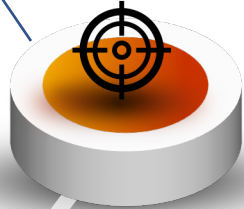


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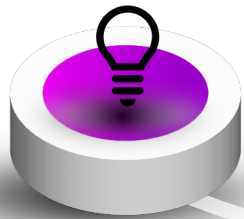
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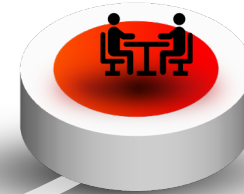
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HIT WITH TOURISTS
More tulip gardens come up in J&K

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NEW INDUSTRY
The growing trend of staking money online
'Games of skill' churn out tales of fame and ruin

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 9

CONDITION STABLE
Vocalist Bombay Jayashri undergoes surgery in U.K.

STATES » PAGE 6

Rahul disqualified as MP; Cong. calls it 'black day' for democracy

I am fighting for the voice of India. I am ready to pay any price, says Rahul; Congress accuses ruling party of trying to silence him and other Opposition leaders and announces nationwide agitation; BJP says the decision is legal

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

A day after the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court in Surat convicted former Congress president Rahul Gandhi in a criminal defamation case over his Modi surname remark, the Lok Sabha Secretariat on Friday issued a notification to disqualify Mr. Gandhi as the Lok Sabha member from Wayanad.

Calling it a "black day" for Indian democracy, the Congress accused the ruling party of "strangling" democracy by trying to silence the voices of the Gandhi and other Opposition leaders. It would fight the battle legally as well as politically, the party said and announced a nationwide agitation against the disqualification.



New setback: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi leaving the Parliament building on Friday after his disqualification. AP

AAP, Trinamool, BRS, SP come to Rahul's support

NEW DELHI Parties that have consistently questioned the Congress's position as the principal Opposition party — the Aam Aadmi Party, Trinamool Congress, Bharat Rashtra Samithi and the Samajwadi Party — came out in support of Rahul Gandhi. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal said BJP was scared of Mr. Gandhi. » PAGE 11

He thinks law of the land does not apply to him: BJP

NEW DELHI The BJP called Rahul Gandhi a "habitual offender" who believed that the law of the land did not apply to him. Noting that Mr. Gandhi is on bail in seven cases, the party asked him to reflect on why he hasn't been getting good legal advice from his own party, "despite it being full of good lawyers". » PAGE 11

Mr. Gandhi, who had come to the Lok Sabha in the morning and attended a meeting of Congress MPs before the notification was issued, later tweeted, "I am fighting for the voice of India. I am ready to pay any price."

Stating that the Wayanad MP's disqualification from Lok Sabha was the natural outcome of the court order and emphasising that the law was equal for everyone, the BJP was quick to claim that Mr. Gandhi's 2019 comment about the Modi surname was an insult to Other

Backward Classes (OBC). At an election rally ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha poll, Mr. Gandhi had said, "I have a question. Why do all of them — all of these thieves — have Modi Modi Modi in their names? Nirav Modi, Lalit Modi, Narendra Modi. And if we search a bit more, many more Modis will come out."

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IN BRIEF

Govt. to set up committee to 'improve' NPS

NEW DELHI Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday announced the constitution of a committee to propose changes to "improve" the National Pension System for government employees. » Page 10

Karnataka govt. scraps Muslim quota

BENGALURU In what could be a game changer ahead Assembly polls, the ruling BJP government has scrapped the reservation of 6% given to Muslims under Other Backward Classes category. » Page 6

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Rahul disqualified as MP; Cong. calls it 'black day' for democracy

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Backward Classes (OBC).

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Is the authority of the Speaker final in this regard?

The Supreme Court in its ruling in *Lok Prahari v Union of India* (2018) clarified that a disqualification triggered by a conviction will

be reversed if the conviction is stayed by a court. “Once the conviction has been stayed during the pendency of an appeal, the disqualification which operates as a consequence of the conviction cannot take or remain in effect,” the ruling said.

The notification by the House Secretariat regarding Rahul will cease to be in effect if and when his conviction is stayed.

Why has the Lok Sabha Secretariat issued this notification?

It is part of the procedure. In a note on October 13, 2015, the Election Commission of India had asked state chief secretaries to issue appropriate instructions to the department dealing with prosecutions to ensure that cases of conviction of sitting MPs or MLAs were brought to the notice of the Speaker or Chairman of the House, and to the Chief Electoral Officer of the state, along with the order of conviction within seven days of the order.

Section 8(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 states that “a person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years shall be disqualified from the date of such conviction and shall continue to be disqualified for a further period of six years since his release.”

Thus, the disqualification is triggered by the conviction itself, and not by the Lok Sabha notification. The notification is merely a formal notice to Rahul, who was in Lok Sabha on Friday before the House was adjourned.

In the case of a disqualified MLA, the notice is issued by the Vidhan Sabha concerned. For example, in the case of Samajwadi Party MLA Azam Khan, the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat issued the notice of disqualification in October last year.

What does Rahul lose along with his membership of Lok Sabha?

As a Lok Sabha MP, Rahul was entitled to a house in Lutyens' Delhi. Following his disqualification, he will have one month to vacate his 12 Tughlak Lane home, according to sources in the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry. Rahul had been allotted the house after being elected MP from Amethi in 2004.

The Lok Sabha Secretariat has sent a copy of the disqualification notification to the liaison officer of the Directorate of Estates for further action. The sources said since the bungalow belongs to the Lok Sabha pool of residential properties, the action for its vacation would have to be initiated by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Rahul also loses all other perks that a Member of Parliament enjoys.

When do the people of Wayanad get a representative back in Lok Sabha?

The Election Commission can announce a byelection to the seat — in Azam Khan's case, the schedule for the byelection to Khan's 37-Rampur seat (along with byelections to fill four other vacancies across the country) was announced within a few days.

However, in the more recent case of Lakshadweep MP PPP Mohammed Faisal, the EC, which had announced the bypoll on January 18 after the MP's conviction, had to withdraw the announcement on January 30 after Faisal's conviction was suspended by the Kerala High Court on January 25.

What options are available to Rahul Gandhi here onward?

His disqualification can be reversed if a higher court grants a stay on the conviction or decides the appeal in his favour. His first appeal would have to be before the Surat Sessions Court, and then before the Gujarat High Court.

If he does not get relief from the courts, he will be disqualified from contesting elections for eight years — two years of his sentence, plus six years under the provisions of the RP Act.

His lawyer Kirit Panwala moved an application before the Surat court on Friday seeking time to file an appeal.



Bombay Jayashri

Bombay Jayashri undergoes surgery in U.K. for aneurysm

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Carnatic singer and Sangita Kalanidhi designate Bombay Jayashri reportedly suffered an aneurysm while on tour in the United Kingdom and has been rushed to a hospital.

Aneurysm is swelling in the arterial wall or cardiac chamber, or the wall of the blood vessel becoming weak.

In a statement, Ms. Jayashri's family said she had a health setback where she is currently touring for her concerts. She underwent a surgical procedure for the aneurysm.

The family, through a post in Ms. Jayashri's social media account, added: "She received timely medical intervention thanks to the capable staff at the NHS and her accompanying assistants. She is currently stable and recovering well".

The announcement from Music Academy about her being the Sangita Kalanidhi designate was made only on Sunday last.

Karnataka scraps 4% Muslim quota prior to Assembly poll

Reservation meant for minority community distributed equally between Lingayats, Vokkaligas, economically-backward Muslims will have to compete in 10% EWS pool, announces Bommai

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In what could be a game changer ahead of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly elections scheduled in April-May this year, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has scrapped the reservation of 4% given to Muslims in Karnataka under 2B of Other Backward Classes (OBC) category and distributed it to two dominant communities — Vokkaliga-Lingayat and Vokkaliga-Lingayat-Muslim — at 2% each in jobs and admissions in educational institutions.



Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru

With the State Cabinet decision, the quota under categories of 2C and 2D among the backward classes for Vokkaliga and Vokkaliga-Muslim has increased from 4% to 6% and from 2% to 7%, respectively.

HC quashes Kerala Governor's order withdrawing KU senate nominations

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Friday quashed the orders of Governor Arif Mohammed Khan issued in his capacity as Chairman of the University of Kerala and withdrew the nominations of 15 members from the Senate of the university and also constituting a search-cum-selection committee for selecting a new Vice-Chancellor for the university. Justice Sath-

ish Ninan passed the verdict while allowing a plea filed by K.S. Chandrasekhar, Professor and Head, of the Institute of Management in Kerala, and others, challenging the orders. The court observed that the order of withdrawal of the nominated members was not based on any illegal action. It was evident that the order was not based on reason, but was founded on prejudice. It was an unreasonable act, without regard to the facts

and circumstances. It appears that the Chancellor has acted under a misconception regarding the role of the Chancellor, he was well within his power to withdraw the nominations. The court observed that a nominee under Section 17 of the Kerala University Act is not a mere mouth-piece or an agent.

The court also pointed out that the constitution of the search-cum-selection committee was in accordance with law.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who approved the creation of new categories of 2C and 2D for Vokkaligas and Vokkaliga-Muslims, respectively, based on the interim report submitted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.

With Friday's decision, the OBC reservation has been kept at 32%, SC 17% and ST 7%, totalling 56%. Besides this, there is an EWS quota of 10%. Those not covered under the SC/ST and OBC reservation are eligible for quota under the 10% EWS quota, as per the economic criteria, Mr. Bommai said.

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A.P. passes resolution to provide SC status for Dalit Christians

The Hindu Bureau
HYDRABAD

In a unanimous resolution passed on Friday, the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly supported the inclusion of Dalit Christians in the Scheduled Castes (SC) list, saying that the State government was of the opinion that their socio-economic status was at par with that of Dalits who practice Hinduism.

Passing the resolution, the Legislature resolved to request the Union government to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, accordingly and include Dalits who have converted to Christianity in the SC list.

The A.P. government said that it had received several representations requesting that Dalit Christians continue to face social, economic and political discrimination.

The Union government, after having considered the inclusion in two affidavits before the top court, has nominated a three-member committee of inquiry to look into the demands of inclusion, giving it a two-week deadline to submit its recommendation.

The Backward Dalit Muslim bodies have not expressed confidence in the commission and said that it had been formed with the "ulterior motive" of securing an opinion in line with that of the Centre's.

Odisha for tweak in OBC law to include castes in State list

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Navten Patnaik government has introduced the Odisha State Commission For Backward Classes (Amendment) Bill, 2023, to include 22 castes in the State's list of Other Backward Classes.

The State government has proposed amendment to Section 9 of the Act by inserting, "notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (i), the State government, may, by notification, include such Backward Classes in the list, if the said Backward Classes have been specified in the Central list in relation to Odisha". The amendment would enable the State government to include certain castes in the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) list by a notification.

There are 22 castes and communities along with their synonyms, which have already been included in the list of OBCs for Odisha through various notifications of the Centre from time to time, but the same castes and communities have not yet been included in the SEBC list of the State.

The Bill also stated that it had been formed with the "ulterior motive" of securing an opinion in line with that of the Centre's.



Navten Patnaik

posed to make necessary amendment to the Odisha State Commission of Backward Classes Act, 1993, so that under special circumstances, the State government through notification can include any class of citizens as Backward Class in the State list, if the said class has already been notified by the Government of India as OBC for the State of Odisha.

Recently, the Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes, after examining the requests for inclusion of certain castes and communities, had recommended the State government for inclusion of 22 castes.

As the politics centered around OBCs has gained momentum in the recent past, both the BJP and the BIP have been aggressive in cornering the votes of the community. The Navten Patnaik government is now preparing to conduct caste census in order to justify future targeted welfare schemes for the caste. The Odisha unit of BJP on Thursday reappointed Manoj Kumar Sarma as chief of the party unit.

J&K tightens social media rules for govt. employees

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

A J&K government employee could lose a month's salary, be demoted or even terminated from service if found criticising the government's policies on social media platforms.

Guidelines notified elaborate guidelines in this regard incorporated in the Jammu and Kashmir Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971, were notified by the Lieutenant Governor's Office administration on Friday.

The administration has terminated the services of hundreds of locals in J&K since 2020 on grounds such as having links with militants, being related to

Penalties range from month's salary cut to even dismissal

separatist leaders, not furnishing accurate details at the time of applying for jobs and not following selection processes.

The fresh provisions under the rule that no government employee shall, by any statement, writing or otherwise, discuss or criticise in any meeting or any association or body any policy pursued or action taken by the government, nor shall the employee in any manner participate in any such discussion or criticism.

Employees are barred from public utterances that could embarrass the Jam-

mu and Kashmir government, Government of India or any State government.

Commissioner's notice setting the context, Sanjay Verma, Commissioner and Secretary to the Territory government, in a memo said that "no government employee shall post, tweet or share content that is political or anti-national and communal in nature or subscribe to pages, communities or Twitter handles and blogs of such nature".

The Lieutenant Governor's administration directed all officials "to immediately proceed against the employees working in their departments or offices who are found to have violated the guidelines".

Amit Shah meets Vedyurappa, warms up to Vijayendra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of the Assembly elections in Karnataka, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday sought to send a message that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) veteran leader and strongman B.S. Yediyurappa and his son B.V. Vijayendra were not neglected by the party.

He visited their house in Bengaluru for a breakfast meeting.

There were clear signs of Mr. Shah going out of his way to make Mr. Vijayendra, who is seeking party ticket to contest the polls from Shikaripur seat, feel important. When Mr. Vedyurappa greeted him on

his arrival by presenting a bouquet, Mr. Shah insisted that it be handed over to Mr. Vijayendra. Later, he presented the bouquet to Mr. Vijayendra.

Ensuring votes Mr. Shah's visit to Mr. Vedyurappa's house gains significance in a context where anti-incumbency influence is seen as dwindling by a section of the electorate and he is feeling neglected.

Mr. Shah warming up to Mr. Vedyurappa and his sons is also seen as his cautious and strategic approach ahead of elections to ensure unity within the party and re-establish the party's hold on the dominant Lingayat community.

Medical services remain affected in Rajasthan with doctors opposing Health Bill

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Medical services in Rajasthan remained affected on Friday with the private doctors continuing their agitation against the Rajasthan Health Bill passed by the state legislature last week and the resident doctors boycotting work in government hospitals have extended the deadlock by the Bill continued even as the private hospitals have remained closed.

The Bill gives every resident of the State the right to emergency treatment care without payment of any fee or charges by any public health institu-

tion, healthcare establishment and designated hospitals and patients were being treated only for emergency care.

Major operations in the government hospitals were postponed and the patients were being treated only for emergency care.

The impact was visible in the health facilities such as Sawai Man Singh Hospital in Jaipur — the biggest government hospital in the State — where only senior doctors were attending to the patients.

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After Varanasi government to organise Tamil Sangamans in Saurashtra and Uttarakhand

Ushita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Overwhelmed by the 'success' of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam, the Union government is set to hold the Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamam in Gujarat from April 17 to 26. The third will be the Kedarnath-Tamil Sangamam, which will celebrate the civilisational links between people from the two nations, the north and the south of the country and the sacred shrines of Uttarakhand in the north.

Confirming this, Bharatiya Janata Party's national general secretary B.L. Santhosh said that the event was an idea that was under way and work was under way to conceptualise the links



A group of pilgrims, part of Kashi-Tamil Sangamam, at Hanuman Temple in Varanasi

between the two places.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, during the BJP national executive meeting in Delhi in mid-January, stressed that the event was an idea that was under way and work was under way to conceptualise the links

attempt where States shared their culture, civilisation and heritage with each other, and the country united in soft power. Such events were important for the expansion of BJP's cultural nationalism to the Dravidian political arena.

Commenting on why Kedarnath should be the next venue, sources from the BJP said that the pilgrimage was one of the country's most visited sites. He has been there six times since 2017, the year the BJP came to power in Uttarakhand.

Kedarnath, one of the four sacred shrines of Shiva among the Char Dham

(four shrines), situated on the banks of Mandakini, 3,583 metres above sea level, is the eleventh out of 12 Hindu shrines dedicated to Shiva of the Char Dham complex, comprising Badrinath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri temples.

'Ardent worshippers' Brihesh Sati, a temple priest from Uttarakhand, who has also authored several books on the Char Dham, said that the most visited sites were worshippers, and every year, millions of pilgrims from T.N. and other southern States, including Karnataka, visit Kedarnath during the yatra.

Amit Bholari
PATNA

A day after he was named the BJP's Bihar unit chief, Samrat Choudhary said the party will win all 40 seats in the Bihar assembly and form the next government in the State in 2025.

Free from a meeting with party national president J.P. Nadra in New Delhi on Friday, Mr. Choudhary said his priority would be to install a BJP government in the State by gaining a majority in the Bihar Legislative Assembly.

Dismissing the Mahagathbandhan as a political alliance as a fading force, he said Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has lost his relevance and should retire from politics. "Nitish Ku-



BJP will win all 40 LS seats in Bihar, Samrat Choudhary

barely eight years after he joined it. He previously had ties with both the BJP and Mr. Kumar's Janata Dal (United).

While many in the party were eyeing the post, Mr. Choudhary called his appointment a result of his hard work and dedication.

Mr. Choudhary's induction as the new State head is seen as a move to consolidate the Kusbawha (a non-Yadav OBC group) vote bank, which has traditionally allied with Mr. Kumar's JD(U).

The latest development also raises a question mark on the importance for the BJP of Upendra Kusbawha, who recently ousted his Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) ally during the JD(U).

Karnataka scraps 4% Muslim quota prior to Assembly poll

Reservation meant for minority community distributed equally between Lingayats, Vokkaligas; economically-backward Muslims will have to compete in 10% EWS pool, announces Bommai

The Hindu Bureau

BENGALURU

In what could be a game changer ahead of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly elections scheduled in April-May this year, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has scrapped the reservation of 4% given to Muslims in Karnataka under 2B of Other Backward Classes (OBC) category and distributed it to two dominant communities – Veerashaiva-Lingayats and Vokkaligas – at 2% each in jobs and admissions in educational institutions.



Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru.

With the State Cabinet decision, the quota under the newly-created categories of 2C and 2D among the backward classes for Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats has increased from 4% to 6% and from 5% to 7%, respectively.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who presided over the Cabinet meeting on Friday, said that Muslims who are economically backward will now have to compete in the 10% pool created under the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) quota.

Legacy of Deve Gowda

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda during his tenure as Chief Minister of Karnataka, in 1995, provided 4% reservation for Muslims under the category 2B in OBC quota, which now stands scrapped.

The Cabinet meeting held during the winter ses-

sion in Belagavi in December 2022, had approved the creation of new categories of 2C and 2D for Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva-Lingayats, respectively, based on the interim report submitted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes.

With Friday's decision, the OBC reservation has been kept at 32%, SC 17% and ST 7%, totalling 56%. Besides this, there is an EWS quota of 10%. Those not covered under the SC/ST and OBC reservation are eligible for quota under the 10% EWS quota, as per the economic criteria, Mr. Bommai said.

Indra Sawhney & Others v. Union of India (also known as the Mandal verdict) was an Indian landmark [public interest litigation](#) case.



The constitution recognized social and educational backwardness, but not economic backwardness.



The court upheld separate reservation for OBC in central government jobs, but excluded these to the "[creamy layer](#)" (the forward section of a backward class, above a certain income).



At no point should the reservation exceed 50%

इंद्र साहनी और अन्य बनाम भारत संघ (जिसे मंडल के फैसले के रूप में भी जाना जाता है) एक भारतीय ऐतिहासिक जनहित याचिका मामला था।

संविधान ने सामाजिक और शैक्षिक पिछड़ेपन को मान्यता दी, लेकिन आर्थिक पिछड़ेपन को नहीं।

अदालत ने केंद्र सरकार की नौकरियों में ओबीसी के लिए अलग आरक्षण को बरकरार रखा, लेकिन इन्हें "क्रीमी लेयर" (पिछड़े वर्ग का अगड़ा वर्ग, एक निश्चित आय से ऊपर) से बाहर कर दिया।

आरक्षण किसी भी समय 50% से अधिक नहीं होना चाहिए

The genesis of the debate was in 1980, when the Second Backward Classes Committee, headed by BP Mandal, submitted its report.

The report recommended 27 percent reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and 22.5 percent for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

बहस की शुरुआत 1980 में हुई, जब बीपी मंडल की अध्यक्षता वाली दूसरी पिछड़ा वर्ग समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट सौंपी।

रिपोर्ट में अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग (ओबीसी) के लिए 27 प्रतिशत आरक्षण और अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति के लिए 22.5 प्रतिशत आरक्षण की सिफारिश की गई है।

- Indra Sawhney, the petitioner in this case, made three principal arguments against the Order:
- The extension of reservation violated the Constitutional guarantee of equality of opportunity.
- Caste was not a reliable indicator of backwardness.
- The efficiency of public institutions was at risk.

- इस मामले में याचिकाकर्ता इंद्रा साहनी ने आदेश के खिलाफ तीन प्रमुख तर्क दिए:
- आरक्षण के विस्तार ने अवसर की समानता की संवैधानिक गारंटी का उल्लंघन किया।
- जाति पिछड़ेपन का विश्वसनीय संकेतक नहीं थी।
- सार्वजनिक संस्थानों की दक्षता जोखिम में थी।

IN BRIEF



₹10 cr. penalty on Kerala for failure to protect Ramsar sites

The Principal Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi has slapped a penalty of ₹10 crore on the Kerala government for its failure to check the indiscriminate pollution of the Vembanad and Ashramam lakes, listed as Ramsar sites. The Bench, led by chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel, said in its order dated March 22 that the penalty imposed on the basis of the 'polluter pays principle' had to be deposited in a ring-fenced account to be operated under the authority of the Chief Secretary. The deposit had to be made within a month, it said while disposing of a petition.

AFSPA removed from 3 police station limits in Nagaland

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has further removed the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) from the jurisdiction of three police stations in Wokha and Zunheboto districts of Nagaland, while one more police station in Awanahat Tradedis has been declared as a "disturbed area" under the Act, according to a notification. The AFSPA has been extended in eight districts and 21 police stations in five other districts of Nagaland for another six months, down from nine districts earlier. The eight districts where the AFSPA has been extended are Dimapur, Naland, Chumoukedima, Morit, Kiphire, Nokhla, Phek and Peren in Nagaland.

Prisoners on parole during pandemic must surrender: SC

The Supreme Court on Friday gave nearly 4,000 undertrial prisoners and convicts, who were given emergency parole and interim bail to make more room within Delhi prisons during peak pandemic period, to surrender within the next 15 days. A Bench led by Justice M.R. Shah said it was open for undertrial prisoners to then apply for bail before the competent courts. Similarly, convicts who have surrendered within 15 days could apply for suspension of sentence before the courts in which their appeals are pending. The judgment said that out of 751 convicts who were released on emergency parole, 71 had surrendered voluntarily.

SC relief to members of Christian community in U.P.

The Supreme Court on Friday protected members of the Christian community from coercive action by the Uttar Pradesh Police on the basis of an FIR registered under the anti-religious conversion law. A Bench led by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud issued notice to Uttar Pradesh after senior advocate Duddiyant Dave, appearing for the petitioners, said the FIR was a "cock-and-bull story" of "mass conversion". He said the police action amounted to the "abuse of the process of law". He said the police have filed multiple FIRs against the same persons in the same incident, violating their fundamental right under Article 20(2) of the Constitution.

Membership of banned outfit is crime under UAPA, says SC

The top court has set aside its own judgments that had concluded that mere membership — unlike active membership — of an unlawful group did not make a person criminal or a terrorist

Krishnadas Rajasekhar
NEW DELHI

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court on Friday clarified that a person who "is or continues to be" even a "mere member" of a banned organisation is liable to be found criminal under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for acting against the sovereignty and integrity of India.



Those who have left a banned organisation could not be held liable under UAPA, the SC said.

With this judgment, the Supreme Court has set aside a series of its own judgments which had concluded that "mere membership" — unlike "active membership" — of an unlawful association or organisation did not make a person criminal or a terrorist. The judgment, on Friday, was based on an appeal filed by a person criminal or a terrorist. The judgment, on Friday, was based on an appeal filed by a person criminal or a terrorist.

The Bench led by Justice M.R. Shah, who wrote the judgment, was headed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre. In the court room for the "historical" verdict.

"Immensely grateful to Your Lordships for this really historical judgment to protect the sovereignty of our country," Mr. Mehta said immediately after the pronouncement of the judgment.

Justice Shah reasoned that an organisation is declared unlawful and banned only after the Centre is "satisfied that it is indulging in unlawful activities against the sovereignty and integrity of India".

The declaration of an organisation or association as punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, and shall also be liable to fine". The court clarified that

such a person cannot later claim that the law has a chilling effect on his fundamental right of association by imposing criminal liability on him, Justice Shah explained.

The three-judge Bench said the earlier judgments in the cases of Arup Bhuyan, Sri Indra Das and Ranef, which had "read down" Section 10A(b) to exclude mere membership of an organisation from criminal liability, followed the American law blindly.

Buoyed by the success of tulip garden in Srinagar, J&K gets more zones that are set to bloom

Essezzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

First popularised by Amitabh Bachchan-starrer Bollywood movie *Salaam* in 2001, the short-lived tulip garden is being multiplied on larger scale in other districts of the Union Territory (U.T.), in the wake of the success of Srinagar tulip garden that draws tourists and locals in every spring season.



Blossom time: Hundreds of tourists visit the Srinagar garden to witness 15 lakh multicolour tulips. NISAR AHMAD

garden as "Srinagar's kid tulip cousin". "Now expanded to 40 kanals, it will spread its colourful fragrance in the last week of March," Mr. Zia said in a tweet. In Udhampur district, locals are queuing up to witness the spectacle of tulips blooming, planted in hundreds of rows.

The Floriculture Department has planned 12,000 bulbs of five different varieties at the Highland Park, Kaid, Udhampur. The garden is also under an expansion plan in the future.

Buoyed by growing footfall of tourists at the Srinagar tulip garden that is spread over 30 hectares, tulip flowers, one of the first few flowers to bloom after a protracted winters in Kashmir, are becoming signatory flowers to the Valley. However, even though the blooming remains only three to five weeks, hundreds of tourists visit the Srinagar garden to witness long rows of over 15 lakh multicolour tulips of around 70 varieties.

GISAID temporarily lifts ban on authors of Zenodo report

R. Prasad
CHENNAI

On March 21, a day after GISAID (an open-access influenza genome database launched in 2008) suspended access to all authors of a report posted on Zenodo, the database has reversed its stand and lifted the temporary access restrictions to all the authors.

In an email to *The Hindu*, a spokesperson of GISAID Media said it decided to temporarily lift access restriction after the authors reached out to GISAID and "acknowledged receipt of GISAID's earlier communications" and expressed their "agerness to resolve the matter expeditiously".

At the time, a spokesperson, GISAID reversed its stand and lifted the temporary access restrictions as a "show of goodwill" and did so after it received a reply from the authors soon after the GISAID re-

ICMR releases ethical guidelines for AI usage in healthcare

Rishu Shajan Perampadan
NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has released the country's first 'Ethical Guidelines for Application of Artificial Intelligence in Biomedical Research and Healthcare', aimed at creating "an ethics framework which can assist in the development, deployment, and adoption of AI-based solutions" in the fields specified.

Through this, they hope to make "Assisted patients available for the benefit of largest section of common people with safety and highest precision possible," while also addressing emerging ethical challenges when it comes to Artificial Intelligence to exclude mere membership of an organisation from criminal liability, followed the American law blindly.

The document, prepared by the Department of Health Research and Artificial Intelligence Cell, Delhi, will be updated as and when the need arises, said a senior Health Ministry official. Development through extensive discussions with

NIA files chargesheet against Goldy Brar, Bishnoi

Rishu Shajan Perampadan
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Friday filed a chargesheet against gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar, along with 12 others having links with the proscribed Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and other pro-Khalistan terrorist outfits.

"Bishnoi, in custody since 2015, has been operating his terror-crime syndicate from jails in different States, in coordination with Canada-based Brar, who is accused in the killing of Pradeep Kumar, a Dera Sacha Sauda follower, in Faridkot last November," said an agency official.

According to the NIA, Bishnoi's "terror-crime-cells" researchers are responsible for arranging people to execute the Rocket-Propelled Grenade (RPG) attack on the Punjab State Intelligence headquarters (Mohali) in May 2022.

THE CROSSWORD 13822

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. The grid is a 15x15 square with black squares indicating non-letter positions. Clues are provided for both across and down directions.

- 14 Shoulder a criminal finally enters court (6)
- 15 Old boy starting to turn impetive and impose in an unweathome way (7)
- 16 Fantastic bistro alongside lake in English city (7)
- 17 Owing money, one criminal returns to smuggle heroin at Cambodia (2,4)
- 18 Night after sacrificing rook, captures queen resulting in mate (5)
- 19 Composed a nice tune, say (9)
- 20 I hear vicar went berserk, scoring ecstasy in noisy mock serenade (9)
- 21 Yellowish-green colour, a little garish for large pointed arch (1)
- 22 Sleight, result endlessly to crush English's opener (6)
- 23 Revolted by meek girl at reggae music (5)
- Down
- 1 Fine footpath having good raised edge (6)
- 2 Briefly return to pick up racy loose blouse (9)
- 3 It's impossible to know with certainty as raconteur is absent? (6,7)
- 4 Leave ropes inside coat (7)
- 5 Acting with haste, hit and bolt as fast as possible (7,3)
- 6 Airship starting malfunction in unforeseen irregularity (5)
- 7 Sharpen tip of dagger to pierce tire for saggy secretion (6)
- 8 A chest ensnaring American girl on island (6)
- 9 Applying poisons, treat acne that's persistent (5)
- 10 Releases repressed emotions in steady cadences (8)
- 11 Lodge has small revolving room (5)
- 12 One marries at store tillis follow - pointless (7)
- 13 Wannabes caudally to hide (9)
- 14 University teacher's rule (5)

Sudoku puzzle grid with some numbers filled in. The grid is a 9x9 square. Below the grid is a difficulty rating of 5 stars and a link to solutions for previous puzzles.

FAITH The mission of Sri Krishna

Janis out of deep devotion always think of God and Godly deeds. Their mind will refuse to be away even for a short while. But the demon Kamsa was ever in the thought of Lord Krishna, not out of devotion but out of sheer fear. Kamsa was afraid to be seated on his throne fearing whether Krishna would be hiding in it. He refused to take his food served by his two wives out of the consternation whether Krishna would be in their form. He stopped his security guards fearing whether Krishna would be in the guise of them.

All his daily activities were tainted with the trepidation of Krishna and Kamsa was robbed of his mental peace. The devil Kamsa who had unleashed terror and created fear in the minds of celestials was terribly upset and afraid of hearing the very name Krishna out of diffidence.

He had sent Poothana, the demones, and asuras like Kesi, Trinavarta, Arishtasura and Vrishabhasura to kill Krishna but they had not returned. So he changed his game plan to send a noble and pious personality and Akura was selected to bring Krishna.

The people of Gokulam felt like a blind getting back the vision and again losing the same. They thought at least Lord Rama was in exile only for fourteen years and returned back.

"The Gopikas felt that Sri Sita was in the turmoil of separation from Rama only for ten months. They felt loathed whether Krishna would return back.

But Lord Krishna was all set to depart to Mathura on his mission of destroying the evil and protecting the good people, said Sri Harji in a discourse.

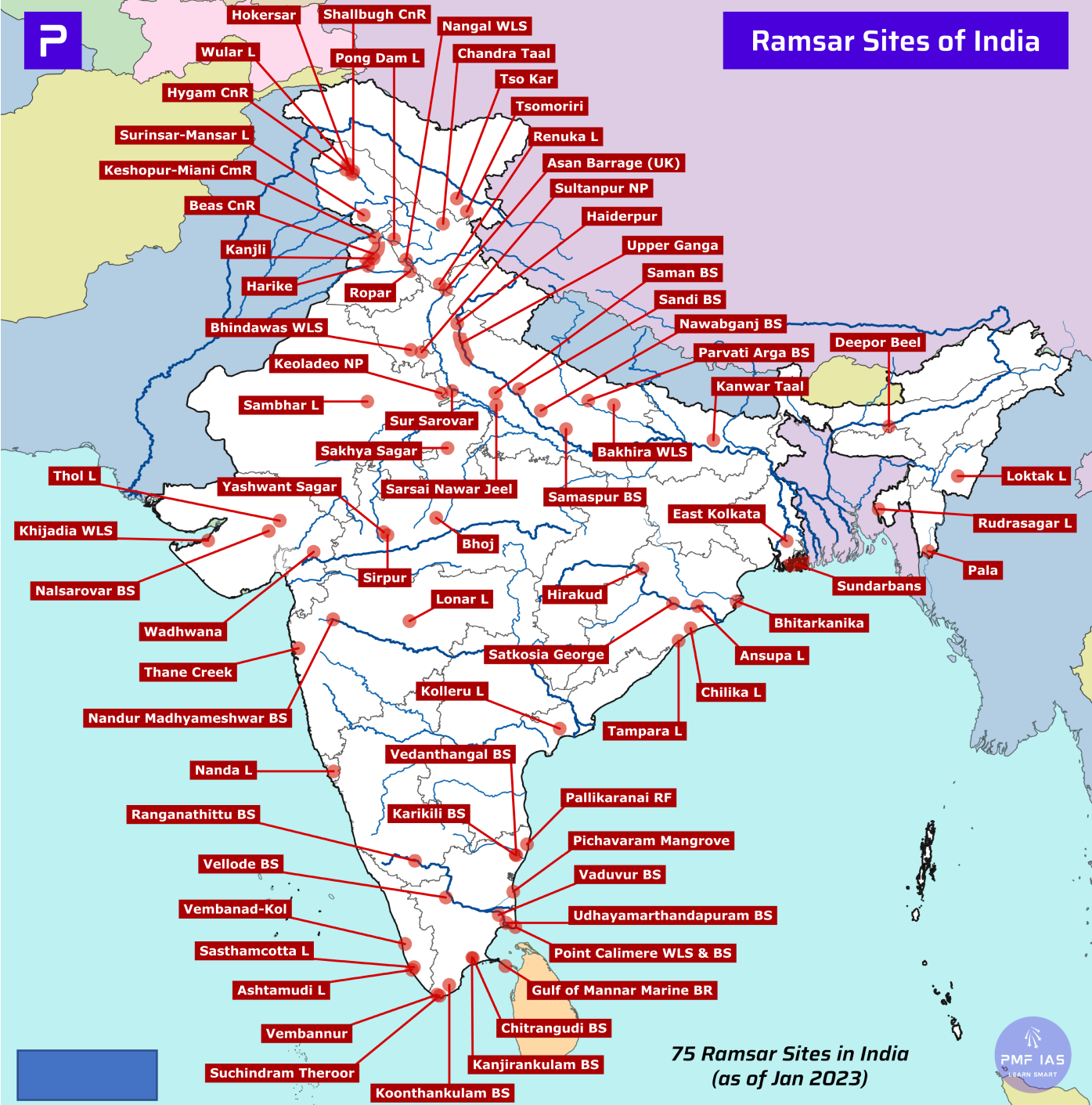


₹10 cr. penalty on Kerala for failure to protect Ramsar sites

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Ramsar Sites of India



75 Ramsar Sites in India
(as of Jan 2023)





- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an **international treaty** for “**the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands**”. It is also known as the **Convention on Wetlands**.
- It is named after the city of **Ramsar in Iran** where it was signed on 2nd of February 1971.
- The **2nd of February** each year is **World Wetlands Day**.
- The number of parties to the convention (COP) is 171 (as of Jan 2023).
- At the centre of the Ramsar philosophy is the “**wise use**” of wetlands.

- वेटलैंड्स पर रामसर कन्वेंशन "वेटलैंड्स के संरक्षण और स्थायी उपयोग" के लिए एक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संधि है। इसे वेटलैंड्स पर कन्वेंशन के रूप में भी जाना जाता है।
- इसका नाम ईरान के रामसर शहर के नाम पर रखा गया है जहां 2 फरवरी 1971 को इस पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए थे।
- हर साल 2 फरवरी को विश्व आर्द्रभूमि दिवस होता है।
- कन्वेंशन (सीओपी) में पार्टियों की संख्या 171 है (जनवरी 2023 तक)।
- रामसर दर्शन के केंद्र में आर्द्रभूमि का "बुद्धिमानी से उपयोग" है।

-
- There are [over 2,400 Ramsar Sites](#) covering 2.5 million sq km on the territories of 171 Ramsar Contracting Parties across the world.
 - The world's first Site was the Cobourg Peninsula in Australia, designated in 1974.
 - The countries with the most Ramsar Sites are the [United Kingdom with 175](#) and Mexico with 142.
 - [Bolivia](#) has the largest area under Ramsar protection.
-
- दुनिया भर में 171 रामसर अनबंध पक्षों के क्षेत्रों में 2,400 से अधिक रामसर साइटें 2.5 मिलियन वर्ग किमी को कवर करती हैं।
 - दुनिया की पहली साइट ऑस्ट्रेलिया में कोबर्ग प्रायद्वीप थी, जिसे 1974 में नामित किया गया था।
 - सबसे अधिक रामसर साइटों वाले देश यूनाइटेड किंगडम में 175 और मेक्सिको में 142 हैं।
 - बोलिविया में रामसर संरक्षण के तहत सबसे बड़ा क्षेत्र है।

Largest Ramsar Sites in India

	Ramsar Site	State	Area (km ²)
1	Sundarban Wetland	West Bengal	4230
2	Vembanad-Kol Wetland	Kerala	1512.5
3	Chilika Lake	Odisha	1165
4	Satkosia Gorge	Odisha	981.97
5	Kolleru Lake	Andhra Pradesh	901

Smallest Ramsar Sites in India

1	Renuka Lake	Himachal Pradesh	0.2
2	Vembannur Wetland Complex	Tamil Nadu	0.2
3	Vedanthangal BS	Tamil Nadu	0.4
4	Nanda Lake	Goa	0.42
5	Udhayamarthandapuram BS	Tamil Nadu	0.44

Oldest Ramsar Sites in India

1	Chilka Lake – 1981
2	Keoladeo Ghana NP – 1981

OTTAWA Biden discusses trade, migration issues with Canadian PM Trudeau



U.S. President Joe Biden met on Friday with Canada PM Justin Trudeau amid reports that a deal has been struck on limiting undocumented migration across the border. As per reports, Canada will be to turn back illegal migrants at the Roxham Road crossing point on the frontier between New York and Quebec.

KIGALI 'Hotel Rwanda' hero Rusesabagina to be released from prison



After 'Hotel Rwanda' hero Paul Rusesabagina was set to be released after the government said on Friday it has commuted a 25-year jail sentence against the fiercely outspoken critic of President Paul Kagame. This comes after Mr. Kagame said Kigali was looking into resolving Rusesabagina's case.

MANILA Philippines confronts Chinese diplomats over sea disputes



Philippine diplomats confronted Chinese officials on Friday over China's aggressive behaviour in the South China Sea, but no major resolution was reached, an official said. A Philippine official involved in the talks said that diplomats outlined incidents undermining China's assertiveness in the closed-door talks.

RIVADH Saudi Arabia, Syria may restore ties as West Asia reshuffles continue



Saudi Arabia is in talks with Syria to reopen its embassy in the war-torn nation for the first time in a decade, state TV in the kingdom reported on late Thursday, the latest diplomatic reshuffling in West Asia. Saudi state TV aired a report, quoting an official, acknowledging the talks between both countries.

Macron under pressure as scores injured in protests

More than 450 people were arrested on Thursday during the most violent day of protests since the start of the year against French President's bid to raise the retirement age to 64

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron faced mounting pressure on Friday after violent demonstrations that left more than 400 security forces injured and the centre of major cities shrouded in tear gas and smoke. Over 450 people were arrested on Thursday during the most violent day of protests since the start of the year against Mr. Macron's bid to raise the retirement age to 64.



Police personnel in riot gear deployed in frontlines on Friday as protest over pensions Bill turns violent in France.

"There were a lot of demonstrations and they were turned violent, notably in Paris," Interior Minister Gerard Darmanin told the CNews channel while giving figures of the number of arrests and injured.

Over 900 fires were lit around the capital on Thursday, the said, with radical anarchist groups blamed for setting uncontrolled fires and smashing shop windows.

Protesters to extinguish it. "Why would you make a target of our communal building, of all people of Bordeaux? I can only condemn it in the strongest possible terms," the mayor of Bordeaux, Pierre Hurmic, told RTL radio. Over a million people marched nationwide on Thursday, with the protest movement reinvigorated by Mr. Macron's tactics and statements over the last week.

In Bordeaux, protesters set fire to the entrance to city hall, briefly raising fears for the whole country as it has created another huge domestic crisis for the president 10 months into his second term in office. But Mr. Darmanin, a hardliner in the government, dismissed calls from political opponents and protesters to withdraw the political reforms.

King Charles postpones trip to France amid protests

Associated Press
PARIS

Protesters angry at French President Emmanuel Macron's pension reforms continued with scattered actions on Friday, as the unrest across the country led officials to postpone a planned state visit by Britain's King Charles III. Although no major protests were planned on Friday, train traffic was slowed, rows of trucks blocked access to Marseille's commercial port and debris still littered the Paris streets.

Mr. Macron's office announced that a state visit by the British king was postponed as he had been scheduled to arrive in France on Sunday, before heading to Germany on Wednesday. The German part of the trip was still going ahead.

China says it does not ask companies for foreign data as row over TikTok grows

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

China insisted on Friday it does not ask companies to hand over data gathered overseas, as the Chinese-owned TikTok faces mounting calls for a ban in the U.S. Pressure is building on the massively popular video-sharing app owned by the Chinese firm ByteDance — to obtain new ownership or lose access to the enormous U.S. market. In a grueling five-hour hearing before U.S. lawmakers on Thursday, TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew faced relentless questioning from combative U.S. lawmakers.



Shou Zi Chew

China "has never and will not require companies or individuals to collect or provide data located in a foreign country," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said.

"The U.S. government has so far not provided any evidence that TikTok poses a threat to its national security," Mr. Mao said. Mr. Chew was forced to acknowledge that some personal data of Americans was still subject to Chinese law, but insisted that would soon be changed. The firm also acknowledged in November that some employees in China could access European user data and then admitted in December that it would ask Chinese firms to hand over data gathered overseas and claimed it "attaches great importance to protecting data privacy."

China "has never and will not require companies or individuals to collect or provide data located in a foreign country," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said.

14 dead in U.S. strikes on Syria in revenge over drone attack

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Fourteen pro-Iran fighters were killed in U.S. air strikes on Syria carried out in retaliation for a drone attack that killed an American and wounded six others, a war monitor said Friday. A U.S. contractor was killed, and another contractor and five service personnel were wounded, when a kamikaze drone "of Iranian origin" struck a maintenance facility on a base of the U.S.-led coalition near Hasakeh in Syria, the Pentagon said.

In response, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on Thursday that he had ordered "precision air strikes tonight in eastern Syria against facilities used by groups affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps". The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a U.K.-based monitor with sources on the ground, said 14 Iranian fighters were killed by strikes, including two Syrians.

Missile strikes by Russia in Ukraine kill 10 civilians, injure 20: Zelensky's office

Associated Press
KYIV

Russian long-range strikes killed at least 10 civilians and wounded 20 others in several areas of Ukraine on Friday, Ukraine's president said, as a senior Moscow official warned that the Kremlin's forces were prepared for an expected Ukrainian counteroffensive in the coming weeks.

Ukrainian authorities last year established hundreds of so-called "points of invincibility," where residents hand-painted by the war could warm up, charge their cellphones and get snacks. Local prosecutors said the Russians attacked Kostyantynivka with S-300 anti-aircraft missiles. The civilians who died were refugees, according to Donetsk Governor Pavlo Konyukh. As the mostly artillery war of the recent winter months stretched into its second spring, Russian forces also used air-

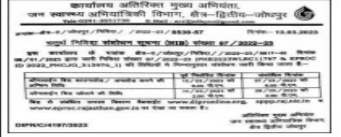
launched missiles, exploding drones and glide bombs in their attacks on several regions early on Friday. Ukrainian Air Force spokesman Yuri Ihnat said. Two civilians were killed and nine were wounded in the Sunny prospect town of Bilopillia by a nighttime rocket and artillery barrage and air strikes, the administration of the Kherson region said. In the southern Kherson region, which Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited on Thursday, Russian shelling killed one

China warns U.S. Navy over warship's action

Associated Press
BANGKOK

China threatened "serious consequences" on Friday after the U.S. Navy sailed a

destroyer around Parcel Islands in the South China Sea for the second day, in a move Beijing claimed was a violation of its sovereignty and security.



Tested underwater drone able to trigger a radioactive tsunami, says North Korea

Agence France-Presse
SEOUL

North Korea claimed on Friday it had tested an underwater nuclear attack drone able to unleash a "radioactive tsunami," as it blamed recent U.S.-South Korea exercises for a deteriorating regional security situation. Pyongyang carried out military drills of its own in response this week, the Korean Central News Agency said, including test-firing a new nuclear-capable underwater drone.



The photo shows underwater blast after nuclear attack in North Korea. AP

"The mission is to 'stealthily infiltrate into operational waters and make a super-scale radioactive tsunami... to destroy naval strike groups and major operational ports of the enemy,'" it said. The new weapons, which Haed which means tsunami in Korean, "can be deployed at any coast and best or towed by a surface ship for operation," the report said.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversees the tests, and images released by Pyongyang's Rodong Sinmun newspaper showed a striking scene and what appeared to be an underwater explosion. The agency also said Pyongyang had fired strategic cruise missiles "tipped with a test warhead simulating a nuclear warhead" on Wednesday.

ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management
TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS INCUBATOR (T-BI) (ICAR)

Walk in Interview
ICAR, Technology Business Incubator of ICAR/ANRI Hyderabad, invites applications for Walk in Interview, on 28th March 2023 at 10:00 AM, Hyderabad, Hyderabad for the post of Finance Executive (I) (Male), Project Assistant (I Post) on contractual basis. Eligible candidates may attend the interview with relevant documents. The details of job description and application form are available on the website <https://www.icar.gov.in> and <https://www.icar.gov.in>

Phone: 040 2621522, Fax: 040 2621522, Email: hr@icar.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER (GRADE II) CIVIL ENGINEER, INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. C.C./E.C (R&B)-2/2022-23

1. Nature of the Work: BRIDGE & BUILDING works
2. Total No. of Works: 02 (Two Nos.)
3. Estimated Value: Rs. 68.68 Lakhs to 88.68 Lakhs per work.
4. Period of completion: 06 (Six) Months to 11 (Eleven) Months as per bill of materials
5. Bid Security (25%): As per Contract No-60 of IFB
6. Class of Contract: "A"
7. Date & time of availability of Bill of Materials: From 19.06 hours of 25.02.2023 to 17.00 hours of 12.04.2023.
8. Last date of receipt of bids in the Port: 17.00 hours of 15.04.2023.
9. Last date of receipt of bids in the Port: 17.00 hours of 15.04.2023.
11. Name and address of the Chief Construction Engineer, Odisha (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar.

Further details can be seen from the advertisement posted at <https://www.odisha.gov.in>. Any interested/competent/candidate/bidder can also be seen in the said website only. Chief Construction Engineer, Odisha (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar. (0674-2301100/2322)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
NATIONAL REMOTE SENSING CENTRE
BALANAGAR, HYDRABAD 500 015

Walk in Interview
National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) is one of the constituent Centres of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Department of Space (DOS). It is responsible for the Ground Segment of Remote Sensing Programme through Satellite Data Acquisition, Archival, Processing, Dissemination, Remote Sensing Applications, Training and Capacity Building. It has five Regional Centres located at Bangalore, Nagpur, Kolkata, Andhra and New Delhi to address region specific Remote Sensing application needs. The Earth Station located at Shadnagar is being developed as a full-fledged Earth Station for the Remote Sensing activities of ISRO.

NRSC invites ONLINE applications for the following temporary research personal vide - Ate. No. NRSC-RMT-2023 of 25.03.2023.

S. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Positions
1.	सॉफ्टवेयर प्रोजेक्ट असोसिएट-1	07
2.	सॉफ्टवेयर प्रोजेक्ट साइंटिस्ट-1	03
3.	सॉफ्टवेयर इंजीनियर: Research Scientist	20
4.	सॉफ्टवेयर असिस्टेंट जूनियर रिसर्च फेलो	04

प्रयोग निम्नलिखित आधिकारिक साइट पर ही किए जाएंगे: <https://www.nrsc.gov.in>।
For detailed advertisement and to apply Online please visit <https://www.nrsc.gov.in>.
आपको आवेदन देना होगा और ऑनलाइन आवेदन देना होगा।
आवेदन दिनांक: 25.03.2023 (0000 Hrs)
आवेदन दिनांक: 07.04.2023 (2359 Hrs)
Closing Date for On-line Registration: 07.04.2023 (2359 Hrs)
Closing Date for On-line Registration: 07.04.2023 (2359 Hrs)

"सरकार द्वारा महिलाओं को नौकरियों में और विभिन्न विभागों में नए महिला अधिकारियों को शामिल करने के लिए विशेष ध्यान दिया जाएगा।"
"Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply"

Macron under pressure as scores injured in protests

More than 450 people were arrested on Thursday during the most violent day of protests since the start of the year against French President's bid to raise the retirement age to 64

Agence France-Presse

PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron faced mounting pressure on Friday after violent demonstrations that left more than 400 security forces injured and the centre of major cities shrouded in tear gas and smoke. Over 450 people were arrested on Thursday during the most violent day of protests since the start of the year against Mr. Macron's bid to raise the retirement age to 64.

"There were a lot of demonstrations and some of them turned violent, notably in Paris," Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin told the *CNews* channel while giving figures for the number of arrests and in-



Police personnel in riot gear deployed in Frontignan on Friday as protest over pensions Bill turns violent in France. AFP

jured. Over 900 fires were lit around the capital on Thursday, he said, with radical anarchist groups blamed for setting uncollected rubbish ablaze and smashing shop windows,

leading to frequent clashes with riot police.

In Bordeaux, protesters set fire to the entrance to city hall, briefly raising fears for the whole building until firefighters ar-

rived to extinguish it.

"Why would you make a target of our communal building, of all people of Bordeaux? I can only condemn it in the strongest possible terms," the mayor of Bordeaux, Pierre Hurmic, told *RTL* radio. Over a million people marched nationwide on Thursday, with the protest movement reinvigorated by Mr. Macron's tactics and statements over the last week.

Uproar over legislation to change the retirement age has created another huge domestic crisis for the president 10 months into his second term in office. But Mr. Darmanin, a hardliner in the government, dismissed calls from political opponents and protesters to withdraw the pensions reform.

Fit to width

IN BRIEF



Blue Star introduces 75 air conditioners at various prices

Blue Star Ltd. unveiled almost 75 models of air-conditioners across price points. "With Blue Star Climatch Ltd.'s new automated plant at Sri City in place, we intend to leverage the synergies between the firm and this plant, to enable Blue Star to further accelerate growth in the room AC segment, especially in Tier 2, 3, 4, and 5 markets, apart from Tier 1," said B. Thangaraj, MD. "We will continue to invest in expanding our production footprint and enhancing R&D capabilities."

Two Adani stocks to move to ASM Stage-1 from March 27

The NSE and BSE on Friday said Adani Total Gas and Adani Transmission will move to the first stage of the long-term additional surveillance measure framework from March 27. On March 10, both exchanges put the two companies under the second stage of the long-term additional surveillance measure (ASM) framework. Meanwhile, stocks of seven Adani Group companies out of the ten-listed entities ended the day in the negative territory on Friday amid a weak trend in the broader market.

Swelect subsidiary to make solar panels in Tamil Nadu

Swelect HVV Solar Photovoltaics Private Limited, a subsidiary of Swelect Energy Systems, has commissioned a plant in Tamil Nadu to make solar energy panels. The fully-automated manufacturing unit, that had come up with an investment of ₹20 crore, had the capacity to produce 700 MW of solar panels a year. R. Chellappan, Founder and Managing Director, Swelect, told the media here on Friday.

+ RBI asked to monitor card spending under LRS for tax purposes

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Seeking to tighten the implementation of the increased 20% tax collection at source norm for foreign remittances introduced in Budget 2022-24, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said the RBI has been asked to monitor card spending under LRS and such payments escape tax collection at source (TCS). "Sitharaman said about the scheme

that governs foreign exchange spending by Indians. "The Reserve Bank is being requested to look into this with a view to bring credit card payments for foreign cards within the ambit of LRS and tax collection on source, thereon," she said. "Tax consultants said the monitoring effort could prove challenging. "Credit cards usage overseas was always a part of LRS and it would be interesting to learn how RBI will monitor cards are not being captured under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) and such payments escape tax collection at source (TCS)," a Sitharaman said about the scheme

Ansell opens \$20 million surgical gloves plant in TN

M. Soundariva Preetha COIMBATORE

Australian personal protective equipment manufacturer Ansell has opened a factory at Peruvudurai, Tamil Nadu with an initial investment of \$20 million to make surgical gloves. Neil Salomon, the company's managing director and CEO, told The Hindu that the company has plans to make industrial gloves also in India. "It was advised that the proposal is in a primitive stage. The plant, located about 80km from Coimbatore, will be Ansell's largest surgical gloves production facility globally.

Lok Sabha approves setting up of GST Appellate Tribunal

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha on Friday cleared changes in the Finance Bill to pave the way for setting up of an appellate tribunal for resolution of disputes under GST. Currently, taxpayers are filing writ petitions before high courts in the absence of an appellate tribunal. As per the amendments proposed in the Finance Bill 2022-23, which were passed by the Lok Sabha on Friday, benches of the GST Appellate Tribunal would be set up in every State while there will be a principal bench in Delhi which will bear appeals re-

'G20 sees inflation as sticky, to extend policy tightening'

Participants do not envisage current banking turmoil leading to a systemic crisis; prefer to tackle financial stability risks separately, do not view them as a constraint to rate increases: Nageswaran

Santay Vihayakumar CHENNAI

Most G20 countries see inflation as being sticky and easing more slowly than they would like and are set on sticking with monetary tightening. "Majority see inflation easing more slowly than they would like and are set on sticking with monetary tightening. "Authorities see policy makers having situation under control, being prepared to respond to developments as warranted. "U.S. Fed's latest comments signal more open-mindedness on rate path: CEA



Collective concern

Govt. scraps long-term tax benefit for debt funds

The return from such investments made on or after April 1, 2023, she said. Noting that these tax changes would also apply to categories such as gold funds, international funds and debt funds, she said.

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

The government has scrapped the long-term capital gains treatment (with indexation benefits) for income from debt mutual funds and other schemes that invest up to 35% in equity shares of domestic companies. The return from such investments made on or after April 1, 2023, she said. Noting that these tax changes would also apply to categories such as gold funds, international funds and debt funds, she said. "The amendment will treat gains from transfer of units of specified mutual funds as short-term capital gains. Currently, capital gains arising from transfer of mutual fund units, other than equity-oriented funds held for more than three years, are considered as

world, Mr. Nageswaran said the prevailing sentiment expressed by members was that it need not lead to a systemic crisis and that policy makers have things under control and are responding to developments as warranted. "On the Fed's statement that additional interest rate increases may be needed, I think people are focusing on the word 'may' instead of 'will,' which suggests some dilatory or open-mindedness when compared to their commentary at the end of January," he said.

Tax tweaks drag Sensex down by 0.7%

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

The S&P BSE Sensex fell 6.65% on Friday to 57,527.10 after passage of the Finance Bill incorporated the tax changes. The proposed amendment to the Finance Bill would be far reaching compared to the Budget 2022-23. "The asset management industry was hit hard by the tax changes," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services.

Govt. raises Securities Transaction Tax on derivatives

Vikas Dhoot NEW DELHI

The Government has raised the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) on futures and options contracts in the stock market by 2% from April 1, 2023, a move that may push some traders to offshore markets and dent trading volumes on the bourses. Options contracts will now attract 0.0625% STT, from 0.05% earlier, and futures contracts will attract a levy of 0.0125%, up from 0.01%, officials said after the Finance Bill was cleared by the Lok Sabha on Friday.

MARKETS

Table with columns: Instrument, Price, % Change. Includes US Dollar, Gold, Brent oil, NIFTY 50, and various stocks like Adani Enterprises, Apollo Hospitals, etc.

EXCHANGE RATES

Table with columns: Currency, Rate, % Change. Includes US Dollar, Euro, Pound, etc.

NSE to roll back 6% increase in transaction charges

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

The Board of Directors of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) has decided to roll back the 6% increase in transaction charges in the cash market segment and the equity derivatives segment, with effect from April 1, 2023. The charges were earlier increased by 6% from January 1, 2023, partly to augment the NSE Investor Protection Fund that corpus for certain market exigencies, NSE said in a statement. "Further with objective to systematically augment the corpus of NSE IPFT, it was also decided to recall the contribution to

KERALA WAYNE AUTHORITY - Tender Notice. Includes details about the authority and tender information.

SHARATIYA RESERVE BANK - NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED. Includes details about the bank and note printing services.

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING / OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY. Includes details about the bidding process and contact information.

निविदा अधिसूचना. Includes details about the tender notice in Hindi.

SECURITY PRINTING PRESS. Includes details about the printing services provided.

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited. Includes details about the corporation and its services.

NOTICE INVITING BIDDING. Includes details about the bidding process for Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited.

ADMISSION TO UP PROFESSIONAL COURSES. Includes details about the admission process for various professional courses.

NOTICE INVITING BIDDING. Includes details about the bidding process for Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited.

TNPCL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED. Includes details about the company and its products.

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Govt. scraps long-term tax benefit for debt funds

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The government has scrapped the long-term capital gains treatment (with indexation benefits) for income from debt mutual funds and other schemes that invest up to 35% in equity shares of domestic companies.

The returns from such funds will now be treated as short term capital gains. Currently, capital gains arising from transfer of mutual fund units, other than equity-oriented funds held for more than three years, are considered as

Returns from such funds will now be treated as short term capital gains; move to also hit gold funds

long-term investments and taxed at 20% with indexation benefits.

“The amendment will treat gains from transfer of units of specified mutual funds as short term and tax them at slab rates,” said Tapati Ghose, partner at Deloitte India. “The proposed move seems to bring taxation of such mutual funds on par with bank deposits

and will impact such investments made on or after April 1, 2023,” she said.

Noting that these tax changes would also apply to categories such as gold funds, international funds and domestic fund of funds that have an equity exposure of up to 35%, V.K. Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services said there would be far reaching consequences.

Roopali Prabhu, chief investment officer and executive director at JM Financial, said investors would have to take higher risks due to this shift.

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT NOTIFICATION DAY AFTER HE IS CONVICTED BY SURAT COURT

Rahul disqualified as MP, says fighting for voice of India, ready to pay any price



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi leaves Parliament on Friday. Prem Nath Pandey

Notification after he came to House; Wayanad Lok Sabha seat falls vacant

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

A DAY after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was convicted by a Surat court and sentenced to two years in jail in a defamation case over his Modi surname remark, the Lok Sabha Secretariat issued a notification Friday, announcing that he is no longer a member of the Lower House.

The Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, which he represented, is now vacant. Gandhi, who was serving his fourth Lok Sabha term, will be barred from contesting elections for eight years unless the conviction is stayed by a higher court.

The Congress called the disqualification an attempt to "silence his voice and said it would



fight the battle legally and politically. The BJP dismissed the charge and said the disqualification was "lawful".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Rahul's exit rings alarm bells: Opp parties slam 'attack on democracy'

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

CONGRESS LEADER Rahul Gandhi's swift disqualification as Lok Sabha MP Friday united disparate anti-BJP parties with the Congress's friends and rivals in the Opposition camp strongly condemning the decision as "authoritarian" and lashing out at the Government, saying the country is heading towards "dictatorship".

The Congress, in response, welcomed "the statements of all the Opposition leaders", with party leader Jairam Ramesh saying "there was a consensus that we should now take the job of building Opposition unity in a systematic way".

The sense in the Opposition camp was that Gandhi's disqualification and conviction in the

INSIDE



OPP PUTS UP UNITED FRONT, HOLDS PROTEST ON ADANI

THE MESSAGE: OPPOSITION, WATCH WHAT YOU SAY

PAGE 8

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

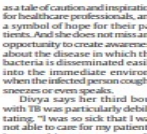
At 35, this nurse has battled TB thrice, helps her AIIMS patients fight disease

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, MARCH 24

NURSE DIVYA Sojan has contracted drug-resistant TB on the job — thrice. Today, after multiple injections and 22 tablets a day, she is back with her patients in AIIMS. Delhi, her hours of work dedicated to building a support group of TB survivors.

As the world marked World TB Day Friday, Divya's story serves



As a tale of caution and inspiration for healthcare professionals, and a symbol of hope for their patients. And she does not miss any opportunity to create awareness about the disease in which the bacteria is disseminated easily into the immediate environs when the infected person coughs, sneezes or even speaks.

Divya says her third bout with TB was particularly debilitating. "I was so sick that I was not able to care for my patients. I was taking as many as 22 tablets every day apart from a session of physiotherapy. This led to blurred vision, loss of hearing and constant nausea during the

In run-up to 2024, Cong prepares for long haul, in the courts and outside

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

HOURS AFTER Rahul Gandhi was disqualified as a Lok Sabha MP, a combative Congress prepared to wage a protracted legal and political battle. The disqualification did not come as a bolt from the blue for the party. It had seen it coming and while it is apprehensive of the legal road ahead — failure to get a stay on his conviction judgment from higher courts being its worst fear — the Congress is hoping to turn the developments to sway public mood in

EXPLAINED
LAW
DISQUALIFICATION
AND AFTER
PAGE 19

its favour. Top Congress leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, met at AICC headquarters to plan the next course of action.

While a nationwide protest campaign is being worked out

SC to hear plea of Opp on 'selective, targeted' use of agencies CBI, ED

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

THE SUPREME COURT on Friday agreed to hear a plea by "16 Opposition parties alleging "selective and targeted" use of central probe agencies like the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) against their leaders.

Senior Advocate A M Singhvi mentioned the matter before a bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, who agreed to take it up on April 5. "I am asking for guidelines for the future. This is a remarkable convergence of 14 parties against the misuse of the agencies, both CBI and ED. Ninety-five per cent cases of the CBI and ED are against the leaders of Opposition," Singhvi said.

Though a copy of the petition was not made available, sources said the petitioners include Congress, DMK, RJD, BRS, Trinamool Congress, AAP, NCP, Shiv Sena (UBT), JMM, JD(U), CPI(M), CPI, Samajwadi Party and Jharkhand National Conference.

Citing data, sources said the plea was being filed in the light of an "alarming rise in the use of coercive criminal processes" against Opposition leaders and other citizens exercising their fundamental right to dissent and disagree with the Union Government.

Agencies like the CBI and ED are being increasingly deployed in a selective and targeted manner with a view to completely crush political dissent and upend the fundamental premises of a representative democracy, they said.

According to sources, in CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Rahul insulted OBCs, his family wants a separate IPC for itself: BJP counter



Union Ministers Anurag Thakur and Dharmendra Pradhan at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Friday.

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

AS THE Opposition closed ranks following Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's disqualification as Lok Sabha MP after his conviction in a defamation case over his 2019 remarks on the Modi surname, the BJP moved to counter it, saying his remarks were directed against OBCs and his attitude "insulted" the country's institutions.

The party has planned a campaign from April 6 to April 14 to

THE EDITORIAL PAGE
DISQUALIFIED

Rahul exit day after conviction for speech erodes democracy

WHY IS BJP SO FOCUSED ON RAHUL
BY SUHAS PALSHIKAR P 12

Take on Gandhi and the Congress.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Old vs new hotting up, Govt forms panel to relook at pension

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 24

UNION FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman Friday announced the formation of a committee to look into improving the system of pension for government employees — a move that comes against the backdrop of at least five Opposition-led states adopting the Old Pension Scheme.

The committee, which will be headed by Finance Secretary TV Somanathan, will work on an approach that will strike a balance between employees' needs and fiscal prudence, with any changes proposed to be adopted by both Central and state governments.

"Representations have been

EXPLORE
Key factors on table

ANY DECISION by the Government will have to balance two key factors. It has to take into account political considerations with general elections coming in a year. At the same time, it has to be mindful of the fiscal burden linked to the old pension scheme.

received that the National Pension System for government employees needs to be improved. I propose to set up a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Veteran Gujarat CMO official quits, admits son's links with conman in J&K

PARIMAL DABHI
GANDHINAGAR, MARCH 24

A SENIOR official in the Gujarat Chief Minister's Office resigned Friday over links between his son, who is a businessman associated with the BJP and "conman" Kiran Patel, who is in jail custody for posing as an official of the Prime Minister's Office.

Hemish Pandya, additional public relations officer in the Gujarat CMO, submitted his resignation Friday evening after nearly 22 years in the office



Kiran Patel posed as PMO official in J&K

where he served under five chief ministers, including Keshubhai Patel, Narendra Modi.
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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I was taking 22 tablets daily... This led to blurred vision, loss of hearing, nausea: Divya
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Old vs new hotting up, Govt forms panel to relook at pension

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
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CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Filmmaker Pradeep Sarkar dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, MARCH 24

FILMMAKER PRADEEP Sarkar, known for making films like *Parineeta* (2005), *Mardaani* (2014) and *Helicopter Eela* (2018), passed away at a Mumbai hospital on early Friday morning. As per reports, Sarkar, who was unwell for a long time, was rushed to the hospital when his potassium levels had dropped drastically. He was 67.

Before Sarkar, fondly referred to as 'Dada' by many, made his film directorial debut with



He is known for making *Parineeta*, *Mardaani* and *Helicopter Eela*

Parineeta, he was known for his work in the ad film industry. After the success of *Parineeta*, Sarkar also directed movies such as *Laaga Chunari Mein Daag* (2007) and *Lafangey Parindey* (2010). A Delhi College of Art graduate, he also worked as a film editor, writer and producer.

Prior to joining the film in-

dustry, he shot several popular music videos of songs such like Euphoria's *Dhoom Pichak Dhoom* and *Maaeri*. He was made the video of Shubha Mudgal's *Ab Ke Saawan*. In the recent years, he had worked on some web-series including Zee5's *Duranga* (2022).

Many film personalities, including Hansal Mehta, Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari, Ajay Devgn and Manoj Bajpayee, expressed their grief and shock on social media over his demise.

"The news of Pradeep Sarkar's demise, 'Dada' to some of us, is still hard to digest. RIP Dada," Devgn said.

Starbucks CEO Narasimhan to work as a 'barista'

STARBUCKS' NEW CEO Laxman Narasimhan has said he will work as a barista once a month in stores to stay close to the company's culture, customers, challenges and opportunities.

Narasimhan, 55, officially became the Seattle-based coffee giant's chief executive on Monday, taking the reins from Howard Schultz about two weeks earlier than scheduled.

He was welcomed as incoming chief executive officer of Starbucks with a coffee tasting in the place where it all began – at Seattle's Pike Place market store.

In a letter to the employees on Thursday, the Indian-American business executive said he will always be a "fierce advocate" for the company's partners and its culture.

"With you, I've experienced every aspect of the business to learn what it truly means to wear the green apron. You've welcomed me into our stores, trained me in how to be a barista...all to help me deeply understand what we do, how we do it, and the challenges



and opportunities facing us," he wrote. Barista is a person who serves in a coffee bar. "To keep us close to the culture and our customers, as well as to our challenges and opportunities, I intend to continue working in stores for a half day each month," he was quoted as saying by CNN.

"I thought it was very important for me to put myself in the shoes of the partners and really understand what they do and how they do it. There were things I learned through experience in all of this. It taught me a lot," he said in a statement. — PTI



Technology and Innovation Report
2023: UNCTAD

टेक्नोलॉजी एंड इनोवेशन रिपोर्ट 2023:
UNCTAD

- In its [Technology and Innovation Report 2023](#), the [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#) has stated that developed countries are **benefiting more from [green technologies](#)** than **developing countries**, and this could deepen global economic inequality.
- व्यापार और विकास पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र सम्मेलन (UNCTAD) ने अपनी प्रौद्योगिकी और नवाचार रिपोर्ट 2023 में कहा है कि विकसित देश विकासशील देशों की तुलना में हरित प्रौद्योगिकियों से अधिक लाभान्वित हो रहे हैं, और इससे वैश्विक आर्थिक असमानता और गहरी हो सकती है।

Green technologies can create a market worth USD 9.5 trillion by 2030, up from **USD 1.5 trillion in 2020**.

हरित प्रौद्योगिकियां 2030 तक 9.5 ट्रिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर का बाजार बना सकती हैं, जो 2020 में 1.5 ट्रिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर से अधिक है।

विकसित देशों से हरित प्रौद्योगिकियों का कुल निर्यात 2018 में लगभग 60 बिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर से बढ़कर 2021 में 156 बिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर से अधिक हो गया।

जबकि विकासशील देशों से निर्यात 57 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर से बढ़कर केवल 75 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर हो गया।

The total exports of green technologies from developed countries jumped to more than **USD 156 billion in 2021** from about **USD 60 billion in 2018**.

While exports from developing countries rose to only about **USD 75 billion** from **USD 57 billion**.

Green frontier technologies such as [electric vehicles](#), solar and wind energy, and green hydrogen are expected to reach a market value of **USD 2.1 trillion in 2030**.

The frontier technology readiness index which has ranked **166 countries**, is **dominated by high-income economies**, notably the **US, Sweden, Singapore, Switzerland, and the Netherlands**.

इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन, सौर और पवन ऊर्जा, और हरित हाइड्रोजन जैसी हरित सीमांत प्रौद्योगिकियां 2030 में 2.1 ट्रिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर के बाजार मूल्य तक पहुंचने की उम्मीद है।

सीमांत प्रौद्योगिकी तत्परता सूचकांक जिसने 166 देशों को रैंक किया है, उच्च आय वाली अर्थव्यवस्थाओं, विशेष रूप से अमेरिका, स्वीडन, सिंगापुर, स्विट्ज़रलैंड और नीदरलैंड का प्रभुत्व है।

The second quarter of the list includes emerging economies – notably **Brazil - ranked at 40, China at 35, India at 46, the Russian Federation at 31, and South Africa at 56.**

- Here, India remains the greatest performer by ranking at **67 positions better than expected.**


सूची की दूसरी तिमाही में उभरती हुई अर्थव्यवस्थाएं शामिल हैं - विशेष रूप से ब्राज़ील - 40वें स्थान पर, चीन 35वें स्थान पर, भारत 46वें स्थान पर, रूसी संघ 31वें स्थान पर और दक्षिण अफ्रीका 56वें स्थान पर।

यहां, उम्मीद से बेहतर 67 स्थानों पर रैंकिंग के आधार पर भारत सबसे महान प्रदर्शनकर्ता बना हुआ है।

-
- What is the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)?
 - **UNCTAD is a permanent intergovernmental body** of the [United Nations](#).
 - It was established in **1964** and is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
 - It aims to promote **sustainable development**, particularly in **developing countries**, through **international trade, investment, finance, and technology transfer**.

- व्यापार और विकास पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र सम्मेलन (UNCTAD) क्या है?
- UNCTAD संयुक्त राष्ट्र का एक स्थायी अंतरसरकारी निकाय है।
- इसकी स्थापना 1964 में हुई थी और इसका मुख्यालय जिनेवा, स्विट्ज़रलैंड में है।
- इसका उद्देश्य अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार, निवेश, वित्त और प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण के माध्यम से, विशेष रूप से विकासशील देशों में सतत विकास को बढ़ावा देना है।

UNCTAD's work focuses on four main areas: **trade and development, investment and enterprise, technology and innovation, and macroeconomics and development policies.**



अंकटाड का काम चार मुख्य क्षेत्रों पर केंद्रित है: व्यापार और विकास, निवेश और उद्यम, प्रौद्योगिकी और नवाचार, और मैक्रोइकॉनॉमिक्स और विकास नीतियां।

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- What are India's Initiatives Related to Green Technologies?
 - [Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana \(SAUBHAGYA\)](#)
 - [Green Energy Corridor \(GEC\)](#)
 - [National Smart Grid Mission \(NSGM\) and Smart Meter National Programme](#)
 - [Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of \(Hybrid &\) Electric Vehicles \(FAME\)](#)
 - [International Solar Alliance \(ISA\)](#)

India's Traditional New Year
Festivals
भारत के पारंपरिक नववर्ष उत्सव

Recently, India celebrated **Chaitra Sukladi**, **Ugadi**, **Gudi Padwa**, **Cheti Chand**, **Navreh** and **Sajibu Cheiraoba**, **Vishu**, **Puthandu**, **Bohag Bihu**. These festivals of the **spring season** mark the **beginning of the traditional new year** in India.




हाल ही में, भारत ने चैत्र शुक्लादि, उगादि, गुड़ी पड़वा, चैती चंद्र, नवरेह और साजिबु चीराओबा, विशु, पुथंडु, बोहाग बिहू मनाया। वसंत के मौसम के ये त्यौहार भारत में पारंपरिक नए साल की शुरुआत का प्रतीक हैं।

An aerial night view of a city street intersection. The scene is illuminated by streetlights and building lights, creating a vibrant urban atmosphere. The street is filled with cars and taxis, and the surrounding buildings are modern and multi-story. The text "City Finance Rankings 2022" and "सिटी फाइनेंस रैंकिंग 2022" is overlaid on the image.

City Finance Rankings 2022

सिटी फाइनेंस रैंकिंग 2022

Recently, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the 'City Finance Rankings 2022' under which [Urban Local Bodies \(ULB\)](#) in the country will be evaluated on the basis of their financial health.



हाल ही में, आवास और शहरी मामलों के मंत्रालय ने 'सिटी फाइनेंस रैंकिंग 2022' शुरू की है, जिसके तहत देश में शहरी स्थानीय निकायों (यूएलबी) का मूल्यांकन उनके वित्तीय स्वास्थ्य के आधार पर किया जाएगा।

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- All the Participating cities or **ULBs** will be evaluated on **15 indicators across three key municipal finance** assessment parameters, namely:

- Resource Mobilization
- Expenditure Performance
- Fiscal Governance.

- सभी भाग लेने वाले शहरों या यूएलबी का मूल्यांकन तीन प्रमुख नगरपालिका वित्त आकलन मापदंडों में 15 संकेतकों पर किया जाएगा, अर्थात्:

- संसाधन जुटाना
- व्यय प्रदर्शन
- राजकोषीय शासन।

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- The cities will be ranked at the national level based on their scores under any one of the following four population categories:
 - Above 4 million
 - Between 1-4 million
 - 100,000 to 1 million
 - Less than 100,000
 - The top 3 cities in each population category will be recognized and rewarded at the national level as well as within each state/state cluster.

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- निम्नलिखित चार जनसंख्या श्रेणियों में से किसी एक के तहत शहरों को उनके स्कोर के आधार पर राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर रैंक किया जाएगा:
 - 4 मिलियन से ऊपर
 - 1-4 मिलियन के बीच
 - 100,000 से 1 मिलियन
 - 100,000 से कम
 - प्रत्येक जनसंख्या श्रेणी में शीर्ष 3 शहरों को राष्ट्रीय स्तर के साथ-साथ प्रत्येक राज्य/राज्य क्लस्टर में पहचाना और पुरस्कृत किया जाएगा।

A

Sarus Crane



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- Recently, **Sarus Crane**, Uttar Pradesh's state bird, was recently rescued and transported to Raebareli's **Samaspur Bird Sanctuary**.
 - A day after the bird was taken to the sanctuary, it was claimed that the bird was missing.
 - हाल ही में उत्तर प्रदेश के राजकीय पक्षी सारस सारस को हाल ही में रेस्क्यू कर रायबरेली के समसपुर पक्षी अभयारण्य ले जाया गया था।
 - पक्षी को अभयारण्य में ले जाने के एक दिन बाद, यह दावा किया गया कि पक्षी गायब है।

The scientific name of Sarus Crane is **Grus Antigone**. It is the **tallest flying bird in the world**, standing 152-156 cm tall with a wingspan of 240cm.

The sarus crane is listed in [Schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972](#) and as [vulnerable on the IUCN Red List](#), and it is predominantly found in India, Southeast Asia, and Australia.

हाल ही में उत्तर प्रदेश के राजकीय पक्षी सारस सारस को हाल ही में रेस्क्यू कर रायबरेली के समसपुर पक्षी अभयारण्य ले जाया गया था।

पक्षी को अभयारण्य में ले जाने के एक दिन बाद, यह दावा किया गया कि पक्षी गायब है।



Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia

The Prime Minister paid tribute to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia on his birthday (March 23, 1910 – October 12, 1967).

Ram Manohar Lohia was a prominent figure in socialist politics and in the movement towards Indian independence.

He was a committed supporter of **Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent struggle against British rule and participated in the [Quit India movement in 1942.](#)**

प्रधानमंत्री ने डॉ. राम मनोहर लोहिया को उनके जन्मदिन (23 मार्च, 1910 - 12 अक्टूबर, 1967) पर श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की।

राम मनोहर लोहिया समाजवादी राजनीति और भारतीय स्वतंत्रता के आंदोलन में एक प्रमुख व्यक्ति थे।

वह ब्रिटिश शासन के खिलाफ महात्मा गांधी के अहिंसक संघर्ष के प्रतिबद्ध समर्थक थे और उन्होंने 1942 में भारत छोड़ो आंदोलन में भाग लिया था।

Lohia's early political career began with the Congress Party, where he held the position of secretary of the Foreign Department of the All-India Congress Committee (A.I.C.C.), the Congress Party's highest body.

In 1963 Lohia became a member of the Lok Sabha after a by-election in Farrukhabad (Lok Sabha constituency). He also won the Lok Sabha general election of 1967 from Kannauj (Lok Sabha constituency) but died a few months later.

लोहिया का प्रारंभिक राजनीतिक जीवन कांग्रेस पार्टी के साथ शुरू हुआ, जहां उन्होंने कांग्रेस पार्टी की सर्वोच्च संस्था अखिल भारतीय कांग्रेस कमेटी (A.I.C.C.) के विदेश विभाग के सचिव का पद संभाला।

1963 में लोहिया फर्रुखाबाद (लोकसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र) में उपचुनाव के बाद लोकसभा के सदस्य बने। उन्होंने कन्नौज (लोकसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र) से 1967 का लोकसभा आम चुनाव भी जीता लेकिन कुछ महीने बाद उनकी मृत्यु हो गई।

- Lohia and other CSP members **left the Congress in 1948.**
- He **became a member of the Praja Socialist Party** upon its formation in **1952** and served as general secretary for a brief period, but **internal conflicts** led to his **resignation in 1955.**
- He **established a new Socialist Party (1955)**, for which he became chairman as well as the **editor of its journal, Mankind.**

- लोहिया और अन्य सीएसपी सदस्यों ने 1948 में कांग्रेस छोड़ दी।
- 1952 में प्रजा सोशलिस्ट पार्टी के गठन के बाद वे इसके सदस्य बन गए और कुछ समय के लिए महासचिव के रूप में कार्य किया, लेकिन आंतरिक संघर्षों के कारण 1955 में उन्हें इस्तीफा देना पड़ा।
- उन्होंने एक नई सोशलिस्ट पार्टी (1955) की स्थापना की, जिसके लिए वे इसकी पत्रिका मैनकाइंड के अध्यक्ष और संपादक बने।

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- Some of his **works** include: 'Wheel of History', 'Marx, Gandhi and Socialism', 'Guilty Men of India's Partition', etc.
 - उनके कुछ कार्यों में शामिल हैं: 'व्हील ऑफ हिस्ट्री', 'माक्स, गांधी एंड सोशलिज्म', 'गिल्टी मेन ऑफ इंडियाज पार्टीशन', आदि।

- **Chaitra 1 of the national calendar based on the Saka Era corresponds to which one of the following dates of the Gregorian calendar in a normal year of 365 days? (2014)**
- (a) 22nd March (or 21st March)
(b) 15th May (or 16th May)
(c) 31st March (or 30th March)
(d) 21st April (or 20th April)
- शक युग पर आधारित राष्ट्रीय कैलेंडर का चैत्र 1 365 दिनों के एक सामान्य वर्ष में ग्रेगोरियन कैलेंडर की निम्नलिखित में से किस तारीख से मेल खाता है? (2014)
- (ए) 22 मार्च (या 21 मार्च) (बी) 15 मई (या 16 मई) (सी) 31 मार्च (या 30 मार्च) (डी) 21 अप्रैल (या 20 अप्रैल)

- Which of the following statements is/are incorrect with reference to Indian New Year Festivals?
- a. Gudhi Padwa is a spring festival that marks the traditional new year for Marathi and Konkani Indians.
- b. Navreh is the first day of the Kashmiri Hindu New Year.

1. Only a
2. Only b
3. Both a and b
4. Neither a nor b

- भारतीय नववर्ष उत्सवों के संदर्भ में निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा/से कथन गलत है/हैं?
- एक। गड़ी पड़वा एक वसंत त्योहार है जो मराठी और कोंकणी भारतीयों के लिए पारंपरिक नए साल का प्रतीक है।
- बी। नवरेह कश्मीरी हिंदू नववर्ष का पहला दिन है।
- केवल एक
- केवल बी
- A और B दोनों
- ए और बी दोनों नहीं

- **With reference to the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), which of the following statements is/are correct? (2015)**

1.It is a Public Limited Government Company.

2.It is a Non-Banking Financial Company.

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

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

- भारतीय नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा विकास एजेंसी लिमिटेड (आईआरईडीए) के संदर्भ में, निम्नलिखित में से कौन सा/से कथन सही है/हैं? (2015)
- यह एक पब्लिक लिमिटेड सरकारी कंपनी है।
- यह एक गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय कंपनी है।
- नीचे दिए गए कूट का प्रयोग कर सही उत्तर चुनिए:
- (ए) केवल 1 (बी) केवल 2 (सी) 1 और 2 दोनों (डी) न तो 1 और न ही 2

Thank you 😊