

Daily Current Affairs



जनसत्ता

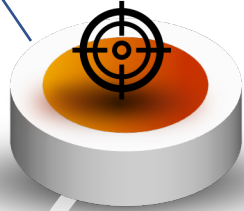


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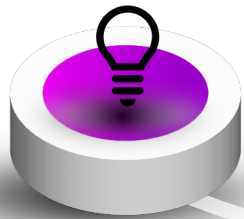


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The Hindu

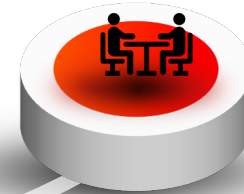


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SECOND HOME

Afghans' long wait for India visas

A moratorium has hit hard over 60,000 people, tearing apart families

MAGAZINE » PAGE 1



Shou Zi Chew, TikTok's little-known CEO

PROFILES » PAGE 13



Lack of sleep increases risk of fatty liver

SCIENCE » PAGE 11



First cable rail bridge getting ready in J&K

NEWS » PAGE 9



In hill State, point and shoot plastic

Uttarakhand is implementing a QR code-based project to prevent littering the Char Dham route with plastic bottles and packets



Hill cleaning: Employees of a Hyderabad-based start-up gathering plastic bottles brought from Kedarnath for recycling. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Small steps can bring big changes. The Uttarakhand government has chosen the Char Dham yatra route that covers temples at Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri to implement a unique waste-disposal system in the Himalayas. Uttarakhand Tourism Secretary Sachin Kurve has said. Hemkund Sahib and the Valley of Flowers will also see the implementation of a QR code-based system that will streamline collection of waste and reduction of garbage along the route.

Visitors will scan a QR code on each plastic bottle and multi-layer plastic bag (of chips or biscuits) and pay a deposit over the maximum retail price (MRP). They can claim this amount back as a refund when they deposit the waste at a point at the end of the yatra. Up to 45 lakh QR codes are expected to be printed this year.

The idea and execution is being carried out by Recykal, a Hyderabad-based start-up that provides software solutions for better recycling and sustainability.

Be vigilant against interest rate risks, Minister tells banks

Vikas Dhot
NEW DELHI

Amid fears of contagion effects from banking crises in the U.S. and Europe, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has asked banks to remain vigilant against "interest rate risks" and undertake regular stress tests, even as public sector banks assured her that all possible steps are being taken to safeguard themselves from any potential financial shock.

Ms. Sitharaman, chairing a review of public sector banks' (PSBs) performance on Saturday, also urged banks to try attracting more deposits now that the government has reduced "the tax arbitrage in some debt instruments", hitting at the Finance Bill changes to strip some of the tax benefits that are available to debt mutual funds from April 1.

"An open discussion was held with the MDs and CEOs of PSBs on the global scenario comprising the failure of the Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and the Sigma



Nirmala Sitharaman meeting bankers in New Delhi. ANI

Transgender artiste, Rahul Dravid among Karnataka poll icons

Ashwan Yasmecn
BENGALURU

For the first time in Karnataka, the Election Commission (EC) has chosen a transgender, Manjamma Jogati, as a poll icon to motivate the community to get enrolled and come out to vote.

Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer for Karnataka, told *The Hindu* that Ms. Jogati, a transgender folk dancer who is the former chairperson of Karnataka Janapada Academy and a Padma Shri awardee, has been chosen as a poll ambassador. Apart from her, cricketer-turned-coach Rahul Dravid, Janapith awardee Chandrashekar Kambar, disability rights activist Kshwini Angadi and Paralympian athlete Girish Gowda are the other poll icons in the State.

"Transgender voters in Karnataka have increased from 4,552 in 2018 to 42,796 in 2022, according to official data. While a mere 9.8% of 4,552 enrolled transgenders voted in the 2018 Assembly elections, 11.4% of the re-



Manjamma Jogati

Govt. pressed for disqualification out of panic, says Rahul Gandhi

Sohans K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Labelling his disqualification from the Lok Sabha as a "panic reaction" of a government afraid of his "next speech" in Parliament on industrialist Gautam Adani, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Saturday called it the "best gift" the government could give him.

With Union Congress cadres raising slogans on the lawns of the party's headquarters at 24 Akbar Road here, Mr. Gandhi addressed a 30-minute press conference, saying Mr. Adani and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a close relationship and alluding to a direct connection between the BJP and the alleged fraudulent financial transactions in the industrialist's shell companies.

Mr. Gandhi dismissed his "disqualification" as a non-event, insisting that he would continue to speak the truth inside and outside Parliament. "Please understand why I



Rahul Gandhi speaking in New Delhi on Saturday. IFC/ISOCMR

have been disqualified... I have been disqualified because the Prime Minister is scared of my next speech on Adani. I have seen it in his eyes. He is terrified of the next speech and he doesn't want my next speech to be in Parliament," Mr. Gandhi said.

"This is why, he added, the BJP had first tried to "distract" by raising his alleged "anti-India" narrative in London, and then came the "disqualification".

Raising the rhetorical stakes, Mr. Gandhi declared that he would not be cowed by a "prison term".

The "drama", as he described it, began with his speech in Parliament delivered on February 7 as part of the Motion of Thanks to the President when he asked a set of questions to the government.

"I asked Prime Minister very specific set of questions. My question was, '₹20,000 crore or \$3 billion that came into the shell companies owned by Mr. Adani. Mr. Adani could not have generated this money, he is in infrastructure business. Where did this money come from, whose money is it?'" he said.

Mr. Gandhi claimed that the government was rattled by the evidence that he produced on the floor of the House about Mr. Modi's relationship with Mr. Adani. His speech was expunged from the parliamentary record.

IN BRIEF



UP's changing perception is our biggest feat: CM

LOCKNOW
The ruling BJP has worked tirelessly to ensure that schemes of the Union and State governments are delivered to every household, said Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday. » Page 3

Akal Takht slams police over Amritpal case

CHANDIGARH
As pro-Khalistan preacher Amritpal Singh remained elusive almost a week after a crackdown began against him and his outfit, the chief priest of Akal Takht on Saturday raised questions over the ability of Punjab Police. » Page 7

MAGAZINE » PAGE 8
CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 4



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Transgender artiste, Rahul Dravid among Karnataka poll icons

Afshan Yasmeen

BENGALURU

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Transgender voters in Karnataka have increased from 4,552 in 2018 to 42,756 in 2023, according to official data. While a mere 9.8% of 4,552 enrolled transpersons voted in the 2018 Assembly elections, 11.49% of the re-



Manjamma Jogati

gistered 4,839 transpersons turned up to vote in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

“This time, we want to ensure that all the enrolled members from this community come out and vote,” said P.S. Vastrad, State nodal officer for the Systematic Voters’ Education and Electoral Participation programme.

“Our population is over two lakh in the State but not all of them are able to get enrolled due to lack of documents,” said Ms. Jogati.

Transgender activist Akkai Padmashali said no clear numbers are available on the transgender community because there has been no census.

2023 Karnataka Legislative Assembly election



← 2018

May 2023

All 224 seats in the [Karnataka Legislative Assembly](#)
113 seats needed for a majority



Leader	Basavaraj S. Bommai	Siddaramaiah	H. D. Kumaraswamy
Party	BJP	INC	JD(S)
Alliance	NDA	UPA	-
Leader since	2021	2013	2006
Leader's seat	Shiggaon	Varuna	Channapatna
Last election	36.35%, 104 seats	38.14%, 80 seats	18.3%, 37 seats
Seats before	121	72	30

2018 Karnataka Legislative Assembly election



← 2013 **12 May 2018 (222 seats)**
28 May 2018 (1 seat)
11 June 2018 (1 seat) 2023 →

224 of 224 seats in the [Karnataka Legislative Assembly](#)
 113 seats needed for a majority

Turnout 72.50% (▲ 0.67%) ^[1]



Leader	B. S. Yediyurappa	Siddaramaiah	H. D. Kumaraswamy
Party	BJP	INC	JD(S)
Alliance	NDA	UPA	JD(S)+BSP
Leader's seat	Shikaripura	Badami Chamundeshwari <i>(lost)</i>	Channapatna Ramanagara <i>(vacated)</i>
Seats before	40	122	40
Seats won	104	80	37
Seat change	▲ 64	▼ 42	▼ 3
Popular vote	13,267,956	13,932,069	6,726,667
Percentage	36.35%	38.14%	18.3%
Swing	▲ 16.3%	▲ 1.4%	▼ 1.9%

IN BRIEF

Lights turned off in various cities to mark 'Earth Hour'

Lights at public places and some temples in different cities including Mumbai, Kolkata and New Delhi were turned off between 8.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. as part of the global 'Earth Hour' event.

Breach of privilege: Sanjay Raut's notice referred to V-P

Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut's breach of privilege notice was on Saturday referred to Vice-President Jagdeep Thakur by Maharashtra Legislative Council Deputy Chairperson Nandam Gopal, who termed Mr. Raut's response "unsatisfactory".

Charred bodies of 3 Mizoram residents found in Myanmar

The Mizoram Police on Saturday recovered charred bodies of three residents of the State's Saisa district, who went missing since March 19, from Myanmar.

Oncologist, 20 others get Assam's civilian awards

An oncologist, mobile theatre veteran, lawn bowler, mink, maker, and cremation volunteer were among 21 personalities given Assam's civilian awards. The awards were conferred by Governor Gulab Chand Kataria on March 24.

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9x9 grid showing the solution to the Sudoku puzzle.

COVID-19 tests down, need to be scaled up, says govt.

The Health Ministry directs the States to take stock of medicine, ICU beds, medical equipment, oxygen cylinders and vaccination. It plans a nationwide mock drill on April 10 and 11

Hindu Shalan Perappadan NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Saturday warned that at a time when the country was registering a sustained increase in the trajectory of COVID-19 cases (since mid-February)...



A health worker collects a swab sample of a passenger as random COVID-19 testing starts at various airports across the country.

Worryingly, the current testing levels are insufficient as compared to the standards prescribed by the World Health Organization - 140 tests per million.

In its advisory, the Ministry said that testing at the level of districts and blocks also varied, with some States heavily relying on the less sensitive rapid antigen tests.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said in the advisory that while the rates of hospitalisation and death due to the disease remained low largely because of the significant coverage achieved in terms of COVID-19 vaccination rates by all States/Union Territories...

The States and Union Territories have been asked to keep a close watch on the evolving etiologies (causes of diseases) of influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) cases.

Using machine-learning, Google search becomes bilingual in India, whether users ask for it or not

Arunon Desai NEW DELHI

There's a reason people in India have been seeing bilingual search results on Google. Since December 2022, the company has been picking up the region a user is physically located and processing their search history to provide information in two languages.



Google shows two languages on its search engine. GETTY IMAGES

"Why does Google decide on its own to randomly show me some search results in Hindi or Gujarati?" Mumbai-based communications professional Manish Shah asked on Twitter earlier this month.

New Delhi, a city where the names of roads are displayed in English, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu. Users who search in English are likely to see results in just English and Hindi, unless their phone is set to a language other than English to begin with.

through our products and helping people interact with technology just as they would in the real world. It's not a simple task and our work is far from done, but we remain committed to improving our language capabilities in public and building products that are accessible to everyone."

Bilingual option later The company shared that it would work in the future on giving users a choice to opt close of the bilingual search results that it is certain 'signals' based on users' viewing history and location to decide which language comment in foreign tongues get translated to even if a user's streaming app may decide differently that the output language for translated comments is Hindi.

For now, though, the way to view results in just English is not straightforward, according to testing done on multiple devices by The Hindu. On the Google app on mobile, going to Settings and changing the language from 'English (India)' to any other international variant is not possible. That means breaking down language barriers

Farmers anxious as IMD predicts more rain in April

Vikas Vasudeva CHANDIGARH

Fairly widespread rain accompanied by strong winds during the past 48 hours and more rains expected in coming days in the country's key grain-producing States - Punjab and Haryana - have left farmers and experts worried as they fear the inclement weather conditions could adversely damage the wheat crop, almost ready for harvesting.

It has also predicted a fresh western disturbance approaching the region during the upcoming week, which could bring in more rain.

'Rain till April 2'

"Most parts of Punjab and Haryana experienced widespread rain and gusty winds in the past 48 hours. While the current spell of western disturbance is expected to be over today, and thereafter it would be largely dry weather conditions for four to five days, there is another western disturbance approaching on March 30. The fresh disturbance is likely to bring more rain, which is expected to be active till April 2."

Rabi sowing takes place from October to December and harvesting happens by March-end

The Hindu.

In Punjab and Haryana, wheat is the main rabi (winter) crop. Sown between late October and December, the crop is now nearing the ripening stage. Harvesting of early sown varieties usually commences by March-end.

Expressing concern about the impact of the inclement weather conditions on winter crops, agricultural expert P.S. Rangji said that the wheat crop was close to ripening and is all set to be harvested in the next few days.

"The rain spells with winds are not a good sign. Wherever the crop has flattened, it will be difficult to recover it. Also, water logging in fields will damage the crop. If more rains and winds hit the region, the wheat crop output will certainly be adversely impacted," Mr. Rangji said.

Meanwhile, both State governments have ordered a special revenue survey to assess the losses of crops damaged in their States.

Rail network will reach up to LoC, says Vaishnav

Eeswarada Ashish SINGAPORE

Union Railway Minister Ashwin Vaishnav on Saturday said the Kashmir Valley's rail connectivity with the rest of the country will be started by the next year and the rail network will be expanded up to LoC. "Jammu and Kashmir will have Vande Bharat trains next year as Jammu-Srinagar rail link will be opened this year only."

"A detailed discussion is being held over the doubling of lines in Jammu. Three more sections are to be done in this line. Electrification work is almost done. Extending the line till LoC will be also discussed with the Lt-Governor (Mr. Manoj Sinha)," Mr. Vaishnav said.

India's first cable-stayed railway bridge nearing completion

Maitri Porecha REARI DISTRICT

Twenty years on, the delayed construction of the Anji Khad bridge in Reari district of Jammu is a major chink in the Indian Railways' ambitious plan to connect Kashmir to Jammu and the rest of India seamlessly.

After missing multiple deadlines, including those in 2017 and 2022, the ₹400-crore project to build India's first cable-stayed rail bridge is finally nearing completion. A running train launch the superstructure deck of the bridge by the first week of May, including laying cast, has to be stopped, as well as the tower cranes, like tower cranes, "swaying," the official explained. A running train whose speed limit would be restricted to 30 kmph, can sustain a wind speed of up to 90 kmph, added the official.

that swells every monsoon, the bridge is supported by a single pylon - a large vertical tower-like structure soaring 1,086 feet from the river bed, the height of a 77-storey building. Surrounded by mountain peaks, the construction site is buffeted by billowing, gusty winds.

The bridge is supported by a single pylon soaring 1,086 feet from the Anji Khad riverbed in Reari district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



The bridge is supported by a single pylon soaring 1,086 feet from the Anji Khad riverbed in Reari district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

After the bridge is completed, it will pave the way for trains connecting the region for trains connecting Jammu to Baramulla, via Srinagar, along a 326-km rail project of the century in Asia. It cut through almost every mile and built 96 tunnels while laying a 756-km railway line.

Prime Minister, and was declared a "national project". It was then realised during the survey of the stretch that there were no approach roads to start construction of the railway tunnel. Nearly 205 km of approach roads were paved between 2008 and 2016," explained the official quoted above.


The construction was then mired in a maze of litigation that questioned the legitimacy of the project. The bridge, in 2016, the work finally picked up pace, after nearly 113 km is currently in progress. "It is the most difficult section of the project, what with construction of 27 tunnels in a stretch of 97 km and 37 bridges in a 7-km section. The project was pegged at over ₹7,000 crore, is more challenging due to persistent climatic conditions and the treacherous nature of the difficult Himalayan terrain. Two months ago, a worker died after sustaining multiple injuries while conducting a slope stability survey on site, officials said.

"No approach roads" said a senior KRCCL official. The work on the intervening stretch of nearly 113 km is currently in progress. "It is the most difficult section of the project, what with construction of 27 tunnels in a stretch of 97 km and 37 bridges in a 7-km section. The project was pegged at over ₹7,000 crore, is more challenging due to persistent climatic conditions and the treacherous nature of the difficult Himalayan terrain. Two months ago, a worker died after sustaining multiple injuries while conducting a slope stability survey on site, officials said.



Lights turned off in various cities to mark 'Earth Hour'

Lights at public places and some temples in different cities including Mumbai, Kolkata and New Delhi were turned off between 8.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. as part of the global 'Earth Hour' event. The annual event is observed in order to raise awareness of energy conservation. Lights at the Rashtrapati Bhavan and also the famous Akshardham temple in New Delhi were turned off in support of nature and the planet on Saturday. Similarly, in Mumbai, videos emerged from the famous Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (in photo) with lights being switched off for an hour to mark Earth Hour. ANI



Earth Hour Day 2023 is celebrated on March 25. And the official theme for this year's celebration is "Invest in Our Planet," a continuation of the theme from 2022.

अर्थ आवर डे 2023 25 मार्च को मनाया जाता है। और इस वर्ष के उत्सव का आधिकारिक विषय "हमारे ग्रह में निवेश करें" है, जो 2022 से थीम की निरंतरता है।

- This event, organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), participants turn off all lights and electrical appliances in their homes and offices for an hour.
- Earth Hour is an annual event that takes place on the last Saturday of March. This year, on March 25 at 8.30 pm local time.
- For example, in Mongolia, WWF will host a sustainable fashion show featuring upcycled clothing, while in Latvia, they will host their traditional Earth Hour concert and nature hikes.

- वर्ल्ड वाइड फंड फॉर नेचर (डब्ल्यूडब्ल्यूएफ) द्वारा आयोजित इस कार्यक्रम में, प्रतिभागी एक घंटे के लिए अपने घरों और कार्यालयों में सभी रोशनी और बिजली के उपकरणों को बंद कर देते हैं।
- अर्थ आवर एक वार्षिक कार्यक्रम है जो मार्च के अंतिम शनिवार को होता है। इस साल 25 मार्च को स्थानीय समयानुसार रात 8.30 बजे।
- उदाहरण के लिए, मंगोलिया में, डब्ल्यूडब्ल्यूएफ एक स्थायी फैशन शो की मेजबानी करेगा, जिसमें अपसाइकिल कपड़ों की विशेषता होगी, जबकि लातविया में, वे अपने पारंपरिक अर्थ आवर संगीत कार्यक्रम और प्रकृति की सैर की मेजबानी करेंगे।

- The event was first introduced in Sydney, Australia, in 2007 by WWF and its partners as a symbolic lights-out event to raise awareness about climate change.
- The first Earth Hour was held on March 31, 2007, at 7:30 pm local time, in which around 2.2 million people in Sydney participated. The following year, Earth Hour was held internationally for the first time, with more than 50 million people from 35 countries taking part. Since then, the event has grown in popularity and has become a global phenomenon, with millions of people from over 190 countries taking part in the event.
- इस घटना को पहली बार 2007 में सिडनी, ऑस्ट्रेलिया में डब्ल्यूडब्ल्यूएफ और उसके भागीदारों द्वारा जलवायु परिवर्तन के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए एक प्रतीकात्मक रोशनी-आउट कार्यक्रम के रूप में पेश किया गया था।
- पहला अर्थ आवर 31 मार्च, 2007 को स्थानीय समयानुसार शाम 7:30 बजे आयोजित किया गया था, जिसमें सिडनी में लगभग 2.2 मिलियन लोगों ने भाग लिया था। अगले वर्ष, अर्थ आवर पहली बार अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर आयोजित किया गया, जिसमें 35 देशों के 50 मिलियन से अधिक लोगों ने भाग लिया। तब से, इस कार्यक्रम की लोकप्रियता में वृद्धि हुई है और यह एक वैश्विक घटना बन गई है, जिसमें 190 से अधिक देशों के लाखों लोग इस कार्यक्रम में भाग ले रहे हैं।

- **What's the difference between Earth Hour and Earth Day?**

- Whereas Earth Hour stands as a climate change initiative where people reduce their electricity usage, **Earth Day (April 22)** celebrates our natural environment by inspiring people to plant trees, recycle regularly and keep the planet tidy.

- अर्थ आवर और अर्थ डे में क्या अंतर है?

- जबकि अर्थ आवर एक जलवायु परिवर्तन पहल के रूप में खड़ा है जहां लोग अपने बिजली के उपयोग को कम करते हैं, पृथ्वी दिवस (22 अप्रैल) लोगों को पेड़ लगाने, नियमित रूप से रीसायकल करने और ग्रह को साफ रखने के लिए प्रेरित करके हमारे प्राकृतिक वातावरण का जश्न मनाता है।

1

We are on course to breach by 2030 the 1.5°C global temperature increase limit set by the Paris Climate Agreement.

2

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), global CO2 emissions reached a record high in 2019, with 33.1 gigatons of CO2 released into the atmosphere.

3

हम 2030 तक पेरिस जलवायु समझौते द्वारा निर्धारित 1.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस वैश्विक तापमान वृद्धि की सीमा का उल्लंघन करने जा रहे हैं।

4

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा एजेंसी (IEA) के अनुसार, वैश्विक CO2 उत्सर्जन 2019 में रिकॉर्ड उच्च स्तर पर पहुंच गया, जिसमें 33.1 गीगाटन CO2 वातावरण में जारी किया गया।

-
- Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is now reaching levels 50% higher than before the industrial revolution.
 - According to the Global Risks Report 2020 by the World Economic Forum, the five risks that are most likely to occur over the next decade are all related to climate change. These risks include human-made environmental disasters, failure to take action on climate change, natural disasters, loss of biodiversity, and extreme weather events
 - वातावरण में कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड अब औद्योगिक क्रांति से पहले की तुलना में 50% अधिक स्तर पर पहुंच रही है।
 - वर्ल्ड इकोनॉमिक फोरम द्वारा ग्लोबल रिस्क रिपोर्ट 2020 के अनुसार, अगले दशक में जिन पांच जोखिमों की सबसे अधिक संभावना है, वे सभी जलवायु परिवर्तन से संबंधित हैं। इन जोखिमों में मानव निर्मित पर्यावरणीय आपदाएं, जलवायु परिवर्तन पर कार्रवाई करने में विफलता, प्राकृतिक आपदाएं, जैव विविधता की हानि, और चरम मौसम की घटनाएं शामिल हैं।

MOSCOW

Russia will station tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, says Putin



Russian President Vladimir Putin announced plans on Saturday to station tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus. He said it was in response to U.K. decision to provide Ukraine with armour-piercing rounds containing depleted uranium. He said construction of the storage facilities in Belarus would be completed by July 1.

BEIRUT

Death toll reaches 19 in U.S. strikes on Iran-linked groups in Syria



The death toll from retaliatory U.S. strikes on Iran-linked groups in Syria following a deadly drone attack has risen to 19, a war monitor said on Saturday, as Washington insisted it is not seeking conflict with Tehran. Washington carried out the strikes after the Pentagon said a U.S. contractor died by a drone "of Iranian origin".

VATICAN CITY

Pope expands sex abuse law, reaffirms adults can be victims



Pope Francis on Saturday updated a 2010 church law aimed at holding senior churchmen accountable for covering up cases of sex abuse, expanding it to cover lay Catholic leaders and reaffirming that vulnerable adults can also be victims of abuse when they are unable to consent.

JERUSALEM

Israeli Defence Minister Gallant calls for halt to judicial overhaul



Israel Defence Minister Yoav Gallant called on Saturday for an immediate and temporary halt to the far-right government's plan to overhaul the judiciary, the first public dissent from within Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition. He said it is worried that the overhaul plans pose a threat to the country's security.

Britain, nine partners train Ukraine military recruits

Operation Interflex is a part of the U.K.'s commitment of £2.3 billion for military aid and support to Ukraine, the five-week course is being undertaken at four locations across the country

Dinakar Peri
LONDON

Before the war in Ukraine, Igor, 27, from Odessa, used to make handmade leather products, while Oleksiy, 34, from Mykolajiv, owned a car service station. Today, they are among almost 2,000 Ukraine military recruits undergoing five weeks of basic training in the U.K. under an initiative called Operation Interflex. The course, by the U.K. and nine other partner countries, began on June 27, 2022, and trains recruits from Ukraine, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Lithuania, and the Netherlands. Training is at four locations in the U.K. — Yorkshire, Kent, Wiltshire, and Northumberland.



Defending homeland: Ukraine military recruits undergoing urban warfare and room intervention training in the U.K.

The laws of armed conflict, first aid, and cyber security awareness. "Our focus is on teaching the abilities to shoot, move, communicate, medicate, and the ability to defend their homeland," said Major Jürgen Miranida, who is heading the Canadian-U.K. training wing.

Operation Interflex is a part of the U.K.'s commitment of £2.3 billion for the provision of military aid and support to Ukraine. On August 11, 2022, the U.K. and other key allies agreed at the Copenhagen Conference to expand long-term military support for Ukraine in its defence against Russia.

Mr. Igor, who has an 86-year-old grandmother at home, was recruited a month ago. "I always wanted to join the Army but due to a physical injury in my leg I couldn't," he said. He finally got his turn after several requests, with his injury now treated.

Each trainee is also given equipment for use once they go back to Ukraine. Around 1,35,000 items have been donated to date, U.K. officials said. These include personal protective equipment, including helmets; body armour; eye, ear, and pelvic protectors; individual first-aid kits; field uniforms and boots; cold and wet weather clothing; berets; day sacks; and webbing and additional equipment required for field operations.

"Our training is based on request from the Ukrainians to maximise the number of people that come for basic training," Maj. Trucker Middleton, commanding officer of the U.K. training team, said. "In the past, we have trained just over 10,000 recruits and that number is expected to increase along with other training that goes on across Europe to support our Ukrainian allies."

Further, Maj. Middleton noted that they are training people with very little military experience, so irrespective of their age, they are considered recruits. "What we are providing them is basic infantry-based military training to

Pakistan court sentences man to death for blasphemy

Agence France-Presse
PESHAWAR

An anti-terrorism court in northwest Pakistan has convicted and sentenced a Muslim man to death after he was accused of posting blasphemous content in a WhatsApp group. Blasphemy is a hugely sensitive issue in Muslim-majority Pakistan, where even unproven allegations can stir mobs and violence.

Zeeshan, who is a resident of the northwest city of Mardan, was also fined 1.2 million rupees and sentenced to four years imprisonment. He has the right to appeal.

Trump to stage rally at site of deadly anti-govt. siege

Agence France-Presse
WACO

Donald Trump stages his first presidential campaign rally on Saturday at the site of a deadly 1993 stand-off between an anti-government cult and federal agents as he rails against multiple criminal probes threatening his bid for the White House.



Donald Trump

Washington and Atlanta. The Republican leader is expected to address at least 15,000 supporters as he braves far possible charges over a hush money payout.

The rally comes amid a torrent of increasingly bellicose statements by Mr. Trump claiming a "witch hunt" by prosecutors he has accused of fabricating charges over a hush money payout.

"Blaring air horn" The 76-year-old — who was impeached for inciting an insurrection — called last weekend's riotous protests against perceived government overreach. The Trump campaign didn't immediately respond to the request for the rationale behind choosing Waco at such a sensitive time. But his spokesman was quoted by U.S. media pointing to the ease of access afforded by Waco's central location.

Tornadoes rip through Mississippi, killing 23, injuring dozens overnight

Associated Press
ROLLING FORK

Powerful tornadoes that ripped through Mississippi — destroying buildings and obliterating at least one town — killed almost two dozen people, officials said on Saturday. They warned that the casualty toll could go higher. The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency said in a Twitter post that search and rescue teams from local and state agencies were deployed to help victims impacted by the tornadoes. The agency confirmed early on Saturday that 23 people had died, four were missing and dozens were injured. A few minutes later, the agency tweeted: "Unfortunately, these numbers are expected to change."



Washed out: Law enforcement officers climbing through debris to look for survivors at a diner in Rolling Fork on Saturday.

96 kilometres northeast of Jackson, Mississippi. The rural town of Silver City and Rolling Fork reported destruction as the tornado swept north at 115 kph without weakening, racing towards Alabama through towns including Winona and Amory into the night. Rolling Fork Mayor Edridge Walker told CNN that his town was essentially wiped out. Rolling Fork and the surrounding area has wide expanses of cotton, corn and soybean fields and catfish farming ponds. More than a half-dozen shelters were opened in the state by emergency officials. "This was a supercell, the nastiest type of storms that brew the deadliest tornado in the U.S.," said University of Northern Illinois meteorology professor Walker Ashley.

Paul, hero of Hotel Rwanda, out of prison

Agence France-Presse
KIGALI

Fiercely outspoken Rwandan government critic Paul Rusesabagina, whose efforts to save people during the 1994 genocide inspired the Hollywood film Hotel Rwanda, has been freed from prison after more than 900 days behind bars.

Mr. Rusesabagina was released late on Friday away from the media glare and will return to the United States after the Kigali government commuted his 25-year sentence on terrorism charges. His detention had thrown a spotlight on Rwanda's record of crushing political dissent and free speech under President Paul Kagame. Mr. Rusesabagina was convicted in September 2021 of backing an armed rebel group after a trial that his supporters denounced as a sham.

Advertisement for AVNI (Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited) featuring G20 and AVNI logos, contact information in Hindi, and a table of job openings. The table lists 20 positions with details on vacancy, remuneration, and nature of appointment. A note at the bottom states that the application deadline is 21 days from the date of publication.

Britain, nine partners train Ukraine military recruits

Operation Interflex is a part of the U.K.'s commitment of £2.3 billion for military aid and support to Ukraine; the five-week course is being undertaken at four locations across the country

Dinakar Peri

LONDON

Before the war in Ukraine, Igor, 27, from Odesa, used to make handmade leather products, while Oleksiy, 34, from Mykolaiv, owned a car service station. Today, they are among almost 2,000 Ukraine military recruits undergoing five weeks of basic training in the U.K. under an initiative called Operation Interflex. The course, by the U.K. and nine other partner countries, began on June 27, 2022, and trains recruits from Ukraine's military.

The other nations involved in the initiative are Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Lithuania, and the Netherlands. Training is on at four locations in the U.K.—Yorkshire, Kent, Wiltshire, and



Defending homeland: Ukraine military recruits undergoing urban warfare and room intervention training in the U.K. DINAKAR PERI

the laws of armed conflict, first aid, and cyber security awareness. “Our focus is on teaching the abilities to shoot, move, communicate, medicate, and the ability to defend their homeland,” said Major Jürgen Miranda, who is heading the Canadian-U.K. training wing.

‘Learning to defend’

After the war began, Mr.

leg I couldn’t,” he said. He finally got his turn after several requests, with his injury now treated.

“Our training is based on request from the Ukrainians to maximise the number of people that come for basic training,” Maj. Trucker Middleton, commanding officer of the U.K. training team, said. “In the past, we have trained just over 10,000 re-

give them the key skills and experiences to operate once they go back to Ukraine,” he added.

Each trainee is also given equipment for use once they return. Around 1,95,000 items have been donated to date, U.K. officials said. These include personal protective equipment, including helmets; body armour; eye, ear, and pelvic protectors; individual first-aid kits; field uniforms and boots; cold and wet weather clothing; bergens; day sacks; and webbing and additional equipment required for field conditions including ponchos, sleeping bags, and entrenching tools, officials explained.

This training is in addition to the high-end military platforms and systems given to Ukraine and the training imparted to operate them, according to U.K. military officials.

Training is on at four locations in the U.K.—Yorkshire, Kent, Wiltshire, and Northumberland.

Operation Interflex is a part of the U.K.'s commitment of £2.3 billion for the provision of military aid and support to Ukraine. On August 11, 2022, the U.K. and other key allies agreed at the Copenhagen Conference to expand long-term military support for Ukraine in its defence against Russia.

Operation Interflex aims to teach weapon handling, range activity, marksmanship, fieldcraft basics, field tactics, battle casualty drills, counter explosives,

'Learning to defend'

After the war began, Mr. Oleksiy said he worked for a while as a volunteer, repairing cars and helping with spare parts. "Now I am learning to defend Ukraine on a training ground in Britain. We are trained by professional military personnel from Canada, who teach us everything we will need in the future to protect Ukraine," he said.

Mr. Igor, who has an 86-year-old grandmother at home, was recruited a month ago. "I always wanted to join the Army but due to a physical injury in my

U.K. training team, said. "In the past, we have trained just over 10,000 recruits and that number is expected to increase along with other training that goes on across Europe to support our Ukrainian allies." The training is being ramped up and by year-end, around 20,000 recruits are expected to be trained.

Further, Maj. Middleton noted that they are training people with very little military experience, so irrespective of their age, they are considered recruits. "What we are providing them is basic infantry-based military training to

training imparted to operate them, according to U.K. military officials.

After the United States, the U.K. too has supplied a large inventory of high-tech military equipment. This includes a squadron of 14 Challenger 2 tanks, AS90 and 28 M109 155mm self-propelled guns, hundreds of armoured and protected vehicles, more than 10,000 anti-tank missiles (including NLAW, Javelin, Brimstone, and other anti-tank weapons) and multiple launch rocket systems.

(The writer was in the U.K. on an invitation from the British Ministry of Defence)

New technique can say where spent nuclear fuel came from

Yasudev Anil Kumar

Scientists in China have developed a technique to reliably identify whether some nuclear fuel originated in one of two common kinds of nuclear reactors, a difficult task in nuclear forensics, using experimental data and machine-learning (ML).
 Their work was published in *Physical Review Applied* on March 5.
 Nuclear fuel is a highly regulated material because

of its destructive potential. Countries maintain detailed inventories to safeguard it.
 Nuclear forensics use analytical methods to identify the origins of nuclear materials and whether they were used for military applications.
 Spent fuel from boiling water reactors (BWRs) is hard to differentiate from that from pressurised water reactors (PWRs) because both "use water as moderator and have simi-

lar thermal neutron spectra, so they are quite similar in neutron reaction mechanisms," Shengli Chen, a professor at the Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangdong, and a co-author of the study, told *The Hindu* by email.
 Experimental data
 The group used experimental data instead of simulations, whose accuracy is unknown.
 The reactor type, the fuel's exposure time inside

the reactor, and the extent of the fuel's enrichment can uniquely identify spent nuclear fuel.
 Using a database that contains the composition of different isotopes in spent fuel from reactors over 50 years, the researchers developed equations that related these quantities to each other.
 If one quantity can be determined through other measurements such as gamma-ray emissions from the spent fuel, the values

of the other two quantities can be calculated.
 They also trained data from the database to develop three ML models to distinguish fuel from BWRs from that from PWRs.
 In BWRs, the fuel rods are submerged in water. When the fuel fissions, the water boils and the steam drives a turbine. In PWRs, the fuel rods aren't exposed to the water; only the heat is exchanged.
 The group's ML models correctly identified 95% of

the fuel from BWRs, and 90% the fuel from PWRs.
 "There was no explicit information about the accuracy of discriminating between PWRs and BWRs in other papers," said Dr. Chen.
 "Previous works, based on simulation data," could differentiate between reactors, whereas "our work, based on experimental data, explicitly concludes whether reactor type has been used to irradiate the sample," added Dr. Chen.

SNAPSHOTS



Numerical abilities hardwired in newly hatched zebrafish

Zebrafish larvae can recognise difference between numbers of black bars within 96 hours of hatching (*Communications Biology*). The findings suggest that numerical abilities may be hardwired in zebrafish. Earlier work has demonstrated numerical abilities in new-born humans and newly hatched chickens – species whose brains are developed. Till now, there has been little understanding of numerical abilities in other species that are born at a larval or foetal stage, with underdeveloped brains.



Sorghum's alkaline tolerance can improve crop yields

As the world's soils continue to be impacted by salt, researchers have identified a protein that plays a crucial role in helping plants like sorghum grow in alkaline, salty soils (*Science*). The findings could inform the design of crops better suited to grow in underutilised sodic lands. Researchers performed a genome-wide association study of salt tolerance in sorghum and identified Alkaline Tolerance 1 (AT1) – a major locus specifically related to the plant's sensitivity to alkaline, sodic soils.



Oxytocin plays a key role in basic empathy in zebrafish

Oxytocin plays an essential role in the spread of fear in zebrafish (*Science*), the results of which suggest a deeply conserved role for the hormone in emotional contagion – the basal form of empathy – among vertebrates like fish. Empathy, the capacity to recognise and respond to the emotional state of another individual, is a hallmark of highly social mammals. However, research suggests that the capacity for empathy may be more widespread across vertebrates.

Inadequate sleep increases the risk of fatty liver disease

With every one-hour decrease in sleep time from the recommended seven-eight hours, the risk of fat deposition in the liver increased by 24%

Cyrilic Abbley Phillips

In 2018, anatomists at the Toho University Graduate School of Medicine, Tokyo, performed a sleep deprivation experiment on lab mice. Mice usually sleep for 12 hours a day. In this experiment, researchers induced sleep deprivation using the "gentle handling method" during sleep hours so that the mice could sleep only for six hours daily.

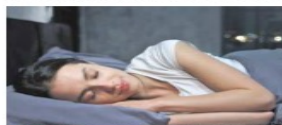
They discovered that liver fat content in sleep-deprived mice increased without total weight gain compared to another group of mice who were allowed to sleep normally. The liver cells were stressed, and the activity of certain genes that escalate insulin resistance and fat content within liver cells also increased with sleep deprivation.

Experiment on rats
 Three years later, a group of Chinese researchers at the Xijiang Medical University went one step ahead. In this experiment, rats were severely sleep-deprived, turning into insomnia.

Liver enzymes, blood, and liver fat increased substantially. None of these changes were notable among rats who were allowed to sleep without disturbance. They also found the reason for increased liver fat in insomnia mice – the sympathetic nerves that supply the liver, best known for their role in responding to stress and danger, were hyperactive.

Sleep deprivation is associated with liver disease

Sleeping only for a few hours each night is not healthy



Essential: Seven hours at night is the minimum required sleep duration

The brain does not rest during sleep. It is engaged in various activities necessary to improve well-being, especially of the liver

Incidence of fatty liver disease among 10,000 persons with sleep disorders at one-year follow-up was 16, control group recorded

only six cases
 • Inadequate sleep duration is strongly associated with an elevated risk of developing non-alcoholic fatty liver disease
 • Napping for more than one hour during the day was strongly associated with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease development
 • Liver fat content in sleep-deprived mice increased without total weight gain compared to the control group
 • The risk of fatty liver disease reduced significantly in people who caught up on sleep debt over the weekends

When insomnia was treated with a sleeping pill in these stressed rats, the liver fat was reduced with adequate sleep.

There are lessons here, of mice and men. Sleep is an underrated activity among humans. Sometimes, the intentional and forced lack of sleep to increase productivity is advertised by men in power to showcase their self-proclaimed metahuman nature.

During an interview in 2011, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that he had become a workaholic and hardly slept for 3.5 hours in a day, and that yoga and pranayama routine kept him energised and awake.

That medical science has a different story to tell. A study of nearly 85,000 people from Europe showed

that those who slept 7.5-8 hours daily had higher life expectancy than those who slept less than seven hours. In those between ages 50 and 75 without sleep disturbances, the expectation of living longer without chronic disease development was significantly higher.

And yoga interventions improved overall sleep quality, efficiency, latency, and duration, contrary to all claims.

Healthy sleep
 Sleep is a vital function of human life and accounts for up to one-third of the lifespan. Contrary to normal belief, during sleep, the brain is not resting but engaged in various activities. That medical science has well-being, increase life, and especially impact the liver.

The minimum required duration for 'healthy' sleep is seven hours.
 When 10,000 persons with sleep disorders were followed up for one year, incident fatty liver disease was noted in 14, while in those without sleep disorders, it was only six. Non-alcoholic fatty liver disease association was significantly higher among persons with shorter sleep duration (less than six hours per night) and excessive daytime sleepiness.

A high-quality study showed that inadequate sleep duration was strongly associated with an elevated risk of developing non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, but adequate sleep helped prevent it.
 With every one-hour decrease in sleep time from the recommended seven-eight hours, the risk of fat

deposition in the liver increased by 24% compared with those who slept adequately.

However, when people who lost sleep during the week-end caught up on the debt during weekends (known as weekend catch-up sleep), the development of fatty liver disease reduced significantly. Compared with non-nappers, long daytime nappers (more than 60 minutes) had a higher risk of developing non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

Identification
 Correlation may not be causation, but with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, which is associated with other conditions such as obesity, high blood pressure, increased waist-hip ratio, low functioning thyroid, and high blood cholesterol, studying and identifying independent associations make realistic sense.

In people who sleep less than six hours at night, sleep debt may have a persistently poor sleep quality, or nap more than one hour during the day, independent of other disease conditions, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease development was a strong association.

The next time someone brags that sacrificing time and quality of sleep is an achievement associated with success, remember that success comes with fatty liver disease. And it is not worth it.

(Cyrilic Abbley Phillips is a senior consultant physician, clinician-scientist at the Liver Institute, Rajagiri Hospital, Kochi)

Mirror, mirror, is that me?

SPECIAL DOUBLE SCIENCE
 D. Balasubramanian

Monkeys, when first shown a mirror, respond to the 'intruder' with hostility – teeth are bared, and war-like poses adopted. We, humans, can recognise our own reflections in a mirror as "me". However, this ability is not a uniquely human trait. The "Mirror test" is also passed by chimpanzees, dolphins, elephants, some birds and even fish.

The test for self-recognition is simple enough. A prominent mark (for example, a large red dot) is secretively made on the face of the subject, in a place where it is not visible to the subject. When placed on an infant or a small child, a red mark on the forehead certainly draws the attention of the child. But if they are about 18-months old, children reach out to try and

touch that strange mark in the mirror. From around 18 months of age, children react to the reflection in a mirror by trying to touch the mark on their own foreheads. They seem to ask themselves, "How did this get to my face?"

The older child's ability is surely a sign of self-recognition. But is it also a sign of self-awareness? After all, even grown-up humans have wide-ranging reactions to mirrors. Some cannot resist stopping, others do not seem to pay much attention to their reflections.

Self-recognition
 The test for mirror self-recognition have come from the Japanese laboratory studying the blue-streak cleaner wrasse fish, which is known to be a parasite. This small fish has a mutualistic relationship with larger fish in tropical oceans. It feeds on parasites attached to their bodies. The cleaner fish waits at



Quite common: Blue-streak cleaner wrasse fish is known to show signs of self-recognition. GETTY IMAGES

chosen places, and the parasite-ridden fish present themselves for cleaning. They even adopt strange body postures to the parasites. The scene resembles a barber's shop, where men hold their chins, or their arms up for the barber to shave.
 The experiments with cleaner fish were performed in aquariums, one fish at a time. A mirror is first placed in the water, or a photograph of

the fish is shown on a screen. On the first few occasions, the fish is not reacting. But over time, self-recognition is attained. The cleaner fish can get the mirror-test. It is aggressive only towards images of strangers. It will hold their chins, or marks painted on its body, and tries to rub them off on any nearby surface.
 When shown a manipulated image, where the body of a stranger now carries the face of the fish, the fish does not

For children, full recognition of the reflection in mirror as 'me' occurs by the age of 18 months

show aggressive behaviour. But a photoshopped image with a face of a stranger on the fish's body attracts hostility. The cleaner fish seems to have a memory of its face.

Self-awareness?
 Returning to human children, the test for self-recognition is learnt as the child grows. Full recognition of the reflection as 'me' occurs by the age of 18 months. This is the age at which children begin to talk about themselves, and recall events that always face them, "I ate it". Can this be called self-awareness (for example, "I ate it"). Can this be called self-awareness (for example, "I ate it").
 (The article was written in collaboration with Sushil Chandan, who works on developmental modelling. sushilchandana@gmail.com)

Question Corner

Distant planets

Can distant planets have a new life?

A new study (*The Astrophysical Journal*) describes how exoplanets inside a special area called the "terminator zone", which is a ring on planets that have one side that always faces its star and the other side is always dark. Such planets are common because they exist around stars that make up about 70% of the stars seen in the night sky, so-called M-dwarf stars, says a release. The terminator is the dividing line between the day and night sides of the planet. On the dark

sides of terminator planets, perpetual night would yield plummeting temperatures that could cause any water to be frozen into ice. The side of the planet always facing its star could be too hot for water to remain in the open for long. Researchers modelled the climate of terminator planets using software used to model earth's climate. It is believed to be the first time astronomers have been able to show that such planets can sustain habitable climates confined to this terminator region, says the release.

Readers may send their questions / answers to: questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Inadequate sleep increases the risk of fatty liver disease

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Sleep deprivation is associated with liver disease

Sleeping only for a few hours each night is not healthy



Essential: Seven hours at night is the minimum required sleep duration

- The brain does not rest during sleep, but is engaged in various activities necessary to improve well-being, especially of the liver

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only six cases

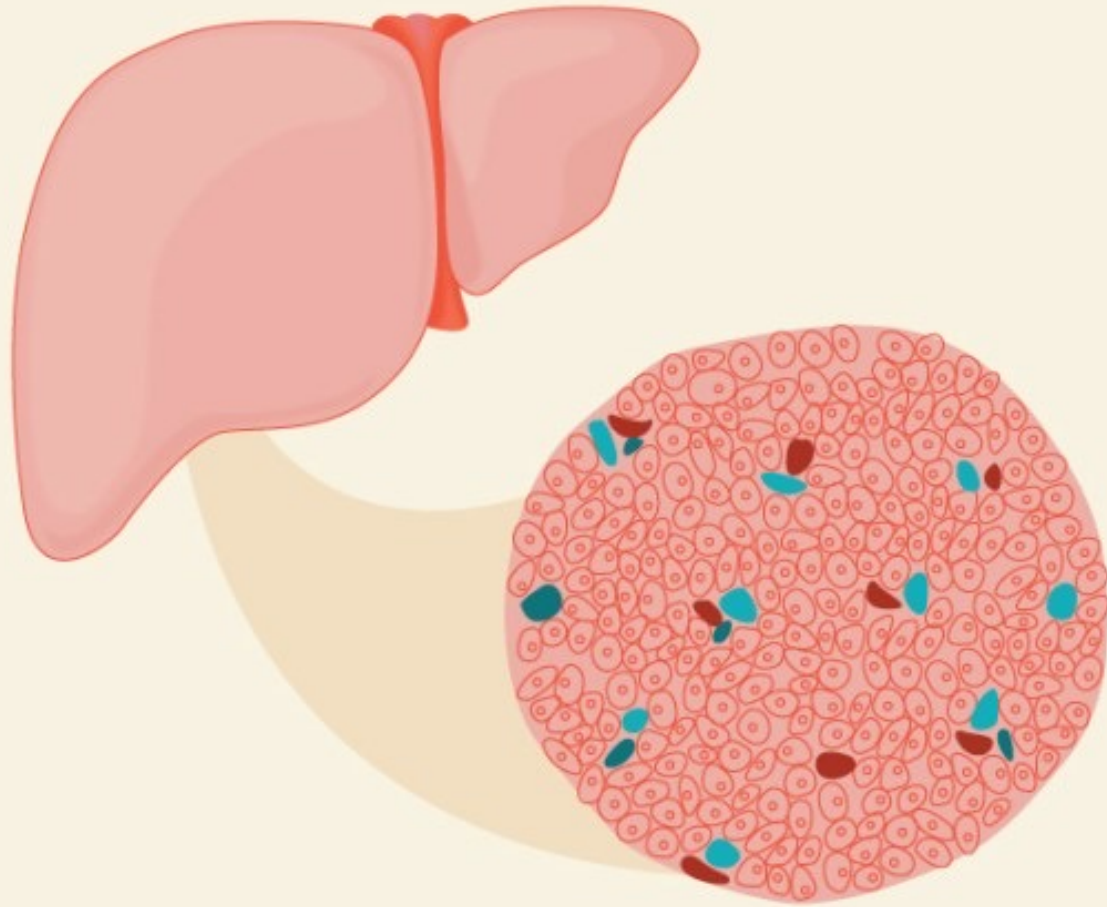
- Inadequate sleep duration is strongly associated with an elevated risk of developing non-alcoholic fatty liver disease

- Napping for more than one hour during the day too was strongly associated with non-alcoholic fatty liver disease development

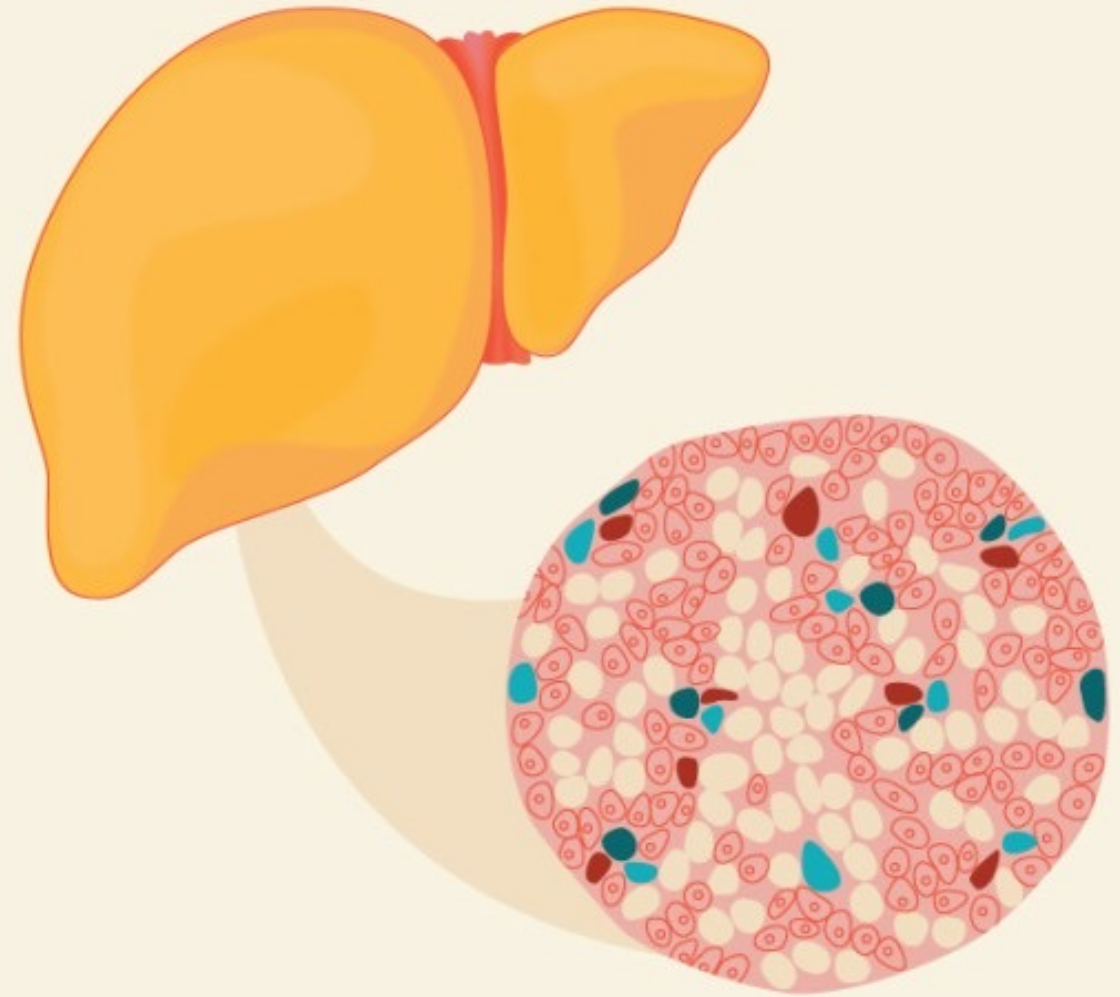
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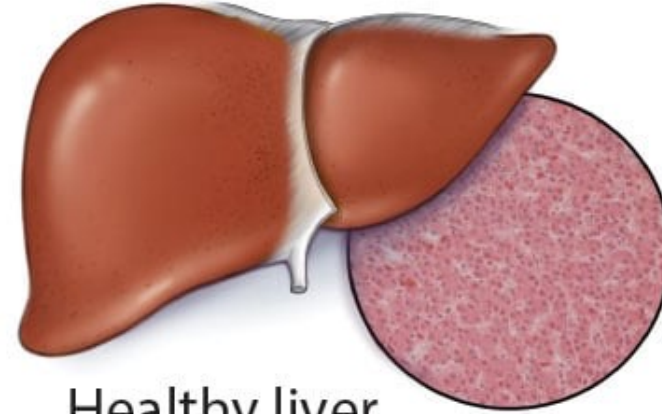
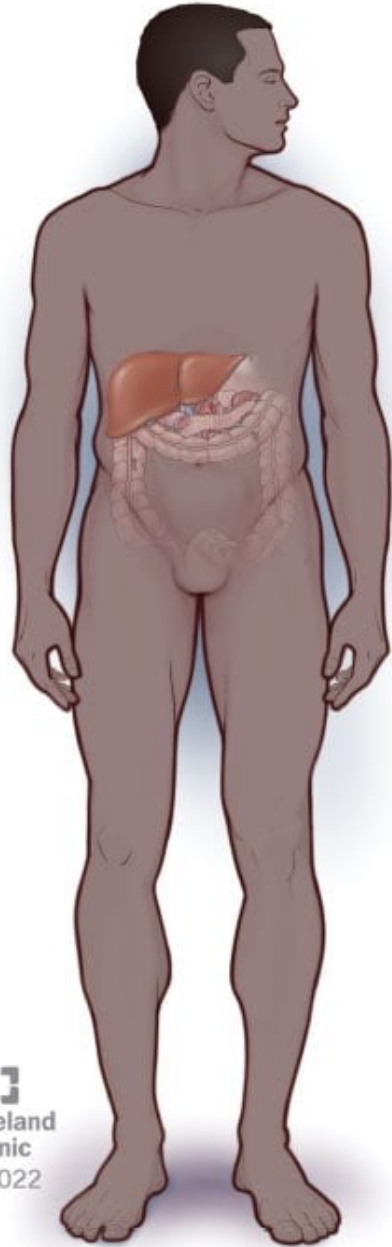
Healthy Liver



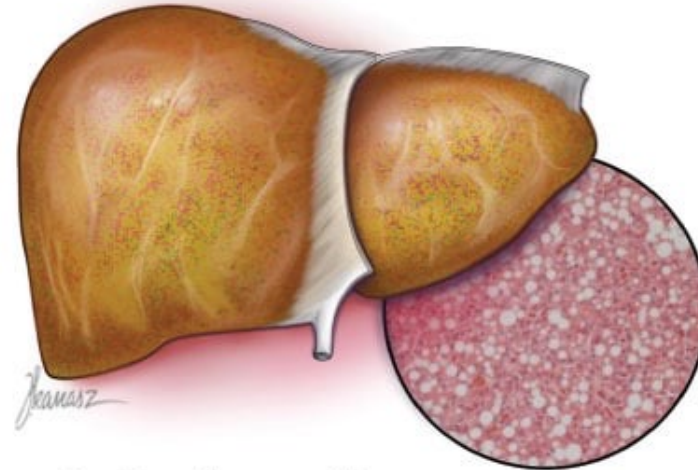
Unhealthy Liver



Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease

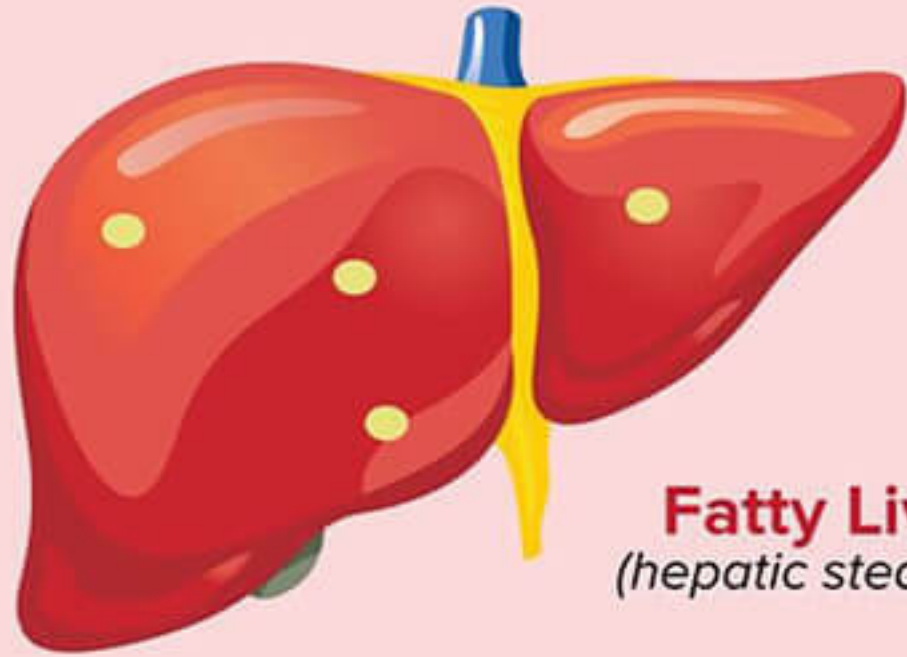


Healthy liver



Fatty liver disease

SYMPTOMS OF FATTY LIVER



Fatty Liver
(hepatic steatosis)



Abdominal
Pain



Easy
Bruising



Weight
Loss



Excessive
Fatigue



Dark Urine



Loss of Appetite



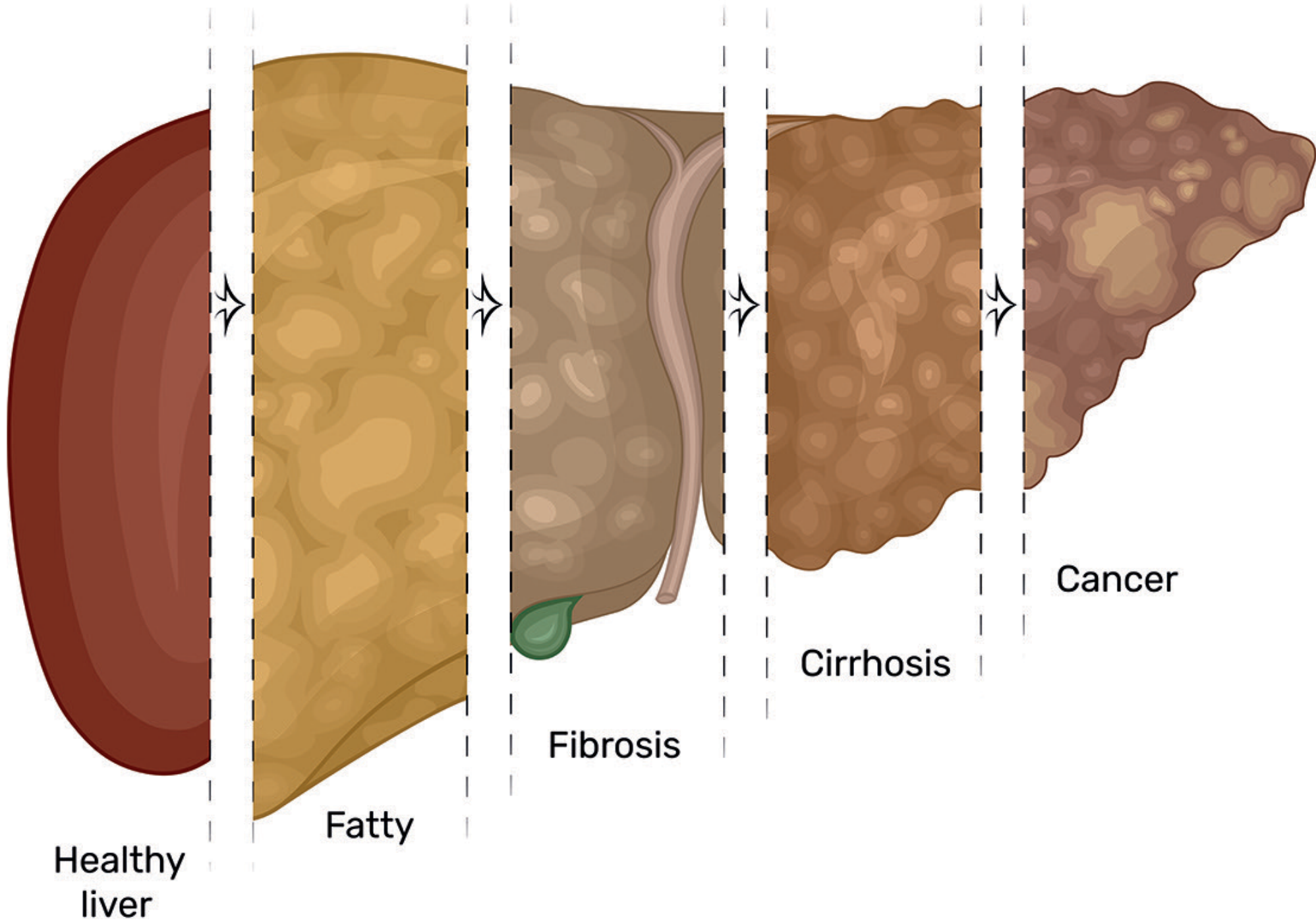
Nausea

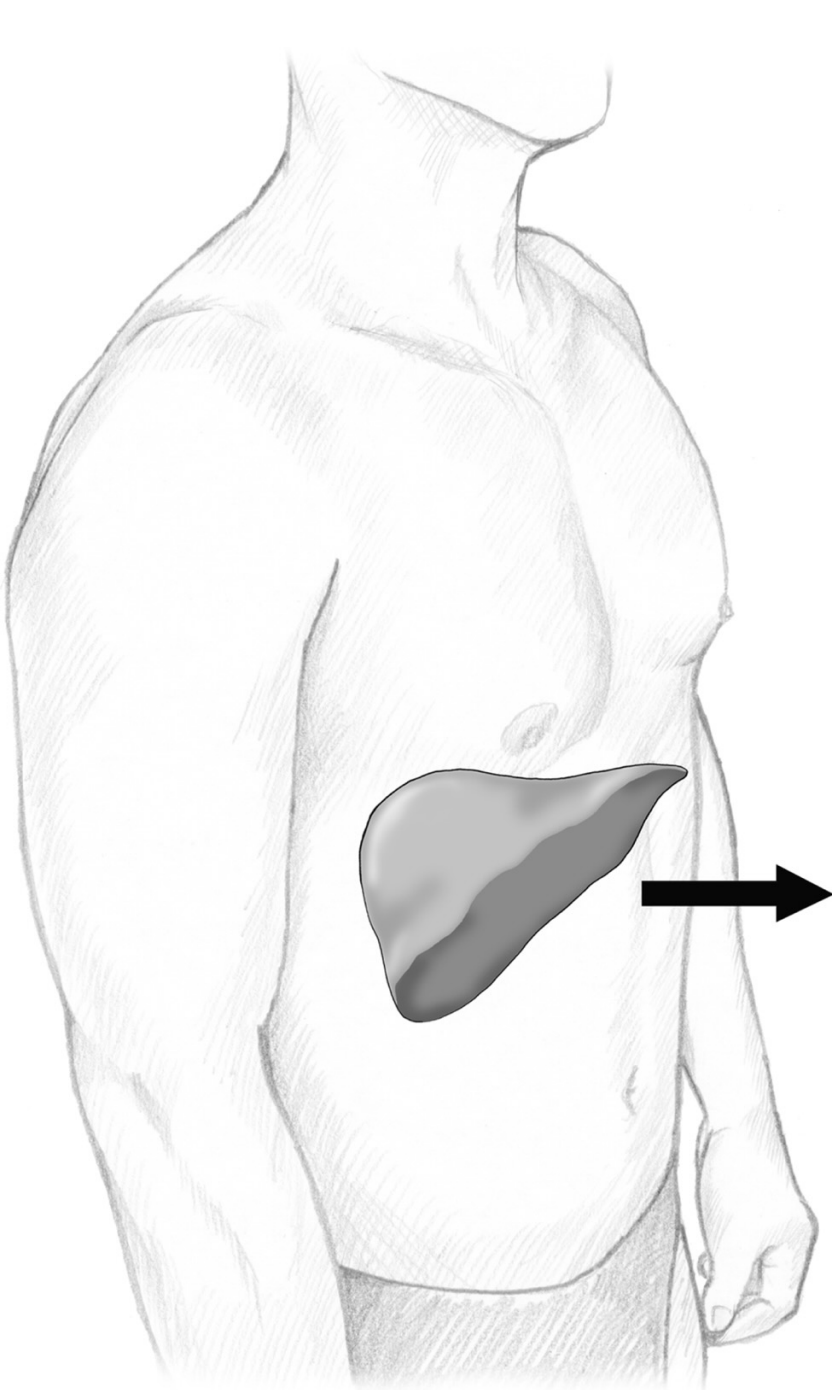


Pale Stools

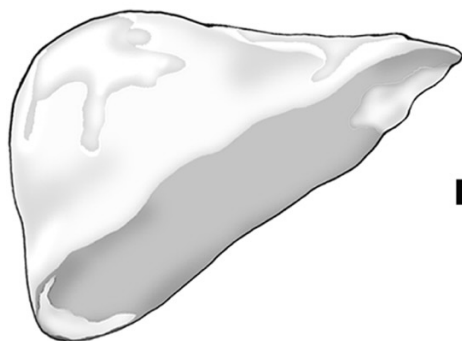


Jaundice





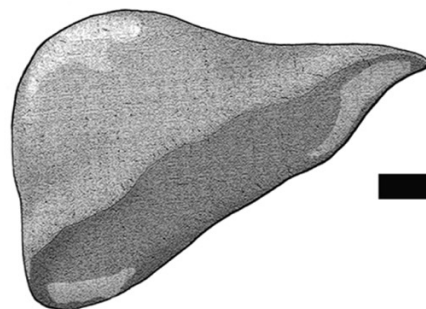
Fatty liver



Deposits of fat cause liver enlargement.



Liver fibrosis



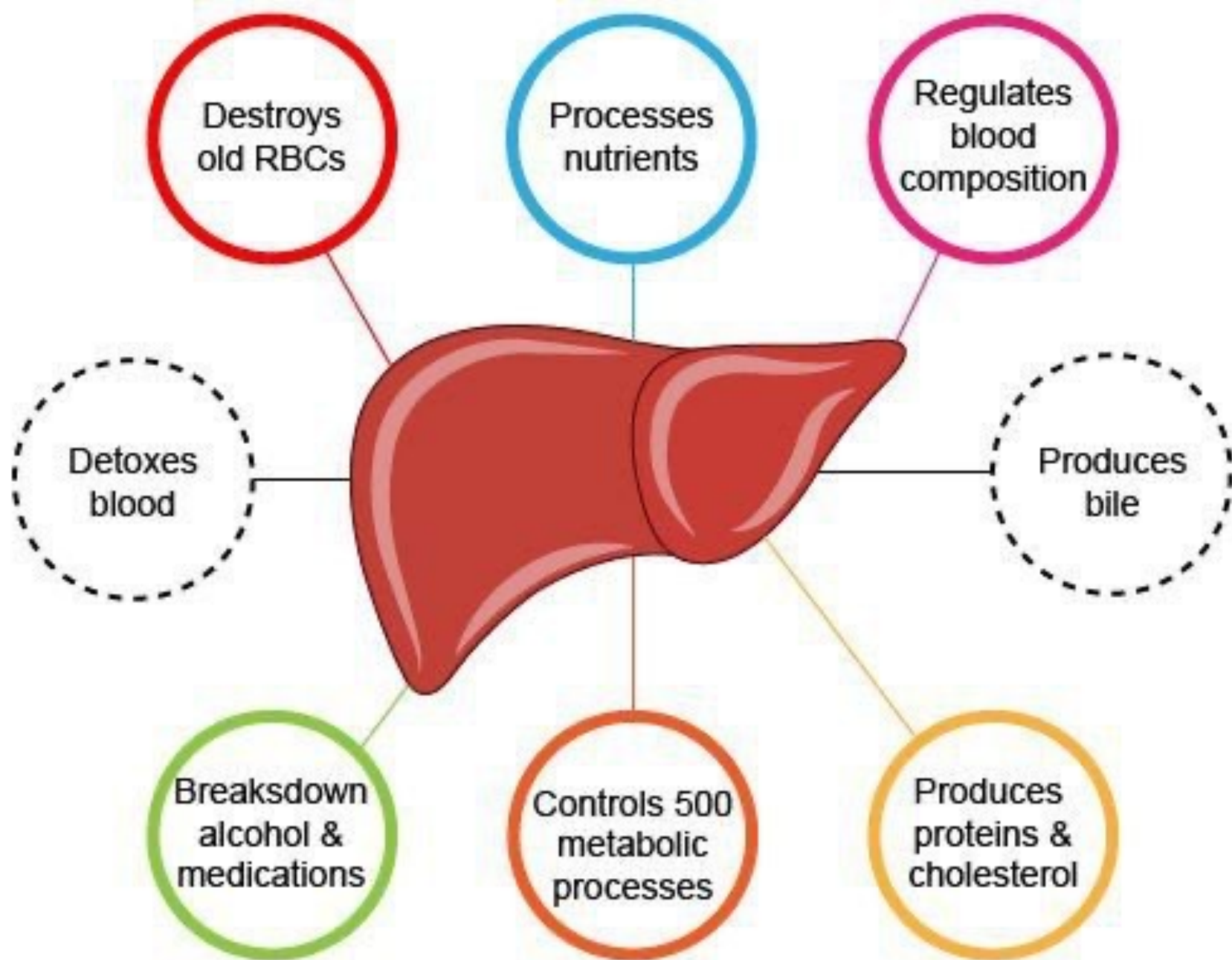
Scar tissue forms. More liver cell injury occurs.



Cirrhosis

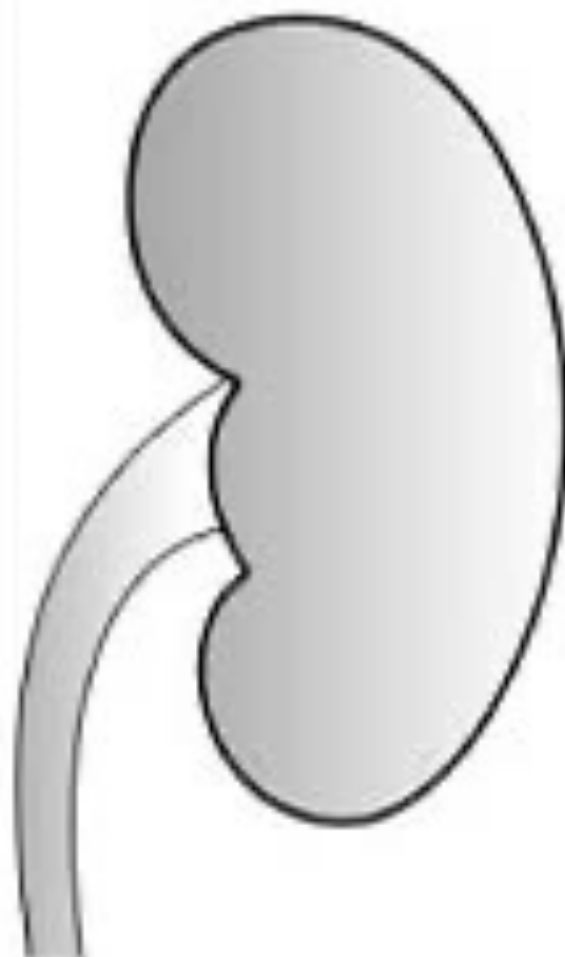


Scar tissue makes liver hard and unable to work properly.



Essential liver functions

Functions of the Kidney



- Removal of waste products
- Removal of excess fluid
- Balance minerals and chemicals
- Control of blood pressure
- RBC production
- To maintain healthy bones

ALL-ROUND SHOW

Nabi stars as Afghanistan stuns Pakistan in T20 series opener



Mohammad Nabi guided Afghanistan to a six-wicket win over Pakistan in the first of a three-game T20 series in Sharjah on Friday. Nabi took two for 12 and made a run-a-ball unbeaten 38. **The scores:** Pakistan 27/3 in 20 overs lost to Afghanistan 38/4 in 17.3 overs (Mohammad Nabi 38 n.o.).

DEMOLITION JOB

Shipley tears through Sri Lanka in ODI thrashing



Henry Shipley tore through Sri Lanka's line-up as New Zealand romped to a 198-run win in the first ODI in Auckland on Saturday. **The scores:** New Zealand 274 in 49.3 overs (Finn Allen 51, Rachin Ravindra 45, Charuka Kumarakara 4/63) vs Sri Lanka 76 in 13.5 overs (Henry Shipley 5/31).

HUMBINGER

Powell powers West Indies past South Africa in first T20I



West Indies beat South Africa by three wickets with three balls to spare in a rain-shortened first T20I in Centurion on Saturday. **The scores:** South Africa 131/8 in 13 overs (David Miller 88, Odden Smith 2/27, S. Cottrell 2/11) lost to West Indies 132/7 in 16.3 overs (Rovman Powell 43 n.o., Sianda Magala 3/21).

BAG OF TRICKS

Was very focused on what I was going to bowl, says Wong



Mumbai Indians seamer Isay Wong, who made history by taking WPL's first hat-trick (against UP Warriorz in the Eliminator), said she was focused on what she was going to bowl and made sure she executed it. When asked about the ball that completed the feat, she said her spell of four for 15 was "right up there".



Double delight: Nitu and Saweety made it a memorable Saturday for the Indian fans with a remarkable display. ix: meesoor

Nitu, Saweety punch their way to World titles in contrasting style

Former puts on a stupendous show to blank Mongolia's Altantseseg in the 48kg final, while the latter gets the better of China's Lina through a bout review in the 81kg summit clash much to the delight of the faithful

Y. B. Sarangi
NEW DELHI

Promising youngster Nitu Chhangha and experienced Saweety Bora boosed out of their skin to overcome tough opponents in the 48kg and 81kg finals and claim their maiden titles in the World women's boxing championships at the K.D. Jadhav Hall here on Saturday.

While Commonwealth Games champion and double World youth champion Nitu recorded a 5-0 victory over two-time Asian bronze medalist Altantseseg Lutsaikhon of Mongo-

lia, Asian champion Saweety stumped 2018 champion Lina Wang 4-0, through bout review, to keep her promise of improving upon her 2014 World's silver medal this time.

After the 2006 edition, this is the second occasion when Indian boxers have secured more than one gold medal.

Early initiative
Nitu attacked quickly to push the Mongolian on the back foot. The alert Indian southpaw delivered right-left combinations to win the first round.

When Altantseseg tried to catch up, Nitu kept her cool despite falling down a few times in the physical second round.

The Indian was penalised for holding but still won the round 3-2.

The Mongolian showed more aggression even as the Bihwani girl scored through corners.

Altantseseg paid the price for her rough game when she was punished for pushing. Practically it came her chance of a comeback.

Amidst wild celebrations by the spectators, an emotional Nitu was patting on the back by chief coach Bhaskar Bhatt and carried on her shoulders by coach Pransavali Bora.

A word of compliment from fellow World and Olympic medalist and fellow Bihwani boxer Vijender Singh was a bonus for

the 22-year-old. "I feel very proud. I can't thank my head coach Bhaskar Bhatt enough. Before the fight I wanted to be aggressive, but during the fight my coaches asked me to counterattack," said Nitu.

In the other final, against the taller Chinese, Saweety gained by applying her plan of moving in and landing rapid fire shots.

Even as Lina returned the favour through clean counters, the home boxer took the first two rounds with an identical 3-2 margin.

In the third round, which witnessed a lot of physical tussle, Saweety, despite falling twice,

matched her opponent to emerge as the winner.

In a bizarre development, the organisers apologised for playing the wrong anthem during the 70kg medal ceremony, featuring Russian Anastasiya Demurchian, and later played the correct anthem with the Russian champion standing alone on the podium.

The results (Finals):
48kg: Nitu Chhangha vs Altantseseg (Mongolia) 4-0; **51kg:** Yu Wu (Chn) vs Sison Charante (Phil) 5-0; **57kg:** Irma Tereza (Cze) vs Ermenegozo (Kaz) 5-0; **69kg:** Chengyu Yang (Chn) vs Saikat Sanyal (Ind) 4-1; **78kg:** Anastasiya Demurchian (Rus) vs Kaye Scott (Ind) 5-0; **81kg:** Saweety Bora vs Lina Wang (Chn) 4-3.

Evenly-matched DC, MI will clearly want a piece of history



Battle of equals: Irrespective of who between Lanning and Harmanpreet lays her hands on the trophy, the final could see sparks flying. sportsczncs/mi

P.K. Ailish Kumar
MUMBAI

It didn't take Mumbai Indians or Delhi Capitals long to let the world know that they were the two sides in the inaugural edition of the Women's Premier League. So it is only fair that the title will go to one of them.

Will it be Meg Lanning's Delhi Capitals, or Harmanpreet Kaur's Mumbai Indians? The Brabourne Stadium will provide the answer on Sunday night.

There will be a full house — the tickets for the final have been sold out — to witness the first ever champion of the WPL.

The majority of the spectators will want MI to

triumph and carry forward the men's team's legacy in the IPL, which it has won five times.

Delhi Capitals' men never won it. Its women have an excellent opportunity to bring the cup home.

The Delhi side entered the final in style.

It had tied on points with MI but topped the table on account of a better net run-rate.

MI had to come through the Eliminator against UP Warriorz.

When MI and Capitals met in the league phase, both the games were one-sided, with the former winning by eight wickets and the latter by nine.

If Lanning is the holder of the orange cap (310 runs, average 51.66, strike-rate 141.55), and has formed the tournament's

best opening partnership with Shafali Verma (strike-rate 82.57), four of the top five bowlers are from Mumbai Indians: Salka Ishraq (3 wickets), Amelia Kerr (3), Hayley Matthews (3) and Isay-Wong (2).

Quality all-rounders
Kerr and Matthews are also part of a formidable list of MI all-rounders, headed by the magnificent Nat Sciver-Burnt. Capitals also boasts one of the world's leading all-rounders in Marizanne Kapp.

It also has the exciting young, hard-hitting all-rounder Alice Capsey. Kapp, Shikha Pandey and Jess Jonassen have been amongst the wickets.

The final should be a closer affair than the earlier meetings. The WPL deserves it.

Nikhat to represent India in 2023 Asian Games: Dunne

Jonathan Selvaraj
NEW DELHI

Nikhat Zareen will represent India at the 2023 Asian Games, the first qualification event for the Paris Olympics.

Bernard Dunne, who was last year appointed high performance director for the Indian boxing team, confirmed this at a press conference at the IBA Boxing World Championships on Saturday.

Nikhat, the Commonwealth Games Champion in the 50kg category at the Hangzhou Asian Games, scheduled to be held in September, will qualify for the Paris Olympics.



Dunne:ANI

Olympics, the top four finishers in the women's 50kg category at the Hangzhou Asian Games, scheduled to be held in September, will qualify for the Paris Olympics.

Selection policy
The selection policy posted on the Boxing Federation of India website, states — "The athlete who medals (Gold/Silver) at the World Championship 2023 will have an automatic selection for the Asian Games 2023 (first Olympic qualification criteria) for boxing at that particular weight category".

"Those who have won gold or silver here (the world championships) in an Olympic weight category are the automatic selection for the Asian Games. "We have no plans to change the selection policy right now," said Dunne.

Dunne's statement also meant that Lovlina Borgohain, who reached the final of the 75kg middleweight category, will be India's representative at the Asian Games.

Mbappe delivers for France

EURO QUALIFIERS

Associated Press

Kylian Mbappe delivered for France again, this time wearing the captain's armband. He slotted home two unforfeiting finishes to head-line a 4-0 win over Netherlands in European Football Championship qualifying on Friday.

Meanwhile, Romelu Lukaku underlined his enduring value to Belgium by scoring all three goals in a 3-0 win at Sweden.

The results:
Group B: France 4 (Grizeman 2, Upamecano 1, Mbappe 2), Belgium 0, Netherlands 0, Gibraltar 0 lost to Greece 3 (Manousos 11, Sotgiou 45, Katsouris 58) **Group E:** Czech Republic 3 (Petro 1), Croatia 3, Austria 3, Poland 1 (Szczesny 47), **Group F:** Sweden 1 lost to Belgium 3 (Lukaku 35, 49, 83), Austria 4 (Glatzel 26, 50, Gregoritsch 29, Baumgartner 69), Switzerland 1 (Gjibril Mbayo 64), **Group G:** Bulgaria 0 lost to Montenegro 1 (M. Kostov 76), Serbia 2 (Tadic 16, Mitrovic 53) vs Lithuania 0.

Lanning's Capitals hope to cash in on 'Kapp impact'

P.K. Ailish Kumar
MUMBAI

Marizanne Kapp has made a huge impact at the WPL. But, that was almost inevitable.

She was Player-of-the-Match in the Hundred-finals in England, in 2021 and 2022, so also in the WBBL 2021-22 final. She thus played key roles in making Oval Invincibles and Perth Scorchers champions. Delhi Capitals must be hoping Kapp does her special thing once again.

The South African has to her credit 3,545 runs and 223 wickets in international white-ball cricket.

She was the WPL's best bowling figure — her five for 15 was an exceptional feat against Gujarat Titans — and in her six innings, she went past 30 four times. She has done all that while going through emotional turmoil. Her South African teammate and life partner Dane van Niekerk — she was signed up by



Vital cog: Kapp has played a big part in Capitals' campaign. SHARADIN, YOUNG

RCB — recently announced her retirement from international cricket.

"RCB has been so good to her and everyone would have loved to see her on the field against Gujarat Titans here and finding her feet again was helpful for her," said Kapp in an exclusive interview with *The Hindu*.

"We both made our international debut in 2009 and here we are. Even though she is only 29, she

A clash of the Titanesses!

Sports Bhavana
MUMBAI

The WPL final brings face to face two of the most influential players in WPL cricket. What Meg Lanning and Harmanpreet have done for the game and their respective countries — Australia and India — cannot be overstated.

On the eve of the final, Harmanpreet admitted Capitals posed a challenge in the form of Lanning and her opening partner Shafali Verma. "They have the best opening thing once in a tournament," she said. "We know what they can do but have plans."

About being at the receiving end as India captain facing Lanning's Australia in major finals, Harmanpreet said the occasion was different this time.

Lanning said MI would be a big challenge. "I think both Mumbai and Delhi have been very consistent," she said. "We know how dangerous they can be... it's a high pressure game."



Double delight: Nitu and Saweety made it a memorable Saturday for the Indian fans with a remarkable display. R.V. MOORTHY

Nitu, Saweety punch their way to World titles in contrasting style

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BOXING

Y.B. Sarangi

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eye
 THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE
Keeping the Past Alive
 The records of Malayalam writer Anand show the injustices of the Emergency
 FOUR-PAGE PULLOUT

WOMEN'S WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP
India wins 2 golds, eyes set on two more today

SHASHANK NAIR
 NEW DELHI, MARCH 25

MOMENTS AFTER being crowned world champions, Nitu Changhas, 22, ran to India's national coach Bhaskar Bhatt and wept in his arms. Saweety Boora, 30, pumped her fist as the camera called for an Indian flag, and weaved it.

On Saturday, two gold medals were at stake for India at the Women's World Boxing Championship here - Nitu, harbouring hopes of glory at the Paris Olympics, and Saweety, a veteran of many battles. Both didn't disappoint, setting the stage for Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain on Sunday to complete the gold rush.

Nitu defeated Mongolia's Lutsakhaim Altansetseg in the 48-kg final in a 5-0 unanimous decision, while Saweety (81 kg) **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



Saweety Boora (top) (81 kg), Nitu Changhas (48 kg) won the gold Saturday. Nikhat Zareen MORE REPORTS, PAGE 16



LINKING JAMMU AND KASHMIR

The under-construction Anji Khad bridge, a part of the rail line linking Kashmir and Jammu, in Reasi district on Saturday. The country's first cable-stayed railway bridge will be completed by August, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Saturday. At a press meet at Srinagar station, he also said the railway line will likely be completed this year. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**

DAY AFTER DISQUALIFICATION
'Disqualify me, jail me, will not stop Adani questions'

Rahul says democracy dying, snaps at reporter's question, calls him BJP worker

MANOJ CG
 NEW DELHI, MARCH 25

ADWY after he was disqualified as a member of the Lok Sabha following his conviction and sentencing for two years in a defamation case, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said Saturday that his ouster from Parliament was a "traumatic reaction" by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"He said Modi was 'scared' and did not want him to make another speech on the 'relationship' between him (Modi) and individuals in Gautam Adani in the House. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**



Rahul Gandhi, Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel (left) and K.C. Venugopal on Saturday. Press Nath Prasad

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters in Gautam Adani in the House. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**

ECONOMY



SITHARAMAN ASKS GOVT BANKS TO BE MORE VIGILANT
 PAGE 13

AFSPA lifted from more areas in Northeast states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, MARCH 25

CITING IMPROVED security in the Northeast, Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that the Centre has decided to further reduce the jurisdiction of 'disturbed areas' under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in Assam, Nagaland and Manipal.

"With the consistent efforts of the central government under the leadership of **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

2017-19: TWICE ARRESTED IN FRAUD CASES IN GUJARAT
Early warnings: 3 FIRs against J&K conman, bragged about PMO in 2017

RASHMISHRA & ADITIRAJA
 AHMEDABAD, VAODDARA
 MARCH 25



Kiran Patel posed as PMO official in J&K

THIS IS the second time in a year that the Centre has reduced areas under AFSPA in the three states. Earlier, the Centre had significantly reduced the AFSPA footprint, after the outrage over the Mon killings in Nagaland in December 2021.

There ARE several red flags in officialdom over how alleged conman Kiran Patel, who is now in custody, posed as an official of the Prime Minister's Office and got the wheels to turn in Jammu and Kashmir for a range of perks, from security to accommodations.

In Gujarat, there were early warnings: at least three FIRs were filed against him for fraud and cheating going back to 2017, and he was arrested in two of these cases. Ironically, the 2017 FIR even alleges that Patel had bragged about his "connections with the PMO."

And yet his visits to Jammu and Kashmir raised few alarm bells - until his arrest last week. Records reviewed by The Indian Express show that Patel is named in three FIRs. Nanded police station in Ahmedabad **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

'No Adani link, not BJP fault if people don't vote for him'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 PATNA, NEW DELHI, MARCH 25

REBUTTING CONGRESS leader Rahul Gandhi's allegation that he was disqualified from Parliament for raising questions on the Adani issue, senior BJP leader and former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said on Saturday that action was taken following his conviction and sentencing for two years by a Surat court for his Modi surname remark. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**



Prasad: Delaying legal action for sympathy in Karnataka

Speaking to reporters before noon after Rahul's pre **CONTINUED ON PAGE 8**

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South East Asia Thailand (8D/8D Phuket Krabi) 67000 - 113000 Best of Singapore (4D) 97000 - 105000 Best of Bali (7D) Apr 11, 18, 25 - 117000 - 125000 Singapore Malaysia (7D) 127000 - 135000 Singapore Phuket Krabi (7D) 140000 - 145000 Singapore Bali (8D) 154000 - 160000 Singapore Thailand Malaysia (8D) 155000-165000 Singapore Malaysia with Cruise (9D) May 23-175000 Best of Vietnam (7D) Apr 24 - 125000 - 135000 Vietnam Cambodia (9D) 160000 - 165000 Women's-Singapore Thailand Malaysia (8D) Apr 23-159000 Honeymoon Special - Thailand (8D) 71000 - 73000	Asia Africa Australia Dubai Abu Dhabi Ferrari World (7D) 130000 - 125000 Nepal / Bhutan (8D/9D) 67000 - 99000 Wonders of Sri Lanka (7D) Apr 20 - 80000 - 85000 Best of Mauritius (7D) 120000 - 125000 Best of Japan (6D) May 25, Jun 1, 8 - 229000 - 233000 South Korea with Jeju Island (8D) May 25 - 235000 Japan Korea (9D) May 21, Jun 8, 17 - 245000 - 250000 Best of South Africa (9D) May 8, 15 - 195000 Australia-Sydney Melbourne Gold Coast Cairns (8D) 215000-285000 All of Australia (13D) May 28 - 395000 Best of New Zealand (10D) May 1, 15 - 300000 - 315000 American Magic (13D) June 16 - 435000 - 445000	Europe - 85 Group Tour Options Europe - Multi Country Tours (7D to 23D) 185000 - 500000 Scandinavia Midnight Sun (14D) Jun 19 - 425000 - 435000 Scandinavia - Tallinn (9D) May 19, Jun 30 - 290000 - 295000 England Scotland Island Wales London (15D) May 27, Jun 10 - 369000 Swiss Paris Amsterdam Brussels (11D) May 16, Jun 23-280000 Australia Swiss / Italy Swis (8D) 225000 - 235000 Croatia Slovenia Hungary (11D) May 10, 19 - 255000 - 265000 Vienna Prague Budapest Bratislava(7D)May23,Jun 6-175000-185000 Iceland Finland (9D) Jul 21 - 325000 Best of Iceland (10D) July 19 - 350000 - 360000 Best of Tunisia (7D) May 9 - 175000 Egypt Greece Turkey (14D) May 28 - 300000	Group Tours - India Lah Nuhra Pangong (7D/9D Kargil) 60000 - 76000 Kashmir (5D/4D/7D/9D) 49000 - 80000 Shimla Mussoorie (6D/7D/8D NonKarnam) 40000-50000 N'nal Mussoorie Haridwar (6D/9D Corbett) 39K-63K Sikkim Darjeeling Gangtok (7D/9D)4Lchung39K-80K Assam Meghalaya (8D) Apr 20, May 4 - 75000 Bhubaneswar Puri Konesh Chikka (5D) 40000 - 45000 Coorg Mysore Bangalore (7D) 50K-55K Ooty Kodai Coimbatore(7D) 55K - 60K Kerala (6D) 36000 - 40000 Best of Tunisia (7D) 65000 - 70000
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Main



LINKING JAMMU AND KASHMIR

The under-construction Anji Khad bridge, a part of the rail line linking Kashmir and Jammu, in Reasi district on Saturday. The country's first cable-stayed railway bridge will be completed by August, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Saturday.

At a press meet at Srinagar station, he also said the railway line will likely be completed this year. *Gajendra Yadav*

PAGE 8

Top of the world



Dizzying heights: A view of the 'world's highest railway bridge', built at a height of 359 metres over the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, which witnessed the maiden run of a track-mounted trolley on Sunday. The ₹1,486-crore Chenab railway bridge is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project, which will connect the Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country. PTI (REPORT ON PAGE 10)

‘There’s nothing left’: Mississippi tornadoes kill 23; toll likely to go up

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROLLING FORK, MARCH 25

A POWERFUL tornado cut a devastating path of at least 170 miles through parts of the Deep South on Friday night, killing at least 23 people in Mississippi and obliterating dozens of buildings as it stayed on the ground for more than an hour.

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency said in a Twitter post that search and rescue teams from local and state agencies were deployed to help victims impacted by the tornadoes. The agency confirmed early Saturday that 23 people had died, four were missing and dozens were injured.

A few minutes later, the agency warned the casualty toll could go higher, tweeting: “Unfortunately, these numbers are expected to change.” Throughout Saturday morning, people walked around dazed and in shock as they broke through debris and fallen trees with chain saws, searching for survivors. Power lines were pinned under decades-old oaks, their roots torn from the ground.



Law enforcement officers search for survivors in Rolling Fork, Mississippi, on Saturday. AP

“There’s nothing left,” the 44-year-old hospice worker said, looking out at the car that had landed on top of a diner that used to be 60 feet away from her driveway.

Video shot as daylight broke in the town showed houses reduced to piles of rubble, cars flipped on their sides and trees stripped of their branches.

Occasionally, in the midst of the wreckage, a home would be spared, seemingly undamaged.

Cornel Knight told AP that he, his wife and their 3-year-old daughter were at a relative’s home in Rolling Fork when the tornado struck. He said the sky was dark but “you could see the direction from every transformer that blew”.

Royce Steed, the emergency manager in Humphreys County, where Silver City is located, likened the damage to the deadly 2011 Tuscaloosa–Birmingham tornado and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. “It is almost complete devastation,” he said after crews switched finished searching buildings.



CANADA

UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, D.C.

MISSISSIPPI

JACKSON

ATLANTIC OCEAN

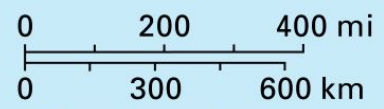
PACIFIC OCEAN

MEXICO

Gulf of Mexico

THE BAHAMAS

CUBA



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NAMES AROUND THE WORLD

CYCLONIC
STORM

PACIFIC
OCEAN

ATLANTIC
OCEAN

TYPHOON

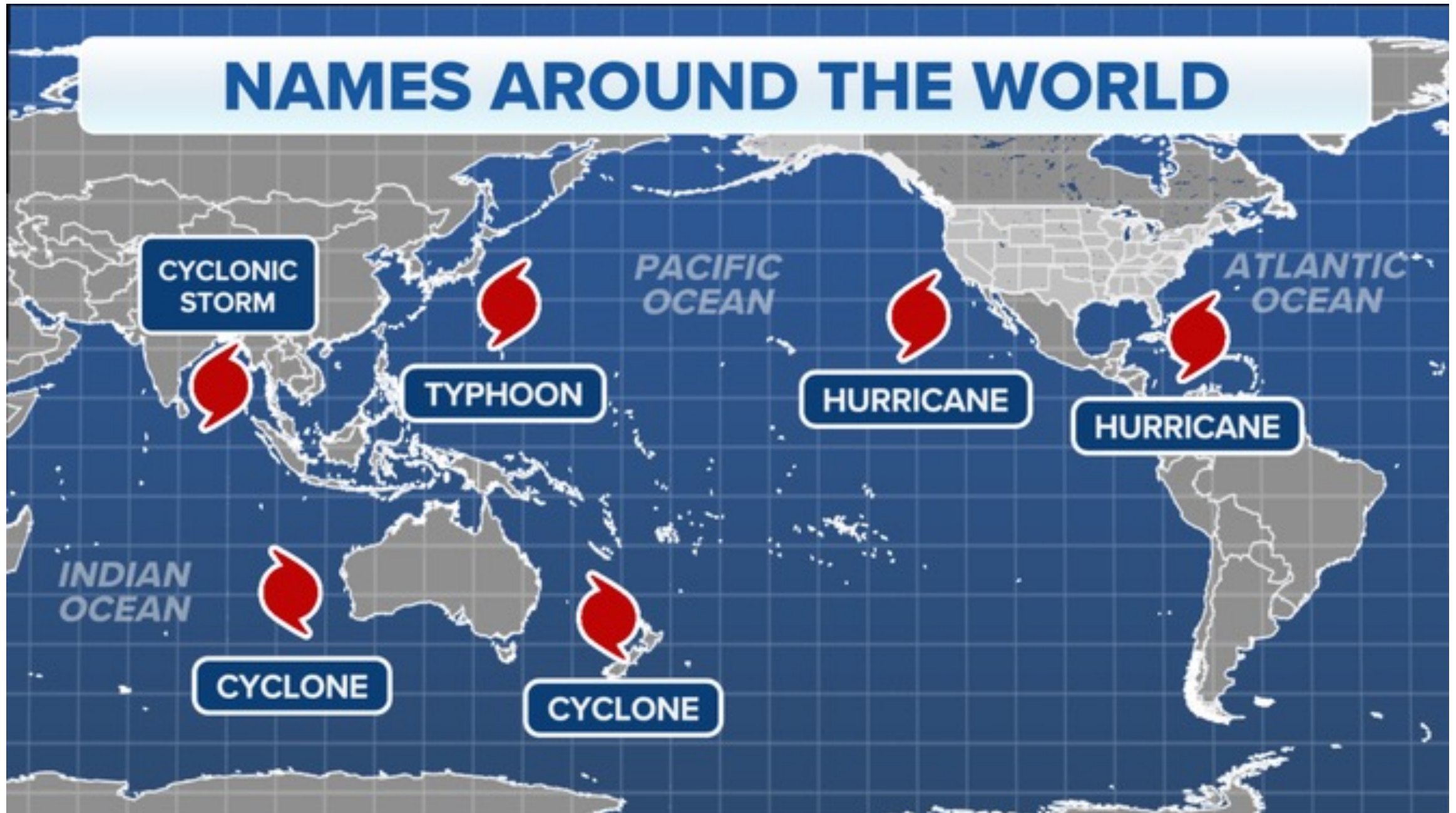
HURRICANE

HURRICANE

INDIAN
OCEAN

CYCLONE

CYCLONE



NORTHERN INDIAN OCEAN CYCLONE NAMES

Contributors	List 1	List 2	List 3	List 4	List 5	List 6	List 7	List 8
Bangladesh	Onil	Ogni	Nisha	Giri	Helen	Chapala	Ockhi	Fani
India	Agni	Akash	Bijli	Jal	Lehar	Megh	Sagar	Vayu
Maldives	Hibaru	Gonu	Aila	Keila	Madi	Roanu	Mekunu	Hikaa
Myanmar	Pyarr	Yemyin	Phyan	Thane	Nanauk	Kyant	Daye	Kyarr
Oman	Baaz	Sidr	Ward	Murjan	Hudhud	Nada	Luban	Maha
Pakistan	Fanoos	Nargis	Laila	Nilam	Nilofar	Vardah	Titli	Bulbul
Sri Lanka	Mala	Rashmi	Bandu	Viyaru	Ashobaa	Maarutha	Gaja	Pawan
Thailand	Mukda	Khai Muk	Phet	Phailin	Komen	Mora	Phethai	Amphan

IN 2005, HE REFERRED TO MOORE'S LAW AS 'A LUCKY GUESS THAT GOT A LOT MORE PUBLICITY THAN IT DESERVED'

Intel co-founder, philanthropist Gordon Moore dies aged 94

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO, MARCH 25

GORDON MOORE, the Intel Corp. co-founder who set the breakneck pace of progress in the digital age with a simple 1965 prediction of how quickly engineers would boost the capacity of computer chips, has died. He was 94.

Moore died Friday at his home in Hawaii, according to Intel and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

Moore, who held a PhD in chemistry and physics, made his famous observation — now known as 'Moore's Law' — three

years before he helped start Intel in 1968. It appeared among a number of articles about the future written for the now-defunct Electronics magazine by experts in various fields.

The prediction, which Moore said he plotted out on graph paper based on what had been happening with chips at the time, said the capacity and complexity of integrated circuits would double every year.

Strictly speaking, Moore's observation referred to the doubling of transistors on a semiconductor. But over the years, it has been applied to hard drives, computer monitors and other electronic de-



Intel Corp founder Gordon Moore. AP

vices, holding that roughly every 18 months a new generation of products makes their predecessors obsolete.

It became a standard for the tech industry's progress and innovation.

"It's the human spirit. It's what made Silicon Valley," Carver Mead, a retired California Institute of Technology computer scientist who coined the term "Moore's Law" in the early 1970s, said in 2005. "It's the real thing." Moore later became known for his philanthropy when he and his wife established the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, which focuses on environmental conservation,

science, patient care and projects in the San Francisco Bay area. It has donated more than USD 5.1 billion to charitable causes since its founding in 2000.

"Those of us who have met and worked with Gordon will forever be inspired by his wisdom, humility and generosity," foundation president Harvey Fineberg said in a statement.

Moore was born in California in 1929. As a boy, he took a liking to chemistry sets.

After getting his Ph.D. from the California University of Technology in 1954, he worked briefly as a researcher at Johns Hopkins University.

His entry into microchips began when he went to work for William Shockley, who in 1956 shared the Nobel Prize for physics for his work inventing the transistor. Less than two years later, Moore and seven colleagues left Shockley Semiconductor Laboratory after growing tired of its namesake's management practices.

The defection by the "traitorous eight," as the group came to be called, planted the seeds for Silicon Valley's renegade culture, in which engineers who disagreed with their colleagues didn't hesitate to become competitors.

Trade name	Intel
Formerly	N M Electronics (1968)
Type	Public
Traded as	Nasdaq: INTC ↗ Nasdaq-100 component DJIA component S&P 100 component S&P 500 component
Industry	Semiconductors Computer hardware Autonomous cars Automation Artificial intelligence
Founded	July 18, 1968; 54 years ago
Founders	Gordon Moore Robert Noyce
Headquarters	Santa Clara, California, U.S.
Area served	Worldwide
Key people	Frank D. Yeary (Chairman) Pat Gelsinger (CEO)
Products	Central processing units Microprocessors Integrated graphics processing units (iGPU) Systems-on-chip (SoCs) Motherboard chipsets Network interface controllers Modems Solid state drives Wi-Fi and Bluetooth Chipsets Flash memory Vehicle automation sensors

	sensors
Revenue	▼ US\$63.05 billion (2022)
Operating income	▼ US\$2.33 billion (2022)
Net income	▼ US\$8.02 billion (2022)
Total assets	▲ US\$182.1 billion (2022)
Total equity	▲ US\$103.3 billion (2022)
Number of employees	131,900 (2022)
Subsidiaries	Mobileye (94.2%) Intel Ireland

CLOSE CALL
Air India flight in near miss over Kathmandu
NEWS » PAGE 11

'UNCONSTITUTIONAL'
Quota based on religion in Karnataka
STATES » PAGE 5

KHALISTAN PROTESTERS
Separatists attempt to incite violence in U.S.
NEWS » PAGE 10

THE RAHUL GANDHI CASE
Making sense of the MP's disqualification
Criminal defamation law needs review
EDITORIAL » PAGE 6

DOUBLE DELIGHT
Nikhat, Lovlina add more golden sheen
SPORT » PAGE 15

Net direct tax growth for 2022-23 to slow to 15%

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's net direct tax collections growth, which stood at about 17% for 2022-23 by early March, is expected to moderate to 15% for the full financial year, a top Finance Ministry official told *The Hindu*. The government's net receipts from direct taxes had grown about 49% in 2022-23 to almost ₹14,09 lakh crore. The sharp growth was attributable to the economy's gradual recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns that had hit economic activity in the previous year. Inflows of direct taxes had risen almost 20% as of mid-December, 2022, but each successive month has recorded a slight slowdown in the growth rate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Cong. holds satyagraha; MPs, MLAs to wear black today

Party leaders link Rahul Gandhi's disqualification to his questioning of the Adani Group and its political affiliations, while Priyanka invokes her father's martyrdom and calls PM a 'coward'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress held protests across the country on Sunday, with its leaders in various States linking Rahul Gandhi's disqualification from the Lok Sabha to his unrelenting questioning of the Adani Group and its alleged links to the ruling party.

In a day-long Sankalp Satyagraha, Congress leaders said the party's campaigning questioning of the Adani Group and its alleged links to the ruling party.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



In solidarity: K.C. Venugopal, Mallikarjun Kharge and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at Raghat in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

general secretary, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, launched a scathing attack against the Bharatiya Janata Party government at the Centre. Claiming that the country's democracy had been tarnished by the blood of her father, Ms. Vadra asked why the entire government machinery had come to

thousands of crores in shell companies. You can't even order an inquiry against him? The entire government gets rattled by his name," Ms. Vadra said. She said that her father had been insulted in Parliament. "The son of the martyr was called 'Mr Jaffer', BJP's CM asks who is his father? PM raises questions on 'Nehru surname' in Parliament? There is no case against you, your membership is not cancelled," she said.

Earlier, the Congress alleged that Delhi Police had denied permission for the protest. A senior police officer said Section 144 of the CrPc (prohibiting assembly of more than four persons) is always imposed around Rajghat.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

EPFO subscribers are 'captive investors' of two Adani stocks

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The aftermath of the Hindenburg Research report may have made several large investors rethink their investments to the Adani group. However, one large pool of capital has continued to invest in two Adani stocks. Including flagship Adani Enterprises, and will keep doing so till at least September, unless its trustees rethink their investment approach when they meet this week.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



The EPFO earmarks up to 85% of its equity investments into ETFs tracking the Nifty 50.

banking financial institution after the Life Insurance Corporation of India's large investments into ETFs tracking the Nifty 50, which had added Adani Enterprises last September and has retained the stock for another six months for the period starting from March 30 this year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

IN BRIEF



7 detained under NSA, 197 released in Amritpral case

CHANDIGARH After it launched a crackdown on March 18 against Amritpral Singh, a Khalistan propagator, Punjab Police on Sunday said that 197 persons have been released and seven detained under the National Security Act. » Page 3

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 3

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Top of the world



Blazing heights A view of the 'world's highest railway bridge', built at a height of 359 metres over the Chenab river in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, which witnessed the maiden run of a track-mounted trolley on Sunday. The ₹1,496-crore Chenab railway bridge is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project, which will connect the Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country. PTI REPORT ON PAGE 18

ISRO puts 36 satellites into orbit

Sangeetha Kandavel
SRIRANGAPET

LV03, the heaviest payload rocket of the Indian Space Research Organisation, carrying 36 OneWeb satellites on board, took off at 9:20 a.m. on Sunday from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre. The satellites separated successfully from the rocket and were dispensed in nine phases over an hour and 14 minutes, with signal activations on all 36 confirmed. This is the sixth flight of LV03.

DETAILS » PAGE 12

Sarus crane turns albatross around U.P. man's neck

Forest department issues summons to Amethi resident Arif Khan who rescued the injured bird

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Arif Khan, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Amethi district who had rescued a sarus crane and took care of it for a year, has received a notice from the State Forest Department. According to the notice sent on Saturday by Gauriganj's Assistant Forest Officer, Mr. Khan has been asked to appear before Sub-Divisional Forest Officer Ranvir Mishra at 11 a.m. on April 4. He has also been booked under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

On March 21, the Forest Department officials had visited Mr. Khan to relocate the bird from his home in Mandika village to Raebareilly's Sampurnanand Bird



Winged companion: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav with Arif Khan and the rescued sarus crane in Amethi's Mandika village. ANI

Sacructory to "allow it to live in its natural environment". The officials said they took the bird away with Mr. Khan's consent and added that the avian species falls under the vulnerable category and cannot be "kept in captivity". According to Mr. Khan, he had found the bird

Akhilesh Yadav, who had earlier visited Mr. Khan's house to witness the bonding, criticised the BJP-led State government's "dictatorial attitude". "Arif did a very good job by helping an injured sarus crane and treating it and saving its life. After this, the bird became his friend. Instead of honouring Arif, [the government] are scaring him. After I went to meet Arif and the crane, those in power grew nervous. They want to scare Arif. It shows their dictatorial attitude," the SP chief said. Mr. Yadav also recalled that after he had tweeted a picture of an elephant walking unattended on the Agra-Lucknow expressway last year, the State police sent the mahout to jail.

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9 AIR PRITHVI KUMAR (POLICE OFFICER (REGULAR))	1 AIR SHUBHAM KUMAR (CLASSROOM)					

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The cost of insurance-based funding

The Tamil Nadu public health model is iconic. It has ensured equity in the delivery of health care, led to big improvements in maternal and infant mortality and universal immunisation coverage, and led to a low total fertility rate compared to the all-India average. In the public health sector, there are 19,866 doctors; 38,027 nursing staff; 60,181 supporting health workers; a bed strength of 97,000 spread across 38 medical colleges; 14 district hospitals; 273 sub-urban hospitals; 2,286 primary health centres (PHCs); 462 upgraded PHCs; and 8,713 health sub-centres. These cater to 5.76,174 consultations per day and 2.15,35,000 patient bed-days a year.

There has been a change in funding for healthcare in the last decade. The funding mix varies from grants from the National Health Mission to the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS). In this article, we look at the gains and the loss due to funding through insurance companies.

Benefits of decentralisation
The State government pays a premium of ₹849 per family. In the last Budget, it had allotted ₹1,200 crore to extend contract staff and to 1.37 crore eligible families, with an annual income of up to ₹1.2 lakh. The Union government funds only a part of the responsibility at a 60-40 ratio for only 77 lakh families that fall under its criteria. The State government bears the insurance premium of the remaining 60 lakh families. The indirect funding through the insurance companies has ushered in massive changes in the functioning of public health sector.

The central gain is the decentralisation of medical and healthcare administration. Powers have been substantially transferred to the heads of the department to purchase drugs. This has cut red tape. Decentralisation has empowered individual departments to



Sankhraj Ramanathan
is Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Madras Medical College.



Sundaresan Srinivasan
is Associate Professor of Oncology, TNMSSH Tamil Nadu Multi Super Specialty Hospital, and President, Government All Doctors Association.

prioritise their needs and hasten decisions in patient care in accordance with evidence-based medical advancement. On the flip side, every department in the medical college for reservation benefits in the establishment. These departments compete with one another to maximise profit and minimise losses. As a result, secondary and tertiary healthcare systems are viewing patients and their ailments through the prism of insolvency. Negotiations with insurance companies have become cumbersome exercises for the already overworked patient care teams in public sector hospitals. Administrative delays by insurance companies have shifted the focus of hospitals from patient care, teaching and research to claiming money from companies.

The proportion of permanent staff with respect to rising patients in government hospitals has come down alarmingly. The appointment of 6,000 nursing staff and 9,800 allied health workers as contractual employees with meagre pay has driven a wedge through the workforce. Now, there are two categories: a permanent high-paid class versus a temporary low-salaried class. The alarming attrition rate among contractual staff and the loss of well-trained staff in the new system lead to a compromise in the quality of service. Not extending the contract of nearly 350 dental technicians and 3,000 nursing staff has further fuelled a trust deficit among the young workforce.

Doctors in the primary health centres are functioning like managers rather than clinicians. Their focus seems to be on the contractual staff and the loss of government schemes using the Department of Telecommunication and the Home Ministry on the test of proportionality and the procedure for lifting a shutdown, it found their replies to be "vague and lacking clarity". The issue is of great significance to India as 60% of all the Internet shutdowns recorded between 2016 and 2022 worldwide took place in India, according to Access Now, a non-profit that defends digital rights. Chart 2 shows the number of Internet shutdowns recorded by Access Now, in India and globally. India's share ranged between 40% and 70%.

India leads in Internet shutdowns, but lacks tool to assess impact

About 60% of all the Internet shutdowns recorded the world over between 2016 and 2022 took place in India

DATA POINT
Rebecca Rose Varghese
S. Vijayashankar

Earlier this month, the Punjab government suspended mobile Internet and SMS services in the State for more than four days as it launched an operation to arrest a controversial preacher Amritpal Singh. It said that this was "in the interest of public safety, to prevent disturbance to violence and to prevent disturbance of peace and public order". The software freedom lawyer SFLC's data. Put together, the southern States recorded only six such shutdowns in this period. There was no instance of an Internet shutdown in Kerala, Elsewhere, except Haryana, Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkim, all the other States recorded at least one such instance, with Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh recording the highest number.

It is important to note that the Central government does not collate data on Internet shutdowns imposed by the State governments. In fact, collection of centralised data was "strongly recommended" by the Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology, which presented its findings "suspension of telecom/Internet services and its impact" in 2021. The Committee wanted the reasons, duration, decision of the competent authority and of the review committees to be noted for every Internet shutdown, and for the information to be made public. It came down heavily on "Internet shutdowns being used as a substitute for enforcing law and order."

In 2020, the Supreme Court held that Internet suspensions should "adhere to the principle of proportionality and must not extend beyond the necessary duration. When the Committee questioned the Department of Telecommunication and the Home Ministry on the test of proportionality and the procedure for lifting a shutdown, it found their replies to be "vague and lacking clarity".

The issue is of great significance to India as 60% of all the Internet shutdowns recorded between 2016 and 2022 worldwide took place in India, according to Access Now, a non-profit that defends digital rights. Chart 2 shows the number of Internet shutdowns recorded by Access Now, in India and globally. India's share ranged between 40% and 70%.

Over the past five years (Table 3), India has recorded the highest number of shutdowns. There is a significant gap between India and the country ranked second. Notably, such shutdowns are never or almost never implemented in most parts of Europe, North and South America and Oceania, while they are rampant in Africa and Asia. Map 4 shows the frequency with which governments shut down access to the Internet.

The costs of such shutdowns have been recorded in many reports. A report released last year by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights noted that in Kashmir, "long-standing restrictions on connectivity undermined the education of students relying on remote education." It also quoted studies which showed that shutdowns impacted health systems. A 2018 paper published by the International Council for Research on International Economic Relations estimated that India lost around \$3 billion between 2012 and 2017 due to shutdowns. However, in a Lok Sabha reply in 2021, the government said that it had no mechanism to assess the socioeconomic impact of Internet shutdowns.

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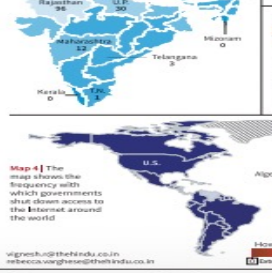
The maps, chart and table are based on data collated from the Software Freedom Law Center, Access Now reports and the Internet (Internet) Institute of Sweden's University of Gothenburg.



Map 1 | The map shows the State-wise instances of Internet shutdowns between 2012 and March 2023



Chart 2 | The chart shows the number of Internet shutdowns recorded by Access Now, in India and globally



Map 4 | The map shows the frequency with which governments shut down access to the Internet across the world

Table 3 | Top five countries in terms of Internet shutdowns

Year	India	USA	France	Germany	UK
2016	100	50	30	20	15
2017	120	60	40	30	20
2018	150	70	50	40	30
2019	180	80	60	50	40
2020	200	90	70	60	50
2021	220	100	80	70	60
2022	250	110	90	80	70

Table 3 | Top five countries in terms of Internet shutdowns

The commonality of dissent and disunity

The biggest challenge for the main parties in Telangana comes from within

STATE OF PLAY
R. Ravikanth Reddy

In the run-up to the Assembly elections in Telangana, all the three major contenders — the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) — seem confident of victory. However, internal dissensions and one-upmanship in contractual agreement on the other will open a Pandora's box.

While Chief Minister K. Chandrababbarao remains the undisputed leader of the BRS, Congress and BJP leaders are busy trying to pull down their party chiefs and sending regular complaints about them to their high command in New Delhi.

The problem of groupism in the Congress comes at a time when the party's fortunes look much better compared to a few years ago. Back then, the Congress suffered defections, election defeats and loss of confidence. The differences came to the fore when senior leaders led a mini revolt against Telangana Congress president A. Revanth Reddy, accusing him of leading "outsiders" at their cost. "Outsiders" refer to leaders of the Telugu Desam Party who joined the Congress along with Mr. Revanth Reddy.

The revolt, led by former Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Vikramarkam and others, led to the replacement of Mr. Revanth Reddy as the current health policy and the methodology for its funding need an appraisal so that our monumental public healthcare system can be saved from systemic obliteration.

TELANGANA

erupted among the cadre while planning the Haath Se Haath Jodo Yatra, an extension of Rabal Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra. When Mr. Revanth Reddy announced his Yatra for Change as a part of the Haath Se Haath Jodo Yatra, seniors alleged that the AICC had not given permission for the event. Mr. Revanth Reddy nevertheless went ahead with the 30-day yatra, which received a huge response in the villages and constituency headquarters.

Thereafter, another leader, Maheshwar Reddy, also announced a yatra from Adilabad. All the senior leaders who had opposed Mr. Revanth Reddy's yatra joined Mr. Maheshwar Reddy's yatra on the first day. But in a puzzling turn of events, this yatra was suspended after three days. Mr. Maheshwar Reddy also embarked on a yatra from Adilabad to Khammam. This was also seen as another challenge to Mr. Revanth Reddy's yatra.

Mr. Thakur inaugurated both Mr. Maheshwar Reddy's and Mr. Vikramarkam's yatras. The party's arguments that all the senior leaders can plan their own yatras has only confused the cadre instead of rallying them against the government. Mr. Thakur's move also emboldened the party members in dissent in districts and constituencies, is weighing down the BRS.

The biggest challenge to these parties comes from within. The BRS will especially have to deal with these challenges deftly and tactfully if it wants to remain in power.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 27, 1973

Milk powder unit for consumption: Protest to WFP

New Delhi, March 26: India has protested to the World Food Programme (WFP) against the supply under the "Operation Flood Programme" of large quantities of milk powder and ghee found unfit for human consumption. This was stated by the Minister of State for Agriculture, Prof. Sher Singh, in the Rajya Sabha to-day when he was questioned by Congress and Opposition members for allowing the distribution of damaged milk powder and ghee received from the WFP in parts of the country. Members expressed their horror and abhor over the disposal of what they called "rotten" commodities among the vulnerable sections of the society. Replying to a call attention motion tabled by Mrs. Sumita Kulkarni (Congress) and others, Prof. Sher Singh said 4,084 tonnes of skimmed milk powder and 742 tonnes of ghee, rejected by the Indian Dairy Corporation as unsuitable for recombination into liquid milk, were disposed of by the Operation Flood Programme to various agencies in the country. The damaged commodities disposed of by the WFP included 3,184 tonnes of milk powder and 519 tonnes of ghee for refugee relief. The Maharashtra Forest Development Board and the Rajasthan Cane Mill Board also received the milk powder and ghee. Besides, some quantities were also sold to dairies and other food processors. Prof. Sher Singh said part of these "damaged" quantities was "only not suitable for recombination into liquid milk but was otherwise suitable for human consumption."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 27, 1923

In Australia

Melbourne, Mar. 20: It is reported that as the result of a meeting of the defence council, the Admiralty will be asked to agree to interchange of vessels of Australian and Imperial Mediterranean and Atlantic fleets. Mr. Bruce, commenting on the arrival of New Zealand's flagship "Chatham" for exercises with the Australian fleet, said that he hoped that such mutual co-operation would be extended throughout all of the Dominions and the motherland thus realising Empire naval co-operation without the sacrifice of Dominion ships. He said that the Pacific would be the venue of future events.

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The maps, chart and table are based on data collated from the Software Freedom Law Center, Access Now reports and the V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute at Sweden's University of Gothenburg



Bad for business:

Due to the mobile Internet shutdown, businesses faced difficulties accepting digital payments, which hit their income. This file photo shows a tea vendor in Amritsar. PTI

Map 1 | The map shows the State-wise instances of Internet shutdowns between 2012 and March 2023

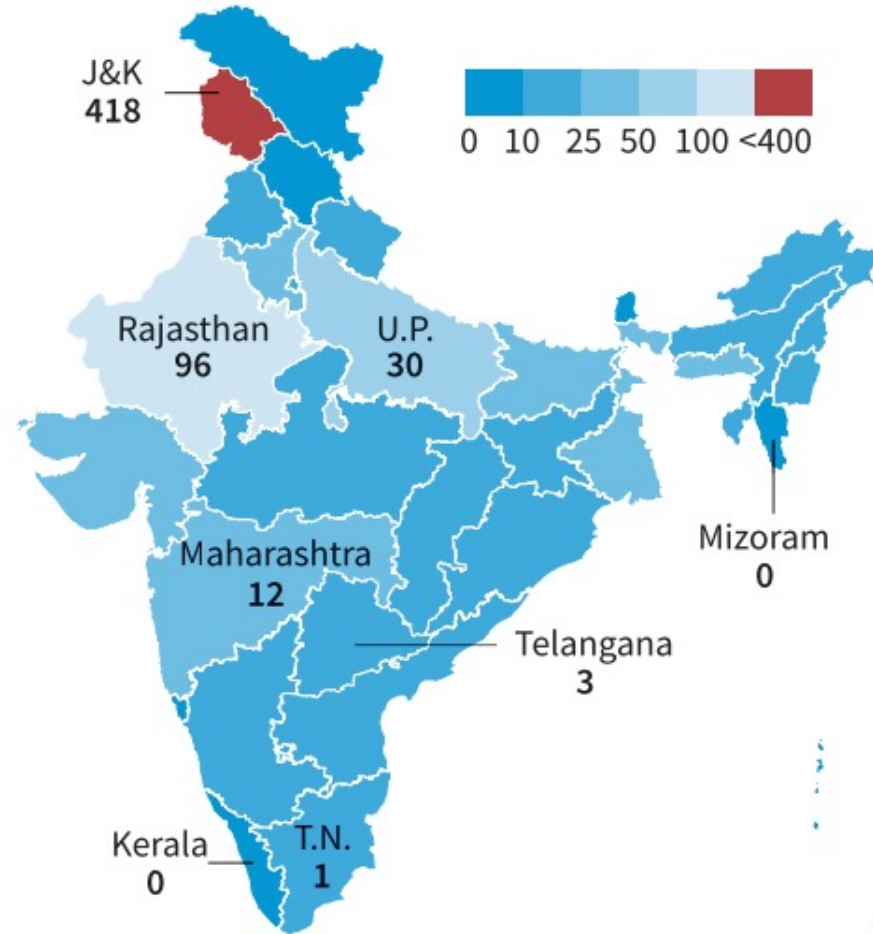


Chart 2 | The chart shows the number of Internet shutdowns recorded by Access Now, in India and globally

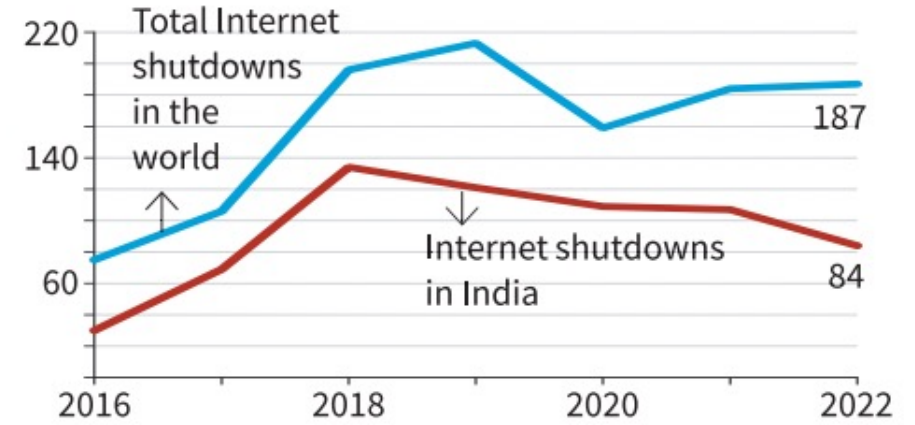


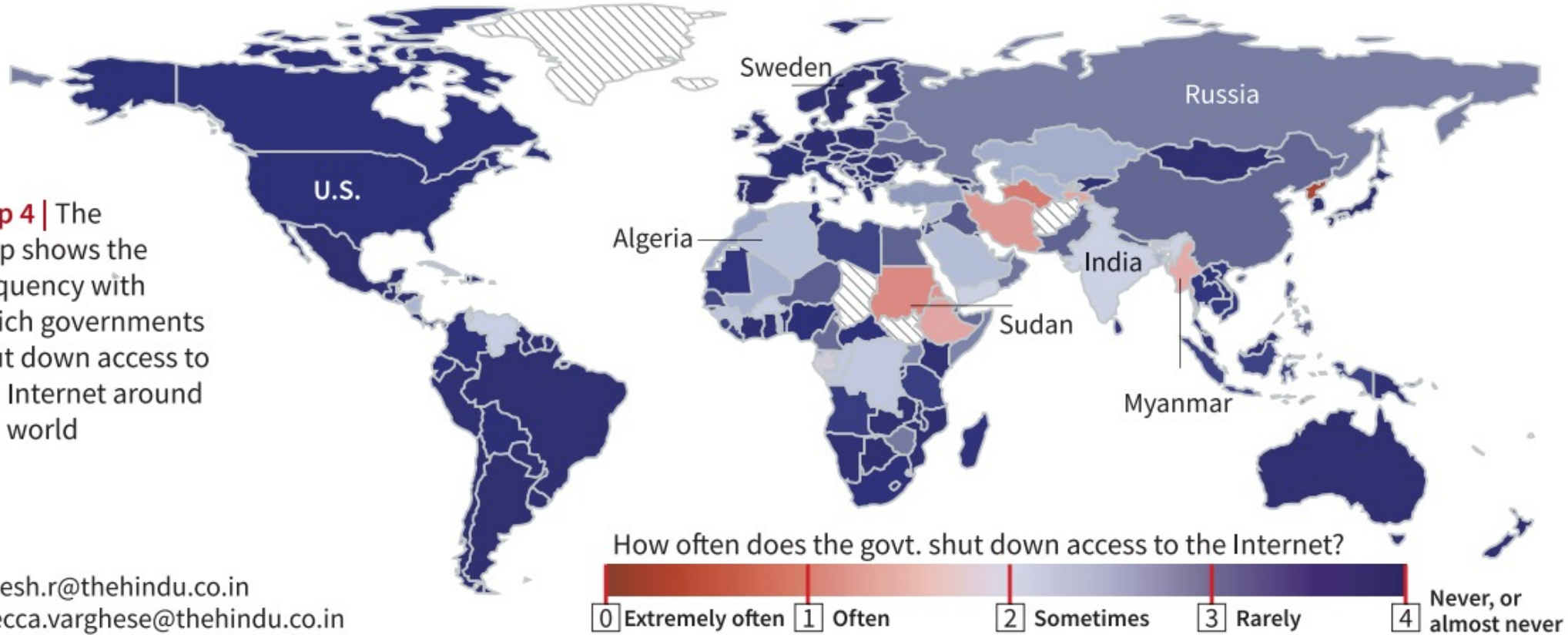
Table 3 | Top five countries in terms of Internet shutdown

2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
India (84)	India (106)	India (109)	India (121)	India (134)
Ukraine (22)	Myanmar (15)	Yemen (6)	Venezuela (12)	Pakistan (12)
Iran (18)	Iran (5)	Ethiopia (4)	Yemen (11)	Yemen/Iraq (7)
Myanmar (7)	Sudan (5)	Jordan (3)	Iraq (8)	Ethiopia (6)
Bangladesh (6)	Cuba/ Jordan (4)	*Eight countries (2)	Algeria (6)	Bangladesh (5)

*Belarus/ Chad/ Pakistan/ Togo/ Sudan/ Venezuela/ Kenya/ Guinea

Map 4 | The map shows the frequency with which governments shut down access to the Internet around the world

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TEL AVIV Netanyahu fires Defence Minister for urging halt to judicial overhaul



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fired his Defence Minister, a day after Yoav Gallant called for a halt to the planned overhaul of Israel's judiciary that has divided the country. The move signals the Prime Minister will move ahead this week with plans for the overhaul, which has sparked widespread opposition. AP

NAIROBI Kenya police chief issues fresh ban on 'violent' protests by Opposition



Kenya's police chief announced a ban on fresh Opposition protests called for Monday, after demonstrations last week degenerated into riots. "We will not allow violent demonstrations. The protests they plan tomorrow (Monday) are illegal and will not be allowed," he said. But Opposition leader Raila Odinga has remained defiant. AP

ASHGABAT Turkmenistan holds parliament election under its ruling family



Turkmenistan held its first parliamentary polls since the ruling family tightened its iron grip on the country that does not tolerate political dissent. The new President took power after a hereditary succession in 2022, and the vote comes after the abolition of the legislature's Upper House and the creation of a supreme body. AP

HONG KONG Hong Kong citizens stage first protest in years under strict rules



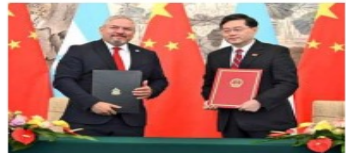
Dozens of people on Sunday joined Hong Kong's first authorised protest since the lifting of major COVID norms under strict rules, including wearing a numbered badge around their necks. The rules set out by the police came as the financial hub was returning to normalcy after years of anti-virus controls and political turmoil. AP

Honduras establishes ties with China leaving Taiwan with fewer partners

The Central American nation joins the likes of Nicaragua, Panama and Costa Rica in recognising Beijing and ending ties with Taipei; officials from the Asian island country hit out at the move, say it has been triggered by financial reasons

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

China and Honduras on Sunday signed a landmark communique to formally establish diplomatic relations, with the Central American nation becoming the latest country to switch recognition from Taipei to Beijing. Sunday's agreement signed in Beijing between the two Foreign Ministers said "the two governments have decided to recognise each other and establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, effective from the date of signature of this communique." "There is but one China in the world and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government representing the whole of China," it added. "Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory."



New friends: Honduras Foreign Minister Eduardo Enrique Betza Garcia, left, with his Chinese counterpart Qin Gang in Beijing. AP

Honduras, the agreement said, "chooses to stand with 181 countries in the world, recognise and undertake to adhere to the one-China principle, sever the so-called 'diplomatic relations' with Taiwan, establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, and undertake that Honduras shall no longer develop any official relations or official exchanges with Taiwan."

The agreement now leaves a dwindling number of diplomatic partners for Taiwan, with Honduras joining Nicaragua, Panama and Costa Rica in recently recognising Beijing and ending ties with Taipei. The only remaining partner of the 193 member countries of the UN that maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan is official with the Holy See (Vati-

can), are the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Tuvalu, and Palau in the Pacific; Eswatini in Africa; and Belize, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay, St. Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Kitts and Nevis, in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Reason for breakdown Taipei hit out at the move, with a statement from the office of President Tsai Ing-wen saying China had "suppressed the international space" of Taiwan. Officials in Taipei said financial reasons were behind the switch, and Honduras had asked Taiwan for financial assistance as a condition to "continue relations. Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who began his third five-year term as President earlier this month, reiterated at the annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC) or Parliament that the Taiwan issue was a

red line for China. Mr. Xi, and previous Chinese leaders, have said they will pursue "peaceful reunification" but will not rule out the use of force. Chinese officials, at the NPC, also warned the U.S. against "interference" in Taiwan. "Realising China's complete reunification is a shared aspiration of all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation as well as the essence of national rejuvenation," Mr. Xi said. "We should implement the [Communist] Party's overall policy for resolving the Taiwan question in the new era, uphold the one-China principle and the 1992 Consensus, actively promote the peaceful development of cross-strait relations, resolutely oppose foreign interference aimed at 'Taiwan independence,' and unwaveringly promote progress of national reunification."

At Texas rally, Trump brushes aside criminal probe against him by calling it a witch hunt

Agence France-Presse
WACO

Former U.S. President Donald Trump staged his first presidential campaign rally in Texas on Saturday, brushing off his potential indictment as he railed against multiple criminal probes threatening his bid for the White House. The Republican addressed several thousand supporters far fewer than the 15,000 he had expected — in the city of Waco as he braced for possible charges over a hush-money payout just days before the 2016 election, to a porn star alleging a sexual encounter. Maintaining the investigation was over "something that is not a crime, not a misdemeanor, not an affair," Mr. Trump told supporters how he had been the victim of "one which earlier this month, an investigation aimed at 'Taiwan independence,' and unwaveringly promote progress of national reunification."



Same tune: Donald Trump speaks as part of the 2024 election campaign rally in Waco on Saturday. AP

difference whatsoever to these radical left maniacs," he told an enthusiastic crowd. Symbolic location Mr. Trump's choice of Waco for his rally was laden with symbolism — the city is marking the 30th anniversary of a deadly standoff between an anti-government cult and federal agents, and has become a touchstone for far-right fringe activists glorying in its history of government resistance.

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Kyiv seeks UN meet after Russia's 'nuclear blackmail' in Belarus

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Kyiv on Sunday said it was seeking an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council to counter Russia's "nuclear blackmail" after President Vladimir Putin announced his country would station tactical nuclear arms in Belarus. Mr. Putin said the deployment was based across Belarus, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey, an analogy western allies called "misleading". "Ukraine expects effective actions to counteract

the Kremlin's nuclear blackmail from the United Kingdom, China, the United States and France," the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said. "We demand that an extraordinary meeting of the UN Security Council be immediately convened."

No evidence Secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council, Oleksiy Danilov, wrote on Twitter that "the Kremlin took Belarus as a nuclear hostage." Meanwhile, National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said the U.S. has seen no indication that Russia has yet moved any nuclear weapons into Belarus.

The French fissure



Dissent billows: Protesters in France attend a demonstration called by the collective "Bassines Non Mendi" against the "basins" on the construction site of a new water infrastructure for agricultural irrigation in St-Germain-la-Vieille in western France on Saturday. The incident comes after days of violent protests nationwide over President Emmanuel Macron's pension reform. REUTERS

which precipitated the 20th century's digital revolution, owed itself to many people and industries being guided by Moore's law instead of the prediction naturally coming true. In the 1950s and 1960s, more than a few scientists and engineers found that making the components of a computing system smaller also made it more efficient. Later, working with Moore, Carver Mead found that if the size of a microchip was reduced by some factor, its efficiency improved by the cube of that



Gordon Moore

factor — an exponential gain. Where there is exponential gain, there is rapid advance to be had. And where there are rapid advances, the future be-

comes harder to predict. An Wired cofounder Kevin Kelly wrote in 2009, "expectations of future progress guide current investments". How should we define these expectations? Enter Moore's law, playing the role of a "coordinating concept" at a time when many things seemed possible. Moore's law gave the semiconductor industry a way to set targets; it told governments and militaries where to invest and how much. AdSenseian Dedeber, an expert in supply chain

Pakistan PM accuses President Arif Alvi of following PTI mandate

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday hit back at President Arif Alvi, accusing him of being partisan and following the dictates of his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party instead of remaining neutral as the head of the state. His comments came two days after President Alvi, in a letter on Friday, accused the Prime Minister of using disproportionate force against politicians, political workers and journalists in recent clashes with former Prime Minister Imran Khan's PTI. Mr. Alvi, who was a member of Mr. Khan's par-



Shehbaz Sharif

ty before assuming the office of the President, had also asked Mr. Sharif to assist the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in holding the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa elections as per the orders of the Supreme Court of the country.

Did Moore's law predict the world or define it?

Vasudevan Mukundhan

"Coordinating concept" — these are among the many words historians of science and technology Cyrus Morley used to describe Moore's Law in 2015, to commemorate 50 years of the tenet. By then, Dr. Mody, now at Maastricht University in the Netherlands, meant to say that one of the things that kept the law going was the law itself, creating a form of self-fulfilling prophecy. The businessman and engineer for whom the law is named,

Gordon Moore, co-founder of Intel Corporation, passed away on March 24. In 1965, Dr. Moore observed that the number of transistors on an integrated circuit (IC) would double every year. A decade later, he revised it to say the number would double approximately every two years. Since then, as many reports, articles, and books have documented, this Moore's law was found true: the number of transistors on an IC did indeed double every year. But part of this growth,

and information management, wrote in 2022 that the law "helps software developers to anticipate, broadly speaking, how much bigger their software releases should be." To rephrase Dr. Mody, "the producers and consumers of microelectronic" believed they were at the mercy of the law, but in truth they were actively maintaining it. The law practically defined expectations even as it aged with the world, and age it did. The slope of the Moore's law curve is flagging. The

Kamala Harris in Ghana on African tour

Agence France-Presse
ACCRA

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris arrived in Ghana on Sunday at the start of a three-nation African tour, as Washington looks to strengthen diplomatic ties on the continent. The trip to Ghana, Tanzania and Zambia until April 2 comes with focus on Africa, a continent where China and Russia are enjoying rising influence.

Honduras establishes ties with China leaving Taiwan with fewer partners

The Central American nation joins the likes of Nicaragua, Panama and Costa Rica in recognising Beijing and ending ties with Taipei; officials from the Asian island country hit out at the move, say it has been triggered by financial reasons

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

China and Honduras on Sunday signed a landmark communique to formally establish diplomatic relations, with the Central American nation becoming the latest country to switch recognition from Taipei to Beijing.

Sunday's agreement signed in Beijing between the two Foreign Ministers said "the two Governments have decided to recognise each other and establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, effective from the date of signature of this communiqué."

"There is but one China in the world and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal Government representing the whole of China," it added. "Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory."

Honduras, the agree-



New friends: Honduras Foreign Minister Eduardo Enrique Reina Garcia, left, with his Chinese counterpart Qin Gang in Beijing. AP

ment said, "chooses to stand with 181 countries in the world, recognise and undertake to adhere to the one-China principle, sever the so-called 'diplomatic relations' with Taiwan, establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, and undertake that Honduras shall no longer develop any official relations or official exchanges with Taiwan."

The agreement now leaves a dwindling number of diplomatic partners for Taiwan, with Honduras joining Nicaragua, Panama and Costa Rica in recently recognising Beijing and ending ties with Taipei.

The only remaining among the 193 member countries of the UN that maintain diplomatic relations with Taiwan, along with the Holy See (Vati-

can), are the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Tuvalu, and Palau in the Pacific; Eswatini in Africa; and Belize, Guatemala, Haiti, Paraguay, St. Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Kitts and Nevis, in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Reason for breakdown

Taipei hit out at the move, with a statement from the office of President Tsai Ing-wen saying China had "suppressed the international space" of Taiwan. Officials in Taipei said financial reasons were behind the switch, and Honduras had asked Taiwan for financial assistance as a condition to continue relations.

Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who began his third five-year term as President earlier this month, reiterated at the annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC) or Parliament that the Taiwan issue was a

red line for China.

Mr. Xi, and previous Chinese leaders, have said they will pursue "peaceful reunification" but will not rule out the use of force. Chinese officials, at the NPC, also warned the U.S. against interference in Taiwan.

"Realising China's complete reunification is a shared aspiration of all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation as well as the essence of national rejuvenation," Mr. Xi said.

"We should implement the [Communist] Party's overall policy for resolving the Taiwan question in the new era, uphold the one-China principle and the 1992 Consensus, actively promote the peaceful development of cross-strait relations, resolutely oppose foreign interference and separatist activities aimed at 'Taiwan independence,' and unswervingly promote progress towards national reunification."



Mexico

Cuba

Belize

Jamaica

Guatemala

Honduras

Central
America

El Salvador

Nicaragua

Colombia

Panama

Costa
Rica

Capital and largest city	Tegucigalpa 14°6′N 87°13′W﻿ / ﻿14°6′N 87°13′W﻿ / ﻿
Official languages	Spanish
Ethnic groups (2016) ^[1]	90% Mestizo (mixed Indigenous and White) 7% Indigenous 2% Black 1% White
Religion (2020) ^[2]	75.7% Christianity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — 38.1% Catholicism — 37.6% Protestantism 16.2% No religion 8.1% Other
Demonym(s)	Honduran · Catracho(a)
Government	Unitary presidential republic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Xiomara Castro • First Vice President Salvador Nasralla • President of National Congress Luis Redondo
Legislature	National Congress
Independence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declared^b from Spain 15 September 1821 • Declared from the First Mexican Empire 1 July 1823 • Declared, as Honduras, from the Federal Republic of Central America 5 November 1838

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Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total 112,492 km² (43,433 sq mi) (101st)
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 estimate 9,459,440^[3] (95th) • Density 85/km² (220.1/sq mi) (128th)
GDP (PPP)	2022 estimate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total ▲ \$69.8 billion^[4] (108th) • Per capita ▲ \$6,769^[4] (134th)
GDP (nominal)	2022 estimate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total ▲ \$30.5 billion^[4] (106th) • Per capita ▲ \$2,969^[4] (135th)
Gini (2018)	▲ 52.1^[5] high
HDI (2021)	▼ 0.621^[6] medium · 137th
Currency	Lempira (HNL)

A SPECIAL DAY

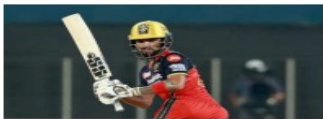
Neeraj pays surprise visit to students of Vishwa Vidyaapeeth



It was a dream come true for children at Vishwa Vidyaapeeth school in Yelahanka, a Bengaluru suburb, when Olympic javelin champion Neeraj Chopra paid a surprise visit to their classroom on Saturday. Such is Neeraj's fame that a 'teary eyed girl' said 'My idol is in the room now.' A boy cheekily asked if he was 'actually Neeraj Chopra?'

RCB'S INJURY WOES

Injured Patidar may miss first half of IPL: Hazlewood doubtful



Royal Challengers Bangalore's Rajat Patidar may miss the first half of the IPL owing to a heel injury. Patidar is currently undergoing rehab at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. There are also 'serious doubts' over the Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood's participation in the tournament as he is yet to recover from Achilles tendonitis.

DREAM DEBUT

No Haaland as Spain beats Norway: Wales draws with Croatia



Spain won 3-0 against a Norway side missing the injured Erling Haaland in the opening round of Euro 2024 qualifiers Saturday. Dani Olmo turned in Alejandro Balde's driven low cross on 13 minutes in Malaga and Joselu scored twice on his debut. Nathan Aspinall had a dream debut for Wales as he salvaged a 1-1 draw against Croatia.

EPIC BATTLE

Hurkacz saves five match-points, goes on to beat Kokkinakis



Hubert Hurkacz saved five match-points as he fought back to beat lucky-loser Thanasi Kokkinakis of Australia 6-7(10), 7-6(7), 7-6(6) in a three-and-a-half hour epic at the Miami Open on Saturday. Meanwhile, fourth-seeded Daniil Medvedev of Russia barely broke sweat in beating Roberto Carballes Baena 6-1, 6-2 in 62 minutes.

Nikhata and Lovlina add more golden sheen

Former punches her way to the 50kg title for a second straight success in an Olympic weight, while the latter picks her maiden World crown with victory in the 75kg category



Tasting success: Lovlina and Nikhat cheer to the Indian fans with their superb display on Sunday. SUSHIL KUMAR/ANSA

BOXING SUCCESS

NEW DEBUT

Y.B. Sarangi

NEW DEBUT

Star boxers Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain fought every ounce of their being as the host matched its 2016 count of four gold medals and concluded its campaign in the World women's boxing championships, at the K.D. Jadhav Hall, on a high on Sunday. India topped the medals tally with four gold, while Brazil's Beatriz Ferreira (60kg) was named the 'best boxer'. Nikhat, who claimed her maiden World title in 52kg last year, secured her second successive gold medal in an Olympic weight, 50kg, in front of a vocifer-

ous home crowd. An Olympic bronze medalist in 69kg, Lovlina Borgohain achieved her target of breaking her 'boomie jinx' and settled down in 75kg ahead of the Paris Games by picking her maiden World crown.

Emulating Mary Kom The taste of gold was sweetened by Commonwealth Games champion Nikhat, who became the second Indian woman after M.C. Mary Kom to win more than one World title. Her sixth bout turned out to be the toughest as Nikhat avenged her defeat to Vietnam's two-time Asian champion Thi Tam Nguyen with a 5-0 verdict.

Nikhat moved in to connect body and head shots on taller southpaw Thi, who was penalised for

holding, and won the first round 5-0. Thi stepped up aggression and took the second round 3-2 in the first round. After Caitlin bagged the second round, Lovlina, boxing from a long range, made good use of her left jabs to emerge triumphant in the spectacular tussle. "I was stressed. I couldn't succeed fully in my plan, lacking in a few things. Forgive me to become a World champion," said Lovlina.

The results (finals): 50kg: Nikhat Zareen bt Thi Tam Nguyen (Ind) 5-0. 52kg: Hsiao Wen Huang (Chi) bt Yori Jeon (Kor) 5-0. 60kg: Raissa Ferreira (Bra) bt Paola Valdez (Col) 5-0. 69kg: Liu Ting (Chi) bt Janjsem Sawwongsang (Tha) 5-0. 75kg: Lovlina Borgohain bt Caitlin Parker (Ire) 5-0. 81kg: Khatija Mandi (Mar) bt Lazzat Kunghajayeva (Kaz) 4-1.

Ml's innings didn't have the best of starts as openers Yastika Bhatia and Hayley Matthews were dismissed inside four overs.

But Nat Sciver-Bruent (60 not out, 55), who has nerves of steel, played her second successive match-winning knock in a row to take her team home. Sciver-Bruent paced her innings calmly and cleverly, so did her captain Harmanpreet Kaur (37, 39b, 5x4), as they added 72 priceless runs for the third wicket.

The finish line Though Harmanpreet was run out, the England all-rounder continued to batter before Sciver-Bruent's knock after her team got off to a poor start against hat-trick heroine Jessy Wong, who took three wickets in her first two overs.

Harmanpreet's Mumbai Indians lives a dream in the city of dreams

WPL

P.K. Ajith Kumar

MUMBAI

Azif Re...

The women of Mumbai Indians have certainly arrived. They have not just lived up to their imaginative marketing campaign featuring that catchy song (Azif Re...), they also lifted the first-ever Women's Premier League title on a pleasant Sunday night.

They did that in front of a vocal, passionate home crowd which filled the Brabourne Stadium. They chased down the modest target, set by Delhi Capitals, with seven wickets and three balls to spare.

Sciver-Bruent's day out Ml's innings didn't have the best of starts as openers Yastika Bhatia and Hayley Matthews were dismissed inside four overs.

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Stars of the night: Mumbai Indians won the inaugural WPL in a thrilling final. DIMANUJAL YOGAN

from the last two overs, the two smashed 16 off the penultimate over bowled by Jess Jonassen. That meant only five runs were needed in Alice Capsey's final over.

Fittingly, Sciver-Bruent played the winning shot, accepting a boundary over the 'keeper'. Before that, captain Meg Lanning (35, 29b, 2x6) had played fighting knock after her team got off to a poor start against hat-trick heroine Jessy Wong, who took three wickets in her first two overs.

Shikha Radha show Earlier, it took a stunning rearguard action by the last-wicket pair of Shikha Pandey (27 not out, 17b, 2x4, 1x5) and Radha Yadav (27 not out, 12b, 2x4, 2x5) to give Capitals something to sneeze with. Their unbroken 10th wicket-stand of 52 came off just 24 balls.

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SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS

Meg Lanning run out 35 (29b, 4x2-2, 3), Sakis 4-0-28-5, Kerr 4-0-18-2, Matthews 4-2-5, 11 (4b, 1x4, 2x5), Alice Capsey 4 (not out, 12b, 2x4), Jonassen 13 (12b, 2x4), Yastika Bhatia c Capsey b Radha 4 (7b, 2x4), Nat Sciver-Bruent 60 not out 55 (55b, 7x4), Harmanpreet Kaur not out 37 (39b, 5x4), Amelia Kerr not out 14 (8b, 2x4), Extras 0b-3, w-0-0. Total 60 (for three wickets in 15.3 overs) 134.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-13 (Yastika, 1.3), 2-23 (Matthews, 3.4), 3-35 (Harmanpreet, 16.2), 4-36 (Nat Sciver-Bruent, 16.2), 5-36 (Kerr, 16.2), 6-36 (Kerr, 16.2), 7-36 (Kerr, 16.2), 8-36 (Kerr, 16.2), 9-36 (Kerr, 16.2), 10-36 (Kerr, 16.2).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

3-12 (Shikha, 1.3), 3-12 (Capsey, 1.5), 3-35 (Jonassen, 4.2), 4-75 (Pandey, 10.3), 5-114 (Lanning, 11.4), 6-75 (Anvitha, 12.6), 7-75 (Jonassen, 13.2), 8-75 (Merrin, 15.4), 9-75 (Lanning, 15.4).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Meg Lanning was run out and there was a dream spell of off-spin from Hayley Matthews (4-2-5-3).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Later on in the night, the dream began a reality for Mumbai Indians in this city of dreams.

Jadeja promoted to Grade A+

BCCI CONTRACTS

NEW DEALS

Star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja was rewarded with the elite Grade A+ retainer-

ship, while Axar Patel got promoted to A category as the BCCI announced the annual contracts on Sunday. BCCI handed retainer-ship to 26 cricketers in four groups of A+ (€7 crore), A (€5 crore), B (€3 crore) and C (€1 crore).

The contracted players:

- A+ (€7 crore): Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja, A Hardik Pandya, R Ashwin, Mohd. Shami, Rishabh Pant, Axar Patel, B. Cheteshwar Pujara, K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Mohd. Siraj, Suryakumar Yadav, Shubman Gill, C. Umesh Yadav, Shikhar Dhawan, Shardul Thakur, Ishan Kishan, Deepak Chahar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Washington Sundar, Sanju Samson, Arshdeep Singh, K.S. Bharat.

Game-Changer

Mitchell Marsh can do things very few are capable of. A hardy and better and a quality seamer, he has the ability to change the course of a game all by himself as he showed during Australia's T20 World Cup triumph in 2022. Bought at the mid-auction for Rs. 6 crore, Marsh appears an obvious choice in the playing XI given the composition of the Capitals squad, with Ricky Ponting as skipper and Warner forming Capitals' 'think-tank', Marsh should be playing in a fair number of games.

Table with columns: Date, vs. Team, Time, Location. Rows include matches against Lucknow, Guwahati, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, and Delhi.

Will this be the year Delhi Capitals realises its immense potential?

IPL-16 COUNTDOWN

Rakesh Ran

Delhi Capitals remains the strongest team in the Indian Premier League that is yet to win the title. Though a recent year ago, they were touted as the team to watch. Pointing out charge as coach, the team has been unable to realise its immense potential.

Clearly, the present combination looks less intimidating than the one two seasons ago but posing for cover not only in the first six overs but also can turn into match-winners. In David Warner, the team has a captain who knows what it is like to lift the trophy. One may recall how he led from the front and top-scored in the 2016 final when Sunrisers Hyderabad triumphed.

Right now, Warner looks more determined than ever to prove a point or two. The added responsibility of cap-

taincy (in the absence of Rishabh Pant) will prove a blessing in disguise for this gritty performer. Ponting's cricketing brain and Warner's resilient approach hold the promise of making it Delhi Capitals' year. The squad has a good mix of batters and bowlers besides the all-rounders to provide the desired balance.

Potentially, openers Warner and the present combination looks less intimidating than the one two seasons ago but posing for cover not only in the first six overs but also can turn into match-winners. In David Warner, the team has a captain who knows what it is like to lift the trophy. One may recall how he led from the front and top-scored in the 2016 final when Sunrisers Hyderabad triumphed.

Among the home-grown options, the team could consider the vastly-experienced Manish Pandey besides a bunch of young talent in recent years, after the batters and bowlers besides the all-rounders to provide the desired balance. Potentially, openers Warner and the present combination looks less intimidating than the one two seasons ago but posing for cover not only in the first six overs but also can turn into match-winners.

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momentum. Besides Rishabh Pant, other all-rounders are Axar Patel and Lalit Yadav. Among the home-grown options, the team could consider the vastly-experienced Manish Pandey besides a bunch of young talent in recent years, after the batters and bowlers besides the all-rounders to provide the desired balance.

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Nikhat and Lovlina add more golden sheen

Former punches her way to the 50kg title for a second straight success in an Olympic weight, while the latter picks her maiden World crown with victory in the 75kg category



Tasting success: Lovlina and Nikhat brought cheer to the Indian fans with their superb display on Sunday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

BOXING WORLDS

Y.B. Sarangi

NEW DELHI

Star boxers Nikhat Zareen and Lovlina Borgohain fought with every ounce of their being as the host matched its 2006 count of four gold medals and concluded its campaign in the World women's boxing championships, at the K.D. Jadhav Hall, on a high on Sunday.

India topped the medals tally with four gold, while Brazil's Beatriz Ferreira (60kg) was named the 'best boxer.'

Nikhat, who claimed her maiden World title in 52kg last year, secured her second successive gold medal in an Olympic weight, 50kg, in front of a vocifer-

ous home crowd.

An Olympic bronze medallist in 69kg, Lovlina Borgohain achieved her target of breaking her 'bronze jinx' and settled down in 75kg ahead of the Paris Games by picking her maiden World crown.

Emulating Mary Kom

The taste of gold was sweeter for Commonwealth Games champion Nikhat, who became the second Indian woman after M.C. Mary Kom to win more than one World title. Her sixth bout turned out to be the toughest as Nikhat avenged her defeat to Vietnam's two-time Asian champion Thi Tam Ngyuen with a 5-0 verdict.

Nikhat moved in to connect body and head shots on taller southpaw Thi, who was penalised for

holding, and won the first round 5-0. Thi stepped up aggression and took the second round 3-2 as Nikhat was punished for bending too much.

With standing counts on both amidst trading of punches, Nikhat gave it her all despite receiving a cut on her upper lip, which was once affected by herpes, and opened up during the bout. After being declared the winner, she knelt down to offer a prayer.

"I wanted to put every ounce of my energy and win the final," said Nikhat, dedicating her victory to the home crowd.

Asian champion Lovlina managed to pip two-time Commonwealth Games medallist Caitlin Parker 5-2 through bout review to pocket her maiden World title.

The lanky Lovlina replied to the Aussie's attacks with counters and stayed 3-2 up in the first round.

After Caitlin bagged the second round, Lovlina, boxing from a long range, made good use of her left jabs to emerge triumphant in the spectacular tussle. "I was stressed. I couldn't succeed fully in my plan, lacking in a few things. Feels good to become a World champion," said Lovlina.

The results (finals):

50kg: Nikhat Zareen bt Thi Tam Ngyuen (Vie) 5-0.

54kg: Hsiao-Wen Huang (Tpe) bt Yeni Arias (Col) 5-0.

60kg: Beatriz Ferreira (Bra) bt Paola Valdez (Col) 5-0.

66kg: Liu Yang (Chn) bt Janjaem Suwannapheng (Tha) 5-0.

75kg: Lovlina Borgohain bt Caitlin Parker (Aus) 5-2.

+81kg: Khadija Mardi (Mar) bt Lazzat Kungiebayeva (Kaz) 4-1.

Harmanpreet's Mumbai Indians lives a dream in the city of dreams

WPL

P.K. Ajith Kumar

MUMBAI

Aali Re... (She has arrived).

The women of Mumbai Indians have certainly arrived. They have not just lived up to their imaginative marketing campaign featuring that catchy song (*Aali Re...*). They also lifted the first-ever Women's Premier League title on a pleasant Sunday night.

They did that in front of a vocal, passionate home crowd which filled the Brabourne Stadium. They chased down the modest target, set by Delhi Capi-



Stars of the night: Mumbai Indians won the inaugural WPL in a thrilling final. EMMANUAL YOGINI



WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

Countries	India
Administrator	Board of Control for Cricket in India
Format	Twenty20 cricket
First edition	2023
Tournament format	Double Round-robin and playoffs
Number of teams	5
Current champion	Mumbai Indians (1st title)
Most successful	Mumbai Indians (1 title)
Most runs	Meg Lanning (345)
Most wickets	Hayley Matthews (16)

Team	City	Owners	Captain	Head coach
Delhi Capitals	New Delhi	JSW Group–GMR Group (JSW GMR Cricket Pvt. Ltd) ^[27]	Meg Lanning ^[28]	Jonathan Batty ^[29]
Gujarat Giants	Ahmedabad	Adani Group	Sneh Rana ^{[30][e]}	Rachael Haynes ^[31]
Mumbai Indians	Mumbai	Indiawin Sports	Harmanpreet Kaur ^[32]	Charlotte Edwards ^[19]
Royal Challengers Bangalore	Bangalore	Diageo	Smriti Mandhana ^[33]	Ben Sawyer ^[34]
UP Warriorz	Lucknow	Capri Global	Alyssa Healy ^[35]	Jon Lewis ^[36]

Union Bank Premium HNI Saving Account

Ladakh LAC summer plan factors in troop strength, aerial recce, patrols

AMRITA NAYAK TUTTA NEW DELHI, MARCH 26 MAINTAINING A balanced defensive posture...

EXPRESS INVESTIGATION PART-1 Jio to VIT: Picked for eminence 5 years ago, pvt univs wait and wait

Despite tall claims and green lights, Govt yet to sign final MoUs with universities selected for Institution of Eminence (IOE), from Navi Mumbai to Odisha and TN

ALL CLEARANCES IN BUT... Private institutes waiting to sign final MoU with Government.

Infographic showing Jio Institute, Rajinikanth Institute of Industrial Technology, Vellore Institute of Technology, and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham with their respective student counts and MoU statuses.

RITIKA CHOPRA NAVI MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, MARCH 25 State-of-the-art infrastructure. Clear developmental plan. Enough funding...

BUSINESS AS USUAL BY UNNAY

Why the delay: Old expert panel out, no sign of new; new education policy casts a shadow

RITIKA CHOPRA NEW DELHI, MARCH 25 AT THE heart of the delays affecting the Institution of Eminence (IOE) scheme is a defunct expert panel...

by former Chief Election Commissioner N Gopalaswami, completed its three-year term on February 20, 2021. Since then, the Government has not appointed new members...

of the approaching end of the panel's three-year term. But no decision has officially been taken on the file moved for reconstitution...

PROJECT GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY IN DAHOD Bilkis case convict on stage with BJP MP, MLA brother at Gujarat govt event



Shailish Bhatt (front row, second from left) with MP Jasvantsinh Bhabhor (third from left) and MLA Shailish Bhabhor (fifth from left).

PAGE 1 ARICHOOR Indian boxing's dream weekend: Nikhat wins 2nd world title, Lovlina her 1st

SHASHANK NAIR NEW DELHI, MARCH 25 TEARY EYES and a roar towards the camera - Nikhat Zareen went through the full weighter no-reflexions after a closely fought gold-medal match that saw her defeat Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Tam 5-0 at a packed Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Hall in New Delhi on Sunday.

Mary-Koen. At just 26 years, Nikhat is slowly filling those giant shoes. The crowd-favourite beat Vietnam's Nguyen Thi Tam 5-0 at a packed Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Hall in New Delhi on Sunday.

EXPRESS NETWORK ISRO ROCKET PLACES 36 SATELLITES IN ORBITS



ISRO ROCKET PLACES 36 SATELLITES IN ORBITS

HUNDI COLLECTIONS FCRA on hold, Tirupati trust sits on Rs 26 cr forex seeks way out

WITH ITS registration under the FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) under 'suspension' for the past three years, the country's richest religious trust, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), faces an unprecedented situation: a mounting stockpile of foreign currency in cash anonymously dropped as 'hundi' collections which cannot be deposited in its bank accounts.

AFTER MISSIONS TARGETED IN UK, US India summons Canada envoy over attacks: Act against separatists

Ensure safety of our diplomats and premises, says MEA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MARCH 26 DAYS AFTER pro-Khalistan groups targeted Indian missions in the United Kingdom and United States, drawing a strong response from Delhi, India has lodged a protest with Canada, flagging actions of 'separatist and extremist elements' against Indian diplomatic missions and consulates.

The High Commissioner of Canada was summoned Saturday by the Ministry of External Affairs which conveyed India's 'strong concern' over the attacks over the last week, according to an MEA statement issued Sunday.



Priyanka echoes Rahul on PM, invokes Lord Ram to counter dynasty criticism

MANOJ GUPTA NEW DELHI, MARCH 26 HOPING TO galvanise public opinion against the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi as Lok Sabha member, the Opposition Congress organised mass sit-ins across the country Sunday, targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and signalling that its offensive against the BJP government will continue to centre on his 'relationship' with industrialist Gautam Adani - an issue Rahul has been consistently raising.

TTD'S FOREX CASH STOCKPILE

Table with 5 columns: Country, Currency, Total no. of notes, Approx value. Includes USA, Malaysia, UAE, Singapore, England, EU, Australia, Canada, Others.

RAHUL, DON'T PANIC

Addressing the gathering at a party 'satyagrah' near Raj Chhatra Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra launched an attack on the Prime Minister, calling him 'strongman' and 'boss-man', and said she was ready to face any action for saying so.

PM urges people to donate organs: 1 person can give new life to 8-9

Working to make organ donation easier: Modi

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Sunday appealed to people to urge for organ donation, and said when a person donates one's body after death, it creates the possibility for eight to nine people to get a new life.



Why the delay: Old expert panel out, no sign of new; new education policy casts a shadow

RITIKA CHOPRA NEW DELHI, MARCH 25 AT THE heart of the delays affecting the Institution of Eminence (IOE) scheme is a defunct expert panel...

IDEA EXCHANGE

Advertisement for IDEA EXCHANGE with text: 'Nothing prevents it from being accessible... Raj Bhavans should be Jan Bhavans'.

Indian boxing's dream weekend: Nikhat wins 2nd world title, Lovlina her 1st

Nikhat Zareen after winning the 50-kg category gold at the World Boxing Championships Sunday. Lovlina Borgohain after her win in the 75-kg category.

Vedic Heritage Portal with 550 hrs of audio-visual content launched

DIVYAA

NEW DELHI, MARCH 26

THE VEDIC Heritage Portal of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) has been launched finally.

Seven years in the making, at an estimated cost of Rs 5 crore, the portal is a repository of vedic knowledge and traditions from across the country.

“The portal is an effort to map the vedic heritage of the country. It is a one-stop solution for researchers and others who would like to search any information regarding the Vedic heritage,” says an IGNCA official, adding that the it gives detailed information about oral traditions, textual tra-

dition in form of published books/manuscripts, or implements (yajna-related objects).

Earlier this week, the portal was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy.

Shah said that the Narendra Modi government was securing the knowledge of India's ancient scriptures and manuscripts for the future generations through technology. “The younger generation will be able to carry forward the knowledge and tradition of Vedas and Upanishads... the world will be facilitated to know the rich history of India's glorious culture,” he said.

Over 550 hours of audio-visual content of more than 18,000 Vedic mantras have been up-

loaded on the website, prepared in conjunction with people who know Vedas, Vedic research institutes, Vedapathi families and experts from all over the world, according to the IGNCA, which functions under the Ministry of Culture.

The IGNCA is also planning to create a museum dedicated to the Vedic implements, or vessels used in yajna. “We are planning a virtual gallery of Vedic implements, which will showcase over 250 vessels from the vedic traditions of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh,” says an IGNCA official, adding that the effort is to preserve and promote the ‘Vedas’, which are an intangible heritage of humanity as per the UNESCO.



» INTRODUCTION

» SAMHITAS

» BRAHMANAS

» ARANYAKAS

» UPANISHADS

» VEDANGAS

» RITUALS

The Vedas are the source of integral wisdom, science, tradition and culture of a remarkable civilization. They are Oral compilations of distilled wisdom of cosmic knowledge survived from the time immemorial. They are not only identified as scriptures, but also as the fountain head of Indian culture and human civilization.

[Read More..](#)

VEDIC QUOTE OF THE DAY

“ राजा राष्ट्राणां पेशः । ”
(ऋग्वेद/Rigveda-7.34.11)

“ यह अधिपति राष्ट्रों का शासक है। ”

“ He, the King is the controller of all kingdoms. ”

Daily Current Affairs

**Directed Energy
Weapons and Hypersonic
Weapons**

- Recently, India's Air Chief Marshal highlighted the need to push the development of Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs) and Hypersonic Weapons and integrate them into its airborne platforms to get the desired range and accuracy.

What is a Directed Energy Weapons (DEW)?

- A DEW is a weapon that destroys, damages or incapacitates its target with highly focused energy, including laser, microwaves or particle beams.
-

Types of DEW

- LASER Weapon Systems
(LaWS): As the name suggests, laser weapons are based on laser beams fired from an apparatus.
- Microwave DEW. Any weapon which has a microwave range between 300 MHz and 300 GHz is generally classified as a microwave weapon



- Particle-Beam DEW. Particle-beam DEW use a directed flow of charged or neutral particles as a damaging factor.
- Plasma DEW. Plasma DEW fire a beam stream of plasma, which is an excited state of matter consisting of atomic nuclei and free electrons.
- Sonic DEW. Sonic DEW use sound as a means to injure, kill or incapacitate.



- Directional Atom. This idea involves the creation of a special atomic warhead that transfers most of the explosion energy in a given direction.



Advantage

- Such weapons can be deployed stealthily and if used right with comparatively less collateral damage.
 - Logistical problems of procuring more ammunition are eliminated as the surplus amount of energy is all that is needed
 - Cheaper to operate than conventional weapons depending on certain operational factors
-

Disadvantage

- The research into DEW's is a financially draining task
 - The practical applications of some DEW's are questionable
 - Counter against such weapons is not hard to come by. For example, laser beams can be weakened by water vapour and dust.
-

What is Hypersonic Technology weapon?

- A hypersonic weapon is one that can hit its target five to ten times (Mach 5 to Mach 10) the speed of sound.
- This is extremely complex technology, which also needs to be able to handle high temperatures, making the hypersonic systems extremely costly.
-

What are the two Main Versions of Hypersonic Weapons?

- Hypersonic Cruise Missiles (HCM): It is a typical cruise missile which is 'all the way powered' to achieve hypersonic speeds of Mach 5 or higher.
- Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGV): Such a vehicle is also called a 'wave-rider' because it uses the shock waves generated by its own flight as a lifting surface to enhance the lift-to-drag ratio to reach the hypersonic regime of Mach 5 or even more. A typical HGV is launched by any solid propellant rocket/missile which can give it the initial boost.

12 km
39,000 ft



Temperature

-56°C

-67°F



Airplane Traveling at the Speed of Sound
1,056 km/h (660 mph)

Airplane Traveling at the Speed of Sound
1,216 km/h (760 mph)

Sea Level

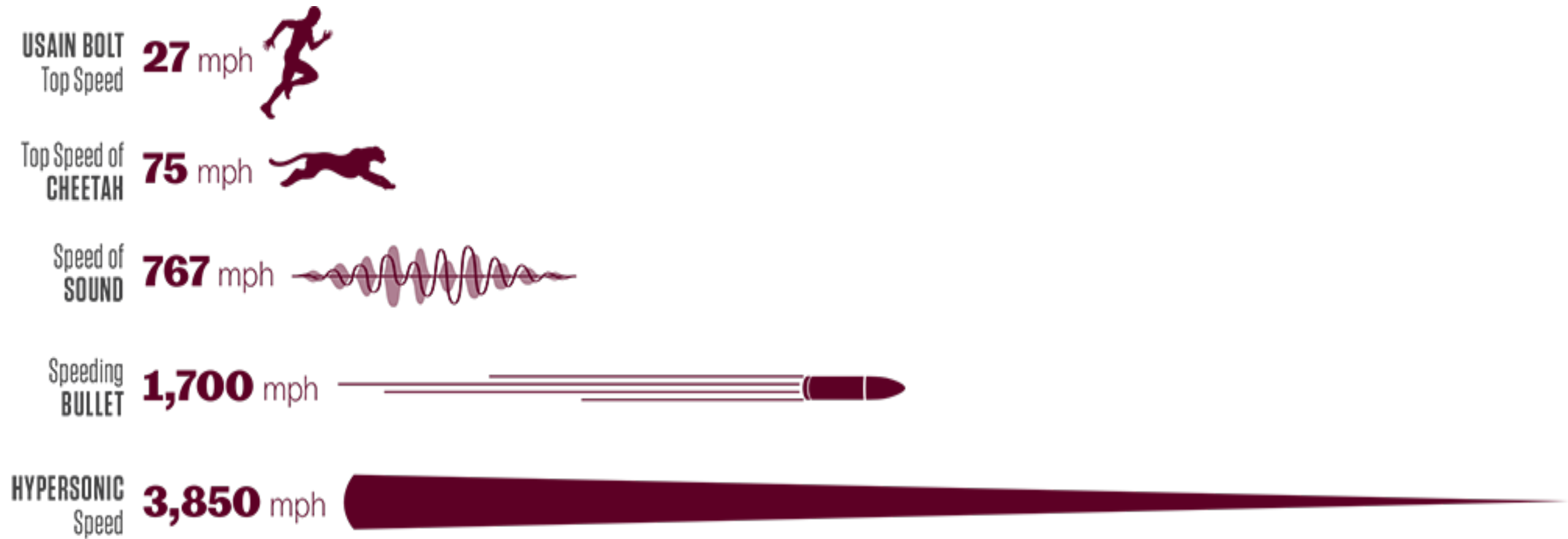


Temperature

15°C

59°F

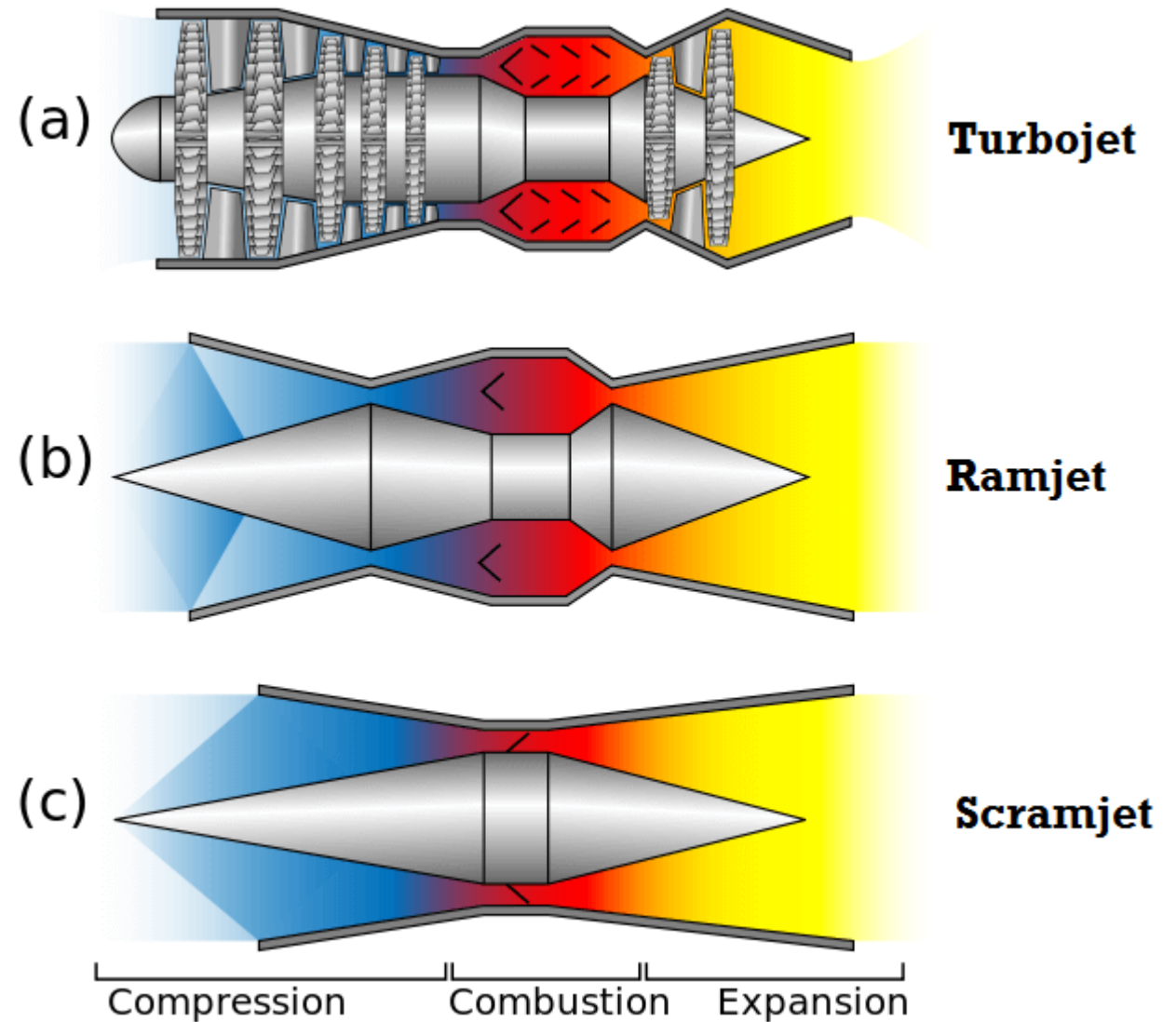




The exact details on technology used by China in this particular test are not known through media sources. But most of the hypersonic vehicles primarily use the scramjet technology.

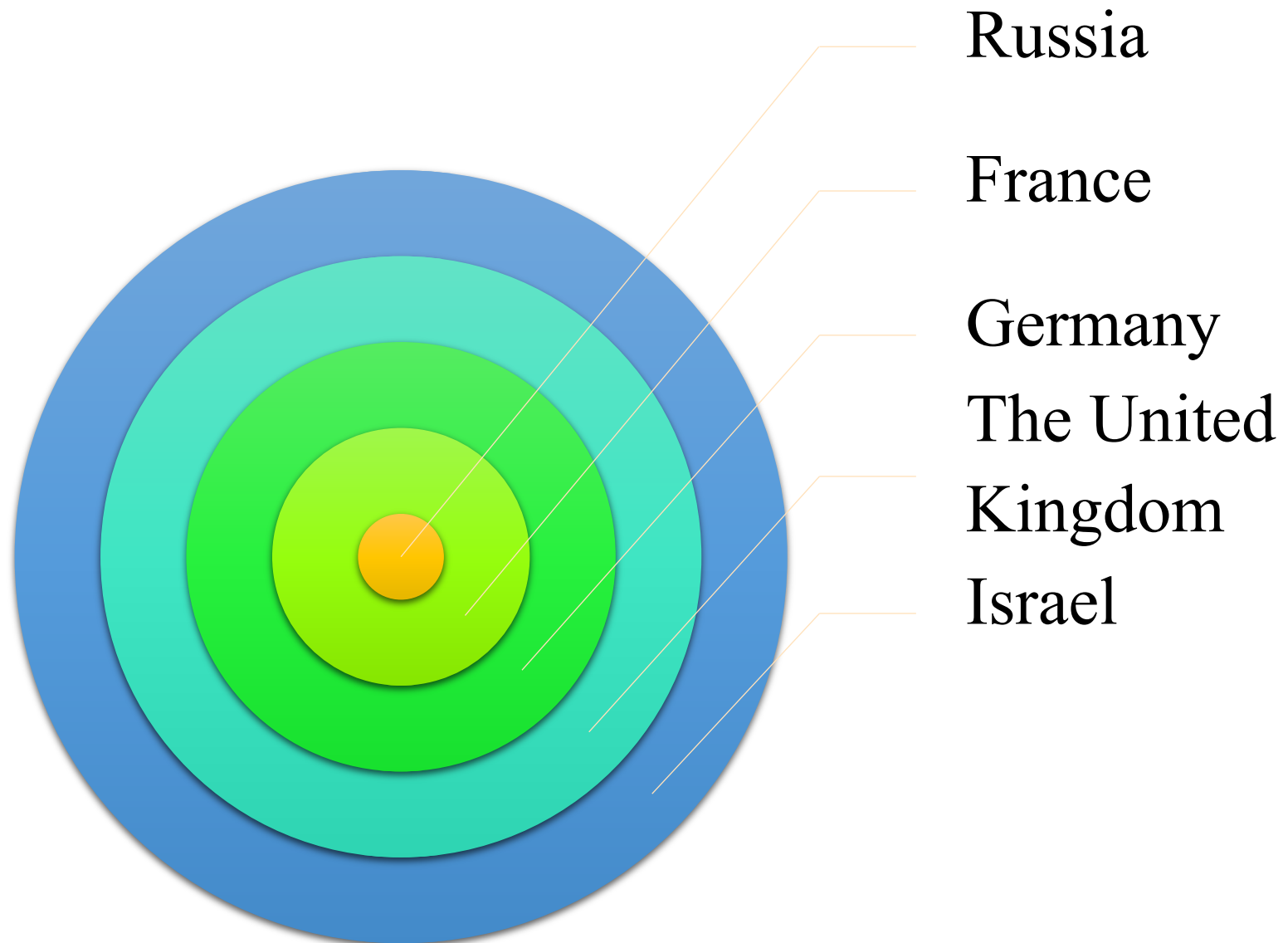
What is scramjet technology?

- Scramjets are a category of engines designed to handle airflows of speeds in multiples of the speed of sound.



Cryogenic Engines	Scram jet Engines
No air intake is required in this engine	Air intake is required to operate this engine
Fuel needs to be stored at very low temperature	Fuel storage does not require low temp like cryogenic
It runs efficiently when low temperature fuel transforms and mixes correctly and ignites.	It runs efficiently at supersonic speed that forcefully compress air before combustion
India is the sixth nation apart from the US, Russia, France, Japan and China to possess cryogenic engine technology.	India is the fourth country apart from US, Russia and ESA to demonstrate the flight testing of a Scramjet Engine.
Its cost of payload is independent of oxidizer	Since oxidizer saves the cost, It can carry more payload

Other Countries with DEWs



India's DEWs and Hypersonic Technology Projects

- **1KW laser Weapon:** DRDO has tested a 1KW laser weapon which hit a target 250m away.
- Directionally Unrestricted Ray-Gun Array (DURGA) II: DRDO has initiated a project DURGA II, which is a 100-kilowatt lightweight DEW.
-

- Hypersonic Technology

Development: Hypersonic technology in India has been developed and tested by both DRDO and ISRO.



Daily Current Affairs

Ban on Transgendered female athletes

- Transgender women have been barred from competing in the female category by World Athletics (WA). WA is the international governing body for track and field.
- The ban has been put for those transgender women who have experienced male puberty.

Why have transgender women been barred?

- The WA's Eligibility Regulations for Transgender Athletes focuses on the physical advantages men have over women post-puberty.
- The differences that arise from puberty require classification of the athletes.
-

- Due to this, there are separate competition for men and women athletes.
- However, transgender women were misusing their categories. For example, Lia Thomas used hormone replacement therapy and moved from the men's category to the women's category.
- She started breaking records in the IVY League competition after that.



What were the rules for transgender women before WA's ban?

- Under the previous rules, there was no blanket ban, but transgender women had to reduce the amount of blood testosterone to 5 nanomoles per litre (nmol/L) and maintain this level for 12 months in order to participate.

-

What is Testosterone?

- It is a hormone that is primarily produced in the testicles in males and in smaller amounts in the ovaries in females.
- It is responsible for the development of male physical characteristics such as increased muscle mass, bone density, and body hair.
-

What had WA initially proposed?

- In January, WA had come up with the ‘preferred option’ for transgender women. Instead of a complete ban, WA said it would allow transgender women to compete in the female category but would reduce the blood testosterone limit to below 2.5nmol/L for two years — basically cutting it down by half, and doubling the time period before they become eligible to compete.

-

Which other sports have banned transgender female athletes?

- The International Olympic Committee's Framework on Fairness released in November 2021 stated that "athletes are not excluded solely on the basis of their transgender identity or sex variations".
- But the IOC had put the onus on sports federations to put in place rules. FINA implemented a ban last year.
- However, it was World Rugby in 2020 which became the first international sports federation to bar transgender women from the female competition. Following this, Rugby Football League and Rugby Football Union also banned transgender women from the female competition.
- Last year, British Triathlon implemented a similar ban.

Who are Transgender ?

- The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 defines “Transgender person”, as a person whose gender does not match with the gender assigned to that person at birth and includes trans-man or trans-woman (whether or not such person has undergone Sex Reassignment Surgery or hormone therapy or laser therapy or such other therapy), a person with intersex variations, genderqueer and person having such socio-cultural identities as Kinner, hijra, aravani and jogta.

Daily Current Affairs

DigiClaim

- Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare has launched the National Crop Insurance Portal's digitized claim settlement module namely DigiClaim under the ambit of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
- Developed by the integration of the National Crop Insurance Portal (NCIP) and the Public Finance Management System (PFMS)

- make farmers self-reliant and strong
- reduce claim reversal and enable farmers to track their claim settlement process
- claims will be processed directly to their respective bank accounts

Benefits

-

.....

Daily Current Affairs

Guillotine

- The ongoing stalemate in Parliament has led to speculation that the government may guillotine the demands for grants and pass the Finance Bill without any discussion.

What is Guillotine?

- The term "guillotine" in legislative contexts refers to grouping and accelerating the passage of financial business.
- Following the presentation of the Budget, Parliament has a three-week break, during which the House Standing Committees review and compile reports on Requests for Grants from various Ministries.

•

- The Business Advisory Committee (BAC) creates a timetable for discussions regarding the Demands for Grants after Parliament reconvenes.
- The House cannot debate all expenditure requests due to time constraints; as a result, the BAC selects a few crucial Ministries for discussion.



- After the House has completed debating grant-related issues, the Speaker uses the "guillotine," putting all pending requests for grants up for a vote at once. This often takes place on the final day set out for the budget discussion.
- It is intended to ensure speedy passage of the Finance Bill, which will signify the end of the budgetary legislative process.



How does the procedure work?

- Each Bill is allotted a specific amount of time for consideration in Parliament.
 - A Bill is usually composed of several clauses. Once the allotted time to discuss the clauses of the Bill is over, the Speaker of the House rolls out guillotine closure.
 - The undiscussed clauses of a bill or resolution are placed for vote alongside the discussed portions.
-

What happens after the guillotine is applied?

- Once the Speaker of the House applies the guillotine, all the outstanding demands for grants, whether discussed or not, are put to vote at once.
- The Appropriations Bill is formally introduced by the government, which gives them permission to seek funds out of the Consolidated Fund of India.
-

- After being enacted, this Bill becomes the Appropriation Act.
- The Finance Bill is then brought up for discussion following the vote on the Appropriations Bill.
- The sections and changes of the Finance Bill are only discussed in relation to the tax measures.
- The Finance Act becomes part of the law after this bill is passed, and the final budget is approved.



Daily Current Affairs

Sagar Manthan Dashboard

- Recently, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) launched Sagar Manthan dashboard.


Sagar Manthan Dashboard

- The digital platform is designed to have all integrated data related to the ministry and other subsidiaries.
- The inauguration ceremony was attended by MoS, MoPSW Shri Shripad Y. Naik, MoS, MoPSW Shri Shantanu Thakur and other officials from the ministry.
-

- The platform, which was developed in-house under the guidance of Sudhanshu Pant, the Secretary of MoPSW, was completed efficiently in less than 1.5 months.

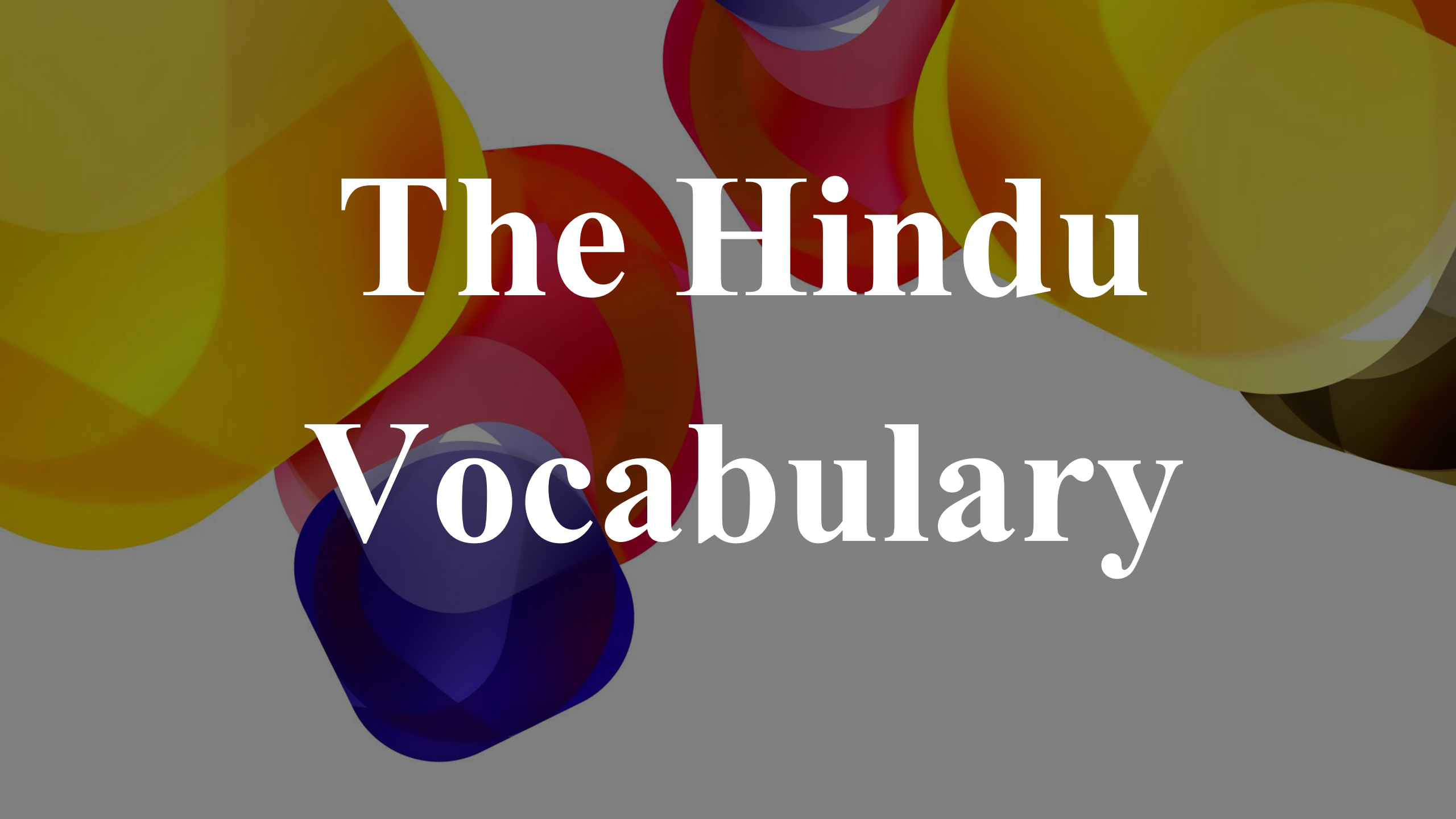


Key Features

1. Data visualization 
2. Real-time monitoring
3. Improved communication
4. Data-driven decision making
5. Increased accountability

- It also promotes real-time project tracking, risk management, resource allocation, and progress reporting.
- The dashboard in the future would further be integrated with Input from the CCTV camera, Live streaming from Drones, and AI-based Algorithms.





The Hindu Vocabulary

Prudent (Adjective): विवेकपूर्ण : careful and avoiding risks, sensible

Synonyms: cautious, judicious, intelligent, discreet

Antonyms: imprudent, injudicious, careless



Compliant (आज्ञाकारी): disposed to agree with others or obey rules, especially to an excessive degree; acquiescent.

Synonyms: pliant, amenable, obedient

Antonyms: stubborn, adamant



Escalate (बढ़ाना) : increase rapidly, make or become more intense or serious.

Synonyms: intensify, heighten

Antonyms: diminish, abbreviate



Functionary (पदाधिकारी) - A person who functions in a specified capacity.

Synonyms - Assistant, Broker, Commissioner, Lawyer



Objurgate (Verb) : आपत्ति होना : to
express public or formal disapproval of

Synonyms: reprimand, censure,
condemn

Antonyms: laud, praise, approve



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Consider the following statements

.....

When the Kangaroo Closure motion is passed only the important clauses of a bill are discussed and voted.

Guillotine Closure is the time allocated for discussion of a particular bill or resolution is over, all the undiscussed clauses are put to vote along with the discussed ones.

Choose the correct statements:

a) 1 only

b) 2 only

c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer – C

Types of Closure Motion

- **Simple Closure:** If the matter is sufficiently discussed then the member might move a Simple closure motion.
- **Closure by Compartments:** For discussion, the bill or a resolution is grouped together into compartments. Therefore a particular section or group of sections in a bill can be put to vote.

- **Kangaroo Closure:** When this type of closure motion is passed, only the important clauses of a bill are discussed and voted. The remaining clauses are deemed to be passed
- **Guillotine Closure:** When the time allocated for discussion of a particular bill or resolution is over, all the undiscussed clauses are put to vote along with the discussed ones on the Guillotine.

Abel Prize is conferred to recognise
outstanding contributors of which
field?

- a) Architecture
- b) Mathematics
- c) Journalism
- d) Sports

Answer – B

- The Abel Prize is conferred every year by the King of Norway to recognize one or more outstanding mathematicians.
- The Abel Prize for mathematics was awarded to Argentine-American Luis Caffarelli, an expert in “partial differential equations” which can explain phenomena ranging from how water flows to population growth.

Consider the following statements:

.....

1. The Constitution of India provides for disqualification of an MP if convicted in the criminal case.
2. The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the disqualification of an MP on grounds of defection.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer – B

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Representation of The People Act (RPA), 1951 mandates that an MP can be disqualified convicted in the criminal case. Statement 2 is correct.
- The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the disqualification of an MP on grounds of defection.

Consider the following statements regarding defamation:

.....

1. In India, defamation can both be a civil wrong and a criminal offence, depending on the objective they seek to achieve.
2. A Civil offence sees a wrong being redressed with monetary compensation, while a criminal law seeks to punish a wrongdoer with a jail term to create a deterrence effect.
3. In a Criminal Offence, defamation has to be established beyond reasonable doubt but in a civil defamation suit, damages can be awarded based on probabilities.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 & 3 only
- c) 1 & 3 only
- d) 1, 2 & 3

Answer – D

- In India, defamation can both be a civil wrong and a criminal offence, depending on the objective they seek to achieve.
- A Civil offence sees a wrong being redressed with monetary compensation, while a criminal law seeks to punish a wrongdoer and send a message to others not to commit such acts, with a jail term.
- In a Criminal Offence, defamation has to be established beyond reasonable doubt but in a civil defamation suit, damages can be awarded based on probabilities.

Consider the following statements:

.....

1. 6G technology is expected to have higher latency than 5G.
2. 6G aims to be more energy-efficient and better at using whatever spectrum is available for the network.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

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

Answer – B

- Statement 1 is incorrect. 6G technology is expected to have lower latency than 5G. Statement 2 is correct. 6G aims to be more energy-efficient and better at using whatever spectrum is available for the network.