countries in Africa, the MEA said.

3 policemen suspended after accused speaks to media

Three policemen have been suspended for alleged negligence in duty, taking cognizance of videos in which a sharpshooter of Lawrence Bishnoi gang was seen interacting with reporters while in police custody and commenting on NCP leader Baba Siddique's killing, officials said on Saturday. In the videos that went viral on social media, Yogesh (46), alias Raju, said Siddique, who was killed in Mumbai recently, was not a good man and had connections with India's most-wanted criminal Dawood Ibrahim. Mathura Senior Superintendent of Police on Friday night ordered the suspension of these policemen, including a sub-inspector.

SUDOKU

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The last thing you would expect is that dust from mining would be climate friendly. But the right kind of dust moved to the right place is the core business of a Darjeeling-based company, Air Carbon, and has already garnered \$5,00,000 in investments for carbon-credit companies. At the heart of the company's approach is the geo-chemical process called rock weathering. All rocks naturally break down into minerals over thousands of years. The consequence of this process is that atmospheric carbon reacts with these minerals (calcium and magnesium largely) and becomes bicarbonates. Eventually through aquif-

India to seek certification from WHO for eliminating Kala-azar

The infection, reported mostly from Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and parts of UP, is caused by a protozoan parasite transmitted by the bite of an infected female sandfly; symptoms include irregular fever, weight loss, and anaemia

At the threshold



India could be at the threshold of eliminating Kala-azar as a public health problem with the country having managed to keep the number of cases under one in 10,000 people for two consecutive years now as required by World Health Organization (WHO) parameters for elimination certification.

Kala-azar, also known as visceral leishmaniasis, is the second deadliest parasitic disease after malaria in India. Figures released by the Health Ministry show that India registered 595 cases and four deaths in 2023 and this year, it has recorded 339 cases and one death so far. If it can maintain the declining trend for anomic year, India will become eligible to seek the elimination certification from the WHO, making it the second country in the world to eliminate Kala-azar by 2030, but this was not revised to 2015, 2017, and then 2020. The WHO's Neglected Tropical Disease programme focuses on active case detection, effective vector control, and raising community awareness. Achieving a low case of kala-azar less than one case per 10,000 population at the

Kala-azar is a disease caused by a protozoan parasite that is transmitted by the bite of an infected female sandfly. Symptoms of the disease include irregular fevers, weight loss, enlarged spleen and liver, and anaemia. Kala-azar is fatal if left untreated in more than 95% of cases.

India's National Health Policy (2002) initially set a target of eliminating Kala-azar by 2010, but this was not revised to 2015, 2017, and then 2020. The WHO's Neglected Tropical Disease programme focuses on active case detection, effective vector control, and raising community awareness. Achieving a low case of kala-azar less than one case per 10,000 population at the

A disease is certified as eliminated as a public health issue when a country can prove that local transmission has been interrupted for a set period, and that there is a system to prevent the disease from re-emerging. The WHO assists countries in their submissions to determine if they meet the criteria for elimination. K. Madan Gopal, adviser to the health minister, said India's Kala-azar programme focuses on active case detection, effective vector control, and raising community awareness. Achieving a low case of kala-azar less than one case per 10,000 population at the

sub-district (block PHCs) for at least two years. India on track to earn WHO certification for eliminating Kala-azar as a public health problem. This will mark a significant milestone. Vulnerable States Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and parts of Uttar Pradesh have seen the highest number of Kala-azar cases, with Bihar alone accounting for over 70% of India's cases. These areas offer ideal sandfly breeding conditions due to poor sanitation and climate factors. Despite this, these regions have made huge progress in recent years by increasing awareness, controlling vectors, and

Health Ministry had adopted strategies such as early diagnosis, complete case management

ensuring quick diagnosis and treatment. "India is moving closer to Kala-azar elimination. It's also important to address the root causes, like poverty and inadequate sanitation, that allow diseases like Kala-azar to spread," Dr. Gopal said while cautioning that India must keep improving surveillance, expanding access to rapid diagnostic tools, and making treatments readily available to sustain these gains. He added that for a long-term solution, India should focus on better vector control, address social and economic conditions, and invest in research for vaccines and new treatments. The Health Ministry had adopted strategies such as early diagnosis and complete case management, integrated vector management and vector surveillance, supervision, monitoring, surveillance, evaluation, and advocacy. The ministry has also mobilised for behavioural impact and inter-sectoral convergence.

for at least two years. India on track to earn WHO certification for eliminating Kala-azar as a public health problem. This will mark a significant milestone. Vulnerable States Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and parts of Uttar Pradesh have seen the highest number of Kala-azar cases, with Bihar alone accounting for over 70% of India's cases. These areas offer ideal sandfly breeding conditions due to poor sanitation and climate factors. Despite this, these regions have made huge progress in recent years by increasing awareness, controlling vectors, and

West Bengal LoP meets Krishnanagar victim's family

The Hindu Bureau
 KOLKATA

Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Sivendu Adhikari on Saturday reached out to the family of the 18-year-old school student killed in Krishnanagar. Mr. Adhikari went to meet the victim's family with fellow BJP leaders from the State. The victim, a Class 12 student, was allegedly raped and murdered, and her half-burnt body was found in Krishnanagar of Nadia district on October 16.

The police are investigating the case, and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed. Mr. Adhikari accused the police of manipulating the victim's parents to hurriedly cremate her body.

Mamata reaches out to striking doctors; meeting scheduled for Monday

The Hindu Bureau
 KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday reached out to doctors who are on a fast-unto-death, and urged them to withdraw their hunger strike. During the day, Chief Secretary Manoj Pant and Home Secretary Nandini Chakraborty reached out to the doctors at the protest site in Esplanade and the Chief Minister spoke to them over telephone.

Ms. Banerjee reached out to the doctors on the 15th day of the hunger strike through the top officials of the West Bengal government. The hunger strike began on October 5, after almost 30 days of



Mamata Banerjee

Open to talks CM "I request you to call off the hunger strike. Let us sit for a discussion. Almost all the demands have been fulfilled. Please call off the

hunger strike. Get back to work," the Chief Minister said in her appeal to the doctors over telephone. A number of protesting doctors met with senior doctors' Front spoke to the Chief Minister. When one of the doctors urged the Chief Minister that the family's wishes, removal of Health Secretary N.S. Nigam, the Chief Minister's health care was not possible to accept the demand. Doctor's family meeting the discussion with the Chief Minister, the doctors agreed to meet her on Monday. One of the protesting doctors, Debashish Halder, said the manner in which the conversation was held over the telephone was very insensitive.

Trinamool leader rushed up last rites: R.G. Kar victim's kin

The Hindu Bureau
 KOLKATA

Parents of the junior doctor who was raped and murdered at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital have urged the local Trinamool Congress councillor had hurriedly taken their daughter's body for cremation, against the family's wishes. "Somnath Dey, a councillor of our area, got into our daughter's house and took her mortal remains away from us. None of our family members were allowed to get into that vehicle," the victim's mother alleged in an interview televised on Friday on the Bengal news channel.

"When we were at Tala Police Station, he was calling us repeatedly, but we were not receiving his

calls. Meanwhile, our relatives informed us that her body was being taken to the crematorium," she added.

According to her, she and her husband had gone to Tala Police Station to tell the police that they did not want their daughter's body to be cremated that night but instead wanted to preserve her remains for the night and go home.

"Regarding Abhyaya's case, since her mother has shared her story, let the truth come to light. It was TMC Councillor Somnath Dey who took Abhyaya's body without her parents' consent. The family faced police harassment, and it was BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul and BJP Councillor Sanjal Ghosh, who intervened to protect them," the Bengal unit of BJP posted on X.

Company uses mining dust to enhance carbon capture

Jacob Koshy
 NEW DELHI



Air Carbon collects crushed basalt from the Rajmahal mines and has them sprinkled on its tea estates.

ers, or underground streams and rivers, they break their way into the oceans where carbon is locked in for aeons. The oceans, thus, are the major carbon sinks and capture about 30% of the CO2 from human activities. Left to nature, this process takes aeons. However, with

the levels of carbon dioxide building up in the air and a consensus by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that some amount of carbon dioxide already present in the air needs to be removed by 2050, for keeping temperatures below 2 degrees Celsius by the end of

the century, governments as well as businesses are experimenting in schemes to accelerate natural carbon removal processes. This is where 'enhanced rock weathering' comes in. Basaltic rock, a kind of volcanic rock, is rich in iron, calcium and magnesium. Many parts of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, and the Deccan Traps are located in such areas. Such rocks as parts of Jharkhand and West Bengal where the Rajmahal Traps are situated.

can be flushed into the ocean - depending on the soil, temperature and rivers - within a month," said Sambuddha Misra, Associate Professor and expert in chemical oceanography, at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. He is also the chief scientist at Air Carbon, the company which derives from a family-owned tagar-tin factory, collects tonnes of crushed basalt from the Rajmahal mines, transports it about 200 kilometres to Darjeeling and uses it to enhance carbon sequestration in the region.

"Once such basaltic rock is crushed into a fine powder, its effective surface area is greatly increased. This accelerates the formation of bicarbonates from atmospheric CO2 to a hundred-fold and takes about 3-4 tonnes of basalt dust to sequester, or trap, a tonne of atmospheric carbon over two to four years. "Normally it would have taken 1,000 years for natural basaltic rock to capture that much carbon," said Shrey Agrawal, CEO and co-founder, Air Carbon. This September, the company entered into an agreement with Frontera, a consortium of McKinsey Sustainability, Alphabet, Meta, Shear and Stripe, to buy a tonne of carbon sequestration this way in advance for \$5,00,000. Carbon credits generated this way are bought by companies and they can use it to offset their carbon emissions, required under their national laws. Currently though, such purchases are largely voluntary.

India to seek certification from WHO for eliminating Kala-azar

The infection, reported mostly from Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and parts of U.P., is caused by a protozoan parasite transmitted by the bite of an infected female sandfly; symptoms include irregular fever, weight loss, and anaemia

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

India could be at the threshold of eliminating Kala-azar as a public health problem with the country having managed to keep the number of cases under one in 10,000 people for two consecutive years now as required by World Health Organization (WHO) parameters for elimination certification.

Kala-azar, also known as visceral leishmaniasis, is the second deadliest parasitic disease after malaria in India. Figures released by the Health Ministry show that India registered 595 cases and four deaths in 2023 and this year, it has recorded 339 cases and one death so far.

If it can maintain the declining trend for another year, India will become eligible to seek the elimination certificate from the WHO, making it the second country in the world after Bangladesh which in October became the only country to have eliminated Kala-azar as a public health problem. The WHO validated this status after Bangladesh reported fewer than one case per 10,000 people in each of its sub-districts for three consecutive years.

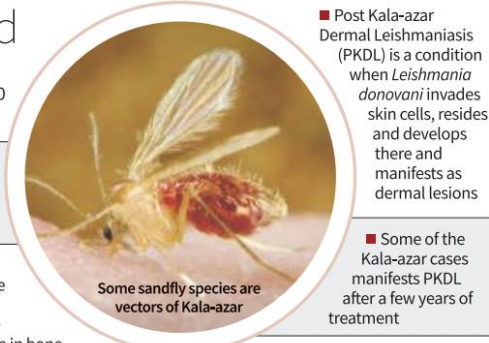
At the threshold

India has managed to keep the number of cases under one in 10,000 for two consecutive years now

■ Kala-azar is a slow progressing indigenous disease caused by a protozoan parasite of genus *Leishmania*

■ In India, *Leishmania donovani* is the only parasite causing this disease

■ The parasite primarily infects the reticuloendothelial system and may be found in abundance in bone marrow, spleen and liver



Some sandfly species are vectors of Kala-azar

Source: Health Ministry, National Centre for Vector-Borne Diseases Control

■ Post Kala-azar Dermal Leishmaniasis (PKDL) is a condition when *Leishmania donovani* invades skin cells, resides and develops there and manifests as dermal lesions

■ Some of the Kala-azar cases manifest PKDL after a few years of treatment

Kala-azar is a disease caused by a protozoa parasite that is transmitted by the bite of an infected female sandfly.

Symptoms of the disease include irregular fevers, weight loss, enlarged spleen and liver, and anaemia. Kala-azar is fatal if left untreated in more than 95% of cases.

India's National Health Policy (2002) initially set a target of eliminating Kala-azar by 2010, but this was later revised to 2015, 2017, and then 2020. The WHO's Neglected Tropical Disease road map set a goal of eliminating Kala-azar by 2020, but the target was not achieved.

The WHO is now accelerating work to achieve the target by 2030.

A disease is certified as eliminated as a public health issue when a country can prove that local transmission has been interrupted for a set period, and that there is a system to prevent the disease from re-emerging. The WHO assesses countries' submissions to determine if they meet the criteria for elimination.

K. Madan Gopal, adviser at the public health administration, National Health Systems Resource Centre, Health Ministry, said India's Kala-azar programme focuses on active case detection, effective vector control, and raising community awareness. Achieving a low case of Kala-azar to less than one case per 10,000 population at the

sub-district (block PHCs) for two straight years puts India on track to earn WHO certification for eliminating Kala-azar as a public health problem. This will mark a significant milestone.

Vulnerable States

Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and parts of Uttar Pradesh have seen the highest number of Kala-azar cases, with Bihar alone accounting for over 70% of India's cases. These areas offer ideal sandfly breeding conditions due to poor sanitation and climate factors.

Despite this, these regions have made huge progress in recent years by increasing awareness, controlling vectors, and

Health Ministry had adopted strategies such as early diagnosis, complete case management

ensuring quick diagnosis and treatment. "India is moving closer to Kala-azar elimination. It's also important to address the root causes, like poverty and inadequate sanitation, that allow diseases like Kala-azar to spread," Dr. Gopal said while cautioning that India must keep improving surveillance, expanding access to rapid diagnostic tools, and making treatments readily available to sustain these gains.

He added that for a long-term solution, India should focus on better vector control, address social and economic conditions, and invest in research for vaccines and new treatments.

The Health Ministry had adopted strategies such as early diagnosis and complete case management, integrated vector management and vector surveillance, supervision, monitoring, surveillance, evaluation, and advocacy, communication and social mobilisation for behavioural impact and inter-sectoral convergence.

- **Kala-azar Status in India:**
- The disease is reported mostly from **Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal**, and parts of **Uttar Pradesh**.
- India has managed to reduce the number of cases to fewer than **1 in 10,000 people** for two consecutive years, meeting the WHO requirements for elimination certification.

- **Cause and Symptoms:**
- Kala-azar is caused by the **Leishmania donovani** parasite and affects the **reticuloendothelial system**, including the **liver, spleen, and bone marrow**.
- Symptoms include **irregular fever, weight loss, enlarged spleen and liver, and anaemia**. It is fatal in more than **95%** of cases if untreated.

- **Health Ministry's Strategies:**
- India's **National Health Policy (2020)** targeted eliminating Kala-azar by **2020**, which was further revised with new goals.
- Key strategies include **early diagnosis, complete case management, vector control, and community awareness.**

- **Vulnerable Areas:**
- States like **Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal**, and parts of **Uttar Pradesh** continue to see the highest number of Kala-azar cases, despite significant reductions.
- These areas are identified as **high-risk due to environmental and socio-economic factors**, like poverty and inadequate sanitation.

- **WHO Certification:**
- A disease is certified as eliminated as a **public health issue** when the transmission remains below the threshold for a certain period, and systems are in place to prevent it from re-emerging.
- India must continue to maintain this level for **another year** to be eligible for WHO certification.

- **Preventive Measures:**
- Measures include **vector management** such as spraying insecticides, **sanitation improvements, better housing conditions, and awareness campaigns.**
- India is also focusing on improving surveillance, **rapid diagnostic tools,** and sustainable health systems to ensure Kala-azar does not return



Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar

Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar to be new NCW chairperson

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar has been appointed the ninth Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW), succeeding Rekha Sharma, an official order said.

The appointment made under Section 3 of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, will be for a period of three years or until she reaches the age of 65, whichever comes first, a government notification issued on Saturday said. Ms. Rahatkar's tenure will begin with immediate effect.

The announcement will also be published in the Gazette of India.

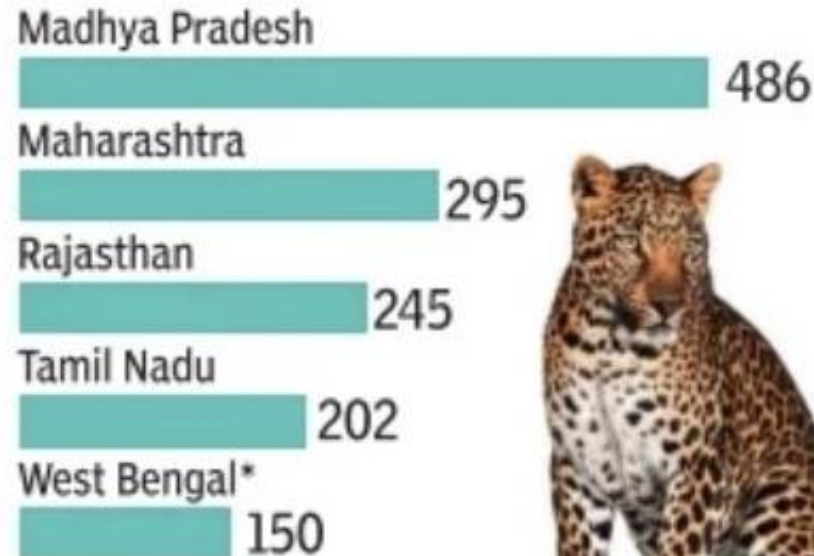
The NCW, a statutory body, is empowered to work towards the advancement of women's rights. Its mandate includes reviewing the constitutional and legal safeguards provided for women.

Leopard count growing fastest in Central and West India

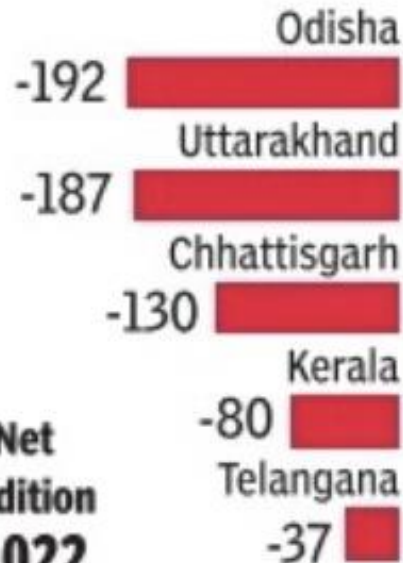
India had at least 1,000 more leopards in 2022 than it did in 2018, with the highest presence in central India and Western Ghats

Change in population (2018-2022)

States that added the highest numbers



States that lost the highest numbers



Net addition
1,022

*Gorumara, Jaldapara and Buxa

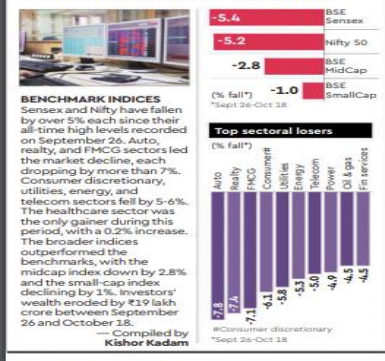
Source: EnviStats India 2024

WHAT'S INSIDE

SPOTLIGHT, P8-9
Raising the gender bar
Meet the women behind six new-age, homegrown alcoholic-beverage startups—creating anything from rum to mead, ready-to-drink cocktail to gin—who are stepping into and transforming an otherwise male-dominated space

WORDS WORTH, P4
Time, tide and AI
In his latest book, Yuval Noah Harari insists artificial intelligence is a societal force and we are in it together

Auto, realty, FMCG lead market decline



RESOLUTION FOR J&K STATEHOOD GETS L-G APPROVAL

THE RESOLUTION passed by the Jammu & Kashmir Cabinet, urging the Union government to restore statehood to J&K, has been cleared by Union Home Minister G. K. Mishra. The Cabinet, chaired by Omar Abdullah, had passed the resolution unanimously for restoration of statehood of Jammu and Kashmir "in its original form". This was agenda number one of the meeting. ■ PAGE 36

Saturday scare: 34 flights get security threats

Threats from same X account; airline CEOs meet regulator
SUKALP SHARMA
New Delhi, October 19
AN ANONYMOUS and unverified account on social media platform X issued bomb threats to 46 flights of Indian airlines since Friday night, sending airlines, airports and the aviation security apparatus into a tizzy. The account—@pandamunza111 posted bomb threats to 33 flights on Friday night. On Saturday, it posted bomb threats to 34 flights of Indian carriers, and even to overseas airlines like American Airlines, JetBlue and Air New Zealand. The account, which was active till Saturday afternoon, has now been suspended by X. It was created only recently, which is usually the case with social media accounts used to issue fake threats. The posts from the account to different airlines on Saturday were identical: "There are bombs placed on board 5 of your planes... No one will make it out alive. Hurry up and evacuate the plane." While some of these flights were airborne when the threats were posted, a few had already been operated. A few of the flights that were in operation when the threat was received declared a general emergency. Later, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) officials met the CEOs of Indian airlines in New Delhi. The CEOs were told that they need to keep all stakeholders in the loop about any threats that they receive, and about the action taken, along with their SOPs. Continued on Page 2

GST panels propose sew of tax tweaks

Exemption from term life, health insurance cover up to ₹5 lakh
PRIYANSH VERMA
New Delhi, October 19
A GROUP OF Ministers (GoM), tasked with reviewing the manner of Goods and Services Tax levy on life and health insurance premiums, has taken the view that term life insurance could be exempt from tax, along with health insurance cover up to ₹5 lakh and premiums paid by senior citizens above 60 years. The panel, however, decided against a complete tax waiver for health insurance, where the GST is levied at 18% at present. The GoM, which met on Saturday, will submit a report to the GST Council by October end, which will finally take a call on the issue. A complete exemption of term-life insurance from GST will cost the exchequer about ₹200 crore annually, while exempting senior citizens' health insurance premiums will cost another ₹3,000 crore, sources said. Proposed changes include: Cut to 5% on 20-litre packaged drinking water bottles, bicycles, notebooks; Rise to 28% on wrist watches above ₹25,000 and shoes above ₹15,000; Waiver of health insurance premium for senior citizens above 60 years. Between FY22 and FY24 the total GST collected from health insurance premium will be about ₹23,000 crore. Another GoM on rate rationalisation, which also met here simultaneously, decided to recommend tweaks (hikes and cuts) in the GST rates on around 100 products, a move that would fetch the government additional annual revenue of ₹22,000 crore, which is to be equally shared between the Centre and states. The panel decided to recommend lowering of GST rates 20-litre packaged drinking water bottles, bicycles and exercise notebooks to 5%, and raising taxes on high-end wrist watches and shoes, among other products. It also favoured taxing wrist watches above ₹25,000 and shoes above ₹15,000 at 28% from 18% at present. A member of the GoM said, "The surplus ₹22,000-crore will compensate for revenue losses from exempting certain health and life insurance premiums." Currently, 18% GST is imposed on life insurance premiums for term policies and family floater policies, and on health insurance. "Some members suggested that the GST from 18% to 9% on health and life insurance premiums, but most were not in favour of such a move and opted for giving concessions to the elderly," said a member of the GoM. Continued on Page 2

Compact SUVs overtake hatchbacks, sedans

Drive past the two categories together for the first time
VIKRAM CHAUDHARY
New Delhi, October 19
EVEN THOUGH SUVs are the vehicles of choice for most Indian customers, a segment that was holding up against them was sub-4 metre hatchbacks and sedans, which are classified as compact passenger cars. However, now this frontier has also been breached. Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) sales data show that during April-September of the current fiscal, as many as 671,674 sub-4 metre SUVs (compact SUVs) were sold, which was far higher than 558,173 compact passenger cars. In the year-on-year period (H1FY24), these figures were the opposite: 671,908 compact passenger cars sold against 593,230 compact SUVs. Till last year, compact passenger cars were India's biggest sub-segment, four years ago it was twice the size of compact SUVs, and five years ago it was three times the size of compact SUVs. However, that's not the case anymore. Tata Punch, Maruti Suzuki's Fronx, Mahindra's XUV 3XO, Hyundai Venue and Exter, Kia Sonet, Maruti Suzuki Brezza, Tata Nexon keep breaching the 10,000 units a month sales mark occasionally. Continued on Page 2

For Indian travellers, it's go global, eat local

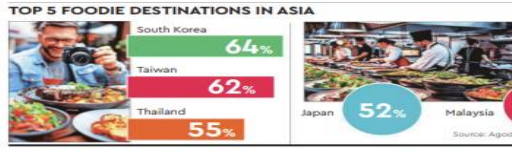
Culinary tourism major driving force for 50% of globetrotters
GARIMA SADHWANI
New Delhi, October 19
AS MANY AS 45% of Indian travellers consider food as an "integral part of their travel planning", the India Holiday Survey Report by SOTC Travel recently revealed. From being a side dish to main course, culinary tourism has clearly seen a phenomenal rise in recent years, with food becoming one of the top parameters for travellers. Turkey and Laos, India, on the other hand, is mostly visited by foodies from Vietnam and Japan, the survey noted. Global data crosses the halfway mark. Data by World Food Travel Association has noted in a report by the Food Travel Association: "As many as 53% of people who travel choose to visit a destination specifically for its food." Data by Travelocity, a US-based holiday portal, claims that a whopping 93% tourists globally tend to classify themselves as 'food travellers'. Santosh Kumar, country manager for India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Indonesia at Booking.com, said 60% tourists actively seek out indigenous cuisines and 78% are foodies. The report also noted that heritage behind iconic dishes. The company's Travel Trends data also shows that 48% of Indian travellers prioritise food when planning trips and 59% prioritise food while choosing destinations for travel. Travellers have even capitalised on their cuisines to promote a form of 'gastronomy', especially places like Thailand, South Korea, and US, whose cuisines are becoming popular in India. Continued on Page 2

HDFC to sell up to ₹10,000 cr shares in HDB Financial IPO

SACHIN KUMAR
Mumbai, October 19
HDFC BANK'S BOARD, on Saturday, approved an Offer for Sale of equity worth up to ₹10,000 crore in HDB Financial Services as part of the subsidiary's initial public offering (IPO). The total IPO size will amount to ₹12,500 crore, which includes a fresh issue of ₹2,500 crore. "After the IPO, other details of the proposed IPO will be determined in due course by the competent body," said the bank in a regulatory filing to the exchanges. After the proposed IPO, HDB Financial Services will continue to be a subsidiary of the bank, in compliance with the provisions of the applicable regulatory provisions, it added. HDB Financial Services is complying with the Reserve Bank of India's mandate in October 2022, requiring NBFCs in the upper layer to list on the stock exchanges. As of September 2023, HDB Financial Services had 15 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) as 'upper layer' and under the new-regulation, unlisted companies in this category must go public within three years. Other unlisted lenders in the list include Tata Capital Financial Services and Piramal Capital & Housing Finance. HDB Financial Services holds a 94.64% stake in HDB Financial Services, a non-banking financial company (NBFC) arm of the bank. In FY 23, the company's loan book expanded by 17% year-on-year, reaching ₹6,000 crore, driven by robust demand for personal, vehicle, and small business loans. HDB Financial Services serves the retail and commercial segments, offering a range of products such as personal loans, vehicle loans, and loans against property. Continued on Page 2

India seeks critical mineral pact with US

INDIA HAS PROPOSED to the United States to convert their memorandum of understanding in critical minerals into a critical minerals agreement (CMA) that will give the benefits of a free trade agreement to the trade of electric vehicles. "I have suggested that our critical minerals (MoU) should be converted to critical minerals partnership agreement and become a beginning point to move towards a free trade agreement (FTA)," says Union Home Minister Piyush Goyal to representatives on Saturday. Under the US Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022, certain percentage of critical minerals in EV batteries have to be sourced from the United States or US FTA partners. This is a must if EVs have to qualify for tax incentives, which are given as tax breaks to buyers. The US Department of the Treasury has designated CMA as an FTA for the purposes of the EV tax credit. Continued on Page 2



IOB launches Mahila Shaksham Scheme to empower women entrepreneurs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Chennai, October 19

PUBLIC SECTOR INDIAN Overseas Bank on Saturday launched the 'Mahila Shaksham' scheme designed to finance individual Women Self-Help Group members under the Centre's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana —

National Rural Livelihoods Mission initiative. Aimed at benefiting women entrepreneurs by ensuring financial self-reliance, the scheme is in line with the ministry of rural development's 'Lakhpati Didi Yojana' scheme which is designed to improve the financial standing of women self-help group members. "The goal is

to ensure that these women earn a sustainable annual income of at least ₹1 lakh per household through financial assistance and entrepreneurial support," Indian Overseas Bank said in a statement. Some of the key features of the IOB-Mahila Shaksham Scheme include — financing for individual women self-help

group members to foster entrepreneurship, credit support of up to ₹10 lakh to individual members of 'Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission scheme' among others. It promotes the financial independence of women, aims to deepen credit outreach to self-help group members, it added.

नायब मंत्रिमंडल की पहली बैठक में ही सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले पर अमल आरक्षण में कोटे के भीतर कोटा लागू करने वाला पहला राज्य बना हरियाणा

चंडीगढ़, 18 अक्टूबर (जनसत्ता)।

हरियाणा के मुख्यमंत्री नायब सैनी ने की अध्यक्षता में शुक्रवार यहां मंत्रिमंडल की पहली बैठक में अनुसूचित जाति आरक्षण में वर्गीकरण का फैसला लागू कर दिया गया है। शुक्रवार को चंडीगढ़ में पहली बैठक के बाद पत्रकारों से चर्चा में नायब सैनी ने कहा, 'बैठक में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के उस फैसले का हमारे मंत्रिमंडल ने सम्मान किया है, जो एससी में वर्गीकरण से संबंधित है, उसे हमने आज से ही लागू करने का फैसला लिया है।'

अभी एससी के लिए 15 फीसद और एसटी के लिए 7.5 फीसद आरक्षण है। इस 22.5 फीसद आरक्षण में ही राज्य एससी और एसटी के उन कमजोर वर्गों का कोटा तय कर सकेंगे, जिनका प्रतिनिधित्व बेहद कम है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले के अनुसार, एससी व एसटी वर्ग को



मिलने वाले आरक्षण में उसी वर्ग के आरक्षण का लाभ पाने से वंचित रह गए वर्गों को लाभ देने के लिए उपवर्गीकरण किया जा सकता है।

मुख्यमंत्री ने सरकारी भर्तियों को लेकर कांग्रेस को घेरते हुए कहा कि नौकरी देना उनके लिए कारोबार था और हरियाणा कर्मचारी चयन आयोग को वह 'लाला की दुकान' समझते थे। विधानसभा का सत्र बुलाने को लेकर सैनी ने कहा कि मंत्रिमंडल में इसे लेकर

मुख्यमंत्री ने सरकारी भर्तियों को लेकर कांग्रेस को घेरते हुए कहा कि नौकरी देना उनके लिए कारोबार था और हरियाणा कर्मचारी चयन आयोग को वह 'लाला की दुकान' समझते थे।
उन्होंने कहा कि किसानों की सभी एमएसपी पर खरीदी जाएगी।

चर्चा हुई है। अगले एक-दो दिन में तारीख तय की जाएगी। अभी त्योहार हैं, उसके बाद ही बुलाएंगे। सैनी ने हरियाणा के किसानों का आभार व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि उनकी फसल का एक-एक दाना एमएसपी पर खरीदा जाएगा। उनके खाते में धान खरीद का 3,056 करोड़ रुपए पहुंचाना है। गत 17 अक्टूबर तक तीन लाख, 44 हजार मीट्रिक टन बाजरे की आवक हुई

बाकी पेज 8 पर

**बेबाक
बोल**

परिधि पर पितृपक्ष



लोकसभा चुनाव में उत्तर प्रदेश में मात खाने के बाद हरियाणा में भाजपा ने अपने पितृ-पक्ष संघ को ही प्रमुख माना।

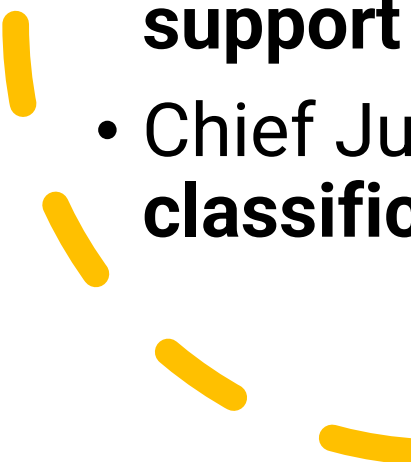
पेज 7

This 6-1 majority decision overturns the **2004 ruling in *E.V. Chinniah vs. State of Andhra Pradesh***, fundamentally altering the landscape of reservation policies in India.

Reconsideration of *EV Chinniah Judgment*: The five-judge bench found it necessary to reconsider the judgement in ***EV Chinniah v. State of Andhra Pradesh, 2004***.



- **Sub-Classifications Permitted:**

- The Court ruled that states are constitutionally allowed to sub-classify SCs and STs based on varying levels of backwardness.
 - The seven-judge Bench ruled that states can now sub-classify SCs within the **15% reservation quota to provide better support** for the most disadvantaged groups.
 - Chief Justice of India emphasised the difference between "**sub-classification**."
- 

- The Court clarified that **100% reservation for any sub-class is not permissible**. State decisions on sub-classification are subject to judicial review to prevent political misuse.

भारत घोर गरीबी वाले पांच देशों में शामिल

संयुक्त राष्ट्र, 18 अक्टूबर (भाषा)।

भारत दुनिया के उन पांच देशों में है जहां सबसे अधिक संख्या में लोग घोर गरीबी में जीवनयापन कर रहे हैं। संयुक्त राष्ट्र की नवीनतम रपट में यह जानकारी दी गई है। रपट के मुताबिक दुनिया में करीब 1.1 अरब लोग घोर गरीबी में ज़िंदगी बसर कर रहे हैं और इनमें से भी आधे नाबालिग हैं।

संयुक्त राष्ट्र विकास कार्यक्रम (यूएनडीपी) एवं आक्सफोर्ड विश्वविद्यालय की आक्सफोर्ड गरीबी एवं मानव विकास पहल (ओपीएचआइ) द्वारा गुरुवार को बहु आयामी गरीबी सूचकांक (एमपीआइ) जारी की गई। इसमें कहा गया है कि दुनिया में 1.1 अरब लोग घोर गरीबी में जी रहे हैं, जिनमें से 40 फीसद लोग युद्ध, नाजुक स्थिति और/या कम शांति वाले देशों में रह रहे हैं। रपट के मुताबिक भारत में 23.4 करोड़ लोग



घोर गरीबी में जीवन यापन कर रहे हैं जिसे मध्यम मानव विकास सूचकांक में रखा गया है। भारत उन पांच देशों में है जहां पर घोर गरीबी में जीवनयापन करने वालों की संख्या सबसे अधिक है। रपट के मुताबिक भारत के अलावा अन्य चार देश पाकिस्तान (9.3 करोड़), इथियोपिया (8.6 करोड़), नाइजीरिया (7.4 करोड़) और कांगो (6.6 करोड़) हैं जिन्हें निम्न

रपट के मुताबिक भारत के अलावा अन्य चार देश पाकिस्तान (9.3 करोड़), इथियोपिया (8.6 करोड़), नाइजीरिया (7.4 करोड़) और कांगो (6.6 करोड़) हैं जिन्हें निम्न मानव विकास सूचकांक में रखा गया है। रपट में कहा गया कि दुनिया में घोर गरीबी में जीवन यापन करने वाले 1.1 अरब लोगों में करीब आधे (48.1 फीसद) इन पांच देशों में निवास करते हैं। इसमें कहा गया कि दुनिया में 45.5 करोड़ गरीब लोग ऐसे देशों में रहते हैं जो हिंसक संघर्षों से ग्रस्त हैं, जिससे गरीबी कम करने की दिशा में कड़ी मेहनत से की गई प्रगति में बाधा उत्पन्न हो रही है, यहां तक कि इससे प्रगति पर भी प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ रहा है।

मानव विकास सूचकांक में रखा गया है। रपट में कहा गया कि दुनिया में घोर गरीबी में जीवन यापन करने वाले 1.1 अरब लोगों में करीब आधे (48.1 फीसद) इन पांच देशों में निवास करते हैं। इसमें कहा गया कि दुनिया में 45.5 करोड़ गरीब लोग ऐसे देशों में रहते हैं जो हिंसक संघर्षों से ग्रस्त हैं, जिससे गरीबी कम करने की दिशा में कड़ी मेहनत से की गई प्रगति में बाधा

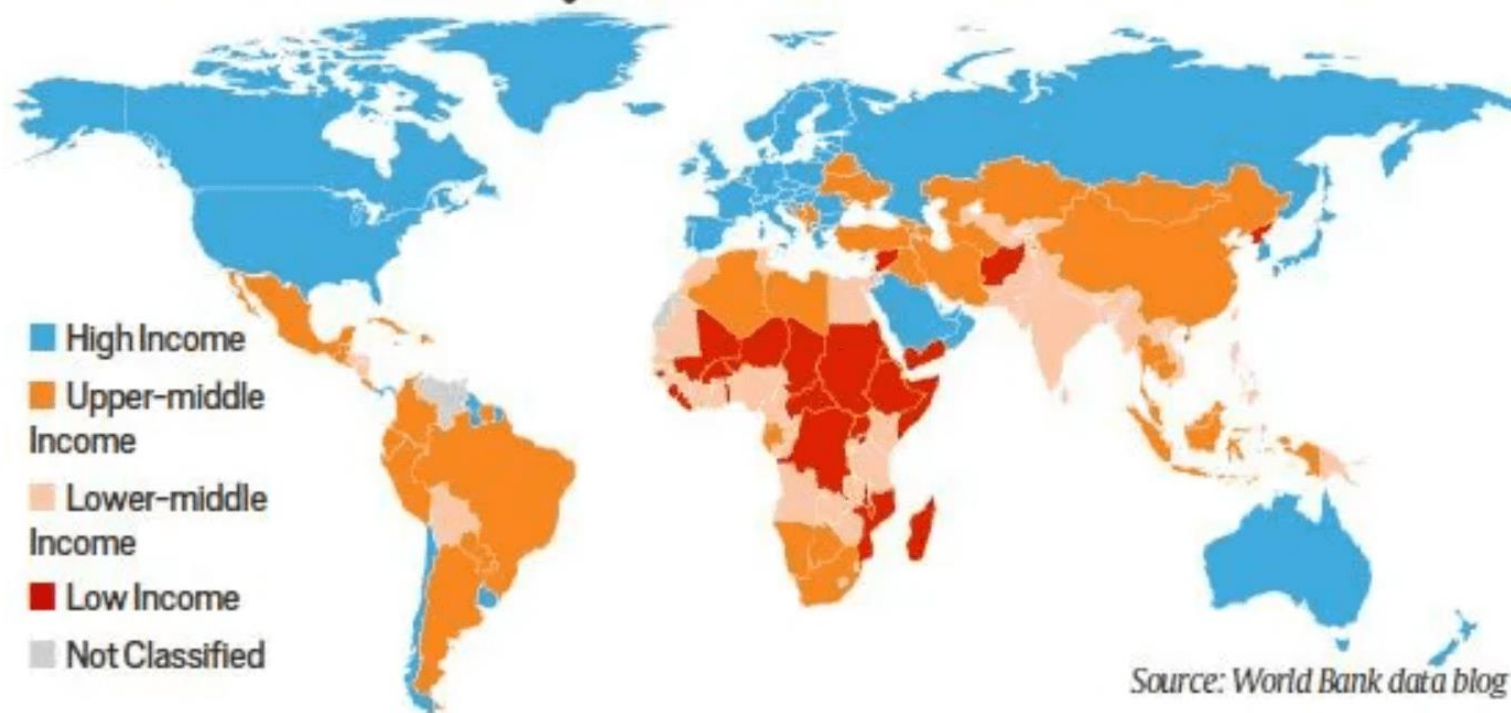
उत्पन्न हो रही है, यहां तक कि इससे प्रगति पर भी प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ रहा है।

यूएनडीपी प्रशासक अचिम स्टीनर ने कहा, 'हाल के वर्षों में संघर्ष तेज हुये हैं और कई गुना बढ़ गए हैं, हताहतों की संख्या की संख्या भी नए रिकार्ड पर पहुंच गई है, लाखों लोग विस्थापित हुए हैं, तथा जीवन और आजीविका में व्यापक व्यवधान उत्पन्न हुआ है।' उन्होंने कहा, 'हमारे

अनुसंधान के मुताबिक बहुआयामी गरीबी में रहने वाले 1.1 अरब लोगों में से लगभग आधे हिंसक संघर्ष वाले देशों में रहते हैं।'

रपट के मुताबिक 1.1 अरब गरीब लोगों में से आधे से ज्यादा (58.4 करोड़) 18 साल से कम उम्र के बच्चे हैं। वैश्विक स्तर पर, 27.9 फीसद बच्चे गरीबी में रहते हैं, जबकि वयस्कों में यह फीसद 13.5 है। रपट के मुताबिक घोर गरीबी में जीवन यापन करने वाले 1.1 अरब लोगों में से 82.8 करोड़ के पास पर्याप्त स्वच्छता, 88.6 करोड़ के पास आवास और 99.8 करोड़ के पास खाना पकाने के लिए स्वच्छ ईंधन का अभाव है और इनमें से आधे से अधिक यानी 63.7 करोड़ अपने घर में कुपोषित व्यक्ति के साथ रहते हैं। दक्षिण एशिया में 27.2 करोड़ गरीब ऐसे घरों में रहते हैं, जहां कम से कम एक व्यक्ति कुपोषित है, तथा उप-सहारा अफ्रीका में यह संख्या 25.6 करोड़ है।

Countries by income levels, 2024-25



SITUATION IN 1987...

- 100% of South Asian countries were classified as low-income
- No country in Middle East and North Africa was low-income
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, 9% of countries were high-income
- In Europe and Central Asia, 71% of countries were high-income

...AND IN 2023

- Only 13% of South Asian countries are low-income
- 10% of Middle East and North Africa are now low-income
- In Latin America and Caribbean, 44% of countries are now high-income
- In Europe and Central Asia, share of high-income countries is now 69%

COUNTRY GNI PER CAPITA*



Middle Income Trap:

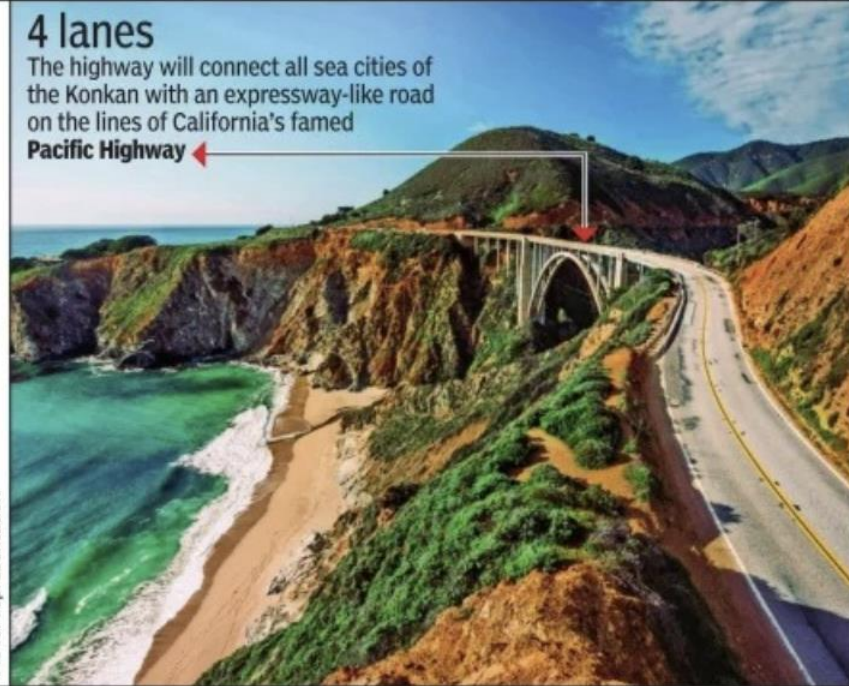
- The term **middle-income trap (MIT)** usually refers to countries that have experienced rapid growth and thus quickly reached middle-income status, but then failed to overcome that income range to further catch up to the developed countries.
- **The Economic Survey 2018** makes a theoretical examination of India facing a **Late Convergence Stall** and the risk of falling into the **Middle-Income Trap**.
- India has entered the middle-income position in 2008 and the per capita income is increasing slowly. The per capita income of the country as per the World Bank's 2016 estimate is **\$ 1670**.

CALIFORNIA COOL: KONKAN MARINE EXPRESSWAY TO BE COUNTRY'S FIRST SUCH GREENFIELD ROUTE



After decades of delays, the ambitious ₹26,000-crore Marine Superhighway, planned parallel to the existing Goa highway, is finally moving from the drawing board to the execution stage, with chief minister Eknath Shinde recently performing the project's groundbreaking ceremony. The nearly 500km route will not only provide a scenic environment along the coast and the Sahyadri terrains, but also go a long way to decongest the Mumbai-Goa highway, offering quicker access to towns and tourist attractions along the coastline. **Chittaranjan Tembhekar reports**

Pic for representation



4 lanes

The highway will connect all sea cities of the Konkan with an expressway-like road on the lines of California's famed Pacific Highway

7 BRIDGES OVER CREEKS & RIVERS

27km

Cumulative length of all seven bridges

2 Over Kundlika Creek in Revdanda-Salav
3.8km

Type: Cable stay

1 Over Dharamtar Creek in Karja

10.2km

Type: Steel bridge

3 Over Agardanda Creek in Dighi Agardanda

4.3km

Type: Cable stay

4 Over Bankot Creek in Bagmandla Veshwi

1.7km

Type: Cable stay



5 Over Kelshi Bay in Kelshi

670 mtrs

Type: Box girder



6 Over Jaigad Creek

4.4km

Type: Cable stay

7 At Kunkeshwar



1.6km



Type: Cable stay

“ In several areas, the project will involve expanding the existing two-lane road that runs parallel to the coast. As a result, some residential properties and forest areas will need to be acquired — **An MSRDC official**

“Samarth” (Scheme for
Capacity Building in
Textiles Sector)




- 
- The Union government extended the Samarth Scheme for **two years** (FY 2024-25 and 2025-26) with a budget of **Rs. 495 Crore** to train 3 lakh persons in textile-related skills.
 - **Samarth Scheme**
 - Samarth is a demand-driven and placement-oriented umbrella **skilling program** of the **Ministry of Textiles**.
- 

- 
- **Scheme aims to** encourage and support the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors, covering the entire value chain of textiles, excluding Spinning and Weaving.
 - The scheme also **provides upskilling/reskilling programs** to improve the productivity of existing workers in Apparel & Garmenting segments.
 - **Achievement:** Under the Scheme, **3.27 lakh** (in which **88.3%** is women) candidates have trained, of which **2.6 lakh (79.5%)** have been employed.
- 

- **Textile Industry of India**
 - **Share in Domestic Trade:** The domestic apparel & textile industry in India contributes approx. **2.3 % to the country's GDP, 13%** to industrial production and **12%** to exports.
 - **Share in Global Trade:** India has a **4%** share of the global trade in textiles and apparel.
 - **Export:** In FY22, India was the third largest textile exporter globally, enjoying a **5.4%** share.



- 
- **Production of Raw Material:** India is one of the largest producers of cotton and jute in the world. India is also the 2nd largest producer of silk in the world and 95% of the world's hand-woven fabric comes from India.
 - **Employment Generation:** The industry is the 2nd largest employer in the country providing direct employment to 45 million people and 100 million people in the allied sector.

- **Regions:** Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Gujarat are the top textile and clothing manufacturing states in India.


Other initiatives in the textile sector

– **PM-MITRA:** To boost employment generation through setting up of 7 **PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks** in Greenfield /Brownfield sites with world class infrastructure.



Mera Hou Chongba




- 
- The Mera Hou Chongba Festival 2024 was celebrated in Imphal.
 - **Mera Hou Chongba**
 - It is the only festival where both hill and valley indigenous communities are observed together in the state.

It is an age- old festival that marks the oneness of the growth of nationalism in the state.

- It has been celebrated in Manipur since the time of Nongda Lairen Pakhangba, the God King of Manipur, in the first century AD.

It is aimed at strengthening the bond between indigenous communities in the hills and the valley of Manipur.

- It is recognized as a General Holiday in Manipur.

A collection of colorful geometric shapes including a blue circle, a green triangle, a yellow vertical bar, an orange semi-circle, a blue circle, a green square, a large orange circle, and several yellow curved lines.

India extends its first-
ever Rupee
denominated Line of
Credit under IDEAS


- India has extended a Line of Credit of ₹487.60 crores to Mauritius for a water pipeline replacement project,
- **About**
- It is the first ₹-denominated credit under the **Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS)**.

- It aims to replace approximately 100 km of obsolete water pipeline in Mauritius and will be financed by the State Bank of India on concessional terms.
- This initiative reflects India's commitment to socio-economic development in Global South countries, aligning with the needs of its partner nations.



- **Do you know ?**

- The Government of India provides development assistance through **concessional Lines of Credit (LOCs)** under the **Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS)** via the Exim Bank of India.

- 
- 1. Over 300 LOCs worth \$32 billion have been extended to 68 countries, funding around 600 projects in various sectors, including railways, roads, agriculture, and healthcare.
 - 2. Under the “**Neighbourhood First**” policy, significant LOCs have been allocated to neighboring countries: \$7.862 billion to Bangladesh, \$1.65 billion to Nepal, over \$2 billion to Sri Lanka, \$745 million to Myanmar, and \$1.43 billion to the Maldives.

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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 and a cluster of small, glowing red dots of varying sizes.

Thank you
guys.
