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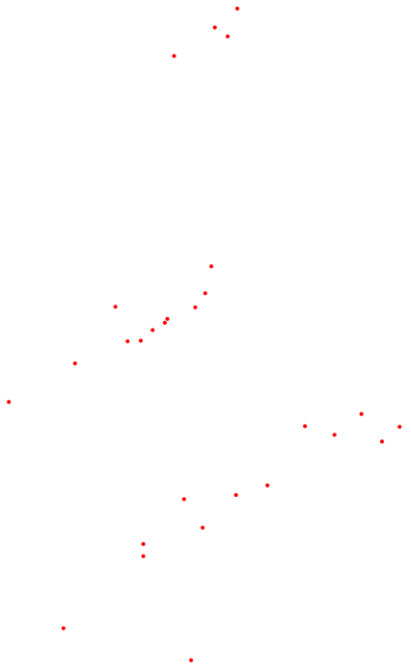
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10 MCQ from the session

What reform was made for promoting EV and mobile battery manufacturing?

- **ईवी और मोबाइल बैटरी निर्माण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कौन सा सुधार किया गया?**
 - A. GST increased on batteries
 - B. 100% import duty added
 - C. No import duty on 35 capital goods and 28 battery items
 - D. EV tax incentive withdrawn

What is the main aim of customs tariff rationalisation in Budget 2025?

• **बजट 2025 में सीमा शुल्क को युक्तिसंगत बनाने का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?**

- A. Boost luxury imports
- B. Curb duty inversion and promote value addition
- C. Reduce tax collection
- D. Promote exports only

How much foreign asset value was declared in the recent nudge campaign?

- **हाल ही में चलाए गए 'नज कैंपेन' में कितनी विदेशी संपत्ति घोषित की गई?**
 - A. ₹5,000 crore
 - B. ₹12,000 crore
 - C. ₹29,208 crore
 - D. ₹50,000 crore

As of March 20, 2024, how many Indians are on death row globally?

• 20 मार्च 2024 तक, दुनियाभर में कितने भारतीय मौत की सज़ा का सामना कर रहे हैं?

A. 25

B. 49

C. 100

D. 60

What is “blood money” in Gulf countries?

• **खाड़ी देशों में 'ब्लड मनी' क्या है?**

A. Bribe to jail officials

B. Fine for not appearing in court

C. Compensation to victim's family to reduce sentence

D. Legal tax on foreign convicts

What legal step has the Kerala Assembly taken recently?

- **हाल ही में केरल विधानसभा ने कौन सा कानूनी कदम उठाया है?**
 - A. Banned religious schools
 - B. Passed Private Universities Bill
 - C. Abolished NEET
 - D. Made English medium mandatory

Why has Samsung been fined ₹5,000+ crore in India?

- **भारत में सैमसंग पर ₹5,000+ करोड़ का जुर्माना क्यों लगाया गया है?**
 - A. For not paying GST
 - B. Misclassifying telecom imports to avoid duties
 - C. Selling fake products
 - D. Importing banned components

What is the main goal of PM VIKAS Scheme?

- पीएम विकास योजना का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
 - A. Increase exports
 - B. Welfare of tribal communities
 - C. Upliftment of six notified minority communities
 - D. Promote religious tourism

What is the “Blue Flag” certification given to?

- **"ब्लू फ्लैग" प्रमाणन किसे दिया जाता है?**
 - A. Best railway station
 - B. Clean and eco-friendly beaches
 - C. Pollution-free industries
 - D. Highest rainfall zones

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Cong. moves privilege
notice against Shah
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Santosh, U.K.'s
official Oscar
entry, blocked
in India
NEWS » PAGE 6



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DATA POINT
No FIRs against
illegal Telangana
mines till 2022
No. of identified illegal
mines surged in 2023
OPINION » PAGE 9

CONTRASTING MOODS
Upbeat SRH meets
a wounded LSG
SPORT » PAGE 16

INSIDE



**All institutions
have to work in
tandem: RS chair**

NEW DELHI
Raja Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhanekar said on Wednesday that the executive, legislature and judiciary were not pitted against each other and they had to function in tandem. » PAGE 5

**Panel calls for
a full review of
GST framework**

MUMBAI
Parliament's Public Accounts Committee recommended that Finance Ministry undertake a comprehensive review of the GST framework to eliminate procedures that complicate compliance. » PAGE 6

**Congress slams
Minister over
'false statement'**

NEW DELHI
The Congress had accused Minister of State for Rural Development Chandras Sahasr Pemmasani of making a false statement regarding comparative audit of MGNREGS funds to Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. » PAGE 5

**China, its Russia
ties main threat
to the U.S.: report**

WASHINGTON
China remains the main threat to the U.S. globally but an increasing concern is its closer ties with Russia, Iran and North Korea, said an annual U.S. intelligence report released on Tuesday. Beijing called the report "biased". » PAGE 14

SC stays HC's 'inhuman' remarks on rape bid

Justice Gajari noted that parts of Allahabad High Court's March 17 order, which described a minor's trauma but concluded the accused lacked intent to rape, showed a complete lack of sensitivity in handling the case, the Supreme Court judge said what made it worse was the order was not dictated by the judge on the spur of the moment

Krishnadatta Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed an Allahabad High Court order of March 17, which concluded that "mere" grabbing the breasts of a minor victim, breaking the string of her pyjama to "bring down" her lower garment are not sufficient to constitute an offence of attempt to rape. A day after the Supreme Court took suo motu cognisance of the order, a Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gajari said the observations made by a Single Judge Bench of Justice Ranjiv Mishra of the High Court were "totally insensitive, inhuman" and "unknown to the tenets of law". Justice Gajari pointed out that certain paragraphs of the order, which graphically recounted the trauma endured by the minor victim at the hands of the two accused persons only to conclude their actions did not show any determination on the part of the duo to rape her, showed a "complete lack of sensitivity".



Trial trail
Timeline of key developments in the case
2020-21, 2021: Anugang district, U.P. March 23, 2022: Special Judge treats the application as a complaint.
June 23, 2023: After recording statements, the Special Judge issues a summons to the accused.
Nov. 13, 2024: Revision petition against the summons order is filed and reserved for judgment by the Allahabad HC.
Nov. 10, 2023: Alleged incident takes place.
Jan. 12, 2022: Victim's mother files an application before the Special Judge.
March 17, 2025: Judgment in question is pronounced.

'Thoughtful decision'
The Bench said what made it worse was the order was not dictated by the judge on the spur of the moment. The case was reserved for orders in November 2024. The order passed on March 17, almost four months later, was, even according to Justice

Mishra, after "thoughtful consideration and meticulous examination of the facts of the case". Later, in the post-lunch session, a lawyer urged the Bench to restrict the media from reporting the top court order. "No, the judge should have thought 10 times before writing such things," Justice Gajari retorted. In the morning, the top court was assisted by Attorney-General R. Venkatar-

mani and Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, who urged the Bench to examine the suo motu case with great care. The court issued notice to the Centre and Uttar Pradesh. The mother of the minor victim involved was given the opportunity to plead herself in the case. The court directed the Supreme Court Registry to convey its order to the Allahabad High Court Registry for placing it before the High Court Chief Justice for necessary action. The court listed the case after two weeks. The March 17 order was based on a revision plea against the summons against a summons from the trial court on the charge of rape. Justice Gajari re-

marked about the incongruity and damage caused by making these remarks when the case was still at the nascent stage of issuance of summons to the accused. The three paragraphs the apex court found particularly distasteful referred to how the two accused had grabbed the breasts of the victim, broke the string of her pyjama and tried to drag her beneath a culvert before they fled when passers-by spotted them. Justice Mishra had said these facts did not support a summons order on the charges of Sections 376 (rape), 511 (attempt to commit offences punishable with life imprisonment) and rape read with Section 18 of the Protection of Chil-

Past and present



A Coast Guard vessel passes through Pamban channel as Railway authorities filed the vertical span of the New Pamban Rail Bridge during a visit on Wednesday. The Bridge, seen alongside the old one, is likely to be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi on April 6. **BALACHANDRAN**

SC to list plea to file FIR on cash find at judge's house

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Wednesday indicated that a petition seeking registration of an First Information Report (FIR) into allegations of "huge sums of unaccounted for money" found on the official residential premises of High Court judge, Justice Yashwant Varma, when a fire broke out on the night of March 14, may be listed in due course. The petition has also charged the registration of the Supreme Court-appointed three-member committee to inquire into the affair. The Chief Justice, in response to an oral mention made by petitioner-advocate Mathew J. Nedumpara for an early

Seeking answers
Some key questions raised in the petition by advocate Mathew J. Nedumpara
■ Why was no FIR registered on March 14?
■ Why were no arrests made in the case?
■ Why was the money involved not seized?
Curious cases
■ Burnt currency notes found near Justice Varma's residence in New Delhi city
■ Why did the public learn about the scandal after a week?
■ Why did the Fire Force chief deny cash recovery, then contradict it?

hearing, advised him to confirm with the Supreme Court Registry. However, the Registry, in the course of the day, has questioned the maintainability of the advocate's writ petition. It has further asked the lawyer to clarify if the petition was a PIL or a writ petition. If the latter, the Registry asked him explain his locus standi. During the brief oral mention, the CJ did not react to preliminary statements made by Mr. Nedumpara on the contents of his petition. The petition has claimed the committee had no jurisdiction to investigate the incident. The responsibility fell on the police to effectively and meaningfully investigate the allegations.

CBI raids 60 sites, including Baghel's house, in Mahadev app scam probe

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday searched 60 locations across the country, including the residence of former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister and Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel, in connection with the Mahadev betting app scam. The Central agency, in a statement, said it searched premises linked to politicians, senior bureaucrats, police officers, key functionaries of Mahadev Book, the online betting platform, and other individuals across Chhattisgarh, Bhopal, Kolkata, and Delhi. "The case pertains to the illegal operations of



On alert: Security personnel guard the residence of Bhupesh Baghel during a CBI search in Bhopal on Wednesday. **PI**

tion with a money laundering case linked to an alleged liquor scam in the State. Chhattisgarh Congress spokesperson Anand Shukla said CBI teams searched the residences of Mr. Baghel in Raipur and Bhopal. Initially registered by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW), Raipur, the case was transferred to the CBI by the Chhattisgarh government for a comprehensive probe into the role of senior public officials and other accused persons, the CBI stated. "In the course of search, incriminating digital and documentary evidences have been seized. Searches are continuing," it added.

LS is run in an undemocratic way, says Rahul after Speaker's censure

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Wednesday alleged that the House was being run in a "non-democratic" way after Speaker Om Birla asked him to maintain decorum, but did not give him an opportunity to speak. Mr. Birla did not specify the reason for censuring Mr. Gandhi, but BJP's IT cell head Amit Malviya's post on X held a clue. He shared an undated video clip of Mr. Gandhi cupping the cheeks of his sister and MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra while the House proceedings were on. "In this House, father and daughter, mother and



Rahul Gandhi

daughter, husband and wife have been members. In this House, I expect the Leader of the Opposition to conduct himself in accordance with rules 149 that deals with rules to be observed by members in the House. Mr. Gandhi is outside, Mr. Gandhi said, adding that he would defend himself in a manner that upholds the high stan-

dards and dignity of the House. Mr. Birla adjourned the proceedings of the House for lunch after making his point. In his post along with two videos, Mr. Malviya said: "It is disgraceful that the Lok Sabha Speaker has to remind Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition, about basic parliamentary decorum." One video showed Mr. Birla asking Mr. Gandhi to maintain dignity of the House and the other video was of the Opposition leader displaying affection towards his sister. "All unsubstantiated" remarks about him but didn't give him an opportunity to respond. "Our party is the principal Opposition party and I am the Leader of Opposition in this House" is being run in a non-democratic style," Mr. Gandhi said. "The Speaker just got up and left. He did not allow me to speak a word. He was speaking about me, and I don't know what he said about me, all unsubstantiated. I said 'let me speak as you have spoken about me', but he did not say a word and just left. He adjourned the House when there was no need of it." He said there has been a conversation in the Lok Sabha of the Opposition leader getting to intervene on important issues but he is never allowed to do so.

SC stays HC's 'inhuman' remarks on rape bid

Justice Gavai noted that parts of Allahabad High Court's March 17 order, which described a minor's trauma but concluded the accused lacked intent to rape, showed a 'complete lack of sensitivity' in handling the case; the Supreme Court judge said what made it worse was the order was not dictated by the judge on the spur of the moment

Krishnadas Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed an Allahabad High Court order of March 17, which concluded that "mere" grabbing the breasts of a minor victim, breaking the string of her pyjama to "bring down" her lower garment are not sufficient to constitute an offence of attempt to rape.

A day after the Supreme Court took *suo motu* cognisance of the order, a Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai said the observations made by a Single Judge Bench of Justice Ram Manohar Narayan Mishra of the High Court were "totally insensitive, inhuman" and "unknown to the te-

nets of law".

Justice Gavai pointed out that certain paragraphs of the order, which graphically recounted the trauma endured by the minor victim at the hands of the two accused persons only to conclude their actions did not show any determination on the part of the duo to rape her, showed a "complete lack of sensitivity".

'Thoughtful decision'

The Bench said what made it worse was the order was not dictated by the judge on the spur of the moment. The case was reserved for orders in November 2024. The order passed on March 17, almost four months later, was, even according to Justice

Trial trail

Timeline of key developments in the case



POCSO Act, Kasganj district, U.P.

March 21, 2022: Special Judge treats the application as a complaint

June 23, 2023: After recording statements, the Special Judge issues a summons to the accused

Nov. 10, 2021: Alleged incident takes place

Jan. 12, 2022: Victim's mother files an application before the Special Judge,

Nov. 13, 2024: Revision petition against the summons order is filed and reserved for judgment by the Allahabad HC

March 17, 2025: Judgment in question is pronounced

Mishra, after "thoughtful consideration and meticulous examination of the facts of the case".

Later, in the post-lunch session, a lawyer urged the Bench to restrict the media from reporting the top

court order. "No, the judge should have thought 10 times before writing such things," Justice Gavai retorted.

In the morning, the top court was assisted by Attorney-General R. Venkatara-

mani and Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, who urged the Bench to examine the *suo motu* case with great care. The court issued notice to the Centre and Uttar Pradesh.

The mother of the minor victim involved was given liberty to implead herself in the case.

The court directed the Supreme Court Registry to convey its order to the Allahabad High Court Registry for placing it before the High Court Chief Justice for necessary action. The court listed the case after two weeks.

The March 17 order was based on a revision plea filed by the accused against a summons from the trial court on the charge of rape. Justice Gavai re-

marked about the incongruity and damage caused by making these remarks when the case was still at the nascent stage of issuance of summons to the accused. The three paragraphs the apex court found particularly distasteful referred to how the two accused had grabbed the breasts of the victim, broke the string of her pyjama and tried to drag her beneath a culvert before they fled when passers-by spotted them.

Justice Mishra had said these facts did not support a summons order on the charges of Sections 376 (rape), 511 (attempt to commit offences punishable with life imprisonment) or rape read with Section 18 of the Protection of Chil-

dren from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Section 18 punishes an attempt to commit an offence under the POCSO law.

The Single Judge had modified the summons order after "thoughtful consideration and meticulous examination of the facts of the case" to note that "a prima facie charge attempt to rape is not made out against the accused".

"Instead they are liable to be summoned for minor charge of Section 354(b) IPC i.e. assault or abuse a woman with intent to disrobing or compelling her to be naked and Section 9 of POCSO Act provides punishment for aggravated sexual assault on a child victim," the March 17 order had read.

1. Background of the Case | मामले की पृष्ठभूमि

- 📍 **Incident Date:** 10 November 2021
- A minor girl was allegedly sexually assaulted — the accused **grabbed her breasts, broke her pyjama string**, and tried to **drag her beneath a culvert**.






📍 घटना की तारीख: 10 नवंबर 2021 — एक नाबालिग लड़की के साथ यौन उत्पीड़न का प्रयास किया गया था।

- 🏛️ **Special Judge (Kasganj, U.P.)** initiated proceedings under **POCSO Act**.

पाँक्सो एक्ट के तहत केस दर्ज किया गया था।

2. Allahabad High Court's Controversial Order | इलाहाबाद हाईकोर्ट का विवादित आदेश




- 📄 On **March 17, 2025**, HC dismissed the rape bid charge, saying:
- “Mere grabbing of breasts and breaking the pyjama string **do not amount to attempt to rape.**”
कोर्ट ने कहा: “सिर्फ छाती पकड़ना और पायजामा की डोरी खोलना बलात्कार की कोशिश नहीं है।”

-  HC reduced the charge from:
 -  IPC 376 (Rape), IPC 511 (Attempt)
 -  To IPC 354(b) — Assault with intent to disrobe
 -  POCSO Section 9 — Aggravated sexual assault on a child
-  Order described the victim's trauma in **graphic detail**, but then said the accused showed **“no intent to rape”**.
आदेश में पीड़िता के मानसिक आघात को विस्तार से बताया गया, लेकिन यह कहा गया कि आरोपियों की कोई दुष्कर्म की मंशा नहीं थी।

Supreme Court's Reaction | सुप्रीम कोर्ट की प्रतिक्रिया

- 🧑⚖️ Justice **B.R. Gavai** called the HC remarks:
 - “Totally insensitive, inhuman, and unfamiliar to Indian law.”
“पूरी तरह असंवेदनशील, अमानवीय और भारतीय कानून के विपरीत।”
- ⚖️ **SC stayed the HC order** and issued notices to:
 - Government of India
 - Uttar Pradesh Government
- 💬 Justice Gavai:
 - “The judge should've thought 10 times before writing such things.”
“ऐसी बातें लिखने से पहले जज को दस बार सोचना चाहिए था।”

Legal and Social Significance | कानूनी और सामाजिक महत्व

-  **POCSO Act (Section 18)** clearly states: Attempt to rape a child is punishable. पाँक्सो अधिनियम में दुष्कर्म की कोशिश को स्पष्ट रूप से दंडनीय अपराध माना गया है।
-  The HC's interpretation was seen as **trivializing sexual violence** and **setting a dangerous precedent**.
HC का निर्णय यौन हिंसा को सामान्य करने और गलत मिसाल कायम करने के रूप में देखा गया।
-  The mother of the minor was allowed to join the case by SC. सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने पीड़िता की मां को पक्षकार बनने की अनुमति दी।

Timeline Snapshot | प्रमुख घटनाक्रम

Date	Event
Nov 10, 2021	Alleged assault on minor
Jan 12, 2022	Mother files application
Mar 21, 2022	Case registered as complaint
Jun 23, 2023	Summons issued to accused
Nov 13, 2024	Revision petition filed in HC
Mar 17, 2025	HC passes controversial judgment
Mar 20, 2025	SC takes suo motu cognizance

Scheme for pregnant women is severely underfunded: Sonia

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi said on Wednesday that maternity entitlements under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) were not being fulfilled and added that the budgetary allocation for the programme was severely low. The NFSA was passed by Parliament in September 2013 during the Manmohan Singh government. Ms. Gandhi said the programme had been the foundation for the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. The Act includes maternity entitlement of ₹6,000 a child for pregnant women in the informal sector. She said the Modi government has committed several lapses in imple-

menting this provision. In 2017, it launched the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) to fulfil this entitlement. But it provided only ₹5,000 for the first child, and that is extended to the second child if it is a girl. Ms. Gandhi said, "The recent analysis revealed that in the year 2022-23, about 68% pregnant women received at least one instalment of the PMMVY, but in the very next year, this proportion fell drastically to about 12%." "I would like to ask the Union government why this was allowed to happen," Ms. Gandhi said. The scheme, she said, was also "severely underfunded", adding that the full implementation of the maternity benefit provision of the National Food Security Act required an annual budget of ₹12,000 crore.

RS Chair says all institutions have to function in tandem

Executive, legislature and judiciary are not pitted against each other, he says; comments come after meeting with floor leaders to explore parliamentary intervention in judicial appointments

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Wednesday that the executive, legislature and judiciary were not pitted against each other and they had to function in tandem. His latest remarks come a day after he chaired a meeting of floor leaders of the Upper House to weigh in on the recovery of half-burnt currency notes at the official residence of the High Court Judge Justice Yashwantrao Varma. The meeting, sources said, was an effort to build the ground for another parliamentary intervention in judicial appointments after the unsuccessful attempt to bring in the



Building consensus: Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar meets floor leaders of political parties in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act, which was cleared by Parliament and ratified by 16 Assemblies only to be struck down by the Supreme Court in October 2015. Mr. Dhankhar described the meeting as a "fruitful

interaction". Without going into the details of the meeting, he said the issue was not between institutions. "It is not that the executive, legislature, or judiciary are pitted against each other. All the institutions in the country have to func-

tion in tandem, in togetherness and also the size checks and balances which are well meant," Mr. Dhankhar said during a Zero Hour in the Upper House. Further deliberations He informed the House that it was decided at the meeting that all floor leaders would consult their respective parties and come back for further deliberations with him. Speaking in the House on Tuesday, the Rajya Sabha Chairman had commented that "things would have been different" if the mechanism for judicial appointments - referring to the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) - had not been struck down by the Supreme Court.

Betting and gambling are State subjects: Union Minister in LS

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said that betting and gambling are State subjects, while responding to a question from Dravidian Munnnetra Kazhagam MP Dayanidhi Maran in the Lok Sabha on the issue of banning gaming sites. Asking a supplementary during Question Hour, the Dravidian Munnnetra Kazhagam MP had asked said, "...are you shying away from your moral responsibility? The State government of Tamil Nadu has banned online gaming. How long is it going to take MoEF [Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology] to ban all the online sites of betting and banning the online sites, your government is only increasing the GST for online gaming. Are you being

morally right?" In response, the Union Minister said: "...the Honourable Member has no right to question the moral authority of the central government. This country functions on the federal structure defined by the Constitution of India. The Constitution of India places the moral authority, the legal authority as per the three Lists, the list under which any law can be created is the responsibility of the State government." In List 2, Entry 34, please study the federal structure. I request the Honourable Member to respect the federal structure of the country and save the Constitution...." **Blocked sites** In reply to another query, the Union Minister said 1,410 sites had been blocked following various complaints.

High Court judge's remarks on rape feature in Zero Hour of Lok Sabha

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Observations by an Allahabad High Court judge on rape, and challenges faced by nurses across the country, were among the main issues that Lok Sabha members raised during Zero Hour on Wednesday. Demanding an action against a sitting Allahabad High Court judge who, in an order, had said that grabbing breasts and pulling the pyjama strings of a minor girl did not amount to rape, BJP member Muskan Rajput said the judge's observations in a case of a minor girl were "unqualified, disturbing and condemnable". "It is a post where a person in distress turns and seeks justice... But when a sitting judge makes such remarks regarding women, it is horrifying and con-



Union Minister Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

demnable," he said. "Such a person should apologise to women. I urge the Minister to take note of these remarks and take action against this person as mandated by the Constitution," Mr. Rajput said. Senior Congress leader and Lok Sabha member from Alappuzha, K.C. Venugopal, raised the issue of challenges faced by nurses, affecting their work and

the quality of healthcare in the country. Mr. Venugopal said that a nurse registered in one State had to go through separate registration processes to work in every other State. "This makes it difficult, time-consuming, and creates unnecessary hurdles for skilled nurses to move freely across States. Another major issue is the delay in the Nurses Regis-

tration and Tracking System (NRTS), started by the Indian Nursing Council in 2018," he said. "The Congress leader said that although there was an online system, many nurses were still waiting for their National Unique Identification Number (NUID), and only 12 lakh out of 36 lakh nurses in India had received their NUID number. Mr. Venugopal also said that the Supreme Court had ruled that nurses should be paid according to the country's rural grade and the number of beds in a hospital, this was not being followed in several States, and especially in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. "I urge the government to create a single national registration system for nurses, so they do not have to register separately in every State," he said.

Pay Samagra Shiksha cues to States, committee tells Education Ministry

Matri Porecha NEW DELHI

A parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended that the Education Ministry amicably resolve the differences with Tamil Nadu and settle their dues of over ₹4,000 crore under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) on a priority basis. The committee tabled its report in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. The observations come in accordance with certain States that have not signed MoUs for implementation of the PM Shri scheme. The total funds pending to implement the three-language formula under the National Education Policy (NEP) and sign a memorandum of understanding on PM-SHRI schools. "The committee has ta-



The Committee says it is not acceptable to stop Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan grants to States that did not sign PM SHRI MoU. FILE PHOTO

ken serious note of the non-release of SSA funds to certain States that have not signed MoUs for implementation of the PM Shri scheme. The total funds pending to implement the scheme to the States are considerable, with over ₹1,000 crore to West Bengal, ₹859.63 crore to Kerala, and ₹2,152 crore to Tamil Nadu," said the report by the Standing Committee

on Education, Women, Child Development, Youth and Sports. **Not justified: report** The Education Department informed the committee that PM SHRI is a model school scheme developed under the NEP, and that the SSA is the programme to achieve the NEP goals. "This appears to be the

reasoning behind the decision to halt SSA grants to States not signing the PM SHRI MoU. However, this reasoning is not justified," the committee noted. **'Salaries hit'** The committee said the SSA predates PM SHRI and is intended to help States achieve the targets of the Right to Education (RTE) Act. "The RTE is a law drafted by Parliament and confers a fundamental right on every child. The SSA, as a non-release of SSA funds to certain States that have not signed MoUs for implementation of the PM Shri scheme, cannot be bypassed by the NEP, which was an executive policy statement," the report noted. "The withholding of funds is severely impacting teachers' salaries, RTE reimbursements, and transportation for students in remote areas," the report noted.

HC permits jailed J&K MP to attend Parliament

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has accepted the plea of jailed Jammu and Kashmir MP Sheikh Rashid, Union Minister Engineer Rashid, seeking to attend Parliament "in custody" from March 26 to April 4, under a set of strict conditions. The court, in its order passed on March 25, directed the Director General (Prisons) to send Mr. Rashid under police escort from prison to the Parliament House on each of the dates on which the Lok Sabha is in session, and bring him straight back to prison from the Parliament House on the same day. The Baramulla MP is facing trial in a 2017 terror funding case, on charges that he funded separatist and terror groups in J&K. The NIA vehemently opposed the grant of any relief to Mr. Rashid, contending that his attendance at Parliament sittings "in-custody" would pose a threat to national security since he would then have a platform and a forum to voice his opinions in Parliament.

Notice against Smt Shah for 'maligning' Sonia in Rajya Sabha

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Jairam Ramesh, Congress chief whip in the Rajya Sabha, on Wednesday gave notice for breach of privilege against Union Minister Smt. Sonia Gandhi while replying on the Disaster Management Bill, 2024 in the Upper House. In his notice filed to Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, Mr. Ramesh said that on Tuesday, the Minister stated that the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund was created during the Congress rule and the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations fund was set up during Narendra Modi's tenure. Mr. Ramesh said as may be seen on perusal of Mr. Shah's statement, though the Home Minister did not tend that the name of Ms. Gandhi, "he had categorically by implication referred to her as an imposter meeting her vis-a-vis the functioning of the National Prime Minister's Relief Fund." "It is well established



that it is breach of privilege and contempt of the House to cast reflections or make derogatory references to any member of the House," Mr. Ramesh said. "In the instant case, the Home Minister had made unfounded allegations against Smt. Sonia Gandhi to malign her reputation. The Home Minister's statement is blatantly false and is defamatory. This tantamounts to breach of privilege of Smt. Sonia Gandhi. Hence, this matter constitutes a breach of privilege and the contempt of the House as well," he said. In view of the foregoing, privilege proceedings may be initiated against Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Union Home Minister," he said.

Congress moves motion against Minister for 'false statement' on MGNREGS

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Congress has accused Minister of State for Rural Development Chandra Sekhar Pemasnan of making a false statement regarding comparative outlay of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) fund in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Senior Congress leader and party's whip in the Lok Sabha Manickam Jayaram said that on Tuesday, the Minister had made a false statement regarding comparative outlay of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) fund in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Mr. Pemasnan said in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, "Tamil Nadu has a population of seven crore. Uttar Pradesh has a population of 20 crore. Uttar Pradesh draws more than ₹10,000 crore, Tamil Nadu draws more than ₹10,000 crore. There is no question of not giving money." The Hindu's report pointed out that the government's own data dispelled his claim. The "At A Glance" report on the MGNREGS website shows that total expenditure in the ongoing



Seeking action: Union Minister Chandra Sekhar Pemasnan speaking in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session. ANI

fiscal year for Uttar Pradesh, the Centre has released ₹9,758 crore to Uttar Pradesh and ₹7,152 crore to Tamil Nadu. The MGNREGS fund disbursement is not based on the State's population but only on the demand for work raised by the State. **Flags discrepancies** In a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Mr. Jayaram, pointing out these discrepancies, said, "The statement made by the Minister regarding MGNREGS funding," Mr. Jayaram said,

MPs briefed on role of Bangladesh Army Chief in stability

Kalolo Bhattacharjee NEW DELHI

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, in an interaction with the Standing Committee on External Affairs of the Parliament on Wednesday, highlighted the role of the Army Chief of Bangladesh in maintaining stability in his country. The Hindu has learnt that Mr. Misri outlined the rise of disruptive factional forces in Bangladesh and noted that "continued regional instability is a matter of concern for Bangladesh and global security." The discussion also dealt in detail with the reported incidents of violence targeting religious minority communities in Bangladesh. The Hindu has learnt that the Committee was told that the Government of Bangladesh has failed to acknowledge and address the "systematic persecution of minorities" and sought to downgrade the scale of attacks against religious minorities including the Hindu community. The Committee was told that the Government of India is "continuously monitoring" the situation regarding the safety and security of the minority communities in Bangladesh. The Committee was told that the Indian government has been calling upon the interim government led by Prof. Mohiuddin Yumus to "bring to justice" the attackers.

and actually incorrect, leading to confusion and misleading the House on an important issue related to the allocation and expenditure of MGNREGS funds. Mr. Jayaram urged the Speaker to direct the Minister to provide a clarified statement. "Given the importance of maintaining the integrity of information made in the House and the impact of false information on public discourse, I request that a privilege motion be initiated against Mr. Pemasnan for misleading the House and causing confusion regarding MGNREGS funding," Mr. Jayaram said.

Betting and gambling are State subjects: Union Minister in LS

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday said that betting and gambling are State subjects, while responding to a question from Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam MP Dayanidhi Maran in the Lok Sabha on the issue of banning gaming sites.

Asking a supplementary during Question Hour, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam MP had asked said: “...are you shying away from your moral responsibility? The State government of Tamil Nadu has banned online gaming. How long is it going to take MeitY [Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology] to ban all the online sites? Instead of banning the online sites, your government is only increasing the GST for online gaming. Are you being

morally right?”

In response, the Union Minister said: “...the honourable Member has no right to question the moral authority of the Central government. This country functions on the federal structure defined by the Constitution of India. The Constitution of India places the moral authority, the legal authority as per the three Lists. The list under which any law can be created is the responsibility of the State government.” In List 2, Entry 34, please study the federal structure. I request the honourable Member to respect the federal structure of the country and save the Constitution...”




Blocked sites

In reply to another query, the Union Minister said 1,410 sites had been blocked following various complaints.



What Happened? | क्या हुआ?

- 🗣️ Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** clarified in the **Lok Sabha** that:
- “**Betting and gambling are subjects under the State List.**”
👉 सट्टेबाज़ी और जुआ राज्य सूची में आते हैं, यानी यह राज्य सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है।
- This statement was in response to a question raised by **DMK MP Dayanidhi Maran** regarding banning of online gaming websites.
यह जवाब **DMK सांसद दयानिधि मारन** के सवाल पर दिया गया, जिन्होंने ऑनलाइन गेमिंग साइट्स को बैन करने की मांग की थी।

The Debate | बहस का मुद्दा

-   Maran asked:
- “Are you shying away from your moral responsibility? Tamil Nadu has banned online gaming. Why is MeitY not doing it?”
“क्या आप नैतिक जिम्मेदारी से भाग रहे हैं? तमिलनाडु सरकार ने ऑनलाइन गेमिंग पर बैन लगाया है। केंद्र सरकार क्यों नहीं कर रही?”
-  He also criticized the government for only increasing **GST on online gaming** instead of banning it.
उन्होंने केंद्र सरकार पर ऑनलाइन गेमिंग पर सिर्फ जीएसटी बढ़ाने का आरोप लगाया।

Minister's Response | मंत्री का जवाब

-  Ashwini Vaishnaw said:
- “The Member has no right to question the moral authority of the Central Government. India functions on a **federal structure**, and betting/gambling falls under **List II, Entry 34** of the Constitution.”
 “यह राज्य सूची का विषय है। केंद्र की नैतिकता पर सवाल उठाना उचित नहीं। भारत संविधान में वर्णित संघीय ढांचे पर चलता है।”

Constitutional Reference | संवैधानिक संदर्भ

- 📖 **List II (State List), Entry 34:**
- Covers “betting and gambling” — hence, only **State Legislatures** can make laws on this matter.
👉 संविधान की अनुच्छेद सूची 2, प्रविष्टि 34 के अनुसार सट्टेबाज़ी और जुआ राज्य सरकारों का विषय है।
- 🏛️ The Minister urged Members to respect the **federal division of powers.**
मंत्री ने कहा कि “संविधान के संघीय ढांचे का सम्मान करें।”

Aspect	Union List	State List
Meaning	Subjects on which only the Parliament can make laws	Subjects on which only State Legislatures can make laws
Number of Subjects	97 (originally), currently around 100	66 (originally), currently around 61
Examples of Subjects	Defence, Foreign Affairs, Atomic Energy, Railways, Currency, Citizenship	Police, Public Health, Agriculture, Local Governments, Markets
Law-Making Power	Exclusive to Parliament	Exclusive to State Legislature , unless overridden by Parliament in certain cases
Priority in Conflict	Union List prevails in case of conflict	Subordinate to Union List and sometimes Concurrent List
Constitutional Article	Mentioned in Seventh Schedule – List I	Mentioned in Seventh Schedule – List II
In Case of National Emergency	Parliament can legislate on any subject, even in State List	State's power gets restricted during emergency
Amendability	Needs constitutional amendment	Changes may be made via constitutional amendment too

IN BRIEF



DRDO test-fires vertically launched SAM for Navy

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) announced on Wednesday that the under-development vertically launched short-range surface-to-air missile (VLSRAM) for the Navy successfully demonstrated its near-boundary, low-altitude capability during a test fire. The trial, conducted in conjunction with the Indian Navy at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur off the coast of Odisha, took place at about noon from a land-based vertical launcher. During the test, the missile engaged a high-speed aerial target at very close range and low altitude. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh described the missile as an excellent force multiplier for the Indian Navy.

Election Commission begins training programme for BLOs

The Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday began training its first batch of booth-level officers (BLOs) to familiarise them with their roles and responsibilities. Under electoral laws, the BLOs must complete the necessary forms to ensure an error-free update of the electoral rolls. The EC's initiative comes amid Opposition claims, including from the Trinamool Congress and the Congress, alleging manipulation of electoral rolls. According to the poll body, over one lakh BLOs – averaging one per 10 polling stations – will be trained in similar programmes over the coming years. These trained BLOs will also serve as Assembly Level Master Trainers (ALMTs), reinforcing the entire national network of BLOs, a release said.

Webinar on iron's role in health and disease to be conducted on March 30

The Hindu Bureau

Narvet Hospitals, Vellore, in collaboration with *The Hindu*, is organising a webinar on "iron's role in health and disease" from 11:30 a.m. on March 30. This is the seventh session in the 15-part webinar series launched on February 21. "Prevent illness. Promote wellness".

The session seeks to provide insights into the role of iron in human health, the serious consequences of iron deficiency and iron overload, and essential guidance on preventing these conditions to maintain overall well-being. Manjuna Chandy, senior consultant, physician, and haematologist, Narvet



Hospitals, Vellore will discuss the vital role of iron in human physiology. He will also talk about the National Nutritional Anaemia Prophylaxis Programme and suggest ways to enhance its effectiveness. Muthumithra, consultant haematologist, Narvet Hospitals, will provide an overview of iron deficiency in adults, its causes, diagnosis and treatment.

GE Aerospace to deliver jet engines for Tejas LCA-Mk1A

IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh had said that the force needs to add 35-40 fighter jets every year and that HAL has promised to produce 24 Tejas Mk1A jets next year

Dinakar Peri

Engine manufacturer General Electric (GE) Aerospace on Wednesday announced the delivery of the first of F404-IN20 engines to Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) for the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA-Mk1A) fighter jet, marking the commencement of deliveries for the delayed programme. Defence sources said that 12 engines are expected to be delivered this year.

The first engine to power the LCA-Mk1A moved out of the GE facility on Tuesday and is expected to arrive in India in April, official sources in the know said. At Aero India in February, HAL Chairman and Managing Director D.K. Suroil said that 12 jets would be ready this year.

Shawn Warren, general manager, combat & trainer engines, GE Aerospace, in a statement, attributed the delays to restarting the production line that was dormant for five years. "Restarting a jet engine production line is a challenging process. Restarting the F404-IN20 engine line during the COVID pandemic was even more challenging," he said, adding that they are working closely with their suppliers to ramp up production on parts and materials for the F404-IN20.



The first engine to power the LCA-Mk1A is expected to arrive in India in April, official sources say. REUTERS

Chief Marshal A. P. Singh said the IAF needed to add 35-40 fighter jets every year to fill the shortage in numbers and that HAL had promised to produce 24 Tejas Mk1A jets next year.

By 2016, GE Aerospace delivered 65 F404-IN20 engines for the 40 Tejas jets ordered earlier and with no additional engine orders on the horizon, the production line for F404-IN20.

IN20 was shut down, the statement said. However, when HAL ordered an additional 99 engines in 2021 for the Tejas Mk1A, the team began the complex task of restarting the F404-IN20 production line, which had been dormant for five years, and re-energising the engine's global supply chain, Mr. Warren said. "Restarting a jet engine production line is a challenging process. Restarting the F404-IN20 engine line during the COVID pandemic was even more challenging," he said, adding that they are working closely with their suppliers to ramp up production on parts and materials for the F404-IN20.

Despite its success abroad, the CBFC refused to approve Santosh for theatrical release.

At Aero India, Mr. Suroil had said GE's supply chain issues had been resolved and the IAF would receive 12 F-404 engines for the Tejas this year. "The GE has stabilised its manufacturing process for the F404 engines. We have already made three aircraft, and by the end of this year, it will be manufactured. As the engines start coming in, our delivery to the IAF will start," he had stated.

He said three Tejas Mk1A are flying and by the end of this year, one jet from Nasik and 11 from Bengaluru will be ready while stressing that the existing order for 87 LCA-Mk1A would be completed in around a half year and the additional order for 97 jets by FY 2031-32 with production rate going to 24 jets per year.

IAF identified key thrust areas that made recommendations for implementation in the short, medium and long-term in the report presented to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Santosh, U.K.'s official Oscar entry, blocked by CBFC in India

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The internationally acclaimed *Santosh* has been denied certification for theatrical release in India after the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) objected to its portrayal of police brutality, caste discrimination, and misogyny, according to reports from *The Guardian*.

Written and directed by British-Indian filmmaker Sandhya Suri, *Santosh* follows the journey of a young widow who joins the police force and investigates the murder of a Dalit.

The film, which tackles themes of misogyny, caste-based violence, and institutional Islamophobia, has received widespread critical praise.

It was the U.K.'s official entry for the Oscars international feature category. It also earned a BAFTA nomination for best debut feature. Lead actor Shahana Goswami won the best actress title at the Asian Film Awards.

Despite its success abroad, the CBFC refused to approve *Santosh* for theatrical release.

"Heartbreaking" Reacting to the CBFC's decision, Ms. Suri expressed disappointment, calling



Sandhya Suri

the movie "heartbreaking". In an interview with *The Guardian*, she noted that while films tackling police violence are not new to Indian cinema, *Santosh* may have unsettled censors due to its realistic and morally complex portrayal of law enforcement.

"It was surprising for all of us because I didn't feel that these issues were particularly new to Indian cinema or hadn't been raised before by other films," she said.

Suri also revealed that the CBFC's demands for cuts were so extensive that implementing them would have made it "impossible" to retain the integrity of the film.

Though she is legally restricted from disclosing specifics, she described the list of requested edits as spanning several pages and touching on core themes of the story.

CJI praises Indian judiciary's direct connect with people

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Wednesday said the Indian judiciary is unique owing to its direct connect with the people.

"What makes the judiciary unique is our direct connect with the people... The most easy access which the people have is the access to the judiciary in any of the three institutions (legislature, executive and judiciary)," the CJI said at an event organised by the Supreme Court's Ad-Access-on-Record Association.

"Acknowledge our flaws" However, senior Supreme Court Judge, Justice A.S. Okar, speaking at the same event, said the of-



peated claim that the common man has full faith in the judiciary may not be substantially correct. He asked whether the claim could be made when there are 55 crore pending in the district courts, of which 25-30% were pending for over a decade. "Can we still believe that the common man has faith in this institution... We must acknowledge our flaws and the deficiencies in our system," he said.

'Over half of ₹1-lakh crore collected for the welfare of mining districts not spent

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

A first-of-its-kind analysis of the District Mineral Foundations (DMF) shows that less than half of ₹1-lakh crore in the "mining districts" has been spent, said a report.

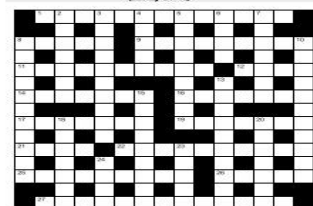
Moreover, the funds are often diverted to activities that are not directly linked to the welfare of mining districts – a concern of the Centre's guidelines. The DMFs are non-profit trusts set up in mining districts and tasked with ensuring that a portion of the revenues generated from the development of the districts. They have been established in 648 districts across 23 States.

The funds are often diverted to activities that are not directly linked to the welfare of mining districts, says report

The report was prepared by iForest, an independent research group, that are not directly linked to the welfare of mining districts – a concern of the Centre's guidelines. The DMFs are non-profit trusts set up in mining districts and tasked with ensuring that a portion of the revenues generated from the development of the districts. They have been established in 648 districts across 23 States.

followed by Chhattisgarh (₹14,564 crore) and Jharkhand (₹13,791 crore). "The prime focus of DMF and PMMKKY is to alleviate poverty and deprivation, which requires a balanced investment in human resources and infrastructure. However, this balance has not been achieved in any district. Consider the example of Dhanbad. Out of 1,164 projects sanctioned in Dhanbad till 2024, only ₹1.86 crore have been allocated for skill development and livelihood generation. Similarly, in Kendujhar, project details evaluated until 2022 show that only about 3.2% of the total allocations are for livelihood and skill development projects," the authors noted.

THE CROSSWORD 14443



Across

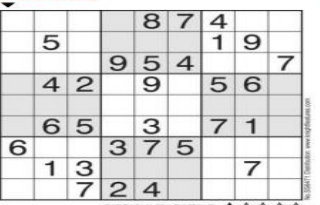
- For example, IAT Tech is up, easily breaking resistance (4-5)
- Throw out most cherished model consuming cocaine (5)
- Adult staying at home, essentially providing for baby (9)
- Happiness condition of drug addict in desert (4,3)
- Finish second best (4)
- Note remarkable new lounge having nine parts (7)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site. Visit <https://www.thehindu.com/crossword/>

or <https://www.thehindu.com/crossword/>

- Men leaving Academy, extremely disciplined (7)
- Tree collapsed outside street in Mongolian city (7)
- Plant is most delightful in bazaar (7)
- Other sample of get selected (4)
- Just crippled in crash (10)
- More tired, having endless trouble in period of pregnancy (9)
- One captivated by revolutionary surrealist's epic poem (5)
- Son in a dodgy eatery nervously giving order for starters (5,6,2)
- Down
- Ying's partner overwhelmed by large alcoholic drink is sleeping ill like (2)
- Fantastic trip, Penang's enticing (10)
- Muggy and hot, turning overcast around capital of Uganda (5)
- Enthusiastic and excited, getting panicky novel (9)
- Relax in bar with hot American woman (4)
- Litter from lake put into sailing vessel (7)
- Applied helm pasta for embellishment (11)
- Footballer, ultimately silly man in dept made blunders (5-6)
- Recognised leader of industry, remarkably fit indeed (10)
- Result of primarily insidious cooking in street stalls (9)
- Regardless of rubbish heaps all round, enter river (7)
- Cold and exhausted, gets crying (7)
- Encourage nationalist fervour, wanting victory (5)
- Turn in sack to cuddle fiancée heartily (4)

SUDOKU



Solution to previous puzzle

7	9	4	1	2	8	3	6	5
5	8	1	3	6	7	2	9	4
2	6	3	5	9	1	7	4	8
4	3	2	6	9	1	8	5	7
9	6	8	7	3	5	4	1	2
3	5	7	2	4	6	8	9	1
6	4	7	5	1	3	9	2	8
2	5	3	9	8	4	1	7	6
8	1	9	2	7	6	5	4	3

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	9	4	1	2	8	3	6	5
5	8	1	3	6	7	2	9	4
2	6	3	5	9	1	7	4	8
4	3	2	6	9	1	8	5	7
9	6	8	7	3	5	4	1	2
3	5	7	2	4	6	8	9	1
6	4	7	5	1	3	9	2	8
2	5	3	9	8	4	1	7	6
8	1	9	2	7	6	5	4	3

FAITH

Aswathama's revenge

The Saupthika parva of the Mahabharata is about revenge and whether revenge is justified. Sri Vaishnava Acharyas refer to Mahabharata as *possol purana* – the literary work about fights. According to them, the best portions of the Mahabharata are Bhagavad Gita, Vishnu Sahasranama and Sanath Sujateeyam, because in these portions we are told about Bhagavan's rupa and gunas, elaborated Pt. Senahari in a discourse. The rest of it is about deceit, jealousy, cunning, quarrels and revenge. If one were to list those who sought revenge in the Mahabharata, Aswathama, son of Drona, perhaps heads the list. Duryodhana was dying. The only survivors in the Kaurava army were Aswathama, Kripacharya (Aswathama's maternal uncle) and Kripitharvama. Aswathama vowed to kill the Pandavas. While resting in a forest, he noticed an owl resting on a tree, which had the nest of a crow. The mother crow was away, but the baby crows were in the nest. The owl attacked the baby birds, and ate them. Aswathama had an idea, while he saw this. "What could cause greater anguish to a person than the death of his children? So he decided that the best way to hurt the Pandavas was to destroy their children. He knew that he could not destroy the Pandavas, but he could make their lives miserable. Killing at night is forbidden, and Aswathama, who was trained in the rules of warfare by his father Drona, knew this. Yet, he was raging, because his father was killed by the Pandavas. Kripacharya advised him the best time to attack the sons of Pandavas was on the battlefield. They should not be hurt by stealth. But Aswathama paid no heed, and killed all the five sleeping children of Pandavas.

Santosh, U.K.'s official Oscar entry, blocked by CBFC in India

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The internationally acclaimed *Santosh* has been denied certification for theatrical release in India after the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) objected to its portrayal of police brutality, caste discrimination, and misogyny, according to reports from *The Guardian*.

Written and directed by British-Indian filmmaker Sandhya Suri, *Santosh* follows the journey of a young widow who joins the police force and investigates the murder of a Dalit girl.

The film, which tackles themes of misogyny, caste-based violence, and institutional Islamophobia, has received widespread critical praise.

It was the U.K.'s official entry for the Oscars international feature category, and earned a BAFTA nomination for best debut feature. Lead actor Shahana Goswami won the best actress title at the Asian Film Awards.

Despite its success abroad, the CBFC refused to approve *Santosh* for theatrical release.

'Heartbreaking'

Reacting to the CBFC's decision, Ms. Suri expressed disappointment, calling



Sandhya Suri


the move “heartbreaking”, in an interview with *The Guardian*. She noted that while films tackling police violence are not new to Indian cinema, *Santosh* may have unsettled censors due to its realistic and morally complex portrayal of law enforcement.

“It was surprising for all of us because I didn’t feel that these issues were particularly new to Indian cinema or hadn’t been raised before by other films,” she said.

Suri also revealed that the CBFC’s demands for cuts were so extensive that implementing them would have made it “impossible” to retain the integrity of the film.

Though she is legally restricted from disclosing specifics, she described the list of requested edits as spanning several pages and touching on core themes of the story.

What is “Santosh”? | “संतोष” क्या है?

-  A film written and directed by British-Indian filmmaker **Sandhya Suri**.
- The story follows a **young widow** who joins the **police force** and investigates the **murder of a Dalit girl**.
यह फिल्म एक युवा विधवा महिला की कहानी है जो पुलिस बल में भर्ती होकर एक दलित लड़की की हत्या की जांच करती है।
- Themes:
 - **Misogyny (महिला विरोध)**
 - **Caste-based violence (जाति आधारित हिंसा)**
 - **Police brutality (पुलिस अत्याचार)**
 - **Institutional Islamophobia (संस्थागत इस्लामोफोबिया)**

Global Recognition | वैश्विक मान्यता

GB It was U.K.'s official entry for the Oscars in the International Feature Film category.



Received BAFTA nomination for Best Debut Feature.



Actress Shahana Goswami won Best Actress at the Asian Film Awards.

फिल्म को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर बहुत प्रशंसा और पुरस्कार मिले हैं।

What Did CBFC Say? | CBFC की आपत्ति



✘ CBFC (Central Board of Film Certification) **refused certification** for theatrical release in India.

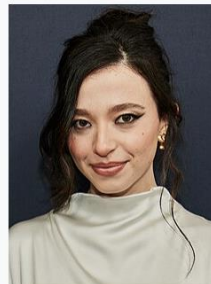
⚠ Objections:

- **Portrayal of police brutality**
- **Caste discrimination**
- **Misogyny**
- **Sensitive law enforcement themes**

CBFC ने फिल्म की विवादित विषयवस्तु (content) को लेकर रिलीज पर रोक लगा दी।

Director's Reaction | निर्देशक की प्रतिक्रिया

- Sandhya Suri called the move “heartbreaking” 
- “It was surprising... these are not new topics in Indian cinema.”
-  CBFC's demanded cuts were so extensive that:
- “It would be **impossible** to retain the **integrity** of the film.”
CBFC ने इतने ज्यादा कट्स की मांग की कि फिल्म की कहानी और मूल भाव प्रभावित हो जाता।



Award Best Actor

Award Best Actress

Winner Adrien Brody
(*The Brutalist*)

Winner Mikey Madison
(*Anora*)



Award Best Supporting Actor

Award Best Supporting Actress

Winner Kieran Culkin
(*A Real Pain*)

Winner Zoe Saldña
(*Emilia Pérez*)










Award Best Picture,
Director, Original
Screenplay

Award Best Picture

Winner Sean Baker
(*Anora*)

Winner Alex Coco and
Samantha Quan

◆ Summary in a Nutshell | संक्षेप में

Category	Detail
 Film Name	Santosh
 Director	Sandhya Suri
 Country	UK (Oscar entry)
 Blocked By	CBFC, India
 Objections	Police, caste, misogyny portrayal
 Awards	BAFTA Nominee, Asian Film Awards
 Actor	Shahana Goswami
 Key Debate	Censorship vs Artistic Freedom

GE Aerospace to deliver jet engines for Tejas LCA-Mk1A

IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh had said that the force needs to add 35-40 fighter jets every year and that HAL has promised to produce 24 Tejas Mark-1A jets next year

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Engine manufacturer General Electric (GE) Aerospace on Wednesday announced the delivery of the first of 99 F404-IN20 engines to Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) for the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft Mark-1A fighter jet, marking the commencement of deliveries for the delayed programme. Defence sources said that 12 engines are expected to be delivered this year.

The first engine to power the LCA-Mk1A moved out of the GE facility on Tuesday and is expected to arrive in India in April, official sources in the know said. At Aero India in February, HAL Chairman and Managing Director D.K. Sunil said that 12 jets would be ready this year.

Once the engine arrives, more tests will be done at the HAL facility, sources said adding that a firm date of delivery to the IAF cannot be given yet. "We are on track to deliver to the latest schedule we have agreed with HAL," GE Aerospace said in response to a query from *The Hindu*.

Speaking at an event in February, IAF chief Air



The first engine to power the LCA-Mk1A is expected to arrive in India in April, official sources say. REUTERS

Chief Marshal A.P. Singh said the IAF needed to add 35-40 fighter jets every year to fill the shortage in numbers and that HAL had promised to produce 24 Tejas Mark-1A jets next year.

Shawn Warren, general manager, combat & trainer engines, GE Aerospace, in a statement, attributed the delays to restarting the production line that was dormant for five years.

Challenging process

By 2016, GE Aerospace delivered 65 F404-IN20 engines for the 40 Tejas jets ordered earlier and with no additional engine orders on the horizon, the production line for F404-

IN20 was shut down, the statement said. However, when HAL ordered an additional 99 engines in 2021 for the Tejas Mk1A LCA, the team began the complex task of restarting the F404-IN20 production line, which had been dormant for five years, and re-engaging the engine's global supply chain, Mr. Warren said. "Restarting a jet engine production line is a challenging process. Restarting the F404-IN20 engine line during the COVID pandemic was even more challenging," he said adding that they are working closely with their suppliers to ramp up production on parts and materials for the F404-IN20.

At Aero India, Mr. Sunil had said GE's supply chain issues had been resolved and the IAF would receive 12 F-404 engines for the LCA-Mk1A this year. "The GE has stabilised its manufacturing process for the F404 engines. We have already made three aircraft, and by the end of this year, 11 will be manufactured. As the engines start coming in, our delivery to the IAF will start," he had stated.

He said three Tejas Mk1A are flying and by the end of this year, one jet from Nasik and 11 from Bengaluru will be ready while stressing that the existing order for 87 LCA-Mk1A would be completed in three-and-a-half years and the additional order for 97 jets by FY 2031-32 with production rate going to 24 jets per year.

Early this month, a high-level empowered committee headed by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh constituted to recommend ways for Capability Enhancement of the IAF identified key thrust areas and made recommendations for implementation in the short, medium and long-term in the report presented to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

- **US General Electric (GE) Aerospace will deliver 99 F404-IN20 jet engines to IN HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited).**
- **First batch of 12 engines to be delivered this year (starting April 2025).**

**GE एयरोस्पेस भारत को 99 F404-IN20 इंजन देगा।
पहले 12 इंजन अप्रैल से डिलीवर होंगे।**

2. Why are these engines important? | ये इंजन क्यों ज़रूरी हैं?

- These will power the **Tejas LCA Mk1A** — India's **indigenous light combat aircraft**.

ये इंजन भारत के स्वदेशी हल्के लड़ाकू विमान तेजस Mk1A में लगेंगे।

- Indian Air Force (IAF) needs to **add 35-40 fighter jets every year** to meet requirements.

वायुसेना को हर साल **35-40 फाइटर जेट** जोड़ने की ज़रूरत है।

3. What HAL plans | HAL की योजना

- HAL has **promised to produce 24 Tejas Mk1A jets in 2025.**
HAL ने 2025 में **24 तेजस Mk1A जेट बनाने** का वादा किया है।
- **3 aircraft already made; 11 more to be made by year-end.**
अब तक 3 जेट बन चुके हैं, साल के अंत तक 11 और तैयार होंगे।

Background Challenges | पिछली चुनौतियाँ

- Between 2016-2021, GE delivered 65 engines for 40 jets.
- Post-2021, engine **production line went dormant for 5 years, now revived.**
- COVID-19 and global supply chain issues slowed progress.
इंजन उत्पादन लाइन 5 साल तक बंद रही, अब फिर से चालू की गई है।

Future Outlook | आगे की योजना

- IAF has **existing order of 83 Mk1A** jets to be completed by **2031-32**.
IAF ने 83 तेजस Mk1A का ऑर्डर दिया है, जो **2031-32 तक पूरा होना है**।
- Additional order of **97 more jets** is expected.
आगे चलकर **97 और जेट** का ऑर्डर भी संभावित है।

◆ 6. Strategic Importance | रणनीतिक महत्व

- Boosts India's defence indigenisation & self-reliance (Aatmanirbhar Bharat).
- Reduces dependence on foreign fighter jets.
यह आत्मनिर्भर भारत के तहत भारत की रक्षा क्षमता को बढ़ावा देता है।

Parameter	Detail
Engine Model	F404-IN20
Manufacturer	GE Aerospace (USA)
Receiver	HAL (India)
Fighter Aircraft	Tejas LCA Mk1A
Total Engines Ordered	99
First Batch Delivery	12 engines (April 2025 onwards)
IAF Annual Need	35–40 jets
HAL's 2025 Commitment	24 Tejas Mk1A aircraft
Final Target	83 jets by 2031–32 + 97 jets in future

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Still relevant: A visitor stands next to a portrait of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru inside the Nehru memorial museum and library in New Delhi, in 2015. REUTERS

Nehru: 'His mistakes are magnified, his achievements belittled'

Writers continue to reappraise India's first Prime Minister and find that India has moved away from much of his legacy, which includes a pan-Indian secularism, socialist economics, and democratic institution-building. But historians urge academics to keep writing about Nehru

Ziya Us Salam

For the past decade or so, Jawaharlal Nehru has been the favourite punching bag of the ruling dispensation. In 2014, seasoned civil servant Madhav Godbole wrote a not-too-flattering account of the first Prime Minister in the aptly titled, *The God Who Failed: An Assessment of Jawaharlal Nehru's Leadership* (Rupa). Comparing Nehru and Sardar Patel, Godbole questioned Nehru's ideas of secularism and socialism. Calling for "more balanced secularism", Godbole believed some of Nehru's policies "tended to appease Muslims". There have been several other books which held Nehru responsible for practically all that is wrong with India today.

Sifting through myths
One of the recent books on Nehru is by academic Aditya Mukherjee, *Nehru's India (The Most Definitive Book on Jawaharlal Nehru): Past, Present and Future*, published by Vintage Books, aims to sift through myths and allegations to present the first Prime Minister in the light of circumstances prevalent then. Independence brought in its trail large-scale sectarian violence, displacing millions; over five lakh were killed. Mukherjee writes that Nehru in his speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort in Delhi, a day after Independence, on August 16, 1947, made it clear that communal strife would not be tolerated and that India would be a secular state. It

would not be the mirror image of Pakistan, an Islamic state, and become a Hindu state. He declared, "It is wrong to suggest that in this country there would be rule of a particular religion or sect. All who owe allegiance to the flag will enjoy equal rights of citizenship, irrespective of caste or creed."

It largely remained that way until the religion-based Citizenship Amendment Act was passed in December 2019. As the Shaheen Bagh protests started against the amendments, and the incumbent Prime Minister remained tight-lipped, Nehru was sorely missed; he who had held at bay Hindu communal outbursts in the first general elections soon after the communal frenzy of the Partition.

Scientific temper
Secular as he was, there was more to Nehru than that. He was, for instance, blessed with a scientific temper, something Mukherjee does well to bring into focus in the book. Writing about Nehru's "scientific temper" and the spirit of reason and exploration, Mukherjee contrasts it with recent attempts by political leaders to pass off mythology as science. Quoting *The Guardian*, Mukherjee draws a neat contrast between the two approaches. Beginning by recalling Narendra Modi's claim of Karma not having been born from his mother's womb, and a plastic surgeon who began the practice of plastic surgery by putting the elephant's head on a human body, Mukherjee writes with characteristic candour, "No wonder that the corona virus was being fought with 'gobar' (cow

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'Every problem traced to Nehru'
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Amidst all attempts to draw a veil over all that was good about him, Mukherjee projects him as a votary of freedom of expression, recalling what Nehru said in 1940, "The freedom of the press does not consist in our permitting such things as we like to appear. Even a tyrant is agreeable to this kind of freedom."

Despite dozens of books of all shades having been written about Nehru over the past many decades, Mukherjee's book is pertinent to our times. As Irfan Habib sums up in the foreword, "Petty jealousies of petty men might now remove his name from institutions and buildings, but so long as truth and reason are valued by the audience among his people, Nehru and his work can never be forgotten. It is also incumbent on academics to keep providing to our people truth about Nehru, his thought and his times."

Please send in your answers to datquiz@thehindu.co.in

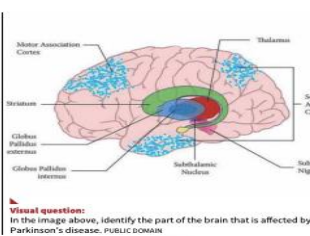
THE DAILY QUIZ

On April 11, the world will mark Parkinson's Day, to raise awareness about Parkinson's disease, a progressive brain disease that affects movement. A quiz on the same

Zubeda Hamid

- QUESTION 1**
In Parkinson's disease, nerve cells of the brain, or neurons, slowly break down or die. This leads to the reduction of a chemical in the brain. What is this chemical?
- QUESTION 2**
True or False: Men are more likely to develop Parkinson's disease than women?
- QUESTION 3**
There are several symptoms of Parkinson's disease including tremors in the hands, rigid muscles, imbalance, poor posture and speech changes. One common symptom is slowed movements, which can result in a slow, shuffling walk and can make

- everyday tasks harder. What is the medical name for this?
- QUESTION 4**
A common and effective medicine that increases the amount of the chemical that has decreased in the brain and helps improve symptoms and functionality, is still, according to the WHO, not accessible, affordable or available everywhere. What is this drug called?
- QUESTION 5**
There is currently no cure for Parkinson's disease. However, medication, supportive therapies, and surgery in some cases can help with symptoms and improve quality of life. One surgical procedure involves placing electrodes in the brain to send electrical pulses. Its acronym is DBS. What is it?



- Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:**
- 1. Number of years for which Doctor Who ran after it was first created. **Ans: 26 years, after being created in 1963**
- 2. The name of the time travelling spaceship the Doctor travels in. **Ans: TARDIS**
- 3. The first female Doctor Who, and the actor who was the first Black Doctor Who. **Ans: Jodie Whittaker, Ncuti Gatwa**
- 4. The Doctor belongs to this fictional ancient race of extraterrestrial people. **Ans: Time Lords**
- 5. The name of the planet which is the land of the Doctor. **Ans: Gallifrey**
- Visual: Identify the Doctor (fictional extraterrestrial race). **Ans: Daleks**
- Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Sonal Dasi| Arun Kumar Singh| Siddharth Menon| Parnika Pitale



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subramanian

"How do you pronounce D...a...c...h...e...d?"
"Hm. Well, the initial 'p' is silent. And 'psych' rhymes with the words 'biked', 'biked and 'liked'. But why do you ask?"
"Well, a couple of weeks ago, I read in a newspaper that Leander Paes was 'psyched up' for his match against Goran Ivanisevic. What does it mean?"
"If you are psyched up about something, it means you are 'mentally ready for something'. For example, Ramesh is really psyched up for his exam."
"Don't mention exams or tests, please!"
"Ok, I'll give you another example. The captain psyched up the team before the game."
"That is an excellent idea! I always try to psyche myself up before I go to bat."
"You like cricket, don't you?"
"I don't like it. I love it. I love everything about it. I love batting, bowling and to field. In fact, I..."
"...fielding!"
"What?"
"I love batting, bowling and fielding!"
"But why? Is it because I said 'batting'?"
"That's right! Since you used the 'ing' form for the first activity 'batting', all the other activities that follow it must take the 'ing' form."
"I see. So, I'd have to say, 'I love swimming, hiking and hiking'."
"That's right."
"But suppose I didn't use the 'ing' form for the first activity. Suppose I had said, 'I love to bat.'"
"In that case, you would say, 'I love to bat, bowl and field.'"
"Well, that's another rule I learned today. But the problem is there are too much rules..."
"...too many rules."
"Too many! Why can't I say 'too much rules'?"
"Much' is usually used with words like 'furniture', 'luggage', 'beer', 'water'..."
"...in other words, you don't use 'much' with nouns that don't have a plural form. They are called 'uncountable nouns', right?"
"Exactly! For example, how much luggage will you be taking with you? I drank too much coffee at the meeting."
"Thank goodness it was only coffee! Some people drink too much alcohol and drive."
"That could be very dangerous."
"I know. So 'much' is used with uncountable nouns. And 'many', I suppose, is used with 'countable' nouns."
"Right again. 'Many' is used with nouns that have both singular and plural forms. For example, there were many students at the meeting. I bought many apples and plums for the hospital."
"Well, I'd better leave. I have to study for next week's test."
"Yes, you'd better psyche yourself up for it!"
Published in *The Hindu* on December 5, 1995.

Word of the day

Surcease:
a stopping
Synonym: cessation
Usage: the constant rain finally surceased, allowing the sun to come out.
Pronunciation: newsh.lives/surceasepro
International Phonetic Alphabet: /sɜːrˈseɪs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

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For over a decade, India's first Prime Minister **Jawaharlal Nehru** has faced intense criticism, especially from right-wing narratives.

पिछले एक दशक से पंडित नेहरू लगातार आलोचना का केंद्र बने हुए हैं, खासकर दक्षिणपंथी विचारधारा से।

- Books like *The God Who Failed* (by Madhav Godbole) and *Nehru: Past, Present and Future* (by Aditya Mukherjee) re-evaluate Nehru's role in Indian politics and governance.

कई किताबें नेहरू के शासनकाल की आलोचना और पुनर्मूल्यांकन करती हैं।



Key Criticisms | मुख्य आलोचनाएँ

- Nehru is blamed for:

- Partition violence
- Kashmir issue
- China war defeat
- Economic stagnation
- Appeasement of Muslims
- Institutional decay

- नेहरू को विभाजन, कश्मीर, चीन युद्ध की हार, मुस्लिम तुष्टीकरण और संस्थागत कमजोरियों के लिए दोषी ठहराया जाता है।

Contributions Acknowledged | योगदान पर प्रकाश

- **Secularism and Scientific Temper:** He envisioned India as a secular, scientific society.
नेहरू ने भारत को धर्मनिरपेक्ष और वैज्ञानिक सोच वाला राष्ट्र बनाने की कल्पना की थी।
- **Freedom of Expression:** He upheld freedom of press and dissent.
उन्होंने प्रेस और असहमति की स्वतंत्रता को महत्व दिया।
- **Modern Institutions:** IITs, IIMs, CSIR, Planning Commission—his brainchild.
नेहरू के काल में कई आधुनिक संस्थाएं बनीं, जैसे IIT, IIM, योजना आयोग आदि।

Aditya Mukherjee's Argument

- **Mukherjee** argues Nehru is blamed unfairly for everything wrong with India today.
- His book *Nehru: Past, Present and Future* claims that **Nehru's achievements are erased**, while his **failures are magnified**.

मखर्जी के अनुसार, नेहरू की उपलब्धियाँ भला दी गई हैं और उनकी गलतियों को बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर पेश किया गया है।

Contemporary Political Narrative | आज की राजनीतिक सोच

- Books and posters **omit Nehru's face** from events like Independence Day celebrations.
आज़ादी की वर्षगांठ जैसे आयोजनों से भी नेहरू की तस्वीर हटाई जाती है।
- Scientific ideas have been replaced with pseudo-science like cow dung cures, etc.
वैज्ञानिक सोच की जगह अब "गोमूत्र", "थाली बजाओ" जैसी विचारधाराओं को महत्व दिया जा रहा है।

Intellectual Appeal | बुद्धिजीवियों की अपील

- Historians like **Irfan Habib**, **Aditya Mukherjee**, and **Shashi Tharoor** urge society to keep writing, discussing, and debating Nehru's role with **balance and depth**.

इतिहासकारों का कहना है कि नेहरू पर एक संतुलित, गहराई से आधारित विमर्श आवश्यक है।

- Quote by Nehru (1940):

"Freedom of the press does not consist in our permitting such things we like to appear. Even a tyrant is agreeable to this kind of freedom."

प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता वही नहीं कि हम सिर्फ अपने पसंदीदा विचारों को छापने की अनुमति दें। यह तो कोई तानाशाह भी देगा।

BBC



Video player controls including play, next, volume, progress (2:56 / 31:15), pause, closed captions (CC), settings (gear), HD, full screen, and other icons.

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BECOMING VIKSIT BY 2047

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- 4 UTTARAKHAND
- 5 HARYANA

PERFORMERS

- 6 UTTAR PRADESH
- 7 TAMIL NADU
- 8 WEST BENGAL
- 9 ANDHRA PRADESH
- 10 TELANGANA

CATCHING-UP

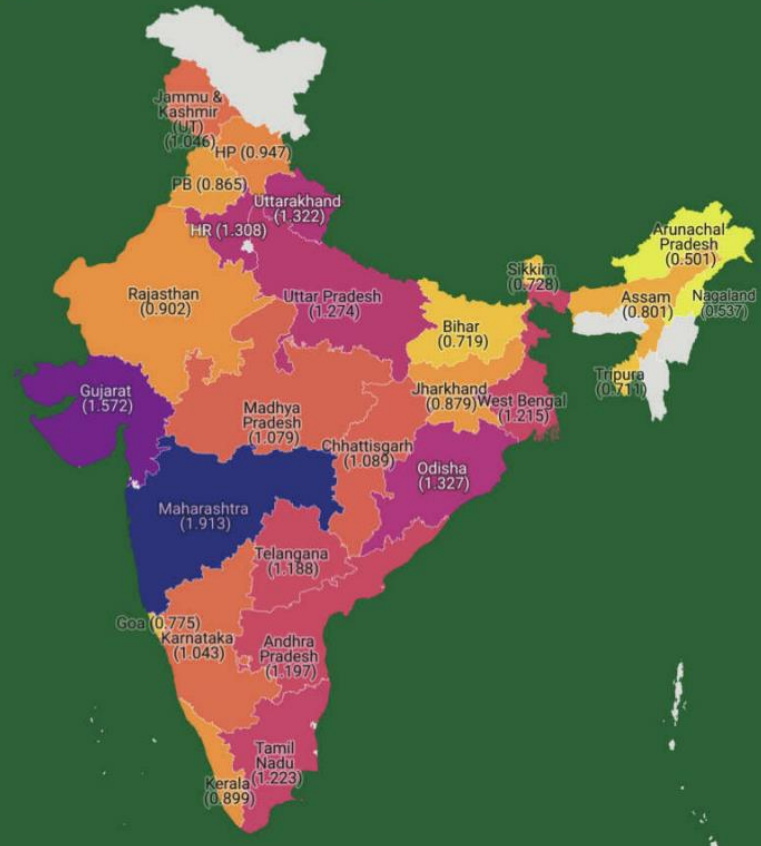
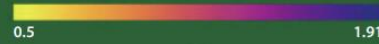
- 11 CHHATTISGARH
- 12 MADHYA PRADESH
- 13 JAMMU & KASHMIR
- 14 KARNATAKA
- 15 HIMACHAL PRADESH

The SKOCH Governance Outcomes Index is designed to ensure a rigorous and multi-layered evaluation process that reflects both the quality and impact of governance initiatives across Indian states. This index measures the quality of bureaucratic institutions, administrative responsiveness, and the capacity of the state to deliver essential services and public goods. This Index stands out as a groundbreaking approach to assessing the performance of Indian states through a robust, multi-layered evaluation mechanism rooted in both qualitative and quantitative analysis.

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State of Development



Disclaimer: Map not to scale. For representation only.

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SKOCH eGov Infrastructure Index

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- 8 KERALA
- 9 CHHATTISGARH
- 10 HIMACHAL PRADESH


CATCHING-UP

- 11 GOA
- 12 WEST BENGAL
- 13 LAKSHDWEEP
- 14 CHANDIGARH
- 15 MADHYA PRADESH

The e-Governance Infrastructure Index assesses a state's digital governance infrastructure and human capital readiness through three indicators: Telecommunication and Internet Index (TII) (25%) – Measures teledensity per 100 people and Internet penetration per 100. Human Capital Index (HCI) (25%) – Captures enrolment ratio in elementary education. Online Services Index (OSI) (50%) – Captures e-transactions per 100 users and the availability of number of government services.

SKOCH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

is Section 8, Not-for-Profit Company, registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and

A savanna landscape at sunset. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with the sun low on the horizon. Several acacia trees are scattered across the plain. In the foreground, three elephants are visible, their silhouettes dark against the golden light. One large elephant is in the center, with a smaller one to its right and another partially visible on the far right.

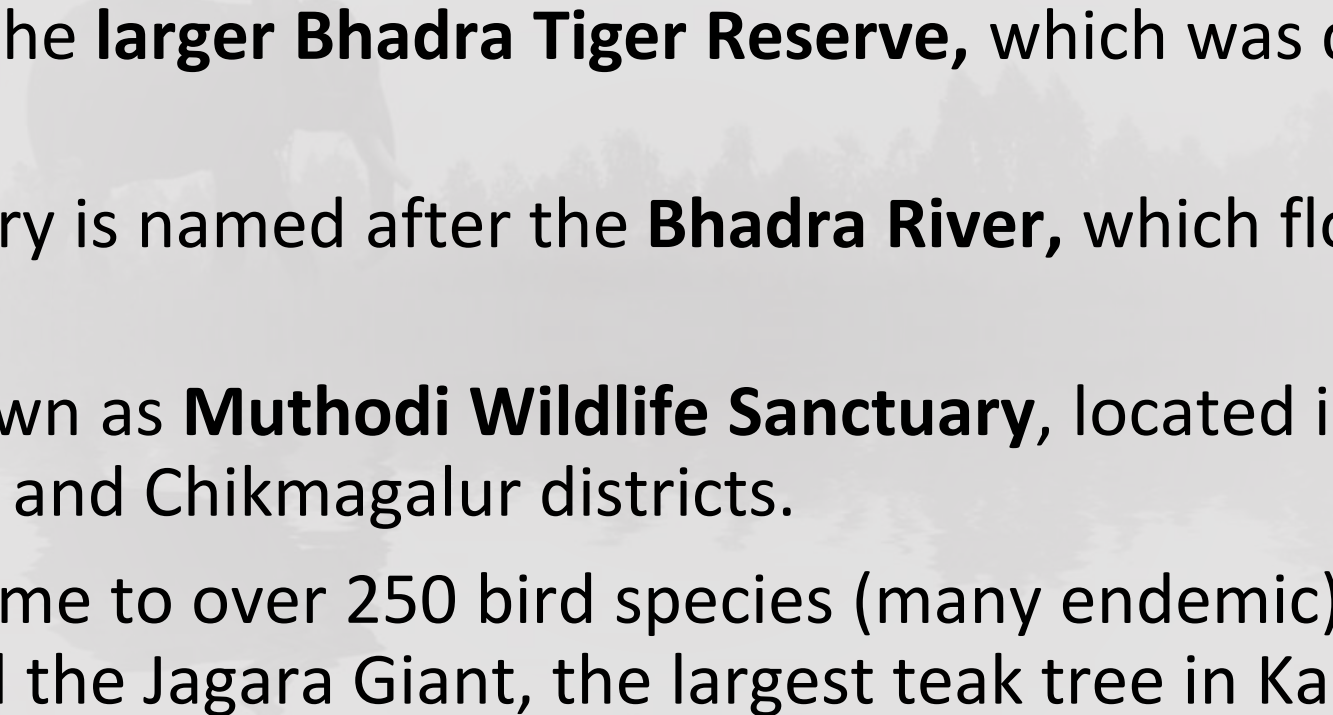
Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary

- The Forest Department is working out a plan for the capture and rehabilitation of wild elephants involving releasing them in a phased manner in the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary.

About


- Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary is a prominent wildlife reserve located in the **Western Ghats of Karnataka**.



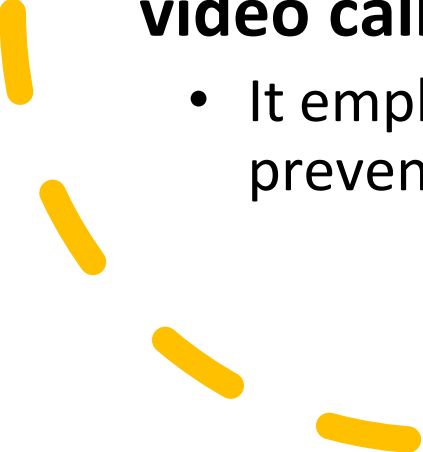
- 
- It is part of the **larger Bhadra Tiger Reserve**, which was declared in **1998**.
 - The sanctuary is named after the **Bhadra River**, which flows through it.
 - It's also known as **Muthodi Wildlife Sanctuary**, located in Shivamogga and Chikmagalur districts.
 - **Wildlife:** Home to over 250 bird species (many endemic), mammals, reptiles, and the Jagara Giant, the largest teak tree in Karnataka.

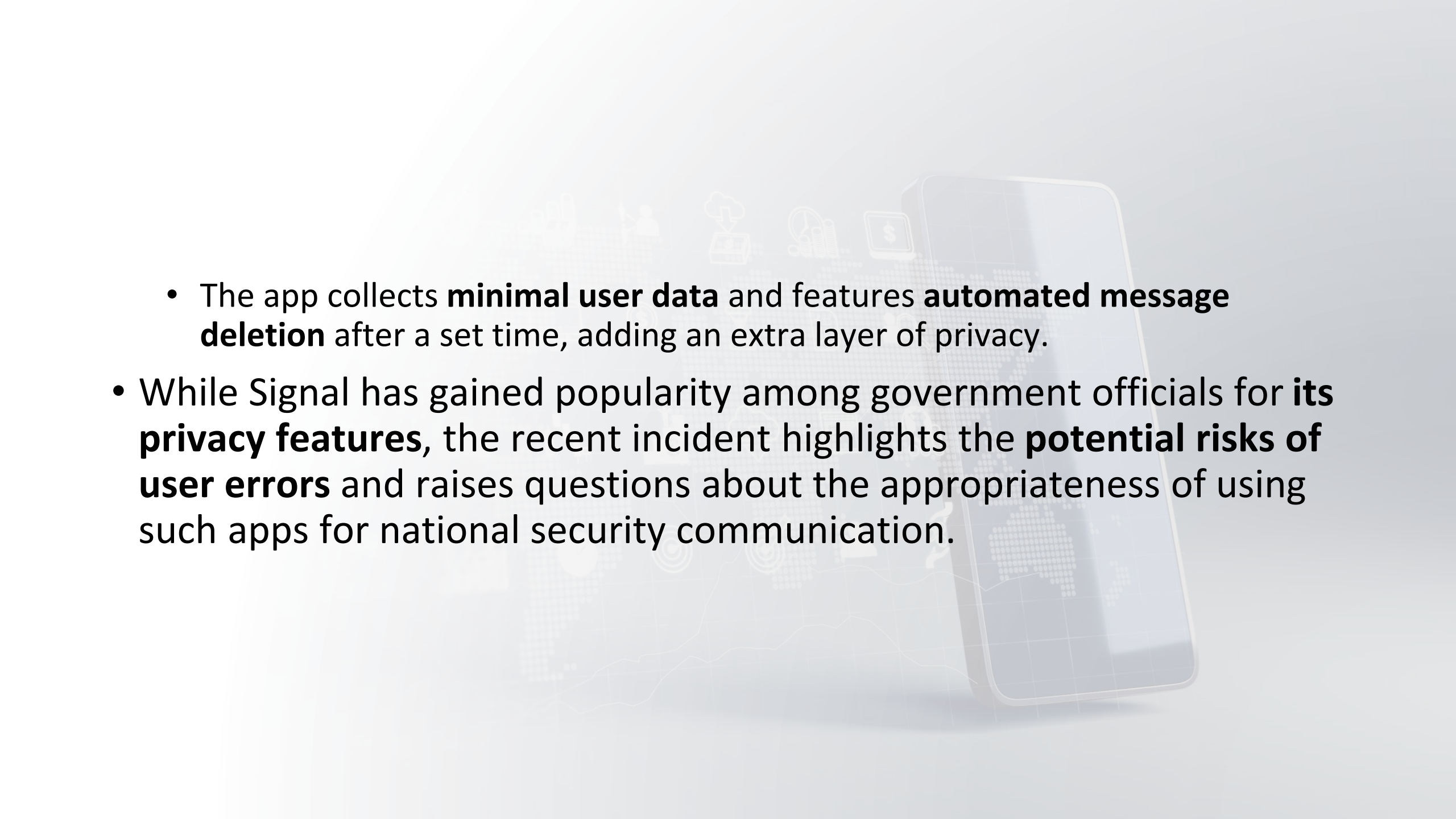


Signal App

- 
- Senior Trump administration officials used Signal, an encrypted messaging app, for military discussions and accidentally included a journalist, exposing sensitive information.

About Signal

- 
- It is an app used for **direct messaging, group chats, and phone and video calls.**
 - It employs **end-to-end encryption** for both messaging and calling services, preventing **third parties** from viewing conversations or listening in on calls.

- 
- The app collects **minimal user data** and features **automated message deletion** after a set time, adding an extra layer of privacy.
 - While Signal has gained popularity among government officials for **its privacy features**, the recent incident highlights the **potential risks of user errors** and raises questions about the appropriateness of using such apps for national security communication.



India Losing 3% of GDP Annually Due to Road Accidents

The Minister of Road Transport and Highways has mentioned that **India is losing 3% of its GDP** due to around five lakh road accidents annually in the country.

Report on Road Accidents in India (2022)

In **2022**, there were 4,61,312 road accidents in India, causing 4,43,366 injuries and 1,68,491 fatalities.

- **Compared to 2021**, accidents **increased by 11.9%**, deaths by 9.4%, and injuries by 15.3% in 2022.

The accident severity (deaths per 100 accidents) **decreased from 37.3 in 2021 to 36.5 in 2022.**

Young adults (18-45 years) made up **66.5%** of road accident victims, while **83.4% of fatalities were from people aged 18-60.**

Two-wheelers accounted for 44.5% of road accident deaths, followed by pedestrians (19.5%), cars/taxis/vans (12.5%), and trucks (6.3%).

Overspeeding was the leading cause, responsible for **72.3% of accidents** and **71.2% of deaths** in 2022.

- **Do you know?**

- In September 2020, the UN General Assembly launched the **Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030** which aims to reduce road traffic deaths and injuries by **at least 50 per cent by 2030.**


- The 2nd Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety was held in Brazil, which declared **2011-2020 as the 1st decade of action for Road Safety.**

- 1. In the **Brasilia Declaration**, the participating countries set targets under the Sustainable Development Goals and pledged to reduce road crash **fatalities by 50% in the next 5 years.**

How does Road Accidents lead to Loss of GDP

- **Medical treatment costs** for accident victims strain healthcare resources.
- **Infrastructure damage** from accidents requires financial resources for repairs.
- **Loss of income due to temporary or permanent disability** of accident victims affects economic productivity.
- **Increased insurance and legal costs** add to the financial burden on businesses and individuals.
- **Road accidents reduce tourism** and commercial transport efficiency, impacting the economy.
- **Loss of life and productivity in young and working-age** populations (18-45 years) further impacts GDP growth.

Baalpan ki Kavita initiative



The Ministry of Education has launched the “*Baalpan ki Kavita initiative*” to restore and promote Indian rhymes and poems for young children.

About Baalpan ki Kavita Initiative:




- What it is:


- A national initiative to compile nursery rhymes and poems in **all Bhartiya Bhasha and English** focusing on culturally relevant themes for young children.

India's First Indigenously Developed MRI Scanner





AIIMS New Delhi is set to install India's first indigenously developed MRI scanner for clinical evaluation.

- The initiative aims to reduce dependency on imported medical devices and promote 'Make in India' innovation.
- 





What it is:

- The first fully indigenously developed **1.5 Tesla MRI scanner** designed for advanced medical imaging and clinical trials.

Developed by:

- Developed by **SAMEER** (Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research), an autonomous R&D body under **Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)**.

What Happened? | क्या हुआ?

-  Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** clarified in the **Lok Sabha** that:
- “**Betting and gambling are subjects under the State List.**”
 सट्टेबाज़ी और जुआ राज्य सूची में आते हैं, यानी यह राज्य सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है।
- This statement was in response to a question raised by **DMK MP Dayanidhi Maran** regarding banning of online gaming websites.
यह जवाब **DMK सांसद दयानिधि मारन** के सवाल पर दिया गया, जिन्होंने ऑनलाइन गेमिंग साइट्स को बैन करने की मांग की थी।



10 MCQ from the session

According to the Constitution of India, which list does “betting and gambling” fall under?

- **भारतीय संविधान के अनुसार "सट्टेबाज़ी और जुआ" किस सूची में आते हैं?**
 - A. Union List
 - B. Concurrent List
 - C. State List
 - D. Central Executive List

- . What is the theme of the film “Santosh” by Sandhya Suri?
- संध्या सूरी की फिल्म “संतोष” का मुख्य विषय क्या है?
 - A. Partition trauma
 - B. Women’s empowerment through entrepreneurship
 - C. Caste and gender-based violence in policing
 - D. Religious conflict

Which company is delivering 99 F404-IN20 jet engines to HAL for Tejas Mk1A?

- **Tejas Mk1A के लिए HAL को 99 F404-IN20 जेट इंजन कौन सी कंपनी दे रही है?**
 - A. Rolls Royce
 - B. Boeing
 - C. GE Aerospace
 - D. Safran

What is the significance of the Tejas Mk1A project for India?

- **Tejas Mk1A परियोजना का भारत के लिए क्या महत्व है?**
 - A. Boosts textile exports
 - B. Promotes import of foreign jets
 - C. Enhances indigenous defence manufacturing
 - D. Private jet market expansion

What is the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary known for?

- **भद्र वन्यजीव अभयारण्य किस लिए प्रसिद्ध है?**
 - A. Bengal tigers and Himalayan bears
 - B. Elephants and largest teak tree in Karnataka
 - C. Red pandas
 - D. Snow leopards

What is the key feature of the Signal app used by officials?

• **Signal ऐप की मुख्य विशेषता क्या है, जिसे अधिकारियों ने उपयोग किया?**

A. GPS tracking

B. End-to-end encryption for secure communication

C. Free video editing

D. Cloud storage

India is losing nearly what percentage of its GDP annually due to road accidents?

• भारत को सड़क दुर्घटनाओं के कारण हर साल अपने GDP का लगभग कितना प्रतिशत नुकसान हो रहा है?

A. 1%

B. 2%

C. 3%

D. 5%

What is the purpose of the “Baalpan ki Kavita” initiative?

• **“बालपन की कविता” पहल का उद्देश्य क्या है?**

A. Promote AI in schools

B. Teach Sanskrit to high schoolers

C. Preserve and promote Indian rhymes in all languages

D. Promote coding from age 5

Where is India's first indigenously developed MRI scanner being installed?

- **भारत का पहला स्वदेशी MRI स्कैनर कहां स्थापित किया जा रहा है?**
 - A. PGI Chandigarh
 - B. NIMHANS Bengaluru
 - C. AIIMS New Delhi
 - D. Tata Memorial Mumbai

Word of the day

Surcease:

a stopping

Synonym: cessation

Usage: *The constant rain finally surceased, allowing the sun to come out.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/surceasepro

International Phonetic

Alphabet: /sə'si:s/, /'sɜ:si:s/

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

Thank you
guys.
